

Prudhoe Bay

People and Place

Location

Prudhoe Bay lies in the northern waters of Alaska, offshore in the Beaufort Sea in the North Slope Borough. It is located approximately 800 miles north of Anchorage. Its area encompasses 416.3 square miles of land and 141.8 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

As the northern station of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline, Prudhoe Bay's population is comprised primarily of temporary workers who do not live in the community year-round. Some 5,000 people are employed in Prudhoe Bay in oil-related industries, but U.S. Census figures reflect only the permanent residents.

In 2000, Prudhoe Bay had a population of five people, all in one household. The racial composition of the community was as follows: White (20%), American Indian and Alaska Native (20%), and two or more races (60%). Approximately 80% of residents were Native or part Native. The median age of the community was 11.5 years, much younger than the U.S. national median of 35.3 years. The gender composition of the community was 60% male and 40% female. In terms of educational attainment, 100% of residents aged 25 or older held a high school diploma.

History

The North Slope has been occupied by Athabascan and Eskimo peoples since prehistory. Oil was first discovered in Prudhoe Bay in the late 1960s. In 1975, construction of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline, the largest privately funded construction project in history at that time, was begun. The pipeline was completed in 1977 and began transporting up to two million barrels of crude oil per day to the terminus at Valdez, some 800 miles to the south (Naske and Slotnick 1987:251-270). Today, Prudhoe Bay is primarily a work site for temporary workers in the oil industry.

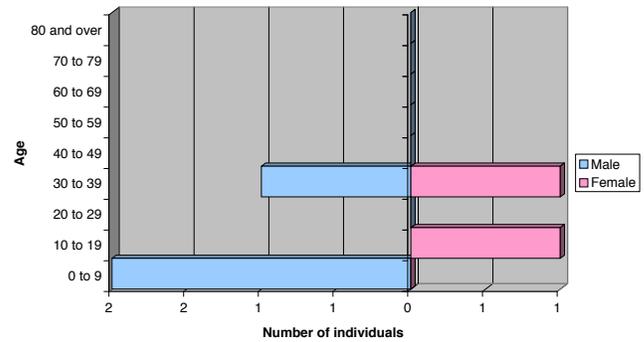
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The economy of Prudhoe Bay is dominated by the oil industry. The Prudhoe Bay oil fields provide 15-

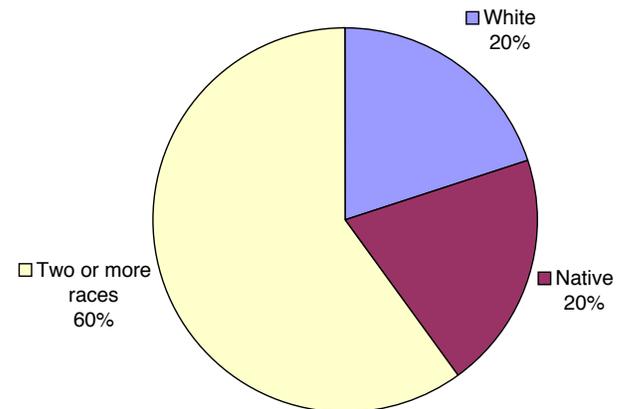
**2000 Population Structure
Prudhoe Bay**

Data source: US Census



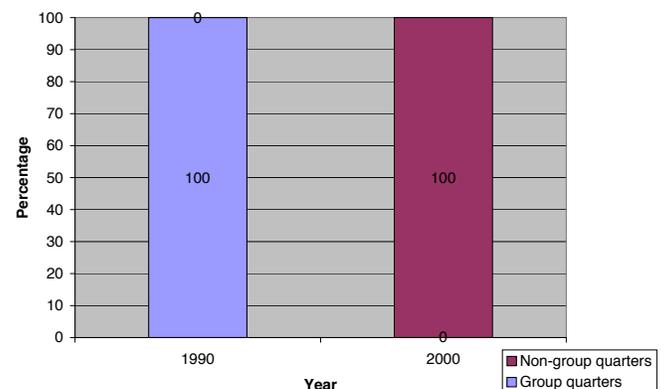
**2000 Racial Structure
Prudhoe Bay**

Data source: US Census



**% Group Quarters
Prudhoe Bay**

Data source: US Census



20% of the domestic oil supply of the U.S., and some 5,000 people are employed in oil-related industries. Data presented here, however, are only for Prudhoe Bay's five permanent residents.

In 2000, the U.S. Census reported that there was no unemployment in Prudhoe Bay, and 33.3% of residents aged 16 and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not working and not seeking work). The median per capita income was \$19,880 and the median household income was \$90,957.

Governance

Prudhoe Bay is an unincorporated city under the jurisdiction of the North Slope Borough. It is a member of the Arctic Slope Association, a regional native non-profit organization. The nearest U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in Fairbanks, as is the nearest Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office is in Anchorage.

Facilities

The airport, with a 6,500-foot airstrip located at nearby Deadhorse, is the primary means of public transportation to Prudhoe Bay. Roundtrip airfare from Prudhoe Bay to Anchorage is approximately \$612. In addition, there is a state-owned heliport at Prudhoe Bay. The Dalton Highway is used year-round by trucks hauling cargo to the North Slope; it is restricted to the public north of Wiseman.

Most of the services and facilities at Prudhoe Bay are provided by the private oil companies that operate there. These facilities include group quarters for employees, a landfill, and sanitation facilities. There are no schools in Prudhoe Bay.

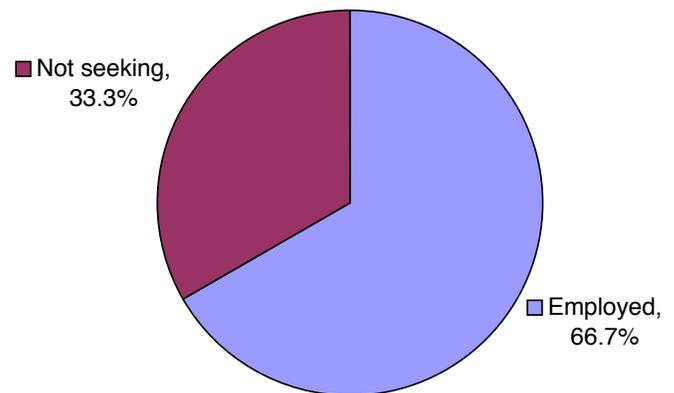
Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Although Prudhoe Bay is dominated by the oil industry, it was included in the community profile project because its one commercial permit holder amounted to more than 15% of the local population according to the 2000 U.S. Census. This one permit was a freshwater set gillnet permit for statewide waters, but was not fished in 2000. Other indicators

2000 Employment Structure Prudhoe Bay

Data source: US Census



of a fishing community (commercial fish processors, vessel owners, and crew members) were not present in Prudhoe Bay.

Sport Fishing

Although sport fishing is by no means a major component of the local economy, Prudhoe Bay does exhibit some involvement in it. A total of 107 sport fishing licenses were sold in Prudhoe Bay in 2000, 76 of them (71%) to Alaska residents. Major sport species include Dolly Varden and Arctic grayling.

Subsistence Fishing

The ADF&G does not have information on subsistence activities in Prudhoe Bay.