Mining in Alaska is a million dollar business with high payoff for its workers. Today, the industry includes mineral production, development, and exploration of gold, lead, coal, zinc, copper and other minerals. Mines in Alaska produce gold, lead, coal, zinc, copper and other minerals. We also mine construction materials such as sand, gravel, and rock.

**Exploration Field Assistant**

Field assistants help geologists in the field. They collect, tag, and analyze soil, rocks, minerals, and water. They often work long hours during the summer in remote locations.

- **High School Diploma**
- **Salary varies, but it’s a great experience!**

**Geologist**

Geologists work in many different areas. Some work for private industry, while others work for the federal government. Others do research at universities and colleges. Most geologists are employed in private industry. They help find new sources of oil and gas by collecting samples of rock and soil.

- **Bachelor’s Degree**
- **$60,000 + per year**

**Mining Machine Operators**

Mining Machine Operators use and operate machinery such as longwall shears, plows, and cutting machines to cut along the face mining surfaces. They work in and around mines, including coal.

- **Certificate & Training**
- **$60,000 + per year**

**Priority Careers**

Mining jobs have higher earnings than any other Alaskan Industry - with the exception of Oil & Gas. Many of the jobs available in mining are “Skilled Worker” jobs - which means that you don’t need a college degree! In 2010, skilled workers had an unemployment rate of 4.5%, which is far below the national average for all workers.