



# MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
Commissioner Click Bishop

Jan. 25, 2007

For Immediate Release

No. 07-29

For More Information: Greg Williams, State Demographer  
907.465.6029 or 907.465.4500

## Labor Releases State, Borough and Place 2006 Populations

**JUNEAU** – Alaska’s statewide population increased by 6.6 percent, or 42,520 people, in the six years from July 1, 2000-July 1, 2006, based on new population estimates released in December 2006 by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development utilized the federal figures to calculate growth estimates released today for the state and by boroughs, census areas and places.

### The State of Alaska

The population gain in Alaska was slightly faster than the 5.9 percent growth in the same period for the United States as a whole. The number of people living in the state climbed from 627,533 at the time of the July 1, 2000,

to a provisional July 1, 2006, estimate of 670,053 (see Table 1).

**Table 1 Annual Components of Population Change for Alaska, 1990-2006**

July 1 To June 30	End of Period Population	Popu- lation Change	Average Annual Rate of Change	Components of Change				Net Inter- national Migrants <sup>1</sup>	Net Internal Migrants <sup>2</sup>
				Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Net Migrants		
1990	553,171								
1990-91	569,054	15,883	2.83	11,798	2,225	9,573	6,310	—	—
1991-92	586,722	17,668	3.06	11,744	2,214	9,530	8,138	—	—
1992-93	596,906	10,184	1.72	11,347	2,477	8,870	1,314	—	—
1993-94	600,622	3,716	0.62	10,978	2,422	8,556	-4,840	—	—
1994-95	601,581	959	0.16	10,439	2,500	7,939	-6,980	—	—
1995-96	605,212	3,631	0.60	10,079	2,707	7,372	-3,741	—	—
1996-97	609,655	4,443	0.73	10,018	2,574	7,444	-3,001	—	—
1997-98	617,082	7,427	1.21	9,924	2,642	7,282	145	—	—
1998-99	622,000	4,918	0.79	9,864	2,609	7,255	-2,337	—	—
1999-00	627,533	5,533	0.89	10,102	2,829	7,273	-1,740	—	—
2000-01	632,241	4,708	0.75	9,980	2,934	7,046	-2,338	1058	-3396
2001-02	640,544	8,303	1.30	9,892	3,075	6,817	1,486	169	1317
2002-03	647,747	7,203	1.12	10,025	3,107	6,918	285	-1728	2013
2003-04	656,834	9,087	1.39	10,301	3,060	7,241	1,846	2266	-420
2004-05	663,253	6,419	0.97	10,351	3,112	7,239	-820	788	-1608
2005-06 <sup>3</sup>	670,053	6,800	1.02	10,258	2,948	7,310	-510	1612	-2122

<sup>1</sup> Migrants from outside the U.S.

<sup>2</sup> Migrants to or from other U.S. states

<sup>3</sup> Provisional

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Alaska’s rates of change were an annual average of 1.1 percent per year for 2000-2006 and 1.0 percent for 2005-2006. Alaska is still number 47 in terms of population, larger than North Dakota, Vermont, the District of Columbia and Wyoming.

Currently growth in Alaska as a whole is primarily through natural increase. From July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2006, Alaska’s natural increase (births minus deaths) added 42,571 people, while net migra-

tion (in-migration minus out-migration) accounted for a loss of 51 people. During 2005-2006, Alaska added 7,310 people through natural increase and lost 510 people to out-migration.

In the early 1990s, Alaska added about 9,600 people each year through natural increase. A gradual decline in fertility and a gradual increase in mortality tied to an aging population have resulted in a slowdown in natural increase to about 7,300 persons per year.

When international and domestic migration are considered, the loss of 512 migrants between 2005 and 2006 breaks down into a gain of 1,612 international migrants and a loss of 2,122 domestic migrants. International migration is currently compensating for some of the outward domestic migration. Currently, about 35,000 persons migrate to and from Alaska each year. In and out migration, however, are nearly equal.

“It is important to note that, because these estimates are for resident population, any troops deployed overseas are counted as being in Alaska.” said Greg Williams, state demographer.

Williams added, “This means that the populations for the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage, where the main Alaska military bases are located, or other communities with substantial National Guard, may fluctuate somewhat lower or higher depending on the current movement of military and National Guard personnel.”

## **Boroughs and Census Areas**

State labor department population estimates have also been released for Alaska’s 27 boroughs and census areas, and also for 347 occupied places throughout the state. (See Table 2). This table, unlike Table 1, considers population change from April 1, 2000, as opposed to July 1, 2000.

Most of Alaska’s boroughs and census areas have grown slowly or lost population between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2006. The largest population increases have occurred in the Municipality of Anchorage (+22,530), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (+17,852), Fairbanks North Star Borough (+5,009), Kenai Peninsula Borough (+1,659), Bethel Census Area (+985), Southeast Fairbanks (+598), and Wade Hampton Census Area (+525).

Of the 27 boroughs and census areas, only nine gained population in the 2000-2006 period. Population growth in the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough accounted for roughly 81 percent of the growth in these nine boroughs and census areas.

The Municipality of Anchorage made up 45 percent of the growth, with population gains in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough making up 36 percent. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough remains the fastest growing area of the state, as it has been since 1990. In the 2000-2006 period, it grew at an average annual rate of 4.2 percent, compared to its 4.0 percent annual growth rate during the 1990s.

The increases in both the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the 2000-2006 period were due to a mix of natural increase and migration.

A substantial part of migration to Anchorage (a net gain of 3,435 people) comes from other parts of Alaska. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough was the only area of the state where growth came primarily from net in-migration. Since the 2000 Census, in-migration accounted for 14,015 of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough’s population increase of 17,852.

The majority of Matanuska-Susitna migration comes from the Municipality of Anchorage. These two areas, plus the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, were the only areas where in-migration exceeded out-migration over the 2000-2006 period.

In the more recent 2005-2006 period, Anchorage gained 4,833 people, while the Matanuska-Susitna Borough gained 3,163 people. While Anchorage had a current natural increase of 3,048 compared to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough’s 767, Mat-Su gained 2,396 migrants while Anchorage gained 1,785.

All other boroughs and census areas lost population to out-migration or remained unchanged between 2000 and 2006. The Southeast region continued to have the largest overall decline, with a natural increase of 3,105 people and a net out-migration of 6,134 people. No area of Southeast had long term growth between 2000 and 2006.

In the 2005-2006 period, only Haines Borough (+35) and Ketchikan Gateway Borough (+59) had slight gains. In all areas of Southeast except Haines, out-migration was greater than natural increase.

Between 2000 and 2006, migration out of Southwestern Alaska (-3,718) was less than the natural increase in this region (+3,929). Most of Southwest's loss was accounted for by the Bethel Census Area. In every other area of Southwest, out-migration exceeded natural increase.

In the Northern region, the natural increase (+2,585) failed to keep up with out-migration (-2,698). In the Gulf Coast region, the natural increase (+3,596) kept ahead of out-migration (-2,784).

The Kodiak Island Borough had more net out-migration (-1,443) than natural increase (+1036) and the Valdez-Cordova Census Area population declined as natural increase (+488) failed to match net out-migration (-928).

The Kenai Peninsula Borough grew mainly through natural increase (+2,072) as opposed to net migration (-413). During the more recent 2005-2006 period, Valdez-Cordova Census Area and Kodiak Island Borough declined as out-migration exceeded natural increase. In the Kenai Peninsula Borough, however, natural increase (+354) exceeded out-migration (-195) for a slight population increase.

In the Interior, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (+5,009) and the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+598) grew in the 2000-2006 period, largely due to natural increase.

The Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (-650) and Denali Borough (-98) shrank as out-migration exceeded natural increase. During the 2005-2006 period, the Fairbanks North Star Borough grew only slightly (+241) as did the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+308). In the Fairbanks North Star Borough natural increase barely kept up with out migration. Southeast Fairbanks gained as a result of both natural increase and in-migration.

## Places

Alaska had 35 places with populations of more than 2,000 in the year 2000 (see Table 3); 22 of them are incorporated cities or city-boroughs. Thirty-two places in Alaska have populations of more than 2,500, the old U.S. Census Bureau definition of urban place.

The Municipality of Anchorage continues to dominate the state. Its population of 282,813 in 2006 accounts for 42.2 percent of the state's population, up slightly from 41.5 percent in 2000; the Anchorage/Mat-Su region (359,987) accounts for 53.7 percent of the population, up from 50.1 percent in 2000.

The places with populations greater than 2,000 that have had the highest average annual growth rates since the 2000 Census include the Knik-Fairview Census Designated Place (CDP) (+7.3 percent), Fishhook CDP (+5.7), Tanaina CDP (+5.3), Homer city (+5.1), Meadow Lakes CDP (+4.7), Gateway CDP (+4.1), Butte CDP (+3.4), Wasilla city (+3.4), Palmer city (+3.3), Kalifornsky CDP (+2.7), Lakes CDP (+2.6) and Big Lake CDP (+2.5).

All but two of the top 12 places that experienced the most rapid growth in the 2000-2006 period are in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

“Indeed, if they were to incorporate, six places in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough would be larger than the cities of Wasilla and Palmer, and Knik-Fairview would become the fifth-largest city in the state,” said Williams.

“The remaining two rapidly growing places are Kalifornsky CDP and Homer city in the Kenai Peninsula Borough,” Williams added. “However, Homer's growth is largely due to its annexation of a substantial part of Diamond Ridge CDP and Miller Landing CDP in 2002.”

“Outside of Anchorage/Mat-Su, a majority of communities are stagnant or declining,” Williams said. “Six-

teen of the 35 places that had more than 2,000 people in 2000 have declined. In fact, over half of the places in Alaska (181 or 52.2 percent) have had at least small losses of population since 2000.”

This includes four of the top 11 communities: Juneau city and borough, Sitka city and borough, Ketchikan city and Kenai city. The places that declined on average by more than 1.0 percent each year during the 2000-2006 period are Eielson Air Force Base CDP (-3.1 percent), Wrangell city (-3.0), Barrow city (-1.9), Cordova city (-1.7), Valdez city (-1.4), Unalaska city (-1.3), Seward city (-1.2) and Kodiak city (-1.0). Wrangell slipped below 2000 population in 2005.

*Population estimates are available on the Research and Analysis Web site at <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>. Click on “Population & Census” on the left, then “Estimates & Projections.”, go to “Alaska Population Estimates 2000-2006”, then “Vintage 2006 Estimates”.*

**Table 2** Population of Alaska by Labor Market Area, Borough and Census Area, 1990-2006

Area Name	2006 Vintage Population Estimates														Change						Average Annual Rate of Change						Natural Increase (Births minus Deaths)		Net Migration (In and Out)		Natural Increase (Births minus Deaths)		Net Migration (In and Out)	
	Estimate 2006	Revised Estimate 2005	Revised Estimate 2004	Revised Estimate 2003	Revised Estimate 2002	Revised Estimate 2001	Census 2000	April 1 Census 1990	2005-2006	2000-2006	1990-2000	2005-2006	2000-2006	1990-2000	2005-2006	2000-2006	2005-2006	2000-2006	2005-2006	2000-2006	2005-2006	2000-2006	2005-2006	2000-2006	2005-2006	2000-2006	2005-2006	2000-2006						
															2005-2006			2000-2006			2005-2006		2000-2006		2005-2006		2000-2006							
Alaska	670,053	663,253	656,834	647,747	640,544	632,241	626,931	550,043	6,800	43,122	76,888	1.0	1.1	1.3	7,310	-510	44,317	-1,195																
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	359,987	351,991	348,028	340,556	332,175	326,668	319,605	266,021	7,996	40,382	53,584	2.2	1.9	1.8	3,815	4,181	22,932	17,450																
Anchorage, Municipality of	282,813	277,980	277,627	273,024	267,824	264,903	260,283	226,338	4,833	22,530	33,945	1.7	1.3	1.4	3,048	1,785	19,095	3,435																
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	77,174	74,011	70,401	67,522	64,351	61,765	59,322	39,683	3,163	17,852	19,639	4.2	4.2	4.0	767	2,396	3,837	14,015																
Gulf Coast Region	74,611	74,823	74,680	75,443	74,389	73,700	73,799	64,063	-212	812	9,736	-0.3	0.2	1.4	585	-797	3,596	-2,784																
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,350	51,191	51,193	51,446	50,674	50,086	49,691	40,802	159	1,659	8,889	0.3	0.5	2.0	354	-195	2,072	-413																
Kodiak Island Borough	13,506	13,623	13,517	13,796	13,641	13,566	13,913	13,309	-117	-407	604	-0.9	-0.5	0.4	158	-275	1,036	-1,443																
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,755	10,009	9,970	10,201	10,074	10,048	10,195	9,952	-254	-440	243	-2.6	-0.7	0.2	73	-327	488	-928																
Interior Region	102,276	101,942	99,657	96,298	98,938	97,577	97,417	92,111	334	4,859	5,306	0.3	0.8	0.6	1,312	-978	8,170	-3,311																
Denali Borough	1,795	1,821	1,849	1,916	1,887	1,902	1,893	1,764	-26	-98	129	-1.4	-0.9	0.7	10	-36	94	-192																
Fairbanks North Star Borough	87,849	87,608	85,398	82,160	84,753	83,282	82,840	77,720	241	5,009	5,120	0.3	0.9	0.6	1,181	-940	7,487	-2,478																
Southeast Fairbanks CA	6,772	6,464	6,139	5,922	5,944	5,907	6,174	5,913	308	598	261	4.7	1.5	0.4	77	231	349	249																
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,860	6,049	6,271	6,300	6,354	6,486	6,510	6,714	-189	-650	-204	-3.2	-1.7	-0.3	44	-233	240	-890																
Northern Region	23,676	23,660	23,879	23,859	23,810	23,627	23,789	20,380	16	-113	3,409	0.1	-0.1	1.5	478	-462	2,585	-2,698																
Nome Census Area	9,535	9,453	9,424	9,353	9,341	9,266	9,196	8,288	82	339	908	0.9	0.6	1.0	174	-92	958	-619																
North Slope Borough	6,807	6,889	7,126	7,223	7,238	7,232	7,385	5,979	-82	-578	1,406	-1.2	-1.3	2.1	152	-234	829	-1,407																
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,334	7,318	7,329	7,283	7,231	7,129	7,208	6,113	16	126	1,095	0.2	0.3	1.6	152	-136	798	-672																
Southeast Region	70,053	70,804	70,856	71,788	71,920	71,772	73,082	68,989	-751	-3,029	4,093	-1.1	-0.7	0.6	501	-1,252	3,105	-6,134																
Haines Borough	2,241	2,206	2,251	2,318	2,358	2,369	2,392	2,117	35	-151	275	1.6	-1.0	1.2	-4	39	17	-168																
Juneau City and Borough	30,650	31,182	31,094	31,286	30,991	30,453	30,711	26,751	-532	-61	3,960	-1.7	-0.0	1.4	260	-792	1,622	-1,683																
Keetchikan Gateway Borough	13,174	13,115	13,073	13,525	13,675	13,748	14,059	13,828	59	-885	231	0.4	-1.0	0.2	92	-33	558	-1,443																
Prince of Wales-Outer Keetchikan CA	5,477	5,504	5,565	5,591	5,681	5,816	6,157	6,278	-27	-680	-121	-0.5	-1.9	-0.2	49	-76	242	-922																
Sitka City and Borough	8,833	8,934	8,818	8,890	8,793	8,728	8,835	8,588	-101	-2	247	-1.1	-0.0	0.3	51	-152	421	-423																
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	3,020	3,060	3,115	3,165	3,242	3,373	3,436	3,680	-40	-416	-244	-1.3	-2.1	-0.7	20	-60	98	-514																
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	6,024	6,160	6,265	6,323	6,461	6,589	6,684	7,042	-136	-660	-358	-2.2	-1.7	-0.5	29	-165	127	-787																
Yakutat City and Borough	634	643	675	690	719	696	808	705	-9	-174	103	-1.4	-3.9	1.4	4	-13	20	-194																
Southwest Region	39,450	40,033	39,734	39,803	39,312	38,897	39,239	38,479	-583	211	760	-1.5	0.1	0.2	619	-1,202	3,929	-3,718																
Aleutians East Borough	2,643	2,655	2,654	2,713	2,722	2,548	2,697	2,464	-12	-54	233	-0.5	-0.3	0.9	15	-27	74	-128																
Aleutians West Census Area	4,810	5,230	5,239	5,328	5,070	5,254	5,465	9,478	-420	-655	4,013	-8.4	-2.0	-5.4	18	-438	157	-812																
Bethel Census Area	17,031	17,073	16,868	16,748	16,512	16,108	16,046	13,656	-42	985	2,390	-0.2	1.0	1.6	332	-374	2,079	-1,094																
Bristol Bay Borough	1,060	1,175	1,100	1,103	1,163	1,173	1,258	1,410	-115	-198	-152	-10.3	-2.7	-1.1	3	-118	53	-251																
Dillingham Census Area	4,796	4,786	4,847	4,903	4,917	4,890	4,922	4,012	10	-126	910	0.2	-0.4	2.0	56	-46	381	-507																
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,557	1,618	1,609	1,626	1,639	1,733	1,823	1,668	-61	-266	155	-3.8	-2.5	0.9	18	-79	71	-337																
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,553	7,496	7,417	7,382	7,289	7,191	7,028	5,791	57	525	1,237	0.8	1.2	1.9	177	-120	1,114	-589																

<sup>1</sup> All columns represent Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development estimates unless stated otherwise. All estimates represent July 1 of that year unless stated otherwise.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, and the U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 3** Places with More than 2,000 People, 2000-2006

Area Name	2006 Vintage Population Estimates						April 1 Census 2000	2000- 2006 Change	Average Annual Rate of Change 2000-2006	Place Rank 2006	Place Rank 2000	City Rank 2006
	Preliminary Estimate 2006	Revised Estimate 2005	Revised Estimate 2004	Revised Estimate 2003	Revised Estimate 2002	Revised Estimate 2001						
Anchorage, Municipality of	282,813	277,980	277,627	273,024	267,824	264,903	260,283	22,530	1.3	1	1	1
Juneau city and Borough	30,650	31,182	31,094	31,286	30,991	30,453	30,711	-61	-0.0	2	2	2
Fairbanks city	30,552	31,071	30,083	28,924	29,774	29,523	30,224	328	0.2	3	3	3
College CDP	11,825	12,198	12,151	12,055	11,937	12,055	11,402	423	0.6	4	4	
Knik-Fairview CDP	11,238	10,264	9,251	8,559	8,000	7,639	7,049	4,189	7.3	5	7	
Sitka city and Borough	8,833	8,934	8,818	8,890	8,793	8,728	8,835	-2	-0.0	6	5	4
Lakes CDP	7,901	7,753	7,474	7,042	6,926	6,815	6,706	1,195	2.6	7	9	
Ketchikan city	7,662	7,675	7,706	7,977	8,373	8,459	7,922	-260	-0.5	8	6	5
Tanaina CDP	6,987	6,622	6,292	5,860	5,600	5,263	4,993	1,994	5.3	9	15	
Kalifornsky CDP	6,914	6,825	6,638	6,248	6,159	6,017	5,846	1,068	2.7	10	11	
Kenai city	6,864	6,768	6,839	7,129	7,076	6,889	6,942	-78	-0.2	11	8	6
Wasilla city	6,775	6,361	6,140	6,380	5,948	5,517	5,469	1,306	3.4	12	13	7
Meadow Lakes CDP	6,492	6,376	5,945	5,576	5,308	5,041	4,819	1,673	4.7	13	16	
Kodiak city	5,937	6,081	6,185	6,089	6,099	6,076	6,334	-397	-1.0	14	10	8
Bethel city *	5,812	5,953	5,867	5,883	5,739	5,462	5,471	341	1.0	15	12	9
Palmer city	5,574	5,300	5,217	5,260	4,837	4,581	4,533	1,041	3.3	16	19	10
Homer city <sup>1</sup>	5,454	5,393	5,350	5,877	5,535	4,070	3,946	1,508	5.1	17	23	11
Sterling CDP	5,036	4,980	4,919	4,878	4,780	4,756	4,705	331	1.1	18	17	
Eielson AFB CDP	4,447	4,548	4,676	4,433	5,840	5,152	5,400	-953	-3.1	19	14	
Nikiski CDP	4,179	4,190	4,289	4,351	4,362	4,363	4,327	-148	-0.6	20	20	
Barrow city *	4,065	4,174	4,364	4,410	4,435	4,444	4,581	-516	-1.9	21	18	12
Unalaska city *	3,940	4,288	4,362	4,370	4,034	4,249	4,283	-343	-1.3	22	21	13
Gateway CDP	3,830	3,682	3,560	3,299	3,215	3,120	2,952	878	4.1	23	28	
Soldotna city	3,807	3,794	3,776	4,001	3,851	3,793	3,759	48	0.2	24	24	14
Valdez city	3,690	3,746	3,714	3,895	3,952	3,825	4,036	-346	-1.4	25	22	15
Nome city	3,540	3,507	3,478	3,412	3,481	3,485	3,505	35	0.2	26	25	16
Butte CDP	3,166	3,110	2,973	2,920	2,784	2,737	2,561	605	3.4	27	31	
Petersburg city	3,129	3,152	3,129	3,080	3,156	3,225	3,224	-95	-0.5	28	26	17
Kotzebue city *	3,104	3,119	3,140	3,068	3,074	3,059	3,082	22	0.1	29	27	18
Big Lake CDP	3,082	2,980	2,926	2,889	2,705	2,614	2,635	447	2.5	30	30	
Fishhook CDP	2,917	2,794	2,642	2,349	2,243	2,191	2,030	887	5.7	31	35	
Seward city	2,627	2,595	2,542	2,744	2,755	2,759	2,830	-203	-1.2	32	29	19
Dillingham city *	2,397	2,368	2,404	2,384	2,468	2,462	2,466	-69	-0.5	33	32	20
Cordova city	2,211	2,288	2,297	2,290	2,302	2,382	2,454	-243	-1.7	34	33	21
Wrangell city	1,911	1,973	2,021	2,123	2,180	2,223	2,308	-397	-3.0	40	34	22

Note: All columns represent Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development estimates unless stated otherwise. All estimates represent July 1 of that year unless stated otherwise.

CDP: Census Designated Place

\* Alaska Native Village Statistical Area

<sup>1</sup> Homer had a substantial annexation in 2002.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Census Bureau