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Press Release

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Natural Increase Fueled Small Population Gain for Alaska in 2016

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's population increased by 2,645 people—about one-third of 1 percent—from July 2015 to July 2016, based on population estimates released today by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough grew the most, adding 2,646 people. The biggest loss was in the City and Borough of Juneau (-398), followed by Kodiak Island Borough (-227). Most other boroughs and census areas were essentially unchanged.

Among the state's six economic regions, Anchorage/Mat-Su gained the most over the period (2,969) and Southeast lost the most (-494). All six regions showed losses through net migration—in-migration minus out-migration—but made steady gains through natural increase, or births minus deaths. Statewide, net migration was negative for the fourth year in a row.

The working age population, those aged 18 to 64, decreased by 2,774 people while the number 65 and older grew by 4,221. Seniors made up 11 percent of the state's population in 2016, up from 10 percent the year before, reflecting an aging trend. Haines Borough's median age was the state's oldest at 49.5 while Kusilvak Census Area was youngest at 23.7.

Eddie Hunsinger will discuss these population estimates and answer questions during a teleconference Friday, Jan. 13, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. To connect, call (800) 315-6338 and use access code #15859. As a courtesy, please mute your line until it's time for questions.

Complete estimates for the state, boroughs/census areas, cities and census designated places are available on the department's Research and Analysis Section website at live.laborstats.alaska.gov/pop. Also available are estimates for other areas—including cities and places, census tracts, school districts and Alaska Native Regional Corporations—and estimates by age and sex for each borough and census area and for places with populations of 1,000 or more. New estimates by race and ethnicity will be released in July 2017.

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Population of Alaska by Economic Region and Borough/Census Area, 2010 to 2016

Area Name	Census April 2010	Estimate July 2011	Estimate July 2012	Estimate July 2013	Estimate July 2014	Estimate July 2015	Estimate July 2016	Change, 2015 to 2016		
								Change in population	Births minus deaths	In-migration minus out- migration
Alaska	710,231	722,886	731,238	735,859	736,818	737,183	739,828	2,645	6,935	-4,290
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	380,821	387,694	392,091	396,797	398,388	398,666	401,635	2,969	3,835	-866
Anchorage Municipality	291,826	295,919	298,407	300,957	300,221	298,714	299,037	323	2,899	-2,576
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	88,995	91,775	93,684	95,840	98,167	99,952	102,598	2,646	936	1,710
Gulf Coast Region	78,631	80,284	80,608	80,500	80,863	81,006	81,126	120	504	-384
Kenai Peninsula Borough	55,400	56,578	56,658	56,868	57,429	57,684	58,060	376	282	94
Kodiak Island Borough	13,592	13,859	13,998	13,814	13,826	13,790	13,563	-227	154	-381
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,639	9,847	9,952	9,818	9,608	9,532	9,503	-29	68	-97
Interior Region	112,021	112,862	115,419	114,497	112,999	112,842	113,154	312	1,326	-1,014
Denali Borough	1,826	1,834	1,856	1,792	1,788	1,786	1,810	24	16	8
Fairbanks North Star Borough	97,581	98,252	100,671	99,955	98,707	98,662	98,957	295	1,239	-944
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7,026	7,112	7,210	7,093	6,986	6,902	6,928	26	43	-17
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,588	5,664	5,682	5,657	5,518	5,492	5,459	-33	28	-61
Northern Region	26,445	26,946	27,276	27,549	27,537	27,825	27,827	2	366	-364
Nome Census Area	9,492	9,726	9,850	9,872	9,993	10,058	10,080	22	149	-127
North Slope Borough	9,430	9,580	9,713	9,870	9,733	9,887	9,803	-84	91	-175
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,523	7,640	7,713	7,807	7,811	7,880	7,944	64	126	-62
Southeast Region	71,664	73,644	74,194	74,255	74,460	74,306	73,812	-494	328	-822
Haines Borough	2,508	2,610	2,607	2,532	2,550	2,492	2,466	-26	0	-26
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,149	2,154	2,205	2,184	2,144	2,180	2,193	13	6	7
Juneau City and Borough	31,275	32,355	32,704	32,917	33,022	33,137	32,739	-398	186	-584
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,477	13,733	13,886	13,828	13,871	13,810	13,758	-52	87	-139
Petersburg Borough	3,203	3,293	3,254	3,201	3,206	3,185	3,179	-6	5	-11
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	6,172	6,452	6,444	6,485	6,503	6,490	6,440	-50	15	-65
Sitka City and Borough	8,881	9,030	9,068	9,053	9,084	8,920	8,920	0	17	-17
Skagway Municipality	968	965	959	979	1,034	1,039	1,065	26	5	21
Wrangell City and Borough	2,369	2,410	2,445	2,456	2,415	2,443	2,458	15	3	12
Yakutat City and Borough	662	642	622	620	631	610	594	-16	4	-20
Southwest Region	40,649	41,456	41,650	42,261	42,571	42,538	42,274	-264	576	-840
Aleutians East Borough	3,141	3,146	3,145	3,149	3,092	3,047	3,001	-46	0	-46
Aleutians West Census Area	5,561	5,532	5,623	5,647	5,617	5,535	5,482	-53	16	-69
Bethel Census Area	17,013	17,461	17,569	17,874	18,088	18,194	18,134	-60	302	-362
Bristol Bay Borough	997	1,025	986	934	944	886	874	-12	5	-17
Dillingham Census Area	4,847	4,935	4,971	5,022	5,066	5,009	4,954	-55	78	-133
Kusilvak Census Area	7,459	7,680	7,683	7,941	8,084	8,200	8,200	0	156	-156
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,631	1,677	1,673	1,694	1,680	1,667	1,629	-38	19	-57

Vintage 2016. All numbers are based on 2016 geography.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section