

State of Alaska

Department of Labor & Workforce Development



Heidi Drygas
Commissioner

Heather Beaty
Communications
Director

907.269.3569
heather.beaty@alaska.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2018

No. 18-01

For more information: Eddie Hunsinger, State Demographer
(907) 269-4960 or Eddie.Hunsinger@Alaska.Gov

Migration Losses Caused Small Population Decline for Alaska in 2017

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's population decreased by 2,629 people—about one-third of 1 percent—from July 2016 to July 2017, based on population estimates released today by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Net migration—in-migration minus out-migration—accounted for a loss of 8,885 people while natural increase, or births minus deaths, added 6,256 people. This was the fifth straight year of net migration losses, the longest stretch on record, but natural increase more than offset those losses until 2017.

Of Alaska's 29 boroughs and census areas, 20 lost population between 2016 and 2017. The biggest loss was in the Municipality of Anchorage (-1,454), followed by Fairbanks North Star Borough (-1,216). The Matanuska-Susitna Borough grew the most, gaining 1,612 people.

Among the state's six economic regions, only Anchorage/Mat-Su gained population over the period (+158), while the Interior lost the most (-1,291). Net migration was negative in all six regions.

The working age population (ages 18 to 64) declined by 1.2 percent, a fifth straight year of decline, while the 65-and-older group grew by nearly 5 percent. Alaska's under-18 population dipped by just 0.4 percent and has changed little over the last two decades.

Haines Borough's median age was the state's highest at 49.3, and Kusilvak Census Area's was lowest at 23.9.

Complete estimates for the state, boroughs/census areas, cities and census designated places are available on the department's Research and Analysis Section site at live.laborstats.alaska.gov/pop. The site includes estimates for other areas—including census tracts, school districts and Alaska Native Regional Corporations—as well as estimates by age and sex for each borough and census area and for places with populations of 1,000 or more. New 2017 estimates by race and ethnicity will be released in July 2018.

Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Population of Alaska by Economic Region, Borough and Census Area

2010 to 2017

Area	Census Estimate					Estimate					Natural Increase		Net Migration		Population Chg		Ann Growth Rate	
	April 2010	July 2011	July 2012	July 2013	July 2014	July 2015	July 2016	July 2017	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	2010 to 2017	2016 to 2017	2010 to 2017	2016 to 2017	2010 to 2017	2016 to 2017	
Alaska	710,231	722,388	731,042	735,776	736,906	737,467	739,709	737,080	51,949	6,256	-25,100	-8,885	26,849	-2,629	0.51%	-0.36%		
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	380,821	387,399	391,986	396,689	398,351	398,768	401,491	401,649	28,196	3,359	-7,368	-3,201	20,828	158	0.73%	0.04%		
Anchorage, Municipality	291,826	295,719	298,334	300,880	300,197	298,799	298,937	297,483	21,964	2,505	-16,307	-3,959	5,657	-1,454	0.26%	-0.49%		
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	88,995	91,680	93,652	95,809	98,154	99,969	102,554	104,166	6,232	854	8,939	758	15,171	1,612	2.17%	1.56%		
Gulf Coast Region	78,631	80,216	80,576	80,479	80,863	81,038	81,108	80,698	3,878	457	-1,811	-867	2,067	-410	0.36%	-0.51%		
Kenai Peninsula Borough	55,400	56,530	56,633	56,850	57,431	57,707	58,049	58,024	2,245	258	379	-283	2,624	-25	0.64%	-0.04%		
Kodiak Island Borough	13,592	13,848	13,993	13,810	13,827	13,795	13,560	13,287	1,144	134	-1,449	-407	-305	-273	-0.31%	-2.03%		
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,639	9,838	9,950	9,819	9,605	9,536	9,499	9,387	489	65	-741	-177	-252	-112	-0.37%	-1.19%		
Interior Region	112,021	112,835	115,397	114,515	113,067	112,905	113,202	111,911	9,624	1,191	-9,734	-2,482	-110	-1,291	-0.01%	-1.15%		
Denali Borough	1,826	1,836	1,856	1,798	1,789	1,790	1,883	1,849	82	4	-59	-38	23	-34	0.17%	-1.82%		
Fairbanks N Star Borough	97,581	98,234	100,664	99,985	98,779	98,727	98,954	97,738	8,868	1,118	-8,711	-2,334	157	-1,216	0.02%	-1.24%		
Southeast Fairbanks CA	7,026	7,107	7,200	7,085	6,983	6,897	6,921	6,973	472	50	-525	2	-53	52	-0.10%	0.75%		
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,588	5,658	5,677	5,647	5,516	5,491	5,444	5,351	202	19	-439	-112	-237	-93	-0.60%	-1.72%		
Northern Region	26,445	26,930	27,274	27,541	27,528	27,828	27,808	27,705	3,046	386	-1,786	-489	1,260	-103	0.64%	-0.37%		
Nome Census Area	9,492	9,718	9,852	9,869	9,986	10,058	10,070	10,006	1,157	149	-643	-213	514	-64	0.73%	-0.64%		
North Slope Borough	9,430	9,575	9,710	9,864	9,732	9,887	9,801	9,849	879	100	-460	-52	419	48	0.60%	0.49%		
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,523	7,637	7,712	7,808	7,810	7,883	7,937	7,850	1,010	137	-683	-224	327	-87	0.59%	-1.10%		
Southeast Region	71,664	73,582	74,168	74,297	74,518	74,371	73,827	72,915	2,788	276	-1,537	-1,188	1,251	-912	0.24%	-1.24%		
Haines Borough	2,508	2,610	2,607	2,534	2,550	2,493	2,466	2,459	7	4	-56	-11	-49	-7	-0.27%	-0.28%		
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,149	2,149	2,200	2,179	2,141	2,177	2,188	2,122	53	12	-80	-78	-27	-66	-0.17%	-3.06%		
Juneau City and Borough	31,275	32,328	32,689	32,915	33,020	33,145	32,723	32,269	1,495	170	-501	-624	994	-454	0.43%	-1.40%		
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,477	13,720	13,878	13,826	13,872	13,813	13,749	13,754	554	35	-277	-30	277	5	0.28%	0.04%		
Petersburg Borough	3,203	3,290	3,251	3,198	3,207	3,185	3,177	3,147	134	17	-190	-47	-56	-30	-0.24%	-0.95%		
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	6,172	6,449	6,456	6,540	6,558	6,536	6,491	6,390	215	4	3	-105	218	-101	0.48%	-1.57%		
Sitka City and Borough	8,881	9,023	9,065	9,051	9,085	8,922	8,914	8,748	228	22	-361	-188	-133	-166	-0.21%	-1.88%		
Skagway Municipality	968	964	957	981	1,038	1,045	1,069	1,087	51	10	68	8	119	18	1.60%	1.67%		
Wrangell City and Borough	2,369	2,408	2,444	2,455	2,415	2,445	2,456	2,387	13	-4	5	-65	18	-69	0.10%	-2.85%		
Yakutat City and Borough	662	641	621	618	632	610	594	552	38	6	-148	-48	-110	-42	-2.50%	-7.33%		
Southwest Region	40,649	41,426	41,641	42,255	42,579	42,557	42,273	42,202	4,417	587	-2,864	-658	1,553	-71	0.52%	-0.17%		
Aleutians East Borough	3,141	3,146	3,146	3,148	3,093	3,047	2,999	2,977	55	6	-219	-28	-164	-22	-0.74%	-0.74%		
Aleutians West Census Area	5,561	5,529	5,622	5,645	5,616	5,534	5,481	5,357	136	17	-340	-141	-204	-124	-0.52%	-2.29%		
Bethel Census Area	17,013	17,442	17,560	17,865	18,084	18,198	18,121	18,127	2,336	306	-1,222	-300	1,114	6	0.87%	0.03%		
Bristol Bay Borough	997	1,024	984	933	944	887	876	887	24	1	-134	10	-110	11	-1.61%	1.25%		
Dillingham Census Area	4,847	4,933	4,974	5,022	5,070	5,010	4,954	4,925	492	70	-414	-99	78	-29	0.22%	-0.59%		
Kusilvak Census Area	7,459	7,675	7,675	7,942	8,085	8,204	8,200	8,208	1,242	165	-493	-157	749	8	1.32%	0.10%		
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,631	1,677	1,680	1,700	1,687	1,677	1,642	1,721	132	22	-42	57	90	79	0.74%	4.70%		

Notes: Vintage 2017. All numbers are based on 2017 geography. Natural increase is births minus deaths. Net migration is in-migrants minus out-migrants.

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