

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

News Release

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Labor Department Estimates Alaska's 2003 Population

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Alaska's statewide population increased by 3.5% or 21,887 persons for the period April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003, according to new population estimates released today by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Alaska's growth was slightly faster than the 3.3% growth for the same period for the U.S. as a whole. The number of people living in the state climbed from a population of 626,931 at the census in April of 2000 to a provisional July 1, 2003 estimate of 648,818. The average annual rate of change was 0.8% for the 2000-2001 period, 1.4% for the 2001-2002 period and 1.1% for the 2002-2003 period. Although growth in the most recent period is down slightly from the 2001-2002 period, it is still above the median growth of 0.89% for the 1990-2002 period (Table 1).

In the 2002-2003 period, in-migration fell by three quarters, to 513, still above the negative numbers for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. In the recent past, 44 percent of in-migration to Alaska has come from the Pacific and Mountain states and another 27 percent from the South Atlantic and West South Central Regions. The top states that contribute migrants to Alaska are currently: Washington 10.4%, California 9.0%, Texas 7.3%, and Oregon 4.7%.

Natural increase (births minus deaths) between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2003, added 22,088 persons to Alaska's population. Net migration (in-migration minus out-migration) accounted for a loss of 117 persons. In the early 1990s Alaska added about 9,600 persons each year through natural increase, while in 2002-2003, we added only 6,800 through natural increase. This continues the trend of lower birth rates and higher death rates as Alaska's baby boomers age. During the last year about 93 percent of our growth was through natural increase and the remainder through in-migration to Alaska.

Population estimates produced by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development have also been released for Alaska's 27 boroughs and census areas as well as for 354 places located throughout the state.

Since 2000, the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough have accounted for virtually all of the population growth in the state, with Anchorage supplying 62.7% and Mat-Su supplying 37.2%. The increase in both

boroughs was due to a mix of natural increase and migration, with most of the migration being from other parts of Alaska. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough was the only area of the state whose growth came primarily from in-migration. In-migration (mainly from Anchorage) accounted for 6,471 of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's population increase of 8,151. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is still the fastest growing area of the state, as it has been since 1990. Since 2000, it has grown at a rate of 4.0%, equal to its growth rate during the 1990s.

Most of Alaska's boroughs and census areas have grown slowly or lost population since 2000. (See Table 2.) The largest increases in population occurred in the Municipality of Anchorage (+13,720), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (+8,151), Kenai Peninsula Borough (+1,529), Bethel Census Area (+728) and the Juneau City and Borough (+572).

Most of the other boroughs and census areas experienced out-migration or remained unchanged. The only boroughs to have a noticeable net in-migration were Matanuska-Susitna Borough (+6,471), Anchorage Municipality (+4,095) and Kenai Peninsula Borough (+444). The Southeast region continued to have the largest overall decline, with a natural increase of 1,587 persons, and a net migration of -2,828 persons. Only Juneau and Sitka had small population growth, of 0.6% and 0.2% respectively, primarily through natural increase.

Migration out of Southwestern Alaska (-1,302) was less than the natural increase in this region (+2,001). In the Northern Region, natural increase (+1,253) slightly exceeded migration (-1,137). In the Gulf Coast, Kodiak again had more out migration (-676) than natural increase (+574) and Valdez-Cordova gained slightly, due to natural increase (+267) which slightly exceeded net migration (-232).

In the Interior, Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Southeast Fairbanks and Yukon Koyukuk Census Areas all shrank due to net migration. The Denali Borough had a slight increase in population, as natural increase (+54) exceeded net migration (-33).

In 2003, Alaska has 37 places with population over 2,000 (Table 3); 21 of them are incorporated cities or city-boroughs. Thirty-one places in Alaska meet the old definition of urban place, by having a population over 2,500. Anchorage Municipality continues to dominate the state. Its 274,003 population accounts for 42.2% of the state's population, up from 41.7% in 2002; the Anchorage/Mat-Su Region (341,476) accounts for 52.6% of the population. The places with population over 2000 with the highest annual growth rates since the census were: Homer city 6.6%, Wasilla city 6.3%, Palmer city 5.8%, Knik-Fairview CDP(Census Designated Place) 5.7%, Kodiak Station 5.4%, Tanaina CDP 4.8%, Fishhook CDP 4.4%, Butte CDP 4.1%, Meadow Lakes CDP 3.7% and Gateway CDP 3.4%. Homer's growth is largely due to its annexation of a substantial part of Diamond Ridge and Millers Landing.

This information is available on the internet at:
<http://www.almis.labor.state.ak.us>
under Population Information.

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Table 1 - Annual Components Of Population Change For Alaska, 1990-2003.

July 1 To June 30	End of Period Population	Population Change	Average Annual Rate of Change	Components of Change			
				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	627,571	5,571	0.89	10,102	2,829	7,273	-1,702
2000-01	632,643	5,072	0.80	9,977	2,936	7,041	-1,969
2001-02	641,482	8,839	1.39	9,824	3,077	6,747	2,092
2002-03 *	648,818	7,336	1.14	9,891	3,068	6,823	513

* Provisional
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Analysis, Research & Analysis, Demographics Unit.

Table 2 - Population of Alaska by Labor Market Area, Borough and Census Area, 1990-2003

Area Name	AKDOLWD Provisional Estimate 2003	AKDOLWD Revised Estimate 2002	AKDOLWD Revised Estimate 2001	April 1 Census 2000	April 1 Census 1990	Change 2000- 2003	Average Annual Rate of Change (%)			Natural Increase (Births-Deaths) 4/1/00- 6/30/03	Net Migration (In-Out) 4/1/00- 6/30/03
							1990- 2000	2000- 2003	1990- 2000		
Alaska	648,818	641,482	632,674	626,931	550,043	21,887	76,888	1.1	1.3	22,356	-469
Anchorage Mat-Su Region	341,476	333,031	325,824	319,605	266,021	21,871	53,584	2.0	1.8	11,305	10,566
Anchorage Municipality	274,003	268,738	264,052	260,283	226,338	13,720	33,945	1.6	1.4	9,625	4,095
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	67,473	64,293	61,772	59,322	39,683	8,151	19,639	4.0	4.0	1,680	6,471
Gulf Coast Region	75,261	74,259	73,804	73,799	64,063	1,462	9,736	0.6	1.4	1,926	-464
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,220	50,486	50,051	49,691	40,802	1,529	8,889	0.9	2.0	1,085	444
Kodiak Island Borough	13,811	13,664	13,623	13,913	13,309	-102	604	-0.2	0.4	574	-676
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	10,230	10,109	10,130	10,195	9,952	35	243	0.1	0.2	267	-232
Interior Region	96,397	99,055	98,119	97,417	92,111	-1,020	5,306	-0.3	0.6	4,284	-5,304
Denali Borough	1,914	1,884	1,908	1,893	1,764	21	129	0.3	0.7	54	-33
Fairbanks North Star Borough	82,214	84,859	83,774	82,840	77,720	-626	5,120	-0.2	0.6	3,866	-4,492
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	5,922	5,941	5,916	6,174	5,913	-252	261	-1.3	0.4	233	-485
Yukon Koyukuk Census Area	6,347	6,371	6,521	6,510	6,714	-163	-204	-0.8	-0.3	131	-294
Northern Region	23,905	23,840	23,735	23,789	20,380	116	3,409	0.1	1.5	1,253	-1,137
Nome Census Area	9,370	9,353	9,307	9,196	8,288	174	908	0.6	1.0	467	-293
North Slope Borough	7,234	7,246	7,265	7,385	5,979	-151	1,406	-0.6	2.1	405	-556
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,301	7,241	7,163	7,208	6,113	93	1,095	0.4	1.6	381	-288
Southeast Region	71,841	71,935	72,128	73,082	68,989	-1,241	4,093	-0.5	0.6	1,587	-2,828
Haines Borough	2,327	2,362	2,380	2,392	2,117	-65	275	-0.8	1.2	4	-69
Juneau City and Borough	31,283	30,940	30,551	30,711	26,751	572	3,960	0.6	1.4	874	-302
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,548	13,697	13,851	14,059	13,828	-511	231	-1.1	0.2	270	-781
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	5,601	5,690	5,832	6,157	6,278	-556	-121	-2.9	-0.2	152	-708
Sitka City and Borough	8,891	8,812	8,804	8,835	8,588	56	247	0.2	0.3	238	-182
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon C.A.	3,164	3,243	3,390	3,436	3,680	-272	-244	-2.5	-0.7	-25	-247
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	6,336	6,471	6,621	6,684	7,042	-348	-358	-1.6	-0.5	63	-411
Yakutat City and Borough	691	720	699	808	705	-117	103	-4.8	1.4	11	-128
Southwest Region	39,938	39,362	39,064	39,239	38,479	699	760	0.5	0.2	2,001	-1,302
Aleutians East Borough	2,700	2,732	2,554	2,697	2,464	3	233	0.0	0.9	36	-33
Aleutians West Census Area	5,420	5,075	5,263	5,465	9,478	-45	-4,013	-0.3	-5.4	71	-116
Bethel Census Area	16,774	16,529	16,184	16,046	13,656	728	2,390	1.4	1.6	1,084	-356
Bristol Bay Borough	1,105	1,165	1,179	1,258	1,410	-153	-152	-4.0	-1.1	31	-184
Dillingham Census Area	4,912	4,920	4,913	4,922	4,012	-10	910	-0.1	2.0	195	-205
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,628	1,637	1,741	1,823	1,668	-195	155	-3.5	0.9	18	-213
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,399	7,304	7,230	7,028	5,791	371	1,237	1.6	1.9	566	-195

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

Table 3 - Places with more than 2,000 persons, 2003.

Area Name	AKDOLWD Preliminary Estimate 2003	AKDOLWD Revised Estimate 2002	AKDOLWD Revised Estimate 2001	April 1 Census 2000	2000- 2003 Change	Average Annual Rate of Change(%)	Place Rank 2003	Place Rank 2000	City Rank 2003
Cities									
Anchorage Municipality	274,003	268,738	264,052	260,283	13,720	1.6	1	1	1
Juneau city and borough	31,283	30,940	30,551	30,711	572	0.6	2	2	2
Fairbanks city	29,486	29,861	29,737	30,224	-738	-0.8	3	3	3
College CDP	11,929	11,921	12,098	11,402	527	1.4	4	4	
Sitka city and Borough	8,891	8,812	8,804	8,835	56	0.2	5	5	4
Knik-Fairview CDP	8,488	7,896	7,637	7,049	1,439	5.7	6	7	
Ketchikan city	8,002	8,049	7,978	7,922	80	0.3	7	6	5
Kenai city	7,125	7,109	6,910	6,942	183	0.8	8	8	6
Lakes CDP	6,980	6,900	6,818	6,706	274	1.2	9	9	
Wasilla city	6,715	6,120	5,515	5,469	1,246	6.3	10	13	7
Kalifornsky CDP	6,230	6,145	6,041	5,846	384	2.0	11	11	
Kodiak city	6,138	6,139	6,102	6,334	-196	-1.0	12	10	8
Bethel city *	5,899	5,748	5,482	5,471	428	2.3	13	12	9
Tanaina CDP	5,843	5,602	5,252	4,993	850	4.8	14	15	
Palmer city	5,474	4,959	4,621	4,533	941	5.8	15	19	10
Meadow Lakes CDP	5,443	5,236	5,064	4,819	624	3.7	16	16	
Homer city /1	4,893	4,641	3,885	3,946	947	6.6	17	23	11
Sterling CDP	4,888	4,777	4,780	4,705	183	1.2	18	17	
Eielson AFB CDP	4,437	5,844	5,197	5,400	-963	-6.0	19	14	
Barrow city *	4,417	4,440	4,464	4,581	-164	-1.1	20	18	12
Unalaska city *	4,388	4,032	4,257	4,283	105	0.7	21	21	13
Nikiski CDP	4,357	4,345	4,378	4,327	30	0.2	22	20	
Valdez city	4,060	4,095	3,976	4,036	24	0.2	23	22	14
Soldotna city	4,059	3,889	3,813	3,759	300	2.4	24	24	15
Nome city	3,448	3,494	3,509	3,505	-57	-0.5	25	25	16
Gateway CDP	3,292	3,220	3,106	2,952	340	3.4	26	28	
Kotzebue city *	3,076	3,076	3,071	3,082	-6	-0.1	27	27	17
Petersburg city	3,060	3,131	3,222	3,224	-164	-1.6	28	26	18
Butte CDP	2,931	2,802	2,750	2,561	370	4.1	29	31	
Big Lake CDP	2,839	2,717	2,580	2,635	204	2.3	30	30	
Seward city	2,733	2,755	2,767	2,830	-97	-1.1	31	29	19
Dillingham city *	2,373	2,443	2,452	2,466	-93	-1.2	32	32	20
Cordova city	2,372	2,381	2,468	2,454	-82	-1.0	33	33	21
Fishhook CDP	2,342	2,233	2,189	2,030	312	4.4	34	35	
Kodiak Station CDP	2,192	1,941	1,766	1,840	352	5.4	35	38	
Wrangell city	2,113	2,168	2,219	2,308	-195	-2.7	36	34	22
Ridgeway CDP	2,011	1,961	1,969	1,932	79	1.2	37	36	

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographics Unit, January 15, 2004.

CDP- Census Designated Place, *ANVSA-Alaska Native Village Statistical Area.

/1 Homer had a substantial Annexation in 2002.