

# News Release

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor  
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

Contact: Juneau: Greg Williams 465-6029  
greg\_williams@labor.state.ak.us  
Anchorage: Neal Fried 907 269-4861  
neal\_fried@labor.state.ak.us

December 30, 2004  
No. 05-42

## Alaska 2004 Population Estimates for State, Boroughs and Places Released

Alaska's statewide population increased by 4.5%, or 28,504 persons, for the period April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004, according to new population estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Alaska's growth was slightly faster than the 4.3% growth in 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, 2004 estimate of 655,435. (See Table 1.) The rates of change were an annual average of 1.0% per year for the 2000-2004 period and 1.1% for 2003-2004. Alaska is still the 47<sup>th</sup> most populous state in 2004, ahead of North Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming, and District of Columbia.

Natural increase (births minus deaths) added 29,769 persons to Alaska's population between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2004. Net migration (in-migration minus out-migration) accounted for a loss of 1,265 persons in that same period. In the early 1990s natural increase added about 9,600 persons each year, while in 2003-2004, it added only 7,241. This continues the trend toward fewer births and more deaths as Alaska's baby boomers age. In the 2003-2004 period more than 99 percent of population change was through natural increase and the remainder was through out-migration from 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.

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 (+17,215), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (+10,826), Fairbanks North Star Borough (+2,139), Kenai Peninsula Borough (+1,289), Bethel Census Area (+807), and the Wade Hampton Census Area (+366).

Of the 27 boroughs and census areas, 10 have gained population since the 2000 census. The Municipality of Anchorage makes up 51.8%, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough 32.6%, of the total gains for these 10. 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 an annual rate of 3.9%, almost equal to its 4.0% annual growth rate of the 1990s.

The increase in both boroughs was due to a mix of natural increase and migration. Anchorage has the largest flows of in- and out-migration from other parts of Alaska, and from the rest of the U.S., leaving it with a net migration of +4,260. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough was the only area

of the state whose growth came primarily from net migration. Net migration (about half from in-state, the majority of that from Anchorage) accounted for 8,424 of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's population increase of 10,826 since the 2000 Census. These two were the only boroughs whose in-migration exceeded out-migration.

Most of the other boroughs and census areas lost population to out-migration or remained unchanged. The Southeast region continued to have the largest overall decline, with natural increase of 2,112 persons, and net migration of -4,572 persons. In Southeast, only Juneau had small population growth from its 2000 level, of 0.2%, primarily through natural increase. In the 2003-2004 period, even Juneau's population declined slightly.

Net migration in Southwestern Alaska (-2,224) was less than the natural increase in this region (+2,644). In the Northern Region, natural increase (+1,663) only slightly exceeded net migration (-1,639). In the Gulf Coast, Kodiak Island Borough again had more net migration (-1,162) than natural increase (+715) and Valdez-Cordova lost slightly, as natural increase (+345) failed to match net migration (-581).

In the Interior, Fairbanks North Star Borough (+2,139) and the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+18) have grown, largely due to natural increase. The Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (-233) and Denali Borough (-51) shrank due to net out-migration.

In 2004, Alaska has 36 places with population of more than 2,000 persons (Table 3); 22 of them are incorporated cities or city-boroughs. The Municipality of Anchorage continues to dominate the state. Its population of 277,498 accounts for 42.3% of the state's population, up slightly from 42.2% in 2003; the Anchorage/Mat-Su Region (347,646) accounts for 53.0% of the population. The places with population greater than 2,000 persons with the highest annual growth rates since the census include: Homer city (+7.0%) and Kalifornsky CDP (Census Designated Place) (+2.9%) in the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and Knik-Fairview CDP (+6.4), Fishhook CDP (+5.8%) and Tanaina CDP (+5.3%) in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Homer's growth is largely due to its annexation of a substantial part of Diamond Ridge and Millers Landing, leaving Knik-Fairview as the fastest-growing place in the state. The places of more than 2,000 population with the lowest annual growth rates since the census include: Eielson AFB CDP (-3.8%), Wrangell city (-3.1%), Seward city (-2.5%) and Valdez city (-1.7%).

These population estimates are available on the Research and Analysis Internet site at: <http://www.almis.labor.state.ak.us> under Population Infor-

**Table 1**  
**Annual Components of Population Change for Alaska, 1990 to 2004**

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	625,504	3,504	0.56	10,102	2,829	7,273	-3,769
2000-01	632,389	6,885	1.09	9,980	2,934	7,046	-161
2001-02	640,841	8,452	1.33	9,889	3,072	6,817	1,635
2002-03	648,243	7,402	1.15	10,017	3,098	6,919	483
2003-04*	655,435	7,192	1.10	10,271	3,030	7,241	-49

\*Provisional

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

**Table 2**  
**Annual Components of Population Change for Alaska, 1990–2004**

Area Name	July 1	July 1	July 1	July 1	April 1	April 1	Change		1990-	Average Annual			Natural	Net	Natural	Net
	Provisional	Revised	Revised	Revised			Census	Census		2003-	2000-	Rate of Change (%)	Increase	Migration	Increase	Migration
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	2000	1990	2004	2004	2000	2004	2004	2000	2003-	2003-	4/01/00-	4/1/00-
	2004	2003	2002	2001									2004	2004	6/30/04	06/30/04
Alaska	655,435	648,243	640,841	632,389	626,931	550,043	7,192	28,504	76,888	1.1	1.0	1.3	7,241	-49	29,769	-1,265
Anchorage Mat-Su Region	347,646	341,091	332,638	326,990	319,605	266,021	6,555	28,041	53,584	1.9	2.0	1.8	3,956	2,599	15,357	12,684
Municipality of Anchorage	277,498	273,565	268,347	265,286	260,283	226,338	3,933	17,215	33,945	1.4	1.5	1.4	3,252	681	12,955	4,260
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	70,148	67,526	64,291	61,704	59,322	39,683	2,622	10,826	19,639	3.8	3.9	4.0	704	1,918	2,402	8,424
Gulf Coast Region	74,405	75,422	74,370	73,643	73,799	64,063	-1,017	606	9,736	-1.4	0.2	1.4	524	-1,541	2,459	-1,853
Kenai Peninsula Borough	50,980	51,398	50,621	50,005	49,691	40,802	-418	1,289	8,889	-0.8	0.6	2.0	311	-729	1,399	-110
Kodiak Island Borough	13,466	13,797	13,649	13,555	13,913	13,309	-331	-447	604	-2.4	-0.8	0.4	140	-471	715	-1,162
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,959	10,227	10,100	10,083	10,195	9,952	-268	-236	243	-2.7	-0.6	0.2	73	-341	345	-581
Interior Region	99,290	96,289	98,920	97,586	97,417	92,111	3,001	1,873	5,306	3.1	0.4	0.6	1,290	1,711	5,534	-3,661
Denali Borough	1,842	1,917	1,888	1,901	1,893	1,764	-75	-51	129	-4.0	-0.6	0.7	15	-90	69	-120
Fairbanks North Star Borough	84,979	82,131	84,748	83,284	82,840	77,720	2,848	2,139	5,120	3.4	0.6	0.6	1,209	1,639	5,091	-2,952
Southeast Fairbanks CA	6,192	5,911	5,927	5,915	6,174	5,913	281	18	261	4.6	0.1	0.4	26	255	200	-182
Yukon Koyukuk Census Area	6,277	6,330	6,357	6,486	6,510	6,714	-53	-233	-204	-0.8	-0.9	-0.3	40	-93	174	-407
Northern Region	23,813	23,879	23,807	23,626	23,789	20,380	-66	24	3,409	-0.3	0.0	1.5	389	-455	1,663	-1,639
Nome Census Area	9,403	9,358	9,339	9,261	9,196	8,288	45	207	908	0.5	0.5	1.0	134	-89	610	-403
North Slope Borough	7,104	7,228	7,236	7,228	7,385	5,979	-124	-281	1,406	-1.7	-0.9	2.1	129	-253	541	-822
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,306	7,293	7,232	7,137	7,208	6,113	13	98	1,095	0.2	0.3	1.6	126	-113	512	-414
Southeast Region	70,622	71,767	71,823	71,666	73,082	68,989	-1,145	-2,460	4,093	-1.6	-0.8	0.6	479	-1,624	2,112	-4,572
Haines Borough	2,245	2,319	2,357	2,368	2,392	2,117	-74	-147	275	-3.2	-1.5	1.2	4	-78	10	-157
Juneau City and Borough	30,966	31,246	30,899	30,371	30,711	26,751	-280	255	3,960	-0.9	0.2	1.4	253	-533	1,109	-854
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,030	13,533	13,676	13,742	14,059	13,828	-503	-1,029	231	-3.8	-1.8	0.2	86	-589	353	-1,382
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	5,548	5,594	5,680	5,814	6,157	6,278	-46	-609	-121	-0.8	-2.4	-0.2	26	-72	176	-785
Sitka City and Borough	8,805	8,897	8,799	8,724	8,835	8,588	-92	-30	247	-1.0	-0.1	0.3	65	-157	304	-334
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	3,101	3,167	3,241	3,371	3,436	3,680	-66	-335	-244	-2.1	-2.4	-0.7	20	-86	51	-386
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	6,247	6,321	6,452	6,581	6,684	7,042	-74	-437	-358	-1.2	-1.6	-0.5	22	-96	97	-534
Yakutat City and Borough	680	690	719	695	808	705	-10	-128	103	-1.5	-4.0	1.4	3	-13	12	-140
Southwest Region	39,659	39,795	39,283	38,878	39,239	38,479	-136	420	760	-0.3	0.3	0.2	603	-739	2,644	-2,224
Aleutians East Borough	2,629	2,688	2,722	2,547	2,697	2,464	-59	-68	233	-2.2	-0.6	0.9	7	-66	45	-113
Aleutians West Census Area	5,239	5,329	5,057	5,252	5,465	9,478	-90	-226	-4,013	-1.7	-1.0	-5.4	16	-106	101	-327
Bethel Census Area	16,853	16,756	16,503	16,099	16,046	13,656	97	807	2,390	0.6	1.2	1.6	328	-231	1,424	-617
Bristol Bay Borough	1,096	1,103	1,162	1,173	1,258	1,410	-7	-162	-152	-0.6	-3.2	-1.1	8	-15	40	-202
Dillingham Census Area	4,845	4,906	4,913	4,888	4,922	4,012	-61	-77	910	-1.3	-0.4	2.0	55	-116	256	-333
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,603	1,627	1,639	1,732	1,823	1,668	-24	-220	155	-1.5	-3.0	0.9	18	-42	36	-256
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,394	7,386	7,287	7,187	7,028	5,791	8	366	1,237	0.1	1.2	1.9	171	-163	742	-376

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

**Table 3 Places with More than 2,000 Persons, 2004**

	Preliminary Estimate 2004	Revised Estimate 2003	Revised Estimate 2002	Revised Estimate 2001	April 1 Census 2000	2000- 2004 Change	Avg. Annual Rate of Change (%)	Place Rank 2004	Place Rank 2000	City Rank 2004	City Rank 2000	
Municipality of Anchorage	277,498	273,565	268,347	265,286	260,283	17215	1.5%	1	1	1	1	
Juneau city and borough	30,966	31,246	30,899	30,371	30,711	255	0.2%	2	2	2	2	
Fairbanks city	29,954	29,002	29,829	29,580	30,224	-270	-0.2%	3	3	3	3	
College CDP	12,186	11,989	11,913	12,039	11,402	784	1.6%	4	4			
Knik-Fairview CDP	9,223	8,561	7,997	7,636	7,049	2174	6.3%	5	7			
Sitka city and borough	8,805	8,897	8,799	8,724	8,835	-30	-0.1%	6	5	4	4	
Ketchikan city	7,691	7,989	8,372	8,455	7,922	-231	-0.7%	7	6	5	5	
Lakes CDP	7,467	7,053	6,923	6,812	6,706	761	2.5%	8	9			
Kenai city	6,809	7,123	7,071	6,870	6,942	-133	-0.5%	9	8	6	6	
Kalifornsky CDP	6,617	6,249	6,153	6,011	5,846	771	2.9%	10	11			
Tanaina CDP	6,265	5,865	5,597	5,260	4,993	1272	5.3%	11	15			
Kodiak city	6,199	6,113	6,109	6,062	6,334	-135	-0.5%	12	10	7	7	
Wasilla city	6,109	6,387	5,959	5,517	5,469	640	2.6%	13	13	8	9	
Meadow Lakes CDP	5,945	5,579	5,274	5,040	4,819	1126	4.9%	14	16			
Bethel city *	5,888	5,886	5,733	5,459	5,471	417	1.7%	15	12	9	8	
Homer city **	5,332	5,865	5,527	4,065	3,946	1386	7.0%	16	23	10	14	
Palmer city	5,197	5,267	4,840	4,581	4,533	664	3.2%	17	19	11	11	
Sterling CDP	4,940	4,880	4,771	4,753	4,705	235	1.1%	18	17			
Eielson AFB CDP	4,587	4,434	5,839	5,153	5,400	-813	-3.8%	19	14			
Unalaska city *	4,366	4,374	4,033	4,249	4,283	83	0.5%	20	21	12	12	
Barrow city *	4,351	4,412	4,434	4,441	4,581	-230	-1.2%	21	18	13	10	
Nikiski CDP	4,279	4,356	4,360	4,362	4,327	-48	-0.3%	22	20			
Soldotna city	3,767	3,992	3,856	3,791	3,759	8	0.1%	23	24	14	15	
Valdez city	3,749	3,935	3,974	3,843	4,036	-287	-1.7%	24	22	15	13	
Gateway CDP	3,554	3,305	3,213	3,117	2,952	602	4.4%	25	28			
Nome city	3,473	3,414	3,481	3,485	3,505	-32	-0.2%	26	25	16	16	
Kotzebue city *	3,130	3,070	3,073	3,068	3,082	48	0.4%	27	27	17	18	
Petersburg city	3,123	3,079	3,148	3,218	3,224	-101	-0.7%	28	26	18	17	
Butte CDP	2,963	2,919	2,773	2,735	2,561	402	3.4%	29	31			
Big Lake CDP	2,912	2,889	2,702	2,613	2,635	277	2.3%	30	30			
Fishhook CDP	2,606	2,335	2,233	2,179	2,030	576	5.8%	31	35			
Seward city	2,540	2,745	2,754	2,759	2,830	-290	-2.5%	32	29	19	19	
Dillingham city *	2,422	2,390	2,465	2,460	2,466	-44	-0.4%	33	32	20	20	
Cordova city	2,298	2,298	2,305	2,382	2,454	-156	-1.5%	34	33	21	21	
Ridgeway CDP	2,047	2,022	1,963	1,961	1,932	115	1.4%	35	36			
Wrangell city	2,023	2,123	2,175	2,220	2,308	-285	-3.1%	36	34	22	22	

CDP – Census Designated Place  
 \* ANVSA – Alaska Native Village Statistical Area  
 \*\* Homer had a substantial annexation in 2002.

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