



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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Labor Releases State and Regional Population Projections for 2007 through 2030

JUNEAU – Alaska’s population is projected to most likely increase by 25 percent, nearly 170,000 people, from 2006 to 2030, based on new population projections released by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The State of Alaska

The statewide population is projected to increase through 2030. As the state’s population ages, annual growth is expected to slow. Rather than forecasting economic conditions, the projections are based on the current population, and historical trends in birth, death and migration levels. While the most likely projection is approximately 840,000 Alaska residents by 2030, based on variations in births and migration that Alaska has experienced over recent years, the total population may be as high as 950,000, or as low as 730,000.

Alaska’s population aged 65 or more is expected to grow at the highest rate over the projection period, from 45,489 in 2006 to 134,391 in 2030. Alaska’s school-age population (ages 5 to 17) is projected to increase from 141,291 to 169,944, and the traditional working-age population (ages 18 to 64) is projected to increase from 429,817 to 469,916.

Alaska Natives

The Alaska Native population is projected to increase from 118,884 in 2006 to 162,820 in 2030. The projected increase in the Alaska Native population is largely due to high rates of birth, but aging and increases in Native life expectancy are expected to play roles as well. Similar to the state population as a whole, the Alaska Native population aged 65 or more is expected to increase strongly, from 7,212 in 2006 to 19,004 in 2030. With high rates of birth relative to other groups in the state, the Alaska Native share of the total youth population is expected to increase over the projection period.

Regions, Boroughs and Census Areas

Rates of growth are projected to vary across the state’s economic regions, ranging from strong growth projected for the Anchorage/Mat-Su Region, to some population loss in the Southeast Region. All economic regions except Southeast are projected to grow. Population projections for the boroughs and census areas within Alaska’s economic regions vary further, with several areas projected to decline in population. While aging plays an important role at the region and borough level, much of the projected population change for each area is based on rates of migration experienced over the past 15 years.

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Population projections 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.”

Alaska Population by Economic Region, Borough and Census Area: 2006 to 2030

Area Name	2006 Estimate	2010 Projection	2015 Projection	2020 Projection	2025 Projection	2030 Projection
State of Alaska	670,053	698,573	734,999	771,465	806,113	838,676
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	359,987	377,651	404,745	433,588	462,005	488,553
Municipality of Anchorage	282,813	293,323	306,902	322,087	337,706	350,871
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	77,174	84,328	97,843	111,501	124,299	137,682
Gulf Coast Region	74,611	77,107	79,279	80,920	81,951	82,286
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,350	53,607	55,951	57,883	59,339	60,268
Kodiak Island Borough	13,506	13,477	13,298	13,058	12,740	12,255
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,755	10,023	10,030	9,979	9,872	9,763
Interior Region	102,276	107,416	112,525	117,026	121,291	125,422
Denali Borough	1,795	1,786	1,739	1,676	1,601	1,536
Fairbanks North Star Borough	87,849	92,868	97,706	101,973	106,106	110,131
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	6,772	6,863	7,314	7,782	8,222	8,644
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,860	5,899	5,766	5,595	5,362	5,111
Northern Region	23,676	24,904	26,299	27,607	28,854	30,372
Nome Census Area	9,535	9,902	10,412	10,908	11,405	12,024
North Slope Borough	6,807	7,291	7,722	8,095	8,433	8,867
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,334	7,711	8,165	8,604	9,016	9,481
Southeast Region	70,053	70,315	69,593	68,335	66,661	65,073
Haines Borough	2,241	2,095	1,978	1,854	1,712	1,571
Juneau Borough	30,650	31,691	32,078	32,252	32,227	32,260
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,174	12,836	12,507	12,088	11,587	11,095
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	5,477	5,261	4,996	4,658	4,274	3,894
Sitka Borough	8,833	8,964	8,948	8,864	8,740	8,658
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon C.A.	3,020	2,862	2,657	2,415	2,180	1,945
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	6,024	5,960	5,785	5,580	5,340	5,076
Yakutat Borough	634	646	644	624	601	574
Southwest Region	39,450	41,180	42,558	43,989	45,351	46,970
Aleutians East Borough	2,643	2,675	2,688	2,676	2,645	2,632
Aleutians West Census Area	4,810	5,169	5,068	4,944	4,795	4,665
Bethel Census Area	17,031	17,774	18,590	19,457	20,333	21,354
Bristol Bay Borough	1,060	1,169	1,153	1,152	1,133	1,120
Dillingham Census Area	4,796	4,897	5,044	5,181	5,293	5,408
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1,557	1,586	1,560	1,510	1,443	1,364
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,553	7,910	8,455	9,069	9,709	10,427

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