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Press Release

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Alaska's population projected to grow 28 percent by 2035

JUNEAU—Alaska's population is projected to increase by 28 percent – or more than 200,000 people – between 2010 and 2035, according to new population projections released by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

State of Alaska

The statewide population is projected to grow overall, but its annual growth will slow as the population ages. While the most likely projection is approximately 915,000 Alaska residents by 2035, the total population could be as high as 1,140,000 or as low as 760,000 based on alternate migration scenarios. The projections are based on the current population and historical birth, death and migration trends rather than economic conditions.

The highest rate of growth will likely be among those 65 and above. This group is projected to increase from 55,237 in 2010 to 155,382 in 2035. Alaska's school-age population – ages 5 to 17 – is projected to increase from 134,117 to 170,287, and the working-age population – ages 18 to 64 – is projected to grow from 470,495 to 523,319.

Alaska Natives

The Alaska Native population is projected to increase from 122,480 in 2010 to 159,633 in 2035. The projected growth is largely due to high birth rates, but aging and increases in Native life expectancy are expected to play a role.

Similar to the statewide population, the Alaska Native population aged 65 or more is expected to increase strongly, from 8,003 in 2010 to 19,540 in 2035. With high birth rates, the population of Alaska Natives who are under 18 is expected to increase steadily 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 in the Anchorage/Mat-Su Region to modest population loss in Southeast, the only region that isn't expected to grow.

Population projections for the boroughs and census areas within the regions vary further, with several areas projected to lose population. While aging plays an important role at the regional and borough levels, much of the projected population change for each area is based on rates of migration over the past 10 years.

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Alaska Population Projections:
Labor.Alaska.Gov/research/pop/popproj.htm

See table on next page

Alaska Population by Economic Region, Borough and Census Area: 2010 to 2035

	July 1, 2010 Estimate	July 1, 2015 Projection	July 1, 2020 Projection	July 1, 2025 Projection	July 1, 2030 Projection	July 1, 2035 Projection
State of Alaska	714,142	759,244	802,762	842,899	879,823	915,211
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	382,958	414,381	445,319	474,850	502,808	529,494
Anchorage, Municipality	293,237	311,311	328,097	343,086	356,480	368,801
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	89,721	103,070	117,222	131,764	146,328	160,693
Gulf Coast Region	79,051	82,338	85,308	87,640	89,207	90,240
Kenai Peninsula Borough	55,712	59,073	62,174	64,761	66,700	68,140
Kodiak Island Borough	13,655	13,718	13,739	13,699	13,593	13,496
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,684	9,547	9,395	9,180	8,914	8,604
Interior Region	112,496	120,647	128,169	134,881	141,014	146,960
Denali Borough	1,826	1,796	1,752	1,706	1,654	1,596
Fairbanks North Star Borough	98,000	105,928	113,275	119,910	126,067	132,076
Southeast Fairbanks CA	7,055	7,635	8,141	8,529	8,817	9,056
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,615	5,288	5,001	4,736	4,476	4,232
Northern Region	26,597	27,303	28,001	28,663	29,433	30,509
Nome Census Area	9,556	9,964	10,369	10,774	11,220	11,776
North Slope Borough	9,478	9,475	9,447	9,373	9,348	9,431
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,563	7,864	8,185	8,516	8,865	9,302
Southeast Region	72,149	72,283	72,052	71,356	70,222	68,824
Haines Borough	2,535	2,598	2,639	2,663	2,646	2,613
Hoonah-Angoon C.A.	2,150	1,988	1,828	1,669	1,518	1,385
Juneau, City and Borough	31,538	32,040	32,381	32,485	32,379	32,080
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,536	13,489	13,365	13,144	12,841	12,515
Petersburg Census Area	3,847	3,736	3,615	3,486	3,335	3,167
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	5,625	5,409	5,182	4,947	4,704	4,470
Sitka, City and Borough	8,913	9,002	9,026	8,974	8,875	8,737
Skagway, Municipality	968	1,018	1,064	1,100	1,111	1,126
Wrangell, City and Borough	2,375	2,351	2,317	2,272	2,220	2,165
Yakutat, City and Borough	662	652	635	616	593	566
Southwest Region	40,891	42,292	43,913	45,509	47,139	49,184
Aleutians East Borough	3,141	3,183	3,210	3,226	3,229	3,232
Aleutians West Census Area	5,571	5,538	5,485	5,401	5,291	5,147
Bethel Census Area	17,144	18,055	19,059	20,084	21,193	22,557
Bristol Bay Borough	1,002	968	936	897	851	806
Dillingham Census Area	4,874	4,930	5,016	5,085	5,126	5,180
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,647	1,622	1,601	1,575	1,540	1,503
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,512	7,996	8,606	9,241	9,909	10,759

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