



ALASKA ECONOMIC
TRENDS

MAY 2022

How Alaskans
relocate in state

ALSO INSIDE

Kodiak, an atypical fishing town
National park visits during COVID

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

We can make 2022 the year of opportunity for Alaskans

By Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter, Commissioner

As commissioner, I have the privilege of visiting with many Alaskans in their communities. Recently I attended meetings at ComFish, Alaska's premier commercial fisheries trade show, and toured one of Kodiak's large shore-based processing facilities. Kodiak is a vibrant community and is featured in this issue.

Kodiak's strong commercial fishing industry and U.S. Coast Guard presence make it a perfect place for growth and opportunity. The economy is rebounding, and industries are recovering from the job losses of early 2020.

In 2022, it's time to consider learning new skills for your current work or training for a new career. With the summer of 2021 recording the highest number of job openings in our state's history, we could be heading into a hiring frenzy.

I oversee a resilient network of training programs, including Alaska's premier vocational training school, AVTEC, in Seward. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development collaborates with training providers in every region: union and nonunion.

We can also connect you to apprenticeships in the skilled trades or provide direct training funds through Alaska's Job Center Network. One way to access these training dollars is to set up an individual training account. Whether you are interested in certification to operate a 100-ton vessel or training for network programming, the opportunities are extensive.

Gov. Dunleavy has added \$10 million in additional



training support to the fiscal year 2023 budget in anticipation of projected job growth from the new federal infrastructure bill. If approved by the Legislature, these funds will be distributed to Alaska's training providers through a competitive process to increase training capacity for high-demand industries.

In partnership with the University of Alaska Southeast in Ketchikan, AVTEC is recognized as one of the top maritime training centers in the country. In 2019, the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary awarded this partnership the prestigious Center of Excellence designation. Dozens of USCG-approved courses are available with state-of-the-art maritime training simulation — imagine guiding a virtual tanker into San Francisco Bay or an Alaska ferry into the port of Ketchikan.

Because Alaska has more than 6,000 miles of coastline, maritime workers are in high demand. Maritime training can lead to career opportunities with the Alaska Marine Highway System, the broader maritime transportation sector, or the commercial seafood industry.

Alaskans have many opportunities to succeed as the economy rebounds, and we are working to increase training and other resources to help you take full advantage of these opportunities. To take that first step or find out more, contact your local job center or call (877) 724-2539.

Contact Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter, Commissioner, at (907) 465-2700 or commissioner.labor@alaska.gov.



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and WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

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Trends is a nonpartisan, data-driven magazine
that covers a variety of economic topics in Alaska.

ON THIS SPREAD: The background image for 2022 is a sparkly Alaska shoreline, taken by
Flickr user Darren Hsu. License: creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/

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Where Alaskans relocate in state

Migration within Alaska has declined in recent years

By ERIC SANDBERG

Previous issues of *Trends* have covered migration to and from Alaska extensively. That's because roughly three-quarters of moves across a borough or census area boundary involve people leaving the state or moving in. The remaining quarter happens within the state's borders.

In-state migration, although much smaller, is an important component of local population change, especially in small and rural communities. The picture in-state migration provides varies by the geographic scale; that is, patterns and trends at the borough level may not apply to all communities within it.

The number of people who move between Alaska boroughs and census areas each year, as shown by Permanent Fund Dividend applications, has declined about 25 percent over the last 20 years. The steepest sustained decline spanned the last five years, as a state recession and then the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in about 3,000 fewer Alaskans relocating in-state between 2016 and 2021.

In-state migration plays a major role in shaping local populations.

In-state movers make up a higher share of rural Alaska's migrants

The maps on the next page show what percentage of each area's yearly migration in and out is in-state. Urban and rural areas reveal a stark difference; urban areas' migration is mainly into or out of Alaska, and many rural areas send and receive migrants almost entirely within the state.

The Lake and Peninsula Borough in western Alaska has the highest percentage of in-migrants coming from within Alaska at 91 percent, followed by the Kusilvak Census Area at 89 percent and the

Numbers of moves between areas in Alaska on a long-term decline



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

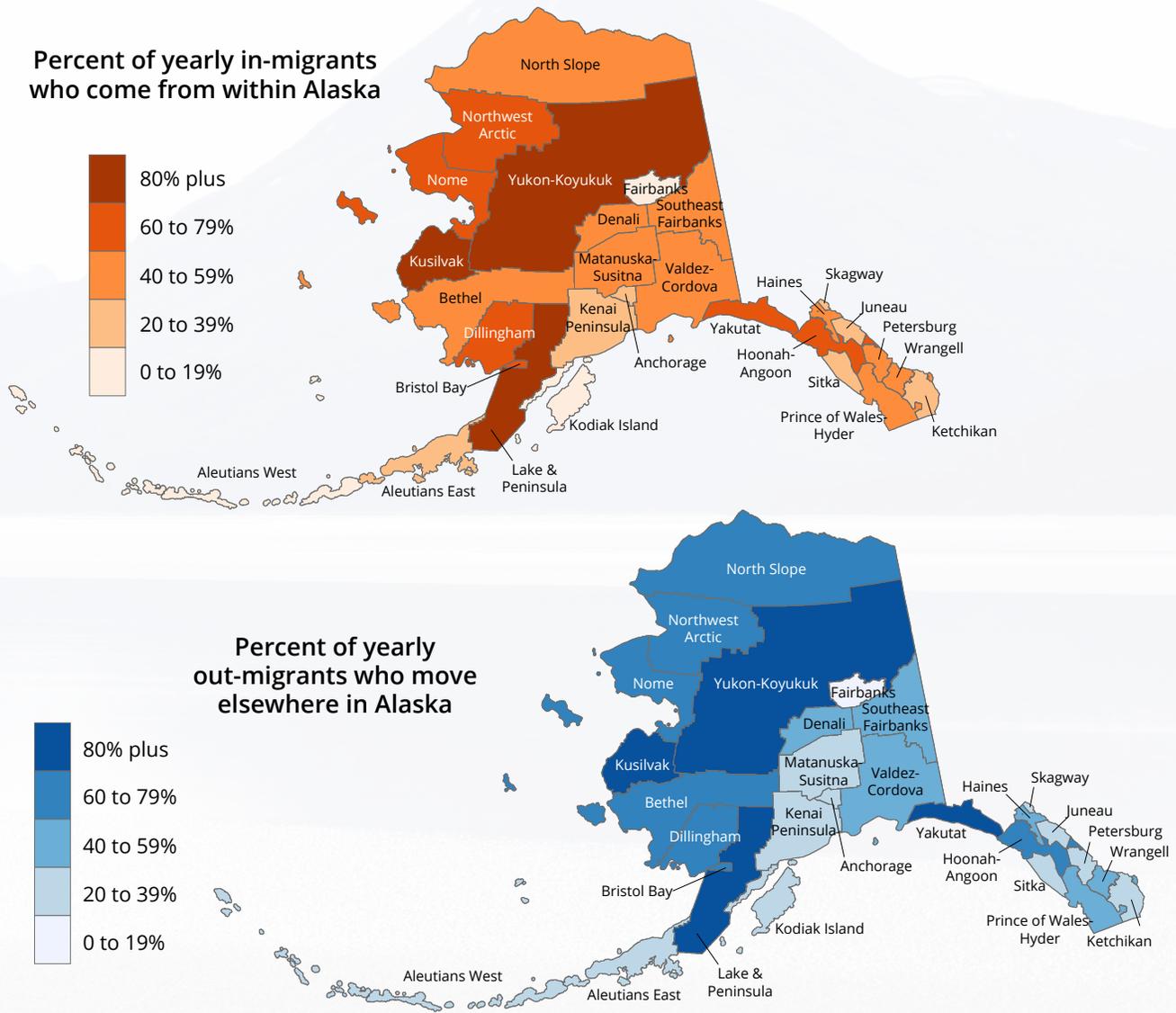
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area at 86 percent. All other western areas — except the Aleutians — get at least half of their in-movers from inside the state. The only other areas with Alaskans making up such a large percentage of their total in-migrants are parts of rural Southeast such as Yakutat and the Hoonah-Angoon Census Area.

Boroughs with military bases or remote worker sites often get less than 20 percent of their inflow from Alaska. Fairbanks, with its large military population, gets just 14 percent of in-migrants from elsewhere in the state. For Kodiak and the Aleutians West Census Area, which have seafood processing and Coast Guard facilities, it's 18 and 19 percent.

Alaska's populous boroughs tend to get most of their in-migrants from outside. In Anchorage (22 percent), Juneau (28 percent), and the Kenai Peninsula (38 percent), in-state migrants account for well under half of the total migrant inflow.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, which gets 54

Areas' yearly movers who come from or stay in Alaska, 2000 to 2019



Source: Internal Revenue Service Tax Statistics

percent of in-migrants from within Alaska, is the exception. This influx, predominantly from nearby Anchorage, has powered Mat-Su's continuous population growth even as other urban parts of the state stalled in recent years.

The out-migration map largely mirrors the in-migration map. Fairbanks is again the lowest; just 13 percent who leave stay in the state.

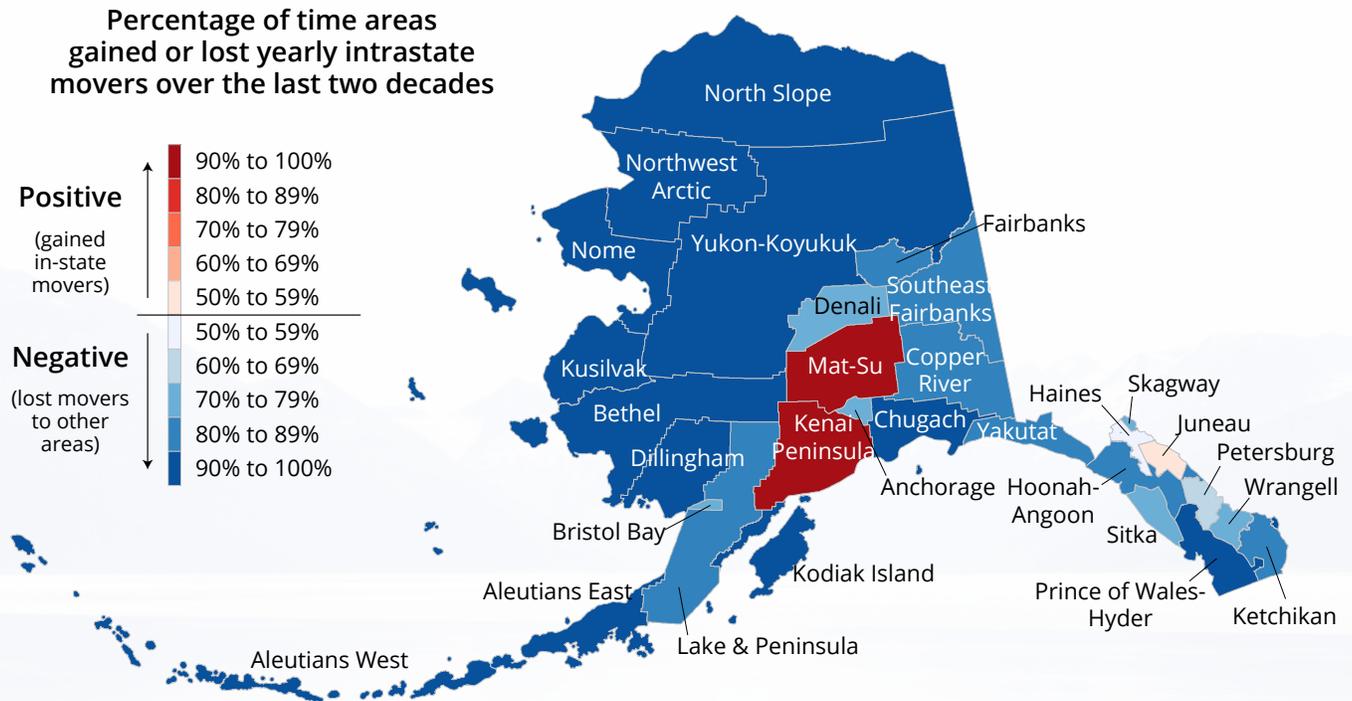
The highest percentages are in western Alaska, where every area besides the Aleutians exceeds 60 percent. The Lake and Peninsula Borough as well as Kusilvak top out at 96 percent.

Mat-Su is another exception here, with the largest percentage point difference between the in-migrants and out-migrants. Just 37 percent of Mat-Su's outflow remains in Alaska. This 17 percentage point difference puts Mat-Su more in line with the other urban boroughs' migrant outflows.

For all but a few areas, in-state migration has a net outflow

Most areas lose more migrants to other places in Alaska than they gain, with a few major exceptions.

Some areas consistently gain in-state movers and some usually lose them



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

Since 2000, nearly every area has usually lost more migrants to other parts of the state than it has gained. The map above shows, for each area, how often that area's annual net in-state migration was positive or negative from 2000 to 2021.

For 27 out of the 30 borough-equivalents, in-state migration was more often a source of population loss than gain. Twelve areas, mainly in western and northern Alaska, saw net losses over 90 percent of the time. Another seven had losses over 80 percent of the time.

Of the three boroughs that gained in-state migrants more often than not, Juneau was only slightly positive. Mat-Su and Kenai Peninsula were nearly always positive because of the continuous, large inflows to those two areas from Anchorage. Anchorage's losses to the two nearby boroughs tend to offset any net inflows it receives from rural Alaska.

Most in-state movers end up in the Anchorage/Mat-Su region

Most of Alaska's internal migration is to the more populous boroughs. The large circular chart on the next page shows the average makeup of each

Most areas lose more movers to other parts of the state than they gain, with a few exceptions.

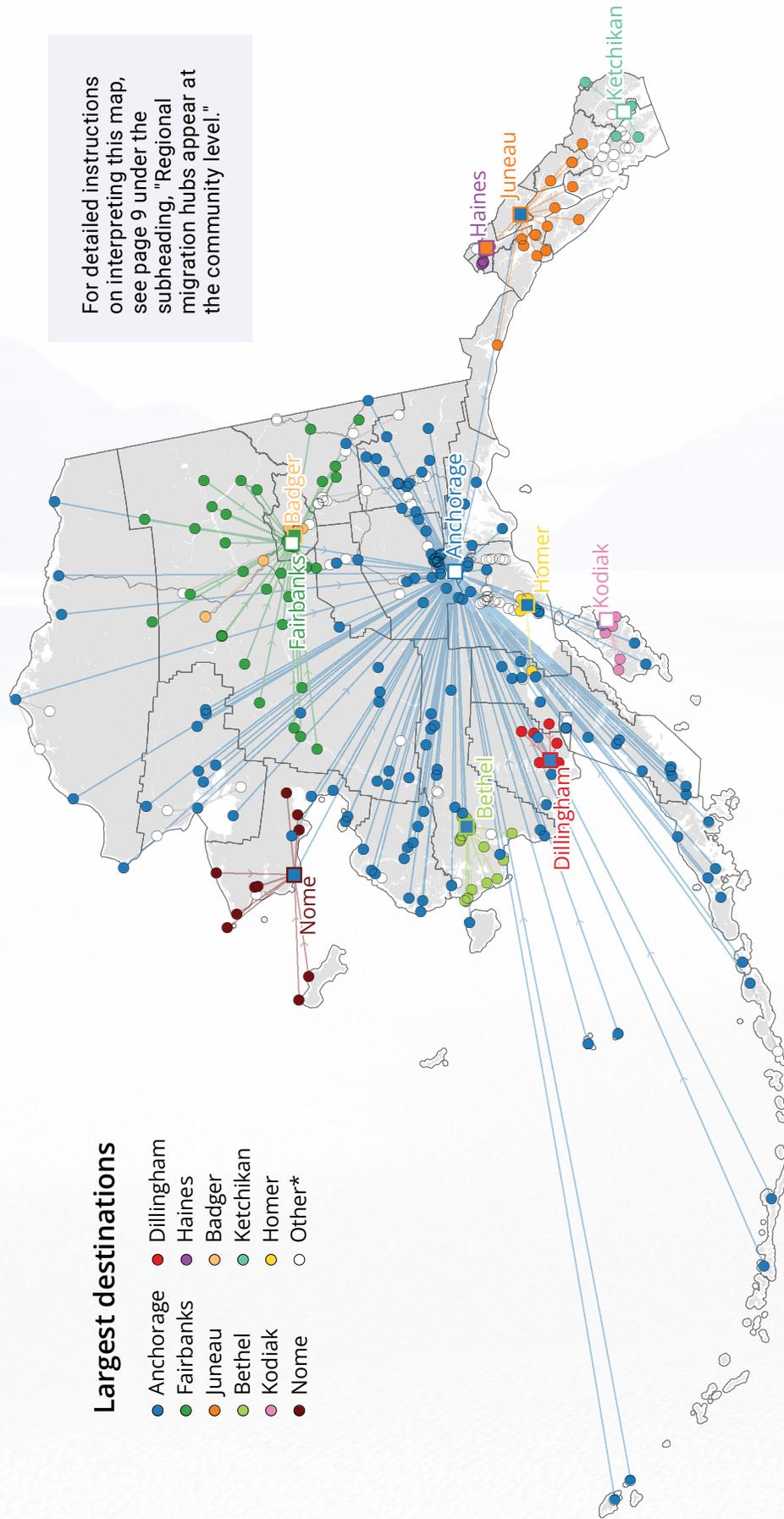
region's yearly inflow over the last two decades. The regional destinations are the inner ring, and the outer ring is a breakdown of where the movers originated. The numbers are the yearly average of cross-borough moves from 2000 through 2021.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the destinations for in-state movers align with population size. The largest region, Anchorage/Mat-Su, receives 54 percent of all cross-borough movers. Just under half of those, however, are people moving between Anchorage and Mat-Su. On average, more than 2,800 people from Anchorage move to Mat-Su every year and 1,700 move in the other direction.

Anchorage/Mat-Su takes in most of the outflow from the Gulf Coast, Southwest, and Northern regions. In return, these regions receive over half of their Alaskan migrants from Anchorage/Mat-Su.

Text continues on page 9

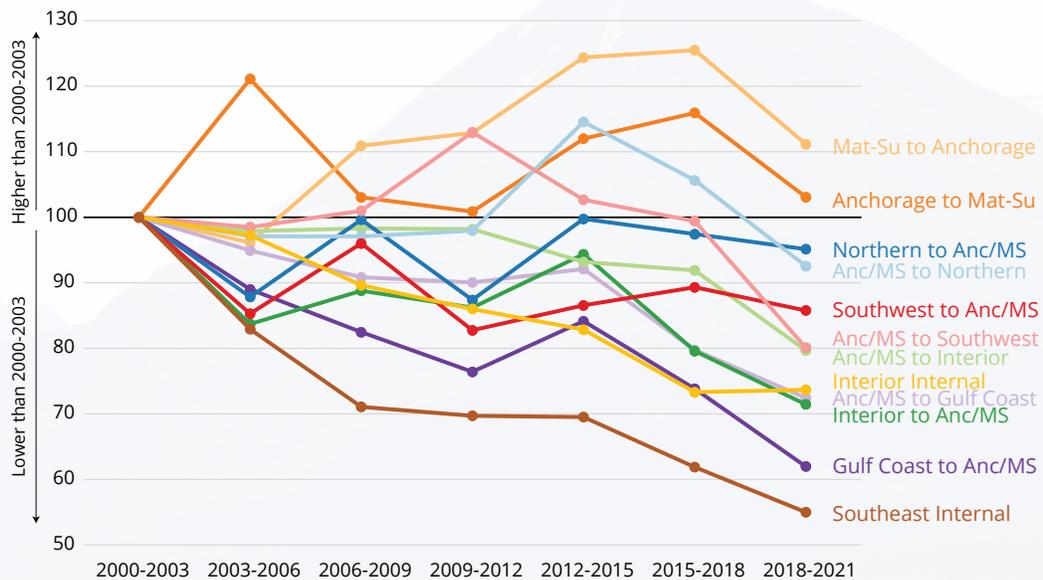
Where communities send their largest number of in-state migrants, 2000 to 2021



*Communities shown as a white circle mainly send their out-movers to communities other than the major destinations shown here. Destinations for these white-circle communities are places that aren't the main destination for at least five places.

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

How intrastate migration has changed for 12 major routes since 2000



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

Movement within a region is a major factor in the Interior and Southeast. While Fairbanks shares a sizable migration exchange with Anchorage/Mat-Su, for the most part, rural parts of the Interior exchange mostly with the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Southeast is the only region whose in-state moves are mostly internal. Although no community's yearly number is higher than 77 people, the combined total of movers within the region adds up to nearly 950 every year.

Regional migration hubs appear at the community level

As mentioned earlier, drilling down to migration at the community level often reveals different patterns than the borough. The map on the previous page shows the state's major destinations (meaning they are the primary destination for out-movers from at least five other communities).

Each dot is color-coded to where that place sends its largest number of out-movers. For example, all of the blue dots are communities whose movers tend to go to Anchorage, and the pink dots primarily go to Kodiak. If a place has a white marker, that means its biggest group of out-movers goes somewhere other than the major destinations on the map.

The map also shows where people tend to go when they leave the major destinations. For example,

Haines is purple, and the communities that lose people mostly to Haines have purple dots. But Haines' marker is filled with orange, meaning people who leave Haines usually move to Juneau.

Anchorage is the largest destination for around 40 percent of communities. Alaska's biggest city not only receives the largest shares of migrants from nearby areas such as Mat-Su and Prince William Sound, but also from wide swaths of western and northern Alaska. A majority of places in the North Slope and Northwest Arctic boroughs, the Lower Yukon River, the Alaska Peninsula, and the Aleutians send the largest numbers of their in-state migrants to Anchorage.

The exceptions are Interior and Southeast, where Fairbanks and Juneau tend to be the major destinations.

Fairbanks is the leading destination for the western half of its borough, Alaska Highway communities, and Koyukuk and Yukon River communities down to Kaltag. Eastern parts of the borough move to Badger, a neighborhood between Fairbanks and North Pole.

Migrants from the northern half of Southeast, including Petersburg and Wrangell, typically move to Juneau. In the southern half, they more often relocate to Ketchikan or Prince of Wales Island.

Within smaller regions, a local hub is the usual terminus. These include Bethel for the Lower Kuskokwim area, Nome for the Seward Peninsula, and

How areas' migrant age structure differs from Alaska average, 2000 to 2021

BLUE: Percentage points above state average

ORANGE: Percentage points below state average

Age	State average	Anc to Mat-Su	Mat-Su to Anc	Southeast Internal	Interior Internal	Gulf to Anc/MS	Anc/MS to Gulf	A/MS to Interior	Interior to A/MS	Northern to A/MS	A/MS to Northern	SW to Anc/MS	Anc/MS to SW
0 to 4	7.6%	0.6%	-0.5%	-1.0%	0.6%	-1.3%	-0.7%	-0.4%	-0.7%	2.1%	1.9%	0.8%	1.7%
5 to 9	8.5%	0.6%	-1.1%	-0.9%	0.1%	-1.3%	-0.7%	-0.5%	-0.2%	2.0%	2.3%	1.2%	1.5%
10 to 14	7.0%	0.3%	-1.2%	-0.6%	0.1%	-0.7%	-0.7%	-0.4%	-0.3%	1.5%	1.4%	0.8%	1.0%
15 to 19	8.1%	-2.1%	0.8%	-0.2%	0.6%	1.3%	-1.8%	0.2%	-0.2%	1.5%	0.4%	1.7%	0.6%
20 to 24	12.6%	-2.9%	3.4%	-2.2%	0.8%	2.2%	-1.9%	4.0%	1.6%	0%	0.1%	1.1%	1.2%
25 to 29	11.4%	0.7%	1.6%	-2.2%	-0.8%	-0.4%	-0.6%	1.3%	1.9%	-1.0%	0.5%	-1.1%	0%
30 to 34	9.2%	1.4%	0.6%	-0.6%	-1.3%	-0.9%	0.2%	0.5%	0.6%	-1.8%	-0.9%	-1.3%	-0.6%
35 to 39	7.2%	0.8%	-0.4%	0.2%	-0.7%	-0.4%	0.2%	0%	0.4%	-1.2%	-1.3%	-0.9%	-0.6%
40 to 44	6.3%	0.3%	-0.5%	0.8%	-0.4%	0%	0.4%	-0.3%	0.2%	-1.0%	-0.9%	-0.6%	-0.8%
45 to 49	5.8%	-0.1%	-0.3%	1.3%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	-0.5%	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.3%	-0.8%	-0.9%
50 to 54	5.1%	-0.1%	-0.5%	1.3%	0.3%	0%	1.0%	-0.8%	-0.6%	-0.8%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-0.4%
55 to 59	4.2%	0%	-0.9%	1.4%	0.1%	0.1%	1.4%	-0.8%	-0.9%	-0.3%	-0.9%	-0.4%	-0.7%
60 to 64	2.9%	0.4%	-0.8%	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%	1.5%	-0.8%	-0.6%	-0.2%	-0.8%	-0.1%	-1.0%
65 to 69	1.8%	0.2%	-0.4%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.9%	-0.8%	-0.4%	0%	-0.4%	0.1%	-0.5%
70 to 74	1.0%	0%	-0.1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	-0.2%	-0.1%	0%	-0.2%	0.1%	-0.3%
75 to 79	0.6%	0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0%	-0.2%	-0.1%	0%	0%	0.1%	-0.1%
80 to 84	0.4%	0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	0%	-0.1%	0%	-0.2%
85+	0.4%	0%	0.1%	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0%	-0.2%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.1%	-0.1%

*An area's yearly in-state migrants include those going in both directions: into the area from elsewhere in Alaska, and out of the area to someplace else in Alaska.

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

Homer, Kodiak, Dillingham, and Haines for their nearby communities. These hubs most often lose movers to Anchorage, however.

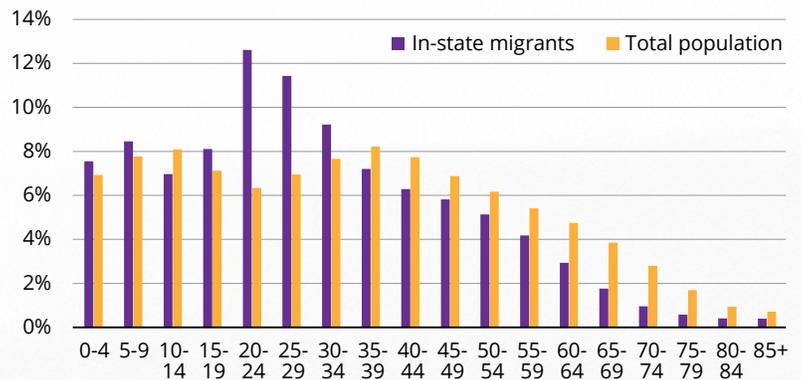
Many of the major migration routes have declined over time

The fact that the total number of intra-state migrants has declined since 2000 raised a further question: has this been the case for all of the state's major migration routes?

While there are numerous movement routes around the state, 12 stand out. The major routes shown between regions either have large annual numbers or are of specific public interest.

These include the two-way migration flows between the Anchorage/Mat-Su Region and the Gulf Coast, Interior, Northern, and Southwest regions as well as the internal migrations within the Interior and Southeast. Rounding out the 12 is the major yearly exchange between Anchorage and the

How movers' age structure compares to overall population, 2000-2021 average



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

adjacent Mat-Su Borough.

The line graph on the previous page shows the relative change in the numbers of intrastate migrants for the 12 major routes since the early 2000s. To smooth out the graph and make it more legible, we divided the timeline into seven three-year averages. The early 2000s, when in-state migration was highest, are set at 100 percent. Values for the

subsequent three-year periods are their percentage of the early 2000s total.

The decline is visible in most major routes. Eight have never regained their early-2000s heights. Internal migration in Southeast has dropped the most, with its 2018-2021 migration equaling just 55 percent of the early 2000s.

Migration between the Gulf Coast and Anchorage/Mat-Su regions, along with internal Interior migration and movement from the Interior to Anchorage/Mat-Su, have all fallen below 75 percent of their early-2000s numbers.

Migration between Anchorage/Mat-Su and the two western regions — watched closely because of the effect on the size of western Alaska's rural populations — has held steady over the past two decades.

For both routes from Southwest and Northern to the Anchorage/Mat-Su area, intrastate migrant numbers have never reached early-2000s levels. Both areas saw a small peak in the mid-2000s and then a steep drop from 2009-2012. Movement has picked up since then but remains below the 2000s. (Migration from Anchorage/Mat-Su back to western Alaska did top its early-2000s level briefly in the early 2010s.)

The routes between Anchorage and Mat-Su have been consistently more active than they were in the early 2000s. The number moving from Anchorage to Mat-Su peaked in 2003-2006, declined in the early 2010s, then rose again in the latter half of the decade. In the other direction, it rose each three-year period before peaking at around 125 percent of its earliest total in 2015-2018.

Migrants tend to be younger

Adults move more when they're younger. Besides moving for education, employment, or other opportunities, younger people tend to be less settled and less likely to own homes. Migration peaks in the 20s and declines during each subsequent decade of life.

In Alaska, the proportion of in-state migrants under 35 is higher than their representation in the overall population. (See the bar graph on the previous page.) It's the opposite for people older than 35.

Migration into and out of Alaska skews male, but women are more likely to move within the state.

The age breakdown for people moving within the state matches the breakdown of people moving into and out of the state. (See the March 2021 issue for more interstate migration.) About a quarter of in-state migrants are in their 20s, and 64 percent are under 35. Over the past two decades, only about 13 percent of the total population was in their 20s on average, and about half were under age 35.

After 35, age groups' representation among intrastate migrants falls under their share of the total population. Alaskans in their 50s and 60s are about 20 percent of the population but 14 percent of migrants. Migrants over 60, when they move, tend to leave Alaska.

Age breakdown of migrants varies slightly for the major routes

The table on the previous page breaks down the age structure of the 12 major in-state migration routes. The first column gives the average age breakdown for all in-state migrants. The columns for each route show whether an age group's representation is above the state average (blue) or below it (orange), and by how much.

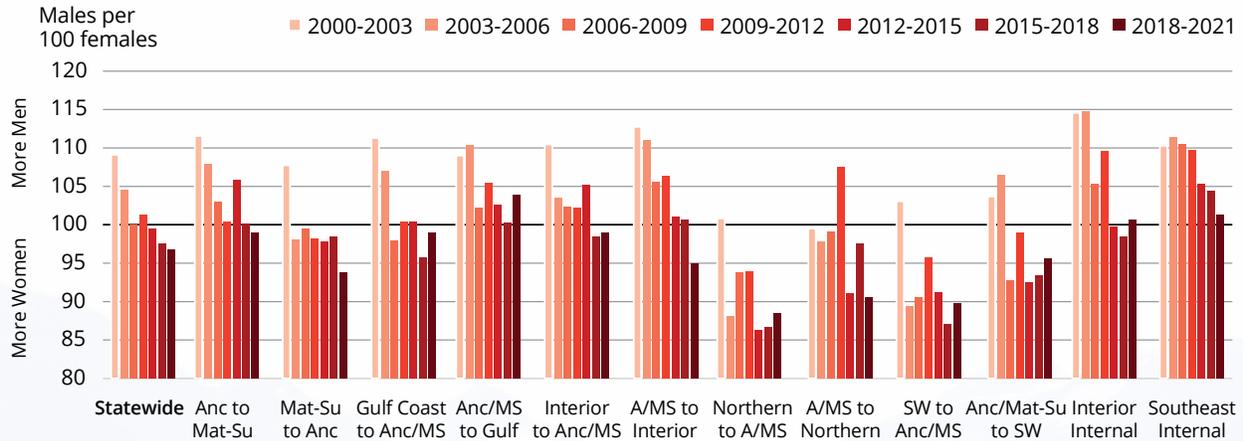
Families with kids stand out in the largest migration route, Anchorage to Mat-Su. The makeup of that group includes more children under age 15 as well as adults from their late 20s to early 40s, when they often have younger children.

Young adults are overrepresented in the reverse direction. People in their early 20s moving to Anchorage from Mat-Su are a larger share of movers on that route than they are statewide.

Some of the other routes lean toward younger or older migrants. Movers between Anchorage/Mat-Su and the rural Northern and Southwest regions trend younger. Larger families explain the high proportions of children, as do people in their early 20s moving for work or school. For people over 30, the proportion of migrants is usually below the statewide average.

Other areas see more migration at older ages. The migrants from Anchorage/Mat-Su to the Gulf Coast region aren't above the state average for any age group until the early 30s, but then they fall above

Gender makeup of movers varies among 12 major routes, has shifted with time



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

average through the 80s. Migration along this route is disproportionately older people, suggesting they want to settle in a more desirable area.

The internal migration throughout Southeast is also older people, probably because Southeast is older in general. Many of its boroughs and census areas' median ages are 10 years higher than the statewide median.

Over time, gender ratio for in-state movers skewed female

In previous issues, we've talked about the gender ratio of movers into and out of Alaska being skewed toward men. About 120 males per 100 females migrate into and out of the state each year, a ratio that's held steady for decades. For in-state migration, the opposite is true.

The bar graph on this page shows the male-to-female ratios for all Alaska migrants who moved across a borough/census area boundary from 2000 to 2021. We compressed these ratios into seven three-year averages.

The gender ratio for in-state migrants has skewed

increasingly toward women over the last two decades. In the early 2000s, it was 110 males per 100 females. The ratio approached parity about 10 years later. During the most recent three-year period, more women moved within the state than men (96:100).

The 12 well-traveled migration routes all show this trend. In the largest corridor, between Anchorage and Mat-Su, the latest three-year period shows more women than men moving in both directions, which is a reverse from two decades ago. From Anchorage to Mat-Su is close to even, but in the other direction, the ratio has dropped to 94 males per 100.

Among the other 10 routes, just three were skewed toward men. The largest relative drop in men moving was from Anchorage/Mat-Su to the Interior; the ratio fell from 110 men per 100 women two decades ago to around 95 today.

Two routes from the Southwest and Northern regions to Anchorage/Mat-Su were close to even early on and have continued to move toward women in recent years. Both now have ratios under 90:100.

Eric Sandberg is a demographer in Juneau. Reach him at (907) 465-2437 or eric.sandberg@alaska.gov.

Kodiak, an atypical fishing town



Seafood is a year-round, all-hands-on-deck affair

By NEAL FRIED

Kodiak's history and most of its modern economy are rooted in its wealth of natural resources. Fish comes first, but the bounty doesn't end there.

Before Europeans arrived, the Alutiiq used the area for subsistence. When the Russian fur traders came in 1792, they made Kodiak the Russian territorial capital, with otter pelts as the primary attraction.

The Russians stayed until the U.S. bought Alaska in 1867, and that's when fish took over the island's economy. About 150 years ago, Kodiak built its first fish processing plant.

Today, the island has the largest resident seafood processing workforce in the state, and commercial fisheries weave a common thread throughout most of the economy. Even Kodiak's Coast Guard station, which is one of the nation's largest, is part of that web through its search and rescue function and wide-ranging enforcement.

Tourism also depends on the area's seafood. It feeds the world's biggest brown bears — a major island attraction. And while subsistence isn't part of the cash economy, it still plays a vital role for many Kodiak households.

Other plentiful resources include hydro and wind, which allow Kodiak to generate nearly all of its electricity from renewables.

It's one of the nation's fish capitals

Kodiak consistently ranks as one of the busiest seafood ports in Alaska and the nation. In 2019, it ranked third nationally for pounds landed and sixth

In the banner: A pan of Kodiak, [photo courtesy of Flickr user outdoorPDK](#)

Kodiak's job count by industry, 2010-21

Industry	2010	2021	Change
Total wage And salary employment	6,104	5,547	-9.1%
Natural Resources	106	131	23.6%
Forestry and Logging	ND	ND	ND
Construction	171	169	-1.2%
Manufacturing	1,606	1,140	-29.0%
Seafood Processing	1,598	1,091	-31.7%
Wholesale Trade	ND	42	ND
Retail Trade	500	475	-5.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	211	277	31.3%
Utilities	ND	34	ND
Information	62	41	-33.9%
Financial Activities	254	123	-51.6%
Professional and Business Services	218	224	2.8%
Education and Health Services	692	699	1.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	453	386	-14.8%
Accommodation	128	96	-25.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	298	257	-13.8%
Government	1,498	1,565	4.5%
Federal	343	258	-24.8%
State	287	247	-13.9%
Local	868	1,025	5.9%
Uniformed military (Coast Guard)*	950	799	-15.9%
Fish harvesters**	655	541	-17.4%

*Military numbers come from our yearly survey.

**Harvesting estimates are for 2020, which are the most recent available.

Notes: 2021 data are preliminary. ND means not disclosable.

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

Gross earnings for 2020 fish landings in Kodiak

Species	Value
Crab	\$19,122,710
Halibut (longline only)	\$2,395,339
Herring	\$611,730
Other Groundfish	\$30,559,486
Other Shellfish	\$1,586,384
Sablefish (pot gear only)	\$1,384,238
Salmon	\$23,479,769

Source: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission



At left, "Kodiak Alaska Harbor," [photo courtesy of Flickr user outdoorPDK](#)

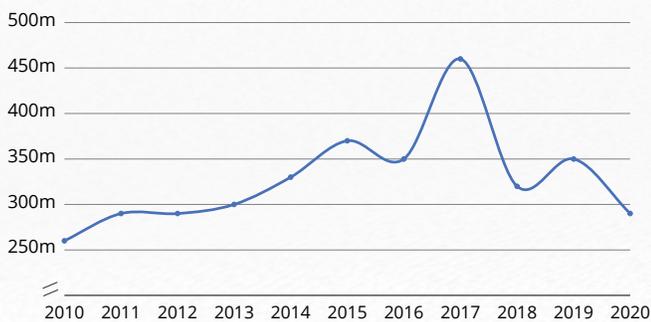
Above, "You Are In a Tsunami Hazard Zone" in Kodiak, [photo courtesy of Flickr user Adam Burke](#)

for value, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In 2020, Kodiak landed 290.4 million pounds of seafood, valued at \$84.3 million.

While salmon is one of the leading fisheries, it doesn't define Kodiak's fishing industry as it does elsewhere in the state. Kodiak's dominant catch can vary year to year, from crab one year to salmon or groundfish the next.

Yearly seafood poundage landed in Kodiak from 2010 to 2020



Source: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

Kodiak's fisheries are the most diversified in the state, a strength for the island that makes its economy less volatile than many other fish-based communities.

Fishing is volatile by nature, though, and Kodiak is no exception. For example, Kodiak salmon harvesters netted 30 million fish last year, worth \$47 million. The 24 million they caught in 2020 were worth just \$26.6 million.

Tanner crab prices jumped from \$4.25 per pound in 2020 to more than \$8 per pound early in 2022. The island's harvesters and processors are used to rolling with these vagaries, and many Kodiak harvesters participate in more than one fishery. It isn't unusual to catch crab, salmon, groundfish, halibut, or some combination during a single year.

Pollock and Pacific cod are the main groundfish. The groundfish fishery rose to prominence during the mid-1980s, a godsend for the economy after Kodiak's legendary red king crab boom of the late 1950s to early 1980s went bust. Shrimp was a prominent harvest, too, until stocks collapsed in the 1960s.

Kodiak is one of the top national ports for halibut. It's managed through individual fish quotas, so catching it is allowed any time between mid-March and mid-November.

Kodiak's red king crab harvesters haven't set pots in home waters since the 1982-83 season, but Tanner, Dungeness, and other crab harvests are notable.

Another stand-out detail is that Kodiak turns much

of its fish waste into oils, meal, and fertilizer, unlike most Alaska ports. Processors elsewhere usually grind it up and dump it back into the ocean.

Finally, Kodiak leads the state in seaweed farming and has the largest seaweed hatchery in North America. It was recently recognized for having the greatest potential for continued expansion in Alaska.

Over half of the fish processing workforce are Kodiak residents

Kodiak's large seafood processing workforce is unique, too. Over half are locals, and the island is home to the biggest resident processing workforce in the state. In 2020, 60 percent were Alaska residents (57 percent were local). Industry-wide, it's just 22 percent.

While the Aleutian Islands' processing workforce is larger, only 18 percent are residents and its economic impact locally pales compared to Kodiak's.

Kodiak seafood industry paid out \$46.5 million to workers in 2021, making it the largest private-sector contributor to local wages. It's also the borough's largest employer.

Population by community, 2010-21

Area	2010	2021	Avg annual growth rate
Kodiak Island Borough	13,592	12,900	-0.7%
Akhiok	71	58	-2.5%
Aleneva	37	8	-17.4%
Chiniak	47	51	1.0%
Karluk	37	27	-3.9%
Kodiak	6,130	5,495	-1.4%
Kodiak Station (CG)	1,301	1,590	2.5%
Larsen Bay	87	33	-11.4%
Mill Bay	4,324	4,185	-0.4%
Old Harbor	218	210	-0.5%
Ouzinkie	161	114	-4.2%
Port Lions	194	170	-1.6%
Womens Bay	719	736	0.3%
Remainder of borough	266	223	-2.2%

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Census Bureau

Majority of Kodiak processors are locals, 2020

Area	All processing workers	Nonresident	Nonlocal Alaskans	Local workers	% local workers
Bristol Bay Borough	3,288	3,115	162	11	0.3%
Aleutians East Borough	2,839	2,566	103	170	6.0%
Aleutians West Census Area	2,587	1,862	65	660	25.5%
Kodiak Island Borough	1,865	751	60	1,054	56.5%
Chugach Census Area	1,831	1,583	68	180	9.8%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	1,129	743	86	300	26.6%
Sitka, City and Borough	929	666	67	196	21.1%
Dillingham Census Area	853	731	104	18	2.1%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	606	445	15	146	24.1%
Petersburg Borough	576	453	8	115	20.0%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	360	347	8	5	1.4%
Juneau, City and Borough	309	166	24	119	38.5%

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

While the highest employment months are during the summer, Kodiak's seafood processing industry provides year-round jobs for locals, who live and spend their incomes in Kodiak.

For six months in 2021, employment topped the annual average of 1,217 monthly jobs. February and March were nearly as high as June, one of the peak months.

This pattern is evident in the local unemployment rate. Unemployment in Alaska typically swings from its highest levels in the winter to its lowest in the summer with seasonal employment, but Kodiak's year-round fisheries can keep the rate low; in February and October 2020, Kodiak's unemployment rates were 4.1 percent and 4.4 percent, respectively.

In recognition of Kodiak's diverse fishing industry and prominent local workforce, the University of Alaska established its Fishery Industrial Technology Center on the island. It researches and develops new processing techniques and researches on behalf of harvesters.

How the Coast Guard fits in

The large Coast Guard station provides search and rescue and law enforcement for the entire Gulf of Alaska, the Bering and Chukchi seas, and the Aleutian Islands to the end.

Kodiak had 799 Coast Guard personnel in 2021 and 1,230 dependents, who made up about 16 percent of the local population. That was a decline from 903 personnel the year before. The reason for the decrease

isn't clear, but the Coast Guard recently announced it would expand its presence in Kodiak significantly.

Most personnel live on base, and another 100 civilians also work at the station (but live off base). Kodiak's station also provides a range of opportunities for contractors and other businesses.

The visitor industry and a few other sectors round out the economy

Many outdoor experiences draw tourists to Kodiak, including hunting, wildlife viewing, and hiking as well as fishing. The visitor industry is seasonal, with most tourists arriving in the summer and early fall. Visitors who make it as far as Kodiak tend to stay longer and spend more than the average visitor to Alaska.

The year before COVID-19, according to McKinley Research, Kodiak hosted 64,000 out-of-state visitors: 26,000 cruise passengers and 38,000 independent travelers. Tourism generated about 810 jobs in 2019. Like everywhere, Kodiak's visitor industry took a blow in 2020 but perked up in 2021.

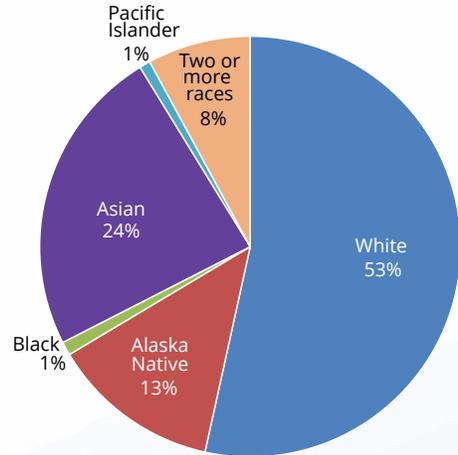
While fishing, military, and tourism are central, the population works in a handful of other sectors. Logging still represents a small slice of the economy. Retail and health care provide more than 1,000 jobs, and about 28 percent of local workers in 2021 worked in government, outside of active duty military.

While small, Kodiak's rocket launch facility is also noteworthy. The State of Alaska opened the Kodiak Launch Complex, now known as the Pacific Space Complex, in 1998 to launch suborbital and orbital launch vehicles. The facility marked its 30th launch last March, and its goal is to pick up activity as the demand for satellites grows.

The demographic kaleidoscope and where on the island they live

The Kodiak Island Borough includes multiple smaller areas, and in 2021, its 12,900 residents were spread across a dozen communities, most accessible only by plane or boat. Although 43 percent of borough residents live in Kodiak, the broader population still lives relatively close together on the road system.

Kodiak's racial makeup in 2020



Notes: Race includes race alone or in combination with another race. Multirace respondents are included in each of their race categories. Nine percent reported Hispanic ethnicity, which can be of any race.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Census Bureau

The least-populated place on the island is Aleneva, a Russian believer community of just eight people — less than a fourth of its 2010 population.

As with jobs, Kodiak's population has declined modestly over the last decade with a sluggish economy. But a more dynamic population picture underlies the stagnant overall count.

Kodiak's population is one of the state's most diverse at 17 percent Alaska Native, 24 percent Asian, 53 percent White, and 8.9 percent Hispanic. Kodiak is home to the second-largest concentration of Asians in Alaska, after the Aleutians, because of the Filipino population's strong historical ties to the seafood processing industry.

The Alaska Native percentage has increased slightly in recent years, and most of Kodiak's rural communities are majority Alaska Native: Old Harbor, Larson Bay, Ouzinkie, and Akhiok.

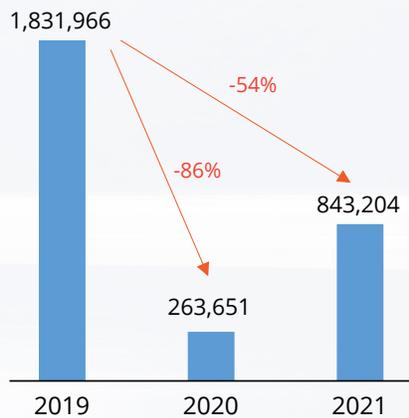
The population is a bit younger than the state as a whole, with a median of 35.6 years.

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Alaska national parks and COVID

How visitor numbers have declined and recovered so far

Decline in yearly park visitors during COVID



Source: National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics

By KARINNE WIEBOLD

The pandemic restricted travel in myriad ways over the last couple of years, but for many people, national parks with their wide open spaces and easy access by car made visits to “America’s backyard” more appealing than other trips. Still, the pandemic sharply cut the numbers of park visitors.

Nationally, total park visits fell 28 percent in 2020, the first year of the pandemic, from 328 million in 2019 to 237 million. Visits bounced back partway by 2021, to 297 million.

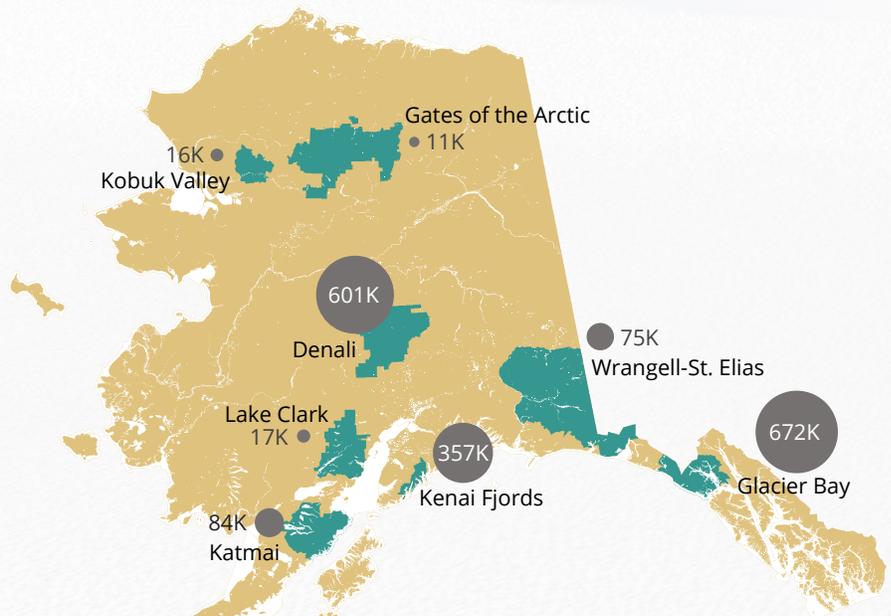
Alaska’s parks were hit much harder. In 2020, visits fell by 86 percent from 2019’s count of more than 1.8 million. That loss was more than triple the nationwide decline, proportionately. In 2021, Alaska park visits were still 54 percent lower than in 2019.

With cruise ships scheduled to return to Alaska in more typical numbers in 2022, though, visitor counts may recover or even

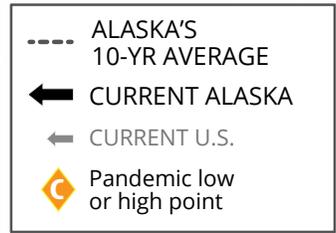
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Alaska's national parks and how many visited in 2019

Sources: National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

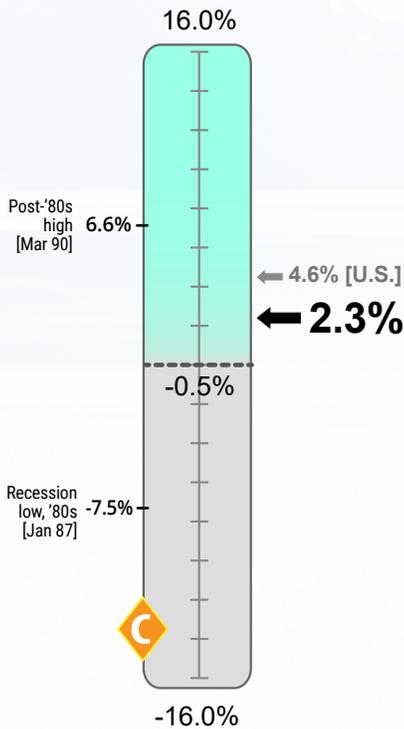


Gauging The Economy



Job Growth

March 2022
Over-the-year percent change

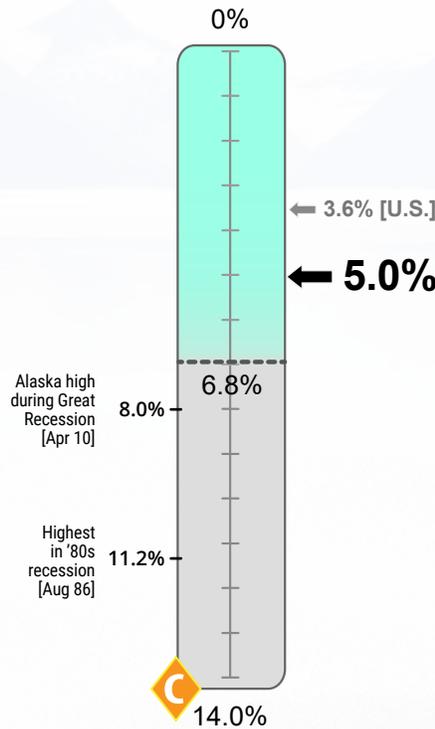


The spread of COVID-19 caused rapid job loss in early 2020. Although employment is up significantly from 2020, it is still 3.4 percent below March 2019.

U.S. employment, which was up 4.6 percent from March 2021, has now recovered to its March 2019 level.

Unemployment Rate

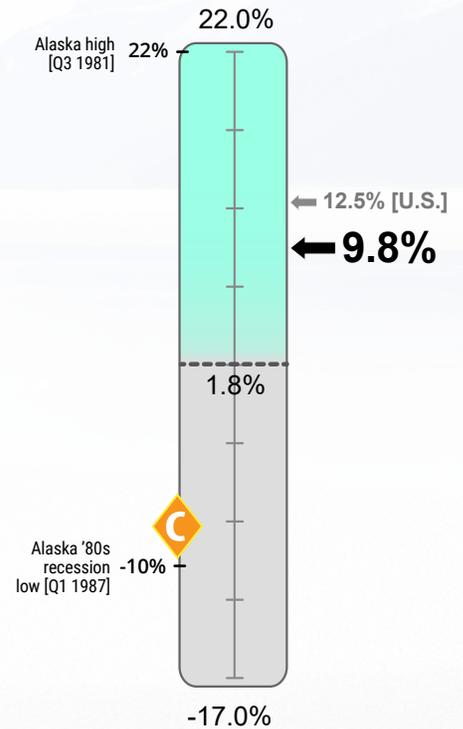
March 2022
Seasonally adjusted



Alaska's unemployment rate has been less useful as an economic measure during the pandemic because of data collection difficulties and an unusually large number of people leaving the labor market — that is, not working or looking for a job.

Wage Growth

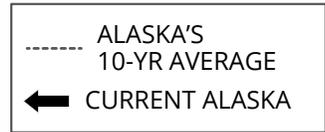
3rd Quarter 2021
Over-the-year percent change



After being well down during the second and third quarters of 2020, total wages paid by Alaska employers climbed above year-ago levels in the fourth quarter of 2020.

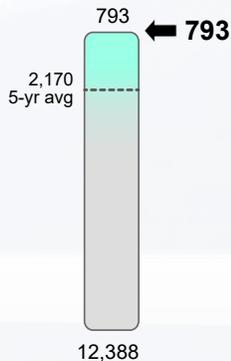
Wages were up 9.8 percent from year-ago levels in the third quarter of 2021 and 1.8 percent above third quarter 2019.

Gauging The Economy



Initial Claims

Unemployment, week ending April 16, 2022*

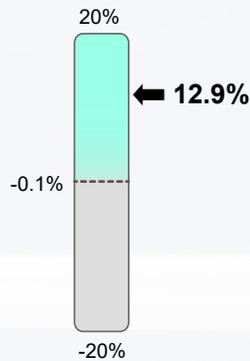


Unemployment claims jumped in the spring of 2020 with the pandemic as many businesses shut down or limited services. Pandemic-driven claims loads have fallen, and new claims for benefits are back below their long-term average.

*Four-week moving average ending with specified week

GDP Growth

4th Quarter 2021
Over-the-year percent change*

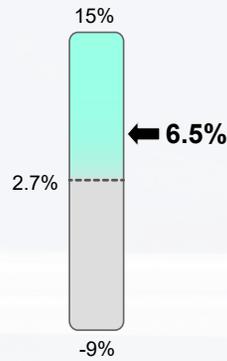


Gross domestic product is the value of the goods and services a state produces. Alaska's GDP fell hard in early 2020 but recovered most of those losses in 2021.

*In current dollars

Personal Income Growth

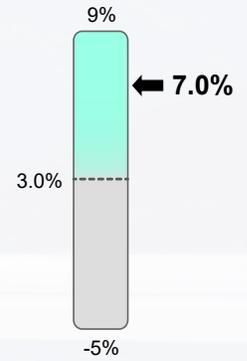
3rd Quarter 2021
Over-the-year percent change



Personal income jumped early this year, largely because of federal COVID-19 relief funding, and has since fallen.

Change in Home Prices

Single-family, percent change from prior year, Q3 2021*

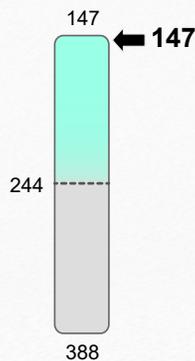


Home prices shown include only those for which a commercial loan was used. This indicator tends to be volatile from quarter to quarter.

*Four-quarter moving average ending with specified quarter

Foreclosures

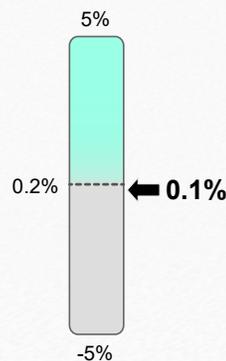
1st Quarter 2020



Foreclosure moratoriums have kept these numbers low during the pandemic.

Population Growth

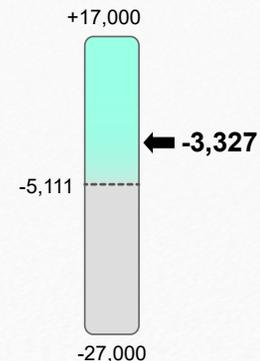
2020 to 2021



After four years of decline, Alaska's population grew slightly in 2021.

Net Migration

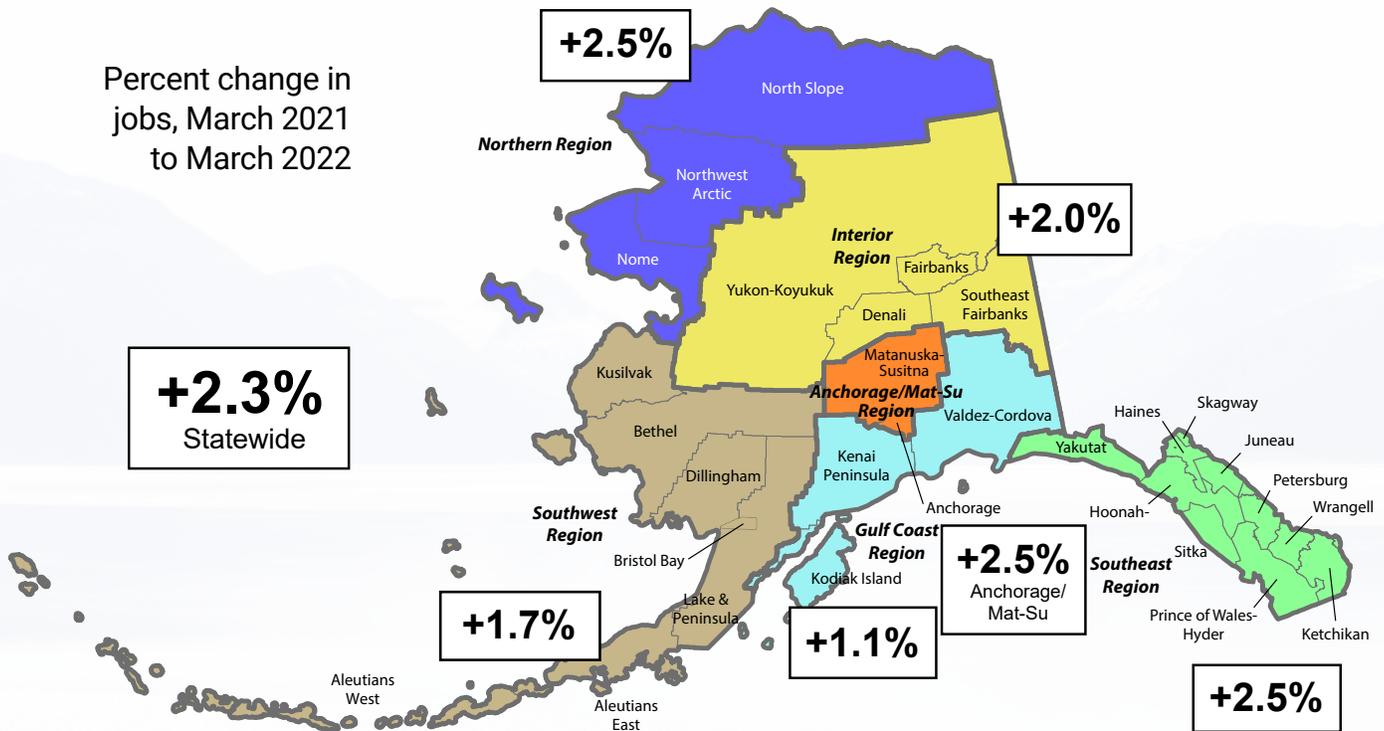
2020 to 2021



The state had net migration losses for the ninth consecutive year in 2021, although the loss was smaller. Net migration is the number who moved to Alaska minus the number who left.

Employment by Region

Percent change in jobs, March 2021 to March 2022



Seasonally adjusted

	Prelim.			Revised		
	3/22	2/22	3/21	3/22	2/22	3/21
United States	3.6	3.8	6.0			
Alaska	5.0	5.3	7.0			

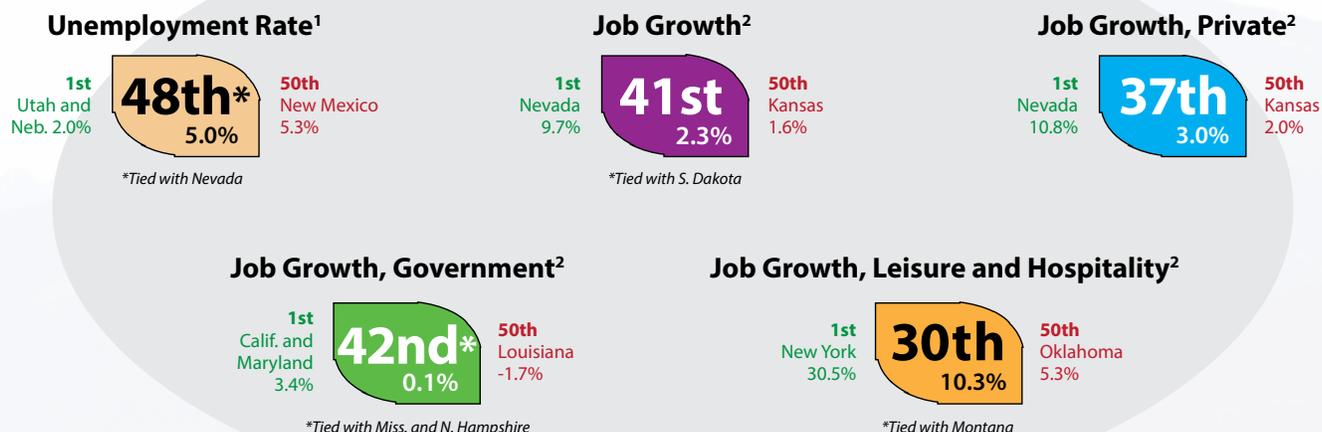
Not seasonally adjusted

	Prelim.			Revised		
	3/22	2/22	3/21	3/22	2/22	3/21
United States	3.8	4.1	6.2			
Alaska	5.1	5.5	7.7			

Regional, not seasonally adjusted

	Prelim.			Revised				Prelim.			Revised			
	3/22	2/22	3/21	3/22	2/22	3/21		3/22	2/22	3/21	3/22	2/22	3/21	
Interior Region	4.9	5.3	6.6	Southwest Region	8.1	8.4	10.2	Southeast Region	4.9	5.5	7.8			
Denali Borough	14.7	16.0	18.1	Aleutians East Borough	1.7	2.0	2.7	Haines Borough	11.1	11.8	15.5			
Fairbanks N Star Borough	4.3	4.7	6.1	Aleutians West Census Area	2.0	2.1	2.2	Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	10.3	11.7	14.3			
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	6.9	7.6	7.8	Bethel Census Area	11.6	11.8	14.1	Juneau, City and Borough	3.3	3.8	6.0			
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	11.1	11.7	13.0	Bristol Bay Borough	10.0	11.5	13.4	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	5.7	6.2	9.7			
Northern Region	8.8	8.7	10.4	Dillingham Census Area	7.5	7.6	9.5	Petersburg Borough	6.5	6.9	8.7			
Nome Census Area	9.9	9.3	11.2	Kusilvak Census Area	16.6	17.8	21.3	Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	7.0	7.6	9.7			
North Slope Borough	5.5	6.1	6.8	Lake and Peninsula Borough	9.7	9.3	12.3	Sitka, City and Borough	3.4	4.0	5.8			
Northwest Arctic Borough	10.8	10.7	13.2	Gulf Coast Region	6.3	7.1	9.0	Skagway, Municipality	13.9	17.6	19.3			
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	4.5	4.9	7.4	Kenai Peninsula Borough	6.4	7.0	9.4	Wrangell, City and Borough	6.1	6.9	8.2			
Anchorage, Municipality	4.0	4.4	7.1	Kodiak Island Borough	4.4	6.1	6.5	Yakutat, City and Borough	6.8	7.0	9.1			
Mat-Su Borough	6.1	6.3	8.3	Chugach Census Area	5.8	6.4	10.3							
				Copper River Census Area	14.8	16.0	11.7							

How Alaska Ranks



Note: Government employment includes federal, state, and local government plus public schools and universities.

¹March seasonally adjusted unemployment rates

²March employment, over-the-year percent change

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Other Economic Indicators

	Current		Year ago	Change
Urban Alaska Consumer Price Index (CPI-U, base yr 1982=100)	241.698	2nd half 2021	227.258	+6.4%
Commodity prices				
Crude oil, Alaska North Slope, * per barrel	\$101.41	Mar 2022	\$65.60	+54.59%
Natural gas, Henry Hub, per thousand cubic feet (mcf)	\$4.98	Mar 2022	\$2.62	+90.08%
Gold, per oz. COMEX	\$1,974.90	4/15/2022	\$1,780.20	+10.94%
Silver, per oz. COMEX	\$25.70	4/15/2022	\$26.11	-1.57%
Copper, per lb. COMEX	\$4.74	4/15/2022	\$4.17	+13.67%
Zinc, per lb.	\$2.01	4/15/2022	\$1.28	+57.03%
Lead, per lb.	\$1.11	4/15/2022	\$0.91	+21.98%
Bankruptcies				
Business	50	Q4 2021	75	-33.33%
Personal	5	Q4 2021	7	-28.57%
Personal	45	Q4 2021	68	-33.82%
Unemployment insurance claims				
Initial filings	4,292	Mar 2022	14,852	-71.10%
Continued filings	26,676	Mar 2022	64,297	-58.51%
Claimant count	6,949	Mar 2022	16,397	-57.62%

*Department of Revenue estimate

Sources for this page and the preceding three pages include Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Energy Information Administration; Kitco; U.S. Census Bureau; COMEX; NASDAQ; Alaska Department of Revenue; and U.S. Courts, 9th Circuit

PARK VISITORS

Continued from page 17

exceed their pre-pandemic levels.

Alaska's eight national parks

Alaska has eight national parks with annual visits ranging from more than 600,000 a year in Glacier Bay and Denali to less than 20,000 in Lake Clark, Kobuk Valley, and Gates of the Arctic. Visitor counts were rising before COVID-19, with Glacier Bay and Katmai both hitting records in 2019.

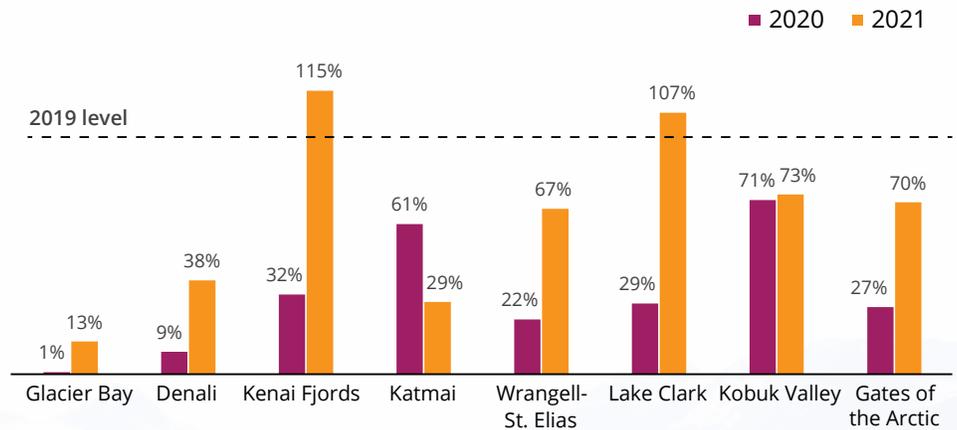
Alaska's most-visited national parks are those most popular with tourists. Glacier Bay, in Southeast Alaska near Gustavus, welcomes tourists from cruise ships into the park. Cruise-based tourists also travel to Denali, in the Interior, by train or bus.

Alaska's cruise-based tourism collapsed in 2020. Visits to Glacier Bay plummeted 99 percent, to fewer than 6,000. Denali visits also fell by over 90 percent.

Who did visit Alaska parks during the pandemic, and which ones

Alaskans continued to take advantage of our parks during the pandemic, however, and likely made up the bulk of visits in 2020 and a significant part of 2021's increase. Denali National Park is on the road system between Alaska's two largest cities, and

Park visits in 2020 and 2021 as a percent of 2019 level



Source: National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics

Kenai Fjords is also accessible by road and popular with Alaskans as well as visitors.

Denali opened formerly restricted parts of the road to private vehicle traffic in 2020 and more extensively in 2021, which encouraged local visitors.

Kenai Fjords lost two-thirds of its traffic the first year of the pandemic, but traffic rebounded and exceeded pre-pandemic visits in 2021 by more than 55,000.

After the great tourist rapture of 2020, 2021 was an improvement for every park but Katmai. Independent travelers made a strong showing last year, and around 100,000 cruise ship visitors returned to Southeast. (Still, that was about a 10th of what Southeast would typically get.)

Visits to Glacier Bay grew to nearly 90,000 (13 percent of the pre-pandemic level) and Denali reached 230,000 (38 percent of 2019). Denali estimates that about 60 percent of visits in a normal year come from cruises.

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EMPLOYER RESOURCES

Build your workforce through registered apprenticeships

Are you an employer trying to recruit and retain skilled employees? A registered apprenticeship program may be the answer.

Apprenticeship is a proven, industry-driven career pathway that allows you to customize training to ensure workers develop the specific skills and experience you need. You develop a highly skilled workforce that increases your business productivity and reduces turnover, improving your bottom line.

Apprenticeship is an easy sell to workers and prospective employees. They get paid experience on the job, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential.

Employees trained through a registered apprenticeship program also tend to be loyal to the company that trained them; 92 percent of apprentices continue their employment after completing the program. In turn, when they become journey-level workers, they can share their knowledge by mentoring the next generation of apprentices. Apprenticeship can become a steady pipeline of highly skilled employees for your business.

Registered apprenticeship is a combination of 2,000 hours a year of on-the-job training and at least 144 hours of classroom instruction. The on-the-job training is supervised by a mentor and follows an approved plan that ensures the apprentice gains the skills necessary to earn a credential.

The classroom instruction focuses on technical subjects related to the occupation. This instruction, approved by the federal Office of Apprenticeship, can be occupational or industry courses taught in-person, online, or on the job.

It's a common misconception that registered apprenticeships are only for the construction industry. More than 1,000 occupations have established apprenticeship programs across a range of industries, including health care, hospitality, administration, information technology, automotive repair, and mining.

If the job you need to fill isn't on the established registered apprenticeship list, an apprenticeship specialist at your nearest Alaska Job Center can submit a new occupation to the Office of Apprenticeship for approval. The specialist can also help you apply to revise an existing apprenticeship to fit the unique needs of your business.

There is no cost to employers to build a registered apprenticeship. So, if you're ready to attract and build a skilled workforce and reduce turnover, or you'd like more information, contact the apprenticeship specialist at your local Alaska Job Center (<https://jobs.alaska.gov/offices/index.html>).

Employer Resources is written by the Employment and Training Services Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

