



# MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Greg O'Clary, Commissioner

January 25, 2006  
No. 06-30

## Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development Releases State, Borough and Place 2005 Populations

Alaska's statewide population increased by 5.9 percent, or 36,730 people, for the period from April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2005, according to new population estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

Alaska's growth was slightly faster than the 5.0 percent growth in the same period for the U.S. as a whole. The number of people living in the state climbed from 626,931 at the time of the April 2000 Census to a provisional July 1, 2005, estimate of 663,661. (See Table 1.)

Alaska's rates of change were an annual average of 1.1 percent per year for the 2000-2005 period<sup>1</sup> and 0.9 percent for the 2004-2005 period. Alaska is still the 47th most populous state, larger than North Dakota, Vermont, the District of Columbia and Wyoming.

From April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2005, Alaska's natural increase (births minus deaths) added 37,053 people (see Table 2), while net migration (in-migration minus out-migration) accounted for a loss of 323 people. During the 2004-2005 period, Alaska added 7,270 people through natural increase and lost 1,364 people to out-migration.

This reverses the in-migration trend that occurred in the 2001 to 2004 period. In the early 1990s, Alaska added about 9,600 people each year through natural increase. The current slowdown in natural increase is a product of fewer births and greater deaths as Alaska's baby boomers age.

When international and domestic migration are considered, the loss of 1,364 migrants between 2004 and 2005 breaks down into a gain of 1,330 international migrants and a loss of 2,694 domestic migrants. Interna-

**Table 1 Annual Components of Population Change for Alaska, 1990-2005**

July 1 To June 30	End of Period Population	Popu- lation Change	Average Annual Rate of Change	Components of Change				Net Inter- national Migrants <sup>1</sup>	Net Internal Migrants <sup>2</sup>
				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	627,500	5,500	0.88	10,102	2,829	7,273	-1,773	—	—
2000-01	632,249	4,749	0.75	9,980	2,934	7,046	-2,297	952	-3,249
2001-02	640,699	8,450	1.33	9,892	3,075	6,817	1,633	1,146	487
2002-03	648,510	7,811	1.21	10,024	3,104	6,920	891	1,037	-146
2003-04	657,755	9,245	1.42	10,303	3,049	7,254	1,991	882	1,109
2004-05 <sup>3</sup>	663,661	5,906	0.89	10,284	3,014	7,270	-1,364	1,330	-2,694

<sup>1</sup> Migrants from outside the U.S.

<sup>2</sup> Migrants to or from other U.S. states

<sup>3</sup> Provisional

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

<sup>1</sup> All references to years in this media release, unless stated otherwise, are to what is also called the Alaska state fiscal year (July 1 of the first year to June 30 of the last year in the time period) with the exception of year 2000. The starting point for year 2000 is April 1 because the estimates are based on the 2000 Census. For example, the phrase "in the 2004-2005 period" represents the period from July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005, and the phrase "in the 2000-2005 period" represents the period from April 1, 2000, to June 30, 2005.

tional migration is currently compensating for some of the outward domestic migration.

It is important to note that because our estimates are for resident population, any troops deployed overseas are counted as being in Alaska in our estimates. This means that the populations for the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage, where the main Alaska bases are located, will be lower than these estimates indicate.

Department of Labor population estimates have also been released for Alaska's 27 boroughs and census areas, as well as for 349 occupied places located throughout the state.

Most of Alaska's boroughs and census areas have grown slowly or lost population in the 2000-2005 period. The largest population increases have occurred in the Municipality of Anchorage (+17,958), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (+14,719), Fairbanks North Star Borough (+4,810), Kenai Peninsula Borough (+1,533), Bethel Census Area (+1,039), Juneau City Borough (+482) and the Wade Hampton Census Area (+473).

Of the 27 boroughs and census areas, only 11 gained population in the 2000-2005 period. Population growth in the Municipality of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough accounted for roughly 89 percent of the state's overall growth. The Municipality of Anchorage made up 43 percent of the growth in the 11 areas with population gains and the Mat-Su Borough made up 35.2 percent. The Mat-Su Borough remains the fastest growing area of the state, as it has been since 1990. In the 2000-2005 period, it grew at an average annual rate of 4.2 percent, which is comparable to its 4.0 percent annual growth rate during the 1990s.

The increases in both the Municipality of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough in the 2000-2005 period were due to a mix of natural increase and migration. Anchorage had 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 in-migration of 1,894 people. The Mat-Su Borough was the only area of the state where growth came primarily from net in-migration. Since the 2000 Census, in-migration accounted for 11,634 of the Mat-Su Borough's population increase of 14,719. About half came from in-state with the majority coming from the Municipality of Anchorage. These two areas, plus the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+24), were the only instances where in-migration exceeded out-migration over the 2000-2005 period. In the more recent 2004-2005 period, Anchorage gained only 223 people, while the Mat-Su Borough gained 3,559 people, continuing the suburban movement. While Anchorage had a natural increase of 3,106 compared to the Mat-Su Borough's 681 in that period, Mat-Su gained 2,878 migrants while Anchorage lost 2,883.

All of the other boroughs and census areas lost population to out-migration or remained unchanged between 2000 and 2005. The Southeast region continued to have the largest overall decline, with a natural increase of 2,609 people and a net out-migration of 4,869 people. Only Juneau and Sitka showed growth between 2000 and 2005. In the 2004-2005 period, three areas had slight gains, primarily through natural increase: Sitka (+115), Juneau (+51) and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (+32).

Between 2000 and 2005, migration out of Southwestern Alaska (-2,561) was less than the natural increase in this region (+3,301). In the Northern region, the natural increase (+2,113) failed to keep up with out-migration (-2,233). In the Gulf Coast region, the natural increase (+3,016) kept ahead of out-migration (-1,911). The Kodiak Island Borough had more net out-migration (-1,153) than natural increase (+878) and the Valdez-Cordova Census Area population declined slightly as natural increase (+415) failed to match net out-migration (-568). The Kenai Peninsula Borough grew mainly through natural increase (+1,723) as opposed to net migration (-190). During the more recent 2004-2005 period, Valdez-Cordova and Kodiak Island grew slightly as natural increase exceeded out-migration. In the Kenai Peninsula Borough, however, out-migration (-349) exceeded natural increase (+320) for a slight population decline.

In the Interior, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (+4,810) and the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+297) grew in the 2000-2005 period, largely due to natural increase. The Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (-449) and Denali Borough (-70) shrank as out-migration exceeded natural increase. During the 2004-2005 period, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (+2,135) and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+324) both gained as a result of natural increase and in-migration.

Alaska had 35 places with populations over 2,000 in 2005 (see Table 3); 21 of them are incorporated cities or city-boroughs. Thirty-two places in Alaska have populations of more than 2,500, the old U.S. Census Bureau definition of urban place.

The Municipality of Anchorage continues to dominate the state. Its population of 278,241 in 2005 accounts for 41.9 percent of the state's population, up slightly from 41.5 percent in 2000; the Anchorage/Mat-Su region (352,282) accounts for 53.1 percent of the population.

The places with populations greater than 2,000 that have had the highest average annual growth rates since the 2000 Census include the Knik-Fairview Census Designated Place (+7.1%), Homer city (+6.0 percent), Fishhook CDP (+6.0 percent), Tanaina CDP (+5.3 percent), Meadow Lakes CDP (5.2 percent), Gateway CDP (4.2 percent) and Butte CDP (3.6 percent).

All but two of the top 12 places that experienced the most rapid growth in the 2000-2005 period are in the Mat-Su Borough. Indeed, if they were to incorporate, four places in the Mat-Su Borough would be larger than the cities of Wasilla and Palmer, and Knik-Fairview would become the fourth-largest city in the state.

The remaining two rapidly growing places are the Kalifornsky CDP and Homer city in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Homer's growth, however, is largely due to its annexation of a substantial part of Diamond Ridge and Miller Landing. A dozen of the 35 places that had more than 2,000 people in 2000 have declined. The areas that declined on average by more than 1 percent each year during the 2000-2005 period are Eielson Air Force Base CDP (-3.2 percent), Wrangell city (-3.0 percent), Barrow city (-1.7 percent), Seward city (-1.6 percent), Valdez city (-1.4 percent) and Cordova city (-1.3 percent).

---

*These population estimates 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."*

– more –

**Contact:**

Greg Williams, state demographer (907) 465-6029

Greg\_Williams@labor.state.ak.us

Neal Fried, economist (907) 269-4861

Neal\_Fried@labor.state.ak.us

**Table 2 Population of Alaska by Labor Market Area, Borough and Census Area, 1990-2005<sup>1</sup>**

Area Name	Provi- sional Estimate 2005	Revised Estimate 2004	Revised Estimate 2003	Revised Estimate 2002	Revised Estimate 2001	April 1 Census 2000	April 1 Census 1990	Change			Average Annual Rate of Change			Natural Increase (Births minus Deaths)	Net Migration (In and Out)	Natural Increase (Births minus Deaths)	Net Migration (In and Out)
								2004- 2005	2000- 2005	1990- 2000	2004- 2005	2000- 2005	1990- 2000				
Alaska	663,661	657,755	648,510	640,699	632,249	626,931	550,043	5,906	36,730	76,888	0.9%	1.1%	1.3%	7,270	-1,364	37,053	-323
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	352,282	348,500	337,672	333,031	325,824	319,605	266,021	3,782	32,677	53,584	1.1%	1.9%	1.8%	3,787	-5	19,149	13,528
Municipality of Anchorage	278,241	278,018	269,831	267,859	264,913	260,283	226,338	223	17,958	33,945	0.1%	1.3%	1.4%	3,106	-2,883	16,064	1,894
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	74,041	70,482	67,841	64,329	61,737	59,322	39,683	3,559	14,719	19,639	4.9%	4.2%	4.0%	681	2,878	3,085	11,634
Gulf Coast Region	74,904	74,791	76,330	74,259	73,804	73,799	64,063	113	1,105	9,736	0.2%	0.3%	1.4%	551	-438	3,016	-1,911
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,224	51,253	52,034	50,667	50,068	49,691	40,802	-29	1,533	8,889	-0.1%	0.6%	2.0%	320	-349	1,723	-190
Kodiak Island Borough	13,638	13,538	13,959	13,645	13,566	13,913	13,309	100	-275	604	0.7%	-0.4%	0.4%	162	-62	878	-1,153
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	10,042	10,000	10,337	10,082	10,080	10,195	9,952	42	-153	243	0.4%	-0.3%	0.2%	69	-27	415	-568
Interior Region	102,005	99,793	97,428	99,055	98,119	97,417	92,111	2,212	4,588	5,306	2.2%	0.9%	0.6%	1,332	880	6,865	-2,277
Denali Borough	1,823	1,851	1,938	1,887	1,902	1,893	1,764	-28	-70	129	-1.5%	-0.7%	0.7%	14	-42	83	-153
Fairbanks North Star Borough	87,650	85,515	83,123	84,749	83,266	82,840	77,720	2,135	4,810	5,120	2.5%	1.1%	0.6%	1,218	917	6,310	-1,500
Southeast Fairbanks CA	6,471	6,147	5,992	5,948	5,931	6,174	5,913	324	297	261	5.1%	0.9%	0.4%	73	251	273	24
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	6,061	6,280	6,375	6,356	6,478	6,510	6,714	-219	-449	-204	-3.5%	-1.4%	-0.3%	27	-246	199	-648
Northern Region	23,669	23,916	24,145	23,840	23,735	23,789	20,380	-247	-120	3,409	-1.0%	-0.1%	1.5%	448	-695	2,113	-2,233
Nome Census Area	9,452	9,438	9,462	9,343	9,265	9,196	8,288	14	256	908	0.1%	0.5%	1.0%	177	-163	787	-531
North Slope Borough	6,894	7,137	7,310	7,240	7,232	7,385	5,979	-243	-491	1,406	-3.5%	-1.3%	2.1%	135	-378	677	-1,168
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,323	7,341	7,373	7,235	7,141	7,208	6,113	-18	115	1,095	-0.2%	0.3%	1.6%	136	-154	649	-534
Southeast Region	70,822	70,964	72,673	71,935	72,128	73,082	68,989	-142	-2,260	4,093	-0.2%	-0.6%	0.6%	497	-639	2,609	-4,869
Haines Borough	2,207	2,254	2,345	2,358	2,369	2,392	2,117	-47	-185	275	-2.1%	-1.5%	1.2%	7	-54	21	-206
Juneau City and Borough	31,193	31,142	31,656	30,997	30,453	30,711	26,751	51	482	3,960	0.2%	0.3%	1.4%	254	-203	1,363	-881
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,125	13,093	13,685	13,683	13,748	14,059	13,828	32	-934	231	0.2%	-1.3%	0.2%	121	-89	467	-1,401
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	5,497	5,573	5,658	5,680	5,816	6,157	6,278	-76	-660	-121	-1.4%	-2.2%	-0.2%	19	-95	196	-856
Sitka City and Borough	8,947	8,832	8,994	8,795	8,728	8,835	8,588	115	112	247	1.3%	0.2%	0.3%	68	47	371	-259
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	3,062	3,120	3,240	3,344	3,373	3,436	3,680	-58	-374	-244	-1.9%	-2.2%	-0.7%	22	-80	78	-452
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	6,172	6,274	6,398	6,462	6,589	6,684	7,042	-102	-512	-358	-1.6%	-1.5%	-0.5%	4	-106	97	-609
Yakutat City and Borough	619	676	697	719	696	808	705	-57	-189	103	-8.8%	-5.0%	1.4%	2	-59	16	-205
Southwest Region	39,979	39,791	40,262	39,362	39,064	39,239	38,479	188	740	760	0.5%	0.4%	0.2%	655	-467	3,301	-2,561
Aleutians East Borough	2,659	2,656	2,742	2,723	2,548	2,697	2,464	3	-38	233	0.1%	-0.3%	0.9%	13	-10	58	-96
Aleutians West Census Area	5,249	5,244	5,379	5,073	5,254	5,465	9,478	5	-216	-4,013	0.1%	-0.8%	-5.4%	32	-27	134	-350
Bethel Census Area	17,085	16,894	16,946	16,515	16,108	16,046	13,656	191	1,039	2,390	1.1%	1.2%	1.6%	322	-131	1,745	-706
Bristol Bay Borough	1,073	1,101	1,116	1,163	1,174	1,258	1,410	-28	-185	-152	-2.6%	-3.0%	-1.1%	9	-37	49	-234
Dillingham Census Area	4,792	4,855	4,962	4,918	4,890	4,922	4,012	-63	-130	910	-1.3%	-0.5%	2.0%	67	-130	324	-454
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,620	1,612	1,646	1,639	1,733	1,823	1,668	8	-203	155	0.5%	-2.2%	0.9%	14	-6	51	-254
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,501	7,429	7,471	7,290	7,191	7,028	5,791	72	473	1,237	1.0%	1.2%	1.9%	198	-126	940	-467

<sup>1</sup> All columns represent Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development estimates unless stated otherwise. All estimates represent July 1 of that year unless stated otherwise.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, and the U.S. Census Bureau

**Table 3** Places with More than 2,000 People, 2000-2005

Area Name	Preliminary Estimate 2005	Revised Estimate 2004	Revised Estimate 2003	Revised Estimate 2002	Revised Estimate 2001	April 1 Census 2000	2000-2005 Change	Average Annual Rate of Change 2000-2005	Place Rank 2005	Place Rank 2000	City Rank 2005
Anchorage, Municipality of	278,241	278,018	269,831	267,859	264,913	260,283	17,958	1.3%	1	1	1
Juneau City and Borough	31,193	31,142	31,656	30,997	30,453	30,711	482	0.3%	2	2	2
Fairbanks city	31,182	30,151	29,301	29,815	29,554	30,224	958	0.6%	3	3	3
College CDP <sup>2</sup>	12,231	12,181	12,178	11,919	12,040	11,402	829	1.3%	4	4	
Knik-Fairview CDP	10,271	9,268	8,665	8,002	7,639	7,049	3,222	7.1%	5	7	
Sitka City and Borough	8,947	8,832	8,994	8,795	8,728	8,835	112	0.2%	6	5	4
Lakes CDP	7,773	7,484	7,129	6,928	6,816	6,706	1,067	2.8%	7	9	
Ketchikan city	7,685	7,718	8,071	8,375	8,459	7,922	-237	-0.6%	8	6	5
Kenai city	6,777	6,840	7,199	7,063	6,875	6,942	-165	-0.5%	9	8	6
Kalifornsky CDP	6,748	6,642	6,316	6,155	6,011	5,846	902	2.7%	10	11	
Tanaina CDP	6,622	6,301	5,933	5,601	5,264	4,993	1,629	5.3%	11	15	
Wasilla city	6,413	6,148	6,460	5,949	5,517	5,469	944	3.0%	12	13	7
Meadow Lakes CDP	6,332	5,957	5,645	5,281	5,041	4,819	1,513	5.2%	13	16	
Kodiak city	6,088	6,194	6,161	6,100	6,076	6,334	-246	-0.8%	14	10	8
Bethel city *	5,960	5,877	5,950	5,743	5,461	5,471	489	1.6%	15	12	9
Homer city <sup>3</sup>	5,435	5,366	5,947	5,548	4,083	3,946	1,489	6.0%	16	23	10
Palmer city	5,382	5,226	5,321	4,838	4,583	4,533	849	3.3%	17	19	11
Sterling CDP	4,983	4,929	4,935	4,781	4,756	4,705	278	1.1%	18	17	
Eielson AFB CDP	4,552	4,689	4,482	5,842	5,156	5,400	-848	-3.2%	19	14	
Unalaska city *	4,297	4,366	4,413	4,035	4,249	4,283	14	0.1%	20	21	12
Barrow city *	4,199	4,371	4,463	4,437	4,444	4,581	-382	-1.7%	21	18	13
Nikiski CDP	4,187	4,296	4,404	4,363	4,364	4,327	-140	-0.6%	22	20	
Soldotna city	3,869	3,781	4,048	3,852	3,793	3,759	110	0.5%	23	24	14
Valdez city	3,745	3,721	3,942	3,957	3,822	4,036	-291	-1.4%	24	22	15
Gateway CDP	3,682	3,572	3,339	3,215	3,118	2,952	730	4.2%	25	28	
Nome city	3,508	3,484	3,452	3,482	3,487	3,505	3	0.0%	26	25	16
Petersburg city	3,155	3,134	3,116	3,157	3,225	3,224	-69	-0.4%	27	26	17
Kotzebue city *	3,120	3,144	3,105	3,075	3,070	3,082	38	0.2%	28	27	18
Butte CDP	3,101	2,979	2,470	2,785	2,736	2,561	540	3.6%	29	31	
Big Lake CDP	2,982	2,929	2,925	2,706	2,616	2,635	347	2.4%	30	30	
Fishhook CDP	2,784	2,645	2,379	2,243	2,191	2,030	754	6.0%	31	35	
Seward city	2,606	2,545	2,768	2,756	2,759	2,830	-224	-1.6%	32	29	19
Dillingham city *	2,370	2,408	2,412	2,468	2,462	2,466	-96	-0.8%	33	32	20
Cordova city	2,288	2,300	2,317	2,305	2,380	2,454	-166	-1.3%	34	33	21
Ridgeway CDP	2,062	2,060	2,044	1,969	1,962	1,932	130	1.2%	35	36	
Kodiak Station CDP	1,975	1,759	2,214	1,939	1,759	1,840	135	1.3%	36	38	
Wrangell city	1,974	2,024	2,147	2,180	2,223	2,308	-334	-3.0%	37	34	

<sup>1</sup> All columns represent Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development estimates unless stated otherwise. All estimates represent July 1 of that year unless stated otherwise.

<sup>2</sup> Census Designated Place

\* Alaska Native Village Statistical Area

<sup>3</sup> Homer had a substantial annexation in 2002.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section