

## Estimates for 2003 show Alaska population has reached 648,818

**A**laska's statewide population increased by 3.5% or 21,887 persons for the period April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003, according to new population estimates released by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Alaska's growth was slightly faster than the 3.3% growth for the same period for the U.S. as a whole. The number of people living in the state climbed from 626,931 at the census in April 2000 to a provisional July 1, 2003 estimate of 648,818. The average annual rate of change was 0.8% for the 2000-2001 period, 1.4% for the 2001-2002 period and 1.1% for the 2002-2003 period.

In the 2002-2003 period, in-migration fell by about 75 percent from the previous year, to 513, still above the negative numbers for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. In the recent past, 44 percent of in-migration to Alaska has come from the Pacific and Mountain states and another 27 percent from the South Atlantic and West South Central Regions. The states that contribute the most migrants to Alaska are currently: Washington 10.4%, California 9.0%, Texas 7.3%, and Oregon 4.7%.

In the early 1990s Alaska added about 9,600 persons each year through natural increase, while in 2002-2003, natural increase was only 6,800. This continues the trend of lower birth rates and higher death rates as Alaska's baby boomers age. Net migration (in-migration minus out-migration) accounted for a loss of 117 persons.

Population estimates have also been released for Alaska's 27 boroughs and census areas as well as for 354 places located throughout the state.

Since 2000, the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough have accounted for virtually all of the population growth in the state, with Anchorage supplying 62.7% and Mat-Su supplying 37.2%. The increase in both boroughs

was due to a mix of natural increase and migration, with most of the migration coming from other parts of Alaska. Mat-Su was the only area of the state whose growth came primarily from in-migration. In-migration (mainly from Anchorage) accounted for 6,471 of Mat-Su's 8,151 population increase. Mat-Su has been the fastest growing area of the state since 1990, growing at an average rate of about 4.0%.

Most of Alaska's boroughs and census areas have grown slowly or lost population since 2000. (See Exhibit 1.) The largest increases in population occurred in the Municipality of Anchorage (+13,720), Mat-Su Borough (+8,151), Kenai Peninsula Borough (+1,529), Bethel Census Area (+728) and the Juneau City and Borough (+572).

Most of the other boroughs and census areas experienced out-migration or remained unchanged. The only boroughs to have noticeable net in-migration were Mat-Su Borough, Anchorage Municipality and Kenai Peninsula Borough. The Southeast region continued to have the largest overall decline, with a loss from net migration exceeding natural increase. Only Juneau and Sitka had small population growth.

Migration out of Southwestern Alaska and the Northern Region was less than natural increase in the regions. In the Gulf Coast, Kodiak again had more out migration than natural increase and Valdez-Cordova gained slightly, due to natural increase slightly greater than the net migration loss.

In the Interior, Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Southeast Fairbanks and Yukon Koyukuk census areas all shrank due to net migration. The Denali Borough had a slight increase in population.

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

# 1 Alaska Population by Area 1990–2003

Area Name	DOLWD	DOLWD	DOLWD	April 1 Census 2000	April 1 Census 1990	Change		Average Annual Rate of Change		Natural Increase 4/1/00- 6/30/03	Net Migration 4/1/00- 6/30/03
	Provisional Estimate 2003	Revised Estimate 2002	Revised Estimate 2001			2000- 2003	1990- 2000	2000- 2003	1990- 2000		
Alaska	648,818	641,482	632,674	626,931	550,043	21,887	76,888	1.1	1.3	22,356	-469
Anchorage Mat-Su Region	341,476	333,031	325,824	319,605	266,021	21,871	53,584	2.0	1.8	11,305	10,566
Anchorage Municipality	274,003	268,738	264,052	260,283	226,338	13,720	33,945	1.6	1.4	9,625	4,095
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	67,473	64,293	61,772	59,322	39,683	8,151	19,639	4.0	4.0	1,680	6,471
Gulf Coast Region	75,261	74,259	73,804	73,799	64,063	1,462	9,736	0.6	1.4	1,926	-464
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,220	50,486	50,051	49,691	40,802	1,529	8,889	0.9	2.0	1,085	444
Kodiak Island Borough	13,811	13,664	13,623	13,913	13,309	-102	604	-0.2	0.4	574	-676
Valdez-Cordova CA	10,230	10,109	10,130	10,195	9,952	35	243	0.1	0.2	267	-232
Interior Region	96,397	99,055	98,119	97,417	92,111	-1,020	5,306	-0.3	0.6	4,228	-5,248
Denali Borough	1,914	1,884	1,908	1,893	1,764	21	129	0.3	0.7	54	-33
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	82,214	84,859	83,774	82,840	77,720	-626	5,120	-0.2	0.6	3,866	-4,492
Southeast Fairbanks CA	5,922	5,941	5,916	6,174	5,913	-252	261	-1.3	0.4	177	-429
Yukon Koyukuk CA	6,347	6,371	6,521	6,510	6,714	-163	-204	-0.8	-0.3	131	-294
Northern Region	23,905	23,840	23,735	23,789	20,380	116	3,409	0.1	1.5	1,253	-1,137
Nome Census Area	9,370	9,353	9,307	9,196	8,288	174	908	0.6	1.0	467	-293
North Slope Borough	7,234	7,246	7,265	7,385	5,979	-151	1,406	-0.6	2.1	405	-556
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,301	7,241	7,163	7,208	6,113	93	1,095	0.4	1.6	381	-288
Southeast Region	71,841	71,935	72,128	73,082	68,989	-1,241	4,093	-0.5	0.6	1,643	-2,884
Haines Borough	2,327	2,362	2,380	2,392	2,117	-65	275	-0.8	1.2	4	-69
Juneau City and Borough	31,283	30,940	30,551	30,711	26,751	572	3,960	0.6	1.4	874	-302
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,548	13,697	13,851	14,059	13,828	-511	231	-1.1	0.2	270	-781
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	5,601	5,690	5,832	6,157	6,278	-556	-121	-2.9	-0.2	152	-708
Sitka City and Borough	8,891	8,812	8,804	8,835	8,588	56	247	0.2	0.3	238	-182
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	3,164	3,243	3,390	3,436	3,680	-272	-244	-2.5	-0.7	31	-303
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	6,336	6,471	6,621	6,684	7,042	-348	-358	-1.6	-0.5	63	-411
Yakutat City and Borough	691	720	699	808	705	-117	103	-4.8	1.4	11	-128
Southwest Region	39,938	39,362	39,064	39,239	38,479	699	760	0.5	0.2	2,001	-1,302
Aleutians East Borough	2,700	2,732	2,554	2,697	2,464	3	233	0.0	0.9	36	-33
Aleutians West CA	5,420	5,075	5,263	5,465	9,478	-45	-4,013	-0.3	-5.4	71	-116
Bethel Census Area	16,774	16,529	16,184	16,046	13,656	728	2,390	1.4	1.6	1,084	-356
Bristol Bay Borough	1,105	1,165	1,179	1,258	1,410	-153	-152	-4.0	-1.1	31	-184
Dillingham Census Area	4,912	4,920	4,913	4,922	4,012	-10	910	-0.1	2.0	195	-205
Lake and Peninsula Bor.	1,628	1,637	1,741	1,823	1,668	-195	155	-3.5	0.9	18	-213
Wade Hampton CA	7,399	7,304	7,230	7,028	5,791	371	1,237	1.6	1.9	566	-195

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