

## State and local estimates

**A**laska's statewide population increased 8.3 percent, or 52,187 people, from 2000 to 2008, bringing Alaska's state-wide population estimate to 679,720, based on estimates released in March by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Alaska's growth was almost the same as the 8.0 percent increase for the United States as a whole during the 2000-2008 period.

The Alaska Department of Labor starts with the U.S. Census Bureau's annual estimates at the state level and decennial census numbers, then creates its own estimates for a detailed count of Alaska's population. It uses various indicators of population change and characteristics, including

Alaska Permanent Fund dividend applications, military and other surveys, and birth and death statistics.

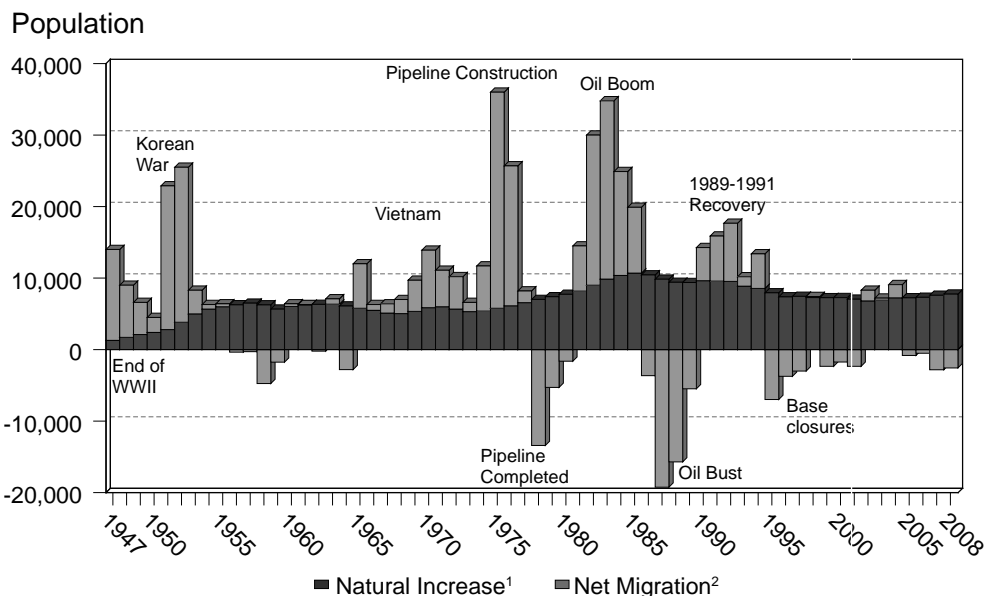
The 2008 estimates are provisional. All population estimates in this article are as of July 1 of a particular year (the average annual population for that year) unless indicated otherwise.

### The state as a whole

The number of people living in Alaska climbed from 627,533 in 2000 to 679,720 in 2008. (See Exhibit 2.)

Alaska's average annual rate of population change was 1.0 percent during the 2000-2008 period and 0.8 percent for the 2007-2008 period.

## 1 Components of Population Change Alaska, 1947 to 2008



<sup>1</sup> The difference between births and deaths

<sup>2</sup> The difference between the number of people who migrate into and out of the state

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

Alaska is still the 47th most populous state. It's larger than North Dakota, Vermont, the District of Columbia and Wyoming.

Population change is made up of four main components: births, deaths, in-migration and out-migration. Natural increase is the difference between births and deaths, and net migration is the difference between the number of people who migrate into and out of the state.

Currently, growth in Alaska as a whole is primarily through natural increase. From 2000 to 2008, Alaska's natural increase added 58,094 people, while net migration accounted for a loss of 5,907 people. During the 2007-2008 period, Alaska added 7,770

people through natural increase and lost 2,560 people to net out-migration.

When international and domestic migration are considered separately, the loss of 2,560 migrants between 2007 and 2008 breaks down to a gain of 810 international migrants and a loss of 3,370 domestic migrants. Therefore, international migration is currently compensating for some of the outward domestic migration.

About 92,500 people now migrate to and from Alaska each year. In- and out-migration are nearly equal at about 45,000 in and 47,500 out.

It's important to note that, because these estimates are for resident population, any troops deployed overseas are counted as being in Alaska. That means that the populations for the Municipality of Anchorage and Fairbanks North Star Borough – where the main Alaska military bases are located – and other communities with a substantial National Guard presence may be somewhat lower than these estimates indicate, depending on the current deployment of military and National Guard personnel.

## **Boroughs and census areas**

Alaska Department of Labor population estimates have also been released for Alaska's 29 boroughs and census areas (see Exhibit 3), and 349 occupied places located throughout the state. (See Exhibit 4.) Unlike Exhibit 2, which considers population change from the average annual population in 2000 (July 1), Exhibit 3 and the remainder of this article consider population change from the April 1, 2000<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census.

Of Alaska's 29 boroughs and census areas, only 10 gained population between 2000 and 2008. The largest increases were in the Municipality of Anchorage (+24,711), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (+23,193), Fairbanks North Star Borough (+7,056), Kenai Peninsula Borough (+3,299), Bethel Census Area (+894), Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+834) and Wade Hampton Census Area (+642).

<sup>1</sup> And the April 1, 1990 U.S. Census

Population growth in the Municipality of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough accounted for roughly 78.4 percent of the growth in the 10 boroughs and census areas. The Municipality of Anchorage made up 40.4 percent of the growth and the Mat-Su Borough made up 37.9 percent.

The Mat-Su Borough continued in 2008 to be the fastest-growing area in the state, as it has been since 1990. Between 2000 and 2008, it grew at an average annual rate of 4.0 percent, matching its rate during the 1990s. However, the borough's growth slowed to 3.5 percent between 2007 and 2008.

The increases in both the Municipality of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough between 2000 and 2008 were due to a mix of natural increase and net migration.

For the 2007-2008 period, about a quarter of Anchorage's in- and out-migration came from other parts of Alaska; the remainder came from out of state. Of the in-state migration to and from Anchorage, 28 percent came into Anchorage from the Mat-Su Borough, while 47 percent of the in-state migration from Anchorage went out to the Mat-Su.

The Mat-Su Borough was the only area of the state where growth came primarily from net in-migration. During the 2000-2008 period, net in-migration accounted for 17,632, or 76 percent of the borough's population increase of 23,193.

The Mat-Su Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough (+582) and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+307) were the only areas where in-migration noticeably exceeded out-migration during the 2007-2008 period.

The Municipality of Anchorage gained a total of 2,619 people, while the Mat-Su Borough gained 2,816. And while Anchorage had a current natural increase of 3,098 compared to the Mat-Su Borough's 861, Mat-Su gained 1,955 migrants and Anchorage lost 479.

Nineteen boroughs and census areas lost population between 2000 and 2008.

# Annual Components of Population Change

## Alaska, 1990 to 2008

# 2

The Southeast region continued to have the largest overall decline, losing 5.6 percent of its population, with a natural increase of 4,099 people and a net out-migration of 7,979. No Southeast area had long-term growth during the period.

During the shorter 2007-2008 period, only the Juneau City and Borough (+86), Haines Borough (+57) and Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan (+7) had any population gain through migration. In the rest of Southeast, out-migration was greater than natural increase. In part, that was due to people aging.

| July 1 to June 30    | End of Period Population | Population Change | Average Annual Rate of Change | Components of Change |        |                  |              | Net International Migrants <sup>1,2</sup> | Net Internal Migrants <sup>3</sup> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------|------------------|--------------|---|------------------------------------|
|                      |                          |                   |                               | Births               | Deaths | Natural Increase | Net Migrants |   |                                    |
| 1990                 | 553,171                  | 14,271            | 2.61%                         | 11,776               | 2,142  | 9,634            | 4,637        | —   | —                                  |
| 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              | 627,533                  | 5,533             | 0.89%                         | 10,102               | 2,829  | 7,273            | -1,740       | —   | —                                  |
| 2000-01              | 631,957                  | 4,424             | 0.70%                         | 9,980                | 2,934  | 7,046            | -2,622       | 888                                       | -3,510                             |
| 2001-02              | 640,183                  | 8,226             | 1.29%                         | 9,871                | 3,075  | 6,796            | 1,430        | -102                                      | 1,532                              |
| 2002-03              | 647,188                  | 7,005             | 1.09%                         | 10,025               | 3,107  | 6,918            | 87           | -2,138                                    | 2,225                              |
| 2003-04              | 656,569                  | 9,381             | 1.44%                         | 10,299               | 3,060  | 7,239            | 2,142        | 2,049                                     | 93                                 |
| 2004-05              | 663,085                  | 6,516             | 0.99%                         | 10,368               | 3,167  | 7,201            | -685         | 618                                       | -1,303                             |
| 2005-06              | 669,716                  | 6,631             | 1.00%                         | 10,680               | 3,165  | 7,515            | -884         | 1,379                                     | -2,263                             |
| 2006-07              | 674,510                  | 4,794             | 0.71%                         | 11,051               | 3,442  | 7,609            | -2,815       | 443                                       | -3,258                             |
| 2007-08 <sup>4</sup> | 679,720                  | 5,210             | 0.77%                         | 11,252               | 3,482  | 7,770            | -2,560       | 810                                       | -3,370                             |

Notes: All columns represent Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development estimates unless stated otherwise. All estimates represent July 1 of that year (the average annual population) unless stated otherwise.

<sup>1</sup> According to the U.S. Census Bureau

<sup>2</sup> Migration between Alaska and countries outside the U.S.

<sup>3</sup> Migration between Alaska and the rest of the U.S.

<sup>4</sup> Provisional estimate

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

In the Southwest region, between 2000 and 2008, net out-migration (-5,361) was greater than the natural increase (+5,222). The two Southwest areas that increased population were the Bethel Census Area (+894) and Wade Hampton Census Area (+642). In every other area, net out-migration exceeded natural increase or broke even.

In the Northern region, natural increase (+3,508) failed to keep up with out-migration (-3,685) during the 2000-2008 period. The greatest loss was in the North Slope Borough where out-migration (-1,777) substantially exceeded natural increase (+1,098). The Nome Census Area and Northwest Arctic Borough had natural increases that were slightly higher than out-migration.

In the Gulf Coast region, natural increase (+4,656) kept ahead of out-migration (-2,579). The Kodiak Island Borough had more net out-migration (-1,854) than natural increase (+1,314) and the Valdez-Cordova Census Area declined as natural increase (+625) failed to match net out-migration (-1,307). The Kenai

Peninsula Borough grew mainly through natural increase (+2,717) as opposed to net-migration (+582).

During the 2007-2008 period, the Valdez-Cordova Census Area declined, as net out-migration (-131) exceeded natural increase (+71). In the Kenai Peninsula Borough, however, both natural increase (+292) and net-migration (+577) were positive. The Kodiak Island Borough lost population because natural increase (+137) was less than out-migration (-259).

In the Interior, during the 2000-2008 period, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (+7,056) and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+834) grew, largely due to natural increase. The Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (-841) and Denali Borough (-45) shrank as out-migration exceeded natural increase.

During the 2007-2008 period, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (-1,444) and Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (-63) had population losses.

# 3 Alaska's Population, 1990 to 2008

## By economic region, borough and census area

|  | Vintage 2008 Population Estimates |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | April 1        | April 1        |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | Estimate<br>2008                  | Estimate<br>2007 | Estimate<br>2006 | Estimate<br>2005 | Estimate<br>2004 | Estimate<br>2003 | Estimate<br>2002 | Estimate<br>2001 | Census<br>2000 | Census<br>1990 |
| Alaska   | 679,720                           | 674,510          | 669,716          | 663,085          | 656,569          | 647,188          | 640,183          | 631,957          | 626,931        | 550,043        |
| Anchorage / Mat-Su Region                                    | 367,509                           | 362,074          | 359,850          | 351,867          | 347,858          | 340,245          | 331,982          | 326,520          | 319,605        | 266,021        |
| Anchorage, Municipality of                                   | 284,994                           | 282,375          | 282,722          | 277,883          | 277,491          | 272,775          | 267,669          | 264,784          | 260,283        | 226,338        |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough                                    | 82,515                            | 79,699           | 77,128           | 73,984           | 70,367           | 67,470           | 64,313           | 61,736           | 59,322         | 39,683         |
| Gulf Coast Region  | 75,876                            | 75,189           | 74,531           | 74,845           | 74,687           | 75,392           | 74,346           | 73,666           | 73,799         | 64,063         |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough                                      | 52,990                            | 52,121           | 51,352           | 51,172           | 51,168           | 51,399           | 50,645           | 50,063           | 49,691         | 40,802         |
| Kodiak Island Borough  | 13,373                            | 13,495           | 13,427           | 13,667           | 13,554           | 13,802           | 13,633           | 13,560           | 13,913         | 13,309         |
| Valdez-Cordova Census Area                                   | 9,513                             | 9,573            | 9,752            | 10,006           | 9,965            | 10,191           | 10,068           | 10,043           | 10,195         | 9,952          |
| Interior Region  | 104,421                           | 105,811          | 101,966          | 101,907          | 99,609           | 96,213           | 98,883           | 97,532           | 97,417         | 92,111         |
| Denali Borough   | 1,848                             | 1,762            | 1,793            | 1,820            | 1,848            | 1,915            | 1,886            | 1,901            | 1,893          | 1,764          |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough                                 | 89,896                            | 91,340           | 87,607           | 87,578           | 85,358           | 82,087           | 84,705           | 83,244           | 82,840         | 77,720         |
| Southeast Fairbanks Census Area                              | 7,008                             | 6,977            | 6,734            | 6,462            | 6,136            | 5,917            | 5,941            | 5,905            | 6,174          | 5,913          |
| Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area                                    | 5,669                             | 5,732            | 5,832            | 6,047            | 6,267            | 6,294            | 6,351            | 6,482            | 6,510          | 6,714          |
| Northern Region  | 23,612                            | 23,538           | 23,637           | 23,651           | 23,867           | 23,837           | 23,797           | 23,615           | 23,789         | 20,380         |
| Nome Census Area   | 9,499                             | 9,465            | 9,523            | 9,450            | 9,419            | 9,344            | 9,336            | 9,262            | 9,196          | 8,288          |
| North Slope Borough  | 6,706                             | 6,711            | 6,796            | 6,886            | 7,123            | 7,217            | 7,234            | 7,228            | 7,385          | 5,979          |
| Northwest Arctic Borough                                     | 7,407                             | 7,362            | 7,318            | 7,315            | 7,325            | 7,276            | 7,227            | 7,125            | 7,208          | 6,113          |
| Southeast Region   | 69,202                            | 68,971           | 70,271           | 70,786           | 70,831           | 71,730           | 71,885           | 71,745           | 73,082         | 68,989         |
| Haines Borough   | 2,310                             | 2,246            | 2,234            | 2,205            | 2,250            | 2,316            | 2,356            | 2,368            | 2,392          | 2,117          |
| Juneau City and Borough                                      | 30,427                            | 30,134           | 30,753           | 31,179           | 31,087           | 31,266           | 30,981           | 30,446           | 30,711         | 26,751         |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough <sup>2</sup>                       | 12,993                            | 13,089           | 13,176           | 13,111           | 13,067           | 13,512           | 13,667           | 13,742           | 14,059         | 13,828         |
| Prince of Wales-<br>Outer Ketchikan Census Area <sup>3</sup> | 5,360                             | 5,299            | 5,469            | 5,502            | 5,562            | 5,586            | 5,678            | 5,813            | 6,157          | 6,278          |
| Sitka City and Borough                                       | 8,615                             | 8,602            | 8,972            | 8,931            | 8,814            | 8,882            | 8,788            | 8,724            | 8,835          | 8,588          |
| Skagway-Hoonah-<br>Angoon Census Area <sup>4</sup>           | 2,946                             | 2,986            | 3,010            | 3,059            | 3,114            | 3,162            | 3,240            | 3,371            | 3,436          | 3,680          |
| Hoonah-Angoon Census Area                                    | 2,100                             | 2,145            | 2,157            | 2,226            | 2,242            | 2,320            | 2,397            | 2,534            | 2,574          | 2,988          |
| Skagway, Municipality of                                     | 846                               | 841              | 853              | 833              | 872              | 842              | 843              | 837              | 862            | 692            |
| Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area <sup>5</sup>                 | ---                               | 5,997            | 6,022            | 6,157            | 6,262            | 6,317            | 6,457            | 6,586            | 6,684          | 7,042          |
| Petersburg Census Area                                       | 3,847                             | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | 4,260          | ---            |
| Wrangell City and Borough <sup>6,7</sup>                     | 2,112                             | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | 2,448          | ---            |
| Yakutat City and Borough                                     | 592                               | 618              | 635              | 642              | 675              | 689              | 718              | 695              | 808            | 705            |
| Southwest Region   | 39,100                            | 38,927           | 39,461           | 40,029           | 39,717           | 39,771           | 39,290           | 38,879           | 39,239         | 38,479         |
| Aleutians East Borough                                       | 2,699                             | 2,789            | 2,588            | 2,654            | 2,654            | 2,712            | 2,722            | 2,547            | 2,697          | 2,464          |
| Aleutians West Census Area                                   | 4,439                             | 4,493            | 4,910            | 5,239            | 5,238            | 5,325            | 5,068            | 5,252            | 5,465          | 9,478          |
| Bethel Census Area   | 16,940                            | 16,755           | 17,011           | 17,066           | 16,860           | 16,733           | 16,502           | 16,100           | 16,046         | 13,656         |
| Bristol Bay Borough  | 1,029                             | 1,030            | 1,056            | 1,174            | 1,099            | 1,102            | 1,162            | 1,173            | 1,258          | 1,410          |
| Dillingham Census Area                                       | 4,771                             | 4,769            | 4,795            | 4,784            | 4,845            | 4,899            | 4,914            | 4,888            | 4,922          | 4,012          |
| Lake and Peninsula Borough                                   | 1,552                             | 1,531            | 1,555            | 1,618            | 1,608            | 1,625            | 1,638            | 1,732            | 1,823          | 1,668          |
| Wade Hampton Census Area                                     | 7,670                             | 7,560            | 7,546            | 7,494            | 7,413            | 7,375            | 7,284            | 7,187            | 7,028          | 5,791          |

Note: All columns represent Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development estimates unless stated otherwise. All estimates are as of July 1 of that year (the average annual population for that year) unless stated otherwise.

<sup>1</sup> This period represents April 1, 2000, to June 30, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> No adjustment has been made to the 2000 population shown here for the May 2008 Ketchikan Gateway Borough annexation (8 people) from Outer Ketchikan.

<sup>3</sup> The Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area boundaries changed and the census area was renamed the Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area in May 2008.

No adjustment has been made to the 2000 population shown here for the May 2008 Ketchikan Gateway Borough annexation (8 people) from Outer Ketchikan.

<sup>4</sup> The Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area became the Hoonah-Angoon Census Area and the Municipality of Skagway in June 2007.

<sup>5</sup> The Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area became the Petersburg Census Area and Wrangell City and Borough in May 2008.

The Denali Borough (+86) and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+31) had slight gains. In the Fairbanks North Star Borough, natural increase (+1,543) was exceeded by net out-migration (-2,987). The net out-migration was mostly military and dependents associated with the loss of a fighter wing at Eielson Air Force Base.

## Places

A place is an incorporated city (municipalities and city-boroughs fall into this category), Census Designated Place (a closely settled unincorporated population center) or an Alaska Native Village Statistical Area (the settled area associated with each Alaska Native Village).

| Change    |           |           | Average Annual Rate of Change |           |           | Natural Increase (Births minus Deaths) | Net Migration (In minus Out) | Natural Increase (Births minus Deaths) | Net Migration (In minus Out) |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 2007-2008 | 2000-2008 | 1990-2000 | 2007-2008                     | 2000-2008 | 1990-2000 | 2007-2008                              | 2007-2008                    | 2000-2008 <sup>1</sup>                 | 2000-2008 <sup>1</sup>       |
| 5,210     | 52,789    | 76,888    | 0.8%                          | 1.0%      | 1.3%      | 7,770                                  | -2,560                       | 59,828                                 | -7,039                       |
| 5,435     | 47,904    | 53,584    | 1.5%                          | 1.7%      | 1.8%      | 3,959                                  | 1,476                        | 31,139                                 | 16,765                       |
| 2,619     | 24,711    | 33,945    | 0.9%                          | 1.1%      | 1.4%      | 3,098                                  | -479                         | 25,578                                 | -867                         |
| 2,816     | 23,193    | 19,639    | 3.5%                          | 4.0%      | 4.0%      | 861                                    | 1,955                        | 5,561                                  | 17,632                       |
| 687       | 2,077     | 9,736     | 0.9%                          | 0.3%      | 1.4%      | 500                                    | 187                          | 4,656                                  | -2,579                       |
| 869       | 3,299     | 8,889     | 1.7%                          | 0.8%      | 2.0%      | 292                                    | 577                          | 2,717                                  | 582                          |
| -122      | -540      | 604       | -0.9%                         | -0.5%     | 0.4%      | 137                                    | -259                         | 1,314                                  | -1,854                       |
| -60       | -682      | 243       | -0.6%                         | -0.8%     | 0.2%      | 71                                     | -131                         | 625                                    | -1,307                       |
| -1,390    | 7,004     | 5,306     | -1.3%                         | 0.8%      | 0.6%      | 1,686                                  | -3,076                       | 11,204                                 | -4,200                       |
| 86        | -45       | 129       | 4.8%                          | -0.3%     | 0.7%      | 18                                     | 68                           | 127                                    | -172                         |
| -1,444    | 7,056     | 5,120     | -1.6%                         | 1.0%      | 0.6%      | 1,543                                  | -2,987                       | 10,245                                 | -3,189                       |
| 31        | 834       | 261       | 0.4%                          | 1.5%      | 0.4%      | 87                                     | -56                          | 527                                    | 307                          |
| -63       | -841      | -204      | -1.1%                         | -1.7%     | -0.3%     | 38                                     | -101                         | 305                                    | -1,146                       |
| 74        | -177      | 3,409     | 0.3%                          | -0.1%     | 1.5%      | 484                                    | -410                         | 3,508                                  | -3,685                       |
| 34        | 303       | 908       | 0.4%                          | 0.4%      | 1.0%      | 179                                    | -145                         | 1,285                                  | -982                         |
| -5        | -679      | 1,406     | -0.1%                         | -1.2%     | 2.1%      | 132                                    | -137                         | 1,098                                  | -1,777                       |
| 45        | 199       | 1,095     | 0.6%                          | 0.3%      | 1.6%      | 173                                    | -128                         | 1,125                                  | -926                         |
| 231       | -3,880    | 4,093     | 0.3%                          | -0.7%     | 0.6%      | 486                                    | -255                         | 4,099                                  | -7,979                       |
| 64        | -82       | 275       | 2.8%                          | -0.4%     | 1.2%      | 7                                      | 57                           | 34                                     | -116                         |
| 293       | -284      | 3,960     | 1.0%                          | -0.1%     | 1.4%      | 207                                    | 86                           | 2,070                                  | -2,354                       |
| -96       | -1,066    | 231       | -0.7%                         | -1.0%     | 0.2%      | 104                                    | -200                         | 778                                    | -1,844                       |
| 61        | -797      | -121      | 1.1%                          | -1.7%     | -0.2%     | 54                                     | 7                            | 338                                    | -1,135                       |
| 13        | -220      | 247       | 0.2%                          | -0.3%     | 0.3%      | 66                                     | -53                          | 556                                    | -776                         |
| -40       | -490      | -244      | -1.3%                         | -1.9%     | -0.7%     | 27                                     | -67                          | 129                                    | -619                         |
| -45       | -474      | -832      | -2.1%                         | -2.5%     | -1.5%     | ---                                    | ---                          | ---                                    | ---                          |
| 5         | -16       | 154       | 0.6%                          | -0.2%     | 2.2%      | ---                                    | ---                          | ---                                    | ---                          |
| -38       | -725      | -358      | -0.6%                         | -1.4%     | -0.5%     | 18                                     | -56                          | 166                                    | -891                         |
| ---       | -413      | ---       | ---                           | -1.2%     | ---       | ---                                    | ---                          | ---                                    | ---                          |
| ---       | -336      | ---       | ---                           | -1.8%     | ---       | ---                                    | ---                          | ---                                    | ---                          |
| -26       | -216      | 103       | -4.3%                         | -3.7%     | 1.4%      | 3                                      | -29                          | 28                                     | -244                         |
| 173       | -139      | 760       | 0.4%                          | 0.0%      | 0.2%      | 655                                    | -482                         | 5,222                                  | -5,361                       |
| -90       | 2         | 233       | -3.3%                         | 0.0%      | 0.9%      | 15                                     | -105                         | 102                                    | -100                         |
| -54       | -1,026    | -4,013    | -1.2%                         | -2.5%     | -5.4%     | 22                                     | -76                          | 216                                    | -1,242                       |
| 185       | 894       | 2,390     | 1.1%                          | 0.7%      | 1.6%      | 357                                    | -172                         | 2,766                                  | -1,872                       |
| -1        | -229      | -152      | -0.1%                         | -2.4%     | -1.1%     | 3                                      | -4                           | 61                                     | -290                         |
| 2         | -151      | 910       | 0.0%                          | -0.4%     | 2.0%      | 82                                     | -80                          | 522                                    | -673                         |
| 21        | -271      | 155       | 1.4%                          | -1.9%     | 0.9%      | 13                                     | 8                            | 93                                     | -364                         |
| 110       | 642       | 1,237     | 1.4%                          | 1.1%      | 1.9%      | 163                                    | -53                          | 1,462                                  | -820                         |

<sup>6</sup> The 2000 population reflects the incorporated area, which is greater than the 2000 census area population.

<sup>7</sup> No adjustment has been made to the 2000 population shown here for the Wrangell City and Borough incorporation (25 people).

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

state's population in 2008 with its population of 284,994; that percentage was up slightly from 41.5 percent in 2000.

The larger Anchorage/Mat-Su region accounted for 54.1 percent of Alaska's population in 2008 with its population of 367,509; that percentage was up from 51.0 percent in 2000.

The 15 places with populations greater than 2,000 in 2008 that had average annual growth rates above 2.0 percent during the 2000-2008 period include the Knik-Fairview Census Designated Place (+7.2 percent), Fishhook CDP (+5.5 percent), Meadow Lakes CDP (+4.7 percent), Tanaina CDP (+4.4 percent), Deltana CDP (+4.2 percent), Homer city (+3.8 percent), Gateway CDP (+3.6 percent), North Pole city (+3.5 percent), Wasilla city (+3.3 percent), Willow CDP (+3.1 percent), Butte CDP (+2.9 percent), Kalifornsky CDP (+2.7 percent), Lakes CDP (+2.5 percent), Palmer city (+2.5 percent) and Big Lake CDP (+2.3 percent).

Alaska had 38 places with populations of more than 2,000 in the year 2008 (see Exhibit 4), and 23 of them were incorporated cities or city-boroughs. Thirty-five places in Alaska had populations of more than 2,000 in the year 2000.

The Municipality of Anchorage continued to dominate the state. It represented 41.9 percent of the

Eleven of the top 15 places that experienced the most rapid growth between 2000 and 2008 are in the Mat-Su Borough.

Indeed, if the 11 were to incorporate now, three places in the Mat-Su Borough would be larger than Wasilla city. Knik-Fairview would become the fourth-largest city in the state.

# 4 Places with More Than 2,000 People Alaska, 2000 to 2008

|   | Vintage 2008 Population Estimates |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | April 1,<br>2000<br>Census | 2000-<br>2008<br>Change | Average<br>Annual<br>Rate of<br>Change<br>2000-<br>2008 |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
|   | 2008<br>Estimate                  | 2007<br>Estimate | 2006<br>Estimate | 2005<br>Estimate | 2004<br>Estimate | 2003<br>Estimate | 2002<br>Estimate | 2001<br>Estimate |                            |                         |   |
| Anchorage, Municipality of                  | 284,994                           | 282,375          | 282,722          | 277,883          | 277,491          | 272,775          | 267,669          | 264,784          | 260,283                    | 24,711                  | 1.1%  |
| Juneau City and Borough                     | 30,427                            | 30,134           | 30,753           | 31,179           | 31,087           | 31,266           | 30,981           | 30,446           | 30,711                     | -284                    | -0.1%   |
| Fairbanks city                              | 30,367                            | 31,740           | 30,126           | 31,061           | 30,069           | 28,900           | 29,758           | 29,510           | 30,224                     | 143                     | 0.1%  |
| Knik-Fairview CDP                           | 12,989                            | 12,278           | 11,359           | 10,261           | 9,247            | 8,551            | 7,996            | 7,636            | 7,049                      | 5,940                   | 7.2%  |
| College CDP                                 | 12,456                            | 12,155           | 12,111           | 12,194           | 12,145           | 12,046           | 11,930           | 12,050           | 11,402                     | 1,054                   | 1.1%  |
| Sitka City and Borough                      | 8,615                             | 8,602            | 8,972            | 8,931            | 8,814            | 8,882            | 8,788            | 8,724            | 8,835                      | -220                    | -0.3%   |
| Lakes CDP                                   | 8,249                             | 8,086            | 7,957            | 7,749            | 7,470            | 7,036            | 6,922            | 6,811            | 6,706                      | 1,543                   | 2.5%  |
| Ketchikan city                              | 7,508                             | 7,629            | 7,624            | 7,673            | 7,702            | 7,970            | 8,369            | 8,455            | 7,922                      | -414                    | -0.7%   |
| Kalifornsky CDP                             | 7,312                             | 7,136            | 6,978            | 6,823            | 6,635            | 6,242            | 6,156            | 6,014            | 5,846                      | 1,466                   | 2.7%  |
| Tanaina CDP                                 | 7,218                             | 7,112            | 7,000            | 6,620            | 6,289            | 5,854            | 5,597            | 5,261            | 4,993                      | 2,225                   | 4.4%  |
| Wasilla city                                | 7,176                             | 6,912            | 6,471            | 6,359            | 6,137            | 6,374            | 5,944            | 5,514            | 5,469                      | 1,707                   | 3.3%  |
| Kenai city                                  | 7,134                             | 6,897            | 6,781            | 6,766            | 6,835            | 7,122            | 7,072            | 6,886            | 6,942                      | 192                     | 0.3%  |
| Meadow Lakes CDP                            | 7,106                             | 6,827            | 6,520            | 6,373            | 5,942            | 5,571            | 5,305            | 5,038            | 4,819                      | 2,287                   | 4.7%  |
| Kodiak city                                 | 5,974                             | 5,640            | 5,657            | 6,128            | 6,201            | 6,102            | 6,095            | 6,072            | 6,334                      | -360                    | -0.7%   |
| Bethel city <sup>1</sup>                    | 5,665                             | 5,621            | 5,797            | 5,953            | 5,865            | 5,879            | 5,736            | 5,458            | 5,471                      | 194                     | 0.4%  |
| Palmer city                                 | 5,559                             | 5,407            | 5,432            | 5,298            | 5,214            | 5,256            | 4,834            | 4,579            | 4,533                      | 1,026                   | 2.5%  |
| Homer city <sup>2</sup>                     | 5,390                             | 5,442            | 5,429            | 5,392            | 5,347            | 5,872            | 5,532            | 4,068            | 3,946                      | 1,444                   | 3.8%  |
| Sterling CDP                                | 5,134                             | 5,121            | 5,046            | 4,979            | 4,917            | 4,874            | 4,777            | 4,754            | 4,705                      | 429                     | 1.1%  |
| Nikiski CDP                                 | 4,406                             | 4,324            | 4,202            | 4,189            | 4,287            | 4,347            | 4,359            | 4,361            | 4,327                      | 79                      | 0.2%  |
| Soldotna city                               | 4,061                             | 3,890            | 3,754            | 3,793            | 3,773            | 3,997            | 3,849            | 3,791            | 3,759                      | 302                     | 0.9%  |
| Barrow city <sup>1</sup>                    | 4,054                             | 4,027            | 4,059            | 4,174            | 4,362            | 4,405            | 4,432            | 4,441            | 4,581                      | -527                    | -1.5%   |
| Gateway CDP                                 | 3,996                             | 3,998            | 3,854            | 3,680            | 3,559            | 3,296            | 3,213            | 3,119            | 2,952                      | 1,044                   | 3.6%  |
| Valdez city                                 | 3,635                             | 3,572            | 3,670            | 3,745            | 3,714            | 3,890            | 3,949            | 3,825            | 4,036                      | -401                    | -1.3%   |
| Nome city                                   | 3,570                             | 3,474            | 3,533            | 3,506            | 3,476            | 3,411            | 3,479            | 3,483            | 3,505                      | 65                      | 0.2%  |
| Unalaska city <sup>1</sup>                  | 3,551                             | 3,648            | 4,025            | 4,295            | 4,360            | 4,368            | 4,033            | 4,249            | 4,283                      | -732                    | -2.3%   |
| Butte CDP                                   | 3,262                             | 3,191            | 3,195            | 3,109            | 2,972            | 2,917            | 2,783            | 2,736            | 2,561                      | 701                     | 2.9%  |
| Fishhook CDP                                | 3,230                             | 3,080            | 2,940            | 2,793            | 2,641            | 2,347            | 2,242            | 2,190            | 2,030                      | 1,200                   | 5.5%  |
| Big Lake CDP                                | 3,191                             | 3,140            | 3,076            | 2,979            | 2,924            | 2,886            | 2,703            | 2,613            | 2,635                      | 556                     | 2.3%  |
| Kotzebue city <sup>1</sup>                  | 3,126                             | 3,115            | 3,097            | 3,118            | 3,137            | 3,066            | 3,072            | 3,058            | 3,082                      | 44                      | 0.2%  |
| Petersburg city                             | 3,009                             | 3,036            | 3,118            | 3,150            | 3,128            | 3,077            | 3,154            | 3,223            | 3,224                      | -215                    | -0.8%   |
| Eielson Air Force Base CDP                  | 2,858                             | 4,244            | 4,371            | 4,547            | 4,674            | 4,429            | 5,837            | 5,149            | 5,400                      | -2,542                  | -7.5%   |
| Seward city                                 | 2,619                             | 2,645            | 2,589            | 2,594            | 2,542            | 2,742            | 2,754            | 2,758            | 2,830                      | -211                    | -0.9%   |
| Dillingham city <sup>1</sup>                | 2,347                             | 2,399            | 2,400            | 2,367            | 2,403            | 2,382            | 2,467            | 2,461            | 2,466                      | -119                    | -0.6%   |
| Deltana CDP                                 | 2,233                             | 2,189            | 1,924            | 1,899            | 1,738            | 1,705            | 1,667            | 1,652            | 1,570                      | 663                     | 4.2%  |
| Cordova city (including Eyak <sup>1</sup> ) | 2,161                             | 2,176            | 2,234            | 2,287            | 2,296            | 2,288            | 2,302            | 2,382            | 2,454                      | -293                    | -1.5%   |
| Willow CDP                                  | 2,142                             | 2,041            | 1,959            | 1,895            | 1,860            | 1,812            | 1,718            | 1,666            | 1,658                      | 484                     | 3.1%  |
| Wrangell City and Borough                   | 2,112                             | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---              | 2,448                      | -336                    | -1.8%   |
| North Pole city                             | 2,099                             | 1,973            | 1,644            | 1,598            | 1,527            | 1,600            | 1,600            | 1,468            | 1,570                      | 529                     | 3.5%  |

#### Notes:

The U.S. Census Bureau provided the census numbers.

All estimates represent July 1 of that year unless stated otherwise.

CDP is an abbreviation for Census Designated Place.

<sup>1</sup> Alaska Native Village Statistical Area

<sup>2</sup> Homer had a substantial annexation in 2002.

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

The remaining four of the 15 rapidly growing places are the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Kalifornsky CDP and Homer city,<sup>2</sup> the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area's Deltana CDP and the Fairbanks North Star Borough's North Pole city.

Outside the Anchorage/Mat-Su region, a majority of the communities have flat or declining populations.

<sup>2</sup> Homer's growth is largely due to its annexation of a substantial part of Diamond Ridge CDP and Miller Landing CDP in 2002.

Thirteen of the places that had more than 2,000 people in 2000 have declined.

In fact, 198 (56 percent) of the 349 places in Alaska had either zero gains or population losses between 2000 and 2008. That includes five of the largest communities on the list of places with more than 2,000 people in 2000: the Juneau City and Borough (-0.1 percent), Sitka City and Borough (-0.3 percent), Ketchikan city (-0.7 percent), Kodiak city (-0.7 percent) and Barrow city (-1.5 percent).

The larger places that declined an average by more than 1.0 percent each year during the 2000-2008 period were the Eielson Air Force Base CDP (-7.5 percent), Unalaska city (-2.3 percent), Wrangell City and Borough (-1.8 percent), Cordova city (-1.5 percent), Barrow city (-1.5 percent), and Valdez city (-1.3 percent).

*Population estimates are available on Research and Analysis' Web site at [laborstats.alaska.gov](http://laborstats.alaska.gov). Click on "Population & Census" on the left and pull down to "Estimates & Projections." Then, toward the middle of the page, click on "Alaska Population Estimates 2000-2008," and then "Vintage 2008 Estimates."*

## A Safety Minute

### June is Alaska's Safety Month

Governor Sarah Palin has proclaimed June as "Safety Month in Alaska" to coincide with the National Safety Council's annual campaign.

The summer months are active times at work and play for most Alaskans – and it's a good time to focus more attention on safety. Alaska's construction, tourism, hospitality and retail industries see big increases during the summer and it's extremely important to make sure that everyone – including seasonal workers – is trained on proper safety procedures.

Summer driving increases during Alaska's long days and that can be particularly hazardous with more motorists and more distractions.

One increasingly common distraction is talking on a cell phone while driving.

Cell phone use while driving and other forms of distracted driving account for 80 percent of all crashes, according to the nonprofit National Safety Council.

Drivers using cell phones are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves, according to a 2005 study of 500 Australian drivers who ended up in emergency rooms, published in the *British Medical Journal*.

The Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles driver's manual warns: "The use of cell phones, eating, grooming, playing the radio or CD player extremely loud, or other activities while driving contributes to crashes."

The next time you're driving and reach to answer your cell phone, think about pulling over to talk instead.

Wearing seat belts is also critical for safety. Alaska law requires drivers and their passengers to wear seat belts, or, if the passengers are age 8 or younger, to be in booster or car seats. The Alaska Legislature made ignoring the seat belt law a primary offense in 2006, meaning police can pull over motorists for not wearing seat belts.

Water safety is important too. Accidents on the water are a leading problem in Alaska and by simply wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life preserver, many tragedies can be avoided this summer.

Your thoughtfulness and positive attitude toward improving safety will set the example for Alaska's future generations.

*For a cost-free evaluation of your work site, contact the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Consultation and Training Section at (800) 656-4972. AKOSH is within the Labor Standards and Safety Division.*