

# 1993 Population Estimates for Alaska

by Greg Williams

The Alaska Department of Labor recently released estimates for places, boroughs and census areas for 1993. Almost all areas of the state grew in population between 1990 and 1993. These estimates will be published in the next edition of *Alaska Population Overview*.

Greg Williams is the state demographer with the Research & Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. He is located in Juneau.

Table 1 shows the populations, rates of change, natural increase and migration trends. Almost all of Alaska's twenty-seven census areas have gained population since the 1990 census. Between 1990 and 1993 the greatest overall growth occurred in Anchorage (21,958), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (6,253), Fairbanks North Star Borough (4,708), Kenai Peninsula Borough (3,609) and Juneau Borough (2,071). Only the new Yakutat Borough (-14) lost population over the 1990-93 period. The fastest average annual rates of growth occurred in Haines Borough (4.97%), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (4.49%), Kodiak Island Borough (3.70%), North Slope Borough (3.70%), Wade Hampton Census Area (3.51%), and Bristol Bay Borough (3.42%). While Anchorage accounted for 41.4% of the state's population in 1993, it accounted for 44.7% of the population growth since 1990.

In the years 1990-93, Alaska gained 49,157 persons. Migration accounted for 37.5% (18,426) of the growth; natural increase 62.5%. In general, in the Northern, Interior and Southwestern regions of the state growth was almost completely through natural increase (births minus deaths). The areas that gained the most through migration were Anchorage Borough (8,727), Matanuska-Susitna Borough (4,505), Kenai Peninsula Borough (1,731), Kodiak Island Borough (886), Juneau Borough (808), and Ketchikan Gate-

way Borough (509). The areas that lost population through migration were Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (-203), Nome Census Area (-161), Bethel Census Area (-179), Aleutians West Census Area (-67), Yakutat Borough (-35) and Northwest Arctic Borough (-29). In general, people moved out of the more rural areas of the state. The Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna, Gulf Coast and Southeast Regions show the strongest gains through migration. Military cutbacks have slowed the growth of Fairbanks North Star Borough and Aleutians West Census Area (Adak).

Table 2 shows populations and rank of Alaska cities over 1,000 population. Alaska had twenty-six cities with over 1,000 persons in 1993. Over half (58%) of these cities are in the 3-4,000 range. None lost population between 1990 and 1993. The greatest numerical growth since 1990 occurred in Anchorage (21,958), Fairbanks (2,438), Juneau (2,071), Unalaska (1,228), and Kodiak (1,063). The highest average annual rates of growth were found in Unalaska (10.2%), Cordova (6.37% mostly through a large annexation), Haines (6.31%), Craig (5.59%), Kodiak (4.74%), Barrow (4.27%) and Sand Point (4.06%). In addition, there are another fifteen unincorporated communities with populations over 1,000: College (12,429), Sterling (4,550), Adak Station (4,017), Eielson AFB (3,787), Nikiski (2,954), Meadow Lakes (2,948), Butte (2,154), Kodiak Station (2,016), Big Lake (1,738), Fritz Creek (1,611), Metlakatla (1,527), Fort Greely (1,134), Tok (1,088), Salamatof (1,019), and Anchor Point (1,016). Almost 75% of the population of Alaska lived in communities of over 1,000 persons in 1993.

### Population for Boroughs and Census Areas by Labor Market Regions 1990-1993

Labor Market Area	July 1 1993 Population Estimate	Change 1990-93	Average Annual Rate of Change 1990-93	Natural Increase 1990-93	Net Migration 1990-93	Census Count April 1 1990
STATE OF ALASKA	599,200	49,157	2.63	30,731	18,426	550,043
Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna Region	294,232	28,211	3.10	14,979	13,232	266,021
Anchorage Borough	248,296	21,958	2.85	13,231	8,727	226,338
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	45,936	6,253	4.49	1,748	4,505	39,683
Gulf Coast Region	70,071	6,008	2.76	3,064	2,944	64,063
Kenai Peninsula Borough	44,411	3,609	2.61	1,878	1,731	40,802
Kodiak Island Borough	15,012	1,703	3.70	817	886	13,309
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	10,648	696	2.08	369	327	9,952
Interior Region	97,370	5,259	1.71	5,333	-74	92,111
Denali Borough	1,941	144	2.37	53	91	1,797
Fairbanks North Star Borough	82,428	4,708	1.81	4,707	1	77,720
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	6,194	281	1.43	244	37	5,913
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	6,807	126	0.57	329	-203	6,681
Northern Region	22,137	1,757	2.54	1,651	106	20,380
Nome Census Area	8,763	475	1.71	636	-161	8,288
North Slope Borough	6,743	764	3.70	468	296	5,979
Northwest Arctic Borough	6,631	518	2.50	547	-29	6,113
Southeast Region	74,181	5,192	2.23	2,884	2,308	68,989
Haines Borough	2,489	372	4.97	40	332	2,117
Juneau Borough	28,822	2,071	2.29	1,263	808	26,751
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	14,923	1,095	2.34	586	509	13,828
Prince Of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	6,923	645	3.01	268	377	6,278
Sitka Borough	9,052	464	1.62	385	79	8,588
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	3,813	133	1.09	100	33	3,680
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	7,468	426	1.81	221	205	7,042
Yakutat Borough	691	-14	-0.62	21	-35	705
Southwest Region	41,303	2,824	2.18	2,820	4	38,479
Aleutians East Borough	2,569	105	1.28	58	47	2,464
Aleutians West Census Area	9,849	371	1.18	438	-67	9,478
Bethel Census Area	14,635	979	2.13	1,158	-179	13,656
Bristol Bay Borough	1,576	166	3.42	56	110	1,410
Dillingham Census Area	4,356	344	2.53	330	14	4,012
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1,827	159	2.80	127	32	1,668
Wade Hampton Census Area	6,491	700	3.51	653	47	5,791

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section, Demographics Unit.

## Alaska Cities by Size 1990-1993

City	July 1 1993 Population Estimate	City Rank 1993	April 1 1990 Census Population	City Rank 1990	Change 1990-93	Average Annual Percent Growth
Anchorage city/borough	248,296	1	226,338	1	21,958	2.85
Fairbanks city	33,281	2	30,843	2	2,438	2.34
Juneau city/borough	28,822	3	26,751	3	2,071	2.29
Sitka city/borough	9,052	4	8,588	4	464	1.62
Ketchikan city	8,846	5	8,263	5	583	2.10
Kodiak city	7,428	6	6,365	6	1,063	4.74
Kenai city	6,813	7	6,327	7	486	2.28
Bethel city	5,009	8	4,674	8	335	2.13
Wasilla city	4,381	9	4,028	10	353	2.58
Valdez city	4,339	10	4,068	9	271	1.98
Unalaska city	4,317	11	3,089	16	1,228	10.20
Barrow city	3,986	12	3,469	14	517	4.27
Homer city	3,885	13	3,660	11	225	1.84
Soldotna city	3,809	14	3,482	13	327	2.76
Nome city	3,618	15	3,500	12	118	1.02
Petersburg city	3,419	16	3,207	15	212	1.97
Palmer city	3,205	17	2,866	17	339	3.44
Kotzebue city	3,004	18	2,751	18	253	2.71
Seward city	2,732	19	2,699	19	33	0.37
Wrangell city	2,659	20	2,479	20	180	2.16
Cordova city	2,597	21	2,110	21	487	6.37
Dillingham city	2,200	22	2,017	22	183	2.67
Haines city	1,521	23	1,238	15	283	6.31
Craig city	1,512	24	1,260	24	252	5.59
North Pole city	1,502	25	1,456	23	46	0.96
Sand Point city	1,002	26	878	26	124	4.06

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section, Demographics Unit.