

# Methods for the PFD-Based Migration Data (Vintage 2016)

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Research and Analysis Section

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## **Introduction**

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section (AKDOL), prepares data each year on migration of applicants for the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD), based on applicant-reported physical addresses. The annual 2000 to 2016 data on migration between boroughs and census areas, and to and from cities and census designated places (places), are not adjusted for births and deaths<sup>1</sup>. New data on migration by age and sex for each borough and census area are adjusted for births and deaths, and are provided in five-year average annual amounts for 2000 to 2005, 2005 to 2010, and 2010 to 2015.

It's important to note that for PFD eligibility, applicants must meet several criteria, including residence in Alaska for the previous calendar year, or birth in Alaska in the previous calendar year<sup>2</sup>. It can take up to two years for an individual who moves to Alaska to meet this eligibility requirement, and PFD-based in-migration of new applicants can be significantly lagged from when they actually arrived in the state. Further, PFD-based migration data won't capture people who don't live in the state long enough to qualify for a PFD, and no adjustments are made for people who did not apply in a given year for a reason other than their place of residence.

## **PFD-Based Total Migration between Boroughs and Census Areas**

First, physical addresses from PFD applicants are standardized and geographically coded (geocoded) by borough and census area<sup>3</sup>. Data on yearly change in borough or census area of each applicant are then tabulated. In-migrants to a given borough or census area are tabulated as (1) applicants who reported their residence in that borough or census area in the second year, by (2) their reported borough, census area, or did-not-apply in the first year. Out-migrants from a given borough or census area are tabulated as (1) applicants who reported their residence in that borough or census area in the first year, by (2) their reported borough, census area, or did-not-apply in the second year. New PFD applicants, including people who moved to Alaska as well as newborns, are tabulated together as new applicants, with no adjustment. Former PFD applicants, including people who moved from Alaska as well as those died, are tabulated together as former applicants, with no adjustment.

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<sup>1</sup> Previous PFD-based migration data releases of migration between boroughs and census areas included adjustments for births and deaths, as noted in the data files.

<sup>2</sup> For more information, visit the Alaska Department of Revenue's Permanent Fund Division website, [www.pfd.state.ak.us](http://www.pfd.state.ak.us).

<sup>3</sup> In addition to codes for each borough and census area, there is a code for applicants from out of state. Reference information for geographic boundaries that are used is provided with the data.

### **PFD-Based Total Migration To and From Cities and Places**

PFD-based migration to and from cities and places is tabulated similarly to migration between boroughs and census areas (see description above), but with different categorizations on where applicants migrated to or from. First, physical addresses from PFD applicants are standardized and geocoded by borough, census area, city, and place<sup>4</sup>. Then, for each borough, census area, city, and place, data on yearly change in location of applicants are tabulated in the following categories:

- Applicant stayed in the same location both years.
- Applicant moved in from another city or place within the same borough or census area (these are only listed as moves for the cities and places, and not for the boroughs or census areas).
- Applicant moved in from another borough or census area within the same economic region.
- Applicant moved in from outside the economic region but within Alaska.
- New to PFD (new PFD applicants, including people who moved to Alaska as well as newborns).
- Applicant moved out to another city or place within the same borough or census area (these are only listed as moves for the cities and places, and not for the boroughs or census areas).
- Applicant moved out to another borough or census area within the same economic region.
- Applicant moved outside the economic region but within Alaska.
- Left PFD (former PFD applicants, including people who moved from Alaska as well as deaths).

### **PFD-Based Migration by Age, Sex, Borough, and Census Area**

PFD-based migration by age and sex is estimated by using PFD applicant-reported date-of-birth and gender information along with the geocoded physical address data described above. Yearly PFD-based in-migrants for the state and each borough and census area are tabulated by July 1 age and sex for ages two or more<sup>5</sup>. Yearly PFD-based out-migrants from the state and each borough and census area are tabulated by July 1 age and sex for ages two or more, and adjusted for deaths by respective age, sex, and year<sup>6</sup>. Due to effects of differences in PFD-eligibility requirements between the newborns in the state and people who moved to the state, and to adjust for births, in- and out-migration data for newborns and one-year-olds are simply imputed with the respective data for two-year-olds.

The tabulations by age and sex are compiled into five-year age groups from 0 to 4 through 85 to 89, and into an open-ended age group for ages 90-plus. Annual averages are calculated for each five-year period, which greatly lessens the effect of different lags in applying for new migrants to the state. Finally, the statewide, borough, and census area in- and out-migration levels are proportionally adjusted to closely match both (1) statewide in- and out-migration levels, and (2) borough and census net-migration levels, from the latest available AKDOL population estimates<sup>7</sup> for each of the respective periods.

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<sup>4</sup> Tabulations for the remaining, non-city, non-census designated place parts of each borough and census area are provided as well, and listed as “balance of” in the data files.

<sup>5</sup> Age for statewide in-migrants is lagged to account for PFD eligibility wait.

<sup>6</sup> Data on deaths are provided by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health.

<sup>7</sup> Available online, at [live.laborstats.alaska.gov/pop](http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/pop).