

Population Trends in Southeast Alaska

Presentation for the Juneau Bar Association, Inc.

April 29, 2011

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

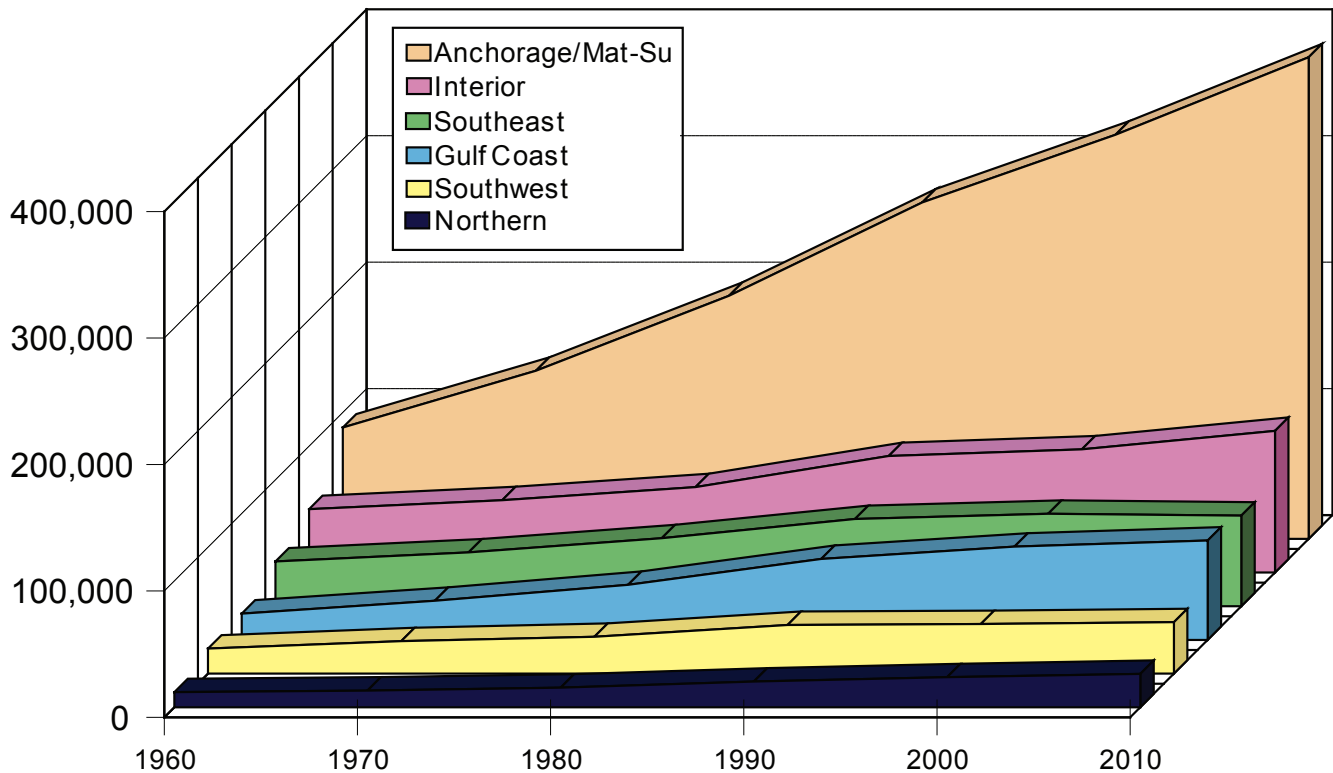
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**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

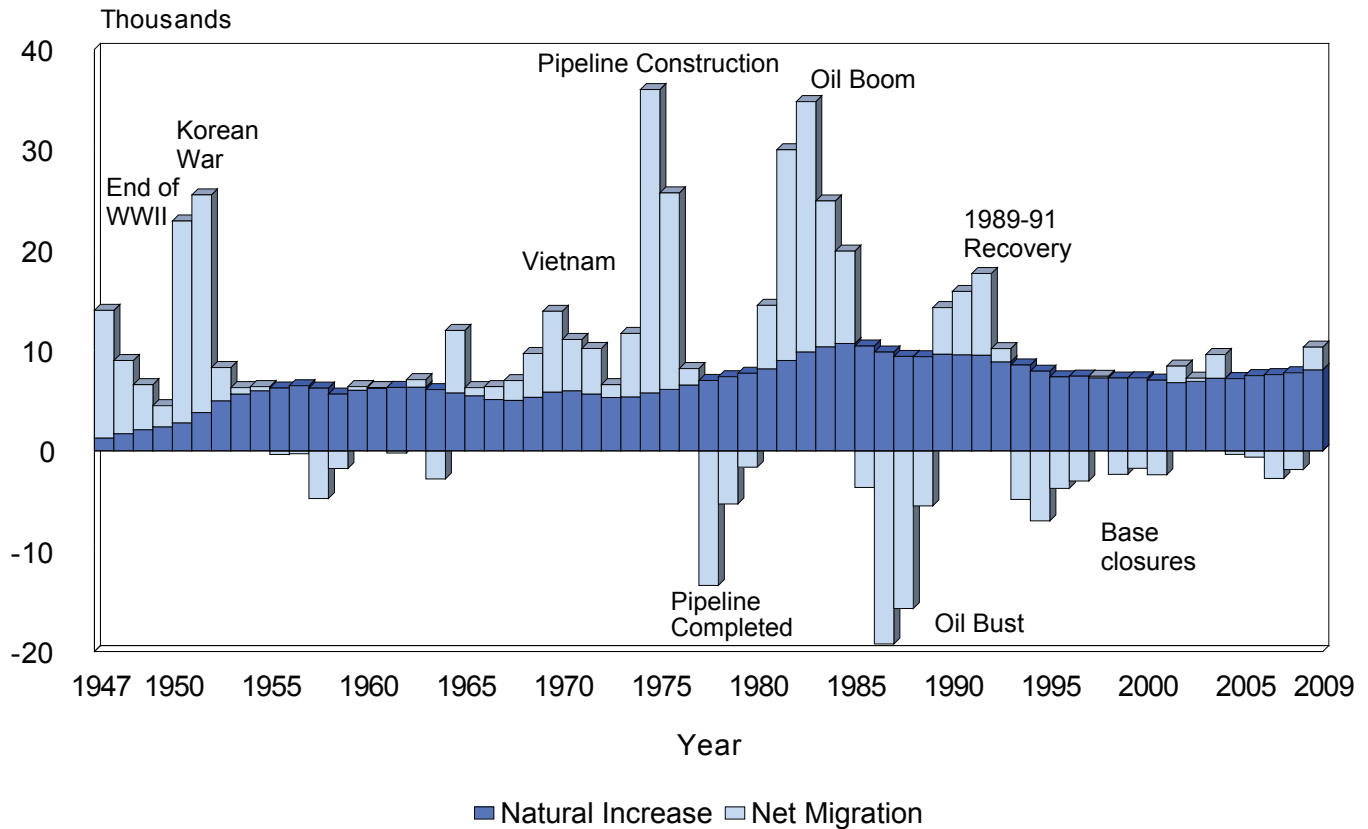
Alaska's Population by Economic Region, 1960 to 2010



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

- In 2010, the majority (or 53.6%) of Alaska's population resided in the Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna region, followed by the Interior (15.8%), Gulf Coast (11.1%), Southeast (10.1%), Southwest (5.7%), and Northern (3.7%) regions.
- The majority of the state's growth occurred from 2000-2010 in the Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna region, with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough experiencing the fastest rate of growth.
- The highest population density in Alaska in 2010 was in the Municipality of Anchorage with 171.97 persons per square mile, followed by Fairbanks North Star Borough at 13.25 persons per square mile, and City and Borough of Juneau with 11.51. The lowest density of people was found in the Interior, with the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area averaging less than 0.04 person per square mile.

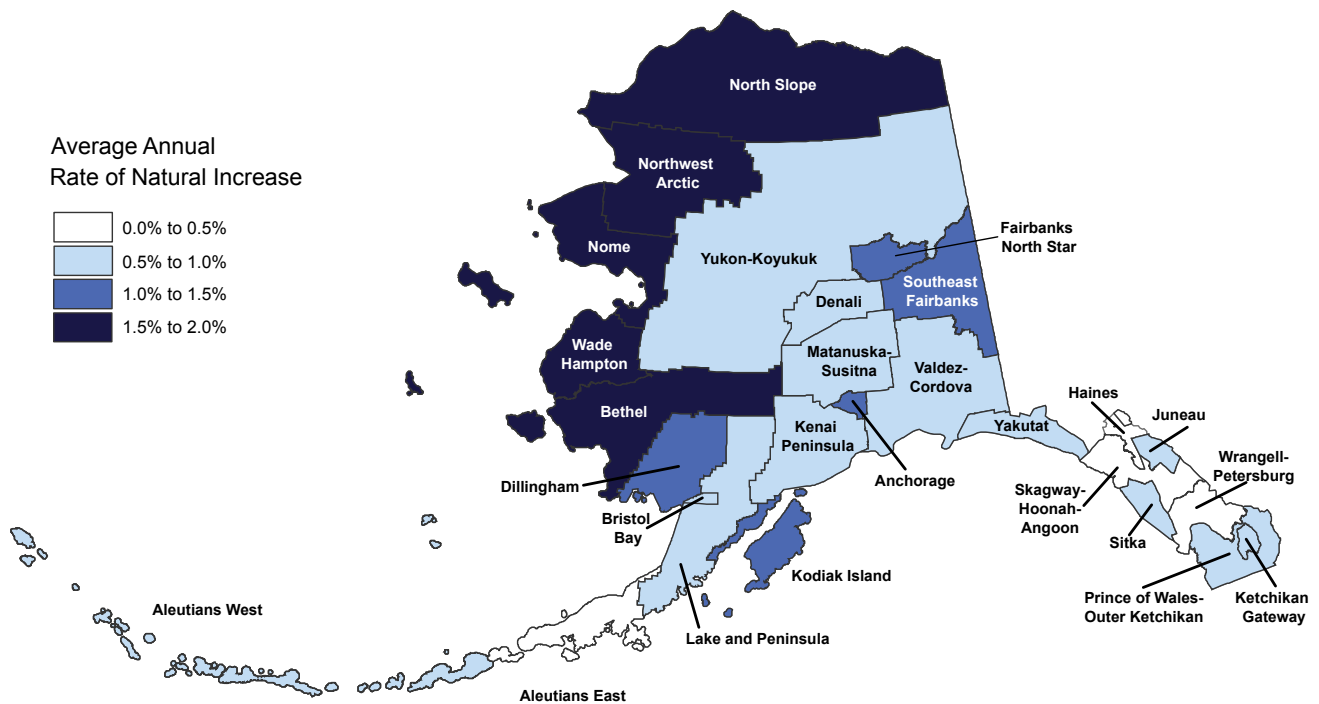
Alaska's Components of Population Change, 1947 to 2009



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

- Population change is made up of natural increase (births minus deaths) and migration.
- Natural increase is the fairly stable component of population change. In general, birth and death trends do not change quickly.
- Migration is the unstable component of population change in the state, often shifting dramatically from one year to the next. There is no typical migration trend for the state.
- The largest single numerical increase due to migration, 30,222 persons, occurred during pipeline construction in 1974-75. A severe economic recession led to the largest numerical loss, 19,245 out-migrants, in 1986-87 and was larger than the 13,414-person loss at the end of the pipeline construction in 1977-78.
- Alaska tends to have among the highest levels of migration to and from the state, and thus gross migration (total volume), of any state in the union.
- Even without counting the seasonal workforce, Alaska's gross migration was the third-highest of any state in 2008, the latest year of available data.
- Changes in migration to or from Alaska are more a result of the decline of migrants to Alaska than changes in out-migration.

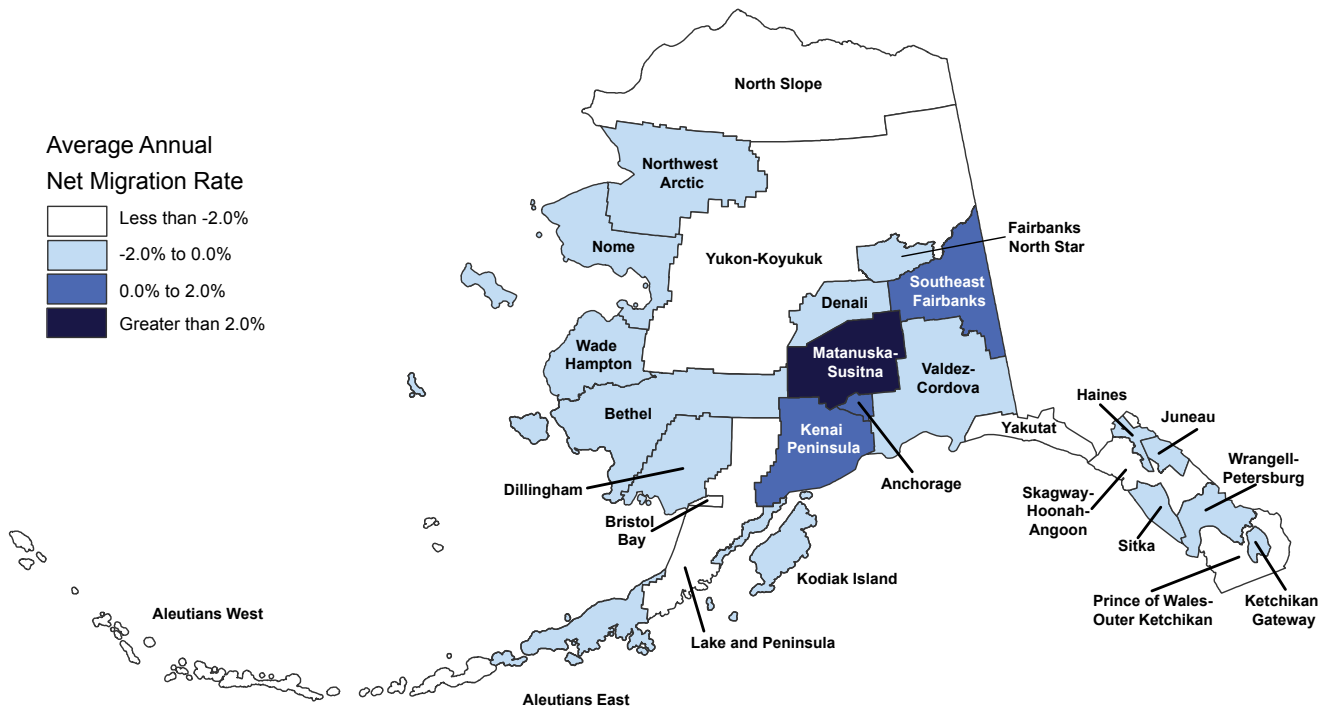
Alaska's Population Change: Natural Increase, 2000 to 2009



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

- Natural increase is the strongest and most stable component of growth in Alaska.
- Birth rates in the state were lowest along the Aleutian Chain and in Southeast Alaska, where 65 to 67 percent of the population is male, many of whom work in fishing or fish processing.
- The highest birth rates were in areas of the state with greater-than-average Native American populations.
- In Southeast, where the median age is the oldest in the state, lower-than-average birth rates were in Haines Borough (7.4 per 1,000), Skagway Municipality (8.2), Petersburg Census Area (9.4), City and Borough of Wrangell (9.6), City and Borough of Sitka (11.8), Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (12.7), City and Borough of Juneau (13.6), Ketchikan Gateway Borough (13.9), and City and Borough of Yakutat (16.4).
- Alaska's death rate was 4.9 per 1,000 people in 2008-2009.
- Below-average mortality rates for 2008-2009 were reported for four of Alaska's five largest urban areas: Fairbanks North Star Borough (3.9), City and Borough of Juneau (4.4), Municipality of Anchorage (4.5), and Matanuska-Susitna Borough (4.6).

Alaska's Population Change: Net Migration, 2000 to 2009



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

People migrate for many reasons:

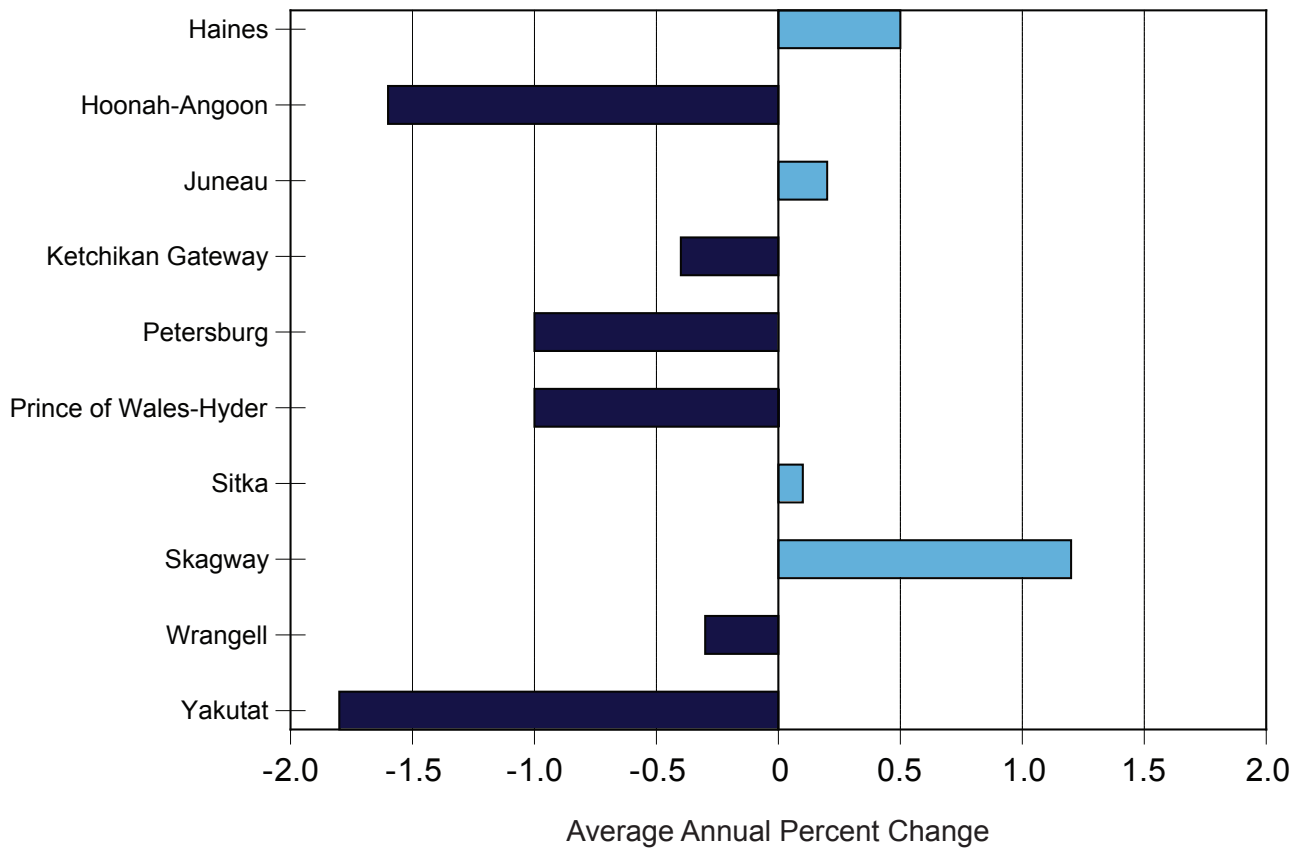
- Persons between 18 and 30, along with any young children belonging to young families, are universally the most mobile.
- The movement of persons in their late teens and early 20s is most frequently to seek post secondary education, enter military service, seek a first job, or accompany family members.
- Persons working in resource industries and fishing flow to and from the resource.
- “Military rotation” is a relatively constant migration flow that only changes as the Armed Forces are expanded or reduced in the state.
- A different pattern of migration is found in retirement, with flows going to states and counties popular as retirement locations.
- Depending on opportunities elsewhere, the local availability of employment and local environments may or may not compete with employment and communities elsewhere to attract migrants. Similarly, people may remain in a location even when employment opportunities may not exist.

These are some of the reasons population growth or decline may not necessarily match employment growth.

- Between 2000 and 2009, Matanuska-Susitna Borough (18,571), Municipality of Anchorage (1,203), Kenai Peninsula Borough (831), and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (471) grew through migration.

- The greatest numerical losses due to migration were in the City and Borough of Juneau (-2,399), Bethel Census Area (-2,159), Ketchikan Gateway Borough (-1,936), and North Slope Borough (-1,824).

Population Change in Southeast Alaska, 2000 to 2010

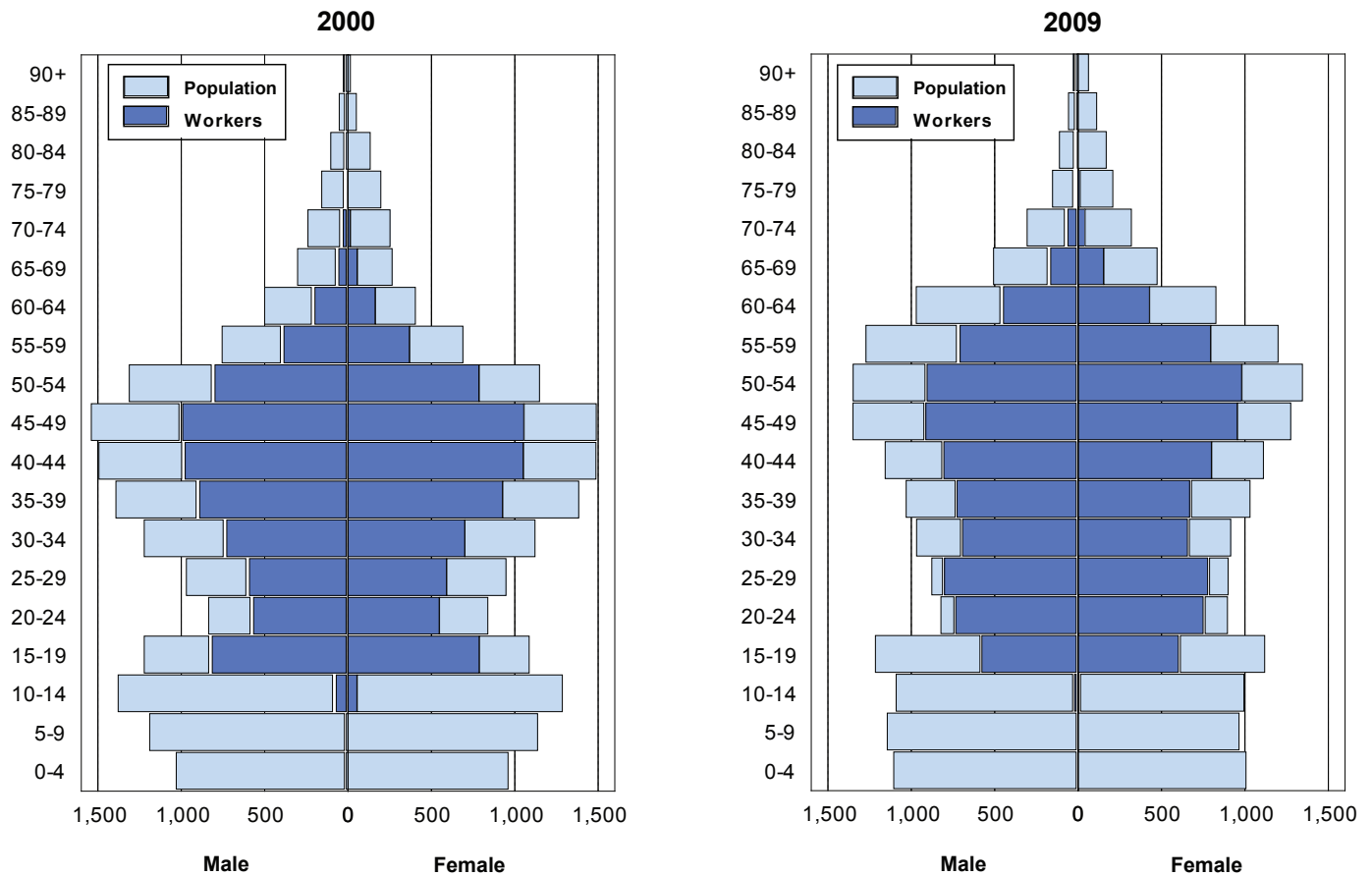


Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

- With net out-migration and an older population yielding lower-than-average birth rates, growth has varied for Southeast boroughs/census areas between 2000 and 2010.

- Losses through out-migration are expected to continue for City and Borough of Yakutat as well as Hoonah-Angoon, Petersburg, and Prince of Wales-Hyder census areas. The Municipality of Skagway, City and Borough of Juneau, and Haines Borough populations are expected to remain relatively stable in the future.

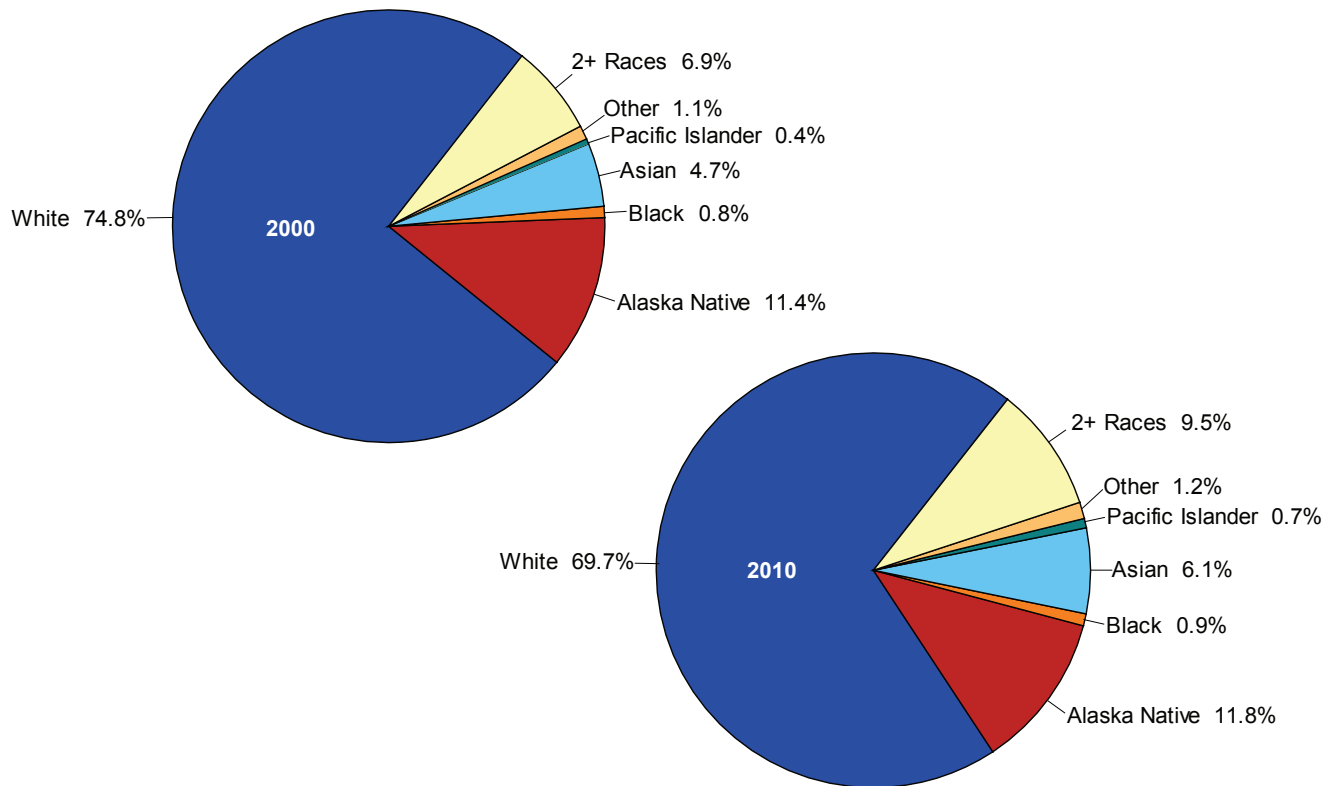
Juneau's Population and Resident Workers by Age and Sex, 2000 and 2009



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

- The pyramids above show Juneau's population and resident workers by age (older is higher) and sex (male on left, female on right).
- A population in the shape of a pyramid shows a younger population with a higher fertility rate. A population in the shape of a rectangle shows an older population with a replacement fertility rate. A population in the shape of an upside down pyramid denotes an older population with a low fertility rate.
- Juneau's fertility has been at replacement level (2.1 children per woman), leading to a more rectangular population pyramid.

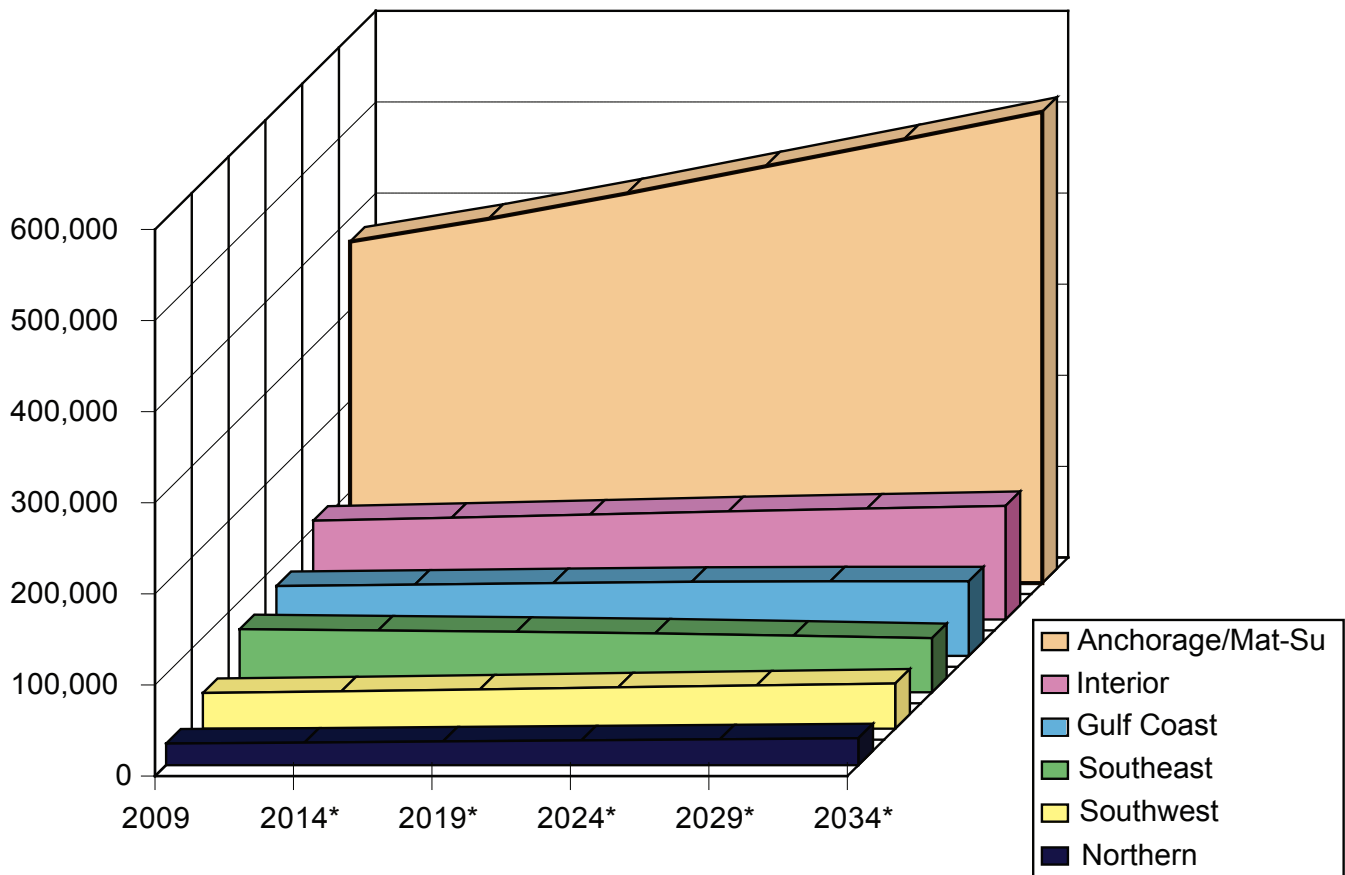
Juneau's Population by Race, 2000 and 2010



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

- Race reported by the 2000 and 2010 Census is self-defined. Starting in 2000, respondents could choose more than one race, resulting in the “2+ Races” category.
- Trending with the nation, Juneau’s majority (white) declined as a proportion of the population while the minority populations increased from 2000 to 2010.

Alaska's Population by Economic Region, 2009 to 2034



*Projected

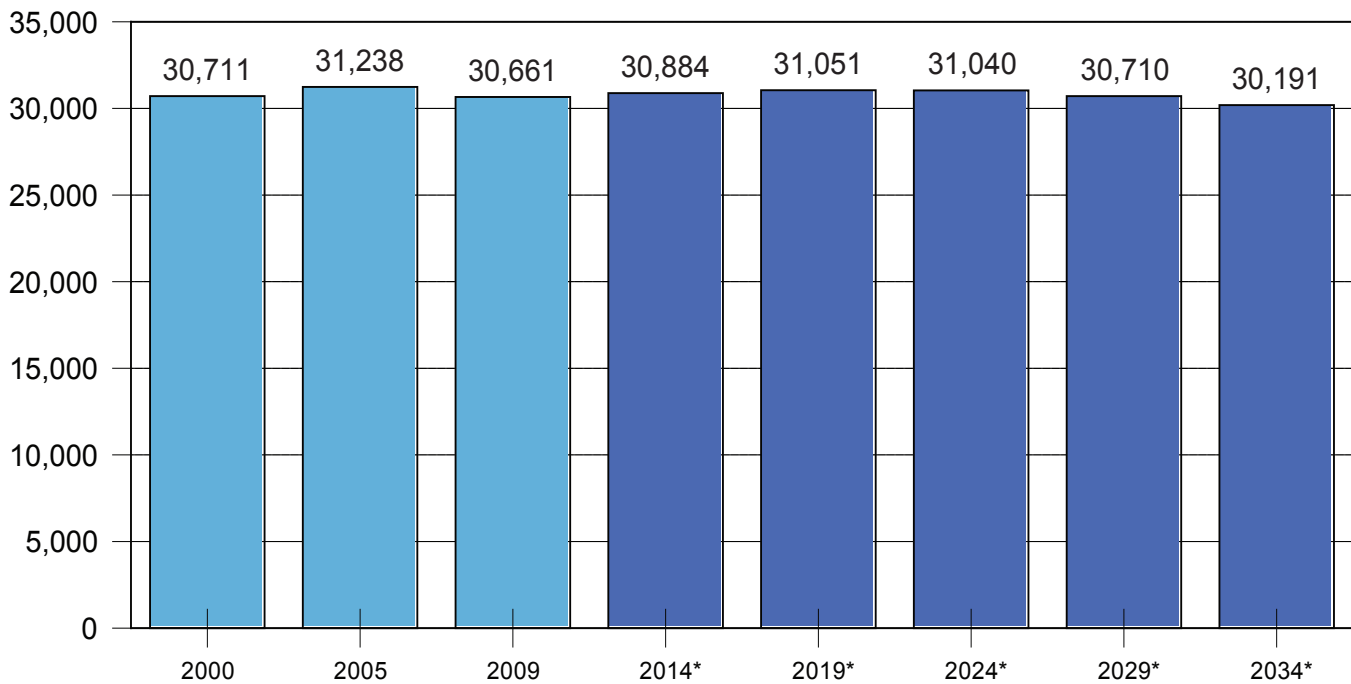
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

- The Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna region's population is projected to grow by more than 38.0 percent by 2034. Anchorage is expected to continue growing, following the state's rural-to-urban migration trend. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has grown dramatically throughout Alaska's history, and is expected to continue.
- The Gulf Coast region's population growth has moderated in recent years. The projections yield an increase, but trends could change significantly with future resource development.
- Alaska's Interior region has grown steadily in recent years. However, the future of the populations in Fairbanks North Star Borough and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area may greatly depend on the military. Assuming current trends

continue, the predicted increase for the Interior is 14.9 percent between 2009 and 2034.

- High birth rates in the Northern and Southwest regions are anticipated to outpace the projected out-migration, resulting in net growth in those regions. Projections show the Northern region gaining about 5,908 residents (a 25.0 percent increase), and the Southwest region adding 10,433 (a 26.6 percent increase).
- The only regional population expected to decline over the projection period is Southeast. Due to particularly low birth rates and the highest median age in the state, growth would require a sharp rise in net-migration. The future of Southeast is uncertain because of its dependence on future social and economic developments.

Juneau's Population, 2000 to 2034



*Projected

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

- Population change is likely to vary greatly across the state, following paths similar to the last decade. Regions and boroughs/census areas are more susceptible to the impact of migration than any other component of change because it includes intrastate and interstate migration.

Although applying recent trends of migration to regions and boroughs/census areas can predict growth or decline, it is possible these trends will change significantly across the state in the future. Migration depends on economic and social factors, making it less predictable.

- Research and Analysis continuously works to improve the projections, and we appreciate feedback. As more data become available, we will update the projections. Check our Web site for updates at: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov/>.