A Picture of Alaska's Population

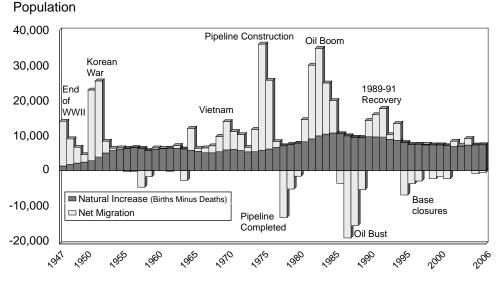
Statewide, borough and place populations for 2000 to 2006

laska's statewide population increased by 6.6 percent, or 42,520 people, from July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2006. That brought the newest statewide population estimate for Alaska to 670,520, based on estimates the U.S. Census Bureau released in December. Alaska's population gain was slightly faster than the nation's 5.9 percent growth rate for the same period. (See Exhibits 2 and 3.)

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development starts with the Census Bureau's annual estimates at the state level and decennial census numbers, then creates its own estimates uses various indicators of population change and

for a detailed count of Alaska's population. It characteristics, including Permanent Fund Divi-

Components of Population Change Alaska, 1947 to 2006



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

dend applications, military and other surveys, and birth and death statistics.

The State of Alaska

Alaska's population grew an average of 1.0 percent a year during the 2000-2006 period and 1.1 percent over the 2005-2006 period (July 1, 2005, to July 1, 2006). Alaska is still 47th in terms of population, larger than North Dakota, Vermont, the District of Columbia and Wyoming.

Population change is made up of two components: natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration (in-migration minus out-migration).

Currently, growth in Alaska as a whole is primarily through natural increase. The state's natural increase added 42,571 people during the 2000-2006 period, and net migration accounted for a loss of 51 people. During the 2005-2006 period, Alaska added 7,310 people through

> natural increase and lost 510 people to out-migration.

Alaska now adds about 7,300 people a year from natural increase. (See Exhibit 1.) That's a change from the early 1990s, when natural increase added an additional 9,600 people a year. The change is due to a gradual decline in fertility and a gradual increase in mortality, both of which are linked to an aging population.

About 35,000 people migrate to and from Alaska each year and the in- and out-migration tends to be

nearly equal. Alaska's net migration for the 2000-2006 period breaks down into a gain of 4,165 international migrants and a loss of 4,216 domestic migrants. For the 2005-2006 period, the state's net migration breaks down into a gain of 1,612 international migrants and a loss of 2,122 domestic migrants.

It's important to note that, because these estimates are for resident population, troops deployed overseas are counted as being in Alaska. That means the populations for the Municipality of Anchorage and Fairbanks North Star Borough, where Alaska's main military bases are located, or

other communities with a substantial National Guard presence, may be somewhat lower than the estimate depending on the current movement of military and National Guard personnel.

Boroughs and census areas

Alaska Department of Labor population estimates have also been released for Alaska's 27 boroughs and census areas,¹ and 347 occupied places throughout the state. (See Exhibits 5 and 6²).

Most of Alaska's boroughs and census areas have grown slowly or lost population between the April 1, 2000, Census and July 1, 2006. (The references to the 2000-2006 period in the rest of the article refer to the April 1, 2000, to July 1, 2006, period.) The largest population increases occurred in the Municipality of Anchorage (+22,530), Matanuska-Susitna Bor-

Annual Components of Population Change Alaska, 1990 to 2006

July 1	End of	Popu-	Average Annual	Ce	omponer	nts of Cha	Net Inter-	Net	
to June 30	Period Population	lation Change	Rate of Change	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Net Migrants	national Migrants ¹	Internal Migrants ²
1990	553,171	45.000	0.00	44.700	0.005	0.570	0.040		
1990-91	569,054	15,883	2.83	11,798	2,225	9,573	6,310		
1991-92 1992-93	586,722	17,668	3.06 1.72	11,744 11.347	2,214 2.477	9,530	8,138 1.314		
	596,906	10,184		, -	,	8,870	, -		
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	632,241	4,708	0.75	9,980	2,934	7,046	-2,338	1,058	-3,396
2001-02	640,544	8,303	1.30	9,892	3,075	6,817	1,486	169	1,317
2002-03	647,747	7,203	1.12	10,025	3,107	6,918	285	-1,728	2,013
2003-04	656,834	9,087	1.39	10,301	3.060	7,241	1,846	2,266	-420
2004-05	663,253	6,419	0.97	10.351	3,112	7,239	-820	788	-1,608
2005-06 ³	670,053	6,800	1.02	10,258	2,948	7,310	-510	1,612	-2,122

¹ Immigrants from outside the U.S.

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

ough (+17,852), Fairbanks North Star Borough (+5,009), Kenai Peninsula Borough (+1,659), Bethel Census Area (+985), Southeast Fairbanks Census Area (+598) and Wade Hampton Census Area (+525).

Of the 27 boroughs and census areas, only nine gained population in the 2000-2006 period, and 81 percent of that growth was in both the Municipality of Anchorage (45 percent) and the Mat-Su Borough (36 percent). The growth in both areas was due to a mix of natural increase and migration.

The Mat-Su Borough is still the fastest-growing area of the state, as it has been since 1990. It grew at a 4.2 percent average annual rate during the 2000-2006 period, which is comparable to its 4.0 percent annual growth rate during the 1990s. The Municipality of Anchorage, in comparison, grew an average 1.3 percent a year during the six-year period.

A substantial part of migration to Anchorage (a net gain of 3,435 people) came from other parts of Alaska during the six-year period.

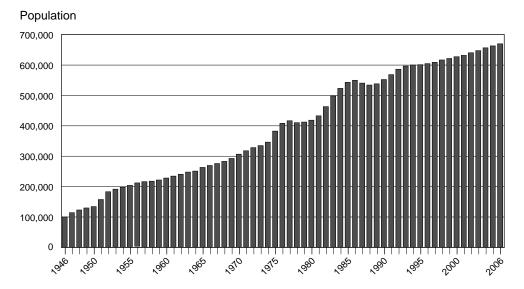
¹ Alaska is made up of 16 organized boroughs and 11 census areas (county or borough equivalents).

² Exhibit 6 shows population estimates for 35 of the state's 347 places. See Research and Analysis' Web site for estimates for the others. (The Web site address and directions are listed in italics at the end of this article.)

² Migrants to or from other U.S. states

³ Provisional estimate

Alaska Population Trends 1946 to 2006



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

The Mat-Su Borough was the only area of the state where growth came primarily from net in-migration – 79 percent of the borough's population increase in the 2000-2006 period (14,015 out of an increase of 17,852). Most of the people who moved to the Mat-Su Borough came from the Municipality of Anchorage.

The Mat-Su Borough, Municipality of Anchorage and Southeast Fairbanks Census Area were the only areas in the state where in-migration exceeded out-migration during the 2000-2006 period.

In the more recent 2005-2006 period, 63 percent of Anchorage's population increase was from natural increase (3,048 people, versus 1,785 from migration), and 75 percent of the Mat-Su Borough's population increase was due to migration (2,396 people, versus 767 due to natural increase).

All other boroughs and census areas lost population to out-migration between 2000 and 2006.

The Southeast region continued to have the largest overall decline, with a natural increase of 3,105 people and a net out-migration of 6,134 people. No area of Southeast had long-term growth over the six years.

In the 2005-2006 period, only the Haines Borough (+35) and Ketchikan Gateway Borough (+59) had slight gains. In all Southeast areas, with the exception of Haines, net out-migration was greater than natural increase.

As far as Southwest Alaska, migration out of the region in the 2000-2006 period (-3,718) was less than the natural increase (+3,929). A large part of Southwest's loss was accounted for by the Bethel Census Area. In every other area of Southwest, out-migration exceeded natural increase.

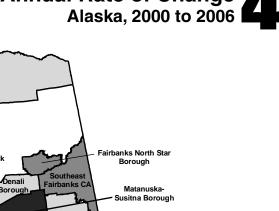
In the Northern region, the natural increase (+2,585) failed to keep up with out-migration (-2,698) in the six years.

In the Gulf Coast region, the natural increase (+3,596) kept ahead of out-migration (-2,784) for the 2000-2006 period. The Kodiak Island Borough had more net out-migration (-1,443) than natural increase (+1,036) and the Valdez-Cordova Census Area population declined as natural increase (+488) failed to match net out-migration (-928). The Kenai Peninsula Borough, however, grew through natural increase (+2,072) as opposed to net migration (-413).

During the more recent 2005-2006 period, the Valdez-Cordova Census Area and Kodiak Island Borough declined as out-migration exceeded natural increase. Natural increase for the Kenai Peninsula Borough (+354) exceeded out-migration (-195) for a slight population increase.

The Interior region's Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area grew in the 2000-2006 period – by 5,009 and 598, respectively – and that was largely due to natural increase. The Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (-650) and Denali Borough (-98) shrank as out-migration exceeded natural increase.

Valdez



Juneau City and Borough



North Slope

n-Koyukuk

Arctic

Note: CA is short for census area.

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

During the 2005-2006 period, the Fairbanks North Star Borough grew only slightly (+241). The Southeast Fairbanks Census Area's population increased by a similar amount (+308), yet it grew at a 4.7 percent average annual rate during the year. Natural increase barely kept up with out-migration in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, while Southeast Fairbanks gained as a result of both natural increase and in-migration.

Rate of Change

-4.0% to -2.0%

2.1% to 4.0%

-1.9% to 0% 0.1% to 2.0%

Places

A place is an incorporated city, borough, 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).

Alaska had 35 places with populations of more than 2,000 in the year 2000 (see Exhibit 6); 22 of them are incorporated cities or city-boroughs. Thirty-two places in 2006 had populations higher than 2,500, the old Census Bureau definition of urban place.

The Municipality of Anchorage continues to dominate the state. It represented 42.2 percent of the state in 2006 with its population of 282,813; that percentage was up slightly from the 41.5 percent the city represented in 2000. The Anchorage/Mat-Su region's population in 2006 (359,987) accounted for 53.7 percent of the state's population, which was up from the 51.0 percent the region represented in 2000.

Other than the Municipality of Anchorage, the 12 places with populations greater than 2,000 in year 2000 that have had the highest average annual growth rates since the 2000 Census include the Knik-Fairview CDP (+7.3 percent), Fishhook CDP (+5.7 percent), Tanaina CDP (+5.3 percent), Homer city (+5.1 percent), Meadow Lakes CDP (+4.7 percent), Gateway CDP (+4.1 percent), Wasilla city (+3.4 percent), Butte CDP (+3.4 percent), Palmer city (+3.3 percent), Kalifornsky CDP (+2.7 percent), Lakes CDP (+2.6 percent) and Big Lake CDP (+2.5 percent).

Alaska's Population, 1990 to 2006 By labor market area, borough and census area

	2006 Vintage Population Estimates										
		Revised	Revised	Revised	Revised	Revised	April 1	April 1	Change		
Area Name	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Census	Census	2005-	2000-	1990-
- Treatment	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1990	2006	2006	2000
Alaska	670,053	663,253	656,834	647,747	640,544	632,241	626,931	550,043	6,800	43,122	76,888
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	359,987	351,991	348,028	340,556	332,175	326,668	319,605	266,021	7,996	40,382	53,584
Anchorage, Municipality of	282,813	277,980	277,627	273,024	267,824	264,903	260,283	226,338	4,833	22,530	33,945
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	77,174	74,011	70,401	67,532	64,351	61,765	59,322	39,683	3,163	17,852	19,639
Gulf Coast Region	74,611	74,823	74,680	75,443	74,389	73,700	73,799	64,063	-212	812	9,736
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,350	51,191	51,193	51,446	50,674	50,086	49,691	40,802	159	1,659	8,889
Kodiak Island Borough	13,506	13,623	13,517	13,796	13,641	13,566	13,913	13,309	-117	-407	604
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,755	10,009	9,970	10,201	10,074	10,048	10,195	9,952	-254	-440	243
Interior Region	102,276	101,942	99,657	96,298	98,938	97,577	97,417	92,111	334	4,859	5,306
Denali Borough	1,795	1,821	1,849	1,916	1,887	1,902	1,893	1,764	-26	-98	129
Fairbanks North Star Borough	87,849	87,608	85,398	82,160	84,753	83,282	82,840	77,720	241	5,009	5,120
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	6,772	6,464	6,139	5,922	5,944	5,907	6,174	5,913	308	598	261
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,860	6,049	6,271	6,300	6,354	6,486	6,510	6,714	-189	-650	-204
Northern Region	23,676	23,660	23,879	23,859	23,810	23,627	23,789	20,380	16	-113	3,409
Nome Census Area	9,535	9,453	9,424	9,353	9,341	9,266	9,196	8,288	82	339	908
North Slope Borough	6,807	6,889	7,126	7,223	7,238	7,232	7,385	5,979	-82	-578	1,406
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,334	7,318	7,329	7,283	7,231	7,129	7,208	6,113	16	126	1,095
Southeast Region	70,053	70,804	70,856	71,788	71,920	71,772	73,082	68,989	-751	-3,029	4,093
Haines Borough	2,241	2,206	2,251	2,318	2,358	2,369	2,392	2,117	35	-151	275
Juneau City and Borough	30,650	31,182	31,094	31,286	30,991	30,453	30,711	26,751	-532	-61	3,960
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,174	13,115	13,073	13,525	13,675	13,748	14,059	13,828	59	-885	231
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	5,477	5,504	5,565	5,591	5,681	5,816	6,157	6,278	-27	-680	-121
Sitka City and Borough	8,833	8,934	8,818	8,890	8,793	8,728	8,835	8,588	-101	-2	247
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	3,020	3,060	3,115	3,165	3,242	3,373	3,436	3,680	-40	-416	-244
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	6,024	6,160	6,265	6,323	6,461	6,589	6,684	7,042	-136	-660	-358
Yakutat City and Borough	634	643	675	690	719	696	808	705	-9	-174	103
Southwest Region	39,450	40,033	39,734	39,803	39,312	38,897	39,239	38,479	-583	211	760
Aleutians East Borough	2,643	2,655	2,654	2,713	2,722	2,548	2,697	2,464	-12	-54	233
Aleutians West Census Area	4,810	5,230	5,239	5,328	5,070	5,254	5,465	9,478	-420	-655	-4,013
Bethel Census Area	17,031	17,073	16,868	16,748	16,512	16,108	16,046	13,656	-42	985	2,390
Bristol Bay Borough	1,060	1,175	1,100	1,103	1,163	1,173	1,258	1,410	-115	-198	-152
Dillingham Census Area	4,796	4,786	4,847	4,903	4,917	4,890	4,922	4,012	10	-126	910
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,557	1,618	1,609	1,626	1,639	1,733	1,823	1,668	-61	-266	155
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,553	7,496	7,417	7,382	7,289	7,191	7,028	5,791	57	525	1,237

Note: The U.S. Census Bureau provided the statewide estimates and census numbers. The Alaska Department of Labor provided all other estimates. Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Demographics Unit; and the U.S. Census Bureau

Ten of the 12 places that experienced the most rapid growth in the 2000-2006 period are in the Mat-Su Borough. Indeed, if the 10 were to incorporate now, three places in the borough would be larger than Wasilla and four would be larger than Palmer. And, if College CDP were to incorporate as well, College would be the state's fourth-largest city and fast-growing Knik-Fairview would be the fifth, after Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks.

The remaining two of the 12 rapidly growing places are the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Kalifornsky CDP and Homer city. Homer's growth, however, is largely due to its annexation of a substantial part of Diamond Ridge CDP and Miller Landing CDP in 2002.

Outside the Anchorage and Mat-Su areas, a majority of communities are stagnant or declin-

			Natural Increase (Births	Net Migration	Natural Increase (Births	Net Migration
	Average Annual		minus	(In and	minus	(In and
Rate	of Cha		Deaths)_	Out)	Deaths)_	Out)_
2005-	2000-	1990-	2005-	2005-	2000-	2000-
2006	2006	2000	2006	2006	2006	2006
1.0	1.1	1.3	7,310	-510	44,317	-1,195
2.2	1.9	1.8	3,815	4,181	22,932	17,450
1.7	1.3	1.4	3,048	1,785	19,095	3,435
4.2	4.2	4.0	767	2,396	3,837	14,015
-0.3	0.2	1.4	585	-797	3,596	-2,784
0.3	0.5	2.0	354	-195	2,072	-413
-0.9	-0.5	0.4	158	-275	1,036	-1,443
-2.6	-0.7	0.2	73	-327	488	-928
0.3	8.0	0.6	1,312	-978	8,170	-3,311
-1.4	-0.9	0.7	10	-36	94	-192
0.3	0.9	0.6	1,181	-940	7,487	-2,478
4.7	1.5	0.4	77	231	349	249
-3.2	-1.7	-0.3	44	-233	240	-890
0.1	-0.1	1.5	478	-462	2,585	-2,698
0.9	0.6	1.0	174	-92	958	-619
-1.2	-1.3	2.1	152	-234	829	-1,407
0.2	0.3	1.6	152	-136	798	-672
-1.1	-0.7	0.6	501	-1,252	3,105	-6,134
1.6	-1.0	1.2	-4	39	17	-168
-1.7	-0.0	1.4	260	-792	1,622	-1,683
0.4	-1.0	0.2	92	-33	558	-1,443
-0.5	-1.9	-0.2	49	-76	242	-922
-1.1	-0.0	0.3	51	-152	421	-423
-1.3	-2.1	-0.7	20	-60	98	-514
-2.2	-1.7	-0.5	29	-165	127	-787
-1.4	-3.9	1.4	4	-13	20	-194
-1.5	0.1	0.2	619	-1,202	3,929	-3,718
-0.5	-0.3	0.9	15	-27	74	-128
-8.4	-2.0	-5.4	18	-438	157	-812
-0.2	1.0	1.6	332	-374	2,079	-1,094
-10.3	-2.7	-1.1	3	-118	53	-251
0.2	-0.4	2.0	56	-46	381	-507
-3.8	-2.5	0.9	18	-79	71	-337
8.0	1.2	1.9	177	-120	1,114	-589

The places that declined an average of more than 1.0 percent each year during the 2000-2006 period are Eielson Air Force Base CDP (-3.1 percent), Wrangell city (-3.0 percent), Barrow city (-1.9 percent), Cordova city (-1.7 percent), Valdez city (-1.4 percent), Unalaska city (-1.3 percent), Seward city (-1.2 percent) and Kodiak city (-1.0 percent). Wrangell slipped below 2,000 in population in 2005.

Population estimates are available on Research and Analysis' Web site at almis. labor.state.ak.us. Click on "Population & Census" on the left, and below that, "Estimates & Projections." Then click on "Alaska Population Estimates 2000-2006" in the middle, and under "Vintage 2006 Estimates," select a category.

ing. Fifteen of the 35 places that had more than 2,000 people in 2000 declined by 2006.

In fact, roughly half the places in Alaska (181 or 52.2 percent) had at least small population losses between 2000 and 2006. That includes four of the state's 11 biggest communities: Juneau City and Borough (-61 population), Sitka City and Borough (-2), Ketchikan city (-260) and Kenai city (-78).

Places with More than 2,000 People Alaska, 2000 to 2006

	2006 Vintage Population Estimates							Average Annual					
	Preliminary Estimate	Revised Estimate	Revised Estimate	Revised Estimate	Revised Estimate	Revised Estimate	April 1 Census	2000- 2006	Rate of Change	Place Rank	Place Rank	City Rank	
	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	Change	2000-2006	2006	2000	2006	
Anchorage, Municipality of	282,813	277,980	277,627	273,024	267,824	264,903	260,283	22,530	1.3	1	1	1	
Juneau City and Borough	30,650	31,182	31,094	31,286	30,991	30,453	30,711	-61	-0.0	2	2	2	
Fairbanks city	30,552	31,071	30,083	28,924	29,774	29,523	30,224	328	0.2	3	3	3	
College CDP	11,825	12,198	12,151	12,055	11,937	12,055	11,402	423	0.6	4	4		
Knik-Fairview CDP	11,238	10,264	9,251	8,559	8,000	7,639	7,049	4,189	7.3	5	7		
Sitka City and Borough	8,833	8,934	8,818	8,890	8,793	8,728	8,835	-2	-0.0	6	5	4	
Lakes CDP	7,901	7,753	7,474	7,042	6,926	6,815	6,706	1,195	2.6	7	9		
Ketchikan city	7,662	7,675	7,706	7,977	8,373	8,459	7,922	-260	-0.5	8	6	5	
Tanaina CDP	6,987	6,622	6,292	5,860	5,600	5,263	4,993	1,994	5.3	9	15		
Kalifornsky CDP	6,914	6,825	6,638	6,248	6,159	6,017	5,846	1,068	2.7	10	11		
Kenai city	6,864	6,768	6,839	7,129	7,076	6,889	6,942	-78	-0.2	11	8	6	
Wasilla city	6,775	6,361	6,140	6,380	5,948	5,517	5,469	1,306	3.4	12	13	7	
Meadow Lakes CDP	6,492	6,376	5,945	5,576	5,308	5,041	4,819	1,673	4.7	13	16		
Kodiak city	5,937	6,081	6,185	6,089	6,099	6,076	6,334	-397	-1.0	14	10	8	
Bethel city ¹	5,812	5,953	5,867	5,883	5,739	5,462	5,471	341	1.0	15	12	9	
Palmer city	5,574	5,300	5,217	5,260	4,837	4,581	4,533	1,041	3.3	16	19	10	
Homer city ²	5,454	5,393	5,350	5,877	5,535	4,070	3,946	1,508	5.1	17	23	11	
Sterling CDP	5,036	4,980	4,919	4,878	4,780	4,756	4,705	331	1.1	18	17		
Eielson AFB CDP	4,447	4,548	4,676	4,433	5,840	5,152	5,400	-953	-3.1	19	14		
Nikiski CDP	4,179	4,190	4,289	4,351	4,362	4,363	4,327	-148	-0.6	20	20		
Barrow city ¹	4,065	4,174	4,364	4,410	4,435	4,444	4,581	-516	-1.9	21	18	12	
Unalaska city¹	3,940	4,288	4,362	4,370	4,034	4,249	4,283	-343	-1.3	22	21	13	
Gateway CDP	3,830	3,682	3,560	3,299	3,215	3,120	2,952	878	4.1	23	28		
Soldotna city	3,807	3,794	3,776	4,001	3,851	3,793	3,759	48	0.2	24	24	14	
Valdez city	3,690	3,746	3,714	3,895	3,952	3,825	4,036	-346	-1.4	25	22	15	
Nome city	3,540	3,507	3,478	3,412	3,481	3,485	3,505	35	0.2	26	25	16	
Butte CDP	3,166	3,110	2,973	2,920	2,784	2,737	2,561	605	3.4	27	31		
Petersburg city	3,129	3,152	3,129	3,080	3,156	3,225	3,224	-95	-0.5	28	26	17	
Kotzebue city ¹	3,104	3,119	3,140	3,068	3,074	3,059	3,082	22	0.1	29	27	18	
Big Lake CDP	3,082	2,980	2,926	2,889	2,705	2,614	2,635	447	2.5	30	30		
Fishhook CDP	2,917	2,794	2,642	2,349	2,243	2,191	2,030	887	5.7	31	35		
Seward city	2,627	2,595	2,542	2,744	2,755	2,759	2,830	-203	-1.2	32	29	19	
Dillingham city ¹	2,397	2,368	2,404	2,384	2,468	2,462	2,466	-69	-0.5	33	32	20	
Cordova city	2,211	2,288	2,297	2,290	2,302	2,382	2,454	-243	-1.7	34	33	21	
Wrangell city	1,911	1,973	2,021	2,123	2,180	2,223	2,308	-397	-3.0	40	34	22	

Notes: The places listed in this exhibit are those that had populations over 2,000 in year 2000. They're in order based on their 2006 population.

A place is in an unincorporated city, borough, Census Designated Place (a closely settled unincorporated population center) or an Alaska Native Village Statistical Area. The U.S. Census Bureau provided the 2000 Census numbers. The Alaska Department of Labor provided all the estimates.

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

¹ Also an Alaska Native Village Statistical Area. The ANVSA boundaries encompass the settled area associated with each Alaska Native Village.

² Homer had a substantial annexation in 2002.

How Alaska's population estimates are produced

Each year, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development produces a wide variety of population estimates for the state. The department's provisional estimates are made at the end of the calendar year and are released in January for the current fiscal year. The estimates are then revised for prior years as additional information becomes available. The largest revision occurs in the year following the provisional estimate.

Estimates are for the usual place of residence, as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau. For example, the people included in the 2000 Census were counted at their usual residence – the place where they lived and slept most of the time or the place they considered their usual home. If people had no usual place of residence, they were counted where they were staying on the day of the census. Seasonal workers were not considered residents unless they met the above criteria.

The Census Bureau provides estimates of each state's total population each December. The Department of Labor uses the Census Bureau's statewide estimate as a control for the sum of all places, boroughs and census areas and uses the following formula to generate its estimates. The estimates for each year are independent and are not built on prior years' estimates.

[[(NGQ Census 2000) divided by (NGQ PFD Applicants 2000)] x Current NGQ PFD Applicants] + GQ + Estimated Military Non-filers

NGQ PFD Applicants 2000 = Non-group quarters Alaska Permanent Fund Division applicants in 2000, geocoded¹ to the place of residence as defined by the 2000 Census.

Current NGQ PFD Applicants = Nongroup quarters applicants in the current year, geocoded to the place of residence as defined by the 2000 Census. The accuracy of the estimates is dependent on the ability to consistently geocode applicant addresses to community geographic boundaries as defined by the Census Bureau. In areas with large military populations, PFD applicants are supplemented by an annual survey of the military and dependent population who are not PFD applicants. Statewide, the PFD applicants in 2000 accounted for 94.4 percent of the enumerated 2000 Census non-group quarters population. The amount may be greater or less in local areas depending on how transient the population is. Military non-filers account for 2.7 percent of the state's non-group quarters population. Military non-filers are concentrated in areas around bases, primarily in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

NGQ Census 2000 = Non-group quarters population from the 2000 Census.

Non-Group Quarters Population = All people who live in households. A household is defined as all people who occupy a housing unit. A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms or a single room that is occupied as separate living quarters.

Group Quarters Population, or GQ = All people not living in households are classified as living in group quarters. These are usually people living in institutions such as prisons, military barracks, dormitories or nursing homes or other group quarters such as fish processing barracks, lumber camps, shelters or group homes.

The Department of Labor surveys group quarters populations of 10 or more people each year and develops special estimates for changes in fish processing and group quarters populations at transient work sites. The department uses annual company employment numbers for those areas.

Statewide, the relative weight of the parts of the estimate for each year in 2006 were: the non-group quarters estimate as 95.3 percent; group quarters as 3.4 percent and the control to the Census Bureau's state total as 1.4 percent. Revisions for prior years' estimates are most likely to occur in the state control or group quarters components of the estimate.

¹Geocoding is the process of assigning geographical identifiers to map features and other data records, such as street addresses.