

Appendix Q

Local Government Profile

Geography

Anchorage is located in south central Alaska situated on a broad plain at the head of the Cook Inlet. It lies slightly farther north than Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki and St. Petersburg. According to the United States Census Bureau, the municipality has a total area of 1980 square miles.



Organization

In 1975, the citizens of the Anchorage area ratified a Home Rule Charter for a unified municipal government. Under the Municipal Charter, the City of Anchorage, incorporated in 1920, the Greater Anchorage Area Borough, incorporated in 1964, and two small incorporated communities, Girdwood and Glen Alps were dissolved as of September 15, 1975, and the Municipality became their legal successor. Being a unified home rule municipality, the Municipality is responsible for a wide range of public services that are commonly provided through both a city and a county government.

The chief executive officer of the Municipality is the Mayor, who is elected at-large to a three-year term and who may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Subject to confirmation by the Assembly, the Mayor appoints the Municipal Manager, the Municipal Attorney, the Chief Fiscal Officer, and all head of municipal departments. The Mayor may participate, but may not vote, in meetings of the Assembly. The Mayor may veto ordinances passed by the Assembly, and veto, strike or reduce budget or appropriation measure line items. A minimum of eight members of the Assembly must vote to override a veto by the Mayor.

The legislative power of the Municipality is vested in the Assembly comprised of eleven members, elected by district, to three-year staggering terms and who may not serve more than three consecutive terms. The presiding officer of the Assembly is the Chairperson, who is elected annually from and by the membership of the Assembly. The Assembly appoints the Municipal Clerk. Municipal ordinances, Assembly schedules, agendas and other legislative information are available on-line at www.muni.org.

The Municipality has multiple citizen boards and commissions to advise and Assist the administration and Assembly with issues that range from animal control to zoning. Members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Assembly. Board members and commissioners volunteer their services and typically serve three-year, staggering terms.

Municipal services are provided through service areas. Each service area is treated as an individual taxing unit although only the Municipality can levy taxes. Certain services of the Municipality – education, planning and zoning, health services, animal control, environmental quality, taxing and assessing, emergency medical service and public transportation – are provided area-wide. The ad valorem tax rate for these services is uniform throughout the Municipality. In addition, service areas consisting of only part of the area within the Municipality have been created for such purposes as fire protection, police protection, road maintenance, parks and recreation, building safety, etc. As a result, the total tax rate applicable to any given parcel of property is the sum of the Municipality-wide levy rates plus the rates for the special-purpose service areas within which that parcel is located.

Pursuant to the Municipal Charter, the Municipality owns and operates a number of utilities as enterprise funds. These include: Anchorage Water & Waste Water Utility, Municipal Light & Power, Solid Waste Services, Port of Anchorage, and Merrill Field Airport. The Municipality also runs the Anchorage Community Development Authority.

Climate

For its northern location (61° latitude), Anchorage enjoys a subarctic climate with strong maritime influences that moderate temperatures. Average daytime summer temperatures range from 55 to 78 degrees; average daytime winter temperature ranges between 5 to 30 degrees. Anchorage has a frost-free growing season that averages slightly over 101 days.

Demographics

The Anchorage Municipality is home to almost two-fifths of Alaska's population.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Anchorage</u>	<u>State of Alaska</u>
2014	300549	735601
2013	300950	735132
2012	298,610	731,449
2011	295,570	722,718
2010	291,826	710,231
2009	290,588	714,146
2008	283,912	697,828
2007	282,968	686,818

Source: U.S. Census

As of October 2013, 93 languages were spoken by students in the Anchorage School District.

<u>Race</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	45%
Two or more races	14%
Asian	11%
Hispanic	11%
American Indian/Alaska Native	9%
Black	6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	5%

Source: ASD 2012-13 Profile Performance Report October, 2013

The median age of Anchorage residents is 32.9 years; for women 33.6 years and men 32.2 years. Other demographic information includes:

Household income	\$54,766
Household size	2.7
Family size	3.2

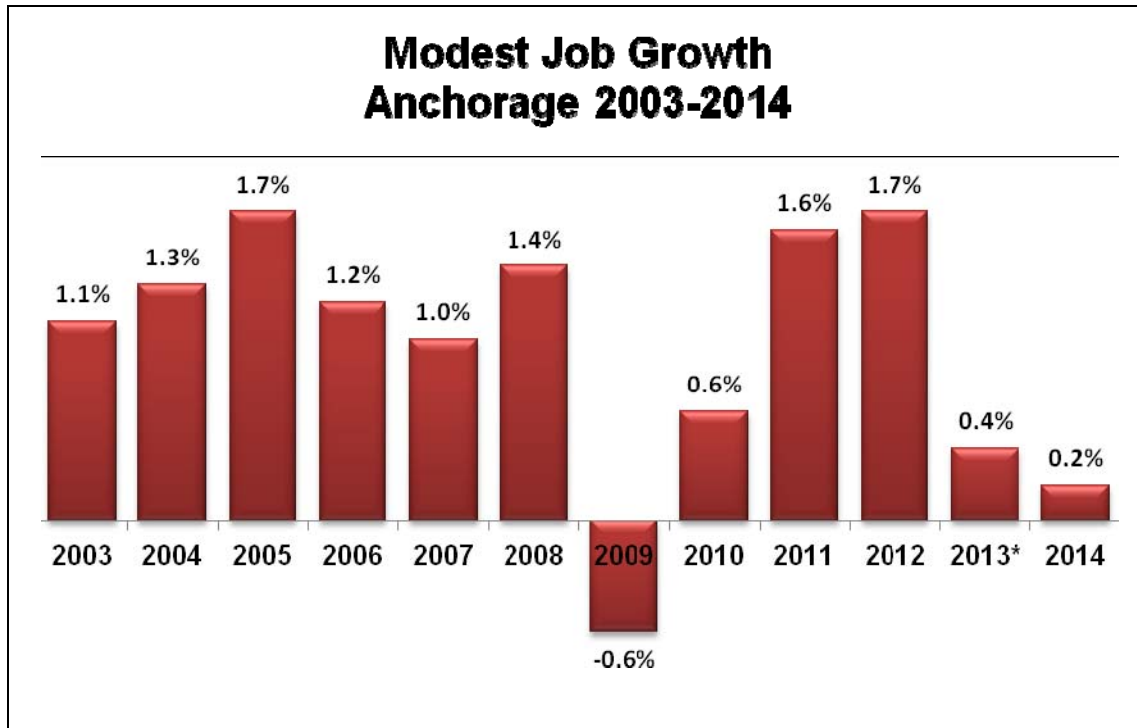
Source: U.S. Census

Economy

The Municipality of Anchorage is the leading trade, banking and communications center of Alaska as well as the headquarters city in Alaska for many of the national and international firms participating in the development of the petroleum, natural gas and other natural resources of the State. The Municipality is also an important seaport, a world air transportation center, the

headquarters city for the Alaska Railroad and the site of the large and historically stable military base, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, also known as JBER which is a combined installation of Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson Army Bases. Federal and State government offices and tourism are also major factors in the economic base of the Municipality.

Anchorage Area Employment (numbers in thousands)	July 2015	Change from July 2014 to July 2015	
		Number	Percent
Total Nonfarm	187.5	3.5	1.9
Mining and Logging	4.0	(0.1)	(2.4)
Construction	12.0	0.3	2.6
Manufacturing	3.2	0.1	3.2
Trade, Transportation, and u\Utiliti	42.1	2.4	6.0
Information	4.8	0.2	4.3
Financila Activities	8.1	(0.3)	(3.6)
Professional and Business Service	22.3	(0.5)	(2.2)
Education and Health Services	29.8	0.8	2.8
Leisure and Hospitality	21.6	0.5	2.4
Other Services	7.3	0.1	1.4
Government	32.3	0.0	0.0
<i>Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics</i>			



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

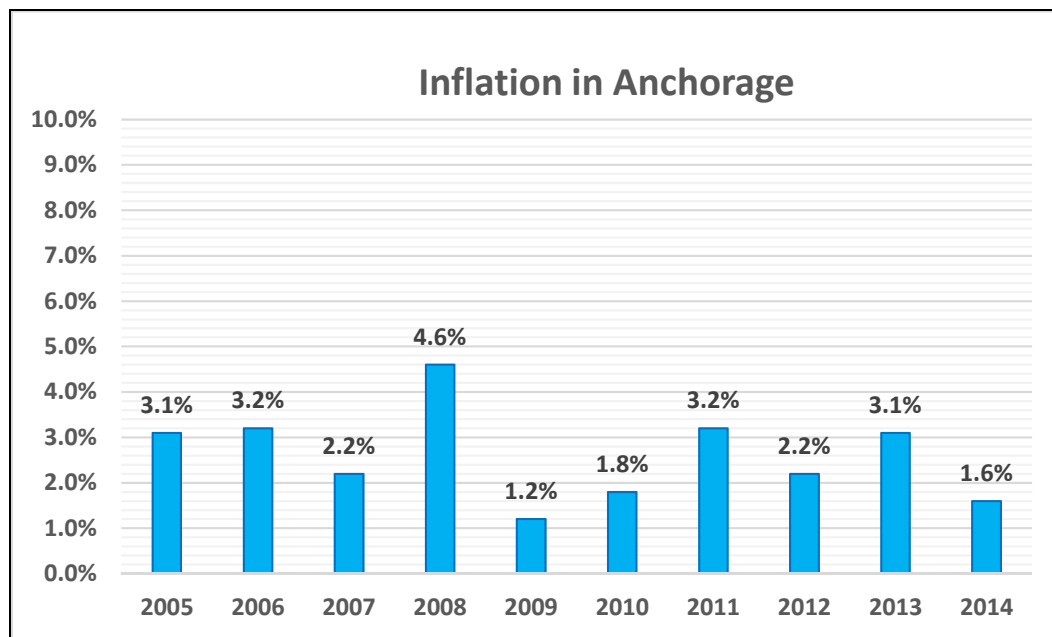
Unemployment Rate

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
2015	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.0	5.7	6.1	5.3						6.0
2014	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.6	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.6	5.2
2013	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.6	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	5.0
2012	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.6	5.6	6.1	5.6	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.4
2011	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.2	6.1	6.6	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.6	5.4	5.5	6.1

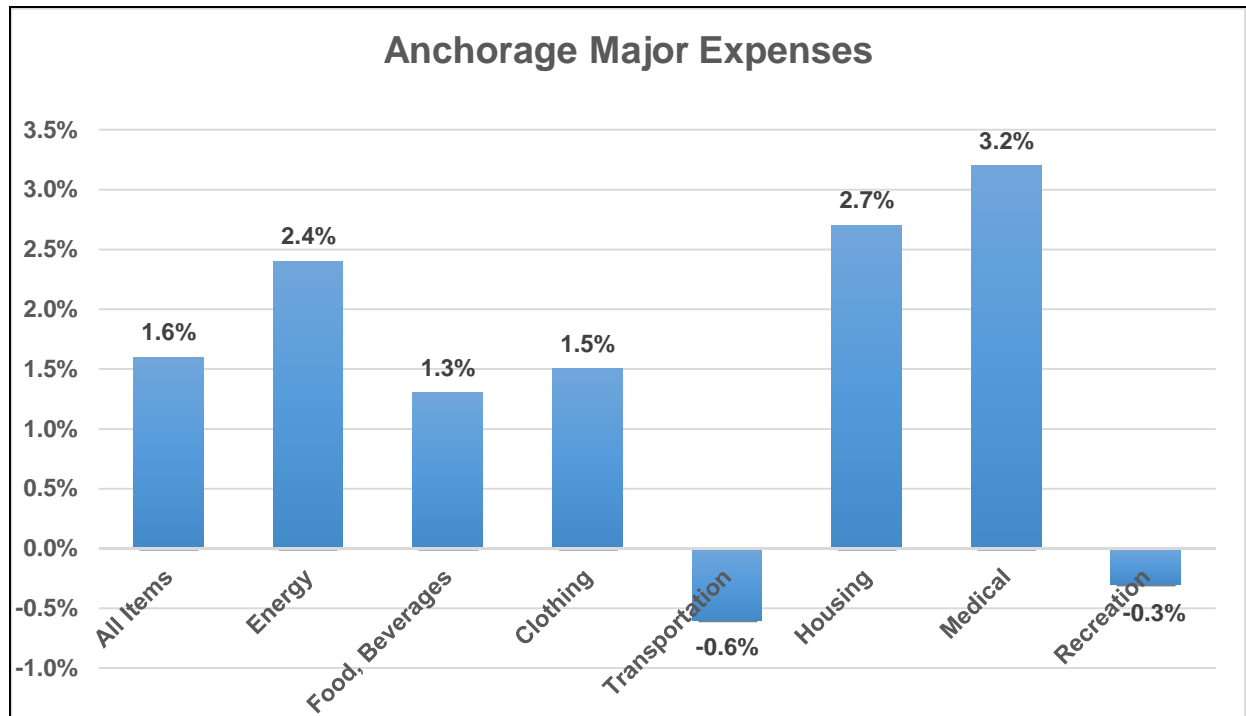
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Research and Analysis Section

Principal Property Tax Payers 2014			
			Percentage
		Taxable	of Total
		Assessed	Assessed
<u>Taxpayer</u>		<u>Value</u>	<u>Value</u>
GCI Communication Corp		\$ 198,256,680	0.59%
Calais Co Inc		\$ 177,279,919	0.53%
ACS Of Anchorage Inc		\$ 166,404,216	0.49%
Fred Meyer Stores Inc		\$ 135,729,163	0.40%
BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc		\$ 134,363,428	0.40%
Galen Hospital Alaska Inc		\$ 132,984,668	0.39%
Wec 2000A-Alaska Llc		\$ 131,523,465	0.39%
Enstar Natural Gas Company		\$ 119,171,195	0.35%
Anchorage Fueling & Svc Co		\$ 112,786,221	0.33%
Hickel Investment Co		\$ 99,311,809	0.29%
		\$ 1,209,554,084	3.59%
Notes: Assessed values include both real and personal property.			
Source: Municipality of Anchorage, Property Appraisal Division			

Overall, 2014 registered the second-smallest increase in prices in a decade, falling to 1.6 percent from 3.1 percent the year before. Transportation costs fell slightly, which kept a larger overall cost increase at bay when combined with a moderate rise in housing costs.



Health care expenses grew the most in 2014.



Politics

Anchorage sends 15 representatives to the 40-member Alaska House of Representatives and 7 senators to the 20-member senate, making up nearly half of both houses

Transportation

The Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is the primary passenger airport and is an important cargo airport globally due to Anchorage's location on the great circle routes between Asia and the lower 48. It is located approximately three miles southwest of the principal business district of the Municipality. This airport is the leader in international air freight gateway in the nation, by weight. Twenty-six percent of the tonnage of U.S. international air freight moves through Anchorage. The Ted Stevens International Airport includes both domestic and international terminals and general aviation.

Lake Hood Seaplane Base is the largest sea plane base in the world and is located adjacent to the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport along Lake Hood. The facility operates on a year-round basis, but weather conditions in the winter months dictate that the Seaplane Base operates as a ski-plane facility for part of the year.

More than 2,200 private aircraft are based in the Anchorage area and are served by 11 airfields and two float plane bases. Merrill Field, operated by the Municipality, is the largest general aviation airport for private aircraft in the State of Alaska.

The Alaska Railroad Corporation, which maintains its headquarters and principal repair shops, warehouses and yards in Anchorage, provides freight and passenger service spanning more than 685 track miles and connecting over 70% of Alaska's population. The railroad serves the cities of Anchorage and Fairbanks, the ports of Whittier, Seward, and Anchorage, as well as Denali National Park and military installations.

The Port of Anchorage received 95% of all goods destined for Alaska. Besides handling incoming and outgoing cargo shipments, the Port of Anchorage also serves as a storage facility for jet fuel from Alaska refineries utilized at both the Ted Stevens International Airport and Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER). The port is located just north of Ship Creek near downtown Anchorage on the Knik Arm of the Cook Inlet of the Pacific Ocean. The docks have excellent connections with the Alaska Railroad and highway connections to Alaska intrastate highway routes.

Anchorage is connected to the rest of Alaska through two major highways. Alaska Route 1 also known as the Seward Highway connects Anchorage south to the Kenai Peninsula. The Glenn Highway extends eastbound beyond Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Eagle River, connecting Anchorage to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. This route leads further to the Richardson Highway to go further north or to the Tok Cut-Off with further connections to the contiguous North American highway system via the Alaska Highway.

Anchorage has a bus system called People Mover with a central hub downtown and two satellite hubs that serve metropolitan and the suburbs of Eagle River and Birchwood.

Community Services

Police Department:

Call for Service: Is a police action but does not always generate a police report and does not represent actual, classified, crime statistics.

2014		2009	296,636
2013	239,765	2008	267,433
2012	258,275	2007	260,382
2011	270,922	2006	240,883
2010	291,205		

Police Reports: are calls for service that results in official documentation of the incident. Beginning in 2008 the method of counting reports changed to reflect the introduction of Mobile Data Computers and the automation of entering reports into the Records Management System.

2013	69,089	2010	64,371	2007	62,129
2012	65,787	2009	64,658	2006	61,297
2011	66,161	2008	66,387		

Source: Police Department's website: www.muni.org/Departments/police/stats/2013 APD Annual Statistical Report

Fire Department:

Number of fire stations	13
Number of fire hydrants	7,000
Fire runs per year	7,371
Paramedic runs per year	21,372
Number of EMS units	9
(mobile intensive care unit ambulances)	
Number of rescue boats	2

Efficient Emergency Response

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Emergency Medical	18,674	19,459	19,833	19,511	21,372	21,619	20,998
Fire	816	944	739	814	735	743	777
Service Calls	5,919	6,197	6,729	7,054	7,371	8,155	7,115
Hazardous Conditions	524	478	523	559	787	465	391
False Alarms	1,977	2,206	2,188	2,396	2,350	2,257	2,141
	27,910	29,284	30,012	30,334	32,615	33,239	31,422

Source: Fire Department's website: www.muni.org/Departments/fire

Parks and Recreation Department:

Number of Parks	223
Playgrounds	82
Athletic Fields	110
Swimming Pools	5
Recreation Facilities	11
Trails	250 miles (135 miles paved)

Trails Around Anchorage

Paved bike trails/multi-use	120+miles/195kms
Plowed winter walkways	130 miles/216 kms
Maintained ski trails	105 miles/175+ kms
Dog mushing trails	36 miles/60 kms
Summer non-paved hiking trails	87 miles/145+ kms
Lighted ski trails	24 miles/40 kms
Ski-joring trails	66 kms
Equestrian trails	10 kms

Numerous trails connect to the Chugach State Park, a high, alpine tundra park of some 495,000 acres.

Source: Parks and Recreation's website: www.muni.org/Departments/parks

Wildlife

A diverse wildlife population exists in urban Anchorage and the surrounding area. Approximately 250 black bears and 60 grizzly bears live in the area. Bears are regularly sighted within the city along with 1,000s of moose.