

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 1,961.1 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 heads 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 ranges 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>
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 2010

As of September 7, 2006, 94 languages were spoken by students in the Anchorage School District.

<u>Race</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	66.0%
Asian	8.1%
Two or more races	8.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	7.9%
Black	5.6%
Other	2.3%
Pacific Islander	2.0%

Source: U.S. Census 2010

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	\$73,004
Family income	\$75,439
Household size	2.66
Family size	3.19

Source: U.S. Census 2010

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 Wage and Salary Employment

Forecast and comparisons by industry, 2010 to 2011 ⁵

	2010 Monthly Average	2011 Monthly Average ¹	Change 2010 to 2011	% Change 2010 to 2011	Forecast for 2012	Change 2011 to 2012	% Change 2011 to 2012
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary ²	151,200	153,300	2,100	1.40%	154,300	1,000	0.60%
Mining and Logging	2,800	3,000	200	7.10%	3,000	–	0%
Oil and Gas	2,600	2,800	200	7.70%	2,800	–	0%
Construction	8,400	7,900	-500	-6.00%	7,600	-300	-3.80%
Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	–	0%	1,900	–	0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	32,500	32,900	400	1.20%	33,400	500	1.50%
Retail Trade	17,100	16,900	-200	-1.20%	17,100	200	1.20%
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	10,800	11,400	600	5.60%	11,700	300	2.60%
Information	4,100	4,000	-100	-2.40%	4,000	–	0%
Financial Activities	8,900	8,900	–	0%	8,900	–	0%
Professional and Business Services	18,400	18,700	300	1.60%	18,900	200	1.10%
Educational ³ and Health Services	21,600	22,500	900	4.20%	23,200	700	3.10%
Leisure and Hospitality	15,700	16,300	600	3.80%	16,700	300	1.80%
Other Services	5,700	6,000	300	5.30%	6,100	100	1.70%
Government	31,300	31,200	-100	-0.30%	30,800	-400	-1.30%
Federal Government ⁴	9,800	9,600	-200	-2.00%	9,200	-400	-4.20%
State Government ⁵	10,600	10,700	100	0.90%	10,700	–	0%
Local Government ⁶	11,000	10,900	-100	-0.90%	10,700	-200	-1.80%

¹ Preliminary estimates

² Excludes self-employed workers, fishermen, domestic workers, and unpaid family workers

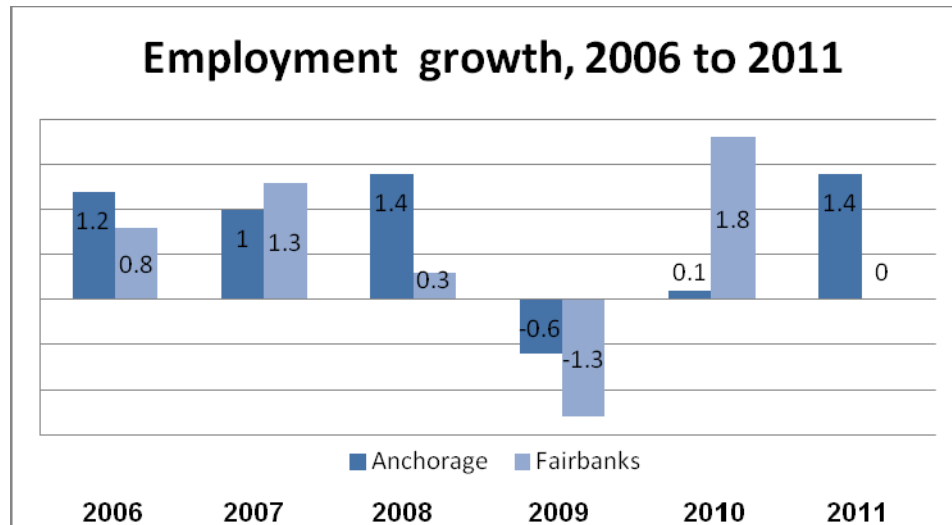
³ Private education only

⁴ Excludes uniformed military

⁵ Includes the University of Alaska

⁶ Includes public school systems

Source: Alaska Economic Trends January 2012



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
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
2010	7.4	7.7	7.6	7.1	6.8	7.0	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.9

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

Principal Property Tax Payers 2010

Taxpayer	Assessed Value	% of Total Assessed Value
ACS of Anchorage Inc	\$ 245,851,624	0.78%
GCI Communication Corporation	166,704,829	0.53%
Calais Company Inc	156,421,413	0.50%
Fred Meyer Stores Inc	138,860,136	0.44%
Enstar Natural Gas Company	137,963,497	0.44%
BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc	124,779,506	0.40%
Galen Hospital Alaska Inc	123,546,182	0.39%
WEC 2000A-Alaska LLC	104,778,620	0.33%
Hickel Investment Company	100,156,411	0.32%
Anchorage Fueling and Service Company	92,080,176	0.29%
	<u>\$ 1,391,142,394</u>	<u>4.42%</u>

Notes: Assessed values include both real and personal property.

Source: Municipality of Anchorage, Property Appraisal Division

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.

2010	286,110	2007	260,382
2009	292,865	2006	240,883
2008	267,433		

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.

2010	64,371	2007	62,129
2009	64,658	2006	61,297
2008	66,387		

Source: Police Department's website: www.muni.org/Departments/police

Fire Department:

Number of fire stations	13
Number of fire hydrants	5,885
Fire runs per year	6,556
Paramedic runs per year	23,805
Number of EMS units	9
(mobile intensive care unit ambulances)	
Number of rescue boats	2

Efficient Emergency Response

Year	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Emergency Medical	20,031	20,148	19,076	18,746	17,857
Fire	741	944	816	934	885
Service Calls	6,689	6,188	5,318	5,396	4,623
Hazardous Conditions	564	503	1,249	1,430	1,271
False Alarms	2,188	2,207	1,977	2,302	1,923
	30,213	29,990	28,436	28,808	26,559

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	150 miles with 135 paved
Trails Around Anchorage	

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: Park Department'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.