

Appendix R 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 service 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>
2015	298,908	738,432
2014	300,366	737,046
2013	301,046	727,442
2012	298,373	731,228
2011	295,908	722,720
2010	291,826	714,021
2009	290,588	714,146
2008	283,912	697,828
2007	282,968	686,818

Source: U.S. Census for the State and Department of Labor & Workforce as of 7/1/2016

<u>Race</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	66%
Two or more races	14%
Asian	10%
Hispanic	9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	8%
Black	6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2%

As of October 2014, 99 languages were spoken by students in the Anchorage School District.

Source: ASD online (asdk12.org)

The median age of Anchorage residents is 33.8 years; for women 34.1 years and men 33.6 years. Other demographic information includes:

Household income	\$78,121
Median home value	\$286,600
Price of Average home	\$370,682
Average household size	2.65
Average family size	3.21
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	19.4

Source: State of Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, June 2015

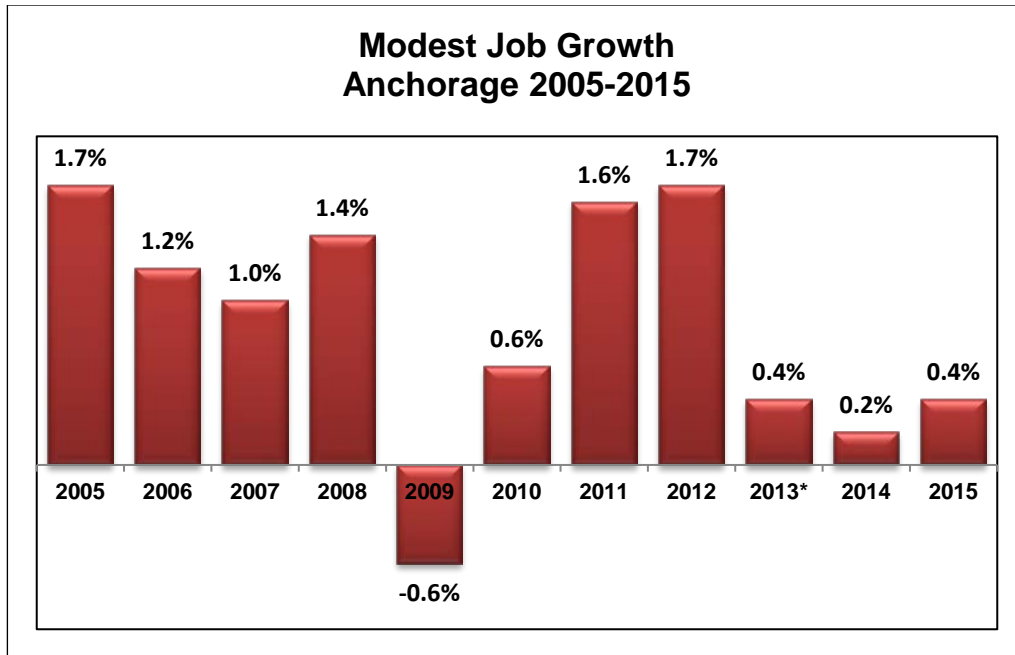
Economy

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.

2014 Workers by Industry

	Number of workers	Percent of total employed	Female	Male
Natural Resources and Mining	5,360	4.1	1,255	4,105
Construction	7,086	5.4	1,029	6,057
Manufacturing	2,194	1.7	645	1,548
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	29,894	22.7	11,769	18,124
Information	3,691	2.8	1,599	2,092
Financial Activities	6,848	5.2	4,219	2,629
Professional and Business Services	15,864	12	7,157	8,705
Educational and Health Services	21,175	16.1	16,146	5,027
Leisure and Hospitality	14,891	11.3	7,448	7,441
State Government	9,380	7.1	5,126	4,254
Local Government	10,543	8	6,571	3,972
Other	4,816	3.7	2,755	2,061

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. Last updated on August 26, 2014

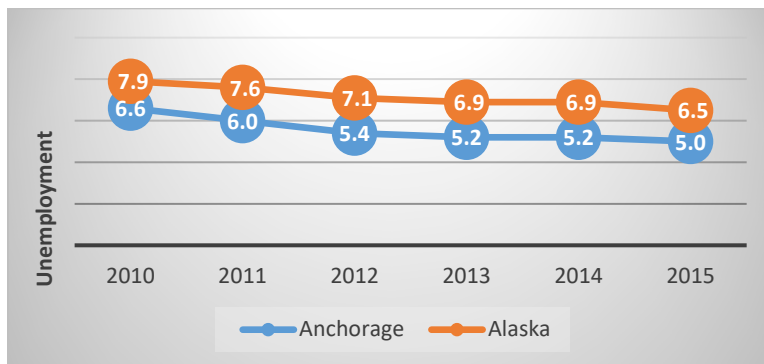


Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Percent Unemployment Rate Not seasonally adjusted Labor Force Data

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2016	5.4	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.2						
2015	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.0	4.9	5.3	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0
2014	5.5	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.6	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.9	4.7	5.2
2013	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.1	5.5	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.2
2012	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.7	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.4
2011	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.2	6.0	6.2	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	6.0
2010	7.0	7.4	7.3	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.6

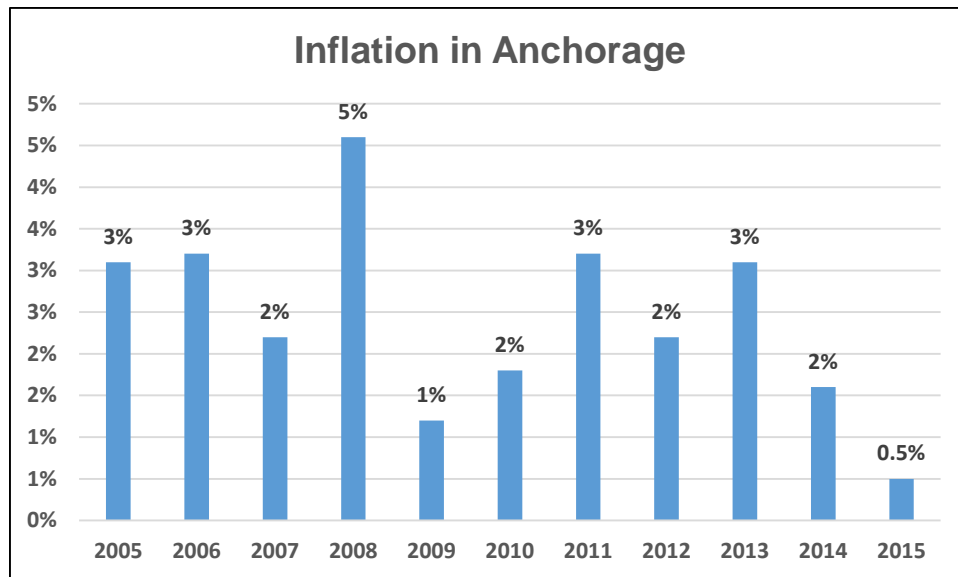
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Research and Analysis Section



Principal Property Tax Payers 2015		
<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Taxable Assessed Value</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Assessed Value</u>
GCI Communication Corp	\$202,368,472	0.58%
Calais Co Inc	\$186,322,140	0.53%
ACS Of Anchorage Inc	\$169,736,027	0.48%
BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc	\$115,554,734	0.33%
Galen Hospital Alaska Inc	\$143,894,702	0.41%
WEC 2000A-Alaska Llc	\$142,327,232	0.41%
Fred Meyer Stores Inc	\$138,547,623	0.40%
Enstar Natural Gas Company	\$120,107,043	0.34%
Anchorage Fueling & Svc Co	\$82,818,701	0.24%
Hickel Investment Co	\$115,014,672	0.33%
	<u>\$ 1,214,322,874</u>	<u>3.47%</u>

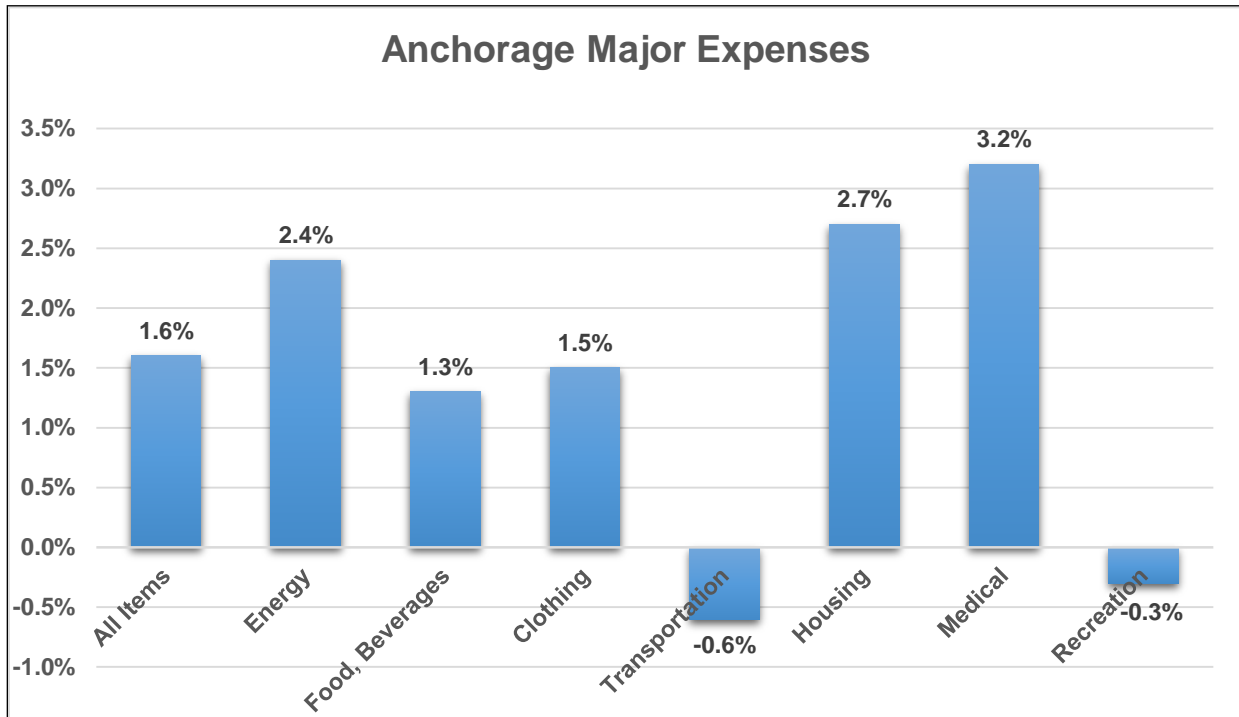
*Notes: Assessed values include both real and personal property.
Source: Municipality of Anchorage, Property Appraisal Division.*

Overall, energy prices fell by 10.3% in 2015, the single largest decline since 2009. Gasoline prices fell nearly 25%. Anchorage’s inflation came out to just half a percent – the lowest in 27 years.



Source: Alaska Trends Magazine July 2016 Issue

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 Highways 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.

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
240,883	260,382	267,422	296,636	291,205	270,922	258,275	239,765	230,703	240,619

Police Reports: Are calls for service that result 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.

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*	2014	2015
61,297	62,129	63,387	64,658	64,371	66,161	65,787	62,660	59,589	59,662

* There was an error in the 2013 report for the number of reports generated for 2013

Source: Anchorage Police Department

Fire Department

Number of fire stations	13
Number of fire hydrants	7,000
Fire runs per year	11,042
Paramedic runs per year	24,177
Number of EMS units (mobile intensive care unit ambulances)	11
Number of rescue boats	4

Efficient Emergency Response:

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Emergency Medical	19,833	19,511	21,372	21,619	20,998	22,640	24,187
Fire	739	814	735	743	777	797	829
Service Calls	6,729	7,054	7,371	8,155	7,115	7,447	7,489
Hazardous Conditions	523	559	787	465	391	418	425
False Alarms	2,188	2,396	2,350	2,257	2,141	2,175	2,331
Total Calls	30,012	30,334	32,615	33,239	31,422	33,477	35,261

Source: Anchorage Fire Department

The condition of the Anchorage Fire Department continues to be positive and progressive. 2016 saw the replacement of four new ambulances, 3 replacement engines and the opening of two replacement stations: St 3 (Bragaw) and St. 9 (DeArmoun). The department receives strong support from the citizens of Anchorage evidenced by support of General Obligation bond funding of three new ambulances and a new rescue unit in 2016. Community attendance at department events is very high with positive comments toward the department and members. If funding is approved by the community the department will be running a new firefighter academy starting the summer of 2017 which includes new employees to replace retirees and fourteen new positions.

To combat the strain of increasing EMS responses the department temporarily added two Basic Life Support (BLS) transport ambulances staffed by firefighter/EMTs in April of 2016. This program has proven to be successful. In 2017 AFD will request that the community support the continuation of this program by funding 2 new ambulances and 14 additional firefighter/EMTs through general obligation bonds.

The department continues to provide a basic level of community risk reduction activities however we are looking for avenues to deliver a more comprehensive program.

This chart lists types of incidents and illustrates the needs and trends of the Anchorage Community

Parks and Recreation Department:

Number of Parks	223
Playgrounds	82
Athletic Fields	110
Swimming Pools	5
Recreation Facilities	11
Trails and Greenbelts	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 300 black bears and 60 grizzly bears live in the area. Bears are regularly sighted within the city along with 1,000s of moose.