

Appendix S 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 & Wastewater Utility, Anchorage Hydropower, Solid Waste Services, Port of Alaska, 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 40 percent of Alaska's population.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Anchorage</u>	<u>State of Alaska</u>
2019	291,845	731,007
2018	294,488	734,055
2017	297,739	737,783
2016	298,962	739,649
2015	298,637	736,989
2014	300,008	736,416
2013	301,037	736,077
2012	298,164	730,649
2011	295,635	722,262
2010	291,826	710,231

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

<u>Race</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	62.6%
Two or more races	9.5%
Asian	9.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	7.9%
Black	5.6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2.4%

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

Most Anchorage School District families – 80 percent – speak English at home. The remaining 20 percent speak 110 languages:

- Spanish: 1,758
- Hmong: 1,203
- Samoan: 1,083
- Filipino: 965
- Korean: 181

Source: ASD online (asdk12.org)

The median age of Anchorage residents is 34.2 years. Other demographic information includes:

Household income	\$84,928
Average household size	2.69
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	18.9

Source: United States Census Bureau, July 2020

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.

Outlook for jobs in Anchorage, by industry

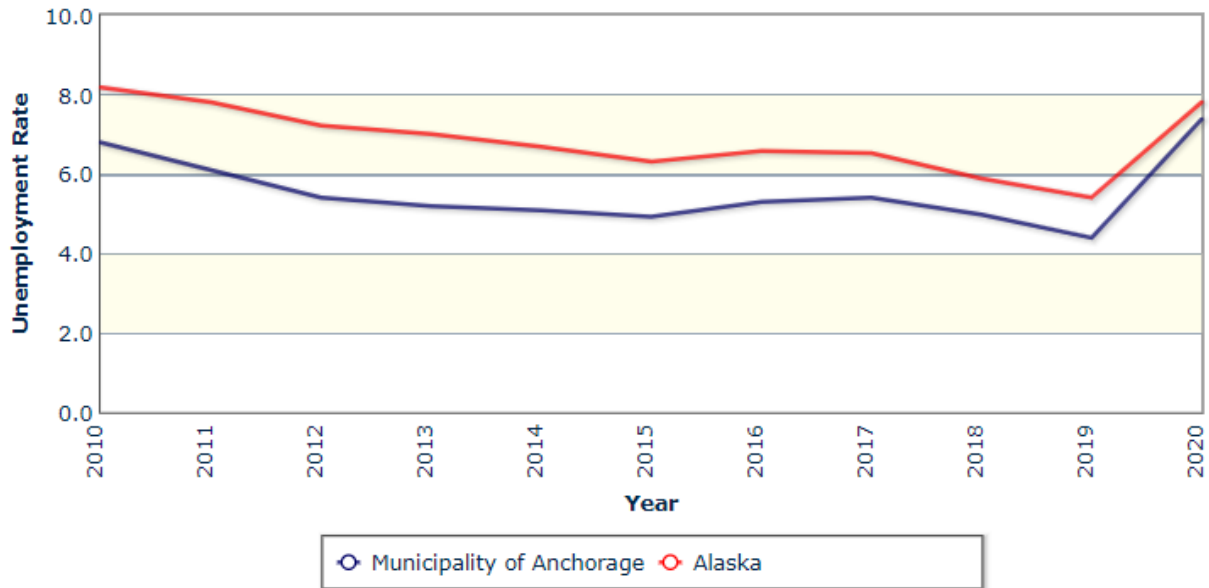
	Jobs Forecast						
	Monthly avg, 2019	Monthly avg, 2020	Change, 2019-2020	Percent Change	Monthly avg, 2021	Change, 2020-2021	Percent change
Total Nonfarm Employment	151,700	138,200	-13,500	-8.9%	142,600	4,400	3.1%
Total Private	123,600	110,600	-13,000	-10.5%	115,700	5,100	4.4%
Mining and Logging	2,700	2,200	-500	-18.5%	2,200	0	0%
Oil and Gas	2,500	2,100	-400	-16.0%	2,100	0	0%
Construction	7,800	7,200	-600	-7.7%	7,200	0	0%
Manufacturing	2,100	1,800	-300	-14.3%	1,900	100	5.3%
Transportation, Trade and Utilities	32,800	29,600	-3,200	-9.8%	31,000	1,400	4.5%
Wholesale Trade	4,900	4,700	-200	-4.1%	4,800	100	2.1%
Retail Trade	16,700	15,000	-1,700	-10.2%	15,700	700	4.5%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	11,200	9,900	-1,300	-11.6%	10,500	600	5.7%
Information	3,300	3,000	-300	-9.1%	2,900	-100	-3.4%
Financial Activities	7,300	6,900	-400	-5.5%	7,000	100	1.4%
Professional and Business Services	17,800	16,400	-1,400	-7.9%	16,600	200	1.2%
Educational (private) and Health Services	26,800	25,600	-1,200	-4.5%	26,400	800	3.0%
Health Care	20,900	20,300	-600	-2.9%	20,900	600	2.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	17,600	13,100	-4,500	-25.6%	15,600	2,500	16.0%
Other Services	5,400	4,800	-600	-11.1%	4,900	100	2.0%
Total Government	28,100	27,600	-500	-1.8%	26,900	-700	-2.6%
Federal, except military	8,400	8,500	100	1.2%	8,400	-100	-1.2%
State, incl. University of Alaska	9,800	9,400	-400	-4.1%	9,100	-300	-3.3%
Local and tribal, incl. public schools	10,000	9,400	-600	-6.0%	9,400	0	0%

Source: Alaska Economic Trends, January 2021

Not Seasonally Adjusted Monthly and Annual Unemployment Rates for Municipality of Anchorage

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2020	4.2	4.0	5.0	12.4	11.7	10.9	10.0	6.3	6.6	5.8	5.9	6.1	7.4
2019	5.2	4.9	4.9	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.4
2018	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.2	4.8	5.3	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.8	5.0
2017	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.4
2016	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.0	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3
2015	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.9	5.2	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.9
2014	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.1	5.1	5.5	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.6	5.1
2013	5.9	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.6	5.1	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.8	5.2
2012	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.6	5.5	5.8	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.4
2011	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.2	6.1	6.4	5.9	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	6.1
2010	7.4	7.7	7.7	7.1	6.9	6.9	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.6	6.4	6.8

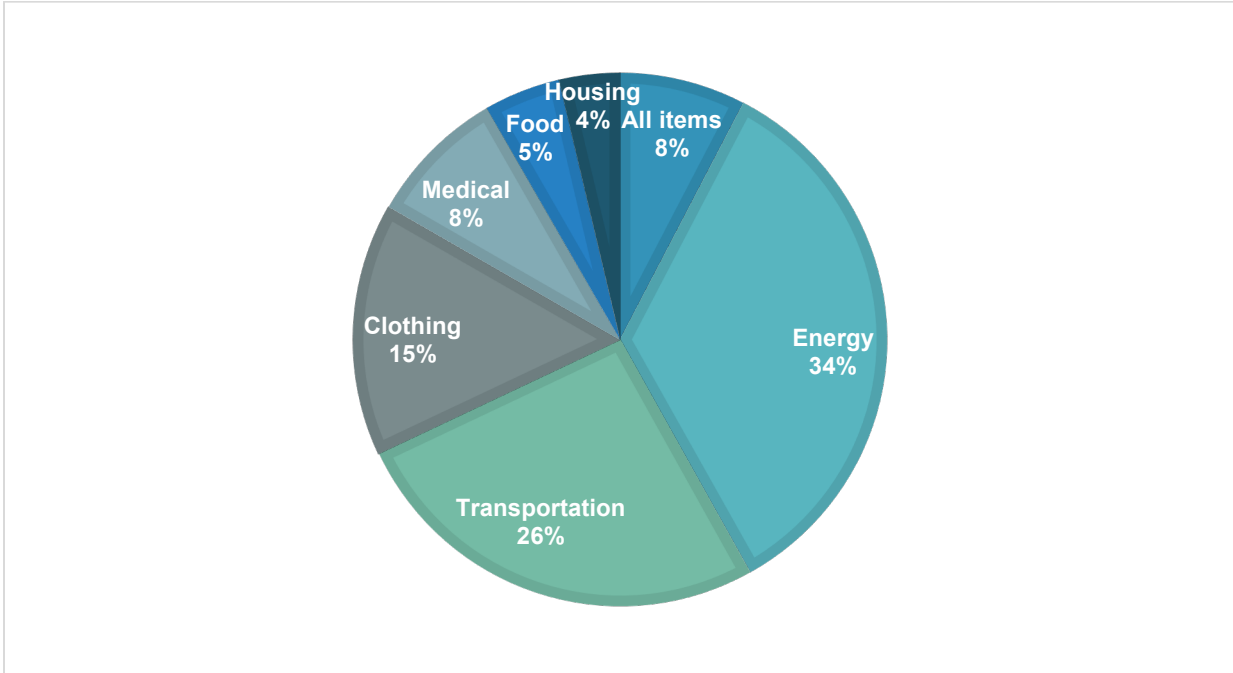
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Research and Analysis Section



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

How Households Spend Their Income

Percent distribution of average annual expenditures for seven major categories in the United States and Anchorage metropolitan area in April 2021.



Source: Alaska Economic Trends, July 2021

Cost of Common Items and Services in Early 2020

Movie at the Theater		Veterinarian Exam for Dog	
San Francisco, CA	\$16.41	Plano, TX	\$95.00
Fairbanks, AK	\$13.45	Kodiak, AK	\$75.00
Anchorage, AK	\$12.27	Anchorage, AK	\$72.50
Juneau, AK	\$12.25	Juneau, AK	\$53.50
Kodiak, AK	\$8.00	Fairbanks, AK	\$50.80
Texarkana, TX/AR	\$5.00	Muskogee, OK	\$32.50
Routine Exam at Doctor		Pound of Bananas	
Kodiak, AK	\$229.95	Kodiak, AK	\$1.21
Juneau, AK	\$221.00	Juneau, AK	\$0.89
Fairbanks, AK	\$217.67	Anchorage, AK	\$0.89
Anchorage, AK	\$209.00	Fairbanks, AK	\$0.88
Tupelo, MS	\$60.00	Tupelo, MS	\$0.31
McDonald's Quarter Pounder with Cheese		Haircut and Style at Salon	
Manchester, NH	\$6.69	Long Beach, CA	\$82.00
Kodiak, AK	\$5.85	Anchorage, AK	\$49.75
Fairbanks, AK	\$5.49	Fairbanks, AK	\$46.58
Juneau, AK	\$5.49	Juneau, AK	\$44.59
Anchorage, AK	\$4.98	Kodiak, AK	\$40.83
Thomasville & Lexington, NC	\$3.19	Kalamazoo, MI	\$18.27

Washing Machine Service Call		Half-Gallon of Milk	
Casper, WY	\$117.50	Honolulu, HI	\$4.42
Fairbanks, AK	\$100.00	Anchorage, AK	\$3.00
Kodiak, AK	\$97.83	Juneau, AK	\$2.99
Anchorage, AK	\$88.49	Kodiak, AK	\$2.61
Juneau, AK	\$55.00	Fairbanks, AK	\$2.57
Manhattan, KS	\$35.00	Louisville, KY	\$1.09

Source: Alaska Economic Trends, July 2021

Politics

Anchorage sends 14 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 by Jack Bonney

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.



Alaska Railroad Train by Juno Kim

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 Alaska received 95% of all goods destined for Alaska. Besides handling incoming and outgoing cargo shipments, the Port of Alaska 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.



Port of Alaska by Andre Horton

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 one satellite hub that serves the suburbs of Eagle River.

Community Services

Police Department

The Anchorage Police Department is the largest police department in Alaska serving a population of roughly 290,000 in a service area encompassing 1,944 square miles. The Department is authorized 443 sworn officer positions and 177 non-sworn personnel. There are several specialized units including Canine, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Investigative Support Unit (ISU), Crime Scene Team, Crisis Negotiations Team, Bomb Team, School Resource Officers (SRO), Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), Traffic, Impaired Driving and Crime Prevention Units. The Data Systems Section, Crime Lab Section, Records Section, Dispatch Center and the Property and Evidence Sections provide critical assistance in support of daily operations. APD's Crime Scene Team has been nationally recognized for its techniques and solvability rate.



Sunrise APD Car by Gia Currier

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

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
270,922	258,275	239,765	230,703	240,619	249,882	216,711	257,587	260,303	228,935

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.

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
66,161	65,787	62,660	59,589	59,655	63,989	66,054	63,942	57,802	50,965

Source: Anchorage Police Department

Fire Department

The Anchorage Fire Department first responders staff 13 stations covering an area of 166 square miles of Fire Service Area and 300+ square miles for EMS response and a 911 dispatch center.

Number of fire stations	13
Number of fire hydrants	7,200
Fire runs per year	12,135
Paramedic runs per year	24,103
Number of EMS units	13
(mobile intensive care unit ambulances)	
Number of rescue boats	2

Efficient Emergency Response:

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Emergency Medical	21,619	20,998	22,640	24,187	24,952	24,324	24,507	24,103
Fire	743	777	797	829	785	902	968	900
Service Calls	8,155	7,115	7,447	7,489	7,799	7,866	8,311	8,518
Hazardous Condition	465	391	418	425	518	590	508	455
False Alarms	2,257	2,141	2,175	2,331	2,216	2,230	2,388	2,262
Total Alarms	33,239	31,422	33,477	35,261	36,270	35,912	36,682	36,238

Source: Anchorage Fire Department [2018-2020 Report to the Community](#)



The condition of the Anchorage Fire Department continues to be positive and progressive. The department receives strong support from the citizens of Anchorage evidenced by support of

General Obligation bond funding of four replacement ambulances and a replacement fire engine, aerial apparatus and decontamination/rehabilitation unit in 2019 and 2020. The voters approved an increase in operations funding for an EMS equipment replacement lease program which allowed for a complete refresh of EMS equipment across the Municipality. Community attendance at department events is very high with positive comments toward the department and members.

To combat the strain of increasing EMS responses the department restructured the operations division to improve management of our emergency medical services and add two basic life support ambulances at no cost to the community.

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.

Parks and Recreation Department

Number of Parks	224
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	135+miles/217kms
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. There are about 200-300 moose year round and about 700-1,000 moose in the winter. There is an estimated 2,400 dall sheep that can be seen along the Turnagain Arm. There are also four or five wolf packs in the Anchorage Municipality, which is about 25-30 wolves.



Mother and Baby Moose by Brian Bonney