



STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor
Emil Notti, Commissioner
Tara Jollie, Director

Division of Community and Regional Affairs

December 8, 2009

Dear Alaskans:

Enclosed is the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs' (DCRA) final Rural Population report. It represents one component of the cooperative study effort that aimed to address rural population trends, migration and its impacts in Alaska. Our partners in this study were the First Alaskans Institute, the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The DCRA report consists of two parts. Part A discusses and illustrates recent and historical rural population trends and Part B focuses on Alaska's current and historical school district student counts.

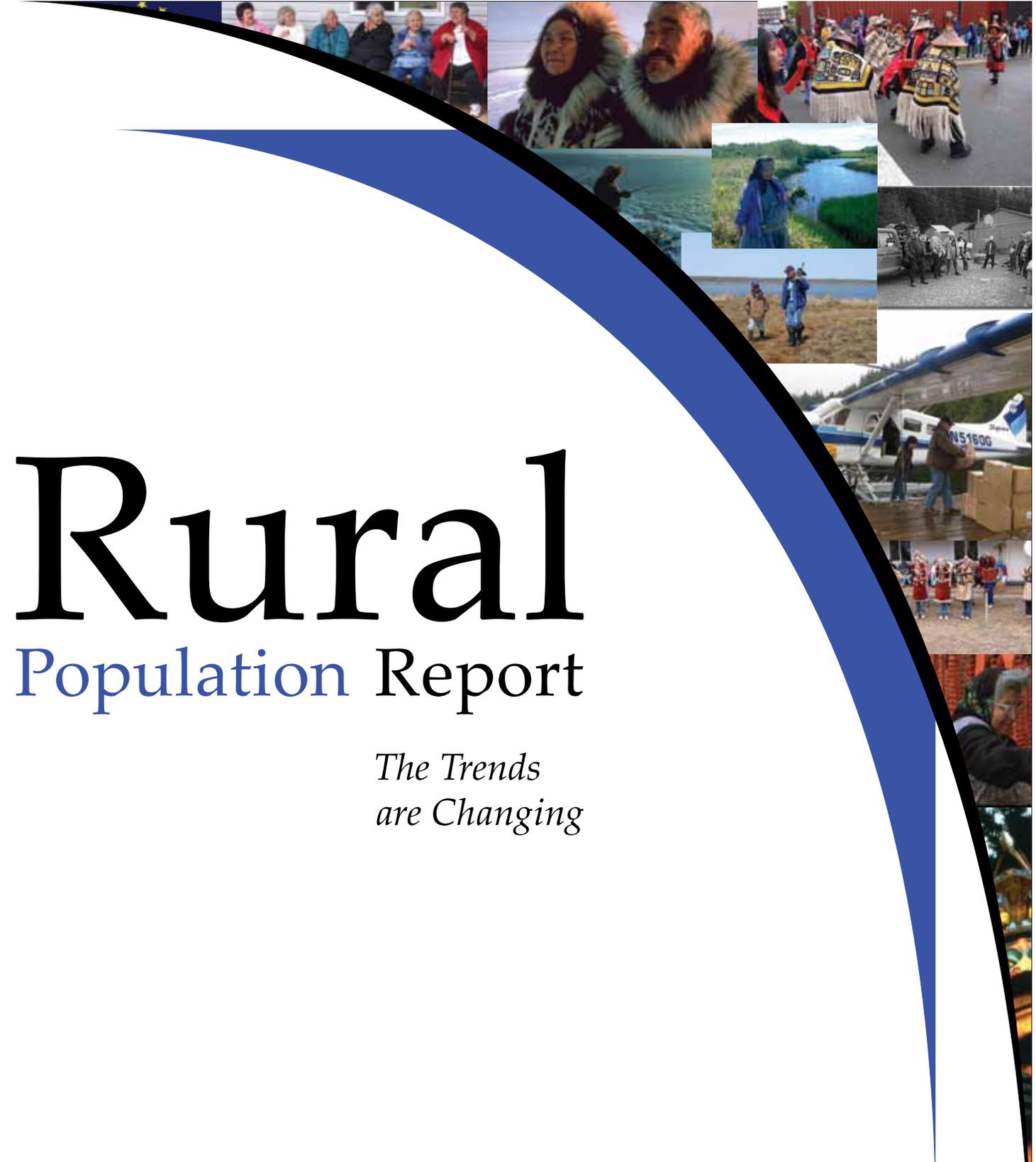
The study shows that Alaska's rural population is decreasing, and its school population is falling as well but at a faster rate than its overall population. Out-migration and lower birth rates are the primary reasons causing these declines. Lower student counts compared to those of the last decade confirm that natural increase has slowed. Recently, student counts have recovered slightly in some urban school districts but most rural districts have experienced declines. Demographic shifts have occurred in rural regions and point at the aging of its population.

I hope you find the details of the report informative and applicable to the task at hand. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call Brigitta Windisch-Cole at 269-4521 or email her at Brigitta.Windisch-Cole@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Tara Jollie".

Tara Jollie, Director
Division of Community and Regional Affairs



Rural Population Report

*The Trends
are Changing*



State of Alaska
Sean Parnell, *Governor*
Emil Notti, *Commissioner*
*Department of Commerce, Community,
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Division of Community and Regional Affairs
November 2009

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The Current Rural Population Trend Points at Change

Introduction

The sharp rise of fuel prices during 2008 substantially increased the costs of living in rural Alaska. Given the high costs of fuel, concerns arose whether Alaska's rural population could endure such hardship and maintain residence in their villages or if their economic situation would deteriorate to prompt migration from rural places to Alaska's urban centers. Anticipating mounting problems, several agencies and state departments gathered information in 2008 to examine the rural population trend and determine if rural out-migration was occurring and how it would impact rural and urban Alaska.

Project chronology

In May 2008, researchers at the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) found that high fuel costs did not seem to be "definite drivers of out-migration" from rural Alaska to its urban centers. According to their findings, current rural migration to urban centers is the continuation of a long-lasting trend. The scarcity of jobs, combined with low earnings, was cited as the principal reason for rural residents to move to urban centers.

In spring and early summer of 2008, crude oil prices continued to climb, peaking in June 2008 at an average price of \$133.78 per barrel. Prices remained high in subsequent months. In fact, monthly average per-barrel crude prices were above the \$100 mark between March and September – a time when remote rural communities typically purchase bulk fuel for their winter supply. An economic crisis was looming. The high price of crude oil would translate into extraordinarily high heating costs and gasoline prices in remote locations throughout the winter months. In Arctic Village, for example, fuel was selling for \$10.00 per gallon for heating fuel and gasoline in summer. Other areas were affected as well. Regional heating prices averaged \$6.96 per gallon in Northwest Alaska and \$6.59 in Western Alaska. The remaining household expenditures for essential goods and services were expected to rise as well because of increased transportation costs.

Some relief for all Alaskans - not just for rural residents - came in the form of the Alaska Resource Rebate in October. Coupled with the record high Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend distribution, the cash infusion amounted to \$3,269 for every Alaskan resident. A rural household of five received \$16,345 in cash, an amount that was possibly sufficient to afford a move to an urban center, where costs-of living were expected to be lower and where job opportunities existed. The other option for rural residents was to remain at home but cope with high energy and other household costs.

Both options caused concern. If rural residents were to leave their traditional homes, the urban affordable housing inventory might be insufficient to accommodate the movers. Moreover, transitional expenses could exceed cash resources. The increased demand for public services in urban areas could pose problems for the providers because of budgetary limitations.

In fall and winter, these concerns circulated in Alaska and highlighted the interest to learn more about Alaska's rural population, its migration pattern, and possible impacts from accelerated in-migration to urban Alaska.

For a closer examination of the rural population situation, the Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) spearheaded a workgroup with representatives of the First Alaskans Institute, ISER, and a state demographer at the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (AKDOL) in November 2008. All four agencies had planned projects to assemble population data and conduct specific analyses aiming to help understand in-state population movement. The inter-agency workgroup addressed historical rural population and the rural school population trends, designed a survey to explore reasons for the rural-urban move, and analyzed the 2008 impact of in-migration to the Anchorage School District. The inter-agency group lacked intra-state migration data in 2008 due to the usual data delays. The state demographer is currently studying Alaska's 2008 intra-state migration data and is preparing his analysis for publication in February 2010.

During 2009, the workgroup shared information of their findings in several meetings. First Alaskans Institute conducted the Alaska Native Survey during the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in October 2008, asking attendees if and when they had changed their residences and, if so, why. ISER studied how school population growth in the Anchorage School District relates to rural migration, in particular where the new students came from. ISER also explored reasons for their move. All three reports are enclosed.

First Alaskans Institute released their survey result in spring 2009. ISER completed their report in November 2009. DCRA published preliminary findings in April 2009 and now presents the revised 2009 report. AKDOL will publish in February 2010.

Part A

DCRA's methodology

Research staff compiled rural population numbers between 2000 and 2008 and earlier periods using the state demographer's (AKDOL) population estimates and U.S. Census 2000 data. Rural Alaska was defined as all areas with the exception of the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna, Kenai Peninsula, Fairbanks North Star, and Juneau boroughs. Twenty-two of Alaska's 27 areas were considered rural. Staff identified the rural population change and studied its two components - net migration and natural increase. The study focused also on demographic changes in rural Alaska and identified changes in the respective rural census areas or boroughs. School population figures were compared to Alaska's rural population to establish links between the two trends.

Alaska's rural population has declined

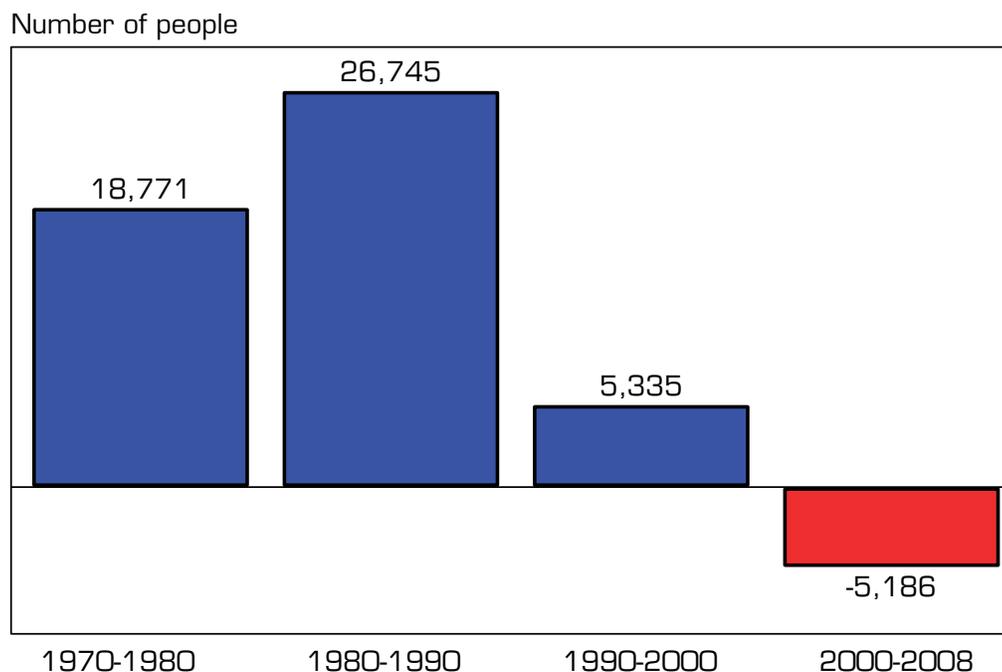
In 2008, rural Alaska was home to 138,898 residents. Although rural Alaska gained a few residents (+58) in 2008, the long term rural population trend points predominantly at a decline. Since 2000, Alaska's rural population dropped by 5,186 residents, reversing the growth trend of the 1990s, when population in rural areas grew by 5,335. (See Exhibit 1 and 2.) Between 2000 and 2008, Alaska's rural population declined in 16 and increased in only six rural areas. In the 1990s, the population trend was the exact opposite. While 16 areas gained population, only six had losses.

The 2000-2008 loss of 3.6 % offset most of the gains recorded in the 1990s and Alaska's 2008 rural population estimate was only 149 persons higher than the 1990 aggregated "rural" census-based figure. Thus, Alaska's rural population count has hardly changed over the last 18 years.

Regional trends 2000-2008

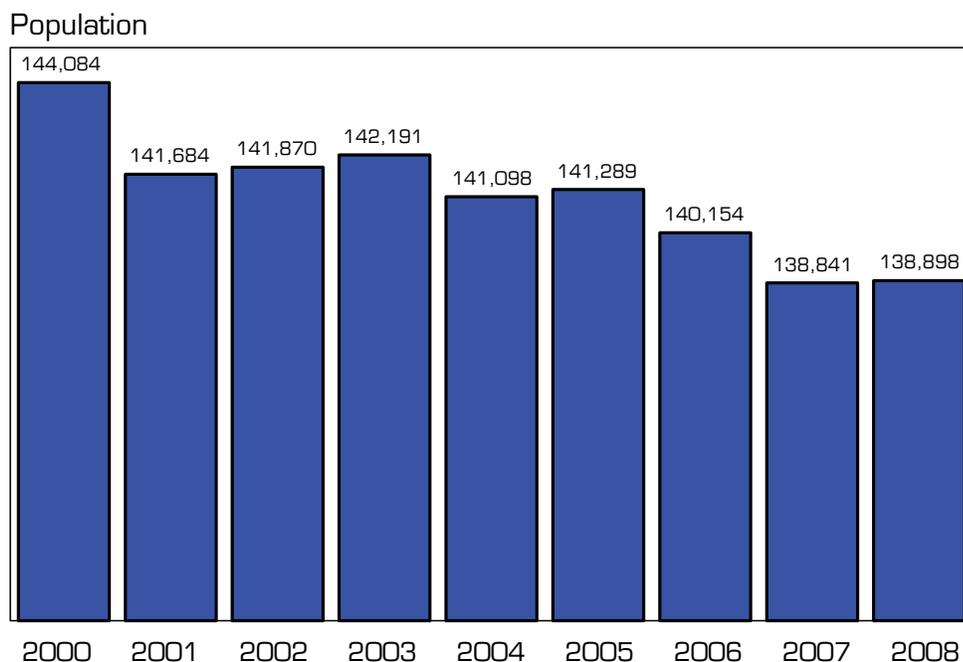
Although most of Alaska's rural regions (see map 1) lost population between 2000 and 2008, impacts differed. By far, rural Southeast Alaska lost the most people, absorbing 69 % of the total statewide rural population decline. In just eight years, its population fell by 3,596 persons and the region's 2000 population base eroded by 8.5 %. (See Exhibit 3.)

Exhibit 1. Changes in Alaska's Rural Population

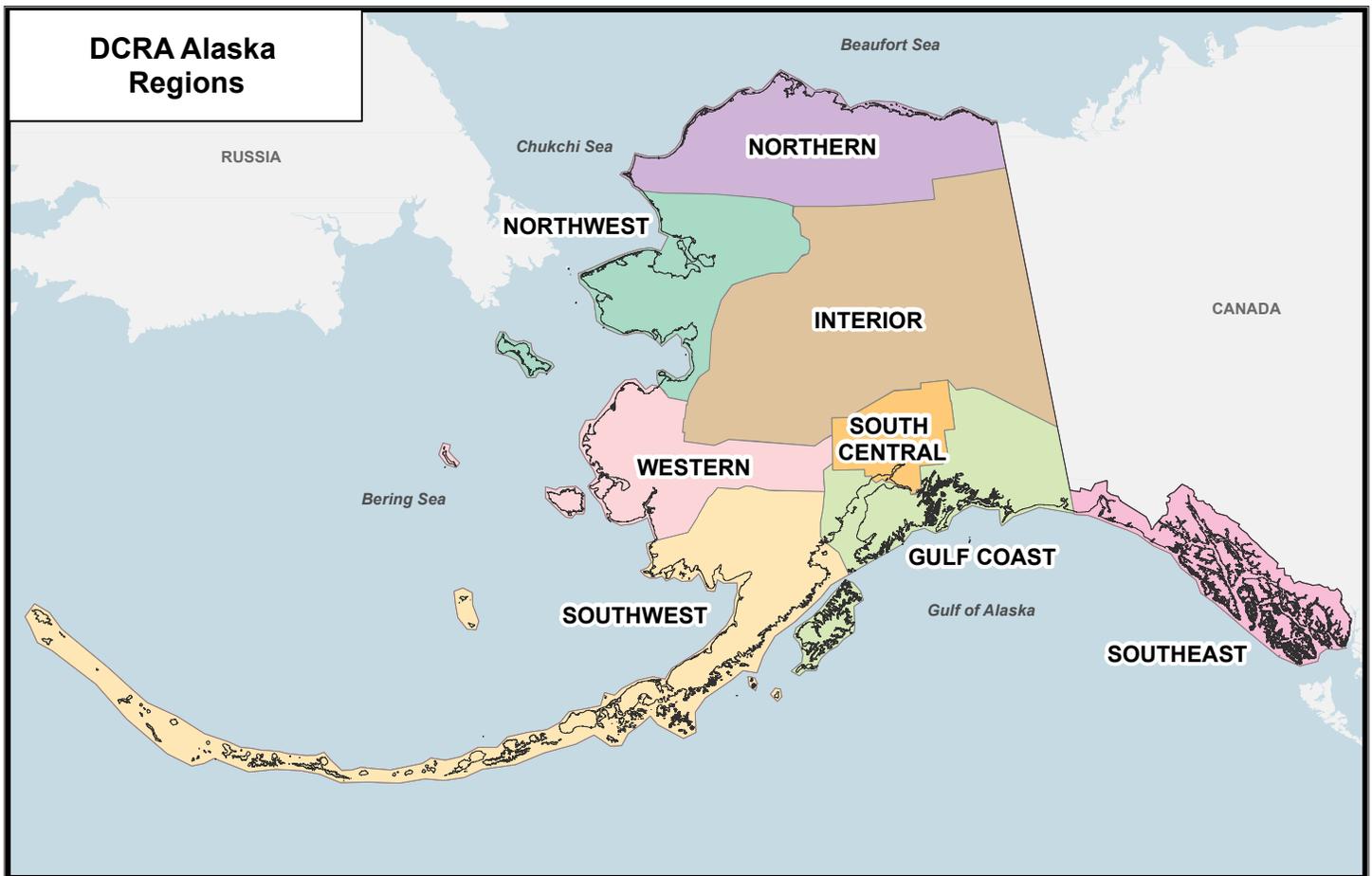


Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Exhibit 2. Alaska's Rural Population Trend 2000-2008



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



Rural Southeast's hardest hit areas were the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and the Prince of Wales–Outer Ketchikan Census Area, posting a decline of 1,066 and 797 persons, respectively. (See Exhibit 4.) Alaska's least populated area, the Yakutat Borough, was impacted the most, with a 27 % decline from its population in 2000. (See Exhibit 5.) Current expectations, however, are that population declines in the Southeast Region will subside. The economic downturn, caused by the timber industry, has abated.

Regionally, the largest impact was measured in the Southwest Region. Its 2000 population base diminished by 10.4 % and it had 1,675 fewer people included in its 2008 population estimate. The apparent loss most likely relates to the fishing industry and its seafood processing workers, a highly transient workforce. Changes in the fishing industry business have emerged and impacted Southwest's workforce. Fishing seasons have been prolonged and therefore production has become more stable within a season, deviating from its historical

Exhibit 3. Percent Change in Population

Alaska's Regions	2000-2008
Total Rural Region	-3.6%
Southwest Region	-10.4%
Northern	-9.2%
Rural Southeast	-8.5%
Rural Gulf Coast	-5.1%
Rural Interior	-0.4%
Northwest	3.1%
Western	6.7%

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

concentrated schedule. Nowadays, a smaller but longer employed workforce handles the region's abundant fish harvests.

The population comparison between 2000 and 2008 for the rural Gulf Coast Region denoted a 5.1 % loss. The rural Interior had a minimal change in population, showing a decline of less than one percent. This masks the fact that one of its areas, the Yukon Koyukuk Census Area has lost 12.9 % (841 people) of its population since 2000. This loss was nearly offset by a gain (834 people) in the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area. While the rural inner Interior region is losing population to out-migration, the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area has experienced in-migration, mostly due to the upbeat economic climate. Both, the Pogo Mine and the missile base at Fort Greely have helped Delta Junction's economy.

Population in the Northern region has also declined and shows a drop of 9.2%. The predominant factor is out-migration, which is only partially offset by natural increase. (The Northern Region represents the area of the North Slope Borough.) (See Exhibit 3.)

Only two regions gained population. The population in the Northwest and the Western regions grew, because natural increase more than offset out-migration. The Western Region showed the highest growth rate at 6.7%, followed by the Northwest region with a rate of 3.1%. Since these growth rates cover an eight year period, the annual pace of population growth was less than one percent and moderate in both regions. (See Exhibit 3.)

Area impacts

The following rural areas experienced population losses of more than 10 % between 2000 and 2008: Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area; the former Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area; the former Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area; the Yakutat Borough; Aleutians West Census Area; Bristol Bay Borough; Lake and Peninsula Borough; and the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area. Four of these areas lie in the Southeast

Exhibit 4. Areas with Population Losses of 300 or more

Area Names	Change 2000-2008
Gulf Coast Region:	
Kodiak Island Borough	-540
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	-682
Interior Region:	
Yukon Koyukuk Census Area	-841
Northern Region:	
North Slope Borough	-679
Southeast Region:	
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	-1,066
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	-797
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon C.A.	-490
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	-725
Southwest Region:	
Aleutians West Census Area	-1,027

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section and U.S. Census 2000

Exhibit 5. Areas with Population Losses of More than 10 Percent

Area Names	Change 2000-2008
Yakutat City and Borough	-26.70%
Aleutians West Census Area	-18.8%
Bristol Bay Borough	-18.2%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	-14.9%
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon C.A.	-14.3%
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	-12.9%
Yukon Koyukuk Census Area	12.9%
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	-10.8%

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

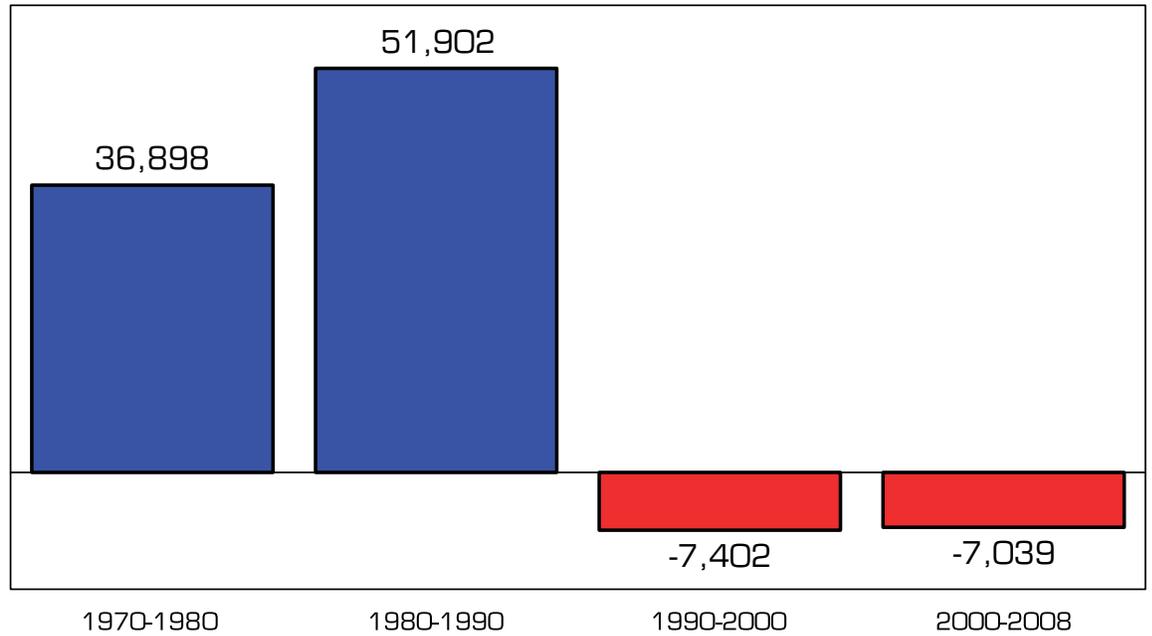
Exhibit 6. Increases in Rural Population

Area Name	Change 2000-2008
Bethel Census Area	894
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	834
Wade Hampton Census Area	642
Nome Census Area	303
Northwest Arctic Borough	199
Aleutians East Borough	2

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

Exhibit 7. Statewide Out-Migration Continues

Number of Net Migrants



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

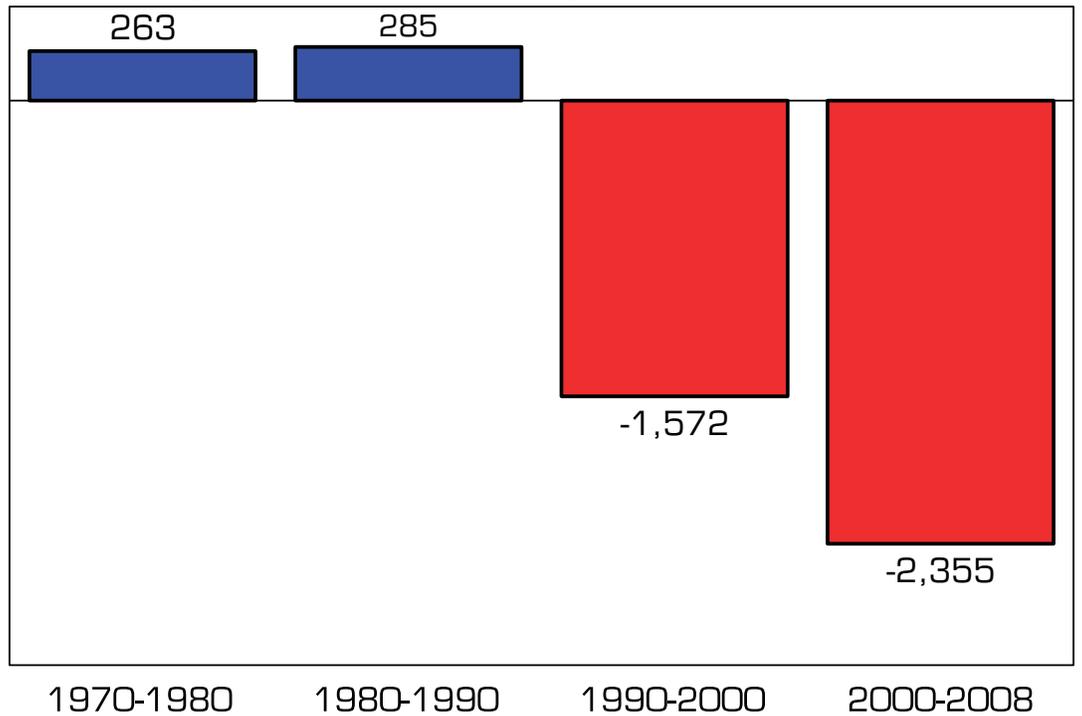
region and three in Southwest Alaska, influencing their respective regional trends. The Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area encompasses most of the vast Interior Region. (See Exhibit 5.)

As of 2008, Alaska had 29 boroughs or census areas. For comparison reasons, the former geographic boundaries of the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon and the former Wrangell-Petersburg census area were retained to illustrate the changes in the inhabitant population. Skagway formed a borough and incorporated in 2007; therefore, just the Hoonah-Angoon area remains a census area. Likewise, Wrangell also incorporated as a borough in 2008 and separated from the Petersburg area, which remained a census area.

As aforementioned, the highest numeric population losses occurred in specific areas of the Southeast Region. But five additional areas also had losses of 300 and more. (See Exhibit 4.)

Exhibit 8. Rural Out-Migration Accelerates

Annual Average Number of Net Rural Migrants



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

Between Census 2000 and 2008, only six areas in rural Alaska gained population. (See Exhibit 6.) Most of the gains can be attributed to natural increase (birth minus death). In fact, the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area was the only rural area to gain population through in-migration. The upbeat economic climate surrounding the Delta Junction area has attracted new residents. In all other rural areas with population growth, natural increase was the dominant contributor.

Factors contributing to changes in population

Population changes occur through natural increase (birth minus death) or net migration, the net result of people moving in and out of a defined geography. In recent years, population growth in Alaska was upheld by natural increase.

Between 2000 and 2008, migration to Alaska was negative, meaning more people left than came to the state. The outflow of population accumulated to a loss of 7,039 people, which is approximately as large as the population of the City of Kenai. In the previous decade, Alaska experienced a similar population drain. (See Exhibit 7.) But seen on a yearly average, more people left the state between 2000 and 2008 than in the decade before. Net (out-)migration, on average, has increased by nearly 19 % between 2000 and 2008 over the past decade. This trend, however, may have slowed in 2009 because of the severe economic downturn of the U.S. economy. Overall natural increase softened the migration impact and Alaska’s population grew by 8.4 % - a bit slower than the 14 % growth rate noted for the previous decade.

Rural out-migration has accelerated

According to the state demographer, “rural areas have consistently shown a predominant pattern of out-migration since 1990.” Between 1990 and 2000, rural areas lost an average of 1,572 persons per year due to out-migration. Between 2000 and 2008, migration led to an average loss of 2,355 persons, signaling an increase of 50 % in population net outflow over the previous decade. (See Exhibit 8.) Since 2000, out-migration caused the drop in population in 16 boroughs or census areas. In only six rural areas, natural increase helped offset the decline. The number of out-migrants from 21 areas amounted to 19,150 persons. (See Exhibit 9.) Only one area, the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, experienced in-migration.

The Bethel Census Area had the largest number of out-migrants, although its population grew due to natural increase. The North Slope Borough lost nearly 1,800 persons to migration, and natural increase did not offset this loss. In six additional areas, the number of people moving out exceeded in-migrants by more than 1,000. Between 2007 and 2008, the number of persons moving from the rural regions

Exhibit 9. Recent Migration from or to Rural Areas

Area	Net migration (in minus out) 4/2000-6/2008
Out-migration:	
Bethel Census Area	-1,872
North Slope Borough	-1,777
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	-1,844
Kodiak Island Borough	-1,854
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	-1,307
Aleutians West Census Area	-1,242
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	-1,135
Yukon Koyukuk Census Area	-1,146
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	-891
Nome Census Area	-982
Northwest Arctic Borough	-926
Wade Hampton Census Area	-820
Sitka City and Borough	-776
Dillingham Census Area	-673
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon C.A.	-619
Lake and Peninsula Borough	-364
Bristol Bay Borough	-290
Denali Borough	-172
Yakutat City and Borough	-244
Aleutians East Borough	-100
Haines Borough	-116
Total Out-Migrants	-19,150
In-Migration:	
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	307
Total Net-Migration	-18,843

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

slowed to 1,712, which is 27 % below the 2000-2008 annual average.

According to the state demographer, most out-migrants from rural areas move to Alaska's urban centers. Anchorage attracts the most migrants coming from all rural areas in the states and from other U.S. states. The military also contributes to Anchorage's migration flows. Yet Anchorage loses population to the adjacent Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The greater Wasilla and Palmer areas are in commuter distance from

Anchorage and have formed a large area "suburb." Many of Fairbanks' new residents are students from all parts of the state and military coming from all parts of the nation and from overseas. The Fairbanks area also receives in-migrants from the communities of the vast Interior Region. Juneau attracts rural residents from the surrounding Southeast Region and even from Kodiak, which houses Alaska's largest Coast Guard base.

Exhibit 10. Natural Increase of Population in Alaska's Rural Areas Slows



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Census 2000

Natural increase slows in rural areas

The strongest component of population growth is natural increase, but in rural areas its contribution has diminished in recent years. While the average annual increase gained strength in the 1980s and peaked at 2,475 persons, it dropped to 1,707 between Census 2000 and 2008. (See Exhibit 10.) Falling birth rates in rural Alaska have controlled population growth the most. Households having fewer children and the out-migration of women of child-bearing age have contributed to a lower number of births in many rural areas. The moderate increase in deaths in rural areas played a small and secondary role.

Although birth rates, measured as the number of births per 1,000 population, in many rural areas are above the 2008 Alaska average of 16.6, exceptions exist. Birthrates are particularly low in the Aleutians. In 2008, the Aleutians East Borough's birthrate registered at 8.4 and the Aleutians West Census Area's at 8.5. In the 1980s, these area-specific rates were 18.6 and 17.5, respectively.

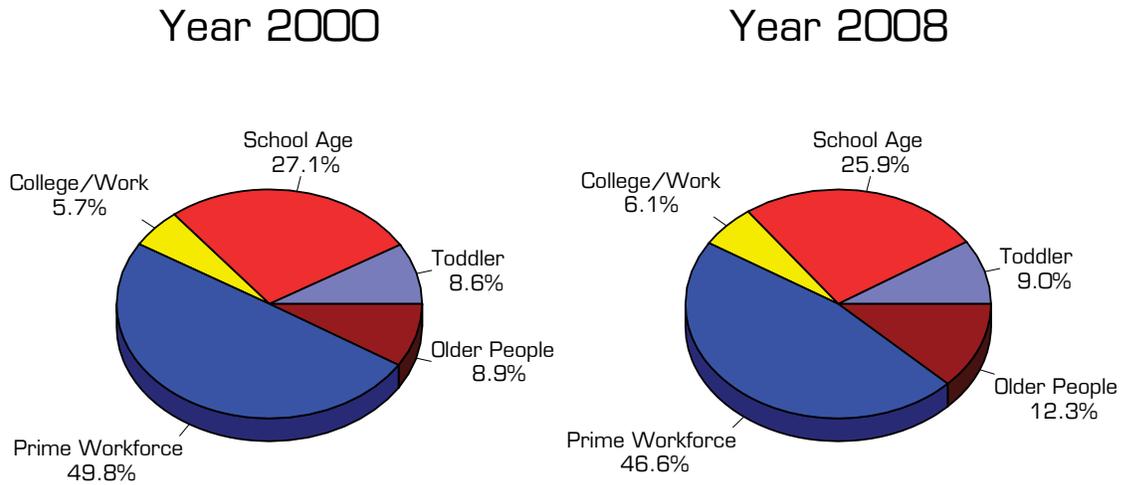
Exhibit 11. Population Changes by Group and Gender

Population Group	Age	Total	Male	Female
Toddler	0-4	229	78	151
School Age	5-19	-3,032	-1,794	-1,238
College/Young Worker	20-24	393	-119	512
Prime Workforce	25-59	-7,049	-4,363	-2,686
Older Population	60+	4,272	2,347	1,925
Total		-5,187	-3,851	-1,336

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

Alaska's highest birthrate was recorded in the Northwest Arctic Borough at 29.1 and was 75 % above the Alaska average rate. In previous years, the Wade Hampton Census Area (better known as the Yukon Delta area) claimed the highest rate. In 2008 it came in as the second highest rate at 28.1 births per thousand population.

Exhibit 12. The Age Composition In Rural Alaska



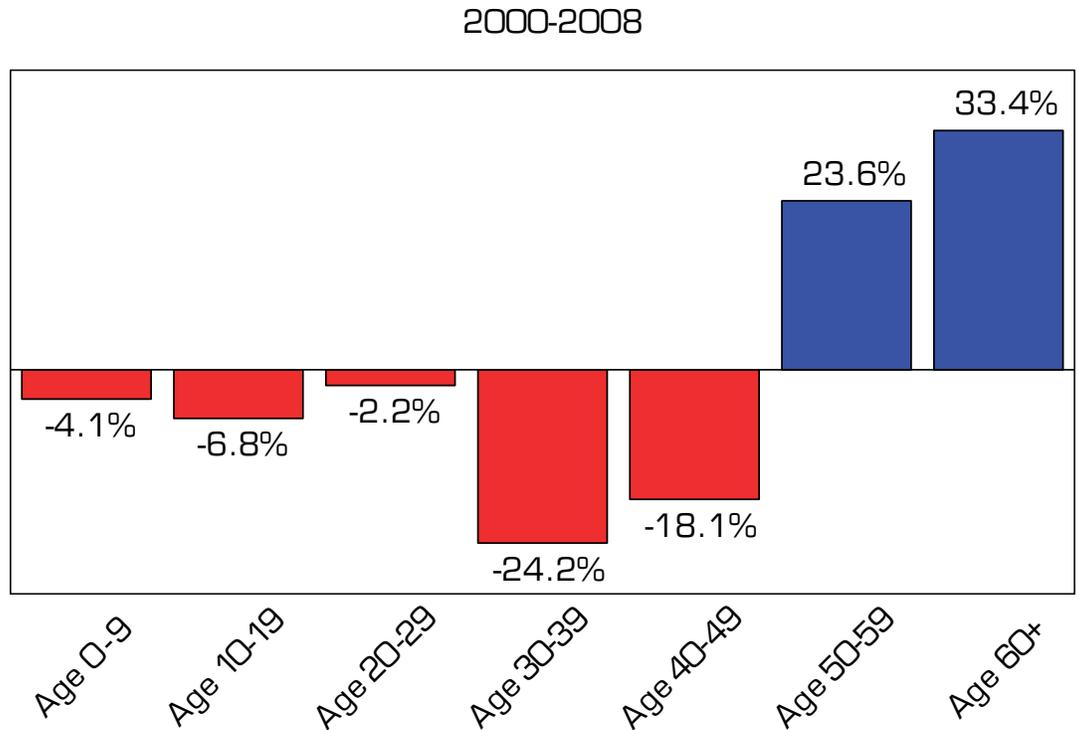
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

While the Western, Northwest, and Northern regions all have above average birthrates, the Southeast Region has the state's lowest rate at 13.3. The Haines Borough had a birthrate of only 9.2 and posted the state's highest median age of 45.7.

The age composition in rural Alaska is changing

During year 2000-2008 remarkable changes in Alaska's rural age composition took place. Although perceptions still hold that rural Alaska has a young population, the aging trend became prominent. Since 2000, rural Alaska's 60-plus age cohort has grown by 33.4 %. Excluding in-migrants to rural areas aged 60 and above, this means that 4,272 residents have advanced into this "older" age group. (See Exhibits 11, 12 and 13.) The only other age groups that showed gains, albeit small, were the toddler group (age 0-4) and the college and young worker group (age 20-24).

Exhibit 13. Demographic Changes in Specific Age Groups



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

The most remarkable gap widened in the “prime workforce” group (age 25-59). In 2008, there were 7,049 fewer individuals in this age group than in year 2000. Most of this decline, however, recorded as a gain in the 60-plus population group. The school age group (age 5-19) has also become smaller. Lower birthrates and out-migration most likely were factors.

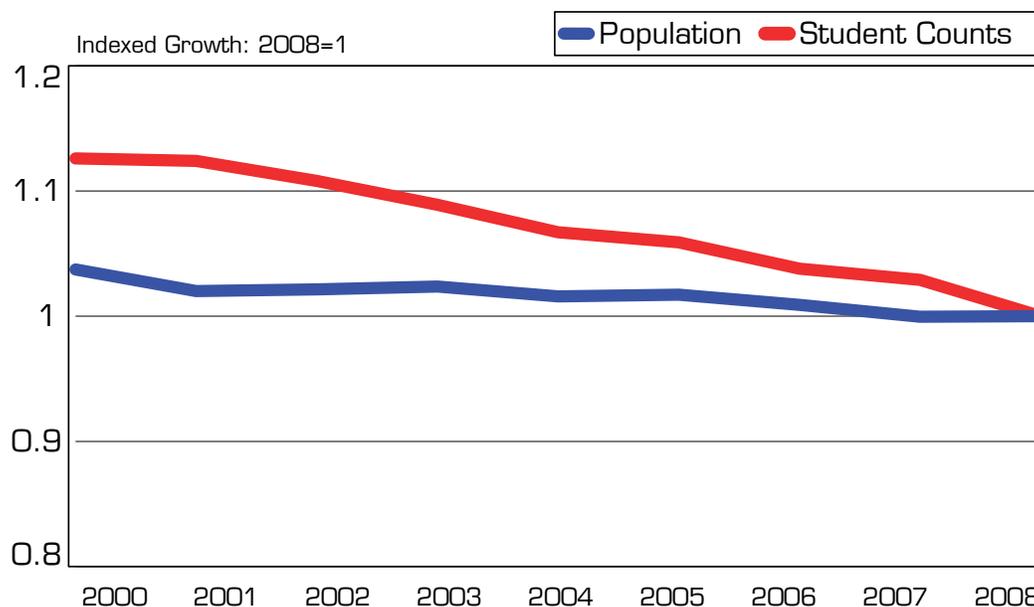
A more detailed look at population changes in sequential age groups underscores the ebbing representation of the younger age groups. A wide gap developed for the population group in their 30s and 40s. In 2008, there were 25 % fewer residents in the 30-39 years old age group and 18 % fewer residents in the 40-49 years old age group than in 2000. (See Exhibit 13.) The population share for younger folks and children has also shrunk but not as dramatically as the prime-aged (30-49 years old) adult group.

The population change table (Exhibit 11) reveals that the presence of females in rural Alaska has not dwindled as much as that of males. The 2000-2008 comparison further told that rural Alaska’s female population fell by two percent compared to five percent for males. Moreover, only 26 % of the total rural population decline represented women.

A link to Alaska’s rural school enrollment trend

While total rural population declined 3.6 % between 2000 and 2008, rural school enrollment dropped by 11 %. (See Exhibit 14.) School enrollment decreased continuously, while population fell four times and recovered slightly four times in eight years. But both long-term trends show a decline. According to the average 2008 October student count, the drop in school enrollment continued in 2008 and marked a 2.8 % decline. It confirmed that 1,015 fewer students were attending schools in rural Alaska than in 2007. Since both the rural school student count and its population trends move in the same direction, it can be anticipated that rural Alaska will experience future declines in population. Part B of this report discusses school enrollment trends in more detail.

Exhibit 14. Rural Student Population Declines faster Than Total Rural Population



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

Part B

School data background:

In fall of 2008, concerns arose about the high costs of living in rural Alaska exacerbated by record-high fuel prices. Public discussions focused on the issue that escalating basic living expenses might force migration from Alaska's rural areas. If so, could the urban schools accommodate in-migrating students? Knowing that an influx of new students would pose financial challenges to urban school districts, the Anchorage School District took the lead to demonstrate the possible problem.

Previous Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich and the Anchorage Schools Superintendent Carol Comeau addressed the situation in a letter sent to Governor Sarah Palin, asking her "to take immediate steps to stem this trend."¹ One newspaper article stated that "The main evidence of the migration was enrollment in Anchorage schools, which have seen more than 400 new Native students since school started."² Another article reported that "The Anchorage School District projected 47,944 kids this year in its 100 schools. So far that population has exceeded 48,320 and is expected to grow more in the next several months."³

State analysts and university researchers addressed the migration issue and encountered data gathering problems. The usual data time delays did not allow for a comprehensive migration study. Both groups focused on school population trends. To obtain information, the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) developed a survey to study the reasons and impact on in-migration to the Anchorage School District. DCRA concentrated on school student data provided by the school districts. Assuming that in-state movement would be detectable from the October average daily membership figures, DCRA analyzed the historical and current school population trends.

DCRA's methodology

Deviating from the broad geographic concept of rural and urban school locations, the following analysis focuses not only on location of a broader area (rural or urban) but also on the local area, community sites and school types. Recognizing that rural schools existed within urban districts, DCRA developed the following classifications that are detailed as follows and listed by school in the Appendix.

Boarding Schools: Schools that provide housing in addition to education for students who don't usually live in the community. (3 schools)

Correspondence: Schools that provide education through the mail or internet to students who may or may not live in the community where the schools are located. This group includes home-schooled students. (28 schools)

Schools in Correctional Facilities: Correctional facilities with the capacity to provide education for incarcerated youth. The Department of Education and Early Development reports capacity rather than student counts. Throughout this report capacity is considered to be the same as a count. (9 schools)

Hub Schools: Schools located in communities that serve as a regional service center for residents of the hub city, surrounding communities and other settlements. (69 schools)

Urban Schools: Schools located in large communities and have several schools. These communities are Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Palmer, Wasilla, Sitka, Skagway, and cities or census designated places that are close by. (182 schools)

Rural Schools: Schools usually located in small communities or census designated places away from hub or urban population centers. (221 schools)

1 Julia O'Malley, "Bush cost prompt exodus to cities," Anchorage Daily News, Sept 29th, 2008.

2 O'Malley, "Bush cost prompt exodus."

3 Megan Holland, "Local schools more populous than expected," Anchorage Daily News, Sept 16, 2008.

Categorizing schools into correspondence, boarding, institutional, urban, hub, and rural schools gave some perspective of a current school population trend. It became clear that the overall decline could not solely be linked to migration. Other factors, such as birth rates and continued school attendance, influenced the school population trends. An increase in drop-outs or transfers from public to private schools, for example, could impact school attendance. An additional information gap also surfaced. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) does not track student attendance in private schools; therefore, comprehensive data are not available. In spite of the data shortcomings, trends emerged for the majority of Alaska's school population.

The most current counts

DEED reported that 128,380 students were attending school during October 2008 (FY 2009), which represented nearly 19 % of Alaska's total population. The count is an average attendance figure taken routinely in October in all Alaskan schools. It is referred to as average daily membership (ADM). Excused absences are included in the ADM counts.

While the majority of Alaska's students (91.2%) attended traditional school buildings in their communities in FY 2009, the remaining students lived in boarding schools, were in correctional facilities or were enrolled in correspondence schools. Boarding schools housed 574 students and correctional facilities had capacity for 370 students. Eight percent (10,305 Alaska students) received educational instructions in the mail or electronically. (See Exhibit 15.)

Students enrolled in correspondence schools often do not reside near the school that provides their school curriculum. In FY 2009, Alaska had 28 correspondence schools. Among them are ten statewide correspondence schools that allow students from all over the state to enroll in their programs. Therefore, the location of a statewide correspondence school does not link a student's residence. Twenty additional district correspondence schools serve only students who reside within their respective regional educational attendance areas. Thus, a Homer (Kenai Peninsula Borough School District) student, taking correspondence courses, cannot enroll in the Anchorage School District's distance learning programs.

Exhibit 15. Alaska Schools by Type

Type of School	# of Students FY09	% of Total Students FY09
Boarding	574	0.4%
Correctional Facility	370	0.3%
Correspondence	10,305	8.0%
Hub	16,407	12.8%
Rural	17,744	13.8%
Urban	82,980	64.6%
Total	128,380	100.00%

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Exhibit 16. Student Counts Decline

Type of School	FY 08	FY 09	Change
Boarding	562	574	12
Correctional Facility	370	370	0
Correspondence	10,252	10,305	53
Hub	16,783	16,407	-366
Rural	18,138	17,744	-412
Urban	82,872	82,980	116
Total	128,977	128,380	597

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Boarding schools housed 574 students and correctional facilities had capacity for 370 students. Eight percent (10,305 Alaska students) received educational instructions in the mail or electronically. (See Exhibit 15.)

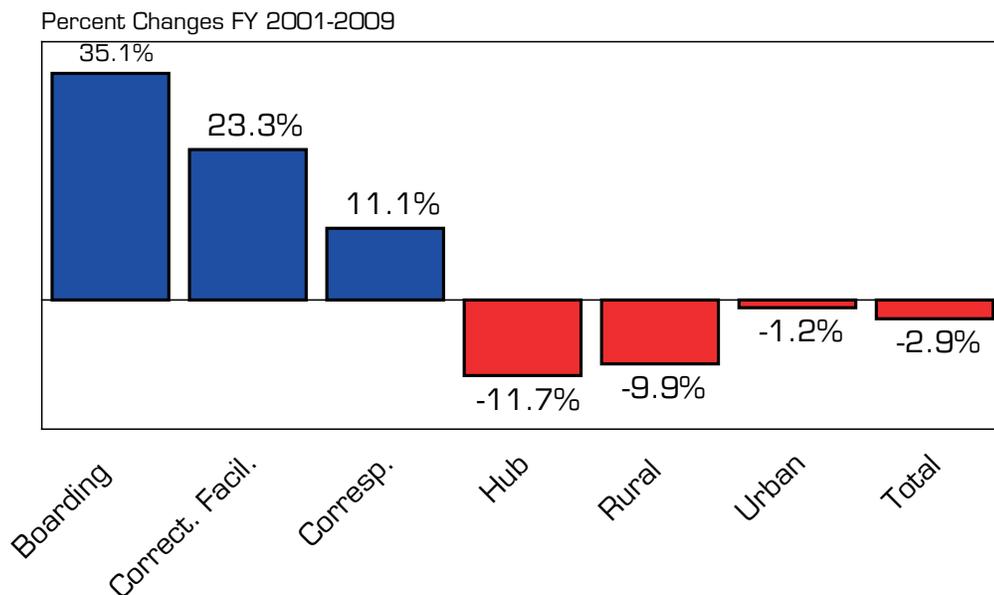
Exhibit 17. Student Counts Drop the Most in Hub Schools

Type of School	FY 01	FY 09	Change	Percent Change
Boarding	425	574	149	35.1%
Correctional Facility	300	370	70	23.3%
Correspondence	9,275	10,305	1,030	11.1%
Hub	18,584	16,407	-2,177	-11.7%
Rural	19,687	17,744	-1,943	-9.9%
Urban	83,985	82,980	-1,005	-1.2%
Total	132,256	128,380	3,876	2.9%

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Between school year 2008 and 2009, the average student count dropped by 597. While rural and hub schools lost school population, nearly all other types of schools increased in ADM. On average, boarding schools recorded an increase of 12 students; correspondence schools gained 53 and urban schools showed a small increase of 108 new students. The schools within correctional facilities provided education for the same number of students as in FY 2008. (See Exhibit 16.)

Exhibit 18. Changes in Student Counts by Type of School



Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

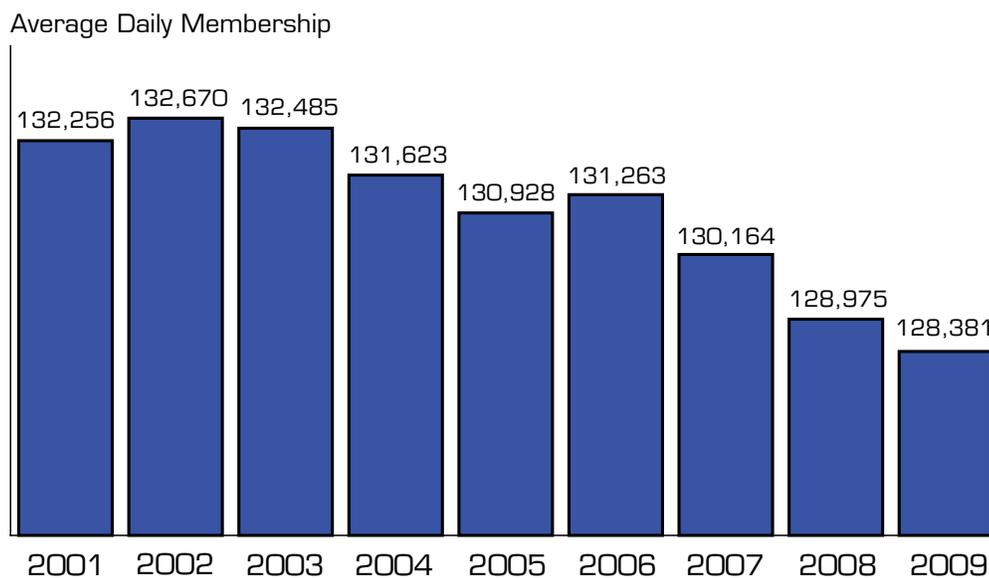
Alaska's student population is shrinking

Between FY 1989 and 1999 student counts in Alaska continuously increased. Thereafter, the counts waxed and waned for seven years, ranging between a low of 130,928 to a high of 132,670. Since FY 2006, only decreases have occurred. In fact, in the last eight years, school attendance has dropped six times and only increased twice. (See Exhibits 17 and 18.)

Between FY 2001 and FY 2009 average student counts dropped by 2.9 % or 3,876 students. (See Exhibit 19.) The largest decline was recorded in hub schools with a drop of 2,177, followed by rural school and urban schools with decreases of 1,943 and 1,005 students respectively. Correspondence schools gained 1,030 students. The student counts in both, boarding schools and schools in correctional facilities, also increased by 149 and 70 respectively.

Exhibit 19. Student Counts Are Falling in Alaska's Schools

Hub schools not only lost the most students but the decline also was quite strong. Attendance (ADM) in 2009 dipped 11.7 % below the FY 2001 level. Rural schools showed a decline of 9.9 %. Among the schools with increases, correspondence registered the highest growth rate of 11.1 %. Although the percent increase in students in boarding schools and correctional facilities appeared impressive with growth rates of 35.1 % and 23.3 % respectively, their numeric gains were fairly small. (See Exhibits 19 and 20.)

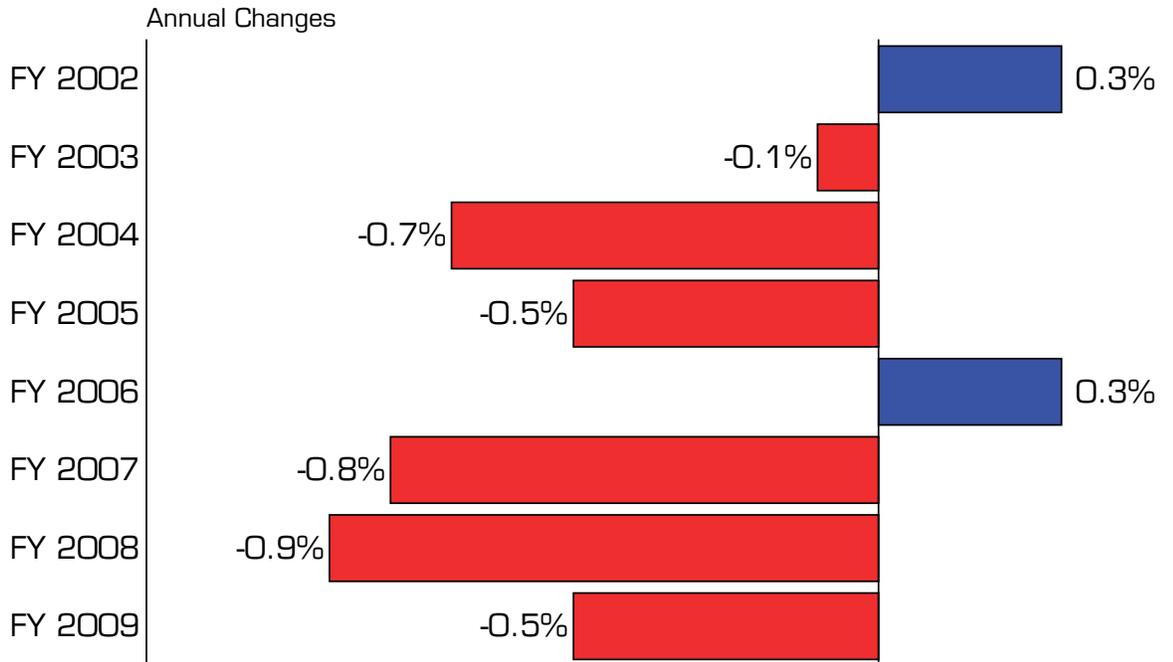


Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Some schools gained and others lost students

In FY 2009, among the 512 Alaskan schools, 220 gained students, 12 maintained their previous year's count, and 280 lost students. Three new schools located in Juneau, Wasilla and in Anchorage open in 2008 for the 2009 school year. The Juneau-Douglas High School lost the most students (657) but Juneau also gained the most, when 469 students moved to the new Thunder Mountain High School. Combining student counts of all the Juneau School District schools still resulted in a net loss of 100 students in FY 2009. It was the only urban district to show a decline.

Exhibit 20. Student Counts Fluctuate



Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Funding woes develop for several rural schools

Every year, Alaska's smallest schools face the threat of losing their funding. These tiny schools are often located in remote places. In FY 2009, eleven schools were at or below the state threshold of the minimum attendance of 10 students. In all, 91 students attend these schools. Because the number of students can change from one year to another, it is possible that a school becomes dormant in a specific school year but reopens when the funding threshold has been restored. (See Exhibit 21).

Low student counts persisted in an additional 35 community schools. (See Exhibit 22.) In all, 428 students attended these schools in FY 2009. If families with school-aged children decide to leave one of these communities, immediate concerns arise about school funding and whether it can be preserved for the remaining students.

Exhibit 21. Schools Facing Loss in Funding

Location	Name of School	Type	FY 09 Student Counts
Red Devil	George Willis School	Rural	5
Akutan	Akutan School	Rural	7
Edna Bay	Edna Bay School	Rural	7
Whale Pass	Whale Pass School	Rural	8
Hollis	Hollis School	Rural	8
Port Protection	Port Protection School	Rural	8
Tenakee Springs	Tenakee Springs School	Rural	9
Nikolski	Nikolski School	Rural	10
Kasaan	Kasaan School	Rural	10
Hope	Hope School	Rural	10
Hughes	Johnny Oldman School	Rural	10

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Declines in student population may soften

Future student counts can be assessed from current enrollment figures. These differ from the average daily membership numbers due to the time of counting. Enrollments reflect the expected student counts as of October 1 of a school year. Daily membership averages, which are taken later in October, are a head count and better represent the actual size of the student body. Often enrollment counts are slightly higher because some students transfer to private schools or move away between the time of enrollment and the beginning of classes.

Compared to FY 2001, enrollments in grade levels three through nine have shrunk significantly. The combined enrollment count in FY 2009 for Kindergarten and these grade levels fell nearly 7,200 below

the FY 2001 tallies. Gains in the high school grades softened the loss to approximately 3,400. (See Exhibit 23.) This confirms that Alaska now has fewer school-aged children than in 2000 (FY 2001).

Although the FY 2009 enrollment profiles indicate that student population losses may stretch into the future, the decline in FY 2010 may slow. Current enrollment counts by grade level helped to make this projection. While High School and middle school classes may have fewer students, elementary classes may have more. Moreover, expectations assume that urban Alaska may experience increases in students, while rural Alaska may look at continued declines.

Exhibit 22. Looming Threats of Loss of Funding

COMMUNITY	SCHOOL NAME	FY 09 Student Counts
Circle	Circle School	11
Tanacross	Tanacross School	11
Manley Hot Springs	Gladys Dart School	11
Dot Lake	Dot Lake School	11
Coffman Cove	Howard Valentine School	11
Clark's Point	Clark's Point School	11
Cooper Landing	Cooper Landing School	11
False Pass	False Pass School	11
Port Alexander	Port Alexander School	11
Danger Bay	Danger Bay	11
Venetie	John Fredson School	12
Chignik	Chignik Bay School	12
Chistochina	Chistochina School	12
Cold Bay	Cold Bay School	12
Pedro Bay	Dena'ina School	12
Egegik	Egegik School	12
Koyukuk	Ella B. Verneti School	12
Central	Far North School	12
Hyder	Hyder School	12
Shageluk	Innoko River School	12
Sleetmute	Jack Egnaty Sr. School	12
Karluk	Karluk School	12
Nelson Lagoon	Nelson Lagoon School	12
Takotna	Takotna School	12
Igiugig	Igiugig School	13
Larsen Bay	Larsen Bay School	13
Naukati Bay	Naukati School	13
Adak	Adak School	13
Mentasta Lake	Mentasta Lake School	14
Platinum	Arviq School	14
Upper Kalskag	Joseph S. & Olinga Gregory Elementary	14
Pilot Point	Pilot Point School	14
Twin Hills	Twin Hills School	14
Atka	Yakov E. Netsvetov School	14
Pelican	Pelican School	15

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Only a few school districts gained students

Alaska has 53 school districts and most of them experienced a decline in student counts in FY 2009. Attendance averages remained the same in the Alaska Region School District which operates three schools only in the southwestern-most part of the state. Statewide, only 13 school districts, including the state's boarding school Mt. Edgecombe, gained students last year. The Matanuska School District took the lead among the growth districts with a gain of 365 students in FY 2009. The Nenana City Schools, a small district, took the runner up position and Anchorage took third place with increases of 112 and 85 respectively. (See Exhibit 24.)

Nenana's success in attracting students stems from the construction of a living center that can house 90 students, who come from across the state to attend Nenana's school. All the urban districts, with exception of the Juneau Borough School District, gained population. Although the Anchorage School District claimed the third largest number of new students in FY 2009, its growth rate of 0.2 % hardly reflected a change.

Some of the current student gains in urban districts mask the fact that some of the respective student populations in Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula, Juneau and Fairbanks actually peaked several years ago. Anchorage experienced its high in FY 2003; the Kenai Peninsula and Fairbanks in FY 1998; and Juneau in FY 1999. Only the Mat-Su Borough School District has had a recent and uninterrupted growth spurt for the past eight years.

The recent influx of new students into Anchorage School District was moderate

Against expectations, at the beginning of the 2009 school year, Anchorage's enrollment figures had increased. Enrollment counts actually came in 283 students above the projected figure, which appeared

Exhibit 24. Only a Few School Districts Gained Students

SCHOOL DISTRICT - REAA	Type of District	FY08	FY09	Change 2008-2009	Percent Change 2008-2009
Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District	Urban	16,115	16,481	366	2.3%
Nenana City Schools	Rural	888	1,002	114	12.9%
Anchorage School District	Urban	48,144	48,227	84	0.2%
Fairbanks North Star Borough School	Urban	14,082	14,148	65	0.5%
Yukon-Koyukuk Schools	Rural	1,320	1,368	48	3.6%
Lower Kuskokwim Schools	Rural	3,917	3,954	37	0.9%
Mt. Edgecombe	Rural	404	427	23	5.6%
Southeast Island Schools	Rural	152	167	15	9.7%
Unalaska City School District	Rural	388	402	15	3.8%
Alaska Gateway Schools	Rural	375	383	8	2.1%
Bering Straits Schools	Rural	1,646	1,653	7	0.4%
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	Urban	9,250	9,256	6	0.1%
Lake & Peninsula Borough School District	Rural	368	369	1	0.3%

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Exhibit 23. School Enrollment by Grade Level

Grade	FY 2001	FY2009	Change FY2001-2009
Kinder-			
garten	9,677	9,745	68
1	9,786	9,735	-51
2	9,817	9,950	133
3	10,700	9,912	-788
4	10,646	9,757	-889
5	10,744	9,508	-1,236
6	10,623	9,442	-1,181
7	10,861	9,641	-1,220
8	10,377	9,673	-704
9	11,583	10,475	-1,108
10	10,110	10,200	90
11	8,887	10,937	2,050
12	8,335	9,787	1,452
Total	132,146	128,762	-3,384

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

as a noteworthy deviation at first. Planners at the district had expected 47,944 students in FY 2009. Their projection was built on decline, a continuation of the FY 2007 and FY 2008 trend. Actual student counts, however, were up by only 83 students, which eased concerns of overcrowding classrooms in the district. (See Exhibit 25.)

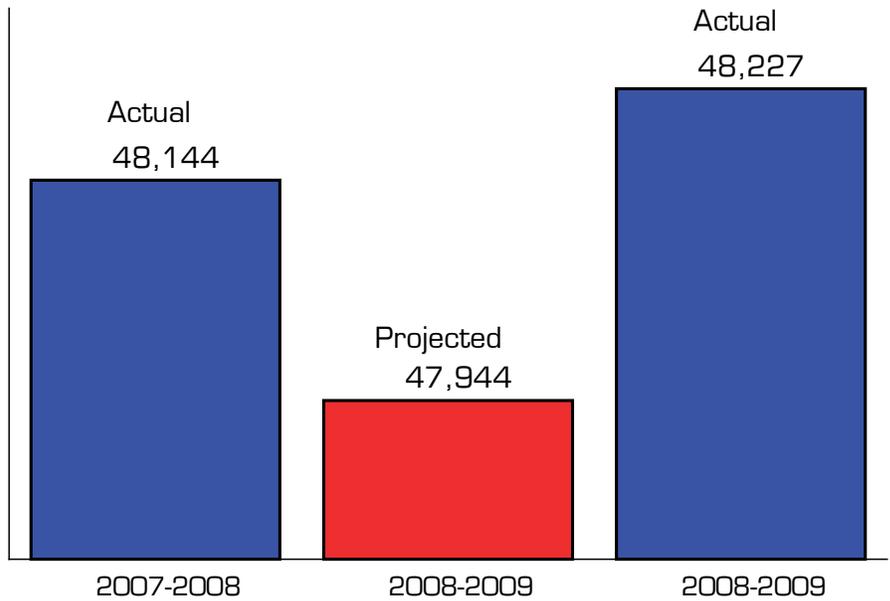
The Anchorage School District gained students

The historical view of student population in the Anchorage School District from FY 1989 to FY 2009 reveals a pattern of predominant growth. Over the past twenty years, the district's population has grown by 9,542 students, posting a 25 % gain.

After fourteen years of uninterrupted growths, declines began in FY 2004. Since then Anchorage's school population has fluctuated between 49,265 and 48,144. (See Exhibit 26.)

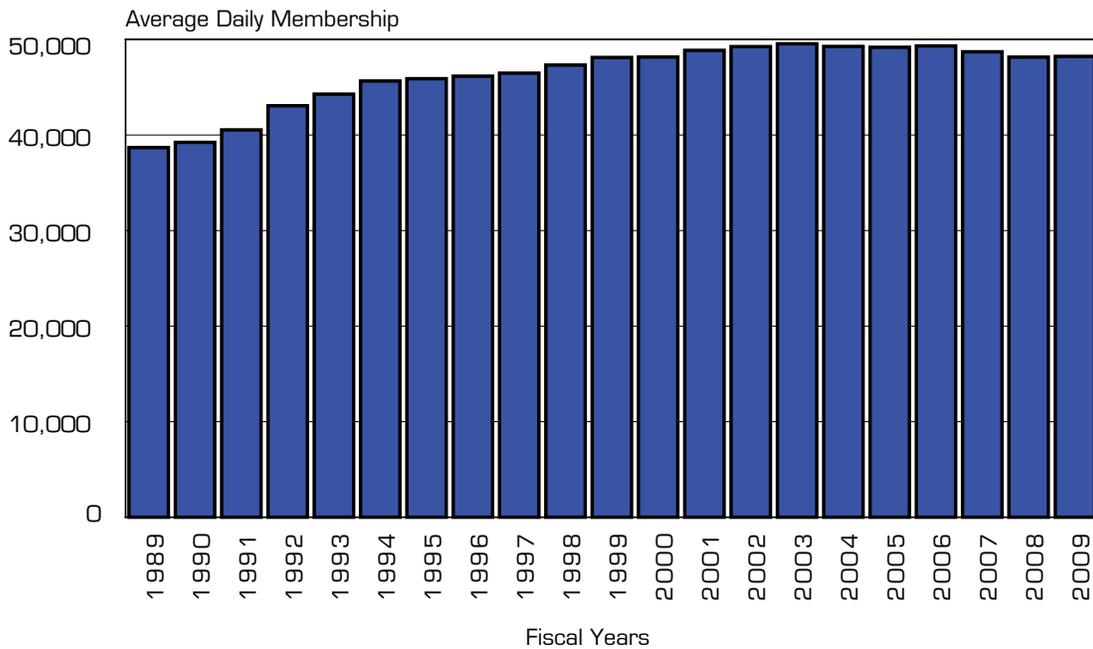
Exhibit 25. Actual versus Projected Student Counts

Anchorage School District



Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Exhibit 26. Anchorage's Student Counts have Dropped



Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Conclusion

Alaska's rural population is declining. The causes of the decline are multifaceted. Natural increase is declining and out-migration is accelerating. Lower birthrates keep growth from natural increase moderate. While the population decline is broad-based, a few rural areas are still experiencing growth. But out-migration from rural Alaska has outnumbered natural increase. Moreover, changes in demographics point at the aging of rural residents. The declining rural school population reinforces the overall trend. In general, Alaska's rural school population has declined much faster than its population as a whole.

Hub schools have lost the most students but rural and urban student counts are also down from FY 2001. Correspondence, boarding and schools in correctional facilities have experienced only modest gains.

Eleven small rural schools face the peril of losing school funding and an additional 35 rural schools have counts low enough to encounter possible funding problems. The hub and rural student losses most likely will continue and some urban districts may regain students. In the near future, urban increases may, however, be insufficient, to ward off the overall decline of Alaska's student population.

The overall population decline in rural Alaska is expected to continue. Natural increase may not offset out-migration in many rural areas. Moreover, there is a void of residents in the prime workforce ages. And Alaska's rural population is rapidly aging.

APPENDIX

Appendix:

List of Schools Operating in FY 2009

BOARDING SCHOOLS

School Name	Community
Bethel Alternative Boarding School	Bethel
Galena Interior Learning Academy (GILA)	Galena
Mt. Edgumbe High School	Sitka

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SCHOOLS

School Name	Community
Bethel Youth Facility	Bethel
Fairbanks Youth Facility	Fairbanks
Johnson Youth Center	Juneau
Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility	Kenai
Ketchikan Regional Youth Facility	Ketchikan
Mat-Su Secondary Youth Facility	Wasilla
McLaughlin Youth Center	Anchorage
Nome Youth Facility	Nome
Spring Creek School	Seward

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS

School Name	Community
Bristol Bay Correspondence	Naknek
Chatham Correspondence	Angoon
Chugach Extension Correspondence	Valdez
Connections Corr.	Soldotna
Copper River Corresp.	Glennallen
Corresp. Study School	Wasilla
Craig Correspondence- PACE	Craig
CyberLynx Correspondence Program	Nenana
Delta Charter Cyber School/ Correspondence School	Delta Junction
Denali Peak Program/ Correspondence School	Healy
Dillingham Correspondence	Dillingham
Family Partnership Charter School	Anchorage
Frontier Charter School	Anchorage
Distance Learning/ Correspondence Center	McGrath
Gateway Correspondence	Tok
Guided Independent Study	Fairbanks
Haines Correspondence	Haines
Interior Distance Education of AK (IDEA)	Galena
Juneau District Corresp. School (HomeBRIDGE)	Juneau
Ketchikan Correspondence	Ketchikan
Kodiak Island Corresp.	Kodiak
Nome Extensions Correspondence School	Nome
PACE Learning Centers/ Craig Alternative High School	Craig
Raven Correspondence School	Fairbanks
Sitka Correspondence	Sitka
Southeast Island Correspondence	Ketchikan
Twindly-Bridge Charter School	Wasilla
Wrangell Correspondence	Wrangell

HUB SCHOOLS

School Name	Community
Anvil City Science Academy	Nome
Aurora Borealis Charter School	Soldotna
Ayaprun Elitnaurvik Yup'ik Immersion	Bethel
Barrow High School	Barrow
Bethel Regional High School	Bethel
Cordova Jr./Sr. High School	Cordova
Delta Junction Elementary	Delta Junction
Delta Junction Sr. High School	Delta Junction
Dillingham Elementary School	Dillingham
Dillingham Middle/High School	Dillingham
East Elementary School	Kodiak

Eben Hopson Middle School
 Evergreen Elementary School
 Fireweed Academy
 Fort Greely School
 Fred Ipalook Elementary School
 George H. Gilson Junior High School
 Gerstle River School
 Haines Elementary/Jr. High School
 Haines High School
 Hermon Hutchens Elementary
 Homer Flex School
 Homer Middle School
 Homer Senior High School
 June Nelson Elementary School
 Kaleidoscope School
 Kenai Alternative High School
 Kenai Central High School
 Kenai Middle School
 Kiita Learning Community
 Kilbuck Elementary School
 Kodiak High School
 Kodiak Middle School
 Kotzebue Middle/High School
 Main Elementary School
 McGrath School
 McNeil Canyon Elementary
 Mikelnguut Elitnaurviat
 Mitkof Middle School
 Mosquito Lake Elementary
 Mount Eccles Elementary
 Mt. View Elementary School
 New Horizons High School
 Nikiski Middle/Senior High School
 Nikiski North Star Elementary School
 Nome Elementary School
 Nome-Beltz Jr./Sr. High School
 North Star School
 Paul Banks Elementary School
 Peninsula Optional High School
 Petersburg High School
 Peterson Elementary School
 Rae C. Stedman Elementary School
 Redoubt Elementary School
 Seward Elementary School
 Seward High School

Barrow
 Wrangell
 Homer
 Delta Junction
 Barrow
 Valdez
 Delta Junction
 Haines
 Haines
 Valdez
 Homer
 Homer
 Homer
 Kotzebue
 Kenai
 Soldotna
 Kenai
 Kenai
 Barrow
 Bethel
 Kodiak
 Kodiak
 Kotzebue
 Kodiak
 McGrath
 Homer
 Bethel
 Petersburg
 Mosquito Lake \ Haines
 Cordova
 Kenai
 Delta Junction
 Nikiski/Kenai
 Nikiski/Kenai
 Nome
 Nome
 Kodiak
 Homer
 Soldotna
 Petersburg
 Kodiak Station/ Kodiak
 Petersburg
 Soldotna
 Seward
 Seward

Seward Middle School
 Sidney C. Huntington Elementary
 Sidney C. Huntington Jr/Sr High School
 Skyview High School
 Soldotna Elementary School
 Soldotna High School
 Soldotna Middle School
 Soldotna Montessori Charter School
 St. Mary's School
 Stikine Middle School
 Valdez High School
 West Homer Elementary School
 Wrangell High School

Seward
 Galena
 Galena
 Soldotna
 Soldotna
 Soldotna
 Soldotna
 Soldotna
 Saint Mary's
 Wrangell
 Valdez
 Homer
 Wrangell

RURAL SCHOOLS

School Name	Community
Adak School	Adak
Akhiok School	Akhiok
Akiachak School	Akiachak
Akiak School	Akiak
Akiuk Memorial School	Kasigluk
Akula Elitnaurvik School	Kasigluk
Akutan School	Akutan
Alak School	Wainwright
Alakanuk School	Alakanuk
Aleknagik School	Aleknagik
Allakaket School	Allakaket
Ambler School	Ambler
Anderson School	Anderson
Andrew K. Demoski School	Nulato
Angoon School	Angoon
Aniak High School	Aniak
Aniguiin School	Elim
Anna Tobeluk Memorial School	Nunapitchuk
Anthony A. Andrews School	Saint Michael
Aqqaluk High School/Noorvik Elementary	Noorvik
Arctic Village School	Arctic Village
Arviq School	Platinum
Auntie Mary Nicoli Elementary	Aniak
Ayaprun School	Newtok
Beryozava School	Willow
Blackwell School	Anvik
Brevig Mission School	Brevig Mission
Bristol Bay Middle/High School	Naknek

Buckland School
Cantwell School
Chapman School
Chaptnguak School
Chenega Bay Community School
Chevak School
Chief Ivan Blunka School
Chief Paul Memorial School
Chignik Bay School
Chignik Lagoon School
Chignik Lake School
Chistochina School
Circle School
Clark's Point School
Cold Bay School
Cooper Landing School
Copper Center School
Craig Elementary School
Craig High School
Craig Middle School
Crow Village Sam School
Cruikshank School
Danger Bay School
David-Louis Memorial School
Davis-Ramoth School
Deering School
Dena'ina School
Dick R. Kiunya Memorial School
Diomedea School
Dot Lake School
Eagle Community School
Eagle's View Elementary School
Edna Bay School
Eek School
Egegik School
Ella B. Verneti School
Emmonak School
False Pass School
Far North School
Fort Yukon School
Gambell Schools
George Morgan Jr./Sr. High School
George Willis School
Gladys Dart School
Glennallen Elementary School

Buckland
Cantwell
Anchor Point
Chefornak
Chenega Bay
Chevak
New Stuyahok
Kipnuk
Chignik
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Chistochina
Circle
Clark's Point
Cold Bay
Cooper Landing
Copper Center
Craig
Craig
Craig
Chuathbaluk
Beaver
Danger Bay/ Port Lions
Grayling
Selawik
Deering
Pedro Bay
Kongiganak
Diomedea
Dot Lake
Eagle
Unalaska
Edna Bay
Eek
Egegik
Koyukuk
Emmonak
False Pass
Central
Fort Yukon
Gambell
Lower Kalskag
Red Devil
Manley Hot Springs
Glennallen

Glennallen Jr./Sr. High School
Gustavus School
Gusty Michael School
Harold Kaveolook School
Hogarth Kingeekuk Memorial H.S.
Hollis School
Holy Cross School
Hoonah Elementary School
Hoonah Jr./Sr. High School
Hooper Bay School
Hope School
Howard Valentine School
Hydaburg Elementary School
Hydaburg Jr./Sr. High School
Hyder School
Igiugig School
Ignatius Beans School
Innoko River School
Jack Egnaty Sr. School
James C. Isabell School
Jimmy Huntington School
Joann A. Alexie Memorial School
John Fredson School
Johnnie John Sr. School
Johnny Oldman School
Joseph S. & Olinga Gregory Elementary School
Kachemak Selo School
Kake Elementary & High School
Kali School
Kalifornsky Beach Elementary
Kaltag School
Karluk School
Kasaan School
Kenny Lake School
Ket'achik/Aapalluk Memorial School
Kiana School
King Cove School
Klawock City School
Klukwan School
Kobuk School
Kokhanok School
Koliganek School
Kotlik School
Koyuk-Malemute School
Kuinerrarmiut Elitnaurviat

Glennallen
Gustavus
Stony River
Kaktovik
Savoonga
Hollis
Holy Cross
Hoonah
Hoonah
Hooper Bay
Hope
Coffman Cove
Hydaburg
Hydaburg
Hyder
Igiugig
Mountain Village
Shageluk
Sleetmute
Teller
Huslia
Atmautluak
Venetie
Crooked Creek
Hughes
Upper Kalskag
Fritz Creek\Homer
Kake
Point Lay
Kalifornsky/Kenai
Kaltag
Karluk
Kasaan
Kenny Lake
Kwethluk
Kiana
King Cove
Klawock
Klukwan
Kobuk
Kokhanok
Koliganek
Kotlik
Koyuk
Quinhagak

Kwigillingok School
Larsen Bay School
Leask Middle School
Levelock School
Lewis Angapak Memorial School
Manokotak School
Marshall School
Martin L. Olson School
Maudrey J. Sommer School
McQueen School
Meade River School
Mentasta Lake School
Merreline A. Kangas School
Meshik School
Metlakatla High School
Minto School
Moose Pass School
Naknek Elementary School
Nanwalek School
Napaaqtugmiut School
Naukati School
Nelson Island Area Schools
Nelson Lagoon School
Nenana City Public School
Newhalen School
Nightmute School
Nikolaevsk School
Nikolski School
Ninilchik School
Nondalton School
Nuiqsut Trapper School
Nunamiut School
Nuniwaarmiut School
Old Harbor School
Ouzinkie School
Paul T. Albert Memorial School
Pelican School
Perryville School
Pilot Point School
Pilot Station School
Pitkas Point School
Port Alexander School
Port Graham School
Port Lions School
Port Protection School

Kwigillingok
Larsen Bay
Metlakatla
Levelock
Tuntutuliak
Manokotak
Marshall
Golovin
Tanana
Kivalina
Atqasuk
Mentasta Lake
Ruby
Port Heiden
Metlakatla
Minto
Moose Pass/ Seward
Naknek
Nanwalek
Noatak
Naukati Bay
Toksook Bay
Nelson Lagoon
Nenana
Newhalen
Nightmute
Nikolaevsk/ Homer
Nikolski
Ninilchik
Nondalton
Nuiqsut
Anaktuvuk Pass
Mekoryuk
Old Harbor
Ouzinkie
Tununak
Pelican
Perryville
Pilot Point
Pilot Station
Pitkas Point
Port Alexander
Port Graham
Port Lions
Port Protection/ Naukati Bay

Qugcuun Memorial School
Razdolna School
Richard Johnson Elementary
Rocky Mountain School
Russian Mission School
Salcha Elementary School
Sand Point School
Scammon Bay School
Shaktoolik School
Sheldon Point School
Shishmaref School
Shungnak School
Slana School
St. George School
St. Paul School
Star of the North Charter School
Sterling Elementary School
Stevens Village School
Susitna Valley High
Sutton Elementary School
Susan B. English School
Takotna School
Tanacross School
Tanalian School
Tatitlek Community School
Tebughna School
Tenakee Springs School
Tetlin School
Thorne Bay School
Ticasuk Brown Elementary
Tikigaq School
Togiak School
Tok School
Top of the Kuskokwim School
Trapper Creek Elementary School
Tri-Valley School
Tsuk Taih School
Tukurngailnguq School
Tuluksak School
Tustumena Elementary School
Twin Hills School
Two Rivers School
Unalakleet Schools
Unalaska Jr./Sr. High School
Voznesenka Elementary School

Oscarville
Homer
Metlakatla
Goodnews Bay
Russian Mission
Salcha
Sand Point
Scammon Bay
Shaktoolik
Nunam Iqua
Shishmaref
Shungnak
Slana
Saint George
Saint Paul
North Pole
Sterling/ Soldotna
Stevens Village
Y/Talkeetna
Sutton-Alpine/Palmer
Seldovia
Takotna
Tanacross
Port Alsworth
Tatitlek
Tyonek
Tenakee Springs
Tetlin
Thorne Bay
North Pole
Point Hope
Togiak
Tok
Nikolai
Trapper Creek
Healy
Chalkyitsik
Stebbins
Tuluksak
Kasilof
Twin Hills
Two Rivers
Unalakleet
Unalaska
Fritz Creek/Homer

Wales-Kingikmiut School
 Walter Northway School
 Whale Pass School
 White Mountain School
 Whittier Community School
 William "Sonny" Nelson School
 William N. Miller Memorial School
 Willow Elementary School
 Yakov E. Netsvetov School
 Yakutat Elementary
 Yakutat Jr. and Sr. High School
 Z. John Williams Memorial School
 Zackar Levi Elementary School

Wales
 Northway
 Whale Pass
 White Mountain
 Whittier
 Ekwok
 Napakiak
 Willow
 Atka
 Yakutat
 Yakutat
 Napaskiak
 Lower Kalskag

URBAN SCHOOLS

School Name	Community
Abbott Loop Elementary	Anchorage
Academy Charter School	Palmer
Airport Heights Elementary	Anchorage
Alaska Native Charter School	Anchorage
Alaska School for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing	Anchorage
Alpenglow Elementary	Anchorage
Alternative Learning System	Fairbanks
Anderson Elementary	Eielson AFB/ North Pole
Anne Wien Elementary School	Fairbanks
Aquarian Charter School	Anchorage
Arctic Light Elementary School	Fort Wainwright/ Fairbanks
Auke Bay Elementary School	Juneau
Aurora Elementary School	Anchorage
Avail School	Anchorage
Badger Road Elementary School	North Pole
Baranof Elementary School	Sitka
Barnette Elementary School	Fairbanks
Bartlett High School	Anchorage
Baxter Elementary	Anchorage
Bayshore Elementary	Anchorage
Bear Valley Elementary	Anchorage
Ben Eielson Jr./Sr. High School	Eielson AFB
Benson Secondary/SEARCH	Anchorage
Big Lake Elementary School	Big Lake/Wasilla
Birchwood ABC Elementary	Anchorage
Blatchley Middle School	Sitka
Bowman Elementary	Anchorage
Burchell Alternative High School	Wasilla

Butte Elementary School	Butte/Palmer
Campbell Elementary	Anchorage
Central Middle School of Science	Anchorage
Chester Valley Elementary	Anchorage
Chinook Elementary	Anchorage
Chinook Montessori Charter School	Fairbanks
Chugach Optional Elementary	Anchorage
Chugiak Elementary	Anchorage
Chugiak High School	Anchorage
COHO High School	Anchorage
College Gate Elementary	Anchorage
Colony High School	Lakes/Palmer
Colony Middle School	Lakes/Palmer
Continuation School	Anchorage
Cottonwood Creek Elementary	Lakes/Palmer
Crawford Elementary School	Eielson AFB/ North Pole
Creekside Park Elementary	Anchorage
Crossroads School	Anchorage
Denali Elementary	Fairbanks
Denali Elementary School	Anchorage
Dimond High School	Anchorage
Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School	Juneau
Eagle Academy Charter School	Eagle River/ Anchorage
Eagle River Elementary	Eagle River/ Anchorage
Eagle River High School	Eagle River/ Anchorage
East High School	Anchorage
Effie Kokrine Charter School	Fairbanks
Fairview Elementary	Anchorage
Fawn Mountain Elementary School	Ketchikan
Finger Lake Elementary	Lakes/Wasilla
Fire Lake Elementary	Anchorage
Floyd Dryden Middle School	Juneau
Fronteras Charter School	Wasilla
Gastineau Elementary	Juneau
Girdwood School	Girdwood/ Anchorage
Glacier Valley Elementary	Juneau
Glacier View School	Glacier View/ Palmer
Gladys Wood Elementary	Anchorage
Goldenview Middle School	Anchorage
Goose Bay Elementary School	Knik-Fairview/ Wasilla
Government Hill Elementary	Anchorage
Gruening Middle School	Anchorage
Hanshew Middle School	Anchorage
Harborview Elementary	Juneau
Highland Tech High	Anchorage

Homestead Elementary	Anchorage
Houghtaling Elementary School	Ketchikan
Houston High School	Houston
Houston Middle School	Houston
Huffman Elementary	Anchorage
Hunter Elementary School	Fairbanks
Hutchison High School	Fairbanks
Iditarod Elementary School	Wasilla
IEP	Wasilla
Inlet View Elementary	Anchorage
John Shaw Elementary	Wasilla
Joy Elementary School	Fairbanks
Juneau Community Charter School	Juneau
Juneau-Douglas High School	Juneau
Kasuun Elementary	Anchorage
Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School	Sitka
Ketchikan Charter School	Ketchikan
Ketchikan High School	Ketchikan
Kincaid Elementary	Anchorage
Klatt Elementary	Anchorage
Knik Elementary 3-5	Wasilla
Ladd Elementary School	Fairbanks
Lake Hood Elementary	Anchorage
Lake Otis Elementary	Anchorage
Larson Elementary School	Wasilla
Lathrop High School	Fairbanks
Mat-Su Career & Tech Ed High School	Wasilla
Mat-Su Day School	Wasilla
Meadow Lakes Elementary School	Meadow Lakes/ Wasilla
Mears Middle School	Anchorage
Mendenhall River Community School	Juneau
Midnight Sun Family Learning Center	Meadow Lakes/ Wasilla
Mid-Valley Alternative High School	Wasilla
Mirror Lake Middle School	Anchorage
Mountain View Elementary	Anchorage
Mt. Spurr Elementary	Anchorage
Muldoon Elementary	Anchorage
Nicholas J. Begich Middle School	Anchorage
Nordale Elementary School	Fairbanks
North Pole Elementary School	North Pole
North Pole High School	North Pole
North Pole Middle School	North Pole
North Star Elementary School	Anchorage
Northern Lights ABC K-8	Anchorage
Northwood Elementary	Anchorage

Nunaka Valley Elementary	Anchorage
Ocean View Elementary	Anchorage
O'Malley Elementary	Anchorage
Orion Elementary School	Anchorage
Pacific Alternative High School	Sitka
Palmer High School	Palmer
Palmer Middle School	Palmer
Pearl Creek Elementary School	Fairbanks
Pioneer Peak Elementary	Gateway/Palmer
Point Higgins School	Ketchikan
Polaris K-12 School	Anchorage
Ptarmigan Elementary	Anchorage
Rabbit Creek Elementary	Anchorage
Randy Smith Middle School	Fairbanks
Ravenwood Elementary	Anchorage
Revilla High School Alt.	Ketchikan
Rilke Schule Charte School	Anchorage
Riverbend Elementary School	Juneau
Rogers Park Elementary	Anchorage
Romig Middle School	Anchorage
Russian Jack Elementary	Anchorage
Ryan Middle School	Fairbanks
S.A.V.E. High School	Anchorage
Sand Lake Elementary	Anchorage
Scenic Park Elementary	Anchorage
Schoenbar Middle School	Ketchikan
Service High School	Anchorage
Sherrod Elementary School	Palmer
Sitka High School	Sitka
Skagway City School	Skagway
Snowshoe Elementary School	Knik-Fairview/ Wasilla
South Anchorage High School	Anchorage
Spring Hill Elementary	Anchorage
Steller Secondary School	Anchorage
Susitna Elementary	Anchorage
Swanson Elementary School	Palmer
Taku Elementary School	Anchorage
Talkeetna Elementary School	Talkeetna
Tanaina Elementary School	Tanaina/Wasilla
Tanana Middle School	Fairbanks
Teeland Middle School	Wasilla
Thunder Mountain High School	Juneau
Tongass School of Arts & Sciences	Ketchikan
Trailside Elementary School	Anchorage
Tudor Elementary School	Anchorage

Turnagain Elementary
University Park Elementary School
Ursa Major Elementary
Ursa Minor Elementary
Valley Pathways
Wasilla High School
Wasilla Middle School
Weller Elementary School
Wendler Middle School
West High School
West Valley High School
Whaley Center
William Tyson Elementary School
Williwaw Elementary
Willow Crest Elementary
Winterberry Public School
Wonder Park Elementary
Woodriver Elementary School
Yaakoozge Daahakidi Alt High School

Anchorage
College
Fort Richardson/ Anchorage
Fort Richardson/ Anchorage
Palmer
Wasilla
Wasilla
Fairbanks
Anchorage
Anchorage
Fairbanks
Anchorage
Anchorage
Anchorage
Anchorage
Anchorage
Fairbanks
Juneau