

# ***A Profile of Visitors to Rural Alaska and the Western Alaska Region***

***Alaska Travelers Survey***

**PREPARED FOR:**

***State of Alaska  
Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development***



Research-Based Consulting

Juneau  
Anchorage

***March 2006***

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The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development contracted with the McDowell Group to provide information on visitors to rural Alaska from its proprietary visitor database, the *Alaska Travelers Survey*. This report presents two visitor profiles:

- Visitors to the Western Alaska region (128 respondents who reported visiting Western Alaska during their Alaska trip). The locations identified as Western Alaska were: St. Mary's, Bethel, Togiak, Iliamna, Dillingham, Katmai, Dutch Harbor/Unalaska, the Pribilof Islands, and any other location encompassed on the map showing Western Alaska (see page 5).
- Rural Alaska visitors (1,175 non-cruise visitors who reported spending at least one night in a rural location). Rural is defined as a community of 6,500 or less *not* connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks OR with a population of 1,600 or less that *is* connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks.

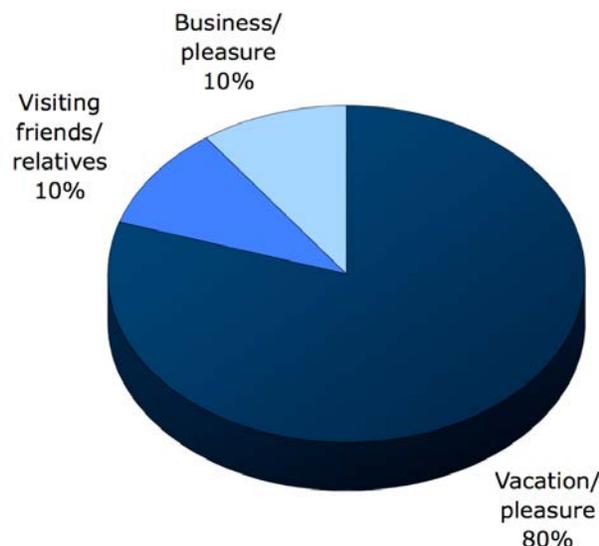
Surveys were conducted in multiple locations throughout Alaska between May and September 2005. This report also includes an estimate of visitor volume to Western Alaska in addition to marketing recommendations based on survey results. Following are key findings from the study.

## Visitor Profile

### Purpose of Trip

- Four out of five Western Alaska visitors were traveling to Alaska for vacation/pleasure purposes, with 10 percent traveling to visit friends or relatives (VFR), and 10 percent traveling for business/pleasure.
- Western Alaska visitors were more likely than the overall rural Alaska visitor market to be traveling for both business and pleasure (10 percent, compared to 4 percent).

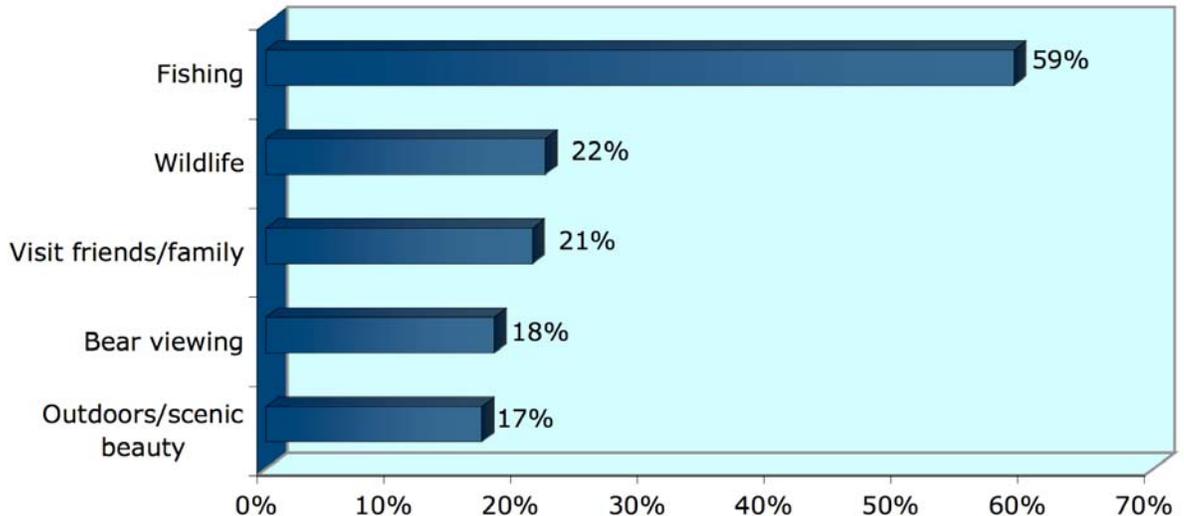
***What was the main purpose for this trip?***  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Western Alaska Visitors, Summer 2005**



Note: Visitors traveling for business purposes only were screened out of the survey.

- The number one reason given for visiting Western Alaska was fishing, mentioned by over half of respondents. (This compares to 73 percent of all rural visitors who went fishing at some point on their Alaska trip.)
- Wildlife was also a strong motivator, mentioned by 22 percent of respondents, while 18 percent specifically mentioned bear viewing. Visiting friends/family and outdoors/scenic beauty round out the top five responses.

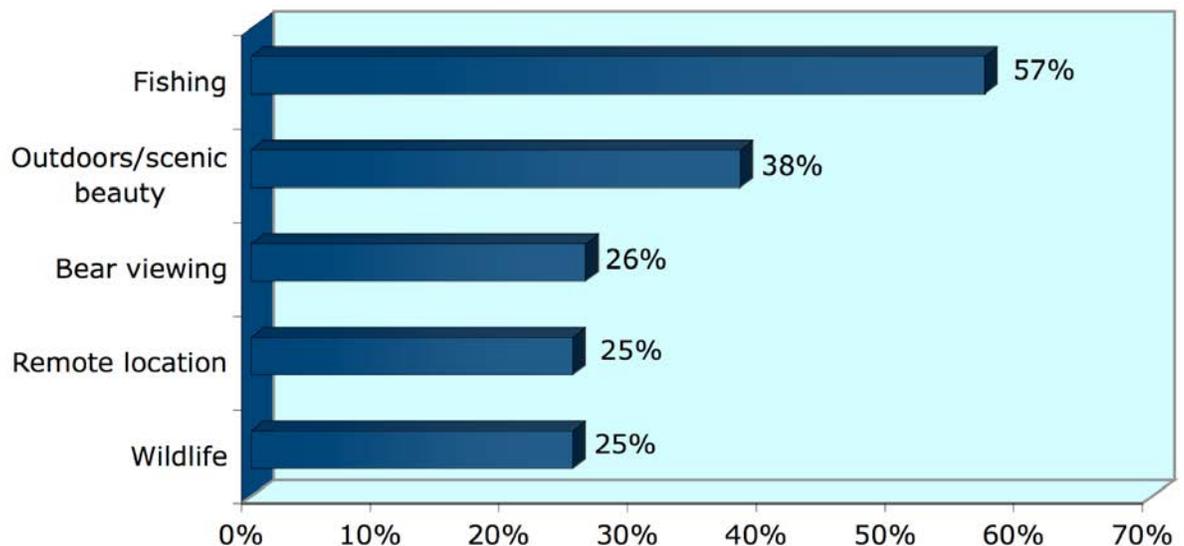
**Why did you choose to visit the Western Alaska area? (Top 5)**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Western Alaska Visitors, Summer 2005**



**Most Enjoyed Experience**

- Over half of visitors said what they enjoyed most about visiting Western Alaska was the fishing – about the same as the percentage who mentioned it as their reason for visiting the region.
- The second most-popular response was outdoors/scenic beauty. Bear viewing and wildlife were each mentioned by one-quarter of respondents, while one-quarter also mentioned the area’s remote location.

**What did you enjoy most about visiting this area? (Top 5)**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Western Alaska Visitors, Summer 2005**



## Length of Stay and Expenditures

- Western Alaska visitors reported an average length of stay in Alaska of 12.9 nights (close to the average among all rural visitors, 12.5 nights). They spent, on average, 6.8 nights in Western Alaska.
- Western Alaska visitors spent an average of \$2,657 per person while in Alaska, and \$2,272 per person while in Western Alaska. The average spending in this region is greater than what the average rural visitor spends, statewide (\$1,767 per person).

### Visitor Expenditures

#### Alaska Travelers Survey, Western Alaska Visitors, Summer 2005

	Per Person
Total spending in Alaska	\$2,657
Total spending in Western Alaska	\$2,272

## Information Sources

- Seven out of ten Western Alaska visitors reported using the Internet, including 54 percent who booked some portion of their trip over the Internet. These Internet usage rates closely resemble the overall rural market (75 and 50 percent).
- Western Alaska visitors did little active trip planning other than over the Internet, relying more on friends/family and on prior experience. They were more likely to mention prior experience when compared to the overall rural market (39 versus 26 percent).

### Information Sources

#### Alaska Travelers Survey, Western Alaska Visitors, Summer 2005

	% of Western Alaska Visitors
<b>Internet and travel agent use</b>	
Used Internet	72%
Booked over Internet	54
Used travel agent	17
<b>Additional information sources (top 5)</b>	
Friends/family	54%
Prior experience	39
Guidebooks	9
Brochures	7
Magazine	6

## Marketing Recommendations

The following recommendations have been developed from the survey findings; they do not incorporate all of the marketing avenues available to Western Alaska communities.

- Promote regional sportfishing and wildlife viewing to prospective visitors. These experiences were the leading motives for visiting Western Alaska. They were also frequently mentioned among the things that visitors enjoyed most about the region.
- Increase awareness about bear viewing and bird watching opportunities, as they attract visitors who are willing to pay a premium.
- Work with travel marketing organizations to increase media coverage of the region—especially among Western US publications where nearly two-thirds of the market originates.
- Market day trips and shorter tour packages in Anchorage media outlets, as 71 percent of Western Alaska visitors spent at least one night there.
- Sixty-three percent of Western Alaska visitors had previously traveled to Alaska; 82 percent said they were very likely to return. Encourage current visitors to provide referrals of friends and family members.
- The percentage of Western Alaska visitors who booked some of their travel arrangements online was 54 percent. Encourage development of Internet sites and booking capabilities.
- While VFR's represented just 10 percent of the summer market; they tend to visit Alaska fairly frequently and are likely to serve as sources of information for future Alaska visitors. Educate area residents about activities and services that will enhance the experience for visiting friends and relatives.
- Address transportation and infrastructure issues mentioned by visitors (see pages 46-47).

## Visitor Volume

An estimated 30,000 out-of-state visitors overnighted in the Western Alaska region between May and September, 2005. Volume was determined using estimated visitor volume to the state, and percentages of cruise and non-cruise visitors who reported visiting the Western Alaska region. Further detail on the methodology can be found on page 48.

## Map of Target Rural Regions

Western Alaska was one of four rural regions targeted by DCCED in this survey project. Below is a copy of the map that was shown to visitors to identify whether they had visited the four rural regions.



## Summary Table: Rural, Western Alaska, and Urban-Only Visitors

The following table presents survey results based to three groups of respondents: rural Alaska visitors, Western Alaska visitors, and “urban-only” visitors (non-cruise visitors who did not spend a night in any rural location).

**Summary Table: Rural, Western Alaska, and Urban-Only Visitors**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	Western Alaska Visitors	Urban-Only Visitors
<b>Trip Purpose</b>			
Vacation/pleasure	82%	80%	45%
Visiting friends/family	14	10	43
Business/pleasure	4	10	12
<b>Overnight Destinations (Top 5)</b>			
Anchorage	62%	60%	53%
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	46	18	-
Fairbanks	27	9	11
Seward	27	15	10
Tok	22	3	-
<b>Average length of stay in Alaska</b>	12.5 nights	12.9 nights	9.0 nights
<b>Activities (Top 5)</b>			
Shopping	61%	27%	62%
Wildlife viewing	59	55	34
Fishing	46	79	46
Cultural activities	46	20	31
Hiking/nature walk	44	31	30
<b>Average amount spent on Alaska trip</b>	\$1,767 per person	\$2,657 per person	\$984 per person
<b>Previous and Future Alaska Travel</b>			
Been to Alaska before	42%	63%	62%
Very likely to travel to Alaska in the future	61	82	73
<b>Trip Planning</b>			
Average advance time for trip decision	8.2 months	9.0 months	6.0 months
Average advance time for trip booking	3.9 months	4.7 months	3.1 months
Used Internet	75%	72%	76%
Booked over Internet	50	54	59
Used travel agent	25	17	25
<b>Demographics</b>			
West	45%	62%	62%
Midwest	15	15	14
South	15	9	13
East	11	9	8
International	15	5	4
Average party size	2.7 people	2.8 people	2.3 people
Average age	50.1 years	48.0 years	50.5 years
Male	59%	80%	58%
Female	41	20	42

## Introduction

In order to learn more about visitors to rural Alaska, and specifically to four distinct regions of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development contracted with the McDowell Group, Inc. to provide visitor information from its proprietary visitor database, the *Alaska Travelers Survey*. This report presents a profile of visitors to the Western Alaska region, as well as a profile of all non-cruise visitors who overnighted in rural Alaska, statewide.

The *Alaska Travelers Survey* is an ongoing research program that provides current information on Alaska visitor characteristics including satisfaction ratings, travel patterns, demographics and trip planning. In 2005, the *Alaska Travelers Survey* program included nearly 6,000 personal interviews statewide. Visitors using all major transportation modes—air, cruise ship, ferry and highway—were interviewed. The program excludes Alaska residents, visitors traveling exclusively for business, and seasonal employees. Because fielding and data processing costs are shared among multiple subscribers, the *Alaska Travelers Survey* allows clients like the DCCED to obtain market research in a more efficient and affordable manner.

## Methodology

This report presents two profiles of Alaska non-cruise visitors: visitors to rural Alaska, and visitors to the Western Alaska region. The profile of rural visitors is intended to represent Western Alaska's *potential* market, while the Western Alaska visitor profile provides insight into the region's *current* market.

In addition, it contains special analyses of five niche markets of interest to DCCED: repeat travelers, cultural visitors, wildlife viewing visitors, adventure visitors, and fishing visitors. There is a chapter on trends in the rural visitor market, comparing 2003 and 2005 *Alaska Travelers Survey* data. There is also a chapter devoted to the "urban-only" market (visitors who did not spend any nights in any rural locations), which helps to illustrate key differences between visitors who do and do not visit rural visitors to the state.

### Rural Alaska Visitors

The rural visitor sample consists of 1,175 surveys conducted in multiple locations throughout Alaska between May and September 2005. The maximum margin of error for this sample is  $\pm 2.9$  percent at the 95 percent confidence level. Due to the nature of response distribution in sampling statistics, most survey responses are more accurate than the maximum margin of error suggests.

The rural sample is pulled from the *Alaska Travelers Survey* non-cruise database, consisting of 2,320 visitors. Surveys were conducted in the Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka airports; at several locations near Tok, Alaska; and onboard Alaska Marine Highway vessels departing Alaska for Prince Rupert, BC and Bellingham, WA. Only visitors who were departing the state were interviewed. Respondents were selected randomly throughout the summer season. Survey data

was weighted to reflect the actual number of visitors that exited Alaska from each survey location.

For the purpose of this report, DCCED has requested that rural Alaska be defined as:

*A community of 6,500 or less not connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks OR with a population of 1,600 or less that is connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks.*

Using this definition, respondents were identified as “rural visitors” if they spent at least one night in any of the following locations or communities: Cantwell, Copper Center, Denali, Glacier Bay, Glennallen, Gustavus, Haines, Healy, Kake, Nome, Petersburg, Prince of Wales Island, Skagway, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, Tok, or Wrangell. In addition, visitors who listed “other” locations (coded by region but not individually due to small sample sizes) were considered rural.

The data describing trip behavior and travel patterns by rural visitors refers to their entire Alaska trip, not just the rural portions of their trip.

### **Western Alaska Visitors**

To identify visitors to the Western Alaska region, all non-cruise respondents were shown a map that identified the area and asked whether they had visited. (The locations identified on the map as Western Alaska were: St. Mary’s, Bethel, Togiak, Iliamna, Dillingham, Katmai, Dutch Harbor/Unalaska, and the Pribilof Islands.) Respondents who answered affirmatively were asked several questions specific to the region, designed in collaboration with DCCED staff.

This sample also includes 66 visitors who were interviewed at the Anchorage airports after disembarking from flights originating in Western Alaska. These surveys were conducted to augment the *Alaska Travelers Survey* sample of visitors to the region, as only 62 visitors occurred naturally in the sample.

The Western Alaska visitor sample consists of 128 surveys. Survey results for this region should be interpreted with caution, as the maximum margin of error is  $\pm 9.0$  percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

# STATEWIDE RURAL VISITOR PROFILE

This chapter presents a profile of visitors to Alaska who spent at least one night in a rural location, representing the potential market for rural communities. The total sample size is 1,175.

The chapter provides some results based on trip purpose (vacation/pleasure, visiting friends/relatives, and business/pleasure) and mode of exit (air, ferry, and highway), where the results are particularly relevant. A complete set of survey results based to these sub-groups can be found in the Appendix.

## Visitor Experience

### Trip Purpose

- Vacation/pleasure was the dominant purpose of travel among visitors to rural Alaska, accounting for 82 percent. One out of seven said their main purpose was to visit friends or relatives (VFR), and 4 percent were traveling for business and pleasure combined. (Visitors traveling solely for the purpose of business were screened out of the survey.)
- Visitors departing by air were much more likely to be visiting friends and relatives (17 percent) compared to those exiting by ferry (8 percent) or highway (3 percent).
- Sample sizes are provided in the table below, as subsequent analysis in this chapter includes comparison of visitors by trip purpose.

**Trip Purpose**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	% of Rural Visitors
Vacation/pleasure (n=945)	82%
Visiting friends and relatives (n=173)	14
Business/pleasure (n=57)	4

### Mode of Entry and Exit to/from Alaska

- Three-quarters of visitors to rural Alaska entered or exited the state via airplane. Nearly all of the rest traveled via highway.
- This chapter also includes comparison of visitors by exit mode. The sample sizes are: 785 air exiters, 203 ferry exiters, and 187 highway exiters.

**Mode of Entry and Exit to/from Alaska**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	% of Rural Visitors	
	Entry	Exit
Air	76%	76%
Highway	20	18
Ferry	3	6
Other	1	-

## Length of Stay

- Rural visitors to Alaska spent an average of 12.5 nights in the state. Vacation/pleasure visitors tended to stay just slightly longer than VFR's, while business/pleasure visitors reported the longest length of stay.
- Visitors who exited the state via ferry had the longest average length of stay, at 19.1 nights. They were followed by highway exiters at 15.6 nights. Air exiters reported an average of 11.2 nights in Alaska.

**Average Length of Stay in Alaska**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	Rural Visitors: Number of Nights
All rural visitors	12.5
Vacation/pleasure	12.4
Visiting friends and relatives	12.1
Business/pleasure	16.0
Exited by air	11.2
Exited by highway	15.6
Exited by ferry	19.1

## Accommodations

- Over half of rural visitors stayed in a hotel or motel while in Alaska. Lodges/resorts and camping were each used by 28 percent of visitors. Private home and RV/vehicle round out the top five types of lodging used by rural visitors.
- Not surprisingly, VFR's were much more likely to stay in private homes (80 percent, compared to 15 percent of vacation/pleasure visitors). Vacation/pleasure visitors were nearly twice as likely as VFR's to stay in a hotel/motel (56 versus 31 percent).
- Highway visitors were by far the most likely to report sleeping in their RV or vehicle (64 percent), compared to 35 percent of ferry visitors and 10 percent of air visitors.

**Accommodations Used in Alaska**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	% of Rural Visitors
Hotel/motel	53%
Lodge/resort	28
Camping (tent/cabin)	28
Private home	25
RV/vehicle	21
Bed and breakfast	12
Boat/ferry	10
Other	2

## Overnight Destinations

- Southcentral was the most common region visited among rural visitors at 78 percent, followed by the Interior (63 percent) and Southeast (22 percent). Southwest (10 percent) and Far North (5 percent) were the least-visited regions.
- The most popular community among rural visitors was Anchorage, with 62 percent spending at least one night there. Just under half (46 percent) visited Denali, while a similar number (44 percent) visited the Kenai Peninsula.
- Rural visitors reported overnighing in an average of 3.7 communities while in Alaska. This number was highest among ferry visitors (6.2 communities), followed by highway visitors (4.0 communities) and air visitors (3.4 communities).

**Overnight Destinations**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	% of Rural Visitors
Southcentral	78%
Anchorage	62
Kenai Peninsula	44
Seward	27
Homer	19
Kenai/Soldotna	14
Valdez	14
Palmer/Wasilla	11
Talkeetna	11
Glennallen/Copper Center	9
Girdwood/Alyeska	3
Interior	63
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	46
Fairbanks	27
Tok	22
Southeast	22
Juneau	8
Ketchikan	4
Sitka	2
Skagway	6
Haines	5
Prince of Wales Island	4
Petersburg	3
Glacier Bay/Gustavus	2
Wrangell	1
Southwest	10
Kodiak	2
Far North	5
Nome	2

## Visitor Activities

- Survey respondents were shown a list of activities and asked what they participated in while in Alaska. The number one activity was shopping, at 61 percent, followed closely by wildlife viewing at 59 percent. (Wildlife viewing includes whale watching, bear viewing, bird watching, and other activities.) Over one-quarter of rural visitors said they participated in bear watching, while 16 percent participated in bird watching.
- Fishing was extremely popular among rural visitors, with nearly half saying they participated in unguided fishing (28 percent) and/or guided fishing (25 percent).
- Just under half of rural visitors reported participating in cultural activities, including museums/historical sites, Native culture tours and activities, and gold panning or mine tours.
- Other activities participated in by more than one-quarter of visitors included hiking/nature walk (44 percent), day cruise (43 percent), and visiting friends and relatives (27 percent).

**Participation in Tours and Activities**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	% of Rural Visitors
Shopping	61%
Wildlife/marinelife viewing	59
Bear viewing	28
Bird watching	16
Fishing	46
Fishing (unguided)	28
Fishing (guided)	25
Cultural activities	46
Museums/historical sites	37
Native culture tours/activities	18
Gold panning/mine tour	11
Hiking/nature walk	44
Day cruise	43
Visiting friends/relatives	27
City tour	25
Camping	20
Boating	17
Flightseeing	16
Train	13
Alaska Railroad	9
White Pass	4

*Table continued, next page*

**Participation in Tours and Activities (cont'd)**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	% of Rural Visitors
Rafting	13
Kayaking/canoeing	9
Tramway/gondola	5
Business	5
Biking	4
Hunting	3
Dog sled/kennel tour	2
Garden/rainforest tour	1
Other activities	11

**Visitor Expenditures**

- Respondents were asked how much their party spent on their Alaska trip, excluding travel to and from the state. The table below shows average spending results per party and per person for all rural visitors, as well as results by trip purpose. Sample sizes for those who responded to this question are provided in parentheses.
- Rural visitors spent an average of \$1,767 per person and \$4,157 per party on their Alaska trip. Per-person figures were significantly higher when compared to visitors who did not visit any rural communities (\$1,767 compared to \$984). (More details on “urban-only” visitors can be found on pages 30-31.)
- Spending was nearly twice as high among vacation/pleasure visitors (\$1,937 per person) compared to VFR’s (\$1,006 per person).

**Visitor Expenditures in Alaska**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	
	Per Person	Per Party
<b>All Rural Visitors</b>	<b>\$1,767</b>	<b>\$4,157</b>
Vacation/pleasure visitors	1,937	4,559
Visiting friends/relatives	1,006	1,944
Business/pleasure	1,096	<b>3,969</b>
Exited by air	1,922	4,501
Exited by ferry	1,621	<b>3,613</b>
Exited by highway	1,199	2,958

Note: Spending does not include transportation to or from Alaska.

## Visitor Satisfaction

- Rural visitors report very high satisfaction ratings with their overall Alaska experience, with 83 percent saying they were very satisfied, and nearly all of the rest saying they were satisfied.
- Satisfaction ratings were consistent among the different trip purposes.
- Highway travelers reported a slightly higher “very satisfied” rate (93 percent) compared to air (81 percent) and ferry (80 percent).
- Wildlife viewing experiences were rated much lower than the overall Alaska experience, although satisfaction was still generally high. Just 5 percent of visitors said they were dissatisfied.
- Highway visitors tended to be much more satisfied with their wildlife viewing experiences (86 percent very satisfied) compared to air visitors (61 percent) and ferry visitors (51 percent).

**Satisfaction Ratings**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Overall experience in Alaska	83%	14%	1%	1%	<1%
Vacation/pleasure	83	14	1	1	<1
Visiting friends/relatives	81	17	<1	1	<1
Business/pleasure	81	18	1	0	0
Exited by air	81	16	1	1	<1
Exited by ferry	80	18	1	1	1
Exited by highway	93	7	0	1	0
Wildlife viewing experiences	65	24	6	4	1
Vacation/pleasure	66	23	6	4	1
Visiting friends/relatives	60	27	8	5	0
Business/pleasure	69	24	1	5	0
Exited by air	61	27	7	5	1
Exited by ferry	51	37	7	4	1
Exited by highway	86	8	3	3	0

## Trip Planning

### Advance Planning Time

- On average, rural visitors decided to travel to Alaska 8.2 months in advance of their trip, and made their booking arrangements 3.9 months in advance.
- Over one-quarter of rural visitors made their trip decision within three months of travel, and 51 percent booked their trip in the same time period.
- VFR's show the shortest average lead times, at 5.4 months for the trip decision and 2.9 months for booking. This compares to 8.8 and 4.2 months among vacation/pleasure visitors.

**Advance Time for Trip Decision and Booking**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

<b>% of Rural Visitors</b>	
<b>How far in advance did you decide to come on this trip to Alaska?</b>	
Three months or less	27%
Four to six months	29
Seven to eleven months	15
One year or more	29
Average # months	8.2 months
<b>How far in advance did you book your major travel arrangements?</b>	
Three months or less	51%
Four to six months	33
Seven to eleven months	11
One year or more	5
Average # months	3.9 months

### Internet Use

- Three-quarters of rural visitors said they used the Internet to plan their trip, including half who said they booked some portion of their travel using this method.
- Vacation/pleasure visitors were slightly more likely than VFR's to have used the Internet (77 versus 69 percent), but VFR's were slightly more likely to have booked over the Internet (56 versus 49 percent).
- Visitors traveling by air were much more likely to book over the Internet, at 59 percent (compared to 29 percent of ferry visitors and 20 percent of highway visitors).

- The most common item booked over the Internet was airfare at 83 percent, followed by lodging at 41 percent and vehicle rental at 33 percent.

**Internet Use**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

% of Rural Visitors	
<b>Used Internet</b>	75%
Research only	26
Research and book	50
<b>Which portions of your trip did you book over the Internet?</b> (Base: Booked over the Internet)	
Airfare	83%
Lodging	41
Vehicle rental	33
Tours	22
Ferry	8
Overnight packages	4
Other	3

**Travel Agent Use**

- One out of four rural visitors reported using a travel agent in booking their Alaska trip. VFR's were less likely, at 18 percent, compared to 26 percent of vacation/pleasure visitors.
- Travel agents were most commonly used to book airfare (80 percent), followed by lodging (52 percent) and tours (47 percent).

**Travel Agent Use**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

% of Rural Visitors	
<b>Did you use a travel agent?</b>	
Yes	25%
No	75
<b>Which portions did you book through a travel agent?</b> (Base: used travel agent)	
Airfare	80%
Lodging	52
Tours	47
Vehicle rental	22
Overnight packages	12
Ferry	9
Other	2

## Other Sources of Information

- Other than the Internet, rural visitors tend to rely on friends/family and guidebooks for their trip planning information. The Milepost was used by one out of six visitors.
- Although VFR's were heavy users of friends/family (77 percent), a significant portion of vacation/pleasure visitors (39 percent) also mentioned this source.

### Information Sources About Alaska (Other than Internet and Travel Agent) Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	% of Rural Visitors
Friends/family	44%
Guidebooks	31
Milepost	16
Frommers	5
Lonely Planet	5
Prior experience	26
Brochures	18
AAA	9
Magazine	8
Convention and Visitors Bureau	6
Ferry brochure/schedule	6
Community brochures	6
Library	3
Alaska State Vacation Planner	3
Lodging	3
Club/organization	2
Travel shows	2
Newspaper	2
Cruise line	1
North to Alaska Guide	1
Lodging	1
None	3
Other	7

\* Top-of-mind recall.

## Previous and Future Alaska Travel

- Over half of rural visitors had been to Alaska before. The rate was much higher among VFR's (68 percent) than among vacation/pleasure visitors (37 percent).
- Highway visitors were much less likely to have been to Alaska before (17 percent) when compared to ferry visitors (39 percent) or air visitors (48 percent).
- Of repeat visitors, nearly three-quarters had traveled to and/or from the state via airplane on their last trip; 14 percent via highway; 10 percent via cruise ship; and 4 percent via ferry.
- The rate of repeat travelers who cruised on their last Alaska trip was higher among rural visitors (10 percent) than among non-rural visitors (4 percent).
- Over half of rural visitors said they were very likely to return to Alaska (61 percent).

**Previous and Future Alaska Travel**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

% of Rural Visitors	
<b>Is this your first trip to Alaska?</b>	
Yes	58%
No	42
<b>Mode of transportation used to enter/exit Alaska on previous trip (Base: Previously visited Alaska)</b>	
Air	72%
Highway	14
Cruise ship	10
Ferry	4
Other	1
<b>How likely are you to return to Alaska?</b>	
Very likely	61%
Likely	22
Unlikely	10
Very unlikely	3

## Demographics

### Visitor Origin

- Western visitors represent nearly half of all rural visitors. The other three regions account for similar percentages of rural visitors (15 percent Midwest, 15 percent South, and 11 percent East).
- One out of seven rural visitors (15 percent) are international. This compares to just 4 percent of non-rural visitors.
- Vacation/pleasure visitors were less likely than VFR's to be from the West (41 percent, compared to 64 percent). They were much more likely to be international (18 versus 3 percent).

**Visitor Origin**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	% of Rural Visitors
Western US	45%
California	16
Washington	9
Oregon	5
Midwestern US	15
Michigan	2
Wisconsin	2
Illinois	2
Southern US	15
Texas	4
Florida	3
Eastern U.S.	11
New York	2
Pennsylvania	2
International	15
Germany	3
Canada	3
United Kingdom	2
Australia	2

## Other Demographics

- Rural Alaska visitors were slightly more likely to be male (59 percent). VFR's were more likely to be female (55 percent) than other visitors.
- The most common age range among visitors was 45-64, representing 47 percent of all visitors. The average age was 50.1 years old.
- Rural visitors reported an average party size of 2.7 people. Party size was higher among vacation/pleasure visitors (2.8 people) when compared to VFR's (2.2 people).
- Just over half of rural visitors reported obtaining a college degree.
- The average income reported by visitors was \$91,200. Air visitors reported the highest average income at \$97,500, followed by ferry at \$80,200 and highway at \$71,000.

**Visitor Demographics**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

% of Rural Visitors	
<b>Gender (cumulative)</b>	
Male	59%
Female	41
<b>Age (cumulative)</b>	
1-18 years old	8%
19-34 years old	14
35-44 years old	13
45-64 years old	47
Over 65 years old	17
Average age	50.1 years old
Average party size	2.7 people
<b>Education</b>	
Less than H.S. diploma	2%
High School Grad/GED	17
Vocational Cert.	6
Some College	15
AA degree	6
College graduate	53
Bachelor's	26
Master's	18
Doctorate	9
<b>Average household income</b>	
Mean income	\$91,200
Refused	12%

## REPEAT AND NICHE MARKET ANALYSIS

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This chapter presents summary profiles of five different sub-samples of visitors to rural Alaska. This information is provided in order for rural communities and businesses to target the niche markets that are most likely to visit rural Alaska.

- **Repeat Travelers** (n=510): These visitors had been to Alaska previously.
- **Cultural Visitors** (n=568): These visitors participated in one or more of the following activities: museums, historical sites, Native culture tours and activities, gold panning, and mine tours.
- **Wildlife Viewing Visitors** (n=739): These visitors participated in wildlife viewing, including bear viewing, bird watching, whale watching, and other wildlife viewing.
- **Adventure Travelers** (n=670): These visitors participated in one or more of the following activities: biking, camping, canoeing, hiking, kayaking, and rafting.
- **Fishing Visitors** (n=547): These visitors went fishing at some point on their Alaska trip.

Characteristics of these niche markets are discussed below, followed by a table for each market that summarizes survey results alongside the overall rural market.

### Repeat Travelers (page 23)

- Repeat travelers were less likely to be visiting for vacation/pleasure (73 versus 82 percent) and more likely to be VFR's (23 versus 14 percent) when compared to all rural visitors.
- Repeat travelers tended to travel less widely around the state, reporting lower visitation rates to nearly every community.
- The repeat market also participated in fewer activities, with the exception of fishing. They were more likely to participate in fishing (57 versus 46 percent).
- Repeat travelers were much more likely to rely on prior experience (57 versus 26 percent). They tended to use other information sources at a lower rate.
- Repeat travelers were more likely to be from the West (60 versus 45 percent). They were half as likely to be international (7 versus 15 percent).

### Cultural Visitors (page 24)

- Visitors who participated in cultural activities while in Alaska tended to travel more widely throughout the state. Nearly two-thirds visited Denali, compared to 46 percent of all rural visitors. They were also more likely to visit Anchorage (73 versus 62 percent) and Fairbanks (46 versus 27 percent).
- Cultural visitors participated in most activities at a higher rate than the overall rural market, with the exception of fishing. They were less likely to go fishing.
- Cultural visitors tended to stay in Alaska slightly longer (14.1 nights, compared to 12.5 nights for the total rural market).
- Cultural visitors were more likely to use guidebooks (40 versus 31 percent), and reported a higher usage of most information sources.

- Cultural visitors reported a slightly higher average spending than other visitors.
- They were less likely to be repeat travelers (33 versus 42 percent).
- Cultural visitors were less likely to be from the West (36 versus 45 percent).
- Cultural visitors were more likely to be female (51 versus 41 percent).

### **Wildlife Viewing Visitors (page 25)**

- The wildlife viewing market closely resembled the overall rural market, with a few exceptions.
- Wildlife viewers traveled a little more widely, and spent slightly more time in the state.
- They participated in activities at a higher rate, with the exception of fishing.
- They were slightly less likely to have been to Alaska before.

### **Adventure Travelers (page 26)**

- Adventure travelers tended to stay slightly longer in Alaska.
- They also participated in more activities, with the exception of fishing. They were particularly likely to go hiking (77 percent, compared to 44 percent of the overall rural market).
- This market was slightly less likely to have been to Alaska before.
- They were slightly more likely both to use the Internet, and to book over the Internet. They were also more likely to use guidebooks.
- Although one might expect adventure travelers to be significantly younger, they reported an average age only four years younger than the overall rural market (46.7 compared to 50.1 years).

### **Fishing Visitors (page 27)**

- Fishing visitors differed from the overall rural market in several significant ways.
- They visited fewer places throughout the state. They were particularly less likely to visit Denali (28 versus 46 percent) and Fairbanks (15 versus 47 percent).
- Fishing visitors stayed slightly longer in the state, although they participated in fewer activities.
- The fishing market was more likely use their prior experience as a source of information, but less likely to mention most other sources.
- They were more likely to have been to Alaska before (52 versus 42 percent).
- They were more likely to be from the West, and half as likely to be international.
- Fishing visitors were more likely to be male (69 versus 59 percent).

**Rural Visitor Niche Market Analysis: Repeat Alaska Visitors**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	All Rural Visitors	Repeat Alaska Visitors
<b>Trip Purpose</b>		
Vacation/pleasure	82%	73%
Visiting friends/family	14	23
Business/pleasure	4	4
<b>Overnight Destinations (Top 5)</b>		
Anchorage	62%	56%
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	46	31
Fairbanks	27	19
Seward	27	19
Tok	22	11
<b>Average length of stay in Alaska</b>	12.5 nights	12.3 nights
<b>Activities (Top 5)</b>		
Shopping	61%	50%
Wildlife viewing	59	50
Fishing	46	57
Cultural activities	46	36
Hiking/nature walk	44	34
<b>Average amount spent on Alaska trip</b>	\$1,767 per person	\$1,716 per person
<b>Previous and Future Alaska Travel</b>		
Been to Alaska before	42%	100%
Very likely to travel to Alaska in the future	61	71
<b>Trip Planning</b>		
Average advance time for trip decision	8.2 months	7.4 months
Average advance time for trip booking	3.9 months	3.7 months
Used Internet	75%	73%
Booked over Internet	50	53
Used travel agent	25	25
<b>Demographics</b>		
West	45%	60%
Midwest	15	12
South	15	11
East	11	9
International	15	7
Average party size	2.7 people	2.6 people
Average age	50.1 years	52.4 years
Male	59%	63%
Female	41	37

**Rural Visitor Niche Market Analysis: Cultural Visitors**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	All Rural Visitors	Cultural Visitors
<b>Trip Purpose</b>		
Vacation/pleasure	82%	86%
Visiting friends/family	14	10
Business/pleasure	4	4
<b>Overnight Destinations (Top 5)</b>		
Anchorage	62%	73%
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	46	64
Fairbanks	27	46
Seward	27	37
Tok	22	27
<b>Average length of stay in Alaska</b>	12.5 nights	14.1 nights
<b>Activities (Top 5)</b>		
Shopping	61%	77%
Wildlife viewing	59	74
Fishing	46	35
Cultural activities	46	100
Hiking/nature walk	44	53
<b>Average amount spent on Alaska trip</b>	\$1,767 per person	\$1,869 per person
<b>Previous and Future Alaska Travel</b>		
Been to Alaska before	42%	33%
Very likely to travel to Alaska in the future	61	49
<b>Trip Planning</b>		
Average advance time for trip decision	8.2 months	8.6 months
Average advance time for trip booking	3.9 months	4.1 months
Used Internet	75%	77%
Booked over Internet	50	50
Used travel agent	25	26
<b>Demographics</b>		
West	45%	36%
Midwest	15	16
South	15	15
East	11	14
International	15	18
Average party size	2.7 people	2.7 people
Average age	50.1 years	51.4 years
Male	59%	49%
Female	41	51

**Rural Visitor Niche Market Analysis: Wildlife Viewing Visitors**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	All Rural Visitors	Wildlife Viewing Visitors
<b>Trip Purpose</b>		
Vacation/pleasure	82%	82%
Visiting friends/family	14	13
Business/pleasure	4	5
<b>Overnight Destinations (Top 5)</b>		
Anchorage	62%	68%
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	46	60
Fairbanks	27	35
Seward	27	37
Tok	22	17
<b>Average length of stay in Alaska</b>	12.5 nights	14.2 nights
<b>Activities (Top 5)</b>		
Shopping	61%	67%
Wildlife viewing	59	100
Fishing	46	40
Cultural activities	46	58
Hiking/nature walk	44	54
<b>Average amount spent on Alaska trip</b>	\$1,767 per person	\$1,774 per person
<b>Previous and Future Alaska Travel</b>		
Been to Alaska before	42%	36%
Very likely to travel to Alaska in the future	61	55
<b>Trip Planning</b>		
Average advance time for trip decision	8.2 months	7.9 months
Average advance time for trip booking	3.9 months	4.0 months
Used Internet	75%	78%
Booked over Internet	50	55
Used travel agent	25	27
<b>Demographics</b>		
West	45%	42%
Midwest	15	16
South	15	16
East	11	12
International	15	13
Average party size	2.7 people	2.8 people
Average age	50.1 years	49.8 years
Male	59%	53%
Female	41	47

**Rural Visitor Niche Market Analysis: Adventure Travelers**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	All Rural Visitors	Adventure Travelers
<b>Trip Purpose</b>		
Vacation/pleasure	82%	80%
Visiting friends/family	14	16
Business/pleasure	4	4
<b>Overnight Destinations (Top 5)</b>		
Anchorage	62%	66%
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	46	50
Fairbanks	27	26
Seward	27	31
Tok	22	24
<b>Average length of stay in Alaska</b>	12.5 nights	13.9 nights
<b>Activities (Top 5)</b>		
Shopping	61%	68%
Wildlife viewing	59	65
Fishing	46	41
Cultural activities	46	52
Hiking/nature walk	44	77
<b>Average amount spent on Alaska trip</b>	\$1,767 per person	\$1,709 per person
<b>Previous and Future Alaska Travel</b>		
Been to Alaska before	42%	35%
Very likely to travel to Alaska in the future	61	60
<b>Trip Planning</b>		
Average advance time for trip decision	8.2 months	8.2 months
Average advance time for trip booking	3.9 months	3.9 months
Used Internet	75%	80%
Booked over Internet	50	55
Used travel agent	25	22
<b>Demographics</b>		
West	45%	40%
Midwest	15	14
South	15	16
East	11	12
International	15	18
Average party size	2.7 people	2.8 people
Average age	50.1 years	46.7 years
Male	59%	55%
Female	41	45

**Rural Visitor Niche Market Analysis: Fishing Visitors**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	All Rural Visitors	Fishing Visitors
<b>Trip Purpose</b>		
Vacation/pleasure	82%	82%
Visiting friends/family	14	14
Business/pleasure	4	3
<b>Overnight Destinations (Top 5)</b>		
Anchorage	62%	53%
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	46	28
Fairbanks	27	15
Seward	27	24
Tok	22	18
<b>Average length of stay in Alaska</b>	12.5 nights	13.5 nights
<b>Activities (Top 5)</b>		
Shopping	61%	55%
Wildlife viewing	59	51
Fishing	46	100
Cultural activities	46	35
Hiking/nature walk	44	38
<b>Average amount spent on Alaska trip</b>	\$1,767 per person	\$1,778 per person
<b>Previous and Future Alaska Travel</b>		
Been to Alaska before	42%	52%
Very likely to travel to Alaska in the future	61	74
<b>Trip Planning</b>		
Average advance time for trip decision	8.2 months	8.5 months
Average advance time for trip booking	3.9 months	4.0 months
Used Internet	75%	77%
Booked over Internet	50	52
Used travel agent	25	21
<b>Demographics</b>		
West	45%	52%
Midwest	15	15
South	15	16
East	11	10
International	15	8
Average party size	2.7 people	3.1 people
Average age	50.1 years	49.0 years
Male	59%	69%
Female	41	31

This chapter compares 2005 survey results to 2003 survey results for the rural visitor market. The following page presents a summary table of results for the two years.

- The rural market changed very little between 2003 and 2005 in many areas: trip purpose, previous and future travel to Alaska, travel agent usage, gender, average age, and average party size.
- The average length of stay in Alaska decreased from 16.2 to 12.5 nights. This is likely related to the decline in the highway and ferry markets, which tend to stay longer in the state when compared to the air market.
- A related issue is the rate of visitation to certain communities. Anchorage visitation went up, while Fairbanks and Tok visitation went down. Highway visitors are more likely to visit Fairbanks and Tok; air visitors are more likely to visit Anchorage.
- The percentage of rural visitors who participated in shopping and wildlife viewing increased slightly, while the percentage who went fishing dropped slightly.
- The average advance time for deciding to travel to Alaska dropped slightly from an average of 8.8 months to 8.2 months. Likewise, the advance time for booking travel arrangements slipped from 4.3 to 3.9 months.
- Internet usage rose slightly, from 69 to 75 percent of visitors. Booking over the Internet increased more dramatically, from 34 to 50 percent.
- More visitors came from the West in 2005 – again, this likely related to the rise of the air market in comparison to the highway market. The air market tends to draw more from the Western states.

**Rural Visitor Trend Analysis: 2003 and 2005**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors**

	Rural Visitors 2003	Rural Visitors 2005
<b>Trip Purpose</b>		
Vacation/pleasure	82%	82%
Visiting friends/family	13	14
Business/pleasure	6	4
<b>Overnight Destinations (Top 5)</b>		
Anchorage	58%	62%
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	49	46
Fairbanks	34	27
Seward	28	27
Tok	34	22
<b>Average length of stay in Alaska</b>	16.2 nights	12.5 nights
<b>Activities (Top 5)</b>		
Shopping	54%	61%
Wildlife viewing	51	59
Fishing	52	46
Cultural activities	48	46
Hiking/nature walk	38	44
<b>Average amount spent on Alaska trip</b>	\$1,591 per person	\$1,767 per person
<b>Previous and Future Alaska Travel</b>		
Been to Alaska before	41%	42%
Very likely to travel to Alaska in the future	62	61
<b>Trip Planning</b>		
Average advance time for trip decision	8.8 months	8.2 months
Average advance time for trip booking	4.3 months	3.9 months
Used Internet	69%	75%
Booked over Internet	34	50
Used travel agent	25	25
<b>Demographics</b>		
West	36%	45%
Midwest	18	15
South	17	15
East	12	11
International	16	15
Average party size	2.5 people	2.7 people
Average age	51.4 years	50.1 years
Male	58%	59%
Female	42	41

This chapter presents survey results based to non-cruise visitors who did not spend a night in any rural locations (“urban-only”), alongside rural visitor results. This exercise allows rural visitor marketing professionals insight into the Alaska visitor market they are missing, and how to better attract them.

Visitors qualified as urban-only if their trip did not include any overnights in any community of 6,500 or less not connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks OR with a population of 1,600 or less that is connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks. The sample size for urban-only visitors is 1,145.

Below are major findings from the rural/urban analysis; the following page presents survey results for the two markets.

- Urban-only visitors were much less likely to be traveling for vacation/pleasure (45 percent versus 83 percent), and much more likely to be VFR’s (43 versus 14 percent) when compared to the rural market. They were also more likely to be traveling for business/pleasure (12 versus 4 percent).
- Urban-only visitors overnights in an average of 1.5 communities in Alaska, compared to 3.7 communities among rural visitors. Their top community to visit was Anchorage at 53 percent. They visited very few other communities – the next most popular community was Kenai/Soldotna at 14 percent.
- This market stayed in Alaska an average of 9.0 nights – about three nights less than the rural market.
- Urban visitors were equally likely to participate in fishing and shopping, but were less likely to do cultural activities, hiking, and many other activities. They were more likely to participate in visiting friends and family (46 versus 27 percent).
- Urban visitors spent about half of what rural visitors spent on their trip.
- This market was much more likely to have been to Alaska before (62 versus 42 percent).
- The average lead time among urban visitors for trip planning was shorter than among rural visitors.
- Urban visitors were equally likely to use the Internet, but are more likely to book over the Internet.
- The Western US represented over half of urban visitors to Alaska. This compares to 45 percent of rural visitors.
- Just 4 percent of urban visitors were international, compared to 15 percent of rural visitors.
- Urban visitors reported a lower party size than the rural visitor market – 2.3 people, compared to 2.7 people.

**Rural Visitor Niche Market Analysis: Urban-Only**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	Urban-Only Visitors
<b>Trip Purpose</b>		
Vacation/pleasure	82%	45%
Visiting friends/family	14	43
Business/pleasure	4	12
<b>Overnight Destinations (Top 5)</b>		
Anchorage	62%	53%
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	46	-
Fairbanks	27	11
Seward	27	10
Tok	22	-
<b>Average length of stay in Alaska</b>	12.5 nights	9.0 nights
<b>Activities (Top 5)</b>		
Shopping	61%	62%
Wildlife viewing	59	34
Fishing	46	46
Cultural activities	46	31
Hiking/nature walk	44	30
<b>Average amount spent on Alaska trip</b>	\$1,767 per person	\$984 per person
<b>Previous and Future Alaska Travel</b>		
Been to Alaska before	42%	62%
Very likely to travel to Alaska in the future	61	73
<b>Trip Planning</b>		
Average advance time for trip decision	8.2 months	6.0 months
Average advance time for trip booking	3.9 months	3.1 months
Used Internet	75%	76%
Booked over Internet	50	59
Used travel agent	25	25
<b>Demographics</b>		
West	45%	62%
Midwest	15	14
South	15	13
East	11	8
International	15	4
Average party size	2.7 people	2.3 people
Average age	50.1 years	50.5 years
Male	59%	58%
Female	41	42

# WESTERN ALASKA VISITOR PROFILE

This chapter presents a profile of Alaska visitors who reported spending at least one night in Western Alaska, and/or who said they visited the region (whether overnighting or not) when shown a map with Western Alaska highlighted (see page 5). The sample includes 128 visitors. In addition to visitor demographics, trip planning, and in-state travel patterns, this chapter includes responses to several questions about visitors' Western Alaska experience:

- Expenditures in Western Alaska
- Why they visited Western Alaska
- What they enjoyed most about Western Alaska
- How the region could improve the visitor experience.

The data describing trip behavior and travel patterns by Western Alaska visitors refers to their entire Alaska trip, not just the Western Alaska portion of their trip.

## Visitor Experience

### Trip Purpose

- Four out of five Western Alaska visitors were traveling for vacation/pleasure purposes, with 10 percent traveling to visit friends or relatives (VFR), and 10 percent traveling for business/pleasure.
- Western Alaska visitors are twice as likely as the overall rural visitor market to be traveling for business/pleasure (10 versus 4 percent).

**Trip Purpose**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	% of Western Alaska Visitors
Vacation/pleasure	80%
Visiting friends and relatives	10
Business/pleasure	10

### Length of Stay

- Western Alaska visitors reported an average length of stay in Alaska of 12.9 nights (close to the average among all rural visitors, 12.5 nights). They spent, on average, 6.8 nights in Western Alaska.

**Average Length of Stay**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	Western Alaska Visitors: Number of Nights
Average length of stay in Alaska	12.9 nights
Average length of stay in Western Alaska	6.8 nights

## Accommodations

- Just over half of Western Alaska visitors reported spending at least one night in a hotel or motel. Another 37 percent reported staying in a lodge or resort. One-third of visitors camped.
- Over one-quarter of visitors stayed in a private home, much more than the 10 percent who said their main trip purpose was to visit friends or relatives.

**Accommodations Used in Alaska**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	<b>% of Western Alaska Visitors</b>
Hotel/motel	54%
Lodge/resort	37
Camping (tent/cabin)	34
Private home	28
Bed and breakfast	12
Boat/ferry	11
RV/vehicle	5
Other	8

## Overnight Destinations

- Western Alaska visitors visited an average of 1.4 communities while in Alaska, about half of the average among all rural visitors (2.7 communities).
- The vast majority of Western Alaska visitors (86 percent) overnighted in the Western Alaska region. The most frequently-visited communities were King Salmon, Dillingham, and Bethel. Other destinations mentioned by three or more visitors included Katmai, Naknek, Valhalla, Lake Clark, Iliamna, Quinhagak, and Aniak.
- The remaining 14 percent of Western Alaska visitors took day trips to the area.
- Seven out of ten Western Alaska visitors overnighted in the Southcentral region, most commonly Anchorage.
- One out of ten Western Alaska visitors overnighted in Southeast, and 6 percent visited the Far North.

**Overnight Destinations**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	% of Western Alaska Visitors
Southwest	86%
Western Alaska	86
Kodiak	5
Southcentral	71
Anchorage	60
Kenai Peninsula	28
Valdez	6
Glennallen/Copper Center	6
Palmer/Wasilla	5
Girdwood/Alyeska	3
Talkeetna	2
Interior	25
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	18
Fairbanks	9
Tok	3
Southeast	9
Sitka	5
Juneau	3
Haines	2
Far North	6
Nome	5

## Visitor Activities

- Fishing was by far the most popular activity among Western Alaska visitors, with 79 percent participating. This includes 50 percent who charter fished and 34 percent who fished unguided.
- Over half of Western Alaska visitors participated in wildlife viewing, including 41 percent who viewed bears. This compares to 28 percent of the statewide rural market.
- Other popular activities included hiking/nature walk (31 percent), shopping (27 percent), boating (26 percent), and visiting friends/relatives (25 percent).
- When compared to the total rural visitor market, Western Alaska visitors are much more likely to participate in fishing (79 versus 46 percent) and boating (26 versus 17 percent), and are less likely to participate in shopping (27 versus 61 percent) and cultural activities (20 versus 46 percent).

**Participation in Tours and Activities in Alaska**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	<b>% of Western Alaska Visitors</b>
Fishing	79%
Fishing (guided)	50
Fishing (unguided)	34
Wildlife viewing	55
Bear viewing	41
Bird watching	16
Hiking/nature walk	31
Shopping	27
Boating	26
Visiting friends/relatives	25
Camping	23
Cultural activities	20
Museums/historical sites	17
Native culture tours/activities	6
Gold panning/mine tour	3
Day cruise	14
Flightseeing	11
Rafting	9
City tour	9
Business	8
Hunting	7
Kayaking/canoeing	6
Biking	3

*Table continued, next page*

**Participation in Tours and Activities (cont'd)**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	<b>% of Western Alaska Visitors</b>
Train	3
Tramway/gondola	1
Other activities	6

**Visitor Expenditures**

- Western Alaska visitors spent an average of \$2,657 per person while in Alaska, and \$2,272 per person while in Western Alaska.
- The average spending in this region is greater than what the average rural visitor spends, statewide: \$2,657 per person versus \$1,767 among all rural visitors.
- Visitors were asked their spending on Native arts and crafts while in Western Alaska. Two-thirds of respondents reported zero spending, while 21 percent said they didn't know. Only 16 respondents were able to estimate their spending. Among these visitors, the average spending on Native arts and crafts was \$83 per person. Expanded to the total sample, the average becomes \$13 per person.

**Visitor Expenditures in Alaska and Western Alaska**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	<b>Western Alaska Visitors</b>	
	<b>Per Person</b>	<b>Per Party</b>
Total spending in Alaska	\$2,657	\$7,175
Total spending in Western Alaska	\$2,272	\$6358

## Visitor Satisfaction

- Western Alaska visitors reported very high satisfaction rates with their overall Alaska experience, with 91 percent saying they were very satisfied, and the remaining 9 percent saying they were satisfied. Not one visitor was dissatisfied with their Alaska experience.
- Wildlife viewing experiences were also rated very high, with 78 percent very satisfied and another 15 percent satisfied.
- Western Alaska visitors reported higher satisfaction rates with both their overall trip and wildlife viewing when compared to the statewide rural market: 91 versus 83 percent very satisfied with the overall experience, and 78 versus 65 percent very satisfied with wildlife viewing.

**Satisfaction Ratings**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Overall experience in Alaska	91%	9%	-	-	-
Wildlife viewing experiences	78	15	6	1	-

## Western Alaska Experience

All comments in response to these three questions are provided at the end of this chapter.

- Over half of visitors said they visited Western Alaska to go fishing. (Seventy-nine percent had reported participating in fishing on their Alaska trip.)
- Wildlife viewing was the number two reason for visiting Western Alaska, mentioned by 22 percent of respondents, while 18 percent mentioned bear viewing.
- When asked what they enjoyed most about the region, over half of visitors mentioned fishing, followed by outdoors/scenic beauty and bear viewing.

### ***Why did you choose to visit the Western Alaska area?*** Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	<b>% of Western Alaska Visitors</b>
Fishing	59%
Wildlife	22
Visit friends/family	21
Bear viewing	18
Outdoors/scenic beauty	17
Remote location	16
Friend/family recommended	9
Business	9
Bird watching	5
Hunting	5
Native culture/art	3
Other	5

### ***What did you enjoy most about visiting this area?*** Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	<b>% of Western Alaska Visitors</b>
Fishing	57%
Outdoors/scenic beauty	38
Bear viewing	26
Remote location	25
Wildlife	25
Visit friends/family	15
Bird watching	8
Native culture/art	5
People	5
Hunting	2
Other	10

- Visitors were asked what the region could do to improve the visitor experience. One-half said “nothing.” The other responses were grouped into categories. Transportation was the most common category, with 25 percent of visitors making suggestions in that area. Other responses included information, food, lodging, service, tours/activities, and expense.

***What, if anything, could the region do  
to improve the visitor experience?***  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	<b>% of Western Alaska Visitors</b>
Nothing	49%
Transportation	25
Service	9
Information	8
Lodging	7
Food	4
Tours/activities	3
Expense	3
Other	13

## Trip Planning

### Advance Planning Time

- Western Alaska visitors make their trip decision an average of 9.0 months before their trip. (This compares to 8.2 months among all rural visitors.) Over one-third made the decision a year or more ahead of time.
- These visitors made their travel arrangements an average of 4.7 months ahead of time, with nearly half booking within three months of travel. The average lead time among all rural visitors was 3.9 months.

#### Advance Time for Trip Decision and Booking Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

% of Western Alaska Visitors	
<b>How far in advance did you decide to come on this trip to Alaska?</b>	
Three months or less	21%
Four to six months	21
Seven to eleven months	20
One year or more	38
Average # months	9.0 months
<b>How far in advance did you book your major travel arrangements?</b>	
Three months or less	45%
Four to six months	30
Seven to eleven months	16
One year or more	9
Average # months	4.7 months

### Internet Use

- Seven out of ten Western Alaska visitors said they used the Internet to plan their trip, including 54 percent who said they booked some portion of their travel using this method. This compares to 75 percent and 50 percent among the total rural market.
- Among Internet bookers, the most common item booked was airfare, followed by lodging and tours.

**Internet Use**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

% of Western Alaska Visitors	
<b>Used Internet</b>	72%
Research only	18
Research and book	54
<b>Which portions of your trip did you book over the Internet? (Base: Booked over the Internet)</b>	
Airfare	89%
Lodging	27
Tours	17
Vehicle rental	11
Overnight packages	5
Ferry	3
Other	6

**Travel Agent Use**

- One out of six Western Alaska visitors reported using a travel agent in planning their trip. This is lower than the rate among all rural visitors (17 versus 25 percent).
- Travel agents were most commonly used to book airfare (90 percent), followed by lodging (38 percent) and tours (29 percent).

**Travel Agent Use**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

% of Western Alaska Visitors	
<b>Did you use a travel agent?</b>	
Yes	17%
No	83
<b>Which portions did you book through a travel agent? (Base: used travel agent)</b>	
Airfare	90%
Lodging	38
Tours	29
Vehicle rental	10
Other	10

## Other Sources of Information

- Besides the Internet and travel agents, Western Alaska visitors are most likely to rely on friends/family for trip information (54 percent). They are also likely to rely on their prior experience (39 percent), corresponding with the high repeat rate among these visitors (see next page).
- Other information sources are mentioned by less than 10 percent of respondents – showing less active trip planning than the overall rural visitor market.

### Information Sources About Alaska (Other than Internet and Travel Agent) Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

	% of Western Alaska Visitors
Friends/family	54%
Prior experience	39
Guidebooks	9
Milepost	3
Frommers	3
Lonely Planet	2
Brochures	7
Magazine	6
Convention and Visitors Bureau	5
AAA	3
Alaska State Vacation Planner	2
Community brochures	2
Cruise line	2
Ferry brochure/schedule	2
Lodging	2
Travel shows	2
Club/organization	1
Library	1
North to Alaska guide	1
Other	5

\* Top-of-mind recall.

## Previous and Future Alaska Travel

- Nearly two-thirds of Western Alaska visitors reported having visited Alaska before. This rate much higher than the rural visitor repeat rate of 42 percent.
- Of repeat travelers, 90 percent had entered or exited the state via airplane on their previous trip. Four percent traveled by highway, and 4 percent by cruise ship.
- Four out of five Western Alaska visitors said they were very likely to visit Alaska again. This compares to 61 percent of the statewide rural market.

**Previous and Future Alaska Travel**  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

% of Western Alaska Visitors	
<b>Is this your first trip to Alaska?</b>	
Yes	38%
No	63
<b>Mode of transportation used to enter/exit Alaska on previous trip (Base: Previously visited Alaska)</b>	
Air	90%
Highway	4
Cruise ship	4
<b>How likely are you to return to Alaska?</b>	
Very likely	82%
Likely	10
Unlikely	2
Very unlikely	1

## Demographics

### Visitor Origin

- Over half of visitors to Western Alaska came from the West, including 15 percent from California and 14 percent from Washington.
- Compared to the overall rural visitor market, Western Alaska visitors are more likely to be from the West (62 versus 45 percent), and less likely to be international (5 versus 15 percent).

**Visitor Origin**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	% of Western Alaska Visitors
Western US	62%
California	15
Washington	14
Utah	7
Southern US	15
Texas	4
Tennessee	3
Eastern U.S.	9
Maryland	2
New York	2
Midwestern US	9
Ohio	2
Wisconsin	2
Indiana	2
International	5
Canada	2
Switzerland	1
United Kingdom	1

## Other Demographics

- Four out of five Western Alaska visitors were male; this compares to 59 percent among statewide rural visitors. They reported an average age of 48 years and an average party size of 2.8 people.
- When compared to other rural visitors, Western Alaska visitors were more likely to have obtained a college degree (63 versus 53 percent), and reported a higher average income (\$108,500 versus \$91,200).

### Visitor Demographics Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005

% of Western Alaska Visitors	
<b>Gender (cumulative)</b>	
Male	80%
Female	20
<b>Age (cumulative)</b>	
1-18 years old	8%
19-34 years old	14
35-44 years old	18
45-64 years old	47
Over 65 years old	13
Average age	48.0 years
Average party size	2.8 people
<b>Education</b>	
Less than H.S. diploma	3%
High School Grad/GED	8
Vocational Cert.	5
Some College	16
AA degree	5
College graduate	63
Bachelor's	31
Master's	19
Doctorate	13
<b>Average household income</b>	
Mean income	\$108,500
Refused	9%

## Responses to Western Alaska Questions

### ***Why did you choose to visit the Western Alaska area?***

Boss paid for trip  
Coast  
Farthest North they could go  
Geology  
Hiking  
Land view  
Learning new kind of fishing  
Life-long dream  
Perhaps relocating  
To see the country  
Tundra  
Walrus

### ***What did you enjoy most about visiting this area?***

Canneries  
Ethnic diversity  
Food  
Fresh air  
Hiking (2 mentions)  
Learning to fly fish  
Peace and quiet  
Walrus  
Weather

### ***What, if anything, could the region do to improve the visitor experience?***

More reasonable flights (cost)  
More professionalism – competitor airline  
More fish  
Don't improve anything, I like the lack of people  
Mosquitoes (2 mentions)  
Phone service  
Cost and availability of transportation "we paid a lot for crappy run-down planes."  
Cut down netting of fish in Bristol Bay  
Put in a road  
Airfare too high  
Keep remote  
Lodging in Dillingham could be improved (2 mentions)  
Taxis in Dillingham a bit rough  
Promote, inform, website hunting / fishing  
Need more accommodations (had to stay an extra night and no vacancies)  
Use of cell phone  
Restroom facilities  
Shuttles around town  
Alaska Airlines  
Not much for family to do in Bethel (2 mentions)  
Cost- everything too expensive  
Food and transportation could be improved "Nothing they can do to improve, it's been this way on every trip." (Not willing to elaborate.)  
Advertising, so people will know about it  
Airline not well equipped  
Town not set up for travelers  
Very expensive for a day trip flight. Perhaps if there was more competition it wouldn't be so

pricey. Great time.  
Katmai – not specific – need to have more info in one place  
We like the remoteness, keep it quiet and peaceful  
Would be nice to have a bus system  
Advertise more on Internet (2 mentions)  
Add Internet and cell phone service at lodge (2 mentions)  
Get rid of bugs  
Better food at lodge  
This was such an amazing experience. Brochures for the area need testimonies from people who have fished out there.  
It is excellent as it is.  
Cheaper to get around  
If anything was changed, it just wouldn't be the same  
There needs to be more information for things like Alcoholics Anonymous – had negative experience with people who were drunk.  
A cell tower  
Have more information available about the Native culture in Aniak and Napaimiut  
Dillingham could use more services for visitors  
Restaurant more accessibility - \$50 burger  
Had to rent someone's actual car  
Practice more "Leave no trace" camping  
Maps on planes-educational  
Lost watch in luggage on Alaska Air from Dillingham to Anchorage  
Hard to get around  
Weather  
High prices  
Give better rates  
Need more other transportation  
More hiking trails (only 7 miles)  
Bugs  
Lower the cost of alcohol  
Shopping  
Bigger plane  
Cleanliness. Honey-bucket system is gross. Need to upgrade and educate on health effects of human waste.

## WESTERN ALASKA VISITOR VOLUME ESTIMATE

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This chapter presents an estimate of the number of visitors to the Western Alaska area in summer of 2005 (May-September). Visitor volume was determined using the following methodology.

As part of the *Alaska Travelers Survey* program, the McDowell Group estimated summer 2005 statewide visitor volume by mode of exit. This is accomplished by applying resident/visitor ratios to departure traffic data, including airport enplanement data, airline data, Alaska Marine Highway System data, and Canadian highway border crossing data. (All cruise passengers are assumed to be visitors, so no ratio data is needed.)

The intercept survey conducted of non-cruise visitors asked them where they had spent each night while in Alaska. A special effort was made to capture the number of people who overnighted in the "Western Alaska" region. The percentage of respondents who overnighted in the region was then applied to the estimated visitor volume, by mode of exit, to arrive at a total *overnight* visitor volume for the summer of 2005.

The estimated number of overnight visitors to Western Alaska in the summer of 2005 is approximately 30,000.

The tables in this section present additional data on rural visitors to Alaska, with detail by trip purpose (vacation/pleasure, visiting friends/relatives, and business/pleasure) and mode of exit (air, ferry, and highway). The sample sizes can be seen in the table below.

**Sample Sizes of Rural Visitors  
by Trip Purpose and Mode of Exit  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	<b>Sample Sizes</b>
All rural visitors	1,175
Vacation/pleasure	945
Visiting friends/relatives	173
Business/pleasure	57
Exited by air	785
Exited by ferry	203
Exited by highway	187

**Trip Purpose  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	<b>Rural Visitors</b>	<b>Air</b>	<b>Ferry</b>	<b>Highway</b>
Vacation/pleasure	82%	78%	89%	96%
Visiting friends and relatives	14	17	8	3
Business/pleasure	4	5	4	2

**Accommodations Used in Alaska  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	<b>Rural Visitors</b>	<b>V/P</b>	<b>VFR</b>	<b>B/P</b>	<b>Air</b>	<b>Ferry</b>	<b>Hwy</b>
Hotel/motel	53%	56%	31%	58%	60%	51%	24%
Lodge/resort	28	31	20	14	35	11	9
Camping (tent/cabin)	28	27	32	26	30	26	19
Private home	25	15	80	30	31	14	3
RV/vehicle	21	23	13	6	10	35	64
Bed and breakfast	12	13	8	14	14	19	3
Boat/ferry	10	10	5	11	5	97	2
Other	6	6	3	12	7	10	-

**Overnight Destinations**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	V/P	VFR	B/P	Air	Ferry	Hwy
Southcentral	78%	79%	74%	72%	81%	65%	71%
Anchorage	62	64	52	59	67	45	45
Kenai Peninsula	44	46	38	25	45	47	40
Seward	27	30	14	14	29	30	19
Homer	19	19	17	13	17	27	24
Kenai/Soldotna	14	15	10	8	11	18	23
Valdez	14	16	6	8	12	16	22
Palmer/Wasilla	11	11	11	12	10	16	17
Talkeetna	11	12	9	8	13	6	6
Glennallen/Copper Center	9	9	6	10	8	18	10
Girdwood/Alyeska	3	3	-	4	4	1	-
Interior	63	66	44	58	54	67	98
Denali/Healy/Cantwell	46	49	34	45	46	44	47
Fairbanks	27	30	16	19	26	48	27
Tok	22	25	7	5	4	41	90
Southeast	22	23	17	21	21	86	7
Juneau	8	9	5	6	8	29	1
Ketchikan	4	4	2	5	4	16	-
Sitka	2	2	2	2	1	13	1
Skagway	6	6	2	1	4	34	4
Haines	5	5	2	4	2	48	4
Prince of Wales Is.	4	3	4	4	4	6	1
Petersburg	3	3	2	3	3	6	-
Glacier Bay/ Gustavus	2	2	1	1	3	4	-
Wrangell	1	1	2	2	1	9	-
Southwest	10	11	7	14	13	1	3
Kodiak	2	2	<1	4	2	1	2
Far North	5	5	3	10	5	4	5
Nome	2	1	1	4	1	1	2

**Participation in Tours and Activities**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	V/P	VFR	B/P	Air	Ferry	Hwy
Shopping	61%	62%	57%	48%	55%	67%	84%
Wildlife/marinelife viewing	59	59	53	73	62	85	34
Bear viewing	28	29	20	30	27	51	21
Bird watching	16	16	14	20	17	27	8
Fishing	46	46	46	36	48	35	43
Fishing (unguided)	28	28	33	21	27	26	34
Fishing (guided)	25	27	16	22	28	17	15
Cultural activities	46	48	34	38	43	71	48
Museums/ historical sites	37	39	29	21	34	64	39
Native culture tours/ activities	18	19	11	15	19	30	12
Gold panning/ mine tour	11	12	7	7	11	15	13
Hiking/nature walk	44	44	47	43	43	45	46
Day cruise	43	45	34	25	44	43	36
Visiting friends/relatives	27	17	82	30	32	26	6
City tour	25	25	23	22	26	48	14
Camping	20	20	18	22	16	32	31
Boating	17	15	26	13	19	10	9
Flightseeing	16	16	15	11	17	13	13
Train	13	14	5	14	13	25	8
Alaska Railroad	9	10	3	13	11	4	4
White Pass	4	5	1	1	3	23	4
Rafting	13	13	12	5	14	7	9
Kayaking/canoeing	9	8	14	5	9	7	6
Tramway/gondola	5	5	3	2	5	7	2
Business	5	2	1	75	6	1	1
Biking	4	4	4	3	4	5	4
Hunting	3	3	3	-	3	1	3
Dog sled/kennel tour	2	2	1	-	2	1	-
Garden/rainforest tour	1	1	3	-	1	1	-
Other activities	11	12	6	8	10	13	12

**Advance Time for Trip Decision and Booking**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	V/P	VFR	B/P	Air	Ferry	Hwy
<b>How far in advance did you decide to come on this trip to Alaska?</b>							
3 months or less	27%	23%	46%	36%	30%	22%	14%
4-6 months	29	29	30	37	32	22	22
7-11 months	15	16	10	3	14	17	16
1 year or more	29	32	15	23	24	38	47
Average # months	8.2	8.8	5.4	6.4	7.1	9.1	12.4
<b>How far in advance did you book your major travel arrangements?</b>							
3 months or less	51%	47%	69%	71%	49%	65%	56%
4-6 months	33	35	23	22	34	22	29
7-11 months	11	12	7	2	11	13	7
1 year or more	5	6	1	4	5	1	9
Average # months	3.9	4.2	2.9	3.1	4.1	2.8	3.6

**Internet Use**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	V/P	VFR	B/P	Air	Ferry	Hwy
<b>Used Internet</b>	75%	77%	69%	67%	79%	71%	64%
Research only	26	28	13	26	20	42	44
Research and book	50	49	56	41	59	29	20
<b>Which portions of your trip did you book over the Internet? (Base: Booked over the Internet)</b>							
Airfare	83%	81%	96%	83%	87%	19%	64%
Lodging	41	45	18	48	42	49	27
Vehicle rental	33	37	17	25	32	14	55
Tours	22	25	11	15	22	38	24
Ferry	8	9	2	-	5	79	12
Overnight packages	4	5	-	-	5	-	3
Other	3	3	1	-	2	4	9

**Travel Agent Use**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	V/P	VFR	B/P	Air	Ferry	Hwy
<b>Did you use a travel agent?</b>							
Yes	25%	26%	18%	28%	28%	17%	14%
No	75	74	82	72	72	83	86
<b>Which portions of your trip did you book through a travel agent? (Base: used travel agent)</b>							
Airfare	80%	78%	89%	100%	81%	42%	87%
Lodging	52	55	11	35	54	49	43
Tours	47	49	11	35	50	52	26
Vehicle rental	22	23	7	10	16	9	61
Overnight packages	12	13	-	-	14	-	9
Ferry	9	9	11	-	4	88	-
Other	2	2	-	-	1	3	4

**Information Sources About Alaska  
(Other than Internet and Travel Agent)  
Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	V/P	VFR	B/P	Air	Ferry	Hwy
Friends/family	44%	39%	77%	28%	47%	46%	30%
Guidebooks	31	33	24	26	26	54	44
Milepost	16	17	14	9	11	37	32
Frommers	5	5	5	6	5	5	8
Lonely Planet	5	6	2	7	4	10	7
Prior experience	26	23	44	25	30	32	9
Brochures	18	20	12	10	12	29	40
AAA	9	10	4	11	7	24	14
Magazine	8	9	4	9	7	14	11
Convention and Visitors Bureau	6	7	2	7	3	7	18
Ferry brochure/ schedule	6	7	2	4	2	39	11
Community brochures	6	7	3	1	2	11	18
Library	3	4	<1	-	3	4	4
Alaska State Vacation Planner	3	3	2	-	3	5	3
Lodging	1	1	-	1	1	1	2
Club/organization	2	3	-	5	1	4	6
Travel shows	2	2	-	-	2	4	-
Newspaper	2	2	-	-	1	5	3
Cruise line	1	2	-	-	1	1	3
North to Alaska Guide	1	2	-	-	<1	1	7
None	3	2	4	3	3	1	3
Other	7	8	1	13	4	2	24

**Previous and Future Alaska Travel**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	V/P	VFR	B/P	Air	Ferry	Hwy
<b>Is this your first trip to Alaska?</b>							
Yes	58%	63%	32%	55%	52%	61%	83%
No	42	37	68	45	48	39	17
<b>Mode of transportation used to enter/exit Alaska on previous trip (Base: Previously visited Alaska)</b>							
Air	72%	68%	85%	65%	77%	31%	35%
Highway	14	16	8	11	9	36	48
Cruise ship	10	11	5	21	10	15	7
Ferry	4	3	4	9	2	36	-
Other	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
<b>How likely are you to return to Alaska?</b>							
Very likely	61%	58%	73%	74%	63%	41%	57%
Likely	22	23	16	23	21	25	23
Unlikely	10	11	5	1	8	23	14
Very unlikely	3	3	3	-	3	1	5

**Visitor Origin**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	V/P	VFR	B/P	Air	Ferry	Hwy
Western US	45%	41%	64%	51%	52%	34%	21%
California	16	16	17	14	20	8	4
Washington	9	7	17	4	10	9	5
Oregon	5	4	9	6	6	6	3
Midwestern US	15	14	18	16	15	23	10
Michigan	2	2	3	8	2	5	3
Wisconsin	2	3	1	-	2	5	1
Illinois	2	2	2	-	2	3	1
Southern US	15	16	10	3	13	13	23
Texas	4	5	1	1	4	3	7
Florida	3	3	4	-	2	4	6
Eastern U.S.	11	11	5	18	12	7	6
New York	2	2	2	-	3	1	1
Pennsylvania	2	2	<1	6	2	2	1
International	15	18	3	12	9	22	39
Germany	3	4	-	-	1	2	14
Canada	3	3	2	7	1	6	6
United Kingdom	2	2	-	4	2	2	-
Australia	2	2	-	-	1	3	3

**Visitor Demographics**  
**Alaska Travelers Survey, Non-Cruise Visitors, Summer 2005**

	Rural Visitors	V/P	VFR	B/P	Air	Ferry	Hwy
<b>Gender (cumulative)</b>							
Male	59%	61%	45%	69%	61%	52%	55%
Female	41	39	55	31	39	48	45
<b>Age (cumulative)</b>							
1-18 years old	8%	8%	13%	7%	9%	10%	5%
19-34 years old	14	13	17	27	15	11	10
35-44 years old	13	14	10	20	13	9	18
45-64 years old	47	49	38	38	48	41	46
Over 65 years old	17	17	22	8	15	29	20
Average age	50.1	50.5	49.5	45.1	49.7	54.7	50.2
Average party size	2.7	2.8	2.2	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.6
<b>Education</b>							
Less than H.S. diploma	2%	2%	3%	-	1%	1%	4%
High School Grad/GED	17	17	20	17	13	15	34
Vocational Cert.	6	6	4	1	4	8	12
Some College	15	15	14	10	12	14	25
AA degree	6	6	3	9	7	5	2
College graduate	53	52	54	62	60	55	21
Bachelor's	26	25	30	26	8	34	13
Master's	18	18	19	28	21	16	7
Doctorate	9	9	6	7	11	5	1
<b>Average household income</b>							
Mean income	\$91,200	\$92,300	\$85,600	\$88,500	\$97,500	\$80,200	\$71,000
Refused	12%	12%	12%	20%	14%	8%	5%