

Appendix S

Local Government Profile

Geography

Anchorage is located in south central Alaska situated on a broad plain at the head of the Cook Inlet. It lies slightly farther north than Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki and St. Petersburg. According to the United States Census Bureau, the municipality has a total area of 1980 square miles.



Organization

In 1975, the citizens of the Anchorage area ratified a Home Rule Charter for a unified municipal government. Under the Municipal Charter, the City of Anchorage, incorporated in 1920, the Greater Anchorage Area Borough, incorporated in 1964, and two small incorporated communities, Girdwood and Glen Alps were dissolved as of September 15, 1975, and the Municipality became their legal successor. Being a unified home rule municipality, the Municipality is responsible for a wide range of public services that are commonly provided through both a city and a county government.

The chief executive officer of the Municipality is the Mayor, who is elected at-large to a three-year term and who may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Subject to confirmation by the Assembly, the Mayor appoints the Municipal Manager, the Municipal Attorney, the Chief Fiscal Officer, and all head of municipal departments. The Mayor may participate, but may not vote, in meetings of the Assembly. The Mayor may veto ordinances passed by the Assembly, and veto, strike or reduce budget or appropriation measure line items. A minimum of eight members of the Assembly must vote to override a veto by the Mayor.

The legislative power of the Municipality is vested in the Assembly comprised of twelve members, elected by district, to three-year staggering terms and who may not service more than three consecutive terms. The presiding officer of the Assembly is the Chairperson, who is elected annually from and by the membership of the Assembly. The Assembly appoints the Municipal Clerk. Municipal ordinances, Assembly schedules, agendas and other legislative information are available on-line at www.muni.org.

The Municipality has multiple citizen boards and commissions to advise and assist the administration and Assembly with issues that range from animal control to zoning. Members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Assembly. Board members and commissioners volunteer their services and typically serve three-year, staggering terms.

Municipal services are provided through service areas. Each service area is treated as an individual taxing unit although only the Municipality can levy taxes. Certain services of the Municipality – education, planning and zoning, health services, animal control, environmental quality, taxing and assessing, emergency medical service and public transportation – are provided area-wide. The ad valorem tax rate for these services is uniform throughout the Municipality. In addition, service areas consisting of only part of the area within the Municipality have been created for such purposes as fire protection, police protection, road maintenance, parks and recreation, building safety, etc. As a result, the total tax rate applicable to any given

parcel of property is the sum of the Municipality-wide levy rates plus the rates for the special-purpose service areas within which that parcel is located.

Pursuant to the Municipal Charter, the Municipality owns and operates a number of utilities as enterprise funds. These include: Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility, Anchorage Hydropower, Solid Waste Services, the Don Young Port of Alaska, and Merrill Field Airport. The Municipality also runs the Anchorage Community Development Authority.

Climate

For its northern location (61° latitude), Anchorage enjoys a subarctic climate with strong maritime influences that moderate temperatures. Average daytime summer temperatures range from 55 to 78 degrees; average daytime winter temperature ranges between 5 to 30 degrees. Anchorage has a frost-free growing season that averages slightly over 101 days.

Demographics

The Anchorage Municipality is home to nearly 40 percent of Alaska's population.

Year	Anchorage	State of Alaska
2023	289,653	736,812
2022	289,810	736,556
2021	290,410	736,105
2020	291,247	733,391
2019	291,845	731,007
2018	294,488	734,055
2017	297,739	737,783
2016	298,962	739,649
2015	298,637	736,989
2014	300,008	736,416
2013	301,037	736,077

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

<u>Race/Origin</u>	<u>Percent</u>
White	62.0%
Asian	10.3%
Hispanic Origin (of any race)	9.8%
Alaska Native / American Indian	9.5%
Two or More Races	9.0%
Black / African American	5.8%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3.3%

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

Most Anchorage School District families – 75 percent – speak English at home. The remaining 25 percent speak 100 languages with the top 5 being:

- Filipino
- Hmong
- Samoan
- Spanish
- Yu'pik

Source: ASD online (asdk12.org)

The median age of Anchorage residents is 34.3 years. Other demographic information includes:

Household income	\$95,731
Average household size	2.64
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	19

Source: United States Census Bureau, July 2023

Economy

The Municipality of Anchorage is the leading trade, banking and communications center of Alaska as well as the headquarters city in Alaska for many of the national and international firms participating in the development of the petroleum, natural gas and other natural resources of the State. The Municipality is also an important seaport, a world air transportation center, the headquarters city for the Alaska Railroad and the site of the large and historically stable military base, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, also known as JBER which is a combined installation of Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson Army Bases. Federal and State government offices and tourism are also major factors in the economic base of the Municipality.

Outlook for jobs in Anchorage, by industry

	Job Forecast						
	Monthly avg, 2022	Monthly avg, 2023	Change 2022-2023	Percent change	Monthly avg, 2024	Change 2023-2024	Percent change
Total Nonfarm Employment	318,800	326,200	7,400	2.3%	331,600	5,400	1.7%
Total Private	241,600	247,800	6,200	2.6%	252,700	4,900	2.0%
Mining and Logging	10,900	11,500	600	5.5%	12,500	1,000	8.7%
Oil and Gas	7,000	7,400	400	5.7%	8,000	600	8.1%
Construction	16,100	16,700	600	3.7%	17,800	1,100	6.6%
Manufacturing	12,100	12,600	500	4.1%	12,600	0	0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	63,800	65,200	1,400	2.2%	66,000	800	1.2%
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,400	200	3.2%	6,500	100	1.6%
Retail Trade	35,000	35,300	300	0.9%	35,500	200	0.6%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	22,600	23,500	900	4.0%	24,000	500	2.1%
Information	4,700	4,600	-100	-2.1%	4,600	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	11,000	10,900	-100	-0.9%	10,900	0	0%
Professional and Business Services	27,300	28,100	800	2.9%	28,600	500	1.8%
Educational (private) and Health Services	50,100	51,300	1,200	2.4%	52,000	700	1.4%
Health Care	38,900	40,000	1,100	2.8%	40,600	600	1.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	34,300	35,600	1,300	3.8%	36,100	500	1.4%
Other Services	11,100	11,400	300	2.7%	11,600	200	1.8%
Total Government	77,200	78,400	1,200	1.6%	78,900	500	0.6%
Federal, except military	15,000	15,400	400	2.7%	15,400	0	0.0%
State, incl. University of Alaska	22,400	22,800	400	1.8%	23,100	300	1.3%
Local and tribal, incl. public schools	39,800	40,200	400	1.0%	40,400	200	0.5%

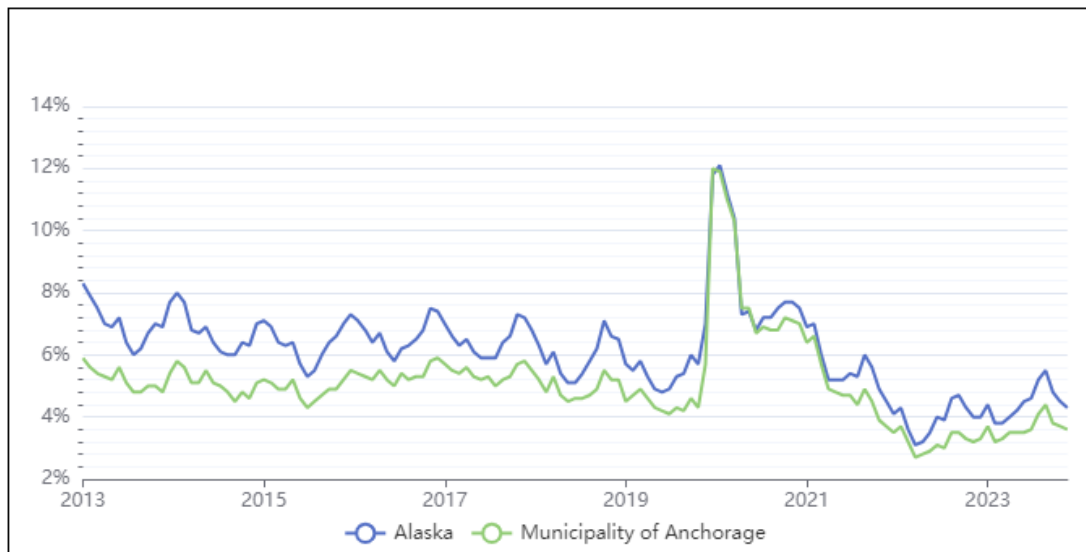
Source: Alaska Economic Trends, January 2024

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

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2024	4.1	4.4	3.8	3.7	3.6								
2023	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4
2022	4.	4.5	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.0	3.5
2021	6.8	7.2	7.1	7.0	6.4	6.6	5.7	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.4	5.9
2020	4.6	4.3	5.7	12.0	11.9	11.0	10.3	7.5	7.5	6.7	6.9	6.8	7.9
2019	5.5	5.2	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.6
2018	5.7	5.8	5.5	5.2	4.8	5.3	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.0
2017	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.3	5	5.2	5.3	5.4
2016	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.2	5	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3
2015	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.9	4.9	5.2	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.9
2014	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.1	5.1	5.5	5.1	5	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.6	5.1

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

Unemployment Rates for Municipality of Anchorage and Alaska 2013 - 2024



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

Politics

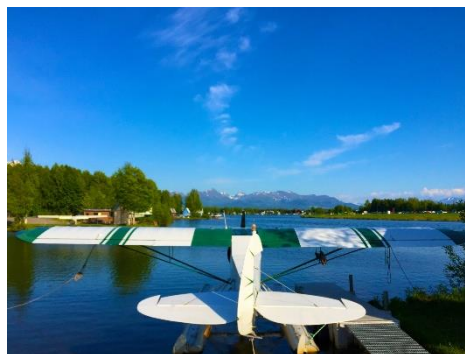
Anchorage sends 14 representatives to the 40-member Alaska House of Representatives and 7 senators to the 20-member senate, making up nearly half of both houses.

Transportation

The Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is the primary passenger airport and is an important cargo airport globally due to Anchorage’s location on the great circle routes between Asia and the lower 48. It is located approximately three miles southwest of the principal

business district of the Municipality. This airport is the leader in international air freight gateway in the nation, by weight. Twenty-six percent of the tonnage of U.S. international air freight moves through Anchorage. The Ted Stevens International Airport includes both domestic and international terminals and general aviation.

Lake Hood Seaplane Base is the largest sea plane base in the world and is located adjacent to the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport along Lake Hood. The facility operates on a year-round basis, but weather conditions in the winter months dictate that the Seaplane Base operates as a ski-plane facility for part of the year.



More than 2,200 private aircraft are based in the Anchorage area and are served by 11 airfields and two float plane bases. Merrill Field, operated by the Municipality, is the largest general aviation airport for private aircraft in the State of Alaska.

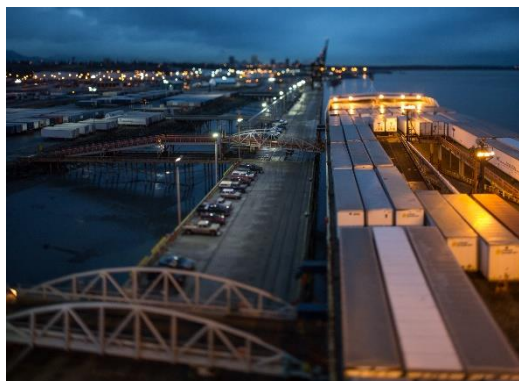
Lake Hood by Jack Bonney



The Alaska Railroad Corporation, which maintains its headquarters and principal repair shops, warehouses and yards in Anchorage, provides freight and passenger service spanning more than 685 track miles and connecting over 70% of Alaska's population. The railroad serves the cities of Anchorage and Fairbanks, the ports of Whittier, Seward, and Anchorage, as well as Denali National Park and military installations.

Alaska Railroad Train by Juno Kim

The Don Young Port of Alaska receives 95% of all goods destined for Alaska. Besides handling incoming and outgoing cargo shipments, the Don Young Port of Alaska also serves as a storage facility for jet fuel from Alaska refineries utilized at both the Ted Stevens International Airport and Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER). The port is located just north of Ship Creek near downtown Anchorage on the Knik Arm of the Cook Inlet of the Pacific Ocean. The docks have excellent connections with the Alaska Railroad and highway connections to Alaska intrastate highway routes.



Port of Alaska by Andre Horton

Anchorage is connected to the rest of Alaska through two major highways. Alaska Route 1 also known as the Seward Highway connects Anchorage south to the Kenai Peninsula. The Glenn Highway extends eastbound beyond Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Eagle River, connecting Anchorage to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. This route leads further to the Richardson Highways to go further north or to the Tok Cut-Off with further connections to the contiguous North American highway system via the Alaska Highway.

Anchorage has a bus system called People Mover with a central hub downtown and one satellite hub that serves the suburbs of Eagle River.

Community Services

Police Department

Mission:

“To protect and serve our community in the most professional and compassionate manner possible.”

APD, the Anchorage Police Department honorably serves a population of over 285,000 in a service area that covers the Knik River bridge on the north end to Ingram Creek on the south side. APD currently employs just under 600 people made up of both sworn and non-sworn positions. The Anchorage Police Department prides itself on working closely with the community in which it serves. APD Employees’ Union (APDEA), and the non-profit Anchorage Cops for Community (AC4C) work closely together to engage with the public through several different outreach programs and public events. It is APD’s goal to continually look for ways to better the department in such a manner that benefits all who live within its boundaries.



Sunrise APD Car by Gia Currier

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

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
230,703	240,619	249,882	216,711	257,587	260,303	228,935	236,512	227,638	386,343

Time to Answer Calls-for-Service: In accordance with the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), 95% of all 9-1-1 calls should be answered within twenty seconds.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
10.5 sec	11.4 sec	12.5 sec	14 sec	17.4 sec	15.57 sec	12.66 sec	9.88 sec	10.37 sec	11.12 sec

Source: Anchorage Police Department



Fire Department

Mission:

“To serve our community before, during, and after an emergency.”

The Anchorage fire service area, served by 13 fire stations, covers the immediate 166 square miles of the Anchorage bowl and out to Eagle River with EMS coverage extending throughout the 1,961 square miles of the entire Municipality.

Mutual Aid agreements exist between the Anchorage Fire Department, Ted Stevens International Airport Police and Fire Department, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Girdwood Fire Department and Chugiak Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. In addition, the State of Alaska Division of Forestry and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management help protect residents and property lying within the Municipality during the wildland fire season and the Anchorage Fire Department lends support to other communities threatened by wildland fires throughout South-central Alaska. Service within the response area offers a variety of challenges. Rescue and fire response to off-road terrain that requires 4-wheel drive and, occasionally, helicopters, occurs only short distances from major highways and the high-rise, downtown urban area. Suburban and rural areas add to the mix and a young populace spread over a wide socioeconomic range contributes to a full spectrum of emergency response activity. The Anchorage Fire Department serves a diverse need with a fully blended fire and rescue service.

Efficient Emergency Response:

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Structure Fire Dispatches	392	319	250	177	255	278
Structure Fire Response Time (minutes)	4.43	4.38	4.38	5.1	4.86	4.26
Cardiac Arrest Dispatches	593	599	685	819	922	1,048
Cardiac Arrest Response Time (minutes)	4.42	4.38	4.27	4.0	3.8	4.17
Fire and Cardiac Arrest Dispatches	985	918	935	996	1,177	1,326
Average Response Time (minutes)	4.425	4.38	4.325	4.55	4.33	4.215
Annual Property Loss Due to Fire (\$mil)	\$12.69	\$25.38	\$12.00	\$22.68	\$31.03	\$22.10

Source: Anchorage Fire Department



Parks and Recreation Department

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is responsible for beautifying parks, natural areas, and recreation facilities. The department operate year-round recreation programs for all ages and abilities, and oversees Anchorage's horticulture, park maintenance, and provides support for community gardens, dog parks and a Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program that offers teens a gateway into the natural resources workforce. Anchorage Parks and Recreation also supports hundreds of volunteers through special events, park adoptions, and program instruction at locations throughout the city.



ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy People

Number of Parks	224
Playgrounds	82
Athletic Fields	110
Swimming Pools	5
Recreation Facilities	11
Trails and Greenbelts	250 miles (135 miles paved)

Trails Around Anchorage	
Paved bike trails/multi-use	120+miles/195 kms
Plowed winter walkways	130 miles/216 kms
Maintained ski trails	105 miles/175+ kms
Dog mushing trails	36 miles/60 kms
Summer non-paved hiking trails	87 miles/145+ kms
Lighted ski trails	24 miles/40 kms
Ski-joring trails	66 kms
Equestrian trails	10 kms

Numerous trails connect to the Chugach State Park, a high, alpine tundra park of some 495,000 acres.

Source: Parks and Recreation's website: www.muni.org/Departments/parks



Wildlife

Alaska is known as bear country. With an estimated 250 black bears and 60 grizzly bears that live in the Anchorage area alone it's no wonder why. Along with the diverse bear population, about 200-300 moose inhabit the Municipality year-round with an increase to 700-1,000 moose in the winter. There are approximately 2,400 Dall sheep that can be seen in the areas along the Turnagain Arm as well as four or five wolf packs in the Anchorage Municipality, which is about 25-30 wolves, and two of those packs are known to be active in the Anchorage Bowl. But that's not all. A diverse wildlife population exists in urban Anchorage and the surrounding area with 52 species of mammals and at least 203 birds.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game



Tree Swallow by Erin Baker

Anchorage has a thriving moose population and is perhaps the most famous of its urban wildlife. Moose can and do appear in many parks and along trails at all times of the year. Known for their enormous size (male moose can reach six feet at the shoulder and weigh in at 2,000 pounds) and ability to kick with all four feet, moose are normally content to browse on grasses, leaves, and branches and generally cause little trouble. But -- moose can easily become agitated if humans, dogs, or natural predators enter their space, particularly during the fall rut (breeding season) and in the spring when calves are born. It is imperative that people never approach a moose for any reason. Look for warning signs: ears pinned back, hackles up on neck, and a lowering of the head. If you see these, move away quickly.

Source: Parks and Recreation's website: [Parks and Recreation Wildlife in Anchorage \(muni.org\)](http://Parks and Recreation Wildlife in Anchorage (muni.org))



Mother and Baby Moose by Brian Bonney