



**PEBBLE PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE DOCUMENT
2004 through 2008
(with updates through 2009)**

**CHAPTER 49.
SOCIOECONOMICS
Cook Inlet Drainages**

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49. SOCIOECONOMICS—COOK INLET

49.1 Introduction

This socioeconomic baseline description includes borough-level data and information on the demographics and economy in the Cook Inlet study area. Demographics include population size, age, and race. The discussion of the economy includes data on personal income, employment, earnings, and unemployment.

This socioeconomic baseline description includes the most recent demographic and economic data available at the time of writing from government sources—typically 2009, but in some instances 2008 or earlier. Long-term historical trend analysis relies on 1990 and 2000 U.S. census data.

The accuracy of the demographic and economic baseline analysis is limited by the accuracy of the government data and on the effectiveness of the sources that compile and publish the data..

49.2 Study Objectives

The objective of the socioeconomic baseline study is to characterize the baseline socioeconomic conditions in the study area.

49.3 Study Area

The socioeconomic study area in the Cook Inlet drainages encompasses the local Kenai Peninsula Borough and, to address regional socio-economic influences, also includes the Matanuska –Susitna Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage. The cities of Homer and Anchorage are possible principal service, supply, and labor sources within this study area. The complete list of boroughs and communities are listed below:

- Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB): Anchor Point, Bear Creek, Beluga, Clam Gulch, Cohoe, Cooper Landing, Crown Point, Diamond Ridge, Fox River, Fritz Creek, Funny River, Halibut Cove, Happy Valley, Homer, Hope, Kachemak, Kasilof, Kalifornsky, Kenai, Lowell Point, Miller Landing, Moose Pass, Nanwalek, Nikiski, Nikolaevsk, Ninilchik, Port Graham, Primrose, Ridgeway, Salamatof, Seldovia, Seldovia Village, Seward, Soldotna, Sterling, Sunrise, and Tyonek.
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB): Big Lake, Buffalo Soapstone, Butte, Chase, Chickaloon, Fishhook, Farm Loop, Gateway, Glacier View, Houston, Knik River, Knik-Fairview, Lake Louise, Lakes, Lazy Mountain, Meadow Lakes, Palmer, Petersville, Point MacKenzie, Skwentna, Susitna, Sutton-Alpine, Talkeetna, Tanaina, Trapper Creek, Wasilla, Willow, and Y (Census Designated Place).
- The Municipality of Anchorage.

49.4 Previous Studies

This socioeconomic baseline research is the first of its kind in the study area at the time of this writing. Socioeconomic data and information related to the study area were obtained from a number of sources. Key data on population, employment, unemployment, and payroll, are from the Alaska department of Labor and Workforce Development (ADOLWD). A broad range of demographic data was taken from 1990 and 2000 census documentation.

49.5 Scope of Work

The primary topics addressed in this socioeconomic baseline description are as follows:

- Demographics—population size, composition, and trends.
- Economy—personal income, employment and earnings, and unemployment.

49.6 Methods

Information required for the description of socioeconomic baseline conditions is available from published data sources. The basic approach in developing this baseline was to collect all available documentation (primarily from government sources). Data were obtained from three primary data sets from the ADOLWD:

- **Annual population estimates** are calculated using a formula, and “the estimates for each year are independent and not built on prior year estimates” (ADOLWD DRA, 2010). The data on race and age presented in this chapter were obtained from the ADOLWD population data set.
- **Employment and earnings data** contain information on business, industry, and government-sector employment by municipality or borough, including the average number of jobs in each business, industry, and government sector on a monthly and annual basis. These data do not include self-employment or commercial-fishing employment, which is covered by the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Payroll data are available only in aggregated forms because of confidentiality restrictions; however, data on total payroll by community on a quarterly and annual basis are available. Employment and earnings data become available after a 6-month lag. This data set is imperfect because, in limited instances, employers reported all their employment at the location of company headquarters even if the jobs were actually located in other communities or locations. ADOLWD attempted to identify and correct these reporting errors; however, it is not possible to account for all such instances.
- **Unemployment rate data** at the census-area level also are available from ADOLWD, but the data are based on how many individuals have applied for unemployment benefits and exclude workers whose unemployment benefits have expired; therefore, for rural Alaska in particular, published unemployment data are most useful as an indicator of change in unemployment rates rather than as an absolute measure of the number or percentage of unemployed workers in a particular location.

Data concerning personal income at the census-area level were obtained from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The most current BEA data available at the time of this study were for 2007.

49.7 Results and Discussion

49.7.1 Kenai Peninsula Borough

The KPB is a second-class borough covering approximately 16,000 square miles of land. The borough is bordered on the east by Prince William Sound. To the west, the KPB straddles Cook Inlet. The borough is accessible by air, road and water.

49.7.1.1 Demographics

Population

The population of the KPB in 2009 was 53,578 persons. This figure represents a 1.2 percent increase from 2008 and a 7.8 percent increase from the 2000 population. The average annual population increase between 2000 and 2009 was 0.8 percent (ADOLWD DRA, 2010).

Approximately half of the KPB population resides in the greater Kenai/Soldotna area, and 20 percent resides in the greater Homer area. The city of Homer had a population of 5,551 in 2009 (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a]).

Race

The population of the KPB in 2008 was mostly white (87 percent; Table 49-1). Ten percent of the population was Alaska Native or American Indian. The combination of African Americans, Asians, and Pacific Islanders made up roughly 4 percent of the population in 2008 (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a]).

TABLE 49-1
Kenai Peninsula Borough, Race by Count and Percentage, 2008 Estimates

| Race | 2008 Count | 2008 Percentage |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| White | 45,838 | 86.5% |
| Alaska Native or American Indian | 5,293 | 10.0% |
| Black or African American | 691 | 1.3% |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 1,168 | 2.2% |
| Total Population | 52,990 | |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a].

Age

In 2009, 71.6 percent of the KPB population was age 20 or older. The median age in the KPB in 2000 was 36.3 years (Table 49-2).

TABLE 49-2
Kenai Peninsula Borough, Population by Age, 2000 and 2009

| Age | Number of People 2000 | Number of People 2009 | Percent Change 2000-2009 | Percent of Total 2009 Population |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 0-4 | 3,288 | 3,512 | 6.8% | 6.6% |
| 5-9 | 4,024 | 3,676 | -8.6% | 6.9% |
| 10-14 | 4,698 | 3,825 | -18.6% | 7.1% |
| 15-19 | 4,140 | 4,227 | 2.1% | 7.9% |
| 20-24 | 2,132 | 3,018 | 41.6% | 5.6% |
| 25-29 | 2,627 | 2,707 | 3.0% | 5.1% |
| 30-34 | 3,021 | 2,982 | -1.3% | 5.6% |
| 35-39 | 4,140 | 3,204 | -22.6% | 6.0% |
| 40-44 | 4,934 | 3,454 | -30.0% | 6.4% |
| 45-49 | 5,008 | 4,346 | -13.2% | 8.1% |
| 50-54 | 3,731 | 4,868 | 30.5% | 9.1% |
| 55-59 | 2,632 | 4,622 | 75.6% | 8.6% |
| 60-64 | 1,667 | 3,315 | 98.9% | 6.2% |
| 65-69 | 1,310 | 2,405 | 83.6% | 4.5% |
| 70-74 | 1,051 | 1,359 | 29.3% | 2.5% |
| 75-79 | 736 | 914 | 24.2% | 1.7% |
| 80-84 | 341 | 608 | 78.3% | 1.1% |
| 85-90 | 131 | 365 | 178.6% | 0.7% |
| Over 90 | 80 | 171 | 113.8% | 0.3% |
| Total | 49,691 | 53,578 | 7.8% | |
| 15 and over | 37,681 | 42,565 | 13.0% | 79.4% |
| 20 and over | 33,541 | 38,338 | 14.3% | 71.6% |
| 65 and over+ | 3,649 | 5,822 | 59.6% | 10.9% |
| Median age | 36.3 | 39.4 | | |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a].

49.7.1.2 Economy

Personal Income

Personal income earned by KPB residents totaled \$1.9 billion in 2007. Per capita income was \$35,415 in 2007, an increase of 5 percent from 2006, when per capita income was \$33,653 (BEA, 2007).

Employment and Earnings

Average monthly employment in the KPB in 2008 was 18,663 jobs, with a total annual payroll of \$725.1 million (Table 49-3). The average monthly wage and salary income of workers in the borough was \$3,238 (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[b]).

TABLE 49-3
Kenai Peninsula Borough, Employment and Earnings, 2008

| Industry Category | Number of Firms | Total Payroll (millions) | Average Monthly Employment (No. of Jobs) | Average Monthly Earnings |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Total Government | 166 | \$231.0 | 5,116 | \$3,762 |
| Federal Government | 37 | \$26.3 | 404 | \$5,414 |
| State Government | 83 | \$55.4 | 1,212 | \$3,808 |
| Local Government | 46 | \$149.3 | 3,500 | \$3,556 |
| Total Private Sector | 1,783 | \$494.1 | 13,547 | \$3,040 |
| Goods-producing | 377 | \$202.4 | 3,206 | \$5,261 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 52 | \$101.5 | 1,200 | \$7,047 |
| Construction | 265 | \$50.6 | 985 | \$4,284 |
| Manufacturing | 60 | \$50.3 | 1,022 | \$4,104 |
| Service-providing | 1,406 | \$291.7 | 10,341 | \$2,351 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 398 | \$127.4 | 3,777 | \$2,811 |
| Information | 36 | \$10.4 | 259 | \$3,342 |
| Financial Activities | 106 | \$23.8 | 529 | \$3,745 |
| Professional and Business Services | 175 | \$18.6 | 518 | \$2,996 |
| Educational and Health Services | 184 | \$51.4 | 1,958 | \$2,189 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 298 | \$43.6 | 2,476 | \$1,468 |
| Other Services | 194 | \$16.2 | 808 | \$1,668 |
| Unclassified Establishments | 15 | \$0.3 | 17 | \$1,405 |
| Total | 1,949 | \$725.1 | 18,663 | \$3,238 |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[b].

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in the KPB in 2009 was 10.1 percent (Table 49-4), which is above the low of 7.7 percent in 2007 (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[c]).

TABLE 49-4
Kenai Peninsula Borough, Monthly Labor Force and Unemployment Rate, 2009

| Month | Labor Force (thousands) | Unemployment Rate |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| January | 25.9 | 10.8% |
| February | 25.8 | 11.5% |
| March | 25.8 | 11.1% |
| April | 26.3 | 10.2% |
| May | 27.8 | 9.1% |
| June | 28.9 | 9.2% |
| July | 29.3 | 8.3% |
| August | 28.4 | 8.5% |
| September | 27.2 | 9.3% |
| October | 26.4 | 10.4% |
| November | 26.3 | 10.9% |
| December | 26.5 | 11.9% |
| Annual Average | 27.0 | 10.1% |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[c].

49.7.2 Matanuska-Susitna Borough

The MSB is a second-class borough that encompasses 24,700 square miles of land. The borough is bordered by the Denali Borough to the north, the Valdez-Cordova Census Area to the east, and the KPB and the Municipality of Anchorage to the south. The borough is accessible by air and road.

49.7.2.1 Demographics

Population

The population of the MSB totaled 84,314 residents in 2009. The borough has been one of the fastest-growing areas of the state. Between 2000 and 2009, the MSB population increased by 24,992 residents, a 42.1 percent increase (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a]).

Most MSB residents are concentrated around the cities of Wasilla (population 7,245 within city limits) and Palmer (population 5,532 within city limits) (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a]).

Race

In 2008, 85 percent of the MSB population identified themselves as white (Table 49-5). Just greater than 9 percent of the population was identified as Alaska Native or American Indian. The combination of black and Asian/Pacific Islander made up 5.6 percent of the borough population in 2008 (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a]).

TABLE 49-5
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Race by Count and Percentage, 2008 Estimates

| Race | 2008 Count | 2008 Percentage |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| White | 70,168 | 85.0% |
| Alaska Native or American Indian | 7,704 | 9.3% |
| Black or African American | 2,115 | 2.6% |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 2,528 | 3.0% |
| Total Population | 82,515 | |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a].

Age

The median age in the MSB in 2000 was 34.0 (Table 49-6). In 2009, 24 percent of the population was under the age of 15, 33 percent was age 15 through 39, 24 percent of the population was between the ages of 39 and 55, and 19 percent of the population was 55 or older. The number of residents age 65 and older increased by 84 percent from 2000 to 2009 (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a]).

TABLE 49-6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Population by Age, 2000 and 2009

| Age | Number of People 2000 | Number of People 2009 | Percent Change 2000-2009 | Percent of Total 2009 Population |
|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 0-4 | 4,147 | 6,635 | 60.0% | 7.9% |
| 5-9 | 5,202 | 6,865 | 32.0% | 8.1% |
| 10-14 | 6,034 | 6,868 | 13.8% | 8.1% |
| 15-19 | 5,317 | 7,058 | 32.7% | 8.4% |
| 20-24 | 2,816 | 5,008 | 77.8% | 5.9% |
| 25-29 | 3,086 | 4,848 | 57.1% | 5.7% |
| 30-34 | 3,841 | 5,365 | 39.7% | 6.4% |
| 35-39 | 5,288 | 5,739 | 8.5% | 6.8% |
| 40-44 | 6,233 | 5,963 | -4.3% | 7.1% |
| 45-49 | 5,659 | 6,903 | 22.0% | 8.2% |
| 50-54 | 3,825 | 6,902 | 80.4% | 8.2% |
| 55-59 | 2,650 | 5,835 | 120.2% | 6.9% |
| 60-64 | 1,724 | 3,900 | 126.2% | 4.6% |
| 65-69 | 1,360 | 2,616 | 92.4% | 3.1% |
| 70-74 | 991 | 1,520 | 53.4% | 1.8% |
| 75-79 | 634 | 1,092 | 72.2% | 1.3% |
| 80-84 | 317 | 691 | 118.0% | 0.8% |
| 85-90 | 139 | 327 | 135.3% | 0.4% |
| Over 90 | 59 | 179 | 203.4% | 0.2% |
| Total | 59,322 | 84,314 | 42.1% | |
| 15 and over | 43,939 | 63,946 | 45.5% | 75.8% |

| Age | Number of People 2000 | Number of People 2009 | Percent Change 2000-2009 | Percent of Total 2009 Population |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 20 and over | 38,622 | 56,888 | 47.3% | 67.5% |
| 65 and over+ | 3,500 | 6,425 | 83.6% | 7.6% |
| Median age | 34.0 | 34.5 | | |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a].

49.7.3 Economy

Personal Income

Personal income earned by MSB residents totaled \$2.8 billion in 2007. Per capita income was \$34,341 in 2007, a 4 percent increase from the 2006 per capita income of \$33,033 (BEA, 2007).

Employment and Earnings

Monthly employment in the MSB in 2008 averaged 18,648 jobs, with a total annual payroll of \$659.5 million (Table 49-7). The average monthly wage and salary income of workers in the borough was \$2,942 (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[b]).

TABLE 49-7
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Employment and Earnings, 2008

| Industry Category | Number of Firms | Total Payroll (millions) | Average Monthly Employment (No. of Jobs) | Average Monthly Earnings |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Total Government | 85 | \$170.2 | 3,819 | \$3,715 |
| Federal Government | 21 | \$15.5 | 207 | \$6,240 |
| State Government | 54 | \$45.9 | 1,058 | \$3,616 |
| Local Government | 10 | \$108.8 | 2,554 | \$3,551 |
| Total Private Sector | 1,736 | \$489.3 | 14,865 | \$2,743 |
| Goods-producing | 449 | \$102.1 | 2,045 | \$4,160 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 20 | \$3.5 | 116 | \$2,539 |
| Construction | 386 | \$87.0 | 1,648 | \$4,401 |
| Manufacturing | 43 | \$11.5 | 281 | \$3,419 |
| Service-providing | 1,287 | \$387.2 | 12,820 | \$2,517 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 320 | \$130.6 | 4,513 | \$2,411 |
| Information | 27 | \$33.6 | 646 | \$4,333 |
| Financial Activities | 105 | \$27.6 | 728 | \$3,159 |
| Professional and Business Services | 197 | \$39.5 | 929 | \$3,538 |
| Educational and Health Serv. | 237 | \$107.3 | 3,020 | \$2,962 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 232 | \$34.7 | 2,333 | \$1,239 |

| Industry Category | Number of Firms | Total Payroll (millions) | Average Monthly Employment (No. of Jobs) | Average Monthly Earnings |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Other Services | 143 | \$13.4 | 626 | \$1,781 |
| Unclassified Establishments | 26 | \$0.6 | 26 | \$1,929 |
| Total | 1,821 | \$659.5 | 18,684 | \$2,942 |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[b].

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in the MSB in 2009 averaged 9.3 percent (Table 49-8), which was slightly higher than the statewide rate of 8.0 percent. The 2009 rate of 9.3 percent for the borough was an increase from a low of 6.9 percent in 2001 (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[c]).

TABLE 49-8
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Monthly Labor Force and Unemployment Rate, 2009

| Month | Labor Force (thousands) | Unemployment Rate |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| January | 43.0 | 9.7% |
| February | 42.9 | 10.2% |
| March | 42.7 | 10.0% |
| April | 42.2 | 9.0% |
| May | 42.0 | 8.6% |
| June | 42.1 | 9.4% |
| July | 41.5 | 8.7% |
| August | 41.2 | 8.5% |
| September | 41.7 | 8.7% |
| October | 42.8 | 8.9% |
| November | 43.3 | 9.2% |
| December | 43.7 | 10.2% |
| Annual Average | 42.4 | 9.3% |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[c].

49.7.4 Municipality of Anchorage

The Municipality of Anchorage covers roughly 1,700 square miles at the northeastern end of Cook Inlet. The Municipality is accessible by air, road, and water.

49.7.4.1 Demographics

Population

The population of Anchorage in 2009 totaled 290,588 residents. Approximately 42 percent of Alaska's population resides in the Municipality of Anchorage. Anchorage's population grew between 2000 and

2009, increasing at an average annual rate of 1.2 percent. Between 2008 and 2009, the population increased by 2.3 percent (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a]).

Race

In terms of race, Anchorage is mostly white, with whites comprising 75 percent of the population in 2008 (Table 49-9). The 2008 population of Anchorage was 11 percent Alaska Native or American Indian. The combination of black, Asian, and Pacific Islander made up the remaining 14 percent of the population (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a]).

TABLE 49-9
Municipality of Anchorage, Race by Count and Percentage, 2008 Estimates

| Race | 2008 Count | 2008 Percentage |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| White | 212,486 | 74.6% |
| Alaska Native or American Indian | 31,539 | 11.1% |
| Black or African American | 19,479 | 6.8% |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 21,490 | 7.5% |
| Total Population | 284,994 | |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a].

Age

The median age of residents of the Municipality of Anchorage in 2000 was 32.4 years (Table 49-10). In 2009, 24 percent of the population was under the age of 15, 36 percent of the population was 15 through 39 years old, 22 percent of the population was 40 through 54, and 18 percent of the population was 55 or older. The number of residents age 65 and older increased by 45 percent between 2000 and 2009 (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a]).

TABLE 49-10
Municipality of Anchorage, Population by Age, 2000 and 2009

| Age | Number of People 2000 | Number of People 2009 | Percent Change 2000-2009 | Percent of Total 2009 Population |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 0-4 | 20,033 | 24,126 | 20.4% | 8.3% |
| 5-9 | 21,867 | 23,052 | 5.4% | 7.9% |
| 10-14 | 21,501 | 21,578 | 0.4% | 7.4% |
| 15-19 | 19,662 | 22,458 | 14.2% | 7.7% |
| 20-24 | 17,694 | 20,725 | 17.1% | 7.1% |
| 25-29 | 19,748 | 20,655 | 4.6% | 7.1% |
| 30-34 | 20,365 | 20,599 | 1.1% | 7.1% |
| 35-39 | 23,972 | 20,901 | -12.8% | 7.2% |
| 40-44 | 24,238 | 20,024 | -17.4% | 6.9% |
| 45-49 | 21,685 | 22,576 | 4.1% | 7.8% |
| 50-54 | 17,118 | 21,670 | 26.6% | 7.5% |
| 55-59 | 11,240 | 18,311 | 62.9% | 6.3% |

| Age | Number of People 2000 | Number of People 2009 | Percent Change 2000-2009 | Percent of Total 2009 Population |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 60-64 | 6,918 | 13,284 | 92.0% | 4.6% |
| 65-69 | 4,982 | 7,950 | 59.6% | 2.7% |
| 70-74 | 3,913 | 4,962 | 26.8% | 1.7% |
| 75-79 | 2,805 | 3,328 | 18.6% | 1.1% |
| 80-84 | 1,479 | 2,309 | 56.1% | 0.8% |
| 85-90 | 719 | 1,378 | 91.7% | 0.5% |
| Over 90 | 344 | 702 | 104.1% | 0.2% |
| Total | 260,283 | 290,588 | 11.6% | |
| 15 and older | 196,882 | 221,832 | 12.7% | 76.3% |
| 20 and older | 177,220 | 199,374 | 12.5% | 68.6% |
| 65 and older | 14,242 | 20,629 | 44.8% | 7.1% |
| Median age | 32.4 | 33.1 | | |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[a].

49.7.4.2 Economy

Personal Income

Personal income earned by Anchorage residents totaled \$12.8 billion in 2007. Anchorage accounts for 47 percent of all personal income earned by Alaska residents. Per capita income for Anchorage residents was \$46,243 in 2007 (BEA, 2007).

Employment and Earnings

The Anchorage economy is broadly diversified. Anchorage is the service, supply, and financial center of Alaska. The military, the oil industry, transportation, tourism, health care, education, and government all play significant roles in the city's economy.

Monthly employment in the Municipality of Anchorage averaged 150,133 jobs in 2008 (Table 49-11). Income from wage and salary jobs in 2008 totaled more than \$7.2 billion. Monthly wage and salary income in Anchorage averaged \$4,011 in 2008 (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[b]).

TABLE 49-11
Municipality of Anchorage, Employment and Earnings, 2008

| Industry Category | Number of Firms | Total Payroll (millions) | Average Monthly Employment (No. of Jobs) | Average Monthly Earnings |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Total Government | 201 | \$1,597.2 | 29,854 | \$4,459 |
| Federal Government | 107 | \$643.0 | 9,448 | \$5,672 |
| State Government | 78 | \$483.2 | 10,229 | \$3,937 |
| Local Government | 16 | \$471.0 | 10,177 | \$3,857 |
| Total Private Sector | 8,164 | \$5,628.4 | 120,280 | \$3,900 |

| Industry Category | Number of Firms | Total Payroll (millions) | Average Monthly Employment (No. of Jobs) | Average Monthly Earnings |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Goods-producing | 1,203 | \$1,199.2 | 14,011 | \$7,133 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 90 | \$469.1 | 2,982 | \$13,109 |
| Construction | 942 | \$650.7 | 9,132 | \$5,939 |
| Manufacturing | 171 | \$79.3 | 1,897 | \$3,484 |
| Service-providing | 6,961 | \$4,429.2 | 106,269 | \$3,473 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 1,585 | \$1,432.6 | 33,582 | \$3,555 |
| Information | 153 | \$253.9 | 4,384 | \$4,826 |
| Financial Activities | 665 | \$476.5 | 8,988 | \$4,418 |
| Professional and Business Services | 1,689 | \$945.4 | 17,519 | \$4,497 |
| Educational and Health Services | 979 | \$827.7 | 20,069 | \$3,437 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 804 | \$310.2 | 15,682 | \$1,649 |
| Other Services | 977 | \$180.2 | 5,964 | \$2,518 |
| Unclassified Establishments | 109 | \$2.6 | 83 | \$2,675 |
| Total Industries | 8,365 | \$7,225.6 | 150,134 | \$4,011 |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[b].

Unemployment

During 2009, the Municipality of Anchorage typically had the lowest unemployment rate in the state. The 2009 average unemployment rate in the municipality was 6.6 percent (Table 49-12), which was less than the statewide rate of 8.0 percent, but well above the 2001 rate of 4.8 percent for the Municipality of Anchorage (ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[c]).

TABLE 49-12
Municipality of Anchorage, Monthly Labor Force and Unemployment Rate, 2009

| Month | Labor Force (thousands) | Unemployment Rate |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| January | 155.0 | 6.2% |
| February | 154.5 | 6.5% |
| March | 154.2 | 6.5% |
| April | 153.7 | 6.3% |
| May | 154.0 | 6.5% |
| June | 154.0 | 7.1% |
| July | 152.1 | 6.6% |
| August | 151.2 | 6.6% |
| September | 153.4 | 7.0% |
| October | 157.0 | 6.8% |
| November | 157.7 | 6.6% |
| December | 157.9 | 6.9% |
| Annual Average | 154.6 | 6.6% |

Source: ADOLWD DRA, n.d.[c].

49.8 Summary

The socioeconomic study area in the Cook Inlet drainages includes the cities that could serve as principal service, supply, and labor sources within this study area. Homer, with a population of 5,551 in 2009, is the nearest community with substantial economic development and infrastructure and also is the nearest community that is on the Alaska road system. The Municipality of Anchorage, with a 2009 population of 290,588, is the financial, professional, and service and supply center of Alaska. The municipality accounts for 42 percent of the state population. The MSB, KPB, and Municipality of Anchorage, with a combined 2009 population of more than 428,000 residents (more than 60 percent of the Alaska population), are important sources of skilled and semiskilled labor on large Alaska construction projects.

49.9 References

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49.10 Glossary

Age—the age of a person in complete years, generally derived from date of birth.

Average—mean, which is derived by dividing the sum of all quantities by the total number of quantities.

Borough—in Alaska, the equivalent of a county.

Census area—the statistical equivalent of a county in Alaska. Census areas are delineated cooperatively by the State of Alaska and the U.S. Census Bureau for statistical purposes in the portion of Alaska that is not within an organized borough.

Earnings—the amount of earned wage or salary income received, before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, union dues, etc. Income from self-employment, including commercial fishing, is not included in earnings data presented in this chapter.

Employed persons—persons 16 years and older in the civilian non-institutional population who, during the reference week, (a) did any at least 1 hour of work as paid employees; worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm; or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family or (b) were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, bad weather, labor-management dispute, job training, or family or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off or were seeking other jobs. Each employed person is counted only once, even if he or she holds more than one job.

Industry category—one of the categories established by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which groups establishments that provide similar goods or services. NAICS is replacing the former Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system.

Labor force—all persons classified as employed or unemployed under the definitions contained in this glossary.

Median—the middle value (if the total number of values is odd) or the average of the two middle values (if the total number of values is even) in an ordered list of values. Half of the values are less than the median and half are greater than the median.

Per capita income—average obtained by dividing a population's aggregate income by the total number of people in the population.

Population—all people, male and female, child and adult, living in a given geographic area.

Race—the race classification given by the household respondent on a government population survey.

Unemployed person—person aged 16 years or older who had no employment during the reference week and who had applied and was eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

Unemployment rate—the number of unemployed persons (as defined above) as a percent of the labor force.

Wage and salary income—wages, salaries, commissions, tips, etc. paid to workers employed in the private or public sector, excluding self-employed persons and commercial fishermen.