State Figures Show Kodiak Island Population Down

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

Does it feel like you have just a little bit more elbow room here in Kodiak? It's not your imagination. KMXT's Jay Barrett has more.

According to figures released yesterday by the Alaska Department of Labor, The Kodiak Island Borough's population between the year 2000 and 2009 fell by 53 people, largely through out-migration.

The Kodiak Island Borough had 13,913 residents according to the 2000 census, but only 13,860 according to an estimate in the middle of last year. The population has been up and down in that time, and was just shy of 14,000 in mid-2008. Between then and the 2009 estimate, 94 left the island.

There were 1,489 more people born in the borough than died between 2000 and 2009, but that did not make up for the departure of 1,542. Despite the departures, Kodiak still has more people than during the 1990 census where 13,309 people were recorded.

The Kodiak Island Borough is not alone in the out-migration of residents - 55-percent of Alaska towns

lost population in the decade, including other larger communities such as Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan and Barrow.

The population inside Kodiak City limits has increased by 292 residents since 2000, up to 6,626.

Over all, Alaska's population increased during the past 10 years by 64,781 people, mostly through natural increase, though over 22-hundred people immigrated to Alaska between mid 2008 and mid 2009, when the economy in the Lower 48 went into recession. Most of the population increases occurred in Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

The state's current population of 692,314 puts us ahead of Wyoming, Vermont and North Dakota as the 47th most populous state.

I'm Jay Barrett.

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