

Priorities (industries, occupations, other?)

What the data can and can't tell us

*Alaska Workforce
Investment Board
Business Meeting
February 22, 2024*



From the TVEP Audit (paraphrasing statutes)

“As the State’s lead training planning agency, AWIB is responsible for identifying employment training and education needs, developing a plan to meet the needs, and overseeing the related use of money and resources.”

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 - Economic data from reliable sources (job openings, unemployment rates, etc.)
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Our 2024 Jobs Forecast:



Our 2024 Jobs Forecast: Statewide

The outlook for statewide jobs, by industry

					JOBS FORECAST		
	Monthly avg, 2022 ¹	Monthly avg, 2023 ¹	Change, 2022-23	Percent change	Monthly avg, 2024	Change, 2023-24	Percent change
Total Nonfarm Employment²	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%
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%
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%

¹Preliminary and adjusted estimates. ²Excludes the self-employed, uniformed military, most commercial fishermen, domestic workers, and unpaid family workers.

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

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Does That Information Help Us Prioritize?

And what specifically does it mean and why does it matter – in the most concrete terms we can muster – to designate industries or occupations as “priorities”?

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Are there other priorities for the board to determine in its role as facilitator of “statewide policy for a coordinated and effective employment training and education system” and advisor “to the governor, state and local agencies, the University of Alaska, and other training entities”?

Data to Help Determine Priorities (small scale)

Occupations Projected to Have Largest Number of Openings:

1. Retail Salespersons
2. Fast Food and Counter Workers
3. Cashiers
4. Waiters and Waitresses
5. Meat, Poultry and Fish Cutters, and Trimmers

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Interesting, but not terribly helpful

Data to Help Determine Priorities (small scale)

Occupations With Largest Number of Nonresidents:

1. Seafood Processing Workers
2. Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers
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4. Airline Pilots, Copilots and Flight Engineers
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Data to Help Determine Priorities (small scale)

Occupations With Strong Growth or High Number of Openings *and* Higher than Average Wages by Level of Education:

Bachelor's or Above

1. Registered Nurses
2. General and Operations Managers
3. Elementary School Teachers
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Occupations With Strong Growth or High Number of Openings *and* Higher than Average Wages by Level of Education:

High School or Equivalent (may also require extensive OJT, including apprenticeship):

1. Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators
2. Carpenters
3. First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers
4. Electricians
5. Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters

Now It Seems Like We're Getting Somewhere

- What occupations employers are having the most difficulty filling?
- What occupations are especially critical to the success of Willow and Pikka, broadband and Infrastructure Act projects, Nome port work, etc.?

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Shifting Briefly to Large Scale AWIB Priorities

What is at the top of AWIB's list of priorities as it facilitates “the development of a statewide policy for a coordinated and effective employment training and education system in this state” and “advises the governor, state and local agencies, the University of Alaska ...”

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What's Hurting Us Most Relative to Other States?

We've talked many times before about our negative net migration trend, which has hit our working-age population and school-age population (future workers) the hardest.

What's driving that trend?

What's Hurting Us Most Relative to Our Own History?

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What's driving that trend?

Research ideas we haven't considered yet?

Not Resolving Our Budget Issues Has Costs



How we described the budget situation five years ago:

Harder choices lie ahead

Even with the influx of nearly \$3 billion from investment earnings, the state expects revenue to fall short by about \$1.6 billion of the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2020. That means major choices remain, and none of the options are painless or universally popular.

All of our possible choices have pros and cons, and from an economic perspective, none will be cost-free. But until we make those decisions, our economy will struggle.

Not Resolving Our Budget Issues Has Costs



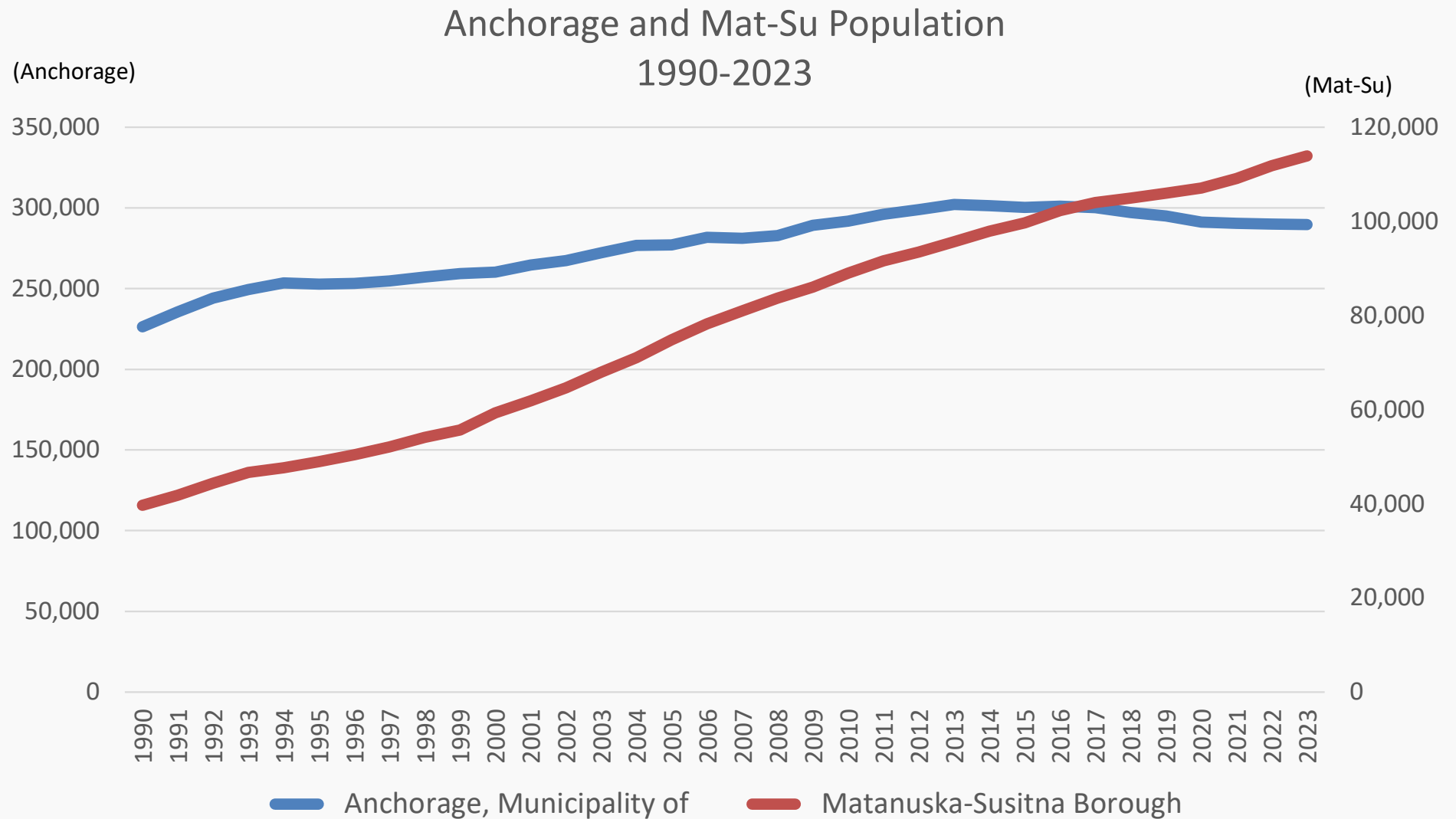
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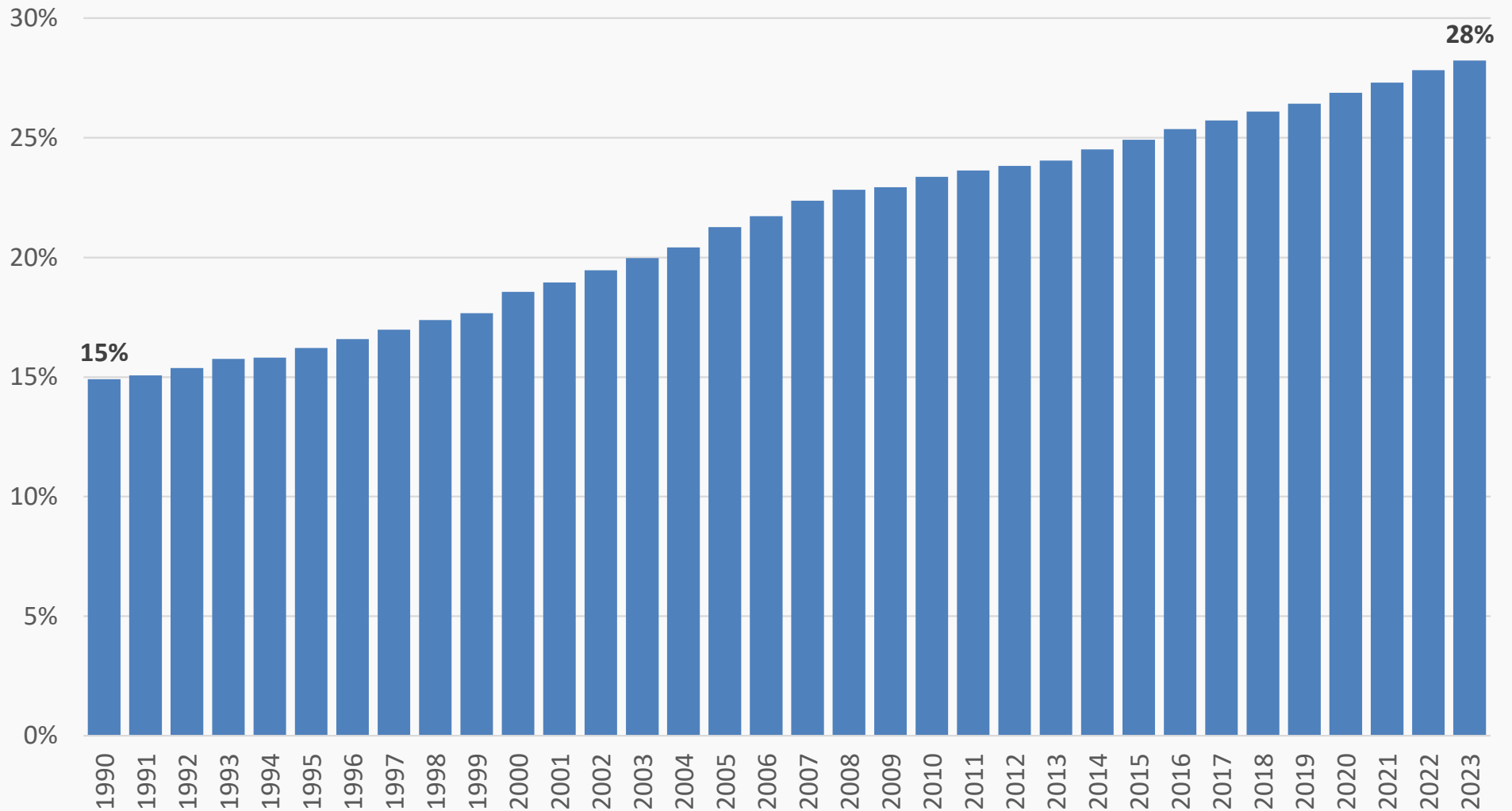
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Let's End With a Riddle ...



Mat-Su's Share of Anchorage-Mat-Su Region

Mat-Su's Share of Region's Population

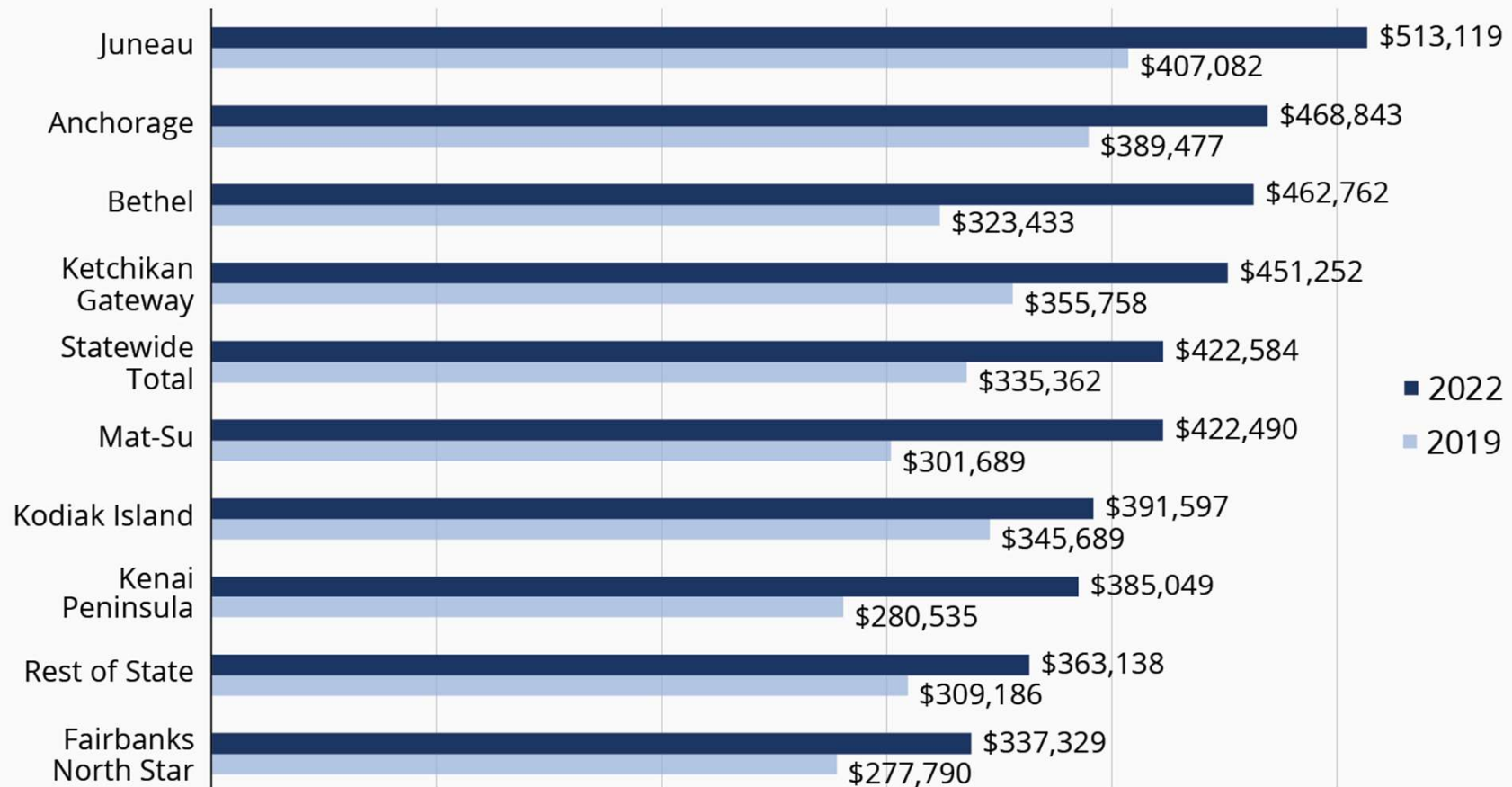


Let's End With a Riddle ...

Given that Mat-Su's had such strong population growth for several decades now – including over the last eleven years while the state's net migration has been negative – how is it possible that more people have moved from Mat-Su to other states than have moved to Mat-Su from other states over those same eleven years?

Housing Costs Explain Lots of Things

Average home sales price by area, 2019 and 2022



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

Questions or Requests for Information

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