

Ketchikan

People and Place

Location

Ketchikan is located on the southwestern coast of Revillagigedo Island, near the southern boundary of Alaska. It is 235 miles south of Juneau. The area encompasses 3.4 square miles of land and 0.8 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

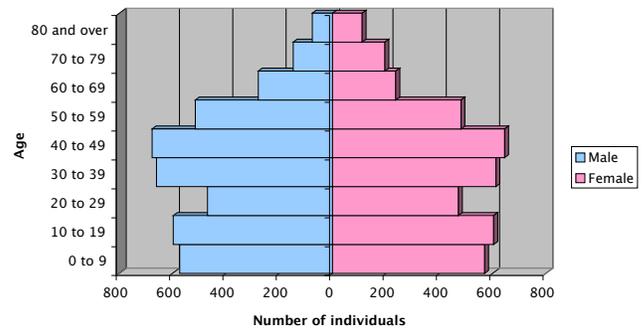
In 2000, there were 7,922 residents in 3,197 households. A small segment of the population (2.3%) lived in group quarters. The racial composition was as follows: White (67.4%), American Indian and Alaska Native (17.6%), Asian (6.9%), Black (0.7%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.2%), two or more races (6.7%), and other (0.5%). A total of 22.7% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. In addition, 3.4% of residents were Hispanic. The gender makeup was relatively equal, at 50.4% male and 49.6% female. The median age of Ketchikan was 35.8 years, very similar to the U.S. national average of 35.3 years. In terms of educational attainment, 88.6% of residents aged 25 and over held a high school diploma or higher degree.

History

The area of Ketchikan is traditional Tlingit Indian territory. Tongass and Cape Fox Tlingits historically used Ketchikan Creek as a fish camp, which they called “kitschk-hin,” meaning creek of the “thundering wings of an eagle.” Permanent White settlement of Ketchikan began in 1885, when Mike Martin bought 160 acres from Chief Kyan of the Tlingits; this land later became the township. The growth of Ketchikan’s population has always depended on the area’s rich natural resources, including fish, timber, and minerals. Throughout the 20th Century, fish canneries and sawmills went through boom and bust cycles. Today, Ketchikan is a racially diverse community and a major fishing hub for southeast Alaska.

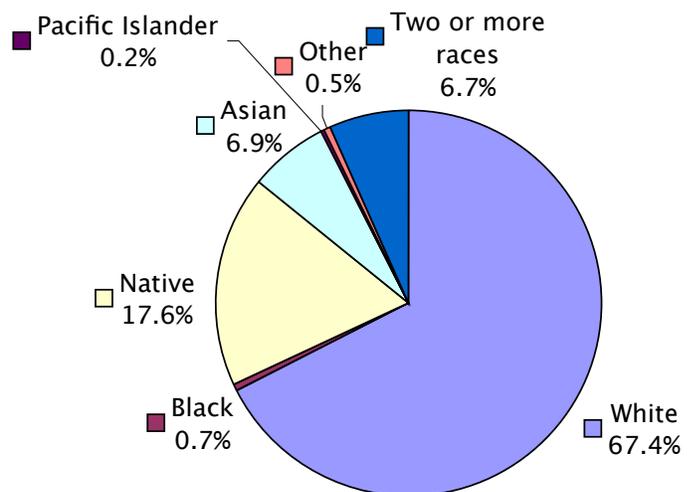
2000 Population Structure Ketchikan

Data source: US Census



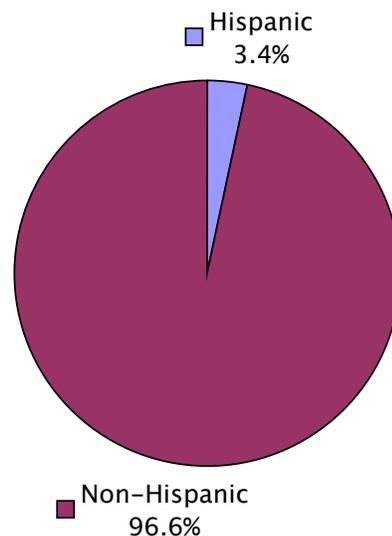
2000 Racial Structure Ketchikan

Data source: US Census



2000 Hispanic Ethnicity Ketchikan

Data source: US Census



Infrastructure

Current Economy

The largest economic driving force in Ketchikan is the commercial fishing industry. Many residents hold commercial fishing permits, or work in commercial fish processing plants and supporting industries. In addition, several small timber companies operate in Ketchikan. The tourism industry is growing in importance. The city has become a major port-of-call for Alaska-bound cruise ships, and an estimated 500,000 cruise passengers visit Ketchikan each year.

In 2000, the median per capita income in Ketchikan was \$22,484 and the median household income was \$45,802. The unemployment rate was 5.7%, and 29.1% of residents aged 16 years and older were not in the labor force (i.e. not seeking work). Approximately 7.6% of local residents were living below the poverty level.

Governance

Ketchikan is a Home Rule City and was incorporated in 1900. It is located within its own borough, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. The city administers a 3.5% sales tax and a 0.5% (5.35 mills) property tax. The borough administers a 2% sales tax and a 0.8% (7.85 mills) property tax. There is also a federally recognized Native village council in the community, the Ketchikan Indian Corporation. There are 9 schools in Ketchikan, with a total of 142 teachers and 2,334 students. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) both have offices in Ketchikan. The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office is in Petersburg.

Facilities

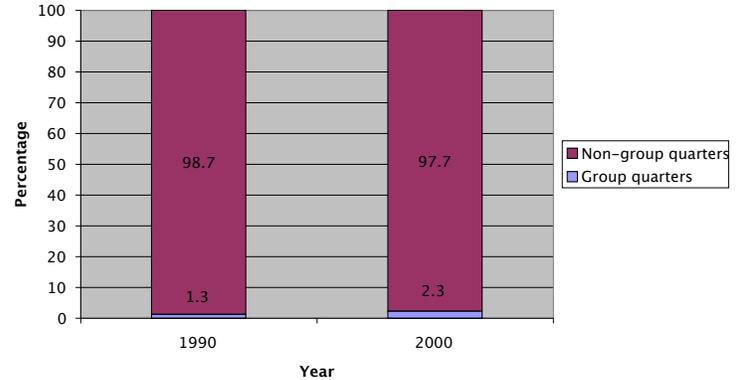
Ketchikan is the major port of entry for southeast Alaska. There is a state-owned 7,500 foot runway on Gravina Island, a short ferry ride away from the Ketchikan waterfront. Roundtrip airfare to Anchorage is approximately \$247. There are four floatplane landing facilities.

Harbor facilities include a breakwater, a deep draft dock, five small-boat harbors, a dry dock, a ship repair yard, a boat launch, and a state ferry terminal. Ketchikan is the first port of call for Alaska-bound cruise ships, and cruises bring in 500,000 visitors per year.

The city and borough operate a piped water and

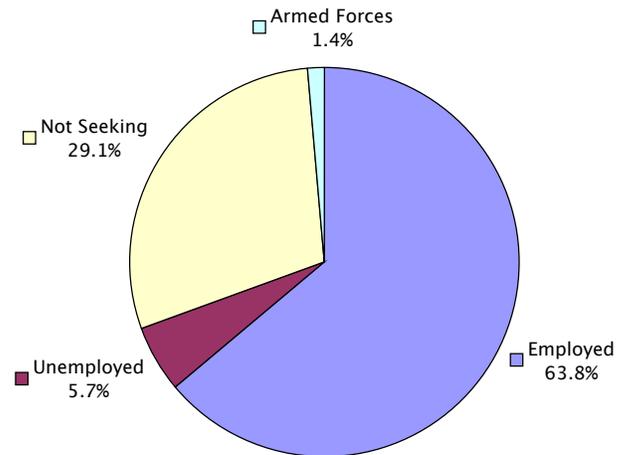
% Group Quarters Ketchikan

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Ketchikan

Data source: US Census



sewer system in the city. Ketchikan Public Utilities, a city-owned entity, provides hydroelectric power to the community. There is also a diesel backup generator. There is one large hospital, the Ketchikan General Hospital, and several smaller clinics. The city provides fire, police, and emergency services.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial*

Ketchikan is a major commercial fishing hub for the southeast region, and fishing makes up the lion's share of economic activity within the city. In 2000

* Commercial fishing permit data presented here is from the CFEC and is for the communities of Ketchikan, Ketchikan East, and Ward Cove combined.

there were 59 vessel owners with operations in federal fisheries and 140 vessel owners with operations in state fisheries residing in the community. There were 485 registered crew members in the community. That same year, 396 local residents held a total of 787 commercial fishing permits. The following section contains a detailed description of these permits.

Crab: Twenty-six residents held a total of 30 commercial permits in the crab fishery. These permits included the following: 2 Dungeness crab ring net permits for the southeast region (one fished), 2 Dungeness crab diving gear permits for the southeast region (none fished), one Dungeness crab pot gear permit for vessels over 60 feet in Cook Inlet (none fished), 4 Dungeness crab permits for 25 pots or 75% of maximum in the southeast region (4 fished); 2 Dungeness crab permits for 150 pots or 50% of maximum in the southeast region (2 fished), 8 Dungeness crab permits for 75 pots or 25% of maximum in the southeast region (3 fished), 2 permits for red and blue king and Tanner crab for vessels using pot gear in the southeast region (one fished), 7 Tanner crab ring net permits for the southeast region (5 fished), and 2 Tanner crab pot gear permit for the southeast region (2 fished).

Other Shellfish: One hundred twenty-six local residents held a total of 195 commercial permits for other shellfish. These permits included the following: 26 geoduck clam diving gear permits for the southeast region (18 fished), 54 shrimp pot gear permits for the southeast region (27 fished), 70 sea cucumber diving gear permits for the southeast region (61 fished), one clam shovel permit for statewide waters (one fished), 41 sea urchin diving gear permits for the southeast region (22 fished), and one octopus/squid pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished).

Halibut: Ninety-five local residents held a total of 97 permits for the halibut fishery. These included the following: one halibut hand troll permit for statewide waters (one fished), 61 halibut longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (49 fished), four halibut mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (one fished), 31 halibut longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (25 fished).

Herring: Sixty-four local residents held a total of 105 commercial permits in the herring fishery. These permits included the following: seven herring roe purse seine permits for the southeast region (seven

fished), one herring roe purse seine permit for Cook Inlet (not fished), 16 gillnet permits for food/bait herring roe in the southeast region (six fished), two herring roe gillnet permits for Kodiak (none fished), one herring roe gillnet permit for Security Cove (not fished), one herring roe gillnet permit for Bristol Bay (one fished), two herring roe gillnet permits for Norton Sound (none fished), three purse seine permits for food/bait herring in the southeast region (one fished), 31 permits to harvest herring spawn on kelp by the pound in the northern part of the southeast region (24 fished), and 41 permits to harvest herring spawn on kelp by the pound in the southern part of the southeast (none fished).

Sablefish: Twenty-four local residents held a total of 29 permits in the sablefish fishery. These permits included the following: 10 sablefish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (10 fished), 5 sablefish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in the northern part of the southeast region (5 fished), 5 sablefish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (4 fished), 8 sablefish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in the southern portion of the southeast region (8 fished), and one sablefish pot gear permits for vessels over 60 feet in the southern portion of the southeast region (one fished).

Other Groundfish: Forty-six local residents held a total of 74 commercial permits for other groundfish. These permits included the following: one lingcod hand troll permit for statewide waters (none fished), four lingcod dinglebar troll permits for statewide waters (none fished), one lingcod mechanical jig permit for statewide waters (none fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish hand troll permits for statewide waters (none fished), 24 miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (7 fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish pot gear permit for vessels under 60 feet in statewide waters (none fished), one miscellaneous saltwater finfish dinglebar troll permit for statewide waters (not fished), three miscellaneous saltwater finfish mechanical jig permits for statewide waters (one fished), two miscellaneous saltwater finfish longline permit for vessels over 60 feet in statewide waters (one fished), four demersal shelf rockfish hand troll permits for the southeast region (none fished), 25 demersal shelf rockfish longline permits for vessels under 60 feet in the southeast region (4 fished), one demersal shelf rockfish dinglebar troll permit for the southeast

region (none fished), one demersal shelf rockfish mechanical jig permit for the southeast region (one fished), and three demersal shelf rockfish longline permits for vessels over 60 feet in the southeast region (none fished).

Other Finfish: Five residents held a total of five freshwater fish beach seine permits for statewide waters (none fished).

Salmon: Two hundred thirty-nine residents held a total of 252 commercial permits in the salmon fishery. These included the following: 33 salmon purse seine permits for the southeast region (32 fished), 35 salmon drift gillnet permits for the southeast region (32 fished), 6 salmon drift gillnet permits for Bristol Bay (6 fished), 115 salmon hand troll permits for statewide waters (12 fished), and 66 salmon power gurdy troll permits for statewide waters (46 fished).

In addition to its role as a hub for commercial fishermen, Ketchikan is also a center for fish processing and storage. In 2000, there were four commercial fish processors. Landings for federally managed species (including halibut, sablefish, and groundfish) totaled 413 tons. Salmon landings totaled 26,093 tons. A total of 631 vessels made deliveries of state-managed species to processors in Ketchikan, and a total of 281 vessels made deliveries of federally managed species.

In 2003, the city of Ketchikan received \$40,578 in federal disaster funds to compensate for falling salmon prices; the Ketchikan Gateway Borough as a whole received \$29,365.

Sport Fishing

Ketchikan is the largest sport fishing hub in

southeast Alaska. Fishermen come from all over Alaska, Canada, the lower 48 states, and around the world to fish the productive waters in the area.

In 2000, there were 117 registered saltwater sport fishing guides and 70 freshwater sport fishing guides. Sport fishing license sales in Ketchikan for 2000 totaled 34,509; the majority of these (27,829) were to non-Alaska residents. This constituted the highest number of licenses sold in any Alaskan community except Anchorage. Major sport species include all five species of Pacific salmon, halibut, trout, steelhead, and char.

Subsistence Fishing

Many residents in Ketchikan supplement their incomes with subsistence resources. However, the ADF&G does not have detailed information on subsistence harvests and amounts for Ketchikan. In 1999, a total of 329 households held permits to harvest subsistence salmon. A total of 9,267 salmon - primarily sockeye - were harvested. Residents of Ward Cove who hold a valid Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC) issued by NMFS, are eligible to harvest subsistence halibut. These allocations are based on recognized customary and traditional uses of halibut. Regulations to implement subsistence halibut fishing were published in the Federal Register in April 2003 and became effective May 2003.

Additional Information

The largest collection of totem poles in the world is found in Ketchikan at Totem Bight State Historical Park, Saxman Native Village, and the Totem Heritage Center Museum.