

Alaska Regional Ports Conference

Northern Economics will be participating in the 2nd Alaska Regional Ports Conference on November 18. The conference is a culmination of nearly three years of work by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and other groups to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan for investment in Alaska's maritime and riverine facilities. Our staff will be presenting the results of our work on the Alaska Regional Ports project, including a discussion of global, national, and local trends affecting port and harbors in the state, port and harbor needs, planned projects, regional and subregional hubs, and recommendations for policy and plan development. At the end of the day, we will have discussed agency activities, reviewed the outcomes of the Alaska Regional Ports Study, collected input on goals and priorities related to Alaska's water infrastructure, and discussed port and harbor projects.

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Kodiak Harbor, 2003.

The conference will take place at the Egan Center in Anchorage, from 8am to 4pm. For more information and to register for the conference, visit <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/en/cw/AKPortsStudy.htm>.

Welcome Joel Ainsworth

Northern Economics is pleased to welcome Joel Ainsworth to our team. Joel joined Northern Economics, Inc. in August of 2010. He holds dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Economics and Justice from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Despite being a recent college graduate, Joel brings a wealth of experience to our team. While at UAA, he served as a research associate at the Institute of Social and Economic Research and Center for Economic Development. Joel's career highlights also include serving as an Intern with the U.S. Department of State; Brussels, Belgium; an intelligence analyst, with the Alaska Counter Drug Support Program; and as a soldier with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.



Northern Economics
880 H Street, Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501 USA
Phone: (907) 274-5600
Fax: (907) 274-5601
www.northerneconomics.com

114 W Magnolia Street, Suite 411
Bellingham, WA 98225 USA
Phone: (360) 715-1808
Fax: (360) 715-3588
Email: mail@norecon.com

Alaska Confidence Review: Alaskans' Confidence in their Personal Financial Security Slips in the Third Quarter

The number of Alaskans describing their local and state economies as "Good or Very Good" edged slightly upward in the 3rd quarter of 2010, changing direction from earlier results. In a continuing trend, however, Alaskans continued to feel less secure about their family's current financial status.

Financial Security

Continuing a multi-quarter trend, more Alaskans are describing their financial position as less secure compared to the prior quarters of the survey. Respondents who thought their family's household financial security was "Good or Very Good" (46.6 percent) decreased by 3.6 percentage points from the 2nd quarter of 2010—dropping below 50 percent for the first time since the Alaska Confidence Review began in the 1st quarter of 2010. Those respondents who described their household financial security as "Bad or Very Bad" increased by 2.2 percentage points, climbing to 23.7 percent.

Category (%)	QTR1	QTR2	QTR3	Change
Good or Very Good	61.4	50.2	46.6	-3.6
Neutral	23.1	28.3	29.1	0.8
Bad or Very Bad	15.4	21.5	23.7	2.2

While confidence in their financial security fell during the 3rd quarter, most respondents (62.3 percent) still observed some stability about their situation, describing their family's financial security as staying the same, rather than getting better or worse.

Category (%)	QTR1	QTR2	QTR3	Change
Getting Better	26.3	22.1	21.4	-0.7
Staying the Same	62.1	60.6	62.3	1.7
Getting Worse	11.5	17.3	16.3	-1.0

Confidence in financial security varied across regions: 56.2 percent of respondents in Southeast Alaska described their financial situations as "Good or Very Good," while only 36.1 percent of rural Alaska respondents said the same.

Confidence in Community Economies

Similar to the perceptions of their own financial security, respondents described their local economies as staying the same over the last quarter. The percentage of Alaskans describing their community's economy in positive terms, however, edged up slightly during the 3rd quarter. Those respondents describing their local economies as "Good or Very Good" (37.2 percent) rose 1.7 percentage points from the 2nd quarter.

The number of respondents (20.7 percent) who believed their local economies were getting worse fell 4.1 percentage points over the last quarter. Rather, respondents (65.9 percent) perceived their local economies as staying the same, up 4.9 percentage points from the 2nd quarter.

Respondents living in Anchorage tended to describe their local economies as staying the same or getting better (90.3 percent), a much higher portion than rural Alaskans who said the same (67.7 percent).

Confidence in the State's Economy

Corresponding with Alaskans' view of their local economies, the number of respondents describing the state economy as good or better rose to a yearly high, even while expectations for the future remained flat. Respondents who described the state's economy as "Good or Very Good" (35.3 percent), moved up 2.8 percentage points from the second quarter; the numbers of respondents who were neutral (46.4 percent) and negative (16.1 percent) about the economy both fell in the 3rd quarter.

As in past quarters, a majority of respondents said that they thought Alaska's economy was staying the same. This quarter saw a small gain in the segment that thought the state's economy was getting better and a small reduction in those who thought it was getting worse.

For more information regarding the Alaska Confidence Review please contact Jonathan King in our Anchorage office at 907-274-5600.