

The Juneau Economic Development Council Presents

The 2011 Juneau & Southeast Alaska Economic Indicators



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Dear Readers,

September 2011

In your hands you have the 2011 edition of the Juneau and SE Alaska Economic Indicators. Through this and other research publications, the Juneau Economic Development Council hopes to increase public awareness and engage citizens in local and regional economic issues.

Alaska has weathered the recent national recession fairly well, including our region. While cruise visitors are down from their peak in 2008, they are expected to head back up in 2012. Prices for seafood are rising and mining jobs have increased significantly in Juneau with the Kensington Mine in full swing. Government jobs, a significant part of Juneau's economy and the Southeast region remained solid, and job gains in the health care industry continue. The population in Juneau increased slightly and the steady decline in population for the rest of the region experienced over the last decade appears to be leveling-off.

JEDC has engaged in several endeavors this past year to strengthen the regional economy; including leading the Southeast Alaska Cluster Initiative which has identified and begun to address key issues in the oceans, forest, renewable energy, and visitor products industries. We have worked on a statewide basis with the Alaska Forward Initiative to develop more competitive industries in Alaska, provided STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education opportunities in Juneau and 20 other school districts in Alaska, and transferred technologies from federal laboratories to meet the needs of the private sector. Locally, we host the Juneau Maritime Festival, Juneau Business Expo, and helped expand Juneau's Farmer's Market into a Sunday market. We are engaged on affordable housing issues, access to child-care, transportation for low-income workers, and support to entrepreneurship through programs like Junior Achievement in our schools, business consulting services and access to financial assistance for small businesses.

JEDC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster a healthy and sustainable economic climate in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. In collaboration with other organizations JEDC implements initiatives to maintain, expand and create economic opportunities. JEDC enjoys a special relationship with the CBJ, which (along with the Juneau Chamber of Commerce), was instrumental in the founding of the organization in 1987 and has provided annual financial support to the organization since that time. JEDC has a fine team of committed professionals on staff and is led by a dedicated all-volunteer eleven member Board of Directors.

We thank those groups and individuals that share information with us, with special thanks to the Alaska Department of Labor. We are also extremely grateful to our corporate sponsors and the CBJ whose generous support enables us to create this publication. We are very interested in your ideas for economic development in Juneau and the region, and how our organization can better serve the community. Call or email us (bholst@jedc.org) to become part of the conversation. Please sign up for JEDC News to learn about our efforts. Visit us at JEDC.org. We hope you find this publication valuable.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kurt Fredriksson".

Kurt Fredriksson
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Holst".

Brian Holst
Executive Director

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