

State of Alaska
 Department of Commerce,
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Economic Confidence Rises in Fourth Quarter

January 31, 2018 JUNEAU – Alaskans’ economic confidence rose sharply in the fourth quarter of 2017, returning to a level not seen since the third quarter of 2015, as measured by the Alaska Confidence Index (ACI). The composite index rose to 54, indicating relative confidence in state, local, and personal economics. This was an increase of four points from the third quarter and an increase of two points from the same time last year.



The index stands 5 points higher than its lowest recorded level of 49 in the first half of 2016 and first quarter of 2017. The outlooks on the future of the state and local economies are higher than they were one year ago, although confidence in current local economy is down slightly.

The ACI is a measure of Alaskans' confidence in the health of the local economy, their personal financial situation, and their expectations for the future. Northern Economics, Inc. generates the ACI using data collected by the Alaska Survey, a random quarterly sample of at least 800 Alaska households. The ACI comprises six components: 1) State Economy Confidence; 2) Local Economy Confidence; 3) Personal Financial Confidence; 4) Expectations for the Future – State; 5) Expectations for the Future – Local; and 6) Expectations for the Future – Personal. Each component is expressed using a value of 0 to 100. Values above 50 represent relative confidence in the economy, while values below 50 indicate lack of confidence. The ACI is released by the Division of Economic Development and supported by a sponsorship by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

Housed within Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), the Division of Economic Development supports the growth and diversification of Alaska's economy through policy, promotion, financing, and business assistance. For additional information about the division, please visit commerce.alaska.gov/web/DED. To learn more about DCCED and its other agencies, please visit commerce.alaska.gov.

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