

State of Alaska
Department of Commerce,
Community & Economic Development



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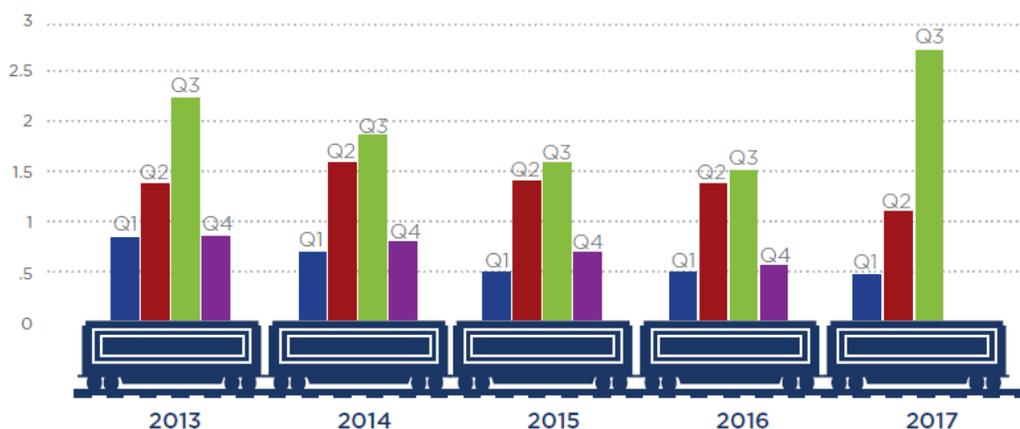
Quarterly Publication of Alaska's Economic Drivers Now Available

December 28, 2017 ANCHORAGE – The Alaska Division of Economic Development released its quarterly economic report, which provides a look at the drivers of Alaska's economy from statewide and regional perspectives.

Highlights from the third quarter of 2017 include

- *Regional economic anecdote:* Cargo traffic through the Northern Sea Route will likely rise in coming years, driven by new exports of Russian oil and gas and increased interest from China. More than 550 vessels were granted permits to operate on the route during the four-month summer shipping season in 2017. During the first half of August up to 100 vessels were active along the route each day.
- *International export of goods:* Seafood and zinc made up the bulk of the over \$2.5 billion of exports in the third quarter. The strong year for salmon, in both price and amount harvested, led the third quarter of 2017 to be the highest in the past five years.
- *Alaska Railroad:* In the third quarter of 2017, the Alaska Railroad saw a large increase in freight tonnage, reversing a five-year downward trend. Summer passenger volume was also the largest for the Alaska Railroad in the last five years.

Alaska Railroad Freight Tonnage
(Millions of tons)



Source: Alaska Railroad Corporation

“By tracking the data quarterly and compiling it into a single, easy-to-read report, our goal is to support the assessment of Alaska’s economic health and business climate,” said Britteny Cioni-Haywood, director of the Division of Economic Development.

The unique combination of anecdotal information collected from regional economic development and community organizations from across the state presented alongside statistical information from state, federal, and private sector resources helps inform a comprehensive assessment of Alaska’s economic landscape. Previous *Alaska Quarterly Economic Updates* can be accessed on the Department of Economic Development [website](#), filed under [Reports and Publications](#).

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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