



Alaska Forward

Toward a Next Generation Economy

Get involved!

Hello,

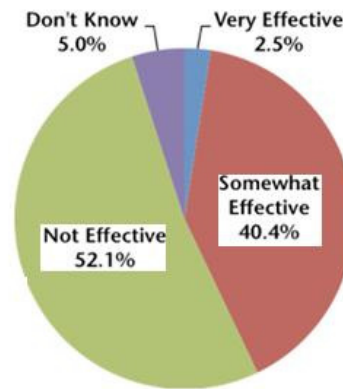
Last October the Alaska Partnership for Economic Development (APED) partnered with a group of nationally recognized consulting firms – IHS Global Insight, Economic Competitiveness Group and McDowell Group – to begin a comprehensive analysis of Alaska’s current economic environment and provide an “economic reality check” of where our state stands and the direction we’re heading. The complete analysis, which is now available on our Web site (www.alaskapartnership.org), found that Alaska’s economic development system is largely ineffective and our future uncertain.

Perhaps the biggest theme coming from the report was the fact that there is a lack of statewide planning, leadership and coordination on economic development initiatives. Moreover, the high concentration of economic development organizations often leaves statewide efforts fragmented and potentially contradictory. Many of the previous statewide efforts have neither been fiscally sound nor cohesive in bringing resources and people together.

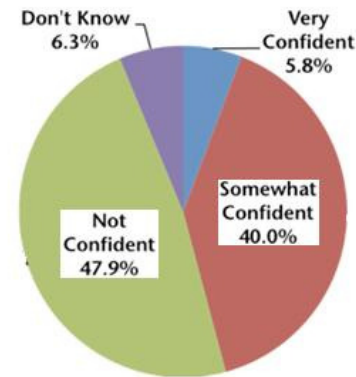
Key Findings

Alaskans should worry not because of any immediate economic crisis, but because of the accumulating levels of future risk and declining economic resiliency associated with:

- Poor relative economic performance compared to the rest of the country.
- A high level of dependence on the price of oil, federal government spending, and natural resource industries facing supply



An online survey of 300 people revealed that a majority of respondents feel past and present economic development efforts have not been effective.



The same online survey showed that less than 6 percent of respondents are confident in Alaska's ability to compete globally.

or regulatory/legal constraints.

- Weak linkages to rapidly expanding global market opportunities.
- Ignoring opportunities for diversification and increased resiliency by optimizing the needs and linkages within and among the state's existing portfolio of export-oriented industry "clusters."
- Weak culture of entrepreneurship.
- Sub-par support from the state's economic foundations compared to other peer states in the area of transportation and other infrastructure, quality of workforce/education, and technology.

This risk represents the basis of our call to action for a different approach to economic development. Oil prices may stay at or above current levels, significant new sources of oil and gas may be tapped, and federal government spending may keep rising. However, the probability that these events will not happen is uncomfortably high.

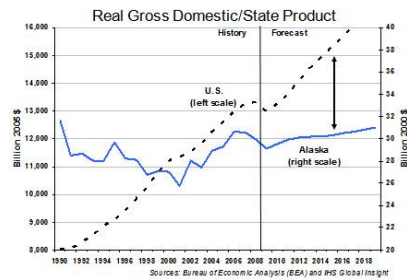
Next Steps

Can Alaska make the necessary changes in policy and practice to build a more diversified and sustainable economy?

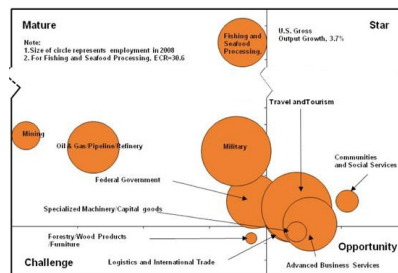
The path forward involves creating more competition among industries, regions and communities. We must make the business climate become an advantage for Alaska, not a disadvantage. We must leverage our current wealth and abundant resources to foster innovative and strategic thinking on a statewide scale.

All of this will begin with a Statewide Economic Summit we plan on having in the spring. The summit will involve moving towards a more collaborative, statewide approach to economic development that is focused on developing a stronger portfolio of export-oriented industry clusters. The effort will be lead by the private sector and supported by the public sector and will take a statewide approach knowing that a stronger portfolio of industry clusters will benefit all the regions of the state.

As citizens, business leaders, and professionals, we ask for your help in putting this momentous



Research performed by IHS Global Insight clearly shows that Alaska's economy has been stagnating in comparison to the U.S. national economy. (*A larger version of this graph is available in the [executive summary](#) and within our [PowerPoint presentation](#)).



A cluster analysis performed by IHS Global Insight reveals that Oil & Natural Gas, Mining and Commercial Fishing are the basis of Alaska's historical strengths but are facing slow-growing markets and will require a great deal of investment to achieve a desired level of growth. (*A larger version of this graph is available in the [full report](#) and within our [PowerPoint presentation](#)).

event together. If you would like to get involved, there are opportunities for sponsorship and direct involvement in the Statewide Economic Summit.

Our Phase I report is available online at www.alaskapartnership.org. We ask that you share it with your colleagues, friends, family, co-workers, and associates and forward this newsletter on to them as well.

To get involved please contact me at info@alaskapartnership.org.

Thank you,

Marty Metiva
President
Alaska Partnership for Economic Development
(APED)



You are receiving this email because you have an interest in the future of Alaska's economy and can provide valuable feedback.

Unsubscribe <<Email Address>> from this list.

Our mailing address is:
APED
P.O. Box 101067
Anchorage, AK 99501

Add us to your address book

Copyright (C) 2009 APED All rights reserved.

Forward this email to a friend
Update your profile

