



SEDA - Putting the Pieces Together

# Sitka Trends Economic News

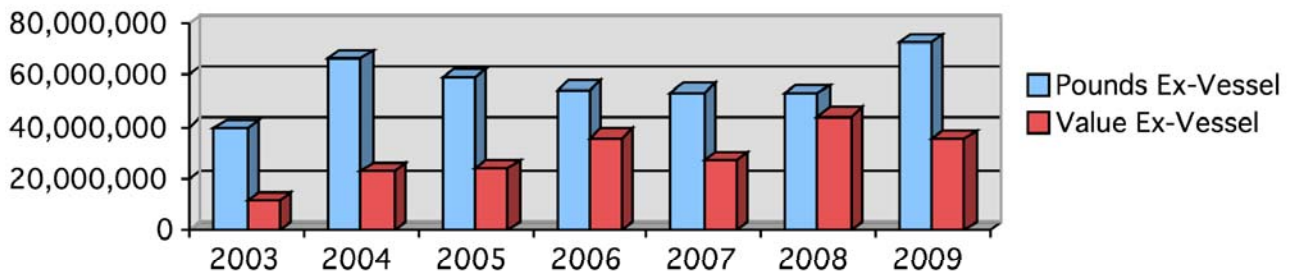
September 2010

Summer time in Sitka brings many things to our community, one of which is a boost to our economy, mainly through the visitor and fishing industries. The total labor force in Sitka increased from 4,462 to 5,143 from March 2010 to July 2010, an increase of 681 people. This increase in jobs helped the unemployment percentage to drop from 7.6% to 5.3% during the same time period. Historically the jump in employment has been similar for the years 2008 and 2009 with an increase of 477 and 560 in the total labor force from March to July in the respective years. Following suit the unemployment rate fell from 6.1% in March of 08' to 4.8% in July 08' and 7.3% March of 09' to 5.6% in July 09'. These numbers were sourced from the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. A conversation with Department of Labor and Workforce Development personnel reveal that self employed folks are not considered in these figures, i.e. commercial fishermen. The estimated average number of residents that fished their permits in Sitka the past few years is 448 with the estimated number of crew licenses sold is 537 that adds an additional estimated 985 folks working in the Sitka area during the summer.

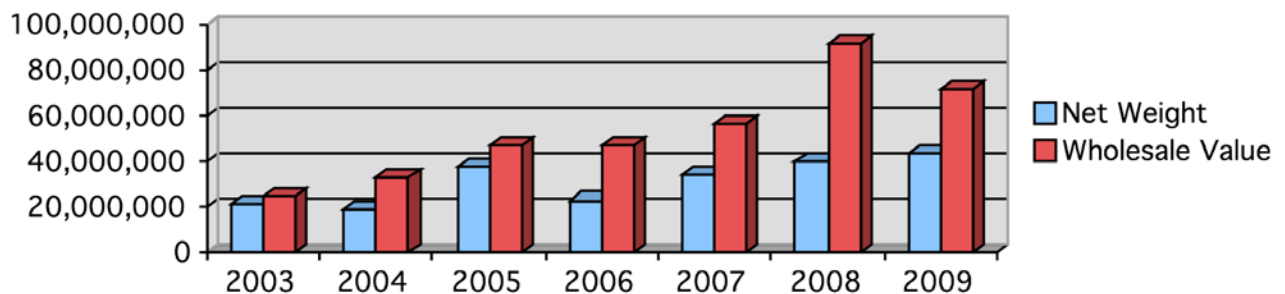
The rise in the workforce to support the summer industries can be related to the roughly \$1 million dollar increase in sales taxes collected between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2010 (\$1,396,308 1<sup>st</sup> QTR vs. \$2,473,051 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR). The bump in summer economy is nice, but Sitka's Sales taxes collected is trending downward with the second straight year drop in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Sales tax was down \$158,594 or 6% from the same time period in 09'. A good sign is that bed tax did increase 16% over the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2009. This increase can be related to independent travelers and a surge of conventions held in Sitka during the time period.

## Sitka's Seafood Industry

Sitka Commercial Salmon Harvest



Salmon Processed in Sitka

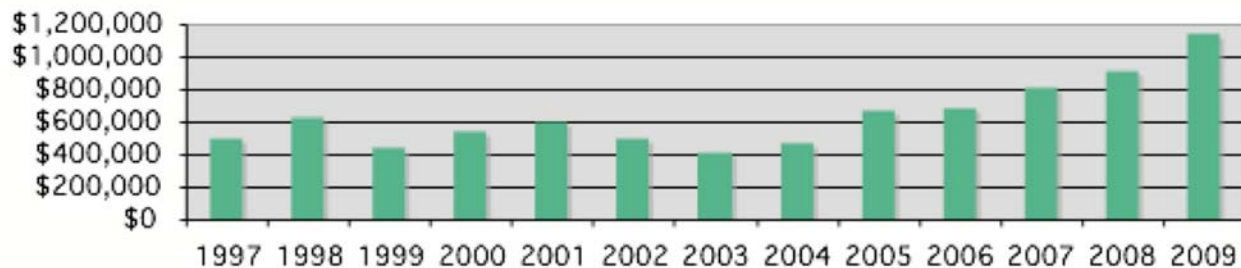


<b>COMMERCIAL SEAFOOD HARVEST</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2003</b>
Salmon - pounds harvested	72,373,231	52,873,853	53,399,864	54,465,444	39,172,074
<b>Salmon - Ex-vessel value</b>	<b>\$34,994,390</b>	<b>\$44,136,580</b>	<b>\$27,129,324</b>	<b>\$35,843,482</b>	<b>\$11,903,080</b>
Halibut pounds harvested	2,244,824	2,955,602	3,536,004	4,256,218	3,564,410
<b>Halibut Ex-vessel value</b>	<b>\$7,027,979</b>	<b>\$12,716,800</b>	<b>\$15,713,102</b>	<b>\$15,999,892</b>	<b>\$10,519,572</b>
Herring pounds harvested	28,189,991	29,936,927	23,536,678	19,224,577	14,966,184
<b>Herring Ex-vessel value</b>	<b>\$13,054,165</b>	<b>\$12,976,349</b>	<b>\$9,147,191</b>	<b>\$3,653,042</b>	<b>\$4,253,238</b>
Sablefish pounds harvested	2,812,596	3,373,399	3,188,658	3,927,881	3,749,102
<b>Sablefish Ex-vessel value</b>	<b>\$14,124,010</b>	<b>\$16,057,943</b>	<b>\$12,846,485</b>	<b>\$15,726,142</b>	<b>\$13,808,643</b>

<b>COMMERCIAL PROCESSING</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2003</b>
Salmon - net weight	43,507,979	40,344,485	34,079,950	23,204,926	21,250,227
<b>Salmon - wholesale value</b>	<b>\$71,688,674</b>	<b>\$91,166,521</b>	<b>\$56,797,239</b>	<b>\$46,725,217</b>	<b>\$24,921,267</b>
Halibut net weight	2,114,499	2,527,905	3,251,448	3,695,511	3,327,466
<b>Halibut wholesale value</b>	<b>\$10,012,339</b>	<b>\$14,405,551</b>	<b>\$19,872,316</b>	<b>\$19,856,952</b>	<b>\$11,451,031</b>
Herring net weight	20,142,820	12,505,603	11,186,962	7,406,227	6,320,330
<b>Herring wholesale value</b>	<b>\$15,848,445</b>	<b>\$9,679,909</b>	<b>\$5,375,612</b>	<b>\$3,591,314</b>	<b>\$3,728,456</b>
Sablefish net weight	2,697,098	3,158,461	3,196,473	4,002,165	3,811,600
<b>Sablefish wholesale value</b>	<b>\$16,946,277</b>	<b>\$18,792,204</b>	<b>\$16,013,787</b>	<b>\$19,604,603</b>	<b>\$15,378,559</b>

(Source: ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries)

### Raw Fish Tax - City Revenues



Total raw fish taxes collected by the City from 1997 to 2009 = \$8,313,062

(Source: City and Borough of Sitka Finance Department)

*SEDA's Mission is to:*

*Foster a business climate that is receptive and conducive to existing and new business;  
Promote the creation of family wage jobs; and Enhance the quality of life for Sitkans.*

**Sitka Economic Development Association**

329 Harbor Drive, Suite 212, Sitka, AK 99835 \*\*\* Phone: 907-747-2660 \*\*\* Web: [www.sitka.net](http://www.sitka.net)

<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>July 2010</b>	<b>July 2009</b>	<b>July 2008</b>
Total Labor Force – Sitka (Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor)	5,143	5,018	5,068
Number Filing for Unemployment – Sitka (Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor)	272	278	235
Unemployment Rate – Sitka (Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor)	5.3	5.6	4.8
Unemployment Rate – Alaska (Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor)	6.9	7.3	5.8
Unemployment Rate – National (Source: US Dept. of Labor)	9.5	9.4	5.8
	<b>09/07/10</b>	<b>08/25/09</b>	
Job listings at Sitka Job Center as of <b>09/07/10</b> (includes SEARHC)	82	72	
SEARHC (vacancies in Sitka as of <b>09/07/10</b> )	43	27	
<b>FINANCIAL</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Per Capita Personal Income – Sitka (Source: US Bureau Econ. Analysis)	\$41,872	\$39,472	\$36,162
Per Capita Personal Income – Alaska (Source: US Bureau of Econ. Analysis)	\$43,922	\$41,081	\$38,839
Per Capita Personal Income – U.S. (Source: US Bureau of Econ. Analysis)	\$40,166	\$39,392	\$37,698
<b>City Revenues (Calendar Year)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2010</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2009</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2008</b>
Sales Tax Collected (Source: CBS Finance Department)	\$2,473,051	\$2,631,645	\$2,971,500
Bed Tax Collected (Source: CBS Finance Department) p=preliminary	\$113,823	\$97,466 p	\$137,175
<b>COST OF LIVING INDICATORS</b>			
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Sep. 07, 2010</b>	<b>Sept. 2009</b>	<b>Sept. 2008</b>
Gasoline (1 gallon regular) – Sitka (Source: UAF CES / **lowest pump price)	\$3.29 **	\$3.15	\$4.36
Gasoline (1 gallon regular) – Anchorage (Source: AAA)	\$3.38	\$3.26	\$4.24
Gasoline (1 gallon regular) – Alaska Average (Source: AAA)	\$3.53	\$3.38	\$4.34
Gasoline (1 gallon regular) – National Average (Source:AAA)	\$2.68	\$2.48	\$3.72
<b>Food Costs (Source: UAF Cooperative Extension)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2010</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2009</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2008</b>
Weekly food cost – Family of 4 (2 children) – Sitka	\$172.90	\$176.46	\$168.72
Weekly food cost – Family of 4 (2 children) - Anchorage	\$131.37	\$121.89	\$123.24
Sitka's weekly food cost as a percentage of Anchorage cost	132%	145%	137%
<b>Housing - HUD Fair Market Rent – Sitka (Source: U.S. HUD)</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Efficiency	\$780	\$744	\$726
One-Bedroom	\$899	\$858	\$837
Two-Bedroom	\$1,073	\$1,024	\$999
Three-Bedroom	\$1,563	\$1,492	\$1,456
<b>HOUSING – Construction and Sales</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2010</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2009</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2008</b>
Value of Construction Permits Issued (Source: CBS Building Department)	\$1,744,355	\$1,882,975	\$4,875,346
Dwelling Units Added (Source: CBS Building Department)	2	5	7
Total Homes Sold – all types combined (Source: CBS Property Tax Clerk)	23	19	25
Vacant Lots Sold – residential (Source: CBS Property Tax Clerk)	3	7	3
Homes Sold – single family (Source: Davis Realty MLS)	13	10	19
Average Sale Price - single family home (based on total sold)	\$260,808	\$213,230	\$361,484
Sales Volume – single family homes	\$3,390,500	\$2,132,300	\$6,898,200
<b>VISITOR INDUSTRY – Charter Fishing (source: SCBOA)</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Change</b>
Number of Charter Fishing Businesses	104	117	- 13
Number of Charter Guides	193	219	- 26
Logbooks Issued	321	415	- 94
Gross Business Sales	\$19,700,000	\$29,000,000	- \$9,300,000
<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2000</b>
City & Borough of Sitka (Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor)	8,627	8,641	8,835
Southeast Alaska (Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor)	69,338	69,163	73,082
State of Alaska (Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor)	692,314	681,977	626,931
<b>PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>
Total student enrollment per school year	1,309	1,309	1,344