

SITKA TRENDS ECONOMIC NEWSLETTER

March 2020

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for Sitka's
2020 State of the Economy
April 22nd, 2020 at 3:00pm
at Centennial Hall.

Each year we gather
together to review the
trends our community is
experiencing. We'd love to
see you there.



Childcare Shortage a Growing Concern for Sitka

It's no secret there is a childcare shortage in Sitka. While this a nationwide epidemic Sitka finds itself in a unique predicament. Unlike elsewhere in the country, families cannot drive thirty minutes to snag a daycare opening in the town over. What is available between the beginning of HPR and the end of SMC, is what's available. Instead, families are faced with different decisions: become a single income family, swap childcare with friends, work night shifts to offset a partners schedule, or even more tragic to our economy, move out of Sitka or don't move to Sitka at all in the first place.

According to a recent KCAW article, approximately 70% of parents in Southeast Alaska work, that's a large chunk of our community. However, in Sitka there is only one childcare spot available for every 3.5 children under the age of 5.5. Those numbers don't add up. To meet our workforce needs Sitka would need to have 1 space available for every 2 children, explained Joy Lyon from the Association of Early Childhood Development in a recent interview with KCAW.

The positive side of this conversation, this issue is being brought to the light and not swept under the rug. Like many issues facing our community we cannot wait for federal funding to bail us out this issue we need to work within our community to discuss solutions.

Thankfully, Sitka's Early Childhood Coalition recently hosted a forum to discuss the issue. Most notably discussed, the low pay rates of childcare providers. According to the Association for the Education of Young Children, in Juneau the average child care provider's salary is \$26,741. An annual income of \$42,880 is needed to afford a one-bedroom unit in Juneau.

Secondly, infant care. There is currently only one facility that is accepting infants. We need to come alongside in-home daycare providers to help them attain licensure and possibly even subsidize those costs to get programs going attendees of the forum explained.

Third, 2 out of our 4 preschools close for the summer months leaving parents without childcare during what is some of our busiest months if you work in the maritime or tourism industry. We need unique, reliable options for the summer.

Out of this forum a work group has been formed that will continue coming up with actionable items to help Sitka tackle this growing concern together. Let's keep the conversation going so we don't lose our young families as residents due to a lack of childcare availability.

Sitka Economic Development Association 2020 Fundraising Efforts

SEDA is asking for your support. Your investment in economic development is more important than ever as local and state government budgets are being slashed and our economy is facing serious challenges. Those of us at SEDA hope you will agree we need to be focused, proactive and determined in our efforts to strengthen our economy and maintain a high quality of life for residents like you. That's why SEDA's Board and Staff are working for you.

Your investment in SEDA is an investment in the economic future of Sitka and Southeast Alaska. When you contribute to SEDA, you are supporting proactive economic development activities that include:

- Retention and expansion of existing local businesses.
- Brokering innovation driven development in the seafood and maritime industries.
- Marketing Sitka's fresh water resource.
- Continued expansion of the Gary Paxton Industrial Park.
- Supporting the development of affordable housing.
- Supporting workforce development to meet the coming labor shortage as baby boomers retire and preparing our youth for local employment opportunities.
- Advocating for operational and management changes to the Alaska Marine Highway System.

SEDA's Board of Directors represents a broad spectrum of private sector businesses and the members of the Board make annual financial contributions to the organization because they know that supporting local economic development is a good business investment. It is a good investment for your business too.

Please see the attached investor form if you are interested in supporting our economy driving efforts this year. Thank you to those who have already committed to ensuring our success this year!



CONTACT US

If you have ideas that you are wanting to discuss regarding Sitka's economy we would love to chat.

Email us at sedakitka@gmail.com or call us at
(907) 747-2660.

We look forward to collaborating with you!



Sitka Economic Development Association
329 Harbor Drive, Suite 202
Sitka, AK 99835
Phone: 907-747-2660

INVESTOR FORM

Suggested Contribution Levels

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond | \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum | \$2,500-\$4,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold | \$1,000-\$2,499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver | \$500-\$999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze | \$100-\$499 |

Make Checks Payable to SEDA

Donation from (you will receive a recognition letter for IRS tax deduction):

Name_____

Company_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

We would like to acknowledge all of our supporters on the SEDA website, Facebook page, and at SEDA events. May we acknowledge your contribution?

Yes No, please keep my contribution confidential.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

Mail this form and your check to:

SEDA
329 Harbor Drive, Suite 202
Sitka, AK 99835

Have questions to ask or ideas to share?

Contact: Garry White, Executive Director
Phone: 907-747-2660 Email: garrywhite@gci.net

The data below are the most recent available from the various sources.

EMPLOYMENT <i>(not seasonally adjusted)</i> – Annual Average	December 1, 2019	2018	2017
Total Labor Force – Sitka (Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor)	4,037	4,408	4,444
Number Filing for Unemployment – Sitka (Source: Alaska DOL)	186	183	201
Unemployment Rate – Sitka (Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor)	4.60%	4.20%	4.50%
Unemployment Rate – Alaska (Source: Alaska Dept. of Labor)	6.10%	6.60%	7.00%
Unemployment Rate – National (Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics)	3.40%	3.90%	4.10%
Job Openings (Source: Sitka Job Center)	March 5, 2020	March 20, 2019	March 21, 2018
Job orders at Sitka Job Center (includes SEARHC)	119	123	106
SEARHC job openings in Sitka	40	48	48
Quarterly Census Employment (Source: AK Dept. of Labor QCEW)	3rd Quarter 2019*	2018 Annual	2017 Annual
Average Monthly Employment	5,020	4,250	4,283
Average Government Employment	926	1,115	1,132
Average Private Ownership Employment	4,095	3,135	3,151
Average Monthly Wage (Source: AK Dept. of Labor QCEW)	3rd Quarter 2019*	2018	2017
All Sectors	\$ 4,290	\$ 3,868	\$ 3,642
Government Total	\$ 4,903	\$ 4,739	\$ 4,521
Federal Government	\$ 7,421	\$ 6,962	\$ 6,606
State Government	\$ 4,611	\$ 3,951	\$ 3,923
Local Government	\$ 4,516	\$ 4,744	\$ 4,436
Private Sector	\$ 4,150	\$ 3,558	\$ 3,302
<i>*3rd Qtr is the most recent for 2019</i>			
Per Capita Personal Income (Source: US Bureau Econ. Analysis) Includes all forms of income: rent, retirement, employment, etc.	2018	2017	2016
Sitka	\$ 71,972	\$ 67,771	\$ 63,572
Juneau	\$ 68,145	\$ 65,784	\$ 63,779
Ketchikan	\$ 67,602	\$ 65,179	\$ 64,229
Alaska	\$ 59,420	\$ 56,794	\$ 56,016
<i>*2018 is the most recent data</i>			
City Revenues – Fiscal Year (July 1- June 30) (Source: CBS Finance Department)	FY2019	FY2018	FY2017
Sales Tax Collected – Total Remitters	\$ 13,309,207	\$ 12,088,012	\$ 11,087,495
Bed Tax Collected – Total Remitters	\$ 553,911	\$ 543,697	\$ 503,439
Property Tax Collected – Total Remitters	\$ 6,777,625	\$ 6,647,375	\$ 6,454,150

Raw Fish Tax – Received into Harbor Fund	\$ 1,188,722	\$ 1,279,885	\$ 953,324
COST OF LIVING INDICATORS			
Transportation – Regular Gasoline per gallon	March 9, 2020	March 21, 2019	% Change
Sitka (Source: average pump price 3 vendors)	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.94	-8.37%
Juneau (Source: AAA)	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.64	-3.57%
Anchorage (Source: AAA)	\$ 2.80	\$ 2.71	3.32%
Alaska Average (Source: AAA)	\$ 2.93	\$ 2.84	3.17%
National Average (Source: AAA)	\$ 2.38	\$ 2.60	-8.46%
Housing - HUD Fair Market Rent – Sitka (Source: U.S. HUD)			
	2020	2019	% Change
Efficiency	\$ 950	\$ 916	3.71%
One-Bedroom	\$ 1,085	\$ 1,050	3.33%
Two-Bedroom	\$ 1,293	\$ 1,253	3.19%
Three-Bedroom	\$ 1,846	\$ 1,786	3.36%
Housing - HUD Fair Market Rent – Ketchikan (Source: HUD)			
	2020	2019	% Change
Efficiency	\$ 921	\$ 854	7.85%
One-Bedroom	\$ 1,074	\$ 1,005	6.86%
Two-Bedroom	\$ 1,414	\$ 1,330	6.32%
Three-Bedroom	\$ 1,917	\$ 1,785	7.39%
Housing – Construction and Sales			
	4th Quarter 2019	4th Quarter 2018	4th Quarter 2017
Value of Construction Permits Issued (Source: CBS Building Department)	\$ 2,940,929	\$ 3,394,388	\$ 2,770,007
Dwelling Units Added (Source: CBS Building Department)	0	2	3
POPULATION			
	2019	2018	2017
City & Borough of Sitka (Source: AK Dept. of Labor)	8,532	8,652	8,748
Southeast Alaska (Source: AK Dept. of Labor)	72,373	72,876	72,915
State of Alaska (Source: AK Dept. of Labor)	731,007	736,239	737,080
PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT – Sitka School District			
	Oct. 1, 2019	Oct. , 2018	Oct. 1, 2017
Total student enrollment KG-12 (Source: AK Dept. of Education)	1,235	1,243	1,284

Thank You!

2019 SEDA Sponsors

Diamond Level



Platinum Level

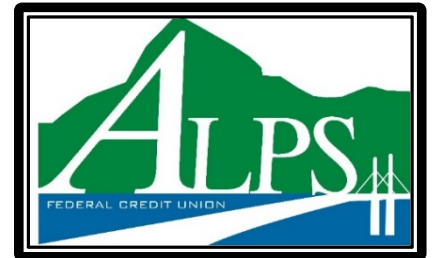
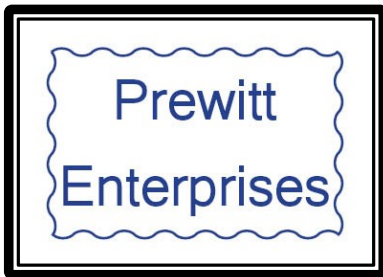


Gold Level





Silver Level



Bronze Level

