

# SOUTHEAST ALASKA

By the Numbers 2025



Rain Coast  
Data



**SOUTHEAST  
CONFERENCE**

**2024**

**compared to 2023**

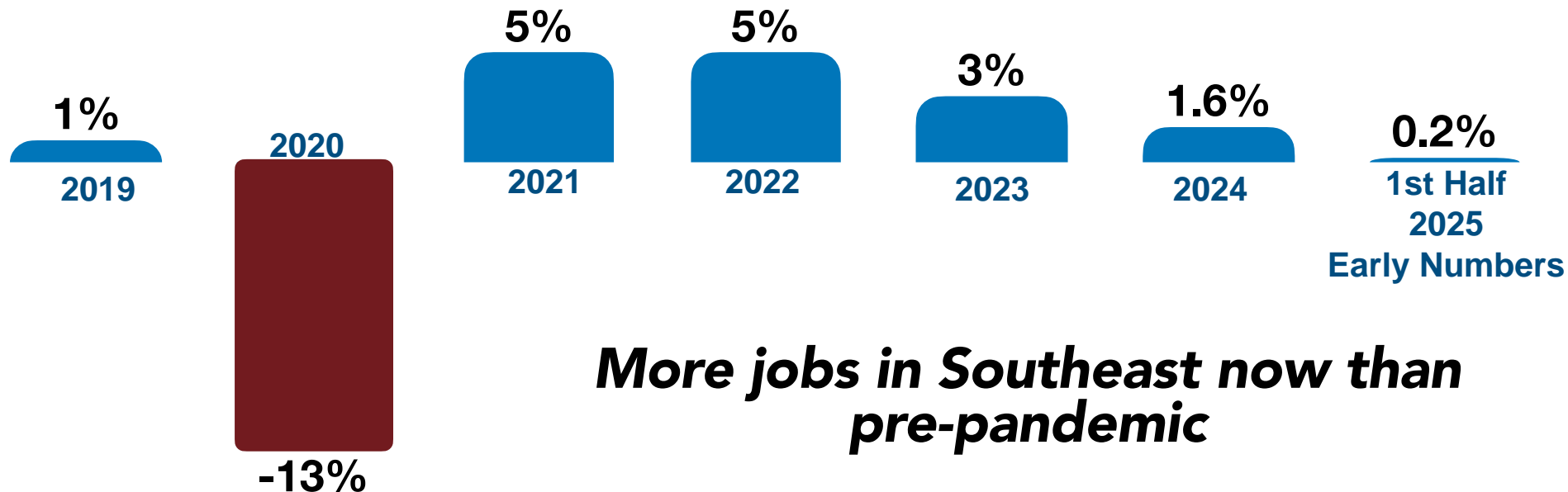
**Jobs +1.6%**

**+700**

**(Year-round-equivalent jobs)**

# Southeast Alaska **Economics**

## ***Change in Southeast Alaska Jobs 2019-2025***





**Southeast Alaska  
Employment Change  
2023 to 2024**

**Jobs**

Juneau = +300

Sitka = +200

Skagway = +120

Ketchikan = +70

Hoonah = +40

Wrangell = +30

Haines = +30

Angoon, Hyder, Yakutat = Lost less than 10

**Wages +3.6%**

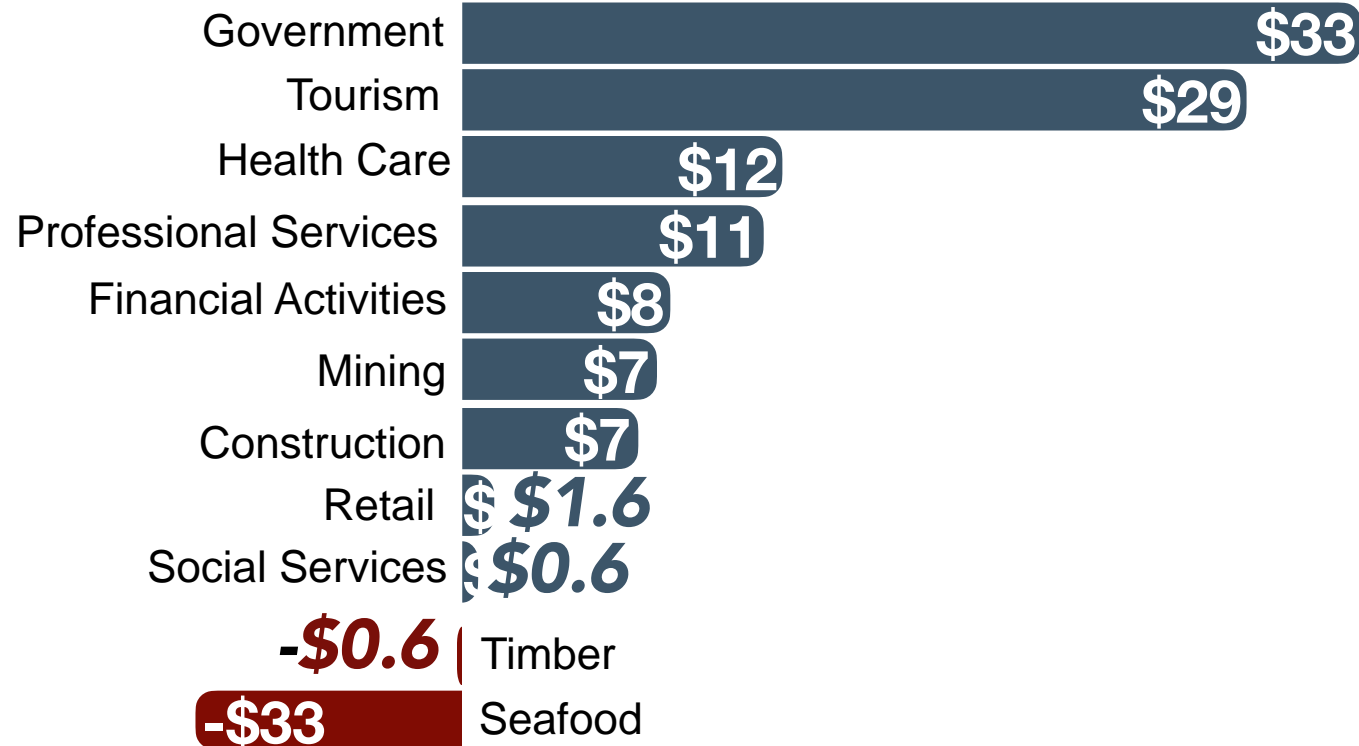
**+ \$99**  
**million**

# Overall Wages 2023-2024

**Change in Overall Wages 2023-2024: +\$99 million**

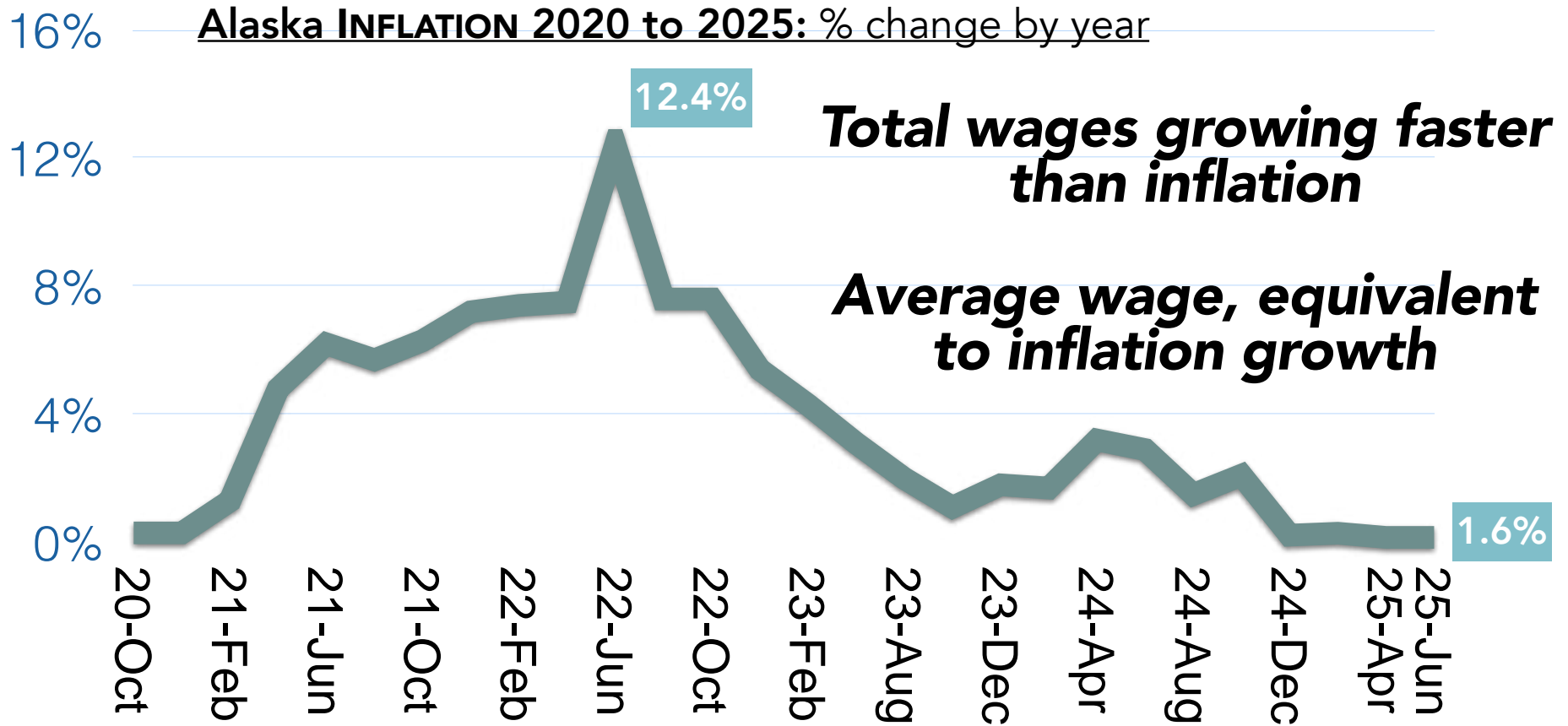


Overall Wages in millions 2023-24



**3.6%**  
Change in SE  
Wages

# Inflation has Normalized



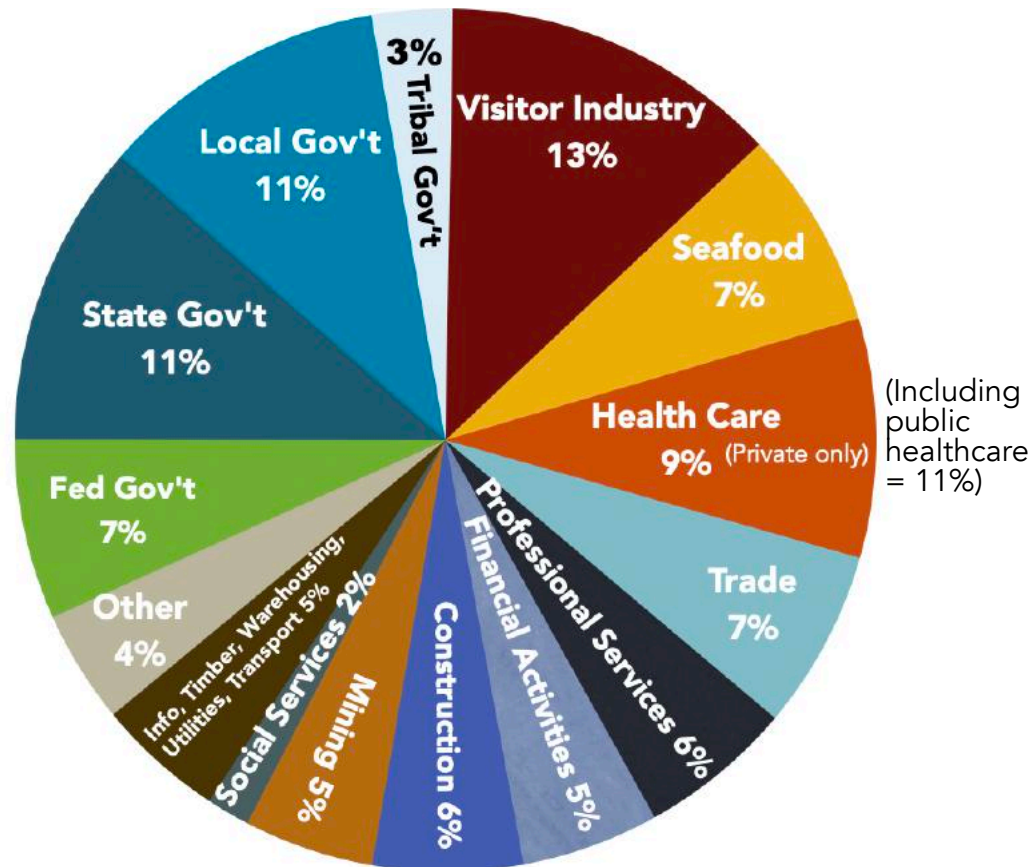
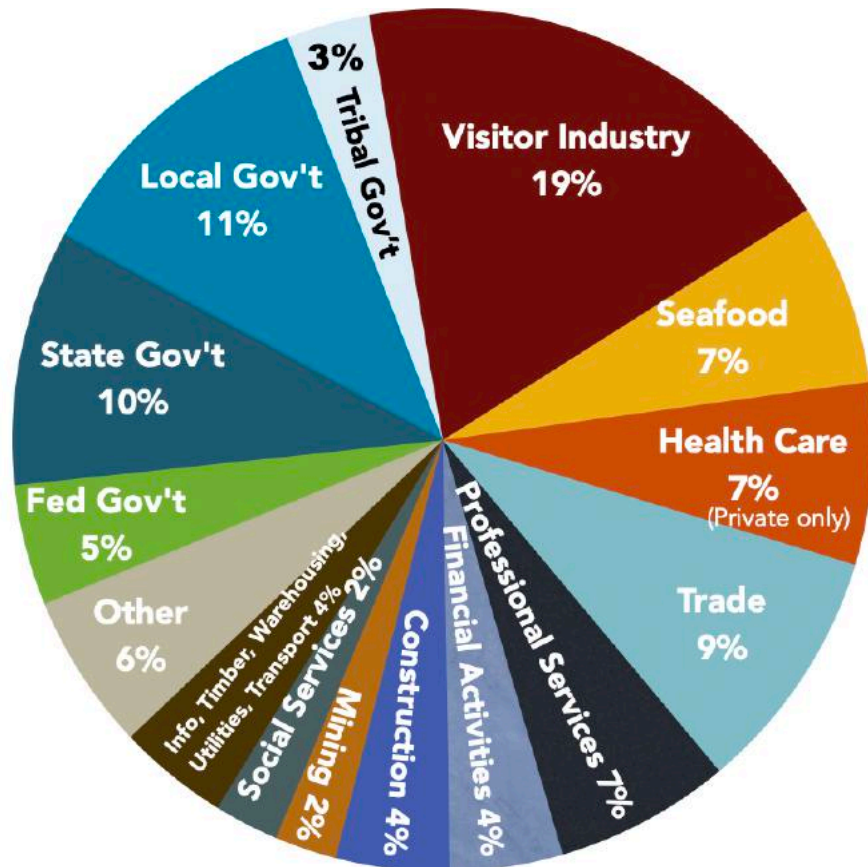
# The Whole Southeast Alaska Economy 2024

45,722 Jobs

UP 700 JOBS IN 2024 +2%

\$2.9 Billion Earnings

UP \$99 MILLION +4%



# Tourism #1 job provider, #1 wage provider

8,300 Annualized Jobs    \$347 Million Earnings





# VISITOR INDUSTRY

A wide-angle photograph of a snowy mountain landscape. In the foreground, a line of about ten hikers is visible, standing on a snow-covered ridge. They are wearing various colored winter gear, including hats and backpacks. The background shows rolling snow-covered hills under a clear, bright blue sky. The overall scene is serene and captures a winter recreational activity.

**8,600** Annualized Jobs **+500**  
**\$367** Million in Wages **+\$29M**

# Tourism vibe check

*"Our numbers are up from last year.  
Our businesses are heavily staffed and  
running very smoothly this season.  
Tourists love them some Southeast  
Alaska!"*

*-Tourism business leader in August  
2025*





# Passenger Arrivals 2024

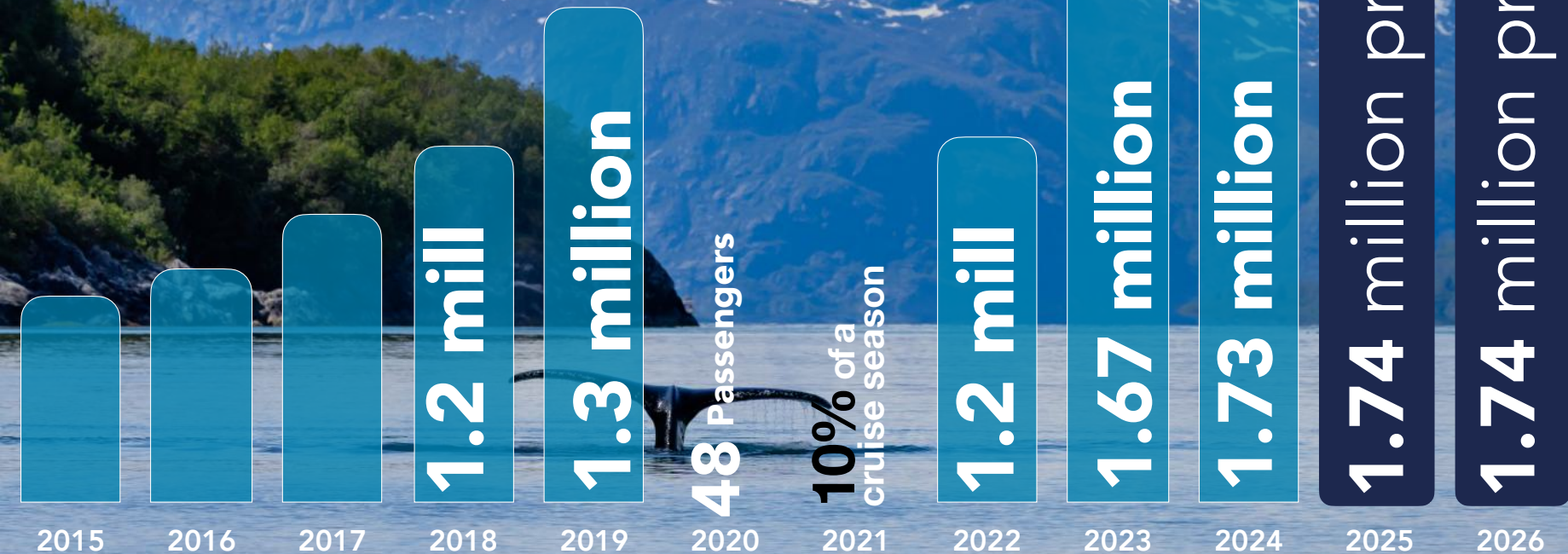
## 2.2 Million Passengers +71,000

(Air, cruise, ferry)



# CRUISE

SE Passengers



# Arriving Air Passengers

From outside region

39%  
2012-2024

Record in 2024, new  
record expected in 2025



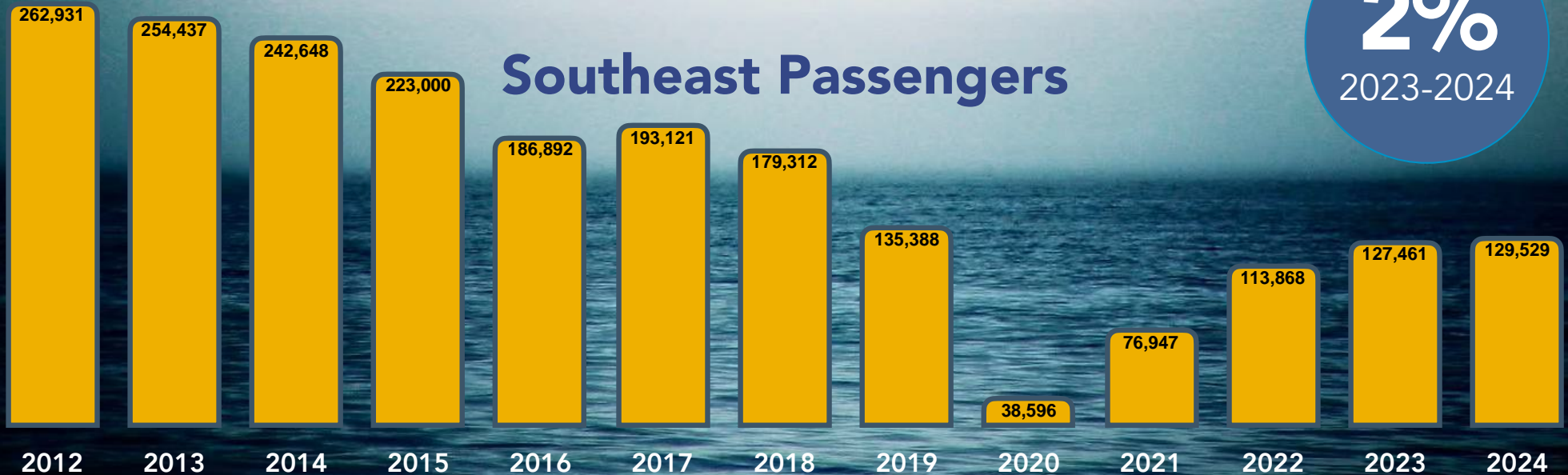


# AMHS

**-51%**  
2012-2024

**2%**  
2023-2024

## Southeast Passengers





# GOVERNMENT

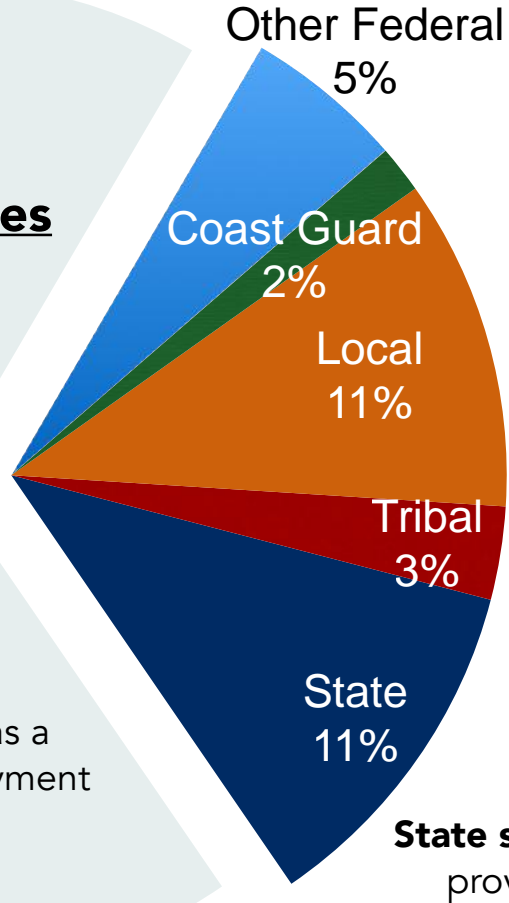


**UP 230 JOBS IN 2024**  
**WAGES UP BY 4% +\$33 MILLION**

## Government Wages

**=32%**

**Government wages** as a  
percentage of all employment  
earnings  
in 2023



**State sector** is #2 wage  
provider in region

## Government Jobs 2024

**Municipal** 5,126 Jobs **+36**

**State** 4,378 Jobs **+91**

**Federal** 2,089 Jobs **+24**

**Tribal** 1,436 Jobs **+80**

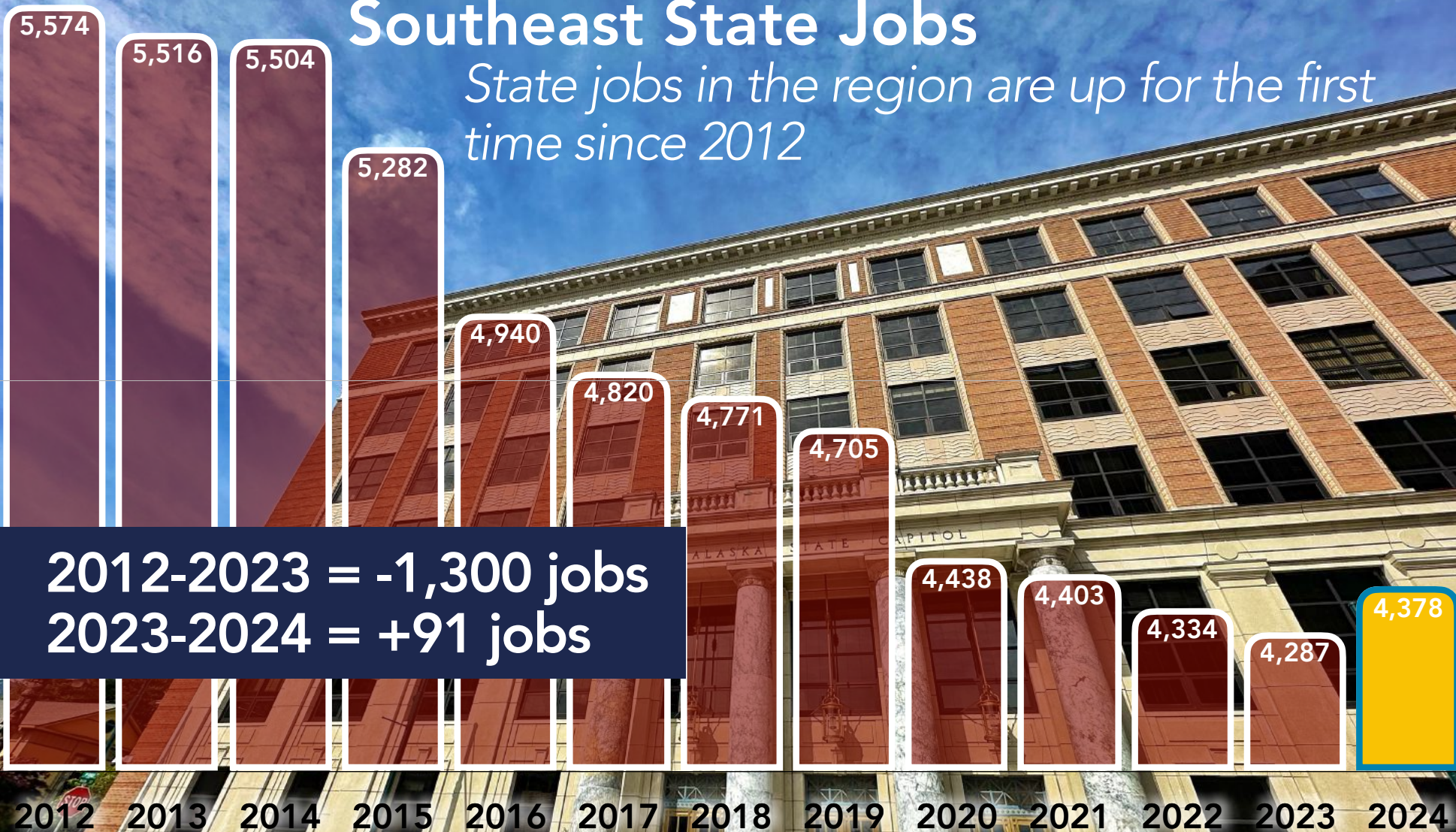
**=28%**

**Government jobs** as a  
percentage of all jobs  
in 2024



# Southeast State Jobs

*State jobs in the region are up for the first time since 2012*





# HEALTHCARE

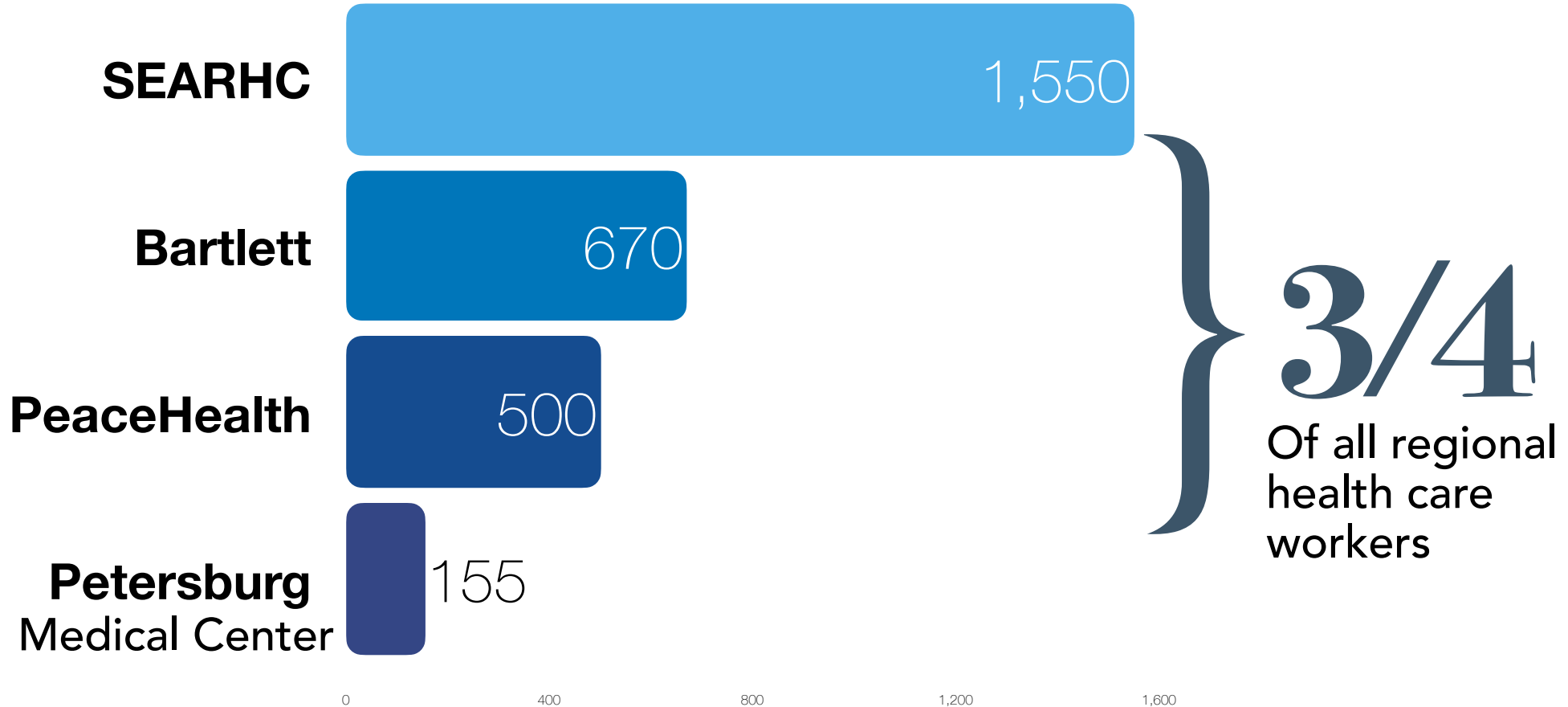
#3 wage provider

**UP 6 JOBS IN 2024**

**WAGES UP BY 1%, \$4.6 M**

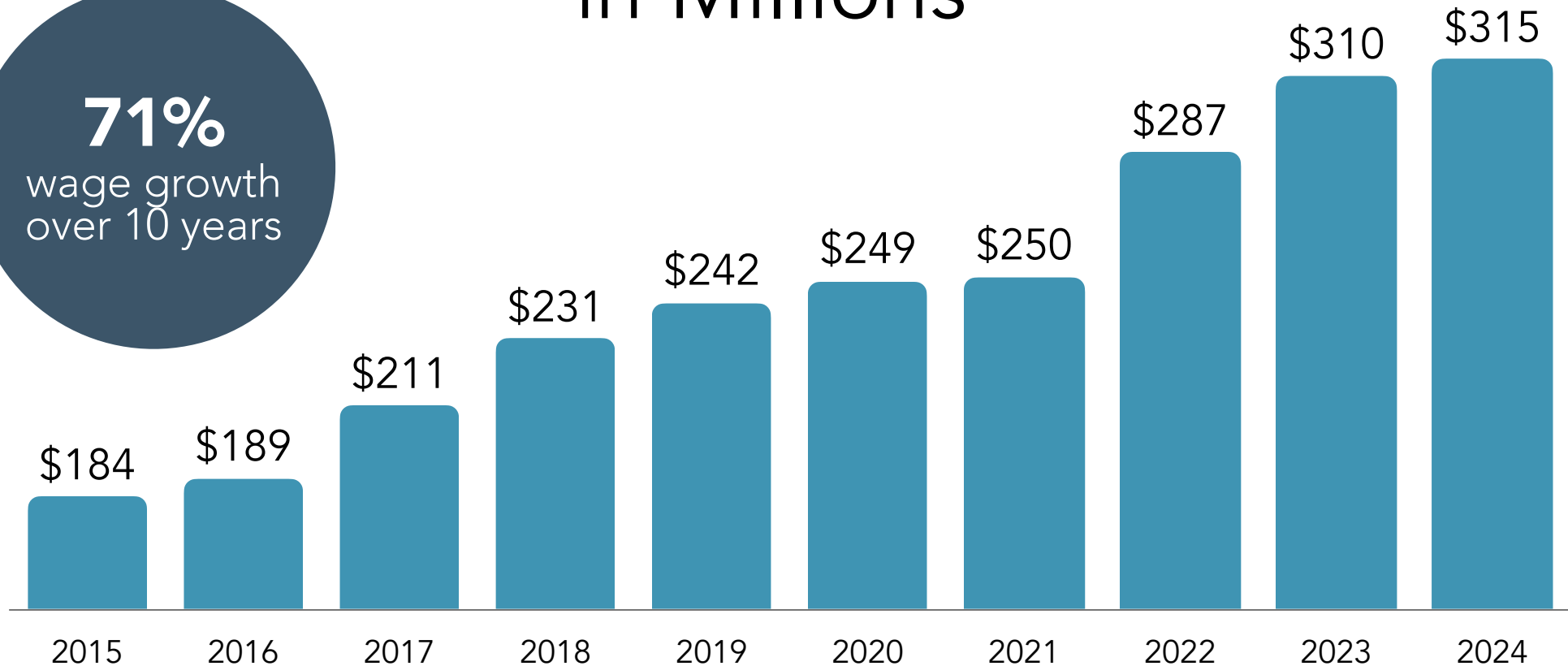
**3,900 jobs**

# Top Health Care Employers Southeast



# Total SE Alaska Healthcare Wages in Millions

**71%**  
wage growth  
over 10 years

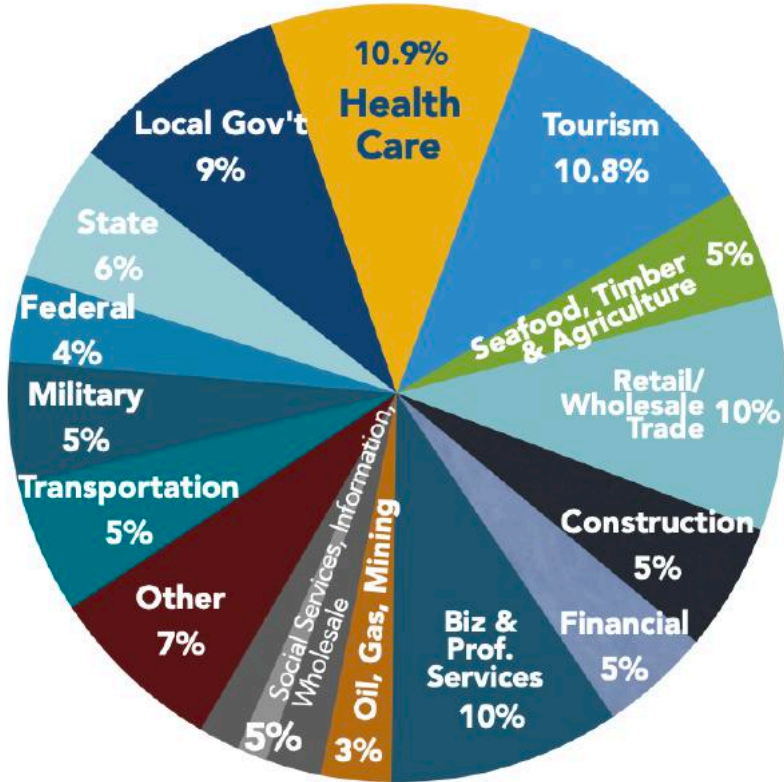




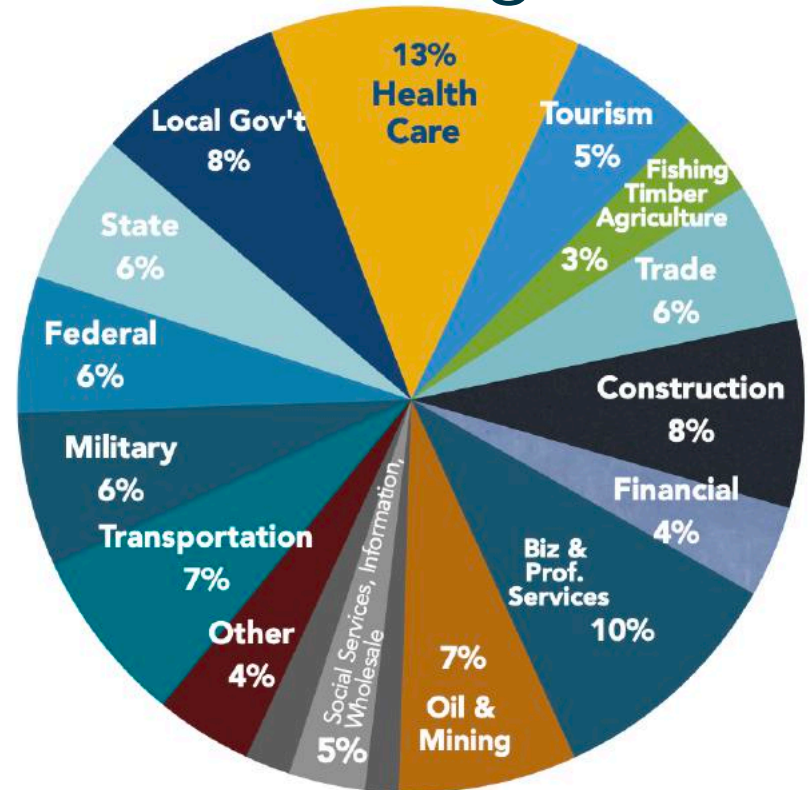
# Healthcare = Alaska's #1 Economic Sector

Jobs

Earnings



8.5% of all jobs in SE



11% of all wages in SE

# Healthcare Outlook (vibe check)

- **No major changes coming to healthcare in the next year.**
- **Rural Health Earmarks:** There are provisions in OBBBA that may benefit rural healthcare like the \$250 million earmark in the Rural Health Transformation Program for Alaska. Healthcare entities will need to work with the state to provide recommendations on the distribution of those funds.
- **Medicaid:** The actual impacts on Medicaid eligibility remain to be seen. Based on the CBO analysis, we anticipate 2,700 residents of SE Alaska could become uninsured. Uncertainty how the Rural Health funding will mitigate this increase.
- **Potential Impacts:** Any increase to uninsured Southeast Alaskans will increase the uncompensated care (charity care) that we provide in Emergency Departments. Increase to charity care decreases operating revenue and ability to reinvest into communities, facilities and patient care tools.
- **Insurance Bill:** The Legislature passed a bill this session improving the insurance prior authorization process. This should have positive impacts on Alaskans, reduce the wait times for insurance authorization for procedures as well as providing guidance around prescription drug coverage.

*-Healthcare business leader in August 2025*

# SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

3,109 Annualized Jobs -140

\$216 Million in Wages -\$33M

7% of all regional jobs/wages

Was the top earnings provider in 2022

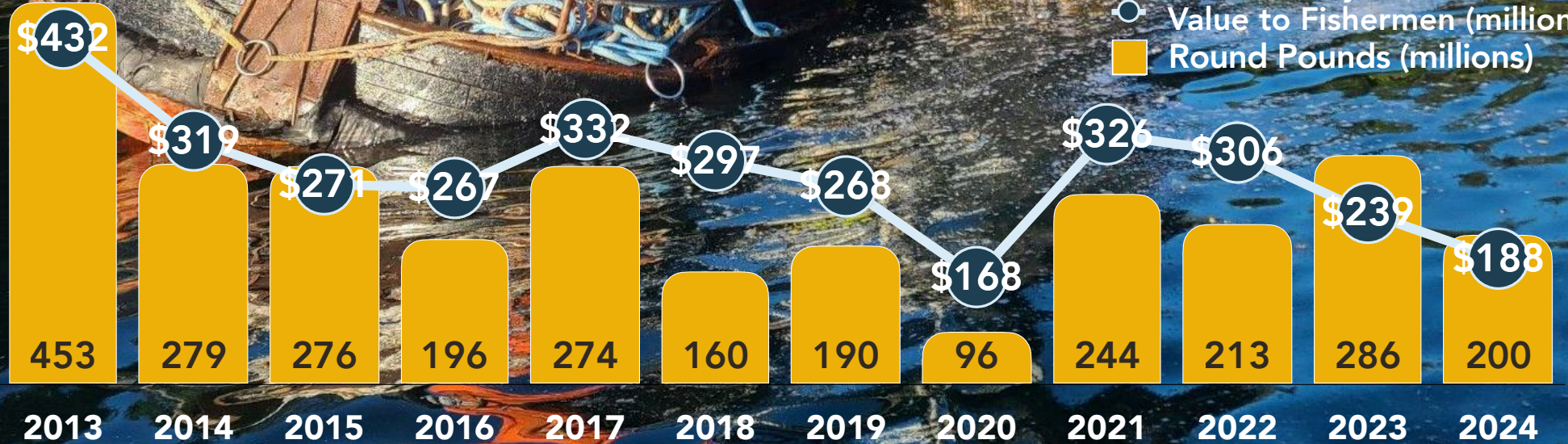




# LOW VALUE CATCH

Total POUNDS -30%

○ Inflation Adjusted  
Value to Fishermen (millions)  
■ Round Pounds (millions)





# 2024 CATCH VALUE COMPARED TO 2022



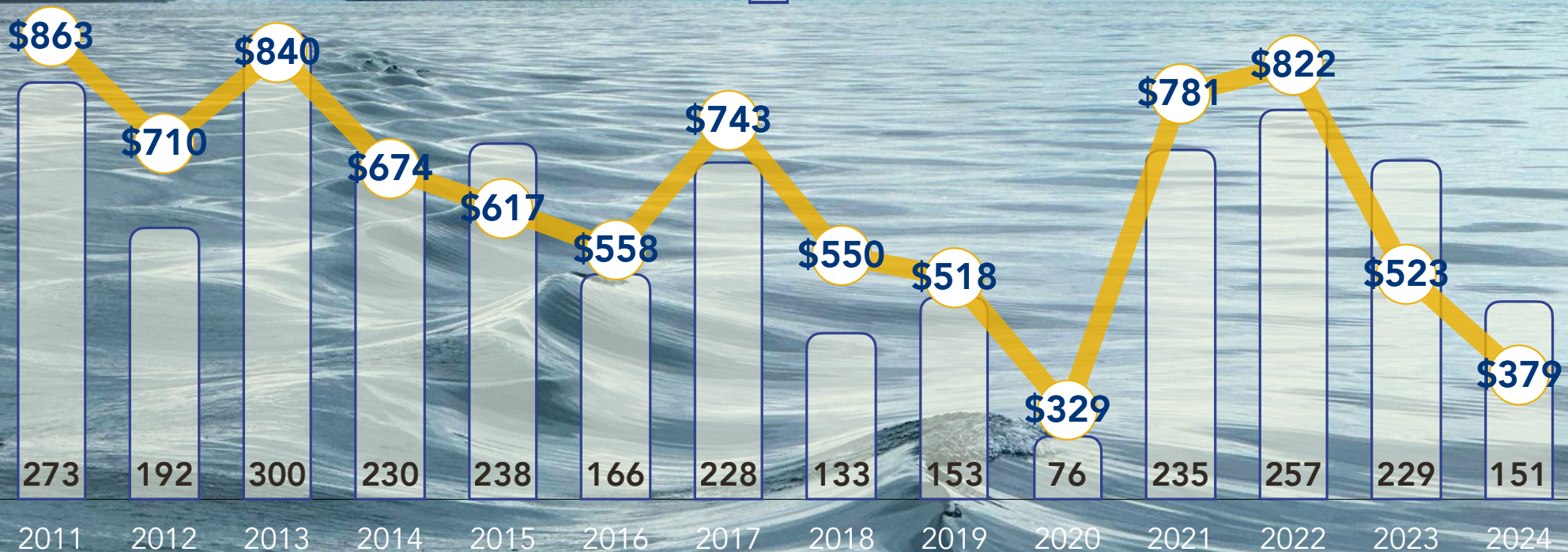
**-39%   -\$117** Decreased Catch Value in Millions



# Value of Seafood Processed in Millions

## 2022-2024 **-54%, -\$442 million**

● Inflation Adjusted Value in millions  
□ Pounds in millions

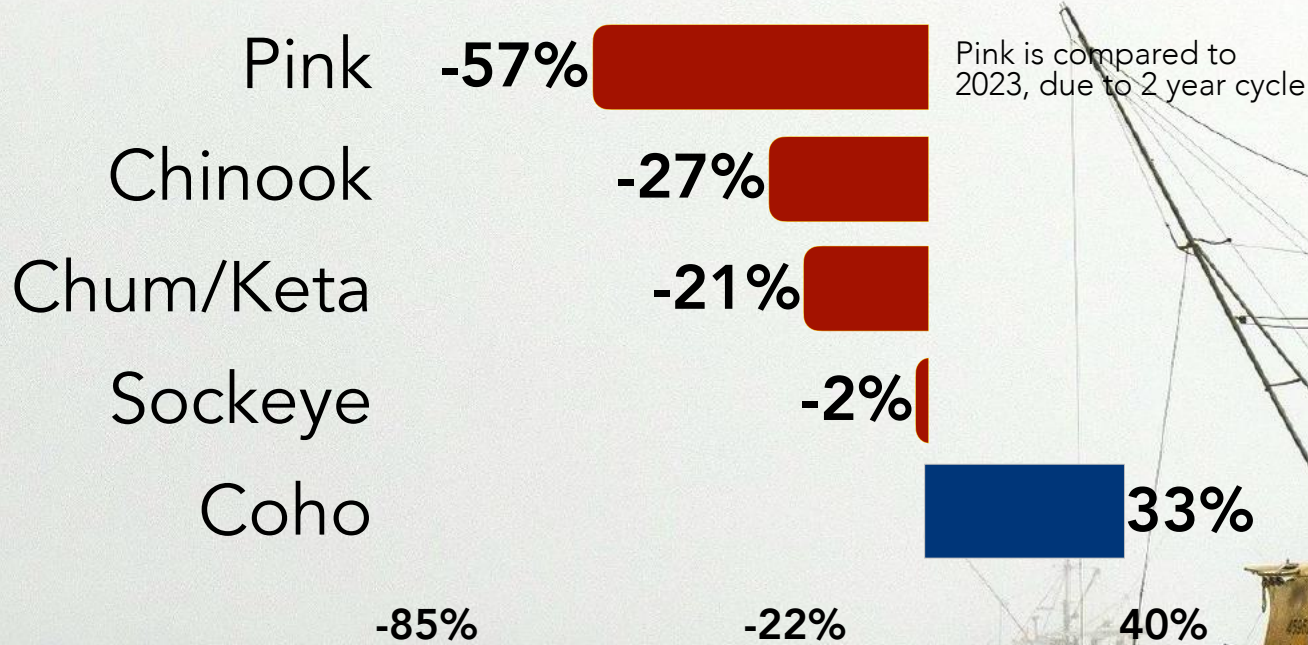




# Seafood Outlook 2025

*"The seafood industry continues to face headwinds. Uncertainty in the market with the unknown impact of tariffs will have downward pressure on ex-vessel value. We continue to face increasing costs of doing business (insurance, fuel, parts, moorage, labor, etc). As harvesters, we have nowhere to pass those additional/ increasing costs on to, all while we are getting paid less per pound than we were decades ago."*

# 2025 **CATCH** COMPARED TO 2024



**Week 36**

Prices are up slightly, but catch is down

UP 1 JOB IN 2024  
WAGES UP BY \$7 MILLION

MINING

1,060 jobs





# Three Operating Mines Southeast: 2025

Hecla  
Greens Creek

+10

530

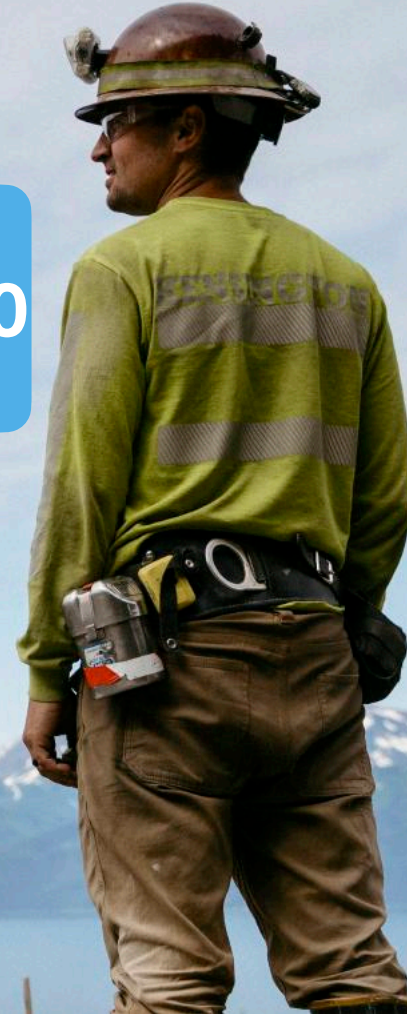
Coeur  
Kensington

+26

395

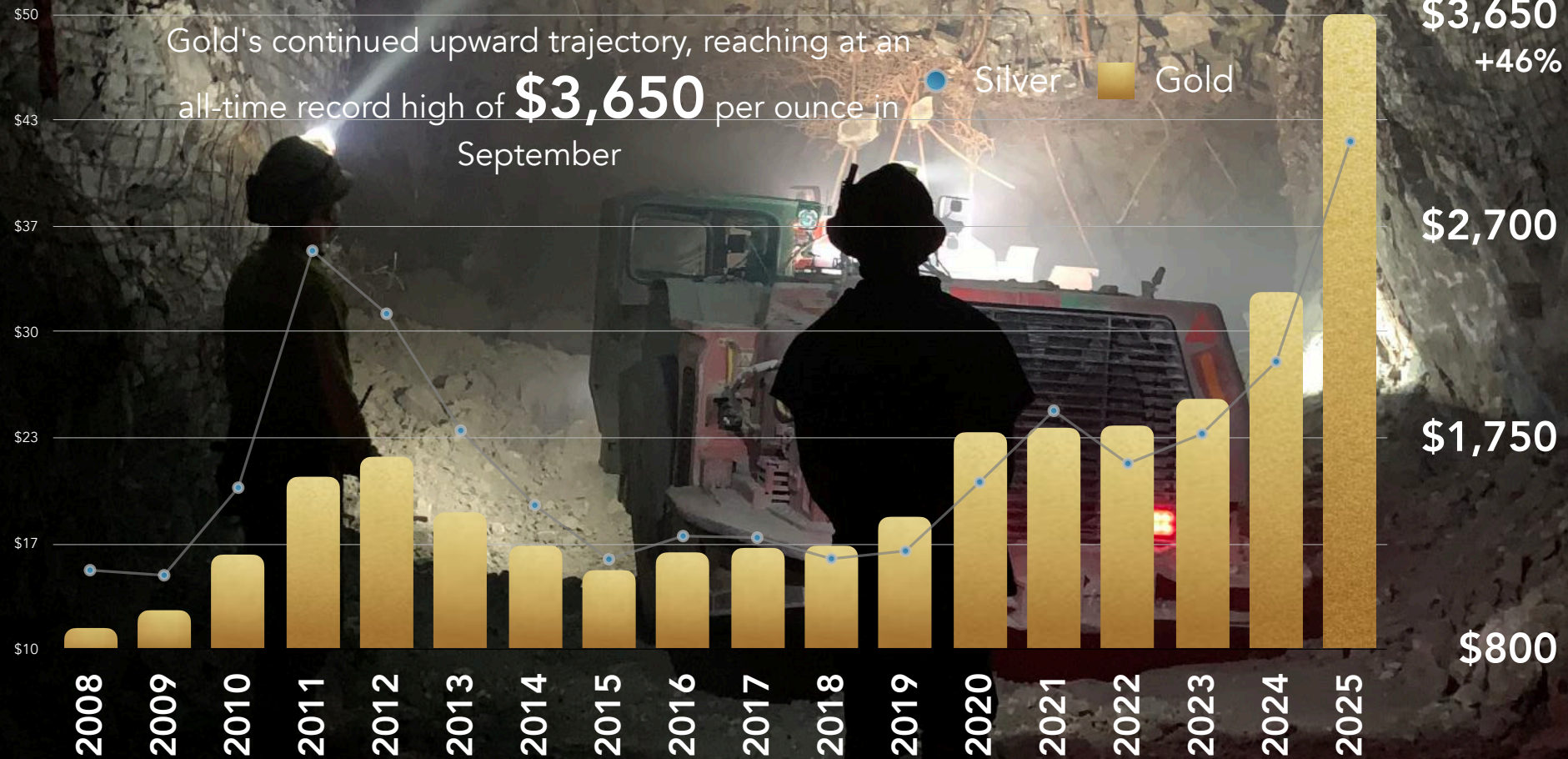
Dawson  
Sundance

48

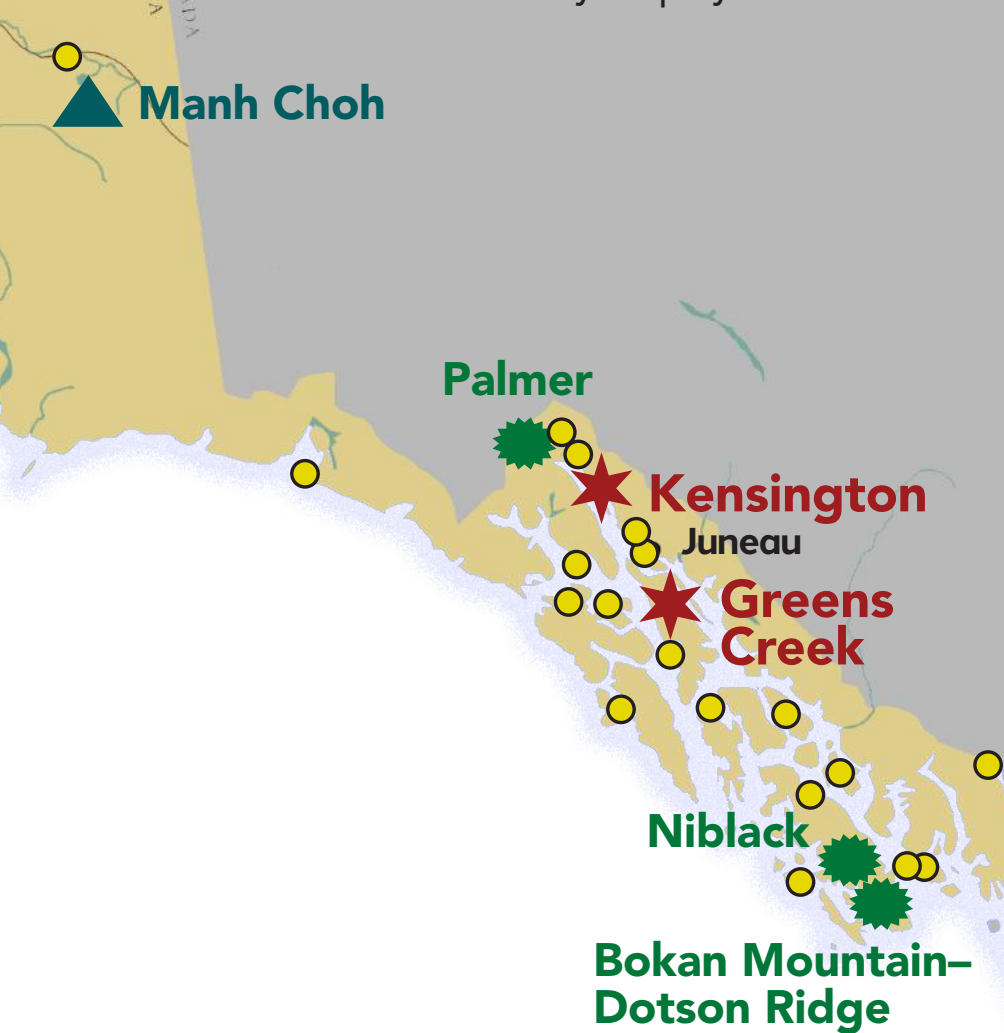


# Average Gold Prices 2008 to 2025

Gold's continued upward trajectory, reaching at an all-time record high of **\$3,650** per ounce in September







## Operating Mines

- Kensington
- Greens Creek
- Dawson

## Advanced Exploration

- Palmer
- Niblack
- Bokan

## Other Projects/Prospects

- Herbert Gold
- Poorman Prospect
- Woewodski
- Zarembo
- Admiral Calder Calcium Carbonate Mine

# Mining Outlook

*“Outlook for mining in the region is very positive, buoyed by strong metals prices. Some large capital projects are planned for the next couple of years so there will be above average investment dollars coming to regional contractors and businesses associated with mining.”*



# CONSTRUCTION

An aerial photograph of a construction site. In the upper left, a large rectangular structure is being built with a dense grid of red rebar. To the right of this, there are large piles of dark gravel and several white and yellow trucks. In the lower center, there are buildings with blue corrugated metal roofs. The site is surrounded by trees and vegetation. The text 'CONSTRUCTION' is overlaid in large white letters at the top.

**DOWN 27 JOBS IN 2024**  
**WAGES UP BY 4%**

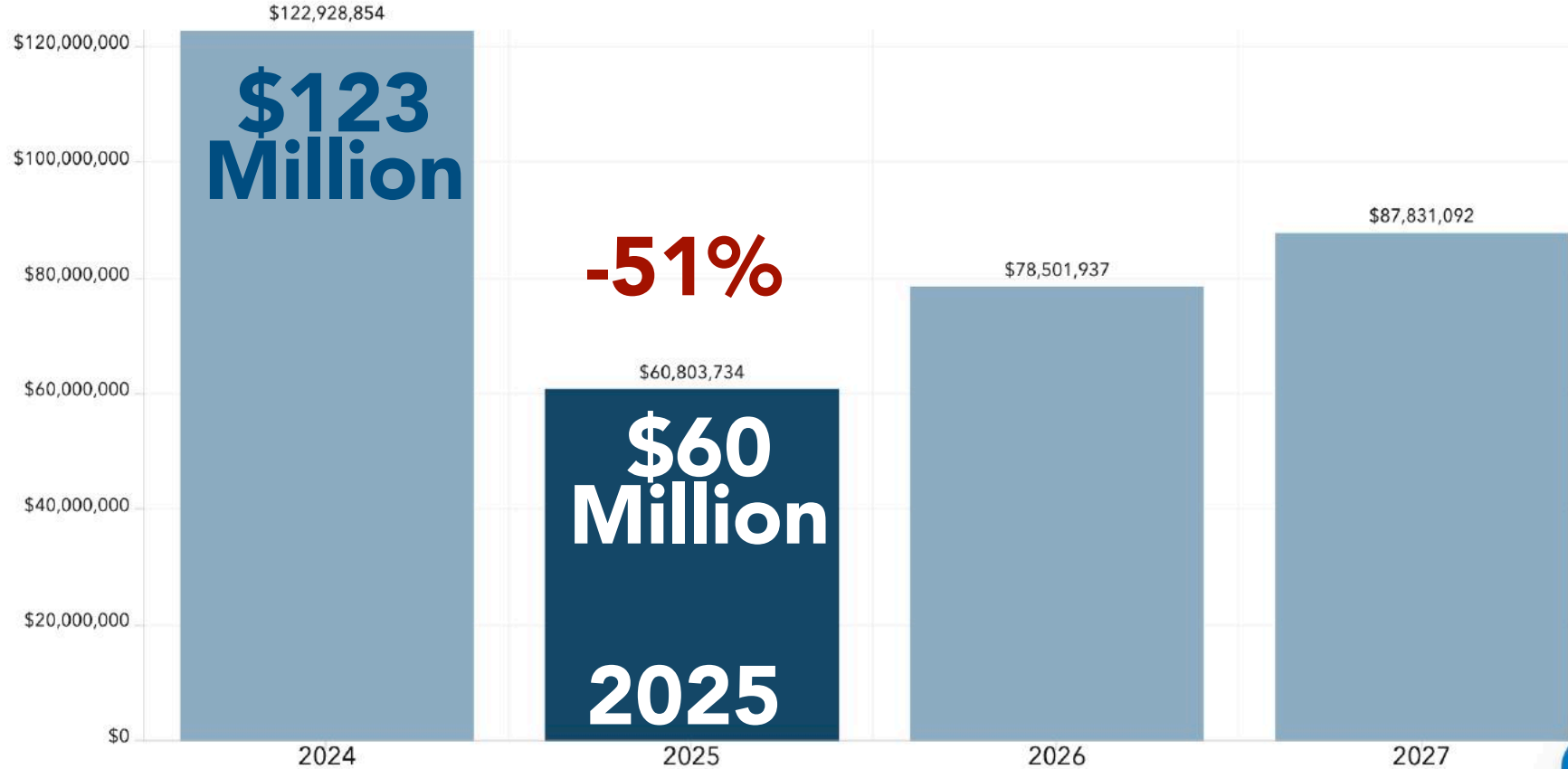
**1,950 jobs**



# STIP funding for Southeast Alaska

## BUDGET BY YEAR

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program dashboard



# Construction/Engineering

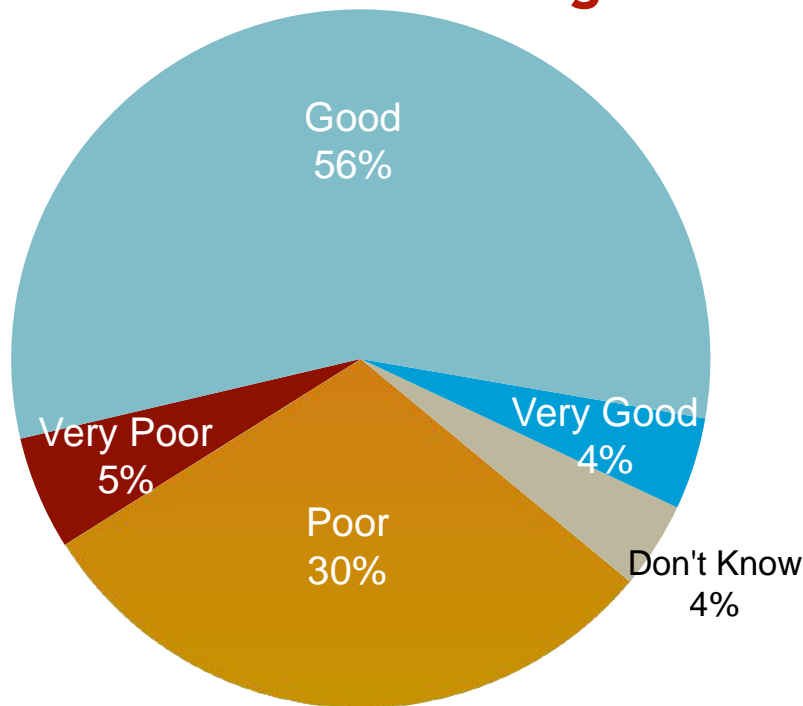
*"I am very concerned about tariffs raising the cost of construction materials. Construction is already extremely expensive in our area and a lack of contractor confidence in pricing stability is going to raise bid pricing.  
**Uncertainty is bad for business."***



# Business Climate Average

**Southeast Alaska:** How do you view the overall business climate **right now**?

**60% Positive** / **35% Negative**



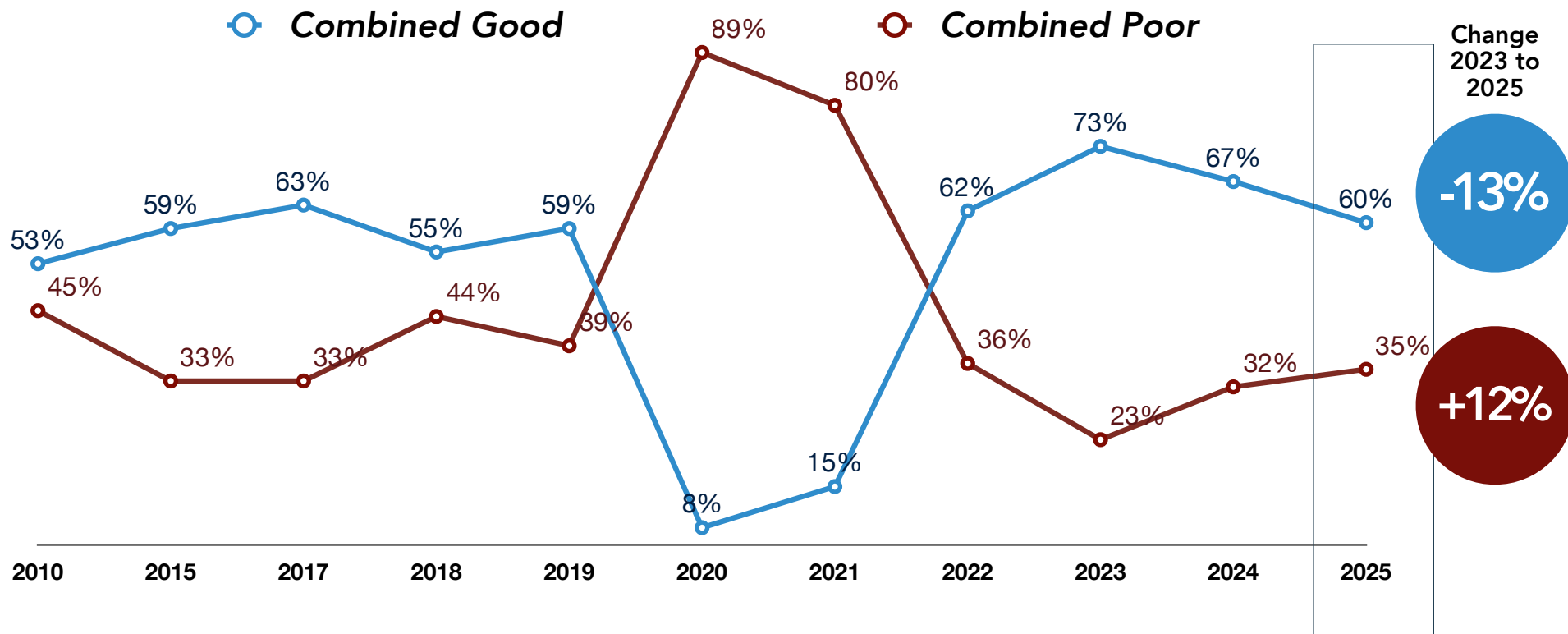
In 2025, the overall view of the economy was nearly exactly the average of every past year this analysis has been conducted (excluding the two pandemic years).

**422**  
Business  
Leaders

**11,600** workers  
**20** communities  
**22** sectors

**Best:** Mining  
**Worst:** Timber

# But Declining



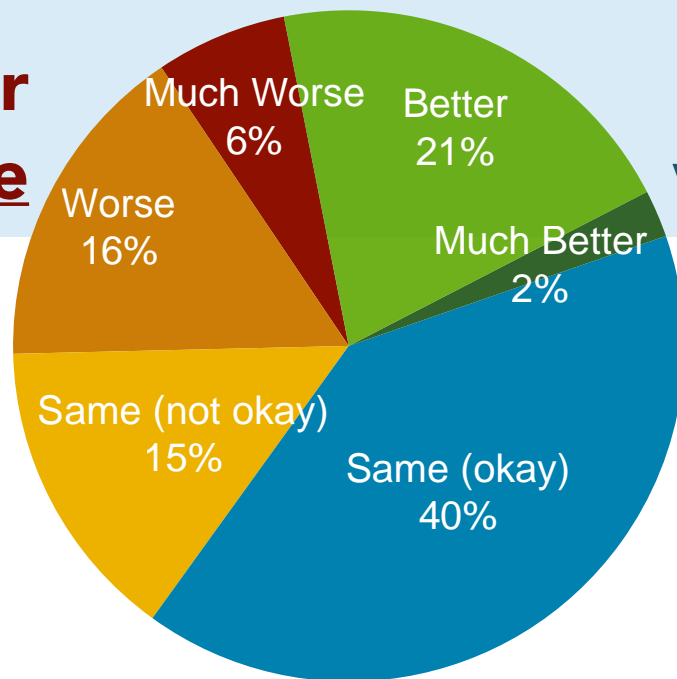
# Optimism Lower

**Southeast:** What is the economic outlook for your business or industry?

**22% say next year  
will be even worse**

**23% say next year  
will be even better**

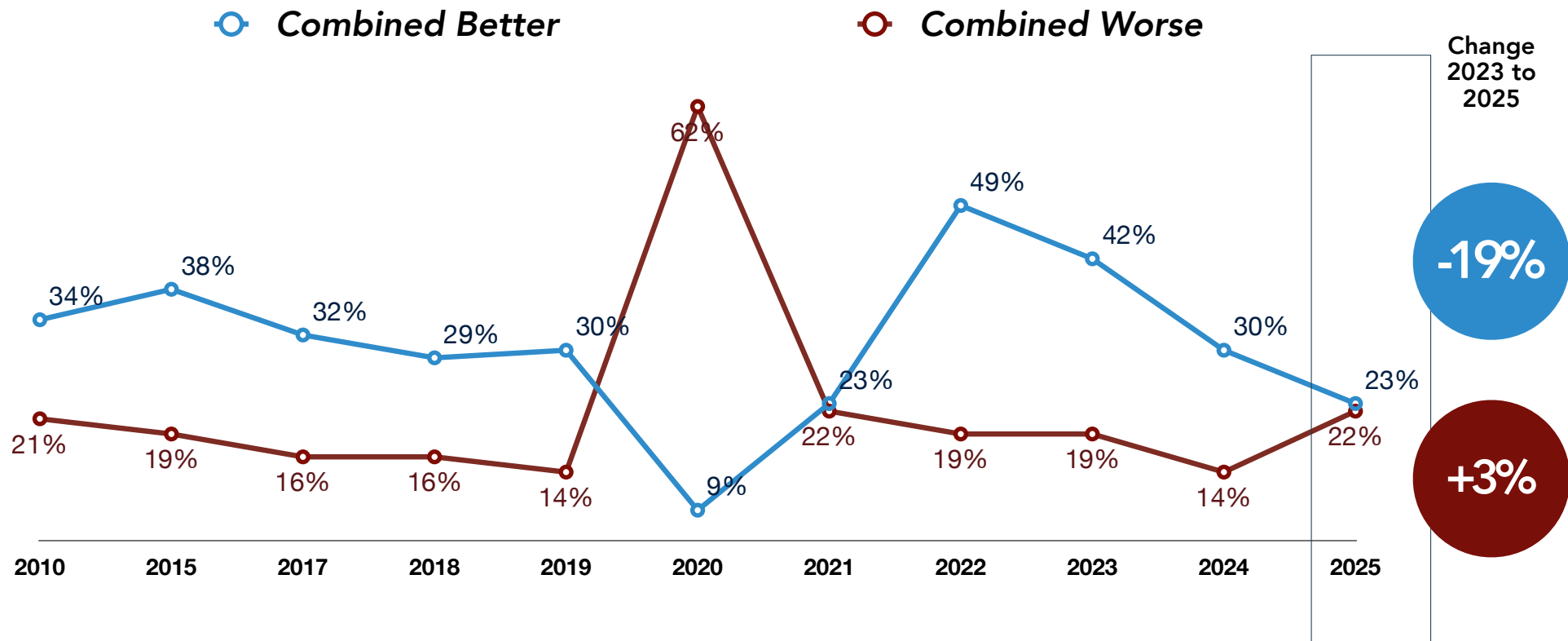
**37%  
Negative**



**63%  
Positive**

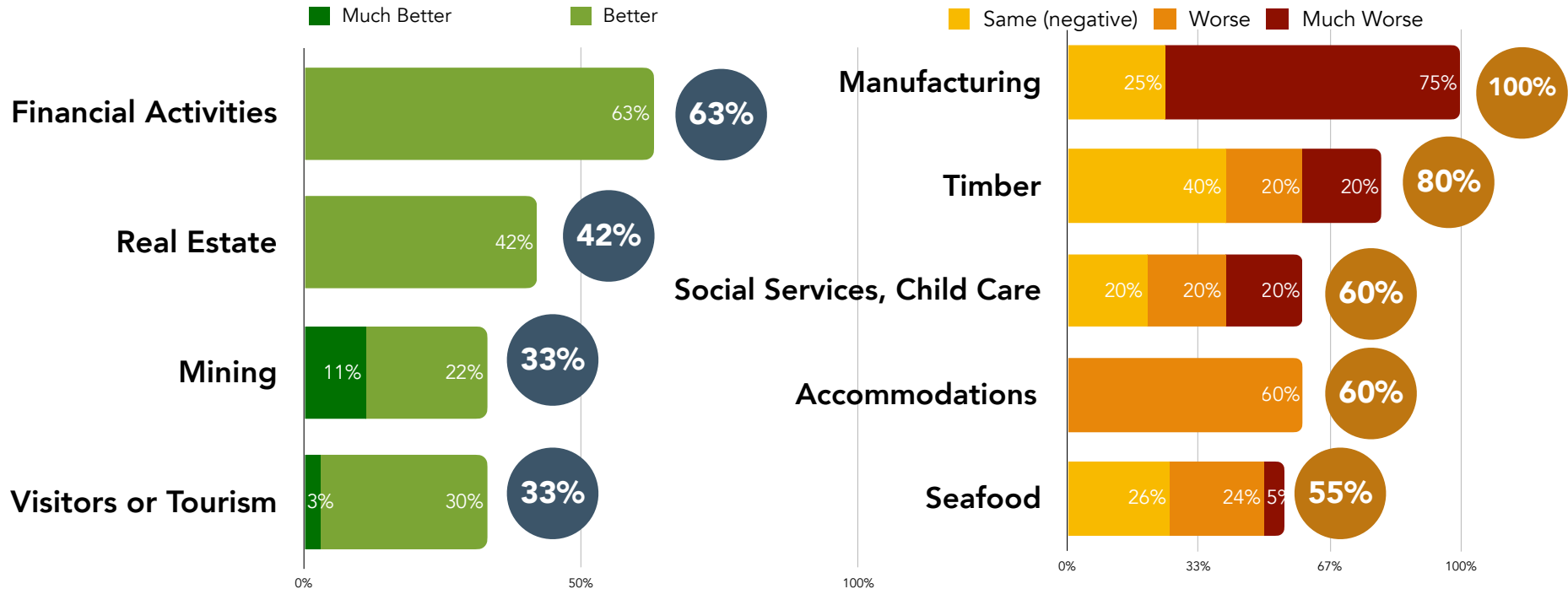


# And Declining



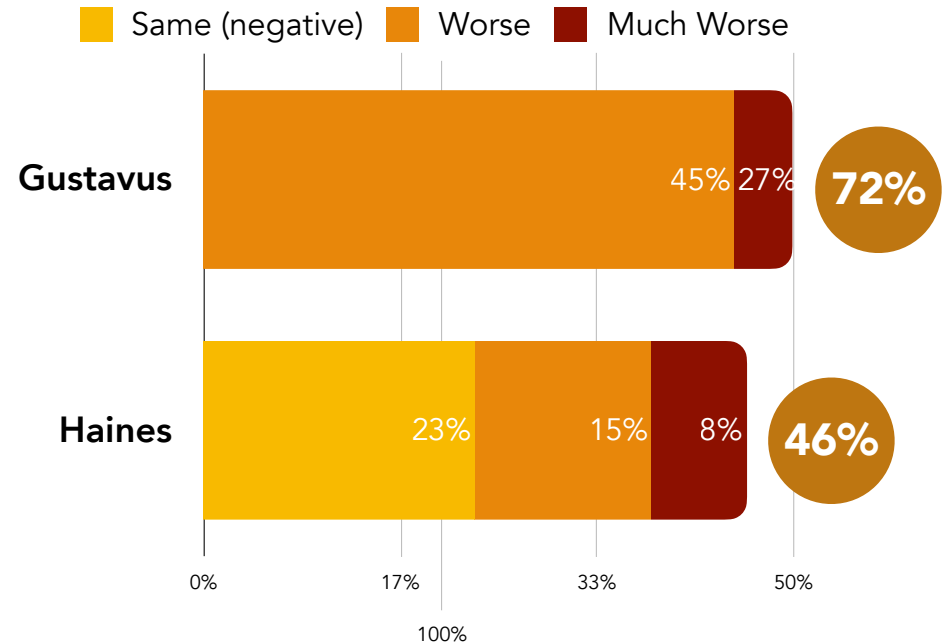
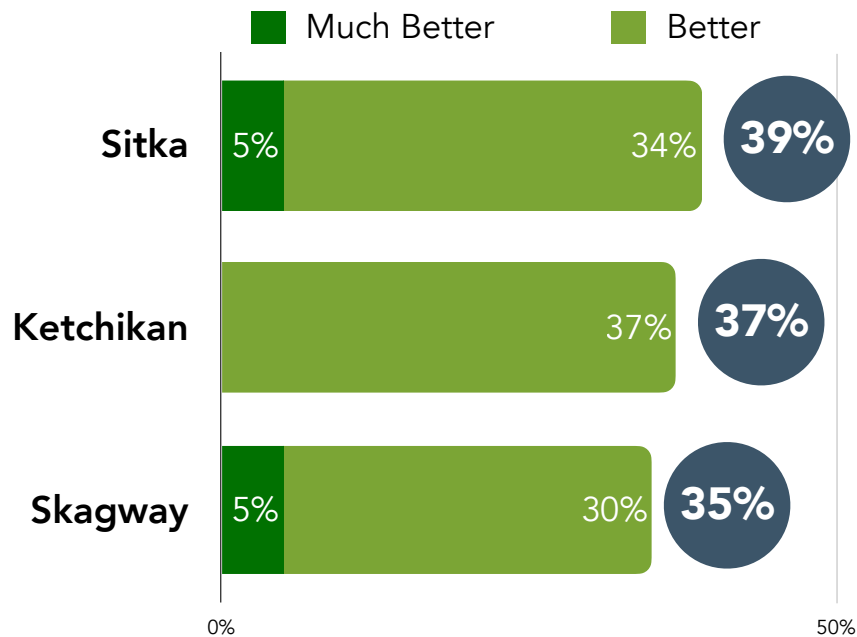
# Southeast Economic Outlook: by Industry

**2025:** What is the economic outlook for your business or industry?



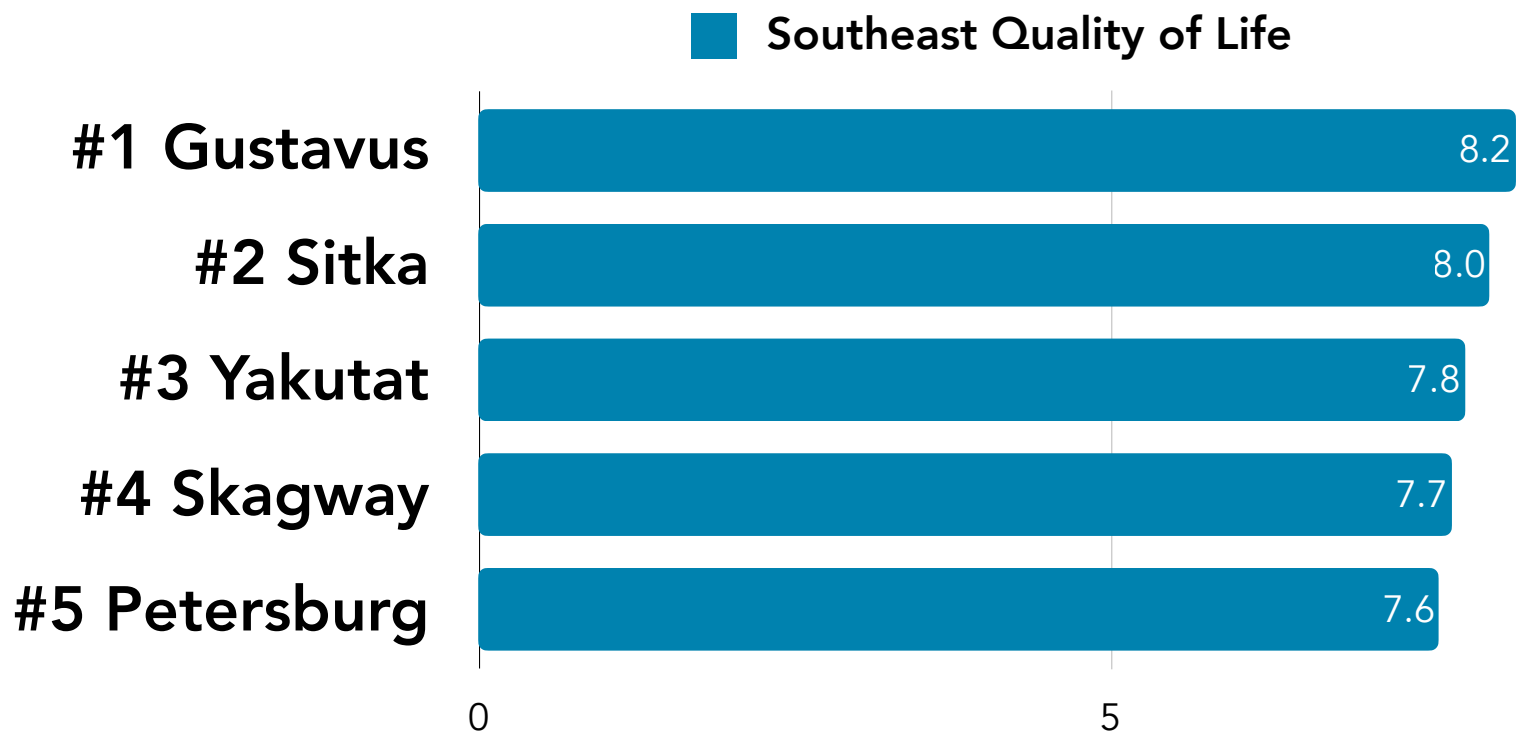
# Southeast Economic Outlook: by Community

**2025:** What is the economic outlook for your business or industry?





# Best Quality of Life in Southeast Alaska



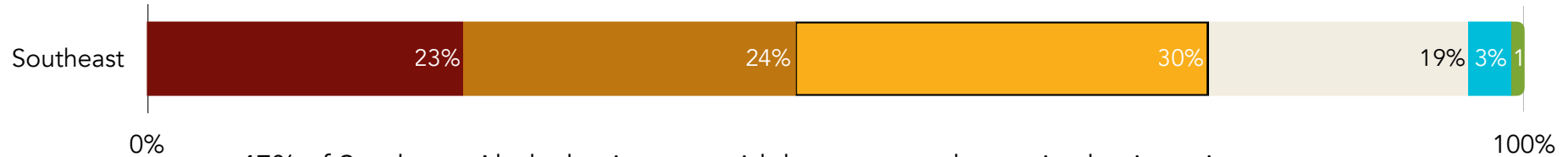
**7.4**  
SE Quality of Life

# Southeast Economic **Federal Impacts**

**How do you expect federal changes in Southeast to impact your business over the next few months?**

**47% Negative / 4% Positive**

■ A very negative impact    ■ A moderately negative impact    ■ Creating a climate of uncertainty    ■ No impact  
■ A moderately positive impact    ■ A very positive impact



47% of Southeast Alaska businesses said they expected negative business impacts, including 23% who expect the impacts to be very negative.

# *The voices of business leaders*

- **Seafood:** *“Loss of scientific and regulatory expertise at NOAA is a concern, tariffs are even greater of a threat.”*
- **Tourism:** *“The tariffs are creating a huge uncertainty regarding helicopter parts, which are already extremely expensive and difficult to acquire in a timely manner.”*
- **Construction:** *“Some of our projects are community-benefitting projects for things like low-income housing and historic building restoration. These projects will not happen without federal assistance.”*
- **Mining:** *“Some aspects of executive orders may be good for permitting, but there is concern around adequate staffing to administer those permits.”*
- **Timber:** *“We are hoping for positive changes to the timber industry, but there is nothing concrete yet.”*
- **Retail:** *“Tariffs are interrupting the supply chain and only going to get worse with all the uncertainty. Prices are fluctuating daily now and shipping is increasingly difficult.”*





DEMOGRAPHICS



# POPULATION 70,613

A 5% 10-YEAR DECLINE  
A LOSS OF NEARLY 3,700

POPULATION DOWN **576** 2023 TO 2024 **-1%**



# Southeast Alaska Population Change 2023 to 2024

**-576**

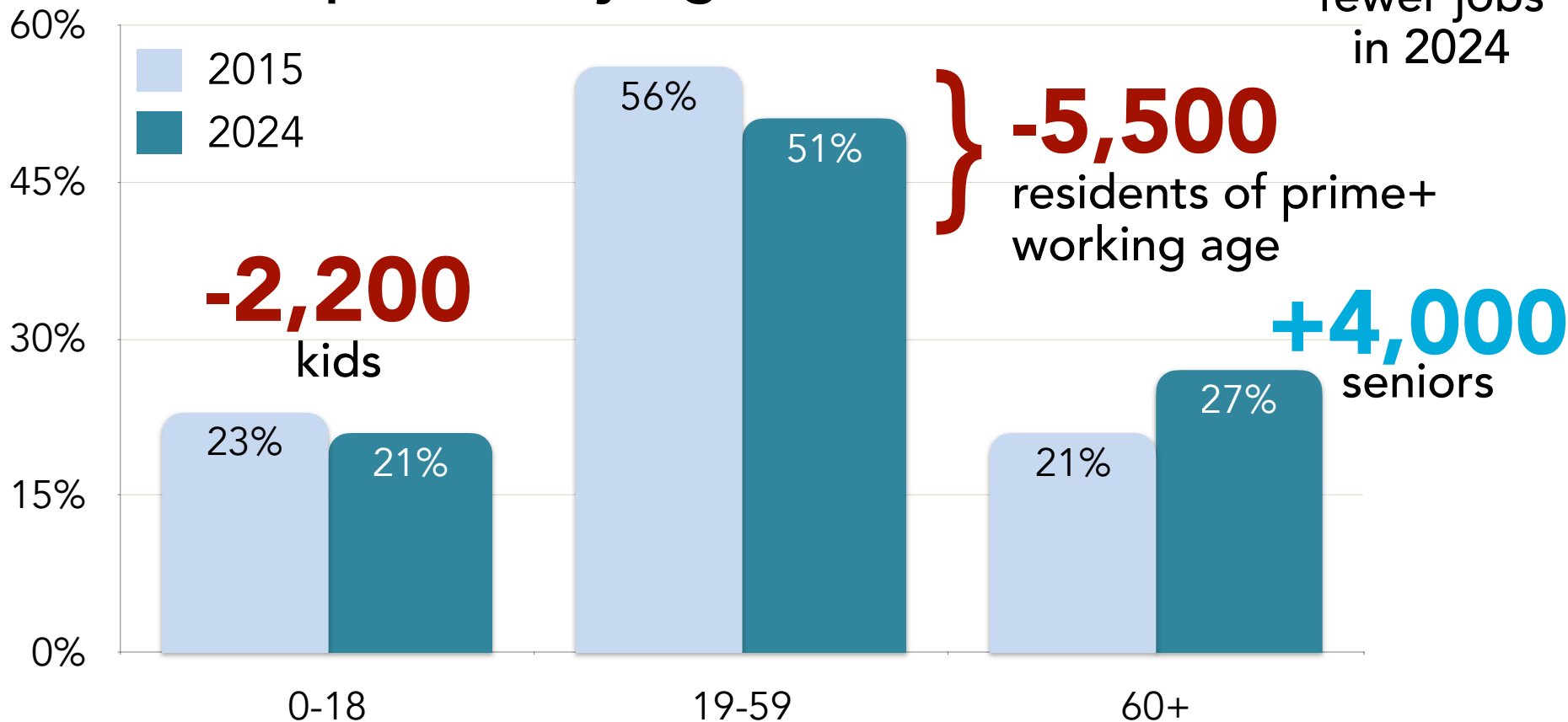


<u>Community</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>%</u>
Juneau	-180	-0.6%
Sitka	-140	-1.7%
Ketchikan	-85	-0.6%
Metlakatla	-61	-4.2%
Hoonah	-53	-6.0%
Craig	-49	-4.8%
Yakutat	-43	-6.3%
Wrangell	-14	-0.7%
Kake	-11	-2.1%
Skagway	-4	-0.4%
Haines	-2	-0.1%
Tenakee	-1	-0.8%
Gustavus	2	0.3%
Angoon	6	1.7%
Petersburg	8	0.2%
Prince of Wales	29	1.0%

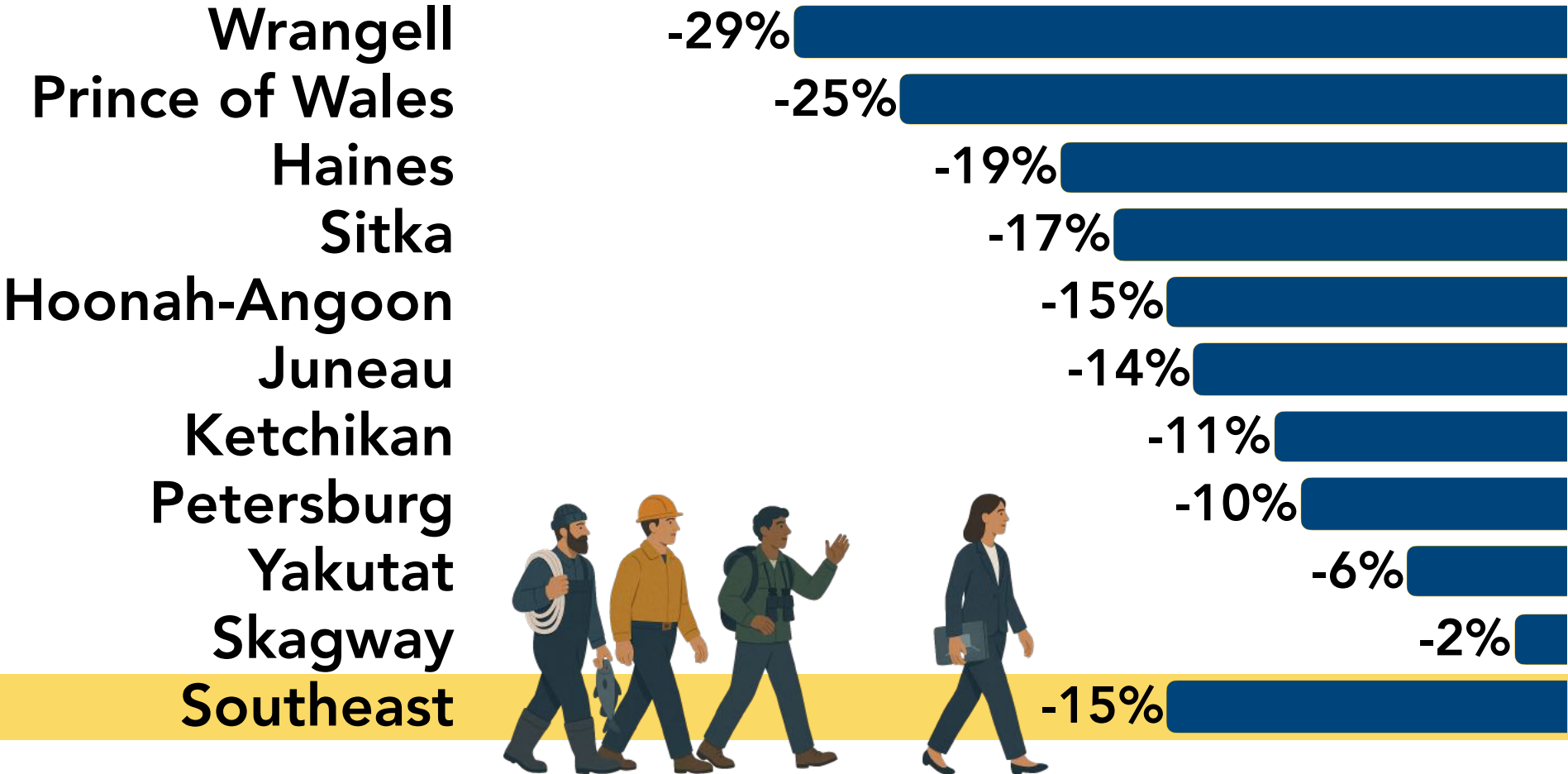


# Southeast Workforce Challenge

## SE Population by Age, 2015-2024



# 2024 WORKING AGE VERSUS 2014



# Southeast Worker Retention & Turnover Factors

Southeast Alaska business leaders were asked to rank the significance of factors that result in hiring and long term retention, or in staff turnover or not taking the job. This is an overall ranking of their responses.

Why they come/stay at SE

Jobs:

## 1) Recreation

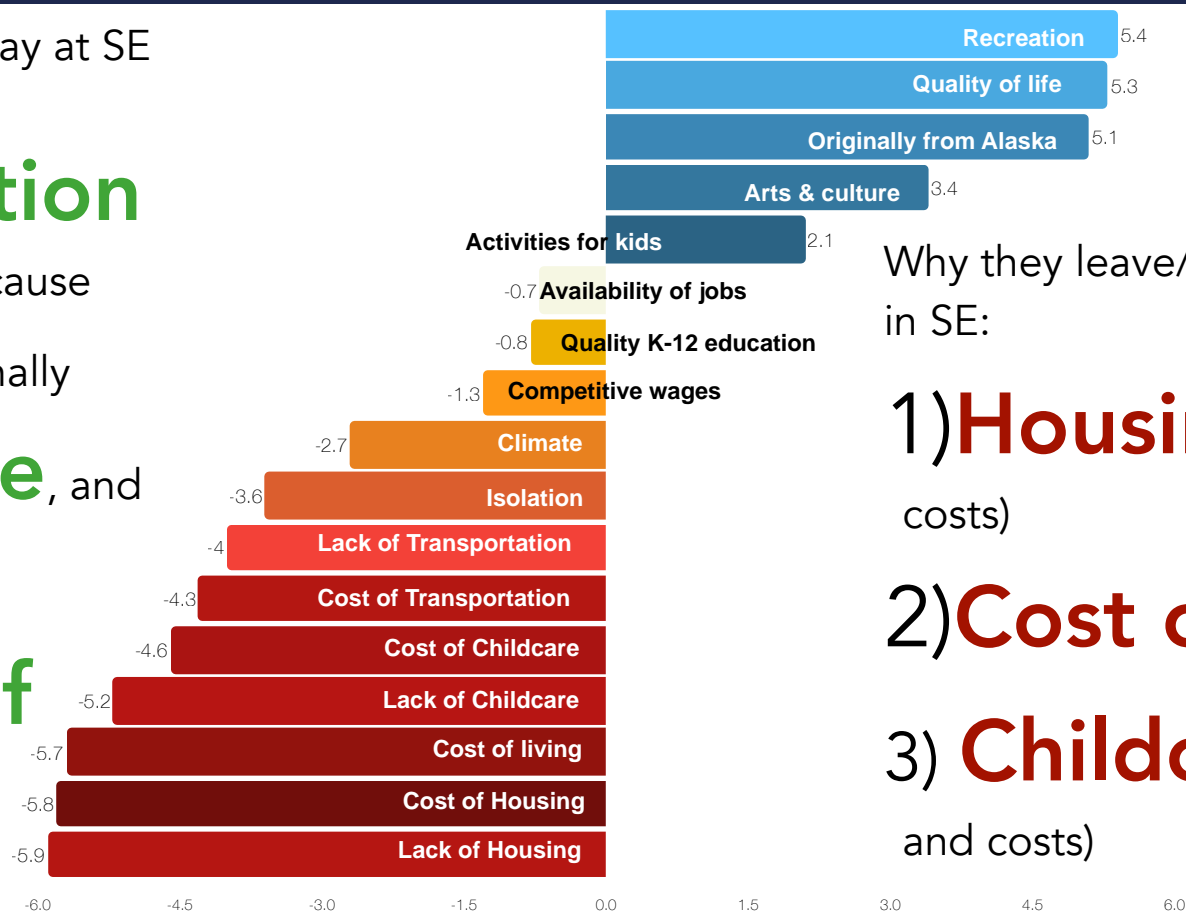
opportunities, because

## 2) they are originally

from here, and

## 3) the for high

quality of  
life.



Why they leave/don't take jobs in SE:

1) Housing (lack of and costs)

2) Cost of Living

3) Childcare (lack of and costs)



*“Southeast Alaska's top problem is undoubtedly housing - its high cost, and low availability/quality. We are seeing that no other economic opportunities can function without it.”*

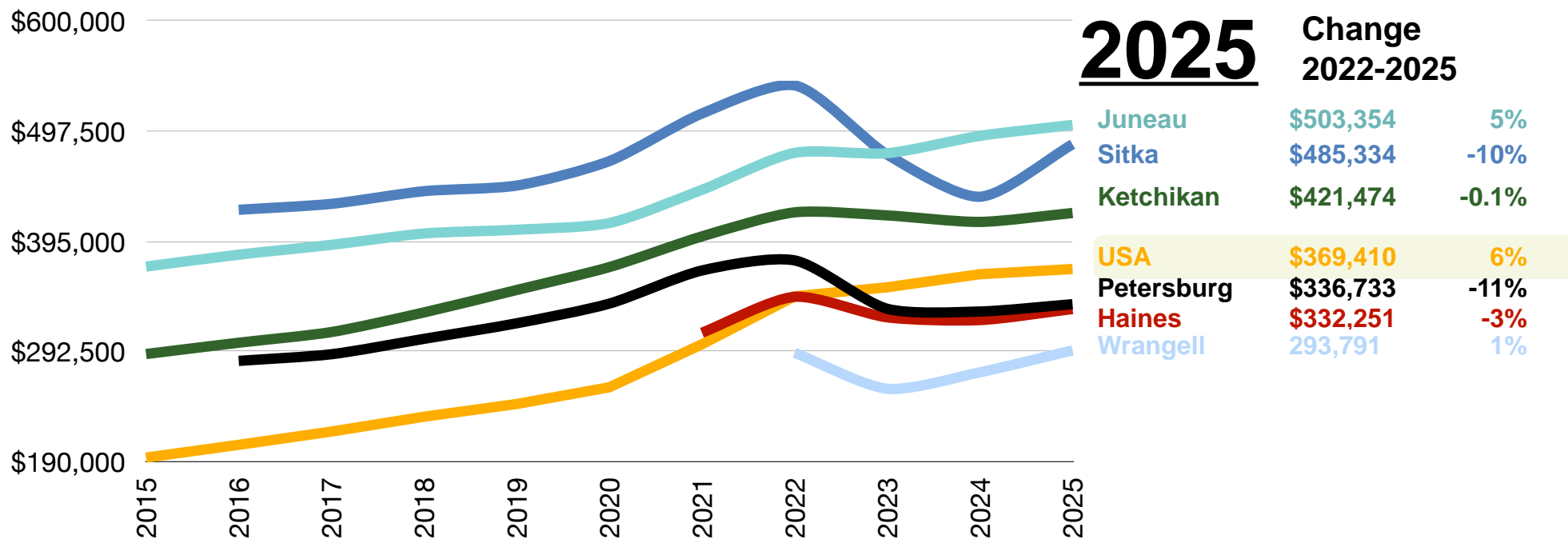
**Business Leader**

*If this were a place”where young families could buy a home, we would be flooded with them. It’s not about jobs, it’s about housing.”*

**Randy Hughey, Sitka Community Land Trust**

# AVERAGE VALUE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME

Not adjusted for inflation

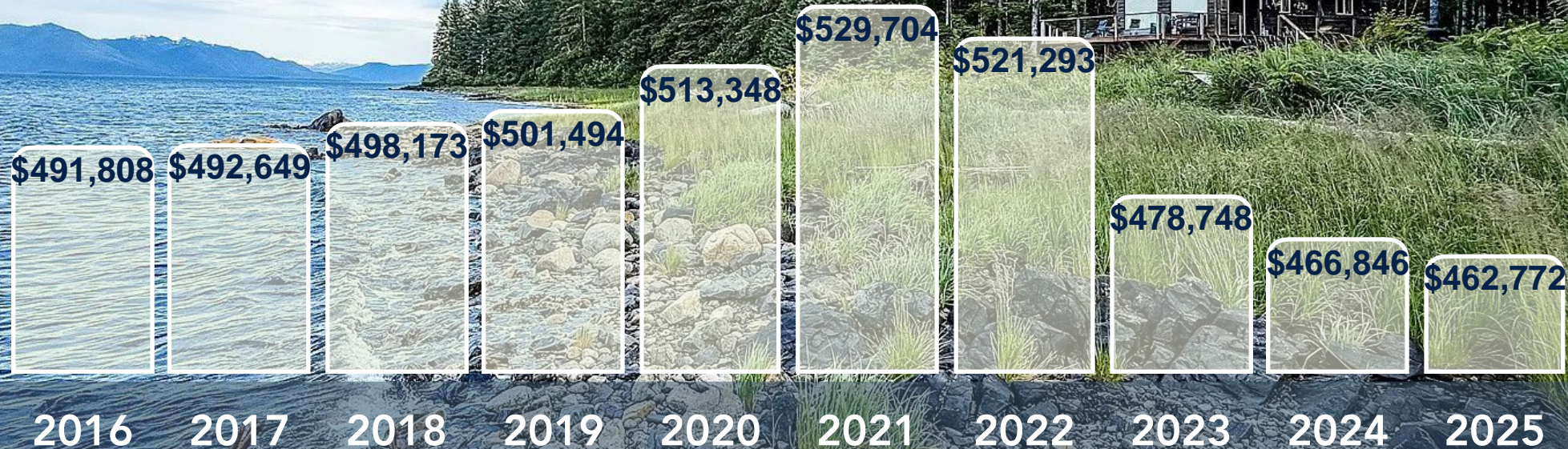




# HOUSING

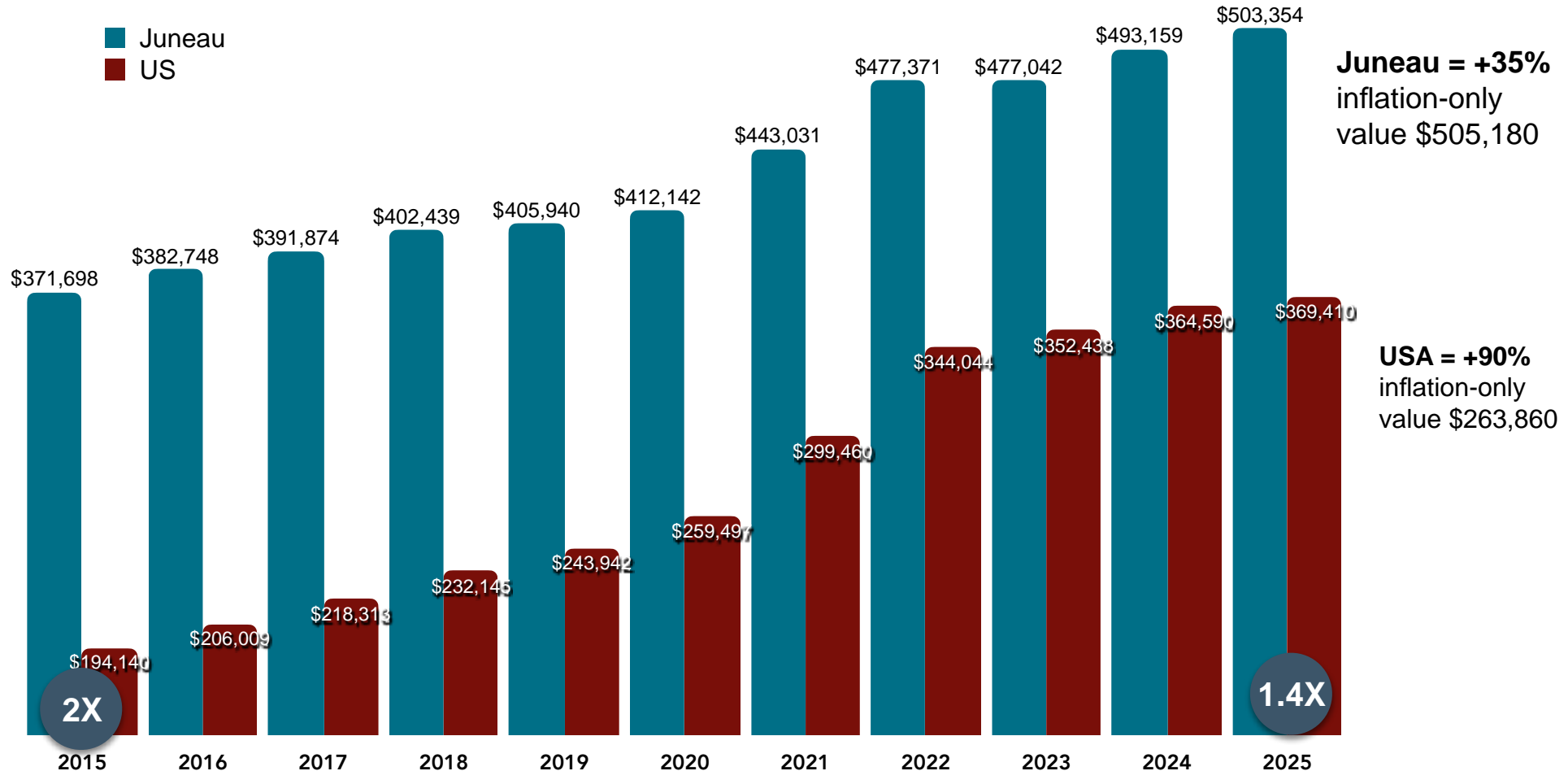
## Inflation Adjusted

**-13%**  
3-year decrease in  
value of homes





# Juneau AVERAGE VALUE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME

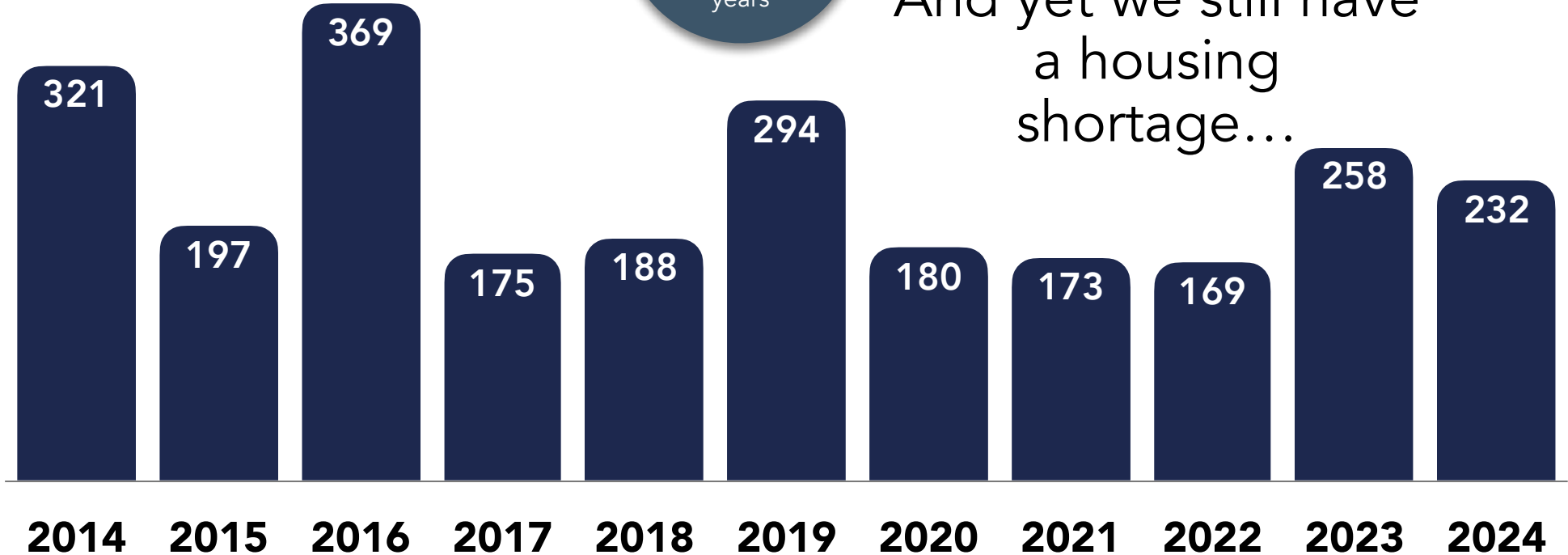


# SOUTHEAST NEW HOUSING

**2,300**  
new housing units  
built in SE 10  
years

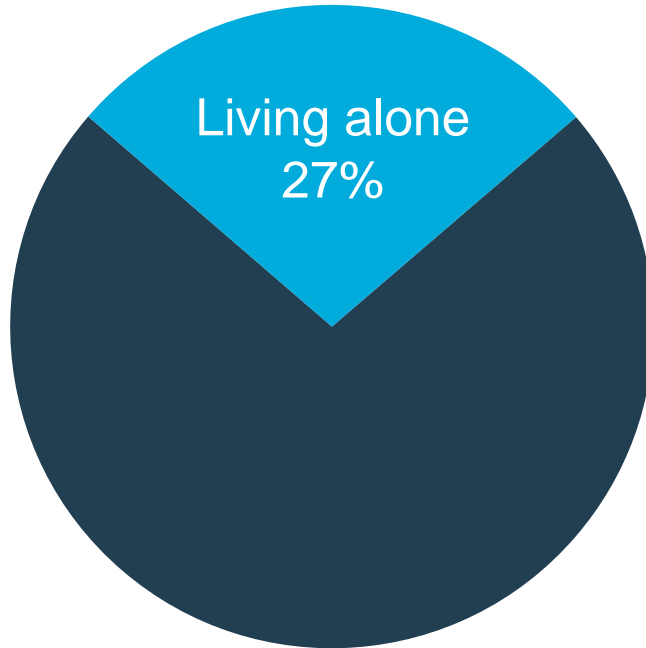
Population down  
**3,700**

And yet we still have  
a housing  
shortage...

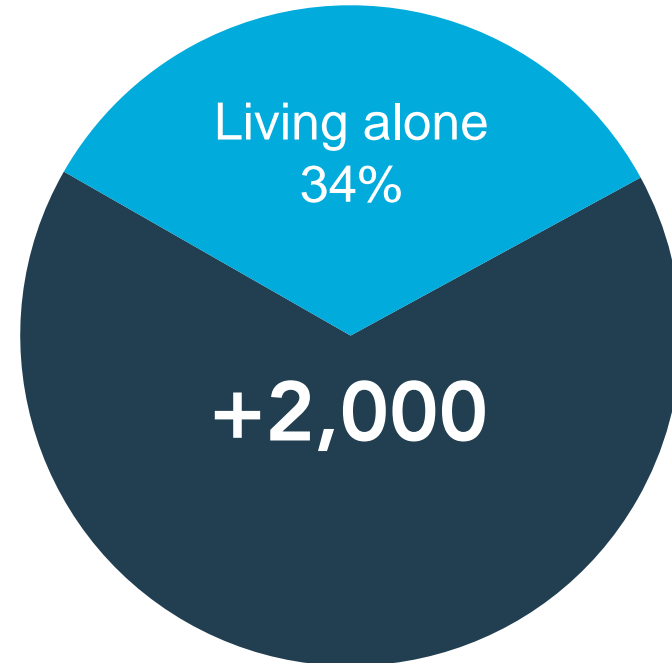


# % OF SOUTHEAST HOUSEHOLDS = JUST ONE PERSON

**2013**



**2023**



**Includes +1,600 65+ live alone households**



# 2030 Southeast Economic Plan



**New 5 year  
plan out!**

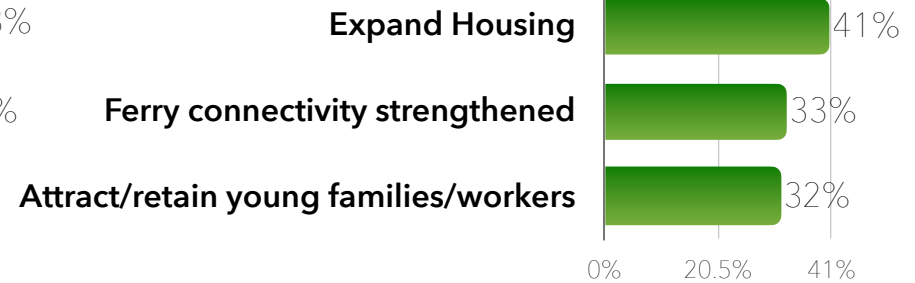


# SWOT Analysis: 120 options

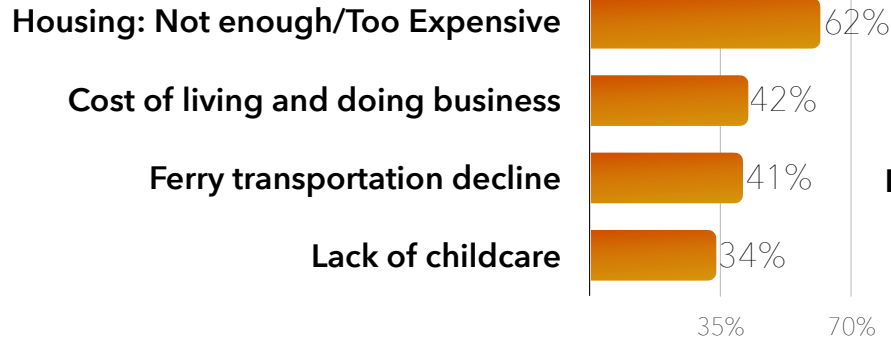
## STRENGTHS



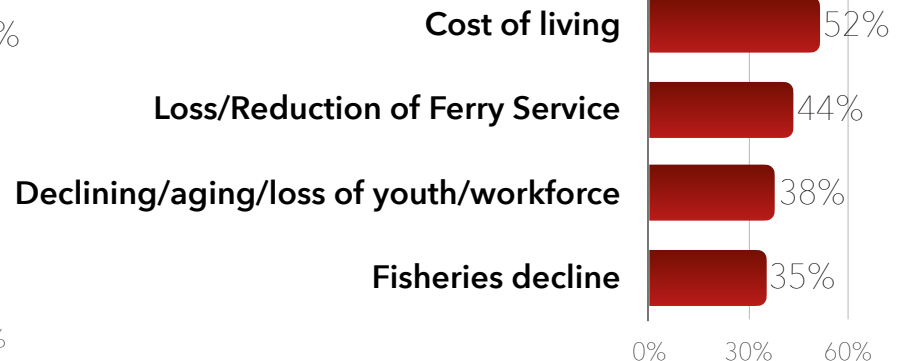
## OPPORTUNITIES



## WEAKNESSES

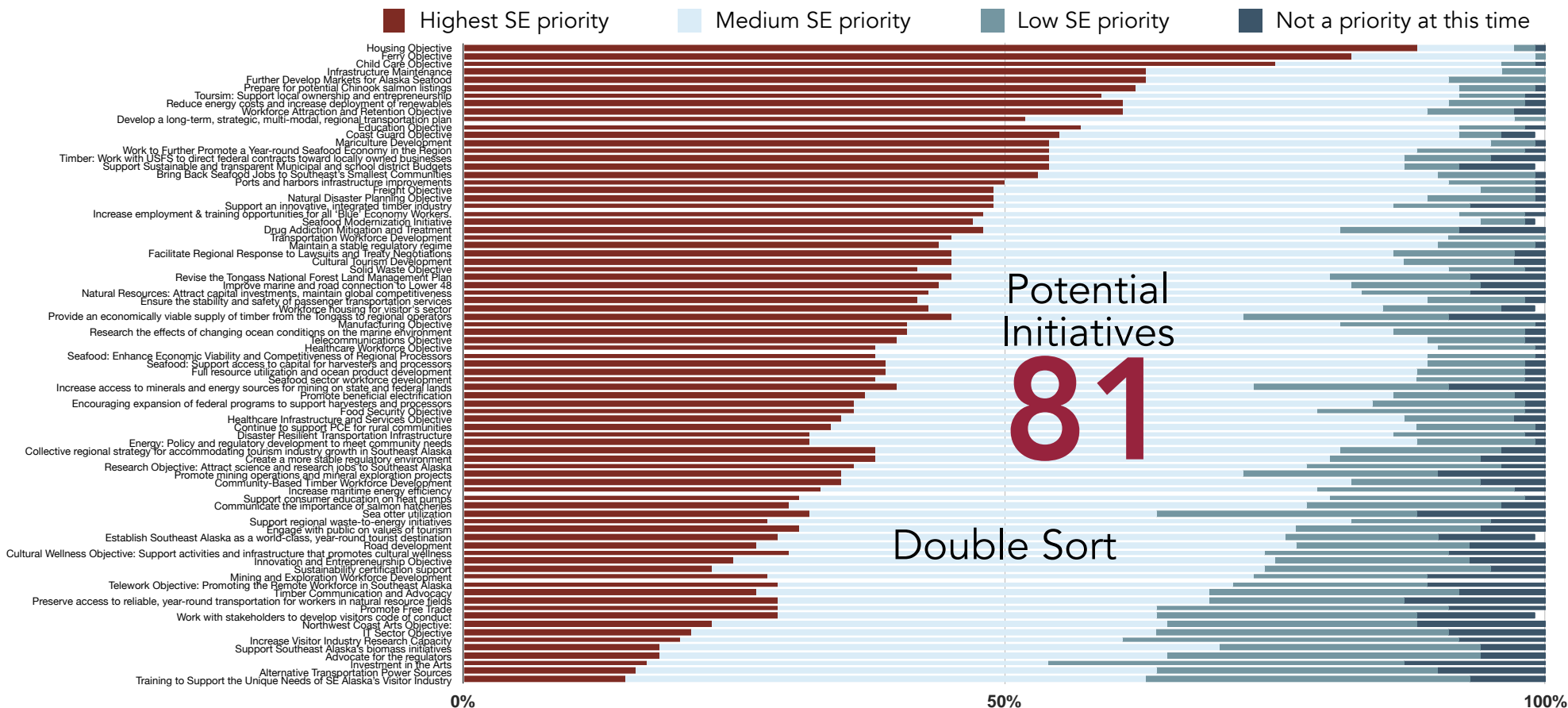


## THREATS





# Southeast 2030 Initiatives: Prioritization



# SOUTHEAST 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

Priorities  
**46**

## Economic Development

- #1 TOP 10** ★ 1. **Housing Objective:** Support the sustainable development of housing
- #3 TOP 10** ★ 2. **Child Care Objective:** Increase Child Care Capacity in Southeast Alaska
- TOP 10** 3. **Infrastructure Maintenance**
- 4. **Education Objective**
- TOP 10** 5. **Workforce Attraction and Retention Objective**
- 6. **Coast Guard Objective:** Support Coast Guard vessel homeporting opportunities
- 7. **Natural Disaster Planning Objective:** Support Disaster Preparation and Relief Efforts
- 8. **Solid Waste Objective:** Support Regional Solid Waste Management Solutions
- 9. **Healthcare Workforce Objective**
- 10. **Telecommunications Objective:** Improve communications access in Southeast Alaska
- 11. **Manufacturing Objective:** Promote Regionally Manufactured Local Products
- 12. **Food Security Objective:** Increase supply and distribution of local foods

## Transportation

- #2 TOP 10** ★ 1. **Support the stability, sustainability and longevity of the Marine Highway Systems of Alaska**
- TOP 10** 2. Develop a long-term, strategic, multi-modal, regional transportation plan
- 3. Improve and expand opportunities to move freight to and from markets
- 4. Ports and harbors infrastructure improvements
- 5. Transportation Workforce Development
- 6. Ensure the stability and safety of passenger transportation services
- 7. Improve marine and road connection to Lower 48
- 8. Disaster Resilient Transportation Infrastructure

# Southeast Alaska Priority Objectives for 2030 ★



## Seafood Industry

- TOP 10** ★ 1. **Further Develop Markets for Alaska Seafood**
- ★ 2. **Seafood Modernization Initiative**
- 3. Work to Further Promote a Year-round Seafood Economy in the Region
- 4. Full resource utilization and ocean product development
- 5. Mariculture Development
- 6. Bring Back Seafood Jobs to Southeast's Smallest Communities
- 7. Support access to capital for harvesters and processors
- 8. Maintain a stable regulatory regime



## Natural Resources

- TOP 10** 1. Prepare for potential Chinook salmon listings
- 2. Work with USFS to direct federal contracts toward locally owned businesses
- 3. Support an innovative, integrated timber industry
- 4. Attract capital investments, maintain global competitiveness
- 5. Provide an economically viable supply of timber from the Tongass to regional operators
- 6. Increase access to minerals and energy sources for mining on state and federal lands
- 7. Advocate for the regulators
- 8. Revise the Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan



## Visitor Industry

- TOP 10** ★ 1. **Support local ownership and entrepreneurship**
- 2. Workforce housing for visitor's sector
- 3. Cultural Tourism Development
- 4. Collective regional strategy for accommodating tourism industry growth in Southeast Alaska



## Energy

- 1. **Reduce energy costs and increase deployment of renewables** ★ **TOP 10**
- 2. Promote beneficial electrification
- 3. Support consumer education on heat pumps
- 4. Policy & regulatory development to meet community energy needs & priorities
- 5. Continue to support PCE for rural communities
- 6. Biomass in energy



# Priority Objective #1

## Housing Objective: Support the sustainable development of housing



Develop new housing stock, improve existing housing quality, build targeted housing for an aging population, and increase the diversity of housing choices in the region. Include fair market housing options for homeownership and private market rentals, along with subsidized rentals through rental assistance or vouchers, public housing, and housing for seniors, veterans, the homeless, and other special needs populations. Increase access to housing, including to low- and moderate-income housing, to create more livable, economically competitive, resilient communities. Work across the region to find ways to reduce the costs associated with land development and new housing construction. Southeast homes are the oldest in Alaska. Work to improve housing conditions in homes that are aging and have mold and rot issues. Create walkable housing opportunities so people can easily access stores, school and healthcare without having to own a vehicle. Support energy efficiency programs to reduce the cost of home heating and modernize Southeast Alaska's housing stock.

### Project Champion

Name: **Jacqueline Kus.een Pata**

Title: **President/CEO**

Organization: **Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority**



# Priority Objective #2

## Support the stability, sustainability and longevity of the Marine Highway System

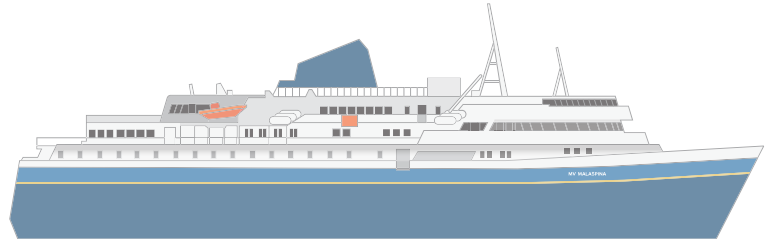
With many geographically remote and isolated communities that cannot be connected via traditional roads, the Marine Highway Systems in Alaska must provide reliable, basic transportation service for passengers and freight to coastal communities, create an economy of scale, and provide cost effective transportation services. In a coordinated effort to restore, strengthen and expand critical service, investment is needed in a strategic, long-term and short-term plan that includes bridge capacity support through private sector transportation partnerships. Public and private collaboration can improve reliability, efficiency, affordability and stability. Pursue standardized and appropriately sized fleet and terminal modernizations that can be realistically and manageably staffed while meeting essential service needs with potential for economic growth to communities. Design the system for a smaller workforce and increased efficiency and automation, to mitigate impacts and constraints faced with limited available personnel. Develop targeted workforce development programs and a schedule for job consistency to reduce turnover. Advocate for State and Federal support of all system components. Strategically and expeditiously pursue and obligate PL 117-58 funds.

### Project Champion

Name: **Robert Venables**

Title: **Executive Director**

Organization: **Southeast Conference**



# Priority Objective #3

## Increase Child Care Capacity in Southeast Alaska

Expanding childcare capacity in Southeast Alaska is essential for fostering a vibrant economy and attracting younger workers and families to the region.

Addressing the current shortages in supply, affordability, and quality of childcare services requires a multifaceted approach prioritizing workforce development, sustainable funding, and operational support.

A critical component of enhancing childcare quality is developing a skilled workforce. Southeast communities should invest in and support their current and future childcare providers to enroll in the SEAAEYC apprenticeship program. Providing foundational early childhood education knowledge and on-the-job training can ensure high standards of care across the region.

Investing in such initiatives is vital to building a pipeline of professionals capable of meeting the growing demand for childcare services.

The region should establish a pooled funding model to overcome the financial barriers associated with childcare businesses' high operational costs and low profit margins. This approach combines investments from state, local, and corporate partners to create a sustainable funding pool to support community-specific childcare initiatives. By aggregating resources, the pooled fund can provide both start-up and operational grants, incentivizing the establishment of new childcare businesses and sustaining existing ones. Such a funding structure ensures that childcare providers remain viable while offering affordable, high-quality care to families.



### Project Champion

Name: **Blue Shibler**

Title: **Executive Director**

Organization: **Southeast Alaska  
Association for the Education of Young  
Children**

**Jacqueline Kus.een Pata**  
President/CEO Tlingit  
Haida Regional Housing  
Authority

**Jeremy Woodrow**  
Executive Director Alaska  
Seafood Marketing  
Institute

**Susan Bell** VP Strategic  
Initiatives Huna Totem

**Blue Shibler** Executive  
Director Southeast Alaska  
Association for the  
Education of Young  
Children

**Kristy Clement** CEO  
Alaska Fisheries  
Development Foundation  
(AFDF)

**Jason Custer** Vice  
President, Corporate  
Development Alaska  
Power & Telephone  
Company

**Robert Venables**  
Executive Director  
Southeast Conference

**Every priority  
objective has a  
staff and board  
champion as well**

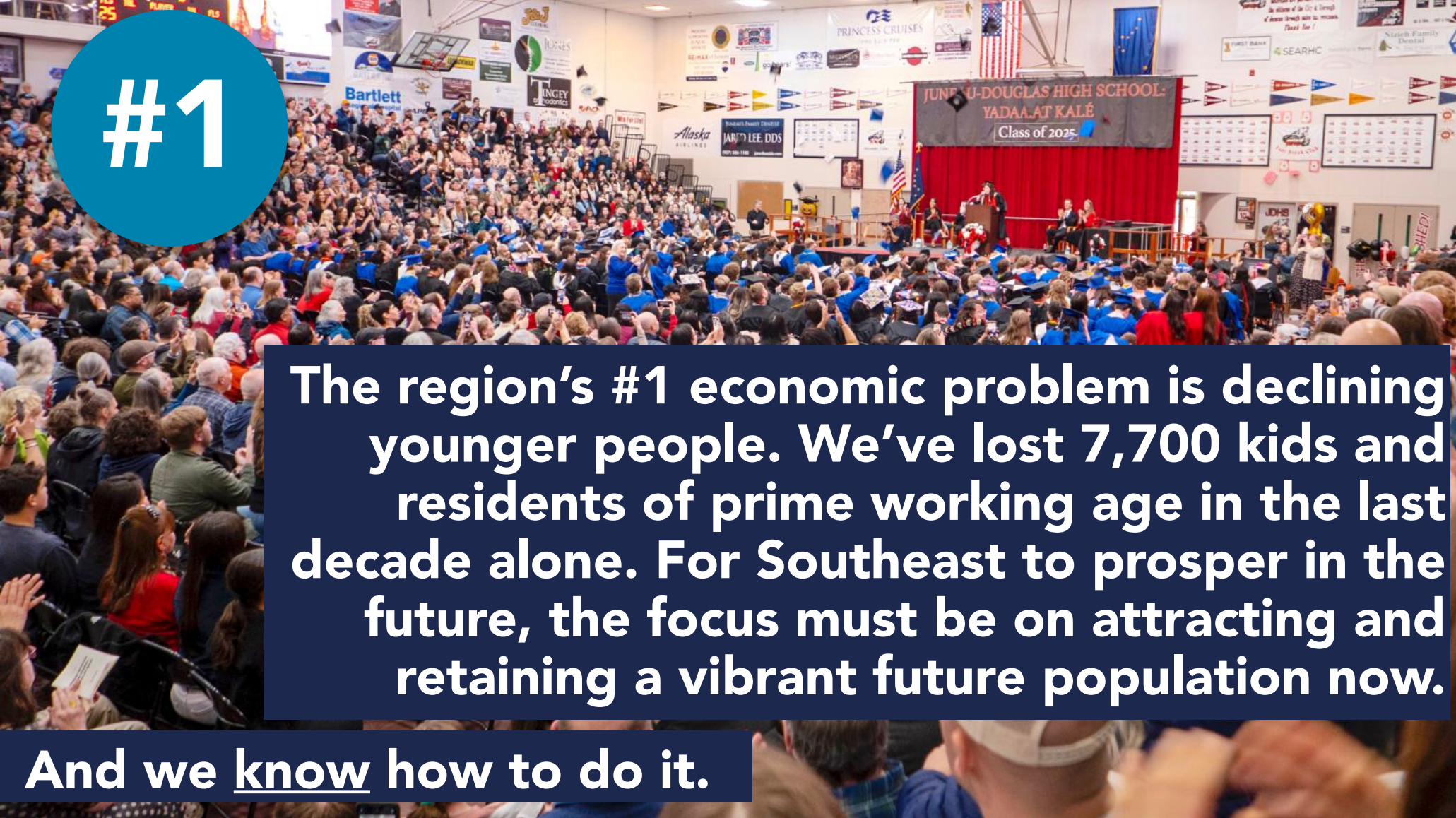






# MY TOP 3 TAKEAWAYS



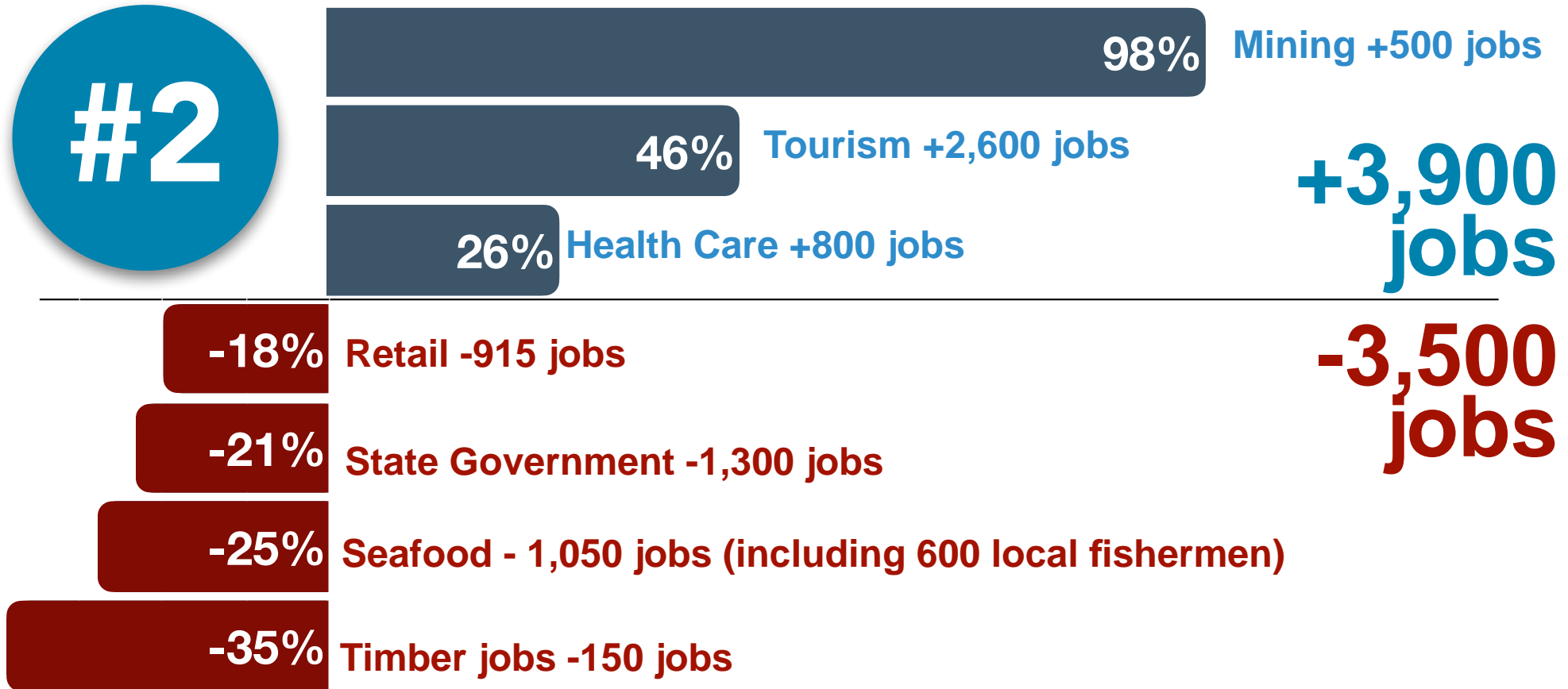
A large crowd of people, mostly young adults in blue graduation gowns and caps, are seated in bleachers in a gymnasium. The background features a stage with a red curtain and a banner that reads "JUNEAU DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL: YADAA AT KALÉ Class of 2025". The walls are covered with various posters and signs, including "PRINCESS CRUISES", "Alaska AIRLINES", "Bartlett", "TINGEY", "SEARCHC", and "SEARCH Family Dental".

# #1

**The region's #1 economic problem is declining younger people. We've lost 7,700 kids and residents of prime working age in the last decade alone. For Southeast to prosper in the future, the focus must be on attracting and retaining a vibrant future population now.**

**And we know how to do it.**

# Our economy is changing: The last dozen+ years







#3

**What is the economic outlook  
for Southeast Alaska?**



**Economy outlook is hazy due  
to uncertainty regarding  
federal policies,  
uncertainty is bad for business**

# Magic 8 Ball



# Top 10 Stories of the Southeast Economy summary

- 1) **Population declines** and demographic shifts are threatening our future economy
- 2) **Seafood** had another terrible year
- 3) **Social services** were down, along with **construction, trade, and timber**
- 4) **Business leaders** express uncertainty regarding outlook

# Top Stories of the Southeast Economy: the good!

- 1) **Jobs are up**, higher than pre-pandemic job numbers
- 2) **Wages are up** by nearly \$100 million
- 3) **Tourism** continues to expand its lead as the largest economic sector in the region, as arriving cruise and air passenger numbers reached record levels
- 4) **Metal values** like gold are sky rocketing
- 5) **Government** jobs were up across the board & **State sector** added workers for the first time in more than a dozen years
- 6) **Healthcare, retail, finance, mining, and business and professional services** sectors all added workers to their payrolls.



# THANK YOU!



Rain Coast  
Data



SOUTHEAST  
CONFERENCE