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Press Release

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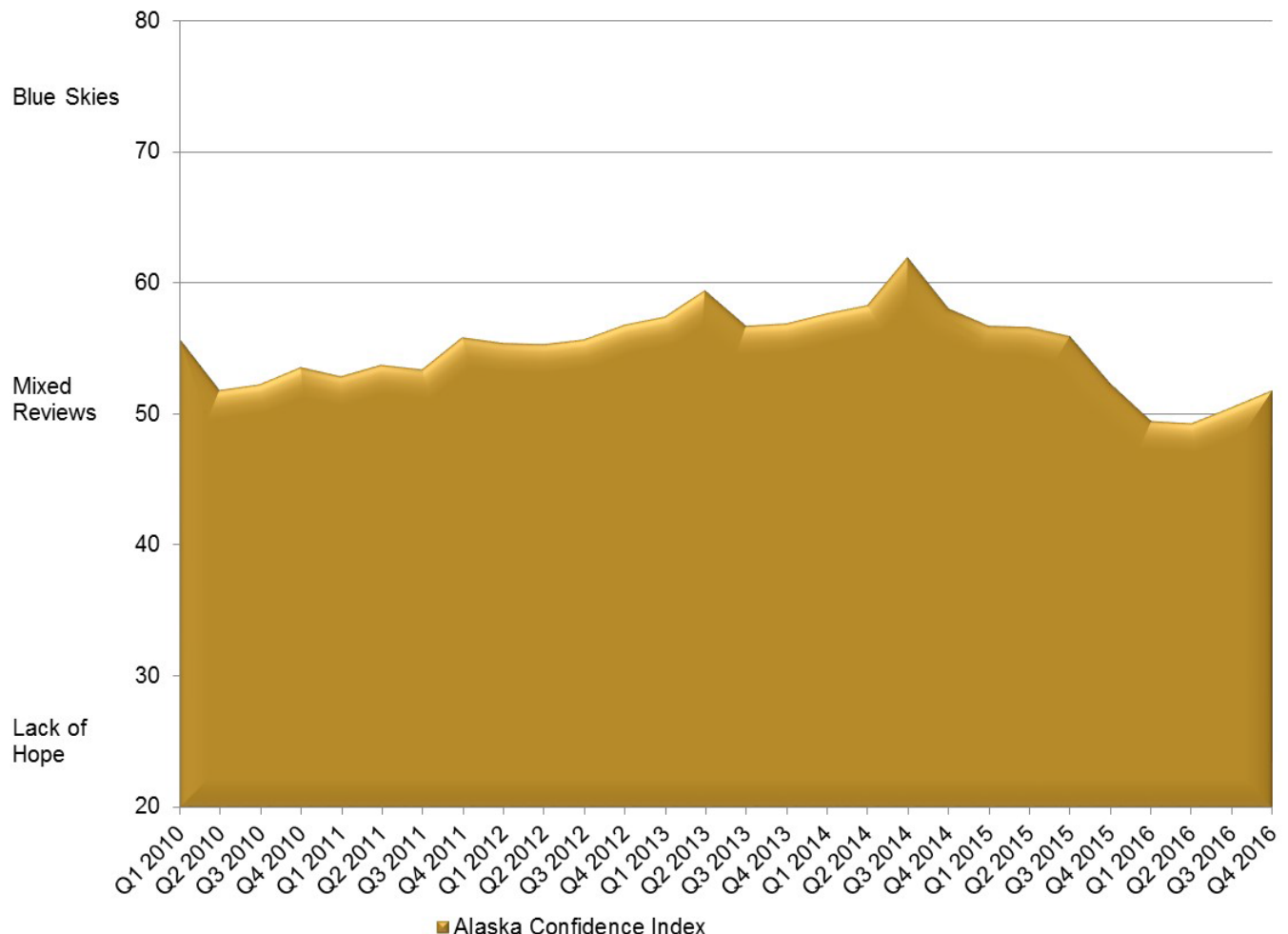
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Alaskans' Economic Confidence Shows Modest Increase

February 1, 2017 ANCHORAGE – Alaskans' economic confidence increased for the second quarter in a row, according to the Alaska Confidence Index (ACI). The overall index rose from 51.8 to 52.3 in the fourth quarter of 2016. This quarter's increase was the second consecutive increase after a string of seven consecutive quarterly declines. The resolution of the national election likely contributed to this gain.

Alaska households' expectations for the future of state and local economic conditions drove this quarter's gain in the ACI. Alaskans are still expecting conditions to worsen, but not by as much as the quarter before. Current and future personal economic confidence dipped slightly this quarter. The measure is still quite strong but the dip could indicate that households are starting to feel the state's recession in their pocketbooks.



The ACI is a measure of Alaska household's confidence in the health of the local economy, their personal financial situation, and their expectations for the future. Northern Economics, Inc. generates the ACI using data collected by the Alaska Survey, a random quarterly sample of at least 800 Alaska households. The ACI comprises six components: 1) State Economy Confidence; 2) Local Economy Confidence; 3) Personal Financial Confidence; 4) Expectations for the Future – State; 5) Expectations for the Future – Local; and 6) Expectations for the Future – Personal. Each component is expressed using a value of 0 to 100. Values above 50 represent relative confidence in the economy, while values below 50 indicate lack of confidence.

The ACI is released by the Alaska Division of Economic Development and supported by a sponsorship by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. This statewide information is released in coordination with the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation's data that specifically reflects Anchorage's household confidence.

Housed within Alaska State Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, 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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