

2021

# ECONOMIC FORECAST

## VIRTUAL LUNCHEON

January 27, 2021  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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# A Message from AEDC President & CEO Bill Popp



Hello! Welcome to the 2021 AEDC Economic Forecast Luncheon. We hoped 2020 would be a turning point for the Anchorage economy, instead it was a year of unprecedented turmoil. At AEDC, we have tried to face these challenges the same way many of you in the business community have – adapting with a focus on safety. As the Anchorage community works together to find ways to reduce the impacts of COVID-19 and get our economy back on track, we appreciate you making the time to join us virtually. We look forward to a future that allows us to return to crowds of 1,500 in the main ballroom of the Dena'ina Center.

The staff at AEDC is dedicated to creating events that deliver the information and insight you have come to expect from our organization. We partnered with Alaska Public Media to ensure that our work in the virtual realm has the same high standards of professionalism. We are grateful to the McKinley Research Group (formerly McDowell Group) for their partnership on the 2021 Economic Forecast Report for Anchorage, and Northrim Bank and Denali Anesthesia for their generous sponsorship of this year's Forecast. Today's uncertainty makes analysis of economic trends based on historical data more important than ever. In the latest Business Confidence Index report, with data gathered by the McKinley Research Group and sponsored by Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, we also hear from business owners what they expect in the next 12 months.

Our goal today is to provide clarity to the greatest degree possible. We will present an analysis of the current situation, the damage done so far, and just how tough a future we might face over the next year. There is likely more pain to come, though we can improve that outlook with informed strategies. Use the information from today's event to facilitate decisions on current challenges and know that even in times of upheaval and economic loss, new opportunities are revealed. As Alaskans, trailblazers, and decision-makers, we have every reason to believe there will eventually be a brighter future ahead.

Thank you for attending today's event. AEDC has helped to grow and diversify the Anchorage economy for more than 34 years by connecting local businesses to information and opportunities, supporting growth across industries and marketing Anchorage to the outside world. I look forward to continuing that work in the coming days, weeks, and months to rebuild our economy and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Popp". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Bill Popp

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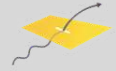
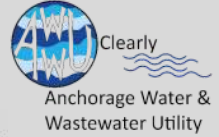
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# PROGRAM

11:30 AM PROGRAM BEGINS



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BILL POPP, AEDC PRESIDENT & CEO

GCI & ALASKA AIRLINES GIVEAWAY

MICHAEL HUSTON, AEDC BOARD CHAIR

ACTING MAYOR, AUSTIN QUINN-DAVIDSON

## ECONOMIC FORECAST

BILL POPP, AEDC PRESIDENT & CEO

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

GOV. MIKE DUNLEAVY

SEN. LISA MURKOWSKI

## Q&A

BILL POPP, AEDC PRESIDENT & CEO



**AEDC**  
Anchorage Economic  
Development Corporation