



## EMPLOYMENT

### 25th out of 50 states for job growth

Alaska is lagging behind US employment recovery numbers, with a higher unemployment rate, lower job growth, and lower wage growth than the rest of the US. Current unemployment rate is 5.7%. Alaska ranks 25th out of 50 states for job growth in the Leisure and Hospitality sector.

Source: Alaska Economic Trends, February '22



## AIR TRAVEL

### Return to 77% of pre-COVID numbers

Nationally, domestic air travel is predicted to recover in 2022 to be around 77% of pre-COVID numbers. In Alaska, inbound air travel has increased steadily since hitting the bottom in April of 2020.

Sources: US Travel and Official Aviation Guide (OAG)



## CONSUMER SPENDING

### 70% planning to spend more on travel

Multiple sources project 2022 to a big year for travel spending as people have been restrained in their spending for 2 years. Professionals have been able to build up savings and are now ready for big trips, with 70% of travelers from large foreign markets planning to spend more than they have in the past 5 years.

Sources: Expedia and World Travel & Tourism Council



## CRUISING CAPACITY

### +20% from 2019

Alaska cruising capacity is projected to be up by 20% from 2019, from 1.3 million berths to 1.55 million. Nearly 100% of international ocean-going cruise capacity will be back online by end of July 2022, up from about 60% in October 2021.

Source: CLIA-Alaska



## TRAVELER SENTIMENT

### 93% of travelers plan to travel in 2022

Nearly 80% of cruise passengers have said they will cruise again, nearly the same rate as pre-pandemic. Nationally, 93% of travelers polled are planning to travel in the next 12 months, a pandemic high point. National Parks remain a top draw for visitors seeking travel experiences, with "enjoying nature" being the top priority for most travelers.

Sources: CLIA and Destination Analysts



## ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SAILINGS

### Bookings are up for 2022

COVID restrictions are being lifted on AMHS vessels as well as port communities. Additionally, the reservation system was opened in January, giving passengers plenty of time for booking for the year. These measures are increasing bookings across all available vessels and routes for 2022. Staffing the ships remains a challenge and may restrict sailings.

Source: AMHS Operations Board



## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

### Return to 70% of pre-COVID numbers

With the U.S. border reopening to vaccinated international travelers in November 2021, the U.S. and Alaska could see dramatic increases in 2022 international travel. 2021 saw 33% of normal international visitor numbers, with 2022 predicted to be about 70%. Numbers may not fully recover until 2024. Canadian land border crossings remained flat in 2020 and 2021 due to border closures to non-essential travel.

Sources: US Travel, Tourism Economics, McKinley Research Group



## ALASKA UNCERTAINTIES

- How will COVID affect 2022? Variants, vaccination rates, etc.
- Canadian border / visitor restrictions
- Staffing shortages
- Supply chain issues / rental car fleets
- Denali Park Road impacts



Alaska's leading statewide nonprofit membership organization for the Alaska travel industry.