Alaska’s economy is like a three-legged stool.

For more information on Alaska’s economy, visit these Web sites:

www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu
- “Investing for Alaska’s Future”

www.prosperityalaska.org

www.aedcweb.com

This is part 1 of a 4-part series explaining how Alaska’s economy works. Scott Goldsmith, a professor of economics at the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage, did the analysis. This message is brought to you by Alaskan-owned and operated businesses concerned about the future of the Alaska economy.

Part 2 of this series will explain more about how the three legs support the economy.

ALASKA’S ECONOMY

Understand it. Support it. Grow it.
Learn how it works, or Alaska won’t have a leg to stand on.

Alaska’s businesses and households are only as strong as the economy that supports them. Like the three-legged stool shown here, it takes all three legs to support and sustain our economy. For 20 years now, Alaska’s prosperous and growing economy has enabled us to successfully operate private businesses. In today’s uncertain times, it is essential that each Alaskan learn, understand and actively support our economy—the “three legged stool”—and what it will take to keep it strong.

**Economies depend on cash coming in**

The foundation for any economy is the money it brings in by providing something the rest of the world wants to buy.

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The unique foundation of the Alaska economy

Most places in the U.S. bring in cash by manufacturing. But Alaska is different. Our economy is built mainly on the sale of natural resources and inflows of cash from the federal government.

**What generates jobs for Alaska residents?**

(Annual Average Number of Jobs for Residents, 2004–2006: 357,000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Petroleum sector</strong></td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal government</strong></td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All other basic sectors</strong></td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>122,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a* Excludes jobs held by non-residents.  
*b* Seafood, tourism, mining, timber, international air cargo, and personal assets from outside Alaska (primarily federal retirement benefits).

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**Every Alaska job depends on one leg of the stool**

Whatever job you have—in a grocery store or bank or state agency—it depends in some way on the three legs of the Alaska economy.

**The future**

Knowledge is power and the future is now. You can make a difference in your future, Alaska’s future.