

EMPLOYMENT FOR COUNTIES AND CITIES

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Puget Sound region continues to show strong employment growth. More than 1.82 million wage and salary jobs were reported in May 2007. This represents a 2.7 percent increase from the 1.77 million wage and salary jobs reported in May 2006. While this reflects some moderation in the pace of job growth from the previous year's increase of 3.4 percent from May 2005 to May 2006, regional employment growth remains well above the national job growth rate of 1.5 percent for the May 2006 to May 2007 period.

2005-2006 COUNTY AND CITY COVERED EMPLOYMENT CHANGE

This issue of Puget Sound Trends uses another employment dataset — the PSRC's geocoded covered employment database — to analyze covered employment trends for counties and cities from 2005 to 2006 and spotlights several employment sectors that flourished during that period.

From 2005 to 2006 all four counties in the Puget Sound region experienced very strong employment growth. Snohomish and Kitsap Counties had the highest overall percent change in employment between 2005 and 2006, 5.4 percent and 4 percent respectively. The two highest contributing employment sectors for these two counties were Construction/Resource and Manufacturing.

In Snohomish County, Construction/Resource employment added nearly 2,000 jobs, which was a 10.8 percent increase from 2005 to 2006. And just over 3,300 Manufacturing jobs were added, which was a 7.6 percent increase from 2005 to 2006. In Kitsap County, more than 3,200 covered employment jobs were added. Similar to Snohomish County both Construction/Resource and Manufacturing employment sectors contained the most growth, combining to add over 800 jobs. Kitsap's Manufacturing sector increased by 25 percent, which was a substantial rebound from the 2004 to 2005 percent increase of 1.5 percent. And Kitsap County's Construction/Resource related jobs increased by nearly 10 percent, adding about 450 jobs.

King County gained more than 32,000 jobs, which was a 2.9 percent increase from 2005 to 2006, and accounted for a 57 percent share of the regional jobs increase. Construction/Resource, Manufacturing, and Services related employment combined to add more than 28,000 jobs. Pierce County added approximately 8,900 jobs to the region and its employment growth by sector closely resembled that of Snohomish County, with the exception of Pierce County's Manufacturing sector.

King County contained 8 of the top 10 cities with the highest employment increases between 2005 and 2006. The City of Bellevue added approximately 5,300 jobs, which

The Wage and Salary Employment data used to describe current trends in regional employment is from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS). The 2005 and 2006 county and city employment data that this Trend focuses on comes from the PSRC's covered employment database, which represents covered jobs during March of the given year. Covered employment accounts for 85 -90 percent of total employment, including part-time and temporary employment, but does not account for self-employed workers, proprietors, CEOs, enlisted military personnel, or other non-insured workers. The employment data lags behind one year due to processing time by PSRC.

was more than a 4.7 percent increase between 2005 and 2006. Similar to the region's employment trend, Construction/Resource jobs contributed a significant piece of the city's employment growth. Bellevue's Construction/Resource related jobs increased by more than 22 percent. The City of Seattle had the second highest employment increase in the region, which added more than 5,000 jobs in 2006. Again, Construction/Resource jobs in Seattle had the highest percent increase from 2005 to 2006 at 9 percent. The cities of SeaTac and Tukwila, which had the highest percent increases, 10.2 percent and 8.8 percent respectively, collectively added more than 6,300 jobs in 2006.

In summary, Construction/Resource related jobs were a common and significant component of the region's employment growth. Regionally, the Construction/Resource sector showed the highest growth rate, expanding by 11 percent, and at the city level Construction/Resource jobs were atop most cities' major employment sectors. Other employment sectors such as Manufacturing and Services also showed strong employment growth throughout the region.

For additional information on the regional employment data, refer to the Data section of our website at psrc.org or contact Peter Caballero at 206-587-4818, pcaballero@psrc.org.

Figure 1: 2005–2006 Percent Covered Employment Change by Sector, Central Puget Sound Region

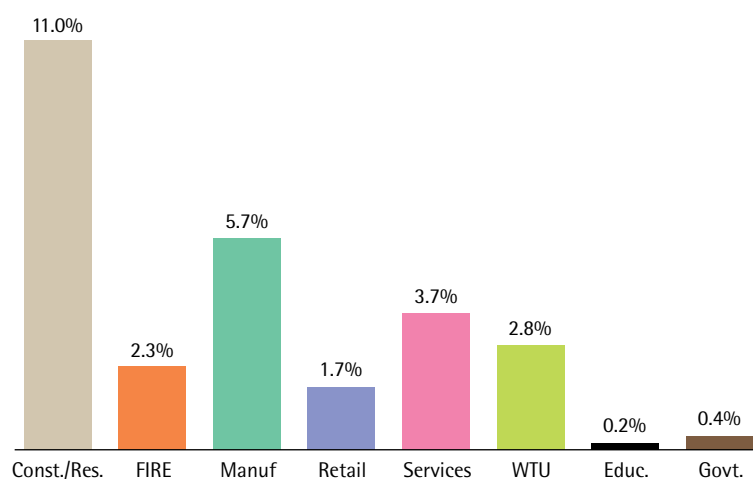


Table 1: March 2005 Covered Employment by County by Sector

County	Const/Res	FIRE	Manuf.	Retail	Services	WTU	Education	Government	Total
King	59,200	73,900	104,000	109,200	491,100	103,400	69,400	82,900	1,093,100
Kitsap	4,500	3,300	1,700	10,900	29,700	2,300	7,300	20,700	80,200
Pierce	20,100	13,800	19,100	29,200	96,900	19,900	22,200	31,700	252,900
Snohomish	18,200	12,500	43,500	26,600	69,800	9,600	16,700	19,900	216,800
Region	101,900	103,500	168,300	175,900	687,500	135,200	115,600	155,200	1,643,000

Table 2: March 2006 Covered Employment by County by Sector

County	Const/Res	FIRE	Manuf.	Retail	Services	WTU	Education	Government	Total
King	65,800	75,500	109,500	108,500	507,500	106,400	69,500	82,400	1,125,200
Kitsap	4,900	3,500	2,100	11,500	31,000	2,200	7,200	21,000	83,400
Pierce	22,200	14,200	19,500	30,400	100,400	20,500	22,100	32,500	261,800
Snohomish	20,200	12,600	46,800	28,400	73,800	9,900	17,000	19,900	228,500
Region	113,100	105,800	177,800	178,800	712,800	139,100	115,700	155,800	1,698,900

Table 3: 2005–2006 Covered Employment Change

County	Const/Res	FIRE	Manuf.	Retail	Services	WTU	Education	Government	Total
King	6,600	1,700	5,500	(700)	16,400	3,000	100	(500)	32,100
Kitsap	400	100	400	700	1,400	–	(100)	400	3,200
Pierce	2,200	400	300	1,200	3,500	600	(100)	800	8,900
Snohomish	2,000	100	3,300	1,700	4,000	300	300	–	11,700
Region	11,200	2,300	9,500	3,000	25,200	3,800	200	600	55,900

Table 4: 2005–2006 Percent Covered Employment Change

County	Const/Res	FIRE	Manuf.	Retail	Services	WTU	Education	Government	Total
King	11.1%	2.2%	5.3%	-0.6%	3.3%	2.9%	0.2%	-0.6%	2.9%
Kitsap	9.9%	4.1%	24.8%	6.2%	4.6%	-1.9%	-1.7%	1.7%	4.0%
Pierce	10.9%	3.0%	1.7%	4.2%	3.6%	3.0%	-0.7%	2.4%	3.5%
Snohomish	10.8%	1.0%	7.6%	6.5%	5.7%	2.9%	1.9%	0.0%	5.4%
Region	11.0%	2.3%	5.7%	1.7%	3.7%	2.8%	0.2%	0.4%	3.4%

Table 5: Cities with the Highest Employment Gains between March 2005 and March 2006

City	Jobs 2005	Jobs 2006	Total Change	% Change
Bellevue	113,300	118,600	5,300	4.7%
Seattle	465,700	470,700	5,000	1.1%
Everett	69,200	73,400	4,200	6.0%
Tukwila	40,600	44,200	3,600	8.8%
Kent	60,300	63,400	3,100	5.2%
SeaTac	26,000	28,700	2,700	10.2%
Renton	48,300	50,700	2,400	5.0%
Lakewood	23,500	25,000	1,500	6.4%
Federal Way	28,800	30,200	1,400	5.0%
Tacoma	101,200	102,600	1,400	1.4%