

Economic Facts

Puget Sound is part of the natural environment that attracts people to the region. The Sound helps drive \$20 billion of economic activities in Washington State.

Population – Approximately 4.3 million people live in the 12 counties bordering Puget Sound. This includes about 1.6 million people who live in the 90 cities and towns that directly border the Sound.

Fishing – Recreational fishing in Puget Sound is valued conservatively at \$57 million a year and commercial fishing is valued at \$4 million a year. According to a 1998 University of Washington survey, households in Western Washington are willing to pay \$8 billion over 20 years to increase the Sound's migratory salmon population by 50 percent.

Shellfish – Washington produces the largest amount of farmed shellfish in the United States and is a leader in the production of naturally-growing shellfish. A majority of this product comes from Puget Sound

- The average annual commercial value for Puget Sound crab, shrimp, mussel, oyster, geoduck and other clams is \$44 million (This includes treaty, non-treaty, commercial and aquatic farm production.)
- Recreational value of shell fishing is valued conservatively at \$42 million per year.

Tourism – The Puget Sound area provides \$9.5 billion in travel spending, including 88,000 tourism-related jobs and \$3 billion in income.

Boating – Boating is a major recreational activity. The National Marine Manufacturers Association rates Washington State 6th in the 50 states for \$489 million in combined boat, motor, trailer, and accessory purchases. There are:

- 256 marinas with 39,400 moorage slips.
- Another 331 launch sites for smaller boats.
- About 270,000 boats that must be registered.
- Thousands more smaller boats, rafts, kayaks, and canoes.

MORE INFORMATION



Saving the Sound

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget_sound/index.html

Puget Sound Partnership

<http://www.psp.wa.gov/>

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Recreation – About 390,000 people participate in recreation activities in the waters or on the beaches of Puget Sound, at least once a year. These activities include fishing, swimming, boating, rafting, kayaking, and other water sports. Puget Sound has:

- 2,800 square miles of inland marine waters.
- 2,500 miles of shoreline.
- 2.1 million acres of state-owned submerged saltwater lands.
- 211 different fish species.
- 100 sea bird species.
- 13 types of marine mammals. In 2003, 87 resident orca whales provided views for 80 whale watching boats.

There are 68 state parks and 8 national parks, wildlife refuges, forests and other uses that border Puget Sound. Local governments provide another 16 regional parks along the Sound.

Lifestyle - People are willing to give up higher wages to live in Washington State. This is especially true of professions where remote teleworking is possible. Wages average 2% higher for computer specialists and 30% higher for lawyers elsewhere in the country.

Jobs and International Trade

Washington business – About 134,800 companies in counties bordering Puget Sound provide 2.2 million jobs with an annual payroll of \$102 billion. This is about 73 percent of state employment and 78percent of state wages. The Puget Sound’s gross business income is \$476 billion a year.

Trade – The nexus of Puget Sound, U.S. Interstates 5 and 90, the railroad system and the University of Washington are the primary drivers for the current level of economic activity. Together, the ports of Seattle and Tacoma make the Sound the second largest U.S. harbor for container traffic, including:

- \$28 billion in state-originated exports.
- 62.58 million metric tons of cargo.
- 34,000 jobs and \$2.1 billion in income from the water-based activities from the Port of Seattle.