

Washington State(Area Brief Compilation Report)

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Washington State – Also known as the Evergreen State. It is the northwest corner of the continental United States and features a predominantly mountainous terrain. The state is home to the only temperate rainforest in the lower 48 states of the U.S. Olympia is the state capital and currently has 39 counties with a total population. Seattle is the gateway to the Pacific Northwest region. The first Startbucks opened in Seattle in 1971, and independent shops contribute to the city's 2.5 coffee shops per 1,000 people, the greatest concentration in the country of 7,535,591 or 2.3% of the US total population (2018 estimates).



Washington State's Major Regions¹

Washington State is divided into five regions, based on natural land features – Coastal Range; the Puget Sound Lowlands; the Cascade Range; the Columbia Plateau and the Rocky Mountain region.

- Coastal Range is to the south of the Olympic Mountains in the southwest corner of Washington. The Coast Range runs south into Oregon. The most notable features of the Coast Range in Washington are the Willapa Hills which overlook Willapa Bay.
- Puget Sound Lowlands is to the east of the Olympic Mountains and the west of the Cascade Mountains, Puget Bay extends south into Washington and north into British Columbia, Canada. It also include the land along the Chehalis River that runs to the Pacific Ocean between the Olympic Mountains in the north and the Willapa Hills in the south. This is the Valley of the Chehalis River, About ¾ of Washington's population live

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¹ Source: https://www.netstate.com/states/geography/wa-geography.htm

- in the Puget Sound Lowlands. Most of the state's cities, including Tacoma and the state capital, Olympia are located in the lowland.
- Cascade Mountains to the east of the Puget Sound Lowlands is the great Casdade Mountains, rising high with several peaks extending more than 10,000 feet into the sky. Mt. Rainier (14,410 ft.), the highest pint in Washington is located in the Cascade Mountains along with Mount St. Helens which erupted in 1980. This 700-mile chain of mountains is marked by several volcanic peaks, most of them inactive. Besides Mt. Rainier, Mount Adams (12,307 ft.), Mount Baker (10,778 ft.), and Glacier Park (10,541 ft.) are prominent in the Cascade Mountain range. All of the higher mountains support glaciers and permanent snow cover on their upper slopes. The lower slopes and lower mountains are carpeted with beautiful, lush forests, most located within the designated National Forest area.
- Columbia Plateau Most of the southern and central Washington is covered by the Columbia Plateau land area, also referred to as the Columbia Basin. This area is elevated from 500 to 2,000 feet above sea level and surrounded by higher lands. It is part of the largest lava plateau in the world. The Columbia Plateau lies to the south and the east of the great bend in the Columbia River. The Palouse county of Washington lies in the southeastern portion of the Columbia Plateau. Its rolling hills provide a deep fertile soil that supports much of Washington's wheat farming. The Blue Mountains lie in the deep southeastern corner of Washington. These mountains, lower than the Cascades or the Olympic Mountains, provide land for hay and grains in the valleys and summer grazing for livestock on the slopes.
- Rocky Mountains A portion of the Rocky Mountains cuts across Washington in the
 northeast corner of the state. The Washington Rocky Mountains are called the Columbia
 Mountains and consist of ridges and valleys cut by the Columbia River and its tributaries
 including the Okanogan River. Minerals such as copper, gold, lead, limestone, magnesite,
 silver and zinc are found in the Columbia Mountains.

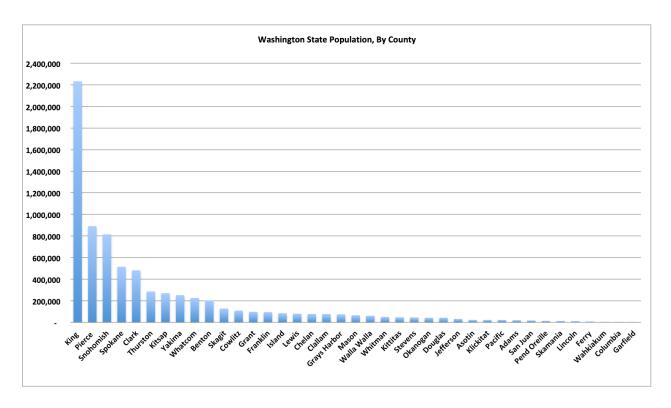
Population, By County (2018)²

Twelve (12) out of the 38 counties in Washington State have population exceeding 100,000. King County has the largest population at 2,233,163. It is one of the three Washington counties that are included in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue metropolitan statistical area. (The others are Snohomish County to the north, and Pierce Country to the south). About two-thirds of King County's population lives in Seattle suburbs.

County	Population
King	2,233,163
Pierce	891,299
Snohomish	814,901
Spokane	514,631
Clark	481,857
Thurston	286,419
Kitsap	269,805
Yakima	251,446

² Source: US Census Bureau, Quick Facts, population estimates, 1 July 2018 (v2018).

Whatcom	225,685
Benton	201,877
Skagit	128,206
Cowlitz	108,987

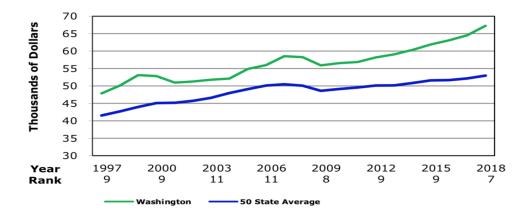


A. Economic Growth and Competitive Highlights³

- Washington's rank improved from 5th to 4th best in the nation in Economic Growth and Competitiveness in 2018. Its ranking improved in five indicators, worsened in three, and remained unchanged in two.
- 7th best in the nation in real per capita gross domestic product (GDP). Washington's per capita GDP increased from US\$64,529 to US\$67,242 in 2018. The 50-state average was US\$45,184 in 2017. The state improved its ranking from 9th to 7th in the nation.

³ Unless otherwise stated, information used in this compilation are sourced mainly from Economic and Revenue Forecast Council "Washington State Economic Climate Study, September 2019"

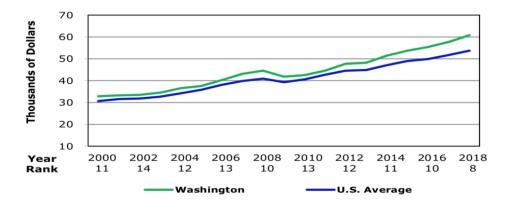
Real Per Capita GDP



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, data through 2018

• 8th in the nation for per capita personal income of US\$60,781 in 2018. This is over US\$7,000 more than the US average of US\$53,712. Washington's five-year average is US\$55,820, which is higher than the country's average of US\$50,274. The state has been in the top 15 since 1969 when the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council collected data. Most of Washington's personal income comes from earnings, which consists mainly wages and salaries, proprietor's income and other labor income. In 2018, net earnings by place of residents for Washington residents totaled US\$291 billion, 63.5% of total personal income. Other sources were transfer payments, US\$65.1 billion (14.2% of total) and income from dividends, interest and rent, US\$101.92 billion (22.3% of total personal income).

Per Capita Personal Income

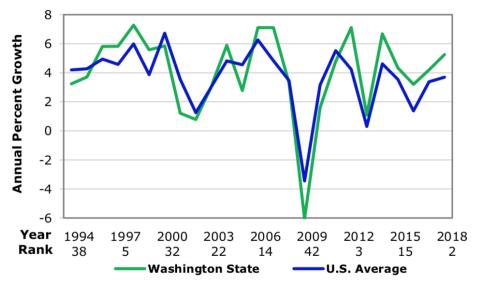


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; data through 2018

The state's per capita income grew by more than 5%, the second highest gro0thhwth rate

in the country. During the period 2018, Washington's per capita personal income growth rate is 5.3%, up 1.1% percentage points from 2017. This improved the state's ranking to 2nd in the country and has greatly improved over the years. In 2009 per capita income growth was -6.6%, making Washington 45th in the nation and in 2001, it ranked 50th. However, from 2014-2018, Washington's average ranking was 2nd in the nation.



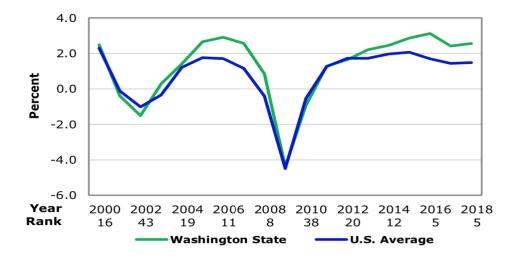


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; data through 2018

• In 2018, Washington's ranking for employment growth rate remained at 5th in the nation. At the start of the 2007-2009 recession, employment dropped across the US and the average annual employment growth rate fell to -0.4% in 2008. Despite this, the state still experienced a positive growth rate of 0.9% in 2008, ranking 8th in the nation. In 2009, as the recession continued, Washington suffered along with the nation with the average annual employment growth fell to -4.5%, the lowest since the great depression. In 2010, the state's employment decline was twice that of the national average pushing Washington's ranking to 12th worst in the nation. Since then, it rebounded with annual employment growth rate of 1.3% in 2011 and 1.6% in 2012.

This continued to climb in 2015, reaching 2.9% improving Washington's rank to 7th in the nation. The following year, the state's employment growth increased to 3.1% further moving its rank to 5th, the best Washington has done since 2008. In 2017, its employment rate decline to 2.4% but maintain its 5th ranking in the nation. This ranking was kept in 2018 even though growth rate increased by 0.2%. From 2014 to 2018, Washington's average employment rate was 2.7%, and the US average was 1.7%.

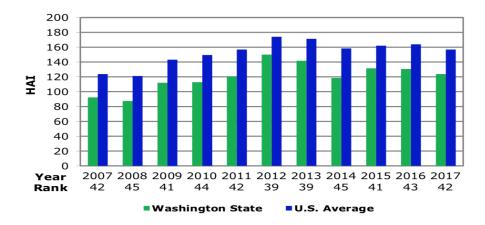
Employment Growth Rate



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; data through 2018

- Real median household income increased to US\$75,418 in 2017 (available data) from US\$71,822 from the year before. This increase improved Washington's ranking from 8th to 2nd. The state has always been above the US median household income. In 2017, the US median income is US\$61,206. The five-year median for Washington is US\$70,313, around US\$12,000 higher than the five-year US median of US\$58,878. The state's five-year ranking is 6th in the nation.
- Washington's Housing Affordability Index (HAI) in 2017 was 124, placing it 42nd in the nation. The HAI measures the housing affordability based on median income and home value. Higher index values, above 100, means homes are more affordable; lower values means homes are less affordable. Washington has historically been below the US average of 157. The state's five-year average is 129, placing it 44th in the nation.

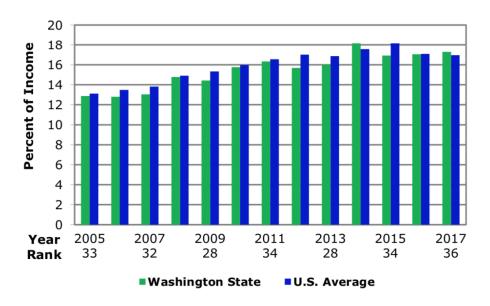
Housing Affordability Index



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, data through 2017

• In 2017, Washington ranked 15th worst in the nation for income spent on rent. Washington's median rent as a percentage of median income was 17.3%. Median rent is the median amount of monthly rent, not including utility payments, fees, meals, or other services. Renters are typically advised to spend no more than 30% of their incomes on rent. Some of the more expensive states, or states with larger portions of incomes being spent on rent are California, New York, Florida, Hawaii, and New Jersey. The five-year average for Washington is 17.1% while the national average is 17.3%.

Income Spent on Rent

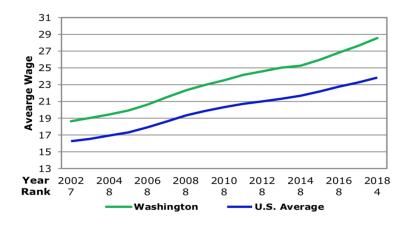


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinder, data through 2017

• Washington ranks within the top ten in 17 out of 22 categories and 4th overall in terms of total average wage and average wage by occupation. The state ranks 1st in Computer and Mathematical occupations as well as Personal Care and Service Production. It also ranks 2nd in Food Preparation and Serving. On the other hand, Washington ranked lowest in the category of Farming, Fishing and Forestry at 22nd in the nation. Washington's total average hourly wages were US\$28.56 in 2018, an increase of US\$0.93 from 2017. The state's ranking also improved to 4th in the nation from previous year. Washington has also been consistently higher than the US average. From 2014 to 2018, the average hourly wage was US\$26.85, ranking 8th.

Washington's relatively high average wage in Healthcare Support may be due to a higher-than-average number of higher-paid workers in biotechnology labs rather than having higher paid doctors and nurses. Moreover, there are considerable differences in wage levels between different parts of the state, with the highly populated areas affecting the average wage more than more sparsely populated areas that may have lower wages.

Total Average Wages



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Labor Statistics, data through March 2018

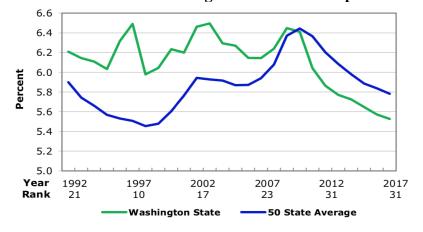
B. Innovation Drivers

• Washington ranks 2nd best in the nation in Innovation Drivers in 2018. All eighteen (18) indicators in this category showed that following standing: six improved, five worsened, and seven remained unchanged.

Talent and Workforce.

• As in most states, Washington relies heavily on community college systems to provide the first two years of a college education. Historically, the state's public two- and four-year college participation rate has been higher than the 50-state average. However, for the first time in the fall of 2011, Washington fell short at 6.0% compared to 6.4% of the national index and since then participation remains slightly below the national average. Washington's average participation rate from 2013-2017 is 5.7%, just below the 50-state average of 5.0% and ranks 30th among the states.

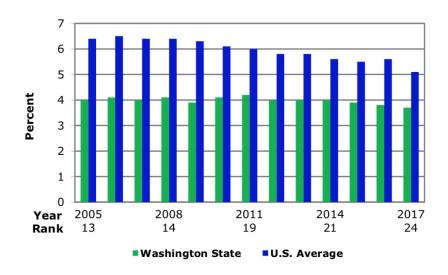
Public Two and Four Year College Combined Participation Rate



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education; Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau; data through 2017

• In 2017, 3.7% of Washington's population aged 25 years or older had less than a 9th grade education ranking 24th in the nation. The state outperformed the national average of 5.1%. The state's five-year average of 3.9% ranks Washington at 24th, which is lower than the US five-year average of 5.5%. As the percentage of those who have completed less than 9th grade education continues to fall, Washington's average remains historically lower than the US average.

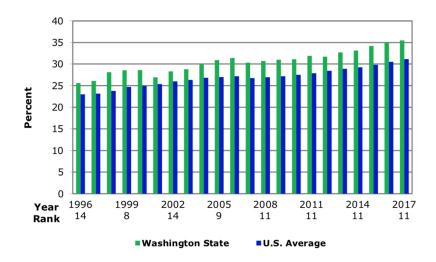
Education Attainment: Completed Less than 9th Grade



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; data through 2017

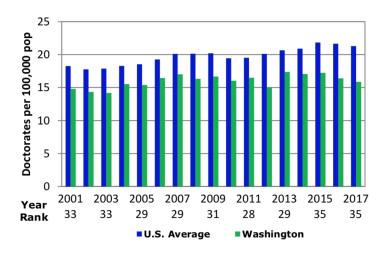
- In Washington, 90.8% of the population has completed four years of high school or more in 2017, slightly improving from 2016. However, the state remained its ranking at 16th. The national average was lower at 87.3% in the same year. Historically, Washington used to perform highly in this category, ranking in the top five nationally since 1991 but the state has fallen and recently average 16th over the past five years. However, the state's five year average remains 3.5 percentage points higher than the national average of 86.9%.
- Higher educational attainment is associated with higher earnings. After 9 consecutive years of ranking 11th in the country, Washington's rank increased to 10th in the nation for percent of population with completed bachelor's degree or more in 2016. However, the ranking moved back to 11th in 2017. Still the percentage of residents age 25 or older with the bachelor's degree or more increased in 2017, from 35.1% in 2016 to 35.5%. This is higher than the US average of 31.1%.
- Washington's ranking improved to 35th in 2017 (from 37th in 2016). The number of individuals who received research doctorates in the state was 914. Washington awarded 15.9 doctoral degrees per 100,000 population age 18+ in 2017, a decrease of 0.5 points from previous year but its overall rank improved. Washington's five-year average of 16.8 research doctorates awarded per 1,000 people was below the national average of 21.3.

Education Attainment: Completed Bachelor's Degree or More



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; data through 2017

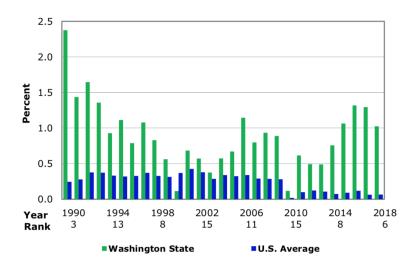
Education Attainment: Research Doctorates Awarded, per 100,000 population age 18



Source: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Earned Doctorates; data through 2017

• Washington continues to be a relatively popular destination for international and domestic migration, ranking 6th overall for migration in 2018. The state's five-year migration rate is 1.1%, significantly higher than the US average migration rate of 0.1 percent. Well over half of the state's population increase came from migration. Its population growth in 2018 was 1.48%. Natural increases accounted for 30% of the state's growth while 70% came from migration. Of the state's immigrants, 40% were international and 60% were domestic.

Migration Rate



Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau; data through 2018

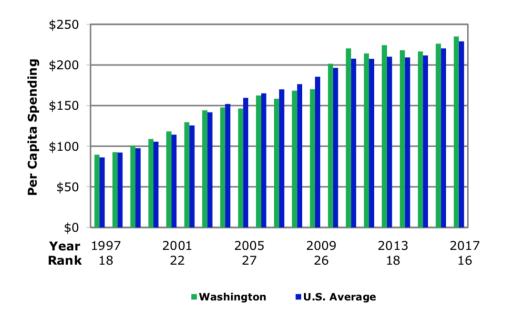
• In 2017, Washington's ranking increased to 2nd in the nation for H-1B visas per 1,000 labor. 6.44 out of every 1,000 workers in the state held an H-1B visa. This is an increase from 5.67 in 2016. Washington's five-year average is 5.91, the third highest in the nation. This is also well above the 50 state average of 2.04. However, despite the high demand for tech savvy workers, H-1B visa holders make up less than one percent of Washington's current labor force.

Entrepreneurship and Investment

The amount of research and development activity occurring within a state relative to the size of its population provides a good indication of the state's capacity for innovation. Industrial R&D brings new products and processes for continued growth while university and government R&D can provide basic research to support local technology hubs and can also attract funding from outside of the state.

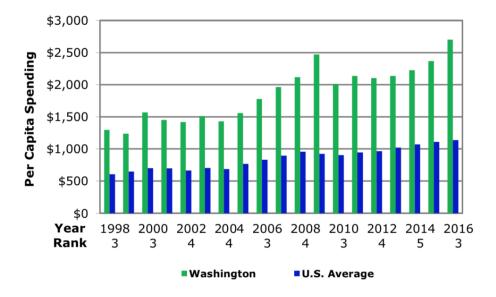
- Washington ranks 16th in the nation in University R&D spending. In 2017, the state's universities spend US\$325 per capita for sixth year in a row, which remains above the US average of US\$229.
- Washington R&D spending in industry and government typically exceeds the national average. For industry R&D, Washington ranks 3rd in the nation in 2016 (the most available data), spending US\$2,702 per capita, up from US\$2,368 per capita in 2015. The five-year average for the state is US\$2,307, well above the US average of US\$1,042. The levels of investment in these sectors exceed by a large margin the levels of venture investment in the same sectors in other peer regions.
- In 2017, the Washington state government spent US\$5.87 per capita for R&D. This places the state at 22nd in the nation, improving two ranks from last year. However, the state government's spending on R&D has been lower than the US average for four years. This year the US average was US\$7.71. The five-year average for Washington is US\$5.70, and the US average is US\$6.62.

Per Capita Spending in Research and Development, University



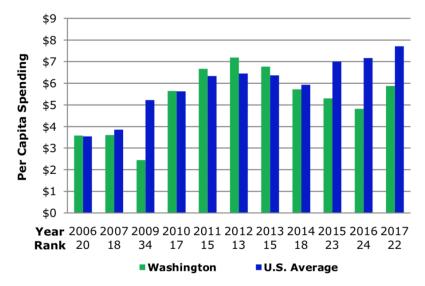
Source: The National Science Foundation; data through 2017

Per Capita Spending in Research and Development, Industry



Source: The National Science Foundation; data through 2016

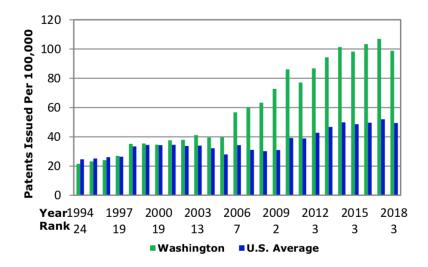
Per Capita Spending in Research and Development, State Government



Source: The National Science Foundation; data through 2017

• Washington ranks 3rd in patents issued. The state had 98.8 patents issued per 100,000 residents. The state's patent issue rate is almost twice the national rate of 49.5. Washington has been ranked 3rd in the nation for the last seven years. The two other states outperforming Washington are California (111.1) and Massachusetts (111.4). The state's five-year average of 101.7 is more than twice the national five-year average of 49.9.

Patents Issued Per 100,000 Population

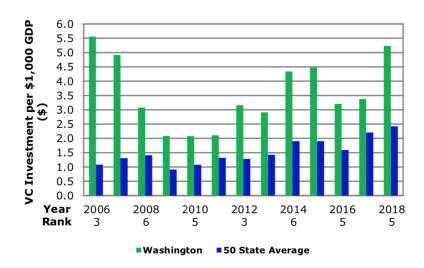


Source: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Census Bureau, data through 2018

• Washington's venture capital investment measure (venture capital investment per thousand GDP) increased to US\$5.23 in 2018, improving its rank to 5th in the nation. This is well above the US average of US\$2.42. In 2018, Washington's share of all

venture capital activity in the US was 2.94%, the 5th largest in the nation state GDP. In 2017, Washington had almost US\$1.8 billion in venture capital deals.

Venture Capital Investment



Source: National Venture Capital Association Yearbook, data through 2018

- In 2018, the rate of new business establishments per existing 100 establishment for Washington is 14.4%, the highest increase in the nation, ranking 1st overall. This data provides a measure of entrepreneurial activity and growth in new business. The 2018 rate is almost five percentage points more than the year before and much greater than the US average of 9.90 percent. The five year average for Washington is 10.15, 14th in the nation.
- About 9 out 10 households in Washington have a broadband internet subscription. The percentage of household with broadband subscription has increased across the nation over time. Between 2013 and 2017, the US average has increased almost 10%. Washington has experienced the same trends, with its percentage increasing over 10 percent during that same period. The state has also seen very high rankings over the past four years, ranking either first or second in the nation. In 2017, Washington ranked 1st in the nation, with 89.10% of its households having access to broadband internet.

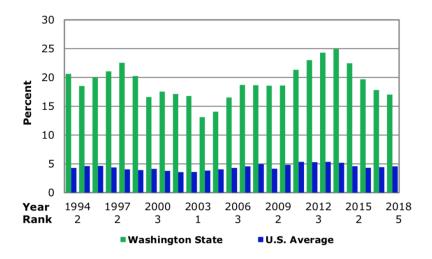
C. Business Performance

Business Prosperity

- Washington's foreign exports as a percent of personal income were 17.02% in 2018, ranking 5th in the nation which is lower than its ranking (3rd) the year before. Despite the decline in ranking, Washington's rate remains well above the national average of 4.55%. Number one ranked Louisiana had exports constituting 28.18 percent of personal income. Washington's five-year average of 20.39%. Louisiana ranks high in this category due largely to its exports of refined petroleum products.
- Washington's perennially strong performance in this category is due mainly to the

presence of Boeing and PACCAR, two of the world's leading manufacturers of commercial aircraft and trucks, respectively. Exports of transportation equipment from these and other Washington manufacturers account for over half of Washington's exports. Excluding the exports of these products, Washington exports were equivalent to 7.68% of personal income in 2018. This number is still above the national average of 7.48%.

Total Foreign Export, 2018



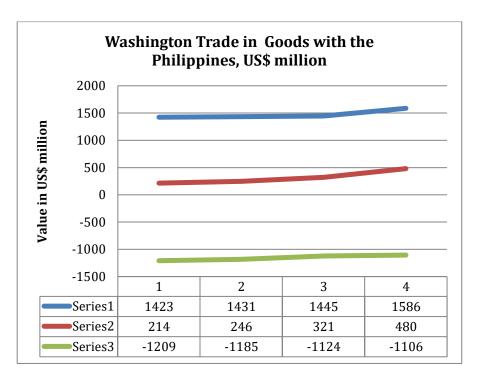
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Foreign Trade Division, Bureau of Economic Analysis; data through 2018

• 2019 Trade Exports and Imports⁴

- Washington's top five export trading partners, by rank are: (1) China, (2) Canada, (3) Japan (4) South Korea, and (5) Mexico. The Philippines ranked 10th. The state's top export products include (1) civilian aircraft, engine and parts; (2) soybeans, other than sees; (3) wheat and meslin, not durum wheat, other than seed; (4) petroleum oils, oils from Bituminous minerals; and (5) corn (maize), other than seed corn. The state exports to Philippines increased by 9.8% (US\$1,586 milion) in 2019 from previous year.
- Washington's top five import trading partners, by rank are: (1) Canada, (2) China, (3) Japan, (4) South Korea, and (5) Mexico. The Philippines ranked #16. The state's top imports are: (1) petroleum oils, oils from Bituminous minerals; (2) passenger motor vehicles with spark ignition internal combustion piston engine of a cylinder capacity exceeding 2,500 cc; (3) natural gas, gaseous; (4) tricycles, scooters, pedal cars, and similar wheeler; and (5) video games, consoles and machines, other than those operated by coins, bank notes, discs, or other similar articles. The state imports from Philippines increased 49.4% (US\$480 million) in 2019 compared to 2018.

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⁴ Source: https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/state



Series 1 - Exports Series 2 - Imports Series 3 - Balance of Trade

• High Wage Industries Share to Total Employment

- The ratio of high wage jobs to total jobs in Washington has been increasing since 2012. The state's above average growth in the high wage share can be attributed to information technology, construction, and aerospace. Non-store retailing was the single largest contributor to Washington's above average performance. Electronic shopping (e.g., Amazon) accounts for 88% of nonstore retail employment. Washington nonstore retail employment increased 156% from 2010 to 2015 compared to 23% for the nation. Publishing industries employment (90% software in Washington), data processing, hosting, and related services employment (91% web search portals in Washington) also grew much faster in Washington than in the US as a whole.
- Washington's average weighted value added per worker hour is lower due to the neutralization of its industry-mix advantage. It ranked 16th in the 2014-2016 period nationwide. In the non-weighted category, the state greatly outperforms the national average. The state's three-year average value added per hour of labor is US\$222.41, whereas the national average is US\$177.76.

Cost of Doing Business

• Washington's tax burden (state and local tax collections per US\$1,000 personal income) has been below the national average for 15 straight years. The state's tax collections per US\$1,000 personal income increased in 2016 to US\$96.78. This is below the US average of US#102.87. Washington's rank on average from 2012 to 2016 was 16th, with US\$95.99 per

US\$1,000 personal income. The Washington Department of Revenue estimates that businesses directly pay 45.6% of major state and local taxes, government pay 4.0% and households pay 50.4%.

- Washington has some of the most generous unemployment insurance benefits in the country. In 2017, the state's average unemployment insurance cost as a percent of total wages of covered employees was 0.70%, down from 0.80% in 2016. The national average rate for 2017 remained unchanged at 0.65%. The state ranked 34th in the nation in 2017.
- In 2019, Washington state is host to ten (10) companies in Fortune 500 list. The top ranked companies are: Amazon (#5), Costco (#14), Microsoft (#26), Starbucks (#121), Paccar (#130), Nordstrom (#196), Expedia Group (#280), Alaska Air Group (#368), Expedia International of Washington (#374) and Weyerhaeuser (#406)

Challenges/Issues to Expanded Economic Prosperity Across the State

• Washington's overall infrastructure is in mediocre condition and requires attention (Grade C) according to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).⁵ Infrastructure supports the state's economy and way of life. It allows the state to thrive in diverse climates and topographies. The transit systems, including the largest ferry operation in the US allows the state to inhabit islands in Puget Sound and off the coast, while the road and bridge maintenance programs facilitate the necessary repair of infrastructure in climates ranging from temperate rainforests to dry deserts. These infrastructure systems protect the pristine natural resources from human development. (Note: Grade C is define as "infrastructure in the system or network is in fair to good condition; it shows general signs of deterioration and requires attention. Some elements exhibit significant deficiencies in conditions and functionality, with increasing vulnerability to risk.)

To improve the state of Washington's infrastructure systems, the following recommendations were being taken into consideration: (a) leverage sustainable loan programs to finance necessary infrastructure projects around the state; (b) balance the needs of urban and rural communities. Forward thinking investments in categories like transit and schools are helping the Puget Sound region prepare for the future; (c) meet the demands of a growing population by stress-testing the civil infrastructure being used everyday. Service providers need investment to maintain and increase infrastructure performance; and (d) lead in environmental sustainability and resilience to natural disasters.

Washington's Overall Infrastructure Scorecard

⁵ American Civil Society of Civil Engineers, "Report Card for California's Infrastructure,2019".



- Rising cost of public schools, demand for services and proposed raises for state workers. While Washington's strong economy means the state can expect to collect about US\$4 billion more in taxes and fees than it did in the 2017-2019 biennium, the state requires extra money to expand education, environmental and mental health programs. There is now a proposal in the local house and senate to increase business and occupation tax for service industries, and instituting a capital gains tax on annual investment income of more than US\$25,000 for an individual and US\$50,000 for a couple.
- Endowed with pristine natural resources, and the need to protect these resources, the state proposes a series of regulations and incentives to reduce the use of fossil fuels and increase cleaner energy sources like solar and wind generation and electric vehicles. For example, the southern resident of orca population is dropping to dangerous levels, and to save it, a proposal was put forward to clean up the Puget Sound, restrict tourist access to the particular pod and increase the orca's main source of food, salmon. The state legislature already has several proposals to limit the use of plastics, including statewide bans on plastic grocery bags and single-use plastic straws.

The Coronavirus and Impact to Washington, as of 29 March 2020

Since January 2020, when the state reported the first case in the US, it has been the central focus of the American outbreak, documenting the most cases and deaths associated with the infection in the nation. Its position in what has now been declared by the World Health Organization as a pandemic can be attributed to everything from individual missed opportunities for diagnosis and state funding gaps to restrictive federal guidelines for testing. However, since then, the focus has now shifted to other states mainly New York, New Jersey, and California, where the situation has worsen and recorded number of cases and deaths have been spiking.

- As of 29 March 2020, at least 4,310 people in Washington state have tested positive for coronavirus, about 7% of all people tested in the state. Of those, 189 people have died.⁶
- With the initial high numbers of cases, the state was forced to jumpstart its testing and surveillance response. The Washington experience is now being used in other states as they are finding the same amount of activity. The University of Washington's virology lab was one of those spaces that was prepared early to contribute to additional testing. It can currently handle about 1,000 samples a day and is expected to be able to process as many as 4,000 samples in another week and working toward being able to test 10,000 samples a day.
- Washington state saw an 843% week-over-week increase in claims for unemployment benefits last week as businesses started to temporarily close under state-mandated orders to slow the spread of coronavirus. Numbers released Thursday by the U.S. Department of Labor and the state Employment Security Department showed that 133,464 new claims for unemployment benefits were filed with the state during the week of March 15-21, an increase of 119,310 new claims over the previous week.

⁶ https://mynorthwest.com/1781250/live-updates-coronavirus-washington-state/?

⁷ https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/14/coronavirus-washington-state-us-outbreak