

Island County Profile

January 2021



info@edcislandcounty.org
www.iscoedc.com
(360) 678-6889

Overview.....	2
Geography & Climate.....	2
Population & Demographics.....	3
Employment & Income.....	4
Employ cont.	5-6
Real Estate & Taxes.....	7
GDP.....	8
Segmentation.....	9
Commuting & Health Care Providers.....	10
Travel.....	11
Schools & Education.....	12
Recreation.....	13
Utilities.....	14
Resources.....	15

ISLAND COUNTY is a unique area, well known for its exceptional quality of life. Island residents and tourists alike marvel at the fantastic views of the snow-covered Cascade and Olympic mountains as they relax in this pastoral setting. The islands comprising Island County are Whidbey, Camano, Ben Ure, Smith, Deception, Strawberry, Baby, Minor and Kalamut.

The two settled islands, Whidbey and Camano, are favorite destinations for weekend visitors with easy access via State Route 20 over Deception Pass, State Route 532 to Camano, and the State Ferry System routes accessed off-island at Mukilteo and Port Townsend.

Whidbey Island is the 5th longest island in the contiguous U.S.—45 miles long with 148 miles of shoreline. Camano is 16 miles long and has 52 miles of shoreline. Whidbey Island is located 27 miles north of Seattle and 50 miles south of the Canadian border. Island County has a total land area of 208 square miles.

The islands were first settled by the Lower Skagit, Swinomish, Suquamish, Snohomish, Kikiallus, and other Native American tribes, who called the area Tscha-kole-chy (Whidbey) and Kol-lut-chen (Camano). European settlements were established in the early 1850s in the Penn Cove-Coupeville area. Today, the small communities along these sheltered shorelines are highly regarded locations for permanent homes and summer residences, as well as small, but successful, businesses.

**Total
population
85,530**

(WA State OFM,
April 1, 2020
population
estimates.)

**North
Whidbey**

Oak
Harbor

Coupeville

**Central
Whidbey**

Langley

**South
Whidbey**

**Camano
Island**

**Island County has four geographic
areas:**

**North Whidbey
Central Whidbey
South Whidbey
Camano Island**

**There are three incorporated
locations in Island County, all on
Whidbey Island:**

**Oak Harbor
Coupeville
Langley**

GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE

The terrain of Island County is largely rolling with elevations from sea level to 580 feet. More than 50% of the land area is undeveloped and features trees, prairie areas of agricultural lands, marshes, open bays and a generally rural environment.

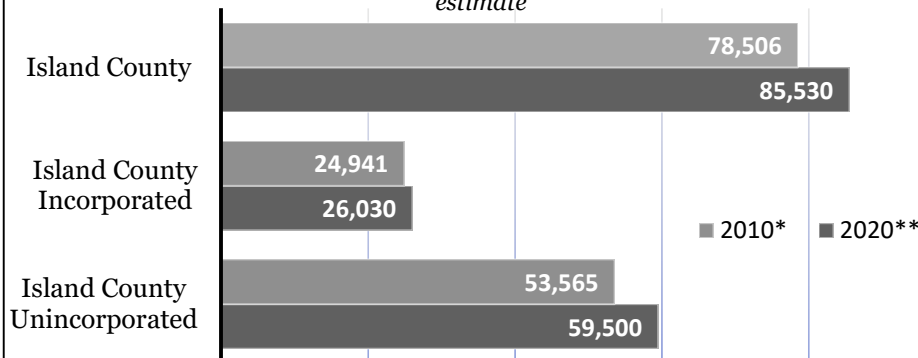
Island County enjoys the moderating effects of water and sheltering mountains to provide a mild, temperate climate. Camano Island and, more so, Whidbey Island both benefit from the Olympic Mountains' "rain shadow" effect. Rainfall averages from about 35" per year in South Whidbey and South Camano to less than 18" on Central Whidbey. This contrasts with the yearly average of approximately 40" in Seattle. Freezes are usually light and rarely continue past February.

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Island County Population

**US Census 2010*

***WA State Office of Financial Management, April 1, 2020 pop estimate*



8.9%
growth

4.4%
growth in
Incorporated
areas

11%
growth in
Unincorporated areas

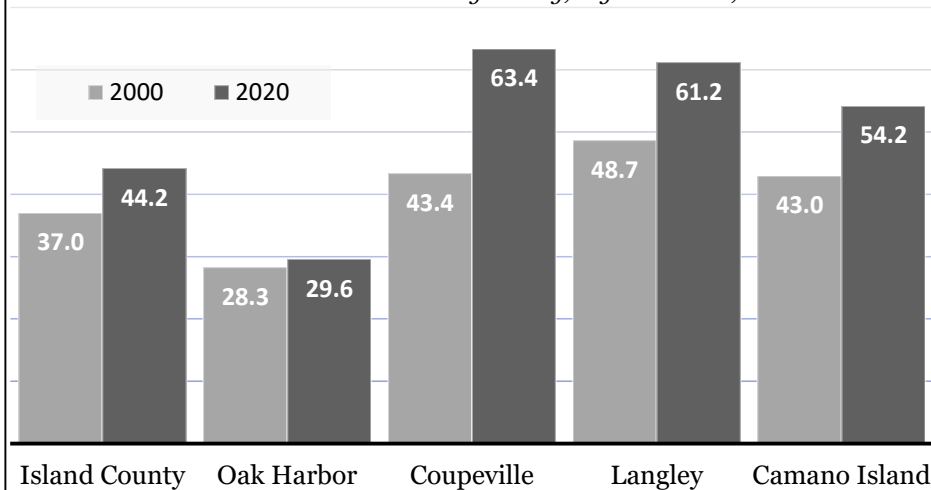
19%
increase from
2000-2018

Oak Harbor
lower median age due
to Navy personnel

**Coupeville,
Langley
& Camano**
increase in median age

Median Age

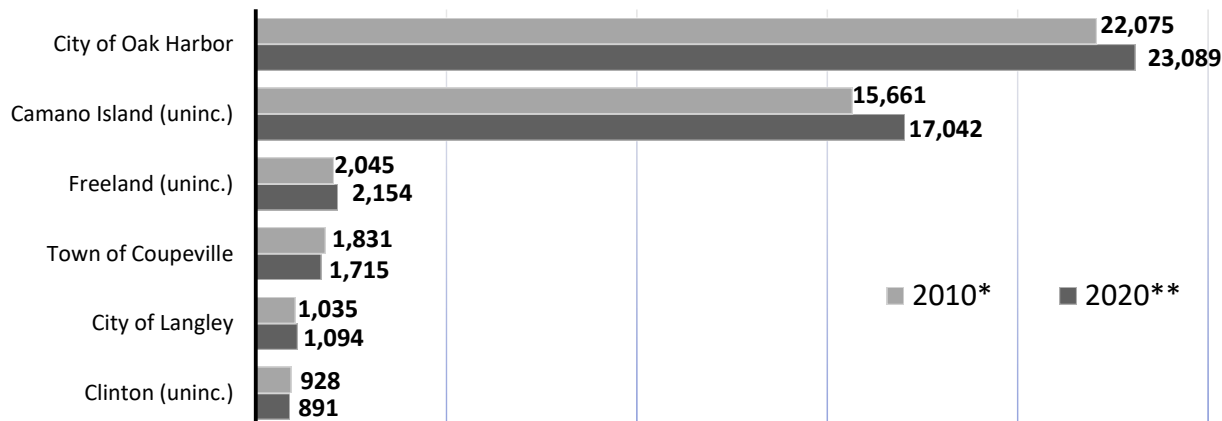
U.S. Census American Community Survey, 5-yr estimates, 2013-2018



Island County Population Centers

**US Census 2010*

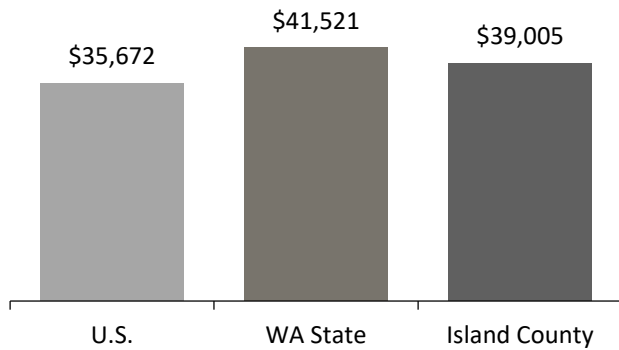
***US Census American Community Survey, 2019, 5-yr estimates*



EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

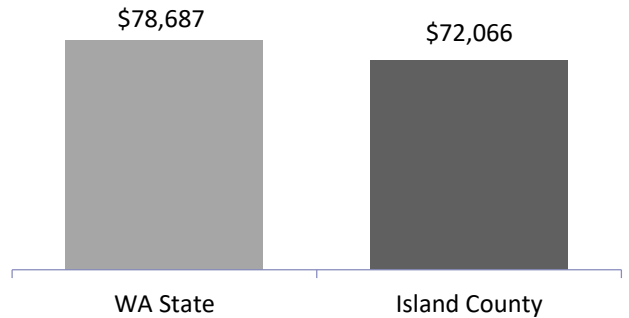
Per Capita Income

ACS 2019 1-year estimate
(inflation adjusted 2019 dollars)



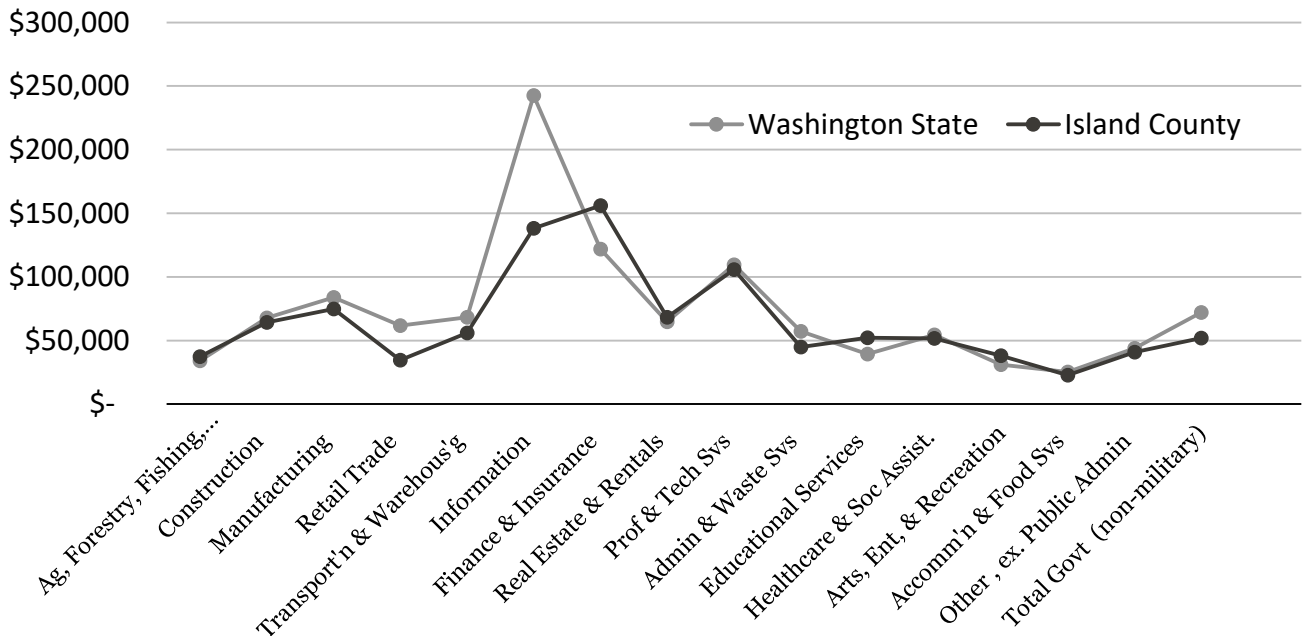
Median Household Income

ACS 2019 1-year estimate
(inflation adjusted 2019 dollars)



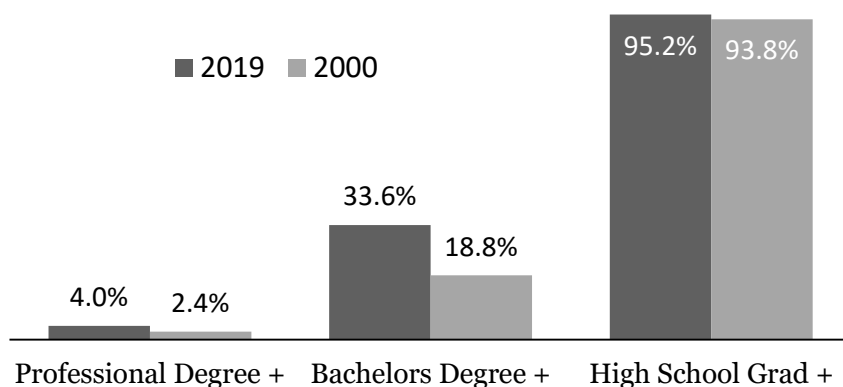
Average Annual Salary per Worker by Industry

Q1 2020, U.S. Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor and Statistics



Educational Attainment (25 yrs and older)

US Census American Community Survey, 2019 1-yr estimate



Per Capita Income
10% higher
than U.S.

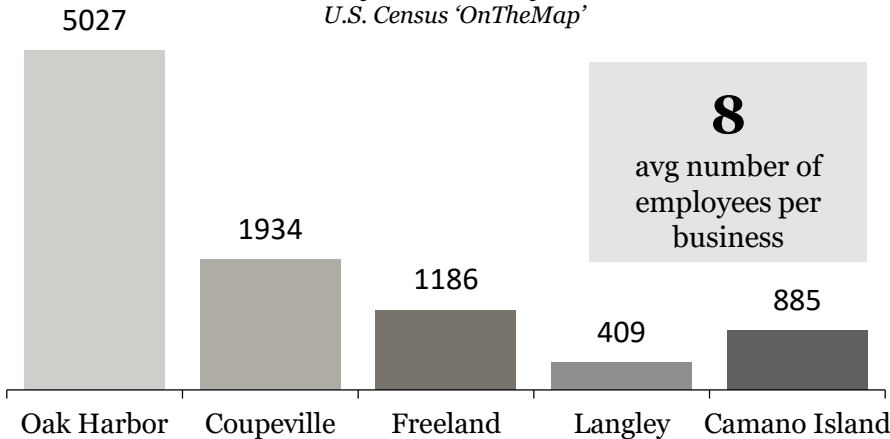
6% lower
than WA State

Median Household
Income
9% lower
than WA State

EMPLOYMENT

Island County Primary Private Jobs

U.S. Census 'OnTheMap'



Labor Force

34,628

Average (non-military)

5.2%

Unemployment (2018)

\$13.69 / hr

Minimum wage

(Source: Employment Security Department)

Island County averaged

16,956

nonfarm (and non-military)
jobs in March 2020

336

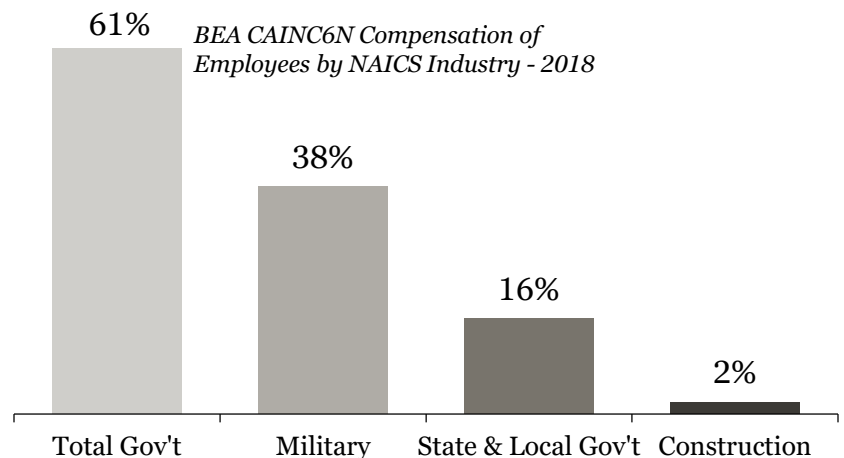
new jobs over 2019

+2%

in total employment

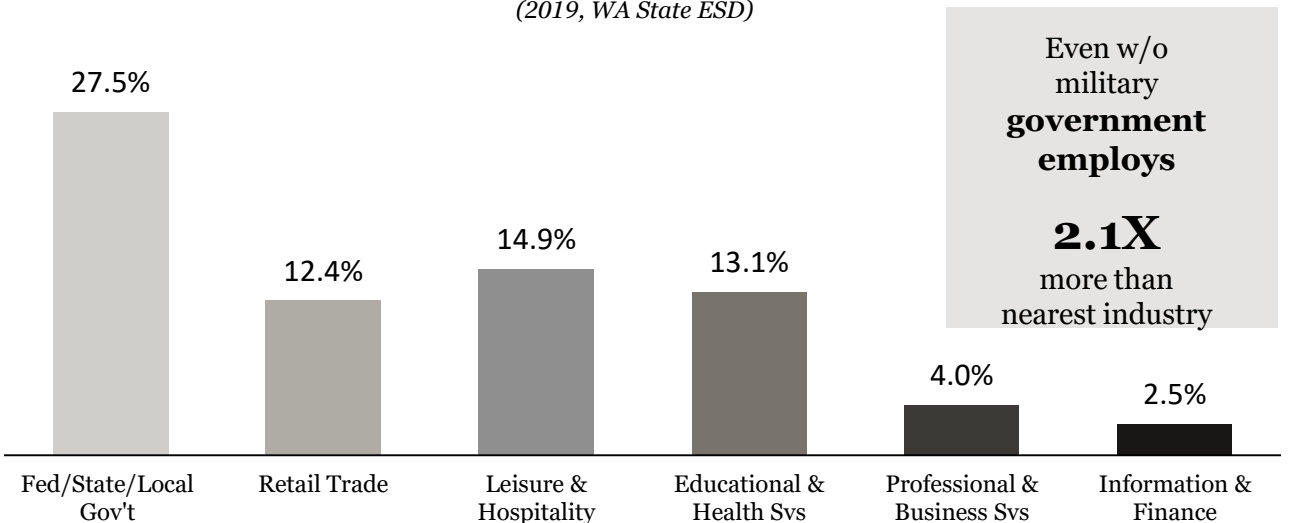
Bureau of Labor & Statistics

Percentage of Pay Role



Percentage Employed by Occupation

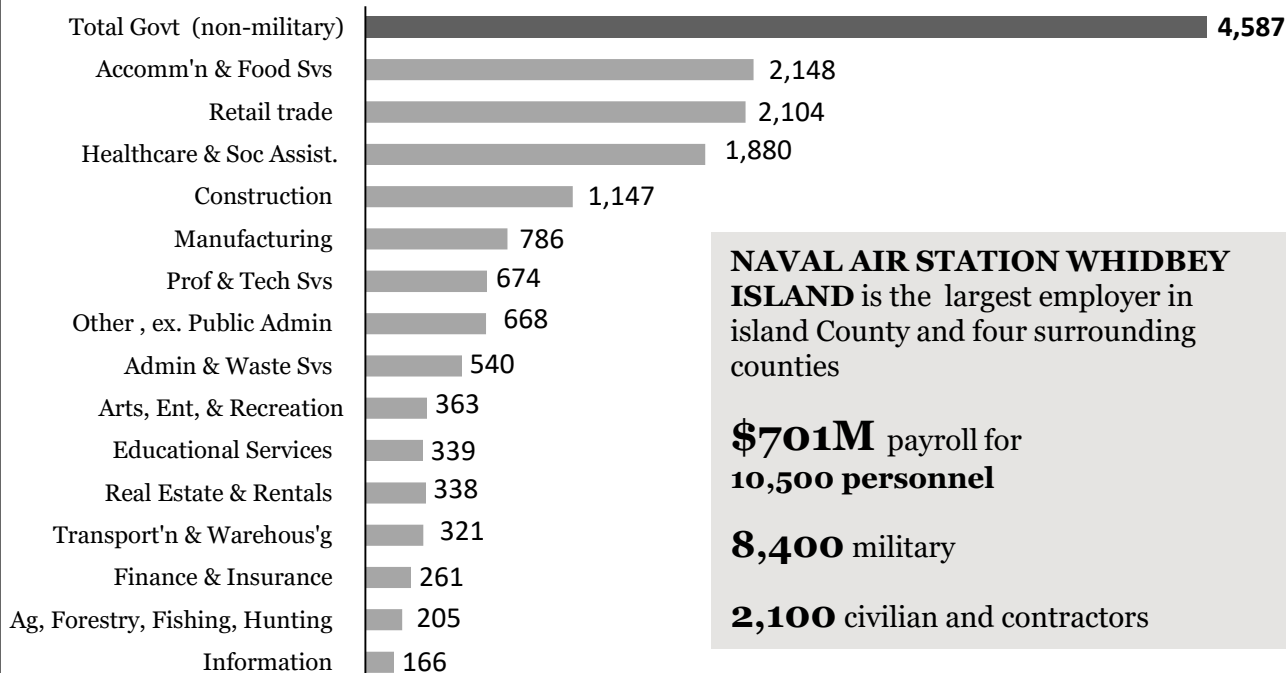
(2019, WA State ESD)



EMPLOYMENT & LABOR

Average Number Employed in Island County

2019, WA State ESD



NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND is the largest employer in island County and four surrounding counties

\$701M payroll for
10,500 personnel

8,400 military

2,100 civilian and contractors

Major Employers (100+ employees)

Employer reported data

NAS Whidbey Island

Federal Government

Wal-Mart

Retail

Whidbey Telecom

Technical Services

Boeing

(commuters from Island County)
Manufacturing

Navy Commissary

Federal Government

New Leaf

Non-profit

WhidbeyHealth Hospital

Healthcare

Safeway

Retail

Payless Foods

Groceries/Food

Oak Harbor School District

Education

IDEX Corp

Manufacturing

Coupeville School District

Education

Island County Government

Local Government

Nichols Brothers Boat Builders Inc.

Manufacturing

Technical Services, Inc.

Manufacturing

Navy Exchange

Federal Government

City of Oak Harbor

Local Government

Regency on Whidbey

Healthcare

Skagit Valley College, Whidbey Campus

Education

Whidbey Island Bank

Financial

Penn Cove Shellfish

Food services

South Whidbey School District

Education

Regency Coupeville

Healthcare

Home Depot

Retail

Island Transit

Transportation

Haggen's Food & Pharmacy

Groceries/Food

REAL ESTATE & TAXES

Commercial Construction

\$250-\$350

per sq ft

average for new construction
for office and retail locations

Commercial Retail

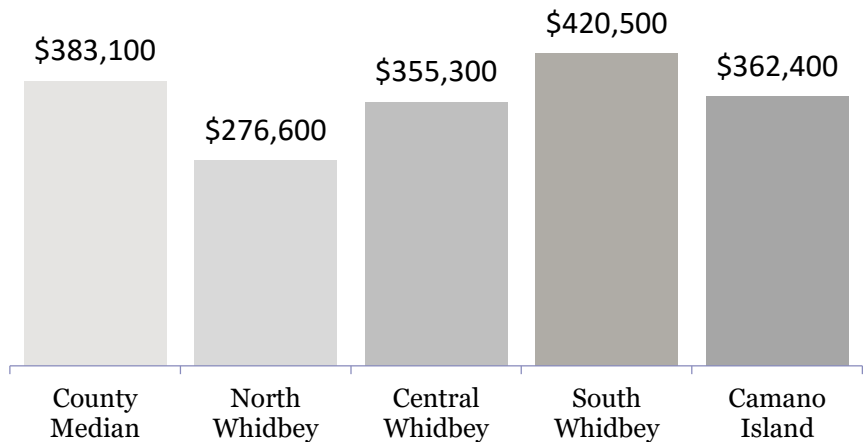
\$10-\$18

sq ft /year

average range

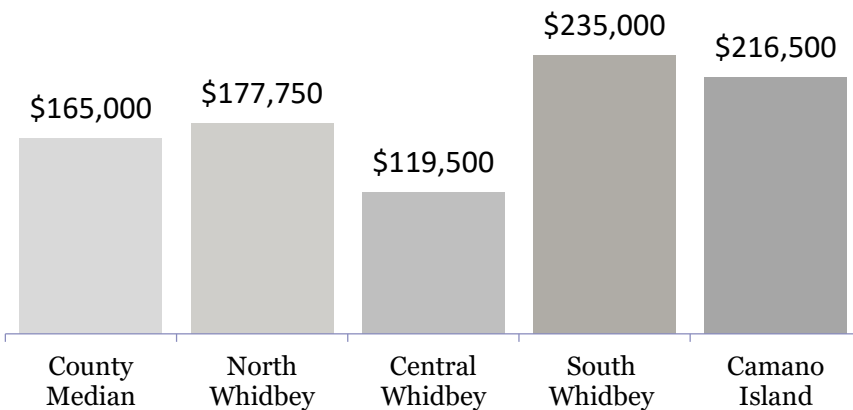
Median Housing Prices

(Includes existing and new construction – American Community Survey – 2018 5-yr estimate)



Median Land Prices

(Land is platted lots at median prices. Source: Courtesy NWMLS via Redfin)



Island County Retail Sales
Tax Rate = 8.7%

No State personal income
tax.

**Island County has one
of the lowest tax bases
in Washington state.**

Washington charges a gross income tax of 1.8% on your revenue after your first \$35,000 of gross receipts. Washington calls this a business and occupations tax, or better known in the state as a B & O tax. This is tracked by your Washington state UBI number (Unified Business Identifier number). There are basically no deductions. Washington State will deduct the money you made and paid taxes for in another state, which makes it a very attractive state in which to own a national company.

Property Tax Rate:

www.islandcountywa.gov/assessors/

Industrial Insurance Rates:

www.lni.wa.gov

Unemployment Rates:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/esd/employmentdata/>

Business & Occupation Tax:

www.dor.wa.gov

Business Personal Property Tax:

www.dor.wa.gov

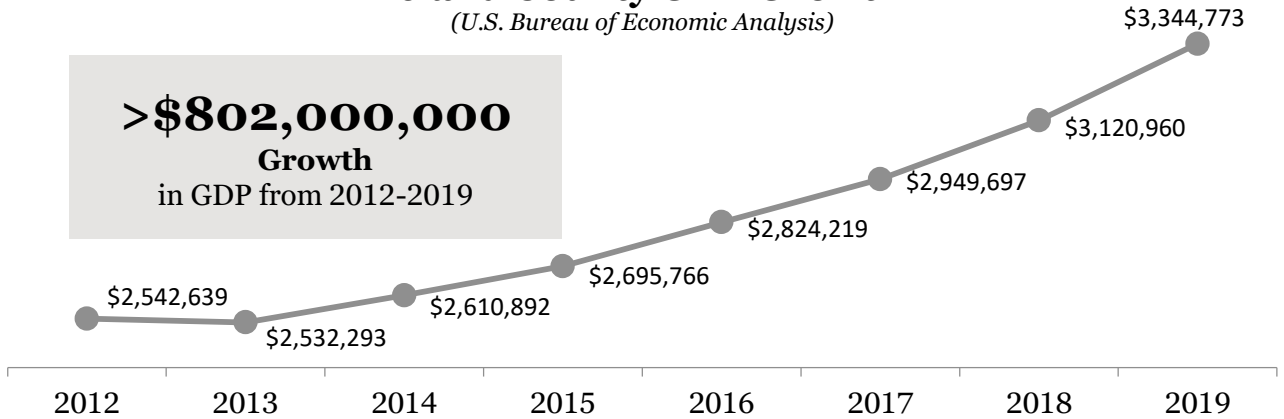
GDP

Island County GDP Growth

(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

>\$802,000,000

Growth
in GDP from 2012-2019

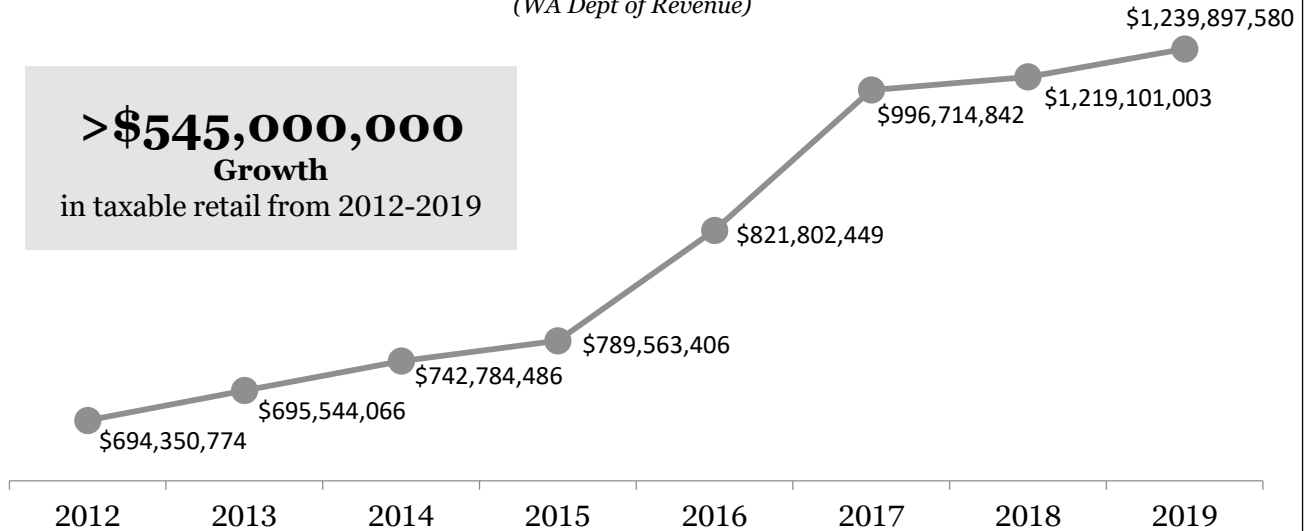


Island County Taxable Retail

(WA Dept of Revenue)

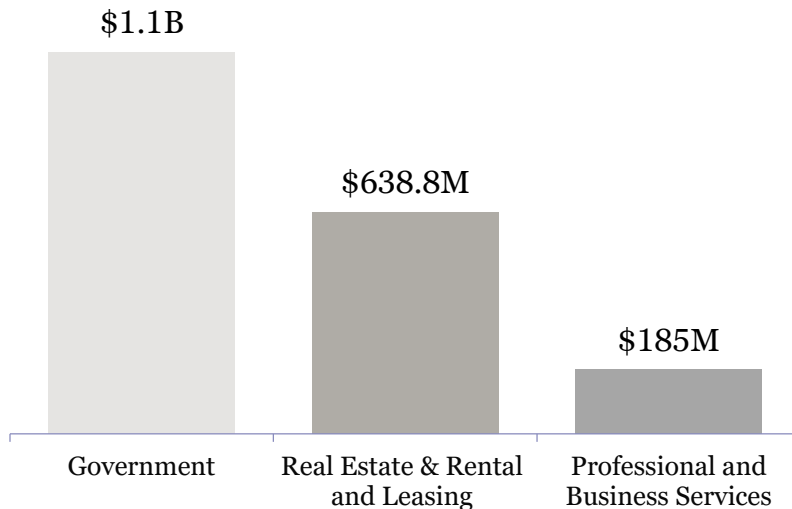
>\$545,000,000

Growth
in taxable retail from 2012-2019



Top Three Industries

(2019, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)



County economic

production

\$2.8B

Production change

Short-term	Long-term
2018-2019	2001-2019

3.1%

23.1%

Per capita economic output

\$32,914

SEGMENTATION

Segmentation is dividing a population into groups defined by individual characteristics. It can be as simple as separating male and female residents, or by something more complex. Mosaic, by Experian, which the EDC has access to through the use of the Buxton Analytics Platform, divides the U.S. population into 19 groups and 71 more detailed sub-groups, or segments. It paints a unique picture of the U.S. population based on their demographic characteristics, lifestyles, and behavior.

ESTABLISHED MULTI-GENERATIONAL HOUSEHOLDS

Who They Are

Smart shoppers
Tech apprentices
Large households
Social media fans

By the Numbers

99.1% live in single family homes
49.2% head of household is 51-65 years old
25.4% household income is \$75,000-99,999
94.2% are homeowners
24.2% household size of 5+ people

Make up
11.9%
of Island County's
workplace
population

OLDER EMPTY-NESTING COUPLES AND SINGLES

Who They Are

Rural lifestyle
Modest housing
Outdoor recreation
Near retirement
Blue-collar jobs

By the Numbers

95.8% live in single family homes
80.4% head of household is 51-65 years old
30.4% household income is \$50,000-\$74,000
97.2% are homeowners
39.7% household size of 1 person

Make up
10.2%
of Island County's
workplace
population

RETIRED COUPLES AND INDIVIDUALS

Who They Are

Retirees
Established credit
Cruise vacations
Brand-loyal
Traditional engagement

By the Numbers

88.5% live in single family homes
61.4% head of household is 76+5 years old
21.2% household income is \$35,000-\$49,999
90.8% are homeowners
35.1% household size of 2 people

Make up
8.1%
of Island County's
residential
population

DIGITALLY SAVVY YOUNG SINGLES

Who They Are

Ambitious
Single adults
Eager to spend
Digitally savvy
9.6 % have children
under the age of 10

By the Numbers

93.9% live in single family homes
51.8% head of household is 25-30 years old
28.4% household income is \$50,000-\$74,000
22.3% are first-time home buyers
69.8% household size of 1 person

Make up
7.8%
of Island County's
residential
population

COMFORTABLY ESTABLISHED BABY BOOMER COUPLES

Who They Are

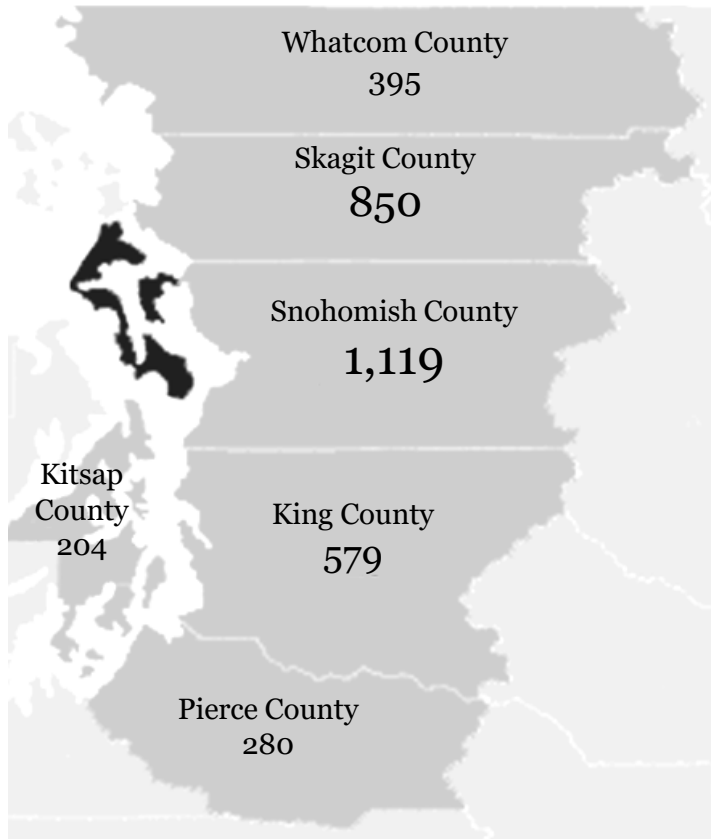
Price-conscious
Do-It-Yourselfers
Outdoor enthusiasts
Domestic travelers

By the Numbers

98.7% live in single family homes
91.3% head of household is 51-65 years old
30.8% household income is \$50,000-\$74,000
96.6% are homeowners
33.6% household size of 2 people

Make up
7.4%
of Island County's
workplace
population

COMMUTING



County's Workforce Commuting Destinations

Census On The Map Commuting Destinations

9,864

out of County commuters from
Whidbey and Camano Islands

280%

increase in commuters
from 2016 to 2017

976

of those commuters come
from Camano Island

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

WhidbeyHealth Medical Center

located in Coupeville

25 active inpatient beds

24 hour emergency room
(only ER on the island)

Life Flight Network – Air Ambulance

Island Hospital

in Anacortes

NAS Whidbey Island

Naval Health Clinic Oak Harbor
serves active duty & retired ersonnel
and their dependents

Camano Island

served by Skagit Valley Hospital in Mt. Vernon

Skagit Clinic on Camano

Camano Island Health System

Arlington Hospital
in Snohomish County

Providence Regional
Medical Center - Everett

Trauma Centers

WhidbeyHealth Medical Center
Coupeville (level 3)

Harborview Medical Center
Seattle (level 1)
[1.5-hour drive;
20-minute air evac]

TRAVEL

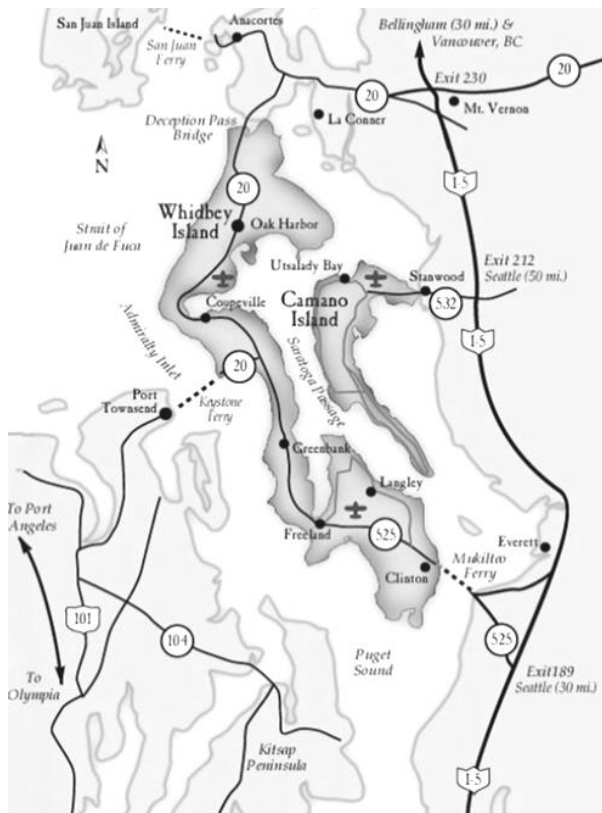
STATE FERRIES

Clinton—Mukilteo
ferry runs
each half hour

Coupeville—Port Townsend
ferry runs
**every 90 minutes/
every 45 minutes**
in summer

A reservation system is
available for use on the
Coupeville—Port Townsend
run.

Reservations
(888) 808-7977
www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries



STATE HIGHWAYS

Connections to the state
highway system and I-5
are via bridges and state
highways

SR 20 & SR 525

main routes through
Whidbey Island

SR 532

main route on
Camano Island

From Whidbey:
39 mi to I-5
29 mi to HWY 99
90 Mi to I-590

BUS SERVICE

Island County provides fare-free bus service throughout the county, on Whidbey Island from Deception Pass to Clinton, and to the ferries at Clinton-Mukilteo and Coupeville-Port Townsend. Bus service is also available on Camano Island, connecting to Stanwood.

Island Transit
(360) 678-7771
www.islandtransit.org

WHIDBEY-SEATAC SHUTTLE

Airport shuttle service from Whidbey Island to SeaTac International Airport and Paine Field.
639 Industrial Ave Suite A, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

360-679-4003
877-679-4003 (Toll-free)
<http://www.seatacshuttle.com/>

AIRPORTS

Camano Air Park
Camano Island
Runway: 1,750 ft.
No scheduled air service

A.J. Eisenberg Airport
Oak Harbor
Runway: 3,200 ft.
Scheduled air service
<https://www.lynkair.com/>
888-596-5247

Whidbey Air Park
Langley
Runway: 2,400 ft.
No schedule air service

SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

Public School Districts

North Whidbey:

Oak Harbor Public Schools
(360) 679-5800
www.ohsd.net

Central Whidbey:

Coupeville School District #204
(360) 678-4522
coupeville.k12.wa.us

South Whidbey:

South Whidbey School District #206
(360) 221-6100
www.sw.wednet.edu/

Camano Island:

Stanwood-Camano School District #401
(360) 629-1200
www.stanwood.wednet.edu

Private Schools

Oak Harbor

Oak Harbor Christian School PS-5
(360) 675-2831

North Whidbey Christian High School
(360) 675-5352

Montessori K-4
(360) 675-4165

Seventh Day Adventist 1-8
(360) 675-4412

Lighthouse Christian Academy 1-12
(360) 679-3158

Langley

Island Christian Academy PreK-12
(360) 221-0919

Clinton

Whidbey Island Waldorf School PS-8
(360) 341-5686

Wellington Day School K-8
(360) 341-1252

Whidbey Island schools have a
95% graduation rate

Colleges and Technical Schools

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

NAS Whidbey
2 & 4-year degree programs
Aeronautics Science, Aviation, Business
Administration Management, and Technical
Operations.

Skagit Valley College

Oak Harbor
Clinton
Mt. Vernon
Associate Degree program transferable to a
4-year institution occupational/ workplace
training

Brandman University

NAS Whidbey
4-year degree programs
Business Administration, Computer Science
& Information Systems, Social Sciences,
Psychology, and Criminal Justice
Graduate degree programs Human
Resources and Organizational Leadership.

Washington State University

Remote
Continuing education
Extended degree programs
Certification

RECREATION

Parks

Island County features exceptional recreation opportunities. Boating, fishing, biking, bird watching, clamming, golfing and hiking are especially popular with residents and tourists alike. The county enjoys abundant wildlife and has developed a county-wide system of trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Organized sports activities are offered by the county's recreation districts and cover a wide gamut of team and individual sports.

An abundance of lodging and RV/camping choices are available along with facilities for events or meetings.

Contact area Chambers of Commerce or
<https://whidbeycamanoislands.com> for more information.

Island County has

8 State Parks

37 County Parks

44 City Parks

and many private parks,
marinas, golf courses, port
facilities, and campgrounds

State Parks

Camano Beach State Park
Camano Island

Fort Casey State Park
Central Whidbey

Deception Pass State Park
North Whidbey

Fort Ebey State Park
Central Whidbey

Joseph Whidbey State Park
North Whidbey

Possession Point
South Whidbey

Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve
Central Whidbey

South Whidbey State Park
South Whidbey

For a full list of state and county parks, visit :
<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/PublicWorks/Parks>

Museums

PBY Aircraft Museum - Oak Harbor
Island County Historical Museum - Coupeville
South Whidbey Museum – Langley

Historical Sites

Deception Pass
Coupeville Waterfront
Fort Casey State Park
Fort Ebey State Park
Sunnyside Cemetery
Admiralty Head Lighthouse
Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve
Cama Beach Resort & Archaeological Site
Utsalady Ladies Aid Building (Camano Island)

Art Galleries and Theatres

Movie cinemas are located in Oak Harbor, NAS Whidbey, and Langley.

There are also live theaters in Oak Harbor and Langley, and a drive-in theater in Oak Harbor.

Art galleries abound on Whidbey and Camano, especially in Langley, Coupeville, and Camano.

Request a complete listing from the local Chambers of Commerce.

UTILITIES

SOLID WASTE

Service is provided by each of the incorporated cities to its residents.

Resource:

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/PublicWorks/solidwaste/Pages/Home.aspx>

Island Disposal (serving Whidbey):

(360) 678-5701

<https://www.islanddisposalinc.com/commercial-service>

Stanwood Camano Disposal (serving Camano):

(800) 592-9995

<http://wmnorthwest.com/camano/commercial.html>

Waste Management

(360) 757 4068

<https://www.wm.com/>

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Comcast

(800) 266-2278

www.comcast.com

Ziply Fiber

(360) 707-4817

<https://get.ziplyfiber.com/>

Whidbey Telecom (S. Whidbey)

(360) 321-1122

www.whidbeytel.com

WAVE Cable

(866) 928 3123

<https://residential.wavebroadband.com/>

NATURAL GAS

Oak Harbor:

Cascade Natural Gas

(360) 675-6641

<https://www.cngc.com/rates-services/business-services/>

ELECTRICITY

Whidbey Island:

Puget Sound Energy

(888) 225-5773

www.pse.com/business

Camano Island:

Snohomish County PUD

(877) 783-1000

www.snopud.com/business.ashx?p=1099

WATER

City operated water & sewage systems in:

Oak Harbor: (360) 279-4750

Coupeville: (360) 678-4461, ext 6

Langley: (360) 221-4246, ext 13

Public Water Districts operate in Freeland, Clinton and parts of Camano Island. There are also a number of privately owned water systems in the county. Private Sewage Systems are at Penn Cove, near Coupeville and Holmes Harbor in Freeland

The City of Oak Harbor is the largest water purveyor in Island County

3,700+
connections

2.26 million gallons/day
average daily demand

Anacortes obtains water from the Skagit River, the City of Anacortes holding this water right. **95%** of the water used by Oak Harbor is purchased wholesale from the City of Anacortes.

This imported water comprises **28%** of the water used in Island County. The remaining **72%** comes from groundwater.

RESOURCES

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Greater Oak Harbor

(360) 675-3755

www.oakharborchamber.org

Greater Freeland

(360) 331-1980

www.freelandchamber.org

Clinton

(360) 331-3929

www.discoverclintonwa.com

Coupeville

(360) 678-5434

www.coupevillechamber.com

Langley

(360) 221-6765

www.visitlangley.com

Camano

(360) 629-7136

www.camanoisland.org

Tourism Information

www.whidbeycamanoislands.com

GOVERNMENT

Island County

(360) 678-5111 (main number)

www.islandcountywa.gov

Port of South Whidbey

(360) 331-5494

portofsouthwhidbey.com

Port of Coupeville

(360) 222-3151

<https://portoc.org/>

Town of Coupeville

(360) 678-4461

townofcoupeville.org

City of Langley

(360) 221-4246

www.langleywa.org

City of Oak Harbor

(360) 279-4500

www.oakharbor.org



Economic
Development
Council
for Island County

info@edcislandcounty.org

www.iscoedc.com

(360) 678-6889

The Economic Development Council for Island County (EDCIC) is a 501(c)6 non-profit dedicated to:

- ✓ Enhancing economic vitality of Island County
- ✓ Assisting local businesses find resources and connections
- ✓ Working to attract new businesses to our communities, and
- ✓ Engaging with community partners and leaders to enhance our collective prosperity and encourage our economic future

Membership in the EDCIC starts as low as \$70 for many businesses. Contact us for more information.