



EDC
ISLAND
COUNTY

Island County Profile

January 2021

(Updated July 2021)

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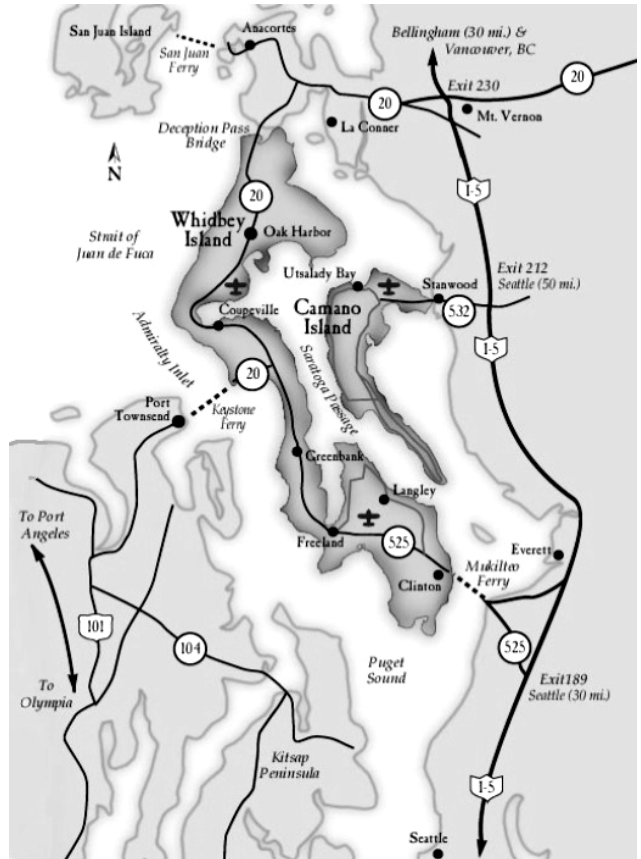
OVERVIEW

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.



GEOGRAPHY

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.

CLIMATE

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 has four geographic areas:

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

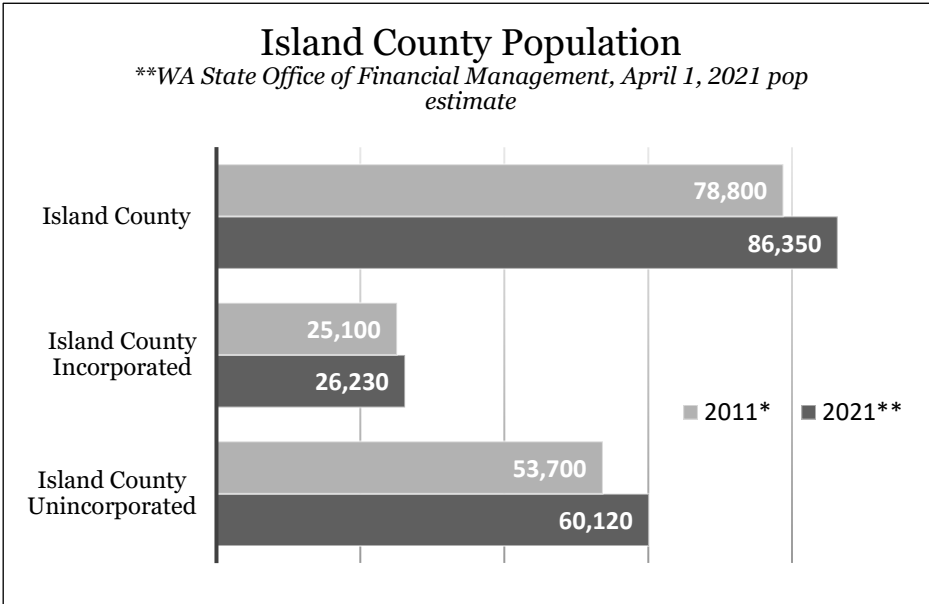
SNAPSHOT
Total population

86,350

(WA State OFM, April 1, 2021 population estimates.)

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

- Oak Harbor**
- Coupeville**
- Langley**

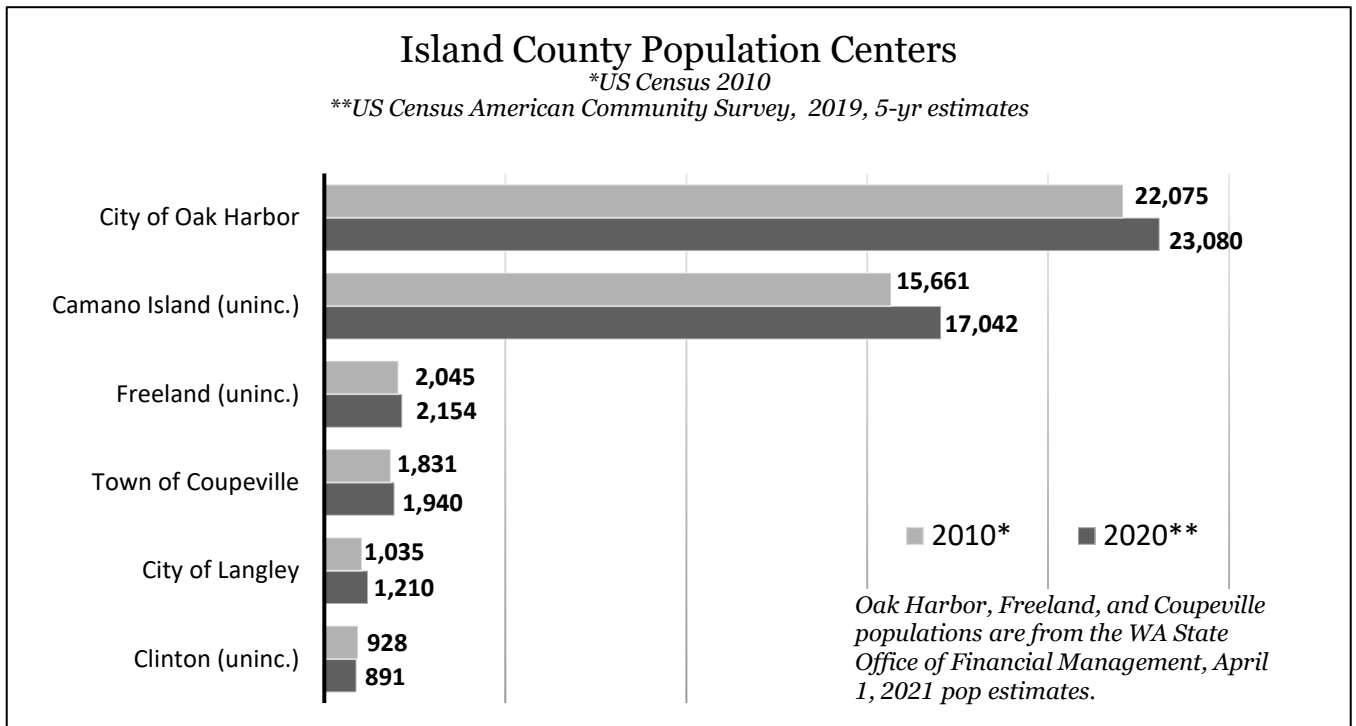


From 2011-2021

9.6% growth

4.5% growth in incorporated areas

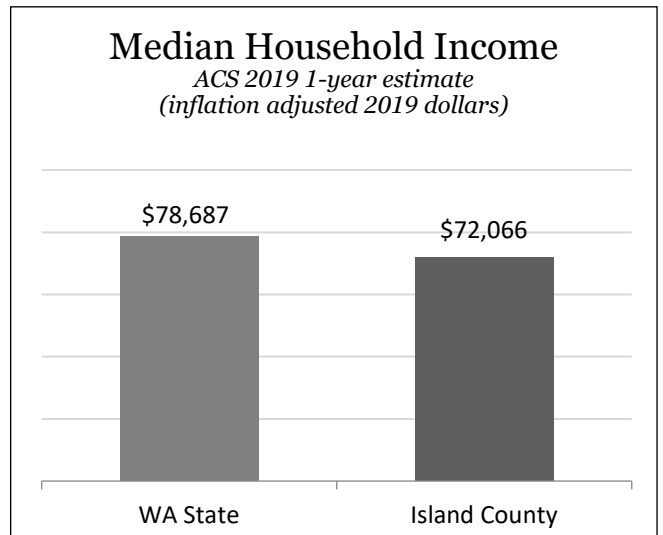
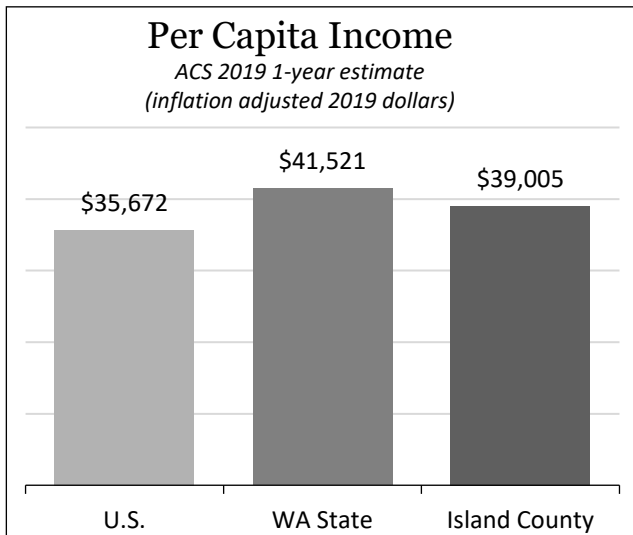
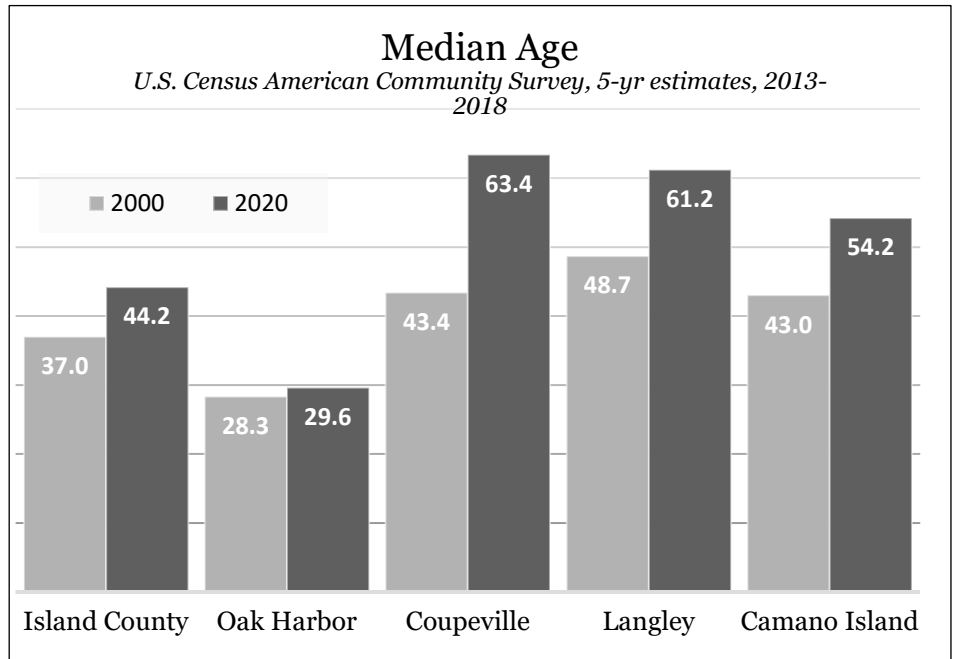
12% growth in unincorporated areas



POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

**19%
increase from
2000-2018**

**Oak Harbor
has a lower median
age
due to Navy
personnel
Coupeville,
Langley, &
Camano
increase in median
age**



Per Capita Income

**10% higher
than U.S.**

**6% lower
than WA State**

Median Household Income

**9% lower
than WA State**

EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR

County's Workforce Commuting Destinations

Census On The Map Commuting Destinations

Destination	# of Commuters
Snohomish County	1,119
Skagit County	850
King County	579
Whatcom County	395
Pierce County	280
Kitsap County	204

9,864

out of county commuters from Whidbey and Camano Islands

976

of those commuters come from Camano Island

280%

increase in commuters from 2016 to 2017

Island County averaged 16,956 nonfarm (and non-military) jobs in March 2020

Bureau of Labor & Statistics

336

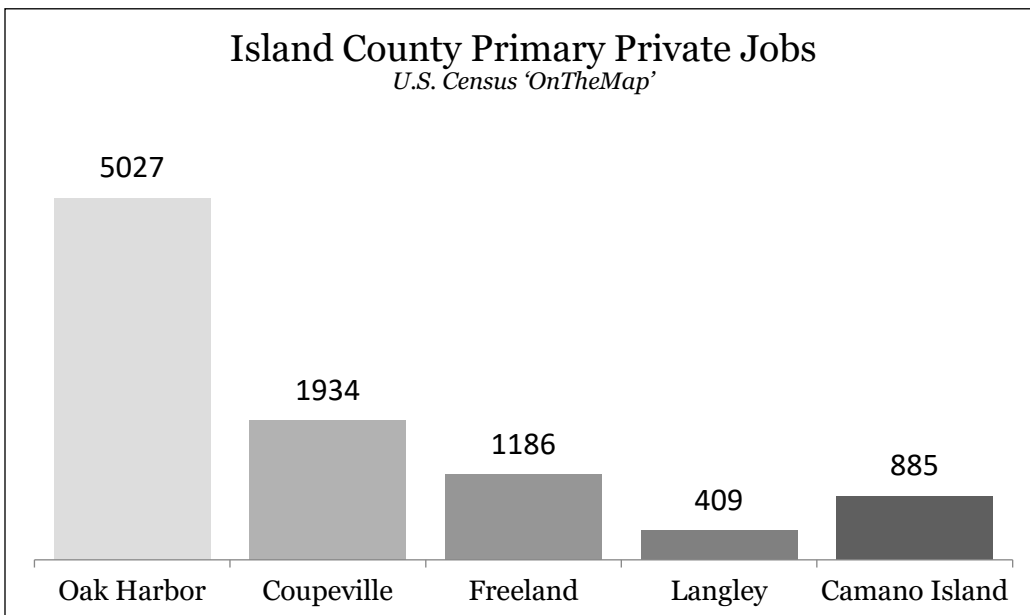
new jobs over 2019

+2%

in total employment

Island County Primary Private Jobs

U.S. Census 'OnTheMap'



Labor Force

34,628

Average (non-military)

5.2%

Unemployment (2018)

4.4 %

Growth (2016-2017)

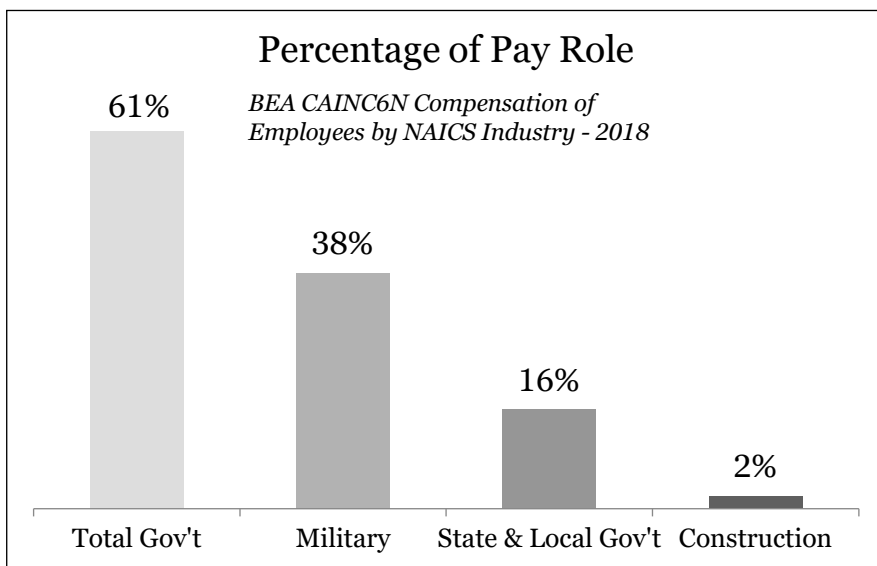
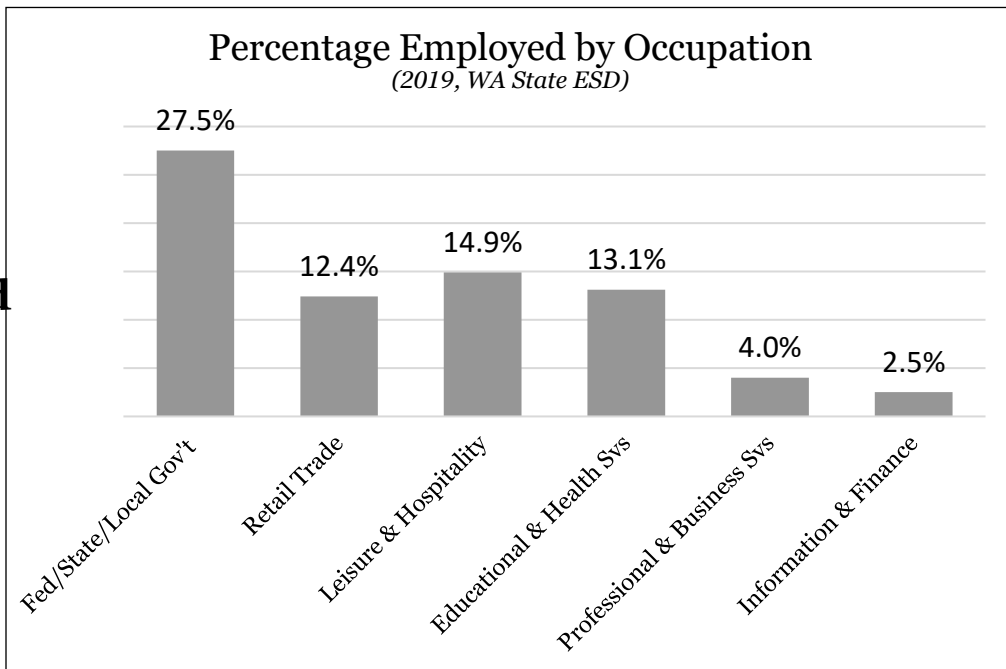
\$13.69 / hr

Minimum wage

(Source: Employment Security Department)

EMPLOYMENT & LABOR

Other than NAS Whidbey
Fed, State, and Local Governments
 are the **largest employers**



According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis

Government is the largest employer

Navy is the single largest employer

National Air Station Whidbey Island
 is largest employer in Island County and four surrounding Counties

<p>8,400 military</p> <p>2,100 civilian and contractors</p>	<p>\$701M Payroll for 10,500 personnel</p>
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Major Employers (100+ employees)

Employer reported data

NAS Whidbey Island

Federal Government

Boeing

(commuters from Island County)
Manufacturing

WhidbeyHealth Hospital

Healthcare

Oak Harbor School District

Education

Island County Government

Local Government

Navy Exchange

Federal Government

Skagit Valley College, Whidbey Campus

Education

South Whidbey School District

Education

Wal-Mart

Retail

Navy Commissary

Federal Government

Safeway

Retail

IDEX Corp

Manufacturing

Nichols Brothers Boat Builders Inc.

Manufacturing

City of Oak Harbor

Local Government

Whidbey Island Bank

Financial

Regency Coupeville

Healthcare

Island Transit

Transportation

Whidbey Telecom

Technical Services

New Leaf

Non-profit

Payless Foods

Groceries/Food

Coupeville School District

Education

Technical Services, Inc.

Manufacturing

Regency on Whidbey

Healthcare

Penn Cove Shellfish

Food services

Home Depot

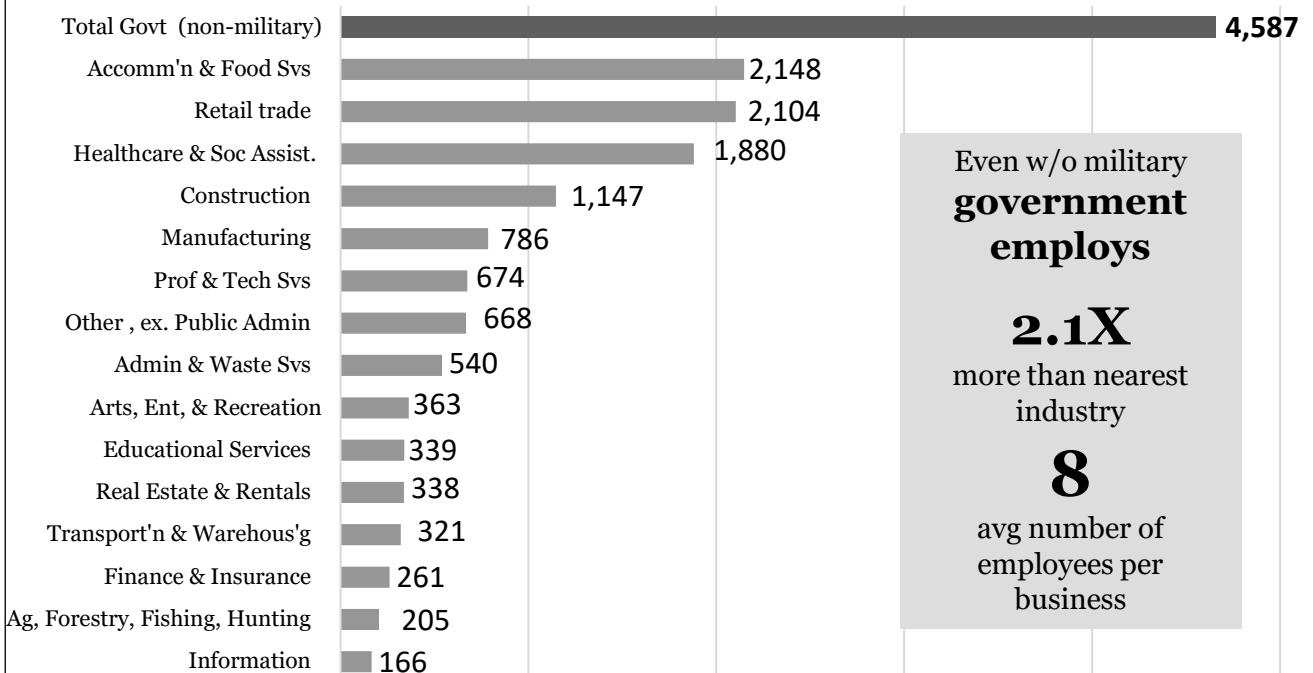
Retail

Haggen's Food & Pharmacy

Groceries/Food

Average Number Employed in Island County

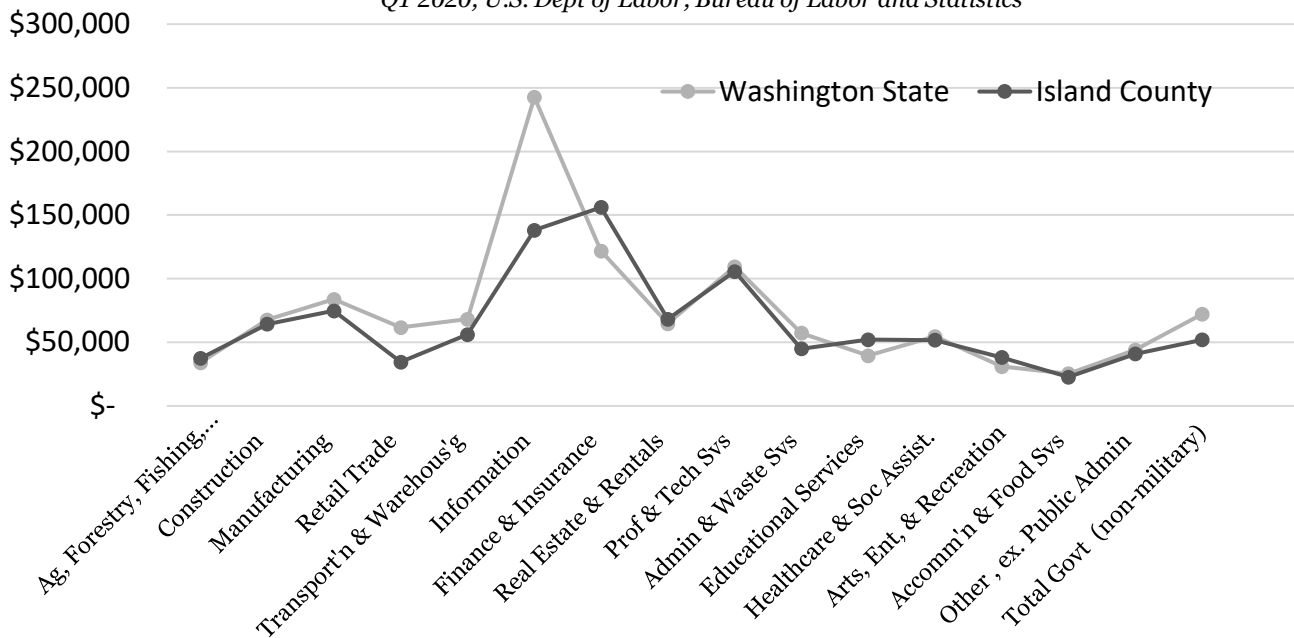
2019, WA State ESD



EMPLOYMENT & LABOR

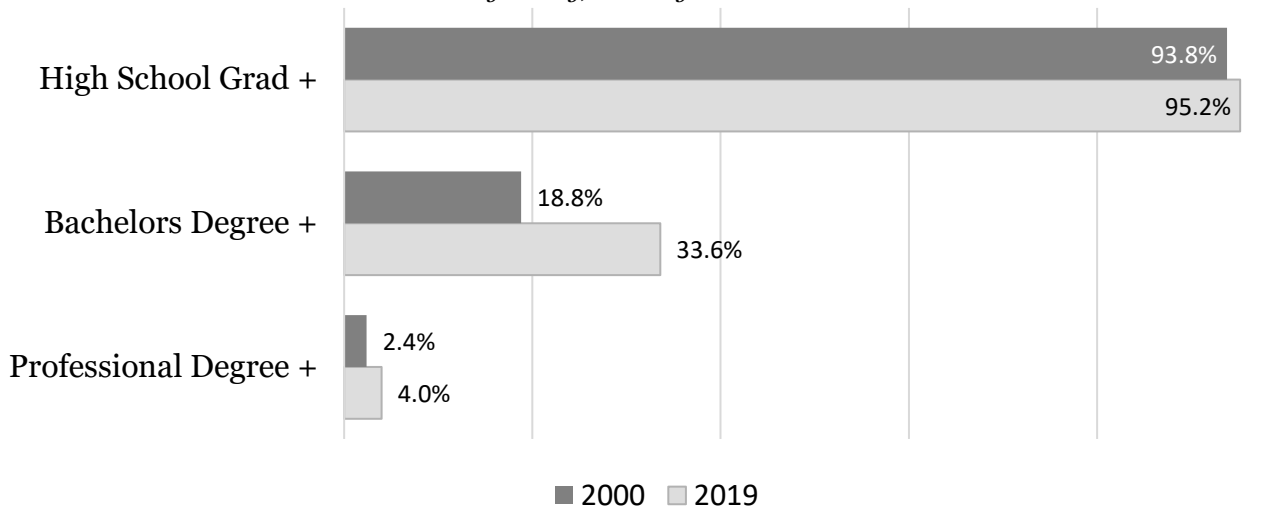
Average Annual Salary per Worker by Industry

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



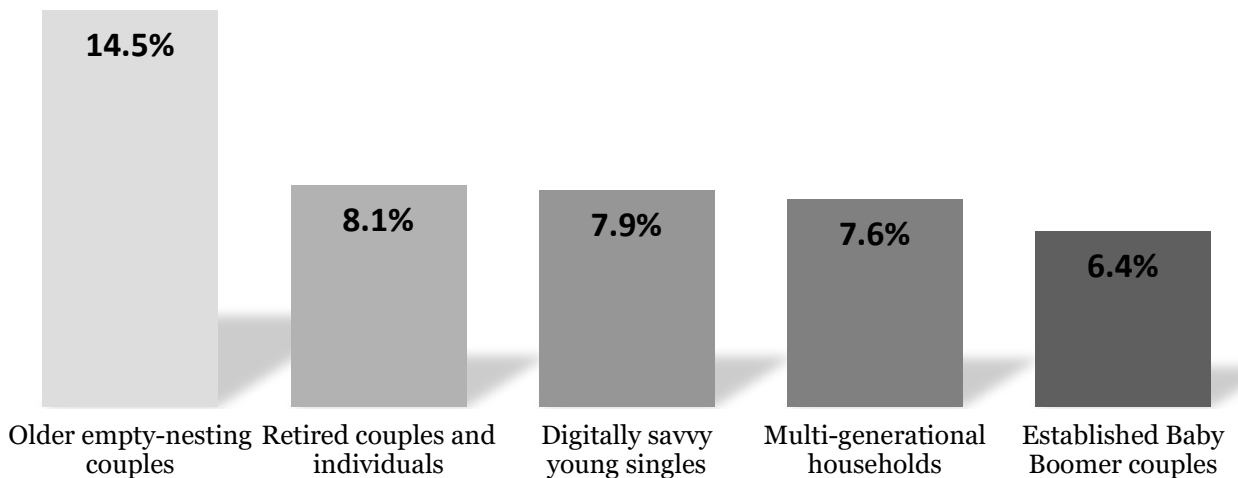
SEGMENTATION

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.

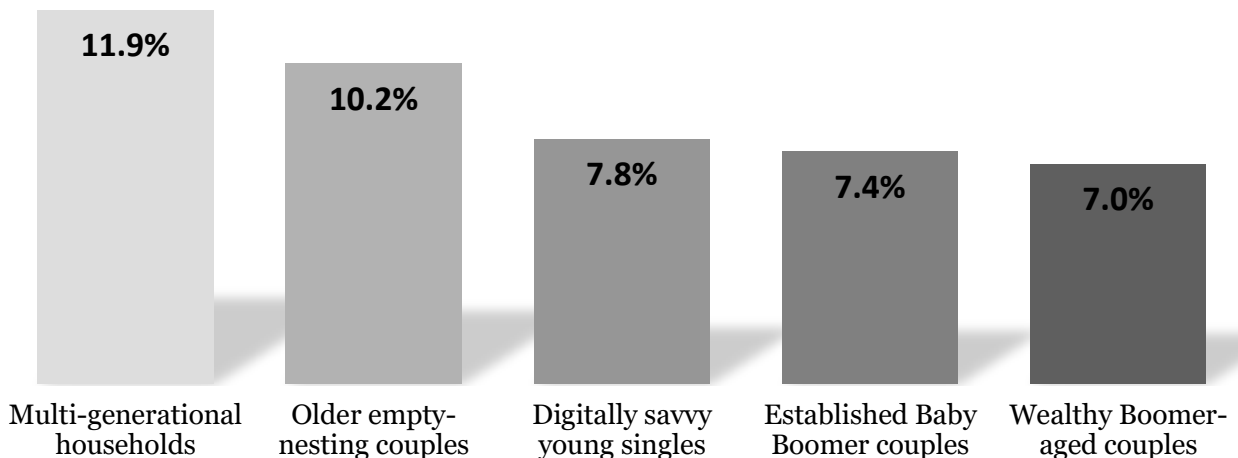
Mosaic, by Experian, which the EDC has access to through the use of the Buxton Analytics Platform, divides the U.S. population into 19 groups and 71 more detailed sub-groups, or segments. It paints a unique picture of the U.S. population based on their demographic characteristics, lifestyles, and behavior.

In this next section we'll look at the top five (5) segments of those 71 that comprise Island County's **residential households**, and the top five segments of its **workplace households**.

Top 5 Residential Household Segments



Top 5 Workplace Household Segments



REAL ESTATE & COMMERCIAL REALTY

Median Housing Prices

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

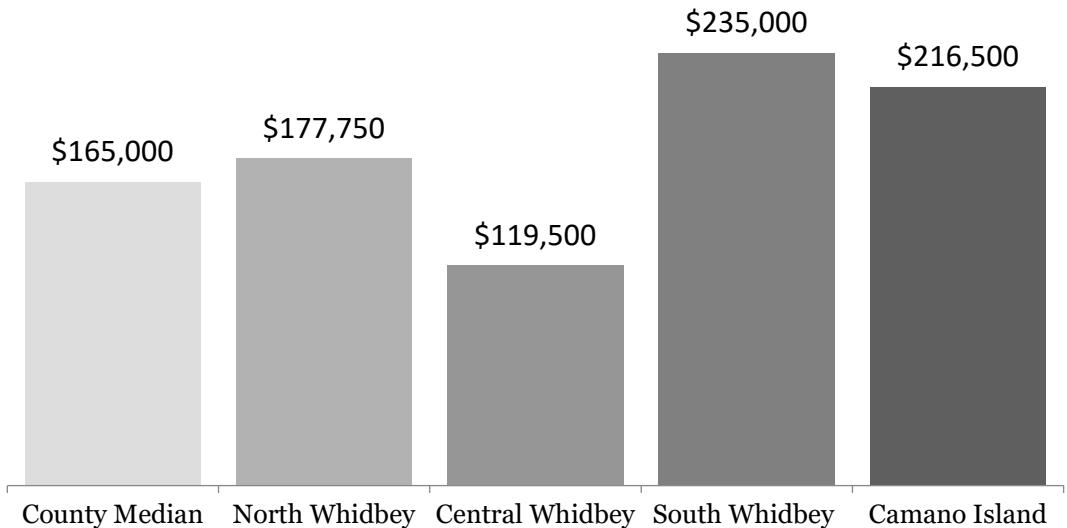


Camano, North and Central Whidbey prices **lower** than County median

South Whidbey has **highest** median housing prices

Median Land Prices

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



South Whidbey has **highest** median land prices

Central Whidbey has **lowest** median land prices

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

\$250-\$350

per sq ft

average for new construction
for office and retail locations

COMMERCIAL RENTAL

\$10-\$18

sq ft /year

average range

TAXES & GDP

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.

Island County Retail Sales Tax Rate = 8.7%

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

Property Tax Rate:

www.islandcountywa.gov/assessors/

Unemployment Rates:

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

Business Personal Property Tax:

www.dor.wa.gov

No State Personal Income Tax

Industrial Insurance Rates:

www.lni.wa.gov

Business & Occupation Tax:

www.dor.wa.gov/

County economic
production

\$2.8B

Production change

Short-term
2018-2019

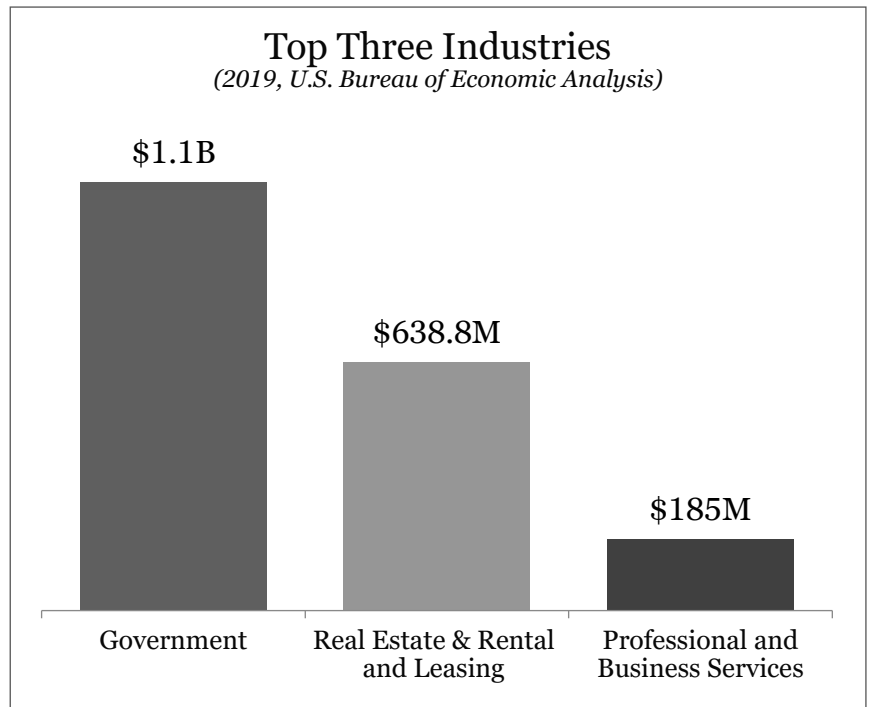
3.1%

Long-term
2001-2019

23.1%

Per capita economic
output

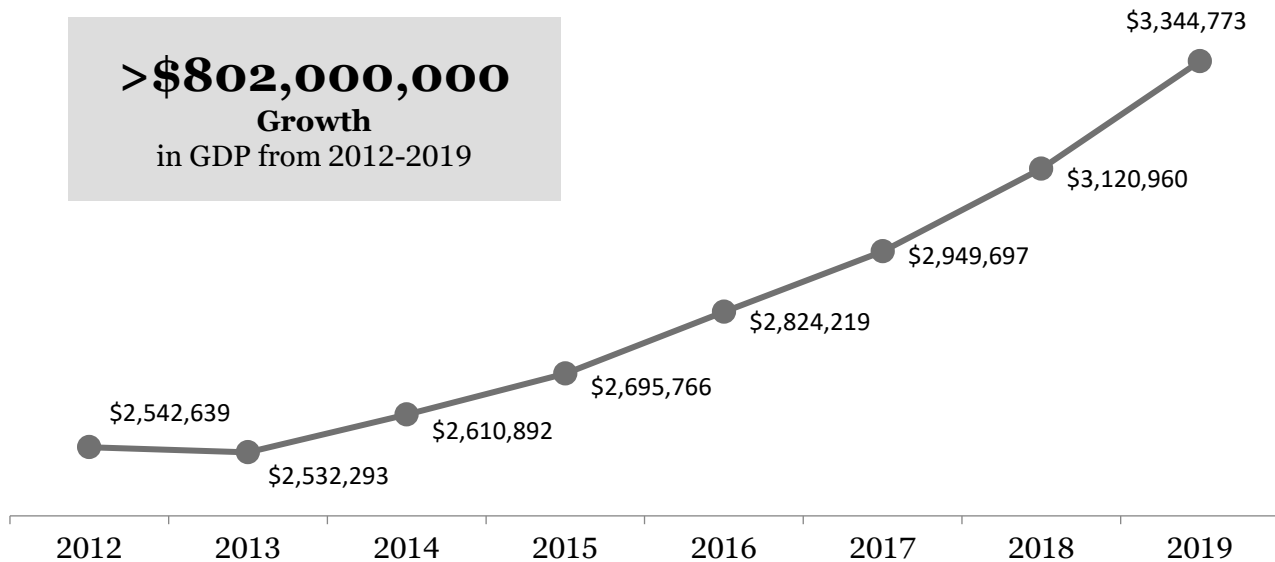
\$32,914



TAXES & GDP

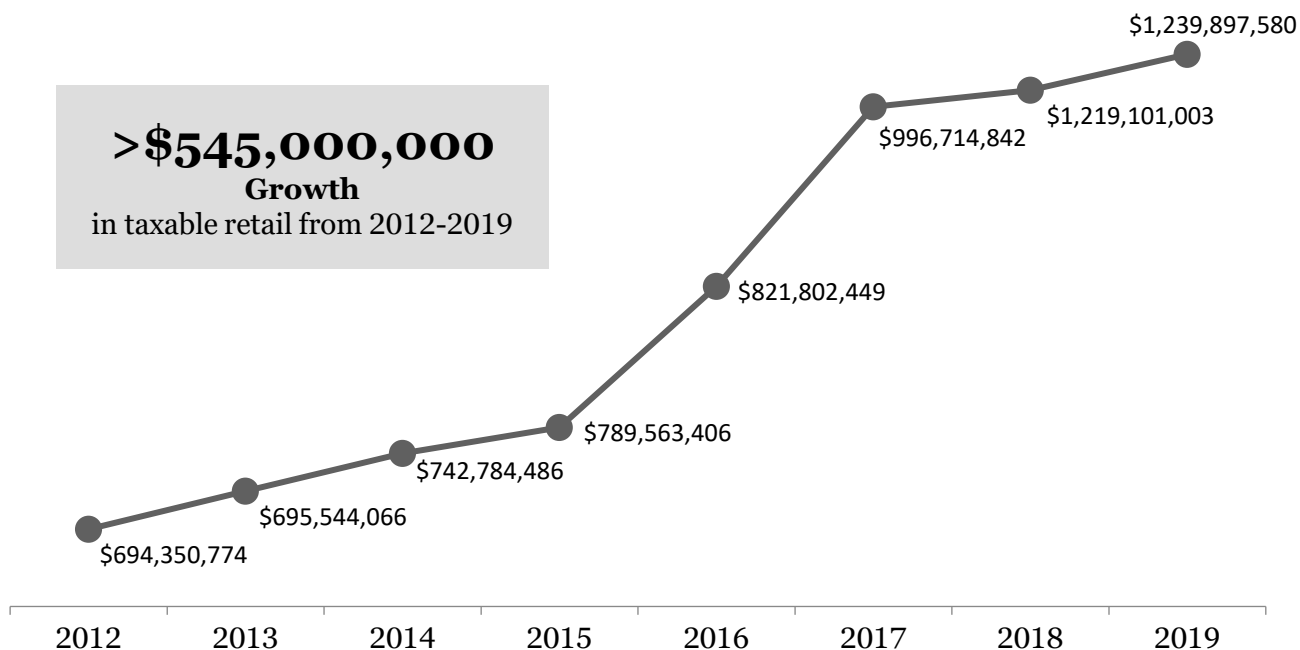
Island County GDP Growth *(U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)*

>\$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



SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

Whidbey Island also boasts an impressive public school system, with **95% graduation rates**, as well as a plethora of private schooling options for families with children.

North Whidbey:

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

South Whidbey:

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

Central Whidbey:

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

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

Adult and Post-Secondary Education

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Located at the Naval Air Station, Embry offers 2 & 4-year degree programs in Aeronautics Science, Aviation, Business Administration Management, and Technical Operations.

Brandman University

Located at the Naval Air Station, Brandman offers 4-year degree programs in Business Administration, Computer Science & Information Systems, Social Sciences, Psychology, and Criminal Justice as well as graduate degree programs for Human Resources and Organizational Leadership.

Skagit Valley College

Skagit Valley College provides an Associate Degree program transferable to a 4-year institution and occupational/ workplace training. Based in Mt. Vernon, with Whidbey Island campuses in Oak Harbor and Clinton.

Washington State University

WSU offers continuing education and a number of degree and certificate programs through their Extended Degree Programs. Courses are delivered via internet, video, video conferencing, and correspondence.

RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES

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.

Island County has

8 State Parks

9 County Parks

44 City Parks

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

Historical Sites

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

Museums

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

An abundance of lodging and RV/camping choices is available along with facilities for events or meetings. Contact area Chambers of Commerce or <https://whidbeycamanoislands.com> for more information.

Art Galleries and Theaters

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.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Whidbey Island served by

Island Hospital
in Anacortes

NAS Whidbey Island

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

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 County Emergency Services

3 paramedic ambulances
serve Whidbey Island

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
In Everett

Trauma Centers

WhidbeyHealth Medical Center
Coupeville (level 3)

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

UTILITIES

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

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Comcast
(800) 266-2278
www.comcast.com

Ziplay Fiber
(360) 707-4817
<https://get.ziplayfiber.com/>

Whidbey Telecom (S. Whidbey)
(360) 321-1122
www.whidbeytel.com

WAVE Cable
(866) 928 3123
<https://residential.wavebroadband.com/>

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/>

NATURAL GAS

Oak Harbor:
Cascade Natural Gas
(360) 675-6641
<https://www.cngc.com/rates-services/business-services/>

WATER AND SEWAGE

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

95% of the water used by Oak Harbor is purchased wholesale from the City of Anacortes. Anacortes obtains water from the Skagit River.

This imported water comprises **28%** of the water used in Island County.

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

State Highways

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

SR 20 and SR 525

main routes through Whidbey Island

SR 532

main route on Camano Island

From Whidbey Island:

39 mi	49 mi	90 mi
to I-5	to HWY 99	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 Keystone-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.
639 Industrial Ave Suite A, Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360-679-4003
877-679-4003 (Toll-free)
<http://www.seatacshuttle.com/>

Airports

A.J. Eisenberg Airport

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

Camano Air Park

Camano Island
Runway: 1,750
No scheduled air service

Whidbey Air Park

Langley
Runway: 2,400 ft
No scheduled air service

Ferry Service

Two ferries service Island County

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

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

Town of Coupeville

(360) 678-4461

townofcoupeville.org

Port of South Whidbey

(360) 331-5494

portofsouthwhidbey.com

City of Langley

(360) 221-4246

www.langleywa.org

Port of Coupeville

(360) 222-3151

<https://portoc.org/>

City of Oak Harbor

(360) 279-4500

www.oakharbor.org



EDC
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.