

Olympia

People and Place

Location

Olympia is along the southernmost tip of Puget Sound. Situated in Thurston County, the city covers 16.7 square miles of land and 1.8 square miles of water. The nearest major U.S. city is Seattle, a 60-mile drive north. Olympia's geographic coordinates are lat 47°02'17"N, long 122°53'58"W.

Demographic Profile

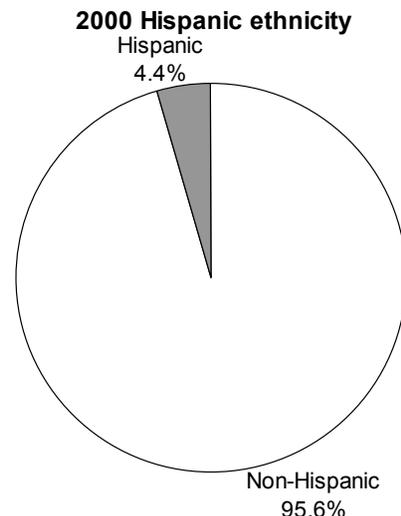
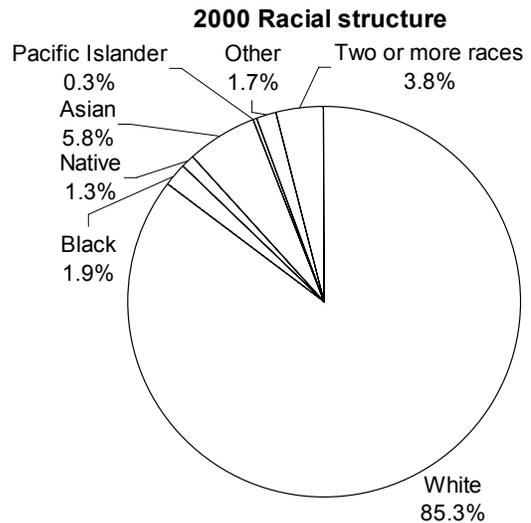
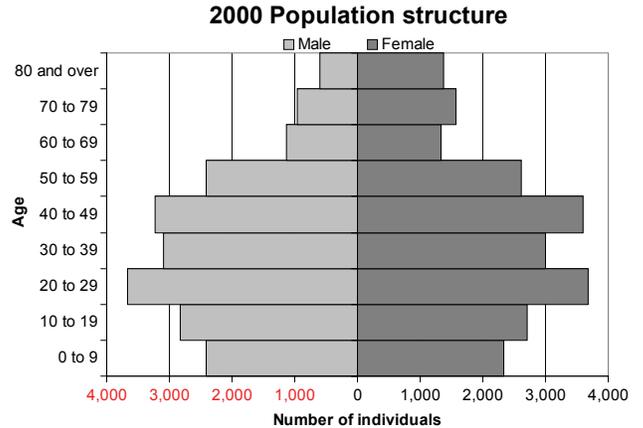
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Olympia's population was 42,514, a 25.6% increase from the 1990. The gender composition was 52.2% female and 47.8% male. The median age of 36.0 was comparable to the national median of 35.3. Census data indicate that 17.4% of the population was 14 years of age or younger and 56.0% was between the ages of 22 and 59. In 2000 90.4% of the population 18 years of age and older had a high school education (including equivalency) or higher, 36.0% had earned a bachelor's degree or higher, and 12.8% had attained a graduate or professional degree, compared to the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively. The highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma or equivalency for 32.0%.

The vast majority of Olympia's racial structure as recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census was white (85.3%), followed by Asian (5.8%), people who identified themselves with two or more races (3.8%), black (1.9%), people who identified with another race (1.7%), American Indian and Alaskan Native (1.3%), and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders (0.3%). Ethnicity data indicate that 4.4% identified as Hispanic. In 2000 6.6% were foreign-born, with 59.8% from Asian countries.

In 2000 96.9% lived in family households.

History

In 1846 the first European American settlers claimed the site of what would become Olympia. The town became the county seat of the new Thurston County in 1852. One year later the Washington Territory was formed and Olympia was named as the provisional territorial capital. By 1853 there were approximately 996 European American settlers in Olympia. By the mid-1850s Olympia had developed around the waterfront and was a hub of maritime commerce.¹ Overland travel was difficult at the time and required struggling through dense forests. This resulted in waterways being the



primary transportation routes for the region. In 1860 Sam Percival built the first dock in Olympia. Known as Percival's dock, it quickly became the hub of a thriving steamboat trade that serviced the area transporting passengers, cargo, and mail throughout Puget Sound. Percival Landing Park, a public boardwalk, stands on the site today and offers "fabulous harbor views, extensive public artwork, and historical markers that detail the city's maritime past."²

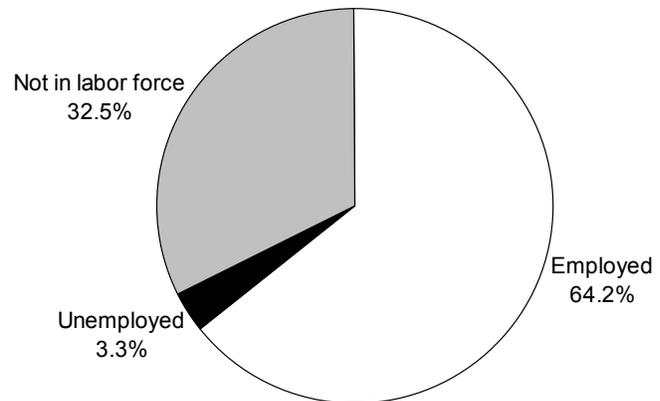
The shores of Budd Inlet near modern-day Olympia were a prime shellfish gathering site for Coastal Salish tribes such as the Duwamish, Squaxin, and Nisqually. The Deschutes River falls may have been a permanent Nisqually site for the harvesting of salmon and shellfish for more than 500 years before the arrival of European American settlers.³ The 1854 Treaty of Medicine Creek, signed by numerous Puget Sound tribes now known as "Treaty Tribes," ceded most of Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula to the U.S. government. The Nisqually Tribe was left with a 5,105-acre reservation in what is today Pierce County. In 1917 the U.S. military took 3,370 acres of this reservation for the Fort Lewis Military Reserve. The tribe adopted a constitution in 1946 and an elected tribal council carries out most of the tribe's governmental affairs.⁴ Today almost 300 Nisqually have returned to their reservation and begun to reestablish their community and culture. Total enrollment in the tribe is more than 500. The tribe is the primary caretaker of fisheries on the Nisqually River and maintains fish hatcheries on Kalama and Clear creeks. In addition as a "Treaty Tribe" the Nisqually tribal members are entitled to half of the harvestable fisheries resources from their "usual and accustomed" fishing grounds as stated in the 1974 Boldt Decision.⁵

Infrastructure

Current Economy

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 64.2% of Olympia's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 3.3% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 4.9% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 32.5% were not in the labor force, compared to the national average of 36.1%. The major employment sectors were educational, health, and social services (23.4%), public administration (19.9%), local, state, and federal governments (15.1%), and retail trade (10.0%) Natural resources jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 1.1%, but this percentage may be artificially low given that many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data.

2000 Employment structure



The per capita income was \$22,590 in 1999 and the median household income was \$40,846. In 1999 12.1% lived below the poverty level, slightly lower than the national average of 12.4%. In 2000 there were 19,738 housing units in Olympia, with 50.3% owner occupied and 49.7% renter occupied. The housing unit vacancy rate was 5.4%.

Governance

The City of Olympia, incorporated in 1859, is the state capitol of Washington. Olympia is a code city with a council-manager form of government. The council is comprised of an elected mayor and six at-large representatives; council members serve staggered four-year terms. The council appoints a city manager to administer day-to-day operations and to carry out policies. Olympia levies an 8.4% sales and use tax rate and a 2% lodging tax. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fisherman and processors in Washington.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office are in Seattle. Meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management and Pacific Fishery Management councils are routinely held in the Seattle-Tacoma area. The nearest Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Regional Office is 39 miles west in Montesano. The 13th U.S. Coast Guard District headquarters are in Seattle.

Facilities

Olympia is available by land, sea, and air. The city is at the junction of U.S. Highway 101 (north-south along the west side of the Puget Sound) and Interstate 5 (north-south along the east side of the Puget Sound). The Olympia Airport and Aero Plaza Airport serve Olympia

and Thurston County. The Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is the nearest major facility.

The Olympic School District offers 11 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 3 high schools. The city also provides a number of private schools at all grade levels. Olympia is home to Evergreen State College and the South Puget Sound Community College. Puget Sound Energy administers electricity services. The City of Olympia offers water, sewer, and garbage service, as well as a curbside recycling program through the Public Works Department. The Olympia Police and Fire departments administer public safety. Providence St. Peter Hospital and Columbia Capital are the major medical facilities in the city. The tourism industry is well developed with dozens of hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts.

The Port of Olympia has a 60-acre marine terminal consisting of three deepwater berths, a container yard, and various intermodal transport facilities. The port also oversees the Swantown Marina and Boatworks. Swantown has 656 permanent moorage berths and offers more than 50 slips for guest moorage. As south Puget Sound's premier recreational marine facility, Swantown Boatworks is a full-service facility with haul out and storage coupled with a variety of repair and retail services in the emerging marine business district.⁶

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There were at least two seafood processors operating in Olympia in 2000. Oysters were the primary product of these processors, but specific details (landings in pounds/value of landings) are confidential.

There were 228 vessels that delivered landings to Olympia in 2000, including: 5 commercial vessels, 13 personal-use vessels, and 209 tribal commercial vessels. In 2000 landings in Olympia were made in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab confidential/confidential/1; salmon 13 t/\$23,581/24; shellfish 301 t/\$2,077,362/99; and other species confidential/confidential/2.

Olympia residents owned 32 commercial vessels in 2000, including 10 vessels that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Olympia residents that participated in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 3/0/2, crab 23/0/0, groundfish 9/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 30/2/0, shellfish NA/0/NA, shrimp NA/0/0, and other species 21/0/0.⁷

In 2000 two community members held two federal groundfish permits. The number of Olympia residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 2/0/2, groundfish 1/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 12/2/1, shellfish 1/0/NA, shrimp 1/0/0, and other species 14/0/0.⁸

Olympia residents held at least 72 commercial fishing permits registered in 2000, including 70 registered state permits. The number of state permits held by Olympia residents in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 17/0/4, groundfish 3/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 14/0/3, shellfish 1/0/NA, shrimp 1/0/0, and other species 27/0/0.⁹

Sportfishing

In 2000 at least three salmonid sportfishing charter businesses operated out of Olympia. There are eight vendors licensed to sell sportfishing permits in Olympia. In 2003 Olympia vendors made 9,362 sportfishing license transactions valued at \$156,637.

In Catch Record Card Area 13 (south Puget Sound) the 2000–2001 sports catch, based on catch record cards, was 5,131 fish including 1,649 Chinook salmon, 2,226 coho salmon, and 1,256 chum salmon. Marine anglers made 26,089 trips in the sport fishery. The bottomfish catch for Area 13 was 8,025 fish. In Area 13 the recreational clam harvest was estimated at 30,147 pounds (littleneck clams 45.6% and Manila clams 32.2%) and 65,007 oysters in 2000; harvest occurred over an estimated 7,065 user trips.

Subsistence

Subsistence harvest for marine species may exist in the Olympia area. However, the extent of subsistence harvesting is difficult to quantify due to a scarcity of data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Olympia residents owned 34 vessels in 2000 that participated in North Pacific fisheries. Community members landed fish in the following North Pacific fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab confidential/confidential/1, other finfish confidential/confidential/3, Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish confidential/confidential/3, halibut confidential/confidential/3, salmon 841 t/\$763,500/13, and crab 50 t/\$183,810/5.

In 2000 Olympia residents held 79 commercial fishing permits, including 36 individuals who state permits

and 20 residents who held federal permits (note: it is possible for individuals to hold more than one permit at a time). Olympia residents held 9 crab, 1 finfish, 11 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish, 7 halibut, 23 salmon, and 13 shellfish Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permits and 2 crab and 8 groundfish License Limitation Program permits. Olympia residents held 550,844 halibut and 700,093 sablefish individual fishing quota shares.

Olympia residents held 78 crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

Sportfishing

In 2000 at least one sportfishing business in Olympia was involved in Alaskan fisheries. Olympia residents purchased 844 Alaskan sportfishing licenses.

Notes

1. City of Olympia. No date. History of Olympia. Online at <http://www.olympiaonline.com/Community/history.php> [accessed 31 January 2007].

2. City of Olympia. No date. City of Olympia's historic places: Percival Landing. Online at <http://www.olympiawa.gov/cityservices/par/percivallanding/default.htm> [accessed 31 January 2007].

3. See note 1.

4. Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. 2003. Nisqually Tribe. Online at http://www.npaihb.org/profiles/tribal_profiles/Washington/Nisqually%20Tribal%20Profile.htm [accessed 31 January 2007].

5. Online Highways. 2004. Nisqually Indian Tribe. Online at <http://www.ohwy.com/wa/n/nisqintb.htm> [accessed 31 January 2007].

6. Port of Olympia. No date. Port of Olympia. Online at <http://www.portolympia.com/home.asp> [accessed 31 January 2007].

7. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.

8. See note 7.

9. See note 7.