

Seattle

People and Place

Location

Seattle is on the east side of the Puget Sound between Elliot Bay and Lake Washington. Situated in King County, the city encompasses approximately 84 square miles of land and 59 square miles of water. Seattle is a 113-mile drive south of the U.S.-Canada border. Seattle's geographic coordinates are lat 47°36'23"N, long 122°19'51"W.

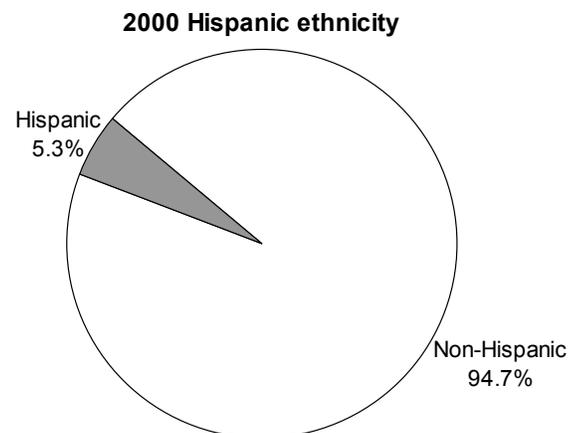
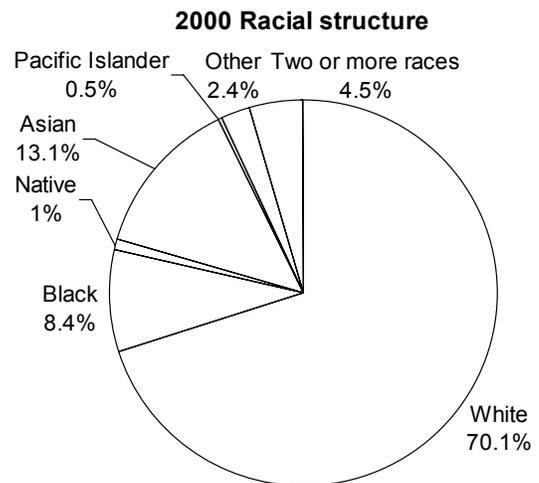
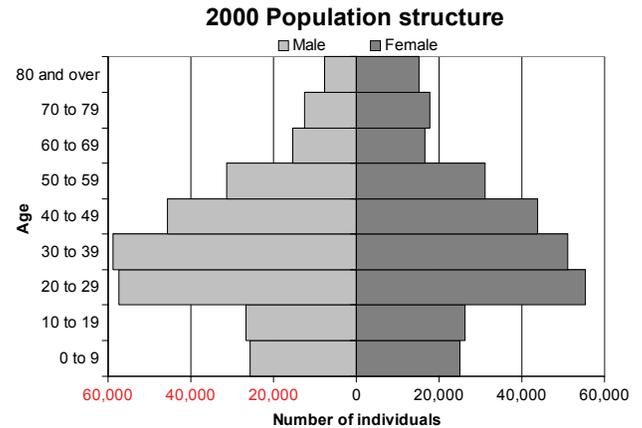
Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Seattle's population was 563,374, an increase of 8.4% since 1990. The larger metropolitan area (comprising all or parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Thurston, and Kitsap Counties) was home to 3,554,760 in 2000. The gender composition was 50.1% female and 49.9% male. The median age of 35.4 was almost identical to the national median age of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 88% had a high school education (including equivalency) or higher, 41.8% had earned a bachelor's degree or higher, and 15% had attained a graduate or professional degree; these figures compare favorably to the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The vast majority of Seattle's racial structure recorded by the 2000 U.S. Census was white (70.1%), followed by Asian (13.1%), black (8.4%), people who identified with two or more races (4.5%), people who identified with another race (2.4%), American Indian and Alaska Native (1%), and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (0.5%). Ethnicity data indicate that 5.3% identified as Hispanic. In 2000 16.9% were foreign-born, with 55.8% from Asia, primarily southeastern Asia (32.1%), 18.8% from the Americas outside the United States, 16% from Europe, and 7.8% from Africa. The highest percentage of those reporting ancestry were German (11.3%), followed by Irish (9.1%), English (8.1%), and Norwegian (5%).

History

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Puget Sound area was home to the Duwamish and Suquamish Native American groups.¹ The arrival of European American explorers, traders, and settlers brought conflicts over natural resources and disease. In the 1770s a smallpox epidemic ravaged the Native American populations living along the northwest coast of North America. In 1856 the Duwamish were removed from



their central location, at the outlet of Lake Washington; the tribe was moved to Bainbridge Island and later taken to Holderness Point, on the west side of Elliot Bay, where the fishing grounds were more productive.² In 1862 another smallpox epidemic hit the area, killing 14,000 northwest coastal Indians.³ Chief Seattle (Sealth), leader of the Duwamish Tribe, died four years later, in 1866.

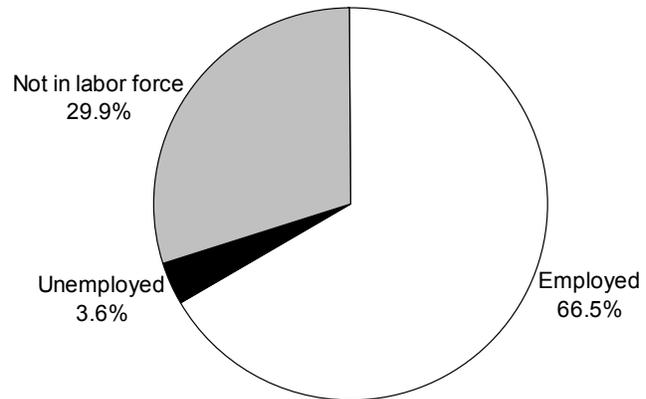
Following the smallpox epidemic of the 1770s, the area was explored by Captain George Vancouver, who gave Puget Sound its name in 1792. The first post in the area was established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1833. Almost 20 years later, in November 1851, the Denny Party landed at Alki Beach; the following February the explorers claimed land at the site of present-day Seattle. The next year Henry Yesler and his party settled in Seattle and within a few years built a steam-powered sawmill, initiating Seattle's logging economy. King County was created shortly thereafter. In 1861 the Territorial University opened its door; the university later became the University of Washington. Three years later Asa Mercer arrived from New York with his first group of Mercer's Maidens, young women who would provide the largely Caucasian, male community with mates.⁴

In 1884 the Northern Railroad constructed a railroad spur from Tacoma to Seattle, following a battle won by Tacoma that designated the city as the railroad's western terminus. The railway linked Seattle to the rest of the United States. In 1891, despite a ravaging fire two years earlier that nearly destroyed Seattle, the size of Seattle doubled due to the annexation of communities north of downtown. In 1887 with the arrival of the Portland, a steamship carrying gold from the Klondike area of the Yukon, followed by the 1898 discovery of gold in Nome, Alaska, Seattle became a major jumping off point for those traveling north to Canada and Alaska to take part in the gold rush.^{5,6} In this same era, fishermen from the west coast began to explore opportunities for Pacific cod fisheries in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Salmon canning operations affiliated with the large Bristol Bay salmon runs were growing rapidly at this time.

Today Seattle's participation in Alaska's commercial fishing reflects the relationships established in the late 1890s and 1900s, with many commercial fishermen traveling either from or through Seattle to reach fishing grounds in Alaska. Many seafood industry companies headquartered in Seattle are major participants in Alaskan fisheries.

In 1907 Seattle annexed six towns, including the town of Ballard.⁷ Ballard drew many Scandinavian immigrants to the area with the growing demand for salmon fishermen in the early 1900s. Scandinavians contributed considerably to the boat building industry, the success of which rested on Scandinavian designed

2000 Employment structure



wooden vessels.⁸ In 1913 Fishermen's Terminal, located in the contemporary neighborhood of Interbay, across from Ballard, was founded by the Puget Sound Fisheries Association Committee, whose members were nearly all Norwegian.⁹ Today Ballard remains a hub for Seattle's commercial fishing industry and the newly developed recreational boating scene.

The Boeing Airplane Company, developed by William Boeing in 1917, has played a significant role in Seattle's economy. Shortly after the United States entered World War I, Boeing sold an order for 50 Model C training seaplanes to the U.S. Navy. By 1928, "with 800 employees, Boeing was one of the largest aircraft manufacturers in the country."¹⁰ The Boeing Company, a major employer in the Seattle area, has contributed a great deal toward the history of aircraft and space travel and the development of the City of Seattle. In 2001 the company announced the relocation of its headquarters to Chicago, Illinois. Today the economy of the Seattle area is dominated by international trade and technology firms such as Microsoft.¹¹

Infrastructure

Current Economy

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 66.5% of Seattle's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 3.6% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 5.1% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 29.9% were not in the labor force, compared to the national average of 36.1%. The major employment sectors were education, health, and social services (21.6%), local, state, and federal governments (15.6%), professional, scientific, and technical services (12.3%), retail trade (11.1%), arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services (9.9%), and

manufacturing (8.3%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 0.3%, but this percentage may be artificially low given that many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data.

Major employers in Seattle include Macys, City of Seattle, Four Seasons Hotel, Harborview Hospital, Metro-King County Government, Nordstrom, Pike Place Market, Port of Seattle, Providence Hospital, Swedish Hospital, the Boeing Company, the Hilton Hotel, the Westin Hotel, and the University of Washington.¹² Microsoft, a major business in the greater Seattle area, employs numerous Seattle residents. The corporate headquarters are located in Redmond, with additional office locations in the neighboring communities of Bellevue and Issaquah.

The per capita income in 1999 was \$30,306 and the median household income was \$45,736. In 1999 11.8% lived below the poverty level, slightly lower than the national average of 12.4%. In 2000 there were 270,524 housing units in the community, with 48.4% owner occupied and 51.6% renter occupied. The housing unit vacancy rate was 4.4%.

Governance

Incorporated in 1869, City of Seattle is the oldest municipality in King County. The city has a charter form of government comprised of a mayor, a nine-member city council, and a city attorney. The municipal court is run by eight judges who are elected by the City of Seattle. Seattle levies an 8.8% sales and use tax and a 7% 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 National Marine Fisheries Service Regional Office, NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 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 (WDFW) Regional Office is 22 miles north in Mill Creek. The 13th U.S. Coast Guard District headquarters are in Seattle.

Facilities

Seattle is accessible by ground, sea, and air. The city is located on Interstate 5, with Interstate 90 and Washington Highway 520 connecting to the city from the east. Seattle has an Amtrak train station offering national and international service. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is 14 miles south of downtown. Washington

State Ferries offers service from Pier 50 and Pier 52 in Seattle to Bremerton, Bainbridge Island, and Vashon Island. There is international service to Victoria, British Columbia.

The Seattle School District has 106 schools, including 1 Headstart school, 61 elementary schools, 9 grades K–12 schools, 12 middle schools, and 23 high schools. In addition there are 93 private schools. The city is home to 26 colleges, with the largest being the University of Washington (32,742), Seattle University (4,743), Shoreline Community College (4,526), Seattle Community College-Central Campus (4,386), Seattle Community College-North Campus (3,489), Seattle Community College-South Campus (3,013), Seattle Pacific University (2,992), and the Art Institute of Seattle (2,313).

Seattle City Light administers electricity. Seattle Public Utilities provides water, drainage and wastewater, and solid waste services through three separate utilities. The Seattle Police and Fire departments administer public safety; Seattle has five police precincts and 33 fire stations. There are at least 12 hospitals and medical centers in the city. At least 59 hotels and motels are in downtown Seattle. In addition at least 20 accommodations are found in north Seattle and 44 in the south Seattle-SeaTac area near the airport.

The Port of Seattle is the fifth largest container facility in the United States and the 20th largest in the world; the port also ranks as the top U.S. port in container tonnage exports to Asia.¹³ Pier 90 and Pier 91 contain six berths each and provide moorage for barges and factory trawlers, in addition to the transportation of foodstuffs. Commercial moorage also is available at the Bell Street Pier, Maritime Industrial Center, Terminal 30, and Fishermen's Terminal. Fishermen's Terminal on the Lake Washington Ship Canal includes moorage for more than 700 workboats and commercial fishing vessels, lineal moorage of 2,500 feet, and 371 stalls. Fishermen's Terminal has historically been the home to a large portion of the North Pacific commercial fishing fleet. In 2002, amidst controversy, Fishermen's Terminal began allowing for the moorage of pleasure craft as well as fishing vessels. The Fishermen's Memorial sculpture, located at the terminal, is inscribed with the names of more than 500 individuals lost at sea; the sculpture stands as "a place of reverence, reflection, and healing for people in the fishing industry and their families."¹⁴ In addition, the Port of Seattle operates the Shilshole Bay Marina, which has berths for 1,500 recreational boats, a guest dock, and a fishing pier. The 400-foot Elliott Bay Fishing Pier is located in downtown Seattle.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

There were at least seven fish processors in Seattle in 2000, including Independent Packers, Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Pacific Salmon Co. Inc., Sea Blends, Svendsen Brothers Fish Inc., Trident Seafoods Corp., and True World Foods International. Processors employed 717 people. Reported data indicate companies processed 43,336,155 pounds valued at approximately \$115,446,360 in 2000. Processed items included a variety of products such as, approximately: \$42,915,021 (7,104,500 lb) of crab including cooked claws, legs, sections, and cakes; \$19,635,046 (5,980,415 lb) of halibut including fillets, steaks, and batter coated portions; \$20,844,856 (18,185,900 lb) of pollock including blocks, breaded/cooked, fillets, and surimi; and \$15,260,736 (5,207,560 lb) of salmon including cured, salted, fillets, breaded cakes, steaks, and patties. Processed items also included catfish fillets; cod including fillets, portions, and nuggets; dolphin fillets; flounder fillets; haddock fillets; lobster tails; oysters breaded; rockfish fillets; sablefish salted; scallops shucked or breaded; shrimp breaded or peeled; swordfish steaks; and albacore tuna steaks.

In 2000 West Coast fisheries landings in Seattle were delivered by 909 unique vessels, including 253 commercial vessels, 498 tribal commercial vessels, and 158 personal use vessels. Recorded data indicate landings in the community were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab 275 t/\$1,421,148/143; groundfish 109 t/\$489,914/9; highly migratory species 17 t/\$33,168/4; salmon 701 t/\$1,036,861/346; shellfish 264 t/\$3,198,531/387; shrimp (26 t/\$230,201/27; and other species 170.2 t/\$873,983/33.

Seattle residents owned 170 vessels in 2000, including 74 vessels that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Seattle residents in 2000 participating in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 9/1/4, crab 31/3/0, groundfish 27/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 88/17/5, shellfish NA/0/NA, shrimp NA/1/0, and other species 61/0/0.¹⁵

Thirty-five Seattle residents held 36 federal groundfish fishery permits in 2000. The number of Seattle residents holding permits in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 6/2/6, crab 13/4/0, groundfish 7/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 120/16/9, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 48/5/0.¹⁶

Seattle residents held 355 state and federal permits in 2000. The number of permits held by community members in each said fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 9/2/7, crab 18/6/0, groundfish 19/0/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 138/0/15, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 64/41/0.¹⁷

Sportfishing

In 2000 there were at least eight salmonid charter fishing businesses and one nonsalmonid charter fishing business in Seattle. There were 15 licensed vendors in Seattle selling fishing permits. In 2003 39,263 sportfishing license transactions valued at \$68,101 were made in the community.

In Catch Record Card Area 10 (south from the Apple Cove Point-Edwards Point line to a line projected true east-west through the north tip of Vashon Island) the 2000 sport catch, based on catch record cards, was 15,681 fish including 4,042 Chinook salmon, 11,568 coho salmon, 58 chum salmon, and 13 sockeye salmon. Marine angler made 49,865 trips in the sport salmon fishery. In Area 10 boat-based anglers caught 7,022 bottomfish in 2000. The recreational harvest of clams (pounds) and oysters (number) for the same area in 2000 was estimated to be 6,936 and 26,200 respectively; harvest occurred over an estimated 2,745 user trips.

Recreational fishing in Seattle occurs in saltwater and freshwater, along Seattle's shoreline and in numerous lakes, rivers, and streams. Many public fishing piers are also located in Seattle, including seven in north Seattle, six in central Seattle, and seven in south Seattle.

Subsistence

Tribal and nontribal community members may be engaged in subsistence fishing in the Seattle area, however little information is available. The Muckleshoot Tribe, located southeast of Seattle, in partnership with the WDFW is involved with a sockeye salmon counting program on Lake Washington.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

The Seattle area plays an important role in north Pacific commercial fisheries. Many vessels are owned by Seattle-based corporations or residents and the affiliated captains and crew are engaged in federal and state water fisheries off Alaska. In cases of corporate vessel ownership, the address of record for the headquarters of the corporation is considered equivalent to the home address of record for a noncorporate owner.

Major fish processing companies often hire processing workers through their Seattle-based administrative offices. Processing businesses include shore-based and offshore facilities as well as full ownership or partnerships in catcher-processor vessels. In the year 2000, about 90 catcher-processors operated in Alaska. The crew size on a catcher-processor can range from a small crew (15–20 people) to over 100. The number of processing workers engaged in North Pacific fisheries is not well documented due to the lack of a reliable standardized source of data. However, it is widely acknowledged that Seattle is an important source for North Pacific processing labor. Major Seattle-based seafood processing companies that are particularly dependent on North Pacific products include: Alaska Ocean Seafood, Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Trident Seafoods Corporation, Icicle Seafoods, American Seafoods Company, and Glacier Fish Company.

Other than a home port locality for many fishermen and processors who reside in the city, Seattle is a regional hub for fisheries support services such as harbors (e.g., Port of Seattle's Fisherman's Terminal), nautical supply facilities (e.g., Seattle Fisheries Supply and Captain's Nautical Supply Inc.), ship yards, boat building and repair companies (e.g., Foss Shipyard), cold storage plants (e.g., Seafreeze Cold Storage), and shipping companies especially organized to transport supplies on a regularly scheduled basis to rural Alaskan ports. These facilities provide important industry resources for people outside of Seattle's city boundaries. Many of these support businesses showcase their products and services annually at the Seattle Pacific Marine Expo. More specific information on fisheries resources located near Seattle can be found on the Marine Expo exhibitor list, online at <http://www.pacificmarineexpo.com>.

According to the Alaska Commercial Fishing Entry Commission, 1012 vessel owners (registered to participate in Alaska state water fisheries) identified Seattle as their home port in 2000. Of these owners, 415 indicate a Seattle mailing address; other vessel owners designated Seattle as a home port but had residential addresses in other communities in Washington as well as Alaska, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

In the same year, Seattle residents owned vessels that landed fish (in Alaska) in the following North Pacific fisheries (data shown represents landing in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): crab 8,324 t/\$46,176,490/110, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish 1,145,213 t/\$337,750,710/177, other finfish 8 t/\$620/44, Gulf of Alaska (GOA) groundfish 38,626 t/\$29,028,360/100, halibut 1,906 t/

\$10,701,550/39, herring 610 t/\$211,760/18, salmon 12,347 t/\$9,704,170/169, shellfish 115 t/\$739,450/24, and scallops confidential/confidential/2.

In 2000 Seattle residents held 1,515 commercial fishing permits for the North Pacific region; this number includes federal and state permits. Community members also held 21,654,228 halibut and 71,771,911 sablefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) shares. It is possible for an individual to hold more than one permit at a time and not all permits are active at one time. Seattle community members held 206 crab and 379 groundfish federal License Limitation Program (LLP) permits. State of Alaska Commercial Fishing Entry Commission permits included: 90 crab, 3 finfish, 3 Gulf of Alaska groundfish, 156 Bering Sea Aleutian Islands groundfish, 44 halibut, 32 herring, 167 salmon, 1 scallop and 9 shellfish permits.

In 2000 758 Seattle residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries.

In recent years, there have been changes in vessel and permit ownership and current data is dissimilar from the 2000 data reported here. Updated information regarding Washington permit holders who participate in Alaska state fisheries can be accessed through the Alaska Commercial Fishing Entry Commission, online at <http://www.cfec.state.ak.us>. Permit holder information related to federal fisheries off Alaska can be accessed through the Restricted Access Management Program (RAM) at the Alaska National Marine Fisheries Service regional office, online at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram>.

Sportfishing

Seattle residents purchased 3,461 Alaskan sportfishing licenses in 2000. Seven Seattle sportfishing businesses participated in Alaskan fisheries in 2000.

Notes

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3. HistoryLink.org. 2004. Seattle and King County milestones. Online at <http://www.historylink.org> [accessed 31 January 2007].
4. M. Morgan. 1960. *Mercer's Maidens*. The Viking Press, New York.
5. See note 3.
6. Lonely Planet. No date. Seattle history. Online at http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/north_america/seattle/history.htm [accessed 31 January 2007].
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8. Ballard Chamber of Commerce. 2003. Ballard: An important part of Washington's history. Online at <http://www.ballardchamber.com/ballard.shtml> [accessed 31 January 2007].
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11. See note 6.

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January 2007].

15. 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.

16. See note 15.

17. See note 15.