

2024



EDC'S ANNUAL REPORT and Economic Vitality Index





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About Mason

Located in the heart of the Puget Sound region of Washington State, Mason County is home to a wide variety of industries, from high tech and aviation to manufacturing and e-commerce. Companies are attracted to the area by the low cost and ready availability of buildable land, the superior quality of life, comprehensive tax advantages and “can do” workforce. The County is centrally located to Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap, and King counties but retains its small town charm.

Mason County is an outdoor enthusiast’s paradise, covering 967 square miles that includes portions of pristine Hood Canal, Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest. The County enjoys a diverse economy focused on several key sectors: forest products, aquaculture, healthcare, and technology with plenty of buildable land. Operating costs are lower compared to that of other states as well as bordering counties. Our low-cost energy, access to the I-5 corridor, rail, waterways, and competitive labor rates, property costs and permitting fees make Mason County an attractive choice for businesses.



Our Team



KEVIN SHUTTY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



KARIN LEAF
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



TIANA DUNBAR
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
SPECIALIST

Board of Directors

Chair

Jeff Farrington, Skydive Kapowsin

Vice Chair

Jae Hill, City of Shelton

Secretary/Treasurer

Donna Moir, Heritage Bank

Amy Asher, Mason Transit Authority
Brian Sayler, Green Diamond Resource Co.
Jennifer Capps, Mason General Hospital
Judy Scott, Port of Allyn
Justin Holzgrove, Mason County PUD No. 3
Kelsie Rudnick, The Shopper
Kristy Buck, Port of Shelton
Lisa Perry, Sierra Pacific Industries
Mike Gill, Builders First Source
Ryan Drake, Our Community Credit Union
Sharon Trask, Mason County
Wes Taylor, Taylor Shellfish
Wyeth Jessee, Shelton School District

Message from the Executive Director

The Economic Vitality Index serves as our annual report and presents a snapshot of economic progress in our community. Built with data from the Jobs EQ report, it tells a story of economic growth and opportunity and of a resilient community primed to step into its economic future. As I reviewed the data in this year's report, I was reminded of the strength of our top employers and the industries they represent. Their numerous contributions to our community show our local economy is strong and getting stronger, demonstrated by continued wage and GDP growth over last year.

From shellfish to timber and companies like Taylor Shellfish and Sierra Pacific, we remain rooted in a natural resources economy that is second to none. Emerging sectors, like health care and creative industries, are expanding in Mason County and will enhance our quality of life and provide jobs for the next generation of workers. With your help, the EDC will continue to support these and other industries to ensure a bright future for Mason County.

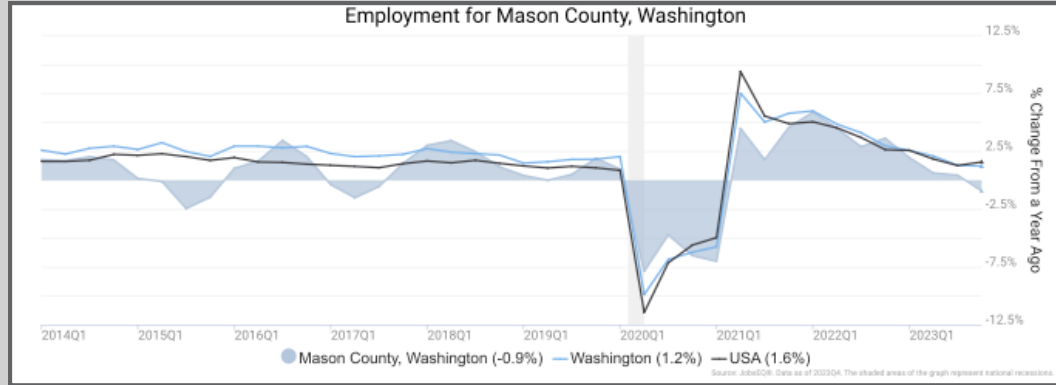
-Kevin Shetty, Executive Director

Mason County Employment



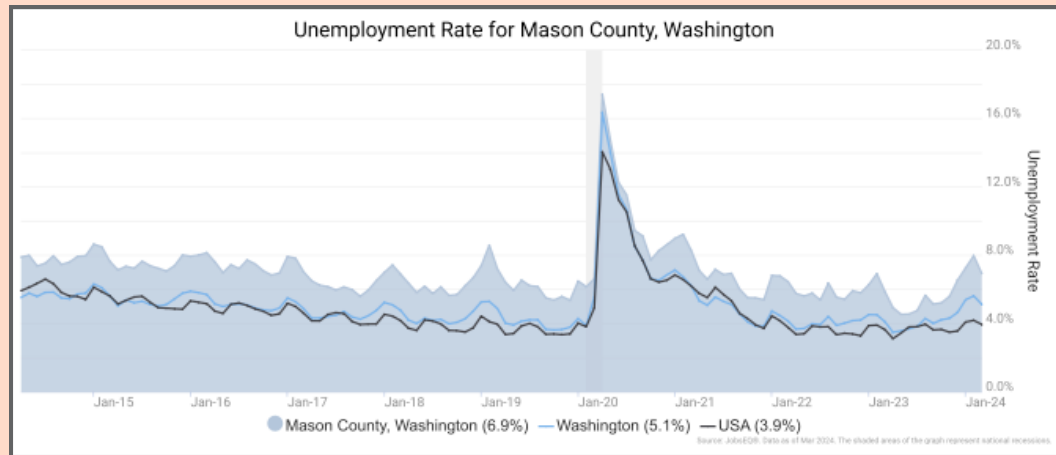
Our Employment

As of 2023Q4, total employment for Mason County was **15,962** (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2023Q4, employment declined **0.9%** in the region.



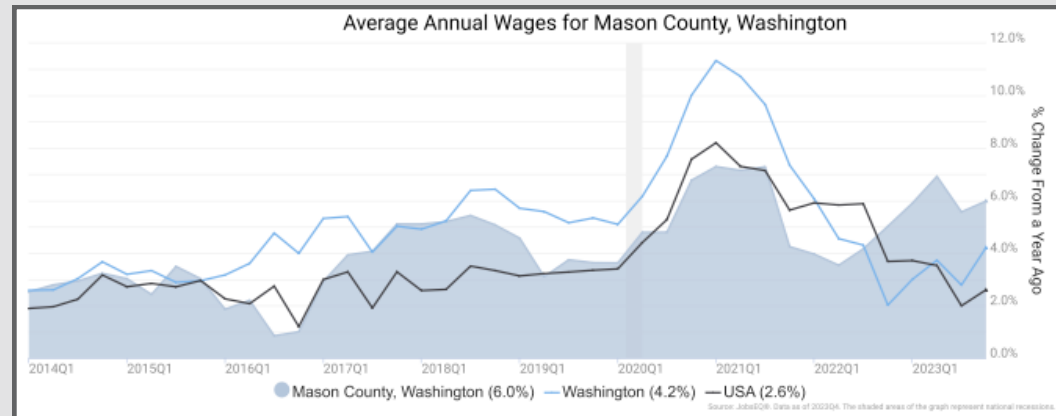
Our Unemployment

The unemployment rate for Mason County was **6.9%** as of March 2024. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of **3.9%**. One year earlier, in March 2023, the unemployment rate in Mason County was **5.9%**.



Our Wages

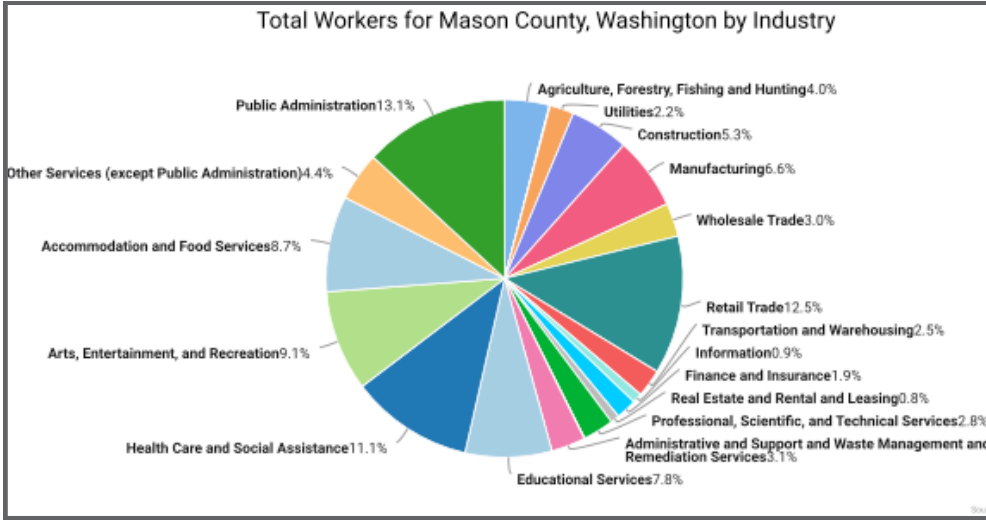
The average worker in Mason County earned annual wages of **\$52,939** as of 2023Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased **6.0%** in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were **\$69,861** in the nation as of 2023Q4.



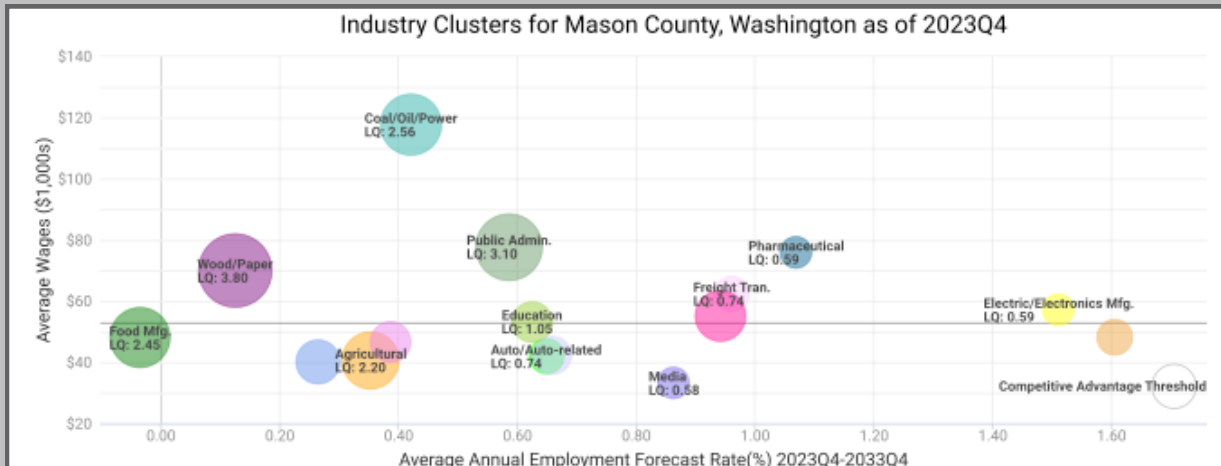
Industry Spotlight



The largest growing sector in Mason County is **Public Administration, employing 2,098 workers**. The next-largest sectors in the region are **Retail Trade (2,001 workers)** and **Health Care and Social Assistance (1,777)**. Sectors in Mason County with the highest average wages per worker are **Utilities (\$90,735)**, **Mining, Quarrying, and oil and Gas Extraction (\$88,763)**, and **Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$87,978)**. Regional sectors with the best job growth over the last year are **Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (+161 jobs)**, **Utilities (+85)**, and **Health Care and Social Assistance (+73)**.



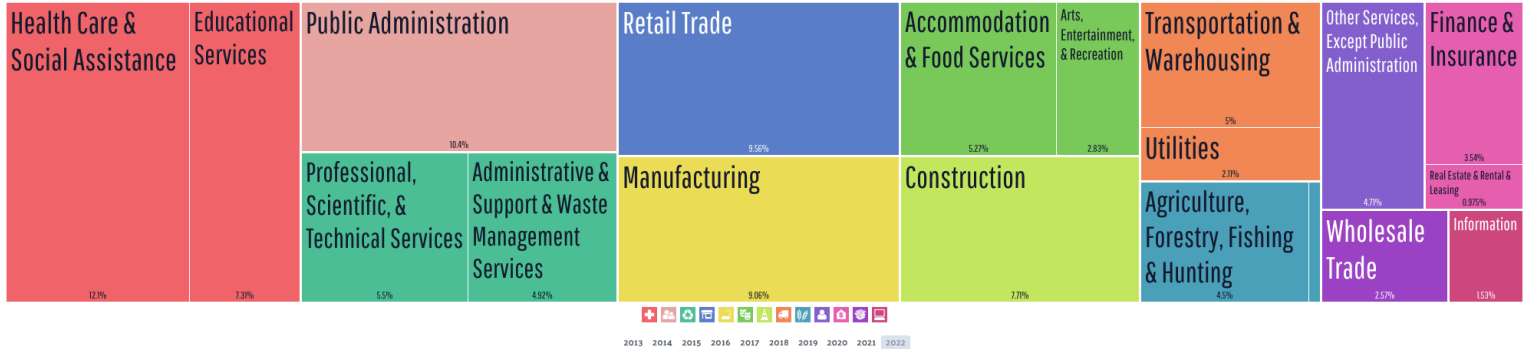
Over the next five years, employment in Mason County, is projected to expand by 486 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be **Health Care and Social Assistance with a +1.6% year-over-year rate of growth**. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+147 jobs), Public Administration (+62 jobs), and Accommodation and Food Services (+51).



A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Mason County with the highest relative concentration is **Wood/Paper with a location quotient of 3.80**. This cluster employs 457 workers in the region with an average wage of \$70,001. Employment in the Wood/Paper cluster is projected to expand in the region over the next ten years.

Industry Spotlight

Employment by Industry



Top Industries

GOODS PRODUCING

Taylor Shellfish, Inc.
Sierra Pacific Industries
Alta Forest Products, Inc.
Green Diamond Resource Co.
Belco Forest Products
Manke Lumber Company
Seattle Shellfish Company
Continental Floral
Lynch Creek Farm
TruFab
Sims Vibration Laboratory
Techwood
Fungi Perfecti

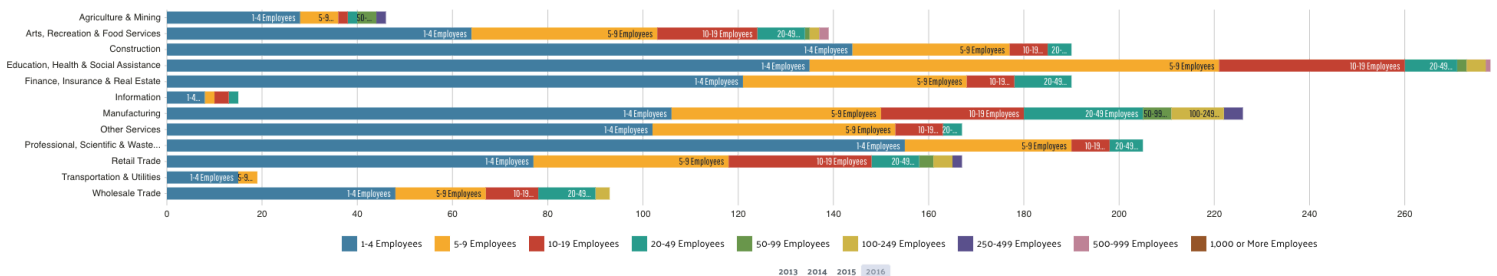
SERVICE PROVIDING

Mason General Hospital
Little Creek Casino Hotel
Alderbrook Inn
Fir Lane Health & Rehab
Alpine Way Retirement
Exceptional Foresters, Inc.
Catholic Community Services
SPIPA
ASC Security
Shelton Health & Rehab
Gillis Auto Center
Our Community Credit Union
Peninsula Credit Union
Wal-Mart
Safeway
QFC
Brady Trucking
Hood Canal Communications
Mason Transit Authority
Central Mason Fire & EMS

SOCIAL, EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT

Washington Corrections Center
Mason County
City of Shelton
Washington State Patrol
Mason County PUD No. 3
Squaxin Island Tribe
Skokomish Indian Tribe
Island Enterprises
Shelton School District
North Mason School District
Pioneer School District
Hood Canal School District
Mary M. Knight School District
Grapeview School District

Mason County Establishments by Size



Industries with the most establishments

1. **278** Educational Services, Health Care & Social Assistance
2. **226** Manufacturing
3. **205** Professional, Scientific & Management, and Administrative & Waste Management Services

Mason County Economic
Development Council

For additional information, please visit
www.masonedc.org or contact us at 360-426-2276



Demographic Overview

66,053

POPULATION

45.1

MEDIAN AGE

\$74,388

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

27,870

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

748

PROJECTED POPULATION
ANNUAL AVERAGE GROWTH



Real Estate Index

339

ACTIVE RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS

\$430,000

MEDIAN HOME PRICE

3.7

MONTHS OF INVENTORY

31

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

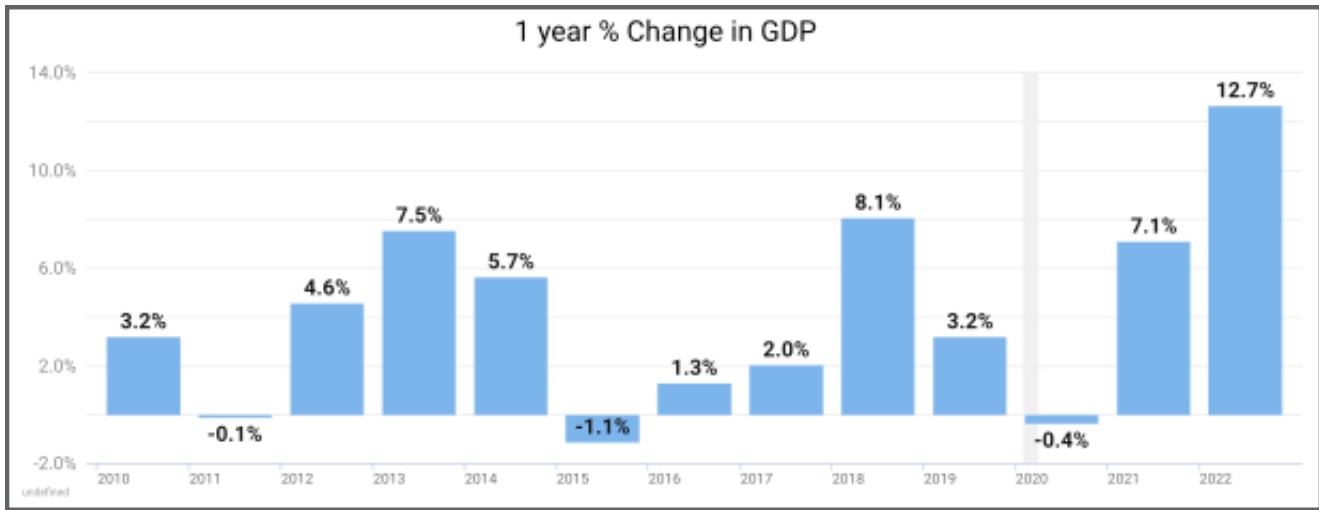
\$288

MEDIAN PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT

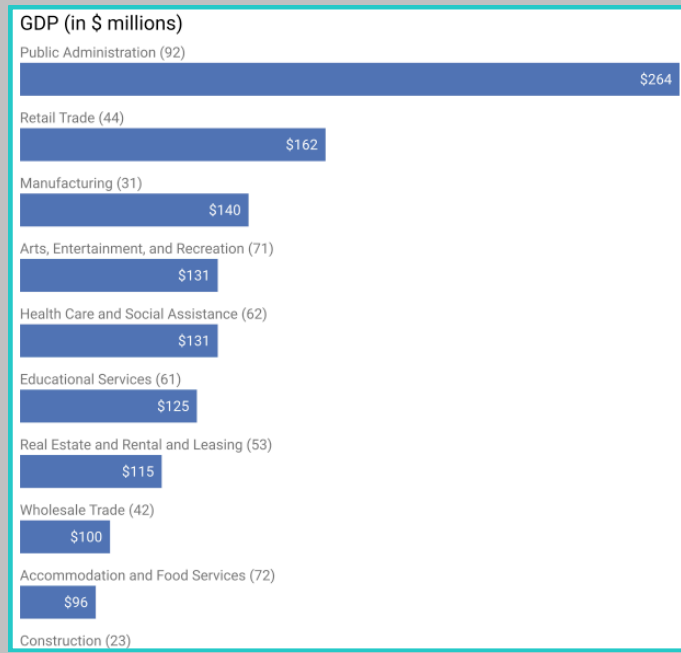
Gross Domestic Product



Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2022, nominal GDP in Mason County expanded 12.7%. This follows growth of 7.1% in 2021. As of 2022, total GDP in Mason County, Washington was \$1,745,384,000.



Of the sectors in Mason County, Public Administration contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2022, \$263,612,000. The next-largest contributions came from Retail Trade (\$162,000,000); Manufacturing (\$139,894,000); and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (\$131,497,000).



*Gross Domestic Product data is provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.



Contact Us



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