

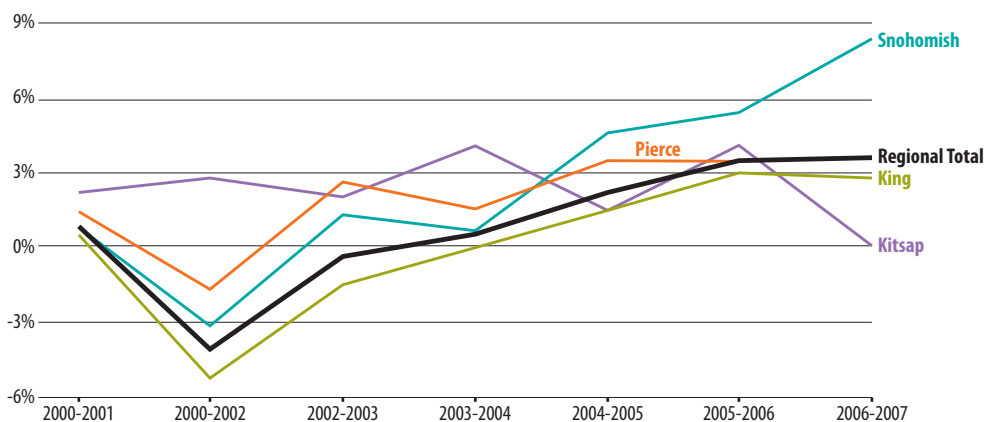
## Employment Change in Puget Sound, 2006–2007

Economists use a variety of indicators to gauge current trends, but detailed information often lags behind as a result of collection, processing and data quality procedures. Such is the case with PSRC’s covered employment database: the most recent release corresponds to March 2007, so the regional employment trends described here predate any current economic slowdown. The covered employment data can be analyzed at sub-county geographies and among detailed industrial categories, and is a valuable resource for local and regional planning. Covered employment accounts for 85-90 percent of total employment, including part-time and temporary employment, but does not account for self-employed workers, proprietors, CEOs, enlisted military personnel, or other non-insured workers.

Despite the recent slowing in the region’s economy, the period 2006-07 was one of pronounced employment growth in the Puget Sound region, with job totals surpassing pre-2001 recession employment levels across all counties (see Tables 1 and 2). The construction sector continued to expand regionwide during this timeframe, contributing over 11,000 jobs. Aerospace industries (a subset of the manufacturing sector) and Information Technology (with elements of the manufacturing and services sectors) continued their strong recovery, adding more than 6,500 and 10,000 net jobs, respectively (growth rates of 9.4 and 10.6 percent); Snohomish and King counties absorbed much of this growth, in a reversal of recessionary patterns. Food services (e.g., restaurants, bars and catering) added over 5,000 jobs, with particular growth in Snohomish and King counties, and the retail sector posted moderate gains across the region. Despite dynamism during this period, few industries experienced job declines; the mutual savings bank category was a rare example.

Employment in Kitsap County held relatively steady between March 2006 and March 2007, while Snohomish County grew by nearly 8.4 percent. Regional job change overall reached 3.5 percent, up slightly from 3.4 percent the year before (see Figure 1). Regional totals follow King County trends closely (see Figure 2).

Figure 1. Job Change Rate, 2000–2007



*Covered Employment Summaries derive from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), administrative records employers report, by law, to the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD). The dataset for March of each year is used as a representative month when seasonal fluctuations are minimized. The unit of measurement is jobs, rather than working persons or proportional full-time employment (FTE) equivalents; part-time and temporary positions are included. Locations are measured as separate reporting workplaces, rather than firms. To provide more accurate workplace reporting, PSRC gathers supplemental data from the Boeing Company, the Office of Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and governmental units throughout the central Puget Sound region.*

*Covered Employment refers to positions covered by the Washington Unemployment Insurance Act. The Act exempts the self-employed, proprietors and corporate officers, military personnel, and railroad workers, so those categories are not included in the dataset. Covered Employment accounts for approximately 85-90% of all employment.*

Table 3 lists cities with high job levels and rates to show how employment change was distributed within the region. For comprehensive summary tables with employment data by jurisdiction or census tract go to psrc.org and search for “employment estimates”. For more information, contact Michael Jensen at 206-464-7538 or mjensen@psrc.org.

Figure 2. Employment Change in the Central Puget Sound Region, 2000–2007



Table 1. 2007 PSRC Covered Employment Estimates\*

County	Const./Res.	FIRE	Manuf.	Retail	Services	WTU	Govt.	Education	Total
King	71,450	76,000	111,100	109,500	528,100	106,450	84,100	69,350	1,155,950
Kitsap	5,400	3,500	1,950	11,350	30,950	2,200	20,950	7,150	83,400
Pierce	24,650	13,400	19,750	32,200	105,400	21,600	32,450	22,000	271,450
Snohomish	22,850	13,050	51,900	30,400	81,300	11,800	20,000	16,350	247,650
<b>Region</b>	<b>124,350</b>	<b>105,900</b>	<b>184,700</b>	<b>183,450</b>	<b>745,700</b>	<b>142,100</b>	<b>157,500</b>	<b>114,800</b>	<b>1,758,500</b>

\*All values rounded to multiple of 50.

Table 2. Covered Employment Change, 2006–2007\*

County	Const./Res.	FIRE	Manuf.	Retail	Services	WTU	Govt.	Education	Total
King	5,650	500	1,600	950	20,550	–	1,700	(150)	30,800
Kitsap	500	50	(150)	(200)	(100)	–	(50)	(50)	(50)
Pierce	2,400	(800)	250	1,850	5,000	1,100	(50)	(100)	9,650
Snohomish	2,700	400	5,100	2,050	7,500	1,950	150	(650)	19,150
<b>Region</b>	<b>11,250</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,850</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>32,950</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>(950)</b>	<b>59,550</b>

\*All values rounded to multiple of 50.

Table 3. Top 10 Cities by Employment Change, 2006–2007\*

Jurisdiction	2007 Employment	Change 2006-2007	Percent Change
Seattle	478,750	8,050	2%
Bellevue	124,350	5,700	5%
Everett	78,650	5,300	7%
Redmond	85,800	3,950	5%
Tukwila	46,950	2,800	6%
Marysville	11,350	1,750	19%
Kent	65,000	1,600	3%
Lynnwood	25,950	1,450	6%
Auburn	39,100	1,300	3%
Mukilteo	8,600	1,250	17%

\*All values rounded to multiple of 50.

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