



**TRI-COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
2018 - 2022**

Ferry County WA, Pend Oreille County WA, Stevens County WA
August 23, 2017

Resolution:

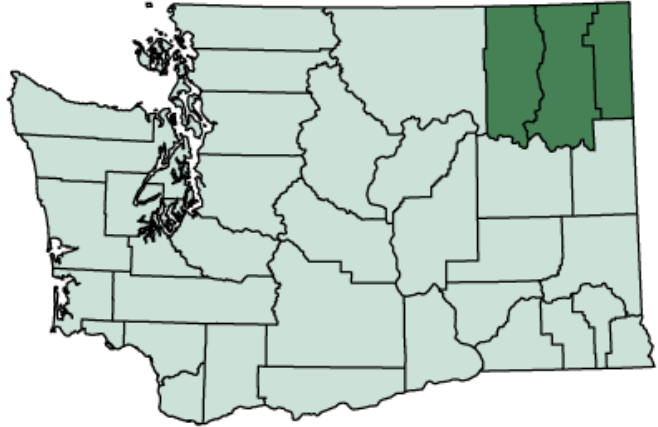
Original: 2017-006

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Executive Summary

This is the 2018-2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Tri- County Economic Development District representing Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille Counties. This strategy was formed utilizing the prior year's CEDS as a basis and then gathering additional input through CEDS Committee planning sessions, communications with both private and public sector representatives throughout the region, and input from a widely distributed survey.



To create comprehensive and well-rounded CEDS the CEDS Committee reviewed other regional plans, input gathered from a regionally distributed survey, and provided their own expert knowledge. This allowed the committee to update the current Vision and Mission Statements as well as the Goals and Objectives. These were drafted through reviewing information gathered in the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats Analysis (SWOT), background information, infrastructure, and regional trends.

The CEDS Committee as well as TEDD Staff and the TEDD Board of Directors have agreed that TEDD's success and the economic success of the Northeast Washington will be greatly influenced by these goals.

Goal 1: Act regionally.

Goal 2: Create an entrepreneurial environment and culture to foster and grow new business.

Goal 3: Enhance service to existing businesses.

In attempt to convert the CEDS towards a more utilitarian document this plan will be monitored annually with a formal progress report brought to the TEDD Board in October. Following the formal progress report the CEDS will be updated as needed by January each year.

The Tri-County Economic Development District depends on the funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) through the Economic Development Planning Assistance Grant to develop and execute this regional strategy for economic development. Utilizing the funds from EDA and local membership dues, TEDD is able to provide significant community benefit by cooperating with other state and federal organizations in creating a more stable and diverse environment to support existing jobs and to bring new jobs to the area.

Introduction

This is the 2018-2022 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Tri-County Economic Development District (TEDD). TEDD is the federally recognized Economic Development District representing Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties in the Northeast corner of Washington State.

TEDD's primary functions are:

- A. Assist existing businesses in retaining their employees, as well as in expanding their businesses,
- B. Encouraging new businesses to locate in the region,
- C. Coordinating economic development activities with other organizations in the community and
- D. Serve as lead agency for Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Organization (NEW RTPO).

Included in Task 3 is the mandate to maintain the CEDS to allow entities in the region to apply for economic development grants and assistance from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and other potential sources.

CEDS is a regional planning process focusing on economic development. The CEDS process results in a five-year strategic plan for regional economic development that is updated annually. The report is submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for review and approval. Once the CEDS report is approved, the region may apply to receive funding assistance for public works and planning projects related to economic development.

TEDD's service area covers 6,080.9 square miles, comprised mostly of rural communities. The American Community Survey (ACS) for 2011-2015 indicates that 64,168 persons resided in the tri-county region.

TEDD is a public, local governmental entity, formed under the laws of the State of Washington and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The TEDD Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from local units of government, tribes, and private corporations located within Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties.

Formed in 1969, TEDD was one of the first economic development districts in the State of Washington. The purpose of formation was to encourage economic development in the region and to seek resources for planning and funding infrastructure improvements for the communities within the region. Congress provides funds to economic development districts throughout the United States under the direction of the Economic Development Administration, a division of the United States Department of Commerce. These funds support economic development projects that create jobs and improve regional diversification.

Designation as an economic development district gives the region access to federal funding targeted for investment in business and industrial site infrastructure. An economic development district also provides public agencies, non-profit agencies, citizens and the private sector a means to coordinate and link business development, infrastructure planning and construction activities across jurisdictional boundaries.

TEDD's Membership

Tri county Economic Development District (TEDD) structure consists of a Board of Directors and staff.

Membership in TEDD is open to all local government agencies in the three counties, as well as any businesses or individuals within the region. Currently, the Board consists of one county commissioner from each county, county treasurer, mayors, tribal representation from each of the three tribal entities within the District (including the Spokane, Kalispel and Colville Confederated). The Board also has representatives from Public Utility Districts, a Port District, Employment Security, Rural Resources Community Action Programs and various local private businesses and organizations. The specific groups represented on the Board include: agriculture, industry, labor, local government, utilities, job training, social services, education, finance, forestry, and small business. A full list of the TEDD Board of Directors can be found in Appendix A.

The TEDD Board has an executive committee made up of five members, the chairman, past chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and treasurer. Managed and operated by the current staff of 7 full time employees and 1 part time employee, TEDD serves as the lead economic development agency for Northeast Washington as defined in an agreement with the Economic Development Administration. TEDD also serves as the lead for Washington State economic development programs and initiatives through a contract with the Washington State Department of Commerce. Additionally, the Associated Development Organization agreement with Washington State has been in place since fiscal 1994, for further cooperation with Ferry and Stevens County. We partner closely with the Pend Oreille Economic Development Council, which has been the ADO designee in Pend Oreille County since 2010.

TEDD is the lead agency for the Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NEW RTPO) and is a partner in the Northeast Washington Sustainable Tourism and Recreation Team (NEWSTART). TEDD also functions as a relending agency for the United States Department of Agriculture/Rural Development through the USDA/RD Intermediary Relending Program, operating a \$3+ million loan fund over a rural ten county area. EDA also contributed to a rural loan program operated by TEDD, resulting in the business lending program with funds of \$4 million.

In addition, TEDD manages three buildings. Two small business incubator buildings in the Colville Business Park and one in the Southtown Business Plaza, created with financial assistance from EDA. The facilities in the Business Park are 15,000 and 6,000 square feet while the third facility is 12,000 square feet. This provides space for at least a dozen clients with sufficient parking at each location.

CEDS Process

For purposes of CEDS preparation, EDA regulations specify that the district establish a Strategy Committee to guide the CEDS development process. The CEDS Strategy Committee represents an excellent opportunity to gather the economic development experts and those interested in economic development of the region around one table and in smaller work groups, to analyze the regional economy, determine regional goals and objectives, and develop a regional plan of action for implementation, while identifying investment priorities and funding sources. The present CEDS Committee* consists of twenty-three members from the three counties, representing private business concerns, local government, education, utilities, and natural resources. It was at these strategic planning meeting, where a wide range of regional

economic development topics were discussed, leading to creation of focus groups that would convene as needed, to help in identification of priorities and action planning.

The Committee members (see appendix B) represent both the public sector and the private sector and are persons that have:

- Involvement and familiarity with TEDD
- Economic development experience
- Knowledge of the region
- Representative of main economic interests of the region

Organizational Memberships and Affiliations

TEDD's community, regional and statewide memberships and affiliation, as a partner in various cities, regional and statewide organizations are as follows:

Chambers of Commerce

Chewelah Chamber of Commerce Colville Chamber of Commerce
Greater Springdale & Loon Lake Chamber of Commerce
Kettle Falls Chamber of Commerce
Lake Spokane Chamber of Commerce North Pend Oreille Chamber of Commerce
Newport Chamber of Commerce
Northport Chamber of Commerce Republic Chamber of Commerce

Tribal Affiliations

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Spokane Tribe of Indians

Professional Organizations

Community Transportation Association of the Northwest
Inland Northwest Partners
National Association of Development Organizations National Business Incubator
Association
Washington State Economic Development Association (WEDA)
Washington State Microenterprise Association

Grant Information and Data Resources

GrantStation (Through Washington State Department of Commerce) Washington State
Data Center Affiliate for NE Washington

Advisory Panels

NEWSTART
Washington Association of Economic Development Districts (WAEDD)
Workforce Development Boards WSDOT/MPO/RTPO Coordinating Committee

Vision and Mission Statements

Vision Statement

Enhancing the economic vitality and quality of life for the residents of Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille counties through partnerships and collaborations with businesses, community organizations, and government.

Mission Statement

The mission of TEDD is to promote economic resiliency, job creation, and business retention through maintaining and developing business, tourism, community, and area development while preserving the culture and environment of the region.

SWOT - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

SWOT – TEDD

Strengths

- Loan Program(s)
- NEW RTPO
- Colville Incubator Facilities
- Partnerships (USDA-RD, Rural Resources, WorkSource, Horizons, EWU, WSU, SCORE)
- TEDD's Organization Structure / Longevity of Organization
- TEDD's Fiscal Responsibility / Financial Stability

Weaknesses

- Private Sector Minimally involved on TEDD Board
- Inadequate TEDD Staffing – cannot support the Tri-County area's economic development needs
- Inadequate orientation for new members
- Some compact members not adequately represented
- Perceived value / success of TEDD's and Associate Organizations
- Inadequacy of assessing Real Achievable Goals / Measurable Goals of TEDD and Associate Organizations
- Unequal distribution of TEDD's services and resources

Opportunities

- Partnerships with chambers, business organizations, educational institutions
- Refocus economic development efforts via preparation and updating of CEDS
- Need for action on commonly agreed economic development objectives
- Available funding from public sources
- Recruitment of hi-tech businesses / entrepreneurs
- Working Committees involving Tourism, Transit, Agriculture, Transportation

Threats

- Historically high turnover among TEDD Staff
- Operations partially dependent on grant awards

SWOT – Regional Economy

Strengths

- Community's Support of Family-Owned Businesses
- High Population of Vets
- Local Education Resources (Community College, KCTS, Job Corps)
- Community's Strong Agricultural and Timber Background
- Abundant Natural Resources for industry and recreational use
- Healthcare Network of hospitals, clinics, home health organizations, etc.
- Recognized area for outdoor recreation
- Tri-County area recognized as retirement area
- Strong community support of natural resource industry
- Diverse lifestyle options
- Acceptable cost of living
- Geographic location
- Local education resources
- Spokane Tribe Promise Zone designation

Weaknesses

- Different county agendas
- Lack of diverse career and job opportunities
- Communications among public agencies and private entities
- Marketing of region
- Perception and trust, objectivity and representativeness
- Weak Transportation Networks. Limited use of railways and no Regional Airport
- High unemployment
- Reduced Government Capacity, Responsiveness to Community Needs
- Regulatory permitting climate (state and federal) can be difficult, costly and time-consuming
- Cumbersome bureaucratic process of GMA
- Inability to attract workforce/talent
- Lack of adequate broadband
- Redundant, conflicting, and not always focused communications to the public

Opportunities

- Increase Tri-County Broadband Connectivity
- Expand Higher Education and Vocational Training opportunities
- Increase Tourism
- Promote current industries
- Improve Infrastructure
- Recruit new industries
- Regional Marketing
- Encourage 20-40 year olds to move in to the area to raise families

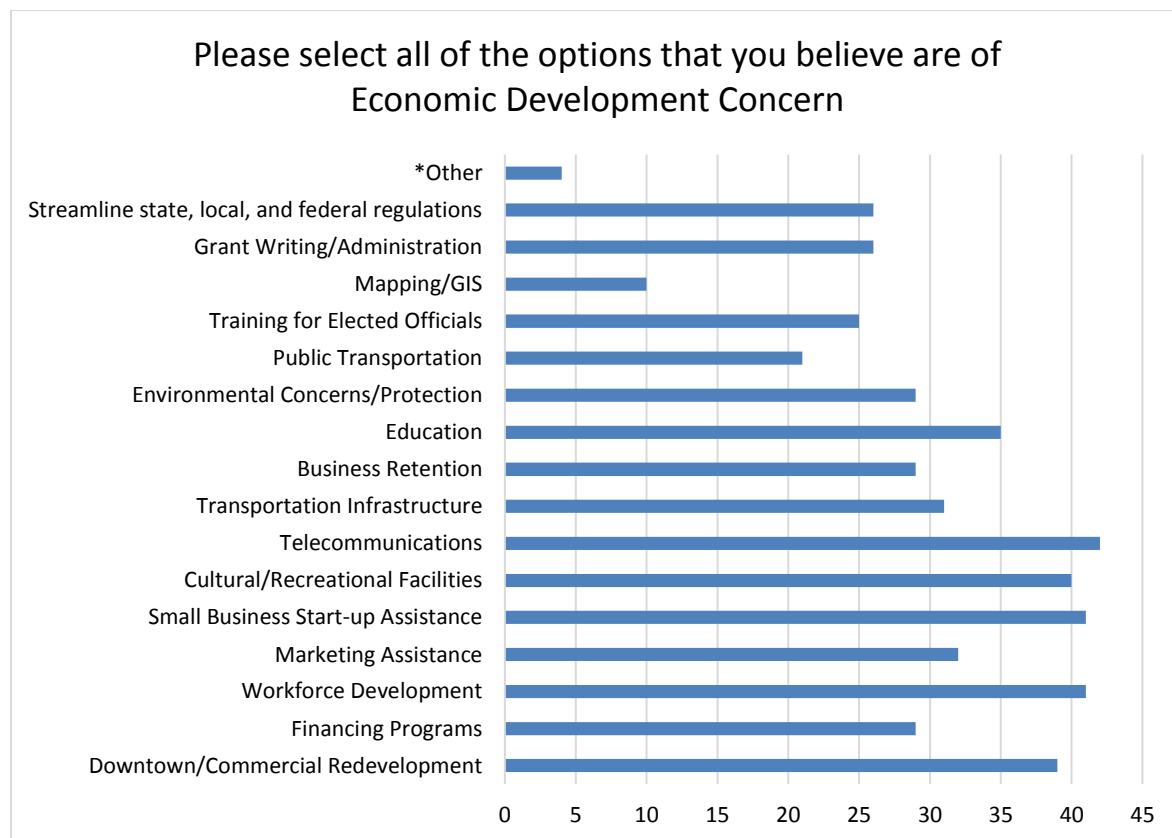
Threats

- Declining / no changes in State and Federal government funding
- Declining Local Government Funding
- Ageing population
- Economic recovery slower than State and Nation
- Effects of Changing Climate
- Lack of/Loss of Healthcare Professionals due to National Demand
- Rising Healthcare Costs
- Water Usage / Availability and Loss of Water Rights
- Overreliance on one industry
- Labor force retention
- Business Succession Planning
- Drug Use (illegal & legal)
- Natural or Man-Made disasters
- Affordable Housing
- Qualified/Eligible Labor Force
- Low emphasis on Trade Curriculumms
- Regulatory Permitting Climate
- Increased homeless population

Regional Survey

Tri County Economic Development District created a regional survey to gauge the general public's thoughts regarding Economic Development around the Tri-County Region. This survey collected responses from May 12, 2017- June 16, 2017 and received 82 responses. It was shared through social media and hard copies were distributed at TEDD's Open House, Ferry County Community Meeting, and emailed to a variety of individuals. At the end of the data collection period TEDD received 82 responses in regards to the survey. It is important to note that 82 responses cannot accurately represent the views of the entire population of the Tri-County Region and the results of this survey were only used as a guiding point for the CEDS Committee while developing this document. The full results of the survey can be found in Appendix C.

An important takeaway from this data include the public's perception of the region's economic development performance over the past 3 years. Only 2% of respondents gave the letter grade "A", followed by 22%-B, 38%-C, 30%-D, and 8%-F. Participants were also asked about their believes as to what areas are of economic development concern. As you can see from the table below Telecommunication had the most votes followed by Small Business Start-up Assistance, and Workforce Development. To better serve the community we represent it is vital that we know what topics they believe are of concern.



Regional Focus Areas

The short and long term focus areas were developed through input from the CEDS Committee, Regional Survey, TEDD/NEW RTPO Board of Directors, and Tri County Economic Development Staff. The focus areas are listed to represent what the region perceives as important topics and may expand beyond TEDD’s jurisdiction. When developing these lists similar responses were combined to create a more condensed and attainable focus area. While these priorities are not in order of importance they have been labeled with a number in order to be easily referenced. The short term focus areas also include a column to link the focus area with TEDD’s objectives.

#	Long Tern (Over 5 Year) Focus Areas for Economic Development
1	Work on improving our regions over all infrastructure
2	Use tourism as an economic pull
3	Recruit new businesses and industries to the area while supporting current industries to grow
4	Building a professional, well-trained, interested, and reliable work force
5	Increase opportunities to vocational training and higher education
6	Promote broadband technology & connectivity
7	Diversify employment opportunities
8	Encourage clean manufacturing to promote a heathier environment
9	Develop infrastructure and plans to include all modes of transportation
10	Strive to lower crime and drug use regionally
11	Expanded collaboration with all interest groups to improve access within the Colville National Forest, for resource extraction, wildfire prevention, and recreation opportunities
12	Transportation improvements on HWY 395 from I-90 freeway to the Canadian border for commerce
13	Increase efforts to develop modern amenity rich housing and communities affordable and attractive enough to retain workforce and families
14	Support of value added production of locally raised fruits, berries, vegetables and meats, through processing facilities and organized marketing and distribution
15	Establish policies and programs for small business support, including training, finance and marketing
16	Revitalize and support vibrant downtowns
17	Research alternative options to foster growth of small businesses and entrepreneurs
18	Increase efforts to develop strong leadership and administrative capacity in government & non-profit sectors
19	Manage homelessness

#	Short Term (1 to 5 Year) Focus Areas for Economic Development	Objective
1	Increase access to broadband technology	3.2
2	Recruit new business and industries to the area to help diversify employment opportunities	1.3, 2.1
3	Focus on retention and growth of existing businesses	3.1
4	Comprehensive and consistent assistance for small businesses	3.1
5	Development of housing availability for all income classifications	*
6	Regular maintenance of current infrastructure	1.1
7	Market all of NE Washington assets, including tourism, quality of life, and regulatory climate	1.3, 2.2
8	Increased vocational training and higher education opportunities	2.3
9	Work with individual towns to develop, improve, and promote, vibrant downtown cores	1.1
10	Improve economic resiliency to natural and/or man-made disasters	*
11	Encourage collaboration between government entities, organization, and employers	1.1
12	Small business access to capital through conventional and non-conventional sources	3.1
13	Expanded collaboration with all interest groups to improve access within the Colville National Forest, for resource extraction, wildfire prevention, and recreation opportunities	1.1
14	Value added production of local products through processing facilities and organized marketing and distribution	2.1
15	Conduct business retention, including strong Chamber involvement for business retention	3.1
16	Better understanding of employers training needs or skill gaps for better productivity and expanded services	1.1
17	Research alternative options to foster growth of small businesses and entrepreneurs	2.1, 2.3
18	Market all of NE Washington assets, including tourism, quality of life, and regulatory climate	1.3, 2.2
19	Work to improve efficient and safe freight mobility	1.1
20	Improve multimodal transportation with safe routes and connectivity	1.1
21	Coordinate with other agencies to ensure continued access and services during emergencies	1.1

Goals - Objectives - Milestones

The following goals, objectives, and milestones were developed based on the Vision and Mission Statement for Tri County Economic Development District. These are identified as essential for working towards the image set forth for Northeast Washington and include both short and long term concepts. This section will state the 3 core goals and, 9 objectives that will help us reach our vision. This section also includes milestones used to help guide the staff at TEDD by providing specific action items to be considered. This section is constantly evolving to represent the current needs of the region which TEDD serves. This section will be updated annually after the final progress report is brought forth to the board.

Goal 1: Act regionally.

Goal 2: Create an entrepreneurial environment and culture to foster and grow new business.

Goal 3: Enhance service to existing businesses.

Goal 1: Act regionally.

Serving the Tri-County area of Northeast Washington TEDD finds great importance in collaboration throughout each county. TEDD continues to hold monthly Board Meetings open to the public and encourages participation even from those unable to travel through the use of call-in alternatives. As the regional platform dedicated to providing an area for open discussion surrounding economic development TEDD strives to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity at sharing their concerns.

Objective 1.1 Institutionalize a culture of collaboration across boundaries by bringing together government, community, workforce development and planning practitioners in the region to share knowledge and opportunities to advance the pace of regional and local economic development.

Milestone 1.1 A Expand representation and engagement of private sector on the TEDD Board of Directors and Loan Committee.

Milestone 1.1 B Implement a regional CEDS which expands public, private and non-profit collaboration with a common strategic vision that is annually updated.

Objective 1.2 Maintain TEDD as a sustainable regional economic development district, including funding, to update and guide implementation of the CEDS.

Milestone 1.2 A Prepare and maintain 3-year budgets for operations and initiatives.

Milestone 1.2 B Commit public sector partners to multi-year investment commitment.

Milestone 1.2 C Support local government incorporation of CEDS strategies as appropriate in their economic development planning.

Objective 1.3 Develop a coordinated regional marketing plan to promote Northeastern Washington as the best place to live and work.

Milestone 1.3 A Coordinate with local stakeholders to integrate their marketing strategies with Northeastern Washington It's Real Life by developing their brand focused on business recruitment and engagement of visitors. Create and maintain a website for the region that displays career, economic and visitor opportunities.

Milestone 1.3 B Maintain and expand trail inventory on Northeast Washington Trails website by 10% per year.

Milestone 1.3 C Expand and evaluate the effectiveness of the Northeast Washington Insider Application. Coordinate stakeholder buy-in by securing long term funding for the project.

Objective 1.4 Recognize and blend quality of place characteristics and concepts into the regional economic development strategies.

Milestone 1.4 A Establish a group of relevant regional stakeholders to review quality of place concepts and index methodologies to craft a set of appropriate regional metrics.

Milestone 1.4 B In conjunction with local stakeholders develop and conduct several community outreach events to solicit input in defining quality of place within the region.

Goal 2: Create an entrepreneurial environment and culture to foster and grow new business.

By creating a regionally conducive environment to help entice and nurture an entrepreneurial spirit TEDD is dedicated to providing support for entrepreneurs.

Objective 2.1 Within five years, implement an innovation ecosystem which provides tools and services to enhance the capacity for innovation within existing and new businesses. In addition, this ecosystem should foster entrepreneurship and the likelihood of success for new and existing entrepreneurs.

Milestone 2.1 A Engage with existing entrepreneurs to determine the critical services and tools that enhance the likelihood of success for themselves and new entrepreneurs. Encourage their involvement with mentoring new entrepreneurs to utilize their expertise.

Milestone 2.1 B Assess regional innovation and entrepreneurial climate based upon best practice criteria such as facilities, governance, business services, access to capital, business networks, culture, R&D capacities, etc.

Milestone 2.1 C Identify regional clusters and niche markets.

Milestone 2.1 D Work to expand or create regional business incubator, accelerator, or small-scale processing facilities.

Milestone 2.1 E Ensure new capacity and opportunity is a part of entrepreneurial support programs and regional business marketing strategies.

Objective 2.2 Leverage tourism assets to attract and retain young resident families.

Objective 2.3 Research needs of a young professionals to support and attract 22–44 year old professionals and workers.

Milestone 2.3 A Conduct a young professionals survey identify interests, concerns, and needs of younger population.

Milestone 2.3 B Engage a representative group of younger individuals (ideally 22–44 year olds) in the community to assess interests and the role of young professionals and workers in the region's economic future.

Milestone 2.3 C As a result of Milestone 2.3.A and 2.3.B, recommend a set of initiatives to be adopted in order to better support young professionals and entrepreneurs in the regions such as: business seminars, speakers, business plan competitions, investment forums, social events, relocation support, mentoring, and referrals.

Goal 3: Enhance services to existing businesses.

The tri-county culture has been built upon the existing businesses and services currently available. TEDD understands the significant value these businesses provide to each community and is dedicated to ensuring the availability of a talented workforce as well as satisfying their infrastructure needs.

Objective 3.1 Increase technical services to businesses and entrepreneurs.

Milestone 3.1 A Conduct a robust business visitation and outreach program annually with the goal of assisting 25 existing businesses and 10 new or potential businesses each year.

Milestone 3.1 B Offer 10 business based training opportunities per year.

Milestone 3.1 C Loan \$500,000 per year through the Rural Opportunities Loan Fund.

Objective 3.2 Assist community partners in the expansion and enhancement of broadband and wireless access to global standards.

Performance Measures – Evaluation Plan

Completion of the CEDS review and evaluation is an important annual achievement for TEDD. The CEDS is a way for the TEDD Board to set priorities for the future and evaluate the success of the current activities TEDD staff is active in.

Each goal identified in the CEDS was created with the intent to be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time based. Milestones associated with the goals guide TEDD staff towards actions deemed regionally important. Annually the CEDS document will be reviewed as to the gauge the progress achieved towards each goal as well as those activities listed as short and long term priorities.

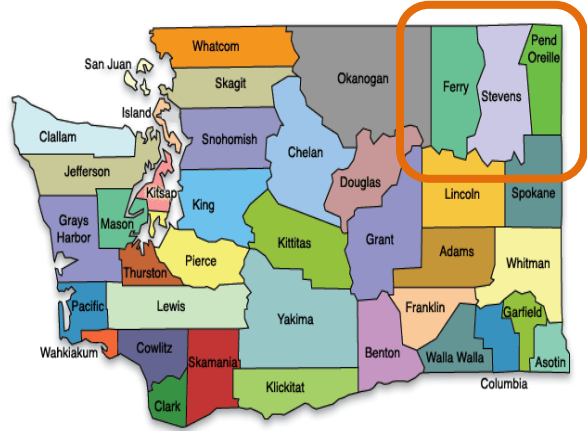
In order to evaluate the success of the region in delivering the CEDS initiatives, the Tri-County Economic Development District will take several steps to measure and review the progress. The steps used in the process will be conducted by TEDD staff and reviewed by the TEDD Board of Directors. These steps will be covered administratively, as follows:

- a. At every TEDD Board Meeting, typically the fourth Wednesday of each month a brief verbal update will be given by the Executive Director, or TEDD staff member, regarding activities that the staff has been involved with as well as any pertinent future plans.
- b. During the October TEDD Board Meeting a final progress report will be given by the Executive Director. This will include a formal handout detailing TEDD's actions towards achieving the goals set forth in this document.
- c. After the October TEDD Board Meeting a sub set of the full CEDS Committee as well as TEDD Staff will review the CEDS to determine whether or not it needs to be updated, revised, or amended. If so, TEDD Staff will make recommendations to the TEDD Board on these changes no later than the January Board Meeting.

In addition, TEDD staff will continuously monitor and update the TEDD website and social media sites with key information regarding changes in the economic environment, regional activities, and outreach opportunities. This information will be posted on the TEDD web site www.teddonline.org or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TriCountyEDD/> for public review.

Background

The Tri-Counties are located in the rural area of North Eastern Washington State, an area with substantial public lands, mountainous terrain and Native American reservations, (Colville Confederated, Kalispel and Spokane Tribal lands). The area has an economic history closely tied to the land. Agriculture, forestry and mining are what brought many people to the area and what continues to sustain many today. The economy has diversified significantly during the last three decades, much of it driven by influx of a senior population retiring to the area and introduction of technology. The area still retains its rural nature with limited north-south, east-west state highways in an area of 6,080.9 square miles. The three-counties have a total population of 64,168 with the majority of residents living in non-incorporated, isolated areas.



The region has transitioned to an economic base led by the services industry sector, as seen by the sector's increasing importance with respect to total employment and income shares. Historic job losses in the timber and wood products industry combined with more stricter federal and state regulations of logging and resource industries has resulted in closures and downsizing.

The logging industry consisted of tree harvesting that provided logs for sawmills and wood chips for pulp mills, and has been hard hit by a number of factors. The job losses have been caused by the collapse of the home building industry, and have been slow to recover. Additionally, declining log and pulp prices coupled with increasing fuel and transportation costs, have also caused profit margins to drop, resulting in logging companies to exit the industry.

The region's natural beauty and outdoor recreational resources and lower costing real estate, increasingly attract elderly retired persons as visitors and as in-migrants, who spend money in the area.

The top 5 industries in the region include Local Government, Food Services and Drinking Places, Federal Government, Social Assistance, and Wood Product Manufacturing. These 5 industries create approximately 7,460 of the 17,543 jobs available, or 43% of jobs in the tri-county region.

Many self-employed businesses are start-up businesses in the region are operated by households out of homes (cottage businesses), located in rural areas of Tri-County. There is a severe lack of broadband infrastructure in rural areas the region. Limited broadband connectivity in these areas of the county eliminates an important business tool and customer access point for small business owners.

Ferry County

Ferry County is a rural county, defined by its limited transportation and its dependence on resource extraction. The Colville Confederated Tribes owns the southern portion of the county and the northern portion is largely part of the Colville National Forest. Less than 18 percent of the land in Ferry County is privately owned.



Ferry County, and particularly the town of Republic, has relied on mining for decades. Today, the Ferry County economy, based on resource extraction, remains seasonal. In 2008, the newly opened Buckhorn Mountain Gold Mine created about 200 jobs and its operations were planned to be approximately seven years. The mine closure was scheduled for 2016 but has been extended to the spring of 2017. In Ferry County it is estimated that 83 jobs and \$7.9 million in wages will be lost. With this closure it is also anticipated that there will be an increase of population out-migration, reduced property tax revenue, reduced business sales tax, and decrease in school enrollment¹.

Over the last 10 years, there was been a .3% growth in Ferry County, compared to a national growth of 4.6%. The lack of economic growth is reflected in slow population growth, an older than average population, higher than average government employment and little, or negative real employment growth. The closure of Buckhorn Gold Mine is anticipated to reverse the minimal growth that Ferry County had experienced in the past 10 years.

Population:

City/County	2014	2015	2016
Republic	4,396	4,245	4,258
Ferry	7,651	7,582	7,600

*City population calculated through zip code

¹ "Kettle River-Buckhorn Mine and Mill Closure," Kinross, www.mcdowellgroup.net, (December 2015)

Pend Oreille County

Pend Oreille County is dominated by the rugged, mountainous Colville National Forest. The southern part of the county has forested foothills as well as drier hills and valleys. The Pend Oreille River runs the length of the county, providing electric power and recreation for the area. Pend Oreille County is very rural with only 9.49 persons per square mile.

Land management influences economic development in Pend Oreille County, especially changes regarding timber land management and mining. Only 36 percent of land in the county is privately owned, and about 58 percent is managed by the federal government. There is also a Kalispel Reservation in Usk, in central Pend Oreille.



Major industry sectors in Pend Oreille County are local government, elementary and secondary schools, hospitals, and lead ore and zinc ore mining, currently at about 1,554 employees. Manufacturing employment remains weak due to improved technology and efficiencies allowing manufactures to increase production without an increase in employment (Pend Oreille County Profile, ESD, September 2016).

A sizable portion of the economy in Pend Oreille County relies on commuting, mostly to Spokane County.

Population:

City/County	2014	2015	2016
Cusick	1,461	1,546	1,543
Ione	1,548	1,575	1,574
Metaline	5	5	5
Metaline Falls	453	461	461
Newport	8,651	8,633	8,646
Pend Oreille	12,941	13,088	13,096

*City population calculated through zip code

Stevens County

Stevens County is very rural and could be considered a frontier economy. It ranks fifth in the state in terms of population density. All of the Spokane Indian Reservation is in Stevens County, on 237.5 square miles. Colville, the county seat, is the largest town in Stevens County, estimated population of 4,554 (2011-2015 ACS).



Over the past 20 years, the economy has diversified from its dependence on resource extraction. This forced diversification has been the result of increasing service-providing jobs and increases in manufacturing of non-wood products (Stevens County Profile, ESD, September 2016). The closure of Hearth & Home Technologies is expected to negatively impact Stevens County. Approximately 100 employees will be affected from this closure significantly reducing the amount of non-wood manufacturing in Stevens County².

Stevens County tends to have one of the highest unemployment rates as well as a lower labor force participation rate in the state. Over the last three years total employment in the county has increased modestly (Stevens County Profile, ESD, September 2016). Major industries within Stevens County include local government, elementary and secondary schools, general medical and surgical hospitals, warehouse clubs and supercenters.

The county has become a regional hub for healthcare with the influx of older individuals. With an increase in retirees into the region and changing demographics, total health care employment has grown. Budget reductions are likely to weaken some government employment. Any reduction will create noticeable employment headwinds in a county with 30 percent of its jobs in government.

A little known community, Suncrest, is a small unincorporated community in Stevens County, about 9.7 miles northwest of the city of Spokane, of which it is a suburb. The community, unlike the remainder of the county has experienced rapid growth during the 2000s due to new "gated community" style development with large lot sizes and its proximity to the area's rural recreational opportunities.

Population:

City / County	2014	2015	2016
Chewelah	5,685	6,039	6,043
Colville	14,126	13,962	13,968
Kettle Falls	4,295	4,129	4,129
Marcus	154	148	148
Northport	2,459	2,364	2,364
Springdale	1,680	1,797	1,797
Stevens	43,556	43,791	43,826

*City population calculated through zip code

² Dunn Katie, Hearth & Home leaves town, (Statesman Examiner, February 14, 2017)

Infrastructure

Transportation

The Tri-County's eastern boundary extends to the Washington/Idaho border and north to the US/Canadian border. Several State Highways connect the region north to south: Hwy 395 (a NAFTA route), SR 2, SR 25, SR 31 while SR 21 and SR 20 connect the region east to west.

The Tri-County area is served by three railroads: Burlington Northern/Santa Fe, Kettle Falls International Railway and the Pend Oreille Valley Railroad, connecting in Sandpoint, Idaho. The other two rails make connections in Spokane County where there are direct lines from Union Pacific, Burlington Northern/Santa Fe and Amtrak to Seattle and Chicago, serving as a gateway to and from the interior U.S. and the Pacific Rim.



Burlington Northern Railroad Company has 50 active spurs in Stevens County that carry wood products, rocks, limestone and fertilizer. Burlington Northern/Santa Fe and Kettle Falls International Railway lines have two access points into British Columbia, Canada. Freight costs by rail vary depending on origin, destination, quantity, and product type.

Several airports serve the Tri-County area although none provide commercial passenger service. The Sand Canyon/Chewelah Airport has an airstrip that is 3,680 feet long and is used for charter and private use. The Colville Airport is accessed for charter, private and corporate use with a runway length of 2,400 feet. The Sullivan Lake Airport, outside of the town of Metaline Falls is the only State Airport in the Tri-County region. It is publicly owned and operated by WSDOT. The runway is not paved, it is 1,765 feet long by 100 feet wide and its elevation is 2,621 feet.

In Pend Oreille County there is also a Municipal Airport in Lone. It is paved and 4,059 feet long at an elevation of 2,108 feet. Outside of the Tri-county region there are additional small Municipal airports nearby at: Priest River, Sand Point and Coeur d'Alene in Idaho and Deer Park in Spokane County.

Deer Park Municipal Airport, 5 miles east of Clayton, just across the county line in Spokane County, serves as a fire tanker base in the summer fire season, offering the surrounding community quick response to fire events, flight training and is capable of accommodating business jets using the airport as an alternative to the larger airport in Spokane.

Approximately 75 miles south of Colville is the Spokane International Airport served by United, Southwest, American West, Big Sky, Alaska, Northwest, Delta, & Horizon. This regional facility is a federally recognized Foreign Trade Zone.

There are also 2 ferries operating in the Tri-County area.

The Gifford-Inchelium Ferry, also known as GIF, is a ferry across the Columbia River in Washington State. The Colville Confederated Tribes operate this ferry across Roosevelt Lake on the upper Columbia. It connects Inchelium to State Route 25 across the river.

The *Martha S.*, also known as the Keller Ferry, is owned and operated by Washington State

Department of Transportation (WSDOT). She crosses the Columbia River (Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake) between Lincoln County and Ferry County at the confluence of the Columbia and the Sanpoil River.

The Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization is the regional transportation planning organization for the Tri-County area. The communities, towns, cities and counties in the region are eligible for federal transportation planning funds to complete required federal transportation planning activities. These activities include an annual Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program and a five-year Regional Transportation Plan. The Tri-County Economic Development District serves as the lead agency for the Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

Telecommunications

Broadband improves how local businesses communicate and execute core business operations. The SBA reports that almost one-third of small businesses, (which collectively hire over 50 percent of U.S. workers, “indicate a need for broadband speeds that require greater capacity networks than currently exist in many locations.” And where this high-capacity access is available, it is extremely expensive.

The Tri-County area telecommunications infrastructure continues to be developed, improved and extended. Digital switches, fiber and redundancy are in place throughout the population centers in Newport and Colville. However, the infrastructure is lacking in the more rural areas, especially those in Ferry County. Advancement of telecommunications infrastructure is a high priority for the entire region and TEDD has been supportive of on-going efforts, including partnering with Broadband Action Team (BAT) that is investigating and pursuing mechanisms for all stakeholders to pool resources and to work in tandem to increase broadband awareness, access and adoption.

Pend Oreille County PUD and its community worked diligently soliciting and securing one of the few Fiber-to-the-Premises Grants availed by American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Broadband Technologies and Opportunity Program (BTOP) in the amount of \$27.3 million. This project will bring redundancy to the served anchor institutions and unbridled bandwidth capacity/opportunity to the business and homes to spark economic recovery and growth.

Additionally, Kalispel Tribe in Pend Oreille County will also be benefiting from BTOP round II funding, that is expected to strengthen the Kalispel Tribe’s Public Safety Department’s infrastructure and allow them to connect to multiple state and local entities in order to provide better services to the community.

As a sub-participant of BTOP round II funding, Stevens County PUD through NoaNet will help strengthen the public safety infrastructure, school systems, libraries, and provide open access to affordable high speed Internet access to small and medium sized businesses.

Utilities

Tri-County businesses benefit from low-cost hydro-electric power generated from inland Northwest rivers and lakes. The region offers among the lowest energy costs in the nation. Publicly and privately owned utility providers include: Pend Oreille PUD, Avista Utilities, and Ferry County PUD and Inland Power, which serves southern part of Stevens County. Avista also provides natural gas in several areas. Stevens County PUD provides wastewater treatment and public water in many small, unincorporated areas. Private water supplies, which represent a majority of water systems in the rural areas, are private wells that require proof of adequate and potable water prior to proposed development, as per Stevens County Code, Title 3, Section 3.16.232 (A).



Wastewater

All the incorporated cities have wastewater systems.

Connection policies and fees vary greatly. Some areas adjacent to cities are served by public sanitary sewer systems. In most unincorporated areas, sewage disposal is by means of on-site subsurface sewage disposal systems.



Water-Surface or Subsurface Sources

The majority of water systems in the rural areas are private wells. These serve predominately residential uses. As Permit-Exempt uses, these are permissible for, water for livestock, lawn or non-commercial gardens not exceeding ½ acre in area or less, single or group of homes not exceeding 5,000 gpd, or for limited industrial purposes not exceeding 5,000 gpd.

Unincorporated and incorporated towns/cities in all three counties have municipal water systems.

Solid Waste Handling and Disposal

Solid waste includes all items, bulk, heavy and traditionally non-biodegradable. Many of these items are recyclable. The official solid waste disposal site for Ferry County was closed in 1996. A transfer station has been built on the site and is now in operation. While there are restrictions on what the transfer station will accept, there are no limits to the amount of waste that may be dumped during regular hours. The solid waste is then disposed of outside the county. Both Stevens and Pend Oreille counties have their own waste dump sites.

Residential and commercial garbage hauling services are available in both rural and urban areas of the three counties. In addition, each county maintains drop-box/recycle sites and/or transfer stations, where county residents from outlying areas may dispose of their solid waste. There is

no single stream recycling currently being implemented. Stevens County takes cardboard/waste paper and some plastic and there is currently no glass recycling.

Educational Services

Educational opportunities in the Tri-County region are provided through the 20 School Districts and 5 Spokane Community College Institutes for Extended Learning Centers. Stevens County currently has 5,880 K-12 students in 37 schools, Ferry County has 853 students in 12 schools, and in Pend Oreille there are 1,600 students in 9 schools. The Spokane College centers are located in the cities of Colville, Lone, Inchelium, Newport and Republic and provide services for students to earn a 2 year college degree, professional certification, or to complete their GED.

Emergency Services

The Tri County Region is home to a variety of emergency and medical service providers in the region. Life Flight Network is a membership based service that provides ICU-level care and life-saving transportation to seriously ill or injured patients from the scene of an emergency to a hospital or from hospital to hospital. In the Tri-County area Providence Mount Carmel Hospital, Providence St. Joseph's Hospital, and Newport Hospital & Health Services are all Trauma Level 4 Hospitals. Ferry County Memorial Hospital is a Trauma Level 5 Hospital.

Each county is serviced by their own Sherriff's Office with varying staff sizes. A primary function within the Sheriff's Office remains organizing the volunteer search and rescue organization who provide a critical service to people in distress or imminent danger. There are three Border Patrol Station operated within the tri-county borders. The Curlew Station is responsible for 39 miles of border between Ferry and Okanogan Counties. The Colville Station is responsible for 40 miles of border from Laurier Port of Entry to the Stevens/Pend Oreille County lines. The Metaline Falls Station is responsible for 36 miles of the border from the Stevens/Pend Oreille County lines to the Selkirk Mountains.

Benchmarks

This page compares key demographic, income, and social indicators from the region to Washington State and the Nation. All data has been gathered from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is managed by the United State Census Bureau. A full report regarding the regions socioeconomic and demographic status can be found in Appendix D.

Population, 2010-2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Population (2015)	316,515,021	6,985,464	7,652	12,968	43,548
Population (2010)	303,965,272	6,561,297	7,504	12,904	43,171
Population Change (2010-2015)	12,549,749	424,167	148	64	377
Population Percent Change (2010-2015)	4.13%	6.46%	1.97%	0.50%	0.87%

Change in Median Age, 2010-2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Median age 2015 (years)	37.6	37.4	47.7	49.3	46.2
Median age 2010 (years)	36.9	37.0	46.4	46.4	44.0

Population by Race, Percentage of Total, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Total population	316,515,021	6,985,464	7,652	12,968	43,548
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	17.10%	12.00%	4.00%	3.50%	3.20%
Not Hispanic or Latino	82.90%	88.00%	96.00%	96.50%	96.80%

Commuting Patterns, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Worked in state of residence	96.20%	96.70%	98.80%	89.60%	97.30%
Worked outside state of residence	3.80%	3.30%	1.20%	10.40%	2.70%
Worked in county of residence	72.40%	81.30%	77.30%	62.40%	67.40%
Worked outside county of residence	23.80%	15.50%	21.50%	27.30%	29.90%

Income, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Median household income (dollars)	53,889	61,062	38,125	40,599	41,978

Educational Attainment, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	27.80%	23.30%	31.20%	32.20%	34.40%
Bachelor's degree	18.50%	20.90%	11.50%	12.00%	10.70%

Components of Household Earnings, Percentage of Total, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
With earnings	77.8%	78.7%	57.2%	59.2%	67.0%
With Social Security	29.8%	27.9%	49.6%	44.2%	41.4%
With retirement income	18.1%	18.5%	23.9%	28.9%	24.0%
With Supplemental Security Income	5.4%	4.8%	11.1%	7.7%	8.0%
With cash public assistance income	2.8%	3.9%	7.4%	4.4%	4.9%
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months	13.2%	14.3%	22.7%	19.8%	19.4%

Percentage of families and people whose income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
All families	11.30%	8.90%	14.00%	17.50%	13.00%
All people	15.50%	13.30%	22.00%	21.50%	18.00%
Under 18 years	21.70%	17.50%	24.70%	29.70%	25.00%
18 years and over	13.50%	12.00%	21.40%	19.30%	15.90%
18 to 64 years	14.50%	12.80%	26.50%	22.80%	18.70%
65 years and over	9.40%	8.00%	6.70%	10.60%	7.70%

Housing Occupancy, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Total housing units	133,351,840	2,942,127	4,396	7,995	21,159
Occupied housing units	87.70%	90.70%	70.60%	67.50%	83.60%
Vacant housing units	12.30%	9.30%	29.40%	32.50%	16.40%



TRI-COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2018 - 2022

Ferry County WA, Pend Oreille County WA, Stevens County WA

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Appendix – A

TRI COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members	Title	Representing
*Mike Blankenship – SECRETARY Nathan Davis	Commissioner(s)	Ferry County
*Fran Bolt Dana DePaulo	Mayor Deputy Clerk	Town of Marcus
*James Sullivan	Mayor	Town of Springdale
*Pete Daggett	Mayor	Town of Metaline
Ernie Rasmussen Barney Ferguson	Sr. Planner Economic Development Planning Director	Colville Confederated Tribes
*Dan Fagerlie Doug Aubertin	Commissioner	Ferry County PUD
*Kathleen Turpin	Council Member	Town of Lone
*Daniel Hay / Mava Olson	Council Member	City of Republic
Debra Hansen / Nils Johnson	Director	WSU Stevens County
*Leslie Valz - TREASURER	Treasurer (Interim)	Stevens County
Vaughn Hintze	Retired US Forest Service	Private Sector
*Lou Janke / Nancy Foll	Mayor / Mayor Protem	City of Colville
*Kelly Driver / Corey Jues	Commissioner	Port of Pend Oreille
*Julia Whitford / Debbie Henry	Tribal Council Vice Chair	Kalispel Tribe
*Dorothy Knauss Mike Frizzell	Mayor / City Administrator	City of Chewelah
Greg Knight / Connie Mahugh	Executive Director	Rural Resources
*Mike Lamb	Mayor	Town of Northport
Barry Lamont	NA	Private Sector
Rick Larson / Dan Peterson	Commissioner(s)	Pend Oreille County PUD
*Tara Leinenger	Mayor	Town of Metaline Falls
Steve Kiss – VICE CHAIRMAN	Commissioner(s)	Pend Oreille County
* Steve Parker – CHAIRMAN Wes McCart	Commissioner(s)	Stevens County
Keith Metcalf Charlene Kay	Regional Administrator Transp. Planning Manager	WSDOT
*Frank Metlow Mike Tedesco	Assistant Planning & Economic Dev. Director Planning & Economic Dev. Director	Spokane Tribe of Indians
*Dwight Morgan Kelly Terry	PUD Commissioner IT Administrator	Stevens County PUD
Rod Van Alyne	Executive Director	Workforce Development
Sue Poe	Financial Advisor	Edward Jones
*Shirley Sands / Ray King	Mayor / Administrator	City of Newport
*Dorothy Slagle / David Keeley	Mayor / Planner	City of Kettle Falls
*Chris Evers / Monte Williams	Mayor	Town of Cusick
Matt Schanz	Director	NE Tri County Health
Deana Zakar / Susan Byington	Community & Gov. Relations Spec.	Kinross Gold Corporation
Robert Willford / Clint Kirry	Director of Finance	Hewes Marine, Inc.
Franklin Pemberton	Public Affairs Officer	US Forest Service
John Smith / Zach Ross	Member(s)	Colville Chamber of Commerce
Cesar Godinez / Douglas Kyle	Colville Operations Manager	Avista

Appendix – B

2017 CEDS Committee

First Name	Last Name	Representing
Andrew	Engell	Cath McMorris Rogers Office
Barney	Ferguson	Colville Confederated Tribes
Cesar	Godinez	Avista
Christopher	Guenther	Ferry County Citizen
Connie	Mahugh	Rural Resources Community Action
Debra	Hansen	WSU Stevens County Extension
Eric	Bracken	Curlew Job Corps CCC
Eric	McQuay	Colville National Forest
Ernest	Rasmussen	Colville Confederated Tribes
Frank	Metlow	Spokane Tribe
Janessa	Esquivel	Colville Confederated Tribes
Jeff	Koffel	Tri County Economic Development District
Juanita	Warren	Colville Confederated Tribes
Kinsey	Coots	Tri County Economic Development District
Lou	Janke	Colville City Council
Maria	Swinger-Inskeep	SCC Colville Center
Mike	Tedesco	Spokane Tribe
Richard	Shull	Small business owner
RJ	Keetch	City Planner
Sarah	Haden	Chewelah Horizons
Steve	Parker	Stevens County Commissioner
William	Marchand	Colville Confederated Tribes
Wyrobek	Jamie	Pend Oreille Economic Development Council

Appendix – C

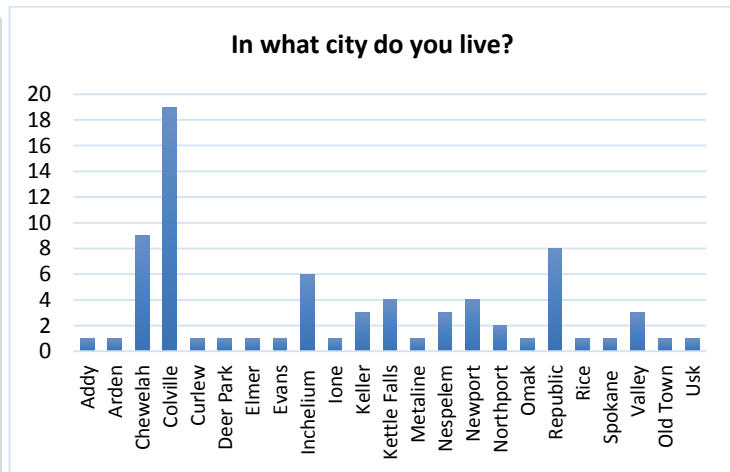
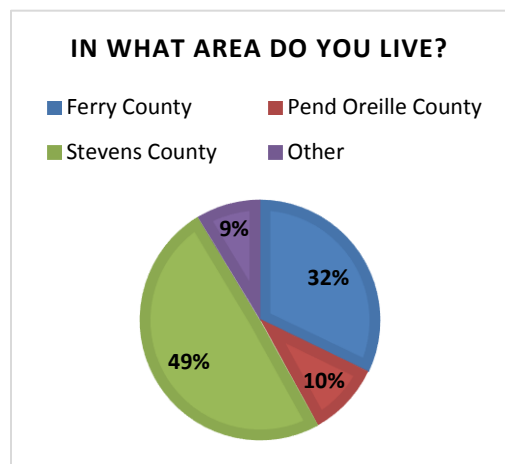
Regional Survey Results

2018-2022 Survey Results

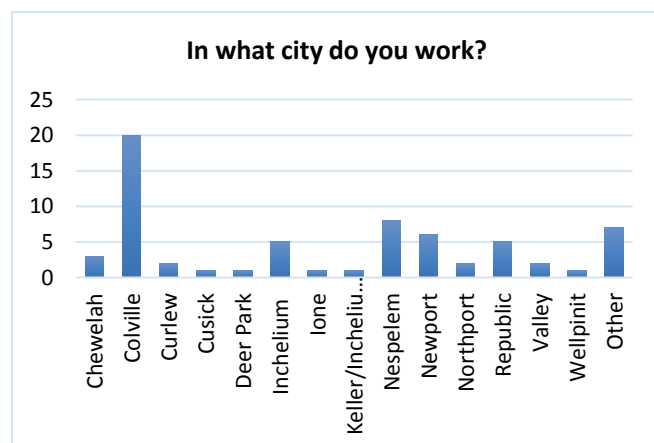
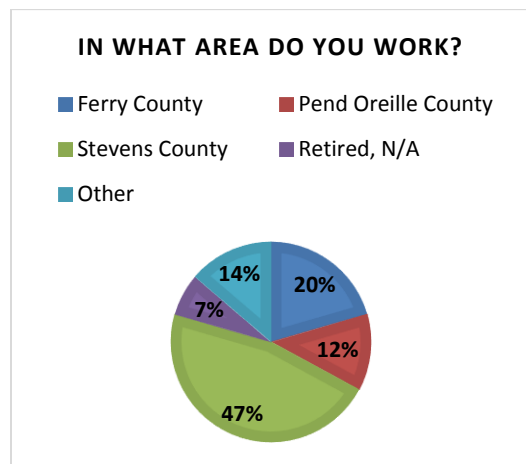
Demographic Data:

Please select the position that best describes yourself:	
TEDD Board Member	5%
Elected Official	28%
An employee of a private company	7%
An employee of a public agency	16%
Business Owner	12%
Retired	20%
Unemployed	2%
Tribal Employee	4%
Other	6%
*Other: just a plain ol' citizen, Ferry County Resident, 74 yrs old-still working, non-profit, staff of an elected official	

Into which age group do you fall?	
<17 Years Old	0%
18-24 Years Old	0%
25-34 Years Old	16%
35-44 Years Old	14%
45-64 Years Old	51%
65+ Years Old	19%

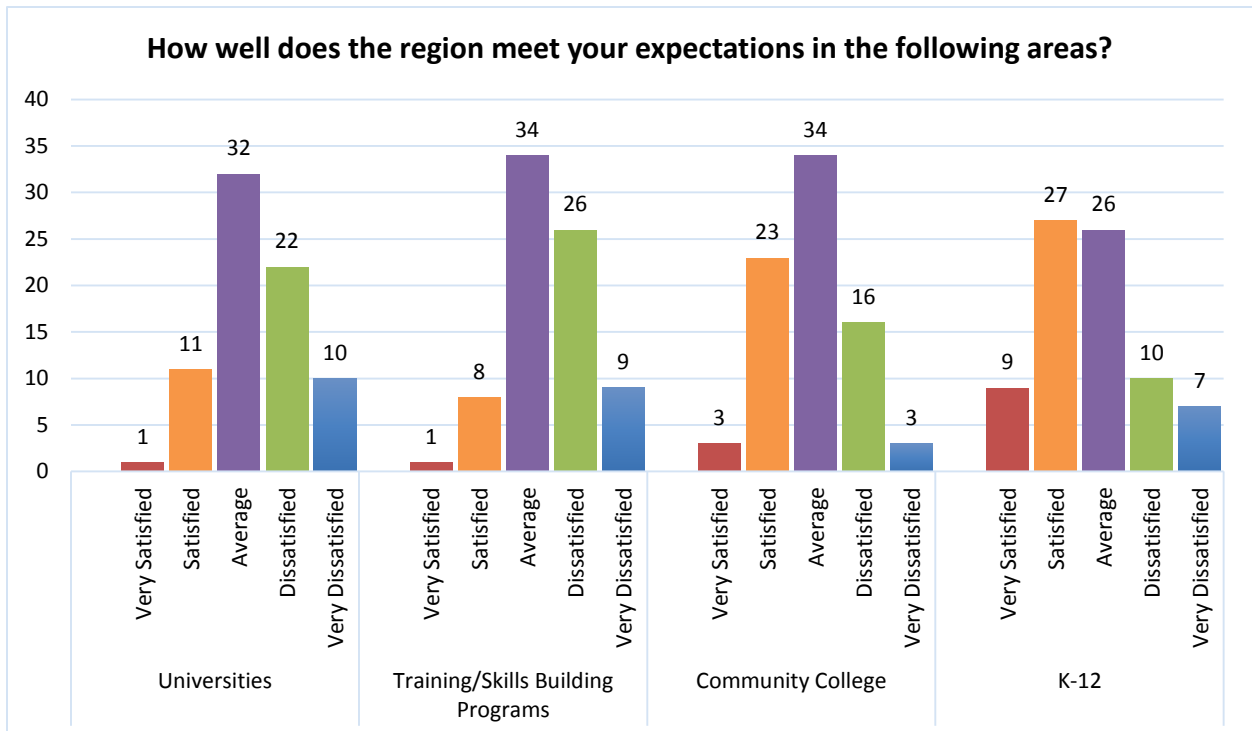
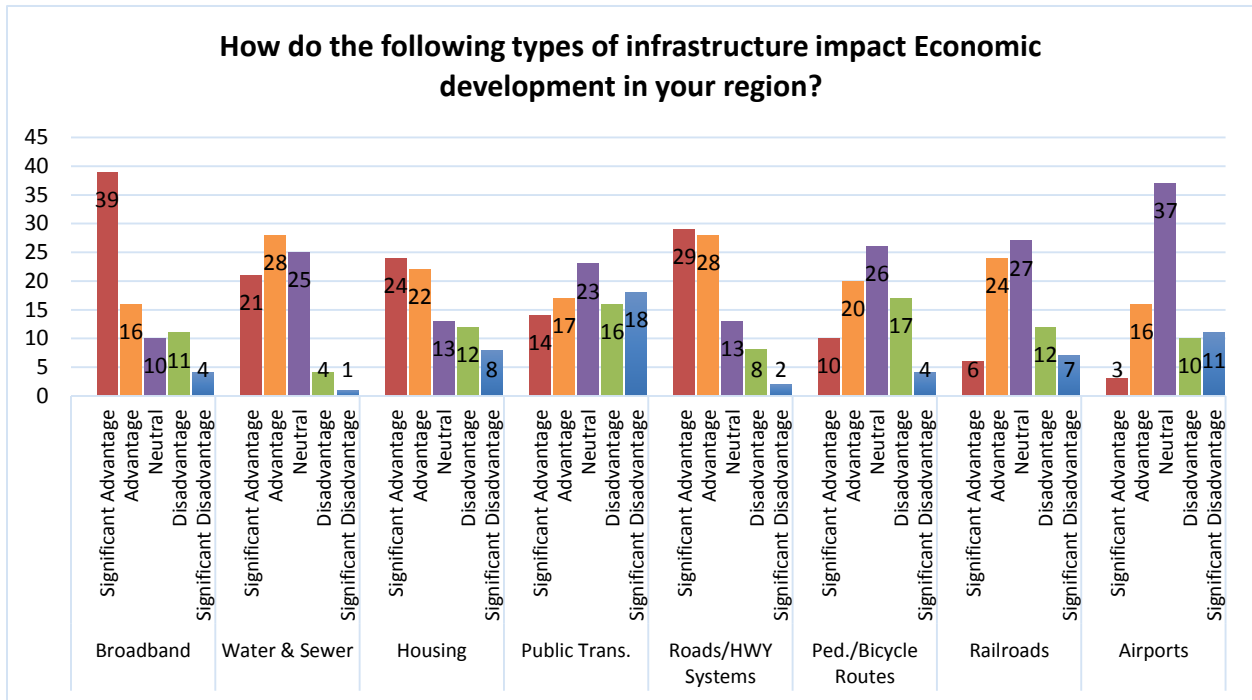


Other: Okanogan County, Spokane County, Bonner County, Personal Property Interests

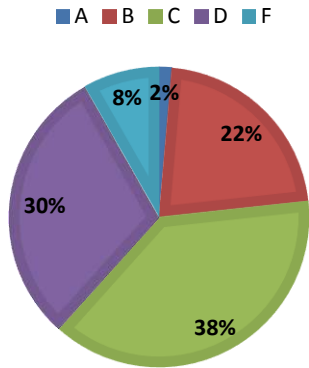


Other Area: Okanogan (7), Ferry and Okanogan, Ferry and Stevens, All of the above
 Other City: Freelancer, N/A (3), Retired (2), Volunteer

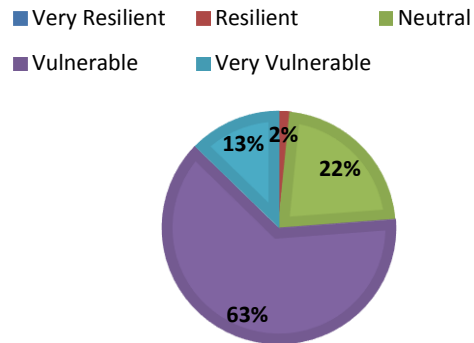
Survey Results:



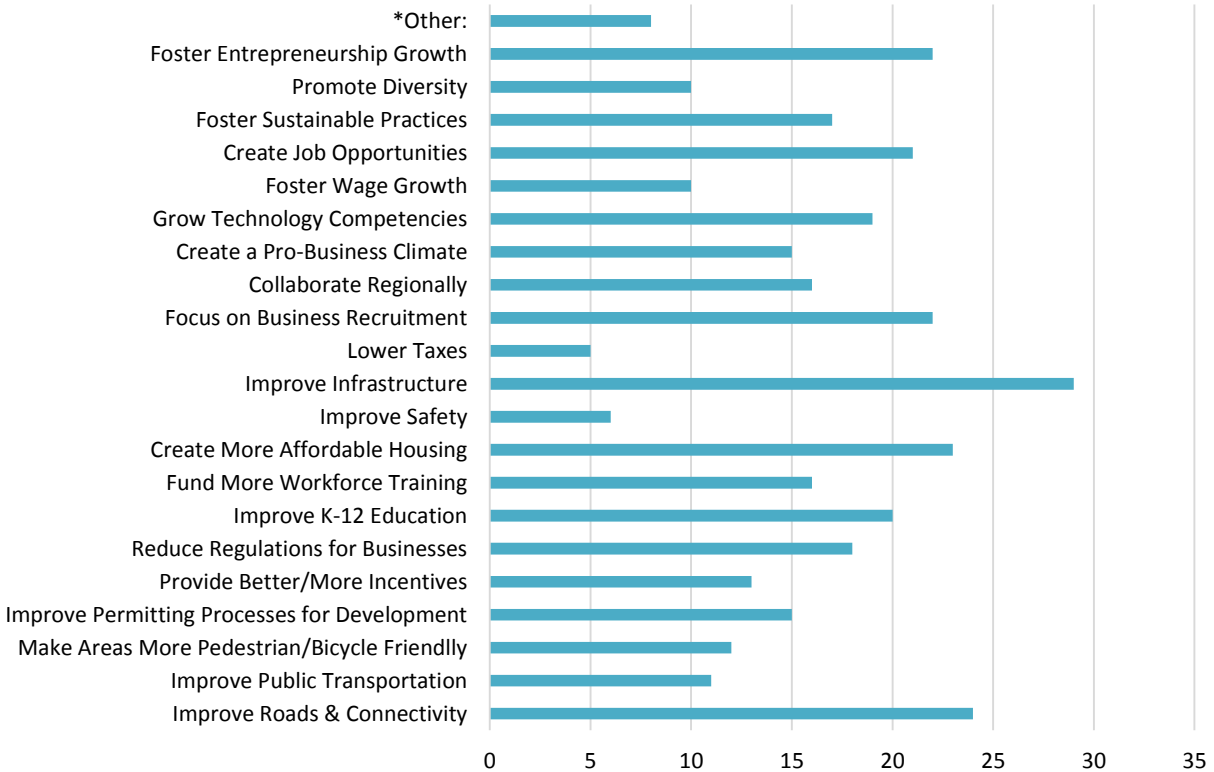
HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE REGIONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS?



HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE REGIONS RESILIENCY IN REGARDS TO ABILITY TO PREVENT, WITHSTAND, AND RECOVER FROM ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS

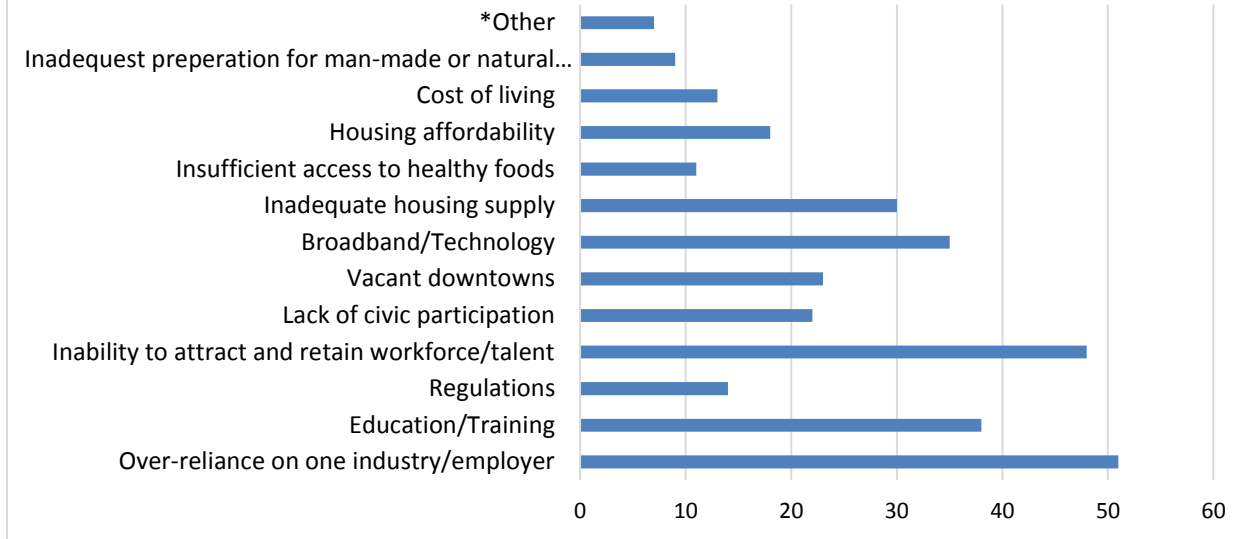


Select the top 3 things that can be done to make the region a better place for business?



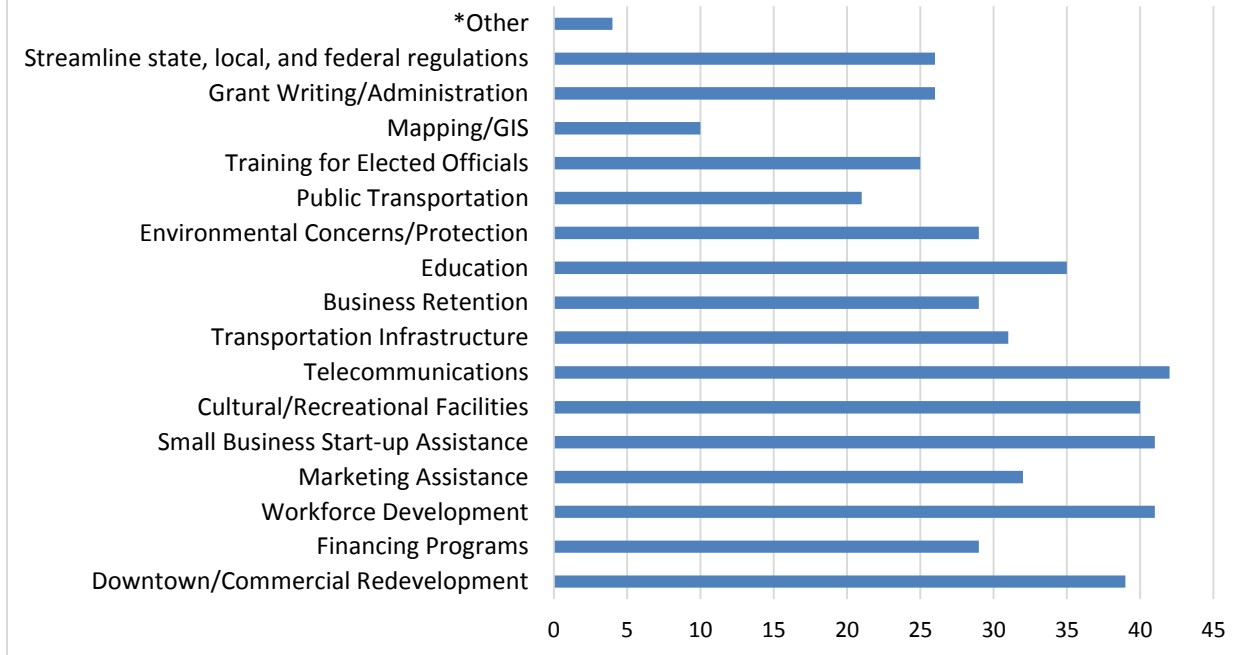
*Other: Widespread Affordable Housing, Support entry level careers to entice and keep younger folks, More activities for teens and youth, Broadband, Quality environment, clean energy, Develop tourism opportunities for bicyclists and motorcyclists, Get competitive electric rates, More mature resource education

What are the biggest threats to resiliency in the region?



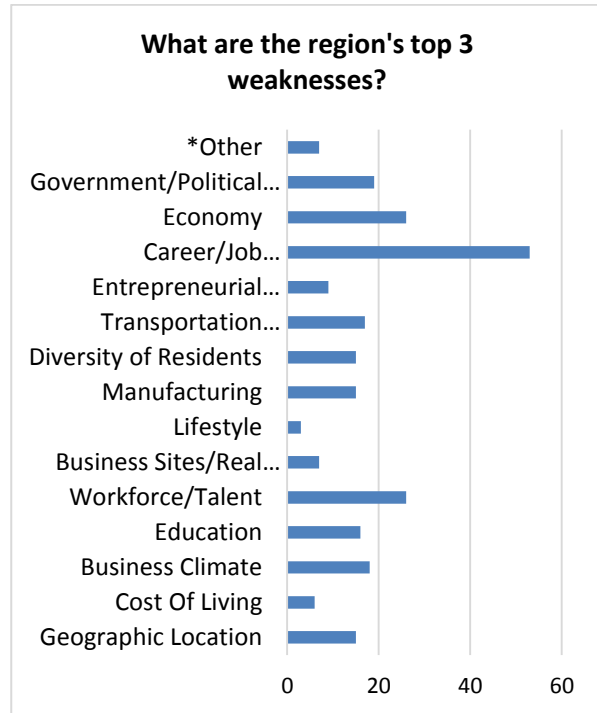
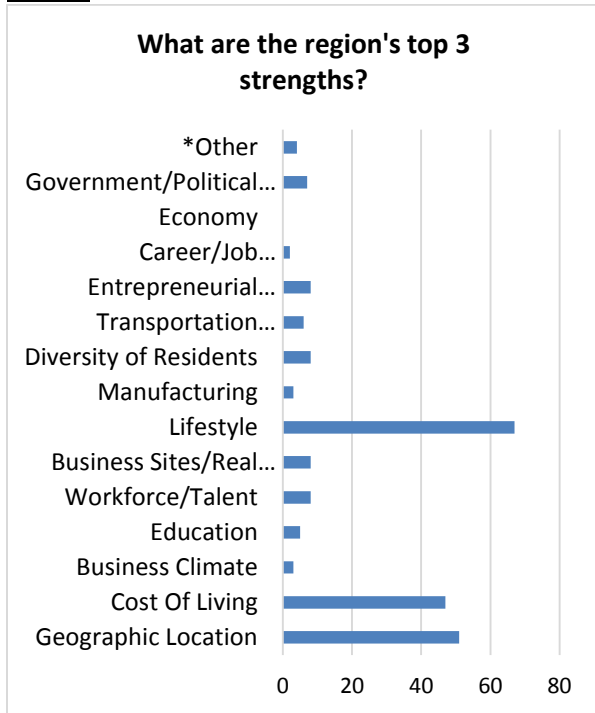
*Other: Diversity, Lack of energy, Climate change, Infrastructure, The leadership, secular exclusion, nepotism, Severe fear of change, willingness to believe any conspiracy theory, unwillingness to examine preconceived ideas, and over-reliance on resource-based economies

Please select all of the options that you believe are of Economic Development Concern



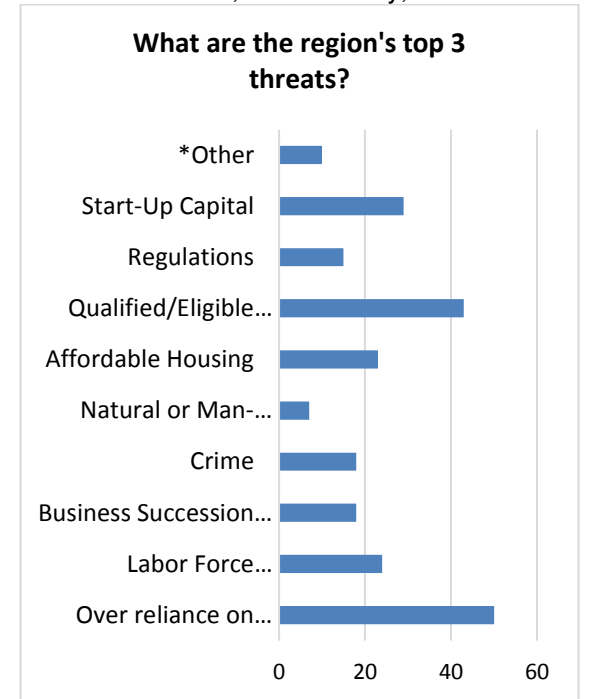
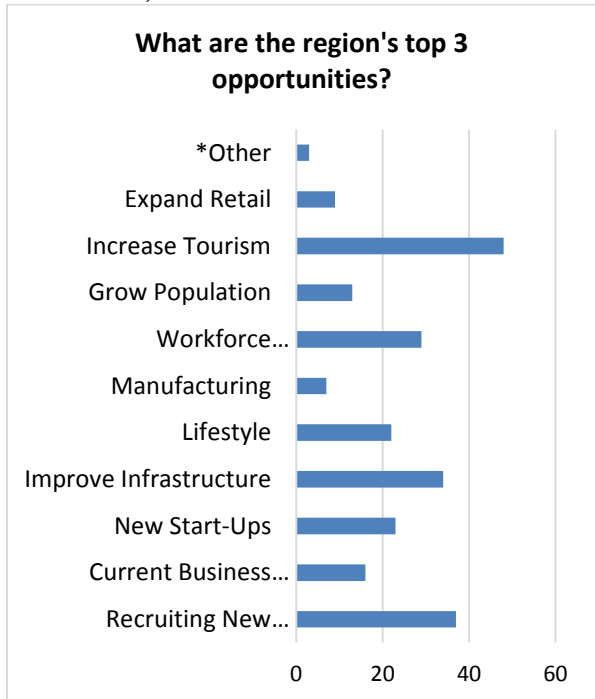
*Other: Non-secular meeting space with much more space than TEDD ofc. and hours available evenings and weekends, All of the above!!, Not really sure what you mean by concerns -it's a problem?, and promotion that non-motorized transportation is an expectation in town

SWOT:



Strengths *Other: Recreational Areas, Public Lands, Recreational Opportunities, and Community Mindedness

Weaknesses *Other: Healthcare, High minimum wage, trashy yards, Energy competition, Lack of diversity of residents, Traditional conservative mindset-the past is not the future, and Diversity, culture.



Opportunities *Other: Sustainable practices, we can't bring anything here- can't support might have to look @ technology, and Sustainable specialty food/agriculture.

Threats *Other: Lack of jobs/careers, Substance Abuse, Sexism- women are not encouraged or supported Abuse, over-reliance on resource based economy, Drug abuse, and Lagging infrastructure.

What do you see as Short Term (1-year) priorities for Economic Development?
Tourism/Marketing
Look for and recruit businesses that expand our diversity in manufacturing
Promoting our strengths, as opposed to wishing for others strengths
Build Collaboration & Administrative Capacity, Fund Main Street Programs for Downtown's
Improve infrastructure (bridges, roads and building) (2)
Small Business start-up assistance and entrepreneurship programs
Education, positive mind set for change: the south end of Ferry county gets Little to nothing.
Develop and conduct entrepreneurship classes.
Business support classes, network strengthening, local regulatory streamlining/navigation support, local business incentives
Technology
finding lower freight rates for goods being shipped to our tribal stores
Entrepreneurial education and incentive.
Steps towards helping people acquire affordable housing (non HUD) (3)
Advertise County + Possibilities
Stop wasting money on events which cost more than they bring into the community and/or draw money out of the community (e.g. Prospectors' Day, Fireworks-4th-of-July)
Focus on Economic Recovery from mine closing + job replenishment
Bolster tourism through increased business/community involvement.
The videos are a great idea Aware not everyone has access to computer + internet an service is extremely spotty like cell service
Make sure all the governmental entities work together. Regulations are not the enemy and we should stop fighting them.
Improving access to Technology - find out how many people use/work from home-? for other businesses ie: can work from home effectively
Local sustainability
reinvestment into current facilities
Develop more market driven tools to conduct economic development.
Lower the amount of environmental and business regulations
create jobs by bringing industry
Planning for resilience; local business helping local business,
Continue downtown Colville planning and development
Grow existing business (2)
Energy and Broadband development
Start focusing on tourism - think outside the box on that. We are no longer 'hunting & fishing' only. There are many, many opportunities when you look at the lifestyles of young folk - expand cycling - both mountain and road cycling; hiking in our spectacular backcountry.
Identification and preparation of development properties for various types of commercial/industrial businesses.
Reduced taxation and regulations
Provide affordable community college level classes.
Develop a plan to attract businesses to the area.
Maintain our current businesses and retention (2)
Attract/Promote new business and industries to the area (4)
More outreach to current and potential employers, focus on the area's strengths and quit trying to be like a big city employer, engage successful employers in the region to participate in EDC meetings.
business education
Expanding involvement and engagement. Investment capital. Business incubator concept expanded significantly.
Broadband, FIBER OPTICS, internet/Wi-Fi access in rural settings (3)
Enhanced vocational training
Focus on recruitment. Find out what would be needed to attract small to mid-size manufacturing/tech businesses.

What do you see as Long Term (5-year) priorities for Economic Development?
Bring clean manufacturing to the area
Work on improving our regions over all infrastructure (8)
Affordable Housing (3)
Work with the government to allow more industrial work, to expand our diversity to other manufacturing processes.
Need to build a well-trained, interested and reliable work force. (3)
Downtown Redevelopment/Revitalization, Bike/Ped, Trail Investment, Build Tourism Infrastructure
Decrease logging and increase recreational activities.
Better education / Higher Education (4)
Education, positive attitude change
Improve internet connectivity on the reservation and market local recreation.
Youth-business partnerships/internships/apprenticeships, regional regulatory streamlining/navigational support
UTILITY COSTS
New or expanded manufacturing.
Jobs
Help any interested business to succeed
Broadband technology (3)
Complete small visitors Info Center, with ADA public restrooms open most hours, and 2-4 RV parking spaces
Turning the track into a highly publicized + self-sustained Revenue maker,
Bring in + retain new industries.
Have a plan; need active recruitment of businesses; the video that was produced was a start. Make sure that the county commissioners are not fighting against the fact we have lots of public lands. Need to use them as an asset. It is an integral part of the "lifestyle" of the communities.
A healthier environment
Entice new business, improve downtown area, cultural and recreation enhancements. truck stop
reinvestment into aging facilities
Successful deployment of economic development tools.
minimize government interference with businesses and permits
Diversification, unique businesses; value-add products;
Implement Colville improvement plan, highlight to residents the benefits of changes, understand and manage increasing opioid abuse.
Diversify employment opportunities (3)
Fully research and fund development of cycling infrastructure - mountain and road; creation of a Wilderness Area of the Kettle Crest - studies show that counties adjacent to wilderness area are more prosperous (http://adirondackwilderness.org/economic-benefits-wilderness/), (https://wilderness.org/sites/default/files/TWS-Statement-Rural-Economies-and-Public-Lands.pdf), (http://www.academia.edu/3371442/Population_Growth_Economic_Security_and_Cultural_Change_in_Wilderness_Counties)
Tourism as a major economic pull (7)
Recruitment of business and streamlining of the process for companies locating in the area.
Develop a better communication network for Pend Oreille County employers to engage with EDC. Research business opportunities that fit well with the natural environment and leave a low carbon footprint. Provide better recreational opportunities by encouraging construction of overnight facilities for visitors, allow charging of day use fees to use state parks and USFS facilities, encourage more bed and breakfast facilities and artist and cottage industry stops.
a plan for development
Recreation facilities such as kayak rentals, bike/pedestrian pathways, etc.
Promote New Business
Housing, arts & entertainment
Retain the short term goals and expand on them.
Single payer healthcare with medical facilities and medical professionals who care more for their patients than their profits.
Professional recruitment
Develop those items identified over the next year to attract businesses so we can be successful in our recruitment.

Appendix – D

Regional Trends

Population changes

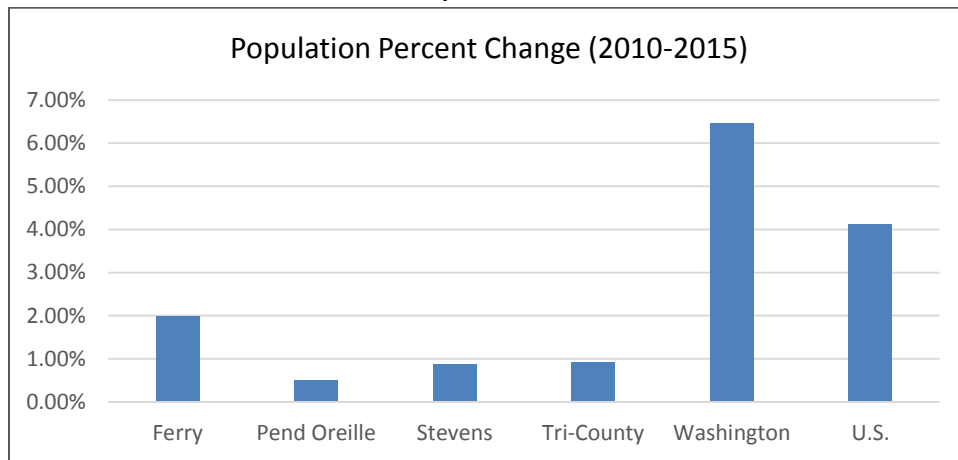
Population growth of the Tri-County region increased at a lower rate than rest of the State in the past 5 years. The Tri-County Region has experienced a .93% growth, while Washington State has experienced a state growth of 6.46%.

This section describes the total population and change in total population.

Population, 2010-2015

	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA	Tri-County	Washington	U.S.
Population (2015)	7,652	12,968	43,548	64,168	6,985,464	316,515,021
Population (2010)	7,504	12,904	43,171	63,579	6,561,297	303,965,272
Population Change (2010-2015)	148	64	377	589	424,167	12,549,749
Population Percent Change (2010-2015)	1.97%	0.50%	0.87%	0.93%	6.46%	4.13%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.



From the 2010-2015 period, Pend Oreille County, WA had the smallest change in population of 64.

Expected future growth

Using historical census data, estimates of natural population changes and migration estimates, WA – OFM estimates that the Tri-County region will grow by 6.2 percent, compared to the state's growth of 15.9 percent, by year 2025.

Population Trends (2010 - 2025)

Year	2010	2015	2020	2025
Ferry	7,551	7,619	7,706	7,751
Pend Oreille	13,001	13,289	13,692	13,977
Stevens	43,531	44,262	45,212	46,447
Tri-County	66,093	67,185	68,630	70,200
WA	6,724,540	7,022,200	7,411,977	7,793,173

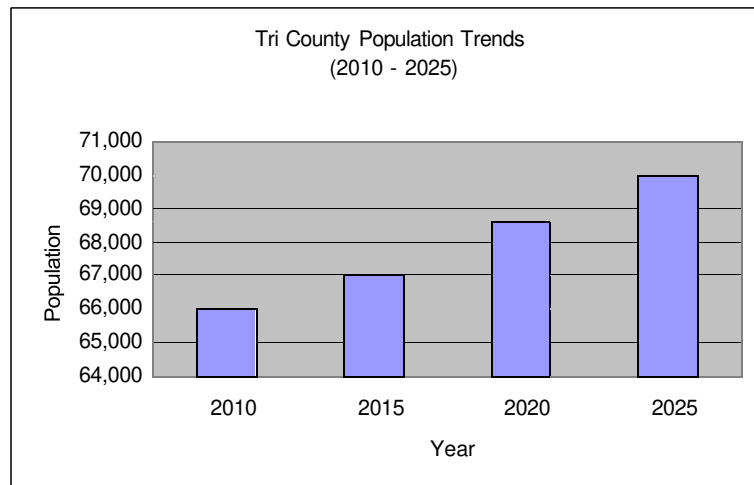
Source: WA – OFM

Population Change % (2010 - 2025)

Year	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2010-2025
Ferry	0.9%	1.1%	0.6%	2.6%
Pend Oreille	2.2%	3.0%	2.1%	7.5%
Stevens	1.7%	2.1%	2.7%	6.7%
Tri-County	1.7%	2.2%	2.3%	6.2%
WA	4.4%	5.6%	5.1%	15.9%

Source: WA-OFM

Growth of the Tri-County population by 2025 is expected to reach 70,200. This is a net regional growth of 4,107 persons, of which approximately 3,000 will be absorbed into Stevens County.



Age and gender distribution of the population

This section describes population distribution by age and gender, and the change in median age.

Median Age: The age which divides the population into two numerically equal groups; i.e., half the people are younger than this age and half are older.

Age and Gender Distribution, 2015

Subject	Ferry County, Washington	Pend Oreille County, Washington	Stevens County, Washington	Washington	United States
Total population	7,652	12,968	43,548	6,985,464	316,515,021
AGE					
Under 5 years	4.6%	4.5%	5.2%	6.4%	6.3%
5 to 9 years	4.0%	5.3%	5.7%	6.3%	6.5%
10 to 14 years	5.9%	7.0%	7.1%	6.3%	6.5%
15 to 19 years	7.5%	6.0%	7.0%	6.3%	6.7%
20 to 24 years	4.9%	2.9%	4.3%	7.0%	7.1%
25 to 29 years	4.4%	5.1%	4.0%	7.2%	6.9%
30 to 34 years	4.5%	3.9%	4.5%	7.1%	6.7%
35 to 39 years	5.7%	3.8%	3.8%	6.5%	6.3%
40 to 44 years	4.1%	5.9%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%
45 to 49 years	6.1%	6.7%	6.1%	6.6%	6.8%
50 to 54 years	7.5%	7.9%	8.3%	7.1%	7.1%
55 to 59 years	9.3%	9.9%	8.8%	6.8%	6.6%
60 to 64 years	10.3%	8.4%	8.9%	6.1%	5.8%
65 to 69 years	8.6%	8.1%	7.6%	4.7%	4.6%
70 to 74 years	5.1%	6.3%	4.9%	3.2%	3.3%
75 to 79 years	3.1%	3.9%	3.3%	2.2%	2.4%
80 to 84 years	2.6%	1.7%	1.9%	1.6%	1.8%
85 years and over	1.6%	2.6%	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%
Total Female	3665	6303	21653	3497739	160780741
Total Male	3987	6665	21895	3487725	155734280
Change in Median Age, 2010-2015					
Median age 2015 (years)	47.7	49.3	46.2	37.4	37.6
Median age 2010 (years)	46.4	46.4	44.0	37.0	36.9

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

From 2010 to 2015 period, the median age increased in all three counties as well as Washington State and the nation. Ferry County, Pend Oreille County, and Stevens County had a 3%, 6%, and 5% respective increase in population. Washington State had a median age increase of 1% and the nation's median age increased 2%.

It is important to note that the median age not only is increasing at a higher rate in the tri-county region than across Washington State and the nation, but it is already higher than Washington State and the nation's average age. This continues to indicate the faster ageing of the Tri-County population. That is; continuing trends where we see increased out-migration of younger population and the increased trends of the in-migrating older population.

Regional significance

Different geographies can have different age distributions. For example, in counties with a large number of retirees the age distribution may be skewed towards categories 65 years and old we see this in the Tri-County Region. The change in median age is one indicator of whether the population has gotten older or younger.

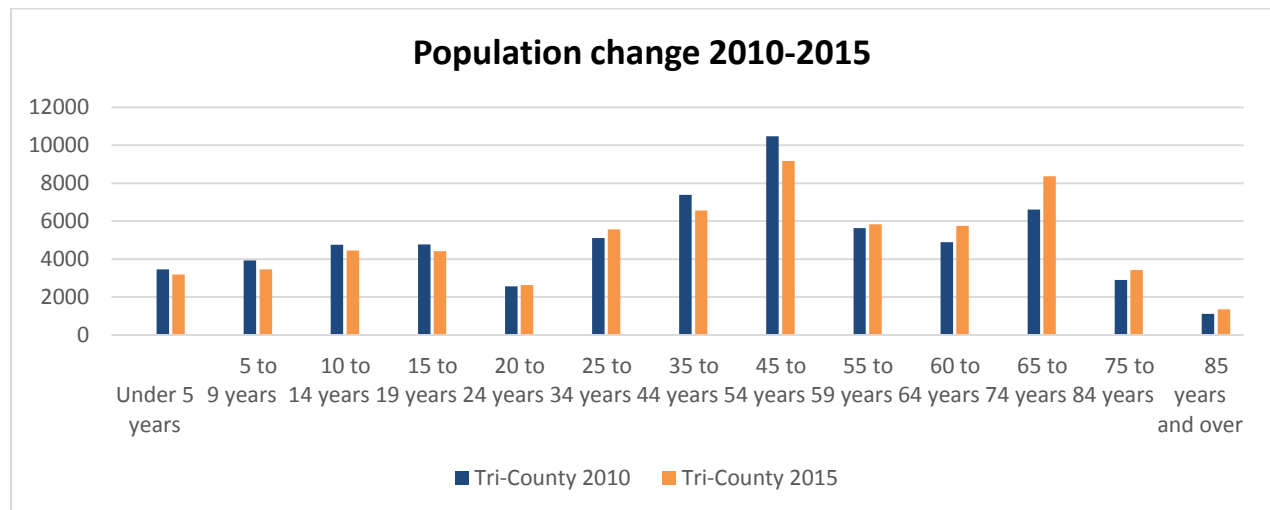
Changes in the age distribution of the population

This page describes the change in age and gender distribution over time, and the change in age distribution, with age categories separated into five age groups.

Tri-County Age & Gender Distribution and Change, 2010-2015

	Tri-County 2010	Tri-County 2015
Total population	63,579	64,168
Male	31,816	32,547
Female	31,763	31,621
Age		
Under 9 years	3,454	3,182
5 to 9 years	3,921	3,459
10 to 14 years	4,749	4,446
15 to 19 years	4,780	4,415
20 to 24 years	2,555	2,635
25 to 34 years	5,112	5,567
35 to 44 years	7,380	6,562
45 to 54 years	10,475	9,180
55 to 59 years	5,630	5,827
60 to 64 years	4,891	5,757
65 to 74 years	6,614	8,366
75 to 84 years	2,908	3,428
85 years and over	1,110	1,344

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.



In the Tri-County Region the age category 65 to 74 years old experienced the largest growth of 21% followed by 85 years and over at 17%, 60-65 years at 15% and 75-84 years at 15%. While the age group 45 to 54 year olds experienced the largest decrease of 14%. This shows the continued migration of elderly and retired moving to the area.

Growth of population 65+ age group

Based on population growth estimates, the older age cohort in the Tri-County region represented by persons 65 and over, is expected to increase from 13,439 to 22,182, an increase from 20.3 percent of the total population in 2010 to 31.6 percent in 2025.

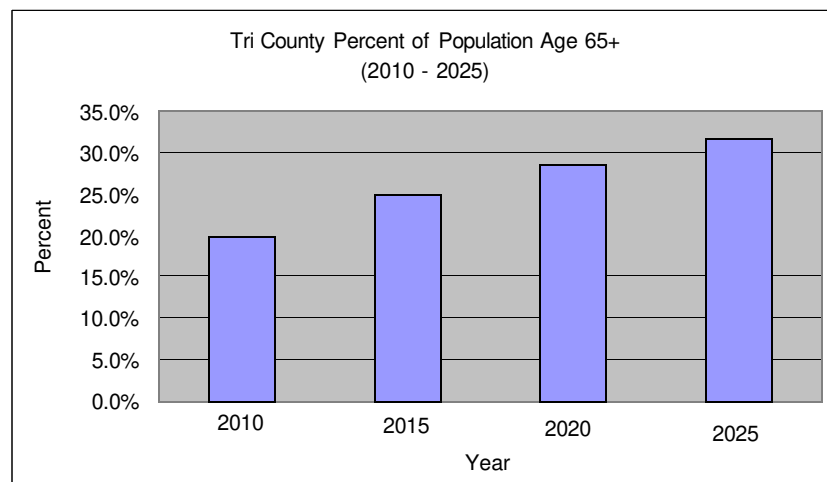
Age 65+ Population Trends (2010 - 2025)

Year	2010	2015	2020	2025
Ferry	1,428	1,746	2,183	2,423
Pend Oreille	2,485	3,169	3,944	4,533
Stevens	7,516	9,388	11,386	13,201
Tri-County	13,439	16,318	19,533	22,182
WA	827,677	989,124	1,210,895	1,449,119

Age 65+ Population Share % (2010 - 2025)

Year	2010	2015	2020	2025
Ferry	18.9%	22.9%	28.3%	31.3%
Pend Oreille	19.1%	23.8%	28.8%	32.4%
Stevens	17.3%	21.2%	25.2%	28.4%
Tri-County	20.3%	24.3%	28.5%	31.6%
WA	12.3%	14.1%	16.3%	18.6%

Source: WA – OFM



Regional significance

For private business and public agencies, understanding the age distribution can help highlight whether management actions might affect some age groups more than others. It also may highlight the need to understand the different needs, values, and attitudes of different age groups. If geography has a large retired population, or soon-to-be-retired population, as in the Tri-County Region, the needs and interests of this population may place different demands on public agencies than geography with a large number of minors or young adults.

In each of the counties, a significant development is the aging of the population and in particular the retirement of the “Baby Boomer” generation (those born between 1946 and 1964). As this generation enters retirement age, their mobility, spending patterns, and consumer demands (for health care, housing, transit/transportation, for example) can affect how communities need to develop economically.

Racial makeup of the population

This page describes the number of people who self-identify as belonging to a particular race.

Race: Race is a self-identification data item in which Census respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised the standards in 1997 for how the Federal government collects and presents data on race and ethnicity.

Race Alone Categories: This includes the minimum five race categories required by the OMB, plus the 'some other race alone' included by the Census Bureau, with the approval of the OMB. The categories are: White, Black or African-American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and some other race alone.

Some Other Race: This includes all other responses not included in the "White," "Black or African American," "American Indian and Alaska Native," "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" race categories described above. Respondents providing write-in entries such as multiracial, mixed, interracial, or a Hispanic/Latino group (for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban) in the "Some other race" write-in space are included in this category.

Two or More Races: People may have chosen to provide two or more races either by checking two or more race response check boxes, by providing multiple write-in responses, or by some combination of check boxes and write-in responses.

Population by Race, 2015

	United States	Washington	Tri-County	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Total population	316,515,021	6,985,464	64,168	7,652	12,968	43,548
One race	307,067,138	6,624,759	61,639	7,186	12,577	41,876
Two or more races	9,447,883	360,705	2,529	466	391	1,672
Race			0			
White	232,943,055	5,434,177	56,558	5,820	11,903	38,835
Black or African American	39,908,095	253,224	257	20	24	213
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,569,170	93,266	3,902	1,205	509	2,188
Asian	16,235,305	535,501	300	10	27	263
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	546,255	44,159	83	49	34	0
Some other race	14,865,258	264,432	539	82	80	377

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Population by Race Percentage, 2015

	United States	Washington	Tri-County	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Total population	316,515,021	6,985,464	64,168	7,652	12,968	43,548
One race	97.0%	94.8%	96.10%	93.9%	97.0%	96.2%
Two or more races	3.0%	5.2%	3.90%	6.1%	3.0%	3.8%
Race						
White	73.6%	77.8%	88.10%	76.1%	91.8%	89.2%
Black or African American	12.6%	3.6%	0.40%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.8%	1.3%	6.10%	15.7%	3.9%	5.0%
Asian	5.1%	7.7%	0.50%	0.1%	0.2%	0.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.6%	0.10%	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%
Some other race	4.7%	3.8%	0.80%	1.1%	0.6%	0.9%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

According to the American Community Survey for 2015 the racial category with the highest percentage of the population in the tri-county was White alone (88.10%). Followed by American Indian and Alaska Native (6.10%), comprised mainly of the members of the Colville Confederated, Kalispel, and Spokane Tribes. It must be remembered that not all persons self-identifying as American Indian alone, or members of two or more races, may not uniquely live in Tribal Reservations. It must be also remembered that in the Region, the Colville Tribes population extends beyond Ferry County and those segments are not included in our analysis.

Regional significance

Federal agencies make use of information on race and ethnicity for implementing a number of programs, while also using this information to promote and enforce equal opportunities, such as in employment or housing, under the Civil Rights Act. According to the Census Bureau, “Many federal programs are put into effect based on the race data obtained from the decennial census (i.e., promoting equal employment opportunities; assessing racial disparities in health and environmental risks).”

Additionally, data on Ethnic Groups are also needed by local governments to run programs and meet legislative requirements (i.e., identifying segments of the population who may not be receiving medical services under the Public Health Act; evaluating whether financial institutions are meeting the credit needs of minority populations under the Community Reinvestment Act).

Tribal makeup of the population

Tri-County Region is home to three tribal entities. In this section we describe, in general terms, the number of people who self-identify as American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more other races.

American Indian: This category shows self-identification among people of American Indian descent. Many American Indians are members of a principal tribe or group empowered to negotiate and make decisions on behalf of the individual members. Census data are available for 34 tribes or Selected American Indian categories: Apache, Blackfeet, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chickasaw, Chippewa, Choctaw, Colville Tribes’, Comanche, Cree, Creek, Crow, Delaware, Houma, Iroquois, Kiowa, Lumbee, Menominee, Navajo, Osage, Ottawa, Paiute, Pima, Potawatomi, Pueblo, Puget Sound Salish, Seminole, Shoshone, Sioux, Tohomo O’Odham, Ute, Yakama, Yaqui, Yuman, and All other.

Alaska Native: This category shows self-identification among people of Alaska Native descent. Census data are available for five detailed Alaska Native race and ethnic categories: Alaska Athabaskan, Aleut, Eskimo, Tlingit-Haida, and All other tribes.

Non-Specified Tribes: This category includes respondents who checked the “American Indian or Alaska Native” response category on the Census questionnaire or wrote in the generic term “American Indian” or “Alaska Native,” or tribal entries not elsewhere classified.

American Indian & Alaska Native Population, 2015

	United States	Washington	Tri-County	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Total population	316,515,021	6,985,464	64,168	7,652	12,968	43,548
American Indian tribes, specified:	4,142,055	162,065	4,910	1,421	675	2,814
Alaska Native tribes, specified:	163,971	13,523	162	3	18	141
American Indian or Alaska Native tribes, not specified	1,022,447	34,488	487	126	52	309

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

American Indian & Alaska Native Population, 2015

	United States	Washington	Tri-County	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Total population	316,515,021	6,985,464	64,168	7,652	12,968	43,548
American Indian tribes, specified:	1.30%	2.30%	7.70%	18.60%	5.20%	6.40%
Alaska Native tribes, specified:	0.05%	0.20%	0.30%	0.04%	0.20%	0.30%
American Indian or Alaska Native tribes, not specified	0.30%	0.50%	0.80%	1.60%	0.40%	0.70%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

In the 2011-2015 period, Ferry County, WA had the highest estimated percent of the population that self-identified as American Indian and Alaska Native (20.24%) compared to the state wide figure of 3.00% and the nation’s at 1.65%.

Regional significance

American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entities are recognized as having government-to-government relationships with the United States, with the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that designation, and are eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Federally recognized tribes in the Tri-County Region, Colville Confederated Tribes, Kalispel and Spokane, are generally not subordinate to states.

All-in-all, there is tremendous potential as tribes continues to develop concepts such as Tribe-to-Tribe trade, better understanding of HUB/Free Trade Zones, fully utilizing the benefits of outside business doing business within the boundaries of reservations and the development of standards to provide unity, commonality and comfort for business to come in and open within the reservations.

There are three primary financial flows into tribal governments.

1. Grants, contracts and other revenue streams from federal and state government.
2. State revenues generated by tribally owned enterprises.
3. Income to tribal government from taxes and fees.

The vast majority of these dollars flowing into tribal government originate from outside the reservations; federal and state government funds and casinos. They are dollars that are being “imported” into the reservations economies.

To address such needs, important national key initiatives were proposed at the **2012 Tribal Nations Summit**, to help tribes access funds, create jobs and promote economic growth.

Several of these initiatives; including enhancement of entrepreneurship and business development finance associated with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and expansion of broadband coverage to connect tribal communities to each other and the world and developing critical broadband infrastructure to support initiatives in health, education, and other areas, may offer the opportunity for further collaboration between TEDD and the Tribes.

At the regional level, to promote prosperity that is shared throughout the region, TEDD aims to work toward collaborative relationships and good communication with Tribes, in all its programs, at all levels across the organization. It recognizes the Tribes' separate rights and authorities and accordingly aims to pursue these objectives in a consultative framework, paralleling locally the mandates of the Federal Executive Order 13175 and Washington State Centennial Accord, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.

Hispanic makeup of the population

The term “Hispanic” refers to a cultural identification, and Hispanics can be of any race. The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.

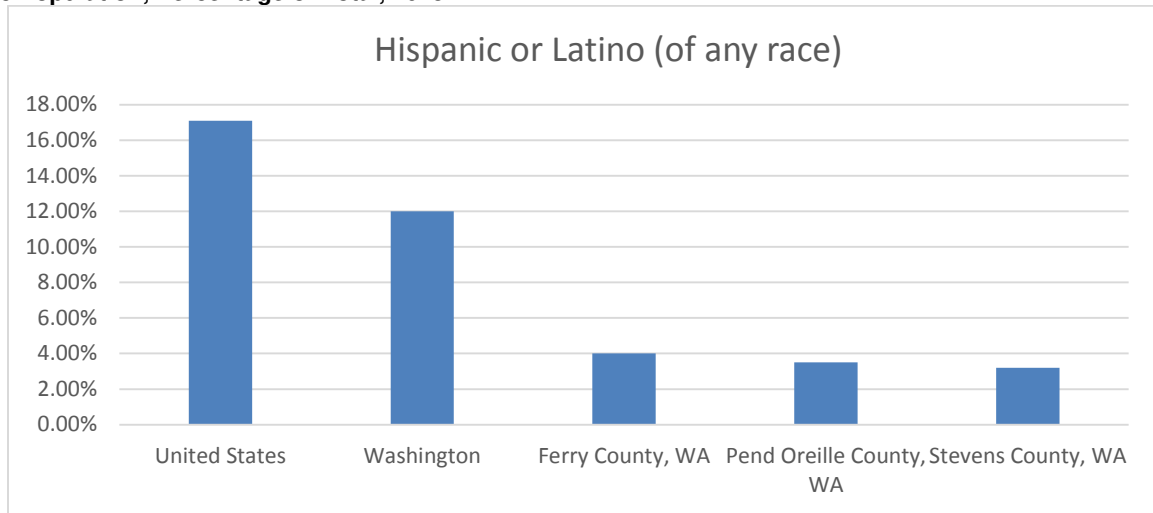
Hispanic or Latino Origin: People who identify with the terms "Hispanic" or "Latino" are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories listed on the Census questionnaire "Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or "Cuban" as well as those who indicate that they are "other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino." Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

Hispanic Population, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Total population	316,515,021	6,985,464	7,652	12,968	43,548
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	54,232,205	835,488	309	455	1,415
Not Hispanic or Latino	262,282,816	6,149,976	7,343	12,513	42,133
Percentage of Total					
Total population	316,515,021	6,985,464	7,652	12,968	43,548
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	17.10%	12.00%	4.00%	3.50%	3.20%
Not Hispanic or Latino	82.90%	88.00%	96.00%	96.50%	96.80%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Hispanic Population, Percentage of Total, 2015



In the 2011-2015 periods, the Tri-County Region had significantly lower percentage of Hispanic or Latino population, Ferry County, Stevens County, and Pend Oreille County had 4%, 3.5%, and 3.2% respectively. These figures are significantly lower than the number of people who self-identify as Hispanic in WA State and the U.S, 12% and 17.1% respectively.

Regional significance

Hispanics are one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S. population. The Census Bureau reported that 17 percent of the population in the U.S. self-identified as being Hispanic in 2015, up from 15 percent in 2011. The Census Bureau predicts that 28.6 percent of the population in the U.S. will be Hispanic by 2060.

According to the Census Bureau, "Many federal programs are put into effect based on the race data obtained from the decennial census (i.e., promoting equal employment opportunities; assessing racial disparities in health and environmental risks)". Therefore, data on ethnic groups are important for putting into effect a number of federal statutes (i.e., enforcing bilingual election rules under the Voting Rights Act; monitoring and enforcing equal employment opportunities under the Civil Rights Act), as well as for data needs of local governments to run programs and meet legislative requirements.

Employment

Occupations and industries

Employment statistics are usually reported by industry. This is a useful way to show the relative diversity of the economy and the degree of dependence on certain sectors. Employment by occupation offers additional information that describes what people do for a living and the type of work they do, regardless of the industry.

For example, management and professional occupations are generally of higher wage and require formal education, and these occupations could exist in any number of industries (for example, managers could be working for a software firm, a mine, or a construction company). Occupation information describes what people do, while employment by industry describes where people work.

This section covers the Tri-County Region's employment related data, describing what people do for work in terms of the type of work (occupation) and where they work (by industry).

Occupational and industry figures used in this section reflect information based on interpolation of responses of household members.

Employment by Occupation: Refers to the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system, where workers are classified into occupations with similar job duties, skills, education, and/or training, regardless of industry.

Employment by Industry: Refers to the employment by industry, listed according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Employment by Occupation, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, Washington	Pend Oreille County, Washington	Stevens County, Washington
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	145,747,779	3,259,877	2,452	4,217	16,259
Management, business, science, and arts occupations:	53,433,469	1,270,584	848	1,395	4,717
Service occupations:	26,446,906	571,600	376	819	2,905
Sales and office occupations:	35,098,693	735,995	434	808	3,878
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations:	13,038,579	313,191	451	622	2,527
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations:	17,730,132	368,507	343	573	2,232

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Employment data from the ACS are obtained from respondents in households and they differ from statistics based on reports from individual businesses, farm enterprises, and certain government programs. People employed at more than one job are counted only once in the ACS (although information on multiple job holders is collected). In statistics based on reports from business and farm establishments, people who work for more than one establishment may be counted more than once

Employment by Industry, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Industry Total					
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	145,747,779	3,259,877	2,452	4,217	16,259
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	2,852,402	86,192	296	171	965
Construction	9,027,391	198,176	181	389	1,477
Manufacturing	15,171,260	340,891	144	350	1,475
Wholesale trade	3,968,627	95,060	25	91	334
Retail trade	16,835,942	385,279	262	394	2,226
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	7,226,063	169,356	97	297	873
Information	3,094,143	74,949	90	95	115
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	9,578,175	176,782	67	185	654
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	16,074,502	399,860	102	275	1,091
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	33,739,126	700,729	628	932	3,685
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	13,984,957	301,829	137	473	1,433
Other services, except public administration	7,198,201	156,614	129	143	846
Public administration	6,996,990	174,160	294	422	1,085

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Employment by Industry, Percentage, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Industry Percentage					
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	145,747,779	3,259,877	2,452	4,217	16,259
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	2.0%	2.6%	12.1%	4.1%	5.9%
Construction	6.2%	6.1%	7.4%	9.2%	9.1%
Manufacturing	10.4%	10.5%	5.9%	8.3%	9.1%
Wholesale trade	2.7%	2.9%	1.0%	2.2%	2.1%
Retail trade	11.6%	11.8%	10.7%	9.3%	13.7%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	5.0%	5.2%	4.0%	7.0%	5.4%
Information	2.1%	2.3%	3.7%	2.3%	0.7%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	6.6%	5.4%	2.7%	4.4%	4.0%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	11.0%	12.3%	4.2%	6.5%	6.7%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	23.1%	21.5%	25.6%	22.1%	22.7%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	9.6%	9.3%	5.6%	11.2%	8.8%
Other services, except public administration	4.9%	4.8%	5.3%	3.4%	5.2%
Public administration	4.8%	5.3%	12.0%	10.0%	6.7%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Tri-County Employment by Industry, 2015

	2010	2015	Change 2010-2015
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	23,826	22,928	-898
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1483	1432	-51
Construction	2563	2047	-516
Manufacturing	2383	1969	-414
Wholesale trade	591	450	-141
Retail trade	2355	2882	527
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	1534	1267	-267
Information	304	300	-4
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	1136	906	-230
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	1312	1468	156
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	5204	5245	41
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	1952	2043	91
Other services, except public administration	1246	1118	-128
Public administration	1763	1801	38

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

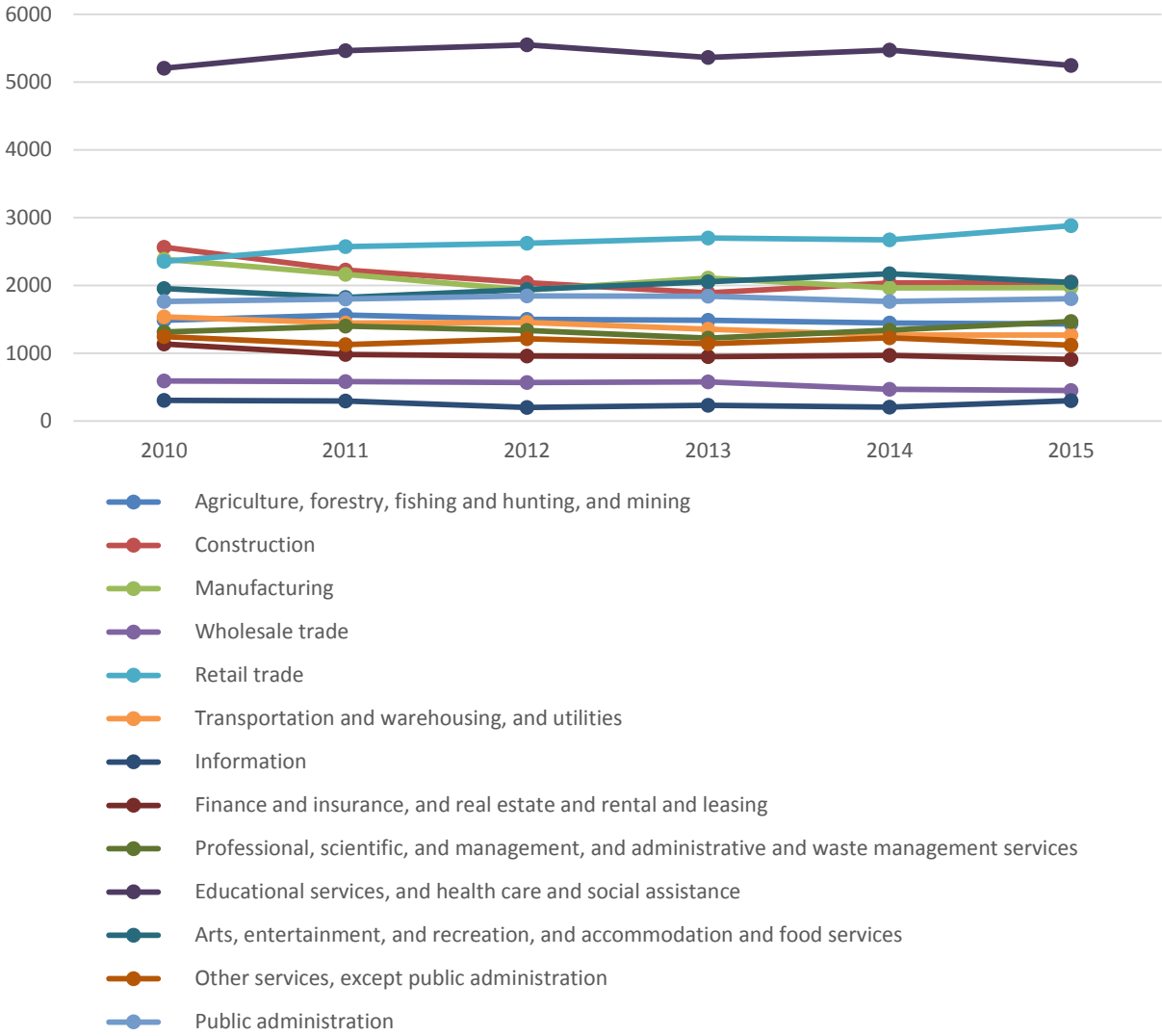
Regional significance

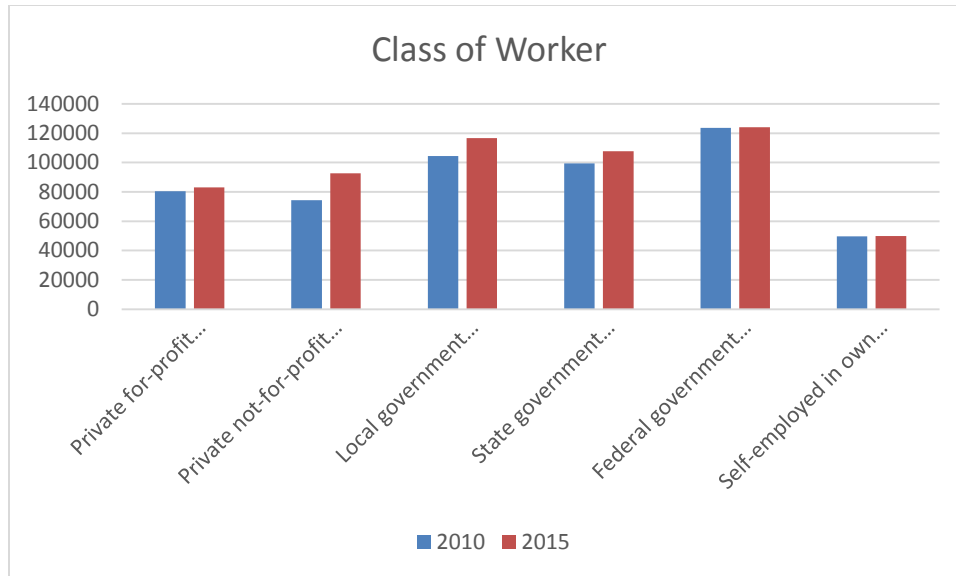
Recent employment trends organized by NAICS offer more detail than the old Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system, particularly with regard to services related industries. This is especially useful since in most geographies the majority of new job growth in recent years has taken place in services related industries.

Changes in employment by industry

This section describes recent employment trends by major industry category (non-services related, services related, and government) and by industry. Employment includes wage and salary jobs and proprietors. The employment data are organized according to the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) and reported by place of work.

Tri-County Employment by Industry





Labor participation

This page describes weeks worked per year. Although the below graphics state the mean usual hours worked for workers, it does not differentiate if a person worked 50 weeks per year at 10 hours a week, or 50 weeks per year and 40 hours a week.

Work Status, 2015

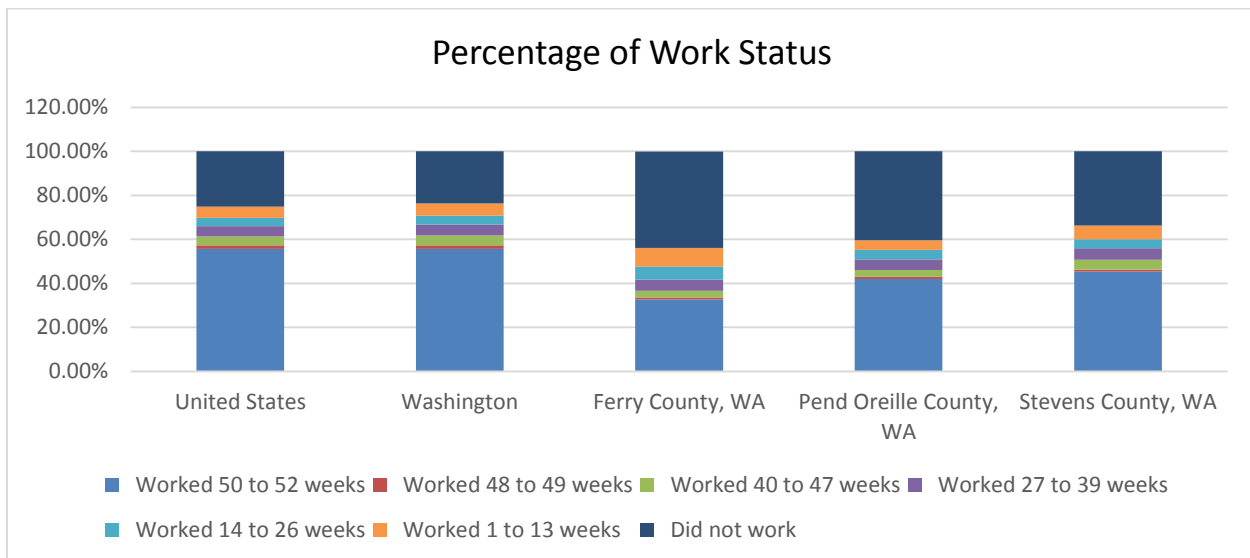
	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Population 16 to 64 years	206,605,832	4,620,324	4,850	7,729	26,557
WEEKS WORKED					
Worked 50 to 52 weeks	115,105,947	2,570,392	1,588	3,243	12,054
Worked 48 to 49 weeks	3,001,257	79,836	40	74	218
Worked 40 to 47 weeks	8,614,379	208,206	152	241	1,190
Worked 27 to 39 weeks	9,429,064	225,211	245	367	1,400
Worked 14 to 26 weeks	7,945,153	188,799	292	338	1,076
Worked 1 to 13 weeks	10,611,664	257,988	408	341	1,640
Did not work	51,898,368	1,089,892	2,125	3,125	8,979
Mean usual hours worked for workers	38.5	38.1	35.9	37.2	37.1
Median age of workers 16 to 64 years	40.3	40.1	45.4	46.4	45.3
Workers 16 to 64 years who worked full-time, year-round	98,514,962	2,170,377	1,309	2,693	9,550

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Work Status, Percentage of Total, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Population 16 to 64 years	206,605,832	4,620,324	4,850	7,729	26,557
WEEKS WORKED					
Worked 50 to 52 weeks	55.7%	55.6%	32.7%	42.0%	45.4%
Worked 48 to 49 weeks	1.5%	1.7%	0.8%	1.0%	0.8%
Worked 40 to 47 weeks	4.2%	4.5%	3.1%	3.1%	4.5%
Worked 27 to 39 weeks	4.6%	4.9%	5.1%	4.7%	5.3%
Worked 14 to 26 weeks	3.8%	4.1%	6.0%	4.4%	4.1%
Worked 1 to 13 weeks	5.1%	5.6%	8.4%	4.4%	6.2%
Did not work	25.1%	23.6%	43.8%	40.4%	33.8%
Workers 16 to 64 years who worked full-time, year-round	63.7%	61.5%	48.0%	58.5%	54.3%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.



In the 2011-2015 period, the U.S. had the highest estimated percent of people that worked 50 to 52 weeks per year (55.7%) and Ferry County, WA had the lowest (32.7%).

Regional significance

Often, if too few weeks worked per year, the local economy may suffer from underemployment of labor and human capital, translating to lower real incomes and a lower standard of living. For example, labor incomes in agriculture and other seasonal sources of employment have consistently been among the lowest of the industrial classes as reported by the U.S. Census.

However, shorter work weeks and fewer weeks worked per year can be indicative of worker preference. Part-time jobs (those that average less than 35 hours/week) are often ideal for students, people who are responsible for taking care of their dependents, and the elderly who wish to remain active in the workplace but do not want to work a full schedule. Advances in computer technologies have also enabled workers to telecommute and work shorter and more flexible hours. And, in some cases, young adults seek out seasonal, tourism, or recreation related

employment by choice. Since the 1960s, during periods of economic stability, the vast majority of part-time workers have been voluntary. For example, in 2006, only about one in seven part-time workers were involuntary (individuals wanting full-time jobs but working less than 35 hours/week).

Most employment statistics count full time, part time, and seasonal employment as the same, a single job. In places where a relatively large percent of the employment base is either part time or seasonally employed this may explain falling wages or rates of employment that outpace population change (see the Socioeconomic Measures report for changes in wages, employment, and population over time).

Commuting patterns

This section covers an analysis of workers who do not work from home, therefore are considered to be commuters. It provided information on cross-county work patterns and travel time to work.

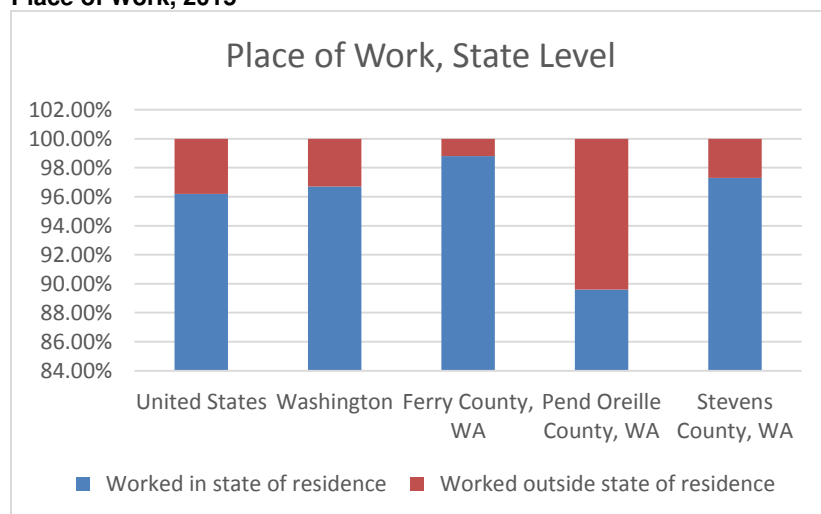
Place of Work: The values reported under "place of work" describe the number of workers that live in the selected geographic area who worked either in or outside the county they live in.

Commuting Patterns, Percentage of Total, 2015

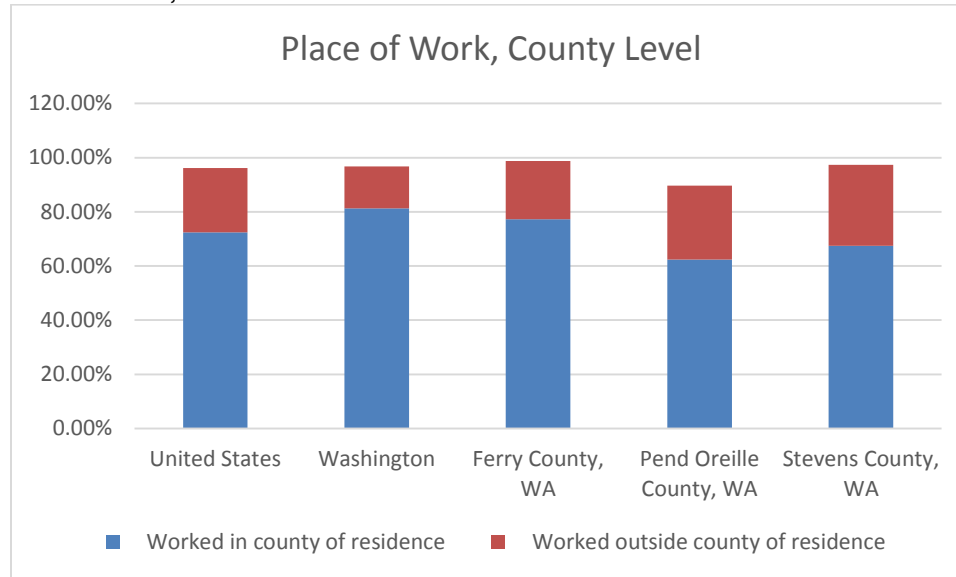
	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Workers 16 years and over	143,621,171	3,236,166	2,341	4,055	15,593
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK					
Car, truck, or van	85.9%	82.8%	80.3%	88.8%	87.5%
Drove alone	76.4%	72.6%	69.5%	72.9%	75.2%
Carpooled	9.5%	10.3%	10.8%	15.9%	12.3%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	5.1%	6.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.8%
Walked	2.8%	3.5%	11.7%	2.0%	3.5%
Bicycle	0.6%	0.9%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	1.2%	1.2%	1.5%	1.2%	1.5%
Worked at home	4.4%	5.5%	6.2%	7.8%	6.4%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Place of Work, 2015



Place of Work, 2015



In the 2011-2015 period, Pend Oreille County, WA had the highest estimated percent of people that worked outside the state of residence (10.4%), while Ferry County had 1.2% and Stevens County had 2.7%. This is likely because of Pend Oreille Counties close proximity to Idaho.

In the 2011-2015 period, both Pend Oreille and Stevens County had higher rates of workers working outside of the county than Washington did as a whole. This is explained by the close proximity to Spokane County and the wide availability of jobs available.

Regional significance

High rates of out-commuting are more common in rural communities, as it is the case for Tri-County Regions workers. Economic development is sometimes affected by commuting in unanticipated ways: strategies aimed at increasing jobs in a community will not necessarily mean jobs for residents. Conversely, creating job opportunities for residents does not always require bringing jobs into that community.

This information provides a perspective of the importance of regional economies where cross-county commuting to take advantage of available jobs elsewhere is an important factor when considering regional comparative advantages for purposes of incentives, infrastructure development, training and other facilities development in economic development planning.

High out-commuting rates can also separate tax revenues from demands for services, complicating fiscal planning for local governments. "Bedroom communities," those with high levels of out-commuting, may struggle to provide social services, housing, and water and sewer facilities without an adequate source of revenue. Higher levels and longer distance of commuting likely indicate a housing-job imbalance. This can result from unaffordable housing prices or other residential constraints.

Income

This section covers the distribution of household income.

Per Capita Income: Total personal income divided by total population of an area.

Household: A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

Income and Benefits, 2015

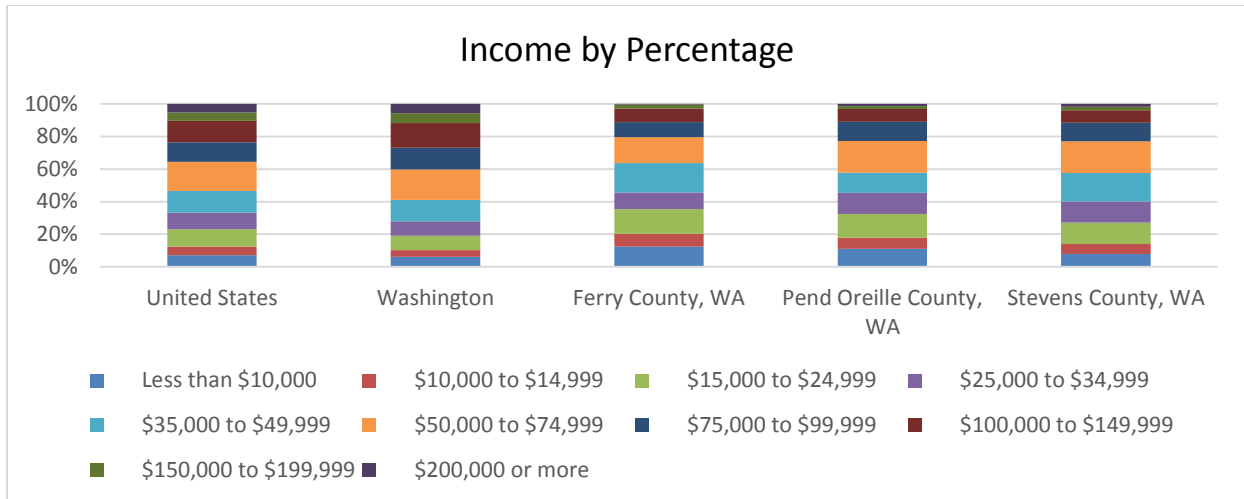
	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Median household income (dollars)	53,889	61,062	38,125	40,599	41,978
Total households	116,926,305	2,668,912	3,103	5,396	17,679
Less than \$10,000	8,421,482	162,559	386	601	1,395
\$10,000 to \$14,999	6,161,477	110,156	245	375	1,061
\$15,000 to \$24,999	12,367,168	234,988	470	779	2,339
\$25,000 to \$34,999	11,803,974	241,373	316	696	2,311
\$35,000 to \$49,999	15,672,431	346,476	559	674	3,058
\$50,000 to \$74,999	20,827,239	496,902	493	1,047	3,463
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14,166,538	358,433	288	637	2,024
\$100,000 to \$149,999	15,356,540	405,731	256	413	1,347
\$150,000 to \$199,999	6,010,418	161,420	80	96	384
\$200,000 or more	6,139,038	150,874	10	78	297

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Income and Benefits, Percentage of Total, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Total households	116,926,305	2,668,912	3,103	5,396	17,679
Less than \$10,000	7.2%	6.1%	12.4%	11.1%	7.9%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5.3%	4.1%	7.9%	6.9%	6.0%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	10.6%	8.8%	15.1%	14.4%	13.2%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	10.1%	9.0%	10.2%	12.9%	13.1%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.4%	13.0%	18.0%	12.5%	17.3%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	17.8%	18.6%	15.9%	19.4%	19.6%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.1%	13.4%	9.3%	11.8%	11.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	13.1%	15.2%	8.3%	7.7%	7.6%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	5.1%	6.0%	2.6%	1.8%	2.2%
\$200,000 or more	5.3%	5.7%	0.3%	1.4%	1.7%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.



In the 2011-2015 period, Ferry County, Stevens County, and Pend Oreille County all had higher percentages than Washington State and the United States in the \$34,999 and under brackets. The United States (17.8%), Washington State (18.6%), Stevens County (19.6%), and Pend Oreille County (19.4%) had the most individuals in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 income bracket. Ferry County (18%) had the most individuals in the \$35,000 to \$49,000 income bracket.

Regional significance

The distribution of income can help to highlight several important aspects of economic well-being. A large number of households in the lower end of income distribution indicate economic hardship. A bulge in the middle distribution can be interpreted as the size of the middle class.

Understanding income differences within and between geographies helps to highlight areas where the population or a sub-population may be experiencing economic hardship.

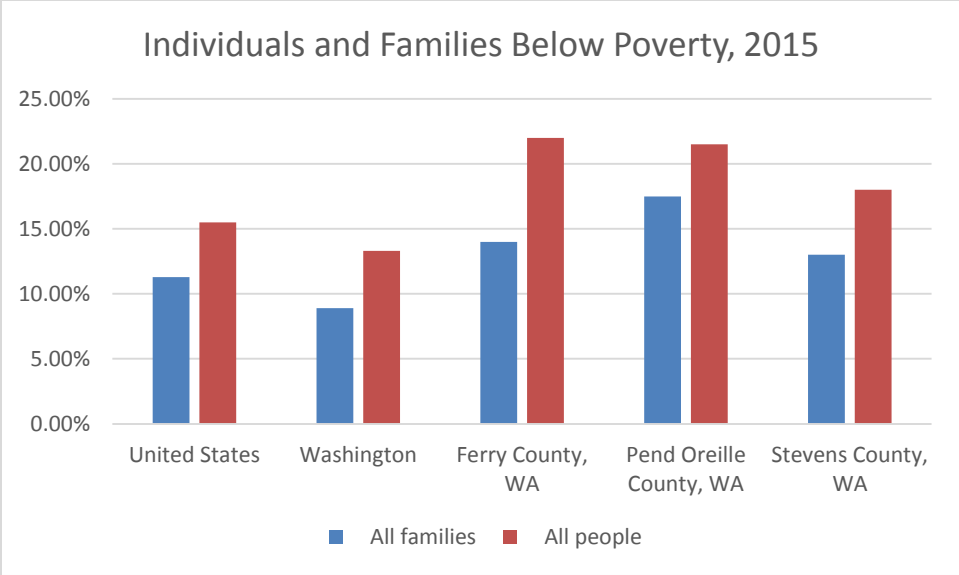
Poverty levels

Following the Office of Management and Budget's Directive 14, the Census Bureau a set of income thresholds was used that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Percentage of Families and People whose Income in the past 12 months is below the poverty level, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
All families	11.3%	8.9%	14.0%	17.5%	13.0%
All people	15.5%	13.3%	22.0%	21.5%	18.0%
Under 18 years	21.7%	17.5%	24.7%	29.7%	25.0%
18 years and over	13.5%	12.0%	21.4%	19.3%	15.9%
18 to 64 years	14.5%	12.8%	26.5%	22.8%	18.7%
65 years and over	9.4%	8.0%	6.7%	10.6%	7.7%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.



In the 2011-2015 period, Ferry County, WA had the highest estimated percent of individuals living below poverty (22%). As a region, poverty rate of individuals, as well as of families of Tri-County, surpassed poverty levels of other rural WA counties, the State, as well as National averages.

Poverty levels and ethnicity

This page describes the number of people living in poverty by race and ethnicity. It also shows the share of all people living in poverty by race and ethnicity, and the share of each race and ethnicity living in poverty.

Race: Race is a self-identification data item in which Census respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify.

Ethnicity: There are two minimum categories for ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino. The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.

Poverty by Race and Ethnicity, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Total population	316,515,021	7,652	12,968	43,548	
Population for whom poverty status is determined	47,749,043	908,512	1,659	2,753	7,753
White alone	28,923,918	621,592	1,075	2,571	6,234
Black or African American alone	10,321,254	60,210	2	6	98
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	702,127	24,176	427	82	675
Asian alone	2,000,884	63,202	6	0	61
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	111,137	8,019	22	4	0
Some other race alone	3,865,363	71,103	20	4	236
Two or more races	1,824,360	60,210	107	86	449
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	12,915,617	203,237	71	81	574
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	20,750,471	507,591	1,052	2,498	6,000

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Percentage of poverty by Race and Ethnicity, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Percent of population for whom poverty status is determined	15.5%	13.3%	22.0%	21.5%	18.0%
White alone	12.7%	11.6%	18.7%	21.8%	16.2%
Black or African American alone	27.0%	24.8%	15.4%	30.0%	46.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	28.3%	26.9%	35.9%	16.2%	31.1%
Asian alone	12.6%	12.0%	60.0%	0.0%	23.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	21.0%	18.5%	45.8%	12.1%	-
Some other race alone	26.5%	27.4%	24.4%	5.1%	62.6%
Two or more races	19.9%	17.2%	24.2%	22.2%	27.2%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	24.3%	24.8%	23.3%	17.9%	44.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	10.8%	10.5%	18.8%	21.9%	15.9%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Regional significance

For policy decisions and planning, understanding whether different races and ethnicities are affected by poverty can be important. People with limited income and from different races and ethnicities may have different needs, values and attitudes, as they relate to public assistance, occupational training and other services, that may be provided.

The poverty thresholds are updated every year by the Census Bureau to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The poverty thresholds are the same for all parts of the country. They are not adjusted for regional, state or local variations in the cost of living.

Components of household earnings

This section covers analysis of household earnings by source. It excludes investment and rental income sources.

Labor Earnings: Refers to households that receive wage or salary income and net income from self-employment.

Social Security: Refers to households that receive income that includes Social Security pensions and survivor benefits, permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration before deductions for medical insurance, and railroad retirement insurance. It does not include Medicare reimbursement.

Retirement income: Consists of families that receive income from: (1) retirement pensions and survivor benefits from a former employer; labor union; or federal, state, or local government; and the U.S. military; (2) disability income from companies or unions; federal, state, or local government; and the U.S. military; (3) periodic receipts from annuities and insurance; and (4) regular income from IRA and Keogh plans. It does not include Social Security income.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Refers to households that receive assistance by the Social Security Administration that guarantees a minimum level of income for needy aged, blind, or disabled individuals.

Cash Public Assistance Income: Are households that receive public assistance that includes general assistance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). It does not include separate payments received for hospital or other medical care (vendor payments) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or noncash benefits such as Food Stamps.

Food Stamps/SNAP: Refers to households that receive coupons or cards that can be used to purchase food. This program was recently renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). ACS does not report mean dollar amounts for this item.

Number of Households Receiving Earnings, by Source, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Total households	116,926,305	2,668,912	3,103	5,396	17,679
Mean household income (dollars)	75,558	80,789	47,982	51,392	54,221
With earnings	90,916,552	2,100,245	1,774	3,193	11,843
With Social Security	34,821,835	745,404	1,539	2,387	7,321
With retirement income	21,124,035	492,518	743	1,560	4,243
With Supplemental Security Income	6,269,127	127,716	345	414	1,411
With cash public assistance income	3,223,786	103,862	231	237	871
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months	15,399,651	380,611	705	1,070	3,430

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Percentage of Total, Number of Households Receiving Earnings, by Source, 2015

Percent of Total	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
With earnings	77.8%	78.7%	57.2%	59.2%	67.0%
With Social Security	29.8%	27.9%	49.6%	44.2%	41.4%
With retirement income	18.1%	18.5%	23.9%	28.9%	24.0%
With Supplemental Security Income	5.4%	4.8%	11.1%	7.7%	8.0%
With cash public assistance income	2.8%	3.9%	7.4%	4.4%	4.9%
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months	13.2%	14.3%	22.7%	19.8%	19.4%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

In the 2011-2015 period, the Tri-County region had a lower percentage of total earnings than the nation and Washington State. The highest percentage of public assistance in the Tri-County area was in the form of Social Security, with each county having over 40%, and the lowest was in the form of Cash public assistance income, with each county having less than 8%. In comparison to the nation and Washington State the Tri-County region had a higher percentage of total number of households receiving all forms of public assistance. This indicates that the Region has a significantly higher percentage of its households being dependent on non-labor earnings for its subsistence.

Mean Annual Household Earnings, by Source, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, WA	Pend Oreille County, WA	Stevens County, WA
Mean earnings (dollars)	77,300	81,957	50,815	55,110	53,534
Mean Social Security income (dollars)	17,790	18,457	17,440	18,237	17,452
Mean retirement income (dollars)	24,337	24,649	19,242	20,632	21,783
Mean Supplemental Security Income (dollars)	9,393	9,555	9,796	9,884	10,536
Mean cash public assistance income (dollars)	3,490	3,133	3,013	3,484	2,722

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

The Tri-County region experience significantly lower mean earnings with respect to the nation and Washington State. In the Tri-County region Pend Oreille County experiences the highest mean earnings of \$55,110 this is still significantly less than Washington State’s mean earnings of \$81,957, or the Nation at \$77,300.

Regional significance

Labor earnings are not the only source of income, and for many families and communities, a significant portion of income can be in the form of additional sources, such as retirement, Social Security and public assistance. While some payments may be an indication of an aging population or an influx of retirees (retirement income), other measures (for example, SSI or Food Stamps) are an indication of economic hardship.

Social Characteristics

Education and enrollment levels

This section describes levels of educational attainment.

Educational Attainment: This refers to the level of education completed by people 25 years and over in terms of the highest degree or the highest level of schooling completed.

School Enrollment: The ACS defines people as enrolled in school if when the survey was conducted they were attending a public or private school or college at any time during the three months prior to the time of interview. People enrolled in vocational, technical, or business school such as post-secondary vocational, trade, hospital school, and on job training were not reported as enrolled in school.

Educational Attainment, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, Washington	Pend Oreille County, Washington	Stevens County, Washington
Population 25 years and over	211,462,522	4,721,438	5,589	9,640	30,802
Less than 9th grade	12,093,869	189,580	114	220	765
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	16,135,225	262,011	597	652	2,236
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	58,722,528	1,097,839	1,745	3,108	10,587
Some college, no degree	44,529,161	1,159,463	1,600	2,878	8,216
Associate's degree	17,029,467	460,415	602	1,134	3,865
Bachelor's degree	39,166,047	986,653	643	1,160	3,286
Graduate or professional degree	23,786,225	565,477	288	488	1,847

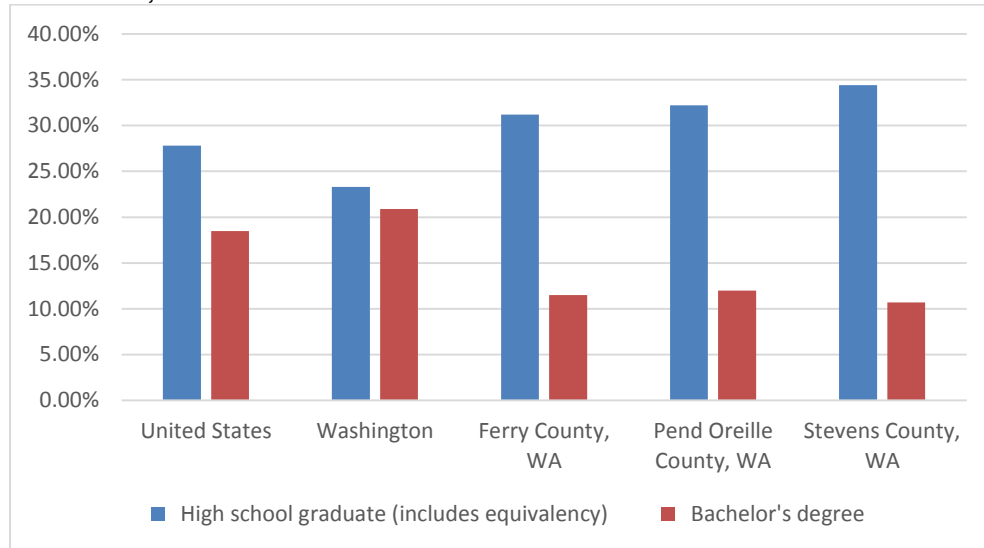
*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Percent of Total, Educational Attainment, 2015

Percentage of Total	United States	Washington	Ferry County, Washington	Pend Oreille County, Washington	Stevens County, Washington
Less than 9th grade	5.7%	4.0%	2.0%	2.3%	2.5%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	7.6%	5.5%	10.7%	6.8%	7.3%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	27.8%	23.3%	31.2%	32.2%	34.4%
Some college, no degree	21.1%	24.6%	28.6%	29.9%	26.7%
Associate's degree	8.1%	9.8%	10.8%	11.8%	12.5%
Bachelor's degree	18.5%	20.9%	11.5%	12.0%	10.7%
Graduate or professional degree	11.2%	12.0%	5.2%	5.1%	6.0%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Educational Attainment, 2015



In the 2011-2015 period, Tri-County Region, has a higher High School Graduate percentage for population over the age of 25, when compared the Washington State and the United States. However, with respect to higher education (those with at least a Bachelor's degree) the Region falls behind significantly. We see that in each county 12% or less of the adult population has a Bachelor's degree, compared to 20.9% of Washington State and 18.5% of the Nation.

Education level of a community is one of the most important indicators of the potential for economic success and an important indicator of the potential for future growth. Level of community's educational level is closely linked to types of business attraction and job opportunities, and income and poverty levels. Studies show that geographies with a higher than average educated workforce grow faster, have higher incomes, and suffer less during economic downturns.

Housing Availability

This section reviews whether housing is occupied or vacant.

Housing Characteristics, 2015

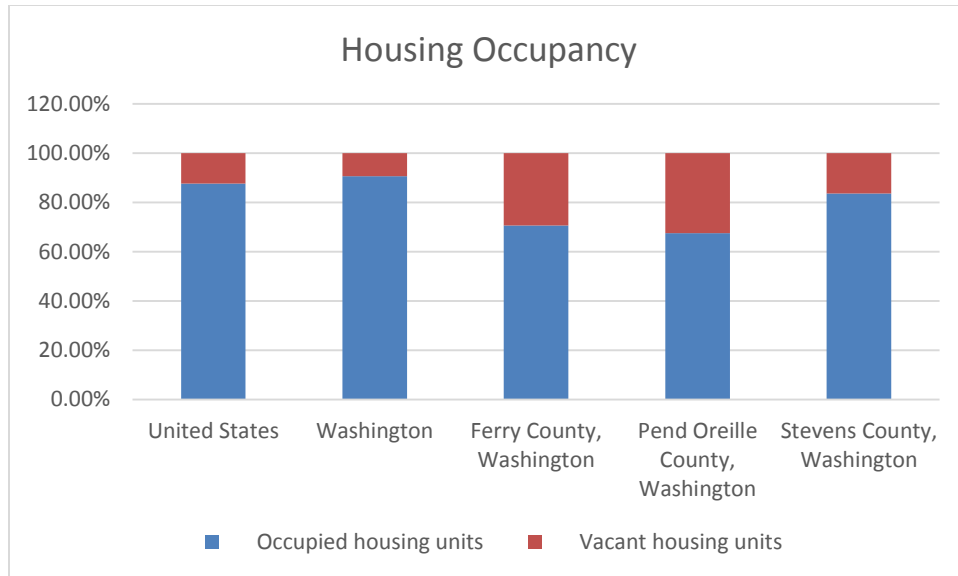
	United States	Washington	Ferry County, Washington	Pend Oreille County, Washington	Stevens County, Washington
HOUSING OCCUPANCY					
Total housing units	133,351,840	2,942,127	4,396	7,995	21,159
Occupied housing units	116,926,305	2,668,912	3,103	5,396	17,679
Vacant housing units	16,425,535	273,215	1,293	2,599	3,480
YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT					
Total housing units	133,351,840	2,942,127	4,396	7,995	21,159
Built 2014 or later	143,974	4,972	0	0	25
Built 2010 to 2013	1,944,533	58,128	39	56	140
Built 2000 to 2009	19,861,107	497,664	785	1,292	3,348
Built 1990 to 1999	18,636,635	506,693	834	1,411	4,234
Built 1980 to 1989	18,331,828	402,038	695	996	3,153
Built 1970 to 1979	20,932,720	492,002	964	1,800	4,633
Built 1960 to 1969	14,589,774	286,537	266	544	1,500
Built 1950 to 1959	14,315,811	232,610	315	638	1,148
Built 1940 to 1949	7,034,375	145,706	122	337	861
Built 1939 or earlier	17,561,083	315,777	376	921	2,117

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.

Percentage of Total, Housing Characteristics, 2015

	United States	Washington	Ferry County, Washington	Pend Oreille County, Washington	Stevens County, Washington
HOUSING OCCUPANCY					
Total housing units	133,351,840	2,942,127	4,396	7,995	21,159
Occupied housing units	87.7%	90.7%	70.6%	67.5%	83.6%
Vacant housing units	12.3%	9.3%	29.4%	32.5%	16.4%
YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT					
Total housing units	133,351,840	2,942,127	4,396	7,995	21,159
Built 2014 or later	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Built 2010 to 2013	1.5%	2.0%	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%
Built 2000 to 2009	14.9%	16.9%	17.9%	16.2%	15.8%
Built 1990 to 1999	14.0%	17.2%	19.0%	17.6%	20.0%
Built 1980 to 1989	13.7%	13.7%	15.8%	12.5%	14.9%
Built 1970 to 1979	15.7%	16.7%	21.9%	22.5%	21.9%
Built 1960 to 1969	10.9%	9.7%	6.1%	6.8%	7.1%
Built 1950 to 1959	10.7%	7.9%	7.2%	8.0%	5.4%
Built 1940 to 1949	5.3%	5.0%	2.8%	4.2%	4.1%
Built 1939 or earlier	13.2%	10.7%	8.6%	11.5%	10.0%

*The data in this table are calculated by ACS using annual surveys conducted during 2011-2015.



Regional significance

Vacancy status is an indicator of the housing market and provides information on the stability and quality of housing. The data is used to assess the demand for housing, to identify housing turnover within areas, and to better understand the population within the housing market over time. These data also serve to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of persons at different economic levels.

Seasonal or recreational homes (i.e., “second homes”) are often an indicator of the desirability of a place for recreation and tourism, as is seen in the data related to the Tri-County Region. This could also be used as an indicator of recreational and scenic amenities, which can be one of the economic contributions of public lands.

While the late 1990s and early 2000s were a period of rapid home development throughout the country, there have been other periods when housing grew at a fast rate (the late 1970s, for example, in some parts of the country). Understanding the relative growth rates of housing is relevant as an indicator of overall economic growth.