



**EDC**  
**ISLAND**  
**COUNTY**

# Island County Profile Report

*February 2024*

Economic Development Council  
for Island County  
PO Box 279  
Coupeville, WA 98239  
[www.iscoedc.com](http://www.iscoedc.com)  
(360) 678-6889

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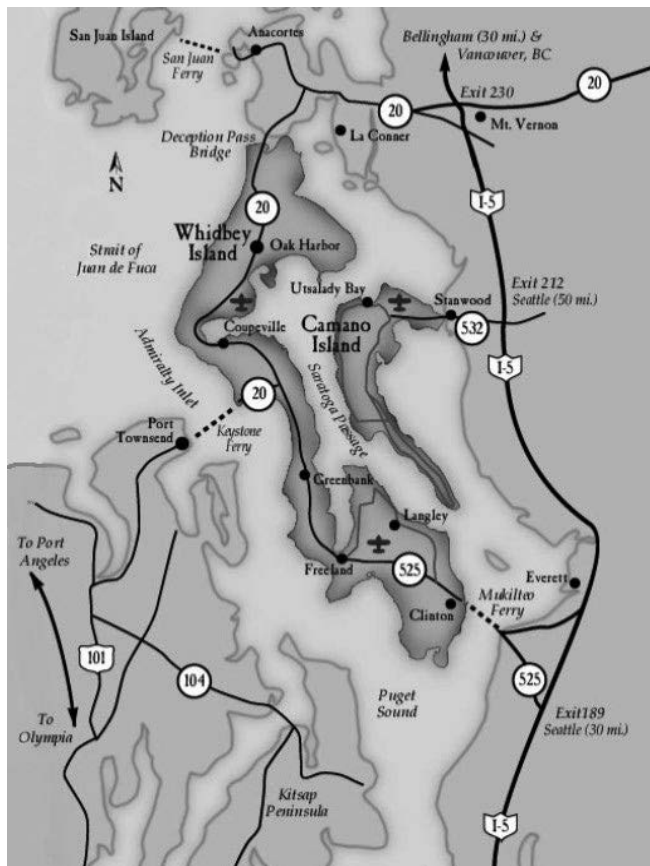
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**ISLAND COUNTY** is a unique area, well known for its exceptional quality of life. Island residents and tourists alike marvel at the fantastic views of the snow-covered Cascade and Olympic mountains as they relax in this pastoral setting. The islands comprising Island County are Whidbey, Camano, Ben Ure, Smith, Deception, Strawberry, Baby, Minor and Kalamut.

The two settled islands, Whidbey and Camano, are favorite destinations for weekend visitors with easy access via State Route 20 over Deception Pass, State Route 532 to Camano, and the State Ferry System routes accessed off-island at Mukilteo and Port Townsend.

Whidbey Island is the 5th longest island in the contiguous U.S.—45 miles long with 148 miles of shoreline. Camano is 16 miles long and has 52 miles of shoreline. Whidbey Island is located 27 miles north of Seattle and 50 miles south of the Canadian border. Island County has a total land area of 208 square miles.

The islands were first settled by the Lower Skagit, Swinomish, Suquamish, Snohomish, Kikiallus, and other Native American tribes, who called the area Tscha-kole-chy (Whidbey) and Kol-lut-chen (Camano). European settlements were established in the early 1850s in the Penn Cove-Coupeville area. Today, the small communities along these sheltered shorelines are highly regarded locations for permanent homes and summer residences, as well as small, but successful, businesses.



Island County and surrounding area

Island County has four geographic areas:

North Whidbey  
Central Whidbey  
South Whidbey  
Camano Island

## SNAPSHOT

Total population

**88,150**

(WA State OFM, Apr 01,  
2023 population  
estimates)

There are three incorporated locations in Island County, all on Whidbey Island:

Oak Harbor  
Coupeville  
Langley

# Climate and Geography

Island County enjoys the moderating effects of water and sheltering mountains to provide a mild, temperate climate. Camano Island and, more so, Whidbey Island both benefit from the Olympic Mountains' "rain shadow" effect. Rainfall averages from about 35" per year in South Whidbey and South Camano to less than 18" on Central Whidbey. This contrasts with the yearly average of approximately 40" in Seattle. Freezes are usually light and rarely continue past February.

Because of the rain shadow, Central Whidbey receives markedly less rain than the rest of Whidbey Island.

**40% to 90%**  
Avg relative humidity



**34°F**  
winter avg



**72°F**  
summer avg

**<18" rain**  
**per year**

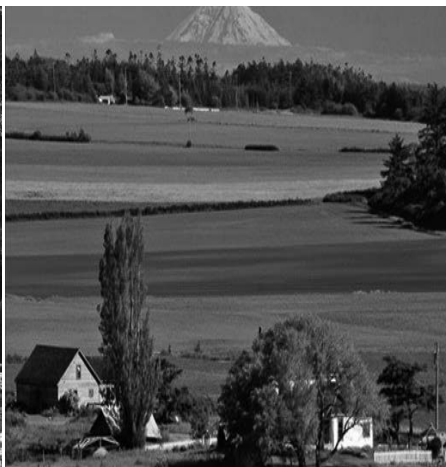
Central Whidbey

**35" rain**  
**per year**

South Whidbey

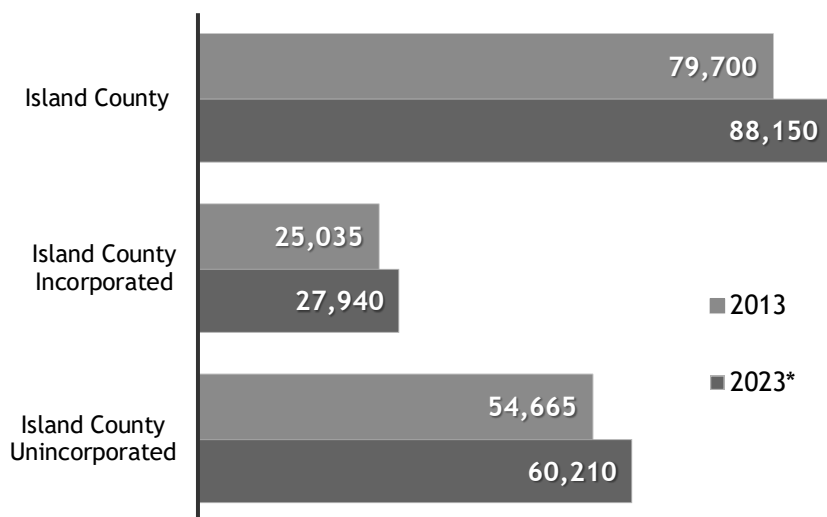


The terrain of Island County is largely rolling with elevations from sea level to 580 feet. More than 50% of the land area is undeveloped and features trees, prairie areas of agricultural lands, marshes, open bays and a generally rural environment.



# Population and Demographics

**Island County Population**  
(WA State Office of Financial Management,  
April 01, 2023 population estimate)



**2013-2023**

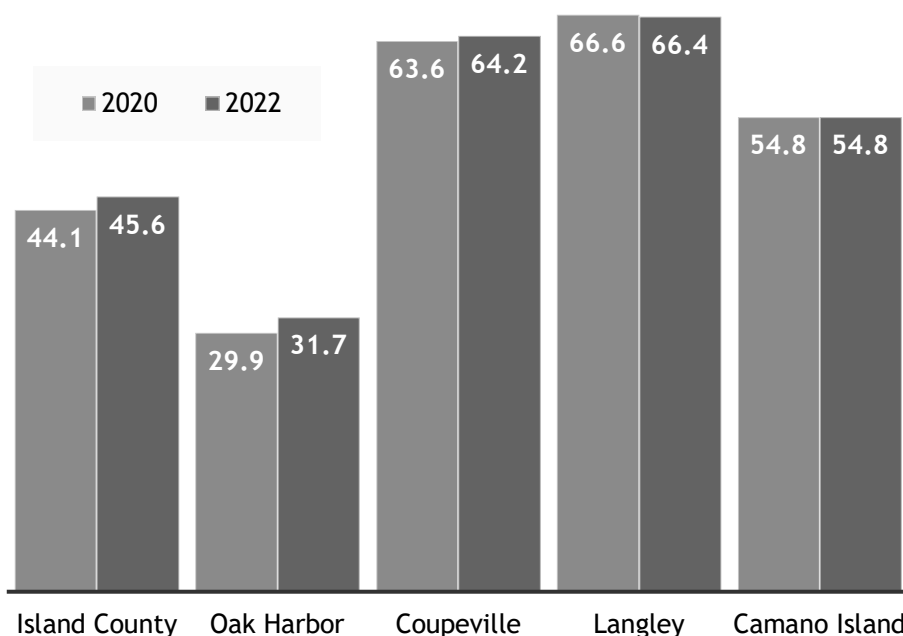
**10.6%**  
growth

**11.6%**  
growth in  
incorporated  
areas

**10.14%**  
growth in  
unincorporated areas

## Median Age

U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr estimates



**Oak Harbor**  
lower median age  
due to Navy  
personnel

# Population and Demographics

Population  
increased in



Oak Harbor  
Camano Island  
Coupeville  
Langley  
& Clinton

Population  
decreased in

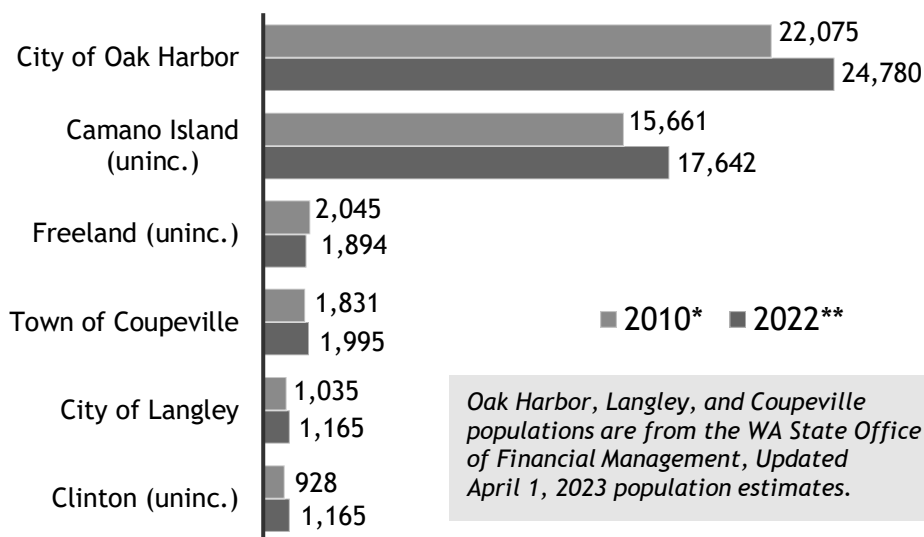


Freeland

## Island County Population Centers

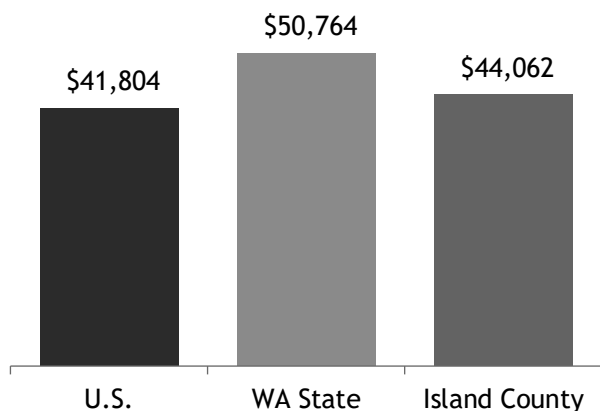
(\*US Census 2010)

(\*\*US Census American Community Survey, 2022, 5-yr estimates)



## Per Capita Income

ACS 2022 1-year estimate  
(inflation adjusted 2022 dollars)



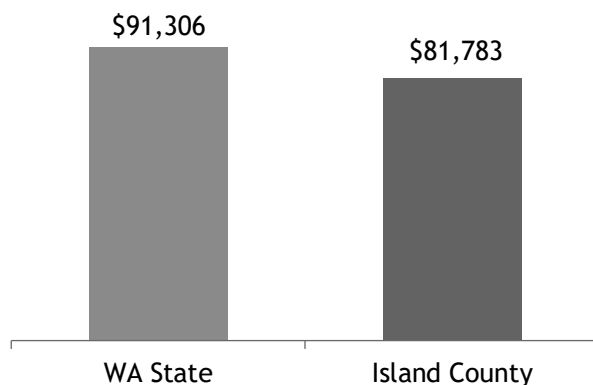
### Island County Per Capita Income

**9.4% higher**  
than U.S.

**8.6% lower**  
than WA State

## Median Household Income

ACS 2022 1-year estimate  
(inflation adjusted 2022 dollars)



### Island County's Median Household Income

**8.9% lower**  
than WA State  
but is

**9.1% higher**  
than U.S. median of  
**\$74,755**

## County's Workforce Commuting Destinations

*Census On The Map Commuting Destinations 2021 data*

*(Commuting data includes work from home)*

**16,258**

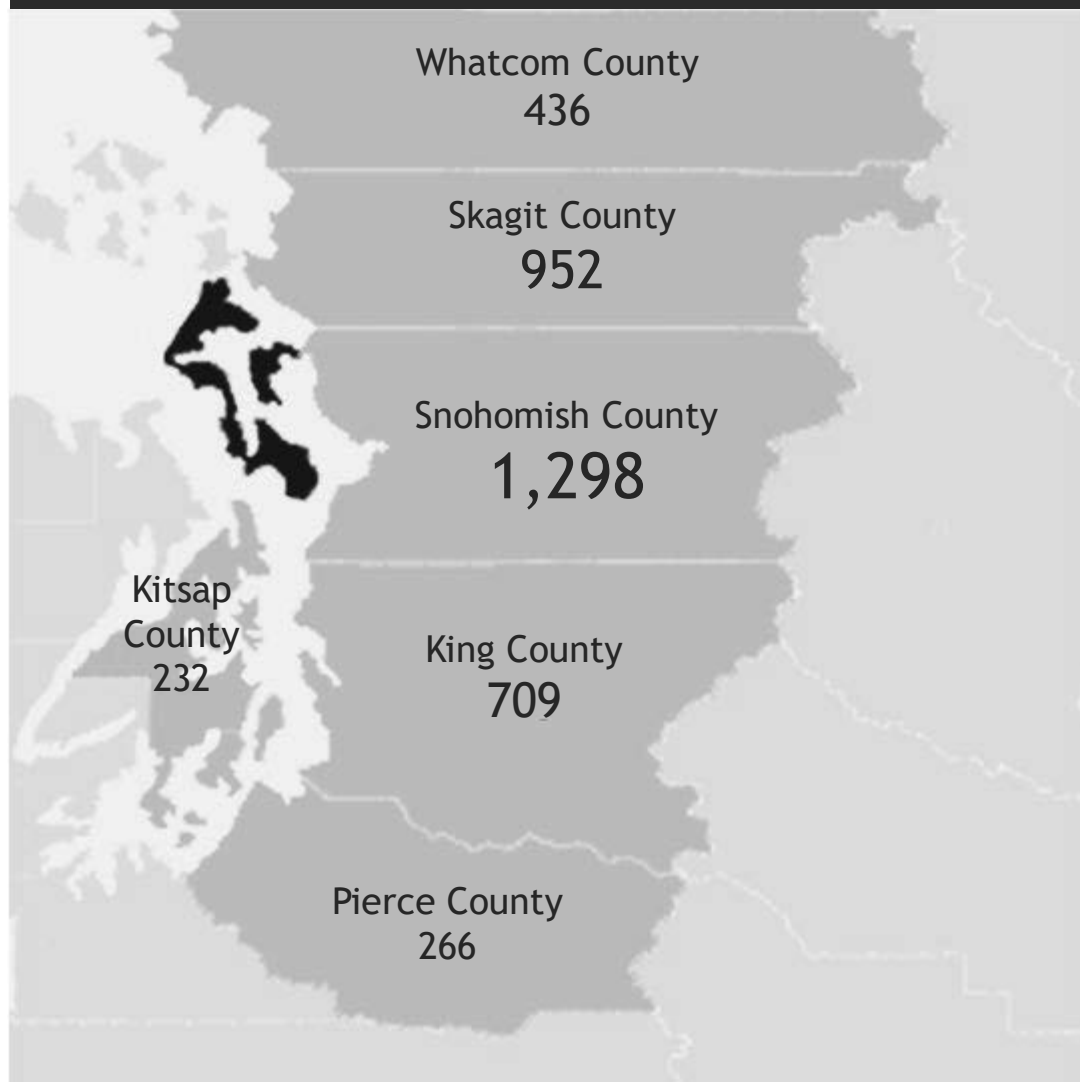
commuters leave the County from Whidbey and Camano Islands

**70.5%**

of workers in Island  
County travel outside the  
county for employment

**91.5%**

of workers on Camano  
Island travel outside the  
county employment



Island County averaged **18,493**  
nonfarm (and non-military) jobs in June 2023  
*Bureau of Labor & Statistics*

**+1,288** **+9%**  
Increase from Q2 2022 in total employment  
*Bureau of Labor Statistics*

## Naval Air Station Whidbey Island

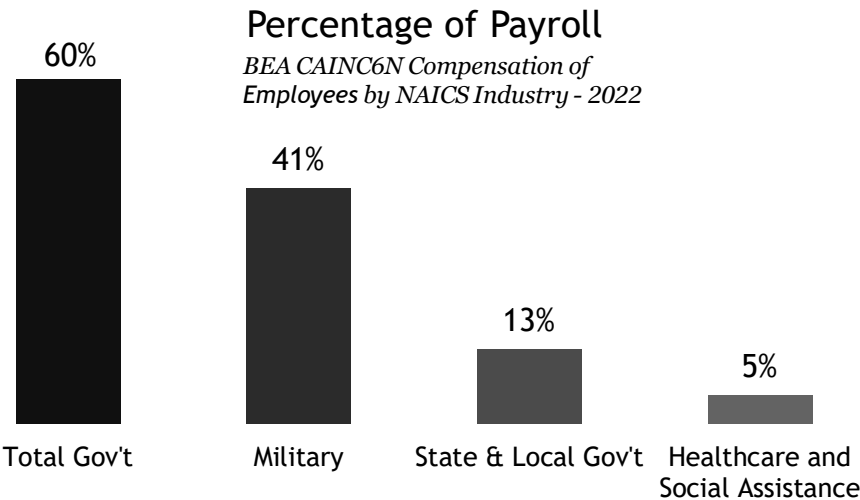
NAS Whidbey Island is the premier naval aviation installation in the Pacific Northwest and home of all Navy tactical electronic attack squadrons flying the EA-18G Growler.

**Largest** employer in Island County  
and four surrounding Counties

**\$548M**  
payroll for **11,100** personnel  
**9,000** military  
&  
**2,100** civilian and contractors



Data from 2017 Economic Impact Assessment. Next update is anticipated in 2025.



According to the  
Bureau of Economic  
Analysis

**Government**  
is the largest employer

**Navy**  
is the single largest  
employer

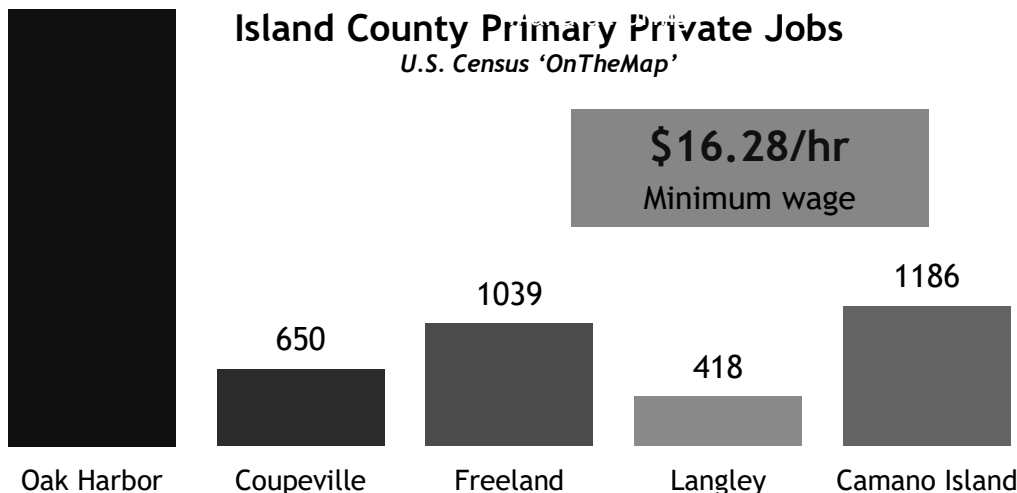


# Employment and Labor

## Major Employers (80+ employees) *Employer reported data 2023*

11,100 - 201	200 - 116	115 - 80
<b>NAS Whidbey Island</b> (Includes NEX, Commissary, Navy Clinic) Federal Government	<b>City of Oak Harbor</b> Local Government	<b>Nichols Brothers Boat Builders Inc.</b> Manufacturing
<b>Oak Harbor School District</b> Education	<b>Safeway</b> Retail	<b>Haggen's Food &amp; Pharmacy</b> Groceries/Food
<b>Boeing</b> (commuters from Island County) Manufacturing	<b>IDEX Corp</b> Manufacturing	<b>Regency on Whidbey</b> Healthcare
<b>WhidbeyHealth Hospital</b> Healthcare	<b>Home Depot</b> Retail	<b>Useless Bay County Club</b> Recreation
<b>Island County Government</b> Local Government	<b>Stanwood-Camano School District</b> (commuters from Island County) Education	<b>New Leaf</b> Non-profit
<b>South Whidbey School District</b> Education	<b>Payless Foods</b> Groceries/Food	<b>Whidbey Telecommunication</b> Technical Services
<b>Coupeville School District</b> Education	<b>Island Transit</b> Transportation	<b>Technical Services, Inc.</b> Manufacturing
<b>Walmart</b> Retail		

3704



**\$16.28/hr**  
Minimum wage

## Labor Force

**36,579**

Average  
(non-military)

**5.0%**

Unemployment  
(December 2023)

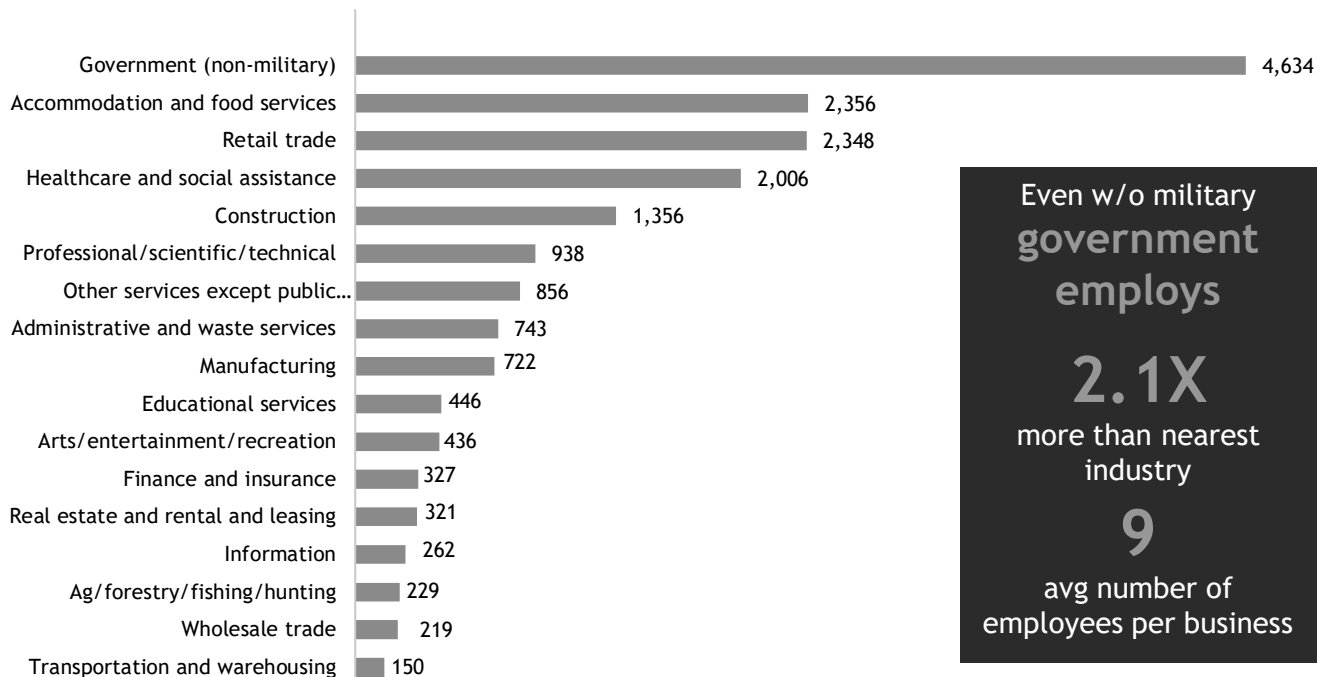
**1.3 %**

Growth (2021-2022)

*(Source: Employment Security Department)*

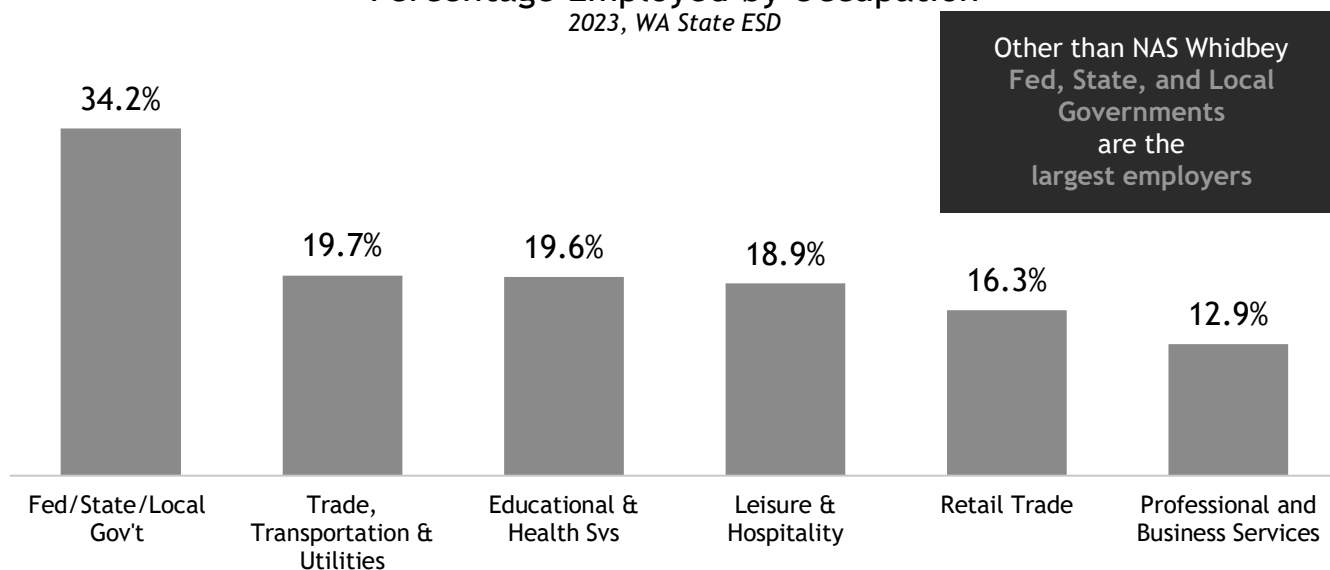
## Average Number Employed in Island County

2023, WA State ESD



## Percentage Employed by Occupation

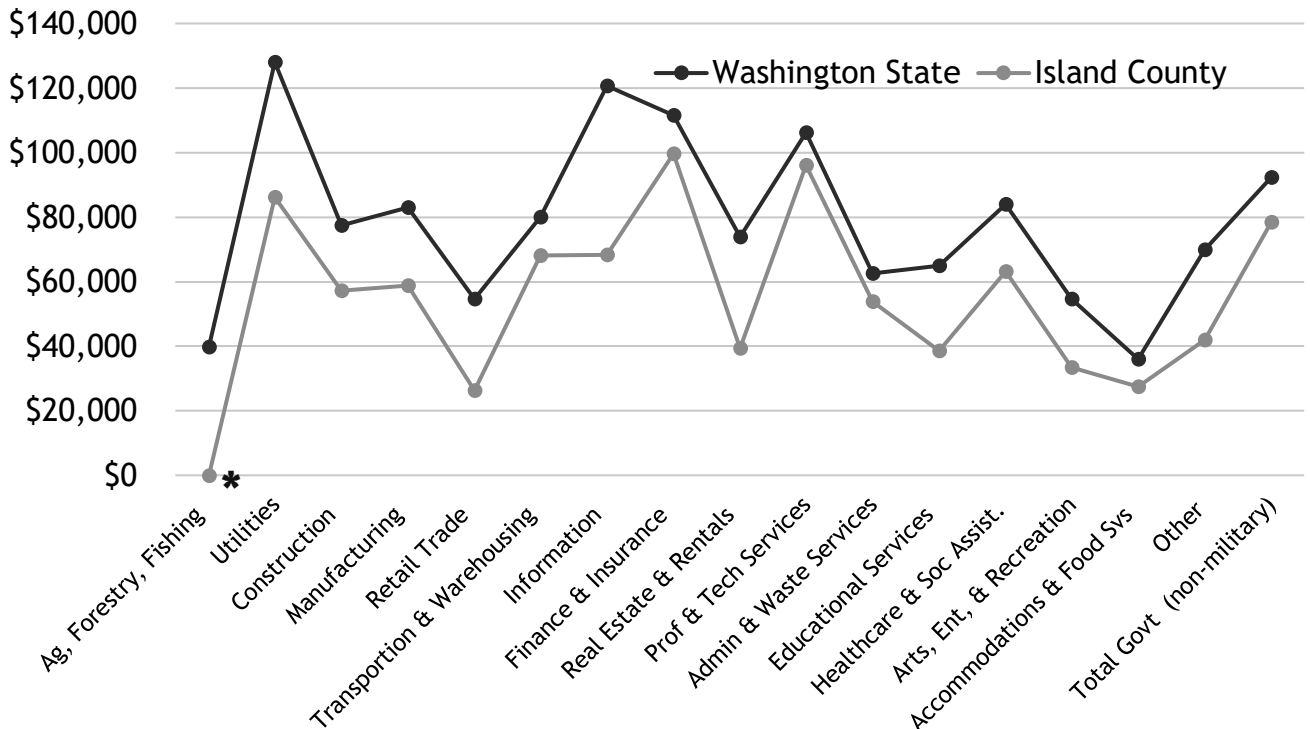
2023, WA State ESD



# Employment and Labor

## Average Annual Salary per Worker by Industry

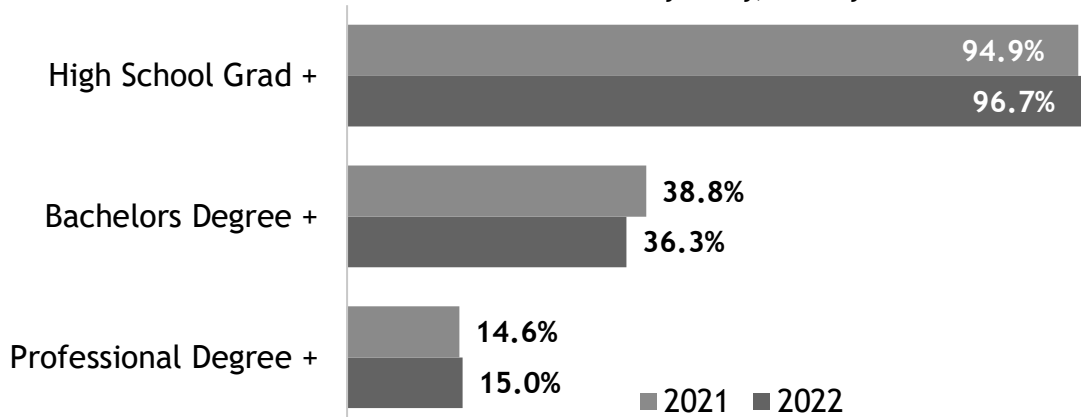
As of Q2 2023, U.S. Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor and Statistics



\*One or more components of this calculation do not exist or do not meet BLS or State agency disclosure standards.

## Educational Attainment (25 yrs. and older)

US Census American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr estimate



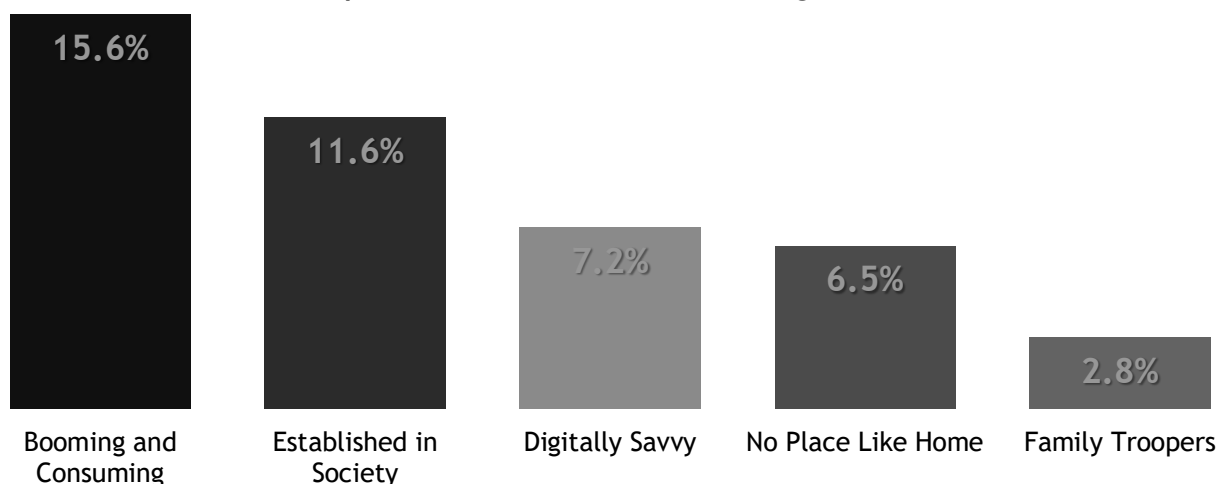
# Population Segmentation

Segmentation is dividing a population into groups defined by individual characteristics. It can be as simple as separating male and female residents, or by something more complex.

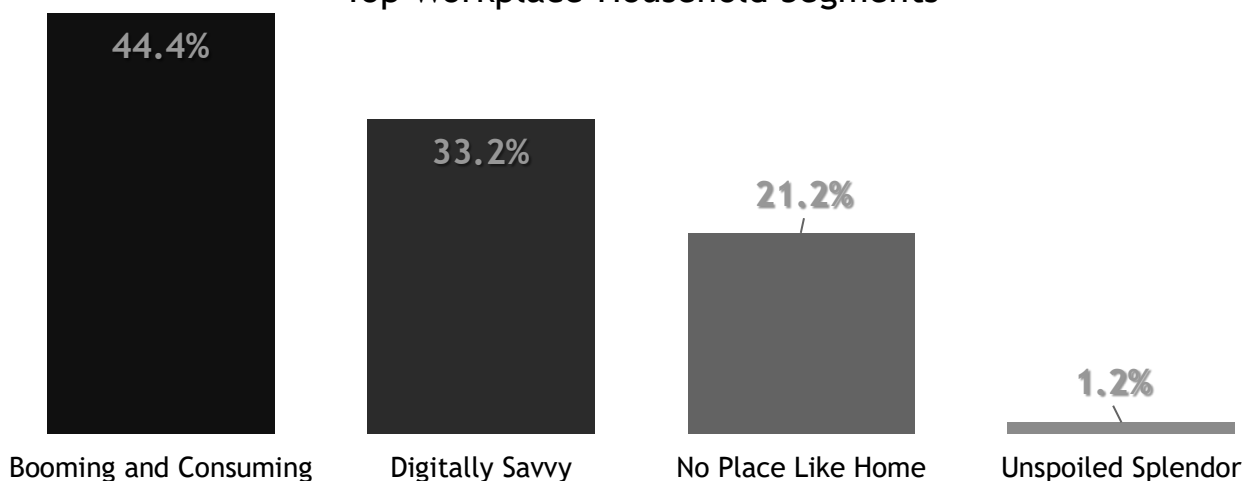
Mosaic, by Experian, divides the U.S. population into 19 groups and 71 more detailed sub-groups, or segments. It paints a unique picture of the U.S. population based on their demographic characteristics, lifestyles, and behavior.

In this next section we'll look at the top segments of those 71 that comprise Island County's **residential households**, and the top four segments of its **workplace households**.

## Top Residential Household Segments



## Top Workplace Household Segments



## Booming and Consuming

### Who They Are

Rural lifestyles  
Disposable income  
Home and garden enthusiasts  
Read newspapers  
Married without kids  
Trendsetters

**26.1%**  
household income is  
\$50,000-\$74,999

**48.8%**  
household size of  
1 person

**79.42%**  
are homeowners

**91.3%**  
live in single  
family homes

**51.58%**  
head of household  
is between  
51-65 years old



## Established in Society

### Who They Are

Cautious money managers  
Conservative values  
Home-centered activities  
Seniors  
Rural lifestyle  
Avid TV watchers

**35.5%**  
household size of  
2 persons

**22.6%**  
household income is  
\$25,000-\$34,999

**92.8%**  
are homeowners

**96.9%**  
live in single  
family homes

**50.6%**  
head of household  
is 76+ years old



## Digitally Savvy



### Who They Are

Ambitious  
Single adults  
Eager to spend  
Digitally savvy

**89.2%**

live in single  
family homes

**26.3%**

household income is  
\$50,000-\$74,999

**66.8%**

household size of  
1 person

**15.3%**

are first-time  
home buyers

**50.1%**

head of household  
is between  
25-30 years old

## No Place Like Home



### Who They Are

Smart shoppers  
Tech apprentices  
Large households  
Social media fans

**95.1%**

are homeowners

**24.7%**

household income is  
\$75,000-\$99,999

**98.6%**

live in single  
family homes

**28.9%**

household size of  
5+ people

**48.4%**

head of household  
is between  
51-65 years old

## Family Troopers

### Who They Are

Renters

Modest educations

Parents

Ethnically diverse

Military base communities

Tech-savvy

**14.5%**

live in Multi-family: 5-9 units

**88.8%**

are renters

**82.9%**

household size of

1 person

**52%**

head of household

is between

25-30 years old

**13.5%**

household is less than

\$24,999



## Unspoiled Splendor

### Who They Are

Price-conscious

Do-It-Yourselfers

Outdoor enthusiasts

Domestic travelers

**96.5%**

are homeowners

**32.8%**

household size of

2 persons

**98.5%**

live in single

family homes

**29.4%**

household income is

\$50,000-\$74,999

**91.3%**

head of household

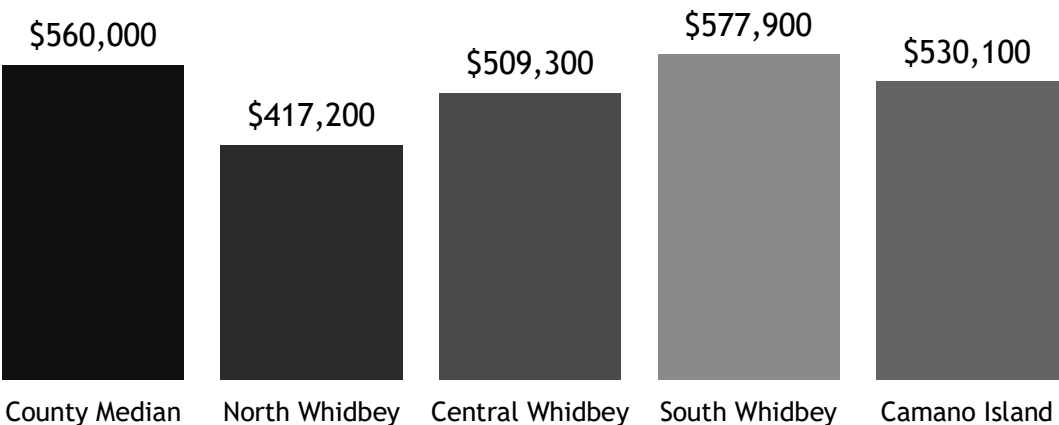
is between

51-65 years old



## Median Housing Prices

*(Includes existing and new construction  
American Community Survey 2022 1-yr estimate)*

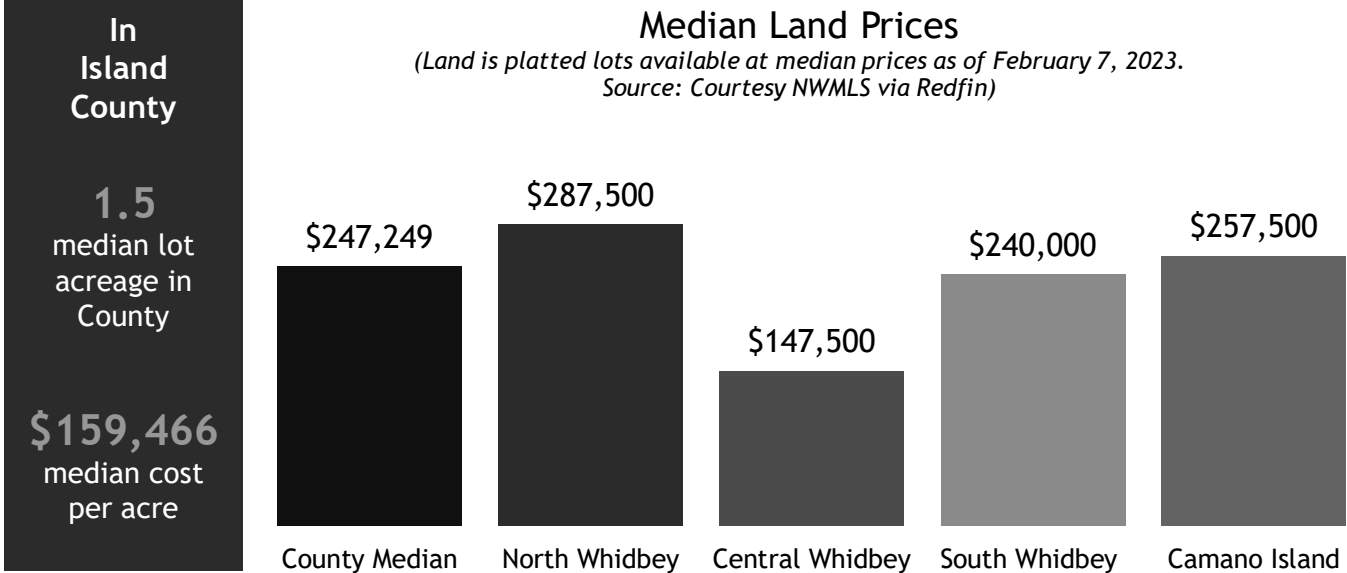


**Camano, North and Central Whidbey** prices lower than County median

**South Whidbey** has highest median housing prices

## Median Land Prices

*(Land is platted lots available at median prices as of February 7, 2023.  
Source: Courtesy NWMLS via Redfin)*



**In Island County**

**1.5** median lot acreage in County

**\$159,466** median cost per acre

### COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

**\$250-\$350**  
per sq ft  
average for new construction  
for office and retail locations

### COMMERCIAL RENTAL

**\$10-\$18**  
sq ft/year  
average range



Washington charges a gross income tax of 1.8% on your revenue after your first \$35,000 of gross receipts. Washington calls this a business and occupations tax, or better known in the state as a B & O tax. This is tracked by your Washington state UBI number (Unified Business Identifier number). There are basically no deductions. Washington State will deduct the money you made and paid taxes for in another state, which makes it a very attractive state in which to own a national company.

Average Island County Retail Sales Tax Rate = 8.8%

## Island County has one of the lowest tax bases in Washington state.

Property Tax Rate:

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/assessors>

No State Personal Income Tax

Unemployment Rates:

<https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo>

Industrial Insurance Rates:

[www.lni.wa.gov](http://www.lni.wa.gov)

Business Personal Property Tax:

[www.dor.wa.gov](http://www.dor.wa.gov)

Business & Occupation Tax:

[www.dor.wa.gov](http://www.dor.wa.gov)

County GDP

**\$4.1B**

(\$4,051,181,000)

Production change

Short-term

2021-2022

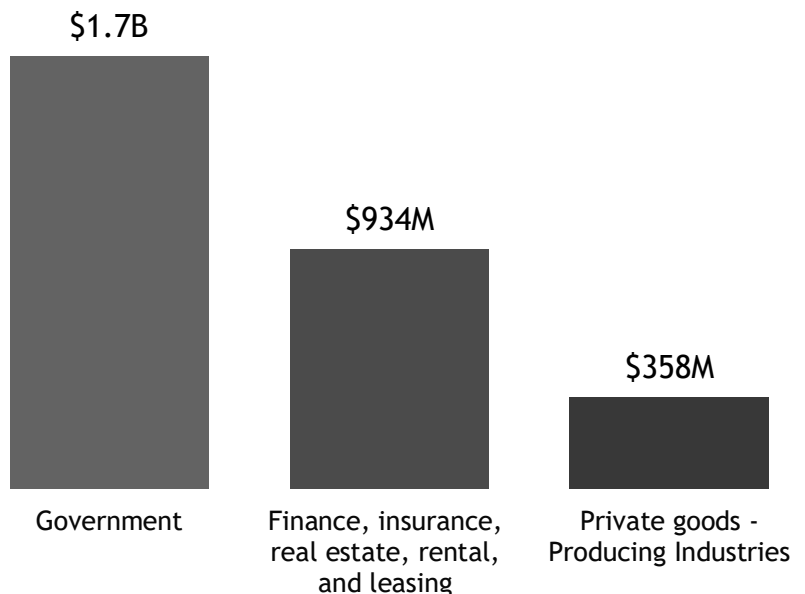
**3.94%**

Per capita economic  
output

**\$45,965**

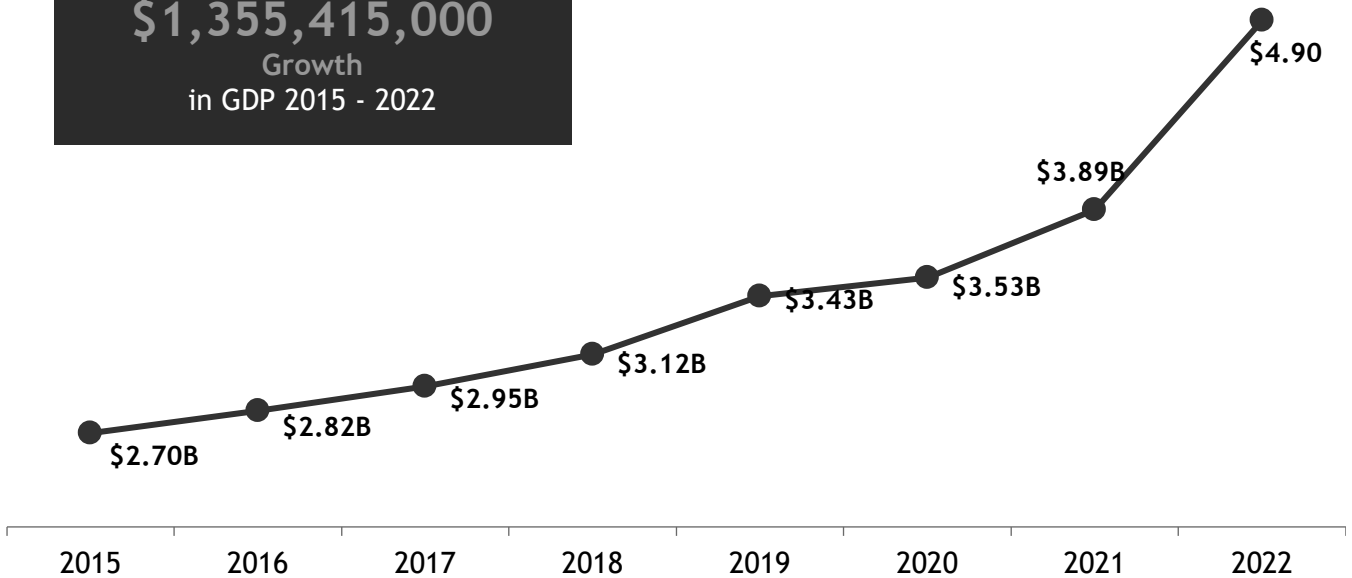
## Top Three Industries

(2022, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)



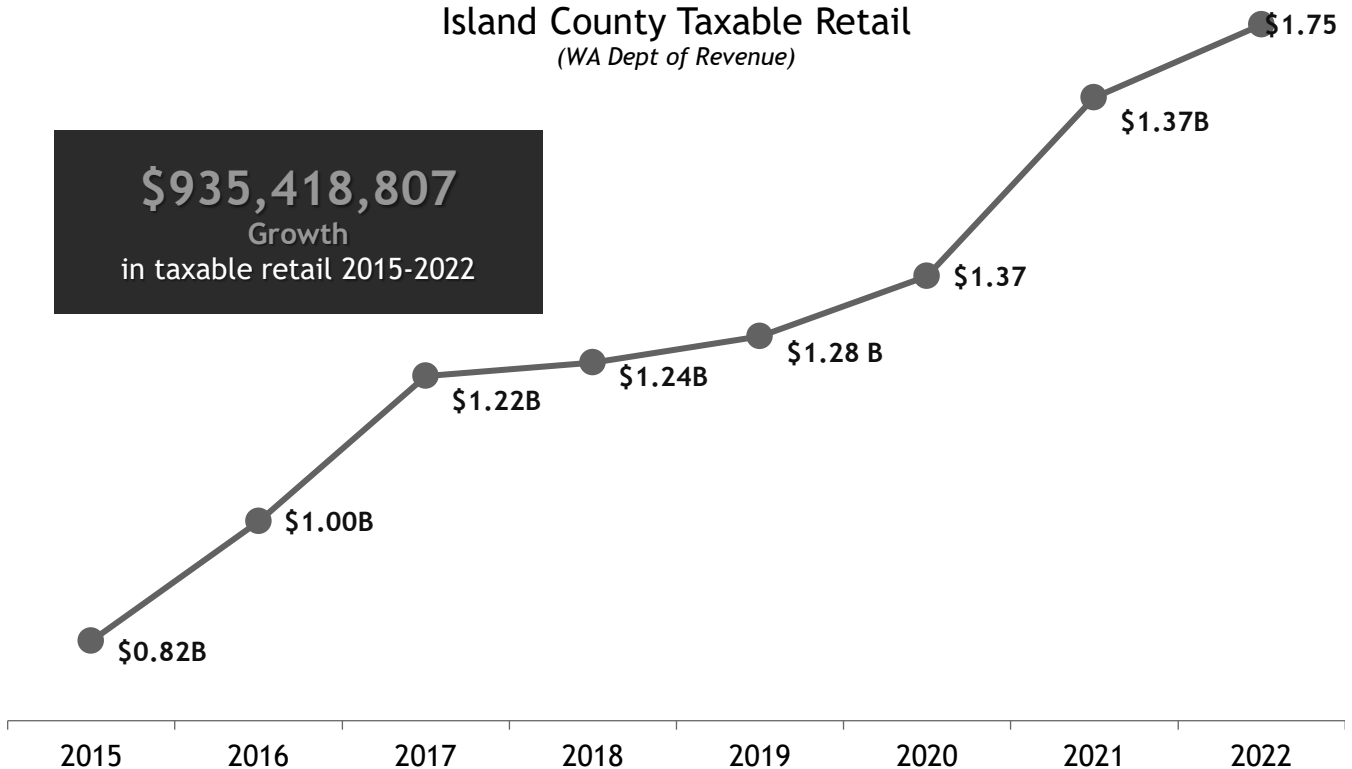
## Island County GDP Growth (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)

**\$1,355,415,000**  
Growth  
in GDP 2015 - 2022



## Island County Taxable Retail (WA Dept of Revenue)

**\$935,418,807**  
Growth  
in taxable retail 2015-2022



**North Whidbey**  
Oak Harbor Public Schools  
(360) 279-5000  
[www.ohsd.net](http://www.ohsd.net)

**Central Whidbey**  
Coupeville School District #204  
(360) 678-2400  
[www.coupeville.k12.wa.us](http://www.coupeville.k12.wa.us)

**South Whidbey**  
South Whidbey School District #206  
(360) 221-6100  
[www.sw.wednet.edu](http://www.sw.wednet.edu)

**Camano Island**  
Stanwood-Camano School District #401  
(360) 629-1200  
[www.stanwood.wednet.edu](http://www.stanwood.wednet.edu)



Whidbey Island also boasts an impressive public school system, with **95% graduation rates**, as well as a plethora of private schooling options for families with children.

## Private Schools

**Oak Harbor**  
Oak Harbor Christian School PS-5  
(360) 675-2831

North Whidbey Christian High School  
(360) 675-5352

Montessori K-4  
(360) 969-0282

Seventh Day Adventist 1-8  
(360) 675-4412

**Langley**  
Island Christian Academy PreK-12  
(360) 221-0919

**Clinton**  
Whidbey Island Waldorf School PS-8  
(360) 341-5686

Wellington Day School K-8  
(360) 341-1252

# Schools and Education

There is a broad range of options for adult and post-secondary education programs in Island County, from technical training to post-graduate programs.

## Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Located at the Naval Air Station, Embry offers 2 & 4-year degree programs in Aeronautics Science, Aviation, Business Administration Management, and Technical Operations.

## University of Massachusetts Global (UMass Global)

formerly Brandman University  
Located at the Naval Air Station, UMass Global offers 4-year degree programs in Business Administration, Computer Science & Information Systems, Social Sciences, Psychology, and Criminal Justice as well as graduate degree programs for Human Resources and Organizational Leadership.



## Skagit Valley College

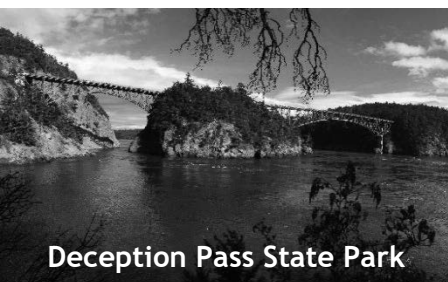
Skagit Valley College provides an Associate Degree program transferable to a 4-year institution and occupational/workplace training. Based in Mt. Vernon, with a Whidbey Island campus in Oak Harbor.

## Washington State University

WSU offers continuing education and a number of degree and certificate programs through their Extended Degree Programs. Courses are delivered via internet, video, video conferencing, and correspondence.

# Recreation Areas

Island County features exceptional recreation opportunities. Boating, fishing, biking, bird watching, clamming, golfing and hiking are especially popular with residents and tourists alike. The county enjoys abundant wildlife and has developed a county-wide system of trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Organized sports activities are offered by the county's recreation districts and cover a wide gamut of team and individual sports.



Deception Pass State Park



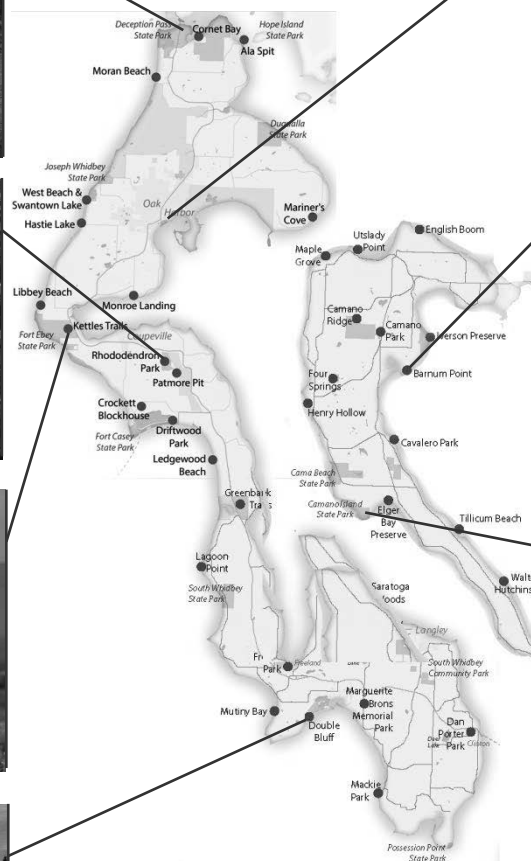
Rhododendron Park



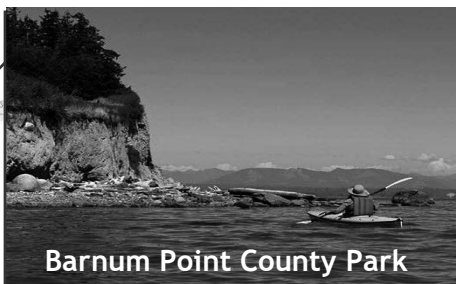
Ebey's Landing National Reserve



Double Bluff Beach County Park



Windjammer City Park



Barnum Point County Park



Camano Island State Park

Island County has  
**8** State Parks  
**54** County Parks  
**44** City Parks

and many private parks,  
 marinas, golf courses, port  
 facilities, and campgrounds

## Lodging Facilities

An abundance of lodging and RV/camping choices are available along with facilities for events or meetings. Contact area Chambers of Commerce or [whidbeycamanoislands.com](http://whidbeycamanoislands.com) for more information.

### Historical Sites

Deception Pass  
Coupeville Waterfront  
Fort Casey State Park  
Admiralty Head Lighthouse  
Fort Ebey State Park  
Sunnyside Cemetery  
Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve  
Cama Beach Resort & Archaeological Site  
Utsalady Ladies Aid Building

### Museums

PBY Aircraft Museum - Oak Harbor  
Island County Historical Museum - Coupeville  
South Whidbey Historical Museum - Langley



Admiralty Head Lighthouse



Island County Historical Museum

## Art Galleries and Theaters



Whidbey Playhouse

Movie cinemas are located in Oak Harbor, NAS Whidbey, and Langley.

There are also live theaters in Oak Harbor and Langley, and a drive-in theater in Oak Harbor.

Art galleries abound on Whidbey and Camano, especially in Langley, Coupeville, and Camano.

Request a complete listing from the local Chambers of Commerce.

# Healthcare Providers

**Whidbey Island** served by  
Whidbey Island Public Hospital District and NAS Whidbey Island

**Camano Island** served by  
Skagit Valley Hospital in Mt Vernon  
Arlington Hospital in Snohomish County  
Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett

Island Hospital  
in Anacortes

NAS Whidbey Island  
Naval Health  
Clinic Oak Harbor  
serves active duty &  
retired personnel  
and their dependents

WhidbeyHealth Medical Center  
located in Coupeville

**25** active inpatient beds

**24** hour emergency room  
(only ER on the island)

Life Flight Network - Air Ambulance

**Island County  
Emergency Services**  
**3** paramedic ambulances  
serve the island

Camano Island  
served by  
Skagit Valley Hospital  
in Mt. Vernon

Skagit Clinic ON Camano

Camano Island  
Health System

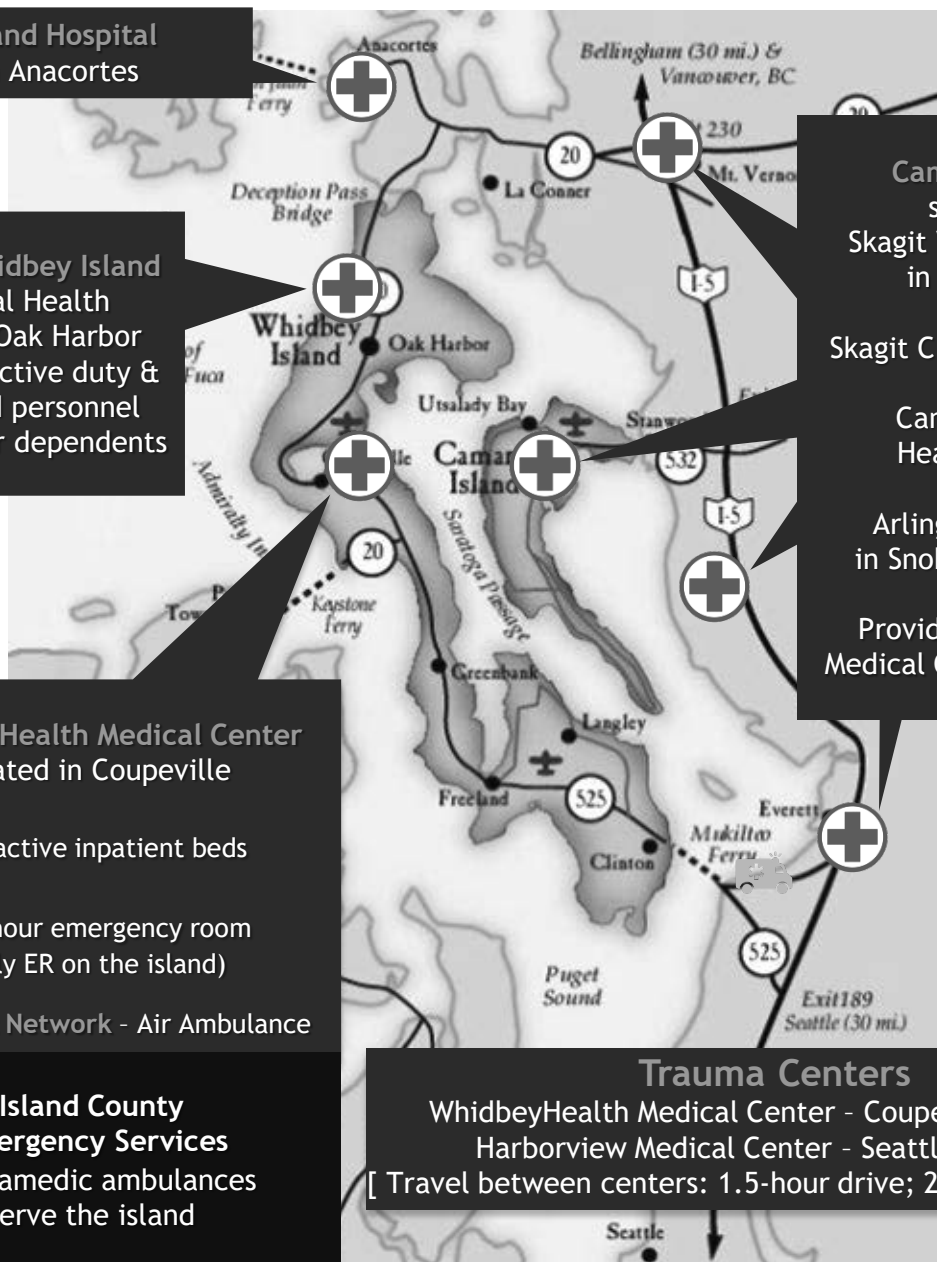
Arlington Hospital  
in Snohomish County

Providence Regional  
Medical Center - Everett

## Trauma Centers

WhidbeyHealth Medical Center - Coupeville (level 3)  
Harborview Medical Center - Seattle (level 1)

[ Travel between centers: 1.5-hour drive; 20-minute air evac ]



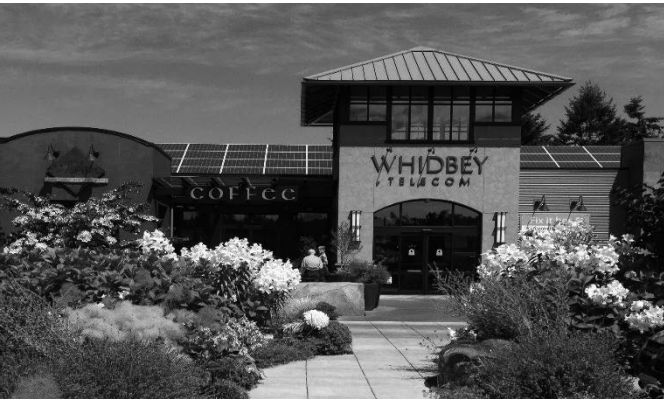
## Natural Gas

### Oak Harbor

Cascade Natural Gas

888-522-1130

<https://www.cngc.com/rates-services/business-services>



## Telecommunications

Xfinity (Comcast)

(360) 200-6791

[www.comcast.com](http://www.comcast.com)

Ziplay Fiber

(360) 707-4817

<https://get.ziplayfiber.com>

Whidbey Telecom (S. Whidbey)

(360) 321-1122

[www.whidbeytel.com](http://www.whidbeytel.com)

WAVE Cable

(855) 971-1252

<https://residential.wavebroadband.com/>

## Electricity

### Whidbey Island

Puget Sound Energy

(888) 225-5773

[www.pse.com/business](http://www.pse.com/business)

### Camano Island

Snohomish County PUD

(425) 783-1012

<https://www.snopud.com>

## Solid Waste

Service is provided by each of the incorporated cities to its residents.

### Resource

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/PublicWorks/solidwaste/Pages/Home.aspx>

### Island Disposal (serving Whidbey):

(360) 678-5701

<https://www.islanddisposalinc.com/commercial-service>

### Stanwood Camano Disposal (serving Camano):

(800) 592-9995

<http://wmnorthwest.com/camano/commercial.html>

### Waste Management

(360) 757-4068

<https://www.wm.com>



# Water and Sewage

City operated water & sewage systems in:

Oak Harbor: (360) 279-4750

Coupeville: (360) 678-4461, ext 106

Langley: (360) 221-4246, ext 13

Public Water Districts operate in Freeland, Clinton and parts of Camano Island. There are also a number of privately owned water systems at Penn Cove, near Coupeville, and Holmes Harbor in Freeland.

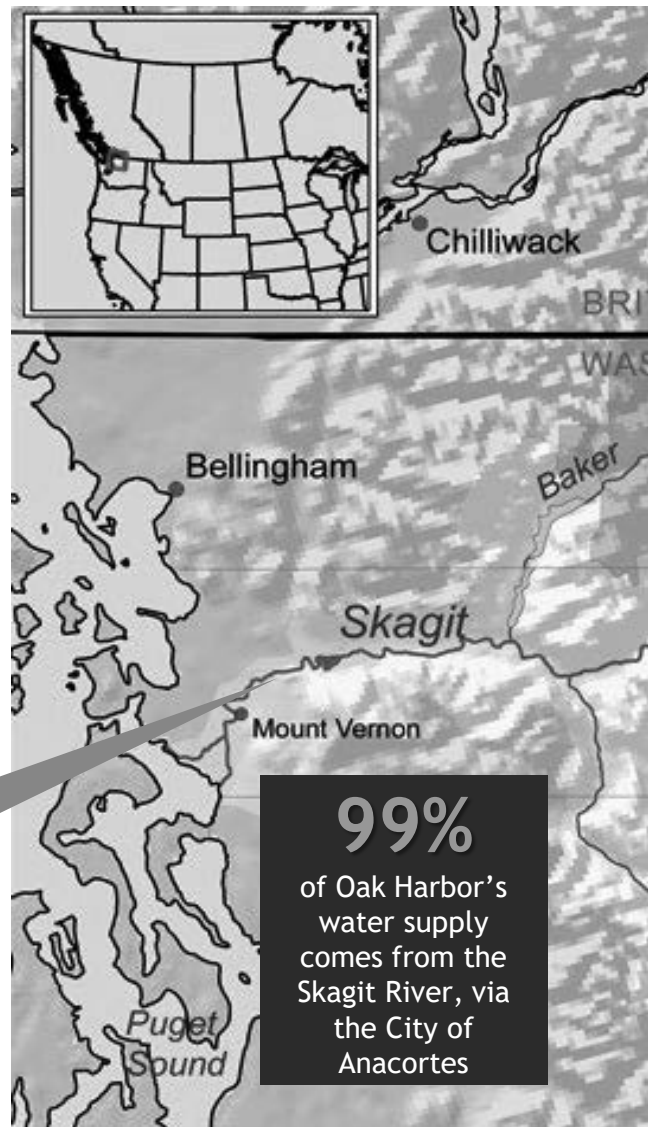
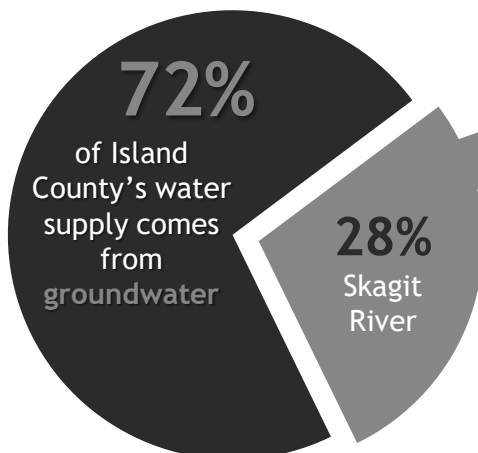
The City of Oak Harbor is the largest water purveyor in Island County

**3,700+**  
connections

**2.26 million gallons/day**  
average daily demand

**99%** of the water used by Oak Harbor is purchased wholesale from the City of Anacortes, which obtains its water from the Skagit River.

This imported water comprises **28%** of the water used in Island County.



# General Transportation Information

## State Highways

Connections to the state highway system and I-5 are via bridges and state highways

### SR 20 and SR 525

main routes through Whidbey Island

### SR 532

main route on  
Camano Island

From Whidbey Island:

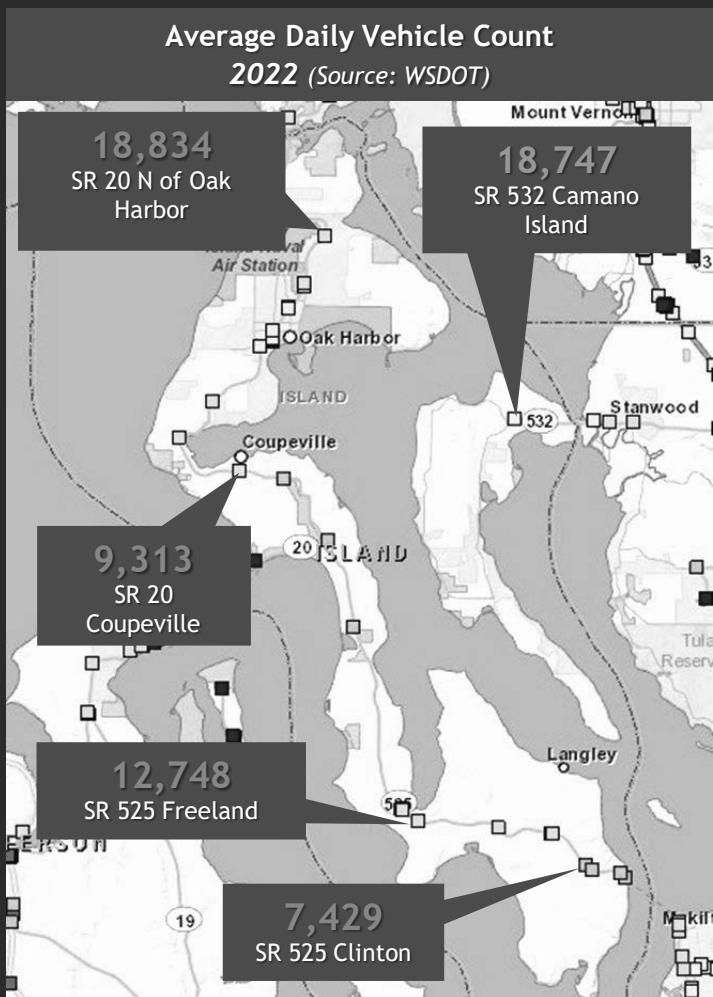
39 mi  
to I-5

49 mi  
to HWY 99

90 mi  
to I-590

## Bus Service

Island County provides fare-free bus service throughout the county, on Whidbey Island from Deception Pass to Clinton, and to the ferries at Clinton-Mukilteo and Keystone-Port Townsend. Bus service is also available on Camano Island, connecting to Stanwood.



Island Transit bus

## Island Transit

(360) 678-7771

[www.islandtransit.org](http://www.islandtransit.org)

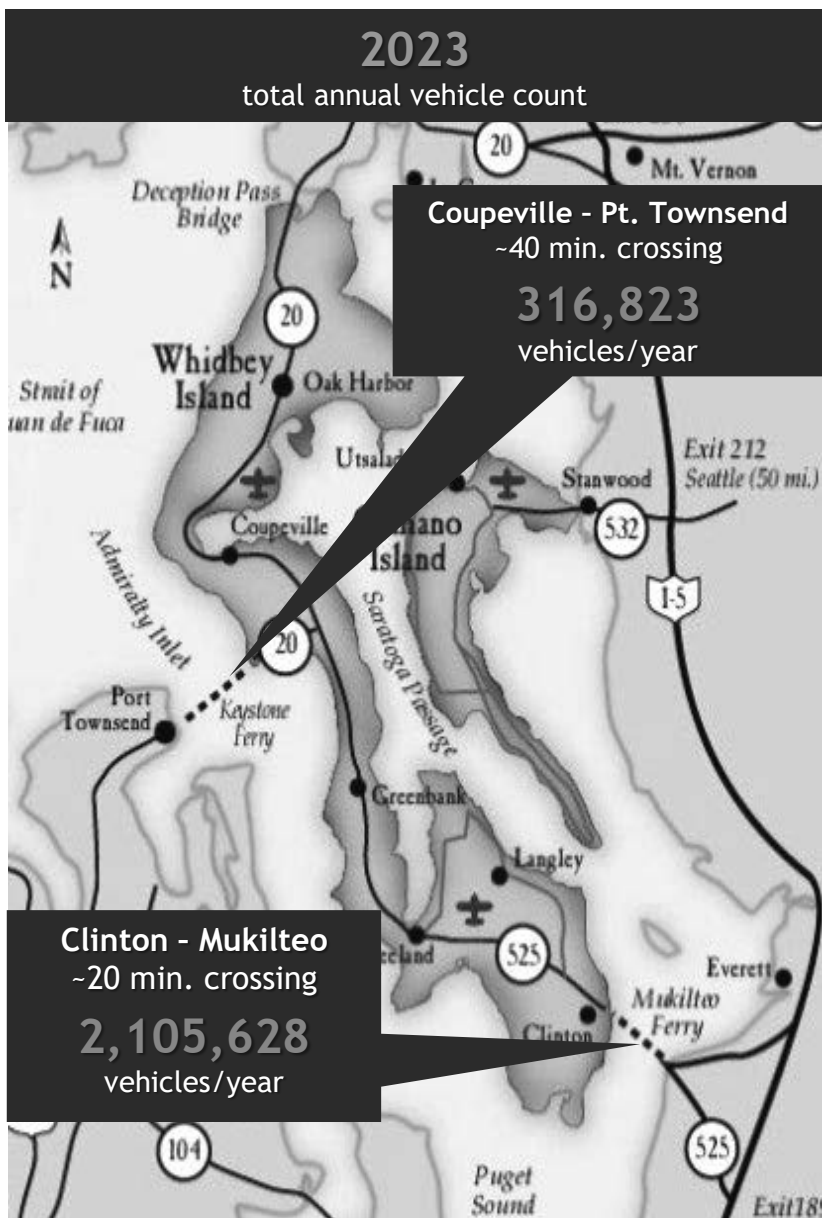
## Whidbey-Seatac Shuttle

Airport shuttle service from Whidbey Island  
639 Industrial Ave Suite A, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

360-679-4003

<http://www.seatacshuttle.com>

# Ferry Service and Airports



## 2 Ferries

Clinton - Mukilteo  
Coupeville - Port Townsend

Clinton—Mukilteo  
ferry runs  
Each half hour

Coupeville—Port Townsend  
ferry runs  
every 3 hours

A reservation system is  
available for use on the  
Coupeville—Port Townsend  
run.

Reservations:

(206) 464-6400

Toll free: 888-808-7977

[https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/  
washington-state-ferries](https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/washington-state-ferries)

## Airports

Camano Air Park

Camano Island

Runway: 1,750 ft.

No scheduled air service

DeLaurentis Airport at Oak  
Harbor

Oak Harbor

Runway: 3,200 ft.

No scheduled air service

Whidbey Air Park

Langley

Runway: 2,400 ft.

No scheduled air service

## Chambers of Commerce

### Greater Oak Harbor

(360) 675-3755

[www.oakharborchamber.org](http://www.oakharborchamber.org)

### Greater Freeland

(360) 331-1980

[www.freelandchamber.org](http://www.freelandchamber.org)

### Clinton

(360) 331-3929

[www.discoverclintonwa.com](http://www.discoverclintonwa.com)

### Coupeville

(360) 678-5434

[www.coupevillechamber.com](http://www.coupevillechamber.com)

### Langley

(360) 221-6765

[www.visitlangley.com](http://www.visitlangley.com)

### Camano

(360) 629-7136

[www.camanoisland.org](http://www.camanoisland.org)

### Tourism Information

[www.whidbeycamanoislands.com](http://www.whidbeycamanoislands.com)

## Government

### Island County

(360) 678-5111 (main number)

[www.islandcountywa.gov](http://www.islandcountywa.gov)

### Town of Coupeville

(360) 678-4461

[townofcoupeville.org](http://townofcoupeville.org)

### Port of South Whidbey

(360) 331-5494

[portofsouthwhidbey.com](http://portofsouthwhidbey.com)

### City of Oak Harbor

(360) 279-4500

[www.oakharbor.org](http://www.oakharbor.org)

### City of Langley

(360) 221-4246

[www.langleywa.org](http://www.langleywa.org)

### Port of Coupeville

(360) 222-3151

<https://portoc.org>



**EDC**  
**ISLAND**  
**COUNTY**

[info@edcislandcounty.org](mailto:info@edcislandcounty.org)

[www.iscoedc.com](http://www.iscoedc.com)

(360) 678-6889

The Economic Development Council for Island County (EDC) is an independent nonprofit that works to create a thriving economic environment where business can grow and create jobs while preserving our unique quality of life.

- Providing one-on-one business advising, connecting owners to state and local resources, nurturing startup entrepreneurs, and sharing economic data and information.
- Giving members a voice in the economic development of their community.
- We are the County's designated partner with the WA State Department of Commerce and a channel for information and assistance between the State, County, and businesses.

Join us! By becoming a member or sponsor of the EDC, your investment will help support economic vitality in Island County.