

2025 Island County Profile Report

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Overview

Island County is composed of 2 major islands: Whidbey and Camano, and 7 smaller uninhabited islands: Ben Ure, Smith, Deception, Strawberry, Baby, Minor, and Kalamut. These islands have been populated by humans since time immemorial, specifically by the Lower Skagit, Swinomish, Suquamish, Snohomish, and Kikiallus tribes, who named the main islands Tscha-kole-chy (Whidbey) and Kol-lut-chen (Camano).

Once called the “garden of Washington territory” by John Muir¹, Whidbey Island is the fifth-longest island in the contiguous U.S., spanning 45 miles with 148 miles of shoreline. Camano is 16 miles long with 52 miles of shoreline.

Around the turn of the 20th century, car culture collided with this natural beauty, initiating the birth of environmental tourism in the Pacific Northwest. For those traveling from Seattle, a short ferry ride from Mukilteo is the most direct route to access the island. From the North, the bridge over Deception Pass is the most direct. Microclimates are present across much of the island due to its forests, undulating landscapes, and steep coastal cliffs. Many coves and natural harbors dot the island’s serpentine coastlines, complementing the windswept prairies and tidal flats where sea birds congregate.

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.

Figure 1: Island County and Surrounding Area Map



¹ Land Use, Environment, and Social Change: The Shaping of Island County, WA, Richard White, 1995

Climate and Geography

Whidbey is greatly affected by the Olympic Rain Shadow, which causes Pacific storms and large amounts of precipitation to be blocked before reaching the northern region of the island. This makes North Whidbey ideal for a large Naval Base, supported by the relatively large population of nearby Oak Harbor.

However, as of April 2, 2026, parts of central Whidbey Island are experiencing abnormally dry conditions. Out of the 3 currently active weather monitoring stations in Central Whidbey, one located in Coupeville indicates 2025 saw the least amount of rainfall since 2009.

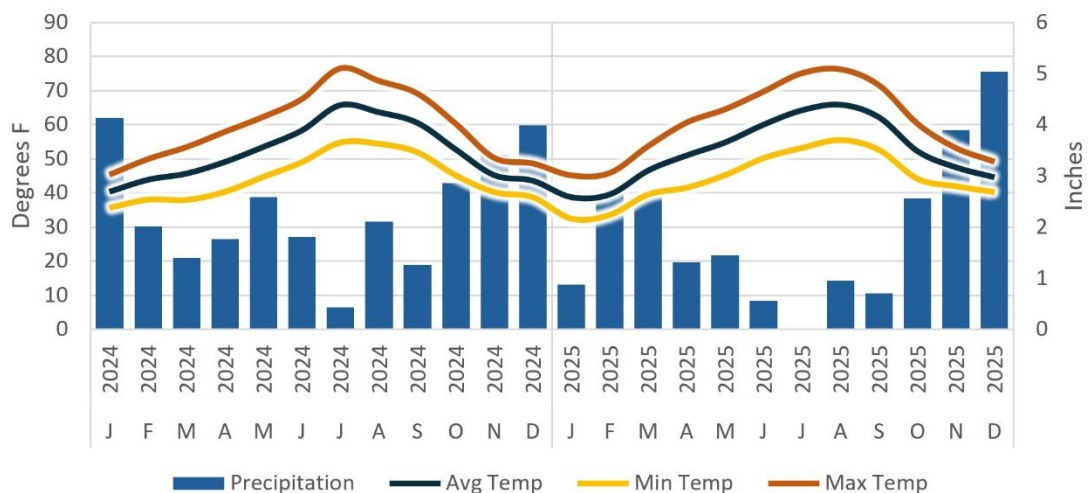
Camano Island has much less flat area and is dominated by a large central spine running North-South along the island, referred to as the Camano Crest. This crest is also the highest point in Island County at roughly 598ft. The island itself is separated from the mainland by a channel of the Stillaguamish River and can be easily reached by bridge from nearby Stanwood. In 2025, rainfall on Camano is above average for all of Island County.

Table 1: Island County Precipitation

2025 Total Precipitation* (Inches)				
North Whidbey	Central Whidbey	South Whidbey	Camano Island	Island County
20.4"	15.4"	20.5"	28.7"	22.6"

*Averaged across multiple weather stations in each region

Figure 2: Island County: Temp. and Precipitation (2024-2025)

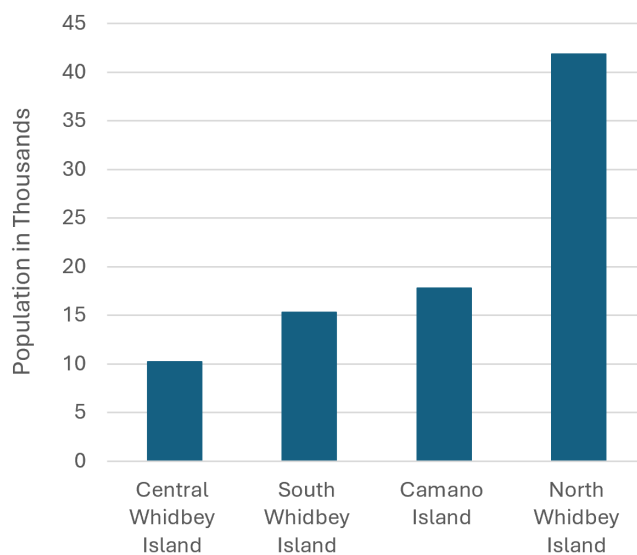


Population and Demographic

This report includes an analysis of Island County as a whole, as well as each of its Census County Divisions (CCDs): Camano Island, North Whidbey, Central Whidbey, and South Whidbey. In selected sections, comparisons are also made with Washington and the United States.

In 2025, Island County had a total population of 89,198. More than 40% of the county's population (41,835 people) resided in North Whidbey, largely due to the presence of the naval air station in that CCD.

Figure 3: Island County Population (from 2025 Esri BAO²)

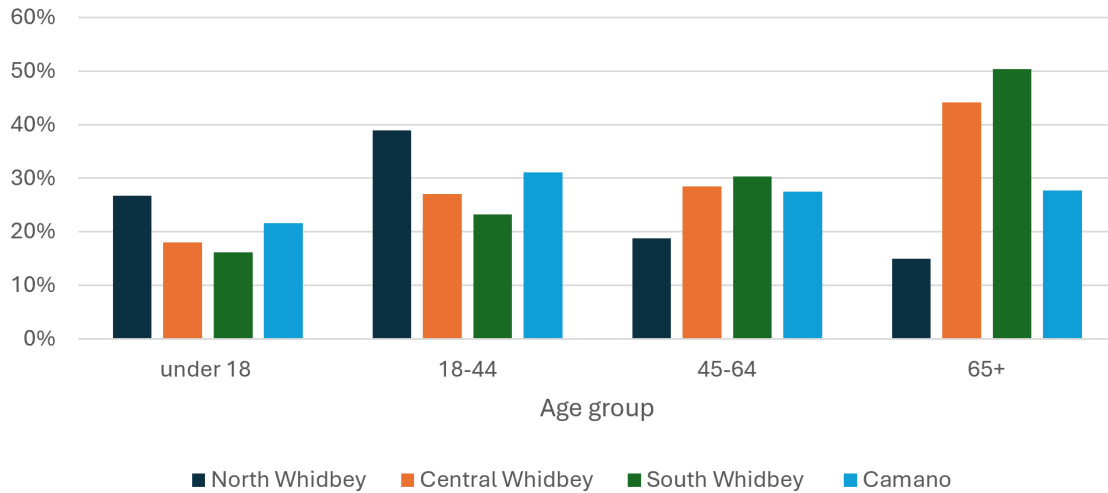


The naval air station likely contributes to North Whidbey having the youngest population in the county. In contrast, Central and South Whidbey have older populations, with 44% and 50% of residents aged 65 or older, respectively. Camano Island has the most evenly distributed population across age groups among the four CCDs.



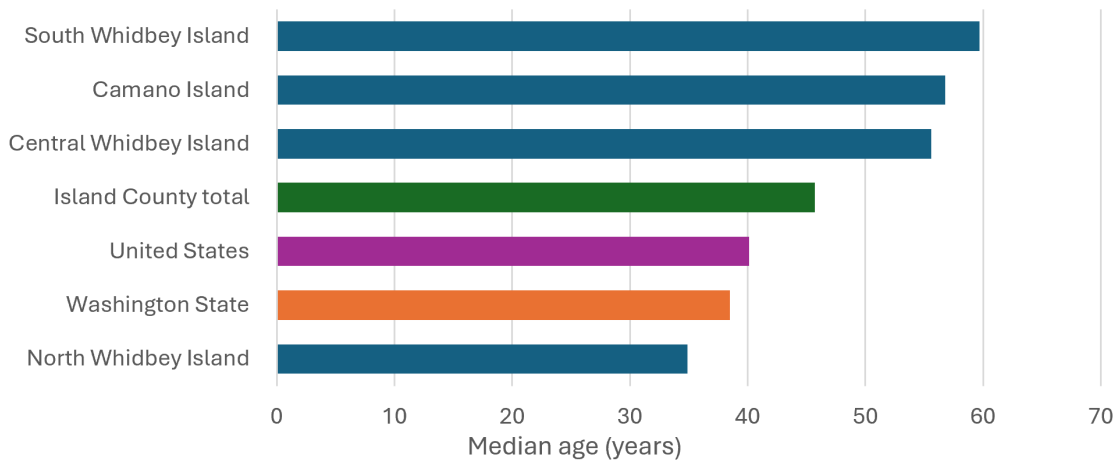
² <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

Figure 4: Island County Age Distribution (from 2025 Esri BAO³)



South Whidbey has the highest median age at 60 years, which is 14 years higher than the Island County median age of 46. North Whidbey has the lowest median age at 35, which is four years lower than the Washington State median age of 39.

Figure 5: Island County Median Age (from 2025 Esri BAO⁴)

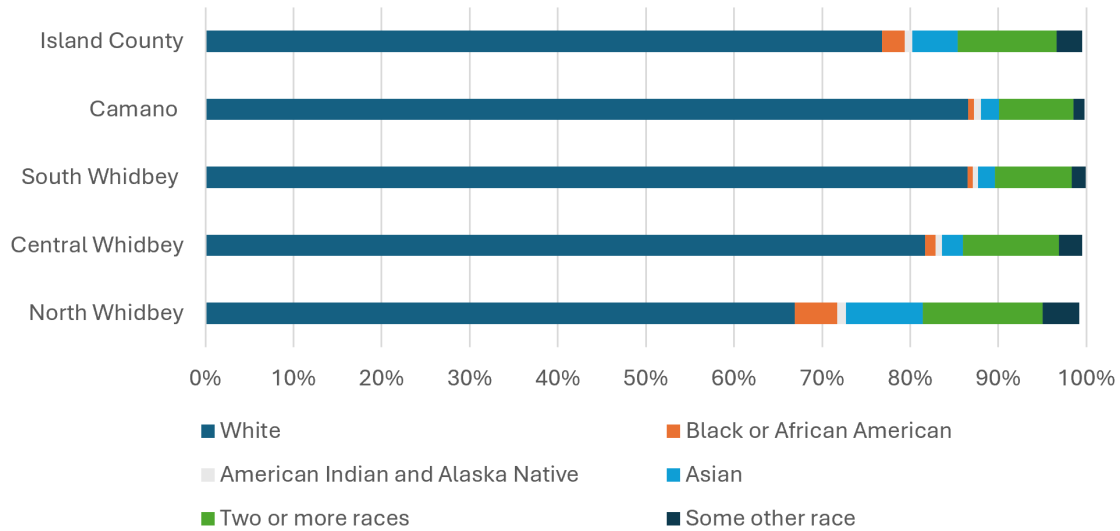


Island County is predominantly White (77%), while Hispanic or Latino (8.9%), Asian (5.2%), and Black or African American (2.6%) populations make up smaller shares of the population. North Whidbey has the largest non-White population among the four CCDs.

³ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

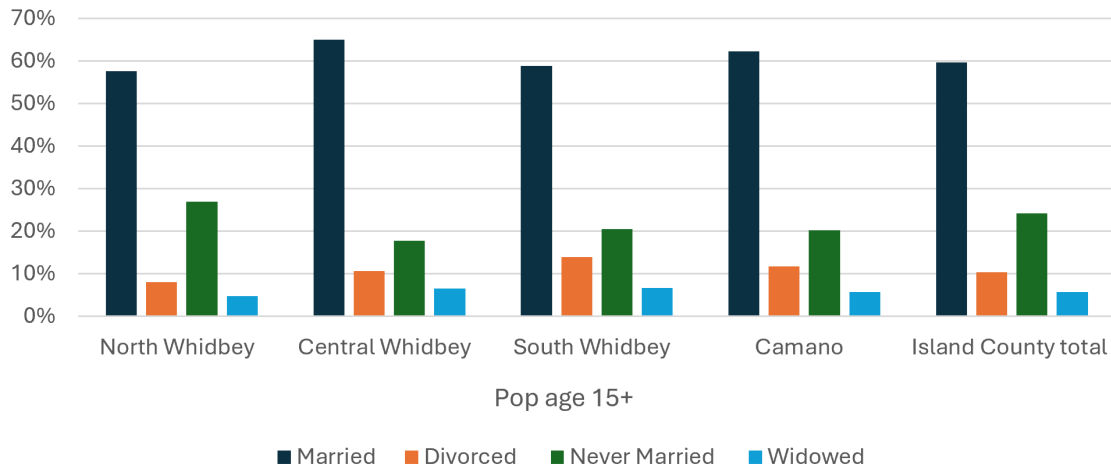
⁴ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

Figure 6: Island County Race/Ethnicity Distribution (from 2025 Esri BAO⁵)



Among residents aged 15 and older, 60% of Island County residents are married, 10% are divorced, 24% have never married, and 6% are widowed. Similar patterns are observed across all CCDs.

Figure 7: Island County Marital Status (from 2025 Esri BAO⁶)

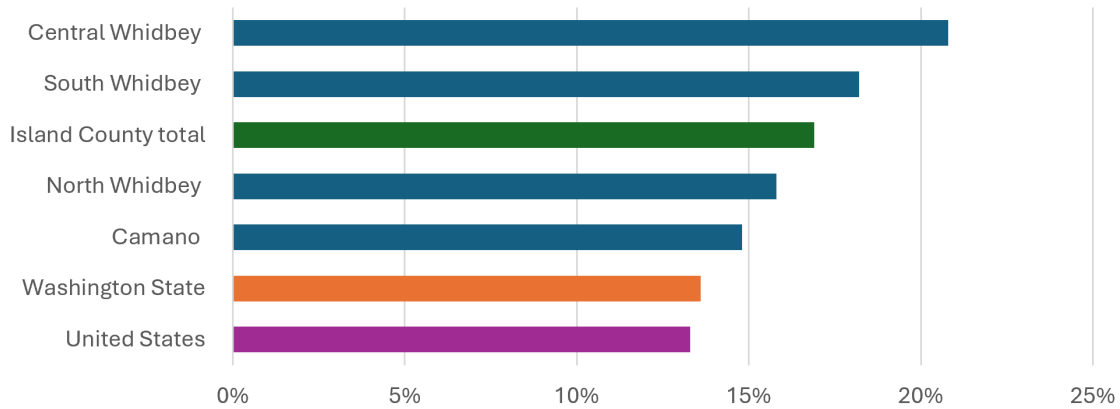


Approximately 17% of Island County residents have a disability. This is higher than both the Washington State rate (14%) and the national rate (14%). Central Whidbey has the highest share of residents with disabilities among the CCDs, at 21%.

⁵ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

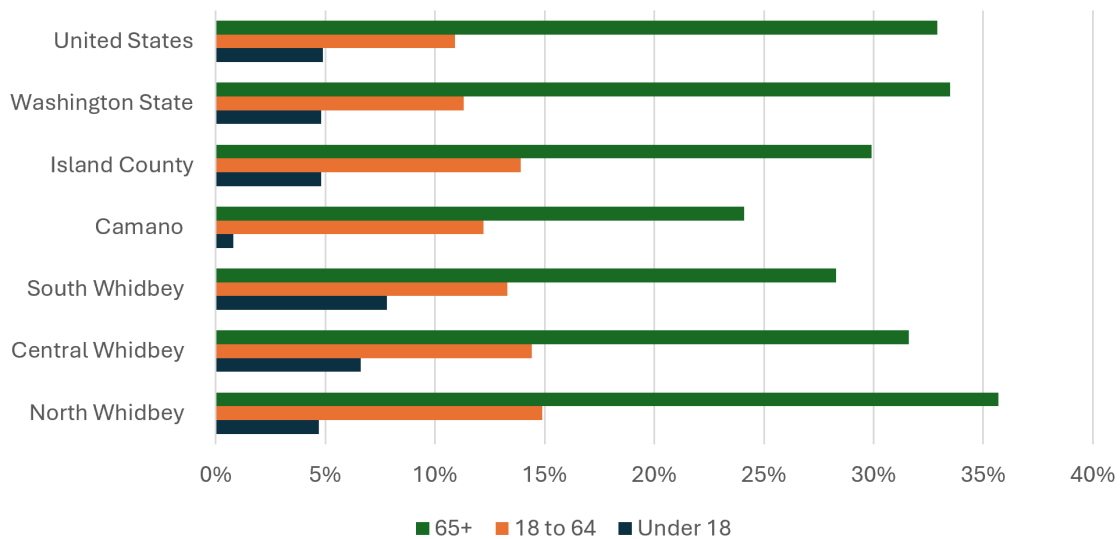
⁶ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

Figure 8: Disability Population (from 2024 Census ACS 5Y⁷)



Among individuals with disabilities, the majority are aged 65 and older.

Figure 9: Age Distribution of Disability Status (from 2024 Census ACS 5Y⁸)

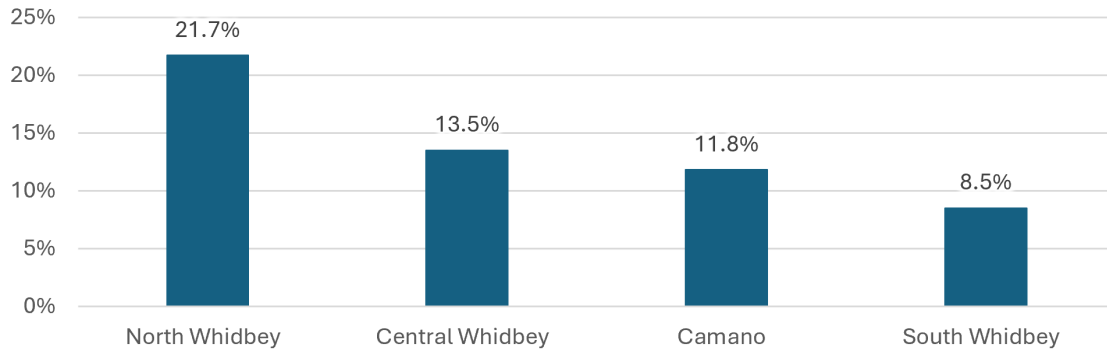


North Whidbey has the highest concentration of veterans in Island County, with veterans accounting for 21.7% of the population.

⁷ [US Census 2024 5Yr ACS](#)

⁸ [US Census 2024 5Yr ACS](#)

Figure 10: Veteran Status (from Census ACS 5Y⁹)



There are more men than women in North Whidbey and Camano Island, while women outnumber men in Central and South Whidbey.

Table 2: Sex/Gender Ratio (from Esri 2025¹⁰)

Gender	North Whidbey	Central Whidbey	South Whidbey	Camano
Male	21,570	4,969	9,245	8,818
Female	20,265	5,241	10,005	8,955
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	106.4	94.8	92.4	103.6

North Whidbey recorded 889 births in 2024, the highest number among the Island County CCDs. Central Whidbey (84 births) and Camano Island (82 births) had similar numbers of births, while South Whidbey recorded the fewest births, with 34.

Table 3: Number of Births in Island County (from 2024 Census ACS 5Y¹¹)

Birth Rate	North Whidbey	Central Whidbey	South Whidbey	Camano
Number of women 15 to 50 years old who had a birth in the past 12 months	889	84	34	82

⁹ [US Census 2024 5Yr ACS](#)

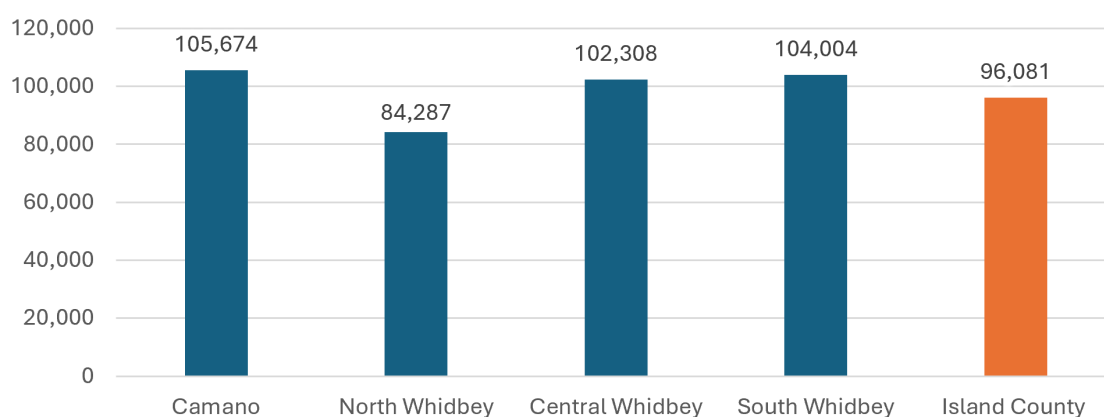
¹⁰ Esri 2025

¹¹ [DP02: Selected Social ... - Census Bureau Table](#)

Income, Education, Healthcare

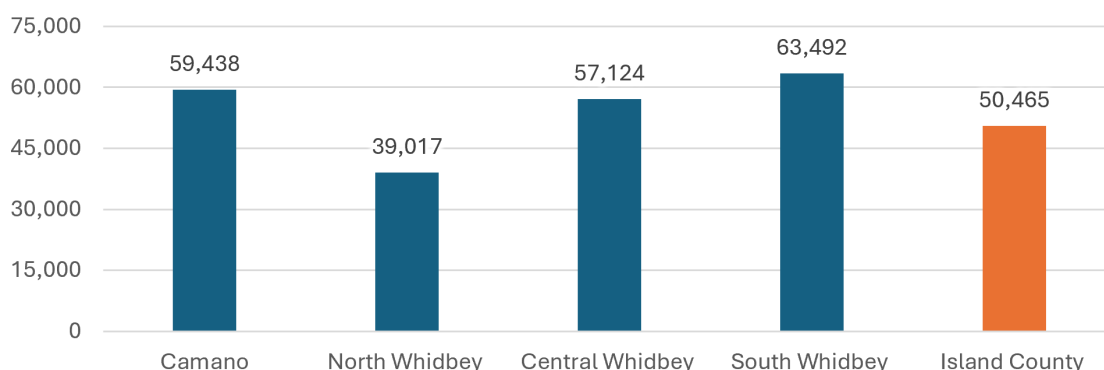
Island County has a median household income of \$96,081. Median household income represents the income level at which half of households earn more and half earn less. Among the CCDs, Camano Island has the highest median household income at \$105,674, while North Whidbey has the lowest at \$84,287. North Whidbey's median household income is approximately \$20,000 lower than that of the other CCDs.

Figure 11: Median Household Income (from 2025 Esri BAO¹²)



The per capita income in Island County is \$50,465. Per capita income refers to the average income earned per person in a specific area and is calculated by dividing total income by population. South Whidbey has the highest per capita income at \$63,492, while North Whidbey has the lowest at \$39,017, which is approximately \$11,000 below the Island County average.

Figure 12: Per Capita Income (from 2025 Esri BAO¹³)

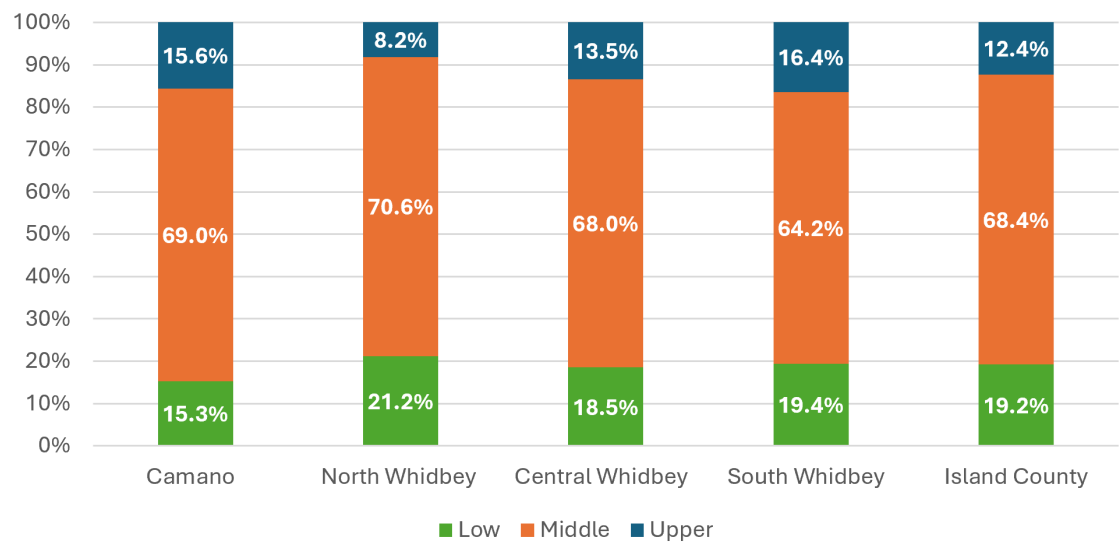


¹² <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

¹³ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

The majority of Island County residents (68%) fall within the middle-income bracket¹⁴, while 19% are in the lower-income bracket and 12% are in the upper-income bracket. This pattern is generally consistent across all four CCDs.

Figure 13: Income Distribution by Bracket (from 2025 Esri BAO¹⁵)



In 2024, Island County had a real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$3,623,667. Real GDP measures the total value of all goods and services produced in the county, adjusted for inflation to reflect actual economic growth. The county’s current-dollar GDP was \$4,664,275, which measures economic output using current-year prices.

Table 4: GDP summary (from US Bureau of Economic Analysis¹⁶)

GDP summary, 2024	Island County
Real GDP (thousands of chained 2017 dollars)	\$3,623,667
Current-dollar GDP (thousands of current dollars)	\$4,664,275

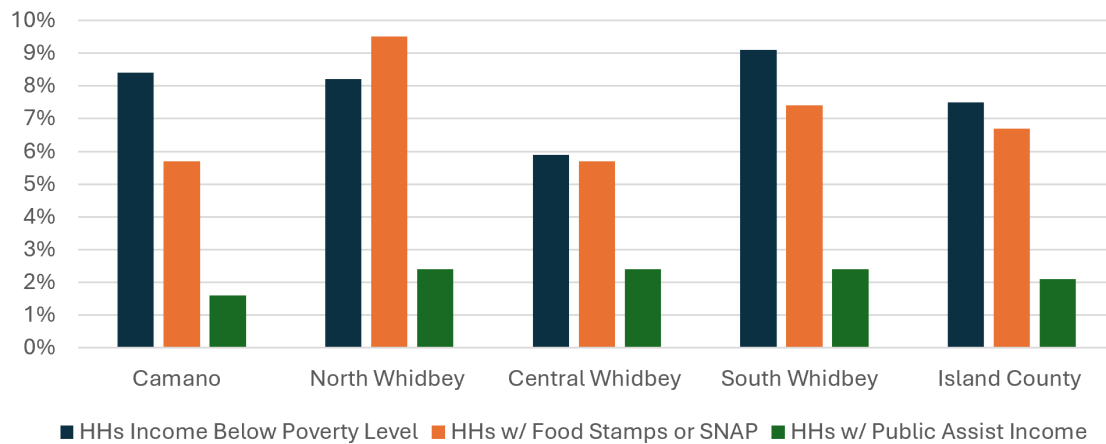
¹⁴ The middle-income bracket constitutes the middle 60 percent of earners, while the top 20 percent are considered upper class and the bottom 20 percent lower class.

¹⁵ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

¹⁶ [BEA Interactive Data Application](#)

Poverty levels in Island County are relatively low. Fewer than 8% of households fall below the poverty line, less than 7% receive food stamps/SNAP benefits, and fewer than 3% receive income assistance.

Figure 14: Household Poverty Indicators (from Esri ACS 2020-2024¹⁷)



¹⁷<https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

Educational attainment in Island County is relatively high. Fewer than 4% of residents lack a high school diploma, while 19% have a high school diploma. In addition, 23% hold a bachelor's degree and 16% have a professional degree.

Figure 15: Educational Attainment K-12 (from 2025 Esri BAO¹⁸)

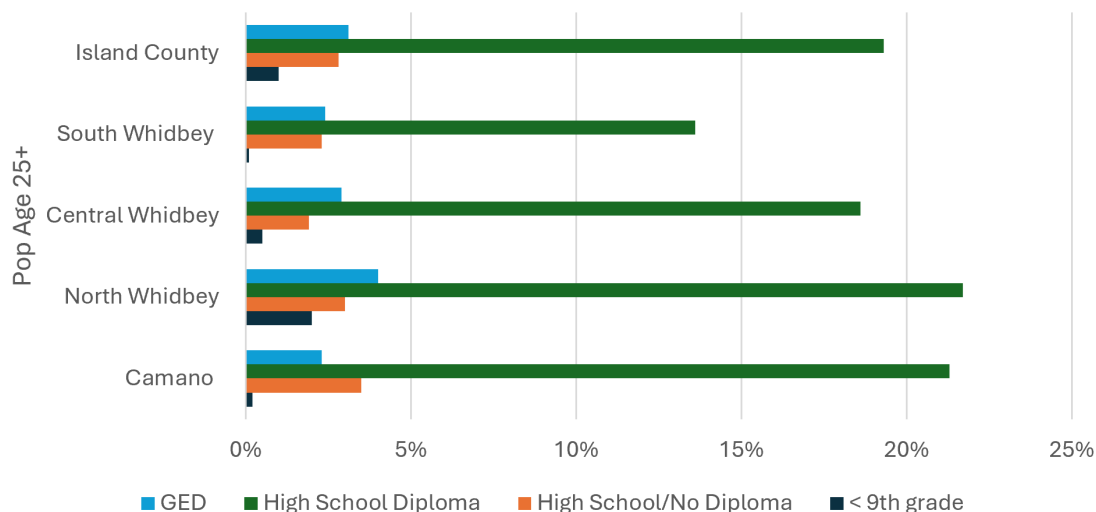
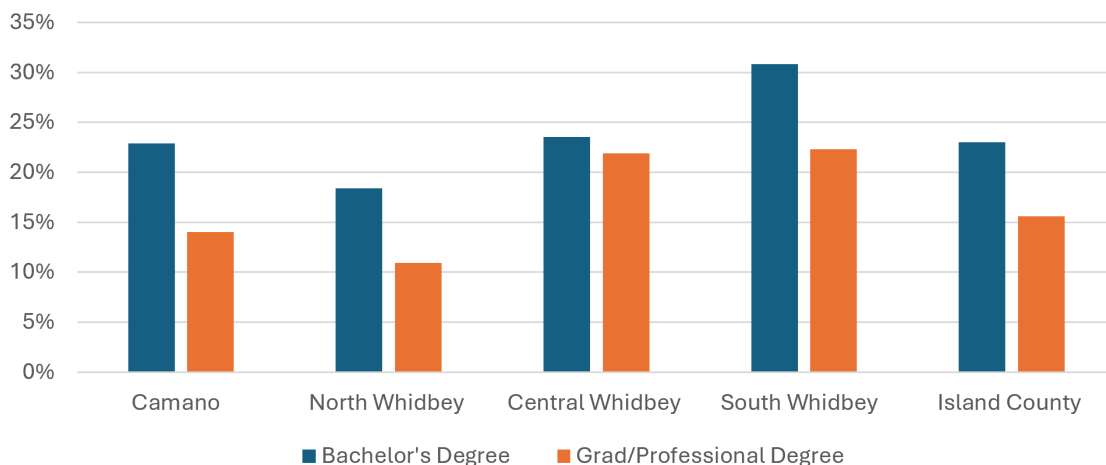


Figure 16: Island County Population with Higher Education (from 2025 Esri BAO¹⁹)

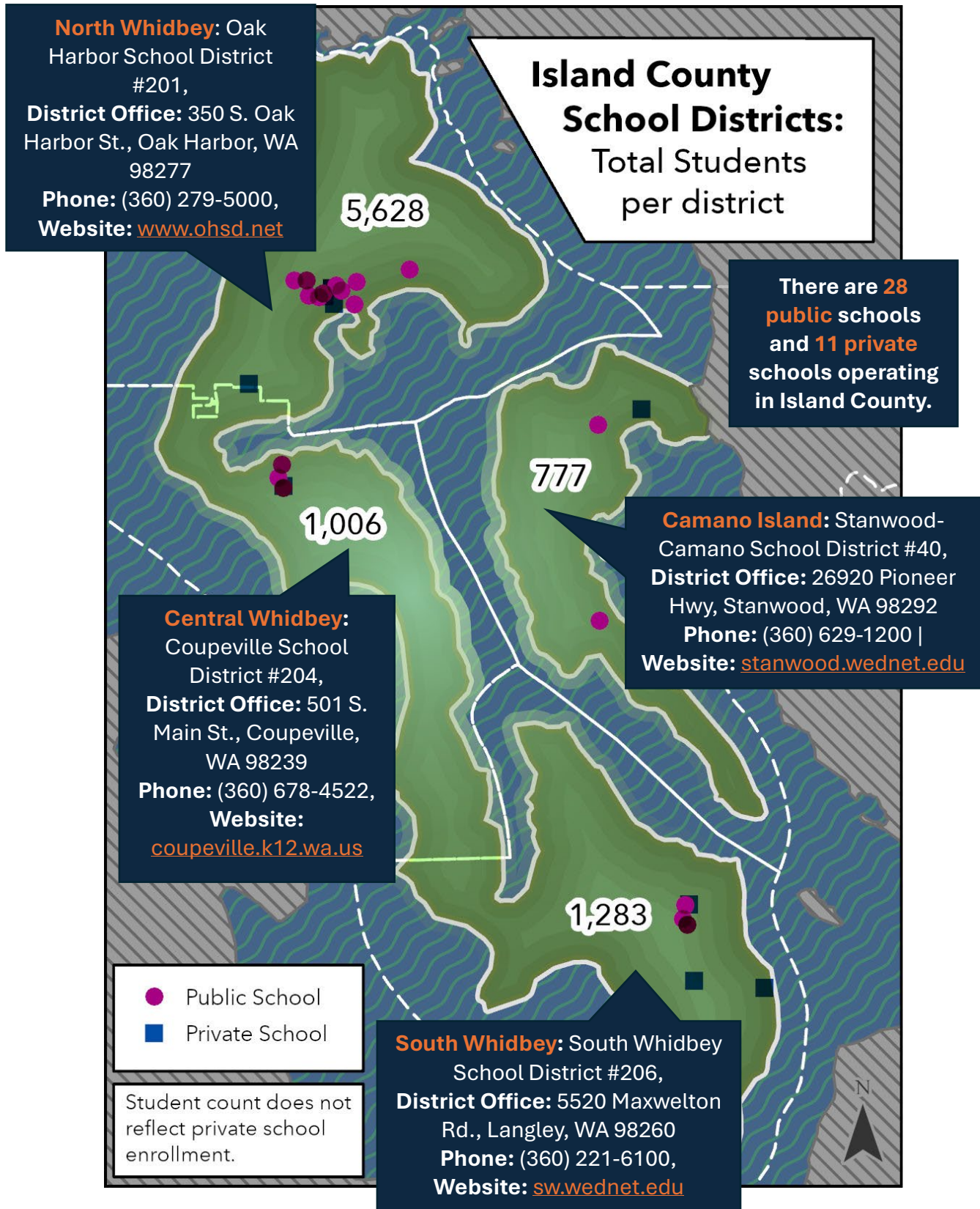


¹⁸<https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

¹⁹ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

Public School Districts:

Figure 17: Island County School Districts: Total Students per District



Private Schools:

<u>Oak Harbor Christian School (PK-8)</u> 675 E. Whidbey Ave., Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 675-2831 oakharborchristian.org	<u>North Whidbey Christian High School (7-12)</u> 675 E. Whidbey Ave., Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 675-5352	<u>Bible Baptist Church School (1-12)</u> 1701 Harns Rd., Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 679-6497 bbcoakharbor.org
<u>Der Kinderhuis Montessori (PK-K)</u> 900 SE Dock St., Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 969-0282	<u>Island Christian Academy (PK-12)</u> 5373 Maxwellton Rd., Langley, WA 98260 (360) 221-0919 islandchristianacademy.com	<u>Whidbey Christian School (1-8)</u> 31830 SR 20, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 279-1812 Seventh Day Adventist
<u>Whidbey Island Waldorf School (PK-8)</u> PO Box 469 6335 Old Pietila Rd., Clinton, WA 98236 (360) 341-5686 wiws.org	<u>Wellington Day School (PK-8)</u> 6451 S. Harding Ave., Clinton, WA 98236 (360) 341-1252	<u>Camano Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten (PK-K)</u> 850 Heichel Rd., Camano Island, WA (360) 629-2253
<u>The Ebey School (Early Learning)</u> 140 SW Terry Rd., Coupeville, WA (360) 678-1859	<u>Salish Sea Academy (PK-5)</u> 5719 Pioneer Park Place, Langley, WA www.salishseaacademy.com	

Postsecondary/Adult Education Providers:

School	Address	Phone	Programs	Website/Notes
Skagit Valley College	1900 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor, WA 98277	(360) 675-6656	Bachelor's Degrees	www.skagit.edu
Washington State University Extension	406 N Main Street, Coupeville, WA 98239	(360) 639-6060	County Programs and WSU Everett Classes	https://extension.wsu.edu/island/

Healthcare Providers:

Figure 18: Hospitals and Medical Services of Island County

The Primary Hospital on Whidbey Island is the WhidbeyHealth Medical Center. WhidbeyHealth has urgent care centers servicing North, Central, and South Whidbey. The locations of these WhidbeyHealth Walk-In Care centers are in Oak Harbor, Coupeville, and Clinton respectively. WhidbeyHealth also has Primary Care centers in Oak Harbor, Coupeville, and Freeland.



Island Hospital in Anacortes is another hospital available to Whidbey Island Residents. There are three paramedic Ambulances which serve the Island. Additionally, Military Personnel have access to the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island's Naval Health Clinic.

Camano Island does not have a primary hospital. The nearest hospitals are the Skagit Valley Hospital in Mt. Vernon, the Arlington Hospital in Snohomish County, and the Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett. Camano Island has two primary and family care centers in the Skagit Regional Clinic and the Camano Community Health Clinic.

WhidbeyHealth Medical Center

101 N Main St, Coupeville,
WA 98239
(360) 678-5151
<https://whidbeyhealth.org/>

Naval Health Clinic

3475 N Saratoga St, Oak
Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 257-9500
<https://oakharbor.tricare.mil/>

Employment and Labor

Island County had a total labor force of 35,428 in 2025. Approximately 77% of the labor force, or 27,395 workers, was located on Whidbey Island. Among the Whidbey Island regions, North Whidbey had the largest labor force, which is likely attributable to the presence of the naval air station and the larger urban area of Oak Harbor.²⁰

Figure 19: Total Labor Force (from 2025 Esri BAO)

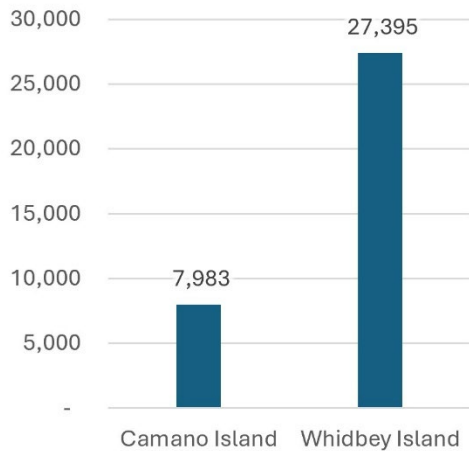
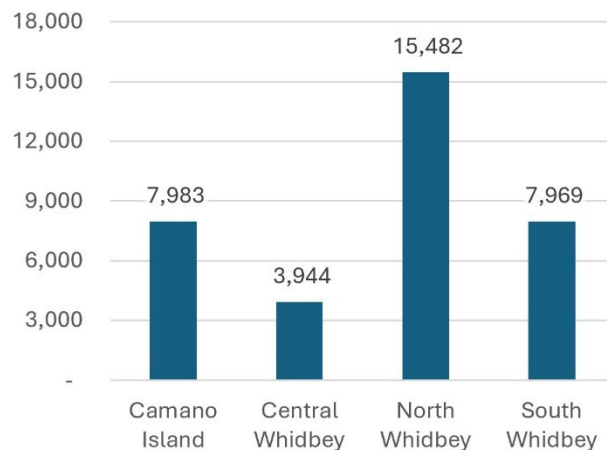


Figure 20: Total Labor Force Whidbey Subdivisions (from 2025 Esri BAO)



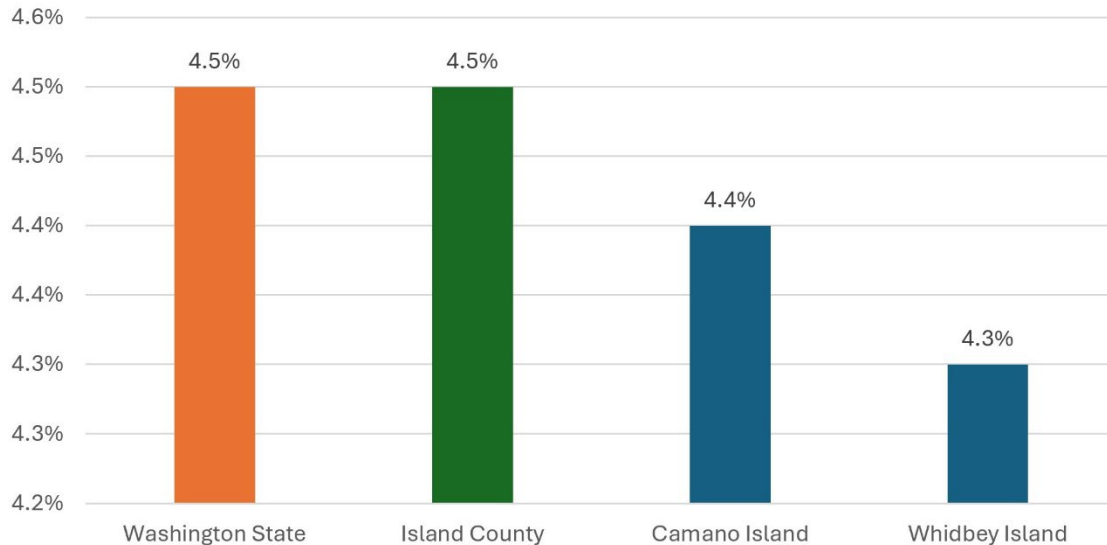
Historically, the total labor force in Island County has remained relatively stable, with less than a 1% change since 2023.



²⁰ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

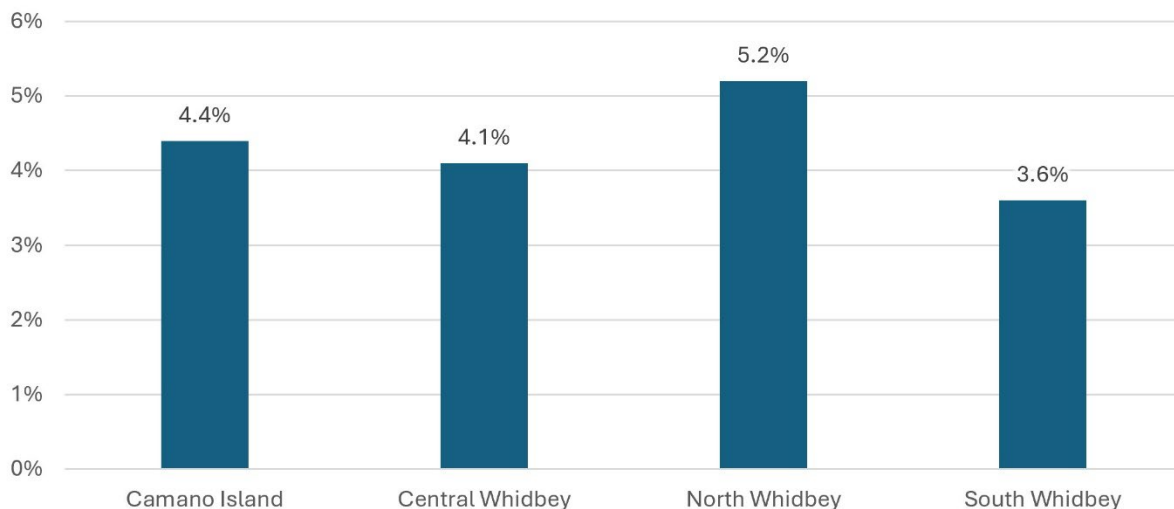
Unemployment in Island County is consistent with the Washington unemployment rate of 4.5%. Camano Island and Whidbey Island also have similar unemployment rates, at 4.4% and 4.3%, respectively.²¹

Figure 19: Unemployment Rate (from 2025 Esri BAO)²²



Within Whidbey Island, North Whidbey has the highest unemployment rate among the three regions. This may be attributed to its larger population, more urbanized economy, and the presence of military-connected households, including trailing spouses associated with the naval base.

Figure 20: Unemployment Rate Whidbey Subdivisions (from 2025 Esri BAO)²³

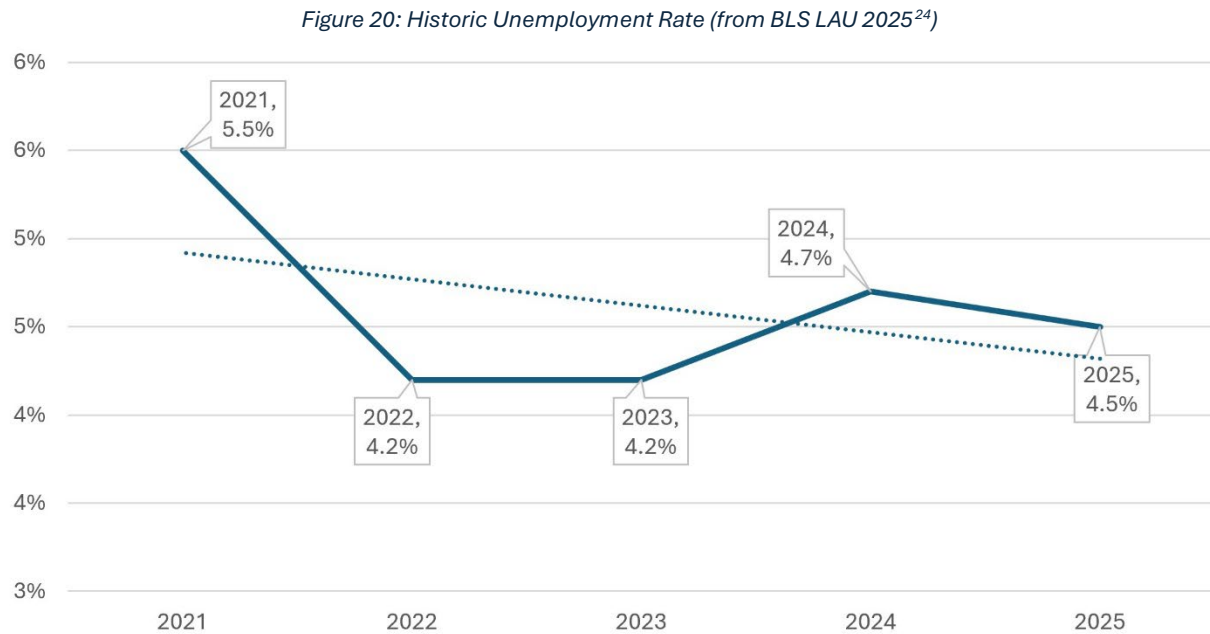


²¹ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/>

²² <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

²³ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

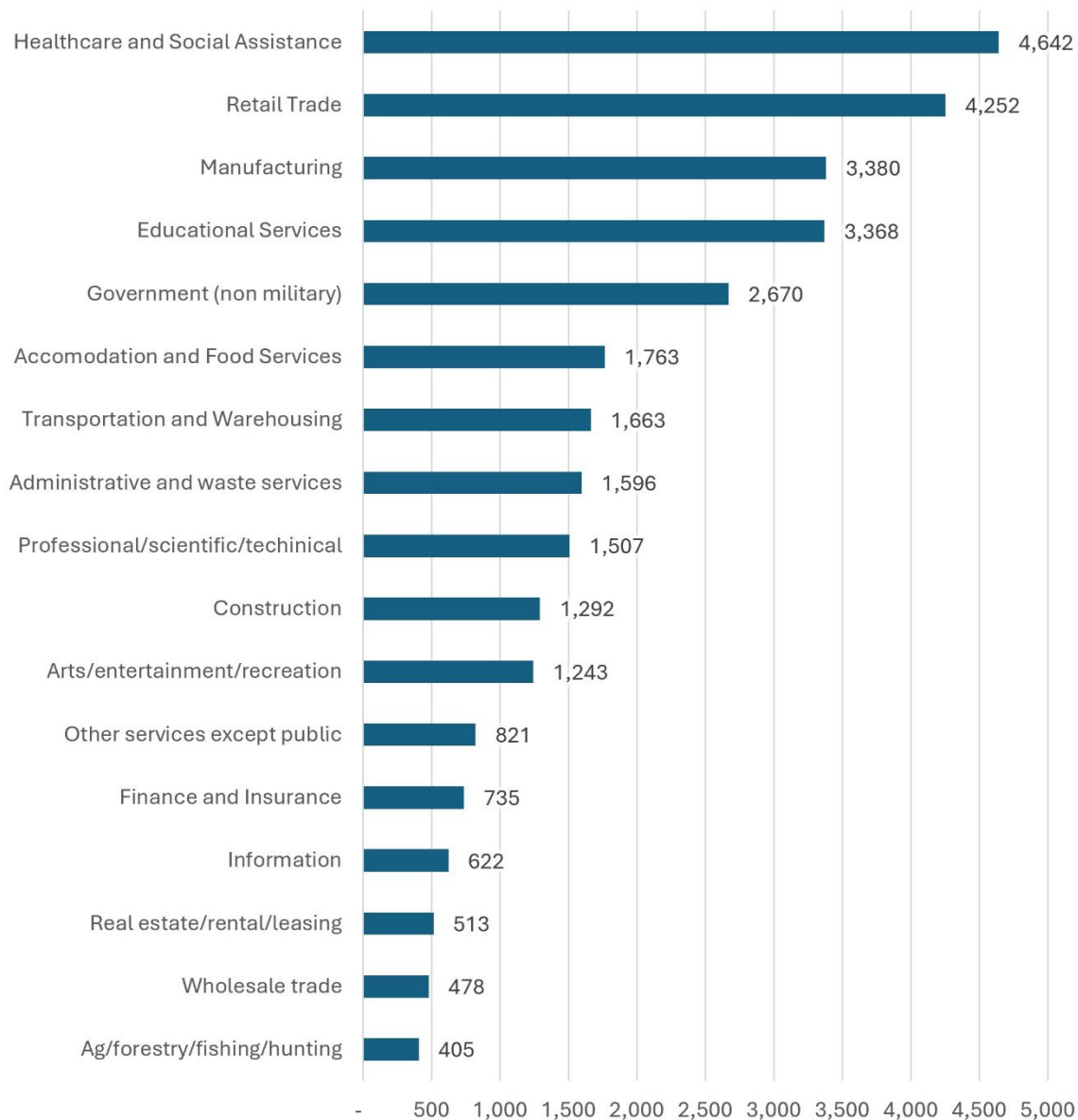
Unemployment rates in Island County have remained stable over the past four years. Although unemployment increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, rates have since declined to levels below those observed before the pandemic and have stabilized at approximately 4.5%.



²⁴ <https://www.bls.gov/lau/tables.htm#cntyaa>

When examining employment by industry, Healthcare and Social Assistance is the largest employment sector in Island County. This category includes family service workers, community food and housing workers, and child daycare services. Retail Trade and Manufacturing are the next largest industries in the county.

Figure 21: Employment by Industry (from 2025 Esri BAO²⁵)

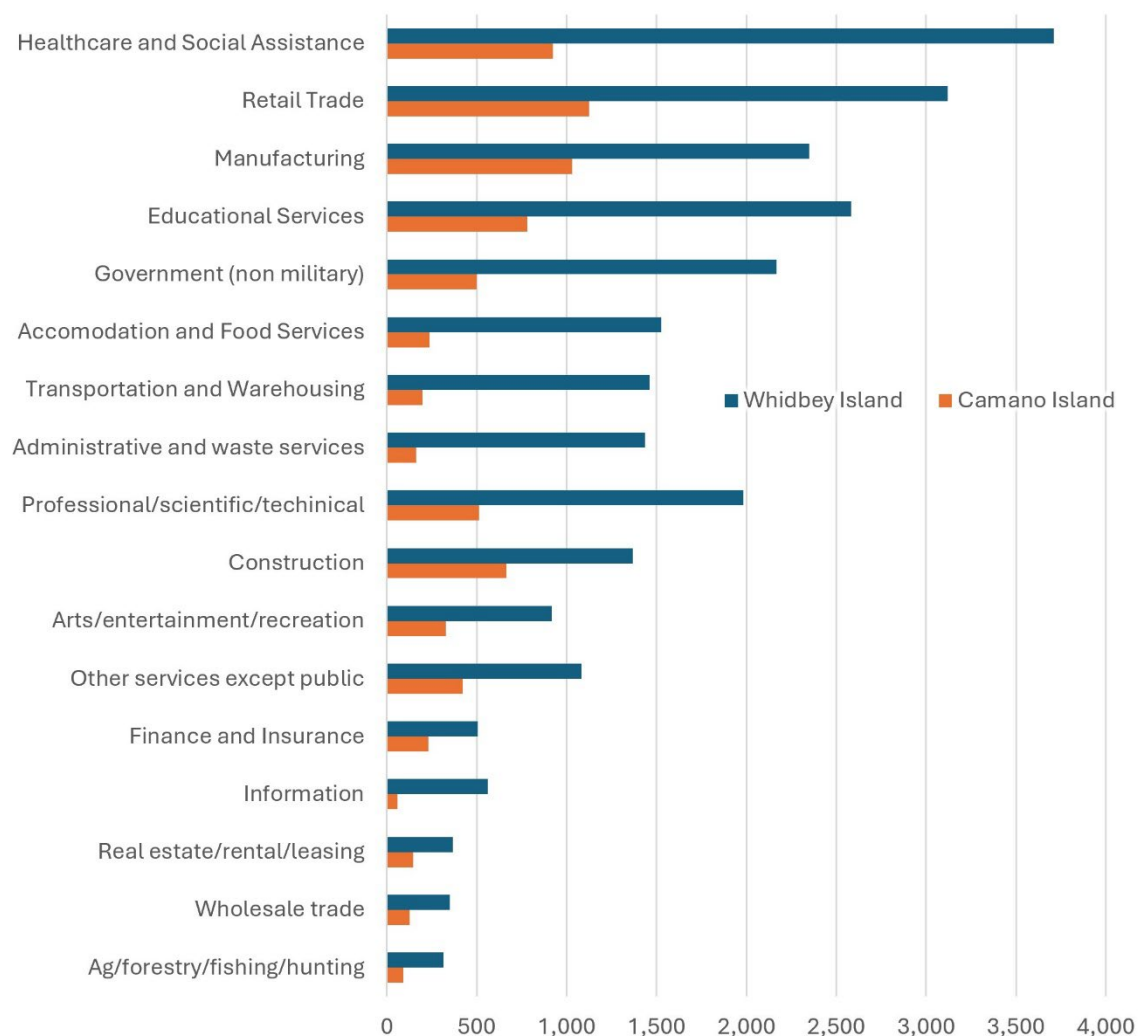


²⁵ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

Similar industry patterns are observed across Whidbey Island, although Professional Services are more concentrated there. On Camano Island, Retail Trade is the largest industry, followed closely by Healthcare and Social Assistance and Manufacturing. These industry classifications are based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

*These figures exclude military employment from the Government sector. Military employment may exceed or closely match the employment levels of the county's largest industries but is not made available for analysis due to national security protocols.

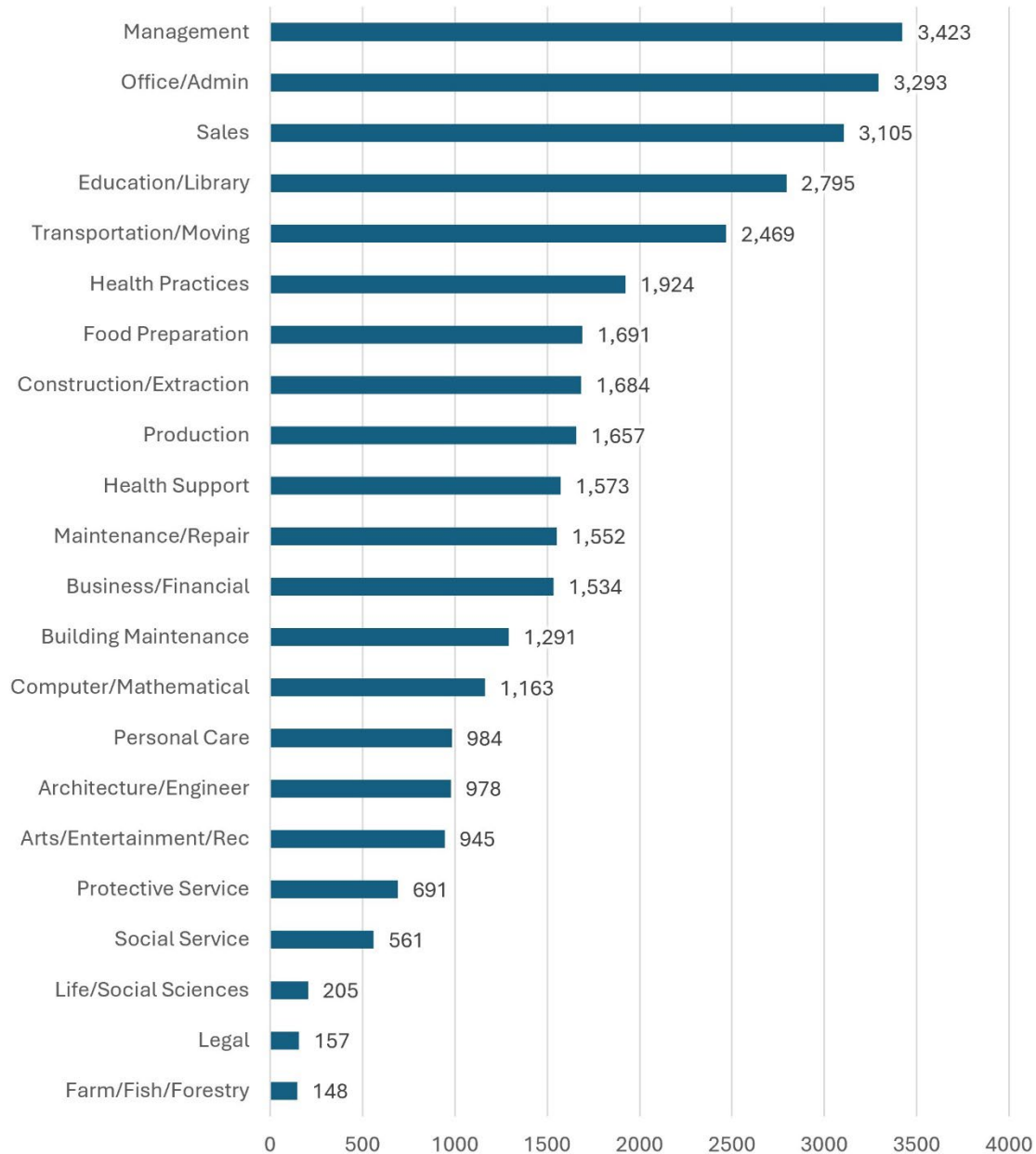
Figure 22: Employment by Industry Camano/Whidbey (from 2025 Esri BAO²⁶)*



²⁶ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

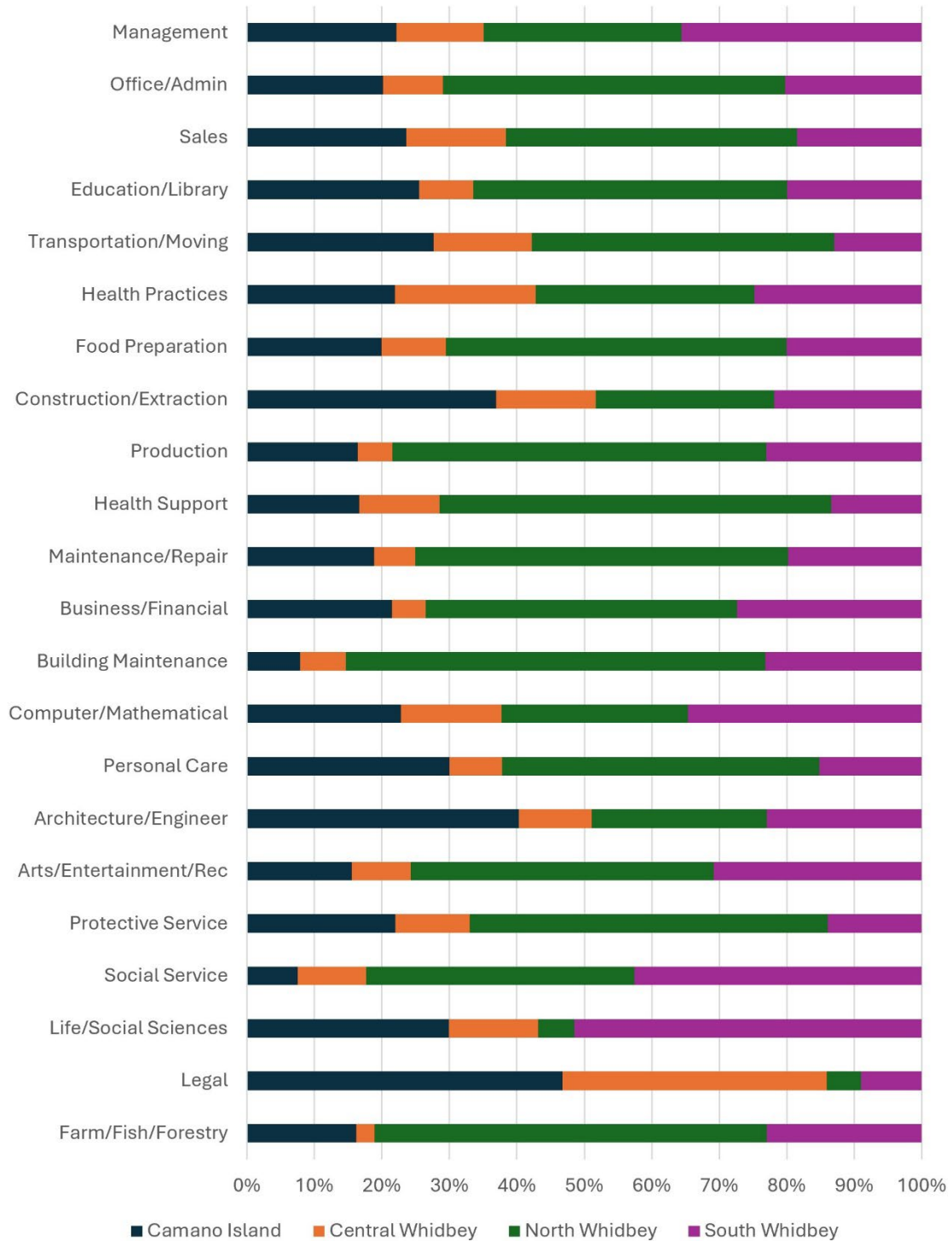
By occupation, most Island County residents work in Management, Office and Administrative Support, or Sales occupations. These are the three largest occupational categories in the county. Both Whidbey Island and Camano Island follow similar occupational patterns; however, Camano Island has a relatively larger share of workers employed in Construction and Extraction occupations.

Figure 23: Employment by Occupation (from 2025 Esri BAO²⁷)*



²⁷ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

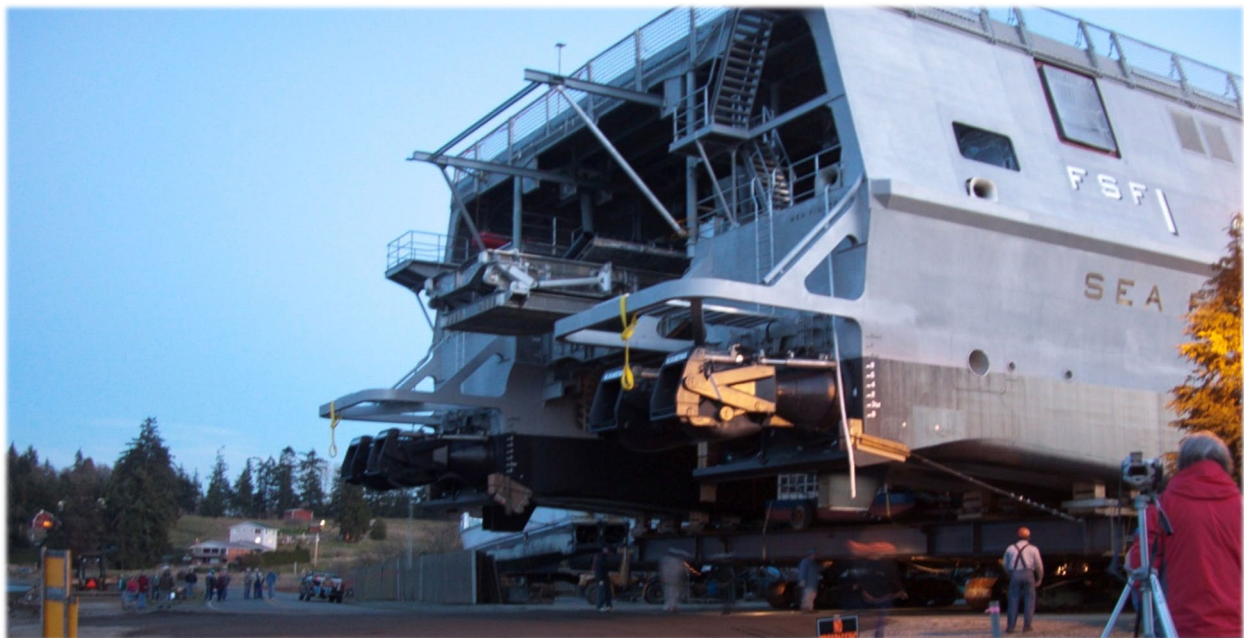
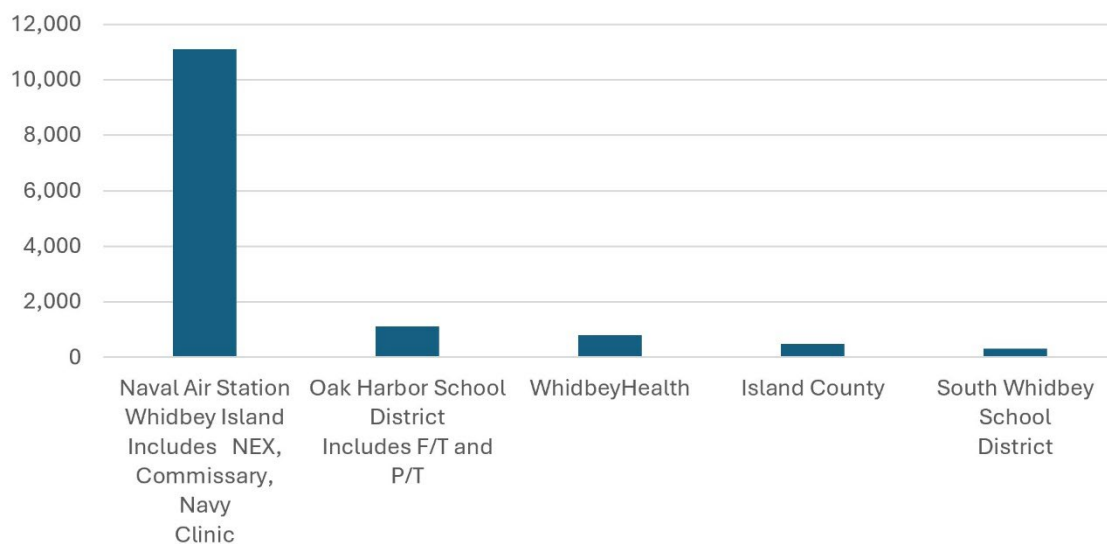
Figure 24: Employment by Occupation Whidbey Subdivisions (from 2025 Esri BAO²⁸)*



²⁸ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

The largest employer in Island County is the naval air station on Whidbey Island, which employs approximately 11,100 workers. Of these employees, about 9,000 are active-duty military personnel, while the remaining 2,100 are civilian employees or contract workers. The second-largest employer is the Oak Harbor School District, with 1,113 employees. Historically, federal and local government employment represented a larger share of the county's workforce, making it notable that government employment is no longer among the county's top five employment sectors.

Figure 25: Major Employers (from EDC Island County 2026²⁹)



²⁹ Dun & Bradstreet, www.dnb.com

The average commute time for Island County residents is 26.9 minutes. Most residents commute between one and two hours daily; however, a significant portion of the population experiences commutes exceeding three hours. These longer commute times are influenced by the geography of Island County. Similar commuting patterns are observed on both Whidbey and Camano Islands. With the increase in working remotely and reporting methods for payroll, it is likely that these long commutes are mostly reporting data and not experienced daily commutes.

Figure 26: Hours Spent Commuting Whidbey/Camano (from 2025 Esri BAO³⁰)

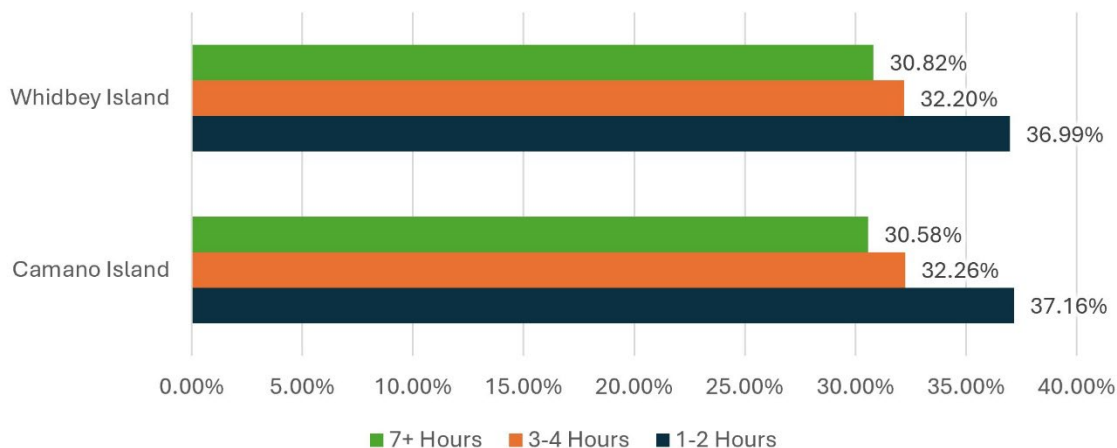
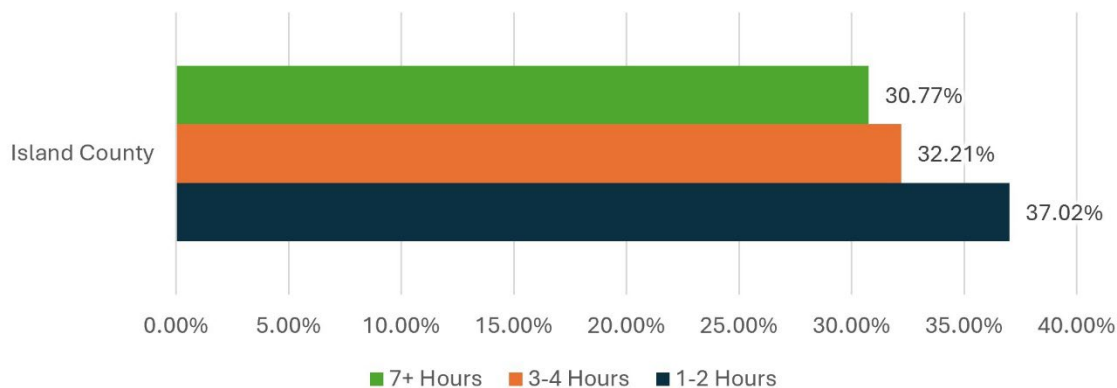


Figure 27: Hours Spent Commuting (from 2025 Esri BAO³¹)



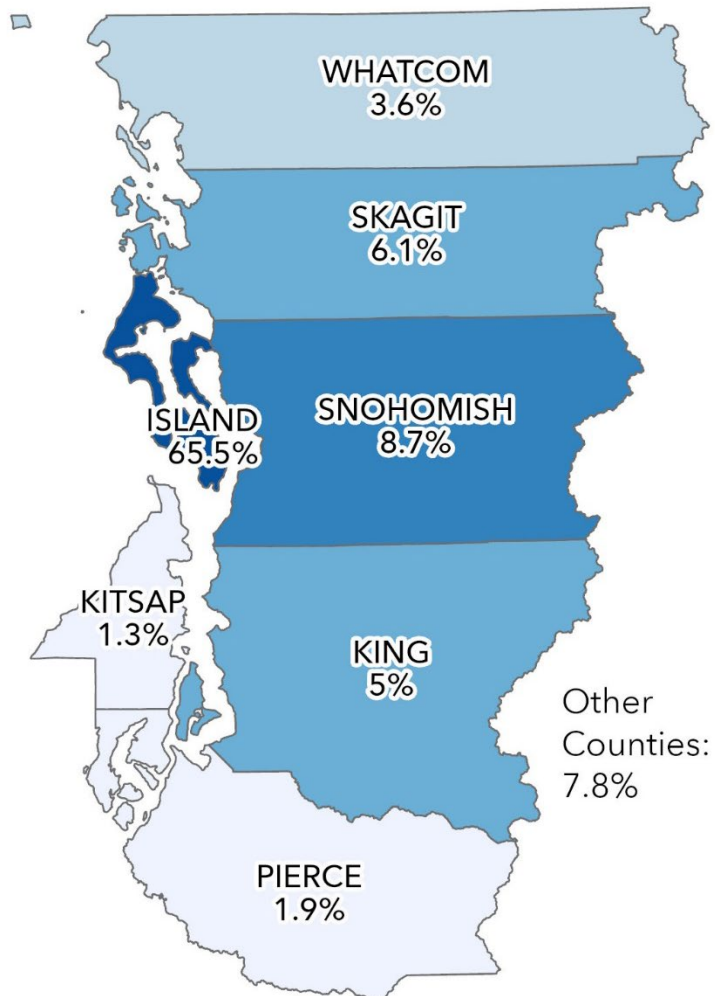
³⁰ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

³¹ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

Figure 28: Island County Commuter Destinations (Source: 2023 Census OnTheMap³²)

Many of the Island County residents commute outside of the county for work. 5,529 residents commute outside of Island County for work. However, 65% of workers stay in Island County for employment. Snohomish County and Skagit County are the next top counties Island County residents are employed in.

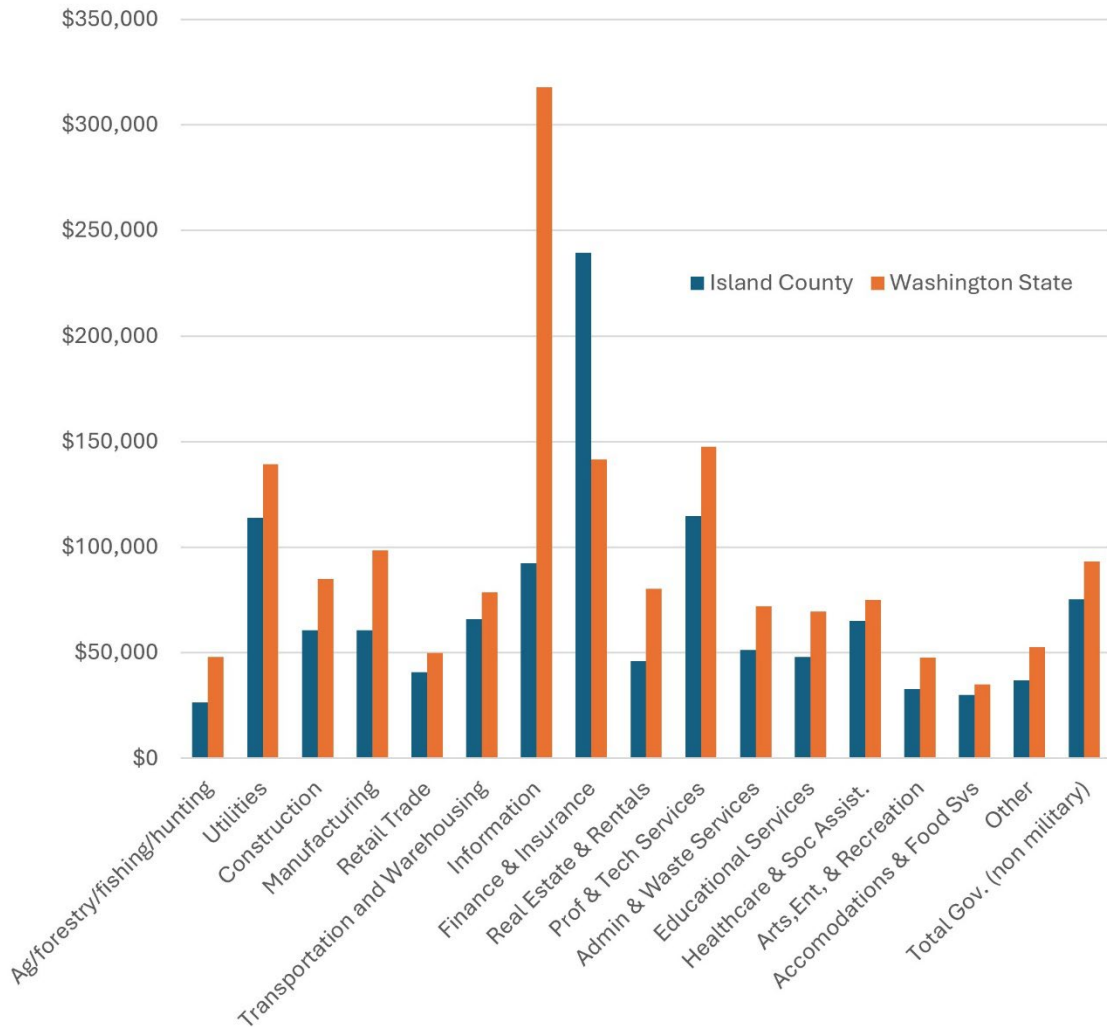
Residents on Camano Island tend to travel outside of Island County for work more frequently. 37.5% of residents work in Island County and the rest travel elsewhere. Snohomish County and King County receive the largest amounts of Camano Island workers.



³² <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

On average, Island County residents earn slightly lower annual salaries than workers across Washington State. While overall salary patterns are similar, there are some industry-specific differences. Island County has relatively higher earnings in Finance and Insurance, whereas Washington State has higher earnings in the Information sector.

Figure 29: Average Annual Salary by Industry (from 2025 Jobs EQ³³)

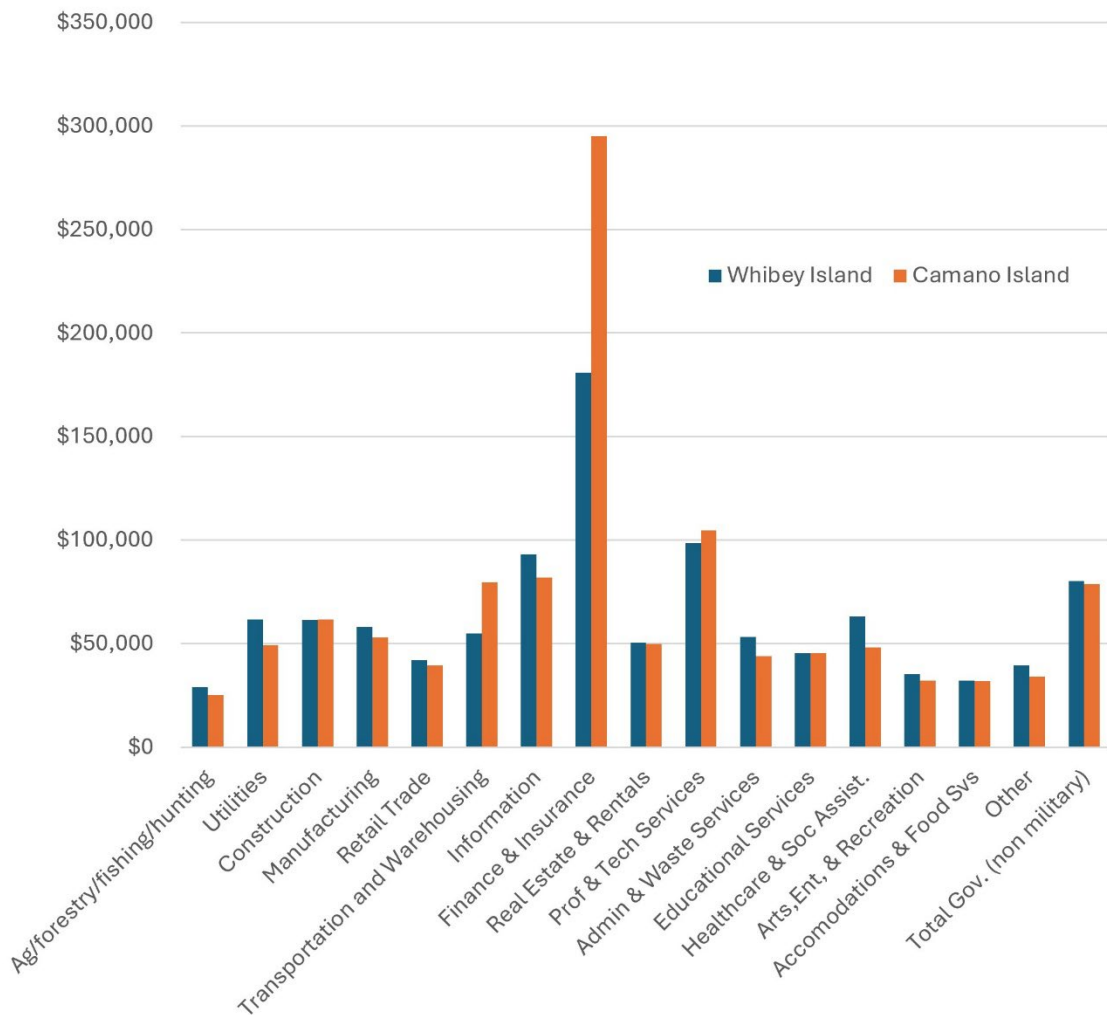


³³ [Jobs EQ Labor and Wage Trends](#)

Comparisons between Whidbey Island and Camano Island show generally similar average salaries across industries, except in Finance and Insurance, where Camano Island reports substantially higher earnings.

It is important to note that data for Utilities and Total Government employment (excluding military) were unavailable for the Greenbank area (ZIP code 98253).

Figure 30: Average Annual Salary by Industry Whidbey/Camano (from 2025 Jobs EQ³⁴)



³⁴ [Jobs EQ Labor and Wage Trends](#)

Housing

In 2025, Island County had a total of 43,217 housing units. Housing growth has remained relatively stable, with an increase of 1,068 units since 2022. This trend is evident on both Camano Island and Whidbey Island, although Whidbey Island accounted for the majority of the newly added units.

Figure 31: Total Housing Units Camano Island (from 2025 Esri BAO³⁵)

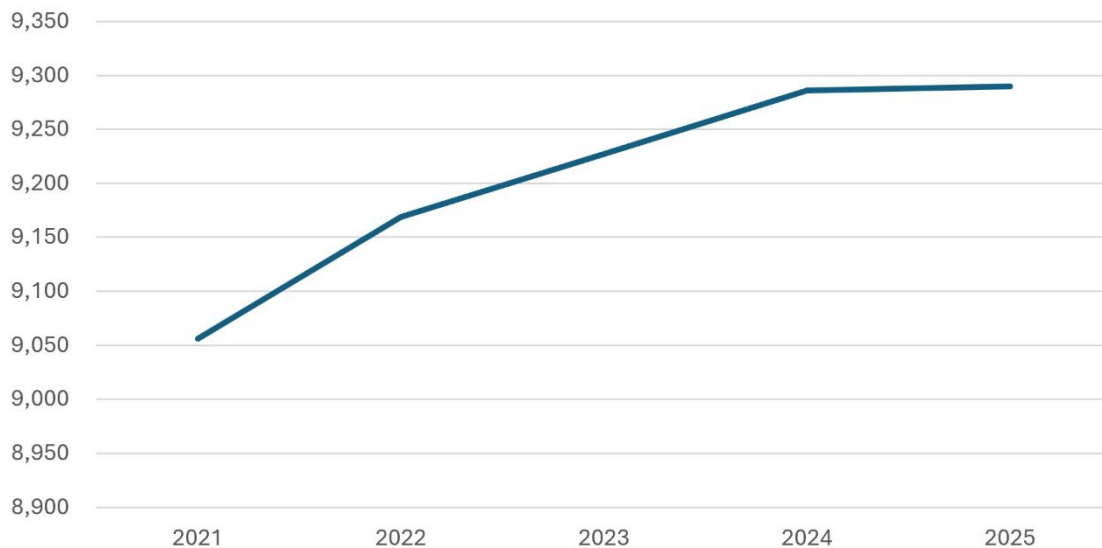
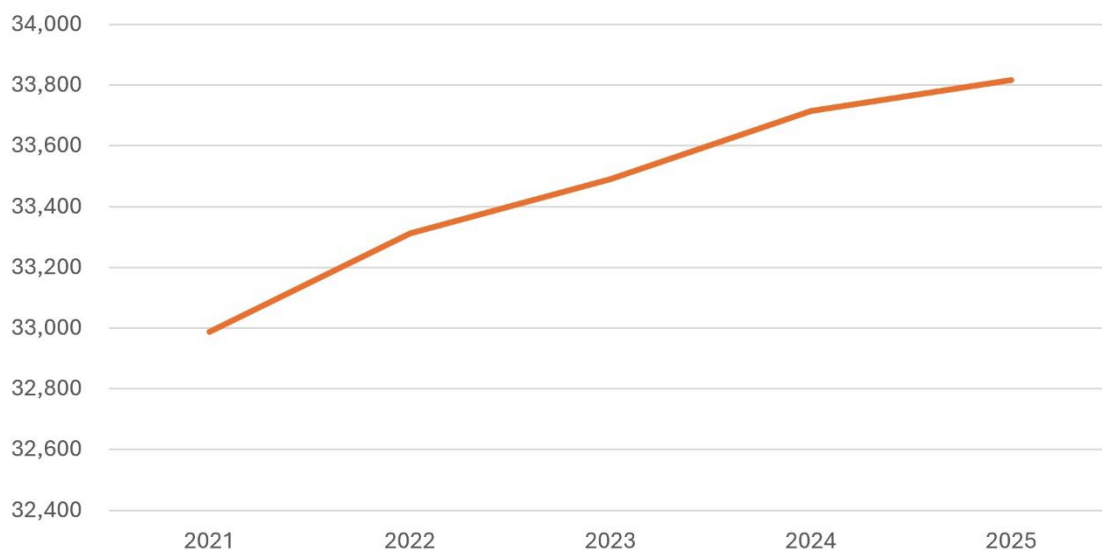


Figure 32: Total Housing Units Whidbey Island (from 2025 Esri BAO³⁶)

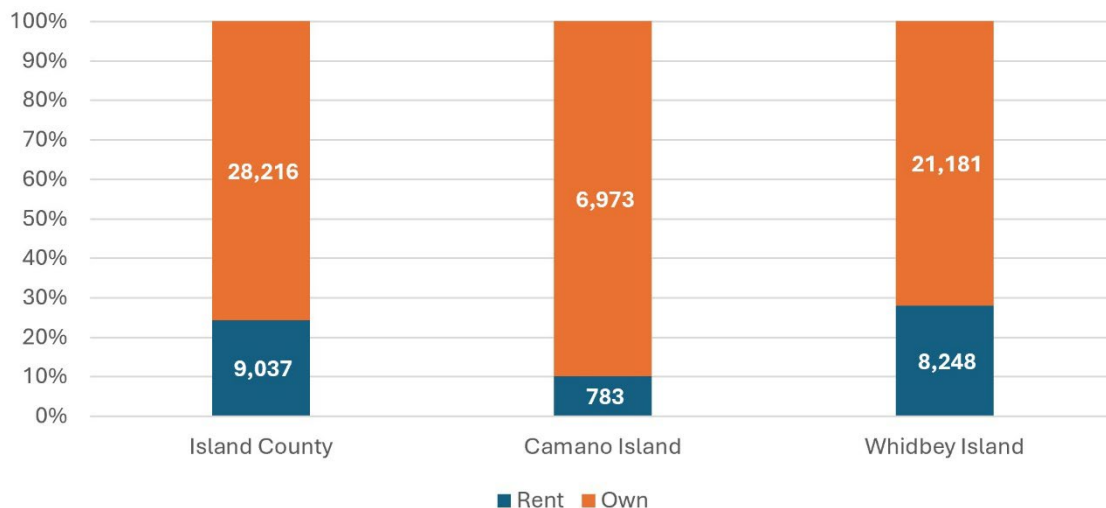


³⁵ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

³⁶ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

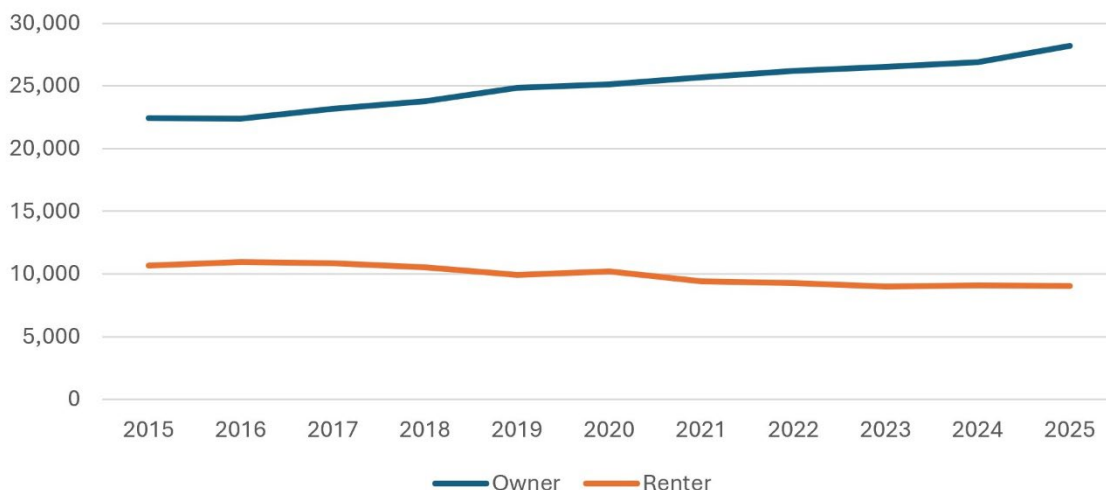
Most Island County residents are homeowners. Overall, only 24% of residents rent their homes. The majority of renters are located on Whidbey Island, where 28% of residents are renters. Camano Island has the highest rate of homeownership, with only 10% of residents renting.

Figure 33: Population by Rent or Own (from 2025 Esri BAO³⁷)



Historically, the number of homeowners increased by approximately 20% between 2014 and 2024, while the number of renters declined by about 12% during the same period.

Figure 34: Historic Rent vs Own Population (from Census ACS³⁸)



³⁷ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

³⁸ [Census ACS](#)

In 2025, Island County had 37,253 occupied housing units and 5,964 vacant housing units. When comparing Camano and Whidbey Islands, Camano had a higher proportion of vacant homes (1,534 vacant compared to 7,756 occupied units), although the total number of vacant units was smaller than on Whidbey Island.

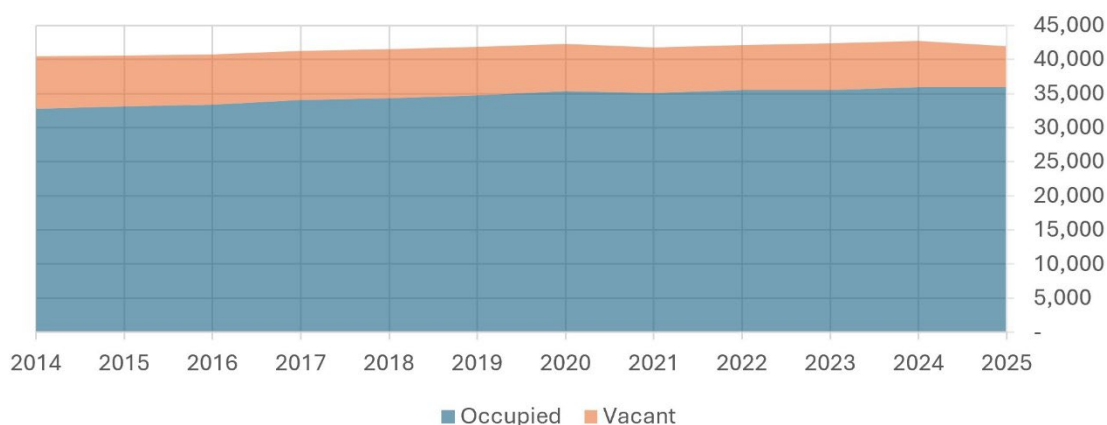
Figure 35: Occupancy Status (from 2025 Esri BAO³⁹)



According to 2025 Census estimates, the average household size in Island County was 2.35 persons. Based on this estimate, Island County had approximately 1.14 housing units per household. The ratio was higher on Camano Island (1.23 housing units per household) and slightly lower on Whidbey Island (1.18 housing units per household).

Historically, both occupied and vacant housing units have steadily increased since 2014, with no major changes in their overall proportions.

Figure 36: Historic Occupancy Status (from Census ACS⁴⁰)

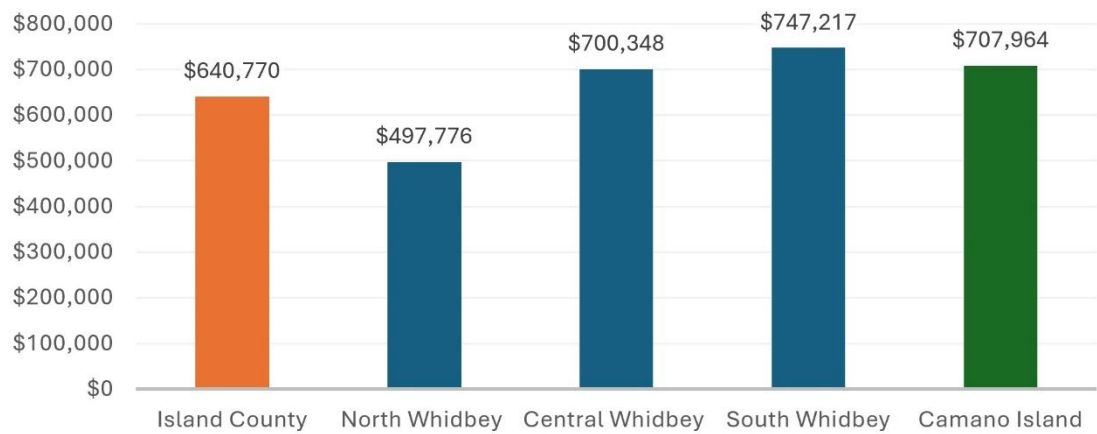


³⁹ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

⁴⁰ [Census Total Housing Tables – Island County](#)

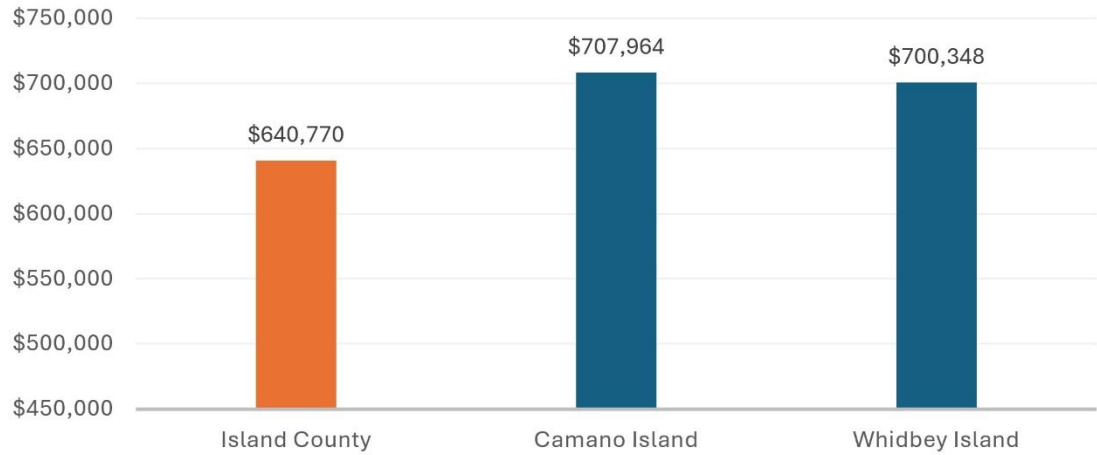
The median home value in Island County is approximately \$640,770. North Whidbey has the lowest median home value at \$497,776, while South Whidbey has the highest at \$747,217.

Figure 37: Median Housing Value Whidbey Subdivisions (from 2025 Esri BAO⁴¹)



When comparing Whidbey Island and Camano Island overall, median home values are relatively similar, and both remain significantly higher than the county median.

Figure 38: Median Housing Value Whidbey/Camano (from 2025 Esri BAO⁴²)

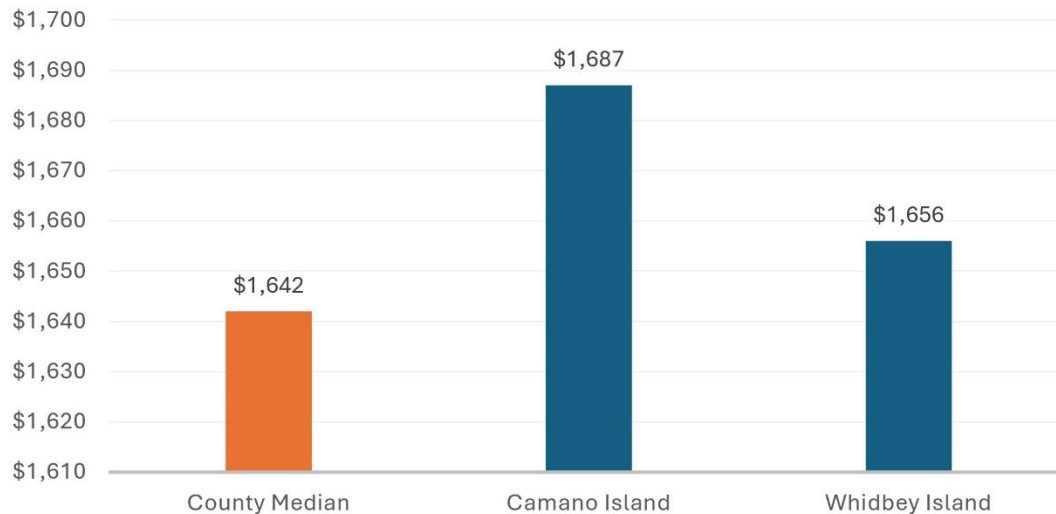


⁴¹ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

⁴² <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

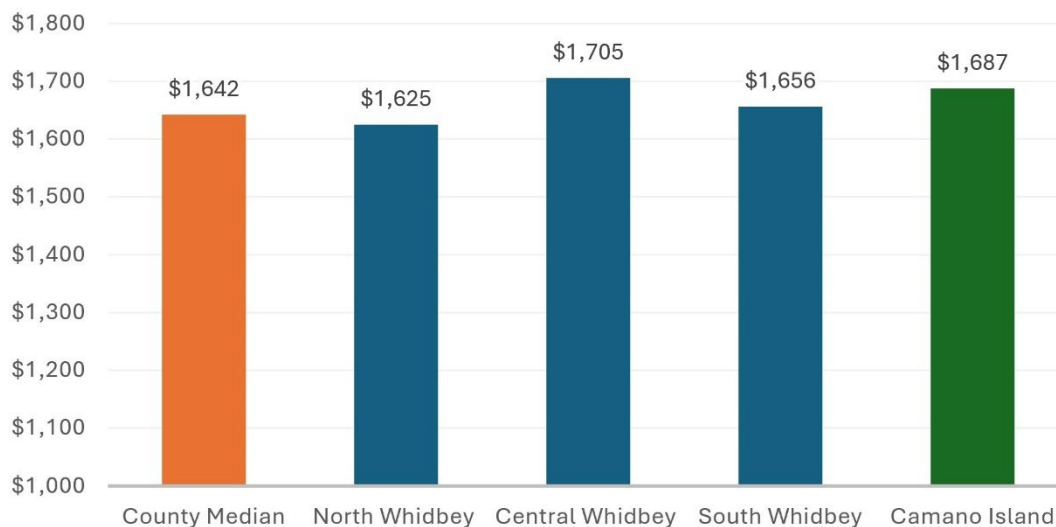
The median monthly rent in Island County is \$1,642. Median rents on both Camano and Whidbey Islands are slightly higher but generally fall within a similar range.

Figure 39: Median Rent Whidbey/Camano (from 2025 Esri BAO⁴³)



Among the Whidbey regions, Central Whidbey has the highest median rent at \$1,705, while North Whidbey has the lowest at \$1,625; however, these differences are relatively small.

Figure 40: Median Rent Whidbey Subdivisions (from 2025 Esri BAO⁴⁴)

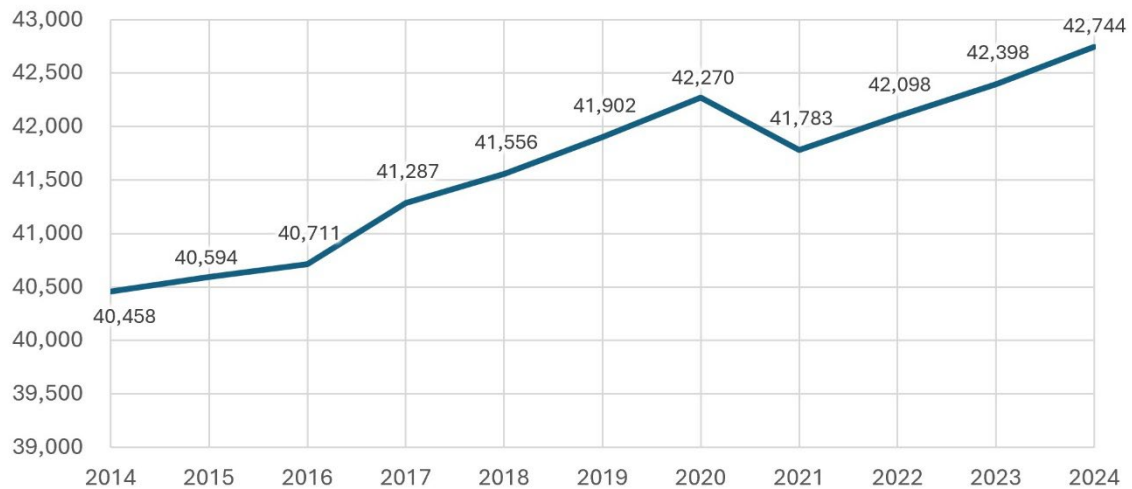


⁴³ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

⁴⁴ <https://bao.arcgis.com/esriBAO/index.html>

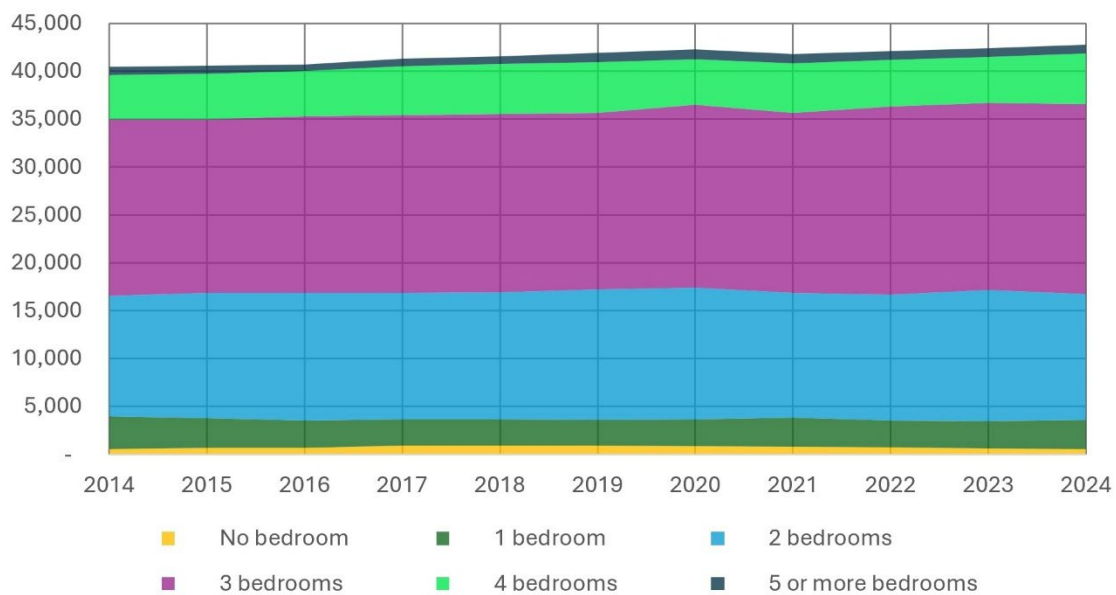
Total housing units have steadily increased over the past several years. Although housing levels declined during the COVID-19 period, they have since surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 41: Historic Total Housing Units (from Census ACS⁴⁵)



When housing units are categorized by bedroom count, there has been an increase in units with two or more bedrooms and a decline in one-bedroom units. However, these changes have not been substantial overall.

Figure 42: Housing Type by Bedroom (from Census ACS⁴⁶)

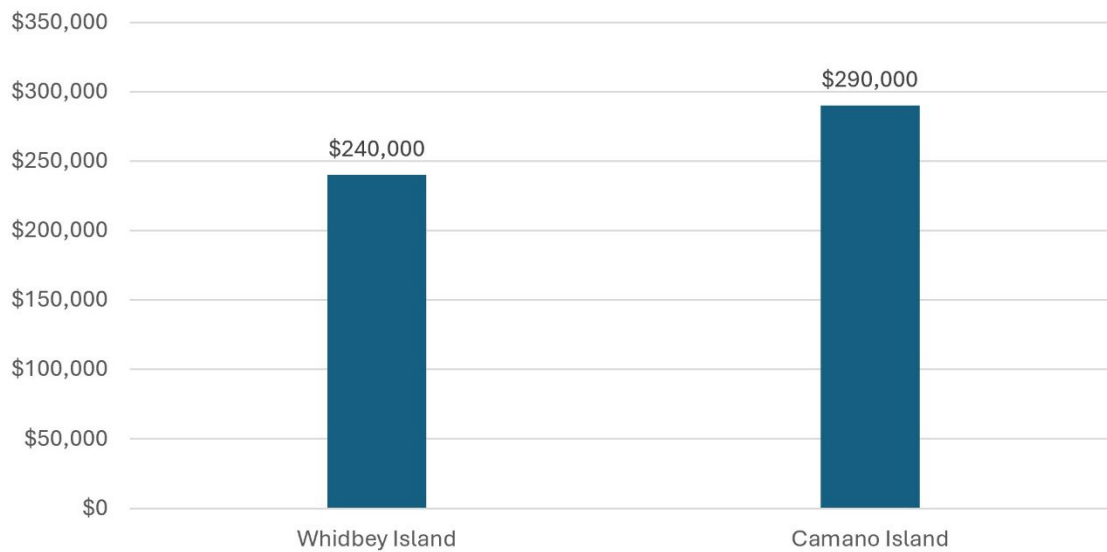


⁴⁵ [Census ACS Housing Tables – Island County](#)

⁴⁶ [Census ACS Housing Tables – Island County](#)

Camano Island’s median land value is slightly higher (\$290,000) than that of Whidbey Island (\$240,000). This difference is likely related to the smaller geographic size of Camano Island, where land availability is more limited.

Figure 43: Median Land Value (from Island County Assessor 2025⁴⁷)



⁴⁷ [County Assessor Parcel Data](#)

Fiscal

Retail Sales Tax

County Average

8.89%

(Varies)

B&O Manufacturing

0.7%

B&O Retailing

1%

B&O Service and Other Activities

~2%

B&O Wholesaling

1%

Industrial Insurance Rates

\$1/hour

worked by employee

[Click here to find out what tax classification your business falls under!](#)

[Click here for 2026 Industrial Insurance Rates!](#)



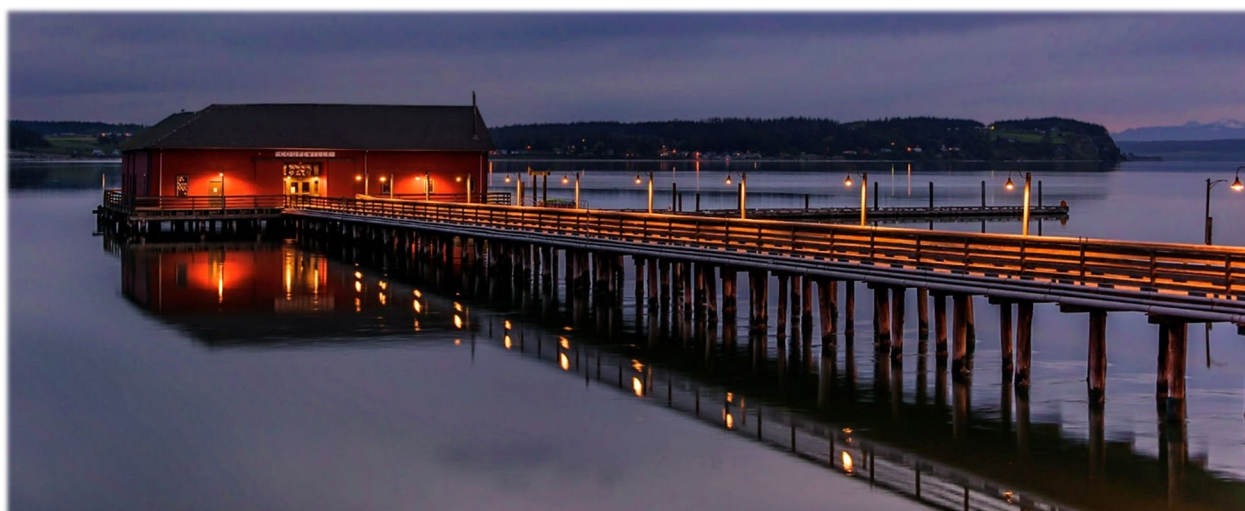
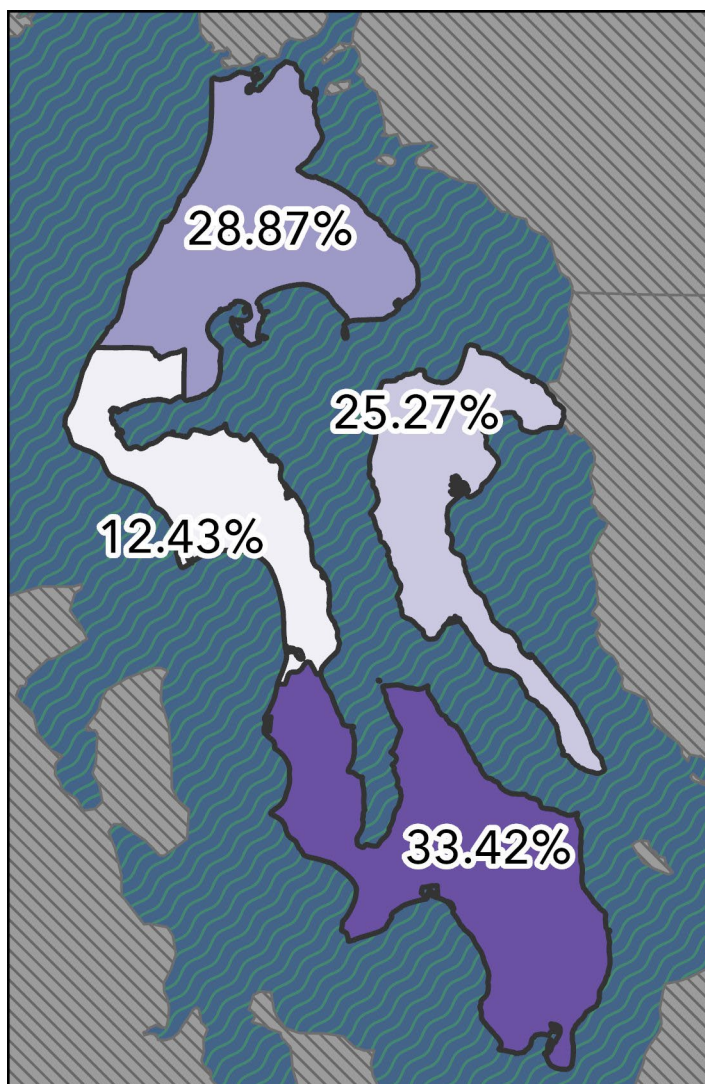
Property Taxes:

All real and personal property is subject to property tax. Rate varies depending on location and the various overlapping tax districts that might apply.

The majority of property tax revenue collected by Island County comes from South Whidbey properties and accounts for roughly 1/3rd of all property taxes. North Whidbey follows closely at almost 29%, with Camano at 25%, and Central Whidbey at just above 12%.

Property taxes fund local emergency services like fire and rescue, as well as public school districts and road maintenance.

Figure 44: Weighted Property Taxes by Region



Recreation, Transportation, Utilities

Parks and Recreation

Island County is home to 94 parks and offers numerous recreational opportunities. The county maintains an extensive trail network for hiking, biking, and equestrian activities. Approximately 65% of Island County parks are county-owned, while 25% are owned by the state.

Key recreational destinations include:

1. Deception Pass State Park
2. Rhododendron Park
3. Fort Ebey State Park
4. Double Bluff Beach County Park
5. Windjammer City Park
6. Barnum Point County Park
7. Camano Island State Park

In addition to outdoor recreation, Island County recreation districts provide a variety of opportunities for both individual and organized sports activities.

An abundance of lodging and RV/camping choices are available along with facilities for events or meetings. Contact area Chambers of Commerce or www.whidbeycamanoislands.com for more information.

Figure 45: Island County Transportation and Recreation Map



Culture and Entertainment:

Island County boasts many museums, including the PBY Aircraft Museum in Oak Harbor, the Island County Historical Museum in Coupeville, and the South Whidbey Historical Museum in Langley.

Likewise, there is an abundance of Art Galleries and Theatres. Movie cinemas are located in Oak Harbor, The NAS Whidbey, and Langley. There are also live theatres in Oak Harbor and Langley, and a drive-in theater in Oak Harbor. There are many art galleries in Whidbey and Camano, especially in Langley, Coupeville, and Camano. A complete list may be requested from the local Chambers of Commerce.

Name	Address	Phone	Website
Pacific Northwest Naval Air Museum	545 W Ault Field Rd D, Oak Harbor, WA	(360) 240-9500	www.pnwnam.org
Island County Historical Society Museum	908 NW Alexander St, Coupeville, WA	(360) 678-3310	www.islandhistory.org
South Whidbey Historical Museum	312 Second Street, Langley, WA	(360) 221-2101	www.southwhidbeycenterforculturalheritage.org
Oak Harbor Cinemas	1321 SW Barlow St, Oak Harbor, WA	(360) 279-2226	www.oakharborcinemas.com
Clyde Theatre	4360 1 st St, Langley, WA	(360) 221-5525	www.theclyde.net
Blue Fox Drive-In	1403 N Monroe Landing Rd, Oak Harbor, WA	(360) 675-2794	www.bluefoxdrivein.com
Penn Cove Gallery	9 Front St NW, Coupeville, WA	(360) 678-1176	www.penncovegallery.com
Garry Oak Gallery	830 SE Pioneer Way #101, Oak Harbor, WA	(360) 682-5675	www.garryoakgallery.com
Matzke Fine Art Gallery and Sculpture Park	2345 Blanche Way, Camano, WA	(360) 387-2759	www.matzkefineart.com



Water and Sewage:

City operated water systems can be found in Oak Harbor, Coupeville and Langley. The City of Oak Harbor is the largest water purveyor (the entity responsible for providing drinking water) in Island County. Oak Harbor has over 3,700 connects, supplying 2.26 million gallons of water per day on average⁴⁸. 99% of Oak Harbor's water is purchased from the City of Anacortes⁴⁹. This water comes from the Skagit River surface water. The water purchased comprises 28% of the water used in Island County.⁵⁰ The remaining 72% comes from groundwater accessed by well.

City Name	Provider	Phone	Address	Notes
Oak Harbor	City of Oak Harbor Public Works Department	(360) 279-4530	1400 NE 16 th Avenue, Oak Harbor, WA 98277	The city purchases drinking water from Anacortes which it then distributes. Sewage is processed at the Clean Water Facility.
Coupeville	Town of Coupeville Public Works Department	(360) 678-4461	4 NE 7 th St, Coupeville, WA 98239	The town sources water from a well in Coupeville and another in Fort Casey. The town provides sewer treatment services within Coupeville limits.
Langley	City of Langley Public Works Department	(360) 221-4246	112 Second St, Langley, WA 98260	The city is served by wells, while sewage is disposed of at the Langley Wastewater Treatment Facility.

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



⁴⁸ <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3187/Topic-Paper-Water-Supply-Alternatives?bidId=>

⁴⁹ <https://www.oakharbor.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1733/2025-Water-Quality-Report-PDF?bidId=>

⁵⁰ <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3187/Topic-Paper-Water-Supply-Alternatives?bidId=>

Transportation:

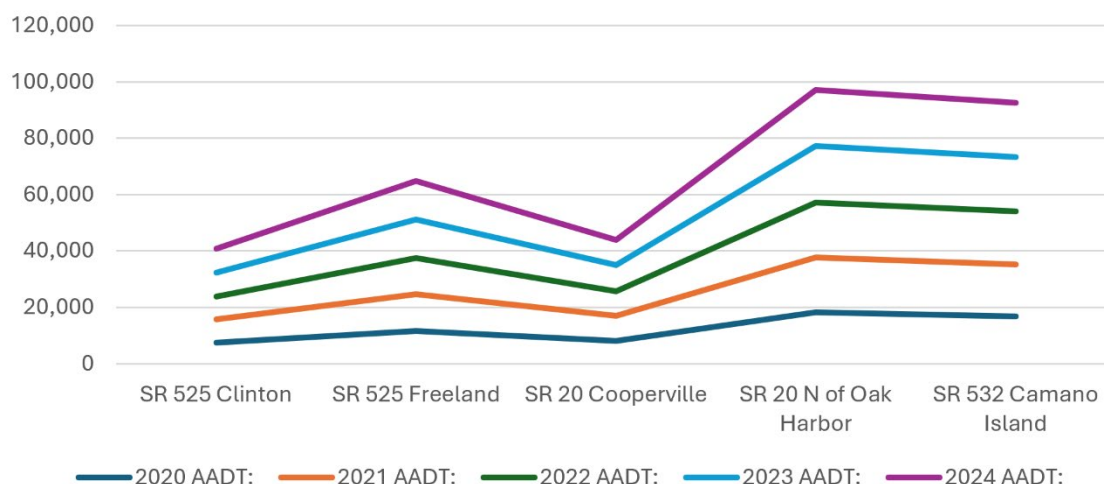
Interstate 5 (I-5) is accessible from Island County via bridge connections. The primary access route for Whidbey Island is the Deception Pass Bridge along State Route 20 (SR 20), which connects to I-5 near Burlington. Camano Island connects to the I-5 corridor through the Camano Gateway Bridge along State Route 532 (SR 532), providing access near the Arlington–Marysville area.

SR 20 and SR 525 serve as the primary transportation corridors on Whidbey Island, while SR 532 is the principal route on Camano Island. From Whidbey Island, the approximate distances are 39 miles to I-5, 49 miles to Highway 99, and 90 miles to Interstate 90.

Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) increased by 3% between 2024 and 2025. Traffic volumes on Whidbey and Camano Islands are comparable. SR 20 north of Oak Harbor recorded approximately 19,984 vehicles per day, while SR 532 on Camano Island recorded approximately 19,427 vehicles per day. The figure below presents vehicle counts at five major traffic locations in Island County.

There is no direct transportation route connecting Camano Island and Whidbey Island.

Figure 46: AADT Island County (from WSDOT⁵¹)



⁵¹ <https://wsdot.public.ms2soft.com/tcds/tsearch.asp?mod=tcds>

Island Transit provides fare-free public bus service throughout the county. There are ten routes on Whidbey Island, and five on Camano.⁵² The Whidbey routes include connections to the Clinton–Mukilteo Ferry and Coupeville–Port Townsend Ferry terminals.

In 2025, ridership on the Clinton–Mukilteo ferry route declined slightly, with total passengers decreasing by 0.2% and vehicle traffic declining by 1.1%, although it remained the busiest ferry route for vehicle traffic. Walk-on passenger traffic increased by 9.4%. On the Coupeville–Port Townsend route, total ridership increased by 1.1%, vehicle traffic increased by 0.5%, and walk-on passenger traffic increased by 3.4%.

Island Transit
(360) 678-7771
islandtransit.org

Whidbey-SeaTac Shuttle
(360) 679-4003
seatacshuttle.com

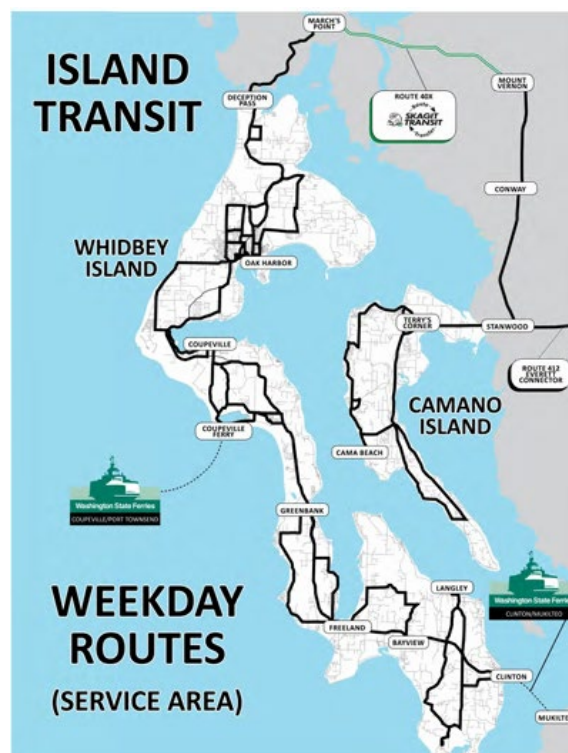
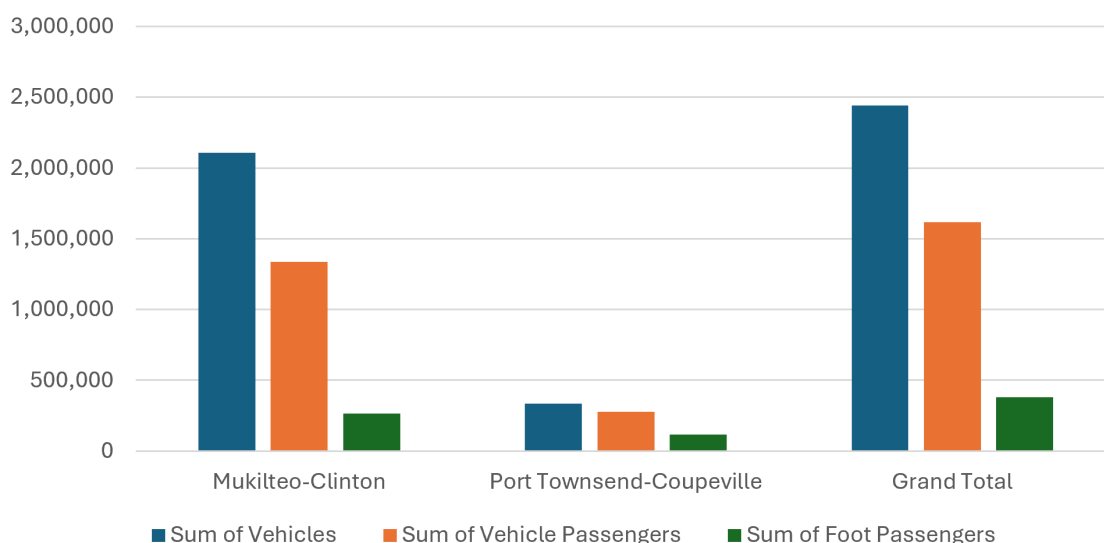


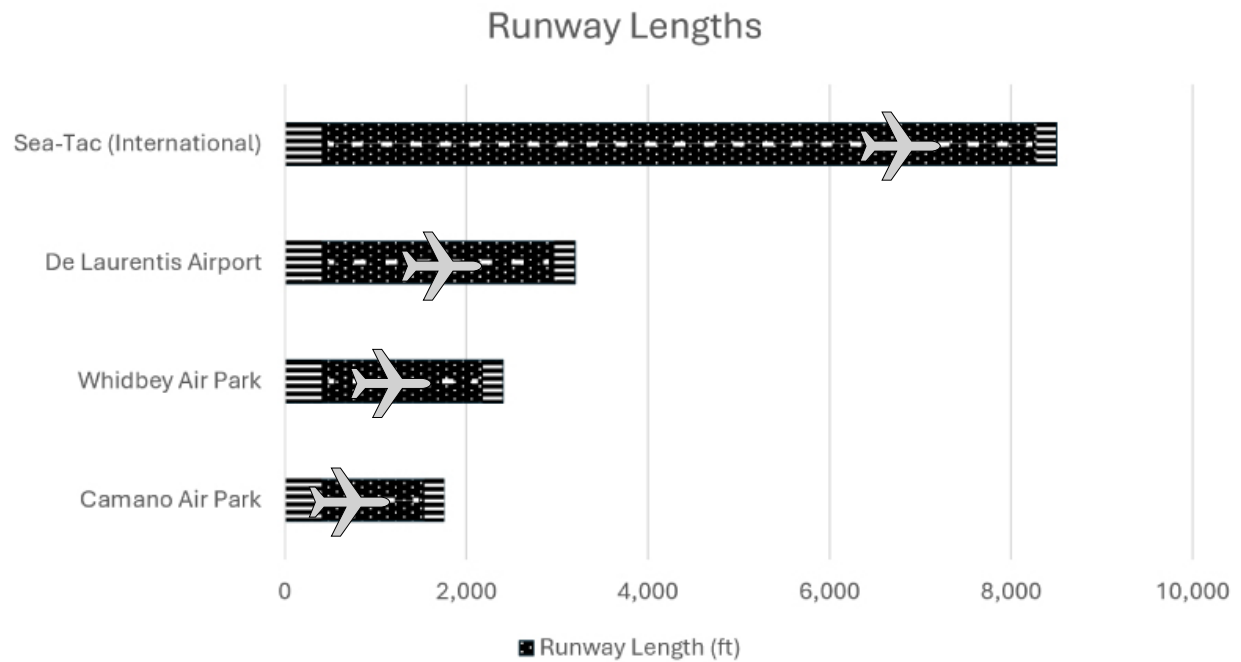
Figure 47: Ferry Traffic (from WSDOT⁵³)



⁵² <https://wstc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2018-1114-BP7-IslandTransitImprovingMobility.pdf>

⁵³ <https://wsdot.wa.gov/about/news/2025/back-board-2024-brought-half-million-more-state-ferry-riders>

Island County contains three airports⁵⁴; however, none currently provide commercial passenger air service due to their limited runway lengths.



⁵⁴<https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/aviation/washington-airports>

Utilities:

Whidbey Island	Camano Island
Electricity	
Provider: Puget Sound Energy Phone: (888) 225-5773 Website: https://www.pse.com/	Provider: Snohomish County PUD Phone: (425) 783-1000 Website: https://www.snopud.com/
Natural Gas	
Provider: Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Phone: (888) 522-1130 Website: https://www.cngc.com/ <i>(Oak Harbor, NAS Whidbey Island, and northeastern Camano Island)</i>	
Telecommunications	
Xfinity (Comcast) Phone: (360) 200-6791 Website: www.comcast.com	
Ziplly Fiber Phone: (360) 707-4817 Website: https://get.zipllyfiber.com	
Whidbey Telecom (S. Whidbey) Phone: (360) 321-1122 Website: www.whidbeytel.com	
Astound Broadband Phone: (800) 427-8686 Website: www.astound.com	
Solid Waste	
North Whidbey Solid Waste and Recycle Location: 3151 Oak Harbor Road, Oak Harbor, WA Phone (360) 675-6161	Camano Transfer Station Location: 75 E Camano Hill Road, Camano Island, WA Phone: (360) 387-9696
Bayview Solid Waste and Recycle Location: 5790 S Kramer Road, Langley, WA Phone: (360) 321-4505 <i>(S. Whidbey)</i>	
Waste Management Phone: (360) 757-4068 Website: www.wm.com	

Due to its more isolated geography, localized utilities and services are present on Whidbey Island, while Camano Island has direct access to all major/regional utilities and services.

Directory:

Directory	
Chamber of Commerce	
Langley (360) 221-6765 https://visitlangley.com/	Greater Freeland (360) 331-1980 https://freelandchamber.org/
Coupeville (360) 678-5434 https://coupevillechamber.com/	Oak Harbor (360) 675-3755 https://www.oakharborchamber.com/
Camano Island (360) 629-7136 https://www.camanoisland.org/	Clinton (360) 331-3929 https://discoverclintonwa.com/
Tourism	
https://whidbeycamanoislands.com/	
Ports	
Port of Coupeville (360) 222-3151 https://portoc.org/	Port of South Whidbey (360) 331-5494 https://portofsouthwhidbey.com/
Government	
Island County (360) 678-5111 https://www.islandcountywa.gov/	City of Oak Harbor (360) 279-4500 https://www.oakharbor.gov/
Town of Coupeville (360) 678-4461 https://townofcoupeville.org/	City of Langley (360) 221-4246 https://www.langleywa.org/

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.

info@edcislandcounty.org
www.iscoedc.com
(360) 678-6889

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

About the Authors

The Center for Economic and Business Research is an outreach center at Western Washington University located within the College of Business and Economics. The Center connects the resources found throughout the University to assist for-profit, non-profit, government agencies, quasi-government entities, and tribal communities in gathering and analyzing useful data. We use a number of collaborative approaches to help inform our clients so that they are better able to hold policy discussions and craft decisions. The Center employs students, staff and faculty from across the University as well as outside resources to meet the individual needs of those we work with. Our work is based on academic approaches and rigor that not only provides a neutral analysis perspective but also provides applied learning opportunities. We focus on developing collaborative relationships with our clients and not simply delivering an end product. The approaches we utilize are insightful, useful, and are all a part of the debate surrounding the topics we explore; however, none are absolutely fail-safe. Data, by nature is challenged by how it is collected and how it is leveraged with other data sources: following only one approach without deviation is ill-advised. We provide a variety of insights within our work – not only on the topic at hand but the resources (data) that informs that topic.

The Center for Economic and Business Research is directed by Hart Hodges, Ph.D. and James McCafferty.

Dr. Fouzia Awan, Ph.D., served as the lead economic analyst for this project. Eden Urban, Louis Hay, and Tony Peterson contributed to the data collection, economic analysis, written content, and visual data representation. Tony Peterson finalized the report's layout and presentation for publication.

We are always seeking opportunities to bring the strengths of Western Washington University to fruition within our region. If you have a need for analysis work or comments on this report, we encourage you to contact us at: 360-650-3909 or cebr.wvu.edu