



EDC
ISLAND
COUNTY

Island County

Major Island County Employers

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One way to measure the economy of Island County is to chronicle the largest employers. The number of employees can reveal how much effort is required behind companies and organizations that may not be apparent otherwise.

The data is broken out into Government and Private Employers. Government accounts for many employees, but across fewer organizations. Private employee counts are lower, but there are over a thousand businesses in Island County and organizations that have five employees or fewer.

The U.S. Navy has the largest direct presence. No other employer has over ten thousand employees. Their indirect influence extends beyond that because of the support delivered by businesses and organizations that supply the Navy, and especially Navy personnel.

Within local government, the largest organizations are our schools. Of the top dozen governmental organizations, five of them are local school districts. Add in our public libraries and that makes six of the top dozen working on education. That doesn't account for the numerous other colleges, schools, and educational organizations in the county.

Within the group of businesses, the largest employer doesn't even operate from within the county. Boeing estimates that eight hundred of their employees live in Island County. That's larger than any on-island business by almost a factor of four. A less obvious group of employers are our various groceries and supermarkets. They are about one-third of the largest eighteen private employers. As with many companies, the number of employees we see as we make our purchases can be backed-up by dozens who are doing things like preparing food, stocking shelves, and keep the food flowing and their business running.

Beyond the larger employers, data show a significant presence of approximately two thousand businesses. It is important to note that this figure may not account for additional sole proprietors, which can be difficult to track accurately. Furthermore, the county is also home to hundreds of non-profit organizations that actively contribute to the local economic landscape. These businesses and non-profits collectively also play a vital role in driving the vitality of Island County's economy.

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GOVERNMENT EMPLOYERS			
Company	Employees	Industry	Location
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Includes NEX, Commissary, Navy Clinic	11,100	Federal Government Active Duty: 9,000 Civilian/Contractor: 2,100	NAS Whidbey
Oak Harbor School District Includes F/T and P/T	1,226	Education	Oak Harbor
WhidbeyHealth	772	Healthcare	Coupeville
Island County	470	County Government	Coupeville
South Whidbey School District	436	Education	Langley
Coupeville School District Includes F/T and P/T	249	Education	Coupeville
City of Oak Harbor Includes F/T and P/T	178	City Government	Oak Harbor
Stanwood Camano School District	134	Education	Camano Island
Island Transit	128	Transportation	Coupeville
Washington State Parks	70	Recreation	various
Skagit Valley College	70	Education	Oak Harbor
Sno-Isle Libraries	63	Libraries	various

PRIVATE EMPLOYERS			
Company	Employees	Industry	Location
Boeing¹	800	Aerospace Manufacturing	Snohomish County
Walmart	210	Retail	Oak Harbor
Safeway	165	Retail	Oak Harbor
IDEX Health & Science	155	Healthcare	Oak Harbor
Home Depot	145	Retail	Oak Harbor
Payless Foods	130	Retail	Freeland
Nichols Brothers Boat Builders	115	Manufacturing	Freeland
Haggen Food & Pharmacy	115	Retail	Oak Harbor
Regency	110	Healthcare	Oak Harbor
Useless Bay Country Club	105	Recreation	Langley
New Leaf	100	Contractor to NASWI	Oak Harbor
Whidbey Telecom	100	Telecommunications	Langley
Technical Services Inc	80	Manufacturing	Oak Harbor
Camano Plaza IGA	75	Retail	Camano Island
Goose Community Grocer	75	Retail	Langley
Saar's Super Saver Foods	60	Retail	Oak Harbor
Penn Cove Shellfish	55	Aquaculture	Coupeville
Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle	54	Transportation	Oak Harbor

Numbers not broken out by Full-Time, Part-Time, & On-Call
Sources includes employers providing data and ReferenceUSA

¹ Island County residents employed by Boeing facilities located in Snohomish County

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