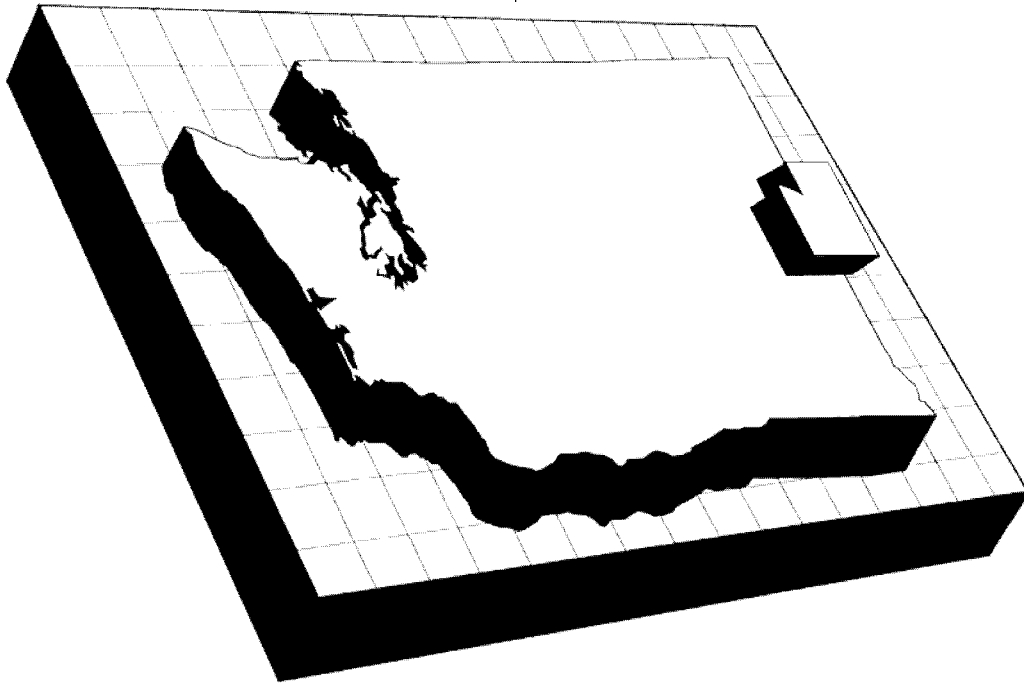


# SPOKANE COUNTY PROFILE



**January 2001**  
Labor Market and  
Economic Analysis Branch  
Greg Weeks, *Director*

**Washington State**  
**Employment Security**

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**SPOKANE COUNTY PROFILE**  
**JANUARY 2001**

Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch  
Employment Security Department

This report has been prepared in accordance with  
*RCW 50.38.050.*

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- ◆ *On-line database (WILMA) at [www.wilma.org](http://www.wilma.org)*
- ◆ *Labor Market Information Center (LMIC) at*  
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	1	Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	
INTRODUCTION .....	2	Construction and Mining	
GEOGRAPHY .....	3	Manufacturing	
ECONOMIC HISTORY .....	4	Transportation and Public Utilities	
POPULATION .....	6	Trade	
Population Trends		Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	
Towns and Cities		Services	
Age Groups		Government	
Demographics		Industry Projections	
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE .....	10	OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE .....	27
Demographics		PERSONAL INCOME.....	30
UNEMPLOYMENT .....	12	Total Personal Income	
Trend		Components of Personal Income	
Unemployment Insurance Claims		Earned Income	
Industrial Typology		Transfer Payments	
INDUSTRIES, EMPLOYMENT, AND WAGES .....	16	Investment Income	
Employment Trend		EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .....	35
Location Quotients		Workforce Development	
Goods and Services		Economic Development	
Annual Average Covered Wage			

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Spokane County is the economic hub of the area traditionally known as the Inland Empire, most recently coined as the Inland Northwest. It has a strong and diversified manufacturing sector, a wholesale trade and finance sector that, among its other functions, services a large agricultural community, and a strong retail trade and services sector. Spokane County has much to offer new arrivals. Land and housing are relatively inexpensive compared to many other large metropolitan areas. Congestion, crime, and pollution are not huge factors as they are in some areas. And many enjoy the four-season weather, particularly when compared to the rain of western Washington.

Population growth has slowed significantly during the latter part of the last decade, from an average of 2.2 percent between 1990 and 1995, to an average of 0.7 percent from 1996 to 2000. Despite the negligible growth rate of 0.1 percent in 2000, Spokane County's population of 415,000 is the largest of any county in eastern Washington and the fourth largest in the state.

Spokane County experienced healthy economic growth with an average job growth rate of 3.0 percent from 1987 to 1994. Since the peak growth rate of 4.2 percent in 1994, it has gradually declined to .9 percent in 1999. Despite the slowdown, the annual job growth rate of .9 percent kept pace with the .9 percent in population growth and .8 percent growth in the civilian labor force. The unemployment rate remained relatively low at 5.2 percent in 1999.

Despite low population and job growth rates, total personal income in 1998 (the most recent data avail-

able) increased 3.7 percent. Spokane per capita income increased 3.8 percent to \$23,450, compared to the statewide PCI of \$28,719. Median household income was estimated to be \$36,576 while the statewide average was \$48,289. And, in 1999 the annual average wage for the county was \$27,556, compared to a statewide average at \$35,724. While these income and wage figures seem low compared to the statewide averages, two facts should be noted: (1) the statewide averages are strongly influenced by the higher concentration of population and well paid high-tech and aerospace jobs of King County and (2) the cost of living in King County is considerably higher than in Spokane County.

Despite a strong manufacturing sector with stable and diverse industries such as primary and fabricated aluminum production, industrial machinery, electronic equipment, aerospace and other transportation equipment the decline in jobs has been most noticeable in this sector. Manufacturing jobs declined by 1.3 percent in 1998 and again by 1.8 percent in 1999, for a total loss of 700 jobs. Over 500 of these jobs were in primary metal industries, predominately aluminum.

Although construction was showing negative growth in 1997 and 1998, there was a sudden surge in growth of 5.8 percent in 1999. In 1999, the other remaining sectors had growth rates ranging from .4 percent for trade to 2.5 percent for transportation and public utilities (TPU). Overall, the economy of the area is slowing down, as is the rest of the state and the nation, but is still healthy.

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# INTRODUCTION

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This report profiles the labor market and economic characteristics of Spokane County. It was prepared by the Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA) Branch of the Washington State Employment Security Department and is one in a series that profiles labor market and economic conditions in each of Washington's 39 counties.

The profile is designed to assist state and local planners in developing local economic strategies. It is also an effective tool for answering labor market and economic questions frequently asked about the county. Readers with specific information needs should refer to the *Table of Contents* or to the *data appendix* to more quickly access those sections of particular interest to them.

Like the earlier *Spokane County Profile* of August 1996, the purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive labor market and economic analysis of Spokane County. Characteristics profiled include the following:

- physical geography, economic history, and demographics
- labor force composition and trends
- industries, employment, income, and earnings
- skills and occupations
- economic development and employment services

The profile is available in a Pdf format from the LMEA Internet homepage. Much of the information included in this report is also regularly updated on the homepage. Current and historical labor market information that can be accessed by area or by type of information can be found at:

<http://www.wa.gov/esd/lmea>

Any inquiries or comments about information in the profile should be directed to the Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch or the regional labor economist.

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# GEOGRAPHY

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Spokane County is one of four eastern Washington counties set along the Washington-Idaho border. Located roughly between the 47th and 48th parallels, Spokane is centrally located along the border. The county comprises a total land mass of 1,763.8 square miles (or 2.7 percent of the state's total land mass). As such, it ranks 19th in size among Washington counties.

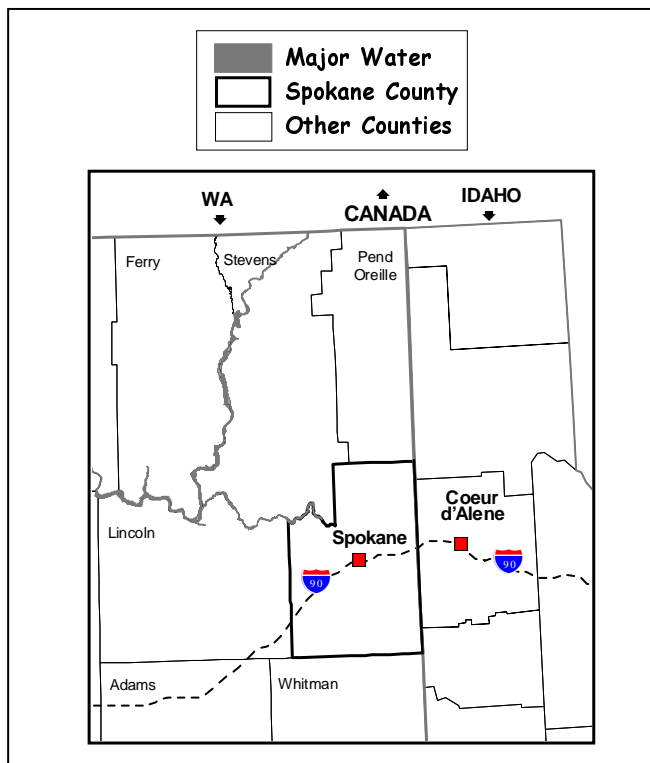
Spokane County is rectangular in shape save a jagged northwest corner. The county is bounded to the north and west by Pend Oreille and Lincoln counties, respectively. Its northwest corner is shared with Stevens County. To the south is Whitman County and to the east is the state of Idaho.

Spokane County's topography is quite varied. The terrain in the north county is increasingly forested and mountainous as it runs up against the foothills of the Colville National Forest. This part of the county includes Mount Spokane (5,878 feet above sea level). The Little Spokane River flows through the northern county from

origins further north in Pend Oreille County. The river flows south to central Spokane County where it merges with the larger Spokane River.

From origins in Idaho, the Spokane River flows west into central Spokane County and the city of Spokane. After winding through the city (and across Spokane Falls), the Spokane River turns to the northwest where it is joined by the Little Spokane River and delineates part of the border between Spokane and Stevens counties. The river eventually empties into the Columbia River.

The topography in the southeast part of the county is that of the rich and fertile Palouse Hills. It is this section of the county that is recognized for its agricultural fertility. The southwest part of the county is one of channeled rock outcroppings and big lakes (e.g., Badger, Bonnie, Chapman, Clear, Four Lakes, Silver, Williams). Much of this region is also part of the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge.



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# ECONOMIC HISTORY

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The following was excerpted from *A View of the Falls: An Illustrated History of Spokane*, by William Stimson; *Spokane Corona: Eras & Empires*, by Edmund T. Becher; and *Spokane, 1889-1964*, by the Spokane Committee of 64.

Long before the advent of white exploration and settlement, the *Spokane* tribe held sway over present-day Spokane County. Parts of the area were also inhabited by the *Coeur d'Alene* tribe (most of whom are now across the border in Idaho).

The Spokanes were seminomadic in the sense that their migration patterns were largely dictated by seasonal sustenance. Salmon—the staple of their diet—were abundant in local rivers during summer. Camas roots and berries, which supplemented their diet, were gathered in fall. Late in fall and into winter, the Spokane hunted deer, bear, and other game. The most fascinating part of this ritual, however, was their trek across the Rockies to the Great Plains to hunt buffalo.

The Spokanes were the first inhabitants of the region to engage in trade and commerce. In fact, they often operated as middlemen in trade between coastal tribes and those of the Great Plains. For example, they would trade their dried salmon to the Blackfoot tribe for buffalo hides, and then trade some of the hides to the coastal tribes for shells and other coastal goods. There were also the Colvilles and other prominent tribes of what is now eastern Washington. With the Spokanes, these tribes formed a powerful confederation.

The first whites in present-day Spokane County were fur traders and trappers. In 1810, the North West Company, a Canadian firm, established an outpost where the Spokane and Little Spokane rivers meet. The fur trade would become an institution in the area for the next four decades.

Missionaries arrived in the Spokane Valley in great numbers in the late 1830s and early 1840s. Among the more notable were the Reverend Henry T. Cowley, and Jesuit Priests Pierre De Smet, Joseph Joset, and Joseph Cataldo. They came with the intention of converting the local tribes to Christianity, and had varying success.

White settlement of the region got fully underway in the 1850s. The pace of homesteading was such that Washington became its own territory in 1853 (having been partitioned from Oregon Territory). As whites

moved into the area, local tribes were displaced or forced to relocate in order to accommodate new settlement. Treaties established in 1855 were broken, resulting in the Indian War of 1855-1858. After a series of battles in Spokane County—including the defeat of Colonel Steptoe at present-day Rosalia—the Indian tribes were finally suppressed.

With the land secured for expansion, white settlers proceeded to engage in agriculture, particularly the cultivation of wheat and other grains and fruit orchards. This activity was particularly evident in the south and west parts of the county.

In 1873, James N. Glover purchased 158 acres of land near Spokane Falls in hopes of creating a new town. Those 158 acres comprise most of Spokane's present-day downtown business district. For that reason, Glover is referred to as the "Father of Spokane." Spokane grew quickly as the business center of the region known as the *Inland Empire* (extending west to the Cascades, east to the Rockies, north to the Canadian Selkirks, and south to the Blue Mountains). Spokane County was established in late 1880.

The Spokane Indian Reservation was established in 1881 (the same year the city of Spokane was incorporated). At first, members of the Spokane tribe refused to move onto the reservation, choosing instead to purchase property around the city and take up farming or ranching. By 1887, however, most were forced off of the land and committed to the reservation.

The discovery of gold, silver, and lead in the Coeur d'Alene region (which generally encompasses present-day Stevens, Ferry, and Pend Oreille counties and northern Idaho) in the 1880s precipitated a rush of prospectors into the region. By the mid-1890s, high mining operations were underway in the region—financed largely by East Coast dollars. Though itself mineral-poor, the city of Spokane benefited tremendously from the dollars and wealth generated by mining activity—dollars that were funneled through the city's banks, businesses, and other avenues. The city became the choice of rich mine owners for establishing headquarters and residences. At the turn of the century, for example, there were some 200 mining offices in the city. With its myriad of saloons, gambling houses, and houses of prostitution, the city was also a place where miners could escape bleak mining camps.

In 1889—at the height of Spokane’s mining era—the city was virtually destroyed by a disastrous fire. Although devastating, the fire proved a blessing in disguise as the town fathers took advantage of the disaster and rebuilt the city into a virtual study of classic European architecture. Helped by the fortunes of wealthy mine owners (and railroad tycoons), downtown office buildings and palatial mansions sprung up everywhere.

The arrival of the railroad era in Spokane County was yet another significant event that unfolded at about the same time as mining. The Northern Pacific Railroad led the way by completing its line through Spokane in 1881. This was followed by the Great Northern and Union Pacific railroads in 1901 and 1911, respectively. By the 1920s, Spokane was a major railroad town. Approximately 100 trains a day passed through Spokane before moving on to some 500 communities across the region.

Spokane had been prevented from developing a large manufacturing base, however, by railroad pricing policies. It cost Spokane businesses twice as much to ship goods East as it did comparable businesses in Seattle. Railroads had a monopoly in Spokane while those in Puget Sound had to compete with ocean transport. The Interstate Commerce Commission forced railroads to amend their rates in 1918.

The Great Depression of 1929 hit Spokane County hard. The city of Spokane, moreover, with its heavy concentration of financial institutions and retail establishments was especially hard hit. Jobs were generated by the Grand Coulee Dam Project, and irrigation and inexpensive electricity followed the 1929-34 construction. The onset of World War II in 1941 finally drew the county out of the depression as Spokane County became the site of defense activities (e.g., Velox Naval Supply Depot, Galena Army Air Corp Base, Fort George Wright, and Baxter Army Hospital).

Spokane County emerged from World War II with a decidedly newer look, thanks largely to the Department of Defense. In 1950, the Army Air Depot was renamed Fairchild Air Force Base, adding jobs and a huge military payroll to the area. The Army Air Corp gave an old airfield to the city which, in turn, transformed it into Spokane International Airport. The Velox Supply Depot, with its warehouses and railroad access, became Spokane Industrial Park. Meanwhile, Baxter Army Hospital became the Veterans Hospital.

Returning GIs contributed to a local housing boom and completion of Interstate 90 in 1967 opened the way

to greater migration into the Spokane Valley. Yet, both the city and county continued to exist quietly. All that changed, however, in 1974 when the World Exposition was hosted by the city of Spokane. At the time, Spokane was unknown to most of the world—and even the country. Lee Iacocca, for example, when asked if Chrysler would be interested in sponsoring an exhibit, replied, “Where the hell is Spokane?” The Expo, however, proved a great success. During its six month run, the fair drew over 5.6 million visitors—surpassing even the organizers’ attendance projections. The fair boosted the local economy and put Spokane on the world map.

Today, Spokane County is the acknowledged capital of the “Inland Northwest.” As the major metropolitan area in that region, it serves an important role as the retail trade and services hub for much of the area. This role extends from health care to business and finance, to manufacturing, services and beyond.

Spokane County—namely, the city of Spokane—is also a regional center for arts and entertainment. These attractions include a major civic theater as well as several smaller ones, a symphony and other musical venues, an opera, and several museums. The county also hosts minor league baseball, soccer, and hockey franchises, as well as golf, cycling, and auto and horse racing.

Spokane County serves as a major source of services for important agricultural activities in the Inland Northwest. A recent addition to this range of services is the Washington International Agricultural Trade Center. Spokane County has a vibrant manufacturing base in such areas as food and wood processing, printing and publishing, primary metals, electrical equipment and computers, and transportation equipment. The county also serves as a resource center for manufacturing sectors across the Inland Northwest through its network of financial and other business services.

Eastern Washington University (Cheney), Spokane Falls Community College, Spokane Community College, Eastern State Hospital (Medical Lake), and Fairchild Air Force Base combine with other smaller entities to present a significant government sector.

Last, but not least, Spokane County continues to be a significant presence in the agricultural industry. The western and southern county are dominated by wheat and cattle, while the north is home to fruit orchards and the east to grass seed.



# POPULATION

The Office of Financial Management has estimated Spokane County's 2000 population at 415,000, ranking it the fourth largest of Washington's 39 counties. With an area covering 1,764 square miles, Spokane County's population density stands at 235 people per square mile, making it the eighth most densely populated county in the state.

Population is viewed correctly as a key economic indicator of an area's vitality. With the exception of retir-

ees and a minority of "footloose" workers, people tend to migrate to an area that has economic opportunities. In short, people follow jobs. However, changes in population are lagging, not leading, indicators. It takes time for people to arrive in an area where jobs are prevalent, and it takes time for them to leave once the demand for labor eases. Nevertheless, population changes provide insight into how the economy is performing and how the economy has performed over time.

## Population Trends

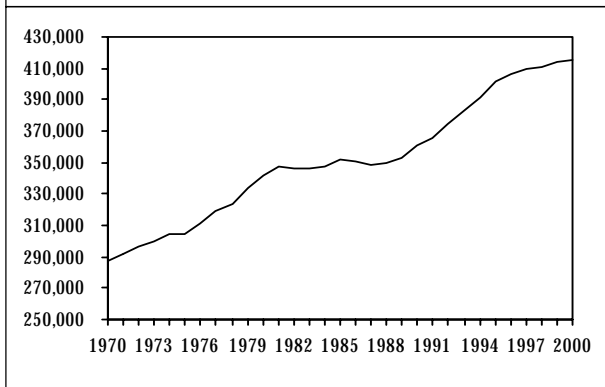
The population of Spokane increased from 287,487 in 1970 to 415,000 in 2000 (see *Figure 1*). The annual average growth rate during these thirty years was 1.2 percent, compared to 1.8 percent average growth for the state. Throughout the 1970s, Spokane County grew an average of 1.7 percent per year, with growth rates ranging from 0.1 percent to 3.3 percent. The growth rate was equivalent to the statewide average annual growth. The similarities between Spokane County and the state stopped at the end of the decade.

In the 1980s, population growth in the county slowed to an average of .5 percent, while state growth remained the same at 1.7 percent. Two national recessions, a booming Puget Sound region, and the Soviet grain embargo all contributed to the decline in population growth.

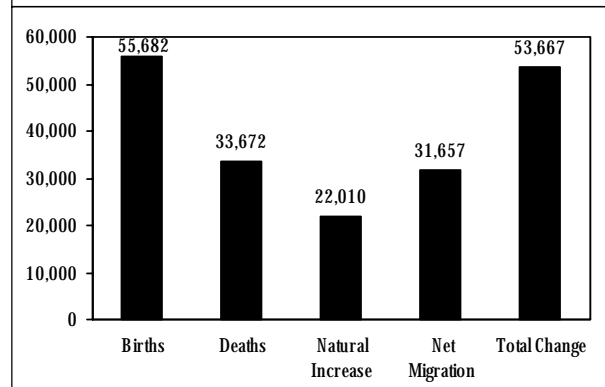
The stagnation of the 1980s, however, did not carry over into the 1990s. While the average growth rate from 1990 to 1995 (2.2 percent) was comparatively high, the average for 1996 to 2000 was much lower at .7 percent. State growth averaged 2.3 percent from 1990 to 1995 and 1.3 percent for the remainder of the decade.

Components of population change such as births, deaths, and migration can provide insight into larger population trends (see *Figure 2*). From 1990 to 2000 the population of Spokane increased by 53,667. Fifty-nine percent of this growth was due to migration. *Figure 3* shows the annual rate of migration from 1970 to 1999. It can be seen that annual migration was fairly high from 1989 to 1994, 5,000 to 7,000 persons each year. Since then it has tapered off until there was an actual out migration of 515 people in 1998.

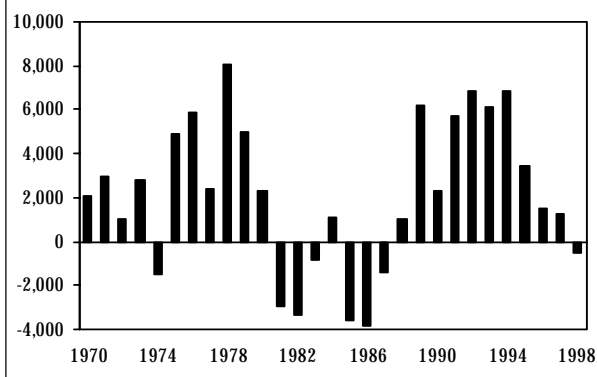
**Figure 1**  
Population Trend  
Spokane County, 1970-2000  
*Source: Office of Financial Management*



**Figure 2**  
Components of Population Change  
Spokane County, 1990-2000  
*Source: Office of Financial Management*



**Figure 3**  
**Migration Growth Rates**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Office of Financial Management*



The recent downturn could be due, in part, to Fairchild Air Force Base which has had a significant impact on Spokane County's population since being commissioned in 1950. The number of military personnel at Fairchild AFB declined from 3,933 in 1995 to 2,995 in 1999. Moreover, Fairchild AFB's impact on the county population is magnified by non-military family members, civilian employment, and military retirees and discharges.

## Towns and Cities

Of Spokane County's 415,000 residents, 51 percent lived in incorporated, while 49 percent lived in unincorporated regions in 2000. Since 1990, unincorporated regions have grown 22 percent, while incorporated areas have grown only 9 percent. In contrast, statewide unincorporated regions increased only 3 percent while incorporated regions grew 34 percent.

The city of Spokane, not surprisingly, is far and away the most populous municipality, comprising 89 percent

of the incorporated population. Spokane is followed by Cheney (4 percent), Medical Lake (2 percent), Airway Heights (2 percent), Deer Park (1 percent), and Millwood (1 percent). The rest of the municipalities contribute the remaining 1 percent. *Figure 4* shows the specific data for Spokane County between 1990 and 2000. The table also shows the level of growth for the ten year period. The greatest growth is seen for Airway Heights at 131 percent. The city of Spokane has shown a relatively low growth of 7 percent.

**Figure 4**  
**Population of Cities, Towns, and County**  
**Spokane County, 1990-2000**  
*Source: Office of Financial Management*

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	%Chg 90-00
<b>Spokane</b>	361,333	365,969	374,569	383,600	392,000	401,200	406,500	409,900	410,900	414,500	415,000	15%
Unincorp.	165,443	168,436	174,348	180,051	186,054	191,406	197,044	199,088	199,487	202,041	202,313	22%
Incorp.	195,890	197,533	200,221	203,549	205,946	209,794	209,456	210,812	211,413	212,459	212,687	9%
Airway Hts.	1,971	1,985	2,090	2,390	2,520	2,910	3,640	4,139	4,460	4,495	4,545	131%
Cheney	7,723	7,840	7,880	7,870	8,220	8,240	8,180	8,270	8,495	8,545	8,715	13%
Deer Park	2,278	2,295	2,375	2,445	2,570	2,750	2,835	2,890	2,920	2,965	2,980	31%
Fairfield	516	517	587	590	599	630	638	623	624	605	607	18%
Latah	203	185	201	219	211	225	214	220	212	212	202	0%
Medical Lk.	3,664	3,744	3,780	3,705	3,660	3,650	3,680	3,790	3,830	3,870	3,890	6%
Millwood	1,559	1,665	1,665	1,680	1,705	1,705	1,690	1,675	1,680	1,665	1,645	6%
Rockford	481	480	485	494	505	525	519	532	527	517	516	7%
Spangle	229	235	235	245	245	250	250	250	250	255	258	13%
Spokane	177,165	178,469	180,800	183,800	185,600	188,800	187,700	188,300	188,300	189,200	189,200	7%
Waverly	101	118	123	111	111	109	110	123	115	130	129	28%

It is important to note that many of the county's unincorporated residents live in areas adjacent to or surrounding the county's municipalities, in particular the cities of Spokane and Cheney (home of Eastern Washington University). The county also has numerous unin-

corporated towns: Buckeye, Chattaroy, Colbert, Elk, Four Lakes, Freeman, Marshall, Mica, Milan, Mount Hope, Ninemile Falls, Opportunity, Plaza, Spring Valley, Tyler, and Valleyford.

## Age Groups

The distribution of the population among various age groups as well as the changes in this distribution over time shows aspects of the population not revealed by the overall numbers. *Figure 5* categorizes the population of Spokane County and Washington State by age group share size for 2000. These age groups are significant when viewed in terms of labor market assumptions:

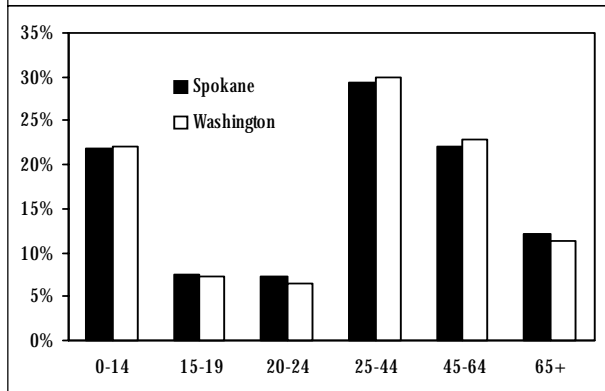
- 0-14 = Infants or adolescents a decade or two removed from the labor force
- 15-19 = Prospective new entrants into the labor force
- 20-24 = New entrants into the labor force
- 25-44 = Young workers in their prime years of productivity
- 45-64 = Mature workers with years of accumulated skills and experience
- 65+ = Retirees

By far, the largest population group in Spokane, Washington, and the nation at this time is the 25 to 44 year olds. There is very little difference between Spokane and Washington with respect to the different age groups, except that there is a slightly higher percent of the 65+ group.

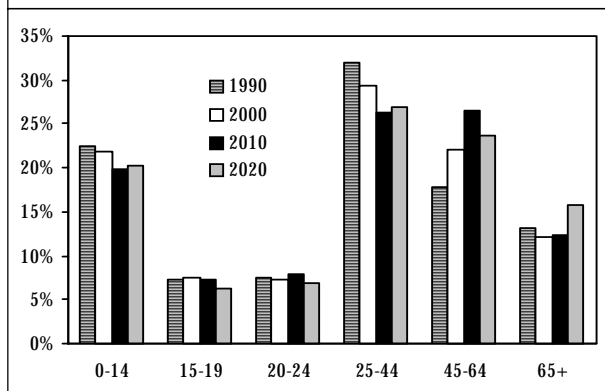
The significance of the large group of 25-44 year olds can be seen in *Figure 6*. In Spokane County and in Washington State, the population is getting older. The share of 45-64 year olds grows progressively larger from 1990 to 2010, with a total increase of 97 percent over 30 years. The average increase for the total population during this time is 32 percent. There is then a decline in this age group in 2020 as they shift over to the 65 and over group. From 2010 to 2020 (ten years) the 65 and over group increases by 48 percent. At the same time, the increase for the total population is 15 percent. The only other age groups with significant growth during this time are the 0-14 year olds and 25 to 44 year olds with 18.3 and 17.6 percent growth, respectively.

It should be mentioned, that although the 45 to 64 age group increases by only 3.1 percent from 2010 to

**Figure 5**  
Population by Age Groups  
Spokane County and Washington, 2000  
Source: Office of Financial Management



**Figure 6**  
Population by Age Groups  
Spokane County, 1990, 2000, 2010, & 2020  
Source: Office of Financial Management



2020, there are dramatic differences between the smaller age groups within this category. While there is actually a negative growth for those between the ages of 45 to 54, there is a 29 percent increase for those between 60 and 64 (the tail end of the baby boomers).

# Demographics

In accordance with the federal Office of Management and Budget, the state Office of Financial Management tracks five broad race and ethnic groups: White, Black, American Indian/Eskimo or Aleut (AIEA), Asian or Pacific Islander (API), and Hispanic origin. (People of Hispanic origin can be of any race and are tallied separately.) *Figure 7* shows the percentage of the population for each of these groups for Spokane County and Washington State, in 1990 (Census) and 1998 (estimate).

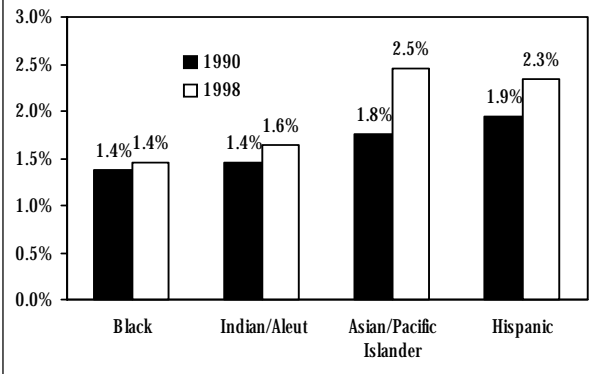
Interestingly, the gender makeup of Spokane County changes from 1990 to 1998. The percentage of females declines from 51.4 percent to 50.9. There is a similar decline for the state as a whole.

Racial characteristics have also shifted slightly over the years. The percentage of whites in the Spokane population decreased from 93.5 to 92.1 percent. This shift was even more pronounced for the state, from 90.6 percent to 88.7 percent. In 1998, the next largest ethnic groups after whites were Asian/Pacific Islanders (2.5 percent), Hispanic (2.3 percent), AIEAs (1.6 percent), and Blacks (1.4 percent). In contrast, for the state the order of minority ethnic groups was Hispanic (6.2 percent), API (5.9 percent), Blacks (3.5 percent) and AIEAs (1.9 percent). The only similar percentage is for AIEAs.

Despite the differences, growth rates for the different groups have been similar for the county and the state,

except for Blacks and Hispanics. Blacks had a 19.7 percent growth in the county, compared to 30.2 percent for the state. There was an even greater difference for Hispanics, 37.3 percent for the county versus 66.1 percent for the state. *Figure 8* shows the change from 1990 to 1998 in the share of population for the different minority groups in Spokane County. The greatest change is seen for APIs which increase from 1.8 percent to 2.5 percent of the population.

**Figure 8**  
**Population by Race and Hispanic Origin**  
**Spokane County, 1990 and 1998**  
*Source: Office of Financial Management*



**Figure 7**  
**Population by Race and Hispanic Origin**  
**Spokane County and Washington, 1990 and 1998**  
*Source: Office of Financial Management*

	1990 Census		1998 Estimates		1990-1998 % Change
<b>Spokane</b>					
Total	361,333	100.0%	410,900	100.0%	13.7%
White	337,785	93.5%	378,527	92.1%	12.1%
Black	4,976	1.4%	5,956	1.4%	19.7%
Indian/Aleut	5,218	1.4%	6,724	1.6%	28.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	6,361	1.8%	10,093	2.5%	58.7%
Hispanic	6,993	1.9%	9,601	2.3%	37.3%
Female	185,618	51.4%	209,233	50.9%	12.7%
<b>Washington</b>					
Total	4,866,692	100.0%	5,757,400	100.0%	18.3%
White	4,411,407	90.6%	5,107,571	88.7%	15.8%
Black	152,572	3.1%	198,670	3.5%	30.2%
Indian/Aleut	87,259	1.8%	109,509	1.9%	25.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	215,454	4.4%	341,650	5.9%	58.6%
Hispanic*	214,570	4.4%	356,464	6.2%	66.1%
Female	2,452,952	50.4%	2,854,914	49.6%	16.4%

\*Hispanics may be of any race

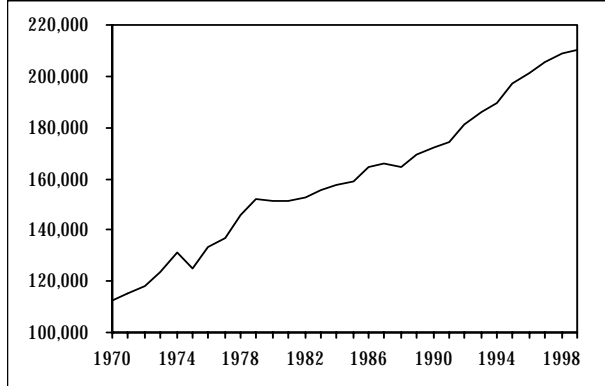
# CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

The resident civilian labor force is defined as all persons 16 years of age and older within a specified geographic area who are either working or actively seeking work. This excludes those serving in the armed forces. Like the general population, the labor force can be seen as a key economic indicator. Patterns of growth and decline in the county's labor force are largely driven by economic cycles as well as activity in the local construction, government and/or other predominant sectors in the county economy. Since gross domestic product and gross state product are not gathered at the county level, labor force changes, as well as other measures, serve as proxies.

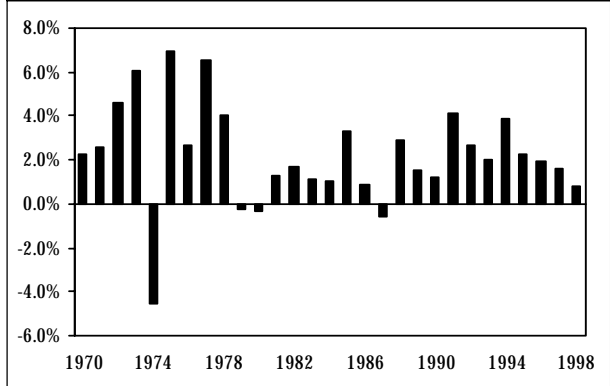
The civilian labor force in Spokane County grew from 112,500 in 1970 to 210,300 in 1999 (*Figure 9*). The average annual growth rates are shown in *Figure 10* for 1970 to 1999. The average annual growth during this time period was 2.2 percent for Spokane County, compared to an average growth rate of 2.7 percent for the state.

The average CLF growth rate declined dramatically from 3.5 percent in the 70s to 1.1 percent in the 80s. The 1980s began with two national recessions. The average then increased to 2.2 percent for the decade of the 90s. Most recently the CLF growth rate has declined steadily from 3.8 percent in 1995 to .8 percent in 1999. There was a similar decline for the state from 3.4 percent in 1995 to 1.2 percent in 1999.

**Figure 9**  
**Civilian Labor Force**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



**Figure 10**  
**Civilian Labor Force Annual Growth Rates**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



## Demographics

*Figure 11* shows the 1997 estimates, based on the 1990 Census, of the percentage share of the labor force held by each of the predominant ethnic and racial groups for both Spokane County and Washington State. In 1997, 93.7 percent of the labor force in Spokane County was white. Whites are then followed by APIs (2.2 percent), Hispanics (1.7 percent), AIES (1.4 percent) and Blacks (1.0 percent). All of these groups hold a higher percentage of the labor force for the state as a whole, except for AIEAs which is the same for both the county and the state (1.4 percent). This is to be expected as these

groups also represent a larger portion of the population for the state.

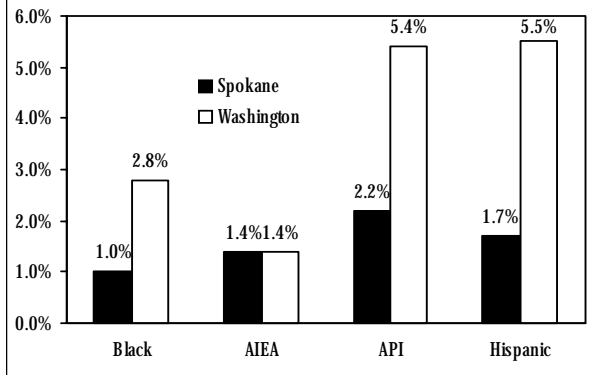
Ethnically, Spokane County's labor force composition is comparable to its population makeup (*see Figure 12*). Although Whites make up a greater share of the CLF than the population, the difference is not large, 93.7 percent of the CLF and 92 percent of the population. Although all of the smaller ethnic groups discussed earlier make up a smaller percentage of the labor force than they do the population, the differences are not large. The largest dis-

crepancy is for Hispanics which make up 2.3 percent of the population but only 1.7 percent of the labor force.

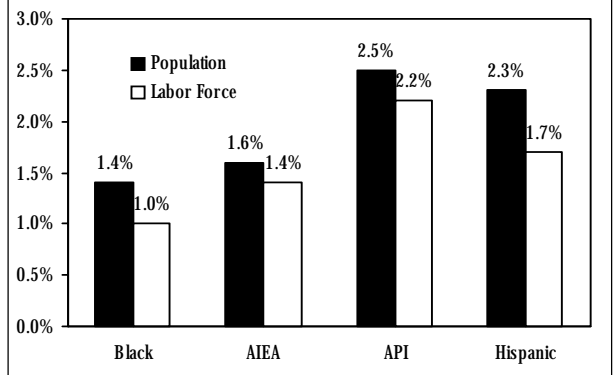
As mentioned earlier, the population of Spokane County is relatively evenly split between males and fe-

males. The labor force however, is not. According to the 1997 estimate, 53 percent of the work force is male while 47 percent is female. This is also the case statewide where males also have a majority of 54.3 percent.

**Figure 11**  
**Civilian Labor Force by Race and Ethnicity**  
**Spokane County and Washington, 1997**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



**Figure 12**  
**Share of Population (1998) and Civilian Labor Force (1997) by Race and Ethnicity**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



# UNEMPLOYMENT

The civilian labor force consists of both those who are working and those without a job who are looking for work. The unemployment rate is the percentage of the total labor force who are not working but who are actively looking for work. At the national level, the unemployment rate is determined by a monthly survey of

households. At the local level, the state's portion of this household survey is integrated with other information (e.g., unemployment insurance claims and surveys of business establishments) to produce unemployment rates at the state and county level.

## Trend

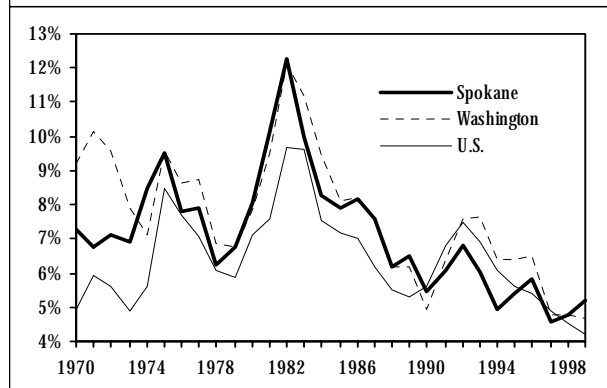
Figure 13 shows the unemployment rates for Spokane County, Washington, and the U.S. since 1970. Unemployment in the county tracks remarkably well with unemployment in Washington and throughout the nation, rising during periods of national economic contraction and falling during economic expansions. For all three regions the unemployment rate has been on a fairly steady decline since 1982, when it peaked at 12.3 percent in Spokane County.

From 1970 to 1999, the unemployment rate for the county has only rarely been higher than the state average, but the difference has declined even further since the 1970s. The average unemployment rate for Spokane in the 70s was 7.5 percent, compared to 8.4 percent for the state. In the recessionary decade of the 80s the Spokane unemployment rate increased to an average of 8.5 percent, slightly higher than the state average of 8.4 percent. Both the county and the state experienced double digit unemployment rates from 1981 to 1983. Spokane regained its edge in the 1990s; the decade average for the county was 5.5 percent, and 6 percent for the state.

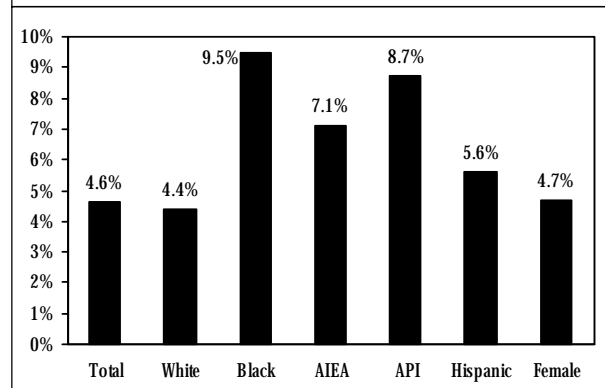
The Spokane unemployment rate reached a 30 year low of 4.6 percent in 1997, but then increased to 4.8 percent in 1998 and 5.2 percent in 1999. In comparison, the state unemployment rate decreased steadily from 6.5 percent in 1996 to 4.7 percent in 1999. Spokane's unemployment rate ranked 14th among all 39 Washington counties. It is difficult to determine the cause of the increasing unemployment rate. Although there was a decline in the growth rate of all nonagriculture jobs there was a corresponding decline in the CLF growth rate. From 1997 to 1999 there were 5,200 new jobs and 5,000 new persons in the labor force. The increase in the unemployment rate is due, in part, to a loss of 700 jobs in manufacturing from 1997 to 1999.

The unemployment rates disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and sex for Spokane County and the state are shown in Figure 14. The overall unemployment rate was 4.6 percent. Although Blacks have the highest unemployment rate (9.5 percent), this accounts for only 200 persons, 2.1 percent of the unemployed.

**Figure 13**  
**Unemployment Rates**  
**Spokane, Washington, & U.S., 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



**Figure 14**  
**Unemployment by Race, Ethnicity, & Gender**  
**Spokane County, 1997**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



# Unemployment Insurance Claims

One of the key factors, and perhaps most reliable methods, in determining unemployment is the number of claims filed with the Employment Security Department for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. *Figure 15* shows the number of UI claims filed in Spokane County and Washington State during FY1999-2000 by occupational groupings. Occupational groupings differ from industry designations in that the former deal with the type of work performed regardless of industry and the latter deal with work performed within a given industry.

Spokane County had 26,474 UI claimants between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000.

The concentration of UI claims in Spokane County occupational groupings closely resemble the concentrations statewide. The majority of claims fell in four principal areas: structural work, professional/technical/managerial, service, and clerical. The only occupations which had a greater percentage of claims statewide than for the county were professional/managerial, packaging, and agriculture. The greatest difference between the county and the state was for the number of UI claims for agriculture, 2.7 percent for the county and 7.6 percent for the state.

**Figure 15**

## Unemployment Insurance Claimants

Spokane County and Washington State, July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000

Source: Employment Security Department

	Spokane		Washington	
	Claimants	Percentage	Claimants	Percentage
Structural work	5,301	20.0%	68,041	19.2%
Professional, technical and managerial	4,980	18.8%	69,757	19.7%
Clerical	3,104	11.7%	39,861	11.3%
Service	3,013	11.4%	35,562	10.0%
Machine Trades	2,554	9.6%	21,643	6.1%
Sales	1,873	7.1%	17,729	5.0%
Motor freight and transportation	1,337	5.1%	16,993	4.8%
Processing	1,322	5.0%	17,838	5.0%
Packaging and materials handling	1,103	4.2%	26,847	7.6%
Benchwork	988	3.7%	10,515	3.0%
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	714	2.7%	26,856	7.6%
Miscellaneous, NEC	185	0.7%	2,444	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,474</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>354,086</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
White-Collar	12,970	49.0%	162,909	46.0%
Blue-Collar	13,504	51.0%	191,177	54.0%

*Miscellaneous/NEC occupations excluded*



# Industrial Typology

The characteristics of an area's industrial base hint at the unemployment patterns that the area might face. Therefore, calculations were made to establish the share of seasonality, cyclicity, and structural maturity in the area's employment base. These terms are defined as follows.

Industries with *seasonal* employment patterns are characterized by large employment increases and decreases in particular months of the year, for example, construction and retail sales. These variations occur during the same months each year and are caused by factors that repeat each year, for example: poor weather conditions, holiday seasons, and weather-related activities such as harvesting. A seasonal industry is one in which the maximum variation between the highest and lowest monthly employment is about 19 percent or more of the industry's annual average employment.

*Cyclical* refers to business and unemployment patterns caused by or linked to the broader movements of the economy—expansions and contractions. Unemployment in such industries is attributable to a general decline in macroeconomic activity, especially expenditures, which occurs during a business-cycle downturn. When the economy dips into a contraction, or recession, aggregate demand declines, so less output is produced and sold, and thus fewer workers and other resources are employed. Hence business activity of the cyclical variety decreases and unemployment increases. Industries that are especially sensitive to these economic swings are classified as cyclical industries, for example, ship building, aerospace, and automobile manufacturing. A cyclical industry is one in which the total employment variation over a seven-year period is very high when compared to a straight-line trend projection for the same period.

*Structurally mature* industries are characterized by long-term declines in total annual average employment. These declines may be the result of increased productivity, automation, technological change, exhaustion of natural resources, or other factors. Decreasing sales are due to either displacement by less-expensive competitors, or decreasing overall demand for the good. Affected industries must either shut down, or restructure.

Areas with a high degree of structurally mature industries experience specific unemployment issues. First, structurally mature industries shed a significant number of workers causing unemployment to increase. Second,

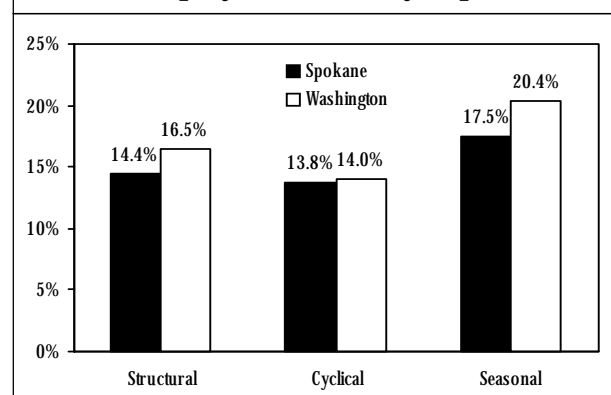
unemployment can persist because of a mismatch between the skills possessed by the available work force and the skills called for in existing and newly created jobs. The impact of structurally mature industries on local economies, therefore, can be devastating in the short run. The structurally mature designation is determined by comparing two consecutive years of annual average employment against the two consecutive years that occurred seven years earlier.

Only private industries were included when producing the figures below, so the large impact of government employment is excluded.

The number of workers employed in these type industries in Spokane County has been tabulated (see Figure 16). In 1998, seasonal industries accounted for 26,560 workers, or 17.5 percent of all non-government employment; another 21,773 workers, 14.4 percent of the total, were employed in structurally mature industries, and only 20,997 workers, 13.8 percent, were in cyclical industries. As the chart shows, this differs moderately from the statewide typology which was 20.4 percent seasonal, 16.5 percent structurally mature, and 14 percent cyclical. *Note: The percentages will not necessarily total 100 percent. An industry can be recognized in more than one typology. Construction, for example, is very dependent upon weather and is also highly sensitive to fluctuations in overall economic activity, i.e., the business cycle. It has been categorized as both seasonal and cyclical.*

The greatest difference between the state and the county is for seasonal employment, 17.5 percent for the

**Figure 16**  
**Industrial Typology**  
**Spokane County and Washington, 1998**  
**Source: Employment Security Department**



county and 20.4 percent for the state. Although Spokane might be considered to be in a “rural” or “agricultural” area, it is in reality an urban center. The higher percentage of seasonal jobs for the state reflects the inclusion of the more agriculturally based rural counties.

Because all these types of industries tend toward volatility and higher levels of unemployment, and because Spokane County has lesser concentrations of workers in these type industries than the state as a whole, it follows that Spokane County’s unemployment would be less than the statewide average.

# INDUSTRIES, EMPLOYMENT, AND WAGES

Data in this section are derived through two different Bureau of Labor Statistics programs, which are conducted in Washington by the Employment Security Department. Current Employment Statistics (CES) generates monthly *nonagricultural* employment figures. The Quar-

terly Employment and Wages program (ES-202) includes data on both agricultural and nonagricultural employment *covered* under the state unemployment insurance program. Approximately 90 percent of all workers in the state are covered by unemployment insurance.

## Employment Trend

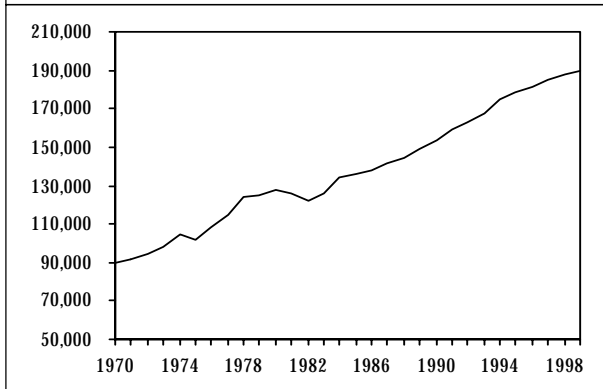
Since the “double-dip” recessions of the early 1980s, which brought down the county’s employment to 122,600 in 1982, nonfarm employment in Spokane County has increased every year (*Figure 17*). Job growth has since averaged 2.6 percent annually with no negative growth during this time and hit an all-time high of 189,900 in 1999. The latest national recession, occurring early in this decade, had minimal effect upon Spokane County.

The county’s economic strength during the late 1980s was fueled by strong national economic growth and an increase in population driven by strong in-migration. Some of the migrants brought employment with them. A number of relatively small, light manufacturing entities relocated in Spokane during that period. Spokane developed a reputation as an attractive place with less congestion, pollution, crime, etc., than found in many larger

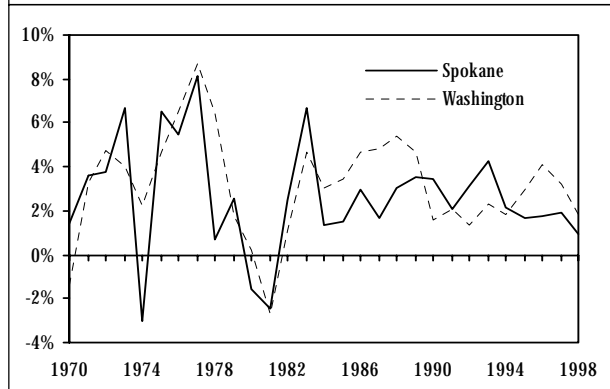
urban cities. Attractive land and housing prices were also a major incentive that lured people and companies to the area. Aggressive economic development efforts by *Momentum*, a group of local business leaders, also contributed significantly to the boom. Growth in Spokane developed a life of its own which continued even as the national economy faltered in the 1990-91 recession.

Since reaching a peak of 4.2 percent in 1994, the job growth rate has steadily declined to .9 percent in 1999 (*Figure 18*). From 1995 to 1997 the only sector to show negative growth was transportation and public utilities (-2.4 percent annual average). This sector then improved with an average positive growth of 1.9 percent from 1997 to 1999. From 1997 to 1999, only manufacturing showed negative growth (-1.6 percent annual average).

**Figure 17**  
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment  
Spokane County, 1970-1999  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



**Figure 18**  
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Growth  
Spokane County and Washington, 1970-1999  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



# Location Quotients

One way of determining the industrial makeup of an area, and thereby its relative economic strength or weakness, is to compare it to another area. This comparison can be done using various measures of economic activity, such as employment, income, or retail sales. In the following analysis, location quotients are calculated using employment figures.

The following section shows fairly specifically, by industry sector, how Spokane County's employment patterns both differ from and coincide with Washington State's. When comparing an industry's share of total employment at the county level to the same industry's share at the statewide level, it becomes apparent that some county employment is distributed differently than statewide employment. The location quotient compares the share of total employment in a particular industry division in the county with the share it represents in Washington State.

The quotient is determined by dividing the local industry's share of local total employment by the same industry's share of total employment at the state level. A value higher than 1.0 denotes a local industry with a higher percentage of employment than exists in the same industry at the state level. A value below 1.0 denotes the opposite. A quotient of 1.0 denotes an industry in which the county is comparable to the state as a whole.

A quotient above 1.0 suggests that the good or service produced by an industry is exported from the area; a quotient below 1.0 is a sign that, hypothetically, goods or services must be imported into an area to provide the same consumption patterns found at the state level. The greater the value above or below 1.0, the stronger the suggestion of exporting or importing becomes.

**Figure 19**  
**Location Quotients**  
**Spokane County, 1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*

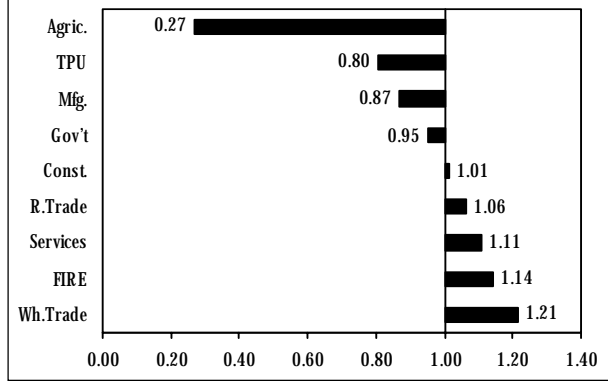


Figure 19 shows the location quotients of the major industry sectors in Spokane County. Except for agriculture (.27), all sectors are fairly close to the statewide norm (quotient of 1.0), indicating that importing/exporting consumption patterns in the county are very similar to the statewide patterns. Like the industrial typology discussed earlier, this is another signal that the county's economy tends to work very much like the state's. A quotient of 1.21 shows that the wholesale trade sector is somewhat more predominant in the county, compared to the state.

Four of the nine sectors are importing sectors, but only to a small degree (except for agriculture). The positive quotients for construction, trade, services, and FIRE reflect the urban nature of Spokane County which provides services to the surrounding rural counties.

## Goods and Services

There are three broad sectors in an economy: primary, secondary, and tertiary. The primary sector is comprised of agriculture and mining. The secondary sector is the goods-producing sector, comprised of manufacturing and construction. Finally, the service-sector is everything else—although government is often excluded. (The easiest way to remember the difference between a 'good' and a 'service' is that dropping a 'service' on one's foot doesn't hurt.) Over the past several decades, most job growth in the U.S. has been in the service sector.

Figure 20 shows the total number of jobs in each sector from 1970 to 1999 in Spokane County. Jobs in the goods producing sector increased 186 percent from 17,600 to 32,700; service jobs increased 217 percent, from 72,600 to 157,300. The latter calculation includes government jobs in the service sector. In contrast, the goods and service sectors statewide grew by 177 percent and 270 percent, respectively.

**Figure 20**  
**Total Number of Jobs in Goods and Services**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*

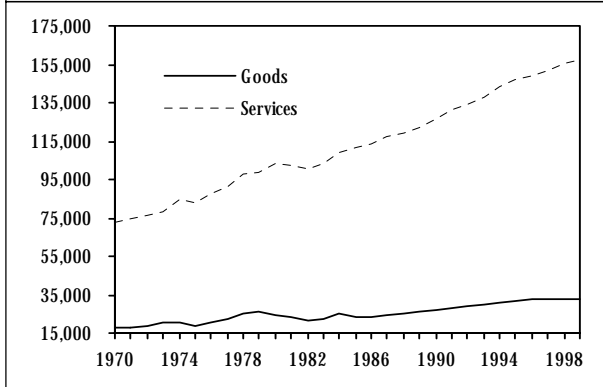
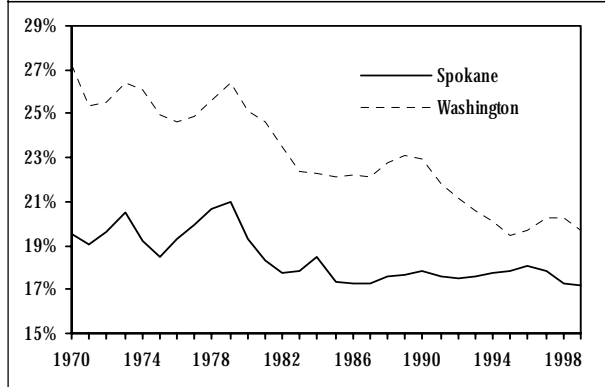


Figure 21 shows the percentage of jobs which fall within the goods and service sectors of the economy for both the county and the state. Although the percentage of jobs in the goods sector (mining, construction, and manufac-

**Figure 21**  
**Percentage of Jobs in Goods Sector**  
**Spokane County and Washington, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



turing) statewide decreased from 27 percent in 1970 to 20 percent in 1999, the decline in the county was much less dramatic—from 20 percent to 17 percent.

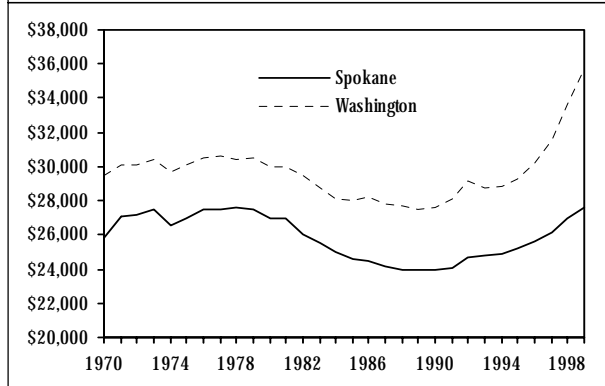
## Annual Average Covered Wage

Annual average covered wages are derived by dividing the total wages paid in an area by the annual average employment in that area. Jobs not covered by the unemployment insurance program are excluded; however, approximately 90 percent of all employment in the state is covered under the program. (Note: all amounts here have been inflation adjusted to 1998 dollars.) The average wage does not include any benefits (e.g., insurance or retirement plans) other than actual wages.

Figure 22 show the real annual covered wage from 1970 to 1999 for Spokane County and Washington State. For Spokane the annual wage peaked in 1978 at \$27,632. It then declined steadily until it bottomed out at \$23,909 in 1990. Since then the annual wage has increased each year until reaching \$27,556 in 1999, compared to the state wage of \$35,724. Although the Spokane average covered wage follows the state trend, with peaks and valleys occurring in the same years, there is always a gap between the two. The state wage has been consistently higher than the county wage, but the gap has increased over the years from \$1,651 in 1970 to \$5,269 in 1998.

It should be remembered that King County, with its huge population and highly paid high-tech and aerospace industries, is the strongest driver of the statewide average. In fact, King County was the only county to have an

**Figure 22**  
**Real Average Covered Wage**  
**Spokane County and Washington, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



annual covered wage higher than the state average of \$35,724. Spokane ranked eighth of all 39 counties.

Although the annual wage has improved since 1990, the fact that in 1998 it was less than it was 20 years earlier is a matter of concern that has been a subject of considerable discussion. It is a national trend as well as one occurring in Washington and in Spokane County. Some of the explanations proffered are listed below; undoubtedly, each is a contributing factor.

- Pay declines within industries caused by international competition, restructuring, the decreased power of unions to set wages, and other factors.
- An overall decline in high paying goods-producing jobs accompanied by a large increase in lower

- paying trade and services jobs.
- The substitution of employee benefits for direct pay increases.
- Increase in part-time workers.

The annual average 1999 covered wage, and the number employed, for major industry divisions and per-

**Figure 23**  
**Annual Covered Wages and Employment**  
**Spokane County and Washington State, 1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*

SIC	Total	Spokane		Washington	
		Employment	Avg Wage	Employment	Avg Wage
	<b>Total</b>	<b>183,710</b>		<b>2,644,958</b>	
	<b>Private - Total</b>	<b>153,940</b>	<b>\$30,691</b>	<b>2,194,681</b>	<b>\$36,948</b>
	<b>Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>\$18,899</b>	<b>87,115</b>	<b>\$19,697</b>
01	Agricultural Production - Crops	303	\$14,496	54,110	\$13,647
02	Agricultural Production - Livestock	105	\$12,922	5,738	\$20,133
07	Agricultural Services	1,170	\$17,629	24,890	\$18,966
08	Forestry	47	\$30,547	2,377	\$26,042
	<b>Construction and Mining</b>	<b>10,298</b>	<b>\$45,730</b>	<b>146,304</b>	<b>\$42,322</b>
10	Metal Mining	143	\$102,317	353	\$72,207
13	Oil and Gas Extraction	*	*	38	\$32,461
14	Nonmetallic Minerals, except Fuels	22	\$29,201	2,310	\$36,408
15	General Building Contractors	2,732	\$30,715	39,143	\$34,383
16	Heavy Construction, except Building	1,018	\$36,223	18,988	\$44,209
17	Special Trade Contractors	6,380	\$30,195	85,472	\$34,266
	<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>21,595</b>	<b>\$32,679</b>	<b>359,129</b>	<b>\$40,851</b>
20	Food and Kindred Products	1,609	\$28,153	40,591	\$31,154
22	Textile Mill Products	*	*	1,008	\$34,867
23	Apparel and Other Textile Products	381	\$16,702	7,070	\$21,451
24	Lumber and Wood Products	1,215	\$20,902	33,147	\$37,770
25	Furniture and Fixtures	223	\$21,642	4,611	\$27,877
26	Paper and Allied Products	333	\$41,609	15,769	\$51,198
27	Printing and Publishing	1,729	\$28,054	23,572	\$33,464
28	Chemicals and Allied Products	546	\$44,281	6,104	\$70,893
29	Petroleum and Coal Products	*	*	2,124	\$66,332
30	Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastic Products	532	\$24,499	10,015	\$31,242
31	Leather and Leather Products	*	*	371	\$21,713
32	Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	1,277	\$38,274	8,633	\$35,512
33	Primary Metal Industries	3,477	\$42,559	11,586	\$44,067
34	Fabricated Metal Products	1,394	\$28,742	14,185	\$32,871
35	Industrial Machinery and Computer Equip.	2,738	\$38,132	24,413	\$46,556
36	Electronic Equipment, except Computer	2,533	\$34,942	18,231	\$41,020
37	Transportation Equipment	1,584	\$40,383	114,616	\$55,599
38	Instruments and Related Products	1,441	\$53,704	14,537	\$54,866
39	Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	440	\$22,248	8,546	\$37,726
	<b>Transportation and Public Utilities</b>	<b>4,058</b>	<b>\$24,153</b>	<b>73,755</b>	<b>\$40,413</b>
41	Local and Interurban Passenger Transit	241	\$14,781	6,680	\$19,707
42	Trucking and Warehousing	2,404	\$29,500	31,672	\$30,801
44	Water Transportation	*	*	8,885	\$55,455
45	Transportation By Air	1,413	\$28,177	26,406	\$38,483
46	Pipelines, except Natural Gas	*	*	112	\$57,621

**Figure 23 (Continued)**  
**Annual Covered Wages and Employment**  
**Spokane County and Washington State, 1999**  
**Source: Employment Security Department**

SIC		Spokane		Washington	
		Employment	Avg Wage	Employment	Avg Wage
47	Transportation Services	367	\$24,367	11,923	\$33,852
48	Communication	1,777	\$42,086	31,694	\$59,055
49	Electric, Gas and Sanitary Services	1,232	\$55,466	15,616	\$53,416
	<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>12,562</b>	<b>\$34,152</b>	<b>149,133</b>	<b>\$40,085</b>
50	Wholesale Trade - Durable Goods	8,241	\$36,535	84,772	\$44,227
51	Wholesale Trade - Nondurable Goods	4,321	\$31,769	64,361	\$35,943
	<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>34,921</b>	<b>\$18,769</b>	<b>472,458</b>	<b>\$22,582</b>
52	Building Materials and Garden Supplies	1,511	\$21,672	21,861	\$25,037
53	General Merchandise Stores	4,175	\$16,439	49,287	\$21,021
54	Food Stores	5,350	\$19,462	69,332	\$20,306
55	Automotive Dealers and Service Stations	3,966	\$29,018	48,050	\$30,516
56	Apparel and Accessory Stores	1,269	\$13,691	25,405	\$21,033
57	Furniture and Homefurnishings Stores	1,839	\$22,101	21,526	\$27,490
58	Eating and Drinking Places	12,619	\$10,425	176,049	\$12,256
59	Miscellaneous Retail	4,192	\$17,339	60,948	\$22,993
	<b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate</b>	<b>10,631</b>	<b>\$51,391</b>	<b>134,122</b>	<b>\$52,991</b>
60	Depository Institutions	3,387	\$32,332	38,184	\$37,558
61	Nondepository Institutions	1,325	\$45,557	11,538	\$49,436
62	Security and Commodity Brokers	706	\$96,370	7,981	\$96,218
63	Insurance Carriers	1,973	\$35,442	26,869	\$44,641
64	Insurance Agents, Brokers, and Service	1,075	\$35,020	13,328	\$40,639
65	Real Estate	1,981	\$17,394	33,633	\$26,378
67	Holding and Other Investment Offices	184	\$97,619	2,589	\$76,065
	<b>Services</b>	<b>54,863</b>	<b>\$20,854</b>	<b>710,755</b>	<b>\$29,785</b>
70	Hotels and Other Lodging Places	3,224	\$15,524	28,212	\$16,637
72	Personal Services	1,872	\$14,932	22,450	\$17,399
73	Business Services	8,579	\$22,294	165,464	\$88,797
75	Auto Repair, Services, and Parking	1,983	\$22,219	25,900	\$24,829
76	Miscellaneous Repair Services	599	\$23,664	7,575	\$29,872
78	Motion Pictures	405	\$10,463	9,928	\$13,461
79	Amusement and Recreation Services	2,368	\$12,364	40,268	\$19,647
80	Health Services	20,519	\$28,766	185,827	\$31,616
81	Legal Services	1,401	\$32,013	17,528	\$44,849
82	Educational Services	2,038	\$27,747	22,720	\$27,132
83	Social Services	4,850	\$16,501	59,140	\$17,080
84	Museums, Botanical, Zoological Gardens	*	*	1,532	\$21,471
86	Membership Organizations	1,554	\$17,167	24,580	\$22,145
87	Engineering and Management Services	2,910	\$33,524	64,036	\$46,629
88	Private Households	2,526	\$8,144	33,439	\$8,814
89	Services, NEC	35	\$27,488	2,156	\$46,185
	<b>Government</b>	<b>29,770</b>	<b>\$34,886</b>	<b>450,277</b>	<b>\$36,809</b>
	Federal	4,410	\$40,588	67,631	\$42,858
	State	8,070	\$33,646	116,784	\$35,091
	Local	17,290	\$30,423	265,862	\$32,477

*\*Employment and wages not shown to avoid disclosure of data for individual employers.*

missible two-digit SIC code industries are shown in *Figure 23* for Spokane County and Washington State. Note that the average wage by sector throughout the state is almost always higher than Spokane County's average wage. (Again, the state's average wage data are heavily influenced by King County: the high-paying aerospace and high-tech industries drive up the wage for the densely populated county and, consequently, for the state as a whole.)

A look at Spokane County's industry divisions shows that eight of the SIC two-digit industries have slightly higher salaries than for the state. These include: crop production (01), forestry (08), stone/clay/glass products (32), electric and gas services (49), security and commodity brokers (62), investment offices (67), and educational services (82). Metal mining (10) is the only industry to have a significantly higher salary at the county level compared to the state, \$102,317 compared to \$72,207.

Besides security and commodity brokers, investment offices, and metal mining, only one other industry pays

more than \$60,000—petroleum and coal products (29). The lowest average covered wages were for eating and drinking places (58) and motion pictures (78), both paying about \$10,400.

These figures should be used only to draw broad conclusions. Some industries are purposefully excluded for confidentiality purposes, and the inclusion of data on part-time workers and executive earnings exaggerate wage disparities between otherwise comparable industries. Moreover, the wages have not been adjusted for regional cost-of-living variations, which can be very significant.

In the following sections the different employment sectors are discussed using two different data sources. Except for agriculture, the employment trend for the sector is discussed based on data from the CES program. Then each sector and industries within the sector are discussed in terms of 1999 employment and average salary based on ES-202 data. These data are shown in *Figure 23*.

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## Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing

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In terms of employment, the agricultural sector is quite small in Spokane County, especially when compared to other eastern Washington counties. It employs a total of about 1,625 workers, less than 1 percent of all wage and salary workers in the county. Spokane ranks 37th among the counties in terms of the percentage of people employed in agriculture. Seventy-five percent of these are employed in agriculture services with an average salary of \$17,629.

The second largest group are those employed in crop production, 19.6 percent of the sector total. The bulk of the crops are field crops, mainly grains, that tend to be more capital-intensive than labor-intensive. The average wage for agricultural workers in the county was \$18,899 in 1999, compared to \$19,697 for the sector statewide. The average is influenced by the high salary for the very few workers, only 47, employed in forestry.

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## Construction and Mining

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Mining is a small portion of the sector, accounting for less than 2 percent of the sector's 10,298 jobs. Within mining Spokane has a significantly higher percentage of workers in metal mining than at the state level, 1.4 percent of total sector employment compared to .24 percent in the state. Metal mining provides the highest salary in the county, \$102,317. Because mining employment is relatively minor, the rest of the discussion will concern construction.

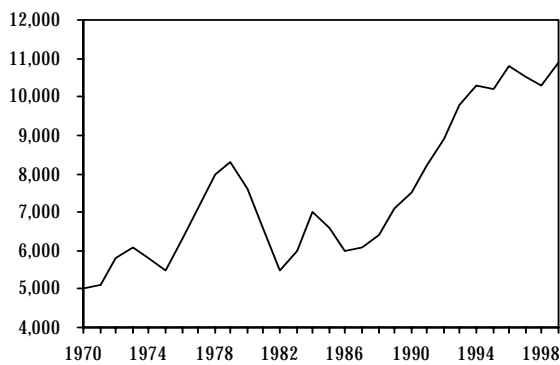
*Figure 24* shows the employment trend for construction and mining from 1970 to 1999 in Spokane County. Growth in the sector really began to take off in 1987, with an average annual growth rate of 7 percent from

1987 through 1994. The number of jobs increased from 6,000 in 1986 to 10,900 in 1999. From 1995 growth began to slow dramatically. From 1995 to 1999 the average was 1.2 percent, with negative growth in 1995, 1997, and 1998. The growth rate in 1999 was 5.8 percent with 600 new jobs.

In 1999, 5.6 percent of all employment in Spokane was in the construction and mining sector. The share of employment was virtually the same for the state at 5.5 percent. Sixty-two percent of those employed in the sector were in special trades with an average salary of \$30,195. These include plumbers, painters, heating and air conditioning specialists, carpenters, etc. The next



**Figure 24**  
**Construction and Mining Employment**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



largest group, with about 26 percent of total construction jobs, was general building. This group is generally employed in new construction, both commercial and residential. About 10 percent of construction jobs dealt with heavy construction, primarily highway and street construction and sewer and utility lines.

The construction and mining average salary (\$45,730) is the only sector salary higher than the state average (\$42,322). It is also the second highest sector salary in the county after FIRE (\$51,391). If metal mining is taken out of the calculation for the average sector salary, the Spokane average goes down to \$31,584, compared to the state average of \$37,317, and compared to the average salary for the county of \$30,691. Metal mining greatly influences the average even though it only accounts for 1.4 percent of sector employment.

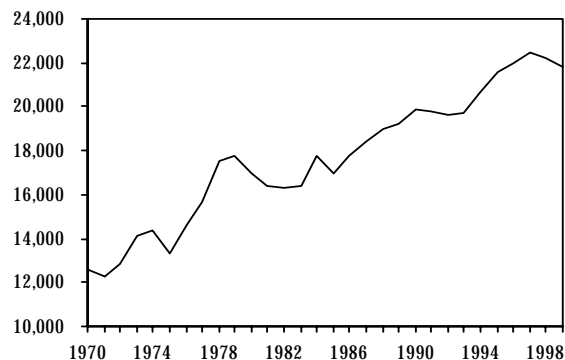
## Manufacturing

Figure 25 shows that employment in manufacturing has increased from 12,660 jobs in 1970 to 21,800 jobs in 1999, an average annual growth rate of 2 percent. More recently, the annual growth rate has declined steadily from 5.1 percent in 1994 to -1.8 percent in 1999. Manufacturing jobs declined by 1.3 percent in 1998 and again by 1.8 percent in 1999, for a total loss of 700 jobs. Over 500 of these jobs were in primary metal industries, predominately aluminum.

With an 11.6 percent share of all nonfarm employment, manufacturing in the county is proportionately smaller than the state's, which has a 13.8 percent share. However, the county has not experienced the same decline which has occurred throughout the state. Since 1970, the statewide sector shrank from 22.2 to 13.8 percent, while the county share declined only from 14 to 11.6 percent.

The manufacturing sector is the cornerstone of Spokane County's economic health. Although the county is located far from major markets, it has developed into more than a regional hub. The sector produces goods for local, regional, national, and international markets, ranging from processed food to airplane parts to computers. In terms of employment, manufacturing tends to follow national trends quite closely. As Figure 25 shows, most declines in the work force have occurred during periods of national recessions, showing that the sector is closely linked to the same influences that affect the nation.

**Figure 25**  
**Manufacturing Employment**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



Major employers in the area are found in a number of industries, including aluminum, machinery, computer and peripherals, transportation equipment (including engines, boats, trailers, and aircraft), and printing and publishing. The three largest industries within the sector are: primary metal industries (16.1 percent), industrial machinery and computer equipment (12.7 percent), and electronic equipment (11.7 percent). Fortunately, all three of these industries provide salaries higher than the sector average of \$32,679. Thirty percent of employment in primary metal industries is due to the production of alumina. Manufacturing no longer provides the highest sector salary as it used to; it now ranks fourth after construction and mining, wholesale trade, FIRE, and government.

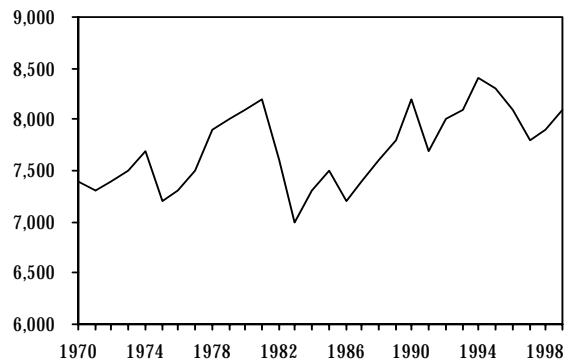
# Transportation and Public Utilities (TPU)

Besides agriculture, TPU, which includes trucking, warehousing, and utilities, is the county's smallest sector with only 4 percent of all employment. Compared to other sectors, its growth has been diminutive. As shown in *Figure 26*, employment in TPU increased from only 7,400 workers in 1970 to 8,100 workers in 1999.

The lack of growth was initiated by the huge drop of 1,200 workers in a two-year period during the recessions of the early 1980s. Employment dropped from a peak of 8,200 in 1980 to 7,000 in 1982. Employment gradually increased and finally surpassed the former peak in 1994 when there were 8,400 workers in the sector. The number of workers then began to decline reaching 7,800 in 1997. It has since rebounded reaching 8,100 in 1999. The average wage was \$32,396 in 1999.

The largest industry in the sector is trucking and warehousing, with about 32 percent of sector jobs (2,404 workers). This percentage, which is higher than the state-wide average of 24 percent, reflects Spokane County's position as an agricultural hub for a large area. The communications industry, which includes cable, broadcast

**Figure 26**  
**TPU Employment**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



TV, radio, and telephone service, is the second largest industry with about 1,777 employees (24 percent of the sector). Workers in air transportation (1,423) were the third largest industry within the sector with 19 percent of total sector employment.

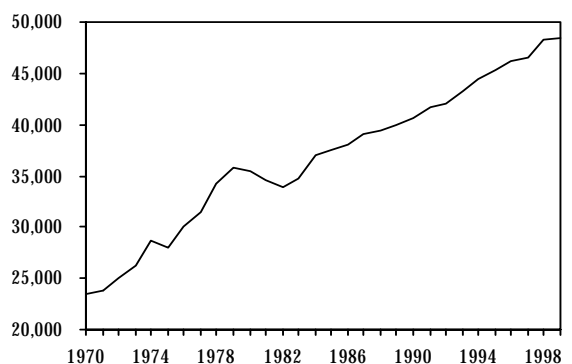
# Trade

*Figure 27* shows the employment trend for the trade sector in Spokane County from 1970 to 1999. The number of jobs increased more than two fold from 23,400 in 1970 to 48,400 in 1999 with an average annual growth rate of 2.6 percent. The average rate of growth for the state was 3.4 percent. Most recently the growth rate for Spokane declined from 3.4 percent in 1998 to 0.4 percent in 1999.

Until 1989 trade was the largest employer in Spokane County. Since then it has remained in second place after services. In 1999, trade employment was 25.8 percent of total employment compared to services which was 29.9 percent. Trade is broken down into two components, wholesale and retail. Wholesale and retail trade comprised 6.8 percent and 19 percent, respectively, of total employment.

The average wage for wholesale trade is significantly higher than for retail trade, \$34,152 verses \$18,769. Wholesale trade, with 24 percent of trade employment, generated 40 percent of trade's entire payroll in 1999. Wholesale trade employment also has a higher percentage at the county level than for the state, 6.8 verses 5.6

**Figure 27**  
**Trade Employment**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



percent. Within wholesale trade durable goods constitute a higher percentage for the county (65 percent) than the state (57 percent). This is favorable for the county as durable goods provide a higher average salary than non-durable goods, \$36,535 and \$31,769, respectively.

Retail trade provided 19 percent of total employment for the county and 17.9 percent for the state. The average wage for retail (\$18,769) is the lowest sectoral wage. It should be noted, though, that the trade sector, like the agricultural sector, has a high level of part-time work which strongly affects the average wage. (All jobs are treated equally in the average wage calculations, so that one entailing 20 hours work a week is counted the same as one entailing 40 hours a week.)

The largest employing industry in retail trade was eating and drinking places, employing over 12,619 workers, 36 percent of all retail employment, and paid an average wage of \$10,425, the lowest in the county. Restaurant work is characterized by part-time work and entry-level pay scales (often minimum wage), so this figure is not surprising. Food stores had 5,350 employees and both auto dealers/service stations and general merchandise stores employed around 4,000 workers.

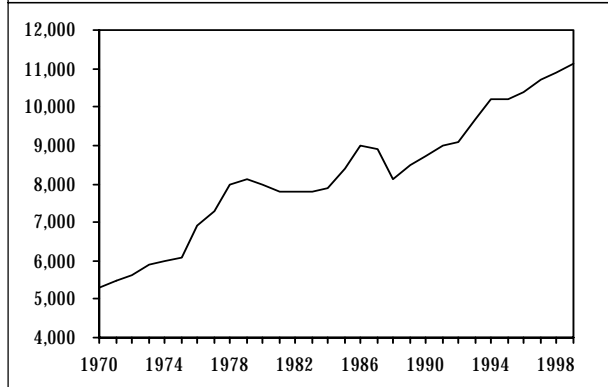
## Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (FIRE)

Figure 28 shows the trend for employment in the FIRE sector for Spokane County from 1970 to 1999. Employment in the FIRE sector almost doubled from 5,300 in 1970 to 11,100 in 1999. The sector had an average annual growth rate of 2.7 percent, somewhat less than the state average growth rate of 3.0 percent. Most recently the annual growth rate has declined from 2.9 percent in 1997 to 1.8 percent in 1999.

The FIRE sector, reflective of Spokane County's role as a regional financial hub for a wide agricultural area, is larger in terms of employment than the sector is on a statewide basis, 5.8 percent compared to 5.1 percent for the state. The average wage for the sector was \$51,391 in 1999, the highest sectoral wage.

Thirty-two percent of sector employment in 1999 was in depository institutions: banks, credit unions, savings and loans, etc. with an average salary of \$32,332. Insurance carriers and real estate each provided 19 percent of sector employment. Security and commodity brokers earned the highest salary of \$96,370 but provided only 6.6 percent of sector employment (706 workers).

**Figure 28**  
**FIRE Employment**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*



## Services

The services sector has been the fastest growing and is now the largest sector in Spokane County. In 1989 it surpassed trade in size, and each year since has increased the spread. Service employment tripled from 18,700 jobs in 1970 to 57,900 in 1999 (Figure 29). This was due to an average annual growth rate of 4.0 percent, compared to the state growth rate of 5.2 percent.

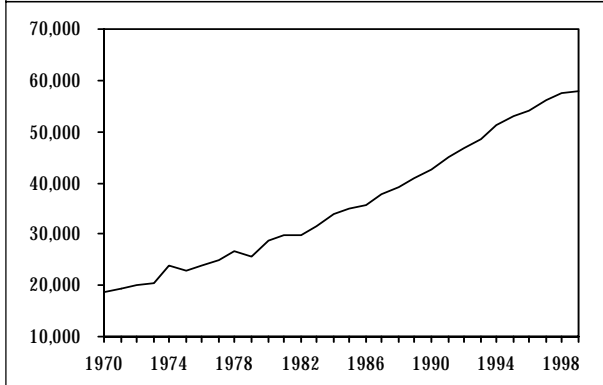
Almost a third (29.9 percent) of all nonfarm jobs in the county are in the services sector. Statewide 26.9 percent of all jobs are in the service sector. The average wage for 1999 was \$20,854.

Spokane has a number of hospitals and other medical facilities and is a medical care center for a large sur-

rounding area. Health care services is, by far, the largest industry in the services sector. About 38 percent of services jobs in Spokane County are in the health care industry (the figure is only 26 percent statewide). The health service average wage, \$28,766, is lower than the county's overall average wage and the average for health care workers statewide, which was \$31,616 in 1999.

The industry encompasses employment at hospitals and nursing homes as well as the offices of physicians and dentists and others. The largest employers are general medical hospitals, who had about 7,000 workers on the payroll in 1999, 34 percent of health services employment. Private physicians and clinics were the next

**Figure 29**  
**Services Employment**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
**Source: Employment Security Department**



largest group with almost 3,800 employees, 18 percent of the total. Nursing care facilities employed some 3,000

workers (15 percent). The next two largest groups were dentists (1,500 workers) and home health care services (1,430 workers). Average wages in these industries range from the high paid by hospitals of \$36,113 to the \$15,783 received by home health care providers.

The next largest industry in the sector is business services; firms which provide services to producers (i.e., businesses) rather than to consumers, with 16 percent of services employment. Most industry employment is concentrated in temporary help services (20 percent) and building maintenance services (15 percent). Building maintenance earned the lowest average salary of \$11,000 within business services. The average wage for the industry in 1999 was \$22,294.

There is a fair amount of employment in social services (8.8 percent), hotels and lodging places (5.9 percent), and engineering and management services (5.3 percent). The latter earns the highest average wage within the sector, \$33,524.

## Government

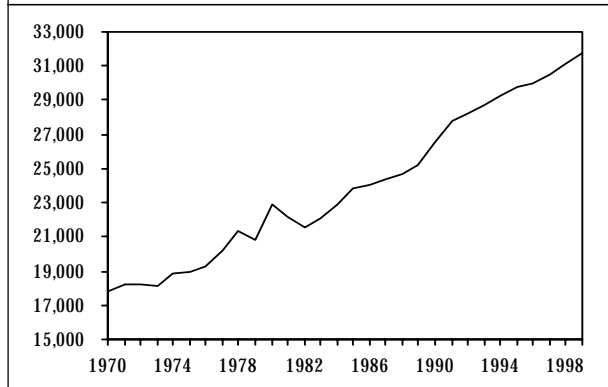
Civilian government employment has grown steadily, if not spectacularly, since the early 1980s (Figure 30). Since 1970 the number of jobs has increased from 17,800 then to 31,800 in 1999. The average annual growth rate for government has been 2.1 percent in Spokane County and 2.3 percent for the state. Interestingly, while the county growth rate has increased steadily from .7 percent in 1996 to 2.3 percent in 1999, the annual growth rate for the state was 1.5 percent in 1996 and 1999, with only negligible increases in between.

Public employment has a 16.2 percent share of all nonfarm jobs in the county, fairly comparable to the statewide share of 17 percent. Although government is not the largest or fastest growing sector, it provides an element of stability to the economy as well as a relatively well-paid work force that injects a sizable payroll into the local area.

Jobs within government in Spokane County are distributed very much like they are statewide. Federal government has 14.8 percent of the total in the county and 15 percent statewide. State government accounts for 27.1 percent in the county and 25.9 percent statewide. Local government, easily the largest, has a 58.1 percent share in the county and 59 percent throughout the state.

The federal presence in Spokane County largely stems from the postal service and civilian employment at Fairchild Air Force Base. All told, the federal govern-

**Figure 30**  
**Government Employment**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1999**  
**Source: Employment Security Department**



ment has a \$179 million payroll in the county that results in an average wage of \$40,588. Although the military are not normally factored into labor force and nonfarm jobs calculations, the Air Force has a strong effect upon the area. According to a presentation done by a Fairchild Air Force Base representative in 2000, the base had a payroll of \$96 million for civilians, \$52 million for military personnel, and \$145 million for military retirees. The Office of Financial Management estimated there to be 2,995 active duty personnel in Spokane County in 1999, a decline of 938 since 1995.

The bulk of state government jobs (43 percent) are with the higher education facilities in the county: Eastern Washington University in Cheney and Spokane and Spokane Falls community colleges. Although not as high as the federal average wage, state government workers, including the educational staff, averaged \$33,646 in wages in 1999.

Almost two-thirds of local government is involved with K-12 education and most of the remainder is given over to governmental administrative and executive functions. In 1999, this sector had close to 17,300 employees in Spokane County. The average wage of \$30,423 was the lowest of the three governmental divisions, and slightly less than the county's overall average.

## Industry Projections

Nonfarm employment projections for the 1998-2003 period, for Spokane County and Washington State, are shown in *Figure 31*. The projections are made by Employment Security Department analysts based on historical trends and anticipated developments in the various industries. The county is expected to have substantially greater growth in its employment base than the state,

12.8 percent compared to 9.3 percent, which translates into 24,100 more jobs. The greatest growth for the county is expected in services at 19.2 percent, which is also true for the state. Government in the county is expected to grow by 15.7 percent, compared to state growth of only 9.6 percent. The only sector expected to have less growth than the state is construction and mining, 4.9 percent in the county and 10.3 percent for the state.

**Figure 31**  
**Industry Projections**  
**Spokane County and Washington State, 1998 and 2003**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*

	Spokane			# Jobs	Washington		
	1998	2003	% Change		1998	2003	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	188,900	213,000	12.8%	24,100	2,595,000	2,837,600	9.3%
Manufacturing	22,200	23,400	5.4%	1,200	378,800	370,100	-2.3%
Construction & Mining	10,300	10,800	4.9%	500	147,000	162,100	10.3%
Transportation & Utilities	8,200	8,700	6.1%	500	136,100	142,700	4.8%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	48,100	53,000	10.2%	4,900	624,000	681,800	9.3%
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	10,900	11,900	9.2%	1,000	135,000	142,900	5.9%
Services	57,900	69,000	19.2%	11,100	710,000	829,400	16.8%
Government	31,300	36,200	15.7%	4,900	464,100	508,600	9.6%

# OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE

A different but informative way to view an area's work force is in terms of occupational divisions rather than industrial divisions. Occupation data differ from industry data in that the former are categorized by job function regardless of output, whereas the latter are categorized by final product. In other words, an occupation category, such as managerial and administrative, tracks employment and wages for all workers (16 and older) who perform a certain class of duties regardless of the industry. *Figure 32* shows employment in the major occupational divisions as well as the share of each grouping for Spokane County and the state for 1998 and

the 2008 projections. The data are based on Occupational Employment Surveys (OES) conducted in the area by the Employment Security Department in 1998.

The occupational makeup reveals only a modest departure from the state's occupational structure. The most visible disparities between the county and state were for service occupations (18.5 versus 15.4 percent) and agricultural occupations (.8 versus 3.9 percent). These dissimilarities are the result of Spokane County having a regional service sector and field crops which are not labor-intensive, such as wheat. Dividing the occupational mix into blue-collar and white-collar

**Figure 32**  
**Occupational Employment and Projections**  
**Spokane County and Washington State, 1998 and 2008**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*

	Spokane					
	1998	% Share	2008	% Share	% Chg	Jobs
Total	215,853	100.0%	247,174	100.0%	14.5%	31,321
Managerial and Administrative	15,113	7.0%	17,772	7.2%	17.6%	2,659
Professional, Paraprof., & Tech.	46,300	21.4%	56,074	22.7%	21.1%	9,774
Marketing & Sales	25,738	11.9%	28,922	11.7%	12.4%	3,184
Clerical & Admin. Support	36,086	16.7%	38,899	15.7%	7.8%	2,813
Services	40,017	18.5%	47,713	19.3%	19.2%	7,696
Ag., Forestry, Fishing, & Related	1,812	0.8%	1,883	0.8%	3.9%	71
Prec. Production, Craft, & Repair	23,431	10.9%	25,362	10.3%	8.2%	1,931
Operators, Fabricators, & Laborers	27,356	12.7%	30,549	12.4%	11.7%	3,193
White-Collar	163,254	75.6%	189,380	76.6%	16.0%	26,126
Blue-Collar	52,599	24.4%	57,794	23.4%	9.9%	5,195
	Washington					
	1998	% Share	2008	% Share	% Chg	Jobs
Total	3,042,950	100.0%	3,583,190	100.0%	17.8%	540,240
Managerial and Administrative	236,687	7.8%	288,456	8.1%	21.9%	51,769
Professional, Paraprof., & Tech.	689,989	22.7%	869,794	24.3%	26.1%	179,805
Marketing & Sales	345,850	11.4%	406,194	11.3%	17.4%	60,344
Clerical & Admin. Support	474,747	15.6%	519,647	14.5%	9.5%	44,900
Services	469,185	15.4%	574,817	16.0%	22.5%	105,632
Ag., Forestry, Fishing & Related	119,106	3.9%	122,271	3.4%	2.7%	3,165
Prec. Production, Craft, & Repair	336,198	11.0%	374,422	10.4%	11.4%	38,224
Operators, Fabricators, & Laborers	371,188	12.2%	427,589	11.9%	15.2%	56,401
White-Collar	2,216,458	72.8%	2,658,908	74.2%	20.0%	442,450
Blue-Collar	826,492	27.2%	924,282	25.8%	11.8%	97,790

occupations, one can see that Spokane County has a slightly higher percentage of white-collar occupations than the state as a whole.

Occupational employment projections are also shown in *Figure 32*. The greatest growth for Spokane occupations is expected for professional, paraprofessional, and technical (21.1 percent change) and services (19.2 percent), both of which will remain as the two predomi-

nant occupations. This relates well to national trends that show the economy becoming more service-oriented. Even with only 7.8 percent projected growth, clerical and administrative support occupations will remain as the third largest occupational category with a 15.7 percent share in 1998, followed by marketing and sales occupations at 12.4 percent.

Similar occupational growth is expected for the state, only higher rates for each category.

**Figure 33**  
**Occupational Wages**  
**Spokane County, 1998**  
*Source: Employment Security Department*

Occupational Title	Wage*	Rank**	Occupational Title	Wage*	Rank**
<b>Managerial and Administrative Occupations</b>			<b>Mechanical Engineer</b>		
General Manager & Top Executive	\$27.25	2	Clergy	\$17.53	158
All Other Manager & Administrator	\$24.35	12	Human Service Worker	\$9.48	159
Financial Manager	\$25.49	41	All Other Engineer	\$27.40	160
Food Service & Lodging Manager	\$13.31	55	Personnel, Train & Labor Relation Spec	\$17.93	162
Marketing, Advertising, Public Rel Mgr	\$24.10	60	Radiologic Technologist	\$17.14	163
Education Administrator	\$27.03	66	Civil Engineer, including Traffic	\$22.42	167
Construction Manager	\$24.79	89	All Other Financial Specialist	\$16.54	168
Property & Real Estate Manager	\$11.90	93	All Other Engineering & Related Tech	\$15.90	171
Medicine & Health Service Manager	\$23.97	99	Purchase Agent, exc Whlsl, Retail, Farm	\$16.34	175
Purchasing Manager	\$19.63	131	Wholesale, Retail Buyer, except Farm	\$16.84	179
Administrative Service Manager	\$22.10	161	Librarian, Professional	\$19.98	181
Industrial Production Manager	\$24.91	170	Recreation Worker	\$10.02	183
Engineering, Math, Natrl Science Mgr	\$31.35	172	Civil Engineering Technician	\$18.48	189
Personnel, Train & Labor Relation Mgr	\$22.03	177	Comply Officer & Inspector , exc Const	\$20.13	193
Communication, Transport, Utilities Mgr	\$22.45	200	Paralegal	\$16.59	195
<b>Professional, Paraprofessional, and Technical Occupations</b>			<b>Photographer</b>		
Registered Nurse	\$20.51	6	Tax Preparer	\$12.79	197
Teacher, Secondary School	\$38,460	17		\$12.75	199
Teacher, Elementary	\$39,250	18	<b>Sales and Related Occupations</b>		
Accountant & Auditor	\$19.37	30	Salesperson, Retail	\$9.86	1
Teacher Aide, Paraprofessional	\$9.17	34	Cashier	\$7.88	4
Lawyer	\$33.36	36	First Line Supervisor, Sales & Related	\$17.99	7
Physician & Surgeon	\$51.87	44	Sales Rep, exc Retail, Sci, Related	\$19.43	19
Licensed Practical Nurse	\$14.59	47	Stock Clerk, Sales Floor	\$8.78	50
All Other Health Prof, Paraprof, Tech	\$14.59	48	Telemarketer, Door-To-Door Sales & Rel	\$9.21	53
All Other Professional, Paraprof, Tech	\$19.11	49	All Other Sales & Related Occupation	\$11.68	57
Instructor, Nonvocational Education	\$12.00	56	Counter & Rental Clerk	\$7.46	58
Teacher, Vocational Education	\$18.16	63	Sales Rep, Science & Related, exc Retail	\$19.35	76
Social Work, exc Medical & Psychiatric	\$16.22	64	Salesperson, Parts	\$13.14	88
All Other Postsecondary Teacher	\$30,250	71	Securities, Financial Services, Sales	\$28.92	114
Social Work, Medical & Psychiatric	\$16.47	83	Insurance Sales Worker	\$20.58	123
Teacher, Special Education	\$38,400	84	Sales Agent, Business Services	\$16.29	153
Drafter	\$14.58	86	Sales Agent, Real Estate	\$13.62	180
Computer System Analyst, EDP	\$21.55	92	Sales Agent, Advertising	\$15.18	184
Instructor & Coach, Sport	\$16.64	98	Travel Agent	\$9.72	198
Electrical & Electronic Technician	\$12.52	102	<b>Clerical and Administrative Support Occupations</b>		
Designer, except Interior Design	\$9.76	104	General Office Clerk	\$9.90	3
All Other Management Support Worker	\$17.59	108	Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerk	\$10.72	5
Computer Programmer	\$18.91	112	Secretary, except Legal & Medical	\$11.34	9
Pharmacist	\$29.53	127	Receptionist, Information Clerk	\$8.72	20
Electrical & Electronic Engineer	\$25.62	132	First Line Supervisor, Clerical	\$15.58	21
Vocational & Educational, Counselor	\$16.01	135	Stock Clerk, Stockroom or Warehouse	\$9.71	24
Residential Counselor	\$8.81	138	Traffic, Shipping & Receiving Clerk	\$11.09	28
Cost Estimator	\$18.88	139	All Other Clerical & Admin Support	\$12.29	42
Artist & Related	\$13.38	142	Typist, including Word Processing	\$11.12	43
Medical & Clinic Laboratory Technologist	\$17.50	143	Bank Teller	\$8.44	52
Dental Hygienist	\$24.45	145	Teacher Aide & Educational Asst, Clerk	\$8.59	75
Writer & Editor	\$18.56	147	Postal Mail Carrier	\$16.19	80
Architect, except Landscape & Marine	\$20.76	150	Bill & Account Collector	\$10.89	81
Loan Officer & Counselor	\$20.06	152	Insurance Adjuster, Investigator	\$19.81	90
			Switchboard Operator	\$9.38	100

Figure 33 is also based on occupational surveys conducted in Spokane County by the Employment Security Department in 1998. The list of occupations and wages presents the various nonfarm jobs in the area and their average level of pay. Wages are generally provided as hourly rates, except for those occupations for which hourly rates are unavailable. The rank of each occupation, in terms of the number of people employed, is also shown. The occupation of salesperson is ranked num-

ber 1, which means there are more persons employed in sales than any other occupation. The occupations are organized under seven broad categories, for example, "Managerial and Administrative Occupations." Within each category the occupations are sorted by rank, the most common occupation will be at the top of the list within its category. For example, the most common occupation within "professional, paraprofessional, and technical occupations" is registered nurse.

**Figure 33 (Continued)**

**Occupational Wages**

**Spokane County, 1998**

**Source: Employment Security Department**

<b>Occupational Title</b>	<b>Wage*</b>	<b>Rank**</b>	<b>Occupational Title</b>	<b>Wage*</b>	<b>Rank**</b>
Order Filler, Sales	\$10.26	110	All Other Help, Labor, Matl Move, Hand	\$10.37	16
Billing, Cost & Rate Clerk	\$10.72	113	Maintenance Repairer, General Utility	\$12.10	23
Order Clerk, Materials, Service	\$9.59	115	Truck Driver, Light, incl Delivery & Rel	\$10.33	25
Medical Secretary	\$11.19	120	Assemble, Fabricate, ex Mach, Elec, Prec	\$8.71	27
Data Entry Keyer, except Composing	\$8.86	122	Automotive Mechanic	\$14.53	32
Legal Secretary	\$12.78	125	Electrician	\$20.43	39
File Clerk	\$7.80	129	All Other Freight, Stock, Mat Move, Hand	\$8.85	45
Insurance Policy Processing Clerk	\$11.96	136	Hand Packer & Packager	\$6.87	46
Adjustment Clerk	\$10.90	141	Driver/Sales Worker	\$11.42	54
Computer Operator, exc Peripheral Eq	\$11.80	144	All Other Hand Worker	\$8.03	59
Loan & Credit Clerk	\$11.04	151	Painter & Paperhanger, Constr & Maint	\$12.61	61
Hotel Desk Clerk	\$6.80	173	Machinist	\$13.94	62
<b>Service Occupations</b>			Welder & Cutter	\$13.19	67
Janitor & Cleaner, except Maid	\$8.80	8	First Line Supervisor, Constr & Extract	\$22.60	68
Waiter & Waitress	\$5.98	11	First Line Supervisor, Production	\$16.20	77
Combined Food Preparation & Service	\$6.11	13	Industrial Truck & Tractor Operator	\$13.88	79
Child Care Worker	\$6.64	15	Vehicle Washer & Equipment Cleaner	\$7.16	85
Nursing Aide, Orderly & Attendant	\$7.78	22	Plumber, Pipefitter, Steamfitter	\$18.77	91
Food Preparation Worker	\$6.96	26	Electrical, Electronic Assembler	\$8.71	94
All Other Service Supervisor	\$11.57	29	First Line Supervisor, Mechanic & Repair	\$18.59	97
Maid & Housekeeping Cleaner	\$7.16	31	Roofer	\$15.87	106
Cook, Restaurant	\$7.69	33	Automotive Body, Related Repairer	\$13.09	107
Cook, Fast Food	\$6.33	35	Cabinetmaker & Bench Carpenter	\$11.16	111
Bartender	\$6.61	37	All Other Mechanic, Installer & Repairer	\$14.65	119
Hairdresser & Cosmetologist	\$7.27	38	Heat, A/C, Refrigeration Mech & Install	\$13.80	121
Home Health Aide	\$7.10	40	Packaging & Filling Machine Op/Tend	\$8.63	126
Counter Attendant, Lunchroom, Cafeteria	\$6.15	65	All Other Const & Extract, exc Helper	\$16.94	128
Amusement & Recreation Attendant	\$6.47	69	Bus & Truck Mechanic & Diesel Specialist	\$14.32	130
Dining Room, Cafeteria & Bartender Help	\$6.01	70	Helper, Carpenter & Related Worker	\$9.44	133
Cook, Institution or Cafeteria	\$9.64	72	Electric, Electronic Eq Assembler, Prec	\$9.13	134
Guard & Watch Guard	\$8.00	73	Laund, Dry-clean Mach Op/Tend, exc Pres	\$8.43	137
Personal Home Care Aide	\$7.10	74	Bus Driver, except School	\$13.81	140
Dental Assistant	\$12.48	82	All Other Machine Operator/Tender	\$14.11	149
All Other Health Service Worker	\$9.71	87	Machine Feeder & Offbearer	\$8.26	154
All Other Food Service Worker	\$8.20	101	Bus Driver, School	\$12.28	155
All Other Protective Service	\$13.07	105	Operating Engineer	\$19.15	164
Psychiatric Aide	\$12.32	109	Production Inspector, Grade, Sort, Test	\$11.42	169
Host & Hostess, Restaurant, Lounge	\$5.95	116	Office Machine, Cash Register Servicer	\$13.76	174
All Other Cleaning & Building Service	\$9.52	117	Helper, Mechanic & Repairer	\$9.64	178
Medical Assistant	\$10.25	118	Sheet Metal Worker	\$16.31	182
All Other Service Worker	\$7.43	124	Mobile Heavy Eq Mechanic, exc Engine	\$17.73	185
Police Patrol Officer	\$22.01	146	Drywall Installer	\$20.10	186
Fire Fighter	\$20.59	148	Brickmason	\$21.21	187
Crossing Guard	\$12.48	166	All Other Precision Worker	\$12.29	188
Butcher & Meat Cutter	\$14.12	176	Sewing Machine Operator, Garment	\$6.61	191
Correction Officer & Jailer	\$16.91	194	Taper	\$19.26	192
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Related Occupations</b>					
Laborer, Landscaping & Groundskeeping	\$10.02	51			
<b>Production, Construction, Oper, Maint., &amp; Material Handling Occup.</b>					
Truck Driver, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	\$15.21	10			
Carpenter	\$16.30	14			

\*Wages are either hourly or annual. Annual wages are based on the mean.

\*\*Ranking is by amount of employment per occupation, from highest (1) to lowest (200).



# PERSONAL INCOME

This section deals with income rather than wages, which were discussed earlier and which are only one aspect of income. Data in this section are derived from the U.S.

Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. *All income data have been adjusted to 1998 dollars.*

## Total Personal Income

Personal income is generally seen as a key indicator of a region's economic vitality. Conceptually, personal income captures all forms of income: wages, salaries, government transfer payments, retirement income, farm income, self-employed income, proprietors' income, interest, dividends, and rent, but not contributions toward social insurance. By definition business and corporate incomes are not included.

*Figure 34* shows real and nominal total personal income for Spokane from 1970 to 1998.

In 1998, total personal income in Spokane County was \$9.57 billion, up 3.7 percent from the previous year. Total personal income averaged 3.0 percent annual growth from 1970 to 1998. For the same period, total personal income for the state had an average annual growth of 4.0 percent. Spokane County ranked 4th among the 39 counties in terms of total personal income.

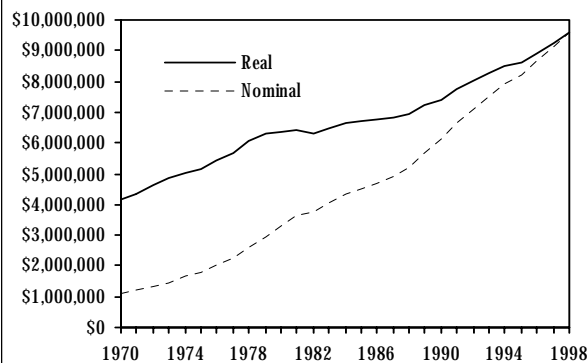
*Figure 35* shows the annual growth rates for total personal income for both Spokane County and Washington State from 1971 to 1998. For the most part, the county growth rate has followed and been close to the state growth rate, although usually slightly less. From

1985 to 1990 a gap emerged between the county and the state growth rates, with Spokane lagging behind. The gap narrowed, sometimes crossing, between 1991 and 1995, only to emerge again and widen between 1996 and the present.

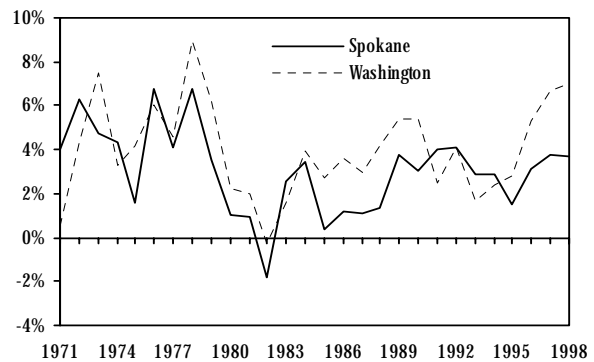
The total amount of income in an area is only a sensible concept if there is some relationship to the number of people in an area. Per capita income (PCI) captures that. By dividing total personal income by the population, one arrives at a figure that can be used as a common denominator between different time periods or different areas.

*Figure 36* shows PCI for Spokane County and Washington State since 1970. The narrowest gap between the two was in 1973 when the county's per capita income was only \$1,206 less than the state's. Although there have been some ups and downs in the differential, it has in general been gradually widening with its pace accelerated since 1978. In 1998 (the most recent figures available), Spokane County's per capita income was \$23,450 and Washington's was \$28,719, a difference of more than \$5,000. Spokane ranked 12th out of 39 counties for PCI.

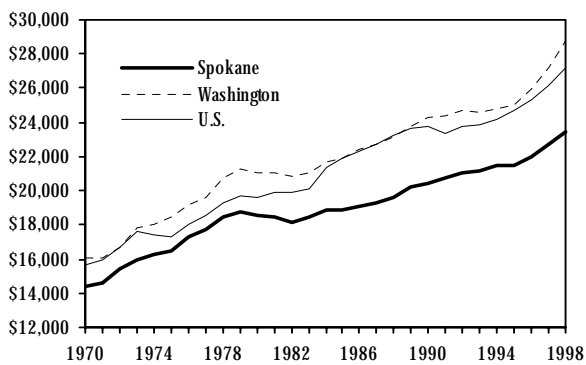
**Figure 34**  
Total Personal Income, Real and Nominal  
Spokane County, 1970-1998  
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis



**Figure 35**  
Personal Income Annual Growth Rates  
Spokane County and Washington, 1971-1998  
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis



**Figure 36**  
**Per Capita Income**  
**Spokane, Washington, & U.S., 1970-1998**  
**Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis**



It should be remembered that King County, with its huge population and highly paid high-tech and aerospace

industries, is the strongest driver of the statewide average. In fact, King and San Juan counties were the only counties to have PCIs higher than the state average.

Per capita personal income is a good measure of how personal income is growing relative to the population. However, it gives no indication of how income is distributed among the population. To a degree, median household income does that. It indicates the point in income where half of all households have a higher income and half have a lower income. Washington State's Office of Financial Management estimated the median household income of Spokane County to be \$36,576 in 1998. This was quite a bit less than the statewide average of \$48,289. (However, only two counties had a median income greater than the statewide average: Like most other figures, this one is strongly driven by the concentration of population and high income in King and Snohomish counties.) Spokane ranked 13th among the 39 counties for median income.

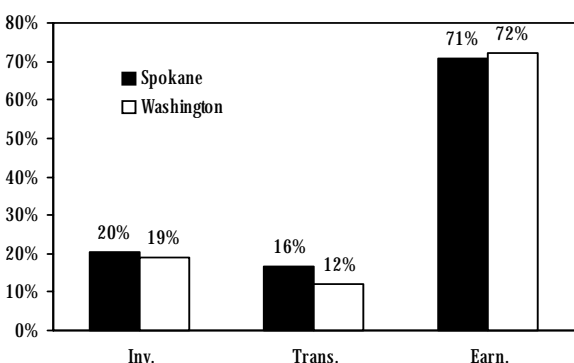
## Components of Personal Income

As mentioned earlier, personal income encompasses many different types of income. All the various types, however, can be subsumed under the three broad categories: earnings, transfer payments, and investment income. Earnings include wages, salaries, and proprietors' income; transfer payments include income maintenance, unemployment insurance, medical, and retirement payments; investment income consists of interest, dividends, and rent. *Figure 37* shows that the only significant difference between Spokane County and Washington State with respect to shares of the personal income components in 1998 is for transfer payments. Interestingly, Spo-

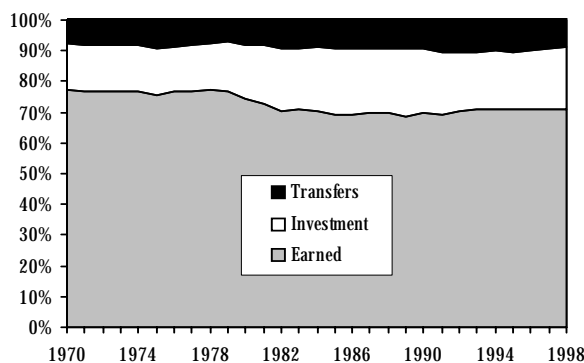
kane shows a higher percentage of transfer payments than for the state, 16 percent versus 12 percent. This is possibly due to the large number of retired veterans.

*Figure 38* shows how the shares of personal income components for Spokane have changed over time, from 1970 to 1998. Unlike some counties the changes have not been dramatic. Earnings as a share of personal income has declined from 76 to 71 percent. The statewide earnings as a share of personal income declined from 78 to 72 percent. Investment has increased from 15 to 20 percent, and transfer payments have increased from 13 to 16 percent.

**Figure 37**  
**Personal Income Components**  
**Spokane County and Washington, 1998**  
**Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis**



**Figure 38**  
**Personal Income Component Trend**  
**Spokane County, 1970-1998**  
**Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis**



Transfer payments and investment income have both increased by about 300 percent since 1970, while earned income has only increased 200 percent. Statewide, transfer payments and investment income increased 355 and 395 percent, respectively. Earned income increased 276

percent statewide. It must be remembered that earned income, even though its growth has been slow compared to the others, still has a 71 percent share of all personal income, amounting to \$6 billion in 1998.

## Earned Income

Earnings constitute the lion's share of personal income, although its share size has fallen significantly over the last two decades. There are three types of earnings: wages and salaries, proprietors' income, and "other labor income." Other labor income includes a number of types but is mainly driven by employer contributions to health care and retirement plans. The components which comprise earned income are based on residence within the county. In addition to the three primary components there is also an "adjustment for residence," referred to as "external" income. This is the amount of income earned outside of the county by residents of the county, or, if the figure is negative it is the amount of money earned within the county by non-residents of the county. This can be a very large percentage in counties with substantial numbers of commuters.

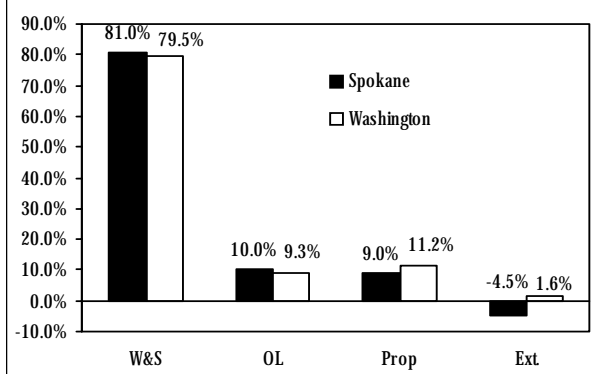
Figure 39 compares the share of each earned income component for Spokane County and Washington State in 1998. As can be seen in the graph the biggest difference between the state and the county is the difference in "external" income. For Spokane 4.5 percent of county earned income (\$307 million) is earned by those living outside of the county, while 1.6 percent of earned income within Washington State was earned by those working outside of the state. This share has increased from .6

percent in 1970. External income can be in the form of any of the other three components (wages and salary, proprietor's, or other labor). As Spokane is an urban hub surrounded by rural counties, it makes sense that people would commute into Spokane for work. It is somewhat surprising that the figure is not even larger.

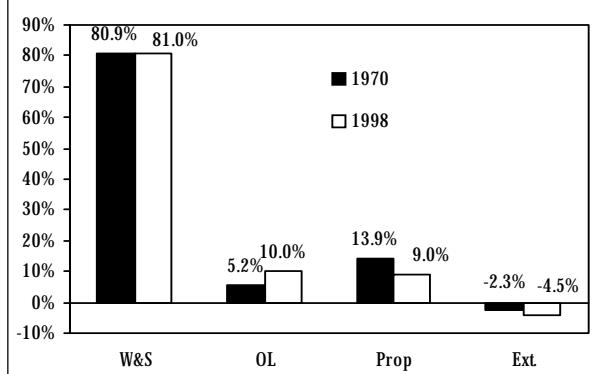
Figure 40 shows the change of the four earned income components for Spokane County from 1970 to 1998. External and other labor income have had the greatest growth, each increasing by 400 percent since 1970. The percentage of external income increased from -2.3 percent in 1970 to -4.5 percent in 1998. Other labor income increased from a 5.2 percent to a 10 percent share of all earnings. The big increase in other labor income stems from the tax advantages accruing to employers (and employees) on indirect sorts of compensation.

Wages and salaries grew by 200 percent from 1970 to 1998, and increased only barely from an 80.9 to 81 percent share of the total. Proprietors' income grew the least (137 percent) and declined from 13.9 percent of total earnings in 1970 to 9 percent in 1998. In absolute numbers, proprietors' income declined from \$656 million in 1993 to \$531 million in 1995, before making a partial comeback to \$610 million in 1998. Proprietors' income is the aggregate of all the self-employed workers in the county, including farmers.

**Figure 39**  
**Components of Earned Income**  
**Spokane County & Washington, 1998**  
*Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis*



**Figure 40**  
**Trends in Earned Income Components**  
**Spokane County, 1970 and 1998**  
*Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis*



# Transfer Payments

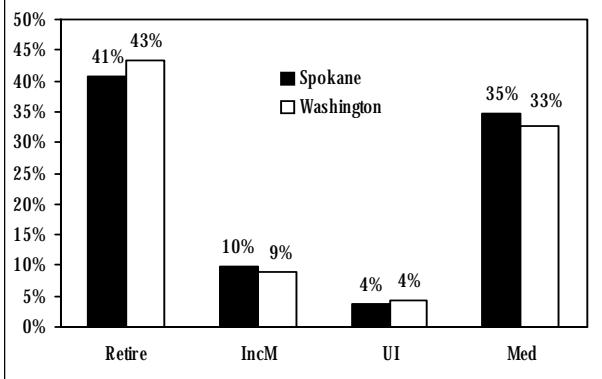
Figure 41 shows the transfer payment components for Spokane County and Washington State in 1998. (Note: The total does not add up to 100 percent as veterans' benefits and other smaller components are not included for this analysis.) Previous county profiles included the medical component under retirement. But, as this component has become a significant percentage of transfer payments over time, it is now shown as a separate component. The county component shares are very similar to the state, except that retirement is slightly less, while medical and income maintenance are slightly more. It is interesting that retirement is a lesser share of transfer payments than the state, even though Spokane has a higher percentage of persons over 65. In 1998, 12.3 percent of the Spokane population was over 65 compared to 11.4 percent statewide.

Figure 42 shows the components of transfer payments from 1970 to 1998 for Spokane County. Medical increased dramatically from 15 percent of transfer payments in 1970 to 35 percent in 1998. All other

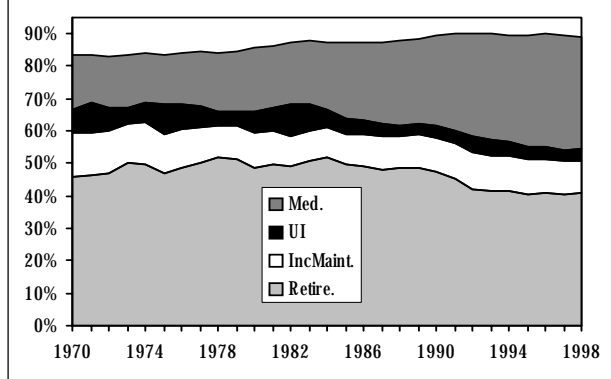
components have decreased as a share of the total over time. Unemployment insurance decreased steadily from 9 to 3 percent of the total; income maintenance from 13 to 10 percent; and retirement from 47 to 41 percent. Income maintenance are those payments generally thought of as welfare. Some of the various programs are AFDC, food stamps, and general assistance.

From 1970 to 1998, medical transfer payments increased by 650 percent. This was followed by retirement which grew by 280 percent, income maintenance which increased by 220 percent, and unemployment insurance which increased by only 160 percent. Except for UI all other transfer payments had lower growth rates than statewide growth rates. The greatest difference was for retirement which increased 358 percent statewide. Unemployment insurance does not follow a trend like the others but expands and contracts along with the economy, growing greatly as unemployment increases and falling off as it decreases. Retirement still holds the largest share of transfer payments.

**Figure 41**  
Transfer Payment Components  
Spokane County and Washington, 1998  
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis



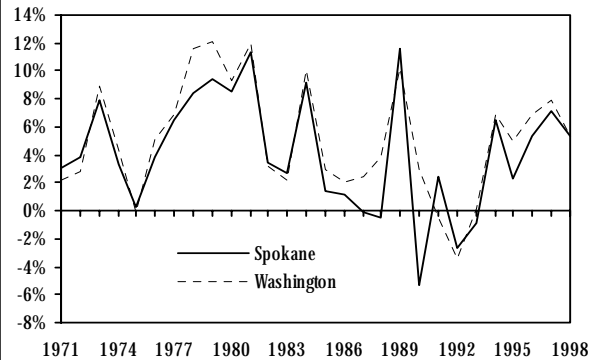
**Figure 42**  
Transfer Payment Component Trends  
Spokane County, 1970-1998  
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis



# Investment Income

As can be seen in *Figure 38*, investment as a share of total personal income has increased overtime, from 15 percent in 1970 to 20 percent in 1998. At 303 percent total growth, investment income came in second after transfer payments (312 percent). The annual investment growth rate has closely followed the statewide growth rate (see *Figure 43*), although it has lagged behind from time to time, most recently in 1990. Investment income has had an average annual rate of growth of 4.1 percent since 1970, with annual rates ranging from a high of 11.5 percent in 1989 to a low of -5.3 percent the very next year. The statewide average annual growth rate is 5.1 percent. The county average growth rate since 1994 is 5.1 percent.

**Figure 43**  
**Annual Investment Growth Rates**  
**Spokane County and Washington, 1971-1998**  
**Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis**



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# EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## Workforce Development

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The *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)* of 1998 replaced the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) of 1982 on July 1, 2000. The purpose of WIA is to provide training, education, and other services that prepare all individuals, not just youth and unskilled adults, for current and future jobs. It is guided by several principles: universal access, individual empowerment, streamlined services, state and local flexibility, strong local role, increased accountability, and improved youth programs. It is upon this legislation that the Employment Security Department and other providers base their training and employment service programs.

The Spokane Area **Workforce Development Council (WDC)** was established in accordance with the requirements of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (PL 105-220) in 1999. It represents workforce area XII, which encompasses Spokane County. Each WDC is responsible for strategic planning for employment and training related programs, oversight of the WorkSource system within its specific geographic area, and service delivery to eligible dislocated workers, adults, and youth. The WDC is led by private business and has wide representation from labor, education, and other local organizations in the community. The WIA and Governor Locke's Executive Order 99-02 describe the functions of the WDC as follows:

- Provide input to the state Workforce Development Board (WDB) in the development of the state unified plan, which articulates their local strategies and needs.
- In partnership with the local elected officials, develop and maintain a local unified plan for the workforce development system including, but not limited to, the local plan required by law. The WDC submits a unified plan to the WDB for review and to the Governor for approval.
- Conduct oversight of the local one-stop system, including selection, certification, and de-certification of one-stop providers.
- Promote coordination of workforce development activities at the local level and ensure that they are linked with local economic development strategies.

- Establish youth councils, which are responsible for developing portions of the local plan relating to eligible youth, as well as implement and administer youth programs.
- Provide for a coordinated and responsive system of outreach to employers.
- Identify eligible providers using performance standards established by the WDB.
- On behalf of the Governor, negotiate with local elected officials and the WDB to develop performance measures for local programs.
- Assess the planning process to identify quality improvements.
- Implement a partnership agreement with local elected officials that establishes the working relationships and specific responsibilities of each body in the partnership.
- Collaborate in the development of WorkFirst service area plans.

The Spokane Area Workforce Development Council is located at 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Room 606, City Hall, Spokane, Washington 99201. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Telephone: (509) 625-6210. Fax: (509) 625-6929. Email: [admin@wdcspokane.com](mailto:admin@wdcspokane.com) (Website address: under construction)

**Spokane WorkSource Center.** A WorkSource Center is a facility characterized by the provision of co-located and integrated services offered through a variety of self-service, group, and one-on-one activities. The Centers will provide customers one point at which to access programs administered by multiple agencies. They will offer access to all WorkSource Center system services, most of which will be available on site. However, not all services will necessarily be provided on a full-time basis. Each area will have at least one full service Center. In terms of services, the Center must:

- provide all core services;
- provide all required programs;
- serve as a "broker" for services not available on site such as training or support services;
- provide referrals for services not provided through the WorkSource System;

- coordinate services for customers; and
- provide access to the Internet and other electronic linkages.

The core services, which are available onsite or through electronic access and which are available to all customers (no eligibility required), include:

- initial assessment to evaluate job readiness based on job skills, experience, aptitudes, interests, and abilities;
- job counseling to help customers determine what services are available and best use of the information;
- job referral and placement providing access to available jobs and posting of resumes;
- employer services that provide access to labor market information, recruitment, screening, and referral of qualified applicants;
- information and referral to services such as housing, food, and medical assistance;
- information on training and retraining programs such as basic skills, literacy, occupational skills training, and apprenticeships;
- labor market information on current occupational supply and demand and occupational wages;
- computers with Internet access;
- access to a telephone to file for Unemployment Insurance benefits; and
- translation services to customers in their first language using AT&T services or the Internet.

The programs (eligibility required) include:

- WIA Title I (adults, dislocated workers, youth, and national programs)
- Title V of the Older Americans Act
- Veterans' Employment Programs
- Claimant Placement Program
- Worker Retraining
- Post Secondary Vocational-Technical Programs
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Welfare to Work
- Adult Basic Education Programs
- ESL Programs
- Worker Profiling
- Migrant Farm Worker Services
- NAFTA/Trade Assistance Act
- HUD Employment & Training
- Early Intervention services to potentially dislocated workers
- Rapid Response to plant closures
- WorkFirst (employment services only)
- Community Services Block Grant

The Spokane WorkSource Center is located at 130 S. Arthur. Its office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Staff can be reached by phone at (509) 532-3000 or by fax (509) 532-3082 or by e-mail:

*workspokane@esd.wa.gov*. The Website address is *www.workspokane.org*.

**Educational Facilities.** *Eastern Washington University* is the largest higher education institution in Spokane County. It is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and holds additional accreditation from other state and national organizations with respect to specific professional programs (i.e., business, computer science, dental hygiene, dietetics, geology, music, nursing, physical therapy, social work, and urban and regional planning).

Eastern Washington University's 350-acre main campus is 16 miles south of Spokane in Cheney. Among its facilities are the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library, University Conference Center, Fine Arts Complex, Anthropology Museum, Speech and Hearing Clinic, Dental Hygiene Clinic and Applied Physiology Lab.

There is, however, also the *Eastern Washington University Spokane Center*. Spokane Center is located in Spokane's downtown business district and is used mainly by working adults and place-bound students. The 57,000 square foot facility has 34 classrooms, a library (including the Spokane County Medical Library), computer labs, administrative and faculty offices and a number of student service facilities.

*Gonzaga University* was established in 1887 as a divinity school by early Jesuit missionaries to the Pacific Northwest. Originally known as Gonzaga College, the school was renamed Gonzaga University in 1912 when it expanded into secular studies. Today, Gonzaga University remains a private, four-year institution of higher education affiliated with, but independent of, the Roman Catholic Church. Gonzaga University is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and holds additional accreditation from other organizations in relation to specific professional programs (e.g., law, engineering, teacher education, anesthesiology).

The Gonzaga University campus occupies 80 acres of property along the north bank of the Spokane River. The campus has 39 permanent buildings, not to mention a small lake. Among the more notable buildings are the Crosby Library (350,000 books, 2,000 periodical subscriptions, state/national depository), Data Processing Center, Russell Theater (fine arts productions), Television Production Center (professional color facilities, FM radio station), Jepson Center (School of Business Administration), Martin Center (sports and recreation), Law School Library, Herak Center for Engineering, and St. Aloysius Catholic Church.

Gonzaga University has 7 schools and colleges. The College of Arts and Sciences (BA degree in 30 areas, BS degree in 5 areas), The School of Business Administration (B.B.A. and MBA degrees), The School of Education (B.E. and M.E. degrees for special education or physical education), The School of Engineering (BS degrees for civil, electrical and mechanical engineering), The School of Law (Juris Doctorate degree), The Graduate School (Master degrees as listed above as well as for Divinity) and The School of Professional Studies (BS in Nursing and Bachelor of General Studies).

*Whitworth College* was founded in 1853 by George Whitworth on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Conceived as a Presbyterian missionary school, the College was initially established in Sumner and then Tacoma before relocating to its present-day Spokane location in 1914. Today, the College and its 200-acre main campus are located 15 minutes from downtown Spokane and house 40 permanent buildings including 12 residence halls.

Whitworth College offers Bachelor of Arts and/or Science degrees in the following areas: Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, computer Science, Communication Studies, Economics, Education, English, Geology, Health Education, Physical Education, History, Political Science, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Music, Nursing, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, Recreation, Religion, Sociology and Theater Arts. The College also offers a Masters of Education degree.

*The Washington State University Spokane* branch campus focuses mostly on graduate and research programs in areas such as computer science, electrical and mechanical engineering, engineering management, nutrition, materials science, and speech and hearing sciences.

*Spokane Community College* was created in 1963 when a college transfer program was added to the Spokane Technical and Vocational School. The College's 108-acre campus is located northeast of the city center near the industrial area. Although primarily a vocational and technical institute, Spokane Community College offers a broad range of liberal arts courses leading to an Associate in Arts degree and possible transfer to a four-year college. Among the college's most notable programs are health sciences, agricultural technology, general science and automotive and heavy equipment training.

Originally established in 1967 as a branch of Spokane Community College, *Spokane Falls Community College* became a separate campus in 1970. The College's 113-acre campus is located on the site of the old Fort Wright military post just northwest of the city center. Spo-

kane Falls Community College is accredited by the Northwest Association of School and Colleges and the Washington State Board of Community College Education.

Spokane Falls Community College emphasizes both liberal arts and pre-professional training. For example, it offers an Associate in Arts degree that can lead to a transfer to a four-year college. It also awards Associate in Applied Science degrees in such areas as business, broadcasting, graphic design, photography, human services, visual media, real estate, orthotics-prosthetics, etc.

*The Institute for Extended Learning* is an extension of both of the aforementioned community colleges and includes the following:

- **Colville Center.** Located 70 miles north of Spokane, Colville Center enables residents of Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties to complete their first year of college study in the Colville area. The program is limited to general education, liberal arts, business, and secretarial studies. An audio conference network allows some students in rural areas to access a limited number of courses via a teleconference system.

- **Fairchild Center.** Located 12 miles west of Spokane at Fairchild Air Force Base, Fairchild Center enables enlisted personnel (and civilians) to earn Associate in Arts degrees from Spokane Falls Community College through its wide range of liberal arts courses. The Center also offers courses in GED preparation, high school completion, remedial Math and English and vocational training.

- **Adult Education Center.** Located in downtown Spokane, the Adult Education Center has five programs that cater to the educational needs of people 19 years of age and older. Those programs are Adult Basic Education, Adult High School, English as a Second Language, General Education Development and a Reading Clinic.

- **Intercollegiate Center for Nursing Education (ICNE)** is a consortium school for Eastern Washington University, Washington State University and Whitworth College. It offers bachelor and masters degree nursing programs as well as continuing education courses for registered nurses.

*Riverpoint Higher Education Park.* With a ribbon-cutting and dedication in April 1996, this is the newest college-level educational facility in the Spokane area. Located on the Spokane River adjacent to Gonzaga University, the campus occupies 48 acres and offers upper-level coursework and awards bachelor and graduate degrees from Eastern Washington University and Washington State University-Spokane.

The just dedicated *Classroom Building* has 119,000 square feet over three floors. With about 1,400 staff/students in 1996, the population is expected to expand to 5,000 by 2010. Degrees are awarded by EWU in Busi-



ness Administration, Computer Science, Public Administration, and Physical Therapy. WSU-Spokane offers degrees in Criminal Justice, Education, Engineering, and Interdisciplinary Design, which includes architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, and construction management. Both universities are planning future offerings in the health field.

The Park also houses the *Spokane Intercollegiate Research & Technology Institute (SIRTI)*. This institution, which was established in 1989, has 64,000 square feet over four floors. Its mission is to develop, manage and promote projects and programs that advance the transfer, application, and commercialization of technology to expand the regional economy. SIRTI is an alliance of business and industry, higher education, and government whose goal is to build sustainable economic growth for the regional economy and to spark innova-

tion in manufacturing, biomedical, environmental, and information-based industries.

Riverpoint Higher Education Park is a collaborative enterprise which includes support from both community colleges as well as Whitworth College and Gonzaga University. Gonzaga's library, for example, is available to students at Riverpoint.

In addition to the above-mentioned local institutions, there are five other major colleges and universities in this region. The following list includes their distance from Spokane.

- Washington State University, Pullman (76 miles)
- Central Washington University, Ellensburg (174 miles)
- Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston ID (135 miles)
- University of Idaho, Moscow (80 miles)
- North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene (35 miles)

## Economic Development

**Spokane Area Economic Development Council.** The Spokane Area EDC is the principle provider of economic development information in Spokane County. It is a nonprofit organization comprised of representatives from business, labor, education, and government. The primary purpose of the EDC is to promote quality growth and development of the regional economy. This is accomplished by assisting local companies, through retention and expansion activities, and by recruiting new companies to the region. These activities will focus on those business sectors that will enhance the level of new jobs and income levels for the greater Spokane area.

For more information on the Spokane County area, please contact Mark E. Turner, President, at (509) 624-9285 or Fax (509) 624-3759. Email: [Mturner@EDC.Spokane.net](mailto:Mturner@EDC.Spokane.net). Web page address at: <http://www.spokanedic.org>

**Chambers of Commerce.** There are six Chambers of Commerce in Spokane County. They are Airway Heights, West Plains, Deer Park, Fairfield, Spokane Regional, and Spokane Valley. The latter two are the largest of the six and both supply a wealth of information on the Internet. Their Internet addresses are:

Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce  
<http://www.spokane.org/chamber>

Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce  
<http://www.svcc.org>

Chambers of Commerce are groups of local business establishments and other interested parties who work

together to further the business and commercial interests of their respective communities. The county also has the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**Infrastructure.** An area's infrastructure is an integral part of economic development. The following are primary elements currently in place in Spokane County.

**Roads and Highways.** Spokane County is well served by an extensive network of roads and highways—a network that provides access to and from the city of Spokane at the county's relative geographic center.

U.S. Interstate Route 90 is the county's main thoroughfare. It stretches roughly east and west through the middle of Spokane County, strategically intersecting the city of Spokane. Interstate 90 serves as a direct link between the cities of Spokane and Seattle—and an indirect link to major eastern Washington cities such as Yakima, Ellensburg, Richland-Kennewick-Pasco, and Moses Lake.

U.S. Routes 2 and 395 and U.S. Route 195 extend north and south, respectively, from Interstate 90 at Spokane. U.S. Routes 2 and 395 lead to counties in northeast Washington, while U.S. Route 195 leads to the cities of Pullman and Clarkston-Lewiston.

A network of State Routes—27, 206, 290, 291, 902, and 904—and local roads tie into the larger interstate routes to complete a relatively comprehensive transportation grid across the county.

**Air Transportation.** Spokane County has three public airports: Spokane International Airport, Felts Field Airport, and Deer Park Airport. It is Spokane Interna-

tional Airport, however, that sets Spokane County apart from other counties in eastern Washington in the area of air transportation.

Spokane International Airport is a regional hub for air passengers throughout eastern Washington, northern Idaho and western Montana. The airport's 9,000 foot and 8,200 foot runways accommodate jets as large as Boeing 747s, allowing the airport to be served by carriers such as Alaska Airlines, America West Express, Delta Airlines, Horizon Air, Northwest Airlines, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines and other smaller carriers. A major expansion that resulted in the construction of a new commuter terminal was completed and opened in November 2000. The airport also has engine repair, fueling, and hanger services. More information on the Spokane International Airport is available at <http://www.spokane.org>

Felts Field is a general aviation airport with runways of 4,500 feet and 3,062 feet that accommodate up to 300 aircraft including corporate aircraft and helicopters. The airport is also a center for Washington State Community College system's aviation school and several private aviation schools. Airport activities include small package cargo, medical airlifts (helicopter) and aviation services.

Deer Park is a general aviation airport with a 6,100 foot runway that accommodates aircraft as large as DC-3s.

*Rail Service.* Burlington Northern Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad operate in Spokane County with 73 and 10 active spurs, respectively. Both ship general freight and commodities.