

PART II

Population

Where Washington's People Live

Because of the influences of topography, climate, accessibility and recent industrialization, Washington's population is distributed unevenly throughout the state. Over two-thirds of the people live in the western portion, concentrated largely in the industrial cities of Puget Sound. The Olympic Mountains and Willapa Hills of the Coast Range and the Cascade Mountains stand out as sparsely populated areas in western Washington. The Willamette-Puget Sound Lowland, extending from Vancouver on the Columbia River northward to Bellingham near the Canadian border, is the major population belt of the state. It contains a fairly well-distributed rural population on its river deltas and rolling glacial drift plains.

The mountains, hills, plateaus, irrigable valleys and dry climatic conditions cause a generally clustered pattern of population settlement in eastern Washington. Mountainous areas including the eastern Cascade Mountain slope, the Okanogan Highlands, the Blue Mountains and the Selkirks have but few people. Dryland and upland areas which cannot be irrigated, such as large portions of the Waterville Plateau, the Channelled Scablands and the hills of Yakima County, are thinly settled. Both rural and urban population is concentrated in the irrigated Yakima, Kittitas, Wenatchee, Okanogan and Walla Walla Valleys and in the Pasco and Quincy Basins. In the far eastern section--the Palouse Hills--the uniform soil, topography and moderate rainfall permits a more evenly distributed population. The industrialized Spokane metropolitan area and the rich agricultural Yakima Valley are the major population clusters of eastern Washington.

Growth of Population

Washington was explored by Spanish, Russian, British and American expeditions between 1592 and 1805, but no settlement occurred until 1810. Ownership of the area was disputed by America and Great Britain. A compromise, the Joint Occupancy Treaty of 1818, permitted both American and British fur traders and settlers to live north of the Columbia River. British interests (the Northwest Company and the Hudson's Bay Company) established fur trading posts at Spokane and Walla Walla in 1810 and 1818. American claims were strengthened by the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1805) and by the settlements at Fort Spokane, Okanogan and Astoria by the Pacific Fur Company. The British increased their influence as they established agricultural settlements at Fort Vancouver and Fort Misqually between 1824 and 1833. Settlement by Americans north of the Columbia, although permitted by treaty, was discouraged by the Hudson's Bay Company which desired to maintain its fur trade monopoly.

A growing tide of American land settlers over the Oregon Trail during the 1840's changed the balance of control in favor of the United States. Most of the Americans settled in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. Unhindered by the British, several hundred American settlers moved northward across the Columbia into the Puget Sound country and soon outnumbered the British fur traders.

The conflict of interests was solved by the Oregon Treaty of 1846, which gave the United States the present area of Washington and established the Canadian boundary as it exists today. Oregon Territory (including all of the present state of Washington) was created in 1848 by Congress, with its capitol in Salem, Oregon. Settlers north of the Columbia met in 1851 at the Monticello Convention in present Longview, Washington, and asked for a separate territorial government. Washington Territory was created March 2, 1851, with a capitol at Olympia on Puget Sound. Isaac I. Stevens was appointed as Governor.

Population growth was slow before 1860. Lack of roads, the long distance from the East, and the difficulty of clearing the dense forests of the Puget Sound country kept immigration to a minimum. Indian hostility prevented settlement in most of eastern Washington prior to 1858, and that tended to slow movement into the Puget Sound Basin. The Washington population was only 14,594 according to the 1860 Census.

In 1863, the Washington territorial boundaries were changed to the present state lines by the creation of Idaho Territory. The Census of 1870 was the first to follow the present boundaries, and it enumerated a population of 23,995.

Population grew rapidly from 1870 to 1890. New transcontinental railroads brought large waves of immigrants from the East and Europe. The completion of the Union Pacific to the Columbia was brought new settlers into southeastern Washington. When the Northern Pacific reached Spokane in 1880 and was continued on toward Puget Sound, settlers occupied the Palouse and Big Bend wheat lands and the Yakima Valley. In 1883, six new counties were created in eastern Washington. Expansion of coastwise shipping and lumbering built up the cities around Puget Sound and at Grays Harbor. Washington Territory was admitted to the Union as a state in 1889. The population at that time was 350,000.

The period 1900-1910 was a decade of rapid growth in which the state gained 621,000 persons, more than doubling to 1,111,990. Two other railroads, Great Northern and Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul, reached Puget Sound in 1893 and 1899, respectively. The lumber industry and agriculture supported more people, land and timber seekers homesteaded free public domain lands in the mountainous areas. The Alaskan gold rush doubled Seattle's population within a decade. Railroads and ships brought large numbers of people from Europe, who took up lumbering, fishing, mining and agriculture. Ranked numerically according to the 1920 Census, the largest foreign-born groups in the state were Canadians (42,000), Swedes (35,000), Norwegians (34,000), English (23,000), Germans (22,000), Italians (18,000), Finns (12,500), Russians (11,000) and British (9,000).

Between 1910 and 1940 population grew at a slower but steady rate. The increase was about 20,000 per year. The lumber industry began to decline after 1929. Reduced employment and a growing scarcity of land were reflected in a slower rate of population growth. However, during the 1930's, many farmers from the Great Plains drought areas moved overland to Washington seeking farming opportunities.

The 1940-1950 decade brought the greatest increase in Washington history. Primarily an overland movement of laborers to new defense industries, it resulted in an increase of 642,772 in ten years, raising the state population to 2,378,963 in 1950. Most of the new growth was in the industrial metropolitan districts in King, Pierce, Kitsap, Clark and Spokane Counties and at the Federal atomic works in Benton County.

Urban and Rural Population

In 1870 the entire population of Washington was living in rural areas--in villages and on farms. By 1900, 211,477 of the population of Washington, or 40.8 percent, were living in urban areas. In 1950, according to the Census definition of "urban" which includes residents of towns of 2,500 and larger, 1,503,166 persons, or 63.2 percent, were living in urban areas. And over 52 percent lived in three standard metropolitan areas comprised of Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane and their surrounding suburban cities and towns. This trend follows the national pattern.

Table 1. Population of Washington
1860-1955

Year	Population
1860	11,594
1870	23,955
1880	75,116
1890	357,232
1900	518,103
1910	1,141,990
1920	1,356,621
1930	1,563,396
1940	1,736,191
1950	2,378,863
1955	2,580,000

Sources: U.S. Census, Population; Washington State Census Board, April 1, 1955 Estimate.

Bellingham (35,700), Everett (34,100), Bremerton (32,200), Walla Walla (25,400) and Longview (23,500).

Population of Clallam County

The population of Clallam County has shown an early period of rapid growth followed by a more stable rate from 1930 to 1955. With a relatively small farming enterprise and a larger industrial population employed in wood products manufacturing, the county is nearly one-half urban. All the urban population and about 43 percent of the entire inhabitants of the county live in Port Angeles, a city of 11,800. The other two incorporated cities, Forks and Sequim, are below 2,500, the size which the U. S. Census Bureau uses as the minimum in classifying urban population. Rural nonfarm population (people living in towns, villages and not on farms) numbered 11,045, or 41.8 percent of the county total.

The rural population is predominantly rural nonfarm, consisting of 602,026 persons who live in the country, but do not operate farms. The rural farm population decreased about one-fifth between 1940 and 1950, and numbered only 273,771, or 11.5 percent of the state's total 1940 population of 2,378,963. As a result of the farm-to-city trend in Washington, about one person in ten is living on a farm and about six persons out of ten are living in a town or city larger than 2,500.

According to the 1955 estimates of the Washington Census Board, the ten leading cities of Washington ranked as follows: Seattle (555,000), Spokane (182,000), Tacoma (156,000), Yakima (43,000), Vancouver (41,950),

The nonfarm population is mainly of forest industry workers and some fishermen and tourist resort operators living in villages. The rural farm population makes up less than one-sixth of Clallam County residents. Only 1,118 persons lived on farms according to the Census of 1950.

Table 2.- Population of Clallam County 1860-1955

Year	Population	Percent Rural	Percent Urban
1860	119	100	0
1870	108	100	0
1880	638	100	0
1890	2,771	100	0
1900	5,603	100	0
1910	6,755	100	0
1920	11,360	100	0
1930	20,449	50.2	49.8
1940	21,818	56.9	43.1
1950	26,396	57.4	42.6
1955	27,500	57.1	42.9

Source: U.S. Census, Population

The three incorporated places, Port Angeles, Forks and Sequim, have all shown a growth trend. Port Angeles, the lumber and paper manufacturing center, nearly doubled in population between 1920 and 1930, then lost population between 1930 and 1940. Since 1940 it has grown slightly. Sequim, a farming center, has grown steadily since 1920. Forks, recently incorporated, has grown as a result of increased logging and tourist trade along the Olympic Peninsula Loop, U.S. Highway 101.

Table 3.- Population of Incorporated Places Clallam County, 1910-1957

Incorporated City or Town	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1957 1/
Forks	---	---	---	---	1,120	1,210
Port Angeles	2,286	5,351	10,188	9,709	11,233	11,800
Sequim	---	402	534	676	1,044	1,125

1/ Populations for 1957 are estimates of the Washington State Census Board, September 15, 1957.

Source: U.S. Census, Population

Washington State Census Board.

Typical of many counties in the western United States, Clallam has been a melting pot of many nationalities who have migrated from Europe and Canada to seek new lands and job opportunities. In 1890 nearly one-third of the pioneer settlers came from foreign lands. In 1950 the foreign-born population was 2.301, or only 8.7 percent. This is a result of the large decrease in European migration to America since 1920. As a source of immigrants, Canada, Sweden,

Norway, Germany and England lead all others. Swedes and Norwegians are the largest European-born nationalities coming to Clallam County. Scandinavian settlers have been prominent in development of the area's agriculture, lumbering and fishing. The 1950 Census tabulated 906 American Indians. Clallam County ranks sixth in the state in Indian population. Most of these live within the Makah and Quillayute Reservations on the Pacific Ocean coastline from Cape Flattery southward.

Table 4.- Foreign-Born White Population, Clallam County
1890, 1920 and 1950

Country of Birth	1890	1920	1950
England and Wales.....	181	212	235
Scotland.....	63	51	73
Northern Ireland.....	--	--	3
Ireland (Eire).....	70	68	47
Norway.....	44	226	206
Sweden.....	56	312	295
Denmark.....	21	84	53
Netherlands.....	2	6	6
Switzerland.....	6	35	--
France.....	7	18	14
Germany.....	83	220	99
Poland.....	--	22	9
Czechoslovakia.....	--	--	16
Austria.....	5	29	29
Yugoslavia.....	--	10	31
Russia (U.S.S.R.).....	50	78	56
Finland.....	--	121	168
Italy.....	28	93	54
Canada-French.....	--	16	26
Canada-Other.....	142	409	684
All other countries...	87	138	200
Totals	845	2,148	2,304
Percent foreign-born..	30.5	19	8.7

Source: U.S. Census, Population

United States Census data for 1950 show that agriculture ranks fourth as a field of employment. The total employed for the entire county in all occupations in 1950 numbered 9,473, of which 2,061 were women. Manufacturing of lumber, pulp, paper and other wood products employs over one-third of the working population followed by miscellaneous services and retail and wholesale trade. Only about 800 wage earners and self-employed persons are supported by agriculture.

Table 5.- Employment of the Population
Clallam County, 1950

Types of Employment	Male Workers	Female Workers	Total Workers	Percent of Workers
<u>Total employed workers</u>	7,412	2,061	9,473	100.0
Agriculture.....	696	101	797	8.4
Forestry and fisheries.....	126	4	130	1.4
Mining.....	11	—	11	.2
Construction.....	523	8	531	5.6
Manufacturing.....	3,494	151	3,645	38.5
Transportation.....	336	28	364	3.8
Retail and wholesale stores....	955	629	1,584	16.7
Miscellaneous services.....	780	925	1,705	18.0
Public administration (govern- ment employment).....	250	95	345	3.6
Other employment.....	211	120	331	3.8

Source: U. S. Census, Population

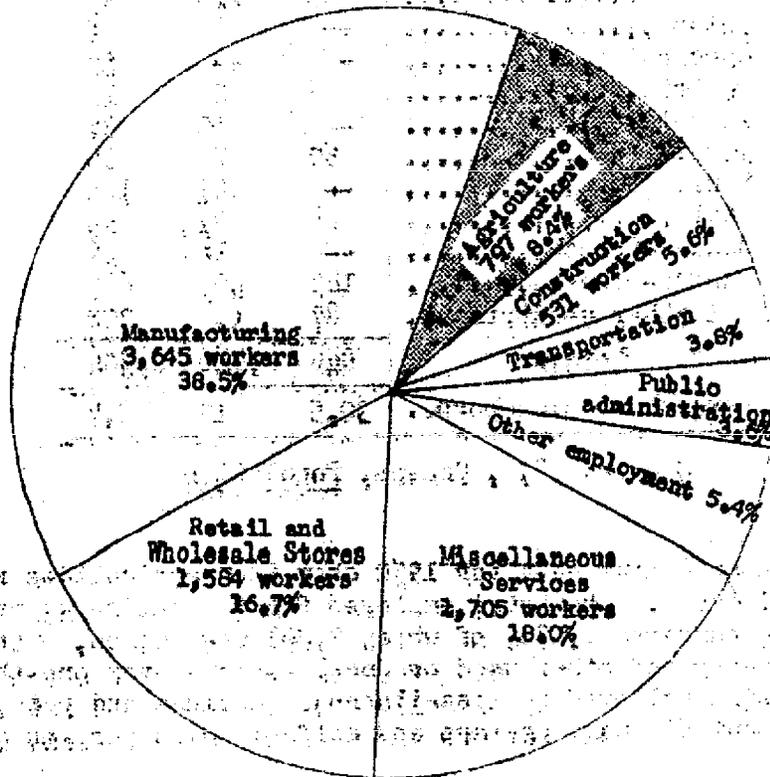


Figure 3.- Agricultural Employment Compared With Other
Employment in Clallam County, 1950
(Based on U.S. Census of Population, 1950)