

WASHINGTON APA'S GAME CHANGING INITIATIVE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Learn More: Support Economic Development

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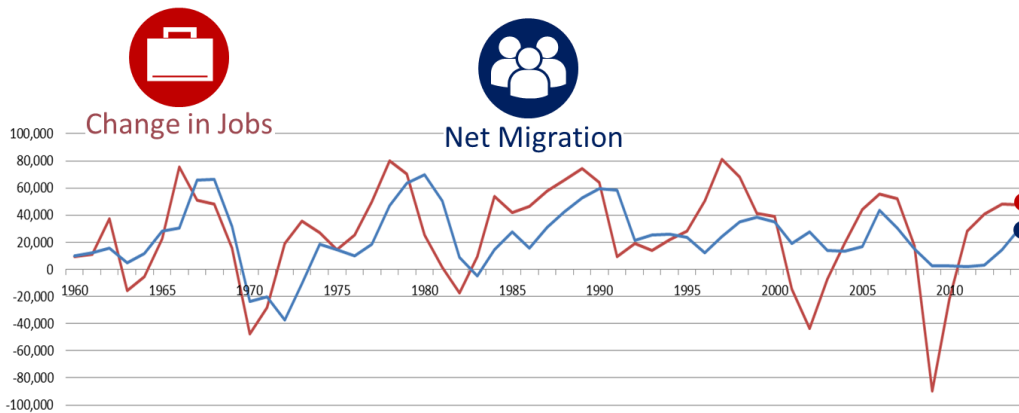


Economic Development Challenges

Washington State is still feeling the effects of the worst and most enduring economic downturn since the Great Depression. The state's economy has recovered substantially with the Puget Sound Region anchoring growth in employment in several key sectors. Although the state and national economy have recovered substantially, the economic environment that planners work within has fundamentally changed. For example, wages in the United States have remained flat and while unemployment has decreased substantially, long term unemployment remains an issue across the country.

Puget Sound Regional Growth

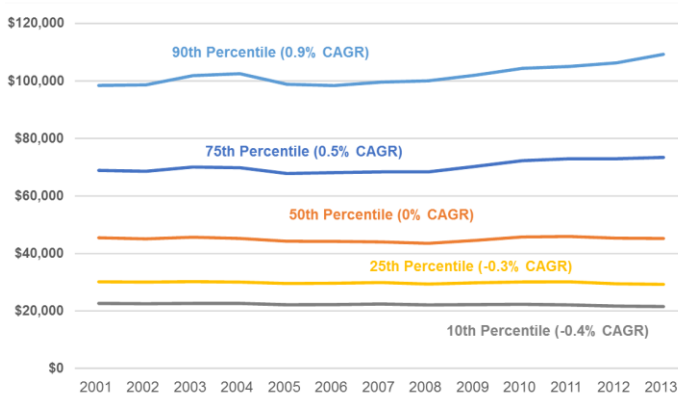
Annual Change in Jobs & People



Source: Community Attributes, Inc.; Washington State Employment Security Department

Wages remain flat in lower quantiles

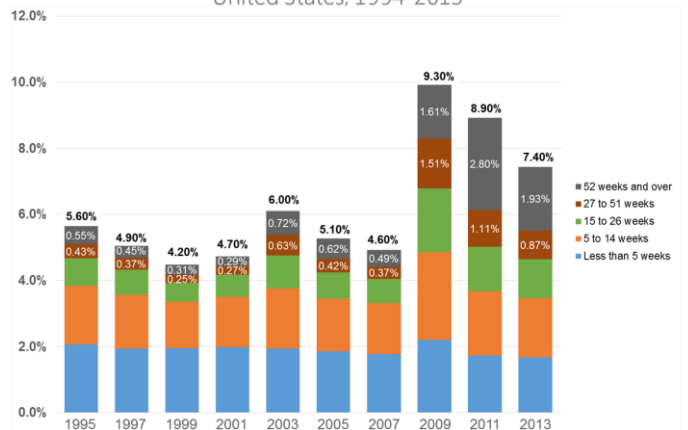
Inflation-Adjusted Wages for All Occupations in U.S.



Source: Community Attributes, Inc.; Bureau of Labor Statistics

Long-Term Unemployed

Duration of Unemployment as a Share of the Civilian Labor Force, United States, 1994-2013



Source: Community Attributes, Inc.; Bureau of Labor Statistics

Economic Development Opportunities

The Northwest is blessed with natural resources, strong trade relationships and a tradition of innovation and entrepreneurship. Planners and allied professionals can help to leverage these attributes by working to empower local economic initiatives, promoting tools that incentivize local business growth, and improving a community's ability to retain and attract family-wage employers, visitors, and residents.

Actions to Address Economic Development

- Strengthen Peer and Community Support Networks for Businesses
- Retain and Attract Key Firms and Industry Clusters
- Fill Empty Storefronts and Revitalize Vacant Commercial Centers
- Align Development Regulations with the Needs of Modern Users
- Harness Your Comprehensive to Anchor an Economic Development Strategy