



# GRAYS HARBOR Economic Vitality Index

2024 Economic Vitality Index • Greater Grays Harbor, Inc. • [graysharbor.org](http://graysharbor.org)





# Contents

Thank You EVI Sponsors,  
Staff & Board of Directors 2

Introduction 3

GRP/Income 4

Employment 5

Unemployment 6

Real Estate 7

Taxable Retail Sales 8

Tourism 9

Port of Grays Harbor 10

Population, Education and Income 11

Leaders Circle 12

Photo courtesy of Chris Majors.  
Cover photo courtesy of Chris Majors.

## Thank You to Our EVI Sponsors

**EVI Report Sponsor**  
Quinault Corporate Enterprises



**Presenting Sponsor**  
TwinStar Credit Union



## Board of Directors

Kyle Pauley	Alpha Media	<i>Chairman</i>
Durk Johnson	Housekeeping Solutions Team	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>
Lorna White	1st Security Bank	<i>Secretary</i>
Dr. Carli Schiffner	Grays Harbor College	<i>Member-at-Large</i>
Anthony Enzler	Quinault Corporate Enterprises	<i>Past Chairman</i>
Reid Bates	Express Employment Professionals	<i>Private Member</i>
Schuyler Burkhardt	Grays Harbor PUD #1	<i>Public Member</i>
John Csernotta	Interstate Honda	<i>Private Member</i>
Ryan Hendricks	Quinault Indian Nation	<i>Public Member</i>
Tom Jensen	Harbor Regional Health	<i>Public Member</i>
Josh Martin	Summit Pacific Medical Center	<i>Public/Private Member</i>
Lisa Perry	Sierra Pacific Industries	<i>Private Member</i>
Kevin Pine	Grays Harbor County	<i>Public Member</i>
Tom Quigg	Port of Grays Harbor	<i>Public Member</i>
Brad Shea	HDR, Inc.	<i>Private Member</i>
Ben Winkelman	City of Hoquiam, Mayor	<i>Public Member</i>

## Staff

Jon Martin	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Candie Gleason	Chief Financial Officer
Kelsey Norvell	Marketing Coordinator
Stephanie Conway	Director of Member Services
Loretta Thomas	Business Development Program Manager
Rodney Ellis	Volunteer





## Introduction

Greater Grays Harbor, Inc. is proud to present our annual Economic Vitality Index (EVI). The 2024 EVI provides trend data and highlights of key economic sectors and activity within Grays Harbor County. This publication is created by Greater Grays Harbor, Inc. and is designed to serve as a valuable resource for local business and community leaders, as well as anyone seeking a better understanding of the Grays Harbor economy. This annual report can also be viewed online at [www.graysharbor.org](http://www.graysharbor.org). We want to give special thanks for the efforts and continued support of our members, sponsors, and staff. Additionally, we would like to thank Mosaic Marketing Studio for designing this publication.



## 2023 Year in Review

In 2023, Grays Harbor experienced a mixed economic status, with certain sectors showing resilience while others faced challenges. The lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to influence various aspects of the local economy. Taxable Retail Sales in the county also surged 4.32%. Home prices declined 2% compared to 2022's 14.2% increase. Unemployment rates dropped slightly to the lowest levels in recent history and employment rates continued to grow with a 6% increase in the past year. Grays Harbor still has a significant negative Gap compared to the State.

**Average Annual Wages:**

6.5% Increase



**Average Unemployment Rate:**

1.0% Decrease



**Median Home Price:**

2.0% Decrease



**Taxable Retail Sales:**

4.32% Increase



**Hotel/Motel Tax:**

According to the *Economic Impacts of Visitors* in Washington State, compiled for State of Washington Tourism, *average visitor spending decreased by 1% to \$239 per visitor to Grays Harbor. Grays Harbor's visits increased by 3%, visitor expenditures increased by 2.1% to \$382.2 million in 2022, and the State of Washington grew by 8.1%.*



## Average Wages and Employment by Industry

Industry	Employee Count	Average Annual
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,000	\$55,479
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	39	\$51,909
Utilities	291	\$105,356
Construction	1,600	\$64,684
Manufacturing	2,682	\$63,423
Wholesale Trade	512	\$61,400
Retail Trade	2,873	\$36,695
Transportation and Warehousing	814	\$72,705
Information	165	\$70,351
Finance and Insurance	513	\$64,643
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	340	\$45,928
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	478	\$62,299
Management of Companies and Enterprises	56	\$80,883
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	983	\$46,046
Educational Services	2,442	\$58,562
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,427	\$50,080
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	350	\$23,909
Accommodation and Food Services	2,784	\$27,902
Other Services (except Public Administration)	964	\$28,839
Public Administration	2,848	\$72,050
<b>Total - All Industries</b>	<b>25,160</b>	<b>\$52,481</b>

Source: JobsEQ, Data as of 2023 Q4.

## GRP/Income

### Gross Regional Product (GRP)

*Updated 2023*

GRP is the market value of all goods and services provided and produced in the region. The GRP of Grays Harbor County shrank by -0.264% from 2021 to 2022.

**Total 2022 GRP: \$2.644 Billion**

**Total 2021 GRP: \$2.651 Billion**

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

### Income

For 2023, average annual wages for all industries in Grays Harbor County were \$52,481 (75.12% of the national average annual wages of \$69,861.)

Source: JobsEQ Industry Snapshot





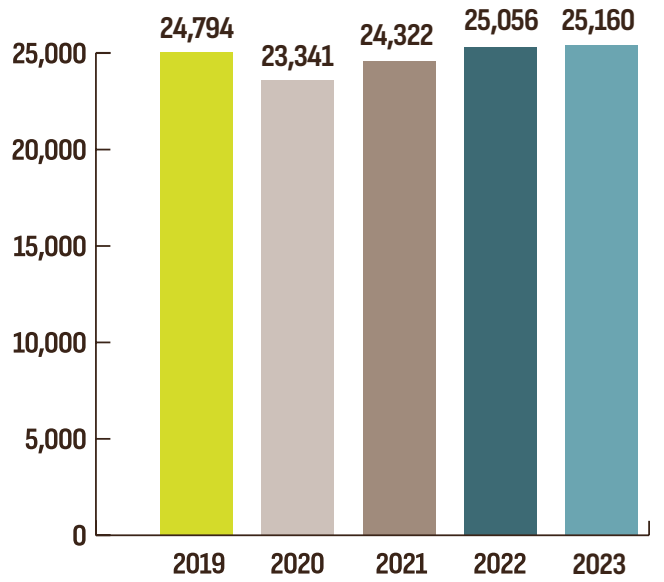
The total number of jobs in Grays Harbor increased by 0.4% (104) in 2023. The greatest job growth occurred in Public Administration (123 jobs), Health Care (112), and Accommodation and Hospitality lost jobs (371 jobs).



# Employment

Photo courtesy of Chris Majors

## Total Employment



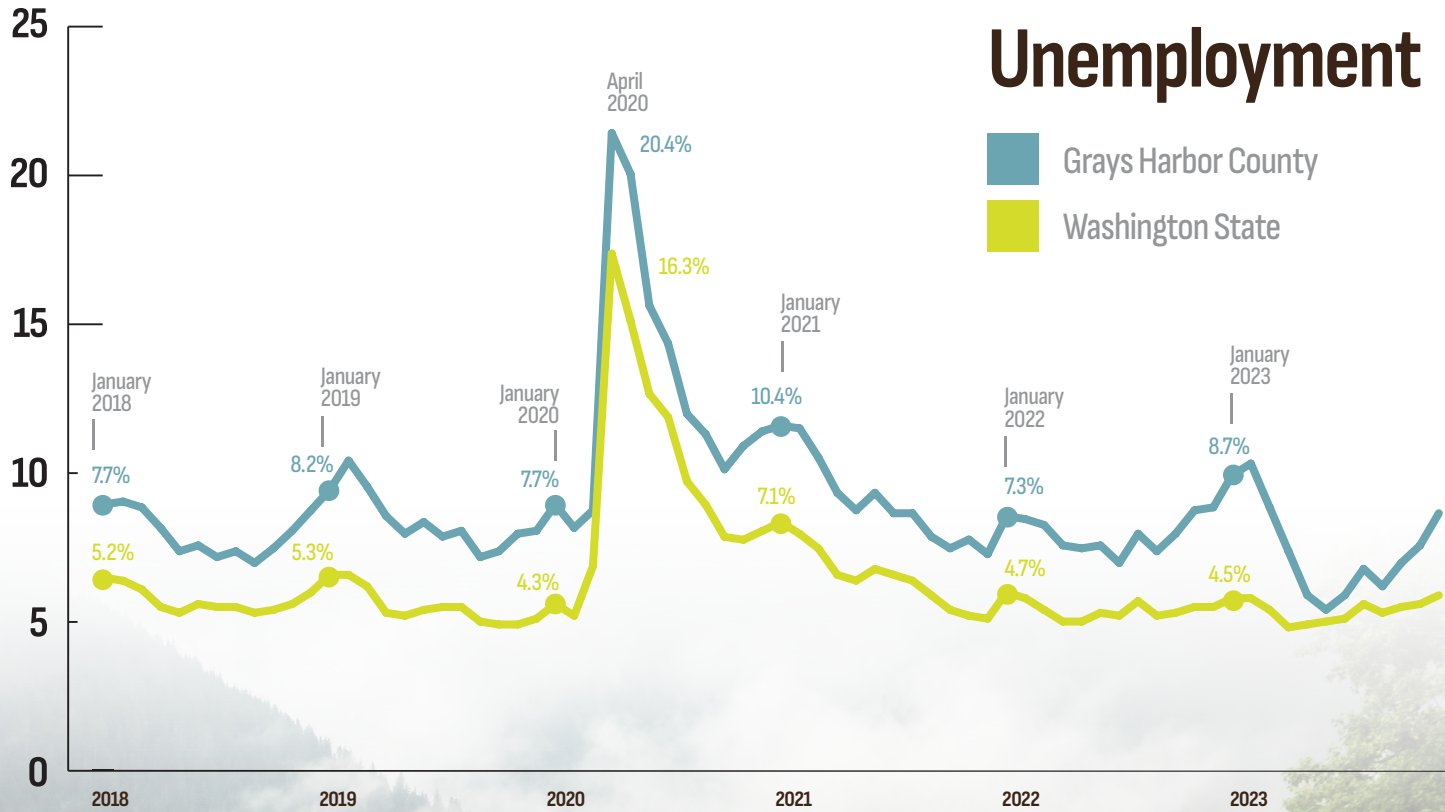
## Employment by Sector



Source: JobsEQ, Data as of 2023 Q4.



# Unemployment



*0.4% decrease in average unemployment rate from 2022 to 2023.*

Average Unemployment Rate 2023: **6.3%**  
 Average Unemployment Rate 2022: **6.7%**

Photo courtesy of Chris Majors

## Unemployment by Occupation

Office and Administrative Support Occupations	2,675	Protective Service Occupations	927
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	2,510	Building & Grounds Cleaning, Maintenance Occupations	912
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	2,266	Community and Social Service Occupations	643
Sales and Related Occupations	1,949	Personal Care and Service Occupations	524
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	1,788	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	481
Production Occupations	1,617	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	374
Management Occupations	1,545	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	302
Healthcare Support Occupations	1,437	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	285
Construction and Extraction Occupations	1,339	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	240
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	1,177	Legal Occupations	154
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	1,016		
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	998		
		<b>Total - All Occupations</b>	<b>25,160</b>

Source: JobsEQ. Data as of 2023 Q4



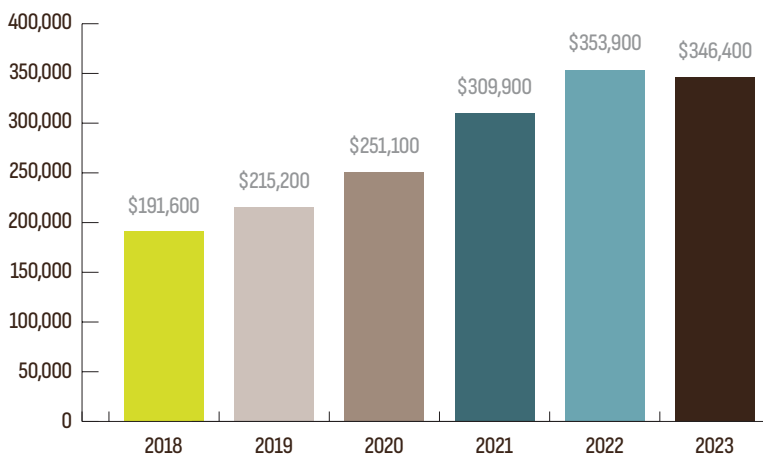


Photo courtesy of Chris Majors

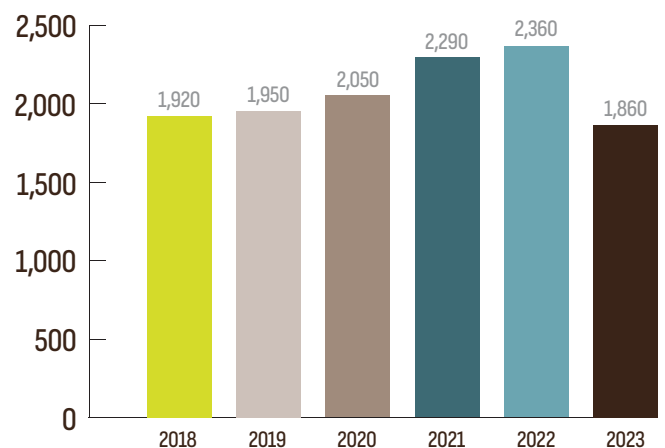
# Real Estate

The median home price experienced a decrease of 2.12% from 2022 to 2023. Sales of existing homes decreased 21% from 2022 to 2023. This marks a decrease in existing home sales in Grays Harbor County due to rising interest rates.

### Median Home Price



### Existing Home Sales



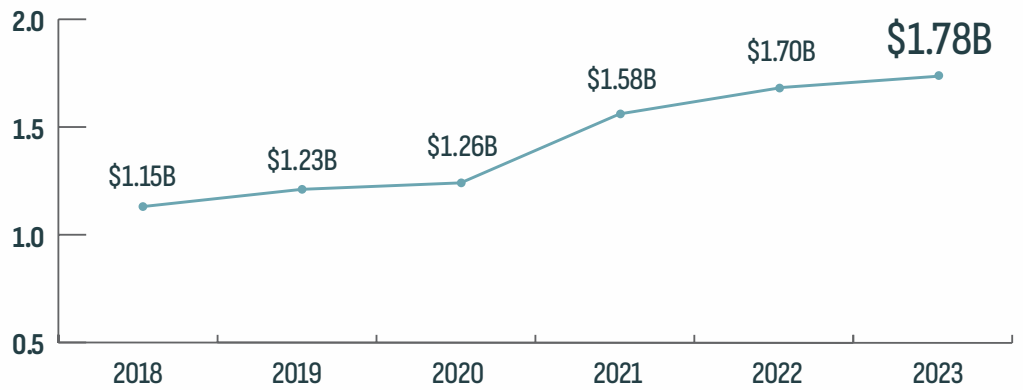


# Taxable Retail Sales

Grays Harbor County

**4.32% increase  
from 2022 to 2023**

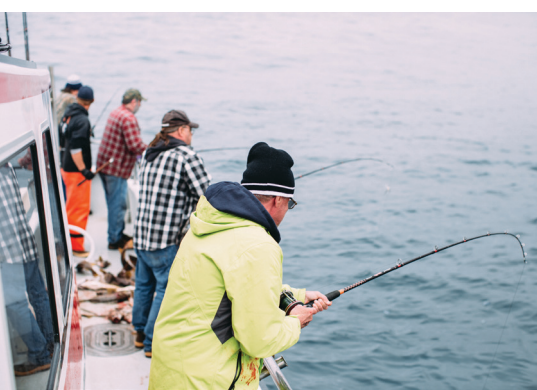
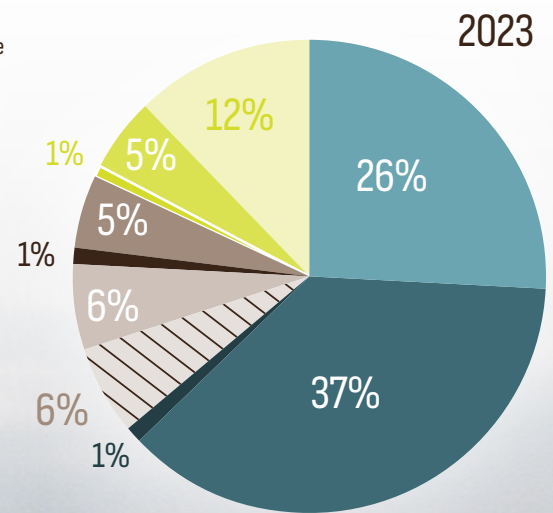
Taxable retail sales for Grays Harbor County grew to \$1.78B in 2023, which represents a 4.32% increase over the previous year.



Source: WA Dept. of Revenue.

## Taxable Retail Sales by Community

Community	Tax Percent Change from Previous Year	Total Taxable Retail Sales Percent
Unincorporated Grays Harbor	13.44%	26%
Aberdeen	6.22%	37%
Cosmopolis	-32.70%	1%
Elma	0.25%	6%
Hoquiam	-2.00%	6%
McCleary	0.33%	1%
Montesano	-1.72%	5%
Oakville	-36.60%	1%
Westport	4.00%	5%
Ocean Shores	-0.93%	12%



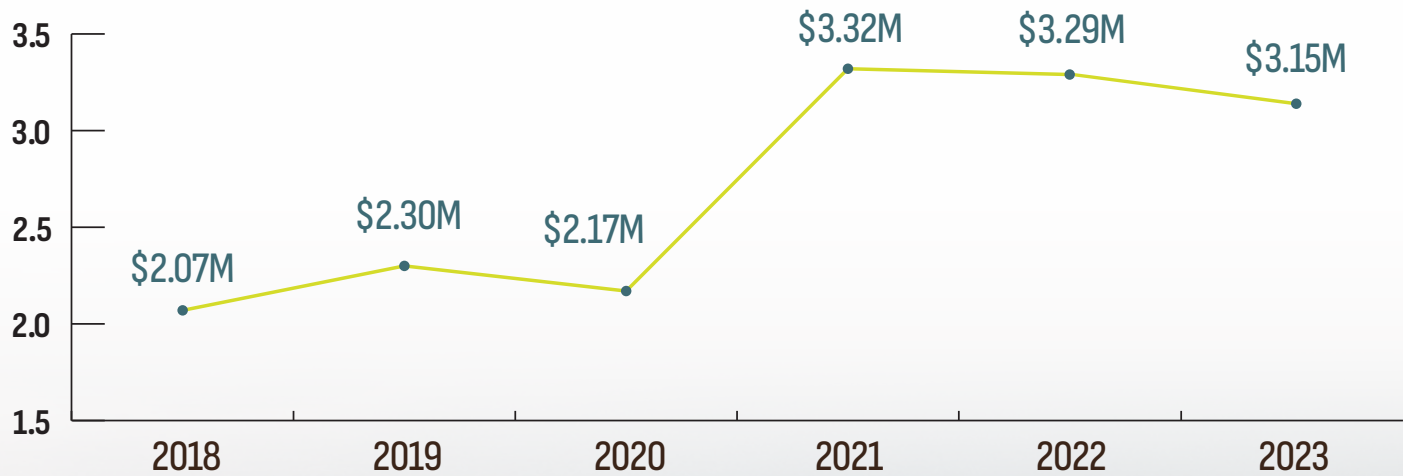


# Tourism

*In 2023 hotel/motel tax revenues decreased by 4.25% from 2022, but continue to exceed pre-pandemic levels.*

With the scenic Washington coast, lush forests of Olympic National Park, and an expanding inventory of overnight accommodations, Grays Harbor is an attractive tourist destination for both domestic and international visitors.

Source: WA Dept. of Revenue.





# Jobs, Investment & Growth

## ON THE HORIZON at the Port of Grays Harbor

*2023 marked a year of growth and change at the Port of Grays Harbor, a trend that is sure to continue over the next several years.*

All seven of the Port's lines of business experienced some type of growth, whether it be increased cargo handled, new tenants, or a record number of users. Your public Port also continued to deliver on responsibly and sustainably managing the environment, our infrastructure, our financial resources and creating jobs for our region.

It was a productive year for the Port's largest line of business. The Port's 4 deep-water terminals experienced a record amount of cargo handled, and the Terminal 4 Expansion & Redevelopment Project progressed on schedule and is expected to go to bid and break ground before fall. This transformational project adds 40,000 feet of rail within the marine terminal complex, a new fendering and stormwater collection and treatment facility at T4 and creates more than 30-acres of cargo laydown area to support future operations at Terminal 4A. The Port's improvements go to support AGP's \$170 million investment in a second export facility at Terminal 4B that is expected to create 80+ long-term, family wage jobs.

With available office, industrial, and warehouse space, the **Satsop Business Park** continued to see existing tenants expand, as well as the attraction of new tenants. Abundant land and unique infrastructure also position the Park well for opportunities in the growing clean energy sector in the future.

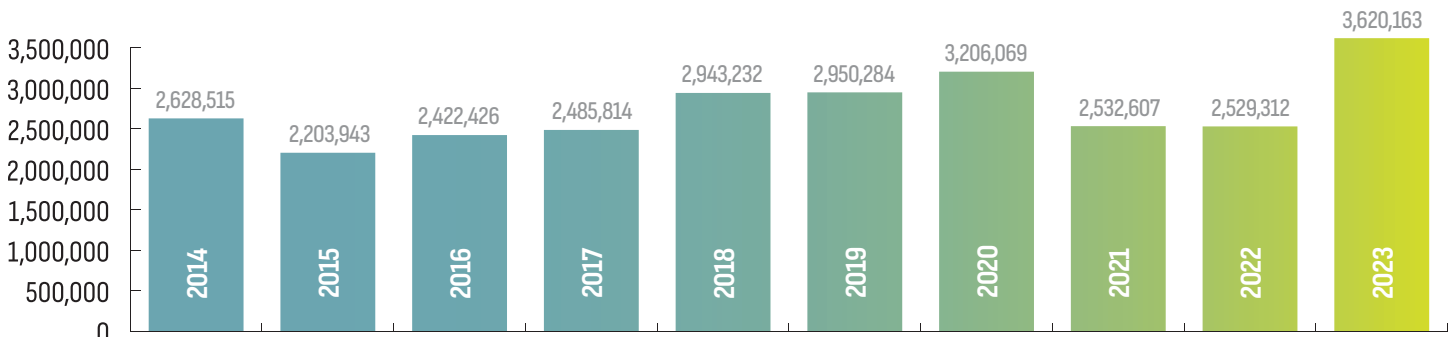
The **Westport Marina** continued to climb the ranks in both volume and value of seafood landed, now #9 in the entire nation, and of course still #1 in the State. The strategic and phased Marina Modernization Project is underway which will reconfigure, replace, and rehabilitate the floating dock infrastructure that is critical to both the commercial and recreational fishing fleets.

The impressive results from 2023 and the desired outcomes of the future would not be possible without our many partners. As we enter 2024 with high expectations, the Port of Grays Harbor looks forward to another AWESOME year **Pursuing Progress, Together.**

### Tonnage Handled

Source: Port of Grays Harbor

Metric Tons





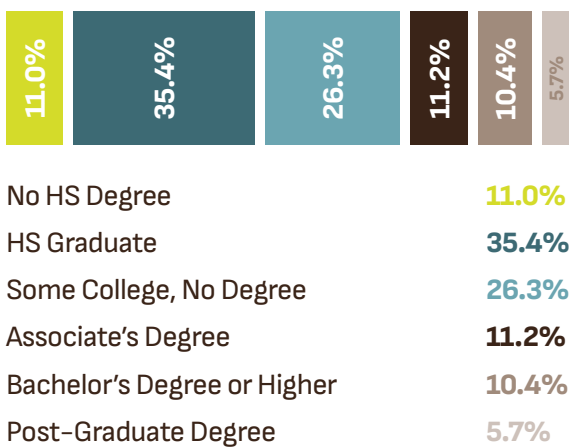
# Population, Education & Income

The Age and Gender Distribution graph (below) shows the current population by age and gender categories. The median age of Grays Harbor residents is 44.4 (based on 2021 estimates), which is older than the U.S. median age of 38.9. The Educational Attainment graph shows educational attainment for residents between 25 and 64 years of age. The Household Income Distribution graph describes the incomes of households in Grays Harbor. Grays Harbor per capita income was \$46,878 and median household income was \$59,105 in 2022.

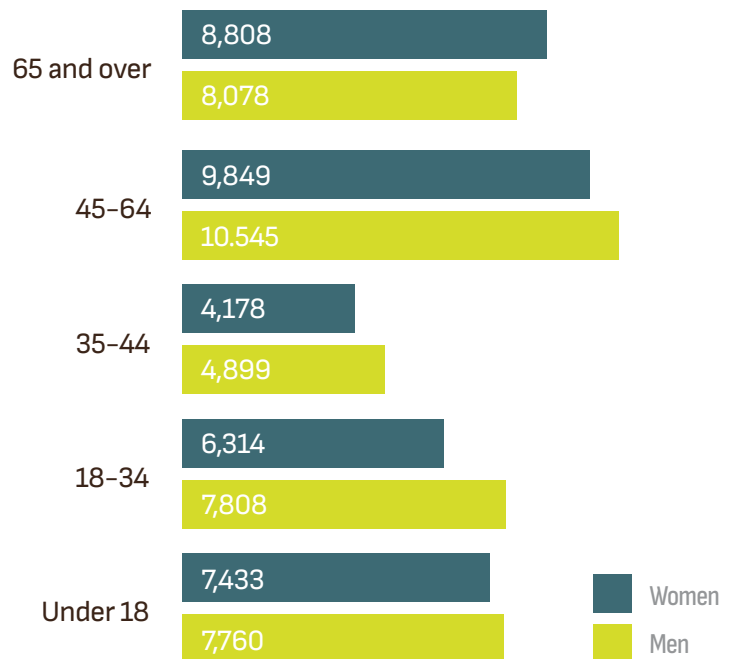


Photo courtesy of Chris Majors

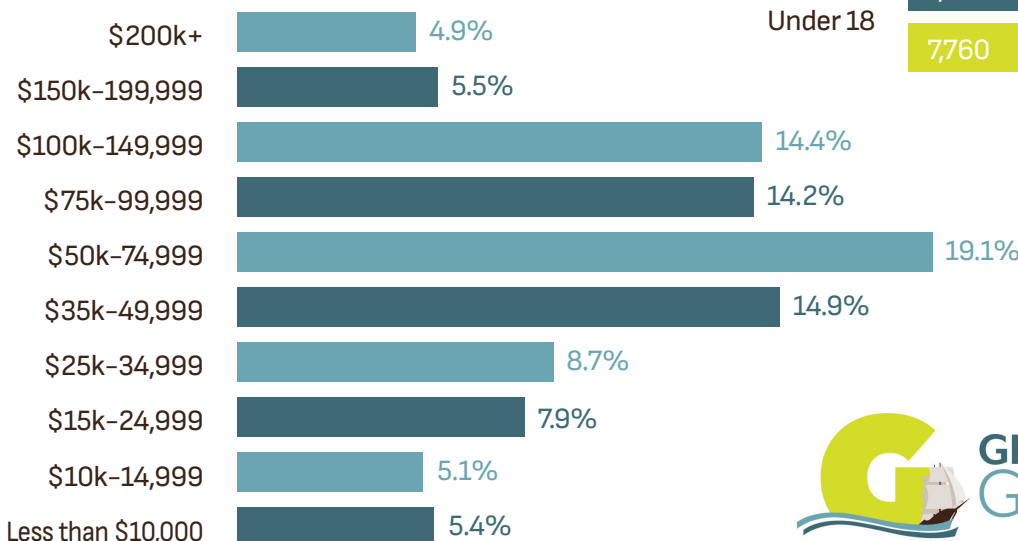
## Educational Attainment *Updated in 2021*



## Age & Gender Distribution *Updated in 2022*



## Household Income Distribution *Updated in 2021*



Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2023. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.





**LEADER'S  
CIRCLE**

**Diamond**



**SEABROOK™**

• WASHINGTON'S BEACH TOWN •

**Gold**



**Silver**



**Greater Grays Harbor, Inc.**  
 506 Duffy Street, Aberdeen, WA 98520  
 360-532-7888 • [www.graysharbor.org](http://www.graysharbor.org)

Photo courtesy of Chris Majors