

GRAYS HARBOR 2026 Economic Vitality Index

Greater Grays Harbor, Inc.
graysharbor.org



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Cover photo and photo above,
courtesy of Pink Flamingo Photography.

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State of Grays Harbor
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Photo courtesy of Chris Majors Creative.

Introduction

Greater Grays Harbor, Inc., (GGHI) presents our annual Economic Vitality Index (EVI). The 2026 EVI provides trend data and highlights of key economic sectors and activity within Grays Harbor County based on recent data. This publication was created by GGHI 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 report can also be viewed online at www.graysharbor.org.

Average Annual Wages:	Increased to \$57,392 in 2025	↑
Average Unemployment Rate:	Decreased from 6.5% to 5.9%	↓
Median Home Price:	Decreased 7.74% from \$358,100 to \$330,370	↓
Taxable Retail Sales:	Totaled \$1.48B through Q1-Q3 2025	

Fourth-quarter and annual data were not available at the time of publication.

2025 Year in Review

In 2025, Grays Harbor experienced a mixed but generally stable economic environment. Several key indicators reflected continued strength, including gains in average annual wages, modest improvements in unemployment rates, and sustained consumer activity as measured by taxable retail sales, which totaled **\$1.48 billion** through the first three quarters of the year. Housing activity and total employment levels showed some moderation compared to the prior year, reflecting typical market adjustments. Overall, the county continues to demonstrate steady economic activity while maintaining a wage and income profile below state and national averages.

GGHI would like to express our appreciation for continued support from the GGHI Membership, sponsors, Board of Directors, and staff. Additionally, we would like to thank Mosaic Marketing Studio for the design of this publication.

Photo courtesy of Pink Flamingo Photography.



GRP/Income

Gross Regional Product (GRP)

Updated 2024

The Gross Regional Product (GRP) of Grays Harbor County increased by **4.7%** from 2023 to 2024, rising from \$3.657 billion to \$3.829 billion. Updated historical GRP data from BEA.gov reflects continued economic growth in the county.

Total 2023 GRP: \$3.66 Billion

Total 2024 GRP: \$3.83 Billion

Source: BEA.gov. All GRP numbers are updated for previous years using BEA.gov

Income

For 2025, average annual wages across all industries in Grays Harbor County reached \$57,392, approximately 76% of the national average annual wage of \$75,653. Wage growth continued in several sectors, particularly in Utilities, Transportation and Warehousing, Public Administration, and Construction.

Source: Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council/JobsEQ

Average Wages and Employment by Industry

Industry	Employee Count	Average Annual
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,788	\$57,025
Public Administration	3,127	\$78,011
Retail Trade	2,734	\$39,484
Accommodation and Food Services	2,677	\$29,831
Manufacturing	2,598	\$65,354
Educational Services	2,463	\$62,373
Construction	1,594	\$74,450
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	924	\$60,370
Other Services (except Public Administration)	908	\$33,542
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	871	\$43,320
Transportation and Warehousing	828	\$83,538
Finance and Insurance	519	\$74,430
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	499	\$72,159
Wholesale Trade	471	\$67,050
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	385	\$43,205
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	316	\$27,751
Utilities	295	\$108,963
Information	168	\$69,433
Management of Companies and Enterprises	51	\$88,033
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	36	\$56,929
Total - All Industries	25,251	\$57,392

Source: Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council-JobsEQ

Photo courtesy of
Chris Majors Creative.



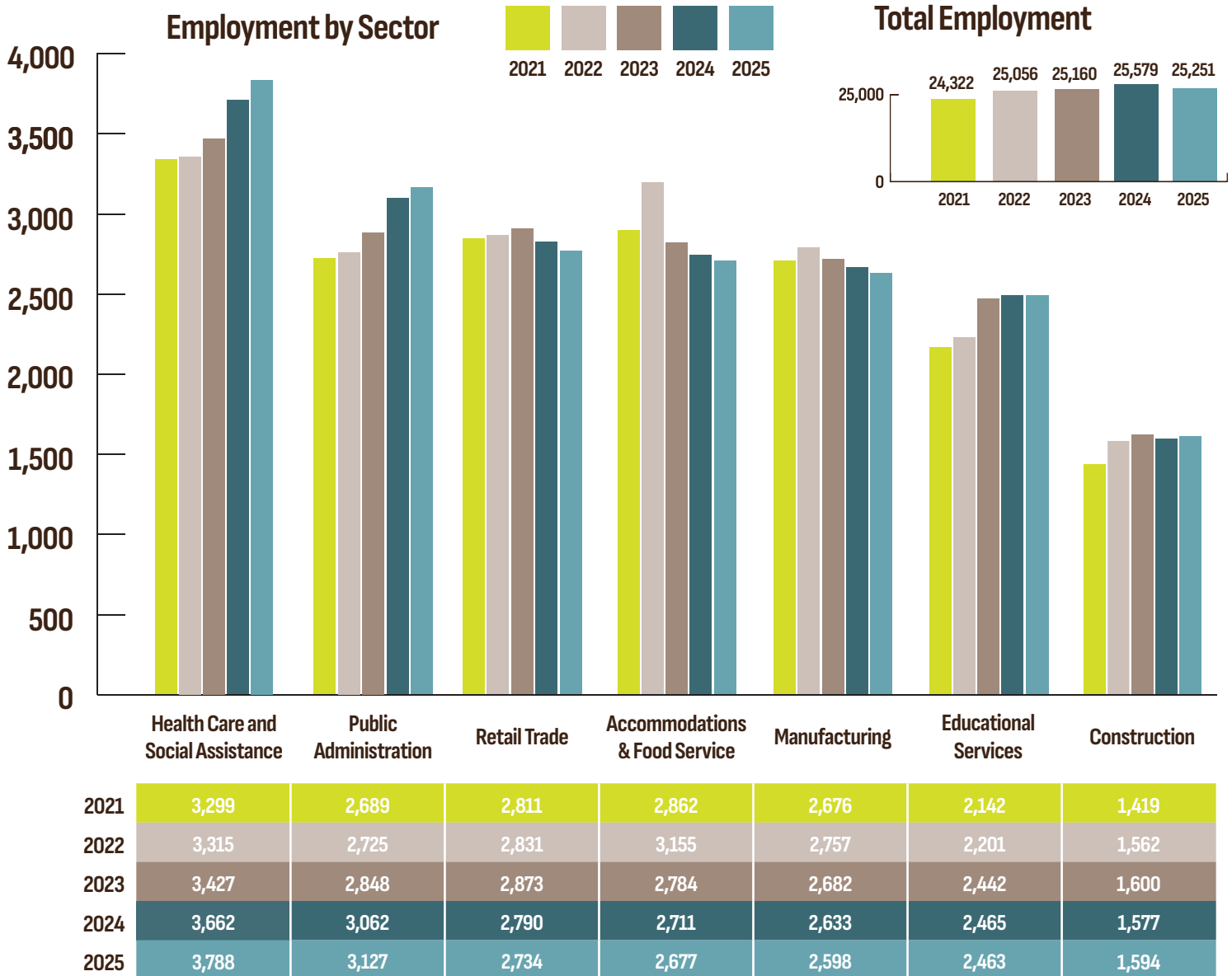
Employment

In 2025, Grays Harbor experienced a 1.28% decrease in total employment, with total jobs declining from 25,579 in 2024 to 25,251 in 2025. Healthcare & Social Assistance experienced the largest increase, adding 126 jobs during the year, followed by Public Administration with an increase of 65 jobs. Construction also posted modest growth, adding 17 jobs.

Several industries experienced modest employment declines in 2025, particularly Retail Trade, Manufacturing, and Accommodation & Food Services.



Photo credit: Summit Pacific Medical Center

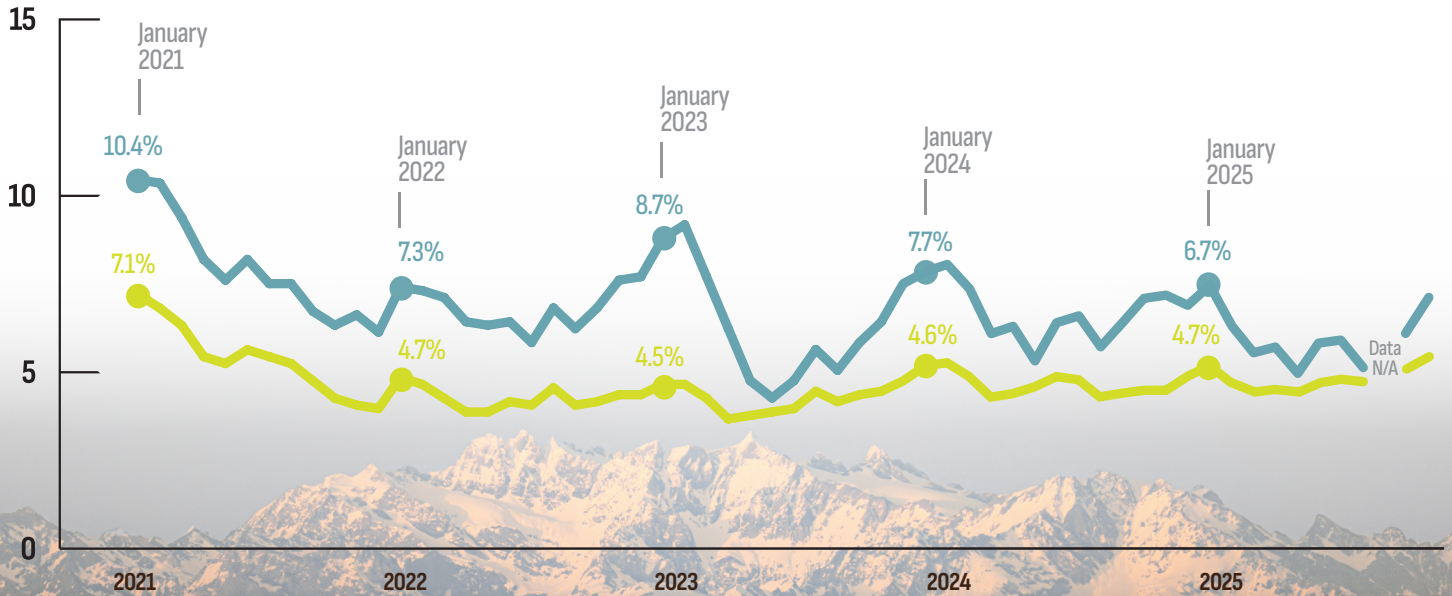


Source: Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council-JobsEQ

Grays Harbor County's average unemployment rate declined from 6.5% in 2024 to 5.9% in 2025, a decrease of approximately 0.6 percentage points. The 2025 average is based on available monthly data, as October data was unavailable at the time of publication. Despite normal seasonal fluctuations, the data reflects a slight overall improvement in local employment conditions year over year.

Unemployment

■ Grays Harbor County
■ Washington State



Although Grays Harbor's unemployment rate remains above the statewide average, the gap narrowed slightly during 2025. Washington State's average unemployment rate remained lower throughout the year, averaging approximately 4.6% compared to Grays Harbor's 5.9%.

The highest unemployment rates by occupation in 2025 were found in Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (11.2%), Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (8.4%), and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (8.1%). Occupations with the lowest unemployment rates included Legal Occupations (1.4%) and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (1.9%).

Photo courtesy of Chris Majors Creative.

Unemployment by Occupation

Office and Administrative Support Occupations	4.5%	Protective Service Occupations	3.8%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	8.4%	Building & Grounds Cleaning, Maintenance Occupations	7.1%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	8.1%	Community and Social Service Occupations	4.7%
Sales and Related Occupations	7.5%	Personal Care and Service Occupations	6.9%
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	4.2%	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	11.2%
Production Occupations	6.5%	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	4.1%
Healthcare Support Occupations	5.2%	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	5.1%
Management Occupations	2.6%	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	3.2%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	7.4%	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	3.1%
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	3.9%	Legal Occupations	1.4%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	1.9%		
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	4.0%		
		Total - All Occupations	5.9%

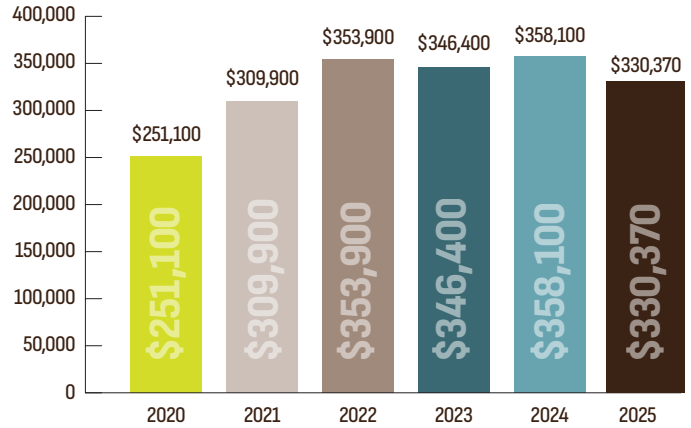
Source: Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council-JobsEQ

Real Estate

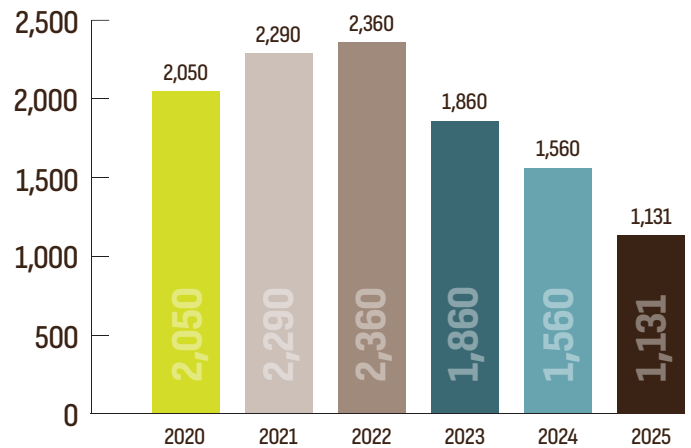
The median home price in Grays Harbor County decreased by 7.74% from 2024 to 2025, falling from \$358,100 to \$330,370. Existing home sales also continued to decline, dropping 27.5% from 1,560 homes sold in 2024 to 1,131 homes sold in 2025.

While housing activity slowed in 2025 due to elevated interest rates and affordability pressures, home prices remained relatively stable compared to recent years, reflecting continued demand for housing throughout the region.

Median Home Price



Existing Home Sales

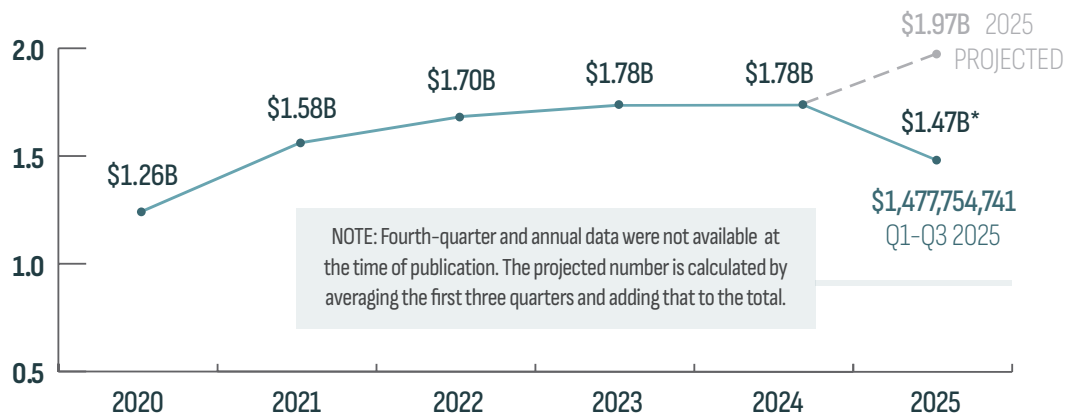


Photos courtesy of Chris Majors Creative.



Taxable Retail Sales

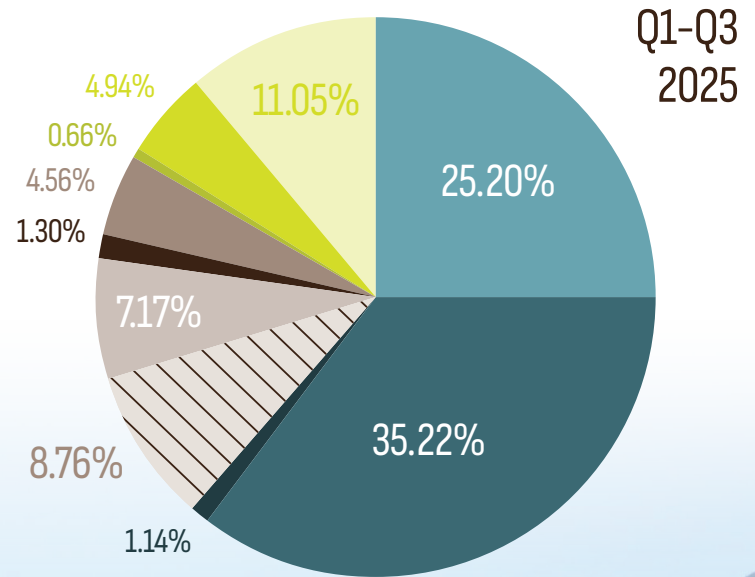
Grays Harbor County



Taxable Retail Sales by Community

Source: WA Dept. of Revenue.

Community	Q1-Q3 2025 Sales	Percent of Total 2025 Sales
Unincorporated Grays Harbor	\$372,324,407	25.20%
Aberdeen	\$520,453,485	35.22%
Cosmopolis	\$16,861,870	1.14%
Elma	\$129,485,952	8.76%
Hoquiam	\$106,024,891	7.17%
McCleary	\$19,153,926	1.30%
Montesano	\$67,378,052	4.56%
Oakville	\$9,716,567	0.66%
Westport	\$73,004,120	4.94%
Ocean Shores	\$163,351,471	11.05%



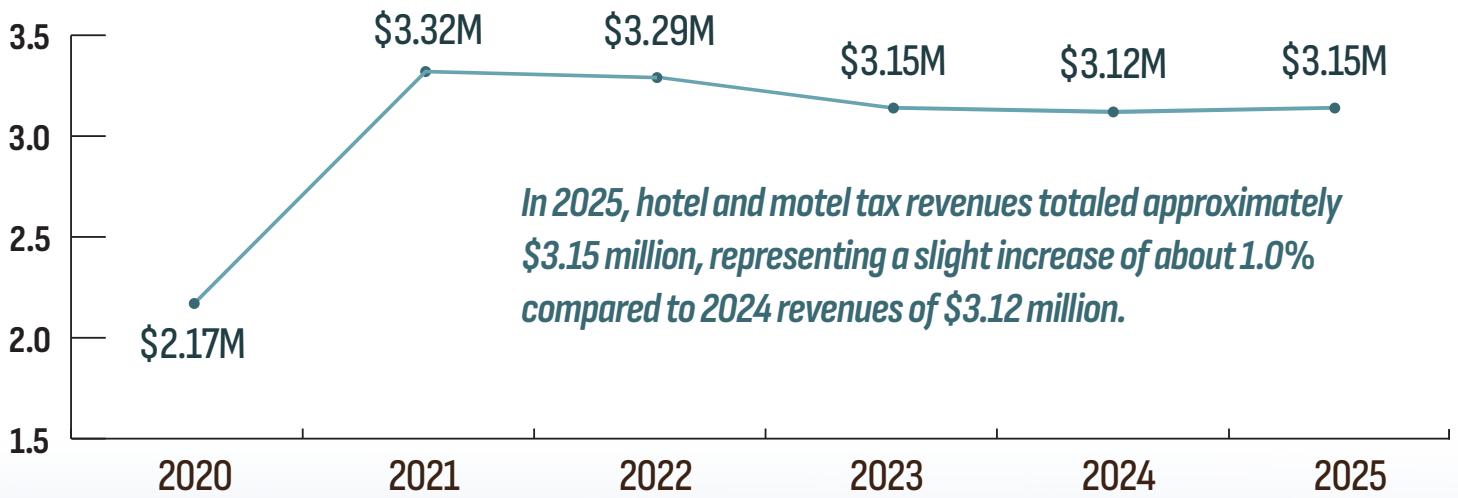
Source: WA Dept. of Revenue.

Grays Harbor County recorded \$1.48 billion in taxable retail sales through the third quarter of 2025. Because fourth-quarter data was unavailable at the time of publication, the 2025 figures represent January through September activity only.



Tourism

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



These revenues remain significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels, with 2025 surpassing the 2020 figure of \$2.17 million by approximately 45.2%.

Source: WA Dept. of Revenue.



Photos courtesy of Chris Majors Creative.



Photo courtesy of Port of Grays Harbor.

Expanding Our Horizons at the Port of Grays Harbor

*The Port of Grays Harbor's 2025 theme was **Expanding Our Horizons**, and expand they did—with progress made throughout the Port's seven lines of business.*

In 2025, the Port saw a record number of vessel calls with 151 ships and barges calling the Port's four deep-water terminals. While 2025 was only the Port's third most cargo handled at 3.3 million metric tons, new records were set for soymeal exports, auto imports and woodchips handled. Handling this influx of cargo seamlessly took place while the Terminal 4 Expansion & Redevelopment Project was under construction throughout the year. With the Project nearly complete, the Port's \$60 million infrastructure improvements will support AGP's \$175 million second export facility at Terminal 4B which is expected to be operational in Q3 and will bring 80 full-time, family wage jobs to the community.

The Satsop Business Park saw two existing tenants expand. Lynch Creek Farm now takes up the entirety of the 256,000 Olympic View Warehouse making their handmade evergreen goods, as well as Tidal Vision, a company specializing in chitosan, who is now taking up a second 17,500 sq. ft. warehouse to store dry shells. The Park also hosted more than 1,400 students from 30 school districts from 5 counties for another successful Try-A-Trade event that offered a hands-on experience with 19 different trade organizations. The Port will continue to put the Park's available land, warehouses, and unique assets to use to attract private investment and create jobs and opportunities here in Grays Harbor.

Based on 2024 NOAA statistics, the Westport Marina now ranks tenth in the Nation for both volume and value of seafood landed, with Westport-landed seafood exported around the world. The hub of recreational, tribal and commercial fishing, and home to one of the largest charter-fishing fleets on the West Coast, the Marina is busy year-round. The Port continues to seek funding opportunities to advance the Marina Modernization Project to replace, rehabilitate and reconfigure the Marina's floating dock infrastructure. The reconstruction of Float 21 and the removal of Float 19 are expected to begin in 2027.

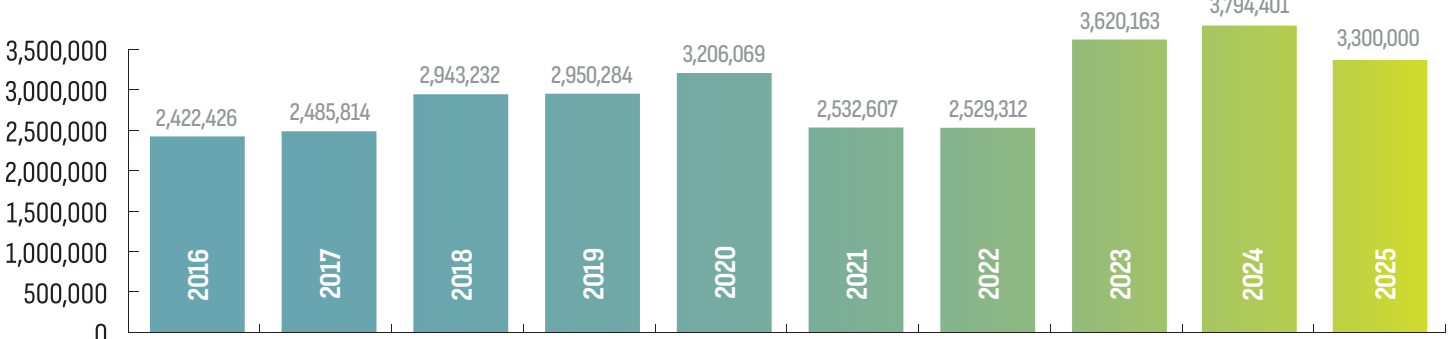
As the only jet capable runway on the Pacific Coast, Bowerman Airport is an asset to the region. 2025 was the conclusion of a multi-year, multi-phase drainage project that will serve Bowerman and its users for years to come, including Life Flight who celebrated their new hangar at Bowerman, signifying their investment in and commitment to providing lifesaving assets to the Grays Harbor community.

In 2026, the Port of Grays Harbor invites its partners and the community to join in Celebrating 115 Years of Progress.

Tonnage Handled

Source: Port of Grays Harbor

Metric Tons



Population, Education & Income

The Age and Gender Distribution graph illustrates the population of Grays Harbor County across age and gender cohorts. The data reflects a relatively older population, with the largest concentrations in the 50–69 age ranges. While gender distribution is generally balanced in younger and middle age groups, females begin to outnumber males in several older cohorts, particularly among residents age 65 and older. The median age of Grays Harbor residents is 44.7 (2024 estimates), unchanged from 2023. The county continues to have a more mature population profile compared to state and national averages and remains significantly higher than the U.S. median age of 38.6, highlighting the county's consistently older age profile.

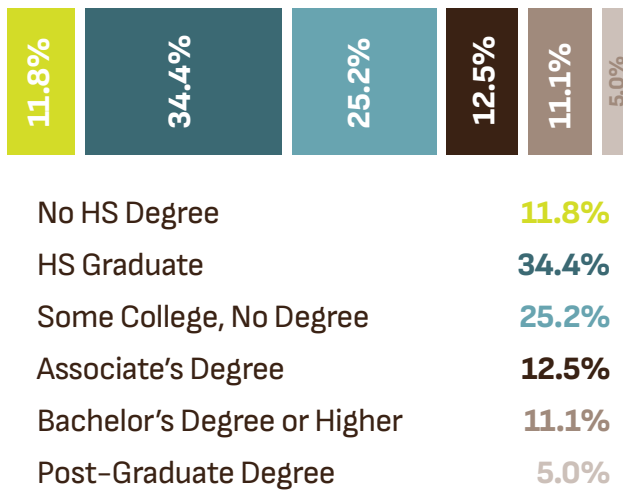


The Educational Attainment graph presents data on educational achievement levels for residents ages 25 to 64.

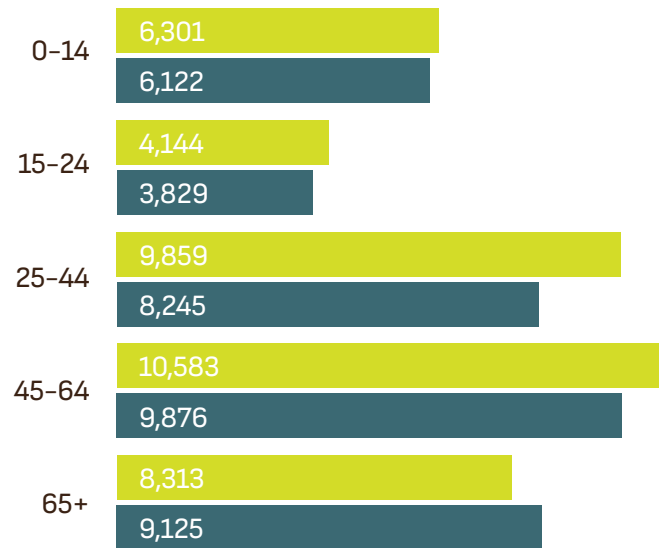
The Household Income Distribution graph describes the distribution of household income in Grays Harbor County. Based on the most recent available American Community Survey estimates (2023), the median household income in the county was \$63,539, reflecting a 7.5% increase from the prior year. Per capita income was \$43,468.



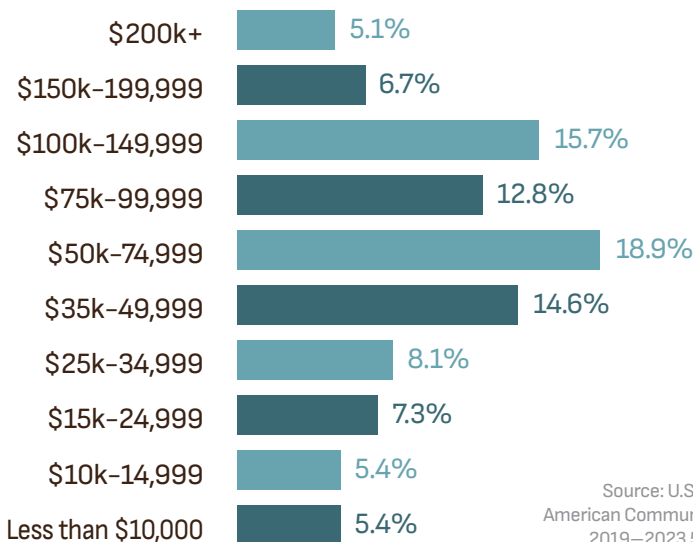
Educational Attainment *Updated in 2024*



Age & Gender Distribution *Updated in 2024*



Household Income Distribution *Updated in 2023*



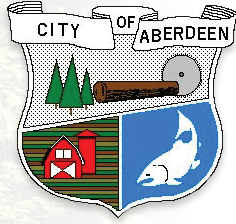
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2019–2023 5-Year Estimates



**LEADER'S
CIRCLE**

Photo courtesy
of Pink Flamingo
Photography.

Diamond



1854



Gold



Silver



CONNOISSEUR
MEDIA



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