

Introduction

This section describes the purpose, organization, and content of the 1999 Annual Growth Report for King County, Washington. Information on how to obtain a copy of the report follows this section.

Purpose

The 1999 Annual Growth Report (AGR) provides population and land development data for King County, its cities, and its unincorporated areas. The AGR, produced since 1983, has become one of King County's most widely used documents, presenting frequently requested information in an easily used format. The AGR contains growth trend data and maps of the past year's development with illustrative graphs and text.

The Annual Growth Report has two purposes. The first is to present a standard set of data on growth in King County. Staff of the County's Office of Regional Policy and Planning collect extensive current information that can answer questions about where, when, and how much growth is occurring in King County.

The second purpose of the Annual Growth Report is to provide a foundation for evaluating King County land use and development policies. This purpose is enhanced for the second time this past 2 years by the simultaneous publication of the 1999 Benchmark Report. The data presented in these two documents will assist in monitoring the effectiveness of County and City policies and plans, including the Countywide Planning Policies and the King County Comprehensive Plan, adopted to comply with the State Growth Management Act.

New in the AGR in 1999

This year's report continues to document recent annexations and incorporations which are shifting population growth and development activity out of the jurisdiction of unincorporated King County, and into cities. In recognition of that trend, the past three years' AGRs have shifted their focus from unincorporated areas to the cities.

- In addition to the recent incorporations of Newcastle, Shoreline, Covington, Maple Valley, and Kenmore, this year brings the incorporation of the City of Sammamish, effective August, 1999. A City Statistical Profile of Sammamish is provided in Chapter Six.
- New data regarding home ownership rates in King County found in both AGR and the Benchmark Report
- Again, this year, after an interruption of several years, we have been able to restore consistent information on housing affordability by making use of data from the Northwest Multiple Listing Service (MLS) real estate database. These data give up-to-date average and median home prices by real estate area, for both single-family and condominium/townhouse sales.
- Employment figures have been updated to include 1998 covered employment by city.
- New tables summarizing persons below poverty level by city (1990 Census) and by school age by school district (1995 estimate). See pages 61 and 159.
- More discussion of the status of salmon runs in King County, as well as other recent environmental trends in Chapter One (*Highlights*).
- Continued reporting on Forest Production Activity; forest acreage converted is at its highest level in the last 10 years.
- Also, new this year are some tables and maps in *color*. See pages 1 - 12.

Bound inside the back cover are eleven *colored maps* illustrating the information presented in this AGR.

The AGR and the Benchmark Report: Companion Documents

While the Annual Growth Report focuses on providing a broad range of growth-related data, the Benchmark Report is organized into 45 specific indicators which are intended to measure progress in achieving the goals of the 1994 Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) and the King County Comprehensive Plan. The system for the Benchmark Report was established by defining the desired outcomes of the CPPs, selecting relevant indicators for each outcome, and identifying quantifiable levels of achievement, or targets when appropriate. The Benchmark Report includes measurement and analysis of trends in:

- Economic Development - real wages per worker; median household income; new businesses and new jobs created; and educational levels attained.
- Environmental Issues - air and water quality; noise abatement; protection of ecosystems and species diversity; restoration of salmon stocks; and improvement in waste management.
- Affordable Housing - supply and demand for affordable housing; home purchase and rental affordability; and monetary commitments to affordable housing by local jurisdictions.
- Land Use Policy - apportionment of new housing units and jobs among urban centers, urban growth areas, and rural resource areas; progress of local jurisdictions in meeting housing targets; and preservation of forest, farmland, and open space.
- Transportation - Quantity and type of vehicle trips, modes of commuting, levels of congestion on current roadways, and local road repair requirements.

By publishing these two documents at the same time, the more specific trend analysis provided in the Benchmark Report will complement and extend the more general demographic, housing and economic data presented in the Annual Growth Report; and the AGR will provide the comprehensive framework for the Benchmark indicators. While there is some overlap in data presented, there is a great deal that is unique to each report. Although the purpose of the two reports is different, every effort has been made to assure consistency in the data presented. In cases where there appears to be inconsistencies in data, it may be that a different measure or source is being used - e.g. median home price (reported in Benchmark Report vs. Average Home Price reported in AGR). Used together, these reports provide a comprehensive picture of current growth conditions in King County.

For Further Information:

Office of Regional Policy and Planning
Room 420 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: (206) 205-0700 or 205-0708

To purchase a copy of the 1999 Annual Growth Report:

Send a \$45.00 check (includes tax plus S&H, without S&H: \$40) made out to "King County Office of Finance" to:

King County Licensing Division
Room 411 Administration Building
500 - 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
ATTN: AGR

The AGR will be accessible on King County's internet home page at:

www.metrokc.gov/budget/agr/