

Report Highlights

Highlights of the growth and development trends described in this year's Snohomish County Tomorrow Growth Monitoring Report indicate that 2008 marked the start of a period during which the county's growth, as evidenced across a number of indicators, began to slow considerably.

- Snohomish County's population continues to increase, reaching 696,600 in 2008, but growth is occurring at a slower pace than the previous two decades.
- Snohomish County's share of the region's annual population growth has receded from the highs (averaging 33%) shown during the late 1990's, to 19% in 2007-08.
- As of 2008, Snohomish County's population growth this decade is tracking slightly lower (-2.1%) than the County's adopted 2002-2025 countywide population projection.
- After experiencing countywide job growth rates of 6.5% per year between 2005 and 2007, the annual average number of nonagricultural jobs stabilized at 259,800 in 2008, up only 0.5% from 2007.
- After annexing nearly 12 square miles of Snohomish County's UGA during 2005 – 2007, the pace of annexation by cities dropped off considerably in 2008 to only 0.71 square miles annexed.
- Lake Stevens and Marysville together account for over half the acres and population annexed in the County since 2000.
- Total residential units permitted countywide peaked in 2005 at the highest level observed since 1998. Permit volumes have dropped each year since 2005.
- New recorded lot creation reached an all-time high in 2007, followed by a dramatic drop off in 2008 (down 61%).
- Lots in rural cluster subdivision applications in 2008 (78 total) also dropped to the low levels experienced earlier in the decade – considerably lower than the number applied for in 2007 (786), 2006 (1805) and 2005 (886).