Skagit County Top Employers: 2020

The Center for Economic and Business Research at Western Washington University asks businesses for permanent full-time employees based in Skagit County each year – the following table is for employment counts as of 12/31/20. Getting this information is harder than you might think due to differences in how companies define full-time, how to count people who work in different locations during the year, etc. Numbers in the table should be used for discussion purposes and reference, with an understanding of the uncertainty surrounding the numbers.

In conducting this research, we have included those companies reporting a headcount of more than 150 to help limit the overall size of the list.

Not all companies contacted agree to have their employment numbers published. If an omission is believed to have occurred, please contact the Center for Economic and Business Research at Western Washington University by phone at 360 -650-3909 or by e-mail at cebr@wwu.edu.

Due to COVID-19 we asked those responding to the survey for the experience and expectations involving remote work and a return to office environments. While recognizing that this is subject to change based on the course of the pandemic it provides a lens into the potential landscape changes that await the county's workforce. Those companies that manufacture or conduct in-person transactions as a core function were most likely to report near normal working conditions whereas many companies that could offer remote working for positions stated that they were prepared to continue such arrangements into 2021 for an average of approximately 20% of the workforce.

The response rate for the Top Employers report has been especially low this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Top Employers report this year also included some COVID-19 related questions in order to better understand the impact of the pandemic in the businesses in Skagit county. Our research suggests that most companies still have non-essential personnel working remotely and that their workforce number has been reduced due to the pandemic.

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2020 Rank	2019 Rank	Company Name	Total headcount
1	1	Skagit Regional Health	3000*
2	4	Mount Vernon School District	1147
3	3	Draper Valley Farms	1038
4	5	Skagit County Government	757.5
5	6	Island Hospital	751
6	8	Janicki	692
7	7	Sedro Woolley School District	489
8	12	Shell Puget Sound Refinery	475
9	13	Skagit Valley Casino Resort	450**
10	11	Burlington Edison School District	435
11	10	Swinomish Casino	398.5
12	-	Fred Meyer	392
13	-	Tesoro Refinery	390
14	2	Skagit Horticulture LLC (Formerly Skagit Gardens)	377
15	9	Dakota Creek Industries Inc.	354
16	-	Peace Health United General Medical Center	350**
17	-	Costco	275**
18	14	Walmart	150**
19	-	PACCAR Technical Center	150**

*Based on 2019 numbers
**Estimated from 3rd party sources.

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The Center for Economic and Business Research (CEBR) at Western Washington University works in partnership with businesses, non-profits, government/quasi-governmental entities and tribal communities to respond to data and analysis needs.

The Center brings students and faculty together with each client to find solutions that inform, engage and encourage innovation. Our work includes a variety of analysis documents, presentations and facilitated discussions backed by both primary and secondary research that is supported by academic standards and best practices.

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