



Skagit County Top Employers: 2021

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 12/31/21. While it may seem straightforward, this information can get complicated due to differences in defining 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.

The response rate for the Top Employers remains low compared to pre-COVID-19 pandemic response rates. The Top Employers report this year continued to include some COVID-19 related questions to better understand the impact of the pandemic on the businesses in Skagit County.

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. Additionally, not all respondents answered the question regarding the proportion of remote work anticipated for 2022, these conclusions are estimates based on information collected during the survey.

Those companies that manufacture or conduct in-person transactions as a core function were most likely to report normal in-person working conditions whereas many companies stated that they were prepared to continue remote or hybrid arrangements into the future when surveyed. The situations for companies in Skagit County varied greatly, with the majority completely back in person, some allowing for remote working a percentage of the time, some accommodating to allow remote work depending on local covid case numbers, business flexibility, and employee needs. The sector which had the greatest levels of remote work was government, while retail had the lowest proportion of remote work, with nearly all employees required to be on site.



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2021 Rank	2020 Rank	Company Name	2021 Total Headcount
1	1	Skagit Regional Health	2256
2	2	Mount Vernon School District	1147†
3	3	Draper Valley Farms	1038†
4	6	Janicki	751
5	4	Skagit County Government	714
6	8	Shell Puget Sound Refinery	600
7	7	Sedro Woolley School District	489†
8	9	Skagit Valley Casino Resort	450**
9	10	Burlington Edison School District	435†
10	11	Swinomish Casino	398.5†
11	13	Tesoro Refinery	390†
12	-	Skagit Valley College	374
13	12	Fred Meyer	350
14	16	Peace Health United General Medical Center	349**
15	5	Island Hospital	309
16	-	Washington State Department of Transportation	237
17	-	Hexcel	225
18	14	Skagit Horticulture LLC (Formerly Skagit Gardens)	200**
19		Haggen	175
20	15	Dakota Creek Industries Inc.	166
21	-	Skagit Valley Food Coop	158
22	19	PACCAR Technical Center	150**

*Based on 2019 numbers

†Based on 2020 numbers

**Estimated from 3rd party sources.

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