



2023 Whatcom County Top Employers List

The Center for Economic and Business Research at Western Washington University asks businesses for the number of workers they employ in Whatcom County each year – the following table is for employment counts as of 12/31/23. Some data from 2022 and 2021 is included where the Center was unable to collect an updated response. While it may seem straightforward, labor information can get complicated due to differences in defining full-time labor, how to count people who work in different locations during the year, and other potential data errors.

Numbers in the table should be used for discussion purposes and reference, with an understanding of the uncertainty surrounding the numbers and self-selection bias of volunteered data.

In conducting this research, we have included those companies reporting a headcount of more than 130 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.



WHATCOM COUNTY TOP EMPLOYERS: 2023

2023 Rank	2022 Rank	Business Name	2023 Headcount
1	1	St. Joseph Medical Center	3588
2	2	Western Washington University	2486
3	4	Bellingham Public Schools	1714
4	3	Lummi Nation	1698*
5	5	City of Bellingham	1073
6	6	Whatcom County	959
7	7	Whatcom Community College	832*
8	8	Haggen	715*
9	9	BP Cherry Point	700*
10	10	LTI, Inc.	557**
11	11	Family Care Network	545
12	12	Whatcom Educational Credit Union (WECU)	419
13	13	Fred Meyer	398*
14	-	Costco	395
15	15	Peoples Bank	333
16	16	Alpha Technology Services	301
17	17	Whatcom Transportation Authority	296
18	14	Blaine School District	271
19	22	Walmart	265
20	19	Semiahmoo Resort, Golf and Spa	260*
21	21	Harris Pacific Northwest, LLC	242*
22	20	Trans-Ocean Products, Inc.	241
23	18	Anvil Corporation	207
24	24	WinCo Foods	150
25	26	CHS Northwest	148*
26	25	Mt. Baker Care Center	142

*Based on 2022 numbers

**Based on 2021 numbers

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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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