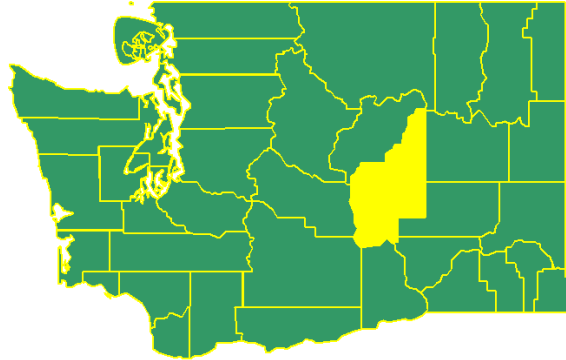


Annual Average Covered Wages in Grant County and in Washington from 2002-2004



Prepared November 21, 2005

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Introduction

To accurately compare wages with employment, one must have wages associated with each employed person. But, the Washington State Employment Security Department cannot obtain wage information on workers not covered under the unemployment compensation system. Hence, only jobs covered under the unemployment compensation system, and the wages reported for these jobs, were used in this analysis. This information is commonly referred to as covered employment and wage data.

Annual Average Wages in the Nonagricultural Sector from 2002-2004

The annual average wage in the nonagricultural sector of Grant County consistently lagged the annual average wage across Washington (see Figure 1-A) from 2002-2004. In 2002 the annual average wage in Grant County was \$24,133, or 63.1 percent of the statewide annual average salary of \$38,244. This percentage increased to 65.6 percent in 2004 as the annual wage in Grant County advanced to \$25,812 while the statewide figure moved upwards to \$39,351.

Annual Average Wages in the Administrative and Support Services (NAICS 561) Subsector from 2002-2004

Grant County's Administrative and Support Services subsector added jobs during the last three years (i.e., 2002, 2003, and 2004). Most local administrative and support services jobs are with Temporary Help Services, Professional Employer Organizations, Janitorial Services, and Landscaping Services and employment grew therein from an average of 790 jobs in 2002, to 1,113 jobs in 2004. Many of these jobs are seasonal and hence the annual average wages are low (see Figure 1-B). In 2002 the annual average wage for a local administrative and support job was \$11,623, or 41.9 percent of the corresponding \$27,773 salary across Washington. This percentage increased to 47.0 percent in 2004 as the average wage in Grant County advanced to \$14,167 while the statewide figure elevated to \$30,140.

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