

Population and Labor Force Demographics

Introduction

Looking at demographic trends in the overall population and the labor force provides insights for understanding a variety of patterns in the economy. The focus of this chapter is on demographic dynamics that are most directly related to economic trends.

One of the most basic examples of how demographics affect the economy is that a growing local population generally helps fuel the local economy with consumer spending (assuming population is growing at a pace that can be accommodated by infrastructure and assuming steady or growing income levels). In the U.S. economy, the amount spent by consumers equals two-thirds or more of the total value of goods and services produced.

A sufficiently concentrated and growing local population creates growing markets and labor supplies that attract businesses to expand or locate in the community. The composition of the local population—in terms of household types, ages, ethnicities, etc.—shape the consumer markets created and influence the types of businesses attracted. Changes in the size and age profile of the population within a labor market area also affect the supply of workers available to local employers.

Residents' educational attainment and skills affect their employment and earnings potential. In today's knowledge-driven economy, educational attainment and professional and technical skills are increasingly important. Areas with highly educated and skilled workforces like Bellevue are more likely to attract the higher paying industries of the new economy.

In addition to the ways in which population and demographic dynamics shape the economy, the economy also influences how the population grows. For example, when the labor force outlook in an area is favorable relative to that elsewhere, more people move into the area—both from other locations domestically and from abroad. This causal pattern is one of the key components in state and regional population forecasting models.

The United States decennial census, which was last conducted by the Census Bureau in 2000, is the main data source for this chapter. Basic demographic information (information on population, age, race, and household characteristics) is from the “short form” questionnaire, which the Census Bureau sent to every household in the U.S. More detailed socio-economic information is from the “long form” questionnaire, which the bureau distributed to 1 out of every 6 households. More details on census findings pertaining to Bellevue's population can be found in Volume 1 and 2 of Bellevue's Census 2000 Report, *Citywide and Regional Trends* and *Neighborhood Patterns*.¹ While data from the most recent census is now almost five years old, the census remains the most comprehensive source of information for demographic characteristics at a city level.

This chapter begins by examining population trends. In addition to summarizing census data, the discussion on population includes more recent estimates from the Washington State Office of Financial Management. **Because population growth has such an important relationship to economic growth, population forecasts and targets are also discussed briefly in this chapter.**

After the section on population, this chapter covers other demographic information for Bellevue's population including household and age characteristics; race, ethnicity and place of birth; and educational attainment—all with an emphasis on the insights this information can provide into the local and regional economy.

The final section profiles the labor force, including employment status, labor force participation rates, occupations and industries of employment, earnings, types of employer organizations (or “class of worker” per Census Bureau terminology), and place of work.

Given that this chapter's focus is on demographics and given that the main data source is the decennial census, the analysis in this chapter is based on people's place of residence rather than place of work. *Thus, the information presented for Bellevue is for residents who live in Bellevue, not for people who work in Bellevue* (although Bellevue residents who also work within the city are included in the analysis). While Bellevue residents are the population of greatest interest, the analysis also looks at demographics in other key geographies both for comparative purposes and to provide context based on larger regional and—in some cases—national patterns. Information for residents of King County and the Puget Sound region is also of interest because employers in Bellevue look not only to the supply of workers living in Bellevue, but also to those living in the larger area labor market of which Bellevue is a part.

KEY FINDINGS AND IMPLICATIONS—Population & Labor Force Demographics

Population Growth

Bellevue's population was counted at 109,569 in the 2000 census, making Bellevue the second largest city in King County after Seattle. Bellevue's population grew by 26.1 percent between 1990 and 2000, half of which was due to annexations.

The last two decennial censuses show that the Eastside of King County grew more quickly than Seattle did in the 1990s. Bellevue's population also increased more quickly than Seattle's did, but less rapidly than the population in cities and towns on the eastern and southern fringes of King County.

In its official population estimates, the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimates that Bellevue's population between 2000 and 2004 grew by 6,673 persons (including population added with annexations). This placed Bellevue's 2004 population at an estimated 116,500.

Between 2003 and 2004, Puget Sound region population growth rates, which had stalled during the recession, began to accelerate again as the economic recovery began. Forecasts by OFM project faster rates of growth in the 2005 to 2010 period than in the first half of the decade for both King County and the Puget Sound region as a whole. Between 2005 and 2010, OFM expects King County's population to grow by 4.2 percent or 74,000 persons. This reflects rebounding migration into the state due to improvements in the state's job market.

Increases in Bellevue's population related to annexation will be slowing in the near future because only a small fraction of the city's ultimate potential annexation area remains to be annexed. However, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) anticipates that population in the Bellevue area will increase more rapidly between 2010 and 2030 than between 2000 and 2010. The majority of the growth in population through 2030 is expected—and planned—to occur in Downtown, where the number of residents will increase rapidly. Overall, however, cumulative growth between 2000 and 2030 is anticipated to continue occurring at a slower pace in Bellevue than in the larger Eastside and region.

PSRC's most recent forecasts take into account housing and employment growth targets recently adopted by Bellevue and other jurisdictions within King County. Bellevue's growth targets for the planning period between 2001 and 2022 are 10,117 additional housing units and 40,000 additional jobs. Reaching these targets would mean that Bellevue's population will exceed 137,000 and the number of jobs in Bellevue will be more than 170,000 by 2022.

Demographic Characteristics

Households

In the year 2000 Bellevue's city limits contained 45,836 households—a figure that OFM estimates had increased to 49,119 as of 2004.

The most common categories of households in Bellevue in 2000 were married couples without children at home (which made up 31 percent of households) and one-person households (which made up 28 percent of households). The percentage of households with one or more children was slightly lower in Bellevue than in King County as a whole.

In Bellevue, as in the region and the nation generally, average household size continued to decline in the 1990s. A large part of this trend locally was due to one-person households increasing more quickly than households overall.

Age

The proportion of Bellevue's population that is comprised of seniors has increased, going from about 10 percent in 1990 to about 13 percent in the year 2000. By the year 2000 the percentage of the population made up of seniors in Bellevue had also eclipsed the corresponding percentages in the nation as well as in Washington state and King County.

In the year 2000, young working-age adults were a smaller part of the population in Bellevue than in King County as a whole. While about two-thirds of Bellevue residents were 19 to 64 years of age in 2000, Bellevue had a lower percentage of residents ages 19 to 44 than did King County as a whole, Seattle, and many other King County cities. Bellevue's relatively low supply of younger working-age residents contributes to the pattern in which Bellevue employers draw a large portion of their workers from areas surrounding Bellevue. Bellevue's age demographics also hint that labor force participation *rates* in Bellevue—which declined between 1990 and 2000—may also fall more quickly than in some other parts of the region as the pace of baby-boom retirements accelerates.

Diversity

The Puget Sound region is becoming increasingly diverse, a trend that is especially notable in Bellevue. In the 1990s, the number of residents in Bellevue who are Asian/Pacific Islander more than doubled and comprised over 17 percent of the city's population in the year 2000. Bellevue's Hispanic and Latino population also increased rapidly and in 2000 made up 5.3 percent of the city's population.

In 2000, Bellevue was significantly more diverse than the balance of the Eastside and somewhat more diverse than King County and the nation as a whole. In the 2000 census, almost 26 percent of Bellevue residents identified themselves as a race other than White (or White in combination with another race).

Bellevue's foreign-born population has also grown rapidly. The percentage of Bellevue residents born outside the country went from 13.3 percent in 1990 to 24.5 percent in 2000, a share that is much higher than in the overall King County's population. Over half of Bellevue's foreign-born residents were recent immigrants to the United States.

Minority and immigrant entrepreneurship is an important part of Bellevue's economy and is likely to continue to be so in the future—to even a greater degree than in many other parts of the region and nation. There will also continue to be strong market opportunities for retailers and other businesses in Bellevue serving ethnic and immigrant populations.

In the decades to come, the majority of new workers nationally and also likely in Bellevue will be minorities, immigrants and women. Ensuring that these groups benefit from the educational, training, and small-business resources the region has to offer will be critical in enabling these groups' full participation in future economic gains.

Educational Attainment

In a continuation of long-term regional and national trends, rates of college education grew within Bellevue as well as in King County between 1990 and 2000. The percentage of Bellevue residents 25 and older with at least a bachelor's degree rose from 46 percent in 1990 to 54 percent in 2000. While rates of college education increased throughout almost all of King County, the 2000 census showed that the share of adults with a bachelor's degree remained greater in Bellevue than in Seattle, the county as a whole, and the balance of the Eastside generally—which themselves all have high levels of educational attainment. The percentage of adults in Bellevue who had graduated from college was correspondingly much greater than in the nation as a whole.

In today's knowledge-based economy, education is increasingly important. Bellevue residents' high level of educational attainment is one key asset making workers from Bellevue especially valuable human resources in the regional economy. The supply of highly educated and skilled workers in the Seattle Metropolitan area generally also provides this area with an important competitive advantage relative to many other regions in attracting high-technology firms and other new economy businesses.

Labor Force Participation and Composition

Labor Force and Employment Status

Census responses indicate that in the year 2000 slightly over two-thirds (67.5 percent or 59,896 persons) of Bellevue's residents age 16 and older were in the labor force. As was the case nationally, in Bellevue females had a lower rate of labor force participation than did males.

Bellevue's labor force participation rate declined between 1990 and 2000 and in 2000 was lower than in many other jurisdictions in King County. This is likely due in part to the fact that the senior population rose more quickly in Bellevue and—at 13 percent of the population in Bellevue in 2000—made up a larger share of the population in Bellevue than in many other cities within the county.

In Bellevue, the percentage of the civilian labor force that was unemployed per the 2000 census was 4.1 percent. This was somewhat lower than the rate in King County as a whole, a finding which is likely due in large degree to Bellevue residents' high levels of educational attainment and new economy job skills.

Occupations and Industries of Employment

In 2000, over half (53.1 percent) of working residents in Bellevue were employed in management or professional jobs—a higher percentage than in King County as a whole. Bellevue also had a larger proportion of its working residents employed in computer and mathematical occupations. The proportion of Bellevue workers employed in knowledge-based industries was also higher than in the county as a whole.

Earnings

The prevalence of high education levels and the occupational and industry profiles of Bellevue workers are reflected in earnings that tend to be higher in Bellevue than in many other locations. Median earnings for full-time, year round workers living in Bellevue were about \$47,000 in 1999—which is almost \$7,000 more than in King County generally.

Class of Worker

Census 2000 information from Bellevue shows that slightly over three-quarters of civilian workers in the population were employed as private for-profit wage and salary workers. Workers living in Bellevue were somewhat more likely to be self employed and own their own corporation than were workers in the larger county and nation as a whole. About 11 percent of residents in Bellevue were self-employed—either in unincorporated businesses or incorporated business that they themselves own.

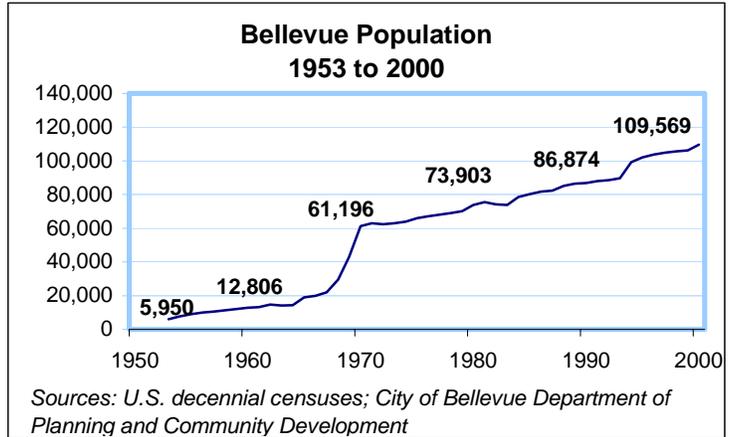
Place of Work

The 2000 census also revealed that about 39 percent of employed Bellevue residents worked within the city limits of Bellevue. The large majority of Bellevue residents who worked outside of Bellevue commuted to other locations within King County. This pattern is reflective of Bellevue's role in the region as a key employment center which draws large shares of workers from both within and outside of the city.

Bellevue's status as a significant importer of workers coupled with the fact that most working Bellevue residents are employed at work locations outside of Bellevue are two of many factors giving this community an important stake in the overall health of the region's economy and transportation system.

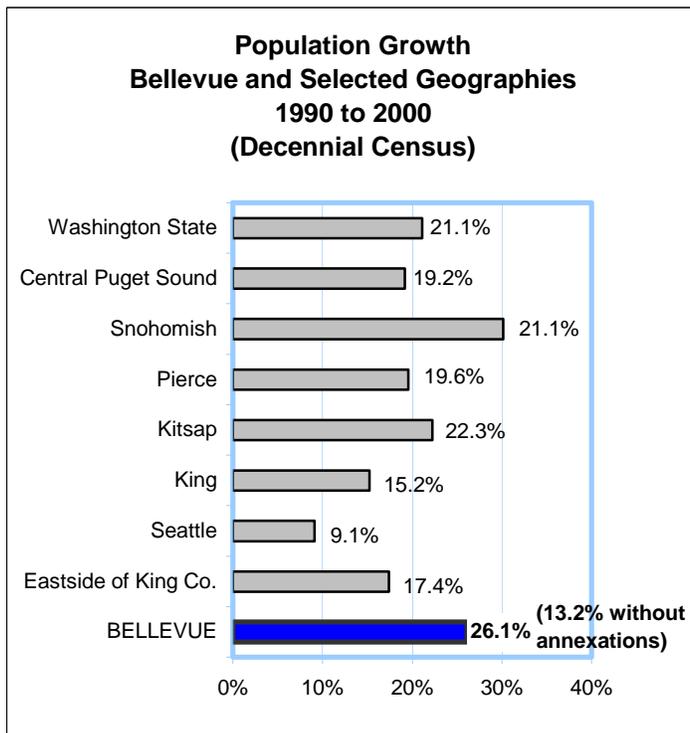
Population Growth

As noted in the introduction to this chapter, population growth and economic growth influence one another in myriad ways. Under many circumstances, population growth helps fuel local and regional economic growth by increasing aggregate levels of consumer demand. However, population growth—in particular growth from migration—is itself influenced strongly by the relative economic vitality of the region. In fact, how well Washington’s economy is doing relative to other parts of the country is one of the main inputs into the econometric model that the State Office of Financial Management (OFM) uses to forecast population growth. Of course, economics are not the only reason people move to this area. Quality of life factors such as safety, excellent schools, recreational opportunities and natural beauty—all of which Bellevue has in ample supply—also attract both residents and employers.



Population Trends in Bellevue and the Region from 1990 to 2000

Between 1990 and 2000, Bellevue’s population grew by 22,695 persons or by 26.1 percent (from 86,874 to 109,569 persons).



Bellevue’s population placed it as the second most populous city in King County after Seattle, a rank retained today.

Annexations have provided an important component of Bellevue’s population.

Approximately half of Bellevue’s population growth in the 1990s was from annexations while the other half was from in-migration and births. Annexation accounted for about half of Bellevue’s overall population growth from the city’s incorporation in 1953 until 2000. **Only a small fraction of the area within the city’s ultimate potential annexation area remains to be annexed.** Given this, the growth in the number of people residing within Bellevue’s city limits will slow in the future.

Not counting population added by annexations, Bellevue’s population grew by 13.2 percent, which was higher than the rate of growth in Seattle, but somewhat lower than the overall rate of population growth in King County as a whole and substantially lower than the rates of growth for the central Puget Sound region as a whole. However, contributions to the population of King County by the Eastside and by South King County have been growing over the last several decades.

In the 1990s, the population of the Eastside grew almost twice as fast as that of Seattle. Also, the Eastside added more residents than did Seattle. By the year 2000 the Eastside’s population was 95 percent as large as Seattle’s. In references to census data, “the Eastside” is the combination of two of the King County subdivisions defined by the Census Bureau: East Seattle Subdivision in combination with the Issaquah Plateau Subdivision. Other data sources, including the Puget Sound Regional Council small-area forecasts, described later in this chapter, define the Eastside of King County somewhat differently.

	1990 Population	2000 Population	Change 1990-2000	% Change 1990-2000
King County	1,507,319	1,737,034	229,715	15.2%
Seattle	516,259	563,374	47,115	9.1%
Eastside	451,571	530,337	78,766	17.4%
BELLEVUE	86,874	109,569	22,695	26.1% (13.2% w/out annexations)

Downtown Bellevue was one of the most rapidly growing census tracts in all of King County. However, when whole cities and towns are considered as opposed to smaller census tracts, the most dramatic rates of growth in King County—other than those due to annexations—were commonly seen in the outer eastern and southern fringes of the county, in cities such as Duvall, Enumclaw, and North Bend.

2000 to 2004 Population Estimates for Bellevue and the Region

The table to the right shows the annual April population estimates by the OFM for Bellevue and other selected geographies for 2000 through 2004.² OFM develops these estimates for use in the allocation of selected state revenues. **Between 2000 and 2004, Bellevue’s population is estimated by OFM to have grown by 6,673 persons or 6.1 percent.** This includes about 2,700 persons added to Bellevue with the West Lake Sammamish annexation and other smaller annexations. **By 2004, Bellevue’s estimated population was 116,500.**

	2000	2004	Change 2000 to 2004	% Change 2000 to 2004
BELLEVUE	109,827	116,500	6,673	6.1% (3.6% without annexations)
King County	1,737,046	1,788,300	51,254	3.0%
Seattle	563,374	572,600	9,226	1.6%
Puget Sound Region	3,275,857	3,416,600	2,558	4.3%
Washington State	5,894,143	6,167,800	273,657	4.6%

Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management

Between 2000 and 2004, Bellevue’s population growth in absolute numbers—including annexations—was the second largest in the four-county central Puget Sound region after Seattle’s. Without annexations, Bellevue grew by 3.6 percent between 2000 and 2004, which is greater than Seattle’s rate of growth and slightly higher than King County’s rate of growth, but less than that in the region as a whole.

With regards to Washington state as a whole, the majority of growth between 2000 and 2004 remained concentrated in the western part of the state. The largest numbers of persons were added in King County and Pierce County.

While there was growth each year in the Puget Sound region during the 2000 to 2004 period, growth rates estimated by OFM had been declining up until the 2003-04 period due to weakening of the regional economy and labor market during that period.³

Between 2003 and 2004, growth in Washington’s population started to accelerate again with an increase of 1.1 percent, reflecting the beginnings of a solid economic recovery. Population in the Puget Sound region increased by a somewhat slower 0.9 percent. The rate of population growth that year in King County—and also locally in Bellevue—was positive, but significantly lower than that of the state and region, reflecting the delay with which the county economy picked up steam. Per OFM, population increases typically follow employment gains by six to 12 months. Within the one-year period between 2003 and 2004, King County’s population rose by 0.5 percent while Bellevue’s population increased by just 0.1 percent (or 100 persons).

Population Forecasts and Targets

State and County Forecasts

In compliance with Washington’s Growth Management Act (GMA), OFM periodically provides 20-year forecasts to counties for planning purposes. OFM’s most recent county-level forecasts were developed in January of 2002, based on the 2001 statewide forecast.

OFM’s county-level population forecasts (and the overall state forecast upon which county-level forecasts were based) expect faster rates of growth between 2005 and 2015 than between 2000 and 2005. This applies for all four counties in the central Puget Sound region, including King. Between 2005 and 2010, OFM’s forecasts anticipate that King County’s population will grow by 4.2 percent, compared to just 2.9 percent between 2000 and 2005. Population growth will then gradually slow until 2025, which is the end of the forecast period.

Between 1990 and 2000, net migration accounted for about two-thirds of the state’s population increase. Net migration temporarily fell and contributed less than half of overall population growth in the years immediately following 2001, as labor markets weakened with disproportionately large impacts in this state related to the slow down in high-tech manufacturing and the decline in aerospace.

However, OFM’s updated state population projections show net migration having picked up again starting in 2003 and then continuing to contribute the lion’s share of population increase from 2005 through 2030. “Washington’s economic upturn that started with improved employment figures in June 2003 is now outpacing the economic recovery in nearby states and the nation as a whole....[a] trend [that] should continue.... [T]he attraction of any area is primarily about job opportunities.” –Washington State Office of Financial Management, “State population forecast shows migration increases,” November 15, 2004.

Most of the state's population increase is projected to occur with the addition of residents in western counties, including King, Snohomish and Pierce, with existing population centers. The highest rates of growth are expected at the periphery of these existing population centers, and along major transportation routes.

The updated statewide forecast released in November of 2004 projects higher rates of growth in Washington in the near term 2005 to 2010 period than did the previous statewide forecast (which was published in 2001): 7.9 percent in the updated forecast, compared to 6.7 percent in the previously released forecast. The updated projections reflect stronger increases in migration into the state based on improvements in the job market occurring more rapidly in Washington than in California and the nation generally. Migration is the component of population growth that tends to vary the most, as it is largely fueled by job opportunities in Washington relative to other states, particularly California. (The sidebar on the previous page provides details on recent migration trends.)

King County and Bellevue Population Targets

Under GMA, fast growing counties, including King, must identify a population growth target within the low to high range of population forecasts developed by OFM. These targets ensure that the region has sufficient capacity to accommodate the 20-year population growth forecasts prepared by OFM. King County directs new jobs and housing to be concentrated within King County's Urban Growth Area boundary within which Bellevue lies. Under King County's Countywide Planning Policies, jurisdictions within the county identify housing and job targets to accommodate county growth targets.⁴

Based on the population forecast from the state, King County has established a target of 157,932 new households and 294,000 new jobs between 2001 and 2022.

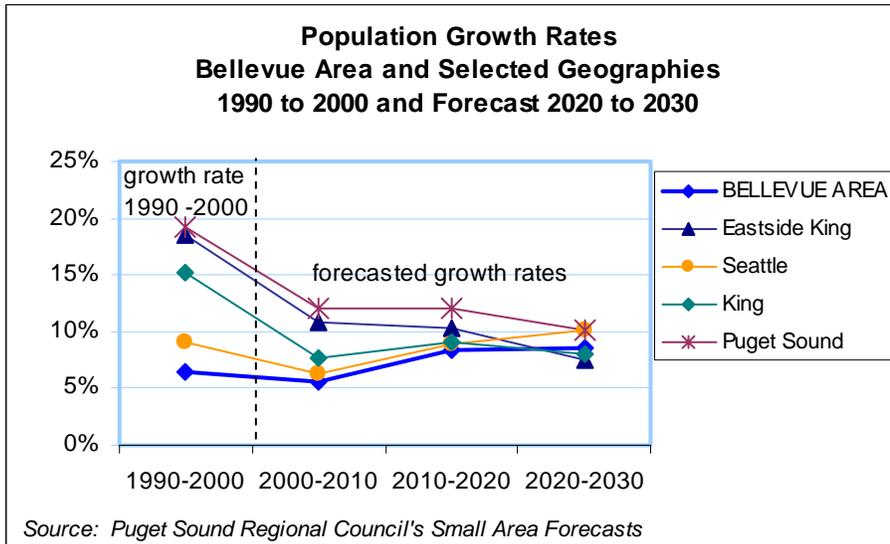
Unlike forecasts, which are market driven, targets are policy driven. Bellevue's housing and employment targets reflect the city's commitment to have the infrastructure and zoning in place to meet these targets.

Bellevue's targets for the same (approximately 20-year) planning period, as stated in the city's Comprehensive Plan, are 10,117 additional housing units and 40,000 additional jobs.⁵ **If the targets are reached, Bellevue's year 2022 population will then exceed 137,000 and the number of jobs located in Bellevue that year will be greater than 170,000.**

Sub-County Population Forecasts Produced by PSRC

Insight into how population growth through 2030 in the Bellevue area is likely to compare to population growth in the larger region is provided in the small-area projections produced by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). PSRC prepares small area forecasts of population, households and employment separately from OFM. The small area forecasts are developed primarily to support PSRC's transportation planning functions and are based on Forecast Analysis Zones (FAZs). FAZs remain geographically constant despite changing changes to city boundaries. In the PSRC forecasts, the Bellevue area is defined by a group of FAZs which together correspond fairly closely—but not entirely—with the area within the city limits of Bellevue.⁶ PSRC's most recent forecasts take into account the housing and employment growth targets recently adopted by Bellevue and other jurisdictions within King County.

PSRC's figures reveal that population has been growing significantly more slowly in the Bellevue area than in the generally rapidly growing remainder of the Eastside King County area. The Bellevue area has also been growing more slowly than the Puget Sound region as a whole. **Over the span of forecast years between 2000 and 2030, the Bellevue area population is anticipated to grow by 24 percent, which is also below the growth rate in the larger region.**



However, PSRC projects that the Bellevue area will experience somewhat higher population growth rates in the last two decades of the 2000 to 2030 forecast period than in the first decade.

A majority of the population increase will come with the substantial number of new residents that are anticipated to move into Downtown Bellevue as this area matures and planned housing capacity is

increasingly filled. Between 2000 and 2030, PSRC forecasts that 56 percent of the Bellevue area's population growth will occur in Downtown Bellevue, and City of Bellevue planners anticipate that the share contributed by Downtown in the next couple of decades will likely be even higher.

Per the City of Bellevue's *Downtown Subarea Plan*, as of the year 2004 there were 35,000 workers and over 4,000 residents housed in Downtown Bellevue. By the year 2020 the City of Bellevue expects that there will be an additional 28,000 jobs and 10,000 residents, or roughly three-quarters of the city's employment and residential growth between 2004 and 2020.⁷

	Population		Previous Decade's Growth Rate	Forecast Growth Rates by Decade			
	2000	2030		'90-'00	'00-'10	'10-'20	'20-'30
Four-County Puget Sound Region	3,275,809	4,535,087	19%	12%	12%	10%	38%
King	1,737,034	2,202,366	15%	8%	9%	8%	27%
Eastside King Co.	430,852	565,617	19%	11%	10%	8%	31%
BELLEVUE AREA	104,033	129,315	6%	6%	8%	9%	24%
Bellevue CBD	2,588	15,439	119%	97%	91%	58%	497%
Seattle	563,313	718,389	9%	6%	9%	10%	28%
Seattle CBD	21,611	45,875	87%	39%	27%	20%	112%

Source: Puget Sound Regional Council's Small Area Forecasts

The preceding analysis suggests that while population increases in Bellevue from annexations will decline markedly in the next few decades, population growth in the underlying Bellevue area is likely to increase at somewhat higher rates in the next two decades.

The increased population growth is also likely to lead to an increased local customer base and enhanced business and employment prospects in retail and construction sectors serving residential populations. With the majority of the Bellevue area’s growth occurring in Downtown Bellevue, synergies will be especially strong there.

Demographic Characteristics

Households

The Census Bureau defines a “household” as “all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.” **In the year 2000 Bellevue contained 45,836 households. OFM estimates that the number of households in Bellevue had increased to 49,119 by 2004.**

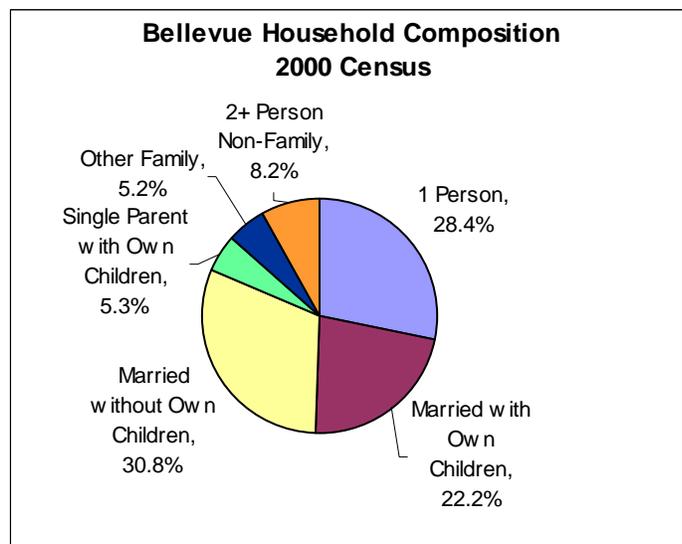
The most common categories of households in Bellevue in 2000 were married couples without children at home (which made up 31 percent of households) and one-person households (which made up 28 percent of households).

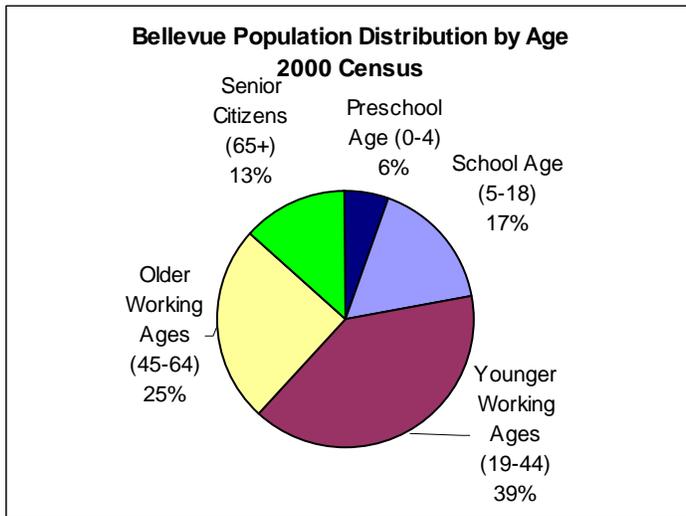
Bellevue had a substantially larger portion of its households composed of married couples without children than did King County as a whole. Correspondingly, the percentage of households with one or more children was slightly lower in Bellevue (28.9 percent) than in King County as a whole (30.4 percent). Within King County, Seattle and cities close to Seattle—including Bellevue—generally had a smaller proportion of households with children than did cities further to the east and south.

In the 1990s, average household size continued its trend downward nationally, in King County, and in Bellevue. Bellevue’s average household size decreased from 2.41 in 1990 to 2.37 in 2000, as the number of single-person households increased more quickly than the number of households overall. **Bellevue’s household size was lower than in the nation, state, Puget Sound region, and King County, but higher than in Seattle.**

Age

In the year 2000, about 4 in 10 residents (39 percent) were age 19 to 44 years old and another quarter (25 percent) were 45 to 64. **These two cohorts of the “working-age” population together made up the majority (64 percent) of Bellevue residents.**

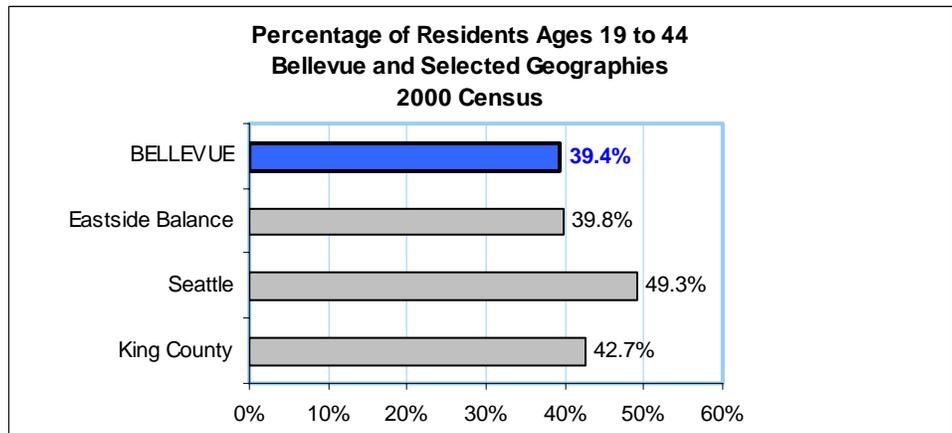




However, younger working-age adults make up a relatively small percentage of the population in Bellevue compared to King County as a whole and especially compared to Seattle. Bellevue’s relatively low supply of younger workers contributes to the pattern in which Bellevue employers draw a large portion of their workers from areas surrounding Bellevue. Possible reasons for Bellevue’s relatively small proportions of young working-age residents include Bellevue’s housing costs, which tend to be somewhat higher than in parts of Seattle, and significantly higher than in most neighborhoods within South King County.

Lifestyle factors may also contribute to some younger working-age professionals choosing urban neighborhoods in Seattle rather than neighborhoods in Bellevue. In several Seattle neighborhoods, housing and a mix of urban amenities have propelled growth. Professionals and others in this demographic have been attracted to Seattle’s urban neighborhoods, most notably in Belltown, Fremont, Queen Anne and Capitol Hill. In addition, the presence of the University of Washington also attracts a large number of college-aged adults to live in Seattle.

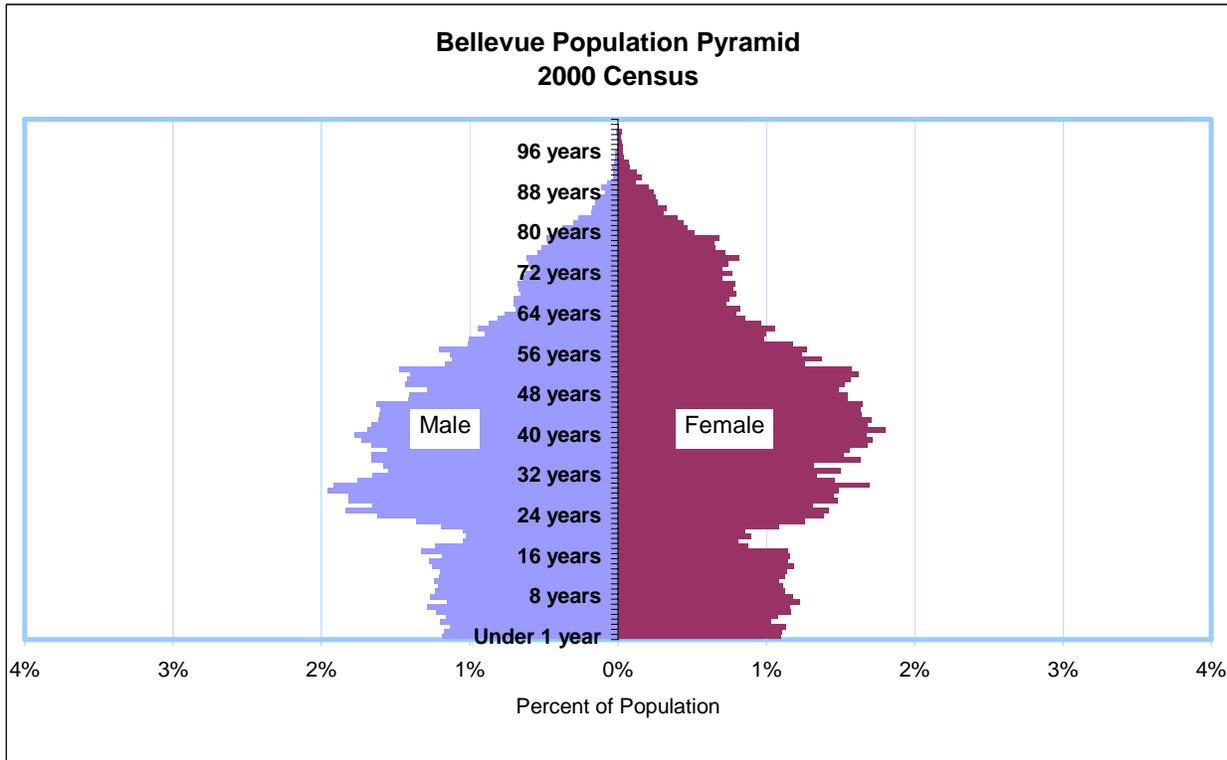
Children made up a higher percentage of the population in Bellevue than in Seattle, but a lower share than in the remainder of King County’s Eastside.



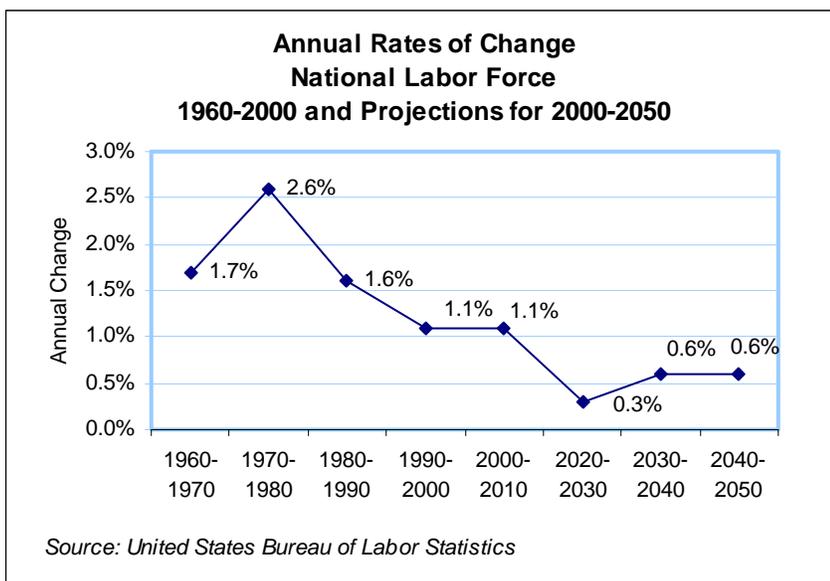
Seniors ages 65 and older made up about 13.4 percent of residents in Bellevue in 2000, up from 10.4 percent in 1990. By 2000, Bellevue had a higher percentage of the population made up of seniors than did the nation, state, county, and many other cities in King County. The increasing proportion of Bellevue’s population in older age groups pushed the median age of the city’s population from 35.4 in 1990 to 38.2 in 2000.

As the baby boom generation continues to age in the next few decades, Bellevue along with the rest of the nation will see continuing increases in the share of the population made up of seniors. (As of 2005 the youngest of the baby boom generation are reaching their 41st birthdays and the oldest are reaching their 59th.)

As Berk & Associates points out, young adults constitute a considerable share of the workforce with skills sought by technology companies. They point out that fostering development of neighborhoods that are attractive to younger adults can assist with workforce development and can complement the city’s strengths in Information Technology, as Bellevue technology companies compete with Seattle, Redmond and other cities for talented and skilled labor.



National projections from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate that **as members of the baby boom generation retire in greater numbers, the rate at which the labor force is growing will slow markedly.** (This is actually a trend that has already been occurring in the last two decades, as men have increasingly retired at earlier ages.) **Current age demographics in Bellevue suggests that growth in the working-age population in Bellevue may possibly slow even more quickly than in the nation as a whole.**



According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, **potential labor force shortages are, however, likely to be at least partially blunted by a newly emerging trend in which seniors are postponing their retirement or coming back to work part time.**⁸ Given that Bellevue's share of residents in and approaching their senior years is somewhat higher than the nation's, this may be a more important trend locally than nationally.

Continued gains in productivity will also likely help meet labor market challenges associated with the retiring baby boomers. **The largest gaps left by the aging boomers are anticipated between 2020 and 2030. Census Bureau forecasts project that immigration into the United States will increase in response to the sharp drop in the availability of potential workers during this decade.**⁹ To help obtain sufficient numbers of workers, businesses will also likely institute new or enhanced programs to attract workers, including older workers, previous immigrants, and workers living in other home countries. **Employers' other likely responses to tight domestic labor force supplies include hiring temporary workers and outsourcing jobs overseas. These trends are likely to apply to employers located in the Puget Sound region in addition to those in the nation as a whole.**

To be as competitive as possible in the face of potentially large shifts of labor to off-shore markets, the Bureau of Labor Statistics stresses that both native and foreign born workers are well-advised to upgrade their skills and education.

In addition to labor supply challenges, the aging of the population is also expected to bring surging levels of demand affecting industries, occupations, and markets serving older populations. The aging of the baby boom, along with the increased longevity of the population and the introduction of new medical technologies, is already contributing to an increase in demand for health care services.¹⁰

In addition to the challenges associated with the aging of the baby boom generation, there are also challenges associated with meeting the higher education demand of the *children* of the baby boom generation. These so-called "echo boomers" (whose births peaked in 1990) have already begun to reach college age in greater numbers. Per the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, numbers of public high school graduates in Washington have been increasing virtually every year since 1996 and will continue to do so until cresting in 2009.¹¹

With funding for higher education limited, both two- and four-year colleges, including Bellevue Community College (BCC) and the University of Washington (UW), are experiencing challenges in meeting increased demand. After the UW announced in 2003 that it could no longer guarantee space for all qualified community college transfer students, BCC officials began looking more closely at the potential for BCC to add bachelor's degree programs in some high-demand fields.¹² Currently Eastern Washington University offers two bachelor's degrees at BCC (one in computer network service, maintenance and support and another in interdisciplinary studies). **BCC and Eastern Washington University signed an agreement early in the spring of 2005 to formally create the "Eastern Washington University @ Bellevue,"** a center on the BCC campus that will offer more upper division courses leading to a bachelor's degree. (Among the first new degree programs will be one in business administration and another in early childhood education.)¹³

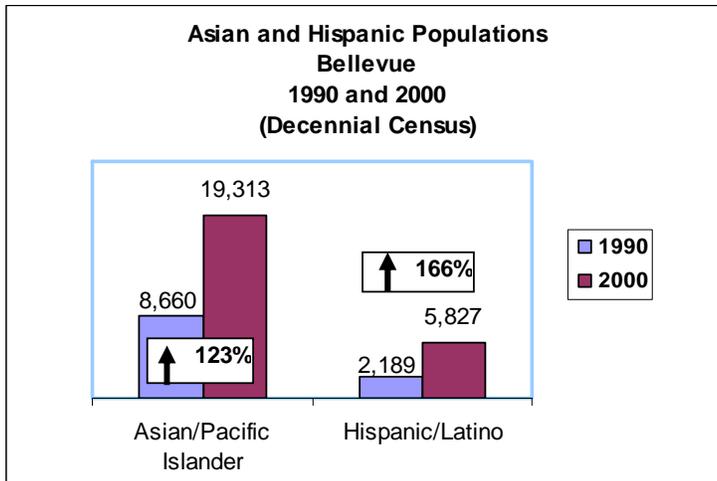
Race, Ethnicity, and Place of Birth

Racial and ethnic diversity—which has been growing regionally and nationally—has been increasing at even greater rates in Bellevue. In the 2000 census, almost 26 percent of Bellevue residents identified themselves as a race other than White (or White in combination with another race or races).

In 2000, Asians represented 17.6 percent and Hispanics made up 5.3 percent of the city’s residents. Both of these populations in Bellevue grew quickly in the 1990s, more than doubling between 1990 and 2000.¹⁴

Racial and Ethnic Characteristics Bellevue 2000 and Change from 1990 to 2000 (Decennial Census)				
Characteristic	2000		Change 1990-2000	
	Number	Percent of Population	Number	Percentage Change
RACE				
Total Population	109,569	100%	22,695	26.1%
One Race	106,078	96.8%	19,204	22.1%
White	81,441	74.3%	6,291	8.4%
Black or African American	2,183	2.0%	244	12.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	19,313	17.6%	10,653	123.0%
American Indian/Alaskan	356	0.3%	-23	-7.1%
Some other race	2,785	2.5%	2,025	166.4%
Two or More races*	3,491	3.2%	N/A	N/A
ETHNICITY				
Hispanic or Latino**	5,827	5.3	3,638	166.2%

**This option was new as of the 2000 census.
**Any race.*



As is the case nationally and regionally, Bellevue’s younger residents (pre-school and school age populations) are more likely to be racially and ethnically diverse than the city’s population as a whole. In the 2003-2004 school year, almost four in ten (39.8 percent) of Bellevue School District students were minorities or of Hispanic ethnicity. **The greater diversity among the younger generation is an indication that the city’s racial and ethnic diversity is likely to increase in the future.**

As shown in the table on the next page, **Bellevue is more racially diverse than the Eastside and county as a whole, and other large cities on the Eastside.** Asians represent the largest non-White racial group in King County and in the Eastside as well as in Bellevue—yet Asians are a higher percentage of Bellevue’s population than they are of these larger geographies’ populations.

Race and Ethnicity Bellevue and Selected Geographies 2000 Census					
	Percent of Population				
	United States	King County	BELLEVUE	Eastside Balance*	Redmond
White	75.1	75.7	74.3	80.6	79.3
African American or Black	12.3	5.4	2.0	2.4	1.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	3.7	11.3	17.6	9.2	13.2
2 or more races	2.4	4.1	3.3	3.2	3.1
Hispanic or Latino	12.5	5.5	5.3	4.3	5.6

*Eastside Balance means the Eastside without Bellevue.

While the rate of growth in the country’s overall labor force is declining, the percentage of the national labor force made up of women, minorities, and immigrants is increasing.

According to the National Bureau of Labor Statistics, the share of the national labor force that is made up of White, non-Hispanic persons has been declining and will continue to do so, falling from 71.3 percent in 2002 to 65.5 percent in 2012.¹⁵

These diversifying trends are expected to continue into the middle of the decade: by 2050 non-Hispanic Whites are expected to represent only 53.4 percent of labor force.¹⁶ **Similar overall trends of continuing diversification are likely to occur in Bellevue.** (Per the 2000 census, non-Hispanic Whites comprised about 73 percent of the labor force in Bellevue, about the same percentage in the nation as a whole.)

Potential additional gains in labor productivity that will drive economic growth in the future will depend on all groups of labor force entrants being well-prepared.¹⁷ Applying these insights to Bellevue and the Puget Sound region with our own rapid growth in diversity indicates that **it will be very important to ensure that minorities, women and immigrants receive the full benefit of educational and workforce training resources that Bellevue and the balance of the region have to offer.**

Place of Birth

While Bellevue’s population as a whole grew by 26 percent between 1990 and 2000, the city’s foreign-born population grew by 132 percent as shown in the table below. **This has increased the percentage of Bellevue residents who are foreign born from 13.3 percent of all residents in 1990 to 24.5 percent of all residents in 2000. A bit over half (55 percent) of foreign-born residents living in Bellevue in 2000 were recent immigrants to the United States, having entered the country between 1990 and 2000.** As indicated on the table on the next page, census figures also show that Bellevue’s neighbor Redmond also has a substantial proportion of their population who entered the country recently.

Growth in Total and Foreign-Born Population in Bellevue 1990 and 2000 (Decennial Census)				
Characteristic	1990	2000	Total Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Total Population	86,874	109,569	22,695	26%
Foreign-born population	11,548	26,782	15,234	132%

As of the year 2000, Bellevue had one of the highest shares of residents who were foreign born, as well as one of the highest shares of the population made up of recent immigrants, of cities in King County. Most foreign-born residents in Bellevue were born in Asia. This is also true for King County and for the Puget Sound region as a whole, as well as for most cities in the region.

Foreign-Born Population and Recent Immigrants Bellevue and Selected Geographies 2000 Census						
Characteristic	United States	King County	Seattle	BELLEVUE	Eastside Balance*	Redmond
Percentage of Population that is Foreign Born	11.0%	15.4%	16.9%	24.5%	13.7%	20.6%
Percent of Population that Entered U.S. Between 1990 and 2000	4.7%	7.6%	7.8%	13.1%	6.4%	13.2%

*Eastside Balance is the Eastside without Bellevue.

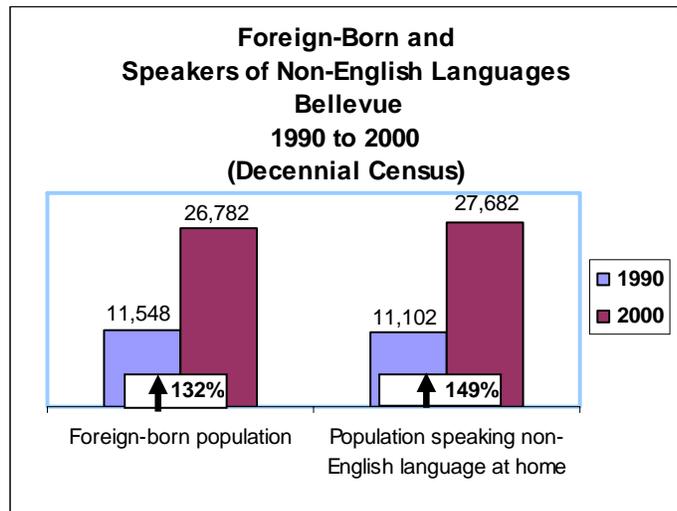
While information on the share of the labor force made up of immigrants are not readily available at the city level, labor market analysts have studied this at a national and regional level. According to labor market analysts at Northeastern University, **the net growth of the labor force in the nation's Pacific Division (California, Oregon and Washington combined) between 1990 and 2000 was entirely dependent on new waves of foreign immigration** (i.e., there would have been no net growth in the labor force in the absence of these immigrants).¹⁸ It would not be surprising if this was also the case in Bellevue, given that the 2000 census indicated that the percentage share of the overall population made up of recently arrived immigrants was higher in Bellevue (13.1 percent) than in the Pacific Region as a whole (8.4 percent).

Another indicator of diversity is the share of residents who speak a language at home other than English. In 2000, 26.9 percent of

Bellevue residents five years of age and older spoke a language at home other than English.

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of residents who speak another language rose much more rapidly in Bellevue than in the United States, King County as a whole, and other jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region.

In fall 2003, students in the Bellevue School District spoke 65 "first" languages besides English. According to the school district, the most common first languages besides English were Spanish, Korean, Chinese-Cantonese and Chinese-Mandarin.



As noted in this profile's chapter on **Major Employers and Business Patterns**, small business creation and growth has been a driving force in the increased prosperity of the region and nation. Entrepreneurship within the nation's growing minority and immigrant populations has been an important fuel in the U.S. economy and an important source of earnings for some immigrant groups. According to an analysis of 2000 census data by *Asian-Nation*, while the foreign-born population as a whole does not have higher rates of entrepreneurship, foreign-raised persons (those who immigrated to the U.S. at age 13 or older) in each major racial group (Whites, African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians) are more likely to be self-employed than are their non-immigrant counterparts.¹⁹ Those exceeding the 12.6 rate of self-employment for U.S.-raised Whites, include foreign-raised Whites, and several Asian groups, including Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese. Also, a joint study by the Milken Institute found that the number of ethnic-owned firms nationally grew at twice the rate of all firms during the 1990s.²⁰

In addition to being among the ranks of this area's entrepreneurs, immigrants in Bellevue, as in other cities in the United States, occupy a variety of parts of the labor force spectrum from low-paying service positions to better-paying positions for which high levels of education and skill are required. **Although detailed data is not readily available specifically for Bellevue, several factors suggest that a greater proportion of immigrants in Bellevue than in the nation have moderate- to high-wage jobs.** Within Bellevue, and other cities in this area with a large cadre of high-technology workers, there are likely larger shares of immigrants who have come to the United States on H1-B visas. (The H1-B visa program allows immigrants to fill highly-skilled positions that firms have been unable to fill from the American workforce.) Asian Indians, one of the groups most commonly recruited through the H1-B visa program, live in Bellevue in greater concentrations (2.6 percent of Bellevue's population) than in King County and the nation as a whole. Bellevue's 9.6 percent poverty rate among foreign-born residents, while higher than the 5.7 percent rate for native-born persons, is significantly lower than the 17.9 percent poverty rate for the foreign-born population of the United States as a whole.

"Sustained growth in the economy is only possible with participation from all groups in the population."
—Milken Institute, *Creating Capital, Jobs and Wealth in Emerging Domestic Markets*.

As previously noted, in Bellevue overall racial diversity is slightly higher than in the nation. Also, the percentage of the Bellevue population who are foreign born is over *twice* as high as nationally and has also been increasing more rapidly. Census data indicates that Bellevue has larger portions of the population who are foreign born Whites, and Asians—likely including those in groups with higher rates of self-employment. **Thus the contribution that immigrant populations are making to both entrepreneurial and other portions of the labor force is likely even more of a factor in Bellevue than in the nation as a whole.**

Minority and immigrant entrepreneurs have helped catalyze the growth of Bellevue's economy in a wide variety of sectors. For example, they are leaders in many of Bellevue's prominent information technology and business service firms, founders of successful local restaurant and beauty chains, and owners of international grocery stores. Also attesting to the presence of minority and immigrant entrepreneurs in Bellevue is the strong level of demand business owners in these groups have shown for services of the Small Business Development Center at Bellevue Community College and the Bellevue Entrepreneur Center, a 501(c)(3) seeded by the City of Bellevue. Clients of the Bellevue Entrepreneur Center have included immigrants from Russia facilitating connections between the Russian-speaking population and American businesses, an Asian-language service investigating the feasibility of starting a preschool, and a Persian-born lawyer seeking to more effectively market her small business.

Several ethnic and immigrant groups—including Eastern European and Asian groups, reside in Bellevue and in surrounding cities in significant concentrations. The critical mass of these residents, along with growing interest among consumers generally in international merchandise, is creating a multitude of market opportunities for retail and other businesses serving these populations. Examples in the retail arena include the international food court in Crossroads; Uwajimaya’s Bellevue; and Pal Do World Oriental Grocery, which recently moved into the former QFC space at the Lake Hills Shopping center. The *King County Journal* also recently reported that the developer of the 50,000 square foot India Gate Commerce Center, which is to be built in Kent in 2005, is seeking to build an international mall in Bellevue that is four times the size of India Gate.²¹

Educational Attainment

The percentage of the adult population with a bachelor’s degree or above has been increasing in Bellevue, in King County, and in the U.S. as a whole. In Bellevue the percentage of adults age 25 and older who had earned a bachelor’s degree or above went from 45 percent in 1990 to 54 percent in 2000.

As shown in the table below, Bellevue and Eastside residents generally are more highly educated than are residents of King County as a whole, who in turn have higher levels of educational attainment than do residents nationally. Bellevue’s 54 percent proportion of adults with a bachelor’s degree is significantly higher than the 40 percent figure countywide and over twice as high as the 25 percent figure in the nation. Bellevue also has a higher percentage of adults who have attained a graduate degree: about 19 percent in Bellevue compared to 13 percent in King County and about 9 percent in the nation as a whole.

Level of Educational Attainment* Bellevue and Selected Geographies 2000 Census						
	United States	King County	Seattle	BELLEVUE	Eastside Balance**	Redmond
Not a high school graduate	19.6%	9.7%	10.5%	5.7%	5.9%	5.5%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	28.6%	19.2%	15.3%	12.7%	16.5%	11.5%
Some college, no degree	21.0%	23.6%	20.6%	20.6%	23.5%	22.4%
Associate degree	6.3%	7.5%	6.4%	6.9%	7.8%	7.7%
Bachelor’s degree	15.5%	26.7%	29.9%	34.7%	31.5%	35.9%
Graduate or professional degree	8.9%	13.3%	17.3%	19.4%	14.8%	17.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	24.4%	40.0%	47.2%	54.1%	46.3%	52.9%

*Population 25 years of age and older.
**Eastside Balance is the Eastside without Bellevue.

In today’s economy, information and knowledge are increasingly important economic resources. Industry sectors and occupations seeing some of the most rapid growth are those based on using, enhancing, and supplying information, with growth fueled by technical and creative innovation. The share of jobs requiring college or vocational training is projected to continue to grow nationally.

A large majority of the highest paying jobs, including those projected to have high growth rates in the near future, require post-secondary training. Almost 90 percent of the jobs in the highest paying tier of rapidly growing occupations nationally have at least an associate's degree as the most significant source of training.²² **Studies have indicated that high education levels tend to boost per capita incomes in an area and are linked to entrepreneurial activity.**²³

Many of these patterns are especially evident in this region. **The Seattle Metropolitan area, which includes Bellevue, ranked 3rd out of the 50 largest metropolitan areas nationally in the "New Economy Index."**²⁴ This index measures the degree to which metropolitan areas have progressed along the path to the new economy.

The 2000 census data for Bellevue shows that Bellevue would score even higher than the Seattle Metropolitan Area as a whole on the knowledge-related indicators that contributed to the new economy index ranking. That is, Bellevue has a greater percentage of workers than does the metropolitan area generally in management, professional, and technical occupations (which are discussed in the next section of this chapter) as well as higher levels of educational attainment. **This enables workers from Bellevue to capitalize on new economy trends and makes them especially valuable human resources in the regional economy.** High skill and education levels also enable Bellevue residents to contribute entrepreneurial creativity to the region. As discussed later in this chapter, workers living in Bellevue are somewhat more likely to be self employed and own their own corporation than are workers in the larger county and nation as a whole.

High education levels are one of the key factors attracting high-tech firms. **The high ranking of the Seattle metropolitan area on the "knowledge workers" indicators associated with the New Economy Index (6th out of the 50 largest metropolitan areas) also means firms in this region have access to highly skilled workers and entrepreneurs.**

Analysts have observed that **many workers today need to continually update their skills** within an economy in which job changes and the need to master the use of new technologies (even within current jobs) are increasingly common occurrences. **According to the Ford Foundation, the restructuring of businesses associated with global competitive pressures and new infusions of technology is leading to a transformation in which "skill-based economic security" is supplanting "job-based security."**²⁵

A variety of high quality educational institutions are located in and around Bellevue. The excellence and breadth of these institutions—the largest of which include the Bellevue School District, the University of Washington, and Bellevue Community College—help the Bellevue population attain some of the highest levels of educational and occupational achievement of populations in the region. See text box for profiles of these three public institutions.

MAJOR PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN BELLEVUE

The 2000 census indicated that about 88 percent of Bellevue students from primary through high school grades were enrolled in a public school—about the share as in King County as a whole, but nine percentage points higher than the share in Seattle. According to the *Seattle Times School Guide*, the **Bellevue School District**, which serves the majority of K-12 students in Bellevue, has long been thought of as one the best school districts in the state. In 2004, 90 percent of seniors graduating from BSD indicated that they intended to enroll in a two- or four-year college, and average scores earned by BSD students on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) were above the national averages for both verbal and math scores. Five high schools in BSD were included in *Newsweek* magazine's Spring 2003 cover story on the best 100 high schools in the nation (based on the number of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests taken), and three—Bellevue, International, and Newport—were among the top 20 nationally.

The University of Washington (UW), including both the main Seattle campus and the smaller Bothell Branch, are easily accessible distances from Bellevue. The UW has an enrollment of about 43,000 students, about 70 percent of whom are undergraduates and 30 percent of whom are graduate students. High school graduates from the Bellevue School District more commonly go onto enroll at the UW than any other university or college. In addition to being a major provider of higher education for students from Bellevue, the UW also provides a great deal of the scientific and technological knowledge that help to make the Puget Sound a leader in new economy ventures.

Community colleges in Washington are open to all who wish to enroll and have lower tuition than four-year colleges, providing an important path of entry into higher education and workforce training for new immigrants, displaced workers, and older students. **Bellevue Community College (BCC)**, which is a two-year college, had 19,000 students enrolled in the fall of 2004. BCC's enrollment makes it the third largest institution of higher learning in the state after the UW and Washington State University. As the largest community college in the state, BCC sends more transfer students to four-year universities than any other community college. After the UW, BCC is the second most common college destination for students who have graduated from the Bellevue School District. Through the "Running Start" program offered at BCC and other state community colleges, students may earn up to two years of tuition-free college credit while finishing high school. BCC also provides career-related training in a variety of professional and technical areas including computer and technology, health, and business. In 2005, BCC and Eastern Washington University (EWU) announced that they would be expanding and formalizing their joint program in which students can attend the first two years of college as BCC students and then fulfill their bachelor's degree by taking upper division courses offered by EWU on the BCC campus.

BCC is also home to the National Workforce Center for Emerging Technologies and a **National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce**, the missions of which include developing innovative programs to better prepare students for well-paying jobs in these new economy fields.

Labor Force Participation and Composition

The U.S. decennial census has collected information related to residents' labor force participation and employment status. Like other census data on economic characteristics, the information on the labor force comes from responses to the long form questionnaire. The census long form also asked for information on working residents' occupation and industries of employment, earnings, employer entity type, and place of work. The unit of analysis is based on place of residence rather than place of work. Thus, the information presented for Bellevue is for residents who live in Bellevue, not for people who work in Bellevue (although Bellevue residents who also work within Bellevue are included).

The Census Bureau defines the labor force as all persons 16 years of age and older who are either in the civilian labor force (both those "employed" and those "unemployed" but looking for work) or in the U.S. Armed Forces.²⁶ The decennial census has also provided limited data regarding place of work for employed residents.

The following table based on information from the 2000 census shows the labor force status for the population of Bellevue along with that of other selected geographies. As indicated, **slightly over two-thirds (67.5 percent or 59,896 persons) of Bellevue's population age 16 or over was in the labor force. This is a bit lower than in King County as a whole, but somewhat higher than in the nation.** (As

indicate above, persons in the labor force are those working or unemployed and looking for work). In both Bellevue and the county as a whole, only very small percentages were employed in the armed forces.²⁷ Labor force participation is discussed in more detail below and in the following subsection of this chapter.

	United States	King County	BELLEVUE	Redmond	Seattle
In labor force	63.9%	70.1%	67.5%	74.0%	70.1%
Civilian labor force	63.4%	70.0%	67.5%	74.0%	69.8%
Armed forces	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Not in labor force	36.1%	29.9%	32.5%	26.0%	29.9%
<i>*Population 16 years old and over.</i>					

In Bellevue, the 2000 census found that the percentage of the civilian labor force that was unemployed was 4.1 percent, which was somewhat lower than the rate of unemployment found in King County as a whole, and significantly lower than the rate in the nation generally. Unemployment rates in the census do not necessarily correspond with those reported by state agencies. Recent trends in employment and unemployment rates are examined in more detail in the Employment chapter. Bellevue's low unemployment rate was likely due in large degree to the generally high levels of education and management, professional and technical skills attained by Bellevue's population.

Labor Force Participation

The percentage of Bellevue residents age 16 and over in the labor force declined between 1990 and 2000; also in 2000 the labor force participation rate in Bellevue was lower than that in many other jurisdictions in King County. The relatively low labor force participation rate in Bellevue is likely due partly to the fact that the proportion of residents who are seniors is higher in Bellevue. As previously noted, the share of seniors in the population has also been rising more quickly in Bellevue than in many other jurisdictions in the region.

National increases in labor force participation by women over the past thirty years have played a key role in helping bring women closer to economic parity with men and have changed the way many families live. **However, as of the year 2000 patterns of labor force participation still varied markedly between men and women.**

Subject	1990		2000	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Population age 16+	70,757	100.0%	88,716	100.0%
In the labor force	51,478	72.8%	59,896	67.5%
Males age 16+	34,178	100.0%	43,559	100.0%
In the labor force	28,028	82.0%	33,370	76.6%
Females age 16+	36,579	100.0%	45,157	100.0%
In the labor force	23,450	64.1%	26,526	58.7%

Overall 67.5 percent of Bellevue residents age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000. **As was the case nationally, in Bellevue females had a lower rate of participation than men did: 58.7 percent for females compared to 76.6 percent for males.**

In Bellevue, labor force participation rates for both males and females were lower in 2000 than in 1990. The trend in Bellevue contrasts partially with the trend nationally, where only male labor force participation rates declined (largely related to early retirements). However, while Bellevue’s female labor force participation rate dropped below that of King County (63.6 percent) by 2000, it was still higher than the rate nationally (57.5 percent). The overall decrease in Bellevue’s labor participation rate is largely due to the increase in Bellevue’s senior population as noted above. Also contributing is the fact that labor force participation by mothers of young children decreased in Bellevue rather than going up as it did nationwide. In Bellevue, half of women with children 5 and under were in the labor force in 2000, which contrasts with the higher rate of 63 percent in King County as a whole.

	United States	King County	BELLEVUE	Eastside Balance*	Redmond	Seattle
% of population age 16 and over in the labor force	63.9%	70.1%	67.5%	72.3%	74.0%	70.1%
% of females age 16 and over in the labor force	57.5%	63.6%	58.7%	63.9%	64.9%	65.5%

*Eastside Balance is the Eastside without Bellevue.

In Bellevue, as in other locations, the percentage of employed residents working full time was lower for women than men: 69.6 percent for working women and 86.6 percent for working men—percentages which were similar to those in King County as a whole.

Occupations and Industries of Employment

The table on the following page shows the percentages of working residents of Bellevue and other selected geographies by the occupations and industries in which they work. As reflected in the table, **the occupations and industries in which Bellevue residents and their Eastside neighbors are employed place these local workers on the leading edge of the new knowledge-based economy.**

In regard to occupations, a large percentage of Bellevue’s working residents are employed in management and professional occupations. In 2000, over half (53.1 percent) of all Bellevue civilian workers and slightly less than half (48.1 percent) of other Eastside civilian workers age 16 and over were employed in management or professional jobs. Bellevue and Redmond in particular, had significantly higher percentages of their resident workforces in management, professional, and related occupations (53.1 percent for Bellevue and 56.7 percent for Redmond) than did King County generally (43.4 percent), and much higher than did the nation as a whole (33.6 percent).

Bellevue also had a larger proportion of working residents employed in computer and mathematical occupations than did King County generally. Bellevue had a smaller proportion in the computer and mathematical occupations than did Redmond—not surprisingly given the location of the Microsoft campus in Redmond; however, Bellevue had slightly higher percentages in other management, professional, and related occupations.

With regard to industries of employment, the proportion of Bellevue workers employed in many knowledge-based industries such as information; finance, insurance, and real estate; and professional, scientific, and technical services was also higher than in King County as a whole. In both Bellevue and Redmond about one in three civilian workers (32.1 percent for Bellevue and 34.9 percent for Redmond) were employed in one of these industries, compared to 22.4 percent for King County as a whole, and a much lower 15.8 percent for the nation as a whole.²⁸

Percentage of Employed Residents* by Occupation and Industry Bellevue and Selected Geographies 2000 Census					
Occupations					
	United States	King County	BELLEVUE	Redmond	Seattle
Management, professional, and related:	33.6%	43.4%	53.1%	56.7%	48.4%
Mgt, business, & financial operations subcategory	13.5%	17.4%	21.5%	20.7%	17.2%
Professional and related occupations subcategory	20.2%	26.0%	31.6%	36.0%	31.2%
Computer and mathematical (one subcategory of professional and related)	2.4%	5.8%	11.4%	17.8%	5.5%
Service occupations	14.9%	12.9%	10.1%	8.5%	13.9%
Sales and related	11.2%	11.4%	12.9%	11.7%	10.4%
Office and administrative support	15.4%	14.9%	13.5%	12.1%	14.1%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.7%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%
Construction, extraction, & maintenance	9.4%	6.9%	4.1%	4.1%	4.9%
Production	8.5%	5.4%	3.5%	4.4%	4.4%
Transportation and material moving	6.1%	4.8%	2.7%	2.5%	3.8%
Industries					
	United States	King County	BELLEVUE	Redmond	Seattle
Agric., forestry, fishing and hunting, & mining	1.9%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Construction	6.8%	5.7%	4.0%	4.5%	4.0%
Manufacturing	14.1%	12.6%	11.5%	13.4%	8.3%
Wholesale trade	3.6%	4.3%	4.0%	3.4%	3.3%
Retail trade	11.7%	11.9%	12.5%	14.0%	11.1%
Transportation and warehousing, & utilities	5.2%	5.3%	3.5%	2.8%	4.2%
Information	3.1%	5.5%	8.6%	13.7%	6.0%
Finance, insur., real estate & rental/leas.	6.9%	7.3%	8.9%	7.0%	6.9%
Professional, scientific, & tech. services	5.9%	9.6%	14.6%	14.2%	12.3%
Management of companies and enterprises	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Admin. and support & waste mgt. svcs.	3.4%	3.7%	3.3%	3.1%	3.7%
Educational, health and social services	19.9%	17.7%	14.7%	13.3%	21.6%
Arts, entertain., rec., accomm. & food svcs.	7.9%	8.1%	6.8%	5.3%	9.9%
Other services (except public admin.)	4.9%	4.6%	4.4%	3.4%	4.8%
Public administration	4.8%	3.3%	2.8%	1.6%	3.5%
<i>*Employed civilian population, 16 years of age and over.</i>					

Percentage of Employed Residents* by Occupation Management and Professional Detail Bellevue 2000 Census	
Management, professional, and related occupations:	53.1%
Management, business, and financial operations:	21.5%
Management	14.3%
Business and financial operations	7.1%
Professional and related:	31.6%
Computer and mathematical	11.4%
Other professional and related	20.2%
Architecture and engineering	4.5%
Life, physical, and social science	1.1%
Community and social services	1.3%
Legal	2.0%
Education, training, and library	3.8%
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	2.6%
Healthcare practitioners and technical	4.9%
Health diag., and treating practitioners and tech.	3.9%
Health technologists and technicians	1.0%
*Employed civilian population of geography, 16 years of age and over.	

Almost half (48.1 percent) of Bellevue women in civilian jobs were in management, professional, and related occupations compared to about 44 percent of their female cohorts countywide and 36 percent nationwide. In Bellevue as elsewhere, however, occupations and industries of employment still varied somewhat by gender and the path to the new economy appears to have been more well-worn by men than women.²⁹

Earnings

As noted in the Wages and Income chapter, wages and earnings tend to be higher in Bellevue than in King County and the nation as a whole. Median earnings for full-time year round workers living in Bellevue were about \$47,000 in 1999—which is almost \$7,000 more than the median countywide.

Median Earnings in 1999 (1999 Dollars) for Full-Time Workers* Bellevue and Selected Geographies 2000 Census					
	United States	King County	BELLEVUE	Redmond	Seattle
Total	\$32,098	\$40,437	\$47,183	\$49,367	\$37,669
Male	\$37,057	\$45,802	\$56,456	\$58,112	\$40,929
Female	\$27,194	\$34,321	\$37,124	\$37,200	\$35,134
*Full-time, year round workers 16 years and over with earnings in 1999.					

Median Earnings in 1999 (1999 Dollars) for the Population Overall and by Gender Bellevue and King County 2000 Census		
	King County	BELLEVUE
Total	\$30,088	\$34,891
Full-time, year round worker	\$40,437	\$47,183
Male	\$36,337	\$45,226
Full-time, year round worker	\$45,802	\$56,456
Female	\$24,367	\$26,389
Full-time, year round worker	\$34,321	\$37,124

**Population 16 years and over with earnings in 1999.*

While women's as well as men's earnings were higher in Bellevue than in King County as a whole, the earnings advantage was greater for Bellevue men than for Bellevue women. This is likely partly due to Bellevue men having especially high rates of employment in well-paying occupational categories, especially in the computer related category.³⁰

Class of Workers

"Class of worker" is a term the Census Bureau uses to classify workers according to the ownership type of the workers' employing organization. **In Bellevue, slightly over three-quarters (77.7 percent) of civilian workers in the population were employed as private for-profit wage and salary workers**, 6.1 percent were employed in non-profit organizations, 9.3 percent worked in government, and 6.9 percent were self-employed in an unincorporated business. **In addition to the 6.9 percent of residents self-employed in unincorporated businesses, another 4.5 percent of Bellevue residents were self-employed in an incorporated business that they, themselves, owned.** (The latter are listed by the census as a subset of private for-profit wage and salary workers).

The following table shows "class of worker" information for the populations of Bellevue and other selected geographies. The figures indicate that **Bellevue had higher proportions of its working population in the self-employed categories and a lower share in the government category than did King County and the nation as a whole.**

Class of Worker* Bellevue and Selected Geographies 2000 Census					
	United States	King County	BELLEVUE	Redmond	Seattle
Private for-profit wage and salary workers	71.3%	73.3%	77.7%	83.5%	67.0%
Self-employed workers who are employees of own corporation	3.2%	3.3%	4.5%	3.9%	2.9%
Private not-for-profit wage and salary workers	7.2%	7.2%	6.1%	3.9%	10.2%
Government Workers	14.5%	13.0%	9.3%	7.5%	15.6%
Self-employed workers in unincorporated business	6.6%	6.4%	6.9%	5.0%	7.0%

**Employed civilian population, 16 years of age and over.*

Place of Work

As described in the Employment chapter, about 39 percent of employed Bellevue residents work within the city of Bellevue and about 61 percent work outside Bellevue.

According to the 2000 census, there were 55,968 workers (age 16 and older) living in Bellevue. **The large majority (about 95 percent) of employed residents living in Bellevue worked somewhere within King County.** Detail on the place in which Bellevue residents worked in 2000 is shown in the table to the right.

At 39 percent, the share of employed Bellevue residents who worked in the same city in which they lived (Bellevue, of course) is significantly lower than the corresponding percentage for employed Seattle residents who worked in Seattle. However, the Bellevue percentage was higher than the corresponding percentages for other cities in King County with lower concentrations of employment within their boundaries.

Bellevue’s position in this pattern is reflective of Bellevue’s role as a key regional employment center which employs a significant proportion of residents within the city, but also requires workers from outside the city. Bellevue’s status as a significant importer of workers coupled with the fact that most working Bellevue residents commute to work locations outside of Bellevue gives this community a great stake in the overall health of the region’s economy and transportation system.

Place of Work For Employed Bellevue Residents* 2000 Census		
Total Bellevue Residents Who Work	55,968	100.0%
Place of Work	Workers	Percentage of Workers
King County Total	53,002	94.7%
Bellevue	21,655	38.7%
Seattle	12,820	22.9%
Redmond	7,815	14.0%
Kirkland	1,960	3.5%
Renton	1,725	3.1%
Remainder of King County	7,027	12.6%
Snohomish County	1,281	2.3%
Pierce County	244	0.4%
Kitsap County	50	0.1%
Other	1,392	2.5%

**Workers 16 years of age and over.*

Percentage of Employed Residents Who Worked in Same City of Residence Bellevue and Selected Geographies 2000 Census						
King County Residents	BELLEVUE Residents	Kent Residents	Kirkland Residents	Redmond Residents	Renton Residents	Seattle Residents
37.8%	38.3%	26.4%	23.0%	40.7%	21.6%	73.8%

ENDNOTES

¹Both volumes of Bellevue’s Census 2000 report can be viewed or downloaded at: <http://www.cityofbellevue.org/page.asp?view=16912>. Data from the American Community Survey (ACS), another Census Bureau survey, will replace the long form questionnaire that was previously distributed as part of the decennial census (although the basic questions on the short form questionnaire will continue to be asked as part of the decennial census). Currently the ACS is in a testing phase. After full-scale implementation, the ACS will provide data every year for all states, and for cities, counties, metropolitan areas of 65,000 people or more including Bellevue.

² Information on population estimates and forecasts produced by the Washington State Office of Financial Management

(OFM) can be found at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/index.htm#growth>.

³ OFM Statistics cited in Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), *Regional View Newsletter*, September 2004, <http://www.psrc.org>.

⁴ PSRC also assists in this effort by preparing the county employment projection and by providing population and employment projections for each of the four subareas within King County's urban growth boundary—Sea-Shore, East, South and for rural cities—given the King County target. These forecasts are then translated into employment and household targets for each of the subareas.

⁵ Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Element, Nov. 2004, <http://www.cityofbellevue.org>.

⁶ In 2000 the population of the Bellevue area based on FAZs was about 95 percent as large as the population of Bellevue according to the 2000 census.

⁷ The Downtown Subarea Plan is part of the City of Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan and can be found at <http://www.cityofbellevue.org/departments/Development/pdf/15.DowntownPlan2.pdf>.

⁸ "The challenge of the decade ahead," by Michael W. Horrigan, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics presented at the 2004 Economic Symposium, Washington State Employment Security Department, November 30, 2004.

⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, "Methodology and Assumptions for the Population Projections of the United States: 1999 to 2100," <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0038.pdf>.

¹⁰ "Registered Nursing Shortages: Public Policy, and Higher Education in the Western States," Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, June 2003.

¹¹ By 2009, the number of high school graduates in Washington State will have risen by about 11 percent compared to the 2004 figure and about 40 percent compared to the 1996 figure. *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates by State, Income, and Race/Ethnicity 1988 to 2018*, published by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, December 2003.

¹² "Crowded schools have BCC considering four-year degrees," by Catherine Hawley, *King County Journal*, October 10, 2003.

¹³ "EWU and BCC to create university center on Bellevue campus," Bellevue Community College news release, March 28, 2005.

¹⁴ The comparability of race data between 1990 and 2000 is somewhat limited given that respondents were not able to select two or more races as a category until the 2000 census. However, the limitations in comparability are not so great as to substantially discount the major trends noted.

¹⁵ Between 2002 and 2012, The number of White non-Hispanic persons in the national labor force is projected to grow during this period by 0.3 percent—much lower than the 2.9 percent rate of increase among Hispanics/Latinos, 1.8 percent for Blacks/African Americans, 4.2 percent for Asians. Nationally, racial minorities and persons of Hispanic/Latino origin are expected to contribute over 80 percent of the total net change in the number of persons in the labor force between 2002 and 2012. The numbers of men and women in the labor force will both grow between 2002 and 2012, but the number of women will grow at a faster rate than men, increasing women's share of the labor force from 46.5 percent to 47.5 percent. "BLS releases 2002-12 employment projections," February 11, 2004, Bureau of Labor Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.nr0.htm>; Occupational Projections and Training Data, 2004-05 Edition, <http://www.bls.gov/emp/optd/home.htm>.

¹⁶ The percentage of the workforce made up of women also is expected to increase further to 47.7 percent by 2050. "A century of change: the U.S. labor force, 1950–2050," *Mitra Toossi, Monthly Labor Review Online, Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2002, Vol. 125, No. 5*, <http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2002/05/art2exc.htm>

¹⁷ *Creating Capital, Jobs and Wealth in Emerging Domestic Markets*, January 2003, Glenn Yago, Betsy Zeidman, Bill Schmidt at the Milken Institute, http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/ford_researchreport.pdf.

¹⁸ The Northeastern University analysts also found that new immigrants continued to be a large share nationally of growth in the labor force between 2000 and 2004. *Foreign Immigration and the Labor Force of the U.S.: The Contributions of New Foreign Immigration to the Growth of the Nation's Labor Force and Its Employed Population: 2000 to 2004*, Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University, July 2004, http://www.nupr.neu.edu/7-04/immigrant_04.pdf.

¹⁹ "Asian Small Businesses," by University of Massachusetts professor C. N. Le, published in *Asian-Nation*, <http://www.asian-nation.org/small-business.shtml>, accessed February 8, 2005.

²⁰ Milken Institute, *Creating Capital, Jobs and Wealth in Emerging Domestic Markets*, Glenn Yago, Betsy Zeidman, Bill Schmidt, January 2003.

²¹ “Growing international appeal - Developer of new Kent mall has big plans for Bellevue,” by Jamie Swift, *King County Journal*, February 7, 2005.

²² Nationally at least 60 percent of the net jobs added between 2002 and 2012 (compared to an estimated 53 percent of jobs existing in 2002) will be filled by workers with at least some college. This is likely an underestimate given that educational requirements of individual occupations are likely to increase, rather than remain constant as was assumed in the projections. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Tomorrow’s Jobs*, <http://www.bls.gov/oco/oco2003.htm>; “Occupational Projections and Training Data, 2004-05 Edition,” <http://www.bls.gov/emp/optd/home.htm>. Even in a transforming economy, however, most of the occupations with the largest *numerical* increases will have on-the-job training rather than a degree as the most significant source of education.

²³ *The Metropolitan New Economy Index*, <http://www.neweconomyindex.org>.

²⁴ In *The Metropolitan New Economy Index*, the Progressive Policy Institute ranked metropolitan areas based on an aggregate of 16 indicators including knowledge-based jobs, globalization, economic dynamism and competition, transformation to a digital economy, and technological innovation capacity. This is the source of several observations in this chapter related to the role educational attainment plays in fueling the economy.

²⁵ *Western Policy Exchanges*, The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, January 2005, <http://www.wiche.edu/Policy/Ford/documents/Exchanges1-05.pdf>; http://www.wiche.edu/policy/ford/Jones_paper.pdf

²⁶ Persons not considered by the Census Bureau to be members of the labor force include students, individuals taking care of home or family, retired workers, and institutionalized people.

²⁷ In Bellevue, there were just 30 persons in the armed forces per the 2000 census.

²⁸ Data from the 2000 census on industry of employment is classified according to the new NAICS system, which is different than the SIC-based categories which are used in a majority of the analyses in the profile, including in the Employment chapter and the Wages and Income chapter.

²⁹ Bellevue data from the 2000 census shows that women are less likely than men to hold jobs in management; some professional occupations such as computer and mathematical, architecture and engineering; and also in construction, extraction, and maintenance; and transportation and material moving. Women are more likely than men to be in occupations related to education and health care, services, and office and administrative support.

³⁰ Per the 2000 census, within the Bellevue population 16 percent of employed males and 5 percent of employed females were employed in computer related occupations compared to 8 percent and 3 percent respectively in King County as a whole.

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