

## ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The Census provides a variety of information that can help profile the economic characteristics of a city and its neighborhoods. Economic data gathered in the Census include educational attainment, professions, labor force participation, and income, among other topics. It is important to point out that the census information summarized here pertains to Bellevue *residents*, not those who work in Bellevue (although many Bellevue residents also work in Bellevue, as discussed at the end of this chapter). However, the information presented does provide much insight into Bellevue's economic strength as well as the economic well-being of its residents.

### Educational Attainment

The Census Bureau tabulates educational attainment according to the highest degree or level of school completed. This information, which is collected in the long form questionnaire, is available for the population 25 years old and over. In general, higher levels of educational attainment are correlated with higher levels of income and lower rates of unemployment.

One of the educational attainment statistics commonly cited from the Census is the percent with a bachelor's degree or above. This volume of our report includes maps of Bellevue neighborhoods showing data on the following topics:

- Percentage of persons who have a bachelor's degree or higher
- Change in the percentage of persons who have a bachelor's degree or higher (1990–2000)

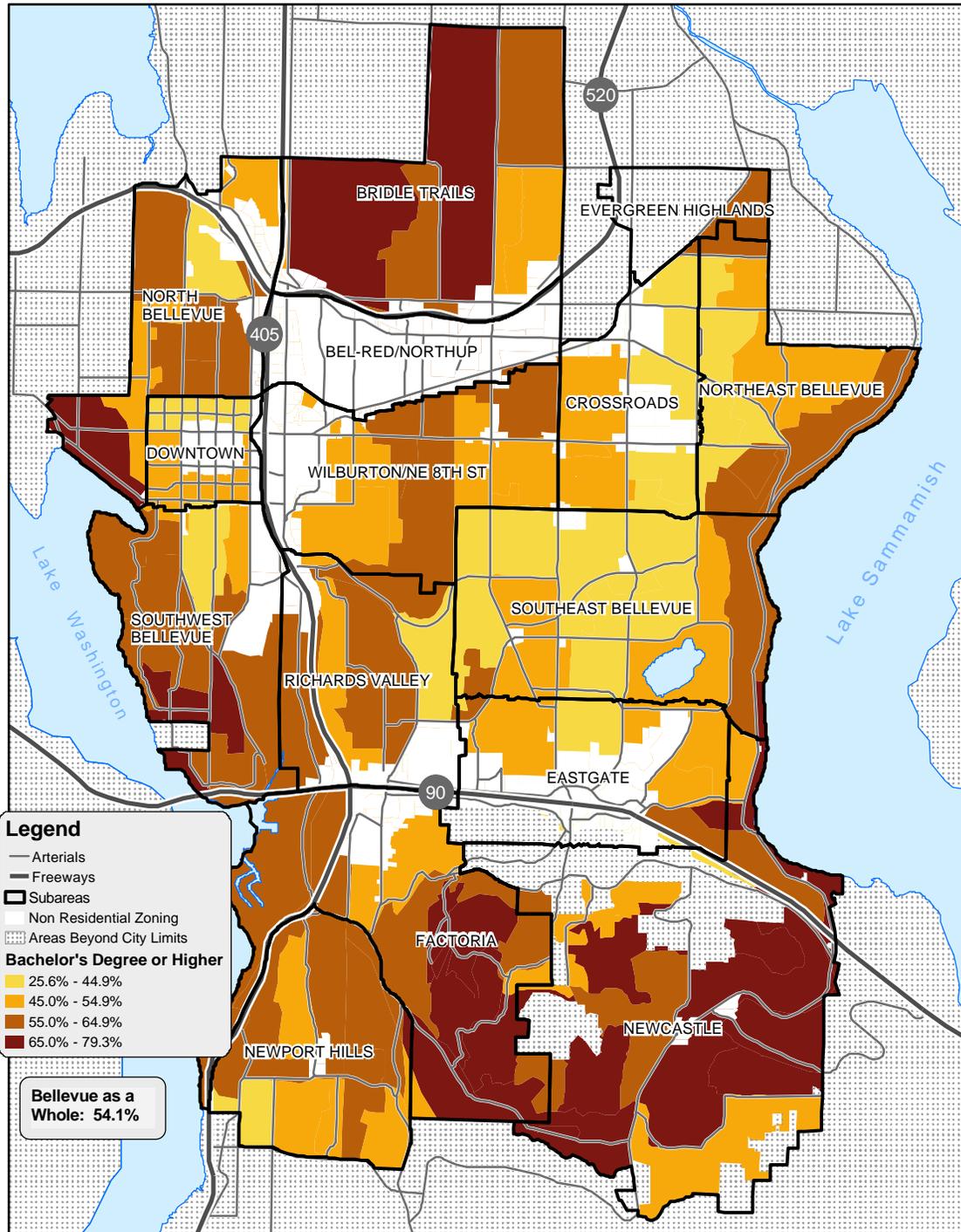
### HIGHLIGHTS FROM VOLUME 1: CITYWIDE & REGIONAL TRENDS

#### Educational Attainment

- Bellevue adults are highly educated, and increasingly so. The percentage of Bellevue residents 25 years of age or older with at least a bachelor's degree went from 46 percent in 1990 to 54 percent in 2000. During the same period the percentage with a graduate or professional degree went from 14 percent to 19 percent.
- Educational attainment levels in Bellevue and other Eastside jurisdictions are, in general, higher than they are in King County as a whole. Levels in King County are in turn higher than they are in the United States as a whole.

<b>Bellevue Level of Educational Attainment 1990 and 2000</b>		
<b>Level of Attainment*</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
Not a high school graduate	5.8%	5.7%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	15.5%	12.7%
Some college, no degree	25.2%	20.6%
Associate degree	7.8%	6.9%
Bachelor's degree	31.4%	34.7%
Graduate or professional degree	14.2%	19.4%
<i>* For adults 25 years and older</i>		

## Percentage of Persons\* Who Have a Bachelor's Degree or Higher Bellevue by Census Block Group: 2000



\*Based on population 25 years of age or older.

## Educational Attainment

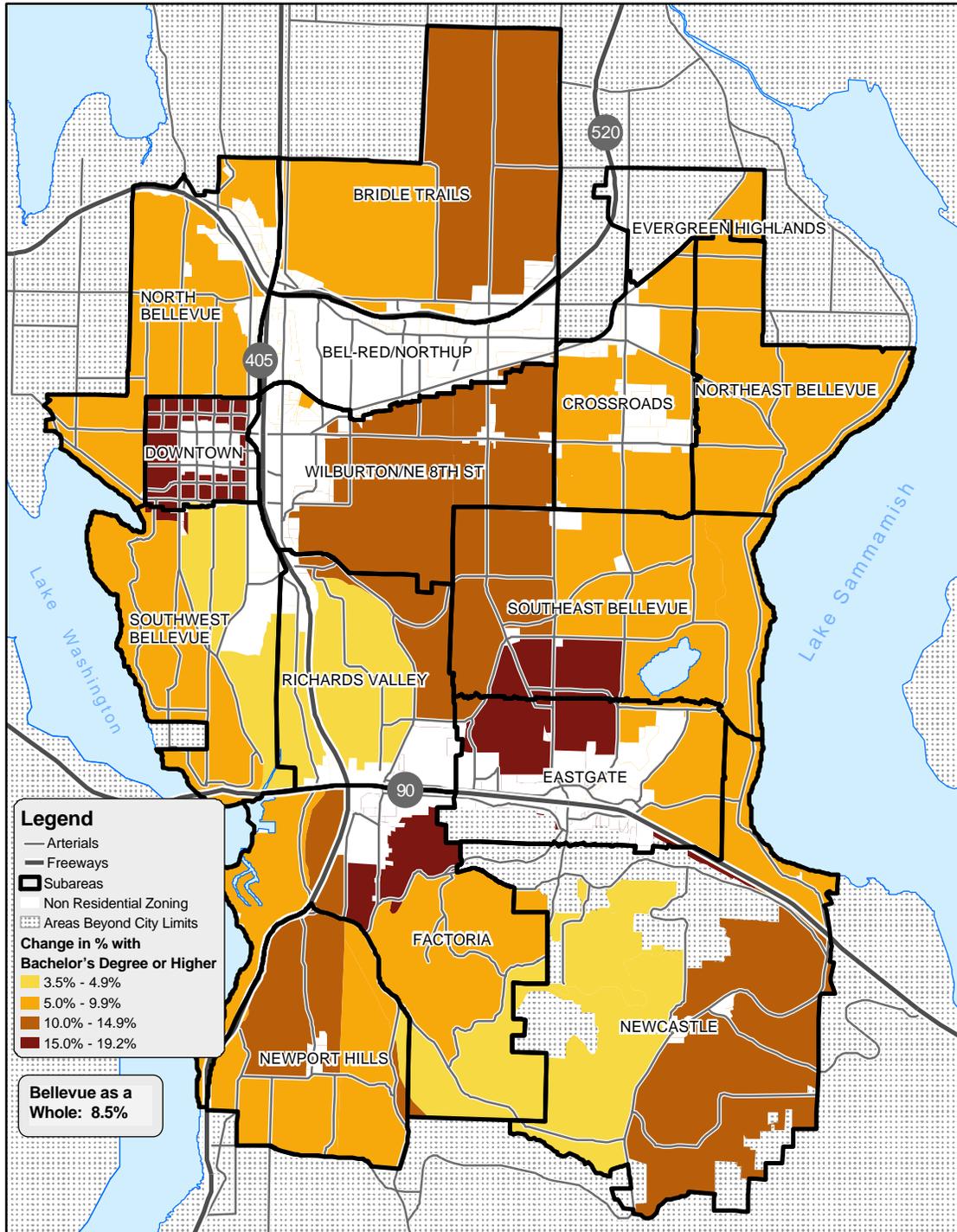
### **Bellevue as a Whole – 2000**

- In the year 2000, 54.1 residents in Bellevue 25 years of age and over had graduated from college. Only about 6 percent of Bellevue residents in this age range had not completed high school.
- In Bellevue as in the nation, men more commonly held a bachelor's degree or above than did women. Of men 25 years and over in Bellevue, 62 percent had at least a bachelor's degree; for women in the same age group, the proportion was 47 percent. However, this gap between men and women in educational attainment was significantly smaller for younger groups than for older groups. While the most-frequently cited data from the Census on educational attainment are tabulated for the population 25 years old and above, the Census also has this information regarding 18 to 24 year-olds. In the 18 to 24 age group, the direction of the difference was actually reversed, with young women having a bachelor's degree more commonly than young men.
- Bellevue and Eastside residents generally are more highly educated than are residents of King County as a whole and still more highly educated than the population nationally. In the year 2000 approximately 40 percent of adults (25 years and older) in King County and 24 percent in the United States had a college degree or higher.

### **Bellevue by Neighborhood – 2000**

- In the year 2000, percentages of persons with bachelor's degrees were above the citywide proportion in large parts of the Bridle Trails subarea, in parts of the city bordering the Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish shores, and all three subareas in the south of the city. Some neighborhoods within the interior of the city north of I-90, such as parts of Wilburton/NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Richards Valley subareas, also contained high percentages of bachelor's degree-holders.
- Neighborhoods that fell into the *highest* category for educational attainment (with 65 percent to 79.3 percent having earned a bachelor's degree) are found west of 140th Avenue N.E. in the Bridle Trails subarea, south of Newport Way in the Factoria subarea, in several neighborhoods within the Newcastle subarea, and in some portions of the city nearest Lakes Washington and Sammamish.
- Comparing patterns in the map showing educational attainment with those in the maps showing income reveals a strong correlation between educational attainment and income. In general, neighborhoods in which a large percentage of the population have a bachelor's or higher degree tended to have higher household and per capita incomes than did other parts of the city (see Income section in this chapter). Neighborhoods with higher proportions of college-educated residents also tended to have larger proportions of workers who work in management and professional occupations.
- Significantly, at least one quarter (25.6 percent or more) of residents in *every* Bellevue neighborhoods at the block group level had earned a bachelor's degree. This is greater than the proportion of 24.4 percent for the nation as a whole. Neighborhoods in Bellevue's lowest category for the percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree are mainly located in the Crossroads and Northeast Bellevue subarea in the north-south corridor centering on 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.E., and within the Southeast Bellevue subarea.

## Change\* in Percentage of Persons With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher Bellevue by Census Tract: 1990-2000



\*Data shown in this map refer to the *change in the percentage* of the population ages 25 and older who have earned a bachelor's or higher degree. These change values are expressed as a percentage point increase or decrease in that proportion.

## *Change in Levels of Educational Attainment*

### **Bellevue as a Whole – Change from 1990 to 2000**

- Between 1990 and 2000, the proportion of Bellevue residents age 25 and older with a bachelor's degree increased by 8.5 percentage points from 45.6 percent to 54.1 percent. The proportion of residents in this age group with a graduate or professional degree also increased (from 14.2 percent to 19.4 percent). Rising education levels are part of a national pattern, although Bellevue is significantly further ahead of the rest of the country in this trend
- One of the factors related to the rise in educational attainment is the fact that younger women are much more likely to have earned a bachelor's degree than women in older generations. This trend will continue to impact overall education levels as current and future generations of young women move through their educational careers.
- Between 1990 and 2000 the overall percentage of Bellevue residents 25 years of age and older who had at most completed high school decreased from 21.3 percent to 18.4 percent.

### **Bellevue by Neighborhood – Change from 1990 to 2000**

The map on the facing page provides a look at the change from 1990 to 2000 in the percentage of residents age 25 and above who had earned a bachelor's degree. The "change in percentage" is derived by subtracting the 1990 percentage from the 2000 percentage.

- All census tracts had an increase in the percentage of residents who are college educated.
- The biggest increase in percentage points is found in the Downtown subarea census tract, where the percentage with at least a college degree jumped by about 19 percentage points from 26.2 to 45.3 percent. One of the factors related to the increase was the growing proportion of the Downtown population under age 65 (persons 25 to 64 tend, as a group, to have higher levels of educational attainment than seniors). Other census tracts with increases of at least 15 percentage points in the college-educated subset of the population are near to I-90 and include the Factoria Mall neighborhood as well as some Southeast Bellevue and Eastgate subarea neighborhoods close to Robinswood Park.
- The category with the second biggest change (from 10 percentage points to 14.9 percentage points) in the proportion of the population who are college educated includes a large interior part of Bellevue running from Bridle Trails down to Kamber Road. This category also includes tracts south of I-90 covering parts of the Newport Hills, Factoria, and Newcastle subareas.
- The large majority of neighborhoods with the lowest college-degreed proportions of their year 2000 populations (see map in the preceding section of this chapter) had at least a 5-percentage-point increase in this proportion between 1990 and 2000. Some of the neighborhoods with the *lowest* 2000 percentages—including the north part of Downtown and the area directly north and east of Robinswood Park—were actually in the *highest* category of *increase*.

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**Income**

Income is an essential measure of economic well-being. It is correlated with, but distinct from, other measures of economic well-being such as wealth and employment status. Income is also correlated with a variety of social characteristics and living conditions, including those covered in the decennial Census. Examples include disability, homeownership, education, occupation, frequency of moving, recent immigration to the country, and vehicle ownership.<sup>1</sup> Many such correlations are seen at a neighborhood level in Bellevue.

The 2000 Census provides income information for individuals, households, and families.<sup>2</sup> This information was collected on the long form questionnaire. *Although the most recent decennial Census was conducted in April 2000, income is measured for the year previous (1999). Similarly, income information collected in the 1990 Census is based on 1989 income.* Data reported here from the 2000 Census are now several years old, and do not completely reflect existing conditions. Estimates of income and poverty rates for 2002 are available from other Census Bureau products at the state and metropolitan area levels, but not yet at the place level for Bellevue.<sup>3</sup>

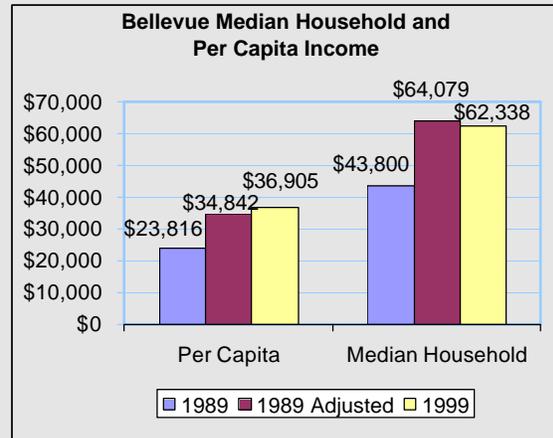
The maps in this section show the following income characteristics by neighborhood:

- Per capita income in 1999
- Median household income in 1999
- Inflation-adjusted percentage change in per capita income (1989 to 1999)

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM VOLUME 1: CITYWIDE & REGIONAL TRENDS**

**Income**

- Bellevue's per capita and median household incomes were higher than those of King County and the nation. Bellevue's per capita income increased after inflation between 1989 and 1999, but its median household income did not.
- Wide variation existed among King County jurisdictions, with Eastside cities tending to have higher household incomes than other cities in the county.
- In 1999 approximately 15 percent of Bellevue households had incomes below \$25,000; about 26 percent had incomes of \$100,000 or more.



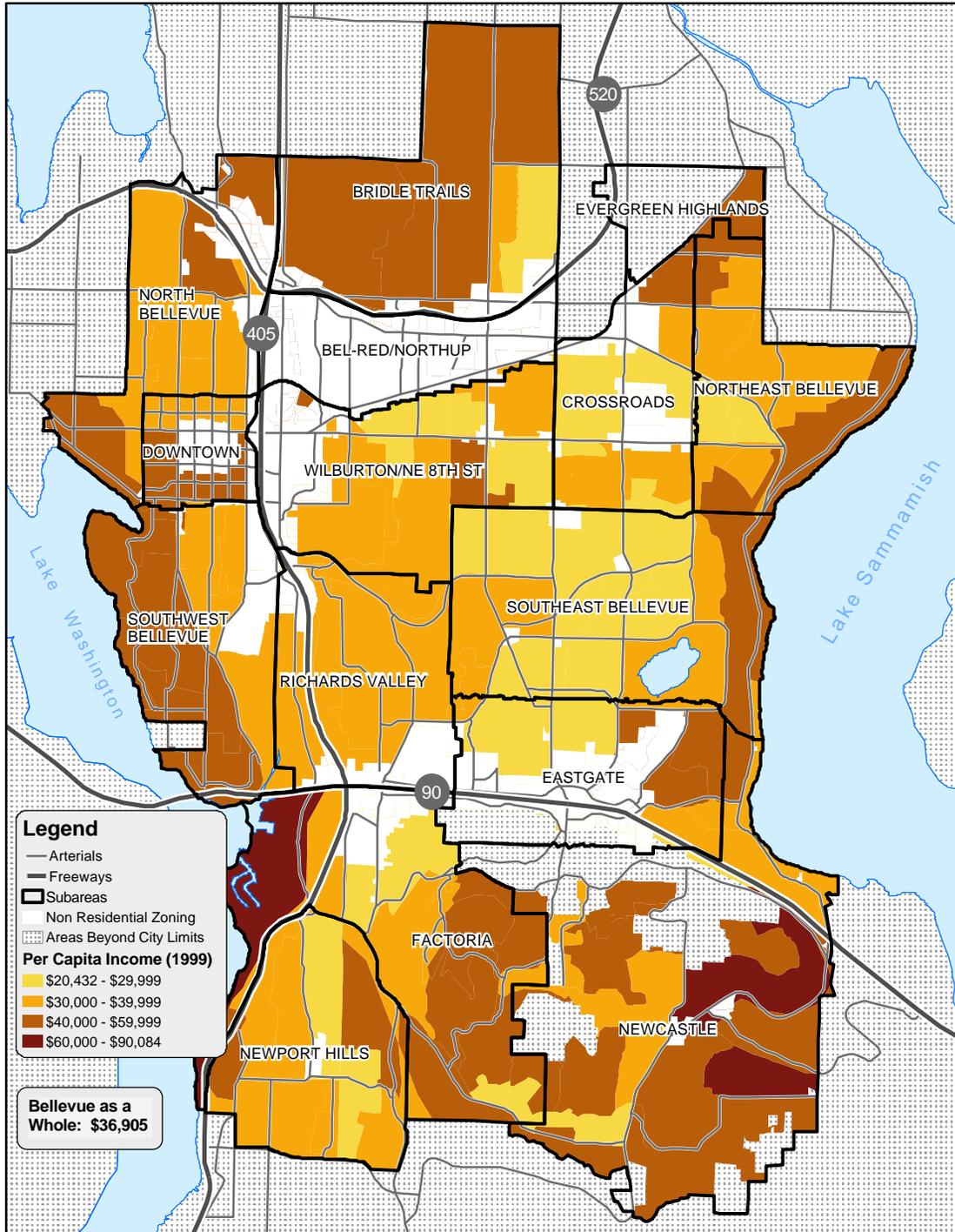
<sup>1</sup> The *Seattle Times* coverage of the 2000 Census included a chart entitled “A World of Differences” indicating how a large number of social, housing, and economic characteristics related to income at the neighborhood level. The chart compared characteristics of the richest 10 percent of neighborhoods with the poorest 10 percent of neighborhoods in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties: <http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/census2000/charts/>. While several Bellevue neighborhoods were among the richest 10 percent of neighborhoods, none of Bellevue’s neighborhoods fell into the poorest 10 percent.

<sup>2</sup> Income reported in the census includes wage or salary income, net self-employment income, social security and retirement income, public assistance, unemployment income, and other types of income.

<sup>3</sup>2002 data are available at the state level from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement in the Census Bureau’s Income and Poverty Reports at <http://www.census.gov/>. Data for the Seattle--Bellevue--Everett, WA PMSA are available from the American Community Survey at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>.

# Per Capita Income in 1999

## Bellevue by Census Block Group: 2000 Census



### Per Capita Income

The Census Bureau calculates per capita income by summing the income for every man, woman, and child at least 15 years of age and then dividing the sum of incomes by the total population.

As an average measure, per capita income can be skewed by extremely low or high income values in the income distribution. Median income—which is not influenced by extreme values—is readily available in census tables only for households and not for individuals. The per capita figure does, however, provide an important advantage over household median income in that the per capita figure is independent of the size of the household in which individuals live. Another limitation to both household and individual income data from the Census relates to the fact that people often rely on their memory to answer income questions when filling out their census forms. The Census Bureau acknowledges that people often forget to include some types of income (usually those not derived from wages or salary) and, as a result, under-report their income.

#### **Bellevue as a Whole – 1999 (2000 Census)**

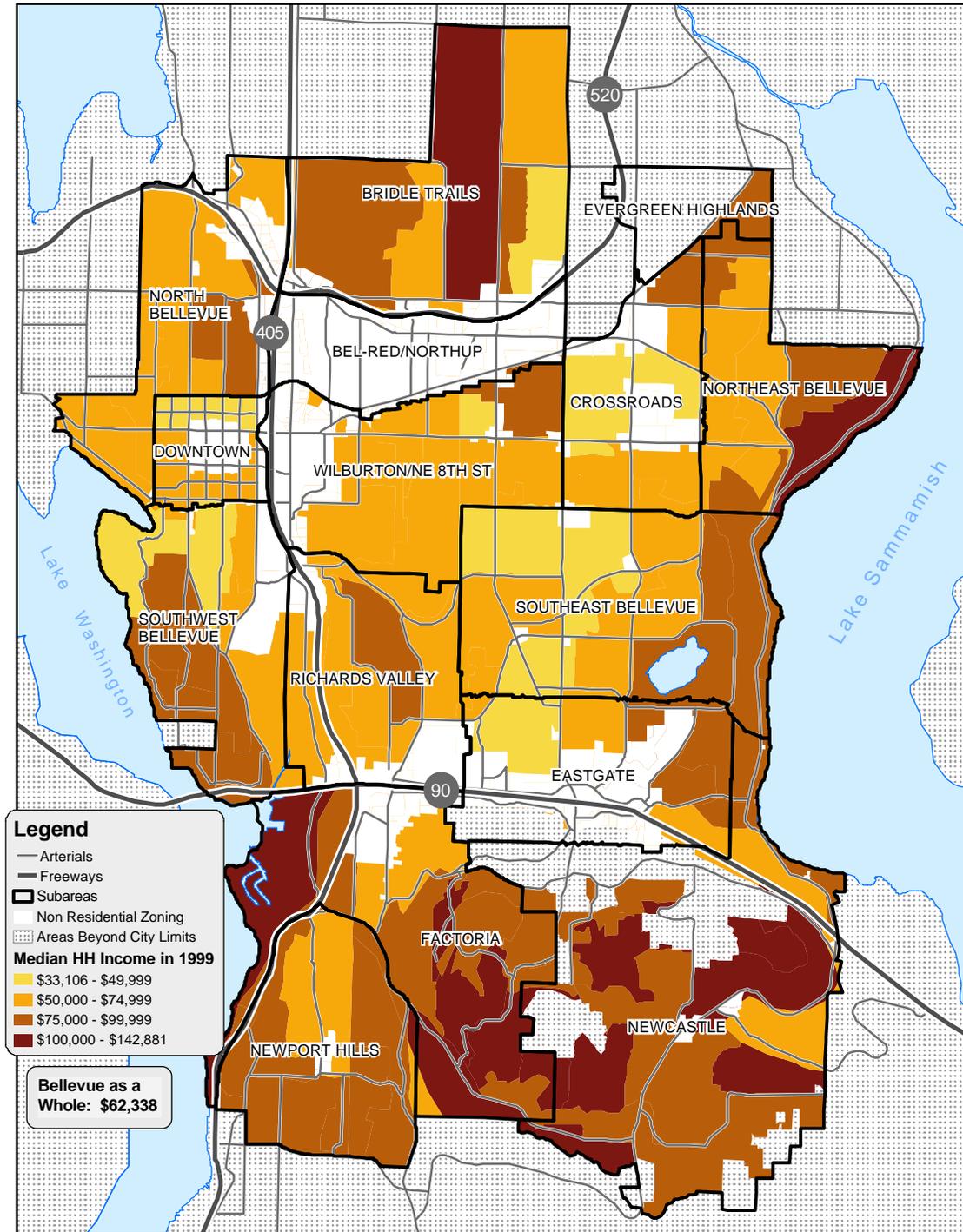
- In 1999, Bellevue's per capita income was \$36,905. This was much higher than that of the nation (\$21,587) and Washington State (\$22,973). Bellevue's per capita income was also significantly higher than that of King County as a whole (\$29,521). Compared with other nearby Eastside cities, Bellevue's per capita income was lower than Mercer Island's and Sammamish's and slightly lower than Kirkland's, but a bit higher than Redmond's. Per capita income in Bellevue was also higher than it was in Seattle.

#### **Bellevue by Neighborhood – 1999 (2000 Census)**

- Mapping per capita income reveals a kind of "donut" pattern where high incomes are mostly found in Bridle Trails, along the two lakes, and in the part of the city south of I-90. This generally correlates with the pattern of educational attainment in Bellevue's neighborhoods (see Educational Attainment section earlier in this chapter).
- Neighborhoods in Bellevue's highest per capita income category of \$60,000 and above are found in parts of the Factoria and Newcastle subareas. Specifically, these neighborhoods are in the portion of the Factoria subarea bordering on Lake Washington where Newport Shores is located and in the Newcastle subarea neighborhoods near Lakemont Park.
- Parts of Bellevue in the city's second highest per capita income category (\$40,000-\$59,999) include most of the Bridle Trails subarea, parts of North Bellevue on the shore of Meydenbauer Bay and in Apple Valley, the part of Southwest Bellevue bordering Lake Washington, large portions of the city south of I-90, and most neighborhoods bordering Lake Sammamish. A few additional neighborhoods north of I-90 fall into this income category. These include Downtown south of N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, the neighborhood near Ardmore Elementary School that includes Evergreen Highlands, and a few places within the Wilburton/N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Eastgate subareas.
- Most of the middle of the city falls into the two per capita income categories below \$40,000. Noteworthy is that all of the block groups falling into the second lowest category have higher per capita incomes than does King County as a whole. Also of some note is the fact that Bellevue's lowest neighborhood per capita income is only slightly lower than the per capita income for the nation as a whole (though the Puget Sound region's relatively high cost of living limits this comparison).

# Median Household Income in 1999

## Bellevue by Census Block Group: 2000 Census



### Median Household Income

Median household income is the middle income value, where half of households have incomes above the median and the other half have incomes below the median. Median income is not skewed by extreme values as mean (i.e., average) income is. In a major sense, median household income is a better measure of a "typical" household's income in the United States, and particularly in Bellevue where the existence of very high incomes for some households skews measures of mean income (at both the per capita and household levels). However, care needs to be taken when considering implications of differences in median household income across neighborhoods that have different household sizes.

#### **Bellevue as a Whole – 1999 (2000 Census)**

- Bellevue has one of the highest median incomes within King County, as well as within the Puget Sound region and the state as a whole. In 1999, Bellevue's median household income was \$62,338 compared to \$53,157 for King County as a whole, \$45,776 for the state, and \$41,994 for the nation. Cities with higher median incomes than Bellevue in King County were smaller Eastside cities such as Sammamish and Medina.

#### **Bellevue by Neighborhood – 1999 (2000 Census)**

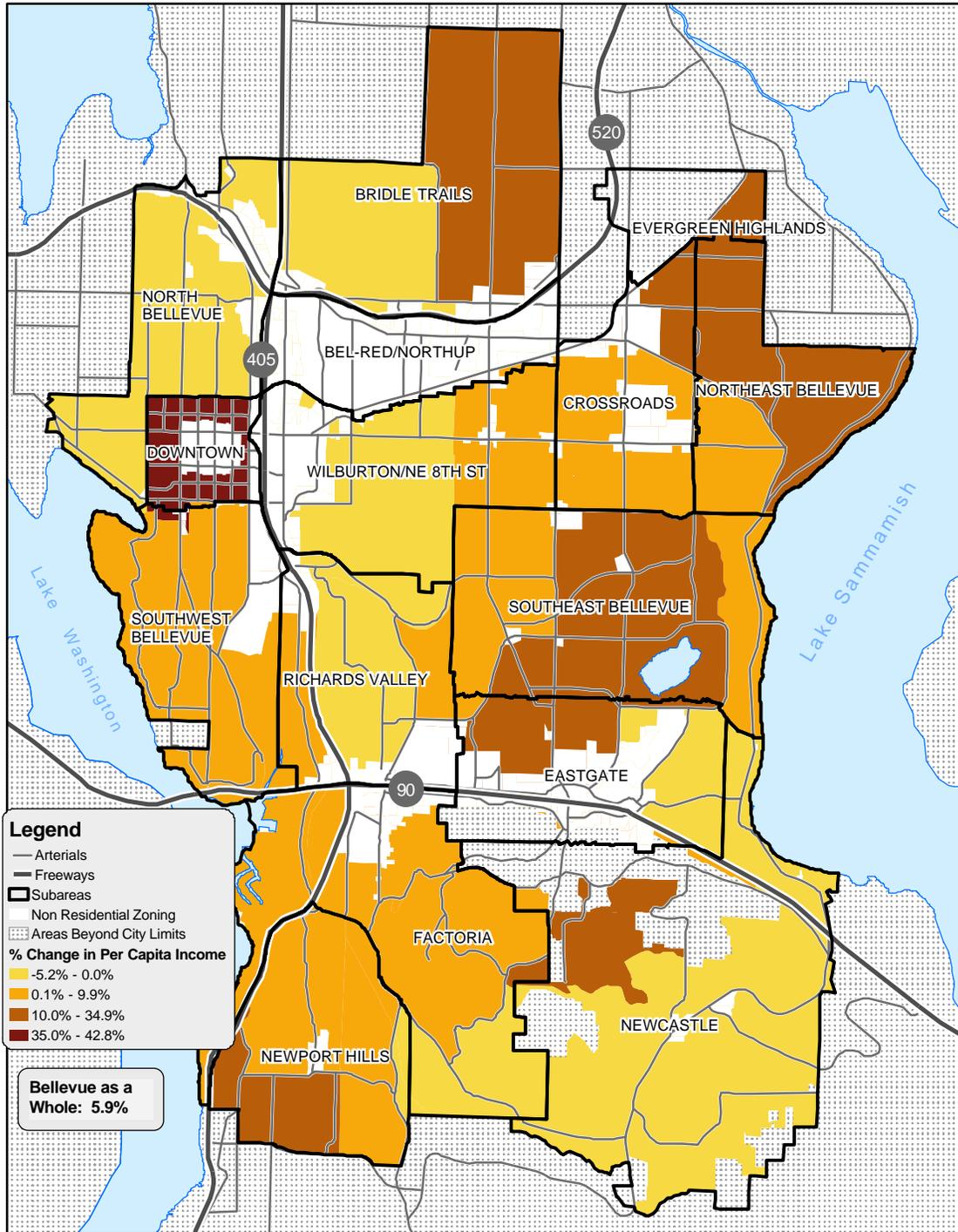
- In general the overall pattern created by mapping median household income is similar to that from mapping per capita income, with the highest income categories found in Bridle Trails, along the two lakes, and in the part of the city south of I-90.
- South of I-90, all neighborhoods with average household sizes of 2.5 or more had median household incomes within the top two categories mapped (i.e., median household incomes of \$75,000 or more). This is also the pattern in some neighborhoods north of I-90, particularly those neighborhoods bordering the lakes.

This is not the case, however, in Crossroads, and in parts of the Northeast Bellevue, Southeast Bellevue, and Eastgate subareas located in or near the middle of the city. In these areas, almost all neighborhoods with average household sizes of 2.5 or more had median incomes of less than \$75,000. Almost all remaining neighborhoods in these areas had average household sizes of 2.0 to 2.4, but had median household incomes in the lowest of Bellevue's categories (\$33,106 to \$49,000).

- Median household income in Downtown was in the lowest Bellevue category north of N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the second lowest category south of N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. However, with household sizes averaging less than 1.5, income was not spread as thin on a per person basis in Downtown as it was in some other neighborhoods, as the \$33,697 and \$49,887 *per capita* income figures for the north and south Downtown neighborhoods indicate.

# Inflation-Adjusted Percentage Change in Per Capita Income (1989 to 1999)

## Bellevue by Census Tract: 1990 Census and 2000 Census



### Change in Per Capita Income

To conduct a meaningful analysis of changes in income over time, it is necessary to adjust for inflation. Income trends analyzed in this report are based on comparisons between 1989 (as obtained from the 1990 Census) and 1999 income (as obtained from the 2000 Census), with 1989 income adjusted for inflation to 1999 dollars. "Real" changes in income cited below refer to this inflation-adjusted comparison of 1989 and 1999 incomes. (Per capita income rather than median household income is mapped in this section to avoid confounding income trends with changes in household size.)

#### **Bellevue as a Whole – Change from 1989 to 1999 (1990 Census and 2000 Census)**

- Between 1989 and 1999, per capita income in Bellevue rose by 5.9 percent after adjusting for inflation. (In 1999 dollars, per capita income rose from \$34,842 in 1989 to \$36,905 in 1999.) This was, however, less than rates of growth for King County and the nation (8.6 percent and 11.4 percent respectively).
- While Bellevue's *per capita* income rose in both nominal and real terms, Bellevue's *median household* income fell by 2.7 percent after adjusting for inflation.<sup>4</sup> The fact that Bellevue's per capita income *rose* while its median household income *fell* is partly due to declining household sizes. This may also relate to growth at the high end of the income spectrum, which would be reflected in per capita (average) figures but not median figures.

#### **Bellevue by Neighborhood – Change from 1989 to 1999 (1990 Census and 2000 Census)**

- Most of Bellevue saw an increase in real per capita income between 1989 and 1999; although trends varied greatly by census tract, and real per capita income fell in some areas. The highest increase (42.8 percent) was in the Downtown tract, where real per capita income went from \$29,055 to \$41,483. This growth took the Downtown tract as a whole from having one of the lower per capita incomes in the city to having one that is higher than the citywide figure of \$36,905. This rise in real income is likely related to other changes, including the increase in the percentage of the Downtown population that is working age and the increase there in levels of educational attainment.
- Tracts with the second highest category of increase (10.0 percent to 34.9 percent) are in the eastern part of the Bridle Trails subarea; in portions of the Evergreen Highlands, Southeast Bellevue, and Eastgate subareas; in the southern part of the Newport Hills subarea; and in the Newcastle subarea around S.E. 46th Way. While income growth varied within tracts, it is worth noting that some of the tracts with 10 percent or more gains in per capita income include neighborhoods that had incomes that were substantially lower than the citywide average (see map in preceding section). This is true for some parts of the Southeast Bellevue subarea, as well as the part of Eastgate west of 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.E., and the eastern part of Bridle Trails south of N.E. 40th Street. Most but not all of the other parts of the city with relatively low incomes for Bellevue are also in tracts with increases in per capita income.
- Tracts where real per capita income fell include some areas with incomes on the high side (such as in the west part of the Bridle Trails subarea and most of the Newcastle subarea) but others with a mix of incomes (such as in the North Bellevue, Wilburton/N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Richards Valley, and Factoria subareas).

<sup>4</sup> Median household income also grew more slowly than per capita income in both King County and in the nation as a whole. However, in contrast to both Bellevue (where real median household income fell) and King County (where it barely increased), median household income at the national level grew by 4.0 percent after adjusting for inflation.

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**Poverty**

The Census measures the number and percentage of individuals and families whose incomes are below federal poverty standards (based on income in 1999 for the 2000 Census).<sup>5</sup> The income data come from responses to the Census long form questionnaire. Poverty is measured in the Census based on several thresholds that vary by family size and age. A family's or individual's income is then compared to the appropriate threshold to establish poverty level. For example, in the 2000 Census a family of four with an income of under \$17,500 is considered below poverty level. Poverty thresholds used by the Census Bureau are absolute measures in that they do not vary based on geographic differences in cost of living.<sup>6,7</sup> Given this, care is needed when interpreting the implications of local poverty rates and when comparing poverty rates between Bellevue and the rest of the nation.

This section of the report maps the following poverty-related statistic by neighborhood:

- Percentage of persons with 1999 incomes below poverty level

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM VOLUME 1: CITYWIDE & REGIONAL TRENDS**

**Poverty**

- Poverty rates in 1999 were relatively low for Bellevue's population generally. However, poverty rates have tended to be much higher for certain segments of Bellevue's population such as those in single parent households and older seniors who do not live with a spouse.

<b>Percent of Individuals Below Poverty Level in Bellevue 1999 (2000 Census)</b>	
Bellevue residents overall	5.7%
<i>Children (under 18 years of age):</i>	5.9%
Children in single-mother households	20.1%
<i>Seniors (65+ years):</i>	6.3%
Seniors (65+) in married-couple households	4.3%
Older seniors (75+) not in married-couple households	9.9%

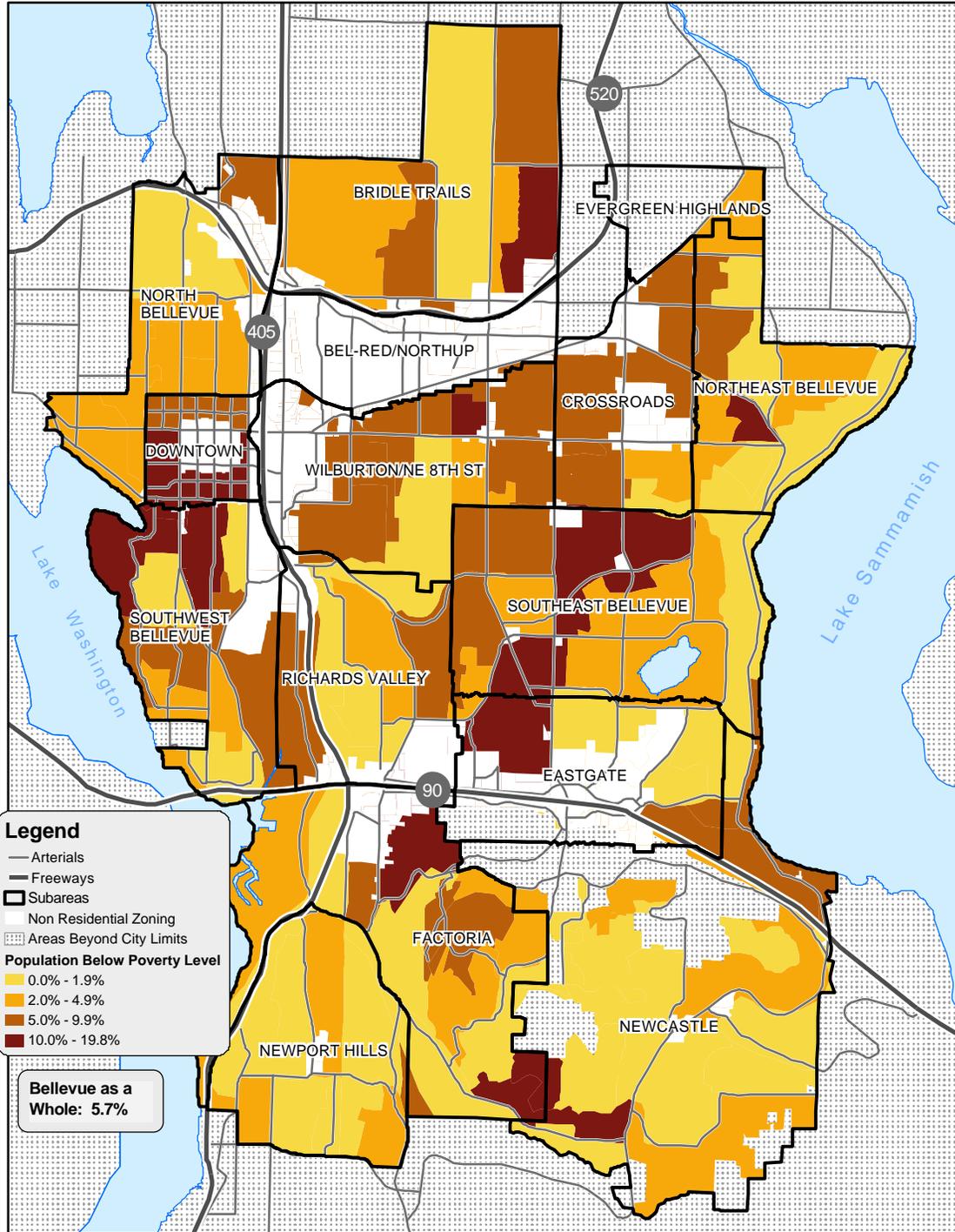
- For Bellevue and most jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region, there was little change between poverty rates as measured in the last two decennial censuses. Within King County, cities on the Eastside, including Bellevue, had lower poverty rates than Seattle or cities in South King County.
- King County and many cities within King County, including Bellevue, had lower rates of poverty than the United States and Washington State as a whole. Poverty rates for families and individuals were higher in areas of the state outside of the Puget Sound region.

<sup>5</sup>In the 2000 Census, poverty status was identified for all people except the following: those institutionalized, living in military group quarters, or residing in college dormitories and children under 15 years old who were not living with relatives.

<sup>6</sup> The Census Bureau and others are working to identify potential improvements to the way national poverty thresholds are calculated, with geographic cost-of-living differences being one factor considered for adjusting these thresholds.

<sup>7</sup> The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses a different approach for identifying low income thresholds that take geographic differences in median income into account. The HUD-defined fiscal year 1999 income limit for *extremely low income* (30 percent of Area Median Income or AMI) for a family of four in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett area was \$18,800. HUD's income limit that year for *very low income* (50 percent of AMI) in our area was \$31,300. The fact that HUD's low income limits are so much higher than the Census Bureau's poverty thresholds for this area underlines the care needed when comparing poverty rates. See <http://www.huduser.org/datasets/il.html> for more details.

## Percentage of Persons With 1999 Incomes Below Poverty Level Bellevue by Census Block Group: 2000 Census



### Percentage of Persons With Incomes Below Poverty Level

#### **Bellevue as a Whole – 1999 (2000 Census)**

- About 5.7 percent of Bellevue's residents for whom the Census Bureau determined poverty status had incomes in 1999 that fell under the national poverty level. About 5.9 percent of children and 6.3 percent of seniors in Bellevue were at or below poverty.
- While the poverty rate was relatively low for Bellevue's population generally, poverty level incomes were more common for some segments of the population, such as for persons in female-headed single-parent households and for older seniors (most commonly women) not residing with a spouse.

#### **Bellevue by Neighborhood – 1999 (2000 Census)**

- There is a great deal of variation in poverty rates in Bellevue although many neighborhoods had two percent or less of their population living in poverty and no neighborhood had as many as 20 percent of its residents in poverty. Poverty rates followed a pattern that is roughly the inverse of the patterns seen in the income maps. That is, the parts of the city with higher rates of poverty generally tended to be in or near the middle of the city.
- The largest block groups in Bellevue's highest poverty rate category (where 10.0 percent to 19.8 percent of the population had incomes below poverty level) are located in Southeast Bellevue and south into the Eastgate subarea, the southern part of Downtown and south into Southwest Bellevue, the eastern part of Bridle Trails south of N.E. 40<sup>th</sup>, the neighborhood east of Factoria Mall, and the odd-shaped block group north of Forest Drive S.E. In addition to those listed above, there are also two other small block groups in the highest poverty rate category: one in Northeast Bellevue at the corner of N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Northup Way and one in the Wilburton/N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street subarea just west of 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.E.. Poverty data are not available at the block level. If these data were available, they would likely show that poverty levels for some blocks differed substantially from other blocks in the same block group.<sup>8</sup>
- Most other neighborhoods with poverty rates of 5 percent or more are located north of I-90. These include the majority of the Wilburton/N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Crossroads subareas and parts of several other subareas. While poverty rates generally are higher in block groups where multifamily housing makes up a relatively large proportion of units, many neighborhoods with multifamily housing fall into lower poverty rate categories. Additionally, some parts in the city with Bellevue's higher poverty rates are located where there is little or no multifamily housing (see Single-Family Detached map in Housing and Residential Patterns chapter).

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<sup>8</sup> For example, the Southwest Bellevue block group that includes Meydenbauer Bay extends some blocks east as well as some blocks further down the shore of Lake Washington: blocks on the shore likely have lower poverty rates than blocks closer to Bellevue Way.

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**Labor Force**

The Census collects information regarding labor force participation rates and occupations of residents. Like other data on economic characteristics this information comes from responses to the long form. (The census long form also asked for information on the employment status of those in the workforce and on earnings, although these topics are not covered in this report.) The information profiled here is for those who live in Bellevue, not those who work in Bellevue (although some Bellevue residents also work in the community).

The Census Bureau defines the labor force as all persons 16 years of age and older in the civilian labor force (both those “employed” and “unemployed” but looking for work), plus members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Persons not considered to be members of the labor force include students, individuals taking care of home or family, retired workers, and institutionalized people. The Census also provides limited data, collected in the long form questionnaire, on place of work for employed residents.

This section of the report maps the following labor force information by neighborhood:

- Pair of maps:
  - Percentage of males 16 years and older who are in the labor force
  - Percentage of females 16 years and older who are in the labor force
- Percentage of employed Bellevue residents who work in Bellevue

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM VOLUME 1: CITYWIDE & REGIONAL TRENDS**

**Labor Force**

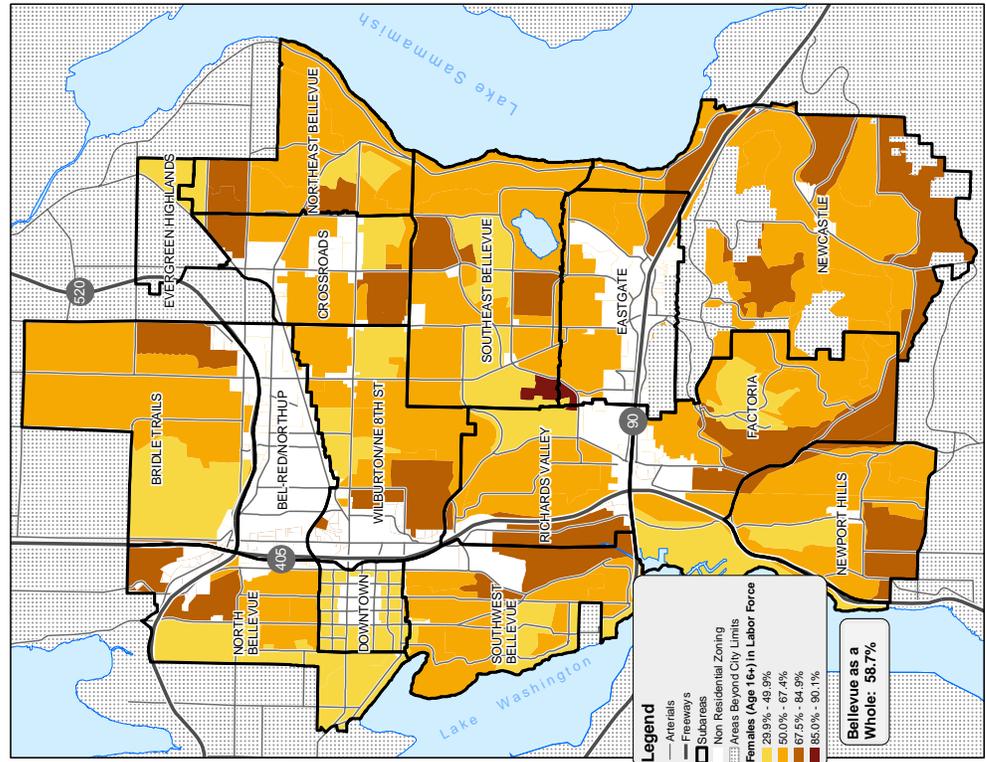
- The percentage of Bellevue residents age 16 and over in the work force declined between 1990 and 2000 and in 2000 was lower than in many other jurisdictions in King County. This is likely due partly to the fact that the proportion of residents who are seniors is higher in Bellevue and has also been rising more quickly in Bellevue than in many other jurisdictions in the region.
- A large and increasing percentage of Bellevue's labor force is employed in management and professional occupations. In 2000, Bellevue and other Eastside cities generally had a higher percentage of the labor force in management, professional, and related occupations than did other cities in King County.

<b>Labor Force Residents of Bellevue 2000</b>	
% of persons age 16 and over who are in the labor force	67.5%
% of males over age 16 who are in the labor force	76.6%
% of females over age 16 who are in the labor force	58.7%
% of employed civilians who are in management or professional jobs	53.1%

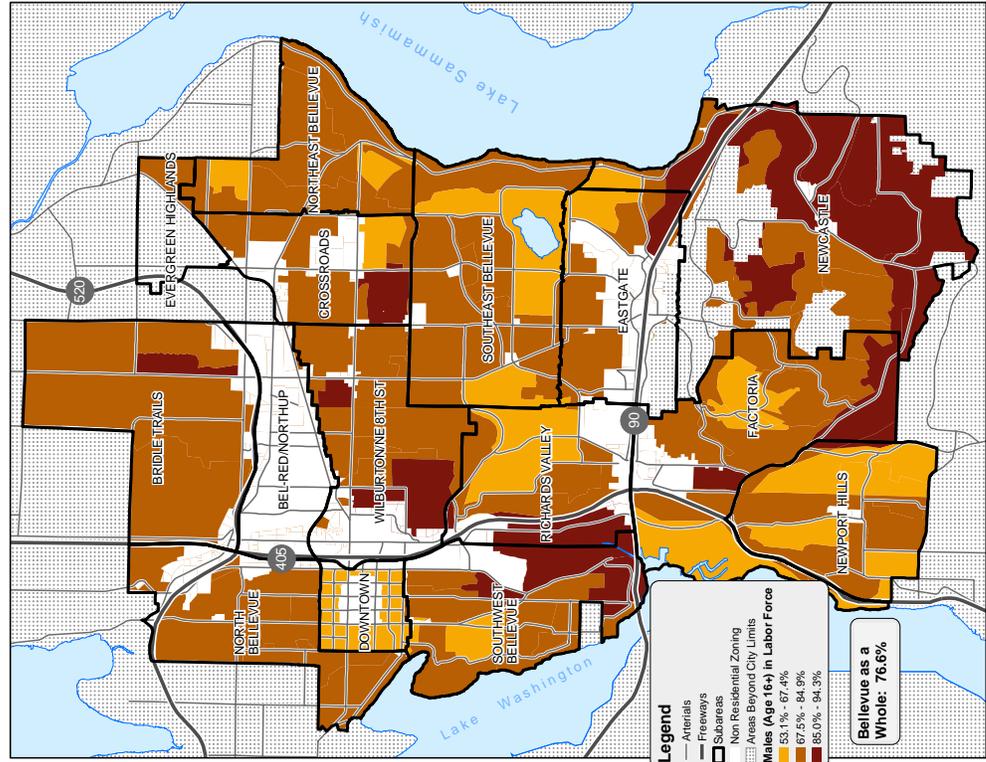
- The number of Bellevue residents who also work in Bellevue increased between 1990 and 2000 but declined as a percentage of the Bellevue population (from 41 percent to 38 percent). Part of this decline may be explained by the annexation of areas located further away from Bellevue's job centers during the 1990s.

**Percentage of Persons 16 and Older Who Are in the Labor Force  
Bellevue by Census Block Group: 2000**

Percentage of Females in the Labor Force



Percentage of Males in the Labor Force



### *Proportion of Males and Females Who Are in the Labor Force*

It is helpful to view labor force statistics by gender given that patterns of labor force participation still vary greatly between men and women. 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. While the national trend of increasing labor force participation rates for women continued in the 1990s, men's labor force participation rate actually decreased somewhat during that decade. The proportion of people in the labor force varies by age in addition to gender, decreasing for those who are in their mid-fifties and older years.

#### **Bellevue as a Whole – 2000**

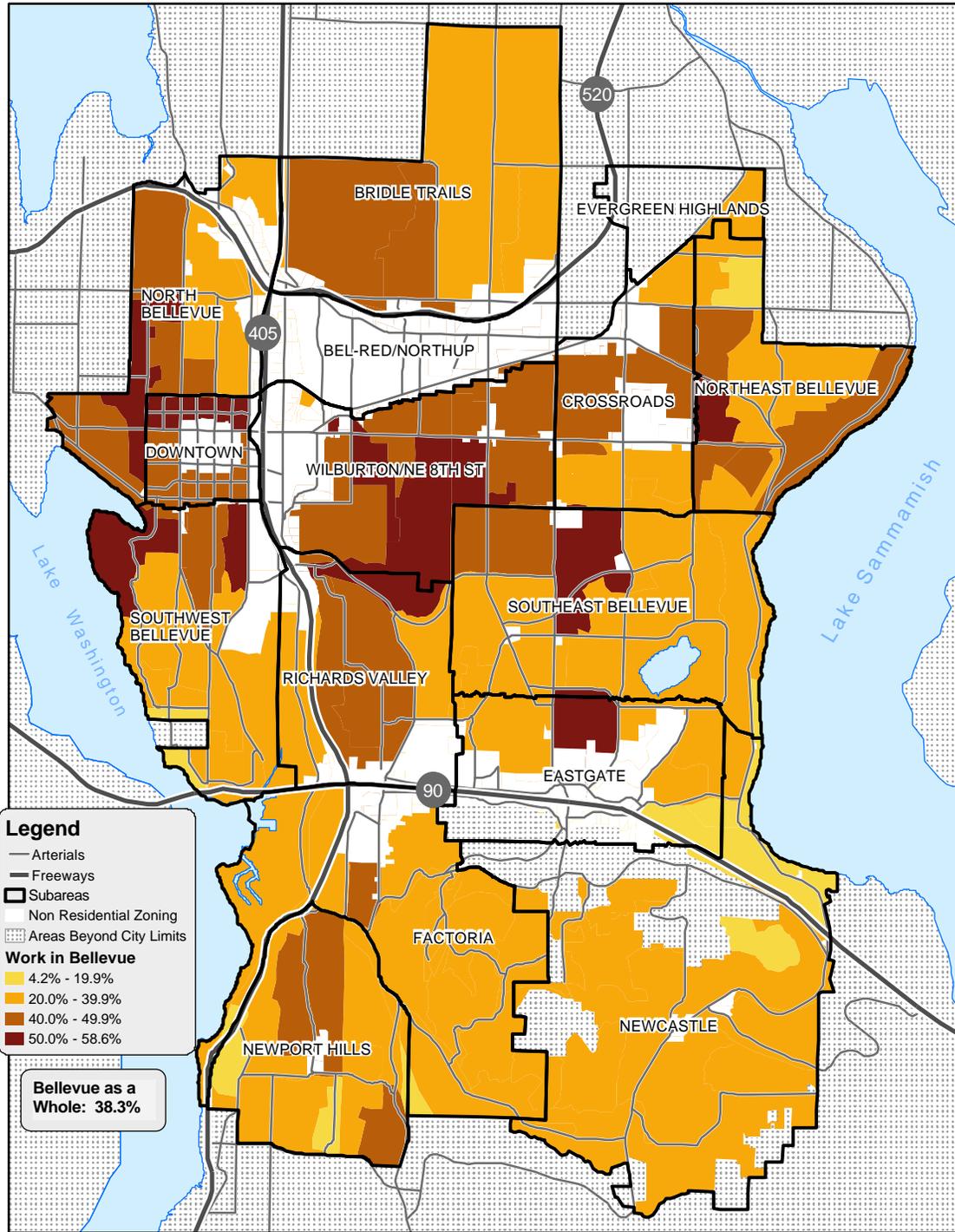
- Overall, 67.5 percent of Bellevue residents age 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000. As was the case nationally, females had a lower rate of participation than men did. In Bellevue, labor force participation rates in 2000 were 58.7 percent for females compared to 76.6 percent for males.
- In Bellevue, labor force participation rates for both males and females were lower in 1990 than in 2000. This trend of decreasing female labor participation rates contrasts with trends in the nation as a whole, where only male labor force participation rates declined. 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. 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.

#### **Bellevue by Neighborhood – 2000**

- In all Bellevue neighborhoods, most males 16 and over were in the labor force in 2000. Men's labor force rates by neighborhood varied from 53.1 percent to 94.3 percent and were correlated closely with the proportion of residents who were of traditional working age. The pattern seen in the map showing male labor participation rates is virtually the reverse of the pattern in the map showing percentages of residents who were seniors (see section on population age 65 and older in Household and Age chapter). The neighborhood that had both the lowest male and female labor participation rate is the north part of Downtown. The south part of Downtown had a male labor participation rate of 67.4 percent, which is at the top of the lowest category.
- With just a few neighborhoods as exceptions, women's labor participation rates were lower than men's. Women's rates—which varied from 29.9 percent to 90.1 percent—also spanned a far wider spectrum than men's rates. Like men's rates, women's were related to age, with lower participation tending to be found in neighborhoods, such as Downtown, where there were higher percentages of seniors. Areas of low participation for men were commonly also areas of low participation for women. Yet, some parts of the city (e.g., in Newcastle, Bridle Trails, North Bellevue, and Southwest Bellevue) had high rates for male participation but low rates for female participation. Most, though not all, of these neighborhoods had relatively large proportions of households with children.
- Interestingly, on a neighborhood level, neither male nor female labor force participation rates corresponded in a consistent and obvious way with income levels shown in the maps in this report (see section on Income earlier in this chapter) although there was a relationship between unemployment rates and lower incomes. The lack of correspondence between labor force participation rates and income levels in neighborhoods is particularly striking with respect to women's rates of participation.

# Percentage of Employed Bellevue Residents Who Work in Bellevue

## Bellevue by Census Block Group: 2000



## Place of Work

### **Bellevue as a Whole – 2000**

- In the year 2000, 38.3 percent of employed Bellevue residents who were employed worked within Bellevue. Of all King County cities having at least 25,000 working residents, Bellevue's was the third highest in terms of the proportion of residents who worked in the same city where they lived. Bellevue's proportion of employed residents working within Bellevue was surpassed by the 74 percent of Seattle's working residents who worked in Seattle and the 41 percent of Redmond's working residents who worked in Redmond.
- The number of working Bellevue residents who worked as well as lived in Bellevue increased between 1990 and 2000 but declined as a percentage of the city's population (from 40.9 percent to 38.3 percent).

### **Bellevue by Neighborhood – 2000**

- In the year 2000 the percentage of working Bellevue residents who worked within Bellevue varied greatly depending on the part of the city in which they lived. Neighborhoods that had the highest percentages of employed residents who worked within Bellevue are located near Bellevue's employment centers, the largest of which are in Downtown, along the Bellevue-Redmond Road Corridor in the Wilburton/N.E. 8<sup>th</sup> subarea, in and around the Crossroads shopping center, in the Eastgate subarea, and in the Factoria subarea near the Factoria Mall. There are also a couple of neighborhoods in Newport Hills that had fairly high percentages of workers who were employed in Bellevue. The highest proportion (58.6 percent) is found in Eastgate. In the north part of Downtown, 55.1 percent of residents worked in Bellevue; and in the south part of Downtown, 46.6 percent worked in Bellevue. Percentages in parts of Wilburton were interestingly higher than in either block of Downtown.
- Areas that had the highest percentage of residents working in Bellevue tended to be areas of higher residential densities (not surprising, given that these areas tend to be near employment centers).
- Neighborhoods that had large percentages of residents working within Bellevue logically also tended to have lower average commuting times than did other neighborhoods. There was also a correlation, though not as strong, between high percentages of residents working within Bellevue and relatively high percentages of households not having a vehicle. Some correlation at the neighborhood level also existed between high percentages of residents working within Bellevue and commuting via transit, though Downtown and some other neighborhoods are exceptions. (See Transportation Chapter.)
- While the south part of Downtown and some neighborhoods directly to the west and the southwest of Downtown had *both* high percentages of employed residents working in Bellevue *and* higher than average per capita incomes, many other neighborhoods with per capita incomes higher than the citywide average had relatively low percentages of employed residents working within Bellevue.

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