Chelan and Douglas County profiles

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Overview

Regional context

Chelan and Douglas counties are on the eastern edge of the Cascade Mountains and are separated by the Columbia River. Chelan and Douglas counties have a very diverse geographic area that includes mountains and lakes and flat areas next to the Columbia River. The varied terrain supports the two major industries in the area, tourism and agriculture.

The legislature created Chelan County in 1899, carving it out of Okanogan and Kittitas counties. Wenatchee is its county seat.

Douglas County is close to the geographic center of the state. Douglas County was created in 1883, named after U.S. Senator Steven Douglas of Illinois who was the chairman of the U.S. Commission on Territories when the Territory of Washington was created. Waterville is the county seat.

Chelan County ranks third in the state in land area while Douglas County ranks 17th. Both counties are sparsely populated as measured by people per square mile.

Local economy

The first people of the area now known as Chelan and Douglas counties were tribes whose culture and economy centered on fishing, hunting and gathering. The Yakima Treaty of 1855 removed 10.8 million acres from the indigenous people's title to the land. The result was war throughout the territory and eventual movement of tribes to the Colville Reservation.

Trappers and Chinese gold prospectors were among the first non-Indians who lived in the area in the early 1800s. White settlers followed, beginning in the 1870s. Irrigation along with railroads spurred agricultural development in Chelan County, particularly fruit orchards. Now grape vines are replacing some fruit orchards, driving development in wineries.

The Wenatchee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes both Chelan and Douglas counties, depends heavily upon agriculture as well as seasonal employment in retail and leisure and hospitality. Agriculture tends to be the economic force for the area and it specifically revolves around various tree fruit that includes apples, cherries, pears and peaches. Wineries are playing an increasing role in both agriculture and in tourism.

Agricultural employment directly links to nonfarm employment through nondurable goods manufacturing (i.e., food processing), wholesale trade (i.e., fresh fruit packinghouses) and transportation.

Chelan County is on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountain range in central Washington. Lake Chelan is the third deepest lake in the country. With its nearly year-round sunshine, it has developed into an all-season outdoor recreational destination. Agriculture is a dominant industry in Chelan County with 23.5 percent of total covered employment in 2018, followed by private health services with 14.1 percent of total covered employment. In addition to agriculture, tourism plays a large part in the local economy with two very popular areas for the state: Lake Chelan and Leavenworth. Lake Chelan is a great tourist area in the summer. Leavenworth provides year-round tourism with a Bavarian-themed village that hosts an Oktoberfest festival and has multiple ski resorts very close to town.

Agriculture in Douglas County, as in neighboring Chelan County, is a pillar of the economy with 25.3 percent of total covered employment in 2018 followed by local government (public school districts, public utility districts, police and fire departments, etc.) with 14.5 percent of covered employment. Many of Douglas County's nonfarm industries such as food manufacturing/processing, warehousing and shipping, transportation (trucking) etc., are heavily dependent on the fortunes of agriculture and define much of the local industry makeup. In addition, a regional retail hub is found in East Wenatchee, the largest city in Douglas County, which features North Central Washington's largest shopping mall.

Geographic facts

	Chelan County	Douglas County	Washington state
Land area, 2010 (square miles)	2,920.53	1,819.26	66,455.52
People per square mile, 2010	24.8	21.1	101.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

Outlook

The Employment Security Department's (ESD) long-term (i.e., ten-year) nonfarm employment projections produced by ESD are for a 1.3 percent average annual growth rate from 2017 to 2027 for the five-county North Central Workforce Development Area or WDA (Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan counties), and for a 1.5 percent growth rate for Washington state.

At the time this report is being prepared, not seasonally adjusted employment figures and estimates are available only for the first ten calendar months of 2019. These data show that nonfarm job growth has been less robust during this timeframe in the Wenatchee MSA than in Washington state. Most recently, total nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA has either stagnated or declined, year over year, from July through October 2019. Between October 2018 and October 2019, total nonfarm employment in the Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas counties) decreased by 200 jobs (from 47,200 jobs to 47,000, respectively), a 0.4 percent downturn. Hence, barring unforeseen events or major revisions in our agency's monthly employment estimates, 2019 will be a year in which the Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm labor economy grows at a slower pace than that of

Washington state – and the state has been adding jobs in roughly the 2.0 percent range in each of the first ten months of 2019.

Labor force and unemployment

Current labor force and unemployment statistics are available on the *Labor area summaries* page on ESD's labor market information website.

Unemployment rates in the Wenatchee MSA (Chelan and Douglas counties) were remarkably consistent in the four-year period from 2006 to 2008 (before the recession). Rates ranged from a low of 5.4 percent in 2007 to a high of 5.8 percent in 2008 – a relatively narrow range. During the recession, unemployment rates in the Wenatchee MSA jumped to 9.2 percent in 2010 before decreasing to 5.9 percent in 2015, then increasing to 6.0 percent in 2016. This was due to the idling of the Alcoa smelter in January 2016 and the subsequent layoffs of over 400 workers at this plant. The rate declined to a historic low rate of 4.8 percent in 2018. This 4.8 percent reading for 2018 was the lowest average annual unemployment rate in the Wenatchee MSA since electronic records were implemented by our agency in 1980 (28 years ago) – encouraging news for the local economy.

If we look a little deeper at changes in the Civilian Labor Force (CLF) and the number of unemployed in the Wenatchee MSA last year (between 2017 and 2018), we observe that both have moved in the "right" direction. Specifically, the average number of unemployed decreased from 3,331 in 2017 to 3,214 in 2018, equating to 117 fewer residents out of work in this two-county area (down 3.5 percent). Simultaneously, the CLF expanded 2.9 percent, from 65,287 in 2017 to 67,182 in 2018 indicating that 1,895 more residents entered the local labor force.

At the time of report preparation, the most current county-level unemployment rates are for October 2019. Incorporating these data, the Wenatchee MSA's CLF has expanded year over year in 27 of the past 28 months (July 2017 through October 2019), contracting by a marginal 0.2 percent only between July 2018 and July 2019. Between October 2018 and October 2019, the CLF increased 1.6 percent (meaning there were 1,090 more residents in the labor force this October than in October 2018). However, during this timeframe, the number of unemployed Chelan and Douglas residents increased at a more rapid 10.3 percent rate. Hence, the unemployment rate rose from 3.8 percent in October 2018 to 4.2 percent in October 2019. In fact, across the Wenatchee MSA, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates have crept upwards during each of the past eleven months (December 2018 through October 2019) – certainly not encouraging economic indicators.

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA

Industry employment

Current industry employment statistics are available on the *Labor area summaries* page on ESD's labor market information website.

The analysis in the first part of this section is derived primarily from Current Employment Statistics (CES) data. One advantage of these data is that the employment information is updated monthly using CES employment estimates. However, estimates are nonfarm related, (i.e., they do not include agricultural employment figures). In addition, these data combine employment figures for Chelan and Douglas counties into the two-county Wenatchee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

The analysis in the second part of this section are derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) program, conducted by the ESD. It takes a little longer to acquire QCEW data, but it is more detailed than CES data and it provides employment, wage and size of firm figures down to the county level. QCEW data include agricultural and nonfarm employment and wages for firms, organizations and individuals whose employees are covered by the Washington State Employment Security Act. Also included are data for federal government agencies covered by Title 5, U.S.C. 85. Covered employment generally exceeds 85 percent of total employment in the state of Washington. Types of jobs not covered under the unemployment compensation system, and hence not included in QCEW data, include casual laborers not performing duties in the course of the employer's trade or business such as:

- Railroad personnel
- Newspaper delivery people
- Insurance or real estate agents paid on a commission basis only
- Non-covered employees working for parochial schools, religious or non-profit organizations
- Employees of sheltered workshops
- Inmates working in penal institutions
- Non-covered corporate officers

Analysis using CES data:

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) announced that the national recession occurred from December 2007 through June 2009. However, in the Wenatchee MSA nonfarm employment "peaked" at a pre-recession high of 40,200 jobs in 2008 with the effects of the recession (i.e., job losses) being felt in 2009 and 2010. The "trough" of the recession occurred in 2010 when nonfarm employment in Chelan and Douglas counties (the Wenatchee MSA) sank to an average of 38,100 jobs. It then took six years, from 2009 until 2014 (inclusive), for the Wenatchee MSA economy to regain and surpass the 40,200-job level of calendar year 2008. It did so in 2014 when the Wenatchee MSA nonfarm market averaged 40,600 jobs. Since this low point of 38,100 jobs in 2010, the local economy has expanded for the past eight consecutive years (from 2011 through 2018, inclusive). By 2018, nonfarm employment averaged 46,200 jobs, an all-time high for the Wenatchee MSA.

Following is a summary of average annual nonfarm job changes in the Wenatchee MSA in the last three completed years (2016 to 2018, inclusive):

 In 2016 – The MSA's nonfarm labor market averaged 44,200 jobs, a 3.0 percent growth rate and a 1,300-job expansion over 2015. Washington's economy expanded at a slightly faster 3.1 percent clip in 2016. The industry that generated the most new jobs in 2016 in the Wenatchee MSA was leisure and hospitality which netted 500 more jobs in 2016 (6,600 jobs) than in 2015 (6,100 jobs). The industry that lost the most jobs was manufacturing, which averaged 2,500 jobs in

- 2016, a 6.5 percent downturn from the 2,700 jobs tallied in 2015. Idling of Alcoa's aluminum smelter in Malaga in January 2016 was the primary reason for this manufacturing downturn.
- In 2017 The Wenatchee MSA's nonfarm economy averaged 44,900 jobs, a modest 1.6 percent and 700-job increase less robust than the 2.4 percent growth rate statewide. The main contributors to the 700-job upturn in calendar year 2017 were construction (up 200), health services (up 200) and local government (up 200).
- In 2018 The local economy had a very good year, in terms of nonfarm job growth. The MSA's labor market averaged 46,200 jobs, a 2.9 percent average annual growth rate and a 1,300-job expansion over 2017. Construction and health services were two of the "star" performers, each generating 300 new jobs in 2018. Washington's economy expanded at a respectable, but less robust 2.5 percent clip during 2018.

Analysis using QCEW data:

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is an industry classification system that groups businesses/organizations into categories or sectors based on the activities in which they are primarily engaged. There are 19 private sectors and three government sectors (for a total of 22 sectors) at the 2-digit NAICS code level within each county-level economy. One can observe much about the structure of a county's economy by quantifying and comparing the number of jobs and the percentage of jobs in these sectors by using average annual QCEW data. The most recent average annual employment data available for Chelan and Douglas counties are for 2018.

Top five Chelan County industry sectors in 2018 in terms of employment were:

Industry sector	Number of jobs	Share of employment
1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	10,609	23.5%
2. Health services	6,343	14.1%
3. Local government	5,338	11.8%
4. Accommodation and food services	4,821	10.7%
5. Retail trade	4,436	9.8%
All other industries	13,538	30.0%
Total covered employment	45,085	100%

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA, QCEW

Chelan County's covered employment of 45,085 in 2018 was nearly three-and-a-half times larger than neighboring Douglas County's covered employment of 12,934 jobs. Approximately 70 percent of all jobs in Chelan County were in five, two-digit NAICS industries or sectors (i.e., agriculture, health services, local government, accommodation and food services and retail trade) indicating that this is not a tremendously diverse economy. However, the economic structure of Chelan County is typical of the labor market structures of many agricultural-based economies (i.e., in Adams, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan and Yakima counties) throughout Central Washington.

A comparison of the top five sectors that provided the most jobs in Chelan County in 2018 with the sectors that produced the highest payrolls:

- Agriculture provided 23.5 percent of all jobs countywide, but supplied only 16.0 percent of total wage income. Why? Many jobs in agriculture are seasonal. The number of agricultural jobs (NAICS 11) rose from 10,418 in 2017 to 10,609 in 2018 across Chelan County, a 191 job and 1.8 percent employment increase. Agriculture was the sector (of all two-digit 22 NAICS sectors) which added the most jobs to the Chelan County economy in 2018. Incidentally, although ranked "number 7" in terms of total covered employment in Chelan County in 2018, construction ranked a very close second in terms of the number of jobs generated netting 190 new jobs, up 11.1 percent.
- Private health services tallied only 14.1 percent of total covered employment, but accounted for 21.5 percent of total wage income. The number of health services (NAICS 62) jobs rose from 6,169 in 2017 to 6,343 in 2018, a 174 job and 2.8 percent employment increase. In terms of employment, health services ranked as the third fastest growing Chelan County industry/sector in 2018 (behind agriculture and construction). In terms of payroll, it ranked first, pumping \$392.5 million into the Chelan County economy in 2018.
- The local government sector accounted for 11.8 percent of all jobs in Chelan County and 16.1 percent of total wage income. Local government increased by 69 jobs, rising from 5,269 in 2017 to 5,338 jobs in 2018, up a modest 1.3 percent.
- More than one in every ten jobs in Chelan County is in the accommodation and food services sector, and many of these jobs are at hotels or eating and drinking places. Accommodation and food services accounted for 10.7 percent of all jobs in Chelan County, but only 5.7 percent of total wage income, an indicator that many of these positions are part time or seasonal.
- Retail trade ranked as the fifth largest job provider in Chelan County, accounting for 9.8 percent of total covered jobs countywide in 2018, but providing only 7.2 percent of covered wage income (see the "Wages and income" section, below). Retail trade employment averaged 4,386 jobs in 2017 and 4,436 in 2018, a 1.1 percent upturn. However, job levels are likely to dip in this industry in 2019. Local brick and mortar stores appear to be "feeling the pinch" as more of their customers engage in Internet shopping.

Top five Douglas County industry sectors in 2018 in terms of employment were:

Industry sector	Number of jobs	Share of employment
1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,278	25.3%
2. Local government	1,873	14.5%
3. Retail trade	1,754	13.6%
4. Accommodation and food services	988	7.6%
5. Health services	826	6.4%
All other industries	4,215	32.6%
Total covered employment	12,934	100%

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA, QCEW

Douglas County's covered employment of 12,934 in 2018 was 28.7 percent of Chelan County's covered employment of 45,085 jobs. More than two-thirds of all jobs in Douglas County were in five, two-digit NAICS industries or sectors (i.e., agriculture, local government, retail trade, accommodation and food services and private health services) indicating that this is not a diverse economy. However, the economic structure of Douglas County is typical of the labor market structures of many agricultural-based economies (i.e., in Adams, Chelan, Grant, Okanogan and Yakima counties) throughout Central Washington.

A comparison of the top five sectors that provided the most jobs in Douglas County in 2018 with the sectors that produced the highest payrolls:

- Agriculture provided over a quarter of all covered jobs (25.3 percent) countywide but supplied only 17.4 percent of total wage income (see the "Wages and income" section, below). Why? This industry still has a relatively high proportion of seasonal jobs. The number of agricultural jobs (NAICS 11) rose slightly from 3,245 in 2017 to 3,278 in 2018 across Douglas County, a modest 33 job and 1.0 percent employment increase. Agriculture was the fourth largest job generator in Douglas County in 2018, behind construction (up 110 jobs and 18.3 percent), retail trade (up 67 jobs and 4.0 percent), and local government (up 36 jobs and 2.0 percent).
- Local government tallied 14.5 percent of total covered employment in Douglas County, but accounted for 21.1 percent (\$101.0 million) of total wage income. This sector ranked first (of all 22 two-digit NAICS sectors) in terms of payroll pumped into the Douglas County economy in 2018. Local government includes positions with local public schools (primary and secondary), public utility districts, ports, county health districts, police and fire departments, libraries, town and city government organizations, etc.
- Retail trade sector accounted for 13.6 percent of all jobs and 11.3 percent of total payroll in Douglas County. Although many "brick and mortar" stores statewide are tightening their belts because of increased competition with Internet shopping, Douglas County's retail industry had a good year in 2018. The number of part- and full-time retail trade jobs (NAICS 44-45) rose from 1,687 in 2017 to 1,754 in 2018, a 67 job and 4.0 percent uptrend. The retail trade sector (of all 22 NAICS sectors) added the second highest number of jobs (behind construction) to the Douglas County economy in calendar year 2018.
- In 2018, accommodation and food services accounted for 988 jobs (or 7.6 percent of total covered employment) in Douglas County, but only 3.9 percent of total wage income, an indicator that many of these jobs are part time or seasonal. In fact, although this sector is Douglas County's fourth largest in terms of covered employment, it is the tenth largest (of 22 industries/sectors) in terms of payroll.
- Douglas County's health services sector provided 826 jobs in 2018, 6.4 percent of total covered employment and 5.8 percent of total payroll.

For historical industry employment data, *contact an economist*.

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA, QCEW

Industry employment by age and gender

The Local Employment Dynamics (LED) database, a joint project of state employment departments and the U.S. Census Bureau, matches state employment data with federal administrative data. Among the products is industry employment by age and gender. All workers covered by state unemployment insurance data are included; federal workers and non-covered workers, such as the self-employed, are not. Data are presented by place of work, not place of residence.

Chelan County highlights – 2018

- The county's largest job holder age group was the 55+ year-olds, accounting for 26.3 percent of the workforce. This group was followed by both the 25-34 year-old group and the 35-44 year-old group whereas each accounted for 20.6 percent of Chelan County's workforce.
- Men held 49.7 percent and women held 50.3 percent of all jobs in Chelan County.
 - o Male-dominated industries included construction (83.6 percent), utilities (74.5 percent) and transportation and warehousing (72.2 percent).
 - Female-dominated industries included healthcare and social assistance (76.7 percent), finance and insurance (74.2 percent) and educational services (68.1 percent).

Douglas County highlights – 2018

- The county's largest job holder age group was the 55+ year-olds, accounting for 25.2 percent of the workforce. This group was followed by the 35-44 year-olds with 20.6 percent of workforce.
- Men held 53.4 percent and women held 46.6 percent of all jobs in Douglas County, a switch from neighboring Chelan County where women accounted for slightly more than half of the workforce.
 - Male-dominated industries included construction (82.5 percent), utilities (74.5 percent) and manufacturing (71.7 percent).
 - Female-dominated industries included healthcare and social assistance (80.9 percent), finance and insurance (74.3 percent) and educational services (70.9 percent).

Source: The Local Employment Dynamics

Wages and income

The total covered payroll in 2018 in Chelan County was approximately \$1.83 billion. The average annual wage was \$40,542 or 61.3 percent of the state average of \$66,195.

The top five Chelan County industry sectors in 2018 in terms of payrolls were:

Industry sector	Payroll	Share of payrolls
1. Health services	\$392,506.920	21.5%
2. Local government	\$294,306,361	16.1%
3. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	\$292,553,195	16.0%
4. Retail trade	\$132,116.866	7.2%
5. Wholesale trade	\$119,656,375	6.5%
All other industries	\$597,093,942	32.7%
Total covered payrolls	\$1,828,233,659	100%

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA, QCEW

In 2018, QCEW data showed that slightly more than two-thirds of all wage income (\$1.83 billion) in Chelan County was earned in five, two-digit NAICS industries or sectors of health services, local government, agriculture, retail trade and wholesale trade.

Although agriculture was clearly the top job provider in Chelan County in 2018, with 25.3 percent of total covered employment, private health services was clearly the top industry in terms of payroll. Health services tallied a \$392.5 million payroll in 2018, ranking this industry first out of 22 industries/categories in wage income. This sector (which includes jobs at doctors/dentists' offices, in a private hospital or nursing home, at a vocational rehab facility, etc.), provided more than one in every five dollars of wage income (21.5 percent) earned countywide in 2018.

The top five Douglas County industry sectors in 2018 in terms of payrolls were:

Industry sector	Payroll	Share of payrolls
1. Local government	\$100,969,996	21.1%
2. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	\$83,487,290	17.4%
3. Retail trade	\$54,307,746	11.3%
4. Construction	\$32,720,648	6.8%
5. Wholesale trade	\$28,028,940	5.9%
All other industries	\$179,476,122	37.5%
Total covered payrolls	\$478,990,742	100%

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA, QCEW

The total covered payroll in 2018 in Douglas County was approximately \$479.0 million. The average annual wage was \$37,509 or 56.7 percent of the state average of \$66,195.

Although agriculture was clearly the top job provider in Douglas County in 2018, with 25.3 percent of total covered employment, it provided only 17.4 percent of wage income. Conversely, local government tallied only 14.5 percent of total covered employment countywide in 2018 but provided 21.1 percent (\$101.0 million) of total covered payroll, ranking this industry first out of 22 industries/categories in wages. Hence, more than one in every five dollars earned in Douglas County in 2018 was earned in a local government organization (i.e., local public schools, public utility districts, public health services, police and fire departments, public libraries, etc.).

Personal income

Personal income includes earned income, investment income, and government transfer payments such as Social Security and veterans' benefits. Investment income includes income imputed from pension funds and from owning a home. Per capita personal income equals total personal income divided by the resident population.

In 2017, Chelan County's inflation adjusted per capita income was \$51,434 and Douglas County's per capita income was \$39,037. Washington's inflation adjusted per capita income was \$57,896 and the nation was \$51,640.

QuickFacts reported that median household income for the period 2013 to 2017 (in 2017 dollars) was \$54,975 for Chelan County and \$55,805 for Douglas County compared to the state at \$66,174 and the nation at \$57,652.

Chelan County's poverty rate was 10.9 percent and Douglas County's was 10.4 percent over the period 2013 to 2017. In comparison, Washington state's rate was 10.3 percent and the nation's rate was 11.8 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts.

Source: Employment Security Department/LMEA; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Population

Chelan County's population in 2018 was 77,036, growing 6.3 percent from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. The pace of growth in the county's population was less robust than the state's 12.1 percent growth rate from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. The largest city in Chelan County is Wenatchee. Other notable cities are Cashmere, Chelan and Leavenworth.

Douglas County's population in 2018 was 42,907, growing 11.7 percent from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018. The county's growth rate was a bit slower than the state's 12.1 percent growth rate during this timeframe, but it was still considerably more rapid than neighboring Chelan County's 6.3 percent rate. The largest city in Douglas County is East Wenatchee. Other noteworthy cities in Douglas County are Bridgeport and Waterville.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

Population facts

	Chelan County	Douglas County	Washington state
Population 2018	77,036	42,907	7,535,591
Population 2010	72,460	38,427	6,724,540
Percent change, 2010 to 2018	6.3%	11.7%	12.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

Age, gender and ethnicity

As of July 1, 2018, the percent of the population age 65 and older in Chelan County was 19.1 percent, and in Douglas County, it was 17.6 percent. Both counties tallied a greater proportion of residents aged 65 and up versus Washington state (15.4 percent) and the nation (16.0 percent).

As of July 1, 2018, Chelan County's (23.4 percent) and Douglas County's (25.8 percent) ratio of the population under 18 years of age were also larger than that of the state at 22.1 percent and the U.S. at 22.4 percent, respectively.

Chelan and Douglas counties each recorded between one-quarter and one-third of their total populations in 2018 as Hispanic or Latino. Specifically, the share of Hispanics was 28.3 percent in Chelan County and 32.1 percent in Douglas County, higher than the 12.9 percent statewide ratio.

Demographics

	Chelan County	Douglas County	Washington state
Population by age, 2018			
Under 5 years old	6.3%	6.6%	6.1%
Under 18 years old	23.4%	25.8%	22.1%
65 years and older	19.1%	17.6%	15.4%
Females, 2018	50.0%	49.3%	50%
Race/ethnicity, 2018			
White	93.2%	93.0%	78.9%
Black	0.9%	0.8%	4.3%
American Indian, Alaskan Native	2.1%	2.1%	1.9%
Asian	1.3%	1.1%	9.3%
Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%
Hispanic or Latino, any race	28.3%	32.1%	12.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

Educational attainment

According to the 2013 to 2017 American Community Survey (ACS), a lower percentage of adults age 25 years and older in Chelan County (82.9 percent) and in Douglas County (81.7 percent) were high school graduates or higher than in the state (90.8 percent). Correspondingly, there were fewer college graduates in these counties compared to the state. In Chelan County, 26.3 percent of residents age 25 and older held a bachelor's degree or higher while in Douglas County the share was only 18.3 percent. Conversely, in Washington, the percent of the adult population earning a bachelor's degree or higher was 34.5 percent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts

Useful links

- Chelan County data tables
- Douglas County data tables
- Chelan County home page
- Chelan and Douglas counties on ofm.wa.gov
- Chelan and Douglas counties on ChooseWashington.com
- Chelan County History
- Douglas County History
- Douglas County home page

- Chelan Douglas Trends
- North Central Washington Economic Development District
- SkillSource.org
- Self-sufficiency calculator for Washington state
- U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts
- Port of Chelan County
- Port of Douglas County
- Washington Ports
- Workforce Development Areas and WorkSource Office Directory

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