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Wage Rates

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Skamania County's wage rates reflect its rural location. The payroll cost associated with obtaining quality workers in Skamania County is lower than most regions of the United States. The Washington State Department of Employment Security reports that Skamania County's employers' labor costs, industry-by-industry generally range between 75 and 85 percent of costs in the Seattle and Portland/Vancouver metropolitan areas.

The total average annual wage for Skamania County in 2005 was \$26,806.

Average Annual Wage For Sectors

Construction and Mining	\$21,987
Manufacturing	\$36,365
Transportation & Utilities	\$33,488
Wholesale & Retail Trade	\$18,786
Accom & Food Serv	\$17,958
Services	\$26,642
Government	\$37,007

Labor Force

The County's quality of life creates a commitment to jobs among workers allowing them to locate or remain in the area. Consequently, turnover rates are significantly lower than those found elsewhere.

Historically, most jobs in Skamania County have been in timber and wood products. Although these industries have recently been negatively impacted by a variety of factors, retraining programs offered by the State have significantly

broadened the skill levels of the County's workforce.

Annual Average Industry Employment

	2005	2008 Projections
Total	2,150	2,270
Manufacturing	240	410
Construction & Mining	160	90
Trade Transport & Utilities	190	50
Accommodation & Food Serv	570	260
Services	210	560
Government	780	860

Source: State of Washington, Employment Security Department

Employment

Skamania County Labor Force and Resident Employment

	1992	November 2005
Resident Labor Force	3,550	5,130
Resident Employment	2,930	4,760
Unemployment	620	370
Rate	17.5%	7.2%

Source: State of Washington, Employment Security Department

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