

2019 Major Employers of Pierce County Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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272 Qualify as Pierce County's Major Employers

The Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County has published its 2019 Major Employers list – a list of the top employers in Pierce County, WA. This year's list identifies 272 Major Employers, each of which has 100 or more full-time equivalents (FTEs). The employers included on this year's list represent 172,415 jobs.

The growth hasn't stopped for Pierce County with major employers adding thousands of FTEs to their payrolls. Companies qualifying for the Major Employers List for the first time include Community Healthcare (503), Concentra Health Services, Inc (210), SSB Manufacturing Company (205), Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits of Washington (200), Palace Casino (156), Rickabaugh Pentecost Development (150), AHBL (132), Puyallup Nursing and Rehabilitation (130), City of Sumner (112), Avamere Health Services (108), Unifirst Corporation (104), SeaTac Packaging (100), First Student Transportation (100), McMenamins (100), Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics (100) and more.

Largest Private Employers (primary firms/non-retail)

Primary businesses are firms that export goods or services out of Tacoma-Pierce County and import new dollars into the local economy.

Health care service providers continue to be Pierce County's largest private employers. MultiCare Health System (8,264) and CHI Franciscan Health (5,862) retain their 2018 positions. Boeing (1,550), State Farm Insurance Company (1,461), Milgard Manufacturing (880), Kaiser Permanente (755), Sekisui Aerospace (AIM Aerospace) (678), Columbia Bank (658), DaVita (625), and Toray Composite Materials America (565) finished out the top 10 private employers.

Top 10 Largest Public Employers

The impact of Joint Base Lewis-McChord continues to be seen throughout Pierce County as it lands as the largest public employer on the 2019 Major Employers list with 54,000 FTEs. The State of Washington (7,745), City of Tacoma and Tacoma Public Utilities (3,653), Tacoma Public Schools (3,481), Puyallup Tribe (3,422), Pierce County Government (3,118), Puyallup School District (2,690), Bethel School District (2,565), Clover Park School District (1,680), and the U.S. Postal Service (1,336) complete the top 10 public employers.

Health Care Services

It is no secret that health care is core competency of Pierce County. Major health care employers include hospitals, specialty care, senior services, and more. Our health care major employers reported 19,742 health services FTEs and 2,092 senior services FTEs. Together, these two segments represent over 7% of all FTEs reported by this year's Major Employers List participants. MultiCare Health System (8,264) reported another employment increase, while CHI Franciscan (5,682) reported a transfer of employees into joint ventures and other branches of their organization, which shifted employment previously tracked under CHI Franciscan.

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Not new to Pierce County, but a new participant to this year's list is Community Health Care (503). Other top health services and senior services providers include Kaiser Permanente (775), Davita (625), TRA Medical Imaging (450), AACRES (467), and more.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing as whole saw steady growth in Pierce County with the big winner being aerospace manufacturing. The leaders in aerospace include Boeing (1,550), Toray Composite Materials America (565), Sekisui Aerospace (AIM Aerospace) (380), General Plastics (207), Tool Gauge (170), Cadence Aerospace (130), P&J Machining (104), and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics (102).

Manufacturers this year that experienced growth outside of aerospace include Aero Precision (320), Bradken (245), and SeaTac Packaging (100). Other firms that qualified for this year's list include: Milgard Manufacturing (880), Westrock (399), Manke Lumber (370), Belmont Cabinets (370), Concrete Technology (250), Northwest Door (250), Metagenics (200), James Hardie Building Products (180), and more.

Transportation, Trade, and Logistics

Pierce Transit (985) is keeping Pierce County moving, being the largest transportation employer in the county. Other major transit employers include Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (457), FedEx (200), Freightliner Northwest (183), and more.

Pierce County has long been a logistics and distribution hub. Major logistics employers include McLane Northwest (440), World Fuel (210), Yusen Logistics (226), Fastenal (165), Regal Logistics (139), and Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics (100). Amazon's two distribution centers (1,200) make it the largest distribution employer in the County. Other major employers in distribution are US Foods (260), Olympic Eagle Distributing (210), Gensco (200), Southern Wine & Spirits (200), U.S. Oil & Refining (Par Pacific) (197), and more.

Construction

The construction sector saw contained growth, citing Pierce County's overall growing economy. Absher Construction (354) moved into the top spot after another year of substantial growth. Northwest Cascade (291), Tucci & Sons (200), McFarland Cascade (188), Wayne's Roofing (143), and Korsmo Construction (118) follow closely behind. The Rush Companies (125) remain key players in the sector, and this year we welcome AHBL (132) to the list as they move from our Companies to Watch List. Businesses such as and Tacoma Screw Products (156) ensure reliable access to the supply chain while TrueBlue (443) connects employers to the workforce.

Note that these numbers do not include temporary construction workers who may be employed for months when mobilized for specific projects, often in succession.

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Finance and Insurance

State Farm (1,461), Regence (531), Coordinated Care (275), and Propel Insurance (155) are the County's major insurance employers.

Columbia Bank (658), headquartered in Tacoma, remains the largest bank on the list. With rampant growth in 2019, KeyBank (411) has jumped up the list becoming the second largest bank. Sound Credit Union (254), Harborstone Credit Union (252), Wells Fargo (230), Heritage Bank (196), America's Credit Union (164), J.P. Morgan Chase (151), Umpqua Bank (145) and Bank of America (100) finish out the list of Pierce County's major financial employers.

Recreation, Retail and Leisure

Rain or shine, Pierce County's recreation, gaming and hospitality provide endless entertainment options no matter the weather. The Emerald Queen Casino (2,194), Metro Parks Tacoma (547), Crystal Mountain (300), Hollander Investments (190), Rainier Guest Services (240), Mount Rainier National Park (200), and McMenamins Elk Lodge (100) provide opportunities for fun and adventure to visitors and residents alike.

Restaurants chains The RAM Restaurant & Brewery (250), Farrelli's Pizza (147), and Olive Garden Italian Kitchen (158) are the largest food service retailers with full-service restaurants.

Shop until you drop! Safeway/Albertsons (2,160) continues to lead the retail pack with Fred Meyer (1,364), Costco (1,200), Walmart (878), Target (878), Home Depot (706), and Lowe's (472) to follow. REI's retail location and distribution center (486), and O'Reilly's retail locations and distribution center (397) and Best Buy (202) represent the largest retailers with distribution centers in Pierce County. Retailers Fred Meyer, REI, and O'Reilly's have distribution centers and storefronts within Pierce County borders. Major automotive retailers include Robert Larson Automotive Group (660), Harnish Auto Family (287), and CarMax (170).

Education

Pierce County won big in education across the spectrum this year seeing thousands of jobs added to both K-12 and higher education. Eighteen public and private elementary education schools combined with two technical colleges, three community colleges and three universities reported their employment in 2019. Together, the Pierce County talent pipeline grew by 21,018 FTEs and make up over 12% of our total Major Employers. Elementary education's growth can be attributed to the State of Washington Legislative changes that added funding to many of our school districts.

Mid-sized Companies

Dozens of the businesses responding to the survey had fewer than 100 FTEs, our cutoff for major employers. These firms are important players in our economy and employ thousands of people across all industries, from aerospace manufacturing to technology services, from non-profits to logistics companies.

While we were not able to capture responses from every mid-sized company, those who reported are examples of hundreds of similarly sized businesses in Pierce County. We have shared these very important members of our business community on our Companies to Watch List and invite all our mid-sized businesses to participate next year.

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Top 10 Largest Private Employers (primary firms/non-retail)

Primary businesses are firms that export goods or services out of Tacoma-Pierce County, importing new dollars into the local economy.

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. MultiCare Health System | 6. Kaiser Permanente |
| 2. CHI Franciscan Health | 7. Sekisui Aerospace (AIM Aerospace) |
| 3. Boeing | 8. Columbia Bank |
| 4. State Farm Insurance Companies | 9. DaVita |
| 5. Milgard Manufacturing | 10. Toray Composite Materials America |

Top 10 Largest Public Employers

Pierce County is home to JBLM, the State of Washington's second-largest employer, which contributes \$9.2 billion to the local economy every year.

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| 1. Joint Base Lewis-McChord | 6. Puyallup Tribe (includes Emerald Queen Casino) |
| 2. State of Washington | 7. Puyallup School District |
| 3. City of Tacoma (includes Tacoma Public Utilities) | 8. Bethel School District |
| 4. Tacoma Public Schools | 9. Clover Park School District |
| 5. Pierce County Government | 10. United States Postal Service |

Private Employers with Significant Growth in 2019

These companies reported a 5% or greater year-over-year increase in their workforces.

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| + 78% Sekisui Aerospace (AIM Aerospace) | + 15% GetixHealth |
| + 78% Rainier Guest Services | + 15% Korsmo Construction |
| + 74% Yusen Logistics | + 14% Sound Credit Union |
| + 59% AHBL Construction | + 12% General Plastics Manufacturing |
| + 48% Mount Rainier National Park | + 10% Heritage Bank |
| + 46% Toysmith | + 10% Western Institutional Review Board (WIRB) |
| + 44% Infoblox | + 10% Continuant |
| + 41% KeyBank | + 10% Weatherly Inn |
| + 39% South Hill Operations | + 8% Harnish Auto Family |
| + 35% Light Dental Studio | + 7% McFarland Cascade/Stella Jones Corp |
| + 30% Narrow's Glen | + 7% Puyallup Tribe |
| + 29% Northwest Cascade | + 7% Pierce Transit |
| + 29% Propel Insurance | + 6% Bradken |
| + 29% Tool Gauge | + 6% Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare |
| + 28% Cardiac Study Center | + 6% J.P. Morgan Chase |
| + 19% Wilcox Farms | + 6% Tacoma Screw Products |
| + 18% Absher Construction | + 5% Cascade Eye & Skin Centers |
| + 17% Tactical Tailor | |
| + 16% Smith Fire Systems | |
| + 16% The Truss Company | |

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Methodology

- We asked companies to report their full-time equivalency (FTE), not an employee headcount.
- Companies reported in person, via phone, via email, and via online surveys.
- In cases when a company was unable to provide the FTE, we asked for a headcount and the full-time/part-time employee breakdown.
- We assumed that part-time workers average 0.5 FTE.
- When retail and food service companies reported a headcount, we assumed that half of the employee count is comprised of part-time workers and calculated those at 0.5 FTE.
- Estimated FTEs are based on industry averages where indicated by the “‡” symbol.
- We do not calculate year-to-year comparisons for companies that do not report in consecutive years, nor for those whose figures are based on industry averages.

About the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County

Founded in 1978 as a private nonprofit, the EDB focuses its work on recruiting new primary firms to Pierce County, retaining those that are here, and helping all of them expand. The EDB supports companies to create new jobs and to grow the economy of the South Sound and Washington State. In the past two decades, the EDB has worked with companies that have made over \$1.6 billion in capital investments and created over 25,000 jobs. edbTacomaPierce.org

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