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**Seattle** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)) is a West Coast [seaport](/wiki/Seaport) city and the [seat](/wiki/County_seat) of [King County](/wiki/King_County,_Washington). With an estimated 684,451 residents [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of),[[1]](#cite_note-1) Seattle is the largest city in both the [state](/wiki/U.S._state) of [Washington](/wiki/Washington_(state)) and the [Pacific Northwest](/wiki/Pacific_Northwest) region of North America. In July 2013 it was the fastest-growing major city in the United States,[[2]](#cite_note-2) and remained in the top five in May 2015 with an annual growth rate of 2.1%.[[3]](#cite_note-3) The [Seattle metropolitan area](/wiki/Seattle_metropolitan_area) of around 3.7 million inhabitants is the [15th largest metropolitan area](/wiki/Table_of_United_States_Metropolitan_Statistical_Areas) in the United States.<ref name=metro\_population>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The city is situated on an [isthmus](/wiki/Isthmus) between [Puget Sound](/wiki/Puget_Sound) (an inlet of the Pacific Ocean) and [Lake Washington](/wiki/Lake_Washington), about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) south of the [Canada–United States border](/wiki/Canada–United_States_border). A major gateway for trade with Asia, Seattle is the third largest port in North America in terms of container handling [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[4]](#cite_note-4) The Seattle area was previously inhabited by [Native Americans](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) for at least 4,000 years before the first permanent European settlers.<ref name=Discovery\_Park>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> [Arthur A. Denny](/wiki/Arthur_A._Denny) and his group of travelers, subsequently known as the [Denny Party](/wiki/Denny_Party), arrived from Illinois via Portland, Oregon on the schooner *Exact* at Alki Point on November 13, 1851.[[5]](#cite_note-5) The settlement was moved to the eastern shore of Elliott Bay and named "Seattle" in 1852, after [Chief Si'ahl](/wiki/Chief_Seattle) of the local [Duwamish](/wiki/Duwamish_tribe) and [Suquamish](/wiki/Suquamish_tribe) tribes.

Logging was Seattle's first major industry, but by the late 19th century the city had become a commercial and shipbuilding center as a gateway to [Alaska](/wiki/Alaska) during the [Klondike Gold Rush](/wiki/Klondike_Gold_Rush). By 1910, Seattle was one of the 25 largest cities in the country.[[6]](#cite_note-6) However, the [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression) severely damaged the city's economy. Growth returned during and after World War II, due partially to the local [Boeing](/wiki/Boeing) company, which established Seattle as a center for aircraft manufacturing. The Seattle area developed as a technology center beginning in the 1980s, with companies like [Microsoft](/wiki/Microsoft) becoming established in the region. In 1994, the Internet retail giant [Amazon](/wiki/Amazon.com) was founded in Seattle. The stream of new software, biotechnology, and Internet companies led to an economic revival, which increased the city's population by almost 50,000 between 1990 and 2000.

Seattle has a noteworthy musical history. From 1918 to 1951, nearly two dozen jazz nightclubs existed along Jackson Street, from the current Chinatown/International District, to the Central District. The jazz scene developed the early careers of [Ray Charles](/wiki/Ray_Charles), [Quincy Jones](/wiki/Quincy_Jones), [Ernestine Anderson](/wiki/Ernestine_Anderson) and others. Seattle is also the birthplace of rock musician [Jimi Hendrix](/wiki/Jimi_Hendrix) and the [alternative rock](/wiki/Alternative_rock) sub-genre [grunge](/wiki/Grunge).<ref name=Seattle\_Sound>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

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### Founding[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Archaeological excavations suggest that Native Americans have inhabited the Seattle area for at least 4,000 years.<ref name=Discovery\_Park/> By the time the first European settlers arrived, the people (subsequently called the [Duwamish tribe](/wiki/Duwamish_tribe)) occupied at least seventeen villages in the areas around [Elliott Bay](/wiki/Elliott_Bay).[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9) The first European to visit the Seattle area was [George Vancouver](/wiki/George_Vancouver), in May 1792 during his [1791–95 expedition](/wiki/Vancouver_Expedition) to chart the [Pacific Northwest](/wiki/Pacific_Northwest).<ref name=Vancouver1801>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:General_history,_Alaska_Yukon_Pacific_Exposition,_fully_illustrated_-_meet_me_in_Seattle_1909_-_Page_70.jpg) [Battle of Seattle (1856)](/wiki/Battle_of_Seattle_(1856)) In 1851, a large party led by Luther Collins made a location on land at the mouth of the [Duwamish River](/wiki/Duwamish_River); they formally claimed it on September 14, 1851.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Thirteen days later, members of the Collins Party on the way to their claim passed three scouts of the Denny Party.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Members of the Denny Party claimed land on [Alki Point](/wiki/Alki_Point,_Seattle) on September 28, 1851.<ref name=founding>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The rest of the Denny Party set sail from [Portland](/wiki/Portland,_Oregon), Oregon and landed on Alki point during a rainstorm on November 13, 1851.<ref name=founding/>

### Duwamps 1852–1853[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

After a difficult winter, most of the Denny Party relocated across Elliott Bay and claimed land a second time at the site of present-day [Pioneer Square](/wiki/Pioneer_Square,_Seattle),<ref name=founding/> naming this new settlement *Duwamps*. Charles Terry and John Low remained at the original landing location and reestablished their old land claim and called it "New York", but renamed "New York Alki" in April 1853, from a [Chinook](/wiki/Chinook_Jargon) word meaning, roughly, "by and by" or "someday".[[12]](#cite_note-12) For the next few years, New York Alki and Duwamps competed for dominance, but in time Alki was abandoned and its residents moved across the bay to join the rest of the settlers.[[13]](#cite_note-13) [David Swinson "Doc" Maynard](/wiki/David_Swinson_Maynard), one of the founders of Duwamps, was the primary advocate to name the settlement after [Chief Sealth ("Seattle")](/wiki/Chief_Seattle) of the Duwamish and [Suquamish](/wiki/Suquamish) tribes.[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16)

### Incorporations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

The name "Seattle" appears on official [Washington Territory](/wiki/Washington_Territory) papers dated May 23, 1853, when the first [plats](/wiki/Plat) for the village were filed. In 1855, nominal land settlements were established. On January 14, 1865, the Legislature of Territorial Washington incorporated the Town of Seattle with a [board of trustees](/wiki/Trustee_model_of_representation) managing the city. The town of Seattle was disincorporated January 18, 1867 and remained a mere precinct of King County until late 1869, when a new petition was filed and the city was re-incorporated December 2, 1869 with a [Mayor-council government](/wiki/Mayor-council_government).<ref name=founding/>[[17]](#cite_note-17) The corporate seal of the City of Seattle carries the date "1869" and a likeness of Chief Sealth in left profile.[[18]](#cite_note-18)

### Timber town[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|Seattle's first](/wiki/File:Seattle_-_Occidental_and_Yesler_-_1884.jpg) [streetcar](/wiki/Streetcar), at the corner of Occidental and Yesler, 1884. All of the buildings visible in this picture were destroyed by fire five years later. Seattle has a history of boom-and-bust cycles, like many other cities near areas of extensive natural and mineral resources. Seattle has risen several times economically, then gone into precipitous decline, but it has typically used those periods to rebuild solid infrastructure.<ref name=shear> [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal) Author has granted blanket permission for material from that paper to be reused in Wikipedia. Now at [s:Seattle: Booms and Busts](/wiki/S:Seattle:_Booms_and_Busts).</ref>

The first such boom, covering the early years of the city, rode on the lumber industry. (During this period the road now known as [Yesler Way](/wiki/Yesler_Way) won the nickname "Skid Road", supposedly after the timber skidding down the hill to [Henry Yesler's](/wiki/Henry_Yesler) sawmill. The later dereliction of the area may be a possible origin for the term which later entered the wider American lexicon as [*Skid Row*](/wiki/Skid_Row).)<ref name=yesler> [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) </ref> Like much of the American West, Seattle saw numerous conflicts between [labor](/wiki/Working_class) and [management](/wiki/Capitalism), as well as ethnic tensions that culminated in the [anti-Chinese riots of 1885–1886](/wiki/History_of_Seattle_before_1900#Relations_between_whites_and_Chinese).[[19]](#cite_note-19) This violence originated with unemployed whites who were determined to drive the Chinese from Seattle (anti-Chinese riots also occurred in [Tacoma](/wiki/Tacoma)). In 1900, Asians were 4.2% of the population.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Authorities declared martial law and federal troops arrived to put down the disorder.

Seattle achieved sufficient economic success that when the [Great Seattle Fire](/wiki/Great_Seattle_Fire) of 1889 destroyed the central business district, a far grander city-center rapidly emerged in its place.<ref name=fire> [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) </ref> Finance company [Washington Mutual](/wiki/Washington_Mutual), for example, was founded in the immediate wake of the fire.<ref name=Klondike-foundings> [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) </ref> However, the [Panic of 1893](/wiki/Panic_of_1893) hit Seattle hard.[[21]](#cite_note-21)

### Gold Rush, World War I, and the Great Depression[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|right|The](/wiki/File:Alaska_Yukon_Pacific_Exposition_-_Rainier_Vista.jpg) [Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition](/wiki/Alaska-Yukon-Pacific_Exposition) had just over 3.7 million visitors during its 138-day run[[22]](#cite_note-22)

The second and most dramatic boom and bust resulted from the Klondike Gold Rush, which ended the depression that had begun with the Panic of 1893; in a short time, Seattle became a major transportation center. On July 14, 1897, the *S.S. Portland* docked with its famed "ton of gold", and Seattle became the main transport and supply point for the miners in Alaska and the Yukon. Few of those working men found lasting wealth, however; it was Seattle's business of clothing the miners and feeding them salmon that panned out in the long run. Along with Seattle, other cities like [Everett](/wiki/Everett,_Washington), [Tacoma](/wiki/Tacoma,_Washington), [Port Townsend](/wiki/Port_Townsend,_Washington), [Bremerton](/wiki/Bremerton,_Washington), and [Olympia](/wiki/Olympia,_Washington), all in the Puget Sound region, became competitors for exchange, rather than [mother lodes](/wiki/Mother_lode) for extraction, of precious metals.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The boom lasted well into the early part of the 20th century and funded many new Seattle companies and products. In 1907, 19-year-old [James E. Casey](/wiki/James_E._Casey) borrowed $100 from a friend and founded the [American Messenger Company](/wiki/American_Messenger_Company) (later [UPS](/wiki/United_Parcel_Service)). Other Seattle companies founded during this period include [Nordstrom](/wiki/Nordstrom) and [Eddie Bauer](/wiki/Eddie_Bauer).[[24]](#cite_note-24) Seattle brought in the [Olmsted Brothers](/wiki/Olmsted_Brothers) landscape architecture firm to design a system of parks and boulevards.[[25]](#cite_note-25) [thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:Pioneer_square.jpg)[Pioneer Square](/wiki/Pioneer_Square,_Seattle) in 1917 featuring the [Smith Tower](/wiki/Smith_Tower), the [Seattle Hotel](/wiki/Seattle_Hotel) and to the left the [Pioneer Building](/wiki/Pioneer_Building_(Seattle,_Washington)) The Gold Rush era culminated in the [Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition](/wiki/Alaska-Yukon-Pacific_Exposition) of 1909, which is largely responsible for the layout of today's [University of Washington](/wiki/University_of_Washington) campus.<ref name=aypexpo>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

A shipbuilding boom in the early part of the 20th century became massive during World War I, making Seattle somewhat of a company town; the subsequent retrenchment led to the [Seattle General Strike of 1919](/wiki/Seattle_General_Strike), the first [general strike](/wiki/General_strike) in the country.<ref name=generalstrike>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> A 1912 city development plan by [Virgil Bogue](/wiki/Virgil_Bogue) went largely unused. Seattle was mildly prosperous in the 1920s but was particularly hard hit in the Great Depression, experiencing some of the country's harshest labor strife in that era. Violence during the [Maritime Strike of 1934](/wiki/Maritime_Strike_of_1934) cost Seattle much of its maritime traffic, which was rerouted to the [Port of Los Angeles](/wiki/Port_of_Los_Angeles).[[26]](#cite_note-26) Seattle was also the home base of impresario [Alexander Pantages](/wiki/Alexander_Pantages) who, starting in 1902, opened a number of theaters in the city exhibiting [vaudeville](/wiki/Vaudeville) acts and silent movies. His activities soon expanded, and the thrifty Greek went on and became one of America's greatest theater and movie tycoons. Between Pantages and his rival [John Considine](/wiki/John_Considine_(Seattle)), Seattle was for a while the western United States' vaudeville mecca. [B. Marcus Priteca](/wiki/B._Marcus_Priteca), the [Scottish](/wiki/Scotland)-born and Seattle-based architect, built several theaters for Pantages, including some in Seattle. The theaters he built for Pantages in Seattle have been either demolished or converted to other uses, but many other theaters survive in other cities of the U.S., often retaining the *Pantages* name; Seattle's surviving [Paramount Theatre](/wiki/Paramount_Theatre_(Seattle)), on which he collaborated, was not a Pantages theater. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Post-war years: aircraft and software[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|upright|Building the](/wiki/File:Seattle_Monorail_under_construction_-_1961.jpg) [Seattle Center Monorail](/wiki/Seattle_Center_Monorail), 1961. Looking north up Fifth Avenue from Virginia Street. War work again brought local prosperity during World War II, this time centered on Boeing aircraft. The war dispersed the city's numerous Japanese-American businessmen due to the [Japanese American internment](/wiki/Japanese_American_internment). After the war, the local economy dipped. It rose again with Boeing's growing dominance in the commercial [airliner](/wiki/Airliner) market.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Seattle celebrated its restored prosperity and made a bid for world recognition with the [Century 21 Exposition](/wiki/Century_21_Exposition), the [1962 World's Fair](/wiki/1962_World's_Fair).<ref name=worldsfair>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Another major local economic downturn was in the late 1960s and early 1970s, at a time when Boeing was heavily affected by the [oil crises](/wiki/1970s_energy_crisis), loss of Government contracts, and costs and delays associated with the [Boeing 747](/wiki/Boeing_747). Many people left the area to look for work elsewhere, and two local real estate agents put up a billboard reading "Will the last person leaving Seattle – Turn out the lights."[[28]](#cite_note-28) Seattle remained the corporate headquarters of Boeing until 2001, when the company separated its headquarters from its major production facilities; the headquarters were moved to Chicago.[[29]](#cite_note-29) The Seattle area is still home to Boeing's [Renton narrow-body plant](/wiki/Boeing_Renton_Factory) (where the [707](/wiki/Boeing_707), [720](/wiki/Boeing_720), [727](/wiki/Boeing_727), and [757](/wiki/Boeing_757) were assembled, and the [737](/wiki/Boeing_737) is assembled today) and [Everett wide-body plant](/wiki/Boeing_Everett_Factory) (assembly plant for the [747](/wiki/Boeing_747), [767](/wiki/Boeing_767), [777](/wiki/Boeing_777), and [787](/wiki/Boeing_787)). The company's [credit union](/wiki/Credit_union) for employees, [BECU](/wiki/BECU), remains based in the Seattle area, though it is now open to all residents of Washington.

As prosperity began to return in the 1980s, the city was stunned by the [Wah Mee massacre](/wiki/Wah_Mee_massacre) in 1983, when 13 people were killed in an illegal gambling club in the [International District, Seattle's](/wiki/International_District,_Seattle) [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown).[[30]](#cite_note-30) Beginning with [Microsoft's](/wiki/Microsoft) 1979 move from [Albuquerque](/wiki/Albuquerque,_New_Mexico), New Mexico to nearby [Bellevue, Washington](/wiki/Bellevue,_Washington),[[31]](#cite_note-31) Seattle and its suburbs became home to a number of technology companies including [Amazon.com](/wiki/Amazon.com), [RealNetworks](/wiki/RealNetworks), [Nintendo](/wiki/Nintendo) of America, McCaw Cellular (now part of [AT&T Mobility](/wiki/AT&T_Mobility)), VoiceStream (now [T-Mobile](/wiki/T-Mobile_US)), and [biomedical](/wiki/Biomedical) corporations such as HeartStream (later purchased by [Philips](/wiki/Philips)), Heart Technologies (later purchased by [Boston Scientific](/wiki/Boston_Scientific)), Physio-Control (later purchased by [Medtronic](/wiki/Medtronic)), [ZymoGenetics](/wiki/ZymoGenetics), ICOS (later purchased by [Eli Lilly and Company](/wiki/Eli_Lilly_and_Company)) and Immunex (later purchased by [Amgen](/wiki/Amgen)). This success brought an influx of new residents with a population increase within city limits of almost 50,000 between 1990 and 2000,<ref name=pophistory>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and saw Seattle's real estate become some of the most expensive in the country.[[32]](#cite_note-32) In 1993, the movie [Sleepless in Seattle](/wiki/Sleepless_in_Seattle) brought the city further national attention.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Many of the Seattle area's tech companies remained relatively strong, but the frenzied [dot-com boom](/wiki/Dot-com_bubble) years ended in early 2001.[[34]](#cite_note-34)[[35]](#cite_note-35) Seattle in this period attracted widespread attention as home to these many companies, but also by hosting the 1990 [Goodwill Games](/wiki/Goodwill_Games)<ref name=goodwillgames>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and the [APEC](/wiki/APEC) leaders conference in 1993, as well as through the worldwide popularity of [grunge](/wiki/Grunge), a sound that had developed in Seattle's independent music scene.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Another bid for worldwide attention—hosting the [World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference of 1999](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization_Ministerial_Conference_of_1999)—garnered visibility, but not in the way its sponsors desired, as [related protest activity](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization_Ministerial_Conference_of_1999_protest_activity) and police reactions to those protests overshadowed the conference itself.<ref name=wto>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The city was further shaken by the [Mardi Gras Riots](/wiki/Seattle_Mardi_Gras_Riots) in 2001, and then literally shaken the following day by the [Nisqually earthquake](/wiki/2001_Nisqually_earthquake).[[37]](#cite_note-37) Yet another boom began as the city emerged from the [Great Recession](/wiki/Great_Recession). Amazon.com moved its headquarters from North [Beacon Hill](/wiki/Beacon_Hill,_Seattle) to [South Lake Union](/wiki/South_Lake_Union,_Seattle) and began a rapid expansion. For the five years beginning in 2010, Seattle gained an average of 14,511 residents per year, with the growth strongly skewed toward the center of the city,[[38]](#cite_note-38) as unemployment dropped from roughly 9 percent to 3.6 percent.<ref name=pi-slu-boom>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> The city has found itself "bursting at the seams", with over 45,000 households spending more than half their income on housing and at least 2,800 people homeless, and with the country's sixth-worst rush hour traffic.[[39]](#cite_note-39)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

With a land area of 83.9 square miles,[[40]](#cite_note-40) Seattle is the northernmost city with at least 500,000 people in the United States, farther north than Canadian cities such as Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, at about the same latitude as Salzburg, Austria.

The topography of Seattle is hilly. The city lies on several hills, including Capitol Hill, First Hill, West Seattle, Beacon Hill, Magnolia, Denny Hill, and Queen Anne. The Kitsap and the Olympic peninsulas along with the Olympic mountains lie to the west of Puget Sound, while the Cascade Range and Lake Sammamish lie to the east of Lake Washington. The city has over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of parkland.

### Cityscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

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### Topography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|alt=Aerial view of downtown Seattle.|](/wiki/File:Seattle_07752.JPG)[Downtown Seattle](/wiki/Downtown_Seattle) is bounded by Elliott Bay (lower left), Broadway (from upper left to lower right), South Dearborn Street (lower right), and Denny Way (upper left, obscured by clouds).

Seattle is located between the saltwater Puget Sound (an arm of the Pacific Ocean) to the west and Lake Washington to the east. The city's chief harbor, Elliott Bay, is part of Puget Sound, which makes the city an oceanic port. To the west, beyond Puget Sound, are the [Kitsap Peninsula](/wiki/Kitsap_Peninsula) and [Olympic Mountains](/wiki/Olympic_Mountains) on the Olympic Peninsula; to the east, beyond Lake Washington and the [eastside](/wiki/Eastside_(King_County,_Washington)) suburbs, are [Lake Sammamish](/wiki/Lake_Sammamish) and the [Cascade Range](/wiki/Cascade_Range). Lake Washington's waters flow to Puget Sound through the [Lake Washington Ship Canal](/wiki/Lake_Washington_Ship_Canal) (consisting of two man-made canals, [Lake Union](/wiki/Lake_Union), and the [Hiram M. Chittenden Locks](/wiki/Hiram_M._Chittenden_Locks) at [Salmon Bay](/wiki/Salmon_Bay), ending in [Shilshole Bay](/wiki/Shilshole_Bay) on Puget Sound).

The sea, rivers, forests, lakes, and fields surrounding Seattle were once rich enough to support one of the world's few sedentary hunter-gatherer societies. The surrounding area lends itself well to sailing, skiing, bicycling, camping, and hiking year-round.[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[42]](#cite_note-42) The city itself is hilly, though not uniformly so.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Like Rome, the city is said to lie on [seven hills](/wiki/Seven_hills_of_Seattle);[[44]](#cite_note-44) the lists vary, but typically include Capitol Hill, First Hill, West Seattle, Beacon Hill, Queen Anne, Magnolia, and the former Denny Hill. The Wallingford, Mount Baker, and Crown Hill neighborhoods are technically located on hills as well. Many of the hilliest areas are near the city center, with Capitol Hill, First Hill, and Beacon Hill collectively constituting something of a ridge along an isthmus between Elliott Bay and Lake Washington.[[45]](#cite_note-45) The break in the ridge between First Hill and Beacon Hill is man-made, the result of two of the many [regrading projects](/wiki/Regrading_in_Seattle) that reshaped the topography of the city center.[[46]](#cite_note-46) The topography of the city center was also changed by the construction of a seawall and the artificial [Harbor Island](/wiki/Harbor_Island_(Seattle)) (completed 1909) at the mouth of the city's industrial [Duwamish Waterway](/wiki/Duwamish_Waterway), the terminus of the Green River. The highest point within city limits is at [High Point](/wiki/High_Point,_Seattle) in West Seattle, which is roughly located near 35th Ave SW and SW Myrtle St. Other notable hills include Crown Hill, View Ridge/Wedgwood/Bryant, Maple Leaf, Phinney Ridge, Mt. Baker Ridge and Highlands/Carkeek/Bitterlake.

[left|thumb|alt=Aerial view of Lake Union on July 4, 2011, with numerous boats gathered for the July 4th fireworks show.|Boats gather on](/wiki/File:Aerial_Lake_Union_July_4_2011.JPG) [Lake Union](/wiki/Lake_Union) in preparation for the July 4 fireworks show. North of the city center, Lake Washington Ship Canal connects Puget Sound to Lake Washington. It incorporates four natural bodies of water: [Lake Union](/wiki/Lake_Union), Salmon Bay, Portage Bay and [Union Bay](/wiki/Union_Bay_(Seattle)).

Due to its location in the [Pacific Ring of Fire](/wiki/Pacific_Ring_of_Fire), Seattle is in a major earthquake zone. On February 28, 2001, the [magnitude 6.8](/wiki/Richter_magnitude_scale) [Nisqually earthquake](/wiki/Nisqually_earthquake) did significant architectural damage, especially in the Pioneer Square area (built on [reclaimed land](/wiki/Land_reclamation), as are the Industrial District and part of the city center), but caused only one fatality.[[47]](#cite_note-47)Other strong quakes occurred on [January 26, 1700](/wiki/1700_Cascadia_earthquake) (estimated at 9 magnitude), December 14, 1872 (7.3 or 7.4),[[48]](#cite_note-48) [April 13, 1949](/wiki/1949_Olympia_earthquake) (7.1),<ref name=1949-quake>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and April 29, 1965 (6.5).<ref name=1965-quake>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The [1965 quake](/wiki/1965_Olympia_earthquake) caused three deaths in Seattle directly, and one more by heart failure.[[49]](#cite_note-49) Although the [Seattle Fault](/wiki/Seattle_Fault) passes just south of the city center, neither it[[50]](#cite_note-50) nor the [Cascadia subduction zone](/wiki/Cascadia_subduction_zone) has caused an earthquake since the city's founding. The Cascadia subduction zone poses the threat of an earthquake of magnitude 9.0 or greater, capable of seriously damaging the city and collapsing many buildings, especially in zones built on fill.[[51]](#cite_note-51) According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[52]](#cite_note-52) [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of which is land and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) water (41.16% of the total area).

### Surrounding municipalities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Geographic Location (8-way)](/wiki/Template:Geographic_Location_(8-way))

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Climate chart](/wiki/Template:Climate_chart) [245px|thumb|alt=Vew of the downtown Seattle skyline, on the waterfront, with the Seatle Aquarium on the left and Seattle Great Wheel on the right.|Downtown Seattle averages 71 completely sunny days a year, with most of those days occurring between May and September](/wiki/File:Seattle_Skyline-.jpg)[[53]](#cite_note-53)

Seattle's climate is classified as [oceanic](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) or temperate marine, with cool, wet winters and warm, relatively dry summers. Like much of the [Pacific Northwest](/wiki/Pacific_Northwest), according to the [Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) it has a warm-summer [Mediterranean climate](/wiki/Mediterranean_climate) (*Csb*).[[54]](#cite_note-54)Other climate classification systems, such as [Trewartha](/wiki/Trewartha_climate_classification), place it in the Oceanic zone (*Do*), like much of Western Europe.[[55]](#cite_note-55) The city and environs are part of USDA [hardiness zone](/wiki/Hardiness_zone) 8b, with isolated coastal pockets falling under 9a.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Hot temperature extremes are enhanced by dry, compressed wind from the west slopes of the Cascades,[[57]](#cite_note-57) while cold temperatures are generated mainly from the [Fraser Valley](/wiki/Fraser_Valley) in [British Columbia](/wiki/British_Columbia).[[58]](#cite_note-58) Temperature extremes are moderated by the adjacent Puget Sound, greater Pacific Ocean, and Lake Washington. The region is largely shielded from Pacific storms by the Olympic Mountains and from Arctic air by the Cascade Range. Despite being on the margin of the [rain shadow](/wiki/Rain_shadow) of the Olympic Mountains, the city has a reputation for frequent rain.<ref name=rainshadow>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> This reputation stems from the frequency of light precipitation in the fall, winter, and spring. In an average year, at least [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of precipitation falls on 150 days, more than nearly all U.S. cities east of the Rocky Mountains.[[59]](#cite_note-59) It is cloudy 201 days out of the year and partly cloudy 93 days.<ref name=cloudy/> Official weather and climatic data is collected at [Seattle–Tacoma International Airport](/wiki/Seattle–Tacoma_International_Airport), located about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) south of downtown in the city of [SeaTac](/wiki/SeaTac,_Washington), which is at a higher elevation, and records more cloudy days and fewer partly cloudy days per year.<ref name=cloudy/>

From 1981 to 2010, the average annual precipitation measured at [Seattle–Tacoma International Airport](/wiki/Seattle–Tacoma_International_Airport) was 37.49 inches (952 mm). Annual precipitation has ranged from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in 1952 to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in 1950; for water year (October 1 – September 30) precipitation, the range is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in 1976–77 to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in 1996–97.<ref name = NOWData/> Due to local variations in [microclimate](/wiki/Microclimate), Seattle also receives significantly lower precipitation than some other locations west of the Cascades. Around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) to the west, the [Hoh Rain Forest](/wiki/Hoh_Rain_Forest) in [Olympic National Park](/wiki/Olympic_National_Park) on the western flank of the Olympic Mountains receives an annual average precipitation of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Sixty miles to the south of Seattle, the state capital [Olympia](/wiki/Olympia,_Washington), which is out of the Olympic Mountains' rain shadow, receives an annual average precipitation of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).<ref name = NOWData/> The city of [Bremerton](/wiki/Bremerton), about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) west of downtown Seattle, receives [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of precipitation annually.<ref name = NOWData/>

In November, Seattle averages more rainfall than any other U.S. city of more than 250,000 people; it also ranks highly in winter precipitation. Conversely, the city receives some of the lowest precipitation amounts of any large city from June to September. Seattle is one of the five rainiest major U.S. cities as measured by the number of days with precipitation, and it receives some of the lowest amounts of annual sunshine among major cities in the [lower 48 states](/wiki/Continental_United_States), along with some cities in the Northeast, Ohio and Michigan. Thunderstorms are rare,[[60]](#cite_note-60) as the city reports thunder on just seven days per year.[[61]](#cite_note-61) By comparison, [Fort Myers, Florida](/wiki/Fort_Myers,_Florida) reports thunder on 93 days per year, [Kansas City](/wiki/Kansas_City,_Missouri) on 52, and New York City on 25.

Seattle experiences its heaviest rainfall during the months of November, December and January, receiving roughly half of its annual rainfall (by volume) during this period. In late fall and early winter, atmospheric rivers (also known as "[Pineapple Express](/wiki/Pineapple_Express)" systems), strong frontal systems, and Pacific low pressure systems are common. Light rain & drizzle are the predominant forms of precipitation during the remainder of the year; for instance, on average, less than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of rain falls in July and August combined when rain is rare. On occasion, Seattle experiences somewhat more significant weather events. One such event occurred on December 2–4, 2007, when sustained [hurricane](/wiki/Hurricane)-force winds and widespread heavy rainfall associated with a strong Pineapple Express event occurred in the greater Puget Sound area and the western parts of Washington and Oregon. Precipitation totals exceeded [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in some areas with winds topping out at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) along coastal Oregon.<ref name=ncdc>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> It became the second wettest event in Seattle history when a little over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of rain fell on Seattle in a 24-hour period. Lack of adaptation to the heavy rain contributed to five deaths and widespread flooding and damage.[[62]](#cite_note-62) Autumn, winter, and early spring are frequently characterized by rain. Winters are cool and wet with December, the coolest month, averaging [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), with 28 annual days with lows that reach the freezing mark, and 2.0 days where the temperature stays at or below freezing all day;<ref name = NOWData/> the temperature rarely lowers to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).<ref name = NOWData/> Summers are sunny, dry and warm, with August, the warmest month, averaging [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and with temperatures reaching [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on 3.1 days per year, although 2011 is the most recent year to not reach 90 °F.<ref name = NOWData/> The hottest officially recorded temperature was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on July 29, 2009;[[63]](#cite_note-63) the coldest recorded temperature was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on January 31, 1950;<ref name=weather.com>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> the record cold daily maximum is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on January 14, 1950, while, conversely, the record warm daily minimum is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) the day the official record high was set.<ref name = NOWData/> The average window for freezing temperatures is November 16 through March 10, allowing a growing season of 250 days.<ref name = NOWData/>

Seattle typically receives some snowfall on an annual basis but heavy snow is rare. Average annual snowfall, as measured at Sea-Tac Airport, is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Single calendar-day snowfall of six inches or greater has occurred on only 15 days since 1948, and only once since February 17, 1990, when [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of snow officially fell at Sea-Tac airport on January 18, 2012. This moderate snow event was officially the 12th snowiest calendar day at the airport since 1948 and snowiest since November 1985.<ref name=NOWData/> Much of the city of Seattle proper received somewhat lesser snowfall accumulations. Locations to the south of Seattle received more, with Olympia and Chehalis receiving [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[64]](#cite_note-64) Another moderate snow event occurred from December 12–25, 2008, when over one foot (30 cm) of snow fell and stuck on much of the roads over those two weeks, when temperatures remained below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), causing widespread difficulties in a city not equipped for clearing snow. The largest documented [snowstorm](/wiki/Snow-storm) occurred from January 5–9, 1880, with snow drifting to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in places at the end of the snow event. From January 31 to February 2, 1916, another heavy snow event occurred with [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of snow on the ground by the time the event was over.[[65]](#cite_note-65) With official records dating to 1948, the largest single-day snowfall is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on January 13, 1950.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Seasonal snowfall has ranged from zero in 1991–92 to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in 1968–69, with trace amounts having occurred as recently as 2009–10.<ref name = NOWData/> The month of January 1950 was particularly severe, bringing [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of snow, the most of any month along with the aforementioned record cold.<ref name = NOWData/>

The [Puget Sound Convergence Zone](/wiki/Puget_Sound_Convergence_Zone) is an important feature of Seattle's weather. In the convergence zone, air arriving from the north meets air flowing in from the south. Both streams of air originate over the Pacific Ocean; airflow is split by the Olympic Mountains to Seattle's west, then reunited to the east. When the air currents meet, they are forced upward, resulting in [convection](/wiki/Convection).[[67]](#cite_note-67) Thunderstorms caused by this activity are usually weak and can occur north and south of town, but Seattle itself rarely receives more than occasional thunder and small hail showers. The [Hanukkah Eve Wind Storm](/wiki/Hanukkah_Eve_Wind_Storm_of_2006) in December 2006 is an exception that brought heavy rain and winds gusting up to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), an event that was not caused by the Puget Sound Convergence Zone and was widespread across the Pacific Northwest.

One of many exceptions to Seattle's reputation as a damp location occurs in [El Niño](/wiki/El_Niño) years, when marine weather systems track as far south as California and little precipitation falls in the Puget Sound area.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Since the region's water comes from mountain snow packs during the dry summer months, El Niño winters can not only produce substandard skiing but can result in water rationing and a shortage of hydroelectric power the following summer.[[69]](#cite_note-69) [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

[Template:Seattle weatherbox](/wiki/Template:Seattle_weatherbox)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:US Census population](/wiki/Template:US_Census_population)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Racial composition** | **2010**[**[40]**](#cite_note-40) | **1990**[**[20]**](#cite_note-20) | **1970**[**[20]**](#cite_note-20) | **1940**[**[20]**](#cite_note-20) |
| [White](/wiki/White_American) | 69.5% | 75.3% | 87.4% | 96.1% |
| —Non-Hispanic | 66.3% | 73.7% | 85.3%[[70]](#cite_note-70) | n/a |
| [Black or African American](/wiki/African_American) | 7.9% | 10.1% | 7.1% | 1.0% |
| [Hispanic or Latino](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) (of any race) | 6.6% | 3.6% | 2.0%[[70]](#cite_note-70) | n/a |
| [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American) | 13.8% | 11.8% | 4.2% | 2.8% |
| Other race | 2.4% | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| [Two or more races](/wiki/Multiracial_American) | 5.1% | n/a | n/a | n/a |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Religious composition of Seattle metro area (2014)[[71]](#cite_note-71) | | |
| **Affiliation** | **% of population** | |
| Christian | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Protestant](/wiki/Protestantism_in_the_United_States) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Catholic](/wiki/Catholicism) | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Other Christian | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Buddhist | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Hindu | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Jewish | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Other faiths | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| [Unaffiliated](/wiki/Irreligion) (religious "nones") | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| Don't know | align=right| [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |
| **Total** | [**Template:Bartable**](/wiki/Template:Bartable) |  |

According to the [2010 United States Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census), Seattle had a population of 608,660 with a racial and ethnic composition as follows:[[72]](#cite_note-72)\*[White](/wiki/White_American): 69.5% ([Non-Hispanic Whites](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_Whites): 66.3%)

* [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American): 13.8% (4.1% [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_American), 2.6% [Filipino](/wiki/Filipino_American), 2.2% [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_American), 1.3% [Japanese](/wiki/Japanese_American), 1.1% [Korean](/wiki/Korean_American), 0.8% [Indian](/wiki/Indian_American), 0.3% [Cambodian](/wiki/Cambodian_American), 0.3% [Laotian](/wiki/Laotian_American), 0.2% [Pakistanis](/wiki/Pakistani_American), 0.2% [Indonesian](/wiki/Indonesian_American), 0.2% [Thai](/wiki/Thai_American))
* [Black or African American](/wiki/African_American): 7.9%
* [Hispanic or Latino](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) (of any race): 6.6% (4.1% [Mexican](/wiki/Mexican_American), 0.3% [Puerto Rican](/wiki/Puerto_Rican_American), 0.2% [Guatemalan](/wiki/Guatemalan_American), 0.2% [Salvadoran](/wiki/Salvadoran_American), 0.2% [Cuban](/wiki/Cuban_American))
* [American Indian and Alaska Native](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States): 0.8%
* [Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander](/wiki/Pacific_Islander_American): 0.4%
* Other race: 2.4%
* [Two or more races](/wiki/Multiracial_American): 5.1%

Seattle's population historically has been predominantly white.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The 2010 census showed that Seattle was one of the whitest big cities in the country, although its proportion of white residents has been gradually declining.[[73]](#cite_note-73) In 1960, whites comprised 91.6% of the city's population,[[20]](#cite_note-20) while in 2010 they comprised 69.5%.[[72]](#cite_note-72)<ref name=c2010>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> According to the 2006–2008 [American Community Survey](/wiki/American_Community_Survey), approximately 78.9% of residents over the age of five spoke only English at home. Those who spoke [Asian languages](/wiki/Languages_of_Asia) other than Indo-European languages made up 10.2% of the population, Spanish was spoken by 4.5% of the population, speakers of other [Indo-European languages](/wiki/Indo-European_languages) made up 3.9%, and speakers of other languages made up 2.5%.

Seattle's foreign-born population grew 40% between the 1990 and 2000 censuses.<ref name=brookings>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_American) population in the Seattle area has origins in [mainland China](/wiki/Mainland_China), Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, and [Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan). The earliest Chinese-Americans that came in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were almost entirely from [Guangdong Province](/wiki/Guangdong_Province). The Seattle area is also home to a large [Vietnamese](/wiki/Vietnamese_American) population of more than 55,000 residents,[[74]](#cite_note-74) as well as over 30,000 [Somali](/wiki/Somali_American) immigrants.[[75]](#cite_note-75) The Seattle-Tacoma area is also home to one of the largest [Cambodian](/wiki/Cambodian_American) communities in the United States, numbering about 19,000 Cambodian Americans,[[76]](#cite_note-76) and one of the largest [Samoan](/wiki/Samoan_American) communities in the mainland U.S., with over 15,000 people having Samoan ancestry.[[72]](#cite_note-72)<ref name=pugetsoundsamoan>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Additionally, the Seattle area had the highest percentage of self-identified mixed-race people of any large metropolitan area in the United States, according to the 2000 United States Census Bureau.[[77]](#cite_note-77) According to a 2012 [HistoryLink](/wiki/HistoryLink) study, Seattle's 98118 ZIP code (in the Columbia City neighborhood) was one of the most diverse ZIP Code Tabulation Areas in the United States.<ref name=zipcode>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

In 1999, the median income of a city household was $45,736, and the median income for a family was $62,195. Males had a median income of $40,929 versus $35,134 for females. The per capita income for the city was $30,306.<ref name=SF3>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> 11.8% of the population and 6.9% of families are below the poverty line. Of people living in poverty, 13.8% are under the age of 18 and 10.2% are 65 or older.<ref name=SF3/>

It is estimated that King County has 8,000 homeless people on any given night, and many of those live in Seattle.[[78]](#cite_note-78) In September 2005, King County adopted a "Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness", one of the near-term results of which is a shift of funding from [homeless shelter](/wiki/Homeless_shelter) beds to permanent housing.<ref name=homelessness>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

In recent years, the city has experienced steady population growth, and has been faced with the issue of accommodating more residents. In 2006, after growing by 4,000 citizens per year for the previous 16 years, regional planners expected the population of Seattle to grow by 200,000 people by 2040.[[79]](#cite_note-79) However, former mayor Greg Nickels supported plans that would increase the population by 60%, or 350,000 people, by 2040 and worked on ways to accommodate this growth while keeping Seattle's single-family housing zoning laws.[[79]](#cite_note-79) The Seattle City Council later voted to relax height limits on buildings in the greater part of Downtown, partly with the aim to increase residential density in the city centre.[[80]](#cite_note-80) As a sign of increasing inner-city growth, the downtown population crested to over 60,000 in 2009, up 77% since 1990.[[81]](#cite_note-81) Seattle also has large [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender](/wiki/LGBT) populations. According to a 2006 study by [UCLA](/wiki/University_of_California,_Los_Angeles), 12.9% of city residents polled identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. This was the second-highest proportion of any major U.S. city, behind San Francisco[[82]](#cite_note-82) Greater Seattle also ranked second among major U.S. metropolitan areas, with 6.5% of the population identifying as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.<ref name=gates\_06>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> According to 2012 estimates from the United States Census Bureau, Seattle has the highest percentage of same-sex households in the United States, at 2.6 per cent, surpassing San Francisco.[[83]](#cite_note-83) In addition, Seattle has a relatively high number of people living alone. According to the 2000 U.S. Census interim measurements of 2004, Seattle has the fifth highest proportion of single-person households nationwide among cities of 100,000 or more residents, at 40.8%.[[84]](#cite_note-84)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Wamuseattle.jpg)[Washington Mutual's](/wiki/Washington_Mutual) last headquarters, the WaMu Center, (now the [Russell Investments Center](/wiki/Russell_Investments_Center)) (center left) and its headquarters prior, Washington Mutual Tower (now the [1201 Third Avenue](/wiki/1201_Third_Avenue) Tower) (center right).

Seattle's economy is driven by a mix of older industrial companies, and "new economy" Internet and technology companies, service, design and clean technology companies. The city's gross metropolitan product was $231 billion in 2010, making it the [11th largest metropolitan economy](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_in_the_United_States_by_GMP) in the United States.[[85]](#cite_note-85)[[86]](#cite_note-86) The [Port of Seattle](/wiki/Port_of_Seattle), which also operates [Seattle–Tacoma International Airport](/wiki/Seattle–Tacoma_International_Airport), is a major gateway for trade with Asia and cruises to Alaska, and is the 8th largest port in the United States in terms of container capacity.[[87]](#cite_note-87) Though it was affected by the [Great Recession](/wiki/Great_Recession_in_the_United_States), Seattle has retained a comparatively strong economy, and remains a hotbed for start-up businesses, especially in green building and clean technologies: it was ranked as America's No. 1 "smarter city" based on its government policies and green economy.[[88]](#cite_note-88) In February 2010, the city government committed Seattle to becoming North America's first "climate neutral" city, with a goal of reaching zero net per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.[[89]](#cite_note-89) [thumb|upright|Amazon headquarters building in](/wiki/File:Amazon_headquarters_building_Seattle.jpg) [South Lake Union](/wiki/South_Lake_Union,_Seattle) Still, very large companies dominate the business landscape. Four companies on the 2013 [Fortune 500](/wiki/Fortune_500) list of the United States' largest companies, based on total revenue, are headquartered in Seattle: Internet retailer [Amazon.com](/wiki/Amazon.com) (#49), coffee chain [Starbucks](/wiki/Starbucks) (#208), department store [Nordstrom](/wiki/Nordstrom) (#227), and freight forwarder [Expeditors International of Washington](/wiki/Expeditors_International_of_Washington) (#428).<ref name=Fortune500>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Other Fortune 500 companies popularly associated with Seattle are based in nearby Puget Sound cities. Warehouse club chain [Costco](/wiki/Costco) (#22), the largest retail company in Washington, is based in [Issaquah](/wiki/Issaquah,_Washington). [Microsoft](/wiki/Microsoft) (#35) is located in [Redmond](/wiki/Redmond,_Washington). [Weyerhaeuser](/wiki/Weyerhaeuser), the forest products company (#363), is based in Federal Way. Finally, Bellevue is home to truck manufacturer [Paccar](/wiki/Paccar) (#168).<ref name=Fortune500/> Other major companies in the area include [Nintendo of America](/wiki/Nintendo_of_America) in Redmond, [T-Mobile US](/wiki/T-Mobile_US) in Bellevue, [Expedia Inc.](/wiki/Expedia_Inc.) in Bellevue and [Providence Health & Services](/wiki/Providence_Health_&_Services) — the state's largest health care system and fifth largest employer — in [Renton](/wiki/Renton,_Washington). The city has a reputation for heavy [coffee consumption](/wiki/Coffee_in_Seattle);<ref name=nyt-coffee>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> coffee companies founded or based in Seattle include Starbucks,[[90]](#cite_note-90) [Seattle's Best Coffee](/wiki/Seattle's_Best_Coffee),[[91]](#cite_note-91) and [Tully's](/wiki/Tully's_Coffee).[[92]](#cite_note-92) There are also many successful independent artisanal espresso roasters and cafés.[[93]](#cite_note-93) Prior to moving its headquarters to Chicago, aerospace manufacturer [Boeing](/wiki/Boeing) (#30) was the largest company based in Seattle. Its largest division is still headquartered in nearby Renton, and the company has large aircraft manufacturing plants in Everett and Renton, so it remains the largest private employer in the Seattle metropolitan area.[[94]](#cite_note-94) Former Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels announced a desire to spark a new economic boom driven by the [biotechnology](/wiki/Biotechnology) industry in 2006. Major redevelopment of the [South Lake Union](/wiki/South_Lake_Union,_Seattle) neighborhood is underway, in an effort to attract new and established biotech companies to the city, joining biotech companies [Corixa](/wiki/Corixa_(company)) (acquired by [GlaxoSmithKline](/wiki/GlaxoSmithKline)), Immunex (now part of Amgen), [Trubion](/wiki/Trubion), and ZymoGenetics. [Vulcan Inc.](/wiki/Vulcan_Inc.), the holding company of billionaire [Paul Allen](/wiki/Paul_Allen), is behind most of the development projects in the region. While some see the new development as an economic boon, others have criticized Nickels and the [Seattle City Council](/wiki/Seattle_City_Council) for pandering to Allen's interests at taxpayers' expense.[[95]](#cite_note-95) Also in 2006, *Expansion Magazine* ranked Seattle among the top 10 metropolitan areas in the nation for climates favorable to business expansion.[[96]](#cite_note-96) In 2005, [*Forbes*](/wiki/Forbes) ranked Seattle as the most expensive American city for buying a house based on the local income levels.<ref name=Clemence>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> In 2013, however, the magazine ranked Seattle No. 9 on its list of the Best Places for Business and Careers.[[97]](#cite_note-97) [Alaska Airlines](/wiki/Alaska_Airlines), operating a hub at Seattle–Tacoma International Airport, maintains its headquarters in the city of [SeaTac](/wiki/SeaTac,_Washington), next to the airport.[[98]](#cite_note-98) Seattle is a hub for global health with the headquarters of the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](/wiki/Bill_&_Melinda_Gates_Foundation), PATH, [Infectious Disease Research Institute](/wiki/Infectious_Disease_Research_Institute), [Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](/wiki/Fred_Hutchinson_Cancer_Research_Center) and the [Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation](/wiki/Institute_for_Health_Metrics_and_Evaluation). In 2015, the [Washington Global Health Alliance](/wiki/Washington_Global_Health_Alliance) counted 168 global health organizations in Washington state, many are headquartered in Seattle.[[99]](#cite_note-99)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:SCL.jpg)[Seattle Central Library](/wiki/Seattle_Central_Library)

### Nicknames[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

From 1869 until 1982, Seattle was known as the "Queen City".[[100]](#cite_note-100) Seattle's current official nickname is the "Emerald City", the result of a contest held in 1981;[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[102]](#cite_note-102) the reference is to the lush evergreen forests of the area. Seattle is also referred to informally as the "Gateway to Alaska" for being the nearest major city in the contiguous US to Alaska, "Rain City" for its frequent cloudy and rainy weather, and "Jet City"[[102]](#cite_note-102) from the local influence of Boeing. The city has two official slogans or mottos: "The City of Flowers", meant to encourage the planting of flowers to beautify the city, and "The City of Goodwill", adopted prior to the [1990 Goodwill Games](/wiki/1990_Goodwill_Games).[[103]](#cite_note-103) Seattle residents are known as [*Seattleites*](/wiki/List_of_people_from_Seattle).

### Performing arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|The façade of](/wiki/File:McCaw_Hall_Kreielsheimer_Promenade.JPG) [Marion Oliver McCaw Hall](/wiki/Marion_Oliver_McCaw_Hall) at [Seattle Center](/wiki/Seattle_Center), seen from Kreielsheimer Promenade, with the [Space Needle](/wiki/Space_Needle) in the background

Seattle has been a regional center for the [performing arts](/wiki/Performing_arts) for many years. The century-old [Seattle Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/Seattle_Symphony_Orchestra) is among the world's most recorded and performs primarily at [Benaroya Hall](/wiki/Benaroya_Hall).[[104]](#cite_note-104) The [Seattle Opera](/wiki/Seattle_Opera) and [Pacific Northwest Ballet](/wiki/Pacific_Northwest_Ballet), which perform at [McCaw Hall](/wiki/McCaw_Hall) (opened 2003 on the site of the former Seattle Opera House at Seattle Center), are comparably distinguished,<ref name=pnb>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>[[105]](#cite_note-105) with the Opera being particularly known for its performances of the works of [Richard Wagner](/wiki/Richard_Wagner)[[106]](#cite_note-106)[[107]](#cite_note-107) and the PNB School (founded in 1974) ranking as one of the top three ballet training institutions in the United States.[[108]](#cite_note-108) The [Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras](/wiki/Seattle_Youth_Symphony_Orchestras) (SYSO) is the largest symphonic youth organization in the United States.[[109]](#cite_note-109) The city also boasts lauded summer and winter [chamber music](/wiki/Chamber_music) festivals organized by the [Seattle Chamber Music Society](/wiki/Seattle_Chamber_Music_Society).[[110]](#cite_note-110) The [5th Avenue Theatre](/wiki/5th_Avenue_Theatre), built in 1926, stages Broadway-style musical shows[[111]](#cite_note-111) featuring both local talent and international stars.[[112]](#cite_note-112) Seattle has "around 100" theatrical production companies<ref name=Kiley-new-theater>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news) "around 100 theater companies ... Twenty-eight have some sort of [Actors' Equity](/wiki/Actors'_Equity) contract ..."</ref> and over two dozen live theatre venues, many of them associated with [fringe theatre](/wiki/Fringe_theatre);[[113]](#cite_note-113)[[114]](#cite_note-114) Seattle is probably second only to New York for number of [equity](/wiki/Actors'_Equity_Association) theaters[[115]](#cite_note-115) (28 Seattle theater companies have some sort of [Actors' Equity](/wiki/Actors'_Equity) contract).[[116]](#cite_note-116)In addition, the 900-seat [Romanesque Revival](/wiki/Romanesque_Revival_architecture) [Town Hall](/wiki/Town_Hall_Seattle) on First Hill hosts numerous cultural events, especially lectures and recitals.[[117]](#cite_note-117) [thumb|upright|right|Seattle Symphony Orchestra on stage in](/wiki/File:Seattle_Symphony_Orchestra_on_stage_in_Benaroya_Hall.jpg) [Benaroya Hall](/wiki/Benaroya_Hall) in Downtown Seattle. Benaroya has been the symphony's home since 1998.

Between 1918 and 1951, there were nearly two dozen jazz nightclubs along Jackson Street, running from the current Chinatown/International District to the Central District. The jazz scene developed the early careers of [Ray Charles](/wiki/Ray_Charles), [Quincy Jones](/wiki/Quincy_Jones), [Bumps Blackwell](/wiki/Bumps_Blackwell), [Ernestine Anderson](/wiki/Ernestine_Anderson), and others.<ref name=Seattle\_Music/>

Early popular musical acts from the Seattle/Puget Sound area include the collegiate folk group [The Brothers Four](/wiki/The_Brothers_Four), vocal group [The Fleetwoods](/wiki/The_Fleetwoods), 1960s garage rockers [The Wailers](/wiki/The_Wailers_(rock_band)) and [The Sonics](/wiki/The_Sonics), and instrumental surf group [The Ventures](/wiki/The_Ventures), some of whom are still active.<ref name=Seattle\_Music/>

Seattle is considered the home of grunge music,<ref name=Seattle\_Sound/> having produced artists such as [Nirvana](/wiki/Nirvana_(band)), [Soundgarden](/wiki/Soundgarden), [Alice in Chains](/wiki/Alice_in_Chains), [Pearl Jam](/wiki/Pearl_Jam), and [Mudhoney](/wiki/Mudhoney), all of whom reached international audiences in the early 1990s.<ref name=Seattle\_Music>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The city is also home to such varied artists as [avant-garde](/wiki/Avant-garde) [jazz](/wiki/Jazz) musicians [Bill Frisell](/wiki/Bill_Frisell) and [Wayne Horvitz](/wiki/Wayne_Horvitz), [hot jazz](/wiki/Swing_music) musician [Glenn Crytzer](/wiki/Glenn_Crytzer), [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music) artists [Sir Mix-a-Lot](/wiki/Sir_Mix-a-Lot), [Macklemore](/wiki/Macklemore), [Blue Scholars](/wiki/Blue_Scholars), and [Shabazz Palaces](/wiki/Shabazz_Palaces), [smooth jazz](/wiki/Smooth_jazz) saxophonist [Kenny G](/wiki/Kenny_G), [classic rock](/wiki/Classic_rock) staples [Heart](/wiki/Heart_(band)) and [Queensrÿche](/wiki/Queensrÿche), and alternative rock bands such as [Foo Fighters](/wiki/Foo_Fighters), [Harvey Danger](/wiki/Harvey_Danger), [The Presidents of the United States of America](/wiki/The_Presidents_of_the_United_States_of_America_(band)), [The Posies](/wiki/The_Posies), [Modest Mouse](/wiki/Modest_Mouse), [Band of Horses](/wiki/Band_of_Horses), [Death Cab for Cutie](/wiki/Death_Cab_for_Cutie), and [Fleet Foxes](/wiki/Fleet_Foxes). Rock musicians such as [Jimi Hendrix](/wiki/Jimi_Hendrix), [Duff McKagan](/wiki/Duff_McKagan), and [Nikki Sixx](/wiki/Nikki_Sixx) spent their formative years in Seattle.

The Seattle-based [Sub Pop](/wiki/Sub_Pop) record company continues to be one of the world's best-known independent/alternative music labels.<ref name=Seattle\_Music/>

Over the years, [a number of songs have been written about Seattle](/wiki/List_of_songs_about_Seattle).

Seattle annually sends a team of [spoken word](/wiki/Spoken_word) slammers to the [National Poetry Slam](/wiki/National_Poetry_Slam) and considers itself home to such performance poets as [Buddy Wakefield](/wiki/Buddy_Wakefield), two-time [Individual World Poetry Slam](/wiki/Individual_World_Poetry_Slam) Champ;[[118]](#cite_note-118) [Anis Mojgani](/wiki/Anis_Mojgani), two-time National Poetry Slam Champ;[[119]](#cite_note-119) and [Danny Sherrard](/wiki/Danny_Sherrard), 2007 National Poetry Slam Champ and 2008 Individual World Poetry Slam Champ.[[120]](#cite_note-120) Seattle also hosted the 2001 national Poetry Slam Tournament. The Seattle Poetry Festival is a biennial poetry festival that (launched first as the Poetry Circus in 1997) has featured local, regional, national, and international names in poetry.[[121]](#cite_note-121) The city also has movie houses showing both [Hollywood](/wiki/Hollywood,_Los_Angeles,_California) productions and works by [independent filmmakers](/wiki/Independent_film).[[122]](#cite_note-122) Among these, the [Seattle Cinerama](/wiki/Seattle_Cinerama) stands out as one of only three movie theaters in the world still capable of showing three-panel [Cinerama](/wiki/Cinerama) films.[[123]](#cite_note-123)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[thumb|210 cruise ship visits brought 886,039 passengers to Seattle in 2008.](/wiki/File:Seattle_Cruise_Ship.jpg)[[124]](#cite_note-124)

Among Seattle's prominent annual fairs and festivals are the 24-day [Seattle International Film Festival](/wiki/Seattle_International_Film_Festival),[[125]](#cite_note-125) Northwest Folklife over the [Memorial Day](/wiki/Memorial_Day) weekend, numerous [Seafair](/wiki/Seafair) events throughout July and August (ranging from a [Bon Odori](/wiki/Bon_Odori) celebration to the [Seafair Cup](/wiki/Seafair_Cup) [hydroplane](/wiki/Hydroplane_(boat)) races), the Bite of Seattle, one of the largest [Gay Pride](/wiki/Gay_Pride) festivals in the United States, and the art and music festival Bumbershoot, which programs music as well as other art and entertainment over the Labor Day weekend. All are typically attended by 100,000 people annually, as are the [Seattle Hempfest](/wiki/Seattle_Hempfest) and two separate [Independence Day](/wiki/Independence_Day_(United_States)) celebrations.[[126]](#cite_note-126)[[127]](#cite_note-127)[[128]](#cite_note-128)[[129]](#cite_note-129) Other significant events include numerous Native American [pow-wows](/wiki/Pow-wow), a Greek Festival hosted by [St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church](/wiki/St._Demetrios_Greek_Orthodox_Church_(Seattle)) in [Montlake](/wiki/Montlake,_Seattle), and numerous ethnic festivals (many associated with [Festál at Seattle Center](/wiki/Festál_at_Seattle_Center)).[[130]](#cite_note-130) There are other annual events, ranging from the Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair & Book Arts Show;[[131]](#cite_note-131) an [anime](/wiki/Anime) convention, [Sakura-Con](/wiki/Sakura-Con);[[132]](#cite_note-132) [Penny Arcade Expo](/wiki/Penny_Arcade_Expo), a gaming convention;[[133]](#cite_note-133) a two-day, 9,000-rider [Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic](/wiki/Seattle_to_Portland_Bicycle_Classic),[[134]](#cite_note-134) and specialized film festivals, such as the [Maelstrom International Fantastic Film Festival](/wiki/Maelstrom_International_Fantastic_Film_Festival), the [Seattle Asian American Film Festival](/wiki/Seattle_Asian_American_Film_Festival) (formerly known as the [Northwest Asian American Film Festival](/wiki/Northwest_Asian_American_Film_Festival)), Children's Film Festival Seattle, Translation: the Seattle Transgender Film Festival, the [Seattle Gay and Lesbian Film Festival](/wiki/Seattle_Gay_and_Lesbian_Film_Festival), and the [Seattle Polish Film Festival](/wiki/Seattle_Polish_Film_Festival).[[135]](#cite_note-135)[[136]](#cite_note-136) The [Henry Art Gallery](/wiki/Henry_Art_Gallery) opened in 1927, the first public art museum in Washington.[[137]](#cite_note-137) The [Seattle Art Museum](/wiki/Seattle_Art_Museum) (SAM) opened in 1933; SAM opened a museum downtown in 1991 (expanded and reopened 2007); since 1991, the 1933 building has been SAM's [Seattle Asian Art Museum](/wiki/Seattle_Asian_Art_Museum) (SAAM).[[138]](#cite_note-138) SAM also operates the [Olympic Sculpture Park](/wiki/Olympic_Sculpture_Park) (opened 2007) on the waterfront north of the downtown piers. The [Frye Art Museum](/wiki/Frye_Art_Museum) is a free museum on [First Hill](/wiki/First_Hill,_Seattle). Regional history collections are at the Loghouse Museum in Alki, [Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park](/wiki/Klondike_Gold_Rush_National_Historical_Park), the [Museum of History and Industry](/wiki/Museum_of_History_and_Industry) and the [Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture](/wiki/Burke_Museum_of_Natural_History_and_Culture). Industry collections are at the [Center for Wooden Boats](/wiki/Center_for_Wooden_Boats) and the adjacent [Northwest Seaport](/wiki/Northwest_Seaport), the [Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum](/wiki/Seattle_Metropolitan_Police_Museum), and the [Museum of Flight](/wiki/Museum_of_Flight). Regional ethnic collections include the [Nordic Heritage Museum](/wiki/Nordic_Heritage_Museum), the [Wing Luke Asian Museum](/wiki/Wing_Luke_Asian_Museum) and the [Northwest African American Museum](/wiki/Northwest_African_American_Museum). Seattle has artist-run galleries,[[139]](#cite_note-139) including 10-year veteran [Soil Art Gallery](/wiki/Soil_Art_Gallery),[[140]](#cite_note-140) and the newer Crawl Space Gallery.[[141]](#cite_note-141) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Seattle_Great_Wheel_in_October.JPG)[Seattle Great Wheel](/wiki/Seattle_Great_Wheel)The [Seattle Great Wheel](/wiki/Seattle_Great_Wheel), one of the largest [Ferris wheels](/wiki/Ferris_wheel) in the U.S., opened in June 2012 as a new, permanent attraction on the city's waterfront, at Pier 57, next to [Downtown Seattle](/wiki/Downtown_Seattle).[[142]](#cite_note-142) The city also has many [community centers](/wiki/Community_centers_in_Seattle) for recreation, including Rainier Beach, Van Asselt, Rainier, and Jefferson south of the Ship Canal and Green Lake, Laurelhurst, Loyal Heights north of the Canal, and Meadowbrook.[[143]](#cite_note-143) [Woodland Park Zoo](/wiki/Woodland_Park_Zoo) opened as a private [menagerie](/wiki/Menagerie) in 1889, but was sold to the city in 1899.[[144]](#cite_note-144) The [Seattle Aquarium](/wiki/Seattle_Aquarium) has been open on the downtown waterfront since 1977 (undergoing a renovation 2006).[[145]](#cite_note-145) The [Seattle Underground](/wiki/Seattle_Underground) Tour is an exhibit of places that existed before the Great Fire.[[146]](#cite_note-146) Since the middle 1990s, Seattle has experienced significant growth in the cruise industry, especially as a departure point for Alaska cruises. In 2008, a record total of 886,039 cruise passengers passed through the city, surpassing the number for Vancouver, BC, the other major departure point for Alaska cruises.[[147]](#cite_note-147) [right|thumb|](/wiki/File:Qwest_Field_Nighttime.jpg)[CenturyLink Field](/wiki/CenturyLink_Field), home of the [Seattle Seahawks](/wiki/Seattle_Seahawks) and [Seattle Sounders FC](/wiki/Seattle_Sounders_FC)

## Professional sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Safeco_Field,_Seattle-.jpg)[Safeco Field](/wiki/Safeco_Field), home of the [Mariners](/wiki/Seattle_Mariners)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club** | **Sport** | **League** | **Venue (capacity)** | **Founded** | **Titles** | **Record Attendance** |
| [Seattle Seahawks](/wiki/Seattle_Seahawks) | [American football](/wiki/American_football) | [NFL](/wiki/National_Football_League) | [CenturyLink Field](/wiki/CenturyLink_Field) (69,000) | 1976 | 1 | 69,005 |
| [Seattle Mariners](/wiki/Seattle_Mariners) | [Baseball](/wiki/Baseball) | [MLB](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) | [Safeco Field](/wiki/Safeco_Field) (47,574) | 1977 | 0 | 46,596 |
| [Seattle Sounders FC](/wiki/Seattle_Sounders_FC) | [Soccer](/wiki/Association_football) | [MLS](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) | CenturyLink Field (38,300 for Sounders FC matches) | 2007 | 0 | 67,385 |
| [Seattle Storm](/wiki/Seattle_Storm) | [Basketball](/wiki/Basketball) | [WNBA](/wiki/Women's_National_Basketball_Association) | [KeyArena](/wiki/KeyArena) (17,072) | 2000 | 2 | 7,486 |
| [Seattle Reign FC](/wiki/Seattle_Reign_FC) | Soccer | [NWSL](/wiki/National_Women's_Soccer_League) | [Memorial Stadium](/wiki/Memorial_Stadium_(Seattle)) (12,000; capped at 6,000 for most matches) | 2012 | 0 | 6,303[[148]](#cite_note-148) |

Seattle has three major men's [professional sports](/wiki/Professional_sports) teams: the [National Football League](/wiki/National_Football_League) (NFL)'s [Seattle Seahawks](/wiki/Seattle_Seahawks), [Major League Baseball](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) (MLB)'s [Seattle Mariners](/wiki/Seattle_Mariners), and [Major League Soccer](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) (MLS)'s [Seattle Sounders FC](/wiki/Seattle_Sounders_FC). Other professional sports teams include the [Women's National Basketball Association](/wiki/Women's_National_Basketball_Association) (WNBA)'s [Seattle Storm](/wiki/Seattle_Storm), who won the [WNBA championship](/wiki/WNBA_Finals) in [2004](/wiki/2004_WNBA_Finals) and [2010](/wiki/2010_WNBA_Finals),[[149]](#cite_note-149) and the [Seattle Reign](/wiki/Seattle_Reign) of the [National Women's Soccer League](/wiki/National_Women's_Soccer_League).

The Seahawks' [CenturyLink Field](/wiki/CenturyLink_Field) has hosted [NFL playoff](/wiki/National_Football_League_playoffs) games in [2006](/wiki/2005–06_NFL_playoffs), [2008](/wiki/2007–08_NFL_playoffs), [2011](/wiki/2010–11_NFL_playoffs), [2014](/wiki/2013–14_NFL_playoffs) and [2015](/wiki/2014–15_NFL_playoffs). The Seahawks have advanced to the [Super Bowl](/wiki/Super_Bowl) three times: [2005](/wiki/Super_Bowl_XL), [2013](/wiki/Super_Bowl_XLVIII) and [2014](/wiki/Super_Bowl_XLIX). They defeated the [Denver Broncos](/wiki/Denver_Broncos) 43-8 to win their first [Super Bowl championship](/wiki/List_of_Super_Bowl_champions) in [Super Bowl XLVIII](/wiki/Super_Bowl_XLVIII), but lost 24-28 against the [New England Patriots](/wiki/New_England_Patriots) in [Super Bowl XLIX](/wiki/Super_Bowl_XLIX). Seattle Sounders FC has played in Major League Soccer since 2009, sharing CenturyLink Field with the Seahawks, as a continuation of earlier teams in the [lower divisions of American soccer](/wiki/American_soccer_pyramid).[[150]](#cite_note-150) The Sounders have not won the [MLS Cup](/wiki/MLS_Cup) but have, however, won the [MLS Supporters' Shield](/wiki/MLS_Supporters'_Shield) in 2014[[151]](#cite_note-151) and the [Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup](/wiki/Lamar_Hunt_U.S._Open_Cup) on four occasions: [2009](/wiki/2009_Lamar_Hunt_U.S._Open_Cup), [2010](/wiki/2010_Lamar_Hunt_U.S._Open_Cup), [2011](/wiki/2011_Lamar_Hunt_U.S._Open_Cup), and [2014](/wiki/2014_Lamar_Hunt_U.S._Open_Cup).[[152]](#cite_note-152) [thumbnail|left|](/wiki/File:Soundersfcqwestfield.jpg)[CenturyLink Field](/wiki/CenturyLink_Field)

Seattle's professional sports history began at the start of the 20th century with the [PCHA's](/wiki/Pacific_Coast_Hockey_Association) [Seattle Metropolitans](/wiki/Seattle_Metropolitans), which in 1917 became the first American hockey team to win the [Stanley Cup](/wiki/Stanley_Cup).[[153]](#cite_note-153)Seattle was also home to a previous Major League Baseball franchise in 1969: the [Seattle Pilots](/wiki/Seattle_Pilots). The Pilots relocated to [Milwaukee](/wiki/Milwaukee), [Wisconsin](/wiki/Wisconsin) and became the [Milwaukee Brewers](/wiki/Milwaukee_Brewers) for the 1970 season. From 1967 to 2008 Seattle was also home to an [National Basketball Association](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) (NBA) franchise: the [Seattle SuperSonics](/wiki/Seattle_SuperSonics), who were the [1978–79 NBA champions](/wiki/1979_NBA_Finals). [The SuperSonics relocated](/wiki/Seattle_SuperSonics_relocation_to_Oklahoma_City) to [Oklahoma City](/wiki/Oklahoma_City) and became the [Oklahoma City Thunder](/wiki/Oklahoma_City_Thunder) for the [2008–09 season](/wiki/2008–09_NBA_season).[[154]](#cite_note-154)[[155]](#cite_note-155) The [Major League Baseball All-Star Game](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball_All-Star_Game) was held in Seattle twice, first at the [Kingdome](/wiki/Kingdome) in [1979](/wiki/1979_Major_League_Baseball_All-Star_Game) and again at [Safeco Field](/wiki/Safeco_Field) in [2001](/wiki/2001_Major_League_Baseball_All-Star_Game).[[156]](#cite_note-156) That same year, the Seattle Mariners tied the all-time single regular season wins record with 116 wins.[[157]](#cite_note-157) The [NBA All-Star Game](/wiki/NBA_All-Star_Game) was also held in Seattle twice: the first in [1974](/wiki/1974_NBA_All-Star_Game) at the [Seattle Center Coliseum](/wiki/Seattle_Center_Coliseum) and the second in [1987](/wiki/1987_NBA_All-Star_Game) at the Kingdome.[[158]](#cite_note-158) The [Seattle Thunderbirds](/wiki/Seattle_Thunderbirds) hockey team plays in the Canadian major-junior [Western Hockey League](/wiki/Western_Hockey_League) and are based in the Seattle suburb of [Kent](/wiki/Kent,_Washington).[[159]](#cite_note-159)Seattle also boasts a strong history in collegiate sports. The [University of Washington](/wiki/University_of_Washington) and [Seattle University](/wiki/Seattle_University) are [NCAA Division I](/wiki/NCAA_Division_I) schools. The University of Washington's athletic program, nicknamed the [Huskies](/wiki/Washington_Huskies), competes in the [Pac-12 Conference](/wiki/Pac-12_Conference), and Seattle University's athletic program, nicknamed the [Redhawks](/wiki/Seattle_Redhawks), competes in the [Western Athletic Conference](/wiki/Western_Athletic_Conference).

## Parks and recreation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:South_Lake_Union_cityscape.JPG)[Lake Union Park](/wiki/Lake_Union_Park), [South Lake Union](/wiki/South_Lake_Union,_Seattle) and downtown Seattle [thumb|right|An attraction of](/wiki/File:Greenlaketrail.jpg) [Green Lake Park](/wiki/Green_Lake_(Seattle)) is a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) trail around the lake. Seattle's mild, temperate, marine climate allows year-round outdoor recreation, including walking, cycling, hiking, skiing, snowboarding, kayaking, rock climbing, motor boating, sailing, team sports, and swimming.[[160]](#cite_note-160) In town, many people walk around [Green Lake](/wiki/Green_Lake_(Seattle)), through the forests and along the bluffs and beaches of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [Discovery Park](/wiki/Discovery_Park_(Seattle)) (the largest park in the city) in [Magnolia](/wiki/Magnolia,_Seattle), along the shores of [Myrtle Edwards Park](/wiki/Myrtle_Edwards_Park) on the Downtown waterfront, along the shoreline of Lake Washington at [Seward Park](/wiki/Seward_Park_(Seattle)), along Alki Beach in West Seattle, or along the [Burke-Gilman Trail](/wiki/Burke-Gilman_Trail).

[thumb|left|Downtown Seattle from Gas Works Park](/wiki/File:Seattle_from_Gas_Works_Park2013.jpg) [Gas Works Park](/wiki/Gas_Works_Park) features the majestic preserved [superstructure](/wiki/Superstructure) of a [coal gasification](/wiki/Coal_gasification) plant closed in 1956. Located across Lake Union from downtown, the park provides panoramic views of the Seattle skyline.

Also popular are hikes and skiing in the nearby Cascade or Olympic Mountains and kayaking and sailing in the waters of Puget Sound, the [Strait of Juan de Fuca](/wiki/Strait_of_Juan_de_Fuca), and the [Strait of Georgia](/wiki/Strait_of_Georgia). In 2005, [*Men's Fitness*](/wiki/Men's_Fitness) magazine named Seattle the [fittest](/wiki/Physical_fitness) city in the United States.<ref name=mensfitness>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

In its 2013 ParkScore ranking, [The Trust for Public Land](/wiki/Trust_for_Public_Land), reported that Seattle had the 10th best park system among the 50 most populous U.S. cities.[[161]](#cite_note-161) ParkScore ranks city park systems by a formula that analyzes acreage, access, and service and investment.

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright=1.0|The city council consists of two at large positions and seven district seats representing the areas shown.](/wiki/File:Seattle_City_Council_District_map.png) Seattle is a [charter city](/wiki/Charter_city), with a Mayor–Council form of government. From 1911 to 2013, Seattle's nine city councillors were elected at large, rather than by geographic subdivisions.<ref name=archive-chrono>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> For the 2015 election, this changed to a hybrid system of seven district members and two at large members as a result of a ballot measure passed on November 5, 2013. The only other elected offices are the [city attorney](/wiki/District_attorney) and Municipal Court judges. All city offices are technically [non-partisan](/wiki/Non-partisan_democracy).[[162]](#cite_note-162) Like most parts of the United States, government and laws are also run by a series of ballot initiatives (allowing citizens to pass or reject laws), referenda (allowing citizens to approve or reject legislation already passed), and propositions (allowing specific government agencies to propose new laws/tax increases directly to the people). Federally, Seattle is part of [Washington's 7th congressional district](/wiki/Washington's_7th_congressional_district), represented by Democrat [Jim McDermott](/wiki/Jim_McDermott), elected in 1988 and one of Congress's [liberal](/wiki/Modern_liberalism_in_the_United_States) members.[[163]](#cite_note-163) [Ed Murray](/wiki/Ed_Murray_(Washington_politician)) is currently serving as mayor.

Seattle's political culture is very liberal and [progressive](/wiki/Progressivism_in_the_United_States) for the United States, with over 80% of the population voting for the [Democratic Party](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)). All precincts in Seattle voted for Democratic Party candidate [Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama) in the [2012 presidential election](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2012).<ref name=Liberal>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> In partisan elections for the [Washington State Legislature](/wiki/Washington_State_Legislature) and [United States Congress](/wiki/United_States_Congress), nearly all elections are won by Democrats. Seattle is considered the first major American city to elect a female mayor, [Bertha Knight Landes](/wiki/Bertha_Knight_Landes).[[164]](#cite_note-164) It has also elected an openly gay mayor, Ed Murray,[[165]](#cite_note-165) and a socialist councillor, [Kshama Sawant](/wiki/Kshama_Sawant).[[166]](#cite_note-166) For the first time in United States history, an openly gay black woman was elected to public office when Sherry Harris was elected as a Seattle city councillor in 1991.[[167]](#cite_note-167)[[168]](#cite_note-168) The majority of the current city council is female, while white men comprise a minority.[[169]](#cite_note-169) Seattle is widely considered one of the most liberal cities in the United States, even surpassing its neighbor, Portland, Oregon.[[170]](#cite_note-170) Support for issues such as [same-sex marriage](/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_the_United_States) and [reproductive rights](/wiki/Reproductive_rights) are largely taken for granted in local politics. In the 2012 U.S. general election, an overwhelming majority of Seattleites voted to approve Referendum 74 and legalize gay marriage in Washington state.[[171]](#cite_note-171) In the same election, an overwhelming majority of Seattleites also voted to approve the legalization of the recreational use of [cannabis](/wiki/Cannabis_(drug)) in the state.[[172]](#cite_note-172) Like much of the [Pacific Northwest](/wiki/Pacific_Northwest) (which has the lowest rate of [church attendance](/wiki/Church_attendance) in the United States and consistently reports the highest percentage of [atheism](/wiki/Atheism)[[173]](#cite_note-173)[[174]](#cite_note-174)), church attendance, religious belief, and political influence of religious leaders are much lower than in other parts of America.[[175]](#cite_note-175) Seattle also has a thriving alternative press, with the Web-based daily [*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*](/wiki/Seattle_Post-Intelligencer), several other online dailies (including *Publicola* and [*Crosscut*](/wiki/Crosscut.com)), [*The Stranger*](/wiki/The_Stranger_(newspaper)) (an alternative, left-leaning weekly), [*Seattle Weekly*](/wiki/Seattle_Weekly), and a number of issue-focused publications, including the nation's two largest online environmental magazines, [*Worldchanging*](/wiki/Worldchanging) and [*Grist.org*](/wiki/Grist.org).

In July 2012, Seattle banned [plastic shopping bags](/wiki/Plastic_shopping_bag).[[176]](#cite_note-176) In June 2014 the city passed a [local ordinance](/wiki/Local_ordinance) to increase the [minimum wage](/wiki/Minimum_wage) to $15 an hour on a staged basis from 2015 to 2021. When fully implemented the $15 hourly rate will be the highest minimum wage in the nation.[[177]](#cite_note-177) On October 6, 2014, Seattle officially replaced Columbus Day with [Indigenous Peoples' Day](/wiki/Indigenous_Peoples'_Day), honoring Seattle's Native American community and controversies surrounding the legacy of [Christopher Columbus](/wiki/Christopher_Columbus).[[178]](#cite_note-178)[[179]](#cite_note-179)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Of the city's population over the age of 25, 53.8% (vs. a national average of 27.4%) hold a [bachelor's degree](/wiki/Bachelor's_degree) or higher, and 91.9% (vs. 84.5% nationally) have a high school diploma or [equivalent](/wiki/General_Educational_Development). A 2008 United States Census Bureau survey showed that Seattle had the highest percentage of college and university graduates of any major U.S. city.[[180]](#cite_note-180) The city was listed as the most literate of the country's 69 largest cities in 2005 and 2006, the second most literate in 2007 and the most literate in 2008 in studies conducted by [Central Connecticut State University](/wiki/Central_Connecticut_State_University).[[181]](#cite_note-181) [thumb|University of Washington Quad in spring](/wiki/File:University_of_Washington_Quad,_Spring_2007.jpg)

[Seattle Public Schools](/wiki/Seattle_Public_Schools) desegregated without a court order[[182]](#cite_note-182) but continue to struggle to achieve racial balance in a somewhat ethnically divided city (the south part of town having more ethnic minorities than the north).[[183]](#cite_note-183) In 2007, Seattle's racial tie-breaking system was struck down by the [United States Supreme Court](/wiki/United_States_Supreme_Court), but the ruling left the door open for desegregation formulae based on other indicators (e.g., income or socioeconomic class).[[184]](#cite_note-184) The public school system is supplemented by a moderate number of private schools: five of the private high schools are [Catholic](/wiki/Catholic_Church), one is [Lutheran](/wiki/Lutheranism), and six are [secular](/wiki/Secular).[[185]](#cite_note-185) Seattle is home to the [University of Washington](/wiki/University_of_Washington), as well as the institution's professional and continuing education unit, the [University of Washington Educational Outreach](/wiki/University_of_Washington_Educational_Outreach). A study by *Newsweek International* in 2006 cited the University of Washington as the twenty-second best university in the world.[[186]](#cite_note-186) Seattle also has a number of smaller private universities including [Seattle University](/wiki/Seattle_University) and [Seattle Pacific University](/wiki/Seattle_Pacific_University), the former a Jesuit Catholic institution, the latter Free Methodist; universities aimed at the working adult, like [City University](/wiki/City_University_of_Seattle) and [Antioch University](/wiki/Antioch_University); colleges within the [Seattle Colleges District](/wiki/Seattle_Colleges_District) system, comprising [North](/wiki/North_Seattle_College), [Central](/wiki/Seattle_Central_College), and [South](/wiki/South_Seattle_College); seminaries, including [Western Seminary](/wiki/Western_Seminary) and a number of arts colleges, such as [Cornish College of the Arts](/wiki/Cornish_College_of_the_Arts), [Pratt Fine Arts Center](/wiki/Pratt_Fine_Arts_Center), and [The Art Institute of Seattle](/wiki/The_Art_Institute_of_Seattle). In 2001, *Time* magazine selected Seattle Central Community College as community college of the year, stating the school "pushes diverse students to work together in small teams".[[187]](#cite_note-187)

## Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Seattle has one major daily newspaper, [*The Seattle Times*](/wiki/The_Seattle_Times). The [*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*](/wiki/Seattle_Post-Intelligencer), known as the *P-I*, published a daily newspaper from 1863 to March 17, 2009, before switching to a strictly on-line publication. There is also the [*Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce*](/wiki/Seattle_Daily_Journal_of_Commerce),[[188]](#cite_note-188) and the University of Washington publishes [*The Daily*](/wiki/The_Daily_of_the_University_of_Washington), a student-run publication, when school is in session. The most prominent weeklies are the [*Seattle Weekly*](/wiki/Seattle_Weekly) and [*The Stranger*](/wiki/The_Stranger_(newspaper)); both consider themselves ["alternative" papers](/wiki/Alternative_newspaper).[[189]](#cite_note-189) The weekly LGBT newspaper is the [*Seattle Gay News*](/wiki/Seattle_Gay_News). [*Real Change*](/wiki/Real_Change) is a weekly [street newspaper](/wiki/Street_newspaper) that is sold mainly by [homeless](/wiki/Homeless) persons as an alternative to [panhandling](/wiki/Begging). There are also several ethnic newspapers, including the [*The Facts*](/wiki/The_Facts_(Seattle)), [*Northwest Asian Weekly*](/wiki/Northwest_Asian_Weekly) and the [*International Examiner*](/wiki/International_Examiner), and numerous neighborhood newspapers.

Seattle is also well served by television and radio, with all major U.S. networks represented, along with at least five other English-language stations and two Spanish-language stations.[[190]](#cite_note-190) Seattle cable viewers also receive [CBUT](/wiki/CBUT) 2 ([CBC](/wiki/CBC_Television)) from [Vancouver](/wiki/Vancouver), British Columbia.

[Non-commercial](/wiki/Non-commercial) radio stations include [NPR](/wiki/NPR) affiliates [KUOW-FM](/wiki/KUOW-FM) 94.9 and [KPLU-FM](/wiki/KPLU-FM) 88.5 (Tacoma), as well as [classical music](/wiki/Classical_music) station [KING-FM](/wiki/KING-FM) 98.1. Other stations include [KEXP-FM](/wiki/KEXP-FM) 90.3 (affiliated with the UW), [community radio](/wiki/Community_radio) [KBCS-FM](/wiki/KBCS-FM) 91.3 (affiliated with [Bellevue College](/wiki/Bellevue_College)), and [high school radio](/wiki/High_school_radio) [KNHC-FM](/wiki/KNHC-FM) 89.5, which broadcasts an [electronic dance music](/wiki/Electronic_dance_music) [radio format](/wiki/Radio_format) and is owned by the public school system and operated by students of [Nathan Hale High School](/wiki/Nathan_Hale_High_School). Many Seattle radio stations are also available through [Internet radio](/wiki/Internet_radio), with KEXP in particular being a pioneer of Internet radio.[[191]](#cite_note-191) Seattle also has numerous commercial radio stations. In a March 2012 report by the consumer research firm [Arbitron](/wiki/Arbitron), the top FM stations were [KRWM](/wiki/KRWM) ([adult contemporary](/wiki/Adult_contemporary) format), [KIRO-FM](/wiki/KIRO-FM) ([news/talk](/wiki/News/talk)), and [KISW](/wiki/KISW) ([active rock](/wiki/Active_rock)) while the top AM stations were [KOMO (AM)](/wiki/KOMO_(AM)) ([all news](/wiki/All_news)), [KJR (AM)](/wiki/KJR_(AM)) ([all sports](/wiki/Sports_radio)), [KIRO (AM)](/wiki/KIRO_(AM)) (all sports).[[192]](#cite_note-192) Seattle-based online magazines [Worldchanging](/wiki/Worldchanging) and Grist.org were two of the "Top Green Websites" in 2007 according to TIME.[[193]](#cite_note-193) Seattle also has many online news media websites. The two largest are *The Seattle Times* and *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

## Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

### Health systems[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The University of Washington is consistently ranked among the country's top leading institutions in medical research, earning special merits for programs in neurology and neurosurgery. Seattle has seen local developments of modern paramedic services with the establishment of [Medic One](/wiki/Medic_One) in 1970.<ref name=cobb>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In 1974, a [*60 Minutes*](/wiki/60_Minutes) story on the success of the then four-year-old Medic One paramedic system called Seattle "the best place in the world to have a heart attack".[[194]](#cite_note-194) Three of Seattle's largest medical centers are located on First Hill. [Harborview Medical Center](/wiki/Harborview_Medical_Center), the public county hospital, is the only Level I [trauma hospital](/wiki/Trauma_center) in a region that includes Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho.[[195]](#cite_note-195) [Virginia Mason Medical Center](/wiki/Virginia_Mason_Medical_Center) and [Swedish Medical Center's](/wiki/Swedish_Medical_Center) two largest campuses are also located in this part of Seattle, including the [Virginia Mason Hospital](/wiki/Virginia_Mason_Hospital). This concentration of hospitals resulted in the neighborhood's nickname "Pill Hill".[[196]](#cite_note-196) Located in the [Laurelhurst](/wiki/Laurelhurst,_Seattle) neighborhood, [Seattle Children's](/wiki/Seattle_Children's), formerly [Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center](/wiki/Children's_Hospital_and_Regional_Medical_Center), is the pediatric referral center for Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho. The [Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](/wiki/Fred_Hutchinson_Cancer_Research_Center) has a campus in the Eastlake neighborhood. The University District is home to the [University of Washington Medical Center](/wiki/University_of_Washington_Medical_Center) which, along with Harborview, is operated by the University of Washington. Seattle is also served by a [Veterans Affairs](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Veterans_Affairs) hospital on [Beacon Hill](/wiki/Beacon_Hill,_Seattle), a third campus of Swedish in Ballard, and [Northwest Hospital and Medical Center](/wiki/Northwest_Hospital_and_Medical_Center) near [Northgate Mall](/wiki/Northgate_Mall_(Seattle)).

### Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|](/wiki/File:SeattleI5Skyline.jpg)[Interstate 5 in Washington](/wiki/Interstate_5_in_Washington) as it passes through downtown Seattle The first streetcars appeared in 1889 and were instrumental in the creation of a relatively well-defined downtown and strong neighborhoods at the end of their lines. The advent of the automobile sounded the death knell for rail in Seattle. Tacoma–Seattle railway service ended in 1929 and the Everett–Seattle service came to an end in 1939, replaced by inexpensive automobiles running on the recently developed highway system. Rails on city streets were paved over or removed, and the opening of the [Seattle trolleybus system](/wiki/Trolleybuses_in_Seattle) brought the end of streetcars in Seattle in 1941. This left an extensive network of privately owned buses (later public) as the only mass transit within the city and throughout the region.<ref name=interurbanrail>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

[thumb|](/wiki/File:King_County_Water_Taxi_Downtown_Seattle.jpg)[King County Water Taxi](/wiki/King_County_Water_Taxi) and downtown Seattle [King County Metro](/wiki/King_County_Metro) provides frequent stop bus service within the city and surrounding county, as well as a [South Lake Union Streetcar](/wiki/South_Lake_Union_Streetcar) line between the [South Lake Union](/wiki/South_Lake_Union,_Seattle) neighborhood and Westlake Center in downtown.<ref name=slustreetcar>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Seattle is one of the few cities in North America whose bus fleet includes electric trolleybuses. [Sound Transit](/wiki/Sound_Transit) currently provides an express bus service within the metropolitan area, two [Sounder commuter rail](/wiki/Sounder_commuter_rail) lines between the suburbs and downtown, and its [Central Link](/wiki/Central_Link) [light rail](/wiki/Light_rail) line between the University of Washington and Sea-Tac Airport. [Washington State Ferries](/wiki/Washington_State_Ferries), which manages the largest network of ferries in the United States and third largest in the world, connects Seattle to [Bainbridge](/wiki/Bainbridge_Island,_Washington) and [Vashon Islands](/wiki/Vashon,_Washington) in Puget Sound and to Bremerton and [Southworth](/wiki/Southworth,_Washington) on the Kitsap Peninsula.<ref name=ferries>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Link_trains_at_University_St_station_in_2010.jpg)[Central Link](/wiki/Central_Link) light rail trains in the [Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel](/wiki/Downtown_Seattle_Transit_Tunnel) at the [University Street Station](/wiki/University_Street_(Link_station)) According to the 2007 American Community Survey, 18.6% of Seattle residents used one of the three public transit systems that serve the city, giving it the highest transit ridership of all major cities without heavy or light rail prior to the completion of Sound Transit's Central Link line.[[197]](#cite_note-197) The city has also been described by [Bert Sperling](/wiki/Bert_Sperling) as the fourth most walkable U.S. city and by [Walk Score](/wiki/Walk_Score) as the sixth most walkable of the fifty largest U.S. cities.[[198]](#cite_note-198)[[199]](#cite_note-199) [Seattle–Tacoma International Airport](/wiki/Seattle–Tacoma_International_Airport), locally known as Sea-Tac Airport and located just south in the neighboring city of SeaTac, is operated by the Port of Seattle and provides commercial air service to destinations throughout the world. Closer to downtown, [Boeing Field](/wiki/Boeing_Field) is used for general aviation, cargo flights, and testing/delivery of Boeing airliners.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Alaskan_Way_Viaduct_Seattle_Twilight.jpg)[Alaskan Way Viaduct](/wiki/Alaskan_Way_Viaduct), port of Seattle on the right, stadium in the background The main mode of transportation, however, relies on Seattle's streets, which are laid out in a [cardinal directions](/wiki/Cardinal_direction) [grid pattern](/wiki/Grid_plan), except in the central business district where early city leaders [Arthur Denny](/wiki/Arthur_A._Denny) and [Carson Boren](/wiki/Carson_Boren) insisted on orienting their plats relative to the shoreline rather than to true North.[[200]](#cite_note-200) Only two roads, [Interstate 5](/wiki/Interstate_5_in_Washington) and [State Route 99](/wiki/Washington_State_Route_99) (both limited-access highways), run uninterrupted through the city from north to south. State Route 99 runs through downtown Seattle on the [Alaskan Way Viaduct](/wiki/Alaskan_Way_Viaduct), which was built in 1953. However, due to damage sustained during the 2001 Nisqually earthquake the viaduct will be replaced by a tunnel. The [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement tunnel](/wiki/Alaskan_Way_Viaduct_replacement_tunnel) was originally scheduled to be completed in December 2015 at a cost of US$4.25 billion. Unfortunately, due to issues with the worlds largest tunnel boring machine (TBM), which is nicknamed "Bertha" and is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in diameter, the projected date of completion has been pushed back to 2017. Seattle has the 8th worst traffic congestion of all American cities, and is 10th among all North American cities.[[201]](#cite_note-201) The city has started moving away from the automobile and towards mass transit. From 2004 to 2009, the annual number of unlinked public transportation trips increased by approximately 21%.[[202]](#cite_note-202) In 2006, voters in King County passed proposition 2 (Transit Now) which increased bus service hours on high ridership routes and paid for five [bus rapid transit](/wiki/Bus_rapid_transit) lines called [RapidRide](/wiki/RapidRide).[[203]](#cite_note-203) After rejecting a [roads and transit measure](/wiki/Roads_and_Transit) in 2007, Seattle-area voters passed a transit only measure in 2008 to increase ST Express bus service, extend the [Link Light Rail](/wiki/Link_Light_Rail) system, and expand and improve [Sounder commuter rail](/wiki/Sounder_commuter_rail) service.[[204]](#cite_note-204) A light rail line from downtown heading south to Sea-Tac Airport began service on December 19, 2009, giving the city its first rapid transit line with intermediate stations within the city limits. An extension north to the [University of Washington](/wiki/University_of_Washington) opened on March 19, 2016;[[205]](#cite_note-205) and further extensions are planned to reach [Lynnwood](/wiki/Lynnwood,_Washington) to the north, [Des Moines](/wiki/Des_Moines,_Washington) to the south, and Bellevue and Redmond to the east by 2023.[[206]](#cite_note-206)[[207]](#cite_note-207) Former mayor [Michael McGinn](/wiki/Michael_McGinn) has supported building light rail from downtown to Ballard and West Seattle.[[208]](#cite_note-208)[[209]](#cite_note-209)

### Utilities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Water and electric power are municipal services, provided by [Seattle Public Utilities](/wiki/Seattle_Public_Utilities) and [Seattle City Light](/wiki/Seattle_City_Light) respectively. Other utility companies serving Seattle include [Puget Sound Energy](/wiki/Puget_Sound_Energy) (natural gas, electricity); [Seattle Steam Company](/wiki/Seattle_Steam_Company) (steam); [Waste Management, Inc](/wiki/Waste_Management,_Inc) and CleanScapes, Inc. (curbside recycling and solid waste removal); and [CenturyLink](/wiki/CenturyLink), [Frontier Communications](/wiki/Frontier_Communications) and [Comcast](/wiki/Comcast) (telecommunications and television).

About 90% of Seattle's [electricity](/wiki/Hydroelectricity) is produced using [hydropower](/wiki/Hydropower). Less than 2% of electricity is produced using [fossil fuels](/wiki/Fossil_fuel).[[210]](#cite_note-210)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Notable people[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

## Sister cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Seattle is [partnered](/wiki/Twin_towns_and_sister_cities) with:[[211]](#cite_note-211)[Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Beersheba](/wiki/Beersheba), Israel (since 1977)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Bergen](/wiki/Bergen), Norway (since 1967)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Cebu](/wiki/Cebu_City), Philippines (since 1991)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Chongqing](/wiki/Chongqing), China (since 1983)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Christchurch](/wiki/Christchurch), New Zealand (since 1981)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Daejeon](/wiki/Daejeon), South Korea (since 1989)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Galway](/wiki/Galway), Ireland (since 1986)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Gdynia](/wiki/Gdynia), Poland (since 1993)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Haiphong](/wiki/Haiphong), Vietnam (since 1996)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Kaohsiung](/wiki/Kaohsiung), Taiwan (since 1991)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Kobe](/wiki/Kobe), Japan (since 1957)[[213]](#cite_note-213)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Limbe, Cameroon](/wiki/Limbe,_Cameroon) (since 1984)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Mazatlán](/wiki/Mazatlán), Mexico (since 1979)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Mombasa](/wiki/Mombasa), [Kenya](/wiki/Kenya) (since 1981)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Nantes](/wiki/Nantes), France (since 1980)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Pécs](/wiki/Pécs), Hungary (since 1991)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Perugia](/wiki/Perugia), Italy (since 1993)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Reykjavík](/wiki/Reykjavík), Iceland (since 1986)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Sihanoukville](/wiki/Sihanoukville_(city)), Cambodia (since 1999)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Surabaya](/wiki/Surabaya), Indonesia (since 1992)[[212]](#cite_note-212)\*[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Tashkent](/wiki/Tashkent), Uzbekistan (since 1973)[[212]](#cite_note-212)[[214]](#cite_note-214)[Template:Div col end](/wiki/Template:Div_col_end)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [National Register of Historic Places listings in Seattle, Washington](/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_Seattle,_Washington)
* [Seattle Freeze](/wiki/Seattle_Freeze)
* [Seattle process](/wiki/Seattle_process)
* [Seattle tugboats](/wiki/Seattle_tugboats)
* [Tillicum Village](/wiki/Tillicum_Village)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

### Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Notelist](/wiki/Template:Notelist)

## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* Sanders, Jeffrey Craig. *Seattle and the Roots of Urban Sustainability: Inventing Ecotopia* (University of Pittsburgh Press; 2010) 288 pages; the rise of environmental activism

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)
* [Historylink.org](http://www.historylink.org/), history of Seattle and Washington
* [Seattle Photographs from the University of Washington Digital Collections](http://content.lib.washington.edu/seattleweb/index.html)
* [Seattle Historic Photograph Collection from the Seattle Public Library](http://cdm15015.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15015coll4)
* [Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project](http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/index.htm)
* [Seattle, a National Park Service *Discover Our Shared Heritage* Travel Itinerary](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/seattle/)

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