

Washington State

The State of the Washington State ICT Sector

Dr. Joseph Williams

GOVERNOR'S INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR LEAD
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS

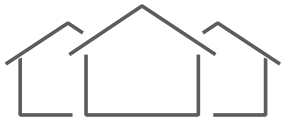
JUNE 2024



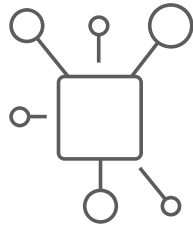
Washington State
Department of
Commerce

PSRC

We strengthen communities



**HOUSING
HOMELESSNESS**



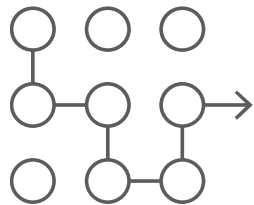
INFRASTRUCTURE



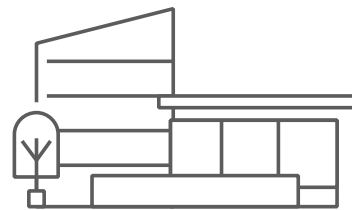
**BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE**



ENERGY



PLANNING



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



**CRIME VICTIMS &
PUBLIC SAFETY**



**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



The Texas General Land Office



About Me



2024 State of WA's ICT Sector - TOPICS

Economy

- Best estimate is that WA's tech sector employs 1.5 million people
 - 360,000 direct ICT Sector jobs
- Depending on how you count, ICT Sector is 22% of the state's economy
- Before the current rounds of layoffs, the sector had been growing 33% annually
- Currently 2,786 open ICT jobs in WA
- VCs invested almost \$8B in ICT companies last year
- King County still the hub of the ICT Sector, balance may be shifting to the east side of Lake Washington
- Hot topics: AI, Quantum, Cyber, Cloud
- The ICT Sector strongly supports Aerospace, Healthcare, Maritime, Clean Tech, Creative sectors
- Despite the loss of TechStars, still a good place for startups

Workforce

- State is a net importer of talent
- Big recruiting problems:
 - Housing
 - Childcare
 - Schools
 - Crime
 - Affordable parental care options
 - H1B restrictions
- Big recruiting pluses:
 - Lifestyle
 - Area is rich in job options
 - Strong support of diverse immigrant communities
 - UW CSE has a global reputation
 - Access to healthcare
- Unknowns
 - WFH versus WFO
 - Non-competes
 - Competition from other states

Focus areas

- Semiconductors
- Blockchain / Web 3
- Quantum computing
- AI
- Cybersecurity



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ICT SECTOR LEAD

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<https://choosewashingtonstate.com/why-washington/our-key-sectors/ict/>