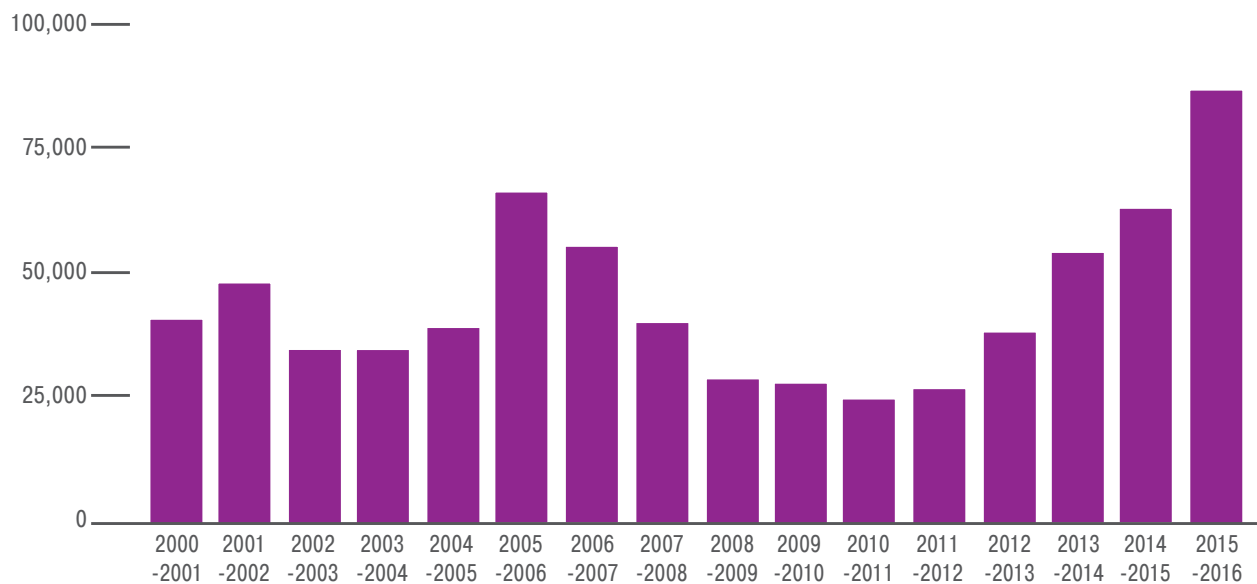


On our way to 4 million people

Population in the central Puget Sound region reached 3,985,040 people in April 2016, growing by 86,320 people (a 2.2% increase) in the past year. This is the biggest population gain this century, and the highest growth rate in the past 20 years. Population growth has accelerated since 2010 and the rate of change between 2015-16 surpassed the last peak in 2005-06 by nearly 30%.

It is hard to know exactly when it will happen, but based on our current rate of population growth (about 236 people per day), we have likely already surpassed 4 million people in our region, maybe as early as the first week of June.

Annual Population Change in the Central Puget Sound, 2000 to 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Washington State Office of Financial Management.

Every county is growing

King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties all experienced population growth this past year. King County grew by 52,300 people (2.5%) while Kitsap grew by 4,390 (1.7%), Pierce by 14,370 (1.7%), and Snohomish by 15,260 (2%). King County added an extra 16,750 people over 2014-15, increasing its growth by nearly half of what was seen in the previous year, while Kitsap County doubled its growth in 2015-16 over the previous year, going from a 2,300 person increase to 4,390.

Population of Central Puget Sound Counties, 2014 to 2016

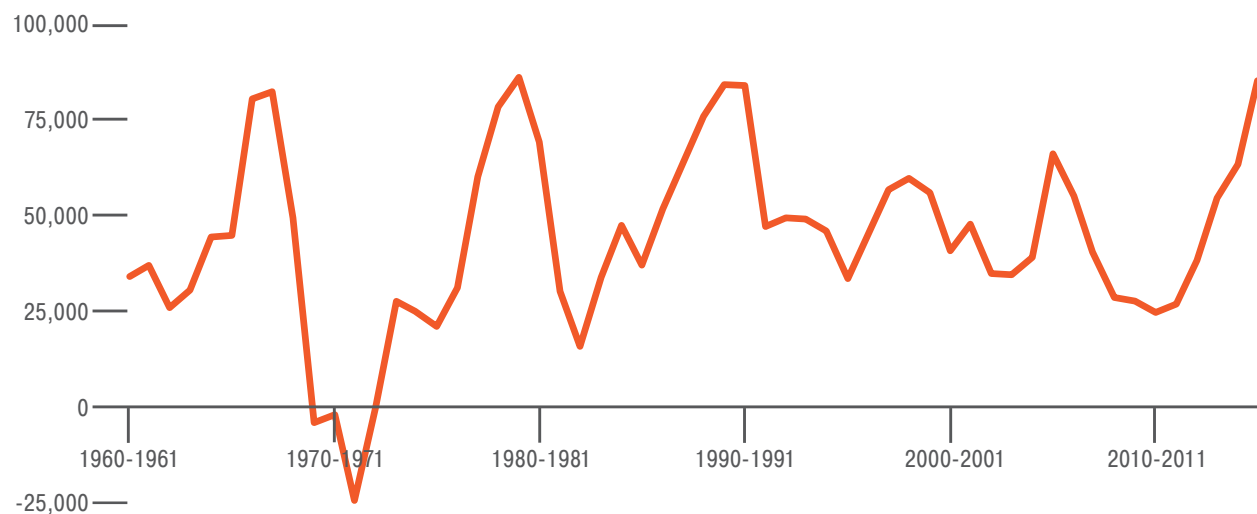
	2014 POPULATION	2015 POPULATION	2016 POPULATION	2014–2015 POP CHANGE	2015–2016 POP CHANGE
Region	3,835,450	3,898,720	3,985,040	63,270 / 1.6%	86,320 / 2.2%
King	2,017,250	2,052,800	2,105,100	35,550 / 1.8%	52,810 / 2.5%
Pierce	821,300	830,120	844,490	8,820 / 1.1%	14,370 / 1.7%
Snohomish	741,000	757,600	772,860	16,600 / 2.2%	15,260 / 2.0%
Kitsap	255,900	258,200	262,590	2,300 / 0.9%	4,390 / 1.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Washington State Office of Financial Management.

Historic context

The region's pace of growth in 2015-2016 is not unprecedented. Since 1960, there have been five different times when the region added over 80,000 people — the earliest occurring in 1966 to 1967. In the late 1960s, the region was growing at almost 5% per year — twice the torrid rate we just experienced this past year. It is also interesting to note that there have been only 4 years in the past 56 where the region's population has not increased — the early 1970s during the Boeing Bust. In general, these rapid population changes have occurred over 2 to 3 years before settling back to a steadier rate of change. If that trend continues, we can expect another year or two of heightened population growth.

Annual Population Change in the Central Puget Sound, 1960 to 2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Washington State Office of Financial Management.