

Appendix II-A: 2000-2007 Population & Employment Trends and the *Regional Growth Strategy*

This appendix covers related issues associated with recent growth trends that show a significant divergence from the desired growth patterns embodied by the *Regional Growth Strategy*.

A. How Do Recent Growth Trends from 2000 to 2007 Compare with the Goals Set Forth in the *Regional Growth Strategy*?

In the process of creating baseline data for the technical amendment, estimates were also developed to measure recent growth during 2000-2007 for each city and regional geography by county at their 2007 boundaries. These estimates were then compared to the VISION 2040 *Regional Growth Strategy* allocations as revised by the proposed technical amendment to see how regional geographies are tracking vis-à-vis the amended *Regional Growth Strategy* (see Tables 1 and 2 below).

The final column in Tables 1 and 2 presents 2000-2007 population or employment change as a percentage of the amended 2000-2040 *Regional Growth Strategy* allocation. Based on a simple straight-line measure, recent growth would be considered on track if it accounts for roughly 17.5 percent of the *Regional Growth Strategy* allocation (i.e., 7 years out of the 40-year VISION planning period = 17.5 percent).

Table 1. 2000-2007 Population Growth Trends vs. Regional Growth Strategy

County	Regional Geography	Pop 2000	Pop 2007	Change 2000-07	Amended RGS Allocation 2000-40	Balance of RGS Allocation 2007-40	Change 2000-07 as % of RGS
King	Metro Cities	676,010	704,300	28,290	294,000	265,710	9.6%
King	Core Cities	441,743	469,100	27,357	233,000	205,643	11.7%
King	Larger Cities	186,246	199,960	13,714	108,000	94,286	12.7%
King	Small Cities	99,904	119,685	19,781	35,000	15,219	56.5%
King	Uninc'd UGA	209,186	236,247	27,061	34,000	6,939	79.6%
King	Rural	123,955	132,008	8,053	20,000	11,947	40.3%
King	TOTAL	1,737,044	1,861,300	124,256	724,000	599,744	17.2%

Kitsap	Metro Cities	37,518	35,810	-1,708	39,000	40,708	-4.4%
Kitsap	Core Cities	19,223	18,875	-348	19,000	19,348	-1.8%
Kitsap	Larger Cities	20,308	23,080	2,772	16,000	13,228	17.3%
Kitsap	Small Cities	14,625	15,910	1,285	12,000	10,715	10.7%
Kitsap	Uninc'd UGA	55,796	57,696	1,900	39,000	37,100	4.9%
Kitsap	Rural	84,500	93,429	8,929	25,000	16,071	35.7%
Kitsap	TOTAL	231,969	244,800	12,831	149,000	136,169	8.6%
Pierce	Metro Cities	193,637	201,700	8,063	127,000	118,937	6.3%
Pierce	Core Cities	92,006	101,910	9,904	77,000	67,096	12.9%
Pierce	Larger Cities	29,933	31,300	1,367	32,000	30,633	4.3%
Pierce	Small Cities	73,301	89,680	16,379	52,000	35,621	31.5%
Pierce	Uninc'd UGA	162,907	198,275	35,368	81,000	45,632	43.7%
Pierce	Rural	149,034	167,635	18,601	24,000	5,399	77.5%
Pierce	TOTAL	700,818	790,500	89,682	393,000	303,318	22.8%
Snohomish	Metro Cities	99,378	101,800	2,422	90,000	87,578	2.7%
Snohomish	Core Cities	47,820	50,940	3,120	40,000	36,880	7.8%
Snohomish	Larger Cities	106,988	117,520	10,532	85,000	74,468	12.4%
Snohomish	Small Cities	81,967	97,355	15,388	37,000	21,612	41.6%
Snohomish	Uninc'd UGA	157,852	196,124	38,272	148,000	109,728	25.9%
Snohomish	Rural	112,019	122,561	10,541	46,000	35,459	22.9%
Snohomish	TOTAL	606,024	686,300	80,276	446,000	365,724	18.0%
Region	Metro Cities	1,006,542	1,043,610	37,068	550,000	512,932	6.7%
Region	Core Cities	600,792	640,825	40,033	369,000	328,967	10.8%
Region	Larger Cities	343,475	371,860	28,385	240,000	211,615	11.8%
Region	Small Cities	269,797	322,630	52,833	136,000	83,167	38.8%
Region	Uninc'd UGA	585,741	688,343	102,602	302,000	199,398	34.0%
Region	Rural	469,508	515,632	46,124	115,000	68,876	40.1%
Region	TOTAL	3,275,855	3,582,900	307,045	1,712,000	1,404,955	17.9%

Note: Estimates are for 2007 jurisdictional boundaries.

7 years / 40 years = 17.5%

In general, the interim results should not be surprising, in that the *Regional Growth Strategy* was understood to be a long-term commitment to “bend the trend” toward a more compact regional development pattern over a 40-year planning horizon. Local governments have yet to implement these new public policy goals through updated growth targets, comprehensive plans and development regulations. The trajectory toward meeting these goals was not anticipated to occur in a linear manner. Rather, growth over the 40-year planning period will be front-loaded for some regional geographies, and back-loaded in others.

Here are some summary observations:

- At the countywide level, population growth in King and Snohomish counties is right in line with the anticipated growth trajectory, while Pierce County is growing at a slightly faster rate, and Kitsap County is growing at a slower pace. On the employment side, job growth in Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties is occurring at the expected rate; job growth in King County, however, is lagging behind due to the lingering impacts of the 2001 recession, particularly on its *Metropolitan Cities*.

- At the regional geography level, in most counties, recent growth in the *Metropolitan Cities*, *Core Cities* and *Larger Cities* falls short of the 17.5 percent mark, and while growth in the *Small Cities*, *Unincorporated Urban Growth Areas* and *Rural* areas exceeds the mark.
- There are 24 regional geographies in total to which both population and employment are distributed—6 regional geography categories (*Metropolitan Cities*, *Core Cities*, *Larger Cities*, *Small Cities*, *Unincorporated Urban Growth Area*, and *Rural*) in each of 4 counties. In most cases, recent growth trends in a particular geography category are not so far off the mark as to prevent attainment of the goals expressed in the *Regional Growth Strategy* over the next 30+ years. Exceptions to this may be geographies where recent growth has consumed a significant portion of the 40-year growth allocation.
- On the population side, in King County’s *Unincorporated Urban Growth Area* and Pierce County’s *Rural* area growth between 2000 and 2007 has accounted for more than 75 percent of the 40-year allocation, suggesting that the *Regional Growth Strategy* for these areas, and possibly others, will likely need to be revisited in 2012/2013.
- On the employment side, growth trends in *Rural* employment also present some challenges. But a significant share of the *Rural* job growth has occurred in sectors such as *construction & resources* and *government & education*, representing non-urban activities that are in character with economic development goals for *Rural* areas. In Snohomish County, tribal employment has contributed to the *Rural* job growth numbers. *Rural* job trends may have been influenced by the 2001 recession, and may be further impacted by the current national economic downturn. As such, PSRC staff recommend a “wait and watch” approach regarding the *Regional Growth Strategy* for employment.

Table 2. 2000-2007 Employment Growth Trends vs. Regional Growth Strategy

County	Regional Geography	Emp 2000	Emp 2007	Change 2000-07	Amended RGS Allocation 2000-40	Balance of RGS Allocation 2007-40	Change 2000-07 as % of RGS
King	Metro Cities	695,606	673,148	-22,458	311,000	333,458	-7.2%
King	Core Cities	437,396	445,746	8,350	262,000	253,650	3.2%
King	Larger Cities	74,908	79,134	4,226	74,000	69,774	5.7%
King	Small Cities	23,846	32,113	8,267	22,000	13,733	37.6%
King	Uninc'd UGA	28,922	32,013	3,091	20,000	16,909	15.5%
King	Rural	20,775	24,362	3,587	5,000	1,413	71.7%
King	TOTAL	1,281,452	1,286,516	5,064	695,000	689,936	0.7%
Kitsap	Metro Cities	37,905	37,445	-460	14,000	14,460	-3.3%
Kitsap	Core Cities	10,507	12,993	2,486	15,000	12,514	16.6%
Kitsap	Larger Cities	6,081	6,984	903	5,000	4,097	18.1%
Kitsap	Small Cities	10,811	12,470	1,659	9,000	7,341	18.4%
Kitsap	Uninc'd UGA	13,263	16,736	3,473	18,000	14,527	19.3%
Kitsap	Rural	11,507	16,052	4,545	4,000	-545	113.6%
Kitsap	TOTAL	90,074	102,680	12,606	65,000	52,394	19.4%
Pierce	Metro Cities	112,032	113,714	1,682	97,000	95,318	1.7%
Pierce	Core Cities	47,227	53,170	5,943	41,000	35,057	14.5%
Pierce	Larger Cities	6,075	6,726	651	15,000	14,349	4.3%
Pierce	Small Cities	41,177	54,206	13,029	30,000	16,971	43.4%
Pierce	Uninc'd UGA	60,794	71,296	10,502	22,000	11,498	47.7%
Pierce	Rural	15,690	21,738	6,048	7,000	952	86.4%
Pierce	TOTAL	282,996	320,850	37,854	212,000	174,146	17.9%
Snohomish	Metro Cities	85,663	92,075	6,412	91,000	84,588	7.0%
Snohomish	Core Cities	36,798	44,184	7,386	35,000	27,614	21.1%
Snohomish	Larger Cities	36,803	42,682	5,879	56,000	50,121	10.5%
Snohomish	Small Cities	35,287	42,769	7,482	15,000	7,518	49.9%
Snohomish	Uninc'd UGA	30,314	38,114	7,800	34,000	26,200	22.9%
Snohomish	Rural	12,208	21,394	9,186	14,000	4,814	65.6%
Snohomish	TOTAL	237,072	281,218	44,146	246,000	201,854	17.9%
Region	Metro Cities	931,206	916,382	-14,824	513,000	527,824	-2.9%
Region	Core Cities	531,927	556,093	24,166	354,000	329,834	6.8%
Region	Larger Cities	123,868	135,526	11,658	151,000	139,342	7.7%
Region	Small Cities	111,120	141,558	30,438	76,000	45,562	40.0%
Region	Uninc'd UGA	133,293	158,159	24,866	94,000	69,134	26.5%
Region	Rural	60,180	83,546	23,366	30,000	6,634	77.9%
Region	TOTAL	1,891,595	1,991,264	99,669	1,218,000	1,118,331	8.2%

Note: Estimates are for 2007 jurisdictional boundaries.

7 years / 40 years = 17.5%