

MANUFACTURING PANEL

Washington Manufacturing

A foundation for jobs, trade, investment, and communities across the state

Max Martin | Association of Washington Business



Manufacturing is foundational

Not just one sector — a backbone for Washington's broader economy.

\$68.3B

2024 manufacturing economic output

271K+

manufacturing employees

\$97K

average annual wages

7,700

manufacturing companies

7.6%

of Washington's workforce

Manufacturing supports family-wage jobs and creates ripple effects across suppliers, ports, local businesses, and tax bases.

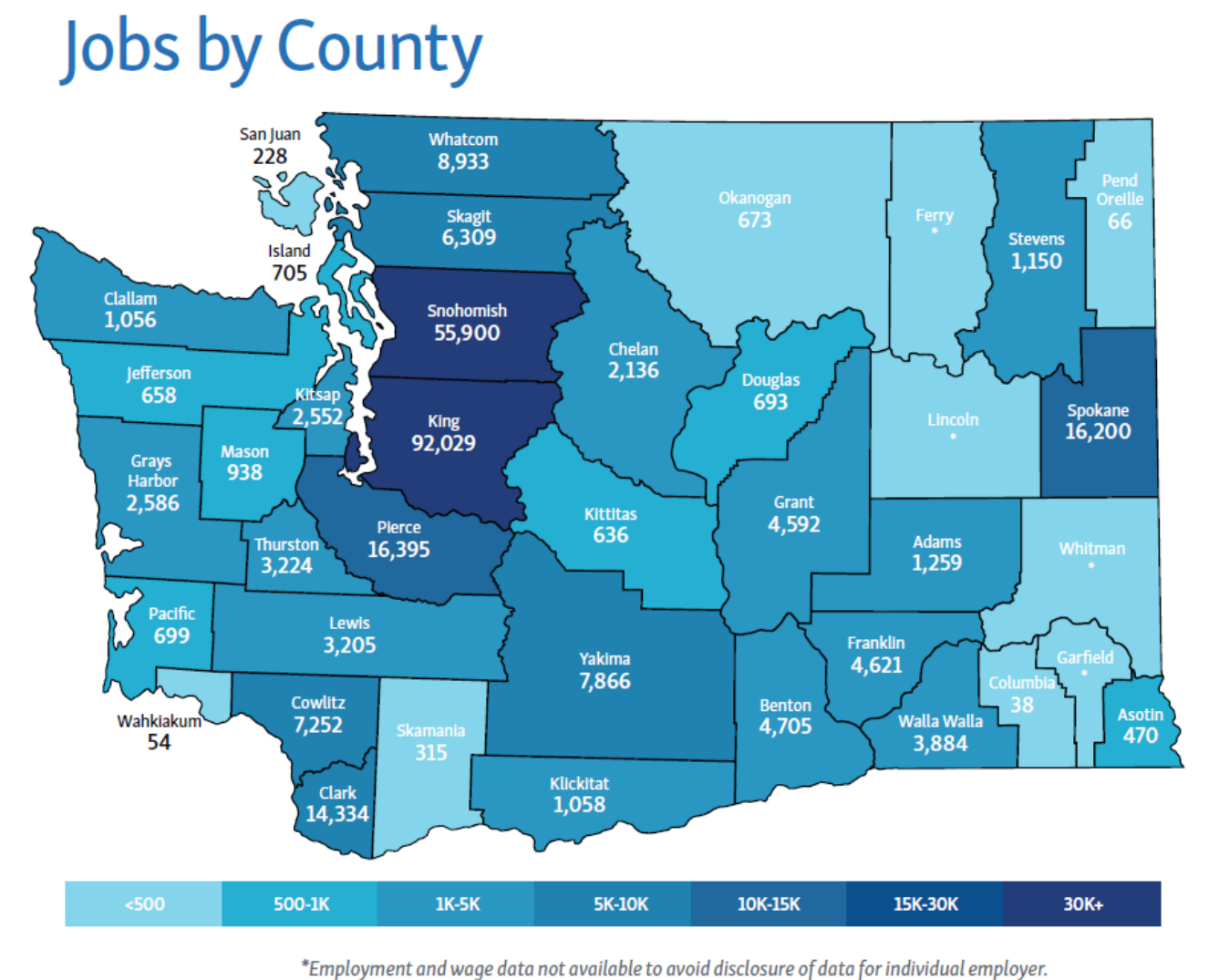


A statewide economic engine

Manufacturing is urban, rural, port-based, agricultural, legacy, and emerging.

22 counties
with at least 1,000 manufacturing workers

5 counties
Clark, King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Spokane
each have more than 10,000 manufacturing workers.



Trade and ports connect Washington globally

Manufacturing competitiveness depends on reliable movement of goods.

\$40.7B

manufactured products exported globally in
2024

Ports, freight, infrastructure, energy, tax policy, and trade policy all affect whether manufacturers can compete from Washington.



The competitiveness warning light is on

The issue is not that every business is leaving — it is that more are questioning growth here.

24%

of Washington businesses are considering leaving the state

72%

say the overall tax burden is a top business challenge

72%

fear negative tariff impacts

7%

rate Washington's economy as strong or very strong

Manufacturers make long-term decisions about facilities, equipment, workers, energy, and supply chains. Stability matters.

Policy has to match the goal

Washington adopted a goal of doubling manufacturing jobs by 2031. It will not happen by accident.

■ Reliable, affordable energy

Energy is a core input — not a side issue.

■ Predictable permitting

Timely, workable processes keep projects moving.

■ Infrastructure investment

Ports, freight, rail, broadband, water, and energy systems.

■ Workforce development

Stronger pathways from schools, CTCs, apprenticeships, and employers.

■ Tax & regulatory stability

Cost and predictability shape long-term investment decisions.



Bottom line: Washington is better off when we build things here, employ people here, and export products from here.