

Population Growth Forecasts, 2002 - 2022

In accordance with the Washington State Growth Management Act, the Whatcom County Council adopted 20-year population growth forecasts for Bellingham and the other jurisdictions to use to update their respective comprehensive plans. The forecasts are based on the work done for the jurisdictions by ECONorthwest in 2002. The full report, *Whatcom County Population and Economic Forecasts*, is available for viewing on the City's web site, www.cob.org and hard copies are available from the Planning Department.

	2002 Population Estimate ¹	Adopted 20-Year Population Growth Forecast ²	Total Forecasted Growth, 2002- 2022	Percent of 20- Year County Growth
Bellingham	81,454	113,055 ³	31,601	51.4%
Blaine ⁴	4,959	7,942	2,983	4.9%
Everson	2,321	3,912	1,591	2.6%
Ferndale	10,396	17,322	6,926	11.3%
Lynden	10,186	16,900	6,714	10.9%
Nooksack	997	1,881	884	1.4%
Sumas	<u>1,032</u>	<u>1,669</u>	<u>637</u>	<u>1.0%</u>
Subtotal	111,346	162,681	51,335	83.5%
Unincorp. County Areas ⁵	<u>62,125</u>	<u>72,236</u>	<u>10,111</u>	<u>16.5%</u>
Total	173,471	234,917⁶	61,447	100%

Notes:

1. 2002 population estimates are from ECONorthwest report, Table 3-3.
2. The forecasts for cities **includes** their urban growth areas.
3. Bellingham's 2022 growth estimate is a 3,237 increase to ECONorthwest's baseline scenario forecast of 109,818. The result is a corresponding reduction in the growth forecast for the unincorporated areas of the county.
4. Growth forecasts for Blaine, Everson, Ferndale and Lynden are based on ECONorthwest's high scenario estimate.
5. Unincorporated county category includes areas not part of a city or city UGA.
6. The adopted County-wide growth forecast of 234,917 is between the mid and high growth scenarios provided by ECONorthwest. It is also within the range provided by the State Office of Financial Management (205,991- 281,122) and therefore is consistent with the requirements of the GMA.