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PREFACE

The Washington State Data Book presents a variety of information on Washington, its people, economy and government in one reference document.

The Data Book comprises 11 major chapters: Population, Economy, State Government Finance, Human Services, Criminal Justice, Education, Natural Resources, Environment, Energy, Transportation and Local Government. These sections represent the types of information most frequently requested by users.

The information is obtained from state and federal agencies as well as private business. It would be impossible to compile and publish the Data Book without the cooperation of these contributing agencies. We thank them and their research staff members. Agency names, addresses, general information and telephone numbers are listed in Contributing Agencies at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/contributing.asp>.

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented in the Data Book. Because the Data Book is published every two years, much of the material is subject to updates, and these data might not be the most recent official agency information.

DATA NOTES

Many data series published in the Washington State Data Book are available in separate publications released by the contributing agencies. These source documents generally provide updated data on a more frequent and detailed basis than the Data Book, in addition to data definitions and user information not included in the Data Book.

The contributing agency websites and contact information are provided at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/contributing.asp>. Please contact the contributing agencies for additional data, explanations or updated information.

Unless otherwise noted, the time periods in this publication are either calendar year or fiscal year. The following types of fiscal year are used in the tables:

State fiscal year – July 1 through the following June 30.

Federal fiscal year – Oct. 1 through the following Sept. 30.

School fiscal year – Sept. 1 through the following Aug. 31.

Biennium – Two-year fiscal period starting July 1 of an odd-numbered year and ending June 30 of the next odd-numbered year.

Real or constant dollars are dollars that have been adjusted to account for the effect of inflation. This adjustment is made in relation to a base year. Statistics from years after the base year are adjusted down by inflation; those before are adjusted up. This allows actual (or real) changes to be observed.

Current or nominal dollars have not been adjusted in any way.

Financial data are in current dollars unless otherwise noted.