

## OFM 2012 GMA Population Projection Plan and Timeline

Pursuant to RCW 43.62.035 OFM shall update GMA county population projections in 2012. OFM will begin the update preparation process in collaboration with state and local stakeholders in December 2011-March 2012, and plans to release the final product by May 31.

### OFM 2012 Preliminary GMA County Population Forecast Timeline:

October-November, 2011	December 2011-February 2012	March - April 2012	May 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate OFM 2007 GMA projections</li> <li>• Perform outreach to the local governments via newsletters and workshops</li> <li>• Collect comments and suggestions from local GMA planning agencies and elected officials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop projection assumptions</li> <li>• Produce preliminary county projection as results of the modified assumptions</li> <li>• Dialogue with counties while developing assumptions for each county</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach proceeds</li> <li>• Modify assumptions based on feedback</li> <li>• Discuss revised assumptions and results with counties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce 2012 GMA projection</li> <li>• Perform internal review of GMA results</li> <li>• Distribute GMA projection packet to local planning directors and chair of county commissioners for review</li> <li>• Finalize and release the 2012 GMA forecast by end of May</li> </ul>

### Overview of OFM GMA projection model and update:

**The projection model:** The GMA county projections are developed using the cohort-component method, which predicts both the total population counts and the age distribution, by using births, deaths, net migration, and historical population growth trends as inputs. These projections are “controlled” so that totals match the state forecast, ensuring greater accuracy and usability.

The state forecast is a cohort component model as well, but it is run separately from the GMA county projections. The state forecast model incorporates current and forecasted national fertility and mortality rates, along with state specific historical trends, to develop state future birth and death expectations. Then short term migration projections are established with an econometric model that relates the pull of Washington State “traded sector” employment relative to both California and the rest of the U.S. Additionally, the “cohort component II” method is used to predict migration based on school enrollment data for the very near term. This short term econometric-based migration forecast is transitioned into a long term average annual migration number based on historical population growth and long term employment assumptions.

**The update process:** OFM’s 2007 GMA projection of 2010 population matches 2010 census counts remarkably well (see attached table). But couple of significant economic and demographic changes

occurred after the 2007 GMA release, which leads us to believe that majority of the assumptions established in 2007 need to be evaluated and adjusted if proving to be necessary. The following are the basic forecast update guidelines:

- **Allow long term projections time to “play out” before changing:** Short term expansions and contractions in population growth do not necessarily indicate that twenty- or thirty- year growth expectations require adjustment. Often a population will return to trend after a fluctuation, and time should be allowed to see if a new trend emerges before changing the forecast.
- **Minimize changes to earlier forecasts:** Changes to GMA growth forecasts necessitate downstream changes in county and city planning, which can consume a considerable amount of local government time and resources. Therefore, OFM tries to minimize changes to GMA forecasts for counties where there is no evidence of dramatic changes in long term growth patterns.
- **Conditions for projection adjustment:** Changes will be considered necessary in cases such as:
  - There is an important recent or upcoming structural change to the county (e.g. a new highway, prison, university, or military deployment).
  - There is strong and consistent historical evidence of change in long term trends.

## **2012 GMA related materials will be distributed online**

1. OFM will post online all evaluation material, documentation, and review packets in compliance with the Paper Reduction Act (SHB 2287) at:  
<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/projections2012.asp>
2. Stakeholders and GMA planners will be notified by email whenever new documents or results are posted on the OFM website.
3. OFM will maintain an ongoing effort to update the distribution list to include all interested parties and stakeholders.

### Comparison of OFM 2007 GMA Forecast with 2010 Census Counts:

County	2010 Census	GMA Low	GMA Medium	GMA High	Difference C2010 and Medium (abs)	Difference C2010 and Medium (%)	Difference C2010 and Low	Difference C2010 and High
State	6,724,540	6,325,953	6,792,318	7,372,751	67,778	1.01%	398,587	648,211
Adams	18,728	17,274	18,376	19,718	-352	-1.88%	1,454	990
Asotin	21,623	20,953	22,290	23,917	667	3.08%	670	2,294
Benton	175,177	154,488	168,839	188,931	-6,338	-3.62%	20,689	13,754
Chelan	72,453	70,174	75,093	80,050	2,640	3.64%	2,279	7,597
Clallam	71,404	63,943	69,008	73,723	-2,396	-3.36%	7,461	2,319
Clark	425,363	404,534	436,391	470,211	11,028	2.59%	20,829	44,848
Columbia	4,078	3,748	4,103	4,534	25	0.61%	330	456
Cowlitz	102,410	98,257	107,974	122,497	5,564	5.43%	4,153	20,087
Douglas	38,431	35,692	39,222	43,321	791	2.06%	2,739	4,890
Ferry	7,551	7,029	8,117	9,294	566	7.50%	522	1,743
Franklin	78,163	64,786	70,038	79,843	-8,125	-10.39%	13,377	1,680
Garfield	2,266	2,149	2,412	2,686	146	6.44%	117	420
Grays Harbor	72,797	66,369	71,945	77,521	-852	-1.17%	6,428	4,724
Grant	89,120	80,655	88,389	96,565	-731	-0.82%	8,465	7,445
Island	78,506	73,036	80,703	88,370	2,197	2.80%	5,470	9,864
Jefferson	29,872	28,007	30,912	33,815	1,040	3.48%	1,865	3,943
King	1,931,249	1,835,484	1,934,124	2,038,566	2,875	0.15%	95,765	107,317
Kitsap	251,133	224,145	249,050	296,494	-2,083	-0.83%	26,988	45,361
Kittitas	40,915	36,402	39,783	43,901	-1,132	-2.77%	4,513	2,986
Klickitat	20,318	19,801	21,640	23,847	1,322	6.51%	517	3,529
Lewis	75,455	69,596	77,544	87,858	2,089	2.77%	5,859	12,403
Lincoln	10,570	9,577	10,393	11,402	-177	-1.67%	993	832
Mason	60,699	53,072	58,643	66,794	-2,056	-3.39%	7,627	6,095
Okanogan	41,120	39,064	42,739	46,414	1,619	3.94%	2,056	5,294
Pacific	20,920	19,867	21,271	23,398	351	1.68%	1,053	2,478
Pend Oreille	13,001	12,479	13,683	14,956	682	5.25%	522	1,955
Pierce	795,225	786,487	836,688	908,225	41,463	5.21%	8,738	113,000
San Juan	15,769	15,811	17,327	18,999	1,558	9.88%	-42	3,230
Skagit	116,901	113,977	123,888	137,144	6,987	5.98%	2,924	20,243
Skamania	11,066	10,106	11,075	12,376	9	0.08%	960	1,310
Snohomish	713,335	673,331	725,963	778,595	12,628	1.77%	40,004	65,260
Spokane	471,221	432,887	466,724	509,662	-4,497	-0.95%	38,334	38,441
Stevens	43,531	42,770	46,616	54,075	3,085	7.09%	761	10,544
Thurston	252,264	234,983	256,113	285,054	3,849	1.53%	17,281	32,790
Wahkiakum	3,978	3,813	4,172	4,531	194	4.88%	165	553
Walla Walla	58,781	55,973	60,840	67,046	2,059	3.50%	2,808	8,265
Whatcom	201,140	181,450	195,633	217,152	-5,507	-2.74%	19,690	16,012
Whitman	44,776	39,483	43,151	51,349	-1,625	-3.63%	5,293	6,573
Yakima	243,231	224,303	241,446	259,917	-1,785	-0.73%	18,928	16,686