

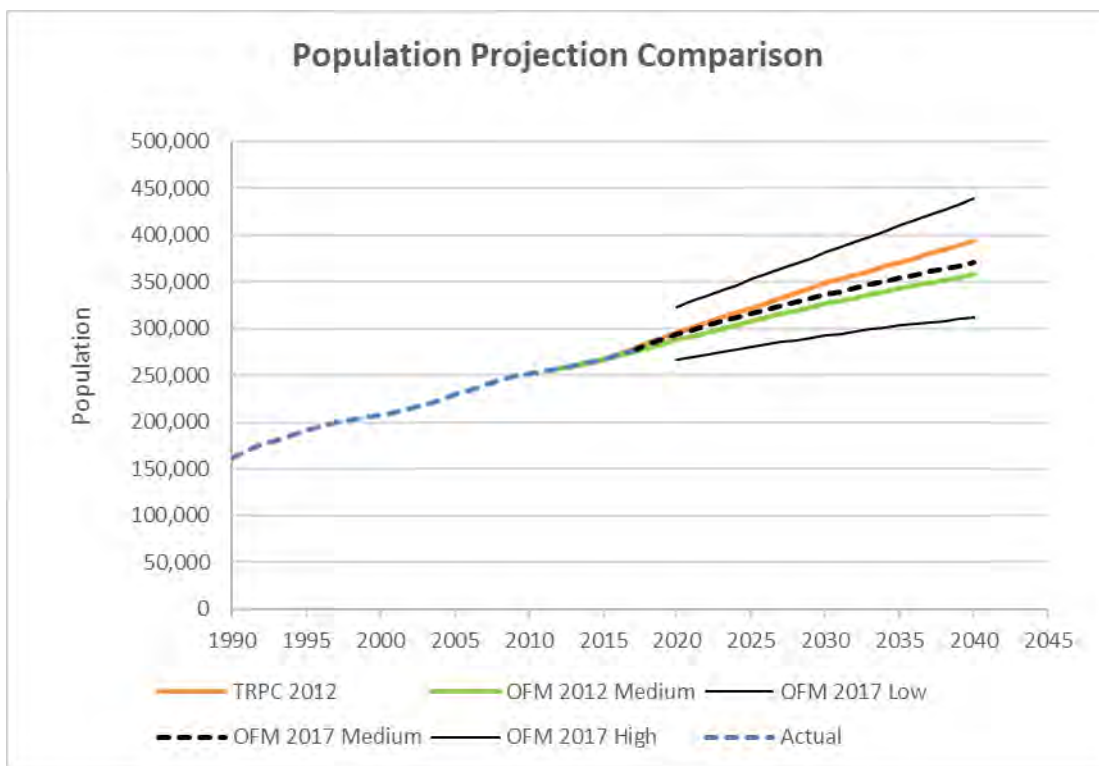
Thurston Regional Planning Council Countywide Population Forecast Summary

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) released their updated county-level forecasts in late December 2017. TRPC staff coordinated with OFM as they developed their forecasts.

In the past TRPC has developed their own countywide population projections for Thurston County, Washington. Due to difficulties in obtaining statistically significant migration and commute data from the Census, TRPC staff and the Advisory Committee recommend using OFM's Medium forecast for the Thurston County population forecast. TRPC will continue to develop the Thurston County employment forecasts, and the distributions of both population and employment to smaller areas within the county, such as cities and school districts.

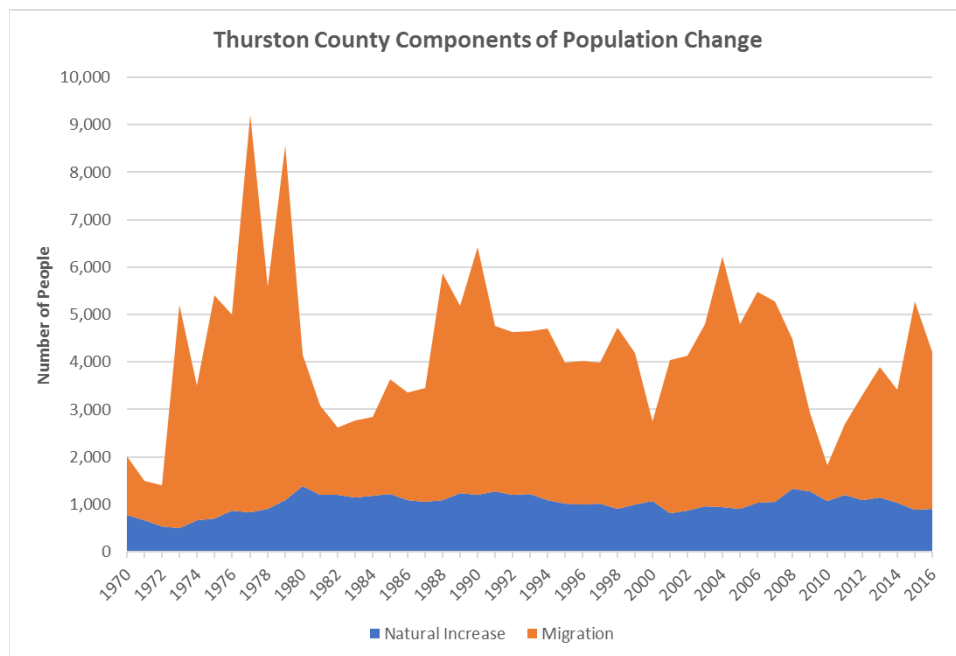
Both OFM's 2012 Medium and TRPC's 2012 population projections have been tracking well with actual growth. TRPC's 2012 projection is slightly higher than actual growth, and OFM's 2012 Medium projection was slightly lower than actual growth. OFM's updated 2017 Medium projection is very similar to TRPC's 2012 projection through 2020.

Beyond 2020-2025, OFM's Medium projection reflects a slower rate of growth compared to TRPC's 2012 projections. This is in alignment with TRPC's updated 2017 employment forecast, which projects a slower rate of growth beyond 2025 than the previous forecast.



Demographic trends

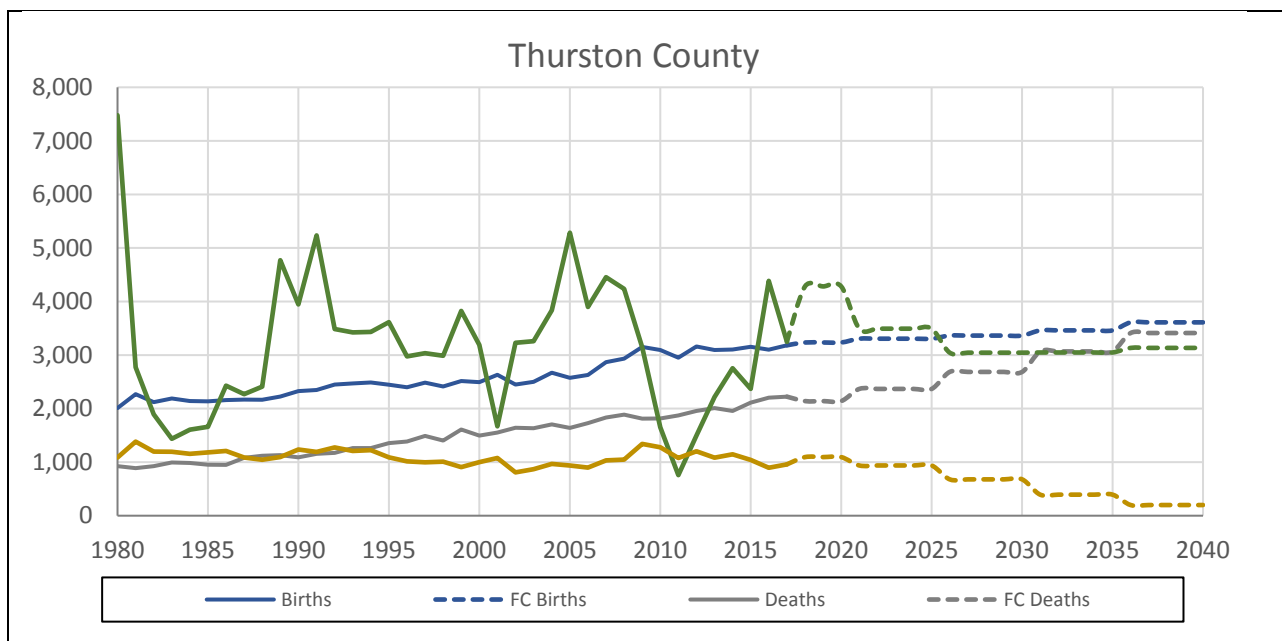
Thurston County's growth is influenced by two primary factors: 1) natural increase, or the difference between births and deaths, and 2) migration, which is the difference between people moving to the region and people moving away from the region. Natural increase has been fairly steady, but migration is strongly dependent on the local economy. When unemployment is low, migration tends to be high, and vice versa. In addition to people and their families coming here for employment opportunities, people move here for college, they come to the region retire, and they move to Thurston County for jobs within a commuting distance.



OFM develops countywide forecasts using five different forecast models:

1. Linear method
2. Shift Share Method
3. Growth Share of 2000-2010, and 2010-2017
4. Domestic and international migration based on Census Bureau's 2010-2016 estimate and 2014 national projections
5. Total net migration based on historical net migration from 1980 to 2017

They develop the different models as the counties within Washington have very different growth trends. To develop the medium forecast, they average the results of the five models, unless one model is an outlier. For Thurston County, the shift share method was 12% higher than the other methods, and was therefore dropped from the average used to develop the forecast.



The forecast for Thurston County shows the following trends:

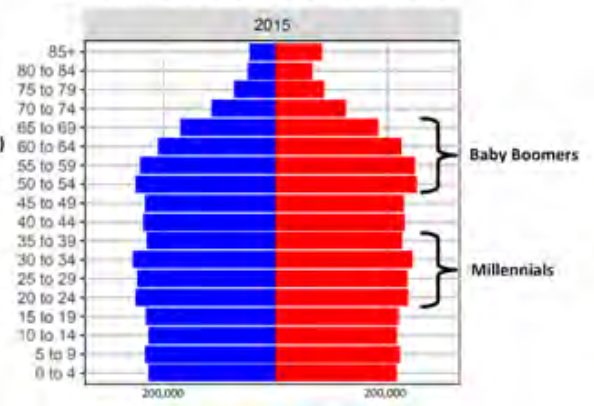
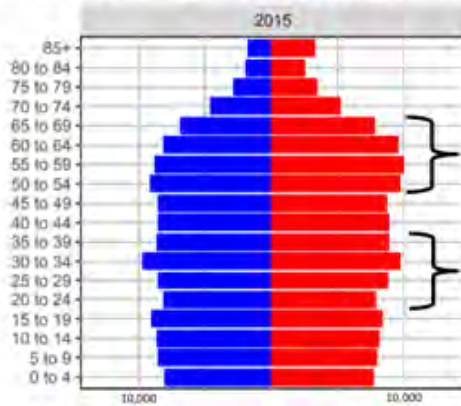
- The amount of births will continue to rise as the population grows, but at a slightly slower rate than in the past, as the fertility rate is expected to continue to decrease. This is a nationwide trend.
- The amount of deaths will increase as the population ages. This is offset slightly by the increase in life expectancy.
- Both of these trends will lead to an overall decline in natural increase. Thurston County is forecasted to continue to see some growth from natural increase, but at a much lower level than in the past (see yellow line on the graph).
- Migration will continue to be a strong component of Thurston County's growth. The forecast cannot predict the cyclical nature of migration trends, and in low migration periods, there will be very little growth to our region.

Age-Gender Cohorts

Thurston County's 2015 age-gender cohort is very similar to the state and other Puget Sound fast-growing counties. Neighboring slow-growing counties have a distinctly different age-gender cohorts – far less millennials, and far more baby boomers. King County has proportionally more millennials than neighboring counties. Small counties with large universities have very distinct age-gender cohorts.

Thurston County, with 1.97% growth in 2015 ...

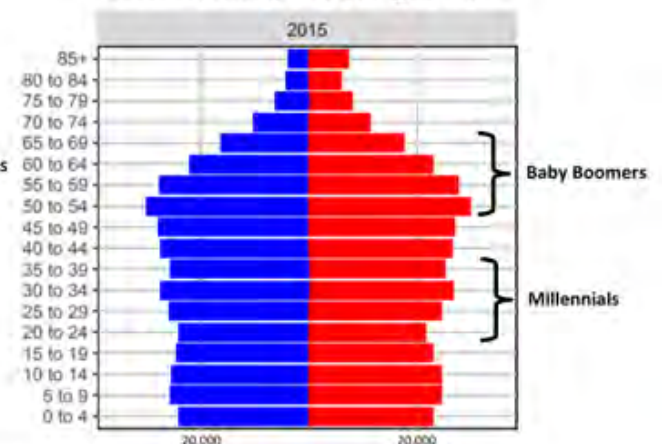
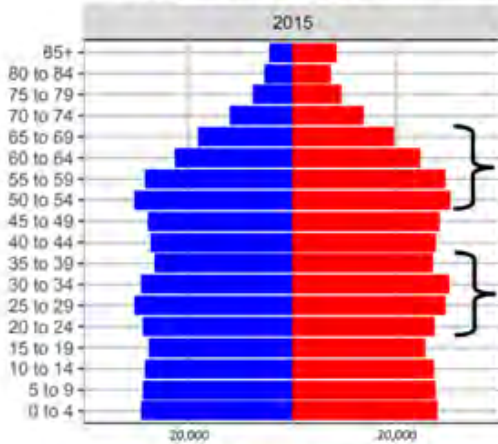
looks like the state as a whole



And like our high growth neighbors

Pierce, 1.73% growth

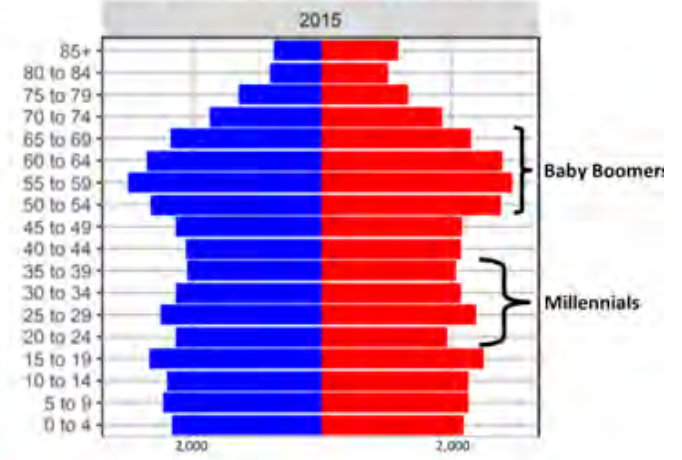
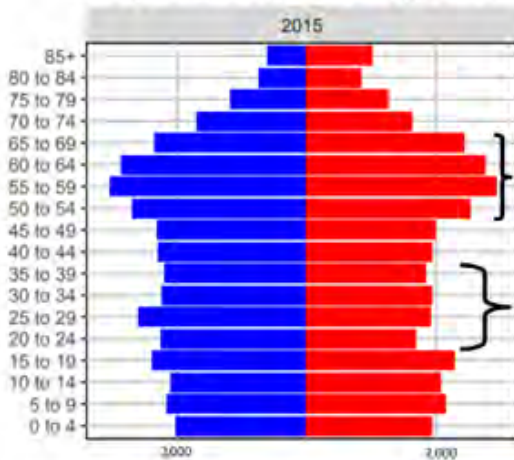
Snohomish, 2.01% growth



But unlike our lower growth neighbors

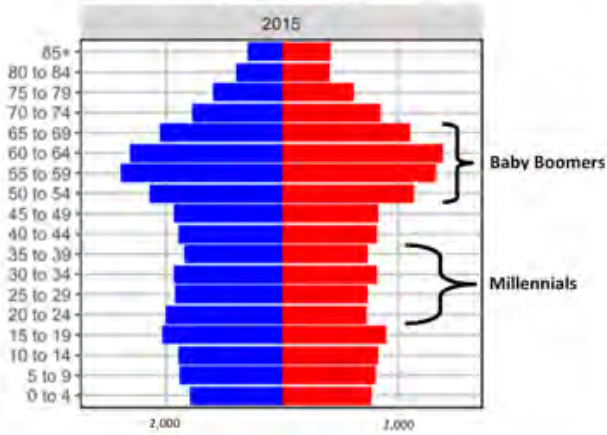
Grays Harbor, -0.40% growth

Lewis, 0.30% growth

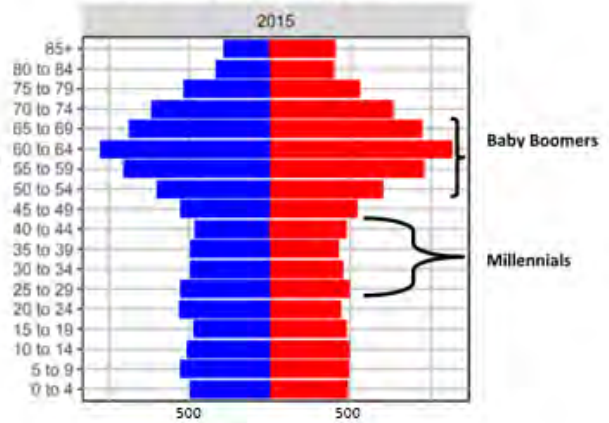


■ Males ■ Females

Mason, 0.19% growth

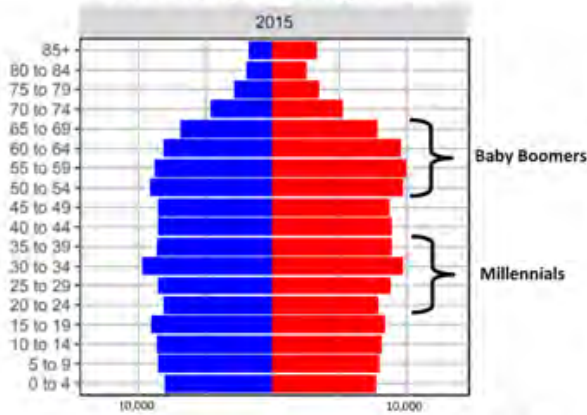


Pacific, -0.14% growth

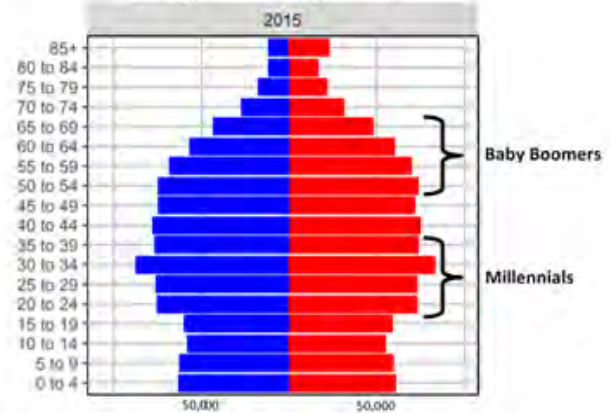


Thurston has a more pronounced baby boomer 'bump' than King:

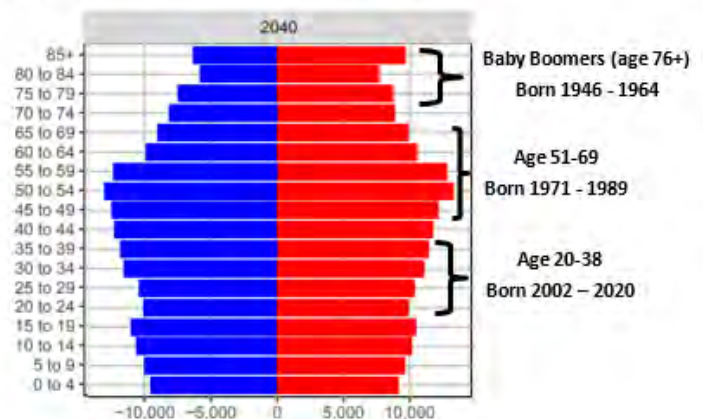
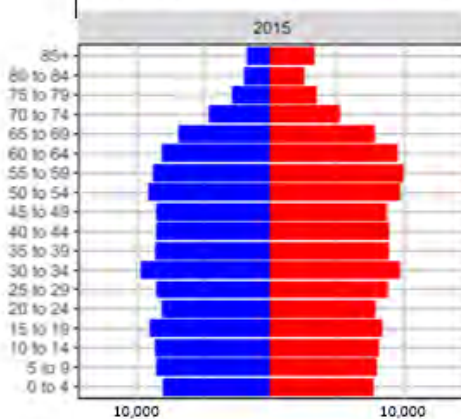
Thurston, 1.97% growth



King, 2.55% growth

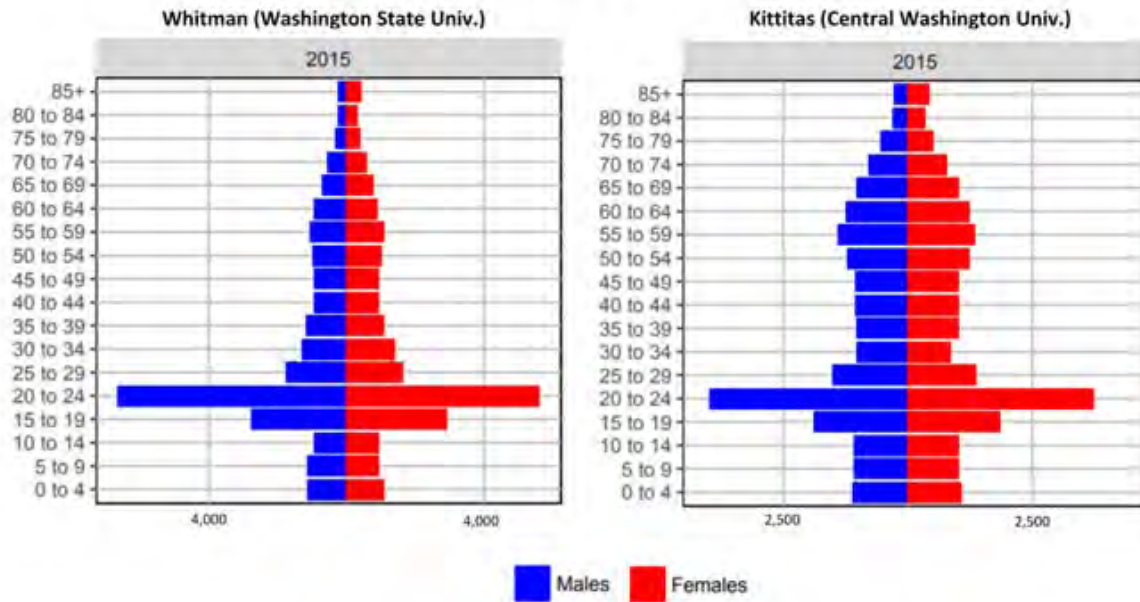


Comparing Thurston 2015 to the Thurston 2040 Forecast



■ Males ■ Females

Smaller Counties with Large Universities



Forecast

Thurston County Countywide Population, Employment, and Commute Forecast

	Actual		Projected					
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Employment	128,758	140,775	155,700	167,000	176,300	184,500	193,500	200,900
Population	252,264	267,410	294,300	316,500	336,000	354,400	370,700	383,500
Out-bound commuters	34,208	35,276	39,600	42,900	46,200	49,100	51,800	54,100
In-bound commuters	19,049	20,943	24,200	26,700	28,700	30,700	32,500	34,300
Net out-bound commuters	15,159	14,333	15,500	16,300	17,400	18,400	19,200	19,900

Source: Employment and Commute Forecast: Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), Forecast Work Program, 2018.

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Population Forecast: 2010-2040: Washington Office of Financial Management (OFM) medium series forecast for Thurston County, 2017. 2045 - TRPC's extrapolation of OFM's forecast.