Section 6: King County Demographics

This section includes information on the demographics of King County and includes maps related to population density, employment, low-income and minority populations. Included in this section is information related to land use, economic growth and social and environmental justices that affect the transit system in King County. This section also provides information on areas of growth, population and growing communities that could impact how the transit system develops in the future.

Information you’ll find in this section:

- King County Demographics
- Maps
  - i. 2008 Population Density
  - ii. 2006 Covered Employment
  - iii. Access to Bus Stops
  - iv. Number of people 65 and older by census tract
  - v. Median Income by census tract
  - vi. Low-income census tracts
  - vii. Race characteristics of census tracts
  - viii. Minority Census Tracts
- Metro Riders
- King County Cities

Links to Additional Resource Materials:

- King County Benchmark Reports: [http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/strategy/PerformMgmt/BenchmarkProgram.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/strategy/PerformMgmt/BenchmarkProgram.aspx)
- King County Metro Rider/Non Rider Survey: [http://metro.kingcounty.gov/am/reports/reports.html](http://metro.kingcounty.gov/am/reports/reports.html)
King County Demographics

(Adapted from King County 2010 Executive Proposed budget book)

Population Growth
King County has seen substantial growth for the past 30 years. Between 1980 and 1990, the population grew 18.7% and grew another 15.2% between 1990 and 2000. This graph provides a snapshot of King County’s growth since 1990.

![King County Population Growth](chart)

Employment
King County is the largest metropolitan county in the State of Washington not only in terms of population, but in the number of cities and employment. Among the top employment sectors in King County are Professional and Administrative Services, Health and Education, and Government. These sectors reflect the presence of large employers in these sectors including the Boeing Company, University of Washington, King County government, City of Seattle, Swedish Healthcare, Microsoft, Starbucks and Group Health.

![King County: Employment by Sector](chart)
Population by Ethnicity

King County is predominantly Caucasian area; Asian-Pacific Islander (11.2%), Black or African American (5.3%) and Hispanic or Latino (5.5%) are the next largest ethnic groups by population.

Population by Age

King County population by age, shows most King County residents are between the ages of 20-34 and 35-54, accounting for over half (55%) of the population. Residents under the age of 20 and resident over 55 each account for just over 20% of the population.
2008 Population Density by Census Block Group & Metro Core Route Network

LEGEND

Population Density*
2008 Estimate by Census Block Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Density Range</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;3</td>
<td>&lt;3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - 10</td>
<td>3 - 10</td>
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<td>11 - 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - 25</td>
<td>16 - 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 - 50</td>
<td>26 - 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50</td>
<td>&gt;50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Density is the number of people per acre within a Census Block Group. Estimates from Washington State Office of Financial Management

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February 12, 2009
2006 Covered Employment Estimates by Census Tract & Metro Core Route Network

LEGEND

Metro Core Route Network Including RapidRide Routes

Number of Employees in Census Tracts*

- <200
- 201 - 500
- 501 - 2000
- 2001 - 5000
- 5001 - 15,000
- 15,001 - 58,660

*2006 Covered Employment Estimate, PSRC

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Map produced by King County Department of Transportation, Transit Division, Service Development Section, Service Planning Group. C:\employment_coretransit

February 12, 2009
Low-Income Census Blocks** within a quarter mile of a bus stop

Minority Census Blocks* within a quarter mile of a bus stop

Blocks within Minority Designated Census Tracts

Blocks within Low-Income Designated Census Tracts

Census Blocks within a quarter mile of a bus stop sharing both designations

King County Access Program Service Area

King County Access Program Service Area (2008 Expansion Areas)

King County Access Program Service Area (2008 Expansion Areas)
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February 11, 2009

LEGEND

Metro Core Route Network Including RapidRide Routes

Number of People Age 65 & Older in Census Tracts (2000 Census)

- 9 - 250
- 251 - 500
- 501 - 750
- 751 - 1000
- 1001 - 1250
- 1251 - 1594

Number of People 65 and Older in Census Tracts (2000 Census) & Metro Core Route Network
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Map produced by King County Department of Transportation, Transit Division, Service Development Section, Service Planning Group.

Legend:
- **Metro Core Route Network**
- **Low Income Census Tracts**

*2000 Census

Low Income Census Tracts (2000 Census) & Metro Core Route Network
Race Characteristics of Census Tracts (2000 Census) & Metro Core Route Network

Legend:
- Metro Core Route Network including RapidRide Routes
- Number of People in Census Tract Identified as other than White:
  - 9 - 150
  - 151 - 500
  - 501 - 1000
  - 2001 - 3000
  - >3000

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February 12, 2009
Minority Census Tracts (2000 Census) & Metro Core Route Network

Legend

*Census Tracts meeting Title VI Criteria, 2000 Data

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Map produced by King County Department of Transportation, Service Development Section, Service Planning Group

CF: c:\minority_coretransit

February 6, 2009
Metro Riders

(From the 2008 Rider Survey, Gilmore Research Group)

Who are Metro Riders?
For more than 25 years, Metro Transit has conducted a telephone survey of transit riders and non-riders on an almost annual basis for more than 25 years. In the two most recent surveys, 2007 and 2008, Metro decided to focus on the behavior of regular and infrequent riders. For the 2008 Rider Survey, the Gilmore Research Group conducted 400 telephone interviews with randomly selected residents age 16 or older. The survey profiled both groups of riders including demographics, rider travel habits and rider satisfaction.

Rider Characteristics
Two-thirds of the respondents surveyed were identified as regular riders (those who take five or more transit trips per month and the remainder as infrequent riders (1-4 trips per month). The demographic characteristics of these riders are based on area of residents, gender, age, ethnicity, income, employment status and average number of transit trips per month. Some of the findings from the study show:

- Households in North King County/Seattle are almost twice as likely to have a Regular Rider in residence as those in South or East King County.
- Metro riders are just as likely to be female (52%) as they are male (47%).
- The average age of a Metro rider is 47.
- Most riders (67%) are employed full or part time, 9% are students, 18% are retired and 6% are unemployed or homemakers.
- Although the median income for all rides is $69,468; 23% of Metro riders earn more than $100,000 annually.

The characteristics of regular riders to those outlined above, but characteristics of infrequent riders vary slightly. Infrequent rider are more likely to be female (55%) than male (45%), are an average age of 52 and tend to be Caucasian. Fewer infrequent riders are employed full-time (41%) and fewer own their own homes. Regular riders take an average of 24.5 trips per month compared to infrequent riders, with 2.2 transit trips per month.

Transit Use
Half of all riders use Metro primarily to get to work (50%), while 7% use Metro mainly for school trips. Entertainment is the second most common purpose for using Metro (23%). The number of riders using Metro primarily for work has increased by 5% between 2007 and 2008. Most riders walk to the bus stop (72%), make their trips within a single zone (58%) and some transfer (49%). A majority of rider (75%) take the bus during peak hours.
What is important to Our Riders?
(From the 2008 Rider Survey, Gilmore Research Group)

The chart below illustrates which issue are most important to Metro ride satisfaction, in terms of rider response to the problem and the frequency of the issue occurring. Background on rider satisfaction and an explanation of the chart can be found on the page following.
Rider Satisfaction
Rider satisfaction ratings for Metro have not changed significantly in the past five years. A majority of riders (94%) are satisfied with Metro Transit, with 54% of riders being very satisfied with the agency. Certain factors can help predict what rider satisfaction will be.

Rider satisfaction is largely driven by time, whether a bus is on-time, where the routes go and travel time by bus\(^1\). Regular rider rank on-time performance and travel time by bus as among the elements that affect their satisfaction the most. New riders and infrequent riders tend to focus on where routes go as a factor in their satisfaction with the agency.

Explanation of chart
The chart on the previous page is intended to explain the relationship between different elements that impact customer satisfaction and the occurrence of rider issues with those elements.

Vertically, the chart represents how much different elements impact customer satisfaction. Certain elements are a “big deal” if a customer has a bad experience, such as when buses don’t operate on-time, when service is infrequent, when travel time by bus is long and when people don’t feel safe on the bus after dark. Other elements such as personal safety during the day, and inside cleanliness of a bus are have less impact to rider satisfaction when expectations are not met.

The horizontal portion of the chart represents how often a bad experience happens. There are few incidents of riders feeling unsafe waiting or riding a bus during the day; however, there are more issues with on-time performance, travel time and where buses go are more frequent issues that arise for customers. Monitoring customer satisfaction, combined with other measures of our performance can help identify those areas where we may have the most to gain in terms of rider satisfaction (upper red box) compared to areas where we have more flexibility (lower blue box).

\(^1\) 2008 Rider Survey, Gilmore Research Group
King County Cities

King County includes 39 cities within a 2,134 square mile area. These 39 cities encompass 400 square miles while unincorporated areas account for 1,734 square miles. Below are population estimates for King County jurisdictions from the Washington State Office of Financial Management. King County has seen a 9.9% increase in growth since 2000, with 12.8% growth in King County cities.

### 2009 Population Estimates King County and its Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algona</td>
<td>1,467</td>
<td>1,694</td>
<td>2,460</td>
<td>2,740</td>
<td>2,760</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn (K.C. portion)</td>
<td>26,417</td>
<td>33,102</td>
<td>42,901</td>
<td>60,400</td>
<td>60,820</td>
<td>17,091</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beaux Arts</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bellevue</td>
<td>73,903</td>
<td>86,874</td>
<td>109,827</td>
<td>119,200</td>
<td>120,600</td>
<td>10,773</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Diamond</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>1,422</td>
<td>3,970</td>
<td>4,155</td>
<td>4,180</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bothell (K.C. portion)</td>
<td>7,943</td>
<td>11,986</td>
<td>16,119</td>
<td>17,130</td>
<td>17,260</td>
<td>1,141</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burien</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,881</td>
<td>31,540</td>
<td>31,890</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnation</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>1,243</td>
<td>1,893</td>
<td>1,905</td>
<td>1,910</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clyde Hill</td>
<td>3,229</td>
<td>2,972</td>
<td>2,890</td>
<td>2,805</td>
<td>2,815</td>
<td>(75)</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covington</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13,783</td>
<td>17,360</td>
<td>17,530</td>
<td>3,747</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Moines</td>
<td>7,378</td>
<td>17,283</td>
<td>29,267</td>
<td>29,180</td>
<td>29,270</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duvall</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>2,770</td>
<td>4,616</td>
<td>5,925</td>
<td>5,980</td>
<td>1,364</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enumclaw</td>
<td>5,427</td>
<td>7,227</td>
<td>11,116</td>
<td>11,470</td>
<td>11,460</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Way</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>67,304</td>
<td>83,259</td>
<td>88,040</td>
<td>88,580</td>
<td>5,521</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunts Point</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issaquah</td>
<td>5,536</td>
<td>7,786</td>
<td>11,212</td>
<td>26,320</td>
<td>26,890</td>
<td>15,678</td>
<td>139.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenmore</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,678</td>
<td>20,220</td>
<td>20,450</td>
<td>1,772</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>22,961</td>
<td>37,960</td>
<td>79,524</td>
<td>86,980</td>
<td>88,380</td>
<td>8,856</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkland</td>
<td>18,785</td>
<td>40,052</td>
<td>45,054</td>
<td>48,410</td>
<td>49,010</td>
<td>3,956</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Forest Park</td>
<td>2,485</td>
<td>4,031</td>
<td>12,877</td>
<td>12,810</td>
<td>12,820</td>
<td>(51)</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple Valley</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,209</td>
<td>20,480</td>
<td>20,840</td>
<td>6,631</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medina</td>
<td>3,220</td>
<td>2,981</td>
<td>3,011</td>
<td>2,955</td>
<td>2,970</td>
<td>(41)</td>
<td>-1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer Island</td>
<td>21,522</td>
<td>20,816</td>
<td>22,036</td>
<td>22,650</td>
<td>22,720</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton (K.C. portion)</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,737</td>
<td>9,720</td>
<td>9,925</td>
<td>2,188</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normandy Park</td>
<td>4,268</td>
<td>6,709</td>
<td>6,932</td>
<td>6,425</td>
<td>6,465</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Bend</td>
<td>1,701</td>
<td>2,578</td>
<td>4,746</td>
<td>4,710</td>
<td>4,760</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific (K.C. portion)</td>
<td>2,261</td>
<td>4,622</td>
<td>5,373</td>
<td>6,120</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redmond</td>
<td>23,318</td>
<td>35,800</td>
<td>45,256</td>
<td>51,320</td>
<td>51,890</td>
<td>6,634</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renton</td>
<td>31,031</td>
<td>41,686</td>
<td>50,052</td>
<td>78,780</td>
<td>83,650</td>
<td>33,598</td>
<td>67.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sammamish</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34,104</td>
<td>40,550</td>
<td>40,670</td>
<td>6,566</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SeaTac</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,694</td>
<td>25,496</td>
<td>25,720</td>
<td>25,730</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>493,846</td>
<td>516,259</td>
<td>563,376</td>
<td>592,800</td>
<td>602,000</td>
<td>38,624</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreline</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>53,296</td>
<td>53,440</td>
<td>54,320</td>
<td>1,024</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skykomish</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snoqualmie</td>
<td>1,370</td>
<td>1,546</td>
<td>1,631</td>
<td>9,360</td>
<td>9,730</td>
<td>8,099</td>
<td>496.6%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Tukwila</td>
<td>3,573</td>
<td>11,874</td>
<td>17,181</td>
<td>18,080</td>
<td>18,170</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodinville</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9,809</td>
<td>10,560</td>
<td>10,670</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yarrow Point</td>
<td>1,077</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>(43)</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Cities Total:                | 766,811     | 994,021     | 1,387,812   | 1,543,050     | 1,566,120     | 178,308          | 12.8%             |
| Uninc. King County:          | 503,087     | 513,298     | 349,234     | 341,150       | 343,180       | (6,054)          | -1.7%             |
| King County                  | 1,269,898   | 1,507,319   | 1,737,046   | 1,884,200     | 1,909,300     | 172,254          | 9.9%              |

**Note:** * - * means that the city incorporated after 1990. **italics** represent corrections by the US Census Bureau or Washington State. **Source:** Washington State Office of Financial Management, 2000 through 2009.