

# Transportation and Public Utilities Sector Profile

## SUMMARY

Roughly 35 percent of the jobs in the sector are in trucking and warehousing—not surprising since the county has 123 trucking and warehousing businesses.

Wages in transportation services were \$26,000 in 2000, just under the overall average of \$26,300.

Wages in most jobs in the TPU sector tend to be equal to or slightly above the average for the county.

Wages in communication and trucking and warehousing were in the \$30-36,000 range.

While wages in pipeline businesses (not including natural gas) have increased faster than the rate of inflation, wages in many other business areas in the sector have not kept pace with inflation.

Wages in the TPU sector, as a whole, have not kept up with inflation in recent years.

This profile is one of a series—with one profile for each major sector. Copies of the profiles can be found at: <http://www.cbe.wvu.edu/>. Follow the links to the Center of Economic and Business Research (CEBR).

## EARNINGS

The table shows weighted average earnings in the sector as a whole along with three subsectors. The average annual wage in TPU in 2000 was \$31,319 per person. The average annual wage in 2000 for all employees in Whatcom County was \$26,295 per person. However, real wages in the TPU sector have decreased in the period 1990-2000 by an average annual real rate of 0.78 percent.

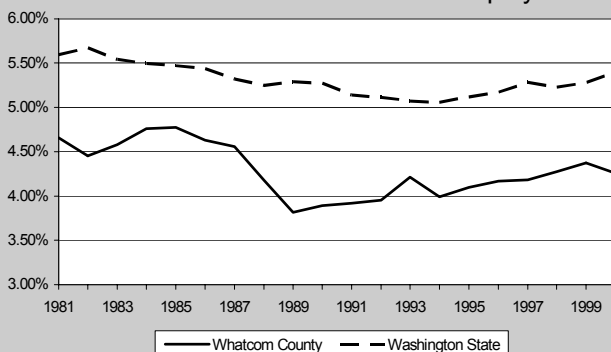
### Earnings in TPU—Whatcom County

Year	Average Earnings—Dollars per Person per Year			
	Whole Sector	Trucking And Warehousing	Communication	Transportation Services
1990	25,723	22,907	27,357	20,495
1991	26,363	23,868	27,778	19,948
1992	27,067	24,620	30,896	20,722
1993	27,910	25,229	31,214	21,128
1994	27,934	25,097	30,546	22,044
1995	28,275	25,977	30,798	22,110
1996	29,379	26,316	32,901	22,800
1997	30,455	27,035	35,377	22,864
1998	31,249	28,667	34,063	23,772
1999	31,798	29,702	33,302	24,954
2000	31,319	30,164	36,707	26,031

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department  
Notes: Covered employees only (covered by unemployment insurance)

## 4% OF WORKFORCE

TPU Jobs—As a Share of Total Employment



Source: Washington State Security Department. Notes: Statistics are for "Non-Agricultural" jobs, which include those covered by unemployment insurance, sole proprietors, and some contract positions.

TPU in Whatcom County is a quiet sector—meaning that it does not include a large share of local businesses or share of local jobs. For example, the figure shows that the TPU sector currently occupies about 4.25 percent of all jobs in Whatcom County. Hidden in the sector is one of the top-paying business categories in the county, pipeline workers. However, there were only nine pipeline workers in Whatcom County in 2000.

## EMPLOYMENT

One subsector—trucking and warehousing—stands out as the dominant business area or category in the sector. This business area accounts for 35% of the employment in the sector. In 2000, there were 123 trucking and warehousing firms in the county. The table shows the number of workers in the entire sector and the three largest subsectors. The figure shows the percentage of employment in the sector for the three largest subsectors, covering the period 1990–2000.

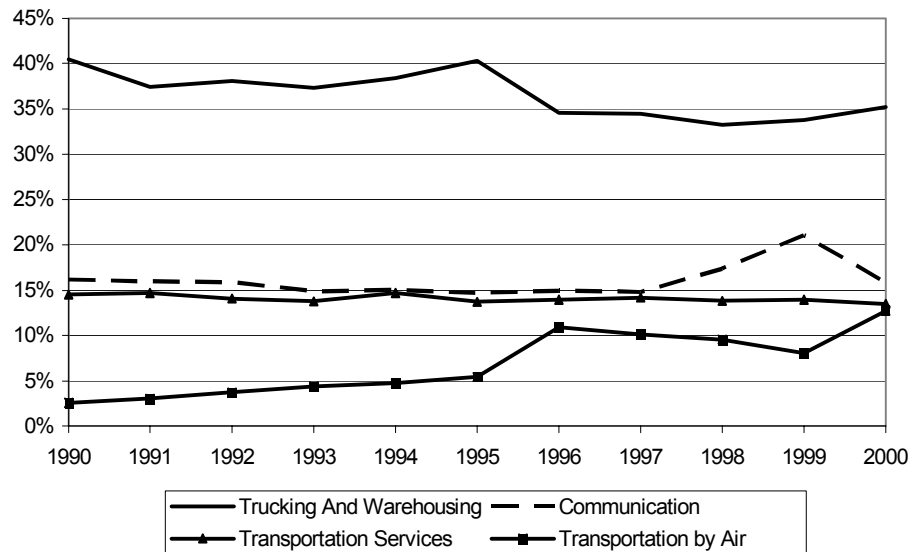
**Employment in TPU Subsectors—Whatcom County**

Year	Number of Workers				
	Whole Sector	Trucking And Warehousing	Communication	Transportation Services	Transportation by Air
1990	1,958	793	317	284	50
1991	1,961	734	314	288	59
1992	2,162	823	344	304	80
1993	2,303	860	342	317	101
1994	2,349	903	353	345	112
1995	2,440	983	359	335	133
1996	2,578	892	385	359	282
1997	2,556	881	378	363	258
1998	2,667	886	463	369	254
1999	2,677	905	564	374	216
2000	2,755	971	436	371	352

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department

Notes: Covered employees only (covered by unemployment insurance)

**Percent of Employment in Sector**



The table shows the rank of the average wage paid for the top paying jobs in the TPU sector in 1981 and 2000. Relative wages in the sector have been steady in recent decades, though relative wages in two categories—water transportation and communication—did fall.

**Rank of Top Paying Jobs in TPU**

Industry	Rank of Average Wage Paid— All Industries in Private Sector	
	1981	2000
Pipelines, except natural gas	4	4
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	9	9
Water transportation	12	23
Communication	13	14

Source: Washington State Security Department

Notes: Figures are for "covered" employees only (covered by unemployment insurance)