

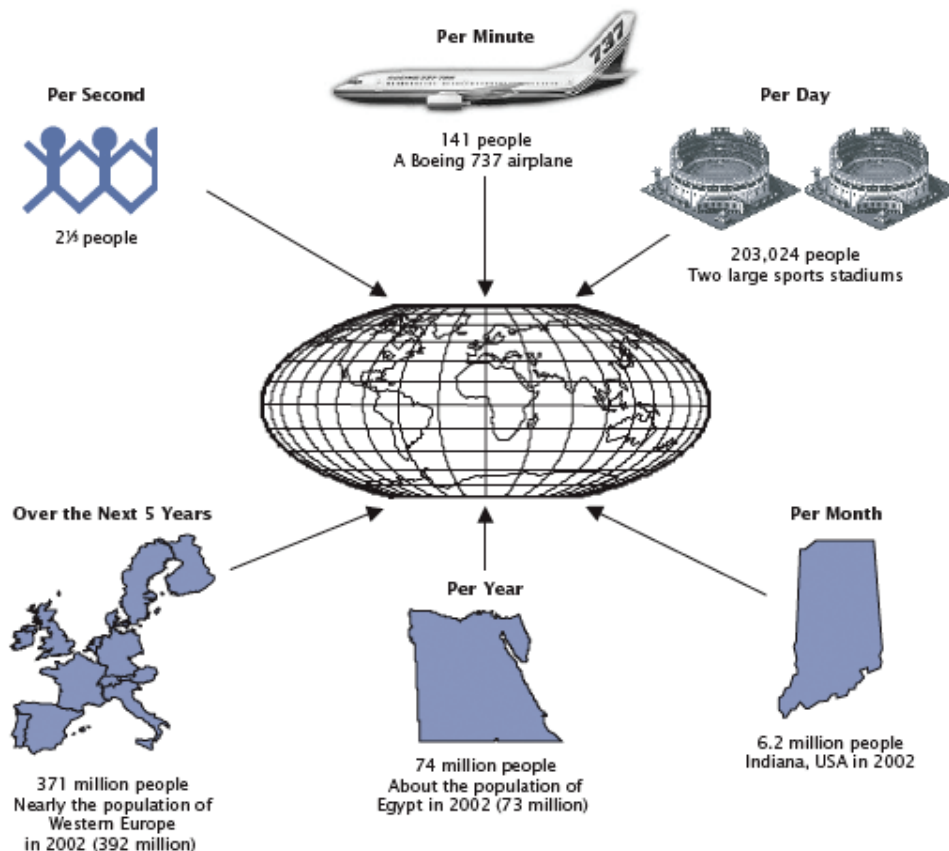
Demographic Projections

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Predicting the future is a tricky business. It is both an art and a science. Numerous judgment calls must be made in formulating any number of algorithms that demographers might use to estimate population growth. Any number of variables can behave in unpredictable ways: migration, the impacts of emergent diseases and advances in medical technology, and natural disasters can all throw our predictions into disarray.

Still, generating potential scenarios is still a useful exercise for those who need to anticipate and plan for the changes that our society goes through.

There is no doubt that the human population is growing to unprecedented numbers. In 2006, demographers estimate that the global population will reach 6.5 billion and that the U.S. population will reach 300 million. The U.S. Census Bureau published the graphic below which illustrates what this meant for the year 2002.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Programs Center, International Data Base and unpublished tables.

	Population by year				
Country or area	1950	2005	2015	2025	2050

(thousands)

World ¹	2 519 470	6 464 750	7 219 431	7 905 239	9 075 903
World ²				7 834 028	9 078 851
USA ¹	157 813	298 213	325 723	350 103	394 976
USA ²				349 666	420 081

(ones)

WA State low ³		5,935,479	6,460,127	6,925,750	
WA State high ³		6,621,080	7,867,806	9,215,093	
King County low ³		1,721,585	1,813,290	1,894,659	
King County high ³		1,851,128	2,080,093	2,318,368	

¹UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

²US Census Bureau

³Washington State Office of Financial Management

The table above shows population projections from several different sources. We can observe several notable trends in these numbers. First, that the growth rate of the U.S. will be plateauing relative to the growth rate of other countries. At the regional level, we expect Washington State to grow by as much as 1 to 2.5 million; up to half a million of this growth will be in King County.

The City of Seattle's Future Land Use Map (opposite) reflects a growth plan that theoretically will accommodate 40-60 years of growth. The current growth strategy encourages densification of neighborhood business centers as a strategy to decentralize growth in a somewhat organized way.

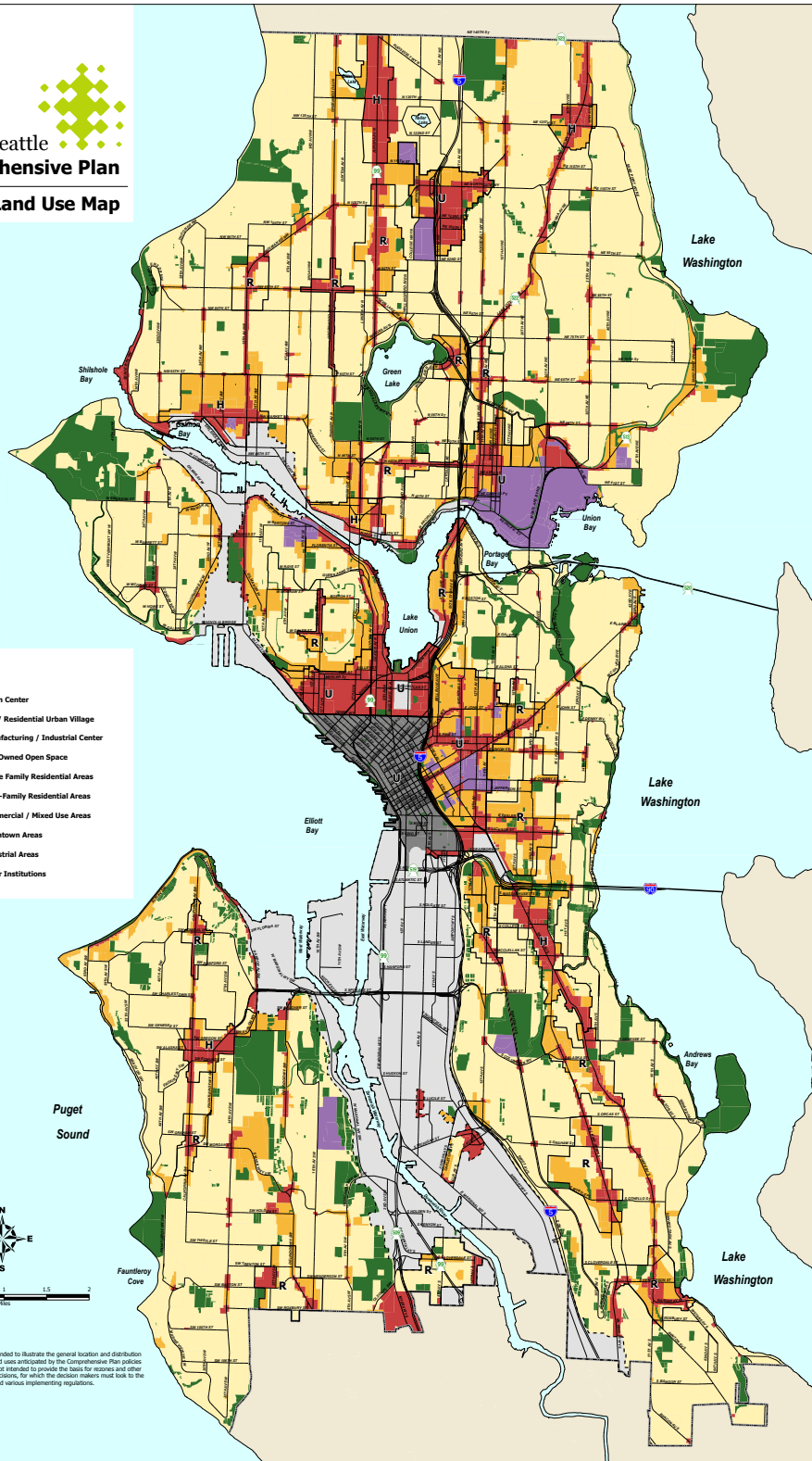
City of Seattle
Comprehensive Plan
Future Land Use Map

Legend

- U Urban Center
- H/R Hub / Residential Urban Village
- Manufacturing / Industrial Center
- City-Owned Open Space
- Single Family Residential Areas
- Multi-Family Residential Areas
- Commercial / Mixed Use Areas
- Downtown Areas
- Industrial Areas
- Major Institutions



The future land use map is intended to illustrate the general location and distribution of the various categories of land uses anticipated by the Comprehensive Plan policies over the life of this plan. It is not intended to provide the basis for rezones and other legislative and quasi-judicial decisions, for which the decision makers must look to the Comprehensive Plan policies and various implementing regulations.



References

Recent Census and Projection info:

Global/Federal sources

World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision <http://www.un.org/popin/data.html>
Global Population Profile: 2002 <http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/wp02.html> (global trends)(2004)

State and Local

http://www2.cityofseattle.net/GIS_Map/sub_interim.asp?topic='Demographics'
Washington State County Population Projections http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/gma/Future_Land_Use_Map. http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/dpd/stellent/groups/pan/@pan/@plan/@proj/documents/Web_Informational/cos_004501.pdf

General Reference

Academic

<http://faculty.washington.edu/~krumme/350/population.html#clippings>
<http://www.cses.washington.edu/cig/>

Other

O'Neill, et al. "A Guide to Global Population Projections." *Demographic Research*. v. 4, article 8, 13 June 2001.
<http://www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/vol4/8/4-8.pdf>

Roberts, Sam. "Come October, Baby Will Make 300 Million or So." *The New York Times*. 13 January 2006.