

# Port Townsend Demographics

Port Townsend (the only incorporated community in Jefferson County) is located in the northeast corner of the Olympic Peninsula, in the "rain shadow" of the Olympic Mountains. The area is one of natural beauty, ranging in altitude from sea level to 350' above. It is bordered by the waters of Discovery Bay, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Port Townsend Bay. Beyond lie the Cascade Mountains to the east and the Olympic Mountains to the west. The waters off Point Wilson are legendary among Northwest fisherman.

The annual rainfall for the vicinity over the past four years averaged approx. 18 inches. Conditions may vary from rainy to windy to warm and dry, but high humidity and suffocating heat are rare. Freezing temperatures and snow are also rare but happen occasionally.

Port Townsend is one of only 3 Victorian Seaports on the National Historic Register. The downtown waterfront area and the residential area above the bluff with its preserved Victorian homes and commercial buildings are designated a National Historic District, as is Fort Worden, which was built at the turn of the century as part of the harbor defense system for Puget Sound. It is now a state park, and its restored barracks and officers' row homes are available for public rental. The Fort also provides camping facilities and a wide variety of recreational activities, with its beaches, miles of wooded trails, and Marine Science Center and museum.

## Community Profile

**Population** ~ Port Townsend: 8800, Jefferson County 25,000– 27,000

**Jefferson County area** ~ acreage: 176,282, square mile: 1,820

**Municipal Services** **City:** Water, sewer, garbage, animal control. Fire Department: 9 full time staff members, 28 volunteers, 3 aid units, 8 engines. Law Enforcement: 11 full time staff members, 8 reserves, 11 patrol units. **County:** Fire Department: 1 full time staff, 73 volunteers, 3 aid units, 17 engines. Law Enforcement: 34 full time sheriff personnel, 13 reserve, 13 patrol units.

**Chamber of Commerce** ~ In operation for 107 years with 14 active committees and a membership that includes 240 local businesses.

**Education** ~ **Port Townsend:** 2 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 high school: 2 private schools, 7 pre-schools, 1 community college branch, 1 library. **County:** 2 elementary schools, 1 junior high, 2 high schools: 1 private school, 2 preschools. 1 library, 1 mobile library unit.

## Community Services

**Civic/Fraternal/Professional Organizations** ~ Over 75 organizations with local, regional, national, or international affiliation.

**Recreation** ~ Public swimming pool, 3 golf courses, 16 tennis courts, biking and hiking trails, over 160 acres of public parks, many with beach access.

**Local Government** ~ City: Mayor, 7 council members. County seat: 3 commissioners, Port Authority: 3 commissioners.

**Tax Rate** ~ City property tax: \$14.45 per \$1,000: City sales tax: 8.3%

**Financial Institutions** ~ 3 banks, 3 savings & loan, 2 credit unions.

**Industry** ~ Pulp & paper, marine trades, boat building, health services, retail, wood products, diversified manufacturing, tourism.

**Health services** ~ 45 bed hospital, air ambulance, 31 doctors covering 20 areas of medical practice, 15 dental specialists, 92 bed nursing home, 3 assisted living facilities.

**Senior citizens organizations** ~ 35 local organizations and agencies provide a vast variety of services.

**Churches** ~ 29 congregations encompassing 23 denominations/faiths

**Cultural/performing arts** ~ Over 75 annual events sponsored by Centrum & other local organizations. Events range from jazz festival, historic home tours, dinner theatre, craft fairs, sailing regattas, summer youth symposium, writer' conference, and film festivals.

**Transportation/Delivery services:** Jefferson County International Airport: charter airlines. Jefferson County Transit: Daily service throughout the city and county: 2 motor freight lines, 2 express delivery services, taxi and limousine service, Washington State Ferry service between Port Townsend and Whidbey Island.