

US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET



Comparison at same scale

Washington
Area: 68,138 sq. miles
Population: 5.6 million

El Salvador
Area: 8,124 sq. miles
Population: 5.9 million



Largest metropolitan areas by population (1996): Seattle-Bellevue-Everett (2,234,707), Tacoma (657,272), Spokane (404,920)

Largest urban areas by population (1992): San Salvador (1,522,126), Santa Ana (202,337), San Miguel (182,817)

Gourmet coffee shops in Seattle have become as much a part of Washington's image as Delicious apples and Mount Rainier. In El Salvador's western highland—prime coffee land—coffee workers earn roughly the daily minimum wage of 5 colones—around US\$1.60, about what a Seattle resident pays for an espresso drink. In El Salvador, coffee means jobs and export earnings for the country. But when coffee is grown on full sun plantations rather than in the shade of trees, it can often lead to large-scale deforestation.

Washington and El Salvador face related natural resource issues. Both have Pacific coastlines, forests, mountains, and volcanoes. Washington residents living near Puget Sound, for example, fear that new arrivals, drawn to high-paying jobs and the state's natural beauty, may affect the quality of life. In El Salvador, growth in the

hemisphere's second most densely populated country intensifies competition for farmland or jobs. Both areas rely on rivers for hydroelectric power and struggle to protect and restore forestlands.

Stark differences between the two areas abound. El Salvador is largely rural and suffers from the after-effects of a 12-year civil war, including a high crime rate among some young former military. Washington, with 76 percent of its population living in urban areas, features high-paying aerospace and electronics jobs and highly productive wheat and cattle lands in the east. Washingtonians have, on average, more than 16 times the wealth and use more than 23 times the energy as people living in El Salvador.

Both wealth and extreme poverty put unique stresses on natural resources. Wealth promotes high consumption and creates the illusion of

independence from the immediate natural environment. Wealth also enables expensive environmental protection and cleanups. Extreme poverty forces Salvadoran farmers and laborers to make choices that are beneficial in the short-term but may cause long-term environmental damage. Clearing land, harvesting fish, and using children's labor will feed their families this year, but may not sustain the next generation. Although El Salvador scarcely regulates widespread pollution of streams and rivers, Washington is host to a mammoth cleanup around the Hanford Engineer Works (along the Columbia River) that produced plutonium for nuclear weapons until 1988.

Rapid growth along Puget Sound in the 1980s and early 1990s outpaced the ability of many communities to provide roads, services, and schools.

continued on back page

WASHINGTON

Demographic and Health Trends

- Washington's population grew more than 15 percent during the 1990s—the seventh largest percentage increase in the country. The “Evergreen State” had 5.6 million residents in 1997, up from 4.9 million in 1990.
- More than three-fifths (62 percent) of Washington's growth between 1996 and 1997 came as a result of net migration. Nearly three-fourths of the state's migrants came from other states and the rest from other countries.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- The federal government has spent nearly \$8 billion in the last decade to clean up the area around Hanford Engineer Works, a plutonium plant in the upper Columbia River drainage system. The plant had to be closed in 1988 because of hazardous waste leaks. Today, nearly 55 million gallons of nuclear waste lie in concrete holding pools near the Columbia River.
- The Columbia River basin (including its tributary, the Snake River) is the major source of hydroelectric power and irrigation. The last free-flowing section of the Columbia River, the Hanford, is currently being

Socioeconomic Factors

- Washington has one of the nation's most diversified economies. The state is headquarters for such companies as The Boeing Company, the nation's leading aircraft manufacturer, as well as Microsoft Corporation and Starbucks Coffee Company. Hydroelectric power and logging remain key industries, although not as

- Population in the San Juan Islands has increased more than fourfold since 1960.
- All 39 of Washington's counties have gained population during the 1990s, but the growth is not evenly distributed. Clark County has grown the fastest since 1990, at 28 percent, whereas 11 other counties—mainly those west of Puget Sound and in northeastern Washington—have grown at least 20 percent.

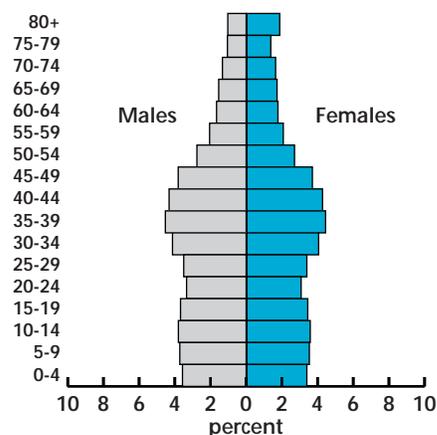
threatened with development.

- Ironically, the San Juan Islands have been plagued by water shortages in recent years—the byproduct of rapid population growth and two years of drought. Lying in a rain shadow—an area of little or no rain—created by the Olympic Mountains to the west, these islands average about one-half of Seattle's 38 inches of annual rainfall.
- Washington's endangered and threatened species include the grizzly bear, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, northern spotted owl, and gray wolf.

important as they were 50 years ago.

- Washington leads the country in apple production, producing about one-half of the apples grown in the United States.
- Seattle is making a concerted effort to focus growth in already developed areas.

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

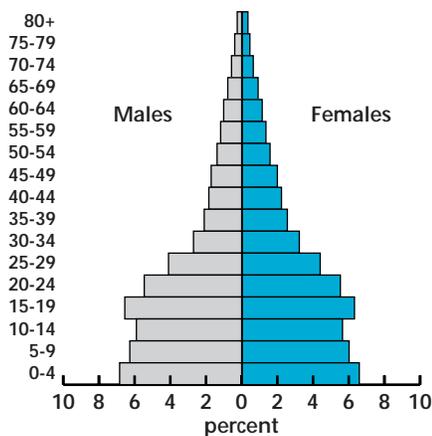


WASHINGTON FACTS

- Population, 1997: 5.6 million
- Projected population, 2025: 7.8 million
- Annual growth rate: 1.6%
- Doubling time (at current rate): 44 years
- Average number of children per woman: 2.1
- Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 5.9
- Life expectancy: 74 (male), 80 (female)
- Persons per square mile: 84
- Percent urban: 76
- Endangered/threatened animals: 12 species
- Endangered/threatened plants: 5 species
- Percent of land protected: 12
- Wetlands loss, 1780-1980: 31%
- Daily water use per capita: 1,631 gallons
- Water use for domestic purposes: 15%
- Water use for agriculture: 73%
- Water use for industry: 7%
- Water use for energy production: 4%
- Cropland per capita: 3.7 acres
- Energy use per capita: 68.3 barrels of oil equiv.
- Persons per motor vehicle: 1.2
- Adults who are high school graduates: 90%
- Elected officials who are women: 39%
- Labor force in agriculture: 4%
- Labor force in industry: 18%
- Labor force in services: 78%
- Gross State Product, 1994: \$26,886 per capita

EL SALVADOR

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



EL SALVADOR FACTS

Population, 1997: 5.9 million
Projected population, 2025: 9.1 million
Annual growth rate: 1.6%
Doubling time (at current rate): 43 years
Average number of children per woman: 3.9
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 41
Life expectancy: 65 (male), 70 (female)
Persons per square mile: 742
Percent urban: 45
Threatened animals: 9 species
Threatened plants: 35 species
Percent of land protected: 0.2
Wetlands loss, through 1980s: n.a.
Percent with access to safe water: 69
Percent with adequate sanitation: 81
Daily water use per capita: 177 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 7%
Water use for agriculture: 89%
Water use for industry: 4%
Cropland per capita: 0.3 acres
Energy use per capita: 2.1 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 105
Percent of girls in secondary school: 30
Percent of boys in secondary school: 27
Women as % of national legislature: n.a.
Labor force in agriculture: 36%
Labor force in industry: 23%
Labor force in services: 42%
GDP per capita, 1995: US\$1,605

Demographic and Health Trends

■ Like other Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, El Salvador's population is young. Thirty-nine percent of the population is under age 15 (see figure). As a result, the population will continue to grow rapidly even as birth rates decline.

■ El Salvador is the most densely populated country in Central America.

■ Urban areas are expected to grow faster in the next quarter century than in the last 25 years.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

■ Less than 15 percent of El Salvador's original forest cover remains. Soil loss and degradation—serious consequences of deforestation—are exacerbated by the fragile nature of the soils, steep terrain, and inappropriate cultivation methods. The failure to safeguard watersheds contributes to flooding, water pollution, and the depletion of groundwater supplies.

tween 1973 and 1993, resulting largely from the increase in population. Most of this energy is imported.

■ Habitat destruction is a barrier to the reintroduction of species that have become extinct in El Salvador. Also at risk are 128 vertebrates, 65 tree species, 52 varieties of orchids, and El Salvador's last natural forests, its coastal mangrove stands.

■ El Salvador's consumption of commercial energy almost doubled be-

Socioeconomic Factors

■ El Salvador's civil war devastated the country's economy. Export earnings fell as guerrilla sabotage damaged infrastructures and means of production. Investment increased when attacks on economic targets ended in 1992.

■ The United States is El Salvador's largest market (at 49 percent) and largest supplier of goods.

■ About four percent of the country's GNP comes from official development assistance—twice the percentage received on average by LAC countries. In 1997, El Salvador received \$30.8 million in assistance from the United States.

■ Agriculture employs the largest share of El Salvador's workers. In 1993 the traditional export crops of coffee, cotton and sugar accounted for 35 percent of export earnings. Other important crops include rice, beans, corn, and other grains. Manufacturing now accounts for the largest share of exports (60 percent) but the largest share is processed foods.

■ El Salvador's literacy rates are low compared to other LAC countries; 74 percent of Salvadoran men and 70 percent of women are literate. School enrollment levels also are much lower. Only 58 percent of Salvadoran children reach the fifth grade.

continued from page 1

Rising real estate prices and limited construction sites have minimized growth in Seattle itself since 1970, but surrounding King County has grown by 500,000 people. Area residents feel the growth in clogged traffic, bridges, and ferry lines.

El Salvador's poverty and natural resource problems are linked. Forty-one of every 1,000 babies die during the first year of life, compared to 5.9 of every 1,000 babies in Washington. Human and chemical wastes, often untreated and unregulated, pollute 90 percent of the rivers and nearly all topsoil and drinking water in heavily populated areas. Two-thirds of farmland in the mountainous country is eroded: The resulting pollution and agricultural runoff threaten shellfish and seafood businesses close to the coast. Forests once covered 85 percent of El Salvador; now less than 5 percent of the land is forested, and much of the cleared land is so degraded that there is little hope of restoring endangered plant and animal species. El Salvador's economic growth has been spurred by industrial parks. These facilities employ 40,000 women in textile assembly for U.S. distributors. One-half of these women are heads of households and earn, on average, 56 cents per hour.

Responding to Challenges

Recognizing the international nature of the environmental issues facing Puget Sound and Georgia Basin to the north, Washington and British Columbia signed an Environment Cooperation Agreement in 1992. The agreement includes measures to reduce wetland loss, control oil spills and wastes, and protect native animals and plants. Other environmental efforts are local, and sometimes fraught with conflict. Environmental groups are working to block gold mining plans in the northern Buckhorn Mountains, to prohibit logging in roadless areas, and to protect the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River.

In El Salvador, international aid has helped disarm and retrain armed forces in 115 municipalities in former war zones, with more than 100 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) managing employment projects. Eighteen NGOs, including Seattle-based World Vision, provide health care services, financed

by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which budgeted \$33.2 million for development aid to El Salvador in 1998.

The El Salvador Environment Fund, created in 1994 with support from the governments of the United

People in Washington and El Salvador, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

States, Canada, and Japan, supports small projects both for environmental protection and child development. Additional support for development activities comes from the U.S. Peace Corps, which provided 67 volunteers to El Salvador in 1997. ■

DEFINITIONS: **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP.

SOURCES: Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: In 1998, the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) produced the *US in the World* fact sheet series in collaboration with the Population and Habitat Campaign of the National Audubon Society and the Population Coalition of local Leagues of Women Voters. The *US in the World* project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, is designed to help Americans explore how a shared concern for the environment links us to people of the world.

FACT SHEETS PRODUCED BY:

PRB Population Reference Bureau, 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20009; Phone: 202-483-1100; Fax: 202-328-3937; Web site: <http://www.prb.org>

National Audubon Society, Population and Habitat Campaign; Phone: 303-442-2600; Web site: <http://www.earthnet.net/~popnet>

Population Coalition of local Leagues of Women Voters; Phone: 909-625-5717; Web site: <http://popca.org>