



# A Demographic and Economic Analysis for the the City of Spokane Valley

Monograph No. 1

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## Executive Summary

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This study provides an overall socio-economic picture of the The City of Spokane Valley. The purpose of the research is to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of the The City of Spokane Valley, one of the largest in the state of Washington. The analysis focuses on sources of employment, population demographics, income and poverty demographics. The study relies on a variety of data sources, with the U.S. Census being the primary source.

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## The major findings of the study are:

- The high percentage of retail, construction and hospitably firms suggests that the City of Spokane Valley's business activity will be quite sensitive to changes in the business cycle. In turn, this means the city's sales tax revenue will be quite sensitive to changes in the business cycle.
  - The City of Spokane Valley has a significant number of relatively affordable and fairly new (10 to 25 years old) housing units. In addition, the growth of median home values between 1990 and 2000 indicates that the The City of Spokane Valley has experienced an expanding property tax base.
  - The percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher is low relative to the county and state. Consequently, holding other influences constant, the City of Spokane Valley cannot expect to increase its own income growth unless its share of individuals with advanced degrees increases.
  - Although the overall poverty rates in the the City of Spokane Valley compare favorably with the state and county, within the City of Spokane Valley, the Yardley, Millwood, Dishman-Mica and Trentwood areas-stand-out with higher than average poverty rates in one or more categories.
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