

# PUGET SOUND VITAL SIGNS

## VITAL SIGN ECONOMIC VITALITY

The Economic Vital Sign will tell us how well natural resource-based industries are doing economically over time, as well as compared to non-natural resource-based industries. As indicated in the Legislative Statute, the Partnership is intended to manage for functioning ecosystems that support not only natural systems but social and cultural wellbeing and economic vitality as well. While some aspects of economic vitality may not be sensitive to Puget Sound recovery efforts, it is important to be aware of annual perturbations in industries that may be affected. These natural resource-based industries have a long-standing history in the region and their existence is important to residents of the area as they provide jobs, income, a sense of identity, cultural heritage and sense of place.

### Vital Sign Reporter

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### Last Updated

9/30/2020

VITAL SIGN > INDICATOR	PROGRESS	STATUS
Economic Vitality		
Percent of employment in natural resource industries	MIXED RESULTS	NO 2020 TARGET
Employment in natural resource industries	MIXED RESULTS	NO 2020 TARGET
Natural resource industry output	MIXED RESULTS	NO 2020 TARGET

## Key Vital Sign Messages

Based on the 2020 updates to the Employment and Percent Employment indicators with data through 2017:

- The region is making some progress with overall growth among natural resource industries, largely impacted by growth in the recreation and tourism sector. Aquaculture, agriculture and recreation and tourism sectors all report general employment and total wages growth from 2005 to 2017.
- The percentage of natural resource industry employment and wages out of total employment and wages varies across counties from 1 to 19 percent. Natural resource industries appear to be a higher percentage of wage and employment in smaller, more rural counties that have historically relied on these industries.
- Reporting employment and wage data instead of GDP data shifts the focus more directly toward people and how these industries support jobs and livelihoods in the Puget Sound region, which aligns with other subjective indicators of human wellbeing Vital Signs.



Fisheries, a natural resource industry

Based on the 2020 update of the natural resource industry output indicator with data through 2017:

- GDP in tourism and recreation has increased consistently each year beginning in 2010.

- Combined product value, or prices paid to producers for unprocessed timber, fish, shellfish, crops and livestock from 2005 through 2017 averaged about \$1.6 billion (\$2017) annually. Since 2005, the combined value of natural resource industry products has had ups and downs.

## Strategies, Actions, And Effectiveness

- Actions proposed in the Action Agenda that advance this Vital Sign (*let us know if we missed any!*):
  - Hood Canal Natural Resource Economic Assessment
  - Developing a Natural Resources Asset Management Program
  - Nature's Value in the Salish Sea: Identifying the Economics Behind a Healthy Puget Sound
  - The Economic Benefits of the Southern Resident Killer Whales

## Background Documents

- Leadership Council Resolution 2015-02, Human Health and Quality of Life Vital Signs and Indicators
- Human Wellbeing Vital Signs and Indicators for Puget Sound Recovery

## Other Resources

- Articles related to ecosystem services and quality of life in the [Encyclopedia of Puget Sound](#)
- [Economic Impact of Killer Whales in the Salish Sea](#), by Earth Economics, supported by the Seadoc Society

## Contributing Partners

