

at a glance



SPOKANE

Near nature. Near perfect.

The Spokane region's low cost of living, cultural amenities and abundant recreational opportunities, combined with investments in industry, education and infrastructure, create an outstanding environment to live, work and play. Check out the Spokane region and discover what we can do for your business.

education

- Education is a high priority in Spokane. The region's educational system reflects the community's diversity and commitment to education, offering programs at all levels, meeting the needs of both student and employer.
- The region is home to 18 universities and colleges, with over 65,000 students enrolled.
- Spokane County has 14 public school districts and 13 private schools with a 12 to 19 teacher-to-pupil ratio. Its K-12 schools are consistently recognized for distinguished programs for gifted and special needs students, as well as for their widely respected athletic and music programs.
- Located in the downtown core, the University District is built on Spokane's unique assets and strong healthcare presence, and includes a complex of university campuses, research institutions, incubator and commercialization facilities and multiple healthcare providers.
- Home to both Eastern Washington University – Spokane and Washington State University – Spokane, the Riverpoint Campus, located in the University District, serves as the center for university-community engagement aimed at developing human capital; improving the health of humans, communities, and the environment; and sparking robust, sustainable, inclusive economic development.
- Spokane is home to the second largest community college district in the state of Washington and provides numerous technical degrees and job training services.
- Gonzaga University and Law School is one of the West's premier regional universities and offers seven undergraduate degrees in 43 majors, and degrees in 27 master's programs.
- Whitworth University is a residential liberal arts college affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, and is located 14 minutes north of downtown Spokane on a 200-acre wooded campus.



healthcare

- The Spokane region offers the largest concentration of medical services between Seattle and Minneapolis, and Calgary and Salt Lake City.
- The region serves as the healthcare hub of the Inland Northwest with four full-service hospitals, two of which are the second and third largest in the state.
- Sacred Heart Medical Center, a 623-bed facility, is a leader in heart and kidney transplant services, and is a major training facility for robotic heart surgery.
- Deaconess Hospital is highly recognized for its cardiac care program, which is ranked number one in the state of Washington.
- Accounting for more than 12.5% of the local employment base, the healthcare sector is home to over 1,000 businesses powered by a healthcare workforce that exceeds 29,000.
- Bioscience is expanding in the region with projects in both the private and public sectors, and more than 500 research studies and clinical trials currently underway. These projects play an increasingly important role in defining the area's economy as they expand from research to production.
- The UWheristry District has been designated a WA State Innovation Partnership Zone for bioscience and healthcare initiatives.



lifestyle

- Spokane is truly Near Nature. Near Perfect. With a four-season climate, and its location situated between the Rocky and Cascade Mountain ranges, Spokane is protected from damp coastal weather, as well as continental-type winters. Its location provides ample opportunities for recreation and sports. Cost of living and home prices are very reasonable, giving most families the opportunity to purchase a home.
- The area boasts 260 days of sunshine per year and less than 17 inches of annual precipitation.
- Spokane is surrounded by 76 lakes and four major rivers.
- Spend time where it matters most - average commute time is only 22 minutes.
- The region is home to 80 arts organizations, a professional symphony, opera, and theater and dance companies.
- The Spokane region offers an abundance of sporting events and activities for all ages including more than 32 golf courses, many ranked "best in the nation."



infrastructure

- The Spokane region is committed to the advancement of its infrastructure and invests significantly in the improvement of the Spokane airports, highways and telecommunications systems.
- Spokane International Airport is the second largest airport in Washington State, and is served by ten commercial airlines and four air cargo carriers.
- Spokane is a designated port of entry with U.S. Customs and Facilities.
- Spokane's general purpose Foreign Trade Zone #224 encompasses nearly 6,000 acres on four separate properties.
- Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway serve the region with an outstanding intermodal facility.
- Freeways include Interstate 90, State Highway 2 (east-west) and State Highways 395 and 195 (north-south).
- Spokane Transit Authority's mass transit system covers 371 square miles, 39 different bus routes, and has 12 park and ride lots throughout the region.
- With its strong base of research and academic resources, Spokane is concentrated on becoming a burgeoning center for information technology and telecommunications. The region is considered "well-connected" due to more than 500 route miles of commercial fiber-optic infrastructure that have been deployed over the past decade.
- *Forbes Magazine* ranked the City of Spokane the fifth-safest city in the United States from natural disaster.



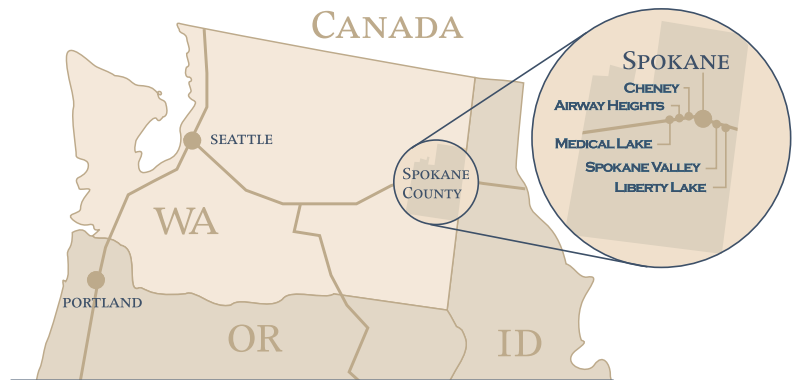
The Spokane region serves as the business, transportation, medical, industrial and cultural hub of the Inland Northwest, an area that comprises a population of more than 1.4 million people. The region is located on the east side of Washington State, just west of the Idaho State line and 100 miles south of the Canadian border.

The regional economy is diverse, thriving on the emergence of new technologies in research and education and health and bio-sciences, while embracing new developments in traditional industries including agriculture, manufacturing and forestry. Spokane is widely recognized for its geographic diversity for media productions, and as a hub for new generation energy initiatives. Over the past few years, population and job growth in the Spokane region have outperformed national trends.

In partnership with industry, the economy relies on the region's continued investments in human capital and infrastructure to create an environment for success. Award-winning K-12 schools and world-class colleges and universities reflect the region's solid commitment to education. Significant transportation and communication assets position the area for sustained growth and development.

Your business needs the right environment to grow. Spokane is proud of its business-friendly and progressive environment which provides exceptional opportunities for business growth and expansion. Our community leaders are dedicated to helping streamline the permitting process for new businesses relocating to the area and assisting existing companies in their expansion efforts. Our staff of seasoned professionals works closely with government and industry leaders to remain current on policy issues and legislation affecting the business community.

- No corporate or personal income tax
- Affordable operating costs
- Low labor and industry rates
- Low-cost utilities
- Affordable and reliable workforce among the most productive in the nation
- Affordable commercial sites
- Hiring and job training credits
- Tax incentives for eligible businesses in various industries like manufacturing, software, research and development, technology, aerospace and more



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