

Port of Tacoma Commission

Michael Catsi, CEcD
PRESIDENT & CEO

OUR FOCUS

Driving Economic Growth & Investment

The EDB drives sustainable economic growth by strengthening business competitiveness, growing jobs, attracting investment, and coordinating partners around Pierce County's economic priorities.

- Private nonprofit 501(c)(6) organization
- One of 35 State-designated Associate Development Organizations – ADO for Pierce County
- Funded by public and private investors
- Led by a 40+ member board comprised of business, government, education, and community leaders



Traded-Sector Companies

Businesses that sell goods and services to customers outside the local area. Their impact supports local jobs, suppliers, public services, and long-term community investments.

MEANINGFUL IMPACT

1 in 4

jobs in a typical economy are supported indirectly by traded sector employers, through spending, suppliers, and tax revenue.

Key Sectors

Freight & Logistics

**Technology/
Clean Technology**

Healthcare

Manufacturing

**AEROSPACE + DEFENSE
FOOD + BEVERAGE
INFRASTRUCTURE + BUILDING MATERIALS
MARITIME
GENERAL MANUFACTURING**

2026-2030 Strategic Focus

**Cooperative
Business
Environment**

**Proactive Job
Creation &
Retention**

**Marketing &
Regional
Alignment**

Business Retention & Expansion Visits

What is a BRE?

A pro-active and confidential, in-person conversation with a local employer focused on workforce, operations, competitiveness, and growth plans.

Why does it matter?

- Existing business growth
- Early warning signs
- Stronger relationships

Our Activity

86 BRE Visits

Completed

January 1, 2026 – October 7, 2026

What We're Hearing

Headwinds

- **Access to capital**
 - Higher costs and tighter financing
- **Permitting**
 - Timelines and process remain a concern
- **Economic uncertainty**
 - Slowing some investment decisions

Tailwinds

- **Aerospace + defense demand**
 - New supply-chain opportunities are emerging
- **Expansion activity**
 - Several businesses are planning for growth
- **Cautious optimism**
 - Overall sentiment remains positive

How Business Attraction & Recruitment Works

Target the right fit

Recruitment begins with industries and companies that align with Pierce County's workforce, infrastructure, and supply chain.

Support the win

- Market strengths
- Generate leads
- Support site selection
- Coordinate partners

Building results

2 wins this year

15 active recruitment projects

Working Together for Economic Vitality

Shared Opportunities

- Coordinated business recruitment to attract trade-related businesses.
- Strengthen maritime, logistics, and advanced manufacturing clusters.
- Recruit SAF, renewable fuels, and other emerging clean-energy manufacturers.

Wins for the County

- Aertssen Logistics selected Tacoma for an equipment processing center serving manufacturers of agriculture, mining and construction machinery. Second US location, bringing 75 jobs.

Turning strategy into tools, alignment, & action

Improving the Permitting Experience

Assessing permitting processes and business experiences to identify recurring barriers, benchmark best practices, and develop actionable recommendations.

Report coming soon!

Bringing Education & Workforce to One Table

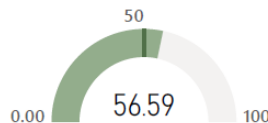
Brought Pierce County college presidents and Workforce Central together to align talent strategies, workforce priorities, and a coordinated legislative agenda for the region.

Pierce County Economic Health Index

In partnership with UW Tacoma students, EDB created an Economic Health Index to measure the relative strength of Pierce County's economy and provide partners with a shared, data-driven view of regional performance.

Pierce County Economic Health Index

Overall Economic Health

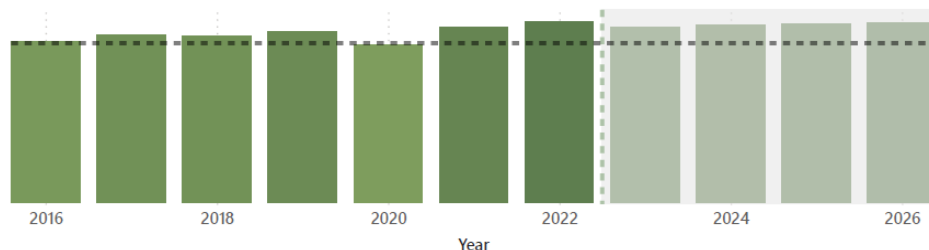


The **Economic Health Index** measures the relative **strength of Pierce County's economy over time** using key indicators, with **50 representing the historical average** and higher scores indicating stronger economic conditions.

Forecasted years are shown with **shaded gray regions** and represent **trend-based projected values** where **one or more** indicators include forecasts rather than observed data.

10-Year Composite Economic Health Index

Composite normalized index combining all economic pillars

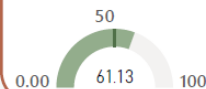


Economic Health Trend & Forward Outlook

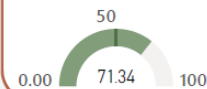
Composite normalized index based on available economic indicators.



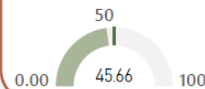
Labor Market & Employment



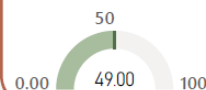
Income & Economic Output



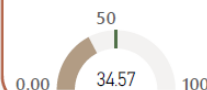
Business Dynamism & Economic Vitality



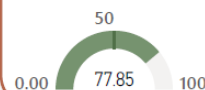
Net Migration / Population Context



Housing & Cost of Living



Human Capital & Workforce Readiness



OUR FOCUS

Pierce County's Ecosystem in Action

Convene

Bring business, government, education, workforce, and community partners together.

Align

Build shared priorities across Pierce County.

Advance

Move opportunities forward to strengthen our region.

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STRATEGIC REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

January 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

RESULTS

Economic Impact 2021-2025

15 **SUCCESSFUL**
PROJECTS

Recruitment, retention, and expansion wins supported by regional partners across manufacturing, logistics, aerospace, clean tech and services.

Private Capital
Investment

\$252M

New company investment anchored in the region.

Total Jobs

4,018

2,987 direct and 1,031 indirect jobs.

Annual Business
Output

\$987M

Estimated annual activity generated by supported projects.

**ANNUAL
RETURN**

\$286M

Personal
income

\$55M

Tax revenues

\$232M

Consumer
spending

Building a more competitive, connected, and investment-ready Pierce County.

Michael Catsi, CEcD

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FOR TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY