



Center of Distribution and Logistics



Greater Seattle is a leading center of distribution and logistics, including world-class ports, a major air hub, rail and truck transportation, and all the services that facilitate the free flow of goods.

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Overview

By air, land and sea Greater Seattle brings goods and services to people all over the United States and the world. Our historic maritime role, strategic location and international expertise make Greater Seattle one of the leading distribution and logistics centers of the world. The Greater Seattle area is a natural location for intermodal innovation, since the region is historically rooted in maritime trade. Our Ports have made substantial investments in the most advanced technology for shifting containers from ships to trains and trucks. Greater Seattle is linked to the rest of the world via two transcontinental railroads, extensive nationwide trucking capacity, three interstate highways, a ferry system, and one of the nation's busiest airports.

Washington freight can be delivered overnight to neighboring states and British Columbia. Deliveries to San Francisco can be made within one day, to Los Angeles in two. Overland shipping distances from the state's metropolitan areas to the mid-western U.S. are shorter than routes from other major western coastal cities. From Seattle to the East Coast, overland shipping can be accomplished in five days or less.

Washington has more than 4,300 registered intrastate motor freight carriers and more than 4,100 registered interstate motor freight carriers, which depart daily to serve western, mountain and midwestern regions of the U.S. and Canada. Washington also ranks among the top 10 states in general freight tonnage carried by truck interstate. This level of competition results in favorable negotiated freight rates.

The BNSF and Union Pacific railroads have long served the King County and Pierce County areas. These railroads connect 114 major terminal points within the state and provide access to every major city in the United States. In addition to the two main railroads, there are 14 local service railroads.

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is the regional air hub for the Pacific Northwest and a major gateway joining Asia and Europe with the United States. By air, Greater Seattle is equidistant to Asia and Europe. Sea-Tac is one to two hours closer to Pacific Asia than Southern California airports. In addition, transpolar routing enables Sea-Tac to rival East Coast cities in flight time to European capitals.

Washington is currently one of the most internationally trade-oriented states in the nation. A remarkable one out of every three jobs in the state is dependent on foreign trade. Many of our large companies rely on international markets for their customer base. More than 60% of Microsoft's sales and more than 70% of Boeing's rely on overseas customers. This market isn't limited to large companies: more than 80% of exporters in Washington state are small and medium sized businesses.

Greater Seattle is a port city.

Its first European settlers arrived by boat, and we've been moving goods and people through ever since. Prospectors flocked to the Greater Seattle area during the gold rush to stock up on their way to Alaska—today Alaska trade moves through the ports of Tacoma and Seattle. Our ports are container shippers to and from Asia; breakbulk cargos of grain move from the American heartland to the far reaches of the world.

Today, the Seattle-Tacoma port region is the third largest shipping hub in North America, smaller only than New York/New Jersey and Los Angeles/Long Beach. Our ports serve not only the U.S. Pacific Northwest, but also the major cities of the Midwest, East Coast and Canada. Greater Seattle is one sailing day closer to Asia than the California ports, making it a major crossroads for the exchange of goods between the continents. Global trade is vitally important to Washington State: one out of three jobs in the state are dependent on international trade.

The Three-county region of Greater Seattle



To move goods from the producers to the consumers requires an intricate connection of transportation networks. The Greater Seattle area is served by deepwater seaports, four railroads, major highways and interstates, and two airports.

The region includes King County, Pierce County and Snohomish County and the ports of Everett, Tacoma, and Seattle.

The Port of Tacoma

[The Port of Tacoma](#) is one of America's leading container ports. Six container carriers and their affiliated partners offer service to Asia, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the US West Coast.

The port is located on Commencement Bay, a natural deep water harbor with ample room for future growth and expansion. The Blair Waterway developments have increased the width and depth of this channel, which can accommodate the world's largest containerships. Additional terminal developments are underway.

In 2006, the Port of Tacoma broke several cargo records, including a record 2.1 million TEUs. International containers are the fastest growing segment of the Port and that trend is expected to continue. Customer growth also spurred an increase in intermodal lifts—the transfer of containers between ship and rail—in the Port's four intermodal rail yards. More than 70 percent of the Port's international container cargo moves to or from the central and eastern United States, an indication of the Port's role as a major national and international gateway for trade.

The Port of Seattle

The Port of Seattle is one of the largest container and cruise centers on the West Coast. A natural deep water harbor, Seattle is closer to Asia than any other major U.S. port and offers superb rail and road access for fast cargo transshipment.

The Port of Seattle is one of the largest, most efficient container and breakbulk cargo centers on the west coast. The Port has invested nearly \$1 billion dollars in container terminals over the past 12 years, and this investment has paid off with a 20% growth in international water-borne trade in 2004 and 2005. Four container terminals serve 25 steamship lines, and two intermodal yards speed connections with train and truck services.

Special facilities handle a variety of general and project cargo, including 233 acres of space, 8,000 feet of moorage, a special grain facility and storage for liquid cargo.

Cruise terminal developments are also supporting strong growth. Five cruise lines operate out of the Port of Seattle, with eight ships homeported there. Together, they carried more than 750,000 passengers in 2007, on 190 cruise ship calls.

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- *The Port of Tacoma processed a record 2.1 million TEUs in 2006, breaking a record it set the previous year.*
- *The Port of Seattle was the fastest-growing port in the US in 2005, with 2.1 million TEUs going through its container facilities, a 17.5 percent increase over the previous year.*
- *Together, the ports moved 40 million tons of goods in 2006*

Major steamship and barge companies calling in Greater Seattle ports:

APL	Hyundai Merchant Marine
CCNI	Italia Marittima
CMA-CGA	Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (“K” Line)
CSAV	MOL Ltd.
CP Ships	Maersk Line
China Ocean Shipping Company N. America	Maruba Line
China Shipping North America	Matson Navigation
Cosco	Mediterranean Shipping Company
Evergreen Marine	Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) Line
Far Eastern Shipping Company (FESCO)	Northland Services
Hamburg SUD	Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL)
Hanjin Shipping Company	Totem Ocean Trailer Express
Hapag-Lloyd Container Line	Yang Ming Line
Hatsu Marine Ltd.	Westwood Shipping Lines
Horizon Lines	ZIM

The Port of Everett

The Port of Everett, located 25 miles north of Seattle on Puget Sound, handles approximately 1 million tons of cargo per year. The Port's primary exports are logs, lumber, agricultural products and frozen foods; imports are bulk alumina ore and specialized aircraft parts for the Boeing Company. Expansion plans include Riverside Business Park, 2 hours from the Canadian border and 30 minutes from Seattle, for manufacturing, assembly and warehouse use.

Airports and Air Cargo

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sea-Tac) is a major international airport, operated by the Port of Seattle. It is the country's 28th busiest cargo airport, offering 3 million square feet of air cargo area. The airport is in the midst of a multi-year capital improvement project that will add the capacity needed to serve a growing region with an economy increasingly intertwined with international markets. The biggest of these projects is a third runway, expected to be completed in late 2008.

Greater Seattle's location in the northwest corner of the United States makes it a great Asian gateway for much of North America. Sea-Tac also offers convenient trans-Atlantic cargo schedules for the Northwest region with nonstop freighter services as well as the belly capacity available on nonstop wide-body passenger flights. Sea-Tac is equidistant to Europe and Asia (only 9 flight hours), and currently has nonstop flights to both. Additional international service is available through Federal Express and Northwest flights connecting in Anchorage.



King County International Airport, also known as Boeing Field, is one of the busiest non-hub airports in the nation. Located just five miles south of Seattle, it serves Bax Global, DHS, UPS, and several other cargo carriers.

Support Services

Because of all the port activities, an extensive support services industry abounds in the region. There are more than 100 maritime law and fisheries attorneys operating in the region as well as law firms specializing in all facets of international trade. Customs brokers and freight forwarders provide logistics services to the maritime industry in Greater Seattle. Local financial and accounting companies offer expertise in the maritime industry and in international trade.

- Law firms, some of which have offices or affiliates in various overseas countries
- Customs brokers (more than 60 in region)
- Freight forwarders
- Air freight
- Accounting and financial firms
- Insurance firms with international expertise
- International public relations firms
- Truckers
- Container sales
- Warehousing
- Rail Freight

Maritime Support Services:

[Stevedoring Services of America](#) (SSA Marine) began in the Northwest and has grown to become a diversified worldwide operator of shipping terminals and provider of cargo-handling services. They operate Port of Seattle Terminal 18 and Terminal 25.

[Eagle Marine Services](#) (EMS) operates Port of Seattle Terminal 5, known as the Global Gateway North. They provide stevedoring services and handle both breakbulk and container shipping.

Total Terminal Inc. (TTI) provides contracted stevedoring and operations services for Terminal 46.

[Jones Stevedoring Company](#), established in 1858 in Port Townsend, Washington territory, provides professional cargo handling along the west coast, and serves the Ports of Seattle, Everett, and Tacoma.

Harbor Service Companies:

[Crowley Marine Services](#) provides escort and docking services for tankers, container ships and other vessels.

[Foss Maritime](#), headquartered in Seattle, operates the largest fleet of tugs on the West Coast and provides a full range of marine transportation services, including harbor services, ocean towing, shipyard and terminal services.

Education: Programs in Trade & Logistics

The University of Washington offers a graduate program in [Global Trade, Transportation and Logistics \(GTTL\)](#). Students augment their regular graduate degrees with the GTTL Certificate, entering the workforce with a sophisticated understanding of how to manage and create effective and efficient intermodal trade networks.

[Highline Community College](#) is home to the Center of Excellence for International Trade, Transportation and Logistics. ITTL facilitates linkages and partnerships among education, business, industry, community partners, and workforce intermediaries, advocating for Washington state both nationally and internationally in international trade, transportation and logistics.

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