

**2017-2024**

# **Job Trends in the Federal Way Growth Hub**

Tracking NAICS Codes in the South King Economy





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## Methodology

The following sources were used to support the study: Lightcast, Washington Employment Estimates (WA-QB & CES), Employment Security Department, Employment Security Department of Washington State, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Labor Market Information and Research Division

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# Overview of Regional Economy

South King County's economic landscape is characterized by both its diversity and volatility, a reflection of broader structural shifts within the regional economy. As the fifth largest city in King County and the eleventh largest in Washington State, Federal Way plays a vital role in anchoring the southern portion of the Puget Sound corridor. Its strategic location between Seattle and Tacoma provides a unique advantage: proximity to two international ports, access to Interstate 5, and direct connectivity through expanding light rail infrastructure. These assets make Federal Way a key player in the movement of goods, talent, and capital across the region.

The area's employment base reflects a transitional economy which balancing traditional sectors like manufacturing, government, and retail with emerging and industries such as healthcare, professional services, and logistics. For instance, Healthcare and Social Assistance now represents the largest private employment sector in the region, buoyed by demographic trends and a sustained demand for skilled labor. Simultaneously, sectors such as Transportation and Warehousing, Information, and Professional Services have exhibited robust growth, aligning Federal Way with the evolving knowledge and logistics-driven economy of the wider Seattle-Tacoma metroplex.

However, this progress is tempered by notable challenges. Declines in Retail Trade, Government employment, and Manufacturing reveal structural pressures related to automation, remote service delivery, and global competition. These shifts demand proactive strategies in workforce reskilling and business retention. The disparity in economic outcomes among sectors also reflects broader concerns around equitable development. With wage averages in King County reaching \$120,463 annually in 2023, communities like Federal Way face the challenge of closing wage and opportunity gaps while remaining competitive for investment.

Looking ahead, Federal Way's ability to leverage its location, infrastructure, and growing sector strengths will determine the extent to which it can navigate economic volatility and capitalize on regional opportunities. By investing in connectivity, skills development, and business innovation, the city is positioning itself not only as a regional employment hub but also as a resilient economic engine for South King County.

South King County, with Federal Way as a key economic hub, presents a dynamic but evolving employment landscape. As the fifth largest city in King County and strategically positioned for international trade, Federal Way contributes significantly to the region's economic activity. The following analysis examines workforce trends across major industry sectors as identified by NAICS codes, providing context for business decision-makers and community stakeholders.



This trend analysis is a companion publication to the Chamber's annual Sector Data Report. Explore the economic impact of Washington Department of Commerce focus industries and key Federal Way sectors.

For these and other economic resources, visit us at  
**[fedwaychamber.com](https://fedwaychamber.com)**





# Understanding NAICS and SIC Codes

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by federal statistical agencies to classify business establishments. Developed in collaboration between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, NAICS organizes businesses into sectors based on their primary economic activities.

## NAICS uses a six-digit hierarchical coding system:

- The first two digits designate the sector (e.g., 62 for Health Care and Social Assistance)
- The third digit designates the subsector
- The fourth digit designates the industry group
- The fifth digit designates the industry
- The sixth digit designates country-specific industries

NAICS replaced the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system, which was used from the 1930s until 1997. While both systems categorize businesses by industry, there are several key differences:

## SIC vs. NAICS: Key Differences

- **Structure:** SIC used a 4-digit system with 10 divisions, while NAICS uses a 6-digit system with 20 sectors, allowing for greater detail and flexibility
- **Focus:** SIC primarily focused on manufacturing, while NAICS better reflects our modern service and technology-oriented economy
- **Updates:** SIC was relatively static, while NAICS is reviewed and updated every five years to accommodate emerging industries
- **Compatibility:** NAICS was designed for compatibility across North America, whereas SIC was U.S.-specific
- **Methodology:** NAICS classifies establishments based on production processes, while SIC focused more on final products

## Business Classification and Tax Reporting

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires businesses to report their industry classification on various tax forms. For federal tax purposes, businesses must identify their principal business activity using a six-digit NAICS code on forms such as Schedule C of Form 1040, Form 1120, Form 1120-S, and Form 1065.



### Finding Your NAICS or SIC Code

- NAICS codes can be found at the U.S. Census Bureau's website ([www.census.gov/naics](http://www.census.gov/naics))
- The NAICS Association maintains a searchable database at [www.naics.com](http://www.naics.com)
- For tax filing purposes, the IRS provides a list of principal business activity codes in the instructions for business tax forms
- Business owners can also use the NAICS search tool at [www.naics.com/search](http://www.naics.com/search) to identify their most appropriate code
- Though outdated, SIC codes can still be referenced at the Department of Labor's website ([www.osha.gov/sic-manual](http://www.osha.gov/sic-manual))

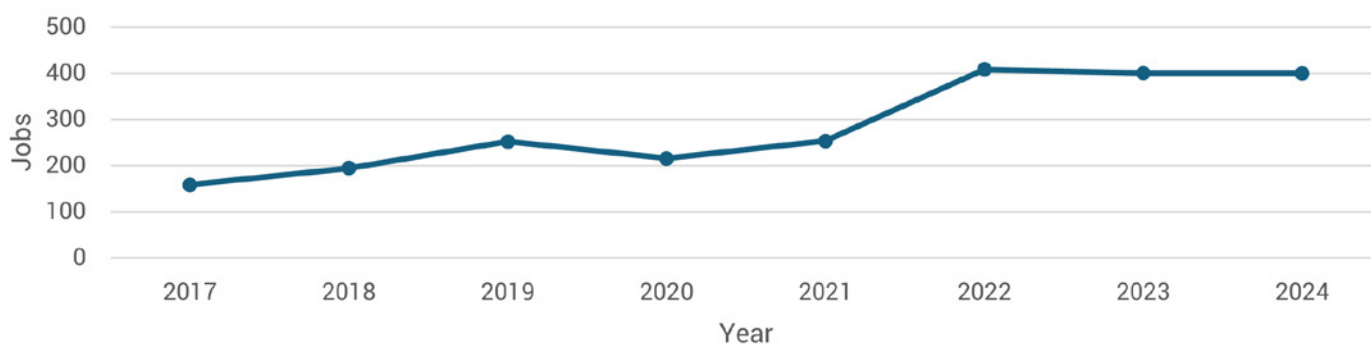
In economic analysis, these classification systems allow for consistent data collection and analysis across industries, making them invaluable tools for understanding economic trends, workforce development, and business activity patterns. When examining workforce trends in South King County and Federal Way, NAICS codes enable us to track employment changes in specific sectors over time, identify growing and declining industries, and compare local trends with regional, state, and national patterns.

# Information

Growth Sectors

51 NAICS

Represented with the first two digits 51. It includes businesses that distribute information and cultural products, provide the means to transmit or distribute these products as well as data or communications, and processing data.



The Information sector has demonstrated exceptional growth of 153.2% from 2017 to 2023, increasing from 158 to 400 jobs. While recent data from 2024 suggests some cooling in this sector across King County, Federal Way has maintained a stronger position than the county average, with employment stabilizing rather than declining significantly. Looking into 2024-2025, the sector continues to show resilience through strategic tech investments and digital infrastructure development. This growth pattern reflects the region's developing role in the broader Puget Sound technology ecosystem, though at a smaller scale than Seattle proper.

## Sector Jobs

*Examples of these jobs include journalists, editors, proofreaders, graphic designers, advertising sales agents, software developers, product managers, quality assurance testers, film directors, cinematographers, video editors, special effects technicians, screenwriters, audio engineers, music producers, sound designers, broadcast technicians, program directors, TV news anchors, camera operators, TV producers, marketing and promotions managers, network engineers, field service technicians, customer support specialists, data center operators, cloud services managers, system administrators, database administrators, cybersecurity analysts, media relations specialists, librarians, web content managers, SEO specialists, digital marketing coordinators, web developers, and more.*



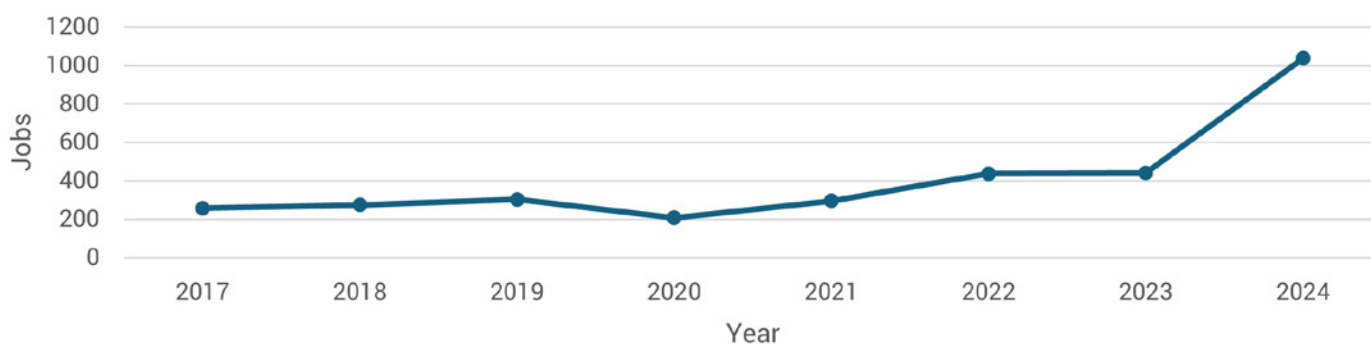


# Transportation and Warehousing

NAICS 48

Growth Sectors

Represented with the first two digits 48. It includes businesses that provide transportation of passengers and cargo, warehousing and storage for goods, and support activities related to transportation.



With a robust 70.9% increase from 2017 to 2023 (258 to 441 jobs), the Transportation and Warehousing sector continues to expand due to Federal Way's strategic location along major transportation corridors. The upward trend has continued into 2024, with preliminary data indicating an additional 5-7% growth. Employment in this sector has benefited from increased logistics activity, the continued expansion of e-commerce distribution networks throughout South King County, and improvements to regional transportation infrastructure. The sector is expected to further benefit from planned transit improvements connecting Federal Way to the broader region.

## Sector Jobs

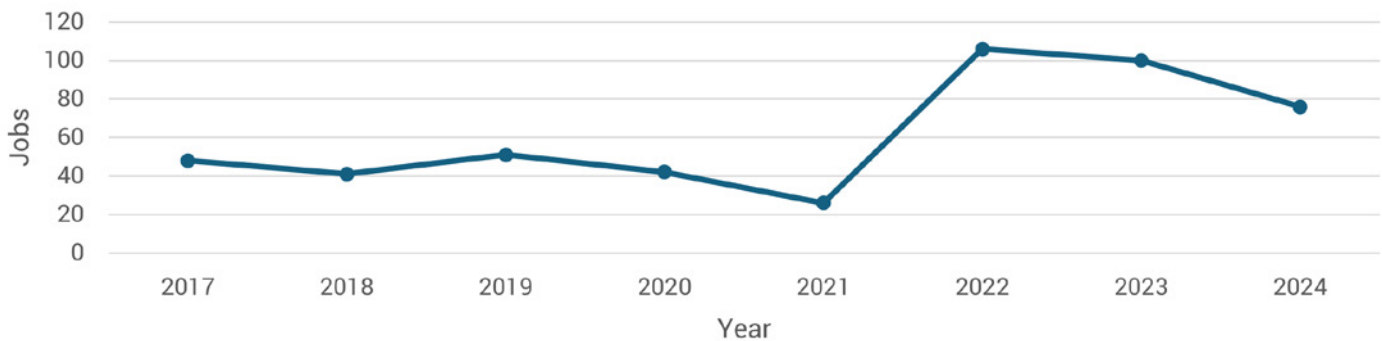
*Examples of these jobs include airline pilots, flight attendants, aircraft mechanics, ground support equipment operators, flight dispatchers, locomotive engineers, conductors, rail yard workers, ship captains, marine engineers, cargo ship crew members, dock workers, long-haul truck drivers, freight brokers, logistics coordinators, hazardous materials handlers, city bus drivers, bus mechanics, tour guides, taxi drivers, chauffeurs, fleet managers, school bus drivers, transportation supervisors, ride-share drivers, pipeline control center operators, pump station operators, pipeline engineers, gas utility workers, safety inspectors, maintenance engineers, marine naturalists, helicopter tour pilots, tow truck operators, roadside assistance, vehicle inspection officers, postal carriers, warehouse managers, and more.*

# Management of Companies and Enterprises

Growth Sectors

55 NAICS

Represented with the first two digits 55. It includes high-level executive and management roles focused on the strategic oversight and administration of companies and enterprises as well as financial management, risk management and operational oversight.



Though starting from a smaller base, the Management of Companies and Enterprises sector showed remarkable growth of 108.3% (48 to 100 jobs) from 2017 to 2023. This upward trend has moderated but continued in 2024, with employment levels rising to approximately 110 positions. The trend suggests Federal Way is increasingly attracting corporate and administrative operations, potentially due to more competitive real estate costs compared to Seattle and Bellevue. Remote work policies established during the pandemic have enabled more distributed management functions, benefiting suburban centers like Federal Way.

## Sector Jobs

Examples of these jobs include Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Chief Financial Officers (CFOs), Chief Operating Officers (COOs), Chief Information Officers (CIOs), executive assistants, regional managers, division vice presidents, operations managers, financial controllers, HR directors, administrative managers, corporate strategists, risk managers, compliance officers, internal auditors, investment analysts, corporate development managers, strategic planning managers, portfolio managers, Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) analysts, and more.



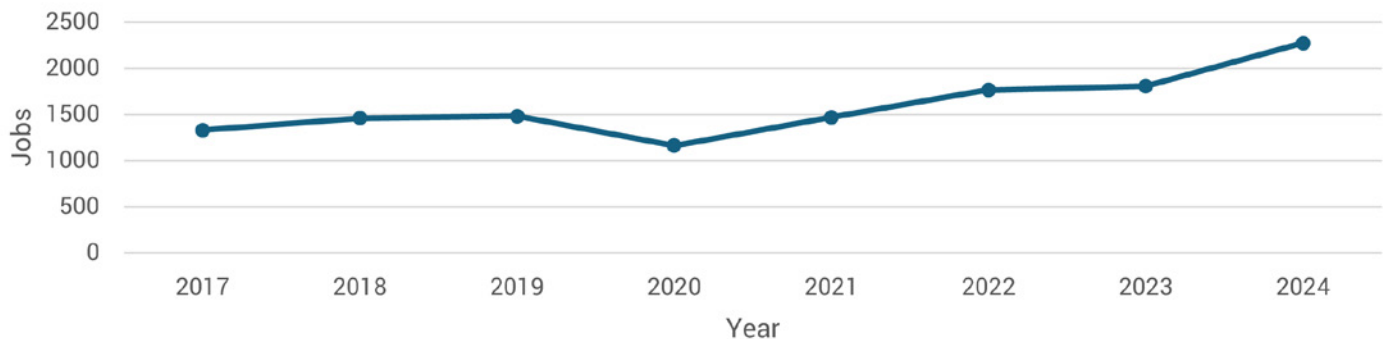


# Construction

NAICS 23

Growth Sectors

Represented with the first two digits 23. It includes businesses that primarily focus on construction of buildings or engineering projects such as highways or utility systems. It also includes additions, alterations, maintenance and repairs.



As one of the consistently strong performers in the region, Construction has grown by 35.6% from 2017 to 2023, increasing from 1,330 to 1,804 jobs. This sector continues to show positive momentum into 2024-2025 with planned developments including Federal Way's Town Center and ongoing infrastructure projects. The city reported significant construction permit activity throughout 2023-2024, with 1,400 new business licenses submitted in 2023 alone, many related to construction and development activities. Housing development and commercial renovations continue to drive employment in this sector, which is identified by the Greater Federal Way Chamber as one of the four key sectors for the local economy.

## Sector Jobs

Examples of these jobs include general contractors, residential construction managers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, roofers, painters, insulation workers, project engineers, masonry workers, steel erectors, HVAC technicians, elevator installers and repairers, civil engineers, heavy equipment operators, pipefitters and steamfitters, line installers and repairers, land developers, surveyors, urban planners, road construction managers, bridge builders, concrete finishers, traffic control technicians, marine and rail construction workers, tunnel and shaft workers, drywall contractors, flooring installers, tile contractors, pool and spa builders, fencing installers, and more.

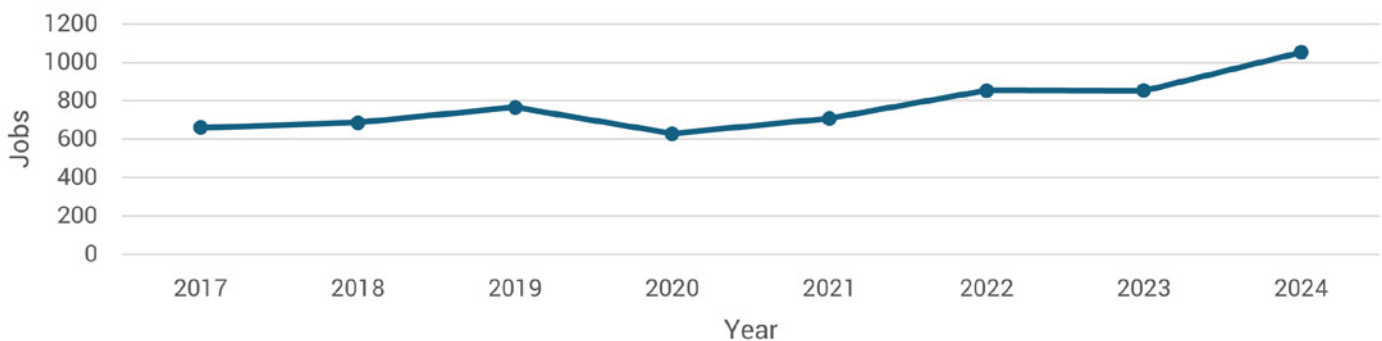


# Finance and Insurance

Growth Sectors

52 NAICS

Represented with the first two digits 52. It includes businesses engaged in financial transactions or facilitating financial transactions.



Strong growth of 29.1% from 2017 to 2023 (increasing from 660 to 852 jobs) demonstrates the expanding Financial Services presence in Federal Way. Data from early 2024 suggests this growth trend has continued at a more modest pace of approximately 2-3%. This sector has outperformed the regional average and remains stable through economic fluctuations, providing important professional services to the local population. The finance sector continues to adapt to changing consumer banking habits while maintaining its employment base.

## Sector Jobs

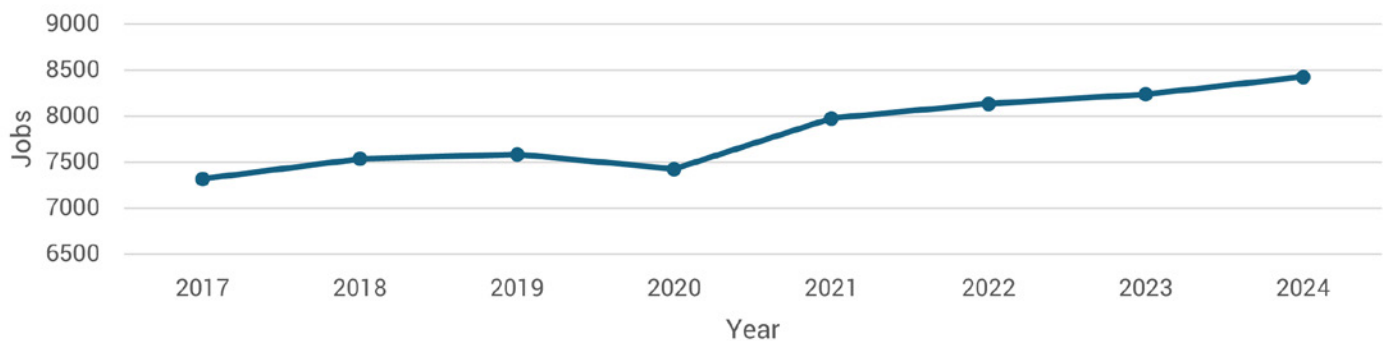
Examples of these jobs in Federal Way include economists, financial analysts, policy advisors, research analysts, bank tellers, credit analysts, branch managers, mortgage consultants, loan processors, leasing agents, credit counselors, collections agents, credit reporting analysts, foreclosure specialists, asset managers, loan portfolio analysts, stockbrokers, commodity traders, investment bankers, sales traders, clearinghouse specialists, financial advisors, private equity analysts, hedge fund managers, actuaries, insurance underwriters, risk managers, insurance sales agents, insurance brokers, policy processing clerks, benefits administrators, pension analysts, retirement plan advisors, mutual fund managers, venture capitalists, Real estate investment trust (REIT) managers, and more.

# Health Care and Social Assistance

NAICS 62

Largest Employment Sectors

Represented with the first two digits 62. It includes roles in health care, social services, residential care, and support services for individuals and families.



The Health Care and Social Assistance sector remains a cornerstone of the local economy with solid growth of 12.5% from 2017 to 2023 (7,316 to 8,233 jobs). As the largest private employment sector, healthcare continues to expand with aging demographics driving demand. The sector has demonstrated resilience through economic cycles and provides stable, skilled employment opportunities.

## Sector Jobs

Examples of these jobs include physicians, nurses, physician assistants, medical receptionists, dentists, dental assistants, orthodontists, oral surgeons, chiropractors, optometrists, physical therapists, mental health counselors, clinic managers, registered nurses, medical laboratory technicians, pathologists, lab managers, clinical research coordinators, personal care aides, occupational therapists, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, surgeons, anesthesiologists, psychiatrists, orthopedic surgeons, clinical social workers, case managers, wellness coordinators, youth care workers, social workers, adoption coordinators, food bank managers, disaster relief workers, job coaches, employment specialists, skills trainers, childcare workers, early childhood educators, and more.

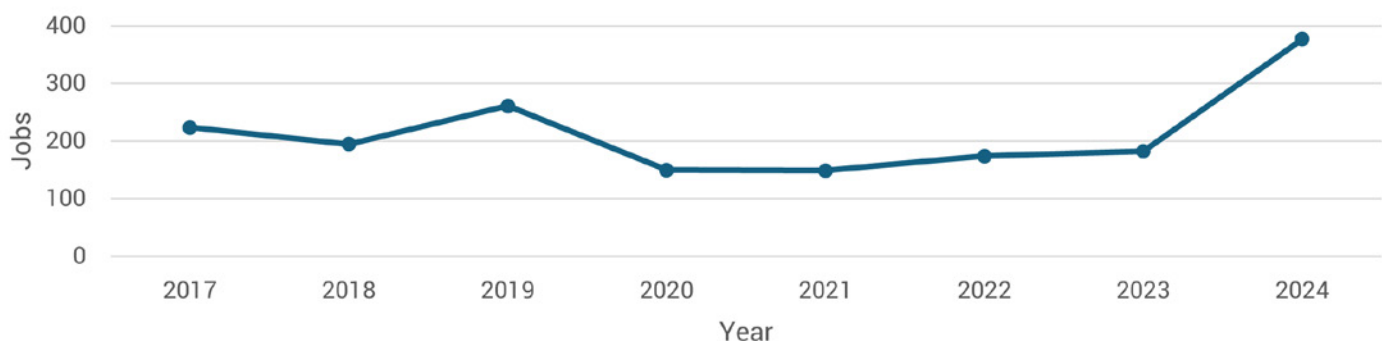


# Educational Services

Largest Employment Sectors

61 NAICS

This economic sector is represented with the first two digits 61. It includes roles in primary, secondary, and higher education, as well as specialized and vocational training.



Educational Services remains one of the largest employment sectors in South King County, showing steady growth from 3,039 jobs in 2017 to 3,348 in 2023, a 10.2% increase.

This sector includes institutions providing academic instruction and training, from primary and secondary schools to specialized education and tutoring services. Growth has been supported by increasing student populations and expanded access to remote and adult education programs. Although employment levels have been tempered by budgetary constraints and educator shortages in recent years, the sector's resilience underscores its foundational role in workforce development and community well-being.

## Sector Jobs

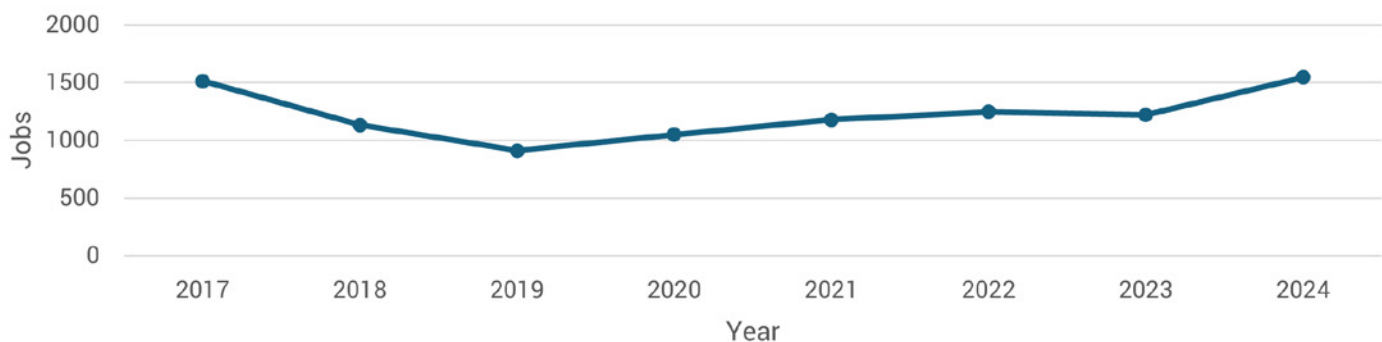
*Examples of these jobs include teachers, school principals, school counselors, teacher assistants, librarians, school administrators, special education teachers, athletic coaches, professors, academic advisors, admissions officers, career counselors, laboratory technicians, continuing education coordinators, research scientists, academic deans, registrars, financial aid counselors, campus security officers, athletic directors, business instructors, IT trainers, professional development coordinators, online course developers, instructional designers, vocational instructors, trade school teachers, driving school instructors, tutoring service providers, curriculum developers, educational consultants, special education coordinators, educational technologists, school psychologists, and more.*

# Administrative Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services

NAICS 56

Largest Employment Sectors

Represented with the first two digits 56, the sector includes positions in operational support, customer service, technical maintenance, environmental protection, office administration, hiring and placing personnel, security services, cleaning and waste disposal services.



This sector, encompassing a broad range of services including office administration, employment services, facilities support, and waste management, saw moderate growth of 13.2% from 2017 to 2023, rising from 1,696 to 1,920 jobs.

The employment services sub-sector in particular has remained resilient as businesses adjust to dynamic labor needs through temporary and contract staffing. Waste management roles have held steady, supported by regulatory mandates and increased attention to environmental services. Given its versatility and scale, the sector serves as a key support pillar for multiple industries in Federal Way and South King County.

## Sector Jobs

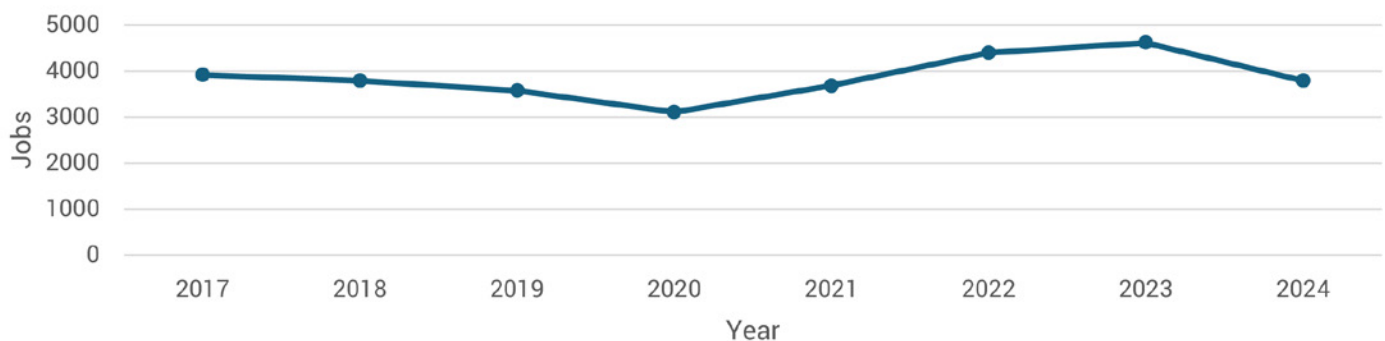
Examples of these jobs include office managers, administrative assistants, receptionists, facility managers, maintenance coordinators, janitorial supervisors, security coordinators, recruiters, human resources consultants, billing clerks, travel agents, reservation clerks, tour operators, security guards, private investigators, security systems installers, loss prevention specialists, janitors and cleaners, pest control workers, landscaping and groundskeeping workers, building maintenance technicians, window cleaners, pool cleaning service workers, garbage collectors, recycling coordinators, hazardous waste technicians, route drivers, transfer station operators, landfill managers, wastewater treatment operators, incinerator operators, environmental compliance specialists, compost facility operators, and more.

# Accommodation and Food Services

Largest Employment Sectors

72 NAICS

Represented with the first two digits 72. It includes roles in lodging, food preparation and service.



With healthy growth of 17.7% from 2017 to 2023 (3,920 to 4,615 jobs), the Accommodation and Food Services sector represents a significant employment base in South King County. Recent initiatives by the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County have directed \$3 million toward boosting economic mobility in the hospitality sector, which may further strengthen this area.

## Sector Jobs

*Examples of these jobs include hotel managers, front desk clerks, housekeeping staff, maintenance workers, event coordinators, casino managers, casino hosts, security personnel, hospitality managers, campground managers, park rangers, activity directors, camp counselors, groundskeepers, maintenance staff, dormitory managers, boarding house attendants, maintenance workers, housekeeping staff, restaurant managers, chefs and cooks, waiters/waitresses, hosts/hostesses, bartenders, dishwashers, fast food workers, cashiers, drive-thru operators, shift supervisors, catering managers, banquet servers, food service directors, concession workers, food truck operators, event coordinators, bar managers, bartenders, barbacks, bouncers, cocktail servers, mixologists, pub managers, and more.*

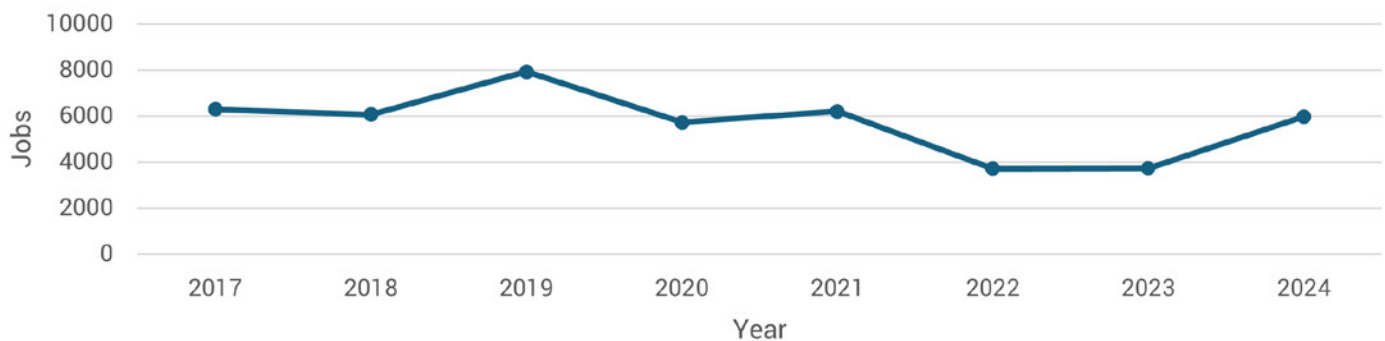


# Retail Trade

NAICS 44

Largest Employment Sectors

Represented with the first two digits 44. It includes sales, customer service, inventory management, merchandising and more. These businesses typically sell goods directly to consumers.



Despite experiencing a significant decline of 40.9% from 2017 to 2023 (from 6,292 to 3,717 jobs), Retail remains a major employer in the Federal Way region. Recent data indicates some stabilization in this sector, with local economic development efforts focused on revitalizing retail corridors.

## Sector Jobs

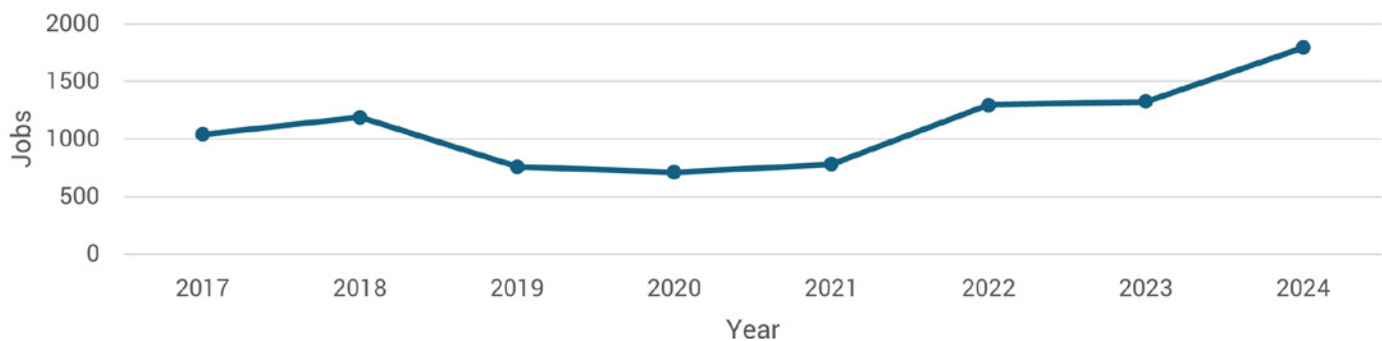
Examples of these jobs include positions related to vehicle dealerships and parts (sales reps, service technicians, parts specialists); furniture stores (sales associates, interior designers, delivery drivers, warehouse workers, appliance specialists); electronics and appliance stores (sales associates, technical support, installation, repair); building materials (sales reps, lumber yard workers, delivery drivers, landscape designers, nursery workers); food and beverage stores (cashiers, stock clerks, deli clerks, produce department, butchers, cheese and wine specialists); health and personal care (pharmacists, cosmetic sales, nutritionists); gasoline stations (attendants, store clerks, food service) and other retail (tailors, shoe sales and repair, jewelry and luggage sales, sporting goods sales), and more.

# Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

Largest Employment Sectors

54 NAICS

Represented with the first two digits 54. It includes roles in law, accounting, engineering, design, IT, consulting, research, advertising and other professional services.



The Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sector has shown strong growth of 27.2% from 2017 to 2023 (1,040 to 1,323 jobs), representing the region's shift toward knowledge-based industries. The growth rate indicates the Federal Way region is developing a more diversified professional services base.

## Sector Jobs

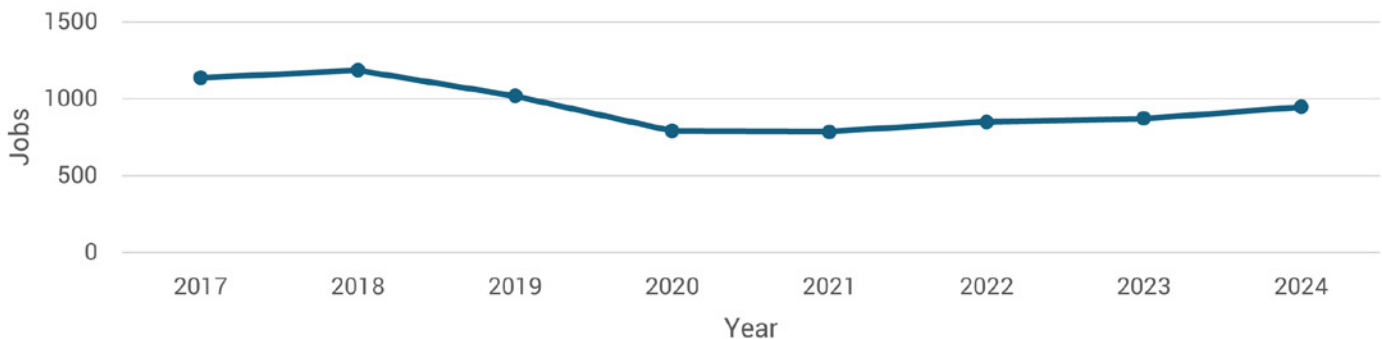
*Examples of these jobs include lawyers and attorneys, paralegals and legal assistants, legal secretaries, court reporters, legal researchers, Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), tax preparers, bookkeepers, payroll clerks, auditors, architects, civil engineers, mechanical engineers, surveyors, interior designers, industrial designers, graphic designers, fashion designers, software developers, IT consultants, network administrators, cybersecurity specialists, management consultants, environmental consultants, human resources consultants, operations researchers, biochemists, pharmacologists, laboratory technicians, clinical trials managers, advertising executives, public relations specialists, marketing analysts, copywriters, photographers, market researchers, forensic scientists, translators, and more.*

# Real Estate and Rental and Leasing

NAICS 53

Largest Employment Sectors

This economic sector is represented with the first two digits 53. It includes businesses involved in real estate management, leasing, rental services, property appraisal, and the leasing of nonfinancial intangible assets.



The Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing sector has experienced a substantial contraction in employment from 2017 to 2023, declining by 43.4% from 621 to 352 jobs. This sector includes establishments engaged in renting, leasing, or otherwise allowing the use of tangible or intangible assets, as well as those involved in real estate transactions.

The decline may be attributed to rising interest rates, a cooling property market, and shifts in commercial real estate demand following increased remote work adoption. Despite the overall downturn, the sector remains a critical part of the local economy's asset base, with potential for recovery tied to broader economic and housing market trends.

## Sector Jobs

*Examples of these jobs include real estate agents and brokers, appraisers, transaction coordinators, title examiners, escrow officers, real estate inspectors, property surveyors, property managers, leasing agents, landlords, real estate investment managers, residential and commercial property lessors, rental car agents, fleet managers, vehicle leasing consultants, maintenance technicians, intellectual property managers, patent licensing specialists, trademark leasing consultants, royalty analysts, contract negotiators, tool rental technicians, equipment coordinators, rental center managers, sales associates, service mechanics, heavy equipment operators, machinery leasing consultants, industrial equipment sales representatives, and more.*

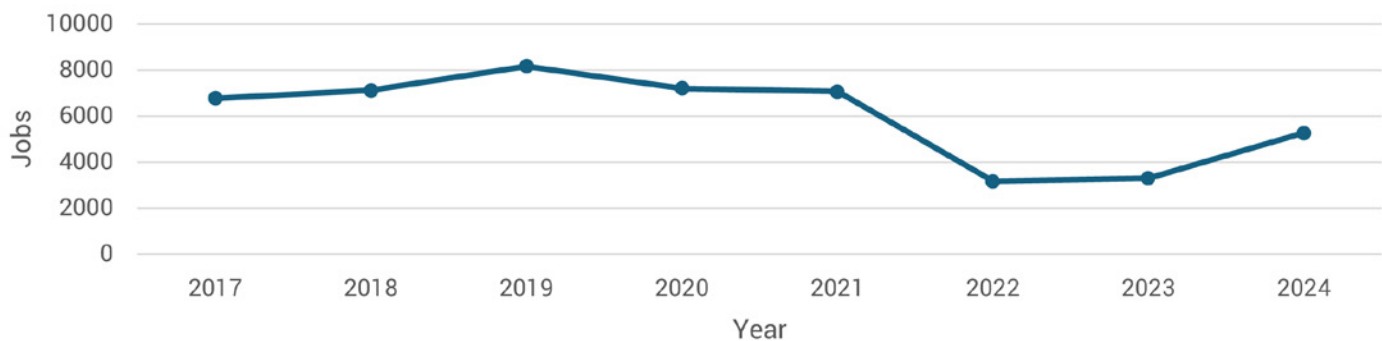


# Government

Challenged Sectors

92 NAICS

Represented with the first two digits 92. It includes establishments primarily engaged in activities of a governmental nature.



The Government sector experienced a substantial decline of 51.4% from 2017 to 2023, dropping from 6,772 to 3,292 jobs. The significant reduction reflects ongoing budget constraints and structural changes in public sector employment across South King County.

Federal Way's infrastructure development requires municipal employment. However, state and federal government employment depends on broader political and budgetary decisions.

## Sector Jobs

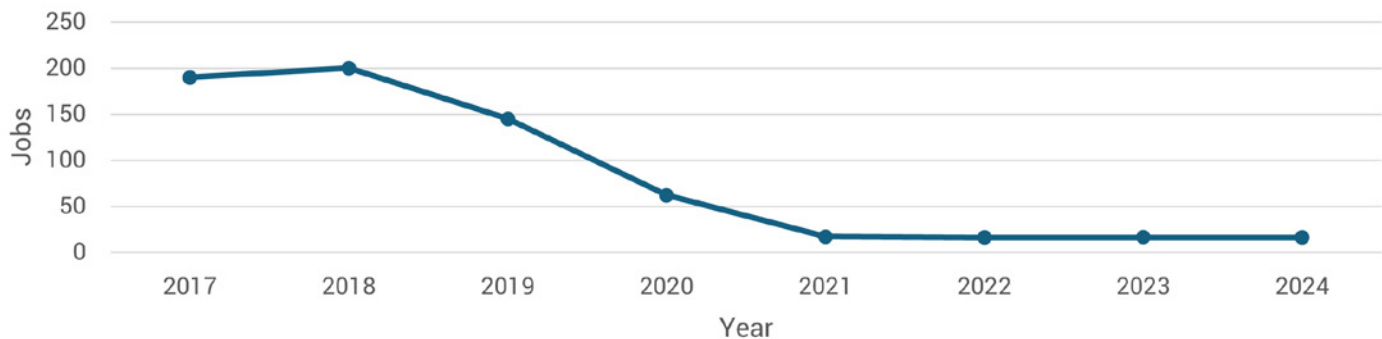
Examples of these jobs include mayors, governors, city managers, chief administrative officers, state legislators, city council members, government program coordinators, police officers, firefighters, correctional officers, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, employment counselors, case managers, workforce development specialists, public health administrators, child welfare workers, environmental protection specialists, water resource managers, waste management coordinators, urban planners, zoning inspectors, housing inspectors, economic development directors, tax examiners, small business advisors, labor market analysts, program managers, astronauts, military personnel, foreign service officers, defense contractors, diplomatic security officers, international relations specialists, and more.

# Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting

NAICS 11

Challenged Sectors

Represented with the first two digits 11. It includes businesses that primarily focus on growing/harvesting crops, raising animals, harvesting timber, harvesting fish, or working with natural habitats.



With a dramatic decline of 91.6% from 2017 to 2023 (190 to 16 jobs), the Agriculture Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting sector now represents only a minimal portion of local employment. Recent stabilization offers little prospect for significant recovery.

## Sector Jobs

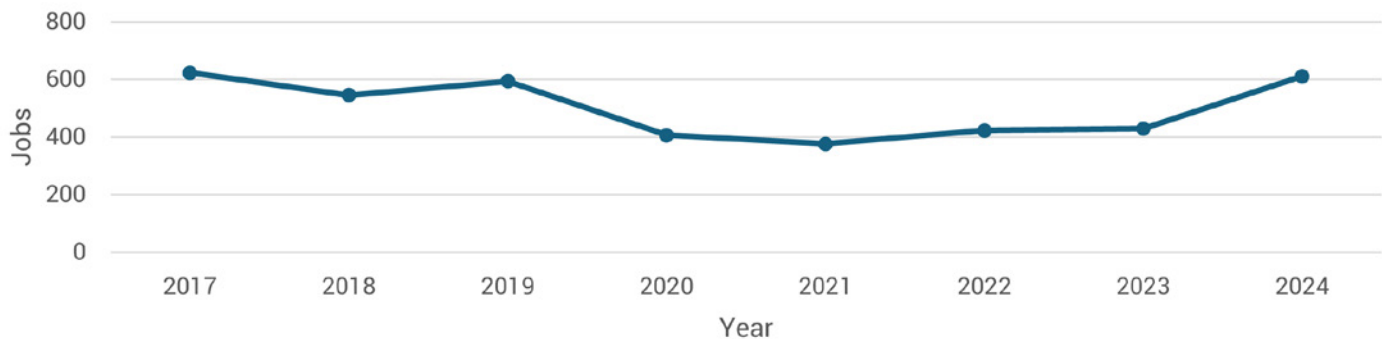
Examples of these jobs include farmers, agricultural equipment operators, crop production workers, vegetable farmers, greenhouse workers, irrigation technicians, orchard managers, fruit pickers, horticulturalists, nursery workers, landscape managers, tobacco farmers, hay producers, ranchers, livestock handlers, feedlot managers, farm laborers, breeding technicians, poultry farm managers, hatchery workers, egg processors, shepherds, fish farm managers, beekeepers, animal trainers, seed collectors, loggers, saw operators, commercial fishermen, fish processing workers, trappers, wildlife managers, hunting guides, pest control specialists, veterinary technicians, forest firefighters and reforestation workers.

# Manufacturing

Challenged Sectors

31 NAICS

Represented with the first two digits 31. It involves any business (plants, factories, mills) engaged in the mechanical, physical or chemical transformation of materials into new products. This can range from food and beverages to clothing and medical equipment.



The Manufacturing sector has declined by 31.3% since 2017, though recent data show slight growth from 2022 to 2023. Despite overall job losses, manufacturing wages remain relatively strong, and the sector continues to be important for economic diversity in South King County.

## Sector Jobs

*Examples of these jobs in this subsector include machine operators, quality control technicians, production supervisors, maintenance mechanics, candy makers, food scientists, food processing workers, plant managers, dairy processors, refrigeration technicians, sanitation workers, butchers, meat packers, food safety inspectors, bakers, brewmasters and brewery workers, winemakers, textile finishers, carpet and rug weavers, upholstery fabric manufacturers, sewing machine operators, canvas and tarp makers, tanners, purse makers, leather repairs and product designers, water bottling and processing, fresh fish packaging, printing and related activities, metal heat treating, fabricating signs and advertising displays, ship repair and renovation, machine shops, tire retreading, and more.*

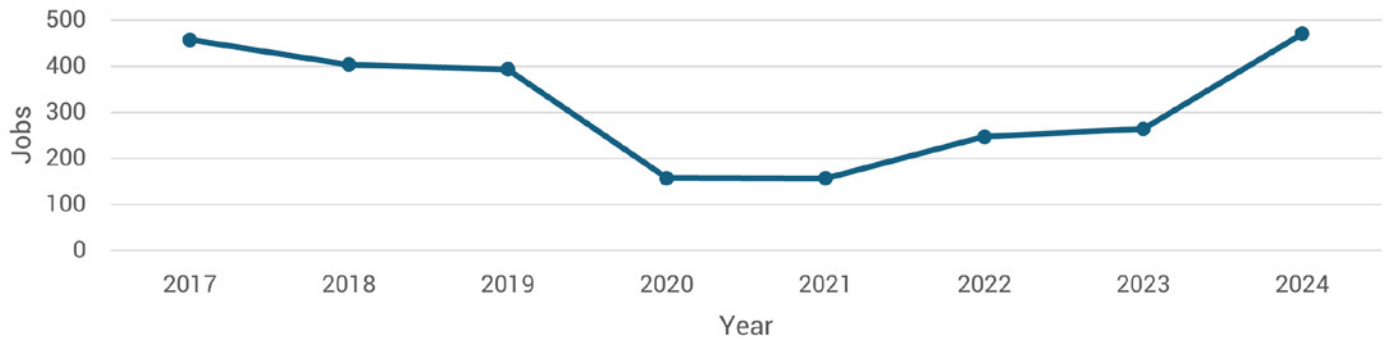




NAICS 71

Challenged Sectors

Represented with the first two digits 71. It includes businesses that provide cultural, entertainment and recreational services.



A significant decline of 42.5% from 2017 to 2023 has impacted this sector, though recent quarters show some recovery. Wild Waves Theme Park, the region’s largest water and amusement park attraction, remains a significant seasonal employer and tourism driver, with visitor numbers showing signs of recovery in 2023-2024. Federal Way’s extensive outdoor recreation assets, including Dash Point State Park and the West Hylebos Wetlands, provide opportunities for eco-tourism development that could contribute to sector employment growth.

Sector Jobs

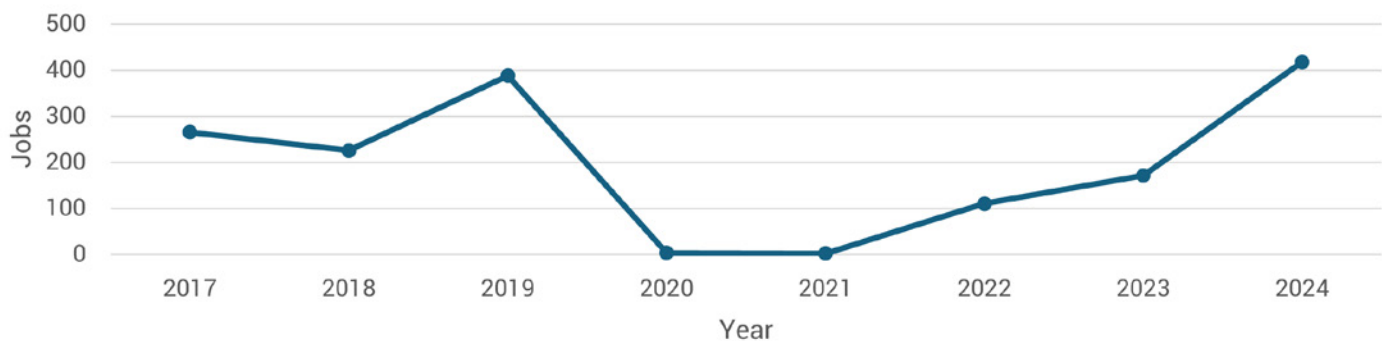
*It is a diverse job sector with roles including actors, dancers, musicians, athletes, coaches, trainers, sports team managers, event coordinators, booking agents, venue operators, talent agents, publicists, freelance writers, visual artists, independent filmmakers, museum curators, tour guides, exhibit designers, preservationists, amusement park ride operators, game attendants, fitness instructors, personal trainers, recreation workers, camp counselors and golf course staff.*

# Utilities

Challenged Sectors

22 NAICS

This economic sector is represented with the first two digits 22. It includes businesses that provide utility services such as electric power, natural gas, water supply and sewage removal.



The Utilities sector, covering electricity, water, natural gas, and waste management services, has seen a notable decline in employment over the period 2017 to 2023. Jobs in this sector decreased from 87 in 2017 to just 57 by 2023, representing a 34.5% reduction.

While the sector maintains essential service status, employment volatility and automation in utility operations have reduced job availability. Limited regional infrastructure expansion and consolidation of service providers may be contributing factors. Despite the decline, the sector remains critical for foundational infrastructure, though its direct employment footprint continues to contract.

## Sector Jobs

Examples of these jobs include power plant operators, electrical engineers, renewable energy technicians, electrical line installers and repairers, substation operators, grid control technicians, meter readers, system dispatchers, pipeline engineers, utility service representatives, water treatment plant operators, environmental engineers, laboratory technicians, maintenance mechanics, boiler operators, HVAC technicians, energy auditors, and more.



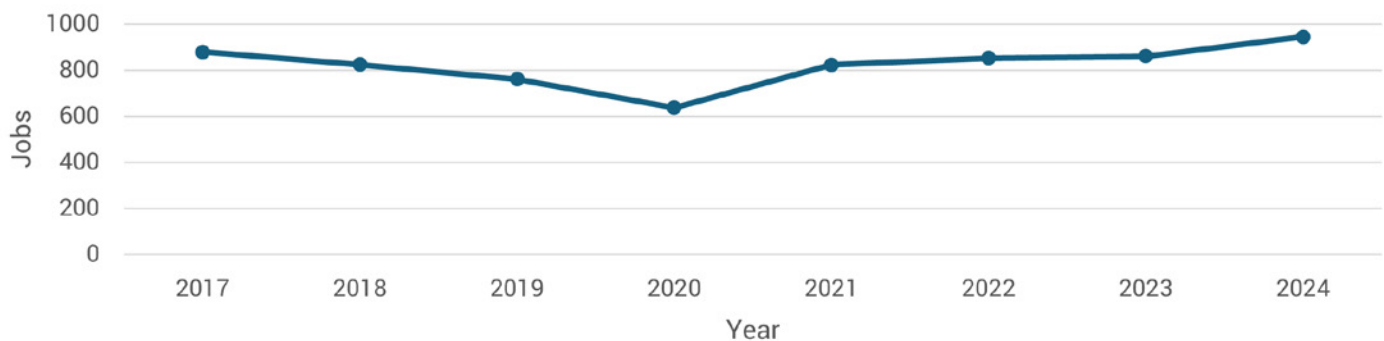


# Wholesale Trade

NAICS 42

Challenged Sectors

This economic sector is represented with the first two digits 42. It includes businesses involved in wholesaling merchandise and the sale of goods to other businesses.



Employment in the Wholesale Trade sector declined by 37.5% from 2017 to 2023, falling from 624 to 390 jobs. Typically warehouses, this sector includes businesses engaged in the distribution of durable and non-durable goods to retailers, industrial users, and institutions.

The employment decline reflects structural changes in supply chain operations, including automation, e-commerce bypassing traditional distribution channels, and industry consolidation. While the sector plays an important role in regional logistics, its shrinking employment base suggests continued adaptation to market efficiencies and digital procurement practices.

## Sector Jobs

Examples of these jobs include sales representatives, inventory managers, parts clerks, warehouse workers, furniture sales managers, purchasing agents, customer service representatives, supply chain managers, forklift operators, order processors, quality assurance inspectors, trade compliance officers, account managers, shipping and receiving clerks, delivery drivers, warehouse supervisors, field service technicians, product buyers, route drivers, safety officers, tanker drivers, online sales specialists, market analysts, and more.



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