



New report highlights breadth and reach of Washington state ports

Nation's most extensive port network impacts economies and communities throughout the state

SEATTLE, WA – May 11, 2021 – Washington state ports play a crucial role in the state's economic competitiveness reaching far beyond the Puget Sound region according to a new study released today by the Washington Council on International Trade (WCIT). The report, [*The Washington Port System: Gateways to Growth at Home and Opportunities Abroad*](#), details the extent the far-reaching network of ports, railways, rivers and highways has on communities and jobs throughout the state

As one of the most trade-reliant states in the country, Washington depends on major points of entry for cargo to and from Asian markets. Beyond facilities in Seattle and Tacoma, the extensive state port system includes 75 distinct port districts across 33 of the state's 39 counties. These lesser-known ports spur economic activity by facilitating trade, the movement of passengers, tourism, supply chains, and industrial activities.

"Washington state leads the nation in the number of ports with an extensive network that catalyzes economic growth and development throughout the state," said Lori Otto Punke, President of the Washington Council on International Trade. "From the direct jobs provided by the mega-ports in Seattle and Tacoma to the economic activity generated in smaller communities like Ilwaco, Chinook, Kalama and Ridgefield, the breadth and scope of impact the state port system has on the regional economy is significant."

[The new report](#) also provides details on the jobs that are created by or are reliant on the ports system. Activities at Washington's public ports directly support more than 70,000 jobs which, on average, pay 9% higher than wages across all industries. Statewide, through supply chain linkages and worker income expenditures, activities at Washington's public ports support an additional 104,000 jobs.

In addition to the geographic advantages of the northwest region's ports, the [new study](#) highlights the structural, organizational, and jurisdictional features that enhance the impact the ports have on the Washington state economy. Additional policy recommendations including advocating for ongoing investments in infrastructure projects and freight mobility are noted in the report.

"Trade is an increasingly important source of job growth for Washington state and our ports make it all possible," said Otto Punke. "To remain both a global trade hub and a vital engine of community employment, our state's ports must function efficiently, reliably and competitively. Investments in port-related infrastructure will help ensure the state's ports continue to contribute to regional growth and economic viability."

Read Full Report [here](#).

ABOUT WASHINGTON COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE On behalf of our members – manufacturers, farmers, retailers, service providers and non-profits – the Washington Council on International Trade advocates for pro-trade policies and investments that benefit Washington’s workers and employers. Trade paves the way for Washington-made goods and services to reach foreign markets, provides Washingtonians with products that raise our quality of life, and sustains family-wage jobs in numerous local industries. To learn more, visit us at <http://www.wcit.org>