



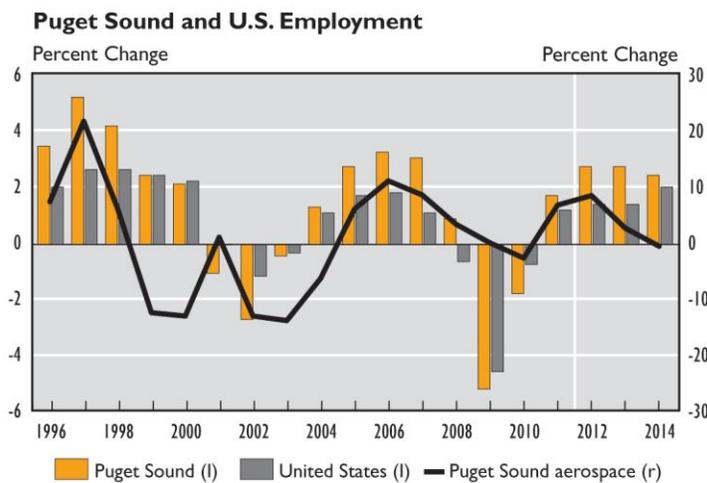
City of Seattle
Office of Economic Development

Memo

Date: January 15, 2013
To: Councilmember Sally Clark
 Councilmember Tom Rasmussen
 Councilmember Richard Conlin
 Councilmember Jean Godden
CC: David Yeaworth, Legislative Assistant to Councilmember Sally Clark
From: Steve Johnson, Director, Office of Economic Development
Re: Office of Economic Development Director's Report

Regional Outlook, Puget Sound Economic Forecaster, Dick Conway and Doug Peterson, December 2012

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Puget Sound Employment and Unemployment Rate				
Employment (% change)				
Puget Sound Region	1.7	2.7	2.7	2.4
King County	1.8	3.0	2.9	2.5
Kitsap County	0.1	-0.4	1.6	2.1
Pierce County	0.3	1.1	2.2	2.0
Snohomish County	3.2	4.1	3.0	2.9
Unemployment rate (%)				
Puget Sound Region	8.6	7.8	7.8	7.4
King County	8.1	7.2	7.3	6.9
Kitsap County	7.9	7.4	7.4	7.1
Pierce County	9.8	9.0	8.9	8.5
Snohomish County	9.3	8.3	8.2	7.8



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US Consumer Confidence Reaches Highest Level in 5 Years, Washington Post
Seattle Adds 6,500 New Construction Jobs, Puget Sound Business Journal
Seattle #7 in Nation for Adding Private-Sector Jobs in 2012, Puget Sound Business Journal
2012's Top Turnaround Housing Markets: Seattle and Las Vegas, Forbes

Investing in Businesses: OED 2012 Results by the Numbers

Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over \$21.6 million lent to 8 businesses, with GrowSeattle, NMTC and CDBG-R • \$1million 108 loan for 12th Avenue Arts in the pipeline • Closed a \$7 million New Markets Tax Credit deal with Retail Lockbox in the Central District in July • 188 jobs retained or created due to this lending activity
Company visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 482 companies have been visited by OED staff and our partners • 465 of these companies are in our targeted sectors, which include: manufacturing, maritime, life sciences, global health, clean tech, and information technology
Businesses assisted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 264 businesses were connected with resources or were helped with a permitting or policy issue

New Markets Tax Credit Program – The federal compromise to temporarily avoid the fiscal cliff included an extension of the New Markets Tax Credit program. The Seattle Investment Fund, administered by the Office of Economic Development and overseen by an Investment Committee, has a pending application for an additional allocation of tax credits submitted last summer. The extension means that the Department of Treasury will proceed with evaluation of the pending applications and the awarding of credits based on that evaluation. OED anticipates a decision sometime in the 2nd quarter.

In Good Company – F5 Networks Recognition – OED released December’s *In Good Company* business profile press release highlighting F5 Networks for their growth, innovation, and commitment to the community. [Watch](#) the F5 Networks business profile on the Seattle Channel and read the [full press release](#).

IDOPE – OED recruited a repair and customization company for Apple products to downtown Seattle. The company was established in Tallahassee, Florida and contacted OED earlier in the year inquiring about assistance for a possible relocation to Seattle. The company has five employees and had its grand opening on January 5th at a facility located at 2132 Westlake Avenue.

City Business Casual – Our *City Business Casual* business networking series ended the year with a celebration of local businesses and highlighted the businesses recognized in the *In Good Company* program: *Dick’s Drive-In*, *Easy Street Records*, *F5 Networks* and *Meyer Wells*. Our January kick-off *City Business Casual* is centered around higher education and featured special guests from CityU and Northeastern universities, which are both opening campuses in Seattle this month, as well as the University of Washington, Seattle Film Institute, Seattle Community Colleges, Seattle University and Washington State University. February’s theme will center around sports, special events and entertainment, while March’s theme will focus on women and minority-owned enterprises.

Investing in Seattle's Economic Strengths

Film + Special Events

11 film permit applications have been submitted and/or processed for December, hiring over 168 local cast and crew. Highlights include: A team of local filmmakers produced a short film in the Queen Anne neighborhood; Fortune Magazine photographed Zillow CEO Richard Barton outside of Volunteer Park Café; a production company from the east coast filmed interviews physicians at the Swedish Orthopedic Institute on Capitol Hill; and various companies filmed local, regional, and national corporate and commercial campaigns, including Microsoft, AT&T, Subaru, and more. Holiday events and festivals permitted in December included the MOHAI Grand Opening, Chet Gibson Memorial Lighted Boat Parade, Jingle Bell Run, and New Year's Fireworks at the Needle. For a complete list of upcoming Special Events, visit the [Special Events Calendar](#).

Feature Film In Seattle January 2013 – Local filmmaking team Megan Griffiths (*Eden, The Off Hours*) and Lacey Leavitt (*Touchy Feely, Safety Not Guaranteed*) have assembled a local film crew and are in preproduction for *Lucky Them*, a feature film scheduled to shoot in Seattle January and February 2013. The Office of Film + Music worked with FAS to provide affordable short term leased City-owned office space for the production team. This is the fifth production utilizing the office space since 2010.

Hempfest 2013 Planning Meeting – The Special Events Office had a very positive initial planning meeting with the Seattle Hempfest organizers last week. Areas of discussion included 2013 improvements in the areas of 1) communication with the community, 2) public safety, 3) transportation planning, 4) clean up, and 5) enterprise opportunities for businesses impacted by the event. The organizers' expressed an impressive willingness to put in additional resources into the 2013 event and to make this annual event broadly beneficial. OED will be facilitating follow-up meetings with the event organizers and the Chamber, DSA, Waterfront Association, Belltown Business Association, and the CVB.

Manufacturing and Maritime

Industrial Development Pilot Program – The City of Seattle, King County and WA State are finalizing decisions on next steps with the three proposals received in response to the solicitation of ideas from industry on ways to improve competitiveness and environmental sustainability. An announcement is expected the week of January 14 to 19.

Neighborhood Commercial Districts

Farmers Markets and University Heights – City efforts to facilitate a settlement of the lease dispute ended unsuccessfully. The City and the Board of UHeights are scheduled to meet to discuss an interim solution that will buy time to find a stable location for the market. A key to resolving the dispute is to find a financially sustainable way for UHeights to upgrade and maintain its facility, which has major deferred maintenance needs.

2013 Façade Improvement Funding Approved - The Seattle Investment Fund Investment Fund/Advisory Board approved \$57,200 for façade improvements as part of the *Only in Seattle* program. These improvements include improved lighting, signage and other façade updates which will benefit targeted neighborhoods by enhancing business presence at the street level, creating a more attractive pedestrian environment and attracting more business to the area. The Façade funds are generated by program fees from the Seattle Investment Fund LLC (SIF LLC), which is OED's New Markets Tax Credit financing entity. Neighborhoods receiving the funds will be announced as part of the 2013 *Only in Seattle* funding awards in late January.

Investing in Workers

Seattle Jobs Initiative's (SJI) Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration – SJI celebrated its fifteenth year working to create economic opportunity for low-income Seattle residents. We appreciate the Mayor's remarks at the celebration to announce the Norman B. Rice Scholarship Fund to support low income individuals with tuition, books, fees and other college costs that can prevent many students from completing their education.

Seattle Jobs Initiative Welding Graduation: 14 people graduated last week from SJI's welding class delivered in partnership with South Seattle Community College. 11 graduates are enrolled in a second quarter of training and three plan to return to the college Spring Quarter. It is unprecedented to see 100% of the graduates plan to continue their education. We have never seen that before!