

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DAN EVANS
December 27, 1968
Neil McReynolds
753-6780

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, December 27, 1968, 2:30 P.M. -- Tourism up in 1968

Continued growth in vacation as well as business travel accounted for a nearly six per cent increase in travel volume in Washington State during the past year according to Daniel B. Ward, director of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

Ward said a year-end report by the department's research division indicates that expenditures by more than nine million out-of-state visitors contributed \$320 million to the state's economy during 1968.

Almost every indicator of travel and tourism trends reflected a substantial increase during 1968, Ward continued. He cited these examples:

Rural traffic volume increased 8.4 per cent and urban traffic was up 9.5 per cent over the 1967 level. Gasoline consumption increased 7.7 per cent. Passenger traffic on Washington State Ferries between Anacortes and Sydney, B. C. increased by 12.6 per cent. Sea-Tac Airport tallied an increase of 14.6 per cent in airlines traffic and there was a 20 per cent increase in foreign visitors entering the state via Seattle.

Olympia National Park, the state's most popular tourist attraction, had two million visitors during 1968, an increase of 7.9 per cent compared to 1967. Mt. Rainier National Park had 1,710,000 visitors, a decrease of 5.3 per cent. The number of visitors was up 10.7 per cent at Grand Coulee Dam and 6.9 per cent at Rocky Reach Dam near Wenatchee.

..More..

Page 2 - Tourism up in 1968

Hotel and motel occupancy was down one per cent in Seattle, but 8 per cent higher in Spokane. The statewide increase in hotel and motel occupancy averaged 6.2 per cent.

The number of conventions in Seattle dropped from 77 in 1967 to 62 in 1968, with a 45.3 per cent reduction in the number of delegates. Spokane had 18 per cent fewer conventions, but 3.7 per cent more delegates than in 1967.

####

Office of Governor Dan Evans
December 27, 1968
Neil McReynolds
753-6780

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, December 27, 2:30 P.M. -- Washington's
Economy Shows Dramatic Growth

Washington's economy in 1968 continued to show dramatic growth, registering the third best year in the post-war period, Governor Dan Evans said at a news conference in Olympia today.

The Governor, quoting from a year-end report and outlook prepared by the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, pointed to several factors that made 1968 an outstanding year:

1. Washington's employment growth of 4%, which added 50,000 new jobs, although not as high as 1966 and 1967, was double the national average. If it were not for labor disputes affecting monthly averages, the gain would have been stronger.

2. Personal income showed a gain of 10%, one of the highest in the nation. Real incomes were offset by a 4% increase in consumer prices, which closely followed the national pattern.

3. Washington's population increased 2.7%, compared to a national average of 1%. Most of the migration into the State was in response to job opportunities.

...more...

4. Paced by gains in secondary industries and a resurgence in the forest products industry, the aggregate growth rate of the State's economy was one of the most intensive in the post-war years.

5. Travel into the State reached a new high of approximately 9 million persons, who spent an estimated \$320 million.

The State's economy will continue strong in 1969, Evans said.

"Barring unforeseen setbacks, particularly from the national standpoint, Washington will continue to enjoy a sound economic growth in 1969," Evans said. This growth will be strong, but gains will be over-shadowed by the exceptional advances registered in the past three years."

Employment increases in 1969 will be mainly in nonmanufacturing industries, the Governor said. Employment in the aerospace industry--a dominant factor in the State's economy--will fall below 100,000 but this drop is expected to be offset by gains in nonmanufacturing industries. Some 30,000 new jobs will be created in 1969--a drop in growth of about 20,000 from the 1968 growth rate.

Diversified manufacturing will add to employment over the year as the metals and machinery industries recover from slowdowns due to labor disputes in 1968. Service-oriented industries will continue strong in the light of income and population growth of the past three years.

Pulp and paper industries should experience a year of employment growth, after declining in 1967. The wood products industry is expected to mark up additional gains, following its stimulated growth in 1968. In spite of high borrowing costs and high interest rates, residential construction throughout the nation is expected to increase sharply.

Evans said that Washington's economic growth in 1968 was more evenly distributed throughout the State and this is expected to be even more so in 1969. Heaviest concentration of growth, however, will continue to be in the Puget Sound Basin.

"I am particularly pleased to see a more even distribution of the growth in our economy," said Evans. "This is a development we have been seeking and working for for some time now."

Consumer prices in Washington are expected to continue to go up in 1969, Evans said, but at a slower pace. Personal income will again be strong, reflecting increased wage and salary payments generated from new employment.