

PREFACE

The purpose of the Washington State Data Book is to present, in one reference document, a diversity of information on Washington, its people, economy, and government. The information is obtained from state and federal agencies as well as private business.

The Data Book contains eleven major chapters: Population, Economy, State Government Finance, Human Services, Criminal Justice, Education, Natural Resources, Environment, Energy, Transportation, and Local Government. These sections represent the type of information most frequently requested by a broad range of users.

It would be impossible to compile and publish the Data Book without the cooperation of the contributing agencies. Therefore, we thank those agencies and their research staff, professional and clerical. Agency names, addresses, general information, telephone numbers, and reference publications are listed in the Contributing Agencies at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/contributing.asp>.

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented in the Data Book. Because the Data Book is published every two years, much of the material is subject to frequent updates and changes and these data should not be cited as the most recent official agency information.