PREFACE

The purpose of the Washington State Data Book is to present a diversity of information on Washington, its people, economy, and government in one reference document. 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 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 updates and these data might not be the most recent official agency information.