













**WHATCOM COUNTY INDICATOR SERIES October 2003**

Updated October 2003 (Index Values = 100 in Januar 1990)

Item	Jan-03	Feb-03	Mar-03	Apr-03	May-03	Jun-03	Jul-03	Aug-03
 <b>Whatcom Index</b> % Change	<i>Currently being modified</i>							
 <b>Basic Employment (Number of Jobs)</b> % Change	<i>Currently being modified</i>							
 <b>City Building Permits (\$ million)</b>	\$9.85	\$13.89	\$11.64	\$12.51	\$41.07	\$16.33	\$18.03	\$27.89
% Change	52.1%	40.9%	-16.2%	7.4%	228.4%	-60.2%	10.4%	54.7%
 <b>Labor Force (Number of Workers)</b>	87,312	87,693	88,149	88,820	88,956	87,959	89,252	87,864
% Change	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%	0.2%	-1.1%	1.5%	-1.6%
 <b>Border Crossings (Total Pass. &amp; Crew)</b>	632,110	585,540	617,240	612,578	712,658	745,530	887,063	982,440
% Change	0.1%	-7.4%	5.4%	-0.8%	16.3%	4.6%	19.0%	10.8%
 <b>Unemployment Claims (Number of Claims)</b>	1,233	773	761					
% Change	3.1%	-37.3%	-1.6%					
 <b>Mortgage Rate (30-year fixed)</b>	5.92	5.84	5.75	5.81	5.48	5.23	5.63	6.26
% Change	-2.1%	-1.4%	-1.5%	1.0%	-5.7%	-4.6%	7.6%	11.2%
 <b>Washington State Index</b>	96.4	96.3	95.6	95.0	95.4	96.4	96.0	96.2
% Change	-0.4%	-0.1%	-0.7%	-0.6%	0.4%	1.0%	-0.4%	0.2%
<i>Other Important Series</i>								
 <b>U.S. Leading Index</b>	111.20	110.6	110.5	110.5	111.7	112.1	112.8	113.3
% Change	-0.1%	-0.5%	-0.1%	0.0%	1.1%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%
 <b>Whatcom Unempl. (Seasonally Adjusted)</b>	6.2%	6.1%	6.2%	5.9%	5.8%	6.2%	6.1%	5.8%
 <b>\$US/\$CAN Exchange</b>	\$1.54	\$1.51	\$1.48	\$1.46	\$1.38	\$1.35	\$1.38	\$1.40
 Aluminum (price per lb.)	\$0.66	\$0.69	\$0.68	\$0.65	\$0.67	\$0.66	\$0.67	\$0.67

\* - Value unavailable  
This information will be updated on a regular basis.