

New Seattle tax will affect 45 of Washington's 100 largest private companies 🔑



By [Melissa Crowe](#) – Research Director, Puget Sound Business Journal
May 17, 2018, 2:00pm

The 100 private companies ranked on this week's Puget Sound Business Journal List are long-standing drivers of Washington state's economy.

The List ranks businesses by 2017 revenue. Together, they have revenue of more than \$38.4 billion.

At least 45 companies ranked on the List would be subject to Seattle's new Progressive Tax on Business, according to revenue figures reported to the Business Journal.

For the first two years, the tax would be calculated based on the number of full-time employees – about \$275 per person, or 14 cents per employee per hour worked in Seattle. Employees working remotely in Seattle, even in their homes, would be subject to the tax.

The five-year tax is expected to raise about \$237 million for affordable housing and services for homeless people before it ends in 2024.

How much Seattle employers will pay under the head tax

It has yet to be seen whether the tax will slow hiring. Nearly 80 percent of Seattle-based companies on the List said they're hiring.

Consulting firm [Slalom](#), for example, said it plans to hire 2,000 positions in the next 12 months. Some of those jobs will be in other cities, namely Charlotte and Austin.

[Kim Bourget](#), senior director of talent acquisition, said there are challenges keeping up with growing salaries and demand for talent, but the biggest challenge is hiring fast enough.

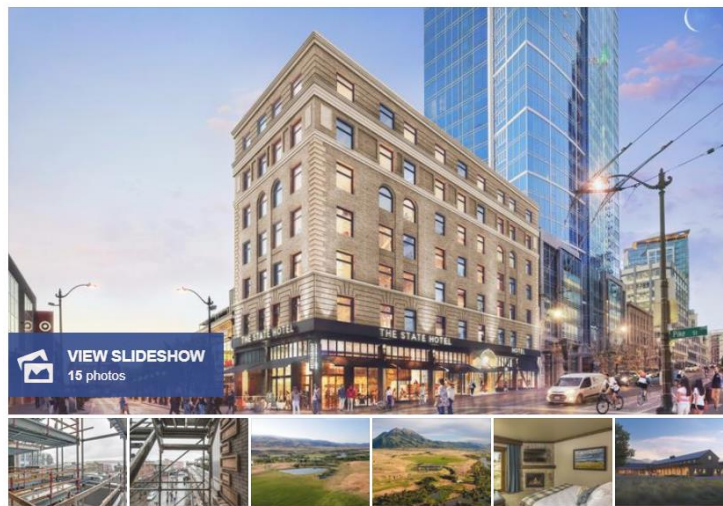
“The biggest challenge Slalom faces when recruiting great talent is to recruit at the pace our business is growing, given the ever-increasing demand for talent – especially technical talent – across the Puget Sound (region),” Bourget said.

Among the fastest-growing private companies is Columbia Hospitality, ranked at No. 66, which increased revenue from \$89 million to \$151.5 million in the span of a year. That 70.25 percent growth brings an increased need for new hires.

The Seattle-based company has a handful of new properties coming online in the next year – Hotel Interurban in Tukwila, The State Hotel at Second Avenue and Pike Street in Seattle, a fly fishing lodge on the Yellowstone River in Montana, Hotel Indigo in Everett, and Cambria Hotel in Bremerton – and will needs 1,700 full-time and seasonal employees.

Columbia Hospitality Projects 2018

The Eitel Building, located at Second Avenue and Pike Street in Seattle, was originally built in 1904. It's being renovated to a new 90-room boutique hotel dubbed The State Hotel. The hotel is slated for opening in summer 2018.



Part of Columbia Hospitality's growth was due to its acquisition of Coastal Hotels, which closed in May 2017.

"We often feel like we are a 23-year-old company in a startup's body, but from the beginning we have emphasized that we will never sacrifice our values or integrity for growth," Columbia Hospitality founder and CEO [John Oppenheimer](#) said. "To be able to accomplish both is what we're most proud of, and I don't see us slowing down any time soon."



John Oppenheimer is the founder and CEO of Columbia Hospitality.

List updates

Mergers and acquisitions

- Pyrotek Inc. (No. 27) acquired an undisclosed company.
- Aviation Technical Services (No. 41) bought American Cooler Service.
- Redapt Inc. (No. 42) acquired SDN Essentials.
- MediaAlpha (No. 62) acquired Katch LLC.
- Kidder Mathews (No. 64) acquired Heger Industrial and Alden Management.
- Columbia Hospitality (No. 66) acquired Coastal Hotels.
- Brown Bear Car Wash (No. 75) acquired two car wash facilities and property for expansion.
- DiscoverOrg (No. 84) acquired RainKing Software.

New CEOs

- Eric Johnson at Bellevue-based Nintex (No. 78)
- Denise Moriguchi at Seattle-based Uwajimaya Inc. (No. 70)
- Scott Younger at Renton-based Alliance Packaging LLC (No. 72)