# Forecast the Harbor

Read economic data, identify trends, and make a supported prediction

**WG.P.2.4.A** "Evaluate economic data from charts and graphs, noting trends and making predictions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline the passage's advice for making a prediction. Circle the numbers in the table that you would use to predict what might happen in 2026.

### A Summer Staffing Decision

1 Harbor Point is a fictional coastal town where many stores depend on summer travelers. The table shows a made-up but realistic set of annual visitor totals and seasonal tourism jobs. Visitors are counted in thousands, while jobs are counted as positions. Reading both columns can help town leaders decide how many workers they may need next summer.

**HARBOR POINT VISITORS AND SEASONAL TOURISM JOBS**

| Year | Visitors (thousands) | Seasonal tourism jobs |
|---|---|---|
| 2021 | 80 | 120 |
| 2022 | 100 | 150 |
| 2023 | 130 | 180 |
| 2024 | 120 | 170 |
| 2025 | 150 | 200 |

2 A forecast should consider the full run of data, not just the latest year. Compare the first and last entries to judge the overall direction, then look for years that break the pattern. A one-year drop matters because it warns against assuming that the same increase will happen every year.

3 The two measures may move together, but that does not prove one caused the other. Weather, ferry schedules, and business decisions could affect visitor counts or hiring. A useful prediction names a likely range and the evidence behind it. Because the figures describe a fictional town, use them to practice reasoning, not to make claims about a real place.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. From 2021 to 2025, how did annual visitors change overall? Give the change in thousands.

2. Which year broke the upward pattern for both measures? State how much each measure fell from the previous year.

3. Predict a reasonable number of seasonal tourism jobs in 2026. Cite two table values that support your prediction.

4. A planner says, "The table proves that more visitors caused more jobs." Is that conclusion supported? Use a feature of the data and one reason from the passage.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you manage Harbor Point's seasonal visitor information center. In 3 to 4 sentences, recommend whether to add, keep, or cut staff for 2026. Use at least two numeric facts from different years, predict a 2026 visitor total, and explain one uncertainty.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · WG.P.2.4.A

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the passage's advice for making a prediction. Circle the numbers in the table that you would use to predict what might happen in 2026. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | From 2021 to 2025, how did annual visitors change overall? Give the change in thousands. | **Visitors increased from 80,000 to 150,000, a gain of 70,000.** |
| 2 | Which year broke the upward pattern for both measures? State how much each measure fell from the previous year. | **In 2024, visitors fell by 10,000 and seasonal tourism jobs fell by 10.** |
| 3 | Predict a reasonable number of seasonal tourism jobs in 2026. Cite two table values that support your prediction. | **About 220 jobs is reasonable. The count rose from 170 in 2024 to 200 in 2025, and 220 continues the overall upward trend.** |
| 4 | A planner says, "The table proves that more visitors caused more jobs." Is that conclusion supported? Use a feature of the data and one reason from the passage. | **No. Both measures fell in 2024, but moving together does not prove cause and effect. Business decisions could also affect hiring.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would add a few seasonal staff in 2026. Visitor totals rose from 80,000 in 2021 to 150,000 in 2025, despite a dip to 120,000 in 2024. I predict about 160,000 visitors in 2026 because the longer trend is upward. A stormy summer could lower the total and leave extra staff with too little work.

Accept different numerical predictions when students support them with the table and acknowledge uncertainty. The data show that the measures move together, not that one causes the other.