

Coos & Curry Counties Regional Profile

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Demographics

Population growth

- Regional population grew by 7% from 1990 to 2010, significantly lower than the 35% increase observed across the state overall.¹
- Growth in the region during this period was overwhelmingly due to net in-migration rather than to natural increase (natural increase is the excess of births to deaths; net migration is in-migration minus out-migration).²

Change in ethnic composition ¹

- The size of the Latino population grew by about 151% between 1990 and 2010, from 2.14% to 5.38%, and represents the largest population of color in the region.
- Over the last 2 decades, this region has consistently had lesser representation of Latinos than the state, and in 2010 was about six percentage points lower than the state (Latinos were 11.75% of Oregon population in 2010).

Age ³

- The region is older than Oregon overall, and is aging at a slightly quicker rate than the state. (The median age of Curry County in 2010 was 53 and Coos' was 47, while Oregon's median age was 38 in 2010.)

Employment & Labor

Unemployment ⁴

- Since 1990, the region has had consistently higher unemployment than the state (by an average of about one percentage point).
- Unemployment has almost doubled since 1990 – from about 8% in 1990 to about 14% in 2009-13, at a pace similar to the state, though slightly higher since the 2008-12 period.

Sources of income ⁴

- The majority of households (about 59%) get income from wages and salaries, but this is below the state percentage (about 72%).
- About 46% of households get income from social security (much higher than state percentage), followed by 28% that get income from retirement (higher than the state percentage), and about 5% that receive income from public assistance programs (slightly higher than the state percentage).

Industries employing regional residents: ⁴

- Between 1990 and the 2009-2013 period, the industry in which the highest proportion of regional residents worked changed. In 1990, the industry with the highest proportion was Retail Trade (19.59%) and in the 2009-13 period, it was Education, Health, and Social Services (21.05%).
 - Note: Education, Health, and Social Service industry employment includes work in the public and private sectors.
- In 1990, about 55.03% of regional resident workers were employed in the top three industries of 1) Retail Trade, 2) Education, Health and Social Services, and 3) Manufacturing. In 2009-2013 that fell to 48.22% of regional resident workers, and the top three industries were 1) Education, Health and Social Services, 2) Retail Trade, and 3) Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Accommodation. This decline was due to a combination of decreases in Retail Trade and Manufacturing, and without a corresponding increase in other industries.
- The region has experienced declines in Manufacturing employment from 1990 to the 2009-2013 period; from 16.41% to 7.54% of employed residents. This decline was greater than the decline Oregon overall experienced.
- Between 1990 and the 2009-2013 period, the region saw significant increases in the percentages of workers employed in the Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, and Accommodation industry as well as the Professional, Science, Management, & Administration industry.

Local jobs: ⁵

- In 2013, the highest proportion of jobs located in the two county region were in state and local government. About fourteen percent (14.17%) of all the full and part time jobs in the region in 2013 were in this industry. Private sector Retail Trade and Accommodation and Food Services jobs were next, representing 12.45% and 9.03% of jobs in the region respectively. Together, these three top industries accounted for 35.65% of the jobs in the region.
- Between 2001 and 2013 the most significant decline occurred in the proportion of local jobs that were in the government sector (decline of about two percentage points).
- Between 2001 and 2013, the most significant increase occurred in the proportion of local jobs that were in the private sector Administrative & Waste Management industry (increased by about two percentage points).

Commuting patterns: ⁴

- Since 1990, there has not been much change in resident commuters' travel times to work in this region
- The majority (about 68%) of commuters travel fewer than 20 minutes to work.

Agriculture

Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, Coos County ranked 21st and Curry County 32nd in the state for gross farm and ranch sales (combined sales for the two counties \$108,232,000).⁶
- In 2012, gross crop sales were slightly lower (by 1.6 times) than gross animal product sales in the region.⁶
- There was a 178% increase in animal product sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars.⁶
- There was a -23% decrease in crop sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars.⁶
- There was also a decrease (-9%) in the number of harvested acres between 2000 and 2012.⁶

- Just as the state overall has seen continued declines over the last 23 years, this region's timber harvest in 2013 was about 79% of its 1990 level in 1,000s of board feet.⁷

Land cover change:⁸

- Between 2000 and 2011, there a 5% decrease in forest land cover and a 5.3% increase in shrubland land cover.

Striking Statistics (areas where region stands out from state)

Challenges

- Higher than average percentage of infants born to mothers using tobacco⁹
- Higher than average percentage of adults who smoke cigarettes⁹
- Higher than average rate of traffic fatalities per 100,000 people¹⁰
- Higher than average number of Years of Potential Life Lost before age 75⁹
- Higher than average arrest rate for behavioral crimes (such as weapons regulation laws, prostitution, drug laws, gambling, offenses against family, DUII, liquor laws, disorderly conduct)¹¹
- Higher than average housing vacancy rate⁴
- Below average percentage of adults with a 4-year degree or greater⁴
- Higher than average high school dropout rate¹²
- Lower than average four year high school graduation rate¹²
- Lower than average Labor Force Participation Rate for the total population, as well as the white, non-Latino population⁴

Strengths

- ✓ Higher than average prevalence of retail food stores, per 1,000 population¹³
- ✓ Lower than average incidence of the most common communicable disease (Chlamydia)⁹
- ✓ Better than average coverage of the social services system – ratio of people seeking social services (via *211info*) to social service providers was lower in the region than the state overall, particularly in the utilities services sector¹⁴

Sources

Data come from a variety of sources, as reported on the Rural Communities Explorer (<http://oe.oregonexplorer.info/rural/CommunitiesReporter/>), including:

- ¹ US Census Bureau, Decennial Census
- ² Population Research Center, Portland State University
- ³ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey & Decennial Census
- ⁴ US Census Bureau, American Community Survey
- ⁵ US Bureau of Economic Analysis
- ⁶ Oregon Agricultural Information Network, Oregon State University Extension Service
- ⁷ Oregon Department of Forestry
- ⁸ National Land Cover Database, Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium US Department of the Interior & US Geologic Survey
- ⁹ Oregon Department of Human Services
- ¹⁰ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation
- ¹¹ State of Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
- ¹² Oregon Department of Education
- ¹³ Yellow Pages
- ¹⁴ *211info*