

Deschutes County Profile

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Demographics

Population growth

- Regional population grew by 110% from 1990 to 2010, much higher than the 35% increase observed across the state overall.¹
- Growth in the region during this period was due more to net migration 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 264% between 1990 and 2010, from 2% to 7.4%, and represents the largest population of color in the region.
- Over the last 2 decades, this region has consistently had a lesser representation of Latinos than the state overall, and in 2010 was about five percentage points lower than the state (Latinos were 11.75% of Oregon population in 2010).

Age ³

- The county is slightly older than Oregon overall, and is aging at about the same rate as the state.

Employment & Labor

Unemployment ⁴

- Since 2006-10, the region has had consistently higher unemployment than the state (by about one percentage point).
- Unemployment has more than doubled since 1990 – from about 5% in 1990 to about 12% in 2009-13, at a pace greater than the state.

Sources of income ⁴

- The majority of households (about 70%) get income from wages and salaries, which is just below the state percentage (about 72%).
- About 33% of households get income from social security (higher than state percentage), followed by 20% that get income from retirement (slightly higher than the state percentage), and about 4% that receive income from public assistance programs (on par with 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 highest proportion of employed residents

worked in the Retail Trade industry (21.16%). For 2009-13, the highest proportion of employed residents worked in the Education, Health and Social Services Industry (19.02%).

- Note: Education, Health, and Social Service industry employment includes work in the public and private sectors.
- In 1990, about 57.54% of regional resident workers were employed in the top three industries of 1) Retail Trade, 2) Manufacturing, and 3) Education, Health and Social Services. In the 2009-13 period, 46.13% of regional resident workers were employed in the top three industries of 1) Education, Health and Social Services, 2) Arts, Entertainment, Recreation and Accommodation, and 3) Retail Trade. While employment in Education, Health and Social Sciences increased, employment in Retail Trade decreased significantly.
- The region has experienced declines in Manufacturing employment from 1990 to the 2009-13 period; from 18.22% to 8.02% of employed residents. This decline was greater than the decline Oregon overall experienced.
- Between 1990 and the 2009-13 period, the region saw significant increases in the percentage 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 county were in Retail Trade. About twelve percent (12.26%) of all the full and part time jobs in the region in 2013 were in this industry. Private sector Health Care/Social Assistance and Accommodation and Food Services jobs were next, representing 12.10% and 9.14 of jobs in the region respectively. Together, these three top industries accounted for 33.5% 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 Construction sector (decline of about 3 percentage points).
- Between 2001 and 2013, the most significant increase occurred in the proportion of local jobs that were in the private sector Health Care/Social Assistance industry (increased by about 3 percentage points).

Commuting patterns: ⁴

- Since 1990, there has not been much change in resident commuters' travel times to work in this region.
- The vast majority (about 82%) of commuters travel fewer than 30 minutes to work.

Agriculture

Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, Deschutes County ranked 34th in the state for gross farm and ranch sales (\$26,103,000).⁶
- In 2012, gross crop sales were only slightly higher (by 1.3 times) than gross animal product sales in the region.⁶
- There was a -34% decrease in animal product sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars.⁶
- There was a 23% increase in crop sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars.⁶
- At the same time, there was a decrease (-19%) in the number of harvested acres between 2000 and 2012.⁶

- Just as the state overall has seen continued declines over the last 20 years, this region's timber harvest in 2013 was about 22% of its 1990 level in 1,000s of board feet.⁷

Land cover change:⁸

- Between 2000 and 2011, Forest Land Cover decreased from 43.2% to 40.8% and Herbaceous Land Cover more than doubled, from 1.5% to 3.3%.

Striking Statistics (areas where region stands out from state)

Challenges

- Lower than average prevalence of retail food stores per 1,000 people⁹
- Higher than average cost of a meal¹⁰
- Lower than average rate of adequately immunized 2-year olds¹¹
- Higher than average rate of traffic fatalities per 100,000 people¹²
- Higher than average arrest rate for Behavioral crimes, per 1,000 people¹³
- Higher than average Housing Vacancy rate⁴
- Less than average coverage of the Food Services system – ratio of people seeking food services (via 211*info*) to food service providers was higher than the state overall¹⁴
- Lower than average five year graduation rate for Latino students¹⁵
- Lower than average wages (per covered worker)⁵

Strengths

- ✓ Higher than average access to recreational facilities, per 100,000 population¹⁶
- ✓ Lower than average teen pregnancy rate, per 1,000 females aged 15-17¹⁷
- ✓ Lower than average percentage of obese adults¹⁷
- ✓ Lower than average number of years of potential life lost before age 75, per 1,000 people¹⁷
- ✓ Lower than average dropout rate, for all students as well as Latino students¹⁵
- ✓ Better than average coverage of the housing service system – ratio of people seeking housing services (via 211*info*) to housing service providers was lower in the region than the state overall¹⁴
- ✓ Higher than average percentage of jobs that are proprietorships (Entrepreneurship)⁵

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 Yellow Pages
- ¹⁰ Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap
- ¹¹ Oregon Immunization Program, Oregon Health Authority
- ¹² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation
- ¹³ State of Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
- ¹⁴ *211info*
- ¹⁵ Oregon Department of Education
- ¹⁶ US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns
- ¹⁷ Oregon Department of Human Services