

Douglas County Profile

July 24, 2014

Demographics

Population growth

- County population grew by 14% from 1990 to 2010, much lower than the 35% increase observed across state overall
- Growth in the county during this period was largely due to net in-migration (as opposed to natural increase – the excess of births to deaths)

Change in ethnic composition

- The size of the Latino population doubled between 1990 and 2010, from 2.3% to 4.7%, and represents the largest population of color in the county
- Douglas County has experienced a less dramatic increase in the Latino population than the state overall (Oregon's Latino population increased 200% between 1990 and 2010)

Age

- Douglas County is older than Oregon overall, and is aging at a slightly faster pace than the state

Employment & Labor

Unemployment

- The county has had consistently higher unemployment than the state since 1990 (by two to three percentage points)
- Unemployment has increased significantly since 1990 – from about 9% to about 13% in 2008-12, at a pace roughly on par with the state

Sources of income

- The majority of households (about 63%) get income from wages and salaries, but this is significantly lower than state percentage (about 73%)
- About 44% of households get income from social security, followed by 25% that get income from retirement, and only about 3% that receive income from public assistance programs

Industries employing county residents:

- Between 1990 and 2008-2012 the industry in which the highest proportion of Douglas County residents worked shifted from Manufacturing to Education, Health, and Social Services
 - Note: Education, Health, and Social Service industry employment includes work in the public and private sectors
- The decline in manufacturing employment was much more dramatic in Douglas County between 1990 and 2000 and then on into the next decade than Oregon overall

- Between 1990 and 2008-2012 Douglas County has seen significant increases in the percentages of workers employed in the Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, and Accommodation as well as the Professional, Science, Management, and Administration industries

Local jobs:

- In 2012, the highest proportions of jobs located in the county were in the government and private sector health care and social assistance industries. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of all the full and part time jobs in the county in 2012 were in these industries.
- Between 2001 and 2012, the most significant decline occurred in the proportion of local jobs there were in the manufacturing industry (decline of about 3 percentage points)
- Between 2001 and 2012, small, but the most significant increases occurred in the proportion of local jobs there were in the private sector health care and social assistance industry as well as the administrative and waste management services industry¹ (each increased by about 2 percentage points)

Commuting patterns:

- Since 1990, there has not been much change in Douglas County resident commuters' travel times to work
- The majority (about 61%) of commuters travel less than 20 minutes to work

Agriculture

Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, the county ranked 20th in the state for gross farm and ranch sales (\$76,485,000)
- In 2012, crop sales were 1.5 times higher than animal product sales in the county
- In 2012, the biggest agricultural commodity (by sales) was cattle
- There was a slight decline in animal product sales between 2000 and 2012 (-2%)
- There was a 37% decline in crop sales between 2000 and 2012
- At the same time, there was a 21% increase in the number of harvested acres between 2000 and 2012
- Just as the state overall that has seen continued declines over the last 20 years, the county timber harvest in 2012 was about 52% of its 1990 level in 1,000s of board feet

Land use change:

- Between 2000 and 2009, like the state overall, there was not much change in non-federal land use

¹ The Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services NAICS sector comprises establishments performing routine support activities for the day-to-day operations of other organizations. These essential activities are often undertaken in-house by establishments in many sectors of the economy. The establishments in this sector specialize in one or more of these support activities and provide these services to clients in a variety of industries and, in some cases, to households. Activities performed include: office administration, hiring and placing of personnel, document preparation and similar clerical services, solicitation, collection, security and surveillance services, cleaning, and waste disposal services.

Striking Statistics (areas where county stands out from state)

Challenges

- Higher than average percentage of families with children that are single-parent families
- Higher than average mortality rate among adults age 45 to 64
- Higher than average adult obesity
- Higher than average adult arrest rate for behavioral crimes
- Higher than average juvenile arrest rate for property and behavioral crimes
- Lower than average median home value
- Higher than average poverty (at 100% and 185% income to poverty line thresholds)
- Higher than average child poverty
- Below average percentage of adults with a 4-year degree or more education
- Above average high school dropout rates
- Lower than average median household income
- Lower than average per capita personal income as a percentage of US per capita personal income
- Lower than average labor force participation among the total population, including among whites
- Lower than average wages

Strengths

- ✓ Lower than average incidence of the most common communicable disease (Chlamydia)
- ✓ Higher than average home ownership
- ✓ Lower than average seasonal homeownership
- ✓ Lower than average percentage of households in housing cost burden (paying 30% or more of income on housing)
- ✓ Adequate social service system – ratio of people seeking social services (via 211info) to social service providers indicates lower than average ratios
- ✓ Lower than average income inequality
- ✓ Relatively stable proportion of land in agriculture