

Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, & Wheeler counties Regional Profile

Lena Etuk, Social Demographer, Oregon State University Extension Service

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Demographics

Population growth

- Population has grown a bit over the last 20 years in the region, by 28% from 1990 to 2010, but this was lower than the 35% increase observed across the state overall ¹
- Growth in the region during this period was due more to natural increase (the excess of births to deaths) than in-migration ²

Change in ethnic composition ¹

- The size of the Latino population grew dramatically between 1990 and 2010, by about 175% between 1990 and 2010, from 8.6% to 23.7%, and represents the largest population of color in the region
- Over the last 2 decades, this region has consistently had greater representation of Latinos than the state, and in 2010 was about twelve percentage points higher than the state (Latinos were 12% of Oregon population in 2010)

Age ³

- Within the region, Wheeler, Gilliam, and Sherman populations are significantly older than Oregon overall, but Morrow and Umatilla are slightly younger.
- The three older counties are aging more rapidly than the state, while Morrow and Umatilla are pretty well matching the pace of the state.

Employment & Labor

Unemployment ⁴

- Between 2000 and 2005 (roughly) the region had higher unemployment than the state, but only by about one or two percentage points. Since 2005, however, the region has had slightly lower unemployment than the state, by about half to one percentage point
- Unemployment has increased since 1990 – from about 8% in 1990 to about 11% in 2009-13, at a slightly slower pace than the state, whose unemployment nearly doubled from 1990 to the 2009-13 period.

Sources of income ⁴

- The majority of households (about 74%) get income from wages and salaries, on par with the state percentage (about 73%)
- About 32% of households get income from Social Security (on par with the state percentage), followed by 18% that get income from retirement (on par with the state

percentage), and about 3% 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 did not change. At both times, the highest proportion of residents worked in the Education, Health, and Social Services industry.
 - Note: Education, Health, and Social Service industry employment includes work in the public and private sectors
- In 1990, about 51% of the region's resident workers were employed in the top three industries of 1) Education, Health, & Social Services, 2) Retail Trade, and 3) Manufacturing. By 2009-2013 that had declined to 41%, due to declines in the percent employed in Manufacturing and Retail Trade.
- The decline in Manufacturing employment from 1990 to the 2009-2013 period in the region was marked (from 16% to 11%), but on par with the decline Oregon overall experienced, which went from 18% to 11%.
- Between 1990 and the 2009-2013 period, the region saw significant increase in the percentage of workers employed in two industries, namely Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, and Accommodation (by 8 percentage points, from 1% to 9%) and Professional, Science, Management, and Administration (by 4 percentage points, from 3% to 7%).

Local jobs: ⁵

- In 2013, the highest proportion of jobs located in the region were in state and local government. Fifteen percent (15%) of all the full and part time jobs in the region in 2013 were in this industry. Manufacturing was a close second (at 10% of all jobs), and Private sector Health Care/Social assistance and Retail Trade jobs were tied for third, each representing 9% of jobs in the region. Together, these four top industries account for 42% of the jobs in the region.
- Between 2001 and 2013 the most significant decline occurred in the proportion of local jobs that were in Retail Trade (decline of about 2 percentage points)
- Between 2001 and 2013, the most significant increase occurred in the proportion of local jobs there were in private, non-farm Forestry, Fishing, and Related Activities (increased by about 5 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 66%) of regional resident commuters travel fewer than 20 minutes to work

Agriculture

Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, Umatilla and Morrow counties ranked 2nd and 3rd in the state for gross farm and ranch sales (\$639,326,000 in Umatilla, \$487,281,000 in Morrow). By contrast, Sherman ranked 25th, Gilliam 31st, and Wheeler 36th in total sales. ⁶
- In 2012, the whole region boasts \$1,085,984,000 in gross farm and ranch sales.

- In 2012, gross crop sales were twice as high as gross animal product sales in the region ⁶
- There was a 163% increase in animal product sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars, which was far greater than the increase observed in the state overall (56% increase) ⁶
- There was also a sizable increase of 61% in crop sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars, which was also far greater than the increase in the state overall (11% increase) ⁶
- At the same time, there was a slight decrease (-3%) 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 45% of its 1990 level in 1,000s of board feet ⁷

Land cover change: ⁸

- Between 2000 and 2011, Forest cover decreased slightly from 17.6% to 17% of all land in the region and Shrubland increased slightly (51.5% to 51.8%). There was little to no change in developed land, cultivated land, barren land, or water/wetlands.

Striking Statistics (areas where region stands out from state)

Challenges

- Higher than average arrest rate for Behavioral Crimes, per 1,000 population (behavioral crimes include weapons regulation laws, prostitution, drug laws, gambling, offenses against family, D.U.I.I., liquor laws, disorderly conduct, all other offenses (except traffic))
- Lower than average response rates to the decennial census ¹
- Higher than average percentage of students eligible for Free & Reduced Price Lunch Program ¹⁷
- Below average percentage of adults with a 4-year degree or more education ⁴
- Lower than average median household income ⁴
- Lower than average wages (per covered worker) ⁵

Strengths

- ✓ Since 2010, a declining rate of child abuse, per 100 children under 18; now with a rate lower than average ¹³
- ✓ Lower than average rate of housing cost burden (housing costs are considered a burden when renters or owners pay 30% or greater of their income on rent or mortgage)
- ✓ Except for Sherman County (which is on par with the state), lower than average rate of food insecurity
- ✓ Better than average coverage of the social service system – ratio of people seeking any type of social services (via 211*info*) to social service providers was lower in the county than the state overall ¹⁶
- ✓ Higher than average rate of high school graduation in four years ¹⁷
- ✓ Lower income inequality as measured by the Ratio of Mean Annual Income and the Modified Palma Index ⁴
- ✓ Lower than average high school dropout rate among Latino students ¹⁷

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 Healthy Teens Survey, Oregon Department of Human Services
- ¹⁰ Oregon Farmer's Market Association and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
- ¹¹ Yellow Pages
- ¹² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation
- ¹³ Oregon Department of Human Services
- ¹⁴ State of Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
- ¹⁵ Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap
- ¹⁶ *211info*
- ¹⁷ Oregon Department of Education
- ¹⁸ Child Care Research Partnership and Oregon Employment Department
- ¹⁹ USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Census of Agriculture
- ²⁰ Oregon Immunization Program, Oregon Health Authority
- ²¹ Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, US Census Bureau
- ²² Oregon Secretary of State