

# Jackson & Josephine Counties Regional Profile

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## Demographics

### Population growth

- Regional population grew by 37% from 1990 to 2010, roughly on par with the 35% increase observed across the state overall
- Growth in the region during this period was mostly 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 grew two and a half times between 1990 and 2010, from 3.7% to 9.4%, and represents the largest population of color in the county
- Though in 1990 the representation of Latinos in this region was about equal to the state, growth in this population was slightly less dramatic in this region over the following two decades (157% change as opposed to the 200% change observed in the state), resulting in the region having a lower percent Latino (9.4%) than the state overall (11.7%) in 2010

### Age

- The region is a bit older than Oregon overall, and is aging at a slightly faster pace than the state

## Employment & Labor

### Unemployment

- Except for 2005, when Jackson County was equal to the state, the region has had consistently higher unemployment than the state since 1990 (by one to two percentage points)
- Unemployment has increased significantly since 1990 – from about 8% to about 13% in 2008-12, but at a pace roughly on par with the state

### Sources of income

- The majority of households (about 64%) get income from wages and salaries, but this is significantly lower than state percentage (about 73%)
- About 39% of households get income from social security (higher than state percentage), followed by 22% that get income from retirement (higher than state percentage), and only about 4% that receive income from public assistance programs (on par with state percentage)

#### Industries employing regional residents:

- Between 1990 and 2008-2012 the industry in which the highest proportion of regional residents worked shifted from Retail Trade to Education, Health, and Social Services
  - Note: Education, Health, and Social Service industry employment includes work in the public and private sectors
- In 1990, about 59% of regional resident workers were employed in the Retail Trade, Manufacturing, and Education, Health, & Social Services industries. By 2008-2012 only 47% were, due to dramatic declines in the percent employed in Manufacturing and Retail Trade.
- The decline in Manufacturing employment was more dramatic in the region between 1990 and 2008-2012 than Oregon overall, and only slightly more dramatic than the state's decline in Retail Trade employment
- Between 1990 and 2008-2012 the region saw 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 two-county region were in the private sector health care/social assistance and retail trade industries. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of all the full and part time jobs in the region in 2012 were in these industries.
- Between 2001 and 2012, small, but the most significant declines occurred in the proportion of local jobs there were in the government, construction, wholesale trade, and manufacturing industries (decline of about 2 percentage points each)
- Between 2001 and 2012, the most significant increase occurred in the proportion of local jobs there were in the private sector health care and social assistance industry (increased by about 3 percentage points)

#### Commuting patterns:

- Since 1990, there has not been much change in resident commuters' travel times to work in this region
- The majority (about 62%) of commuters travel fewer than 20 minutes to work

## Agriculture

#### Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, Jackson county ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the state for gross farm and ranch sales (\$65,918,000), while Josephine ranked 35<sup>th</sup> in the state (\$21,334,000)
- In 2012, crop sales were 1.6 times higher than animal product sales in the two-county region
- In 2012, the biggest agricultural commodity (by sales) was "other" crops, followed by pears and dairy products
- There was a 15% decline in animal product sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars
- There was also a 21% decline in crop sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars
- At the same time, there was a small (5%) decline in the number of harvested acres between 2000 and 2012
- Just as the state overall has seen continued declines over the last 20 years, this region's timber harvest in 2012 was about 34% of its 1990 level in 1,000s of board feet

Land use change:

- Between 2000 and 2009, there were small upticks in the percent of land in low-density residential as well as urban uses
- At the same time, there were slight down-ticks in the percent of land in wildland forest and intensive agriculture uses

## **Striking Statistics (areas where county stands out from state)**

### **Challenges**

- Higher than average rate of traffic fatalities
- Above average mortality among adults age 25-44 and 45-64
- Higher than average adult and juvenile arrest rates for behavioral, property, and index crimes
- 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
- 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)
- ✓ Adequate social service system – ratio of people seeking social services (via 211info) to social service providers indicates lower than average ratios
- ✓ Fairly stable percentage of land in farms (while the state has seen decline)