

Jefferson County Profile

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Demographics

Population growth

- Population has grown dramatically over the last 20 years in Jefferson County, by 59% from 1990 to 2010, which was quite a bit higher than the 35% increase observed across the state overall ¹
- Growth in the region during this period was due more to in-migration than to natural increase (the excess of births to deaths) ²

Change in ethnic composition ¹

- The size of the Latino population grew by about 82% between 1990 and 2010, from 10.6% to 19.3%, and represents the largest population of color in the county, followed closely by non-Latino American Indian/Alaska Natives
- Over the last 2 decades, this county has consistently had greater representation of Latinos than the state, and in 2010 was about seven percentage points higher than the state (Latinos were 12% of Oregon population in 2010)

Age ³

- The county population is older in than Oregon overall, but only since the last census in 2010. In 2000, Jefferson County was a bit younger than the state overall, according to their median age.
- The county is aging a bit more rapidly than the state: the median age in Jefferson County went up from 34.8 in 2000 to 39.6 in 2010, while it went from 36.3 to 38.4 in the state.

Employment & Labor

Unemployment ⁴

- Since 1990, the region has had consistently higher unemployment than the state (between two and five percentage points)
- Unemployment has doubled since 1990 – from about 8% in 1990 to about 16% in 2009-13, at a pace on par with the state.

Sources of income ⁴

- The majority of households (about 71%) get income from wages and salaries, on par with the state percentage (about 73%)
- About 35% of households get income from Social Security (higher than state percentage), followed by 20% that get income from retirement (close to 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 county residents worked shifted from Manufacturing to the Education, Health, and Social Services industry.
 - Note: Education, Health, and Social Service industry employment includes work in the public and private sectors
- The decline in Manufacturing employment from 1990 to the 2009-2013 period in the county was dramatic; going from 23% to 12% of employed residents. This decline was more dramatic than the decline Oregon overall experienced in Manufacturing.
- In 1990, about 57% of county resident workers were employed in the top three industries of 1) Manufacturing, 2) Education, Health, & Social Services, and 3) Retail Trade. By 2009-2013 that had declined to 43%, due to declines in the percent employed in Manufacturing and Retail Trade.
- Between 1990 and the 2009-2013 period, the county saw significant increase in the percentage of workers employed in only one industry, namely Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, and Accommodation (by 9 percentage points, from 1% to 10%)

Local jobs: ⁵

- In 2013, the highest proportion of jobs located in the county were in state and local government. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of all the full and part time jobs in the county in 2013 were in this industry. Manufacturing was a distant second (at 12% of all jobs), and Private sector Health Care/Social assistance and Retail Trade jobs were tied for third, each representing 8% of jobs in the county. Together, these four top industries account for 55% of the jobs in the region.
- Between 2001 and 2013 the most significant decline occurred in the proportion of local jobs that were in Manufacturing (decline of about 7 percentage points)
- Between 2001 and 2013, the most significant increase occurred in the proportion of local jobs there were in state government (increased by about 2 percentage points)

Commuting patterns: ⁴

- Since 1990, there has been a slight change in resident commuters' travel times to work in this region; more commuters are traveling farther now than they did in 1990
- In 1990 70% of commuters travelled fewer than 20 minutes to work, but in the 2009-13 period 59% did

Agriculture

Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, Jefferson County ranked 22nd in the state for gross farm and ranch sales (\$74,398,000) ⁶
- In 2012, gross crop sales were significantly higher than (by 4 times) gross animal product sales in the county ⁶
- There was a 39% increase in animal product sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars, which was less than the increase observed in the state overall (56% increase) ⁶
- There was only a 12% increase in crop sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars, but on par with the increase in the state overall (11% increase) ⁶

- At the same time, there was a slight decrease (-4%) 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 32% of its 1990 level in 1,000s of board feet ⁷

Land cover change: ⁸

- Between 2000 and 2011, Barren land cover decreased slightly (from 1.2% to 1.0% of all land), Forest cover decreased from 31.3% to 27.7%, Shrubland increased slightly (58.1% to 59.1%), and Herbaceous land cover increased from 1.1% to 3.8%. There was little to no change in developed land, cultivated land, or water/wetlands.

Striking Statistics (areas where county stands out from state)

Challenges

- Higher than average cost of a meal ¹⁵
- Higher than average reported use of alcohol among 8th graders ⁹
- Lower than average public or private health insurance coverage among adults ²¹
- Higher than average rate of traffic fatalities per 100,000 people ¹²
- Higher than average mortality rate among adults age 25-44 ¹³
- Higher than average number of years of potential life lost before age 75, per 1,000 people ¹³
- Higher than average juvenile arrest rate for Behavioral crimes, per 1,000 youth under 18 (juvenile 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), curfew, and runaway juveniles) ¹⁴
- Lower than average response rates to the decennial census ¹
- Lower than average general election voter turnout (the percentage of people 18+ who voted) ²²
- Higher than average poverty rates among the whole population and among children ⁴
- 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
- Higher than average high school dropout rate ¹⁷
- Lower than average median household income ⁴
- Lower than average per capita personal income, as a percentage of US per capita income ⁵
- Lower than average labor force participation among the total population, particularly among whites ⁴
- Lower than average wages (per covered worker) ⁵

Strengths

- ✓ Higher than average rate of adequately immunized 2-year olds ²⁰
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Lower than average high school dropout rate among Latino students ¹⁷
- ✓ Higher than average number of childcare slots per 100 children ¹⁸
- ✓ Sizable increase, since 1990, in the percentage of land in farms, while the state saw small decline ¹⁹

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