

Klamath County Profile

July 24, 2014

Demographics

Population growth

- County population grew by 15% from 1990 to 2010, much lower than the 35% increase observed across state overall
- Growth in the county during this period was due about equally to natural increase and net in-migration

Change in ethnic composition

- The size of the Latino population doubled between 1990 and 2010, from 5.2% to 10.4%, and represents the largest population of color in the county
- Klamath 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), but the county had greater representation among this ethnic group in 1990 than the state

Age

- Klamath County is a bit 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 one to four percentage points)
- Unemployment has increased slightly since 1990 – from about 10% to about 12% in 2008-12, at a less dramatic pace than the state

Sources of income

- The majority of households (about 66%) get income from wages and salaries, but this is notably lower than state percentage (about 73%)
- About 37% of households get income from social security, followed by 21% that get income from retirement, and only about 4% that receive income from public assistance programs

Industries employing county residents:

- Between 1990 and 2008-2012 the industry in which the highest proportion of Klamath County 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 58% of Klamath County resident workers were employed in the Retail Trade, Manufacturing, and Education, Health, & Social Services industries. By 2008-2012 only 45% were, due to dramatic declines in the percent employed in Manufacturing and Retail Trade.

- The decline in Manufacturing employment was much more dramatic in Klamath County 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 Klamath County 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 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, small, but the most significant declines occurred in the proportion of local jobs there were in the government, construction, 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 2 percentage points)

Commuting patterns:

- Since 1990, there has not been much change in Klamath County resident commuters' travel times to work
- The majority (about 69%) of commuters travel fewer than 20 minutes to work

Agriculture

Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, the county ranked 8th in the state for gross farm and ranch sales (\$290,402,000)
- In 2012, crop sales were about equal to animal product sales in the county
- In 2012, the biggest agricultural commodity (by sales) was cattle
- There was a 44% increase in animal product sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars
- There was a 104% increase in crop sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars
- At the same time, there was a small (2%) decline 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 29% 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

Striking Statistics (areas where county stands out from state)

Challenges

- Higher than average percentage of babies born with low birth weight

- Higher than average adult arrest rate for property and index crimes
- Higher than average home vacancy rate
- Lower than average median home value
- Lower than average census mail response rates
- Lower than average voter turnout
- Higher than average poverty (at 50%, 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
- Lower than average median home value

Strengths

- ✓ Higher than average home ownership
- ✓ 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