

# Lake & Harney counties Regional Profile

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## Demographics

### Population growth

- Regional population grew by 8% from 1990 to 2010, significantly lower than the 35% increase observed across the state overall.<sup>1</sup>
- Growth in the region during this period was overwhelmingly due to net migration rather than to natural increase (natural increase is the excess of births to deaths; net migration is in-migration minus out-migration).<sup>2</sup>

### Change in ethnic composition <sup>1</sup>

- The size of the Latino population grew by about 59% between 1990 and 2010, from 3.5% to 5.4%, and represents the largest population of color in the region.
- Over the last 2 decades, this region has consistently had a lesser representation of Latinos than the state overall, and in 2010 was about six percentage points lower than the state (Latinos were 11.75% of Oregon population in 2010)

### Age <sup>3</sup>

- The region is slightly older than Oregon overall, and is aging a bit more rapidly than the state.

## Employment & Labor

### Unemployment <sup>4</sup>

- Since 1990, the region has fairly consistently had a higher unemployment rate than the state (between one and three percentage points).
- Unemployment has risen since 1990 – from about 9% in 1990 to about 12% in 2009-13, at a slightly slower pace than the state.

### Sources of income <sup>4</sup>

- The majority of households (about 68%) get income from wages and salaries, which is below the state percentage (about 72%).
- About 39% of households get income from social security (higher than state percentage), followed by 23% that get income from retirement (higher than the state percentage), and about 4% that receive income from public assistance programs (on par with the state percentage).

### Industries employing regional residents: <sup>4</sup>

- 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 employed residents worked in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining industry (22.6% in 1990, 28.11% in 2009-13).

- In 1990, about 55.42% of regional resident workers were employed in the top three industries of 1) Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining, 2) Education, Health and Social Services, and 3) Manufacturing. In 2009-13 that rose to 57.11% of regional resident workers, and the top three industries were 1) Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining, 2) Education, Health and Social Services, and 3) Public Administration. This increase was due to an increase in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Mining and the Education, Health and Social Services industries.
- The region has experienced declines in Manufacturing employment from 1990 to the 2009-13 period; from 16.17% to 5.47% of employed residents. This decline was greater than the decline Oregon overall experienced.
- Between 1990 and the 2009-13 period, the region saw significant increases in the percentage of workers employed in the Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, and Accommodation industry as well as the Professional, Science, Management, & Administration industry and the Education, Health and Social Services industry. In that period, the percentage of workers employed in Retail Trade was cut in half.

#### Local jobs: <sup>5</sup>

- In 2013, the highest proportion of jobs located in the two county region were in state and local government. About seventeen percent (17.4%) of all the full and part time jobs in the region in 2013 were in this industry. Farm Sector and private sector Retail Trade jobs were next, representing 15.71% and 9.01% of jobs in the region respectively. Together, these three top industries accounted for 42.12% of the jobs in the region.
- Between 2001 and 2013 the most significant decline occurred in the proportion of local jobs that were in the manufacturing sector (decline of about 4 percentage points).
- Between 2001 and 2013, the most significant increase occurred in the proportion of local jobs that were in the private sector Health Care/Social Assistance industry (increased by about 3.5 percentage points).

#### Commuting patterns: <sup>4</sup>

- Since 1990, there has not been much change in resident commuters' travel times to work in this region.
- The vast majority (about 83%) of commuters travel fewer than 20 minutes to work.

## Agriculture

#### Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, Lake County ranked 15<sup>th</sup> and Harney County 19<sup>th</sup> in the state for gross farm and ranch sales (combined sales for the two counties \$196,838,000).<sup>6</sup>
- In 2012, gross crop sales were very slightly higher than (by 0.02 times) gross animal product sales in the region.<sup>6</sup>
- There was a 21% increase in animal product sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars.<sup>6</sup>
- There was a 84% increase in crop sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars.<sup>6</sup>
- There was also an increase (7%) in the number of harvested acres between 2000 and 2012.<sup>6</sup>
- Just as the state overall has seen continued declines over the last 23 years, this region's timber harvest in 2013 was about 8% of its 1990 level in 1,000s of board feet.<sup>7</sup>

Land cover change: <sup>8</sup>

- Between 2000 and 2011, there was little to no change in land cover (developed land, cultivated land, forest, water/wetlands, or other covers).

## Striking Statistics (areas where region stands out from state)

### Challenges

- Higher than average percentage of infants born to mothers using tobacco <sup>9</sup>
- Lower than average percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester <sup>9</sup>
- Lower than average percentage of adults with health insurance <sup>10</sup>
- Higher than average rate of traffic fatalities per 100,000 people <sup>11</sup>
- Higher than average arrest rate for behavioral crimes (such as weapons regulation laws, prostitution, drug laws, gambling, offenses against family, DUII, liquor laws, disorderly conduct) <sup>12</sup>
- Above average rate of child abuse <sup>9</sup>
- Higher than average housing vacancy rate <sup>4</sup>
- Higher than average percentage of people with income less than or equal to 185% of the poverty rate <sup>4</sup>
- Higher than average percentage of students eligible for free & reduced lunch programs <sup>13</sup>
- Below average percentage of adults with a 4-year degree or greater <sup>4</sup>
- Lower than average wages (per covered worker) <sup>5</sup>

### Strengths

- ✓ Higher than average prevalence of farmers markets, per 1,000 population <sup>14</sup>
- ✓ Higher than average prevalence of retail food stores, per 1,000 population <sup>15</sup>
- ✓ Higher than average access to recreational facilities, per 100,000 people <sup>16</sup>
- ✓ Lower than average incidence of the most common communicable disease (Chlamydia) <sup>9</sup>
- ✓ Lower than average arrest rate for crimes against property (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, forgery/counterfeit, fraud, embezzlement, stolen property and vandalism) <sup>12</sup>
- ✓ Lower than average arrest rate for index crimes (willful murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft & arson) <sup>12</sup>
- ✓ Better than average coverage of the social services system – ratio of people seeking social services (via 211info) to social service providers was lower in the region than the state overall, particularly in the housing and utilities sectors <sup>17</sup>
- ✓ Higher than average percentage of adults with a high school education <sup>4</sup>
- ✓ Higher than average 4-year high school graduation rate <sup>13</sup>
- ✓ Higher than average percentage of jobs that are proprietorships (Entrepreneurship) <sup>5</sup>

## Sources

Data come from a variety of sources, as reported on the Rural Communities Explorer (<http://oe.oregonexplorer.info/rural/CommunitiesReporter/>), including:

- <sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau, Decennial Census
- <sup>2</sup> Population Research Center, Portland State University
- <sup>3</sup> US Census Bureau, American Community Survey & Decennial Census
- <sup>4</sup> US Census Bureau, American Community Survey
- <sup>5</sup> US Bureau of Economic Analysis
- <sup>6</sup> Oregon Agricultural Information Network, Oregon State University Extension Service
- <sup>7</sup> Oregon Department of Forestry
- <sup>8</sup> National Land Cover Database, Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium US Department of the Interior & US Geologic Survey
- <sup>9</sup> Oregon Department of Human Services
- <sup>10</sup> Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, US Census Bureau
- <sup>11</sup> National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation
- <sup>12</sup> State of Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
- <sup>13</sup> Oregon Department of Education
- <sup>14</sup> Oregon Farmer's Market Association & the US Department of Agriculture
- <sup>15</sup> Yellow Pages
- <sup>16</sup> US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns
- <sup>17</sup> *211info*