

Multnomah County Profile

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Demographics

Population growth

- County population grew by 26% from 1990 to 2010, quite a bit lower than the 35% increase observed across the state overall.¹
- Growth in the county 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).²

Change in ethnic composition¹

- The size of the Latino population grew by about 246% between 1990 and 2010, from 3.15% to 10.90%, and represents the largest population of color in the county.
- Over the last 2 decades, this county has consistently had a slightly lower representation of Latinos than the state, and in 2010 was about one percentage point lower than the state (Latinos were 11.75% of Oregon population in 2010).

Age³

- The county is slightly younger than Oregon overall, and is aging a bit more slowly than the state.

Employment & Labor

Unemployment⁴

- Since 1990, the county has consistently had similar unemployment to the state (typically within 0.5% of the state overall).
- Unemployment has doubled since 1990 – from about 6% in 1990 to about 11% in 2009-13, at a pace similar to the state.

Sources of income⁴

- The majority of households (about 77.13%) get income from wages and salaries, which is above the state percentage (about 72%).
- About 23% of households get income from social security (lower than the state percentage), followed by 14% that get income from retirement (lower than the state percentage), and about 4% that receive income from public assistance programs (on par with the state percentage).

Industries employing county residents:⁴

- Between 1990 and the 2009-2013 period, the industry in which the highest proportion of county residents worked did not change. At both times, the highest proportion of employed residents

worked in the Education, Health, and Social Services industry (19.71% in 1990; 24.64% in 2009-13).

- Note: Education, Health, and Social Service industry employment includes work in the public and private sectors.
- In 1990, about 53% of county resident workers were employed in the top three industries of 1) Education, Health, and Social Services, 2) Retail Trade, and 3) Manufacturing. In the 2009-13 period, that fell to 48.64% of regional resident workers, and the top three industries shifted to 1) Education, Health and Social Services, 2) Professional, Science, Management, Administration, and 3) Retail Trade.
- The county experienced declines in Manufacturing employment from 1990 to the 2009-2013 period; from 15.33% to 9.76% of employed residents. This decline was similar to the decline Oregon overall experienced.
- Between 1990 and the 2009-13 period, the county 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.

Local jobs: ⁵

- In 2013, the highest proportion of jobs located in the county were in private sector Health Care/Social Assistance. About twelve percent (11.58%) of all the full and part time jobs in the county in 2013 were in this industry. State and local government and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services jobs were next, representing 9.64% and 9.25% of jobs in the county respectively. Together, these three top industries accounted for 30.47% of the jobs in the county.
- Between 2001 and 2013 the most significant decline occurred in the proportion of local jobs that were in the Manufacturing sector (decline of about 2 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 2 percentage points).

Commuting patterns: ⁴

- Since 1990, there have been slight shifts in resident commuters' travel times to work in the county, with a decrease in those traveling fewer than 20 minutes and an increase in those traveling between 30 and 45 minutes.
- That said, the majority (about 66%) of commuters still travel fewer than 30 minutes to work.

Agriculture

Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, Multnomah County ranked 28th in the state for gross farm and ranch sales (\$56,774,000). ⁶
- In 2012, gross crop sales were much higher than gross animal product sales in the region (by 15.2 times). ⁶
- There was a 16% increase in animal product sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars. ⁶
- There was a -34% decrease in crop sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars. ⁶
- There was also a decrease (-25%) in the number of harvested acres between 2000 and 2012. ⁶

- Just as the state overall has seen continued declines over the last 20 years, this region's timber harvest in 2013 was about 65% of its 1990 level in 1,000s of board feet.⁷

Land cover change:⁸

- 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 cost of a meal⁹
- Higher than average teen pregnancy rate, per 1,000 females aged 15-17¹⁰
- Higher than average incidence rates of the following diseases: Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Hepatitis (A,B,C, & D), and HIV¹⁰
- Lower than average homeownership rate⁴
- Lower than average coverage of the social services system – ratio of people seeking social services (via 211*info*) to social services providers, particularly in the housing and utilities sectors¹¹
- Higher than average percentage of students eligible for free & reduced lunch¹²
- Lower than average 4-year graduation rate for Latino students¹²
- Higher income inequality as measured by the Ratio of Mean Annual Income and the Modified Palma Index⁴

Strengths

- ✓ Higher than average prevalence of retail food stores, per 1,000 population¹³
- ✓ Lower than average percentage of infants born to mothers using tobacco¹⁰
- ✓ Lower than average rate of traffic fatalities, per 100,000 people¹⁴
- ✓ Lower than average housing vacancy rate⁴
- ✓ Higher than average percentage of adults 25 and older with a four year degree or greater⁴
- ✓ Higher than average Labor Force Participation Rate for the population 16 and older⁴
- ✓ Higher than average annual wage, per covered worker¹⁵

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 Feeding America, Mapping the Meal Gap
- ¹⁰ Oregon Department of Human Services
- ¹¹ *211info*
- ¹² Oregon Department of Education
- ¹³ Yellow Pages
- ¹⁴ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation