

Multnomah & Washington Counties Regional Profile

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August 10, 2015

Demographics

Population growth

- Regional population grew by 41% from 1990 to 2010, higher than the 35% increase observed across the state overall.¹
- 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).²

Change in ethnic composition ¹

- The size of the Latino population grew by about 253% between 1990 and 2010, from 3.66% to 12.92%, and represents the largest population of color in the region.
- Over the last 2 decades, this region has consistently had a greater representation of Latinos than the state, and in 2010 was about one percentage point higher than the state (Latinos were 11.75% of Oregon population in 2010).

Age ³

- The region is slightly younger than Oregon overall, and is aging at about the same rate as the state.

Employment & Labor

Unemployment ⁴

- Since 2000, the region has consistently had slightly lower unemployment than the state (by an average of one percentage point).
- Unemployment has risen in the region since 1990 – from about 5% in 1990 to about 10% in 2009-13, at a pace on par with the state overall.

Sources of income ⁴

- The majority of households (about 79%) 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 regional residents: ⁴

- 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 Education, Health, and Social Services industry (18.66% in 1990; 22.59% in 2009-13).

- Note: Education, Health, and Social Service industry employment includes work in the public and private sectors.
- In 1990, about 53.61% of regional resident workers were employed in the top three industries of 1) Education, Health, and Social Services, 2) Manufacturing, and 3) Retail Trade. In the 2009-13 period, that fell to 48.36% of regional resident workers, while the top three industries remained the same. This decline was due to decreases in Retail Trade and Manufacturing, without a parallel increase in Education, Health, and Social Services.
- The region has experienced declines in Manufacturing employment from 1990 to the 2009-2013 period; from 17.5% to 12.82% of employed residents. This decline was on par with 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.

Local jobs: ⁵

- In 2013, the highest proportion of jobs located in the two county region were in private sector Health Care and Social Assistance. About eleven percent (10.95%) of all the full and part time jobs in the region in 2013 were in this industry. Manufacturing and Retail Trade jobs were next, representing 9.08% and 9.07% of jobs in the region respectively. Together, these three top industries accounted for 29.1% 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 3 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 region, 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 65.99%) of commuters still travel fewer than 30 minutes to work.

Agriculture

Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, Washington County ranked 7th in the state for gross farm and ranch sales, while Multnomah ranked 28th (combined total was \$348,818,000).⁶
- In 2012, gross crop sales were much higher (by 14 times) than gross animal product sales in the region.⁶
- There was a 6% 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 (-5%) in the number of harvested acres between 2000 and 2012.⁶

- While the state overall has seen continued declines over the last 23 years, this region's timber harvest has fluctuated over time and generally increased. In fact, the 2013 timber harvest in the region was about 172% of its 1990 harvest in 1,000s of board feet.⁷

Land cover change: ⁸

- Between 2000 and 2011, there a 4.4% decrease in forest land cover with a 4.7% increase in shrubland land cover, while all other land cover types stayed relatively stable.

Striking Statistics (areas where region stands out from state)

Challenges

- Lower than average prevalence of farmers markets, per 1,000 population ⁹
- Higher than average incidence of both chlamydia & gonorrhea ¹⁰
- Lower than average homeownership rate ⁴
- Worse than average coverage of the social services system – ratio of people seeking social services (via 211*info*) to social service providers was higher than the state overall, particularly in the housing and utilities sectors ¹¹

Strengths

- ✓ Lower than average percentage of infants born to mothers using tobacco ¹⁰
- ✓ Lower than average rate of traffic fatalities, per 100,000 people ¹²
- ✓ Fewer than average number of years of potential life lost before age 75 per 1,000 people ¹⁰
- ✓ Lower than average arrest rate for behavioral crimes (includes weapons regulation laws, prostitution, drug laws, gambling, offenses against family, DUII, liquor laws, disorderly conduct, all other offenses (except traffic), curfew and runaway juveniles) ¹³
- ✓ Lower than average housing vacancy rate ⁴
- ✓ Lower than average percentage of students eligible for free & reduced lunch ¹⁴
- ✓ Higher than average percentage of adults with a 4-year degree or greater ⁴
- ✓ Higher than average 4-year high school graduation rate for all students ¹⁴
- ✓ Higher than average Labor Force Participation rate for the population 16+ ⁴

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 Farmer's Market Association & US Department of Agriculture
- ¹⁰ Oregon Department of Human Services
- ¹¹ *211info*
- ¹² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation
- ¹³ Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
- ¹⁴ Oregon Department of Education