

Washington County Profile

*Lena Etuk, Social Demographer, Oregon State University Extension Service &
Lindsay Spell, Oregon State University Extension Service – Family & Community Health*

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Demographics

Population growth

- County population grew by 70% from 1990 to 2010, double 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 composition ¹

- The size of the Latino population grew by about 240% between 1990 and 2010, from 4.62% to 15.77%, and represents the largest population of color in the county.
- Over the last 2 decades, this county has an increasingly greater representation of Latinos than the state, and in 2010 was about four percentage points higher than the state (Latinos were 11.75% of Oregon population in 2010).

Age ³

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

Employment & Labor

Unemployment ⁴

- Since 2000, the county has had consistently lower unemployment than the state (by one to two percentage points).
- Unemployment has increased markedly since 1990 – from about 4% in 1990 to about 10% in 2009-13, at a pace on par with the state.

Sources of income ⁴

- The majority of households (about 81%) 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 3% that receive income from public assistance programs (slightly below 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 changed. In 1990, the highest proportion of employed residents worked in the

Manufacturing industry (21.35%). Next came Education, Health and Social Services (16.78%) and Retail Trade (16.56%). In 2009-13, the highest proportion of county residents worked in the Education, Health and Social Service industry (19.65%) with Manufacturing (17.2%) and Professional, Science, Management and Administration (12.94%) rounding out the top three.

- Note: Education, Health, and Social Service industry employment includes work in the public and private sectors.
- In 1990, about 55% of county resident workers were employed in the top three industries. In the 2009-13 period, that fell to 50% of county resident workers. This decline was driven by reductions in Manufacturing employment.
- The declines the county has experienced in Manufacturing employment from 1990 to the 2009-2013 period were less dramatic than the declines the state overall experienced; Washington County went from 21% to 17% of residents employed in Manufacturing.
- 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 Manufacturing. About fifteen percent (14.71%) of all the full and part time jobs in the county in 2013 were in this industry. Retail Trade and private sector Health Care/Social Assistance jobs were next, representing 10.68% and 9.73% of jobs in the county respectively. Together, these three top industries accounted for 35.12% 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 almost 5 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 percentage points).

Commuting patterns: ⁴

- Since 1990, there has not been much change in resident commuters' travel times to work in the county.
- The majority (about 66%) of commuters travel fewer than 30 minutes to work, and about 87% travel fewer than 45 minutes.

Agriculture

Agricultural Economy:

- In 2012, Washington County ranked 7th in the state for gross farm and ranch sales (\$292,044,000).⁶
- In 2012, gross crop sales were much higher than gross animal product sales in the county (by 13.8 times).⁶
- There was a 5% increase in animal product sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars.⁶
- There was a 3% increase in crop sales between 2000 and 2012, in inflation-adjusted dollars⁶
- At the same time, there was a decrease (-2%) 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 county's timber harvest has increased. The county's 2013 timber harvest was about 223% of its 1990 harvest in 1,000s of board feet.⁷

Land cover change: ⁸

- Between 2000 and 2011, there a 6.7% decrease in forest land cover with a 7.3% increase in shrubland land cover, with all other land cover types staying relatively stable.

Striking Statistics (areas where county stands out from state)

Challenges

- Lower than average prevalence of farmers markets, per 1,000 population ⁹
- Lower than average prevalence of retail food stores, per 1,000 population ¹⁰
- Lower than average coverage of the social services system – ratio of people seeking social services (via *211info*) to social services providers, particularly in the housing and utilities sectors ¹¹
- Lower than average level of entrepreneurship, or percentage of jobs that are proprietorships ¹²

Strengths

- ✓ Lower than average percentage of infants born to mothers using tobacco ¹³
- ✓ Lower than average rate of traffic fatalities, per 100,000 population ¹⁴
- ✓ Fewer than average Years of Potential Life Lost before age 75, per 1,000 people ¹³
- ✓ Lower than average arrest rates for behavioral crimes, crimes against persons, crimes against property and index crimes ¹⁵
- ✓ Lower than average housing vacancy rate ⁴
- ✓ Lower than average poverty, extreme poverty and child poverty rates ⁴
- ✓ Higher than average percentage of adults 25+ with a 4-year degree or greater ⁴
- ✓ Higher than average 4-year high school graduation rate, for all students generally and Latino students particularly ¹⁶
- ✓ Higher than average median household income ⁴
- ✓ Lower income inequality, as measured by the Ratio of Mean Annual Income and the Modified Palma Index ⁴
- ✓ Higher than average Labor Force Participation Rate for the population 16 and over ⁴
- ✓ Higher than average annual wage per covered worker ¹²

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 Farmers Market Association and US Department of Agriculture
- ¹⁰ Yellow Pages
- ¹¹ *211info*
- ¹² US Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts
- ¹³ Oregon Department of Human Services
- ¹⁴ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Administration
- ¹⁵ State of Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
- ¹⁶ Oregon Department of Education