

Major findings

Between 2001 and 2005 Oregon gained 51,600 non-farm employment positions. Two of the largest industries in Oregon—trade, transportation and utilities and educational and health services—generated 29,000 positions. The second largest industry—manufacturing—which also paid the highest average wage of the three largest industries, lost 11,200 positions (5.2 percent).

American Community Survey data indicate that median income in Oregon decreased from \$43,322 to \$42,944 between 2001 and 2005. During the same time, people in poverty increased from 13.4 percent to 14.1 percent of the state's population.

State income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, on a per capita basis, Oregon's personal income was \$30,561 in 2004, 92 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Oregon rose 4.8 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows 3.8 percent average annual growth. Average earnings per job for 2004 were \$35,005.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Oregon in 2005 were \$3,049. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$4,736 and leisure and hospitality paid the lowest monthly average of \$1,258.

Employment

According to Oregon's Current Employment Statistics, Oregon gained 51,600 non-farm positions from 2001 to 2005.

Largest three industries in Oregon 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Trade, transportation and utilities	328,800	+ 8,000	\$34,513
Manufacturing	204,500	-11,200	\$48,202
Educational and health services	199,800	+ 21,000	\$36,340

*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Oregon summary

Of all industries, construction generated the largest growth—13.0 percent—from 80,500 positions in 2001 to 10,500 in 2005.

During the late 1980s, the Oregon Legislature extended state employee status to home health care works for unemployment insurance purposes only. In 2005, those workers began to appear in Oregon Covered Employment and Wages reports. As a result, the number of reported state employees increased considerably in all counties. Adding these individuals to employment and income measures significantly distorts the actual average employment and payroll for state employees in all counties, more so in the larger counties. Home care workers often work part-time and for much lower wages than the typical public employee.

Information services experienced the largest decrease—16.0 percent—from 39,900 positions to 33,500 positions.

2000 US Census information

Number of persons below poverty level (poverty rate)

	1989	1999	Percent change (rate change)
Oregon	344,867	388,740	12.7%
	(12.4%)	(11.6%)	(-0.8%)
United States	31,742,864	33,899,812	6.8%
	(13.1%)	(12.4%)	(-0.7%)

Source: US Census

Rates of poverty by age (1979-1999)

	All	Children younger than 18	People 18-64	People 65 and older
1979	10.7%	12.7%	9.5%	11.8%
1989	12.4%	15.8%	11.5%	10.1%
1999	11.6%	14.7%	11.2%	7.6%

Source: US Census

In 1999, children younger than 18 years of age experienced the highest rates of poverty in Oregon.

Oregon summary

Oregon poverty and race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity	% Total population 1999 (population)	% Poverty population 1999 (poverty population)	Poverty rate by race 1999	Poverty rate by race 1989
White	86.6% (2,897,458)	76.0% (295,395)	10.2%	11.4%
Black	1.5% (49,710)	3.1% (12,002)	24.1%	29.8%
American Indian	1.2% (41,809)	2.4% (9,290)	22.2%	26.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.9%/0.2% (96,776/7,437)	0.3%/0.4 (1,295/1,350)	1.3%/18.2%	19.9%*
Other	4.3% (143,791)	9.9% (38,559)	26.8%	32.5%
2 or more races	3.3% (110,686)	5.2% (20,049)	18.1%	NA
Hispanic origin	8.0% (267,732)	17.2% (66,752)	24.9%	28.9%

*Asian and Pacific Islander were not separate categories in the 1990 census

Oregon families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	54,172 (7.7%)	66,173 (8.7%)	70,032 (7.9%)	29.3% (0.2%)
With children younger than 18	40,29 (10.9%)	50,725 (13.5%)	54,931 (12.4%)	36.3% (1.5%)
Single women with children younger than 18	20,661 (35.2%)	27,346 (40.0%)	29,589 (33.3%)	43.2% (1.9%)

Source: US Census

Poverty and Oregon families

In 1999, 70,032 of Oregon's 884,875 families lived in poverty (7.9 percent). Of the 70,032 families in poverty, 62.1 percent (43,505 families) had a household member who worked and 15.3 percent (10,698 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

Oregon summary

Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	3.4 m	3.5 m	3.5 m	3.6 m	3.6 m	3.6 m
People living below poverty level-%	11.6% ¹	13.4% ²	13.2% ²	13.9% ²	14.1% ²	14.1% ²
Median income	\$37,521 ¹	\$43,322 ²	\$42,152 ²	\$41,123 ²	\$41,794 ²	\$42,944 ²
Unemployment rate	5.1	6.4	7.6	8.1	7.3	6.1
8th grade drug use	13.8%	17.5%	18.3%	18.5%	15.9%	NA
HS dropout	6.3%	5.3%	4.9%	4.4%	NA	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 15-17	35.2	31.7	27.6	26.4	NA	NA
Prenatal care	81.3%	81.5%	82.0%	81.0%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	20.0	18.0	18.0	17.0	NA	NA
Homeownership rate	64.3% ¹	63.3% ²	63.7% ²	63.2% ²	63.0% ²	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	45.5% ¹	NA	54.1% ²	53.6% ²	53.9% ²	NA
Oregon Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	7,367	8,532	7,394	8,380	8,667*	10,528
New units created with OHCS funding resources	2,227	2,979	3,787	2,918	2,871	3,259
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$66.1 m	\$109.5 m	\$144.8 m	\$127.0 m	\$63.2 m	\$59.1
Home loans for low-income households-#	1,033	938	846	836	1,096	926
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$93.1 m	\$89.8 m	\$86.3 m	\$93.7 m	\$132.7 m	\$118.9 m
Households receiving energy assistance-#	78,365	73,438	76,569	70,586	74,585	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	1,774	3,232	2,661
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	15.7%	16.3%	15.4%	12.0%*	11.2%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	185,483	199,737	211,834	222,919	230,811	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	34.0%	36.3%	59.7%	40.6%	41.8%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	11.6%	13.6%	14.1%	11.7%*	11.7%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	1.1%*	1.1%
Population receiving DHS Services-%	NA	23.6%	24.7%	23.0%	NA	NA
NA = Not Available						
*Cannot be compared to previous years due to changes in data collection						