



# POPULATION BRIEF

## Trends in the Western U.S.

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### Oregon

The population of the State of Oregon has grown rapidly in recent years, increasing from 2.6 million in 1980 to 3.8 million in 2010, a 45.5 percent boost. Despite this significant growth rate, in the rapidly growing western region, only three of the 13 states had lower growth rates than Oregon. From 2000 to 2010, Oregon gained 409,675 residents, an increase of 12 percent.

Table 1 presents data showing population changes in Oregon counties from 1980 to 2010. It is apparent that population change patterns varied extensively. In Deschutes and Washington Counties, the population more than doubled in this three-decade period. Deschutes County also had the largest percentage population increase from 2000 to 2010 (36.7 percent). The greatest numerical population increases from 1980 to 2010 were in Washington County (283,902) and Multnomah County (172,694). These two counties also had the greatest numerical increase from 2000 to 2010. Both of these counties are in the Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton Metropolitan Area. At the same time, in seven Oregon counties (Coos, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Sherman, Wallowa, and Wheeler), the population in 2010 was smaller than the population in 1980. In the decade from 2000 to 2010, eight counties experienced population declines. All of the counties with negative population patterns were nonmetropolitan.

The Oregon population has always been concentrated in the greater Portland area. Figure 1 shows that in 2010, nearly one-half (46.7 percent) of the residents of the state lived in this five county (Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill) metropolitan area. The Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton Metro Area also includes Clark and Skamania Counties in the State of Washington. Oregon has five other metropolitan areas the cover six counties including Corvallis (Benton County), Bend (Deschutes County), Medford (Jackson County), Eugene (Lane County) and Salem (Marion and Polk Counties). Figure 1 shows that 31 percent of the population lived in these other metro counties. The remaining 22.3 percent of the population lives in the state's 25 nonmetro counties. It is also apparent that the proportion of the population living in the metro counties has been increasing since 1980 while the proportion living in nonmetro counties has been declining. Figure 2 shows that from

1980 to 2010, the population in the Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton Metro Area increased by 56.8 percent, compared to 50.9 percent in the other metro counties and only 21.1 percent in the nonmetro counties. From 2000 to 2010, population growth rates in the two categories of metro counties were very similar and much higher than the growth rate in the nonmetro counties.

#### Racial/Ethnic Composition of the Oregon Population

As presented in Table 2, 78.5 percent of the Oregon population was White in 2010. The proportion of the population that is minority has steadily increased from 6.7 percent in 1980 to 21.4 percent in 2010 (Figure 3). Of the 13 states in the western region, four had a smaller percentage minority population than Oregon. In seven counties more than 90 percent of the residents are White, while in seven other counties less than 70 of the population is White. The Hispanic population has grown especially rapidly and now represents 11.7 percent of the Oregon population. Hispanics represent more than 20 percent of the residents in Hood River, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, and Umatilla Counties. Native Americans represent a significant portion of the population in Jefferson County.

#### Educational Attainment in Oregon

Nearly 90 percent (88.3) of Oregon residents' age 25 and older had at least a high school degree in 2009, while 28.3 percent had a college degree (Table 3). Seven western states had a higher proportion of high school graduates than Oregon, while five states had a higher proportion of college graduates. In eight Oregon counties, more than 90 percent of adults were high school graduates, while only 76.8 percent of Morrow and 78.7 percent of Malheur County adults were high school graduates. In Benton County, 47.7 percent of adults have a college degree. In comparison, the proportion of adults with a college degree in Morrow County is 11.5 percent.

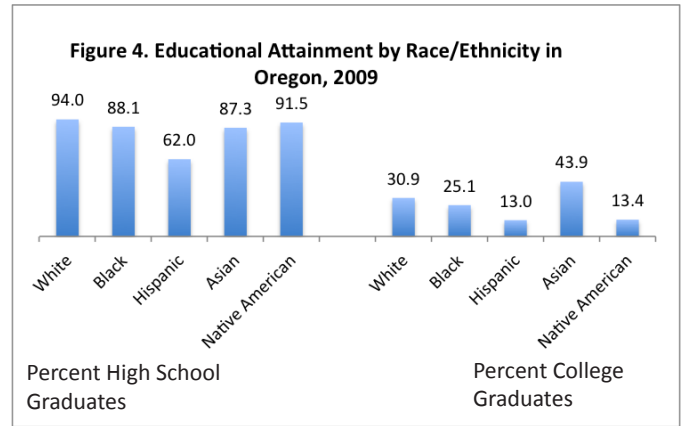
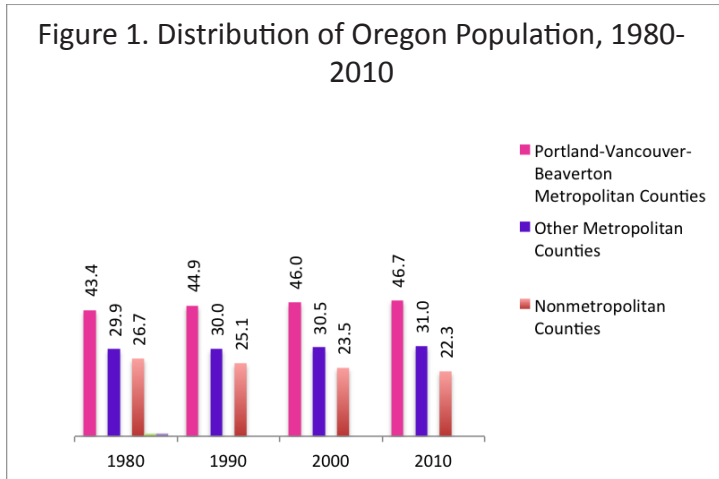
Educational attainment varies widely for different segments of the population. Especially significant are variations by race/ethnicity (Figure 4). While close to 90 percent of most racial/ethnic groups have a high school degree, this proportion is only 62 percent for

Hispanics. Similarly, 43.9 percent of Asians and 30.9 percent of Whites have a college degree compared to 13.4 percent of Native Americans and 13.0 percent of Hispanics. Figure 5 shows that metro residents are more likely to have a college degree than nonmetro residents (34.1 to 20.5 percent).

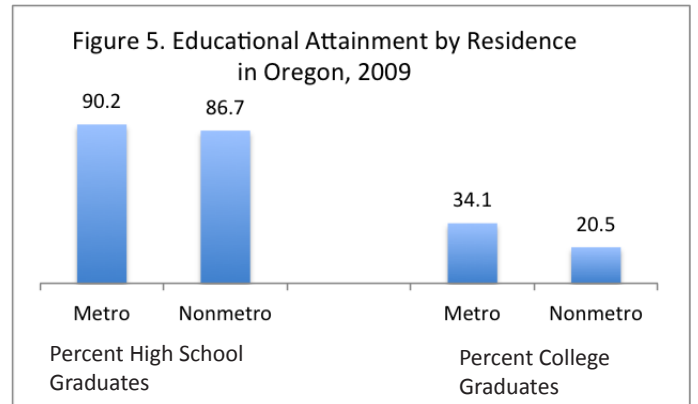
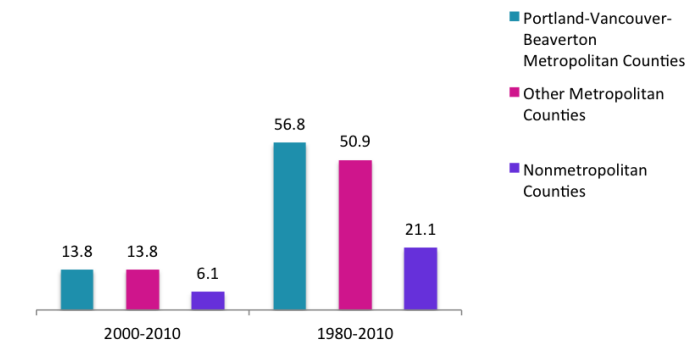
#### Income and Poverty in Oregon

The median household income in Oregon in 2009 was \$48,325 (Table 3). Only three states had lower median household incomes than Oregon. Incomes varied widely by county. Median household incomes were more than \$60,000 in Washington (\$61,022) and Clackamas (\$60,051) Counties, while they were less than \$40,000 in 15 counties. Table 3 also shows that 14.3 percent of Oregon residents were living in poverty in 2009. Only four western states had a higher percentage of their residents in poverty than Oregon. Again, there were substantial variations in poverty rates by county. While 9.4 percent of Clackamas County residents were living in poverty, this proportion was more than 20 percent in Josephine, Klamath, Malheur, and Wheeler Counties. Finally, Table 3 shows that the median value of owner-occupied home in Oregon was \$244,200 in 2009. These values ranged from \$323,600 in Clackamas County to \$92,400 in Wheeler County.

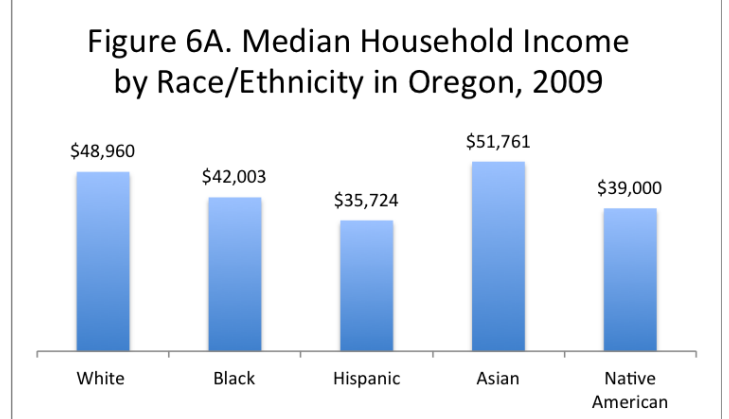
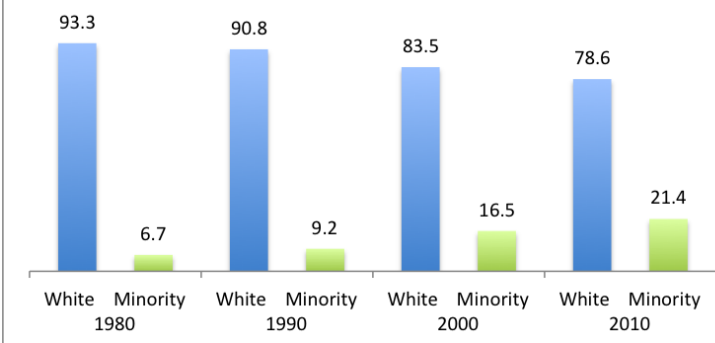
Incomes and poverty levels also varied widely for people with different characteristics. Figure 6A shows that while the median household income was \$51,761 for Asians and \$48,960 for Whites, it was only \$35,724 for Hispanics. Similarly, Figure 6B shows that while 8.3 percent of Whites were living in poverty, this proportion was over 20 percent for Blacks and Native Americans. Figures 7A and 7B show that incomes were higher and poverty rates lower for metro as opposed to nonmetro residents. ✎



**Figure 2. Percent Population Change in Oregon, 1980-2010**



**Figure 3. Racial/Ethnic Composition of the Oregon Population (Percent), 1980-2010**



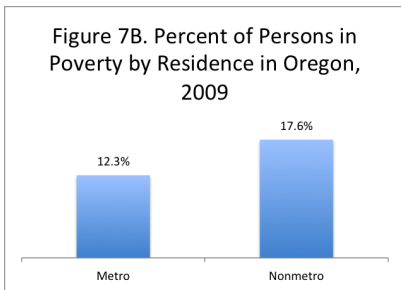
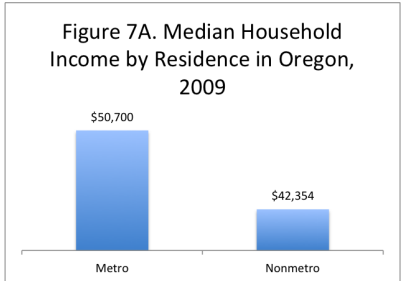
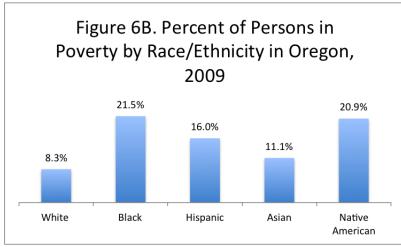


Table 2. Percentage of Population by Race/Ethnicity for Oregon Counties, 2010

	White	Black	Hispanics	Asian	Native American
Baker	92.6	0.4	3.3	0.5	1.1
Benton	83.6	0.9	6.4	5.2	0.7
Clackamas	84.5	0.8	7.7	3.7	0.8
Clatsop	87.2	0.5	7.7	1.2	1.0
Columbia	90.3	0.4	4.0	0.9	1.3
Coos	87.0	0.4	5.4	1.0	2.5
Crook	89.4	0.2	7.0	0.5	1.4
Curry	88.7	0.3	5.4	0.7	1.9
Deschutes	88.4	0.4	7.4	0.9	0.9
Douglas	89.5	0.3	4.7	1.0	1.8
Gilliam	92.2	0.2	4.7	0.2	1.0
Grant	93.4	0.2	2.8	0.3	1.2
Harney	89.6	0.3	4.0	0.5	3.1
Hood River	65.8	0.5	29.5	1.4	0.8
Jackson	83.7	0.7	10.7	1.2	1.2
Jefferson	61.8	0.6	19.3	0.4	16.9
Josephine	88.6	0.4	6.3	0.8	1.4
Klamath	81.1	0.7	10.4	0.9	4.1
Lake	87.1	0.5	6.9	0.7	2.1
Lane	84.7	1.0	7.4	2.4	1.2
Lincoln	84.4	0.4	7.9	1.1	3.5
Linn	87.1	0.5	7.8	1.0	1.3
Malheur	63.6	1.2	31.5	1.7	1.2
Marion	68.7	1.1	24.3	1.9	1.6
Morrow	64.6	0.5	31.3	0.9	1.2
Multnomah	72.1	5.6	10.9	6.5	1.1
Polk	80.5	0.6	12.1	1.9	2.1
Sherman	91.6	0.2	5.6	0.2	1.6
Tillamook	86.7	0.3	9.0	0.9	1.0
Umatilla	69.4	0.8	23.9	0.9	3.5
Union	90.9	0.5	3.9	0.8	1.1
Wallowa	94.5	0.4	2.2	0.3	0.6
Wasco	77.6	0.4	14.8	0.8	4.4
Washington	69.7	1.8	15.7	8.6	0.7
Wheeler	90.7	0.0	4.3	0.6	1.2
Yamhill	79.1	0.9	14.7	1.5	1.5
State Total	78.5	1.8	11.7	3.7	1.4

Table 1. Population Change in Oregon Counties, 1980-2010

County	1980-2010				Change			
	1980	1990	2000	2010	2000 - 2010		1980 - 2010	
					Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Baker	16,134	15,317	16,741	16,134	-607	-3.6	0	0.0
Benton	68,211	70,811	78,153	85,579	7,426	9.5	17,368	25.5
Clackamas	241,919	278,850	338,391	375,992	37,601	11.1	134,073	55.4
Clatsop	32,489	33,301	35,630	37,039	1,409	4.0	4,550	14.0
Columbia	35,646	37,557	43,560	49,351	5,791	13.3	13,705	38.4
Coos	64,047	60,273	62,779	63,043	264	0.4	-1,004	-1.6
Crook	13,091	14,111	19,182	20,978	1,796	9.4	7,887	60.2
Curry	16,992	19,327	21,137	22,364	1,227	5.8	5,372	31.6
Deschutes	62,142	74,958	115,367	157,733	42,366	36.7	95,591	153.8
Douglas	93,748	94,649	100,399	107,667	7,268	7.2	13,919	14.8
Gilliam	2,057	1,717	1,915	1,871	-44	-2.3	-186	-9.0
Grant	8,210	7,853	7,935	7,445	-490	-6.2	-765	-9.3
Harney	8,314	7,060	7,609	7,422	-187	-2.5	-892	-10.7
Hood River	15,835	16,903	20,411	22,346	1,935	9.5	6,511	41.7
Jackson	132,456	146,389	181,269	203,206	21,937	12.1	70,750	53.4
Jefferson	11,599	13,676	19,009	21,720	2,711	14.3	10,121	87.3
Josephine	58,855	62,649	75,726	82,713	6,987	9.2	23,858	40.5
Klamath	59,117	57,702	63,775	66,380	2,605	4.1	7,263	12.3
Lake	7,532	7,186	7,422	7,895	473	6.4	363	4.8
Lane	275,226	282,912	322,959	351,715	28,756	8.9	76,489	27.8
Lincoln	35,264	38,889	44,479	46,034	1,555	3.5	10,770	30.5
Linn	89,495	91,277	103,069	116,672	13,603	13.2	27,177	30.4
Malheur	26,896	26,038	31,615	31,313	-302	-1.0	4,417	16.4
Marion	204,692	228,483	284,834	315,335	30,501	10.7	110,643	54.1
Morrow	7,519	7,625	10,995	11,173	178	1.6	3,654	48.6
Multnomah	562,640	583,887	660,486	735,334	74,848	11.3	172,694	30.7
Polk	45,203	49,541	62,380	75,403	13,023	20.9	30,200	66.8
Sherman	2,172	1,918	1,934	1,765	-169	-8.7	-407	-18.7
Tillamook	21,164	21,570	24,262	25,250	988	4.1	4,086	19.3
Umatilla	58,861	59,249	70,548	75,889	5,341	7.6	17,028	28.9
Union	23,921	23,598	24,530	25,748	1,218	5.0	1,827	7.6
Wallowa	7,273	6,911	7,226	7,008	-218	-3.0	-265	-3.6
Wasco	21,732	21,683	23,791	25,213	1,422	6.0	3,481	16.0
Washington	245,808	311,554	445,342	529,710	84,368	18.9	283,902	115.5
Wheeler	1,513	1,396	1,547	1,441	-106	-6.9	-72	-4.8
Yamhill	55,332	65,551	84,992	99,193	14,201	16.7	43,861	79.3
State Total	2,633,105	2,842,371	3,421,399	3,831,074	409,675	12.0	1,197,969	45.5

Table 3. Economic Conditions and Education for Oregon Counties, 2009

County	Median Household Income	Percent of Persons in Poverty	Median Value of Owner-Occupied Homes	Percent of Persons 25+ with High School Degree	Percent of Persons 25+ with College Degree
Baker	\$37,120	19.4	\$132,400	88.7	19.5
Benton	\$47,931	18.0	\$253,000	94.2	47.7
Clackamas	\$60,051	9.4	\$323,600	91.3	31.5
Clatsop	\$39,375	15.3	\$239,200	90.1	22.1
Columbia	\$55,920	11.9	\$212,400	88.3	16.9
Coos	\$35,562	19.1	\$187,600	86.3	17.6
Crook	\$42,342	16.2	\$216,700	85.3	15.8
Curry	\$35,427	15.5	\$267,400	91.2	18.3
Deschutes	\$51,959	11.8	\$308,300	91.9	28.9
Douglas	\$38,887	16.6	\$180,500	85.8	15.0
Gilliam	\$46,018	13.3	\$98,200	88.0	20.0
Grant	\$36,252	16.9	\$121,800	88.9	16.5
Harney	\$34,066	18.5	\$117,000	89.7	15.9
Hood River	\$47,967	12.9	\$295,900	83.3	27.2
Jackson	\$45,212	14.9	\$277,000	88.8	24.5
Jefferson	\$38,132	17.4	\$172,600	80.2	14.1
Josephine	\$35,509	20.4	\$251,700	85.9	16.2
Klamath	\$39,057	20.2	\$164,300	86.2	18.3
Lake	\$35,303	18.5	\$114,500	83.2	15.4
Lane	\$40,363	17.2	\$220,800	89.7	27.3
Lincoln	\$38,089	16.5	\$233,500	90.0	23.1
Linn	\$46,717	14.9	\$173,400	86.2	15.6
Malheur	\$35,788	23.3	\$125,700	78.7	12.7
Marion	\$43,388	16.4	\$198,300	82.0	20.6
Morrow	\$46,279	14.2	\$105,500	76.8	11.5
Multnomah	\$50,604	15.1	\$269,900	88.7	36.9
Polk	\$53,874	13.2	\$213,600	88.3	26.3
Sherman	\$47,473	16.7	\$115,300	89.1	15.3
Tillamook	\$40,953	15.6	\$221,000	89.1	19.6
Umatilla	\$47,693	16.4	\$133,100	81.2	15.6
Union	\$40,160	16.8	\$146,600	89.5	20.4
Wallowa	\$38,209	15.3	\$164,400	92.1	22.7
Wasco	\$42,015	16.2	\$181,800	84.4	21.2
Washington	\$61,022	10.0	\$296,500	90.1	37.9
Wheeler	\$31,570	20.6	\$92,400	88.1	21.0
Yamhill	\$51,676	12.3	\$230,300	86.5	23.0
State Total	\$48,325	14.3	\$244,200	88.3	28.3



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#### About the WRDC

The Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) is one of four regional centers competitively funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture to strengthen the capacity of local citizens to guide the future of their rural communities. Each of the four Centers link the research and extension capacity of regional land-grant universities with local decision-makers to enhance rural prosperity, create thriving communities, and support a sustainable and competitive agricultural system.

The WRDC is hosted by Utah State University and receives financial support from Cooperative Extension, and the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station. Additional one-time financial support provided by Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension, Montana State University Extension, New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension, Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension, Colorado State University Extension, University of Alaska Fairbanks Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension, University of Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension, University of California Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension, University of Hawaii Extension, University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension, and Washington State University Extension.