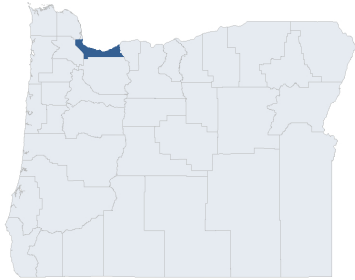


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Introduction



Multnomah County was established in 1854 by the Oregon Territorial Legislature. Home to over 805,000 people, it is the most populous of Oregon's 36 counties. It is in northwestern Oregon where the Columbia and Willamette rivers meet, bordered by Washington State to the north and surrounded by Hood River, Clackamas, Washington, and Columbia Counties in Oregon. Portland is the county seat, which is also Oregon's largest city. While Portland is its most well-known city, the county also includes the cities of Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale, Wood Village and Maywood Park.

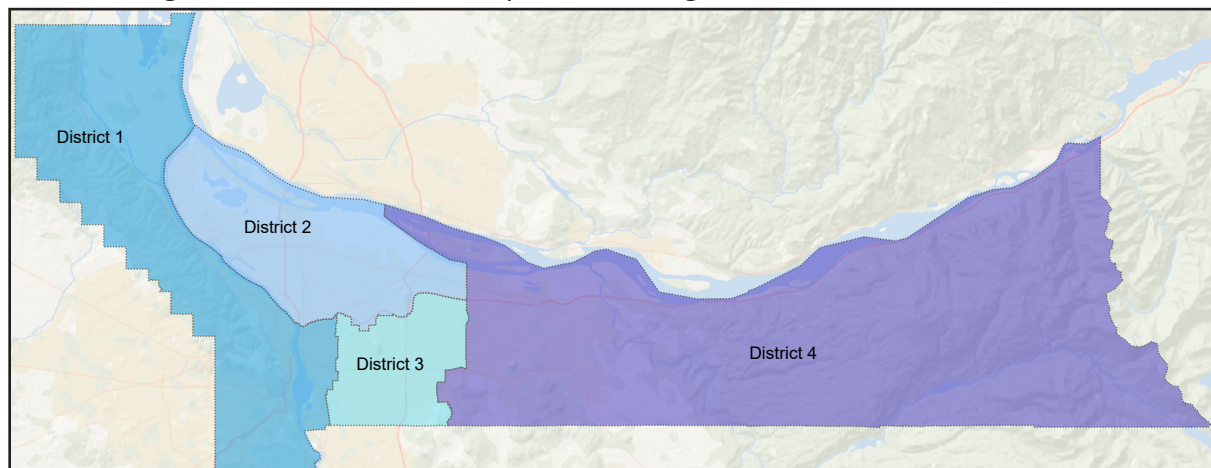
Geographically, Multnomah County is the smallest county in Oregon and includes densely populated urban areas as well as rural land. The county covers 465 square miles, most of which lie in the Willamette Valley between the Cascade Mountains to the east and the Coast Range to the west. The elevation ranges from 77 feet above sea level in Portland to 4,751 feet above sea level at Buck Peak in the Cascade foothills.

Sources: Portland State University Population Research Center; Tax Supervising & Conservation Commission

Form of County Government

Originally, the organization, functions, and powers of counties were specified by the State constitution and State statutes. State voters amended the Oregon Constitution in 1958 to permit county voters to adopt, amend, revise, or repeal charters for county government. Multnomah County is governed according to its [Home Rule Charter](#), which was adopted in 1966 and has been updated in later years.

Multnomah County's legislative body, the Board of County Commissioners, is composed of four non-partisan County Commissioners elected from geographical districts, and the County Chair, who is elected at-large and serves as both Chief Administrator and Legislator. The County has three other independently elected positions: the Sheriff, the District Attorney, and the Auditor. The Board receives input from a variety of advisory boards, commissions, and committees, and also receives community feedback during public meetings. The Board receives briefings on Tuesdays and holds regular meetings on Thursdays. The Board also holds formal proclamation signing events every first Wednesday of the month. At regular Board meetings, the public can testify in person, virtually, or in writing on agenda items or non-agenda matters. Additional public meetings are scheduled as needed.



Multnomah County Elected Officials



Jessica **Vega Pederson**
County Chair



Meghan **Moyer**
Commissioner
District One



Shannon **Singleton**
Commissioner
District Two



Julia **Brim-Edwards**
Commissioner
District Three



Vince **Jones-Dixon**
Commissioner
District Four



Jennifer **McGuirk**
County Auditor



Nicole **Morrissey O'Donnell**
Sheriff



Nathan **Vasquez**
District Attorney

Multnomah County Mission, Vision, and Values

Multnomah County's Mission, Vision and Values statements are the guiding principles that inform the decisions County leadership, departments and offices make to foster a thriving community and workforce.

This set of statements was renewed in 2024 through an multi-month organization-wide engagement and co-creation process that included surveys, focus groups and feedback rounds. Thousands of employees contributed their thoughts and aspirations around what Multnomah County does, the kind of community we seek to create, and why and how our organization works toward those goals.

A set of recommended statements was presented to the Board of County Commissioners in July 2024. The Mission, Vision and Values were adjusted to account for the Board's final feedback and finalized in August 2024.

Mission

To improve the well-being of those in Multnomah County by providing accessible, high-quality, and innovative public services that create stability, enhance opportunities, and reduce disparities.

Vision

Multnomah County is a diverse, thriving community with a sustainable future where all are safe, connected, and empowered to contribute.

Values

Accountability – Taking responsibility for delivering the services we say we will, and being transparent and communicative in what we do and how we do it.

Social and Environmental Justice – Remedying inequitable and unsustainable systems that harm and oppress communities.

Inclusively Leading with Race – Centering race, a leading indicator of inequalities and disparities, in our intersectional approach to breaking down systemic barriers created by all forms of oppression within our workplace and in our community.

Equity and Inclusion – Developing and using policies and practices that promote access, equity, fairness, and belonging for all.

Safety and Well-being – Creating an environment of psychological, physical, and emotional safety that improves quality of life.

Multnomah County Organization

Multnomah County delivers its services through 11 departments, including two managed by independently elected officials - Sheriff Morrissey O'Donnell and District Attorney Vasquez - while Auditor McGuirk's office resides in Nondepartmental. Over 5,700 full time equivalent (FTE) positions provide a vast array of services that benefit everyone who lives, works, or does business in Multnomah County.

We keep the community healthy and safe and act as advocates for our most vulnerable community members. We provide physical and behavioral health services. We work with adults and youth involved in the criminal justice system. We design, build and maintain bridges, roads, buildings, and other structures. We uphold justice and protect victims' rights. We operate one of the most highly regarded library systems in the nation, manage elections, and coordinate school-community partnerships. We support seniors, adults and children with disabilities, and people experiencing poverty and homelessness. We enforce the law and operate correctional facilities for adults and youth. We process marriage licenses, provide assessment and taxation services, conduct elections, and manage animal control operations. In short, we provide the services necessary to create and maintain a safe, healthy and vibrant community.

A vast network of directors and managers oversees the day-to-day operations, long-term planning and strategic vision for the County's individual departments, divisions, and work units.

Appointed Officials



Community Justice
Denise **Peña**



Community Services
Margi **Bradway**



County Assets
Tracey **Massey**



County Management
Christopher **Neal**



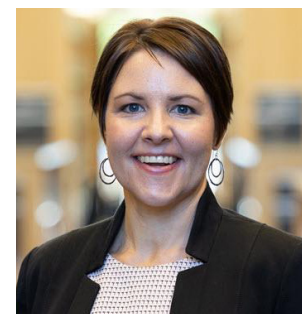
County Human
Services
Rachel **Pearl**



Health Department
Rachael **Banks**



Homeless Services
Department
Nathaniel **VerGow**



Library
Annie **Lewis**

Multnomah County at a Glance



Population
805,583

Communities
of Color
32.1%



Languages Spoken
at Home
110

Median
Age
38.7



Median Household
Income
\$88,766

Poverty
Rate
12.6%



Bachelor's Degree
or Higher
48.9%

Unemployment
Rate
5.1%



Median Home
Value
\$552,700

Median
Rent
\$1,646



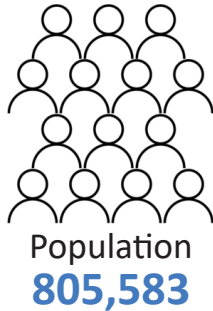
Impact of Racism on Communities of Color

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners [declared racism a public health crisis](#) in 2021, naming racism as a root cause of health inequities impacting the life course of communities of color. Some of the findings made by the Board include:

- It is critical to acknowledge that, similar to the U.S. nation state, the state of Oregon was founded by colonial white settlers on occupied Native lands through many tools of colonial violence, including racism, that have become institutionalized and thus legitimized in an ongoing cycle that results in historical, intergenerational and contemporary damage to the health, wellness, and futures of Black, Indigenous, and all People of Color (“BIPOC”), including Latinx, Pacific Islanders, and Asians, as well as immigrants and refugees of color.
- The entirety of Multnomah County rests on the homelands, villages and ceded territories of the Native Tribal nations. We acknowledge the genocide, forced removal, and systemic erasure of Native peoples that have allowed us to ignore and deny this history and our responsibility to Native people.
- The state of Oregon was founded on the notion of creating a white utopia, and around the functional and implicit removal, exploitation and/or exclusion of BIPOC individuals and communities. From Black exclusion laws and restrictions that barred Black and Chinese people from voting, to a steady stream of discriminatory laws and the practice of redlining in Portland, the legacies of Oregon’s founding ideals continue to perpetuate harm, oppression, and marginalization within communities of color today.
- Racism is codified into our laws and institutions, which were created on a foundation of the ideology of white supremacy; it upholds systems, structures and policies that were created to advantage white people while neither serving nor benefiting people of color.

The following pages provide general statistical information about the Multnomah County community, and will often have information broken down by race/ethnicity, demonstrating the continuing impact of the issues outlined above.

Population

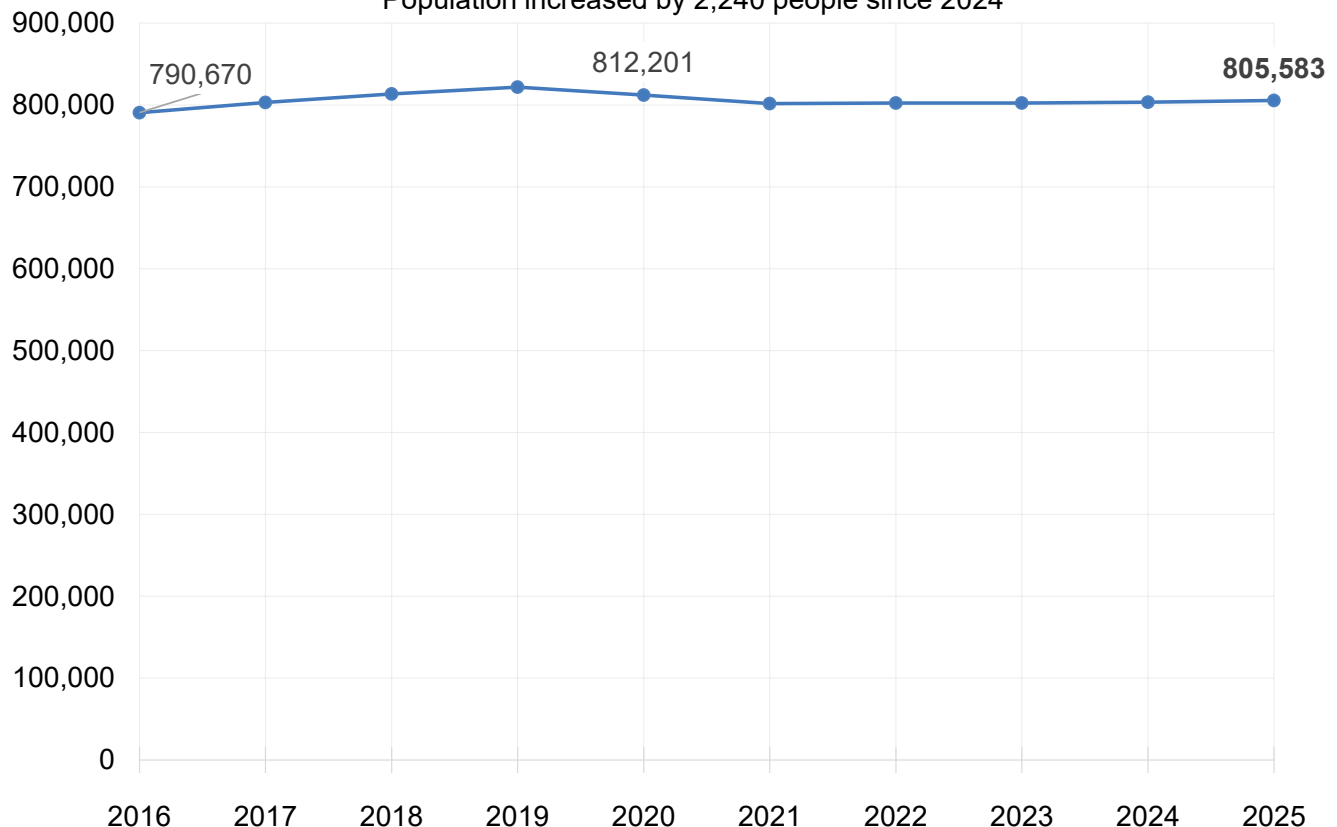


Most Populous County
1 of 36
counties in Oregon

Multnomah County's current population is estimated at 805,583 residents, a 0.8% decrease since 2020, as compared to a 1.4% increase for the state of Oregon as a whole. Although the smallest county by land area, Multnomah County has the largest population out of the 36 counties in Oregon. Multnomah County has a population density of 1,732 people per square mile.

Multnomah County Population from 2016 - 2025

Population increased by 2,240 people since 2024

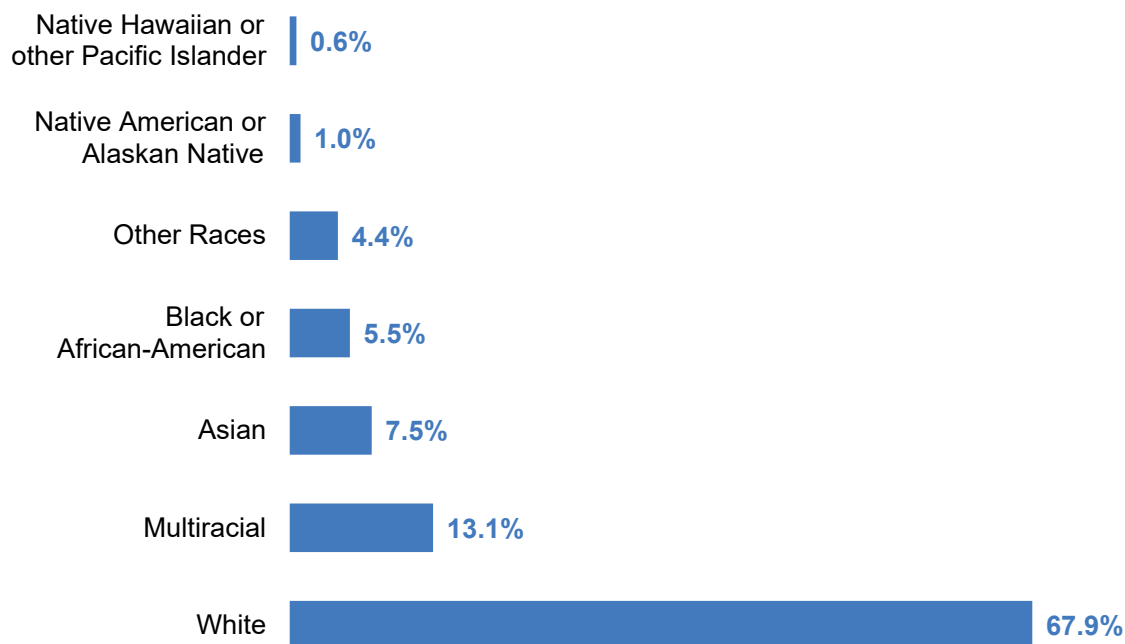


Population Source: Portland State University Population Research Center

Race and Ethnicity

The U.S. Census estimates that in 2024 Multnomah County's population was 67.9% White, 7.5% Asian, 5.5% Black or African-American, 1.0% Native American or Alaskan Native, 0.6% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 4.4% Other Races, and 13.1% Multiracial. Approximately 13.5% of the county's population is Hispanic.

Population By Race in Multnomah County



Multnomah County is also home to diverse languages and nationalities. The U.S. Census estimates that 13.0% of residents were born in another country, compared with 9.8% for Oregon as a whole. There are an estimated 110 unique languages spoken in households across the county, with 18.8% of county residents over the age of 5 speaking a language other than English. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 43.3% speak Spanish.

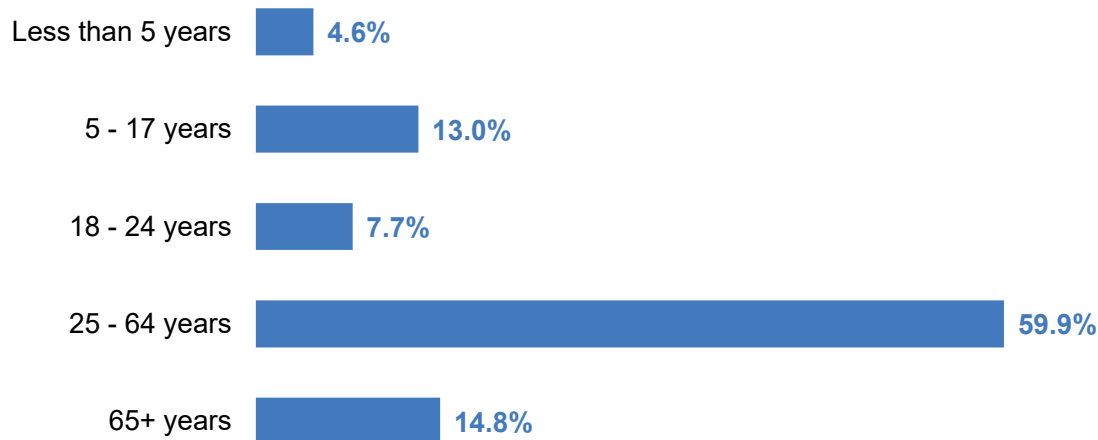
Race and Ethnicity Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2024) American Community Survey 5-year estimates; State of Oregon Employment Department, Most Popular Languages Spoken in Multnomah County (2023)

Age

The median age in Multnomah County is 38.7 years old. People under 18 years old make up 17.6% of the population, 7.7% are between 18-24 years old, and 14.8% are 65 or older. People in the prime working-age of 25-64 years old are almost 60% of the population.

Population By Age in Multnomah County

Almost 60% of population is 25 to 64 years old



Age Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2024) American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Education

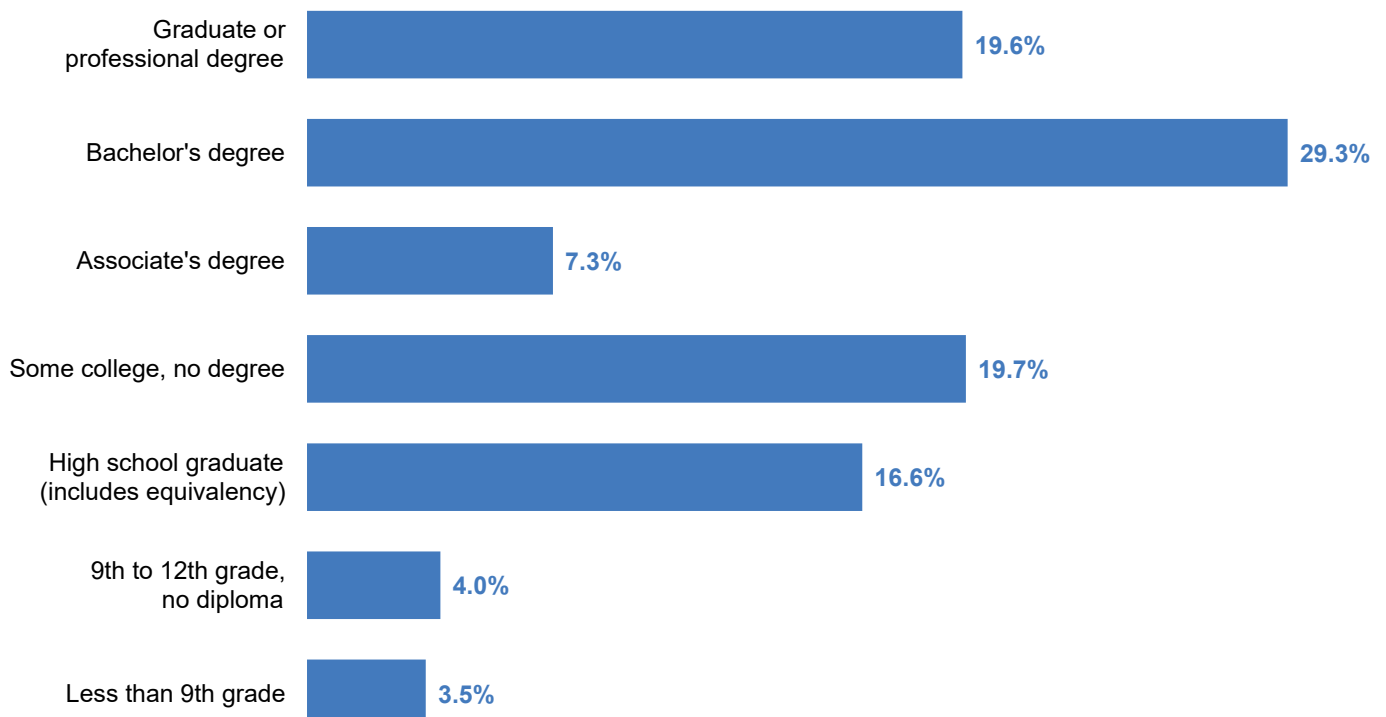
An estimated 86.1% of Multnomah County’s K-12 population were enrolled in public schools in 2024. Public school districts in Multnomah County include Portland Public, Parkrose, Reynolds, Gresham-Barlow, Centennial, Corbett, David Douglas, and Riverdale.

There are a number of post-secondary schools in Multnomah County. Portland State University is a public research university with more than 200 degree programs for undergraduate and graduate students. Multnomah County is also home to Oregon Health & Science University, which educates health professionals and is a leader in biomedical research. Other colleges include Lewis & Clark, which also has a law school and graduate school for education and counseling; the University of Portland, a private Catholic university; and Reed College, a liberal arts and sciences college. Portland Community College and Mount Hood Community College educate the community and are partially supported by local property taxes.

Multnomah County residents have above average educational achievement for the state of Oregon. In 2024, 48.9% of county residents 25 years or older had achieved a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 36.8% statewide. While 7.5% of county residents have less than a high school diploma or equivalency, Oregon as a whole has 8.2% of residents who haven’t graduated high school or passed a high school equivalency exam.

Educational Level of County Residents 25 Years or Older

48.9% hold a Bachelor's Degree or Higher Degree



The table below displays the percentages of racial subpopulations whose highest level of educational attainment is less than a high school diploma or equivalency as compared to a bachelor's degree or higher.

	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latine	Multi- racial	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	White non- Hispanic/ Latine
Less than High School Diploma or Equivalency	18.5%	10.7%	23.6%	12.8%	20.5%	10.9%	3.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	46.7%	29.0%	29.6%	41.1%	23.4%	19.7%	53.8%

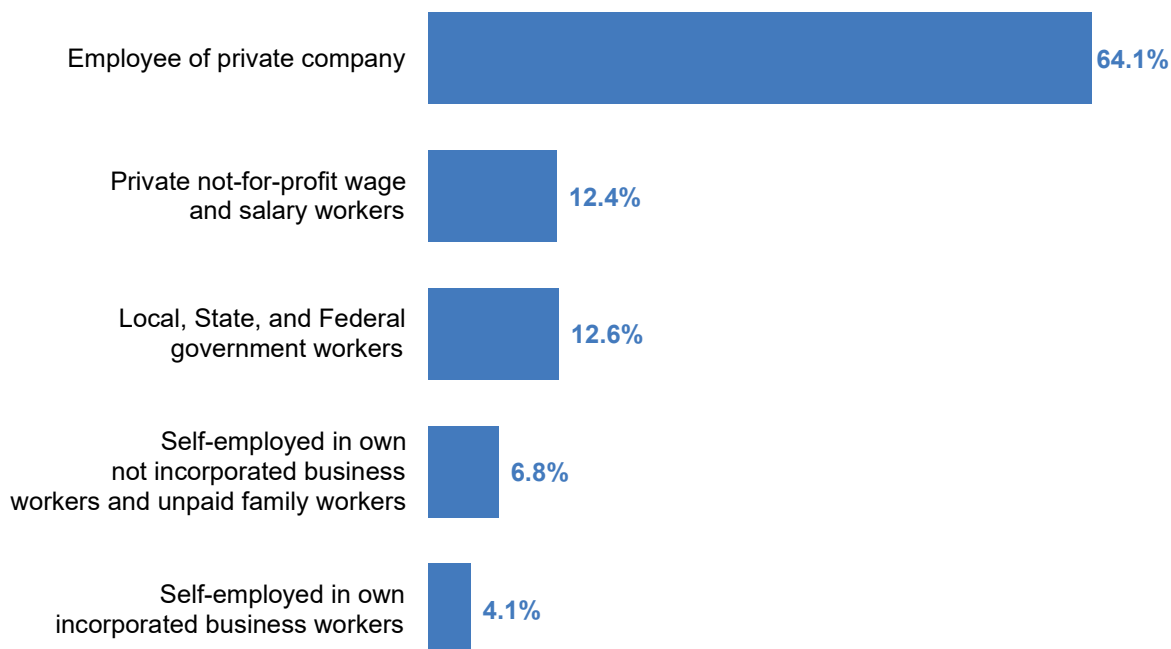
Education Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2024) American Community Survey 5-year estimates; Portland State University; Oregon Health & Science University

Employment and Industry

Like many metro core counties, job recovery from the pandemic started later than other non-metro counties, but then experienced strong job growth. Job recovery has now plateaued in Multnomah County with some areas (downtown in particular) remaining well below pre-pandemic levels. Multnomah County job growth currently lags national trends and the Portland Metro has been one of the worst performing Metros for job growth in the country. Nonfarm employment in Multnomah County is 501,200 as of December 2025. This is 37,100 jobs (or 6.9%) lower than pre-pandemic levels.

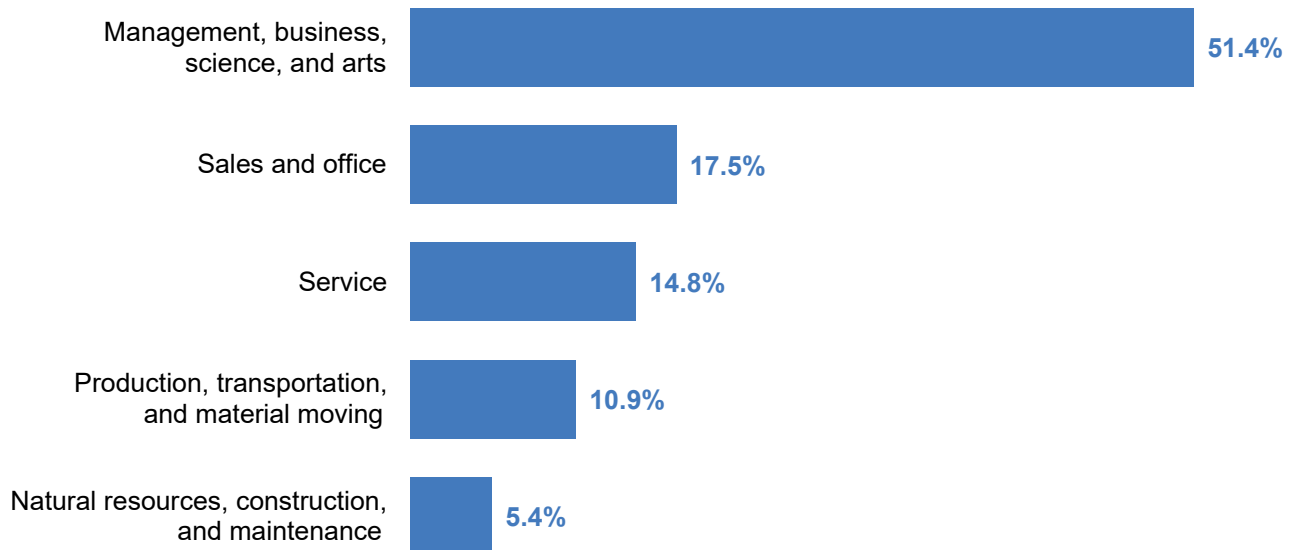
A majority of people who work in the county are employees of private companies (64.1%), while 12.4% work for non-profits, another 12.6% are government workers, and the remainder are self-employed.

Occupation by Class of Worker



The five main occupational sectors vary in the percent of workers in each occupation. Management, business, science, and arts is the occupation category with the largest percent of workers in Multnomah County, at 51.4%. The smallest category is natural resources, construction, and maintenance at 5.4%.

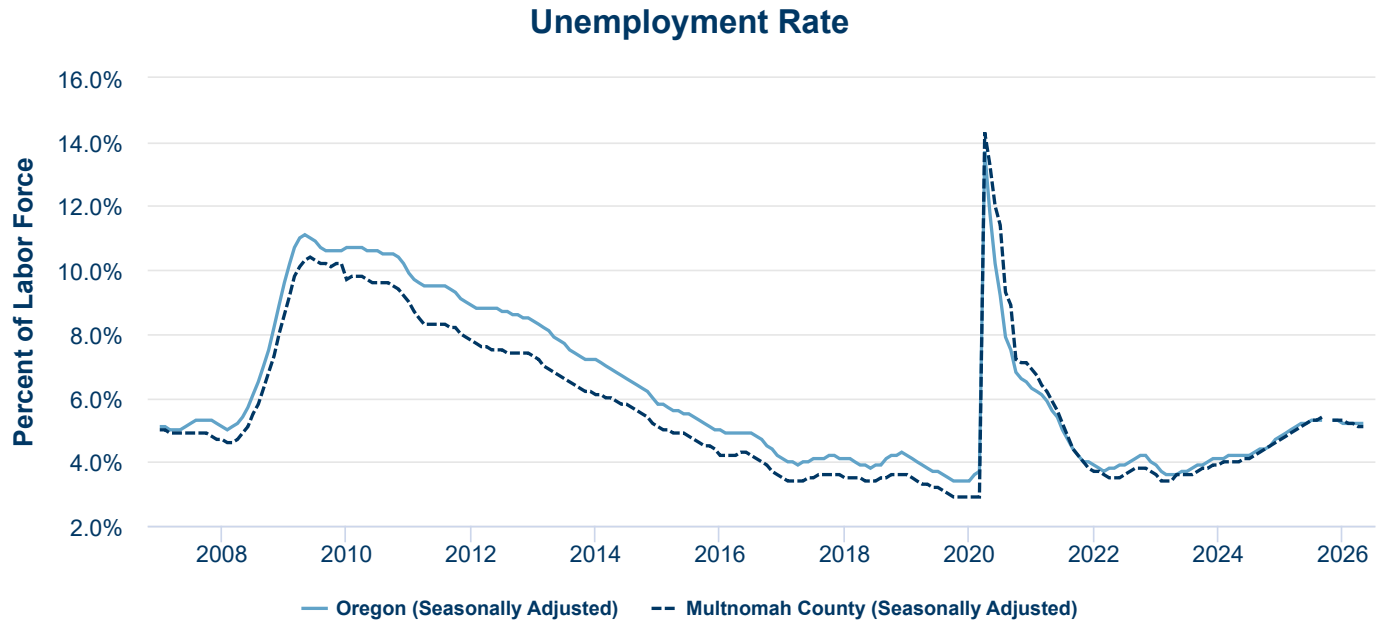
Occupation Categories for Civilian Population (age 16 and over)



The median earnings for these occupation sectors vary dramatically, ranging from \$29,397 for service occupations to \$82,559 for management, business, science, and arts occupations. The table below, shows subpopulations by race and ethnicity that are employed in each category, demonstrating that people of color are more likely than white, non-Hispanic/Latine individuals to work in sectors that generally pay less.

	Service	Production, transportation, and material moving	Sales and office	Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	Management, business, science, and arts
Median earnings	\$29,397	\$40,195	\$44,908	\$47,141	\$82,559
Total population	14.8%	10.9%	17.5%	5.4%	51.4%
Asian	18.5%	15.7%	13.1%	3.3%	49.5%
Black/African American	21.5%	13.0%	19.2%	2.7%	43.5%
Hispanic/Latine	22.6%	15.4%	16.3%	11.5%	34.1%
Multiracial	19.6%	12.0%	18.5%	7.4%	42.5%
Native American/Alaska Native	27.5%	15.3%	13.3%	17.1%	26.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	15.4%	16.5%	26.2%	5.2%	36.7%
White, non-Hispanic/Latine	12.1%	9.5%	17.8%	4.6%	56.0%

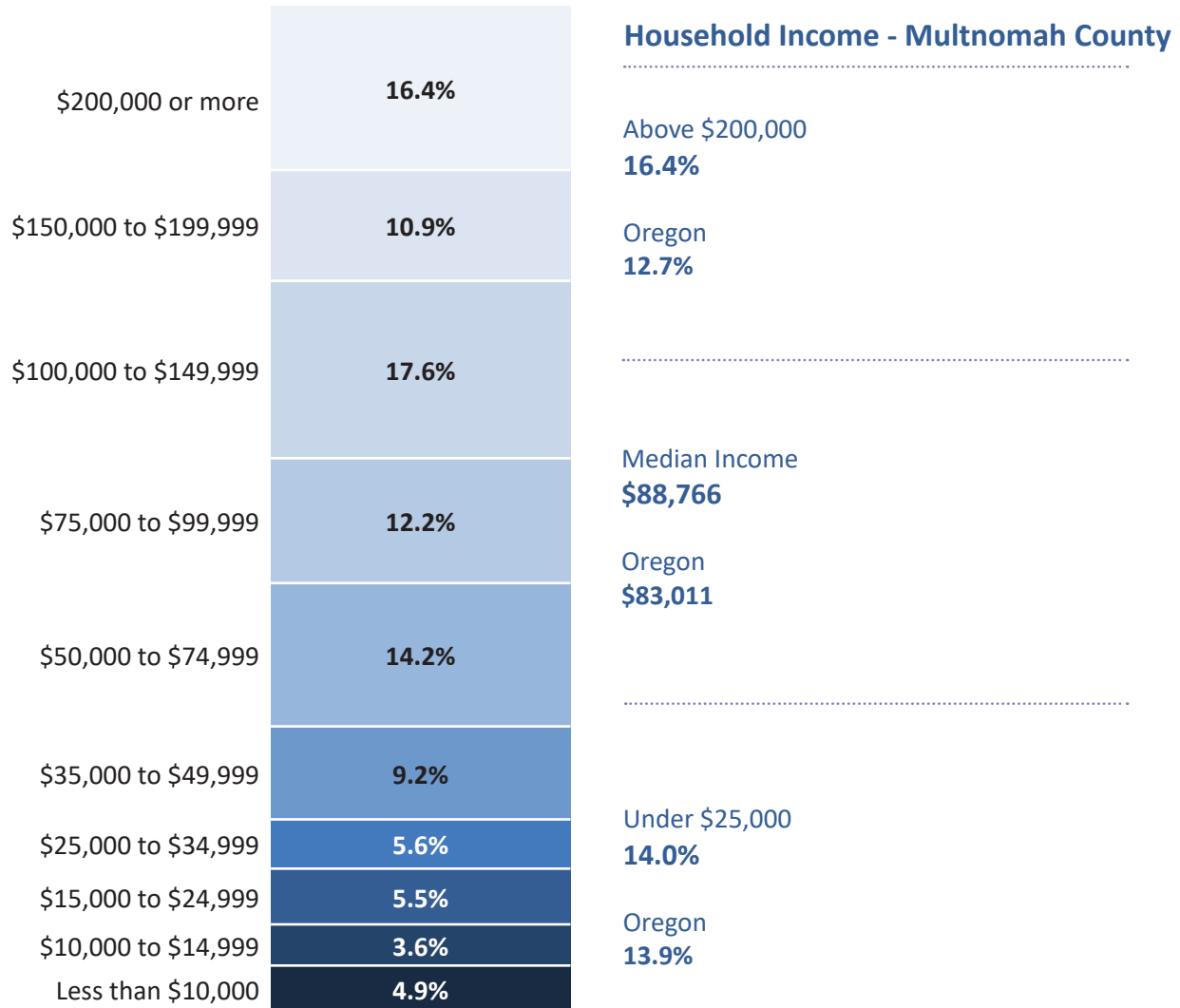
Multnomah County's unemployment rate held steady at 5.1% in May 2026 as compared to May 2025.



Employment and Industry Sources: State of Oregon Employment Department, Current Employment Statistics, 2025; U.S. Census Bureau (2024) American Community Survey 5-year estimates; State of Oregon Employment Department

Income and Poverty

Household income is an important measure to help determine the wealth and its distribution in a community. The chart below shows the percent of households by category of income per household.



The table below presents median household income by race/ethnicity and as cents earned by each population per one dollar earned by the white, non-Hispanic/Latine population. It shows that median incomes for communities of color range from 58%-105% of the white, non-Hispanic/Latine population.

	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latine	Multi- racial	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	White non- Hispanic/ Latine
Median household income	\$99,959	\$55,300	\$72,707	\$74,186	\$68,695	\$84,427	\$95,205
Cents-on- the-dollar	\$1.05	\$0.58	\$0.76	\$0.78	\$0.72	\$0.89	\$1.00

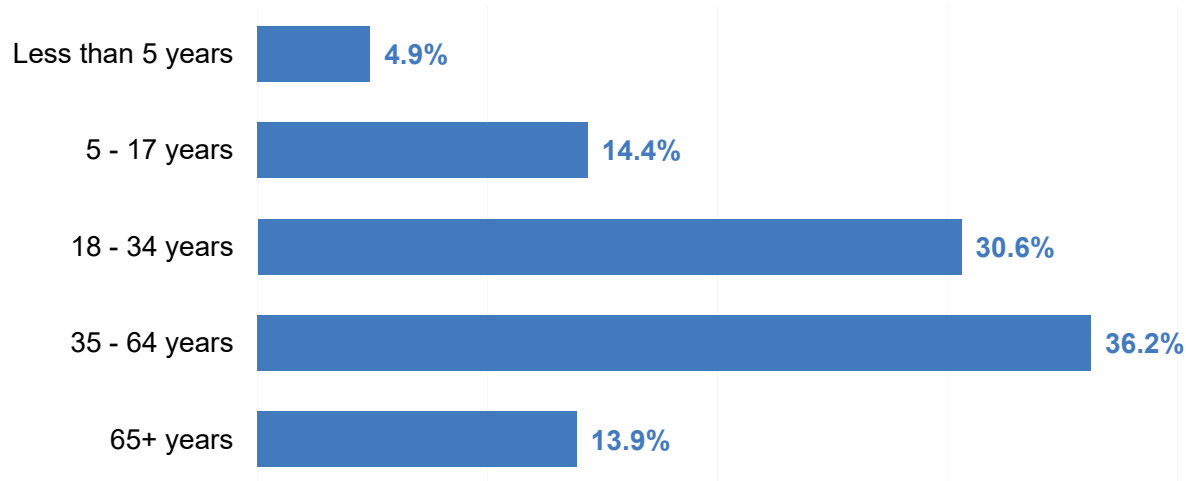
Meet Multnomah County

FY 2027 Adopted Budget

In Multnomah County, 12.6% of the population is experiencing poverty. This is higher than Oregon's overall poverty rate of 11.9%. The following graphic shows poverty rates by age category:

Poverty by Age

19.3% of county residents experiencing poverty are below 18 years of age



Poverty rates vary by race/ethnicity, with 10.1% of the white, non-Latine population at or below the poverty rate, while the Black/African American population has the highest poverty rate at 26.6%, followed closely by the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population at 24.6%

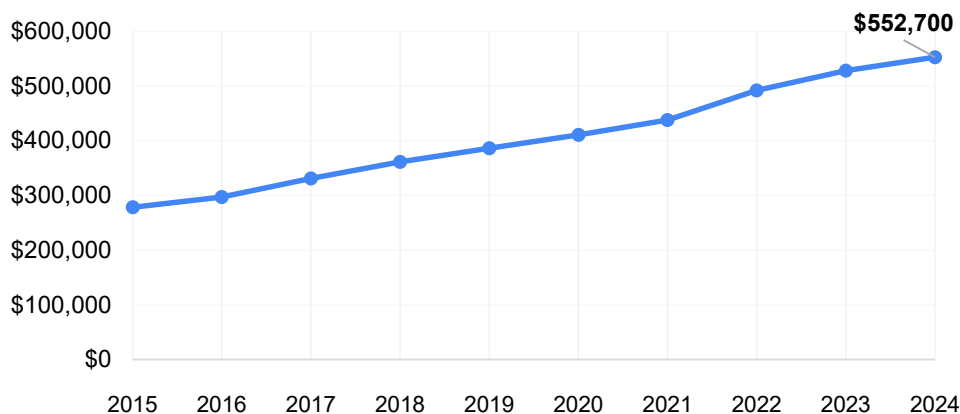
	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latine	Multi- racial	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	White non- Hispanic/ Latine
Poverty rate	12.5%	26.6%	16.9%	16.2%	14.6%	24.6%	10.1%

Income and Poverty Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2024) American Community Survey 5-year estimates

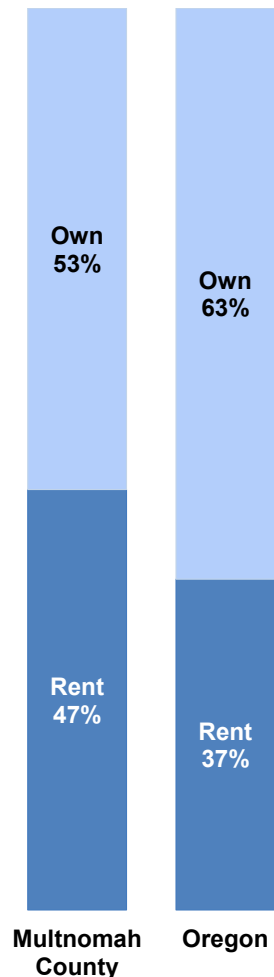
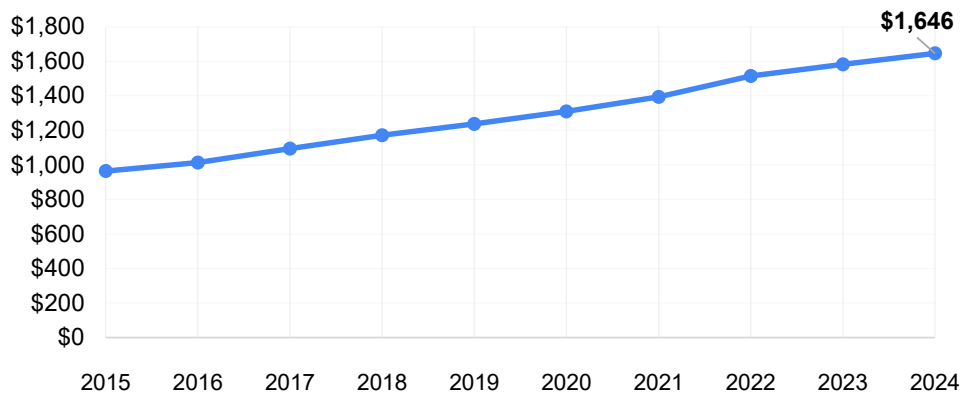
Housing

The median home value in Multnomah County has increased significantly in recent years, from \$278,300 in 2015 to \$552,700 in 2024. Over half the housing units in the county (53%) are owner-occupied, while 47% are rentals. This is a lower homeownership rate than Oregon overall (63%).

Median Home Value 2015 - 2024



Median Rent 2015 - 2024



The table below shows the percent of homeowners out of the total population that owns or occupies housing units by race/ethnicity. Homeownership builds intergenerational wealth and may also indicate more stable housing compared to renting, especially when rents are increasing steeply. Most communities of color have much lower rates of homeownership compared to the total population and, especially, the white non-Hispanic/Latine population.

	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latine	Multi- racial	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	White non- Hispanic/ Latine
Homeownership by race/ethnicity	61.0%	32.6%	35.2%	40.1%	42.5%	35.0%	58.0%

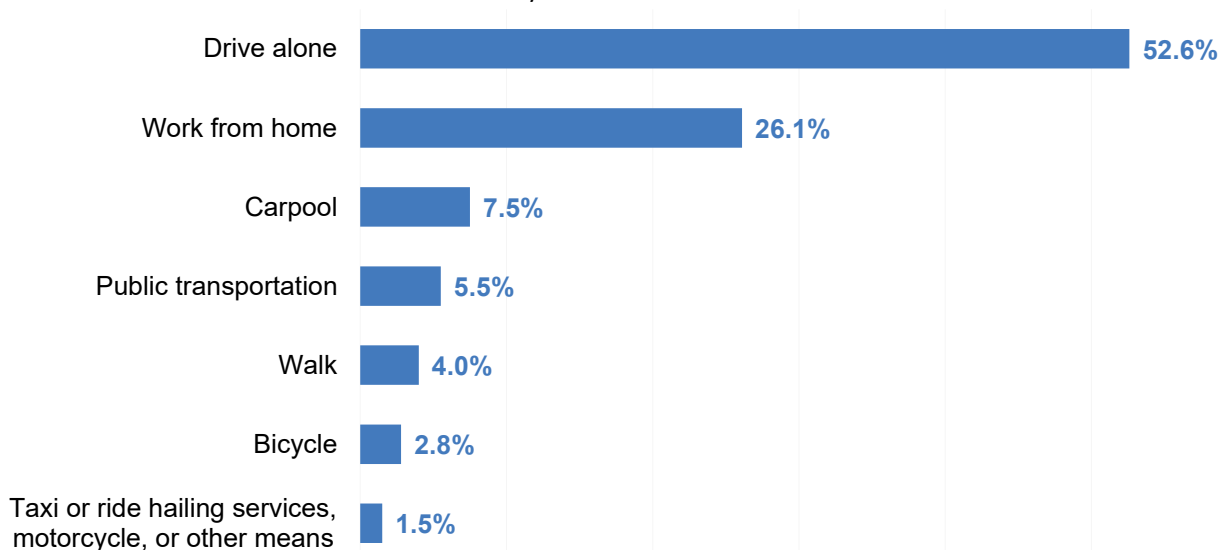
Housing Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2015-2024) American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Transportation and Infrastructure

Multnomah County is served by an international passenger airport, a local bus and light rail system, railroads that carry goods and serve passengers, and the interstate highway system. Over half of workers age 16 and older drive alone to work, 26% work from home, and the remainder get to work by walking, biking, public transportation, carpooling, or other means of transportation.

Means of Transportation to Work (age 16 years and older)

26% of County Residents Work From Home



Roads and Highways

Multnomah County is connected to the wider region by seven major highways: Interstates 5, 84, 205, and 405 and U.S. Highways 26, 30, and 99. The County operates and maintains over 275 miles of roads and 24 vehicular bridges, including 6 bridges over the Willamette River.

Portland International Airport

Portland International Airport is located on the northern border of Multnomah County. The airport handled 17.8 million domestic and 0.8 million international passengers in 2025. The airport also serves as a regional hub for flights to smaller cities in Oregon and other Western destinations.

TriMet

The Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (TriMet) operates 79 bus lines, a light rail system, and a commuter rail system that together connect Multnomah County with neighboring areas. Riders boarded a TriMet bus, MAX train, WES train or LIFT cab 65.8 million times in FY 2025, up approximately 4.6% from FY 2024.

Transportation and Infrastructure Sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (2024) 5 Year Estimates; Port of Portland; TriMet

Culture and Recreation

Multnomah County is a regional destination for the visual and performing arts and hosts numerous festivals, concerts, and sporting events every year. The county also has extensive public space for relaxing or exploring.

Arts and Entertainment

The county is home to major arts and cultural institutions, including the Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland Japanese Garden, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Oregon Symphony, Oregon Historical Society, and Portland Art Museum. Festivals are held year-round in Multnomah County, including the Portland Seafood and Wine festival, Portland Rose Festival, Waterfront Blues Festival, Mt. Hood Jazz Festival, Portland Pride Festival, and Rose City Comic Con.

Multnomah County is also home to several professional sports teams: the Portland Trail Blazers (National Basketball Association), the Portland Fire (Women's National Basketball Association), the Rip City Remix (National Basketball Association G League) the Portland Winterhawks (Western Hockey League), the Portland Thorns (National Women's Soccer League), and the Portland Timbers (Major League Soccer). It also has two pre-professional sports teams: the Portland Bangers (soccer) and the Portland Pickles (baseball).

Recreation

Multnomah County is home to over 37,000 acres of parks and numerous natural areas. The gateway to the scenic Columbia River Gorge is located in eastern Multnomah County. The Gorge is a spectacular river canyon, 80 miles long and up to 4,000 feet deep, with numerous areas for hiking, camping, boating, and day trips. Portland's Forest Park, the largest urban forested natural area in the nation, covers over 5,000 acres of urban land and has over 80 miles of trails. The county also houses Portland's International Rose Test Garden, the oldest continually operating public rose test garden in the nation, and Mill Ends Park, one of the world's smallest public parks at 452 square inches.

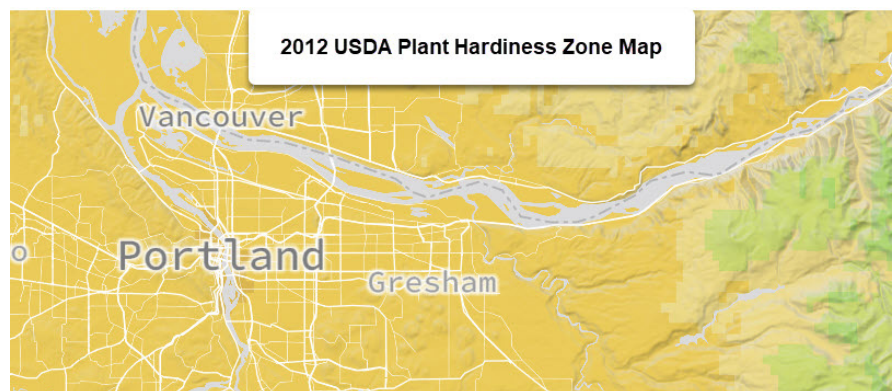
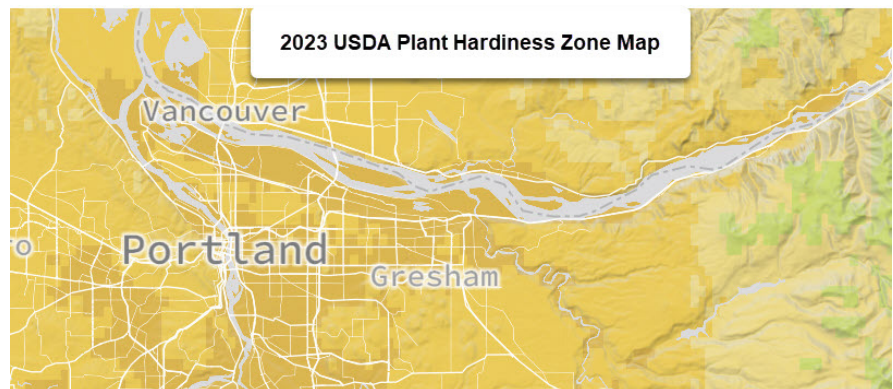
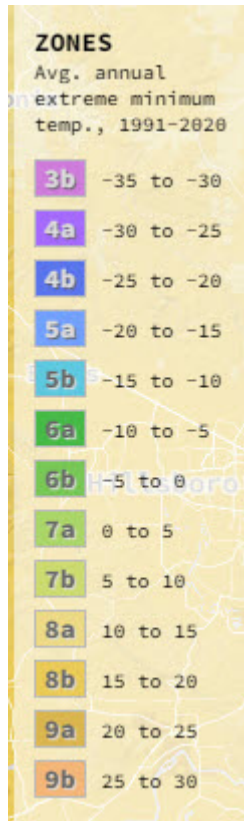


Multnomah Falls - photo by Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives

Climate

Multnomah County typically has a mild climate that is heavily moderated by the Pacific Ocean. January and February are typically the coldest months with an average low of 34.0 degrees Fahrenheit over the past 5 years. July and August are the hottest months with an average high of 82.0 degrees Fahrenheit. Multnomah County experiences greater cloud cover and precipitation during winter months, with 15.09 inches of precipitation in December 2025, as compared to 0.21 inches of precipitation in July 2025. In recent years, Multnomah County, along with the rest of Oregon, has experienced an increase in extreme heat/cold. The Portland downtown area saw a high of 104 degrees Fahrenheit in August 2023, and a low of 12 degrees Fahrenheit in January 2024.

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture updated its Plant Hardiness Zone Map from the 2012 version. The map is the standard by which gardeners and growers - personal and professional - can determine which perennial plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The map is based on the average annual extreme minimum winter temperature, with a 5-degree Fahrenheit change each half zone (i.e. zone 8a's average annual extreme minimum temperature is 10 to 15 degrees, while zone 8b's is 15 to 20 degrees). While many locations in Multnomah County stayed in the same zone, several areas shifted to a warmer zone, both in the Portland metropolitan area and in more rural parts of the county.



Climate Sources: U.S. Climate Data; NOAA Online Weather Data; USDA; Oregonian

Meet Multnomah County

FY 2027 Adopted Budget

