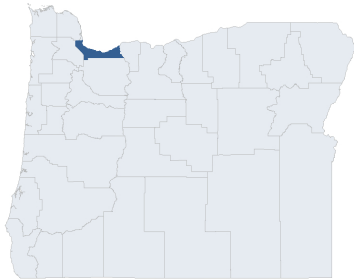


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Introduction



Multnomah County was established in 1854 by the Oregon Territorial Legislature. It is home to approximately 805,007 people, making it the most populous of Oregon’s 36 counties. It is in northwestern Oregon where the Columbia and Willamette rivers meet. The county is bordered by Washington State to the north and is surrounded by Hood River, Clackamas, Washington, and Columbia Counties in Oregon. The county seat is Portland, which is also the largest city in Oregon (see page 23 for a detailed map). While Portland is the most well-known city in the area, Multnomah County also encompasses the cities of Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale, Wood Village and Maywood Park.

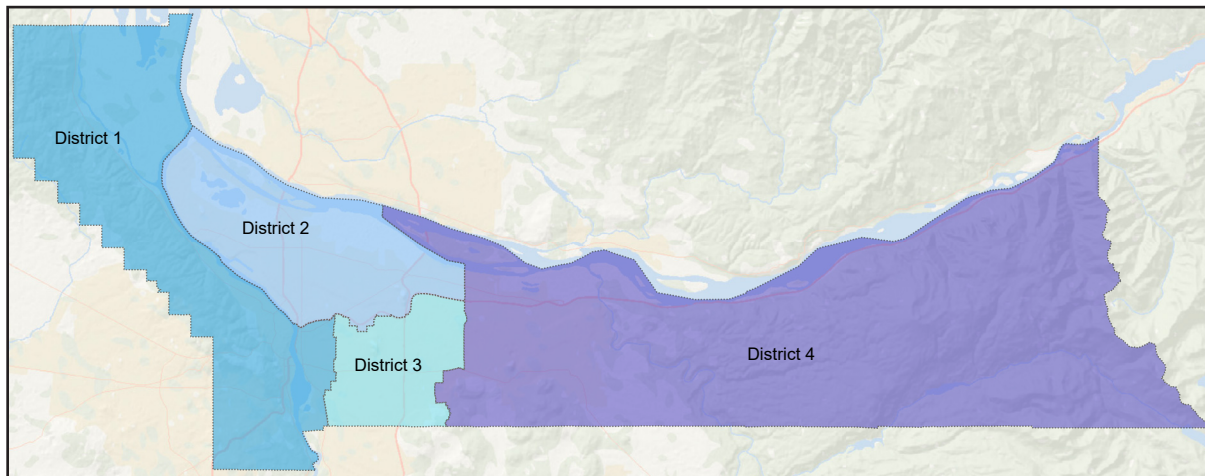
Geographically, Multnomah County is the smallest county in Oregon and includes densely populated urban areas as well as rural land. The county covers 465 square miles, most of which lie in the Willamette Valley between the Cascade Mountains to the east and the Coast Range to the west. The elevation ranges 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 prescribed in detail 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 subsequent 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. 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



Sharon Meieran
Commissioner
District One



Jesse Beason
Commissioner
District Two



Julia Brim-Edwards
Commissioner
District Three



Lori Stegmann
Commissioner
District Four



Jennifer McGuirk
County Auditor



Nicole Morrisey O'Donnell
Sheriff



Mike Schmidt
District Attorney

Multnomah County Mission, Vision, and Values

Multnomah County adopted the Mission, Vision and Values statement to provide a framework for making decisions that impact Multnomah County government and the community.

Knowing the mission, vision and values of the organization enables our leaders and employees to consider the greater good when making tough decisions.

Mission

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners plans for the needs of a dynamic community, provides leadership to ensure quality services, prioritizes the needs of our most vulnerable and promotes a healthy, safe and prosperous community for all.

Vision

Build a community where everyone is healthy and anyone who needs help has a place to find it.

The community knows about and is engaged in what we do.

We have the resources to meet the community's needs.

Everyone in our community shares equally in opportunity, regardless of what they look like, where they come from, what they believe in, or who they love.

There is a fully funded safety net to protect the most vulnerable people in our community.

Values

Social Justice – Promote equity in the community, include people who have not been included in the past, help those who need help.

Health – Support a healthy community from birth through adulthood.

Public Safety – Maintain safe neighborhoods through prevention, intervention and enforcement.

Integrity – Be honest and trustworthy, creating transparency and harmony between what we think, say and do. Put the County's mission above personal goals.

Stewardship – Demonstrate tangible, cost effective results from our work; decisions are clear, evidence-based, and fair.

Creativity and Innovation – Think in new ways, value new opinions and recognize ingenuity and resourcefulness.

Sustainability – Focus on the long-term environmental and economic well being of the community.

Multnomah County Organization

Multnomah County delivers its services through 11 departments, including two managed by independently elected officials - Sheriff O'Donnell and District Attorney Schmidt - while Auditor McGuirk's office resides in Nondepartmental. Almost 6,000 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 passport applications and 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
Serena **Cruz**



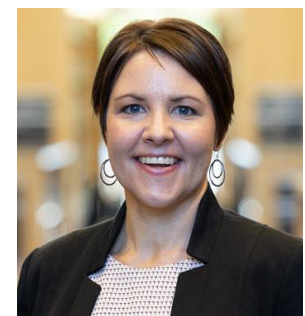
County Human
Services
Mohammad **Bader**



Health Department
Rachael **Banks**



Joint Office of
Homeless Services
Dan **Field**



Library
Annie **Lewis** (Interim)

Multnomah County at a Glance



Population
805,007

Median Age
38.2



Language Other Than
English Spoken At Home
19.3%

Hispanic
Population
12.8%



Median Household
Income
\$83,668

Bachelor's Degree
or higher
47.7%



Unemployment
Rate
4.0%

Poverty
Rate
12.1%



Median Property
Value
\$492,100

Median
Rent
\$1,515



Impact of Racism on Communities of Color

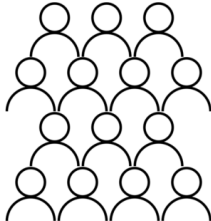
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners [declared racism a public health crisis](#) in 2021, naming racism as a root cause of health inequities impacting the life course of communities of color. Some of the findings made by the Board include:

- 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.

This issue is not isolated to Multnomah County or Oregon. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) also [declared racism a public health threat](#) in 2021. In January 2021, on his first day in office, President Biden signed an [Executive Order](#) recognizing that entrenched disparities in the nation’s laws, public policies, and public and private institutions have often denied equal opportunity to individuals and communities, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

The sections below 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



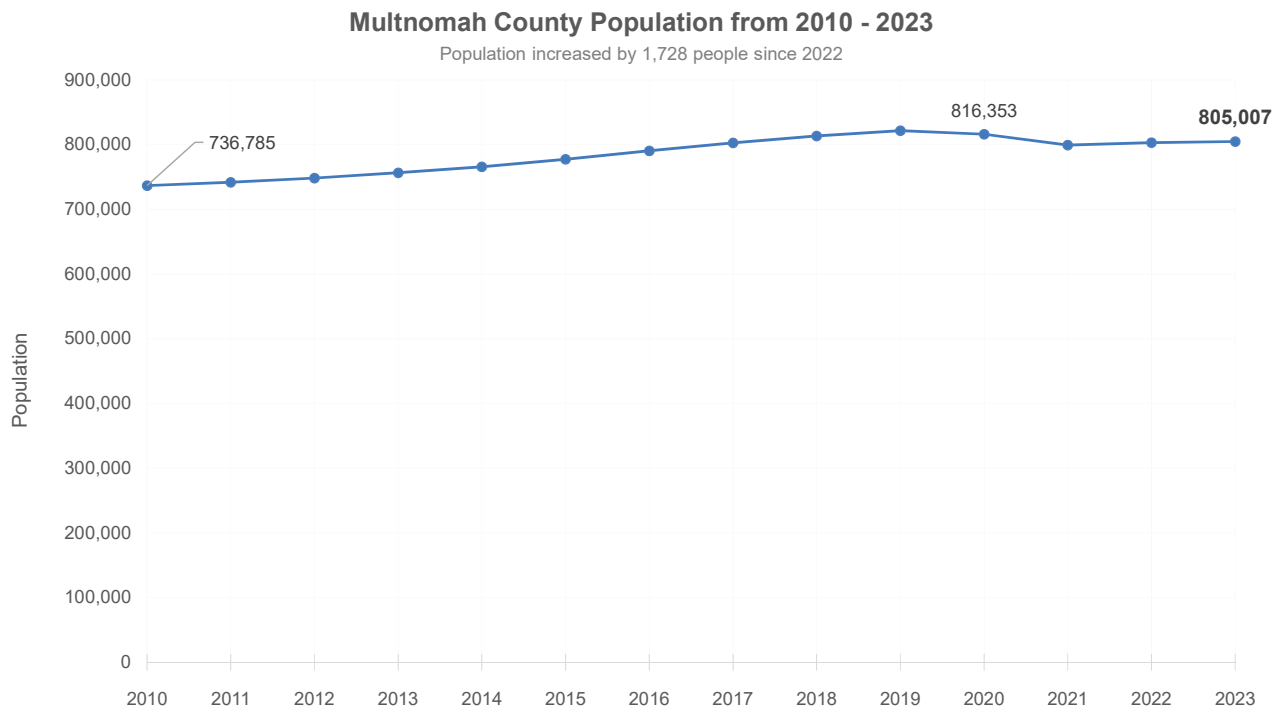
Population
805,007

1.4%

Decrease
since 2020

Most Populous County
1 of 36
counties in Oregon

Multnomah County’s current population is estimated at 805,007 residents, a 1.4% decrease since 2020, significantly lower than the 1.2% 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 1,731 people per square mile.

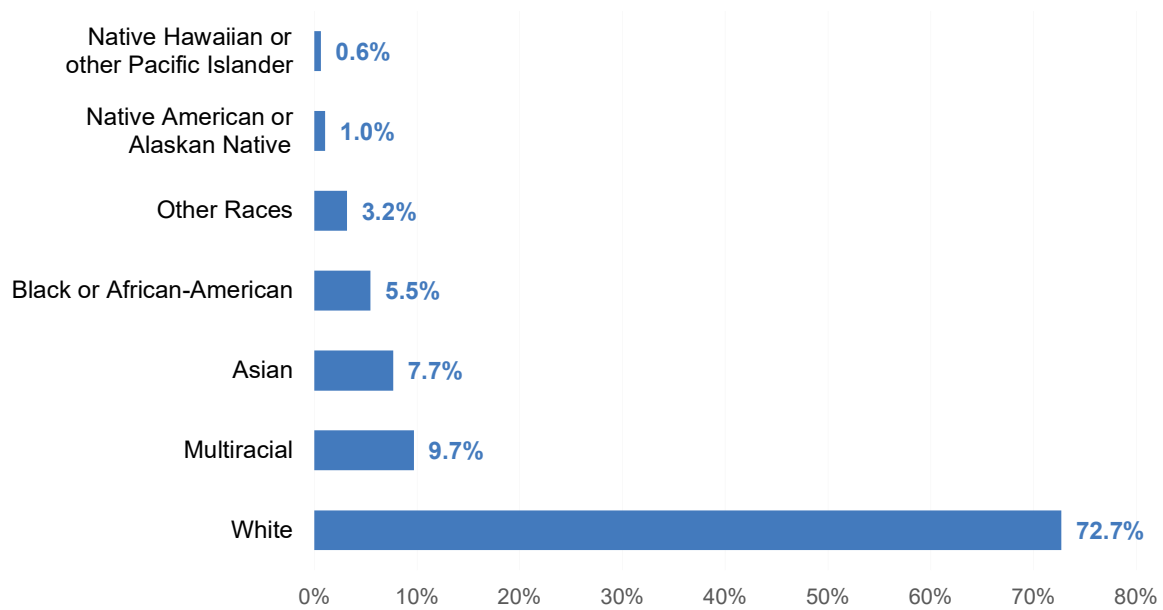


Source: Portland State University Population Research Center

Race and Ethnicity

The U.S. Census estimates that in 2022 Multnomah County’s population was 72.7% White, 7.7% Asian, 5.5% Black or African-American, 1% Native American or Alaskan Native, 0.6% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 3.2% Other Races, and 9.7% are multiracial. Approximately 12.8% 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 13.5% of residents were born in another country, compared with 9.8% for Oregon as a whole. Almost 20% of county residents over the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 40.6% speak Spanish.

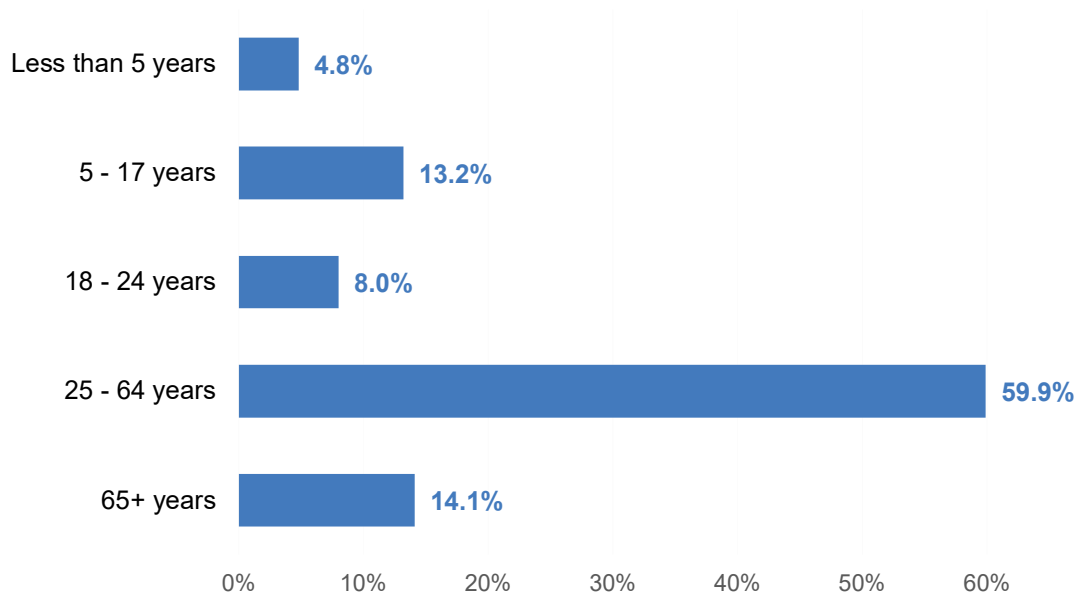
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Age

The median age in Multnomah County is 38.2 years old. People under 18 years old make up 18.0% of the population, while 14.1% are 65 or older.

Population By Age in Multnomah County

Almost 60% of population is 25 to 64 years old



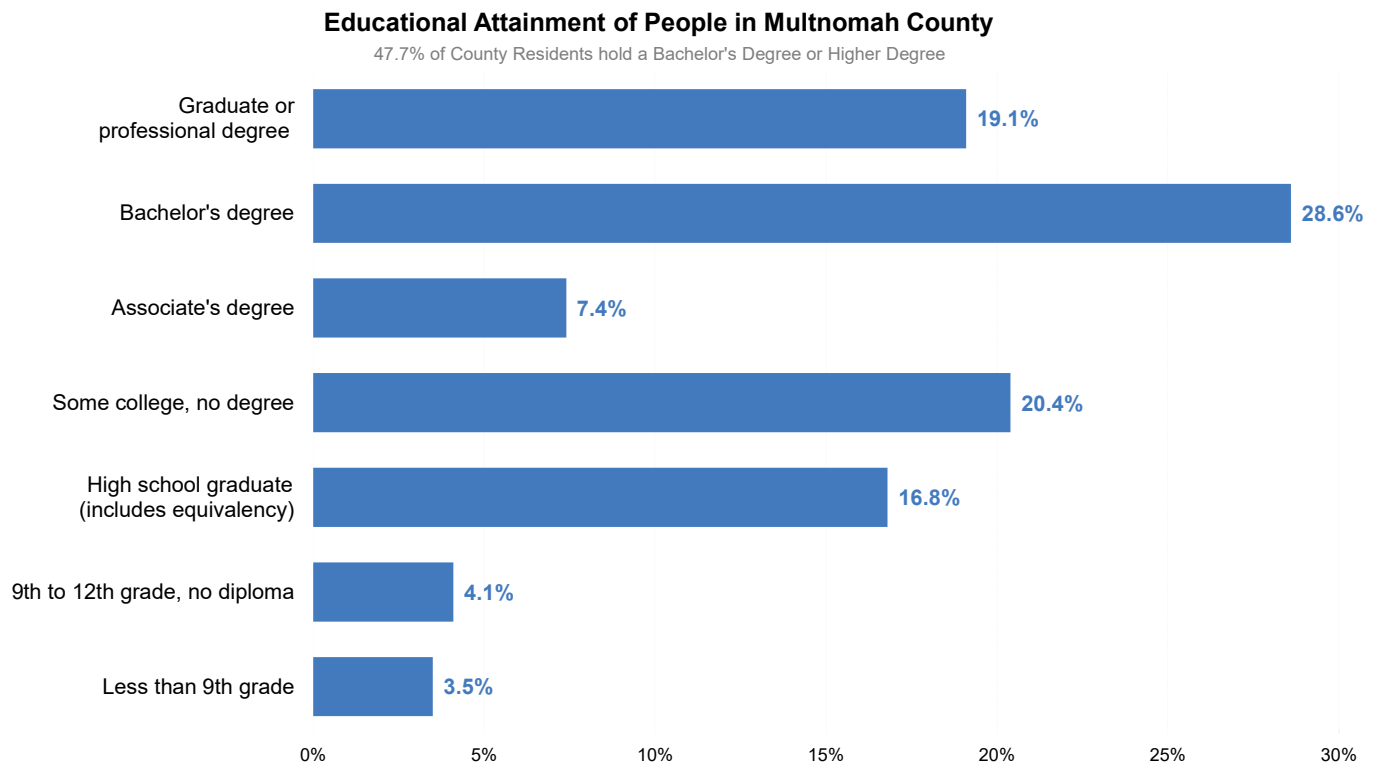
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Education

An estimated 87.7% of Multnomah County’s school aged population were enrolled in public schools in 2022. Public school districts in Multnomah County include Portland Public Schools, 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 2022, 47.7% of county residents 25 years or older had achieved a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 36.3% statewide. While 7.6% of county residents have less than a high school diploma or equivalency, Oregon as a whole has 8.4% people who haven’t graduated high school or passed a high school equivalency exam.



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 or Latine	Multi- racial	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	White non- Latine
Less than High School Diploma or Equivalency	19.7%	10.6%	25.7%	11.0%	18.4%	11.1%	3.9%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	43.8%	27.5%	29.1%	41.9%	22.8%	18.2%	52.5%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey; Portland State University; OHSU

Employment and Industry

Like the rest of the country, Multnomah County has experienced rapid job growth as industries continue to recover from the pandemic. Total nonfarm employment in the county increased from 456,500 in May 2020 to 516,000 in May 2024. The county remains short of the pre-pandemic job count of 538,000.

Top Ten Employers in Portland Metro Area

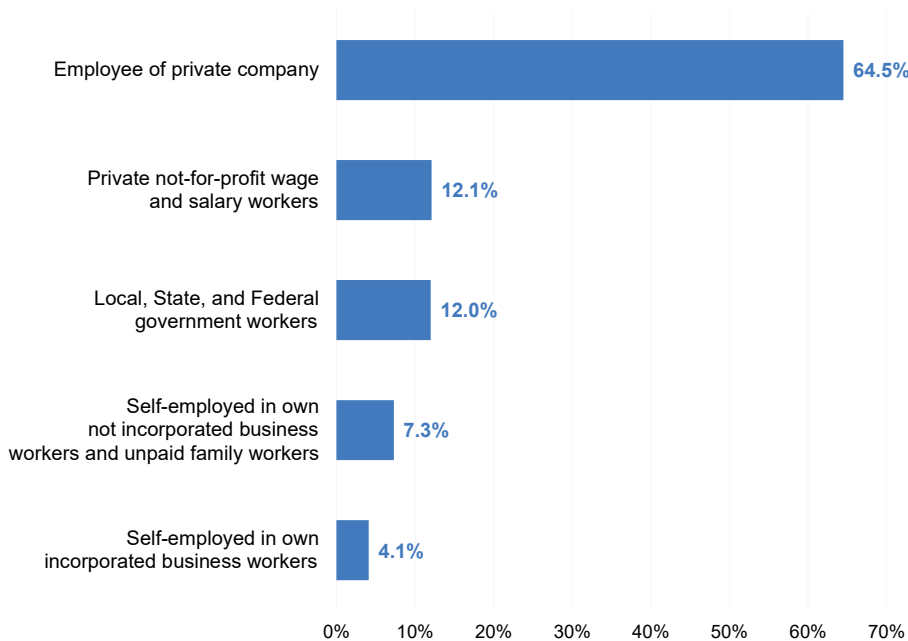
(2022 data; includes Multnomah County, as well as neighboring counties in Oregon and Washington)

1. Providence Health & Services (23,100 employees)
2. Intel Corporation (22,328 employees)
3. Oregon Health & Science University (19,603 employees)
4. Nike, Inc. (15,522 employees)
5. Legacy Health (13,087 employees)
6. Kaiser Permanente Northwest (12,514 employees)
7. Fred Meyer Stores (9,000 employees)
8. Portland Public Schools (7,111 employees)
9. City of Portland (6,753 employees)
10. Multnomah County (6,317 employees)

Source: Portland Business Journal

A majority of people who work in the county are employees of private companies (almost 65%), while 12% work for non-profits, another 12% are government workers, and the remainder are self-employed.

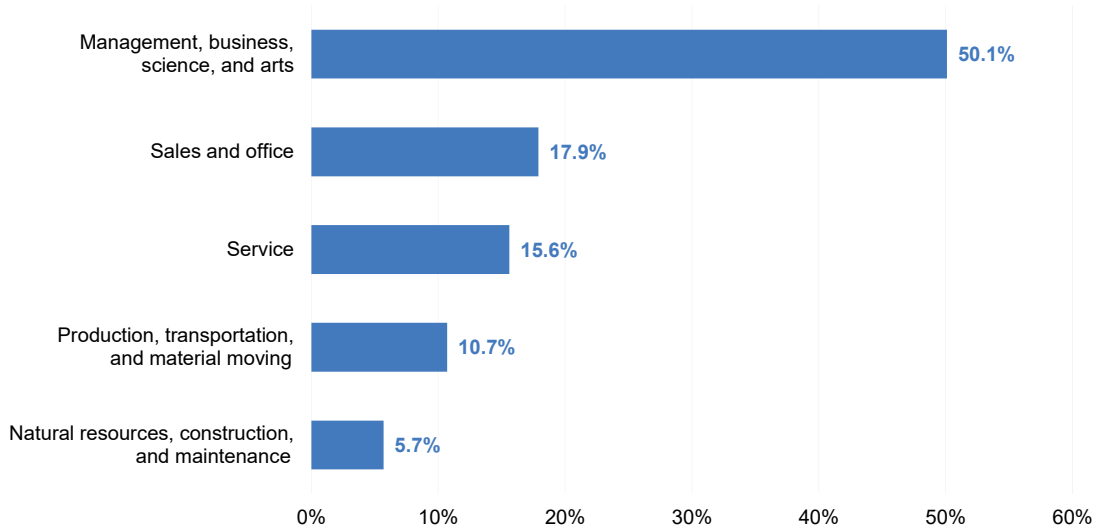
Occupation by Class of Worker



Source: State of Oregon Employment Department, Covered Employment and Wages, 2023

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 approximately 50%. The smallest category is natural resources, construction, and maintenance at 5.7%.

Occupation Categories for Civilian Population (age 16 and over)

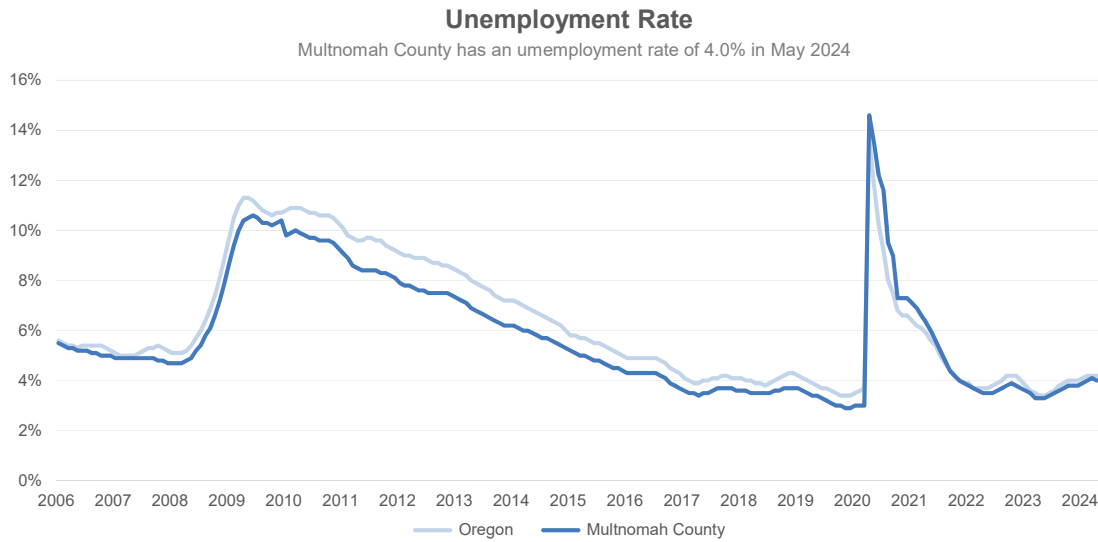


The median earnings for these occupation categories varies dramatically, ranging from \$25,817 for service occupations to \$76,215 for management, business, science, and arts occupations. As can be seen from the table below, which shows the subpopulations by race that are employed in each category, people of color are more likely than white, non-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	\$25,817	\$36,242	\$41,236	\$43,836	\$76,215
Total population	15.6%	10.7%	17.9%	5.7%	50.1%
Asian	20.1%	17.4%	13.7%	3.6%	45.2%
Black/African American	24.2%	12.4%	17.5%	2.5%	43.5%
Hispanic/Latine	24.1%	14.0%	16.4%	12.9%	32.7%
Multiracial	19.9%	11.8%	18.3%	6.8%	43.3%
Native American/ Alaska Native	25.5%	15.9%	16.8%	16.4%	25.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	14.5%	24.0%	26.8%	3.5%	31.1%
White, non-Latine	12.8%	9.3%	18.4%	4.9%	54.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

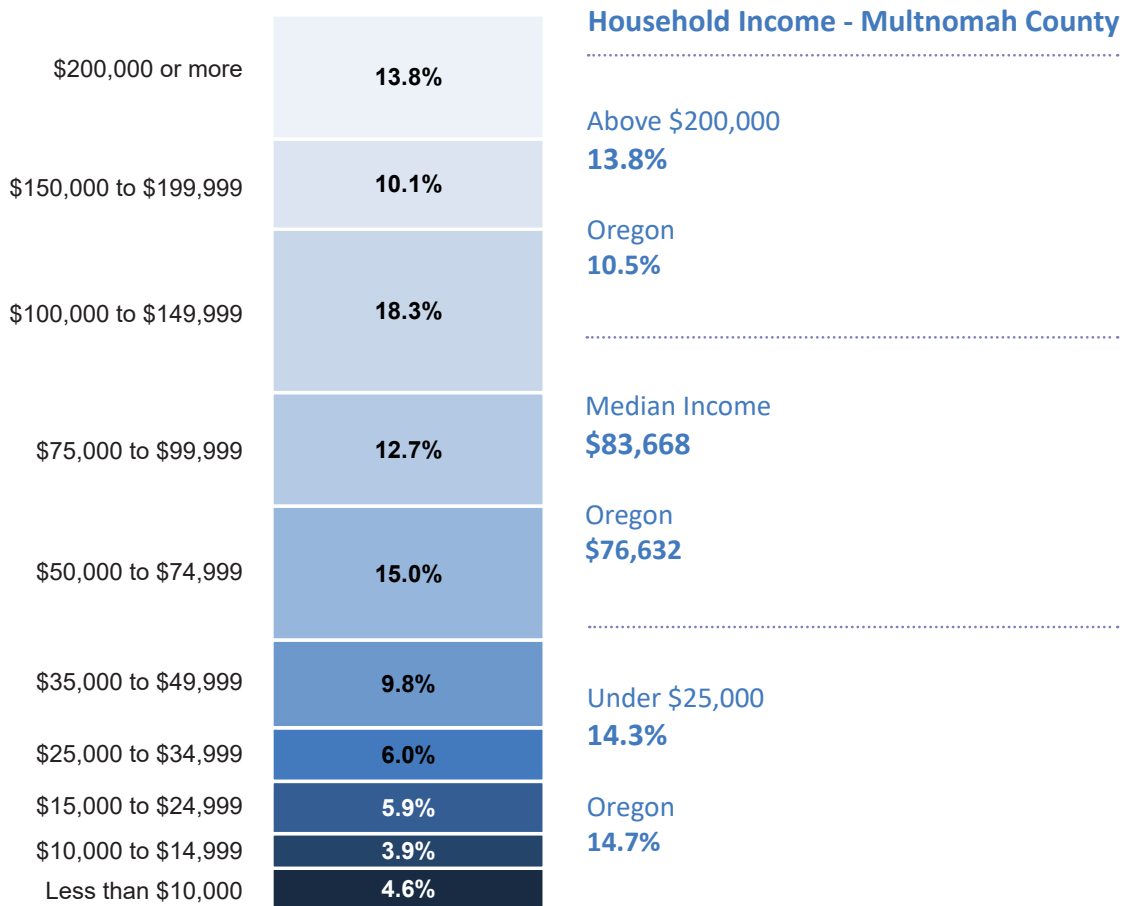
Multnomah County's unemployment rate has increased to 4.0% in May 2024 as compared to 3.3% in May 2023.



Source: State of Oregon Employment Department

Income and Poverty

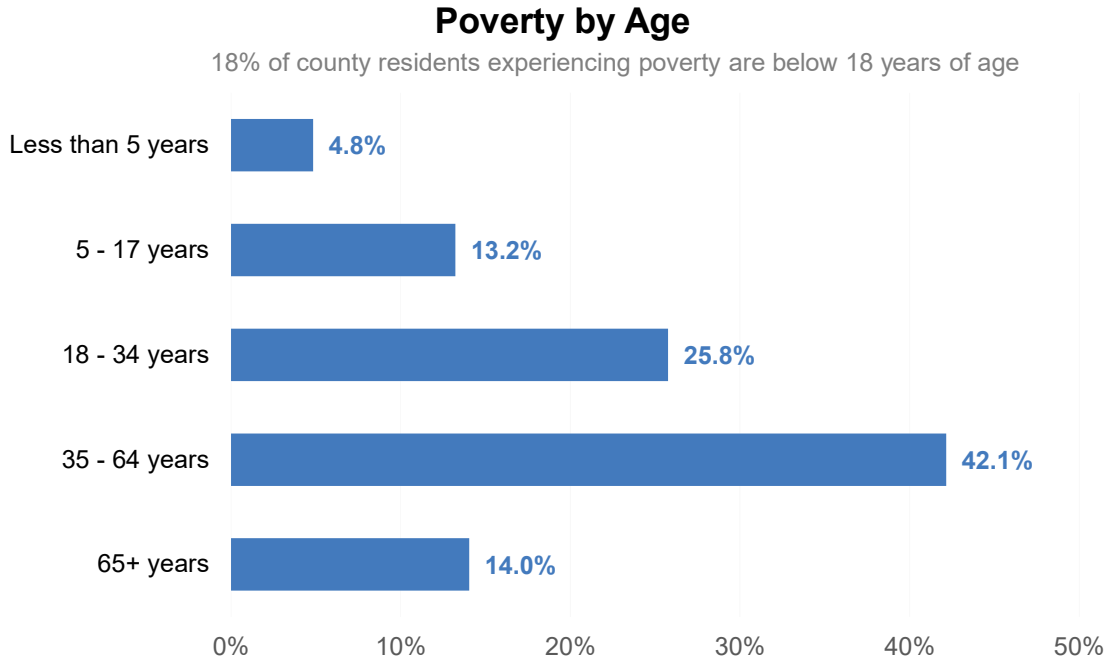
Household income is an important measure to help determine the wealth and its distribution in a community. The following chart shows the percent of households in various categories of income per household.



The table below presents median household income by race, as well as median household income expressed as cents earned by each population of color per one dollar earned by the white, non-Latine population. It shows that median household incomes for communities of color range from 56%-97% of the white, non-Latine population.

	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic or Latine	Multi- racial	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	White non- Latine
Median household income	\$87,181	\$50,104	\$66,372	\$69,644	\$65,076	\$77,061	\$90,183
Cents-on- the-dollar	\$0.97	\$0.56	\$0.74	\$0.77	\$0.72	\$0.85	\$1.00

In Multnomah County, 12.2% of the population is under the poverty rate. This is higher than Oregon’s overall poverty rate of 11.9%. The following graphic shows poverty rates by age category:



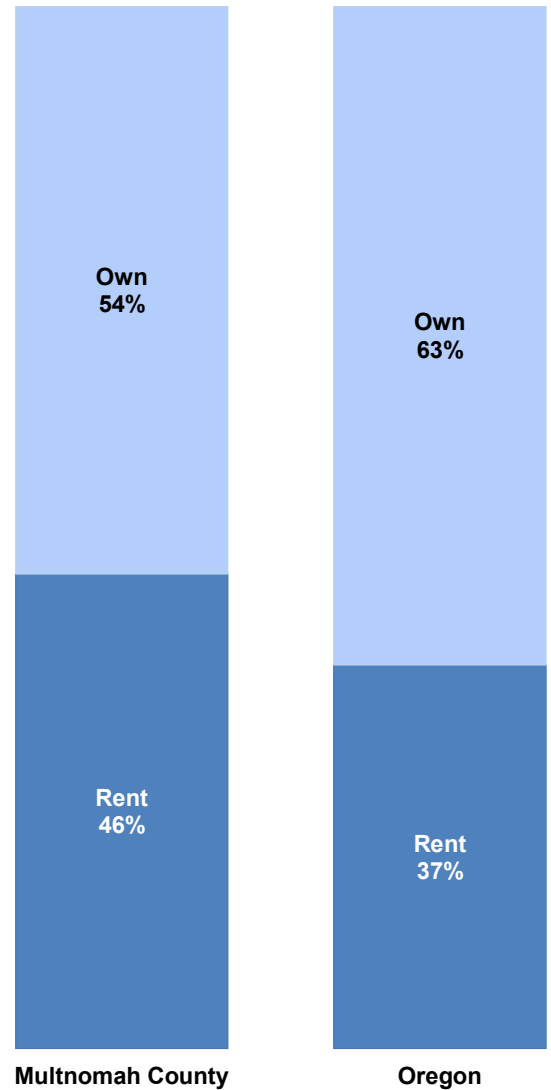
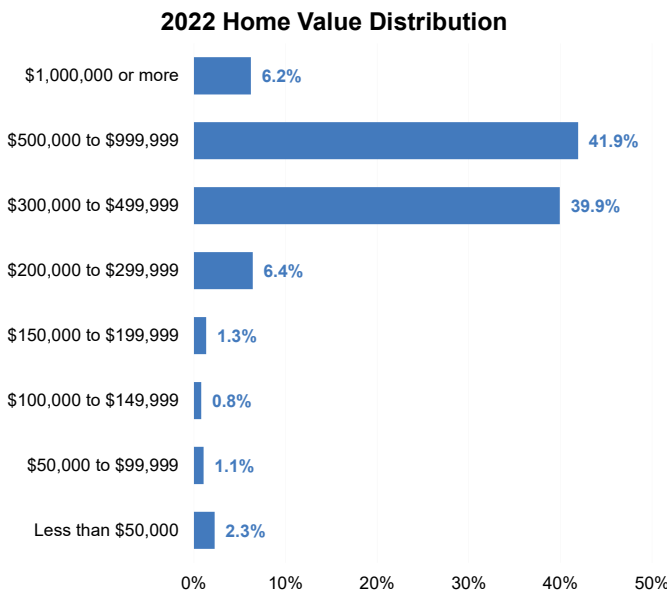
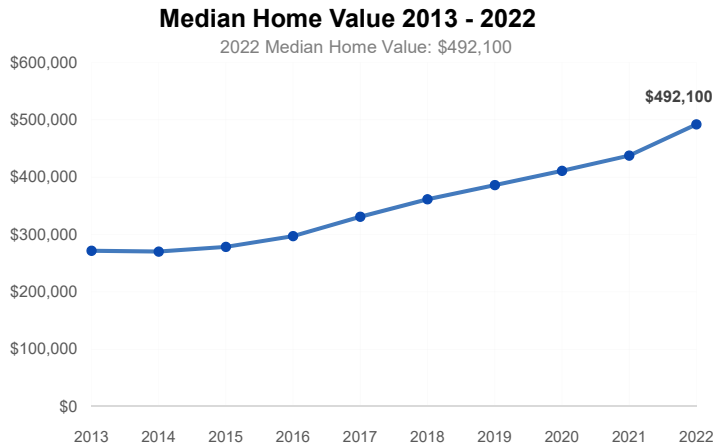
Poverty rates vary by race/ethnicity, with the white, non-Latine population being 9.7% at or below the poverty rate, while the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population has the highest poverty rate at 26.2%, followed closely by the Black/African American population at 25.5%

	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic or Latine	Multi- racial	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	White non- Latine
Poverty rate	13.2%	25.5%	17.3%	15.0%	17.5%	26.2%	9.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Housing

The median home value in Multnomah County has increased significantly in recent years, from \$270,200 in 2014 to \$492,100 in 2022. Over half the housing units in the county are owner-occupied, while 46% are rentals. This is a lower homeownership rate than Oregon overall, which has 63% owner-occupied housing.



The table below shows homeownership rates 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-Latine population.

	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic or Latine	Multi- racial	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	White non- Latine
Homeownership by race/ethnicity	62.0%	33.1%	35.4%	38.9%	39.6%	32.7%	58.8%

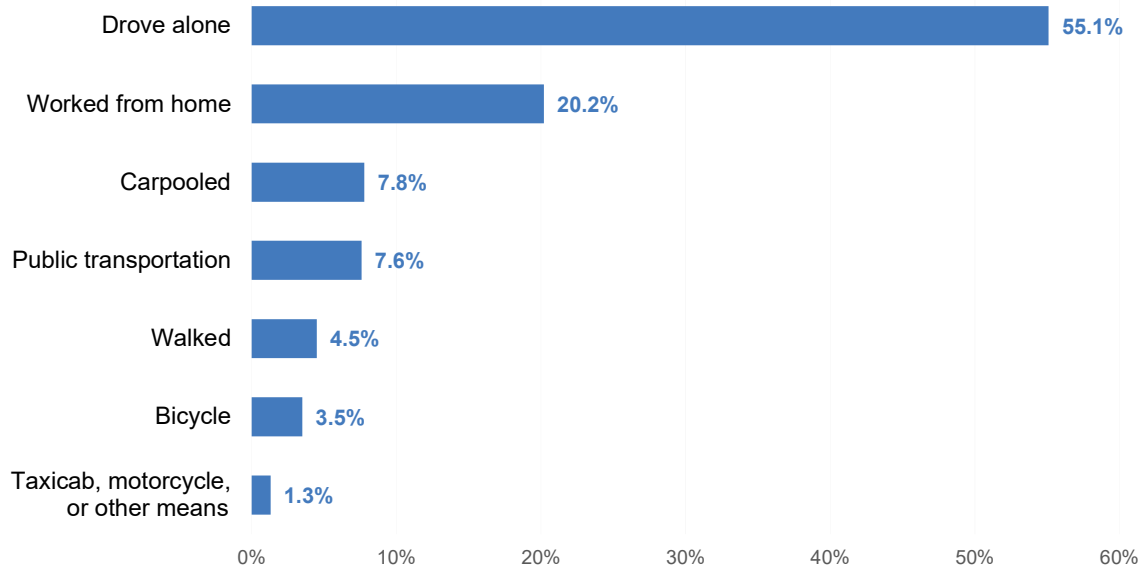
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Transportation and Infrastructure

Multnomah County is served by an international passenger airport, a local bus and light rail system, and the interstate highway system. Over half of workers age 16 and older drive alone to work, 20% 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)

20% 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. Portland International Airport handled 15.7 million domestic and 0.8 million international passengers in 2023. 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 84 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 58.1 million times in FY 2023, up approximately 16.2% from FY 2022.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey; 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 Oregon Brewers Festival.

Multnomah County is also home to four professional sports teams: the Portland Trail Blazers (National Basketball Association), the Portland Winterhawks (Western Hockey League), the Portland Thorns (National Women's Soccer League), and the Portland Timbers (Major League Soccer).

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.



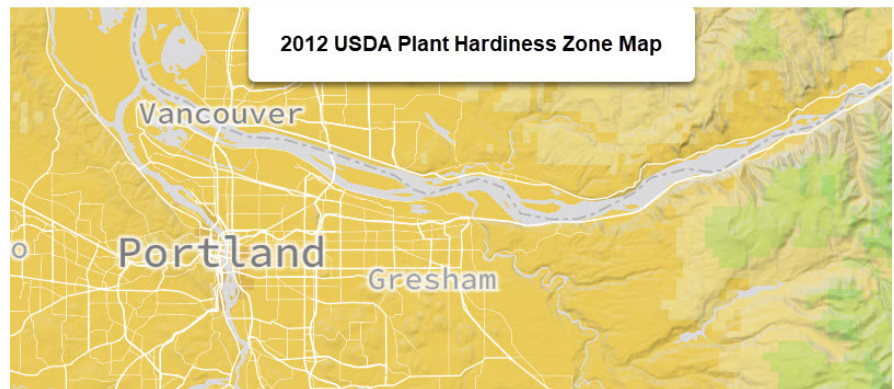
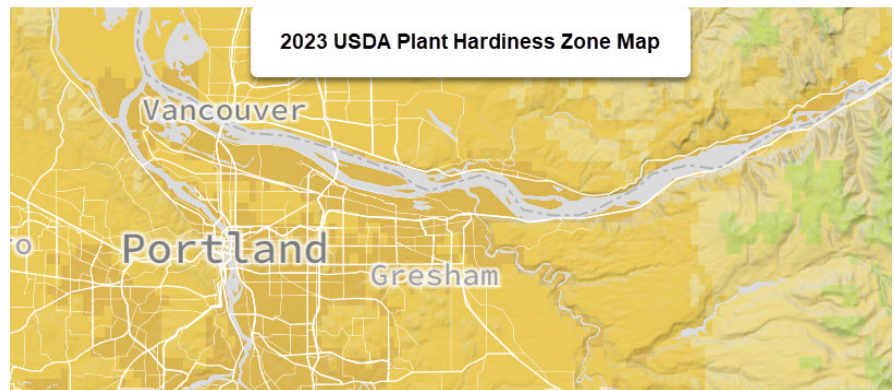
Multnomah Falls - photo by Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives

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 36 degrees Fahrenheit. July and August are the hottest months with an average high of 81 degrees Fahrenheit. Multnomah County experiences greater cloud cover and precipitation during winter months. In the Portland downtown area, there were 9.91 inches of precipitation in December 2023, with only 0.59 inches of precipitation in August 2023. 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 20 degrees Fahrenheit in February 2023.

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 like 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 temperate 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.

ZONES	
Avg. annual extreme minimum temp., 1991-2020	
3b	-35 to -30
4a	-30 to -25
4b	-25 to -20
5a	-20 to -15
5b	-15 to -10
6a	-10 to -5
6b	-5 to 0
7a	0 to 5
7b	5 to 10
8a	10 to 15
8b	15 to 20
9a	20 to 25
9b	25 to 30



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

Meet Multnomah County

FY 2025 Adopted Budget

