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Amy Joslin Ecoroof
at the Multnomah County Building

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Introduction



Multnomah County is home to approximately 756,530 residents, making it the most populous county in the state of Oregon. The county is located in Northwestern Oregon where the Columbia and Willamette rivers meet. It is bordered by the State of Washington 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 the State of Oregon (see page 10 for a detailed map).

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 1,224 feet above sea level at Big Bend Mountain in the Cascade foothills.

Form of County Government

Multnomah County is governed according to its Home Rule Charter. 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.

There are 41 governmental districts located wholly or partially inside of Multnomah County. Portland (population 589,813) and Gresham (population 106,180) are the two largest cities in Multnomah County. Other major governmental entities located within Multnomah County include Metro, Portland Public Schools, the Port of Portland, TriMet, and Portland Community College. Overlapping districts share a tax base, infrastructure and services with Multnomah County.

Sources: Portland State College of Urban and Public Affairs Population Research Center; Tax Supervising & Conservation Commission

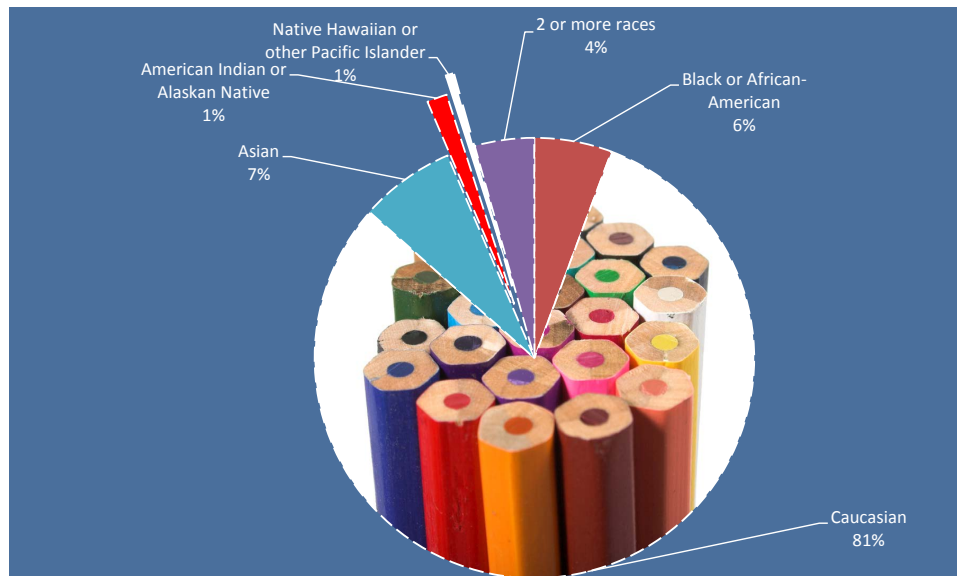


Population

Race and Ethnicity

Multnomah County's current population is estimated at 756,530 residents, a 14.0% increase since 2000, which is the same increase as the state of Oregon as a whole. Multnomah County has a population density of 1,627 people per square mile.

The US Census estimates that in 2013 Multnomah County's population was 80.8% White, 7.0% Asian, 5.7% Black or African-American, .6% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 1.5% American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 4.4% people with multiple races. Approximately 11.1% of the County's population is Hispanic. Hispanics are a fast growing ethnic group, with 71.4% population growth between 2000 and 2013 estimates, compared with 20.9% population growth for the County as a whole.



Multnomah County is also home to diverse languages and nationalities. Thirteen percent of residents were born in another country, compared with 9.8% for Oregon as a whole. Nineteen percent 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, 43.5% speak Spanish and 56.5% speak another language.

Income

Multnomah County has one of the highest levels of per capita income in the state of Oregon. According to the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2012 Multnomah County had a per capita personal income of \$43,089, fourth highest in the state.

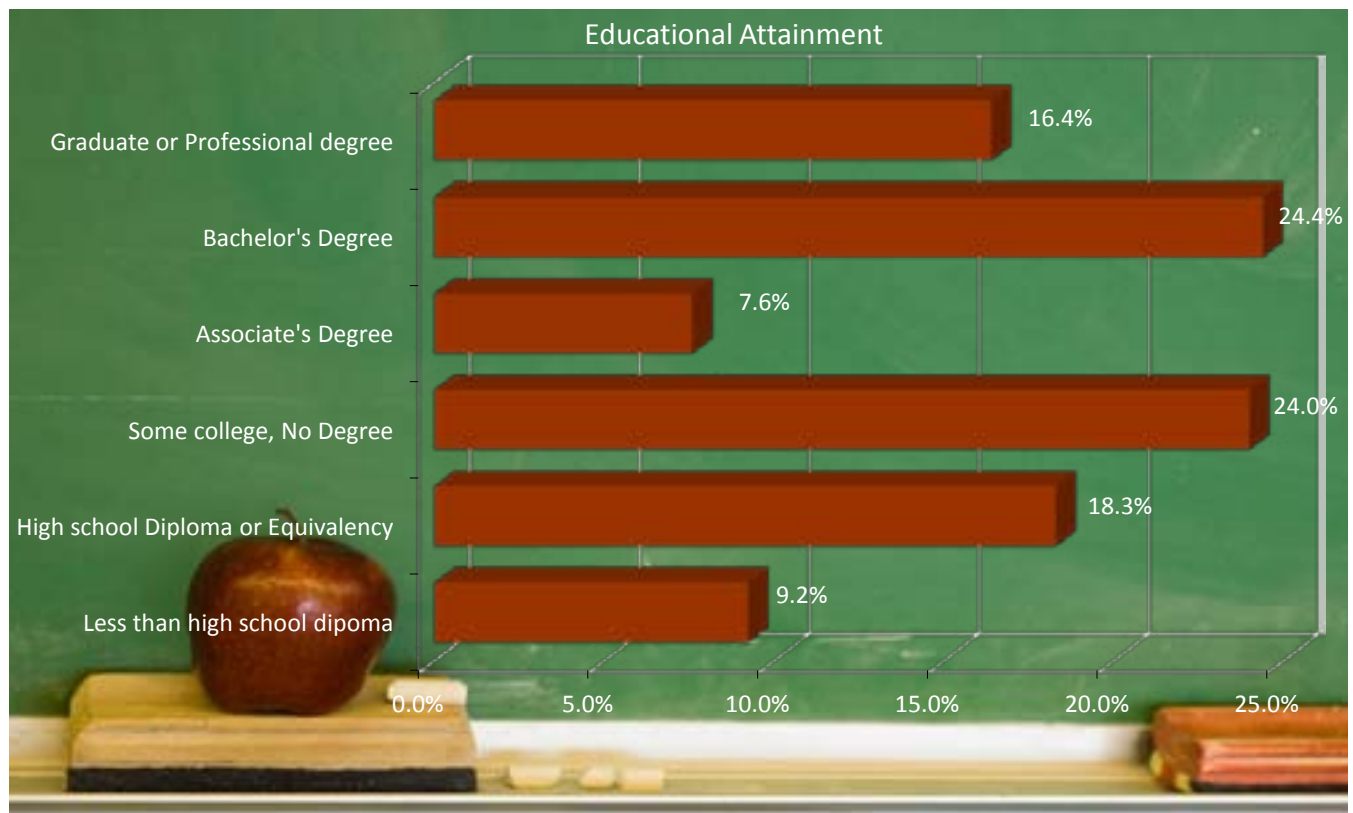
Education

An estimated 89.2% of Multnomah County's school aged population is enrolled in public schools. 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 has a total enrollment of almost 29,000 for the 2013-2014 school year. Multnomah County is also home to Oregon Health Sciences University, which educates health professionals and is a leader in biomedical research. Other colleges include Lewis & Clark College, the University of Portland, and Reed College. Portland Community College and Mount Hood Community College both educate County residents and are partially supported by local property taxes.

Multnomah County residents have above average educational achievement for the state of Oregon. In 2012, 40.8% of county residents 25 years or older had achieved a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 29.9% statewide.

Sources: American Community Survey; Oregon University System; Portland Pulse

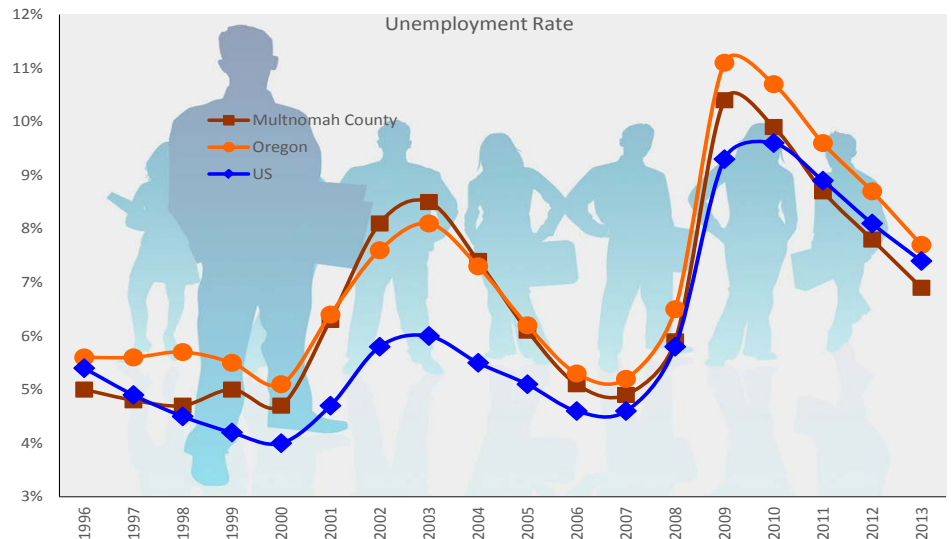


Source: American Community Survey

Employment and Industry

Employment

Multnomah County saw a net increase of 11,191 jobs (+2.5%) from 2012 to 2013. The State of Oregon as a whole gained a similar percentage of jobs during this period, up 2.3%, or over 37,000 jobs. The County's unemployment rate decreased from 7.8% in 2012 to 6.9% in 2013.



Source: Oregon Labor Market Information System (OLMIS)

Industry

In 2013, the industry with the most employees in Multnomah County was Trade, Transportation and Utilities, with 18.4% of total employment in the county. Government and Professional and Business Services also had high numbers of employees, with 15.7% and 15.5% of total employment, respectively.

The Port of Portland operates Portland's harbor, and serves more than one thousand businesses in Oregon. Its major trading partners include Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan and Mexico and it is the largest automobile import port in the United States.

Multnomah County leads the country in craft brewing and distilling, a growing trend in the beverage industry. According to the Oregon Brewers Guild, the Portland metro area is the largest craft brewing market in the US with 75 breweries, including 55 in Portland proper, more than any other city in the world. Oregon brewing companies employ over 6,500 people and the total economic impact from the beer industry is \$2.83 billion.

Sources: OLMIS; World Port Source; Oregon Brewers Guild

Transportation and Infrastructure

Portland International Airport

TriMet

Multnomah County is served by an international passenger airport, a local bus and light rail system, and the interstate highway system. According to the 2012 American Community Survey, Approximately 64.2% of Multnomah County workers age 16 and older drive alone to work. Eleven percent take public transportation, 9.4% carpool and the remainder get to work by biking, walking, or working from home.

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 300 miles of roads and 18 vehicular bridges, including 6 bridges over the Willamette River.

Portland International Airport is located on the northern border of Multnomah County. Portland International Airport handled 14.5 million domestic and 0.4 million international passengers in 2013. The airport also serves as a regional hub for flights to smaller cities in Oregon and other Western destinations.

The Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (TriMet) operates approximately 80 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 over 100.0 million times in Fiscal Year 2013.

Sources: American Community Survey; Port of Portland; TriMet



Culture and Recreation

Arts and Entertainment



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 a mild climate and extensive public space for relaxing or exploring.

The County is home to major arts and cultural institutions, including the Portland Classical Chinese Garden, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, the Oregon Symphony, and the Portland Art Museum. Festivals are held year-round in Multnomah County, including the Oregon Seafood and Wine festival, the Portland Rose Festival, the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival, and the Oregon Brewer's 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).

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 70 miles of trails. The County also houses Portland's International Rose Test Garden, the oldest rose garden in the nation.



Columbia River Gorge

Climate



Multnomah County typically has a mild climate that is heavily moderated by the Pacific Ocean. December is typically the coldest month with an average low of 36 degrees Fahrenheit. July and August are the hottest months with an average high of 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Multnomah County experiences greater cloud cover and precipitation during winter months – there is an average of 6.9 inches of precipitation in December, while the average for August is 0.7 inches.



Photo Credit: Trevor Miller

Fun Facts

- Portland's name came from the results of a coin toss by founders Asa Lovejoy from Boston, Massachusetts, and Francis Pettygrove of Portland, Maine who wanted to name the city after their hometowns.
- There is no sales tax in Oregon.
- "The Simpsons" creator Matt Groening's hometown is Portland and many of the show's characters are named after Portland streets and locations
- The Portland Saturday Market is the country's largest continuously operating open-air crafts market.
- Powell's City of Books that occupies an entire downtown Portland block is the world's largest independent bookstore.
- Multnomah County is home to Mill Ends Park, the world's smallest public park at 452 square inches.
- The sculpture Portlandia located on the Portland building in downtown Portland is the second largest hammered copper statue in the country, second only to the Statue of Liberty.

Sources: *The Weather Channel, Travel Portland, PortlandNeighborhood.com*

Meet Multnomah County

fy2015 adopted budget

