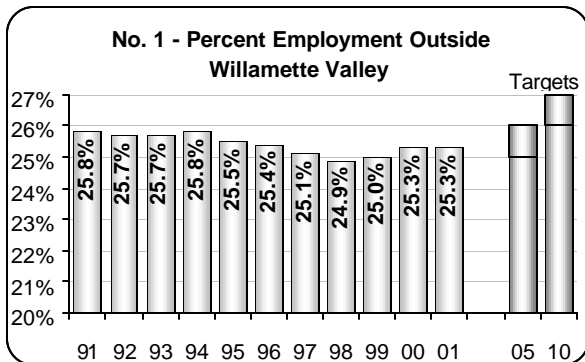


# Economic and Community Development

## ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BENCHMARKS

There are six key Oregon Benchmarks related to the Economic and Community Development Program Area. They are: per capita personal income, employment outside the Willamette Valley, new companies, export of professional services, industry research and development, and housing affordability.

The percentage of **Oregonians employed outside the Willamette Valley** and the Portland tri-county area,



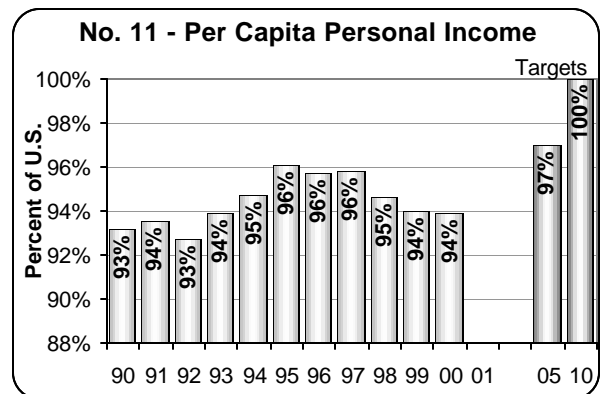
Benchmark 1, tracks economic prosperity around the state. It highlights opportunities to address rural decline and growth-related urban problems.

Oregon's national rank in **new companies** is Benchmark 3. Oregon's ability to produce new business is a critical characteristic of a robust economic climate. Oregon's concentration in **professional services** relative to the U.S. concentration in professional services, Benchmark 5, is an important measure of business vitality. A lack of sufficient

services in the state may inhibit business formation or it may increase business costs.

Industry **research and development** expenditures as a percentage of gross state product: a. industry (public/private), b. academia, Benchmark 7, measures the amount invested in research and development in the state and is an indicator of the size and future strength of Oregon's technology generating sector.

Benchmark 11 – Per capita **personal income** as a percentage of the U.S. per capita income: a. metropolitan as a percentage of metropolitan U.S., b. non-metropolitan as a percentage of non-metropolitan U.S. – is a widely recognized standard of general economic well being and illustrates Oregon's progress toward a variety of economic goals.



The availability of **affordable housing** in Oregon's communities is Benchmark 74. It measures the percentage of low-income households spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing (including utilities): a. renters, b.

owners. This is important to measure because many low-income households pay a large portion of their income on housing-related costs, leaving too little money for food, child-care, health services, and other necessities.

Additional economic and community development benchmarks include:

- **Job Growth** – Benchmark 4: Net job growth, a. urban, b. rural counties.
- **Economic Diversification** – Benchmark 6: Oregon's national rank in economic diversification.
- **Annual Payroll** – Benchmark 12: Average annual payroll per covered worker: a. urban, b. rural.
- **Income Disparity** – Benchmark 13: Comparison of average incomes of top 5<sup>th</sup> families to lowest 5<sup>th</sup> families: a. ratio, b. national rank.

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- **Wages Above Poverty Level** – Benchmark 14: Percent of covered Oregon workers with earnings of 150 percent or more of the poverty level.
- **Unemployment** – Benchmark 15: Oregon unemployment rate as a percentage of U.S. unemployment rate.
- **Drinking Water** – Benchmark 69: Percent of Oregonians served by public drinking water systems that meet health-based standards.
- **Owner Occupied** – Benchmark 73: Percent of households that are owner occupied.