

Major Findings

During this decade, Wasco County poverty rate grew slightly. An estimated 13.2 percent of residents had incomes less than the official federal poverty level in 2007, a little more than 3,000 people. In 2007, the unemployment rate dropped to 5.0 percent, slightly less than the state total. In that same year, the local economy added 157 new jobs.

The Natural Resources and Mining Job lost 226 jobs in 2007, where average annual pay was \$14,307. Compensating those losses were large gains in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; Professional and Business Services; and Education and Health Services, which together paid an average of about \$33,000 per year.

	Wasco County	Oregon	United States	
2007 (3 year avg)	Number in Poverty	3,053	488,896	38,567,903
	Percent in Poverty	13.2%	13.5%	13.3%
2000-2007	Percent change in Number in Poverty	1.0%	25.8%	13.8%
	Percent change in Population	-0.1%	7.9%	6.2%
	Number of additional people in Poverty	+ 30	+ 100,156	+ 4,668,091
	Number of additional Population	- 29	+ 263,630	+ 16,976,436

OHCS analyzed the costs of basic needs and compared them with wages for selected jobs. In Wasco County, a single parent with one child age 3 to 5 needed to make \$12.68 an hour to pay for their family's necessities. Average pay for retail clerks and office secretaries was just more than that.

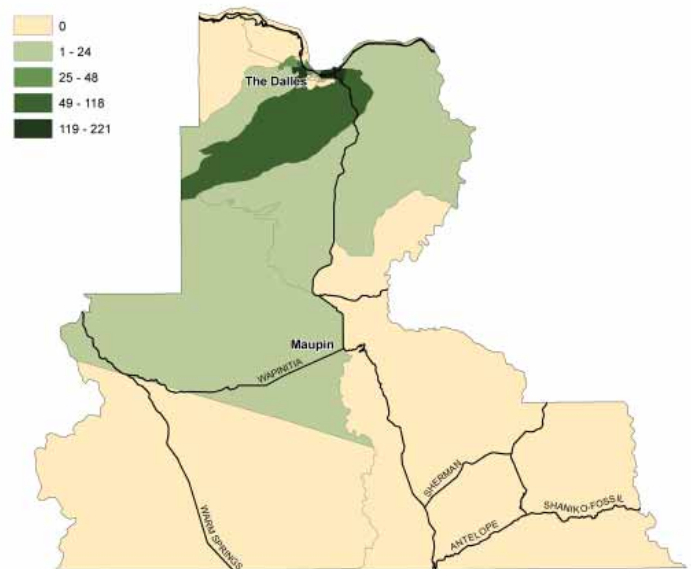
People with disabilities experienced the highest rate of poverty in the county. Among this group, 27 percent had incomes below the federal poverty level. By 2007, 56 percent of Wasco County's public school students qualified for free- or reduced-price meals, up from 42 percent in 2000. To be eligible for the program, students' families received other public assistance or made no more than 185 percent of the poverty level.

Community Action Agency

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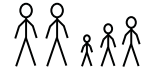
Affordable Housing Units by Census Block Group



Wasco County

Basic Family Budget, an Alternative to the Federal Poverty Threshold

2007 Wasco County's
Basic Family Budget



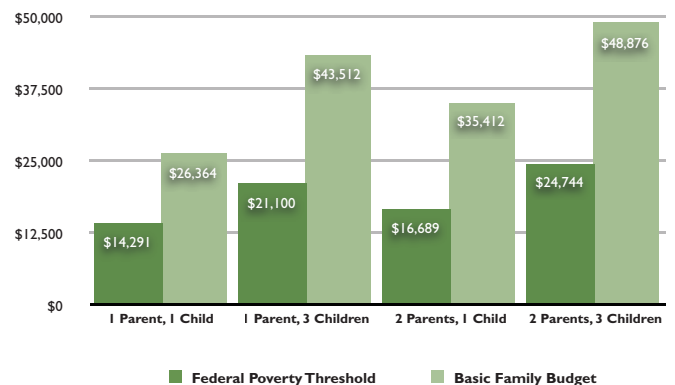
Householder(s)	1 Parent	1 Parent	2 Parents	2 Parents
Children	3-5 yr old	3-5 yr old, 6-8 yr old, and 9-11 yr old	3-5 yr old	3-5 yr old, 6-8 yr old, and 9-11 yr old
Housing	\$613	\$871	\$613	\$871
Food	\$316	\$615	\$512	\$774
Child Care	\$386	\$939	\$386	\$939
Transportation	\$390	\$390	\$524	\$524
Healthcare	\$247	\$308	\$359	\$424
Other Necessities	\$288	\$461	\$349	\$510
Taxes	-\$43	\$42	\$208	\$31
Monthly Total	\$2,197	\$3,626	\$2,951	\$4,073
Annual Total	\$26,364	\$43,512	\$35,412	\$48,876
Hourly Wage needed for Basic Family Budget	\$12.68	\$20.92	\$8.51	\$11.75
Federal Poverty Threshold (FPT)	\$14,291	\$21,100	\$16,689	\$24,744
Percent of Basic Family Budget	54.2%	48.5%	47.1%	50.6%

Low-Income Needs

Mid-Columbia Community Action Council identified the following needs of the low-income population of Wasco County:

- Housing: Affordable housing for workers and transitional housing for people recently released from prison or jail
- Utility Cost Relief
- Dentistry









Basic Family Budget vs. Federal Poverty Threshold



Population and Economy

Wasco County Employment	2007 Number of Positions	2006-2007 Change in Number of Positions	2007 Percent Gain in Positions	2007 Average Pay Per Position
Industries with the Largest Number of Employees, 2007				
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2,037	104	5%	\$27,183
Local Government	1,600	45	3%	\$33,237
Education & Health Services	1,556	75	5%	\$36,467
Greatest Increase in the Number of Positions				
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2,037	104	5%	\$27,183
Professional & Business Services	493	76	18%	\$48,255
Education & Health Services	1,556	75	5%	\$36,467
Greatest Decrease in the Number of Positions				
Natural Resources & Mining	1,499	-226	-13%	\$14,307
Other Services	321	-16	-5%	\$19,830
State Government	326	-15	-4%	\$33,766

Population Change Since 2000

	2000-2007 % Growth	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
OREGON	 9.0%	3,436,750	3,471,700	3,504,700	3,541,500	3,582,600	3,631,440	3,690,505	3,745,455
WASCO	 1.2%	23,850	24,150	23,750	23,550	23,900	23,935	24,070	24,125
Antelope	0.0%	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Dufur	 11.0%	590	590	590	600	610	610	630	655
Maupin	 19.5%	410	420	450	450	450	450	470	490
Mosier	 13.3%	415	410	430	430	420	420	460	470
Shaniko	 60.0%	25	30	30	30	20	20	20	40
The Dalles	 7.1%	12,185	12,230	12,250	12,350	12,410	12,505	12,625	13,045
Unincorporated	 -7.9%	10,165	10,410	9,940	9,630	9,930	9,870	9,805	9,365

Wasco County

2007 Community Action Agency Activities

Utility Cost Relief

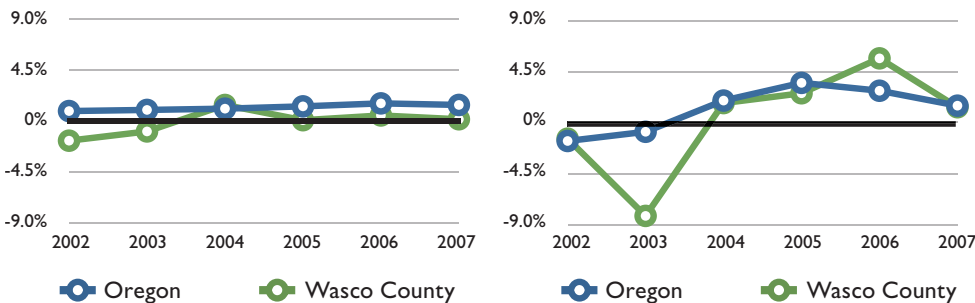
two Wasco county employees volunteered to help local residents keep warm by coordinating firewood distribution

Food insecurity

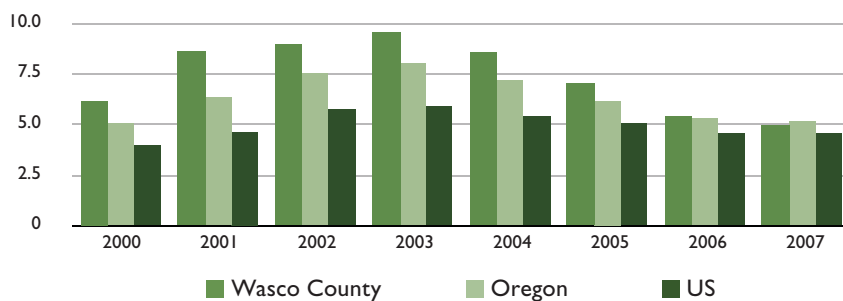
purchased a new food warehouse providing capacity to collect, store, and distribute more food for 13 emergency food outlets in the three-county service area – Sherman, Wasco and Hood River Counties

raised more than \$475,000 to purchase and renovate the warehouse

Population Change vs. Employment Change Since 2001



Unemployment Rates



Birth Rates

2002-2005, average Birth Rate per 1,000

Wasco County

9

State of Oregon

13

2002-2005, average Teenage Birth Rate per 1,000 females ages 15-19

Wasco County

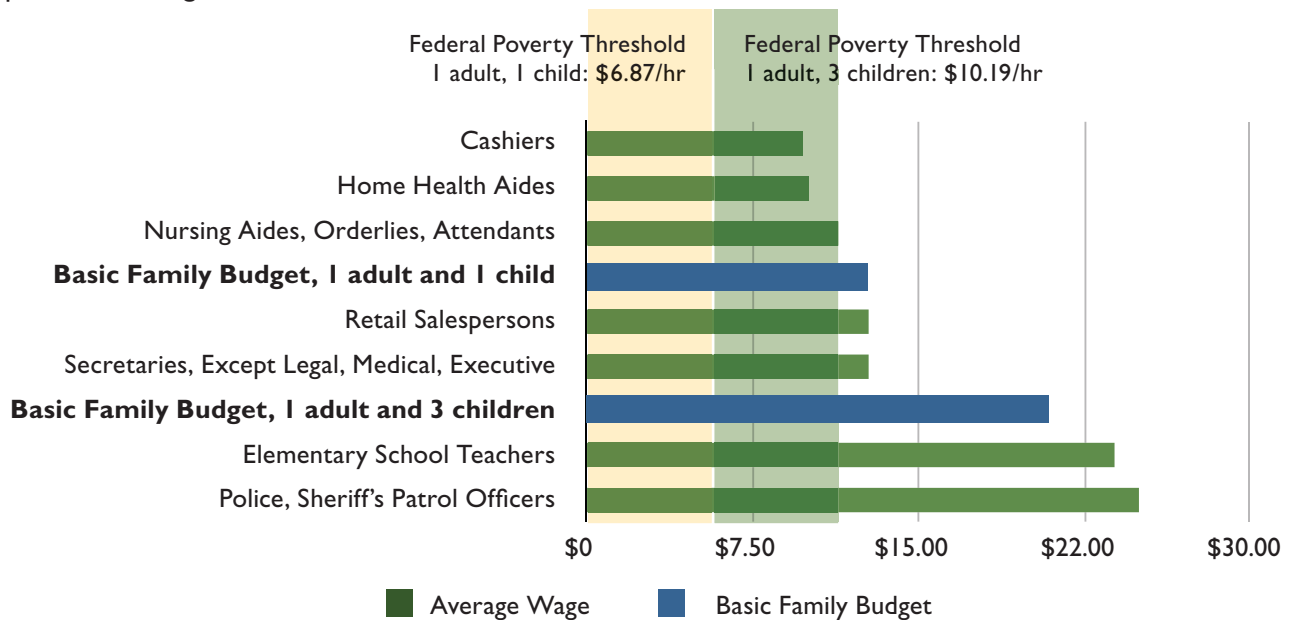
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State of Oregon

34

Average Hourly Wages 2007

Occupational Earnings



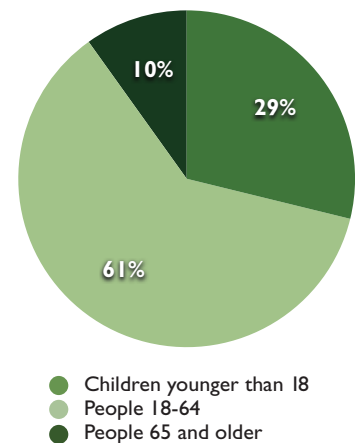
Poverty Population Characteristics

Poverty Rates by Age & Disability Status - 2005-2007 avg.	% in Poverty	% of People in Poverty	% of all Population
Total Population	13%	-	-
Children younger than 18	16%	29%	23%
People 18-64	13%	61%	60%
People 65 and older	8%	10%	16%
People with a disability	27%	31%	15%

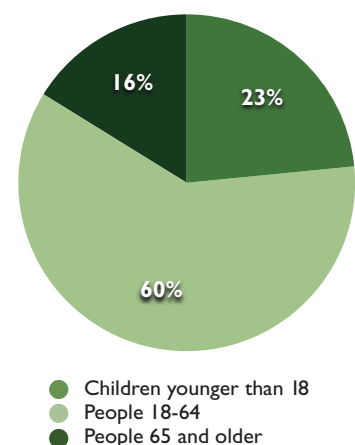
Poverty Rates by Family - 2005-2007 avg.	% in Poverty	% of Families in Poverty	% of all Families
All Families	10%	-	-
Families with children under 18	16%	68%	41%
Single women with children under 18	38%	51%	13%

Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity - 2005-2007 avg.	% in Poverty	% of People in Poverty	% of all Population
Total Population	13%	-	-
White	11%	76%	89%
Black	--	--	0%
American Indian	33%	13%	5%
Asian	--	--	1%
Pacific Islander	--	--	0%
Other	--	--	3%
2 or more races	--	--	2%
Hispanic origin	20%	18%	11%

Poverty by Age – 2007



Population by Age – 2007



-- indicates data was suppressed due to confidentiality.

Wasco County

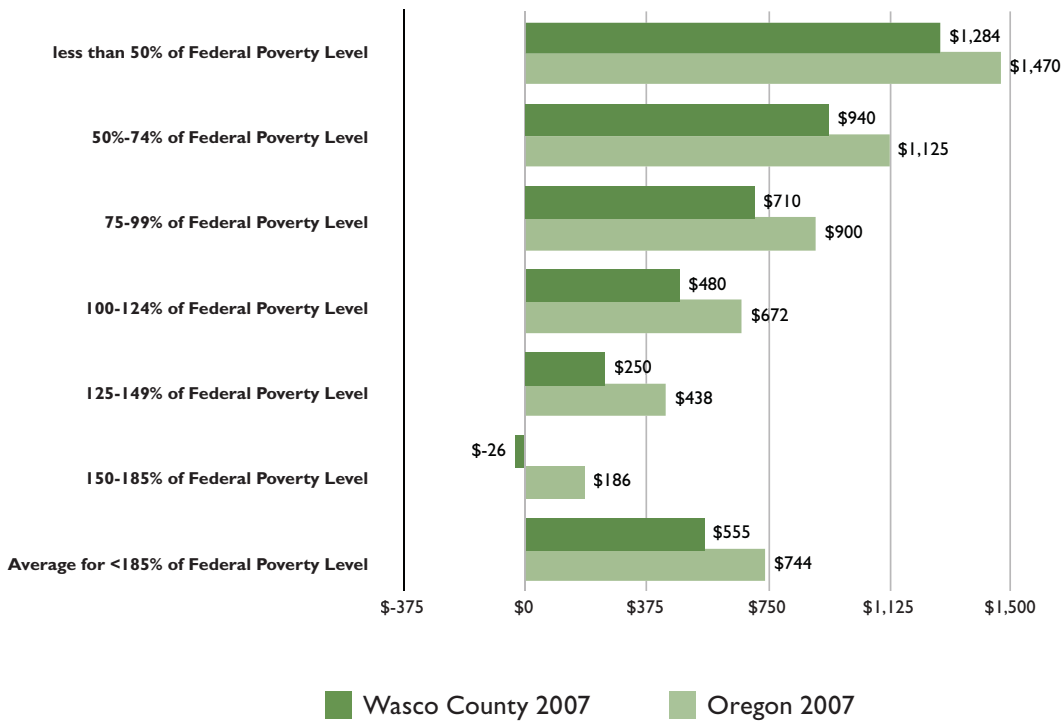
2005-2007 Household Incomes

	Wasco County	Oregon	United States
Median Household Income	\$40,220	\$47,385	\$50,007
Owner Median Household Income	\$47,729	\$60,521	\$62,257
Renter Median Household Income	\$30,158	\$29,072	\$30,473
Total Households	9,002	1,447,409	111,609,629
Renters percent income spent on housing	26%	30%	30%
Owners percent income spent on housing	20%	23%	21%
Extremely Low Income (30% of Median Household Income)	\$12,066	\$14,216	\$15,002
Households earning 0-30% Median Household Income	919	181,434	14,381,176
Burdened households earning 0-30% Median Household Income	732	149,466	11,433,225
% Burdened	80%	82%	80%
Very Low Income (50% of Median Household Income)	\$20,110	\$23,693	\$25,004
Households earning 31-50% Median Household Income	619	135,298	10,783,159
Burdened households earning 31-50% Median Household Income	487	95,037	7,003,062
% Burdened	79%	70%	65%
Low Income (80% of Median Household Income)	\$32,176	\$37,908	\$40,006
Households earning 51-80% Median Household Income	1,584	231,309	17,296,662
Burdened households earning 51-80% Median Household Income	612	120,261	8,218,676
% Burdened	39%	52%	48%
Workforce (120% of Median Household Income)	\$48,264	\$56,862	\$60,008
Households earning 81-120% Median Household Income	1,856	257,185	18,942,358
Burdened households earning 81-120% Median Household Income	611	83,365	5,594,941
% Burdened	33%	32%	30%

Note: Burden is defined as spending more than 30 percent of household income on gross housing costs (includes utilities).

Energy

Individual Household Energy Shortfall



Health Indicators

2006 Percent of Population without Health Insurance (by Region)

Wasco County	State of Oregon
14%	16%

2007 Number of Primary Care Providers per 100,000

Wasco County	State of Oregon
84	112

2006 Percentage of 2 year olds who are "adequately" immunized

Wasco County	State of Oregon
62%	71%

2002-2005, average % of adults who consume at least 5 servings of fruits & vegetables per day

Wasco County	State of Oregon
26%	26%

2002-2005, average Percent of Adults who Smoke Cigarettes

Wasco County	State of Oregon
22%	20%



Community action relies on volunteers.

Wasco County

How We Help

Wasco County Services	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007
New units created with OHCS funding resources	32	162	16	1	64
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$963,526	\$772,902	\$245,401	\$25,000	\$210,950
Single Family Loans for low-income households-#	1	1	1	0	3
Single Family Loans for low-income households-\$	\$120,970	\$77,710	\$126,500	\$0	\$467,704
Households receiving energy assistance-#	1,127	871	820	857	1,000
Units weatherized-#	--	10	9	12	16
Units weatherized-\$	--	\$32,050	\$80,133	\$91,313	\$94,027
Average per unit weatherized-\$	--	\$3,205	\$8,904	\$7,609	\$5,877
Oregon Health Plan enrollment-%	13%	15%*	15%	15%	14%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	1,549	2,023	1,951	1,772	1,977
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	42%	58%	55%	52%	56%
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	--	23%	24%	23%	22%
Population receiving TANF-%	--	3%	3%	3%	2%

* indicates that data cannot be compared to previous years due to changes in data collection.
 -- indicates data is not available.

Homelessness

One Night Overview

Wasco County 2008 One Night Count	
Total Homeless Households	37
Total Homeless Population	60
Total in Emergency Shelter	4
Total in Transitional Housing	31
Total Turnaway & Street Count	25
Chronically Homeless Population	8
Unaccompanied Pregnant Youth	1
Households with Children	11
Stated Causes of Homelessness:**	
Couldn't afford rent	59%
Kicked out by family/friends	43%
Unemployed	43%
Drug/Alcohol (Self)	38%
Criminal History	30%
Domestic Violence	19%
Evicted by landlord	19%
Mental or Emotional disorder	16%
Drug/Alcohol (In Home)	11%
Poor Rental History	11%

**Respondents may give more than one reason

Risk Factors

2006-2007, school year
High School Dropout Rate

Wasco
County
5%

State of
Oregon
4%

2005-2006, school year
Percent of 8th graders who
reported using illicit drugs in
the previous 30 days

Wasco
County
3%

State of
Oregon
16%

2006
Criminal Offenses,
percent of population

Wasco
County
12%

State of
Oregon
12%