

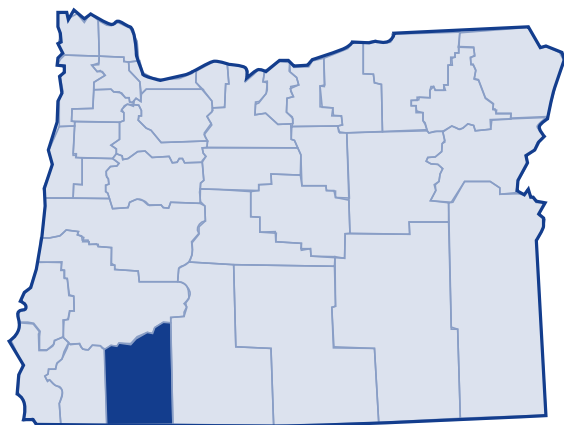
Jackson County

Major findings

Jackson County saw population growth of 23.8 percent between 1989 and 1999. The number of people living in poverty in Jackson County increased by 17.7 percent. Therefore, the number of people living in poverty in Jackson County increased, but the overall percent of the population living in poverty decreased slightly.

Although the median income for Jackson County increased by 45.4 percent, it remained below the state average. Half of Jackson County's renters paid 30 percent or more of their income toward rent. In 1999, more than 20 percent of the county's children under 5 years of age lived in poverty.

In 2003, 25.2 percent of Jackson County's residents received services from the Department of Human Services.¹



Low-income needs

ACCESS, Inc., the Community Action Agency for Jackson County prioritized the needs of the low-income population in the county as follows:²

- Support community efforts to increase access to medical care for low-income citizens, seniors, people with disabilities, and people who are homeless
- Increase housing resources and assistance for low-income and special needs populations including permanent affordable housing, rental assistance programs, and housing rehab programs
- Maintain access to energy assistance programs for low-income people especially vulnerable populations including seniors and people with disabilities
- Maintain food and nutrition programs including access to emergency food boxes
- Provide necessary support for seniors and people with disabilities to in their own homes and live independently improving their overall quality of life
- Support community efforts to increase alcohol and drug free housing
- Support increased employment opportunities and livable wage jobs
- Support education/training programs (including life skills training) to provide businesses with a workforce that has the tools to succeed
- Increase the availability of cash assistance for emergencies beyond the client's control and provide information and referral to all other community alternatives and resources available
- Maintain weatherization program and encourage retention of existing housing stock through the promotion and coordination of housing rehabilitation programs
- Support expanded transportation services for people with low incomes, seniors, and people with disabilities

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Growth

According to the 2000 Census, Jackson County grew 23.8 percent between 1989 and 1999. The US Census Bureau determined the poverty status of 177,638 county residents and found that 12.5 percent (22,269 people) lived below the poverty threshold. This represents an increase of 17.7 percent in the number of persons living in poverty (18,925 people) in 1989. The overall percent of Jackson County's population living in poverty decreased from 1989 to 1999, but the number of people living in poverty did not.

20-year trend

In the 20 years after 1979, the poverty rate in Jackson County remained relatively constant, increase from 12 percent of the population to 12.5 percent. The number of persons in poverty rose from 15,508 to 22,269 people. Jackson County's poverty rates remained slightly higher than the state and equal to the national poverty rates throughout this period.

Poverty and age

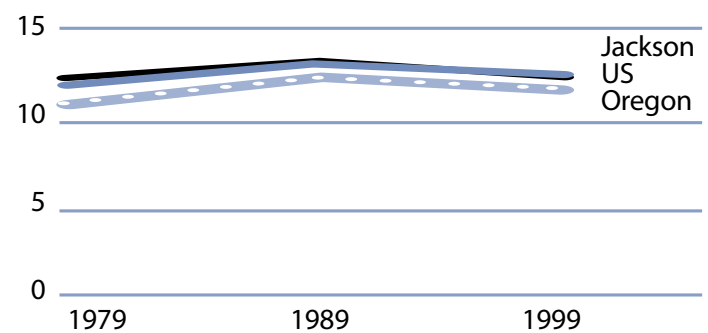
In the 2000 Census, among all age categories examined children 5 years of age and younger experienced the highest rate of poverty at 20.3 percent. Children younger than 18 years of age experienced poverty at 17 percent. People 65 and older experienced the lowest rate at 6.9 percent. Over the 20-year period from 1979 to 1999, the rate of poverty improved for people 65 and older; it increased for all other age categories.

Poverty in selected communities
Number of persons below poverty level
(poverty rate)

	1989	1999	Percent Change (rate difference)
Jackson County	18,925 (13.2%)	22,269 (12.5%)	17.7% (-0.7%)
Oregon Statewide	344,867 (12.4%)	388,740 (11.6%)	12.7% (-0.8%)
United States	31,742,864 (13.1%)	33,899,812 (12.4%)	6.8% (-0.7%)

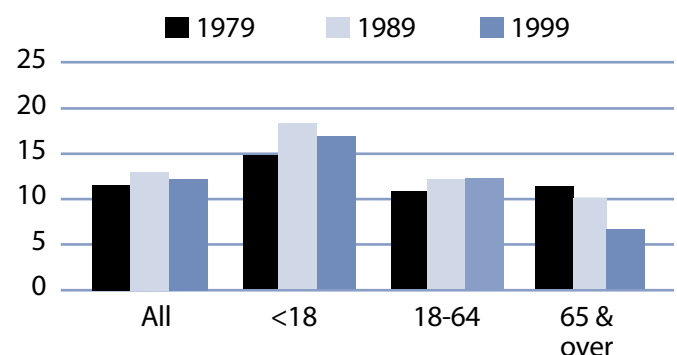
Source: US Census. County numbers have been rounded and, therefore, may not add exactly to totals.

Poverty rates 1979-1999



Source: US Census.

Rate of poverty by age



Source: US Census.

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Poverty and Jackson County families

In 1999, 4,346 Jackson County families lived in poverty (8.9 percent). Of the families in poverty, 63.1 percent (2,742 families) had a worker and 16.7 percent (726 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

The poverty rate was higher for families with children. Families with at least one child younger than 18 experienced poverty at a rate of 14.7 percent.

Families with a child 5 years and younger experienced poverty at a higher rate of 20 percent. The rate for families with children headed by single mothers was 36.8 percent and was even higher with younger children (less than 5 years) at 60.2 percent.

The poverty rate for married couples with children younger than 18 was lower at 6.6 percent. From 1979 to 1999, the number of female-headed households with children (no husband present) who lived in poverty increased from 1,221 families in 1979 to 1,966 families in 1999.

Poverty and race/ethnicity

Among racial/ethnic groups,³ White residents comprised the majority of people in poverty at 85 percent. When examining poverty based on race/ethnicity, however, the poverty rate among White was 11.6 percent. Black, Other and Hispanic Origin experienced disproportionately higher rates of poverty. The poverty rate among all three categories exceeded 24 percent. From 1989 to 1999, all categories experienced improvements in poverty rates.

Jackson County families in poverty

Number Below Poverty Level (poverty rate)				% Change
	1979	1989	1999	1979-99 (rate difference)
All Families	3,195 (8.8%)	3,937 (9.7%)	4,346 (8.9%)	36.0% (0.1%)
With Children under 18	2,445 (13.0%)	2,999 (15.5%)	3,452 (14.7%)	41.2% (1.7%)
Female-headed with Children under 18	1,221 (38.3%)	1,732 (45.5%)	1,966 (36.8%)	61.0% (-1.5%)

Source: US Census. County numbers have been rounded and, therefore, may not add exactly to totals.

Jackson County poverty and race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	% Total 1999 Population (population)	% Poverty 1999 Population (poverty population)	Poverty Rate by Race 1999	Poverty Rate by Race 1989
White	91.7% (162,920)	85.0% (18,931)	11.6%	12.4%
Black	0.4% (664)	0.7% (162)	24.4%	41.2%
American Indian	1.0% (2,065)	1.7% (180)	19.8%	29.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7%/0.2% (8,092/599)	1.1%/0.1% (377/93)	17.9%/9.7%	27.3%
Other	2.4% (7,881)	9.2% (2,027)	28.6%	33.1%
2 or More Races	2.6% (8,841)	5.5% (1,217)	20.0%	NA
Hispanic Origin	5.0% (16,852)	15.9% (3,487)	25.6%	26.9%

* Asian and Pacific Islander were not separate categories in the 1990 Census.

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County income

On a per capita basis, Jackson County's personal income was \$26,477 in 2002, about 92 percent of the state average of \$28,792, and 86 percent of the national average, \$30,906. Per capita income in Jackson County rose 2.7 percent between 2001 and 2002.

The 10-year trend, from 1992 to 2002, in per capita income shows average annual growth of 4.1 percent. Average earnings per job for 2001 were \$27,671 in Jackson County compared to \$33,063 for the state.⁴

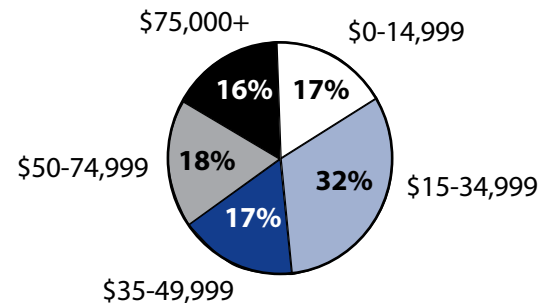
Poverty thresholds

Segmenting census data by income reveals more detail about the people experiencing poverty in Jackson County. The 2000 Census showed that 8,996 people or 40.4 percent of those living below the federal poverty threshold actually earned 50 percent or less of the poverty threshold. Other segments of the population earned equal to or more than the poverty level but still needed assistance. In Oregon, 185 percent of the poverty level is the income guideline used for federal food programs such as food stamps, child nutrition, and the Women, Infants and Children program. In 1999, 30.3 percent of Jackson County's population, or 53,899 people earned below 185 percent of the poverty threshold.

Public assistance

Participation in public assistance programs serves as an indirect measure—or indicator—of the extent of poverty and the measures taken to serve the public. According to the 2000 Census, 2,704 households or 3.8 percent of all households in Jackson County reported public assistance income. The average amount of public assistance income for 1999 was \$2,453. The 20-year trend showed a decrease in households that reported receiving public assistance income, from 3,518 households or 7.2 percent of all households in 1979.

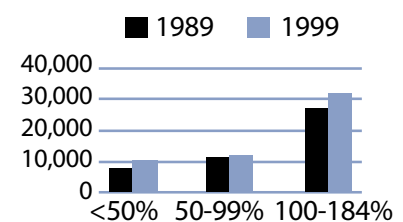
1999 household income distribution—Jackson County



Source: US Census.

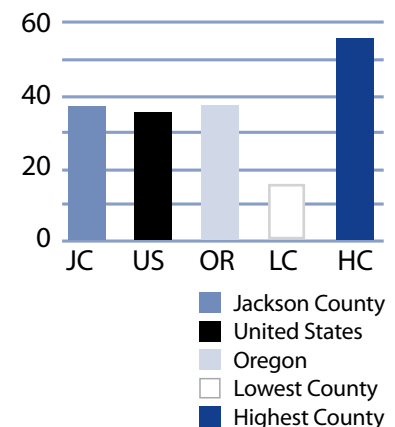
Note: The median household income in Jackson County was \$36,461 in 1999 compared to \$25,069 in 1989 (45.4 percent increase).

Number of persons in poverty Threshold percentiles



Source: US Census.

Public assistance in Oregon Rate per thousand population



Source: US Census.

Basic family budget

According to US Department of Agriculture statistics released in October 1999, about 12.6 percent of Oregon households have difficulty meeting their basic need for food. This chart outlines typical expenses for four family types in Jackson County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses.

Families with one adult earning Jackson County's median family income could not afford this basic family budget.

To learn more about this basic family budget, see Methodology and Data References section.

What the poverty threshold buys

Families at Jackson County's poverty level could afford 39.2 to 41.4 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average weekly wage in Jackson County is \$493.60. The federal government had the highest weekly average of \$777.83 and agriculture, forestry and fish had the lowest weekly average of \$333.80.

This chart illustrates a family's ability to be self-sufficient based on earnings of average wages for Jackson County. The two-worker scenario relies on both workers earning average wages.

Of the family types profiled, families with one adult earning Jackson County's average wage could not afford this basic family budget.

Jackson County's basic family budget

Basic Family Budget/Monthly	1 Adult/ 1 Child	1 Adult/ 3 Children	2 Adults/ 1 Child	2 Adults/ 3 Children
Housing	\$601	\$835	\$601	\$835
Food	\$230	\$489	\$388	\$647
Child Care	\$395	\$864	\$395	\$864
Transportation	\$158	\$158	\$222	\$222
Health Care	\$245	\$245	\$293	\$293
Other Necessities	\$258	\$410	\$307	\$459
Taxes	\$403	\$599	\$466	\$686
Basic Family Budget Needed/Monthly	\$2,290	\$3,600	\$2,672	\$4,006
Basic Family Budget Total/Annual	\$27,479	\$43,197	\$32,061	\$48,074
Median Annual Income (Census 2000)	\$18,776	\$18,776	\$50,770	\$50,770
Median Family Income as % of Basic Budget	68.3%	43.5%	158.4%	105.6%

Poverty and Jackson County's basic family budget

Basic Family Budget/Monthly	1 Adult/ 1 Child	1 Adult/ 3 Children	2 Adults/ 1 Child	2 Adults/ 3 Children
Poverty Threshold	\$11,483	\$16,954	\$13,410	\$19,882
% of Basic Budget	41.8%	39.2%	41.8%	41.4%

Jackson County wages and the basic budget

	1 Worker	1 Worker	2 Workers	2 Workers
Average Monthly Wage (AMW)*	\$2,122	\$2,122	\$4,244	\$4,244
	1 Adult/ 1 Child	1 Adult/ 3 Children	2 Adults/ 1 Child	2 Adults/ 3 Children
Self Sufficiency Wage (SSW)**	\$2,399	\$3,748	\$2,785	\$4,162
Difference (SSW-AMW)	-\$277	-\$1,626	\$1,459	\$82
Wage as % of Self Sufficiency	88.5%	56.6%	152.4%	102.0%

* Source: 1999 Oregon Covered Employment and Payrolls.
** Based on Basic Family Budget for Jackson County.

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Jackson County Poverty Measures	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003
Population	146,389 ¹	181,269 ²	183,851	186,650	190,077
% of People Living Below Poverty Level	13.2% ¹	12.5% ²	NA	NA	NA
Median Income	\$25,069 ¹	\$36,461 ²	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment Rate	6.5	5.3	6.3	7.1	7.3
8th Grade Drug Use	23.8% ³	7.4%	NA	16.0%	NA
HS Dropout	7.7% ⁴	7.2%	6.7%	6.9%	NA
Teen Pregnancy per 1,000 Ages 10-17	15.9	11.2	12.5	11	NA
Prenatal Care	70.7%	77.9%	78.8%	78.7%	NA
Child Care Available per 100 Children Under 13	23.2	21.9	20.8	17.9	NA
Homeownership Rate	66.2% ¹	66.5% ²	NA	NA	NA
% Renters with 30% or More Rental Burden	47.0% ¹	47.6% ²	NA	NA	NA
Jackson County Services	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
One Night Shelter Count	232	351	142	228	293
# of New Units Created with OHCS Funding	121	0	62	113	81
OHCS Funding for Subsidized Housing	\$2.6 m	\$0	\$1.5 m	\$6.2 m	\$3.3 m
# Home Loans for Low-Income Households	81	40	43	43	40
\$ Home Loans for Low-Income Households	\$7.2 m	\$3.5 m	\$4.0 m	\$4.4 m	\$4.7 m
# Households Receiving Energy Assistance	NA	4,501	3,812	4,308	3,908
% of Population Enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan	NA	NA	NA	19.2%	16.6%
# Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	10,822	10,028	11,178	11,213	11,881
% Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch	37.1%	34.4%	38.0%	38.0%	40.6%
% of Population Receiving Food Stamps	NA	NA	NA	16.8%	16.2%
% of Population Receiving TANF	NA	NA	NA	2.1%	1.6%
% of Population Receiving DHS Services	NA	NA	26.1%	27.5%	25.2%
¹ 1990 Census data, year is 1989 ² 2000 Census data, year is 1999 ³ 1998 ⁴ 1996 NA=Not Available					

Endnotes

¹ Oregon Department of Human Services Integrated Client Database.

² ACCESS, Inc., Community Services Block Grant Work Plan for 2003-05.

³ Please see Methodology and Data References section for information on Census Race/Ethnicity Categories.

⁴ Bureau of Economic Analysis: Regional Economic Accounts.