

Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Poverty in the US

Between 1989 and 1999, Oregon's population grew 20.4 percent, from 2.84 million to 3.42 million. Oregon experienced the 11th highest rate of growth in the nation over this period.

The US Census Bureau determined the poverty status of 3,347,667 Oregonians in 1999. It found that 11.6 percent of Oregon's population, or 388,740 people, lived below the poverty level. In 1999, Oregon's poverty rate ranked 28th highest nationally.

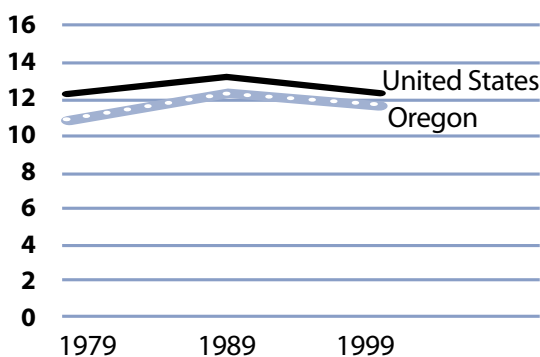
The long-term trend

As the state's population has grown, so has the number of Oregonians in poverty. The poverty rate increased slightly from 1979 to 1999 (10.7 percent to 11.6 percent), while the total number of Oregonians living in poverty increased by nearly 114,599 or 41.8 percent.

During the 20 years between 1979 and 1999, Oregon's overall poverty rate remained slightly lower than the national rate.

"Poverty in the US" table on next page.

Poverty rates 1979–1999



Recent changes

Between 1989 and 1999, Oregon's overall poverty rate decreased from 12.4 percent to 11.6 percent. Poverty among children living in the state decreased from 15.8 percent to 14.5 percent.

While Oregon's economy mirrored the nation's progress during the last decade in some respects, its poverty rate decreased less than the national rate. Nationally, the rate of people in poverty dropped from 13.1 percent to 12.4 percent between 1989 and 1999.



Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Poverty in the US—1990 and 2000 Census

State	Population			% of Population in Poverty			% of Children Under 18 in Poverty		
	1990	2000	2000 Rank	1990	2000	2000 Rank	1990	2000	2000 Rank
Alabama	4,040,587	4,447,100	23	18.3%	16.1%	46	24.2%	21.5%	45
Alaska	550,043	626,932	48	9.0%	9.4%	11	11.4%	11.8%	11
Arizona	3,665,228	5,130,632	20	15.7%	13.9%	37	22.0%	19.3%	39
Arkansas	2,350,725	2,673,400	33	19.1%	15.8%	44	25.3%	21.9%	46
California	29,760,021	33,871,648	1	12.5%	14.2%	39	18.2%	19.5%	40
Colorado	3,294,394	4,301,261	24	11.7%	9.3%	9	15.3%	11.3%	9
Connecticut	3,287,116	3,405,565	29	6.8%	7.9%	2	10.7%	10.4%	4
Delaware	666,168	783,600	45	8.7%	9.2%	8	12.0%	12.3%	15
Florida	12,937,926	15,982,378	4	12.7%	12.5%	33	18.7%	17.6%	35
Georgia	6,478,216	8,186,453	10	14.7%	13.0%	34	20.1%	17.1%	33
Hawaii	1,108,229	1,211,537	42	8.3%	10.7%	22	11.6%	14.1%	23
Idaho	1,006,749	1,293,953	39	13.3%	11.8%	29	16.2%	14.3%	24
Illinois	11,430,602	12,419,293	5	11.9%	10.7%	22	17.0%	14.3%	24
Indiana	5,544,159	6,080,485	14	10.7%	9.5%	14	14.2%	12.2%	14
Iowa	2,776,755	2,926,324	30	11.5%	9.1%	7	14.3%	11.0%	6
Kansas	2,477,574	2,688,418	32	11.5%	9.9%	17	14.3%	12.0%	12
Kentucky	3,685,296	4,041,769	25	19.0%	15.8%	44	24.8%	20.8%	44
Louisiana	4,219,973	4,468,976	22	23.6%	19.6%	49	31.4%	26.6%	49
Maine	1,227,928	1,274,923	40	10.8%	10.9%	24	13.8%	13.7%	18
Maryland	4,781,468	5,296,486	19	8.3%	8.5%	4	11.3%	10.7%	5
Massachusetts	6,016,425	6,349,097	13	8.9%	9.3%	9	13.2%	12.0%	12
Michigan	9,295,297	9,938,444	8	13.1%	10.5%	18	18.6%	13.9%	20
Minnesota	4,375,099	4,919,479	21	10.2%	7.9%	2	12.7%	9.6%	2
Mississippi	2,573,216	2,844,658	31	25.2%	19.9%	50	33.6%	27.0%	50
Missouri	5,117,073	5,595,211	17	13.3%	11.7%	28	17.7%	15.7%	30

Ranking

Population: 1=largest population

Population in poverty: 1=lowest poverty rate

Children in poverty: 1=lowest childhood poverty



Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Poverty in the US—1990 and 2000 Census

State	Population			% of Population in Poverty			% of Children Under 18 in Poverty		
	1990	2000	2000 Rank	1990	2000	2000 Rank	1990	2000	2000 Rank
Montana	799,065	902,195	44	16.0%	14.6%	40	20.5%	19.0%	38
Nebraska	1,578,385	1,711,263	38	11.1%	9.7%	16	13.8%	12.3%	15
Nevada	1,201,833	1,998,257	35	10.2%	10.5%	18	7.4%	7.8%	21
New Hampshire	1,109,252	1,235,786	41	6.4%	6.5%	1	13.3%	14.0%	1
New Jersey	7,730,188	8,414,350	9	7.6%	8.5%	4	11.3%	11.1%	7
New Mexico	1,515,069	1,819,046	36	20.6%	18.4%	48	27.8%	25.0%	48
New York	17,990,455	18,976,457	3	13.0%	14.6%	40	19.1%	20.0%	42
North Carolina	6,628,637	8,049,313	11	13.0%	12.3%	32	17.2%	16.1%	31
North Dakota	638,800	642,200	47	14.4%	11.9%	30	17.1%	14.0%	21
Ohio	10,847,115	11,353,140	7	12.5%	10.6%	20	17.8%	14.4%	26
Oklahoma	3,145,585	3,450,654	27	16.7%	14.7%	42	21.9%	19.6%	41
Oregon	2,842,321	3,421,399	28	12.4%	11.6%	27	15.8%	14.7%	28
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	12,281,054	6	11.1%	11.0%	25	15.7%	14.7%	28
Rhode Island	1,003,464	1,048,319	43	9.6%	11.9%	30	13.8%	16.9%	32
South Carolina	3,486,703	4,012,012	26	15.4%	14.1%	38	21.0%	18.8%	37
South Dakota	696,004	754,844	46	15.9%	13.2%	35	20.4%	17.2%	34
Tennessee	4,877,185	5,689,283	16	15.7%	13.5%	36	21.0%	18.0%	36
Texas	16,986,510	20,851,820	2	18.1%	15.4%	43	24.3%	20.5%	43
Utah	1,722,850	2,233,169	34	11.4%	9.4%	11	12.5%	10.1%	3
Vermont	562,758	608,827	49	9.9%	9.4%	11	12.0%	11.4%	10
Virginia	6,187,358	7,078,515	12	10.2%	9.6%	15	13.3%	12.3%	15
Washington	4,866,692	5,894,121	15	10.9%	10.6%	20	14.5%	13.7%	18
West Virginia	1,793,477	1,808,344	37	19.7%	17.9%	47	26.2%	24.3%	47
Wisconsin	4,891,769	5,363,675	18	10.7%	8.7%	6	14.9%	11.2%	8
Wyoming	453,588	493,782	50	11.9%	11.4%	26	14.4%	14.5%	27
US Total	248,709,873*	281,421,906*		12.4%	11.6%		17.0%	15.2%	

*Includes Puerto Rico



Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Income and unemployment



The following table, “Income and Employment by State,” provides data for three different periods. The US Census produced data on median income, the US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics on unemployment and minimum wage.

Median income

In the 10 years between 1989 and 1999, Oregon’s median income grew 50.2 percent, the 10th fastest rate of growth among the 50 states. A booming high-tech industry added jobs, many of which paid high wages. Similarly, the retail industry sought to meet growing demand for consumer goods, increasing wages and benefits to attract employees. Wages grew across all sectors of the economy.

Unemployment

Historically, Oregon’s unemployment rate has exceeded the national average. Labor researchers attribute this to three kinds of unemployment: frictional, cyclical, and structural.¹ In all three respects, Oregon faces particular challenges.

- “Frictional unemployment” describes the unemployment that occurs as individuals search for new jobs, undergo seasonal layoffs,

or wait for a better paying job. In Oregon, finding a good job can take more time in the rural areas of the state. The urban/rural poverty rates reflect this reality—in 1999, the poverty rate was 11 percent in urban Oregon and 14.1 percent in rural parts of the state.

- Changes in the economy drive “cyclical unemployment.” As the economy expands and contracts, so does employment. Recently, Oregon’s economic growth reflected a booming high-tech manufacturing industry. When the economic cycle turned, high-tech led the decline in Oregon’s recession experience.
- “Structural unemployment,” driven by long-term changes in industries, also contributes significantly to Oregon’s high unemployment rate. Notable in the last two decades: the restructuring of natural resource-based industries, changes in agricultural practices, and the movement of jobs offshore.

Between 1998 and 2003, unemployment in Oregon grew from 5.6 percent to 8.2 percent. The state’s unemployment rate in 2003 was the highest in the nation.

See previous chapter on “Economic Factors” for a more detailed discussion of the economy and its relationship to poverty.

Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Income and unemployment

Minimum wage

Oregon's minimum wage level for 2004 is the fourth highest in the nation at \$7.05 per hour. This is above the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.

Perspectives on the impact of the minimum wage increase vary. Some argue that a high minimum wage drives the state's high unemployment rate. Others point to contradictory evidence. Connecticut, for example, has the third highest minimum wage (2004) yet had the second highest median income (2000) and the 29th highest unemployment rate (2003).

While there may be some connection between minimum wage and employment, many other factors may affect employment to a greater degree. (For example: consumer demand, interest rates, technology advances, inflation, and the wages of all the other employees.)

The Oregon Employment Department reports that, "Economic research has suggested that a 10 percent rise in labor costs may result in a reduction in employment of roughly 1.5 to 3.0 percent, depending on a variety of factors and with all other things held constant."

Given this analysis, Oregon's 2004 minimum wage increase from \$6.90

to \$7.05 (a 2 percent increase) likely resulted in minimal impact on unemployment among minimum wage earners.

"Income and employment by state" table follows.



Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Income and unemployment

State	Minimum Wage		Median Income (Census)			Unemployment Rate		
	2004	2004 Rank	1990	2000	2000 Rank	1998	2003	2003 Rank
Alabama	None	—	\$23,597	\$34,135	42	4.2%	5.8%	29
Alaska	\$7.15	2	\$41,408	\$51,571	4	5.8%	8.0%	49
Arizona	None	—	\$27,540	\$40,558	28	4.1%	5.6%	23
Arkansas	\$5.15	9	\$21,147	\$32,182	48	5.5%	6.2%	36
California	\$6.75	5	\$35,798	\$47,493	8	5.9%	6.7%	43
Colorado	\$5.15	9	\$30,140	\$47,203	10	3.8%	6.0%	33
Connecticut	\$7.10	3	\$41,721	\$53,935	2	3.4%	5.5%	22
Delaware	\$6.15	7	\$34,875	\$47,381	9	3.8%	4.4%	7
Florida	None	—	\$27,483	\$38,819	34	4.3%	5.1%	15
Georgia	\$5.15	9	\$29,021	\$42,433	21	4.2%	4.7%	12
Hawaii	\$6.25	6	\$38,829	\$49,820	6	6.2%	4.3%	5
Idaho	\$5.15	9	\$25,257	\$37,572	37	5.0%	5.4%	20
Illinois	\$5.50	8	\$32,252	\$46,590	13	4.5%	6.7%	43
Indiana	\$5.15	9	\$28,797	\$41,567	23	3.1%	5.1%	15
Iowa	\$5.15	9	\$26,229	\$39,469	31	2.8%	4.5%	9
Kansas	\$2.65	11	\$27,291	\$40,624	27	3.8%	5.4%	20
Kentucky	\$5.15	9	\$22,534	\$33,672	44	4.6%	6.2%	36
Louisiana	None	—	\$21,949	\$32,566	47	5.7%	6.6%	42
Maine	\$6.25	6	\$27,854	\$37,240	38	4.4%	5.1%	15
Maryland	\$5.15	9	\$39,386	\$52,868	3	4.6%	4.5%	9
Massachusetts	\$6.75	5	\$36,952	\$50,502	5	3.3%	5.8%	29
Michigan	\$5.15	9	\$31,020	\$44,667	17	3.9%	7.3%	47
Minnesota*	\$5.15	9	\$30,909	\$47,111	11	2.5%	5.0%	14
Mississippi	None	—	\$20,136	\$31,330	49	5.4%	6.3%	38
Missouri	\$5.15	9	\$26,362	\$37,934	35	4.2%	5.6%	23

Rankings

Minimum wage: 1=highest minimum

Median income: 1=highest income

Unemployment rate: 1=lowest unemployment



Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Income and unemployment

State	Minimum Wage		Median Income (Census)			Unemployment Rate		
	2004	2004 Rank	1990	2000	2000 Rank	1998	2003	2003 Rank
Montana*	\$5.15	9	\$22,988	\$33,024	46	5.6%	4.7%	12
Nebraska	\$5.15	9	\$26,016	\$39,250	32	2.7%	4.0%	2
Nevada	\$5.15	9	\$31,011	\$44,581	18	4.3%	5.2%	18
New Hampshire	\$5.15	9	\$36,329	\$49,467	7	2.9%	4.3%	5
New Jersey	\$5.15	9	\$40,927	\$55,146	1	4.6%	5.9%	32
New Mexico	\$5.15	9	\$24,087	\$34,133	43	6.2%	6.4%	40
New York	\$5.15	9	\$32,965	\$43,393	20	5.6%	6.3%	38
North Carolina	\$5.15	9	\$26,647	\$39,184	33	3.5%	6.5%	41
North Dakota	\$5.15	9	\$23,213	\$46,335	14	3.2%	4.0%	2
Ohio*	\$4.25	10	\$28,706	\$40,956	24	4.3%	6.1%	34
Oklahoma*	\$5.15	9	\$23,577	\$33,400	45	4.5%	5.7%	28
Oregon	\$7.05	4	\$27,250	\$40,916	25	5.6%	8.2%	50
Pennsylvania	\$5.15	9	\$29,069	\$40,106	29	4.6%	5.6%	23
Rhode Island	\$6.75	5	\$32,181	\$42,090	22	4.9%	5.3%	19
South Carolina	None	—	\$26,256	\$37,082	39	3.8%	6.8%	45
South Dakota	\$5.15	9	\$22,503	\$35,282	41	2.9%	3.6%	1
Tennessee	None	—	\$24,807	\$36,360	40	4.2%	5.8%	29
Texas	\$5.15	9	\$27,016	\$39,927	30	4.8%	6.8%	45
Utah	\$5.15	9	\$29,470	\$45,726	16	3.8%	5.6%	23
Vermont	\$6.75	5	\$29,792	\$40,856	26	3.4%	4.6%	11
Virginia*	\$5.15	9	\$33,328	\$46,677	12	2.9%	4.1%	4
Washington	\$7.16	1	\$31,183	\$45,776	15	4.8%	7.5%	48
West Virginia	\$5.15	9	\$20,795	\$29,696	50	6.7%	6.1%	34
Wisconsin	\$5.15	9	\$29,442	\$43,791	19	3.4%	5.6%	23
Wyoming	\$5.15	9	\$27,096	\$37,892	36	4.8%	4.4%	7
US	\$5.15		\$30,056	\$41,994		4.5%	6.0%	
US Average	\$5.55							

*Minimum wage exemptions for small business



Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Housing

The following table, “Housing in the US,” compares a variety of measures related to housing and homeownership. In 2000, Oregon ranked among the lowest—at 42nd—in the percentage of residents who owned their own homes.

During the housing boom of the 1990s, home ownership grew from 63.1 percent to 64.3 percent of Oregonians. As reflected in the 2000 Census, housing costs put an increasing strain on Oregonians’ budgets—with 25.4 percent of homeowners designated as “cost-burdened” (paying 30 percent or more of their income on housing costs). Oregon ranked seventh highest in the nation in the percentage of cost-burdened homeowners.

An even greater percentage of Oregon renters, 45.5 percent, are cost-burdened. Oregon had the 14th highest percentage nationally in cost-burdened renters as reported in the census.

The rapid increase in housing prices throughout the 1990s outpaced income gains for many Oregonians. Housing costs continue to burden a large percentage of Oregon households.

“Housing in the US” table follows.



Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Housing in the US—1990 and 2000 Census

State	% Renters paying more than 30% Income			% Homeowners paying more than 30% Income			Homeownership		
	1990	2000	2000 Rank	1990	2000	2000 Rank	1990	2000	2000 Rank
Alabama	45.2%	47.6%	43	17.3%	20.0%	18	70.5%	72.5%	5
Alaska	44.7%	46.8%	41	21.0%	23.5%	36	56.1%	62.5%	44
Arizona	47.8%	46.3%	38	24.1%	23.5%	36	64.2%	68.0%	31
Arkansas	49.0%	46.4%	39	19.1%	18.4%	13	69.6%	69.4%	22
California	50.0%	47.7%	44	30.2%	32.0%	50	55.6%	56.9%	48
Colorado	42.6%	44.0%	27	22.4%	24.2%	40	62.2%	67.3%	36
Connecticut	43.5%	43.0%	22	24.9%	24.5%	41	65.6%	66.8%	38
Delaware	40.5%	41.7%	16	15.5%	19.8%	17	70.2%	72.3%	7
Florida	48.0%	48.4%	45	22.8%	25.8%	44	67.2%	70.1%	17
Georgia	43.8%	44.0%	28	19.9%	21.9%	29	64.9%	67.5%	34
Hawaii	51.7%	52.3%	50	20.6%	30.4%	49	53.9%	56.5%	49
Idaho	41.2%	45.2%	35	15.2%	21.0%	26	70.1%	72.4%	6
Illinois	43.3%	41.6%	15	17.0%	21.7%	27	64.2%	67.3%	36
Indiana	40.5%	40.6%	9	12.7%	16.6%	6	70.1%	71.4%	13
Iowa	39.6%	39.3%	5	12.8%	14.6%	1	70.0%	72.3%	7
Kansas	41.2%	39.7%	6	14.7%	15.8%	3	67.9%	69.2%	24
Kentucky	44.9%	44.2%	30	15.0%	18.0%	11	69.6%	70.8%	15
Louisiana	51.9%	49.5%	48	21.1%	20.4%	19	65.9%	67.9%	32
Maine	45.2%	43.0%	21	19.6%	20.8%	23	70.5%	71.6%	11
Maryland	40.4%	41.2%	11	18.9%	23.4%	35	65.0%	67.7%	33
Massachusetts	44.0%	42.5%	20	24.2%	23.2%	34	59.3%	61.7%	45
Michigan	46.8%	41.9%	17	16.2%	18.4%	13	71.0%	73.8%	3
Minnesota	43.2%	40.0%	8	15.7%	17.0%	7	71.8%	74.6%	2
Mississippi	51.7%	49.1%	46	22.3%	22.7%	31	71.5%	72.3%	7
Missouri	23.3%	41.5%	13	14.4%	17.1%	8	68.8%	70.3%	16

Rankings

% renters: 1 = least rent-burdened

% homeowners: 1 = least housing-burdened

Homeownership: 1 = most homeowners



Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Housing in the US—1990 and 2000 Census

State	% Renters paying more than 30% Income			% Homeowners paying more than 30% Income			Homeownership		
	1990	2000	2000 Rank	1990	2000	2000 Rank	1990	2000	2000 Rank
Montana	44.5%	46.4%	40	16.6%	22.0%	30	67.3%	69.1%	25
Nebraska	38.0%	38.1%	2	14.0%	16.3%	5	66.5%	67.4%	35
Nevada	49.7%	44.6%	33	23.8%	28.4%	47	54.8%	60.9%	46
New Hampshire	42.4%	38.5%	3	28.3%	22.7%	31	68.2%	69.7%	21
New Jersey	43.2%	43.2%	24	27.3%	28.8%	48	64.9%	65.6%	40
New Mexico	47.5%	49.3%	47	20.7%	23.0%	33	67.4%	70.0%	18
New York	44.9%	46.9%	42	23.5%	27.1%	46	52.2%	47.0%	50
North Carolina	42.6%	44.0%	26	17.9%	21.7%	27	68.0%	69.4%	22
North Dakota	42.2%	38.9%	4	14.9%	14.6%	1	65.6%	66.6%	39
Ohio	42.5%	41.3%	12	14.4%	19.3%	15	67.5%	69.1%	25
Oklahoma	45.2%	44.5%	32	17.6%	17.7%	10	68.1%	68.4%	27
Oregon	42.0%	45.5%	36	18.6%	25.4%	43	63.1%	64.3%	42
Pennsylvania	44.2%	43.8%	25	17.4%	21.6%	26	70.6%	71.3%	14
Rhode Island	45.3%	43.0%	23	23.9%	25.1%	42	59.5%	60.0%	47
South Carolina	43.4%	45.9%	37	18.2%	20.7%	20	69.8%	72.2%	10
South Dakota	42.2%	40.0%	7	14.8%	20.7%	20	66.1%	68.2%	29
Tennessee	42.8%	44.1%	29	17.6%	20.7%	20	68.0%	69.9%	20
Texas	41.7%	42.2%	19	19.4%	19.6%	16	60.9%	63.8%	43
Utah	38.3%	41.9%	18	17.1%	23.9%	39	68.1%	71.5%	12
Vermont	45.5%	44.3%	31	21.9%	23.5%	36	69.0%	72.6%	4
Virginia	42.8%	41.6%	14	20.9%	21.0%	24	66.3%	68.1%	30
Washington	42.1%	45.0%	34	16.8%	26.4%	45	62.6%	64.6%	41
West Virginia	51.3%	51.4%	49	13.5%	17.1%	8	74.1%	75.2%	1
Wisconsin	40.0%	37.5%	1	15.4%	18.2%	12	66.7%	68.4%	27
Wyoming	41.1%	40.8%	10	13.7%	15.8%	3	67.8%	70.0%	18
US	44.8%	44.4%		20.1%	22.6%		64.2%	66.2%	

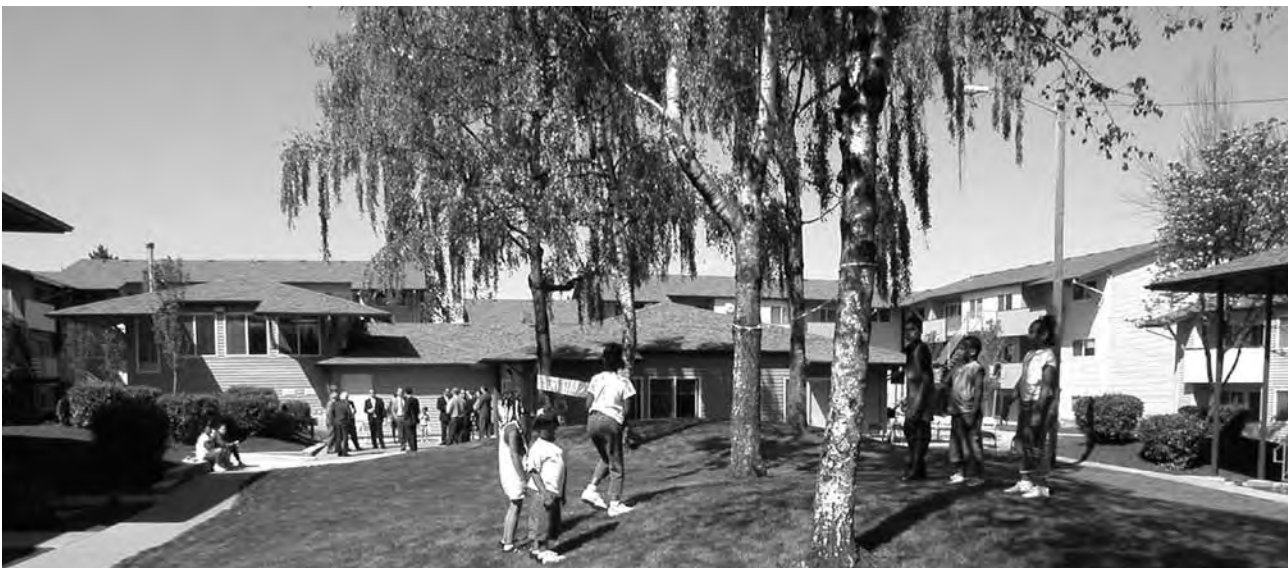


Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Improving housing quality

Before and after

Rehabilitation of Portland's Arbor Glen Apartments.



Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Public assistance

Policy makers design many public assistance programs to address the needs of low-income people. Participation in these programs provides another perspective on poverty and state efforts to address it.

The Census questionnaire asks if the respondent receives “any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office.” Those responding “yes” then provide an annual dollar amount of public assistance income. The question excludes Supplemental Security Income and other Social Security benefits.

The census data do not reflect the receipt of non-cash public assistance. During the 1990s, Oregon also saw dramatic growth in participation in the state’s Medicaid program as it implemented the Oregon Health Plan.

According to the 2000 Census, 47,402 households, or 3.6 percent of all households in Oregon, received public assistance income. They received average income of \$2,697. The 20-year trend shows a decrease in the number of households receiving public assistance income, from 63,567 households (6.4 percent of all households) in 1979 to 47,402 (3.6 percent) in 1999.

Oregon led the nation in moving welfare clients to work, implementing the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program for self-sufficiency clients in 1994. Between March of 1994 and December of 2000, the Oregon “welfare” caseload dropped 60 percent. Clients leaving the cash assistance program continued to receive support from a variety of programs, such as food stamps, childcare subsidies, and health coverage. Oregon, unlike some other states, did not time limit welfare benefits or reduce cash grants.

By January 2001, however, Temporary Assistance to Needy Family caseloads began to grow steadily as the state’s economy worsened. Food Stamp program participation paralleled this trend, growing by 74,000 people between December 2001 and April 2004.²

The “Public Assistance Percent and Average” table follows.

Endnotes

- ¹ Art Ayre, Oregon Employment Department, *Why Does Oregon Have a High Unemployment Rate?*, June 30, 2003.
- ² Gary Weeks, *Director’s Weekly Message*, May 7, 2004. www.dhs.state.or.us/news/messages/2004messages/2004-0507.html#1



Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Public assistance—1990 and 2000 Census

State	Percent of Population Receiving Public Assistance			Average Amount of Public Assistance	
	1990	2000	2000 Rank	2000	2000 Rank
Alabama	8.7%	2.2%	49	\$2,108	44
Alaska	7.9%	8.7%	1	\$4,436	3
Arizona	6.1%	2.9%	30	\$2,596	20
Arkansas	8.8%	2.9%	30	\$2,188	39
California	9.4%	4.9%	4	\$4,819	1
Colorado	5.5%	2.5%	43	\$2,420	29
Connecticut	5.5%	3.7%	13	\$3,511	8
Delaware	5.2%	2.7%	40	\$2,516	26
Florida	5.8%	2.8%	36	\$2,449	27
Georgia	8.2%	2.9%	30	\$2,261	36
Hawaii	6.8%	7.2%	2	\$4,616	2
Idaho	5.3%	3.4%	18	\$1,824	49
Illinois	7.3%	3.3%	21	\$2,532	25
Indiana	5.4%	2.6%	41	\$2,186	40
Iowa	5.8%	2.9%	30	\$2,555	21
Kansas	5.1%	2.4%	46	\$2,372	31
Kentucky	9.6%	3.8%	11	\$2,174	41
Louisiana	10.9%	3.3%	21	\$1,985	46
Maine	7.9%	4.8%	6	\$2,173	42
Maryland	6.0%	2.4%	46	\$2,729	16
Massachusetts	7.7%	2.9%	30	\$3,894	5
Michigan	9.6%	3.6%	14	\$2,672	18
Minnesota	6.0%	3.4%	18	\$3,094	10
Mississippi	13.0%	3.5%	16	\$1,919	48
Missouri	6.9%	3.4%	18	\$2,292	33

Rankings

Population receiving public assistance: 1=largest

percentage receiving assistance

Average amount: 1=largest average

Poverty in Oregon and the nation

Public assistance—1990 and 2000 Census

State	Percent of Population Receiving Public Assistance			Average Amount of Public Assistance	
	1990	2000	2000 Rank	2000	2000 Rank
Montana	6.8%	3.3%	21	\$2,436	28
Nebraska	5.1%	2.8%	36	\$2,324	32
Nevada	4.7%	2.3%	48	\$2,809	14
New Hampshire	4.0%	3.0%	28	\$2,609	19
New Jersey	5.7%	2.8%	36	\$3,162	9
New Mexico	8.2%	4.7%	8	\$2,871	12
New York	9.1%	4.9%	4	\$3,699	6
North Carolina	6.9%	2.8%	36	\$2,276	35
North Dakota	6.2%	2.9%	30	\$2,552	22
Ohio	8.4%	3.2%	24	\$2,550	23
Oklahoma	7.3%	5.1%	3	\$1,504	50
Oregon	6.1%	3.6%	14	\$2,697	17
Pennsylvania	7.4%	3.1%	26	\$2,848	13
Rhode Island	7.8%	4.6%	9	\$4,185	4
South Carolina	7.8%	2.5%	43	\$2,145	43
South Dakota	6.7%	3.0%	28	\$2,189	38
Tennessee	8.4%	3.5%	16	\$1,984	47
Texas	6.7%	3.2%	24	\$2,285	34
Utah	5.5%	3.1%	26	\$2,878	11
Vermont	7.2%	4.8%	6	\$2,780	15
Virginia	5.4%	2.5%	43	\$2,242	37
Washington	6.7%	3.8%	11	\$3,579	7
West Virginia	9.7%	4.0%	10	\$2,019	45
Wisconsin	7.3%	1.7%	50	\$2,533	24
Wyoming	5.5%	2.6%	41	\$2,403	30
US	7.5%	3.4%	41	\$3,032	30

Source: US Census

