

Coos County

Major findings

Coos County gained 2,220 non-farm positions from 2001 to 2005. The three largest industries all gained positions, with professional and business services growing 34.6 percent. The average annual pay in professional and business services was \$21,153.

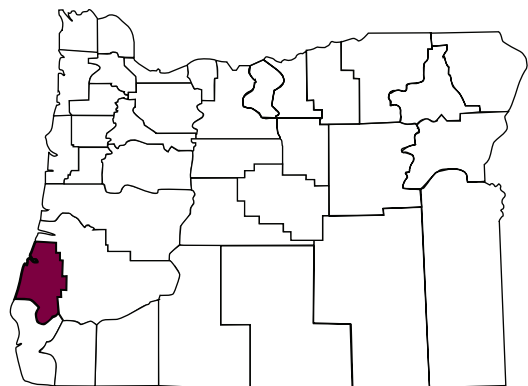
In 2004, per capita income in Coos County was 85 percent of the state average. In 2005, the average monthly wage was 2,285, which covered 97.4 percent of basic expenses for one adult and one child. The same family who earned poverty level wages could afford 45.6 percent of basic expenses.

In 1999, 1,948 families (11.1 percent) lived in poverty although over half had a household member who worked. Households with a single mother faced a 38.7 percent poverty rate, while 20.5 percent of children lived in poverty. During the 2004 to 2005 school year, 51.6 percent of the county's children qualified for free and/or reduced lunch.

Prioritized low-income needs

Oregon Coast Community Action (ORCCA) has developed the following comprehensive prioritized needs inventory for low-income people in Coos and Curry counties:

- Alleviating hunger and food insecurity
- Increasing capacity to provide more affordable housing opportunities
- Developing sufficient Head Start resources to meet the needs of all eligible children and families
- Developing sufficient emergency medical resources to strengthen the local safety net as a result of statewide cutbacks
- Energy assistance
- Services and housing to homeless teens
- Emergency food and shelter services as provided by EFSP
- Self-sufficiency programs
- General homeless programs
- Increase local capacities of service community by hiring a SWOCAC agency developer
- Programs for seniors
- Affordable transportation
- Affordable child care



- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Coos County
- Coordination and development of faith-based initiatives
- Employment and underemployment issues

Recent efforts

Coos County has a high rate of food insecurity. The Regional Food Bank, South Coast Food Share [SCFS], serves an estimated 4,466 people per month with food boxes distributed throughout Coos and Curry counties. SCFS distributed 1,175,073 pounds of food last year. Food insecure households participated in the Food Stamp program at a high rate, with 74 percent of eligible households in Coos and 60 percent in Curry receiving Food Stamps.

ORCCA is developing a regional food distribution hub for Coos County, to be located in Myrtle Point. The hub system will provide mini-warehouses in regional communities that will link with the main South Coast Food Share [SCFS] center in Coos Bay, and will be part of food distribution throughout the two-county SCFS network. SCFS is a program of ORCCA.

ORCCA increased financial support of the Cloe House Shelter in North Bend, an operation of the Women's Safety and Resource Center [WSRC], and contracted with them to be partners in the OPUS data system. The computer equipment was upgraded to facilitate their participation in OPUS.

ORCCA is working with the WSRC, the City of North Bend and a local property owner to acquire and renovate a new shelter facility for homeless families being served by domestic violence programs.

ORCCA partners with Port Outreach Specialists to provide emergency services to salmon fishermen and fisheries-related workers.

ORCCA recently renovated the Park West affordable housing in Coos Bay, re-roofed, re-sided, painted the exterior and upgraded the laundry facilities of the 22-unit family apartment complex.

ORCCA is developing a plan to create a campus and consolidate operations, reduce overall space and operational costs and develop an asset rather than expend funds on leasing space. The goal: to colocate Head Start administration, SCFS Food Distribution Center and ORCCA administrative and customer service offices.

ORCCA continues to provide regular housing services, energy assistance and weatherization programs, primarily from the Park West service center and the Newmark Center in Coos Bay. ORCCA is part of the One-Stop services available at these centers. It also operates six Head Start sites in Coos County.

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County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, on a per capita basis, Coos County's personal income was \$26,031 in 2004, 85 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 79 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Coos County rose 3.2 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows 4.0 percent average annual growth. Average earnings per job for 2004 were \$27,274 in Coos County compared to \$35,005 for the state.

Basic family budget

According to a US Department of Agriculture report, from 2002 to 2004 11.9 percent of Oregon households struggled to meet their basic need for food. The following chart outlines typical expenses for four family types in Coos County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses. To learn more about this basic family budget, see Appendix 2.

2005 Coos County's basic family budget

Basic family budget/ month	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Housing	\$578	\$767	\$578	\$767
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$483	\$851	\$483	\$851
Transportation	\$381	\$381	\$535	\$535
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$273	\$418	\$328	\$462
Taxes	\$88	(\$141)	\$281	(\$70)
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,345	\$3,105	\$3,008	\$3,627
Basic family budget total/annual	\$28,140	\$37,260	\$36,096	\$43,524
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$13.53	\$17.91	\$17.35	\$20.93
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	45.6%	51.9%	44.6%	51.9%

What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Coos County could afford 44.6 percent to 51.9 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Coos County in 2005 were \$2,285. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$4,327 and leisure and hospitality paid the lowest monthly average of \$1,140.

The following chart illustrates a family's ability to be self-sufficient based on earnings of average wages for Coos County. The two-worker scenario relies on both workers earning average wages. Coos County's average wage in 2005 could not fund the basic family budget for a single adult with three children.

2005 Coos County wages and the basic family budget

	1 worker	1 worker	2 workers	2 workers
	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Average monthly wage (AMW)*	\$2,285	\$2,285	\$4,570	\$4,570
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,345	\$3,105	\$3,008	\$3,627
Difference (AMW-SSW)	-\$60	-\$820	\$1,562	\$943
Wages as % of self sufficiency	97.4%	73.6%	151.9%	126.0%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005				
**Based on basic family budget for Coos County				

Employment

According to Oregon's Current Employment Statistics (CES), Coos County added 2,220 non-farm positions from 2001 to 2005.

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Largest three industries in Coos County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Local government	5,010	+ 720	\$32,469
Trade, transportation and utilities	4,600	+ 440	\$27,565
Professional and business services	2,800	+ 2,800	\$21,153

*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, professional and business services experienced the largest job growth—34.6 percent—from 2,080 positions in 2001 to 2,800 in 2005. Information saw the largest decrease—14.7 percent—from 340 positions to 290 positions.

2000 US Census information

Number of persons below poverty level (poverty rate)

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Coos County	9,741 (16.5%)	9,257 (15.0%)	-5.0% (-1.4%)
Oregon	344,867 (12.4%)	388,740 (11.6%)	12.7% (-6.5%)
United States	31,742,864 (13.1%)	33,899,812 (12.4%)	6.8% (-5.5%)

Source: US Census

Rates of poverty by age (1979-1999)

	All	Children younger than 18	People 18-64	People 65 and older
1979	11.6%	14.4%	9.1%	12.4%
1989	14.4%	19.3%	13.4%	10.2%
1999	15.0%	20.5%	14.8%	9.4%

Source: US Census

In 1999, children younger than 18 years old experienced the highest rates of poverty in Coos County.

Coos County poverty and race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity	% Total population 1999 (population)	% Poverty population 1999 (poverty population)	Poverty rate by race 1999	Poverty rate by race 1989
White	91.5% (56,304)	88.1% (8,151)	14.5%	16.3%
Black	0.2% (98)	0.3% (28)	28.6%	15.0%
American Indian	2.6% (1,602)	4.3% (397)	24.8%	25.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5%/0.1% (337/66)	0.6%/0.3% (57/26)	16.9%/39.4%	12.9%*
Other	1.2% (745)	1.2% (108)	14.5%	12.7%
2 or more races	3.9% (2,382)	5.3% (490)	20.6%	NA
Hispanic origin	3.2% (1,965)	4.6% (423)	21.5%	22.5%

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

Coos County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	1,463 (8.2%)	2,080 (12.1%)	1,948 (11.1%)	33.2% (-2.5%)
With children younger than 18	1,108 (11.9%)	1,583 (20.2%)	1,361 (17.8%)	22.8% (5.9%)
Single women with children younger than 18	514 (41.2%)	805 (52.3%)	676 (38.7%)	31.5% (2.9%)

Source: US Census

Poverty and Coos County families

In 1999, 1,948 of Coos County's 17,490 families lived in poverty (11.1 percent). Of the 1,948 families in poverty, 56.0 percent (1,091 families) had a household member who worked and 9.9 percent (192 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

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Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	62,779	62,390	62,613	63,112	63,825	64,711
People living below poverty level-%	15.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Median income	\$31,542	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment rate	7.3	8.4	8.8	9.1	8.8	7.3
8th grade drug use	12.4%	NA	25.5%	25.5%	14.7%	19.2%
HS dropout	4.5%	3.4%	3.9%	4.5%	5.2%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	13.2	10.3	10.2	7.8	NA	NA
Prenatal care	70.9%	74.2%	77.0%	79.4%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	13.3	14.1	13.8	NA	12.3	NA
Homeownership rate	68.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	49.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coos County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	12	111	107	169	155 *	160
New units created with OHCS funding resources	16	8	4	4	10	39
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$1.3 m	\$614,136	\$403,648	\$59,200	\$866,870	\$258,027
Home loans for low-income households-#	43	25	13	11	19	18
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$3.0 m	\$1.8 m	\$1.0 m	\$883,838	\$1.8 m	\$2.0 m
Households receiving energy assistance-#	2,361	1,964	1,937	1,448	1,583	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	18	92	67
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	22.5%	18.2%	14.5% *	13.8%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	4,109	4,260	4,128	4,244	4,511	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	43.7%	46.7%	46.4%	48.4%	51.6%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	21.1%	18.7%	15.7% *	15.5%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	3.4%	2.7%	1.2% *	1.3%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	33.0%	32.3%	29.3%	NA	NA
NA = Not Available						
* Cannot be compared to previous years due to changes in data collection						