

Douglas County

Major findings

Between 2001 and 2005 Douglas County generated 1,210 non-farm positions, with two of the largest industries gaining. Unemployment dropped to 8.1 percent by 2005, from 9.8 percent in 2003, but remained higher than the 2000 rate of 7.4 percent.

Federal government employment, the highest paying industry in Douglas County, decreased 10.3 percent while construction generated the largest growth—42.4 percent.

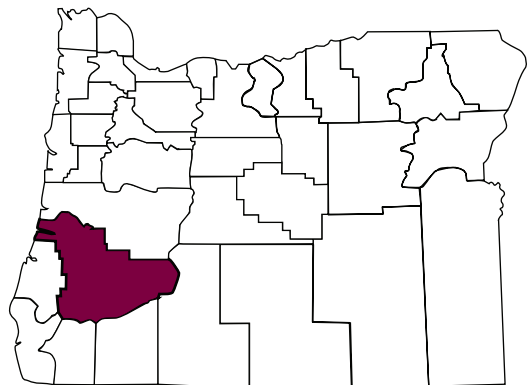
A worker who earned the average wage for Douglas County, \$2,563 a month, could not afford basic expenses for themselves and three children. This was evident in the 1999 poverty rate for single women with children younger than 18. They experienced poverty at 43.0 percent.

Families with incomes at the poverty level could afford 45.8 percent to 51.4 percent of basic family expenses. In 1999, 2,731 Douglas County families lived in poverty.

Prioritized low-income needs

Umpqua Community Action Network (UCAN) prioritized the needs of the low-income population in Douglas County as follows:

- Education/job skills training was named as the number one service gap on UCAN's community needs survey. Since Douglas County's historical dependence on the timber industry means many residents do not have transferable skills or the education necessary to obtain employment in a new field.
- Douglas County lacks a functional transportation system. Only Roseburg has a regular bus service, though often unreliable and very limited. There is no public transportation available for the North and South Counties or Reedsport, either to reach Roseburg or to travel within the communities themselves.
- Affordable housing remains a major concern in Douglas County, particularly in the Roseburg and Winston areas. Although the county's housing situation beyond Roseburg is less problematic, many people are unwilling to live outside the town limits because of the lack of transportation.
- Health care is inadequate since the county has too few hospital bed spaces and physicians to serve its population base.
- Communication and knowledge of community resources throughout this large county continues to be a problem.



- Food insecurity is a serious problem in Douglas County.
- Affordable, sufficient and reliable child care is an obstacle to parents obtaining and keeping living wage jobs. Douglas County only has 17 child care slots per 100 children. (The 2005 Oregon Benchmark is 25 per 100.)
- Substance abuse continues to worsen throughout the county. As much as 90 percent of crimes in Douglas County can be tied to methamphetamine use.
- Douglas County has one of the highest pregnancy rates of young women aged 18 and 19 (112.3 per 1,000, compared to 84.2 statewide) and the third highest rate of births to unmarried mothers, 40.8 percent.

Recent efforts

The Transitions program provided technical and vocational training for more than 362 participants this year, with 62 of those receiving intensive training through the Confidence Clinic.

UCAN provided gas vouchers and bus passes as well as assistance with car repairs, car purchasing and car insurance payments. In 2005, the agency contracted with Douglas County Senior Services to provide Medicaid transportation. It also networked with other community agencies to fill other transportation gaps.

Since 2003, UCAN and its partners developed and built several new special needs housing units: Crestview Terrace and Crestview South for previously incarcerated individuals and families who are working in a case management plan, Liberty Pointe and New Vista Village for those in substance abuse recovery and GrandView Homes, a 10-unit facility for families with a member with mental illness.

UCAN's weatherization program helps clients reduce energy costs. A large Energy Smart grant provides additional weatherization services. Last year, 3,459 families were kept warm through UCAN's utility assistance program.

The rent/mortgage assistance program prevented 155 families from becoming homeless. Hard-to-house clients received help through the Second Chance Renters program and home ownership programs.

In the last few years, UCAN Food Shares has noticed a rise in community need. This past year, 8,051 individual household members (monthly average) received assistance through food boxes. Food Share served approximately 26,750 Douglas County residents last year (more than a quarter of the population); 40 percent of food recipients are children. On average, 5,385 students receive free or reduced lunches during the school year. Only 498 receive free lunches during the summer.

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County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Douglas County's per capita personal income was \$25,623 in 2004, 84 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 78 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Douglas County rose 4.2 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows average annual growth of 3.9 percent. Average earnings per job in 2004 were \$29,611 in Douglas 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 Douglas 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 Douglas 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	\$565	\$766	\$565	\$766
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$485	\$898	\$485	\$898
Transportation	\$381	\$381	\$535	\$535
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$269	\$417	\$324	\$461
Taxes	\$74	(\$148)	\$216	(\$77)
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,316	\$3,143	\$2,928	\$3,665
Basic family budget total/annual	\$27,792	\$37,716	\$35,136	\$43,980
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$13.36	\$18.13	\$16.89	\$21.14
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	46.2%	51.3%	45.8%	51.4%

What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Douglas County could afford 45.8 percent to 51.4 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Douglas County in 2005 were \$2,563. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$4,829 and private non-classified paid the lowest monthly average of \$957.

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

2005 Douglas County wages and the basic family budget

	1 worker	1 worker	2 workers	2 workers
Average monthly wage (AMW)*	\$2,563	\$2,563	\$5,126	\$5,126
	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,316	\$3,143	\$2,928	\$3,665
Difference (AMW-SSW)	\$247	-\$580	\$2,198	\$1,461
Wages as % of self sufficiency	110.7%	81.5%	175.1%	139.9%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005				
**Based on basic family budget for Douglas County				

Employment

According to Oregon's Current Employment Statistics (CES), Douglas County gained 1,210 non-farm employment positions from 2001 to 2005.

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Largest three industries in Douglas County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Trade, transportation and utilities	7,330	+ 180	\$25,424
Manufacturing	6,320	+ 70	\$41,074
Local government	6,040	-210	\$29,823

*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, construction generated the largest gain—42.4 percent—from 1,320 positions in 2001 to 1,880 in 2005. During the same period, federal government had the largest decrease—10.3 percent—from 1,650 positions to 1,480 positions.

2000 US Census information

Number of persons below poverty level (poverty rate)

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Douglas County	13,828 (14.9%)	12,999 (13.1%)	-6.0% (-1.7%)
Oregon	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

Rates of poverty by age (1979-1999)

	All	Children younger than 18	People 18-64	People 65 and older
1979	11.1%	14.6%	9.4%	10.7%
1989	14.9%	20.3%	13.4%	11.0%
1999	13.1%	17.3%	12.6%	9.2%

Source: US Census

In 1999, children younger than 18 years of age had the highest rate of poverty in Douglas County.

Douglas 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	93.7% (92,723)	90.4% (11,750)	12.7%	14.4%
Black	0.2% (189)	0.2% (23)	12.2%	37.9%
American Indian	1.6% (1,568)	2.1% (275)	17.5%	30.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6%/0.0% (593/48)	0.5%/0.1% (68/8)	11.5%/16.7%	24.2%*
Other	0.8% (841)	2.1% (268)	31.9%	27.0%
2 or more races	3.0% (3,010)	4.7% (607)	20.2 %	NA
Hispanic origin	29.2% (2,892)	6.2% (800)	27.7%	25.9%

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

Douglas County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	2,250 (8.5%)	3,105 (11.5%)	2,731 (9.6%)	21.4% (1.1%)
With children younger than 18	1,816 (12.7%)	2,279 (17.5%)	1,973 (15.5%)	8.6% (2.8%)
Single women with children younger than 18	853 (43.2%)	1,194 (52.0%)	1,116 (43.0%)	30.8% (-0.2%)

Source: US Census

Poverty and Douglas County families

In 1999, 2,731 of Douglas County's 28,371 families lived in poverty (9.6 percent). Of the 2,731 families in poverty, 55.8 percent (1,524 families) had a worker and 15.2 percent (414 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

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Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	100,399	100,341	101,174	102,216	103,089	104,202
People living below poverty level-%	13.1% ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA	11.8% ²
Median income	\$33,223 ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$36,576 ²
Unemployment rate	7.4	8.4	8.9	9.8	9.2	8.1
8th grade drug use	14.4%	NA	23.4%	26.5%	18.1%	18.5%
HS dropout	6.4%	5.1%	4.7%	4.4%	5.1%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	13.6	12.8	11.2	10.0	NA	NA
Prenatal care	84.6%	85.6%	89.3%	85.4%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	17.6	17.3	17.1	NA	15.5	NA
Homeownership rate	71.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	43.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Douglas County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	270	216	238	416	500*	406
New units created with OHCS funding resources	95	156	41	50	0*	110
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$1.9 m	\$8.1 m	\$2.8 m	\$3.7 m	\$0*	\$1.9 m
Home loans for low-income households-#	26	15	12	7	15	15
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$2.0 m	\$1.2 m	\$1.1 m	\$653,463	\$1.5 m	\$1.7 m
Households receiving energy assistance-#	3,395	2,849	3,129	2,864	2,875	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	29	61	27
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	22.7%	19.3%	14.5%*	13.5%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	7,299	7,012	7,517	7,690	7,471	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	43.9%	42.2%	45.5%	49.0%	46.7%*	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	20.4%	19.2%	16.4%*	16.5%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	4.0%	3.3%	1.7%*	1.7%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	31.0%	30.8%	29.2%	NA	NA
NA = Not Available						
*Cannot be compared to previous years due to changes in data collection						
¹ 2000 US Census						
² American Community Survey						