

## Major findings

Jackson County's population grew 7.8 percent from 2000 to 2005. Between 2001 and 2005, the county generated 8,265 employment positions. The three largest industries all gained positions totaling 3,651. Construction experienced the largest growth—43.0 percent—adding 1,564 positions. Unemployment dropped to 6.0 percent by 2005, from the 2003 high of 7.6 percent.

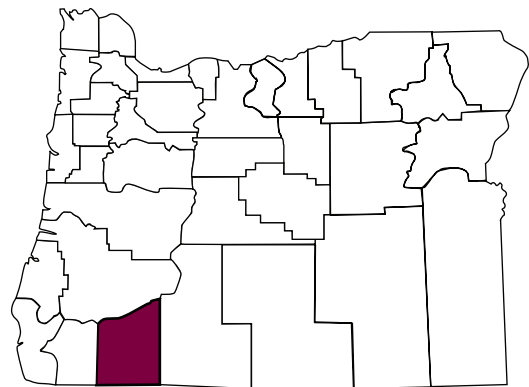
The average wage paid in Jackson County—\$2,542—proved difficult for families however. One adult who earned the average monthly wage in Jackson County could not afford basic expenses for themselves and one child and could only afford 60.9 percent of expenses for themselves and three children.

One earner families who earned poverty level wages could only afford 38.9 percent of basic expenses, while two adults who earned poverty level wages could only afford up to 44.0 percent. In 1999, 4,346 families lived in poverty in Jackson County despite the fact that 63.1 percent of those families had a household member who worked.

## Prioritized low-income needs

The following prioritized needs are provided by the most recent community needs assessment conducted by ACCESS, Inc. during fiscal year 2005. ACCESS, Inc. is the Community Action Agency for Jackson County.

- Increased access to medical care for low-income citizens, seniors, people with disabilities and people who are homeless
- Increased housing resources and assistance for low-income and special needs populations including permanent affordable housing, rental assistance programs and housing rehabilitation programs
- 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 live independently in their own homes, improving their overall quality of life
- Support community efforts to increase alcohol- and drug-free housing
- Increased employment opportunities and livable wage jobs



- Education/training programs to provide businesses with a workforce that has the tools to succeed (including life skills training)
- Emergency preparedness through cash assistance for emergencies beyond an individual's control and information and referral to all other community alternatives and resources available
- Housing maintenance, continue the weatherization program and encourage retention of existing housing stock through the promotion and coordination of housing rehabilitation programs
- Expanded transportation services for people with low incomes, seniors and people with disabilities

### **Recent efforts**

In an effort to keep up with the increased demand for emergency food, ACCESS implemented a new program called "Fresh Alliance" in fiscal year 2005. The program is up and running with several supermarkets participating including Fred Meyer stores in Medford and four Albertsons stores in Medford, Central Point and Ashland. "Fresh Alliance" consistently provides essential additional protein items including milk, dairy and meat that ACCESS otherwise might not have been able to acquire. The new program provides an additional 4,000 pounds per week, 50 percent more than original projections. Through this program, ACCESS anticipates an increase in the volume of food by about 500,000 pounds annually flowing through the warehouse. The program was initially a pilot project in partnership with Oregon Food Bank and now has become an essential component of local nutrition programs.

ACCESS Inc. completed a weatherization project covering 240 units in 60 quads, all single family residences, occupied by some of our community's most vulnerable low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. ACCESS weatherized all 240 units in a two-month period. Residents will save upwards of 25 percent in energy costs for years to come.

In 2002, ACCESS, Inc. in partnership with the Jackson County Continuum of Care submitted a successful application to HUD for a new permanent supportive housing development for homeless persons with chronic mental illness. The project is completed and leased up in fiscal year 2006. The project consists of seven one-bedroom apartments and one four-bedroom residences. The project has made a tremendous impact in the lives of residents who otherwise might still be homeless. The project was made possible by a partnership with Jackson County Mental Health that will provide all the ongoing supportive services.

During fiscal year 2006, ACCESS provided comprehensive housing counseling services to more than 2,400 people.

## County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Jackson County's per capita personal income was \$28,531 in 2004, 93 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 86 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Jackson County rose 5.3 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows 3.8 percent average annual growth. Average earnings per job for 2004 were \$29,348 in Jackson 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 Jackson 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 Jackson 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	\$657	\$956	\$657	\$956
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$515	\$1,016	\$515	\$1,016
Transportation	\$326	\$326	\$458	\$458
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$298	\$476	\$352	\$520
Taxes	\$412	\$573	\$295	\$255
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,750	\$4,176	\$3,080	\$4,287
Basic family budget total/annual	\$33,000	\$50,112	\$36,960	\$51,444
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$15.87	\$24.09	\$17.77	\$24.73
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	38.9%	38.6%	43.5%	44.0%

## What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Jackson County could afford 38.6 percent to 44.0 percent of this basic family budget.

## Jackson County

### Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Jackson County in 2005 were \$2,542. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$4,620 and leisure and hospitality paid the lowest monthly average of \$1,171.

The following 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. Jackson County's average wage in 2005 could not fund the basic family budget for a single adult with one child.

#### 2005 Jackson 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)*	\$2,542	\$2,542	\$5,084	\$5,084
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,750	\$4,176	\$3,080	\$4,287
Difference (AMW-SSW)	-\$208	-\$1,634	\$2,004	-\$797
Wages as % of self sufficiency	92.4%	60.9%	165.1%	118.6%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005				
**Based on basic family budget for Jackson County				

### Employment

According to Oregon's Current Employment Statistics (CES), Jackson County added 8,265 employment positions from 2001 to 2005.

## Largest three industries in Jackson County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Trade, transportation and utilities	19,400	+ 1,728	\$28,300
Educational and health services	11,404	+ 1,253	\$36,865
Leisure and Hospitality	9,182	+ 670	\$14,054

\*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, construction generated the largest job growth—43.0 percent—from 3,640 positions in 2001 to 5,204 in 2005. Private non-classified experienced the largest decrease—20.0 percent—from 25 positions to 20 positions.

## 2000 US Census information

## Number of persons below poverty level (poverty rate)

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Jackson County	18,925 (13.2%)	22,269 (12.5%)	17.7% (-0.7%)
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	12.0%	14.8%	10.9%	11.1%
1989	13.2%	17.5%	12.3%	9.9%
1999	12.5%	17.0%	12.2%	6.9%

Source: US Census

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

## Jackson County

### Jackson 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	91.7% (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% (1,859)	1.7% (368)	19.8%	29.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7%/0.2% (1,330/329)	1.1%/0.1% (238/32)	17.9%/9.7%	27.3%*
Other	2.8% (5,028)	6.5% (1,438)	28.6%	33.1%
2 or more races	3.1% (5,508)	4.9% (1,100)	20.0%	NA
Hispanic origin	6.6% (11,744)	13.5% (3,005)	25.6%	26.9%

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

### Jackson County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	3,195 (8.8%)	3,937 (9.7%)	4,346 (8.9%)	36.0% (0.1%)
With children younger than 18	2,445 (13.0%)	2,999 (15.5%)	3,452 (14.7%)	41.2% (1.7%)
Single women with children younger than 18	1,221 (38.3%)	1,732 (45.5%)	1,966 (36.8%)	61.0% (-1.5%)

Source: US Census

### Poverty and Jackson County families

In 1999, 4,346 of Jackson County's 48,758 families lived in poverty (8.9 percent). Of the 4,346 families in poverty, 63.1 percent (2,742 families) had a household member who worked and 16.7 percent (726 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

## Jackson County

Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	181,269	184,102	187,126	190,380	193,016	195,322
People living below poverty level-%	12.5% <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	13.0% <sup>2</sup>
Median income	\$36,461 <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$41,194 <sup>2</sup>
Unemployment rate	5.6	6.5	7.4	7.6	7.0	6.0
8th grade drug use	7.4%	NA	16.0%	18.8%	17.8%	17.7%
HS dropout	7.2%	6.7%	6.9%	4.3%	7.3%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	11.2	12.5	11.0	10.0	NA	NA
Prenatal care	77.9%	78.8%	78.7%	78.8%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	21.9	20.8	17.9	NA	15.6	NA
Homeownership rate	66.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	49.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jackson County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	351	142	228	293	349*	400
New units created with OHCS funding resources	0	62	113	81	63*	181
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$0	\$1.5 m	\$6.2 m	\$3.3 m	\$2.3 m*	\$4.3 m
Home loans for low-income households-#	40	43	43	40	23	11
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$3.5 m	\$4.0 m	\$4.4 m	\$4.7 m	\$2.9 m	\$1.6 m
Households receiving energy assistance-#	4,501	3,812	4,308	3,908	4,505	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	31	461	311
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	19.2%	16.6%	12.0%*	11.3%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	10,028	11,178	11,213	11,881	11,980	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	34.4%	38.0%	38.0%	40.6%	41.4%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	16.8%	16.3%	12.9%*	12.8%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	2.1%	1.6%	0.6%*	0.7%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	26.1%	27.5%	25.2%	NA	NA
NA = Not Available						
*Cannot be compared to previous years due to changes in data collection						
<sup>1</sup> 2000 US Census						
<sup>2</sup> American Community Survey						