

Jefferson County

Major findings

Unemployment in Jefferson County dropped from a high of 7.1 percent in 2003 to 6.1 percent in 2005, equal to the state unemployment rate. Between the years of 2001 and 2005, Jefferson County generated 180 non-farm employment positions, with the two largest industries generating 180 positions. Professional and business services grew 88.9 percent—from 90 positions to 170.

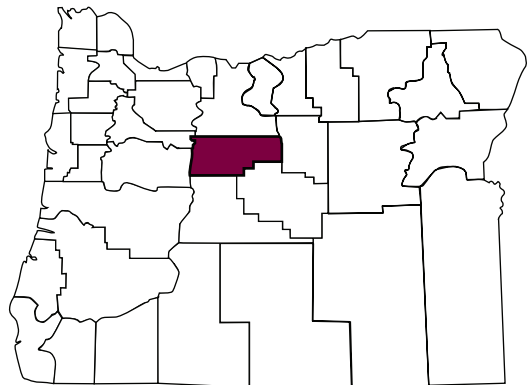
Although unemployment was low and the economy generated jobs, income remained low. Jefferson County's per capita personal income was \$22,735, 74 percent of the state average. For one earner families, the average wage of \$2,368 was not enough to cover basic expenses for one adult and three children. Families earning poverty level wages could only afford 46.5 percent to 51.2 percent of basic expenses. In 1999, 541 families in Jefferson County (10.4 percent) lived in poverty, although 71.0 percent of those families had a worker.

In 1999, Jefferson County experienced a higher poverty rate than the state—14.6 percent—and children experienced poverty at an alarming rate of 22.3 percent. In 2005, 26.8 percent of 8th graders reported drug use—up from 16.9 percent in 2004—and 75.2 percent of children qualified for free and/or reduced lunch during the 2004 and 2005 school year.

Prioritized low-income needs

NeighborImpact prioritized the needs of the low-income population in Jefferson County as follows:

- Affordable rental units and assistance for move-in costs
- Apartments need to be more energy efficient and have washer-dryer hook-ups
- Assistance with car insurance and more reliable vehicles
- Jobs with health and dental insurance
- More health options—people use the emergency room because they cannot otherwise visit a doctor
- More options in rural communities for buying food
- Opportunities for individuals of all ages to participate meaningfully as volunteers in their communities



Recent efforts

NeighborImpact has over 355 participants participating in one or more agency asset building programs. Families are being helped to develop assets in four areas—education/child school readiness; income/savings; family stability and family/community support networks. Progress on goals and asset achievement are being measured twice each year. The data system for these programs allows program managers to assess needs, impacts and outcomes for each program, site, community and staff person. The outcome data drives the service delivery design, community partnerships and resource priorities. The expected result of this outcome based system over time is better outcomes for clients.

Each of NeighborImpact's program areas have experienced increased numbers of households/individuals requesting assistance. In responding to this need, NeighborImpact has increased their internal capacity to be responsive to the needs of the community. Some examples include: the addition of a second auditor/inspector, the addition of a new comprehensive client education component and increased reverse mortgage counseling sessions to meet the increased needs of seniors who are at risk of losing their homes.

NeighborImpact has also taken the lead with the Homeless Leadership Council to conduct two tri-county homeless street/shelter counts in rural Central Oregon. Both counts were conducted with wide community support of local agencies and volunteers. Outreach teams helped identify homeless individuals living on the streets and in wooded areas. A summer count was also conducted at the request of the community after the success of the first count conducted in January.

Client education classes help bring services to families

After a recent energy class in Warm Springs, a client inquired about assistance with heat source and air conditioning. He explained that his wife is on a liver transplant list and suffers from heat exhaustion. In the middle of winter and in a no-heat situation, the Weatherization program works with no-heat situations; but the program doesn't usually provide air conditioning. However, NeighborImpact staff determined that this situation was a serious health issue. After explaining the situation to a local heating vendor, one of the heating contractor's went to Warm Springs and did an assessment. It was determined that air conditioning was critical for this household. The service techs worked through the weekend to get the air conditioning working and did not charge overtime.

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County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Jefferson County's per capita personal income was \$22,735 in 2004, 74 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 69 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Jefferson County rose 6.2 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows 3.6 percent average annual growth. Average earnings per job for 2004 were \$27,266 in Jefferson 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 Jefferson County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses. To learn more about this basic family budget, see Appendix 2.

Jefferson 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	\$537	\$781	\$537	\$781
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$499	\$885	\$499	\$885
Transportation	\$381	\$381	\$535	\$535
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$260	\$422	\$315	\$466
Taxes	\$0	(\$137)	\$192	(\$66)
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,219	\$3,161	\$2,881	\$3,683
Basic family budget total/annual	\$26,628	\$37,932	\$34,572	\$44,196
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$12.80	\$18.24	\$16.62	\$21.25
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	48.2%	51.0%	46.5%	51.2%

What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Jefferson County could afford 46.5 percent to 51.2 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Jefferson County in 2005 were \$2,368. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$3,727 and leisure and hospitality paid the lowest monthly average of \$995.

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

Jefferson County wages and the basic family budget

	1 worker	1 worker	2 workers	2 workers
Average monthly wage (AMW)*	\$2,368	\$2,368	\$4,736	\$4,736
	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,219	\$3,161	\$2,881	\$3,683
Difference (AMW-SSW)	\$149	-\$793	\$1,855	-\$797
Wages as % of self sufficiency	106.7%	74.9%	164.4%	128.6%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005				
**Based on basic family budget for Jefferson County				

Employment

According to Oregon's Current Employment Statistics (CES), Jefferson County added 180 non-farm positions from 2001 to 2005.

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Largest three industries in Jefferson County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Local government	2,230	+ 60	\$31,286
Manufacturing	1,660	+ 120	\$32,380
Trade, transportation and utilities	880	0	\$27,211

*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, professional and business services experienced the largest job growth—88.9 percent—from 90 positions in 2001 to 170 in 2005. Information saw the largest decrease—33.3 percent—from 30 positions to 20 positions.

2000 US Census information

Number of persons below poverty level (poverty rate)

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Jefferson County	2,503 (18.6%)	2,747 (14.6%)	9.7% (-4.0%)
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	13.3%	17.0%	11.6%	11.1%
1989	18.6%	24.6%	16.5%	13.4%
1999	14.6%	22.3%	12.7%	5.9%

Source: US Census

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

Jefferson 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	68.9% (12,920)	46.3% (1,272)	9.8%	14.1%
Black	0.1% (12)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	36.8%
American Indian	15.0% (2,820)	32.8% (901)	32.0%	30.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6%/0.1% (105/16)	0.0%/0.0% (0/0)	0.0%/0.0%	12.7% *
Other	12.1% (2,266)	16.0% (439)	19.4%	39.5%
2 or more races	3.3% (614)	4.9% (135)	22.0%	NA
Hispanic origin	17.7% (3,321)	26.2% (719)	21.7%	37.7%

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

Jefferson County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	316 (10.1%)	490 (13.3%)	541 (10.4%)	71.2% (-0.3%)
With children younger than 18	249 (13.9%)	401 (19.9%)	469 (17.4%)	88.4% (3.5%)
Single woman with children younger than 18	92 (32.6%)	176 (47.8%)	260 (47.3%)	182.6% (14.7%)

Source: US Census

Poverty and Jefferson County families

In 1999, 541 of Jefferson County's 5,192 families lived in poverty (10.4 percent). Of the 541 families in poverty, 71.0 percent (384 families) had a household member who worked and 15.2 percent (82 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

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Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	19,009	19,475	19,619	19,741	19,824	20,100
People living below poverty level-%	14.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Median income	\$35,853	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment rate	5.0	6.7	6.8	7.1	6.4	6.1
8th grade drug use	16.6%	NA	27.8%	26.3%	16.9%	26.8%
HS dropout	6.5%	5.7%	4.1%	3.3%	3.3%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	26.7	21.7	15.9	15.4	NA	NA
Prenatal care	67.3%	64.4%	68.5%	69.2%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	21.4	17.4	18.6	NA	20.0	NA
Homeownership rate	71.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	38.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jefferson County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	24	124	43	41	30*	35
New units created with OHCS funding resources	0	0	0	40	0*	0
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$0	\$0	\$366,011	\$50,000	\$0*	\$369,000
Home loans for low-income households-#	6	2	5	2	6	9
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$461,895	\$161,588	\$429,380	\$187,946	\$660,335	\$1.0 m
Households receiving energy assistance-#	656	586	777	631	641	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	8	34	23
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	27.1%	24.6%	17.6%*	15.5%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	2,293	2,394	2,459	2,544	2,739	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	61.7%	65.0%	65.0%	68.4%	75.2%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	22.4%	22.6%	18.4%*	18.4%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	4.6%	4.1%	1.6%*	1.4%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	35.6%	35.7%	36.9%	NA	NA
NA = Not Available						
*Cannot be compared to previous years due to changes in data collection						