

Major findings

Between the years of 2001 and 2005, Josephine County generated 3,020 non-farm employment positions, with the three largest industries—trade, transportation and utilities, educational and health services and manufacturing—generating 1,570 positions. Unemployment dropped from a high of 8.9 percent in 2003 to 6.9 percent in 2005. Construction experienced the largest growth—84.0 percent—from 940 positions to 1,730.

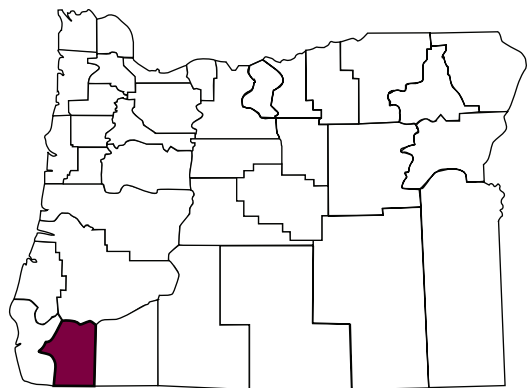
Although unemployment was low and the economy generated jobs, income remained low. Josephine County's per capita personal income was \$23,367, 76 percent of the state average. For one earner families, the average wage of \$2,309 was not enough to cover basic expenses for one adult and one child or more. Families earning poverty level wages could not even afford half of basic expenses. In 1999, 2,435 families in Josephine County (11.3 percent) lived in poverty, although over half of those families had a worker.

In 1999, Josephine County experienced a higher poverty rate than the state—15.0 percent—and children experienced poverty at a rate of 21.8 percent. During the 2004 and 2005 school year, over half of children qualified for free and/or reduced lunch.

Prioritized low-income needs

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

- Affordable housing is the number one priority in Josephine County. This is a county-wide problem. There is an ever widening gap between the resources available to low-income people in Josephine County and rapidly growing cost of housing.
- Food insecurity is a serious problem in Josephine County. In Josephine County there are 17,495 people who are potentially eligible to receive food stamps.
- Fuel assistance is high priority in Josephine County. There is a wide disparity between the funding available for this purpose and the need.
- Transportation in Josephine County still is a priority even though we have a transit system. We do not offer enough routes at sufficient times to meet the overwhelming need for services.
- Health care is inadequate. Low-income families cannot afford health care or adequate insurance.



Recent efforts

Josephine Community Action Agency provided 592 total households with emergency or continuum of care housing assistance.

Food insecurity in Josephine County has continued to rise over the last five years. October 3, 2005, the Josephine County Food Bank merged with Umpqua Community Action Network's Food Share Program. Last year, Josephine County received 1,715,418 pounds of food distributed in 23,380 food boxes through 26 agencies: pantries; emergency meal programs; and supplemental programs.

2,769 total households received energy assistance Josephine County Community Action Agency in 2005.

Transportation routes connecting rural areas to the city to access services have proliferated. Ridership increased 12 percent per year. Rogue Community College pays for bus passes to bring students into Grants Pass to attend classes. The Job Council and the Oregon Department of Human Services also purchases bus passes for clients.

Health Care issues and concerns are handled by the Josephine County Community Action Agency in collaboration with Asante Medical Center's Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). RSVP provides low-income families with information on the Family Health Insurance Assistance Program (FHIAP). With the changes in Medicare this year, both agencies worked collaboratively and assisted seniors in acquiring the best prescription plan available to them.

In August of 2005 a young woman came to UCAN in tears. She and her boyfriend were both enrolled in Alcohol and Drug treatment programs after they got out of prison for drug related charges. They had just rented an apartment the month prior. He began using again and so she had to kick him out of the house which left her unable to afford the apartment. She has just begun the process of trying to get her daughter back, but if she lost her housing, that process would stop. She was employed full time at minimum wage, trying to get her fines paid as well as all other monthly expenses. She was at her wit's end. She applied for and was enrolled in our case managed short-term housing assistance program through the Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Her rent was brought current for her and each month after that she came by with proof of fines paid, status of her sobriety, income verification. UCAN paid a good portion of her rent.

It is now one year later and she has her daughter back. Her daughter was taken from her at birth and is now three years old. She graduated from Drug Court in February of 2006. She now makes \$9.50 per hour and is considering going back to school. She applied for housing assistance and received her voucher.

County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Josephine County's per capita personal income was \$23,367 in 2004, 76 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 71 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Josephine County rose 4.9 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows 3.4 percent average annual growth. Average earnings per job for 2004 were \$26,841 in Josephine 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 Josephine County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses. To learn more about this basic family budget, see Appendix 2.

Josephine 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	\$597	\$849	\$597	\$849
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$552	\$1,027	\$552	\$1,027
Transportation	\$381	\$381	\$535	\$535
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$279	\$443	\$334	\$487
Taxes	\$421	\$149	\$365	\$107
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,772	\$3,678	\$3,186	\$4,087
Basic family budget total/annual	\$33,264	\$44,136	\$38,232	\$49,044
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$15.99	\$21.22	\$18.38	\$23.58
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	38.6%	43.8%	42.1%	46.1%

What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Josephine County could afford 38.6 percent to 46.1 percent of this basic family budget.

Josephine County

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Josephine County in 2005 were \$2,309. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$4,074 and leisure and hospitality paid the lowest monthly average of \$1,041.

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

Josephine 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)*	\$2,309	\$2,309	\$4,618	\$4,618
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,772	\$3,678	\$3,186	\$4,087
Difference (AMW-SSW)	-\$463	-\$1,369	\$1,432	\$531
Wages as % of self sufficiency	83.3%	62.8%	144.9%	113.0%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005				
**Based on basic family budget for Josephine County				

Employment

According to Oregon's Current Employment Statistics (CES), Josephine County added 3,020 non-farm positions from 2001 to 2005.

Largest three industries in Josephine County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Trade, transportation and utilities	5,320	+ 690	\$25,002
Educational and health services	3,740	+ 520	\$31,747
Manufacturing	3,300	+ 360	\$30,779

*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, construction experienced the largest job growth—84.0 percent—from 940 positions in 2001 to 1,730 in 2005. Information saw the largest decrease—19.0 percent—from 420 positions to 340 positions.

2000 US Census information**Number of persons below poverty level (poverty rate)**

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Josephine County	11,261 (18.3%)	11,193 (15.0%)	-0.6% (-3.3%)
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	15.6%	20.5%	13.6%	14.1%
1989	18.3%	27.5%	16.0%	13.7%
1999	15.0%	21.8%	15.1%	6.8%

Source: US Census

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

Josephine County

Josephine 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	93.8% (69,986)	89.7% (10,042)	14.3%	17.8%
Black	0.2% (119)	0.1% (15)	12.6%	15.1%
American Indian	1.3% (977)	2.2% (249)	25.5%	29.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5%/0.0% (392/32)	0.4%/0.0% (53/4)	13.5%/12.5%	26.3% *
Other	1.3% (971)	2.3% (258)	26.6%	46.5%
2 or more races	2.9% (2,136)	5.1% (572)	26.8%	NA
Hispanic origin	4.2% (3,162)	6.9% (767)	24.3%	36.5%

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

Josephine County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	2,130 (12.6%)	2,483 (13.8%)	2,435 (11.3%)	14.3% (-1.3%)
With children younger than 18	1,454 (17.7%)	1,733 (22.0%)	1,791 (19.7%)	135.7% (2.0%)
Single women with children younger than 18	679 (50.3%)	905 (51.8%)	970 (45.4%)	42.9% (-4.9%)

Source: US Census

Poverty and Josephine County families

In 1999, 2,435 of Josephine County's 21,569 families lived in poverty (11.3 percent). Of the 2,435 families in poverty, 51.5 percent (1,253 families) had a household member who worked and 11.5 percent (280 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

Josephine County

Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	75,726	76,498	77,764	78,868	79,810	80,761
People living below poverty level-%	15.0% ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA	14.2% ²
Median income	\$31,229 ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$34,595 ²
Unemployment rate	6.9	8.3	8.7	8.9	8.0	6.9
8th grade drug use	12.4%	NA	19.2%	21.9%	17.8%	17.7%
HS dropout	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	11.9	10.8	7.4	9.8	NA	NA
Prenatal care	78.7%	78.9%	87.5%	87.0%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	16.5	13.4	13.0	NA	12.8	NA
Homeownership rate	70.1%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	50.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Josephine County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	63	335	235	197	213*	380
New units created with OHCS funding resources	3	43	0	0	0*	0
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$180,889	\$1.6 m	\$0	\$0	\$0*	\$0
Home loans for low-income households-#	31	29	40	36	12	7
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$2.6 m	\$2.6 m	\$3.9 m	\$4.4 m	\$1.6 m	\$1.1 m
Households receiving energy assistance-#	3,259	2,708	3,123	2,658	2,941	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	34	101	130
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	25.6%	21.5%	16.7%*	15.3%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	5,688	6,047	6,067	6,067	6,090	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	49.4%	52.4%	52.0%	52.2%	52.0%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	22.0%	20.5%	16.7%*	16.7%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	4.3%	3.7%	1.9%*	1.9%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	33.6%	32.9%	31.2%	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						