

## Klamath County

### Major findings

From 2000 to 2005, high school drop out rate decreased from 5.7 percent to 3.6 percent. The percentage of women receiving prenatal care increased from 73.5 percent in 2000 to 81.3 percent in 2003. Although the percentage of students eligible for free and/or reduced lunch increased from the 2000 and 2001 school year (47.3 percent) to the 2004 and 2005 school year (51.1 percent), this percentage decreased from the high of 55.6 percent during the 2002 and 2003 school year.

In 1999, Klamath County's poverty rate of 16.8 percent was above the state average of 11.6 percent. Children faced the highest rate of poverty—22.8 percent. During the same year, 2,094 families (12.0 percent) lived in poverty, although 61.9 percent had a householder who worked, and 42.4 percent of households with children headed by single women lived in poverty.

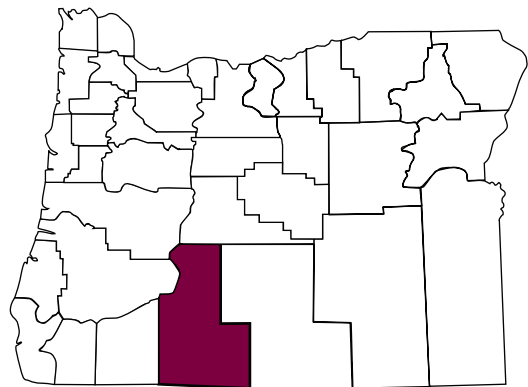
Unemployment dropped from the 2003 high of 9.8 percent to 7.6 percent by 2005 and the economy generated 690 non-farm positions from 2001 to 2005. The three largest industries grew, generating 560 positions.

One-earner families with multiple children could not afford basic expenses and families who lived in poverty could only afford 46.5 percent to 51.8 percent of basic expenses depending on the family type.

### Prioritized low-income needs

Klamath/Lake Community Action Agency (KLCAS) brought together all the agencies that serve the low-income populations in Klamath County. The group prioritized county low-income needs as follows:

- Increased access to transitional housing for people leaving emergency shelters
- Increased job opportunities for low-income people moving off public assistance
- Increased affordable after school child care and quality infant and toddler care
- Increased safe and affordable housing.  
Promote collaboration with other low-income agencies to help identify the needs and gaps of low-income housing
- Low- or no-cost medical and dental care
- Delivery of food to low-income people
- Low- and no-cost transportation
- Free legal services for single moms and Hispanic households



### Recent efforts

KLCAS recently conducted a community needs forum for all providers and any interested consumers in Klamath County to identify the needs of the cities and the outlying areas. This gave the local providers a chance to meet and learn about other services available in their area. They developed a strategic plan with goals, activities to achieve the goals, outputs and analysis of the impact on low-income households.

KLCAS presented a two-day Poverty Conference on the causes and conditions of poverty. Workshops were conducted by professional presenters who made available educational pamphlets for local providers and consumers.

KLCAS developed a one-page resource guide to hand out to low-income clients and increase knowledge of available services.

A new transitional housing program was developed for clients coming out of the community corrections system and for homeless clients living at the Gospel Mission. An on-site case manager at the local Gospel Mission works with clients to identify needs and works with community support services and provides individual skills training to stabilize housing situations. This transitional housing program provides the structured, drug- and alcohol-free residential environment essential to client stability.

The United Way just completed its third community effort to assess the social, economic and general health and welfare of Klamath County and its citizens. The report is an invaluable resource for attaining government and private foundation grants. It also provides a compiles diverse data beneficial to community planners and organizations who address our community's most pressing social needs. Focus groups involving more than 200 people were held to further examine the most serious social issues and to seek solutions to the problems. The publication is called "Trends & Solutions, Klamath County, 2006" (The report is available at: [www.unitedwayoftheklamathbasin.org/2006%20Trends%20and%20Solutions.pdf](http://www.unitedwayoftheklamathbasin.org/2006%20Trends%20and%20Solutions.pdf)).

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### County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Klamath County's per capita personal income was \$24,917 in 2004, 82 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 75 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Klamath County rose 3.8 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows 4.1 percent average annual growth. Average earnings per job for 2004 were \$29,100 in Klamath 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 Klamath County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses. To learn more about this basic family budget, see Appendix 2.

#### Klamath 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	\$531	\$743	\$531	\$743
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$515	\$916	\$515	\$916
Transportation	\$381	\$381	\$535	\$535
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$259	\$410	\$313	\$454
Taxes	(\$4)	(\$164)	\$188	(\$93)
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,224	\$3,115	\$2,885	\$3,637
Basic family budget total/annual	\$26,688	\$37,380	\$34,620	\$43,644
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$12.83	\$17.97	\$16.64	\$20.98
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	48.1%	51.8%	46.5%	51.8%

### What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Klamath County could afford 46.5 percent to 51.8 percent of this basic family budget.

## Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, average monthly earnings in Klamath County in 2005 were \$2,483. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$4,135 and leisure and hospitality paid the lowest monthly average of \$1,144.

The following chart illustrates a family's ability to be self-sufficient based on earnings of average wages for Klamath County. The two-worker scenario relies on both workers earning average wages. Using this basic budget, one adult who earned Klamath County's average monthly wage could not afford basic expenses for themselves and three children.

### Klamath County wages and the basic family budget

	1 worker	1 worker	2 workers	2 workers
Average monthly wage (AMW)*	\$2,483	\$2,483	\$4,966	\$4,966
	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,224	\$3,115	\$2,885	\$3,637
Difference (AMW-SSW)	\$259	-\$632	\$2,081	\$1,329
Wages as % of self sufficiency	111.6%	79.7%	172.1%	136.5%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005				
**Based on basic family budget for Klamath County				

## Employment

According to Oregon's Current Employment Statistics (CES), Klamath County added 690 non-farm positions from 2001 to 2005.

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### Largest three industries in Klamath County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Trade, transportation and utilities	4,530	+ 130	\$27,013
Local government	3,230	+ 40	\$32,648
Educational and health services	2,940	+ 390	\$33,987

\*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, professional and business services experienced the largest job growth— 16.2 percent—from 1,850 positions in 2001 to 2,150 in 2005. Financial activities saw the largest decrease— 10.6 percent—from 1,130 positions to 1,010 positions.

### 2000 US Census information

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

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Klamath County	9,494 (16.7%)	10,515 (16.8%)	10.8% (0.0%)
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	12.6%	14.4%	11.2%	15.4%
1989	16.7%	22.5%	15.0%	13.0%
1999	16.8%	22.8%	16.4%	7.7%

Source: US Census

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

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## Klamath 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	87.3% (54,759)	76.7% (8,070)	14.7%	15.0%
Black	0.5% (288)	0.5% (50)	17.4%	36.7%
American Indian	4.2% (2,617)	9.9% (1,044)	39.9%	39.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7%/0.2% (426/109)	0.4%/0.0% (46/3)	10.8%/2.8%	25.9%*
Other	3.6% (2,244)	7.8% (825)	36.8%	44.0%
2 or more races	3.6% (2,250)	4.5% (477)	21.2%	NA
Hispanic origin	7.7% (4,802)	14.8% (1,557)	32.4%	34.7%

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

## Klamath County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	1,623 (10.0%)	1,952 (12.3%)	2,094 (12.0%)	29.0% (2.0%)
With children younger than 18	1,132 (12.8%)	1,515 (19.5%)	1,665 (19.9%)	47.1% (7.1%)
Single women with children younger than 18	573 (47.9%)	703 (51.2%)	772 (42.4%)	34.7% (-5.5%)

Source: US Census

## Poverty and Klamath County families

In 1999, 2,094 of Klamath County's 17,394 families lived in poverty (12.0 percent). Of the 2,094 families in poverty, 61.9 percent (1,297 families) had a house-hold member who worked and 14.6 percent (305 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

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Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	63,775	64,171	64,304	65,018	65,268	66,192
People living below poverty level-%	16.8% <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	22.0% <sup>2</sup>
Median income	\$31,537 <sup>1</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$35,901 <sup>2</sup>
Unemployment rate	7.4	8.6	9.0	9.8	9.4	7.6
8th grade drug use	7.9%	NA	12.1%	21.9%	15.7%	14.5%
HS dropout	5.7%	3.6%	3.5%	4.2%	3.6%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	15.6	17.7	12.1	15.5	NA	NA
Prenatal care	73.5%	76.2%	78.0%	81.3%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	23.7	19.8	16.7	NA	17.5	NA
Homeownership rate	68.0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	48.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Klamath County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	183	1,026	352	350	608*	462
New units created with OHCS funding resources	8	0	64	7	0*	0
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$175,000	\$100,000	\$1.6 m	\$121,500	\$0*	\$43,146
Home loans for low-income households-#	61	46	45	46	48	57
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$3.5 m	\$3.1 m	\$3.2 m	\$3.3 m	\$4.0 m	\$6.0 m
Households receiving energy assistance-#	2,620	2,814	3,144	3,008	3,101	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	60	76	36
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	24.4%	21.5%	16.1%*	14.7%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	5,223	5,266	5,951	5,800	5,414	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	47.3%	48.6%	55.6%	55.0%	51.1%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	20.2%	19.5%	15.7%*	15.5%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	2.3%	1.8%	0.7%*	0.6%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	33.2%	33.0%	30.5%	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						