

Major findings

Between 2001 and 2005, Lincoln County generated 920 non-farm employment positions. Local government, the third largest industry in Lincoln County and highest paying of the three, lost 500 positions from 2001 to 2005. Educational and health services experienced the largest job growth—59.2 percent—gaining 610 positions. Unemployment dropped from a high of 9.0 percent in 2003 to 6.7 percent in 2005.

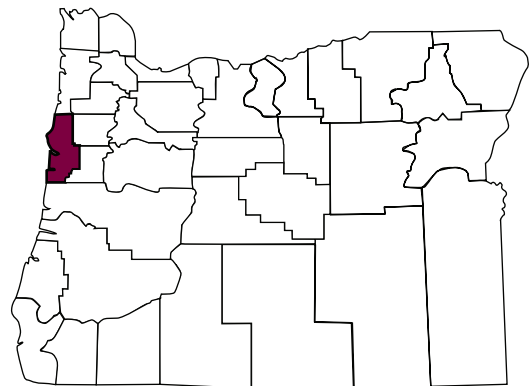
For one-earner families, the 2005 average wage of \$2,235 was not enough to cover basic expenses for one adult and one child or more. Families who earned poverty level wages could afford between 38.0 percent and 42.2 percent of basic expenses. In 1999, 1,216 families in Lincoln County (9.8 percent) lived in poverty, although 66.7 percent of those families had a worker.

Lincoln County experienced a higher poverty rate than the state in 1999—13.9 percent compared to 11.6 percent—and children experienced poverty at a rate of 20.8 percent. During the 2004 and 2005 school year, 60.7 percent of children qualified for free and/or reduced lunch.

Prioritized low-income needs

Community Services Consortium prioritized the needs of the low-income population in Lincoln County as follows:

- Affordable housing
- Housing maintenance—protect existing homes through weatherization and rehabilitation
- Homelessness—assistance and advocacy
- Emergency needs—utility/energy assistance and tenant-based rental assistance
- Child concerns—Head Start and child care services
- Hunger prevention—food collection, storing and distribution
- Rural service delivery
- Employment training for youth, adults, dislocated workers
- Information and referral



Lincoln County

Recent efforts

CSC's Lincoln County Head Start program recently received a community development block grant for the purchase of land and construction of a third Head Start facility in the county. The new site is located in Newport, and will join schools in Lincoln City and Toledo. Head Start projects that the building will be ready for students in the fall of 2007.

They were rural Lincoln County property owners, just getting by. A senior couple, living in an older 800 square foot mobile home on four acres of land. Both had health problems. Both still worked part-time for the Seniors and People with Disabilities division in the Oregon Department of Human Services.

The couple's water was supplied by a spring on the hillside, which often ran dry, sometimes for several months during the year. The electrical system in their home was outdated and dangerous. The family had no means to improve their situation, and their health was failing.

In July, 2003, the couple applied for a no-interest, deferred-payment home repair loan through the City of Toledo Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. When funds became available and requirements met, the project began.

CSC required four contractors to address the complexity of the project. An access road was necessary in order for a well to be drilled. Once the road was built, a well was drilled, a pump house was built for the water system, the electrical system in the house was upgraded and work on the project was completed in October of 2004.

With Lincoln County providing Community Development Block Grant funds for the project; CSC providing administration of the program and the project; and four local Lincoln County contractors building, drilling and wiring; the rural Lincoln County family now has a clean, reliable source of water, and lives in a safer, more comfortable home.



Photo courtesy of Community Services Consortium

County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Lincoln County's per capita personal income was \$27,605 in 2004, 90 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 84 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Lincoln County rose 5.2 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 \$26,180 in Lincoln 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 Lincoln County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses. To learn more about this basic family budget, see Appendix 2.

Lincoln 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	\$648	\$898	\$648	\$898
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$515	\$1,060	\$515	\$1,060
Transportation	\$381	\$381	\$535	\$535
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$295	\$458	\$349	\$502
Taxes	\$434	\$584	\$448	\$384
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,815	\$4,210	\$3,298	\$4,461
Basic family budget total/annual	\$33,780	\$50,520	\$39,576	\$53,532
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$16.24	\$24.29	\$19.03	\$25.74
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	38.0%	38.3%	40.7%	42.2%

What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Lincoln County could afford 38.0 percent to 42.2 percent of this basic family budget.

Lincoln County

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Lincoln County in 2005 were \$2,235. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$4,297 and private non-classified paid the lowest monthly average of \$889.

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

Lincoln County wages and the basic family budget

	1 worker	1 worker	2 workers	2 workers
Average monthly wage (AMW)*	\$2,235	\$2,235	\$4,470	\$4,470
	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,815	\$4,210	\$3,298	\$4,461
Difference (AMW-SSW)	-\$580	-\$1,975	\$1,172	\$9
Wages as % of self sufficiency	79.4%	53.1%	135.5%	100.2%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005				
**Based on basic family budget for Lincoln County				

Employment

According to Oregon's Current Employment Statistics (CES), Lincoln County added 920 non-farm positions from 2001 to 2005.

Largest three industries in Lincoln County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Leisure and hospitality	4,350	+ 140	\$14,916
Trade, transportation and utilities	3,370	+ 140	\$21,903
Local government	2,950	-500	\$32,890

*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, educational and health services experienced the largest job growth—59.2 percent—from 1,030 positions in 2001 to 1,640 in 2005. Information saw the largest decrease—15.4 percent—from 420 positions to 340 positions.

2000 US Census information

Number of persons below poverty level (poverty rate)

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Lincoln County	5,524 (14.4%)	6,084 (13.9%)	10.1% (-0.5%)
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	11.5%	14.3%	10.8%	10.0%
1989	14.4%	20.7%	13.6%	9.4%
1999	13.9%	20.8%	13.6%	7.2%

Source: US Census

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

Lincoln County

Lincoln 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	90.3% (39,645)	82.3% (5,008)	12.6%	13.7%
Black	0.2% (98)	0.3% (16)	16.3%	71.2%
American Indian	2.7% (1,192)	5.9% (361)	30.3%	35.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7%/0.3% (297/117)	0.6%/0.4% (37/24)	12.5%/20.5%	25.3%*
Other	1.8% (810)	4.6% (281)	34.7%	4.6%
2 or more races	3.9% (1,721)	5.9% (357)	15.4%	NA
Hispanic origin	4.7% (2,058)	9.7% (589)	28.6%	16.6%

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

Lincoln County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	838 (8.1%)	1,129 (10.1%)	1,216 (9.8%)	45.1% (1.7%)
With children younger than 18	490 (11.1%)	843 (17.8%)	943 (17.9%)	92.4% (6.8%)
Single women with children younger than 18	248 (36.0%)	437 (48.0%)	531 (35.2%)	114.1% (-0.8%)

Source: US Census

Poverty and Lincoln County families

In 1999, 1,216 of Lincoln County's 12,434 families lived in poverty (9.8 percent). Of the 1,216 families in poverty, 66.7 percent (811 families) had a household member who worked and 13.0 percent (158 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

Lincoln County

Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	44,479	44,067	44,514	44,816	45,258	45,994
People living below poverty level-%	13.9%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Median income	\$32,769	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment rate	6.4	7.2	8.1	9.0	8.0	6.7
8th grade drug use	20.2%	NA	20.3%	19.1%	13.2%	11.8%
HS dropout	8.7%	7.6%	6.0%	5.9%	5.1%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	12.6	18.3	10.8	9.4%	NA	NA
Prenatal care	82.5%	77.8%	75.6%	75.8%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	18.9	16.3	15.6	NA	13.7	NA
Homeownership rate	65.7%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	48.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lincoln County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	47	41	45	58	31 *	80
New units created with OHCS funding resources	0	29	102	38	44 *	98
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$0	\$2.1 m	\$3.0 m	\$1.3 m		\$4.3 m
Home loans for low-income households-#	6	6	15	12	10	7
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$507,262	\$614,464	\$1.3 m	\$1.3 m	\$949,674	\$881,477
Households receiving energy assistance-#	1,702	1,439	1,385	1,580	1,545	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	25	30	45
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	37.5%	28.4%	15.8% *	14.3%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	3,116	2,774	3,025	3,049	3,573	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	48.0%	43.5%	49.5%	51.1%	60.7%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	32.9%	27.4%	17.1% *	15.5%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	4.6%	3.7%	1.6% *	1.5%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	32.5%	34.0%	42.7%	NA	NA
NA = Not Available						
*Cannot be compared to previous years due to changes in data collection						