

Marion County

Major findings

Unemployment dropped from a high of 8.0 percent in 2003 to 6.4 percent in 2005. Between the years of 2001 and 2005, Marion County generated 8,106 non-farm employment positions, with the three largest industries generating 3,935 positions. The largest industry in Marion County, trade, transportation and utilities, gained 2,195 positions and paid an average annual wage of \$28,399.

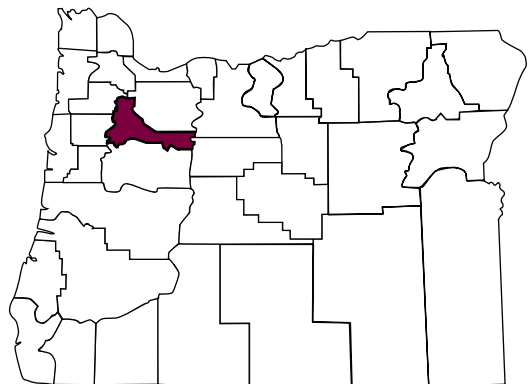
According to American Community Survey data, the percentage of people living below the poverty level grew from 13.6 percent to 18.3 percent between the 2002 and 2004 surveys. During the same period, median income decreased from \$40,151 to \$36,591. The percentage of homeowners decreased from the 2002 to 2004 surveys, and over half of those who rented in Marion County were “rent burdened”—spending 30 percent or more of their total income on rental costs.

The 2005 average wage in Marion County could only fund 66.0 percent of basic expenses for a single adult with three children. Families earning poverty level wages in 2005 could not afford half of basic expenses. In 1999, 6,841 families in Marion County (9.6 percent) lived in poverty, although 64.7 percent of those families had a worker. Families with children younger than 18 experienced a higher poverty rate of 15.1 percent. Minority populations in Marion County also faced high rates of poverty, with Black, Pacific Islander, Other and those of Hispanic origin all experiencing poverty rates at or above 26.7 percent.

Prioritized low-income needs

Community Action Agency Marion/Polk (CAA) prioritized the needs of the low-income population in Marion County as follows:

- Housing—increase resources to address homeless issues, particularly transitional housing and case management; provide additional emergency rental and utility assistance to prevent homelessness; increase affordable, low-income and permanent supportive housing stock; provide tenant education so homeless families with poor rent and credit histories can access permanent housing
- Nutrition—address food insecurity including longer-term emergency food assistance; increase the number of in-home child care providers who access USDA child nutrition program
- Youth—increase the number of shelter beds for runaway and homeless youth and transitional living slots for older homeless youth. Improve mental health and employment services. Reach out to street youth



- Health—increase free and low-cost mental health services, including access to medication and medication management
- Early childhood—increase the number of Head Start slots and establish an Early Head Start program
- Substance abuse—increase the number of free and reduced-cost detoxification and inpatient services. Increase the number of employers who support a Drug Free Workplace
- Child care—increase the number of affordable child care slots and the availability of middle school after-school programs
- Energy—increase energy conservation skills and client case management to prevent shut-offs and reduce the impact of rising energy costs
- Information and referral—improve access to community services, particularly in rural communities

Recent efforts

Energy Services programs prevented 516 household energy shut-offs, restored services for 736 households and weatherized 184 households.

Salem-Keizer Middle School's After School program served 4,986 youth (2005-2006) representing over 55 percent of enrolled youth. POWER (Promoting Outstanding Work, Education and Recreation) is open to all middle school students in the district. Recent study results show significantly higher academic achievement for students who participated in POWER two or more times a week.

The Child Care Learning and Development Project through Oregon Community Foundation expanded the availability of nationally recognized early childhood trainings to a more diverse group of child care providers and parents—primarily Spanish-speaking, low-income and specialized care providers. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive approach to address homelessness, community partners representing business, government and non-profits have come together to begin the development of a "10 Year Plan to End Homelessness." The focus of this effort looks at existing resources and develops a variety of deliverables to meet the varying needs of individuals and families.

In the past two years, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, Community Action Head Start Marion and Polk Counties hosted job-readiness plans and opportunities for families. Over the two years approximately 1300 family members took advantage of the volunteer training opportunities.

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County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Marion County's per capita personal income was \$27,128 in 2004, 89 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 82 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Marion County rose 4.3 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows 3.3 percent average annual growth. Average earnings per job for 2004 were \$31,074 in Marion 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 Marion County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses. To learn more about this basic family budget, see Appendix 2.

Marion 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	\$616	\$895	\$616	\$895
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$521	\$1,076	\$521	\$1,076
Transportation	\$326	\$326	\$458	\$458
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$285	\$457	\$339	\$501
Taxes	\$262	\$437	\$272	\$99
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,552	\$4,020	\$3,009	\$4,111
Basic family budget total/annual	\$30,624	\$48,240	\$36,108	\$49,332
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$14.72	\$23.19	\$17.36	\$23.72
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	41.9%	40.1%	44.6%	45.8%

What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Marion County could afford 40.1 percent to 45.8 percent of this basic family budget.

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Marion County in 2005 were \$2,652. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$4,273 and leisure and hospitality paid the lowest monthly average of \$1,091.

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

Marion County wages and the basic family budget

	1 worker	1 worker	2 workers	2 workers
Average monthly wage (AMW)*	\$2,652	\$2,652	\$5,304	\$5,304
	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,552	\$4,020	\$3,009	\$4,111
Difference (AMW-SSW)	\$100	-\$1,368	\$2,295	\$1,193
Wages as % of self sufficiency	103.9%	66.0%	176.3%	129.0%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005				
**Based on basic family budget for Marion County				

Employment

According to Oregon's Covered Employment and Wages, Marion County added 8,106 non-farm positions from 2001 to 2005.

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Largest three industries in Marion County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Trade, transportation and utilities	22,458	+ 2,195	\$28,399
State government	17,735	+ 648	\$41,052
Education and health services	15,595	+ 1,092	\$36,626

*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, professional and business services experienced the largest job growth—29.0 percent—from 9,322 positions in 2001 to 12,022 in 2005. Information saw the largest decrease—22.3 percent—from 1,856 positions to 1,442 positions.

2000 US Census information

Number of persons below poverty level (poverty rate)

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Marion County	28,638 (13.2%)	37,104 (13.5%)	29.6% (0.3%)
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	10.8%	13.6%	9.2%	12.3%
1989	13.2%	17.4%	12.0%	9.9%
1999	13.5%	18.8%	12.3%	7.4%

Source: US Census

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

Marion 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	81.9% (225,052)	68.3% (25,333)	11.3%	11.8%
Black	0.7% (2,016)	1.7% (627)	31.1%	31.6%
American Indian	1.2% (3,418)	1.8% (661)	19.3%	27.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.6%/0.3% (4,497/757)	1.5%/0.6% (568/224)	12.6%/29.6%	18.4%*
Other	10.8% (29,726)	21.5% (7,971)	26.8%	32.9%
2 or more races	3.4% (9,442)	4.6% (1,720)	18.2%	NA
Hispanic origin	17.5% (48,023)	34.5% (12,803)	26.7%	32.1%

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

Marion County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	4,382 (8.1%)	5,521 (9.4%)	6,841 (9.6%)	56.1% (1.5%)
With children younger than 18	3,233 (11.4%)	4,386 (14.7%)	5,724 (15.1%)	77.0% (3.7%)
Single women with children younger than 18	1,731 (35.0%)	2,415 (40.6%)	2,985 (37.4%)	72.4% (2.4%)

Source: US Census

Poverty and Marion County families

In 1999, 6,841 of Marion County's 71,034 families lived in poverty (9.6 percent). Of the 6,841 families in poverty, 64.7 percent (4,425 families) had a household member who worked and 15.5 percent (1,060 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

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Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	284,834	289,350	294,826	298,526	301,702	305,265
People living below poverty level-%	13.5% ¹	NA	13.6% ²	14.2% ²	18.3% ²	15.1% ²
Median income	\$40,314 ¹	NA	\$40,151 ²	\$39,309 ²	\$36,591 ²	\$43,137 ²
Unemployment rate	5.6	6.4	7.3	8.0	7.5	6.4
8th grade drug use	21.1%	NA	20.5%	19.4%	16.1%	14.7%
HS dropout	8.3%	6.9%	6.5%	6.2%	5.8%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	17.6	16.5	15.6	12.8	NA	NA
Prenatal care	74.3%	73.0%	73.7%	72.3%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	23.2	19.6	20.6	NA	15.3	NA
Homeownership rate	62.9% ²	NA	66.9% ²	59.9% ²	59.6% ²	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	43.1% ²	NA	52.8% ²	52.7% ²	54.1% ²	NA
Marion County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	836	476	413	671	747*	678
New units created with OHCS funding resources	132	17	226	92	128*	130
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$6.6 m	\$895,965	\$1.1 m	\$3.5 m	\$5.8 m*	\$2.5 m
Home loans for low-income households-#	104	96	78	87	134	111
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$9.1 m	\$8.9 m	\$7.5 m	\$9.0 m	\$15.7 m	\$13.0 m
Households receiving energy assistance-#	5,778	5,807	6,516	5,429	5,757	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	271	249	193
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	22.1%	19.2%	15.1%*	14.4%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	22,501	23,946	26,528	27,001	27,313	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	43.1%	44.6%	48.4%	48.5%	48.9%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	17.2%	16.5%	14.5%*	14.5%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	3.6%	3.2%	1.6%*	1.5%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	28.7%	30.3%	28.5%	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						