

## Multnomah County

### Major findings

Between 2001 and 2005 Multnomah County lost 16,147 employment positions. During this time period, the two largest industries in Multnomah County, trade, transportation and utilities and professional and business services, lost a combined 8,544 positions. Unemployment was 6.2 percent, down from Multnomah County's 2003 high of 8.6 percent.

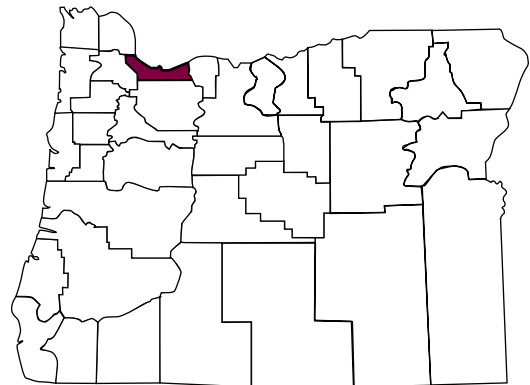
According to American Community Survey data, the percentage of people living below the poverty level in Multnomah County increased from 13.5 percent to 17.4 percent between the 2001 and 2005 surveys. Median income increased slightly during this time period rising from \$41,022 to \$41,576. The percentage of homeowners increased to 58.9 percent in Multnomah County in the 2004 survey, up from 55.6 percent in the 2001 survey. Individuals who were rent burdened—spending 30 percent or more of their total income on rental costs—also rose during this time period from 49.7 percent of renters to 57.6 percent of renters.

In 2005, families who lived in poverty in Multnomah County could not afford even half of the basic family budget. In 1999, there were 12,593 families who lived in poverty, although over half of those families had a household member who worked. Single women with children under 18 comprised 46.2 percent of the families in poverty in 1999.

### Prioritized low-income needs

According to the county-wide needs assessment conducted by 211, the top categories of need in Multnomah County for those calling for assistance are:

- Temporary financial aid for unexpected expenses such as medical care
- Housing—a range of options needed from permanent supportive housing to clean and sober housing, to domestic violence shelter, to short-term rent assistance
- Health care—immediate treatment, preventative care and insurance
- Food and income security—living-wage job skills training and placement services
- According to Multnomah County Department of School and Community Partnerships sub-recipient agencies receiving over 60,000 information and referral calls a year, the four most prevalent categories of need are:
  - Utility assistance—including water and sewer costs



- Housing assistance—a range of options needed from permanent supportive housing to clean and sober housing to domestic violence shelter to short-term rent assistance
- Domestic violence assistance
- Food—emergency feeding, summer food programs and food insecurity

### Recent efforts

Multnomah County and 800 volunteers and service providers held the nation's first Project Homeless Connect for Families. Three hundred fifty homeless families came to the Memorial Coliseum seeking housing assistance, employment and a variety of health and social services. Six on-site housing agencies provided immediate assistance to 50 families selected by lottery, including permanent housing with short-term rental assistance, transitional housing, project-based Section 8 and shelter placement with follow-up services.

Families could access anything from developmental screenings, immediate dental care, pediatrics, immunizations, vision and hearing screenings, hair cuts, child care, family portraits, Division of Motor Vehicles services, Department of Human Services benefits, legal services, employment assistance, housing, clothing, food and hygiene packages.

Portland welcomed officials from five other counties, two Washington State counties and officials from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.



#### Resources help a family stay together

One family whose child was removed by authorities because they were living outdoors next to a popular hiking trail was linked with Human Solutions, where they found housing and received life management skills. Human Solutions connected them to Parent Child Development Services run by Mt. Hood Community College, which provided early childhood education classes and other support to the family to regain custody. Ultimately, the child returned to her family.

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### County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Multnomah County's per capita personal income was \$36,117 in 2004, 118 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 109 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Multnomah County rose 5.6 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows 4.2 percent average annual growth. Average earnings per job for 2004 were \$39,667 in Multnomah 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 Multnomah County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses. To learn more about this basic family budget, see Appendix 2.

#### Multnomah 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	\$717	\$1,044	\$717	\$1,044
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$551	\$1,118	\$551	\$1,118
Transportation	\$300	\$300	\$421	\$421
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$316	\$503	\$371	\$547
Taxes	\$454	\$658	\$449	\$695
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,880	\$4,452	\$3,312	\$4,907
Basic family budget total/annual	\$34,560	\$53,424	\$39,744	\$58,884
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$16.62	\$25.68	\$19.11	\$28.31
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	37.1%	36.2%	40.5%	38.4%

### What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Multnomah County could afford 36.2 percent to 40.5 percent of this basic family budget.

## Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Multnomah County in 2005 were \$3,437. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$5,092 and leisure and hospitality paid the lowest monthly average of \$1,558.

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

### Multnomah County wages and the basic family budget

	1 worker	1 worker	2 workers	2 workers
Average monthly wage (AMW)*	\$3,437	\$3,437	\$6,874	\$6,874
	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,880	\$4,452	\$3,312	\$4,907
Difference (AMW-SSW)	\$557	-\$1,015	\$3,562	\$1,967
Wages as % of self sufficiency	119.3%	77.2%	207.5%	140.1%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005				
**Based on basic family budget for Multnomah County				

## Employment

According to Oregon's Covered Employment and Wages, Multnomah County lost 16,147 employment positions from 2001 to 2005.

## Multnomah County

### Largest three industries in Multnomah County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Trade, transportation and utilities	84,127	-6,407	\$36,921
Professional and business services	64,317	-2,137	\$49,861
Education and health services	54,859	+ 3,414	\$38,851

\*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, private non-classified experienced the largest decrease—32.6 percent—from 178 positions in 2001 to 120 in 2005. State government generated the largest growth—40.0 percent—from 7,099 positions to 9,940 positions, primarily due to a reclassification of home care workers.

### 2000 US Census information

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

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Multnomah County	74,885 (13.1%)	81,711 (12.7%)	9.1% (-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	11.4%	14.5%	10.0%	12.5%
1989	13.1%	16.8%	12.2%	11.0%
1999	12.7%	16.2%	12.0%	9.8%

Source: US Census

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

# Multnomah County

## Multnomah 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	79.0 (510,278)	64.5 (52,688)	10.3	11.1
Black	5.3 (34,527)	11.0 (9,006)	26.1	30.5
American Indian	1.0 (6,463)	1.7 (1,427)	22.1	28.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.7/0.4 (36,622/2,444)	5.6/0.4 (4,597/339)	12.6/13.9	21.0*
Other	4.1 (26,168)	9.6 (7,863)	30.0	28.0
2 or more races	4.5 (29,082)	7.1 (5,791)	19.9	NA
Hispanic origin	7.4 (48,073)	15.3 (12,465)	25.9	25.5

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

## Multnomah County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	10,875 (7.7%)	12,838 (8.9%)	12,593 (8.2%)	15.8% (0.5%)
With children younger than 18	8,574 (12.2%)	10,184 (14.1%)	10,132 (12.9%)	18.2% (0.7%)
Single women with children younger than 18	5,085 (33.7%)	6,064 (36.5%)	5,821 (30.7%)	14.5% (-3.0%)

Source: US Census

## Poverty and Multnomah County families

In 1999, 12,593 of Multnomah County's 153,832 families lived in poverty (8.2 percent). Of the 12,593 families in poverty, 57.8 percent (7,278 families) had a household member who worked and 13.8 percent (1,735 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

# Multnomah County

Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	660,486	668,490	674,887	677,562	671,363	672,906
People living below poverty level-%	12.7% <sup>1</sup>	13.5% <sup>2</sup>	13.6% <sup>2</sup>	15.1% <sup>2</sup>	16.7% <sup>2</sup>	17.4% <sup>2</sup>
Median income	\$41,278 <sup>1</sup>	\$41,022 <sup>2</sup>	\$40,305 <sup>2</sup>	\$40,793 <sup>2</sup>	\$41,576 <sup>2</sup>	\$42,773 <sup>2</sup>
Unemployment rate	4.7	6.3	8.1	8.6	7.7	6.2
8th grade drug use	10.5%	NA	18.7%	19.5%	17.8%	14.9%
HS dropout	9.5%	8.6%	7.7%	7.3%	7.2%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	19.1	16.9	14.3	14.1%	NA	NA
Prenatal care	79.5%	80.1%	80.6%	80.9%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	22.7	20.5	19.0	NA	18.6	NA
Homeownership rate	56.9% <sup>1</sup>	55.6% <sup>2</sup>	56.9% <sup>2</sup>	56.3% <sup>2</sup>	58.9% <sup>2</sup>	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	45.5% <sup>1</sup>	49.7% <sup>2</sup>	55.5% <sup>2</sup>	53.1% <sup>2</sup>	57.6% <sup>2</sup>	NA
Multnomah County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	2,010	2,639	2,455	2,632	2,508 *	3,738
New units created with OHCS funding resources	577	1,163	1,735	1,434	1,156 *	1,156
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$20.9 m	\$32.0 m	\$74.8 m	\$77.3 m	\$15.1 m *	\$9.6 m
Home loans for low-income households-#	330	325	253	252	351	268
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$34.9 m	\$35.0 m	\$29.9 m	\$32.0 m	\$46.4 m	\$38.4 m
Households receiving energy assistance-#	15,425	15,955	12,236	11,485	12,652	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	277	208	243
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	21.2%	18.5%	14.4% *	13.4%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	34,555	38,236	39,548	40,468	44,996	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	37.0%	40.6%	42.1%	44.3%	49.4%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	16.7%	16.3%	13.7% *	13.6%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	3.6%	3.4%	1.9% *	1.9%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	27.9%	28.6%	26.6%	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						