

Major findings

Tillamook County's 2005 unemployment dropped to 6.0 percent from the 2003 high of 7.3 percent. The Employment Department reported gains of 500 non-farm positions from 2001 to 2005. During this time period, the two largest industries in Tillamook County gained 480 positions, while the third largest lost 110.

While employment improved, the average wage in Tillamook County proved inadequate for one earner families. The 2005 average monthly wage for the county \$2,348 could not fund the basic expenses for one adult and one child or more.

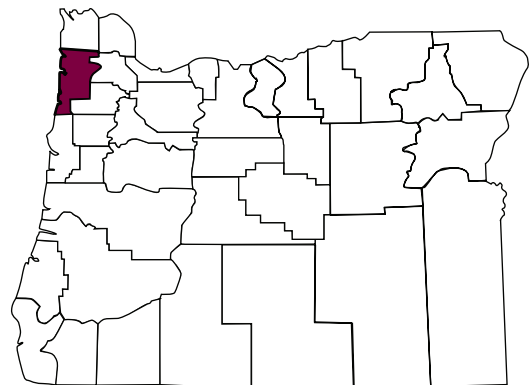
Those families who earned poverty level wages could not afford half of the basic family budget. In 1999, 553 families (8.1 percent) lived in poverty although 65.8 percent had a household member who worked.

Minority populations in Tillamook County faced higher rates of poverty than non-minority. People who identified as Black faced a poverty rate of 77.1 percent.

Prioritized low-income needs

Community Action Resource Enterprises, Inc. (CARE) has worked hard to meet the following identified and prioritized needs of the low-income population in Tillamook County as follows:

- Homelessness and housing—provide transitional housing for homeless families and individuals. Reduce the incidence of chronic homelessness through intensive case management
- Family support services—reduce the incidence of child abuse and child neglect. Increase parent training and opportunities for parents to connect with appropriate community resources. In the Healthy Start Program, attention to parent training, education of parents about child development, and access for parents to ongoing support significantly reduces the incidents of abuse or neglect of children
- Community food assistance—educate people about where their food comes from. Encourage people to grow and consume locally produced food. Advocate for emergency food assistance and ongoing supplemental food help for households in need. The Community Food Program has encouraged community gardens, grown produced for the emergency food system, educated youth volunteers and many adults about locally produced food, helped start



and support the Tillamook Farmer's Market, and assisted several local groups to offer meals for kids in the summer when the schools are not in session

- Emergency needs—provide help with a variety of emergency needs of low-income and people in crisis. Provide help with crisis needs as funding allows. Provide prescription help, utility bill help, public transportation help, eviction prevention help and address other miscellaneous needs as they arise. CARE Emergency Services Program provides 80-100 units of service to those in need each month
- Senior assisted living—provide specialized housing and services for seniors who need help with activities of daily living. Prior to CARE building and operating two assisted living facilities, no such housing option existed on the north Oregon coast north of Lincoln City. CARE accepts a high percentage of Medicaid-assisted tenants, thus making this type of housing available to a significant number of low-income households

Recent efforts

A Day Care Center and Preschool are under construction, expanding the capacity of an existing center by 100 percent (new capacity estimated to be about 80 households, or 50-60 kids on a daily basis). At least 50 percent of those attending will be at or below 80 percent of area median income. These projects should be finished in November 2006.

HOME Tenant Based Assistance funds and a partnership with Northwest Oregon Housing Authority have enabled the CARE Transitional Housing Program to continue and expand. The staff was increased from one to two case managers.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program provided 550 households with utility bill help. The local PUD's Customer Assistance Program, using money from customer donations and utility company match, provided another 200 households with electric bill assistance.

Seventy families enrolled in CARE's Healthy Start program during the last 12 months. Each family received individualized parent training, home visits, appropriate referrals to community resources and ongoing case management. 30 percent were non-English speaking and had services provided by a bicultural and bilingual person.

Brief emergency shelter (using motel vouchers) and homeless case management and related services or referrals were provided to 59 households in the past 12 months. Twenty-five of these homeless or "at risk" households obtained stable housing.

Each month, 85 senior citizens received home-delivered supplemental grocery orders during the past year.

CARE offered nutrition education, youth activities and community gardens to several parts of Tillamook County through the Community Food Program.

County income

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Tillamook County's per capita personal income was \$27,089 in 2004, 89 percent of the state average of \$30,561, and 82 percent of the national average, \$33,050. Per capita income in Tillamook County rose 6.1 percent between 2003 and 2004. The 1994 to 2004 trend in per capita income shows average annual growth of 4.5 percent. Average earnings per job in 2004 were \$27,497 in Tillamook 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 Tillamook County and the corresponding income those families would need to meet their expenses. To learn more about this basic family budget, see Appendix 2.

Tillamook 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	\$630	\$881	\$630	\$881
Food	\$303	\$580	\$479	\$722
Child care	\$490	\$1,017	\$490	\$1,017
Transportation	\$381	\$381	\$535	\$535
Health care	\$239	\$249	\$324	\$360
Other necessities	\$289	\$453	\$344	\$497
Taxes	\$409	\$434	\$370	\$127
Basic family budget needed/month	\$2,741	\$3,995	\$3,172	\$4,139
Basic family budget total/annual	\$32,892	\$47,940	\$38,064	\$49,668
Hourly wage needed for basic family budget	\$15.81	\$23.05	\$18.30	\$23.88
Poverty threshold	\$12,830	\$19,350	\$16,090	\$22,610
% Of basic budget	39.0%	40.4%	42.3%	45.5%

What the poverty threshold buys

Families with incomes at the poverty level in Tillamook County could afford 39.0 percent to 45.5 percent of this basic family budget.

Tillamook County

Wages

According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average monthly earnings in Tillamook County in 2005 were \$2,348. Of all sectors, federal government paid the highest monthly average of \$3,633 and leisure and hospitality paid the lowest monthly average of \$1,074.

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

Tillamook County wages and the basic family budget

	1 worker	1 worker	2 workers	2 workers
Average monthly wage (AMW)*	\$2,348	\$2,348	\$4,696	\$4,696
	1 adult and 1 child	1 adult and 3 children	2 adults and 1 child	2 adults and 3 children
Self sufficiency wage (SSW)**	\$2,741	\$3,995	\$3,172	\$4,139
Difference (AMW-SSW)	-\$393	-\$1,647	\$1,524	\$557
Wages as % of self sufficiency	85.7%	58.8%	148.0%	113.5%
* Source: Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005				
**Based on basic family budget for Tillamook County				

Employment

According to Oregon's Current Employment Statistics (CES), Tillamook County gained 500 non-farm employment positions from 2001 to 2005.

Largest three industries in Tillamook County 2005

	Number of positions 2005	Number of positions gained/lost	Average annual pay*
Manufacturing	1,470	+ 160	\$36,817
Trade, transportation and utilities	1,370	+ 320	\$22,729
Local government	1,310	-110	\$33,379

*Oregon Covered Employment and Wages 2005

Of all industries, natural resources and mining generated the largest gain—64.7 percent—from 170 positions in 2001 to 280 in 2005. During the same period, information saw the largest decrease—36.4 percent—from 140 positions to 90 positions.

2000 US Census information

Number of persons below poverty level (poverty rate)

	1989	1999	% Change (rate difference)
Tillamook County	3,168 (115.0%)	2,718 (11.4%)	-14.2% (-3.6%)
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	10.1%	12.0%	9.2%	10.4%
1989	15.0%	24.0%	13.7%	8.4%
1999	11.4%	15.2%	11.1%	8.1%

Source: US Census

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

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Tillamook 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	94.4% (22,467)	89.1% (2,422)	10.8%	14.8%
Black	0.1% (35)	1.0% (27)	77.1%	72.1%
American Indian	0.4% (107)	0.5% (14)	13.1%	22.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5%/0.1% (122/27)	0.7%/0.0% (20/0)	16.4%/NA	0.0%*
Other	1.7% (408)	4.9% (132)	32.4%	21.2%
2 or more races	2.6% (628)	3.8% (103)	16.4%	NA
Hispanic origin	5.1% (1,203)	17.2% (468)	38.9%	22.3%

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

Tillamook County families in poverty

Number below poverty level (poverty rate)	1979	1989	1999	% Change 1979-1999 (rate difference)
All families	462 (7.6%)	698 (11.4%)	553 (8.1%)	19.7% (0.5%)
With children younger than 18	323 (11.5%)	514 (20.3%)	384 (14.1%)	18.9% (2.6%)
Single women with children younger than 18	154 (42.9%)	291 (57.7%)	151 (30.5%)	-1.9% (-12.4%)

Source: US Census

Poverty and Tillamook County families

In 1999, 553 of Tillamook County's 6,810 families lived in poverty (8.1 percent). Of the 553 families in poverty, 65.8 percent (364 families) had a householder who worked and 19.5 percent (108 families) had a full-time year-round worker.

Poverty Measures	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population	24,262	24,449	24,499	24,701	24,918	25,277
People living below poverty level-%	11.4%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Median income	\$34,269	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unemployment rate	5.1	6.1	6.6	7.3	7.0	6.0
8th grade drug use	19.3%	NA	9.4%	22.0%	23.2%	15.8%
HS dropout	3.7%	3.8%	4.6%	4.3%	4.0%	NA
Teen pregnancy per 1,000 ages 10-17	7.8	8.5	14.4	6.7	NA	NA
Prenatal care	87.1%	86.5%	86.4%	83.9%	NA	NA
Child care available per 100 children under 13	24.5	15.5	14.9	NA	14.4	NA
Homeownership rate	71.8%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Renters with 30% or more rental burden-%	46.5%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tillamook County Services	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
One night shelter counts	29	41	44	15	13*	0
New units created with OHCS funding resources	0	0	66	0	0*	0
OHCS funding for affordable housing	\$0	\$0	\$1.2 m	\$0	\$0*	\$0
Home loans for low-income households-#	0	0	3	1	2	2
Home loans for low-income households-\$	\$0	\$0	\$336,706	\$60,000	\$253,589	\$184,114
Households receiving energy assistance-#	689	680	642	408	374	NA
Units weatherized-#	NA	NA	NA	0	8	18
Population enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan-%	NA	NA	19.2%	14.3%	11.5%*	10.9%
Students eligible for free/reduced lunch-#	1,629	1,583	1,701	1,652	1,729	NA
Students eligible free/reduced lunch-%	43.3%	42.3%	46.6%	47.5%	50.2%	NA
Population receiving Food Stamps-%	NA	NA	15.7%	12.2%	10.3%*	10.3%
Population receiving TANF-%	NA	NA	3.1%	2.2%	1.2%*	1.1%
Population receiving DHS services-%	NA	27.6%	28.9%	21.8%	NA	NA
NA = Not Available						
*Cannot be compared to previous years due to changes in data collection						