OREGON’S DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Office of Economic Analysis
Department of Administrative Services
State of Oregon
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Oregon’s population count on April 1, 2010 was 3,831,074. Oregon’s population increased by 2.5 times since 1950, and is expected to reach 4.3 million by the year 2020.

The population growth during the decade of 2000 and 2010 was 12.0 percent, down from 20.4 percent growth from the previous decade.

High population growth rates during the decades of 50s through 70s and 90s were accompanied by economic expansion in the state. In general higher population growth is associated with healthy economy characterized by higher employment, lower unemployment rates, and higher revenue collection. On the flip side, faster population growth means greater traffic congestion, and increased demand for government services, among others.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census; and Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.
Since 1950, Oregon’s population has increased at a faster pace than the U.S. population as a whole. Oregon’s annual growth rate exceeded U.S. rate for most of the years. Between 1950 and 2010, Oregon’s population increased by 150 percent, whereas U.S. population increased by 104 percent.

Oregon is hit harder by the recent recession than many other states. Since economy and migration are closely related, Oregon’s population slowed down considerably due to decline in in-migration. Currently Oregon’s growth rate is below the national growth rate.

Oregon’s rankings in terms of decennial growth rate dropped from 11th in the nation between 1990-2000 to 18th between 2000 and 2010. Although Oregon’s population growth was higher than the U.S. growth over the last decade, Oregon’s neighboring states, except California, exceeded our population growth.

In the long run, Oregon’s growth rate is expected to remain higher than the U.S. rate.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census; and Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.
Annual number of births in the past has fluctuated based on the fertility behavior of women and the number of women in child-bearing ages.

Currently, about 45,500 children are born each year in Oregon. Since 1950, the life-time average number of children per women fluctuated from a high of 3.6 in 1960 to 1.7 in 1975. It is expected to remain below 2.0 in the future. The annual number of births will approach 52,000 by 2020 as the number of women in child-bearing ages increase.

Historical knowledge of birth patterns is important and interesting because they shape the current and future age structure of the population. The small number of depression era births and the huge number of births during the baby-boom period, for example, affected different social and economic institutions in two extreme ways. These two extreme birth cohorts are responsible for shaping the retirement age population of Oregon.

Although overall health condition has been improving and people are living longer, the number of deaths in Oregon has been increasing as the result of increased number of total as well as elderly populations. Currently, the number of deaths totals about 32,000 per year. As the baby boom generation age, the annual number of deaths will increase very rapidly and will exceed 37,000 by the year 2020.
In the past 40 years, between 1970 and 2010, life expectancy for Oregon men improved by 8.7 years and for women by 5.5 years. Oregon’s life expectancy has remained slightly higher than the U.S. average. The life expectancy will continue to improve for both men and women. However, the gain for men has been outpacing the gain for women. Consequently, the difference between men’s and women’s life expectancies has continued to shrink.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Difference (Female-Male)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>68.4</td>
<td>76.2</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>77.1</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>82.7</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Oregon’s population change is greatly influenced by net migration, and migration in turn is affected by overall economy of the state. Because of the gloomy economic and employment situation in the state, migration flow has slowed considerably. Based on the recent population estimates, the net migration has not turned negative during this recession as it did during the recession of early 1980s. However, current net migration volume is lowest in the past 25 years.

Currently, less than half of population growth in Oregon is attributed to net in-migration. This ratio of net migration to population change is the lowest since 1987. When Oregon economy was rapidly expanding during the 1990s, net migration accounted for nearly three-fourths of the population change. This share declined to 51 percent during the 2000s. Migration is expected to contribute over two-thirds of the population growth of Oregon in the next decade. During 1990s, net migration averaged about 42,000 persons per year. The average annual net migration for 2000 to 2010 was 25,000. The next decade will see a slight increase in net migration as the economy recovers. The average for 2010 to 2020 is expected to be 28,000. As a sign of slow to modest economic gain, the ratio of net migration-to-population change will increase gradually and will reach 72 percent by 2020, from the 2010 low of 32 percent.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census; and Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.
In 2011, 21.9 percent of Oregonians belonged to a minority race or ethnic group, compared to 36.6 percent in the United States.

Hispanics or Latinos account for 12.0 percent of Oregon’s population, compared to 16.7 percent in the nation.

The largest minority non-Hispanic racial group in Oregon is Asian or Pacific Islander accounting for 4.1 percent of the population, whereas largest minority non-Hispanic racial group in the nation is African-American accounting for 12.3 percent of the population.

It is notable that minority group as a whole in Oregon is growing at faster pace than the corresponding rates at national level thereby accelerating the diversity of Oregon’s population.
• Hispanics are growing very rapidly in the state. The growth was much more rapid than during the previous decade. Between 1980 and 1990, Hispanic population increased by 71 percent. Between 1990 and 2000, however, the population increased by astounding 144 percent. In the last decade, the Hispanic population increased by 64 percent, slowest in a three-decade period, but more than five times the non-Hispanic population increase.

• Hispanic population tends to be recent immigrants and is associated with large family. Consequently, overwhelming proportion of them are children and young adults.

• Although minority population is increasing rapidly in Oregon adding to its diversity, the State still remains one of the least diverse in the country in terms of race in ethnicity, as shown in the following chart.

![Index of Diversity for States, 2011](chart)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census.
Growth rate in school-age population is tracking below the overall population growth rate in Oregon. Main reasons for the slower growth are declining fertility rate and slower growth in the women in prime childbearing ages characterized by baby-bust generation. Growth in this K-12 population group will continue to lag well behind the overall population growth.

Currently, number of children in 5-17 age group accounts for 16.2 percent of the population, down consistently from 19.9 percent in 1980 and 18.2 percent in the year 2000. This share will gradually decline over time to 15.1 percent in 2020.

Total K-12 enrollments account for about 89 percent of the school-age population. During 2001-03, nearly 91 percent of all K-12 students were enrolled in Oregon’s public schools. The remainders were enrolled in private schools (6 percent), and home schooling (3 percent). The distribution of students in public, private, and home schools depends upon Oregon’s economy and perception of quality, value, and service of each school type. In times of negative perception of public schools, enrollments shift to private and home schools. In times of economic hardship, ironically, publicly funded schools suffer from budget shortfall but they tend to carry greater weight as parents shift their children from private to public schools.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census; and Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.
• Adult population in age group 18-64 account for nearly 63 percent of the total population, up from 60 percent in 1990. Since the older baby-boomers are leaving this age cohort and entering the retirement age, this share has been declining in recent years and will continue to decline for several decades.

• Adults 18-64 year olds will grow at much slower pace than the overall population, thereby signaling possible labor shortage in the future. For example, between 2012 and 2012, overall population will grow by 9.5 percent, whereas working-age adult population will increase by 4.8 percent.

• Population in age group 18-24, generally known as college-age population, had fast paced growth during the 1990s and early 2000s mainly because of the children of baby-boomers entering this age group. However, growth has since tapered off and will even see negative growth at times in the near future. Regardless of the growth trend of the young adult population, college enrollment typically goes up during the period of high unemployment. People continue their education or go back to college to better position themselves in the job market or there is no better alternative.

• Population in age group 25-44 is in a growing mode after a decade of slow and even negative growth because of the exit of baby-boomers from this cohort. The younger adults in this age
group are in early stage of family formation. Hence, they require entry level jobs and affordable housing.

- Population in age group 45-64 was increasing very rapidly as the impact of baby-boomers entering this age group. However, the slow and negative growth of 25-44 age group will transfer to this 45-64 age group as the baby-boomers mature into retirement age. This cohort will see very slow and negative growth in the coming future.

![Annual Rate of Change: Elderly Compared to People of All Ages](image)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census; and Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.

- Slow and generally declining growth of elderly population that began in 1990 lasted until 2003. Since then the elderly population growth is outpacing the overall population growth rate due to cohort change and cumulative effect of net migration.

- The population in this age group will continue a dramatic increase as baby-boomers continue to enter the retirement age. Beginning in 2011, the elderly population growth rate will exceed 4 percent annually for nearly a decade. There will be 48 percent more elderly in 2020 than in 2010.
During the late 1990s, the youngest elderly population was actually declining despite a continued high migration of people of all ages. The main reason was the depression era small birth cohort entering the retirement age. In the recent years, however, the youngest elderly population has been increasing rapidly. The depression era birth cohort matures into older age group and at the same time baby-boom cohort enters the retirement age. At its peak in 2012, the youngest elderly grows by over 7 percent in one year. Between 2010 and 2020, this population will increase by 64 percent, whereas overall population will grow by 10.8 percent.

The elderly in age group 75-84 was declining in the recent years due to the effect of entering depression era birth cohort. However, this age group will also see a rapid growth in the future as fast growing younger elderly of baby-boom generation matures into this age group. Between 2010 and 2020, this population will increase by 36 percent.

The oldest elderly population was growing at a record pace during the 1990s, when the number swelled by nearly 50 percent. The rate of growth has slowed down and will continue to taper off in the next decade. Still, the rate of change will remain well above the overall population change. Between 1990 and 2000, the oldest elderly population increased by 50 percent, which slowed down to 35 percent between 2000 and 2010, and during the next decade this population will increase by 15 percent.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census; and Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.
• As women live longer than men on average, 55 percent of the elderly are women. Among the oldest elderly, however, 65 percent are females. In other words, there are 82 men for every 100 women aged 65 and older. For those 85 and older, the sex ratio drops to 54 men for 100 women.

• Oregon’s population is graying. Median age of the population has increased from 30.3 years in 1980 to 38.3 years in 2010. This will increase further to 39.7 years by the year 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>30.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>33.4</td>
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<td>34.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>37.6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>38.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>39.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census; and Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.