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# Introduction



# Population

	Multnomah County	Portland Metro Area
2000	662,400	1,935,960
2001	666,350	1,960,500
2002	670,250	1,989,550
2003	677,850	2,019,250
2004	685,950	2,050,650
2005	692,825	2,082,240
2006	701,545	2,121,910
2007	710,025	2,159,720

Source: Portland State University

Multnomah County was named after the Multnomah (or Mulknoman) Indians of the Chinookan Tribe that inhabited Sauvie Island on the Columbia River. It is located in Northeast Oregon and is bordered by Clark County and Skamania County in Washington as well as Hood River County, Clackamas County, Washington County and Columbia County in Oregon.

Multnomah County is geographically the smallest county in Oregon but is the most populous county, making up about 18.4% of the total state population. It is located in northwest Oregon at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers, approximately 110 river miles and 80 highway miles from the Pacific Ocean. The County covers 465 square miles, most of which lie in the Willamette Valley, between the Cascade Mountains to the east and the Coast Range to the west. The elevation ranges from 77 feet above sea level in Portland to 322 feet in Gresham and 1,224 feet at Big Bend Mountain in the Cascade foothills.

Some points of interest are the Blue Lake Park, the Columbia River Gorge, Multnomah Falls, the Oregon Convention Center, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, the Oregon History Center, the Oregon Zoo, Portland city parks, Pittock Mansion and the Portland Art Museum.

The population as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 was 710,025 according to the Portland State University Census. This represents a 7.2% increase since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000. Multnomah County's population density is 466 people per square mile. Of the ten counties with the most comparable population size to Multnomah County, it has above average population density.

Multnomah County is growing at a slightly lower level than the state or Oregon which has grown 9.0% since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000. Portland and Gresham are the largest cities in Multnomah County. Other cities include: Fairview, Lake Oswego (small portion, mostly located Clackamas County) Maywood Park, Troutdale, and Wood Village.

Population by Race and Ethnicity Since 2000 the fastest growing race in the County has been Hispanic/ Any Races which has grown 41.6% since 2000 followed by American Indian/Alaskan at a rate of 19.4%.

Multnomah County	2000	2006	% Change
Black	34,624	38,970	12.6%
White	495,538	506,282	2.2%
Asian and Hawaiian	39,804	44,915	12.8%
American Indian and Alaskan	3,920	4,679	19.4%
Some other race	1,731	885	-48.9%
2 or more races	19,605	16,918	-13.7%
Hispanic, any race(s)	48,576	68,805	41.6%
TOTAL	643,798	681,454	5.8%

Source: American Community Survey

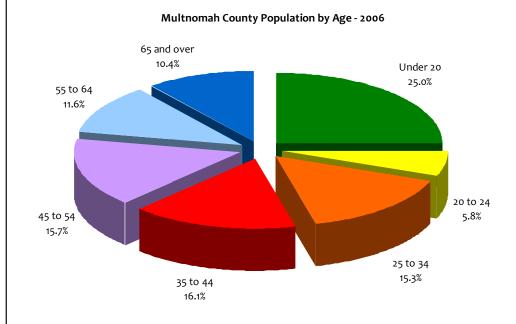
According to the American Community Survey (ACS) in 2006, 13% of people living in Multnomah County were foreign born. Among people who were at least five years old, 19% spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking another language, 44% spoke Spanish and 56% spoke some other language.

Like the rest of the country, The age trend in Multnomah County, is shifting toward the 45 to 64 age group. The proportion of the population age 45 to 54 grew 4.9% since 2000 and 55 to 59 has grown 59.9%. The proportion of people age 60 to 64 experienced high growth with a 35.1% increase since 2000.

All reported age groups under the age of 20 have remained relatively constant, while the proportion of the 20 to 24 age group has experienced a 21.7% decline since 2000. The 25 to 34 group dropped by 13.3% since 2000. Those 75 to 84 years old declined by 13.0% while the population 85+ went up by 30% from 2000 to 2006.

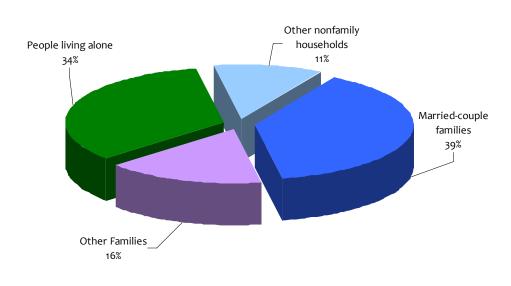
#### Age Trends

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# Households and Families

In 2006 there were 287,000 households in Multnomah County with an average size of 2.3 people. Families made up 55% of those households (including both married-couple families (39%) and other families (16%)), and nonfamily households comprised the other 45%. Most of the nonfamily households were people living alone, but some were made up of people living in households where no one was related to the householder.

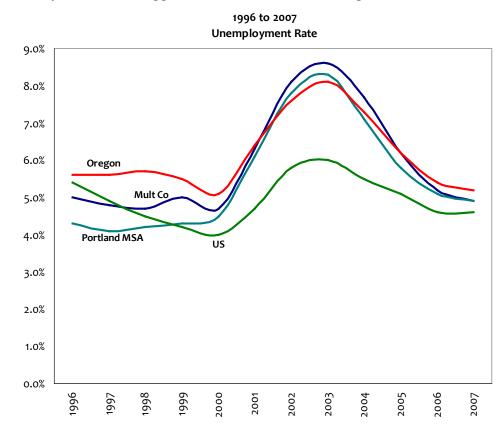


# Employment

Unemployment Rate The Multnomah County unemployment rate has mirrored the Oregon and Portland Metro Area rates fairly closely. Like the state and the nation, Multnomah County experienced an increase in the jobless rate starting in 2001 and continuing through 2003.

Year	United States	Oregon	Portland Metro Area	Multnomah County
1996	5.4%	5.6%	4.3%	5.0%
1997	4.9%	5.6%	4.1%	4.8%
1998	4.5%	5.7%	4.2%	4.7%
1999	4.2%	5.5%	4.3%	5.0%
2000	4.0%	5.1%	4.5%	4.7%
2001	4.7%	6.4%	6.1%	6.3%
2002	5.8%	7.6%	7.8%	8.1%
2003	6.0%	8.1%	8.3%	8.6%
2004	5.5%	7.3%	7.1%	7.7%
2005	5.1%	6.2%	5.8%	6.2%
2006	4.6%	5.4%	5.1%	5.2%
2007	4.6%	5.2%	4.9%	4.9%
Avg.	4.9%	6.1%	5.5%	<b>5.9</b> %

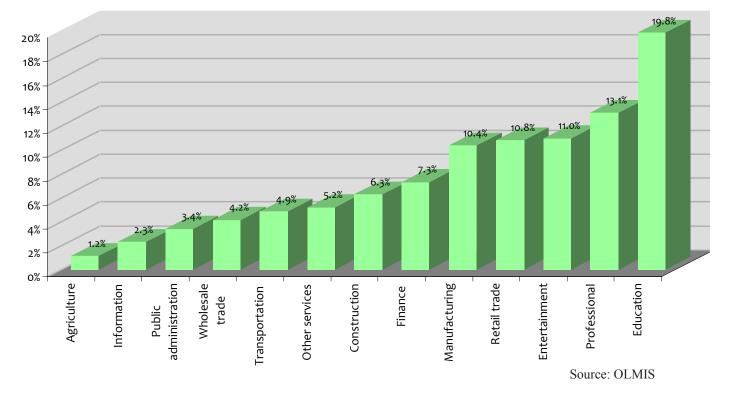
As demonstrated below, the unemployment rate for Multnomah County hit a peak of 8.6% in 2003, but has been steadily declining for the last four years and has dipped lower than the State average.



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## Industries

In 2006, for the employed population (16 years and older), the leading industries in Multhomah County were education services and health care and social assistance at roughly 20% and professional, scientific and management and administrative and was management services at 13%.



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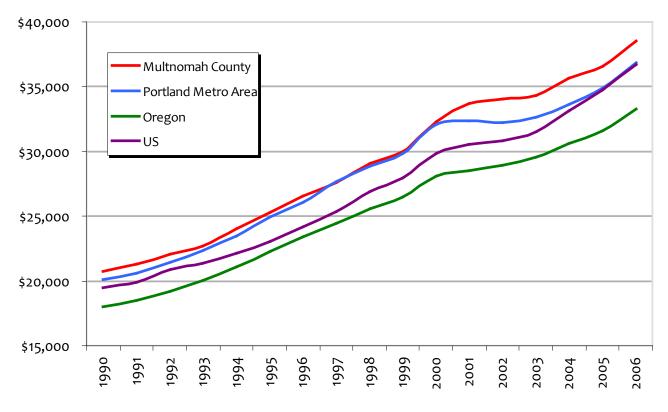
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### Income

Multnomah County
\$32,311
\$33,705
\$34,049
\$34,362
\$35,656
\$36,602
\$38,529

The per capita income grew well below the rate of inflation during the 2002 to 2004 period resulting in a decline in real income. This happened at the same time as higher unemployment rates and a general brief economic recession were occurring. However, from 2005 to 2006, income grew at a higher rate (5.26%), outpacing inflation (2.6%), resulting in an increase in real income.

Over the past few years, the County's per capita income has grown at a higher rate than the Portland metro area, the state and the nation. Multnomah County had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest per capita income in the state behind Clackamas County.



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

### Education

Multnomah County and Portland metropolitan area form the educational center for the State of Oregon. In the Portland metropolitan area, there are several post-secondary educational systems.

Portland State University (PSU) is one of the three largest universities in the Oregon state system of higher education. Located on a 28-block campus adjacent to the downtown business and commercial district, PSU offers baccalaureate and masters degrees in over 32 areas, doctoral degrees in six fields, and certificates in nine areas. PSU in noted for the development of programs specifically designed to meet the needs of the urban center.

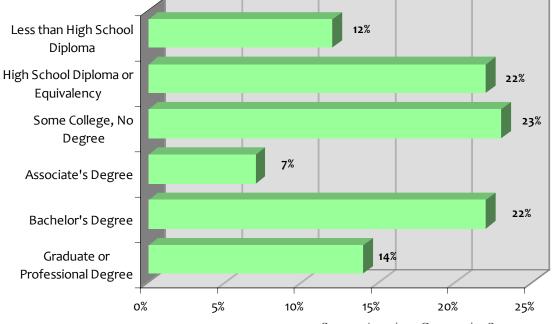
Oregon State University and the University of Oregon, also in the Oregon State System of Higher Education, have field offices and extension activities in the Portland metropolitan area.

Portland is the location of Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU). Sitting on 116 acres in the hills west of downtown, OHSU offers academic programs in dentistry, medicine and nursing, as well as continuing education, child development and rehabilitation, clinical training certificate, and internships and fellowships. OHSU is not only dedicated to the education of health professionals, but is also a leader in biomedical research, receiving nearly \$100 million in grants for research annually. OHSU is also dedicated to public services and to patient care through the University Hospital, the Oregon Poison Center, the School of Dentistry, and Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

Independent colleges located in Multnomah County include Lewis & Clark College, the University of Portland, Reed College, and Marylhurst University, as well as three smaller church-affiliated schools, Warner Pacific College, Concordia University, and Columbia Christian College.

The total enrollment in schools and universities in Multnomah County was 165,000 in 2006. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 20,000 and elementary or high school enrollment was 98,000 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 48,000.

In 2006, 88% of people 25 years and over had graduated from high school, and 36% had a bachelor's degree. Twelve percent were not enrolled and had not graduated from high school.



**Educational Attainment** 

Source: American Community Survey

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# Transportation and Distribution

Port of Portland

Tri-Met

Multnomah County and the Portland metropolitan area form a transportation hub for the Pacific Northwest. This network supports a broad range of industry needs. The region's system provides integrated highway, railroad, and airport facilities, as well as river barges linked to the third-highest volume waterborne exports port on the West Coast. Multnomah County contains seven major highways: Interstate 5, Interstate 84, Interstate 205, Interstate 405, U.S. Highway 26, U.S. Highway 30, and U.S. Highway 99.

The Port of Portland is a port district for Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. It operates a system of four airports, designed to meet the needs of both commercial aviation and smaller personal and business aircraft. Portland International, a full-services international airport, lies just 11 miles from downtown. Passenger airlines and cargo carriers provide services to over 120 cities worldwide, including destinations throughout the Pacific Rim. In April of 2008, the total number of airline passengers year to date was nearly 4.5 million, a 5.2% increase over the pervious year.

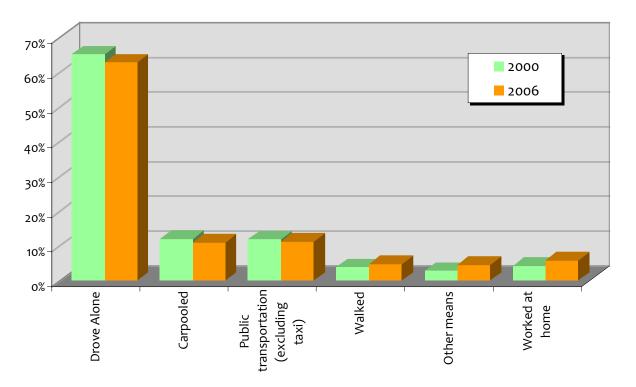
The Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (Tri-Met), the regional public transit agency, provides bus services to approximately 600 square miles of the metropolitan area. TriMet operates a comprehensive transit network including a 44-mile, 64-station MAX light rail system, 91 bus lines. According to Tri-Met, ridership is at a current record level of over 96.9 million riders in FY 2007.

#### Commuting to Work

The percent of commuters over 16 that report they walk to work has grown by nearly 25% since 2000 and those who worked from home has increased by 38%. Those who report that they drive alone declined by 3.6% since 2000.

Commuting to Work	2006	2000	% Change since 2000
Workers 16 yrs & over	342,438	330,828	
Car, truck, or van drove alone	62.9%	65.20%	-3.60%
Car, truck, or van carpooled	11.0%	12.00%	-8.63%
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	11.2%	11.90%	-6.21%
Walked	4.7%	3.80%	24.68%
Other means	4.5%	2.80%	59.91%
Worked at home	5.8%	4.20%	38.22%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	23.7	23.7	0.00%

Source: American Community Survey



#### **Commuting to Work**

# Arts, Culture and Entertainment

The Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge

Entertainment Districts The Portland metropolitan area is home to major theater, music, and dance companies, and plays host to scores of festivals, concerts, and sporting events every year. Beer, food, and wine festivals occur regularly, from the Oregon Seafood and Wine festival in February, through the Bite of Oregon in August, to the Holiday Ale Festival in December. Other popular summer festivals include the Portland Rose Festival, the Waterfront Blues Festival, the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival, and September's Time-Based Art (TBA) Festival. The Oregon Symphony offers summertime concerts in Portland Parks and the Oregon Zoo hosts a popular concert series. "First Thursday" art walks through Portlandarea art galleries both showcase the Portland area's thriving visual arts scene and increase business in the many restaurants in neighborhood shopping districts.

The gateway to the Columbia River Gorge is located in Multnomah County. The Columbia River Gorge is a spectacular river canyon, 80 miles long and up to 4,000 feet deep, cutting the only sea level route through the Cascade Mountain Range. It is more than a natural wonder; the Gorge is a critical transportation corridor and is home to 75,000 people, resource dependent communities, farms and schools.<sup>1</sup> The gorge is located between Oregon and Washington and features many locations for hiking, camping, day trips and other outdoor activities. There are many hiking trails including many viewpoints, waterfalls and points of interest. There are over 13 noteworthy waterfall attractions in the Gorge, the largest of which is Multnomah Falls which features a 1.2 mile trail that climbs 600 feet to the top. Visitors can also continue on several larger hiking loops.<sup>2</sup> There is also a lodge, restaurant and visitor center. It is located about an hour outside of Portland.

There are five major entertainment districts in Portland. Downtown Cultural Districts features many art galleries and the Portland Art District including First Thursday, a night of food, wine and art hosted by the downtown and Pearl district art galleries. The Pearl District/ Northwest is home to the Portland Art Dealers Association and the Portland Institute of Contemporary Art. The Old Town/ Chinatown district features the Classic Chinese Garden and "Saturday Market open Sundays too — is the largest continuously operated open-air arts and crafts market in the nation. Talk directly to the artists and learn about their creative styles and products. Rain or shine, the market is open Saturday and Sunday from March through Christmas Eve."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> USDA Forest Service Website

<sup>2</sup> Columbia River Gorge Scenic area web site. Link

<sup>3</sup> Travel Portland.com Link

Sports	The North/ Northeast district has prominent sites such as Art on Alberta or "last Thursday" which features local artists and performers and the Kennedy School, a circa 1912 schoolhouse-turned-hotel/restaurant/ movie theater/bar/performance space. <sup>4</sup> The fifth is the Southeast district which features many theaters, performances and a large art district. The Portland Trail Blazers are a member of the National Basketball Association (NBA) Western Division. They became franchised in 1970 and won the national title in 1977. There are also the Portland Beavers baseball team which are a member of the Pacific Coast league and the Portland Timbers soccer team, which are member of United Soccer leagues first division. The Portland Winter Hawks are the professional hockey team and compete in the Western Hockey League. There are also a variety of other, smaller sports teams in Portland and the surrounding area.
Fun Facts	<ul> <li>Portland was almost named Boston. City founders Asa Lovejoy, from Boston, Mass., and Francis Pettygrove, of Portland, Maine, wanted to name the city after their hometowns. Unable to agree, they flipped a coin, now known as the "Portland Penny." Pettygrove won.</li> <li>There is no sales tax in Oregon.</li> <li>Many of the characters in The Simpsons are named after streets and locations in Portland, Simpsons' creator Matt Groening's hometown.</li> <li>The Portland Saturday Market is the largest continuously operating open-air crafts market in the United States.</li> <li>Powell's City of Books, occupying an entire city block, is the world's largest independent bookstore.</li> <li>The Port of Portland is the largest wheat export port in the US.</li> <li>Portland's International Rose Test Garden is the oldest in the nation.</li> <li>More Asian elephants (27 to date) have been born in Portland than in any other North American city.</li> <li>Portland is the beer capital of the world, with 32 breweries inside the city's limits — that's more than any other city in the world. If you count the entire metro area, the number jumps to 38.</li> <li>There are 37,000 acres (14,973 hectares) of parks in the Portland metro area.</li> <li>The Oregon Brewers Festival, held on Portland's waterfront, is the largest gathering of independent brewers in North America.</li> <li>Oregon is one of just two states where everyone enjoys the luxury of having their gas pumped for them. It's the law!</li> </ul>

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<sup>4</sup> http://www.kennedyschool.com