

2008 Oregon Population Report

- **Population Growth in Oregon: 2000 to 2008**
- **Population Estimates for Oregon, July 1, 2008**



Portland State
UNIVERSITY
**Population Research
Center**



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by

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Population Growth in Oregon: 2000-2008

Oregon State's population is estimated to have been 3,791,060 on July 1, 2008, which represents an increase of 369,661 from the April 1, 2000 Census count, and 45,605 from the 2007 estimate.

The average annual population growth rate from 2000 to 2008 in Oregon was 1.2 percent. After five years of increasing rates from 2000, the State's growth from 2006 to 2007 began to stabilize, and from 2007 to 2008 decelerated to 1.2 percent. Although Oregon's annual growth rate continually increased from 2001 to 2006, rates had not reached as high as seen in the early and mid 1990s. Typically, the rate of population growth in Oregon has corresponded to trends in the economy. In strong economic times, Oregon has experienced higher rates of growth, and during a recessive economy, growth rates tend to be lower. (See Figure 2 on page 26.)

Between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2008, net migration (people moving into Oregon minus people leaving) is estimated to be 237,481 and accounts for 64 percent of the total population growth. Between 1990 and 2000 that percentage was 73 percent, but in the early 2000s, it dropped to 56 percent. Migration is primarily driven by the state of the economy. When Oregon's economy is strong, net migration increases as people move here to take advantage of employment opportunities. When the economy goes into recession, in-migration flows slow down. In the current decade, however, despite times of high unemployment rates experienced in Oregon, there still are positive inflows of migration (see Figure 3 on page 27). People whose primary motivations are not so economically oriented continue to move to Oregon; among them are college-educated outdoor minded young adults, retirees, and immigrants.

Thirty-six percent of Oregon's population growth from 2000 to 2008 was due to natural increase (births minus deaths). By comparison, natural increase contributed 27 percent of Oregon's added population from 1990 to 2000. During the past year, natural increase accounted for about 39 percent of the State's population increase and reached the highest percentage in the past five years. The number of births that occurred in the last year was 49,171; during the 1990s the number fluctuated between 41,000 and 45,000. Although slightly higher during the past year, the number of deaths during the decade has remained fairly stable with a range of around 30,000 to just over 31,000 occurring each year.

In 2008, 78 percent of Oregon's population resided in one of Oregon's six metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) - a gain of one percentage point since 2000. Despite the small change in the metropolitan share of Oregon's population, all six of the MSAs experienced continual yearly increases during 2000 to 2008. Most of Oregon's newcomers are either moving into, or close to, urbanized

areas with large population centers (50,000 or more persons). The amount of increase in each MSA during the eight year period varies between almost 8,000 (Corvallis MSA) and over one-quarter million persons (Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton MSA). Oregon's newest metropolitan area, Bend, is growing at the fastest rate and has seen the largest increase in the number of persons after Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton MSA. Since 2000, it has grown by 45 percent. All of the other MSAs increased by between seven and fourteen percent during the same time period.

Population change varies across Oregon's 36 counties. Seven counties experienced 2000-2008 population growth at rates higher than Oregon (11 percent). Three of these counties are non-metropolitan and they are: Crook (40 percent), Jefferson (18 percent), and Morrow (14 percent) Counties.

Although Multnomah County captures the largest county share of the State's population (19.0 percent in 2008), Washington County added the highest number of persons during 2000-2008. Since 2000, 74,583 persons have been added to Washington County's population. During the same period, Multnomah County increased by 57,395 persons and Deschutes County, which ranks third in the number of persons added, increased its population by 51,650. Two other counties in Oregon experienced an increase of at least 30,000. Clackamas County increased by 33,271 persons, and Marion County added 30,032. Jackson and Lane Counties follow not too far behind with each adding 24,035 and 22,919 persons, respectively. Fifteen other Oregon counties added between 1,000-10,000 persons during the 8-year period.

Five of Oregon's counties, Grant, Baker, Wallowa, Sherman, and Gilliam, experienced a loss of population from 2000 to 2008. Each of these counties had fewer births than deaths occurring during the time period, but only three of them had fewer persons moving in than moving out (Grant, Sherman, and Wallowa). The rate of population declines experienced by the five counties varies between -5 percent (in Grant and Sherman Counties) and -2 percent (in Baker, Wallowa, and Gilliam Counties); and the number of losses ranges from 31 (Gilliam County) to 407 persons (Grant County).

The population of all of Oregon's incorporated cities and towns is estimated to have reached 2,646,745 on July 1, 2008, accounting for 70 percent of Oregon's total population. Experiencing a collective increase of 3 percentage points since 2000, there is a continuous slight upward trend for Oregon's population to reside in incorporated cities and towns rather than in unincorporated or rural areas.

Population Estimates for Oregon, July 1, 2008

This report contains the annual population estimates for Oregon, and its counties, incorporated cities, and unincorporated areas for July 1, 2008. Included are estimates that are summarized by unincorporated and incorporated areas at the State level, as well as metropolitan areas and non-metropolitan areas. There are ten tables that show the current population estimates. Some tables include historical estimates and Census populations. Other tables display the components (natural increase and net migration) of population change, and some show population estimates for age groups and gender by county. The population estimates for cities are presented in three tables; one is alphabetized, another shows population in rank order, and the other holds city estimates grouped by the county in which the city is located. For cities that are located in more than one county, population estimates for city parts are shown in a separate table. Also, populations added to cities due to annexations from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008 are included in a table.

At the end of this report there are a county reference map that shows locations of cities throughout Oregon, and two graphs. One graph depicts the annual growth rates experience by Oregon over the past 30 years. The other graph shows Oregon's trends of natural increase and net migration during the same time period.

Please note that when determining change in city population over time, the annexation table in this report should be consulted to help explain possible reasons for the magnitude of change. In addition, please check the Population Research Center's quarterly Population Supplement Report, available online, to find revised populations due to annexations or enumerations that were conducted since the publication of the July 1, 2008 population estimates were certified in December 2008.

State Requirements for Population Estimates and the History of the Population Research Center

Oregon law (Oregon Revised Statutes 190.510 to 190.610) mandates the Population Research Center, Portland State University, acting on behalf of the State Board of Higher Education, to prepare annual population estimates for each county and incorporated city in the state of Oregon. The principal purpose of the population estimates is for the allocation of selected State funds to Oregon's cities and counties.

The State government organized a State Census Office in Portland in 1956. The purpose of the State Census Office was to oversee and certify special censuses that rapidly growing towns conducted in order to document their

population figures. The State Census Office eventually expanded its role to include the certification of the population added by annexations and the preparation of annual population estimates for counties and cities.

Administrative responsibilities for the population estimates were transferred to Portland State University's Center for Population Research and Census in 1965, when Portland State College became a university. The Center for Population Research and Census, now known as the Population Research Center (PRC), is located in the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning within the College of Urban and Public Affairs.

Duties of the Population Center

In addition to preparing the annual population estimates, PRC houses the Oregon State Data Center, the lead agency in Oregon for contact and collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau and for dissemination of census data and documents. This information includes current and past census data for Oregon as well as results from Census Bureau surveys.

PRC conducts research with a focus on the investigation of the causes and consequences of demographic change in today's society. Typical research areas include social and economic factors affecting demographic change, population distribution and migration, population geography, survey investigation on population issues, enrollment forecasts for school districts, community assessment for special needs programs, and demographic methods. PRC staff regularly assist and provide demographic data and analysis to city, county, and state government agencies and other community partners. The primary geographic areas of study for PRC staff are in the states of Oregon and Washington.

Population Research Center staff teach in the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, College of Urban and Public Affairs. The Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning offers a graduate certificate program in applied demography, an applied demography curriculum in the Master of Urban Studies degree program, and a graduate concentration in applied demography in the Ph.D. program.

Methods for Population Estimates

All residents of Oregon's cities, counties, and unincorporated areas are included in the population estimates. Residents include people living in housing units (single-family and multi-family units, mobile homes, special housing units (such as boats, tents, motel rooms), and group quarter facilities (such as college dormitories, nursing homes, jails and prisons). We count residents as persons living at the place that they consider to be their usual residence, or where they are residing at least 6 months of the year.

We have developed methods for Oregon's population estimates to be as accurate as possible. Toward this goal, we work closely with state, county, and city officials, requesting annual information from them and inviting their review of our methods and estimates.

To estimate the State population, we use the following equation that defines population in 2008 as the population in 2000 plus the sum of two basic components: natural increase and net migration during 2000 to 2008*.

$$\text{Pop}_{-(08)} = \text{Pop}_{-(00)} + \text{Nat. Incr}_{-(00-08)} + \text{Net Mig}_{-(00-08)}$$

We rely on the registration of births and deaths to estimate Oregon's natural increase (the number of births minus deaths). To estimate the net migration (in-migrants minus out-migrants), we use school enrollment, employment, labor force, state income tax exemption, voter registration, and Medicare data. We utilize a method, called ratio correlation, that relates the changes in these data since the last census to changes in net migration during the same time period.

We use two methods to estimate county population: 1) a ratio correlation method, and 2) a modified component method. In the ratio correlation method, we track changes in state income tax exemptions, school enrollment, the number of births, and Medicare enrollment data to make an estimate of the current county populations. In the component method, we determine the natural increase for each county, and estimate net migration based on recent historical trends. In addition, we examine changes in the housing stock to verify the accuracy of the county estimates.

We develop population estimates for Oregon's cities according to the changes in their housing stock and group quarters population. City officials report each year on the changes in their city's housing stock (for single-family units, multi-family units, and mobile homes) and the number of persons residing in group quarters facilities. We also take into account any population changes that have been due to annexations. In addition, we make any appropriate adjustments to the average number of people per housing unit for individual cities and use this information to prepare the city's final population estimate.

The number of persons residing in the county unincorporated areas is estimated by calculating the residual of the estimate of the total county population and the sum of the cities' populations in the same county. Please use caution when comparing the population estimates of the unincorporated county areas over time, and note that they represent revised estimates rather than estimates resulting from direct change during the year. Some adjustments may be made according to recent data on housing growth and changes in group quarter population that county officials provide us.

We monitor city annexations throughout the year. We are notified about annexations by the office of the Secretary of State. When an annexation occurs, we contact city officials to request the number of residential housing units and population, if any, that were involved in the annexation. If the annexation added people to the city's population, then we certify an updated city population, which is done on a quarterly basis. The Secretary of State's office is informed of any revised populations in a special notification that we send. In addition, each quarter we publish online the revised populations in a supplement to our annual population estimates report.

We prepare preliminary July 1 population estimates for Oregon and its cities and counties in mid-November each year. At that time the preliminary estimates are made available to the public. Based on reviews that we receive from state, city and county officials and other community partners, we may adjust the annual population estimates, and then release the final figures in December. We publish the state, city and county estimates on our website (www.pdx.edu/prc) shortly after. This annual population report, which includes the complete set of population estimates, is usually available online by March the following year.

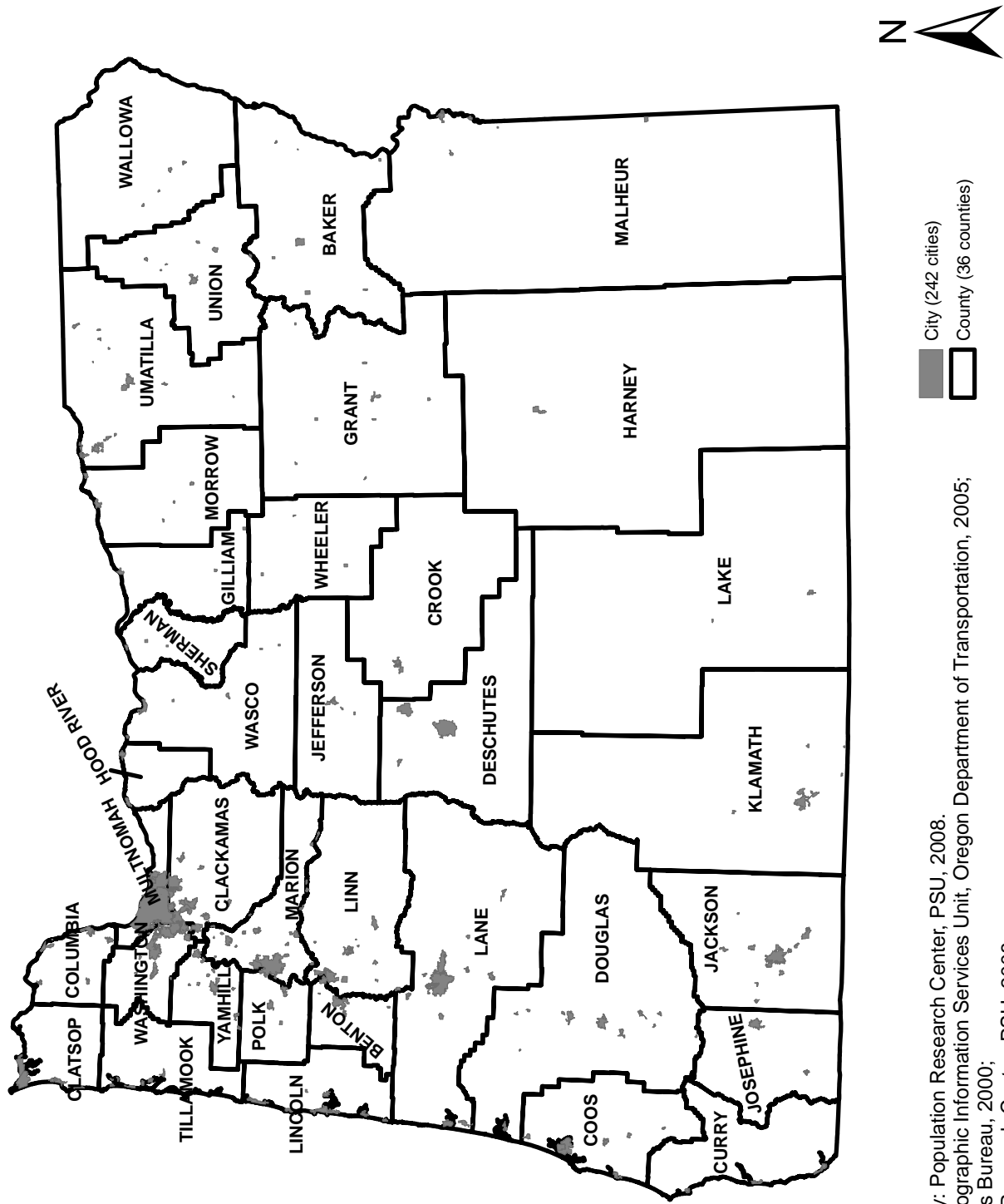
Acknowledgements

This report was prepared under the general direction of Risa Proehl, manager of the Population Research Center's Population Estimates Program. Professional consultation was provided by Dr. George Hough, Jr., Director of the Population Research Center. Review of the estimates was performed by Population Research Center staff, and community partners around the State. Kathryn McGovern, Graduate Research Assistant, compiled the annexation data, and Lisa Yarbrough, Office Coordinator provided help on report assemblage and distribution.

*Natural increase and net migration are estimated for the fiscal year, beginning July 1 in one year and ending June 30 in the following year.

Figure 1.

Reference Map: Oregon Counties and Location of Cities



Prepared by: Population Research Center, PSU, 2008.
Source: Geographic Information Services Unit, Oregon Department of Transportation, 2005;
U.S. Census Bureau, 2000;
Population Research Center, PSU, 2008.

Figure 2.

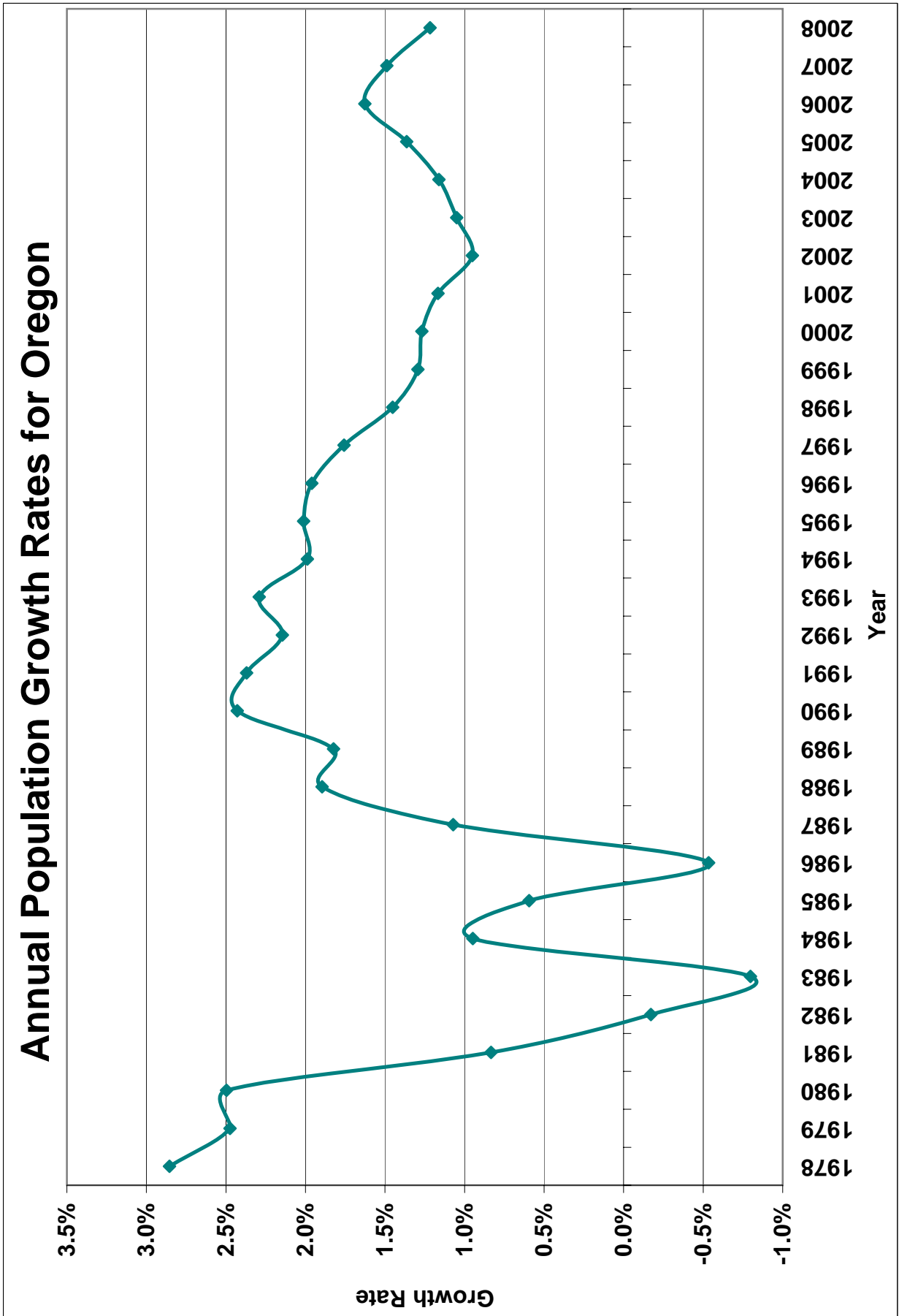


Figure 3.

