Destination Oregon:
Migration and Economic Growth

Oregon Economic Forum
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Mark McMullen
State Economist
Governor Tom McCall

“We want you to visit... Come again and again. But for heaven’s sake, don’t move here to live. Or if you do have to move in to live, don’t tell any of your neighbors where you are going.”

“The interests of Oregon for today and in the future must be protected from grasping wastrels of the land... unlimited and unregulated growth leads inexorably to a lowered quality of life.”

“Oregon, queen bee though she is, is not yet ready for the swarm”.

Governor Vic Atiyeh

“I just got really irritated... I’m trying to build the economic diversification of the state, and I keep hearing this: “Aren’t you the guys that want us to visit but don’t stay”?"

Atiyeh: “I want to go down there and blow up that damn sign”
Cabinet: “Yeah, yeah, okay, governor.”
Atiyeh: “No! I want to put dynamite under that thing and blow it up.”
Cabinet: “You can’t do that, governor.”
Atiyeh: “Yes, I can. I want to blow that thing up.”

Sources: Oregon Historical Society, OPB/Mike Sherk
Deaths Now Outnumber Births In Many Counties

Ratio of Births to Deaths: Oregon Counties

1980
2010

Washington
Benton
Jefferson
Morrow
Malheur
Deschutes
Lake
Umatilla
Douglas
Klamath
Yamhill
Lincoln
Columbia
Oregon
Clackamas
Marion
Cape
Crock
Jackson
Wasco
Union
Harney
Polk
Madras
Milton
Klamath
Josephine
Multnomah
Clatsop
Curry
Hood
Gilliam
Clatsop
Wallowa
Simpson
Wheeler
Young Workers Choose Portland

Population Share by Age, 2015
Sources: Census, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

- Root-Setting Years
- U.S.
- Oregon ex PDX
- Portland Metro
Net Migration of Tax Filers:
Number per 1,000 Tax Returns, 1995-2011

- Gains from other states outstrip losses to Oregon counties
- Losses to Oregon counties outstrip gains from other states
- Gains from other states and other Oregon counties
- Losses to other states outstrip gains from Oregon counties
- Losses to other states
One of These Things Is Not Like the Others

Weathering Shocks

- Corn Belt
- Rust Belt
- Timber Belt

Manufacturing and Farm Jobs Share of Total

- 1980
- 2012

Population Growth 1980-2012
Retirees and Household Wealth

Household Finances for Top Half of the Income Distribution

- Expenditures
- Wealth

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute

Older Households Spend More On Health and Cash Contributions

- Health Care
- Cash Contributions

Share of Total Expenditures

Source: BLS, Consumer Expenditure Survey

Income Levels:
- $0
- $50,000
- $100,000
- $150,000
- $200,000
- $250,000
- $300,000
- $350,000
- $400,000
- $450,000
- $500,000

Expenditures Categories:
- 50-64
- 65-74
- 75-84
- 85+

Wealth Categories:
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

Health Care Categories:
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

Cash Contributions Categories:
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+
Oregon’s Brain Gain

Estimated Odds Ratios: Relative Probability of Moving Compared to Someone Without a Degree

Logit Model Based on 2010-2012 ACS Data
Portland Is Still a Magnet for Young Workers

The Young and Educated
Top 50 MSAs, ACS 2010-12

25-34 Years Old
Ratio of In-migrants to Out-migrants

Bachelor's or Higher
Ratio of In-migrants to Out-migrants

Top 50 Avg

Portland

Austin

Denver

San Jose

San Diego

Tampa

Jacksonville

Miami

Phoenix

Oklahoma City

New Orleans

DC

Minneapolis

San Francisco

Hartford

Indianapolis

New York

Detroit

Buffalo

Riverside

Top 50 Avg

0.50 0.75 1.00 1.25 1.50 1.75

0.50 0.75 1.00 1.25 1.50 1.75
### Gains From CA Swamp Losses to WA

**Portland Tri-County Area, $ millions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>AGI Lost to WA</th>
<th>AGI Gained From CA</th>
<th>Net</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>$(200)</td>
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<td>1997</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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**Rest of Oregon, $ millions**

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Net Adjusted Gross Income Among Migrants  
Source: IRS
Where Young People Come to Retire?

Estimated Odds Ratios: Relative Probability of Moving Compared to Employed Adults

- **Employed**
  - In Migrants: Around 1.0
  - Out Migrants: Around 1.0

- **Unemployed**
  - In Migrants: Around 1.7
  - Out Migrants: Around 1.4

- **Not In Labor Force**
  - In Migrants: Around 1.5
  - Out Migrants: Around 1.4

Logit Model Based on 2010-2012 ACS Data
The Outlook

Annual Oregon Population Growth

- Natural Increase
- Net Migration
- Growth Rate, rhs

Forecast -->

For More Information

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