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## Summary of 2014 Estimates Findings: Based on Preliminary Estimates

Risa S. Proehl  
*Portland State University*

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## **Oregon's Preliminary Population Estimates Indicate an Increase of 43,500 during the Past Year**

Portland State University's Population Research Center (PRC) released the preliminary 2014 population estimates for Oregon and its cities and counties on November 18

According to the preliminary July 1 population estimates, Oregon's population increased from 3,919,025 in 2013 to 3,962,565 in 2014, or by 43,545. This increase represents a 1.1 percent change, slightly higher than in the previous year (0.9 percent). The increase in 2014 is around 8,200 higher than added in 2013. For some perspective, average annual population growth of the 2000s was 41,000; during the 1980s, which were economically more challenging times, the average annual increase was around 21,000, and in the more prosperous times of the 1990s, it was around 58,000 per year.

Population growth consists of two factors: natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) and net migration (movers-in minus movers-out). From 2013 to 2014 Oregon's population growth was attributed more to net migration (74%) than to natural increase (26%). Conversely, during the Great recession natural increase was more responsible statewide population increases. However, prior to 2009 and including the 1990s, net migration accounted for most of Oregon's annual population growth, and natural increase contributed between only one-quarter and one-third. From 2013 to 2014, 11,300 persons were added to the State population because of the natural increase (about the same as last year), which was close to the number added in the previous year. Approximately 32,200 residents were added due to a net inflow of movers (8,700 more than in the previous year).

The counties that experienced the largest gains in population from 2013 to 2014 have the largest populations. As in the previous several years, Washington and Multnomah counties added the highest number of persons—each adding around 9,500 and 9,200 residents, respectively. Clackamas, Deschutes, and Marion counties each added over 3,000 to their populations; Lane and Jackson counties each added over 2,000; and Yamhill, Linn and Benton added at least 1,000 to their counts. The population increases in these ten counties contributed to 90 percent of the statewide population growth this year. Fourteen other counties experienced increases ranging over 100 to under 700 persons. Twelve of Oregon's thirty-six counties saw little population change in the past year (less than a 100 person change).

Generally, net in-migration has either boosted population growth rates around the state or has stabilized population losses. In counties where a natural decrease is occurring, net in-migration has offset overall population decreases. As the economy continues to improve, net in-migration to Oregon increases. This is not a new phenomenon.

In terms of percent change, nine counties saw increases at least at the same as the State or higher. Deschutes County experienced the largest percentage gain (2.4 percent) followed by Hood River, Washington, and Gilliam counties (1.9 percent, 1.7 percent, and 1.5 percent, respectively). Forty-one of Oregon's 242 cities experienced population growth in the past year at rates higher than the

State. For smaller cities, sharp spikes in the growth rate could mean the increase of just a few persons, however.

Oregon's incorporated cities have gained over 26,000 people from 2013 to 2014, with a combined 2014 total of 2,742,700. Incorporated cities collectively capture about 70 percent of the state's population, about the same as in the last few years. Preliminary estimates also show that cities accounted for 60 percent of Oregon's population increase, a higher percentage than in 2013.

The preliminary estimates show small population increases in half of Oregon's 242 incorporated cities from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, with 31 cities adding more than 100 persons. Portland shows the greatest increase with 9,390 additional persons than in 2013. This jump in Portland's population, however, is partly attributed to an improved accounting of added housing units during the past three years, and the annual change reflects some population growth that was actually distributed over the longer period rather than in the single year.

The cities of Bend, Salem, Beaverton, Eugene, and Corvallis each added over 1,000 persons in the past year. Twenty-five other cities and towns are estimated to have a population change of between 100 and 900 during the period, led by Hillsboro. Sharp population increases in some of the smaller cities are usually due to the construction of apartments or the arrival of workers and contractors for industrial projects such as energy or power or agricultural related jobs.

Thirteen cities, scattered throughout Oregon are estimated to have between 5 and 100 fewer persons in 2014 than in 2013. The losses are attributed to a decrease in the group quarters population (persons living in group living situations such as jails, college dormitories, and nursing homes), the removal of mobile homes, or the demolition of housing units. Forty-five cities reported to PRC that they had no change in population during the one year period.

PRC produces annual population estimates for Oregon, and its counties and incorporated cities using the most recent available data. These estimates are based on changes in the number of housing units, persons residing in group quarter facilities, births and deaths, students enrolled in public school, persons in the labor force, Medicare enrollees, State and Federal tax exemptions, Oregon driver license holders, and other administrative data. Statewide housing and group quarters' population data are collected from annual questionnaires sent directly to Oregon's cities and counties. If we do not receive updated annual data from a city, its population estimate remains the same as the previous year. The annual population estimates are used for revenue distribution to local governments and in program administration.

The preliminary population estimates are subject to revision during a month review period. The final July 1, 2014 population estimates will be certified by December 15, 2014. The annual population estimates are revised quarterly to account for annexations throughout the year.

The preliminary population estimates can be found on PRC's Web site at: <http://www.pdx.edu/prc/population-reports-estimates>. For further information or questions about the preliminary July 1, 2014 population estimates, please contact:

Risa Proehl, Population Estimates Program Manager, Population Research Center  
Email [proehl@pdx.edu](mailto:proehl@pdx.edu)