

MARION COUNTY FY2007-08 BUDGET GENERAL INFORMATION

Quick Facts

- Capital: Salem
- Area: 1,194 square miles
- Established: July 5, 1843
- Population: 302,135 (Estimate July 1, 2005, Portland State University)
- Cities: 20 incorporated, 38 unincorporated
- Elevation: 154 feet at Salem and 1,595 feet at Detroit Lake
- Average Temperature: January 39.3 F; July 66.3 F
- Annual Precipitation: 40.35 inches
- Principle Industries: Agriculture, government, food processing, lumber, manufacturing, education, and tourism.

Point of Interest

Oregon State Capital, Champoeg State Park, Wheatland and Buena Vista Ferries, The Oregon Garden, Silver Falls State Park, Detroit Dam and the North Santiam River, Breitenbush Hot Springs, Willamette River, Mt. Angel Abbey, Willamette University, Chemeketa Community College, Mission Mill Museum, and historic Bush House, Deepwood House and Gilbert House Children's Museum are just a few of the attraction Marion County has to offer.

History

Marion County, first called Champoick District (later Champoeg), was created in 1843 by the Provisional Government, 16 years before Oregon gained statehood on February 14, 1859. In 1849 the name was changed to Marion County honoring American Revolutionary General Francis Marion. Early settlers to the county were trappers and farmers, with Methodist missionaries arriving in the early 19th century. In 1843, with the mapping of the Oregon Trail, larger groups of settlers began to arrive and populate the Willamette Valley.

The City of Salem was designated the county seat in 1849. The territorial capital was moved from Oregon City to Salem in 1852. After the ensuing controversy over the location of the capital was settled, Salem was confirmed as the state capital in 1864.

Marion County had a county court form of government for the first century of its existence and was presided over by the Marion County Court. In 1961, the Legislative Assembly enabled a county court with no judicial functions to reorganize as a board of county commissioners. With court approval, the Marion County Court was abolished and replaced by the Marion County Board of Commissioners on January 1, 1963. Today, Marion County is one of the 27 general law counties in the state. The 9 remaining counties are home rule counties.

Marion County's present geographical boundaries, established in 1856, are the Willamette River and Butte Creek on the north, the Cascade Range on the east, the Santiam River and North Fork of the Santiam on the south, and the Willamette River on the west. The county's boundaries include 1,194 square miles.

MARION COUNTY FY2007-08 BUDGET GENERAL INFORMATION

Economic, Demographic, Social, and Housing Characteristics

The state of the economy, as well as the demographic, social, and housing make-up of the citizens and communities of Marion County, has considerable influence on the budget of the County. The following sections provide key characteristics or indicators that likely either directly or indirectly affect Marion County public policy decisions.

Economic Characteristics

Marion County's economy is heavily based on government and agriculture. Thirty-nine of the largest state agencies are located in the City of Salem and Marion County, providing employment to almost 19,000 state employees. Marion County government and the City of Salem each employ about 1,400 workers, and the county's ten public school districts employ about 5,400 workers.

Marion County enjoys a highly diversified agricultural base and has the largest total agriculture sales among Oregon's 36 counties. The county is a state leader in the production of commodities such as grass seed, nursery stock, field crops, livestock and animal products. In the cool moist climate of the Willamette Valley, more than 170 different crop and livestock items are produced, including grass and legume seeds, tree fruits and nuts, wine grapes, berries, vegetables, nursery stock, Christmas trees, and field crops such as wheat, oats, mint, hops, hay, and livestock, dairy, and poultry. Farming utilizes about 40% of the available land in Marion County. In 2004, the value of agricultural products was estimated at \$519 million, ranking Marion County at the top of the list for the value of agricultural products produced in Oregon.¹

Marion County's average unemployment rate in 2005 was 6.4 percent, compared to 7.7 percent one year earlier, higher than the rate for Oregon as a whole and higher than that of the United States. In 2005, the average annual unemployment rate in Oregon (6.1%) reached its lowest level since 2000 (5.2%). Oregon continues to have higher unemployment than California (5.4%), Washington (5.5%) and the national average (5.1%).²

¹ Source: University Extension Service, 2004 Oregon County and State Agricultural Estimates, Revised March 2005

² Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov)

MARION COUNTY FY2007-08 BUDGET GENERAL INFORMATION

The following is a table of selected economic characteristics of Marion County compared to the United States as a whole. The indicators selected show that there are some significant variances between the County and the U.S.

Selected Economic Characteristics : 2000

Characteristics	Marion County Indicator	United States Indicator
COMMUTING TO WORK		
(workers 16 years and over)		
Car, truck, or van - drive alone	72.8%	75.7%
Car, truck, or van - carpooled	16.1%	12.2%
Worked at home	4.5%	3.3%
OCCUPATION		
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	4.7%	1.9%
Construction	7.4%	6.8%
Professional, scientific, management, administration and waste management services	7.2%	9.3%
Public administration	9.6%	4.8%
CLASS OF WORKER		
Government workers	19.6%	14.6%
INCOME IN 1999		
Households		
Less than \$24,999	27.8%	28.6%
\$25,000 to \$99,999	64.4%	59.1%
\$100,000 or more	7.8%	12.3%
Families		
Median family income	\$46,202	\$50,046
Median Earnings		
Male full-time, year-round workers	\$33,841	\$37,057
Female full-time, year-round workers	\$26,283	\$27,194

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

MARION COUNTY FY2007-08 BUDGET GENERAL INFORMATION

Demographics

The following is a table of selected general demographic characteristics of Marion County compared to the United States as a whole. The characteristics selected show that there are some significant variances between the county and the U.S. One deviation from the U.S. average is the proportion of the population institutionalized. Marion County has seven state correctional institutions and one juvenile detention center, as well as a county jail, and is the home of Oregon's primary state run psychiatric facility for adults. These, along with a typical county's nursing homes, raise the institutionalized population count above the national average.

General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Characteristics	Marion County Indicator	United States Indicator
SEX AND AGE		
Male	50.3%	49.1%
Female	49.7%	50.9%
Up to 9 years	15.3%	14.1%
65 years and over	12.4%	12.4%
Median age	33.7	35.3
RACE		
White	81.6%	75.1%
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Hispanic or Latino of any race	17.1%	12.5%
Mexican	14.5%	7.3%
RELATIONSHIP		
In households	96.3%	97.2%
In group quarters: *		
Institutionalized	2.5%	1.4%
Noninstitutionalized	1.2%	1.3%
HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Family households (families)	69.3%	68.1%
Average household size	2.70	2.59
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Occupied Housing Units	94.0%	91.0%
Vacant Housing Units	6.0%	9.0%
HOUSING TENURE		
Owner-occupied housing units	62.9%	66.2%
Renter-occupied housing units	37.1%	33.8%

* The Census Bureau classifies all people not living in households as living in group quarters. There are two types of group quarters: institutional (for example, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and mental hospitals) and non-institutional (for example, college dormitories, military barracks, group homes, missions, and shelters).

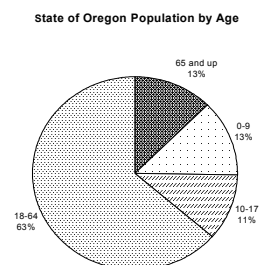
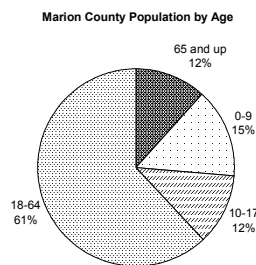
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

MARION COUNTY FY2007-08 BUDGET GENERAL INFORMATION

There are 20 incorporated cities and 37 unincorporated communities in Marion County. As of July 1, 2006 the total population of Marion County was estimated at 306,665. The estimated population of each city in Marion County as of July 1, 2005 is shown in the table below.³

Incorporated cities	Population	Unincorporated communities	
Aumsville	3,205	Breitenbush	Mehama
Aurora	920	Broadacres	Monitor
Detroit	260	Brooks	Niagara
Donald	895	Butteville	North Howell
Gates	455	Central Howell	North Santiam
Gervais	2,250	Clear Lake	Orville
Hubbard	2,960	Concomly	Pratum
Idanha	145	Crestwood	Roberts
Jefferson	2,590	Downs	Rockie Four Corners
Keizer	34,880	Drakes Crossing	Rosedale
Mill City	325	Elkhorn	St. Louis
Mt. Angel	3,665	Fargo	Shaw
St. Paul	420	Hazel Green	Sidney
Salem	127,720	Hopmere	Skunkville
Scotts Mills	300	Labish Center	Sunnyside
Silverton	8,915	Little Sweden	Talbot
Stayton	7,700	Lone Pine Corner	Waconda
Sublimity	2,225	Macleay	West Stayton
Turner	1,645	Marion	
Woodburn	22,615		

Between 2000 and 2006, Marion County's population increased 7.1% or 20,365, a lower percent than Oregon's 7.9% increase as a whole.⁴ The chart below shows the estimated 2006 population by age group. Marion County has a slightly younger population than Oregon State as a whole. The median age is 33.8 for Marion County and 37.0 for the state as a whole (2005).⁵



³ Portland State University, Population Research Center, 2006 Annual Oregon Population Report, www.pdx.edu/prc.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Northwest Area Foundation, Indicators Website, indicators.nwaf.org

MARION COUNTY FY2007-08 BUDGET GENERAL INFORMATION

Social Characteristics

The following table of selected social characteristics compares Marion County to the United States. The characteristics show that there are some significant variances between the County and the U.S. as a whole. Marion County has a substantially higher percent of population enrolled in elementary school. It has a higher percent of people who have some college and no degree, but a lower percent of people who have earned a bachelor's, graduate or professional degree. It has a higher divorce rate; has a higher percent veteran population; has a lower percent born in the state of residence; and has a higher percent that speak a language other than English at home.

Selected Social Characteristics : 2000

Characteristics	Marion County	United States
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT		
(population 3 yrs or older enrolled in school)		
Elementary School	46.8%	43.9%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
High school graduate (include equivalency)	26.3%	28.6%
Some college, no degree	26.6%	21.0%
Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree	19.8%	24.4%
MARITAL STATUS		
Never married	25.3%	27.1%
Now married, except separated	54.3%	54.1%
Divorced	11.7%	9.7%
VETERAN STATUS		
(civilian population 18 years and over)		
Civilian Veterans	14.5%	12.7%
DISABILITY STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION		
(population 5 years to 64 years)		
With a disability	16.3%	16.0%
RESIDENCE IN 1995		
Same house in 1995	44.9%	54.1%
Different house in 1995, same county	31.2%	24.9%
NATIVITY AND PLACE OF BIRTH		
Born in United States	86.6%	87.7%
Born in state of residence	47.8%	60.0%
LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME		
Language other than English	19.5%	17.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

MARION COUNTY FY2007-08 BUDGET
GENERAL INFORMATION

Housing Characteristics

The following is a table of selected housing characteristics of Marion County compared to the United States as a whole. As is the case with economic, demographic, and social characteristics, the housing characteristics show significant variances between the County and the U.S. as a whole.

Selected Housing Characteristics : 2000

Characteristics	Marion County Indicator	United States Indicator
YEAR HOUSEHOLDER MOVED INTO UNIT		
1995 to March 2000	55.9%	48.8%
1979 or earlier	13.8%	19.6%
HOUSE HEATING FUEL		
Utility gas	39.4%	51.2%
Electricity	50.2%	30.3%
OCCUPANTS PER ROOM (occupied housing units)		
More than 1.0	7.9%	5.7%
MORTGAGE STATUS AND MONTHLY OWNER COSTS		
With a mortgage	75.4%	70.0%
Up to \$699	10.6%	13.4%
\$700 to \$999	21.7%	17.3%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	29.3%	21.1%
\$1,500 or more	13.8%	18.2%
Not Morgaged	24.6%	30.0%
GROSS RENT (renter-occupied units)		
Up to \$499	31.5%	32.3%
\$500 to \$749	42.6%	33.7%
\$750 to \$999	14.6%	17.2%
\$1,000 or more	8.1%	11.6%
No cash rent	3.2%	5.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

MARION COUNTY FY2007-08 BUDGET
GENERAL INFORMATION

THIS PAGE HAS BEEN INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK