

Change in Population and Dependency Ratio, 1990 - 2000

The Dependency Ratio measures the relative size of the working age population to the non-working age of the population. The higher the ratio, the better - because it means there are more folks working to support those that aren't

	1990				Ratio
	0 to 19 years	20 to 64 years	65 years and more	Total	
United States	71,321,886	146,146,156	31,241,831	248,709,873	1.42
Oregon	802,516	1,648,481	391,324	2,842,321	1.38
Washington	1,398,246	2,893,158	575,288	4,866,692	1.47
MCEDD Region	19,802	35,978	9,629	65,409	1.22
Hood River County	5,016	9,522	2,365	16,903	1.29
Sherman County	564	1,031	323	1,918	1.16
Wasco County	6,321	11,576	3,786	21,683	1.15
Klickitat County	5,230	9,119	2,267	16,616	1.22
Skamania County	2,671	4,730	888	8,289	1.33

	2000				Ratio
	0 to 19 years	20 to 64 years	65 years and more	Total	
United States	80,473,265	165,956,888	34,991,753	281,421,906	1.44
Oregon	944,004	2,039,218	438,177	3,421,399	1.48
Washington	1,683,019	3,548,954	662,148	5,894,121	1.51
MCEDD Region	21,915	42,583	10,671	75,169	1.31
Hood River County	6,219	11,569	2,623	20,411	1.31
Sherman County	555	1,026	353	1,934	1.13
Wasco County	6,609	13,217	3,965	23,791	1.25
Klickitat County	5,649	10,868	2,644	19,161	1.31
Skamania County	2,883	5,903	1,086	9,872	1.49

	Change 1990 - 2000				Ratio
	0 to 19 years	20 to 64 years	65 years and more	Total	
United States	12.8%	13.6%	12.0%	13.2%	1.2%
Oregon	17.6%	23.7%	12.0%	20.4%	9.5%
Washington	20.4%	22.7%	15.1%	21.1%	4.7%
MCEDD Region	10.7%	18.4%	10.8%	14.9%	8.4%
Hood River County	24.0%	21.5%	10.9%	20.8%	1.8%
Sherman County	-1.6%	-0.5%	9.3%	0.8%	-3.2%
Wasco County	4.6%	14.2%	4.7%	9.7%	10.5%
Klickitat County	8.0%	19.2%	16.6%	15.3%	9.4%
Skamania County	7.9%	24.8%	22.3%	19.1%	15.8%

Between 1990 and 2000 the Dependency Ratio for the MCEDD region improved, although overall the rate remains lower than the State or National averages. Within the region, it is important to note that in only one county, Sherman, was the elderly population the fastest growing segment. In Hood River, the under 19 segment grew the fastest, however, relatively robust growth in the 20 to 64 year old segment lead to an improvement in the County's dependency ratio.