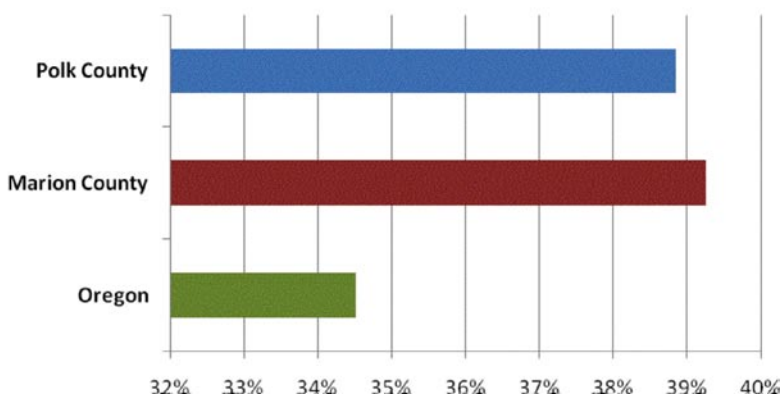




Marion and Polk counties are situated in the heart of the Willamette Valley, a 110-mile stretch along the Interstate 5 corridor, extending north-south from Portland to Eugene, and bounded by mountains to the east (Cascade range) and west (Coast range). The Willamette Valley contains the largest share of population and employment in Oregon.

Oregon's population has increased significantly over time. Marion and Polk counties show even greater rates of population growth than the state (see Figure 1). Population gains in both counties were approximately 39 percent from 1990 to 2009. Oregon's population growth rate was 35 percent during the same time period.

Population Growth, 1990-2009



Source: Portland State University 2009 estimates, U.S. Census 1990 Population Count

Portland State University's (PSU) population estimates program reports 318,170 residents in Marion County for 2009. With a population of 156,955, Salem is the largest city in Marion County, and serves as both the county seat and state capital. Salem's city limits extend into Polk County as well. PSU estimates 68,785 as the total population of Polk County in 2009. Dallas, the county seat, had a population of 14,454. Both counties also host several other established, vibrant communities (see Table 1).

Table 1.

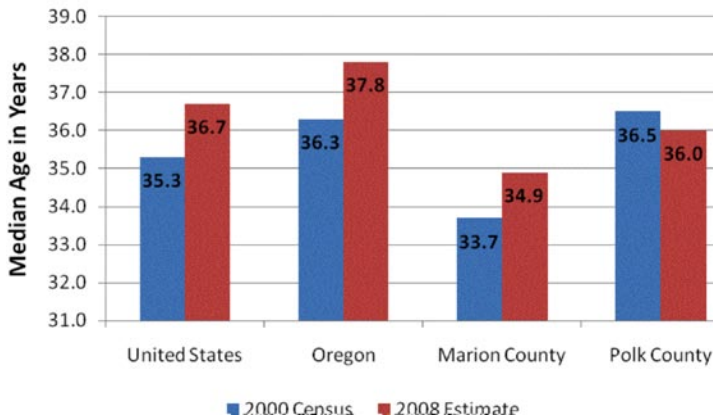
		Total Population by Cities		
		2009	2000	Change (%)
Marion County	Keizer	36,220	32,515	11.4%
	Salem	156,955	137,785	13.9%
	Silverton	9,587	7,470	28.3%
	Stayton	7,820	6,870	13.8%
	Woodburn	23,350	20,310	15.0%
Polk County	Dallas	14,454	12,550	15.2%
	Independence	8,244	6,080	35.6%
	Monmouth	9,630	7,780	23.8%

Source: Portland State University 2009 Population Estimates, July and Supplemental Dec. data; PSU 2000 Estimate

As the population continues to rise in Marion and Polk counties, the median resident age remains below the state and national levels (see Figure 2). For 2008, Census estimates show a median age of 34.9 years in Marion County. Residents under age 25 constitute 36 percent of the population, and another 41 percent fall between the ages of 25 and 54. Census numbers show 36 years as the median age in Polk County, with 35 percent of residents under the age 25, and 38 percent of the population between ages 25 and 54. Oregon's 2008 median age, 37.8 years, is significantly higher than Marion and Polk counties, and sits above the 2008 national median of 36.7 years. Of the population age 25 or older, 82 percent in Marion County possess a high school diploma. Approximately 19 percent have attained a bachelor's or advanced degree. For Polk County, 91 percent of residents age 25 or older are high school graduates; 27 percent hold a bachelor's or advanced degree.



Figure 2. Median Population Age



As the population continues to rise in Marion and Polk counties, the median resident age remains below the state and national levels (see Figure 2). For 2008, Census estimates show a median age of 34.9 years in Marion County. Residents under age 25 constitute 36 percent of the population, and another 41 percent fall between the ages of 25 and 54. Census numbers show 36 years as the median age in Polk County, with 35 percent of residents under the age 25, and 38 percent of the population between ages 25 and 54. Oregon's 2008 median age, 37.8 years, is significantly higher than Marion and Polk counties, and sits above the 2008 national median of 36.7 years. Of the population age 25 or older, 82 percent in Marion County possess a high school diploma. Approximately 19 percent have attained a bachelor's or advanced degree. For Polk County, 91 percent of residents age 25 or older are high school graduates; 27 percent hold a bachelor's or advanced degree.

Marion and Polk county populations also continue growing in terms of diversity, especially with respect to the Hispanic origin. In Marion County, the share of Hispanic population has grown from 17 percent in 2000 to 23 percent in 2008. Polk County shows smaller but positive gains as well, reporting 9 percent Hispanic population in 2000, and 12 percent in 2008.

County and City Population History

	1990 Census Count	2000 Census Count	2009 Estimates (*)
Marion County	228,483	284,838	314,866
Polk County	49,541	62,380	68,235
Dallas	9,422	12,459	15,360
Independence	4,425	6,035	8,030
Keizer	21,884	32,203	36,150
Monmouth	6,288	7,741	9,565
Salem	107,786	136,924	154,510
Silverton	5,635	7,414	9,540
Stayton	5,011	6,816	7,815
Woodburn	13,404	20,100	23,355

(*) Portland State University Population Research Center Estimates

U.S. Census Bureau Fact Finder

<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff>