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U.S. county

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# Article Talk Baker County, Oregon

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Coordinates: 44.71°N 117.67°W

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Read

Baker County is one of the 36 counties in the U.S. state of Oregon. As of the 2010 United States Census, the population was 16,134.[1] The county seat and largest city is Baker City.[2] The county was organized on September 22, 1862 when a portion of Wasco County was partitioned off. The new county's area was reduced in 1864 when Union County was partitioned off, and again in 1887 when Malheur County was partitioned off. The county's lines were last adjusted in 1901 when a parcel was added to the county.

Baker County was named for Edward Dickinson Baker, a senator from Oregon who was killed at Ball's Bluff, a battle of the Civil War in Virginia in 1861. The county is part of the county definition of Eastern Oregon.

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6.2 Unincorporated communities

The first groups from the eastern U.S. following the Oregon Trail passed through the area on their way to the Willamette Valley, unaware of the potential wealth they passed over. At Flagstaff Hill, near Baker City, 15 miles (24 km) of wagon ruts left by

History [edit]

11 External links

immigrants can still be seen. The previous Oregon Territory had achieved statehood in 1859. In 1861 gold was discovered in eastern Wasco County, and a gold rush ensued; the area quickly became the Northwest's largest producer of gold. In September 1862 the state assembly created

for the last time in 1901, when the area between the Powder River and the Wallowa Mountains was returned to Baker County. The original county seat was at Auburn. While at first a booming mining town with 5,000 inhabitants, once the gold was mined out Auburn's population dwindled, and county citizens voted in 1868 to make Baker City the new county seat. Baker City was incorporated in 1874. The population of Baker County nearly quadrupled from 1880 to 1910, largely due to the Sumpter Valley Railroad and several of its spur lines, which helped lumber and mining operations to develop.[3] In 1914 Fern Hobbs, on behalf of her employer Governor Oswald West, declared martial law in the Baker County city of

Copperfield. This was the first declaration of martial law in the state since the American Civil War. From 1915 through 1946, Baker County was represented in the Oregon State Senate by William H. Strayer. When he died in 1946, Strayer had served in the Oregon legislature longer then than any person in the state's history. [4]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 3,088 square miles (8,000 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 3,068 square miles

Geography [edit]

described by the southward-flowing Snake River, and the county terrain generally slopes to the Snake River's valley. [8] Adjacent counties [edit]

The terrain of Baker County is generally rugged, with 30% of the county covered with forest. The county's highest point is Red

Mountain at around 9,560 feet ASL, [6][7] located 3 km from the county's northern line. The eastern boundary of the county is

### Adams County, Idaho - east/Mountain Time Border

• Wallowa County - northeast

• Union County - north

- National protected areas [edit]
- Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (part) Malheur National Forest (part)

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (part)

(7,950 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 20 square miles (52 km<sup>2</sup>) (0.6%) is water. [5]

- Whitman National Forest (part)
- Demographics [edit]

#### As of the 2000 United States Census, [14] there were 16,741 people, 6,883 households, and 4,680 families in the county. The population density was 6/sqmi (2/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 8,402 housing units at an average density of 3/sqmi (1/km<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the county was:

2000 census [edit]

 0.23% Black or African American 1.09% Native American

• Grant County - west

0.04% Pacific Islander

• 0.38% Asian

• 95.68% White

- 0.92% from other races 1.65% from two or more races.
- There were 6,883 households, out of which 28.00% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 56.20% were married couples living together, 8.60% had a female householder with no husband present, and 32.00% were non-families. 27.80% of all households were made up of individuals,

2010 census [edit]

age was 47.9 years.[15]

of those age 65 or over.[18]

Politics [edit]

2.87. The county population contained 24.20% under the age of 18, 5.80% from 18 to 24, 23.60% from 25 to 44, 27.30% from 45 to 64, and 19.00% who

2.34% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 18.4% were of English, 17.4% German, 11.4% American and 9.1% Irish ancestry.

over, there were 95.30 males. The median income for a household in the county was \$30,367, and the median income for a family was \$36,106. Males had a median income of \$27,133 versus \$20,480 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$15,612. About 10.10% of families and 14.70% of the population were below the poverty line, including 18.80% of those under age 18 and 12.40% of those age 65 or over.

mile (2.0/km²). There were 8,826 housing units at an average density of 2.9 per square mile (1.1/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 94.6% white, 1.1% American Indian, 0.5% Asian, 0.4% black or African American, 0.1% Pacific islander, 1.0% from other races, and 2.4% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 3.3% of the population.<sup>[15]</sup> In terms of ancestry, 24.5% were German, 14.8% were Irish, 14.6% were English, and 8.1% were American.<sup>[17]</sup> Of the 7,040 households, 24.4% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 50.7% were married couples living together, 8.3% had a female householder with no husband

The median income for a household in the county was \$39,704 and the median income for a family was \$50,507. Males had a median income of \$43,849 versus \$30,167 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$21,683. About 12.7% of families and 19.9% of the population were below the poverty line, including 27.2% of those under age 18 and 10.6%

### Like all counties in eastern Oregon, the majority of registered voters who are part of a political party in Baker County are members of the Republican Party. In the 2008 presidential election, 64.37% of Baker County voters voted for Republican John McCain, while 31.95% voted for Democrat Barack Obama and 3.66% of voters either voted for a Third Party candidate or wrote in a candidate. [19] These numbers have changed slightly from the 2004 presidential election, in which 69.2% voted for George W. Bush, while 29% voted for John Kerry, and 1.8% of voters either voted for a Third Party candidate or wrote in a candidate. [20] Breakdown of registered voters in Baker County, Oregon (as of March 2009) 2,091; 20%

Portions of Season 11 of Discovery's TV show Gold Rush was filmed in Baker County<sup>[23]</sup>. Communities [edit]

Hutchinson

Jimtown

Keating

Little Alps

Lime

4,776; 46%

■ Democrats ■ Republicans □ Other Party ■ Non-Affiliated

Gold mining was the original impetus for settlement in the area, and at one time the county was the largest gold producer in the Northwest. Gold dredging was conducted with the Sumpter Valley Gold Dredge. With the exhaustion of the gold fields, agriculture, stock raising, logging became the primary economic pursuits. In the last decades of the 20th century, tourism also contributed to the local economy, helped by attractions such as Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, and Anthony Lakes Ski Area. The

#### • Baker City (county seat) Greenhorn Haines

Halfway

Incorporated cities [edit]

Presidential election results

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center opened in 1993.

Dixie

Durkee

Encina

Hereford

Homestead

Economy [edit]

#### Bridgeport Brownlee Carson

Unincorporated communities [edit]

- China Town Clarksville
- Ghost towns [edit] Auburn

Bourne

- Copperfield Cornucopia
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Baker County, Oregon Notes [edit]

See also [edit]

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External links [edit] Baker County Chamber of Commerce 丞

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Categories: Oregon counties | Baker County, Oregon | 1862 establishments in Oregon | Populated places established in 1862

Baker County Courthouse in Baker City Location within the U.S. state of Oregon Baker County from Wasco. Later, Union County and Malheur County were created from this county. The boundaries were adjusted Oregon's location within the U.S. Coordinates: 44°43′N 117°40′W Country United States State Oregon **Founded** September 22, 1862

Seat **Baker City Baker City** Largest city Area 3,088 sq mi (8,000 km<sup>2</sup>) Total 3,068 sq mi (7,950 km²) Water 20 sq mi (50 km<sup>2</sup>) 0.6%% Population (2010) 16,134 Total • Estimate (2019) 16,124 Density 5.22/sq mi (2.02/km<sup>2</sup>) Time zone UTC-8 (Pacific) UTC-7 (PDT) Summer (DST) Congressional district www.bakercounty.org ☑ Website

 Washington County, Idaho - southeast/Mountain Time Border • Malheur County - south/Mountain Time Border

- **Historical population** Census Pop. 2,804 1870 1880 4,616 6,764 1890
  - 1900 15,597 130.6% 18,076 1910 15.9% 17,929 1920 -0.8%16,754 1930 -6.6% 18,297 1940 1950 16,175 17,295 1960 14,919 1970 1980 16,134 15,317 1990 2000 16,741 2010 16,134

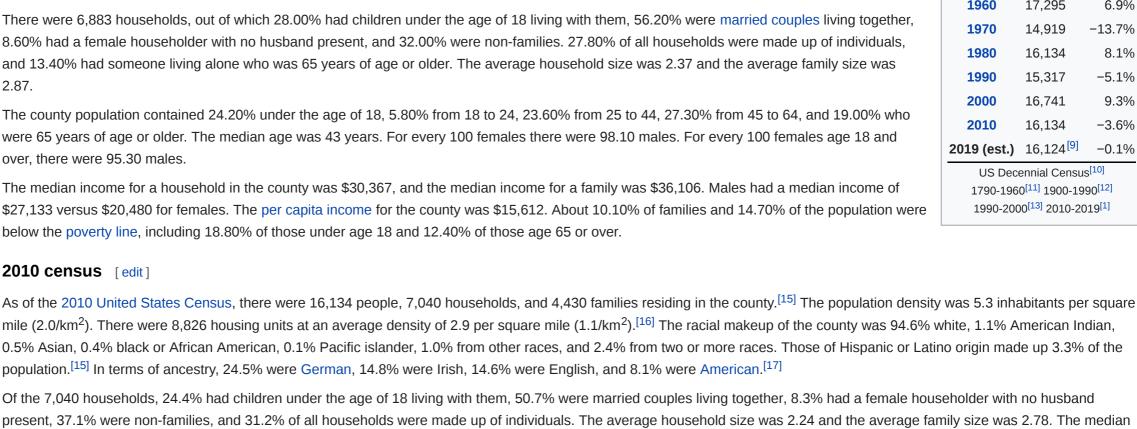
%±

64.6%

46.5%

[show]

## 9.2% -11.6% 6.9% -13.7%8.1% -5.1% 9.3% -3.6% **2019 (est.)** 16,124<sup>[9]</sup> -0.1%US Decennial Census<sup>[10]</sup> 1790-1960<sup>[11]</sup> 1900-1990<sup>[12]</sup> 1990-2000<sup>[13]</sup> 2010-2019<sup>[1]</sup>





Huntington

Richland

Sumpter

McEwen

Nelson

Pocahontas

Robinette

a. ^ The leading "other" candidate, Progressive Theodore Roosevelt, received 1,120 votes, while Socialist Eugene Debs received 469 votes, Prohibition candidate Eugene Chafin received 54 votes.

Unity

 Newbridge Rock Creek Weatherby Rye Valley Whitney Oxbow Pine Salisbury • Wingville Pine Creek Sparta

Pleasant Valley

Sunset

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