Yamhill County, Oregon

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Coordinates: 45.23°N 123.31°W

Yamhill County is one of the 36 counties in the U.S. state of Oregon. As of the 2020 census, the population was 107,722.[1] The county seat is McMinnville.[2] Yamhill County was named after the Yamhelas, members of the Kalapuya Tribe.[3]

Yamhill County is part of the Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is in the Willamette Valley.

History [edit]

The earliest known inhabitants of the area were the Yamhill (Yamhelas Indian Tribe, part of the Kalapuyan family[4]) Indians, who have inhabited the area for over 8,000 years. There are 27 tribes incorporated in the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. In 1857 they were forced to migrate to the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation created in Oregon's Coastal Range two years earlier.

The earliest non-native settlers were employees of the various fur companies operating in Oregon Country, who started settling there around 1814. But it was the establishment of the Oregon Trail that led to significant migration to the area.

Yamhill District (later county) was created on July 5, 1843, five years before the Oregon Territory was established. It was one of the original four districts created by Oregon's first Provisional Legislature, along with Twality (later Washington), Clackamas, and Champooick (later Marion) counties. The district was originally spread over 12,000 square miles (31,000 km²), an area that was broken up into twelve present-day counties.

Lafayette, the principal trading center of the western Willamette Valley in early Oregon history, was made the county seat in 1846. The county government was later (1889) moved to McMinnville where it remains today.

The Mount Hebo Air Force Station was a Cold War air defense installation from 1956 to 1980. Located next to Tillamook County, at the top of 3,154-foot (961 m) high Mount Hebo, Air Force radars operated by the 689th Radar Squadron and the 14th Missile Warning Squadron were essential parts of the nation's integrated air defenses. The large radomes protecting the radars from adverse weather effects could be seen shimmering against the sky from many parts of Yamhill County.

Lock and dam on the Yamhill River [edit]

Main article: Yamhill River lock and dam

In 1900 the Yamhill River lock and dam was completed about 1.5 miles (2.4 km) downriver from Lafayette, Oregon. The lock was decommissioned in 1954. The dam was demolished in 1963 to allow better passage for salmon on the river. The site of the lock and dam is now a county park.

Geography [edit]

According to the United States Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 718 square miles (1,860 km²), of which 716 square miles (1,850 km²) is land and 2.5 square miles (6.5 km²) (0.3%) is water.[5] It is the fifth-smallest county in Oregon by area.

The tallest mountain in the county is Trask Mountain in the northwest corner of the county.[6]

Adjacent counties [edit]

- Washington County (north)
- Clackamas County (east)
- Marion County (southeast)
- Polk County (south)
- Tillamook County (west)

National protected areas [edit]

- Siuslaw National Forest (part)
- Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (part)

Demographics [edit]

2000 census [edit]

As of the census of 2000, there were 84,992 people, 28,732 households, and 21,376 families living in the county. The population density was 119 people per square mile (46 people/km²). There were 30,270 housing units at an average density of 42 units per square mile (16/km²). The racial makeup of the county is 88.98% White, 1.47% Native American, 1.07% Asian, 0.85% Black or African American, 0.12% Pacific Islander, 5.08% from other races, and 2.42% from two or more races. 10.61% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 19.6% were of German, 11.4% English, 9.5% American and 8.4% Irish ancestry.

There were 28,732 households, out of which 37.40% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 60.00% were married couples living together, 9.90% had a female householder with no husband present, and 25.60% were non-families. 19.70% of all households were made up of individuals, and 8.40% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.78 and the average family size was 3.17.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 26.90% under the age of 18, 11.40% from 18 to 24, 28.50% from 25 to 44, 21.40% from 45 to 64, and 11.70% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 34 years. For every 100 females, there were 102.20 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 101.30 males.

The median income for a household in the county is $44,111, and the median income for a family was $50,336. Males had a median income of $35,686 versus $25,254 for females. The per capita income for the county was $18,951. About 6.00% of families and 9.20% of the population were below the poverty line, including 10.10% of those under age 18 and 7.50% of those age 65 or over.

2010 census [edit]

As of the census of 2010, there were 99,193 people, 34,726 households, and 25,020 families living in the county.[12] The population density was 138.6 inhabitants per square mile (53.5/km²). There were 37,110 housing units at an average density of 51.8 units per square mile (20.0 units/km²).[13] The racial makeup of the county was 85.4% white, 1.5% Asian, 1.5% American Indian, 0.9% black or African American, 0.2% Pacific islander, 7.2% from other races, and 3.3% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 14.7% of the population.[12] In terms of ancestry, 23.6% were German, 13.7% were English, 12.2% were Irish, and 5.0% were American.[14]

Of the 34,726 households, 35.8% had children under the age of 18 living in them, 56.0% were married couples living together, 11.1% had a female householder with no husband present, 28.0% were non-families, and 21.7% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.70 and the average family size was 3.12. The median age was 36.8 years.[12]

The median income for a household in the county was $52,485 and the median income for a family was $61,524. Males had a median income of $44,946 versus $33,717 for females. The per capita income for the county was $24,017. About 9.0% of families and 12.7% of the population were below the poverty line, including 16.8% of those under age 18 and 7.7% of those age 65 or over.[15]

Politics [edit]

In the United States House of Representatives, Yamhill County lies in Oregon's 1st congressional district, which also covers Washington County, Clatsop County, Columbia County and a small portion of Multnomah County, and is represented by Democrat Suzanne Bonamici. In the Oregon State Senate, most of Yamhill County is in the 12th Senate District represented by former Republican, now Independent, Brian Boquist, whilst the western "panhandle" is in the 5th Senate District represented by Republican Dick Anderson and Newberg, part of the 13th District, is represented by Republican Kim Thatcher and represented in the Oregon House of Representatives by Bill Post. Within the Oregon House of Representatives, Yamhill County lies chiefly within the 24th District represented by Republican Ron Noble, although the western "panhandle" of the county lies within the 10th District represented by Democrat David Gomberg.

Although located west of the Cascades, Yamhill has remained a Republican-leaning county in Presidential elections at the same time as other Western Oregon counties have become solidly to powerfully Democratic. No Democratic presidential candidate has won Yamhill County since Lyndon Johnson's 1964 landslide, and the only other Democrats to carry the county since Oregon's statehood have been Franklin Roosevelt in 1940, 1936 and 1932, along with Woodrow Wilson in 1912 when the Republican vote was divided.[16] However, the Republican edge has narrowed somewhat in recent years; since 1992, the GOP has only managed to win a majority four times.

Yamhill County is currently one of 11 counties in Oregon in which therapeutic psilocybin services are legal.

United States presidential election results for Yamhill County, Oregon[17][18][19] [hide]

Year	Republican		Democratic		Third party	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2020	29,551	**50.15%**	27,174	46.12%	2,198	3.73%
2016	23,250	**47.69%**	19,301	39.59%	6,202	12.72%
2012	22,045	**51.38%**	19,260	44.89%	1,602	3.73%
2008	21,390	**49.14%**	20,797	47.78%	1,339	3.08%
2004	23,839	**56.57%**	17,572	41.70%	731	1.73%
2000	19,193	**54.01%**	14,254	40.11%	2,092	5.89%
1996	13,900	**44.64%**	13,078	42.00%	4,157	13.35%
1992	11,693	**37.23%**	11,148	35.50%	8,555	27.27%
1988	13,321	**52.47%**	11,423	44.99%	644	2.54%
1984	15,797	**62.31%**	9,450	37.28%	104	0.41%
1980	12,054	**51.15%**	8,694	36.89%	2,820	11.97%
1976	9,885	**50.38%**	8,881	45.27%	854	4.35%
1972	9,660	**58.51%**	6,008	36.39%	841	5.09%
1968	7,936	**55.55%**	5,487	38.41%	862	6.03%
1964	5,508	38.08%	8,949	**61.88%**	6	0.04%
1960	8,295	**59.98%**	5,528	39.97%	6	0.04%
1956	8,555	**61.96%**	5,253	38.04%	0	0.00%
1952	9,332	**67.27%**	4,472	32.24%	68	0.49%
1948	6,379	**55.33%**	4,794	41.59%	355	3.08%
1944	5,672	**51.39%**	5,067	45.91%	298	2.70%
1940	5,545	49.48%	5,566	**49.67%**	96	0.86%
1936	3,443	35.88%	5,366	**55.92%**	787	8.20%
1932	3,584	41.11%	4,798	**55.03%**	337	3.87%
1928	5,248	**67.97%**	2,382	30.85%	91	1.18%
1924	3,803	**53.11%**	2,015	28.14%	1,342	18.74%
1920	4,102	**59.49%**	2,353	34.13%	440	6.38%
1916	4,010	**49.95%**	3,342	41.63%	676	8.42%
1912	1,312	31.27%	1,378	**32.84%**	1,506	35.89%
1908	1,980	**54.49%**	1,246	34.29%	408	11.23%
1904	2,004	**63.14%**	652	20.54%	518	16.32%
1900	1,583	**52.40%**	1,235	40.88%	203	6.72%
1896	1,782	**48.93%**	1,736	47.67%	124	3.40%
1892	1,469	**46.15%**	682	21.43%	1,032	32.42%
1888	1,298	**54.33%**	994	41.61%	97	4.06%
1884	1,184	**52.23%**	1,034	45.61%	49	2.16%
1880	1,057	**52.88%**	942	47.12%	0	0.00%

Economy [edit]

In 2019 the Oregon International Air Show switched to the McMinnville Municipal Airport. The Air Show promotes aviation while honoring the military and veterans. In addition to the economic surge provided by the Air Show, the Oregon International Air Show contributes to the community and provides grants for McMinnville. Since 1988 more than $3 million has donated back throughout McMinnville (Yamhill County), Hillsboro (Washington County), and throughout Oregon. Express Employment Professionals, Kaiser Family Estates, and Xerxen are the lead sponsors for the upcoming 2020 Air Show.[20]

The major industries of the county are agriculture, forest products, manufacturing, and education. Yamhill County's economy is supported primarily by its many unincorporated facilities such as Cascade Steel in McMinnville and Decommissioned White Birch Paper now owned by WestRock in Newberg. It boasts a thriving wine industry and was the home of Evergreen Aviation.

Yamhill County ranks seventh out of Oregon's thirty-six counties in annual market value of its agricultural production.[citation needed] This agricultural production includes wheat, barley, horticulture, and dairy farming, with 13,201 acres or 53.42 square kilometres in 1997 planted in orchards. One-third of the county is covered in commercial timber, and the economic mainstay of the western part of the county is logging and timber products.

Yamhill County is a significant focus of Oregon's wine industry, having the largest area of any Oregon county planted in vineyards. Six of the state's American Viticultural Areas are wholly or partly in the county: Chehalem Mountains AVA, Dundee Hills AVA, Eola-Amity Hills AVA, McMinnville AVA, Ribbon Ridge AVA, and Yamhill-Carlton District AVA. Over 80 wineries and 200 vineyards represent the largest concentration of wine growers and producers in any county in the state. Vineyards often specialize in Pinot noir, but other varieties grown include Pinot gris, Pinot blanc, Chardonnay, Riesling, and Gewürztraminer.

Education [edit]

Yamhill County Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) include Linfield University and Chemeketa Community College McMinnville Campus, along with George Fox University and Portland Community College in Newberg. For private secondary education the county is served by The Delphian School in Sheridan.

Communities [edit]

Cities [edit]

- Amity
- Carlton
- Dayton
- Dundee
- Lafayette
- McMinnville (county seat)
- Newberg
- Sheridan
- Willamina
- Yamhill

Census-designated places [edit]

- Fort Hill
- Grand Ronde

Unincorporated communities [edit]

- Bellevue
- Cove Orchard
- Eola Crest
- Eola Village
- Gopher
- Grand Ronde Agency
- Hopewell
- Lunnville
- Midway
- Riverside
- Saint Joseph
- Shipley
- Springbrook
- Sunnycrest
- Unionvale
- Wheatland
- Whiteson

See also [edit]

- National Register of Historic Places listings in Yamhill County, Oregon
- Yamhill County Courthouse

Oregon portal

References [edit]

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2. ^ "Find a County". National Association of Counties. Retrieved June 7, 2011.
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4. ^ "Brief History of Yamhill County | Yamhill County, Oregon". *co.yamhill.or.us*. Retrieved April 11, 2018.
5. ^ "2010 Census Gazetteer Files". United States Census Bureau. August 22, 2012. Retrieved February 28, 2015.
6. ^ Peakbagger.com: Trask Mountain, Oregon
7. ^ "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022". Retrieved May 15, 2023.
8. ^ "U.S. Decennial Census". United States Census Bureau. Retrieved February 28, 2015.
9. ^ "Historical Census Browser". University of Virginia Library. Retrieved February 28, 2015.
10. ^ Forstall, Richard L., ed. (March 27, 1995). "Population of Counties by Decennial Census: 1900 to 1990". United States Census Bureau. April 2, 2001. Archived from the original (PDF) on February 26, 2015. Retrieved February 28, 2015.
11. ^ "Census 2000 PHC-T-4. Ranking Tables for Counties: 1990 and 2000" (PDF). United States Census Bureau. April 2, 2001. Archived from the original (PDF) on February 26, 2015. Retrieved February 28, 2015.
12. ^ a b c d "DP-1 Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 Demographic Profile Data". United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original on February 13, 2020. Retrieved February 23, 2016.
13. ^ "Population, Housing Units, Area, and Density: 2010 - County". United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original on February 13, 2020. Retrieved February 23, 2016.
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15. ^ "DP03 SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS – 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates". United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original on February 13, 2020. Retrieved February 23, 2016.
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17. ^ Leip, David. "Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections". *uselectionatlas.org*. Retrieved April 11, 2018.
18. ^ "Our Campaigns - U.S. President". Retrieved January 22, 2021.
19. ^ The leading "other" candidate, Progressive Theodore Roosevelt, received 885 votes, while Socialist Eugene Debs received 350 votes, Prohibition candidate Eugene Chafin received 271 votes.
20. ^ "Oregon Air Show: Official Website". *oregonairshow.com/*. Oregon International Air Show. Retrieved November 10, 2021.

Further reading [edit]

- H.O. Lang (ed.), *History of the Willamette Valley: Being a Description of the Valley and its Resources, with an Account of its Discovery and Settlement by White Men, and its Subsequent History; Together with Personal Reminiscences of its Early Pioneers*. Portland: Himes and Lang, 1885.
- *Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon, Containing Original Sketches of Many Well Known Citizens of the Past and Present*. Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1903.

External links [edit]

- Yamhill County (official website)
- County history from the Oregon State Archives
- Yamhill County Wineries Association
- Yamhill Basin Council
- Historical Map of Yamhill County, Oregon – Library of Congress - Map Date: 1879 (hi-res)

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Places adjacent to Yamhill County, Oregon	[show]
v · t · e Municipalities and communities of Yamhill County, Oregon, United States	[show]
v · t · e State of Oregon	[show]
Authority control	[show]

Categories: Oregon counties | Yamhill County, Oregon | 1843 establishments in Oregon Country | Populated places established in 1843 | Oregon placenames of Native American origin | Portland metropolitan area

Yamhill County

County

Yamhill County Courthouse in McMinnville

Location within the U.S. state of Oregon

Oregon's location within the U.S.
Coordinates: 45°14'N 123°19'W

Country	United States
State	Oregon
Founded	July 5, 1843
Named for	Yamhelas people of the Kalapuyan
Seat	McMinnville
Largest city	McMinnville
Area	
• Total	718 sq mi (1,860 km²)
• Land	716 sq mi (1,852 km²)
• Water	2.5 sq mi (6 km²) 0.3%
Population (2020)	
• Total	107,722
• Estimate (2022)	108,226
• Density	139/sq mi (54/km²)
Time zone	UTC−8 (Pacific)
• Summer (DST)	UTC−7 (PDT)
Congressional district	1st
Website	www.co.yamhill.or.us

Soléna and Grand Cru Estates winery

Historical population

Census	Pop.	%±
1860	3,245	—
1870	5,012	54.5%
1880	7,945	58.5%
1890	10,692	34.6%
1900	13,420	25.5%
1910	18,285	36.3%
1920	20,529	12.3%
1930	22,036	7.3%
1940	26,336	19.5%
1950	33,484	27.1%
1960	32,478	−3.0%
1970	40,213	23.8%
1980	55,332	37.6%
1990	65,551	18.5%
2000	84,992	29.7%
2010	99,193	16.7%
2020	107,722	8.6%
2022 (est.)	108,226[7]	0.5%

U.S. Decennial Census[8]
1790–1960[9] 1900–1990[10]
1990–2000[11] 2010–2020[1]

Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum

Grain elevator in Carlton, Yamhill County