ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

SKAMANIA COUNTY

Skamania County is approximately 40 miles east of the Portland/Vancouver Metro area and located in in South central Washington with the Columbia River forming the southern boarder. A large majority of Skamania county is forest within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the Mount Adams Recreation area. Skamania County spans approximately 1,655 square miles.

Quick Facts

Population % of State Population (WA)	**11,750** **0.2%**
Economic Diversity Score (Hachman Index)	*Washington State dose not use this qualifier*

Top 3 Industries by % of total employment (Average Annual Wage)

| #1 18.6%	#2 15.3%	#3 7.7%
Accommodation and food services ($25,430)	Manufacturing ($47,795)	Healthcare and social assistance ($24,914)

Average Annual Wages in Skamania County	**$43,307** (all industries/ownerships)

Stronger Signals of Resilience
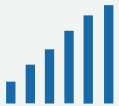
- In Skamania County, employment sectors are seeing steady growth in industries with higher-than-average wages, specifically in Manufacturing
- Skamania County population increased by 9% between 2010-2020
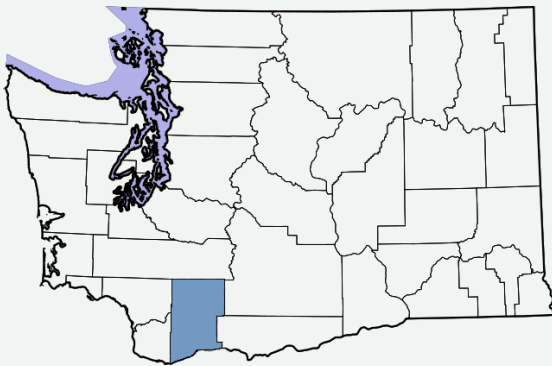
Weaker Signals of Resilience

- A large portion of Skamania County residents still use fuel oil/Kerosene and Cole, Coke or Wood (19.6% combined).
- The Job to Homes ratio in Skamania County is 0.33
- The average commute time in Skamania County is 29 minutes
- The population in Skamania County is aging with an age dependency ratio of 63.9 and 30% of the county population are over 60 years old
- 42.0% of Skamania County residents who rent and 27.8% of all residents are cost-burdened

	US	State	County
Median Household Income (2021 $)	$60,293	$73,775	$65,181
Median Age	37.9	37.7	46.6
% of Residents with at least High School Degree	87.6%	84.48%	91.63%
% of Renters spending 30% or more of income on housing	47%	27.2%	42.0%

City	Population
Outside UGBs	9,148
Carson	2,800
Stevenson	1,491
North Bonneville	965

Gauging Resilience: Signal Strength Measures

Area of concern for a resilient economy. **Data signals limited strength.**

Area for improvement to support a resilient economy. **Data signals opportunity for added resilient measures.**

Area contributes to economic resilience for the community. **Data signals a resilient position.**

This profile measures resilience in the County using the data detailed in the **8 Questions Framework Introduction**. Some data help answer more than one question, and most questions are answered using a combination of datasets. Measuring economic resilience is challenging because many factors impact a community's ability to recover from a shock. The elements that contribute to a more resilient community are varied, and often independently managed. It is entirely possible for a community to demonstrate economic strengths and vulnerabilities at the same time.

This framework measures the "signal strength" associated with each dataset. Within every question, the datasets with the weaker signals should be noted and further investigated. Communities should aim to have full-power resilience signals for most datasets and may want to concentrate efforts where there is limited signal strength.

Terms Used in Measuring Resilience

Term	Defined as
Age Dependency Ratio	Determined by measuring the number of dependents (young and old) in a population divided by the number of working-age people. This data point describes the level of pressure on an economy from supporting populations that are typically less active in the labor market.
Average Wages	Average of the wages earned in a particular job or industry occupation. Wages include tips, commissions, bonuses, vacation, and holiday pay, but do not include benefits.
Complete Kitchen / Complete Plumbing	Homes that have a sink with faucet, a stove or range, and a refrigerator meet the criteria for having complete kitchen facilities. Homes that have hot and cold running water, a flush toilet and a bathtub or shower meet the criteria for having complete plumbing facilities.
Cost-burdened / Severe cost-burdened Households	Households that pay more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost-burdened. Households that pay more than 50% of their income for housing are considered severely cost-burdened.
Fastest Growing Industries (& wages)	Private industries with the highest percentage of total employment, as measured by Oregon Employment Department (OED).
Jobs to Homes Ratio	Used to examine the proportions of residents, jobs, and services in urban areas. The ratio is measured by dividing the total employment by total occupied housing units.
Median Household Income	Median of households' income earned in the past 12 months within a geography. Income includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years and over in the household (whether or not they are related to householder).
Population Growth Rate	This rate expresses the percent change in population over a given time period.
Vacancy Rate	The proportion of housing units that are not seasonal or for sale that are not occupied.

What Indicates Resilience?

#	Question	What Indicates Resilience?
1	**Does the economy have diverse and well-paid jobs?**	Diversified economies are more resilient. + A distribution of jobs in higher-wage industries indicates more economic resilience – A concentration of jobs in a single industry indicates less economic resilience
2	**What is the projected future of major employment industries in the region and nationally?**	Industries that are less subject to volatility are more resilient. + A distribution of employment across industries that will likely remain stable indicates greater economic resilience – A concentration of employment in industries that are regulated, taxed, or that rely on natural resources introduces more risk for economic resilience
3	**What is the age breakdown of residents?**	A mix of young, working, and older populations is indicative of a more resilient economy. + Populations that are active in the labor force promote economic resilience – An aging population threatens economic resilience
4	**Do people live and work in the community?**	In communities where people live and work, the local economy is more active and independent, and therefore more resilient. + Mix of housing types and costs indicates greater economic resilience – Limited affordable housing options and major commuter outflows indicates less economic resilience
5	**How has the population grown in the last decade and what is predicted for the next 30 years?**	Growing populations indicate economic opportunities and resilience. + Steady and continuous growth indicates greater economic resilience – Sharp inclines and declines in populations indicate less economic resilience
6	**Are residential homes able to withstand a natural hazard or weather incident?**	Newer homes are more likely to have been constructed to withstand natural hazards and weather incidents. Older homes and manufactured homes may be more vulnerable to damages and/or more difficult to repair. + A sufficient supply of newer housing stock (built after 1970) indicates economic resilience – Limited newer housing stock and a decline in homebuilding over the last decade indicates less economic resilience
7	**What level of education attainment and earnings are residents reaching?**	Residents with advanced or specialized degrees have higher earning potential. Regions that have choices for advanced education (trade schools, community colleges, four-year colleges, and universities) are better positioned to support the training of local residents. + Higher percentage of residents with advanced or specialized degrees indicates greater economic resilience – Lower percentage of residents with advanced or specialized degrees indicates less economic resilience
8	**Do residents have access to health and wellness facilities?**	Communities with health and wellness facilities are more resilient than communities that lack these facilities. People with health insurance contribute to a more resilient economy by reserving scarce public health resources for those most in need. + Populations that are mostly insured and mostly located near health care facilities indicates greater economic resilience – Populations that have lower insurance rates and that are located farther from health care facilities indicates less economic resilience

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

SKAMANIA COUNTY

1.	Does the economy have diverse and well-paid jobs?	

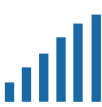| Data to Answer the Question		Results
Employment Data Source: Washington Employment Security Department	Resilient economies are not predominated by low-wage industries. **Average Annual Wages 2021** Washington $76,801 Skamania County $43,307 **Industry with Highest Employment** **Wages** **% of Total Emp.** 1. Accommodation and food services $25,430 18.6% 2. Manufacturing $47,795 15.3% 3. Healthcare and social assistance $24,914 7.7%	
Hachman Index	*The Hachman Index is a measure of economic diversity.* ***Washington State dose not use this qualifier***	
Income Earned Source: Washington Employment Security Department	Do people earn an equivalent income in Skamania County compared to other parts of our service area? **Median Household Income** **| % of State Median Household Income** **Skamania County (WA)** **$65,181** **88.4%** **Washington** **$73,775** **Oregon** **$61,818** Wasco County (OR) $53,105 84.5% Hood River County (OR) $65,679 104.6% Sherman County (OR) $51,071 81.3% Klickitat County $55,773 75.6%	

The top industry, **Accommodation and food services,** is earning significantly less than the County's average annual wages at $25,430. People who work in the 2nd largest industry **Manufacturing**, are seeing growth and earning slightly more than the county's average wages . The 3rd largest industry, **Healthcare and social assistance**, is growing and has wages that are significantly below the county average annual wages. The top two industries in the county make up 33% of the total county employment. Skamania County economic diversity is growing, and they have significantly less vulnerability for an industry-specific disruption.

Data Definitions & Thresholds				
Employment Data	Of the 3 fastest growing industries, how many account for 20% or more of total area employment?	3	1-2	0
Economic Diversity	The Hachman Index is a measure of economic diversity. Using indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP) or employment, the index measures the mix of industries present in a particular region relative to a (well-diversified) reference region.	0-0.33	0.34-0.66	0.67-1.0
Income Earned	Median household income in the County as a percentage of state median income.	Less than 60%	60%-80%	More than 80%

2. **What is the projected future of major employment industries in the region and nationally?**

Diversified economies are more resilient. Regions that have a concentration of jobs in fewer industries are less resilient.

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Employment Data Source: Washington Employment Security Department	From **2011-2021**, Skamania County has seen job growth in **Administrative and waste services, Manufacturing, Health care and social assistance.** Administrative and waste services positions have wages that are slightly above the County average. Manufacturing, offers Jobs that have annual wages that significantly exceed the county average (87%). In the same period, several industries including **Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, Other services except public administration, and Professional and technical services** have all seen significant decreases in employment numbers. **Fastest Growing** ... **Wages** 1. Administrative and waste services ... $56,176 2. Manufacturing ... $80,868 3. Health care and social assistance ... $37,147	
Current Events and National Trends Source: Various	In Skamania County, the employment sectors are seeing steady growth in industries with higher-than-average wages, specifically in **Manufacturing and Administrative and waste services.**	
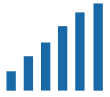
Data Definitions & Thresholds				
Employment Data	Of the 3 fastest growing industries, how many offer wages above, or equivalent to, average wages in the county?	0	1-2	3
Current Events and National Trends	Articles that discuss growing and shrinking industries in Oregon may offer insights into potential economic and employment related risk.	News and Trends suggest industries will not prosper in the future	Nothing Noteworthy	News and Trends suggest industries are growing (regionally, nationally, globally)

3. **What is the age breakdown of residents?**

Communities that are resilient have a mix of younger and older populations, and a growing number of working-age residents. Higher concentrations of older or younger populations require more services from the public, particularly during an economic disruption.

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Population characteristics Source: ACS (2020)	The median age for Skamania County residents is 46.6, higher than the state (37.7) and national (37.2) averages.	
Workers over 55 stats	***This data is unavailable for Skamania County***	
Age dependency ratio Source: ACS (2020)	The age dependency ratio for Skamania County is 63.9 suggesting heavy economic pressure compared to the State's ratio of 59.5.	

Data Definitions & Thresholds				
Population characteristics	Median Age	Over 50	40-50	Under 40
Workers over 55 stats	Percentage of population of people over 55 and employed full-time When the workforce is relying on an aging population it may be less sustainable.	More than 30%	15%-30%	Less than 15%
Age dependency ratio	The dependency ratio is the number of dependents in a population (under-18 and over-65) divided by the number of working-age (18-64) people, multiplied by 100. This data point describes the level of pressure on an economy from supporting the portions of the population least likely to be working.	More than 65.0	50.0-65.0	Less than 50.0

4. Do people live and work in the community?

If people live close to where they work, productive time is not wasted on commuting and employment is more accessible during infrastructure disruptions. Communities that provide housing and employment options to residents of all income-levels are more resilient during a shock to the economic landscape.
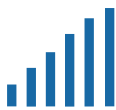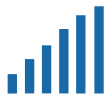
Data to Answer the Question		Results
Housing Data Source: ACS (2020)	The housing inventory in Skamania County includes a mix of single-family, multi-unit complexes, and mobile homes. The Job to Homes ratio in Skamania County is 0.33 which is significantly less than the state ratio of 0.60 The rental vacancy rate in Skamania County is 4.2%, slightly higher than the state level of 3.6%.	
Cost of Living vs Median Household Income Source: ACS (2020)	42.0% of Skamania County residents who rent and 27.8% of all residents are cost-burdened. In comparison, almost 45.2% of renters and 31.7% of all residents in the state are cost-burdened.	
Commuting Patterns Source: ACS (2020), On the Map (2019)	In Skamania County, 57% of people live and work within the county; more people drive to work than the state average (87.2% v. 86.1%), less people walk to work (3.3% v. 3.8%) and less bicycle than state average (0.5% v. 2.2%). 9.1% work from home. The average commute time in Skamania County is 29.4 minutes.	
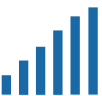
Data Definitions & Thresholds				
Housing and Employment Data	Jobs to Homes Ratio	Less than 0.75	More than 1.5	0.75-1.5
Cost of Living	Rental Vacancy Rate	Less than 2.25%, More than 7%	2.25%-4.49%	4.5%-7%
	Percentage of households spending more than 30% of their income on housing (known as cost-burdened)	More than 25%	20-25%	Less than 20%
Commuting Patterns	Average commuting time	More than 26 min	20 min - 26 min	Less than 20 min
	Percentage of population that commute via walking, bicycling, or public transportation	Less than 5%	5%-10%	More than 10%
	Percentage of population that live and work in the county.	Less than 50%	50-75%	More than 75%

5. **How has the population grown in the last decade and what is predicted for the next 30 years?**

Populations in decline signal a weaker (less resilient) economy. People often move to seek better employment or housing opportunities. A declining population is indicative of changing development/ settlement patterns and loss of potential workforce.

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Population Growth Rate Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management and ACS (2020)	Skamania County accounts for 0.2% of Washington state's population and has increased by 9.2% between 2010-2020. This increase in population is slightly lower than the state's population growth over the same time period (10.6%).	
Population Forecasts Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management and ACS (2020)	Over the next 20 years Skamania County's total population is forecasted to increase by 13% (2020-2040).	

Data Definitions & Thresholds				
Past Population Data	Percentage change in population in the past 10 years	Less than 1.5%	1.5-3%	More than 3%
Population Forecasts	Forecasts for population trends and net migration over the next 30 years relate to the economic drivers that attract and/or retain a growing population.	Declining	No significant Growth or Decline	Growing

6. Are residential homes able to withstand a natural hazard or weather incident?

Newer homes are more likely to have been constructed to withstand natural hazards and weather incidents. Older homes and manufactured homes may be more vulnerable to damages and/or more difficult to repair. Homes without plumbing, electricity or phone services are at a greater risk during an emergency. The capacity to recover quickly from a shock is greater when people (the workforce) are not displaced.

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Housing Data Source: QCEW	About 4.04% of the houses in Skamania County were built in 2010 or later. In the period following the last economic recession, Skamania County saw a slight incline in housing construction.	
	Approximately 22.11% of homes in Skamania County were built before 1970.	
	Mobile homes make up a significant portion of the housing stock when compared to the state average (18.2% v. 8%).	
Utility & Services Source: Oregon Employment Department (OED)	In Skamania county residents use significantly less gas heating options and slightly less Electricity when compared to the state average (approximately 14.3% gas, 46.9% electricity v. 34.4% gas, 51.1% electricity). A large portion of Skamania County residents still use **fuel oil/Kerosene and Cole, Coke or Wood** (19.6% combined). Approximately 19% of housing or less lack plumbing, kitchen, or telephone services. (1.5% lack complete plumbing facilities, 2% lacking complete kitchen facilities, and 15.9% have no telephone service available)	

Data Definitions & Thresholds				
Housing Data	Percentage of homes built in the last decade	Less than 4%	4-15%	More than 15%
	Percentage of homes built before 1970	More than 60%	40%-60%	Less than 40%
	Percentage of housing stock that is classified as mobile homes	More than 10%	5-10%	Less than 5%
Utility & Services	Percentage of homes without complete plumbing	More than 2%	1-2%	Less than 1%
	Percentage of homes without complete kitchens	More than 3%	1-3%	Less than 1%

7. What level of educational attainment and earnings are residents reaching?

People who attain higher education and/or have specialized skills are more likely to be employed and earn higher wages and less likely to primarily depend on public services. Regions that have educational opportunities can provide essential resources and training for residents preparing to join the workforce. In addition, if economic conditions change and the local employment sectors shift, educational opportunities can be an asset for the community by offering community members new or additional training.

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Local resources for training and education Source: Skamania County, CGCC, **CCE, and YVC**	*No physical higher education locations present in Skamania County* **Closest Physical Higher Education Location:** _Columbia Gorge Community College – Hood River Campus_ (Located in neighboring Hood River County - Online courses available) **Other Regional Education Options:** Clark College Community and Continuing Education (CCE) – Vancouver WA Yakima Valley College - Yakima, WA Local community colleges offer a bridge to four-year universities across the region. Yakima (CWU), Vancouver (WSU), and Seattle /Tacoma (The UW) are the closest four-year university options. *Online education options have increased regional access to education*	
Educational attainment of populations Source: ACS (2020)	Approximately 91.63% of people in Skamania County have attained a minimum of a high-school degree, and 24.45% of people have earned a bachelor's degree or higher. In Skamania County, a significantly smaller proportion of residents have attained higher-education than the state averages (61%). People with only a high-school degree in Skamania County have median earnings that are 102% of the state median for those with only a high school degree.	

Data Definitions & Thresholds				
Educational attainment and earnings	Percentage of population (25 years+) with Bachelor's Degree or higher	Less than 25%	25%-35%	More than 35%
	Median earnings of high school graduates (or equivalency) in the county as a percentage of median earnings of high school graduates in state	Less than 75%	75%-105%	More than 105%

8. Do residents have access to health and wellness facilities?

A resilient economy can consistently provide residents with basic needs, including shelter, safety, and food. Hospitals, clinics, and grocery stores are vital for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a major disruption. High levels of baseline community health are important for resilience because communities with healthy residents are better able to absorb the impacts of, and recover from, disasters. Health insurance coverage is a positive indicator of community resilience.

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Insurance Coverage Source: ACS (2020)	4% of Skamania County residents are uninsured, a lower rate than the State as a whole(6.3%) and low enough to be an indicator for strong economic resilience.	

Data Definitions & Thresholds				
Insurance Coverage	Percentage of uninsured (non-incarcerated) population	More than 11%	7-11%	Less than 7%