APPENDIX C:

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2023-2028

NEOEDD

Northeast Oregon Economic Development District

GROWING BUSINESS :: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was prepared by:

NEOEDD STAFF

Lisa Dawson, Executive Director
Sara Miller, Deputy Director
Chantal Ivenso, Economic Development Specialist
Eli Heindricks, Regional Main Street Coordinator (RARE AmeriCorps Member)

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

Aniko Drlik-Muehleck, Project Director
Josh Bruce, Operations Director

STUDENT ASSOCIATES

Aqsa Khan, Research Assistant
Jenna Bryant, Research Assistant
Brendan Adamczyk, Research Assistant
Jacob Loomis, Research Assistant

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

School of Planning, Public Policy and Management
Institute for Policy Research and Engagement

The Institute for Policy Research & Engagement (IPRE) is a research center affiliated with the School of Planning, Public Policy, and Management at the University of Oregon. It is an interdisciplinary organization that assists Oregon communities by providing planning and technical assistance to help solve local issues and improve the quality of life for Oregon residents. The role of IPRE is to link the skills, expertise, and innovation of higher education with the transportation, economic development, and environmental needs of communities and regions in the State of Oregon, thereby providing service to Oregon and learning opportunities to the students involved.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who provided input and feedback throughout the 2023 CEDS update process.

Planning Team Board Liaisons
Donna Beverage, Union County Commissioner
Lea Hoover, Oregon Trail Electric Coop

Workshop and Interview Contributors

Teresa Aguilera	Northeast Oregon Network
Kristy Athens	Genuine Wallowa County, BMCC SBDC
Joe Basile	Wallowa Resources (Community Energy Program Manager)
Donna Beverage	Union County Commissioner
Tucker Billman	Oregon Trail Electric Coop
Timothy Bishop	La Grande Economic Development Director
Carrie Brogoitti	Center for Human Development
Walt Brookshire	Union Main Street
Alana Carollo	Eastern Oregon Visitors Association
Erin Carpenter	Eastern Oregon Workforce Board
Nils Christoffersen	Wallowa Resources
Devon Colton	Baker County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau
Courtney Crowell	Governor's Office, Regional Solutions
Grace Donovan	REV Center/EOU
Chris Evans	Department of Human Services
Sarah Fischer	Evergreen Family Farm
Greg Ford	Avista Utilities
Stacy Green	Mentor Match
Connie Guentert	Community Connection of Northeast Oregon
Don Hanna	NEOEDD Board
Dawn Hert	Department of Land Conservation and Development
John Hillock	Wallowa County Commissioner
Lea Hoover	Oregon Trail Electric Coop
Salli Hysell	City of Halfway
Chantay Jett	New Directions NW, Center for Wellness
Julie Keniry	REV Center/EOU
Natalie Kinion	OSU Extension & Engagement
Gregg Kleiner	Joseph Branch Trail Consortium
Robert Kleng	EOU

Workshop and Interview Contributors continued

Madeline Lau	NEOEDD Board, Wallowa County Chamber, Wallowa Lake Lodge
Dan Leonard	Wallowa Lake Lodge
Robin Maille	OSU Extension
Curtis Martin	NEOEDD Board, Agriculture
Brian McDowell	Business Oregon
Monica McLaughlin	La Grande Main Street Downtown
George Mendoza	La Grande School District
Suzannah Moore	REV Center/EOU
Jeff Nelson	BMCC Baker SBDC
Katy Nesbit	Wallow County Natural Resources
Scott Newman	Union County Chamber of Commerce
Bruce Nichols	Baker County Commissioner
Mike Ogan	NEOEDD Loan Officer
Patrick Patterson	
Jeff Petrillo	Wallowa Resources (Advisory Committee)
Jennifer Piper	Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce
Cori Quillan	REV Center/EOU
Angela Robb	Baker City, OSU Extension Services
Susan Roberts	Wallowa County Commissioner
Jeremy Robertson	WorkSource Oregon (Oregon Employment Department)
Ginger Savage	Crossroads Carnegie Art Center
Judith Stoffer	
Robert Strope	City of La Grande
Kristian Thornton	Eastern Oregon Workforce Board
Gust Tsiatsos	Business owner
Bryan Tweit	Baker County Economic Development, Baker LaunchPad
Maurizo Valerio	The Ford Family Foundation
Steve Vincent	Avista Utilities
Dan Zieman	Lostine Tavern/Z's BBQ

U.S. Economic Development Administration

Special thanks to Wes Cochran from the Economic Development Administration's Seattle Regional Office for support and participation in the development of this CEDS.

Photo Credits

All photos in this document, unless otherwise specified, are courtesy of Timothy Bishop. We thank him for his excellent photography.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDICES

APPENDIX C: ECONOMIC RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT C-1

APPENDIX C: ECONOMIC RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT

As depicted in Chapter 2, the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research & Engagement (IPRE) developed a series of metrics to assess the District's economic resilience, designed around eight key questions. These metrics offer a holistic assessment of each county's economic wellbeing; when taken collectively, they provide a portrait of the region's ability to respond to, and recover from, future shocks or economic setbacks. Though Chapter 2 provides a brief snapshot of the District's status, the following profiles depict these resilience metrics in greater detail at the county level, including a conceptual overview of IPRE's framework and definitions for all data points used to answer these eight questions.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

2022 Metrics

Introduction

As Oregon communities continue to grapple with the pandemic, devastating fire seasons, growing wealth disparities, and other threats to economic stability, the need to bolster economic resilience has become increasingly clear. In preparation for the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District's update of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), we present a baseline economic resilience assessment that can be used to understand, track, and improve economic resilience.

Resilience is the ability to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from any type of shock or disruption. Shocks can include nature-based events (fires, floods, droughts, etc.) and the impacts of a changing climate, but also human-caused economic disruptions such as the closure of a region's large employer, the decline of an important industry, changes in the workforce, and population shifts. Economic resilience determines how quickly a community can recover following a disruption and how prepared a community is to withstand or avoid potential economic threats. By assessing different factors that contribute to economic resilience, we can better understand how to direct resources to help build resilience in our communities.

The University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research & Engagement (IPRE) has developed a holistic and accessible framework for tracking economic resilience. The framework consists of eight questions that are answered using quantitative data measured against predefined scales of resilience strength. While there are a range of other in-depth methods for measuring economic resilience, this framework recognizes the limited capacity of community development staff. It does not require advanced statistical analysis and is intended to be user-friendly and easy enough to execute frequently. Using a consistent method to evaluate economic resilience in each county helps Economic Development Districts compare indicators over time and identify ways to strengthen the entire region.

NEOEDD

The Framework

This framework asks eight questions to evaluate economic resilience at the county levels. To answer the questions, we use a combination of Census, Oregon Employment Department, and other publicly available data sets to highlight resilience strengths and weaknesses. By answering these questions, communities can identify where vulnerabilities lie and take steps to address these impediments to resilience.

Measuring resilience is complex and depends on a variety of inputs. Each of the eight questions in this framework investigates a different facet of economic resilience. We use different characteristics of the state, county, and local communities to signal how well a region is prepared to withstand disruption.

Achieving economic resilience takes time and relies on coordination across agencies and communities. Data trends, over time, can demonstrate the impacts of policies and programs that are intended to improve resilience, helping to indicate areas that may require more attention and resources.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

2022 Metrics

Eight Questions: 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 greater economic resilience - A concentration of jobs in a single industry indicates less economic resilience
2	**What is the projected future of major employment sectors in the region and nationally?**	**Sectors that are less subject to volatility are more resilient.** + A distribution of employment across sectors that will likely remain stable indicates greater economic resilience - A concentration of employment in sectors that are regulated, taxed, or that rely on natural resources introduces more risk and indicates less 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.** + Working age adults that are active in the labor force indicates greater economic resilience - An aging population indicates less 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.** + People living and working in the same place with access to a mix of housing indicates greater economic resilience - Major commuter flows and limited housing options indicates less economic resilience
5	**How has the population shifted 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	**Is the built infrastructure able to withstand natural hazards or weather incidents?**	**Infrastructure that can continue functioning after a major disruption will help a region continue to function normally despite the disruption.** + Well-built housing and limited risk of disruption from natural hazards indicates greater economic resilience - Less sturdy housing like mobile homes and significant risk of disruption from natural hazards 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

BAKER COUNTY

Quick Facts

Population: 16,668

0.4% of Oregon's Population

Economic Diversity Score (Hachman Index) 14th out of 36 Oregon Counties (.461)

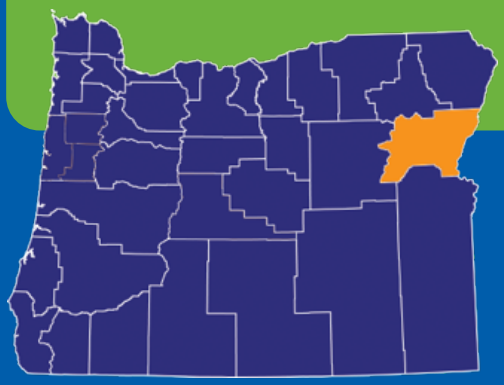
Top 3 Sectors by % of Employment - Average Wages

#1 19.7%	#2 17.7%	#3 15.1%
All Government - $53,152	Education and Health Services - $48,087	Retail Trade - $30,714

County Overview

Baker County is in northeast Oregon, bordering Idaho. Its largest city and the county seat is Baker City. Baker County has an aging population with a median age of 48.2, almost ten years older than the state median of 39.5. Its top sector by percentage of employment is Government. On average, a government job in Baker County pays 125% of the average annual wage across all sectors. Baker County's fastest growing sectors are in Natural Resources and Mining. The average wages in these sectors are 99% of the average annual wage across all sectors, singling positive prospects for Baker County's economy.

	County	State	US
Median Household Income (2021 $)	$46,250	$65,677	$67,521
Median Age	48.2	39.5	38.8
% of Residents with at least High School Degree	91.2%	91.1%	89.5%
% of Renters spending 30% or more of income on housing	39.1%	47.7%	45.5%



Gauging Resilience: Signal Strength Measures

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.

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.**

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

BAKER COUNTY

Stronger Signals of Resilience

- **Hazard Resilience.** Baker County's FEMA National Risk Index score is 8.35 or "Relatively Low." The county is at a low risk of experiencing damages due to natural hazards.

- **Live/Work Proximity.** Like many counties in Eastern Oregon, much of the population lives and works in the same county. 73% of workers live in Baker County.

- **High Paying Sectors.** Three of Baker County's four top sectors by percentage of employment pay above the county's average annual wages. This is a good signal for Baker County workers and the economy as a whole.

- **Economic Diversity.** For its size, Baker County has a respectable Hachman Index of .461 placing it 14th out of Oregon's 36 counties in terms of having a well-diversified economy.

Weaker Signals of Resilience

- **Aging Population.** Baker County has an aging population with a median age of 48.2. This is compared to the state's median age of 39.5.

- **High Age Dependency.** The county's age dependency ratio is 86.2 compared to the state's 62.2. A high age dependency ratio indicates there is more pressure on the working population in an economy to take care of younger and older residents.

- **Housing Quality.** 18% of housing units in Baker County are mobile homes. These units are less resilient to natural disasters than other housing types.

- **Lack of Living Wages.** Baker County's average annual wage is 56.7% of what the MIT Living Wage Calculator suggest is needed to live comfortably in the county.

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Employment data Source: OED 2021	Resilient economies are not predominated by low-wage industries. **Average Annual Wages 2021** Oregon $63,095 Baker County $42,430 **Sectors with Highest Employment** — **Wages** — **% of Total Emp** 1. Government — $53,152 — 19.7% 2. Education and health services — $48,087 — 17.7% 3. Retail Trade (44-45) — $30,714 — 15.1% 4. Manufacturing (31-33) — $51,063 — 10.6%	 Moderate
Economic Diversity Source: OED 2021	The Hachman Index is a measure of economic diversity. Baker County Hachman Index Score: .461 14th highest of 36 Oregon Counties	 Moderate
Living Wages Source: OED 2021, MIT Living Wage Calculator	On average, do people earn a living wage? **MIT Living Wage Calculator (2022) | Average Wages of all Sectors (2021) | % of MIT LWC** Oregon $86,341 $63,095 70.6% Baker County $74,863 $42,430 56.7%	 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Employment data	Of the 3 sectors with the highest employment, 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) and 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
Living Wages	MIT produces an estimate of living wages by county. We average the "Required annual income before taxes" to measure whether or not actual wages are meeting the living wage standard using the following measure: Average wage all sectors (from the Oregon Employment Department) as a percentage of the average of all "Required Annual Income Before Taxes" for the county (from MIT living wage) (In other words, what the wage **is** compared to what it **should be**: are current wages less, about the same, or higher than what someone would need to live comfortably)	Less than 80%	80% - 100%	More than 100%

Question 2. What is the projected future of major employment sectors in the region and nationally?

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Employment Data Source: OED 2021	From 2011-2021, Baker County has seen a decrease in sectors with average wages over the annual average wage across all sectors in the County. The two fastest shrinking sectors, information and finance & insurance, have average wages over 120% of the county average. In the same time period, the sectors that are seeing the most growth are at or below the county's average annual wage. Natural resources and mining, the fastest growing group of sectors in Baker County, have average wages that are 99% of the county's already low average of $42,430. **Fastest Growing Sectors** — **Avg. Wages (2021)** — **% of County Avg.** 1. Natural Resources and Mining — $29,780 — 70.2% 2. Education and health services — $48,087 — 113.3% 3. Professional and business services — $43,154 — 101.7%	 Moderate
Employment Growth Projections Source: OED 2022	**Projected Growing Sectors** — **% Growth** 1. Leisure and Hospitality — 26% 2. Construction — 19% 3. Professional and Business services — 13%	 Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Employment Data	Of the 3 fastest growing sectors, how many offer wages above, or equivalent to, average wages in the county?	0	1-2	3
Employment Growth Projections	Of the 3 sectors that have the highest projected employment growth, how many are projected to grow more than 16%? The total projected employment growth for the state between 2020 and 2030 is 16%. We use this as the threshold to determine whether sectors in the county are expected to be above or below this average across all sectors. Projections are only done at a regional level. The Eastern Six region includes Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Union, and Wallowa Counties.	0	1-2	3

Question 3. What is the age breakdown of residents?

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Population characteristics Source: ACS (2020)	The median age of Baker County residents is 48.2, much higher than the state median age of 39.5. The age breakdown in Baker County skews older, with 26.7% of the population being 65 years or older.	 Moderate
Workers over 55 stats Source: OED	26% of Baker County's total population are over 55 years old and currently working (compared to 23% at the state level).	 Moderate
Age dependency ratio Source: ACS (2020)	The age dependency ratio for Baker County is 86.2, suggesting more economic pressure compared to the State's ratio of 62.2.	 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Population characteristics	Median age	Over 50	40-50	Under 40
Workers 55 and Over (2020)	Percentage of population that are people over 55 and employed full-time	More than 30%	15%-30%	Less than 15%
Age dependency ratio (2020)	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

Question 4. Do people live and work in the community?

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Jobs-to-Homes Ratio & Cost Burdened Renters Source: ACS (2020)	Baker County has a total housing stock of 9,062 and a total employment of 5,652. This gives Baker County a jobs-to-homes ratio of 0.62.	Weak
	In Baker County, 31.5% of all residents are cost-burdened, slightly lower than the overall rate for the state of 33.1%. Renters as a group are worse off at both the county and state levels: 39.1% of renters in the County are cost-burdened and 47.7% of renters in the state are cost-burdened.	Weak
Commuting & Living Patterns Source: ACS (2020), On the Map (2019) *(Work at home % doesn't include changes from the pandemic)	**Transportation Modes** — **County %** 1. Car, Truck, or van — 84.3% 2. Public Transit — 0.4% 3. Walk — 5.3% 4. Bike — 0.4% 5. Work at home* — 8.7%	Moderate
	Percentage of population that live and work in the county: Employed in the County: 5,621 Employed in the County but living outside: 1,505 **(26.8%)** Employed and living in the County: 4,116 **(73.2%)**	Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Jobs-to-homes Ratio & Cost Burdened Renters	Jobs to Homes Ratio	Less than 0.75	More than 1.5	0.75-1.5
	Percentage of renters spending more than 30% of their income on housing (known as cost-burdened)	More than 25%	20-25%	Less than 20%
Commuting & Living Patterns	Percentage of population that commute via walking, bicycling, or public transportation If a major disruption occurs that makes it difficult to drive long distances to work, the population will have to rely on alternative means of 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%

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Population Growth Rate Source: ACS (2020)	Baker County has a population of 16,668 which accounts for 0.4% of the state's population and has increased by 534 people between 2010-2020. This is an increase of 3%, lower than the national growth of 7% and the state's growth of 11% over the same time period.	 Moderate
Population Forecasts Source: PSU Population Research Center	Baker County's total population is forecasted to decline by 0.2% year over year. Between 2025 and 2040, Baker County is projected to lose over 400 people. From 2040 to 2069 Baker County is forecasted to drop from 15,156 to 14,627. The 2020 census recorded a higher-than-expected population for Baker County. Population forecast only project trends within a certain time frame and can be thrown off easily due to quick changes.	 Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Past population trends	Percentage change in population between 2010 and 2020 (past 10 years).	Less than 0% (Shrinking)	0-5%	More than 5%
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 change	Growing

Question 6. Is the built infrastructure able to withstand natural hazards or weather incidents?

Data to Answer the Question				Results
Vulnerable housing Source: ACS (2020)	**Housing Type/Status**		**% of total housing stock**	 Weak
	Mobile Homes:		18.27%	
	Homes without complete plumbing:		5.1%	
	Homes without complete kitchens:		4.9%	
	Homes without telephone service:		2.3%	
Hazard risk FEMA NRI (2022)	**FEMA Risk**	**Score**	**Rating**	 Strong
	County	8.35	Relatively Low	
Broadband access FCC (2017)	**Broadband Access**	**# of Providers**	**% of Broadband access**	 Weak
	County	8	<20%	

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Vulnerable housing	Percentage of housing stock that is classified as mobile homes	More than 10%	5-10%	Less than 5%
	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%
	Percentage of homes dependent on any single fuel supply	More than 70%	60-70%	Less than 60%
Hazard risk	FEMA produces a National Risk Index that measures the relative risk of a geographic unit based on expected annual loss from hazards, social vulnerability, and community resilience. We use this risk score as a proxy for hazard risk.	Very High or Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	Relatively Low or Very Low
Broadband access	The FCC produced an estimate of "Fixed Broadband Availability" by county. This is measured as the percent of people that have access to download speeds of +25 mbps and upload speeds of +3 mbps. We use this as a proxy for broadband access. 2017 is the most recent year available.	Less than 40%	40-80%	More than 80%

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Educational attainment of populations Source: ACS (2020)	In Baker County, 25% of the population have earned a bachelor's degree or higher, which is lower than in the state overall (34%).	 Moderate
Median earning by educational attainment ACS (2020)	People with only a high school degree or equivalent in Baker County have median earnings that are 97% of the state median for those with only a high school degree or equivalent, meaning that this group earn about the same as the state median.	 Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Educational Attainment & Earnings	Percentage of population (25 years+) with a 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%

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Insurance Coverage Source: ACS 2020	Just under 8% of Baker County residents are uninsured, a slightly higher rate of uninsurance than the state (6.6%) and a negative indicator for local economic resilience.	 Moderate
ICU & Non-ICU Beds Per Capita Source: OHA 2022	Baker County is located in Region 9 of OHA's Hospital Preparedness Program. Region 9 has a hospital bed per capita of 1108.8 persons per bed.	 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Insurance Coverage	Percentage of uninsured (non-incarcerated) population	More than 11%	7-11%	Less than 7%
ICU & Non-ICU Beds Per Capita	How many ICU and Non-ICU beds per capita does a region have? The State is divided into 9 Hospital Preparedness Program Regions. Union County is located in Region 9. This region is comprised of Union, Baker, Wallowa, Umatilla, Morrow, and Malheur Counties. Hospital beds per capita for the State is 880 persons per bed.	More than 950	800-900	Less than 800

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

UNION COUNTY

Quick Facts

Population: 26,196

.6% of Oregon's Population

Economic Diversity Score (Hachman Index) 13th out of 36 Oregon Counties (.490)

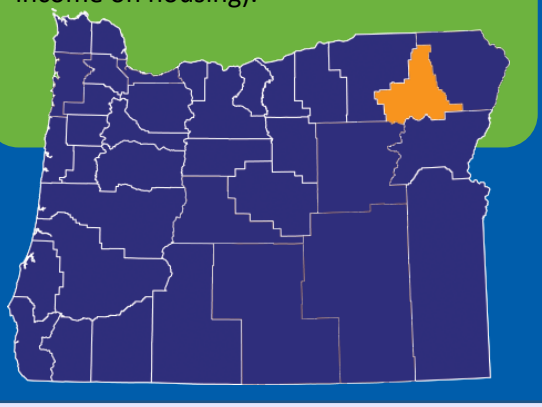
Top 3 Sectors by % of Employment
-
Average Wages

#1 20.5%	#2 16.6%	#3 14.3%
All Government - $54,244	Health Care and Social Assistance - $53,376	Retail Trade - $32,567

	County	State	US
Median Household Income (2021 $)	$53,940	$65,677	$67,521
Median Age	40	39.5	38.8
% of Residents with at least High School Degree	92.9%	91.1%	89.5%
% of Renters spending 30% or more of income on housing	37%	47.7%	45.5%

County Overview

Union County is located in Northeastern Oregon. While most of the county is mountainous, most of the population is situated in the Grande Ronde Valley which runs through the middle of the county. Union County's top sectors are Government and Health Care and Social Assistance, both of which have average wages above the county average. The median age for the county is 40, just slightly above Oregon's median age of 39.5. Union County has a strong jobs-to-homes ratio of .85, but 31% of all residents and 37% of all renters are cost burdened (paying 30% or more of their income on housing).



Gauging Resilience: Signal Strength Measures

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.

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.**

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

UNION COUNTY

Stronger Signals of Resilience

- **Hazard Resilience.** Union County's FEMA National Risk Index score is 7.59 or "Relatively Low." The county is at a low risk of experiencing damages due to natural hazards.

- **Growth Potential and Wages.** All three of Union County's fastest growing sectors pay at or above the county average annual wage. Additionally, even for residents with lower educational attainment, wages are still at or above the county average.

- **Jobs-to-Homes Ratio.** Union County has a strong jobs-to-homes ratio at .85. This means that there is at least one housing unit per worker in the county.

- **Health Insurance Coverage.** Union County has a relatively low uninsurance rate of 7%, lower than many other rural counties.

Weaker Signals of Resilience

- **High Age Dependency.** The county's age dependency ratio is 74.5 compared to the state's 62.2. A high age dependency ratio indicates there is more pressure on the working population in an economy to take care of younger and older residents.

- **Housing Quality and Cost.** 16% of housing units in Baker County are mobile home which are less resilient to natural disasters than other housing types. About one third or more of owners and renters are spending more than 30% of their income on housing (a circumstance known as "cost-burdened").

- **Educational Attainment and Earnings.** Only 24% of residents have a bachelor's degree or higher and these residents earn less than their statewide counterparts.

- **Lack of a Living Wages.** Union County residents make 59% of what the MIT Living Wage Calculator determines would be a living wage in the county.

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Employment data Source: OED 2021	Resilient economies are not predominated by low-wage industries. **Average Annual Wages 2021** Oregon $63,095 Baker County $45,411 **Sectors with Highest Employment** / **Wages** / **% of Total Emp** 1. Government $54,244 20.5% 2. Health Care and Social Assistance $53,376 16.6% 3. Retail Trade (44-45) $32,567 14.3% 4. Manufacturing (31-33) $54,285 12.6%	 Moderate
Economic Diversity Source: OED 2021	The Hachman Index is a measure of economic diversity. Baker County Hachman Index Score: .490 13th highest of 36 Oregon Counties	 Moderate
Living Wages Source: OED 2021, MIT Living Wage Calculator	On average, do people earn a living wage? **MIT Living Wage Calculator (2022) | Average Wages of all Sectors (2021) | % of MIT LWC** Oregon $86,341 $63,095 73% Baker County $76,966 $45,411 59%	 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Employment data	Of the 3 sectors with the highest employment, 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) and 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
Living Wages	MIT produces an estimate of living wages by county. We average the "Required annual income before taxes" to measure whether or not actual wages are meeting the living wage standard using the following measure: Average wage all sectors (from the Oregon Employment Department) as a percentage of the average of all "Required Annual Income Before Taxes" for the county (from MIT living wage) (In other words, what the wage **is** compared to what it **should be**: are current wages less, about the same, or higher than what someone would need to live comfortably)	Less than 80%	80% - 100%	More than 100%

Question 2. What is the projected future of major employment sectors in the region and nationally?

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Employment Data Source: OED 2021	All three of Union County's fastest growing sectors have an average wage higher than the county average wage. This indicates strong growth for Union County's economy. Specifically, management of companies and enterprises has an average wage of $100,872 which is 222.1% of the county average wage. None of these sectors grew by more than 40% indicating steady growth for Union County's economy instead of rapid or declining. **Fastest Growing Sectors — Avg. Wages (2021) — % of County Avg.** 1. Professional, scientific, and technical services — $48,127 — 106% 2. Management of companies and enterprises — $100,872 — 222.1% 3. Construction — $46,181 — 101.7%	 Strong
Employment Growth Projections Source: OED 2022	**Projected Growing Sectors — % Growth** 1. Leisure and Hospitality — 26% 2. Construction — 19% 3. Professional and Business services — 13%	 Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Employment Data	Of the 3 fastest growing sectors, how many offer wages above, or equivalent to, average wages in the county?	0	1-2	3
Employment Growth Projections	Of the 3 sectors that have the highest projected employment growth, how many are projected to grow more than 16%? The total projected employment growth for the state between 2020 and 2030 is 16%. We use this as the threshold to determine whether sectors in the county are expected to be above or below this average across all sectors. Projections are only done at a regional level. The Eastern Six region includes Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Union, and Wallowa Counties.	0	1-2	3

Question 3. What is the age breakdown of residents?

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Population characteristics Source: ACS (2020)	The median age of Union County residents is 40, very similar to the state median age of 39.5. The age breakdown in Union County is spread out with 33.4% of its population under 25 and 33.7% of its population over 55.	 Moderate
Workers over 55 stats Source: OED	23% of Union County's total population are over 55 years old and currently working (compared to 23% at the state level).	 Moderate
Age dependency ratio Source: ACS (2020)	The age dependency ratio for Union County is 74.5, suggesting more economic pressure compared to the State's ratio of 62.2.	 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Population characteristics	Median age	Over 50	40-50	Under 40
Workers 55 and Over (2020)	Percentage of population that are people over 55 and employed full-time	More than 30%	15%-30%	Less than 15%
Age dependency ratio (2020)	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

Question 4. Do people live and work in the community?

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Jobs-to-Homes Ratio & Cost Burdened Renters Source: ACS (2020)	Union County has a total housing stock of 11,863 and a total employment of 10,097. This gives Union County a jobs-to-homes ratio of 0.85.	 Strong
	In Union County, 31% of all residents are cost-burdened, slightly lower than the overall rate for the state of 33.1%. Renters as a group are worse off at both the county and state levels: 37.8% of renters in the County are cost-burdened which is well below the state's cost burdened rate of 47.7% of all renters.	 Weak
Commuting & Living Patterns Source: ACS (2020), On the Map (2019) *(Work at home % doesn't include changes from the pandemic.)	Transportation Modes — County % 1. Car, Truck, or van — 86.2% 2. Public Transit — 0.3% 3. Walk — 6.6% 4. Bike — 0.7% 5. Work at home* — 5.6%	 Moderate
	Percentage of population that live and work in the county: Employed in the County: 10,454 Employed in the County but living outside: 2,628 **(25.1%)** Employed and living in the County: 7,826 **(74.9%)**	 Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Jobs-to-homes Ratio & Cost Burdened Renters	Jobs to Homes Ratio	Less than 0.75	More than 1.5	0.75-1.5
	Percentage of renters spending more than 30% of their income on housing (known as cost-burdened)	More than 25%	20-25%	Less than 20%
Commuting & Living Patterns	Percentage of population that commute via walking, bicycling, or public transportation If a major disruption occurs that makes it difficult to drive long distances to work, the population will have to rely on alternative means of 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%

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Population Growth Rate Source: ACS (2020)	Union County has a population of 26,196 which accounts for 0.6% of the state's population and has increased by 448 people between 2010-2020. This is an increase of 1.7%, lower than the national growth of 7% and the state's growth of 11% over the same time period.	 Moderate
Population Forecasts Source: PSU Population Research Center	Union County's total population will grow minimally for the short and the long term. The county is expected to grow at a rate of .2% until 2044 and then .1% from 2044 to 2069. The 2020 Census counted a lower-than-expected population for Union County. This could be signs of slower than expected growth which could lead to decline faster than previously thought. The demographics with the highest growth in Union County will be Hispanic or Latino and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.	 Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Past population trends	Percentage change in population between 2010 and 2020 (past 10 years).	Less than 0% (Shrinking)	0-5%	More than 5%
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 change	Growing

Question 6. Is the built infrastructure able to withstand natural hazards or weather incidents?

Data to Answer the Question				Results
Vulnerable housing Source: ACS (2020)	**Housing Type/Status**		**% of total housing stock**	 Weak
	Mobile Homes:		15.8%	
	Homes without complete plumbing:		2.1%	
	Homes without complete kitchens:		4.0%	
	Homes without telephone service:		2.3%	
Hazard risk FEMA NRI (2022)	**FEMA Risk**	**Score**	**Rating**	 Strong
	County	7.59	Very Low	
Broadband access FCC (2017)	**Broadband Access**	**# of Providers**	**% of Broadband access**	 Moderate
	County	8	60-80%	

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Vulnerable housing	Percentage of housing stock that is classified as mobile homes	More than 10%	5-10%	Less than 5%
	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%
	Percentage of homes dependent on any single fuel supply	More than 70%	60-70%	Less than 60%
Hazard risk	FEMA produces a National Risk Index that measures the relative risk of a geographic unit based on expected annual loss from hazards, social vulnerability, and community resilience. We use this risk score as a proxy for hazard risk.	Very High or Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	Relatively Low or Very Low
Broadband access	The FCC produced an estimate of "Fixed Broadband Availability" by county. This is measured as the percent of people that have access to download speeds of +25 mbps and upload speeds of +3 mbps. We use this as a proxy for broadband access. 2017 is the most recent year available.	Less than 40%	40-80%	More than 80%

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Educational attainment of populations Source: ACS (2020)	In Union County, 24.2% of the population has earned a bachelor's degree or higher, which is lower than in the state overall (34%). 32.9% has graduated high school (including equivalency) and 35.8% of the population having some college.	 Weak
Median earning by educational attainment ACS (2020)	People with only a high school degree or equivalent in Union County have median earnings that are 103% of the state median for those with only a high school degree or equivalent, meaning that this group earns slightly more than the state median.	 Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Educational Attainment & Earnings	Percentage of population (25 years+) with a 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%

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Insurance Coverage Source: ACS 2020	Just under 7% of Union County residents are uninsured, a barely higher rate of uninsurance than the state (6.6%).	 Strong
ICU & Non-ICU Beds Per Capita Source: OHA 2022	Union County is located in Region 9 of OHA's Hospital Preparedness Program. Region 9 has a hospital bed per capita of 1108.8 persons per bed.	 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Insurance Coverage	Percentage of uninsured (non-incarcerated) population	More than 11%	7-11%	Less than 7%
ICU & Non-ICU Beds Per Capita	How many ICU and Non-ICU beds per capita does a region have? The State is divided into 9 Hospital Preparedness Program Regions. Union County is located in Region 9. This region is comprised of Union, Baker, Wallowa, Umatilla, Morrow, and Malheur Counties. Hospital beds per capita for the State is 880 persons per bed.	More than 950	800-900	Less than 800

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

WALLOWA COUNTY

Quick Facts

Population: 7,065

.2% of Oregon's Population

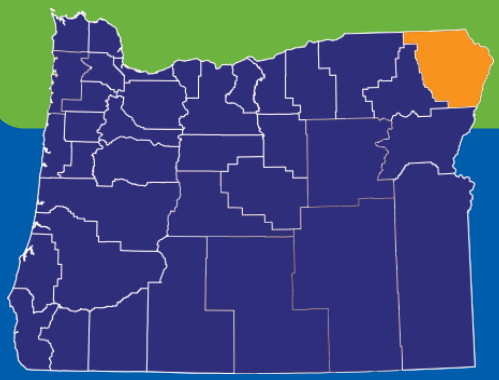
Economic Diversity Score (Hachman Index) 28th out of 36 Oregon Counties (.187)

Top 3 Sectors by % of Employment
-
Average Wages

#1 24.4%	#2 14.4%	#3 9.6%
All Government - $55,197	Health Care and Social Assistance - $37,543	Retail Trade - $30,679

County Overview

Wallowa County is the northeastern most county in Oregon and the only county in the state that borders both Washington and Idaho. The county is mountainous with a unique microclimate that separates it from its regional counterparts. Government employs almost a quarter of the workforce with average wages well above the county average. The population forecast for Wallowa County projects a declining population due to aging (the median age is currently 52.4). In terms of housing, only 26% of residents are cost burdened (paying 30% or more of their income on housing), well below the state's 47.7%.



	County	State	US
Median Household Income (2021 $)	$53,423	$65,677	$67,521
Median Age	52.4	39.5	38.8
% of Residents with at least High School Degree	94.3%	91.1%	89.5%
% of Renters spending 30% or more of income on housing	25.1%	47.7%	45.5%

Gauging Resilience: Signal Strength Measures

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.

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.**

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

WALLOWA COUNTY

Stronger Signals of Resilience

- **Hazard Resilience.** Wallowa County's FEMA National Risk Index score is 11.18 or "Relatively Low." The county is at a low risk of experiencing damages due to natural hazards.

- **Health Insurance Coverage.** Wallowa County has a relatively low uninsurance rate of 5%, lower than many other rural counties.

- **Lower Cost-Burdened Rate.** While Wallowa County still has a weak signal for cost-burdened residents (those playing 30% or more of their income on housing), it has the lowest rate in the District. 26.4% of all households and 25% of renters in Wallowa County are cost-burdened compared to 33.1% of all households and 47.7% of renters in Oregon.

Weaker Signals of Resilience

- **Aging & Declining Population.** Wallowa County has an aging population with a median age of 52.4, much older than the state's 39.5. The population is projected to decline in the short- and long-term as younger populations move away and older populations to age out.
- **Housing Quality.** Almost 17% of housing units in Wallowa County are mobile homes. These units are less resilient to natural disasters than other housing types.
- **Educational Attainment and Earnings.** Only 27% of residents have a bachelor's degree or higher and workers in almost all educational attainment groups earn less than their statewide counterparts.
- **Lack of a Living Wages.** Wallowa County residents make 56% of what the MIT Living Wage Calculator determines would be a living wage in the county.
- **Low Economic Diversity.** Wallowa County has a low Hachman Index score of .187 placing it 28th out of Oregon's 36 counties in terms of having a well-diversified economy.

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

Data to Answer the Question				Results
Employment data Source: OED 2021	Resilient economies are not predominated by low-wage industries. **Average Annual Wages 2021** Oregon $63,095 Wallowa County $42,339 **Sectors with Highest Employment** / **Wages** / **% of Total Emp** 1. Government $55,197 24.4% 2. Health Care and Social Assistance $37,543 14.4% 3. Retail Trade (44-45) $30,679 9.6% 4. Accommodations and food services $22,333 9.0%			 Moderate
Economic Diversity Source: OED 2021	The Hachman Index is a measure of economic diversity. Wallowa County Hachman Index Score: .187 28th highest of 36 Oregon Counties			 Weak
Living Wages Source: OED 2021, MIT Living Wage Calculator	On average, do people earn a living wage? **MIT Living Wage Calculator (2022) | Average Wages of all Sectors (2021) | % of MIT LWC** Oregon $86,341 $63,095 73% Wallowa County $75,329 $42,339 56%			 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Employment data	Of the 3 sectors with the highest employment, 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) and 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
Living Wages	MIT produces an estimate of living wages by county. We average the "Required annual income before taxes" to measure whether or not actual wages are meeting the living wage standard using the following measure: Average wage all sectors (from the Oregon Employment Department) as a percentage of the average of all "Required Annual Income Before Taxes" for the county (from MIT living wage) (In other words, what the wage **is** compared to what it **should be**: are current wages less, about the same, or higher than what someone would need to live comfortably)	Less than 80%	80% - 100%	More than 100%

Question 2. What is the projected future of major employment sectors in the region and nationally?

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Employment Data Source: OED 2021	From 2011-2021, two of the fastest growing sectors had averages wages well below the county's average wage. Only one, wholesale trade, had an average wage above the county average. All three sectors grew by less than 100% indicating only moderate growth for the economy. **Fastest Growing Sectors** — **Avg. Wages (2021)** — **% of County Avg.** 1. Arts, entertainment, and recreation — $26,644 — 62.0% 2. Wholesale trade — $65,827 — 155.5% 3. Administrative support and Waste Management — $29,947 — 70.7%	 Moderate
Employment Growth Projections Source: OED 2022	**Projected Growing Sectors** — **% Growth** 1. Leisure and Hospitality — 26% 2. Construction — 19% 3. Professional and Business services — 13%	 Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Employment Data	Of the 3 fastest growing sectors, how many offer wages above, or equivalent to, average wages in the county?	0	1-2	3
Employment Growth Projections	Of the 3 sectors that have the highest projected employment growth, how many are projected to grow more than 16%? The total projected employment growth for the state between 2020 and 2030 is 16%. We use this as the threshold to determine whether sectors in the county are expected to be above or below this average across all sectors. Projections are only done at a regional level. The Eastern Six region includes Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Union, and Wallowa Counties.	0	1-2	3

Question 3. What is the age breakdown of residents?

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Population characteristics Source: ACS (2020)	The median age of Wallowa County residents is 52.4, much older than the state median age of 39.5. The age breakdown in Wallowa County is.	 Weak
Workers over 55 stats Source: OED	33% of Wallowa County's total population are over 55 years old and currently working (compared to 23% at the state level).	 Weak
Age dependency ratio Source: ACS (2020)	The age dependency ratio for Wallowa County is 88.3, suggesting more economic pressure compared to the State's ratio of 62.2.	 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Population characteristics	Median age	Over 50	40-50	Under 40
Workers 55 and Over	Percentage of population that are people over 55 and employed full-time	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

Question 4. Do people live and work in the community?

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Jobs-to-Homes Ratio & Cost Burdened Renters Source: ACS (2020)	Wallowa County has a total housing stock of 4,234 and a total employment of 2,688. This gives Wallowa County a jobs-to-homes ratio of 0.63.	Weak
	In Wallowa County, 26.4% of all residents are cost-burdened, quite a bit lower than the overall rate for the state of 33.1%. Renters in Wallowa County are slightly better off with only 25.1% of them cost burdened.	Weak
Commuting & Living Patterns Source: ACS (2020), On the Map (2019) *(Work at home % doesn't include changes from the pandemic.)	**Transportation Modes** — **County %** 1. Car, Truck, or van — 75.0% 2. Public Transit — 0.0% 3. Walk — 9.1% 4. Bike — 0.3% 5. Work at home* — 12.3%	Moderate
	Percentage of population that live and work in the county: Employed in the County: 2,667 Employed in the County but living outside: 642 **(24.1%)** Employed and living in the County: 2,025 **(75.9%)**	Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Jobs-to-homes Ratio & Cost Burdened Renters	Jobs to Homes Ratio	Less than 0.75	More than 1.5	0.75-1.5
	Percentage of renters spending more than 30% of their income on housing (known as cost-burdened)	More than 25%	20-25%	Less than 20%
Commuting & Living Patterns	Percentage of population that commute via walking, bicycling, or public transportation If a major disruption occurs that makes it difficult to drive long distances to work, the population will have to rely on alternative means of 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%

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Population Growth Rate Source: ACS (2020)	Wallowa County has a population 7,065 of which accounts for 0.6% of the state's population and has increased by 448 people between 2010-2020. This is an increase of 1.7%, lower than the national growth of 7% and the state's growth of 11% over the same time period.	 Moderate
Population forecasts Source: PSU 2019	Wallowa County's population declined 0.3% year over year from 2000 to 2010. During this time frame some cities saw minimal growth but most saw decline. This was mostly due to an aging population and net out-migration. The 2020 census recorded a higher-than-expected population but not by much. Population forecast for Wallowa County indicate faster population decline for the short term and slower decline for the long term. The 2020 census population may indicate that the population decline for the short term will be slower than expected.	 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Past population trends	Percentage change in population between 2010 and 2020 (past 10 years).	Less than 0% (Shrinking)	0-5%	More than 5%
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 change	Growing

Question 6. Is the built infrastructure able to withstand natural hazards or weather incidents?

Data to Answer the Question				Results
Vulnerable housing Source: ACS (2020)	Housing Type/Status Mobile Homes: Homes without complete plumbing: Homes without complete kitchens: Homes without telephone service:		% of total housing stock 16.8% 3.6% 2.7% 1.7%	 Weak
Hazard risk FEMA NRI (2022)	FEMA Risk Wallowa County	Score 11.18	Rating Relatively Low	 Strong
Broadband access FCC (2017)	Broadband Access County	# of Providers 6	% of Broadband access <20%	 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Vulnerable housing	Percentage of housing stock that is classified as mobile homes	More than 10%	5-10%	Less than 5%
	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%
	Percentage of homes dependent on any single fuel supply	More than 70%	60-70%	Less than 60%
Hazard risk	FEMA produces a National Risk Index that measures the relative risk of a geographic unit based on expected annual loss from hazards, social vulnerability, and community resilience. We use this risk score as a proxy for hazard risk.	Very High or Relatively High	Relatively Moderate	Relatively Low or Very Low
Broadband access	The FCC produced an estimate of "Fixed Broadband Availability" by county. This is measured as the percent of people that have access to download speeds of +25 mbps and upload speeds of +3 mbps. We use this as a proxy for broadband access. 2017 is the most recent year available.	Less than 40%	40-80%	More than 80%

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Educational attainment of populations Source: ACS (2020)	In Wallowa County, 26.9% of the population has earned a bachelor's degree or higher, which is lower than in the state overall (34%). 30.2% has graduated high school (including equivalency) and 37.2% of the population having some college.	 Weak
Median earning by educational attainment ACS (2020)	People with only a high school degree or equivalent in Wallowa County have median earnings that are 81% of the state median for those with only a high school degree or equivalent, meaning that this group earns much less than the state median.	 Moderate

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Educational Attainment & Earnings	Percentage of population (25 years+) with a 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%

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

Data to Answer the Question		Results
Insurance Coverage Source: ACS 2020	Only 4.8% of Wallowa County residents are uninsured, a significantly lower rate of uninsurance than the state (6.6%).	 Strong
ICU & Non-ICU Beds Per Capita Source: OHA 2022	Wallowa County is located in Region 9 of OHA's Hospital Preparedness Program. Region 9 has a hospital bed per capita of 1108.8 persons per bed.	 Weak

Data Definitions & Thresholds		Weak Signal Strength Threshold	Moderate Signal Strength Threshold	Strong Signal Strength Threshold
Insurance Coverage	Percentage of uninsured (non-incarcerated) population	More than 11%	7-11%	Less than 7%
ICU & Non-ICU Beds Per Capita	How many ICU and Non-ICU beds per capita does a region have? The State is divided into 9 Hospital Preparedness Program Regions. Wallowa County is located in Region 9. This region is comprised of Union, Baker, Wallowa, Umatilla, Morrow, and Malheur Counties. Hospital beds per capita for the State is 880 persons per bed.	More than 950	800-900	Less than 800