Jackson County Demographic Profile - 2016
A high level look at Jackson County, Oregon

Founded in 1970, the Jackson County Library System (JCLS), the “system,” is located in fifteen communities throughout Jackson County. Jackson County population has increased from 181,279 (2000 census) to 203,208 (2010 census) -- roughly a 12.1% change. The population age distribution includes:

- **under 5**: 5.8%
- **5 – 19**: 17.9%
- **20-34**: 18.0%
- **35 – 54**: 24.4%
- **55 – 64**: 15.1%
- **65 +**: 18.8%

The estimated population in 2015 is 210,072 and the projection for 2020 is 221,848 -- a change of 5.6% or an additional 11,776 people.

At the 2010 census, households numbered 83,076 and in 2015 were estimated at 85,859. The projected number of households by 2020 is 91,331, a 6.4% projected increase. The county is 2,802 square miles (18 square miles water) bordering Josephine County (west), Klamath County (east), Douglas County (north) and northern California Siskiyou County (south).

28.7% of the population reflects a household with one or more people under 18, and 31.5 percent with one or more persons 65 or over. The average household size is 2.42 persons and average family size is 2.93 persons.
The 2015 estimated population is 87.5 percent white; 12.1 percent Hispanic; 1.2 percent Native American; 1.7 percent Pacific Islander and 0.8 percent black.

In Jackson County 9 public school districts operate 61 schools at elementary, middle, high school and combined grade level charter schools. 17 private schools are available throughout Jackson County, serving just over 2,800 young people pre-k thru high school. The U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey estimates indicate currently 45,877 of Jackson County residents three years and older are enrolled in the current school year - 5.6% preschool; 4.9% kindergarten; 43.1% grades 1-8; 21.1% grades 9-12 and 25.3% college.

The Oregon Department of Education reports that during the last school year 2014 – 2015 Jackson County had 2,218 enrolled homeless students. For 2014 school year on average the Oregon Department of Human Services reported 17,748 children were served monthly in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). 59.1% of Jackson County public school students are eligible for free or reduced price lunches. Eligibility criteria is family income less than 185% of the federal poverty level.

Also, the most recent drop out reports, from 2013 – 2014, indicate that of the 9,005 enrolled students in grades 9-12, 371 dropped out. The Jackson County high school graduation rate was 67.4% for the 13-14 school year.

The U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey estimated per capita Jackson County average annual earnings/salary are $25,295 ($12.16/hr). The projected per capita average annual earnings/salary in 2020 are $29,032 ($13.96/hr), a 14.8% change between 2015 and 2020. However, statistics from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between Bureau of Labor
Statistics and the Oregon Employment Department indicate that in May of 2013 workers in the Medford Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $19.85. See Reference 1 for more information about wages by education level in the Rogue Valley.

The following reflects living wage calculations for Jackson County from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. According to its technical users guide, “the living wage model is a step up from poverty as measured by the poverty thresholds but it is a small ‘step up’, one that accounts for only the basic needs of a family. The living wage model does not allow for what many consider the basic necessities enjoyed by many Americans. It does not budget funds for pre-prepared meals or those eaten in restaurants. It does not include money for entertainment nor does it allocate leisure time for unpaid vacations or holidays. Lastly, it does not provide a financial means for planning for the future through savings and investment or for the purchase of capital assets (e.g. provisions for retirement or home purchases). The living wage is the minimum income standard that, if met, draws a very fine line between the financial independence of the working poor and the need to seek out public assistance or suffer consistent and severe housing and food insecurity. In light of this fact, the living wage is perhaps better defined as a minimum subsistence wage for persons living in Jackson County, Oregon. Please see Reference 2 regarding Living Wage Calculator User’s Guide / Technical Notes.

JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON:

- 1 adult $10.87 hr.
- 1 adult and 1 child $22.50 hr.
- 1 adult and 2 children $27.04 hr.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Composition</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 adult 3 children</td>
<td>$34.88 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 adults (one working)</td>
<td>$17.21 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 adults (one working) 1 child</td>
<td>$21.11 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 adults (one working) 2 children</td>
<td>$23.86 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 adults (one working) 3 children</td>
<td>$27.41 hr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 adults</td>
<td>$8.60 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 adults 1 child</td>
<td>$12.48 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 adults 2 children</td>
<td>$14.98 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 adults 3 children</td>
<td>$17.87 hr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment data is essential in understanding Jackson County’s primary library users and offers important added context to information-seeking behaviors and needs. Trends in employment data are also important for anticipating community information needs, and helps illustrate the health or decline of each industry and the larger impact that those factors have on available resources for public library services.

The State of Oregon Employment Department compiles employment data related to Jackson county metropolitan statistical area (MSA) by industry. Official reports from the past 12 months indicate private-sector payroll employment rose by 2,850, a gain of 4.1 percent, see Reference 3, State of Oregon Employment in Jackson County report, December 22, 2015. Of particular interest in job recovery is that according to the report, “manufacturing employment in Jackson County has recovered 95 percent of the jobs lost during the most recent recession in a combination of higher and lower paying manufacturing industries.” Finally see Reference 4, regarding Jackson County’s migration patterns.

REFERENCE 1
Jobs by education attainment
Regarding methods and data sources for living wage calculator:
http://livingwage.mit.edu/pages/about

REFERENCE 3
Employment in Jackson County, December 2015
https://www.qualityinfo.org/documents/10182/73818/Employment+in+Jackson+County?version=1.20

REFERENCE 4
Rogue Valley Migration Patterns from Census Bureau’s American Community Survey