



# City of Stevenson Planning Department

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**TO:** Stevenson Business Association  
**FROM:** Ben Shumaker, Planning Director  
**DATE:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Stevenson Economic Data Indicators

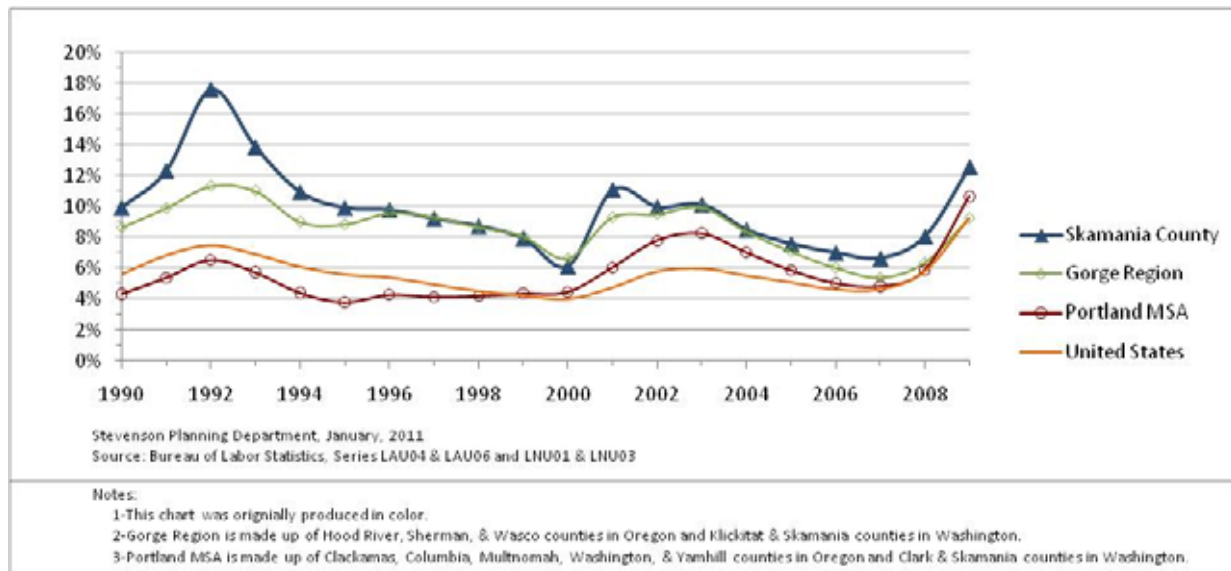
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## Introduction

This memo provides a bit of doom & gloom and a few windows of hope for the future of Stevenson.

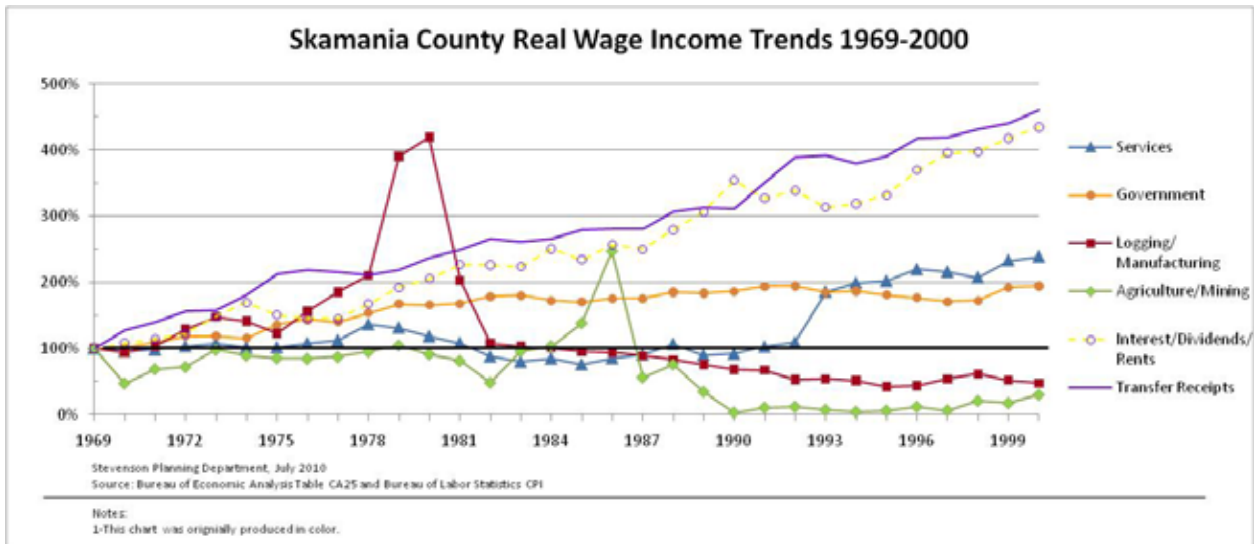
## Unemployment

The following chart shows Skamania County's historically high unemployment rate. It also shows that the gap between Skamania County and our region has slowly been closing over the past 20 years.

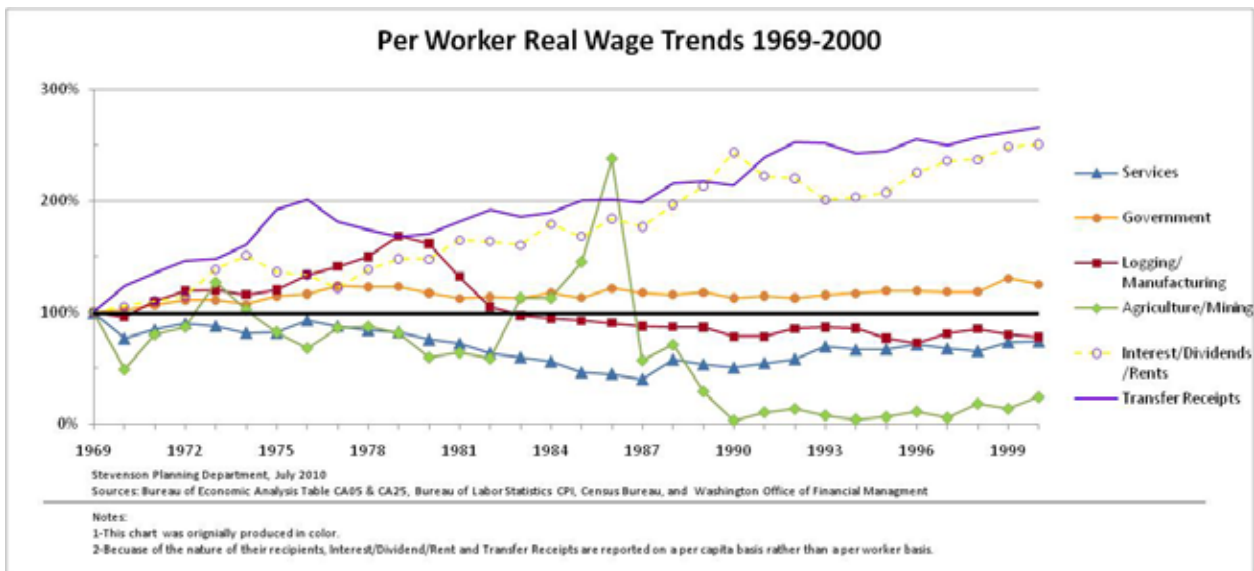


## Wages

There are two chart below. The first chart shows the real wage trends (inflation adjusted) for Skamania County's sectors between 1969 and 2000 (Changes in data collection and reporting have made it impossible to assess these trends beyond 2000).



The second chart is more troubling. This chart compares the purchasing power of each industry's workers between 1969 and 2000. The government sector is the only industry in Skamania County that has gained purchasing power over that period. The situation is less optimistic for workers that provide services and that produce exportable goods and natural resources.



**Commuters**

The unemployment and wage discussions above do not include those who commute outside of Skamania County for work, a figure that has been steadily rising. The tables below show the commuting trends of Skamania County residents and employees. In 2000 less than half of Skamania County's residents worked in Skamania County.

<b>Skamania County Residents</b>				
	1970	1980	1990	2000
Work in Skamania County	75.42%	73.00%	54.34%	48.63%
Total in Neighboring Counties	17.24%	23.09%	42.56%	47.62%
Clark	8.12%	12.33%	16.96%	21.52%
Hood River	2.50%	1.92%	7.81%	8.32%
Klickitat	3.06%	5.20%	7.66%	5.02%
Multnomah	3.56%	3.63%	10.14%	12.77%
<b>Skamania County Employees</b>				
	1970	1980	1990	2000
Live in Skamania County	82.23%	66.92%	77.70%	81.72%
Total in Neighboring Counties	16.13%	29.85%	21.14%	15.95%
Clark	3.82%	17.15%	7.76%	5.02%
Hood River	4.12%	4.77%	5.01%	2.77%
Klickitat	7.40%	5.23%	5.81%	5.75%
Multnomah	0.79%	2.71%	2.57%	2.41%

### **Location Quotients**

The table below has location quotients that compares the employment picture of Skamania County to that of the United States. Any number in the far right column that is above one indicates which sectors Skamania County specializes in. Any number below one means that we are underrepresented in that sector.

<b>2008 Employment and Lorenz Curve Data for Skamania County</b>					
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Employment</b>				<b>Location Quotient</b>
	<b>Total Skamania County</b>		<b>Total US</b>		<b>2008</b>
	<b>Share</b>	<b>Share</b>	<b>Share</b>	<b>Share</b>	<b>US Base</b>
Federal, civilian	163	0.06	2817000	0.02	2.88
Farm	138	0.05	2,642,000	0.02	2.60
Accommodation and Food Services	623	0.21	12314700	0.08	2.52
State and Local	626	0.21	19681000	0.14	1.58
Manufacturing	294	0.10	14090900	0.10	1.04
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	73	0.03	3860200	0.03	0.94
Other Services	187	0.06	10329100	0.07	0.90
Construction	180	0.06	11151000	0.08	0.80
Military	33	0.01	2079000	0.01	0.79
Professional and Technical Services	153	0.05	12347100	0.08	0.62
Retail Trade	196	0.07	18862200	0.13	0.52
Wholesale Trade	64	0.02	6570500	0.05	0.49
Transportation and Warehousing	54	0.02	6019500	0.04	0.45
Finance and Insurance	65	0.02	9023400	0.06	0.36
Administrative and Waste Services	69	0.02	10999200	0.08	0.31
Utilities	0	0.00	590700	0.00	0.00
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0	0.00	1993300	0.01	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,918</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>145,370,800</b>	<b>1.00</b>	

As a tourist destination, it is worth comparing two of these sectors to other tourist regions: Accommodation & Food Services and Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation. The chart below compares our location quotients to Hood River and Clatsop counties in Oregon, Clark County, Nevada (Las Vegas), Pitkin County, Colorado (Aspen) and Door County, Wisconsin.

	Skamania	Hood River	Clatsop, OR	Pitkin, CO	Clark, NV	Door, WI
Arts & Entertainment	0.94	2.34	1.23	4.72	1.39	1.72
Accommodation & Food	2.88	1.38	2.36	2.52	3.25	2.09

These comparisons show us that Skamania County has fewer of its employees working in the Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation sector than other tourist destinations, and indicates that entrepreneurial endeavors in that sector have potential.

Prepared by,

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