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## PROFILE OF THE CITY OF GRANTS PASS

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Grants Pass is located in the “Sun Belt” of Southern Oregon astride the banks of the Rogue River, one of America’s premier white water rivers. Nestled among a series of mountains giving the valley a scenic backdrop, Grants Pass is situated in Southwestern Oregon on the Interstate 5. With a current population of 26,085, it is the county seat of Josephine County and serves as the major commercial center for the county population of more than 79,645.

Grants Pass and its surrounding valleys had a colorful past forged by the Native Americans, trappers, loggers, gold panners, celebrities, and writers who were attracted to the river and contributed to its legends. The first inhabitants of the region were the Takilma and Shasta tribes, frequently referred to by Hudson Bay trappers as "The Rogues" because of their willingness to fight for their rights. Josephine County was named for Josephine Rollins Ort, who came to the Illinois Valley with her father in 1851 and was credited with the first discovery of gold in Southern Oregon. This event was the catalyst for a major migration to Southern Oregon. The promise of gold caused Grants Pass, named to honor

General Ulysses S. Grant's success at Vicksburg, to grow quickly. Farming began in order to meet the miner’s needs. Besides the gold, timber was a major product of the county. From cigars and bricks, to pine needles, industry in Grants Pass started to boom. Well established by the 1900’s, the commercial salmon fleets added one more reason to draw people, even to this day, to the area.

The community is very volunteer oriented as evidenced by its selection in May 1997 as one of thirty finalists nation wide in the All America City competition. Public and private enterprise working in unison with citizens completed a ten-year project of building a 50-acre community park “for all ages”. Named the Reinhart Volunteer Park, this complex boasts baseball diamonds, soccer fields, horseshoes pits, basketball and tennis courts, passive trails, viewing ponds, playgrounds, and picnic and shelter areas created through thousands of volunteer hours and donated services. This volunteer spirit continues with the newest city park, the 8.37 acre Morrison Centennial Park. This park, dedicated in February 2005, is being created by volunteers on donated land. These projects, along with many others too numerous to list; exemplify the pride of the local citizens.



Once a timber based community, manufacturing, tourism, recreation, and service industries now provide the major sources of employment. Josephine County’s reliance on logging and timber products manufacturing has decreased over the past two decades. Despite this, new jobs continue to be added. And, while the county’s industrial base has diversified to include high technology, medical care, tourism, retirement services, retail trade and other service and manufacturing sectors, the wood products industry is still a major force in the county. Many of the top manufacturers in the county, including those producing wood products, continue to expand and add employees. In fact, a state economist has determined Josephine County to rank highest among non-metro Oregon counties in terms of economic diversification.

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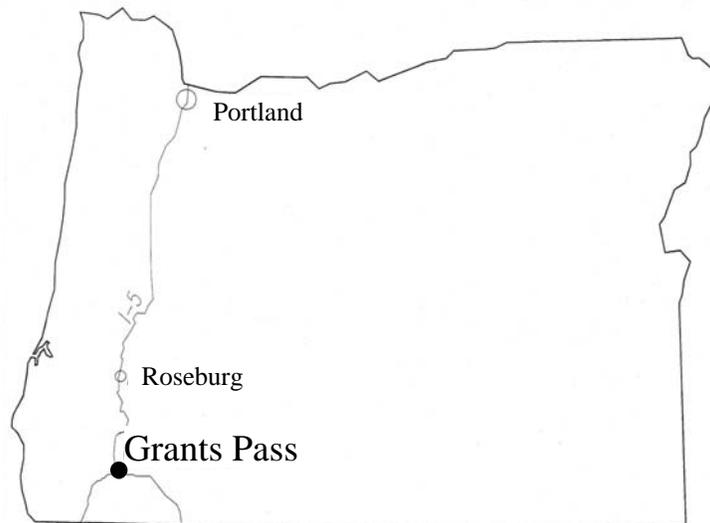
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Total employment in Josephine County again hit all-time highs in 2005, as the state and nation finally rebounded from a recession that largely had little impact on Southern Oregon. Josephine County added over 1,300 jobs during 2005, an increase of 4.2 percent over 2004 – a rate higher than the state or nation. Of the 32 labor markets in Oregon, Josephine County grew at the fifth fastest rate in 2005. In the past two years, the county has added 3,367 new jobs at a rate of 11.5 percent. The county has seen broad based job gains in a variety of sectors, proving the benefits of a diversified local economy. Josephine County’s annual average unemployment rate has been decreasing since the early-mid 1990’s when it was close to 10 percent, falling to 7.1 percent in 2005. The labor force has increased by about 23 percent from 1995 to 2005, growing by more than 6,500 and bringing the total to nearly 35,000 in 2005.

Our mild climate, lower cost of living and proximity to California attracts many retirees, making our community’s percentage of population over age 65 among the highest in Oregon. Medical and retirement facilities continue to expand. In June 2001 a 179,000 square foot three story state-of-the-art hospital complex opened, replacing two older, outdated campuses. This 98-bed acute care facility also includes a cancer treatment center, bringing the latest in medical technology to the community.

Rogue Community College, a two year accredited public community college, provides excellent educational opportunities to all in the community. It boasts a student population of more than 10,000 full or part- time, catering not only to transfer programs but also offering technical and vocational programs, adult basic education, and recreational learning. Southern Oregon University, one of nine state university campuses, is located just 40 miles south of Grants Pass in Ashland. School District #7, serving students in the city limits, provides education to 5,779 students at ten school sites made up of six elementary, two middle, one high school and one alternative school. There are also over 20 private and parochial schools.

The recreational opportunities of the Rogue River are many: jet-boat trips, rafting, kayaking, fishing, water skiing, swimming, hiking, or gold panning. In addition to the world famous Rogue River, nearby mountains provide high-mountain recreational experience, including snow skiing at Mt. Ashland. Cultural activities center around the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland and the historic town of Jacksonville. Other scenic attractions include: Crater Lake National Park, Oregon Caves National Monument, and the Redwoods that stretch from San Francisco to Southern Oregon.



# COMMUNITY PROFILE DETAIL

**Location:**

**Southern Oregon off of I-5, Exit No. 55 & No. 58, 68 miles south of Roseburg and 6 miles north of Rogue River, 240 miles south of Portland and 407 miles north of San Francisco.**

**Date of Incorporation:** 1887

**Elevation:** 960'

**Climate:**

Average Temperature:	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
July 2005	92°	59°
January 2006	47°	38°
Annual Precipitation 2005	39.92"	

**Education:**

Grants Pass School District #7 (01/04)	
Attendance centers	10
Student/Teacher ratio	22.67:1
Total enrollment	5,779

**Population:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
2005	26,085	5.2
2004	25,423	3.9
2003	24,470	2.5
2002	23,870	.9
2001	23,670	2.2
2000	23,170	32.4
1990	17,503	16.5
1980	15,032	20.7
1970	12,455	23.1
1960	10,118	

**Elections (November 2005):**

Registered voters	15,443
Ballots cast	4,713
Percentage voted	30.52%

**Taxes:**

Sales tax	None
Consolidated property tax rate (per \$1,000 assessed value)	\$14.02

**Fire Protection:**

Stations	2
Employees	18
Interns	6

**Police Protection:**

Employees (sworn)	43
Volunteers (Auxiliary)	28
Volunteer hours 2004	3263.5

**Assessed Property Value:**

(In thousands of dollars)	
2005	\$1,728,992
2004	1,446,214
2003	1,350,701
2002	1,253,169
2001	1,180,905
2000	1,129,100

**Recreation and Culture:**

Parks	14
Museums	2
Libraries	1
Swimming Pool	1

# COMMUNITY PROFILE DETAIL

## 2000 Census Information

### Age Composition\*:

Under 5 years	1,613	(7.0%)
5 to 19 years	4,986	(21.7%)
20 to 44 years	7,180	(31.3%)
45 to 64 years	4,760	(20.6%)
65+ years	4,464	(19.4%)

\*Based on population of 23,003 -  
Census 2000 Demographic  
Profiles

### Median Age:

2000	38
1990	37
1980	32
1970	36
1960	34

### 2000 Housing Occupancy:

Total housing units:	9,885
Occupied units	9,376
Rental vacancy rate	4.7%

### Housing Units:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
2000	9,885	32
1990	7,480	22
1980	6,117	36
1970	4,491	

### 2000 Housing Tenure:

Occupied housing units:	9,376
Owner occupied	4,986
Renter occupied	4,390

### Income in 1999:

Median Household Income	\$29,197
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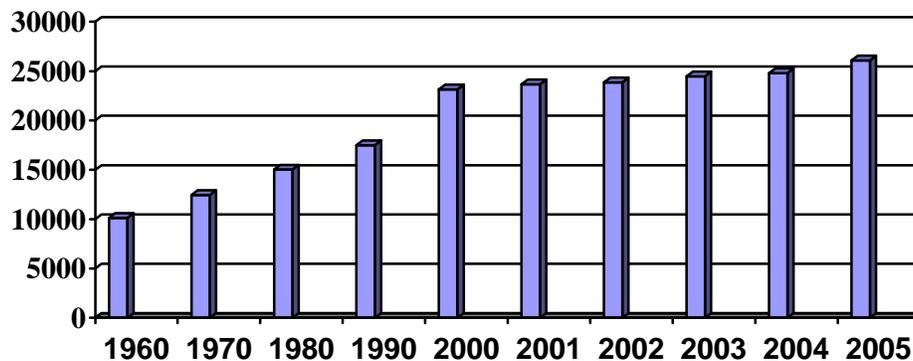
### Mortgage:

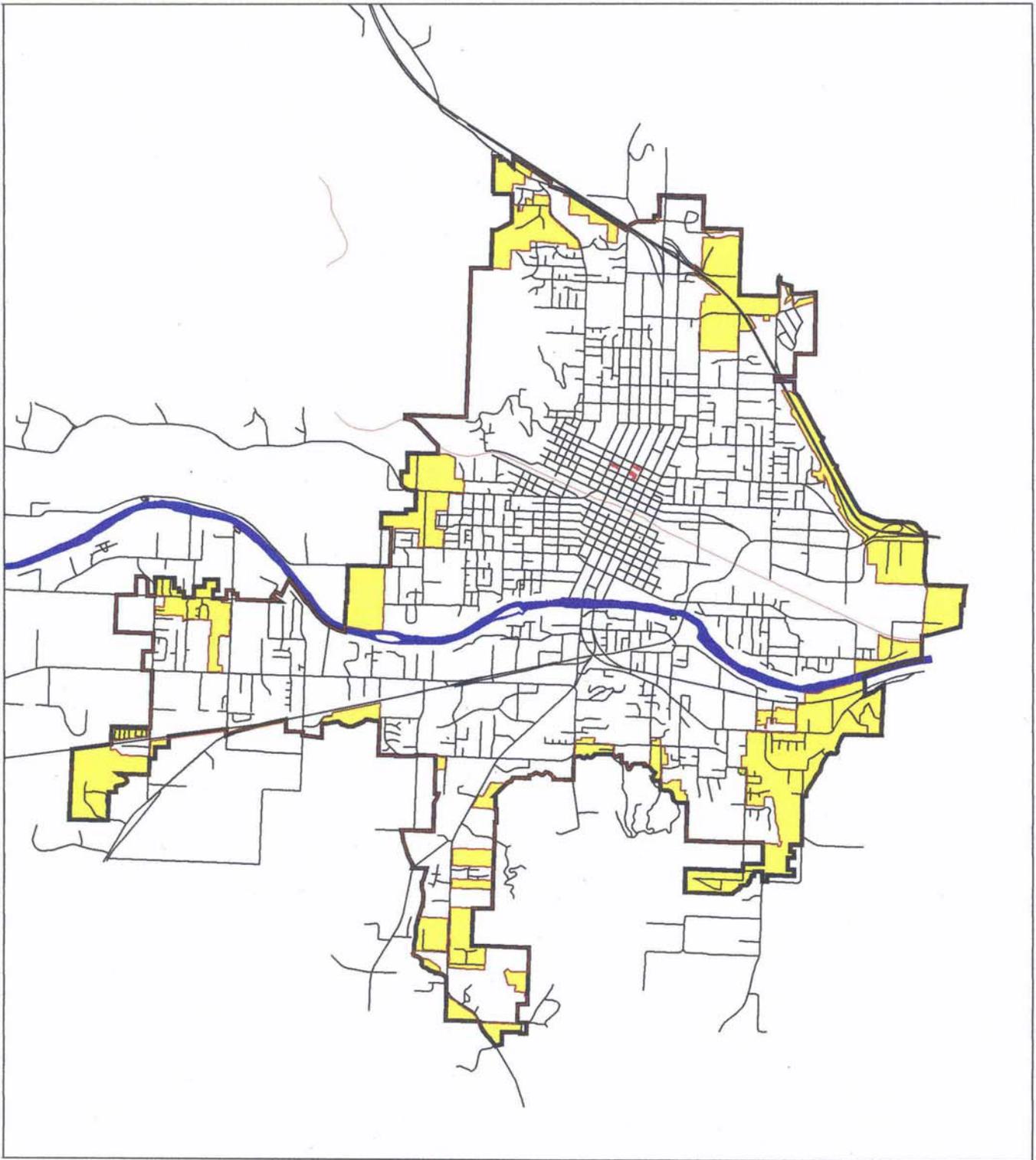
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$861
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### Gross Rent:

Median Gross Rent	\$531
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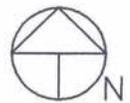
## Population Growth





LEGEND

-  CITY LIMITS
-  URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY
-  AREA BETWEEN UGB & CITYLIMITS



1" = 5000'

**WHERE THE ROGUE RIVER RUNS**



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