

Chapter 3 Demographics

The Comprehensive Plan uses historical population information to understand how the community has developed over the past century. Population growth projections are used to forecast the amount of land needed for future residential, commercial, industrial and public uses, plan for the expansion or modification of the City’s Urban Growth Boundary and to plan for the scope and timing of needed public facilities. These projections rely on a review of historical growth rates, county-wide trends and statewide demographic characteristics.

3.1 Population Trends

Oregon. In the 1990’s and 2000’s Oregon’s population grew at a pace faster than the nation. Oregon’s population growth has historically been heavily affected by the state of the economy. In good economic times, migration of people to Oregon fueled population growth. Net migration (people migrating to Oregon minus out-migration of people leaving the state) accounted for three-quarters of Oregon’s population growth in the 1990’s and 51% of Oregon’s population growth in the 2000’s. Population growth and net migration slowed during the Great Recession (2008 to 2013) due to the poor employment and economic conditions.

Future population projections anticipate net migration will increase from a low of 32% of the annual population increase in 2010 to more than 2/3rds of Oregon’s annual population growth in the year 2020 (28,000 people annually). The long term forecast estimates Oregon’s population will grow faster than the nation.¹

Table D-1
Population Growth Rates 1980–2010

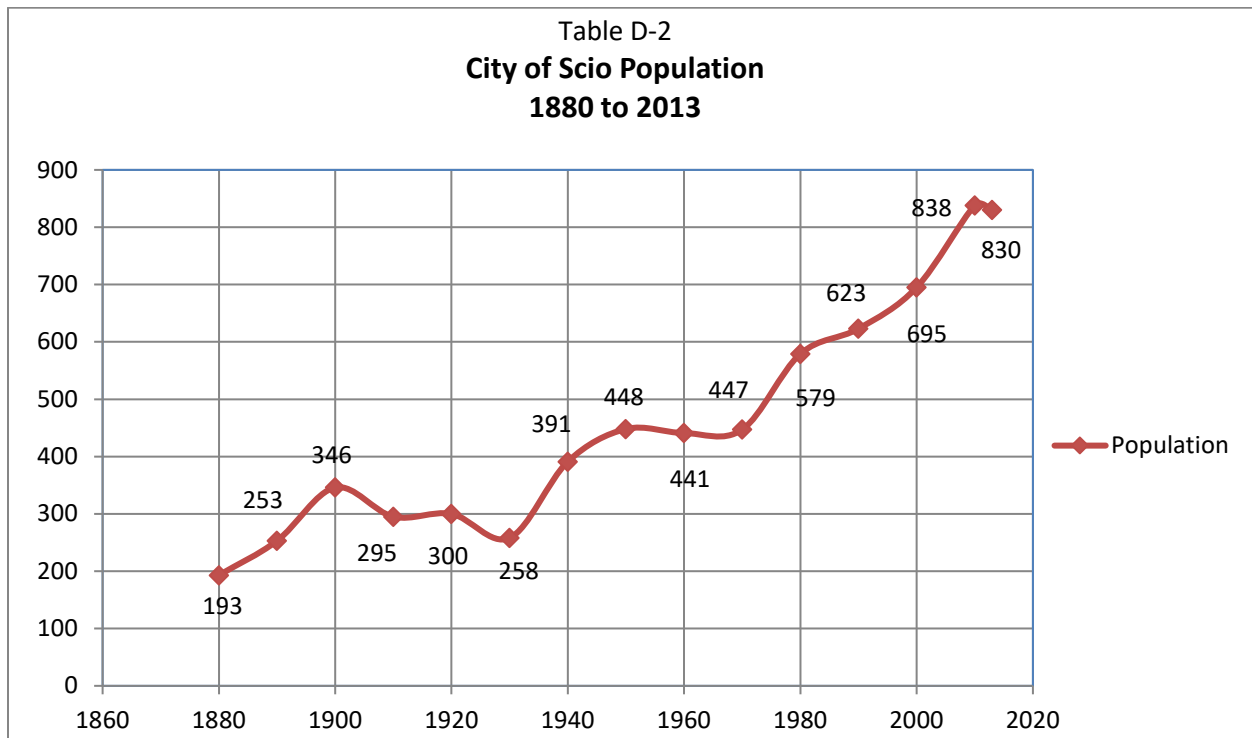
	1980	1990	2000	2010	Changes in Population		
					1980-1990	1990-	2000-2010
U.S.	226,545,805	248,709,873	281,421,906	308,745,538	9.8%	13.2%	9.7%
Oregon	2,633,156	2,842,337	3,421,437	3,831,074	7.9%	20.4%	12.0%
Willamette Valley	1,788,577	1,962,816	2,280,631	2,684,933	9.7%	16.2%	17.7%
Linn County	89,495	91,227	103,083	116,672	1.9%	13.0%	13.2%
Albany	26,540	33,230	41,026	50,158	26.3%	21.9%	22.8%
Scio	579	623	695	838	7.0%	11.6%	20.6%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Center for Population Research and Census, Portland State University.

¹ Oregon’s Demographic Trends, Office of Economic Analysis, Department of Administrative Services, State of Oregon, December 2012, p. 5. http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OEA/docs/demographic/OR_pop_trend2012.pdf

Willamette Valley. The Willamette Valley is Oregon’s population center.² Just over 70% of Oregon’s population is located in the Willamette Valley, which contains only 14% of the state’s land area. Population is concentrated in the metropolitan areas of Portland, Salem, and Eugene. The State of Oregon Office of Economic Analysis estimates Oregon’s population growth will continue to occur in the Willamette Valley, major cities and the Portland metropolitan area.

Linn County. Linn County is located in the southern half of the Willamette Valley between the Salem and Eugene metropolitan areas. Albany is the largest city in Linn County and serves as the County seat. Although Albany has experienced faster population growth than the State and Willamette Valley since 1980, Linn County’s overall population has not grown as rapidly as the Willamette Valley as a whole.



Scio. Historically, Scio has served as a community center for the surrounding agricultural and forestry area in east-central Linn County since the late 1800’s. The downtown businesses, schools and churches have served both rural residents and city residents. Scio’s population remained stable in the early half of the 20th Century; it fluctuated up and down between 250 and 350 residents. Growth in the late 1930’s and 1940’s increased the City’s population to 448 people by 1950. The population hovered around 450 from 1950 to 1970. Population growth from 1970 to 2010 has been steady. The development of the Thomas Creek Estates subdivision fueled a small growth

² The Willamette Valley is composed of Benton, Clackamas, Lane, Linn, and Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill counties.

spurt in the 2000's.

City of Scio Average Annual Growth Rates	
1980 to 2013	1.10%
2000 to 2013	1.38%

The historic population graph (Table D-2) and the population table (Table D-3) show the rise and fall of Scio's population over the past century. They also clearly show Scio's population growth since 1970 has been steady and reflects similar growth in Linn County and the Willamette Valley for the four decades from 1970 to 2010. With the onset of the Great Recession, few single family building permits were issued from 2010 to 2013.

Table D-3 shows Scio's annual Census population for the period 1880 to 2010 and the annual population estimates for the years 2011 to 2013 prepared by Portland State University's College of Urban and Public Affairs: Population Research Center. The PSU estimates show the City has seen a small drop in population since 2010.

3.2 Population Forecast

The state requires each county to establish a population forecast for the entire county and to coordinate this forecast with the local governments within its boundary.³

The last time Linn County prepared a coordinated population forecast that included Scio was 1999 which forecast population only to 2020. Since Linn County's population forecast does not cover the entire 20-year planning period, a city is allowed to use an alternate population forecast.⁴ Therefore Scio used an alternative population forecast for the plan period as provided for in state statute.

Table D-3
Scio Population History

Year	US Census	PSU Estimate	% Change
1880	193		
1890	253		31.1%
1900	346		36.8%
1910	295		-14.7%
1920	300		1.7%
1930	258		-14.0%
1940	391		51.6%
1950	448		14.6%
1960	441		-1.6%
1970	447		1.4%
1980	579		29.5%
1990	623		7.6%
2000	695		11.6%
2010	838		20.6%
2011		840	0.2%
2012		830	-1.2%
2013		830	0.0%

The City used the State of Oregon's March 2013 long-term forecast for population growth for Linn County and the 2013 certified population estimates for Scio and Linn County to project Scio's population during the 20-year planning period. The City's population forecast is summarized in Table D-4.

The City of Scio's population of 838 people at the time of 2010 Census was 0.72% of Linn County's overall population of 116,840 people. The city's share of the county population has

³ ORS 195.025 and ORS 195.036.

⁴ ORS 195.034(2)

dropped slightly since 2010. The City’s 2013 certified population estimate of 830 people was 0.70% of Linn County’s 2013 population estimate of 118,865 people. The City assumes the City’s share of the County’s population will remain at 0.70% of Linn County’s total population over the next twenty years. Scio’s population is estimated to increase from 830 people to 1,052 people by 2035, the end of the 20-year planning period, at an average annual growth rate of 1.09% per year.

Table D-4
Forecast Population Growth for Linn County & City of Scio, 2015 – 2050

Year	Linn County Forecast			City of Scio Forecast @ 0.70 of Linn County Population Forecast		
	Amount	Change	% Change	Amount	Change	% Change
Actual Population						
2010 Census	116,840			838		0.72%
2013 PSU Est	116,865			830		0.70%
Forecast Population						
2015	121,142	4,302	3.68%	847	17	1.11%
2020	128,454	7,312	6.04%	898	51	6.04%
2025	136,224	7,770	6.05%	953	55	6.05%
2030	143,673	7,449	5.47%	1005	52	5.47%
2035	150,395	6,722	4.68%	1052	47	4.68%
2040	156,505	6,110	4.06%	1095	43	4.06%
2045	162,360	5,854	3.74%	1136	41	3.74%
2050	168,189	5,830	3.59%	1176	40	3.59%

Sources: State of Oregon, Office of Economic Analysis, March 2013 County Forecast, PSU Certified Population estimates for 2013 and City of Scio projections at 0.70% of Linn County’s total population.

In 2013 the Oregon legislature passed a law delegating responsibility for preparing population forecasts to PSU’s Population Research Center. Each county-wide population forecast will have a 50-year time horizon. The population forecasts will be updated every four years and the county-wide population forecast will be coordinated with each incorporated city. Linn County and Benton County are in the third group of counties to be scheduled to have the coordinated population forecast updated. PSU’s Center for Population Research has scheduled the forecast for completion in 2016-2017.

3.3 Demographic Data - A Census Snapshot: Scio and Linn County

Demographic characteristics of Scio’s and Linn County’s population provide a snapshot of Scio’s demographic makeup in comparison to the county and state population profile. More recent data is available for Linn County and the State of Oregon, but is either not readily

available for a small city under 1,000 population or the margin for error listed for the data set is very large. The information listed is taken from the 2010 Census, the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) or other sources as noted.

Scio residents were:

- Less affluent - median household income in Scio (\$38,958) was lower than the median household income in Linn County (\$45,862) and the State of Oregon (\$49,260) [2010 Census].

By 2012 median household income in Linn County rose to \$47,129 but remained lower than the median household income of \$50,036 in the State of Oregon.

- More likely to be employed – Scio’s unemployment rate in 2010 was 6.1%, compared to 7.6% in Linn County and 8.7% in the State of Oregon [2010 Census].

Linn County’s unemployment rate rose between 2010 and 2014. In July 2014, the Linn County unemployment rate was 8.3% compared to 6.9% in the State of Oregon [State of Oregon Employment Department].

- More likely to work in natural resources industries – More than 30% of Scio’s workers were employed in natural resources and construction industries compared to 13.4% in Linn County. [2010 Census and 2012 ACS].
- Younger than Linn County – Median age in Scio was 34.8 years compared to 39.2 years in Linn County [2010 Census].
- Diversity – The majority of people in Scio (91.4%) and Linn County (90.6%) are white. Scio is more diverse in 2010 than it was in 2000, when 95% of Scio’s population was white. Oregon is one of the least diverse states in the U.S. in terms of race and ethnicity [2010 Census].
- Educational Attainment – Scio and Linn County residents age 25 years and older are less educated than Oregon’s overall population [2010 Census and 2012 ACS].
- High School: The 2012 American Community Survey shows 90.5% of Scio’s residents and 88.7% of Linn County residents age 25 and older had a high school diploma or GED. These rates mirror Oregon’s 89.2% [2012 ACS].
- Advance Educational Degrees: In both Scio and Linn County approximately 15% of their residents had obtained a bachelor’s degree or higher. In 2012 29.2% of Oregonian’s age 25 and older had a college degree [2012 ACS].
- More likely to be homeowners – 65% of Scio’s and Linn County’s residents lived in owner-occupied homes compared to 57.9% in the State of Oregon [2010 Census].
- Larger household size – Household size in Scio was 2.74 persons per household compared to Linn County (2.55 persons) and the State of Oregon (2.47) [2010 Census].

- Less likely to be in poverty status – 9.8% of Scio families lived in poverty in 2010 compared to families in Linn County (13.9%) and the State of Oregon (12.9%) [2010 Census].

Age Distribution:

Due to the aging of the post-World War II baby boomer generation and improved health care, Oregon’s population is expected to continue to get older in the next twenty years. Life expectancy for Oregonian’s is projected to increase during the next decade. Average life expectancy for men will increase from 75.7 years (2000) to 78.2 years (2020) and life expectancy for women will increase from 80.2 years (2000) to 82.7 years (2020).⁵

Table D-5
**Linn County and City of Scio
 Age Groups as a Percentage of Population**

Age Ranges	City of Scio 2000		City of Scio 2010		Linn County 2010	
0 to 14	161	23.2%	190	22.7%	23,429	20.1%
15 to 24	100	14.4%	121	12.1%	14,635	12.5%
25 to 34	80	11.5%	131	15.6%	14,341	12.3%
35 to 44	91	13.1%	91	10.9%	14,148	12.1%
45 to 54	78	11.2%	116	13.9%	16,347	14.0%
55 to 64	79	11.4%	91	10.9%	15,781	13.5%
65 to 74	48	6.9%	87	10.4%	9,948	8.5%
75 and older	58	8.4%	30	3.6%	8,043	6.9%
Total Pop.	695		838		116,672	
Median Age	35.5		34.8		39.2	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The number of school age children has been declining in Oregon since 1980. This trend is expected to continue through 2020 when only 15% of Oregonians will be school age compared to 20% in 1980. The number of senior citizens (age 65+) will grow as the baby boomer generation reaches retirement age. In 2020, there will be 48% more people in Oregon over the age of 65 than there were in 2010.

In spite of these trends, Scio’s population is younger than the rest of Linn County. Median age in Scio in 2010 was 34.8 years of age compared to the Linn County median age of 39.2 and the

⁵ Oregon’s Demographic Trends, Office of Economic Analysis, December 2012.

State’s median age of 38.3.

Diversity and Ethnicity:

As noted above, the population in Linn County and Scio is close to 90% white. Although Oregon’s population has become more diverse over the past 25 years, the increase in diversity has been slow to impact a small community like Scio. The Hispanic/Latino population is the largest racial subgroup at 3.1% in Scio compared to 7.8% in Linn County.

Table D-6
**City of Scio and Linn County
 Race and Ethnicity in 2010**

	City of Scio	%	Linn County	%
Total Population:	838		116,672	
Population of one race:	807	96.3%	112,852	97.4%
White alone	766	91.4%	105,669	89.0%
Hispanic or Latino	26	3.1%	9,127	7.8%
Black or African American alone	3	0.4%	534	0.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	15	1.8%	1,488	1.3%
Asian alone	5	0.6%	1,111	1.0%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander alone	1	0.1%	162	0.1%
Population of two or more races:	31	3.7%	3,820	3.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010.

Education:

Scio’s citizens, age 25 years and older, were better educated in 2012 than they were in the year 2000, going from 83.2% of persons with a high school or equivalent degree to 90.5% in 2012, and from 11.4% to 14.8% for persons with a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Table D-7
**Educational Attainment for Scio Residents
 2000 and 2012**

Educational Attainment	2000	2012
High school graduate or higher	83.2%	90.5%
Bachelor’s degree or higher	11.5%	14.8%

Source: U.S. Census 2000 and the American Community Survey, 2012. Due to the small sample size the American Community Survey has a high margin of error for this data set.