

Tillamook

People and Place

Location

Tillamook is located on the shores of Tillamook Bay and U.S. Highway 101, approximately 73 miles west of Portland. It covers 1.5 square miles of land in Tillamook County. The geographic coordinates of Tillamook are lat 45°27'23"N and long 123°50'34"W.

Demographic Profile

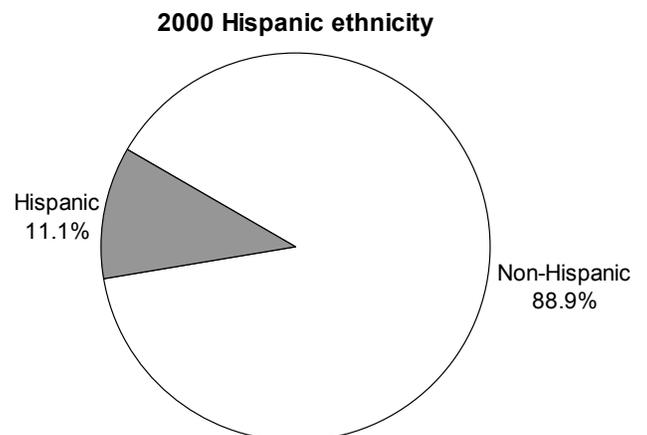
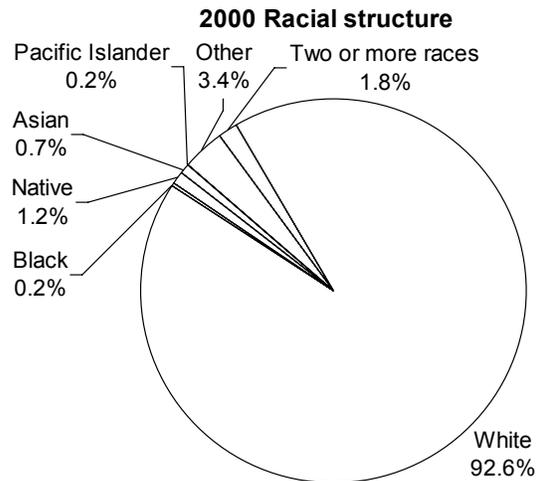
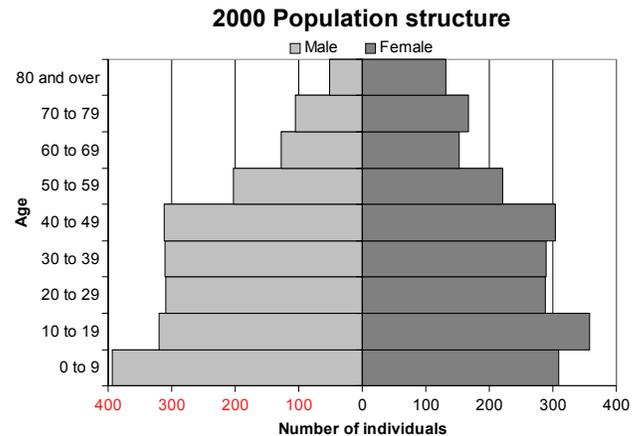
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Tillamook was 4,352, an 8.8% increase from 1990. The gender composition was 51% female and 49% male. The median age was 33.3, comparable to the national median of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 81.4% had a high school education or higher, 13.1% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 2.4% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively. A high school education was the highest attainment for 43% of the population.

The majority of Tillamook's racial structure was white (92.6%), followed by people who identified with some other race (3.4%), people who identified with two or more races (1.8%), American Indian and Alaskan Native (1.2%), Asian (0.7%), black (0.2%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.2%). Ethnicity data indicate 11.1% identified as Hispanic. Slightly more than five percent (5.3%) were foreign-born, of which 72.5% were born in Mexico.

In 2000 approximately 82% of the population lived in family households.

History

Native Americans inhabited Tillamook County long before Euro-Americans came to the Pacific Northwest. Tribes such as the Tillamook, Nehalem, and Nestucca fished and hunted throughout the coastal areas. The people had a close relationship with the sea and area waterways, as evidenced by the boats they built. Their dugout canoes ranged from tiny vessels used for duck hunting to large canoes used for long distance travel to California. At one time the Tillamook people had a fishing village near Garibaldi's present location. The Indians of Tillamook Bay died in large numbers due to European diseases. The population was approximately 2,200 at the turn of the nineteenth century, but declined to one-tenth of that by the mid-1800s.



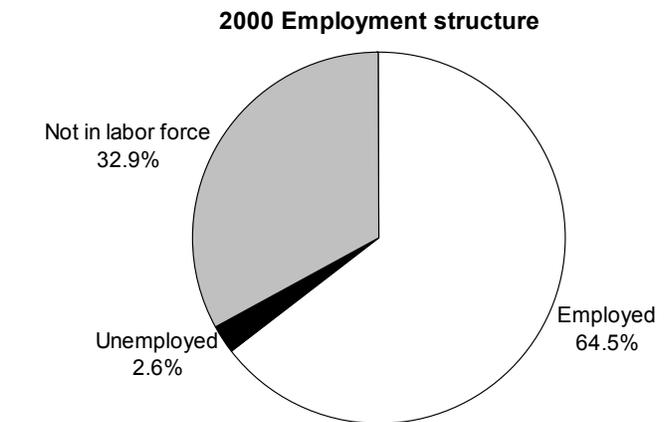
Captain Robert Gray is credited with being the first Euro-American to land in Tillamook Bay (1788), but it was not until the middle of the 1800s that white settlers came to the area. The entrance to the bay is recognized as challenging today and was identified as perilous by a member of Gray's crew who told of an awkwardly situated shoal, narrow entrance, and strong tide. In 1853 the territorial government created Tillamook County. Its earliest industries were shipping, logging, fishing, farming, and dairy. Fishing played a key role as an avenue for bringing cash into the area. Fish caught in the area's coastal waters, bays, and rivers were processed in numerous canneries throughout the area. Middlemen bought the packaged fish and sold them in Willamette Valley. The funds enabled the development of other enterprises and aided the growth of area communities.

The dairy and lumber industries developed alongside fishing. Dairy's success was due to the production of cheese that could withstand long storage periods for distribution. The lumber industry took off in the 1890s with the need for containers for dairy, fish, and other products. In 1911 the Pacific Railway and Navigation Company constructed a railway from Portland to Tillamook. This reliable source of transportation facilitated growth of the three industries.

Concerns with overfishing arose early in the 1900s. Salmon, particularly coho, have declined significantly over the years. Gillnet and trawl fishing were banned in the bay in 1961. The designation of coho salmon as an endangered species in the 1990s and an increase in the restrictions placed on harvesting bottomfish further limited area commercial fishermen. Commercial clamming, oystering, and shrimping in the bay were relatively successful in the 1990s; however, the commercial oyster industry has declined as a result of sedimentation and pollution.

In recent years, shrimp harvests have declined, resulting in a decrease in the number of shrimp processing companies and available shrimp peeling machines. Today the community has one processor with two peeling machines servicing two to three boats. Fieldwork suggests this is down from three companies with seven peelers servicing up to 14 full-time boats several years ago. As processing capacity diminished, several boats relocated to the Columbia River ports of Warrenton and Astoria. Also contributing to the relocations were unpredictable conditions at the mouth of Tillamook Bay on Garibaldi Bar, where as fieldwork suggests the lack of dredging often creates unsafe conditions. Additionally, some fishermen no longer target shrimp due to declining prices and high fuel costs.

Despite the recent downturn in several of the area's commercial fisheries, the bay's sportfishing industry has



enjoyed substantial growth. The tourism industry (specifically sportfishing) developed in part as an economic response to the area's waning lumber and commercial fishing industries, and expanded significantly in the 1980s.^{1,2}

Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 64.5% of Tillamook's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 2.6% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 3.8% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 32.9% were not in the labor force. The top employment sectors were manufacturing (15.3%), retail trade (13.7%), local, state, or federal government (12%), health care and social assistance (13.7%), and accommodation and food services (9.8%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 9.4%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department lists the top three Tillamook employers as Tillamook Creamery Association (360 employees), Tillamook Lumber Company (160 employees), and Trask River Lumber Company (140 employees).³

Tillamook's per capita income in 1999 was \$15,160 and the median household income was \$29,875, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. In 1999 15.4% lived below the poverty level. Tillamook had 1,898 housing units in 2000, of which 92.6% were occupied and 7.4% were vacant. Of the occupied units, approximately 50.7% were by owner and 49.3% were by renter. About

half (51.4%) of the vacant housing units were available for rent.

Governance

In 1853 Tillamook County was created and in 1891 the City of Tillamook was incorporated. As the largest city in the county, Tillamook is governed by a city council consisting of a mayor and six council members, with each council member representing a ward. Oregon has no general sales tax, but levies a 1% tax on overnight lodging that funds the Oregon Tourism Commission. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processors in Oregon.

Tillamook is home to the North Coast Watershed District Office of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and its Trask River Hatchery. The ODFW Marine Resources Program is approximately 69 miles south in Newport. The National Marine Fisheries Services has a Northwest Fisheries Science Center field station in Newport. A U.S. Coast Guard station is 10 miles away in Garibaldi. Meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management and North Pacific Fishery Management councils are held in Portland, which is also home to the district office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Facilities

Tillamook is on U.S. Highway 101, a major transportation corridor along the Pacific coast from Washington to California. It has a small public use airport and a larger airport is 65 miles away in Astoria; however, neither offer commercial airline services. The nearest airport offering commercial and international service is Portland International Airport. During the summer months, short excursion trips are available on a freight train operated by the Port of Tillamook. A county-operated local transit bus offers service to Portland twice daily (once on Sunday) where passengers can connect to Greyhound. Tillamook is accessible via water through the Port of Tillamook.

Tillamook is in the Tillamook School District, which administers four elementary schools, one junior high school, and two high schools. The Tillamook City Public Works Department provides water and sewer services to residents and the People's Utility District supplies electricity. Tillamook County General Hospital serves the community and surrounding area. The community's police force is contracted through the Tillamook County Sheriff Department; other emergency services are managed through the county's Office of Emergency. There are several options for overnight

accommodations in Tillamook including motels, hotels, and bed and breakfasts.

The Port of Bay Ocean was incorporated in 1911 and expanded to include the Tillamook Naval Air Station in 1953. The port housed two of the 17 blimp hangers constructed by the U.S. Navy in various ports across the nation in 1942 for the war effort. The aggregated facilities were renamed The Port of Tillamook Bay. In addition to the naval facilities, the port retains control of more than 80 miles of the Navy's former railroad that connects to the Southern Pacific Railroad. The system connects Tillamook to the Portland area. The port is now the area's largest full service industrial park, with more than 1,600 acres zoned for industrial and airport use. The port is located within the Tillamook County Economic Development Council Enterprise Zone and offers an attractive three-year property tax exemption for new and expanding non-retail businesses. Fieldwork indicates the nearest port facilities offering services to commercial and sport fishermen is the Port of Garibaldi; please see the Garibaldi community profile for additional information on harbor facilities.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 100 commercial vessels delivered landings to Tillamook. Landings data for Tillamook were recorded as part of the Tillamook/Garibaldi Port Group. Reported landings for the group in 2000 were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of landings/number of vessels delivering landings): crab 177.3 t/\$863,228/19; groundfish 110.2 t/\$140,155/34; highly migratory species 134.1 t/\$262,623/18; salmon 48.2 t/\$174,609/50; shellfish 45.7 t/\$31,044/12; shrimp 188.1 t/\$211,429/9; and other species 5.3 t/\$27,532/16. See the Garibaldi community profile for additional information.

Tillamook residents owned 22 commercial vessels in 2000, of which four participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Tillamook residents participating in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/3/0, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 0/24/1, shellfish NA/0/NA, and shrimp NA/0/0.⁴

In 2000 no Tillamook residents held federal groundfish permits. The number of Tillamook residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/2/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/16/1, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/1/0.⁵

At least 25 state commercial fishing permits were registered to Tillamook residents in 2000. The number of state permits held by Tillamook residents in each

fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/2/0, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/20/2, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/1/0.⁶

As Tillamook is one of several Tillamook Bay communities—Rockaway Beach, Bay City, and Garibaldi—whose economies are intertwined, it is useful to look at the combined landings for the Tillamook Bay area to gain an understanding of the significance of commercial fishing in Tillamook. In 2000 landings of crab in the Tillamook Bay area were worth an estimated ex-vessel value of \$580,000, followed by shrimp \$421,000, groundfish \$165,000, albacore \$219,000, and Chinook salmon \$59,000. Fish processing plants in the Tillamook Bay area process shrimp, crab, salmon, albacore, sole, sablefish, lingcod, thornyheads, and other rockfish.⁷

Sportfishing

Sixteen registered outfitters or guides are based out of Tillamook. In 2000 six Tillamook residents owned licensed charter vessels. Nine sportfishing licensing agents based in Tillamook sold 4,675 licenses at a value of \$63,984.

For the Tillamook/Garibaldi Port Group, the 2000 recreational salmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was 1,117 Chinook and 552 coho salmon. The recreational nonsalmonid catch in the Ocean Boat Fishery was 87,963 fish. The top five fish caught were black rockfish, yellowtail rockfish, canary rockfish, lingcod, and blue rockfish.

Subsistence

Local community members, both tribal and nontribal, may engage in subsistence fishing for marine and stream resources in Tillamook and the surrounding area. Specific information on subsistence fishing in Tillamook is not discussed in detail in this community profile due to the lack of available data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 one Tillamook resident owned a vessel that participated in North Pacific fisheries. While no residents held North Pacific permits or individual fishing quota shares in 2000, two residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries.

Sportfishing

In 2000 Tillamook residents purchased 73 Alaskan sportfishing licenses and at least one charter business based in Tillamook offered fishing excursions in Alaska.

Notes

1. J. Gilden (ed.). 1999. Oregon's changing coastal fishing communities. Online at <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgpubs/onlinepubs/o99001.html> [accessed 30 January 2007].
2. M. Guardino III and Rev. M. Riedel. No date. Sovereigns of themselves: A liberating history of Oregon and its coast. Vol. III. Online at <http://www2.wi.net/~census/lesson36.html> [accessed 30 January 2007].
3. State of Oregon. 2004. Oregon economic & community development: Tillamook community profile. Online at <http://info.econ.state.or.us:591/FMPro?-db=Community.fp4&-Format=forms.htm&-lay=webpage&-op=eq&sort%20name=Tillamook&-script=hit%20count&-Find> [accessed 30 January 2007].
4. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
5. See note 4.
6. See note 4.
7. See note 1.