

## Lopsided Income Growth in Oregon

On average, income in Oregon grew 13.5% between 1979 and 2007.

Income growth, 1979-2007:  
13.5%

Good thing for everybody, right? Not quite. The top 1% shared a disproportionate share of that growth—81.8%. So their massive income growth far eclipsed income growth of the bottom 99%, whose raise was meager when you divide it over three decades.

Change in income, 1979-2007:  
Top 1%: 127.2%      Bottom 99%: 2.7%  
Top 1%'s share of all growth:  
81.8%

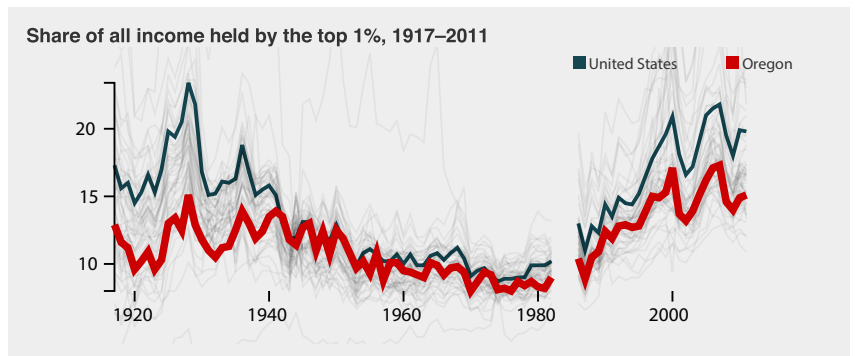
And unfortunately the Great Recession was no great leveler: The top 1% is recovering, but the bottom 99%'s income has actually gone down in the so-called recovery.

Change in income, 2009-2011:  
Top 1%: 7.4%      Bottom 99%: -1.0%

Thus, the lopsided income growth from 1979 to 2007 extended through 2011.

Change in income, 1979-2011:  
Top 1%: 62.7%      Bottom 99%: -13.1%

Due to this extended period of lopsided income growth, the share of all income held by the top 1% in recent years has approached or surpassed historical highs.



The upshot of these trends? A lopsided Oregon economy, where top 1% average income is 17.6 times greater than the average income of the bottom 99%.

Average income in 2011:  
Top 1%: \$663,156      Bottom 99%: \$37,774  
17.6 time greater

Adapted from Estelle Sommeiller and Mark Price, *The Increasingly Unequal States of America: Income Inequality by State, 1917 to 2011* an Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN) report published February 19, 2014. [go.epi.org/unequalstates](http://go.epi.org/unequalstates)