

2026 SISTERS ECONOMIC PROFILE

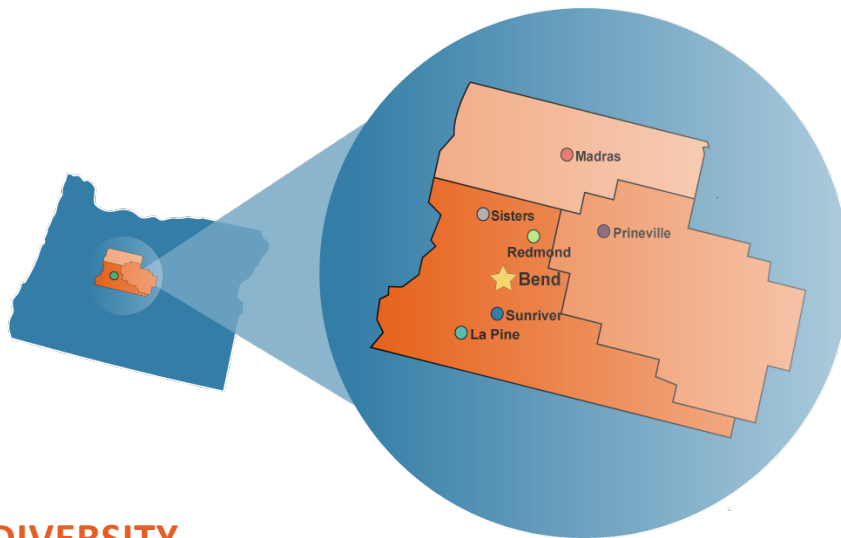


ERIC STROBEL, SISTERS AREA DIRECTOR
ERIC@EDCOINFO.COM
541.410.8630
520 East Cascade Avenue
Sisters, OR 97759
edcoinfo.com

SISTERS OVERVIEW

Sisters, along with the larger region known as “Sisters Country,” is highly regarded for its exceptional educational system, diverse outdoor recreational activities, vibrant arts and cultural offerings, and a strong emphasis on community and high-quality rural living. Strategically located along U.S. Highway 20, the downtown area of Sisters features small, authentic retail shops and restaurants that contribute to its unique charm. The region possesses essential commercial attributes that attract business owners and entrepreneurs who align with the community’s values and vision.

Over time, Sisters has transformed from a primarily tourism-driven economy into one that draws renowned companies across a dynamic array of industries. These include outdoor recreation, technology, light manufacturing, green energy, bioscience, agriculture, natural products, telecommunications, media and film, specialty food and beverage, arts, and wood products. Businesses in Sisters thrive in an energetic community environment with a supportive city government, all set against a stunning backdrop, making it an enticing destination for entrepreneurs and companies alike.



ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

Sisters, part of the greater Bend-Redmond Metropolitan Statistical Area, boasts a thriving and diverse economy, along with a supportive local community, making it an ideal place for a fulfilling career while maintaining a high quality of life.

Deschutes County has established an economic development loan fund to support small businesses. Additionally, businesses can benefit from tax abatements in Enterprise Zones and various incentive programs at multiple levels. A strong entrepreneurial ecosystem encourages startup engagement and connects them to regional resources.

Population: **3,834**
(2025 estimates from [PSU Population Research Center](#))

Regional Labor Force: **142,794**
(2025 estimates from [Oregon Prospector](#))

Sisters Median Household Income: \$93,323
(2025 estimates from [Oregon Prospector](#))

COMMUNITY & BUSINESS ASSETS



EDUCATION

Sisters School District is recognized for its excellence in education. The district offers innovative Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, including flight science, luthier (string instrument-making), construction, information systems management, and computer-aided design (CAD).

With higher education opportunities nearby, residents can easily pursue further education at institutions such as Oregon State University-Cascades, Central Oregon Community College, and Leading Edge Aviation Flight School. These schools play a vital role in developing a skilled workforce. Internship programs and industry partnerships help strengthen the local talent pipeline, ensuring that businesses have access to highly qualified professionals.

GEOGRAPHIC ACCESSIBILITY

An expanding regional airport, located 30 minutes from downtown Sisters, provides convenient daily direct flights to 10 destinations, enhancing connectivity for both business and leisure travelers. To meet the region's rising demand, the Redmond Municipal Airport has begun a major terminal expansion anticipated to complete in early 2028.

Sisters's location near the intersection of key state highways allows for easy and scenic drives to the Willamette Valley, the Oregon Coast, Portland, Boise and Seattle.

LAND, UTILITIES AND HOUSING

The City of Sisters has the essential infrastructure, including water and sewer capacity, to support businesses of all sizes. Ongoing construction projects will create ample live/work flex spaces for both new and existing companies. The city has also expanded its light industrial space, with four new buildings totaling nearly 50,000 square feet. Industrial development space is available with convenient access to U.S. Highway 20, offering competitive lease rates and build-to-suit options.

In addition to commercial development, several workforce housing projects are in the construction process. One of these is Trinity Place, a new 40-apartment complex aimed at supporting individuals in the local workforce. Habitat for Humanity is also working on the Adams Commons project near downtown, which will provide 19 affordable homes and six homes designated for workforce housing. Additionally, the Woodlands development has added another 10 homes.

“Central Oregon’s economic growth is stronger than the state and nation overall. The primary reason is the high quality of life that attracts new residents. Faster population growth means local businesses can hire and expand at a faster rate due to the influx of working-age migrants and the growing labor force.”

Josh Lehner, Economist
Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

RESOURCES

- [Carl Riccadonna, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis](#)
- [Beacon Appraisal Group, Beacon Report and Market Overview](#)
- [Compass Points Commercial and Industrial Market Report](#)
- [Central Oregon Economic Indicators \(OED\)](#)
- [Statewide Economic Data](#)
- [Redmond Airport Flight Statistics](#)
- [City of Sisters Permit Center Portal](#)
- [Deschutes County Permits](#)
- [Starting a Business in Sisters](#)
- [Sisters Business Association](#)

Central Oregon (Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties) stands out as the region's employment powerhouse, driving most of the employment growth seen in the East Cascades. The sub-region is projected to grow the fastest, with an 8.6% increase that will add nearly 9,900 new nonfarm jobs by 2033.

- [2023-2033 Industry Projections in the East Cascades](#),
[Oregon Employment Department](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES



TOP EMPLOYERS



Rank		2026 SistersLargest Employers (Private and Public)	Employees	
2026	2025		2026	2025
1	1	Black Butte Ranch	396	400
2	2	Sisters School District	189	176
3	3	Sisters Coffee Company	82	76
4	NL	U.S. Forest Service	72	NL
5	4	Sisters Bakery	60	62
6	T-8	Personalized Nutrients	56	46
7	6	Sisters Athletic Club	55	51
8	10	FivePine Lodge & Conference Center	45	45
9	T-8	BASX Sisters	40	46
10	NL	Ray's Food Place	39	NL

NL = Not Listed | T = Tied

Source: Oregon Employment Department Geocoded 2024 QCEW

ECONOMIC FOUNDATION

