Metro Research Center
Housing-related Data

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Introduction

For more than 25 years Metro's Research Center (RC) has collaborated with city and county partners to develop, standardize, and distribute data covering our entire region. Metro's data repository--the Regional Land Information System (RLIS)—provides over 150 themes of data in a standard format that Metro and others use to measure performance, evaluate change, and inform policy. A subset of RLIS labeled the Land Development Monitoring System (LDMS) contains data crucial to regional housing discussions. The LDMS data sets listed below are each integral to a variety of programs in the region. Combined, these datasets provide a solid basis for understanding and planning for regional housing issues. Note that the RC purchases some of this data from vendors who apply usage restrictions.

In addition to land development and housing information the Research Center downloads and standardizes a variety of federal and state data that helps us understand who lives in the region's housing stock and what jobs exist around the region. This additional data, for example, helps the region profile household incomes or the number of jobs in a given industry sector.

The Research Center also creates forecasts that can be useful when looking at future housing supply, prices, regional capacity, and housing trends. Regional policymakers see both LDMS data and forecast products during the Urban Growth Management process that Metro undertakes cyclically and through programs like Metro's affordable housing efforts.

Land Development Monitoring System

The Research Center's LDMS program leverages numerous datasets to provide a comprehensive picture of land use in the region. In addition to being vital to Metro's work (state law mandates collection of some of the data for growth planning purposes) the LDMS datasets are also used throughout the region by local businesses, citizens, community-based organizations, and governmental agencies for land use planning, solid waste planning, parks planning, land use and transportation forecasting, and more.

Land Development Monitoring System informs the region...

- **How much vacant, undeveloped land exists** via the annually-updated *Vacant Land Inventory.*
- **What zoning applies to every taxlot in the region** via a generalized zoning layer, updated quarterly and including local zoning codes.
- **What buildings (including accessory dwelling units or ADUs) are going up via a comprehensive building permit dataset**, updated quarterly and supplemented with third-party data and local jurisdictions' information.
- **Where apartments and condominiums are sited** within the region via the annually-updated *multi-family database.*
- **Where single family homes are sited** via the annually-updated *single-family database* based on tax assessor information, updated annually
- **How much single family homes cost** via commercial residential sales data, updated quarterly.
- **How much it costs to rent a place to live** via a multi-family rental price dataset, purchased quarterly.
- **How much regulated affordable housing exists and where it is located** via a database describing all subsidized housing within the region, developed in coordination with local agencies and updated every 2 years.

Uses of the Metro LDMS Data

Metro uses its data to inform growth planning, to support Metro's affordable housing efforts, to inform other planning activities such as the Regional Transportation Plan, and to support both public sector and academic partners in their own work.

Custom Analysis

In addition to maintaining the information described above the Research Center can be hired to provide customized analytic support to public and private entities; this can include housing-related analysis. The RC often does this for small cities who lack their own technical staff. To speak to a Research Center person who can help you learn more about Metro data or provide customized work contact Karen Scott-Lowthian (karen.scott-lowthian@oregonmetro.gov).

Accessing the Regional Land Information System (RLIS) data

As data providers to the RLIS repository, contributing cities and counties within the Metro region receive an RLIS Live subscription free of charge. Much of the data is publicly-available, too, both in layers to download and through APIs that can be integrated into your own web applications. To speak to a Research Center person about accessing the data contact Steve Erickson (steve.erickson@oregonmetro.gov).

Anyone can find out how to access RLIS data by using this link: www.oregonmetro.gov/rlis-live