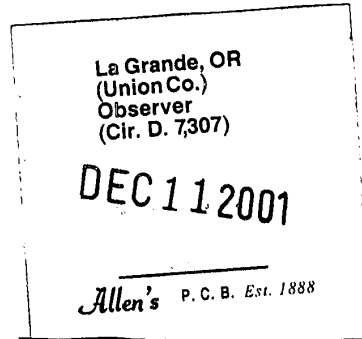


# La Grande Observer

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## More families in poverty

PORTLAND (AP) — <sup>50,500</sup> One of every four children in Eastern Oregon is growing up in poverty, and even more live on the brink, according to the latest report from Children First for Oregon.

The report, released Tuesday, focuses on the struggles of low-income families statewide. Statewide, 14 percent of children lived in families with incomes at or below the federal poverty level of \$17,630 for a family of four, according to the report, which examined statistics from 2000.

"We just rounded out the completion of the longest, unprecedented economic growth in Oregon's history — more people were moving from welfare to work, getting off food stamps — but I think what we can take as a lesson is that it alone wasn't enough for many families," said Marie Hoeven, executive director of Children First for Oregon.