While Portland is still the regional jobs hub (with 40% of the region's total jobs in 2006), the share of the region's new jobs created in Portland has been dropping — from 27% in 1980-2000 to 11% in 2000-2006.

From 2000 to 2006, about 75% of new jobs in the three-county region were in the health care sector, which added 17,000 jobs.

The City of Portland is expected to capture 150,000 of the jobs that Metro has forecasted by 2035 — this will be in addition to the City's 394,000 existing jobs.

Economic development may be a bureaucratic-sounding term, but what it really gets down to is very simple: jobs — do we have enough of them so that all of us can earn a decent living? Being able to answer “yes” to that question is no easy task, but it is crucial to our being a thriving, sustainable city where people are prosperous, healthy and have ample opportunities for education, success and happiness. Economic development is an important effort to help get us to “yes” to that question for all Portlanders.

What choices should we make today to support Portland’s economic prosperity in the years ahead?

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Did You Know That...?

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