Accessory Dwelling Units in Portland, Oregon: Evaluation and Interpretation of a Survey of ADU Owners

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Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)
Development Trends

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More details: http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/wasteprevention/greenbuilding.htm
Overview

1. What’s an accessory dwelling unit (ADU)?
2. Why does Oregon DEQ like them?
3. Development trends
4. Occupancy stats
5. ADU potential
What’s an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)?

An accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is a second dwelling unit on a single family residential lot. They’re also called granny flats, mother-in-law suites, in-law suites, etc.
Why does Oregon DEQ like them?

**LIFECYCLE GHG EMISSIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Home</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>CO2e Emissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extra Small Home</td>
<td>1149 Sq Ft</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Home</td>
<td>1633 Sq Ft</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard Home</td>
<td>2262 Sq Ft</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Home</td>
<td>3424 Sq Ft</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*DATA SOURCE: OREGON DEQ*  
*IMAGE: LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE*
Building Small IS a green building strategy
House size has increased

1950

2005

AVERAGE SIZE OF NEW SINGLE-FAMILY HOME AND AVERAGE PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD IN 1950 AND 2005

US CENSUS AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS

Source: City of Milwaukie and URBSWORKS
Share of Households by Size, 2010

State of Oregon

- **1 person**: 27%
- **2 persons**: 36%
- **3+ persons**: 37%
Why focus on ADUs?

- Mismatch between household size and house size (consumption patterns)
- Single family construction has largest sqft/person ratios
  - 64% of Oregon population in single family detached
  - Good way to introducing smaller SF housing to market
- Multifamily already small
- Most ADUs are urban infill that utilize existing infrastructure
- Nice package that had potential environmental, social, and economic benefits
- Wanted to leverage other momentum in ADU industry
ADU permits in Portland, OR

City of Portland ADU Permit Applications

Source: City of Portland, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Where are ADUs being built?
Where are ADUs being built?

2009
Where are ADUs being built?
Where are ADUs being built?
Where are ADUs being built?
Where are ADUs being built?
## Table 2: Final Response Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Target Completes</th>
<th>Total Completes</th>
<th>Valid Sample</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashland</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>830</td>
<td></td>
<td>44.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Are ADUs providing housing?

Uses of ADUs in Portland, Oregon USA in 2013 (percent)

- Long-term residence: 79.5%
- Short-term housing: 4.5%
- Work or living space: 11.4%
- No current use: 0.8%
- Other: 3.8%
- Comparable: % of all Portland dwellings actually used as housing

Source: Martin J. Brown, Get the data

Created with Datawrapper
Household Size

Average ADU household size = 1.45 people
ADU owner status?

- Owner occupied: 70%
- Non-owner occupied: 30%
Who lives in ADUs?

ADU Occupant Gender

- Female: 57%
- Male: 43%
Who lives in ADUs?

**Occupant Age Profile**

- 18-24 years: 24%
- 25-34 years: 35%
- 35-55 years: 18%
- Over 55 years: 15%
- Don't know: 7%
- Other: 3%
Who lives in ADUs?

![Bar chart showing the age distribution of ADU tenants compared to all Portland tenants. The chart indicates that a higher percentage of ADU tenants live in the 25-34 age class compared to all Portland tenants, with peak values in the 25-34 and 35-54 age classes.]
Who owns Portland ADUs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner age class</th>
<th>Percent of owners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADU owners

All homeowners
How are ADUs financed?
Do ADUs have low environmental impact?

Living area per person in various housing forms (Portland, Oregon 2013)

Living area in square feet. See Exhibit F2 in the source below for full details.

- Newer rented SFRs: 800 sq ft
- All SFRs: 700 sq ft
- “Primary” SFRs: 574 sq ft
- All ADUs: 470 sq ft
- Detached ADUS: 450 sq ft
- All rented SFRs: 404 sq ft

Source: Martin J. Brown, [Get the data](http://www.deq.state.or.us)

Created with [Datawrapper](https://datawrapper.eu)
Do ADUs cause parking problems?

Average vehicles per household type

Estimated from American Housing Survey and two studies about Portland. See "Source" link below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Type</th>
<th>Average Vehicles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All US households</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Portland households</td>
<td>1.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newly constructed Portland rentals</td>
<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Portland rentals</td>
<td>1.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland ADUs</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland TOD units</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Created with Datawrapper

Source: Martin J. Brown, Get the data

Each ADU contributes 0.46 street parked cars
Do ADUs support the community economically?

Average property tax increase of $1134 per property
Cost of ADU construction

Detached ADU
- Average cost $100,000

Attached ADU
- Average cost $50,000
Rental rates

- ADU avg $756/month (with $0 rents)

- Comparable multi-family rent avg 778 sqft/month
Do ADUs provide affordable housing?

Occupant
1. 13% of ADU occupants are charged $0 in rent
2. 5% of ADU occupants are charged <$500/month

Owner
3. 48% of ADU owners are between 55 and 74 years old. The ADU will make their housing more affordable into retirement.

Developer
4. Average cost of new ADU is $78,000. How does this compare to the cost of a new affordable housing unit?
Future ADU trend?
Separating ownership to create affordable starter homes?

Sabin Green

Woodstock Gardens
Includes:
- Case studies
- Videos
- Tour info
- Zoning code
- Appraisal guide
- Financing guide
- Research
ADU finance guide

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) FINANCE GUIDE

OPTIONS

1. **Finance with an existing or new main house**
   One mortgage for the entire property. Loans based on "as completed" value of the main home + future ADU, which provides the funds needed to construct the ADU.

2. **Finance based on existing home equity**
   Home equity loans and home equity lines of credit provide funding to build an ADU if you have sufficient "equity" built up in your main home. These are considered "second mortgages".

3. **Finance independently of main home**
   Besides personal loans, credit cards, and family loans there aren't any currently established "second mortgage" options for people who don't have sufficient equity (option 2) or don't want to refinance (option 1).

FEATURED IN THIS GUIDE! *Turn over for more information*
A Practitioner’s Guide to Appraising ADUs

An accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is a small self-contained dwelling, typically with its own entrance, cooking, and bathing facilities, that shares the site of a larger, single unit dwelling. ADUs may be attached, as in the case of a basement apartment, or detached, as in the case of a backyard cottage. An ADU is not a separate property; it has the same owner as the primary dwelling.

Because ADUs are an emerging type of residential development with unique legal uses, real estate appraisers frequently misunderstand how to account for them. We recommend you follow these four steps when appraising any property with an ADU.

1. Ensure ADU is legal and confirm that main house + ADU can be rented.

In the City of Portland and most parts of the Portland metropolitan region, both the main home on the property and a legally created ADU on the lot can be simultaneously rented. In other words, the property owner does not need to live in either unit. These legal, income-producing uses of the property with an ADU may affect your opinion of the Highest and Best Use (HBU) of the property. If the ADU is not in the City of Portland, then it is important to check with the local municipality to find out if both units can be rented. Typically, “owner occupancy” requirements will be listed in the ADU section of a city’s zoning code.

2. Conduct the HBU.

Consider these questions: What are market rents for the main home and the ADU? What are the Gross Rent Multipliers (GRMs) for the area and property type? Does a consideration of rents for the main home and the ADU affect the “test of maximally productive” for the property — does it lead to a higher opinion of value through the income approach?

3. Decide on which approaches to value will be used.

Based on the HBU, will the sales comparison, cost, and income approaches be developed? The number of approaches being developed will inform the reporting format.

4. Report the findings.

If all three approaches to value are developed, then Fannie Mae form 203g (the 2-4 unit form) may be the best way to report your appraisal results because it provides a simpler income format than Fannie Mae form 2004. If using form 2004, remember to check the ‘One with Accessory Unit’ box in the Improvements section, and add your rent schedules to the report.
Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Potential

2010

2020

2040

Accessory Dwelling Units
Infographic by Ryan Sullivan / www.pasteinplace.com
Thank You!

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- http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/wasteprevention/greenbuilding.htm