

Business Oregon Executive Summary of EB-5 Program

Program Description

The Immigrant Investor (EB-5) program, administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), provides immigrant visas for non-citizens and their families who invest in new commercial enterprises or troubled businesses in the U.S. The EB-5 program was created by Congress in 1990 to stimulate the U.S. economy through job creation and foreign investment.

Targeted Employment Areas

Business Oregon is the designated authority within the state of Oregon to certify the geographic areas or political subdivisions that qualify as Targeted Employment Areas (TEAs) for EB-5. EB-5 projects located in TEAs have a lower capital investment requirement for each investor of \$500,000, compared to the \$1,000,000 requirement for projects located outside TEAs.

Methodology

Business Oregon's documents on TEA definitions and methodology outline the approach used to determine TEAs in Oregon. All rural counties, excluding cities of 20,000 or more, automatically qualify as TEAs. Within metropolitan counties and cities of 20,000 or more, areas with unemployment rates of at least 150 percent of the U.S. unemployment rate are certified as high unemployment areas by Business Oregon, and also designated as TEAs.

Once a year, Business Oregon publishes a list of TEAs in Oregon based on the last calendar year's average annual unemployment rates. For counties and larger cities, data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics is used to determine average annual unemployment rates from the previous year. For smaller areas, including Census Designated Places (CDPs), Census tracts, and block groups, Business Oregon uses the Census-share method to estimate unemployment rates for the previous year.

EB-5 applicants have the option of requesting Business Oregon to certify a high unemployment area for a combination of the aforementioned geographic and political subdivisions within a Metropolitan Statistical Area or city of 20,000 or more, so long as the area is contiguous and has an unemployment rate of at least 150 percent of the U.S. unemployment rate.

Results

Business Oregon publishes the list of Oregon TEAs annually on its [Web site](#). Documents detailing definitions and methodology are also found on the Web site, in addition to some helpful links related to EB-5.