



Rockies Baseline

Vital Signs for a Region in Transition

By Chris Jackson

THE 2008 COLORADO COLLEGE STATE OF THE ROCKIES REPORT CARD

Every year, the Colorado College *State of the Rockies Report Card* presents the “Rockies Baseline,” showing key economic and demographic “vital signs.” These statistics are compared at the state, regional, and national level, thus distilling similarities and uniquenesses between the Rockies and the U.S. as a whole. Further, many statistics are provided for both 2006 and 2000, showing changes and potential trends.

This year’s Rockies Baseline tells a familiar story. The West is growing: population increased 15 percent since 2000, compared to 6 percent nationally. The West is diverse: 28 percent of the population speak a language other than English; as a percent of total population, there are four times as many Native Americans in the Rockies than the U.S.; and 22 percent of the population identifies itself as either Hispanic or Latino. The West is thriving

economically: between 2000 and 2006, jobs in all occupations grew 18 percent — twice the national pace. These statistics, and the others shown in the Rockies Baseline, depict a region that is an exciting place to be, and with its own unique challenges.

The trends and statistics depicted in the Rockies Baseline not only serve as a snapshot, but also a glimpse at the curves in the road ahead for this rapidly changing region.

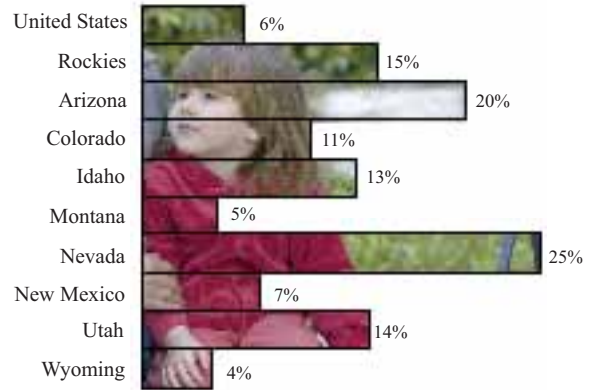
All data, unless otherwise noted, comes from the 2000 Census and the 2006 American Community Survey, both of which were conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The data are available at www.census.gov/.

About the author: Chris Jackson (Colorado College, '06) is co-editor of the State of the Rockies Report Card, and program coordinator for the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project.

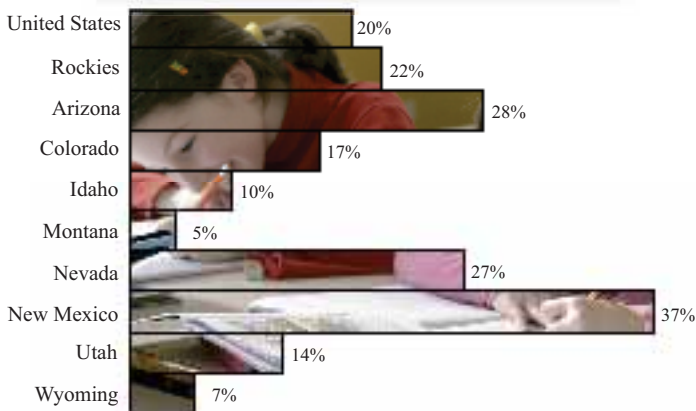
Population & Age, 2006

	Population	Population growth since 2000	Percentage of Population age 0-19	Percentage of Population age 65+	Median Age
United States	299,398,485	6%	28%	12%	36
Rockies	20,845,987	15%	29%	11%	34
-Arizona	6,166,318	20%	29%	13%	35
-Colorado	4,753,377	11%	27%	10%	35
-Idaho	1,466,465	13%	30%	12%	34
-Montana	944,632	5%	26%	14%	40
-Nevada	2,495,529	25%	28%	11%	36
-New Mexico	1,954,599	7%	29%	12%	35
-Utah	2,550,063	14%	34%	9%	28
-Wyoming	515,004	4%	26%	12%	38

Population Growth, 2000 to 2006



Percentage of Population Who Speak a Language Other than English at Home, 2006



Language, 2000 and 2006

<i>Percentage of population age 5 and Older Who Speak the Following Language at Home</i>	English Only, 2006	Language other than English, 2006	Language other than English than English 2000
United States	80%	20%	18%
Rockies	78%	22%	20%
-Arizona	72%	28%	26%
-Colorado	83%	17%	15%
-Idaho	90%	10%	9%
-Montana	95%	5%	5%
-Nevada	73%	27%	23%
-New Mexico	63%	37%	37%
-Utah	86%	14%	13%
-Wyoming	93%	7%	6%

Poverty, 2000 and 2006

<i>Percentage of the Following Groups Whose Income in the Past 12 Months is Below the Poverty Level</i>	All Families, 2006	All Families, 2000	All People, 2006	All People, 2000
United States	10%	9%	13%	12%
Rockies	9%	9%	13%	12%
-Arizona	10%	10%	14%	14%
-Colorado	8%	6%	12%	9%
-Idaho	9%	8%	13%	11%
-Montana	9%	10%	14%	14%
-Nevada	8%	8%	10%	10%
-New Mexico	14%	15%	19%	18%
-Utah	8%	6%	11%	9%
-Wyoming	6%	8%	9%	11%

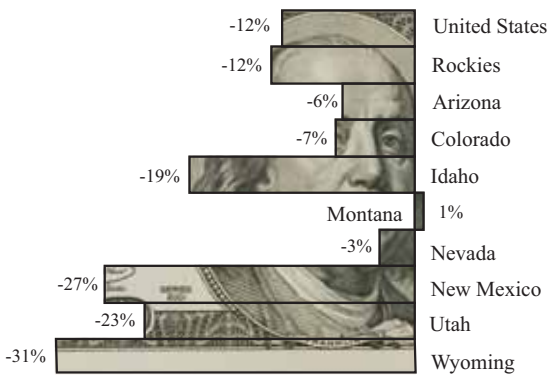
Families in Poverty, 2006 As a Percentage of All Families



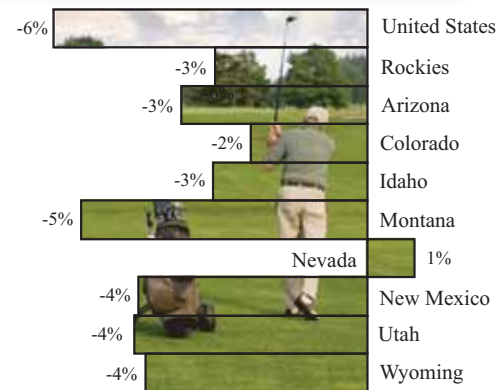
Housing Units, 2006

	Occupied Housing Units	Owner-occupied Units as a Percentage of Occupied Housing Units	Renter-occupied Units as a Percentage of Occupied Housing Units	Average Number of Residents in Owner-occupied Units	Average Number of Residents in Renter-occupied Units
United States	111,617,402	67%	33%	3	2
Rockies	7,676,916	69%	31%	3	3
-Arizona	2,224,992	68%	32%	3	3
-Colorado	1,846,988	69%	31%	3	2
-Idaho	548,555	71%	29%	3	2
-Montana	372,190	70%	30%	3	2
-Nevada	936,828	62%	38%	3	3
-New Mexico	726,033	70%	30%	3	2
-Utah	814,028	72%	28%	3	3
-Wyoming	207,302	70%	30%	3	2

Change in
Mean Cash Public Assistance Income, 2000 to 2006



Change in
Mean Retirement Income, 2000 to 2006



Household Income by Type, 2006

	Mean Earnings, 2006	Mean Earnings, Change Since 2000	Mean Social Security Income, 2006	Mean Social Security Income, Change Since 2000	Mean Retirement Income, 2006	Mean Retirement Income, Change Since 2000	Mean Supplemental Security Income, 2006	Mean Supplemental Security Income, Change Since 2000	Mean Cash Public Assistance Income, 2006	Mean Cash Public Assistance Income, Change Since 2000
United States	\$66,733	1%	\$13,877	5%	\$19,141	-6%	\$7,388	-0%	\$3,139	-12%
Rockies	\$62,921	2%	\$14,024	5%	\$20,612	-3%	\$7,514	1%	\$2,640	-12%
-Arizona	\$64,600	5%	\$14,582	4%	\$20,612	-3%	\$7,766	2%	\$2,848	-6%
-Colorado	\$68,383	-1%	\$13,593	6%	\$22,138	-2%	\$7,238	-2%	\$2,637	-7%
-Idaho	\$53,540	-1%	\$14,027	6%	\$17,939	-3%	\$7,829	10%	\$1,718	-19%
-Montana	\$49,849	6%	\$13,658	5%	\$16,761	-5%	\$6,403	-11%	\$2,872	1%
-Nevada	\$67,897	5%	\$14,025	5%	\$22,019	1%	\$8,411	5%	\$3,188	-3%
-New Mexico	\$52,963	3%	\$12,759	3%	\$20,767	-4%	\$6,623	-3%	\$2,456	-27%
-Utah	\$62,001	-4%	\$14,668	6%	\$19,792	-4%	\$8,043	4%	\$2,580	-23%
-Wyoming	\$57,955	9%	\$13,854	4%	\$18,251	-4%	\$7,753	1%	\$1,936	-31%

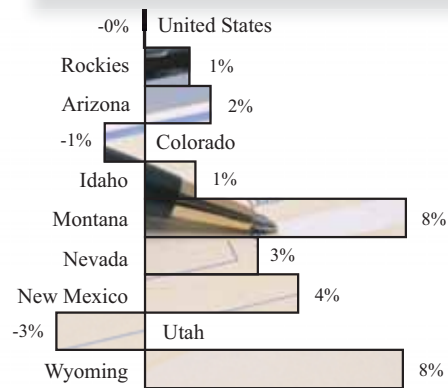
Income, 2006

	Median Household Income, 2006	Median Household Income, Change Since 2000	Mean Household Income, 2006	Median Family Income, 2006	Median Family Income, Change since 2000	Mean Family Income, 2006	Per Capita Income, 2006	Per Capita Income, Change since 2000
United States	\$48,451	-1%	\$65,527	\$58,526	-0%	\$76,130	\$25,267	0%
Rockies	\$48,312	-1%	\$63,464	\$57,302	1%	\$72,744	\$24,183	1%
-Arizona	\$47,265	-0%	\$64,021	\$55,709	2%	\$72,974	\$24,110	2%
-Colorado	\$52,015	-6%	\$69,334	\$64,614	-1%	\$81,751	\$27,750	-1%
-Idaho	\$42,865	-2%	\$54,659	\$51,640	1%	\$62,624	\$21,000	1%
-Montana	\$40,627	5%	\$51,213	\$51,006	8%	\$61,110	\$21,067	5%
-Nevada	\$52,998	2%	\$68,277	\$61,466	3%	\$76,213	\$26,340	2%
-New Mexico	\$40,629	2%	\$54,273	\$48,199	4%	\$62,581	\$20,913	4%
-Utah	\$51,309	-4%	\$63,807	\$58,141	-3%	\$70,802	\$21,016	-1%
-Wyoming	\$47,423	7%	\$59,583	\$57,505	8%	\$68,918	\$24,544	10%

Median Family Income, 2006



Change in Median Family Income, 2000 to 2006



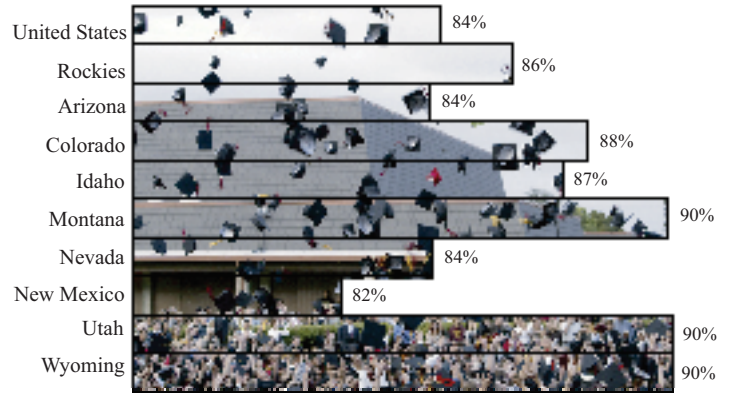
Families, 2006

	Family Households as a Percentage of all Households	Non-family Households as a Percentage of all Households	Average Family Size in Number of People	Average Family Size, Change since 2000
United States	67%	33%	3.2	2%
Rockies	67%	33%	3.2	2%
-Arizona	66%	34%	3.3	5%
-Colorado	65%	35%	3.1	1%
-Idaho	70%	30%	3.1	-2%
-Montana	65%	35%	3.1	2%
-Nevada	65%	35%	3.2	2%
-New Mexico	66%	34%	3.3	3%
-Utah	76%	24%	3.6	-0%
-Wyoming	66%	34%	2.9	-2%

2006 Foreign Born Population, Citizenship Status, and Year of Entry

	Total population, 2006	Percent of population that is Foreign born	Percent of foreign born that are naturalized U.S. citizens	Percent of foreign born that are not U.S. citizens	Percent of foreign born that entered 2000 or later	Percent of foreign born that entered before 2000
United States	299,398,485	13%	42%	58%	25%	75%
Rockies	20,845,987	12%	31%	69%	30%	70%
-Arizona	6,166,318	15%	29%	71%	31%	69%
-Colorado	4,753,377	10%	31%	69%	30%	70%
-Idaho	1,466,465	6%	33%	67%	27%	73%
-Montana	944,632	2%	51%	49%	27%	73%
-Nevada	2,495,529	19%	36%	64%	28%	72%
-New Mexico	1,954,599	10%	29%	71%	29%	71%
-Utah	2,550,063	8%	29%	71%	31%	69%
-Wyoming	515,004	3%	38%	62%	34%	66%

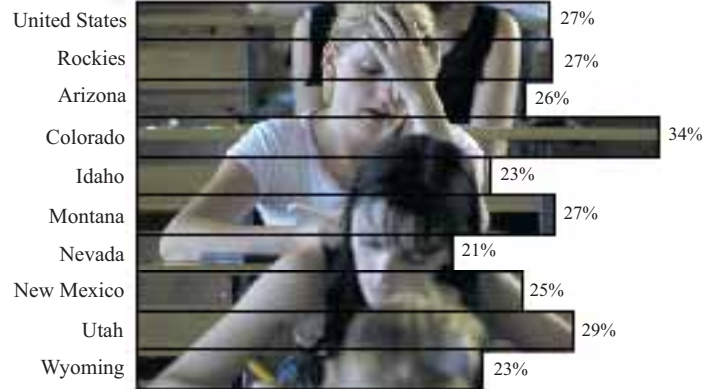
Percentage of Population 25 and Older Who at Least Graduated High School, 2006



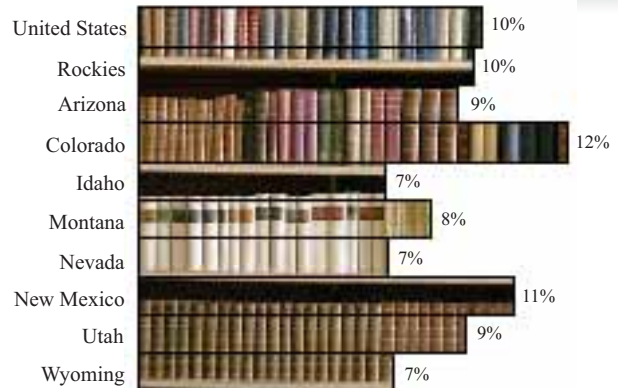
Educational Attainment, 2000 and 2006

Percentage of Population 25 and Older Who at least	Earned High School, Diploma (or Equivalency) 2006	Earned High School Diploma (or Equivalency) 2000	Bachelor's Degree, 2006	Bachelor's Degree, 2000	Graduate or Professional Degree, 2006	Graduate or Professional Degree, 2000
United States	84%	80%	27%	24%	10%	9%
Rockies	86%	84%	27%	25%	10%	9%
-Arizona	84%	81%	26%	24%	9%	8%
-Colorado	88%	87%	34%	33%	12%	11%
-Idaho	87%	85%	23%	22%	7%	7%
-Montana	90%	87%	27%	24%	8%	7%
-Nevada	84%	81%	21%	18%	7%	6%
-New Mexico	82%	79%	25%	24%	11%	10%
-Utah	90%	88%	29%	26%	9%	8%
-Wyoming	90%	88%	23%	22%	7%	7%

Percentage of Population 25 and Older Who Earned Bachelor's Degree, 2005



Percentage of Population 25 and Older with at Least a Graduate or Professional Degree, 2006



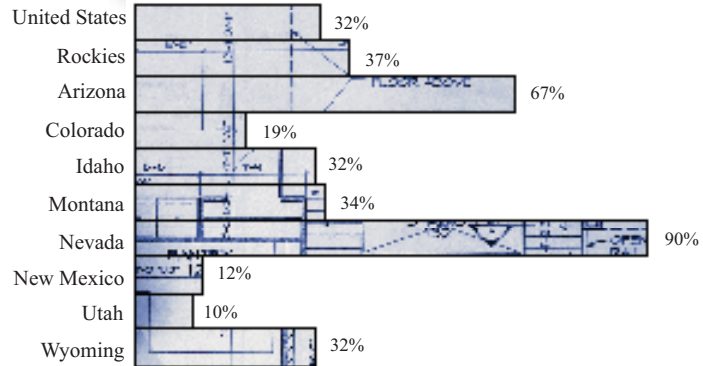
Home Values & Costs, 2006

	Median Home Value, 2006	Median Home Value, Change since 2000	Median Monthly Costs for Housing Units Without Mortgage	Median Monthly Costs for Housing Units With Mortgage	Median Rent, 2006	Median Rent, Change since 2000
United States	\$185,200	32%	\$399	\$1,402	\$763	8%
Rockies	\$216,300	37%	\$334	\$1,362	\$744	4%
-Arizona	\$236,500	67%	\$321	\$1,359	\$762	5%
-Colorado	\$232,900	19%	\$376	\$1,534	\$780	-1%
-Idaho	\$163,900	32%	\$309	\$1,099	\$623	3%
-Montana	\$155,500	34%	\$344	\$1,108	\$571	9%
-Nevada	\$315,200	90%	\$401	\$1,617	\$917	12%
-New Mexico	\$141,200	12%	\$283	\$1,076	\$617	5%
-Utah	\$188,500	10%	\$336	\$1,294	\$697	-0%
-Wyoming	\$148,900	32%	\$326	\$1,059	\$601	18%

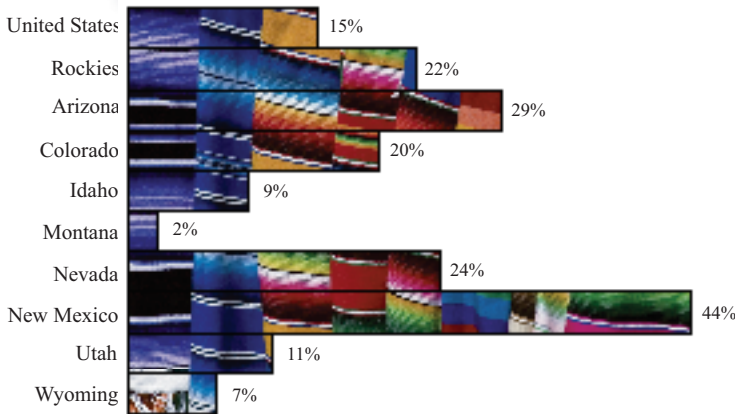
Median Home Value, 2006



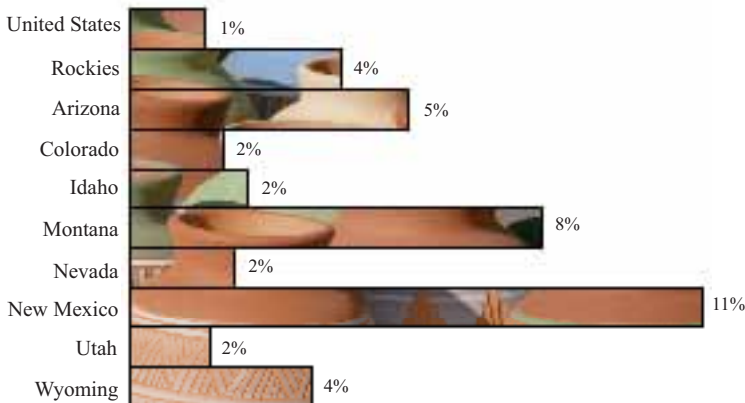
Change in Median Home Value, 2000 to 2006



Percentage of Population Who Identify as Hispanic or Latino, 2006



Percentage of Population Who Identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, 2006



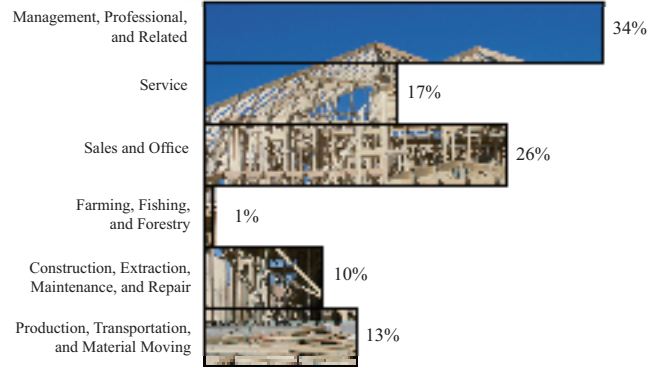
Race & Ethnicity, 2006

Percentage of Population Who Identifies as the Following	American Indian and Alaska Native	Black or African American	White	Hispanic or Latino (any race)
United States	1%	13%	76%	15%
Rockies	4%	4%	83%	22%
-Arizona	5%	4%	79%	29%
-Colorado	2%	5%	85%	20%
-Idaho	2%	1%	95%	9%
-Montana	8%	1%	92%	2%
-Nevada	2%	8%	76%	24%
-New Mexico	11%	3%	71%	44%
-Utah	2%	1%	91%	11%
-Wyoming	4%	1%	94%	7%

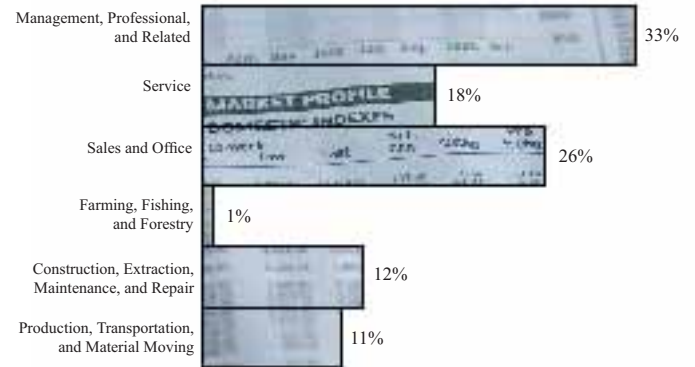
Employment by Occupation, 2006

Percentage of Civilian Population 16 and Older in the Following Occupations	Management Professional and Related	Service	Sales and Office	Farming, Fishing and Forestry	Construction, Extraction, Maintenance, and Repair	Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	Employed Civilian Population 16 and Older
United States	34%	17%	26%	1%	10%	13%	141,501,434
Rockies	33%	18%	26%	1%	12%	11%	9,972,726
-Arizona	33%	17%	27%	1%	12%	10%	2,792,806
-Colorado	37%	16%	26%	1%	11%	10%	2,432,651
-Idaho	31%	16%	25%	3%	13%	12%	690,638
-Montana	33%	18%	23%	2%	13%	10%	467,475
-Nevada	27%	24%	25%	0%	14%	10%	1,224,523
-New Mexico	34%	18%	25%	1%	12%	10%	875,545
-Utah	32%	15%	28%	0%	11%	13%	1,216,420
-Wyoming	30%	17%	22%	1%	15%	14%	272,668

The United States Employment by Occupation, 2006



The Rockies Region Employment by Occupation, 2006



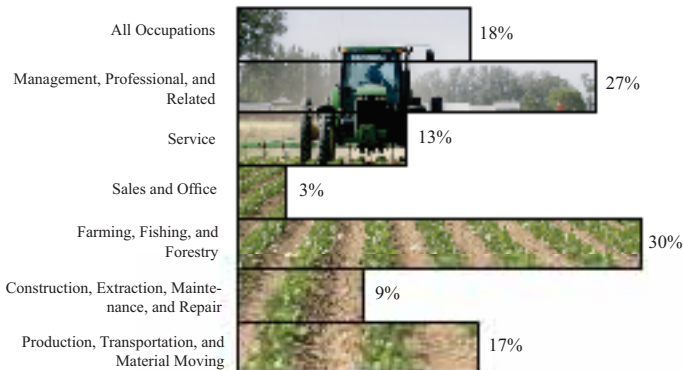
The United States Employment Growth by Occupation, 2000 to 2006



Employment Growth by Occupation, 2000 and 2006

	Management, Professional and Related	Service	Sales	Farming	Construction	Production	All Occupations
United States	10%	21%	6%	6%	15%	-3%	9%
Rockies	17%	27%	13%	3%	30%	9%	18%
-Arizona	25%	33%	20%	2%	40%	14%	25%
-Colorado	9%	28%	4%	2%	15%	2%	10%
-Idaho	15%	16%	13%	20%	39%	1%	15%
-Montana	11%	14%	1%	-6%	36%	-1%	10%
-Nevada	35%	30%	21%	27%	56%	23%	31%
-New Mexico	15%	24%	10%	4%	23%	5%	15%
-Utah	16%	24%	15%	-19%	19%	12%	16%
-Wyoming	14%	15%	3%	-20%	17%	27%	13%

The Rockies Region Employment Growth by Occupation, 2000 to 2006



Employment by Industry, 2006

<i>Percentage of Civilian Population 16 and Older Employed in the Following Industries</i>	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	Information	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services	Other Services (except public administration)	Public Administration	Total Employed Civilian Population 16 and Older
United States	2%	8%	12%	3%	11%	5%	2%	7%	10%	21%	9%	5%	5%	141,501,434
Rockies	3%	10%	7%	3%	12%	5%	2%	7%	11%	18%	11%	5%	5%	9,972,726
-Arizona	1%	11%	8%	3%	12%	5%	2%	9%	11%	18%	10%	5%	5%	2,792,806
-Colorado	2%	10%	7%	3%	11%	5%	4%	8%	12%	18%	10%	5%	5%	2,432,651
-Idaho	6%	11%	11%	3%	12%	4%	2%	6%	9%	19%	8%	4%	5%	690,638
-Montana	8%	10%	5%	3%	12%	5%	2%	5%	7%	22%	10%	5%	6%	467,475
-Nevada	2%	12%	5%	3%	10%	5%	2%	7%	10%	13%	23%	4%	4%	1,224,523
-New Mexico	4%	10%	5%	2%	12%	5%	2%	5%	11%	22%	10%	5%	7%	875,545
-Utah	2%	9%	11%	3%	12%	5%	3%	8%	11%	19%	8%	4%	5%	1,216,420
-Wyoming	11%	8%	5%	3%	12%	7%	2%	4%	6%	22%	10%	5%	6%	272,668

Employment Growth by Industry, 2000 to 2006

<i>Percentage of Civilian Population 16 and Older Employed in the Following Industries</i>	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	Information	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services	Other Services (except public administration)	Public Administration	All Industries
United States	7%	27%	-11%	4%	7%	6%	-12%	15%	19%	14%	19%	8%	7%	9%
Rockies	12%	43%	-3%	8%	13%	16%	-11%	28%	30%	19%	19%	17%	14%	18%
-Arizona	9%	62%	-4%	15%	23%	27%	-11%	38%	35%	24%	25%	26%	19%	25%
-Colorado	10%	22%	-12%	-1%	7%	5%	-18%	19%	17%	15%	19%	17%	13%	10%
-Idaho	12%	52%	-3%	-3%	10%	11%	2%	41%	31%	16%	10%	1%	7%	15%
-Montana	7%	49%	-9%	10%	-0%	-2%	-2%	6%	21%	10%	9%	7%	16%	10%
-Nevada	26%	72%	23%	38%	20%	20%	5%	41%	53%	37%	16%	26%	25%	31%
-New Mexico	6%	38%	-6%	-0%	9%	11%	-1%	12%	38%	17%	22%	8%	-1%	15%
-Utah	18%	21%	5%	3%	11%	24%	-11%	29%	32%	17%	20%	17%	17%	16%
-Wyoming	21%	6%	20%	25%	11%	14%	-15%	-2%	19%	14%	23%	6%	6%	13%