



# Rockies Baseline

## *Vital Signs for a Region in Transition*

By Elizabeth Kolbe

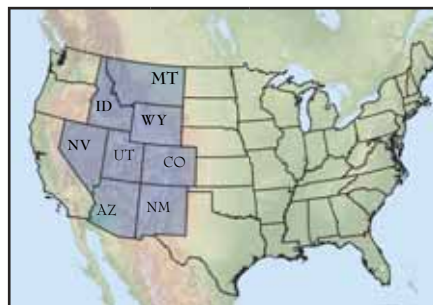
### THE 2010 COLORADO COLLEGE STATE OF THE ROCKIES REPORT CARD

Each year, the Colorado College *State of the Rockies Report Card* updates the Rockies Baseline. This brief, data-rich section highlights the key statistics of the Rockies' states, the region, and the nation. Like a yearly check-up on a growing body, the baseline inventories the vital signs for a growing and changing region.

The Rockies Baseline utilizes the most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (2008) and the Decennial Census (2000).

Most of the trends and statistics reported in the 2010 Report Card mimic those of previous years. The categories that stand out not only highlight the unique qualities of the Rockies region, but show the effects of our continuing growth.

Looking at the region as a whole, the population is young and growing 18 percent faster than the national average. This accelerated growth is shown in six of the eight Rockies states. A higher percentage of Rockies students graduate high school, and



an equal proportion continue on to college. Rockies median home values exceed the national average, as does median household income. Most impressively, employment has grown 24 percent in the Rockies, compared to 13 percent nationwide.

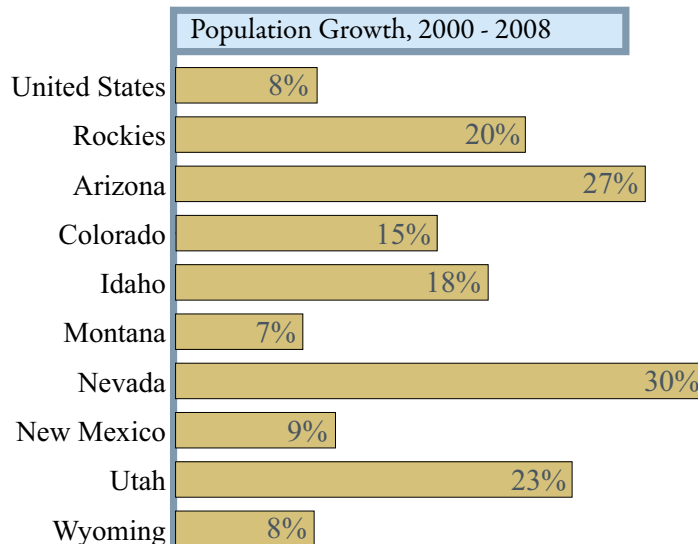
These promising statistics are tempered, however, by related areas needing improvement. Led by Nevada, whose median rent is 38 percent higher than the rest of the region, the Rockies median rent is above the national average. Also, though more females graduate from high school, the Rockies shows a wider margin between males and females earning graduate and professional degrees than the rest of the country. This trend is magnified in Utah, where the gap between males and females earning college degrees is six percent.

As the American Community Survey catches up with the economic recession, the Rockies Project will keep a close on the pulse of the region.

*About the authors: Elizabeth Kolbe (Colorado College, '08) is co-editor of the State of the Rockies Report Card, and program coordinator for the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project.*

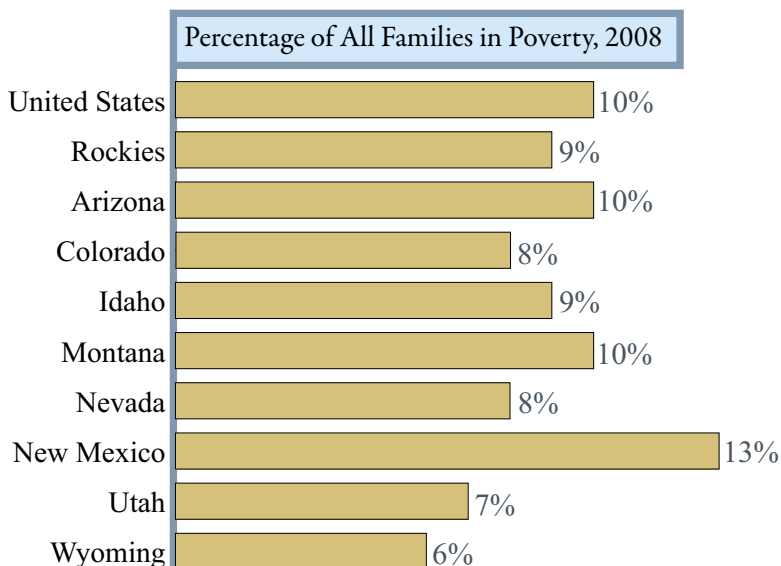
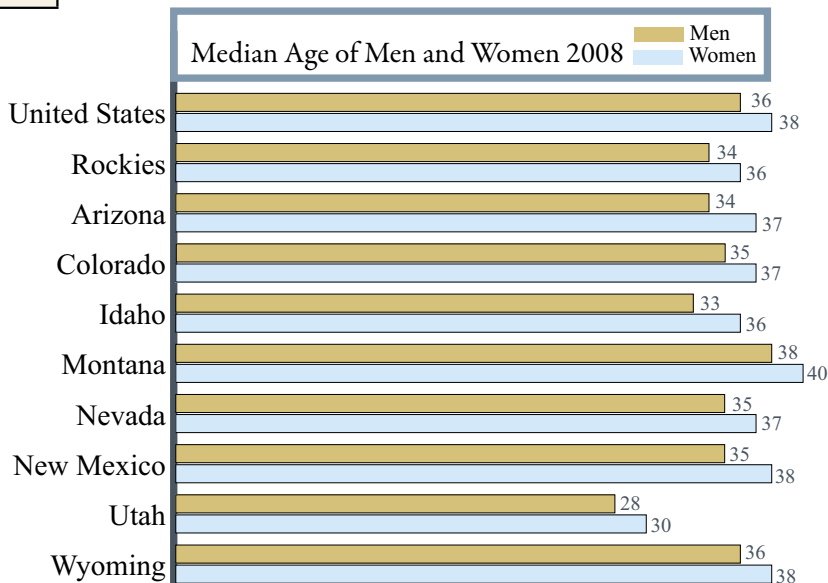
### Population and Age, 2008

	Total Population, 2008	Percentage of Population Age 0 - 17	Percentage of Population Age 65+	Median Age
United States	304,059,728	24%	13%	37
Rockies	21,784,507	26%	12%	35
Arizona	6,500,180	26%	13%	35
Colorado	4,939,456	24%	10%	36
Idaho	1,523,816	27%	12%	34
Montana	967,440	23%	14%	39
Nevada	2,600,167	26%	11%	36
New Mexico	1,984,356	25%	13%	36
Utah	2,736,424	31%	9%	29
Wyoming	532,668	24%	12%	37



### People in Poverty, 2000 and 2008

Percentage of the Following Groups Whose Income in the Past 12 Months is Below the Poverty Level	2008			2000
	All People	Male Share of People in Poverty	Female Share of People in Poverty	All People
United States	13%	44%	56%	12%
Rockies	13%	45%	55%	12%
Arizona	15%	45%	55%	14%
Colorado	11%	45%	55%	9%
Idaho	13%	43%	57%	11%
Montana	15%	45%	55%	14%
Nevada	11%	46%	54%	10%
New Mexico	17%	44%	56%	18%
Utah	10%	44%	56%	9%
Wyoming	9%	44%	56%	11%

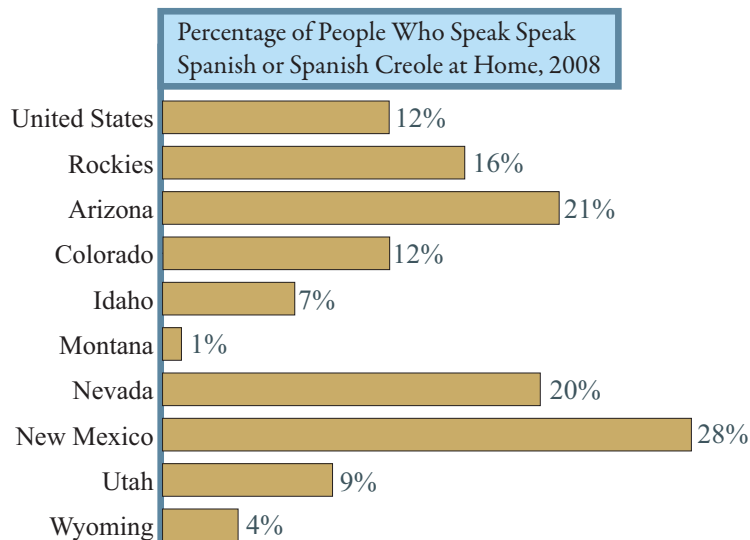


### Families in Poverty with Children Under 18, 2008

Percentage of the Following Groups Whose Income in the Past 12 Months is Below the Poverty Level	All Families	Married-Couple Families	Male Householder, No Wife Present	Female Householder, No Husband Present
United States	15%	6%	18%	36%
Rockies	14%	7%	16%	34%
Arizona	16%	8%	18%	36%
Colorado	12%	7%	16%	30%
Idaho	14%	7%	13%	41%
Montana	17%	8%	23%	42%
Nevada	12%	7%	10%	28%
New Mexico	19%	9%	21%	39%
Utah	9%	6%	11%	30%
Wyoming	10%	3%	11%	32%

## Language, 2000 and 2008

	English Only, 2008	Language other than English, 2008	Language other than English, 2000
United States	80%	20%	18%
Rockies	79%	21%	20%
Arizona	72%	28%	26%
Colorado	83%	17%	15%
Idaho	90%	10%	9%
Montana	95%	5%	5%
Nevada	72%	28%	23%
New Mexico	65%	35%	37%
Utah	86%	14%	15%
Wyoming	94%	6%	6%



## Race and Ethnicity, 2008

<i>Percentage of the Population Who Identify as the Following</i>	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	White
United States	1%	12%	15%	75%
Rockies	3%	3%	23%	83%
Arizona	4%	4%	30%	80%
Colorado	1%	4%	20%	85%
Idaho	1%	1%	10%	93%
Montana	6%	1%	3%	90%
Nevada	1%	7%	26%	77%
New Mexico	9%	2%	45%	73%
Utah	1%	1%	12%	91%
Wyoming	2%	1%	8%	92%

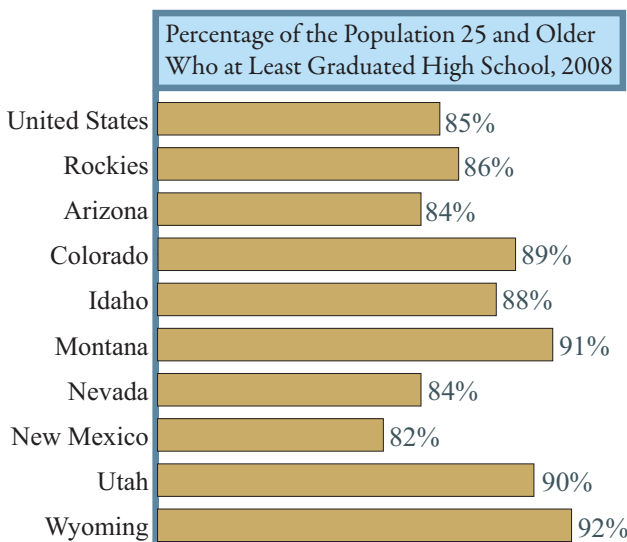
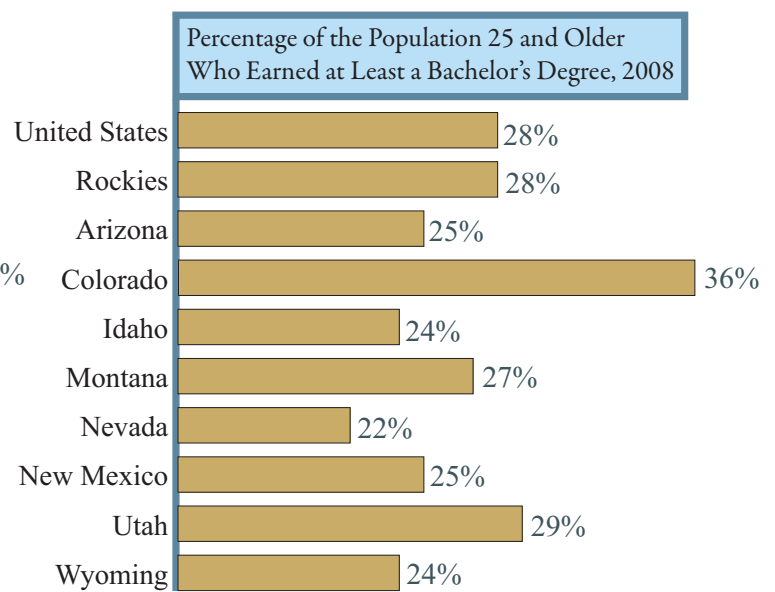
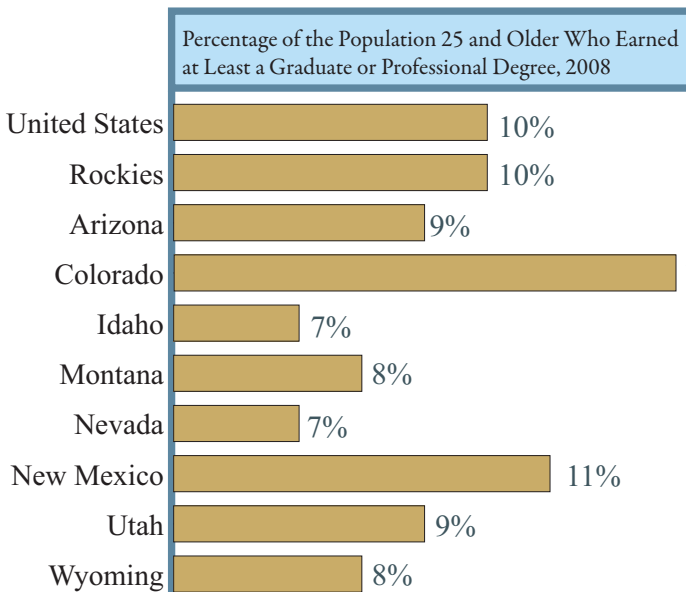
## Foreign Born Population, Citizenship Status, and Year of Entry, 2008

	Total Population Foreign Born	Percentage Foreign Born of Total U.S. Population	Percentage of Foreign Born that are Naturalized U.S. Citizens	Percentage of Foreign Born that are not U.S. Citizens	Percentage of Foreign Born that Entered Before 2000	Percentage of Foreign Born that Entered 2000 or Later
United States	37,960,935	12%	43%	57%	68%	32%
Rockies	2,463,025	11%	32%	68%	65%	35%
Arizona	932,518	14%	30%	70%	65%	35%
Colorado	499,179	10%	32%	68%	64%	36%
Idaho	89,489	6%	31%	69%	62%	38%
Montana	21,285	2%	53%	47%	63%	37%
Nevada	490,717	19%	37%	63%	67%	33%
New Mexico	191,025	10%	29%	71%	68%	32%
Utah	226,440	8%	32%	68%	62%	38%
Wyoming	12,372	2%	36%	64%	56%	44%

### Education Attainment by Sex, 2008

Percentage of the Following Groups Who at Least:	Graduated High School		Earned a Bachelor's Degree		Earned a Graduate or Professional Degree	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
United States	84%	86%	28%	27%	11%	10%
Rockies	86%	87%	28%	27%	11%	9%
Arizona	83%	84%	26%	24%	10%	8%
Colorado	88%	90%	36%	35%	13%	12%
Idaho	87%	89%	25%	23%	9%	6%
Montana	90%	92%	27%	28%	9%	8%
Nevada	83%	84%	23%	21%	7%	7%
New Mexico	82%	83%	25%	25%	11%	10%
Utah	90%	91%	32%	26%	12%	7%
Wyoming	91%	92%	23%	24%	9%	7%

## Education

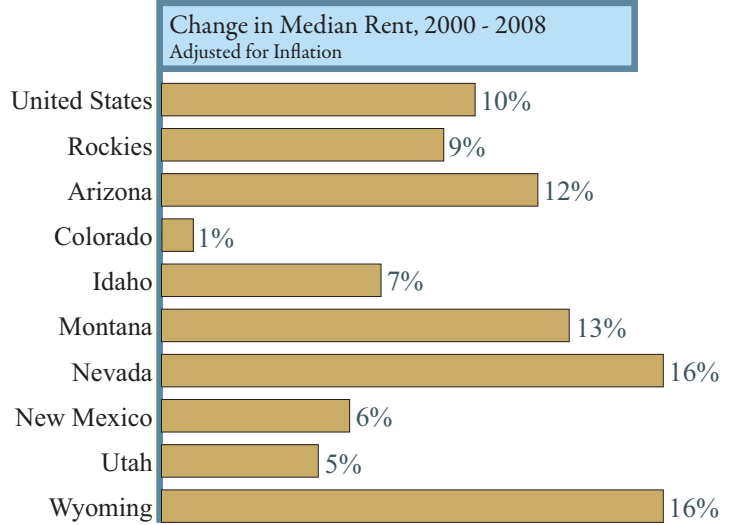
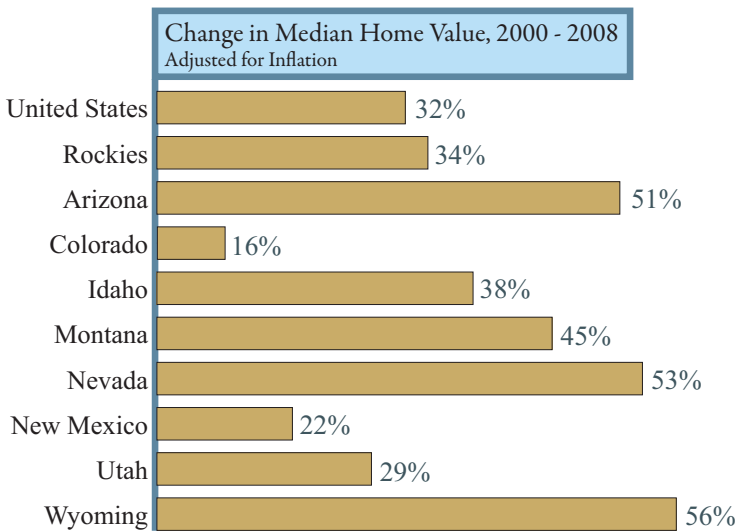


### Home Values and Costs, 2008

	Median Home Value for Owner-occupied Units	Median Monthly Costs for Housing Units with Mortgage	Median Monthly Costs for Housing Units without Mortgage	Median Rent
United States	\$197,600	\$1,514	\$424	\$824
Rockies	\$226,000	\$1,493	\$357	\$829
Arizona	\$229,200	\$1,527	\$357	\$866
Colorado	\$242,200	\$1,620	\$389	\$848
Idaho	\$183,700	\$1,198	\$320	\$690
Montana	\$180,300	\$1,239	\$362	\$631
Nevada	\$271,500	\$1,818	\$419	\$1,011
New Mexico	\$165,100	\$1,173	\$311	\$668
Utah	\$236,000	\$1,445	\$344	\$784
Wyoming	\$188,200	\$1,272	\$355	\$636

## Housing Units, 2008

	Total Occupied Housing Units	Owner-occupied Units as a Percentage of Occupied Housing Units	Renter-occupied Units as a Percentage of Occupied Housing Units	Percentage of Renter-occupied Units that are Nonfamily Households	Percentage Vacant of Total Housing Units
United States	113,101,329	67%	33%	49%	12%
Rockies	7,870,391	68%	32%	48%	14%
Arizona	2,273,842	68%	32%	47%	16%
Colorado	1,897,835	67%	33%	53%	12%
Idaho	566,004	71%	29%	44%	12%
Montana	375,598	69%	31%	56%	14%
Nevada	952,856	60%	40%	45%	15%
New Mexico	741,399	69%	31%	49%	15%
Utah	854,244	72%	28%	42%	10%
Wyoming	208,613	70%	30%	55%	15%



## Household Income by Type, 2008

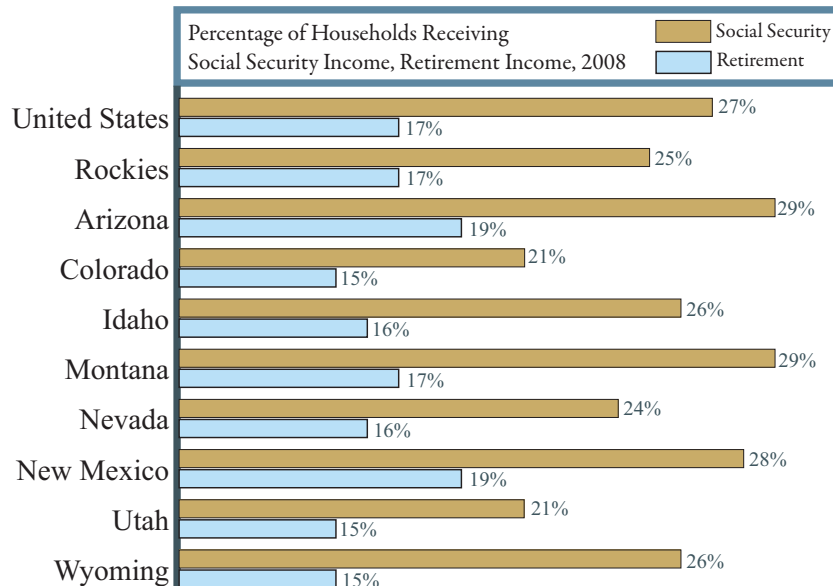
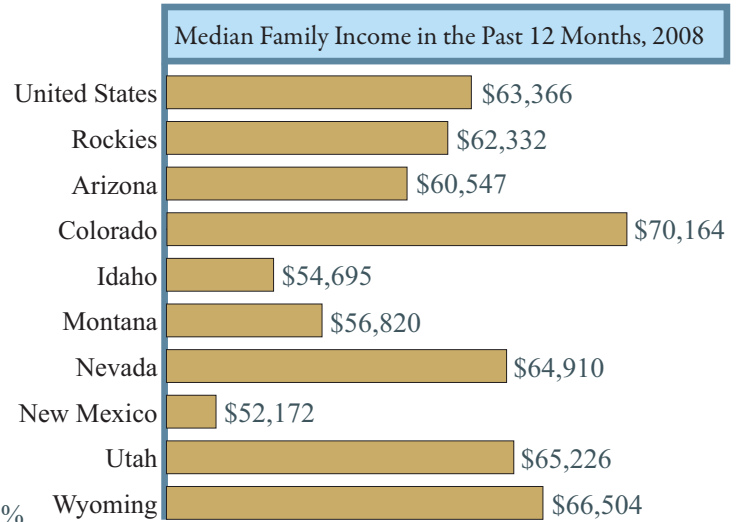
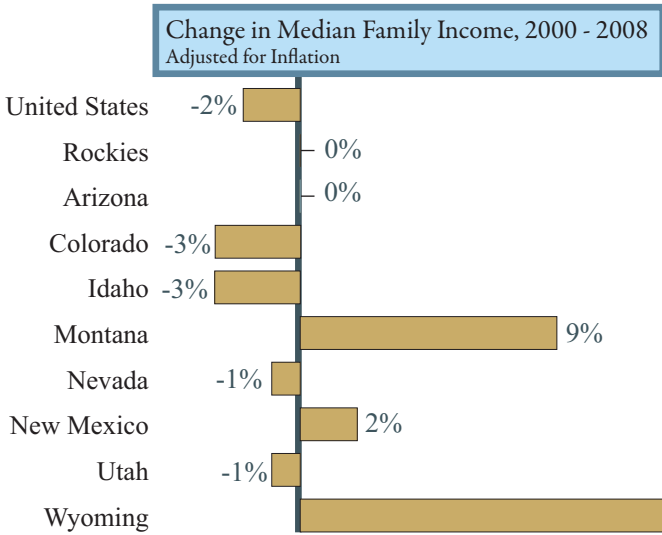
Adjusted for Inflation. Means found using the population receiving each income type.

	Mean Earnings	Mean Earnings, Change since 2000	Mean Social Security Income	Mean Social Security Income, Change since 2000	Mean Supplemental Security Income	Mean Supplemental Security Income, Change since 2000	Mean Public Assistance Income	Mean Public Assistance Income, Change since 2000	Mean Retirement Income	Mean Retirement Income, Change since 2000
United States	\$72,235	4%	\$15,010	6%	\$7,808	-1%	\$3,255	-14%	\$21,407	-1%
Rockies	\$67,941	4%	\$15,115	6%	\$7,946	0%	\$2,903	-10%	\$22,588	0%
Arizona	\$68,065	6%	\$15,598	4%	\$8,249	1%	\$2,887	-11%	\$22,185	-3%
Colorado	\$74,119	-1%	\$14,545	6%	\$7,939	1%	\$2,958	-2%	\$25,100	4%
Idaho	\$57,935	5%	\$15,053	6%	\$7,927	4%	\$2,106	-8%	\$20,813	5%
Montana	\$56,326	6%	\$15,008	8%	\$7,854	3%	\$3,167	4%	\$17,871	-6%
Nevada	\$70,503	6%	\$15,096	6%	\$7,861	-8%	\$3,558	1%	\$22,598	-3%
New Mexico	\$58,367	7%	\$14,060	6%	\$7,241	-1%	\$2,855	-20%	\$22,975	-1%
Utah	\$69,738	3%	\$15,911	8%	\$8,414	2%	\$2,656	-26%	\$22,077	0%
Wyoming	\$68,750	19%	\$15,239	7%	\$7,108	-14%	\$2,217	-26%	\$20,758	2%

# Income, 2008

Values for change calculation were taken from the 2000 Census and adjusted to 2008 dollars.

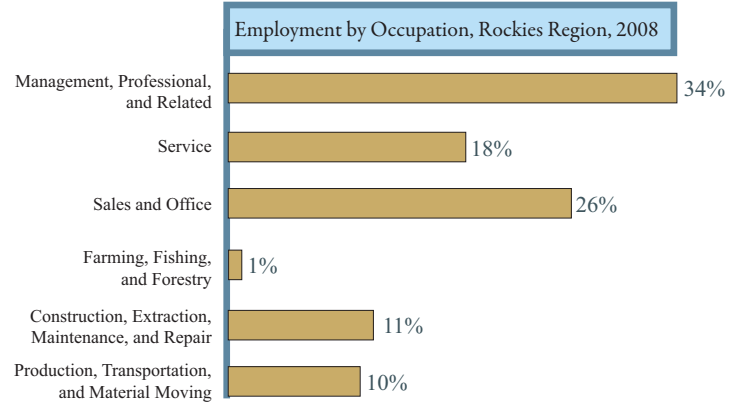
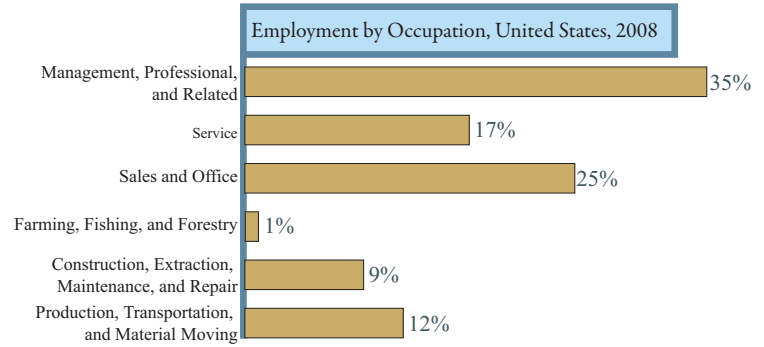
	Median Household Income	Change in Median Household Income since 2000	Mean Household Income	Mean Family Income	Per Capita Income	Change in Per Capita Income since 2000
United States	\$52,029	-4%	\$71,498	\$83,351	\$27,589	-1%
Rockies	\$52,123	-3%	\$69,070	\$79,725	\$26,128	-1%
Arizona	\$50,958	-3%	\$68,066	\$77,951	\$25,415	-3%
Colorado	\$56,993	-7%	\$76,462	\$90,616	\$30,471	-2%
Idaho	\$47,576	-2%	\$59,429	\$66,768	\$22,748	-1%
Montana	\$43,654	2%	\$57,966	\$70,741	\$23,799	7%
Nevada	\$56,361	-2%	\$72,233	\$81,931	\$27,421	-3%
New Mexico	\$43,508	-1%	\$59,357	\$68,857	\$23,098	4%
Utah	\$56,633	-4%	\$71,271	\$80,061	\$23,198	-1%
Wyoming	\$53,207	9%	\$69,976	\$82,770	\$28,489	15%



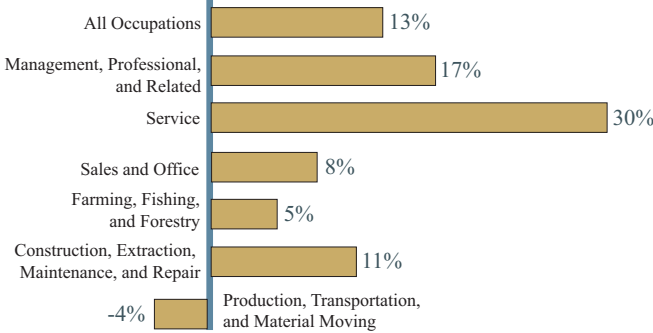
From the American Community Survey, 2008: Retirement income includes: (1) retirement pensions and survivor benefits from a former employer; labor union; or federal, state, or local government; and the U.S. military; (2) disability income from companies or unions; federal, state, or local government; and the U.S. military; (3) periodic receipts from annuities and insurance; and (4) regular income from IRA and Keogh plans. This does not include Social Security income.

# Employment by Occupation, 2008

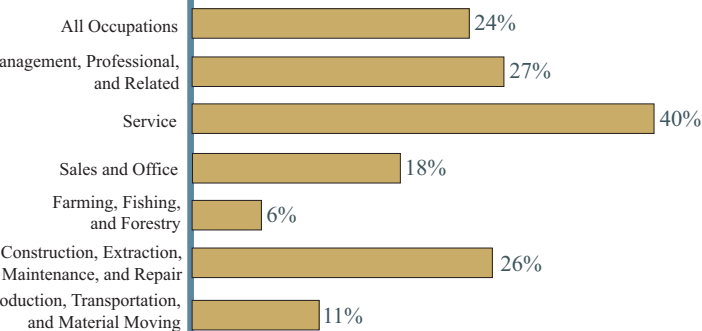
Percentage of Civilian Population 16 and Older in the Following Occupations	Management, Professional, and Related	Service	Sales and Office	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	Construction, Extraction, Maintenance, and Repair	Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	Employed Civilian Population 16 and Older
United States	35%	17%	25%	1%	9%	12%	146,266,253
Rockies	34%	18%	26%	1%	11%	10%	10,513,750
Arizona	33%	19%	27%	0%	11%	9%	2,947,910
Colorado	38%	16%	25%	1%	11%	9%	2,583,902
Idaho	32%	16%	25%	3%	11%	13%	724,740
Montana	34%	18%	25%	1%	11%	10%	483,916
Nevada	27%	26%	26%	0%	12%	9%	1,273,822
New Mexico	34%	18%	24%	1%	12%	10%	903,291
Utah	35%	15%	28%	0%	10%	12%	1,312,261
Wyoming	30%	16%	24%	2%	15%	13%	283,908



Employment Growth by Occupation, United States, 2008



Employment Growth by Occupation, Rockies Region, 2008



# Employment Growth by Occupation, 2000 - 2008

	Management, Professional, and Related	Service	Sales and Office	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	Construction, Extraction, Maintenance, and Repair	Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	All Occupations
United States	17%	30%	8%	5%	11%	-4%	13%
Rockies	27%	40%	18%	6%	26%	11%	24%
Arizona	33%	56%	26%	-6%	34%	11%	32%
Colorado	19%	39%	7%	5%	20%	5%	17%
Idaho	24%	27%	19%	14%	23%	10%	21%
Montana	16%	19%	11%	-22%	21%	4%	14%
Nevada	45%	42%	28%	21%	40%	23%	36%
New Mexico	18%	27%	11%	43%	24%	15%	18%
Utah	34%	37%	20%	-15%	16%	15%	26%
Wyoming	17%	13%	17%	27%	24%	20%	18%

### Employment by Industry, 2008

<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, and Real Estate/Rental/Leasing	Professional, Scientific/Management, and Administrative/Waste Management Services	Educational Services, and Health Care/Social Assistance	Arts, Entertainment/Recreation, and Accommodation/Food Services	Other Services, (Except Public Administration)	Public Administration
United States	2%	7%	11%	3%	12%	5%	2%	7%	10%	22%	9%	5%	5%
Rockies	3%	9%	7%	3%	12%	5%	2%	7%	11%	19%	11%	5%	5%
Arizona	1%	10%	7%	3%	13%	5%	2%	8%	11%	20%	11%	5%	5%
Colorado	2%	10%	7%	3%	11%	5%	3%	7%	13%	18%	10%	5%	5%
Idaho	5%	9%	10%	3%	12%	6%	2%	5%	9%	20%	8%	4%	5%
Montana	7%	10%	5%	3%	12%	5%	2%	6%	8%	22%	10%	5%	6%
Nevada	2%	10%	5%	2%	12%	5%	2%	6%	10%	13%	24%	4%	5%
New Mexico	5%	9%	6%	2%	12%	5%	2%	5%	11%	24%	10%	5%	7%
Utah	2%	8%	10%	3%	13%	5%	3%	7%	11%	20%	8%	4%	5%
Wyoming	12%	9%	5%	2%	11%	8%	2%	5%	6%	20%	9%	4%	6%

### Employment Growth by Industry, 2000 - 2008

<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, and Real Estate/Rental/Leasing	Professional, Scientific/Management, and Administrative/Waste Management Services	Educational Services, and Health Care/Social Assistance	Arts, Entertainment/Recreation, and Accommodation/Food Services	Other Services, (Except Public Administration)	Public Administration
United States	9%	22%	-10%	-6%	12%	13%	-12%	13%	26%	23%	26%	12%	10%
Rockies	22%	37%	1%	2%	24%	26%	-12%	23%	38%	33%	27%	27%	21%
Arizona	17%	47%	-4%	2%	37%	32%	-10%	35%	39%	45%	38%	43%	30%
Colorado	34%	24%	-4%	4%	13%	18%	-24%	12%	32%	27%	24%	25%	17%
Idaho	8%	41%	-5%	-3%	17%	45%	11%	26%	36%	28%	26%	14%	20%
Montana	-5%	45%	1%	4%	7%	6%	-18%	19%	36%	17%	7%	10%	21%
Nevada	35%	53%	26%	11%	44%	30%	3%	35%	56%	42%	26%	41%	40%
New Mexico	34%	33%	7%	-6%	14%	15%	-7%	1%	34%	30%	17%	6%	1%
Utah	31%	28%	8%	-3%	27%	26%	-2%	29%	47%	34%	29%	22%	20%
Wyoming	32%	20%	30%	18%	12%	43%	-9%	14%	17%	11%	11%	4%	22%