by F. Patrick Holmes and Walter Hecox

1. The Rocky Mountain Playground

The Issue

Scenic and outdoor recreational amenities are increasingly important contributors to economic and population growth for communities in the Rockies. High proportions of public lands, access to premier ski and four-season resorts, hunting and fishing opportunities, hiking trails and wildlife view sheds have all been shown to attract new businesses, workers, second homes, and early retirees. Indeed, these forces often take precedence over the typical business and worker location decisions based on resources to be extracted and/or low cost of living in the Rockies.

About The Indicators

Counties were ranked based on the percentage of total housing units for seasonal or recreational use from the 2000 Census; whether or not there was a ski area located within the county; the percentage of total forested acres (public and private) from the USDA Forest Service's Forest Inventory Analysis program; the percentage of total lands that were publicly owned by either the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, or the National Park Service, and the number of 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations dedicated to recreation or environmental missions per 1,000 people. Counties were ranked for each of these amenity variables and then a composite score was created based on their average rankings as explained in the methods and acknowledgments section.

Recreation Hotspots of the Rocky Mountains

Non-Metro Counties

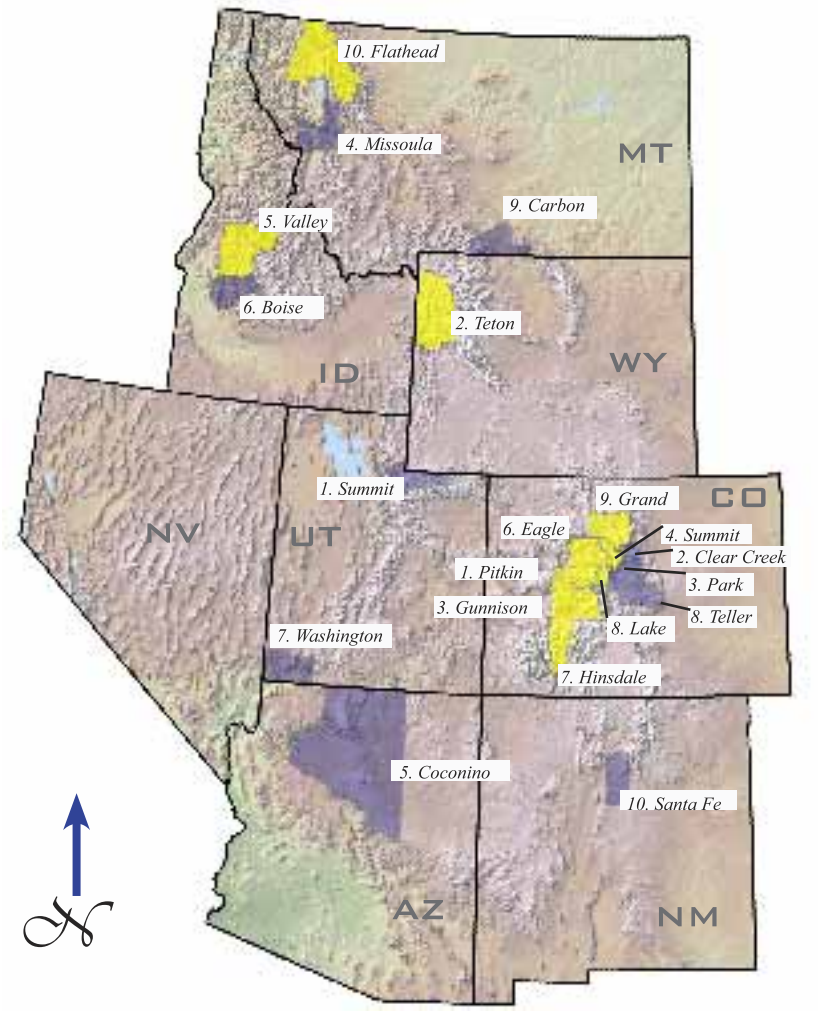
County Name	% Seasonal & Recreational Housing Units	Ski Area Located in County	% Total Forested Acres	% Wilderness	% Public Lands
1. Pitkin County, CO	28%	yes	76%	44%	85%
2. Teton County, WY	21%	yes	71%	26%	96%
3. Gunnison County, CO	35%	yes	67%	20%	77%
4. Summit County, CO	55%	yes	47%	25%	79%
5. Valley County, ID	54%	yes	44%	30%	84%
6. Eagle County, CO	27%	yes	49%	15%	77%
7. Hinsdale County, CO	61%	no	46%	46%	98%
8. Lake County, CO	18%	yes	75%	20%	72%
9. Grand County, CO	44%	yes	46%	7%	67%
10. Flathead County, MT	10%	yes	67%	19%	72%

Metro Counties

County Name	% Seasonal & Recreational Housing Units	Ski Area Located in County	% Total Forested Acres	% Wilderness	% Public Lands
1. Summit County, UT	36%	yes	59%	12%	42%
2. Clear Creek County, CO	17%	yes	67%	18%	66%
3. Park County, CO	41%	no	73%	11%	51%
4. Missoula County, MT	3%	yes	80%	8%	43%
5. Coconino County, AZ	19%	yes	42%	3%	39%
6. Boise County, ID	34%	no	72%	6%	72%
7. Washington County, UT	12%	no	55%	4%	75%
8. Teller County, CO	17%	no	73%	0%	46%
9. Carbon County, MT	19%	no	15%	12%	43%
10. Santa Fe County, NM	5%	yes	40%	6%	25%

> ***"The economic problem that we need to be focusing upon is how to keep attractive natural environments from being destroyed by the growth they stimulate, not how to fight economic depression caused by protecting natural areas and wilderness"*** [1]
>
> ***- Thomas Michael Power***

A Look at the Top Tens



Top 10 Metropolitan Counties

Top 10 Non-metropolitan Counties

% Forested Land Area, 2002

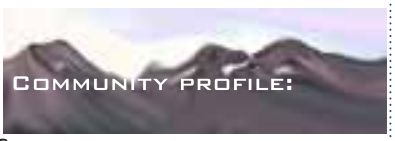
U.S.	33%
Rocky Mtns.	25%

% of Land Preserved as Wilderness, 2002

U.S.	4.6%
Rocky Mtns.	4%

% of Land Federally Owned, 2003

U.S.	30%
Rocky Mtns.	45%



Jackson, Wyoming, located within Teton County (#2), may be the supreme location for recreation in the United States. Positioned as a gateway to Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park, and at the base of the world-renowned Jackson Hole ski resort, it is difficult to imagine a better place for the outdoor enthusiast or second-home owner. And that is precisely why so many have relocated to Jackson in the past few decades.

Recently, however, the new growth has come into conflict with local recreation interests. A proposed 71 home subdivision and golf course along the Snake River threatens the habitat of 18 bald eagles, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Aaron Pruzan, chairman of the Snake River Fund and owner of the local kayaking and raft outfitter Rendezvous River Sports, claims that without the attraction of the eagles, people will be less likely to raft the river. One raft company owner says the river contributes roughly $9 million to the valley's annual economy. At a meeting on May 13, 2002, Tom Johnson, civil engineer, put an end to the debate by concluding that an environmental impact statement was not appropriate for this project and that "We cannot deny a permit based on potential socioeconomic impacts." [2]

1 Power, Thomas Michael. "Soul of Wilderness." *International Journal of Wilderness*. May, 1996.
2 Dana, Tim. "Fewer Eagles = Fewer Tourist Dollars?". *JHLocal.com*. May 17, 2002.

2. Subdivisions and "Ranchettes" In the New Rockies

The Issue

Declining quality and size of farm and ranchland is a very visible measure of the changing economic base and quality of life for many parts of the Rockies, particularly near the region's population hubs. 10 million more people live in the Rocky Mountain region now than did 30 years ago. Population influxes, low profit margins for farmers and ranchers, uncertain commodity prices, and the burgeoning American interest in rural second homes, have all combined to create tremendous pressures on traditional land-use practices. Marlboro Cowboy-like countryside is increasingly rare in the Rockies.

About The Indicators

Rocky Mountain counties were ranked based on indicators of high proportions of farm and ranchland converted to housing use. Data on the decline in the average size of a farm or ranch was taken from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture for the years 1987 and 1997. Data on the percentage of total housing units in the county built from 1990-2000 and on new housing unit permits authorized as percentage of existing units in 2000 was taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's Census 2000. Counties in the Rockies were ranked for each of these variables individually and then a composite score was created based on their average rankings as explained in the methods and acknowledgments section.

Counties Facing the Fastest Shifting Land-Use

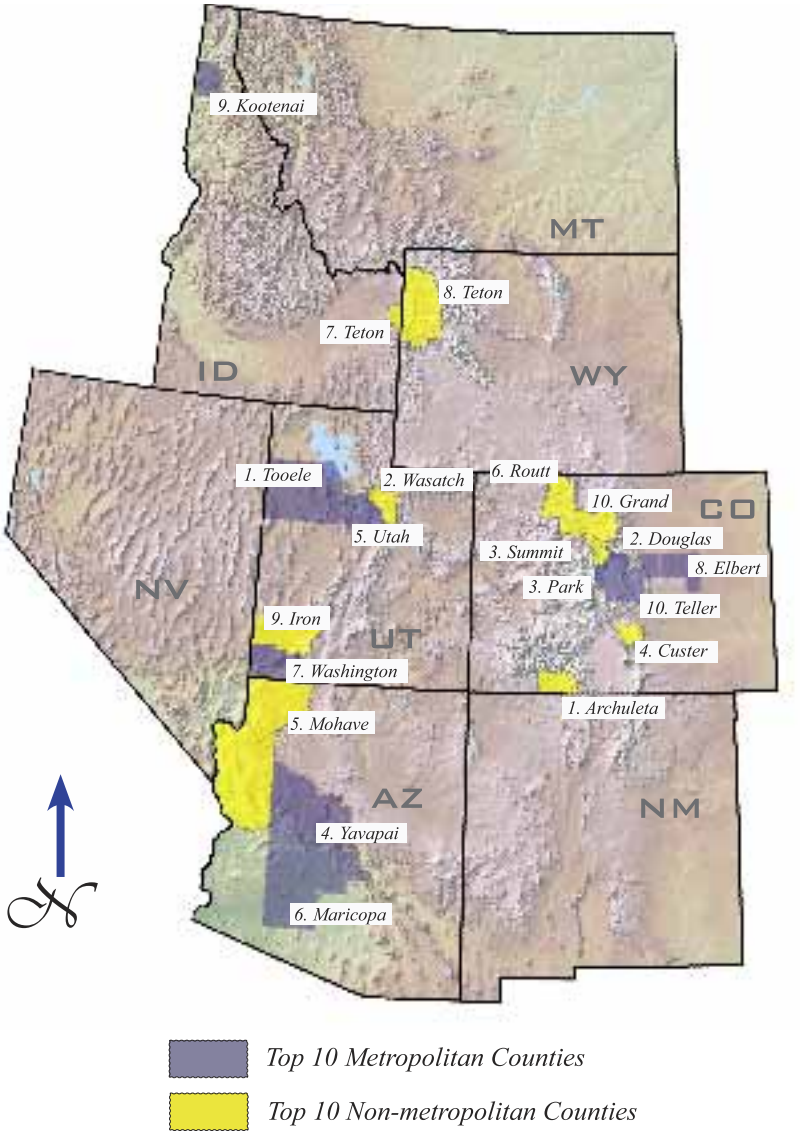
Non-Metro Counties

County Name	% of Total Housing Units Built 1990-2000	% Decline in the Average Size of a Farm or Ranch 1987-1997	New Housing Unit Permits Authorized as a % of Existing Units 2000
1. Archuleta County, CO	46%	-48%	6%
2. Wasatch County, UT	38%	-33%	5%
3. Summit County, CO	33%	-40%	3%
4. Custer County, CO	41%	-18%	5%
5. Mohave County, AZ	38%	-42%	2%
6. Routt County, CO	30%	-28%	5%
7. Teton County, ID	46%	-12%	8%
8. Teton County, WY	32%	-23%	3%
9. Iron County, UT	38%	-15%	3%
10. Grand County, CO	26%	-20%	5%

Metro Counties

County Name	% of Total Housing Units Built 1990-2000	% Decline in the Average Size of a Farm or Ranch 1987-1997	New Housing Unit Permits Authorized as a % of Existing Units 2000
1. Tooele County, UT	36%	-46%	6%
2. Douglas County, CO	67%	-24%	10%
3. Park County, CO	38%	-31%	4%
4. Yavapai County, AZ	35%	-65%	3%
5. Utah County, UT	34%	-27%	4%
6. Maricopa County, AZ	30%	-28%	3%
7. Washington County, UT	50%	-12%	4%
8. Elbert County, CO	46%	-11%	4%
9. Kootenai County, ID	37%	-22%	3%
10. Teller County, CO	31%	-20%	4%

A Look at the Top Tens



% of Total Homes Built between 1990-2000

U.S.	17%
Rocky Mtns.	27%

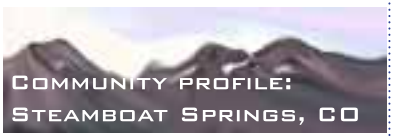
Change in Average Farm Size 1987-1997

U.S.	+5%
Rocky Mtns.	-7%

New Housing Unit Permits Authorized as a % of Existing Units 2000

U.S.	1.1%
Rocky Mtns.	2.4%

"...if we don't get Colorado's sprawl under control, we may kill the golden goose that keeps the economy strong in our state. Sprawl is gobbling up our open space and farmlands at a rate of 10 acres per hour statewide." [1]



Steamboat Springs, located within Routt County, Colorado, (#6) is a prime example of a ranching and recreation community working to fight the pressures of subdivision and rural development on wide-open spaces. In 1995, Routt County approved 495 new building permits, nearly half of those being permits for low-density single home development, in a community that had a population of just about 16,000 people. Community leaders, conservationists, and local ranchers responded by generating a consensus-based ballot initiative called the Ranchlands and Natural Areas Initiative. A purchase of development rights (PDR) technique was proposed to secure development rights from willing ranchers in conjunction with a countywide increase in property taxes to foot the bill. The initiative passed in November 1996, making Routt County the first in the Rocky Mountains to approve a tax increase specifically for the purpose of purchasing development rights. To date, the county has funded the preservation of roughly 5,000 acres on 12 different ranch parcels.[2]

1 Jones, Elise. "Amendment 24 Should Pass". *Denver Business Journal*. September 22, 2000.
2 Trust For Public Land. Case Study Archive. http://www.tpl.org. 2002.

Clements Mountain - Glacier National Park

3. The Jewels of the Rockies

Top Quality Public Lands in the Rockies

Non-Metro Counties

County Name	Acres of Land Preserved as Wilderness	Acres of Land Owned by the Forest Service	Acres of Land Owned by the National Park Service	Acres of Land Owned by the Bureau of Land Management
1.Teton County, WY	705,635	1,370,506	1,222,951	10,656
2. Hinsdale County, CO	317,516	558,718	0	117,797
3. Pitkin County, CO	269,651	491,783	0	26,417
4. Idaho County, ID	2,178,860	4,423,495	1,298	91,897
5. Mineral County, CO	195,848	524,299	0	0
6. Valley County, ID	715,982	2,013,677	0	3,133
7. Park County, WY	997,632	1,699,791	1,093,009	561,566
8. Flathead County, MT	618,499	1,778,109	632,302	0
9. Summit County, CO	96,918	310,219	0	3,226
10. Park County, MT	496,168	833,746	103,427	8,323

Colorado River - Grand Canyon National Park

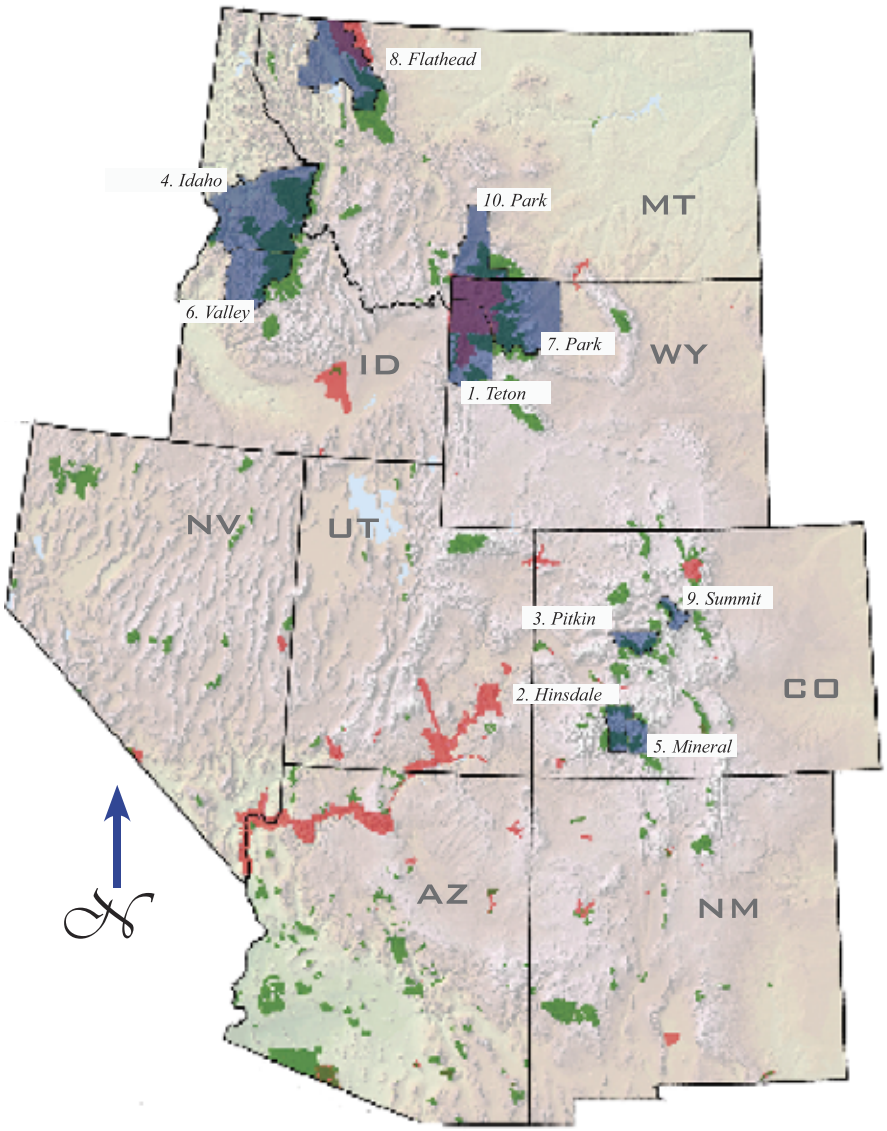
The Issue

Acting in tandem with the region's recreational assets, the unique ecology of the Rockies is increasingly helping to generate and retain economic activity and financial capital in the region. Certain areas of the Rockies are more prone than others to preserve ecological integrity: meaning a good mix of native species, habitat landscapes, and dynamic ecological services. Such healthy ecosystems are now seen in some locations as essential to the long-term viability of the region's social and economic health. Areas with high natural amenities and the existence of an intricate fabric of premium public lands are more likely to possess these tenants.

About The Indicators

The size of counties' public lands were weighted such that National Park Service and designated wilderness lands were worth four times more than Bureau of Land Management lands and two times more than Forest Service lands. Counties were then ranked based on their weighted acreage as a percentage of total land area. In addition, counties required a score of five or higher on the USDA natural amenities index (a ranking from 1-8 that measures the climate, topography, and percentage water area of each county in a weighted natural amenity index).

A Look at the Top Tens



Top Ten Counties

Designated Wilderness Areas

National Parks and Monuments

The country that surrounds Yellowstone National Park, including Park County – WY (#7), Park County – MT (#10), and Teton County – WY (#1), comprises a huge region known as the Greater Yellowstone eco-region. The headwaters of three major river systems, the Yellowstone, the Snake, and the Green, bolster a wide array of plant and animal life ranging from micro-organisms that thrive in scalding hot springs, to some of the last remaining populations of grizzly bears and wolves left in the lower 48 states. The inherent attractiveness of the region, and the urgency to adequately protect it for future generations, has created a fiery discourse about the proper way to manage the park's and surrounding region's resources.

The Yellowstone Business Partnership was formed to address the needs of businesses throughout the region to have a voice in this discourse. The group's mission is to promote community vitality, a prosperous economy and a sustainable environment throughout the Yellowstone region. This is enhanced by the partnership serving as a progressive voice for businesses that value each of these elements in making decisions about the region's long-term natural viability. "There needed to be a business voice for stewardship, a moderate voice," said Janice Brown, executive director of the partnership. Recently, the group took part in the 2004 Greater Yellowstone Power of Place conference to ponder how to live well in such a beautiful place without loving it to death. The group urged participants to be more aware of how the entire world is looking at the GYE's natural resources, since literally the world has come to the doorstep of Yellowstone through ownership of land and businesses, including utilities, in the area. [1]

1 Laden, Elizabeth. "Gathering looks at keeping dream from becoming a Nightmare" *Island Park News.* January 30, 2004.

The Coffee Cowboy, Telluride, CO

1. Native Born or "Cappuccino Cowboy?"

The Issue

Migration patterns in the Rockies have dramatically changed the economic and cultural base of many communities. Changing cultural views of the landscape and its proper use have accompanied these patterns of migration. While some continue to go about their business touting little more than a "Native" bumper sticker on their SUV, other old-time residents have quarreled with newcomers and their associated values. Whether you refer to these folks as "tenderfoots," "urban refugees," or like we do: "cappuccino cowboys," the changing demographic face of newcomers and their relationships with those who came before are shaping much of the future for this unique region.

About The Indicators

Counties were ranked based on data from the 2000 census for having a high percentage of people age five and older who were living in a different state in 1995, a high percentage of housing units built for seasonal or recreational use, and a high percentage of total housing units built since 1995. Counties were ranked for each variable individually, and then composite scores were developed based on their average rankings, as explained in the methods and acknowledgments section.

Rocky Mountain Counties with High Proportions of Newcomers

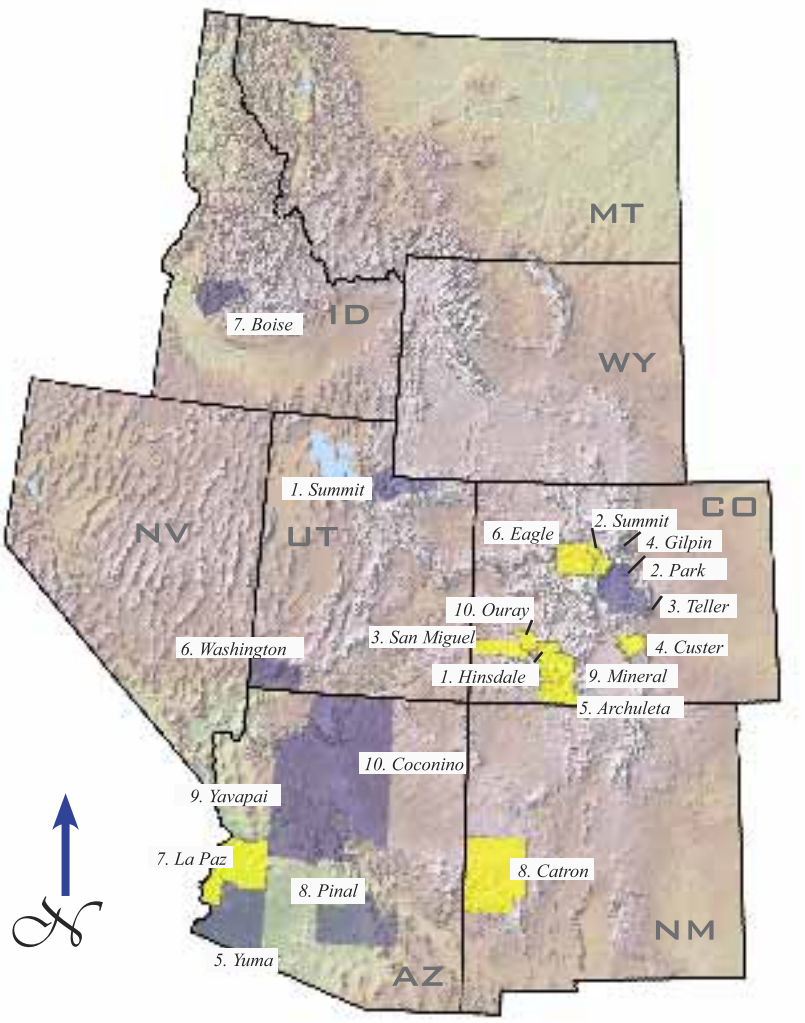
Non-Metro Counties

County Name	% Age 5 and Older Living in a Different State in 1995	% of Total Housing Units for Seasonal or Recreational Use	% of Total Housing Units Built since 1995
1. Hinsdale County, CO	23%	61%	33%
2. Summit County, CO	30%	55%	26%
3. San Miguel County, CO	27%	35%	24%
4. Custer County, CO	21%	44%	30%
5. Archuleta County, CO	27%	26%	28%
6. Eagle County, CO	22%	27%	24%
7. La Paz County, AZ	22%	36%	19%
8. Catron County, NM	23%	25%	21%
9. Mineral County, CO	27%	60%	16%
10. Ouray County, CO	23%	15%	24%

Metro Counties

County Name	% Age 5 and Older Living in a Different State in 1995	% of Total Housing Units for Seasonal or Recreational Use	% of Total Housing Units Built since 1995
1. Summit County, UT	21%	36%	31%
2. Park County, CO	19%	41%	28%
3. Teller County, CO	22%	17%	22%
4. Gilpin County, CO	16%	24%	25%
5. Yuma County, AZ	19%	17%	20%
6. Washington County, UT	17%	12%	30%
7. Boise County, ID	15%	34%	20%
8. Pinal County, AZ	15%	15%	28%
9. Yavapai County, AZ	20%	8%	21%
10. Coconino County, AZ	15%	19%	18%

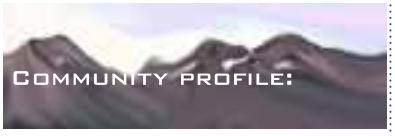
A Look at the Top Tens



% of Population Age 5 and Older Living in a Different State in 1995

% of Total Housing Units Built Since 1995

> ***"Newcomers who settle within existing towns, while arguably having somewhat less environmental impact than those who live in the country, can nevertheless disrupt the socioeconomic fabric of formerly isolated communities."*** [1]
>
> ***- Ray Rasker and Dennis Glick***



In April 2000, John Stokes purchased Kalispell, Montana's KGEZ radio station, filling the Flathead County airwaves with a "shock-jock" media frenzy proclaiming environmentalists as Nazis, and the Flathead county land-use plan a direct act of war. This was not the first time Stokes had lashed out against community land-use initiatives. Stokes earlier spearheaded a county secessionist movement in Washington State in 1994 aimed at creating free counties capable of circumventing land-use codes. Nowadays at KGEZ, supporters of Stokes can purchase bumper stickers that read "Have you bitch-slapped an environmentalist lately?" and they can call in and voice their support for Stokes' anti-government, anti-newcomer, anti-environmental mentalities.[2]

Stokes is motivated in the extreme by a sentiment felt in varying degrees by many old-time residents throughout the Rockies; namely that newcomers are pushing an agenda that constrains certain civil liberties and freedoms that used to be afforded to the region's residents. The ensuing "us vs. them" mentality has created communities where civic discourse has been largely abandoned. Communities cannot afford to separate into warring camps and engage in the age-old debate over whose relationship to the landscape is ordained. Rather, proactive efforts to discuss the types of communities places would like to become should be the focus of attention, discourse, and resolution.

1 Rasker, Ray and Dennis Glick. "Footloose Entrepreneurs: Pioneers of the New West?" *Illahee.* Vol 10. No.1, 1994.
2 Ring, Ray. "The West's Biggest Bully. *High Country News*. November 15, 2003.

2. Managing Immigration in the Rockies

The Issue

A growing Latino population is sprouting up throughout the Rockies exerting powerful change on communities, local economies, and small businesses. Economies of the Rockies have come to depend on immigrant labor, legal and otherwise, for much of their low-wage labor and productivity. This has spurred new business creation where predominantly Latino businesses catering to Latino tastes have become integral parts of small-business-driven economies in Idaho, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

Still, in other parts of the Rockies, Latino and other immigrant populations are forced to live outside the communities in which they work. Housing supply shortages for low-income workers result in "cold bed" resort communities, where workers and their families share little cultural interaction with seasonal upper-income residents. These low-wage workers are forced to commute great distances to work everyday, leaving their families in distant, often poor towns "down-river." Communities are increasingly faced with the decision of whether or not to provide basic services to meet the needs of their essential employment base.

About The Indicators

To be included in this category, counties had to have had more than 2 percent of their population enter the U.S. between the years of 1990 and 2000. Counties were then ranked based on data from the 2000 Census for the percentage of the population being non-U.S. citizens, the percentage of the population commuting to a county other than their residence for work, the number of housing units for existing migrant workers, and whether or not there was a migrant health center located in the community. Counties were ranked for each individual variable separately and then a composite score was developed based on their average rankings as explained in the methods and acknowledgments section.

Counties Meeting the Needs of Migrant Workers and Immigrants

Non-Metro Counties

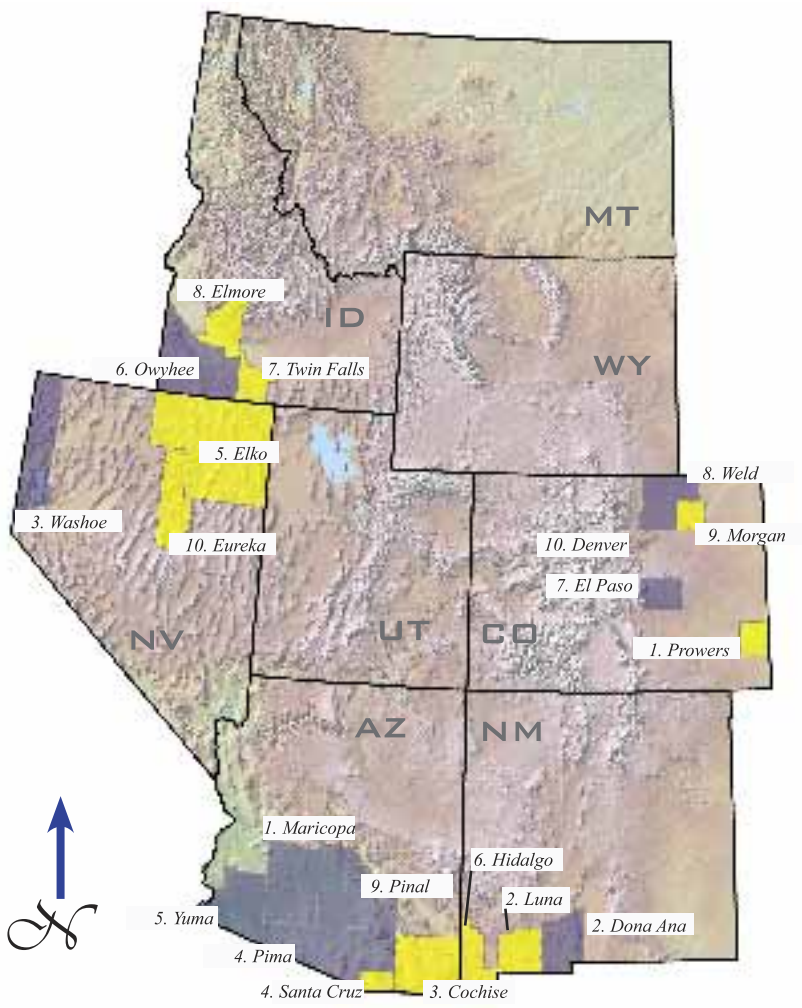
County Name	# of Housing Units For Migrant Workers	% of Population Working outside the County of Residence	Community or Migrant Health Center in County	% of Population Not U.S. Citizens
1. Prowers County, CO	27	4%	yes	9%
2. Luna County, NM	27	7%	yes	15%
3. Cochise County, AZ	97	5%	yes	6%
4. Santa Cruz County, AZ	28	9%	yes	20%
5. Elko County, NV	58	8%	yes	7%
6. Hidalgo County, NM	26	5%	yes	7%
7. Twin Falls County, ID	91	9%	yes	4%
8. Elmore County, ID	70	16%	yes	5%
9. Morgan County, CO	0	10%	yes	12%
10. Eureka County, NV	24	10%	yes	6%

Metro Counties

County Name	# of Housing Units For Migrant Workers	% of Population Working outside the County of Residence	Community or Migrant Health Center in County	% of Population Not U.S. Citizens
1. Maricopa County, AZ	305	1%	yes	11%
2. Dona Ana County, NM	63	2%	yes	12%
3. Washoe County, NV	55	3%	yes	9%
4. Pima County, AZ	7	2%	yes	7%
5. Yuma County, AZ	183	1%	no	18%
6. Owyhee County, ID	94	48%	yes	9%
7. El Paso County, CO	36	4%	yes	3%
8. Weld County, CO	38	33%	yes	7%
9. Pinal County, AZ	65	39%	yes	7%
10. Denver County, CO	16	36%	yes	13%

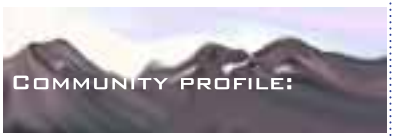
> ***"In Idaho, discrimination was rampant. There were many signs in the windows of community businesses that said 'No Mexicans or dogs allowed.' We (the Idaho Migrant Council) were able to defeat that issue and bring some change."*** [1]
>
> ***- Humberto Fuentes, Founder of the Idaho Migrant Council***

A Look at the Top Tens



Top 10 Metropolitan Counties

Top 10 Non-metropolitan Counties



When asked what the biggest issue facing the Hispanic community was, recent Idaho Third District Court appointee Judge Sergio Gutierrez replied, "There's the issue of political power. But to me, it's so connected with education, because what I see is that as technology sort of dominates our life, you cannot either self-empower as a people, as a group, create a life, create an environment that is good for you unless you are able to get engaged and involved."[2] The Idaho Migrant Council, Inc., located in Twin Falls County, ID (#7), provides employment and training services for low-income families and low-income migrant and seasonal farm workers, primarily of Hispanic background. Further, to combat the immense educational needs the council has provided classroom and on-the-job training, English-as-a-second-language courses, and job placement services to migrant workers in Southwestern Idaho.

1 Mills, Joel. "Friend speaks fondly of Chavez." *Lewiston Morning Tribune*. April 1, 2004.
2 Gutierrez, Sergio. Interview. *Focus West*. July, 2003.

3. Civic Engagement

The Issue

A desirable place to live and work is one in which the citizens of the community take a vested interest in its well-being. Communities with the greatest and most diverse citizen participation are often resilient and strong. Engaging citizens through philanthropy, volunteerism, and other mechanisms in order to address common issues is essential for educated decision-making and community vitality.

About The Indicators

Counties were ranked based on the number of 501(c)(3) organizations focused on human services, civil rights, social action and advocacy, community improvement and capacity building, philanthropy, volunteerism, and public/society benefit adjusted to an overall per-capita measure. Communities had to have a minimum of 20 total non-profits in any sector to be included in the analysis.

Counties with High Per-Capita Numbers of Community-Oriented 501(c)(3)Non-Profit Organizations

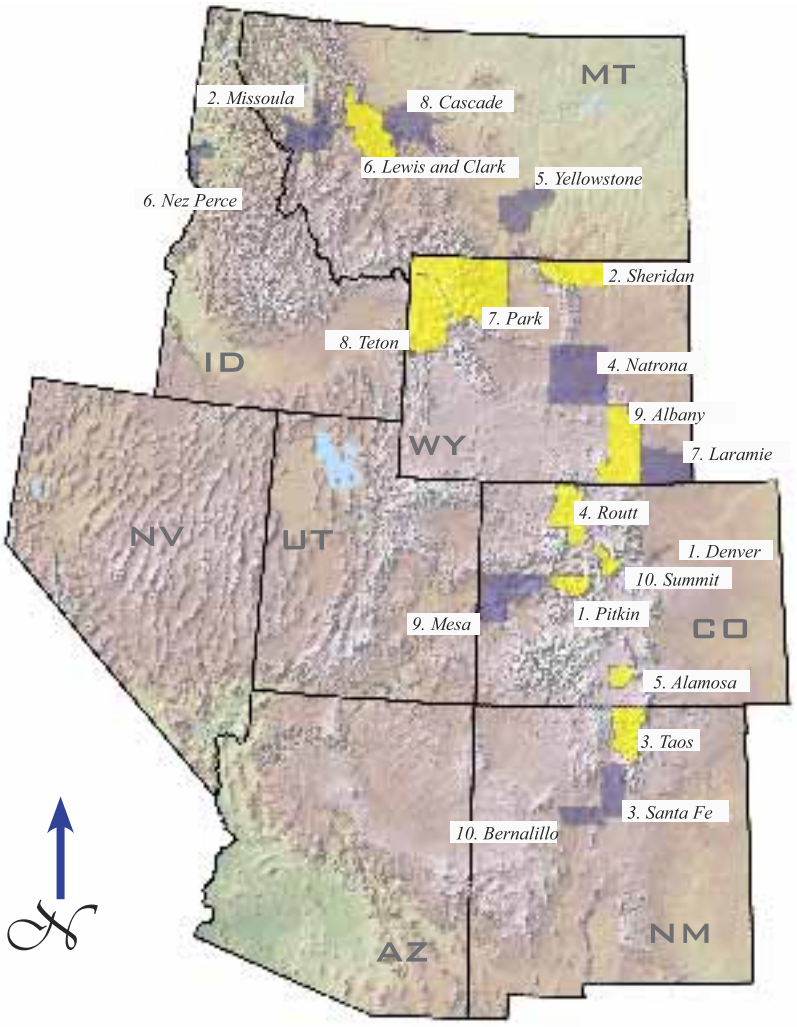
Non-Metro Counties

County Name	# of Human Services Non-profit Orgs	# of Civil Rights, Social Action, Advocacy Orgs	# of Community Improvement, Capacity Building Orgs	# of Philanthropy Voluntarism, and Grantmaking Foundations	# Of Public Society Benefit Orgs
1. Pitkin County, CO	7	0	2	8	1
2. Sheridan County, WY	15	0	1	2	1
3. Taos County, NM	12	0	6	2	1
4. Routt County, CO	9	0	0	3	2
5. Alamosa County, CO	7	1	1	1	0
6. Lewis and Clark County, MT	12	5	9	8	2
7. Park County, WY	13	0	1	1	0
8. Teton County, WY	6	0	1	3	0
9. Albany County, WY	11	0	1	4	0
10. Summit County, CO	6	0	3	2	1

Metro Counties

County Name	# of Human Services Non-Profit Orgs	# of Civil Rights, Social Action, Advocacy Orgs	# of Community Improvement, Capacity Building Orgs	# of Philanthropy Voluntarism, and Grantmaking Foundations	# Of Public Society Benefit Orgs
1. Denver County, CO	166	15	72	59	18
2. Missoula County, MT	35	1	4	8	3
3. Santa Fe County, NM	31	2	10	12	1
4. Natrona County, WY	15	1	4	7	1
5. Yellowstone County, MT	28	2	9	11	0
6. Nez Perce County, ID	8	0	1	2	0
7. Laramie County, WY	16	1	3	2	1
8. Cascade County, MT	14	1	5	2	0
9. Mesa County, CO	20	0	4	6	1
10. Bernalillo County, NM	90	4	22	22	6

A Look at the Top Tens



Top 10 Metropolitan Counties

Top 10 Non-metropolitan Counties

In Taos County, NM (#3), there are a number of organizations operating to preserve a sense of community. The Taos County Neighborhood Association serves as a grass-roots forum to exchange information and discuss issues of concern to neighborhoods that had been previously isolated from each other. The Taos Internet User's Group holds classes on Internet use, design, and literacy at the Telecommunity Learning Center, an online Taos community site maintained by La Plaza organization. In addition, the community has free services for AIDS resources, clothing assistance, counseling services, crisis intervention, day care - preschool, economic development, education, environmental services, and financial advice.[1]

1 Northern New Mexico's Online Community Network, www.laplaza.org.

4. Healthy Places To Live and Work

The Issue

A healthy environment in which to live and work is essential for many who are making a decision to relocate to a community. Such healthy communities include areas that decrease the risk of environmentally-induced illness, or any health condition that is caused or exacerbated by exposure to toxic chemicals. They are also places where low work stress conditions and a comfortable atmosphere lead people to live longer, happier lives.

About The Indicators

To be included in the analysis, counties had to have met EPA toxic chemical release standards for carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter and lead. Counties designated as community health professional shortage areas were removed from the analysis as well. Counties were then ranked based on having low per-capita pounds of toxic chemicals released, a low self-rated proportion of adults in poor to fair health, and a high average life expectancy. Counties were ranked for each individual indicator and a composite score was developed based on their average rankings as explained in the methods and acknowledgments section.

The Healthiest Counties in the Rockies

Non-Metro Counties

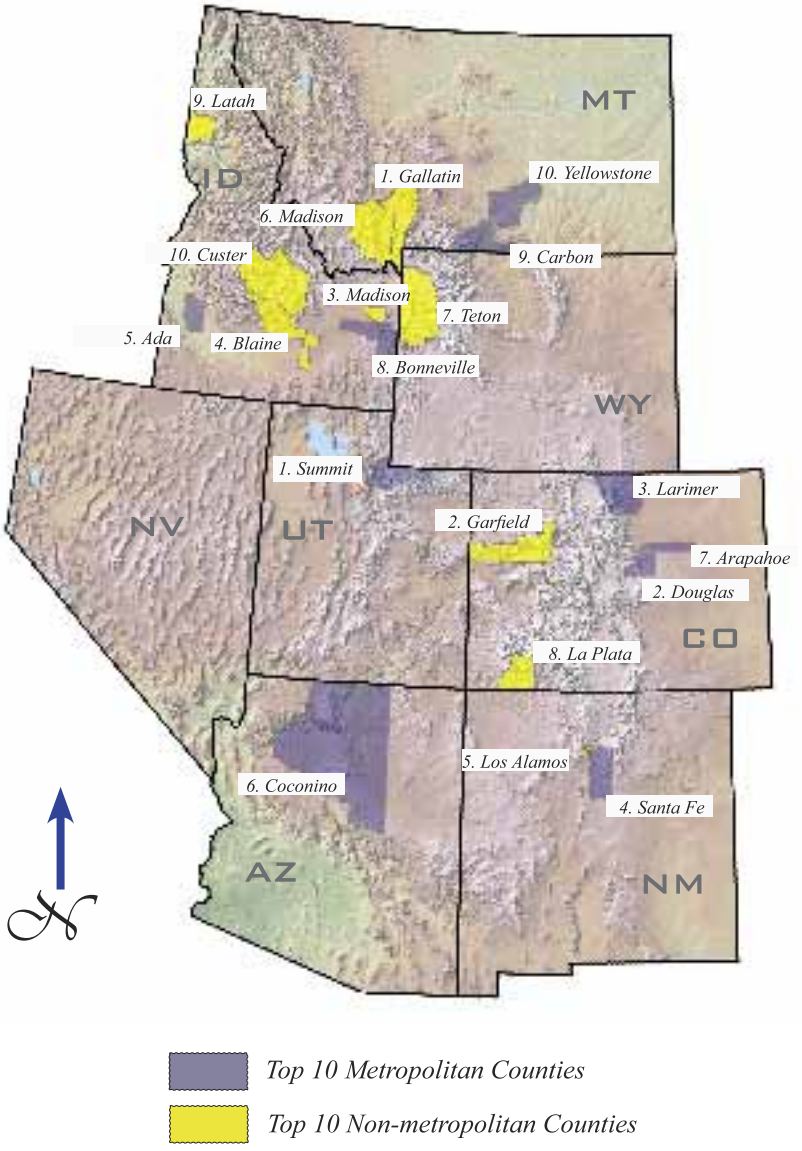
County Name	Per Capita Lbs. of Toxic Chemicals Released	Self Rated Health Status (% of Adults in Poor to Fair Health)	Average Life Expectancy
1. Gallatin County, MT	0	7.1%	78.9
2. Garfield County, CO	0	6.9%	77.4
3. Madison County, ID	.0276	6.4%	78.5
4. Blaine County, ID	0	4.6%	76.8
5. Los Alamos County, NM	.0399	5.7%	77.6
6. Madison County, MT	0	5%	76.1
7. Teton County, WY	0	4%	75.7
8. La Plata County, CO	0	8.8%	77.5
9. Latah County, ID	0	9.4%	78
10. Custer County, ID	0	8.5%	76.8

Metro Counties

County Name	Per Capita Lbs. of Toxic Chemicals Released	Self Rated Health Status (% of Adults in Poor to Fair Health)	Average Life Expectancy
1. Summit County, UT	0	4.1%	78.1
2. Douglas County, CO	.0139	8.2%	79.1
3. Larimer County, CO	.0166	7.8%	78.4
4. Santa Fe County, NM	0	8.9%	77.6
5. Ada County, ID	0	9.6%	77.4
6. Coconino County, AZ	.0225	8.4%	76.9
7. Arapahoe County, CO	.1694	8.3%	78
8. Bonneville County, ID	.0031	10%	77.2
9. Carbon County, MT	0	9.9%	76.7
10. Yellowstone County, MT	0	10.7%	76.8

Along the Kaibab Trail - Grand Canyon National Park

A Look at the Top Tens



Community Profile:

"Healthy communities have many different components…" writes the Gallatin Valley Land Trust of Gallatin County, MT (#1), "…including opportunities for recreation, alternative transportation, scenic greenways, and access to nature." That's why the GVLT formed the "Main Street to Mountains" Initiative in Bozeman. The trail system will one day unite downtown Bozeman with the Bridger Mountains to the northeast and the Gallatin Range south of town. Trails that wind down old railway corridors, atop scenic ridgelines and through the valley's remaining open spaces, allow residents and visitors alike to explore Bozeman by foot, bicycle, or cross-country skis. The trust maintains that their cooperative trail system is a great way to preserve a sense of community while providing opportunities for quick escape and a nurtured sense of place. [1]

1 The Gallatin Valley Land Trust, www.gvlt.org.

5. Education Attainment

The Issue

Education attainment is one important indicator of social prosperity and economic vitality for communities in the Rockies. A highly educated population expresses the demand for skills and knowledge in the workforce. The U.S. Census Bureau has reported that higher educational attainment levels are strongly correlated with higher average earnings per worker and lower unemployment rates. By placing a premium on attracting and retaining highly educated workers, communities increase the capacity of their workforce to remain competitive in an increasingly global marketplace.

About The Indicators

Counties were ranked based on the percentage of the total population age 25 and higher with a bachelor's degree and the percentage age 25 and higher with a graduate degree. An average rank of both indicators was used to score counties as explained in the methods and acknowledgements section.

The Most Educated Places in the Rockies

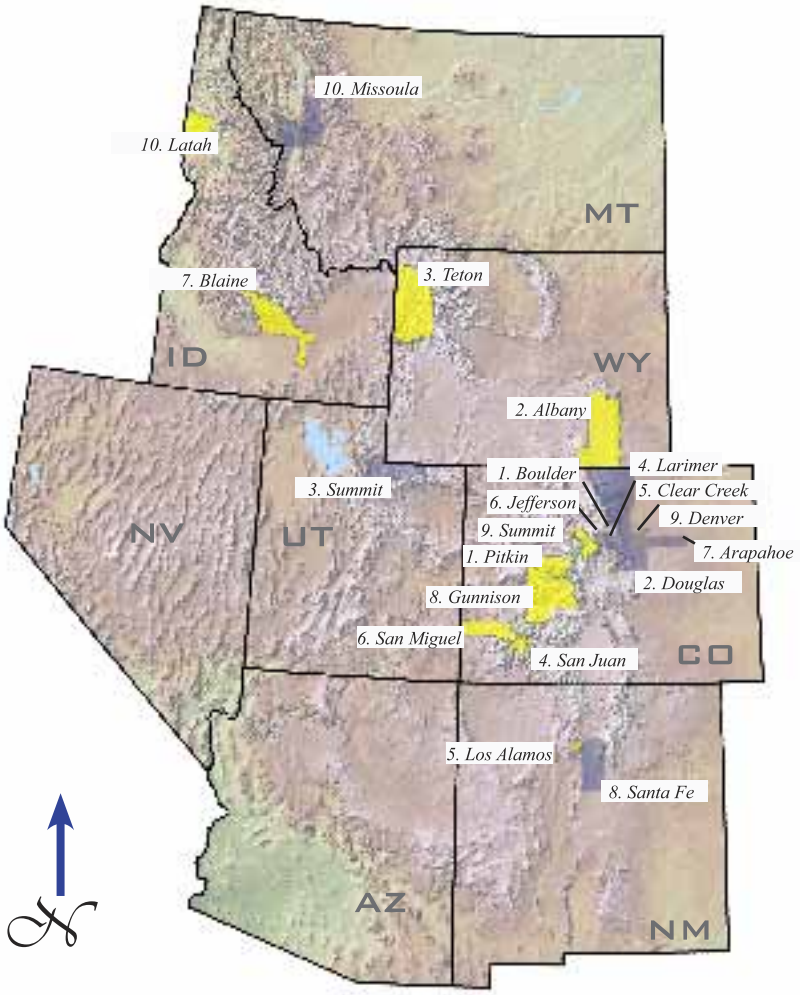
Non-Metro Counties

County Name	% of Population Age 25 and Older with a Bachelor's Degree	% of Population Age 25 and Older with a Graduate Degree
1. Pitkin County, CO	40%	17%
2. Albany County, WY	26%	19%
3. Teton County, WY	32%	14%
4. San Juan County, CO	28%	16%
5. Los Alamos County, NM	24%	36%
6. San Miguel County, CO	37%	12%
7. Blaine County, ID	30%	13%
8. Gunnison County, CO	32%	12%
9. Summit County, CO	36%	12%
10. Latah County, ID	23%	18%

Metro Counties

County Name	% of Population Age 25 and Older with a Bachelor's Degree	% of Population Age 25 and Older with a Graduate Degree
1. Boulder County, CO	31%	21%
2. Douglas County, CO	27%	15%
3. Summit County, UT	31%	15%
4. Larimer County, CO	25%	14%
5. Clear Creek County, CO	25%	14%
6. Jefferson County, CO	24%	12%
7. Arapahoe County, CO	25%	12%
8. Santa Fe County, NM	20%	17%
9. Denver County, CO	22%	12%
10. Missoula County, MT	22%	11%

A Look at the Top Tens



Top 10 Metropolitan Counties

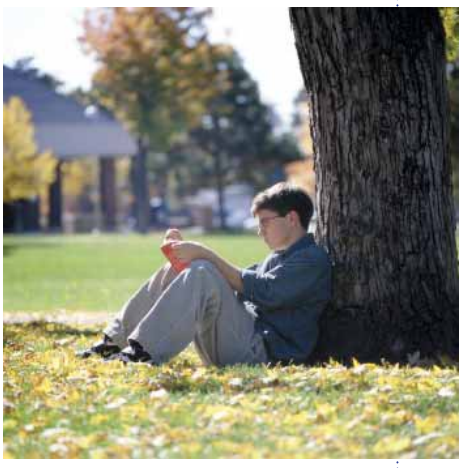
Top 10 Non-metropolitan Counties

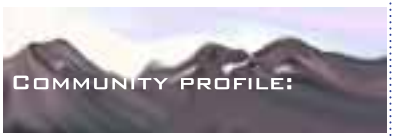
% of Population Age 25 and Older with a Bachelor's Degree

U.S.	16%
Rocky Mtns.	17%

% of Population Age 25 and Older with a Master's Degree or Higher

U.S.	7%
Rocky Mtns.	9%





With the University of Colorado as its prime asset, Boulder County, CO (#1) boasts the most educated workforce of any metropolitan county in the Rockies, with an astounding 21 percent of the population attaining a graduate degree or higher as compared to the Rockies region average of 9 percent. Furthermore, with the CU division of Continuing Education, the Naropa Institute, Front Range Community College, and a wide array of adult education classes ranging from yoga to photography to real estate, there exists a wealth of opportunity in Boulder to improve upon the city's already strong educational assets.

Rocky Mountain National Park

6. Arts, Culture, and Employment in the "Creative Class"

The Issue

Recognizing what makes a community unique culturally and then celebrating that distinction may be the most overlooked tenet of strategies to pursue economic development and vibrant communities. Local organizations for the arts, culture, and humanities provide communities with an enriching atmosphere conducive to community vitality. The information industries (book, software, news, and magazine publishers), scientific and technical services industries (architecture, engineering, design, computer services, and advertising), and the arts, entertainment, and recreation industries (theatre, dance, music, fine arts, museums, and sports) all require a highly-skilled, highly-specialized workforce. These industries constitute a "creative class" core group that many have said is essential to creating a high quality of life necessary for attracting a first-rate workforce in all industries.

About The Indicators

To be included in this analysis, counties had to have at least 3,000 people employed in the county, and had to have employment shares in the creative class industries exceeding the Rockies region's average of 11 percent. Counties were then ranked based on the percentage of total non-profits located within the county dedicated to arts, culture, and humanities.

The Best Places for Arts and Culture in the Rockies

Non-Metro Counties

County Name	# of Arts, Culture, and Humanities Non-Profit Organizations	Arts, Culture and Humanity Orgs as % of total Non-profits	% Employment in the "Creative Class" Industries
1. San Miguel County, CO	12	23%	34%
2. Pitkin County, CO	19	21%	24%
3. Teton County, WY	15	18%	23%
4. Taos County, NM	15	14%	22%
5. Los Alamos County, NM	6	16%	19%
6. Rio Arriba County, NM	8	14%	19%
7. Cochise County, AZ	14	14%	19%
8. Gallatin County, MT	22	12%	17%
9. Summit County, CO	6	16%	15%
10. Otero County, NM	6	14%	14%

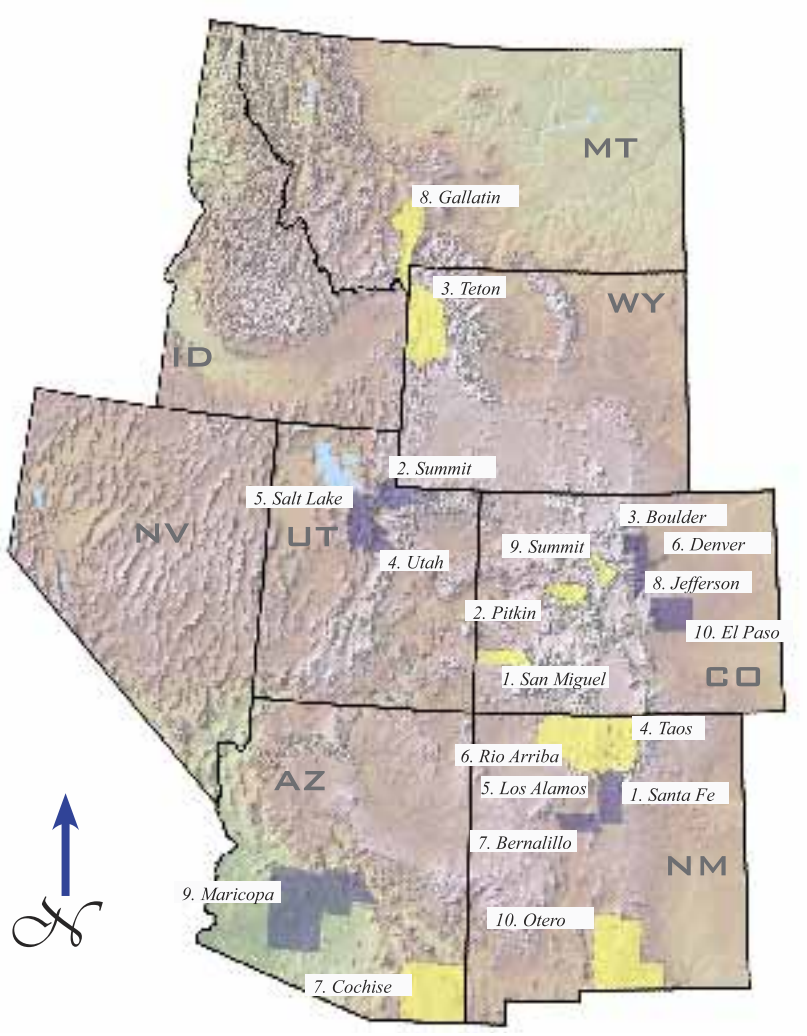
Metro Counties

County Name	# of Arts, Culture, and Humanities Non-Profit Organizations	Arts, Culture and Humanity Orgs as % of total Non-profits	% Employment in the "Creative Class" Industries
1. Santa Fe County, NM	69	12%	23%
2. Summit County, UT	7	26%	14%
3. Boulder County, CO	47	23%	14%
4. Utah County, UT	14	12%	13%
5. Salt Lake County, UT	80	12%	13%
6. Denver County, CO	120	17%	12%
7. Bernalillo County, NM	65	13%	11%
8. Jefferson County, CO	47	14%	10%
9. Maricopa County, AZ	165	12%	9%
10. El Paso County, CO	47	16%	9%

"It used to be all about offering businesses cheap land and cheap takes. Now most cities are trying to carve out economic strategies based on attracting great people." [1]

-Carol Coletta
Host of Public Radio's "Smart City" program

A Look at the Top Tens



% of Total Employment in the "Creative Class" Industries

U.S.	18%
Rocky Mtns.	18%

In Telluride, Colorado, located within San Miguel County (#1), the festival season, as it's called, begins in late May with the Mountain Film Festival, a celebration of the natural environment in film and photography. Balloon Rally and Wild West Fest begin in early June with hot air balloons lining Main Street, and Boys and Girls Clubs from around the nation coming to Telluride to explore the arts and culture of the ole' West. Telluride Bluegrass happens every year in June, where many festivarians make an annual pilgrimage to soak in string music during the summer solstice. Other highlights include the annual jazz festival, the world-renowned Telluride Film Festival, and the annual Blues and Brews Festival in early September.

Telluride Mountain Village's marketing program loves the festival season for bringing in businesses for annual meetings and conferences from around the Rockies. "Packaging meetings with festivals and special events is a great enticement for your attendees," says Heather Knox Rommel, Telluride Conference Center director. "At a time when everyone is looking to save money, access to free entertainment can make a meeting more cost effective for planners while giving attendees memorable recreation opportunities." [2]

Maybe the most interesting festival of the season for locals is the Nothing Festival, scheduled this year for July 18-20. Local Dennis Wrestler petitioned Telluride's commission for the arts and events to sanction this official occurrence for locals to catch a break in the heated festival season. The non-festival has an official T-shirt too. It costs $15 if you have a sense of humor, $20 if you don't.

1 Aguilar, Louis. "Mayor sees city's future in nurturing creativity." ***Denver Post.*** November 2, 2003.
2 Yamnitz, Jennifer. "Telluride Summer Festivals Provide One-of-a-Kind Group Meeting Activities." Press Release. April 9, 2003.

Zion National Park

7. The "Graying" of the Rockies

The Issue

Some have noted that attracting a large pool of the retiree population to the community can be a valuable economic development tool. Retirees tend to own homes, pay property taxes, spend locally, and bring with them a huge influx of non-labor income sources. Still, these retirees require affordable housing, an increase in community services – particularly medical services – and low taxes to succeed.

About The Indicators

Counties were ranked based on the number of primary-care physicians per 100,000 people, the Sonoran Institute housing affordability index (an index that measures whether the median-income family in a region can afford the median-value home with monthly mortgage payments, an assumed down-payment of 20 percent of the home's value, and an interest rate of roughly 8 percent), growth in income earned from retirement payments from 1970-2001, and the total acres of land owned by the Forest Service and National Park Service. Counties were excluded from the analysis if they had lower than a five on the USDA Economic Research service natural amenity rank (a ranking from 1-8 that measures the climate, topography, and percentage water area of each county in a weighted natural amenity index), or if they were a designated health professional shortage area. Counties were ranked for each individual indicator and a composite score was then developed based on their average rankings as explained in the methods and acknowledgments section.

Top Retirement Havens in the Rockies

Non-Metro Counties

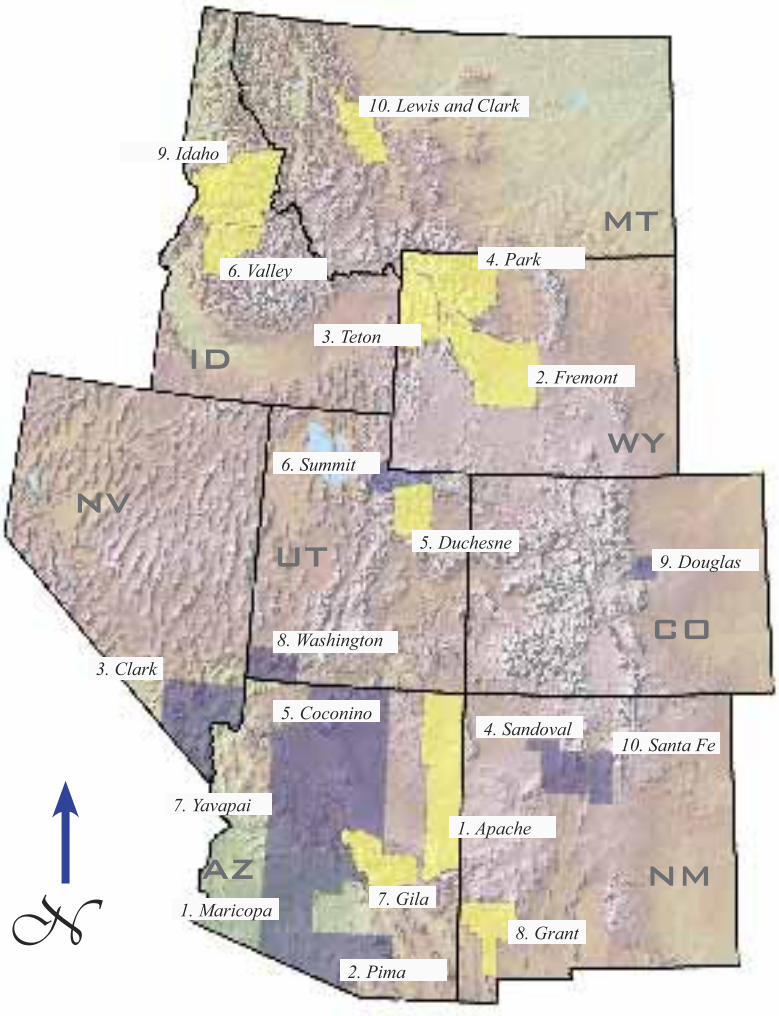
County Name	Acres of U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service Lands	# Of Primary Care Providers Per 100,000 People	Sonoran Institute Housing Affordability Index	Growth in Retirement Income 1970-2001
1. Apache County, AZ	492,814	63.3	198	3,063%
2. Fremont County, WY	980,919	100.3	129	2,185%
3. Teton County, WY	1,370,506	186.7	53	3,463%
4. Park County, WY	1,699,791	85.7	118	1,979%
5. Duchesne County, UT	727,949	62.3	135	2,780%
6. Valley County, ID	2,013,677	86.4	93	2,977%
7. Gila County, AZ	1,704,511	57.9	109	3,677%
8. Grant County, NM	885,585	73.4	117	2,261%
9. Idaho County, ID	4,423,495	79.6	118	1,646%
10. Lewis and Clark, MT	980,135	110.8	118	1,570%

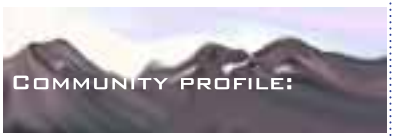
Metro Counties

County Name	Acres of U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service Lands	# Of Primary Care Providers Per 100,000 People	Sonoran Institute Housing Affordability Index	Growth in Retirement Income 1970-2001
1. Maricopa County, AZ	657,706	77.9	124	3,201%
2. Pima County, AZ	800,649	99.3	114	2,614%
3. Clark County, NV	889,442	65.7	113	6,424%
4. Sandoval County, NM	489,809	55.9	138	6,831%
5. Coconino County, AZ	4,096,117	87.9	95	2,499%
6. Summit County, UT	510,155	139.8	78	2,794%
7. Yavapai County, AZ	1,968,065	57.5	90	3,778%
8. Washington County, UT	514,212	54.7	94	7,534%
9. Douglas County, CO	141,835	49.9	124	10,541%
10. Santa Fe County, NM	247,579	102.6	79	2,624%

> ***"One of the things we need to do is expand how we think about our economy to include an incredibly viable work force that for a large part is looking for something to do,"*** [1]
>
> ***- Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal***

A Look at the Top Tens





By the year 2020, Wyoming is expected to replace Florida as the state with the largest share of its residents being age 65 or older according to the latest Census Bureau projections. One out of every two people in the state will be age 60 or older. City council member Nancy Webber of Lander, WY (Fremont County, #2) is incredulous as to whether this is a good thing for the future of her community. "People tell me, 'We don't want more retirees. We want young people.'" Webber explained to the *Wall Street Journal*. Governor Dave Freudenthal wants to move beyond the discussion of whether or not this is a good thing for the state to look towards opportunities associated with the changing demographics. That's why he helped create the workshop called "Ahead of the Curve: Economic Planning for Wyoming's Retirement Boom," in conjunction with AARP Wyoming. Nearly 100 leaders gathered to explore the best ways to tap a burgeoning population of retirees. Workshop participants said they will incorporate the needs of boomers into their economic and community planning; many said they saw an emerging boom of retirees as an opportunity to reap from their wealth of experience and intellect in community building and volunteer service.

1 Associated Press. "Governor Says Elderly a Resource for Wyoming." November 6, 2003.

8. A Good Place to Raise Kids

The Issue

Many businesses and individuals will relocate to a community with better schools to provide increased opportunities for their children, often times succumbing to increased commute times to work as a result. A look at the amount of funding per student and student-to-teacher ratios can be indicative of the quality of schools in a community. Low levels of crime and a healthy environment are also essential for a place to be kids-friendly.

About The Indicators

To be included in this analysis, counties had to have more than 2,000 students and a poverty rate below the Rocky Mountain average of 15 percent. Counties were ranked on their average student-to-teacher ratio, average expenditure per student, low per-capita violent crime rate, low per-capita recent drug use, and the number of non-profit organizations based in youth education and youth development. Counties were ranked for each individual indicator and a composite score was developed based on their average rankings as explained in the methods and acknowledgments section.

The Best Places for Kids in the Rockies

Non-Metro Counties

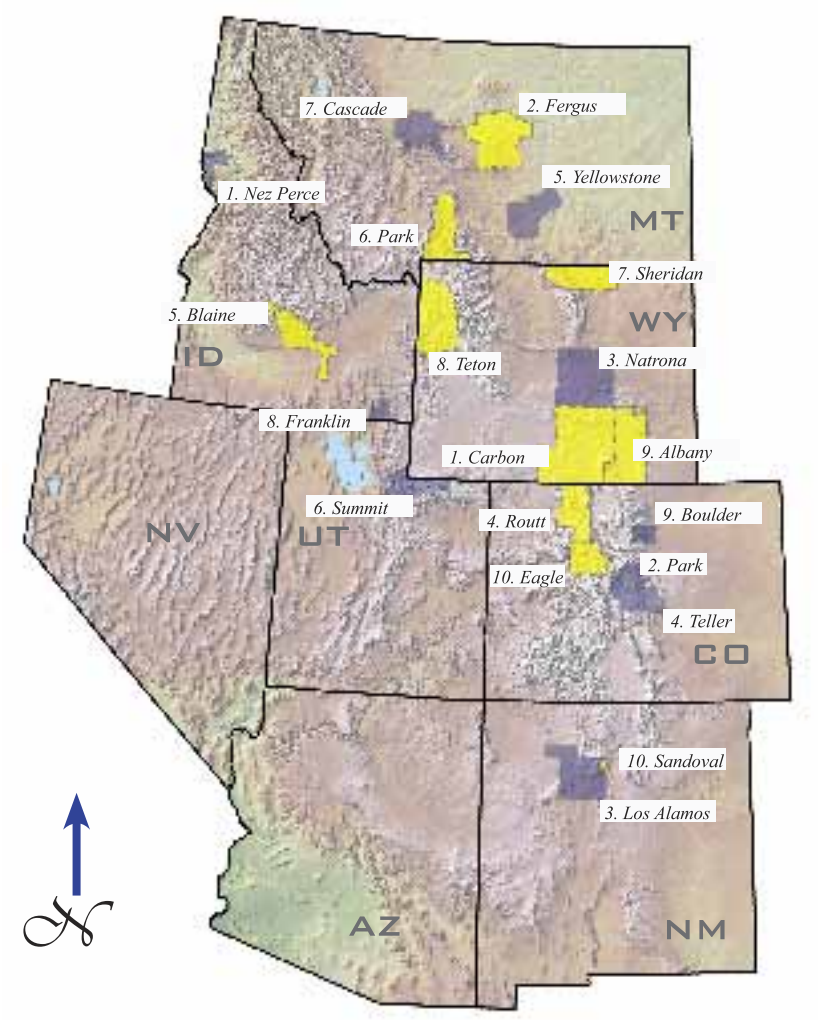
County Name	Average Student to Teacher Ratio	Average Expenditure Per Student
1. Carbon County, WY	11.3	$6,498
2. Fergus County, MT	13.2	$5,709
3. Los Alamos County, NM	13.9	$6,290
4. Routt County, CO	13.9	$5,743
5. Blaine County, ID	14	$5,428
6. Park County, MT	14.3	$5,316
7. Sheridan County, WY	11.4	$5,752
8. Teton County, WY	13.4	$5,738
9. Albany County, WY	13.4	$5,542
10. Eagle County, CO	14.4	$5,840

Metro Counties

County Name	Average Student to Teacher Ratio	Average Expenditure Per Student
1. Nez Perce County, ID	16.1	$5,335
2. Park County, CO	15.4	$4,995
3. Natrona County, WY	14.8	$5,352
4. Teller County, CO	17.6	$4,705
5. Yellowstone County, MT	16.5	$4,929
6. Summit County, UT	17.9	$4,387
7. Cascade County, MT	15.5	$4,529
8. Franklin County, ID	19.5	$3,606
9. Boulder County, CO	17	$4,898
10. Sandoval County, NM	15.9	$4,342

"Every parent knows that education improves when class size shrinks."[1]

A Look at the Top Tens



Los Alamos County, NM (#3) has been rated before as one of the top places for youth development. *The Wall Street Journal's* "Offspring" magazine rated the Los Alamos Public School system as the #1 public school system in the Southwestern United States in its Sept-Oct 2000 issue. Annually, more than 80 percent of Los Alamos high school graduates go on to four-year colleges. SAT scores have historically exceeded national averages by more than 30 percent. Furthermore, over half of the teachers at the Los Alamos Public School District hold master's degrees.

1 Sullum, Jacob. ***Reason.*** Vol. 34 Issue 11, April, 2004.

1. Balanced Employment Composition

The Issue

A particularly daunting challenge for communities in the Rockies is diversifying the local employment base. Historically, these communities' economies were generally organized around the income derived from a single resource extraction industry. Today, many of these communities still remain reliant on a single industry. For some, that base is still mining, logging, or oil and gas extraction, while for others the shift has been towards tourism and the so-called "quality of life" industries. Balanced employment is essential to reducing a community's vulnerability to economic downturns.

About The Indicators

Data from the 2000 census was used to calculate employment composition by industry sector for the region and each county within the region. Counties having the least absolute difference from the Rockies region's employment make-up in composition by sector were ranked highest.

Counties Whose Employment Composition is Most Like the Rocky Mountain Average Employment Composition

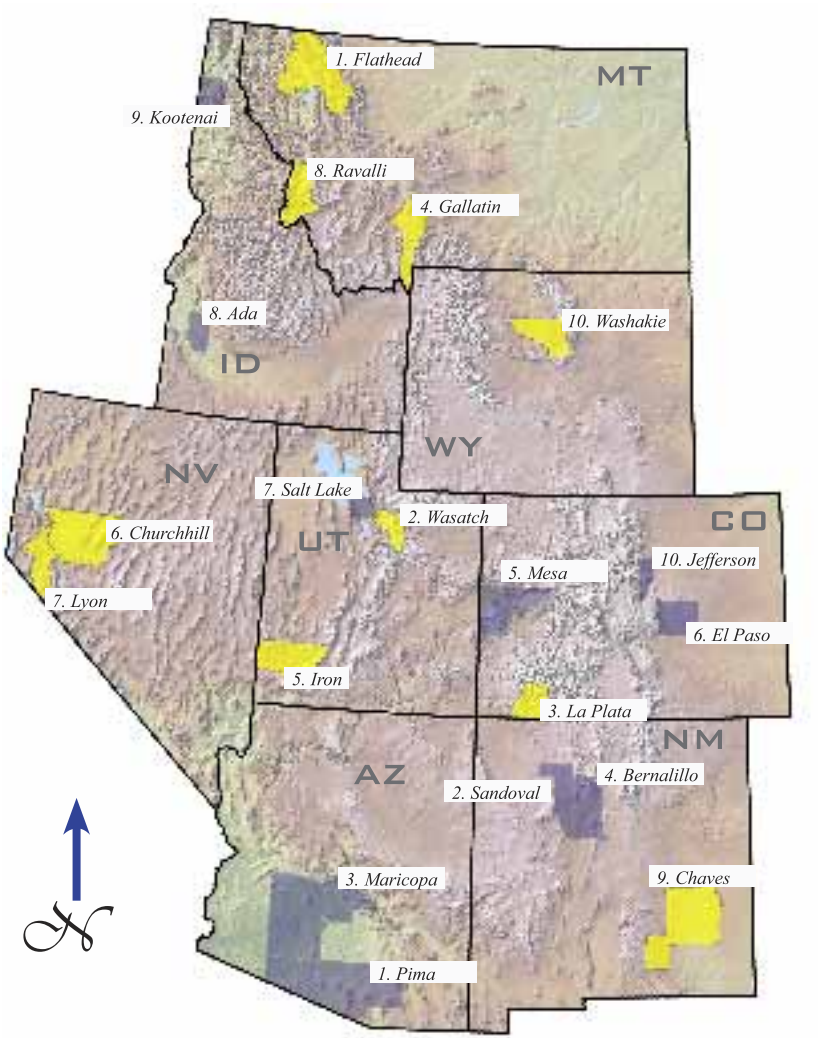
Non-Metro Counties

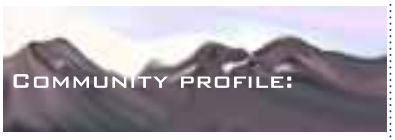
	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Transportation and Public Utilities	Information	Finance Insurance and Real Estate	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	Education	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	Other Services	Public Administration
1.Flathead County, MT	4%	9%	12%	3%	15%	5%	2%	6%	7%	18%	12%	5%	3%
2.Wasatch County, UT	2%	13%	9%	3%	12%	5%	2%	7%	8%	16%	15%	4%	4%
3.La Plata County, CO	4%	10%	4%	2%	12%	5%	2%	6%	9%	22%	14%	4%	4%
4.Gallatin County, MT	4%	11%	8%	3%	13%	3%	2%	5%	9%	21%	14%	5%	3%
5.Iron County, UT	4%	10%	11%	2%	13%	4%	2%	5%	9%	22%	10%	3%	4%
6.Churchhill County, NV	6%	9%	8%	2%	13%	6%	3%	3%	7%	17%	10%	5%	10%
7.Lyon County, NV	5%	10%	12%	3%	14%	6%	2%	5%	6%	14%	12%	4%	8%
8.Ravalli County, MT	7%	11%	9%	3%	13%	4%	2%	6%	7%	21%	8%	7%	3%
9.Chaves County, NM	10%	7%	10%	3%	13%	4%	2%	5%	6%	21%	8%	5%	5%
10. Washakie County, WY	14%	6%	8%	3%	12%	5%	2%	5%	6%	19%	10%	5%	5%

Metro Counties

	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Transportation and Public Utilities	Information	Finance Insurance and Real Estate	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	Education	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	Other Services	Public Administration
1. Pima County, AZ	1%	8%	9%	2%	12%	4%	3%	6%	10%	23%	10%	5%	3%
2. Sandoval County, NM	1%	8%	13%	3%	12%	5%	3%	6%	10%	17%	9%	5%	4%
3. Maricopa County, AZ	1%	9%	12%	4%	12%	5%	3%	9%	12%	16%	9%	5%	4%
4. Bernalillo County, NM	0%	7%	8%	3%	12%	4%	3%	7%	13%	21%	10%	5%	3%
5. Mesa County, CO	3%	10%	7%	4%	13%	6%	3%	6%	8%	21%	10%	5%	4%
6. El Paso County, CO	1%	8%	11%	2%	13%	4%	5%	7%	12%	18%	9%	6%	10%
7. Salt Lake County, UT	1%	8%	11%	4%	12%	6%	4%	9%	10%	17%	8%	5%	8%
8. Ada County, ID	1%	8%	14%	4%	13%	4%	3%	7%	10%	17%	8%	5%	3%
9. Kootenai County, ID	3%	11%	12%	3%	16%	4%	3%	6%	7%	18%	10%	5%	5%
10. Jefferson County, CO	1%	8%	9%	4%	12%	5%	5%	9%	13%	16%	8%	5%	5%

A Look at the Top Tens





Cedar City, Utah, located within Iron County (#5), has built an enticing economic development strategy that emphasizes location and incentives to attract new business to southwest Utah. Cedar City has taken some progressive steps to encourage a clean, well-planned, but industry-friendly community. A substantial manufacturing base processes products ranging from aircraft parts to soymilk. Businesses have been attracted to the community for its unique location along I-15, just a day's trucking to any major city in the American West. Industrial development bonds, a local commuter airport, and the Southern Utah University Small Business Development Center, which can assist with market strategy, tax issues, management training, and assessments of existing businesses, all contribute to Cedar City's non-metropolitan economic development success. As Phillip O'Connor, vice chairman and chief financial officer of North American Packaging Corporation put it, "The courageous commitment of local government combined with a great distribution point and excellent workforce made Cedar City our first choice." [1]

1 Cedar City Economic Development Office. http://www.cedarcity.org/mag2004.html. January, 2004.

	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Transportation and Public Utilities	Information	Finance Insurance and Real Estate	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	Education	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	Other Services	Public Administration
The United States	2%	7%	14%	4%	12%	5%	3%	7%	9%	20%	8%	5%	5%
The Rocky Mountains	3%	9%	9%	3%	12%	5%	3%	7%	10%	18%	11%	5%	5%

Bozeman, MT

2. Small Business Vitality

The Issue

Oftentimes, the best way for a community in the Rockies to diversify its economic base is to create a telecommunications and financial services environment conducive to small businesses. The advent of advanced telecommunications like the Internet and fax equipment, and the creation of efficient shipping services like UPS and Federal Express have enabled small business owners to work where they want to live. Creating access to cheap health insurance, commuter air travel destinations, and telecommunications infrastructure are some of the ways in which a community can position itself to attract small business.

About The Indicators

Data from the Census Bureau's County Business Patterns data set was used to calculate the percentage growth in businesses with less than 10 employees for the period from 1980 to 2001. Counties were ranked based on the highest growth in small business creation during this time period.

Counties Generating the Most Small Businesses 1980-2001

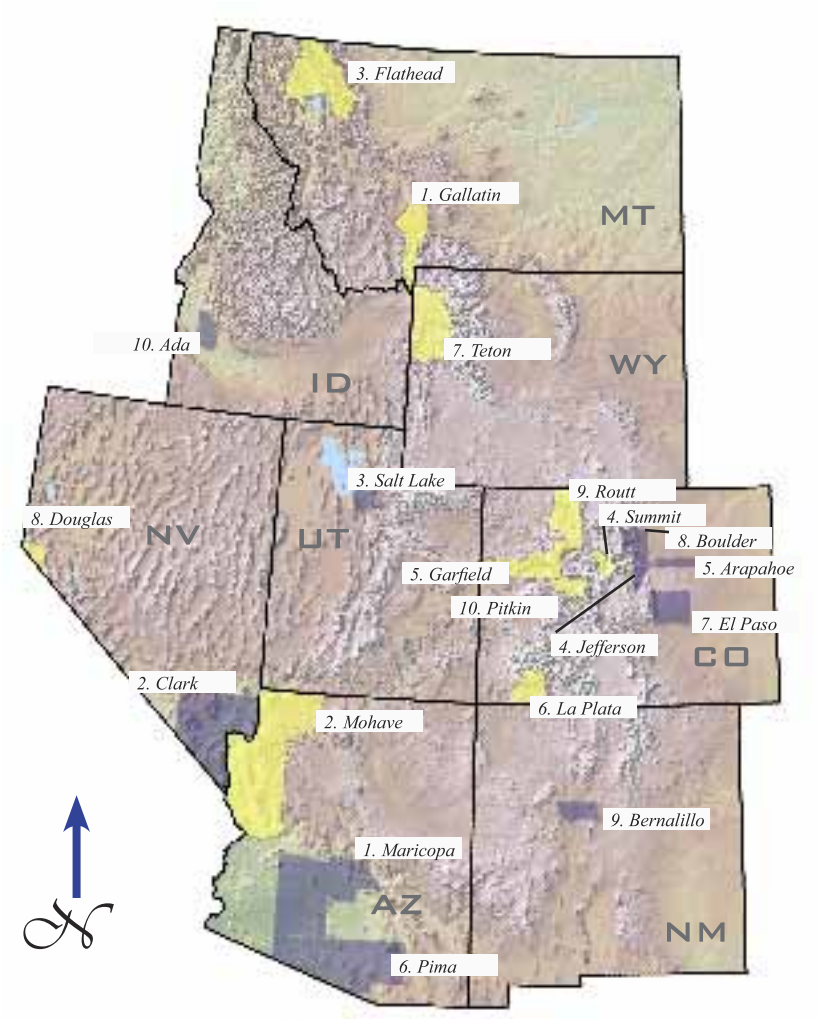
Non-Metro Counties

County Name	Growth in Businesses with less than 10 employees, 1980-2001	Total New Businesses with less than 10 employees, 1980-2001
1. Gallatin County, MT	179%	1,807
2. Mohave County, AZ	177%	1,666
3. Flathead County, MT	128%	1,489
4. Summit County, CO	312%	1,156
5. Garfield County, CO	150%	1,007
6. La Plata County, CO	120%	902
7. Teton County, WY	176%	849
8. Douglas County, NV	195%	716
9. Routt County, CO	184%	713
10. Pitkin County, CO	131%	681

Metro Counties

County Name	Growth in Businesses with less than 10 employees, 1980-2001	Total New Businesses with less than 10 employees, 1980-2001
1. Maricopa County, AZ	128%	28,938
2. Clark County, NV	227%	14,767
3. Salt Lake County, UT	83%	8,381
4. Jefferson County, CO	138%	7,348
5. Arapahoe County, CO	144%	7,072
6. Pima County, AZ	81%	5,982
7. El Paso County, CO	107%	5,303
8. Boulder County, CO	151%	5,104
9. Bernalillo County, NM	65%	4,323
10. Ada County, ID	131%	4,226

A Look at the Top Tens



% Growth in Businesses with Less than 10 Employees, 1980-2001

U.S.	54%
Rocky Mtns.	98%

The Northern Nevada Development Association, the Gardnerville Business Association, and local chambers of commerce in Douglas County, NV (#8), have all banded together to promote business growth at the eastern foot of the Sierra Mountains. Activities like the Douglas County Business Showcase Event at the local fairgrounds, which provides free food and drink for locals to find out about local business, and the new Gardnerville downtown revitalization plan, which hopes to create a more livable community through establishing downtown parks, are generating new opportunities for non-metropolitan northern Nevada.

The nearby Community Business Resource Center (CBRC) is making strides as well. CBRC recently won national recognition as a Top 100 Best Practice organization by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Over the last five years, the CBRC has made significant improvements in the delivery of small business lending and counseling programs by partnering and facilitating four "alternative" lending programs serving Rural Nevada. Services currently available vary from entrepreneurial training to financial literacy and include small business counseling services as part of the Small Business Development Center.[1]

1 www.cbrc.org.

3. Balanced Income Distribution

An equitable distribution of income ensures that low-wage workers can afford community services like low-income housing. In this sense, income distribution ensures that the community remains intact, allowing for all community stakeholders to have a say in civic discourse and address collective community problems. A look at the ratio between the highest income portion of the population and the poorest portion of the population can reveal how access to purchasing power is distributed throughout the community. Inequitable distributions of income force low income workers to live outside the community where they work, creating huge disparities between the cultures of adjacent communities, and thus their ability to adequately address regional problems.

Data on income distribution by income bracket was taken from the 2000 Census and was used to calculate the ratio between those making greater than $75,000 to those making less than $20,000. The absolute difference between each county's ratio and the Rocky Mountain region's average of 1 was used to rank counties.

Counties

Non-Metro Counties

County Name	% of Households Earning Total Income of Less than $20,000	% of Households Earning Total Income of more than $75,000
1. La Plata County, CO	22%	21%
2. Churchhill County, NV	19%	16%
3. Ouray County, CO	19%	20%
4. Sweetwater County, WY	19%	21%
5. Lander County, NV	19%	16%
6. Box Elder County, UT	15%	18%
7. Teton County, ID	17%	14%
8. Lincoln County, WY	19%	16%
9. Jefferson County, MT	22%	17%
10. Uinta County, WY	20%	16%

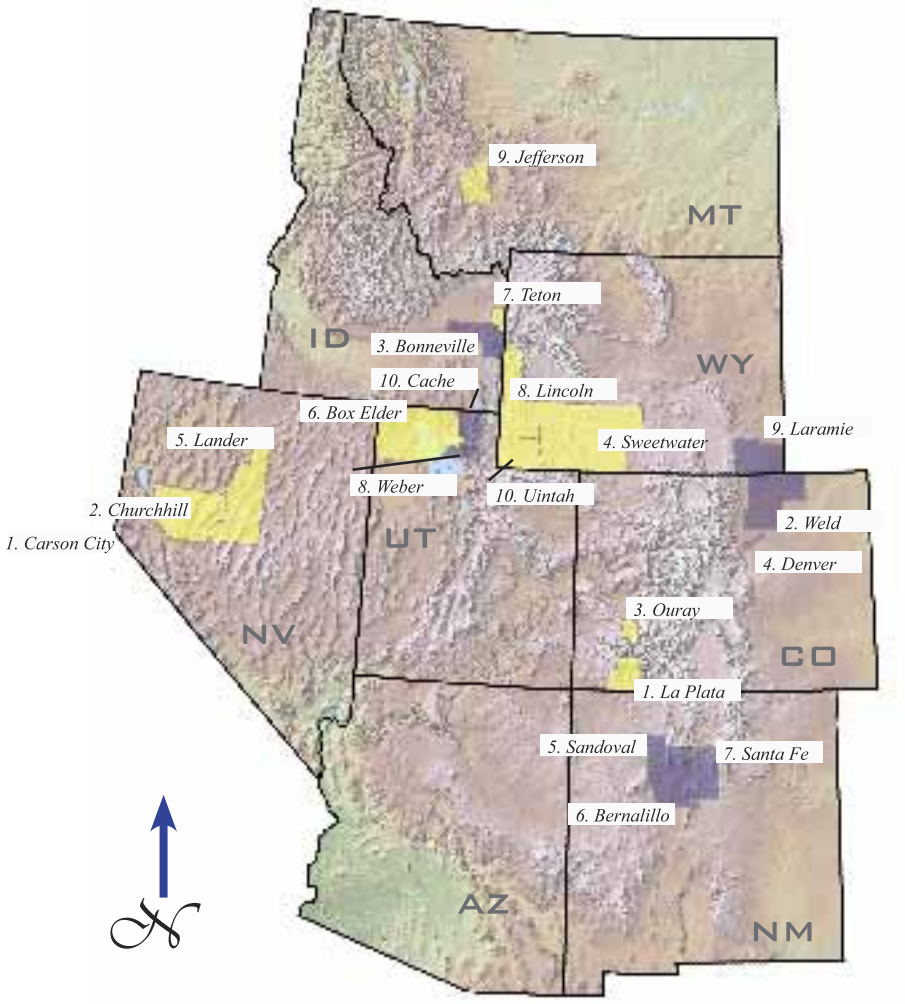
Metro Counties

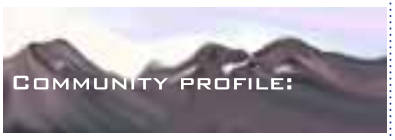
County Name	% of Households Earning Total Income of Less than $20,000	% of Households Earning Total Income of more than $75,000
1. Carson City (Independent City), NV	20%	20%
2. Weld County, CO	20%	20%
3. Bonneville County, ID	21%	19%
4. Denver County, CO	23%	21%
5. Sandoval County, NM	18%	20%
6. Bernalillo County, NM	24%	20%
7. Santa Fe County, NM	21%	24%
8. Weber County, UT	17%	20%
9. Laramie County, WY	21%	16%
10. Cache County, UT	20%	16%

"The more income is unevenly distributed, the more problems a community can suffer, from crime to poor health" [1]

-Andrew Welsh Higgins
AP writer

A Look at the Top Tens





In Pitkin County, Colorado, home of Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley, the gap between the wealthy and the poor could not be more extreme. Second homes in Aspen have created a "cold bed" community where workers must migrate from places like Carbondale to "serve" (working primarily in low-wage service industries) a community of seasonal strangers. Latinos currently represent 30 percent of the Roaring Fork's population, and as the Aspen Valley Community Foundation points out, this is creating huge language barriers, cultural misunderstandings, and prejudices between adjacent communities in the Roaring Fork. Staggering dropout rates exist among local Latino high school students, who comprise about one-third of the overall Roaring Fork School District. Only 45 percent of these Latino students graduate. 72 percent of the Latino families enrolled in the Aspen Valley Community Foundation's program earn less than $15,000 a year. Because Aspen largely imports wealth to the community seasonally, there is little incentive for upper-income, occasional residents to take a stake in community concerns. For Aspen, the result has developed into a reputation as an empty shell of a community, largely dislocated from the inequities that it creates "down-valley." Efforts to ameliorate this lack of affordable housing in Aspen include a portion of the city sales tax and a real estate transfer tax, both focused on making the town more affordable to modest income families. [2]

1 Higgins, Andrew Welsh. ***The Associated Press.*** November 22, 2003.
2 The Latino Family Investment Initiative Program Summary. 2002-2003 AVCF.

4. Distressed Counties

The Issue

Economic decline has historically been part of a "boom-bust" cycle in the American West and confronts many communities in the Rockies today. Counties with high poverty and unemployment rates and low per-capita income levels are faced with a different set of development needs than counties that are experiencing high levels of growth. Such distressed communities are in desperate need of innovative ways to improve their social capital base and revitalize their economies.

About The Indicators

Counties were ranked based on low per-capita income levels in 2001 and high poverty and unemployment rates. Counties were ranked for each individual indicator and a composite score was developed based on their average rankings as explained in the methods and acknowledgments section.

Counties with the Lowest Per Capita Income levels and Highest Poverty and Unemployment Rates

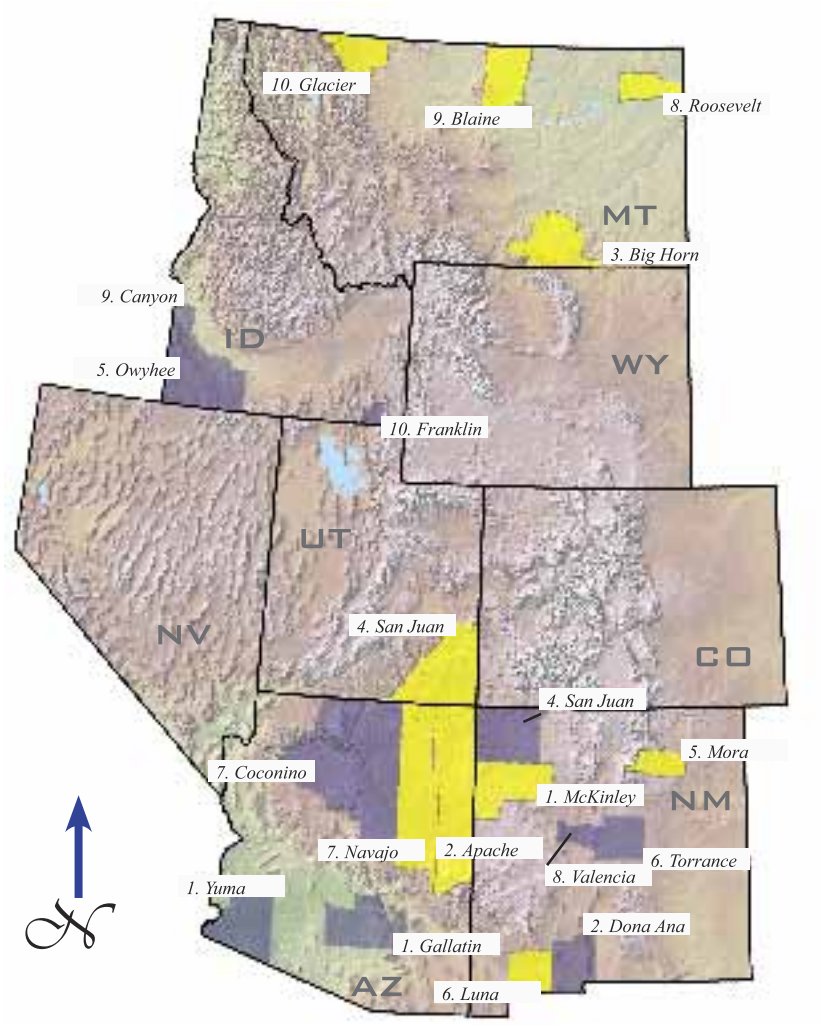
Non-Metro Counties

County Name	Per Capita Personal Income 2001	Percent of Population in Poverty 2000	Unemployment Rate 2000
1. McKinley County, NM	$13,896	37.7%	9.16%
2. Apache County, AZ	$14,802	39.4%	10.07%
3. Big Horn County, MT	$14,998	32.2%	8.71%
4. San Juan County, UT	$13,108	28.3%	8.04%
5. Mora County, NM	$13,426	30.4%	6.45%
6. Luna County, NM	$15,565	34%	7.99%
7. Navajo County, AZ	$14,934	29%	6.20%
8. Roosevelt County, MT	$17,786	31.3%	9.77%
9. Blaine County, MT	$16,715	27.3%	6.82%
10. Glacier County, MT	$17,982	35.4%	9.47%

Metro Counties

County Name	Per Capita Personal Income 2001	Percent of Population in Poverty 2000	Unemployment Rate 2000
1. Yuma County, AZ	$16,839	26.5%	5.74%
2. Dona Ana County, NM	$17,984	28.9%	5.35%
3. Pinal County, AZ	$15,028	21.7%	3.87%
4. San Juan County, NM	$19,361	22.5%	5.47%
5. Owyhee County, ID	$17,251	21.7%	4.17%
6. Torrance County, NM	$17,471	23.1%	3.52%
7. Coconino County, AZ	$23,238	20.3%	4.76%
8. Valencia County, NM	$20,123	18%	3.78%
9. Canyon County, ID	$18,690	14.8%	3.89%
10. Franklin County, ID	$16,893	12.1%	3.60%

A Look at the Top Tens



Percent of Population in Poverty, 2000

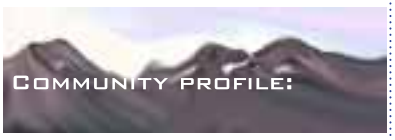
U.S.	11%
Rocky Mtns.	15%

Per Capita Personal Income, 2001

U.S.	$30,413
Rocky Mtns.	$25,878

Unemployment Rate, 2000

U.S.	4%
Rocky Mtns.	3.6%



While high poverty and unemployment on the Navajo Nation has been a long-term development challenge for the region (Navajo County, AZ - #7, McKinley County, NM -#1, Apache County, NM -#2, San Juan County, NM -#4), innovative efforts are providing momentum for change. The new Navajo Technology Empowerment Center (NAVTEC) is a $1.75 million telecommunications and information technology project. Among the significant features of this multi-faceted project is the potential for the Navajo Nation to become the first nation in the world to conduct all its election activities in an e-environment and provide a model for other civic administrative bodies. NAVTEC will focus on e-commerce development, e-training, and government management technologies. The center will apply these technologies to delivering interactive, user-friendly instruction on economic development, career training, educational opportunities and health advisories to 18 communities throughout the Navajo Nation.[1]

1 Digital Empowerment Campaign. http://www.digitalempowerment.org/yourstate/show_details.asp?oeam=046001058. January, 2004.

Grading the Rockies: Final Grades

Grading the Most "Livable" Counties in the Rockies

Where amongst 280 counties and numerous communities in the 8 state Rockies Region are people achieving "vibrancy and vitality?" What does it mean to be "winning" in a region faced with the numerous challenges highlighted by the 15 indicators this report card has used to assign individual "subject" grades around the region? Which counties and the people that reside in them earn highest "overall GPAs" for livability throughout the Rockies? These are questions we answer in this final grading exercise to identify the most "livable" counties. But just as our children in school may be grouped together by age, ability and maturity, we divide counties around the Rockies into three groups within which we seek top performers: Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Rural. Please see the methods section on page 63 for a complete definition of these classifications.

Faced with the reality that nature has not been equally generous to every county in the Rockies, there are a few basic indicators that can be accurate gauges of relative prosperity for all areas of the region. Often the efforts of residents to form and maintain vibrant communities more than offset any deficiencies nature may have "dealt" areas around the West. In this final grading exercise, "county-students" receive a letter grade based on their average score from nine different requisites for community vibrancy and vitality. The individual indicators comprising an overall "GPA" are of a diverse mix; some are clear performance indicators, while others are location-based assets; some "county-students" bring their God-given talent to the classroom, others have truly earned the marks that they receive. The nine indicators developed by the Rockies Project to judge overall vibrancy and vitality are:

Employment Distribution: A good employment mix is critical to local economic vitality as it ensures resiliency against downturns in particular industries or sectors of the economy. Data for employment composition for the year 2000 was taken from the decennial census. For an explanation of how the employment distribution figure was measured please see page 45.

Income Distribution: An equitable distribution of income ensures that low-wage workers can afford community services like low-income housing. In this sense, income distribution ensures that the community remains intact, allowing for all community stakeholders to have a say in civic discourse and address collective community problems. Data on income levels was taken from the decennial census. Please see the income distribution indicator on page 49 for an explanation of how the figure shown here was calculated.

Unemployment Rate: Low unemployment rates are a frequently used gauge of economic vibrancy in a community. Together with the employment growth indicator explained below, low unemployment ensures that the community is generating enough jobs to match the pressures of an expanding workforce. Unemployment rate data was taken for the year 2000 from the decennial census.

Real Growth in Average Earnings Per Job: Real (adjusted for inflation) growth in average earnings per job depicts the degree to which earned income is creating prosperity for a community. It is a rough measure of whether job growth in the community is generating higher quality (higher paying) jobs. Average earnings per job can be in decline in a community due to a number of factors including an increase in the role of part-time employment in the community and/or a shift to jobs in lower-paying industries. Growth in earnings per job was calculated for the period from 1970-2001, the longest given data availability, from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis' Regional Economic Information System (REIS).

Total Employment Growth: Simply stated, employment growth is important for community vitality to prevent economic contraction. Employment data was taken for the period from 1970-2001, the longest given data availability, from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis' Regional Economic Information System (REIS).

USDA Natural Amenity Rank: High natural Amenity levels have been shown to be some of the principal drivers of economic and demographic growth in the Rockies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service developed a weighted natural amenity rank of 1 (lowest) through 8 (highest) for all counties in the U.S. The natural amenities scale takes into account favorable winter and summer climate conditions, topographic variation, and high levels of county water area. High natural amenities are a unique bonus for community vibrancy and livability and are indicative of the natural capital present in each county.

Poverty Rate: A measure of low poverty levels complements the income distribution component of the grading exercise. Having a low poverty rate is an essential component of community vibrancy. Data on poverty levels was taken from the decennial census of population and housing.

The Percent of the Population age 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher: As explained earlier in the Report Card, high education attainment levels ensure that a community can continue to compete in an increasingly global marketplace. This measure of vitality indicates the quality of the human capital in each county.

Growth in the Share of All Businesses with fewer than 10 employees: Small business growth is a good measure of improved entrepreneurship in the community. With the advent of advanced telecommunications, small business brings new opportunities for places to capitalize on assets that are not necessarily location based. Data on business growth by establishment size was taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns dataset.

Counties throughout the Rockies were ranked on their performance in each of these nine indicators. A score of 100 was assigned to the top community in each indicator category, with each succeeding county scoring a point lower down to zero and then minus scores. Counties that tie on a given indicator received the same score for that indicator. An average score was then calculated such that each indicator was worth an equal share of the composite score in evaluating the county's

performance. Counties were then sorted into three major categories in order to compare communities of like size: Metropolitan, Micropolitan (non-metropolitan counties that contain aggregate urban populations of greater than 2,500), and Rural (non-metropolitan counties containing urban concentrations below 2,500 people). Finally, within each of these urban-size categories of counties, an even distribution of grades from A+ to F- was assigned to counties based on their composite numerical score. The Colorado College Vibrancy and Vitality score should be considered a relative, rather than absolute, measure of community prosperity.

Metropolitan Counties *(counties containing an urban population of 50,000 +)*

	Employment Distribution	Income Distribution	Unemployment Rate, 2000	Real Growth in Average Earnings Per Job, 1970 -2001	Total Employment Growth, 1970 -2001	USDA Natural Amenities Rank	Poverty Rate, 2000	Percent of Pop. Age 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Growth in Businesses with Under 10 Employees	Colorado College Composite Score	Grade
Gilpin, Colorado	42%	124	1.7%	17%	1962%	7	5.2%	31.2%	27.9%	52.9	*A+*
Douglas, Colorado	38%	128	1.4%	8%	3073%	6	1.9%	51.9%	4.3%	50.1	*A+*
El Paso, Colorado	16%	55	3.1%	22%	199%	6	9.9%	31.8%	3.6%	47.8	*A+*
Larimer, Colorado	20%	64	3.0%	20%	377%	6	9.1%	39.5%	2.3%	47.3	*A+*
Ada, Idaho	16%	53	2.8%	15%	312%	4	8.6%	31.2%	-0.9%	41.6	*A*
Utah, Utah	28%	45	3.2%	5%	302%	6	10.8%	31.5%	1.5%	41.3	*A*
Arapahoe, Colorado	28%	177	2.4%	46%	692%	5	5.9%	37.0%	1.8%	40.5	*A*
Washoe, Nevada	22%	44	3.4%	9%	260%	6	9.4%	23.7%	1.5%	39.8	*A*
Santa Fe, New Mexico	25%	16	3.1%	7%	268%	5	12.4%	36.9%	-0.2%	39.3	*A-*
Maricopa, Arizona	15%	37	3.0%	10%	347%	6	13.8%	25.9%	1.3%	38.1	*A-*
Sandoval, New Mexico	14%	15	3.9%	26%	920%	5	13.2%	24.8%	0.8%	36.4	*A-*
Washington, Utah	26%	35	3.2%	-13%	926%	5	11.4%	21.0%	2.9%	34.0	*A-*
Jefferson, Colorado	17%	234	2.3%	22%	294%	6	5.3%	36.5%	0.1%	31.1	*B+*
Yavapai, Arizona	19%	44	2.7%	-20%	471%	6	13.6%	21.1%	4.6%	27.3	*B+*
Teller, Colorado	18%	136	2.9%	-11%	752%	6	8.2%	31.7%	4.0%	25.4	*B+*
Summit, Utah	23%	406	2.2%	15%	855%	6	4.8%	45.5%	-3.7%	25.1	*B+*
Weber, Utah	31%	18	4.1%	1%	128%	5	10.3%	19.9%	3.7%	25.0	*B*
Boulder, Colorado	32%	147	3.2%	34%	346%	6	8.0%	52.4%	0.5%	24.9	*B*
Pima, Arizona	13%	29	3.2%	-3%	208%	5	16.9%	26.8%	1.9%	24.1	*B*
Weld, Colorado	22%	1	3.7%	-3%	188%	4	13.3%	21.6%	1.9%	24.0	*B*
Cache, Utah	43%	23	3.6%	1%	235%	5	10.0%	31.9%	-3.7%	23.8	*B-*
Adams, Colorado	27%	58	3.3%	7%	298%	5	10.5%	17.4%	1.6%	22.5	*B-*
Laramie, Wyoming	26%	21	3.0%	1%	91%	5	10.4%	23.5%	-1.2%	22.5	*B-*
Bernalillo, New Mexico	15%	16	3.8%	2%	189%	5	15.5%	30.5%	0.8%	22.4	*B-*

Grading the Rockies: Final Grades

Metropolitan Counties *(counties containing an urban population of 50,000 +)*

	Employment Distribution	Income Distribution	Unemployment Rate, 2000	Real Growth in Average Earnings Per Job, 1970 -2001	Total Employment Growth, 1970 -2001	USDA Natural Amenities Rank	Poverty Rate, 2000	Percent of Pop. Age 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Growth in Businesses with Under 10 Employees	Colorado College Composite Score	Grade
Carson City, Nevada	29%	0	2.8%	-2%	385%	7	8.9%	18.5%	1.2%	22.3	*C+*
Elbert, Colorado	27%	584	1.8%	-8%	408%	4	5.3%	26.6%	0.8%	21.9	*C+*
Bonneville, Idaho	23%	5	3.4%	-9%	136%	4	11.1%	26.1%	-0.8%	20.6	*C+*
Kootenai, Idaho	16%	32	5.1%	-7%	390%	5	11.0%	19.1%	2.2%	17.4	*C+*
Yellowstone, Montana	22%	41	3.1%	-9%	127%	4	11.9%	26.4%	-0.8%	16.1	*C*
Clark, Nevada	40%	29	4.2%	-5%	567%	6	11.2%	17.3%	1.1%	14.3	*C*
Salt Lake, Utah	16%	89	3.2%	11%	210%	5	8.8%	27.4%	-0.1%	14.0	*C*
Mesa, Colorado	15%	41	3.7%	-3%	213%	4	12.5%	22.0%	-1.8%	12.1	*C*
Nez Perce, Idaho	28%	44	2.9%	-6%	80%	4	11.4%	18.9%	0.6%	9.0	*C-*
Denver, Colorado	21%	7	3.8%	47%	45%	5	17.0%	34.5%	-0.2%	5.3	*C-*
Park, Colorado	19%	130	2.0%	-51%	710%	7	6.1%	30.3%	0.5%	4.8	*C-*
Davis, Utah	19%	218	3.1%	-20%	207%	6	6.4%	28.8%	2.0%	4.3	*C-*
Juab, Utah	28%	52	2.3%	-16%	83%	4	9.1%	12.2%	5.0%	3.5	*D+*
Missoula, Montana	19%	51	4.3%	-10%	174%	4	16.3%	32.8%	2.2%	1.3	*D+*
Bannock, Idaho	23%	39	4.7%	-11%	103%	4	13.2%	24.9%	1.6%	0.3	*D+*
Coconino, Arizona	34%	23	4.8%	-12%	253%	6	20.3%	29.9%	0.1%	-6.3	*D+*
Natrona, Wyoming	23%	39	3.5%	-3%	78%	5	12.8%	20.0%	-3.2%	-6.3	*D*
Clear Creek, Colorado	24%	125	1.5%	-46%	161%	7	5.4%	38.8%	-8.0%	-16.1	*D*
Jefferson, Idaho	31%	40	2.9%	-22%	91%	4	13.8%	15.2%	0.2%	-16.8	*D*
Canyon, Idaho	29%	48	3.9%	1%	135%	4	14.8%	14.9%	-2.1%	-18.8	*D*
Pueblo, Colorado	17%	55	3.7%	-12%	54%	4	18.3%	18.3%	3.2%	-20.5	*D-*
Carbon, Montana	36%	61	3.0%	-32%	85%	5	15.0%	23.3%	0.5%	-21.9	*D-*
Tooele, Utah	25%	24	3.8%	-17%	47%	5	9.5%	15.9%	-2.4%	-22.3	*D-*
Storey, Nevada	37%	89	3.5%	-11%	227%	6	4.4%	18.0%	-6.5%	-22.4	*D-*
Power, Idaho	53%	56	3.1%	-11%	34%	4	15.4%	14.3%	3.7%	-26.0	*F+*
Dona Ana, New Mexico	25%	64	5.4%	-13%	183%	6	28.9%	22.3%	2.9%	-26.5	*F+*
Morgan, Utah	32%	136	2.6%	-27%	127%	5	4.2%	23.3%	-12.9%	-26.6	*F+*
San Juan, New Mexico	32%	53	5.5%	0%	244%	5	22.5%	13.5%	1.4%	-28.9	*F+*
Boise, Idaho	35%	33	4.7%	-34%	126%	5	10.8%	19.9%	-11.2%	-32.3	*F*
Torrance, New Mexico	27%	71	3.5%	-7%	183%	5	23.1%	14.4%	0.9%	-32.6	*F*
Yuma, Arizona	32%	55	5.7%	1%	137%	5	26.5%	11.8%	4.9%	-33.6	*F*
Pinal, Arizona	24%	47	3.9%	-16%	99%	5	21.7%	11.9%	3.8%	-34.8	*F*
Franklin, Idaho	47%	39	3.6%	-19%	72%	4	12.1%	13.6%	-3.7%	-37.5	*F*
Cascade, Montana	24%	60	3.8%	-18%	32%	4	13.8%	21.5%	-3.6%	-41.1	*F-*
Valencia, New Mexico	22%	52	3.8%	-20%	101%	5	18.0%	14.8%	-2.2%	-44.8	*F-*
Owyhee, Idaho	60%	70	4.2%	-3%	41%	4	21.7%	10.2%	8.3%	-51.0	*F-*
Gem, Idaho	34%	53	3.0%	-21%	45%	5	15.1%	11.4%	-4.4%	-55.1	*F-*

Micropolitan Counties *(non-metro counties containing an urban population of greater than 2,500 people)*

	Employment Distribution	Income Distribution	Unemployment Rate, 2000	Real Growth in Average Earnings Per Job, 1970 -2001	Total Employment Growth, 1970 -2001	USDA Natural Amenities Rank	Poverty Rate, 2000	Percent of Pop. Age 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Growth in Businesses with Under 10 Employees	Colorado College Composite Score	Grade
La Plata, Colorado	20%	1.9	4.0%	6.2%	318.3%	6	11.3%	36.4%	2.6%	44.9	*A+*
Garfield, Colorado	28%	67.8	1.9%	-5.4%	397.6%	5	8.6%	23.8%	2.1%	39.3	*A+*
Teton, Wyoming	41%	169.5	2.3%	3.9%	584.4%	6	4.7%	45.8%	2.0%	36.9	*A+*
Churchill, Nevada	21%	9.1	3.6%	-3.7%	226.0%	6	9.7%	16.7%	7.9%	35.8	*A+*
Los Alamos, New Mexico	88%	1184.8	1.4%	20.7%	129.6%	5	2.1%	60.5%	4.3%	35.4	*A+*
Blaine, Idaho	32%	105.0	3.1%	22.4%	425.8%	5	6.6%	43.1%	2.6%	34.6	*A+*
Box Elder, Utah	50%	15.8	3.5%	10.9%	116.4%	5	7.7%	19.5%	2.2%	32.5	*A+*
Lewis and Clark, Montana	30%	35.9	3.5%	-4.9%	125.7%	5	12.6%	31.6%	1.9%	22.8	*A+*
Campbell, Wyoming	50%	53.2	3.4%	14.3%	316.2%	4	7.9%	15.7%	1.3%	22.8	*A+*
Elko, Nevada	61%	27.1	4.0%	-3.1%	240.7%	4	6.9%	14.8%	6.8%	21.4	*A*
Gallatin, Montana	20%	28.1	4.5%	-5.9%	293.8%	5	11.7%	41.0%	-0.2%	20.9	*A*
Pitkin, Colorado	45%	243.6	2.5%	30.7%	388.4%	6	3.8%	57.1%	-5.9%	17.8	*A*
Montrose, Colorado	25%	51.1	3.2%	-0.0%	178.0%	5	12.1%	18.7%	1.1%	17.4	*A*
Kane, Utah	42%	59.4	3.3%	-4.4%	282.9%	5	15.4%	21.1%	7.4%	17.0	*A*
Routt, Colorado	35%	129.6	2.5%	3.7%	522.3%	6	6.7%	42.5%	-4.1%	16.3	*A*
Archuleta, Colorado	38%	26.2	3.1%	-39.9%	467.5%	6	12.8%	29.0%	1.2%	15.6	*A*
Eagle, Colorado	52%	420.2	2.6%	9.3%	984.3%	5	5.0%	42.6%	-5.4%	13.8	*A*
Sweetwater, Wyoming	34%	13.0	4.0%	17.6%	185.1%	5	8.0%	17.0%	-3.0%	11.9	*A*
Millard, Utah	51%	51.2	3.6%	32.9%	82.3%	5	13.7%	16.8%	13.8%	11.3	*A-*
Humboldt, Nevada	51%	36.6	5.4%	4.3%	188.4%	5	8.2%	14.2%	4.3%	10.3	*A-*
Summit, Colorado	56%	350.2	2.4%	-4.7%	2415.3%	7	3.8%	48.3%	-7.1%	9.4	*A-*
Elmore, Idaho	28%	53.3	3.1%	-1.3%	60.1%	5	12.1%	17.3%	3.6%	8.6	*A-*
Lincoln, Wyoming	38%	17.0	2.4%	-19.1%	87.9%	6	9.3%	17.2%	0.2%	8.3	*A-*
Chaffee, Colorado	28%	44.0	2.5%	-19.4%	209.3%	6	12.5%	24.3%	-2.4%	8.3	*A-*
Gunnison, Colorado	38%	25.0	3.9%	-15.1%	318.8%	6	12.2%	43.6%	-3.0%	8.3	*A-*
Park, Wyoming	27%	48.6	3.2%	-10.0%	108.1%	5	11.8%	23.7%	-1.8%	4.8	*A-*
Ravalli, Montana	24%	56.7	3.5%	-9.6%	252.7%	4	16.0%	22.5%	1.8%	4.5	*A-*
Caribou, Idaho	53%	49.6	2.8%	-19.9%	58.7%	5	9.2%	15.9%	6.3%	2.1	*B+*
Uinta, Wyoming	41%	20.0	4.6%	-5.9%	269.7%	5	9.3%	15.0%	-0.4%	1.9	*B+*
Lander, Nevada	63%	15.6	5.2%	-2.8%	111.6%	5	7.8%	10.8%	10.7%	1.3	*B+*
Douglas, Nevada	28%	96.7	3.8%	-14.9%	262.2%	7	6.3%	23.2%	2.4%	0.8	*B+*
Lincoln, New Mexico	30%	46.6	2.2%	-25.4%	229.7%	5	19.8%	22.8%	0.8%	0.4	*B+*
Sevier, Utah	32%	48.1	3.8%	5.6%	126.1%	5	14.3%	15.2%	2.5%	-0.4	*B+*
Yuma, Colorado	56%	59.6	1.6%	-11.1%	52.3%	4	12.2%	15.5%	3.2%	-2.5	*B+*

Micropolitan Counties *(non-metro counties containing an urban population of greater than 2,500 people)*

	Employment Distribution	Income Distribution	Unemployment Rate, 2000	Real Growth in Average Earnings Per Job, 1970 -2001	Total Employment Growth, 1970 -2001	USDA Natural Amenities Rank	Poverty Rate, 2000	Percent of Pop. Age 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Growth in Businesses with Under 10 Employees	Colorado College Composite Score	Grade
Lyon, Nevada	23%	28.4	4.3%	-25.7%	384.8%	6	10.6%	11.3%	10.8%	-2.6	*B+*
Iron, Utah	20%	54.7	3.5%	-14.5%	269.0%	5	14.9%	23.8%	-1.4%	-3.1	*B+*
Latah, Idaho	49%	55.6	4.9%	-16.2%	118.3%	4	13.3%	41.0%	3.0%	-4.8	*B*
Wasatch, Utah	17%	107.4	2.9%	-25.4%	212.3%	6	7.3%	26.3%	-0.1%	-5.0	*B*
Sheridan, Wyoming	33%	47.4	2.9%	-11.7%	98.6%	4	11.7%	22.4%	-5.8%	-5.1	*B*
Fremont, Colorado	28%	57.1	1.9%	10.3%	179.9%	6	15.8%	13.5%	-2.1%	-6.0	*B*
Gooding, Idaho	52%	64.0	2.1%	60.5%	97.8%	4	15.1%	12.0%	1.8%	-6.1	*B*
Morgan, Colorado	38%	54.5	2.6%	-4.2%	78.6%	4	14.8%	13.5%	2.9%	-9.1	*B*
Flathead, Montana	17%	51.5	4.1%	-19.1%	221.0%	5	14.4%	22.4%	-0.4%	-10.3	*B*
Moffat, Colorado	48%	25.7	3.8%	0.0%	156.1%	5	10.7%	12.5%	-2.4%	-10.5	*B*
Hot Springs, Wyoming	52%	63.4	1.1%	-23.6%	50.4%	4	12.1%	17.9%	1.4%	-11.9	*B*
Cochise, Arizona	30%	57.2	3.4%	-12.4%	92.6%	7	20.7%	18.8%	5.0%	-14.0	*B-*
Albany, Wyoming	42%	66.2	3.7%	-9.3%	100.2%	6	15.1%	44.1%	-1.5%	-14.3	*B-*
Converse, Wyoming	50%	43.9	3.2%	-8.7%	154.7%	5	11.4%	14.7%	-5.9%	-14.4	*B-*
Madison, Idaho	36%	62.8	4.3%	-16.5%	212.1%	4	15.3%	24.4%	0.9%	-15.3	*B-*
Platte, Wyoming	49%	53.4	2.9%	-4.3%	80.7%	5	13.6%	15.2%	-1.5%	-16.1	*B-*
Washakie, Wyoming	25%	47.1	5.5%	-11.4%	54.0%	4	11.6%	18.7%	0.9%	-19.1	*B-*
Jerome, Idaho	41%	50.8	3.8%	28.5%	118.6%	4	14.7%	14.0%	-2.2%	-19.9	*B-*
Twin Falls, Idaho	28%	55.0	3.9%	-11.1%	103.5%	4	13.6%	16.0%	-0.2%	-22.1	*B-*
Montezuma, Colorado	30%	58.4	4.4%	1.5%	163.1%	5	16.5%	21.0%	-3.3%	-22.4	*B-*
Sanpete, Utah	40%	60.7	3.9%	-9.3%	104.5%	5	16.0%	17.3%	1.6%	-23.5	*C+*
Delta, Colorado	29%	59.3	3.1%	-14.2%	136.8%	5	16.6%	17.6%	-2.8%	-24.3	*C+*
Mohave, Arizona	35%	61.2	3.7%	-21.0%	507.3%	6	16.4%	9.9%	5.6%	-24.4	*C+*
Johnson, Wyoming	44%	53.7	3.7%	-26.1%	89.1%	5	11.6%	22.2%	-2.2%	-24.4	*C+*
Lake, Montana	29%	71.3	4.8%	-6.9%	183.1%	5	22.8%	22.2%	1.5%	-27.8	*C+*
Park, Montana	33%	67.5	3.3%	-22.1%	88.4%	5	15.2%	23.1%	-1.9%	-29.8	*C+*
Alamosa, Colorado	31%	68.3	5.8%	0.1%	136.2%	4	22.3%	27.0%	-1.2%	-30.0	*C+*
Bonner, Idaho	26%	63.2	4.3%	-24.5%	276.9%	5	15.1%	16.9%	0.3%	-30.1	*C+*
Logan, Colorado	31%	61.9	2.3%	-4.0%	43.8%	4	13.4%	14.6%	-6.2%	-30.9	*C+*
Greenlee, Arizona	92%	50.3	3.8%	-16.0%	2.6%	6	10.2%	12.2%	6.5%	-31.1	*C*
Eddy, New Mexico	31%	64.1	3.9%	3.4%	60.9%	6	19.7%	13.5%	3.9%	-31.5	*C*
Grand, Utah	42%	63.2	6.1%	-37.5%	113.1%	4	15.7%	22.9%	5.4%	-31.9	*C*
Silver Bow, Montana	31%	67.5	4.2%	-9.1%	14.6%	4	16.0%	21.7%	2.2%	-33.0	*C*
Carbon, Utah	39%	50.6	5.5%	-13.6%	96.3%	5	15.1%	12.3%	4.7%	-33.0	*C*

Micropolitan Counties *(non-metro counties containing an urban population of greater than 2,500 people)*

	Employment Distribution	Income Distribution	Unemployment Rate, 2000	Real Growth in Average Earnings Per Job, 1970 -2001	Total Employment Growth, 1970 -2001	USDA Natural Amenities Rank	Poverty Rate, 2000	Percent of Pop. Age 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Growth in Businesses with Under 10 Employees	Colorado College Composite Score	Grade
Weston, Wyoming	47%	57.1	3.3%	-11.8%	64.4%	3	9.6%	14.5%	-5.4%	-33.0	*C*
Bingham, Idaho	31%	43.2	3.8%	-15.2%	59.3%	4	15.2%	14.4%	0.5%	-33.3	*C*
Las Animas, Colorado	37%	76.4	3.1%	-10.0%	53.4%	5	23.6%	16.2%	5.2%	-34.9	*C*
Socorro, New Mexico	39%	74.1	5.2%	-2.7%	124.0%	5	30.9%	19.4%	3.5%	-35.1	*C*
Kit Carson, Colorado	46%	54.3	1.3%	-36.4%	38.4%	3	12.8%	15.4%	-3.3%	-36.4	*C-*
Cassia, Idaho	45%	61.8	3.2%	-6.8%	49.4%	4	15.5%	13.9%	-0.6%	-38.6	*C-*
Nye, Nevada	40%	42.1	3.7%	-40.5%	93.4%	6	11.0%	10.1%	-0.6%	-40.1	*C-*
Carbon, Wyoming	39%	51.9	3.3%	-21.0%	35.9%	6	11.9%	17.2%	-10.1%	-41.0	*C-*
Powell, Montana	57%	73.5	2.6%	-6.9%	38.0%	4	19.6%	13.1%	2.8%	-41.3	*C-*
Lake, Colorado	51%	41.3	4.4%	-41.1%	-29.2%	7	8.5%	19.5%	-0.7%	-41.6	*C-*
Sierra, New Mexico	38%	84.4	2.9%	-10.9%	101.8%	6	23.3%	13.1%	3.7%	-42.0	*C-*
White Pine, Nevada	47%	51.0	3.8%	-8.3%	-9.0%	5	11.4%	11.8%	-0.9%	-43.3	*C-*
Colfax, New Mexico	32%	68.3	3.7%	-18.8%	69.9%	5	19.0%	18.5%	-0.5%	-45.8	*C-*
Rio Grande, Colorado	30%	68.0	3.7%	-8.2%	75.3%	6	23.8%	18.8%	-2.8%	-46.5	*D+*
Santa Cruz, Arizona	30%	61.3	4.0%	0.8%	168.3%	6	26.7%	15.2%	-7.4%	-47.1	*D+*
Fergus, Montana	41%	69.4	3.3%	-29.0%	33.7%	5	14.6%	19.1%	-0.6%	-47.8	*D+*
Toole, Montana	48%	80.0	2.5%	-34.1%	14.5%	4	15.2%	16.8%	3.1%	-48.0	*D+*
Taos, New Mexico	31%	75.1	5.7%	-20.2%	222.7%	5	26.8%	25.9%	-0.6%	-48.1	*D+*
Beaverhead, Montana	49%	74.4	2.4%	-25.1%	74.1%	5	17.7%	26.4%	-1.3%	-48.4	*D+*
Curry, New Mexico	37%	70.5	3.8%	2.3%	21.1%	4	19.4%	15.3%	-0.3%	-49.3	*D+*
Uintah, Utah	41%	55.7	4.9%	-14.0%	178.2%	5	15.3%	13.2%	-3.2%	-49.5	*D+*
Payette, Idaho	42%	67.8	3.8%	-5.3%	113.5%	4	17.5%	10.6%	-1.7%	-50.9	*D+*
Huerfano, Colorado	32%	79.3	4.2%	-23.3%	87.8%	6	23.4%	16.1%	8.1%	-51.4	*D*
Prowers, Colorado	36%	72.0	2.6%	16.7%	36.8%	4	21.3%	11.9%	-3.3%	-51.4	*D*
Rio Arriba, New Mexico	36%	68.7	4.8%	-16.2%	146.3%	6	23.7%	15.4%	-0.1%	-53.5	*D*
Minidoka, Idaho	49%	69.7	4.2%	-12.3%	40.4%	4	16.2%	10.1%	6.2%	-54.3	*D*
Bent, Colorado	66%	78.7	2.6%	-5.5%	1.6%	5	22.3%	11.5%	3.5%	-54.8	*D*
Washington, Idaho	44%	68.3	4.7%	-18.4%	54.2%	4	18.4%	12.7%	6.0%	-55.1	*D*
San Miguel, New Mexico	43%	77.7	4.8%	-15.2%	112.5%	5	28.7%	21.2%	-0.3%	-55.3	*D*
Otero, New Mexico	25%	70.8	4.2%	-17.9%	42.1%	5	17.4%	15.4%	1.2%	-55.4	*D*
Navajo, Arizona	35%	70.6	6.2%	-14.4%	197.5%	4	29.0%	12.3%	2.7%	-55.6	*D*
Chaves, New Mexico	25%	69.8	5.0%	9.0%	65.1%	5	24.4%	16.2%	-2.5%	-55.6	*D-*
Goshen, Wyoming	47%	71.8	4.0%	-13.2%	38.5%	4	17.6%	18.6%	-1.5%	-56.4	*D-*
Roosevelt, New Mexico	45%	78.1	4.8%	13.5%	34.2%	4	27.2%	22.6%	-3.0%	-58.4	*D-*
Custer, Montana	47%	73.1	3.4%	-22.2%	28.1%	3	17.6%	18.8%	-1.9%	-58.9	*D-*

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Fremont, Wyoming	39%	62.7	5.7%	-17.1%	79.1%	5	17.8%	19.7%	-4.9%	-59.5	*D-*
Dawson, Montana	51%	69.7	2.8%	-18.1%	1.9%	3	14.5%	15.1%	-6.1%	-59.6	*D-*
Grant, New Mexico	46%	75.0	4.2%	-33.8%	79.9%	6	20.2%	20.5%	0.7%	-59.8	*D-*
Lemhi, Idaho	36%	73.0	4.9%	-14.5%	80.3%	4	15.5%	17.9%	-4.5%	-60.5	*D-*
Fremont , Idaho	35%	61.6	3.3%	-23.6%	33.2%	5	14.5%	12.0%	-2.6%	-60.6	*D-*
Duchesne, Utah	46%	72.3	4.7%	-3.8%	162.0%	5	20.7%	12.7%	-3.9%	-62.1	*F+*
Gila, Arizona	31%	64.9	4.8%	-29.5%	96.6%	7	19.4%	13.9%	0.8%	-62.3	*F+*
Richland, Montana	44%	71.4	3.9%	-24.6%	34.4%	3	16.2%	17.2%	-0.7%	-63.9	*F+*
Glacier, Montana	62%	72.8	9.5%	-9.3%	44.1%	6	35.4%	16.5%	2.4%	-66.6	*F+*
Quay, New Mexico	46%	79.6	2.8%	-11.8%	1.3%	4	27.0%	13.7%	0.1%	-67.1	*F+*
Bear Lake, Idaho	46%	65.8	4.2%	-25.7%	44.3%	5	13.6%	11.7%	-1.0%	-68.4	*F+*
Graham, Arizona	47%	74.5	5.7%	-28.2%	120.7%	6	23.6%	11.8%	4.4%	-70.4	*F+*
Lea, New Mexico	48%	70.8	5.0%	-8.4%	43.3%	4	22.4%	11.6%	1.1%	-70.6	*F+*
Benewah, Idaho	39%	69.3	8.0%	-13.9%	110.6%	5	14.6%	11.4%	-5.9%	-71.4	*F+*
Pondera, Montana	55%	69.9	4.2%	-50.8%	15.4%	5	19.8%	19.8%	0.2%	-71.9	*F*
Valley, Montana	51%	71.6	3.3%	-26.0%	-18.5%	3	17.4%	15.7%	-1.9%	-72.8	*F*
McKinley, New Mexico	40%	79.5	9.2%	-18.6%	90.5%	5	37.7%	12.0%	5.2%	-74.9	*F*
Otero, Colorado	36%	73.2	4.8%	-8.3%	13.3%	4	23.5%	15.4%	-2.2%	-76.0	*F*
Hill, Montana	47%	72.4	6.5%	-26.4%	25.3%	3	20.2%	20.0%	-1.6%	-79.1	*F*
Boundary, Idaho	35%	72.9	5.9%	-28.9%	134.0%	5	16.7%	14.7%	-6.8%	-79.4	*F*
Guadalupe, New Mexico	53%	88.2	3.6%	-25.7%	13.2%	5	30.0%	10.3%	11.0%	-80.3	*F*
Idaho, Idaho	31%	75.3	5.5%	-34.6%	56.9%	5	15.7%	14.4%	-2.0%	-82.4	*F*
Mineral, Nevada	38%	67.3	7.6%	-15.5%	-20.2%	6	13.6%	10.1%	-2.5%	-84.3	*F*
Luna, New Mexico	29%	88.9	8.0%	-2.3%	100.8%	5	34.0%	10.4%	-2.1%	-84.4	*F*
Deer Lodge, Montana	45%	81.8	5.7%	-22.1%	-29.3%	4	19.8%	14.7%	2.5%	-85.5	*F*
Hidalgo, New Mexico	45%	80.8	5.3%	-12.6%	30.4%	5	22.5%	9.9%	1.8%	-85.8	*F-*
Big Horn, Montana	69%	79.0	8.7%	-16.1%	46.6%	4	32.2%	14.3%	-2.3%	-97.3	*F-*
Roosevelt, Montana	61%	79.8	9.8%	-22.7%	18.2%	2	31.3%	15.6%	-0.8%	-98.8	*F-*
Clearwater, Idaho	48%	71.2	6.0%	-36.4%	-15.0%	4	13.1%	13.4%	-7.9%	-99.0	*F-*
San Juan, Utah	44%	77.7	8.0%	-24.6%	91.8%	5	28.3%	13.9%	-12.1%	-101.0	*F-*
Apache, Arizona	59%	83.0	10.1%	-17.7%	134.4%	5	39.4%	11.3%	-5.1%	-101.9	*F-*
Lincoln, Montana	34%	82.1	7.4%	-40.4%	23.2%	4	18.3%	13.7%	-2.1%	-103.1	*F-*
La Paz, Arizona	43%	79.2	3.5%			0	24.4%	8.7%		-112.9	*incomplete*
Shoshone, Idaho	34%	78.7	6.5%	-29.6%	-32.4%	5	21.4%	10.2%	-6.4%	-121.1	*F-*
Cibola, New Mexico	41%	78.7	6.1%			0	25.8%	12.0%		-124.4	*incomplete*

Rural Counties *(non-metro counties with aggregate urban populations of less than 2,500 people)*

	Employment Distribution	Income Distribution	Unemployment Rate, 2000	Real Growth in Average Earnings Per Job, 1970 -2001	Total Employment Growth, 1970 -2001	USDA Natural Amenities Rank	Poverty Rate, 2000	Percent of Pop. Age 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Growth in Businesses with Under 10 Employees	Colorado College Composite Score	Grade
San Miguel, Colorado	53.4%	68.6	2.2%	-11.1%	854.3%	6	7.3%	48.5%	7.6%	***47.9***	***A+***
Eureka, Nevada	80.2%	44.8	2.4%	46.1%	680.4%	4	10.1%	13.6%	16.7%	***41.1***	***A+***
Jefferson, Montana	36.6%	19.1	3.5%	-17.3%	157.9%	4	9.5%	27.7%	8.4%	***35.1***	***A+***
Wayne, Utah	56.8%	61.8	2.1%	19.1%	149.3%	4	13.4%	20.9%	16.1%	***33.3***	***A+***
Custer, Colorado	45.4%	41.9	2.1%	-31.8%	433.8%	6	13.3%	26.7%	6.7%	***30.9***	***A+***
Grand, Colorado	43.7%	69.0	2.5%	-0.4%	451.7%	7	6.7%	34.5%	-1.9%	***30.1***	***A***
Ouray, Colorado	35.1%	10.3	2.2%	-26.5%	171.7%	6	7.8%	36.8%	-0.6%	***28.1***	***A***
Stillwater, Montana	48.4%	40.3	4.5%	15.9%	198.3%	5	11.5%	17.8%	4.0%	***19.6***	***A***
Beaver, Utah	48.8%	60.7	1.3%	52.2%	82.1%	5	12.3%	12.1%	15.7%	***16.4***	***A***
Crook, Wyoming	52.4%	46.8	2.1%	-19.2%	75.3%	5	9.7%	17.5%	6.5%	***13.5***	***A***
Teton, Idaho	39.8%	16.6	2.4%	-27.2%	186.4%	4	10.1%	28.1%	-3.6%	***12.3***	***A***
Hinsdale, Colorado [08053]	48.3%	33.1	1.5%	-51.6%	562.9%	7	10.1%	34.9%	-7.2%	***11.1***	***A-***
Mineral, Colorado	40.4%	43.5	1.7%	-58.3%	136.3%	6	6.6%	31.2%	-4.9%	***5.4***	***A-***
Emery, Utah	45.2%	39.3	3.9%	13.9%	153.1%	4	11.7%	11.6%	4.6%	***4.8***	***A-***
Camas, Idaho	43.1%	48.0	2.7%	-46.8%	27.2%	5	7.9%	22.2%	8.2%	***2.6***	***A-***
Cheyenne, Colorado	61.3%	54.5	0.7%	-25.6%	36.1%	3	9.5%	14.2%	8.8%	***-3.8***	***A-***
Custer, Idaho	58.8%	65.3	3.9%	-2.2%	115.4%	4	12.0%	17.4%	3.0%	***-4.6***	***B+***
Phillips, Colorado	58.1%	67.9	1.7%	-27.6%	42.3%	3	11.8%	19.9%	7.8%	***-5.4***	***B+***
Lincoln, Nevada	46.0%	68.1	2.5%	3.3%	114.3%	5	13.6%	15.1%	-0.1%	***-8.3***	***B+***
Sublette, Wyoming	52.1%	30.1	3.3%	-25.8%	107.9%	6	8.4%	21.6%	-4.0%	***-9.5***	***B+***
Valley, Idaho	31.6%	42.3	3.8%	-29.5%	190.0%	5	12.6%	26.3%	-3.7%	***-14.5***	***B+***
Sweet Grass, Montana	47.7%	56.4	1.5%	-23.7%	71.0%	5	12.3%	23.6%	-4.7%	***-15.4***	***B***
Pershing, Nevada	61.5%	46.2	3.6%	-19.2%	99.4%	5	11.5%	8.7%	6.7%	***-18.1***	***B***
Crowley, Colorado	52.1%	76.1	1.8%	48.3%	76.1%	5	31.0%	11.9%	9.1%	***-21.6***	***B***
Madison, Montana	44.8%	68.4	3.2%	-7.9%	77.7%	5	14.6%	25.5%	-3.6%	***-23.0***	***B***
Rich, Utah	53.0%	26.2	2.6%	-31.8%	18.0%	6	11.3%	22.0%	-4.8%	***-23.4***	***B***
Lincoln, Colorado	45.3%	55.8	1.2%	-20.4%	53.6%	4	16.1%	13.2%	2.9%	***-23.6***	***B***
Granite, Montana	43.8%	69.6	3.2%	-18.2%	61.7%	4	19.4%	22.1%	4.1%	***-24.3***	***B-***
Rio Blanco, Colorado	54.5%	48.8	4.0%	-12.3%	82.9%	5	9.5%	19.5%	-6.3%	***-24.4***	***B-***

Rural Counties *(non-metro counties with aggregate urban populations of less than 2,500 people)*

	Employment Distribution	Income Distribution	Unemployment Rate, 2000	Real Growth in Average Earnings Per Job, 1970 -2001	Total Employment Growth, 1970 -2001	USDA Natural Amenities Rank	Poverty Rate, 2000	Percent of Pop. Age 25+ with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Growth in Businesses with Under 10 Employees	Colorado College Composite Score	Grade
Washington, Colorado	55.5%	52.8	1.0%	-32.9%	11.0%	4	13.3%	14.3%	2.8%	-25.5	*B-*
Big Horn, Wyoming	46.5%	64.9	3.8%	-4.7%	44.2%	5	13.0%	15.9%	-0.4%	-32.6	*B-*
Lincoln, Idaho	44.7%	62.7	2.5%	-2.0%	35.5%	3	15.0%	13.0%	-1.6%	-33.4	*B-*
Broadwater, Montana	40.6%	59.5	2.8%	-14.4%	98.5%	5	15.8%	15.0%	-2.6%	-33.9	*C+*
Dolores, Colorado	42.9%	70.9	3.5%	24.6%	52.6%	5	12.0%	13.5%	-3.0%	-34.6	*C+*
Jackson, Colorado	61.6%	53.6	2.9%	-64.6%	66.9%	6	10.7%	19.9%	-4.8%	-35.4	*C+*
Daggett, Utah	72.3%	58.2	4.3%	-8.0%	103.0%	5	6.8%	11.9%	-3.4%	-37.5	*C+*
Garfield, Utah	51.3%	60.7	5.2%	-8.6%	102.6%	5	14.7%	20.3%	-3.9%	-38.4	*C+*
Butte, Idaho	44.6%	66.0	3.5%	40.8%	57.1%	4	13.8%	13.0%	-5.7%	-39.8	*C*
Rosebud, Montana	70.0%	57.7	5.5%	14.0%	130.4%	3	19.6%	17.6%	-4.3%	-40.5	*C*
Kiowa, Colorado	74.3%	68.0	1.8%	-29.4%	3.6%	4	10.0%	16.1%	-2.4%	-40.8	*C*
Daniels, Montana	65.7%	74.4	1.8%	-43.0%	1.1%	2	12.4%	14.1%	4.0%	-43.3	*C*
Prairie, Montana	78.0%	81.1	2.3%	-5.2%	-17.8%	3	14.5%	14.8%	0.9%	-44.8	*C*
Judith Basin, Montana	78.5%	76.7	1.5%	-60.3%	-2.8%	4	15.7%	23.6%	1.3%	-45.9	*C*
Garfield, Montana	89.3%	86.5	2.1%	-47.7%	-12.5%	4	13.4%	16.8%	7.9%	-47.0	*C-*
Oneida, Idaho	68.3%	75.0	2.6%	-41.8%	29.2%	4	12.7%	15.0%	2.1%	-47.8	*C-*
Saguache, Colorado	52.9%	80.7	3.6%	-24.0%	111.8%	6	28.9%	19.6%	2.6%	-48.9	*C-*
Fallon, Montana	63.8%	76.6	2.0%	-22.7%	3.8%	3	12.1%	14.4%	-0.4%	-48.9	*C-*
Liberty, Montana	66.6%	74.0	1.9%	-64.4%	-1.0%	4	12.8%	17.6%	-0.2%	-50.4	*C-*
Baca, Colorado	66.9%	78.8	1.4%	-29.0%	5.1%	4	17.1%	14.0%	4.1%	-50.6	*D+*
Union, New Mexico	56.7%	76.0	1.1%	-32.7%	10.1%	4	20.7%	13.0%	8.4%	-51.4	*D+*
McCone, Montana	67.7%	74.0	1.5%	-43.8%	-17.3%	4	14.2%	16.4%	0.7%	-51.4	*D+*
Clark, Idaho	84.2%	84.0	4.0%	-45.6%	78.4%	3	9.9%	12.6%	21.4%	-52.5	*D+*
Sheridan, Montana	55.5%	71.2	2.1%	-36.2%	-9.7%	3	11.8%	18.4%	-8.2%	-54.5	*D+*
Golden Valley, Montana	84.5%	80.0	1.3%	-57.7%	13.2%	4	21.5%	16.2%	6.3%	-54.9	*D*
Teton, Montana	54.2%	71.6	2.1%	-46.5%	25.9%	5	17.2%	20.8%	-2.8%	-55.8	*D*
Esmeralda, Nevada	71.6%	53.0	1.8%	-23.8%	18.3%	5	12.4%	9.6%	-64.6%	-57.0	*D*
Chouteau, Montana	67.8%	72.5	3.5%	-63.2%	5.5%	3	13.6%	20.5%	0.0%	-58.9	*D*
San Juan, Colorado	53.8%	82.8	2.1%	-41.2%	17.1%	7	16.3%	43.7%	-12.0%	-59.8	*D*

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Adams, Idaho	37.7%	74.5	4.2%	-49.9%	69.1%	5	14.0%	14.9%	2.1%	-60.3	*D*
Sedgwick, Colorado	53.6%	75.7	0.9%	-22.9%	-11.8%	4	12.9%	13.4%	-6.1%	-62.4	*D-*
De Baca, New Mexico	58.4%	82.3	2.9%	-17.8%	4.4%	5	21.9%	16.2%	0.8%	-62.5	*D-*
Petroleum, Montana	114.7%	79.8	1.3%	-52.3%	-12.2%	4	16.0%	17.4%	0.0%	-62.6	*D-*
Niobrara, Wyoming	66.5%	69.3	2.1%	-22.9%	8.9%	3	16.5%	15.3%	-6.3%	-63.5	*D-*
Piute, Utah	63.5%	79.7	3.5%	34.0%	-7.9%	5	17.8%	14.4%	-7.1%	-68.5	*D-*
Carter, Montana	107.7%	82.2	0.4%	-43.6%	-11.2%	3	18.5%	13.6%	1.6%	-70.0	*F+*
Mineral, Montana	27.9%	75.6	4.4%	-31.8%	71.0%	4	20.0%	12.3%	2.3%	-73.0	*F+*
Meagher, Montana	59.8%	79.8	3.4%	-31.0%	30.6%	5	19.7%	18.7%	-2.5%	-75.1	*F+*
Harding, New Mexico	79.4%	82.3	1.8%	-50.7%	-3.0%	4	14.6%	18.1%	-22.7%	-75.5	*F+*
Wibaux, Montana	70.0%	73.8	3.1%	-41.9%	-1.9%	3	19.5%	16.0%	-0.6%	-75.8	*F+*
Mora, New Mexico	53.8%	81.5	6.5%	-52.4%	75.2%	6	30.4%	15.5%	11.1%	-78.8	*F*
Costilla, Colorado	46.0%	89.1	6.0%	-5.1%	51.4%	6	32.1%	12.8%	1.7%	-79.4	*F*
Phillips, Montana	63.0%	80.0	2.7%	-39.6%	21.0%	4	18.1%	17.1%	-6.8%	-79.9	*F*
Catron, New Mexico	52.7%	84.2	4.2%	-41.2%	58.5%	6	23.8%	18.4%	0.2%	-80.3	*F*
Powder River, Montana	81.2%	79.8	2.5%	-51.0%	-12.6%	3	14.6%	16.0%	-7.6%	-82.9	*F*
Blaine, Montana	72.6%	79.3	6.8%	-22.5%	5.1%	4	27.3%	17.4%	2.4%	-83.0	*F*
Lewis, Idaho	39.4%	71.0	4.9%	-46.4%	16.7%	4	15.1%	14.8%	-2.1%	-84.3	*F*
Wheatland, Montana	76.3%	84.9	3.7%	-38.0%	-14.6%	5	19.3%	13.5%	3.7%	-84.4	*F-*
Conejos, Colorado	48.2%	80.0	3.3%	-20.9%	44.9%	6	29.2%	14.4%	-5.9%	-86.6	*F-*
Treasure, Montana	79.0%	82.2	2.9%	-58.3%	-17.0%	3	16.0%	18.2%	-13.9%	-89.8	*F-*
Sanders, Montana	35.6%	80.1	5.2%	-28.3%	90.1%	4	20.6%	15.5%	-6.9%	-90.6	*F-*
Musselshell, Montana	53.6%	79.1	4.4%	-42.1%	20.7%	4	19.7%	16.7%	-4.6%	-96.8	*F-*