

# Bent County



## Demographic Profile

Prepared by Southern Colorado Economic Development District  
1104 North Main Street  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
719-545-8680

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# Bent County



Bent County is located in the Southeastern corner of Colorado along the Arkansas River. The river provides water for irrigation, recreation and wildlife. The Santa Fe Trail traverses the north side of the Arkansas River and lies parallel to Highway 50. Bent's Old Fort served as a major trading post on the Santa Fe Trail. The county is 1,541 square miles with an average elevation of 3,900 feet. Bent County houses two correctional facilities. The economy consists of mainly agriculture.

### County Commissioners:

Lynden Gill  
 Bill Long  
 Thomas Wallace

### Legislative Districts:

Congressional District: 4  
 Senate District: 2  
 House District: 64

**County Seat:** Las Animas

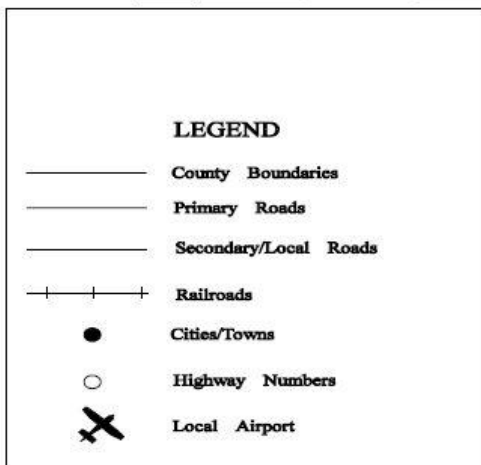
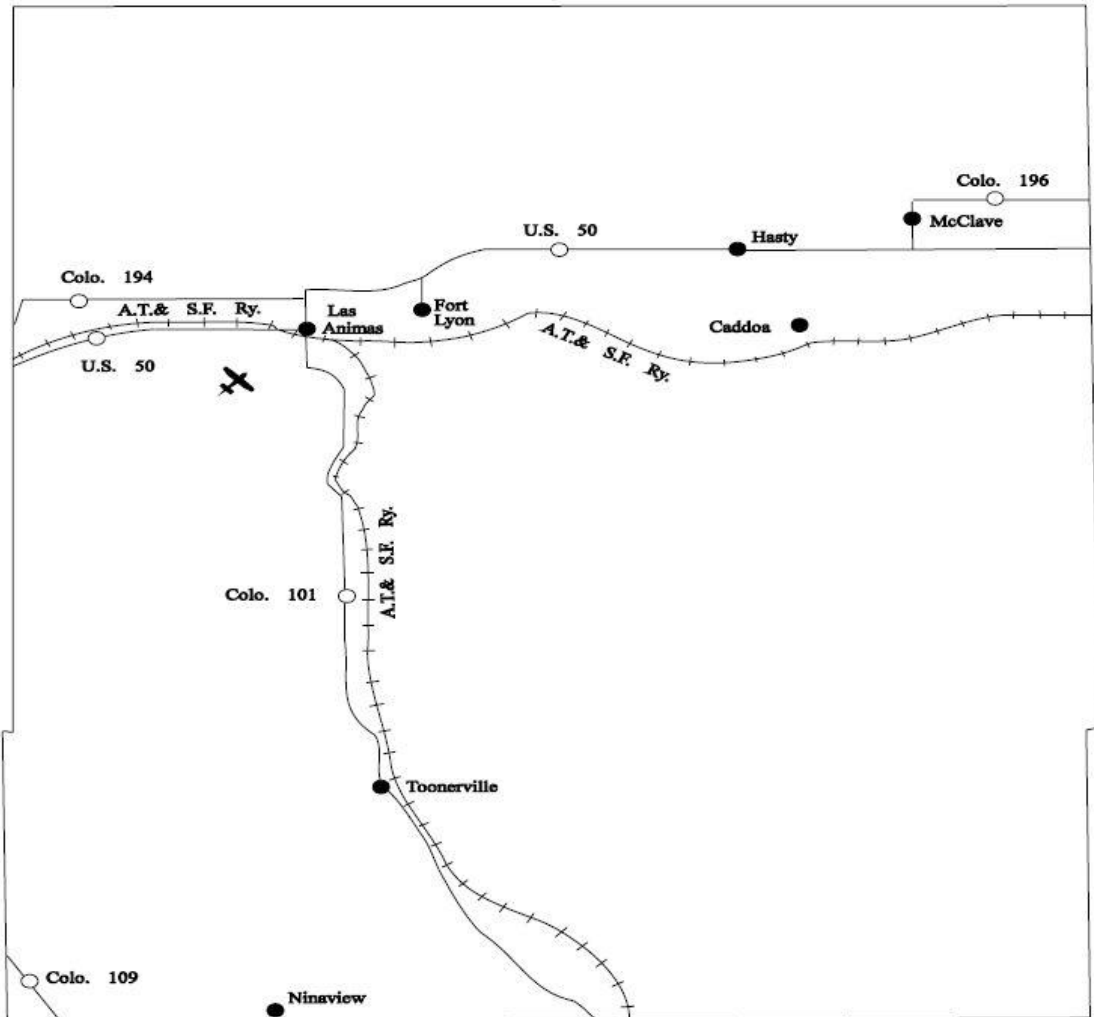
### Contact:

725 Bent Avenue  
 Las Animas, CO 81073  
 Phone: 719-456-1600  
 Fax: 719-456-0375

### SCEDD Board Representatives:

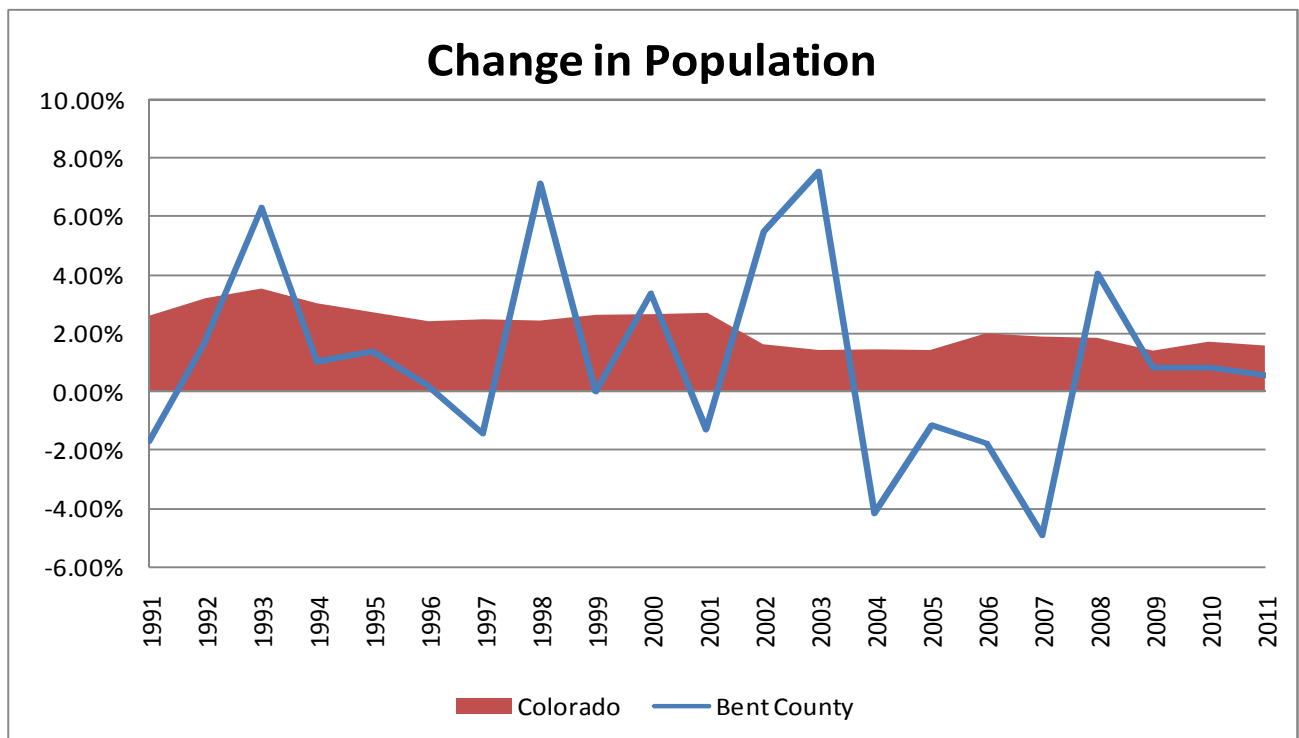
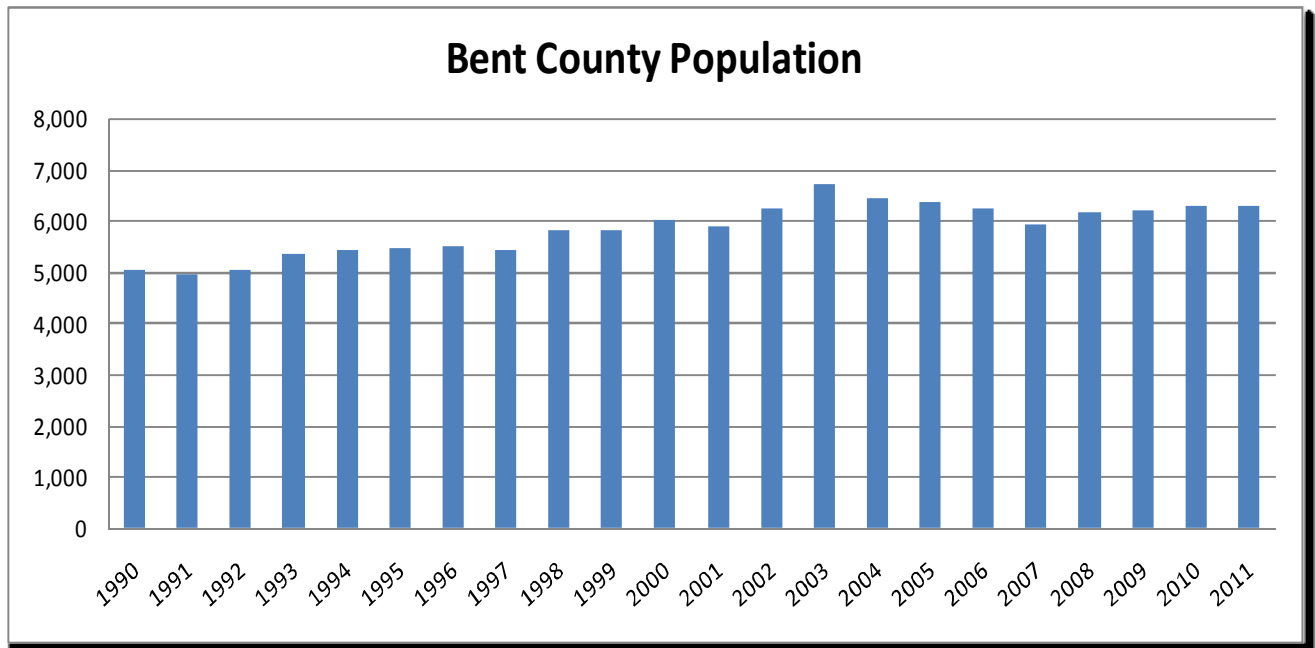
Bill Long, County Commissioner  
 Lisa Trigilio, Bent County Development

# Transportation



## Population

The Department of Local Affairs estimates the 2011 population of Bent County at 6,299, which is approximately .12% of the State's population. In the last ten years, Bent County's population has increased approximately 6%, while the state saw an 18% increase.



Data retrieved from State Demography Office-DOLA

[www.dola.state.co.us](http://www.dola.state.co.us)

1/11/2011

# Population

## Bent County Prison Population

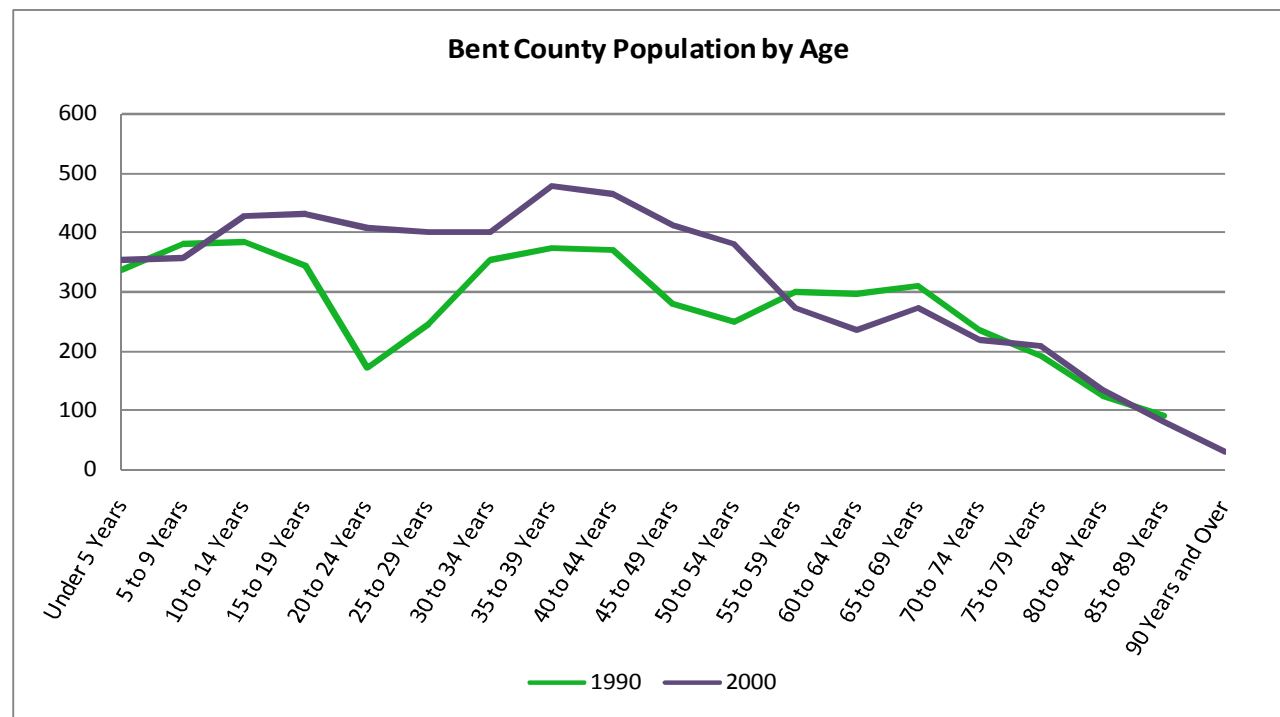
Private Prisons	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jan-05	Jan-06	Jan-07	Jan-08	Jan-09	Jan-10
Fort Lyon Correctional Facility	742	732	749	751	753	751	752	747	758	750

Public Prisons	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jan-05	Jan-06	Jan-07	Jan-08	Jan-09	Jan-10
Bent County Correctional Center	336	334	319	306	306	328	324	299	306	306
<b>Total Prison Population</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>1,056</b>

Colorado Dept. of Corrections  
<http://www.doc.state.co.us>  
 8/4/2010

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bent County Population	5,911	6,234	6,702	6,420	6,345	6,233	5,926	6,163	6,214	6,265
Total Prison Population	1,078	1,066	1,068	1,057	1,059	1,079	1,076	1,046	1,064	1,056
Percent of County Population	18.24%	17.10%	15.94%	16.46%	16.69%	17.31%	18.16%	16.97%	17.12%	16.86%

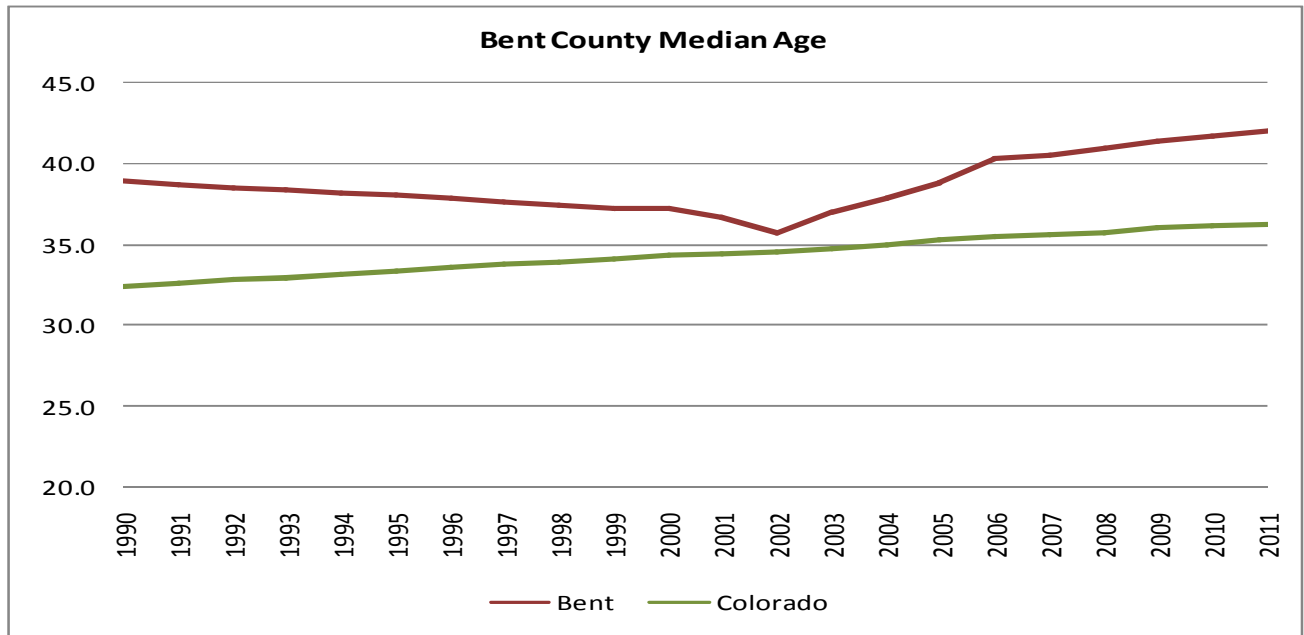
## Population by Age



<http://www.factfinder.census.gov>  
 8/5/2010

# Population

## Estimated Median Age



[https://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/demog/age\\_colo.html](https://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/demog/age_colo.html)  
1/11/2011

## Population by Community

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Las Animas	2,738	2,642	2,608	2,547	2,525	2,485	2,461	2,335	2,345	2,758

Population estimates from census bureau fact finder  
<http://factfinder.census.gov>  
7/1/2010

# Bent County Socioeconomic Statistics

## Child Statistics

Bent County	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Teen Births (15-17, per 1,000)	50.7	86.6	23.4	38.2	*	*	41.7	44.6	*
Out of Home Placements (per 1,000)	17.4	17.8	20.8	16.7	N/A	16.3	16.6	13.2	13.9
Children Under 18 in Poverty (Percent)	30.7%	N/A	23.3%	25.3%	24.9%	30.8%	32.7%	33.8%	32.4%

\* Fewer Than Three Reported

[www.colordokids.org](http://www.colordokids.org)

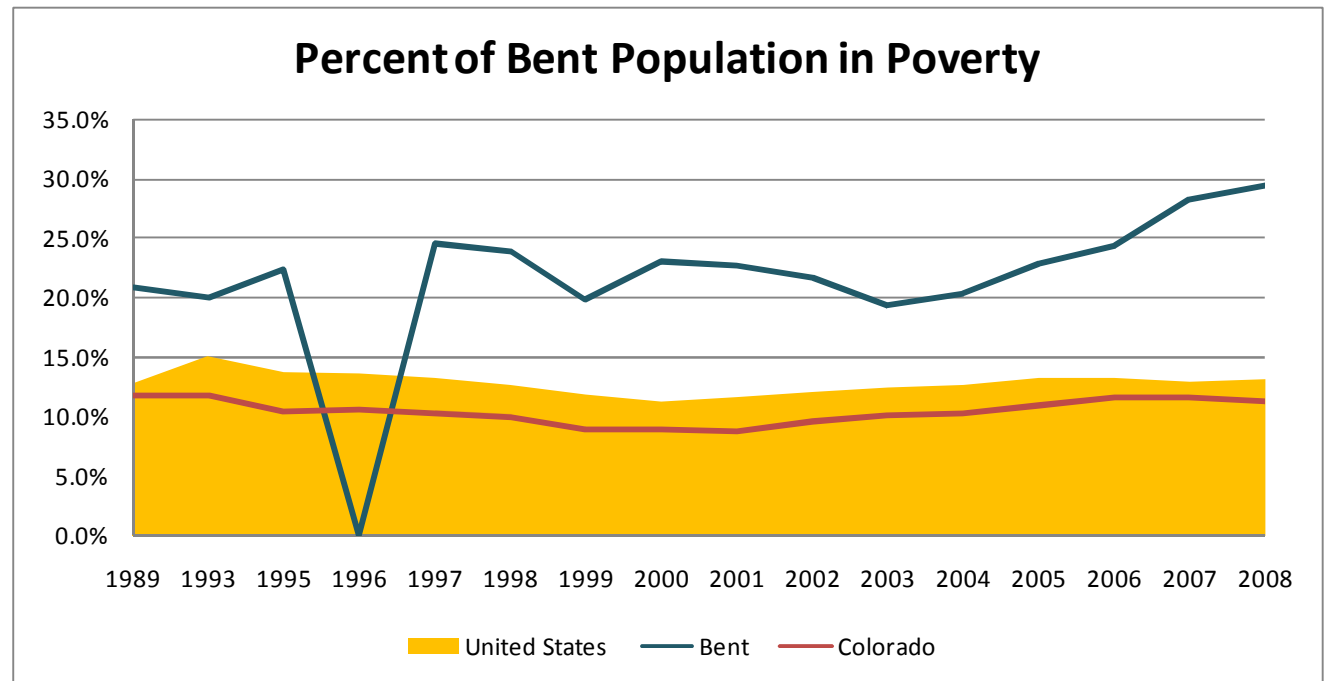
6/24/2010

State of Colorado	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Teen Births (15-17, per 1,000)	29.4	25.3	25.9	24.3	24.8	23.8	23.7	22.1	21.4
Out of Home Placements (per 1,000)	12.3	12.2	12.2	11.9	N/A	11.5	10.7	10.2	9.9
Children Under 18 in Poverty (Percent)	12.2%	N/A	11.8%	12.8%	12.8%	14.0%	14.8%	15.3%	14.4%

[www.colordokids.org](http://www.colordokids.org)

6/24/2010

## Poverty

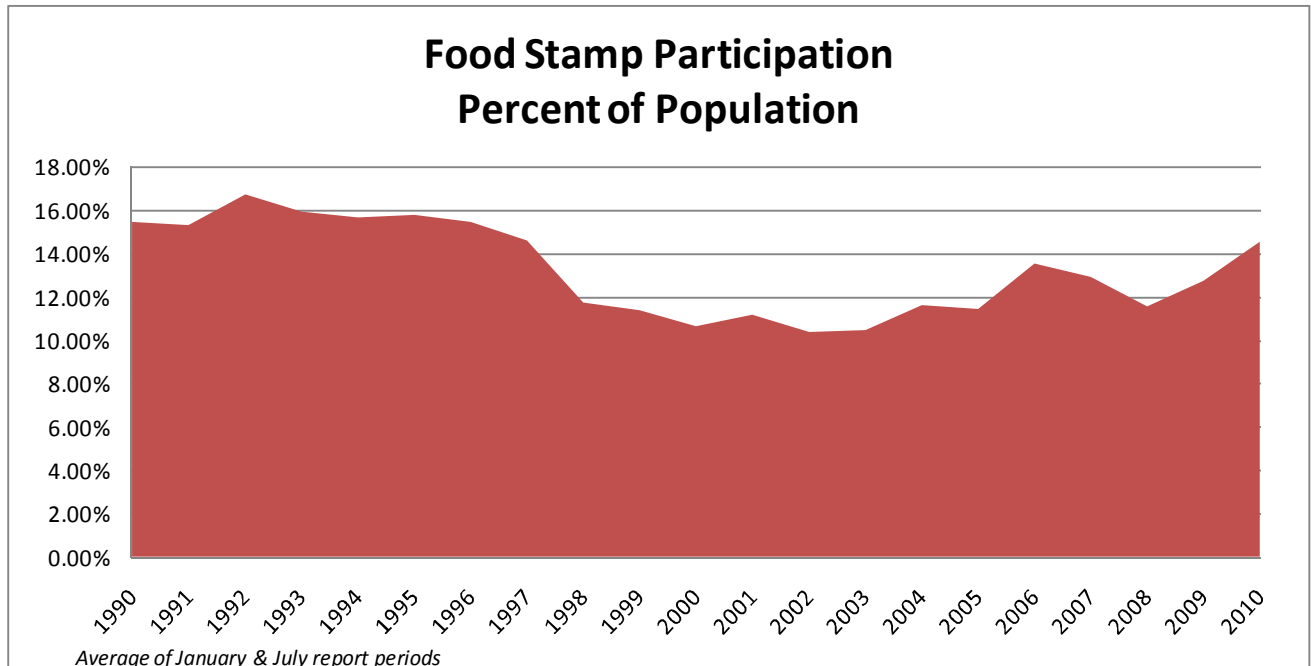


US Census-Data for 1996 is not available

9/16/2010

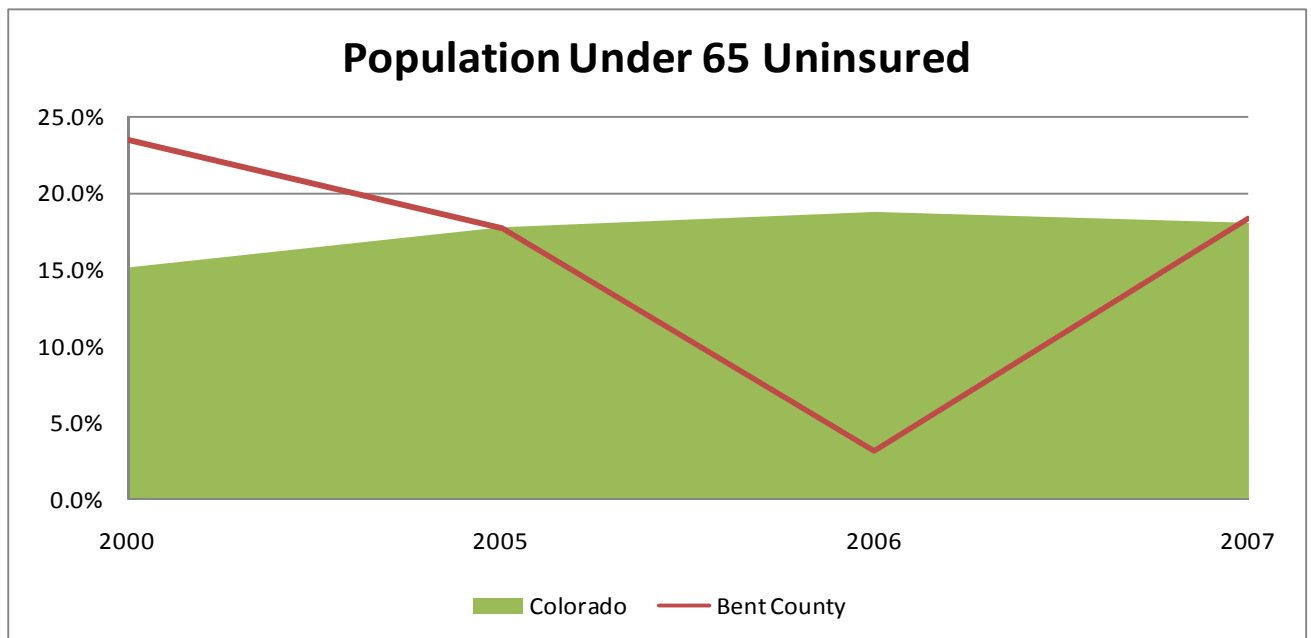
# Bent County Socioeconomic Statistics

## Poverty



USDA  
9/24/2010

## Uninsured Under 65



<http://www.census.gov//did/www/sahie/data/index.html>  
8/2/2010

## Life Expectancy

**Average Life Expectancy: 75.7**

<http://communityhealth.hhs.gov>  
3/8/2010

# Bent County Socioeconomic Statistics

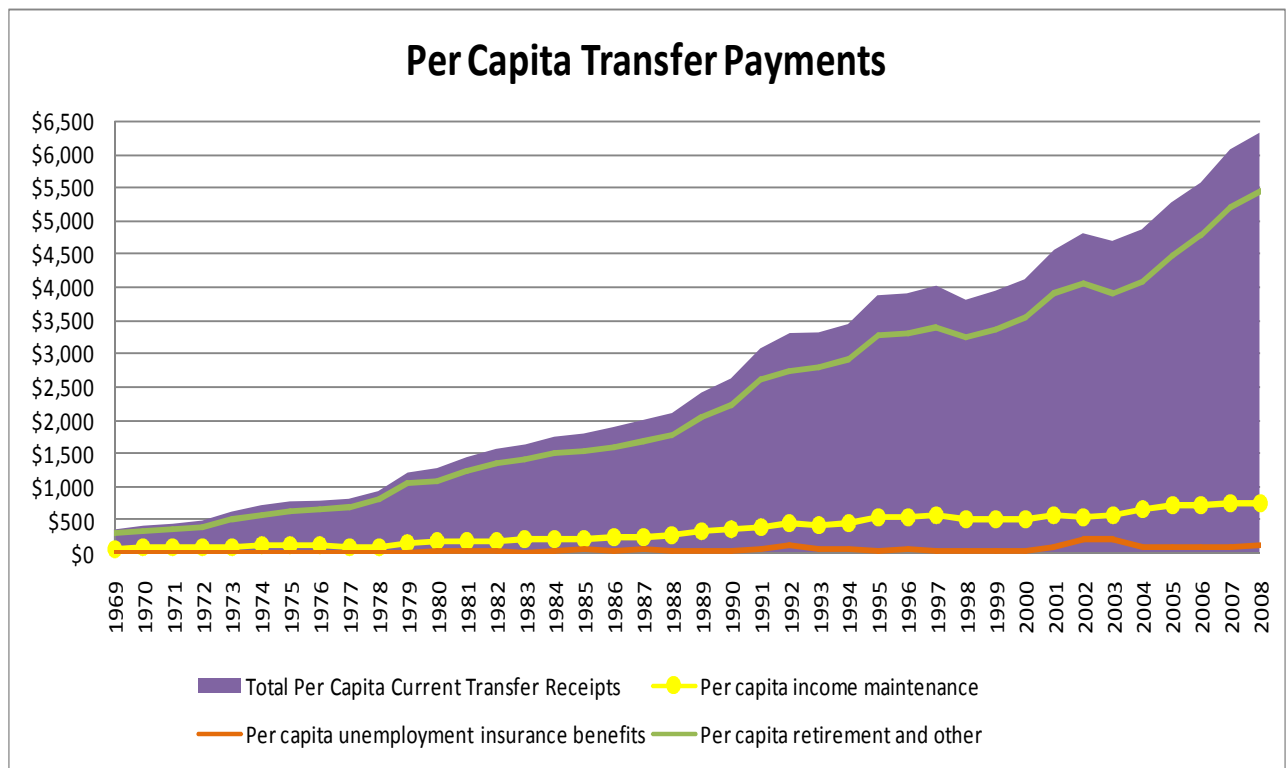
## County Federal Payments

As of June, 2009

Program	Payment Type	Payment
Price Support	Loans Made	\$33,183.00
Prompt Pay	Interest Penalty	\$125.50
Prompt Pay	Interest Penalty	\$12.36
Noninsured Assistance Program	Regular	\$7,529.00
Noninsured Assistance Program	Loss Adjustor	\$301.69
Crop Disaster Assistance Program	Crop Disaster Program with Appropriation	\$38,640.00
Conservation Reserve	Conservation Reserve Annual Payment	\$675,334.00
Direct & Counter Cyclicalpym	Direct Payment	\$615,143.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,370,268.55</b>

Farm Service Administration  
10/29/2009

## Personal Transfer Receipts



Bureau of Economic Analysis  
www.bea.gov  
9/16/2010

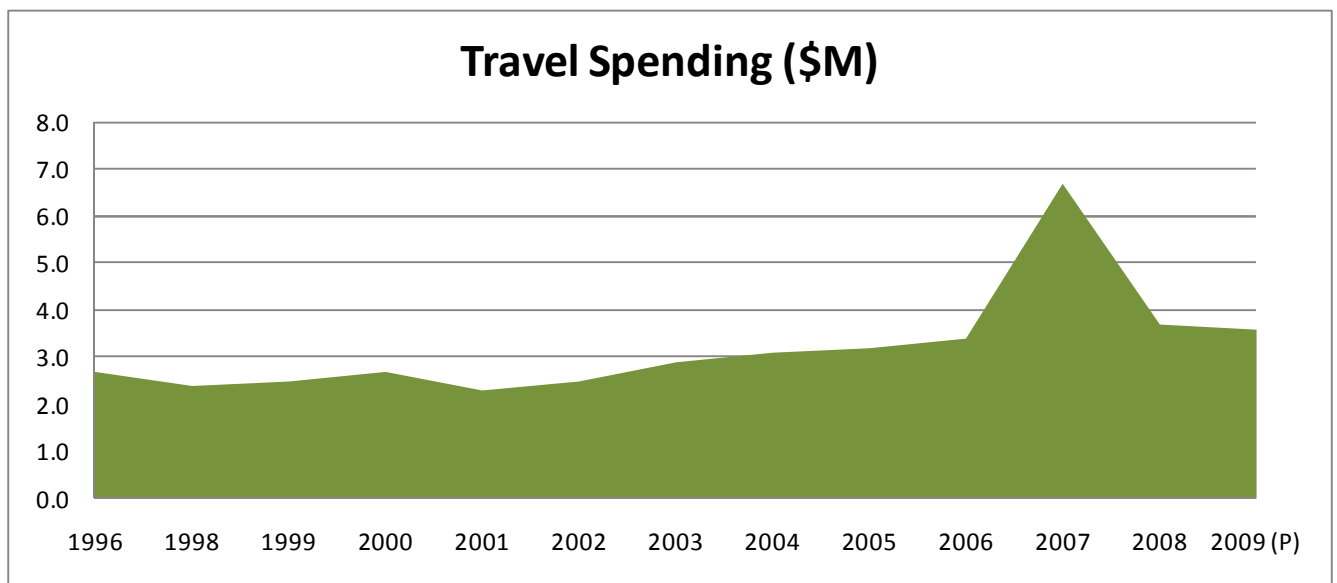
# Bent County Socioeconomic Statistics

## Travel Impact

	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 (P)
Travel Spending (\$M)	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.4	6.7	3.7	3.6
Earnings (\$M)	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.7	0.9	0.9
Employment (Jobs)	70	50	50	50	40	50	60	60	60	60	130	60	60
Local Taxes (\$M)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
State Taxes (\$M)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1

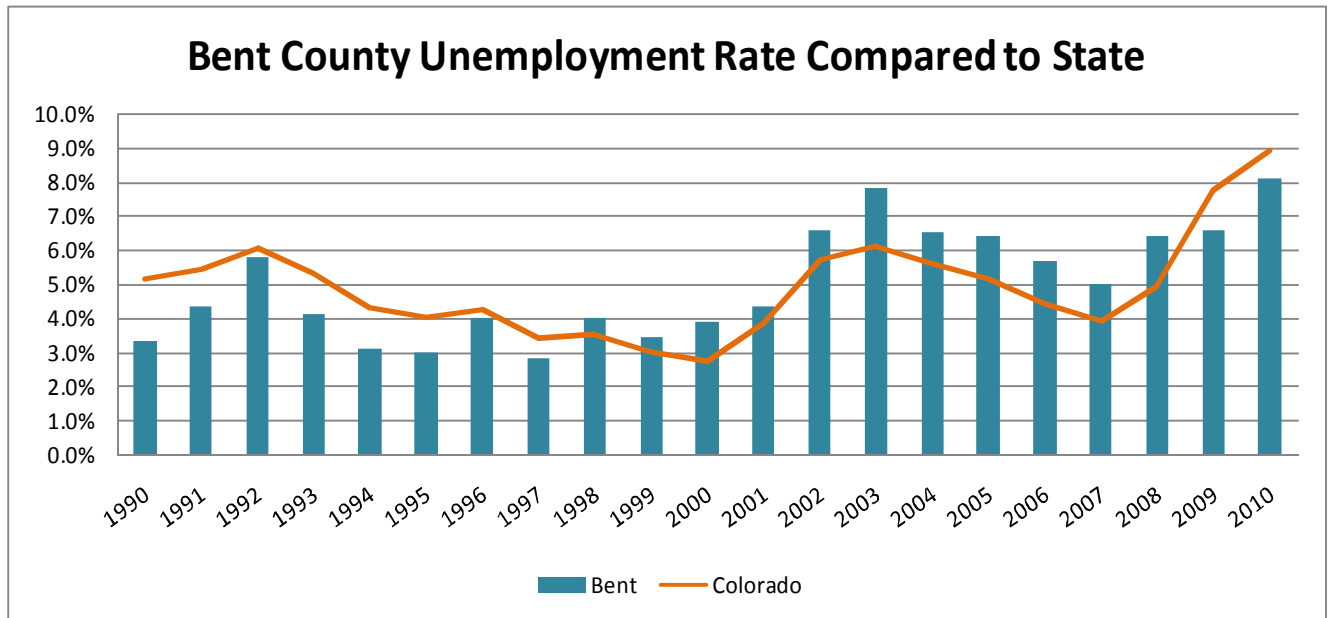
Dean Runyan Associates  
<http://www.deanrunyan.com>  
 8/10/2010

P= Preliminary



## Labor Force

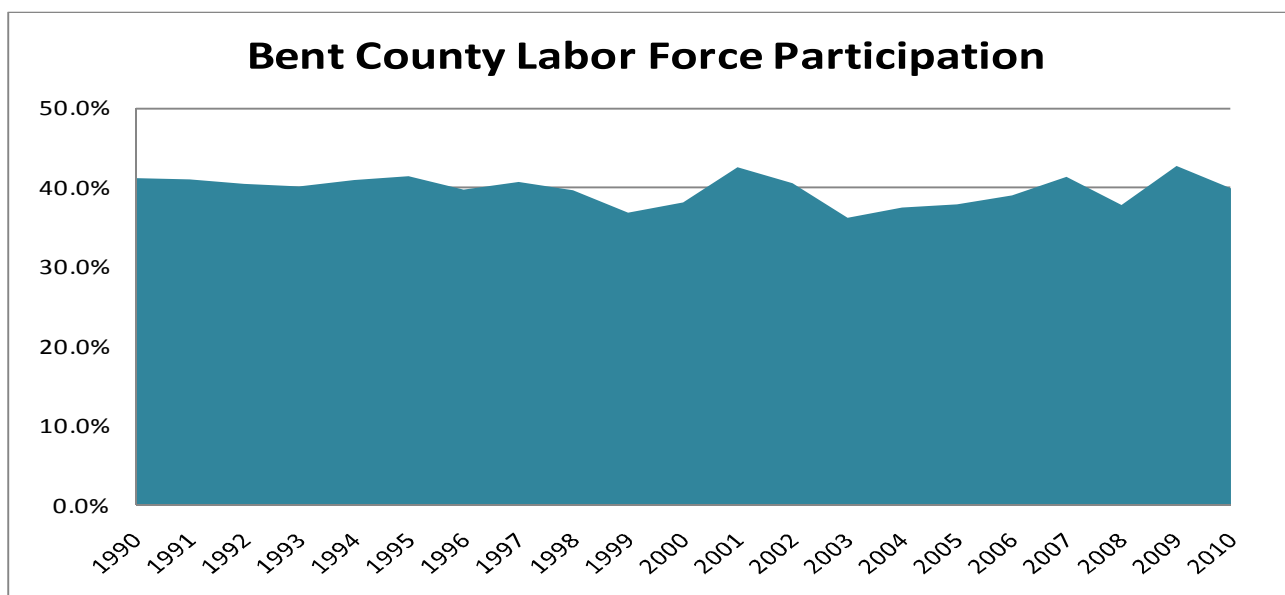
Bent County's unemployment rate remained under the Colorado average in the early 1990's; ranging from a low of 3%-4%. Colorado's 2010 unemployment rate was 8.9%, while Bent County was 8.1%; the highest rate in over two years.



Colorado Workforce/LMI Gateway  
<http://lmi.gateway.coworkforce.com>  
 3/17/11

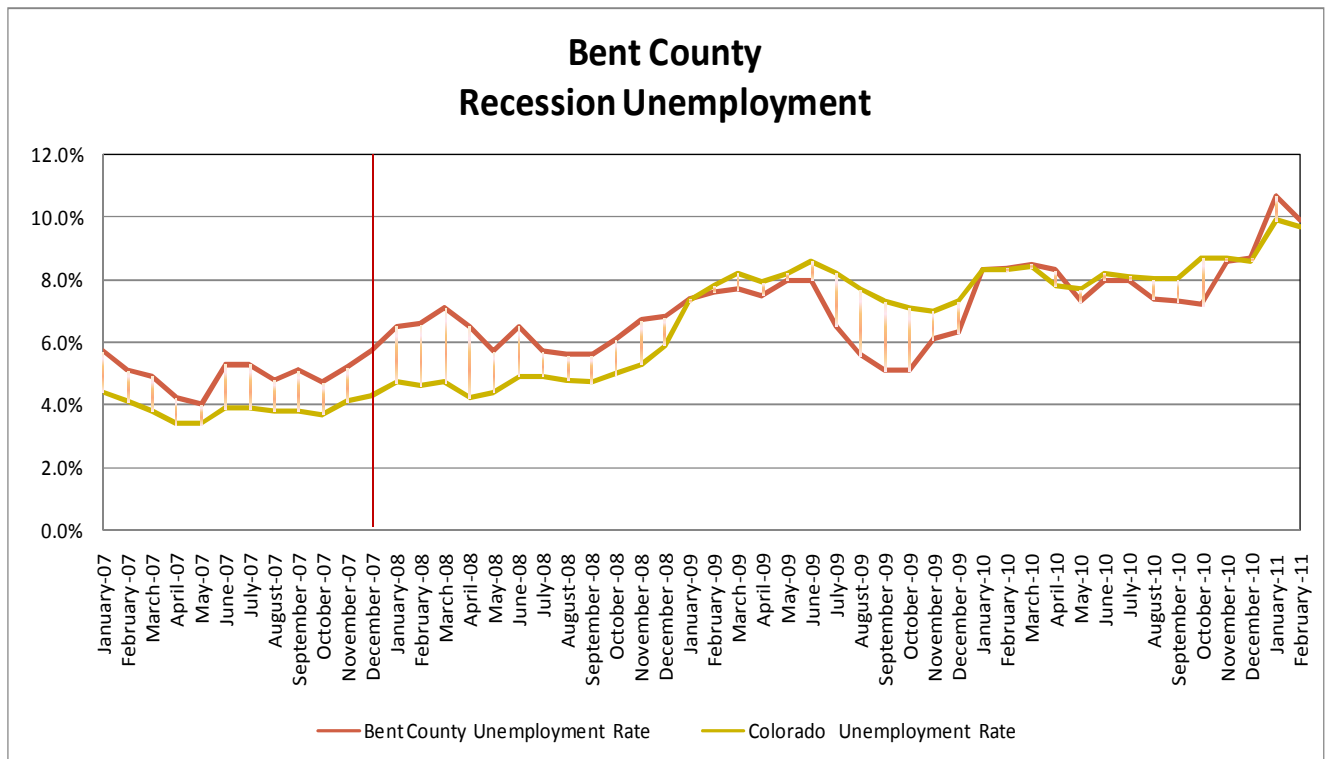
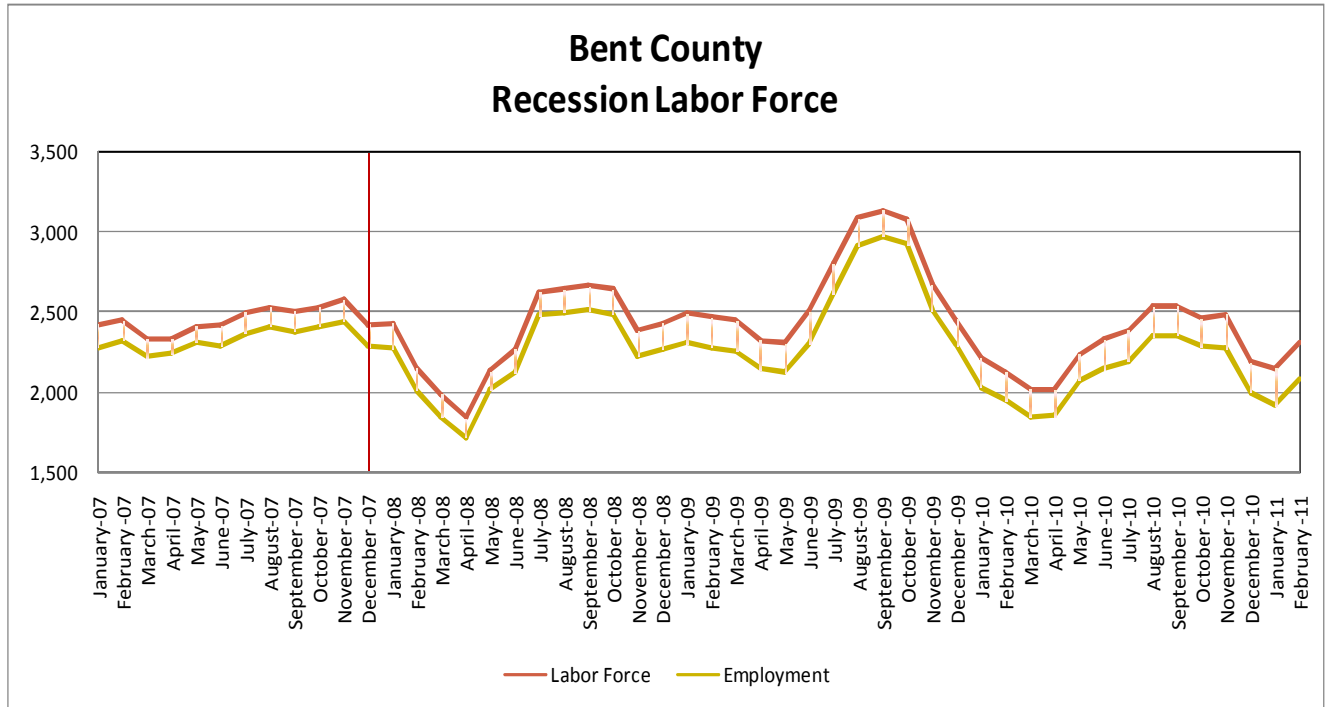
## Labor Force Participation Rate

This ratio indicates the degree to which a population is working or actively seeking employment. A low rate might indicate a significant prison population, reliance on other forms of income or a significant number of discouraged workers. A higher rate may indicate a tight labor market. As of June, 2010 the Colorado rate was 68.3% and the National rate as of July, 2010 was 64.6%. Bent County's rate as of December, 2010 was 39.9%.



## Labor Force

The charts below represent the monthly labor force data beginning January, 2007. The recession began in December, 2007 and is reflected by the solid red line; the recession ended June, 2009. The gap between the data represents the unemployed.



Bureau of Labor Statistics  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)  
 4/21/2011

# Labor Force

## Wages by Sector

### Average Annual Wages

Industry	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Natural Resources & Mining	\$27,522	\$30,114	\$28,266	\$26,485	\$29,469
Construction	\$15,011	\$14,702	ND	ND	ND
Manufacturing	\$24,807	\$24,765	ND	ND	ND
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	\$18,548	\$18,119	\$19,815	\$19,407	\$20,771
Information	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Financial Activities	\$31,735	\$31,253	\$31,591	\$35,518	\$36,367
Professional & Business Services	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Education & Health Services	\$18,983	\$15,786	\$16,427	\$16,212	\$16,495
Leisure & Hospitality	\$9,781	\$10,904	\$11,497	\$13,018	\$14,737
Other Services	\$6,348	\$6,016	\$5,944	\$4,434	\$4,444
Public Administration	\$24,142	\$25,200	\$24,773	\$22,992	\$23,767

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
www.bls.gov  
1/7/2011

\*ND= Non Disclosable-Data does not meet BLS or State Agency disclosure standards.

### Average Weekly Wages

Industry	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	\$529	\$574	\$553	\$509	\$568
Construction	\$335	\$426	\$365	\$579	\$435
Manufacturing	\$517	\$450	\$454	\$0	\$0
Wholesale Trade	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Retail Trade	\$327	\$298	\$320	\$314	\$337
Transportation & Warehousing	\$554	\$659	\$0	\$0	\$0
Information	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Financial and Insurance	\$676	\$655	\$658	\$742	\$752
Professional & Technical Services	\$909	\$822	\$934	\$877	\$838
Educational Services	\$0	\$0	\$459	\$0	\$0
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$379	\$388	\$410	\$405	\$422
Accommodation and Food Services	\$190	\$211	\$222	\$249	\$282
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	\$306	\$324	\$340	\$363	\$371
Public Administration	\$700	\$714	\$709	\$760	\$768

Colorado Work Force/ LMI Gateway  
http://lmi.gateway.coworkforce.com  
1/7/2011

## Labor Force

### Employment by Sector

Industry	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Agriculture	N/A	N/A	588	541	534	519	460	477	471
Mining	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	5	N/A	N/A
Utilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction	55	48	56	N/A	31	20	67	43	37
Manufacturing	11	11	9	4	4	6	3	N/A	N/A
Wholesale Trade	18	15	12	11	N/A	12	N/A	15	11
Retail Trade	117	108	107	89	106	105	104	106	97
Transportation and Warehousing	28	N/A	N/A	22	27	24	35	21	N/A
Information	N/A	2	N/A	2	N/A	2	1	N/A	N/A
Finance Activities	N/A	N/A	48	N/A	N/A	56	57	56	54
Real Estate	11	14	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	N/A
Professional and Business Services	4	N/A	N/A	4	4	3	3	10	N/A
Management of Companies and Enterprise	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Admin and Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	268
Education	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	4	N/A	N/A
Health Services	52	38	44	45	51	58	60	61	N/A
Arts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	7	7	9	N/A
Accommodation and Food	N/A	83	92	84	87	78	87	N/A	60
Other services, except public administration	N/A	N/A	108	112	104	93	88	94	88
Government	888	698	734	709	744	737	738	789	772

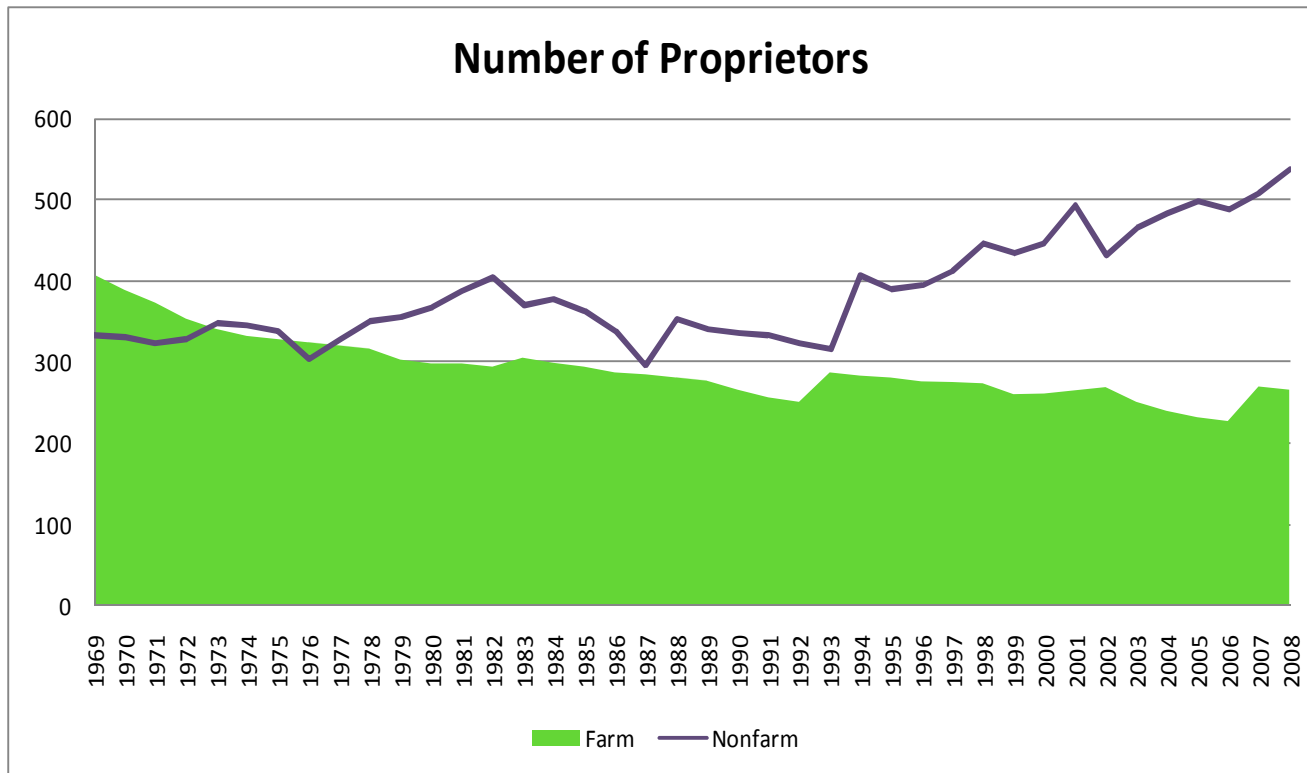
Department of Local Affairs

[http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog\\_webapps/jobs\\_sector\\_naics](http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog_webapps/jobs_sector_naics)

1/7/2011

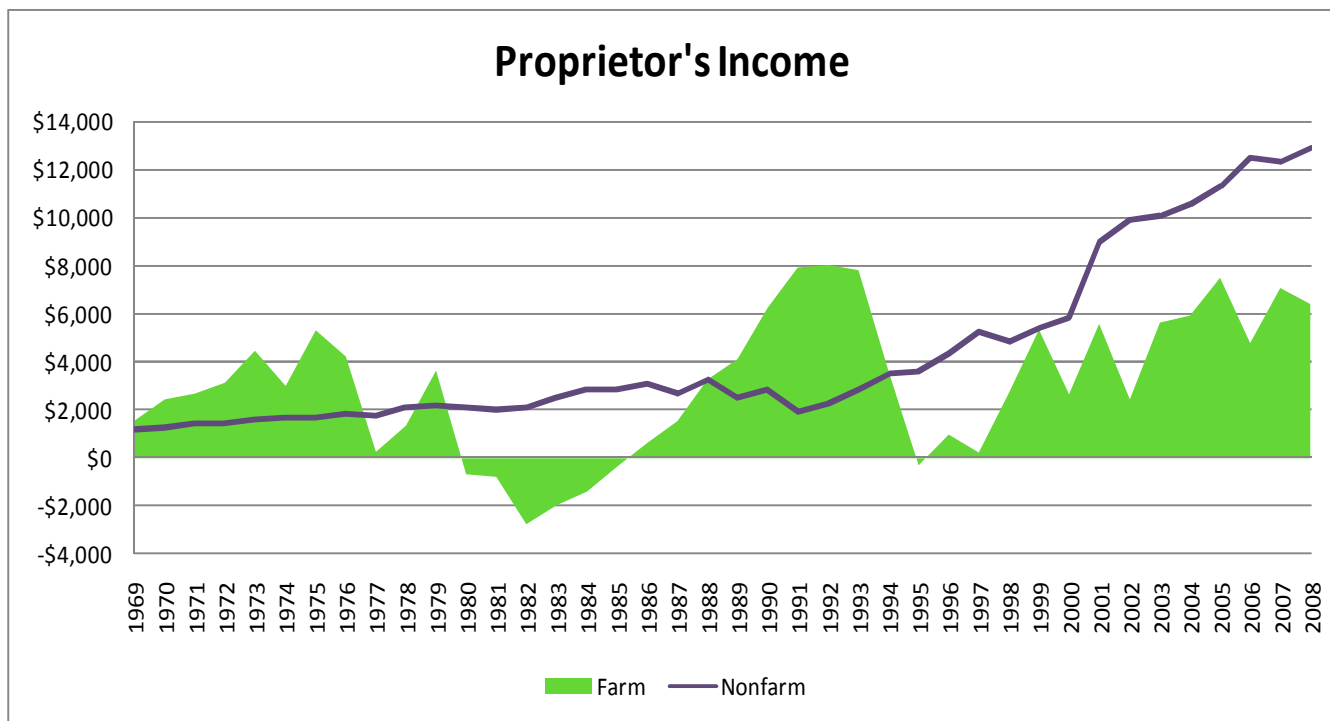
## Labor Force

### Proprietors



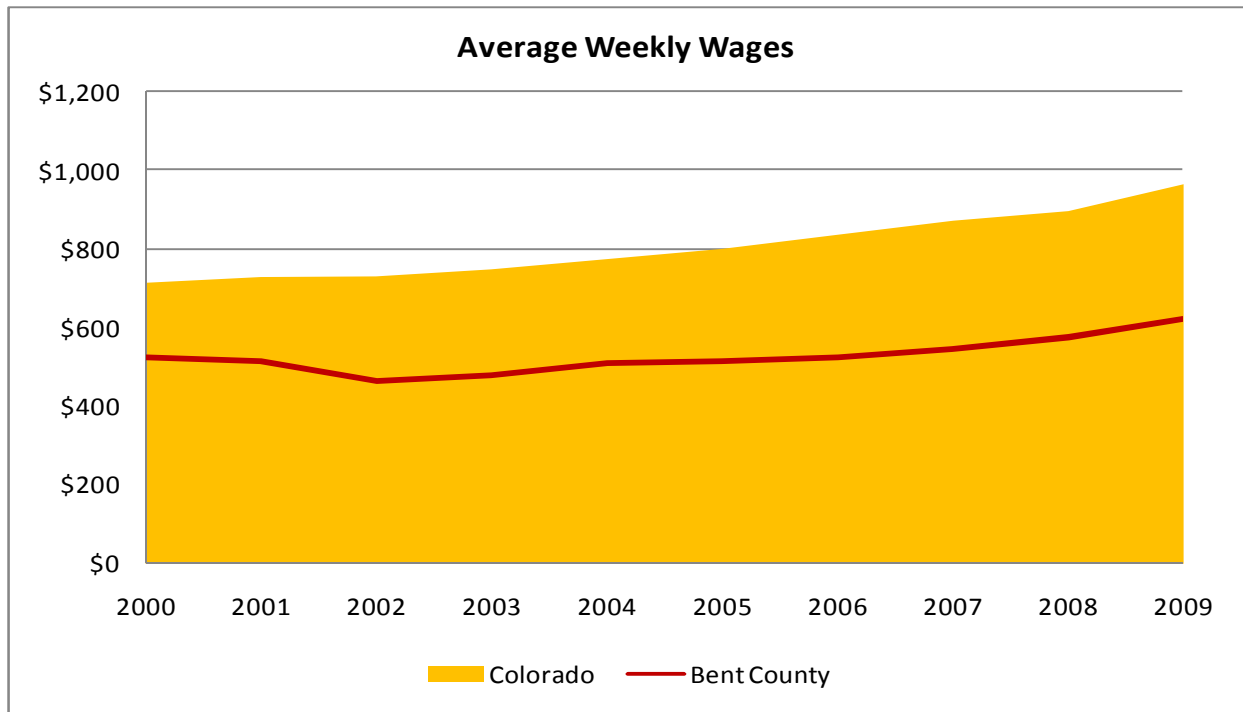
Bureau of Economic Analysis  
9/16/2010

### Proprietor's Income



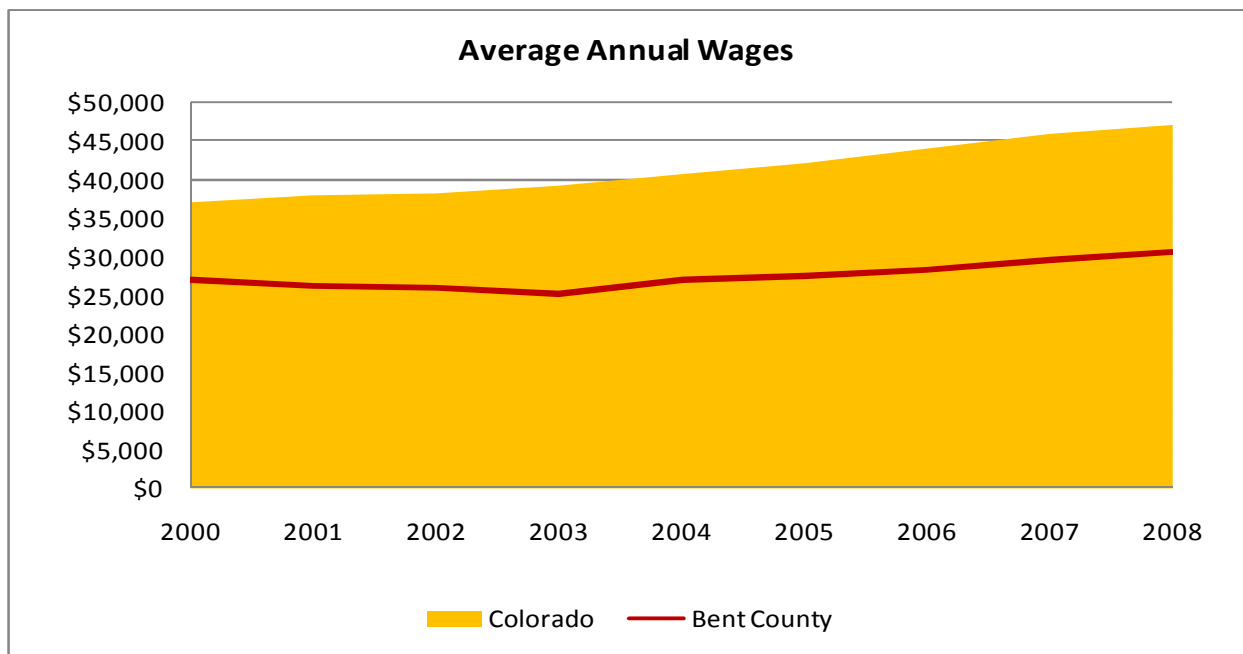
# Income and Wages

## Average Weekly Wages



<http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com>  
Colorado Workforce LMI  
1/11/2011

## Average Annual Wages



Bureau of Economic Analysis  
<http://www.bea.gov>  
1/11/2011

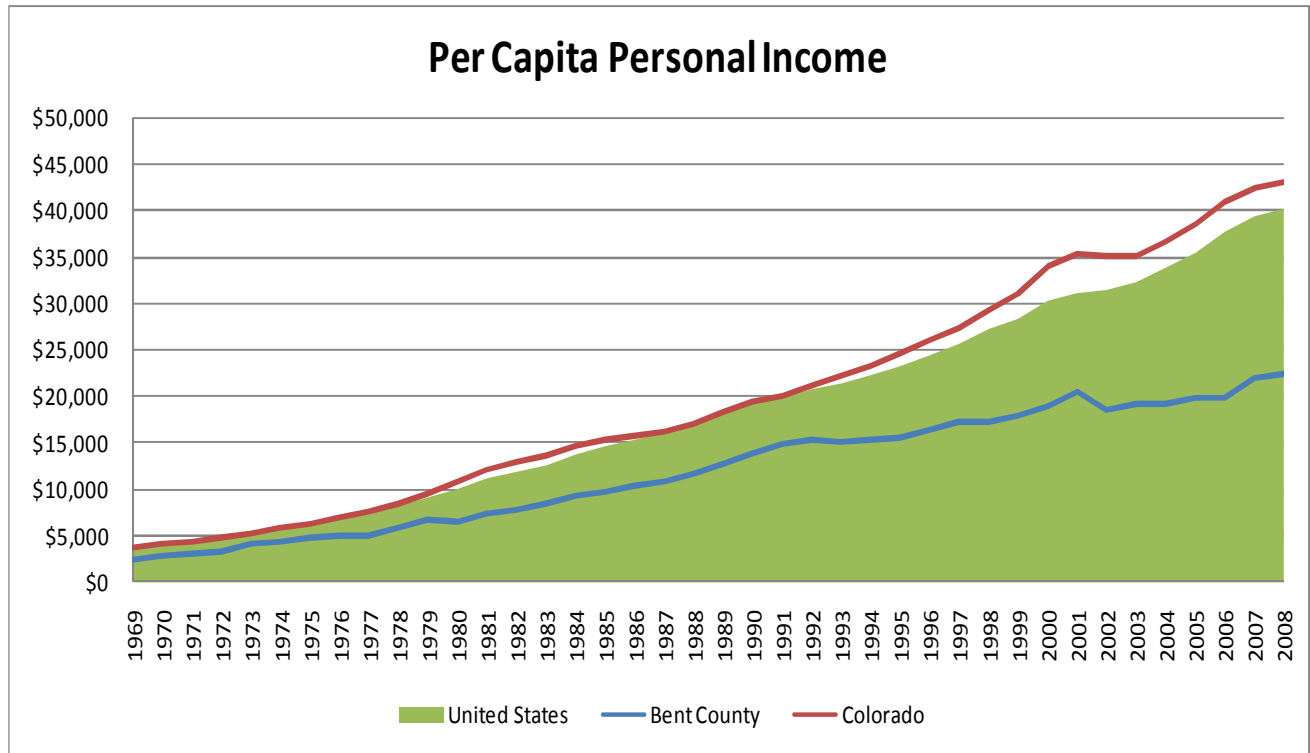
# Income and Wages

## Median Household Income

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Bent County	\$28,252	\$27,470	\$26,485	\$27,369	\$27,569	\$30,166	\$30,475	\$32,043	\$33,187	\$30,890
Colorado	\$47,505	\$48,483	\$48,060	\$49,248	\$50,105	\$50,841	\$52,265	\$55,517	\$57,184	\$55,735

<http://www.census.gov-SAIPE>  
1/11/2011

## Per Capita Personal Income

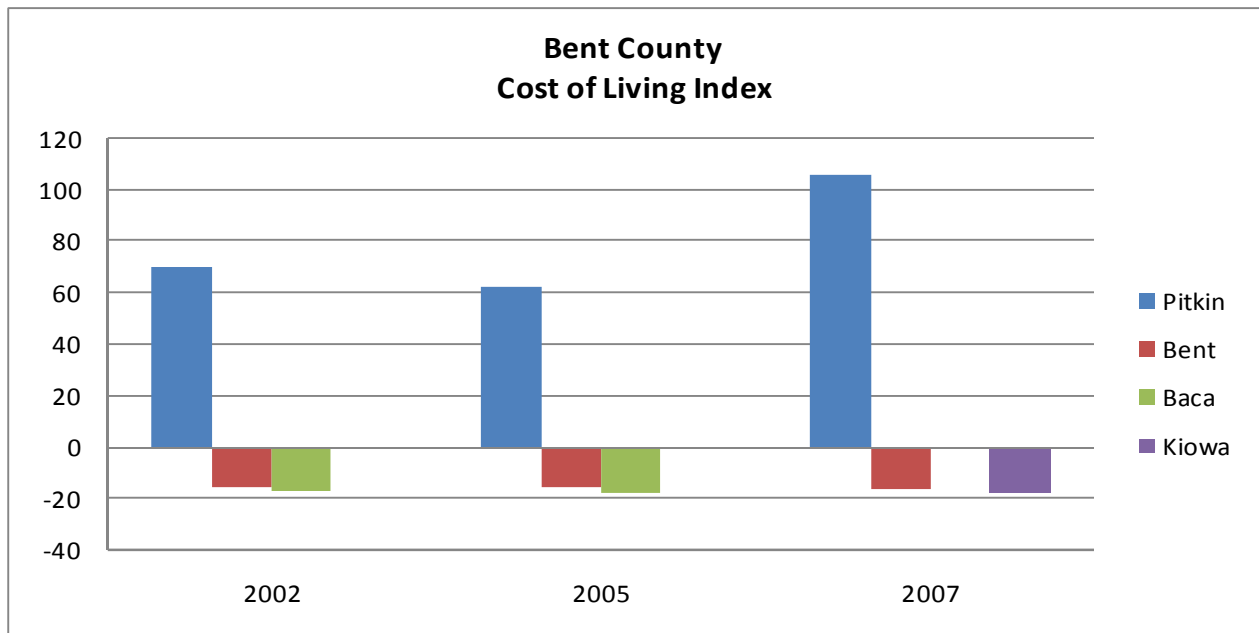


Bureau of Economic Analysis  
[www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)  
1/11/2011

The per capita income for Bent County is 47% below the State average. Per capita income for Bent County in 2008 was \$22,479 compared to the state average of \$43,021.

## Cost of Living

The chart below compares the County's Cost of Living Index with the High (Pitkin) and the Low (Baca and Kiowa).



Colorado State University  
12/27/2010

## Housing

Household Type	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Average Household Size	2.53	2.53	2.53	2.53	2.53	2.53	2.53	2.53	2.53	2.53
Household Population (July)	5,072	5,025	5,176	5,307	4,929	4,790	4,632	4,368	4,390	4,437
Housing Vacancy Rate	15.34	16.84	14.84	13.07	19.25	21.90	24.74	29.14	29.02	28.38
Total Households	2,003	1,985	2,043	2,095	1,946	1,890	1,828	1,724	1,732	1,751
Total Housing Units	2,366	2,387	2,399	2,410	2,410	2,420	2,429	2,433	2,440	2,445
Vacant Housing Units	363	402	356	315	464	530	601	709	708	694

<http://www.dola.state.co.us>  
11/9/2010

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Net Building Permits	17	12	11	0	10	3	4	7	5	3

US Census  
9/23/2010

Rent	Total	Percent
Less than \$200	59	9.9
\$200 to \$299	66	11.1
\$300 to \$499	205	34.3
\$500 to \$749	147	24.6
\$750 to \$999	11	1.8
\$1,000 to \$1,499	13	2.2
\$1,500 or more	0	0.0
No cash rent	96	16.1

2000 Census Data  
<http://factfinder.census.gov>  
2/4/2010

Value	Total	Percent
Less than \$50,000	360	40.9
\$50,000 to \$99,999	450	51.1
\$100,000 to \$149,999	45	5.1
\$150,000 to \$199,999	13	1.5
\$200,000 to \$299,999	3	0.3
\$300,000 to \$499,999	10	1.1

2000 Census Data  
<http://factfinder.census.gov>  
2/4/2010

## Foreclosure

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Filings	N/A	13	12	28	19
Sales	N/A	10	2	5	7

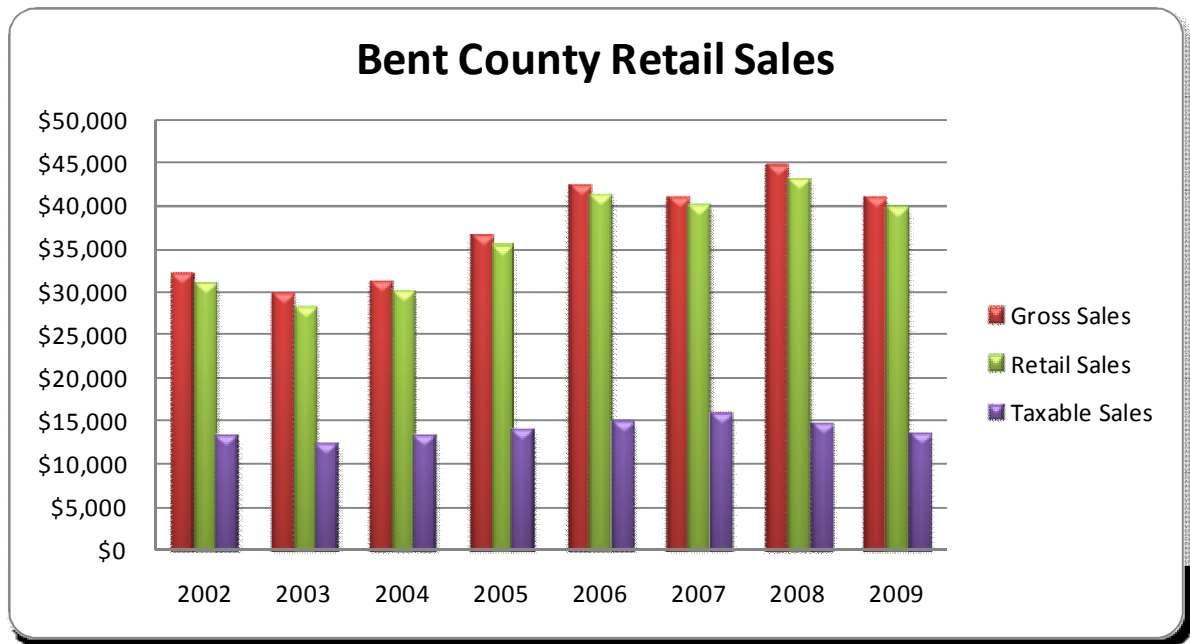
<http://www.dola.state.co.us>  
3/16/2011

## Retail Sales

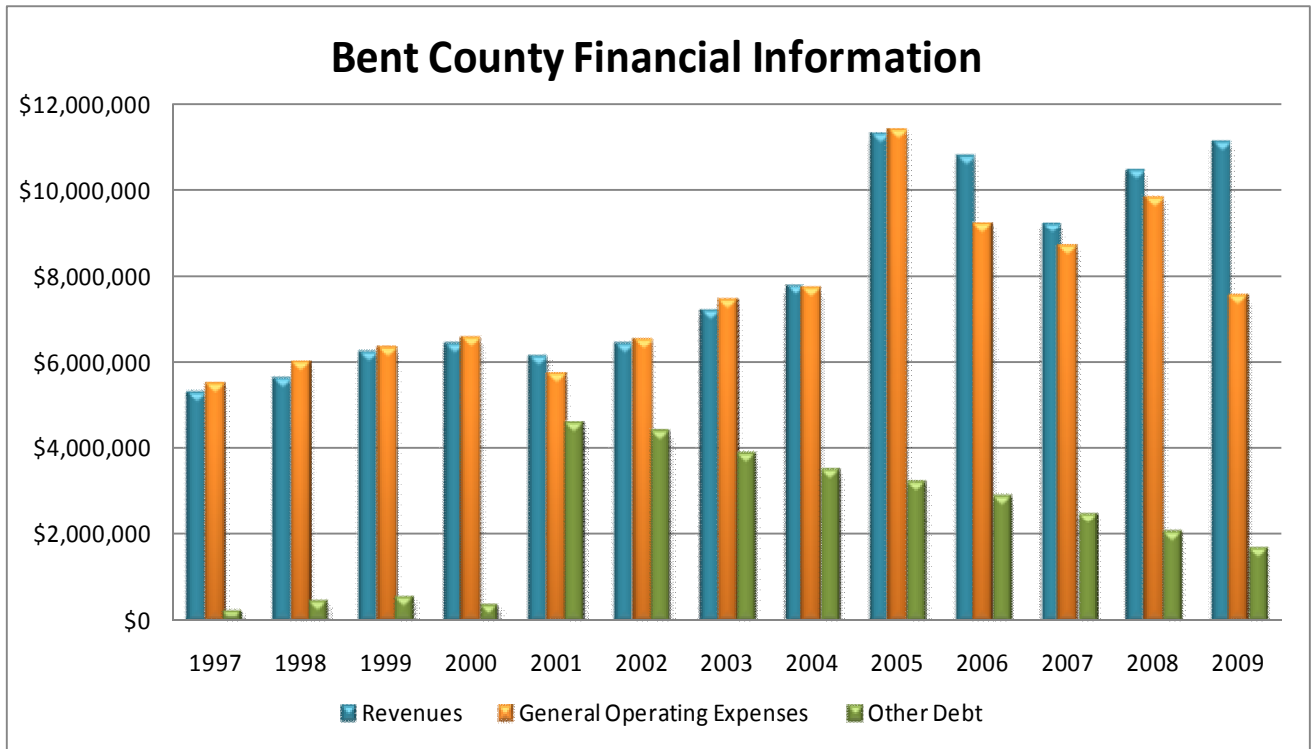
*In thousands of dollars*

Year	Number of Returns	Gross Sales	Retail Sales	Taxable Sales	Net Tax
2002	2,101	\$32,068	\$31,000	\$13,443	\$377
2003	2,284	\$29,780	\$28,175	\$12,340	\$348
2004	2,484	\$31,204	\$29,996	\$13,490	\$382
2005	2,286	\$36,671	\$35,329	\$14,138	\$398
2006	2,405	\$42,261	\$41,143	\$15,106	\$424
2007	2,333	\$41,039	\$40,025	\$15,912	\$446
2008	2,340	\$44,590	\$43,131	\$14,878	\$417
2009	2,387	\$41,051	\$39,832	\$13,622	\$386

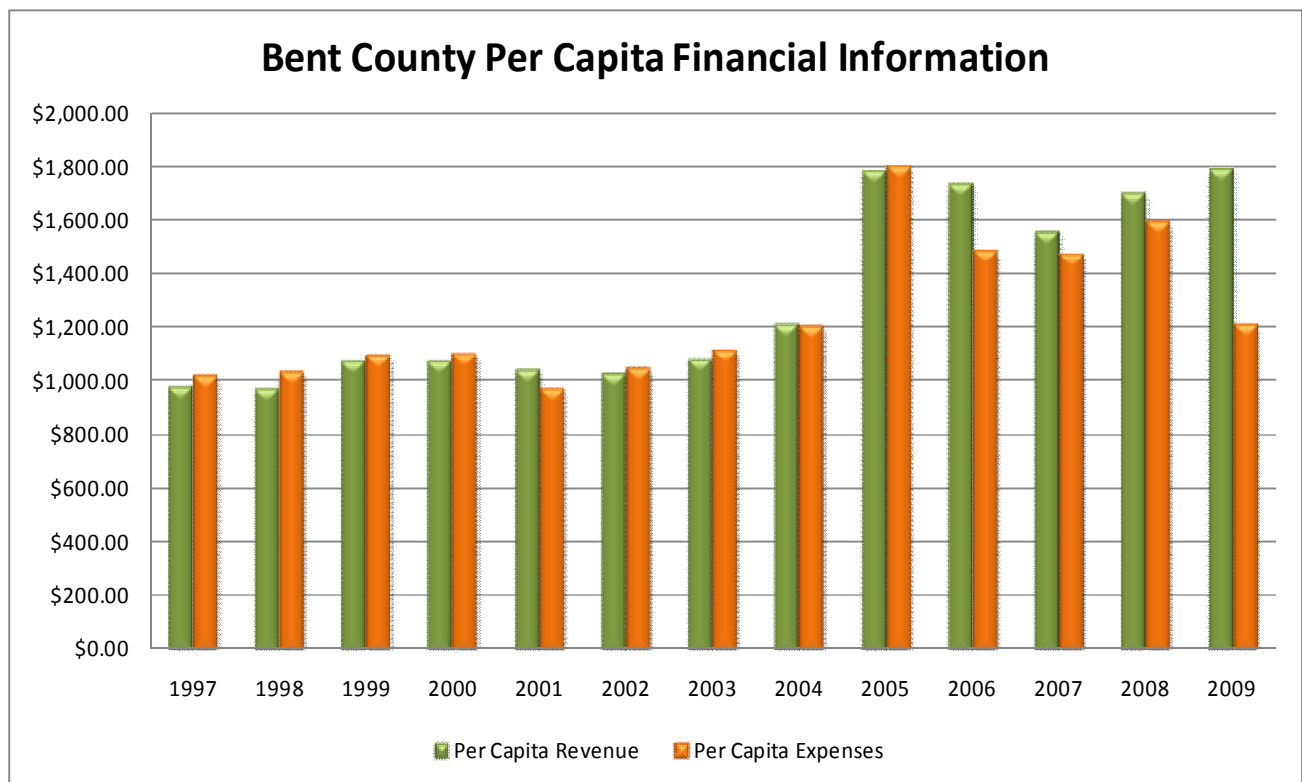
Dept. of Revenue  
<http://www.colorado.gov>  
 7/8/2010



## Bent County Financial Information



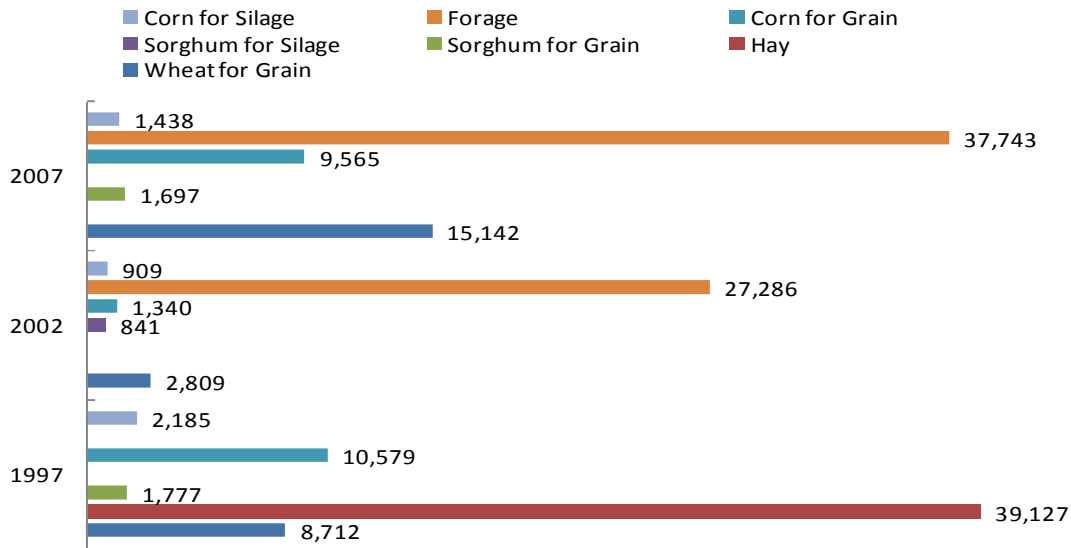
Colorado Division of Local Government  
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/cedis.html>  
 10/19/2010



## Agriculture

In 2007, Bent County had 877,142 acres of agricultural land. There are 311 farms, with an average of 2,820 acres. According to the 2007 Agricultural Census, Bent County's largest crop harvested is Forage and top livestock is cattle and calves.

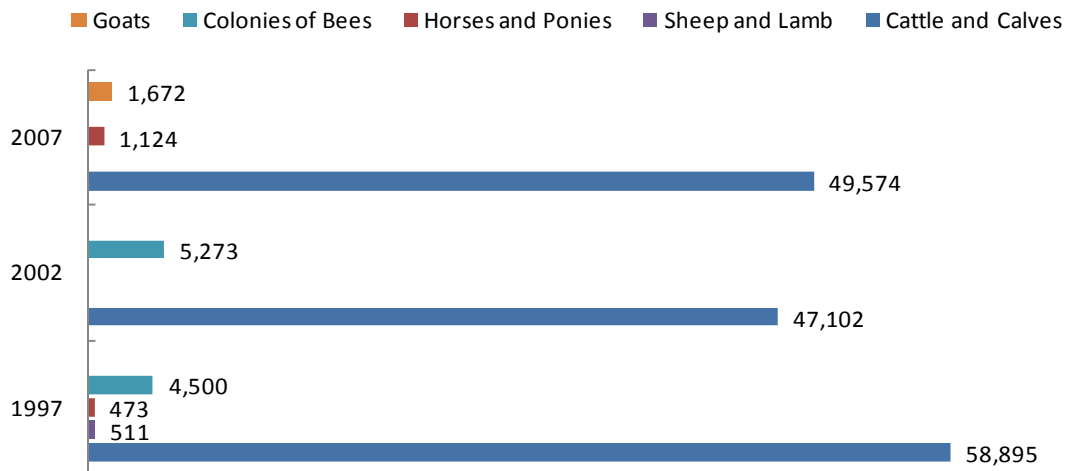
### Top Crops Harvested in Acres



*www.agcensus.usda.gov*  
10/1/2009

Out of sixty four counties in Colorado, Bent County was ranked tenth in production for Sorghum for Grain.

### Top Livestock Inventory-Quantity



Out of sixty four counties in Colorado, Bent County ranked second in Colonies of Bees, third in Hogs and Pigs and tenth in Goats.

## Taxes

Colorado sales and use tax is 2.9%. Bent County's sales and use tax is 1% and the lodging tax is .9%.

### 2009 Property Tax Revenues

County	Valuation	Levy	Revenue
General Fund	\$73,626,384	22.495	\$1,656,226
Road & Bridge		3.596	\$264,760
Public Welfare		3.75	\$276,099
Airport		0.019	\$1,399
Retirement		0.75	\$55,220
Abatement		0	\$0
<b>Cities and Towns</b>			
Las Animas	\$6,119,811	39	\$238,673
<b>Fire Districts</b>			
LA BC Fire	\$42,959,260	4.415	\$189,665
Hasty McClave Fire	\$12,119,970	5.5	\$66,660
Wiley Rural Fire	\$3,857,170	2	\$7,714
<b>Other Districts</b>			
LA BC Library	\$51,665,230	1.5	\$77,498
BC PC Cemetery	\$16,039,720	2	\$32,079
BC LA Cemetery	\$57,590,360	3	\$172,771
LAVWCD	\$52,139,160	1.502	\$78,313
SCWCD	\$49,723,730	0.897	\$44,602
<b>School Districts</b>			
RE-1	\$51,666,226	23.116	\$1,194,293
RE-2	\$18,070,658	25.877	\$467,614
RE-13JT	\$3,890,500	25.053	\$97,469

Dept. of Local Affairs

10/28/2010

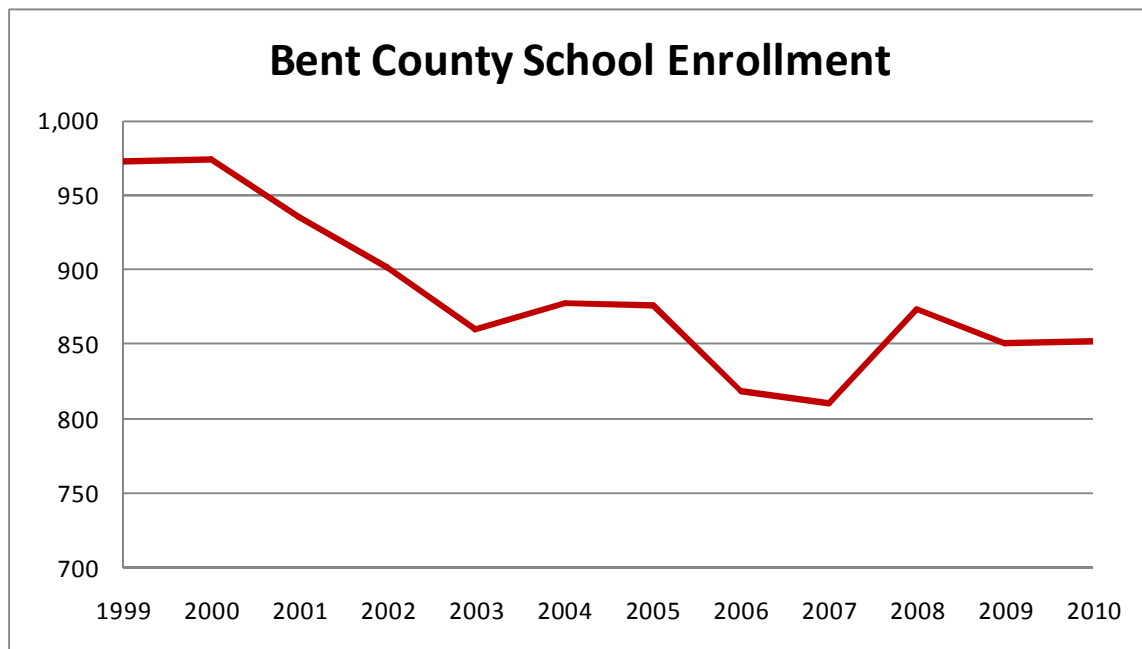
## Education

### Enrollment

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Las Animas RE-1	716	703	663	634	587	605	591	553	544	594	592	547
McClave RE-2	256	271	272	268	273	272	285	266	266	280	259	305
<b>Total</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>852</b>

### Number of Graduates

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Las Animas RE-1	42	39	55	40	47	34	35	34	26	36	24
McClave RE-2	22	17	18	21	19	21	25	22	15	15	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>42</b>



### Graduation Rate

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Las Animas RE-1	93.3	84.8	91.7	83.3	81	73.9	76.1	77.3	60.5	75	58.5
McClave RE-2	91.7	94.4	100.0	91.3	95.0	95.5	100.0	91.7	88.2	88.2	100

### Drop Out Rate

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Las Animas RE-1	1.7	3	2.6	4.3	4.1	1.1	1.6	5.2	3	1.1	0.4
McClave RE-2	0.7	0	1.5	7	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.8	0.0	0

[www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us)  
1/13/2011

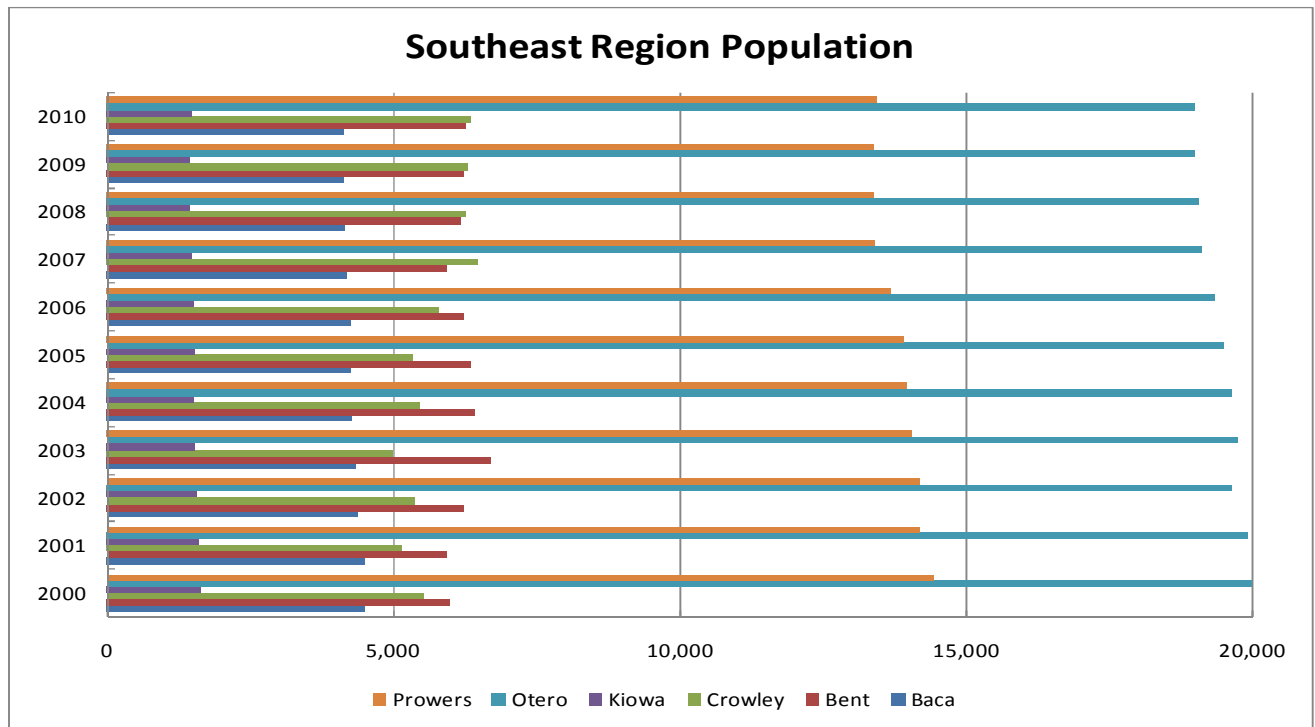
## Crime

Offense	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Arson	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	0
Assault	3	2	6	4	10	2	6	3	3	6
Burglary	2	1	10	8	4	10	6	10	7	3
Disorderly Conduct	1	2	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
Drug Violations	2	0	2	4	2	3	3	0	0	1
DUI	11	15	6	1	3	3	5	6	0	0
Forgery	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Fraud	1	0	5	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
Larceny/Theft	6	9	13	7	10	16	20	16	7	13
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	4	1	0	4	2	4	1	4
Murder/Manslaughter	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Non-Violent Family Offenses	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	3	1
Other Offenses	33	25	59	21	29	38	22	6	0	2
Rape	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Stolen Property	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vandalism	0	0	3	1	4	3	3	1	1	0
Weapons	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0

Colorado Bureau of Investigation  
[http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/docs\\_reports.asp](http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/docs_reports.asp)  
 7/2/2010

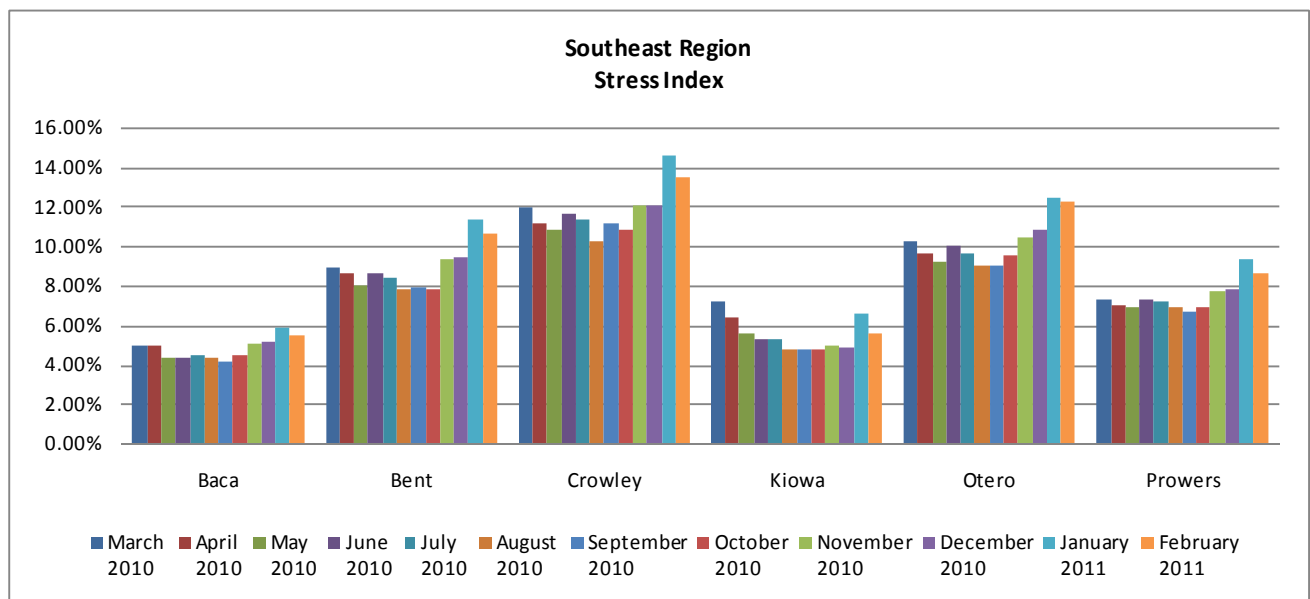
# In The Region

## Population



State Demography Office-DOLA  
[http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog\\_webapps/profile\\_county](http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog_webapps/profile_county)  
 1/11/2011

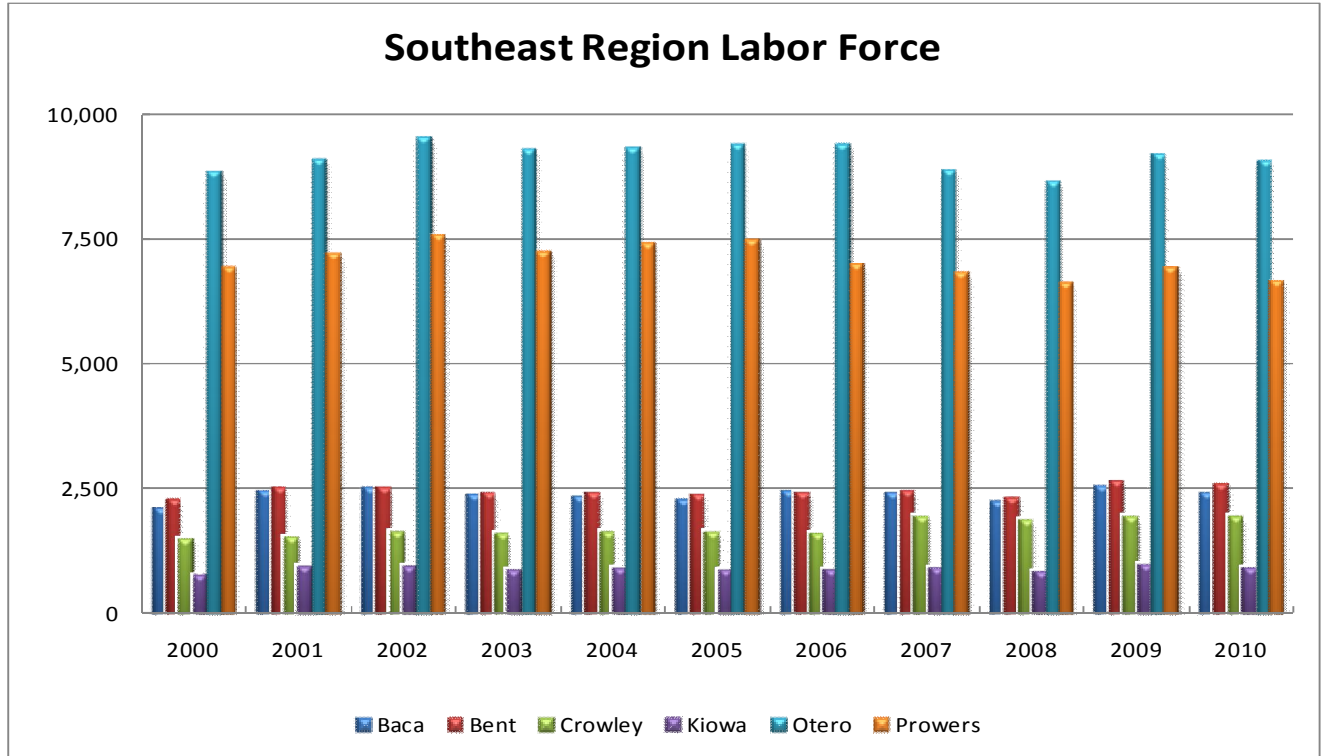
## Stress Index



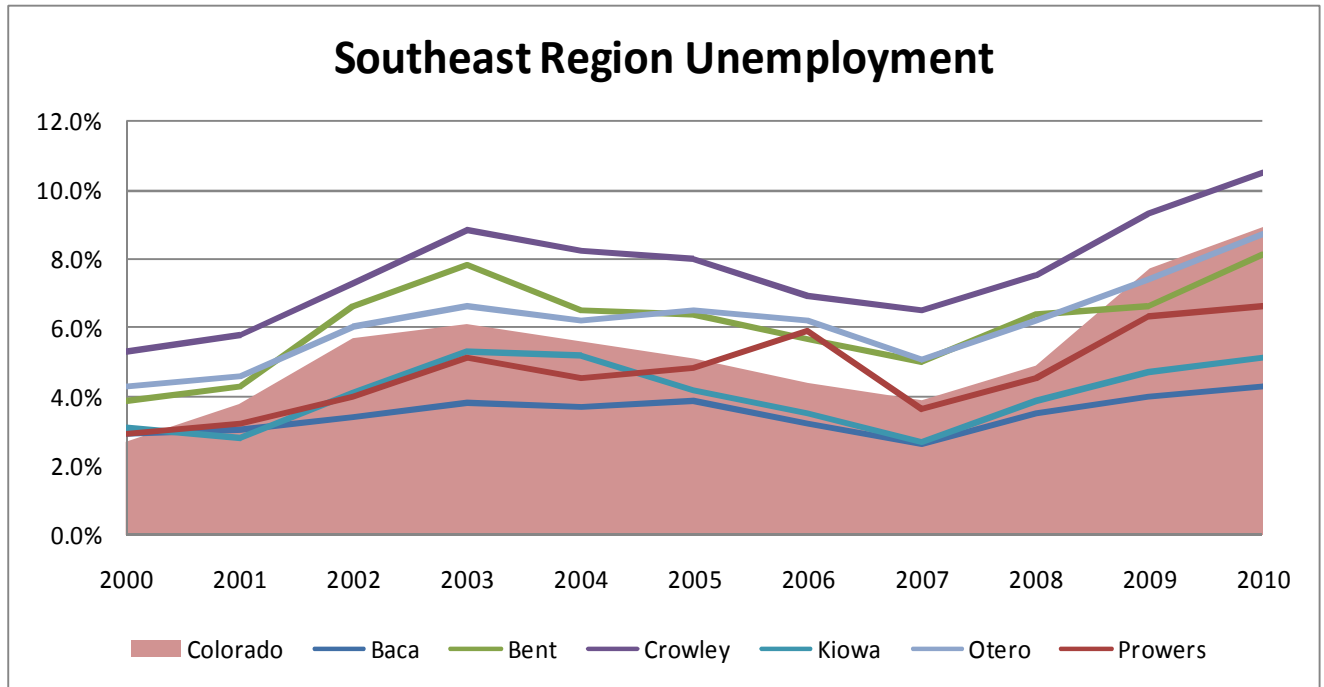
### Stress Index Methodology:

The three rates were converted from percentages to decimal values between 0 and 1 before consolidating in the following calculation:  
 $[1 - ((1 - \text{unemployment rate}) \times (1 - \text{foreclosure rate}) \times (1 - \text{bankruptcy rate}))] \times 100$   
 Associated Press Economic Stress Index  
[http://hosted.ap.org/specials/interactives/\\_national/stress\\_index/](http://hosted.ap.org/specials/interactives/_national/stress_index/)  
 2/11/2011

**Labor Force**

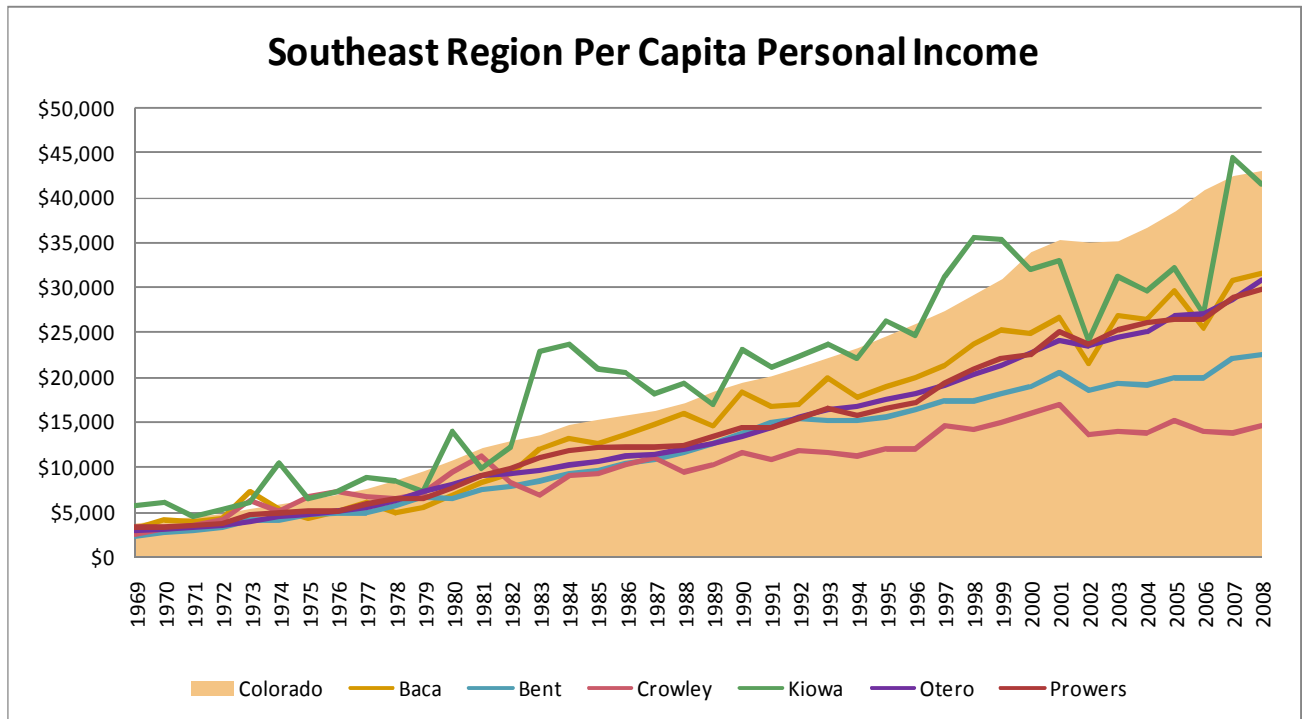


Colorado Workforce/LMI Gateway  
<http://lmi.gateway.coworkforce.com>  
 3/17/2011



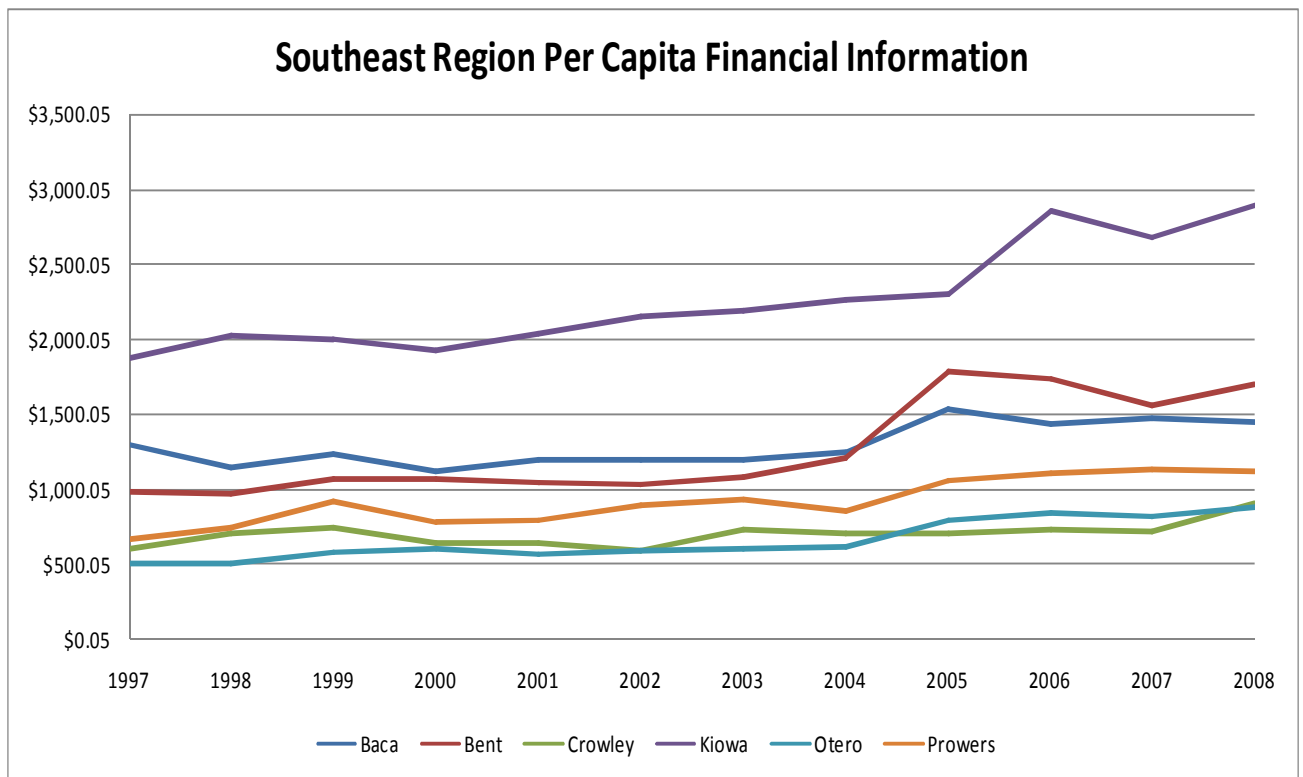
Colorado Workforce/LMI Gateway  
<http://lmi.gateway.coworkforce.com>  
 3/17/2011

**Income**



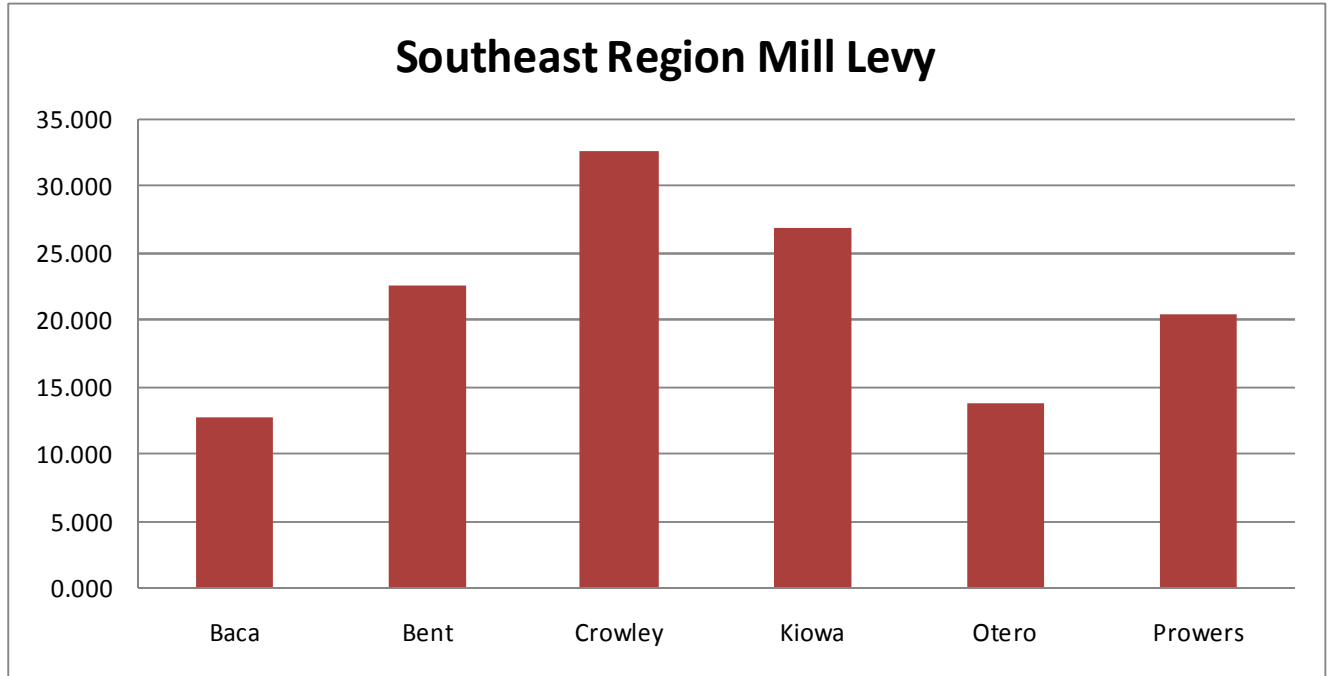
Bureau of Economic Analysis  
9/16/2010

**General Revenue Income**



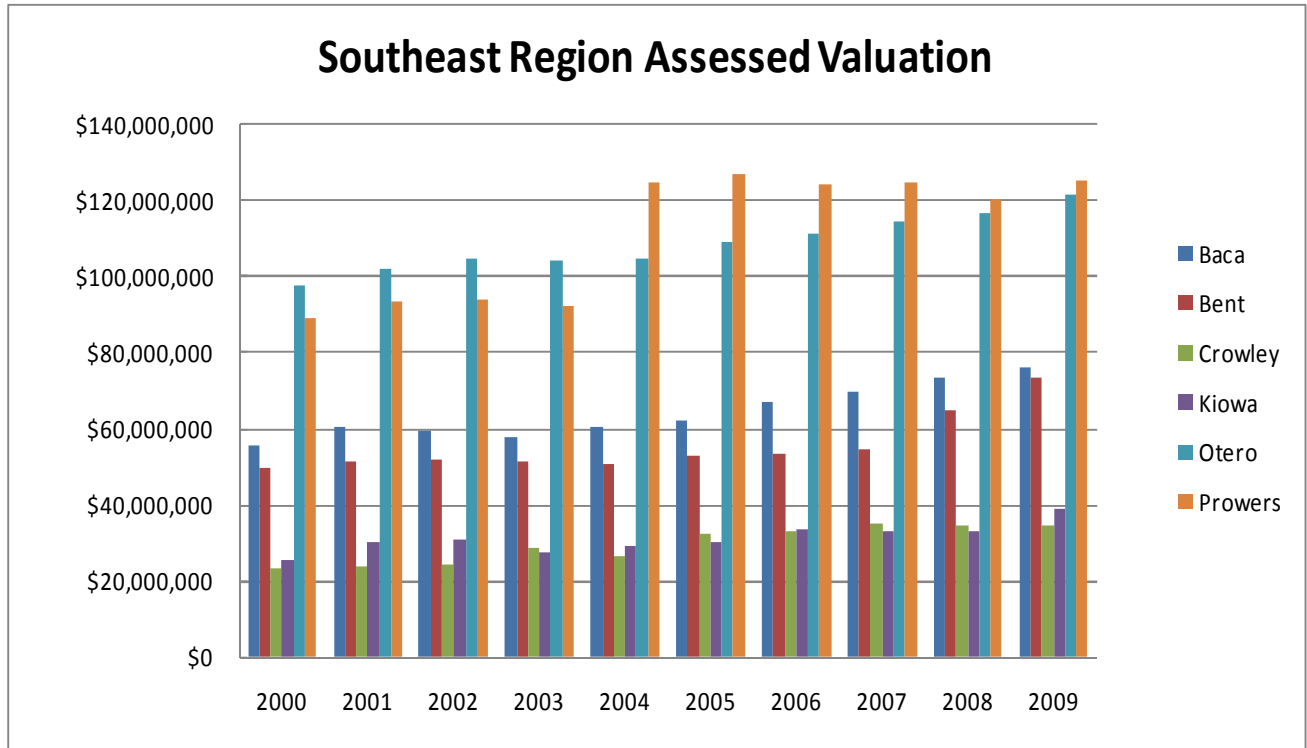
Colorado Division of Local Government  
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/cedis.html>  
10/19/2010

**Mill Levy**



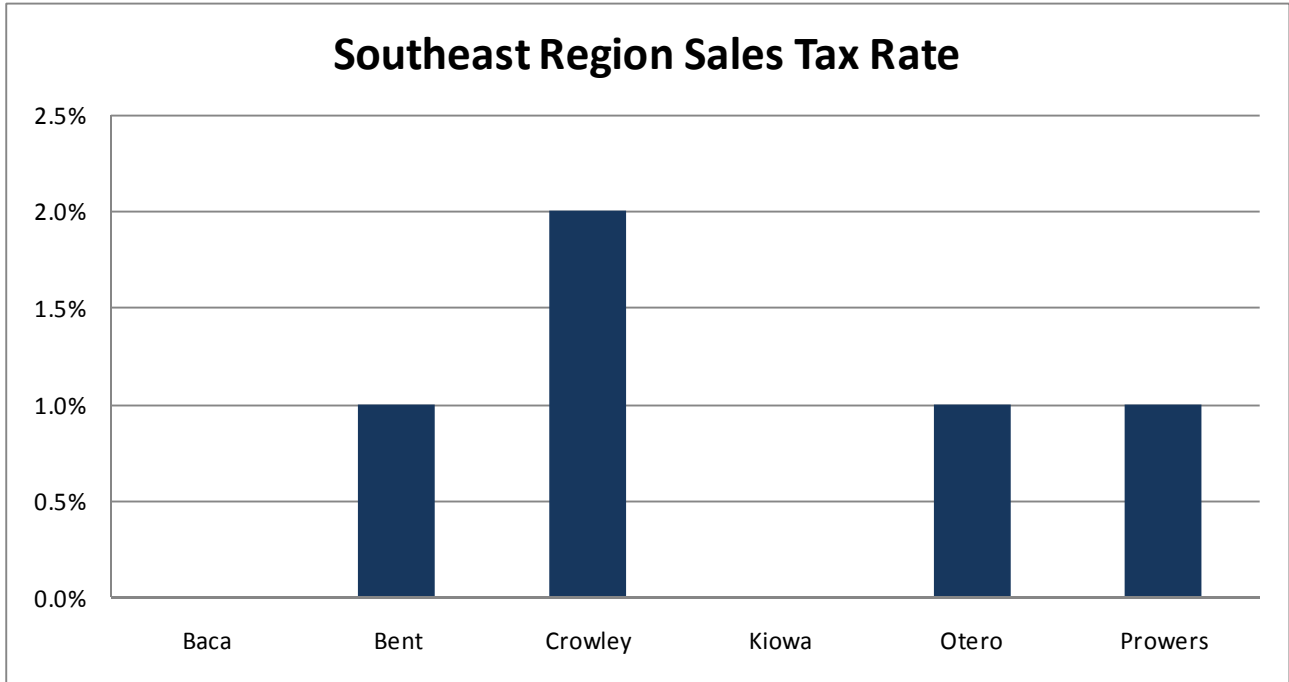
Dept. of Local Affairs  
9/30/2010

**Assessed Valuation**



Dept. of Local Affairs  
9/30/2010

**Sales Tax Rate**



Dept. of Revenue  
7/28/2010