

Custer County



Demographic Profile

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

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Custer County



Custer County is located in south central Colorado on the east side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The county is 739 square miles with an average elevation of 7,888 feet. The county was established in 1877. In the early 1800's Custer County was an important mining community during the mining boom. The Wet Mountain Valley provided gold, silver and copper and the railroad provided the needed transportation to haul ore to the smelter. Although mining is no longer a mainstay of the community, its history is evident. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains provides ten of the State's "Fourteeners"; a main attraction for visitors to the community. Custer County's economy consists mainly of tourism and agriculture.

County Commissioners:

Lynn Attebery
 Jim Austin
 Allen Butler

Legislative Districts:

Congressional District: 3
 Senate District: 2
 House District: 60

County Seat: Westcliffe

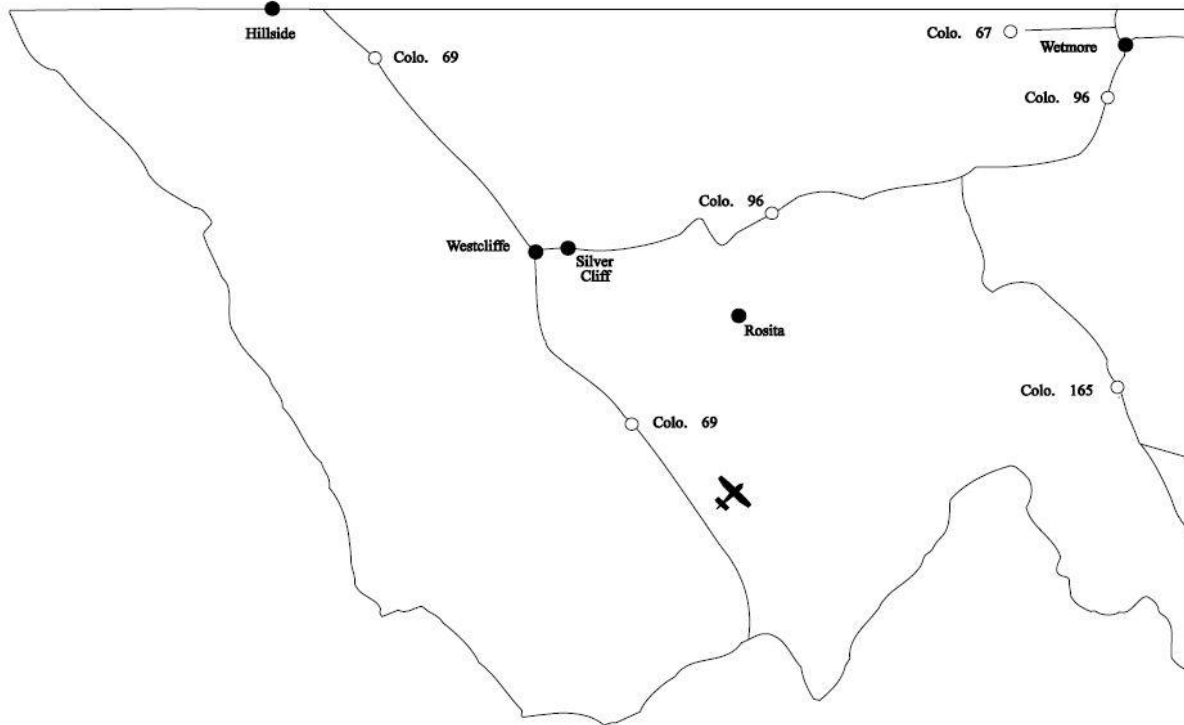
Contact:

205 6th Street
 Westcliffe, CO 81252
 Phone: 719-783-2552
 Fax: 719-783-2885

SCEDD Board Representatives:

Lynn Attebery, County Commissioner
 Dee Hoag, Custer County Economic Development

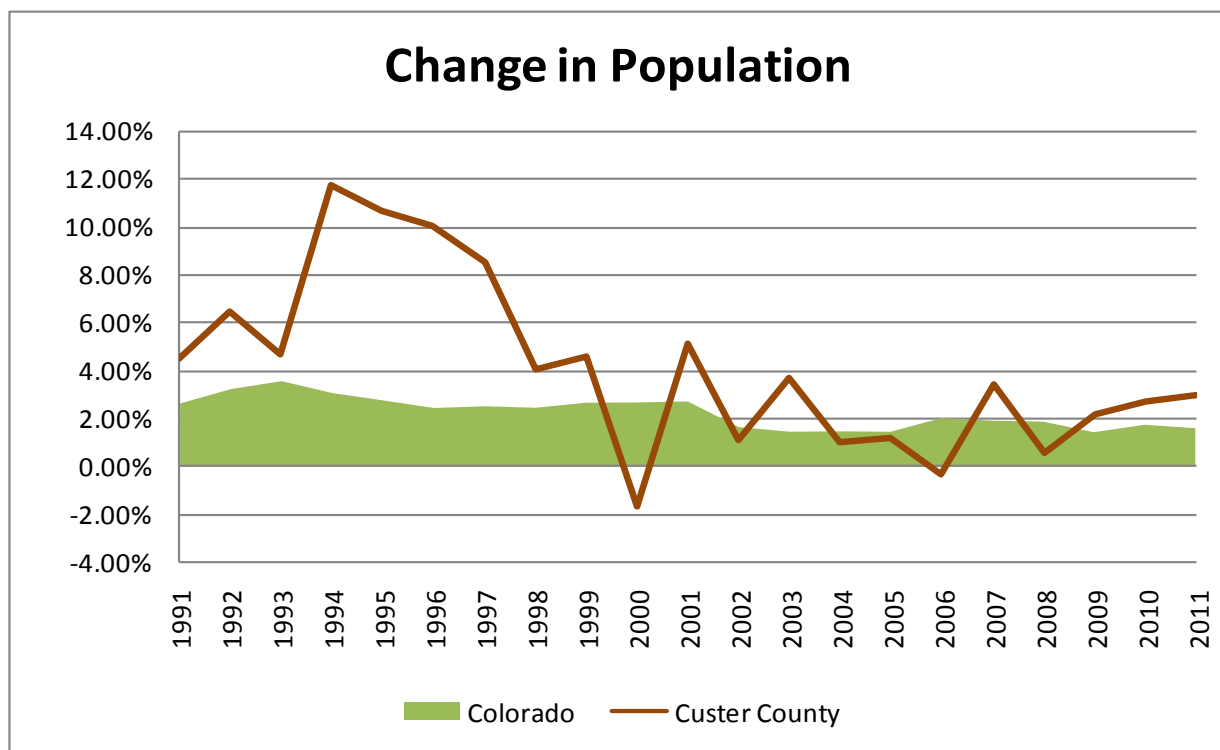
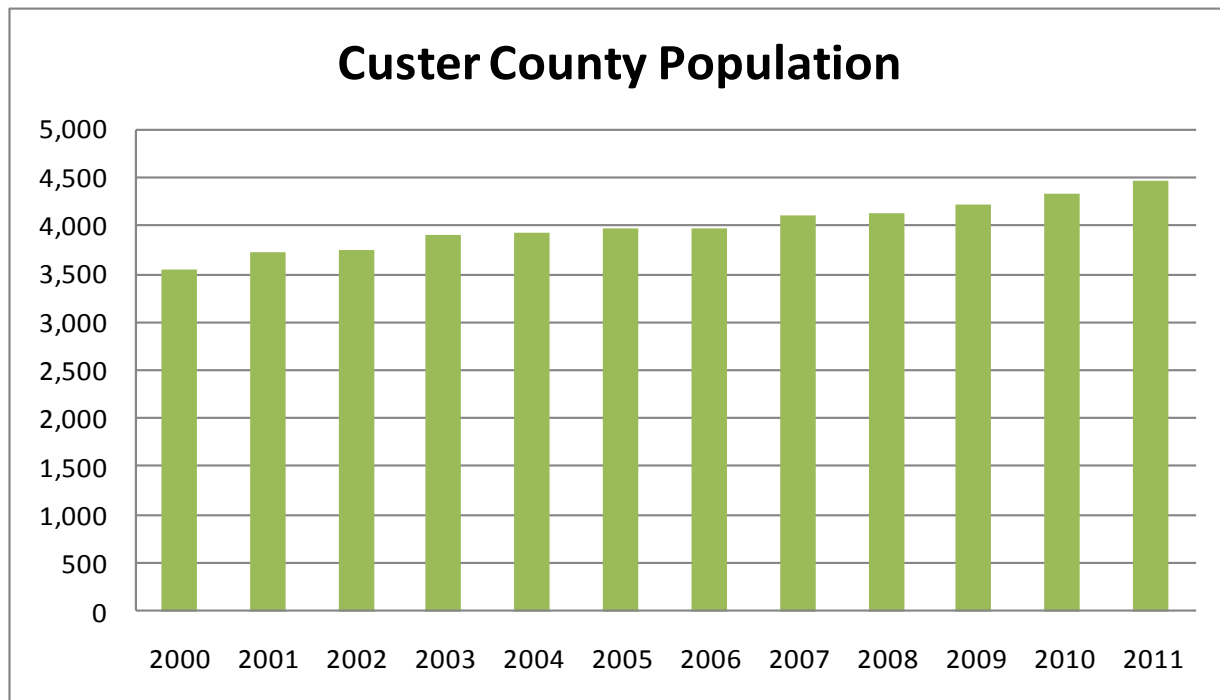
Transportation



LEGEND	
—	County Boundaries
—	Primary Roads
—	Secondary/Local Roads
—+—+—+—	Railroads
●	Cities/Towns
○	Highway Numbers
✈	Local Airport

Population

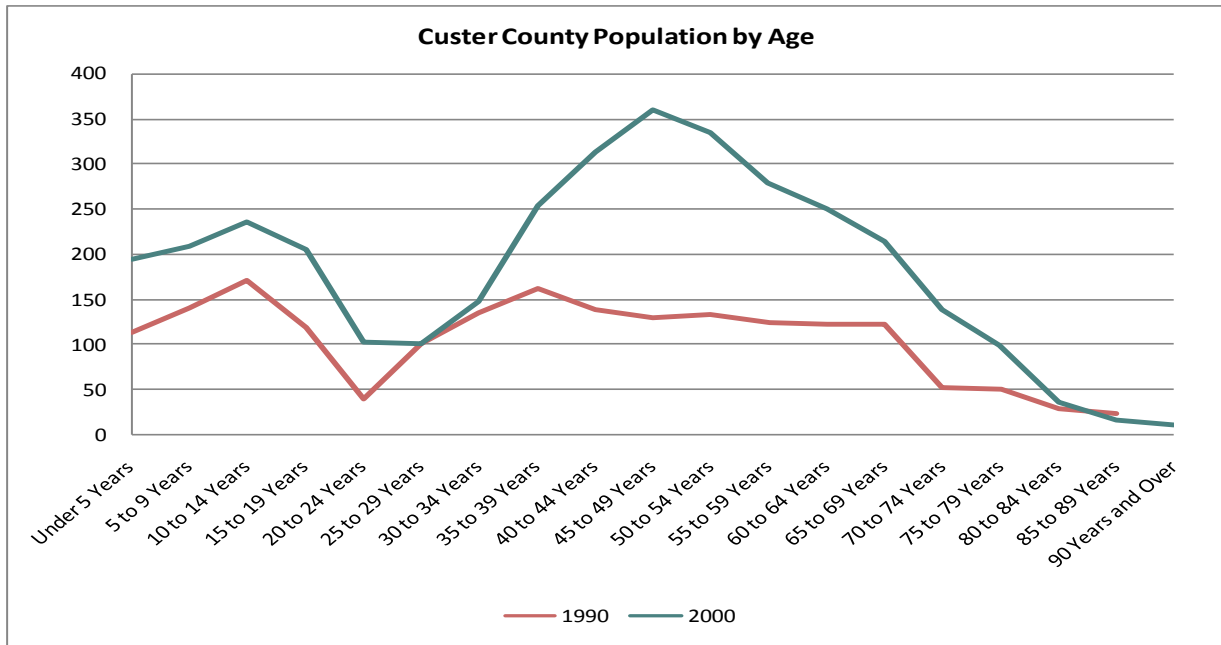
The Department of Local Affairs estimates the 2011 population of Custer County at 4,452, which is approximately .8% of the State's population. In the last ten years, Custer County's population has increased approximately 17%, while the state saw an 18% increase.



Data retrieved from State Demography Office-DOLA
http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog_webapps/profile_county
 1/11/2011

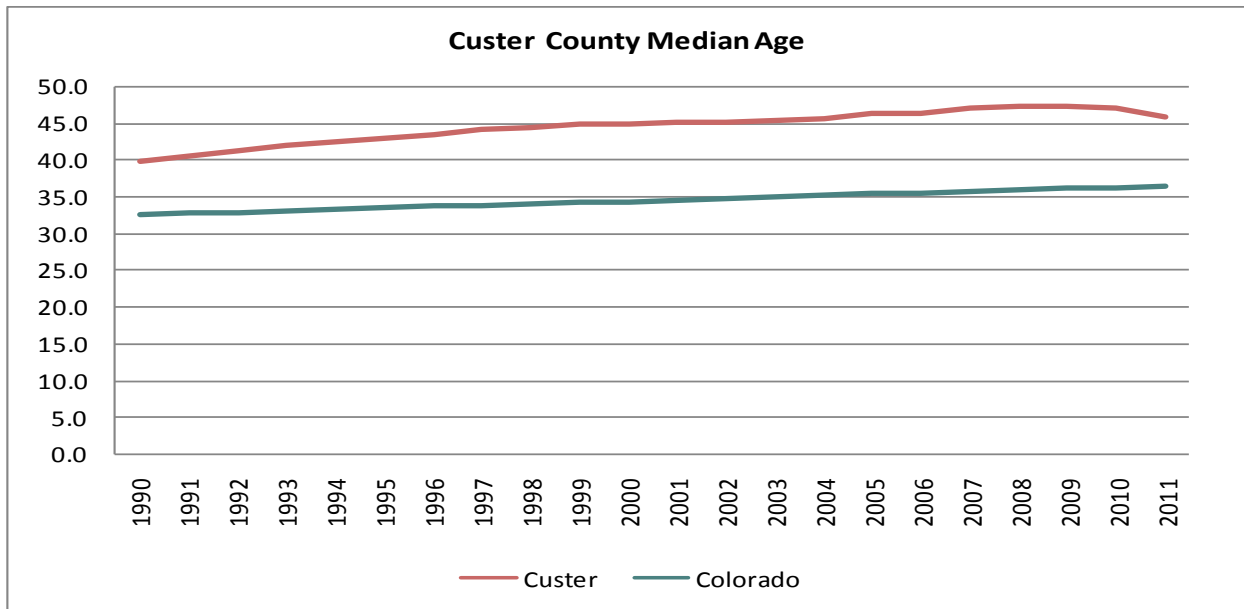
Population

Population by Age



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

Estimated Median Age



https://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/demog/age_colo.html
11/10/2010

Population by Community

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Silver Cliff	512	521	527	572	574	579	578	527	578	N/A
Westcliffe	422	449	461	459	453	459	453	462	455	456

<http://factfinder.census.gov>
7/1/2010

Custer County Socioeconomic Statistics

Child Statistics

Custer County	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Teen Births (15-17, per 1,000)	*	*	*	*	0.0	*	*	*	*
Out of Home Placements (per 1,000)	5.9	4.9	10.7	4.9	N/A	3.6	2.3	4.8	1.3
Children Under 18 in Poverty (Percent)	22.5%	N/A	16.7%	17.6%	17.3%	22.8%	22.0%	21.2%	22.8%

* Fewer Than Three Reported

www.colordokids.org

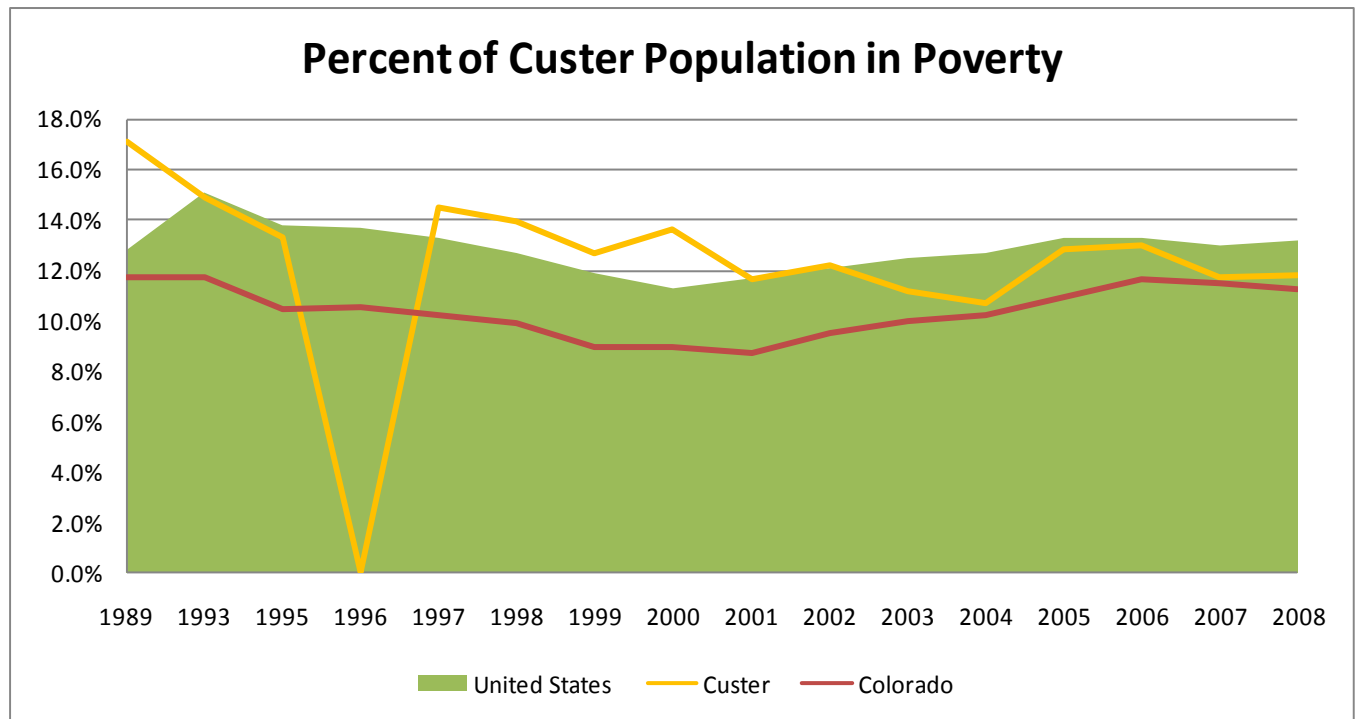
6/24/2010

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

6/24/2010

Poverty

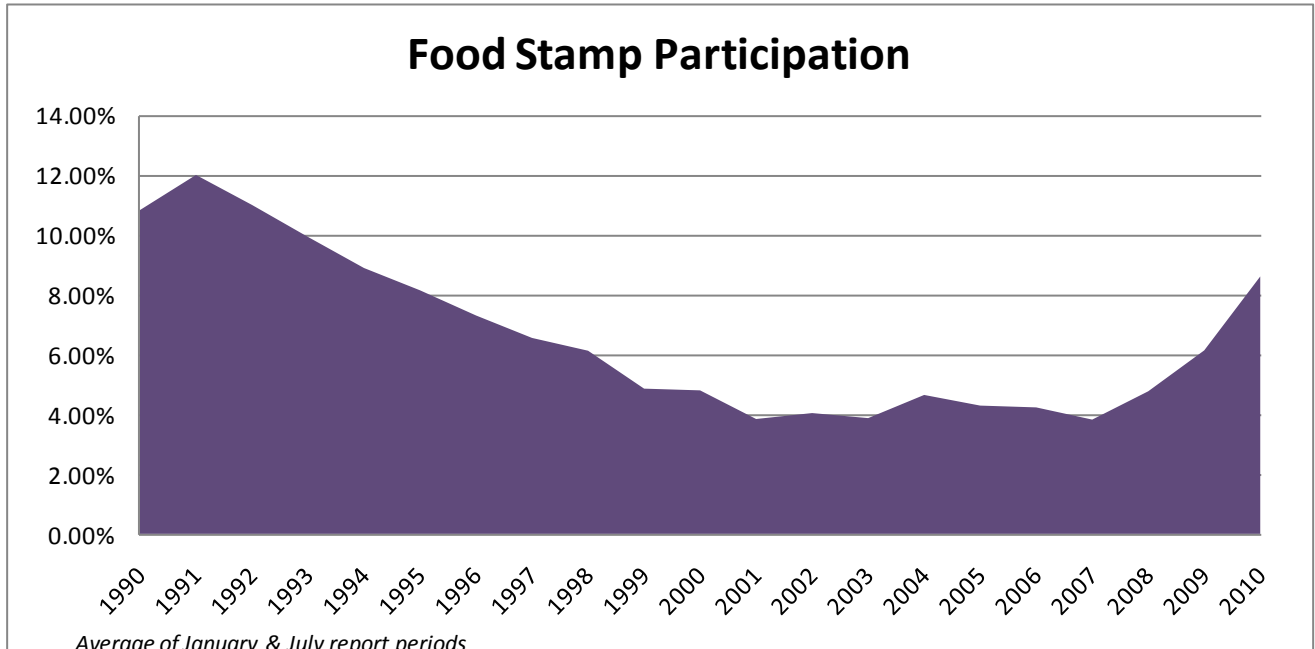


US Census-Data for 1996 is not available

9/16/2010

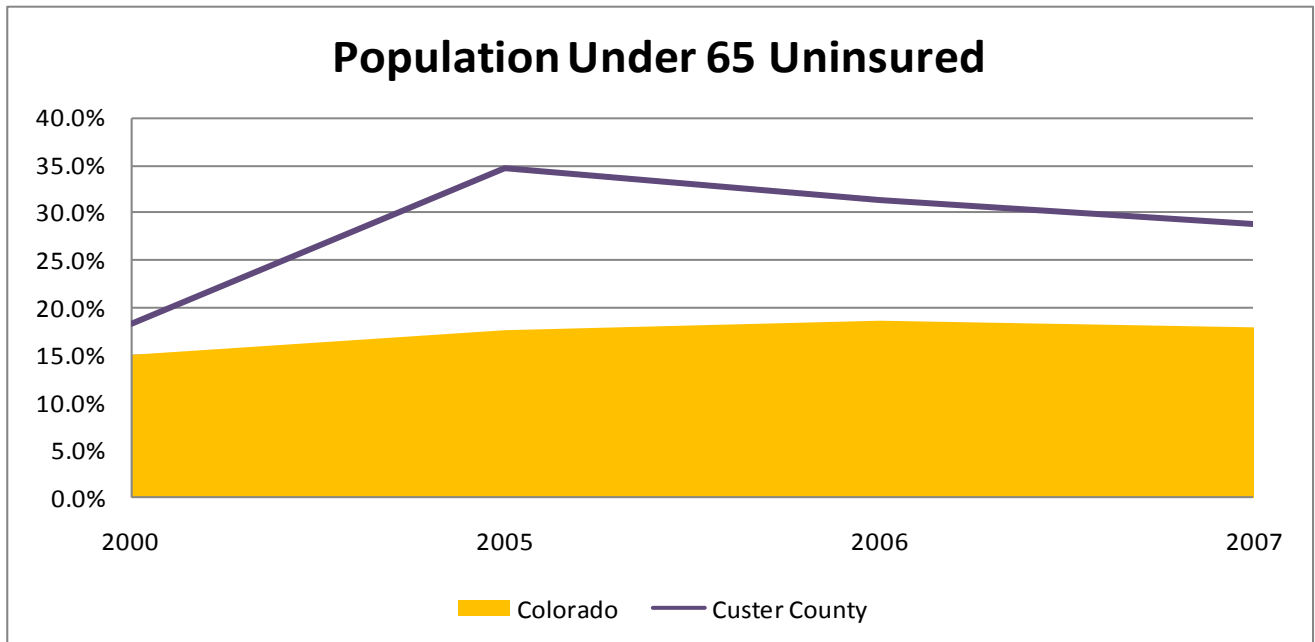
Custer County Socioeconomic Statistics

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: 76.8

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

Custer County Socioeconomic Statistics

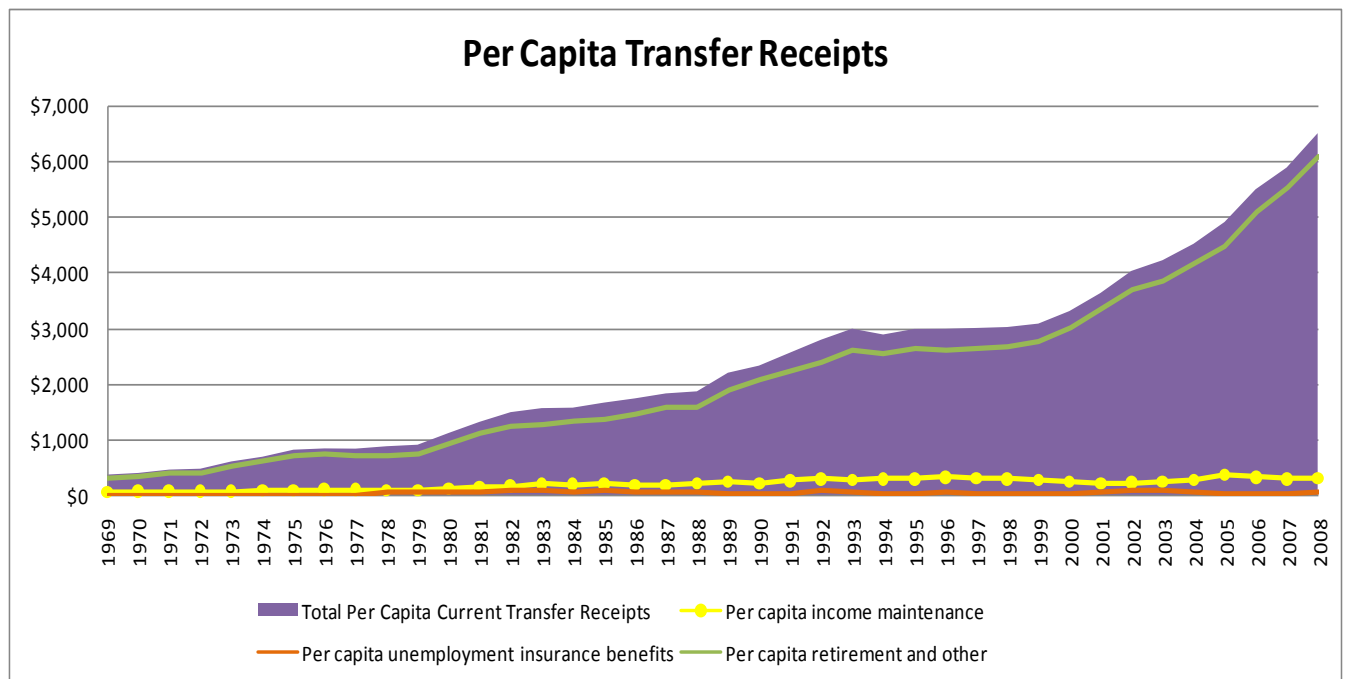
County Federal Payments

As of June, 2009

Program	Payment Type	Payment
Noninsured Assistance Program	Regular	\$58,399.00
Noninsured Assistance Program	Loss Adjustor	\$200.73
Crop Disaster Assistance Program	Crop Disaster Program with Appropriation	\$2,177.00
Direct and County Cyclicalpym	Direct Payments	\$520.00
Total		\$61,296.73

Farm Service Administration
10/29/2009

Personal Transfer Payments



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

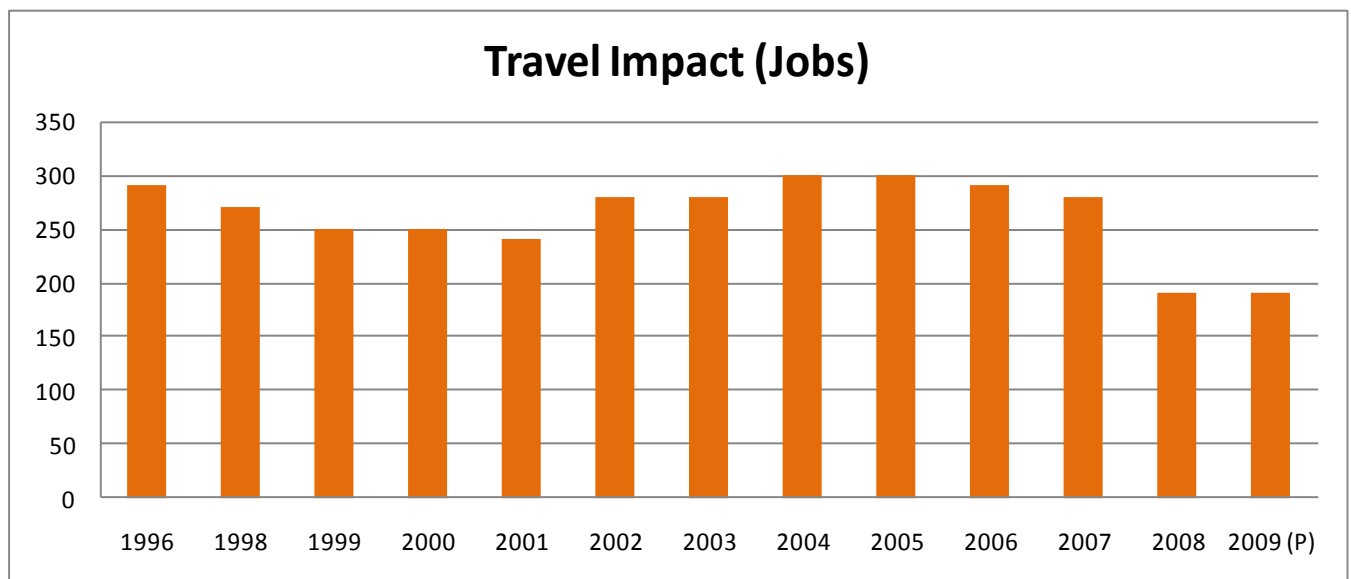
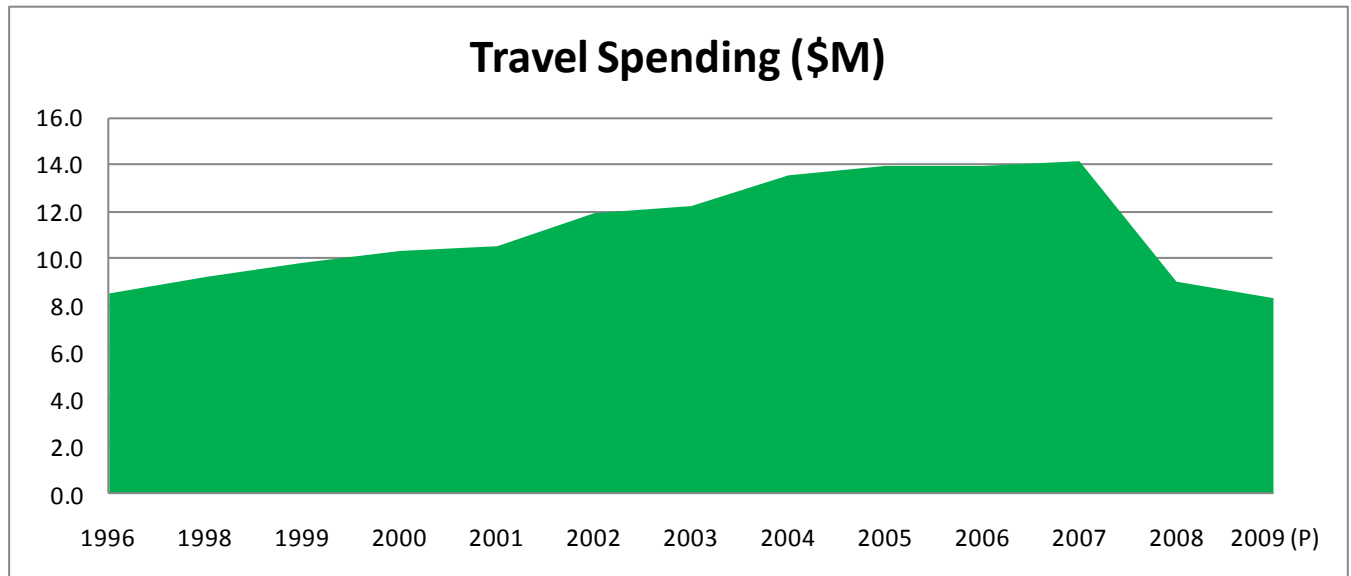
Custer County Socioeconomic Statistics

Travel Impact

	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 (P)
Travel Spending (\$M)	8.5	9.2	9.8	10.3	10.5	11.9	12.2	13.5	13.9	13.9	14.1	9.0	8.3
Earnings (\$M)	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	2.2	2.1
Employment (Jobs)	290	270	250	250	240	280	280	300	300	290	280	190	190
Local Taxes (\$M)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
State Taxes (\$M)	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2

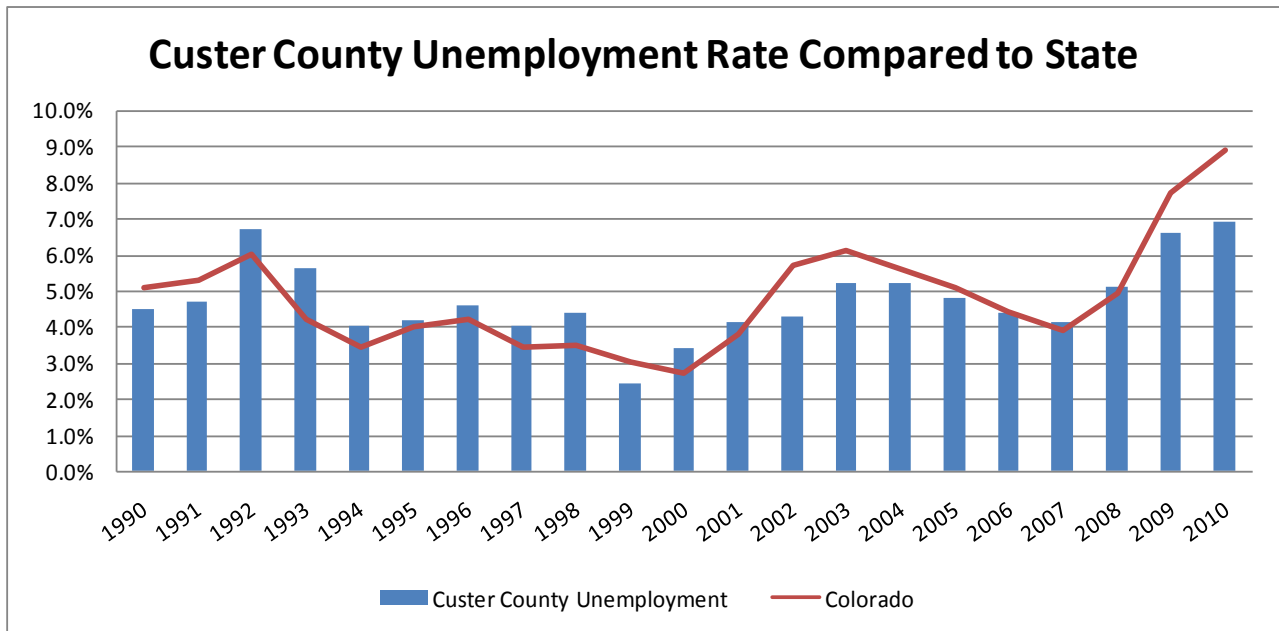
Dean Runyan Associates
<http://www.deanrunyan.com>
 8/10/2010

P= Preliminary



Labor Force

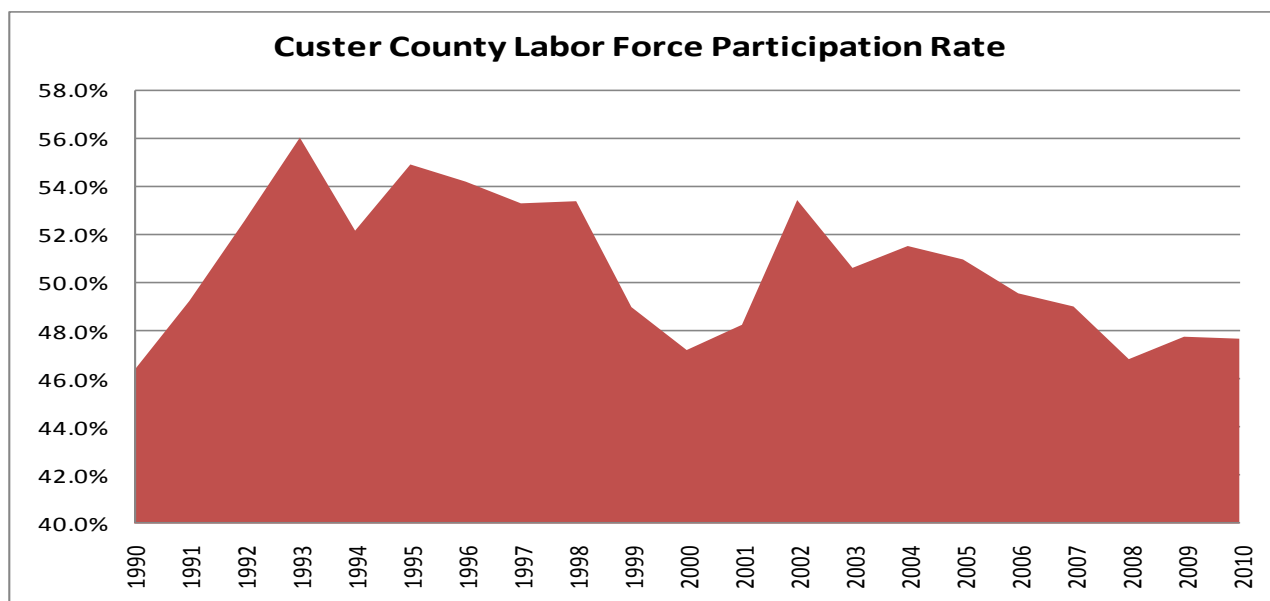
Custer County's unemployment rate has ranged from 2.4% to 6.9% in the last ten years. Colorado's 2010 unemployment rate was 8.9%, while Custer County was 6.9%; the highest unemployment rate in twenty years.



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

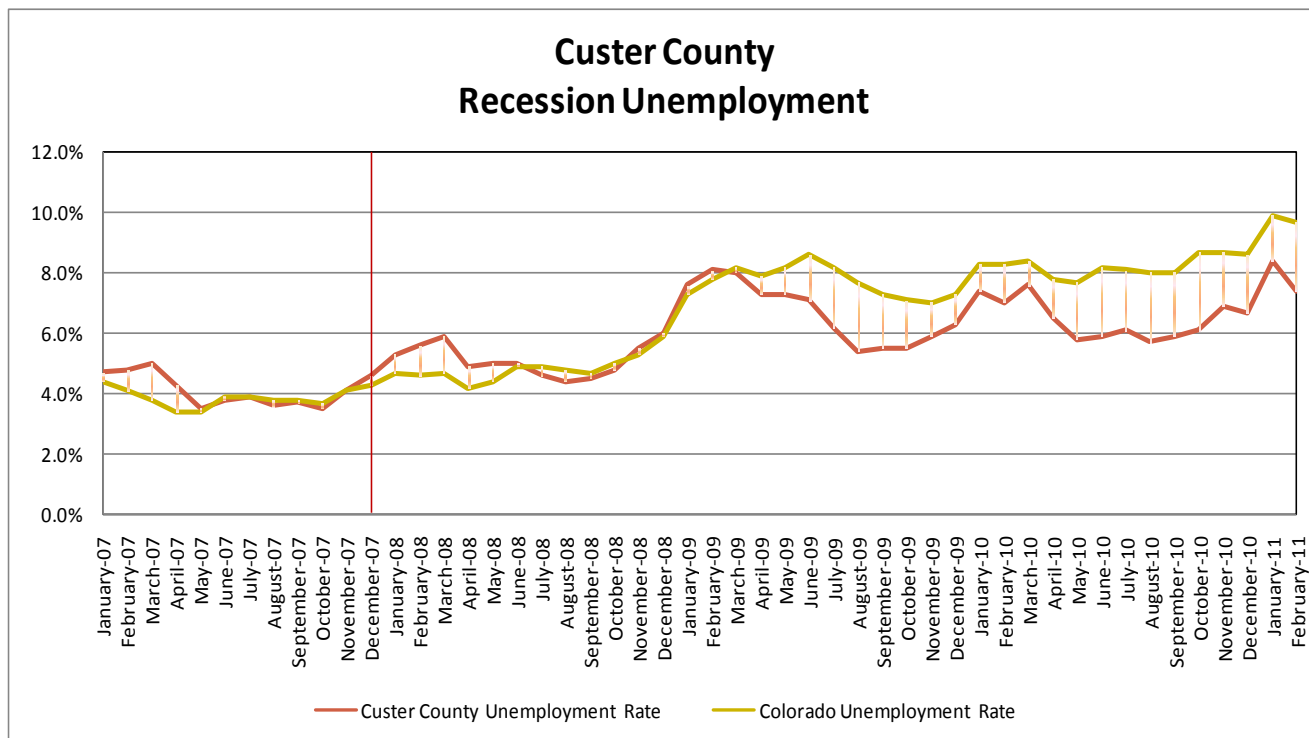
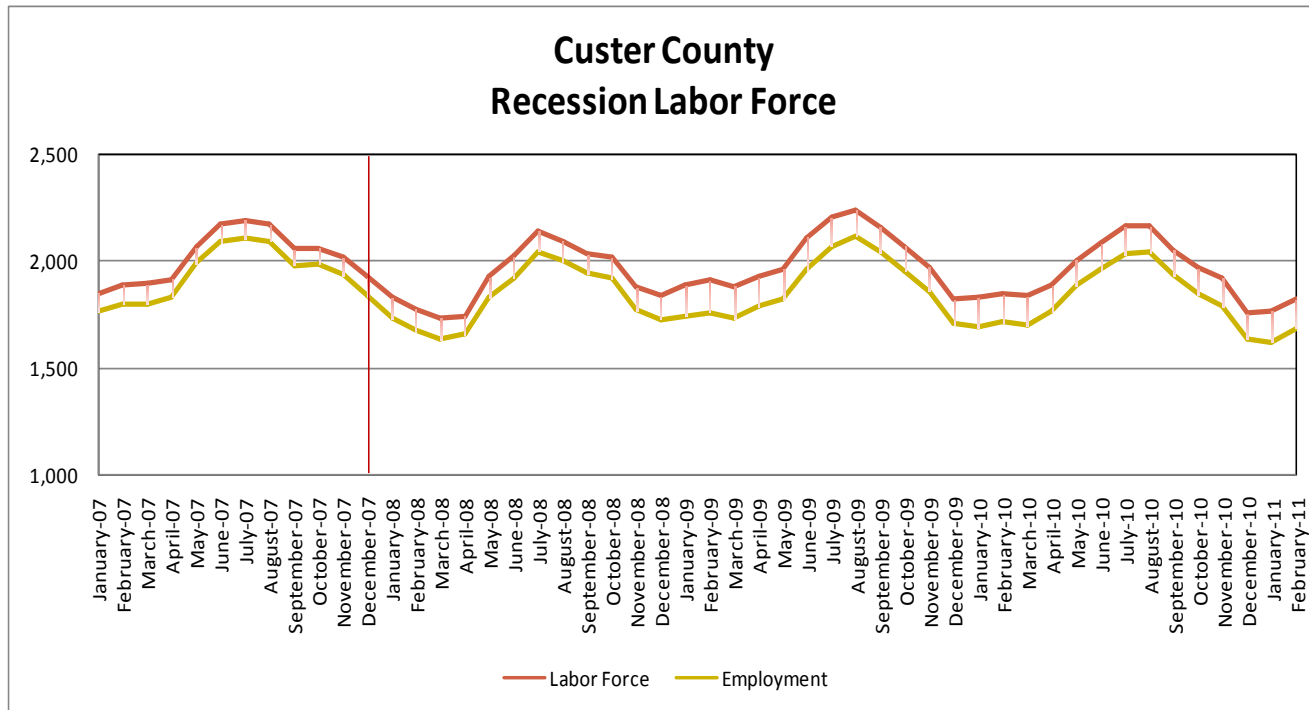
Labor Force Participation Rate

This ratio indicates the degree to which a population is working or actively seeking employment. A low rate might indicate a 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%. Custer County's rate as of December, 2010 was 47.7%.



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
4/21/2011

Labor Force

Wages by Sector

Average Annual Wages

Industry	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Natural Resources & Mining	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Construction	\$26,108	\$30,159	\$39,599	\$41,836	\$43,094
Manufacturing	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	\$24,728	\$24,722	\$25,075	\$27,268	\$25,582
Information	\$29,575	\$32,384	\$31,685	\$33,647	\$35,003
Financial Activities	\$25,456	\$30,458	\$38,827	\$32,656	\$32,697
Professional & Business Services	\$36,927	\$28,184	\$36,316	\$33,515	\$43,318
Education & Health Services	\$20,689	\$20,467	\$22,631	\$26,504	\$26,643
Leisure & Hospitality	\$10,634	\$11,339	\$11,595	\$12,959	\$12,293
Other Services	\$19,741	\$21,824	\$21,215	\$23,034	\$24,219
Public Administration	\$24,952	\$25,785	\$27,257	\$28,122	\$27,734

Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.bls.gov
1/10/2011

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

Average Weekly Wages

Industry	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Construction	\$505	\$585	\$762	\$811	\$831
Manufacturing	\$383	\$408	\$463	\$475	\$557
Wholesale Trade	\$757	\$749	\$802	\$1,004	\$1,065
Retail Trade	\$407	\$412	\$419	\$447	\$420
Transportation and Warehousing	\$592	\$594	\$722	\$682	\$671
Information	\$509	\$567	\$560	\$605	\$625
Finance and Insurance	\$753	\$894	\$652	\$630	\$637
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$313	\$376	\$468	\$607	\$622
Professional Technical Services	\$667	\$554	\$719	\$665	\$871
Administrative and Waste Services	\$435	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$371	\$378	\$422	\$459	\$479
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$229	\$247	\$290	\$266	\$262
Accommodation & Food Services	\$199	\$211	\$205	\$240	\$222
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	\$378	\$409	\$408	\$453	\$469
Public Administration	\$497	\$508	\$532	\$550	\$545

Colorado Work Force/ LMI Gateway
http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com
1/10/2011

Labor Force

Employment by Sector

Industry	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Agriculture	N/A	N/A	155	160	160	154	152	150	144
Mining	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Utilities	N/A	5	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	N/A
Construction	274	293	280	N/A	260	245	257	279	264
Manufacturing	29	N/A	N/A	44	57	53	50	63	45
Wholesale trade	26	29	17	20	26	24	21	20	12
Retail Trade	181	207	205	187	182	180	192	180	167
Transportation and warehousing	27	23	N/A	N/A	11	14	13	21	N/A
Information	16	16	N/A	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	31	28
Finance activities	N/A	48	44	47	N/A	48	57	51	51
Real estate	113	119	125	124	134	131	121	107	99
Professional and business services	71	85	83	91	88	93	85	104	120
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	39	42	34	33	34	24	N/A	N/A
Education	2	N/A	N/A	4	12	18	21	19	19
Health Services	26	25	44	57	55	58	56	53	N/A
Arts	N/A	45	42	52	69	72	77	86	90
Accommodation and food	122	156	188	192	169	163	172	115	116
Other services, except public administration	109	N/A	133	125	125	126	134	154	143
Government	235	246	249	252	249	251	251	251	263

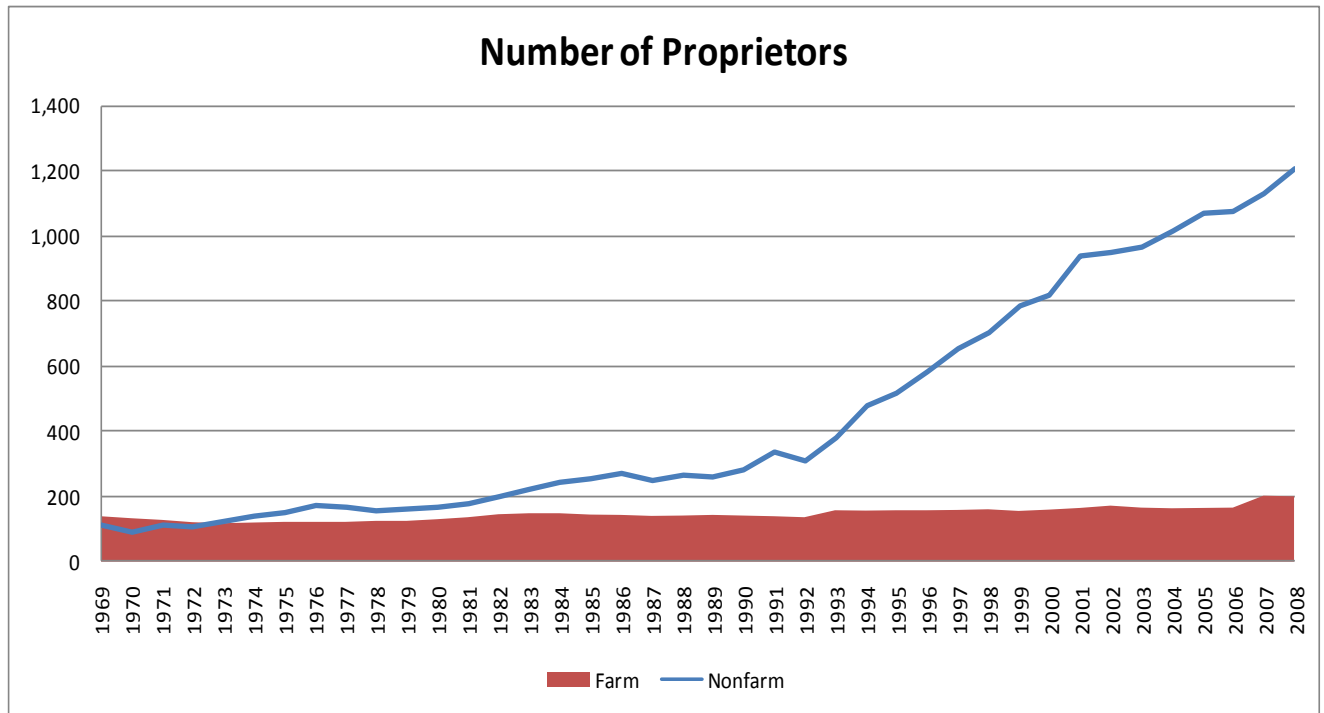
Department of Local Affairs

http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog_webapps/jobs_sector_naics

1/7/2011

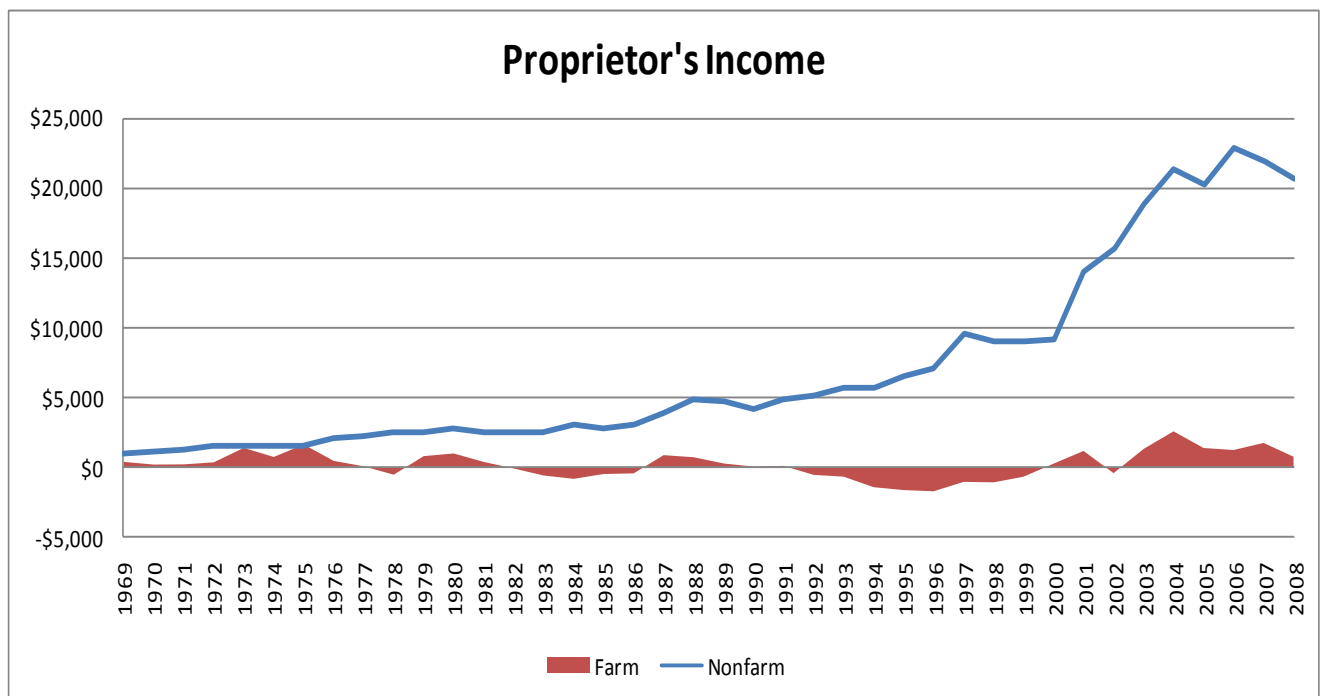
Labor Force

Proprietors



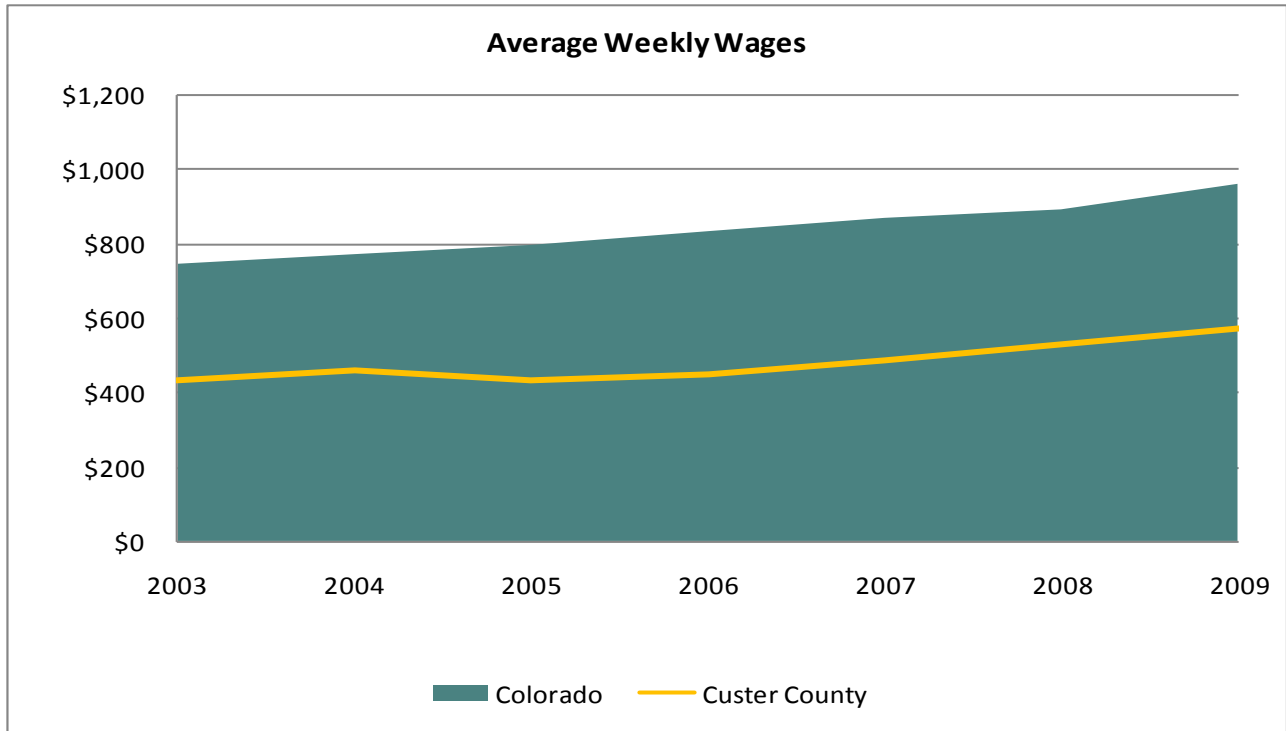
Bureau of Economic Analysis
9/16/2010

Proprietor's Income



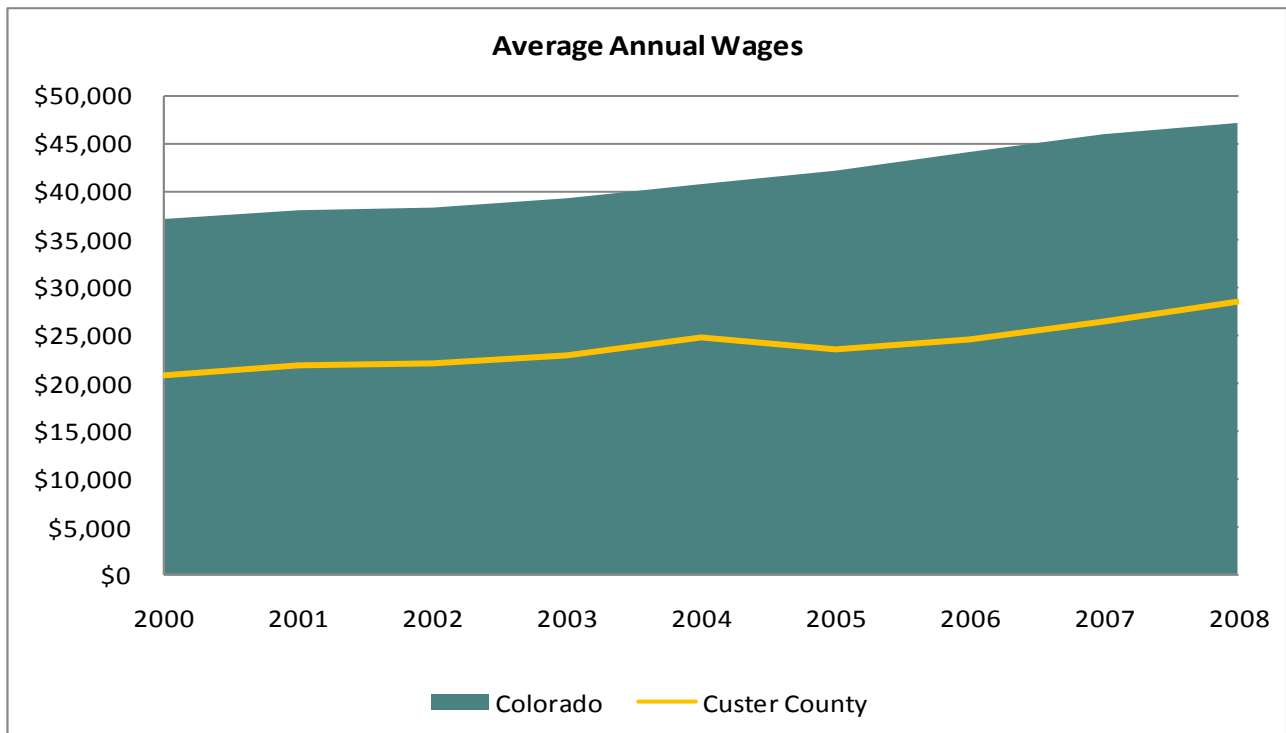
Income and Wages

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

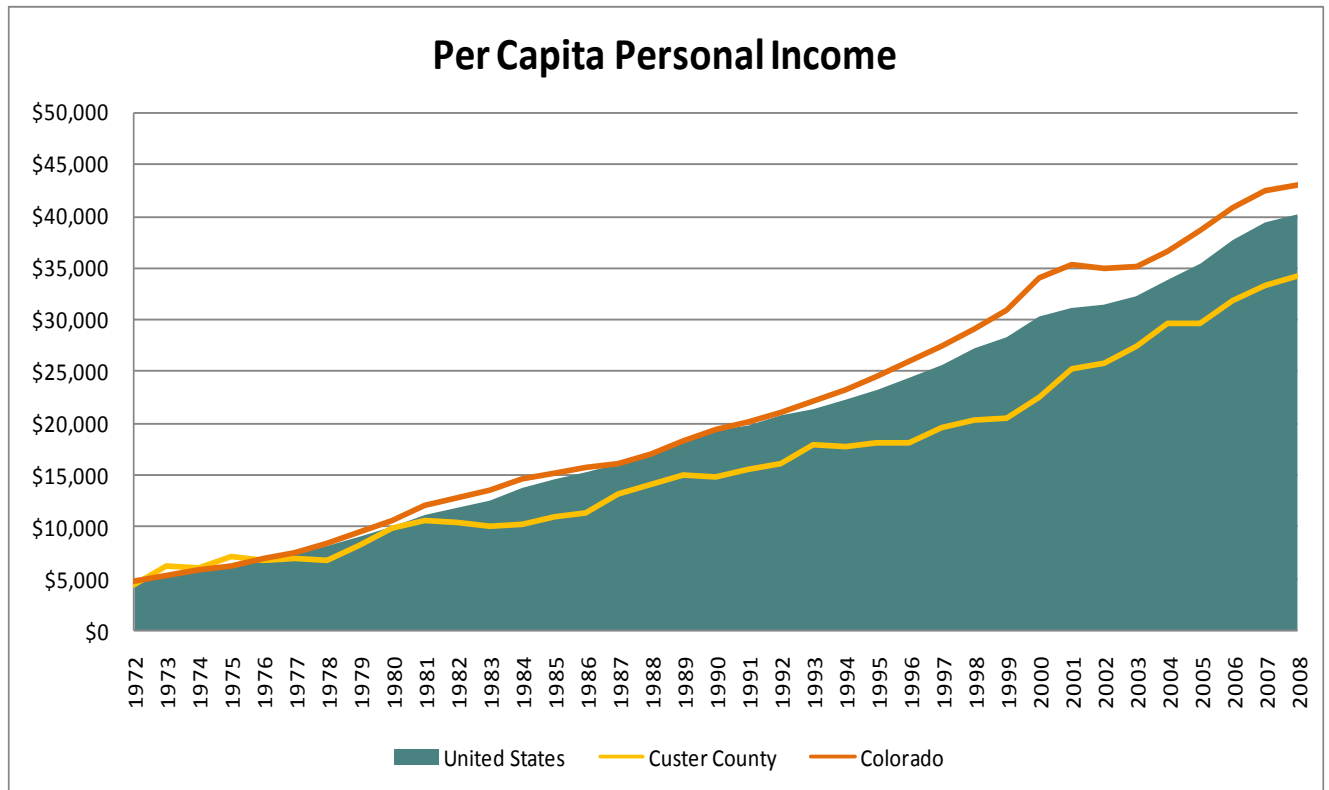
Income and Wages

Median Household Income

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Custer County	\$36,205	\$35,953	\$35,938	\$37,830	\$40,332	\$40,946	\$41,811	\$44,193	\$50,660	\$45,898
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

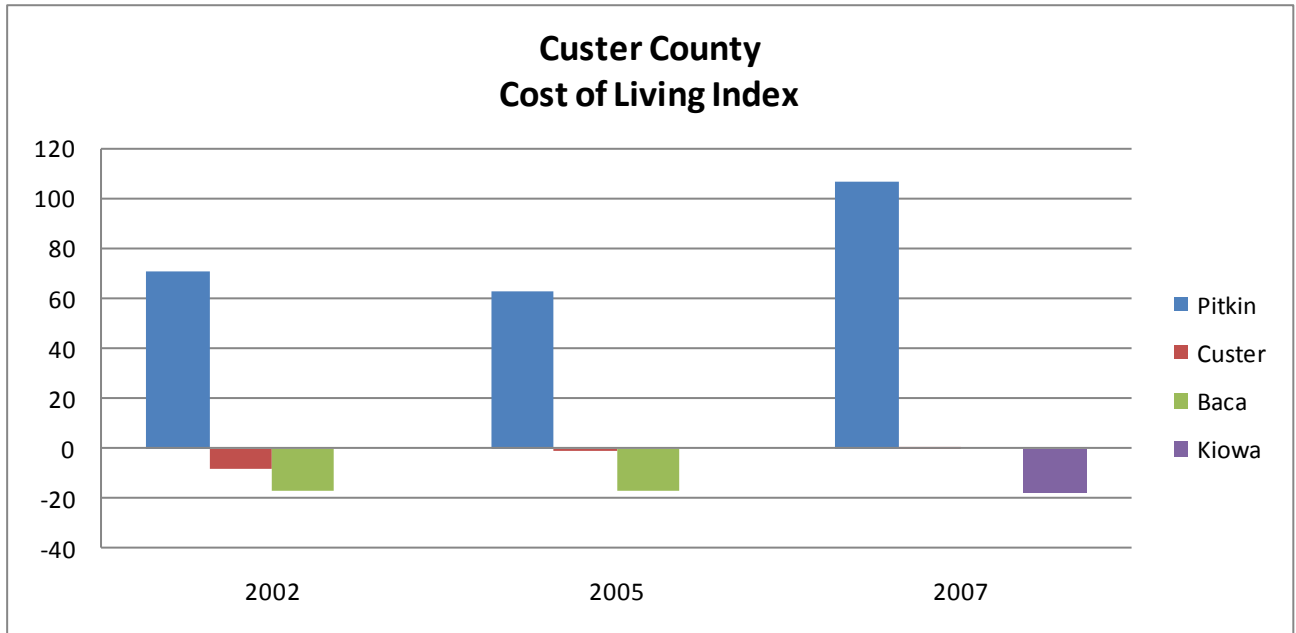


Bureau of Economic Analysis
www.bea.gov
1/11/2011

The per capita income for Custer County is 20% below the State average. Per capita income for Custer County in 2008 was \$34,216 compared to the State average of \$43,021.

Cost of Living Index

The chart below compares the County's Cost of Living 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	2.36	2.35	2.36	2.36	2.35	2.35	2.36	2.36	2.35	2.36
Household Population (July)	3,487	3,698	3,737	3,874	3,909	3,955	3,915	4,011	3,986	4,018
Housing Vacancy Rate	50.49	48.58	49.07	48.35	48.57	49.59	51.67	51.80	53.05	53.38
Total Households	1,480	1,571	1,586	1,645	1,660	1,680	1,662	1,703	1,693	1,705
Total Housing Units	2,989	3,055	3,114	3,185	3,228	3,333	3,439	3,533	3,606	3,657
Vacant Housing Units	1,509	1,484	1,528	1,540	1,568	1,653	1,777	1,830	1,913	1,952

http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog_webapps/profile_county
11/9/2010

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Net Building Permits	143	118	167	129	109	104	90	73	53	60

US Census
9/23/2010

Rent	Total	Percent
Less than \$200	22	9.0
\$200 to \$299	21	8.6
\$300 to \$499	75	30.6
\$500 to \$749	63	25.7
\$750 to \$999	29	11.8
\$1,000 to \$1,499	4	1.6
\$1,500 or more	0	0.0
No cash rent	31	12.7

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

Value	Total	Percent
Less than \$50,000	26	5.2
\$50,000 to \$99,999	142	28.3
\$100,000 to \$149,999	113	22.6
\$150,000 to \$199,999	114	22.8
\$200,000 to \$299,999	90	18.0
\$300,000 to \$499,999	11	2.2
\$500,000 to \$999,999	0	0.0
\$1,000,000 or more	5	1.0

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

Foreclosure

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Filings	21	27	17	26	39
Sales	7	8	1	3	19

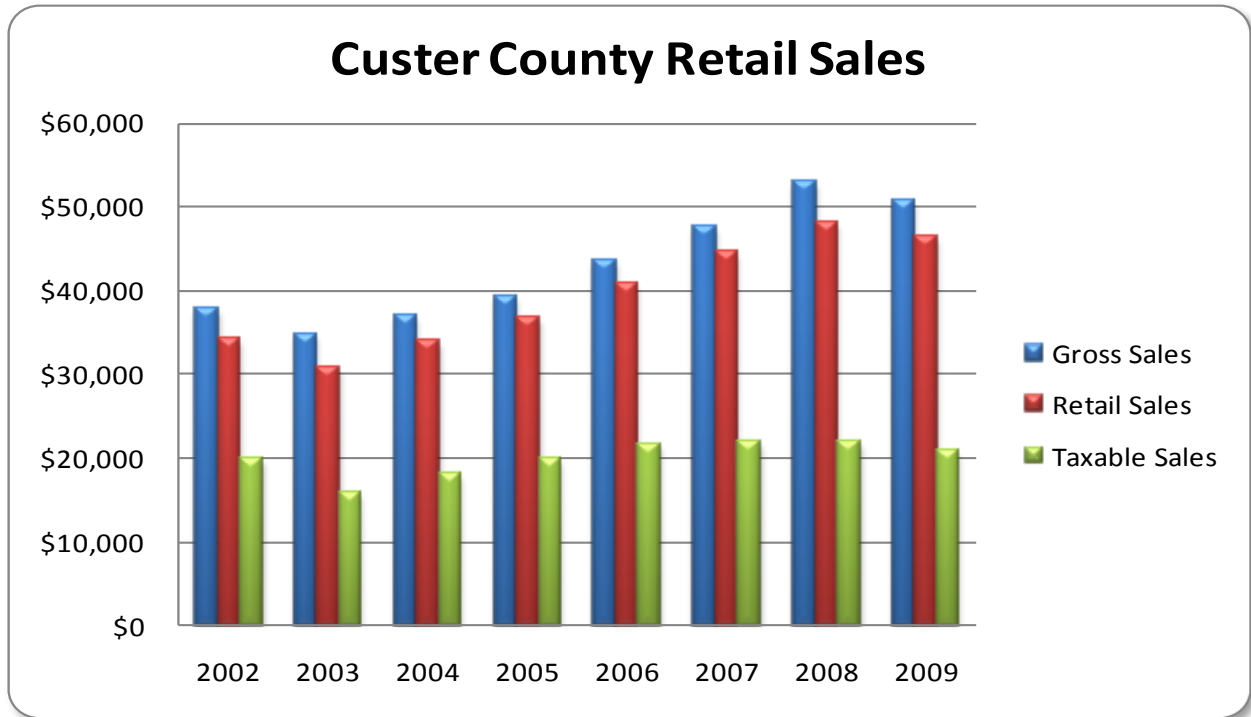
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/cdh/researchers/index.htm#foreclosure>
3/16/2011

Retail Sales

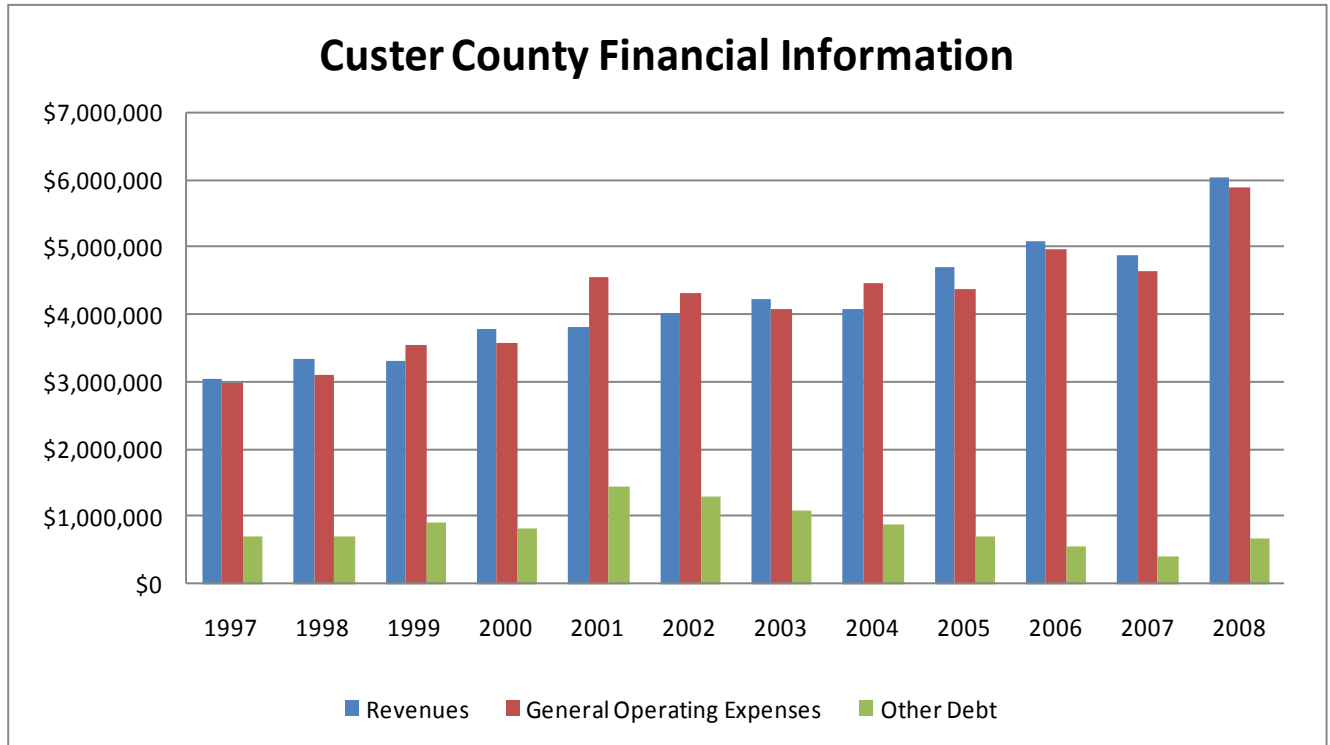
In thousands of dollars

Year	Number of Returns	Gross Sales	Retail Sales	Taxable Sales	Net Tax
2002	2,609	\$37,855	\$34,220	\$19,801	\$555
2003	2,852	\$34,680	\$30,716	\$15,798	\$445
2004	3,159	\$37,131	\$33,899	\$18,075	\$512
2005	3,193	\$39,271	\$36,733	\$19,804	\$558
2006	3,428	\$43,540	\$40,844	\$21,618	\$606
2007	3,347	\$47,686	\$44,569	\$21,842	\$612
2008	3,410	\$52,973	\$48,220	\$21,915	\$614
2009	3,534	\$50,704	\$46,314	\$20,963	\$593

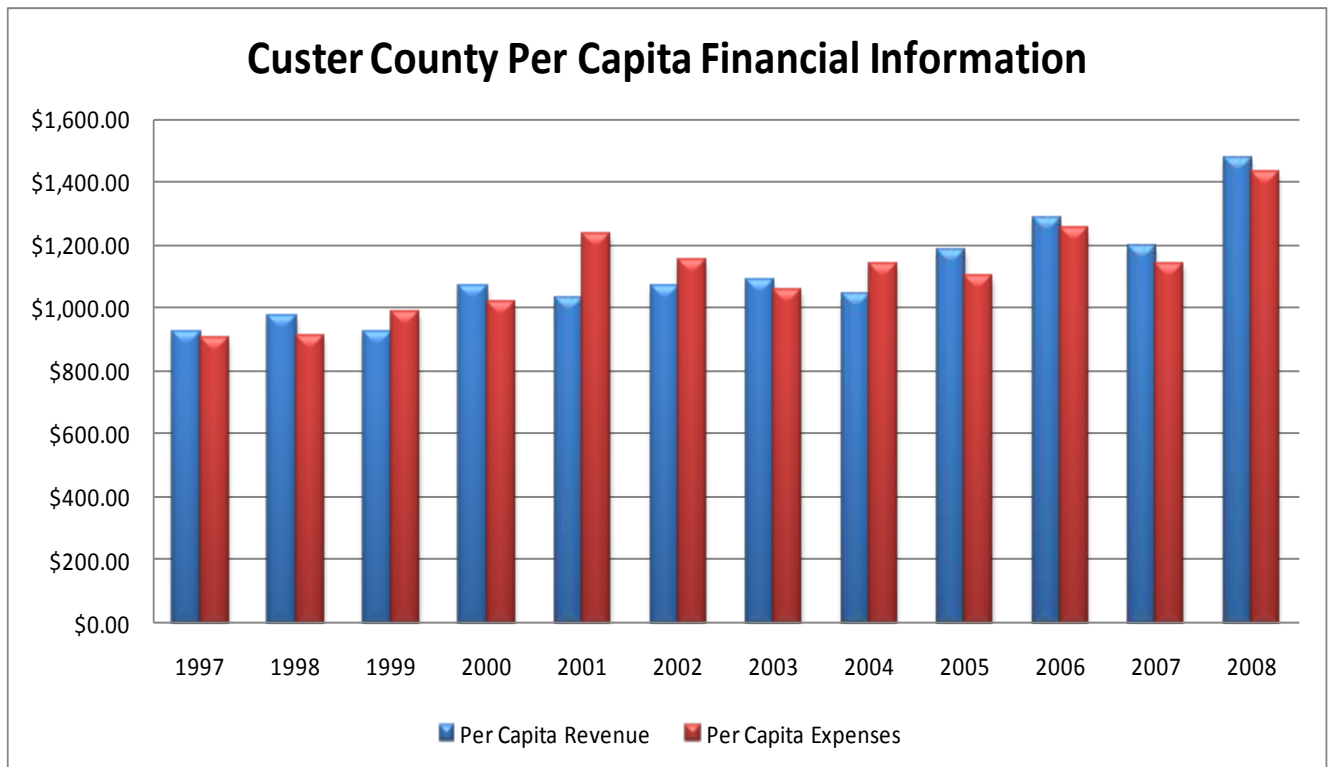
Dept. of Revenue
<http://www.colorado.gov>
 7/8/2010



Custer County Financial Information



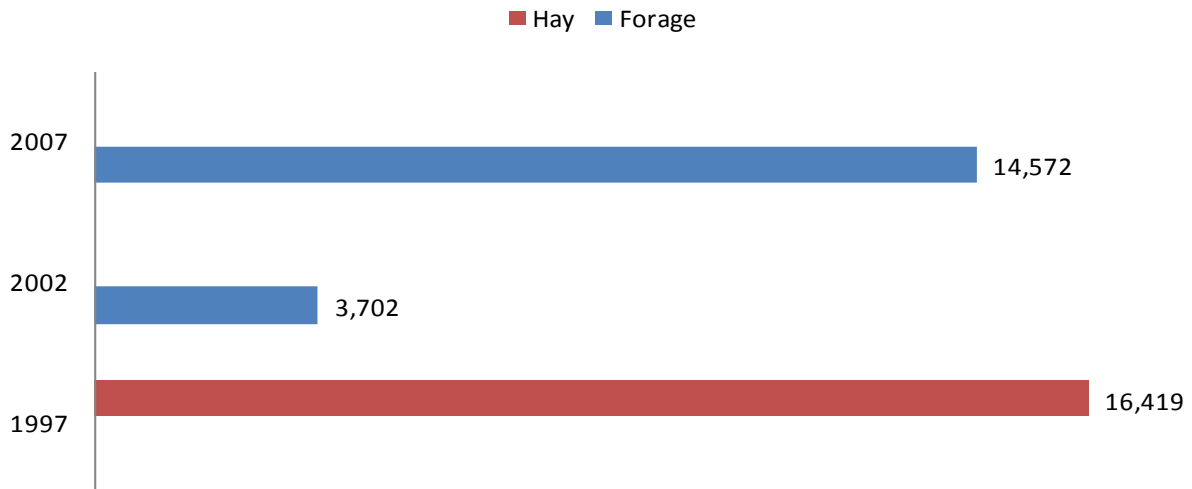
Colorado Division of Local Government
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/cedis.html>
 10/19/2010



Agriculture

In 2007, Custer County had 137,799 acres of agricultural land. There are 226 farms, with an average of 610 acres. According to the 2007 Agricultural Census, Custer County's largest crop harvested is forage and top livestock is cattle and calves.

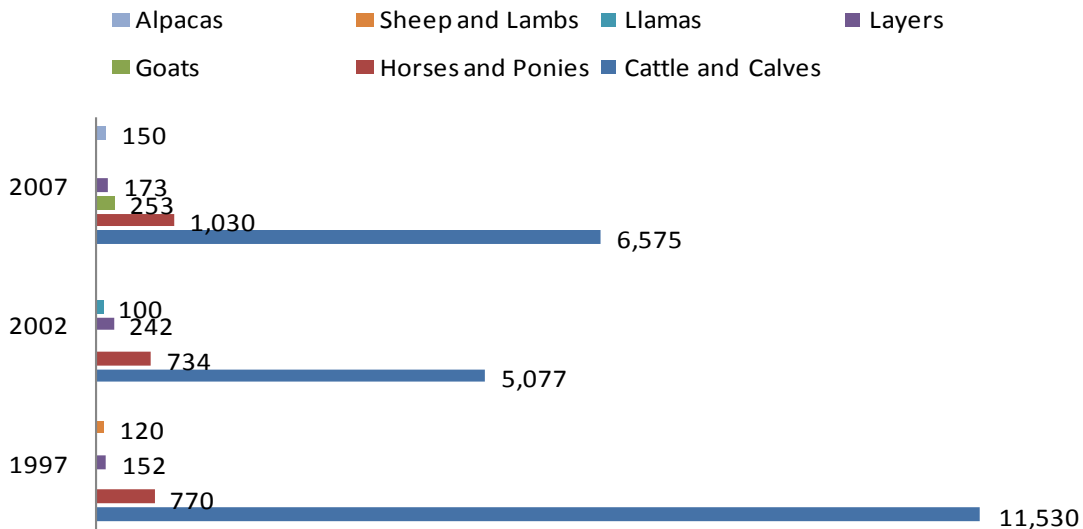
Top Crops Harvested in Acres



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

Out of sixty four counties in Colorado, Custer County ranked sixth in Christmas trees.

Top Livestock Inventory-Quantity



Taxes

Colorado sales and use tax is 2.9%. Custer County sales and use tax is 2% and the lodging tax is 2%.

2009 Property Tax Revenues

County	Valuation	Levy	Revenue
General Fund	\$95,862,700	10.894	\$1,044,328
Road & Bridge		5	\$479,314
Public Welfare		0.5	\$47,931
Self-Insurance		1.5	\$143,794
Emergency Services		2	\$191,725
Cities and Towns			
Westcliffe	\$11,290,190	4.44	\$50,128
Silver Cliff	\$7,485,700	3.047	\$22,809
Fire Districts			
Wet Mountain Fire Protection District	\$88,595,310	3.842	\$340,383
Rye Fire Protection District	\$3,257,340	10.036	\$32,691
Other Districts			
Round Mountain Water and Sanitation	\$17,989,670	2.499	\$44,956
Upper Arkansas Water	\$95,862,700	0.446	\$42,769
West Custer Library District	\$88,595,310	1.941	\$171,960
West Custer Hospital District	\$88,595,310	4.908	\$434,826
School Districts			
School District C-1			
General	\$92,655,700	22.903	\$2,122,093
Bond & Interest	\$92,655,700	4.75	\$440,115
School District RE-2J			
General	\$3,206,970	18.398	\$59,002
Bond & Interest	\$3,207,000	11.297	\$36,229

Dept. of Local Affairs
10/28/2010

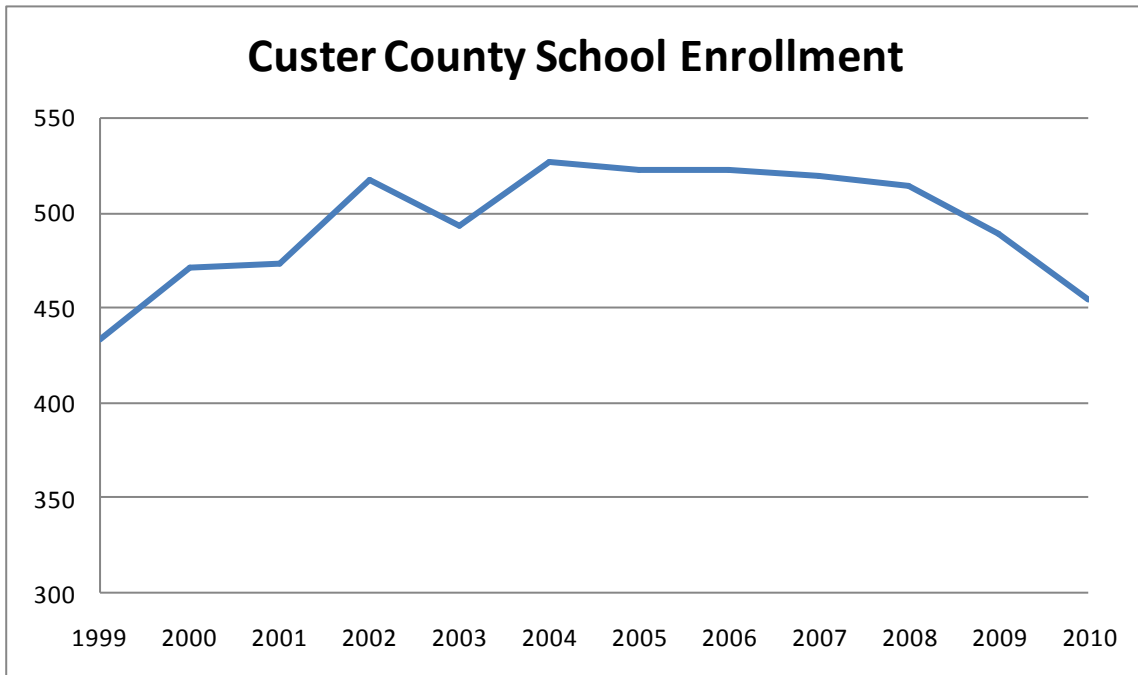
Education

Enrollment

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Custer County C-1	433	471	473	517	493	527	522	522	519	514	489	454

Number of Graduates

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Custer County C-1	25	25	36	34	43	44	35	34	39	36	41



Graduation Rate

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Custer County C-1	83.3	100.0	100.0	100	91.5	95.7	100.0	82.9	92.9	85.7	93.2

Drop Out Rate

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Custer County C-1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	2.2	1.4	1.7	1.3	0.7

www.cde.state.co.us
1/13/2011

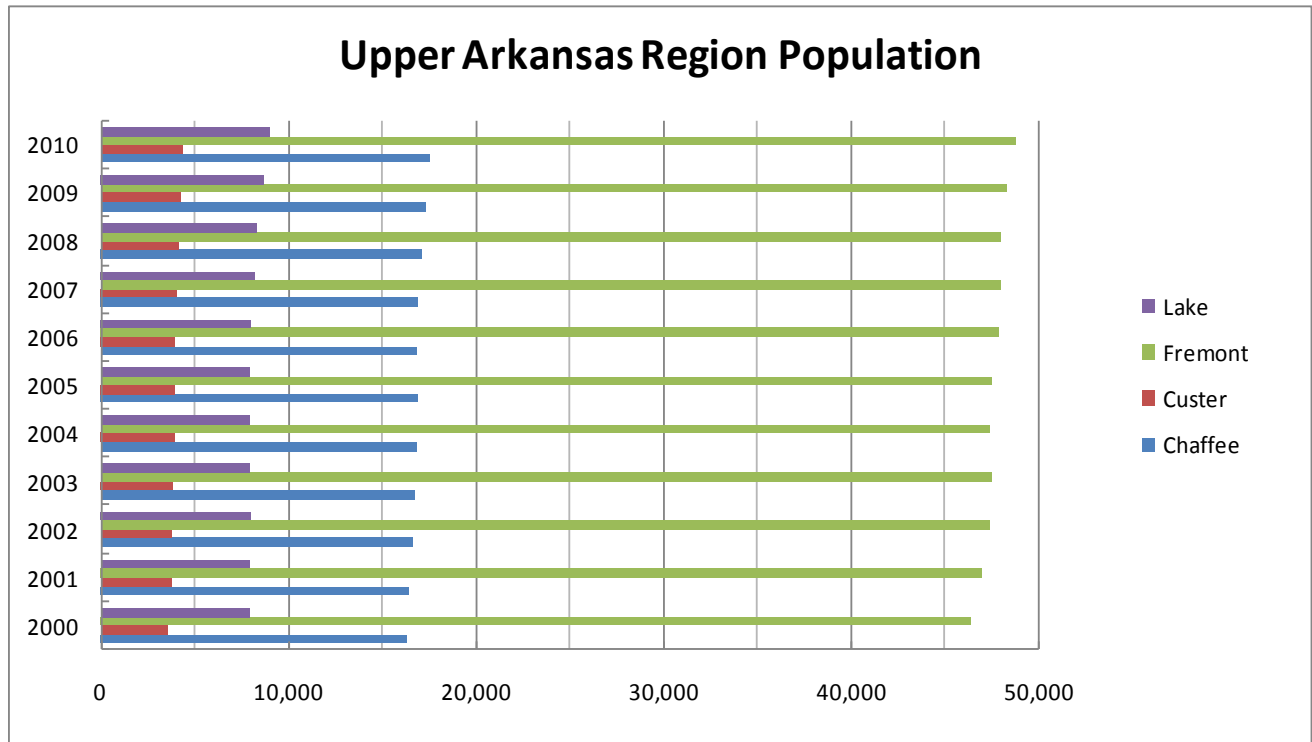
Crime

Offense	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Arson	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Assault	11	10	30	3	8	19	24	12	29	23
Burglary	21	11	27	9	8	14	10	7	10	17
Disorderly Conduct	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	0
Drug Violations	7	4	0	2	1	12	6	0	8	5
DUI	14	10	7	8	9	10	7	8	12	5
Forgery	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fraud	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Larceny/Theft	29	35	47	37	32	23	30	30	29	26
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	4	4	1	7	2	2	1	6	6
Murder/Manslaughter	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Violent Family Offenses	3	6	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
Other Offenses	13	10	4	15	6	7	12	6	7	3
Rape	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sex Offenses	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vandalism	N/A	3	1	2	0	4	1	1	4	6
Weapons	0	0	3	0	0	4	1	2	5	2

Colorado Bureau of Investigation
http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/docs_reports.asp
 7/2/2010

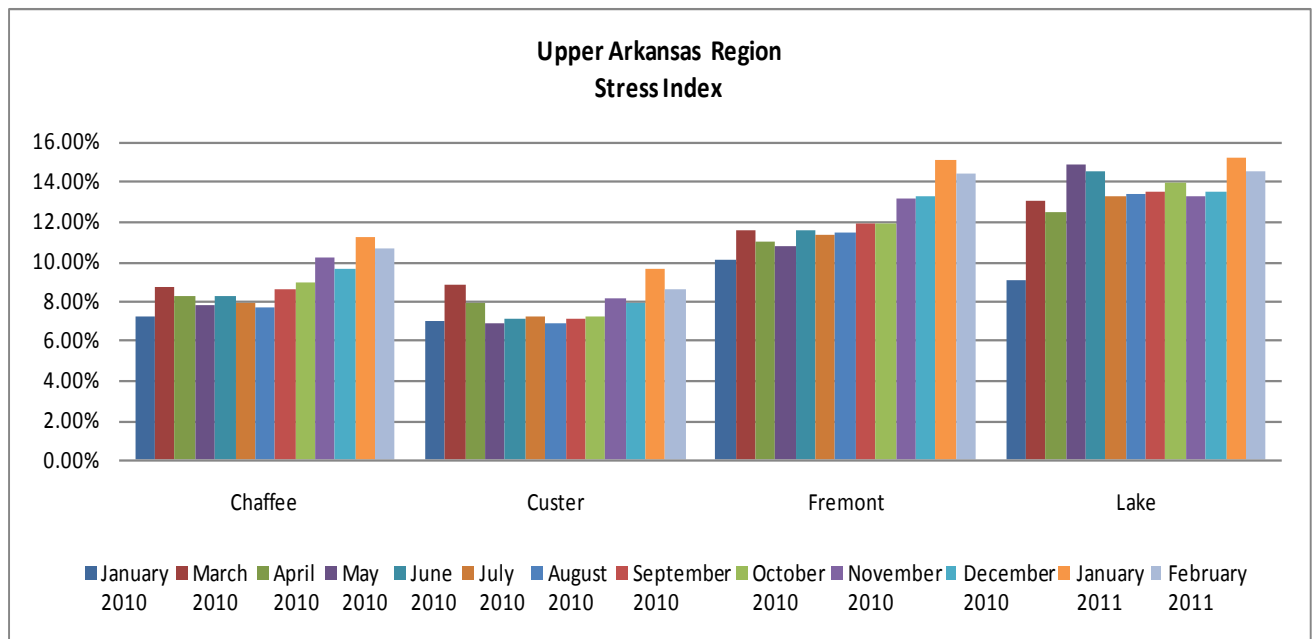
In The Region

Population



State Demography Office-DOLA
http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog_webapps/profile_county
 1/11/2011

Stress Index



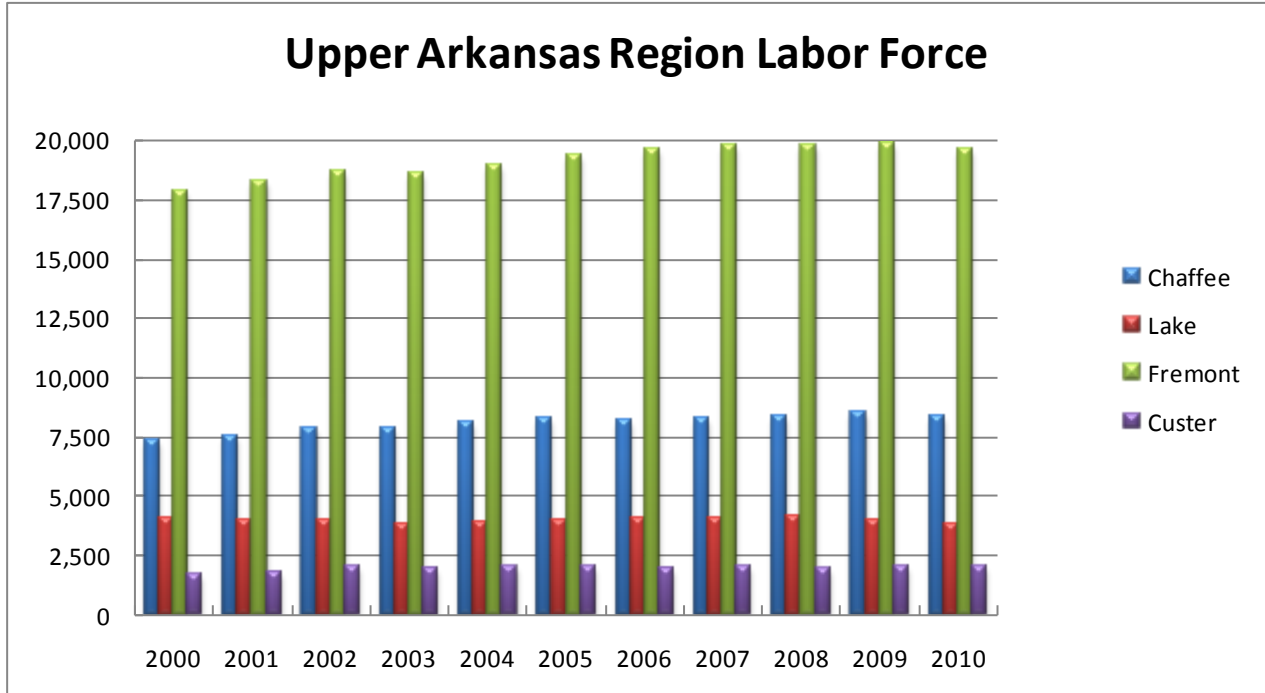
Stress Index Methodology:

The three rates were converted from percentages to decimal values between 0 and 1 before consolidating in the following calculation:

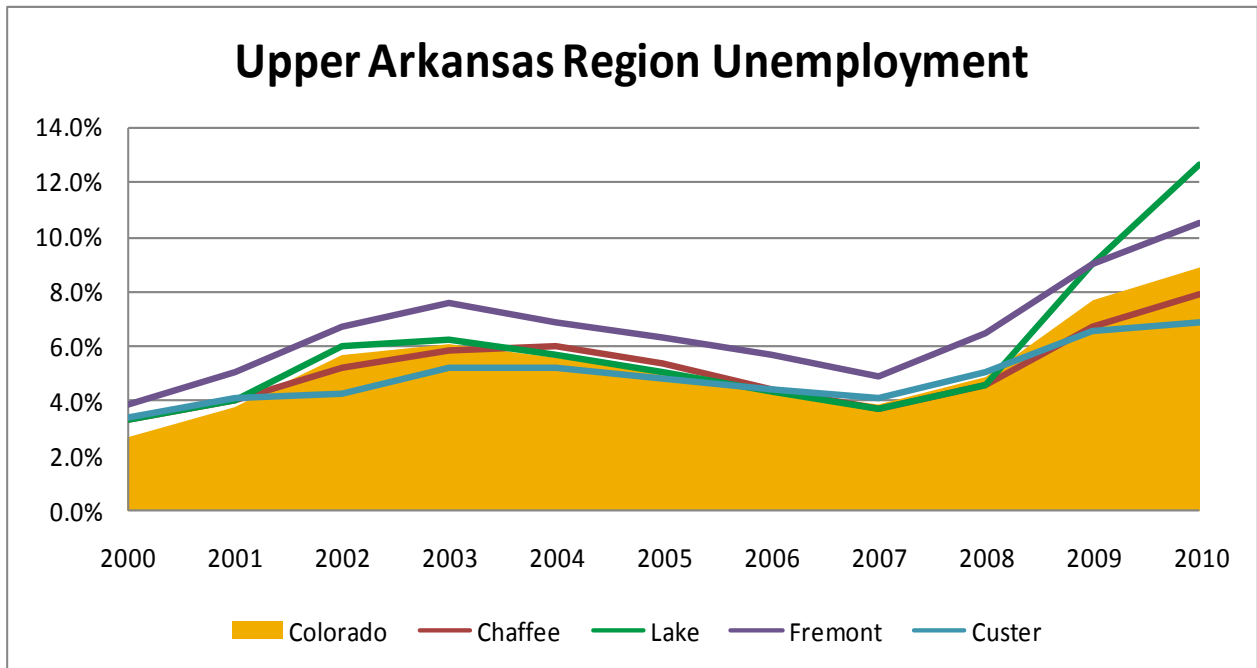
$$[1 - ((1 - \text{unemployment rate}) \times (1 - \text{foreclosure rate}) \times (1 - \text{bankruptcy rate}))] \times 100$$

 Associated Press Economic Stress Index
http://hosted.ap.org/specials/interactives/_national/stress_index/
 4/21/11

Labor Force

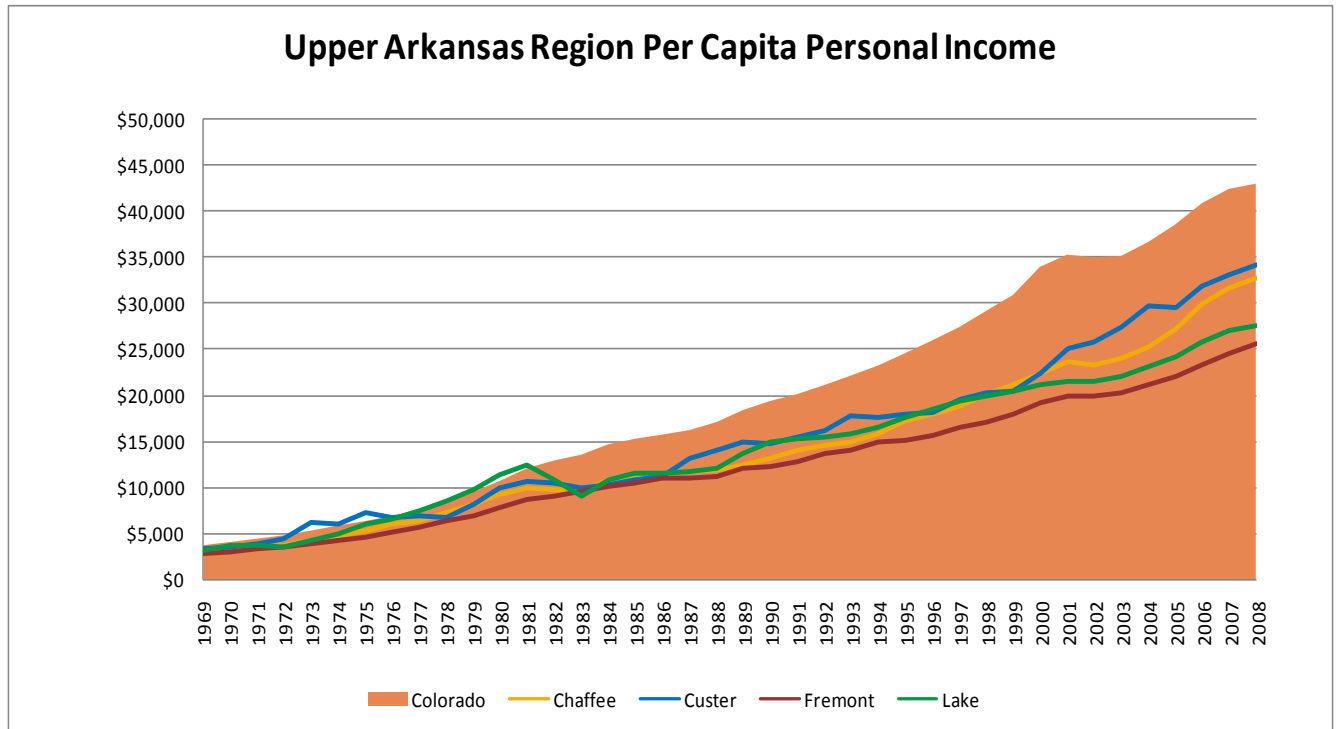


Colorado Workforce/LMI Gateway
<http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com>
 3/17/11



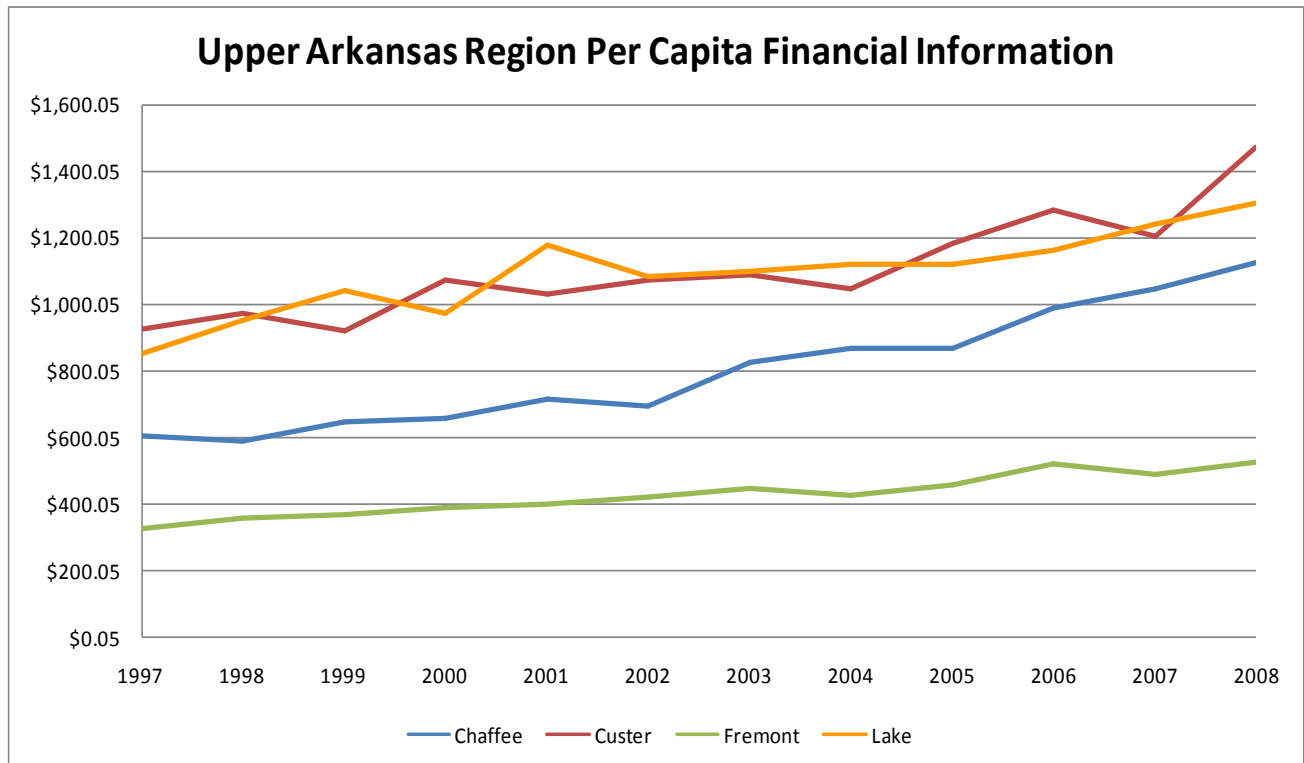
Colorado Workforce/LMI Gateway
<http://lmigateway.coworkforce.com>
 7/12/2010

Income



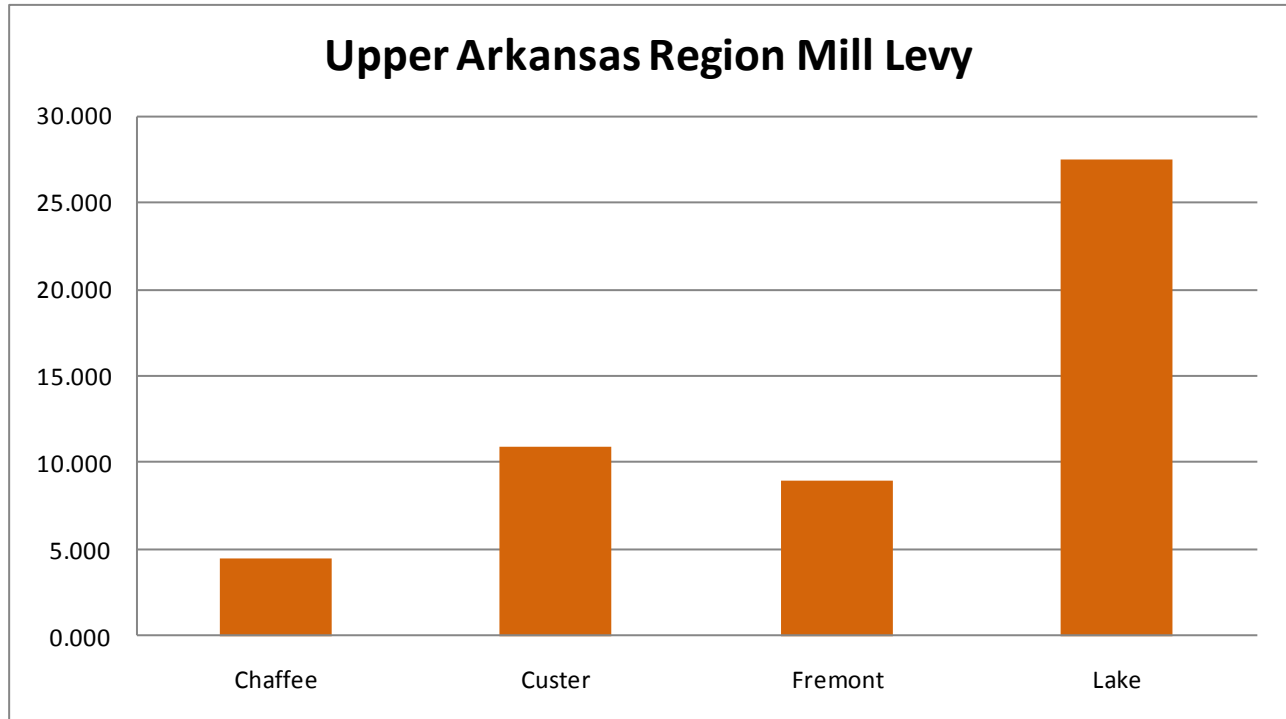
Bureau of Economic Analysis
1/11/2011

General Revenue Income



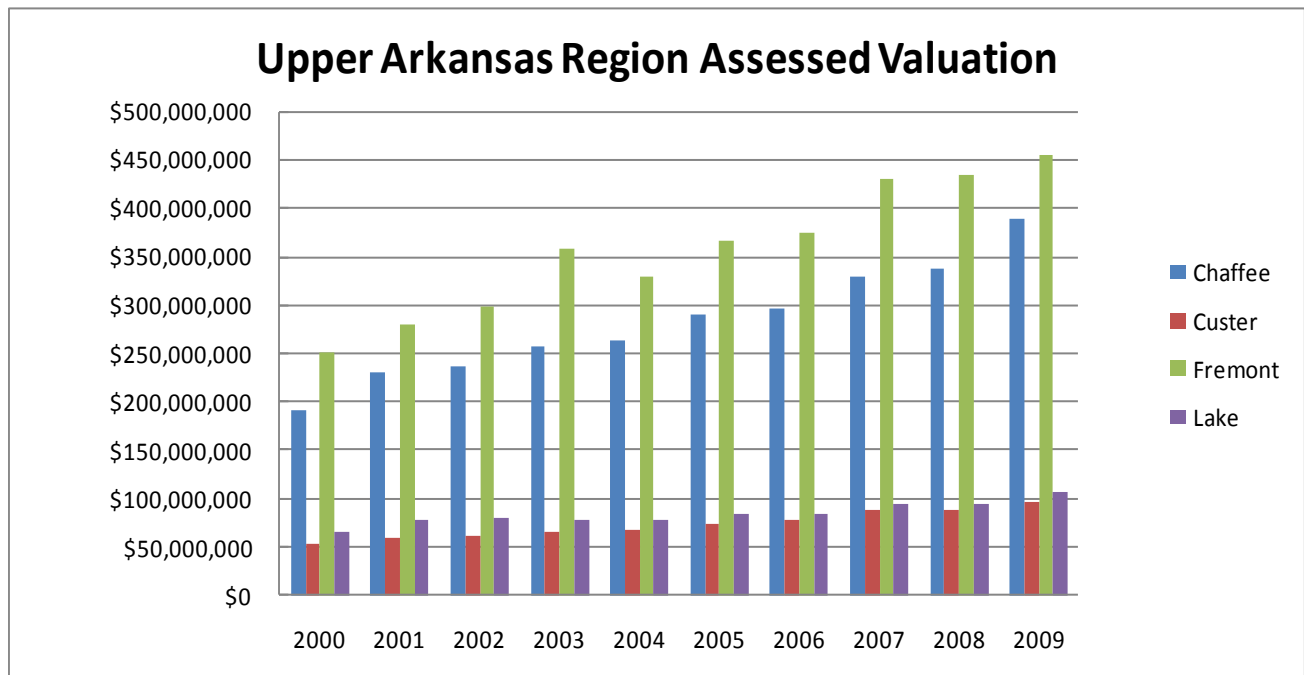
Colorado Division of Local Government
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/cedis.html>
10/19/2010

Mill Levy



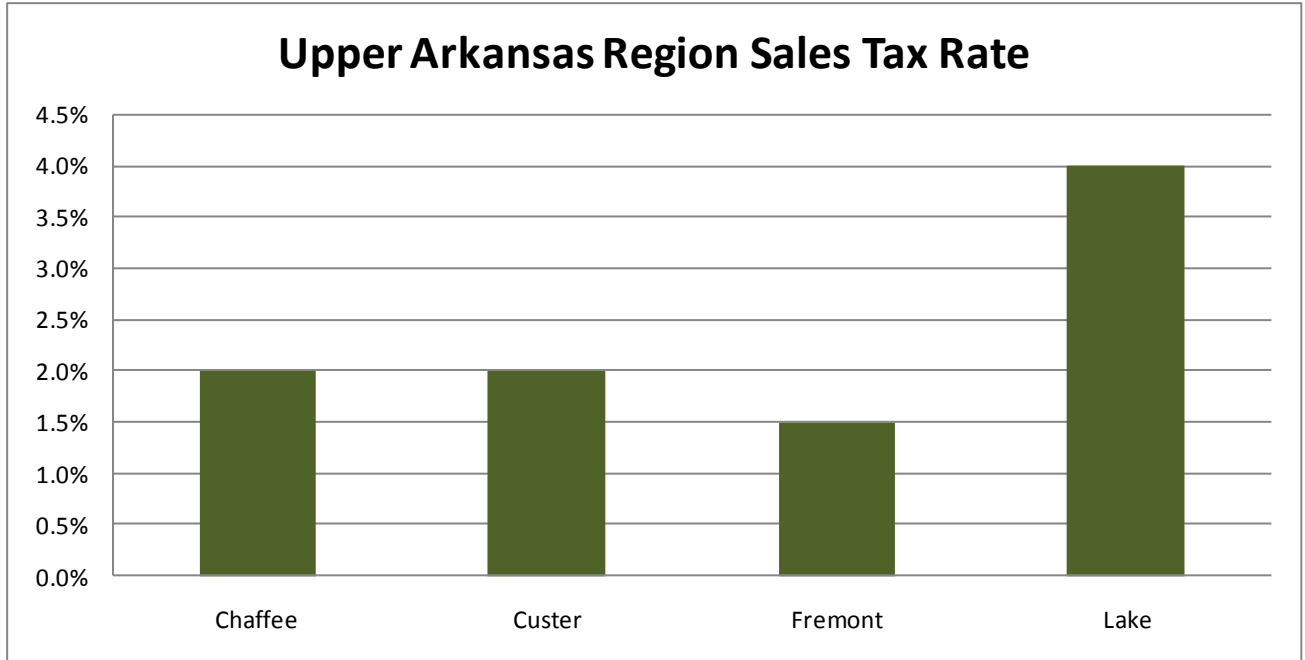
Dept. of Local Affairs
9/30/10

Assessed Valuation



Dept. of Local Affairs
9/30/2010

Sales Tax Rate



Dept of Local Affairs
9/30/2010