

Prowers County



2017 CEDS

Prepared by Prowers County & Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development
for the benefit of
Southern Colorado Economic Development District
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SUMMARY BACKGROUND

Prowers County was established in 1889 and named after Legislator John Wesley Prowers. The Santa Fe Trail runs through Prowers County and served as an important route for commerce and cultural exchange in the development of the West in the mid-1800s. Prowers County is vastly populated with wildlife, which brings in several hunters and watchers each year. In addition to the wildlife, western atmosphere and historical sites, Prowers is rich in agriculture and renewable energy resources.

Prowers County couples its agricultural heritage with the promise of renewable energy. Panoramic views of corn, alfalfa and dryland wheat fields are punctuated with the graceful motion of wind turbines. At the heart of the Wind Corridor, the Colorado Green Wind Power Project is one of the largest wind farms in the State of Colorado.

Historic attractions bring visitors to Prowers County. A high concentration of New Deal era WPA projects can be found in the area, along with Lamar's Madonna of the Trail monument honoring pioneer women. Camp Amache National Historic Landmark was the site of the nation's smallest World War II Japanese-American internment. 7,597 inmates, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens, lived in prison-like barracks surrounded by barbed-wire fences. Today, the site is a place for reflection and learning about tolerance.

Prowers County is also a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts, with access to a wealth of nearby parks, trails and open plains. Willow Creek Woods in Lamar is also one of the best birding locations in the State.

Prowers County encompasses the following towns and municipalities, with their following respective populations:

Granada	492
Hartman	77
Holly	771
Lamar	7,444
Wiley	385
Unincorporated	2,816

The county seat of Lamar has one of the southeast region's highest concentrations of stores and restaurants.

County Commissioners:

Ron Cook
Wendy Buxton-Andrade
Thomas Grasmick

Legislative Districts:

Congressional District: 4
Senate District: 1
House District: 64

County Seat: Lamar

ENVIRONMENTAL, GEOGRAPHIC, CLIMATIC INFORMATION

Environmental

A great place to live and work, Prowers County's air quality index is 46.8, ranked 42nd among the 64 counties in Colorado. Prowers County has the common known environmental interests, such as feed yard facilities, sewerage facilities, and solid waste landfills (that have potential to generate releases that affect the environment).

Geographic

Prowers County is located in the lower Southeastern corner of Colorado on the Kansas-Colorado border. The county is 1,645 square miles with a population density of 7.9 per square mile. The average elevation is 3,600 feet.



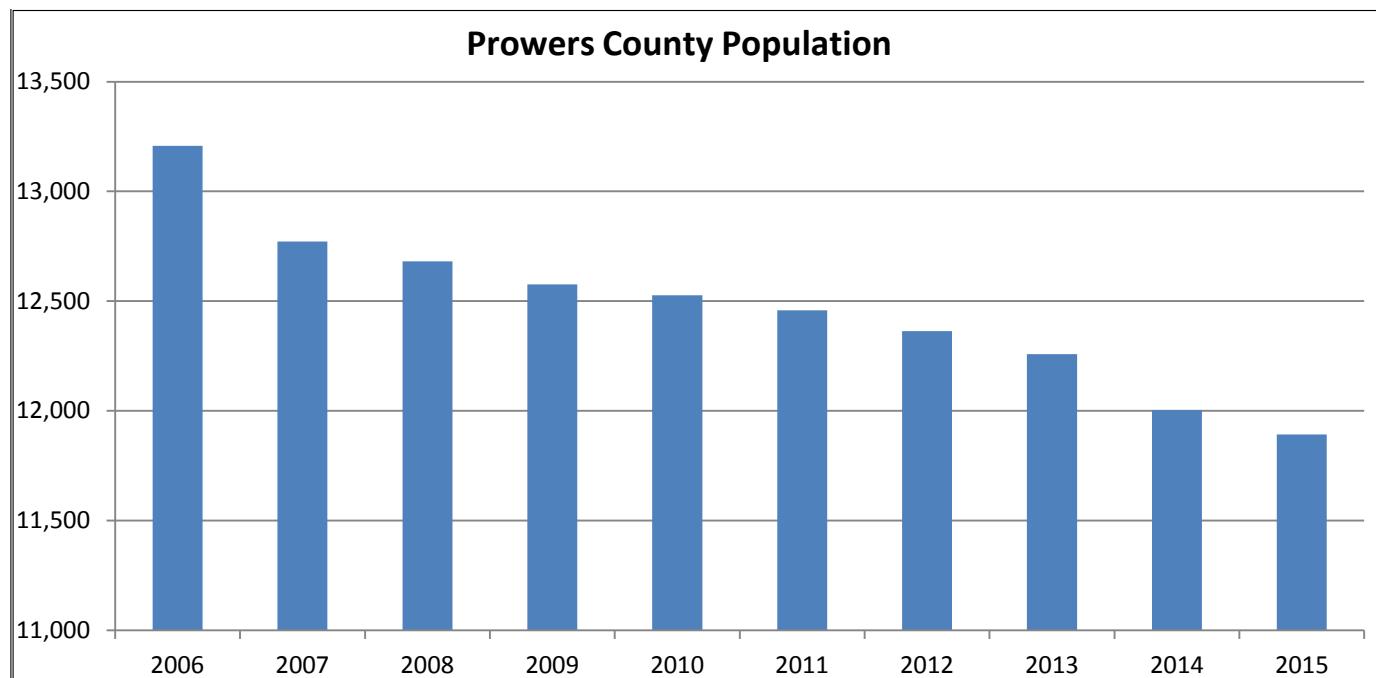
Climatic

The average temperature of Prowers County is 53.08°F, which is much higher than the Colorado average temperature of 46.26°F and is lower than the national average temperature of 54.45°F. The average high temperature during summer months is 93°F compared to average low temperature during winter of 14.8°F. The risk of tornado damage in Prowers County is about the same as the Colorado average and is lower than the national average. The chance of earthquake damage in Prowers County is lower than Colorado average and is much lower than the national average.

DEMOGRAPHIC & SOCIOECONOMIC DATA

Population

The Department of Local Affairs estimates the 2015 population of Prowers County at 11,893, which is approximately .22% of the State's population. Prowers County's population has been declining since the mid-1990s. Census population data shows a steady decrease over the last several years. The county's population peaked in 1950 with over 14,000 residents. The 2010 Census reports a 15% decrease in populations since 1950.



Data retrieved from State Demography Office-DOLA

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov>

12/21/2016

In the last five years, Prowers County's population has decreased approximately 4.5%, while the State saw a 5% increase. The recent decline in population has been due to job losses combined with an aging population that encompasses fewer families as well a steady outmigration of college-aged population.

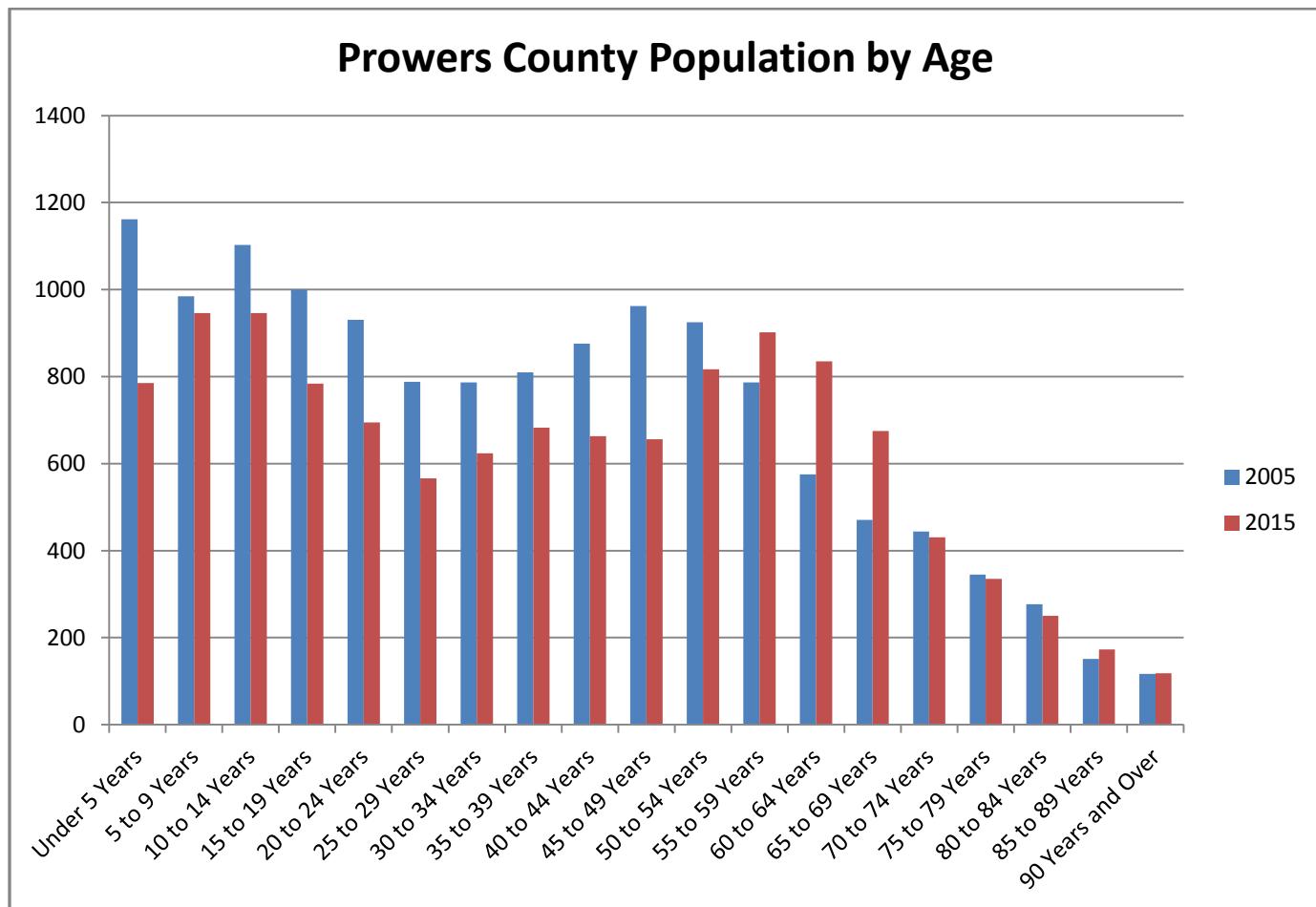
Population Trend

1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015
6383	5934	5398	5222	3978	3086	2988	3946	5518	5823	5539

Population by Age

Prowers County's population by age is shown in the chart below for both 2005 (blue bar) and 2015 (red bar). DOLA estimates the median age for the county at 39.4 compared to 37.1 for the state. The average life expectancy for the county is estimated at age 76.8. This is fairly close to the nation's average of 78.2 but almost five years shorter than the state's average of 81.1.

The largest increase in overall population for the county was in the 60 to 64 year-old age group followed by the 65 to 69 age group and 55 to 59 age group, which indicates a need to evaluate aging services – healthcare, assisted living accommodation, nursing home facilities -- in the County. Decreases in most other age groups are consistent with overall population decline. The loss in the 35 to 49 year-old group correlates with a decrease in the population under 18. This correlation supports the idea that families with young children are migrating to other areas potentially for employment at a higher wage level.



Data retrieved from State Demography Office-DOLA

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov>

12/21/2016

Population by Race

Prowers County data for population by race demonstrates that 61% of Prowers County's population is White Non-Hispanic, 35% is Hispanic, and .5% is African American, .5% is Asian and .7% is American Indian.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
American Indian Non-Hispanic	83	83	83	82	80	80
Asian Non-Hispanic	57	57	58	58	58	58
Black Non-Hispanic	68	68	67	66	64	64
Hispanic	4,403	4,425	4,444	4,448	4,399	4,421
White Non-Hispanic	7,915	7,823	7,709	7,589	7,383	7,257

Data retrieved from State Demography Office-DOLA

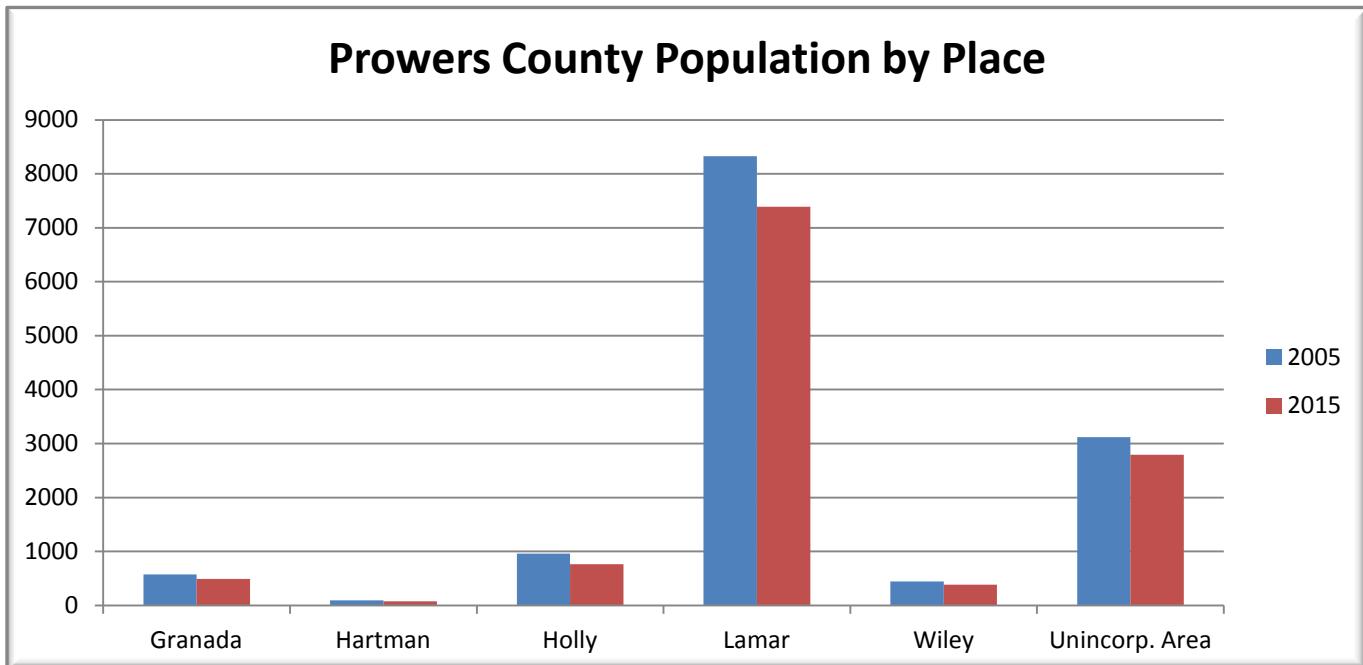
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After English, the most commonly spoken language in Prowers County is Spanish.

Population by Community

The population data for each community demonstrates that Lamar, the county seat, is the hub with the largest concentration of population, followed by its unincorporated area residents and Holly.



Data retrieved from State Demography Office-DOLA

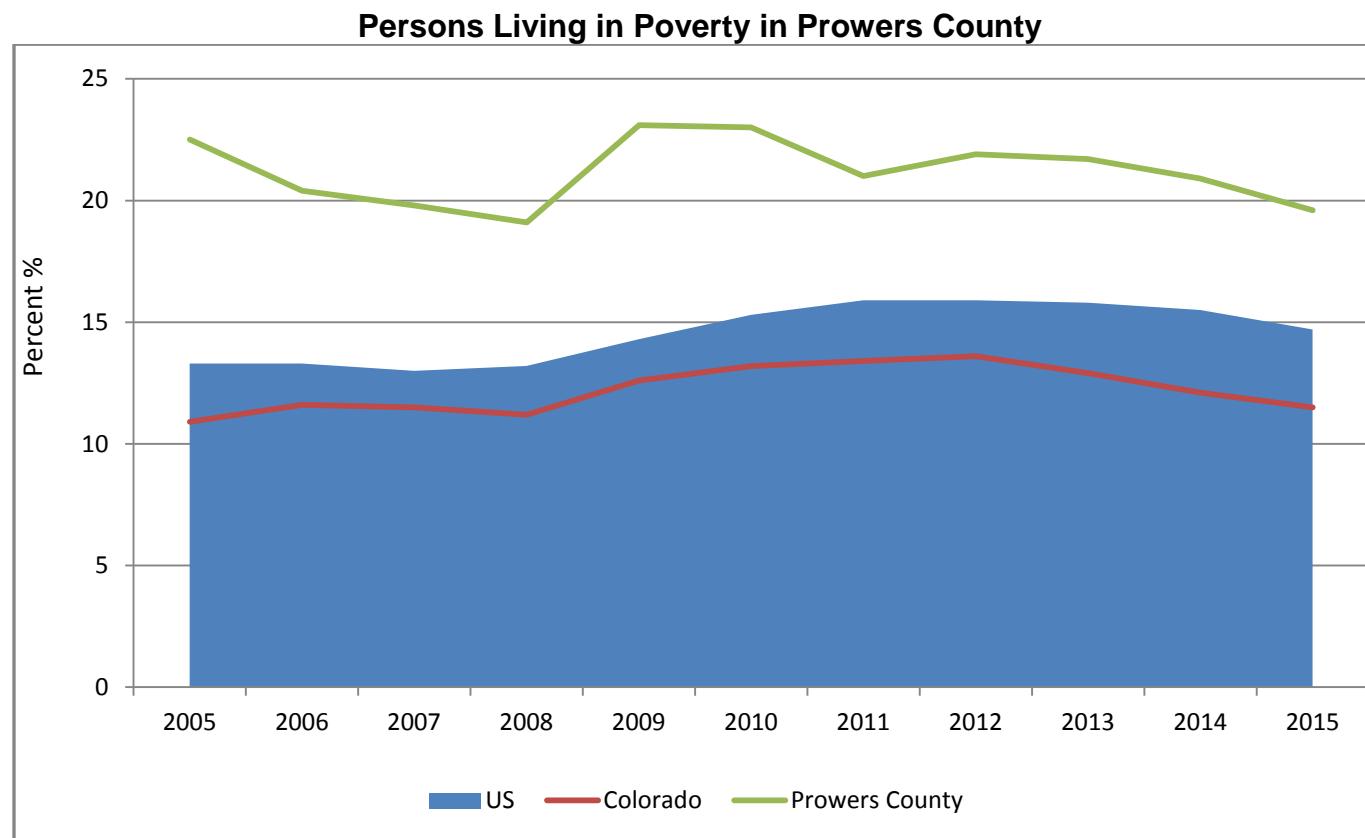
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Poverty Data

Poverty in Prowers County is high compared to the State and the Nation. In 2015, Kids Count reported 61.8% of school age children qualified for free/reduced lunch compared to 41.8% in the State and 27.9% of children under 18 years of age were living in poverty compared to 14.8% in the State.

The US Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates report that 19.6% of Prowers County's total population lives in poverty compared to 11.5% in the State and 14.5% in the Nation.



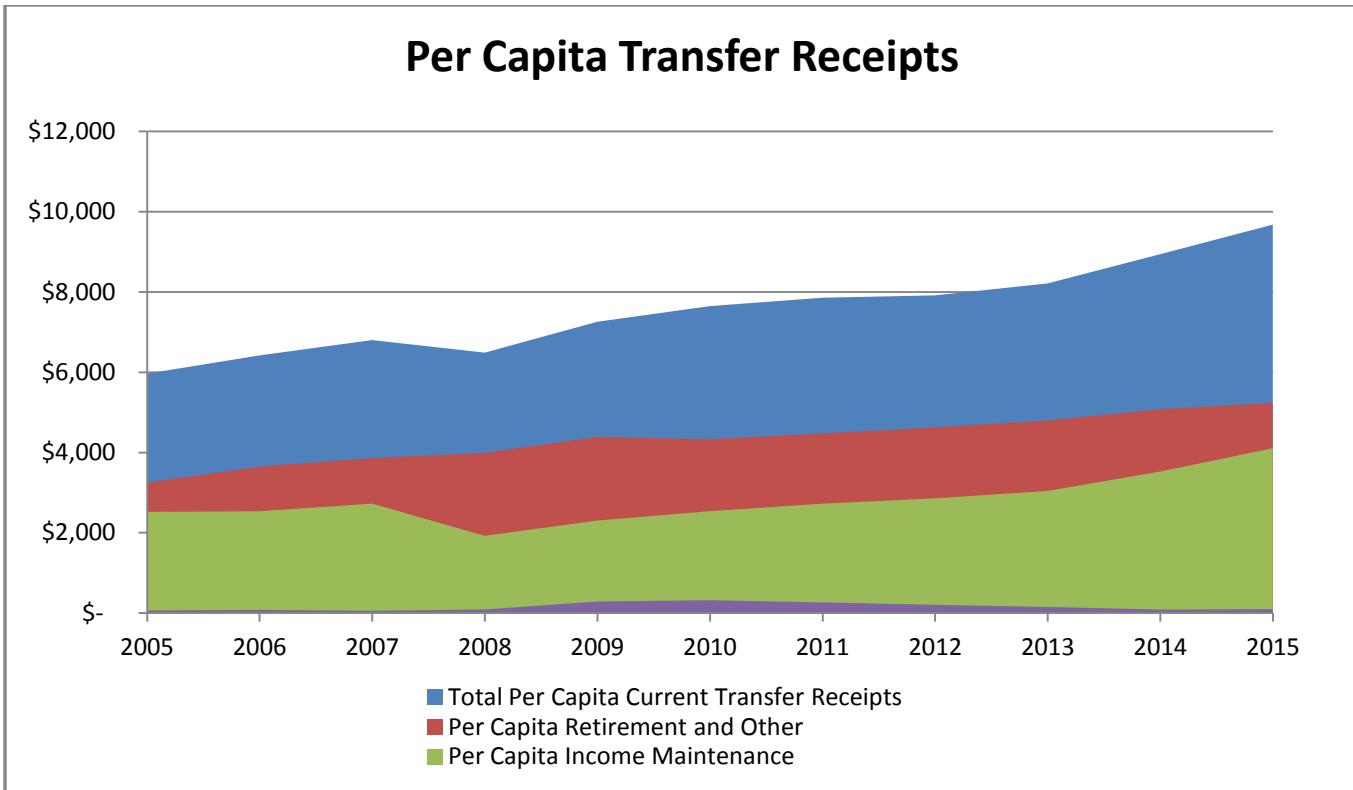
Data provided by State Demography Office-DOLA

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Personal Transfer Receipts

Federal programs attempt to alleviate poverty and are tracked as transfer payments. In 2015, federal transfer payments were slightly over \$9,678 for every man, woman and child in Prowers County. Approximately 54% of the total transfer payments are from retirement programs including Social Security and Medicare. Income maintenance (public assistance such as SNAP and Medicaid) accounts for approximately 42% of total payments.



Data provided by State Demography Office-DOLA

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov>

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Additional reports measuring poverty levels reveal:

- ❖ Food assistance program participation in 2015 is slightly under 12.8%
- ❖ In 2014, 17.4% of the population was uninsured, compared to the State at 11.7%
- ❖ Teen births are high with 24/1,000 reported in 2015, which is higher than the State average of 19/1,000.

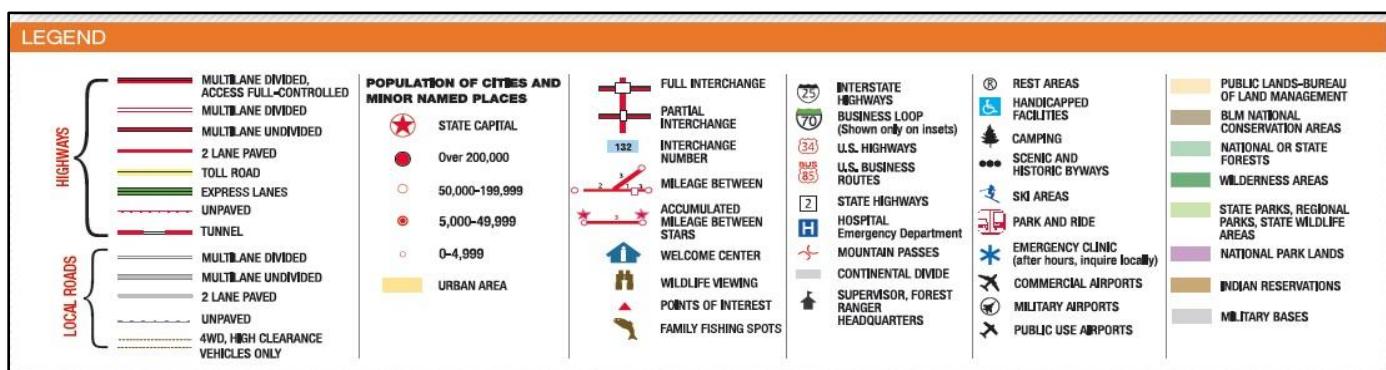
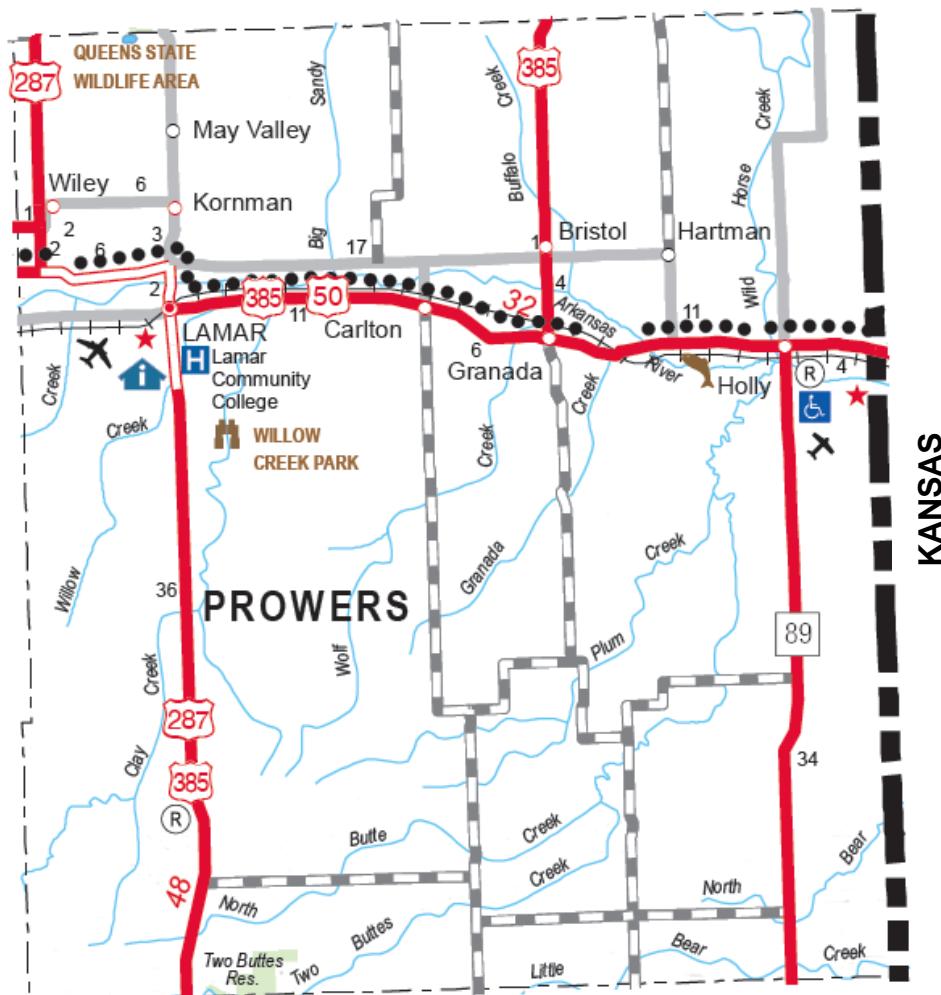
INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Industrial Parks

Lamar is the hub of Prowers County and has much to offer businesses looking to locate to an affordable area. Lamar boasts two industrial parks. One located in north Lamar and the other in south Lamar. The north location, at its peak, housed seven businesses, including a worldwide renowned bus plant. The economy took a downturn in late 2004-2005 when the bus plant ceased operations and shut its doors. This event also affected several support businesses that were located in and around the same industrial park. The buildings were sold and reopened to manufacture oil-industry equipment and industrial trailers. The parent company also has the intention to manufacture commercial wind turbine towers, when the wind industry recovers. The park also houses fiberglass manufacturing facilities. There are several buildings with supporting infrastructure that are available to house additional businesses. The newest development, in south Lamar currently houses mixed-use businesses and also has land available to develop. Holly, just 30 miles to the east of Lamar, also has an industrial park with available space for business.

Transportation System

Prowers County has three major highways, Hwy 50, Hwy 287 and Hwy 385, which offer opportunities to businesses to market their goods outside the immediate area and ship goods via the Ports-to-Plains Corridor. Prowers County also has an active airport and railroad line available.



CDOT State Travel Map

Broadband

Broadband is considered both strength and a significant need in Prowers County. A broadband grant enabled the Region to access funding to address connectivity issues in the early 2000s. It was a much needed improvement that upgraded the area from DSL to fiber optic speeds and gave governments, schools, and most of Lamar with fast, reliable internet. Holly, Granada and Wiley were also provided fiber to their schools and municipal offices under the same broadband grant. Unfortunately, it did not encompass outlying communities' residents.

Post-Secondary Education/Workforce Training

Founded in 1937, Lamar Community College is a learner-centered, two-year post-secondary institution located in Lamar, Colorado. As part of the Colorado Community College System, LCC serves more than 1,000 students and works to provide higher education opportunities to all residents of the area and beyond.

LCC is committed to providing its students with a quality education, including transfer programs that qualify students for admission to four-year colleges and universities as well as workforce training in fields like welding, nursing, renewable energy technology, construction trades, horse training management, agriculture and more. LCC also provides developmental education to build basic academic skills alongside opportunities for perpetual learning and lifelong development, all focusing on student success.

Just recently, Lamar Community College was recognized as a top online associates program in Colorado for 2016-2017. LCC's online courses allow the flexibility necessary to fit higher education into almost any schedule.

At LCC, both traditional and non-traditional students are able to gain a valuable education in close proximity to where they live. However, LCC's quality academic programs and athletic teams draw students from neighboring counties as well as all over Colorado, the nation, and the world.

INDUSTRY SECTORS

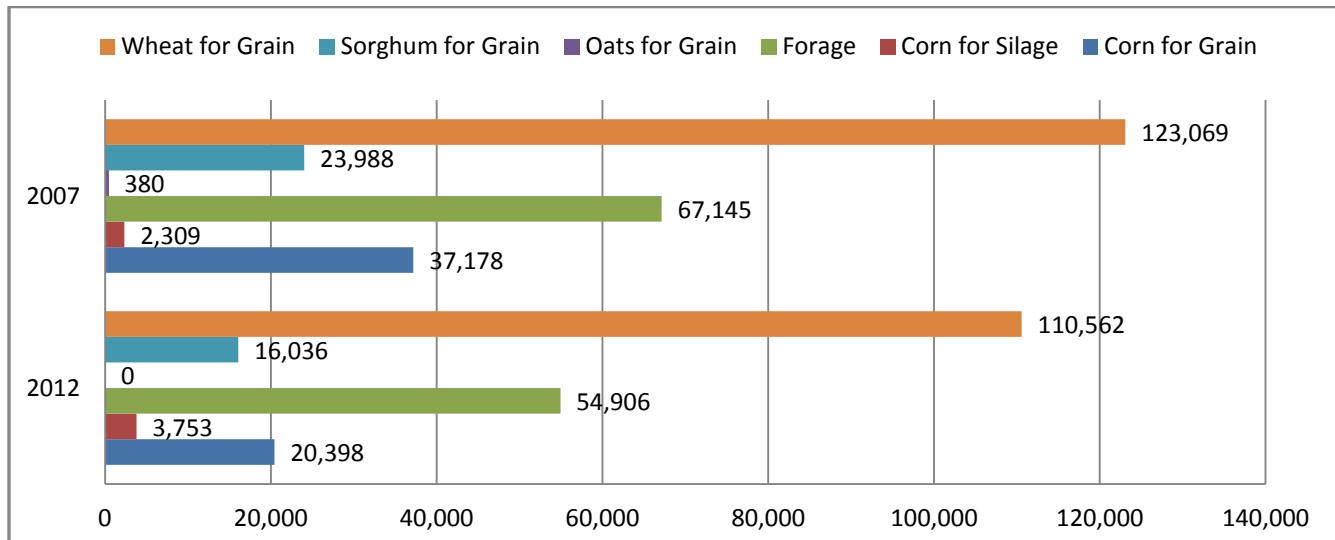
Light Manufacturing

Prowers County is the home to several light manufacturing businesses providing valuable services and products locally, domestically and internationally. Some of the larger employers in the area include Dragon, W.H.O. Manufacturing, CF Maier, Altek, PelSue and Gateway Products (Holly). Each is unique in the products they offer and are valued employers in a depressed economy.

Agriculture / Value-Added Ag

Agriculture continues to be the primary economy driver in Prowers County. In 2012, as reported by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, Prowers County had 1,021,915 acres of agricultural land. There are 553 farms, with an average of 1,848 acres. Prowers County's largest crop harvested is wheat used for grain and the top livestock is cattle and calves.

TOP CROPS HARVESTED IN ACRES

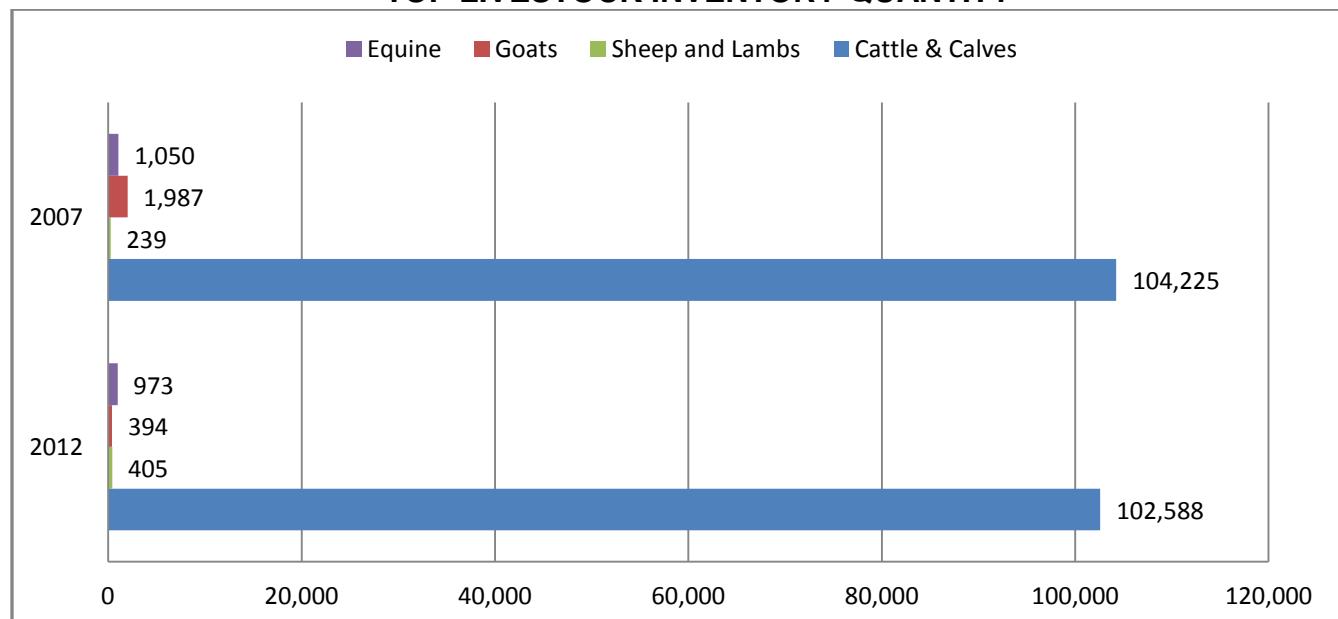


www.agcensus.usda.gov

1-4-2017

Out of sixty-four counties in Colorado, Prowers County was ranked fourth in production for forage and sorghum for grain, tenth in wheat for grain, thirteenth for corn for grain.

TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY-QUANTITY



www.agcensus.usda.gov

1-4-2017

Out of sixty-four counties in Colorado, Prowers County was ranked first in quail, sixth in cattle and calves, and seventh in hogs and pigs. In an effort to avoid disclosing data for individual operations in quail and hogs and pigs, data was not available.

Call Center

Lamar is also home to the Child Abuse Hot Line call center, under the management of the Prowers County Government, which takes thousands of calls from all over the state. The call center provides much needed jobs and continues to grow.

HOUSING, HEALTH SERVICES & EDUCATION

Housing Statistics

The 2015 average household size in Prowers County was 2.48 compared to an average family size of 3.21 (per US Census Bureau 2010). Quality, affordable housing is of great concern to Prowers County as stock has begun to deteriorate and the market has not lent itself to supporting new housing starts. A large percentage of the population continues to rent versus purchasing or building new.

PROWERS COUNTY HOUSING UNITS AND VACANCY RATES

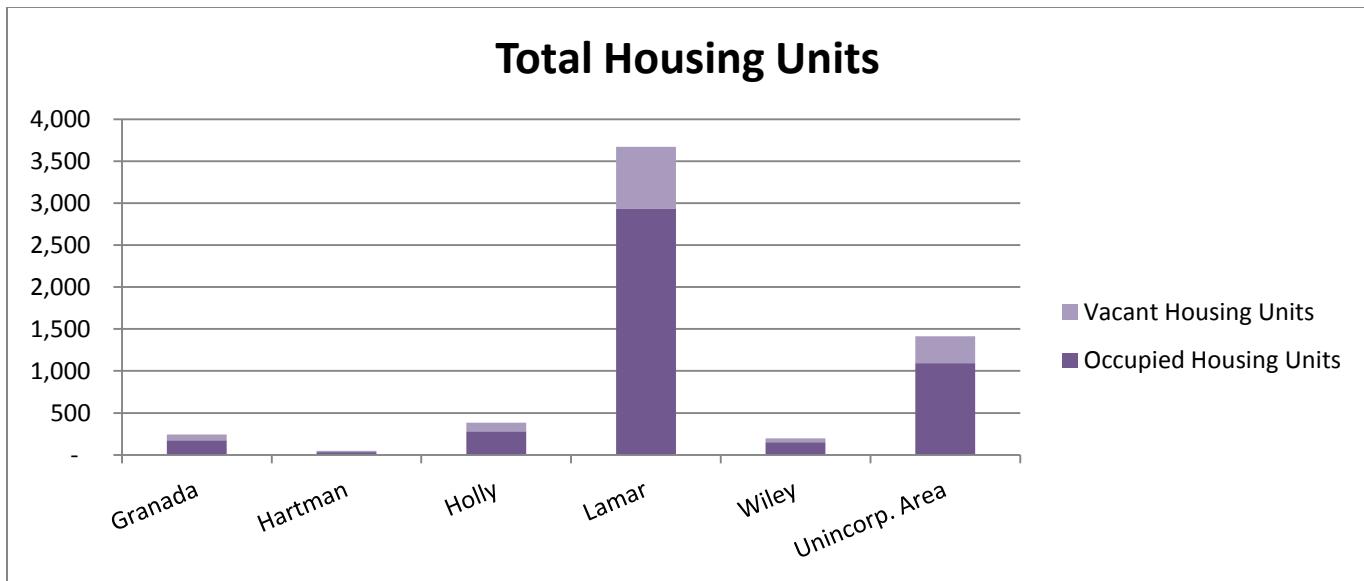
Household Type	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Household Population	12,216	12,144	12,049	11,943	11,689	11,578
Housing Vacancy Rate	17.1%	17.6%	18.3%	19.1%	20.9%	21.6%
Total Households	4928	4900	4860	4816	4714	4670
Total Housing Units	5942	5945	5951	5956	5961	5958
Vacant Housing Units	1014	1045	1091	1140	1247	1288

Data provided by State Demography Office-DOLA

Vintage 2015

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov>

12/21/2016



In order to purchase an average house in Prowers County in 2015, it was estimated that a person needed to earn a little over \$39,360. The median household income was approximately \$40,179. Approximately 77% of housing is valued between \$50,000 and \$150,000 with a median value of \$87,400. Almost 94% of rental housing costs between \$300 and \$1000.

Housing Profile

Year Structure Built	Total	Percent
2014 or later	7	.1
2010 to 2013	32	0.5
2000 to 2009	402	6.8
1990-1999	437	7.4
1980 to 1989	488	8.3
1970 to 1979	1008	17.1
1960 to 1969	724	12.3
1950 to 1959	725	12.3
1940 to 1949	563	9.5
1939 or earlier	1513	25.6

According to data, affordable rent represents the generally accepted standard of spending less than 30% of gross income on gross housing costs. The fair market rent in 2015 in Prowers County was \$582 for a two-bedroom home. In order to afford rent at this amount, a household in Prowers County must earn \$11.06 per hour or \$23,280 annually; at minimum wage it would take 1.3 wage earners in the household to contribute to cover the cost of rent.

Foreclosures

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Filings	53	33	32	43	35	23	24	24	20
Sales	23	23	23	25	27	15	15	19	12

Health Services

Health & Human Services is an integral part of any county. Not only is it a major economic driver, but good health care is foundational to healthy, thriving communities. In Lamar and Prowers County, residents have access to a variety of health care providers. The regional hospital, Prowers Medical Center, is located in Lamar. They are a 27 bed critical access hospital, with emergency, surgical, obstetrics and multiple visiting specialists who provide a cadre of specialty services. Additionally primary care services are also provided by Prowers Medical Group which is associated with the hospital. They also have a home health agency that provides skilled care to residents of Lamar and Prowers County.

Lamar is also home to High Plains Community Health Center, a federally-qualified health center, which provides integrated, primary care to ages 0-100+, drawing from the region. Their services include behavioral health services and dental care. They have satellite primary care clinics in both Wiley and Holly.

Southeast Health Group, a regional integrated health care system, with an office on the health campus in Lamar, provides multiple health care services to Lamar and Prowers County, including behavioral health, substance abuse, crisis care 24/7 , transportation to health care services for their patients and for crisis patients that require transfer to a mental health hospital bed, jail based services, which also include medications, primary care, school-based services, wellness services, health navigation, case management and peer services.

Lamar Area Hospice, provides in-home hospice, homemaker and respite services to all of Prowers County.

Open 4 days per week, a Veterans Health Care Clinic, provides primary health care to the veterans of the county and region. Veterans must still travel for specialty care.

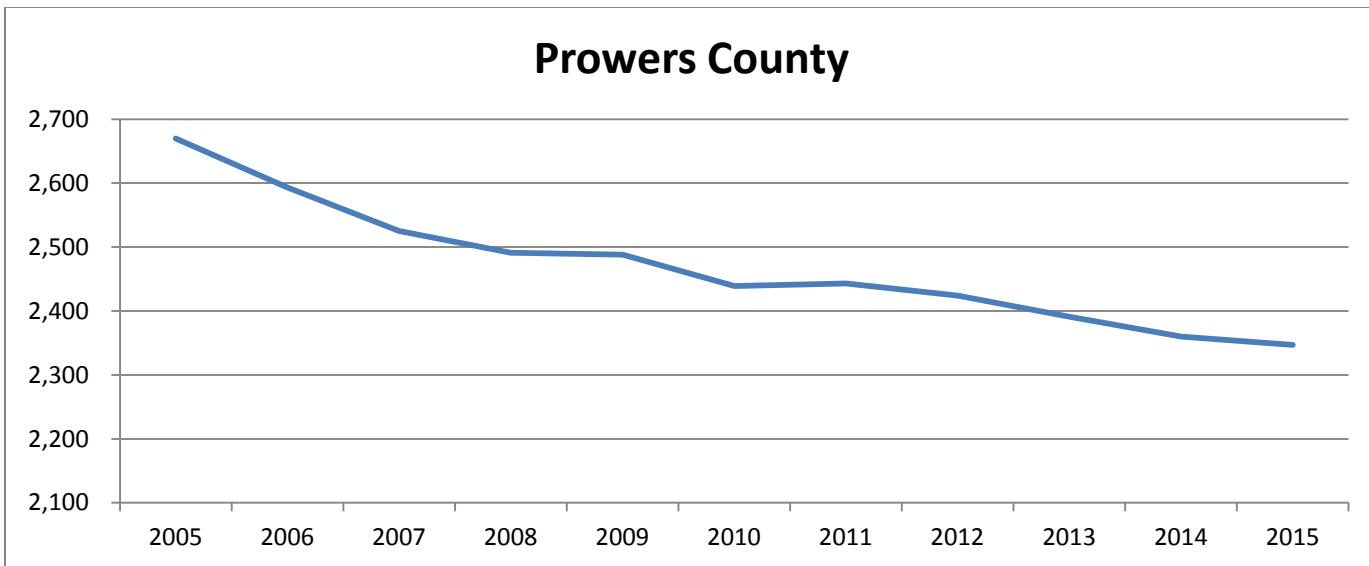
Prowers County Public Health & Environment serves the entire county. Services include all populations-based public health services, disease prevention and control, immunizations, WIC, school health services, home and community-based services, nurse family partnership, a home visitation program to first time mothers, environmental health services encompassing food safety, restaurant inspections and licensing, land use, agricultural monitoring, septic licensing and inspections, and other environmental safety issues. Many of the public health programs are regional.

Prowers County Department of Human Services is located in Lamar, but serves the entire county. They provide child welfare and protection services, adult protection, benefit assistance including Medicaid, food stamps, aid to dependent and needy adults, to residents that are eligible.

Additionally, there are a few private providers of both primary care and behavioral health in Lamar and home health services

Education

Four districts provide vital K-12 education in Prowers County. Data exhibits a decrease in enrollment at a rate of about 12% over a period of ten years.



*Colorado Department of Education
1-2-2017*

A noticeable trend seen throughout many counties in the SCEDD region is the decline in school enrollments, compared to the number of school age children living in the counties. The 2015 Census estimates report there are 2,676 school age children (5-19 years of age) living in the County and the Department of Education reports there are 2,347 students enrolled in Prowers County schools. This may be attributed to parent's decision to enroll their children in neighboring county districts or enrollment in online schooling.

Enrollment

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Granada RE-1	301	263	261	251	243	244	247	218	202	202	214
Holly RE-3	306	318	304	299	291	292	294	292	299	302	293
Lamar RE-2	1778	1720	1676	1686	1718	1666	1667	1,672	1,664	1,606	1578
Wiley RE-13 JT	285	292	284	255	236	237	235	242	226	250	262
Totals	2670	2593	2525	2491	2488	2439	2443	2424	2391	2360	2347

*Colorado Department of Education
1-2-2017*

The 2011-2015 Census American Community Survey estimates 81.4% of the total population 25 years of age and older has attained a high school diploma or higher; 13.5% has attained a bachelor's degree or higher.

Graduation Rate

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Granada RE-1	84.6	79.2	100.0	93.8	93.8	81.8	73.3	100.0	82.6	84.6	85.7
Lamar RE-2	63.8	56.8	60.4	65.4	84.0	66.4	67.5	62.9	72.4	72.2	70.7
Holly RE-3	75.7	83.9	77.4	90.5	93.8	93.3	95.5	100.0	88.2	89.5	94.4
Wiley RE-13 JT	96.8	96.3	100.0	100.0	89.7	100.0	100.0	62.5	88.0	61.5	73.3

*Colorado Department of Education
1-2-2017*

Drop Out Rate

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Granada RE-1	0.7	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Holly RE-3	4.8	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	3.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0
Lamar RE-2	4.9	7.9	5.1	1.9	3.1	3.8	2.9	2.8	3.4	2.0	0.9
Wiley RE-13 JT	1.2	0.0	0.6	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0

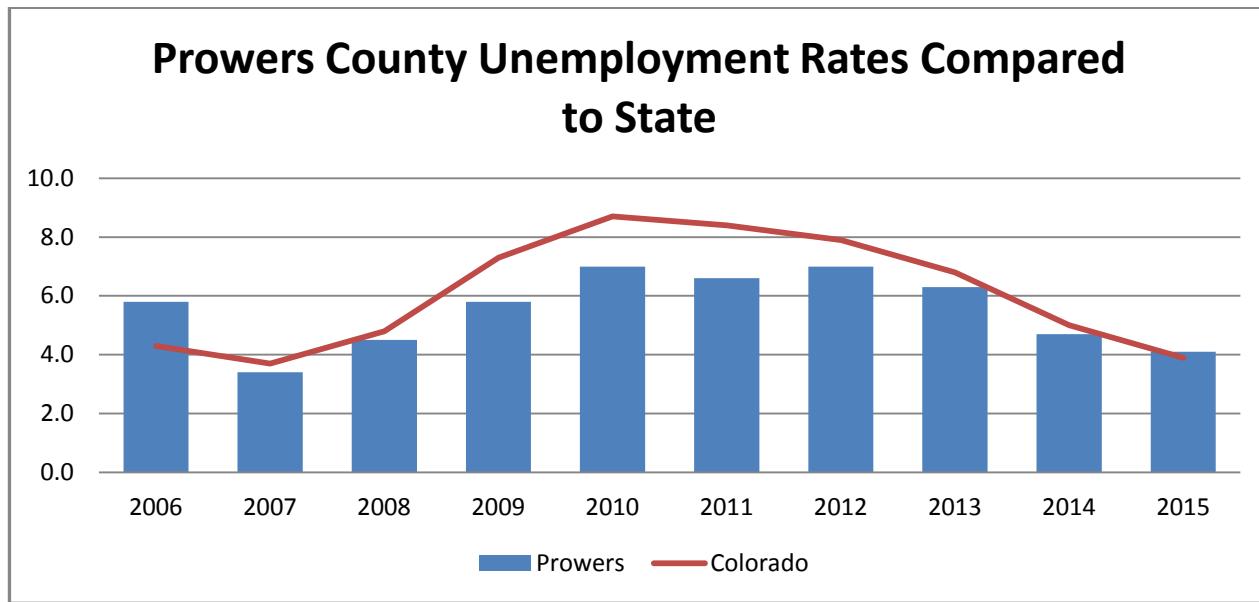
Colorado Department of Education

1-2-2017

LOCAL ECONOMY

Workforce Data

Prowers County unemployment has been steadily declining since 2012 when it was at its highest at 7%. The lowest unemployment rate was recorded in 2007 at 3.4%. In 2015, Colorado's unemployment rate was 3.9% while Prowers County's was 4.1%.



Data provided by State Demography Office-DOLA

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov>

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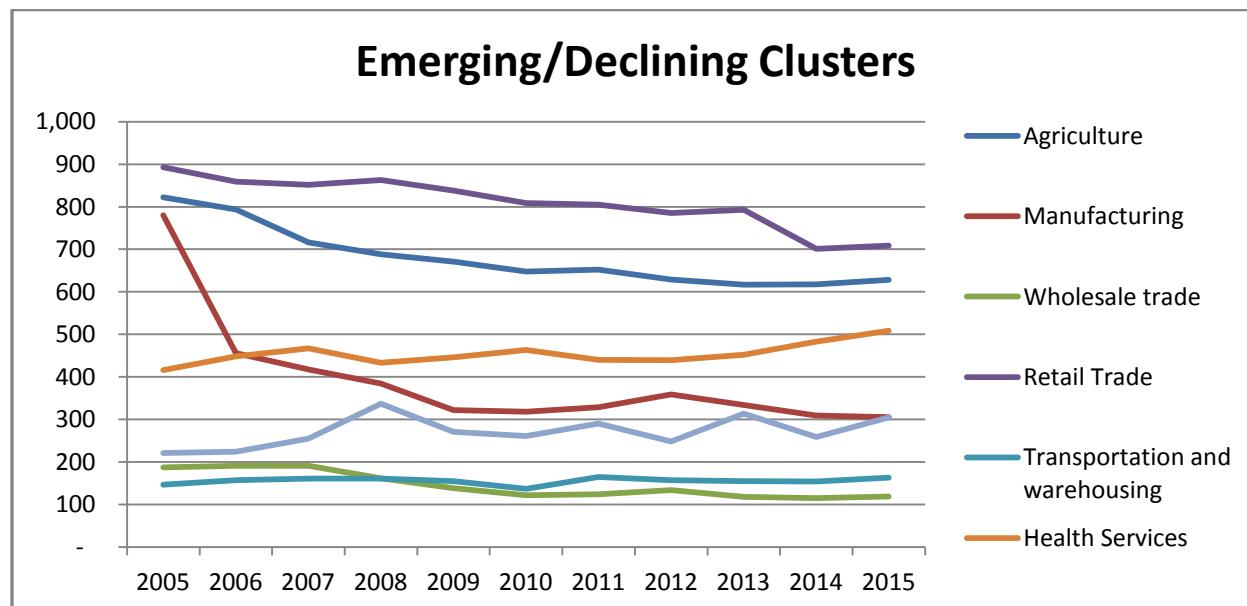
Employment by Sector

Sector Name	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agriculture	822	793	716	688	671	648	652	629	617	618	628
Mining	96	106	S	107	81	96	105	107	116	136	111
Utilities	33	34	38	39	49	49	50	54	55	53	59
Construction	221	224	255	337	271	261	290	248	314	259	305
Manufacturing	780	456	417	384	322	318	329	359	334	309	306
Wholesale trade	187	191	191	162	138	122	124	134	118	115	119
Retail Trade	893	859	852	863	838	809	805	785	793	701	709
Transportation and warehousing	147	157	161	161	155	137	165	157	155	154	163
Information	64	59	56	60	64	58	57	47	44	38	37
Finance activities	254	256	262	246	250	249	248	240	248	243	256
Real estate	124	121	142	128	117	119	113	119	109	107	106
Professional and business services	148	141	127	127	142	144	155	155	148	147	147
Admin and waste	146	139	155	S	177	207	315	201	128	137	113
Education	6	14	14	15	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Health Services	416	448	467	433	446	463	440	439	452	483	509
Arts	30	32	30	43	40	47	49	40	44	40	40
Accommodation and food	448	428	441	438	402	393	409	432	434	439	428
Other services	442	458	465	424	395	382	373	376	366	351	330
Government	1,606	1,573	1,544	1,517	1,543	1,548	1,508	1,455	1,447	1,413	1,414
Total	6,864	6,490	6,448	6,357	6,118	6,063	6,196	5,982	5,924	5,749	5,787

Data provided by State Demography Office-DOLA

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov>

12/21/2016



Wages

Wages in Prowers County are lower than the State average. In 2015, average weekly wages, as reported by the Colorado Workforce, for Prowers County were 38% below the State, with Prowers County wage being \$633 and the State at \$1,042. The Bureau of Economic Analysis reports average annual wages for Prowers County in 2015 were 39% below the State with Prowers County at \$32,934 and the State at \$54,179.

Average Weekly Wages by Sector

Sector Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total, All Industries	\$566	\$581	\$581	\$598	\$610	\$633
Accommodation and Food Services	\$213	\$212	\$218	\$222	\$223	\$231
Administrative and Waste Services	\$446	\$480	\$483	\$475	\$565	\$565
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	\$561	\$581	\$604	\$605	\$734	\$679
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$256	\$265	\$254	\$215	\$252	\$282
Construction	\$931	\$885	\$734	\$954	\$863	\$1,025
Educational Services	\$545	\$544	\$557	\$559	\$574	\$577
Finance and Insurance	\$717	\$729	\$795	\$761	\$797	\$807
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$601	\$627	\$618	\$628	\$643	\$663
Information	\$576	\$634	\$612	\$615	\$613	\$576
Manufacturing	\$568	\$622	\$604	\$618	\$631	\$615
Mining	\$756	\$831	\$757	\$785	\$852	\$932
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	\$407	\$433	\$453	\$439	\$457	\$504
Professional and Technical Services	\$604	\$778	\$929	\$909	\$785	\$819
Public Administration	\$679	\$677	\$672	\$679	\$694	\$727
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$430	\$467	\$508	\$514	\$545	\$532
Retail Trade	\$438	\$444	\$454	\$433	\$421	\$430
Transportation and Warehousing	\$785	\$775	\$833	\$834	\$761	\$836
Utilities	\$1,059	\$1,100	\$1,101	\$1,161	\$1,201	\$1,209
Wholesale Trade	\$709	\$717	\$722	\$789	\$883	\$902

Average Weekly Wages by Sector

Prowers County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total, All Industries	\$29,407	\$30,194	\$30,211	\$31,107	\$31,701	\$32,931
Accommodation and Food Services	\$11,096	\$11,001	\$11,327	\$11,545	\$11,601	\$12,030
Administrative and Waste Services	\$23,191	\$24,985	\$25,096	\$24,694	\$29,387	\$29,377
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	\$29,166	\$30,190	\$31,404	\$31,446	\$38,187	\$35,311
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$13,329	\$13,762	\$13,225	\$11,179	\$13,122	\$14,640
Construction	\$48,392	\$45,999	\$38,146	\$49,629	\$44,872	\$53,297
Educational Services	\$28,347	\$28,289	\$28,983	\$29,066	\$29,855	\$30,020
Finance and Insurance	\$37,283	\$37,929	\$41,336	\$39,593	\$41,419	\$41,949
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$31,255	\$32,614	\$32,144	\$32,651	\$33,444	\$34,462
Information	\$29,972	\$32,986	\$31,822	\$31,969	\$31,880	\$29,947
Manufacturing	\$29,540	\$32,344	\$31,396	\$32,120	\$32,836	\$32,004
Mining	\$39,338	\$43,195	\$39,355	\$40,811	\$44,282	\$48,477
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	\$21,167	\$22,522	\$23,579	\$22,816	\$23,753	\$26,222
Professional and Technical Services	\$31,405	\$40,463	\$48,326	\$47,274	\$40,813	\$42,564
Public Administration	\$35,282	\$35,218	\$34,966	\$35,292	\$36,073	\$37,829
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$22,383	\$24,286	\$26,423	\$26,745	\$28,359	\$27,687
Retail Trade	\$22,786	\$23,072	\$23,589	\$22,501	\$21,904	\$22,376
Transportation and Warehousing	\$40,806	\$40,286	\$43,300	\$43,390	\$39,586	\$43,491
Utilities	\$55,059	\$57,184	\$57,246	\$60,363	\$62,447	\$62,853
Wholesale Trade	\$36,877	\$37,273	\$37,565	\$41,034	\$45,911	\$46,909

Data provided by State Demography Office-DOLA

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov>

12/21/2016

Median Household Income

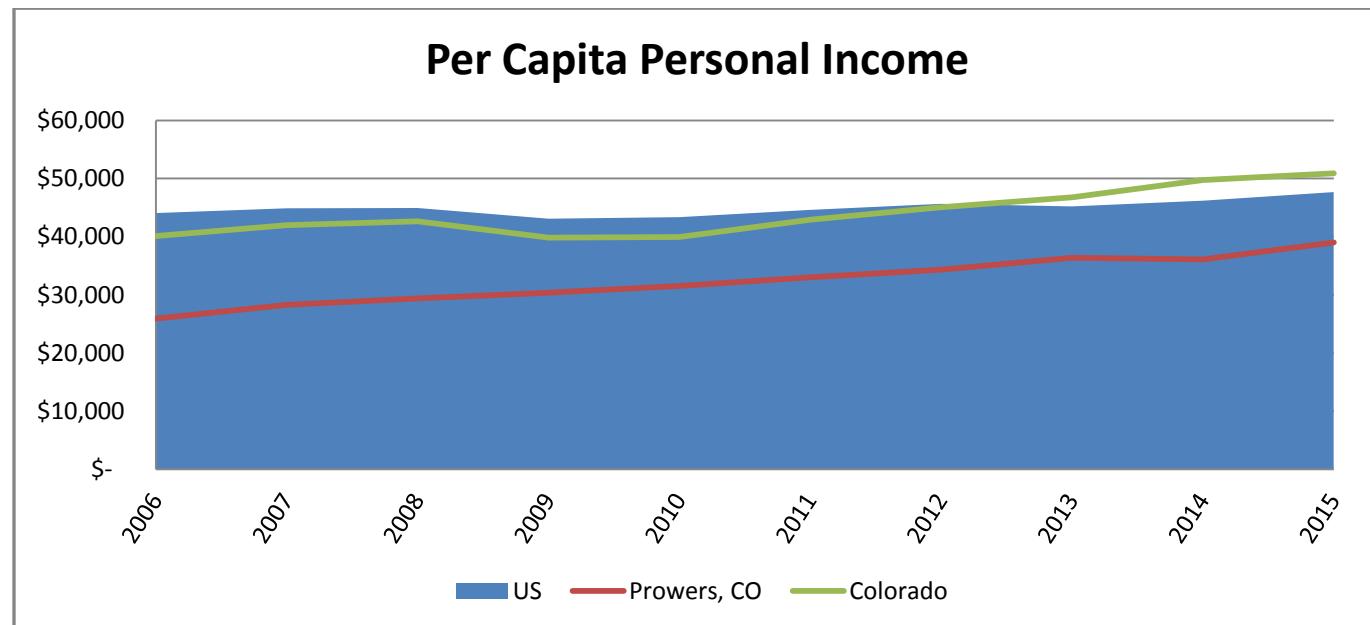
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Colorado*	\$52,265	\$55,517	\$57,184	\$55,735	\$56,456	\$57,685	\$58,244	\$58,433	\$59,448	\$60,629
Prowers County	\$32,003	\$34,581	\$35,730	\$33,646	\$33,969	\$34,513	\$33,671	\$34,391	\$35,408	\$40,179

Data provided by State Demography Office-DOLA

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov>

12/21/2016

Per Capita Personal Income



Data provided by State Demography Office-DOLA

<https://demography.dola.colorado.gov>

12/21/2016

The per capita income for Prowers County is 23% below the State average. Per capita income for Prowers County in 2015 was \$38,988 compared to the State average of \$50,899. This statistic is a cause of great concern because it directly affects the ability to attract new people and/or retain the current population.

2013 Cost of Living Index, where state benchmark = 100

County	Cost of Living	Composite COLI	Description	Rank in State
Colorado	\$49,100	100		
Baca	\$40,779	83.1	Very Low	63
Bent	\$41,477	84.5	Very Low	60
Crowley	\$41,440	84.4	Very Low	61
Kiowa	\$40,438	82.4	Very Low	64
Otero	\$42,013	85.6	Very Low	57
Prowers	\$41,197	83.9	Very Low	62

Source: State Demography Office

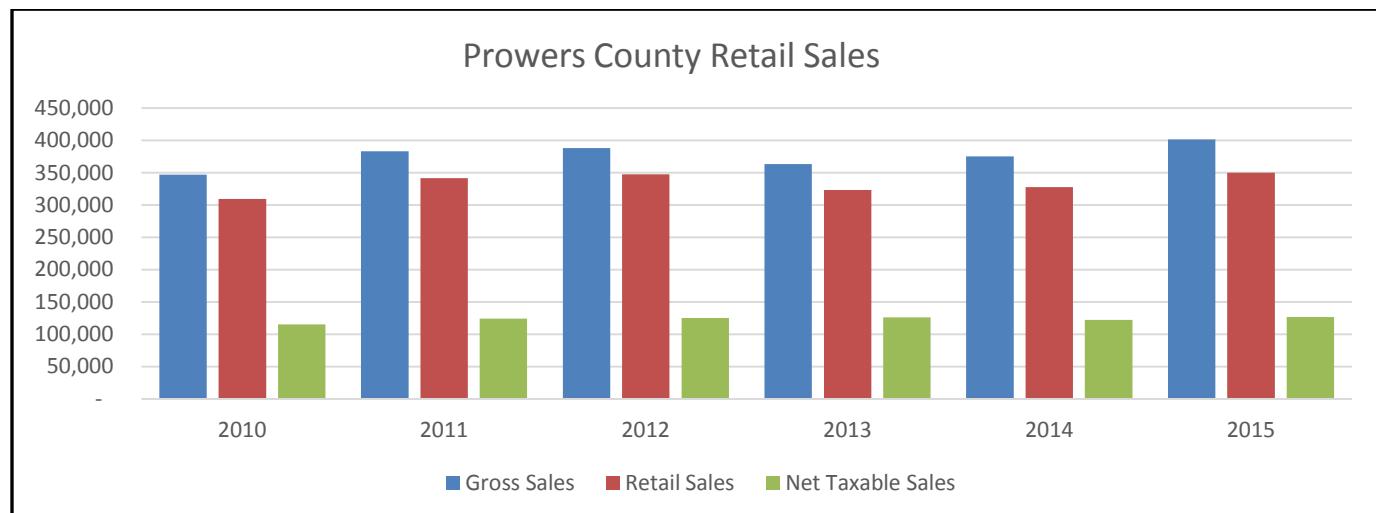
Prowers County, as well as the rest of Region 6, has been identified as affordable areas to live. The cost of living index for Prowers County, as compared to the State, is 83.9, which ranks the County as 62nd out of 64 counties.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE & FACTORS

Prowers County has 1% sales and use tax and in 2005, a 2% lodging tax was implemented. Colorado's sales and use tax is 2.9%.

Retail Sales

Retail sales have increased 12% since 2010. Reported gross sales have increased as well at about the same rate as retail sales. Taxable sales have remained fairly consistent since 2010.



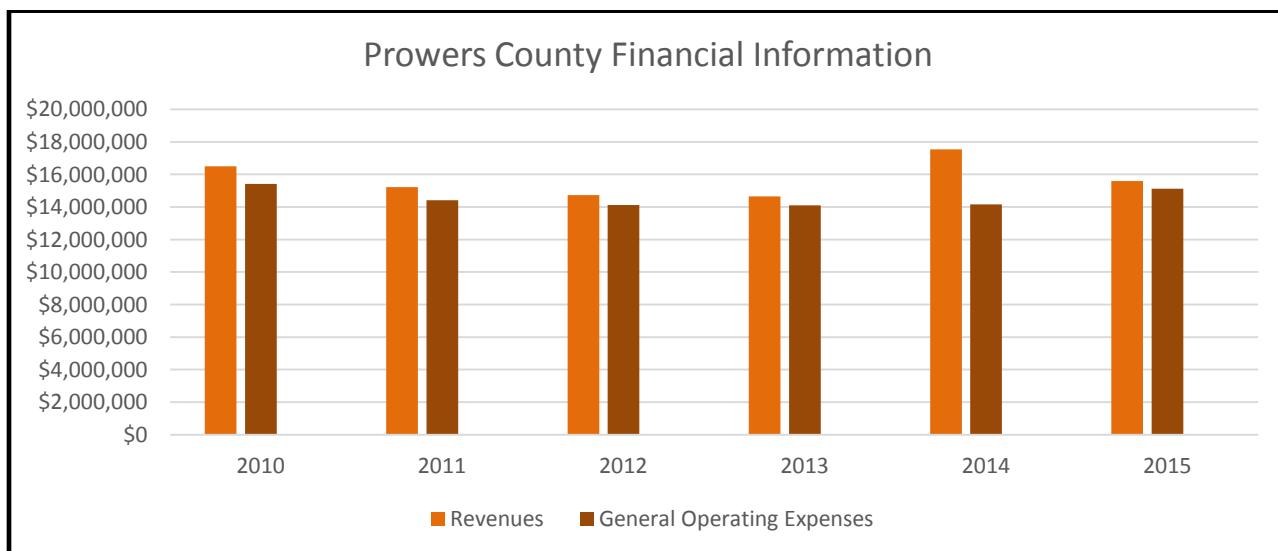
Colorado Department of Revenue

<http://www.colorado.gov>

1/4/2017

County General Revenue & Expenses

Revenues have exceeded expenses each year since 2010. Despite the recession, revenues have continued to show a steady increase. However, expenses are also showing an increase.



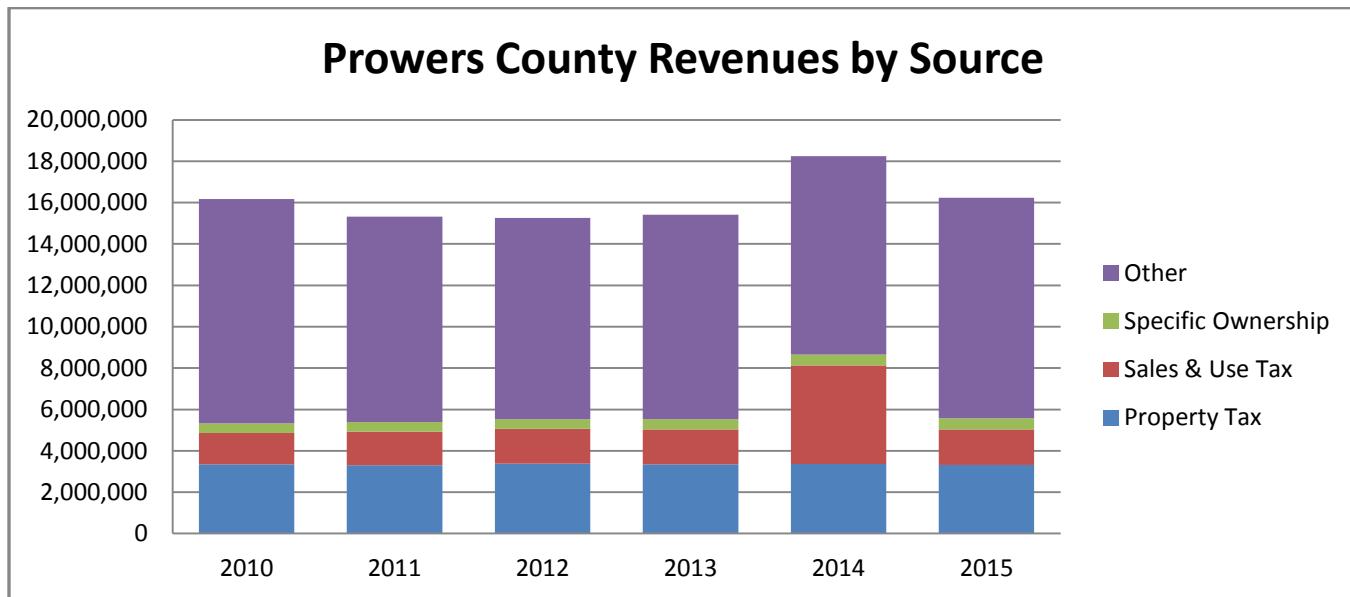
Colorado Division of Local Government

<http://www.dola.colorado.gov/dlg>

1/4/2017

Revenues by Source

Prowers County is dependent on revenues from property taxes. Approximately 20% of revenue is derived from property taxes and 11% from sales taxes while 60% comes from other sources. Those other sources include fees and fines, licenses and permits, intergovernmental, charges for services, investment earnings, miscellaneous, rent, and lodging tax.



Factors Affecting Economic Performance

Some of the items identified as affecting economic performance include but are not limited to the list below which is in no specific order of importance.

- ❖ Dependence on one primary industry: Agriculture has been the primary sector and the county's base employment and livelihood. With the drought and resulting water issues, there has been a downturn in agriculture production which once was our strongest sector.
- ❖ Loss of entrepreneurial spirit has resulted as people became afraid to start new ventures.
- ❖ Lack of available investment capital to help attract support businesses and assist existing ones.
- ❖ Pessimistic attitudes toward the region's future and our ability to change it, affects confidence in the economic environment.
- ❖ Lack of creative, competitive incentive packages to help retain and attract businesses.
- ❖ Lack of workforce readiness in employees/applicants including lack of skills, workplace competencies, and clean drug tests.
- ❖ Out-migration of skilled workers due to low wages/lack of job opportunities and advancement offered in the County.
- ❖ Inability to grow existing businesses due to factors such as the lack of support to businesses, decreasing customer base, and increased operating costs, as noted above.

CURRENT ASSESSMENT

- ❖ Lamar was recognized as “Colorado’s most affordable place to live” in 2016 and Prowers County as the third most affordable Colorado county by the Denver Business Journal. The cost of living index is defined as very low, making Prowers County a desirable place to live.
- ❖ Expansion into value-added agriculture has become a focus to capitalize on a predominantly agricultural economy.
- ❖ Light manufacturing has a strong presence, with opportunity to greatly expand and develop additional manufacturing business enterprises.
- ❖ A developed transportation system/hub, which encompasses domestic and freight transportation as well as railroad and air transportation, to aid in importing and exporting. This will become more of an asset as the State makes additional investments to convert regional highways to four-lane to accommodate increased freight travel.
- ❖ Land available for commercial development is abundant throughout the County.
- ❖ Strong, deeply-developed partnerships are present among government, group organizations and businesses that collaborate to address the economic needs of the County.
- ❖ Local educational system with training programs exists to assist in the development and training of a skilled workforce.
- ❖ Main street revitalization, with strong partnerships, has been created to address the need for redevelopment of Main street properties and improvement of aesthetics in County communities.
- ❖ Local healthcare system is available to address the needs of citizens and continues to grow and refine its services for residents.
- ❖ Recent grassroots efforts to improve residents’ overall health and wellness have begun significant reinvestment in the area’s infrastructure.

WEAKNESSES

- ❖ Lack of a motivated, skilled workforce continues to plague the County, regardless of the ability to provide the training through the existing and highly capable educational system.
- ❖ Low and/or competitive wages, as compared to the State average wage, affects the County’s ability to attract and retain skilled workforce, or to encourage the current workforce to utilize training opportunities for advancement.
- ❖ Dependency on agriculture as the primary industry and economic sector has greatly inhibited the County’s ability to grow the economy in other sectors. Factors such as drought and low commodity prices influence the outlook and the need to consider diversification of industry sectors.
- ❖ High poverty/low educational attainment is attributable to a stagnant economy.
- ❖ Aging population and the outmigration of population between the ages of 25-49 year-olds is a weakness as the County is losing valuable workforce to retirement and migration for job opportunities.
- ❖ Retail leakage continues to be a problem due to the perceived lack of services and goods within the County.
- ❖ Limited industrial park developments, with available infrastructure, inhibit the attraction of additional light manufacturing enterprises.
- ❖ Limited investment capital available for new and existing enterprises.

- ❖ Shortage of housing for skilled/professional workforce. Existing housing stock is aging and in disrepair. There are no comparable market values for new starts.
- ❖ Limited broadband/fiber and utilities to unincorporated areas is an issue in developing land for commercial use in Prowers County.

OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Wind is an abundant natural commodity in Southeast Colorado, giving Prowers County the opportunity to expand and become an energy hub/location on the Wind Energy Corridor.
- ❖ Prowers County's slogan, Middle of Everywhere, refocuses the County's location as a positive element for future investment.
- ❖ Lamar and Prowers County's location on the Ports-to-Plains Corridor makes them attractive to freight and warehousing-related businesses.
- ❖ Telecommuting is an opportunity for those wishing to live affordably in rural communities while earning wages from companies in larger cities.
- ❖ As young professionals become disenchanted with congested metro areas, Prowers County can woo "boomerangs" - former residents and others - to its affordable, relaxed small-town atmosphere
- ❖ Telecommuting is an opportunity for those wishing to live affordably in rural communities while earning wages from companies in larger cities.

THREATS

- ❖ Tenuous U.S. and world economies affect public and private development and funding. State and federal budget reductions severely restrict funds available for reinvestment.
- ❖ Continued drought/shortage of available water is a threat that is always a concern in Southeast Colorado. An uncontrollable natural threat, it becomes difficult to predict the recovery of agriculture sector.
- ❖ Out of basin water transfers have also caused great concern for the agricultural sector and the future of the region. It is difficult for agriculture to make a comeback – or other industries to flourish - if water is transferred to the Front Range and other metropolitan areas.
- ❖ Prowers County is perceived as "remote" to those used to the conveniences of metropolitan areas. This perception leads to enterprises overlooking Southeast Colorado as a place to relocate businesses.
- ❖ Two-lane highway system is slower and lends itself to the perception of remote location. Funding to create a more efficient transportation system in Southeast Colorado is not a priority in state/federal transportation plans.
- ❖ Government regulations continue to be a concern and can inhibit growth in rural areas.
- ❖ Drug abuse has been quietly growing, gaining intensity after the legalization of marijuana in Colorado. Adequate resources are not easily accessed to address this problem.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION / ACTION PLAN

VISION STATEMENT

Harness local assets, skills and knowledge to create prosperity in all Prowers County communities.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

County Development Strategy

While in its early years, Prowers County Development, Inc. (PCDI) was very involved in promoting and advancing the economic interests of the County, the organization has struggled in recent years with dissatisfaction over results, difficulties in maintaining a permanent executive director and decreasing funding.

Seeing the need for a new approach to economic development, the County and its partners took measures in 2016, to redefine the goals and structure of PCDI and is now reorganized as Prowers Economic Prosperity (PEP). It is a public/private partnership. A search for an executive director is underway with the expectation that the new director will take the County in a positive, aggressive direction.

The overall outlook for the county is optimistic, especially for the main cities of Lamar and Holly. Two major highways, U.S. 50 and U.S. 287 intersect in the county and encourage commerce. U.S. Highway 50 continues to be the main east-west artery in Southern Colorado, and is being considered for State Transportation funding in the "doubling of Highway 50" from Kansas to Fremont County. U.S. Highway 287 is a main connection for Southeast Colorado to the major metropolitan areas of Denver and Amarillo, which are both a little over 200 miles north and south of Lamar. This highway continues to carry a heavy load of truck traffic and is designated as the Ports to Plains Corridor. Since Lamar sits at the intersection of these highways, it is hosts a Colorado Welcome Center. This, coupled with a downtown redevelopment project, has served as a catalyst to increase downtown activity and retail sales.

As this activity increases, it will mean that additional land or, alternatively, a new industrial park will need to be developed. In anticipation of businesses locating to Lamar, the City will need to continue to improve its infrastructure to accommodate growth. These projects include upgrading the existing sewage system and a potential new lift station near the North Lamar industrial park.

In the downtown area, the renovation of the Santa Fe Train Depot to house the Colorado Welcome Center and the Lamar Chamber of Commerce has developed the property to be a "centerpiece" for the area. This area also includes other tourist attractions including a full-size Santa Fe engine and a Madonna of the Trail statue, the only such monument to the Santa Fe Trail in Colorado. There are twelve statues throughout the nation marking the "National Old Trails Road."

Highway 50 through Lamar is designated part of the Santa Fe Trail National Scenic Byway. The original *Mountain Route* of the Trail continued west to La Junta, then angled southwest to Trinidad before going over Raton Pass and down into New Mexico. Also, the Lamar area has

been designated as part of the American Discovery Trail which stretches from the west coast to the east coast.

Economic Development Priorities

Broadband Expansion

Lead Agency – Regional/SEBREA; Possible Funding Sources - EIAF/EDA/FmHA; Time Frame – Mid-Range; Comments: Areas without adequate telecommunications such as broadband, cell service, etc., have fewer opportunities for businesses to start, grow and succeed, and are less desirable places to live for employees and families. Broadband expansion will also allow citizens to operate at-home businesses or work remotely.

Improved Sewer Service to Expand Lamar Industrial Parks

Lead Agency - City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - City/EIAF/EDA/FmHA; Time Frame - Short Term: Comments: Complete and adequate sewer and utility services are required to fully develop the industrial parks in both North and South Lamar.

Holly Industrial Park Development

Lead Agency - Town of Holly; Possible Funding Sources - Town/EIAF/EDA; Time Frame - Short Term; Comments: The Town of Holly is continually faced with lack of space for industry. Providing adequate spaces for businesses is vital to attraction, retention and expansion of businesses, therefore it is important to continue to work on development of the industrial park.

Lamar Downtown Bypass

Lead Agency - CDOT; Possible Funding Sources - CDOT/FHWA; Time Frame - Short Term; Comments: At present U.S. Highways 50 and 287/385 pass through downtown Lamar. A bypass would allow through traffic to avoid the downtown area, easing congestion. Right-of-way has been purchased, and this project is under development.

Rehabilitate and Upgrade Rail Service to Industrial Park

Lead Agency - City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - City/EIAF/FRRA/EDA; Time Frame - Long Term; Comments: The existing rail service to the north Lamar Industrial Park has deteriorated over the years. Upgrading this rail facility will enhance the marketability of the industrial park.

Southwest Chief Rail Line

Lead Agency – DOT; Possible Funding Sources – DOT/EIAF/FRRA/EDA/Cities; Time Frame – Long Term; Comments: The DOT, states and communities along the line are continuing to partner in upgrades to the Southwest Chief Rail through TIGER grants.

Support for Agricultural Processing & Expansion of Agribusiness

Lead Agency - City/Towns/County; Possible Funding Sources - City/County/Towns/EDA/EIAF; Time Frame - Short Term; Comments: There is local government support for diversified agricultural processing. A longstanding policy has been to support agricultural and agricultural processing operations that are consistent with the existing agricultural base in Prowers County, including a potential dairy. A state-of-the-art hog breeding facility in Kiowa County is currently seeking "multiplier" and finishing facilities as spin-offs. In addition, the County and City is investigating the opportunity for multi-species animal processing facilities. The region also supports the expansion of hemp farms and processing. It is important to note the significant cattle industry in Prowers County and the surrounding area. The development of a sales facility would allow income from livestock sales to remain within the County and attract additional revenue from the region.

Expansion of Educational Infrastructure, Services & Workforce Training Programs

Lead Agency – Lamar Community College; Possible Funding Sources – LCC/CCCS/CDHE/ED/Private; Time Frame – Mid-Range; Comments: There is considerable interest in improving and expanding postsecondary career and technical education programs to train the area workforce for immediate employment. Expansion will require additional instructional space and infrastructure for increased programs and enrollment.

Monitor Highway 50 Widening

Lead Agency - CDOT; Funding Sources - CDOT/FHWA; Time Frame - Mid-Range; Comments: Preliminary discussions at the federal level have included developing Highway 50. Clearly, this development would enhance the accessibility to Prowers County and encourage trade. At this point, this involves only monitoring progress in the work.

Community Facilities and Services

North Lamar Sewage System

Lead Agency - North Lamar Sanitation District; Possible Funding Sources - EPA/FmHA/CDBG; Time Frame – Mid-Range; Comments: Adequate sewage systems are a prerequisite for development. The north Lamar area is underserved at present and this project would meet that need.

Airport Improvements

Lead Agency - City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - City/FAA/EDA; Time Frame - Mid Range; Comments: The City of Lamar has prepared a master plan for maintaining and expanding the Lamar Municipal Airport. The top priority improvement identified was the acquisition of an ILS system to allow for all weather operations. Currently, the cross-wind runway is the priority (after subsidies to bring in consistent flight service in/out). With the shut-down of military airports, the airport was made available as surplus, and the system was put in place.

E911 Service throughout County

Lead Agency - Prowers County; Possible Funding Sources - County/City/Towns/Colorado Trust/CDBG; Time Frame - Short Term; Comments: Effective 911 emergency service is extremely important in rural areas. In addition, this project would allow for improvement to local dispatching services, again improving emergency response time.

Landfill/Transfer Station

Lead Agency - County/City/Towns; Possible Funding Sources - County/City/Towns/EIAF/CDBG; Time Frame - Mid Range; Comments: Like most rural areas, Prowers County and its communities face challenging landfill requirements. Although an initial study has been conducted, but it is unclear whether local landfills or a regional operation with transfer stations will be selected.

Continue and Expand Recycling Program

Lead Agency –PEP; Possible Funding Sources - Participating Entities/Private; Time Frame - Long Range; Comments: The continuation and expansion of the current regional recycling effort will ease strain on landfill facilities. The project has been successful to date and has expanded to accommodate plastic and e-waste.

Mass Transit Development

Lead Agency - County; Possible Funding Sources - County/City/Towns/UMTA/EIAF; Time Frame - Long Range; Comments: At present, the Prowers Area Transit Services (PATS) operates a limited transportation service. Utilizing four buses, this service is focused on handicapped and elderly clients. The service has expanded to the Towns of Holly and Granada with the anticipation of expansion to regional service.

Community Building in Holly

Lead Agency - Town of Holly; Possible Funding Sources - Town/EIAF/CDBG; Time Frame - Short Term; Comments: This project would provide needed community meeting facilities in the Town of Holly. All facilities would be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Handicapped Access to Public Buildings throughout the County

Lead Agency - County/City/Towns; Possible Funding Sources - County/City/Towns/EIAF/CDBG; Time Frame - Short Term; Comments: The Americans with Disabilities Act required full access to public buildings by the handicapped. This project encompasses the College, Municipal and County Buildings as well as other public buildings. This project recognizes this mandate.

Flood Control in Lamar

Lead Agency - City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - City/CDBG/EIAF; Time Frame - Short Term; Comments: The Willow Creek and Clay Creek areas are subject to storm-related flash flooding. This project includes the storm sewer development necessary to alleviate this problem.

It is anticipated that it may be a requirement by the Corp of Engineers that the City of Lamar upgrade its berm at Willow Creek Park.

Emergency Services Expansion in Lamar

Lead Agency - City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - City/CDBG/EIAF; Time Frame - Mid Range; Comments: The Fire Department of the City of Lamar has outgrown the existing facility. This project would expand the fire station providing additional storage and maintenance space. In addition, the need for the development of a city/county judicial system building which would house the police department is needed.

Fire Protection and EMS Upgrades throughout County

Lead Agency - County/City/Towns; Possible Funding Sources - County/City/Towns/CDBG/EIAF/Colorado Trust; Time Frame - Mid Range; Comments: Local fire departments and emergency medical services throughout the County need additional equipment, buildings, and training.

Hospital Equipment and Rehabilitation

Lead Agency - City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - City/Private; Time Frame - Mid Range; Comments: The hospital has recently undergone a significant renovation and expansion; however, this project recognizes that continual equipment and facility upgrades are needed in order for the hospital to stay up-to-date. This must be done on an on-going basis.

Children's Health Clinic in Lamar

Lead Agency - High Plains Community Health Center; Possible Funding Sources - HPCHC/CDBG; Time Frame - Long Range; Comments: Prowers County and the City of Lamar have been designated as medically-underserved. This project would build, equip, and staff a health clinic focused on serving children in the County.

Expansion of Prowers County Wellness Initiatives

Lead Agency - Prowers County/City/Towns; Possible Funding Sources - County/City/Towns/CDBG; Time Frame - Long Range; Comments: Prowers County has been designated as one of the unhealthiest counties in Colorado. Recent efforts to improve residents overall health and wellness and have made incremental improvements. Additional funding for education, prevention, treatment, services, and recreational infrastructure is needed to affect long-term change.

Senior Citizens' Center Rehabilitation and Establishment

Lead Agency - City/Towns; Possible Funding Sources - City/Towns/EIAF/CDBG; Time Frame – Mid-range; Comments: Lamar, Holly, and Granada currently have senior citizens' centers. These centers require rehabilitation and upgrading. There is no senior citizens' center in the Town of Wiley, and one should be established to satisfy this needed community amenity.

Curbs/Gutters/Drainage/Sidewalks throughout County

Lead Agency - City/Towns; Possible Funding Sources - City/Towns/CDBG; Time Frame - Long Range; Comments: The need to upgrade curbs, gutters, drainage systems, and sidewalks exists in all communities in Prowers County. This project is designed to address this need.

Municipal Parking in Lamar

Lead Agency - City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - City/CDBG/EIAF; Time Frame - Long Range; Comments: A lack of adequate, convenient parking is a problem for downtown businesses in Lamar. The project calls for purchase of sufficient land within one block of Main Street and development of a municipal parking lot. An additional part of this project is to work with downtown businesses to open up rear entrances to enhance the use of this proposed parking lot and reduce the necessity for on-street parking.

Expanded Child Care Facilities

Lead Agency - City/Private; Possible Funding Sources - City/Private/Department of Human Services; Time Frame - Short Term; Comments: The City of Lamar has a need for expanded child care facilities, especially to handle the youngest children, to include evening and weekends.

Lamar Hope Center

Lead Agency – Lamar Schools/Hope Center; Possible Funding Sources – Schools/City/CDBG; Time Frame - Mid Range; Comments: The Hope Center provides afterschool activities, tutoring, and remediation to elementary school to high school youth. Additional funding is required to sustain the Center and expand opportunities for youth in Lamar and surrounding areas.

Ongoing Customized Business and Industry Training

Lead Agency - Lamar Community College; Possible Funding Sources - LCC/JTPA/Colorado First/EDA; Time Frame - Short Term, Mid and Long Range; Comments: Although there are programs available for "one time" customized training, the College cannot fund an ongoing program. Working with local businesses, LCC will establish such services to provide industry-specific training, so area employers can train new hires for successful employment and employees for advancement. The College has secured partial funding to create a Maker Space / Fab Lab for advanced training.

Redevelopment of Adult Education Family Literacy Training

Lead Agency - Lamar Community College; Possible Funding Sources - LCC/JTPA/CDE/ED/; Time Frame - Short Term, Mid and Long Range; Comments: Prowers County has one of the lowest educational attainment rates in the State, and it is imperative that residents have access to Adult Basic Education, ESL, and GED programs to remedy this issue. The County currently has limited GED preparation services available only to Prowers County DHS clients.

Library Enhancements

Lead Agency - County/City/Towns; Possible Funding Sources - County/City/Towns/CDBG; Time Frame - Mid Range; Comments: Local libraries in Lamar, Wiley, Holly, and Granada need upgrades and additional funding.

Energy and Natural Resource Developments

Establish Enhanced Utility Infrastructure to Encourage Growth

Lead Agency - City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - City/EIAF; Time Frame - Long Range; Comments: Upgrading the existing electrical infrastructure and installing additional transmission lines for expanded wind generation capacity and development in the County.

Water Resource Development and Management

Upgrade Water Development and Delivery System in Holly and Granada

Lead Agency - Towns of Holly and Granada; Possible Funding Sources - EIAF/USDA-RD/EDA/Town; Time Frame - Short Term; Comments: Adequate water supplies are needed for development in both Granada and Holly. This project would satisfy those needs.

Expand Water Conservation Program for Lamar Parks

Lead Agency - City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - City/CDBG; Time Frame - Short Term; Comments: Park irrigation is an intense water user. Installation of water conservation equipment and adopting water conservation policies will preserve this scarce resource. Expansion of dual water systems – potable and non-potable – will significantly ease the City's water challenges.

Water Quality Upgrades

Lead Agency - County/City/Towns; Possible Funding Sources - County/City/Towns/EIAF/CDBG; Time Frame - Mid Range; Comments: Water quality is an ongoing concern throughout Southeast Colorado. This program seeks to upgrade and improve water treatment facilities and storage facilities.

Housing

Senior Citizen Housing Expansion in Lamar

Lead Agency – City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - USDA-RD/CDBG/Town; Time Frame - Mid Range; Comments: At present, the City needs to expand dedicated senior citizen housing facilities. This project would fill that need.

Senior Citizen Housing Developments

Lead Agencies - Towns of Granada, Holly and Wiley; Possible Funding Sources - USDA-RD/CDBG/Town; Time Frame - Mid Range; Comments: At present, each town lacks dedicated senior citizen housing facilities. Individually or collectively, each town project would fill that need.

Housing Rehabilitation and Development in Prowers County

Lead Agency - Prowers County; Possible Funding Sources - County/CDBG; Time Frame - Long Range; Comments: The lack of adequate housing limits economic growth and diversity when businesses cannot recruit employees due to a lack of available housing. Aging housing with asbestos and a lack of low price housing stock have been identified as factors contributing to a housing crisis. Increased county-wide housing rehabilitation will improve the housing inventory for the County. In addition, the City and Towns must seek creative ways to encourage new builds of single-family homes and multi-family housing. Due to a depressed housing market, there is a lack of comparable sales, which in turn prohibits funding for new starts. Affordable housing is needed to address the needs of families in an area where the median household income is significantly lower than the State average.

Develop Homeless Shelter

Lead Agency - City of Lamar; Possible Funding Sources - City/CDBG; Time Frame - Long Range; Comments: While not a significant issue, a homeless problem exists in Lamar. Preliminary discussions have focused on developing a 40-bed shelter to ease these problems.

Recreation

Tourism and Heritage Tourism Development

Lead Agency - County/City/Towns Possible Funding Sources - County/City/Towns/EIAF/EDA Time Frame - Short Term Comments: In partnership with regional efforts, Prowers County is interested in developing its tourism industry. This effort would include development of heritage tourism sites, marketing and promotion, support to new tourism-related businesses, and work with the Southeast Colorado Tourism Council, Inc. and Canyons and Plains, among others. Scenic Highways and Byways system, which would include the Santa Fe Trail (U.S. Highway 50), are part of Southeast Colorado's draw for Heritage Tourism. The designation of the Santa Fe Trail provides a tourist draw of national significance.

Expanded and Enhanced Museum Facilities

Lead Agency - City of Lamar/Town of Holly/Town of Granada/National Park Service; Possible Funding Sources - City/Town/CDBG/NPS; Time Frame - Long Range; Comments: Prowers County is rich in historic resources. Three museums, a natural history museum at Holly, the Big Timbers museum in Lamar, and Amache Japanese Interment Museum in Granada are all in need of expansion and enhancement to allow for better display of significant artifacts.

ACTION PLAN

It is anticipated that each of the projects will continue to be addressed and moved forward to improve the infrastructure, assets and programs in the County and make Prowers County a better place to work, live and play. Each lead agency will continue to work on these priorities.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Below are a list of steady state and responsive initiatives that have been implemented in an effort to address the issues faced by the County and the Region.

“STEADY STATE” INITIATIVES & EFFORTS

Colorado Blueprint 2.0

Regional Broadband Strategic Grant

Regional Manufacturing Labor Shed Study

Regional Housing Study

Regional "flight for life" Service with Care Connect

Regional Healthcare Sector Partnership

Regional Plug-In Stations

Kreativo Marketing and Regional Website

Colorado Comes to Life

“RESPONSIVE” INITIATIVES

SEBREA (Southeast Business Retention Expansion and Attraction)

SBDC (Small Business Development Center)

SECED, Inc. (Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development, Inc.)

OEDIT (Office of Economic Development & International Trade)

DOLA (Department of Local Affairs)

USDA RD (US Dept of Agriculture Rural Development)