

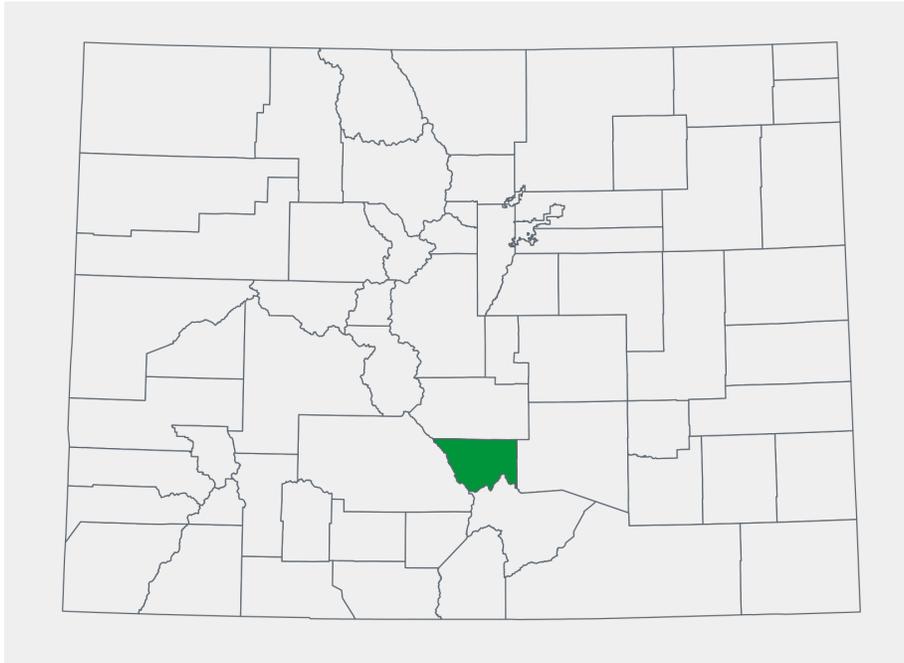


State Demography Office Colorado Demographic Profile

Print Date: 05/13/2019

Community Profile for Custer County

Demographic information is critical for making informed decisions at the local, state and national level. This demographic profile is a summary of trends in a community. The dashboard provides charts, text, data and additional links to assist in the exploration and understanding of demographic trends for counties and municipalities in Colorado. The following collection of tables and charts establishes the context for assessing potential impacts and for decision-making.



Basic Statistics

The population base and trends of an area determine the needs for housing, schools, roads and other services. The age, income, race and ethnicity, and migration of the population of a community are all vital in planning for service provision. The most significant demographic transitions for Colorado and its communities are related to disparate growth, aging, downward pressure on income, and growing racial and ethnic diversity.

Table 1: Community Quick Facts

	Custer County	Colorado
Population (2017)+	4,859	5,609,445
Population Change (2010 to 2017)+	587	559,113
Total Employment (2017)+	1,632	3,309,391
Median Household Income [^]	\$41,330	\$65,458
Median House Value [^]	\$248,300	\$286,100
Percentage of Population with Incomes lower than the Poverty Line [^]	15.7%	11.5%
Percentage of Population Born in Colorado [^]	28.5%	42.7%

+Source: State Demography Office
[^]Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Population Trends

The tables and plots in this section highlight trends and forecasts for the total population in Custer County. The table shows the overall population growth rate for Custer County and the State of Colorado. Additional plots show the overall population trends, forecasts for along with the overall components of change for Custer County.

Table 2: Population Growth Rate

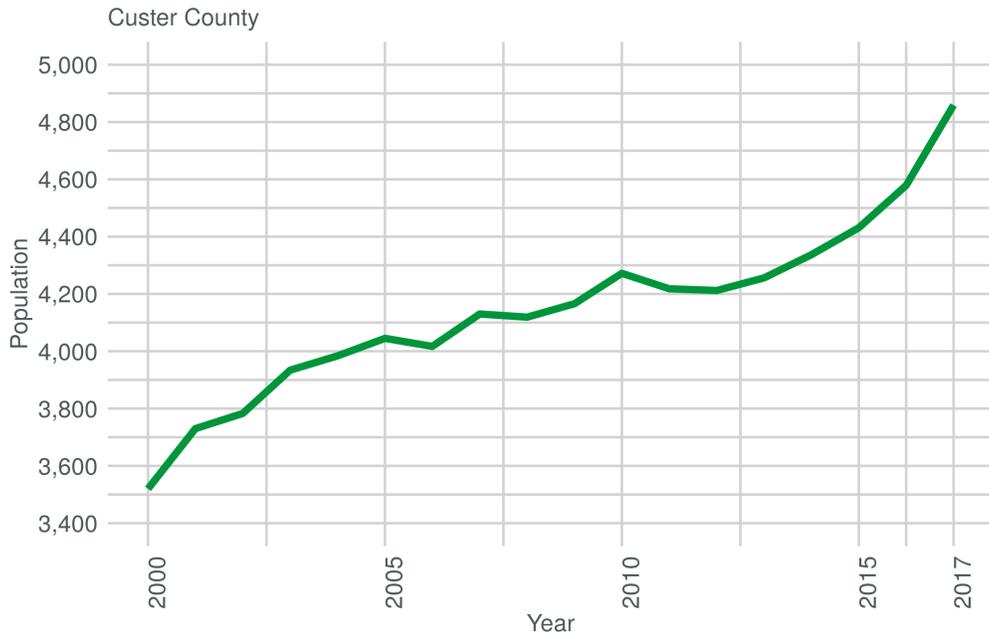
Year	Custer County		Colorado	
	Population	Growth Rate	Population	Growth Rate
1990	1,926		3,294,473	
1995	2,618	6.3%	3,811,074	3.0%
2000	3,520	6.1%	4,338,801	2.6%
2005	4,045	2.8%	4,662,534	1.4%
2010	4,272	1.1%	5,050,332	1.6%
2015	4,431	0.7%	5,444,871	1.5%
2017	4,859	4.7%	5,609,445	1.5%

Note:

Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

At the end of 2017 the estimated population of Custer County was 4,859, an increase of 428 over the population in 2015. The growth rate for Custer County between 2015 and 2017 was 4.7 percent compared to 1.5 percent for the State of Colorado.

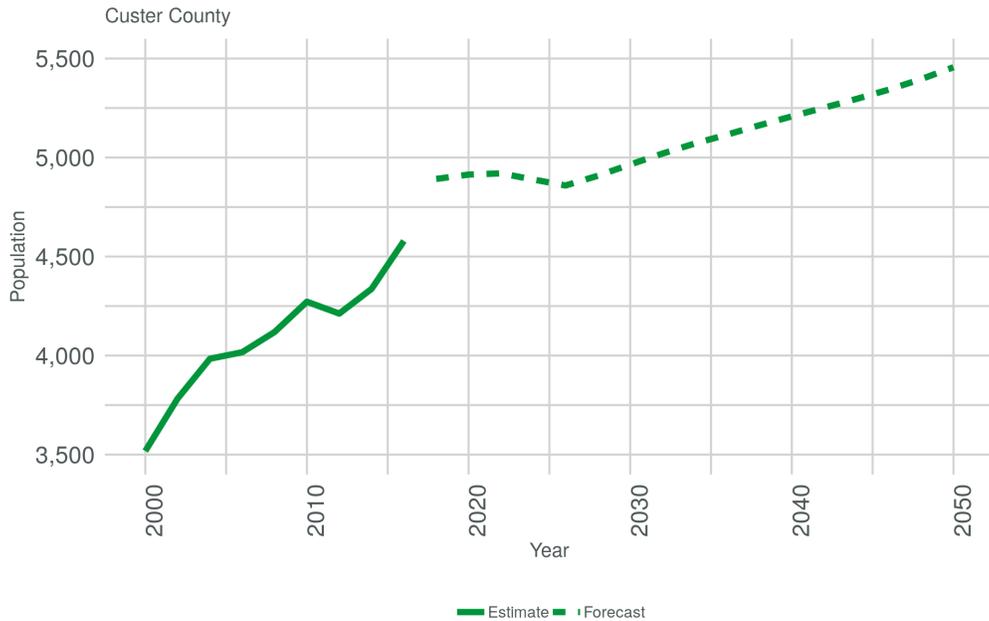
Population, 2000 to 2017



Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

The population of Custer County is forecast to reach 4,914 by 2020 and 5,208 by 2040. Overall, the growth rate for Custer County is expected to decrease between 2020 and 2040. Between 2010 and 2020 the forecast growth rate was 1.4 percent, between 2020 and 2030 the forecast growth rate is 0.1 percent, while the forecast growth rate between 2030 and 2040 is 0.5 percent. The change is due in part to population aging and changes in the proportion of the population in childbearing ages. Note: Population forecasts are only provided for Colorado counties.

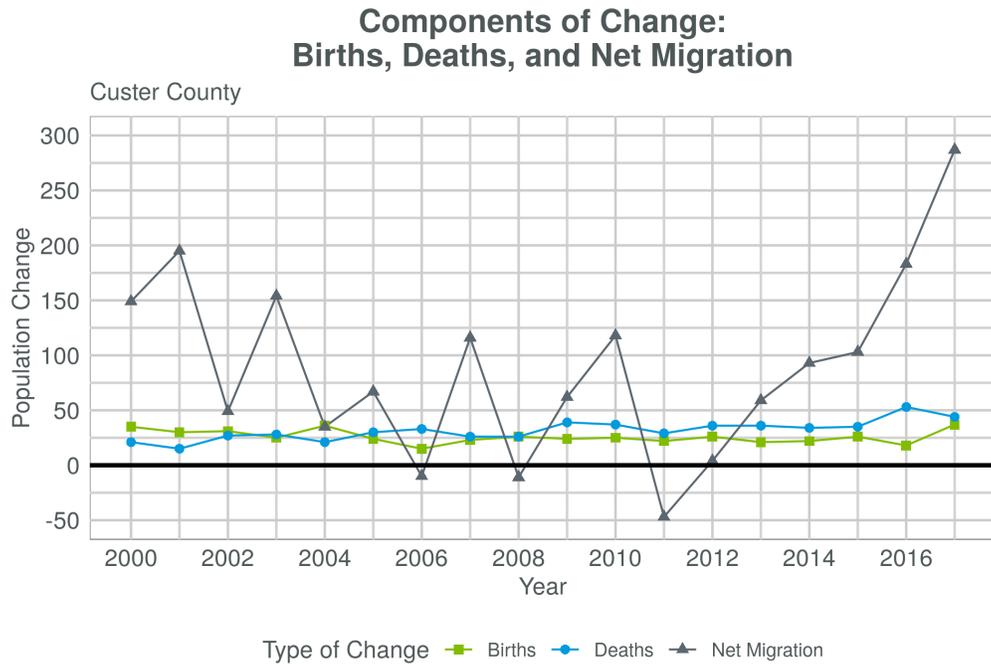
Population Forecast, 2000 to 2050



Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Components of Population Change

Births, deaths and net migration are the main components of population change. Net migration is the difference between the number of people moving into an area and the number of people moving out. Change in net migration typically causes most of the changes in population trends because migration is more likely to experience short-term fluctuations than births and deaths. Migration also tends to be highly correlated to job growth or decline in communities where most of the residents work where they live. For many counties with negative natural increase (more deaths than births), this makes migration especially important for population stability and growth.



Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

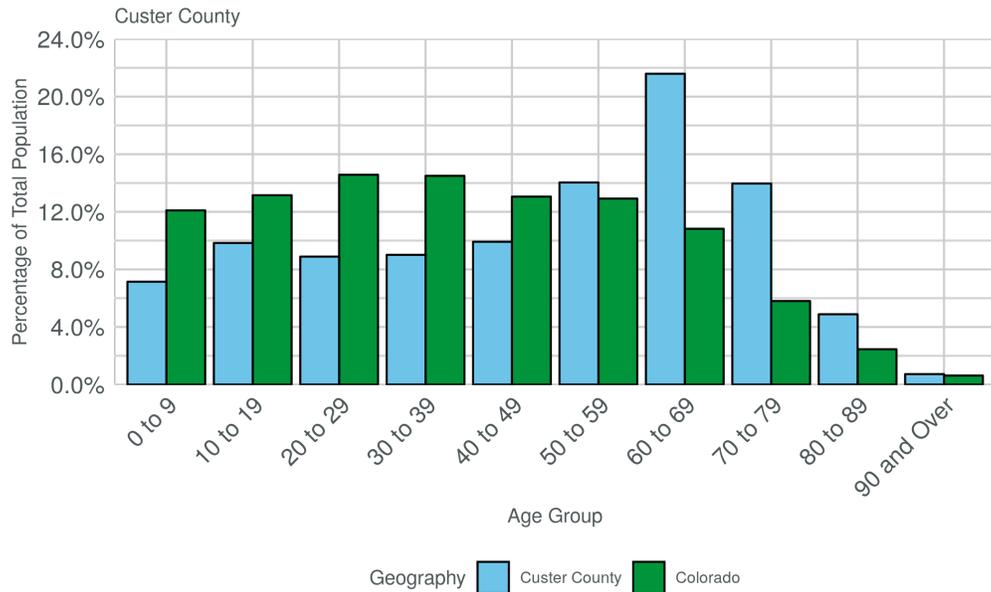
Over the past five years, between 2013 and 2017, the population of Custer County has increased by 647 people. The total natural increase (births - deaths) over this period was -88 and the total net migration (new residents who moved in minus those who moved out) was 729. Note: Components of Change data are only available for Colorado counties.

Age Characteristics

Every community has a different age profile and is aging differently. People in different age groups work, live, shop, and use resources differently and these differences will impact the economy, labor force, housing, school districts, day care facilities, health services, disability services, transportation, household income, and public finance. An aging population may put downward pressure on local government tax revenue due to changes in spending on taxable goods.

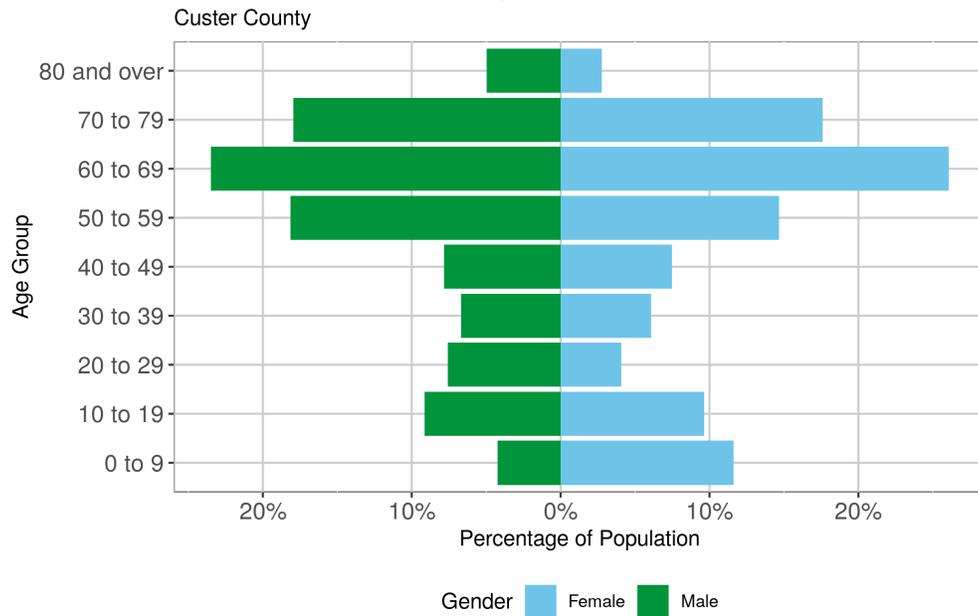
The age distribution of the population of Custer County and Colorado are shown here.

Population Distribution by Age for 2017



Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Age by Gender



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Table 3: Median Age by Gender Comparison

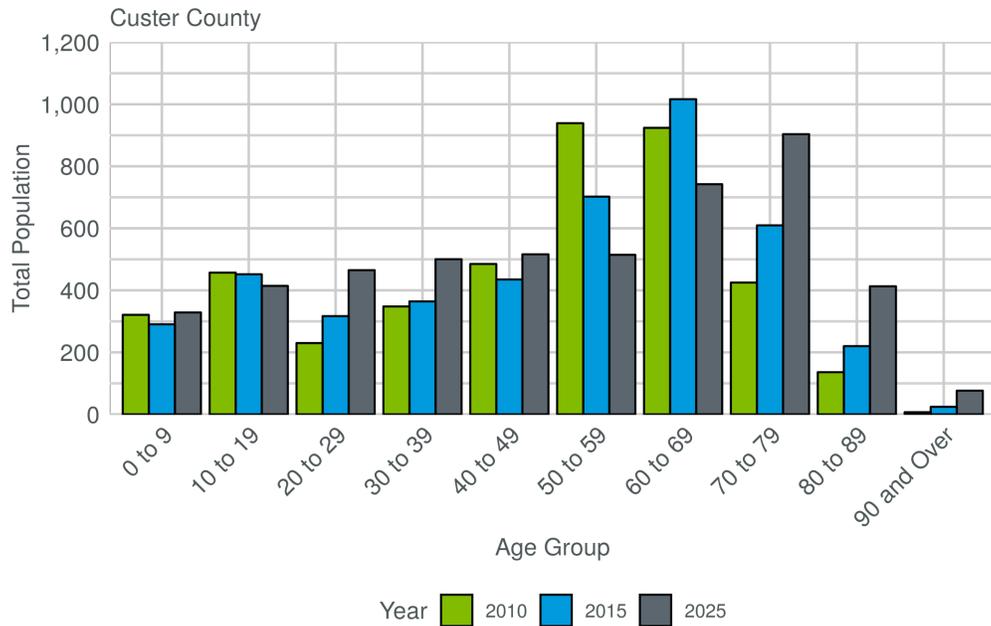
Gender	Custer County		Colorado		Significant Difference?	Difference from State
	Median Age	MOE	Median Age	MOE		
Total	58.2	3.0	36.5	0.1	Yes	Older
Male	59.2	3.6	35.6	0.1	Yes	Older
Female	57.9	3.9	37.5	0.1	Yes	Older

Note:

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Print Date: 05/13/2019

The median age of Custer County is 20.4 years older than the state. Women in Custer County are significantly older than women in the state and men in Custer County are significantly older than men in the state.

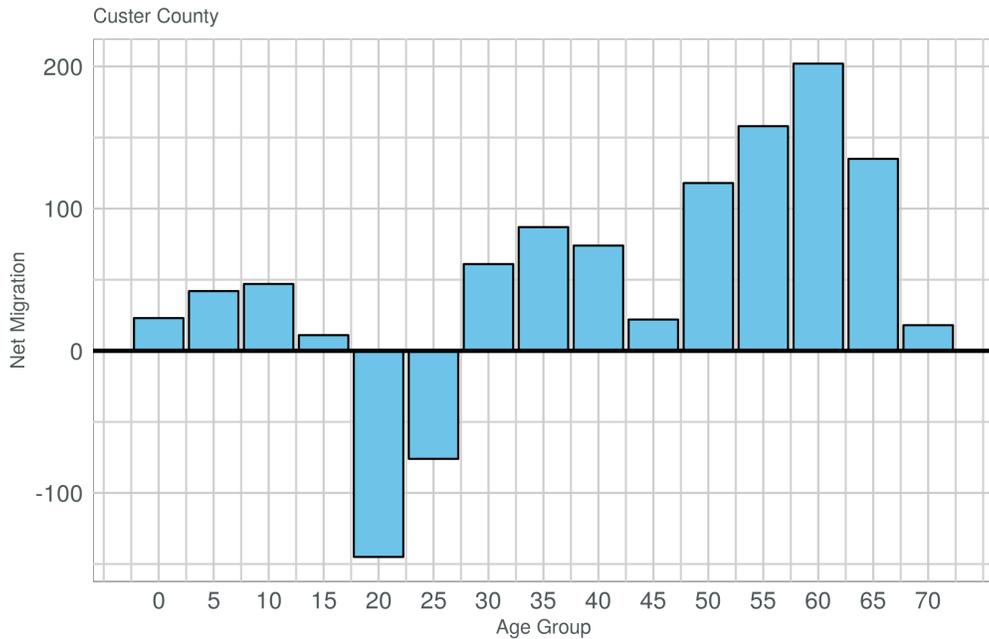
Age Forecast: 2010 to 2025



Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

The changing age distribution of the population of Custer County for the period from 2010 through 2025 is shown here. The changes in proportion of different groups can highlight the need for future planning and service provision. Many areas have a larger share of older adults, indicating the need to evaluate housing, transportation and other needs of the senior population.

Net Migration by Age: 2000-2010



This plot shows the net migration by age in Custer County. Colorado typically draws many young adults as migrants. Areas with colleges and resorts draw a number of 18 to 24 year olds. Areas with a growing economy tend to account mostly 25 to 35 year olds and areas attractive to retirees tend to draw both workers and older adults.

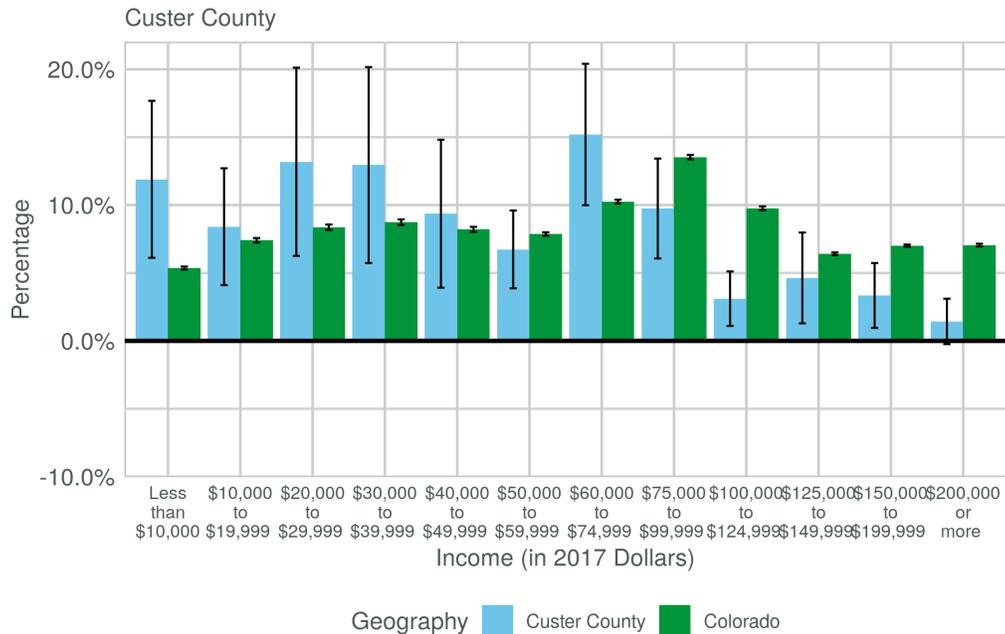
Population Characteristics: Income, Education and Race

The plots and tables in this section describe the general population characteristics of Custer County. The bars on the plots show the width of the 90 percent confidence interval. Categories where the bars do not overlap are significantly different.

Household Income

The household income distribution plot compares Custer County to the statewide household incomes. Household income comes primarily from earnings at work, but government transfer payments such as Social Security and TANF and unearned income from dividends, interest and rent are also included. Income and education levels are highly correlated; areas that have lower educational attainment than the state will typically have lower household incomes.

Household Income Distribution



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Print Date: 05/13/2019

The Household Income Source(s) Table shows household income sources and amounts for households in Custer County. Households will have multiple sources of income, so this table is not mutually exclusive. Mean income values reflect values from the cited source.

Table 4: Household Income Source(s)

Custer County				
Income Source	Total Households		Mean Income	
	Estimate	MOE	Estimate	MOE
All Households	2,093	145	\$29,699	\$ 6,963
With earnings	62.1%	7.1%	\$47,337	\$11,297
With interest, dividends or net rental income	33.9%	7.2%	\$14,732	\$ 7,066
With Social Security income	56.0%	7.2%	\$23,548	\$ 4,232
With Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	6.3%	3.4%	\$10,545	\$ 6,095
With cash public assistance income	1.8%	1.5%	\$ 6,463	\$ 7,240
With retirement income	24.4%	5.4%	\$27,527	\$ 7,782

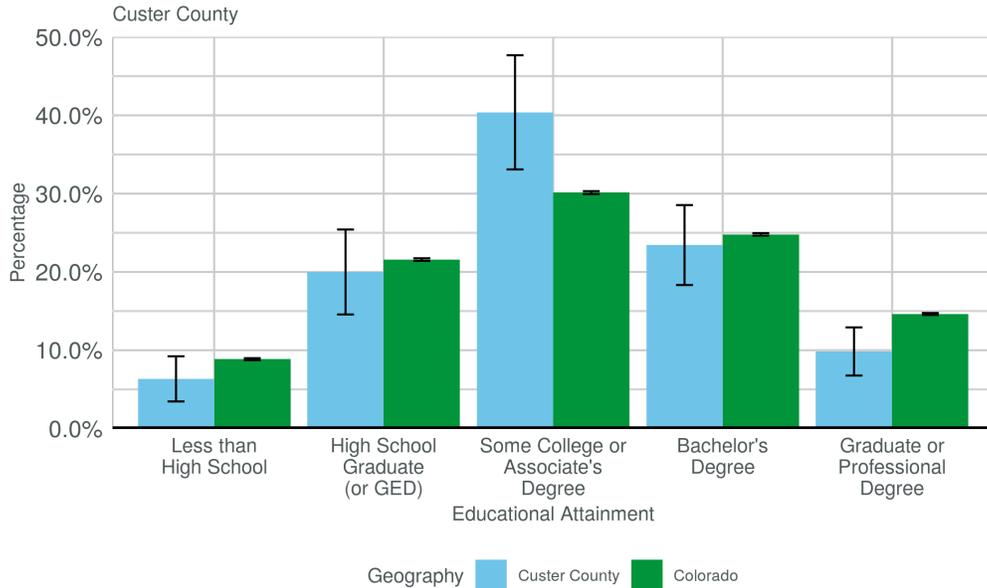
Note:

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Educational Attainment

The education attainment plot is provided for persons older than Age 25, i.e., those who have likely completed their education.

Educational Attainment, Persons Age 25 and Older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Race and Ethnicity

The Race Trend table shows the changing racial and ethnic composition of Custer County beginning in 2000 and continuing to the present.

Table 5: Race Trend

Race	Custer County			Colorado		
	2000	2010	2017	2000	2010	2017
Hispanic	2.5%	4.7%	4.6%	17.1%	20.7%	21.3%
Non-Hispanic	97.5%	95.3%	95.4%	82.9%	79.3%	78.7%
Non-Hispanic White	94.2%	92.0%	89.7%	74.5%	70.0%	68.6%
Non-Hispanic Black	0.3%	1.0%	2.5%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%
Non-Hispanic Native American/Alaska Native	1.1%	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%
Non-Hispanic Asian	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	2.2%	2.7%	3.0%
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Non-Hispanic Other	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Non-Hispanic, Two Races	1.5%	1.3%	2.2%	1.7%	2.0%	2.4%
Total Population	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Note:

Sources

¹ 2000: 2000 Census

² 2010: 2010 Census

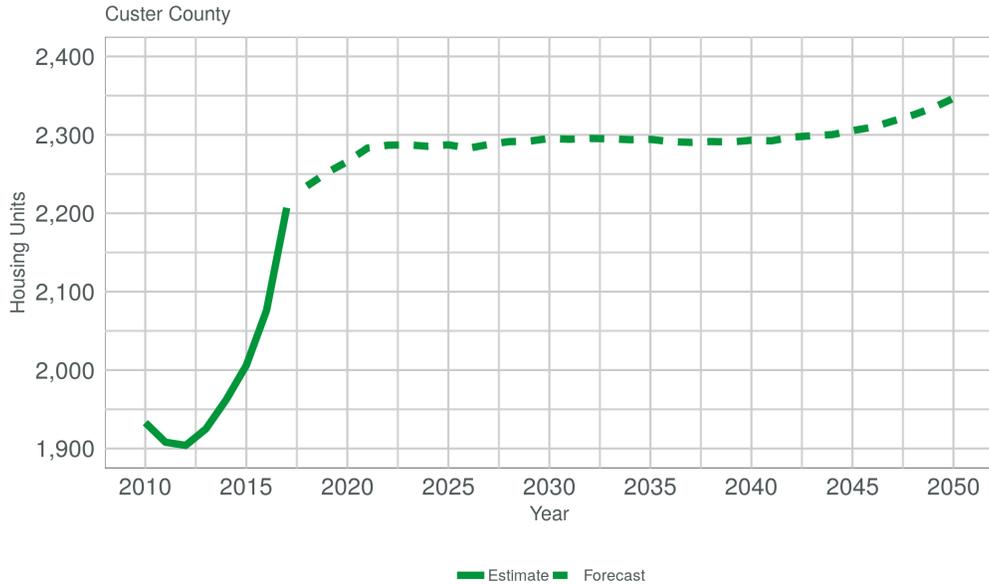
³ 2017: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Housing and Households

Understanding the current housing stock is critical for understanding how the community can best address current and future demands. This section begins with a projection of households. The projection of households

is derived by county specific headship rates for the population by age. Beyond the numbers and characteristics, understanding the value and affordability of housing units is vital. Are the housing prices prohibitive to new families? Are the housing prices at such a high price that once the current work force ages and sells, those housing units will most likely go into the vacation seasonal market? Or are housing prices reasonable and suddenly the community is experiencing growth in families with children? How many total housing units are there? What types of new units are being built - multi-family vs single family?

Total Household Projection: 2010-2050



Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

The Household Estimates plot shows the current and projected number of households in Custer County between 2010 and 2050.

The next several tables provide an overview of the housing stock in an area. The availability of land and the cost of land can dictate whether housing is less dense, with a greater number of single family units or more dense with a number of multifamily apartments and condos. Median home values and median gross rents are often considerably lower than current market prices as the values are computed from a 5-year average that runs through 2016. The number of people per household can offer insights as to the composition of the households. Areas with a larger number of people per household often have more families with children under 18 or a number of roommates living together to share housing costs. Those with a smaller number of persons per household, likely have a larger share of single-person households.

Table 6: Housing Units: Custer County, 2017

Housing Type	Custer County
	Value
Total Housing Units	4,343
Occupied Housing Units	2,207
Vacant Housing Units	2,136
Vacancy Rate	49.2%
Total Population	4,859
Household Population	4,709
Group Quarters Population	150
Persons per Household	2.13

Note:

Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Table 7: Characteristics of Housing Units

Housing Unit Type	Custer County				
	Owner-Occupied Units		Rental Units		All Units
	Units	Percent	Units	Percent	Units
All Housing Units	1,714	81.9%	379	18.1%	2,093
Single Unit Buildings	1,528	88.0%	208	12.0%	1,736
Buildings with 2 to 4 Units	0	0.0%	52	100.0%	52
Buildings with 5 or More Units	7	7.1%	92	92.9%	99
Mobile Homes	145	84.3%	27	15.7%	172
RVs, Boats, Vans, Etc.	34	100.0%	0	0.0%	34
Median Year of Construction	1995		1977		1993
Average Number of Persons Per Household	2.13		2.23		2.15

Note:

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Table 8: Comparative Housing Values

Variable	Custer County	Colorado
	Value	Value
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Households (Current Dollars)	\$248,300	\$286,100
Percentage of Owner-Occupied Households paying 30% or more of income on housing	36.9%	23.2%
Percentage of Owner-Occupied Households paying 30-49% of income on housing	22.3%	14.3%
Percentage of Owner-Occupied Households paying 50% or more of income on housing	14.6%	9.0%
Median Gross Rent of Rental Households (Current Dollars)	\$660	\$1,125
Percentage of Rental Households paying 30% or more of income on housing	48.8%	48.5%
Percentage of Rental Households paying 30-49% of income on housing	21.4%	25.1%
Percentage of Rental Households paying 50% or more of income on housing	27.4%	23.4%

Note:

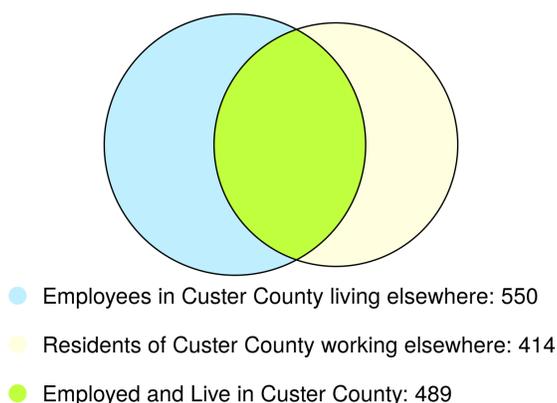
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Commuting

Commuting plays an important role in the economy of an area because not all workers live where they work. Commuting impacts local job growth, access to employees, and transportation infrastructure. The Commuting diagram identifies three groups of people:

- People who work in Custer County, but live elsewhere.
- People who live in Custer County, but work elsewhere.
- People who live and work in Custer County.

Custer County: All Jobs, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau On the Map, Print Date: 05/13/2019

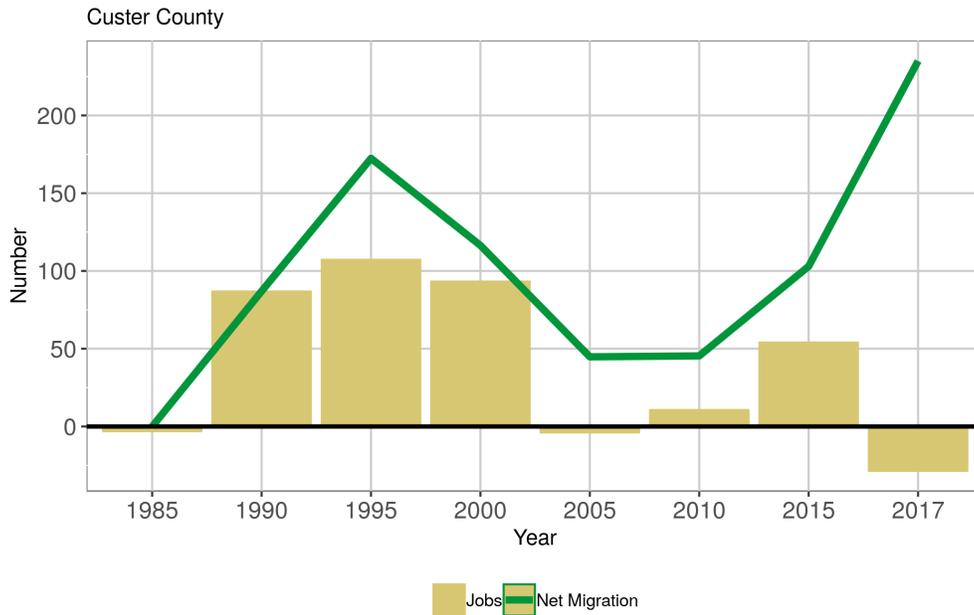
Table 9: Commuting Patterns for Custer County

Employees in Custer County living elsewhere			Residents of Custer County working elsewhere		
Location	Count	Percent	Location	Count	Percent
El Paso County, CO	96	17.5%	Fremont County, CO	116	28.0%
Pueblo County, CO	78	14.2%	Pueblo County, CO	65	15.7%
Denver County, CO	55	10.0%	Weld County, CO	60	14.5%
Fremont County, CO	47	8.5%	El Paso County, CO	31	7.5%
Adams County, CO	41	7.5%	Arapahoe County, CO	17	4.1%
Arapahoe County, CO	31	5.6%	Adams County, CO	13	3.1%
Jefferson County, CO	27	4.9%	Chaffee County, CO	13	3.1%
Chaffee County, CO	17	3.1%	Denver County, CO	9	2.2%
Boulder County, CO	16	2.9%	Larimer County, CO	8	1.9%
Larimer County, CO	12	2.2%	Douglas County, CO	7	1.7%
Other Counties	130	23.6%	Other Counties	75	18.1%
Total	550	100.0%	Total	414	100.0%

Note:

Source: U.S. Census Bureau On the Map, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Job Growth and Net Migration



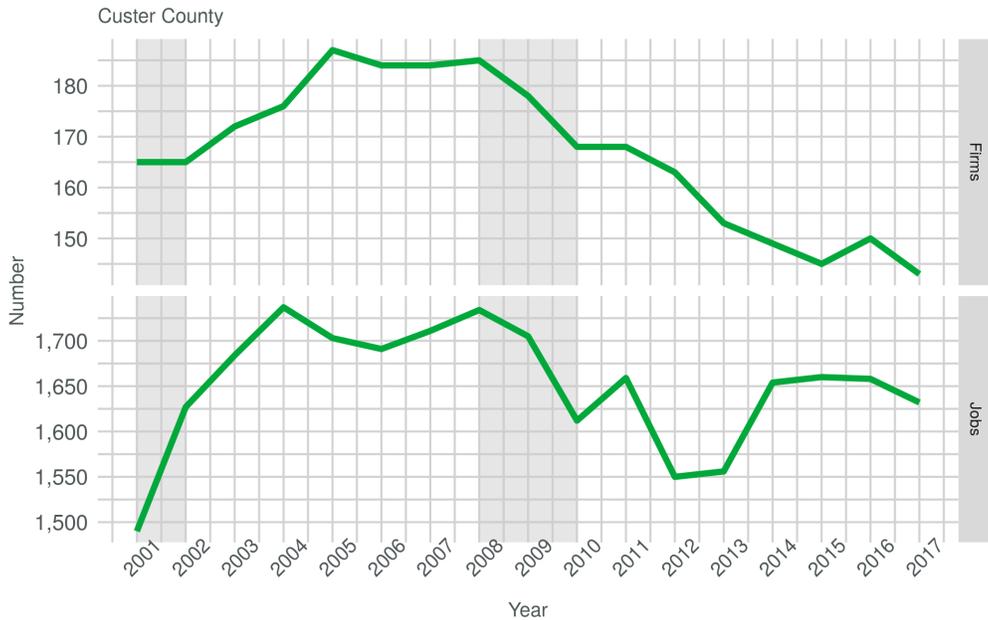
Source: State Demography Office and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Print Date: 05/13/2019

The Job Growth and Net Migration plot shows the relationship between job growth and migration in Custer County. Generally, migration patterns follow changes in job growth demand.

Employment by Industry

Identifying the industries which may be driving the growth and change within a community is a vital part of understanding community dynamics. Growth in jobs often results in growth in residents from migration within a community. Identifying the trends of growth or decline of jobs and the types of jobs available within the community is important.

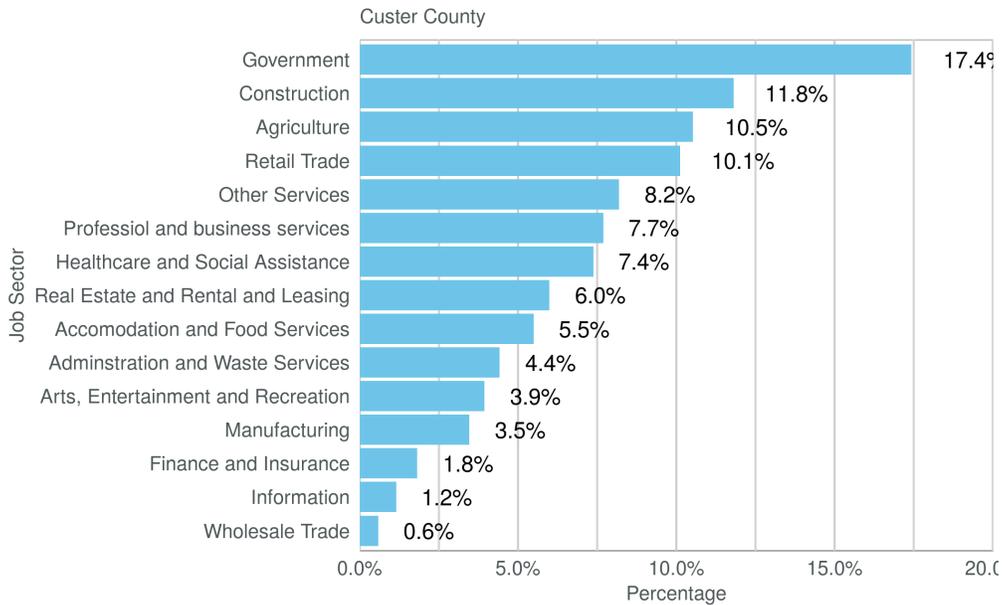
Total Estimated Firms and Jobs, 2001 to 2017



Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019
 Note: Grey shading represents beginning to bottom of U.S. recessions

The Estimated Firms and Jobs series created by the SDO gives a comprehensive look at the number of firms and jobs located within Custer County. It is broad in scope, capturing both wage and salary workers as well as most proprietors and agricultural workers. A more diverse economy is typically more resilient too; when looking at the employment trends recently and after a recession (shaded in gray) it is also important to look at the current share of employment by industry. Areas dependent on a single industry such as agriculture, mining or tourism can suffer from prolonged downturns due to drought, shifting demand for commodities, and the health of the national economy.

2017 Share of Jobs by Industry



Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

The total estimated jobs are subdivided into 3 categories:

- *Direct Basic*: jobs that bring outside dollars into the community by selling goods or services outside the county, such as manufacturing or engineering services,
- *Indirect Basic*: jobs that are created as the result of goods and services purchased by direct basic such as accounting services or raw material inputs, and
- *Local (Resident) Services*: jobs that are supported when income earned from the base industries is spent locally at retailers or are supported by local tax dollars to provide services like education and public safety.

This plot shows the jobs by industry profile for Custer County. The relative rank of high-paying sectors, such as mining, information and financial and insurance services versus mid-range jobs (e.g., construction, health care and government) and lower-paying industries such as retail trade and accommodation and food services, will have an impact on a counties' overall economic health.

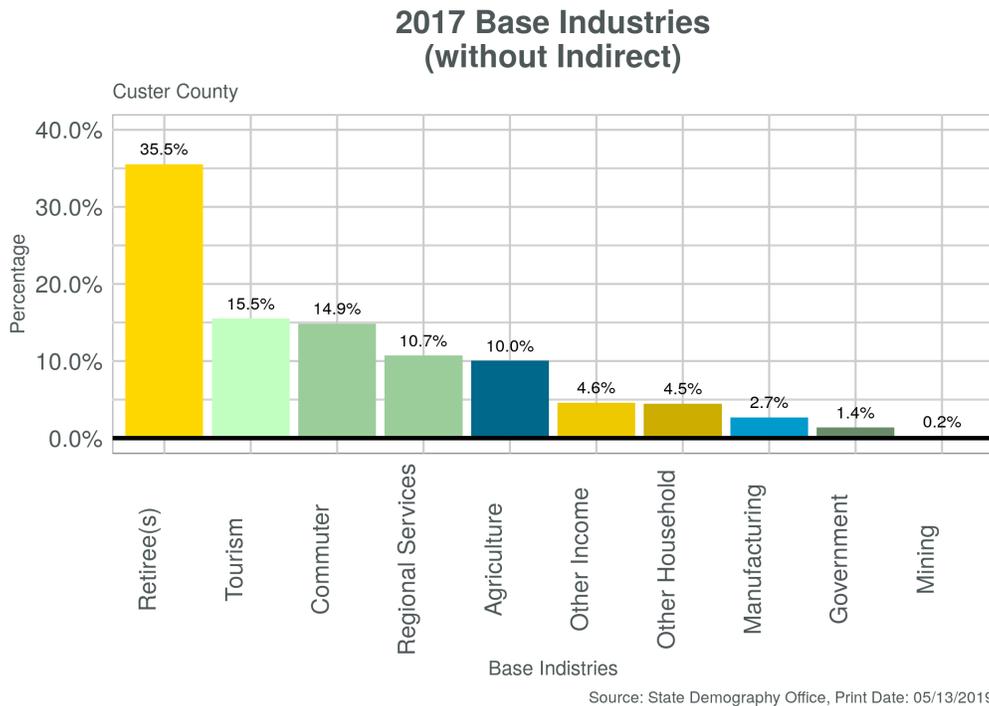


Table 10: Jobs by Sector: Custer County, 2017

Employment Type	Number of Jobs	Percentage
Direct Basic Employment	1,735	106.3%
Indirect Basic Employment	135	8.3%
Local Services Employment	-247	-15.1%
Total Employment	1,633	100.0%
Total Population, 16+	4,243	

Note:

Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Similar to the industry employment, areas with large amounts of diversity in their base industries tend to suffer less during downturns and recover more quickly. *Regional Services* is a diverse base industry that encompasses all services and goods that a region sells to those in surrounding areas; examples include specialized health care, construction, air or rail transportation, and large item retail purchases like autos

or appliances. *Retirees* are considered basic since they spend money from social security or other pensions, Medicare and savings. *Government* typically only includes employment in Federal Government and State Government. *Tourism* not only includes traditional tourist services like accommodation and food, but also includes 2nd homes, property management and transportation of tourists by airlines, car rental, car sharing and shuttles.

Employment Forecast and Wage Information

Understanding the types of jobs forecast to grow in a community, if jobs are forecast to increase, will aid in further understanding potential changes in population, labor force, housing demand, and household income. Important questions to ask include; What is the current forecast for job growth based on the current industry mix? What types of jobs are forecast to grow? What are the wages for those jobs? What are the labor force trends for the community? Is the labor force expected to grow or slow down?

Table 11: Jobs and Population Forecast

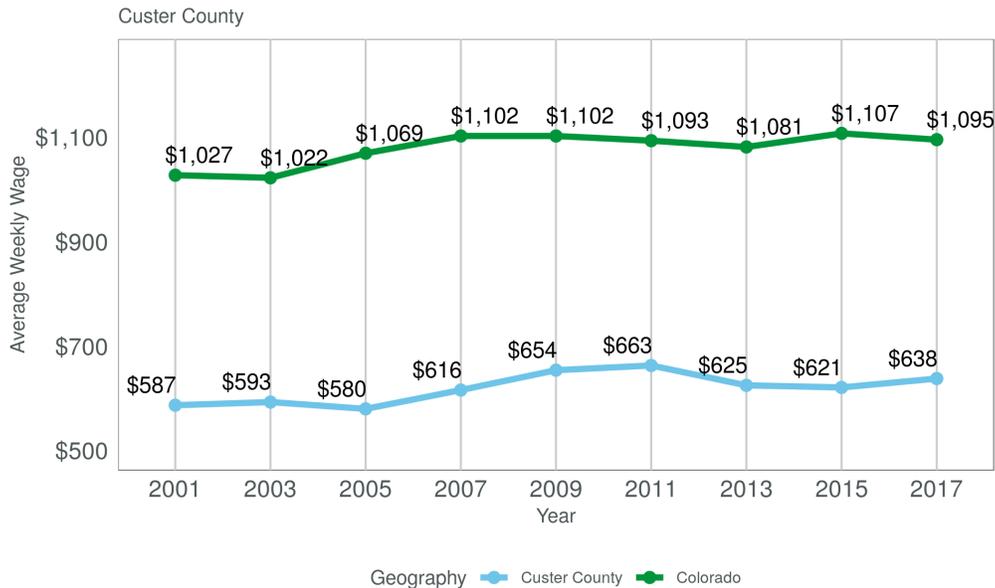
Custer County					
Year	Type	Jobs	Annual Growth Rate: Jobs	Population	Annual Growth Rate: Population
2018	Forecast	1,668		4,892	
2014	Estimate	1,654	6.3%	4,337	1.9%
2020	Forecast	1,715	1.1%	4,914	0.2%
2025	Forecast	1,825	1.1%	4,874	-0.3%
2030	Forecast	1,904	0.5%	4,965	0.6%
2035	Forecast	1,939	0.2%	5,094	0.5%
2040	Forecast	1,999	0.4%	5,208	0.4%

Note:

Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

The total jobs forecast and population forecast are for Custer County shown here. The two lines diverge over time due to the aging of our population and continued growth in our under 18 population – two segments of the population that are less likely to be employed. Growth in the 65 plus population in the labor force through 2040 compared to the universe population of those over the age of 16 since labor force participation declines with age, especially among those eligible for pensions or social security.

Average Weekly Wage, in Real (2017) Dollars



Source: Department of Labor and Employment (QCEW), Print Date: 05/13/2019

The inflation adjusted (real) average weekly wages for Custer County and Colorado are shown here. In 2016 dollars, wages in Colorado have been essentially unchanged since 2010. The gain or loss of a major employer such as a mine or a hospital can have a significant impact on a county's average weekly wage. These wages are shown only for jobs located within that county and do not include most proprietors. Household income can be influenced by the average weekly wage, but in areas that have considerable amounts commuting or unearned income this relationship is not particularly strong.

This table compares the forecast residential labor force to the forecast population of person age 16 and older for Custer County.

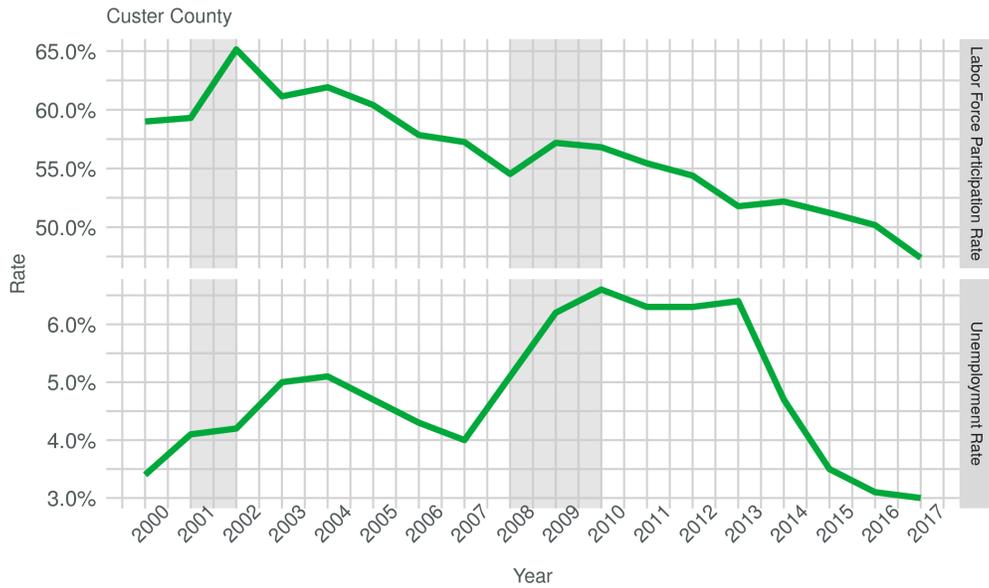
Table 12: Forecast Resident Labor Force and Population, Age 16 +

Custer County					
Year	Type	Labor Force	Annual Growth Rate: Labor Force	Persons Age 16+	Annual Growth Rate: Persons Age 16+
2010	Estimate	2,103		3,656	
2015	Estimate	2,033	0.7%	3,871	2.3%
2020	Forecast	2,059	0.0%	4,311	0.3%
2025	Forecast	1,986	-1.2%	4,295	-0.3%
2030	Forecast	2,036	1.2%	4,324	0.3%
2035	Forecast	2,124	0.7%	4,372	0.1%
2040	Forecast	2,210	0.9%	4,414	0.3%

Note:

Source: State Demography Office, Print Date: 05/13/2019

Labor Force Participation and Unemployment Rate 2000 to 2017



Source: State Demography Office and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Print Date: 05/13/2019
 Note: Grey shading represents beginning to bottom of U.S. recessions

The labor force participation and employment plot compares the percentage of persons age 16 and older in the labor force to the unemployment rate. The pattern of labor force participation and unemployment in Custer County are closely related. The downward trend in labor force participation is related to the aging patterns in the county, along with the availability and character of employment. Additionally, as unemployment falls, the incentive for people to enter the labor force increases.