

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Selected Geographies:

Gunnison County, CO

Benchmark Geography:

Delta County, [1]

Report Date:

September 20, 2023

Headwaters Economics

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

The National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators reporting tool makes socioeconomic data accessible and useful for Forest Service planning. The reporting tool is free and an ideal solution for Forest NEPA project documentation at all levels, from forest plans to categorical exclusions to large landscapes. The tool delivers county and Forest-level socioeconomic indicators that are defensible (accurate, relevant, and reliable) and establish appropriate context for monitoring National Forest contributions and impacts on surrounding communities.

For more detailed reports, try these other tools by Headwaters Economics:

Populations at Risk

Populations at risk are more likely to experience adverse social, health, and economic outcomes due to their race, age, gender, poverty status, and other socioeconomic measures.

Free and easy-to-use

Quickly create reports of current socioeconomic data in convenient formats, including Excel and PDF.

Available nation-wide

Build reports for geographies from states to census tracts. Aggregate multiple geographies into custom study areas.

Updated continuously

Make use of reliable, published government data. The Populations at Risk report always shows the latest available data and trends.

headwaterseconomics.org/par

Economic Profile System

The Economic Profile System (EPS) generates reports on a range of topics including local economics, demographics, and income sources while providing historic context and trends.

Free and easy-to-use

Like Populations at Risk, EPS is free, updated continuously, and easy-to-use.

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Access data from many sources, including the Census, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Labor Statistics, and others.

Widely used

For more than a decade, EPS has been used by researchers, economic developers, grant writers, elected officials, cities, planners, federal agencies, reporters, and others.

headwaterseconomics.org/eps

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

County Region

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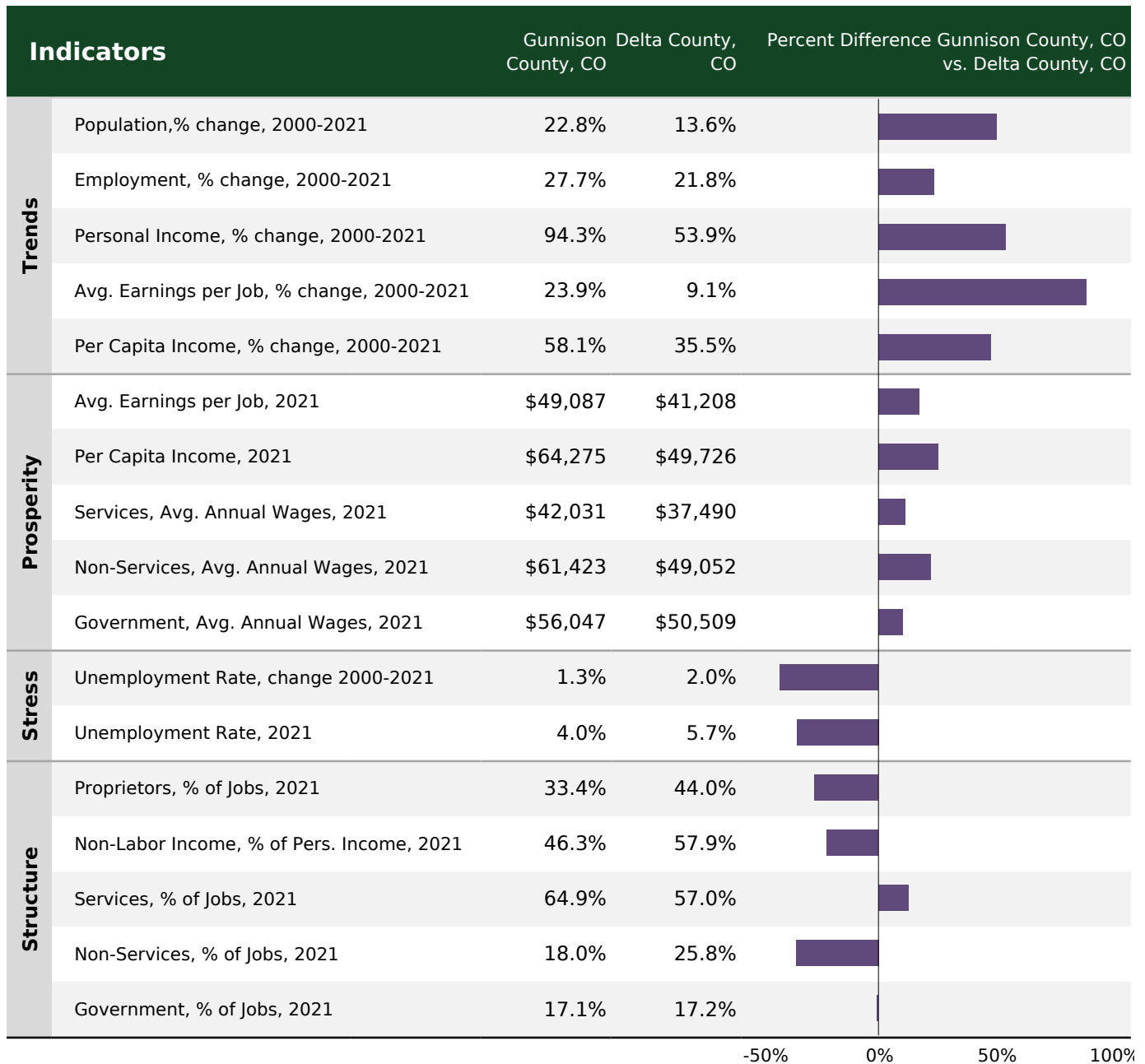
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National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Region Benchmarks



CITATION: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Labor. 2023. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Labor. 2023. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Washington, D.C.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Region Benchmarks

What do we measure on this page?

This page shows a quick comparison for indicators of economic performance that highlight how the region differs from the selected benchmark geography.

The percent, or relative, difference between the selected geography and the benchmark is calculated by dividing the difference between the values by the arithmetic mean of the values.

The term "benchmark" in this report should not be construed as having the same meaning as in the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).

Why is it important?

These indicators can be analyzed to get a comprehensive view of the economy.

When considering the benefits of growth, it is important to distinguish between standard of living (such as earnings per job and per capita income) and quality of life (such as leisure time, crime rate, and sense of well-being).

In some cases it may be appropriate to compare a local economy to the U.S. economy. In most cases, however, it will be more useful to compare county or regional economies with other similar county or regional economies. For example, if the region being analyzed is rural, it should be compared to similar regions because comparing against the U.S. will include data from large metropolitan areas.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

County Benchmarks

Indicators	Gunnison County, CO	Delta County, CO
Population, 2021	17,281	31,661
Trends		
Population % change, 1970-2021	124.3%	107.0%
Employment % change, 1970-2021	432.4%	171.7%
Personal Income % change, 1970-2021	668.0%	327.9%
Prosperity		
Unemployment rate, 2022	2.5%	3.6%
Average earnings per job, 2021 (2022 \$s)	\$49,087	\$41,208
Per capita income, 2021 (2022 \$s)	\$64,275	\$49,726
Economy		
Non-Labor % of personal income, 2021	46.3%	57.9%
Services % of employment, 2021	~64.9%	57.0%
Government % of employment, 2021	17.1%	17.2%
Use Sectors*		
Timber % of private employment, 2020	~0.0%	~1.7%
Mining % of private employment, 2020	4.2%	0.1%
Fossil fuels (oil, gas, & coal), 2020	~2.3%	~0.1%
Other mining, 2020	~1.9%	~0.0%
Agriculture % of employment, 2021	2.2%	9.8%
Travel & Tourism % of priv. emp., 2020	~28.6%	10.9%
Federal Land		
Federal Land % total land ownership	78.9%	55.3%
Forest Service %	60.8%	25.7%
BLM %	18.0%	29.5%
Park Service %	0.1%	0.0%
Military %	0.0%	0.0%
Other %	0.0%	0.1%
Fed. payments % of gov. revenue, 2017	0.8%	
Development		
Residential land area % change, 2000-2010	63.1%	36.8%
Wildland-Urban Interface % developed, 2010	7.6%	12.5%

Estimates for data that were not disclosed are indicated with tildes (~) and gray text.

*Data for timber, mining, and travel and tourism-related are from County Business Patterns which excludes proprietors. Data for agriculture are from Bureau of Economic Analysis which includes proprietors.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

County Benchmarks

What do we measure on this page?

This page shows a quick comparison for indicators of economic performance and land characteristics. The table allows you to compare performance and characteristics between counties that make up the region and selected comparison geography.

Trends: Refers to general indicators of economic well-being (population, employment, and real personal income) measured over time.

Prosperity: Refers to common indicators of individual well-being or hardship (unemployment, average earnings per job, and per capita income).

Economy: Refers to three significant areas of the economy: non-labor income (e.g., government transfer payments, and investment and retirement income), and services and government employment.

Use Sectors: Refers to components of the economy (commodity sectors including timber, mining and agriculture, and industries that include travel and tourism) that have the potential for being associated with the use of public lands.

Federal Land: Refers to the amount and type of federal land ownership, and the dependence of county governments on payments related to federal lands. Federal land payments (e.g., PILT) compensate state and local governments for non-taxable federal lands within their borders, and can be an important source of government revenue.

Development: Refers to the residential development of private lands, including the wildland-urban interface. The wildland-urban interface data are available and reported only for the 11 western public lands states (not including Alaska and Hawaii).

Some data are withheld by the federal government to avoid the disclosure of potentially confidential information. Headwaters Economics uses a standardized method to estimate these data gaps.^{1,2} Estimated values are indicated with tildes (~) and gray text.

Why is it important?

Land management actions may affect areas differently, depending on demographics, the makeup of the economy, and land use characteristics.

Use of this table is to explore similarities and differences within the counties that make up the region.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

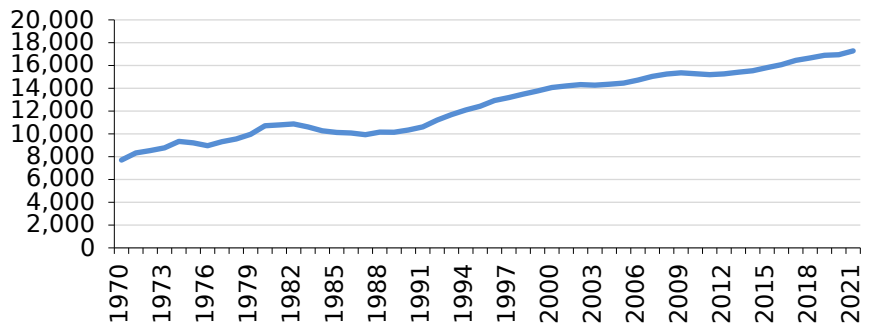
Trends in Population, Employment, and Personal Income

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2021	Change 2000-2021
Population	7,705	10,713	10,340	14,068	17,281	3,213
Employment (full & part-time jobs)	2,712	6,334	6,965	11,309	14,440	3,131
Personal Income (thous. of 2022 \$s)	144,619	296,009	322,253	571,770	1,110,742	538,972

Population and personal income are reported by place of residence, and employment by place of work on this page.

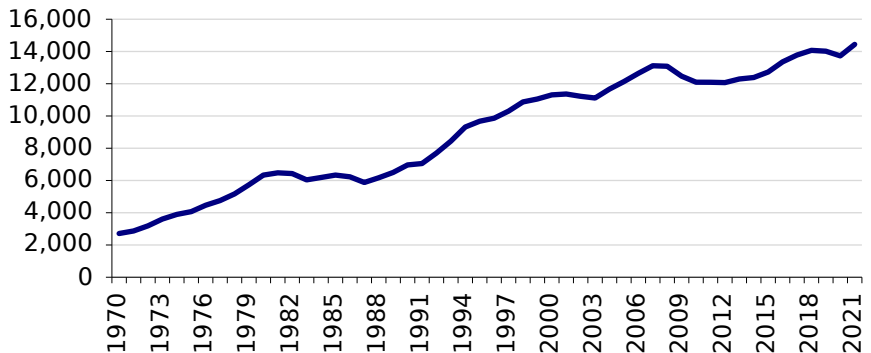
Population Trends, Gunnison County, CO

- From 1970 to 2021, population grew from 7,705 to 17,281 people, a 124% increase.



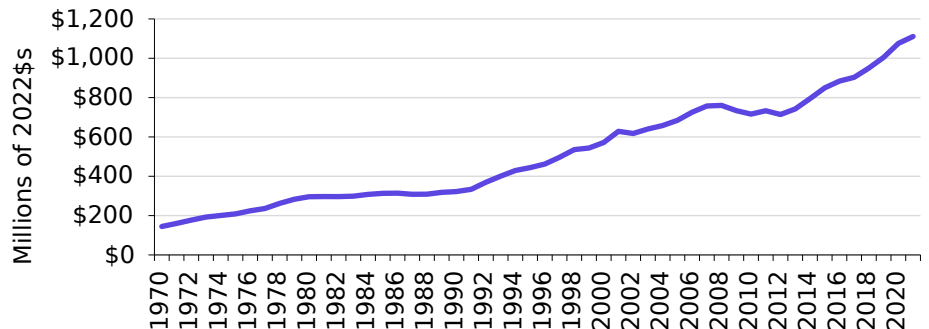
Employment Trends, Gunnison County, CO

- From 1970 to 2021, employment grew from 2,712 to 14,440, a 432% increase.



Personal Income Trends, Gunnison County, CO

- From 1970 to 2021, personal income grew from \$144.6 million to \$1,110.7 million, (in real terms), a 668% increase.



Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

Trends in Population, Employment, and Personal Income

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes trends in population, employment, and real personal income.

Population: The total number of people by place of residence.

Employment: All full and part-time workers, wage and salary jobs (employees), and proprietors (the self-employed) reported by place of work.

Personal Income: Income from wage and salary employment and proprietors' income (labor earnings), as well as non-labor income (dividends, interest, and rent, and transfer payments) reported by place of residence. All income figures in this report are shown in real terms (i.e., adjusted for inflation). Subsequent sections of this report define labor earnings and non-labor income in more detail.

Why is it important?

Long-term, steady growth of population, employment, and real personal income is generally an indication of a healthy, prosperous economy. Erratic growth, no-growth, or long-term decline in these indicators are generally an indication of a struggling economy.

Growth can benefit the general population of a place, especially by providing economic opportunities, but it can also stress communities, and lead to income stratification. When considering the benefits of growth, it is important to distinguish between standard of living (such as earnings per job and per capita income) and quality of life (such as leisure time, crime rate, and sense of well-being).

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Components of Population Change

	Change 2010-2022
Population Growth, 2010-2022	1,977
Average Annual Population Change (Natural Change & Net Migration)	180
From Natural Change	59
Births	126
Deaths	66
From Net Migration	121
International Migration	3
Domestic Migration	118
From Residual	0

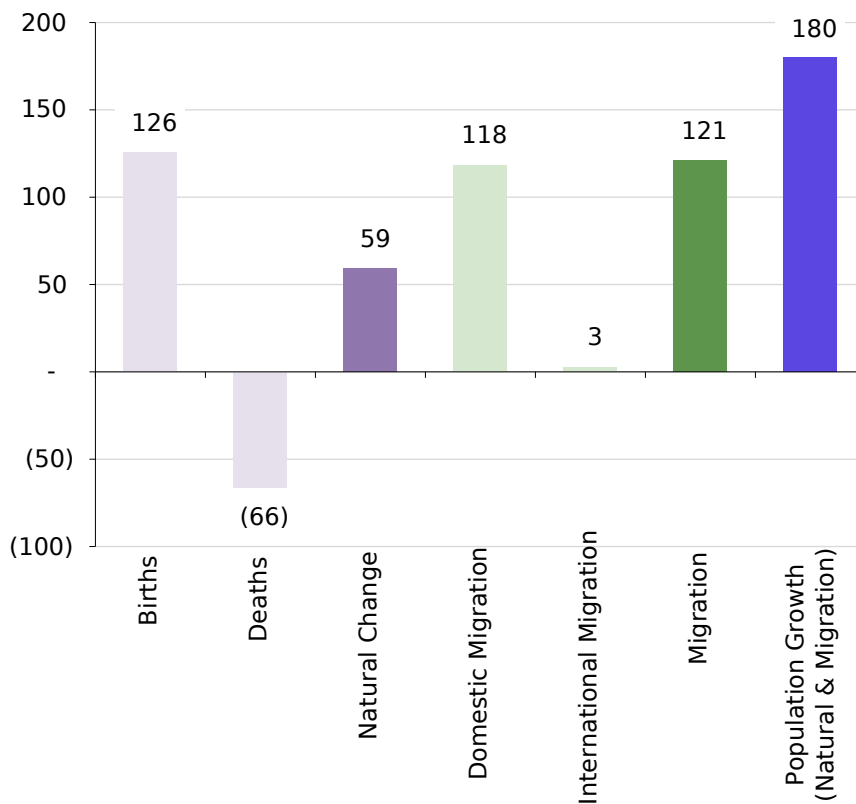
Factors Contributing to Population Change*, 2010-2022

Natural Change	32.8%
Net Migration	67.0%
Residual	0.1%

* The absolute value of the individual component of population change divided by the sum of the absolute values of the three components (natural change, net migration, and the residual).

Average Annual Components of Population Change, Gunnison County, CO, 2010-2022

- From 2010 to 2022, population grew by 1,977 people, a 13% increase.
- From 2010 to 2022, natural change contributed to 33% of population growth.
- From 2010 to 2022, migration contributed to 67% of population growth.



The Census Bureau makes a minor statistical correction, called a "residual" which is shown in the table above, but omitted from the figure. Because of this correction, natural change plus net migration may not add to total population change in the figure.

Components of Population Change

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes various components of population change and total population growth (or decline). Total population growth (or decline) is the sum of natural change (births & deaths) and migration (international & domestic).

The Bureau of the Census makes a minor statistical correction, called a "residual." This is defined by the Bureau of the Census as resulting from "two parts of the estimates process: 1) the application of national population controls to state and county population estimates and 2) the incorporation of accepted challenges and special censuses into the population estimates. The residual represents change in the population that cannot be attributed to any specific demographic component of population change."

Why is it important?

It is useful to understand the components of population change because it offers insight into the causes of growth or decline and it helps highlight important areas of inquiry. For example, if a large portion of population growth is from in-migration, it would be helpful to understand what the drivers are behind this trend, including whether people are moving to the area for jobs, quality of life, or both. If a large portion of population decline is from out-migration, it would similarly be important to understand the reasons, including the loss of employment in specific industries, youth leaving for education or new opportunities, and elderly people leaving for better medical facilities.^{3, 4}

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Employment by Industry

	2001	2005	2010	2021	Change 2010-2021
Total Employment (number of jobs)	11,363	12,133	12,095	14,440	2,345
Non-services related	~2,686	2,628	2,458	~2,604	~146
Farm	300	250	272	319	47
Forestry, fishing, & ag. services	~72	65	81	~86	~5
Mining (including fossil fuels)	676	756	853	426	-427
Construction	1,454	1,399	1,103	1,525	422
Manufacturing	184	158	149	248	99
Services related	~7,307	~7,848	7,592	~9,373	~1,781
Utilities	~61	~62	66	64	-2
Wholesale trade	~101	~98	74	81	7
Retail trade	1,237	1,232	1,083	1,286	203
Transportation and warehousing	163	164	124	212	88
Information	115	148	110	115	5
Finance and insurance	297	339	389	454	65
Real estate and rental and leasing	728	916	1,005	1,336	331
Professional and technical services	545	644	619	927	308
Management of companies and enterprises	~24	~20	37	~93	~56
Administrative and waste services	~428	~459	418	641	223
Educational services	197	250	174	176	2
Health care and social assistance	406	387	438	599	161
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	725	774	922	1,044	122
Accommodation and food services	1,637	1,643	1,435	1,577	142
Other services, except public administration	643	712	698	768	70
Government	1,599	1,799	2,045	2,473	428

Percent of Total

					% Change 2010-2021
Total Employment					19.4%
Non-services related	~23.6%	21.7%	20.3%	~18.0%	~5.9%
Farm	2.6%	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	17.3%
Forestry, fishing, & ag. services	~0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	~0.6%	~6.2%
Mining (including fossil fuels)	5.9%	6.2%	7.1%	3.0%	-50.1%
Construction	12.8%	11.5%	9.1%	10.6%	38.3%
Manufacturing	1.6%	1.3%	1.2%	1.7%	66.4%
Services related	~64.3%	~64.7%	62.8%	~64.9%	~23.5%
Utilities	~0.5%	~0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	-3.0%
Wholesale trade	~0.9%	~0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	9.5%
Retail trade	10.9%	10.2%	9.0%	8.9%	18.7%
Transportation and warehousing	1.4%	1.4%	1.0%	1.5%	71.0%
Information	1.0%	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%	4.5%
Finance and insurance	2.6%	2.8%	3.2%	3.1%	16.7%
Real estate and rental and leasing	6.4%	7.5%	8.3%	9.3%	32.9%
Professional and technical services	4.8%	5.3%	5.1%	6.4%	49.8%
Management of companies and enterprises	~0.2%	~0.2%	0.3%	~0.6%	~151.4%
Administrative and waste services	~3.8%	~3.8%	3.5%	4.4%	53.3%
Educational services	1.7%	2.1%	1.4%	1.2%	1.1%
Health care and social assistance	3.6%	3.2%	3.6%	4.1%	36.8%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	6.4%	6.4%	7.6%	7.2%	13.2%
Accommodation and food services	14.4%	13.5%	11.9%	10.9%	9.9%
Other services, except public administration	5.7%	5.9%	5.8%	5.3%	10.0%
Government	14.1%	14.8%	16.9%	17.1%	20.9%

All employment data are reported by *place of work*. Estimates for data that were not disclosed are indicated with tildes (~) and gray text.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Employment by Industry

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes recent employment change by industry from 2001 to 2008. Industries are organized according to three major categories: non-services related, services related, and government. Employment includes wage and salary jobs and proprietors. The employment data are organized according to the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) and reported by place of work.⁵

Some data are withheld by the federal government to avoid the disclosure of potentially confidential information. Headwaters Economics uses a standardized method to estimate these data gaps. Estimated values are indicated with tildes (~) and gray text.^{1,2}

Why is it important?

In most geographies the majority of new job growth in recent years has taken place in services related industries.^{6, 10}

Services related industries encompass a wide variety of high and low-wage occupations ranging from jobs in accommodation and food services to professional and technical services.

It can be useful to ask what factors are driving a shift in industry makeup and competitive position. It may be the case that the economic role and contribution of public lands have changed along with broader economic shifts in many geographies.^{7, 8, 9}

The terms non-services related and services related are not terms used by the U.S. Department of Commerce. They are used in these pages to help organize the information into easy-to-understand categories.¹¹

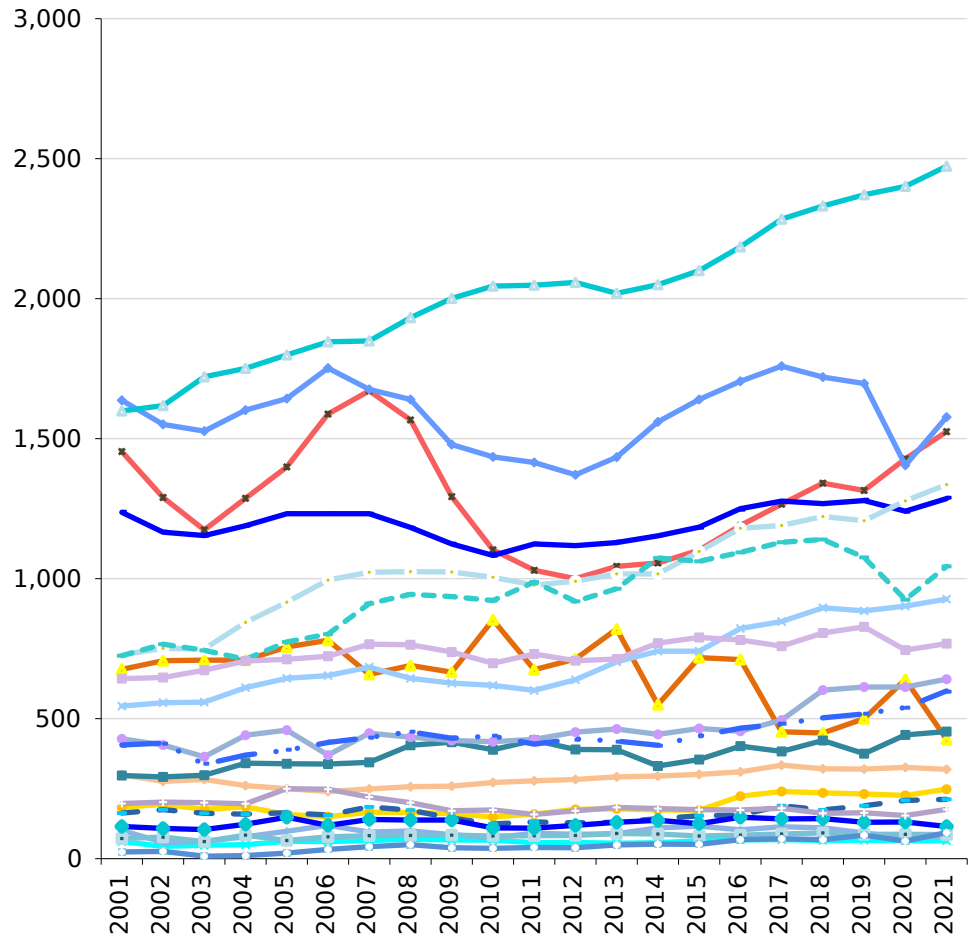
National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Employment by Industry

Employment by Industry, Gunnison County, CO

- In 2021 the three industry sectors with the largest number of jobs were government (2,473 jobs), accommodation and food services (1,577 jobs), and real estate and rental and leasing (1,336 jobs).
- From 2001 to 2021, the three industry sectors that added the most new jobs were government (874 new jobs), real estate and rental and leasing (608 new jobs), and professional and technical services (382 new jobs).



- Farm
- Construction
- Mining (incl. fossil fuels)
- Mfg. (incl. forest products)
- Utilities
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Forestry, Fishing, & Ag. Services
- Transportation & Warehousing
- Information
- Finance & Insurance
- Real estate, rental, & leasing
- Professional, scientific, & technical
- Mgmt. of Companies
- Admin., Waste Services
- Educational Services
- Health Care & Social Assist.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

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National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

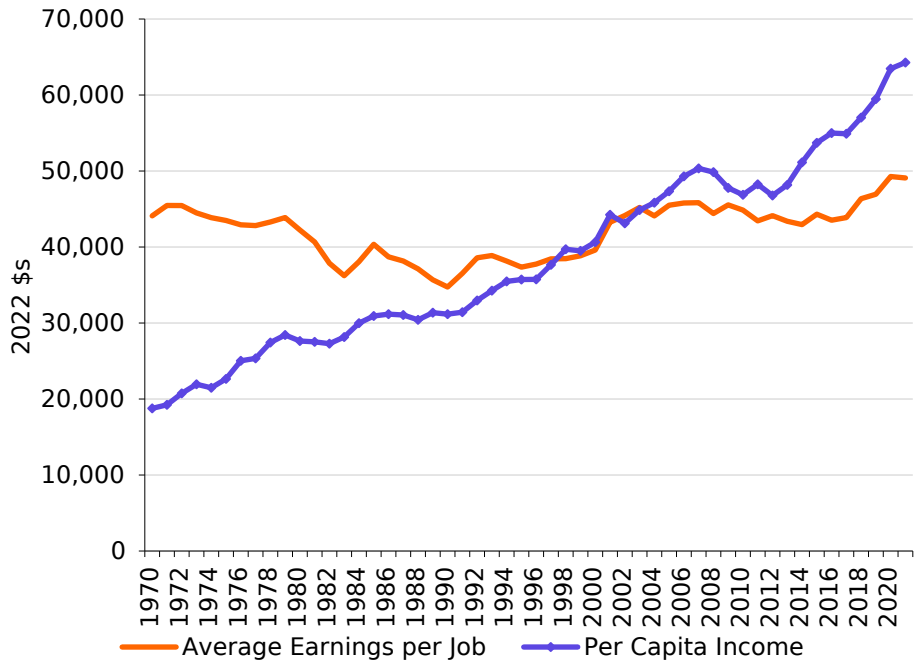
Gunnison County, CO

Average Earnings per Job and Per Capita Income

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2021	Change 2000-2021
Average Earnings per Job, 2022 \$s	\$44,101	\$42,239	\$34,740	\$39,604	\$49,087	\$9,483
Per Capita Income, 2022 \$s	\$18,769	\$27,631	\$31,166	\$40,643	\$64,275	\$23,632
Percent Change						% Change 2000-2021
Average Earnings per Job						23.9%
Per Capita Income						58.1%

Average Earnings per Job & Per Capita Income, Gunnison County, CO

- From 1970 to 2021, average earnings per job grew from \$44,101 to \$49,087 (in real terms), a 11% increase.
- From 1970 to 2021, per capita income grew from \$18,769 to \$64,275 (in real terms), a 242% increase.



Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Average Earnings per Job and Per Capita Income

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes how average earnings per job and per capita income (in real terms) have changed over time.

Average Earnings per Job: This is a measure of the compensation of the average job. It is total earnings divided by total employment. Full-time and part-time jobs are counted at equal weight. Employees, sole proprietors, and active partners are included.

Per Capita Income: This is a measure of income per person. It is total personal income (from labor and non-labor sources) divided by total population.

Why is it important?

Average earnings per job is an indicator of the quality of local employment. A higher average earnings per job indicates that there are relatively more high-wage occupations. It can be useful to consider earnings against local cost of living indicators.^{12, 13}

There are a number of reasons why average earnings per job may decline. These include: 1) more part-time and/or seasonal workers entering the workforce; 2) a rise in low-wage industries, such as tourism-related sectors; 3) a decline of high-wage industries, such as manufacturing; 4) more lower-paid workers entering the workforce; 5) the presence of a university with increasing an enrollment of relatively low-wage students; 6) an influx of workers with low education levels that are paid less; 7) the in-migration of semi-retired workers who work part-time and/or seasonally; and 8) an influx of people who move to an area for quality of life rather than profit-maximizing reasons.¹⁴

Per capita income is considered one of the most important measures of economic well-being. However, this measure can be misleading. Per capita income is total personal income divided by population. Because total personal income includes non-labor income sources (dividends, interest, rent and transfer payments), it is possible for per capita income to be relatively high due to the presence of retirees and people with investment income.¹⁵ And because per capita income is calculated using total population and not the labor force as in average earnings per job, it is possible for per capita income to be relatively low when there are a disproportionate number of children and/or elderly people in the population.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Non-labor Income

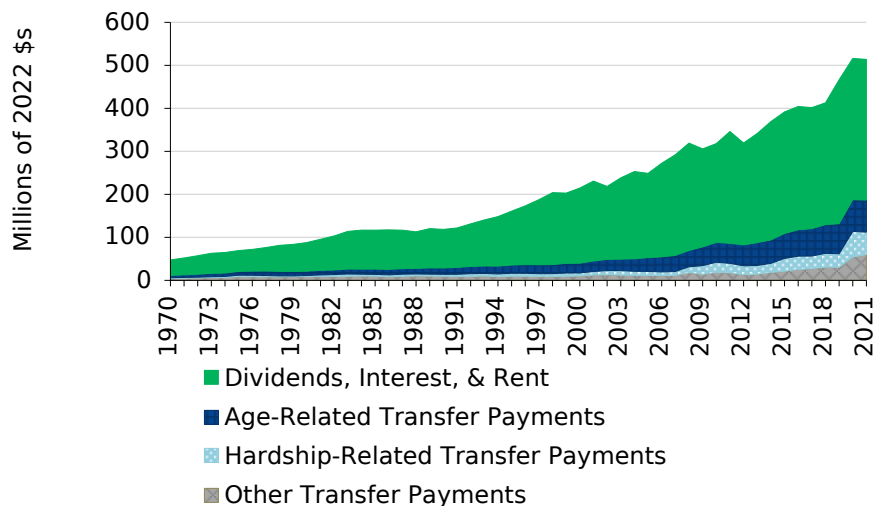
	Gunnison County, CO	Delta County, CO
Total Personal Income (thous. of 2022 \$s)	1,110,742	1,574,362
Total Non-Labor Income	513,957	910,781
Dividends, Interest, Rent	327,251	347,397
Age-Related Transfer Payments	74,496	273,055
Social Security	45,482	168,035
Medicare	29,014	105,020
Hardship-Related Payments	52,578	163,272
Medicaid	29,328	93,396
Income maintenance ("welfare")	10,179	47,004
Unemployment ins. compensation	13,070	22,872
Other Transfer Payments	59,632	127,057
Veterans benefits	5,349	29,376
Education and training assistance	5,759	6,903
All other, incl. Workers' comp.	48,524	90,777

Percent of Total Personal Income

Total Non-Labor Income	46.3%	57.9%
Dividends, Interest, Rent	29.5%	22.1%
Age-Related Transfer Payments	6.7%	17.3%
Social Security	4.1%	10.7%
Medicare	2.6%	6.7%
Hardship-Related Payments	4.7%	10.4%
Medicaid	2.6%	5.9%
Income maintenance ("welfare")	0.9%	3.0%
Unemployment ins. compensation	1.2%	1.5%
Other Transfer Payments	5.4%	8.1%
Veterans benefits	0.5%	1.9%
Education and training assistance	0.5%	0.4%
All other, incl. Workers' comp.	4.4%	5.8%

Components of Non-Labor Income, Gunnison County, CO

- From 1970 to 2021, dividends, interest, and rent grew from \$36 million to \$327 million, an increase of 805 percent.
- From 1970 to 2021, age-related transfer payments grew from \$5 million to \$74 million, an increase of 1,285 percent.
- From 1970 to 2021, income maintenance transfer payments grew from \$2 million to \$53 million, an increase of 3,116 percent.



Data Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Washington, D.C.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Non-labor Income

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the components of non-labor income, how they have changed over time (in real terms).

Dividends, Interest, and Rent: This includes personal dividend income, personal interest income, and rental income of persons with capital consumption adjustment that are sometimes referred to as "investment income" or "property income."

Age-Related Transfer Payments: This measures Medicare and Social Security benefits.

Hardship-Related Transfer Payments: These payments are associated with poverty and include Medicaid, Food Stamps (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Unemployment Insurance, and other income maintenance benefits.

Other Transfer Payments: All other components of transfer payments not identified in age and hardship-related categories including veterans benefits, education and training, Workers' Compensation Insurance, railroad retirement and disability, other government retirement and disability, and other receipts of individuals and non-profits.

Why is it important?

In some geographies, non-labor income has grown rapidly over the last three decades, while in others it has not. Also, some geographies are more dependent on non-labor sources of income than others.^{15, 16}

Because non-labor income is often so significant, it is important to understand component details. Some places may rely more on investment income, others on retirement benefits, and still others on welfare-related income streams. The table shows absolute values and percent of total non-labor income, while the figure shows key long-term trends.

Some important metrics include the largest components of non-labor income, whether non-labor income is growing, which components are growing the fastest, whether investment earnings are significant and growing, and whether age-related components of transfer payments are significant and growing. Also worth considering is whether the growth in non-labor income stems from new investment and age-related income and whether poverty-related components of transfer payments are significant and growing.^{17, 18}

If age-related transfer payments are significant and growing, it may be important to consider whether public lands resources are meeting the needs of an aging population. If poverty-related transfer payments are significant and growing, it may be important to consider whether there are environmental justice issues related to public lands management.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

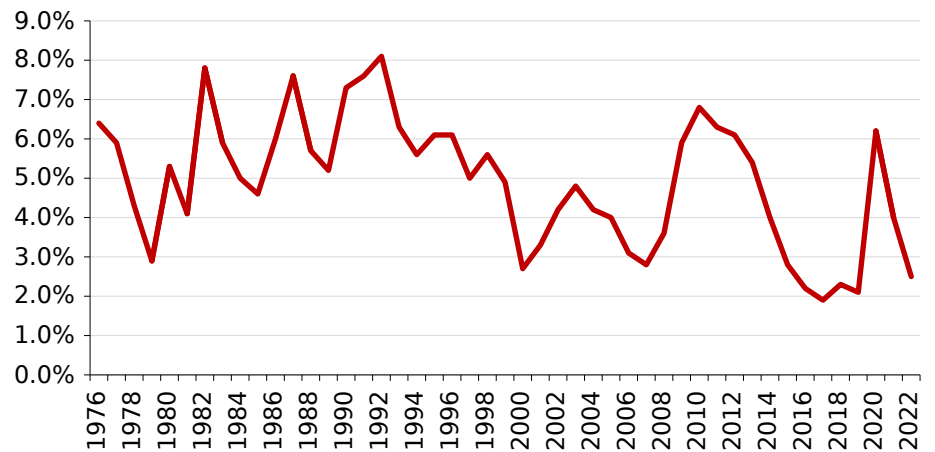
Gunnison County, CO

Unemployment Rate

	1976	1990	2000	2010	2022	Change 2010-2022
Unemployment Rate (Average Annual)	6.4%	7.3%	2.7%	6.8%	2.5%	-4.3%

Unemployment Rate (Average Annual), Gunnison County, CO

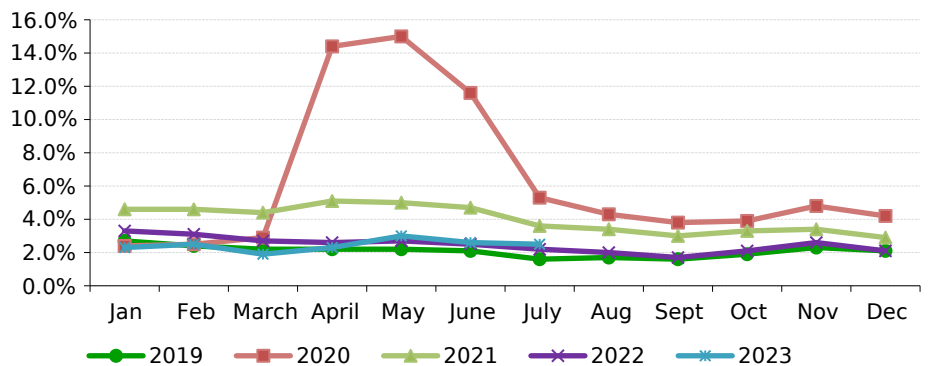
- Since 1976, the annual unemployment rate ranged from a low of 1.9% in 2017 to a high of 8.1% in 1992.



	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2019	2.7%	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.9%	2.3%	2.1%
2020	2.4%	2.5%	2.9%	14.4%	15.0%	11.6%	5.3%	4.3%	3.8%	3.9%	4.8%	4.2%
2021	4.6%	4.6%	4.4%	5.1%	5.0%	4.7%	3.6%	3.4%	3.0%	3.3%	3.4%	2.9%
2022	3.3%	3.1%	2.7%	2.6%	2.7%	2.5%	2.2%	2.0%	1.7%	2.1%	2.6%	2.1%
2023	2.3%	2.5%	1.9%	2.3%	3.0%	2.6%	2.5%					

Unemployment Rate (Monthly), Gunnison County, CO

- The lowest monthly unemployment rate was July of 2019. The highest monthly unemployment rate was May of 2020.



Data Sources: U.S. Department of Labor. 2023. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Washington, D.C.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Unemployment Rate

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the average annual unemployment rate and the seasonality of the unemployment rate over time.

The figure Average Annual Unemployment Rate shows the rate of unemployment since 1990. The figure Seasonal Unemployment Rate shows the rate of unemployment for the last five years, for each month of the year. This figure is useful to see if there are higher rates of unemployment during certain months of the year, and whether this has changed over time.

Unemployment Rate: The number of people who are jobless, looking for jobs, and available for work divided by the labor force.

Data begin in 1990 because prior to that the Bureau of Labor Statistics used a different method to calculate the unemployment rate.

Why is it important?

The rate of unemployment is an important indicator of economic well-being.¹⁹ This figure can go up during national recessions and/or when more localized economies are affected by area downturns. There can also be significant seasonal variations in unemployment.

It is important to know how the unemployment rate has changed over time²⁰, whether there are periods of the year where the rate is higher or lower, and if this seasonality of unemployment has changed over time. Geographies that are heavily dependent on the tourism industry, for example, may show higher rates of unemployment during Spring and Fall "shoulder seasons." Places that rely heavily on the construction industry, for example, may have lower unemployment rates during the non-winter months.

As the economy of a place diversifies, it can become more resilient and less affected by downturns and rising unemployment rates. This is particularly true of places that are able to attract in-migration, retain manufacturing, and support a high-tech economy.²¹

Public land agencies sometimes provide seasonal employment and may have an effect on the local rate of unemployment.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Families in Poverty

	Gunnison County, CO	Delta County, CO
Total families for whom poverty status is determined, 2021*	3,688	7,559
Families in poverty	239	928
Families with children in poverty	125	645
Single mother families in poverty	84	272

Percent of Total, 2021*

Families in poverty	6.5%	12.3%
Families with children in poverty	3.4%	8.5%
Single mother families in poverty	2.3%	3.6%

Change in Percentage Points, 2010*-2021*

For example, if the value is 3% in 2010* and 4.5% in 2021*, the reported change in percentage points is 1.5.

Families in poverty	4.9	2.5
Families with children in poverty	2.0	0.9
Single mother families in poverty	1.2	-0.9

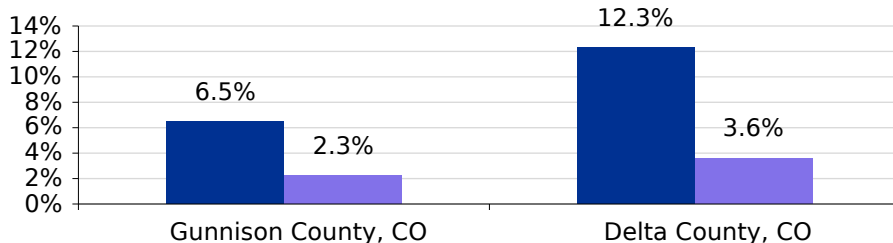
High Reliability: Data with coefficients of variation (CVs) < 12% are in black to indicate that the sampling error is relatively small.

Medium Reliability: Data with CVs between 12 & 40% are in orange to indicate that the values should be interpreted with caution.

Low Reliability: Data with CVs > 40% are displayed in red to indicate that the estimate is considered very unreliable.

Families in Poverty, Percent of Total, 2021*

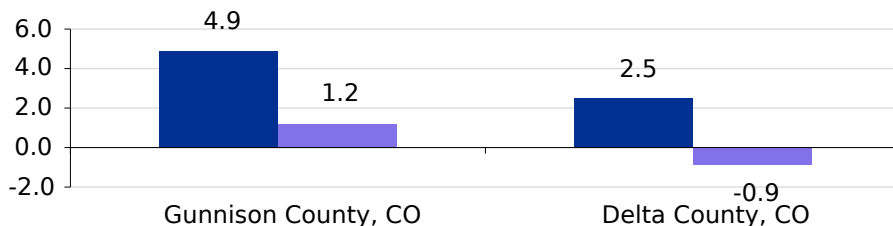
- Delta County, CO has the largest share of single mother families in poverty (3.6%).



■ Families in poverty ■ Single mother families in poverty

Families in Poverty, Change in Percentage Points, 2010*-2021*

- The largest change in the share of single mother families in poverty occurred in Gunnison County, CO, which went from 1.1% to 2.3%.



■ Families in poverty ■ Single mother families in poverty

* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021; 2010 represents 2006-2010.

CITATION: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Families in Poverty

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of families living below the poverty line, and separately reports families with children and single mother families with children.

The Census defines a family as a group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

The Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to define who is poor. If the total income for a family or an unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or an unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Why is it important?

Families in poverty may lack the resources to meet their basic needs. Their challenges cross the spectrum of food, housing, health care, education, vulnerability to natural disasters, and emotional stress.

To save money, families with low incomes often have to make lifestyle compromises such as unhealthy foods, less food, substandard housing, or delayed medical care.²²

Lack of financial resources makes families in poverty more vulnerable to natural disasters. This is due to inadequate housing, social exclusion, and an inability to re-locate or evacuate.^{21, 23, 24}

Inadequate shelter exposes occupants to increased risk from storms, floods, fire, and temperature extremes.²³ Households with low incomes are more likely to have unhealthy housing such as leaks, mold, or rodents.²⁴

The expense of running fans, air conditioners, and heaters makes low-income people hesitant to mitigate the temperature of their living spaces.^{22, 23} Furthermore, those in high-crime areas may not want to open their windows.²³

Families in poverty are disproportionately affected by higher food prices, which are expected to rise in response to climate change.²²

Children in poor families, on average, receive fewer years of education compared to children in wealthier families.^{25, 26}

Low-income residents are less likely to have adequate property insurance, so they may bear an even greater burden from property damage due to natural hazards.²³

Living in poverty can lead to a lack of personal control over potentially hazardous situations such as increased air pollution or flooding. Impoverished families may be less likely to take proactive measures to prevent harm.²⁴

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Households Receiving Public Assistance

	Gunnison County, CO	Delta County, CO
Total Households, 2021*	7,100	12,143
Households receiving:		
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	157	771
Cash public assistance income	302	612
Food Stamp/SNAP	518	1,480

Percent of Total, 2021*

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	2.2%	6.3%
Cash public assistance income	4.3%	5.0%
Food Stamp/SNAP	7.3%	12.2%

Change in Percentage Points, 2010*-2021*

For example, if the value is 3% in 2010* and 4.5% in 2021*, the reported change in percentage points is 1.5.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	1.8	3.5
Cash public assistance income	2.5	3.4
Food Stamp/SNAP	3.9	4.4

Median Household Income (MHI), 2021*

(2022 \$s)	\$68,408	\$55,947
Change in MHI, 2010*-2021* (2022 \$s)	\$2,172	\$1,662

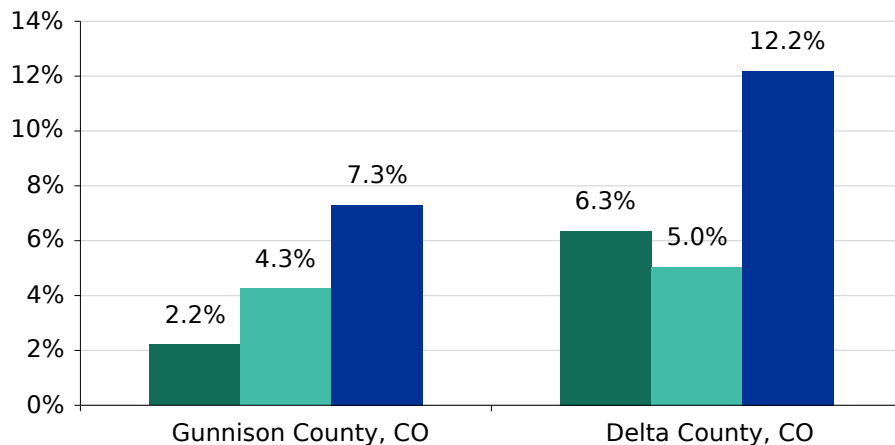
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Percent of Households Receiving Earnings, by Source, 2021*

- Delta County, CO has the largest share of households receiving Supplemental Security Income (6.3%).
- Delta County, CO has the largest share of households receiving cash public assistance (5.0%).
- Delta County, CO has the largest share of households receiving Food Stamps/SNAP (12.2%).



- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Cash public assistance income
- Food Stamp/SNAP

* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021; 2010 represents 2006-2010.

CITATION: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Households Receiving Public Assistance

What do we measure on this page?

This page describes the number of households receiving public assistance.

Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, provides financial assistance to people with limited income who are aged, blind, or disabled. Unlike Social Security benefits, which are determined by the recipient's lifetime earnings, SSI benefits are not based on prior work.²⁷

Cash public assistance can be from the Federal program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or various state-level cash assistance programs. It does not include separate payments received for hospital or other medical care (vendor payments) or SSI or noncash benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, (formerly known as food stamps), provides benefits to those who are unemployed, have no or low incomes, are elderly, are disabled with low incomes, or are homeless. The income threshold for SNAP varies with household size and other factors. SNAP benefits can be used to purchase grocery items such as breads, cereals, fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy products.²⁸

Median income can be used to identify areas of high or low income, but care should be taken to consider regional differences in cost of living.

Why is it important?

The number of households receiving public assistance are indicative of households living in poverty or with insufficient resources.

In 2011, families receiving public assistance spent 77 percent of their household budget to meet the basic necessities of housing, food, and transportation.²⁹

Payments associated with economic hardship are associated with lower household income and educational attainment, higher poverty and unemployment. They are often high in communities that are losing population.¹⁵

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Race & Ethnicity

	Gunnison County, CO	Delta County, CO
Total Population, 2021*	16,851	31,133
White alone	15,609	28,539
All other races	1,242	2,594
Black or African American	149	418
American Indian	120	173
Other races	973	2,003
Hispanic ethnicity	1,641	4,809
Non-Hispanic ethnicity	15,210	26,324

Percent of Total, 2021*

White alone	92.6%	91.7%
All other races	7.4%	8.3%
Black or African American	0.9%	1.3%
American Indian	0.7%	0.6%
Other races	5.8%	6.4%
Hispanic ethnicity	9.7%	15.4%
Non-Hispanic ethnicity	90.3%	84.6%

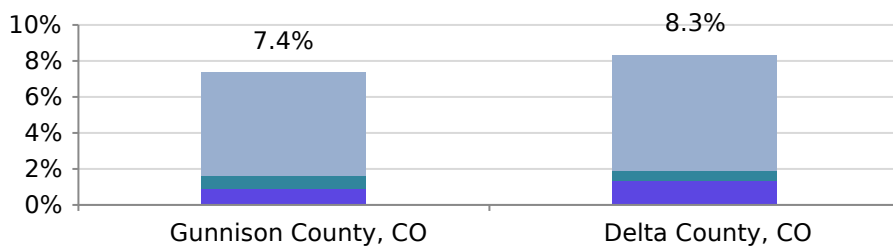
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People of Color, Percent of Total, 2021*

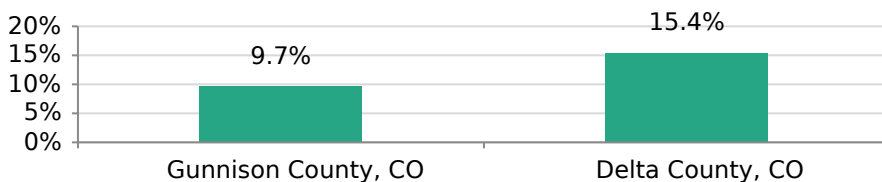
- Delta County, CO has the largest share of people of color (8.3%).



■ Black or African American ■ American Indian ■ Other races

Hispanic Population, Percent of Total, 2021*

- Delta County, CO has the largest share of Hispanics (15.4%).



* ACS 5-year estimates used. 2021 represents average characteristics from 2017-2021; 2010 represents 2006-2010.

CITATION: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2022. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Washington, D.C.

Race & Ethnicity

What do we measure on this page?

Race is self-identified by Census respondents who choose the race or races with which they most closely identify. Included in "Other Races" are "Asian," "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander," and respondents providing write-in entries such as multiracial, mixed, or interracial.

Ethnicity has two categories: Hispanic or Latino, and Non-Hispanic or Latino. The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race.

Why is it important?

Race and ethnicity are strongly correlated with disparities in health, exposure to environmental pollution, and vulnerability to natural hazards.²²

Research consistently has found race-based environmental inequities across many variables, including the tendency for minority populations to live closer to noxious facilities and Superfund sites, and to be exposed to pollution at greater rates than whites.^{22, 30}

Many health outcomes are closely related to the local environment. Minority communities often have less access to parks and nutritious food, and are more likely to live in substandard housing.²²

Minorities tend to be particularly vulnerable to disasters and extreme heat events. This is due to language skills, housing patterns, quality of housing, community isolation, and cultural barriers.^{31, 32}

Blacks and Hispanics, two segments of the population that are currently experiencing poorer health outcomes, are an increasing percentage of the US population.^{22, 33}

Research has identified measurable disparities in health outcomes between various minority and ethnic communities.

Across races, the rates of preventable hospitalizations are highest among black and Hispanic populations. Preventable hospital visits often reflect inadequate access to primary care. These types of hospital visits are also costly and inefficient for the health care system.²⁵

Relative to other ethnicities and races, Hispanics and blacks are less likely to have health insurance, but rates of uninsured are dropping for both groups.³⁴

Compared to other races, blacks have higher rates of infant mortality, homicide, heart disease, stroke, and heat-related deaths.²⁵

Hispanics have higher rates of diabetes and asthma.²⁵

American Indians have a distinct pattern of health effects different from blacks and Hispanics. Native populations are less likely to have electricity than the general population.²³ They have high rates of infant mortality, suicide and homicide, and nearly twice the rate of motor vehicle deaths than the U.S. average.²⁵

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Federal Land Payments by Geography of Origin

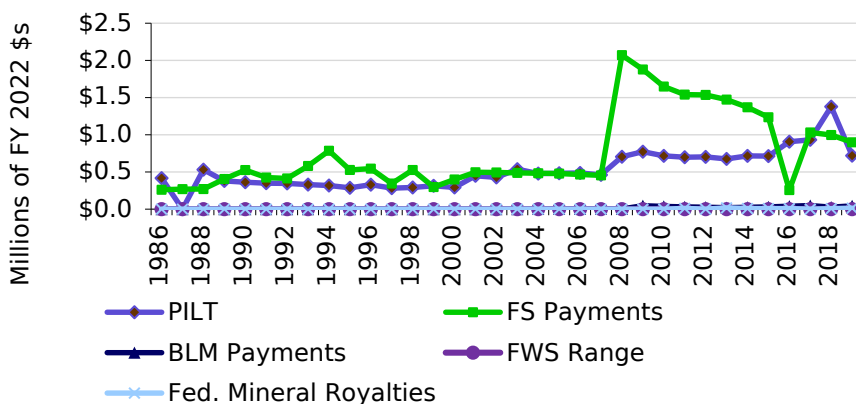
	Gunnison County, CO	Delta County, CO
Total Federal Land Payments to State and Local Gov., FY 2019 (FY 2022 \$s)	1,676,268	1,222,204
PILT	719,273	1,015,433
Forest Service Payments	898,902	202,172
BLM Payments	44,331	3,994
USFWS Refuge Payments	0	605
Federal Mineral Royalties	13,762	0

Percent of Total

PILT	42.9%	83.1%
Forest Service Payments	53.6%	16.5%
BLM Payments	2.6%	0.3%
USFWS Refuge Payments	0.0%	0.0%
Federal Mineral Royalties	0.8%	0.0%

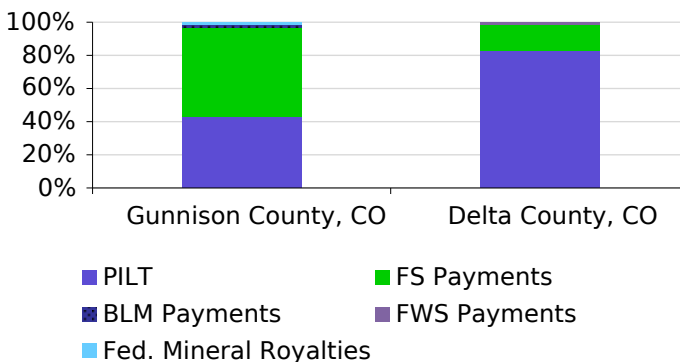
Components of Fed. Land Payments per FY, Gunnison County, CO

- From FY 1986 to FY 2019, Forest Service revenue sharing payments grew from \$260,979 to \$898,902, an increase of 244 percent.
- From FY 1986 to FY 2019, BLM revenue sharing payments grew from \$0 to \$44,331.



Components of Fed. Land Payments, FY 2019

- In FY 2019, Forest Service Payments made up the largest percent of federal land payments in Gunnison County, CO (53.6%), and USFWS Refuge Payments made up the smallest (0%).



Data Sources: U.S. Department of Interior. 2020. Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), , Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2020. Forest Service, , Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Interior. 2018. Bureau of Land Management, , Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Interior. 2020. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, , Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Interior. 2020. Office of Natural Resources Revenue, , Washington, D.C.

National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

Federal Land Payments by Geography of Origin

What do we measure on this page?

Federal land payments: These are federal payments that compensate state and local governments for non-taxable federal lands within their borders. Payments are funded by federal appropriations (e.g., PILT) and from receipts received by federal agencies from activities on federal public lands (e.g., timber, grazing, and minerals).

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT): These payments compensate county governments for non-taxable federal lands within their borders. PILT is based on a maximum per-acre payment reduced by the sum of all revenue sharing payments and subject to a population cap.

Forest Service Revenue Sharing: These are payments based on USFS receipts and must be used for county roads and local schools. Payments include the 25% Fund, Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act, and Bankhead-Jones Forest Grasslands.

BLM Revenue Sharing: The BLM shares a portion of receipts generated on public lands with state and local governments, including grazing fees through the Taylor Grazing Act and timber receipts generated on Oregon and California (O & C) grant lands.

USFWS Refuge: These payments share a portion of receipts from National Wildlife Refuges and other areas managed by the USFWS directly with the counties in which they are located.

Federal Mineral Royalties: These payments are distributed to state governments by the U.S. Office of Natural Resources Revenue. States may share, at their discretion, a portion of revenues with the local governments where royalties were generated.

Federal Fiscal Year: FY refers to the federal fiscal year that begins on October 1 and ends September 30.

Why is it important?

State and local government cannot tax federally owned lands the way they would if the land were privately owned. A number of federal programs exist to compensate county governments for the presence of federal lands. These programs can represent a significant portion of local government revenue in rural counties with large federal land holdings.^{35, 36}

Before 1976, federal payments were linked directly to receipts generated on public lands. Congress funded PILT with appropriations beginning in 1977 in recognition of the volatility and inadequacy of federal revenue sharing programs. PILT was intended to stabilize and increase federal land payments to county governments. More recently, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS) decoupled USFS payments from commercial receipts. SRS received broad support because it addressed several major concerns around receipt-based programs--volatility, the payment, and the incentives provided to counties by linking federal land payments directly to extractive uses of public lands.

PILT and SRS each received a significant increase in federal appropriations in FY 2008 through the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. Despite the increased appropriations, SRS is authorized only through FY 2011, PILT only through FY 2012, and federal budget concerns are creating uncertainty for the future of both.³⁷

Data Limitations: Local government distributions of federal land payments may be underreported due to data limitations from USFWS, ONRR, and some states that make discretionary distributions of mineral royalties and some BLM payments. USFWS data limitations are relatively insignificant at the federal level, but may be important to specific local governments with significant USFWS acreage. Federal mineral royalties represent a more significant omission in states that share a portion of royalties with local governments.

Data Sources: U.S. Department of Interior. 2020. Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2020. Forest Service, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Interior. 2018. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Interior. 2020. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Interior. 2020. Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Washington, D.C.

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Gunnison County, CO

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National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

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National Forest Socioeconomic Indicators

Gunnison County, CO

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