

# 2015 ALAMOSA COUNTY PROPERTY ASSESSMENT STUDY







September 15, 2015

Mr. Mike Mauer Director of Research Colorado Legislative Council Room 029, State Capitol Building Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Final Report for the 2015 Colorado Property Assessment Study

Dear Mr. Mauer:

Wildrose Appraisal Inc.-Audit Division is pleased to submit the Final Reports for the 2015 Colorado Property Assessment Study.

These reports are the result of two analyses: A procedural audit and a statistical audit.

The procedural audit examines all classes of property. It specifically looks at how the assessor develops economic areas, confirms and qualifies sales, develops time adjustments and performs periodic physical property inspections. The audit reviews the procedures for determining subdivision absorption and subdivision discounting. Valuation methodology is examined for residential properties and commercial properties. Procedures are reviewed for producing mines, oil and gas leaseholds and lands producing, producing coal mines, producing earth and stone products, severed mineral interests, and non-producing patented mining claims.

Statistical audits are performed on vacant land, residential properties, commercial/industrial properties and agricultural land. A statistical analysis is performed for personal property compliance on the eleven largest counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo and Weld. The remaining counties receive a personal property procedural study.

Wildrose Appraisal Inc. – Audit Division appreciates the opportunity to be of service to the State of Colorado. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Harry J. Fuller Project Manager

Harry J. Zulln

Wildrose Appraisal Inc. - Audit Division



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	
Regional/Historical Sketch of Alamosa County	
Ratio Analysis	
Time Trending Verification	
Sold/Unsold Analysis	
Agricultural Land Study	
Agricultural Land	
Agricultural Outbuildings	
Agricultural Land Under Improvements	
Sales Verification	14
Economic Area Review and Evaluation	
Natural Resources	
Earth and Stone Products	
Vacant Land	18
Possessory Interest Properties	19
Personal Property Audit	
Wildrose Auditor Staff	
Appendices	



# INTRODUCTION



The State Board of Equalization (SBOE) reviews assessments for conformance to the Constitution. The SBOE will order revaluations for counties whose valuations do not reflect the proper valuation period level of value.

The statutory basis for the audit is found in C.R.S. 39-1-104 (16)(a)(b) and (c).

The legislative council sets forth two criteria that are the focus of the audit group:

To determine whether each county assessor is applying correctly the constitutional and statutory provisions, compliance requirements of the State Board of Equalization, and the manuals published by the State Property Tax Administrator to arrive at the actual value of each class of property.

To determine if each assessor is applying correctly the provisions of law to the actual values when arriving at valuations for assessment of all locally valued properties subject to the property tax.

The property assessment audit conducts a two-part analysis: A procedural analysis and a statistical analysis.

The procedural analysis includes all classes of property and specifically looks at how the assessor develops economic areas, confirms and qualifies sales, and develops time adjustments. The audit also examines the procedures for adequately discovering, classifying and valuing agricultural outbuildings, discovering subdivision build-out subdivision and discounting procedures. Valuation methodology for vacant land, improved properties commercial residential and properties is examined. Procedures for producing mines, oil and gas leaseholds and lands producing, producing coal mines, producing earth and stone products, severed mineral interests and non-producing patented mining claims are also reviewed.

Statistical analysis is performed on vacant land, residential properties, commercial industrial properties, agricultural land, and personal property. The statistical study results are compared with State Board of Equalization compliance requirements and the manuals published by the State Property Tax Administrator.

Wildrose Audit has completed the Property Assessment Study for 2015 and is pleased to report its findings for Alamosa County in the following report.

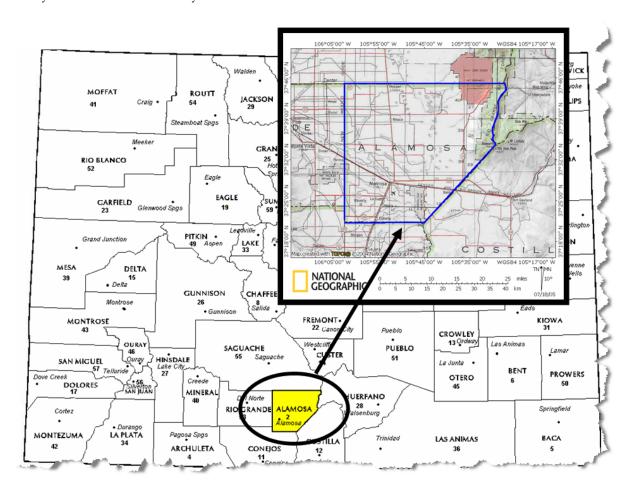


# REGIONAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ALAMOSA COUNTY

# **Regional Information**

Alamosa County is located in the San Luis Valley region of Colorado. The San Luis Valley is a large, broad, alpine valley in the Rio Grande Basin of south-central Colorado. The valley is drained to the south by the Rio Grande

River which rises in the San Juan Mountains to the west of the valley. The San Luis Valley includes Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties.





### Historical Information

Alamosa County has a population of approximately 15,445 people with 21.36 people per square mile, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 census data. This represents a 3.2 percent change from the 2000 Census.

Alamosa offers majestic mountain views, the winding Rio Grande, clear skies, breathing room, abundant agriculture, a thriving economy, and two institutions of higher learning.

Gold and silver discoveries near Summitville in 1870 fueled the mining rush to the San Luis Valley environs. While other mining settlements quickly followed at Creede and Bonzana, the history of the Valley's settlement was greatly influenced by the railroad, farming, ranching, and timber.

Before written history, native American cultures, including Clovis and Folsom, hunted and gathered in the area 11,000 years ago. Spain claimed the area in the 1500's and established land grants to attract settlers. Clashes with Comanches, however, left the valley largely unsettled for many years. Zebulon Pike, exploring the southern part of the Louisiana Purchase and after his discovery of Pike's Peak, was awed by the view of the Sand Dunes (probably from Medano Pass) in

1807. Until Mexico's liberation from Spain in 1821, Spain claimed the San Luis Valley. The 1850's saw the first permanent settlements.

Just two years after Colorado became a state, a narrow-gauge train loaded with expectant settlers and their belongings stopped at a protected bend in the Rio Grande shaded by a grove of cottonwoods. In 1878 Alamosa, Spanish for cottonwood grove, was founded.

Trains delivered lumber and hardware and left with agricultural products. Over the next ten years rails were laid in all four directions and Alamosa became a veritable center of the San Luis Valley.

The easy access to the mountain regions surrounding the San Luis Valley are a major attraction for visitors and locals alike. Not only a provider of recreation, the forests are a key economic resource. The extensive Rio Grande National Forest first came under government control in 1891 with the authorization of the Timber Reserves Act in 1891. Established to conserve the nation's timber, range and water resources, much of this land has remained unspoiled and public. The Great Sand Dunes National Park (first created as a monument in 1932) and The San Luis Lakes State Park offer outdoor recreation on the valley floor. (*Alamosa.org*)



# RATIO ANALYSIS

# Methodology

All significant classes of properties were analyzed. Sales were collected for each property class over the appropriate sale period, which was typically defined as the 18-month period between January 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. Counties with less than 30 sales typically extended the sale period back up to 5 years prior to June 30, 2014 in 6-month increments. If there were still fewer than 30 sales, supplemental appraisals were performed and treated as proxy sales. Residential sales for all counties using this method totaled at least 30 per county. For commercial sales, the total number analyzed was allowed, in some cases, to fall below 30. There were no sale quantity issues for counties requiring vacant land analysis or condominium analysis. Although it was required that we examine the median and coefficient of dispersion for all counties, we also calculated the weighted mean and pricerelated differential for each class of property. Counties were not passed or failed by these

latter measures, but were counseled if there were anomalies noted during our analysis. Qualified sales were based on the qualification code used by each county, which were typically coded as either "Q" or "C." The ratio analysis included all sales. The data was trimmed for counties with obvious outliers using IAAO standards for data analysis. In every case, we examined the loss in data from trimming to ensure that only true outliers were excluded. Any county with a significant portion of sales excluded by this trimming method was examined further. No county was allowed to pass the audit if more than 5% of the sales were "lost" because of trimming. For the largest 11 counties, the residential ratio statistics were broken down by economic area as well.

# **Conclusions**

For this final analysis report, the minimum acceptable statistical standards allowed by the State Board of Equalization are:

ALLOWABL	ALLOWABLE STANDARDS RATIO GRID					
Property Class	Unweighted Median Ratio	Coefficient of Dispersion				
Commercial/Industrial	Between .95-1.05	Less than 20.99				
Condominium	Between .95-1.05	Less than 15.99				
Single Family	Between .95-1.05	Less than 15.99				
Vacant Land	Between .95-1.05	Less than 20.99				



# The results for Alamosa County are:

Alamosa County Ratio Grid						
Property Class	Number of Qualified Sales	Unweighted Median Ratio	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Time Trend Analysis	
Commercial/Industrial	37	0.982	0.989	9.1	Compliant	
Condominium	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Single Family	171	0.993	1.023	10.5	Compliant	
Vacant Land	75	1.024	1.008	14.8	Compliant	

After applying the above described methodologies, it is concluded from the sales ratios that Alamosa County is in compliance

with SBOE, DPT, and Colorado State Statute valuation guidelines.

Recommendations



# TIME TRENDING VERIFICATION

# Methodology

While we recommend that counties use the inverted ratio regression analysis method to account for market (time) trending, some counties have used other IAAO-approved methods, such as the weighted monthly median approach. We are not auditing the methods used, but rather the results of the methods used. Given this range of methodologies used to account for market trending, we concluded that the best validation method was to examine the sale ratios for each class across the appropriate sale period. To be specific, if a county has considered and adjusted correctly for market trending, then the sale ratios should remain stable (i.e. flat) across the sale period. If a residual market trend is detected, then the county may or may not have addressed market

trending adequately, and a further examination is warranted. This validation method also considers the number of sales and the length of the sale period. Counties with few sales across the sale period were carefully examined to determine if the statistical results were valid.

### **Conclusions**

After verification and analysis, it has been determined that Alamosa County has complied with the statutory requirements to analyze the effects of time on value in their county. Alamosa County has also satisfactorily applied the results of their time trending analysis to arrive at the time adjusted sales price (TASP).

### Recommendations



# SOLD/UNSOLD ANALYSIS

# Methodology

Alamosa County was tested for the equal treatment of sold and unsold properties to ensure that "sales chasing" has not occurred. The auditors employed a multi-step process to determine if sold and unsold properties were valued in a consistent manner.

We test the hypothesis that the assessor has valued unsold properties consistent with what is observed with the sold properties based on several units of comparison and tests. units of comparison include the actual value per square foot and the change in value from the previous base year period to the current base year. The first test compares the actual value per square foot between sold and unsold properties by class. The median and mean value per square foot is compared and tested for any significant difference. This is tested using non-parametric methods, such as the Mann-Whitney test for differences in the distributions or medians between sold and unsold groups. It is also examined graphically and from an appraisal perspective. Data can be stratified based on location and subclass. The second test compares the difference in the median change in value from the previous base year to the current base year between sold and unsold properties by class. The same combination of non-parametric and appraisal testing is used as with the first test. A third test employing a valuation model testing a sold/unsold binary variable while controlling for property attributes such as location, size, age and other attributes. determines if the sold/unsold variable is statistically and empirically significant. three tests indicate a significant difference between sold and unsold properties for a given class, the Auditor may meet with the county to determine if sale chasing is actually occurring,

or if there are other explanations for the observed difference.

If the unsold properties have a higher median value per square foot than the sold properties, or if the median change in value is greater for the unsold properties than the sold properties, the analysis is stopped and the county is concluded to be in compliance with sold and unsold guidelines. All sold and unsold properties in a given class are first tested, although properties with extreme unit values or percent changes can be trimmed to stabilize the analysis. The median is the primary comparison metric, although the mean can also be used as a comparison metric if the distribution supports that type of measure of central tendency.

The first test (unit value method) is applied to both residential and commercial/industrial sold and unsold properties. The second test is applied to sold and unsold vacant land properties. The second test (change in value method) is also applied to residential or commercial sold and unsold properties if the first test results in a significant difference observed and/or tested between sold and unsold properties. The third test (valuation modeling) is used in instances where the results from the first two tests indicate a significant difference between sold and unsold properties. It can also be used when the number of sold and unsold properties is so large that the nonparametric testing is indicating a false rejection of the hypothesis that there is no difference between the sold and unsold property values.

These tests were supported by both tabular and graphics presentations, along with written documentation explaining the methodology used.



Sold/Unsold Re	esults
Property Class	Results
Commercial/Industrial	Compliant
Condominium	N/A
Single Family	Compliant
Vacant Land	Compliant

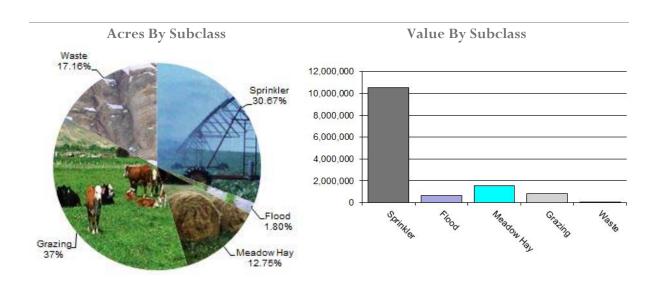
# Conclusions

After applying the above described methodologies, it is concluded that Alamosa County is reasonably treating its sold and unsold properties in the same manner.

# Recommendations



# AGRICULTURAL LAND STUDY



# **Agricultural Land**

County records were reviewed to determine major land categories such as irrigated farm, dry farm, meadow hay, grazing and other lands. In addition, county records were reviewed in order to determine if: photographs are available and are being used; soil conservation guidelines have been used to classify lands based on productivity; crop rotations have been documented; typical commodities and yields have been determined; orchard lands have been properly classified and valued; expenses reflect a ten year average and are typical landlord expenses; grazing lands have been properly classified and valued; the number of acres in each class and subclass have been determined; the capitalization rate was properly applied. Also, documentation was required for the valuation methods used and locally developed yields, capacities, and expenses. Records were also checked to ensure that the commodity prices and expenses, furnished by the Property Tax Administrator (PTA), were applied properly.

(See Assessor Reference Library Volume 3 Chapter 5.)

# **Conclusions**

An analysis of the agricultural land data indicates an acceptable appraisal of this property type. Directives, commodity prices and expenses provided by the PTA were properly applied. County yields compared favorably to those published by Colorado Agricultural Statistics. Expenses used by the county were allowable expenses and were in an acceptable range. Grazing lands carrying capacities were in an acceptable range. The data analyzed resulted in the following ratios:



	Alamosa County Agricultural Land Ratio Grid					
Abstract Code	Land Class	Number Of Acres	County Value Per Acre	County Assessed Fotal Value	WRA Total Value	Ratio
4107	Sprinkler	72,356	137.63	9,958,715	10,528,977	0.95
4117	Flood	4,248	143.71	610,466	645,136	0.95
4137	Meadow Hay	30,081	51.65	1,553,539	1,553,539	1.00
4147	Grazing	88,731	9.53	845,423	845,423	1.00
4167	Waste	40,483	1.99	80,419	80,419	1.00
Total/Avg		235,899	<b>55.</b> 31	13,048,562	13,653,494	0.96

# Recommendations

None

# **Agricultural Outbuildings**

# Methodology

Data was collected and reviewed to determine if the guidelines found in the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL) Volume 3, pages 5.74 through 5.77 were being followed.

# **Conclusions**

Alamosa County has substantially complied with the procedures provided by the Division

of Property Taxation for the valuation of agricultural outbuildings.

# Recommendations



# **Agricultural Land Under Improvements**

# Methodology

Data was collected and reviewed to determine if the guidelines found in the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL) Volume 3, pages 5.19 and 5.20 were being followed.

# Conclusions

Alamosa County has used the following methods to discover land under a residential improvement on a farm or ranch that is determined to be not integral under 39-1-102, C.R.S.:

- Questionnaires
- Phone Interviews
- In-Person Interviews with owners/tenants
- Personal Knowledge of Occupants at Assessment Date

Alamosa County has used the following methods to discover the land area under a residential improvement that is determined to be not integral under 39-1-102, C.R.S.:

- Property Record Card Analysis
- Questionnaires
- Field Inspections
- Phone Interviews
- In-Person Interviews with Owners/Tenants

Alamosa County has substantially complied with the procedures provided by the Division of Property Taxation for the valuation of land under residential improvements that may or may not be integral to an agricultural operation.

# Recommendations



# SALES VERIFICATION

# According to Colorado Revised Statutes:

A representative body of sales is required when considering the market approach to appraisal.

(8) In any case in which sales prices of comparable properties within any class or subclass are utilized when considering the market approach to appraisal in the determination of actual value of any taxable property, the following limitations and conditions shall apply:

(a)(I) Use of the market approach shall require a representative body of sales, including sales by a lender or government, sufficient to set a pattern, and appraisals shall reflect due consideration of the degree of comparability of sales, including the extent of similarities and dissimilarities among properties that are compared for assessment purposes. In order to obtain a reasonable sample and to reduce sudden price changes or fluctuations, all sales shall be included in the sample that reasonably reflect a true or typical sales price during the period specified in section 39-1-104 (10.2). Sales of personal property exempt pursuant to the provisions of sections 39-3-102, 39-3-103, and 39-3-119 to 39-3-122 shall not be included in any such sample.

(b) Each such sale included in the sample shall be coded to indicate a typical, negotiated sale, as screened and verified by the assessor. (39-1-103, C.R.S.)

The assessor is required to use sales of real property only in the valuation process.

(8)(f) Such true and typical sales shall include only those sales which have been determined on an individual basis to reflect the selling price of the real property only or which have been adjusted on an individual basis to reflect the selling price of the real property only. (39-1-103, C.R.S.)

Part of the Property Assessment Study is the sales verification analysis. WRA has used the above-cited statutes as a guide in our study of the county's procedures and practices for verifying sales.

WRA reviewed the sales verification procedures in 2015 for Alamosa County. This study was conducted by checking selected sales from the master sales list for the current valuation period. Specifically WRA selected 41 sales listed as unqualified.

All of the sales in the unqualified sales sample had reasons that were clear and supportable.

For residential, commercial, and vacant land sales with considerations over \$500, the contractor has examined and reported the ratio of qualified sales to total sales by class and performed the following analyses of unqualified sales:

The contractor has examined the manner in which sales have been classified as qualified or unqualified, including a listing of each step in the sales verification process, any adjustment procedures, and the county official responsible for making the final decision on qualification.

When less than 50 percent of sales are qualified in any of the three property classes (residential, commercial, and vacant land), the contractor analyzed the reasons for disqualifying sales in any subclass that constitutes at least 20 percent of the class, either by number of properties or by value, from the prior year. The contractor has



reviewed with the assessor any analysis indicating that sales data inadequate, fail to reflect typical properties, or have been disqualified for insufficient cause. In addition, the contractor has reviewed disqualified sales by assigned code. If there appears to be any inconsistency in the coding, the contractor has conducted further analysis determine if the sales included in that code have been assigned appropriately.

If 50 percent or more of the sales are qualified, the contractor has reviewed a statistically significant sample of unqualified sales, excluding sales that were disqualified for obvious reasons.

The following subclasses were analyzed for Alamosa County:

2130 Special Purpose

- 2212 Merchandising
- 2230 Special Purpose
- 2112 Merchandising
- 3215 Manufacturing/Processing
- 3112 Contract/Service
- 3115 Manufacturing/Processing
- 0100 Residential Lots
- 0550 35.0 to 99.99

### Conclusions

Alamosa County appears to be doing an excellent job of verifying their sales. WRA agreed with the county's reason for disqualifying each of the sales selected in the sample. There are no recommendations or suggestions.

# Recommendations



# ECONOMIC AREA REVIEW AND EVALUATION

# Methodology

Alamosa County has submitted a written narrative describing the economic areas that make up the county's market areas. Alamosa County has also submitted a map illustrating these areas. Each of these narratives have been read and analyzed for logic and appraisal sensibility. The maps were also compared to the narrative for consistency between the written description and the map.

# Conclusions

After review and analysis, it has been determined that Alamosa County has

adequately identified homogeneous economic areas comprised of smaller neighborhoods. Each economic area defined is equally subject to a set of economic forces that impact the value of the properties within that geographic area and this has been adequately addressed. Each economic area defined adequately delineates an area that will give "similar values for similar properties in similar areas."

### Recommendations



# NATURAL RESOURCES

# **Earth and Stone Products**

# Methodology

Under the guidelines of the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL), Volume 3, Natural Resource Valuation Procedures, the income approach was applied to determine value for production of earth and stone products. The number of tons was multiplied by an economic royalty rate determined by the Division of Property Taxation to determine income. The income was multiplied by a recommended Hoskold factor to determine the actual value. The Hoskold factor is determined by the life of the reserves or the lease. Value is based on two

variables: life and tonnage. The operator determines these since there is no other means to obtain production data through any state or private agency.

### Conclusions

The County has applied the correct formulas and state guidelines to earth and stone production.

### Recommendations



# VACANT LAND

# **Subdivision Discounting**

Subdivisions were reviewed in 2015 in Alamosa County. The review showed that subdivisions were discounted pursuant to the Colorado Revised Statutes in Article 39-1-103 (14). Discounting procedures were applied to all subdivisions where less than 80 percent of all sites were sold using the present worth method. The market approach was applied where 80 percent or more of the subdivision sites were sold. An absorption period was estimated for each subdivision that was discounted. An appropriate discount rate was

developed using the summation method. Subdivision land with structures was appraised at full market value.

### Conclusions

Alamosa County has implemented proper procedures to adequately estimate absorption periods, discount rates, and lot values for qualifying subdivisions.

# Recommendations



# POSSESSORY INTEREST PROPERTIES

# **Possessory Interest**

Possessory interest property discovery and valuation is described in the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL) Volume 3 section 7 in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 39-1-103 (17)(a)(II)C.R.S. Possessory Interest is defined by the Property Tax Administrator's Publication ARL Volume 3, Chapter 7: A private property interest in government-owned property or the right to the occupancy and use of any benefit in government-owned property that has been under lease, permit, concession, contract, or other agreement.

Alamosa County has been reviewed for their procedures and adherence to guidelines when assessing and valuing agricultural and commercial possessory interest properties. The county has also been queried as to their confidence that the possessory interest properties have been discovered and placed on the tax rolls.

### Conclusions

Alamosa County has implemented a discovery process to place possessory interest properties on the roll. They have also correctly and consistently applied the correct procedures and valuation methods in the valuation of possessory interest properties.

# Recommendations



# PERSONAL PROPERTY AUDIT

Alamosa County was studied for its procedural compliance with the personal property assessment outlined in the Assessor's Reference Library (ARL) Volume 5, and in the State Board of Equalization (SBOE) requirements for the assessment of personal property. The SBOE requires that counties use ARL Volume 5, including current discovery, classification, documentation procedures, current economic lives table, cost factor tables, depreciation table, and level of value adjustment factor table.

The personal property audit standards narrative must be in place and current. A listing of businesses that have been audited by the assessor within the twelve-month period reflected in the plan is given to the auditor. The audited businesses must be in conformity with those described in the plan.

Aggregate ratio will be determined solely from the personal property accounts that have been physically inspected. The minimum assessment sample is one percent or ten schedules, whichever is greater, and the maximum assessment audit sample is 100 schedules.

For the counties having over 100,000 population, WRA selected a sample of all personal property schedules to determine whether the assessor is correctly applying the provisions of law and manuals of the Property Tax Administrator in arriving at the assessment levels of such property. This sample was selected from the personal property schedules audited by the assessor. In no event was the sample selected by the contractor less than 30 schedules. The counties to be included in this study are Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, and Weld. All other counties received a procedural study.

Alamosa County is compliant with the guidelines set forth in ARL Volume 5 regarding discovery procedures, using the following methods to discover personal property accounts in the county:

- Public Record Documents
- Local Telephone Directories, Newspapers or Other Local Publications
- Personal Observation, Physical Canvassing or Word of Mouth
- Questionnaires, Letters and/or Phone Calls to Buyer, Seller and/or Realtor

The county uses the Division of Property Taxation (DPT) recommended classification and documentation procedures. The DPT's recommended cost factor tables, depreciation tables and level of value adjustment factor tables are also used.

Alamosa County submitted their personal property written audit plan and was current for the 2015 valuation period. The number and listing of businesses audited was also submitted and was in conformance with the written audit plan. The following audit triggers were used by the county to select accounts to be audited:

- Businesses in a selected area
- Accounts with obvious discrepancies
- New businesses filing for the first time
- Accounts with greater than 10% change
- Incomplete or inconsistent declarations
- Accounts with omitted property
- Same business type or use
- Businesses with no deletions or additions for 2 or more years



- Non-filing Accounts Best Information Available
- Accounts close to the \$7,300 actual value exemption status
- Accounts protested with substantial disagreement

# **Conclusions**

Alamosa County has employed adequate discovery, classification, documentation, valuation, and auditing procedures for their personal property assessment and is in statistical compliance with SBOE requirements.

# Recommendations



# WILDROSE AUDITOR STAFF

Harry J. Fuller, Audit Project Manager

Suzanne Howard, Audit Administrative Manager

Steve Kane, Audit Statistician

Carl W. Ross, Agricultural/Natural Resource Analyst

J. Andrew Rodriguez, Field Analyst



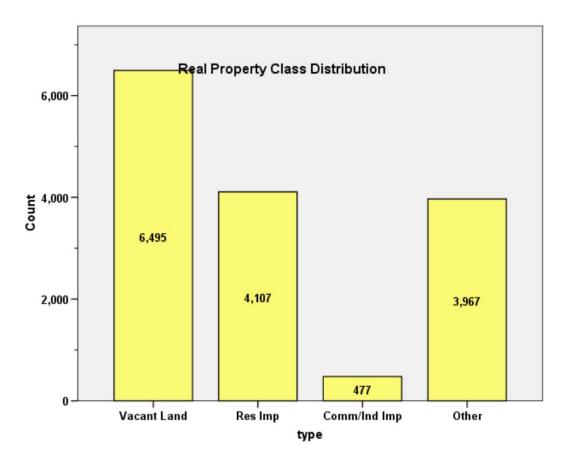
# APPENDICES



# STATISTICAL COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR ALAMOSA COUNTY 2015

### I. OVERVIEW

Alamosa County is located in south central Colorado. The county has a total of 15,046 real property parcels, according to data submitted by the county assessor's office in 2015. The following provides a breakdown of property classes for this county:



The vacant land class of properties was dominated by residential land. Residential lots (coded 100) accounted for 73.6% of all vacant land parcels.

For residential improved properties, single family properties accounted for 96.4% of all residential properties.

Commercial and industrial properties represented a much smaller proportion of property classes in comparison. Commercial/industrial sales accounted for 3.2% of all such properties in this county.



### II. DATA FILES

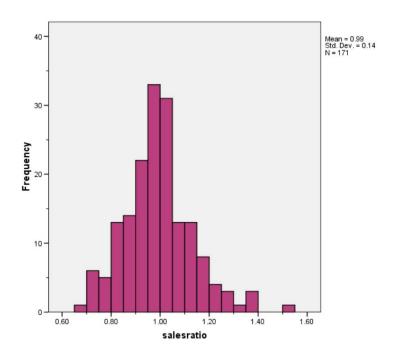
The following sales analyses were based on the requirements of the 2015 Colorado Property Assessment Study. Information was provided by the Alamosa Assessor's Office in 2015. The data included all 5 property record files as specified by the Auditor.

# III. RESIDENTIAL SALES RESULTS

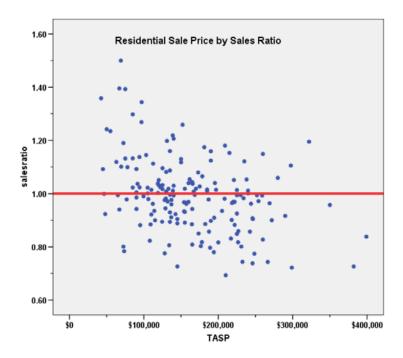
There were 171 qualified residential sales between January 2013 and June 2014 used for this analysis, with the following results:

Median	0.993
Price Related Differential	1.023
Coefficient of Dispersion	10.5

The above ratio statistics were in compliance with the standards set forth by the Colorado State Board of Equalization (SBOE) for the overall residential sales. The following graphs describe further the sales ratio distribution for these properties:







The above graphs indicate that the distribution of the sale ratios was within state mandated limits. No sales were trimmed.

# **Residential Market Trend Analysis**

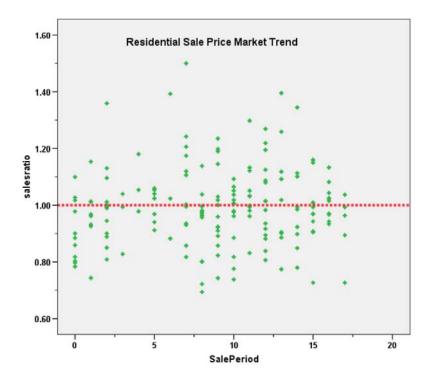
We next analyzed the residential dataset using the 18-month sale period for any residual market trending, with the following results:

Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Mod	iel	Unstandardize	d Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients		
		В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.973	.022		43.906	.000
	SalePeriod	.002	.002	.080	1.045	.298

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio





The above analysis indicated that the assessor has adequately addressed market trending in the valuation of residential properties.

# Sold/Unsold Analysis

In terms of the valuation consistency between sold and unsold residential properties, we compared the median change in value between 2014 and 2015 between each group, as follows:

Group	N	Median Chg Val	Mean Chg Val
Unsold	3,895	1.00	1.01
Sold	171	1.00	1.01

# **Hypothesis Test Summary**

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The distribution of DIFF is the same across categories of sold.	Independent- Samples Mann- Whitney U Test	.203	Retain the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .05.

The above results indicate that sold and unsold residential properties were valued in a consistent manner.

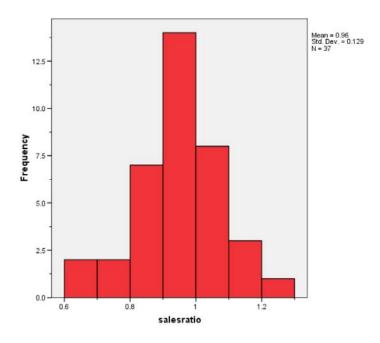


### IV. COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SALE RESULTS

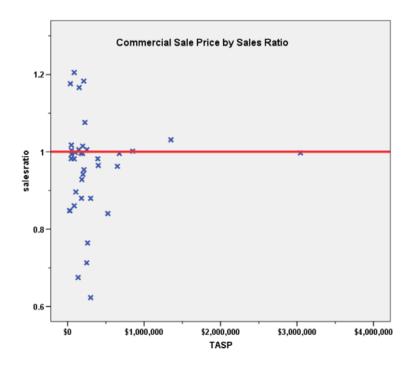
There were 37 qualified residential sales between July 2009 and June 2014 used for this analysis, with the following results:

Median	0.982
Price Related Differential	0.989
Coefficient of Dispersion	9.1

The above tables indicate that the Alamosa County commercial/industrial sale ratios were in compliance with the SBOE standards. The following histogram and scatter plot describe the sales ratio distribution further:







# **Commercial Market Trend Analysis**

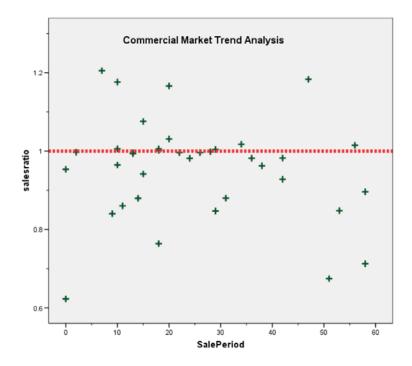
The assessor did not apply any market trend adjustment to the commercial dataset. The 37 commercial/industrial sales were analyzed, examining the sale ratios across a 60-month sale period with the following results:

Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Mod	el	Unstandardize	d Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients		
		В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.989	.039		25.661	.000
	SalePeriod	001	.001	169	-1.015	.317

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio





The market trend results indicated no statistically significant trend. We concur that no market trend adjustments were warranted for properties in this class for Alamosa County.

# **Sold/Unsold Analysis**

We compared the median and mean actual value per square foot between sold and unsold commercial properties to determine if the assessor was valuing each group consistently, as follows:

Group	N	Median Val/SF	Mean Val/SF
Unsold	440	\$41	\$64
Sold	37	\$47	\$56

Hypothesis Test Summary

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The distribution of ValSF is the same across categories of sold.	Independent- Samples Mann- Whitney U Test	.486	Retain the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .05.

Based on the similarity between sold and unsold commercial properties, we concluded that sold and unsold commercial properties were valued consistently by the assessor.

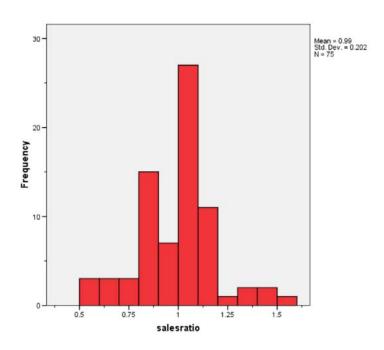


# V. VACANT LAND SALE RESULTS

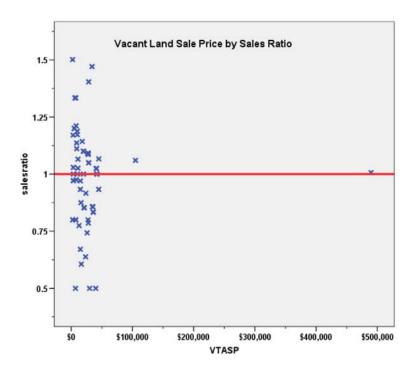
There were 75 qualified residential sales between January 2013 and June 2014 used for this analysis, with the following results:

Median	1.024
Price Related Differential	1.008
Coefficient of Dispersion	14.8

The above tables indicate that the Alamosa County vacant land sale ratios were in compliance with the SBOE standards. The following histogram and scatter plot describe the sales ratio distribution further:







# **Vacant Land Market Trend Analysis**

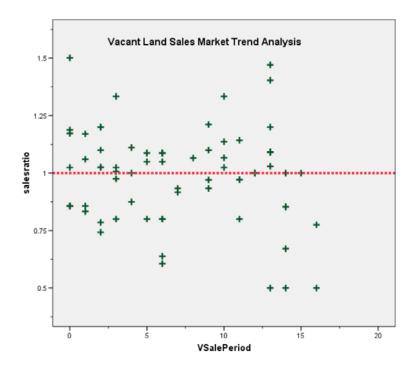
The assessor did not apply any market trend adjustment to the vacant land dataset. The 75 vacant land sales were analyzed, examining the sale ratios across the 18 month sale period with the following results:

Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Model		Unstandardize	d Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients		
		В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	1.025	.041		25.004	.000
	VSalePeriod	005	.005	120	-1.031	.306

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio





The market trend results indicated no statistically significant trend. We concur that no market trend adjustments were warranted for properties in this class for Alamosa County.

# **Sold/Unsold Analysis**

We compared the median change in actual value between 2015 and 2014 for vacant land properties to determine if sold and unsold properties were valued consistently, as follows:

Group	N	Median	Mean
Unsold	6,416	1.00	0.99
Sold	53	1.00	1.09

# Hypothesis Test Summary

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The distribution of DIFF is the same across categories of sold.	Independent- Samples Mann- Whitney U Test	.889	Retain the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .05.

The above results indicated that sold and unsold vacant land properties were valued consistently overall.



### V. AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS ANALYSIS

The final statistical verification concerned the assigned actual values for agricultural residential improvements. We compared the actual value per square foot rate for this group and compared it to rates assigned to residential single family improvements in Alamosa County.

The following indicates that agricultural residential improvements were valued in a manner similar to the single family residential improvements in this county:

-

		Descri	ptives		
	ABSTE	RIMP		Statistic	Std. Error
<u>ImpVaISF</u>	SFR	Mean		\$75.82	\$.292
		95% Confidence Interval for	Lower Bound	\$75.24	
		Mean	Upper Bound	\$76.39	
		5% Trimmed Mean		\$76.35	
		Median		\$77.18	
		Variance		338.693	
		Std. Deviation		\$18.404	
		Minimum		\$9	
		Maximum		\$169	
		Range		\$161	
		Interquartile Range		\$23	
		Skewness		349	.039
		Kurtosis		.945	.078
	Ag	Mean		\$77.72	\$1.922
	Res	95% Confidence Interval for	Lower Bound	\$73.94	
		Mean	Upper Bound	\$81.50	
		5% Trimmed Mean		\$74.41	
		Median		\$72.71	
		Variance		1289.134	
		Std. Deviation		\$35.905	
		Minimum		\$8	
		Maximum		\$405	
		Range		\$396	
		Interquartile Range		\$24	
		Skewness		3.695	.131
		Kurtosis		25.338	.260

# VI. CONCLUSIONS

Based on this statistical analysis, there were no significant compliance issues concluded for Alamosa County as of the date of this report.



### **STATISTICAL ABSTRACT**

# Residential

### Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

	95% Confidence Interval for Mean			95% Confidence Interval for Median				95% Confiden Weighte				Coefficient of Variation
Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Median	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Actual Coverage	Weighted Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Mean Centered
.993	.972	1.015	.993	.969	1.008	95.4%	.971	.950	.992	1.023	.105	14.1%

The confidence interval for the median is constructed without any distribution assumptions. The actual coverage level may be greater than the specified level. Other confidence intervals are constructed by assuming a Normal distribution for the ratios.

# Commercial/Industrial

### Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

	95% Confidence Interval for Mean			95% Confidence Interval for Median				95% Confiden Weighte				Coefficient of Variation
Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Median	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Actual Coverage	Weighted Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Mean Centered
.956	.913	1.000	.982	.942	.998	95.3%	.967	.931	1.003	.989	.091	13.5%

The confidence interval for the median is constructed without any distribution assumptions. The actual coverage level may be greater than the specified level. Other confidence intervals are constructed by assuming a Normal distribution for the ratios.

# **Vacant Land**

### Ratio Statistics for CURRLND / VTASP

	95% Confidence Interval for Mean			95% Confidence Interval for Median				95% Confiden Weighte	ce Interval for d Mean			Coefficient of Variation
Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Median	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Actual Coverage	Weighted Mean	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Mean Centered
.990	.943	1.036	1.024	.971	1.065	96.3%	.982	.942	1.022	1.008	.148	20.4%

The confidence interval for the median is constructed without any distribution assumptions. The actual coverage level may be greater than the specified level. Other confidence intervals are constructed by assuming a Normal distribution for the ratios.



## **Residential Median Ratio Stratification**

#### Sale Price

## **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
SPRec	\$25K to \$50K	5	2.9%
	\$50K to \$100K	28	16.4%
	\$100K to \$150K	50	29.2%
	\$150K to \$200K	40	23.4%
	\$200K to \$300K	44	25.7%
	\$300K to \$500K	4	2.3%
Overall		171	100.0%
Excluded	t	0	
Total		171	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
\$25K to \$50K	1.092	1.003	.124	16.6%
\$50K to \$100K	1.096	1.003	.126	16.2%
\$100K to \$150K	.998	1.000	.080	10.6%
\$150K to \$200K	.974	1.002	.090	11.3%
\$200K to \$300K	.963	1.001	.099	12.8%
\$300K to \$500K	.898	1.014	.164	22.7%
Overall	.993	1.023	.105	14.1%



## Subclass

#### **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
ABSTRIMP	1212	164	95.9%
	1215	3	1.8%
	1220	4	2.3%
Overall		171	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		171	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
1212	.994	1.020	.100	13.5%
1215	.884	1.017	.230	41.5%
1220	.853	1.076	.207	26.4%
Overall	.993	1.023	.105	14.1%



# Improvement Age

## **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
AgeRec	Over 100	9	5.3%
	75 to 100	30	17.5%
	50 to 75	23	13.5%
	25 to 50	39	22.8%
	5 to 25	56	32.7%
	5 or Newer	14	8.2%
Overall		171	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		171	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
Over 100	1.014	1.027	.085	11.2%
75 to 100	1.014	1.030	.095	13.7%
50 to 75	1.027	1.021	.117	15.6%
25 to 50	1.014	1.017	.094	13.4%
5 to 25	.969	1.002	.101	13.8%
5 or Newer	.902	1.009	.086	11.0%
Overall	.993	1.023	.105	14.1%



## Improved Area

## **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
ImpSFRec	500 to 1,000 sf	20	11.7%
	1,000 to 1,500 sf	50	29.2%
	1,500 to 2,000 sf	57	33.3%
	2,000 to 3,000 sf	39	22.8%
	3,000 sf or Higher	5	2.9%
Overall		171	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		171	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
500 to 1,000 sf	1.011	1.020	.111	14.3%
1,000 to 1,500 sf	.995	1.022	.097	14.6%
1,500 to 2,000 sf	.969	1.021	.107	13.9%
2,000 to 3,000 sf	.995	1.010	.098	13.0%
3,000 sf or Higher	.958	1.035	.164	21.3%
Overall	.993	1.023	.105	14.1%



## Improvement Quality

## **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
QUALITY	ABOVE AVG	32	18.7%
	ABOVE AVG.	2	1.2%
	AVERAGE	126	73.7%
	BELOW AVG	10	5.8%
	BELOW AVG.	1	.6%
Overall		171	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		171	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
ABOVE AVG	.969	1.010	.105	13.0%
ABOVE AVG.	.853	1.092	.148	21.0%
AVERAGE	.994	1.017	.099	13.8%
BELOW AVG	1.106	1.021	.110	13.8%
BELOW AVG.	.784	1.000	.000	.%
Overall	.993	1.023	.105	14.1%



# Improvement Condition

## **Case Processing Summary**

	Count	Percent
CONDITION AVERAGE	171	100.0%
Overall	171	100.0%
Excluded	0	
Total	171	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
AVERAGE	.993	1.023	.105	14.1%
Overall	.993	1.023	.105	14.1%



## **Commercial Median Ratio Stratification**

#### Sale Price

#### **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
SPRec	0	2	5.4%
	LT \$25K	1	2.7%
	\$25K to \$50K	6	16.2%
	\$50K to \$100K	4	10.8%
	\$100K to \$150K	4	10.8%
	\$150K to \$200K	6	16.2%
	\$200K to \$300K	8	21.6%
	\$300K to \$500K	2	5.4%
	\$500K to \$750K	3	8.1%
	\$750K to \$1,000K	1	2.7%
Overall		37	100.0%
Excluded	1	0	
Total		37	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
0	1.014	1.006	.017	2.3%
LT \$25K	.848	1.000	.000	.%
\$25K to \$50K	.999	.996	.062	10.5%
\$50K to \$100K	.990	1.000	.091	14.7%
\$100K to \$150K	.951	.990	.158	21.8%
\$150K to \$200K	.969	.999	.044	5.4%
\$200K to \$300K	.917	1.019	.169	20.9%
\$300K to \$500K	.973	1.000	.009	1.2%
\$500K to \$750K	.963	.992	.054	9.3%
\$750K to \$1,000K	1.002	1.000	.000	.%
Overall	.982	.989	.091	13.4%



## Subclass

## **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
ABSTRIMP	2212	7	18.9%
	2215	4	10.8%
	2220	8	21.6%
	2230	9	24.3%
	2235	6	16.2%
	2245	3	8.1%
Overall		37	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		37	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
2212	.963	.982	.076	13.1%
2215	1.014	1.033	.054	9.0%
2220	1.002	1.043	.074	12.0%
2230	.954	1.038	.109	15.2%
2235	.921	.978	.117	16.4%
2245	.896	.999	.058	9.4%
Overall	.982	.989	.091	13.4%



## Improvement Age

## **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
AgeRec	Over 100	3	8.1%
	75 to 100	5	13.5%
	50 to 75	6	16.2%
	25 to 50	15	40.5%
	5 to 25	7	18.9%
	5 or Newer	1	2.7%
Overall		37	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		37	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
Over 100	1.015	1.009	.029	6.0%
75 to 100	1.004	.924	.103	14.4%
50 to 75	1.002	1.004	.114	18.3%
25 to 50	.965	.970	.078	11.7%
5 to 25	.996	.994	.060	8.8%
5 or Newer	.623	1.000	.000	.%
Overall	.982	.989	.091	13.4%



## Improved Area

#### **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
ImpSFRec	LE 500 sf	1	2.7%
	500 to 1,000 sf	1	2.7%
	1,000 to 1,500 sf	4	10.8%
	1,500 to 2,000 sf	5	13.5%
	2,000 to 3,000 sf	7	18.9%
	3,000 sf or Higher	19	51.4%
Overall		37	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		37	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
LE 500 sf	.847	1.000	.000	.%
500 to 1,000 sf	1.004	1.000	.000	.%
1,000 to 1,500 sf	.939	1.074	.113	15.6%
1,500 to 2,000 sf	.896	1.022	.148	21.9%
2,000 to 3,000 sf	.994	1.060	.072	10.9%
3,000 sf or Higher	.996	.986	.077	12.8%
Overall	.982	.989	.091	13.4%



# Improvement Quality

## **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
QUALITY	ABOVE AVG	1	2.7%
	AVERAGE	34	91.9%
	BELOW AVG	1	2.7%
	FAIR QUAL	1	2.7%
Overall		37	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		37	

Group					cient of ation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion		dian itered
ABOVE AVG	.997	1.000	.000	.%	
AVERAGE	.982	.990	.088		13.2%
BELOW AVG	1.176	1.000	.000	.%	
FAIR QUAL	1.166	1.000	.000	.%	
Overall	.982	.989	.091		13.4%



# Improvement Condition

## **Case Processing Summary**

	Count	Percent
CONDITION AVERAGE	37	100.0%
Overall	37	100.0%
Excluded	0	
Total	37	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
AVERAGE	.982	.989	.091	13.4%
Overall	.982	.989	.091	13.4%



## **Vacant Land Median Ratio Stratification**

## Sale Price

## **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
SPRec	LT \$25K	40	53.3%
	\$25K to \$50K	33	44.0%
	\$100K to \$150K	1	1.3%
	\$300K to \$500K	1	1.3%
Overall		75	100.0%
Excluded	ı	0	
Total		75	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
LT \$25K	1.000	1.045	.166	21.2%
\$25K to \$50K	1.024	1.006	.135	19.8%
\$100K to \$150K	1.060	1.000	.000	.%
\$300K to \$500K	1.007	1.000	.000	.%
Overall	1.024	1.008	.148	20.0%



## Subclass

#### **Case Processing Summary**

		Count	Percent
ABSTRLND	100	24	32.0%
	200	2	2.7%
	520	3	4.0%
	530	3	4.0%
	540	1	1.3%
	550	9	12.0%
	560	1	1.3%
	1112	29	38.7%
	1115	1	1.3%
	1125	1	1.3%
	2112	1	1.3%
Overall		75	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		75	

Group				Coefficient of Variation
	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Median Centered
100	1.048	1.004	.203	25.1%
200	1.013	.999	.013	1.8%
520	.800	1.006	.006	1.3%
530	1.173	1.018	.062	12.2%
540	1.065	1.000	.000	.%
550	.975	.986	.146	20.3%
560	.500	1.000	.000	.%
1112	1.024	1.002	.103	15.6%
1115	.853	1.000	.000	.%
1125	1.060	1.000	.000	.%
2112	1.007	1.000	.000	.%
Overall	1.024	1.008	.148	20.0%