



BENT COUNTY PROPERTY ASSESSMENT STUDY





September 15, 2023

Ms. Natalie Castle
Director of Research
Colorado Legislative Council
Room 029, State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Final Report for the 2023 Colorado Property Assessment Study

Dear Ms. Castle:

East West Econometrics - Audit Division is pleased to submit the Final Reports for the 2023 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 locally assessed 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.

East West Econometrics – Audit Division appreciates the opportunity to be of service to the State of Colorado. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry J. Fuller".

Harry J. Fuller
Project Manager
East West Econometrics – Audit Division

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Regional/Historical Sketch of Bent County.....	4
Ratio Analysis.....	6
Time Trending Verification	8
Sold/Unsold Analysis	9
Agricultural Land Study	11
<i>Agricultural Land</i>	11
<i>Agricultural Outbuildings</i>	12
<i>Agricultural Land Under Improvements</i>	13
Sales Verification.....	14
Economic Area Review and Evaluation	16
Natural Resources	17
<i>Earth and Stone Products</i>	17
<i>Producing Oil and Gas</i>	17
Vacant Land.....	18
<i>Bent County is exempt from the Vacant Land Subdivision Discount Study.</i>	18
Possessory Interest Properties	19
Personal Property Audit	20
East West Econometrics Auditor Staff.....	22
STATISTICAL APPENDIX	23

INTRODUCTION



Colorado

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 and subdivision discounting procedures. Valuation methodology for vacant land, improved residential properties and commercial 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.

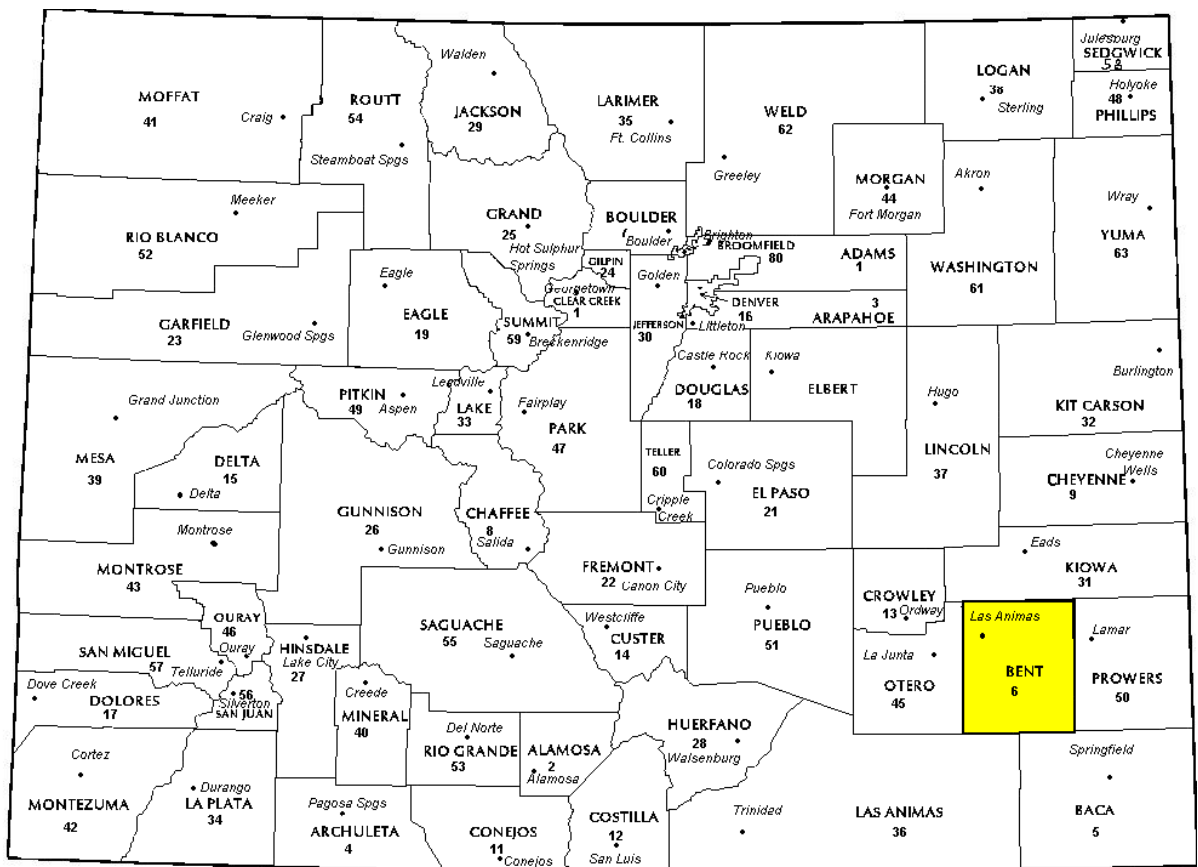
East West Econometrics Audit has completed the Property Assessment Study for 2023 and is pleased to report its findings for Bent County in the following report.

REGIONAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH OF BENT COUNTY

Regional Information

Bent County is located in the Eastern Plains region of Colorado. The Eastern Plains of Colorado refer to the region on the east side of the Rocky Mountain. It is east of the population centers of the Front Range,

including Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Elbert, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Otero, Phillips, Prowers, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma counties.



Historical Information

Bent County has approximately 1512.9 square miles and an estimated population of approximately 5,577 people with 4.3 people per square mile, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 estimated census data. This represents a -14.2 percent change from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019.

Bent County is located in southeast Colorado approximately 80 miles from the New Mexico border and 38 miles from the Kansas border. Bent County is 36 miles from east to west and 43 miles from north to south, with a total land area of 970,880 acres. The county is named in honor of frontier trader William Bent. The county seat and the only incorporated municipality in the county is the City of Las Animas.

Bent County was created by the Colorado legislature on February 6, 1874, when Greenwood County, created only four years earlier, was dissolved and divided between Bent and Elbert counties. At the time of its creation, it included a large portion of southeastern Colorado. In 1889, Bent County acquired its current borders when it lost much

of its territory to the newly created Cheyenne, Lincoln, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers counties.

Las Animas sits along the Arkansas River, just west of where the Purgatory River flows into the Arkansas. A famous legend passed down through generations concerns the origin of Las Animas. It tells of historical accounts claiming that the town, like the river, got its name from a group of Conquistadors who perished without a priest. The original Spanish name for Las Animas ("The Souls," in Spanish) was La Ciudad de Las Animias Perdidos en Purgatorio.

Bent County is the home of the Boggsville Museum. Boggsville was the first settlement after the establishment of the trading post, Bent's Old Fort, where men like Kit Carson and John Hough stayed. Tom Boggs and John Prowers founded Boggsville in 1862.

Also in Las Animas is the Kit Carson Museum which highlights the development of Bent County with artifacts from the days of Kit Carson through World War II. Ft. Lyon was once a sanitarium for those, including Kit Carson, suffering from tuberculosis.

(Wikipedia.org & bentcounty.org)

RATIO ANALYSIS

Methodology

All significant classes of property were analyzed. Sales were collected for each property class over the eighteen month period from January 1, 2021 through June 30th, 2022. Property classes with less than thirty sales had the sales period extended in six month increments up to an additional forty-two months. If this extended sales period did not produce the minimum thirty qualified sales, the Audit performed supplemental appraisals to reach the minimum.

Although it was required that we examine the median and coefficient of dispersion for all counties, we also calculated the weighted mean and price-related 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.

All sixty-four counties were examined for compliance on the economic area level. Where there were sufficient sales data, the neighborhood and subdivision levels were tested for compliance. Although counties are determined to be in or out of compliance at the class level, non-compliant economic areas, neighborhoods and subdivisions (where applicable) were discussed with the Assessor.

Data on the individual economic areas, neighborhoods and subdivisions are found in the STATISTICAL APPENDIX.

Conclusions

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

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

The results for Bent County are:

Bent County Ratio Grid						
Property Class	Number of Qualified Sales	Unweighted Median Ratio	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Time Trend Analysis	
*Commercial/Industrial	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Residential	110	1.003	1.054	14.7	Compliant	
Vacant Land	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

**Due to the small number of sales, a procedural audit was performed*

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

SBOE, DPT, and Colorado State Statute valuation guidelines.

Recommendations

None

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 Bent County has complied with the statutory requirements to analyze the effects of time on value in their county. Bent County has also satisfactorily applied the results of their time trending analysis to arrive at the time adjusted sales price (TASP).

Recommendations

None

SOLD / UNSOLD ANALYSIS

Methodology

Bent 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. The 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. The model determines if the sold/unsold variable is statistically and empirically significant. If all 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 non-parametric 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 Results	
Property Class	Results
Commercial/Industrial	N/A
Residential	Compliant
Vacant Land	N/A

Conclusions

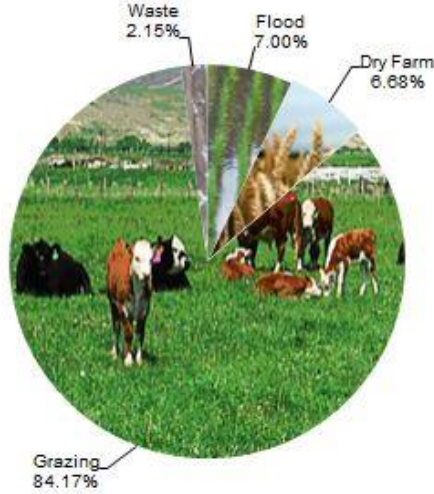
After applying the above described methodologies, it is concluded that Bent County is reasonably treating its sold and unsold properties in the same manner.

Recommendations

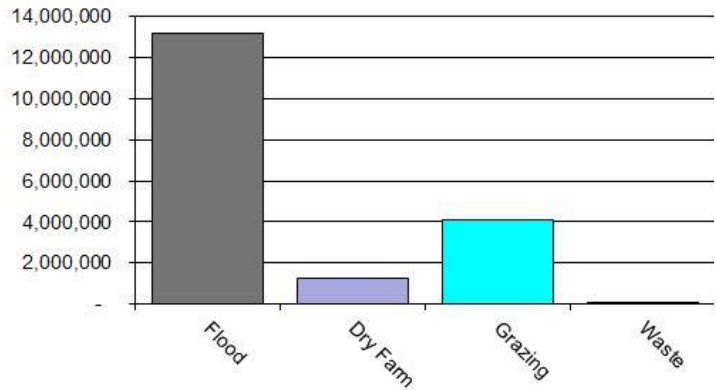
None

AGRICULTURAL LAND STUDY

Acres By Subclass



Value By Subclass



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: Aerial 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 any locally developed yields, carrying 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:

Bent County Agricultural Land Ratio Grid						
Abstract Code	Land Class	Number Of Acres	County Value Per Acre	County Assessed Total Value	WRA Total Value	Ratio
4117	Flood	58,602	224.79	13,173,250	13,300,342	0.96
4127	Dry Farm	55,993	22.18	1,241,927	1,244,885	1.00
4147	Grazing	705,130	5.86	4,132,526	4,132,526	1.00
4167	Waste	18,033	2.19	39,459	39,459	1.00
Total/Avg		837,758	22.19	18,587,162	18,717,212	0.99

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.

Property Taxation for the valuation of agricultural outbuildings.

Recommendations

None

Conclusions

Bent County has substantially complied with the procedures provided by the Division of

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

Bent 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.:

Field Inspections
In-Person Interviews with Owners/Tenants
Personal Knowledge of Occupants at
Assessment Date

Bent 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
Field Inspections
Phone Interviews
In-Person Interviews with Owners/Tenants
Personal Knowledge of Occupants at
Assessment Date

Bent 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

None

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.

EWE reviewed the sales verification procedures in 2023 for Bent County. This study was conducted by checking selected sales from the master sales list for the current valuation period. Specifically EWE selected 31 sales listed as unqualified.

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

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

For residential, commercial, and vacant land sales with considerations over \$100,000, 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 are inadequate, fail to reflect typical properties, or have been disqualified for insufficient cause. In addition, the contractor has reviewed the disqualified sales by assigned code. If there appears to be any inconsistency in the coding, the contractor has conducted further analysis to 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 Bent County:

0100 Residential Lots
2212 Merchandising
2230 Special Purpose

Conclusions

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

Recommendations

None

ECONOMIC AREA REVIEW AND EVALUATION

Methodology

Bent County has submitted a written narrative describing the economic areas that make up the county's market areas. Bent 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 Bent 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

None

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

None

Producing Oil and Gas

Methodology

Assessors Reference Library (ARL) Volume 3, Chapter 6: Valuation of Natural Resources

STATUTORY REFERENCES

Section § 39-1-103, C.R.S., specifies that producing oil or gas leaseholds and lands are valued according to article 7 of title 39, C.R.S. Actual value determined - when.

(2) The valuation for assessment of leaseholds and lands producing oil or gas shall be determined as provided in article 7 of this title. § 39-1-103, C.R.S.

Article 7 covers the listing, valuation, and assessment of producing oil and gas leaseholds and lands.

Valuation:

Valuation for assessment.

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, on the basis of the information contained in such statement, the assessor shall value such oil and gas leaseholds and lands for assessment, as real property, at an amount equal to eighty-seven and one-half percent of:

(a) The selling price of the oil or gas sold there from during the preceding calendar year, after excluding the selling price of all oil or gas delivered to the United States government or any agency thereof, the state of Colorado or any agency thereof, or any political subdivision of the state as royalty during the preceding calendar year;

(b) The selling price of oil or gas sold in the same field area for oil or gas transported from the premises which is not sold during the preceding calendar year, after excluding the selling price of all oil or gas delivered to the United States government or any agency thereof, the state of Colorado or any agency thereof, or any political subdivision of the state as royalty during the preceding calendar year. § 39-7-102, C.R.S.

Conclusions

The county applied approved appraisal procedures in the valuation of oil and gas.

Recommendations

None

VACANT LAND

**Bent County is exempt from the Vacant Land Subdivision
Discount Study.**

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 granted under lease, permit, license, concession, contract, or other agreement.

Bent County has been reviewed for their procedures and adherence to guidelines when

assessing and valuing agricultural 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

Bent 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

None

PERSONAL PROPERTY AUDIT

Bent 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.

Bent 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
- MLS Listing and/or Sold Books
- Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Contacts
- 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.

Bent County submitted their personal property written audit plan and was current for the 2023 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 \$52,000 actual value exemption status
- Lowest or highest quartile of value per square foot
- Accounts protested with substantial disagreement

Conclusions

Bent 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

None

EAST WEST ECONOMETRICS AUDITOR STAFF

Harry J. Fuller, *Audit Project Manager*

Suzanne Howard, *Audit Administrative Manager*

Steve Kane, *Audit Statistician*

Carl W. Ross, *Agricultural/Natural Resource Analyst*

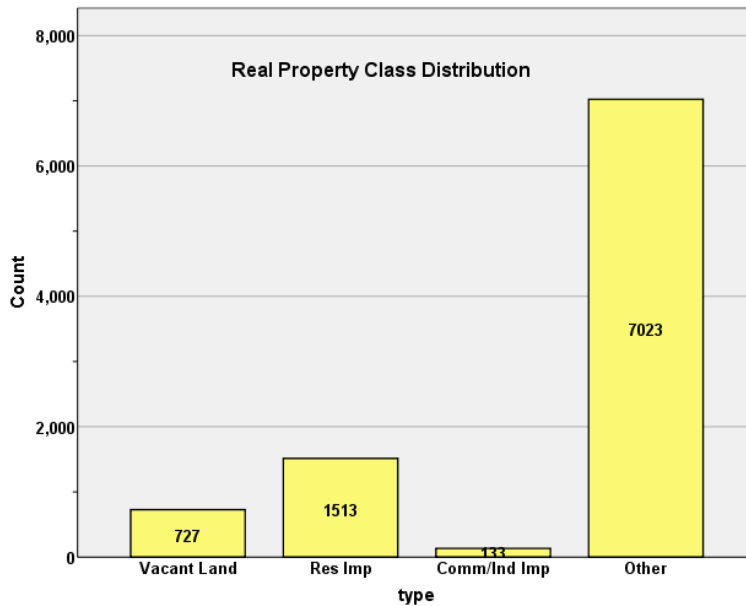
J. Andrew Rodriguez, *Field Analyst*

STATISTICAL APPENDIX

**STATISTICAL COMPLIANCE REPORT
FOR BENT COUNTY
2023**

I. OVERVIEW

Bent County is a rural county located in southeastern Colorado. The county has a total of 9,396 real property parcels, according to data submitted by the county assessor’s office in 2023. The following provides a breakdown of property classes for this county:



Based on the number of vacant land parcels in Bent County, we were not required to analyze this class of property for audit compliance.

For residential improved properties, single family properties accounted for 86.8% of all residential properties.

Commercial and industrial properties represented a much smaller proportion of properties in this county.

Based on the Audit questionnaire filled out by the assessor, we performed a stratification analysis down to the neighborhood level.

II. DATA FILES

The following sales analyses were based on the requirements of the 2023 Colorado Property Assessment Study. Information was provided by the Bent Assessor’s Office in 2023. The data included all 5 property record files as specified by the Auditor.

III. RESIDENTIAL SALES RESULTS

For the residential sales ratio analysis, a total of 110 **qualified residential sales** were analyzed. These sales were from the 24-month period ending June 30, 2022. The sales ratio analysis results were as follows:

Median	1.003
Price Related Differential	1.054
Coefficient of Dispersion	14.7

Bent County has no economic areas; we stratified the above sales ratio analysis by neighborhood, as follows:

Case Processing Summary

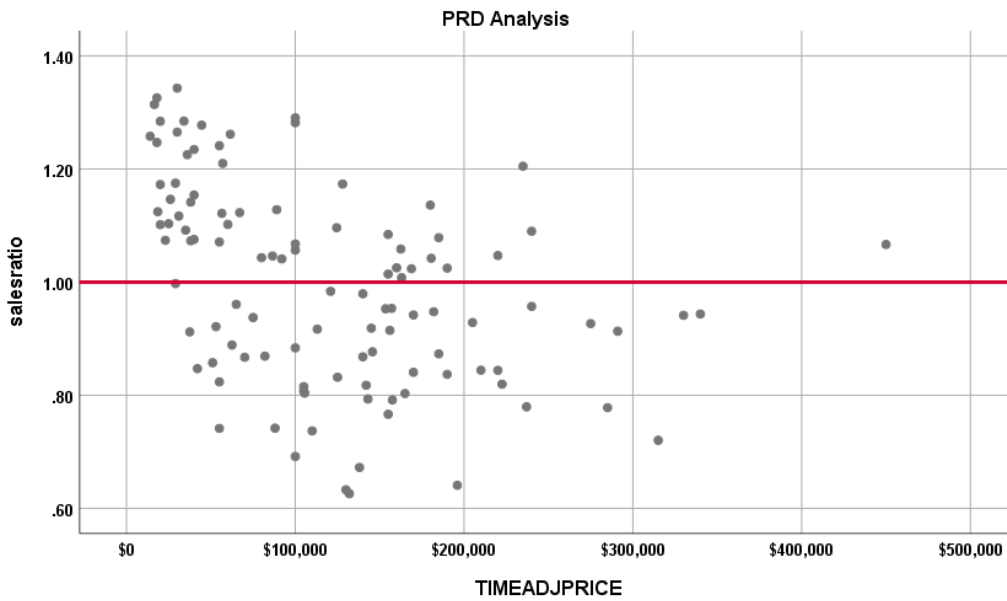
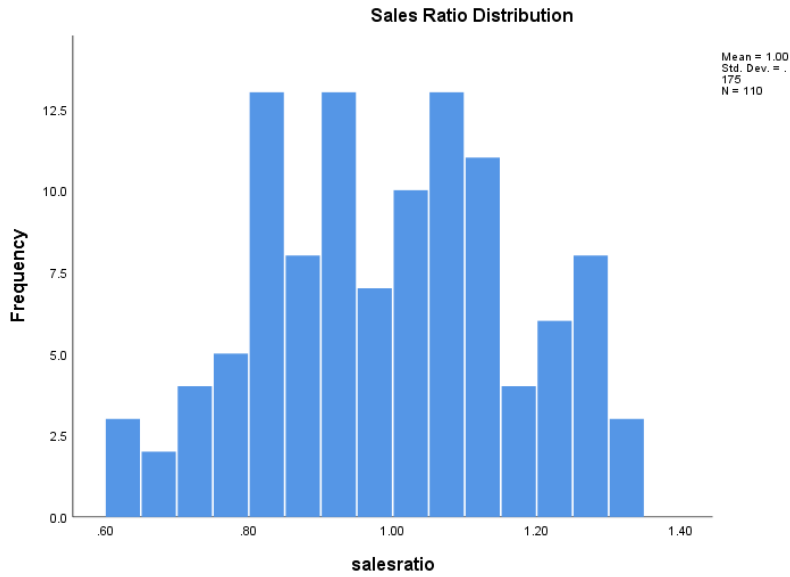
		Count	Percent
Neigh Cod	1.00	11	10.0%
	2.00	57	51.8%
	4.00	5	4.5%
	5.00	11	10.0%
	6.00	25	22.7%
	6.50	1	0.9%
Overall		110	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		110	

Ratio Statistics for Curr Tot / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion
1.00	.948	1.019	.146
2.00	.979	1.052	.150
4.00	1.175	1.147	.118
5.00	.997	1.053	.130
6.00	1.025	1.038	.134
6.50	.720	1.000	.000
Overall	1.003	1.054	.147

All neighborhoods with at least 10 sales were in compliance in terms of the median sales ratio and the COD.

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 and neighborhoods with at least 10 sales. The following graphs describe further the sales ratio distribution for all of these properties:

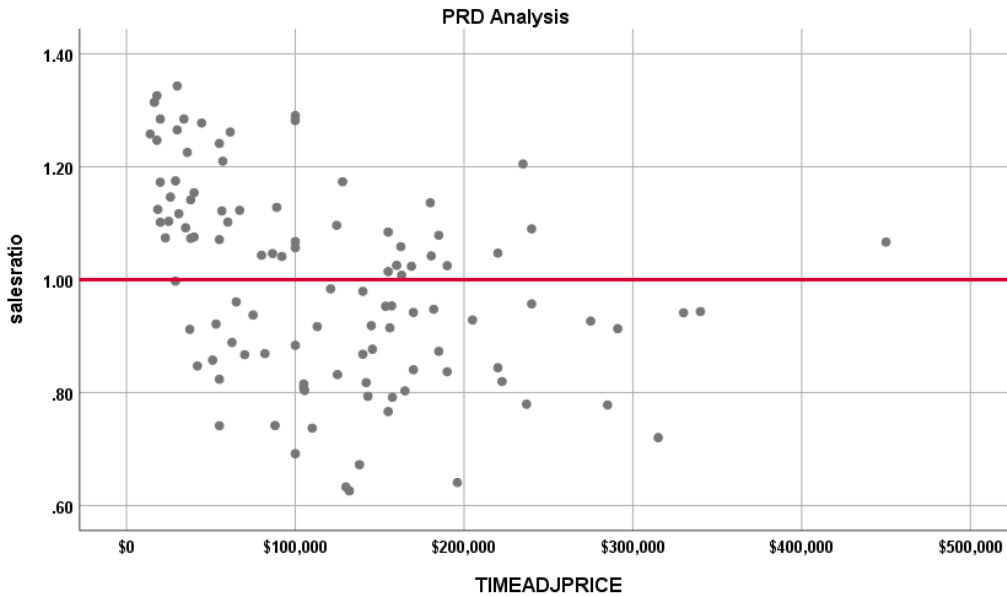


The above graphs indicate that the distribution of the sale ratios was within state mandated limits.

Subclass 1212 PRD Analysis

We next analyzed residential properties identified as 1112 using the state abstract code system. These include single family residences, town homes and purged manufactured homes. The following indicates the distribution of sales ratios across the sale price spectrum:

ALL 1112 SALES



The Price-Related Differential (PRD) for all sales is 1.052, which is above the maximum IAAO limit for the PRD. We also performed a regression analysis between the sales ratio and the assessor’s current value to further test for regressivity or progressivity in the residential sales valuation, as follows:

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	1.045	.029		36.254	.000
	Curr Tot	-.000000444	.000	-.202	-2.126	.036

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio

The slope of the line at 0.000000444 indicates that there is virtually no slope in the regression line, which indicates that sales ratios are similar across the entire sale price array. While there are 6 sales over \$250,000 with sales ratios less than 1.0, the highest sale has a sales ratio over 1.0. The overall association between the current assessor actual value and the sales ratio is not significant.

We also stratified the sales ratio analysis by the sale price range, as follows:

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
SPRec	LT \$25K	10	9.3%
	\$25K to \$50K	16	14.8%
	\$50K to \$100K	27	25.0%
	\$100K to \$150K	18	16.7%
	\$150K to \$200K	22	20.4%
	\$200K to \$300K	11	10.2%
	Over \$300K	4	3.7%
Overall		108	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		108	

Ratio Statistics for Curr Tot / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
LT \$25K	1.210	1.008	.071	8.0%
\$25K to \$50K	1.144	1.004	.088	11.9%
\$50K to \$100K	1.043	.998	.134	16.7%
\$100K to \$150K	.825	.999	.131	18.0%
\$150K to \$200K	.953	1.001	.102	13.0%
\$200K to \$300K	.927	1.003	.107	14.5%
Over \$300K	.942	.984	.092	15.6%
Overall	1.003	1.052	.146	17.4%

The above table indicates that for categories with sufficient sales (i.e. more than 10 sales), there is no clear pattern of regressivity or progressivity. We also queried the lowest category with sales below \$25,000; this category had ten sales. Given that there is no significance in the sales ratio regression analysis, we concluded that there was no significant evidence of regressivity or progressivity in the residential single family valuation.

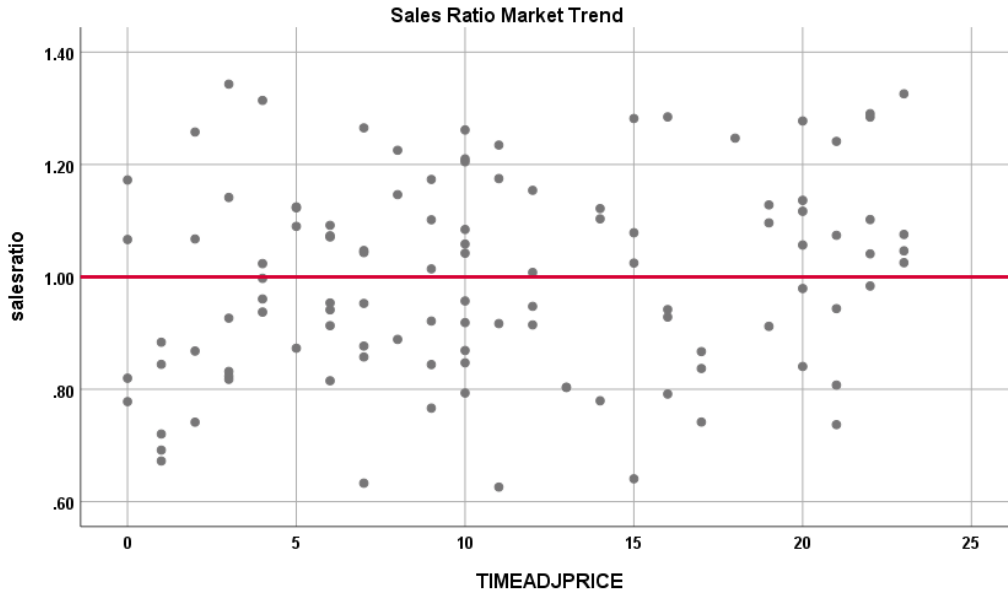
Residential Market Trend Analysis

We next analyzed the residential dataset using the 24-month sale period, with the following results:

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.939	.031		30.640	.000
	SalePeriod	.005	.002	.208	2.204	.030

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio



The above analysis indicated that no significant residential market trend was present in the sale data. We concur with the assessor that no market trend adjustments were warranted.

Sold/Unsold Analysis

In terms of the valuation consistency between sold and unsold residential properties, we examined the median and mean change in actual value from taxable years 2020 and 2022 for sold and unsold residential properties, as follows:

Ratio Statistics for Curr Tot / TASP													
Mean	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Median	95% Confidence Interval for Median			Actual Coverage	Weighted Mean	95% Confidence Interval for Weighted Mean		Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Mean Centered
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound		Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Lower Bound			Upper Bound				
.996	.963	1.029	1.003	.941	1.057	95.5%	.945	.913	.977	1.054	.147	17.6%	

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.

We also stratified this analysis by neighborhoods with at least 5 sales, as follows:

Report

DIFF	Neigh Cod	sold	N	Median	Mean
1.00	UN SOLD	79	1.50	1.49	
	SOLD	11	1.57	1.55	
2.00	UN SOLD	570	1.73	1.75	
	SOLD	56	2.05	1.95	
4.00	UN SOLD	99	1.42	1.53	
	SOLD	5	1.33	1.90	
5.00	UN SOLD	164	1.51	1.61	
	SOLD	11	1.48	1.53	
6.00	UN SOLD	405	1.58	1.60	
	SOLD	25	1.86	1.86	



The above comparison analysis indicates that sold and unsold residential properties were valued consistently.

IV. COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SALE RESULTS

The County did not have enough qualified commercial/industrial sales to be statistically significant. A procedural audit was completed for taxable year 2023. This analysis reviewed all qualified commercial sales. Information was gathered concerning class of property, year built, improvement size, type and quality of construction, condition at the time of sale, sale date and amount and the Assessor value. The audit then determined sale price per square foot and the sales ratio. The audit concluded that the County is in compliance due to the lack of substantive data to support a revaluation decision.

V. CONCLUSIONS

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

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT

Residential

Ratio Statistics for Curr Tot / TASP												
Mean	95% Confidence Interval for Mean		Median	95% Confidence Interval for Median			Weighted Mean	95% Confidence Interval for Weighted Mean		Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Mean Centered
	Lower Bound	Upper Bound		Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Actual Coverage		Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
.996	.963	1.029	1.003	.941	1.057	95.5%	.945	.913	.977	1.054	.147	17.6%

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

Not applicable

Vacant Land

Not applicable

Residential Median Ratio Stratification

Subclass

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
ABSTRIMP	1212.00	63	86.3%
	1215.00	1	1.4%
	1224.00	1	1.4%
	1236.00	8	11.0%
Overall		73	100.0%
Excluded		38	
Total		111	

Ratio Statistics for Curr Tot / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
1212.00	1.024	1.058	.146	17.5%
1215.00	.844	1.000	.000	.
1224.00	1.025	1.000	.000	.
1236.00	.911	1.115	.164	22.1%
Overall	.997	1.063	.151	18.0%

Improvement Age

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
AgeRec	Over 100	34	46.6%
	75 to 100	8	11.0%
	50 to 75	12	16.4%
	25 to 50	14	19.2%
	5 to 25	5	6.8%
Overall		73	100.0%
Excluded		38	
Total		111	

Ratio Statistics for Curr Tot / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
Over 100	1.033	1.092	.164	19.1%
75 to 100	.921	1.089	.183	22.3%
50 to 75	1.046	1.027	.088	12.0%
25 to 50	.935	1.032	.144	19.7%
5 to 25	.984	1.009	.095	14.7%
Overall	.997	1.063	.151	18.0%

Improvement Size

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
ImpSFRec	500 to 1,000 sf	14	19.2%
	1,000 to 1,500 sf	26	35.6%
	1,500 to 2,000 sf	15	20.5%
	2,000 to 3,000 sf	18	24.7%
Overall		73	100.0%
Excluded		38	
Total		111	

Ratio Statistics for Curr Tot / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
500 to 1,000 sf	1.089	1.096	.156	19.7%
1,000 to 1,500 sf	1.003	1.088	.146	17.3%
1,500 to 2,000 sf	.929	1.036	.157	20.0%
2,000 to 3,000 sf	.984	1.016	.120	15.6%
Overall	.997	1.063	.151	18.0%

Improvement Quality

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
QUALITY	ABOVE AVG.	1	1.4%
	AVERAGE	40	54.8%
	BELOW AVG.	9	12.3%
	N/A	23	31.5%
Overall		73	100.0%
Excluded		38	
Total		111	

Ratio Statistics for Curr Tot / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
ABOVE AVG.	.720	1.000	.000	.
AVERAGE	.939	1.031	.142	17.6%
BELOW AVG.	1.154	1.047	.102	12.6%
N/A	1.067	1.056	.132	16.7%
Overall	.997	1.063	.151	18.0%

Commercial Median Ratio Stratification

Not applicable

Vacant Land Median Ratio Stratification

Not applicable