



2023

ELBERT 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

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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.

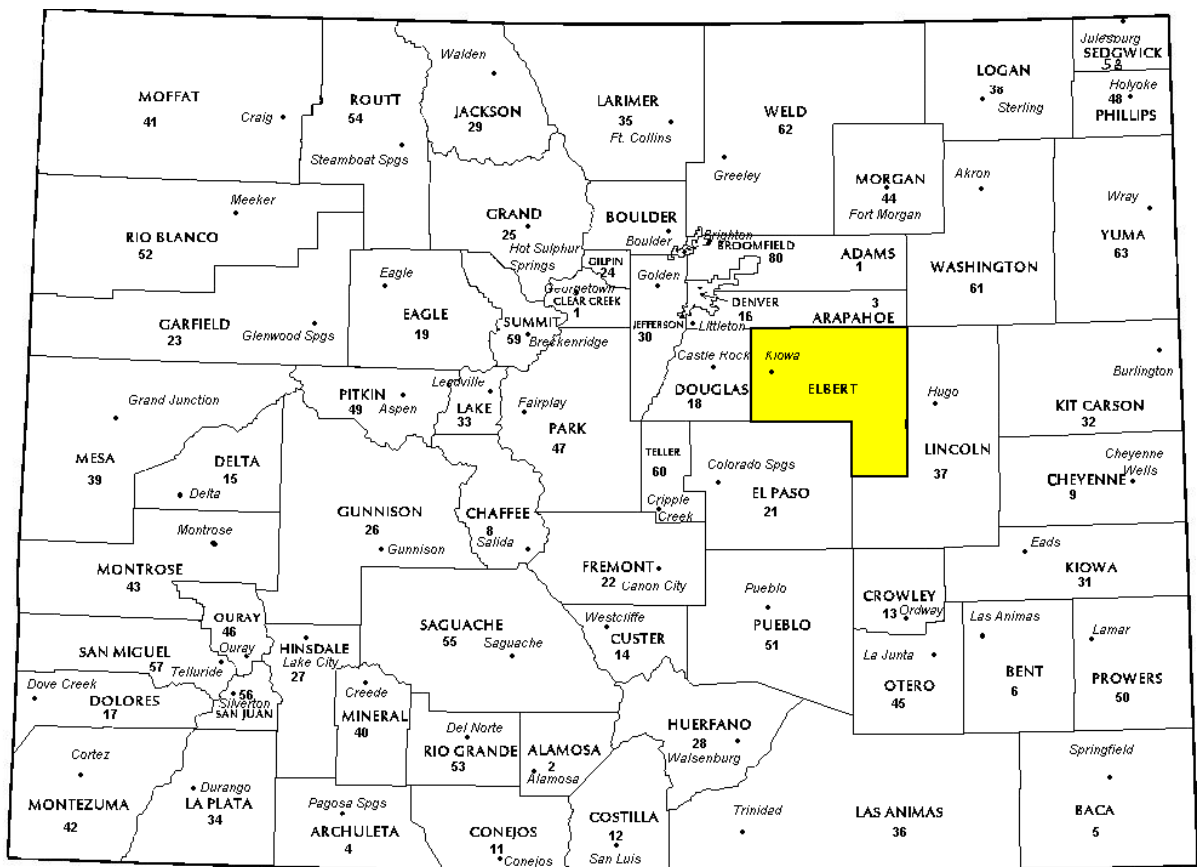
East West Econometrics Audit has completed the Property Assessment Study for 2023 and is pleased to report its findings for Elbert County in the following report.

REGIONAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ELBERT COUNTY

Regional Information

Elbert 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

Elbert County has approximately 1,850.9 square miles and an estimated population of approximately 26,729 people with 12.5 people per square mile, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 estimated census data. This represents a 15.8 percent change from April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019.

Elbert County was created on February 2, 1874, from the eastern portions of Douglas County. On February 6, 1874, the county was enlarged to include part of northern Greenwood County upon Greenwood's dissolution, and originally extended south and east of its present boundaries to reach to the Kansas state line. The county was named for Samuel Hitt Elbert, the Governor of the Territory of Colorado when the county was formed. In 1889, Elbert County was reduced

to its modern size when its eastern portions were taken to create Lincoln, Kit Carson, and Cheyenne counties. The county seat is Kiowa, named for the Kiowa Indian tribe of the southern Plains, who called themselves Kae-gua.

Elbert County is bordered on the west by Douglas, the north by Arapahoe and the south by El Paso County. During the 1990's Elbert was the second fastest growing county in Colorado (after Douglas) and it continues to grow at a rapid pace. It currently has over 20,000 residents, mostly living on two to 60-acre lots on the western side. Most residents commute to Denver or Colorado Springs for work. The eastern side of the county continues to be sparsely populated ranchland.

(Wikipedia.org & centennialmhc.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 Elbert County are:

Elbert County Ratio Grid						
Property Class	Number of Qualified Sales	Unweighted Median Ratio	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Time Trend Analysis	
Commercial/Industrial	33	0.994	1.045	13.9	Compliant	
Residential	1,482	0.970	1.008	8.1	Compliant	
Vacant Land	316	0.982	1.037	15.6	Compliant	

After applying the above described methodologies, it is concluded from the sales ratios that Elbert 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 Elbert County has complied with the statutory requirements to analyze the effects of time on value in their county. Elbert 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

Elbert 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	Compliant
Residential	Compliant
Vacant Land	Compliant

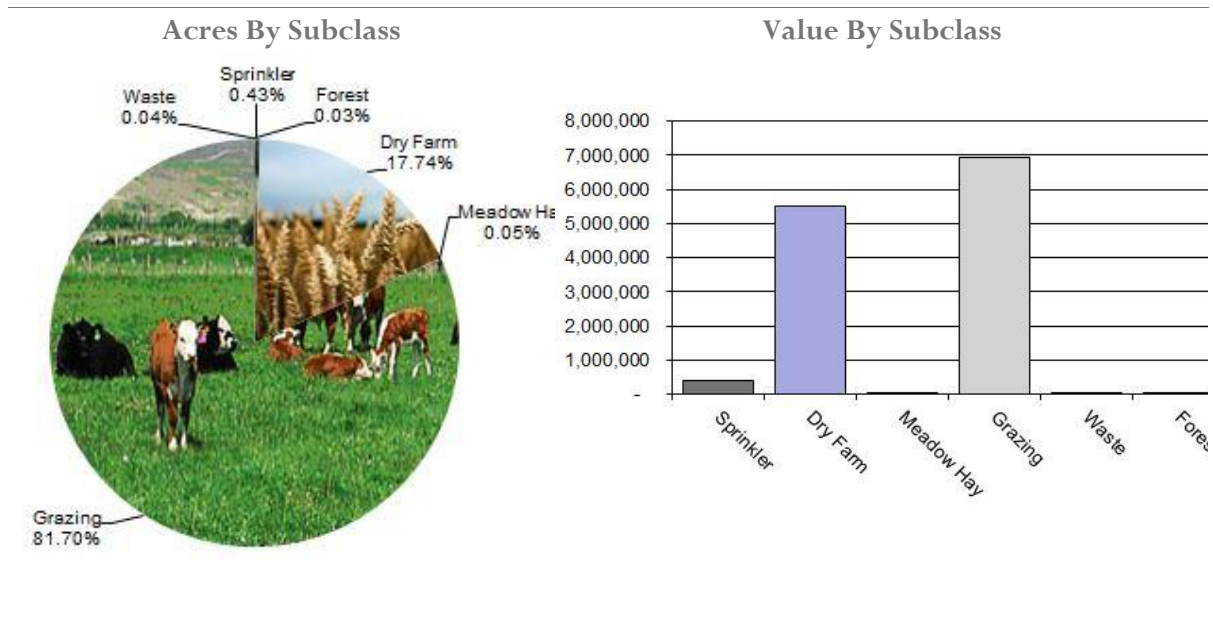
Conclusions

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

Recommendations

None

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: 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:

Elbert County Agricultural Land Ratio Grid						
Abstract Code	Land Class	Number Of Acres	County Value Per Acre	County Assessed Total Value	WRA Total Value	Ratio
4107	Sprinkler	4,422	90.41	399,787	405,405	0.99
4127	Dry Farm	180,662	30.57	5,522,309	5,551,598	0.99
4137	Meadow Hay	532	31.46	16,735	16,735	1.00
4147	Grazing	832,270	8.35	6,949,205	6,949,205	1.00
4177	Forest	336	10.74	3,610	3,620	1.00
4167	Waste	422	2.19	923	923	1.00
Total/Avg		1,018,644	12.66	12,892,569	12,927,486	1.00

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

Elbert 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

Elbert 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
- Field Inspections
- Phone Interviews
- In-Person Interviews with Owners/Tenants
- Written Correspondence other than Questionnaire
- Aerial Photography/Pictometry

Elbert 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.:

- Questionnaires
- Field Inspections
- Phone Interviews
- In-Person Interviews with Owners/Tenants
- Written Correspondence other than Questionnaire
- Aerial Photography/Pictometry

Elbert 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 Elbert County. This study was conducted by checking selected sales from the master sales list for the current valuation period. Specifically EWE selected 30 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 \$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.

Elbert County did not qualify for in-depth subclass analysis.

Conclusions

Elbert 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

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

Subdivision Discounting

Subdivisions were reviewed in 2023 in Elbert County. The review showed that subdivisions were discounted pursuant to 39-1-103 (14) C.R.S. Discounting procedures were applied to all subdivisions where less than 80 percent of vacant land parcels were sold. An absorption rate was estimated for each discounted subdivision. An appropriate discount rate was developed using the Summation Method,

following Division of Property Taxation guidelines.

Conclusions

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

Recommendations

None

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.

Elbert 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

Elbert 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

Elbert 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.

Elbert 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
- Leases
- Bill of Sales
- Local inspections
- Taxpayer visits
- Voluntary filings
- Area canvassing

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.

Elbert 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
- Date of BPP items w/no changes

Conclusions

Elbert 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 ELBERT COUNTY
2023**

I. OVERVIEW

Elbert County is located in eastern Colorado. The county has a total of 18,344 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:



The vacant land class of properties was dominated by residential and PUD land. Residential lots (coded 100, 400 and 1112) accounted for 76.8% of all vacant land parcels.

For residential improved properties, single family properties accounted for 98.9% of all residential properties.

Commercial and industrial properties represented a much smaller proportion of property classes in comparison. Commercial/industrial sales accounted for 1.5% of all such properties in this county.

II. DATA FILES

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

III. RESIDENTIAL SALES RESULTS

There were 1,482 qualified residential sales for the 24-month sale period ending June 30, 2022 in Elbert County. The sales ratio analysis results were as follows:

Median	0.970
Price Related Differential	1.008
Coefficient of Dispersion	8.1

We next stratified the sale ratio analysis by economic area and neighborhood. The minimum count for the neighborhood stratification is 20 sales. The following are the results of this stratification analysis:

Economic Area Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
ECONAREA	1.00	64	5.2%
	2.00	1172	94.8%
Overall		1236	100.0%
Excluded		246	
Total		1482	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion
1.00	.967	1.012	.137
2.00	.970	1.007	.076
Overall	.970	1.007	.079

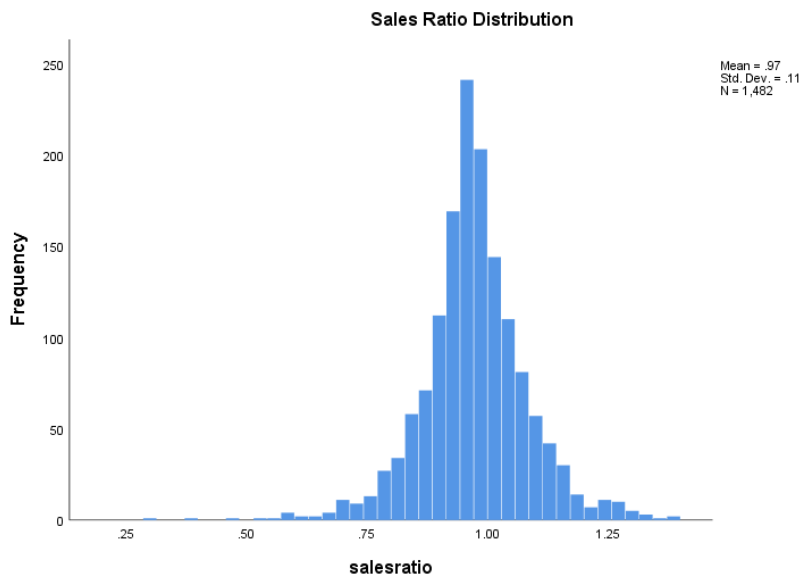
Neighborhoods with 20 or more sales Case Processing Summary

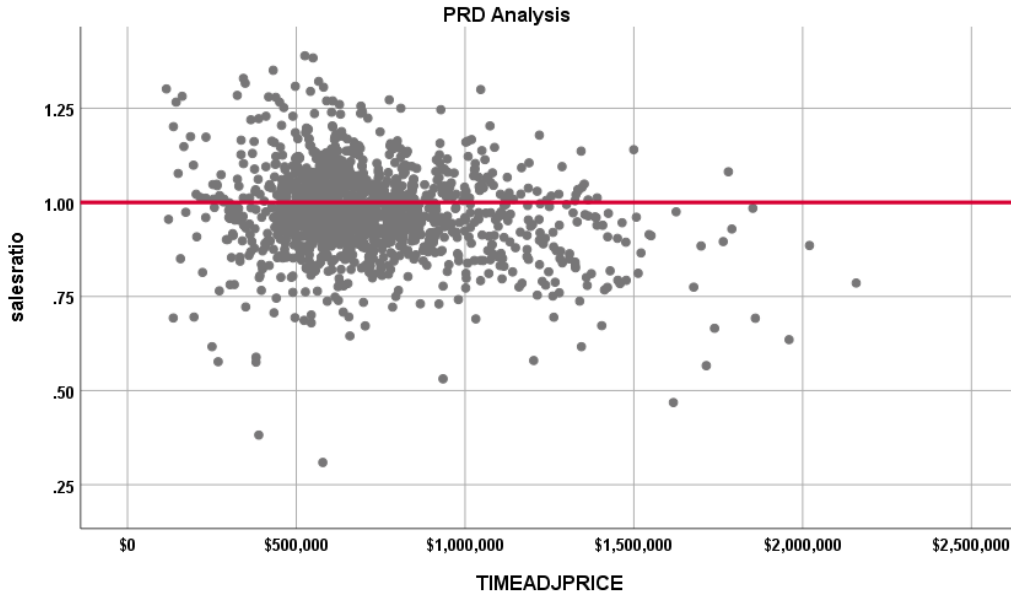
		Count	Percent
NBHD	0	28	4.3%
	985	37	5.7%
	1793	171	26.3%
	3135	40	6.2%
	3136	99	15.3%
	3137	90	13.9%
	3512	28	4.3%
	3514	27	4.2%
	3516	94	14.5%
	3938	35	5.4%
	Overall	649	100.0%
Excluded	38		
Total	687		

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion
0	.894	1.055	.134
985	.992	1.008	.083
1793	.981	1.005	.075
3135	.989	1.000	.060
3136	.992	1.001	.059
3137	.982	.999	.047
3512	.972	1.005	.067
3514	.981	1.001	.050
3516	.966	.999	.051
3938	.974	1.004	.076
Overall	.976	1.008	.068

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:

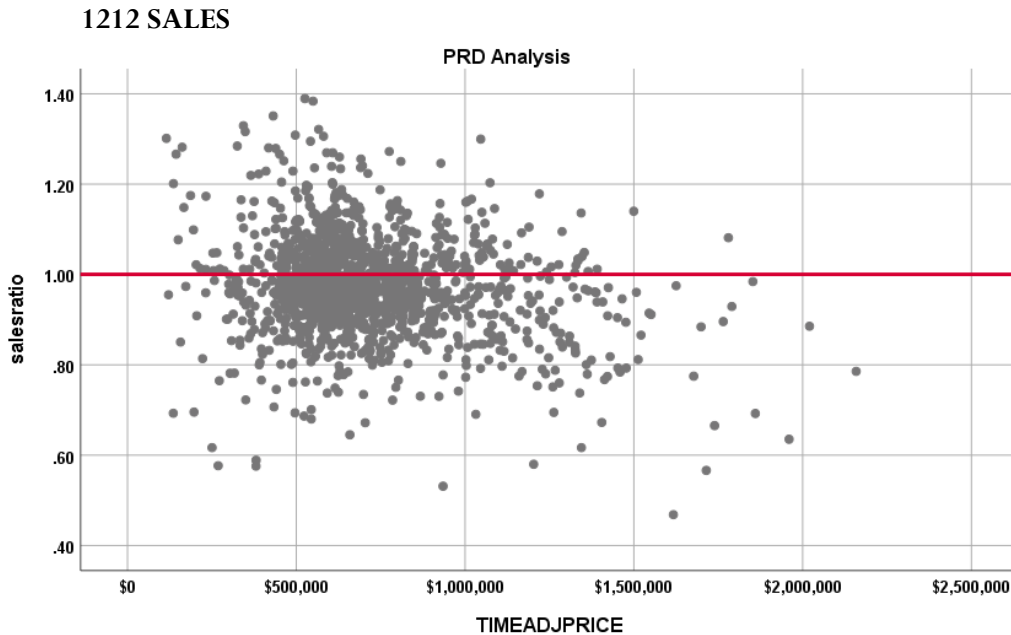




The above graphs indicate that the distribution of the sale ratios was within state mandated limits. No sales were trimmed.

Subclass 1212 PRD Analysis

We next analyzed residential properties identified as 1212 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:



The Price-Related Differential (PRD) for 1212 sales is 1.009, which is within IAAO standards 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)	.942	.008		113.257	.000
	CURRTOT	.0000000453	.000	.102	3.942	.000

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio

The slope of the line at 0.0000000453 indicates that there is virtually no slope in the regression line, which indicates that sales ratios are similar across the entire sale price array. This indicates no regressivity or progressivity in the residential values assigned by the assessor.

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

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
SPRec	LT \$400K	91	6.2%
	\$400K to \$600K	467	31.8%
	\$600K to \$800K	527	35.9%
	\$800K to \$1000K	196	13.3%
	\$1000K to \$3000K	189	12.9%
Overall		1470	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		1470	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
LT \$400K	.974	1.007	.123	16.7%
\$400K to \$600K	.977	1.000	.076	10.5%
\$600K to \$800K	.971	1.001	.070	9.6%
\$800K to \$1000K	.963	1.000	.069	9.3%
\$1000K to \$3000K	.936	1.008	.107	13.7%
Overall	.970	1.009	.080	11.1%

The above table indicates no regressivity in the sales ratios across sale price categories.

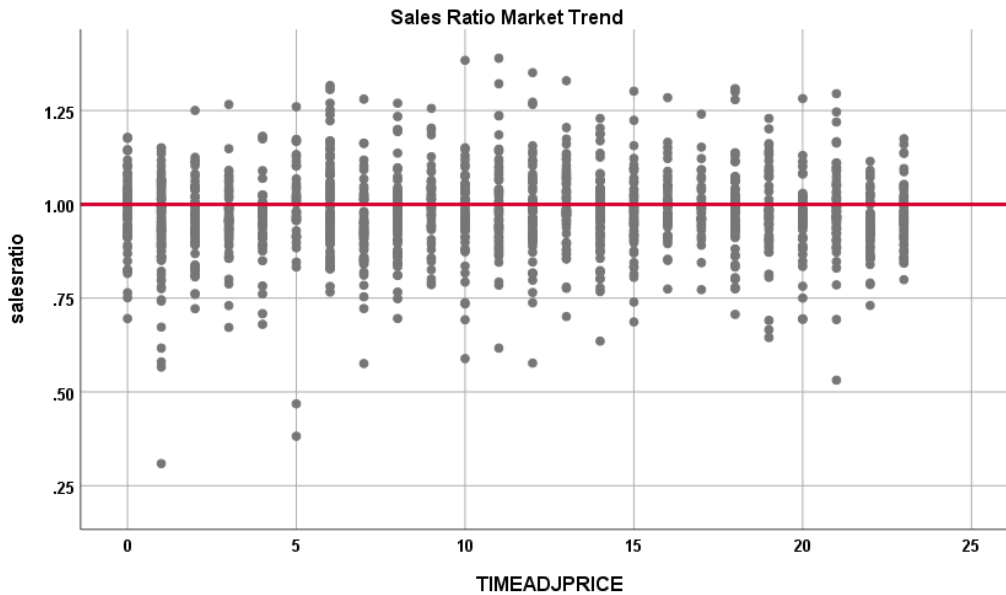
Residential Market Trend Analysis

We next analyzed the residential dataset using the 24-month sale period for any residual market trending, with the following results:

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.964	.005		184.534	.000
	SalePeriod	.001	.000	.048	1.840	.066

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 2023 median actual value per square foot, as follows:

Report

VALSF				
		N	Median	Mean
UNSOLD		7055	\$167	\$164
SOLD		1482	\$182	\$178

Given the difference observed in the above test, we next compared the median change in actual value for taxable year 2020 and taxable year 2022 between each group, as follows:

Report

DIFF				
		N	Median	Mean
UNSOLD		6826	1.33	1.34
SOLD		1404	1.38	1.50



We next performed this second test stratified by economic area, as follows:

Report

DIFF				
ECONAREA	sold	N	Median	Mean
1.00	UNSOLD	487	1.27	1.29
	SOLD	64	1.32	1.41
2.00	UNSOLD	6107	1.33	1.34
	SOLD	1135	1.38	1.48

Next, we performed this second test stratified by neighborhood (with at least 20 sales), as follows:

Report

DIFF				
NBHD	sold	N	Median	Mean
0	UNSOLD	239	1.28	1.31
	SOLD	28	1.30	1.38
985	UNSOLD	188	1.39	1.43
	SOLD	37	1.43	1.44
1793	UNSOLD	7	1.37	1.54
	SOLD	132	1.38	1.68
3135	UNSOLD	95	1.37	1.37
	SOLD	30	1.37	1.37
3136	UNSOLD	6	1.39	1.40
	SOLD	92	1.36	1.95
3137	UNSOLD	9	1.37	1.37
	SOLD	89	1.33	1.33
3512	UNSOLD	87	1.32	1.33
	SOLD	28	1.33	1.34
3514	UNSOLD	95	1.33	1.33
	SOLD	27	1.33	1.35
3516	UNSOLD	28	1.34	1.53
	SOLD	75	1.37	1.84
3938	UNSOLD	135	1.39	1.42
	SOLD	35	1.42	1.48

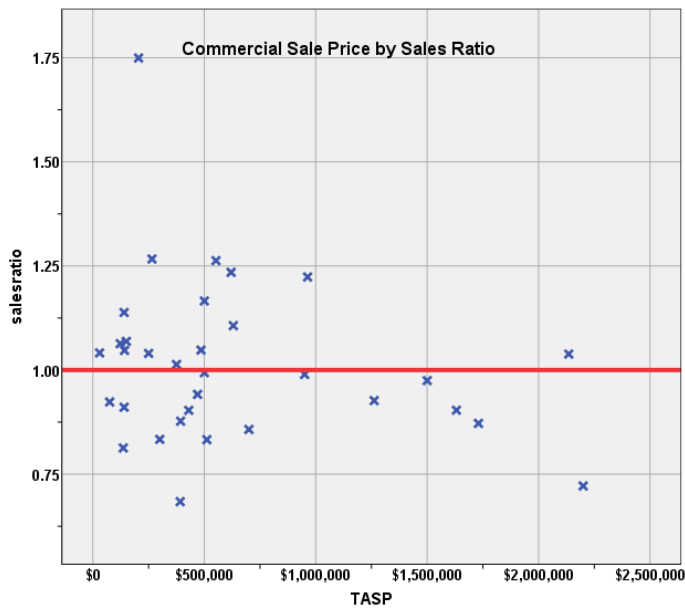
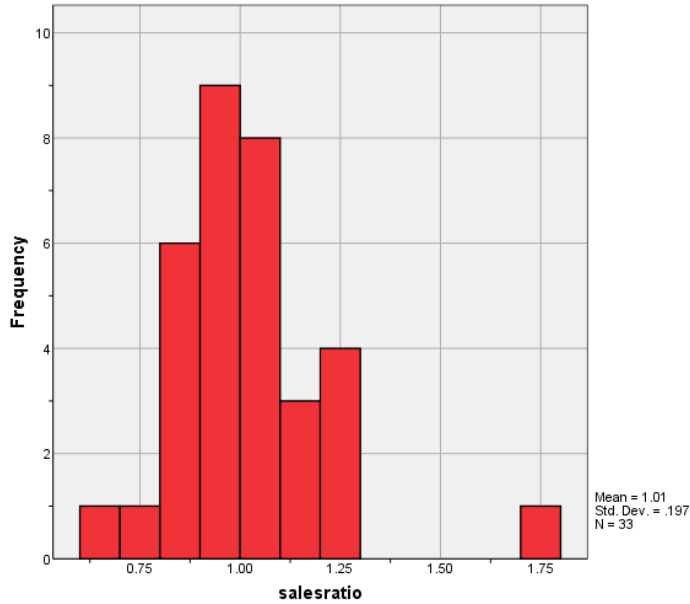
The above results indicate that sold and unsold residential properties were valued in a consistent manner overall.

IV. COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SALE RESULTS

There were 33 qualified commercial sales for the 60-month sale period ending June 30, 2022. The sales ratio analysis results were as follows:

Median	0.994
Price Related Differential	1.045
Coefficient of Dispersion	13.9

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



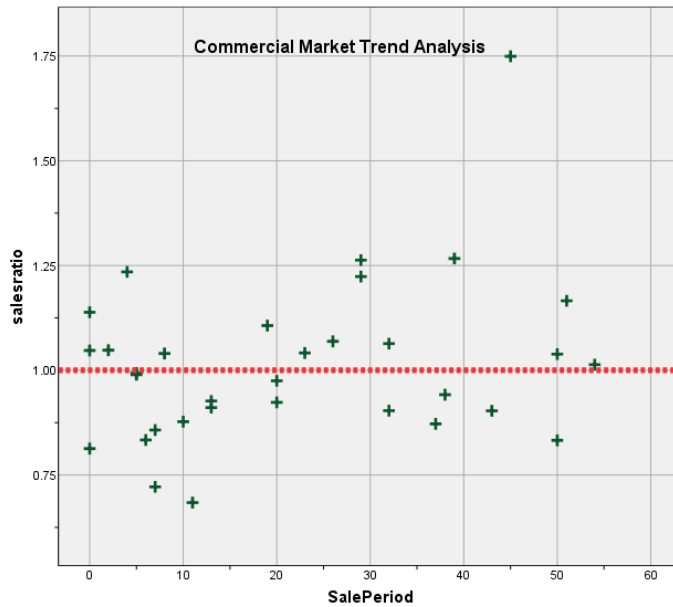
Commercial Market Trend Analysis

The commercial/industrial sales were next analyzed, examining the sales ratios across the 60-month sale period with the following results:

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.941	.054		17.289	.000
	SalePeriod	.003	.002	.291	1.695	.100

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio



The market trend results indicated no statistically significant trend, indicating that the assessor has adequately addressed the issue of market trending for commercial/industrial properties in Elbert County.

Sold/Unsold Analysis

In terms of the valuation consistency between sold and unsold commercial/industrial properties, we compared the change in the median actual value for taxable year 2020 and taxable year 2022 between each group, as follows:

Report

DIFF				
sold	N	Median	Mean	
0	236	1.25	1.28	
1	28	1.36	1.66	
Total	264	1.25	1.32	

We also stratified this analysis by subclass, as follows:

Report

DIFF					
ABSTRIMPMAJOR	sold	N	Median	Mean	
2212	UNSOLD	28	1.20	1.24	
	SOLD	5	1.20	1.63	
2220	UNSOLD	20	1.26	1.28	
	SOLD	4	1.53	1.58	
2225	UNSOLD	5	1.22	1.25	
	SOLD	1	1.96	1.96	
2230	UNSOLD	84	1.23	1.30	
	SOLD	15	1.35	1.69	

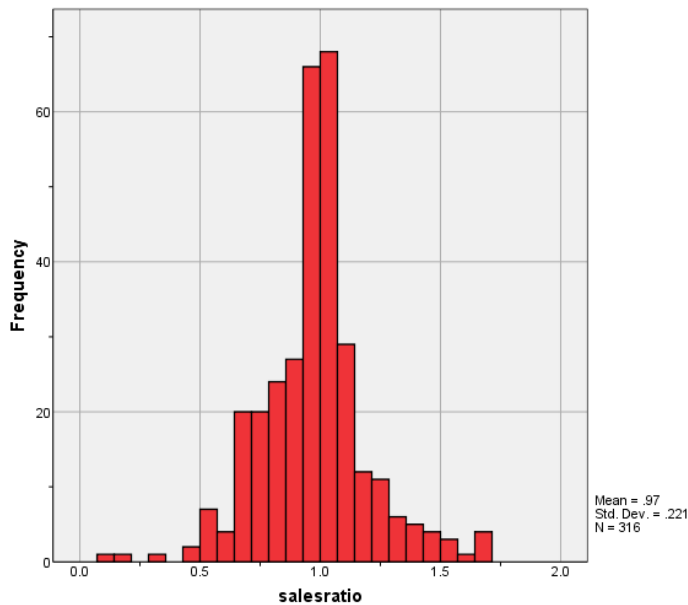
Based on the low number of sales overall and the number of sales when the sales were stratified by subclass, it was not possible to determine credibly if there were any major differences between sold and unsold commercial properties.

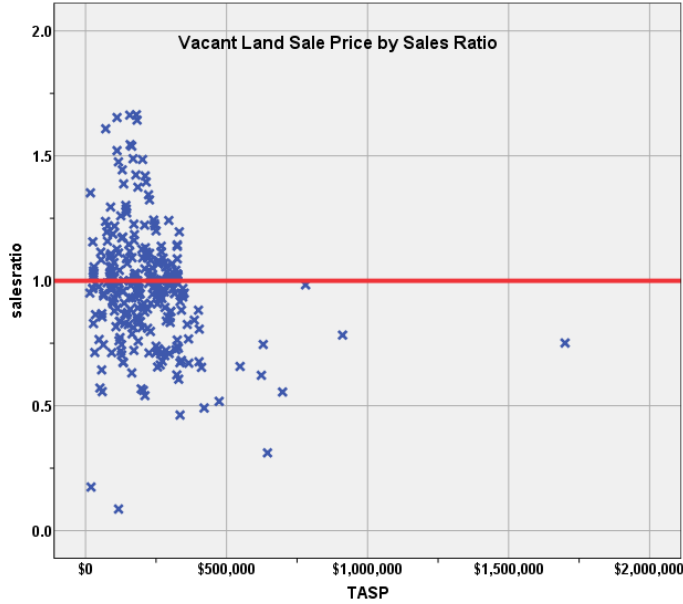
V. VACANT LAND SALE RESULTS

There were 316 qualified vacant land sales for the 48-month sale period ending June 30, 2022. The sales ratio analysis results were as follows:

Median	0.982
Price Related Differential	1.037
Coefficient of Dispersion	15.6

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





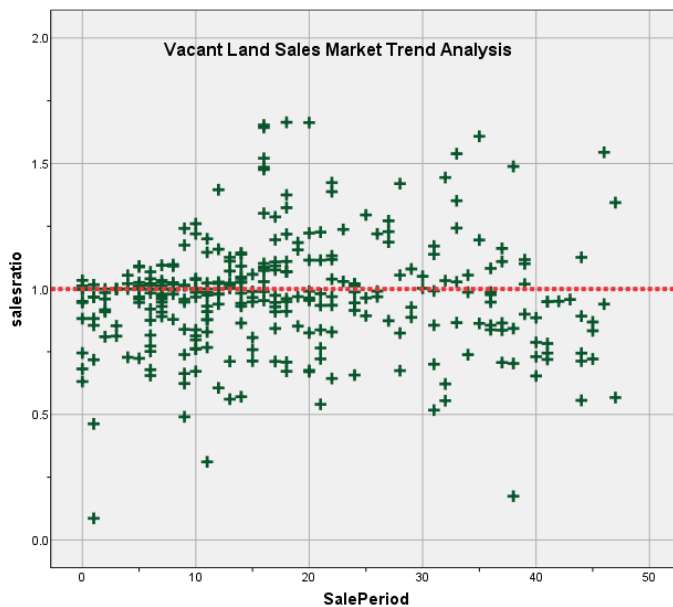
Vacant Land Market Trend Analysis

The vacant land sales were analyzed, examining the sale ratios across the 48- month sale period with the following results:

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients B	Std. Error	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.960	.022		43.805	.000
	SalePeriod	.001	.001	.035	.628	.530

a. Dependent Variable: salesratio



The results indicated that there was no significant market trending present in the sales ratios across the sale period. We concluded that the assessor has applied market trending adjustments in an appropriate manner.

Sold/Unsold Analysis

We compared the median change in actual value for taxable year 2020 and taxable year 2022 for vacant land properties to determine if sold and unsold properties were valued consistently, as follows:

Report

DIFF				
	sold	N	Median	Mean
UNSOLD		735	1.22	1.40
SOLD		183	1.33	1.48

We also stratified this analysis by subdivision (with at least 5 sales), as follows:

Report

DIFF				
SUBDIVNO	sold	N	Median	Mean
32	UNSOLD	19	1.58	1.58
	SOLD	6	1.58	1.58
162	UNSOLD	13	1.09	1.25
	SOLD	6	1.44	1.32
279	UNSOLD	17	1.28	1.26
	SOLD	7	1.15	1.42
356	UNSOLD	14	1.71	1.66
	SOLD	14	1.71	1.71
370	UNSOLD	2	1.12	1.12
	SOLD	5	1.12	1.12
405	UNSOLD	6	1.15	1.15
	SOLD	15	1.30	1.30
460	UNSOLD	7	2.38	2.51
	SOLD	10	2.38	2.31
572	SOLD	5	2.57	2.13

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

VI. CONCLUSIONS

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

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT

Residential

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / 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			
.972	.966	.978	.970	.964	.975	95.5%	.964	.957	.970	1.008	.081	11.3%

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												
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			
1.014	.944	1.084	.994	.911	1.048	96.5%	.971	.897	1.045	1.045	.139	19.4%

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.

Vacant Land

Ratio Statistics for CURRLND / 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			
.971	.947	.995	.982	.964	1.000	95.1%	.936	.907	.965	1.037	.156	22.7%

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 Sale Ratio Stratification

Subclass

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
ABSTRIMP	1212.00	1470	99.2%
	1220.00	4	0.3%
	1230.00	8	0.5%
Overall		1482	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		1482	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
1212.00	.970	1.009	.080	11.1%
1220.00	.539	.958	.331	38.8%
1230.00	.998	1.003	.039	5.1%
Overall	.970	1.008	.081	11.3%

Improvement Age

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
AgeRec	0	4	0.3%
	Over 100	33	2.2%
	75 to 100	14	0.9%
	50 to 75	23	1.6%
	25 to 50	387	26.1%
	5 to 25	428	28.9%
	5 or Newer	593	40.0%
Overall		1482	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		1482	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
0	.539	.958	.331	38.8%
Over 100	.991	1.026	.147	19.4%
75 to 100	.966	1.009	.117	16.7%
50 to 75	.947	1.015	.137	18.6%
25 to 50	.962	1.008	.087	12.2%
5 to 25	.966	1.011	.084	11.2%
5 or Newer	.977	1.006	.064	8.7%
Overall	.970	1.008	.081	11.3%

Improved Area

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
ImpSFRec	500 to 1,000 sf	4	0.3%
	1,000 to 1,500 sf	29	2.0%
	1,500 to 2,000 sf	86	5.8%
	2,000 to 3,000 sf	362	24.4%
	3,000 sf or Higher	1001	67.5%
Overall		1482	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		1482	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
500 to 1,000 sf	.730	1.005	.105	14.4%
1,000 to 1,500 sf	.932	1.007	.099	14.8%
1,500 to 2,000 sf	.943	1.011	.072	9.5%
2,000 to 3,000 sf	.961	1.009	.067	9.8%
3,000 sf or Higher	.978	1.012	.084	11.6%
Overall	.970	1.008	.081	11.3%

Improvement Quality

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
QUALITY		42	2.8%
	1 - LOW	2	0.1%
	2 - FAIR	118	8.0%
	3 - AVERAGE	1237	83.5%
	4 - GOOD	81	5.5%
	5 - V.GOOD	2	0.1%
Overall		1482	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		1482	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
	.844	1.007	.145	20.5%
1 - LOW	.853	.959	.188	26.5%
2 - FAIR	.955	1.012	.130	17.5%
3 - AVERAGE	.973	1.007	.072	9.9%
4 - GOOD	.967	1.009	.091	11.3%
5 - V.GOOD	.961	1.003	.048	6.8%
Overall	.970	1.008	.081	11.3%

Improvement Condition

Case Processing Summary

	Count	Percent
CONDITION	42	2.8%
1 - POOR	3	0.2%
2 - FAIR	12	0.8%
3 - AVERAGE	863	58.2%
4 - GOOD	562	37.9%
Overall	1482	100.0%
Excluded	0	
Total	1482	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
	.844	1.007	.145	20.5%
1 - POOR	.954	1.071	.195	29.7%
2 - FAIR	.975	.996	.109	14.3%
3 - AVERAGE	.963	1.007	.086	11.8%
4 - GOOD	.980	1.005	.065	8.8%
Overall	.970	1.008	.081	11.3%

Commercial Sale Ratio Stratification

Sale Price

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
SPRec	\$25K to \$50K	1	3.0%
	\$50K to \$100K	1	3.0%
	\$100K to \$150K	6	18.2%
	\$200K to \$300K	4	12.1%
	\$300K to \$500K	8	24.2%
	\$500K to \$750K	5	15.2%
	\$750K to \$1,000K	2	6.1%
	Over \$1,000K	6	18.2%
Overall		33	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		33	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
\$25K to \$50K	1.041	1.000	.000	.
\$50K to \$100K	.923	1.000	.000	.
\$100K to \$150K	1.055	.999	.079	12.5%
\$200K to \$300K	1.153	1.035	.248	34.8%
\$300K to \$500K	.968	.991	.105	14.7%
\$500K to \$750K	1.107	1.002	.146	19.1%
\$750K to \$1,000K	1.106	.999	.106	15.0%
Over \$1,000K	.915	1.006	.081	11.8%
Overall	.994	1.045	.139	19.9%

Subclass

Case Processing Summary

	Count	Percent
ABSTRIMP	1607.89	1
	1712.00	1
	1713.50	1
	2212.00	8
	2220.00	4
	2221.00	1
	2225.00	1
	2230.00	14
	2235.00	1
	2236.67	1
Overall	33	100.0%
Excluded	0	
Total	33	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
1607.89	.722	1.000	.000	.
1712.00	.813	1.000	.000	.
1713.50	1.040	1.000	.000	.
2212.00	1.041	1.013	.118	16.4%
2220.00	.946	.979	.079	10.0%
2221.00	.872	1.000	.000	.
2225.00	1.749	1.000	.000	.
2230.00	1.017	1.019	.121	14.8%
2235.00	.923	1.000	.000	.
2236.67	1.038	1.000	.000	.
Overall	.994	1.045	.139	19.9%

Improved Area

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
ImpSFRec	500 to 1,000 sf	1	3.0%
	1,000 to 1,500 sf	4	12.1%
	1,500 to 2,000 sf	1	3.0%
	2,000 to 3,000 sf	6	18.2%
	3,000 sf or Higher	21	63.6%
Overall		33	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		33	

Ratio Statistics for CURRTOT / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
500 to 1,000 sf	.911	1.000	.000	.
1,000 to 1,500 sf	1.044	1.014	.061	12.8%
1,500 to 2,000 sf	.834	1.000	.000	.
2,000 to 3,000 sf	.960	1.046	.110	15.9%
3,000 sf or Higher	1.013	1.059	.155	22.7%
Overall	.994	1.045	.139	19.9%

Vacant Land Sales Ratio Stratification

Sale Price

Case Processing Summary

		Count	Percent
SPRec	LT \$25K	3	0.9%
	\$25K to \$50K	14	4.4%
	\$50K to \$100K	40	12.7%
	\$100K to \$150K	47	14.9%
	\$150K to \$200K	54	17.1%
	\$200K to \$300K	99	31.3%
	\$300K to \$500K	51	16.1%
	\$500K to \$750K	5	1.6%
	\$750K to \$1,000K	2	0.6%
	Over \$1,000K	1	0.3%
Overall		316	100.0%
Excluded		0	
Total		316	

Ratio Statistics for CURRLND / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
LT \$25K	.951	1.041	.413	65.0%
\$25K to \$50K	.983	1.013	.089	12.7%
\$50K to \$100K	1.017	.991	.127	19.0%
\$100K to \$150K	.964	1.000	.205	28.3%
\$150K to \$200K	.976	1.004	.174	26.4%
\$200K to \$300K	1.000	1.004	.123	17.6%
\$300K to \$500K	.949	1.011	.145	19.8%
\$500K to \$750K	.622	1.007	.172	27.5%
\$750K to \$1,000K	.883	1.009	.114	16.1%
Over \$1,000K	.751	1.000	.000	.
Overall	.982	1.037	.156	22.5%

Subclass

Case Processing Summary

	Count	Percent
ABSTRLND	100	48
	200	11
	400	19
	530	8
	540	19
	550	107
	560	3
	1112	92
	1125	1
	1135	3
	2130	4
	2135	1
Overall	316	100.0%
Excluded	0	
Total	316	

Ratio Statistics for CURRLND / TASP

Group	Median	Price Related Differential	Coefficient of Dispersion	Coefficient of Variation Median Centered
100	.985	1.002	.192	24.5%
200	1.175	1.067	.221	27.4%
400	.968	1.036	.144	23.1%
530	.917	1.164	.155	26.6%
540	1.000	1.056	.111	18.6%
550	.983	1.017	.136	20.9%
560	.984	1.029	.089	17.3%
1112	.987	1.033	.144	20.4%
1125	.751	1.000	.000	.
1135	.951	1.041	.413	65.0%
2130	.764	1.002	.057	7.5%
2135	1.055	1.000	.000	.
Overall	.982	1.037	.156	22.5%