

2013 Colorado Planning & Management Region Report

Region 12 – Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin and Summit Counties

INTRODUCTION

The Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) is located in the northwest portion of Colorado just west of the Front Range, and includes the counties of Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin and Summit. In the heart of the Rocky Mountains, Region 12 is characterized by its mountainous terrain and very high overall altitude. The region covers 6,779 square miles, and has an estimated 2012 population of 112,781 per the State Demography Office. While overall population in the region has increased by 19.77% since 2000, we've seen a small decrease of 0.70% over the past two years. Grand and Jackson saw the largest decreases.

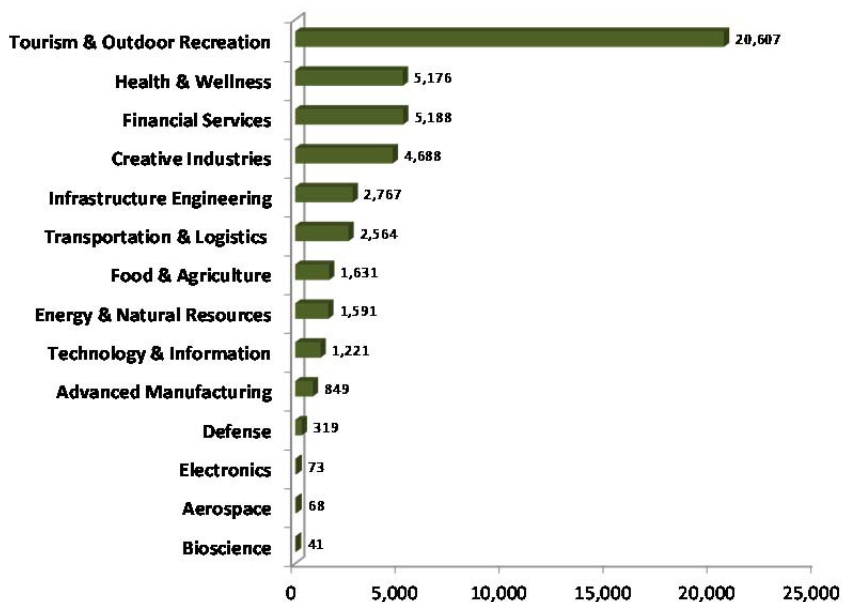
County	Census 2010	July 2012	% Change
Eagle	52,197	51,944	-0.48%
Grand	14,843	14,138	-4.75%
Jackson	1,394	1,326	-4.88%
Pitkin	17,148	17,206	0.34%
Summit	27,994	28,167	0.62%
Colorado	5,029,196	5,188,683	3.17%

Source: State Demography Office

JOBS & THE ECONOMY

The Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) has identified 14 key industries for the state. The chart below illustrates the make-up of the region's economy: our top 5 industries are Tourism and Outdoor Recreation, Health and Wellness, Financial Services, Creative Industries, and Infrastructure Engineering.

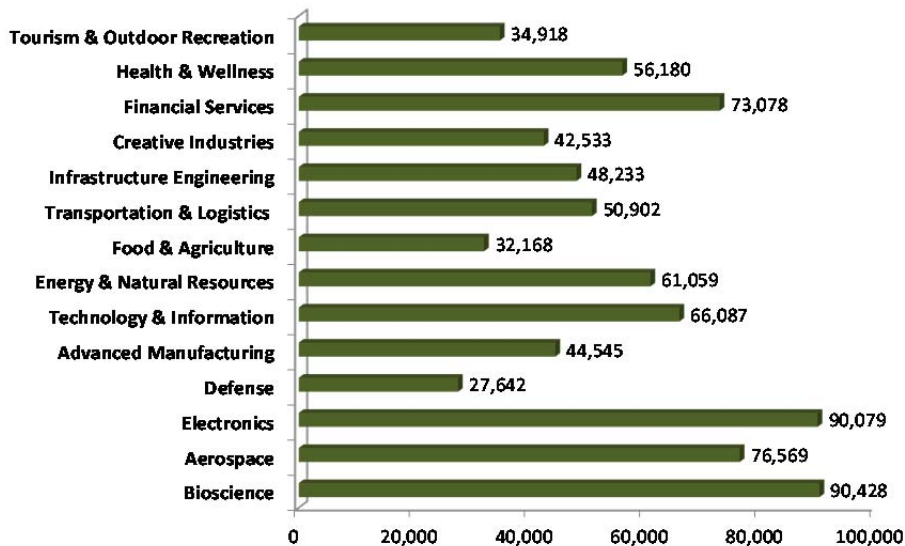
Number of Jobs in NWCCOG Region: 2013 (Source: OEDIT)



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Average Earnings Per Job in NWCCOG's Region: (2013) (source: OEDIT)



How are wages doing in the NWCCOG Region? In comparing the most recent data available by the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, (QCEW), average weekly wage in all but 1 county in the region increased from Q4 2011 to Q4 2012 (most recently reported quarter).

Average Weekly Wage:

	4 th Qtr 2012	4 th Qtr 2011	Inc/Dec	% Inc/Dec
Eagle	\$794	\$793	\$1	0.13%
Grand	\$598	\$577	\$11	1.91%
Jackson	\$613	\$578	\$35	6.06%
Pitkin	\$926	\$883	\$43	4.87%
Summit	\$672	\$674	(\$2)	-0.30%

Tax Revenue:

Sales were up 3.2%, or \$77,216,000 during the 2012-13 ski season, over the 2011-12 ski season.

Unemployment:

Unemployment data from LMI shows a significant decrease in all counties.

County	August 2012	August 2013	% Change
Eagle	7.7%	5.9%	-1.8%
Grand	6.6%	5.3%	-1.3%
Jackson	3.5%	3.3%	-0.2%
Pitkin	6.6%	5.6%	-1.0%
Summit	7.2%	5.7%	-1.5%
Colorado	7.9%	7.0%	-0.9%

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Source: Labor Market Information

NWCCOG Projects:

Broadband Project – NWCCOG recognizes that access to broadband services to connect to the Internet and other online services is important to economic development and quality of life in the region. Therefore, NWCCOG has embarked on a strategic planning effort focused on improving access to broadband for an eight county area, which consists of Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit counties, and the City of Glenwood Springs and Town of Carbondale. This project is funded by a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund. The end goal of this strategic planning effort is to develop a blueprint that will outline several action steps local governments can take to improve access to broadband in the region.

NWCCOG Re-capitalized the Northwest Loan Fund - The Northwest Loan Fund (NLF) offers business loans that will create or retain jobs and bring a value added product or income to the local economy in the 9 Northwest counties (Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt & Summit). The NLF loans money for start-up and expanding businesses that may not qualify for traditional financing. NWCCOG has been approved to receive a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$500,000 to recapitalize the fund.

NWCCOG operates first year as official, federally designated and funded Economic Development District – the EDA will provide annual funding to NWCCOG to support programs and initiatives that strive to create and support healthy, vibrant, diverse economies in our communities. We will focus on programs that support existing small businesses, attract new diverse businesses, educate and train the workforce, focus on innovation and technology, support our tourism sector, which is our main economic driver, and identify and support opportunities to grow our other key industries including health and wellness, creative industries, financial services, infrastructure engineering, and food and agriculture.

NWCCOG Selected as a Regional Hub for Colorado Health Benefit Exchange – NWCCOG is now one of 6 hubs across the state selected to provide coordination for in-person assistance for customers of Connect for Health Colorado - the new health insurance marketplace opening in October. NWCCOG's charge is to help the assistance sites throughout the 9 northwest Colorado counties serve their local communities by helping individuals, families and small employers consider health plan options, apply for insurance affordability programs, and sign up for health coverage.

Interesting Things Happening Around the Region

EAGLE COUNTY

NEW FITNESS CENTER IN MINTURN - Officials from the town of Minturn were joined by executives from the Ski and Snowboard Club Vail for groundbreaking ceremonies of the new multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art facility Minturn Fitness Center at Maloit Park in Minturn.

HOUSTON FLIGHT PROVES SUCCESSFUL - The EGE Air Alliance, the private group in Eagle County formed last year to bring more commercial flights into Eagle County Regional Airport, raised about \$400,000 to provide the guarantee for a United Airlines flight from Houston this summer. Air Alliance members

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believe the flight is already meeting or exceeding expectations.

GRAND COUNTY

Grand County Creative Industry Initiative - Creative Industries has been identified as one of the top 5 industries in the NWCCOG Region. Grand County Creative Industry Champion Representatives have been meeting monthly to develop strategies for growing and strengthening this industry in the County.

Momentum Builds for Grand County Construction Industry – Permit data shows an improving construction industry in Grand County. Building permit levels are at the highest level seen in two years in Grand County.

JACKSON COUNTY

North Park School District Accredited with Distinction - One of the greatest assets in North Park is their school district. There was an exciting announcement recently that the North Park School District is being recognized as ACCREDITED WITH DISTINCTION for the THIRD year in a row.

Jackson County Courthouse turns 100 years old – Happy 100th Birthday to the Jackson County Courthouse.

PITKIN COUNTY

CONSTRUCTION COMING TO BASE VILLAGE - Following action by the Snowmass Village Town Council approving on second reading an amendment for Building 13B, the second phase of the Viceroy Snowmass, construction is slated to begin on Building 13B next spring, the first significant construction at Base Village in some four years.

How to get bigger jets to aspen? - The Pitkin County commissioners agreed to commission a study to provide updates on the status of new regional jet aircraft that have longer flying ranges and whether the Aspen-Pitkin County Airport will have to alter its 95-foot wingspan restriction. Currently, there are only two regional commercial jet aircraft, the CRJ-700 and Q400 that can fly into Aspen.

SUMMIT COUNTY

WHOLE FOODS MARKET COMING TO FRISCO - The Town of Frisco planning commission agreed to a larger version of the Whole Foods Market which is located near the Summit Stage transfer center. The market will be increased from the originally proposed 25,000 square feet to 32,000 square feet.

SOLAR SHINING IN BRECK - Officials from the Town of Breckenridge, the High Country Conservation Center and the Clean Energy Collective broke ground this May for the Breckenridge Ullr Solar Array Garden at the Stilson property in town. The solar garden will be a 500-kilowatt facility designed to allow businesses, residents and local governments to buy a share of renewable energy and receive a power credit on their utility bills.