

# 2015 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 2014 population of 115,768 per the State Demography Office. This reflects a 1.93% increase since the 2010 Census, with Summit County growing the most.

### Population:

County	Census 2010	July 2014	% Change
Eagle	52,197	52,831	1.21%
Grand	14,843	14,505	-2.28%
Jackson	1,394	1,388	-0.43%
Pitkin	17,148	17,645	2.90%
Summit	27,994	29,399	5.02%
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>5,029,196</b>	<b>5,353,471</b>	<b>6.45%</b>

Source: State Demography Office

## JOBS & THE ECONOMY

The total number of jobs, in all industries, increased by 2,239, or 2.8%, from Q1 2015 to Q1 2014. Statewide job growth overall was 4% for this same period.

### Average Employment:

County	Q1 2015	Q1 2014	# Change	% Change
Eagle	33,598	32,344	1254	3.9%
Grand	7,668	7,462	206	2.8%
Jackson	492	506	-14	-2.8%
Pitkin	17,899	18,280	-381	-2.1%
Summit	22,843	21,669	1,174	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,500</b>	<b>80,261</b>	<b>2,239</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

The unemployment rate in all 5 counties in the NWCCOG region for August 2015 was lower than the reported rate for the same month one year ago, with the exception of Jackson County which had no change. It was also lower than the state average.

### Unemployment Rates:

County	August 2014	August 2015	% Change
Eagle	3.6%	2.7%	-0.9%
Grand	3.5%	2.8%	-0.7%
Jackson	3.2%	3.2%	-
Pitkin	3.9%	3.0%	-0.9%
Summit	3.2%	2.5%	-0.7%
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>

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As of July 2015, the region's total labor force is reported at 73,390. This is a 7% increase over the total labor force reported one year ago in July 2014.

Labor Force: July 2015 vs. July 2014			
	Jul-15	Jul-14	% Chg
Eagle	32,396	30,254	7%
Grand	9,381	9,527	-2%
Jackson	949	1,186	-20%
Pitkin	11,170	11,106	1%
Summit	19,494	16,737	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,390</b>	<b>68,810</b>	<b>7%</b>

## Job Growth in Key Industries

There was positive growth in all key industries in the region, with significant job growth in the construction industry (+10.8%) and Agriculture industry (+29.2%).

	Q1 2015	Q1 2014	#Chg	%Chg
Accommodations & Food Svc	24,015	23,573	442	1.9%
Healthcare & Social Assistance	4,484	4,334	150	3.5%
Finance & Insurance	1,085	1,079	6	0.6%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	9,569	9,248	321	3.5%
Professional, Scientific, Tech. Svcs.	2,620	2,592	28	1.1%
Construction	4,842	4,369	473	10.8%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting	261	202	59	29.2%

## Wages

Annual earnings for all industries, when averaging all counties in the region, was \$36,754 for the 1st quarter of 2015. The highest paying jobs are in the Finance & Insurance, Professional/Scientific/Technical, Construction, and Healthcare industries.

	All Industries	Accom. & Food Services	Healthcare & Social Asst.	Finance & Insurance	Arts, Ent., Recreation	Prof., Scien. Tech. Svcs	Construct.	Ag, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting
EAGLE	\$40,976	\$32,916	\$59,644	\$82,576	\$32,552	\$59,540	\$50,804	\$41,964
GRAND	\$30,940	\$21,892	\$40,508	\$50,024	\$23,452	\$56,264	\$42,328	\$34,060
JACKSON	\$32,500	\$32,500	\$11,544	\$28,652	\$13,624	\$65,676	\$36,296	\$31,148
PITKIN	\$46,696	\$37,752	\$63,856	\$123,604	conf.	\$69,992	\$60,424	\$32,708
SUMMIT	\$32,656	\$32,656	\$46,228	\$73,736	\$21,424	\$58,968	\$44,824	\$32,448
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>\$36,754</b>	<b>\$31,543</b>	<b>\$52,559</b>	<b>\$82,485</b>	<b>\$22,763</b>	<b>\$62,088</b>	<b>\$46,935</b>	<b>\$34,466</b>

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In comparing Q1 2015 to Q1 2014, annual earnings increased in all but one key industry in the region. The largest gains were seen in Accommodations and Food Service, and in Healthcare and Social Assistance.

	All Industries	Accom. & Food Services	Healthcare & Social Asst.	Finance & Insurance	Entertainment, Recreation	Prof., Scientific, Tech. Svcs	Construction	Forestry, Fishing, Hunting
\$	\$1,269	\$5,522	\$8,473	(\$5,811)	\$650	\$2,454	\$1,612	\$1,144
%	3.6%	21.2%	19.2%	-6.6%	2.9%	4.1%	3.6%	3.4%

### HOUSING

Median residential price for a single family home increased in all but Grand County when comparing Q2 2015 to Q2 2014 (no data was available for Jackson County). Average residential price for a single family home rose in Grand and Summit Counties, but decreased in Eagle and Pitkin Counties. Average price per square foot rose in all 4 counties in the region.

The number of transactions in the region increased by 24.8% when comparing Q2 2015 to Q2 2014, and the number of bank sales decreased overall by 13.2%, however they increased in 2 out of the 4 counties reporting.

	Median Residential Price			Average Residential Price			Avg. Res. Price Per SF		
	Q2 2015	Q2 2014	% chg	Q2 2015	Q2 2014	% chg	Q2 2015	Q2 2014	% chg
Eagle	\$ 596,000	\$ 546,563	9.0%	\$ 1,057,600	\$ 1,210,156	-12.6%	\$ 440.25	\$ 434.66	1.3%
Grand	\$ 239,000	\$ 240,000	-0.4%	\$ 335,252	\$ 315,684	6.2%	\$ 190.20	\$ 174.95	8.7%
Pitkin	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,290,000	16.3%	\$ 2,257,859	\$ 2,799,154	-19.3%	\$ 982.01	\$ 930.83	5.5%
Summit	\$ 407,000	\$ 392,500	3.7%	\$ 540,387	\$ 511,661	5.6%	\$ 329.66	\$ 313.83	5.0%

	# of Transactions			# of Bank Sales		
	Q2 2015	Q2 2014	% chg	Q2 2015	Q2 2014	% chg
Eagle	515	455	13.2%	14	25	-44.0%
Grand	320	247	29.5%	36	18	100.0%
Pitkin	207	182	13.7%	5	9	-44.4%
Summit	619	439	41.0%	5	1	400.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,651</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>24.8%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13.2%</b>

The second-home market is alive and well in the region, as evidenced by the large number of non-local buyers in the buyer profiles of each county.

### INTERESTING THINGS HAPPENING AROUND THE REGION

#### Health & Wellness Industry:

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**Kaiser Permanente nears arrival in Summit** - Kaiser Permanente Colorado, which will open its first medical offices in Summit County this January, is about to offer health insurance for interested county residents. Brent Bowman, executive director for Kaiser Permanente Colorado's mountain service area, said consumers can begin shopping for coverage through the nonprofit health plan in October and can purchase coverage starting in November, which will be effective in January. In June, the nonprofit health plan and managed-care provider announced plans to open a Frisco office in the Basecamp retail center at 226 Lusher Court. The health-care provider is offering numerous services including an online patient portal.

"Patients can email doctors with questions and will have an answer within one business day," Bowman said. Appointments can be booked online and video conferences with specialists can be arranged. "We want to extend the reach of our Denver-based specialists," he said. Additionally, medical records and lab results can be found online. X-ray and lab facilities will also be onsite. "We provide services under one roof," he said. "It saves you from driving around and waiting."

Specialists will also rotate through the Frisco office, so patients can still meet in person when needed, he said. Plans are in place to add a pharmacy on site, too. Patient numbers will dictate the timetable for the pharmacy, he said. In 2014, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals reported a combined net income of \$3.1 billion, with operating revenues of \$56.4 billion. (*Summit Daily News*, 9/23/15)

**WorkWell Collaborative emerges out of Region 12 Health & Wellness Sector Partnership** - Through a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, a regional effort is underway, through NWCCOG's Regional Health and Wellness Sector Partnership, to bring Health Links to the region. Health Links™ is a nonprofit initiative spearheaded by health and safety experts at the Center for Health, Work and Environment within the Colorado School of Public Health. Health Links™ mission is to simplify how worksite health and safety get done. By doing so, they are helping build healthy, vibrant businesses and a stronger local economy. Through this regional, 3-year effort, Health Links will be deployed across the 5-county region, with the regional health and wellness sector partnership serving as the advisory committee.

## **Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Industry:**

### **Trends in the Ski Industry Discussed at Annual Gathering of Industry Experts at**

**The Assembly** – (by Lauran Glendenning, *Aspen Times* 1/30/15) - The state of the ski and snowboard industry in the United States is that it's changing. Some of that change is good, some bad, but overall the industry has serious challenges ahead, including climate change, an aging customer base and aging infrastructure, to name a few. Industry leaders gathered at the Colorado Convention Center on January 28th for The Assembly, an unofficial kickoff to the annual Snowsports Industries America Snow Show, which features panel discussions and interactive sessions about the ski industry's place in the larger tourism industry. Millennials make much less money on average than the ski industry's core market - households with \$100,000 annual incomes - but that's not stopping ski-industry leaders from coveting the millennial generation more than ever. The reason is simple: Baby boomers are dropping out of skiing and snowboarding as they age, and the industry hasn't yet figured out how to grow the sport with younger generations in order to offset those baby boomer declines. Region 12 ski areas are learning how to deal with these trends.

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**SKICO: FOCUS ON MILLENNIALS** – (source: *Aspen Times* (9/11/15) - Executives of the Aspen Skiing Co. recently told a capacity crowd of Aspen Chamber Resort Association members at the annual kick-off to 'live up to the Aspen Idea'. The skiing company is looking ahead by focusing on attracting millennials, the 18-34 year-old age group that will comprise a third of the nation's population by 2020 and will supplant the baby boomer generation as the largest segment of the ski-snowboard population.

**State of Colorado Creates Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office** - Eagle Town Board member Luis Benitez has been tapped by Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper to serve as the state's first director for the newly created Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office. It's a prestigious honor for the Eagle resident, but it also means Eagle will be filling a third vacancy in the space of a year. Benitez was elected to the town board in the spring of 2014. "Obviously there are parts of this (his state appointment) that are bittersweet given all the work we are doing here in Eagle," said Benitez. At the same time, he was intrigued with the idea of creating a new state office to oversee the types of outdoor recreation options he has championed in the community. "I see the community vision in the state of Colorado vision," said Benitez. "I really see myself being able to be a voice for Eagle at the state level."

**The Economic Impact of Public Lands** - The economic benefits of public lands, including national parks, extend beyond tourism. The greatest value of natural amenities and recreation opportunities often lies in the ability of protected lands to attract and retain people, entrepreneurs, businesses, and retirees. One such gateway community in our region is the Town of Grand Lake, which serves as the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park in Grand County. The following illustrates the economic impact of Rocky Mountain National Park in Grand County: over 3 million visitors; over \$200,000,000 in visitor spending; over 3,000 jobs; and over \$100,000,000 in income. (source: Headwaters Economics)

## **Creative Industries:**

**Breckenridge establishes BreckCreate, a Creative Arts District** - Breckenridge Creative Arts was developed by Breckenridge as a department to support and promote arts, culture and creative experiences throughout the town. On Thursday, Jan. 1, the department was incorporated as a nonprofit independent of the town, called "BreckCreate" creating an umbrella organization that advocates for the arts, provides educational and engagement opportunities and champions the local creative community.

**Region 12 Communities receive Colorado Creates Grants** - Colorado Creates is CCI's largest grant program, providing critical financial support that helps nonprofit cultural organizations and government agencies produce and present arts and cultural activities, bringing jobs to their communities and enhancing their quality of life. Grants are awarded annually on a competitive basis and provide a seal of excellence that helps organizations leverage local and national funds. Grants awarded in Region 12: Eagle County : Bravo! Colorado at Vail-Beaver Creek-\$10,000; Spellbinders-\$6,500; The Vail Jazz Foundation, Inc-\$8,500; Vail Valley Foundation-\$10,000. Grand County: Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre-\$10,000; Pitkin County: Grantees: Aspen Film-\$8,500; Dance Initiative-\$4,000; Aspen Music Festival and School-\$10,000; Red Brick Center for the Arts-\$6,500; Theatre Aspen-\$10,000. Summit County: Backstage Theatre-\$7,500; Breckenridge Creative Arts-\$10,000; Breckenridge Music Institute-\$8,500; Lake Dillon Foundation for the Performing Arts-\$10,000; National Repertory Orchestra-\$8,500.

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## **Professional, Scientific & Technical Industries:**

**Co-Working Spaces Emerge in Region 12** - Midweek powder days pose some of life's most arduous dilemmas: Should I go, or should I stay? Should I work, or should I play? Thanks to an emergence of co-working spaces in Region 12, you get the best of both worlds: Shred powder like a hero on the slopes, and work it like a boss in a skier-friendly office space. The following co-working spaces are in Region 12: RiverCoWorks in Basalt; Base Camp in Avon; Elevate CoSpace and EVO3 CoSpace in Frisco.

**COLORADO TECH TOUR COMES TO FRISCO** - It was a packed house on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at the inaugural Colorado Tech Tour's stop in Frisco at Elevate CoSpace, where about 40 entrepreneurs, tech companies, elected officials, community leaders and tech business owners participated in a listening session. The Colorado Technology Association created the Colorado Tech Tour with the Office of Economic Development & International Trade, the Colorado Innovation Network, the Governor's office of IT and GoCode Colorado to showcase tech projects, companies and entrepreneurs around the state, as well as to gather information about the needs of the local communities and how to elevate technology around the entire state. The Tech Tour stopped in Summit County to tour Sulas Industries and learn more about its solar tech demonstration project with the town of Silverthorne, as well as to feature and film local companies for a promotional video.

**Colorado Mountain College to offer two more bachelor's degrees** - Two more bachelor's degrees will be offered through Colorado Mountain College beginning fall semester of 2015, following approvals received this month from the college's accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission. The Bachelor of Applied Science in Leadership and Management will be offered at Colorado Mountain College locations in Steamboat Springs, Glenwood Springs and Edwards. This degree is what is known as a 2+2 degree, which means that students must first finish an Associate of Applied Science degree in a specific career and technical emphasis from a regionally accredited school with 60 credits minimum before being admitted to the bachelor's degree program.

The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies: Elementary Education will be offered at Colorado Mountain College locations in Glenwood Springs and Edwards. This is a dual-endorsement program in both elementary education as well as culturally and linguistically diverse education, to meet the needs of classrooms in the 21st century. To accommodate the extensive in-classroom training that is a signature of this CMC degree, it is designed for students entering as freshmen. As CMC also participates in the statewide transfer program for this degree, up to 60 specifically designated credits may apply to this degree program.

These two new degrees join three other bachelor's degree programs currently offered at the college in business administration, nursing and sustainability studies, as well as more than 100 associate degrees and certificates, and hundreds of non-credit and lifelong learning courses.