



Agricultural and Resource Policy Report

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AGRICULTURAL COALITION FOR TOMORROW: AN ECONOMIC PROFILE OF 13 COLORADO COUNTIES

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1. Introduction

This report provides an economic profile of the 13 Colorado counties, located in the southeast and south-central region of the state, that comprise the Agricultural Coalition for Tomorrow (ACT). The objective of the report is to increase understanding of the contributors to ACT counties' economies in order to facilitate collaboration in strategic planning for future economic development in the region. In view of the likely uses of this information, the overall report has been released as 13 stand alone county reports. Each county report contains all state and regional information, in order to provide context for comparison, and the information specifically pertaining to one county.

The report illustrates potential areas of common interest or concern within ACT counties as well as pointing to unique features of counties that are less likely to be advanced through collaboration. This information provides an essential starting point in the search for regional and subregional economic development strategies, but can only fulfill this role if the information is actively used, updated and matched with complementary sources of local information to reflect changes in the regional economy over time.

Study region: The focal 13 Colorado counties for this report are: Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, and Pueblo counties. These counties comprise the Agricultural Coalition for Tomorrow (ACT) Region. Throughout the report Colorado state information is compared to regional and county data.

Focal areas of research:

Available county-level secondary information has been compiled to illustrate the essential features of the Colorado economy. A ten-year time series of information was used as available.

The data used include:

- General demographic information including population by age and race.
- General economic information including labor, employment, jobs-by-sector, housing, taxes, building permits, agricultural and land use information.
- Agricultural information including crop acreage, livestock production, agricultural income and expenditures, number of farms, value of farmland and buildings, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres, and federal subsidies received.

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1.1 Demographics

The demographic information provided by this report is population by age and by race. The Demography Section of the Colorado Division of Local Government prepares annual population by age estimates. *Population by age*³ is broken down into five age categories; 14 and under, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64, and over 65 years of age. *Population by race*⁴ data were obtained from the 1990 and 2000 United States censuses.

1.2 Housing⁵

The housing market data provided by this report include: population, household population, group quarters population, total housing units, total households occupied, vacant housing units, average household size, housing vacancy rate, and net building permits. For the regional and state assessment of housing data, the totals for each county were summed and determined using the same methodology employed by the State Demographer's Office.

The U.S. Census Bureau provides *population* estimates. *Household population* is the number of people living in households on July 1 for each year and is computed by subtracting the group quarters population from the total population.

Group quarters population includes inmates of institutions such as; prisons, nursing homes, handicapped living institutions, military barracks, dormitories, and shelters. It is estimated from decennial census group quarters counts and also by annual data from institutions and colleges.

Total housing units are estimated by adding net building permits to decennial census count of housing units. The estimate includes both seasonal and vacant units.

Total households occupied are estimated from total housing units, household population, and people per household. *Vacant housing units* are computed by subtracting total households from total housing units and are prepared by the Office of the Colorado State

Demographer. The *average household size* is computed by dividing the household population by the number of households. This is the average number of people residing in each household.

The *housing vacancy rate*⁶ is prepared by the State Demographer's Office and is computed by dividing the number of vacant housing units by total housing units. The number of seasonal homes in each county has been subtracted from the total reported number of vacant homes in order to obtain a better view of the actual home vacancy rate.

The Housing Division of the U.S. Census Bureau obtains *residential building permits* from annual survey reports. The permits include both private and public new housing units, and in most cases does not cover mobile homes or trailers. Prior to 1995, the data reflected the subtraction of demolitions, therefore only 1995-1999 data is assessed in this report.

1.3 Labor and Jobs by Sector

All labor market information and *jobs-by-sector*⁷ information is provided to the public through the Colorado State Demographer's Office. Labor market information includes *estimated total jobs, labor force, employed people, wage & salary jobs, estimated proprietors, and unemployed people*.⁸ The primary state agency in charge of collection of employment data is the Labor Market Information section (LMI) of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Employment data from the Census of Population and Economic Censuses are excluded from the data reported here because they are not available on an annual basis. Rather, a combination of estimation techniques is used to produce this series.

The two key sources of data for these estimates are the Current Population Survey (CPS) and establishment records. The CPS is administered by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), which samples 600 households in Colorado.

³ Colorado Population Projection System. Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Feb 2002 <http://www.dola.colorado.gov/demog/Population/widepro1.cfm>

⁴ 1990-2000 Demographic Comparisons. Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Feb 2002 <http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog/CensusData/Compare.html>

⁵ Colorado County Profile System. Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Feb 2002 <http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog/mule.cfm>

⁶ 1990-2000 Demographic Trend Report. Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Aug 2002. <http://www.dlg.oem2.state.co.us/demog/Census/SummaryFile1/DemographicTrend.htm>

⁷ Colorado Employment by Sector. Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Feb. 2002 <http://www.dlg.oem2.state.co.us/demog/empgcod1.cfm>

⁸ Colorado Employment, Labor Force, and Jobs. Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Feb. 2002 <http://www.dlg.oem2.state.co.us/demog/employ1.cfm>

Establishment records provide an estimate of the number of employees at work in an industrial establishment. Employment Security Program information (ES 202) is a major component of the establishment records. Under this program each firm with one or more employees is required to report the number of employees working for that company to the state on a quarterly basis. This employment data is considered of the highest available quality since it comes from employee payroll records. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses this information to estimate the number of farm wage and salary jobs using estimates provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In order to estimate the total number of jobs, the number of proprietors in each county must be compiled. In non-metropolitan areas, the BEA uses Schedule C of the income tax return form to derive this number. This overestimates the number of proprietors in each county, since most perform proprietary functions on a limited basis. The Colorado Demography Section has elected to use an alternative means to arrive at the number of proprietors at the county level. In the non-metropolitan areas of the state, dividing BEA's estimate of proprietor's income by the average earnings of wage and salary employees provides an estimate of the number of proprietors. Conversely, the number of proprietors in metropolitan areas is derived by the use of national ratios. Regional jobs-bisector estimates were found by the sum of the 13 individual county sectoral employment estimates.

1.4 Local Taxes⁹

Tax information is divided into four major categories at the county level for evaluation purposes; retail sales, sales tax paid, total taxable assessed value, and mill levy.

Total *retail sales* and *sales tax paid* are both reported in thousands of dollars on an annual basis by the Colorado Department of Revenue. *Total taxable property* includes all land, improvements and personal property, whether assessed by the county assessors or by the state. The data is obtained from the Colorado Division of Property Taxation and is reported in thousands of dollars. The *mill levy* is the number of dollars of prop-

erty tax levied on each thousand dollars of assessed value for the support of a particular local government. In this assessment the base county mill levy, average school levy, and total average mill levy is provided.

State and regional sales tax information is determined by the sum of all counties' sales tax paid and retail sales. State and regional mill levy information is computed as a weighted average of the county mill levies based upon the county total assessed value and total property taxes paid. Care must be exercised in the evaluation of this data since the difference from county-to-county can be drastic in some instances.

1.5 Education

Education information is provided in two principal categories: *school enrollment*¹⁰ and *total revenues and expenditures per school district*.¹¹ School enrollment for grades 1 to 8 is obtained from the Colorado Department of Education and the Dioceses of Colorado. Non-Catholic private school pupils are not included in the data. The October Average Daily Attendance Entitlement (ADEA) for each school year is reported. Total Revenue and Expenditures for school districts is reported by the Colorado Department of Education and is the source for this data.

1.6 Agriculture

The agriculture sector is of traditional economic and cultural importance throughout the ACT region of Colorado. It remains a principal land use and steward of the natural resource base in the region. As a result, the economic features of the agriculture sector were afforded greater focus than other active economic sectors in the region. Data are provided on the number of farms, acres of land in farms, value of farmland and buildings, farm income and expenses, *CRP acres*,¹² crop production, and livestock production.

*Number of farms, acres of land in farms, and value of farmland and buildings*¹³ are determined using Census of Agriculture information for 1987, 1992, and 1997. *Farm income and expenses*¹⁴ are estimated by the Economic Research Service (ERS) with the cooperation of National Agriculture Statistic (NASS) of the USDA. The USDA estimate of *net income of all farms* is calculated as the estimates of gross output less the estimates of production expenses.

⁹ Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature. Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Sept. 2002.

¹⁰ Colorado County Profile System. Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Feb. 2002. <http://www.dola.state.co.us/demog/mule.cfm>

¹¹ School District Revenues and Expenditures. Colorado Department of Education. Feb. 2002 <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/RevExp.htm>

¹² Monthly Active CRP Contract Reports. Farm Service Agency. Feb. 2002 http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crp_reports.htm

¹³ Census of Agriculture: 1987, 1992, 1997. Oregon State University. Feb. 2002 <http://govinfo.kerr.orst.edu/ag-stateis.html>

¹⁴ Regional Accounts Data. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Feb. 2002 <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) *cash receipts* estimates are based on data for the quantities of the agricultural products sold and their prices at the state and county levels. *Gross output* is calculated as the sum of cash receipts from the sale of agricultural products, cash receipts from other farm activities, government payments, the gross rental value of farm housing, the imputed value of home consumption for farm products, and the value of the change in farm inventories.

The estimates of *production expenses* include the purchases of feed, livestock and poultry, seed, fertilizer, agricultural chemicals and lime, and petroleum products, labor expenses, machinery rental and custom work, and animal health.

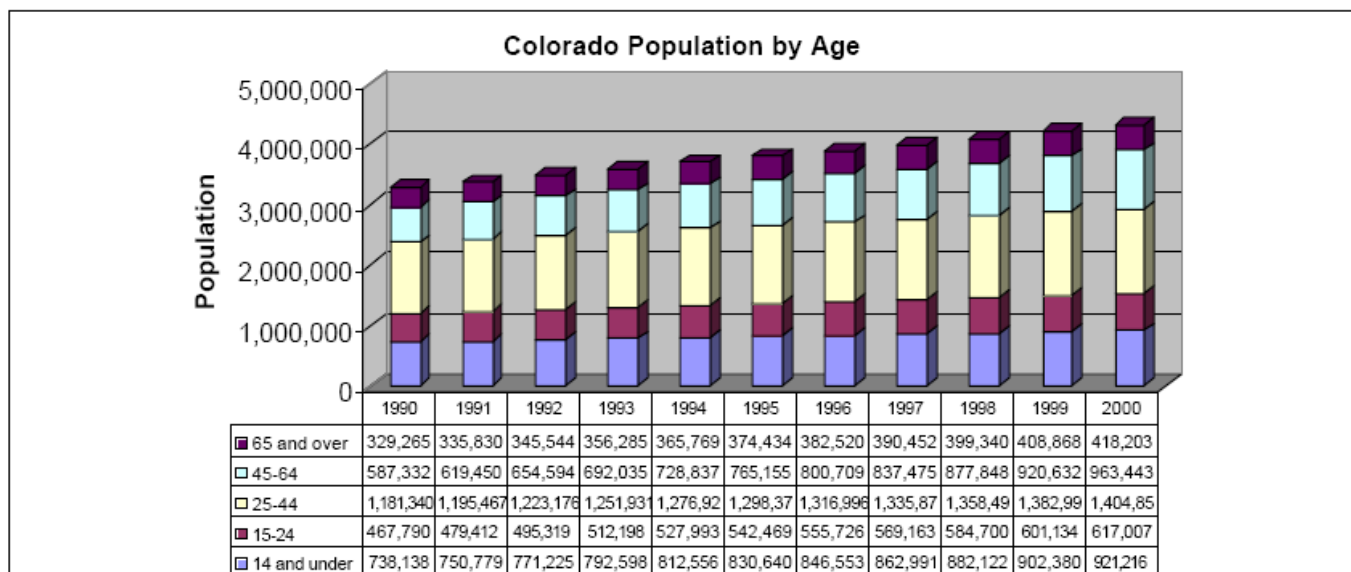
Colorado Agriculture Statistics Service (CASS) publishes annual *crop production*¹⁵ information for major crops grown in the state. These crops include; winter and spring wheat, corn for grain and silage, barley, oats, sorghum, sunflowers, dry beans, alfalfa hay and all hay. Acres planted/harvested, and production data are provided. *Livestock production* is composed of livestock sold in thousands of dollars and the number of livestock producers. Livestock species include cattle, hogs, and sheep and the source of information is Census of Agriculture for 1987, 1992, and 1997.

2. Population by Age

The number of people in different age categories over time provides an initial indication of the demographic profile and trends within the region. These categories are 14 years of age and under, 15-24, 25-44, 45-64, and over 65. The age of the population gives an indication of the sort of current and future employment opportunities required and the type and amount of services demanded. Aggregated age characteristics of a county's or region's population can provide early indications of service needs, such as schools and hospitals, markets for local products, and features of the current and future labor force.

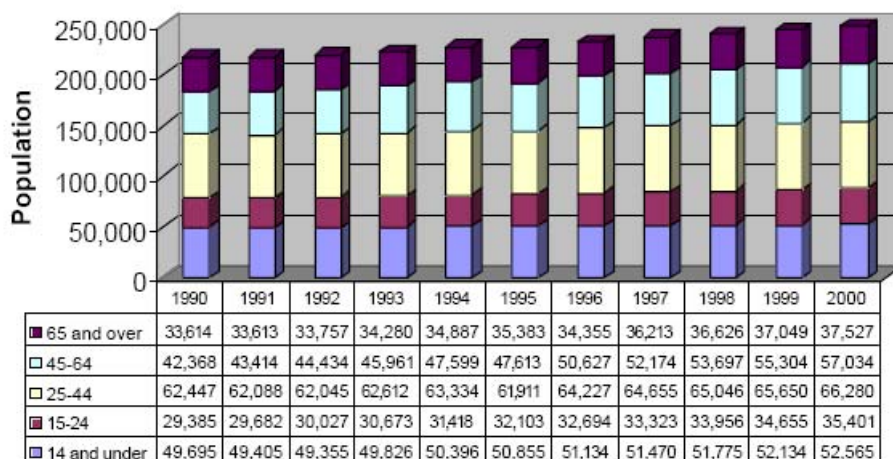
2.1 Overview and Summary

Colorado's population increased from 3.3 million in 1990 to 4.3 million in 2000, a rate of 31% for the decade. Colorado was one of only eight states to grow by more than 1 million people over the period and the third fastest growing state in the country behind Nevada and Arizona. Throughout the decade the greatest proportion of the population fell in the prime workforce productivity years between 25 and 44 years of age, 38% of the total in 2000. Paralleling national aging trends, the 45-64 age category experienced the greatest rate of increase over the decade (64%), followed by the 15-24 age category (32%) and the greater than 65 year old category (27%). The lowest rate of growth was in the most populous category, ages 25-44 years, which increased by 19% over the decade.



¹⁵ Colorado. Colorado Department of Agriculture. Colorado Agriculture Statistics 1991-2001. Colorado Agriculture Statistics Service, Feb. 2002

ACT Region Population by Age



The ACT Region's population increased from 217,509 in 1990 to 248,807 in 2000, a rate of 14% for the decade. The population of the ACT Region was 7% of state population in 1990 and 6% in 2000. Like the state of Colorado, the greatest proportion of the people in the ACT Region were between the ages of 25-44. However, that age category comprised only 27% of the total population in 2000 in the region compared to 38% in the state as a whole. Following state and national trends, the 45-64 year old age category was the fastest growing age group (35%) in the region over the period, followed by people between the ages of 15 and 24 (21%). Two of the age categories representing current and future entrants to the labor force (25 to 44 years of age and under 14 yrs) increased at the relatively low rate of 6% over the period.

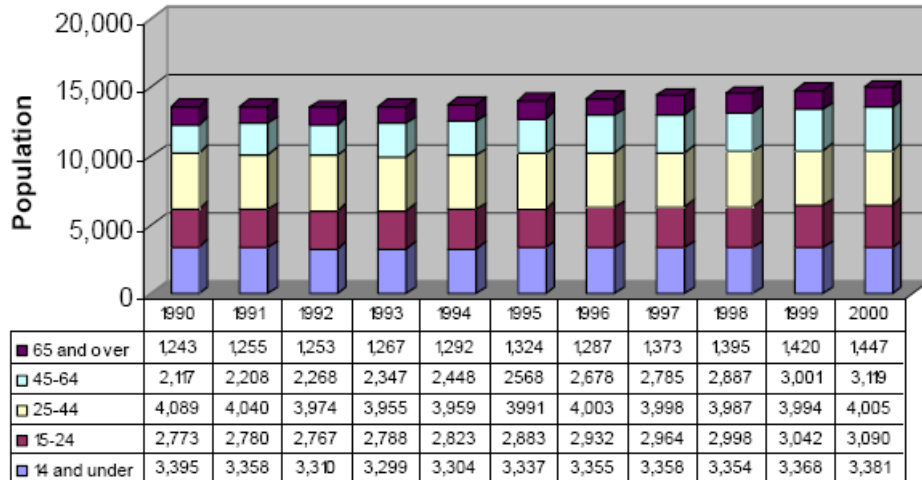
Pueblo County had the greatest population in the region and the greatest population in each age category. Otero County had the second highest population in each age group, except for the 15-24 year old category (Alamosa County was second). Las Animas County had the third highest number people 45 and older. Alamosa County had the third highest number of people between the ages of 25 and 44 years of age. Otero County had the third greatest population between the ages of 15 and 24 years and Prowers County had the third highest number of people less than 14 years of age.

Kiowa County had the least population in the region and the lowest population in each age category. Custer County was ranked twelfth in the number of people greater than 65 yrs and in all categories of people less than 44 years of age. Costilla County had the twelfth ranking in the population between 45 and 64 years of age. Costilla County had the eleventh ranking population in all categories of people less than 44 years of age, while Baca and Crowley Counties were ranked eleventh in the number of people from 45 to 65 and greater than 65 years of age, respectively.

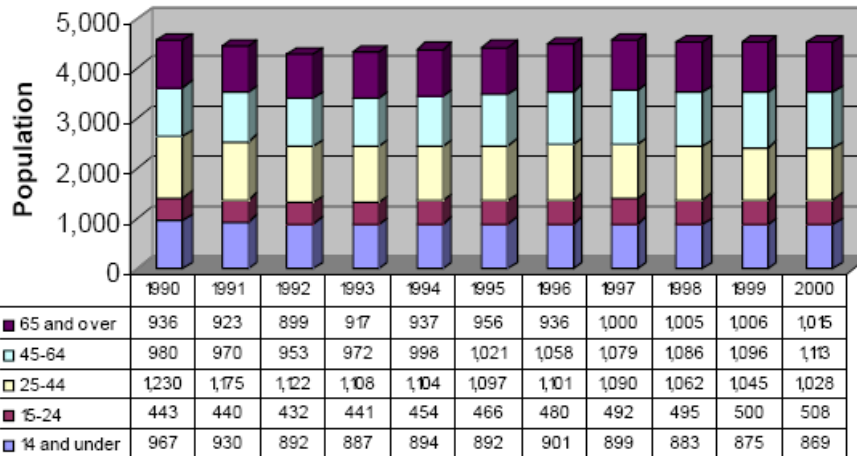
2.2 County trends in Population by Age

Among the counties in the ACT Region, Alamosa County, which had the fourth highest total population in 2000, had the second highest number of people in the 15-24 age range and the third highest population in the 25-44 age range. Over the period, the 15-24 age population increased by 11%, while the 25-44 population decreased by 2%. In 2000, the 15-24 population in Alamosa County made up 9% of the region's total and the 25-44 population made up 6% of the region's total. Every other age group increased in population during the observed period, with 14 and under population staying relatively constant throughout the 10-year period.

Alamosa County Population by Age



Baca County Population by Age



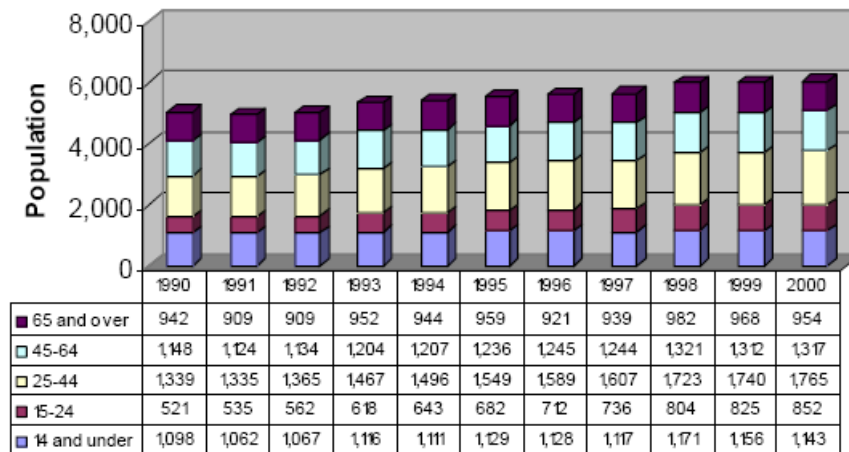
In 2000, Baca County total population was 4,533 and accounted for 2% of the region's population. During the decade, Baca County had three age categories that increased in size with two showing a decrease in size. The greatest rate of increase (15%) was in the 15-24 age group. The second fastest growing group was the 45-64 age category, with a 14% rate of growth, followed by 65 and over population, with the growth rate of 8% during the 10-year period. Population in the 25-44 age group decreased substantially over the period from 1,230 to 1,028, or a 16% decrease, while the 14 and under population suffered a loss of 10%.

Total population total in Bent County in 2000 was 6,031, accounting for 2% of the region's population.

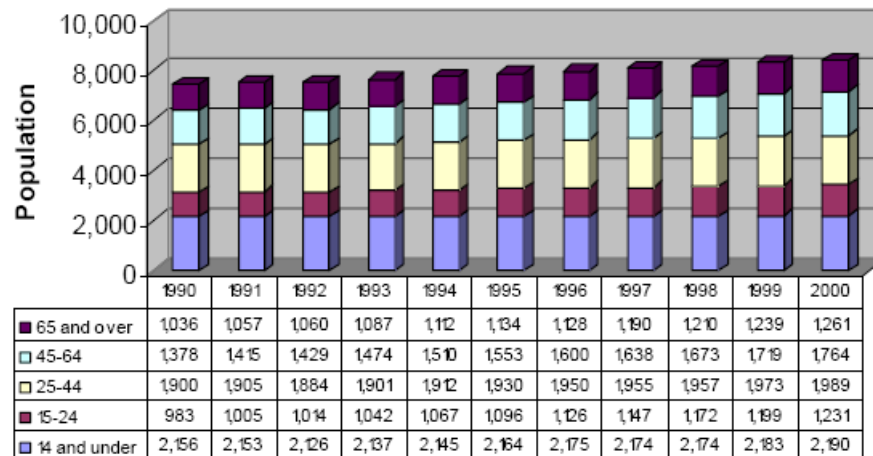
Bent County had the highest rate of growth in the population of 15-24 year olds where there was an increase of 64% over the decade. The second highest level of increase was 25-44 year olds, which grew 32% over the period. The 45-64 age category increased at the rate of 15%, followed by population in the 14 and under category with a 4% increase. The over 65 age group increased the least over the decade.

In 2000, the population in Conejos County totaled 8,435 people, which contributed 3% to the regional total. During the decade, the county population increased in every age category. Three age categories increased by over 20%. The number of people between

Bent County Population by Age



Conejos County Population by Age



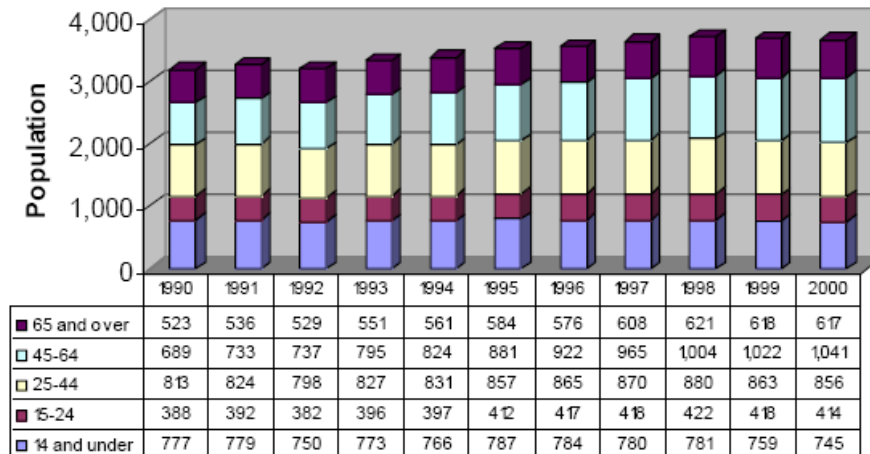
the ages of 45 and 64 increased by 28%, 15 to 24 increased by 25%, and the population 65 and above increased by 22%. The youngest age group increased at the slowest rate in Conejos County (2%).

Population in Costilla County for 2000 was 3,673 people, accounting for 1% of the region's total population. Costilla County had the eleventh ranking, with respect to the regional population in the 45-64, 25-44, and under 14 age categories. It has the second fewest people between the ages of 45 and 64. Despite having few people in some categories, 4 of the 5 increased between 1990 and 2000. The largest growth rate was in the 45-64 age category, which experienced a growth rate of 15%. The number of people 65 and older

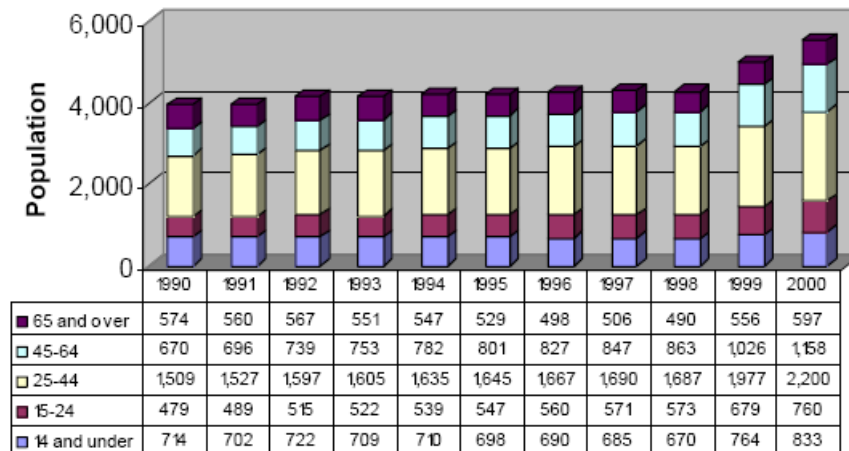
increased by 18% over the decade. People between 15 and 24 increased 7% from 388 to 414. The population between 15 and 24 years of age also increased. The population under the age of 14 was the only category to decrease over the decade.

Total population in 2000 for Crowley County was 5,548, accounting for 2% of the region's total that same year. Within the ACT Region, Crowley County ranked eleventh for number of people over the age of 65. The 1990s provided increases in every age category in Crowley County, while people aged of 45 and 64 increased by the greatest rate of 73%. The second highest growth rate was in the 25-44 age range (59%). People between the ages of 25 and 44 increased from

Costilla County Population by Age



Crowley County Population by Age



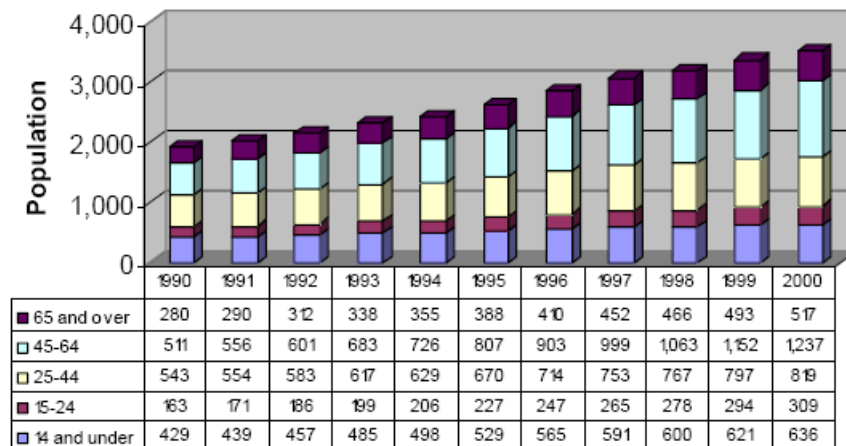
1,509 to 2,200, a growth rate of 46%. The 14 and under age category followed a slight downward trend through the late 1990s, though there was an overall increase of 17% in the category by the close of the decade. The 65 and over age category that increased by the lowest rate over the period (4%).

Custer County's total population in 2000 was 3,518, or 1% of the region's population. Within the region, Custer County was ranked twelfth for population in all age categories, contributing to some of the dramatic growth rates observed throughout the decade. For example, people between the ages of 25 and 44 increased by 142%, and the 15-24 age range increased

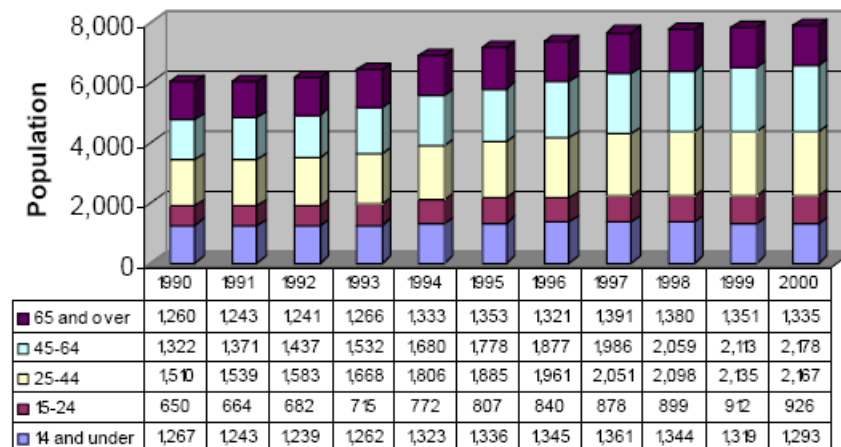
by 90%. The third highest rate of growth was in the 65 and older population, whose numbers climbed from 280 to 517 in 2000, followed by the 25-44 age range, which grew by 51%. The 14 and under category increased least quickly (48%) over the period.

Since 1990 Huerfano County's population has risen by a modest 3% reaching 7,899 by 2000. The greatest proportion and the fastest growing portion of the population is between the ages of 45 and 64, followed closely by those between 25 and 44. People between the ages of 45 and 64 increased by 65% over the period, and the 25 to 44 category grew by 44%. The number of people between 15 and 24 yrs also grew substantially over the

Custer County Population by Age



Huerfano County Population by Age



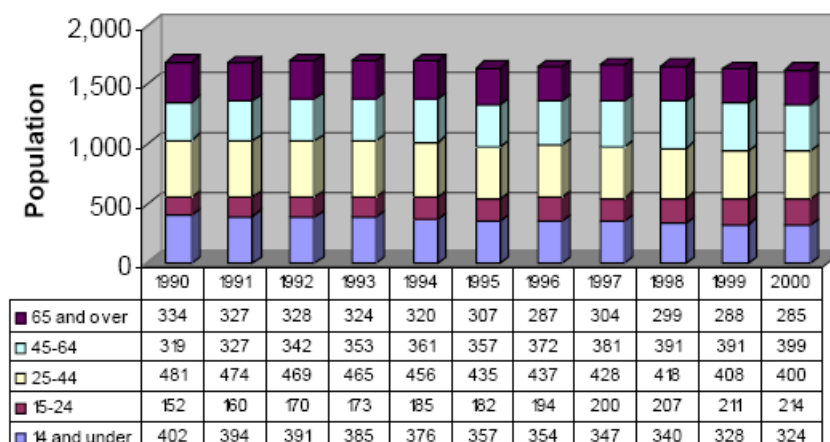
decade (43%). The two slowest growing categories were 65 and older (6%) and 14 and under (2%).

In 2000, the population of 1,622 in Kiowa County accounted for less than 1% of the region's total. Within the ACT Region, the lowest population counts for every category were in Kiowa County. In addition, Kiowa's population actually decreased in three age categories. The greatest decline was in the 14 and under age category (-19%), followed by the 25 to 44 age category (-17%). The population in the 65 and greater age category fell by 15% during the decade. The number of people between the ages of 15 and 24

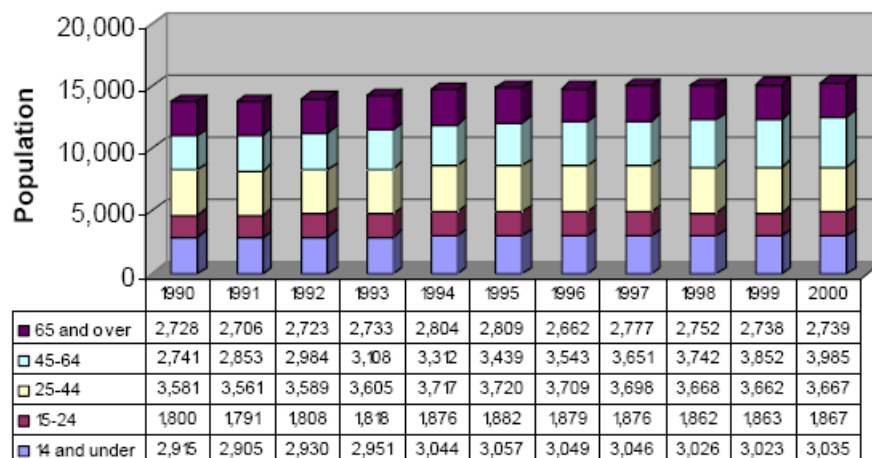
(41%) and 45 to 64 (25%) were the only categories showing increases in population.

The total population of Las Animas County, 15,293 people, is the third highest within the ACT Region and accounted for 6% of the region's population. In 2000, population in the 65 and greater and 45-64 age categories were the third highest in the region, each accounting for 7% of the regional total within their respective categories. Population between the ages of 45 and 64 increased at the greatest rate (45%), followed by both the 15-24 and 14 and under categories (4%). Both the 25-44 and 65 and over categories increased by a relatively small amount (2% and 1%, respectively).

Kiowa County Population by Age



Las Animas County Population by Age



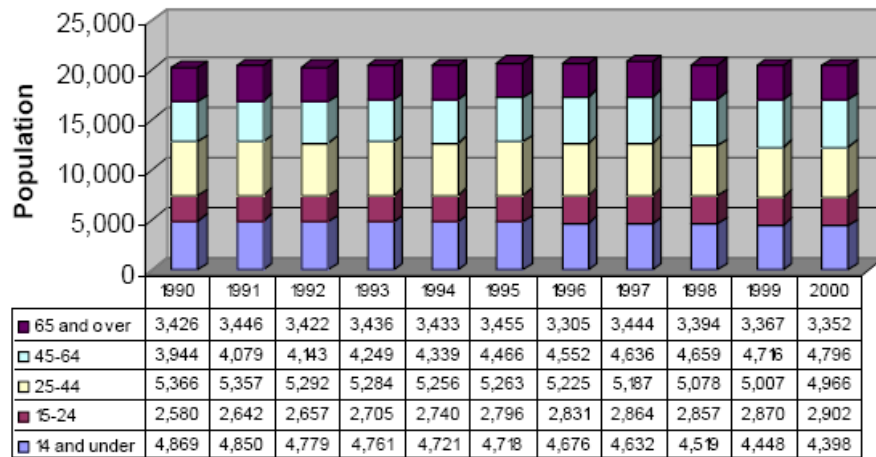
Otero County's 20,414 people was the second highest in the region, accounting for 8% of the regional total population. Otero is the second most populated county across all categories, except for the 14 and under population where it ranks third. Despite a high relative population, three of the five age categories decreased over the decade. The 14 and under population decreased most rapidly (-10%), followed by the 25 to 44 age category (-8%), and the 65 and over category (-2%). The 45-64 and 15-24 age groups increased over the period.

Prowers County had a population of 14,553 in 2000, accounting for 6% of the region's population. All age

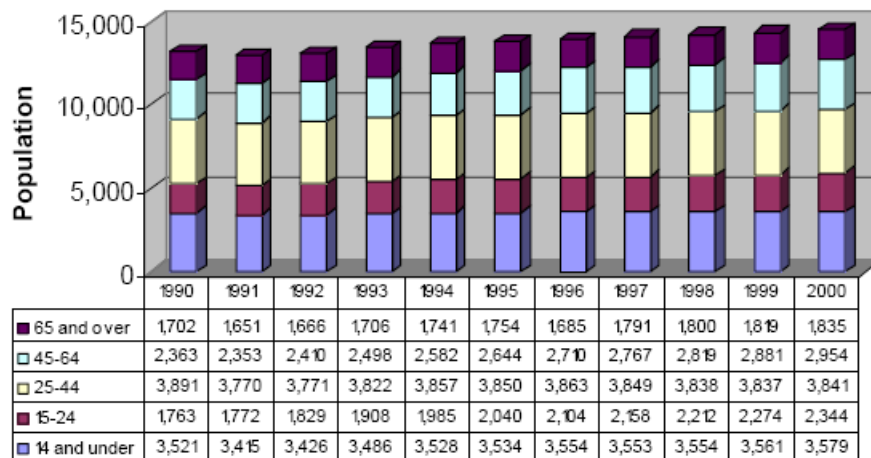
categories increased over the period, except the 25 to 44 age group (-1%). The 15-24 age category increased at the greatest rate, from 1,763 to 2,344 people. The second highest rate of growth was in the 45-64 category (25%) and the 65 and greater population increased by 8%. The 14 and under category grew at the slowest rate in Prowers County over the decade (2%).

Pueblo County's 142,246 people was by far the highest in the ACT Region, accounting for 57% of the regional total. Not only were the totals in every category the highest out of every county, but growth is present in every age group. The 24-44 age category comprised

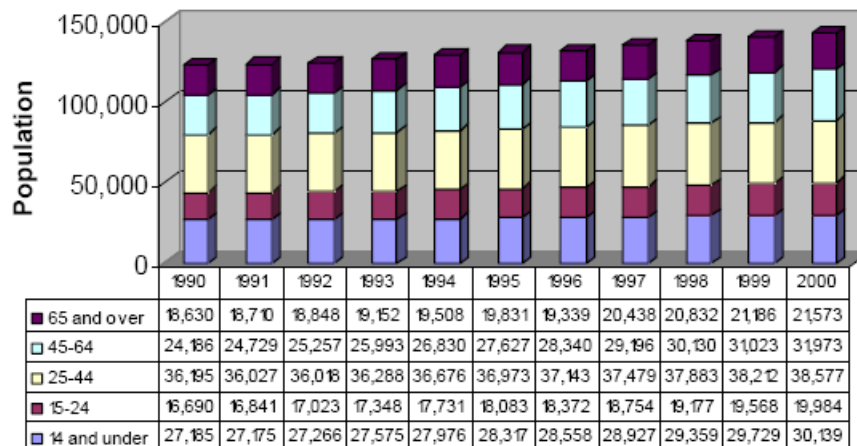
Otero County Population by Age



Prowers County Population by Age



Pueblo County Population by Age



the greatest number of people in Pueblo County, accounting for 28% of the total county population. The highest rate of growth was in the 45-64 age category (32%), followed by an 18% increase in people between the ages of 15 and 24. Population over the age of 65 grew at the rate of 16% throughout the decade, increasing from 18,630 to 21,573. Population in the 14 and under age bracket grew by 11%, while the 25-44 age population grew at the lowest rate over the period (7%).

2.3 Population by Age: Conclusion

The population of the ACT Region is generally stable to increasing at a modest rate. Overall, the regional population is growing more slowly than the state of Colorado. However, some counties within the region are increasing in population and some are decreasing. Current and future labor population declined in Alamosa, Baca, Costilla, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers Counties, potentially indicating human capital flight due to a lack of desirable employment opportunities. Further evaluation of labor information shows that wage and salary jobs in Costilla and Kiowa Counties have decreased, while the unemployment rate in Baca increased during the same time period. This supports the contention that population decline and the lack of jobs are related.

3. Population by Race

The information people provide to the census about their race can be useful to community leaders. Race can be a useful, if imperfect, indicator of culture and may provide insights into consumer preferences for products, services and information. Due to religious or other cultural traditions potentially correlated with race, some social and business practices may be acceptable throughout the community and some may not. Aggregate race information may also point out opportunities to benefit from federal and state programs intended for traditionally underserved populations. In this section, relative and total population of African American, American Indian, Hispanic, and White people are reported on a county-by-county basis from 1990 and 2000 US Censuses.

3.1 Summary and Overview of Hispanic Population

Total Hispanic/Latino¹⁶ population increased at both the regional and state levels. The Mexican¹⁷ population at the state level increased, while there was a decrease at the regional level. Other Hispanic¹⁸ population dramatically increased both regionally and statewide.

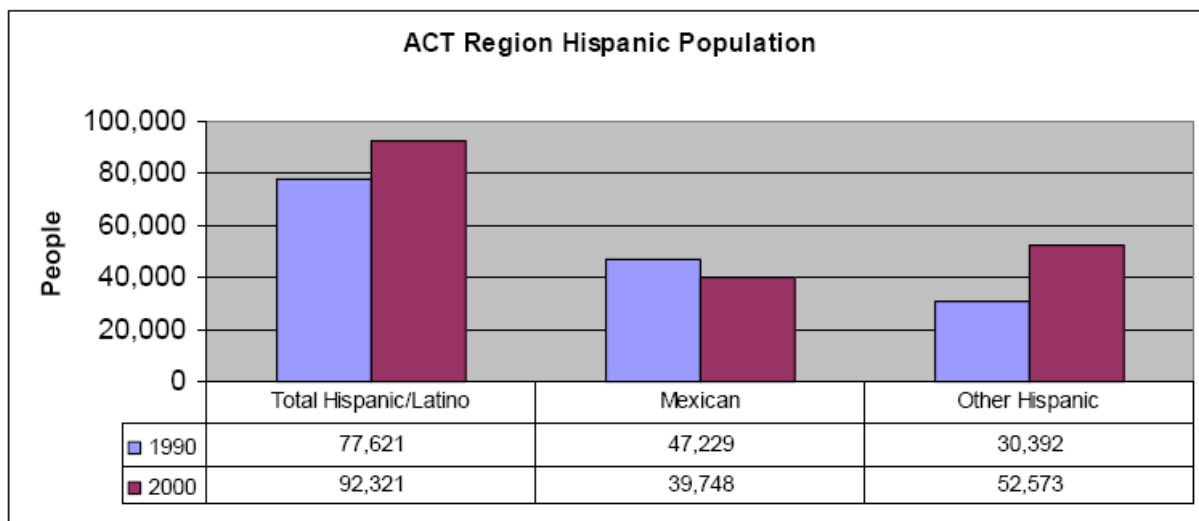
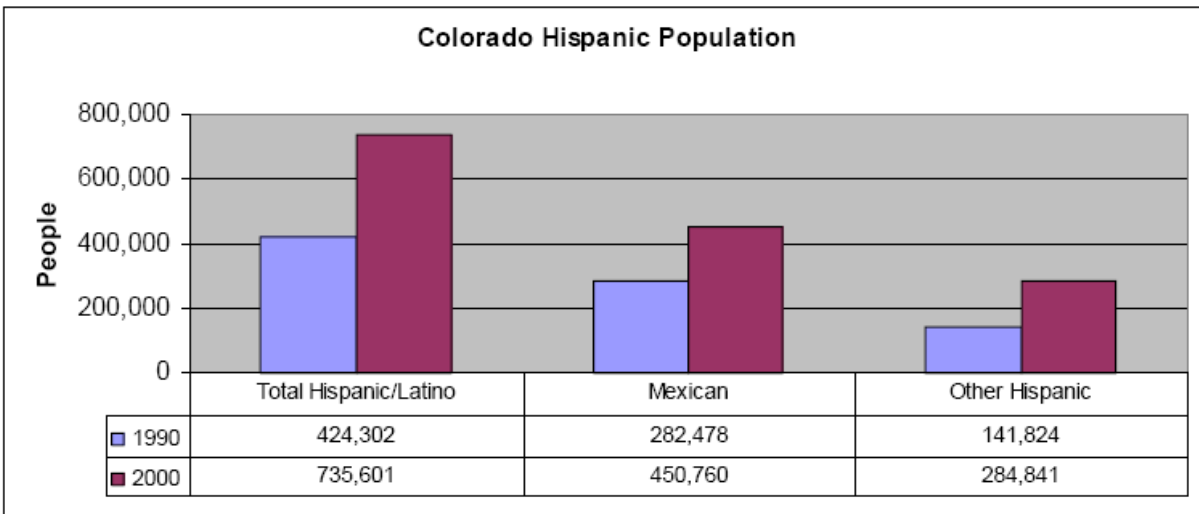
Pueblo County has the highest population for total Hispanic/Latino, Mexican, and Other Hispanic populations. Otero County had the second highest number of Hispanic/Latino and Mexican people. Las Animas County had the second highest number of Other Hispanics and the third highest Hispanic/Latino population. Alamosa County had the third highest population of Other Hispanics, while Powers County had the third highest population of people of Mexican descent.

Due to its low total population, Kiowa County has the fewest people in each of the categories, while Custer County had the second fewest individuals (12th of 13) of Mexican, Other Hispanic and total Hispanics/Latino descent in 2000. Baca County ranked 11th of the 13 ACT counties in total Hispanic/Latino, Mexican and Other Hispanics populations in 2000.

Mexican population increased in 6 of 13 counties (Baca, Bent, Crowley, Custer, and Prowers). Hispanic/Latino population increased across all counties except Kiowa County. Other Hispanic population increased in every county, except Kiowa County, which remained constant for the period. Costilla County had the highest percentage of Hispanic/Latino population with 68% of the county total. Conejos County's Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 59% of the total, 41% of the total county population in Las Animas and Alamosa County.

In 2000, the total Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 17% of Colorado's total population, while Mexican and Other Hispanics accounted for 10% and 7%, respectively. The total number of Hispanic/Latino people in Colorado increased by 73% since 1990. The Mexican population experienced an increase of 60% and the Other Hispanics category grew by 101% over the period.

In 2000, the total Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 37% of the ACT regional population. The Mexican population accounted for 16%, while Other Hispanic accounted for 21% of the regional total. The Mexican population in the ACT Region decreased by 16% over the period, while the total Hispanic/Latino population increased by 19%. However, this apparent change in ethnic composition may be in part an artifact of the nature of self-reported data. The largest increase in population came from ethnicities that comprise the Other Hispanic category, increasing some 73% during the 1990s. The ACT Region accounted for



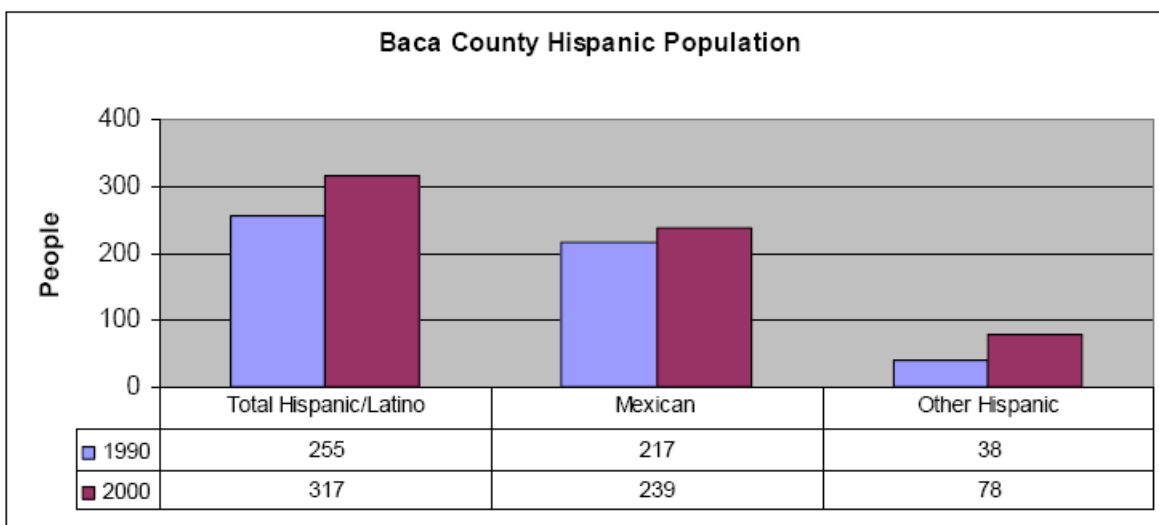
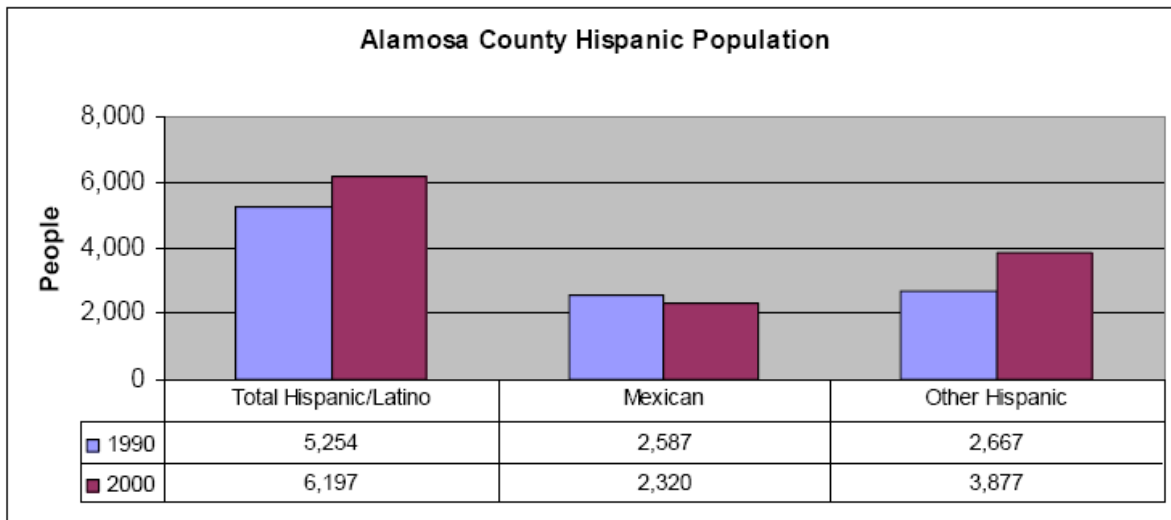
13% of the state's Hispanic/Latino population, 9% of the state's Mexican population, and 18% of the state's Other Hispanic population.

3.2 County trends in White and Hispanic Populations

Of the 14,966 people in Alamosa County, the Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 41% (16% Mexican and 26% Other Hispanic). Alamosa County Hispanic/Latino population experienced an increase of 18% over the period. The number of Mexican people in Alamosa County declined over the past decade by 10%, while the Other Hispanic population increased by 45%. Alamosa County experienced the third largest

Other Hispanics population in the ACT Region, accounting for 7% of the total.

Of the 4,517 residents of Baca County, 7% were Hispanic/Latino (5% Mexican and 2% Other Hispanic). Baca County experienced modest increases in Mexican and Other Hispanics population during the 1990s. The Mexican population increased by 10% and Other Hispanic population increased by 105%, the latter representing a net change of 40 people. Total Hispanic/Latino population grew by 24% over the period. Within the ACT Region, Baca County was ranked eleventh in Mexican population, Other Hispanic and total Hispanic/Latino populations for 2000.

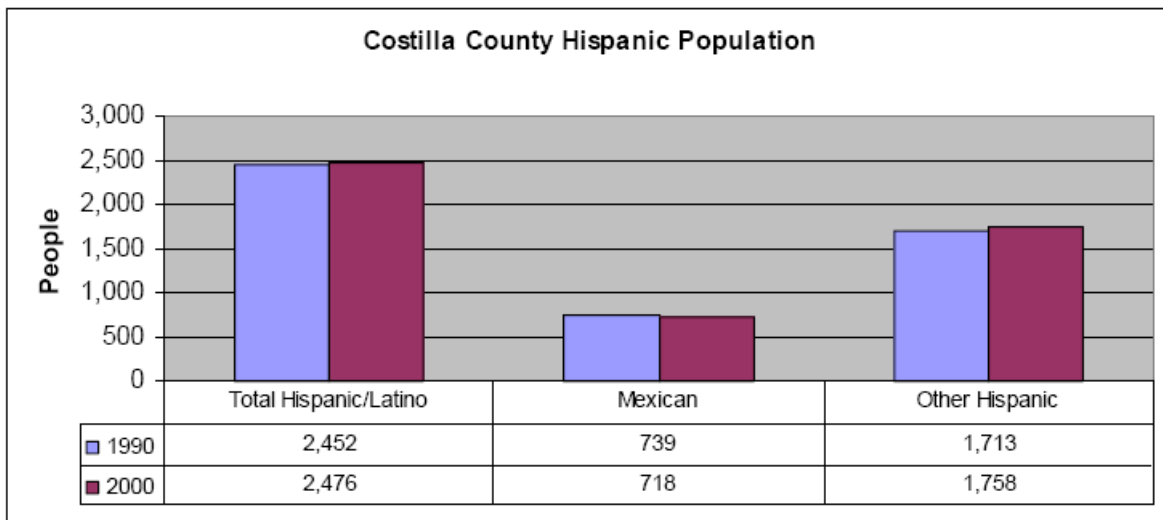
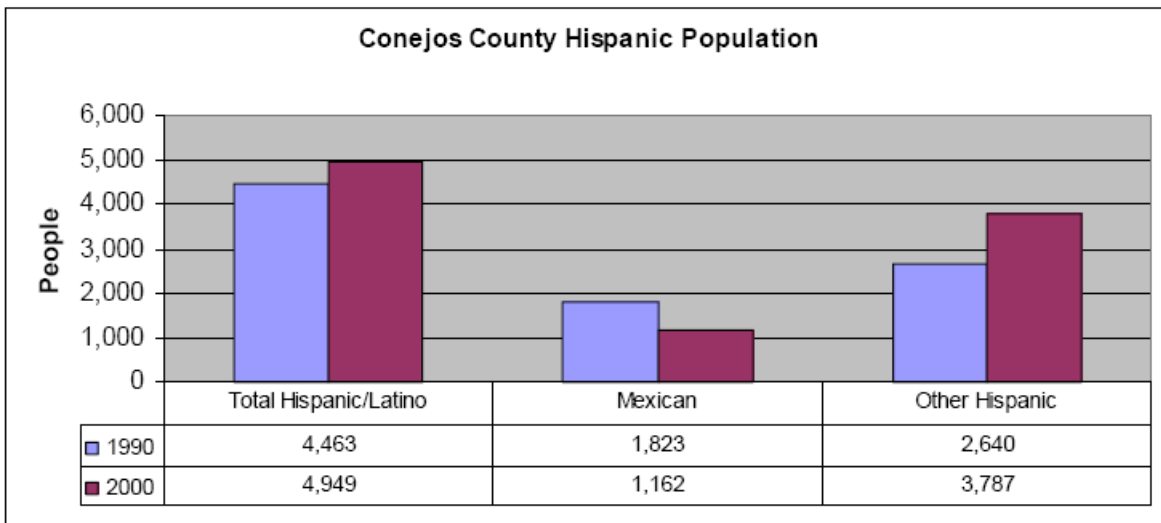
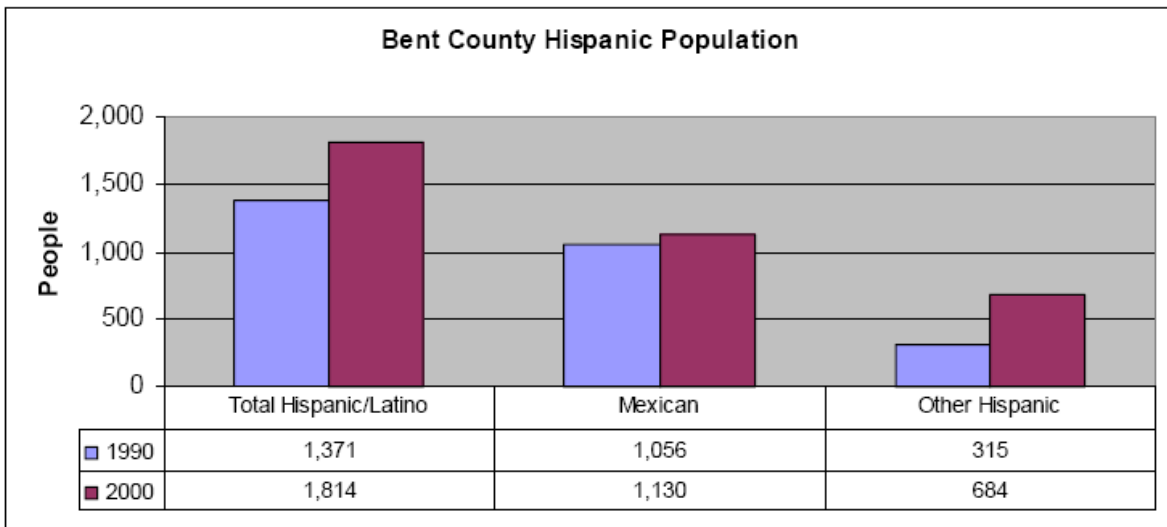


Bent County had 5,998 residents in 2000, 30% of whom were Hispanic/Latino (19% Mexican and 11% Other Hispanic). Bent County's population increased across all race categories. The Hispanic/Latino population went from 1,371 to 1,814, or a 32% increase. The Mexican population grew by 7% and the Other Hispanics population increased most dramatically, from 315 people to 684 (117%).

Conejos County had 8,400 residents and the Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 59% (14% Mexican

and 45% Other Hispanic). Overall, the Hispanic/Latino population increased by 11% over the decade. The Mexican population declined by 36%, while the Other Hispanic population increased by 43%.

Costilla County had 3,663 residents with the Hispanic/Latino population accounting for 68% (20% Mexican and 48% Other Hispanic). The total Hispanic/Latino population increased by 1%, as the Mexican population declined 3% and the Other Hispanics population increased by 3%.



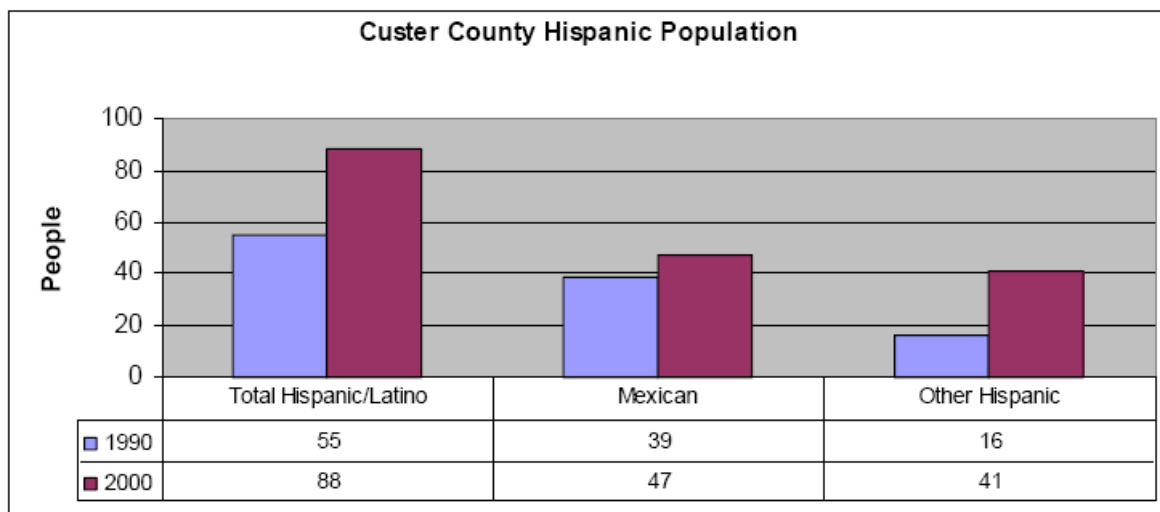
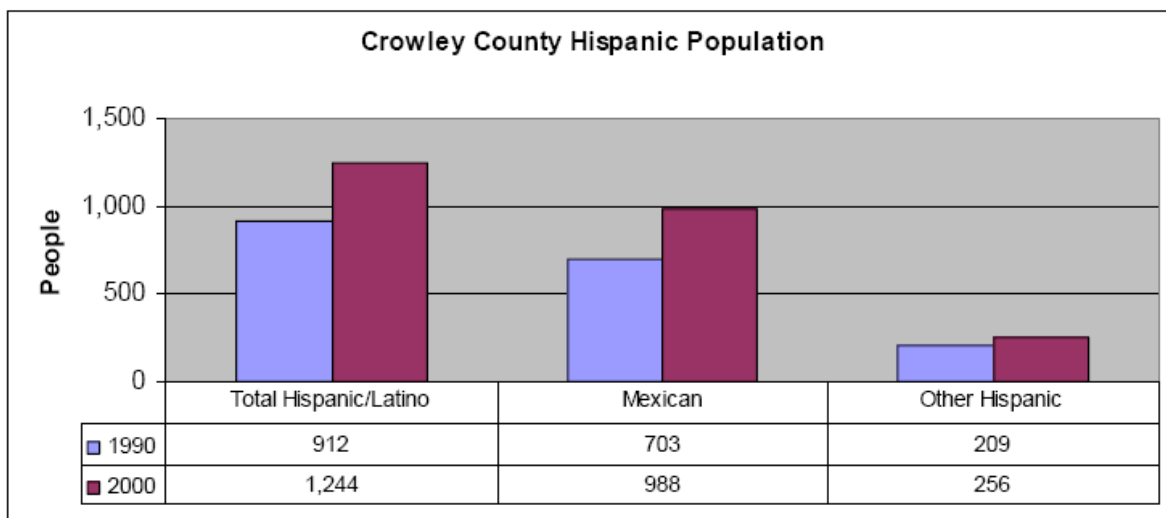
The total population in Crowley County in 2000 was 5,518. The total Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 23% (18% Mexican and 5% Other Hispanic). During the 1990s Crowley County has seen growth in all three categories. The total number of Hispanics/Latinos increased by 36%, driven by an increase in Mexicans (41%) and Other Hispanics (22%) in the county.

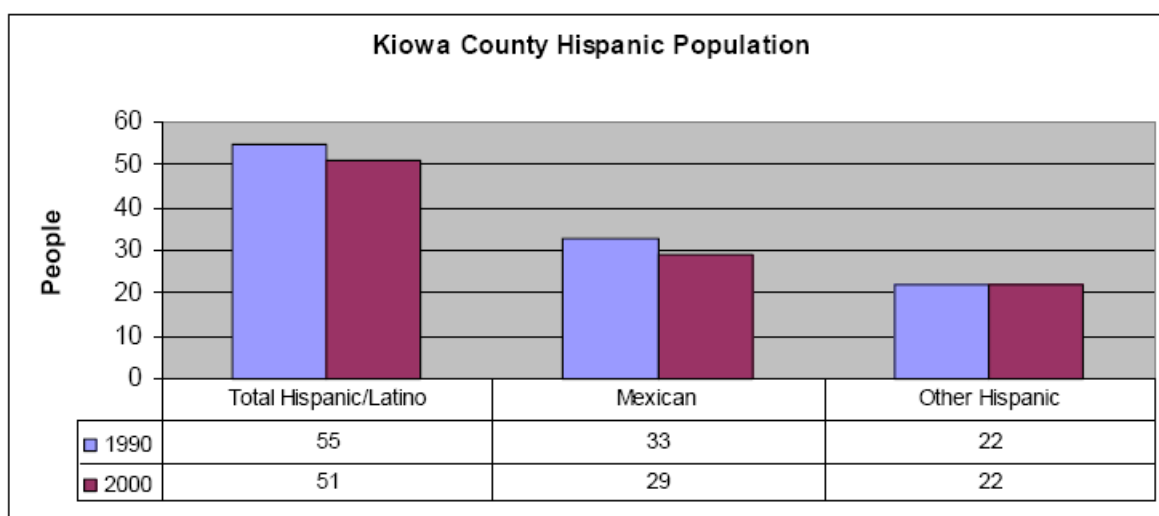
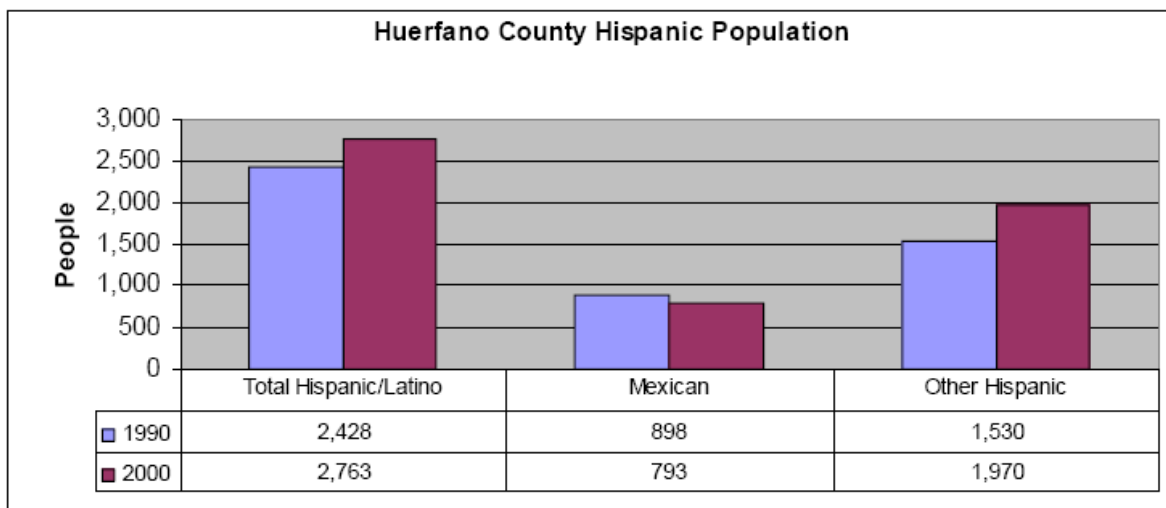
Total population of Custer County was 3,503. Approximately, 3% of this population was Hispanic/Latino (1% Mexican and 1% Other Hispanic). Hispanic population in Custer County experienced substantial growth rates over the past decade. The Hispanic/Latino population increased by 60%, fueled by a 156% increase in Other Hispanic population and the less dramatic Mexican population increased of 21%. Total Hispanic/Latino population in Custer County was ranked twelfth out of the ACT Region in 2000

despite experiencing increases in both Mexican and Other Hispanics population.

Total population in Huerfano County was 7,862 in 2000. Approximately 35% of the county population was Hispanic/Latino (25% Other Hispanic and 10% Mexican population). Huerfano County demonstrated growth in the Hispanic/Latino and Other Hispanic populations in the 1990s. The Hispanic/Latino population grew by 14%, as the Mexican population declined 12%, and the Other Hispanics population increased 29% over the decade.

Total population in Kiowa County was 1,622. The Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 3% of the total population (2% Mexican and 1% Other Hispanic). Within the ACT Region, Kiowa County displayed the smallest population for each of the three categories in 2000. During the 1990s, population declined for total





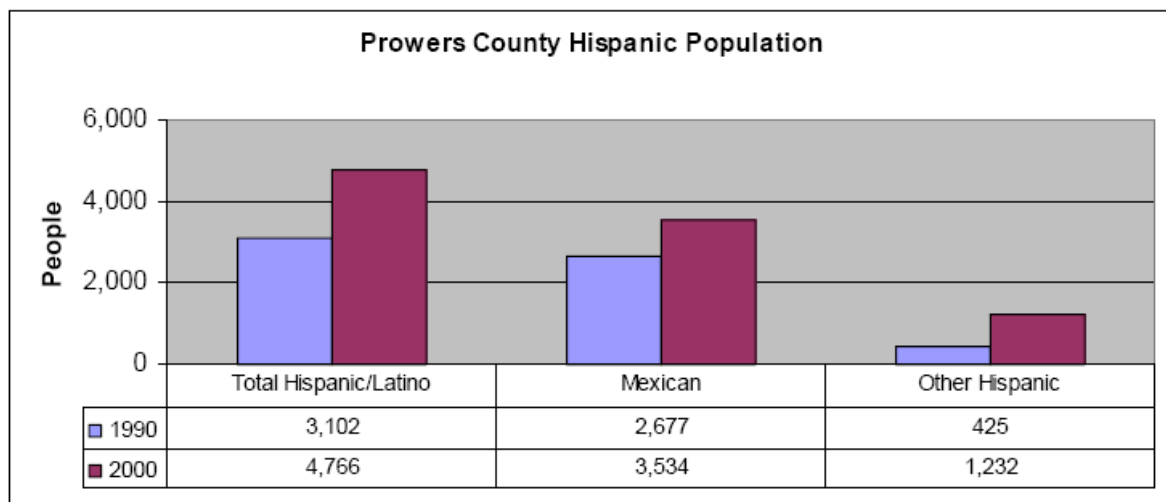
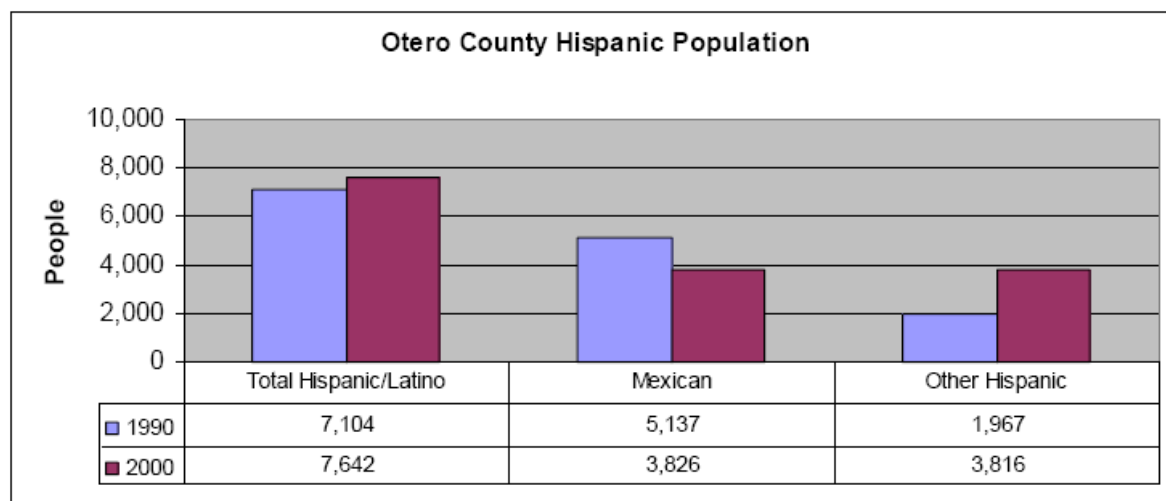
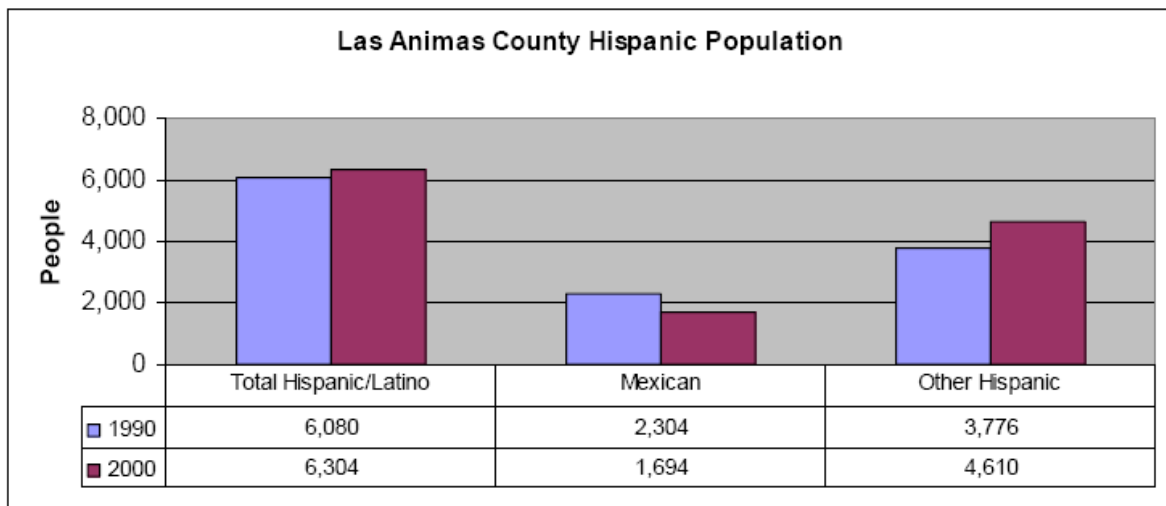
Hispanic/Latinos by 7%, as Mexican populations declined by 12%, and Other Hispanics population held steady at 22 people.

Las Animas County population was 15,207 in 2000. Of this total, 41% were Hispanic/Latino (11% Mexican and 30% Other Hispanic). Las Animas County experienced growth in two of these three race categories. Total Hispanic/Latino population increased 4%, due to an Other Hispanic population increase of 22% and Mexican population decrease of 26% over the decade. Regionally, Las Animas County accounted for the third highest number of total Hispanic/Latino and the second largest population of Other Hispanics.

Otero County had a population of 20,311 in 2000. Approximately 38% of this population was Hispanic/Latino (19% Mexican and 19% Other Hispanic).

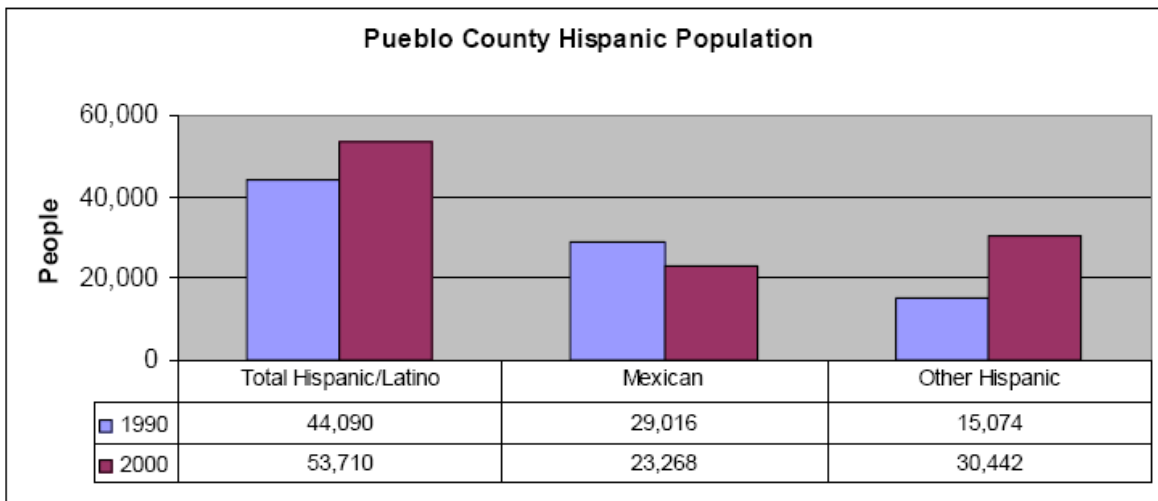
Regionally, Otero County accounted for the second largest number of both Hispanic/Latino and Mexican populations in 2000, accounting for 8% of the region's Hispanic/Latino population and 10% of the regions total Mexican population. Total Hispanic/Latino population in Otero County increased by 8%, driven by a 94% increase in Other Hispanic population but hampered by a 26% decrease in the Mexican population.

Prowers County total population was 14,483 in 2000. Of this county total, total Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 33% (24% Mexican and 9% Other Hispanic). Prowers County experienced the third highest Mexican population among the thirteen counties making up the ACT Region in 2000. Total Hispanic/Latino, Mexican and Other Hispanic population categories increased in size. Total Hispanic/Latino population increased by 54%, due to a 32% increase in



Mexican population and a 190% growth in the Other Hispanic population.

Pueblo County total population in 2000 was 141,472. Of this total, the total Hispanic/Latino



population was 38% of the county total (16% Mexican and 22% Other Hispanic). Within the ACT Region, the highest population for each of the race categories was found in Pueblo County. The Hispanic/Latino population in Pueblo County accounted for 58% of the region's total Hispanic/Latino population. The Mexican population in Pueblo County accounted for 59% of the region's total, whereas, 58% of the region's total Other Hispanic population is found in Pueblo County. The Hispanic/Latino population grew by 22%, driven by the 102% growth in the Other Hispanic population and hastened by a 20% decline in the Mexican population over the decade.

3.3 Regional Summary: Trends in African American and American Indian Populations

In 1990 and 2000, the African American population in the state made up 4% of the total population. American Indians statewide comprised 1% of the total population in 1990 and 2000. White population in Colorado comprised 83% of the total statewide in 2000. The American Indian population increased by 59% over the decade, while the African American and White population expanded by 24% and 23%, respectively.

Whites accounted for 79% of the ACT region's total population. African Americans and American Indians

accounted for approximately 2% of the total in 1990 and 2000. In 2000, 10% of Colorado's American Indian population and 2% of the African American population resided in the ACT Region. The White population in the region comprised 6% of the state's total in 2000.

Colorado and the ACT Region experienced increases in White¹⁹, African American²⁰ and American Indian²¹ populations. African American and American Indian populations grew far more quickly in the ACT Region than statewide. The state's White population grew faster than the ACT Region. The region experienced a 129% increase in American Indians, 39% increase in African Americans, and a 5% increase in Whites. These race categories grew by 59%, 24%, and 23% statewide, respectively.

Regionally, the greatest number of African Americans and American Indians were in populous Pueblo County. Crowley County experienced the second highest population of African Americans and Bent County was third. Alamosa County accounted for the third highest number of American Indians, while Las Animas County accounted for the second most. Pueblo experienced the highest population of Whites, while Otero and Las Animas accounted for the second and third highest, respectively.

¹⁹ A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes people who indicate their race as "White" or report entries such as Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Near Easterner, Arab, or Polish.

²⁰ A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. It includes people who indicate their race as "Black, African American, or Negro," or who provide written entries such as African American, Afro American, Kenyan, Nigerian, or Haitian.

²¹ Includes people who indicate their race as "American Indian," entered the name of an Indian tribe, or report such entries as Canadian Indian, French-American Indian, or Spanish-American Indian.

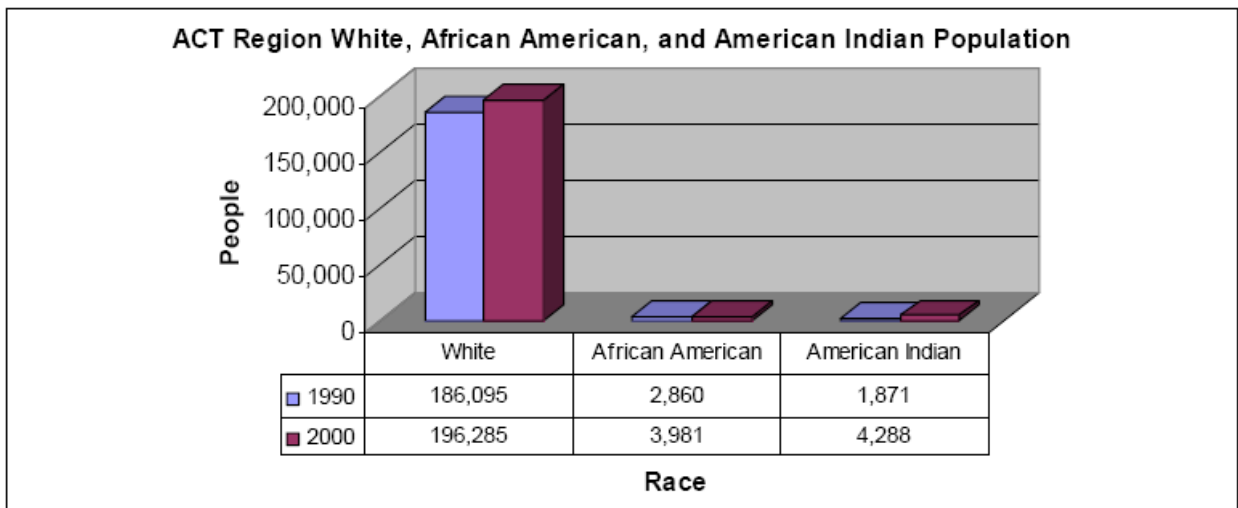
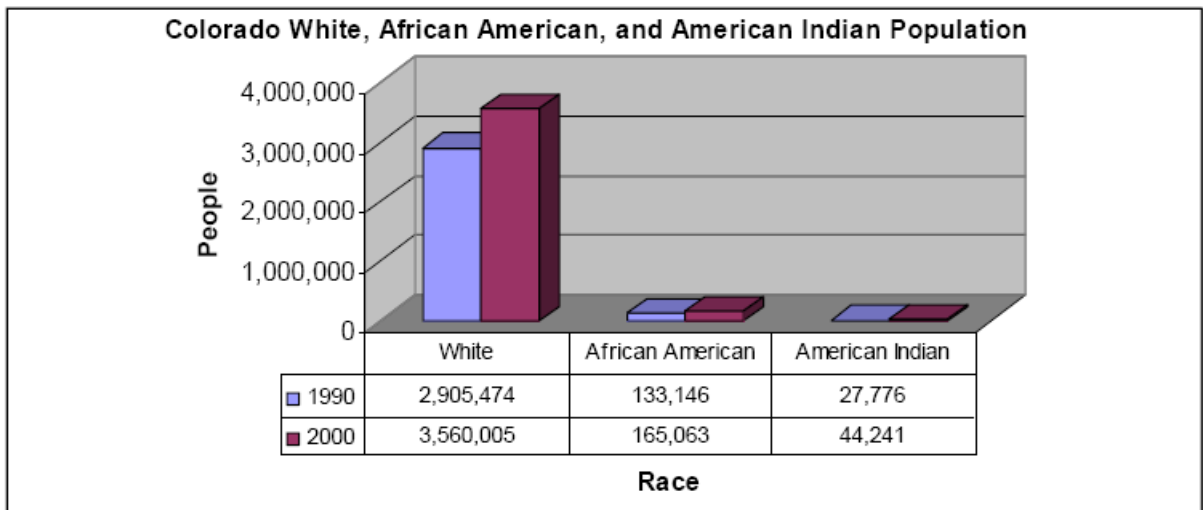
Baca County had the lowest population of African Americans and the eleventh ranking in number of American Indians. Custer County ranked eleventh for population of African Americans and twelfth in American Indian population. Kiowa County ranked twelfth for the number of African Americans and had the fewest American Indians in 2000. The lowest White population was located in Kiowa, followed by Costilla and Custer County.

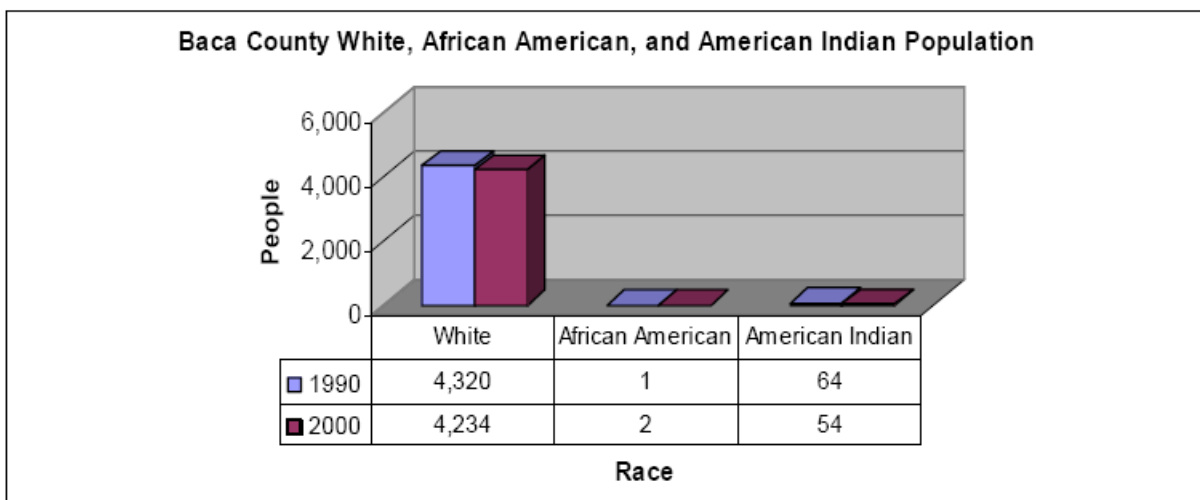
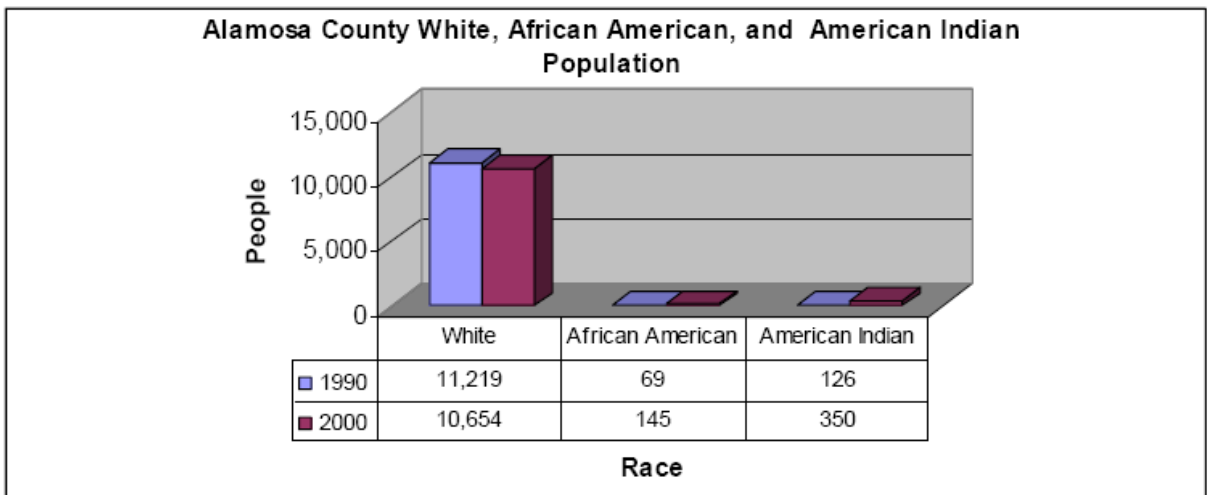
African American and American Indian populations in most of the counties of the ACT Region rose or remained constant throughout the decade. The American Indian population in Baca County decreased over the period. The White population in a majority of ACT Counties (Alamosa, Baca, Conejos, Costilla, Kiowa, Otero, Prowers) decreased over the period.

3.4 County trends in American Indian and African American Populations

In Alamosa County, Whites comprised 71% of the total population, while African American and American Indians comprised 1% and 2%, respectively. The population of African Americans and American Indians increased in Alamosa County, while White populations decreased by 5% during the 1990s. The African American population grew by 110% and the American Indian population grew by 178% over the period. Alamosa County accounted for the third highest population of American Indians within the ACT Region in 2000.

Whites comprised 94% of Baca County's total population in 2000, while African American and American Indian populations accounted for less than 1%. The





White population in Baca County decreased by 2%, while American Indian population decreased by 16% and the African American population stayed relatively constant over the decade. Baca County had the lowest African American population and the eleventh rank for the number of American Indians in the ACT region.

In Bent County, the White population accounted for 80% of the total population, while 4% of the population was African American and 2% was American Indian. In Bent County, the African American population grew by 564%, the American Indian population grew by 262%, and the White population increased by 4%. Bent County had the third highest population of African Americans within the ACT Region for 2000.

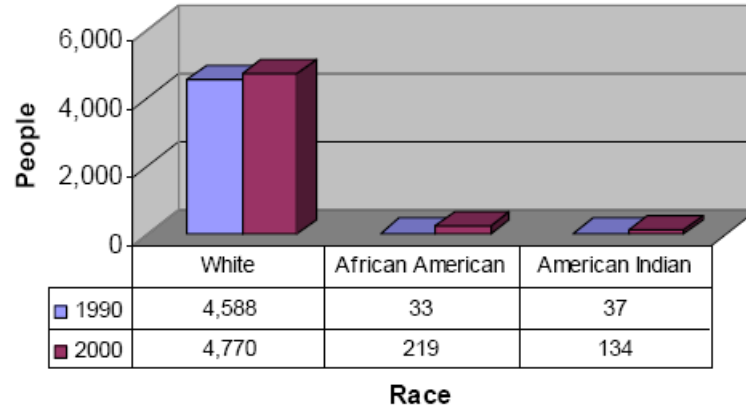
In Conejos County, the White population accounted for 73% of the county's total population, while the

African American population accounted for less than 1% and the American Indian population accounted for 2%. The White population declined by 4%, and both the African American and American Indian populations increased, growing by 4% and 358%, respectively, over the decade.

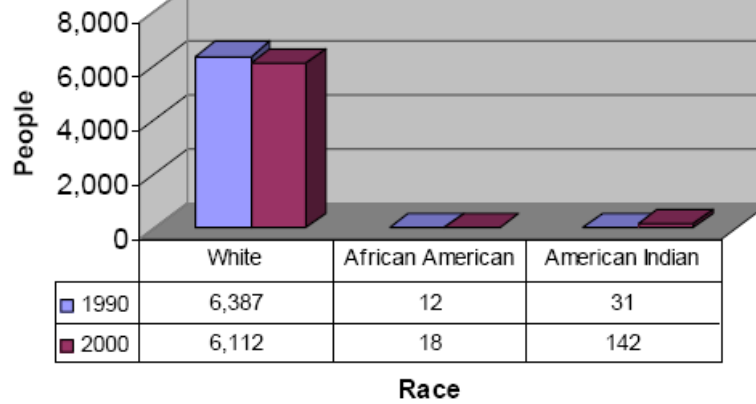
The White population comprised 61% of the counties total population in 2000, while the African American and American Indian populations comprise 1% and 3%, respectively. Costilla County experienced increases in African American and American Indian populations between 1990-2000, growing by 263% and 406%, respectively. However, the White population decreased by 16% over the same period.

The White population in Crowley County accounted for 83% of the county's total, while African Americans

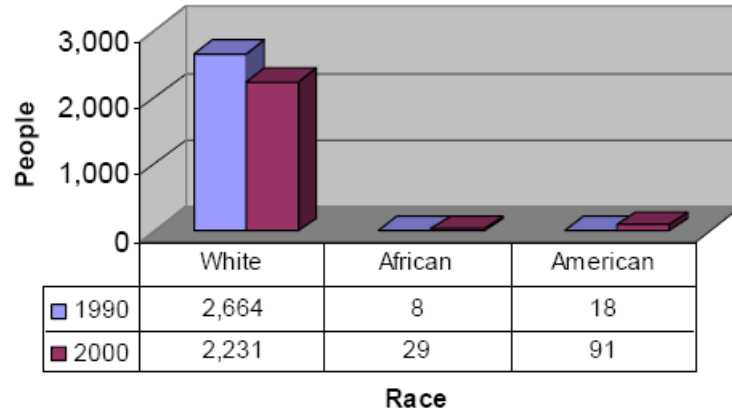
Bent County White, African American, and American Indian Population



Conejos County White, African American and American Indian Population



Costilla County White, African American, and American Indian Population

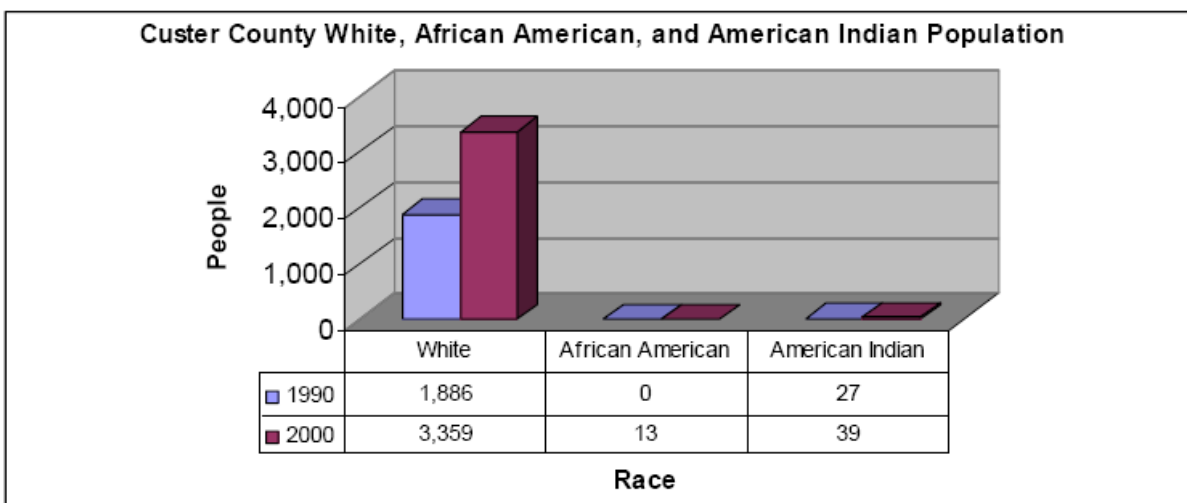
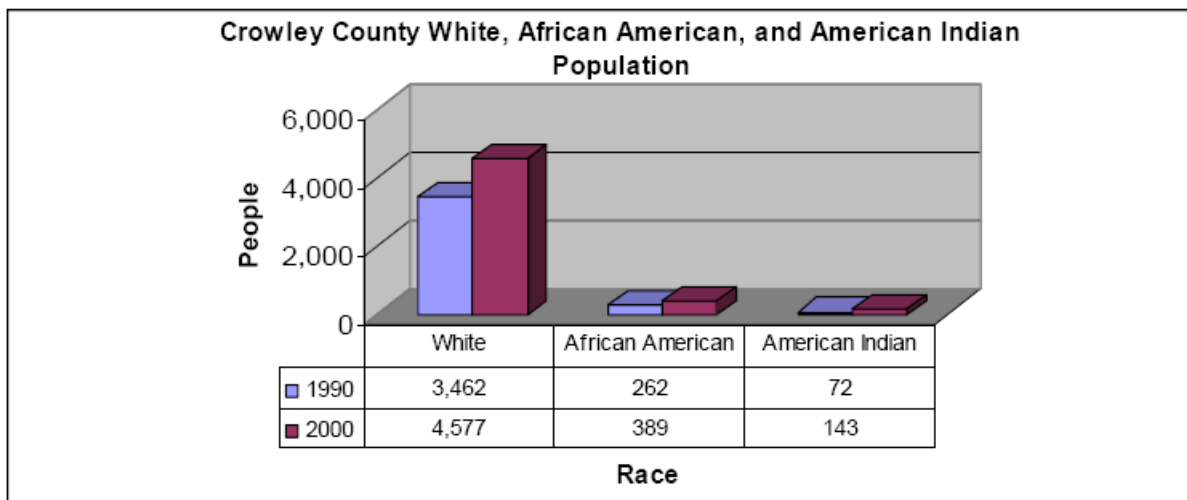


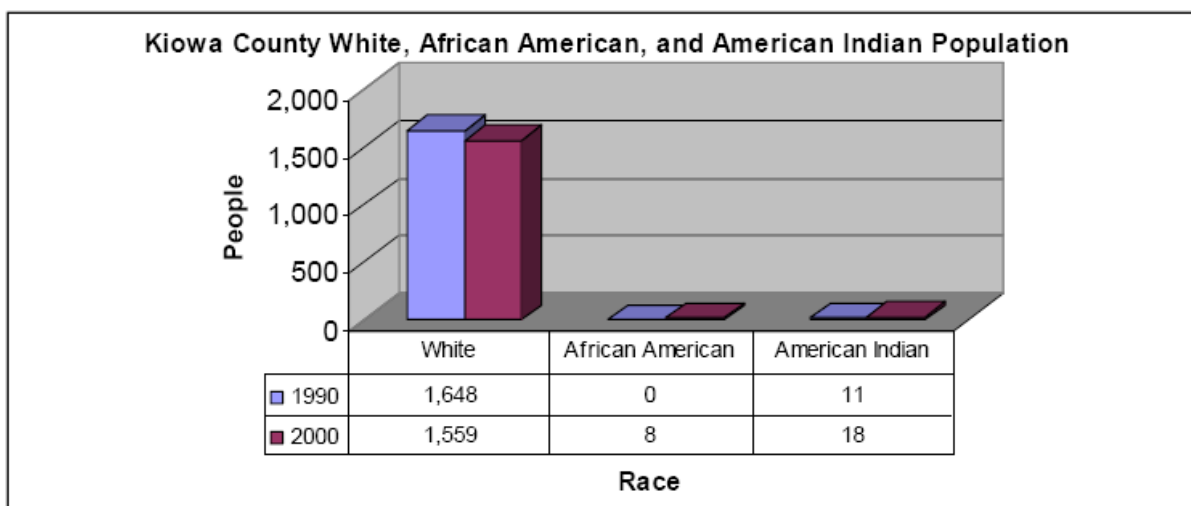
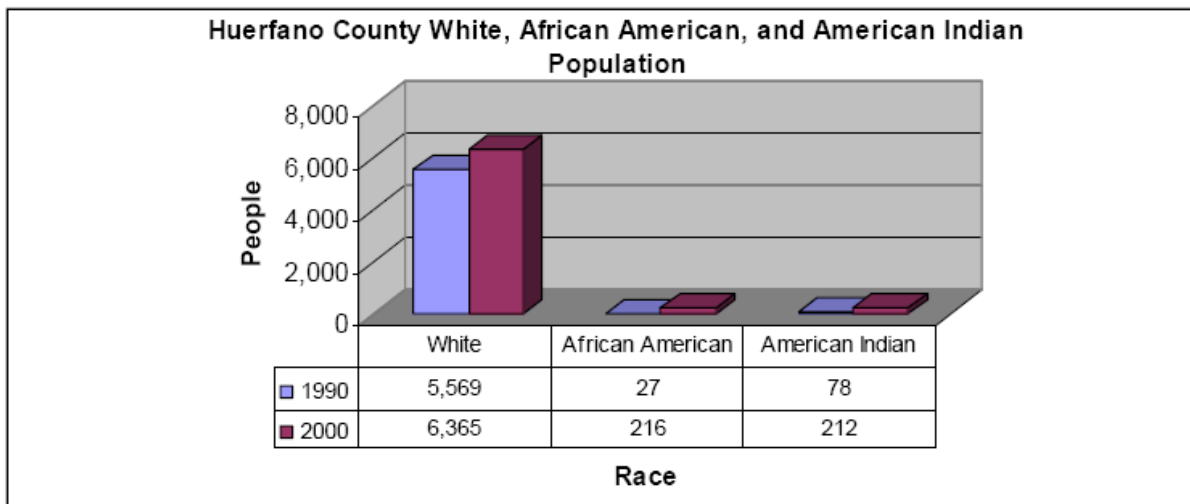
and American Indians accounted for 7% and 3% of the county's population, respectively. Crowley County the White population increased by 32%, while the African American and American Indian populations increased 484% and 99%, respectively. Crowley County experienced the second largest African American population in the ACT Region in 2000, accounting for 10% of the region's total African American population.

The White population in Custer County accounted for 96% of the county's total population in 2000, while African Americans and American Indian populations accounted for approximately 1% of the county total population. The White population increased by 78%, while the African American population climbed from 0 to 13 people and American Indian populations showed a similar increase of 12 people during the 1990s. Custer County was ranked eleventh for the population of African Americans and was ranked twelfth for American Indian population within the ACT Region for 2000.

Huerfano County the White population accounted for 81% of the county's total population, while the African American and American Indian populations both made up 3%. Huerfano County's White, African American, and American Indian populations during the 1990s are characterized by sizable increases. The White population increased by 14%, while African American populations grew by 700% and the American Indian population increased by 172% over the decade.

Kiowa County's White population accounted for 96% of the total population, while African American and Native American populations both accounted for approximately 1%. The African American population increased from 0 to 8, and American Indian population grew from 11 to 18 over the period. The White population was the only race category to experience a decrease, falling by 5% over the timeframe. Region-wide, Kiowa County displayed the lowest White and American Indian population, while also ranking twelfth in the number of African Americans in 2000.





Las Animas County's White population comprised 83% of the total county population, while African Americans and American Indians comprised 1% and 3% of the county total, respectively. The White population increased by 5%, while the African American and American Indian populations increased by 76% and 217%, respectively. Las Animas County had the second highest population of American Indians in the region, accounting for 9% of the region's total in 2000.

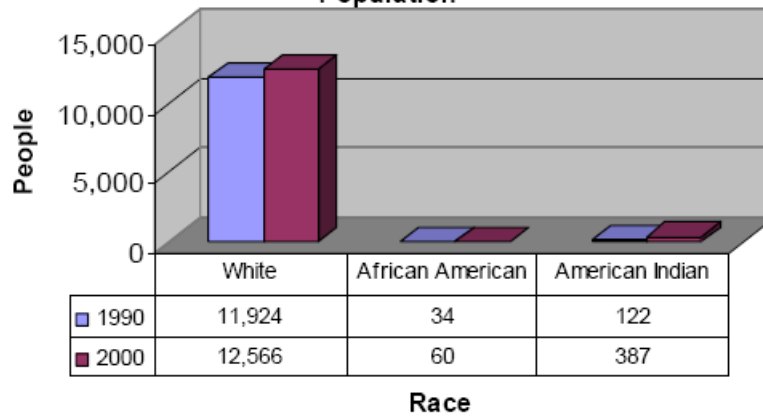
The White population in Otero County accounted for 79% of the county total, while African Americans and American Indians comprised 1% of the county total. The population of both African Americans and American Indians climbed, while the White population declined in Otero County between 1990 and 2000. The number of African Americans increased by 31%, while the American Indian population grew by 46%, and the

White population decreased by 4%. The White population was the second highest within the region and accounted for 8% of the region's total in 2000.

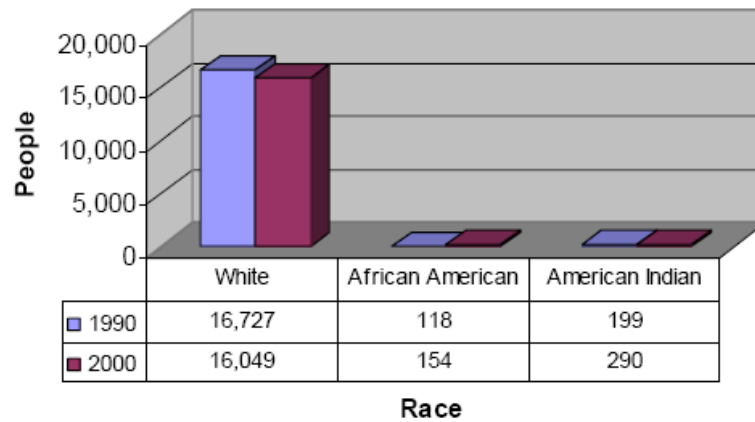
The White population in Prowers County accounted for 79% of the county's total population in 2000, while the African American and American Indian population accounted for approximately 1% of the county's total population. The White population changed very little and no growth in the number of African American residents occurred during the 1990s. The American Indian population grew from 95 people in 1990 to 177 in 2000, or by 86% for the decade.

Pueblo's White population accounted for 80% of the county's population, while the African American and American Indian population accounted for 2% of the county's total. The White population grew by 8%,

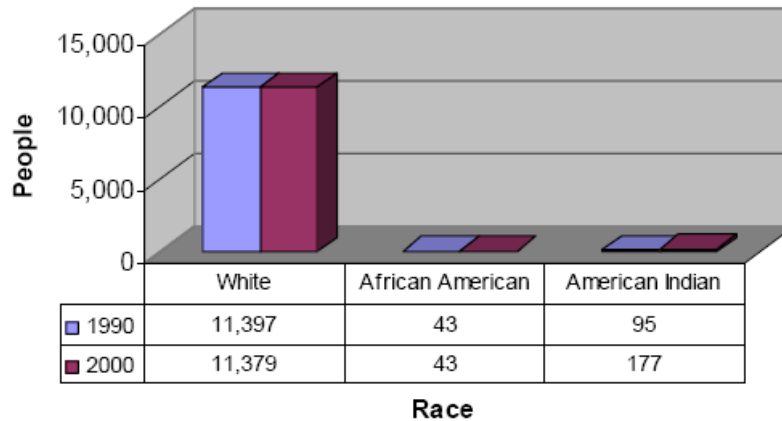
Las Animas County White, African American, and American Indian Population

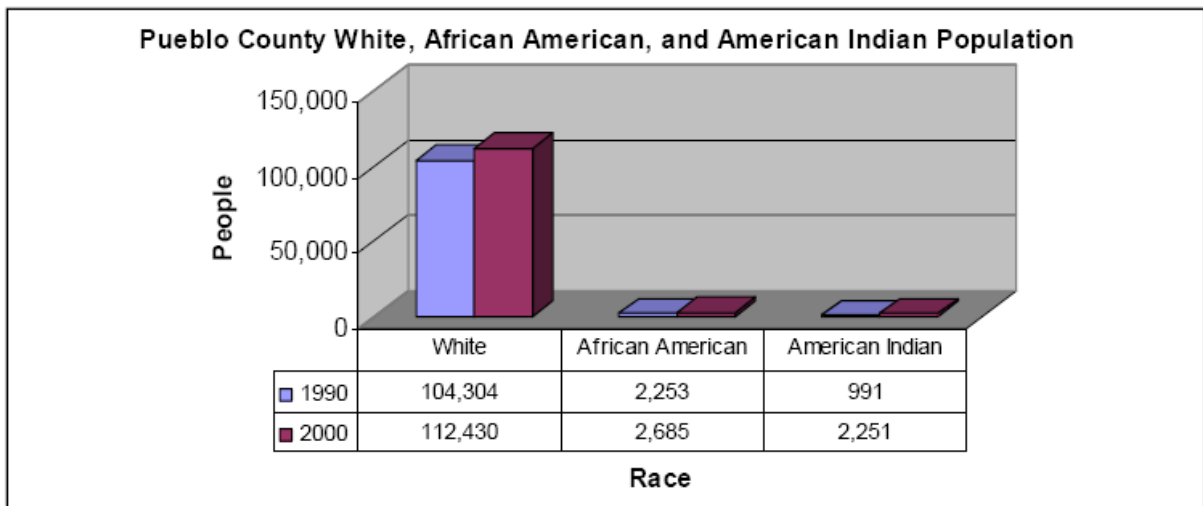


Otero County White, African American, and American Indian Population



Prowers County White, African American, and American Indian Population





while the African American population grew by 19% and the county's American Indian population grew by 127% over the period. Pueblo County had the highest population of Whites, African Americans and American Indians within the ACT Region in 2000. Pueblo County accounted for 57% of Whites, 67% of the African Americans, and 53% of the American Indians regionwide.

3.5 Conclusion for Population by Race

The ACT Region experienced increases in total Hispanic, Other Hispanic, White, Black, and American Indian populations. Regionally, only the Mexican population decreased for the period. Government agencies; local, federal, and national, can more readily focus their efforts for race and ethnicity programs. The increase in specific ethnic populations can signify that there is an increased demand for specific government programs such as an increased demand for bilingual education, especially since approximately 3% of the current students statewide require such classes.

4. Housing

Aggregate housing and household information reveal trends in the supply and demand for residential real estate within a region. Although the housing market is rather complicated and market specific, increases in population and household size generally imply an increase in the demand for houses, housing prices and house size. Increases in vacancy rates generally imply pressure to decrease rental rates and home prices.

4.1 Summary and Overview

In 2000, the total housing stock in the ACT Region accounted for 6% of the state's total housing stock. Population has been trending upward for both Colo-

rado and the ACT Region. The rate of increase in housing units statewide (22%) did not keep pace with the rate of population growth (30%). On the other hand, in the ACT Region increases in the number of housing units (14%) paralleled population increases (13%). The average household size in Colorado decreased from 2.74 people per household in 1990 to 2.12 in 2000. The household size in the ACT Region also decreased, but only slightly, from 2.56 in 1990 to 2.51 in 2000. Vacancy rates for both the state and the region have decreased over the period. The ACT Region had a higher vacancy rate than the state in both 1990 and 2000. The total number of vacant houses in each county includes the total amount of seasonal housing in each county, whereas the vacancy rates for the counties have been adjusted to remove seasonal housing.

In 2000, Pueblo County had the highest group quarters population within the ACT Region, Crowley County was second and Alamosa County, third. The highest number of housing units was also found in Pueblo, followed by Otero and Las Animas County. The largest average household size is in Conejos County followed by Prowers and Crowley. Baca County had the highest vacancy rate followed by Kiowa and Bent County.

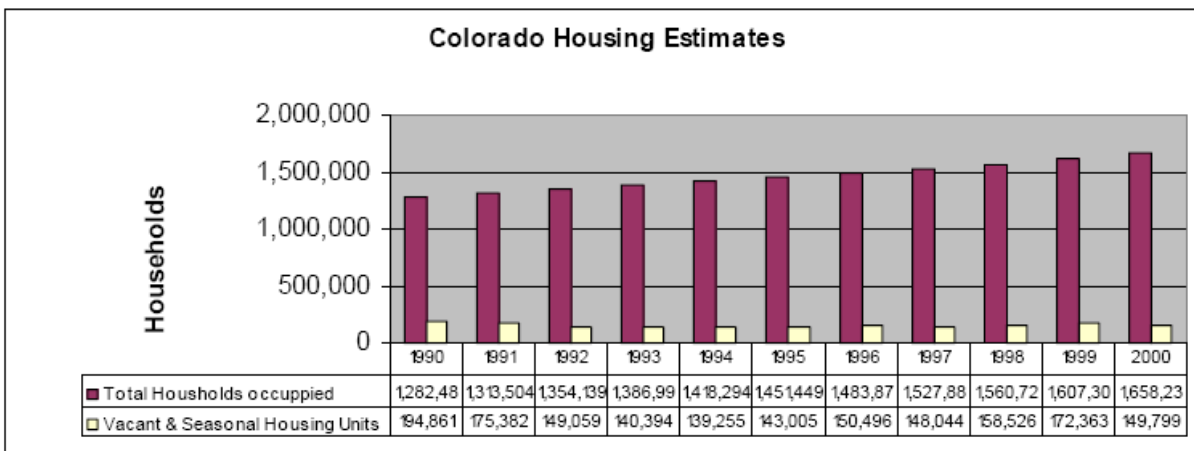
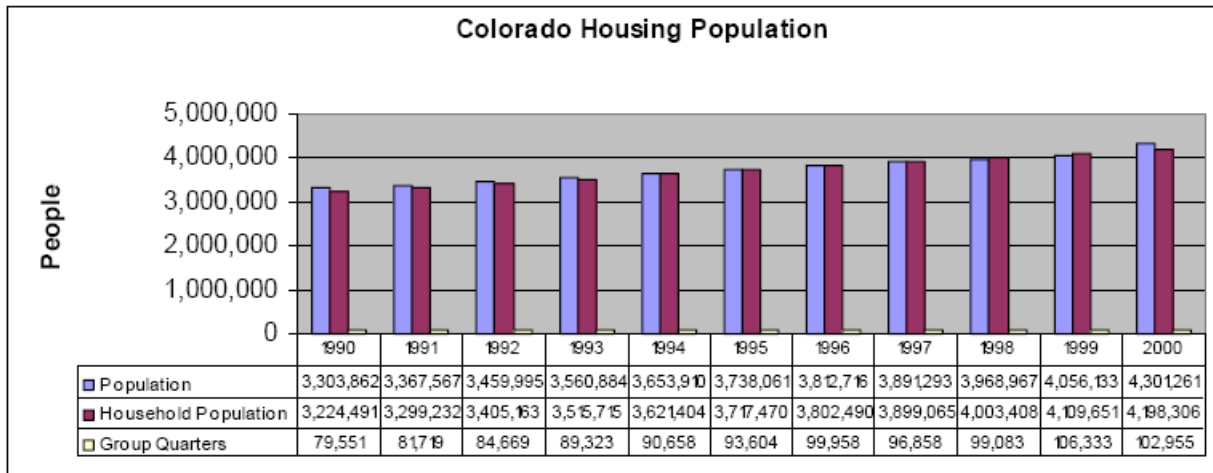
In 2000, Costilla County had the lowest group quarters population followed by Custer and Kiowa County in second and third. Kiowa County has the lowest number of housing units, followed by Crowley and Costilla County. Huerfano County has the lowest average household size, followed by Baca and Custer County. Pueblo County has the lowest vacancy rate, followed by Custer and Alamosa County.

Population growth and related household population growth provides an indicator of housing demand. Residential vacancy rates provide an indicator of the supply or stock of housing relative to demand. Increases in group quarters population have relatively little direct impact on residential housing demand, but may indirectly influence housing markets by increases in service sector jobs to serve those institutions or through seasonal rental property markets in the case of universities. In Colorado, group quarters population, or population found in prisons, nursing homes, and handicap institutions, rose by 29% over the decade to parallel overall population growth.

Total housing units in Colorado have also climbed with the increase in population, which undoubtedly required additional housing. Vacant and seasonal housing in Colorado peaked in 1990 and hit a low of 139,255 vacant and seasonal homes statewide in 1994. This number has climbed each year from 1994 to 1999,

but in 2000 it decreased by 23% from the 1999 observation.

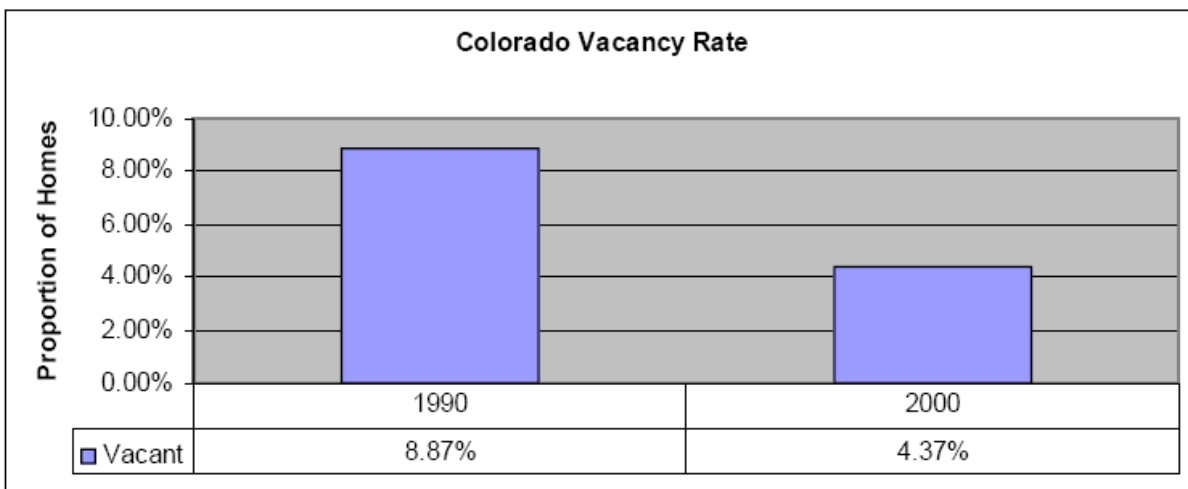
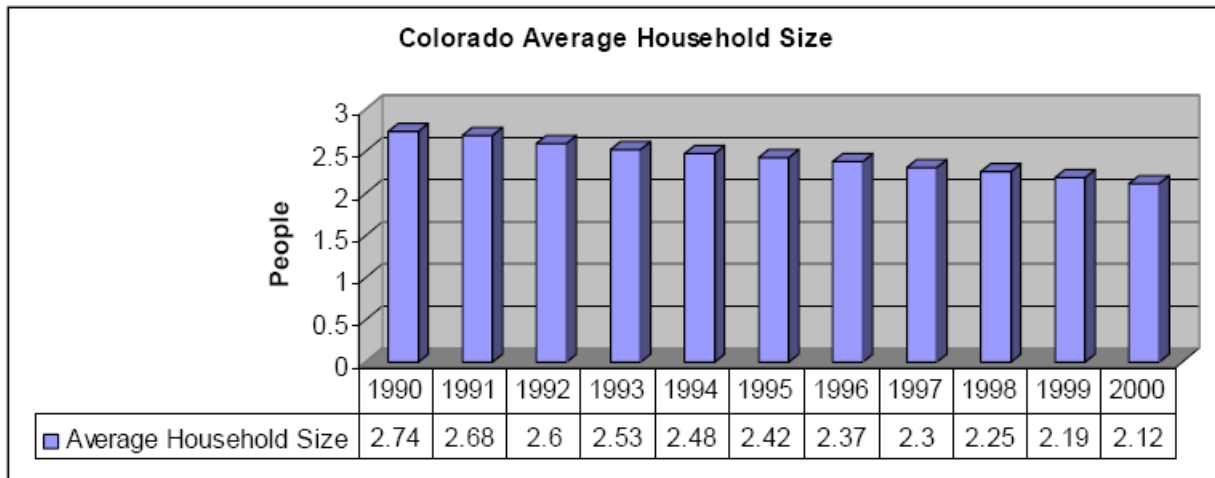
Nationwide, household size has decreased and higher incomes tend to imply lower household sizes. For example, the U.S. people per household in 1990 were 2.63, decreasing to 2.59 in 2000. As a general rule, household sizes tend to be smaller in urban settings. As an increasingly urban and wealthy state, it could be expected that Colorado household size should have decreased between 1990 and 2000. Recent data for Colorado does bear out this expectation, indicating a decrease in household size over the period (2.74 in 1990 and 2.12 in 2000). A longer time series provides a more accurate picture of the longer-term trends. In 1960 Colorado's average household size was 3.23 people, 3.08 in 1970, and 2.65 in 1980. In general, international immigrant households tend to be larger on average than second generation and longer American households. An important portion of Colorado's



population growth is driven by first generation immigrants. For example, between 1990 and 1994, 68,006 international immigrants entered Colorado, while between 1995 and 2000 population from international immigration was 133,066. This represents a population increase of 96% among international immigrants. It could be expected that downward household size trends would be muted within the state and where first generation households are more concentrated.

Similar to the idea of “frictional unemployment,” there is a need to have vacant housing at all times to allow for families to upgrade, move into the area, or for families to form. It is difficult to establish a bench-

mark to measure the level at which the vacancy rate is “bad” or “good”. For the purposes of this assessment, the state average is considered the benchmark. Home vacancy rates are in a downward trend since 1990. In areas with high levels of agricultural activity there are noticeably higher vacancy rates than in counties with less economic dependence on agriculture. Seasonal housing has a large impact on vacancy rates in counties with a higher level of natural amenities, recreation and tourism. Depending on when Census Enumerators evaluated the home, there may be significant levels of vacant housing in the county. As a result, seasonal housing has been taken into consideration and has been excluded from the vacancy rate reported here.



Comparisons of the ACT Region to the state total reveals that group population grew by 57% over the 10-year period, which constitutes 10% of the state's total in 2000. Total population increased from 217,559 to 247,522, or a 14% growth rate over the same 10-years. This population made up 6% of the state total in 2000.

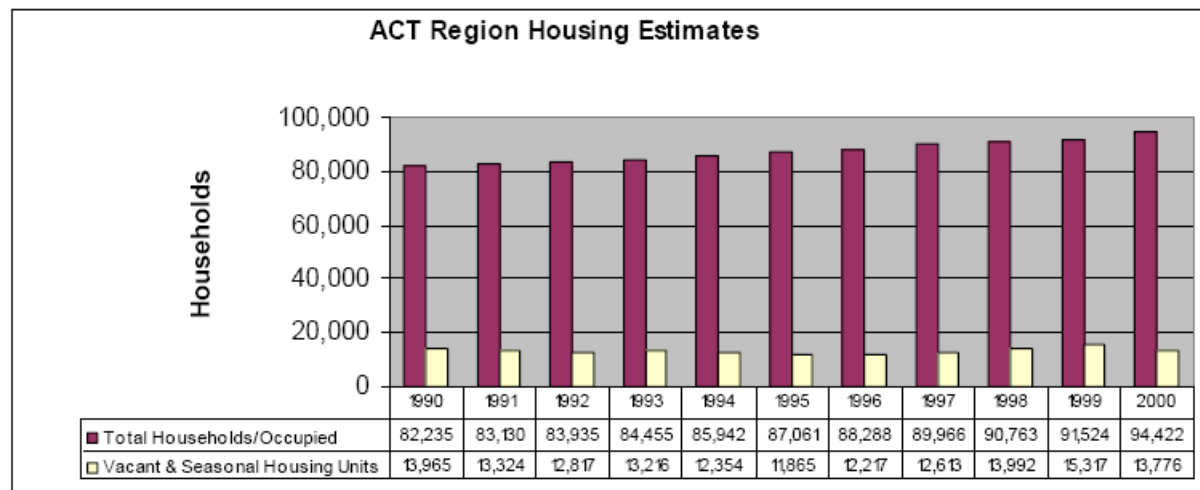
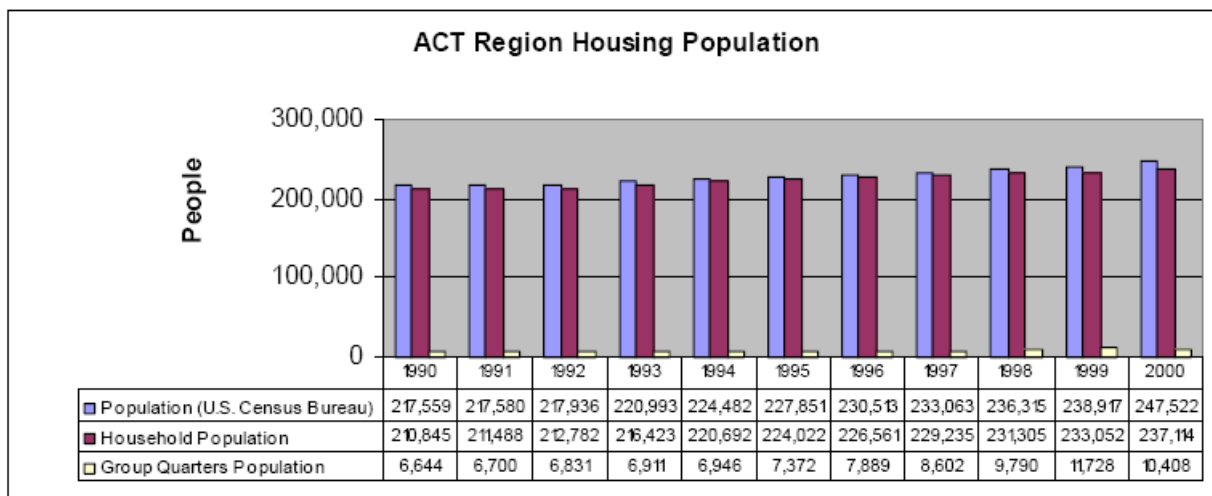
Total housing units increased by 10% across the ACT Region during the 1990s. The state's growth rate of housing was 20% over the same period. Vacant and seasonal housing units have varied somewhat throughout the decade. In 1990, the total vacant homes were 13,965 and by 2000 reached 13,776. Between 1990 and 2000 the number of vacant and seasonal homes reached a low of 11,865 in 1995 and a high of 15,317 in 1999. The total number of households occupied in the ACT Region increased by 15% over the period.

Overall average household size has decreased from 2.56 in 1990 to 2.51 in 2000. In 1994, 1995, 1996 there was a consistent level of 2.57 people per household. This plateau is followed by another plateau of 2.55 for 1997-1999.

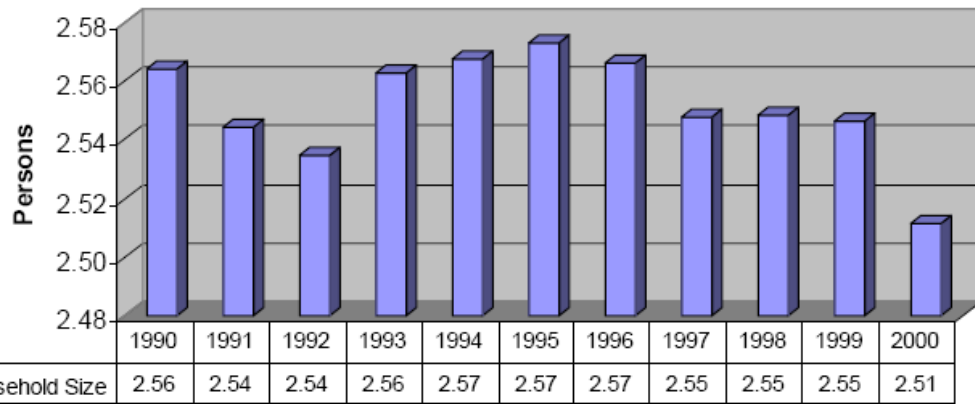
The ACT Region has a higher vacancy rate than the state. Despite this, the number of vacant homes in the ACT Region decreased over the period. Out of all the counties in the ACT Region, only two (Pueblo and Alamosa) showed increases in the vacancy rate between 1990 and 2000.

4.2 County trends in housing

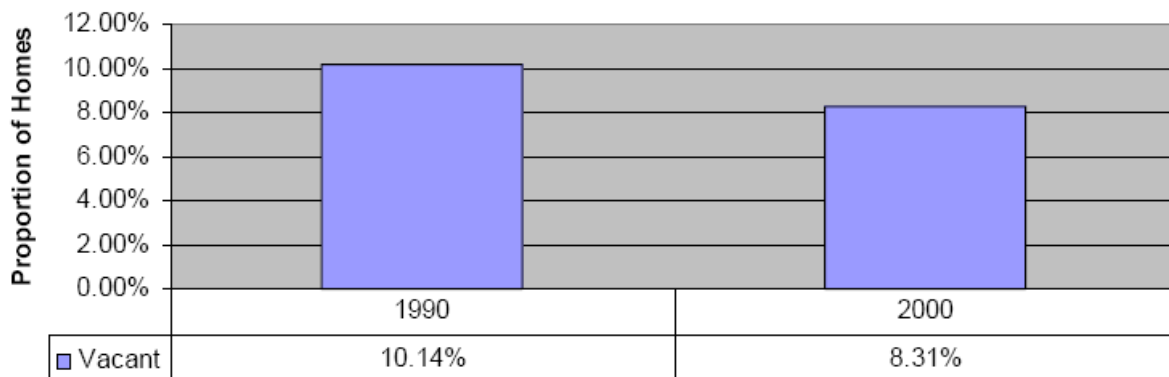
Within the ACT Region, Alamosa has the third highest number of group quarters housing units, accounting for 10% of the region's total. Housing units grew by 10% and group quarters varied substantially over time



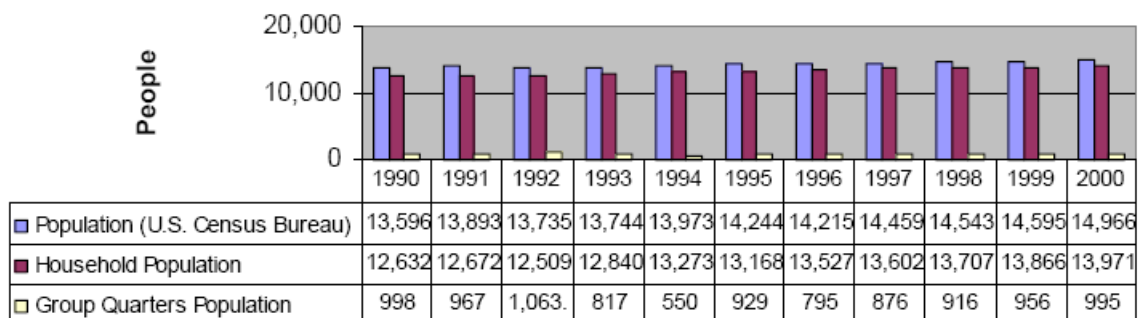
ACT Region Average Household Size



ACT Region Vacancy Rate



Alamosa County Housing Population



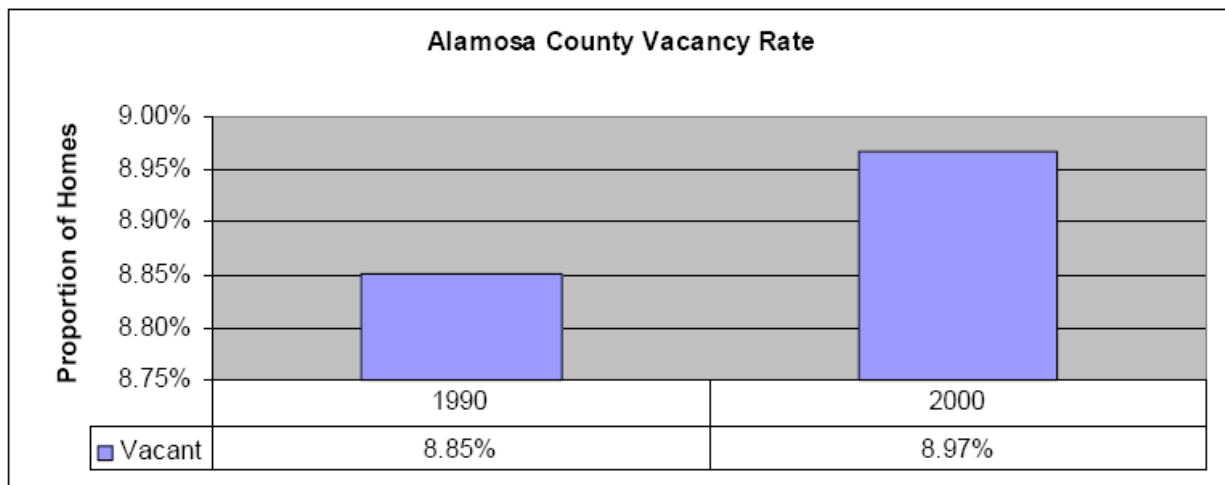
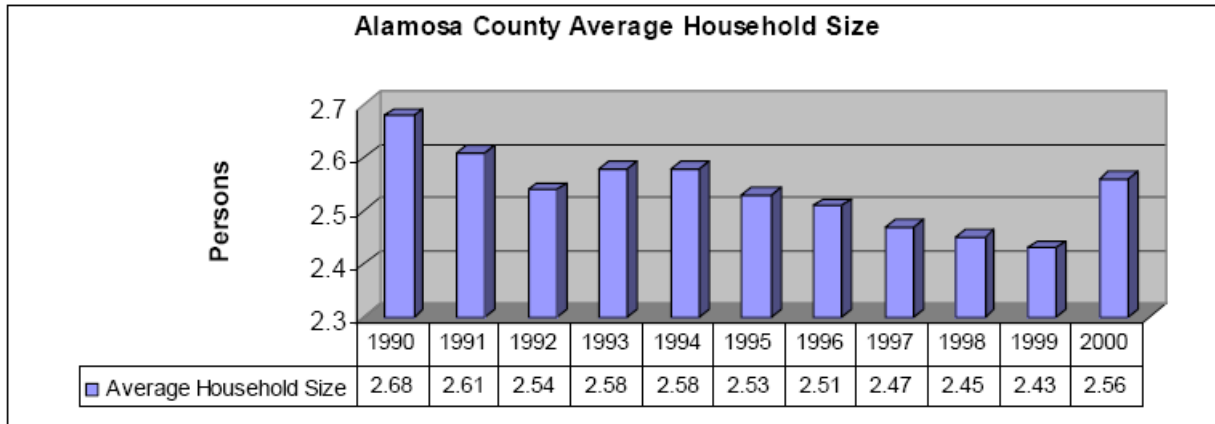
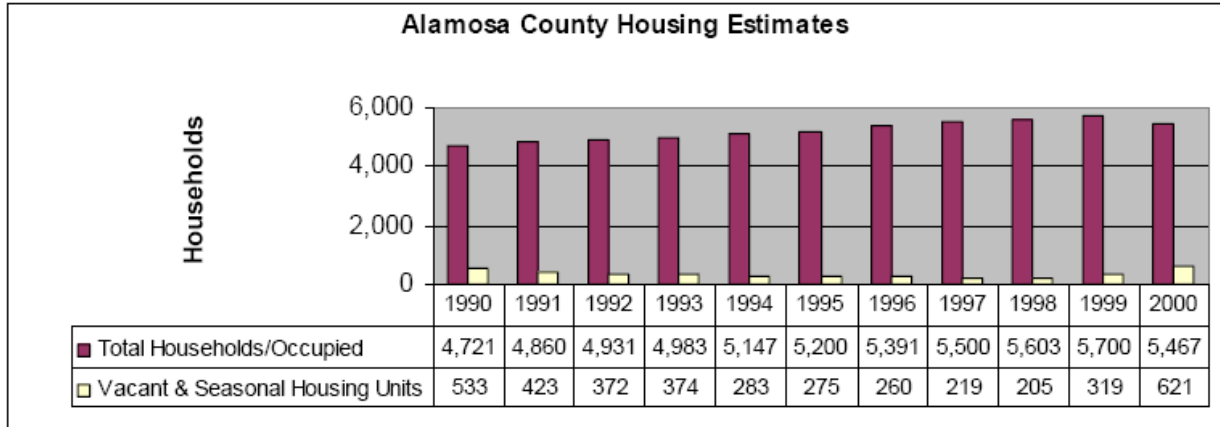
period. The fewest group quarters housing units were 550 in 1994. By 2000, the group quarters population was virtually equivalent to 1990.

The number of occupied homes in Alamosa County increased by 16% between 1990 and 2000. The number of vacant and seasonal housing units varied over the period. Beginning in 1990, vacant and seasonal homes totaled 533 and then decreased each year, with the exception of 1993, until vacant housing units hit a

trough at 205 in 1998 and the number of vacant and seasonal homes climbed rapidly to 621 by 2000.

Average household size in Alamosa County decreased during the 1990s. It began the decade at 2.68 in 1990 hit a low of 2.43 in 1999. The most recent data available reflect an increase to 2.56 in 2000.

Regionally, Alamosa County was ranked eleventh of thirteen in housing vacancy rate for 2000. The data



suggest that the vacancy rate has increased over the decade. The only two counties within the region to experience an increase in vacancy rates over the decade are Alamosa and Pueblo Counties. Alamosa County had a lower vacancy rate than the region in 1990, but then exceeded the region's vacancy rate slightly in 2000.

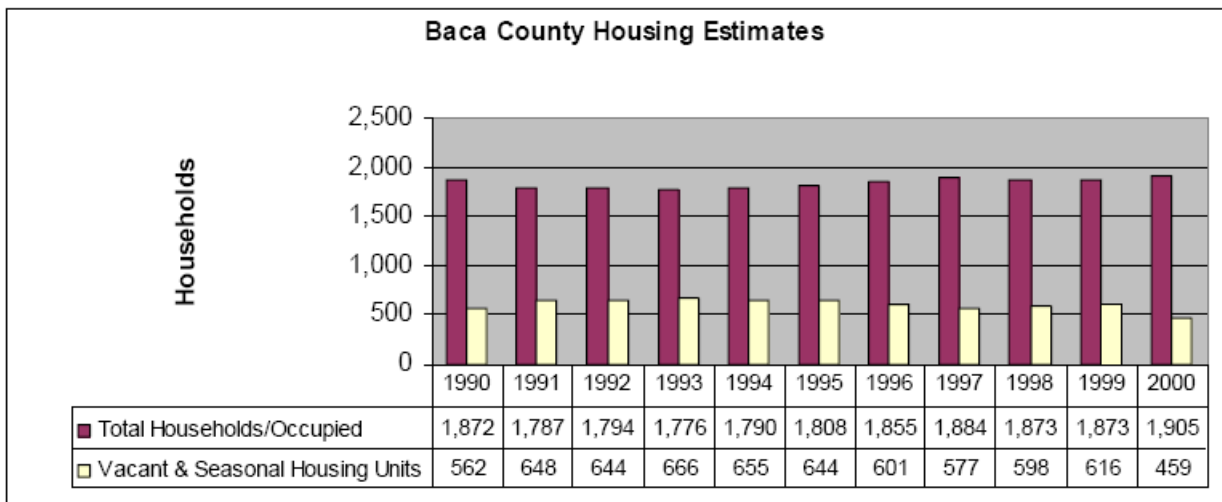
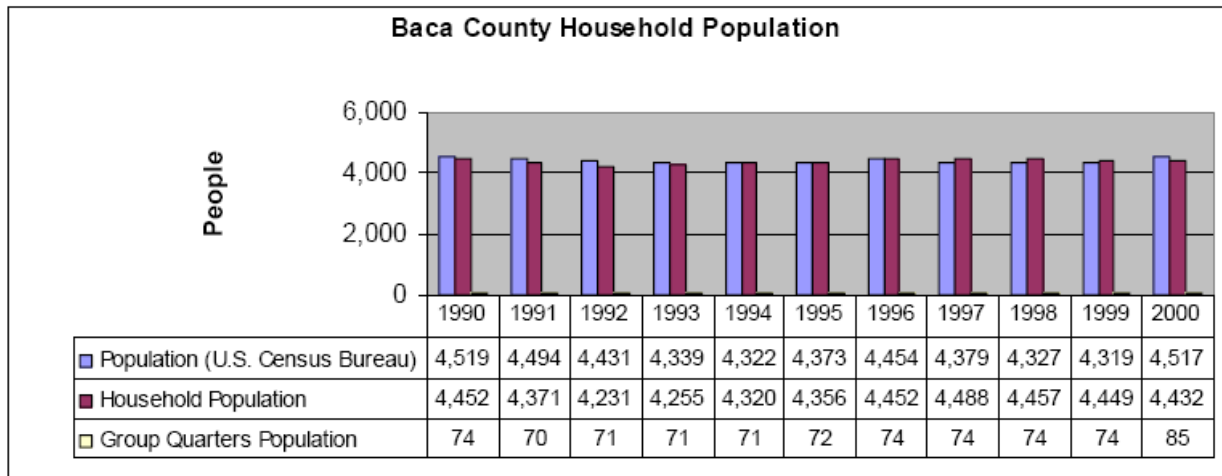
Baca County had a very stable number of households through the 1990s. The population always remained within a narrow range of 200 households through out the period. Likewise, group quarters population stayed essentially constant, varying by 4 people or fewer until 2000.

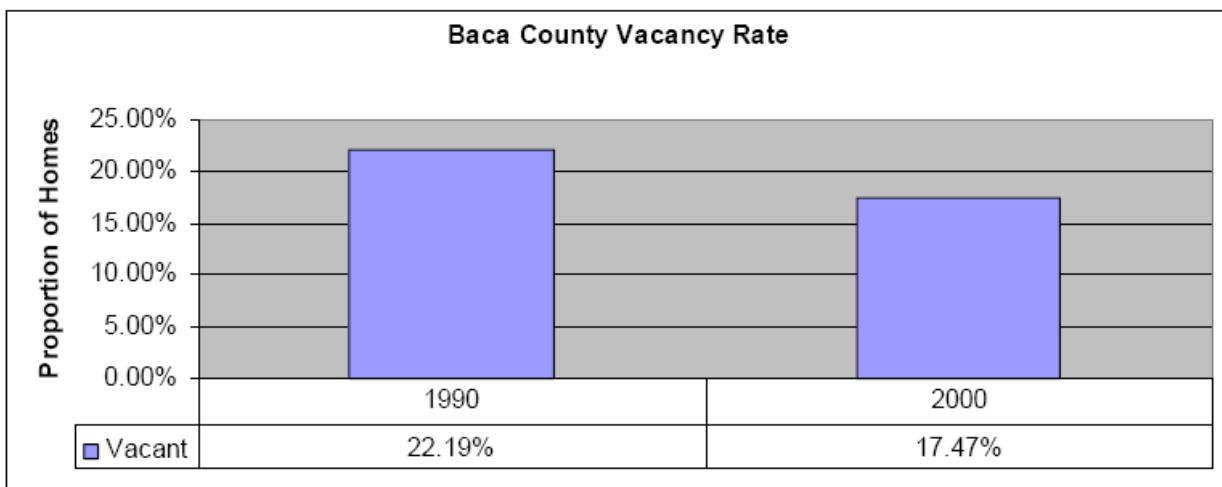
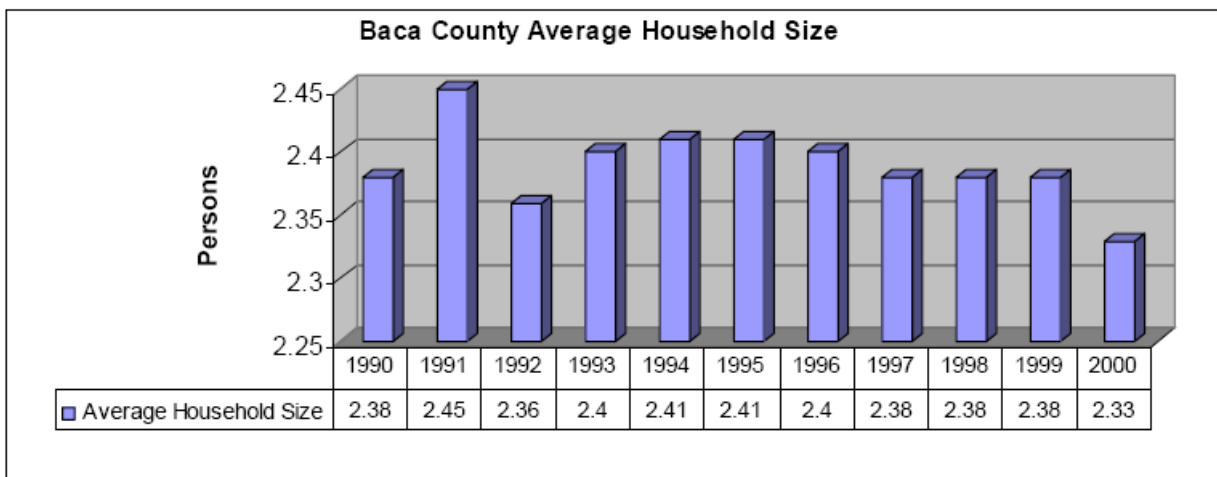
Total housing units for Baca County decreased from 2,434 homes to 2,364, a 3% drop. Likewise, the number of vacant homes decreased by 18%. Vacant and

seasonal homes reached their maximum by 1993 in Baca County, with an 18% growth rate, and then declined every year until 1998. In 1998 the number of vacant and seasonal homes increased and then dropped in 2000 to a new low for the decade.

Regionally, Baca County had the twelfth largest average household size for 2000, much lower than the regional average. Average household size in Baca County trended downward with the exception of some variability in the early part of the decade.

In 2000, the housing vacancy rate in Baca County was substantially less than the 1990 average. However, the 2000 vacancy rate was the highest out of all the counties in the ACT Region. The second highest vacancy rate out of all the counties in 1990 was in Baca County.





Household population in Bent County increased by 19% in the 1990s. The most dramatic increase throughout the decade was in group quarters population. In 1990, group quarters comprised of 372 people and then decreased the following year to 366. From 1991 until 1999 there were steady increases in group quarters population. In 1999, group quarters population was equal to 38% of the total population. In 2000, a large decrease in group quarters population occurred, a 58% decrease from 1999. Household population increased by 9% and total population grew by 19% over the period.

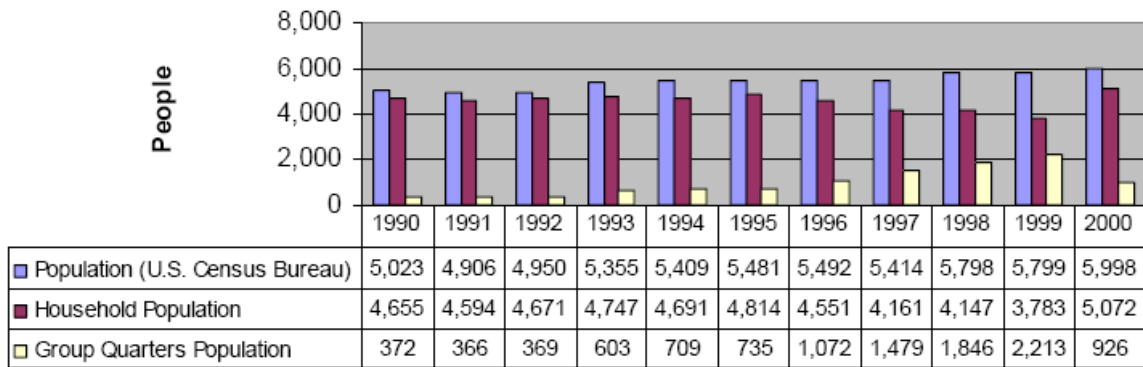
During the 1990s total housing units increased by only 2% in Bent County. However, the number of total households occupied increased by 7%. The number of vacant and seasonal homes stayed below 500 homes until 1996, when they jumped to 508 from the previous years total of 400. Increases still occurred in 1997,

when vacant homes increased by 38%. The peak of vacant and seasonal homes was observed in 1999 when the total reached 872, 87% higher than in 1990. In 2000, the number of vacant and seasonal homes decreased by 58% from 1999.

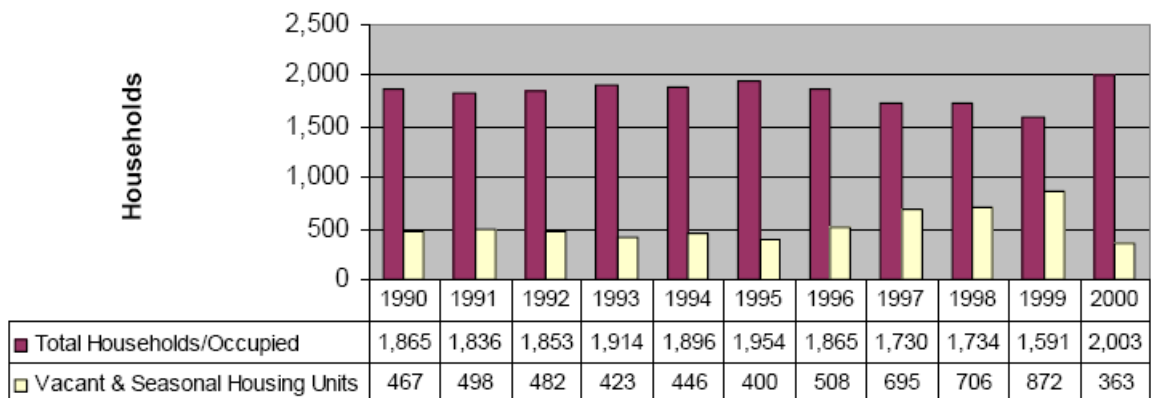
Average household size in Bent County was higher than both the state average and the regional average in 2000. Between 1990 and 1999, decreases in average household size were apparent, with the exception of 1992. After hitting the low of 2.38 people in 1999 per household, the average increased to 2.53 in 2000.

The housing vacancy rate in Bent County was higher than the region as a whole at both ends of the decade. In 2000, the number of vacant homes decreased from 1990. The vacancy rate of 14.37% in 2000 was the third highest vacancy rate within the region.

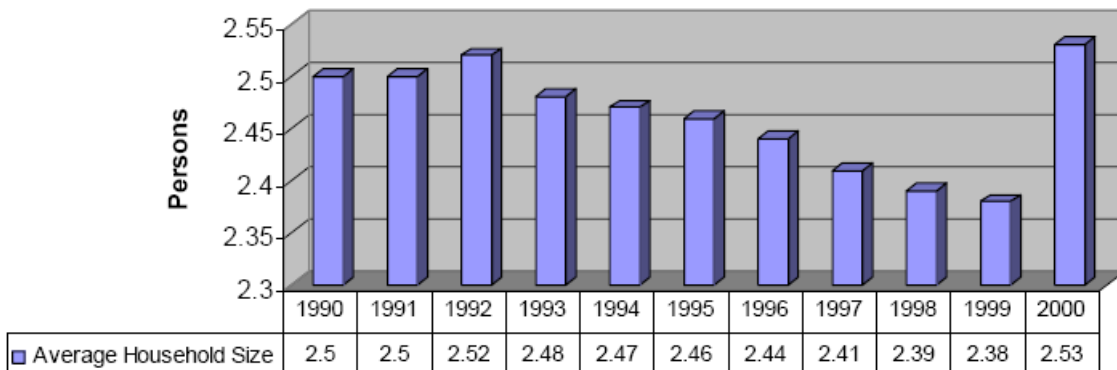
Bent County Housing Population



Bent County Housing Estimates

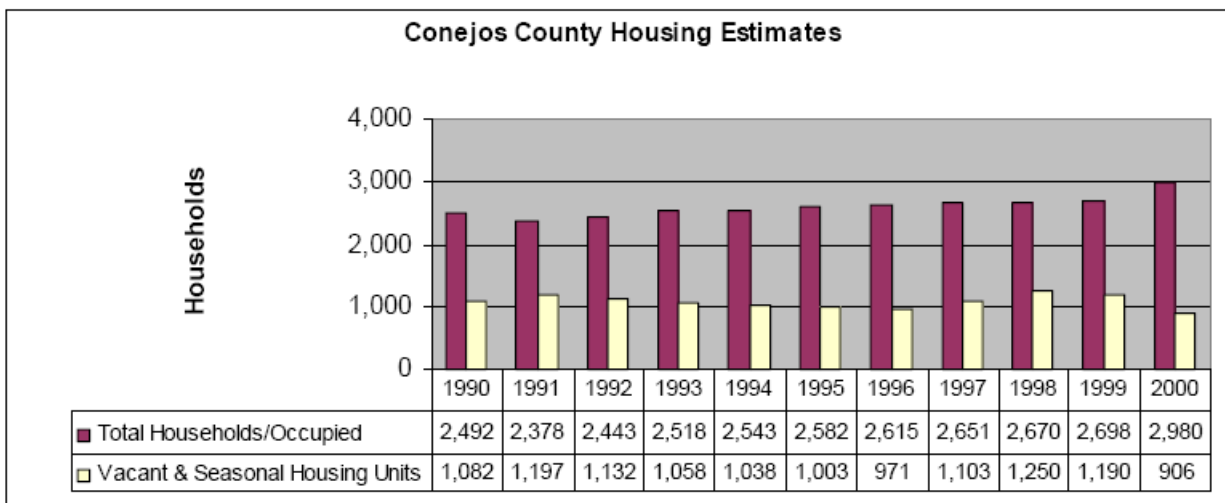
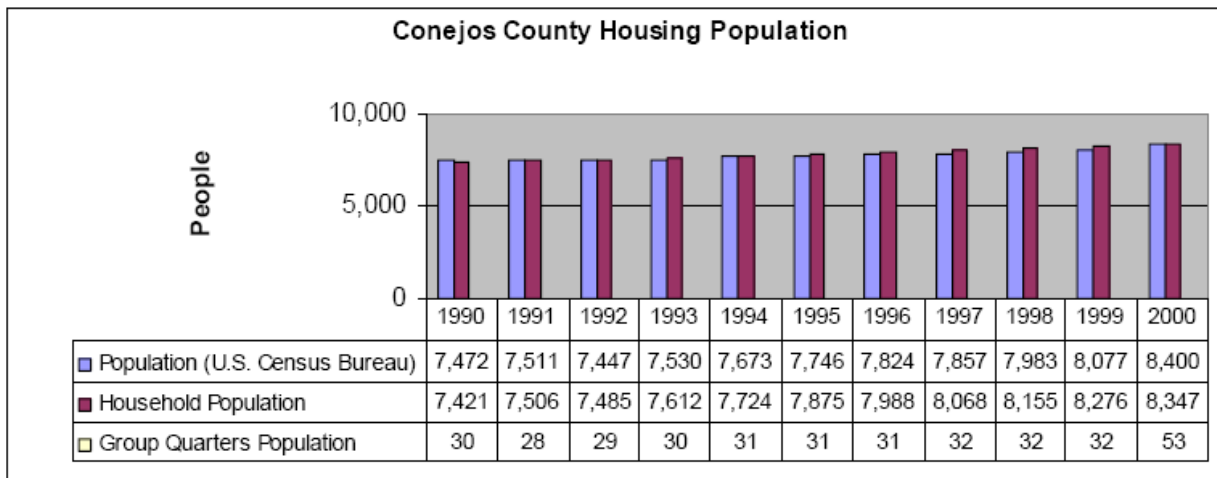
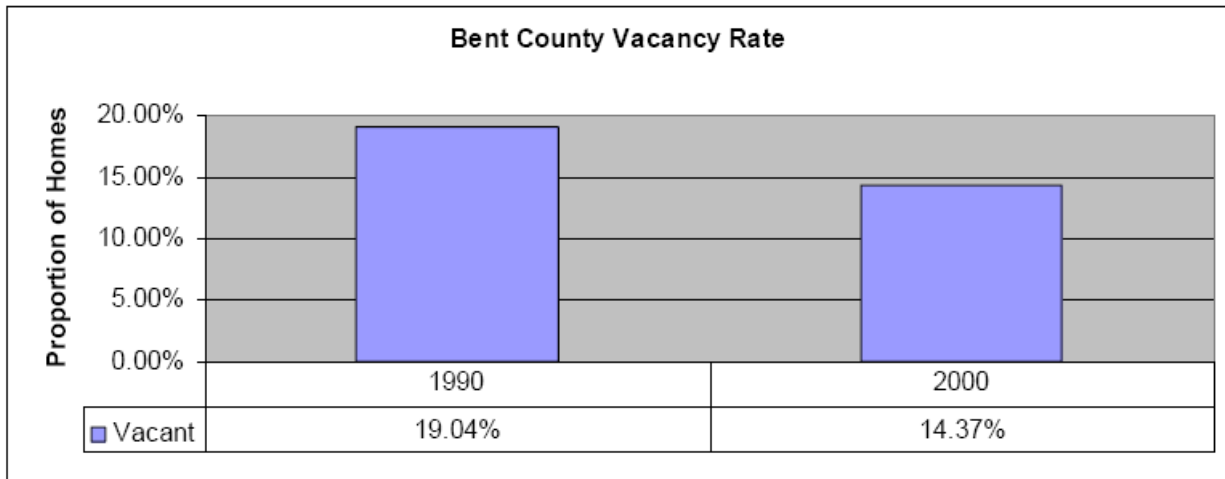


Bent County Average Household Size



Population in Conejos County increased by 12% throughout the decade, whereas household population increased by 13%. The group quarters population in Conejos stayed between 28 and 32 people until 2000 when a 66% jump occurred.

The total number of housing units in Conejos County increased from 3,574 in 1990 to 3,886 in 2000, an increase of 9% over the decade. Total households occupied increased by 16%. A parallel 16% decrease in vacant and seasonal homes was observed for the decade.



The average household size in Conejos County was the largest in the ACT Region throughout the decade. In 1990, the average was 2.98 people per household, peaking at 3.16 in 1991, and falling every year until 1994. In 1995 and 1996, the average held constant at 3.05 and fell slightly to 3.04 in 1997 and rose to 3.07 in 1999. The 2000 average person per household is less than the 1990 average showing overall decreases in the average per household for the 1990s.

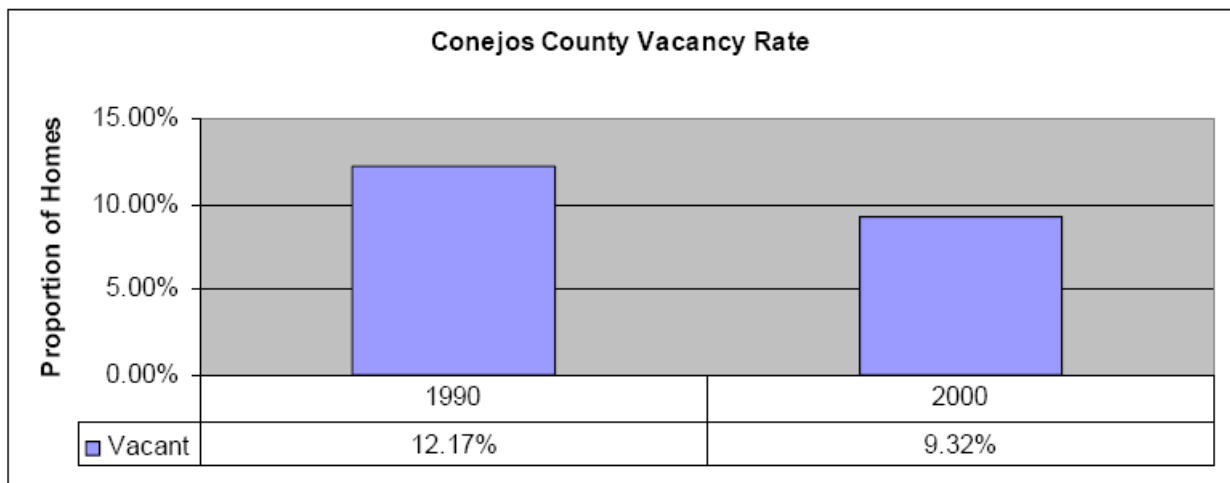
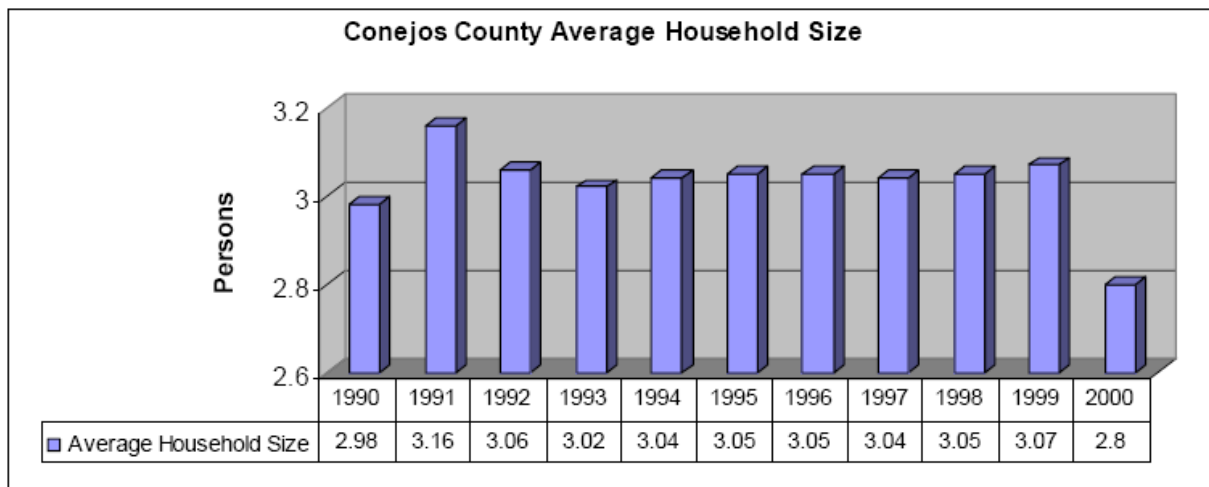
In 1990, the vacancy rate was 12.17% decreasing to 9.32% in 2000. Vacancy rates for Conejos County were higher than the regional vacancy rates in both 1990 and 2000.

During the 1990s, Costilla County's population grew from 3,183 in 1990 to 3,663 in 2000, or a 15% growth rate. Household population also grew at the same rate. Within the ACT Region, Costilla County had the lowest group quarters population in 2000.

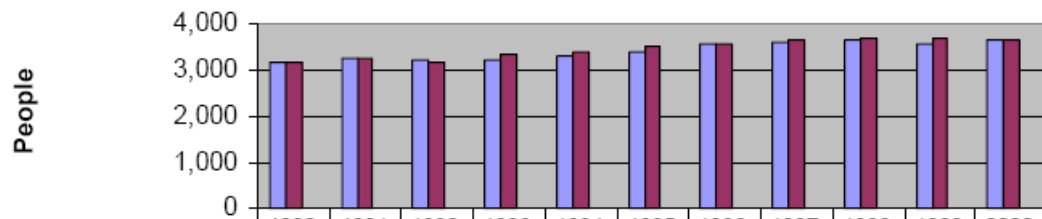
Regionally, Costilla County ranked eleventh in the number of housing units. However, total housing units grew by 26% over the decade. Total households occupied increased by the same rate of 26%, or from 1,192 in 1990 to 1,503 in 2000. Sporadic changes in the number of vacant and seasonal homes were characteristic of the 1990s in Costilla County.

Average household size in Costilla County was variable throughout the decade. Beginning in 1990 the average household size was 2.68 and then increased to the decade peak the following year. In 1995-1997 the average held constant at 2.77 and increased each subsequent year until 2000, when it decreased to 2.44 people per household.

Costilla County had the third highest housing vacancy rate regionally in 1990. Large decreases in the county vacancy rate were observed for the period.

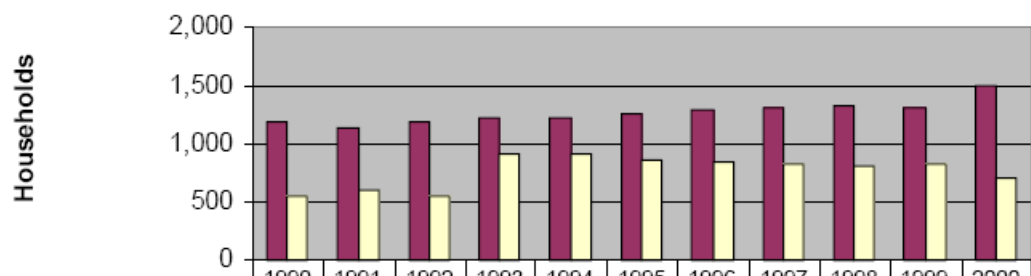


Costilla County Household Population



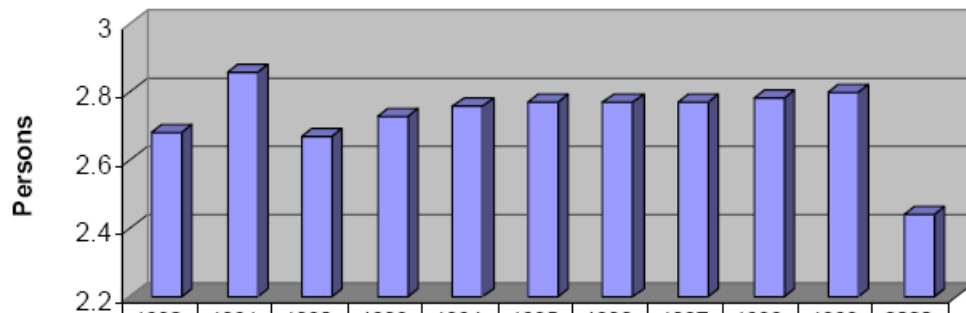
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Population (U.S. Census Bureau)	3,183	3,262	3,203	3,226	3,285	3,397	3,574	3,603	3,642	3,575	3,663
Household Population	3,191	3,256	3,188	3,335	3,374	3,509	3,579	3,639	3,698	3,677	3,663
Group Quarters Population	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0

Costilla County Housing Estimates



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total Households/Occupied	1,192	1,137	1,196	1,223	1,224	1,265	1,290	1,314	1,329	1,314	1,503
Vacant & Seasonal Housing Units	551	606	547	910	909	868	843	819	804	819	699

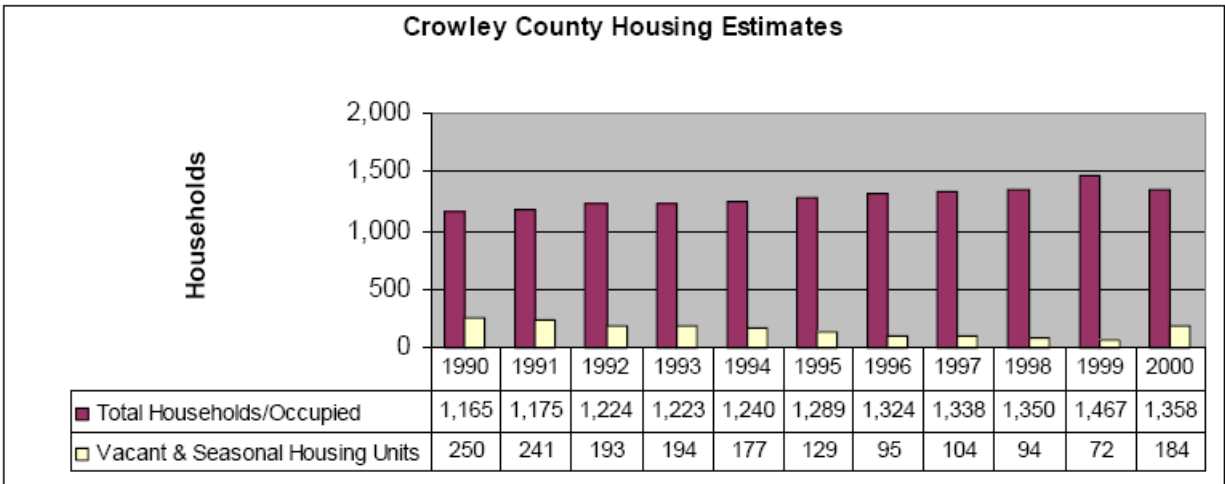
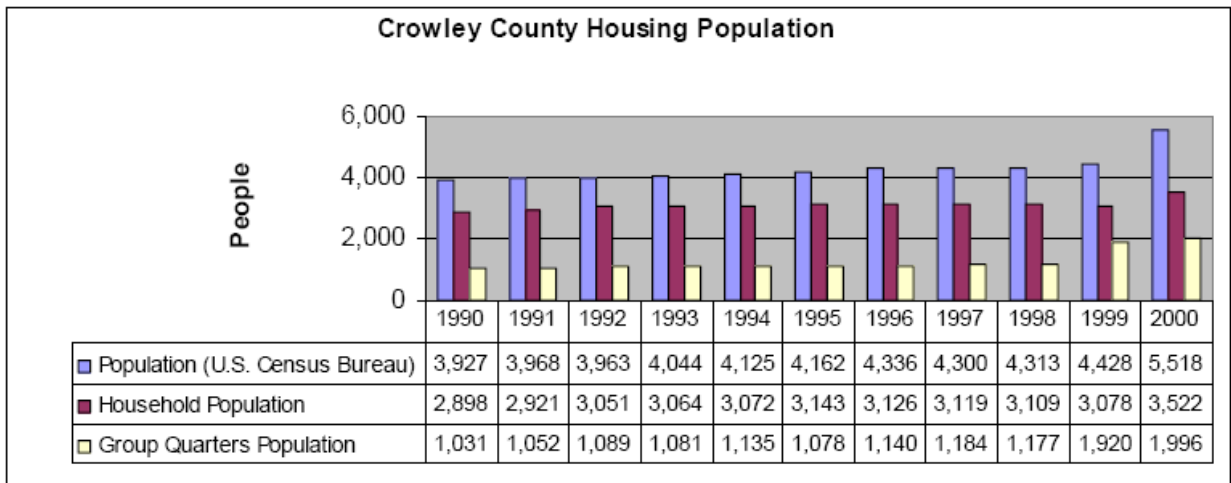
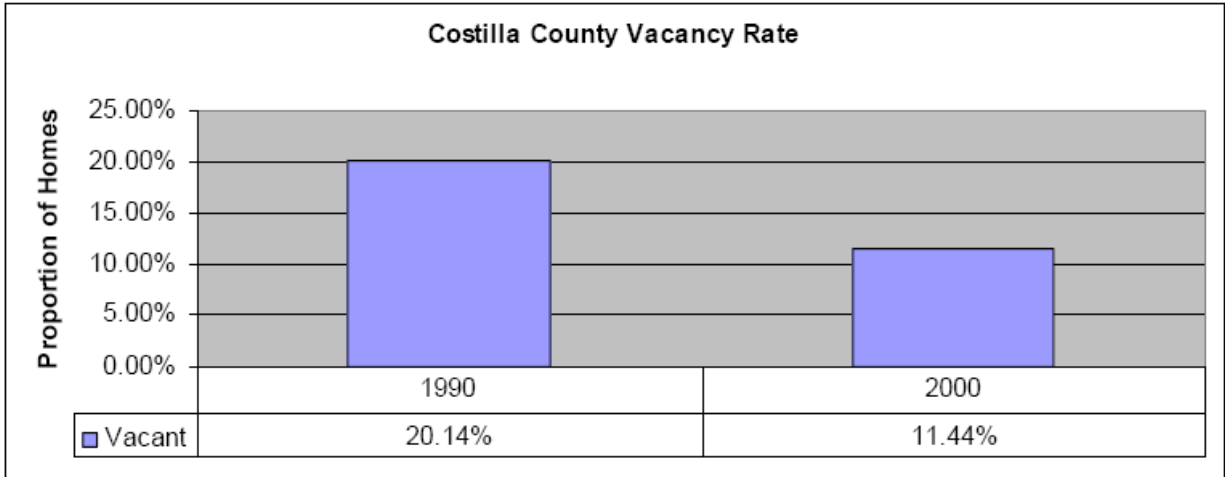
Costilla County Average Household Size



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Average Household Size	2.68	2.86	2.67	2.73	2.76	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.78	2.8	2.44

Population in Crowley County increased by 41%, while the household population increased 22% during the decade. Group quarters population in Crowley County was the second largest in the ACT Region in 2000 and comprised 19% of the total amount of group housing regionwide. The growth in group quarters population was 94% over the 1990s.

Crowley County had the twelfth ranking for the number of housing units in the ACT Region in 2000. However, the number of housing units increased 9% over the decade. Households occupied increased from 1,165 in 1990 to 1,358 in 2000. The number of vacant and seasonal homes in the county decreased 26% over the period.



In 2000, Crowley County had the third highest average household size within the ACT Region. Between 1990 and 1992, the average number of people per household stayed constant at 2.49. In 1993 it increased to 2.51 and then decreased every year until 2000, when the average per household increased from 2.1 in 1999 to 2.59 people.

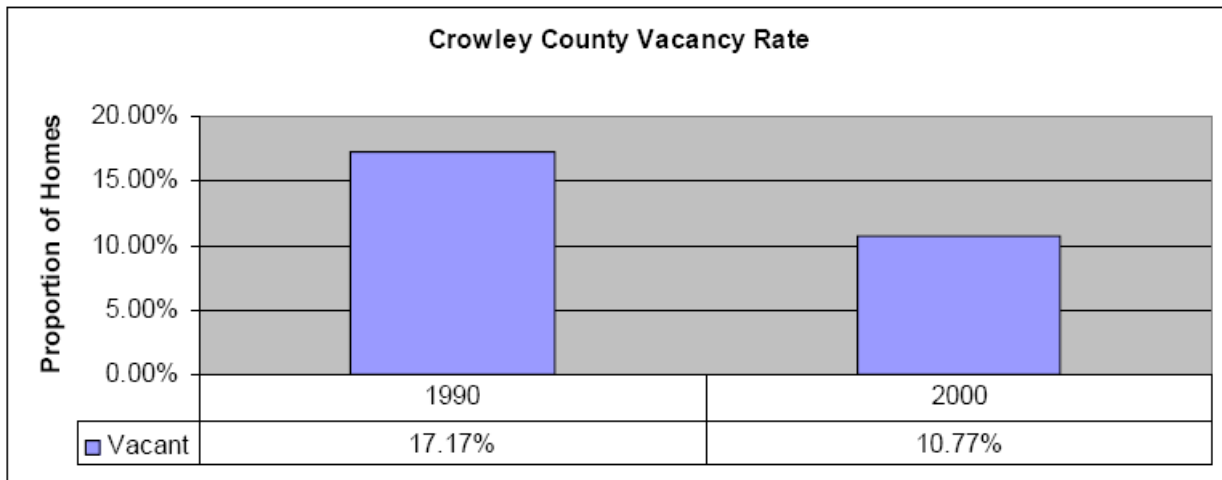
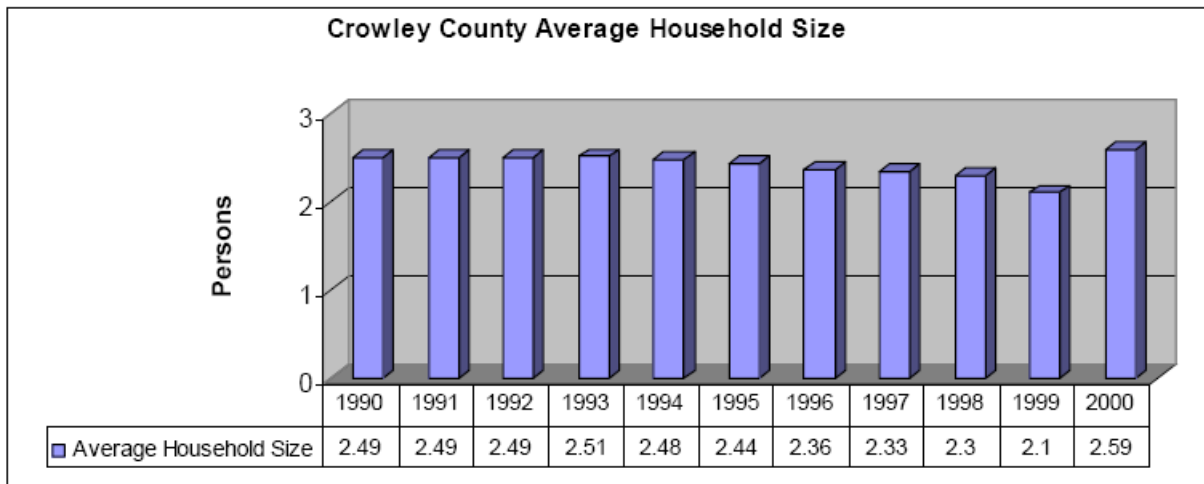
The housing vacancy rate in Crowley County decreased over the 1990s, from 17.17% in 1990 to 10.77% in 2000. Crowley County had a higher vacancy rate for both 1990 and 2000 when compared to the regional vacancy rate.

Total population and household population in Custer County increased by 80% over the 1990s. Custer had the twelfth highest group quarters population regionally for 2000.

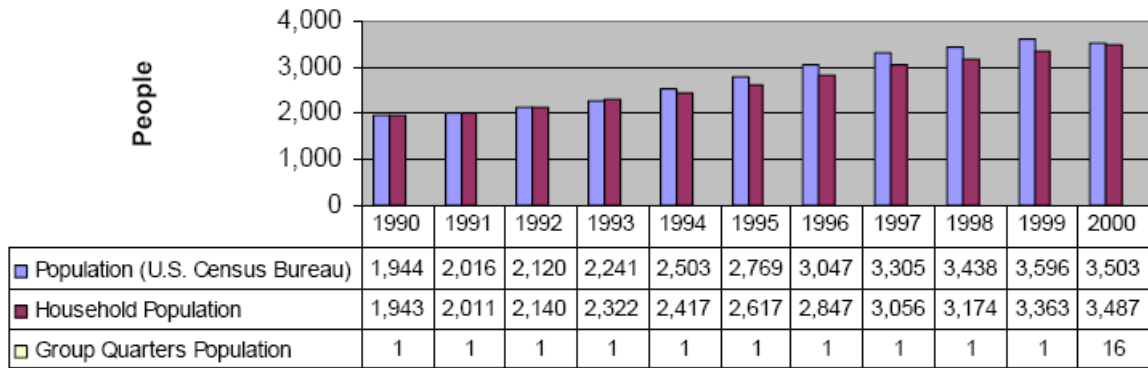
In Custer County the total number of housing units increased by 35% from 2,216 in 1990 to 2,989 in 2000. Total households occupied also increased from 770 in 1990 to 1,480 in 2000, or 92% growth. By 2000, the number of vacant and seasonal homes had risen to 1,509, or a 4% increase.

Regionally, Custer County was ranked eleventh for the average household size for 2000. The average household size in Custer County has been substantially lower than the region throughout the period and for 5 of 11 years compared to state averages.

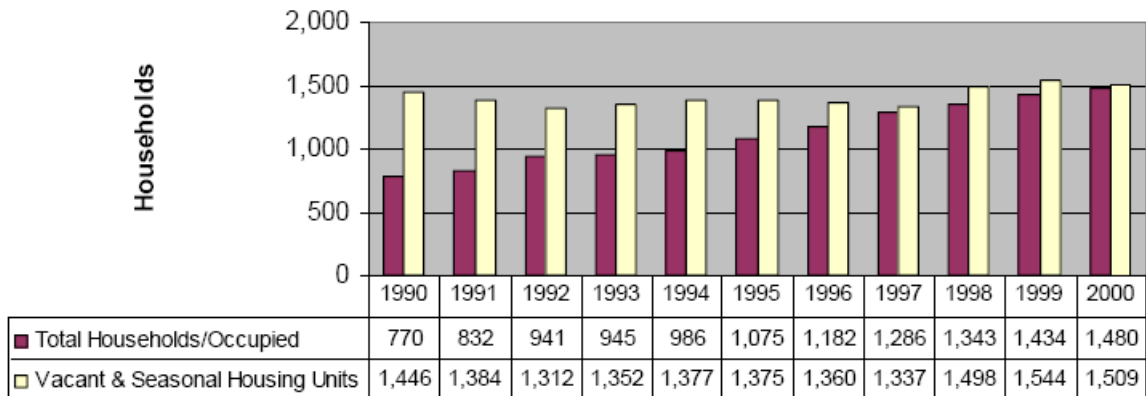
Custer County had the highest level of vacant housing within the ACT Region when including seasonal housing as vacant housing. In 1990, the vacancy rate was 65.25%, decreasing to 50.49% in 2000. However, when seasonal housing is removed from the vacant housing figure, Custer County's vacancy rate ranks twelfth regionally.



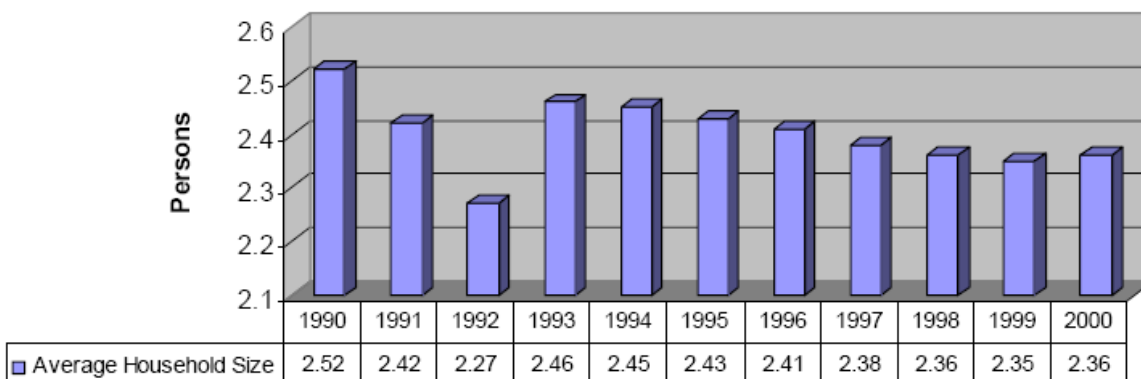
Custer County Housing Population

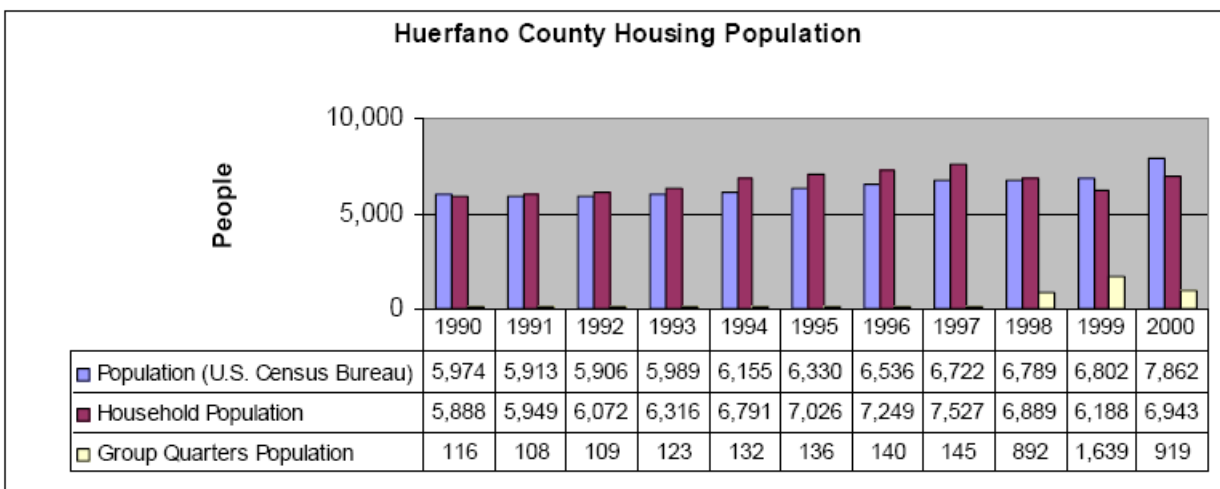
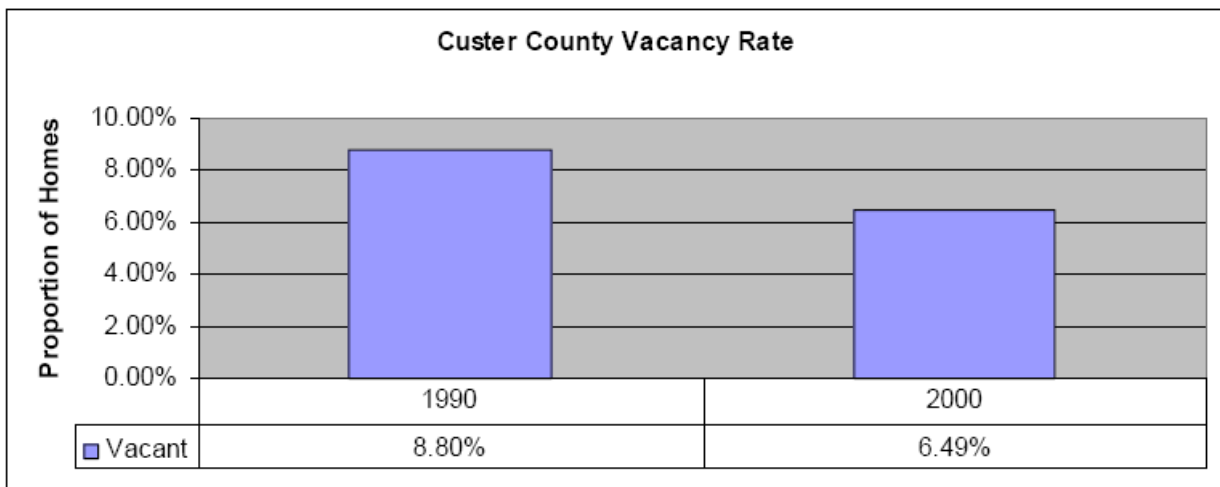


Custer County Housing Estimates



Custer County Average Household Size





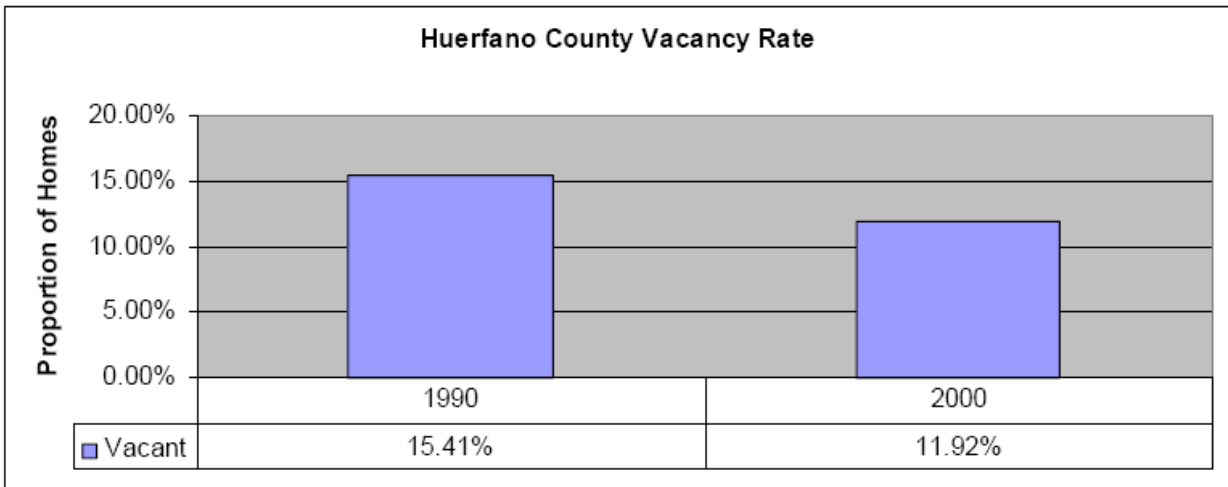
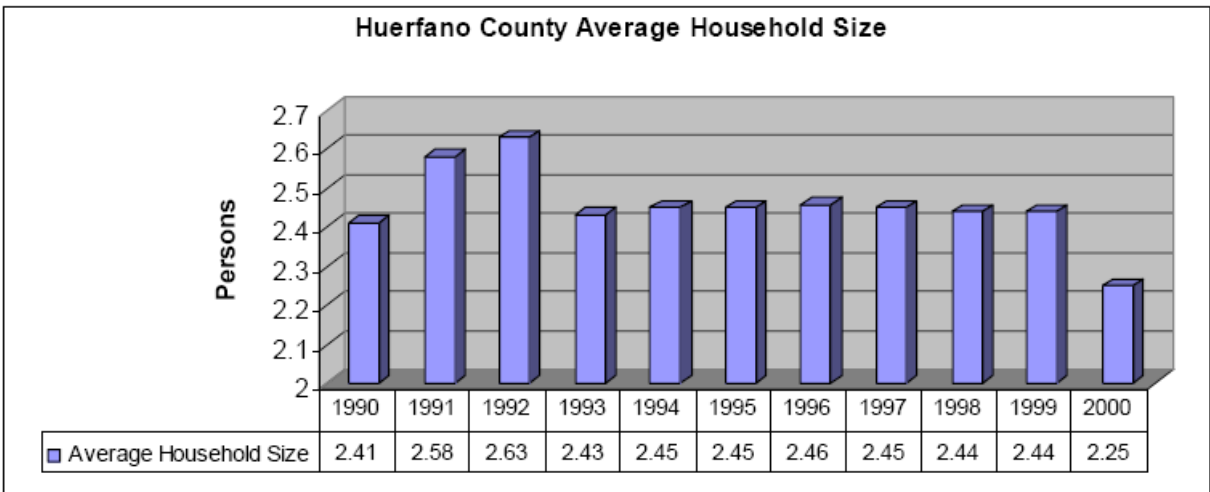
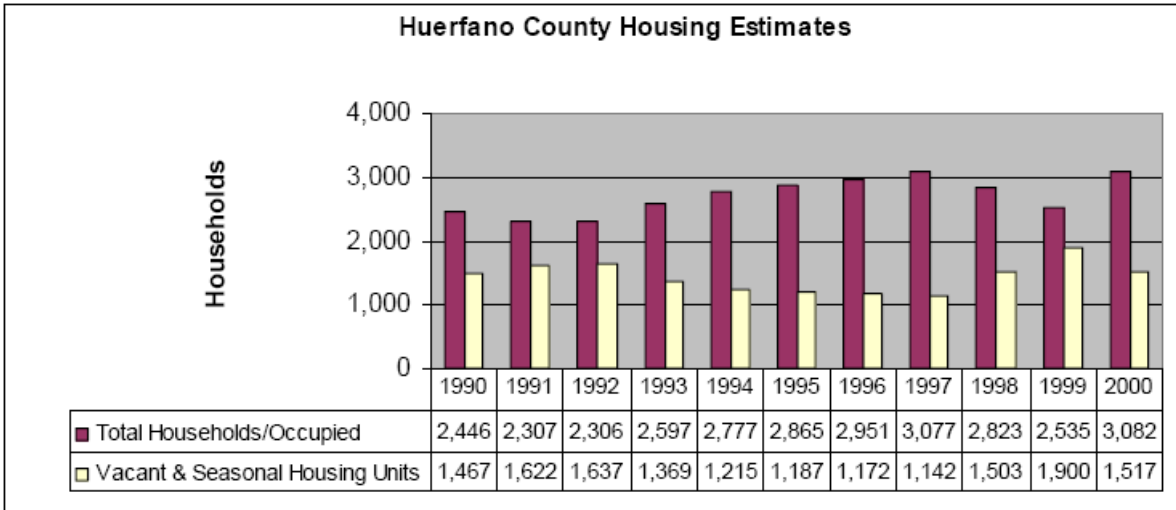
Huerfano County's population grew 32% between 1990 and 2000, increasing from 5,974 to 7,862. Household population grew by 18%. The group quarters population grew by a substantial rate of 692% over the period. The highest group quarters population reached its highest point (1639 people) in 1999.

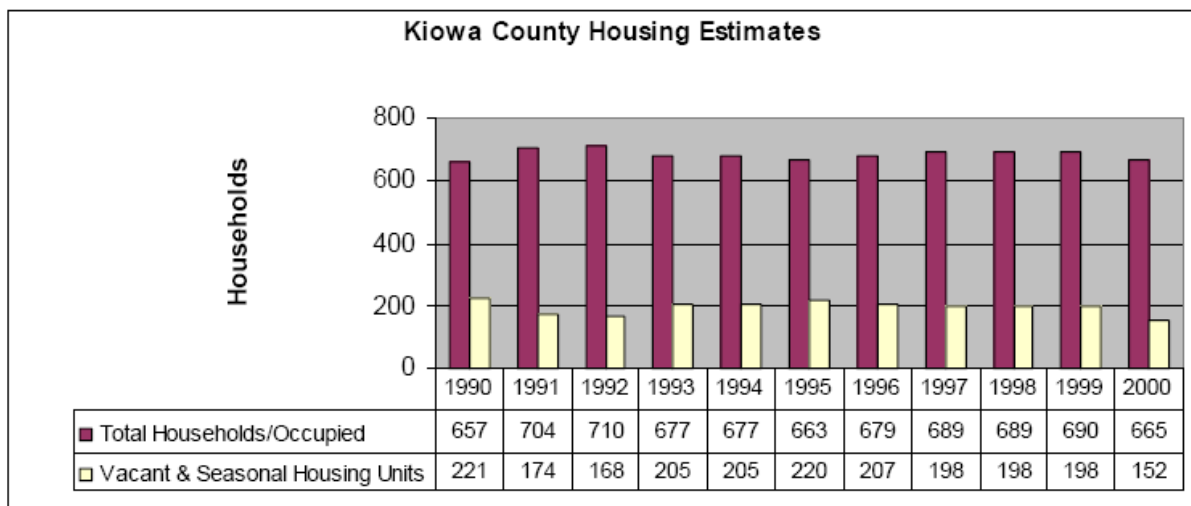
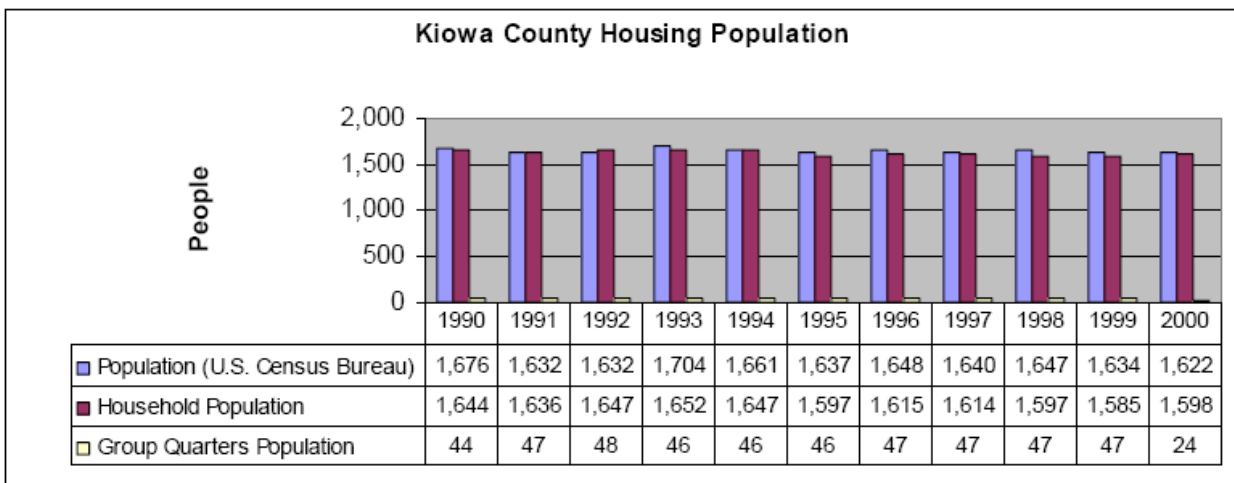
The total number of housing units in Huerfano County increased consistently each year of the 1990s and total population grew by 18%. Total household population grew by 26% over the decade. The number of vacant and seasonal homes increased from 1,467 in 1990 to 1,622 homes in 1992. After 1992 the number of vacant homes decreased until 1997, when it reached the lowest number observed in the 10-year period. The greatest number of vacant homes occurred in 1999, when the total reached 1,900. In 2000, the number of vacant and seasonal homes declined to 1,517.

Huerfano County had the lowest average household size for 2000 in the ACT Region. In 1991 and 1992, the county average household size exceeded the regional average, but remained lower for all other years in the decade.

Huerfano County vacancy rates decreased over the 10-year period, but were higher than the regional average.

Although annual population increases were observed, Kiowa County experienced an overall decrease in population between 1990 and 2000. The highest population was in 1993 when it increased to 1,704 people. Household population decreased by 3% over the 10-year period. Regionally, Kiowa County had the eleventh ranked group quarters population.





Evaluation of the region's housing units shows that Kiowa County had the least amount of housing, with the total decreasing over the 10-year period by a rate of 7%. Although total housing units declined, total households occupied increased from 657 to 665 over the decade. Vacant and seasonal housing units declined by 31% for the period.

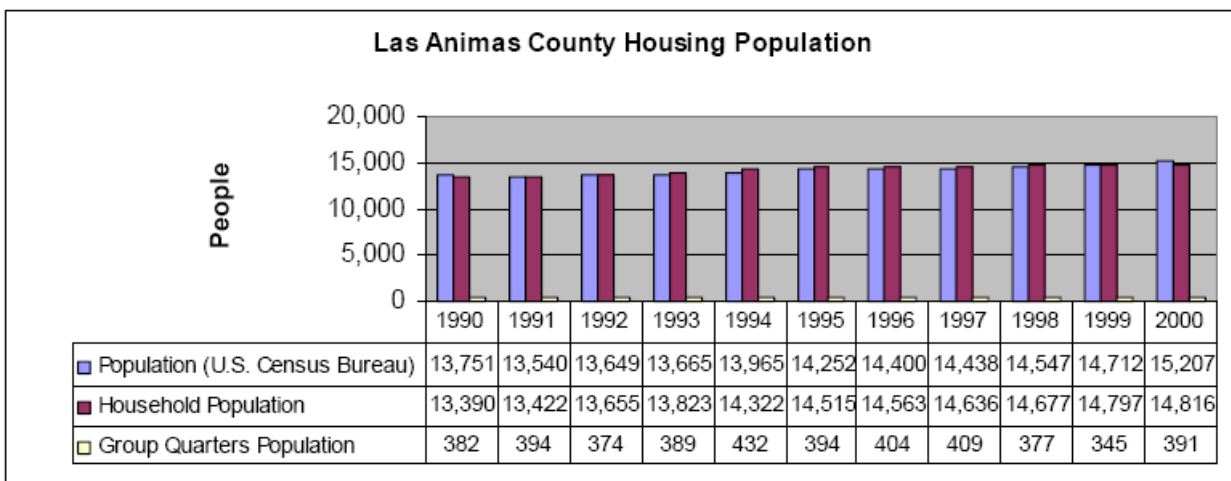
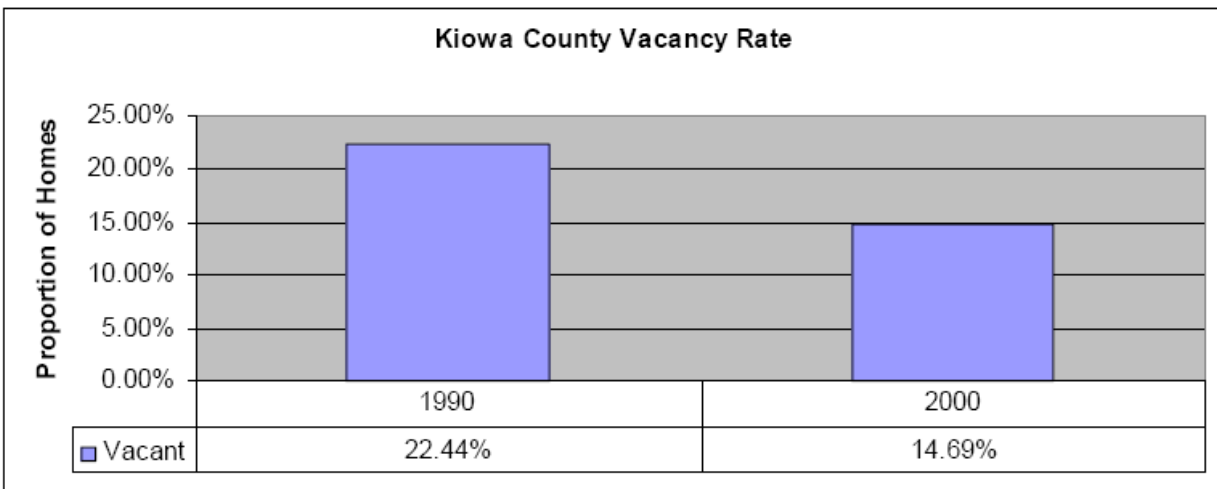
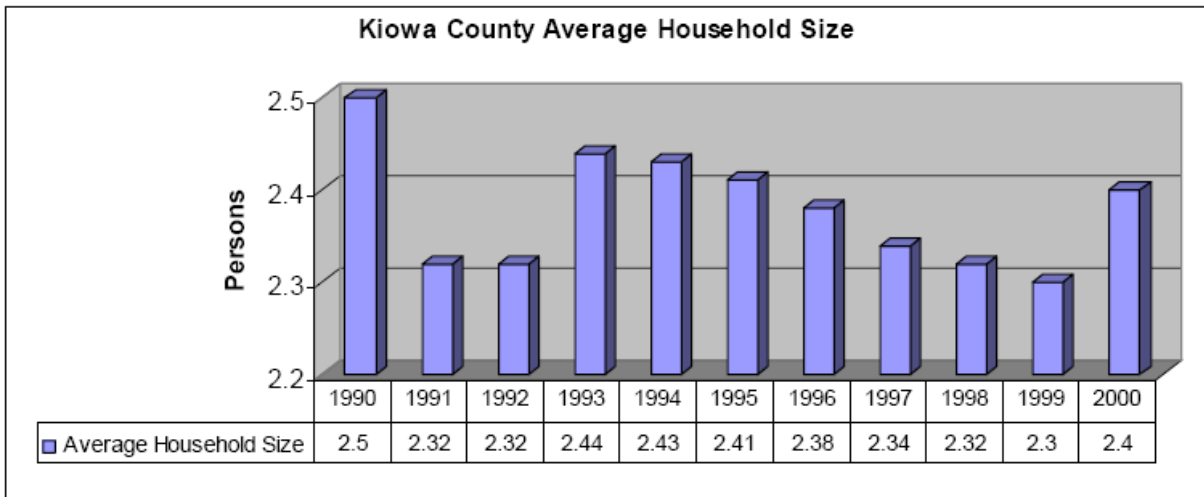
In 1990, the housing vacancy rate in Kiowa County was the highest in the region and second highest in 2000. However, vacancy rates have declined between 1990 and 2000.

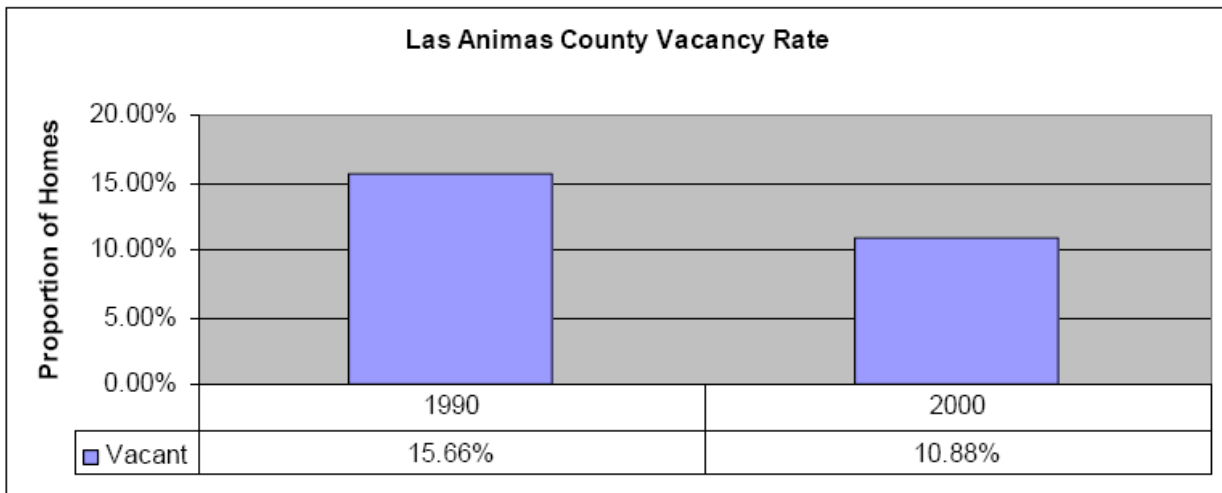
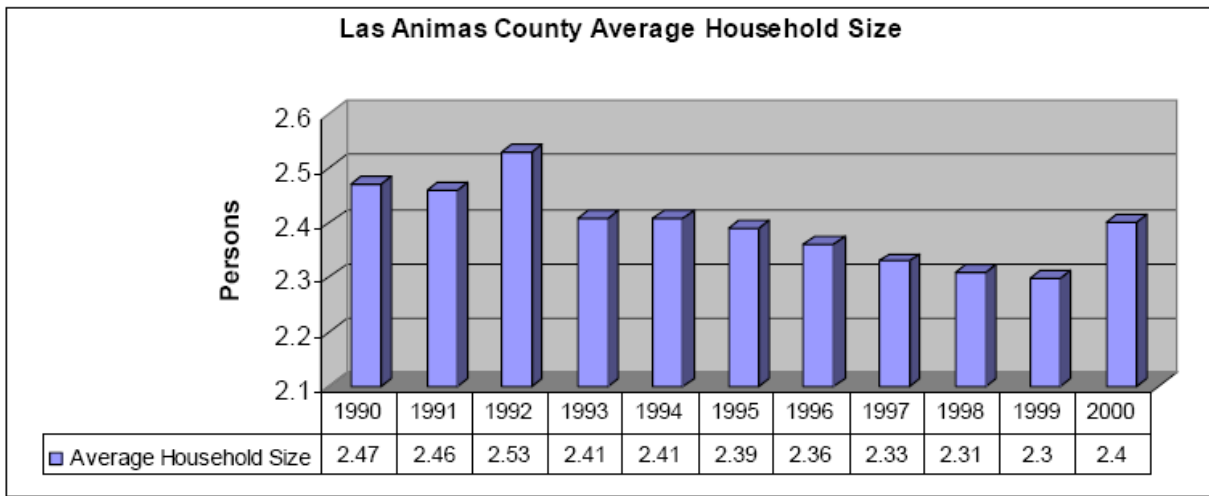
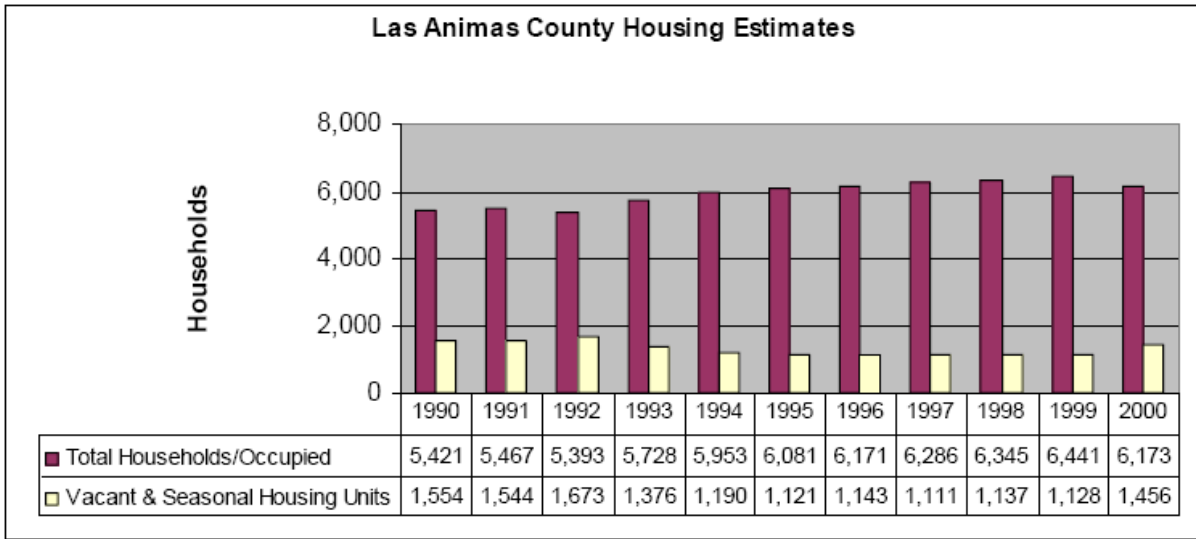
Total population and household population in Las Animas County increased by 11% between 1990 and

2000. Group quarters population increased by nine people, while the range of variation was between 432 in 1994 and 374 in 1991.

Within the ACT Region, Las Animas County had the third highest number of housing units, comprising 7% of the total. Housing units grew by 9% over the period. Total households occupied increased by 14%, while the number of vacant and seasonal homes diminished by 6%.

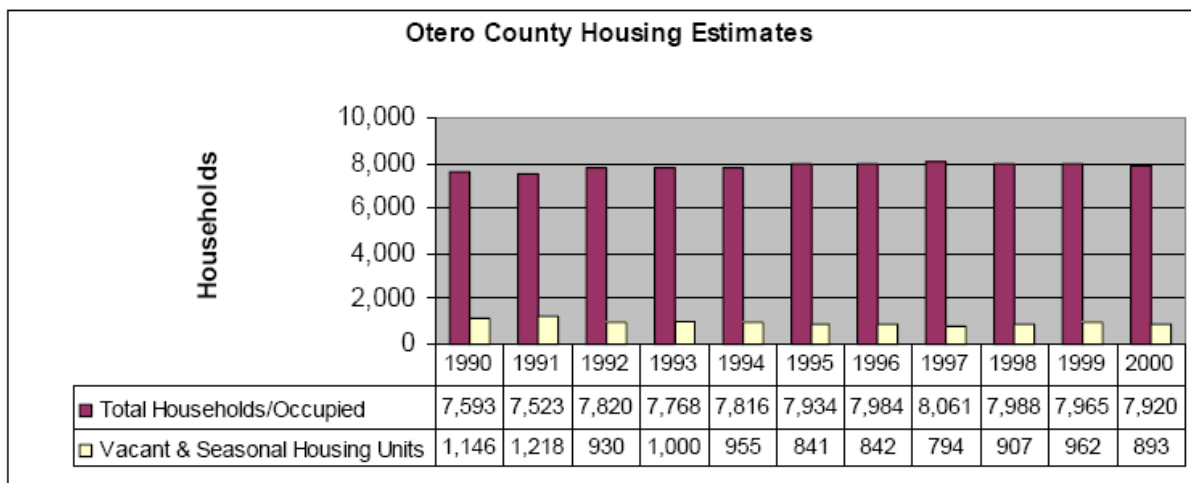
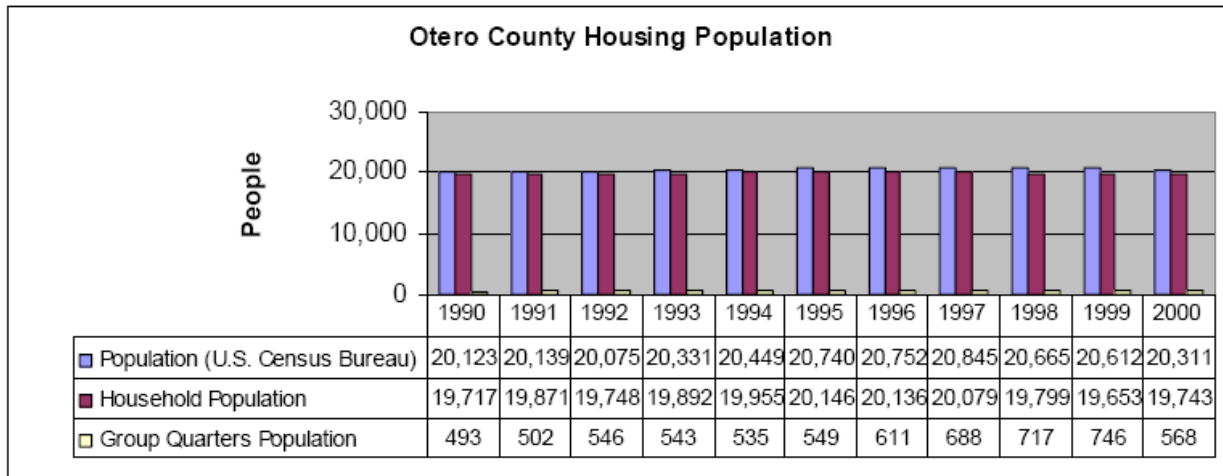
The average household size in Las Animas County was consistently less than the regional average. The highest average household size was 1992, declining through the end of the decade.





In Las Animas County the vacancy rate decreased from 1990 to 2000. In both cases, the county vacancy rate was higher than the regional vacancy rate.

Population growth in Otero County was relatively constant (about 1%) throughout the decade. Likewise, the household population has increased by less than 1%. Group quarters increased at the greatest rate (15%) over the period.



Regionally, Otero County had the second highest number of housing units. Much like population, the number of housing units remained relatively constant, with a 1% increase over the period. Total households occupied increased by 4%, which is reflected in a decrease in the number of vacant housing units. Vacant and seasonal housing units decreased by 22% over this period.

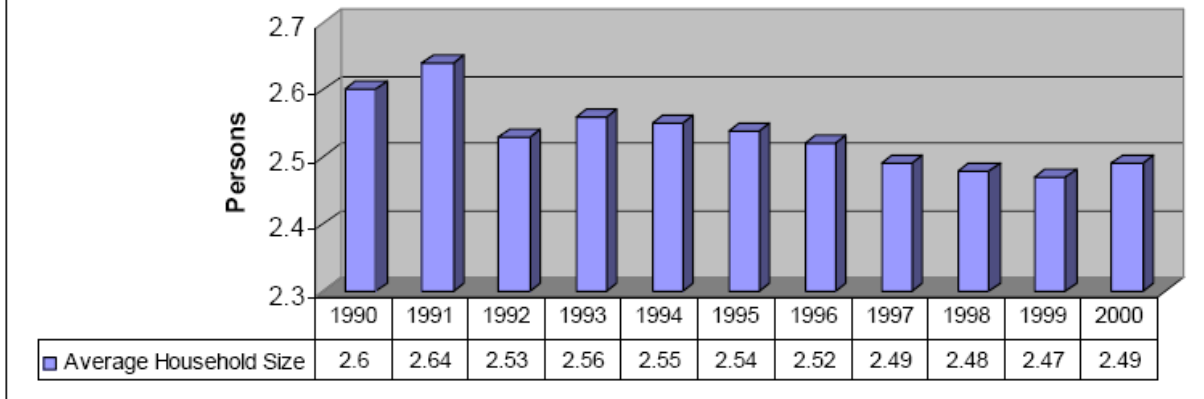
Average household size in Otero County has shown a decreasing trend. The highest observation was in 1991 where the average was 2.64 per household. The lowest average was in 1998, when 2.49 people were living in each Otero County household.

Otero County experienced a decrease in the vacancy rate through the 1990s. In both 1990 and 2000 the county vacancy rate was higher than the regional rate.

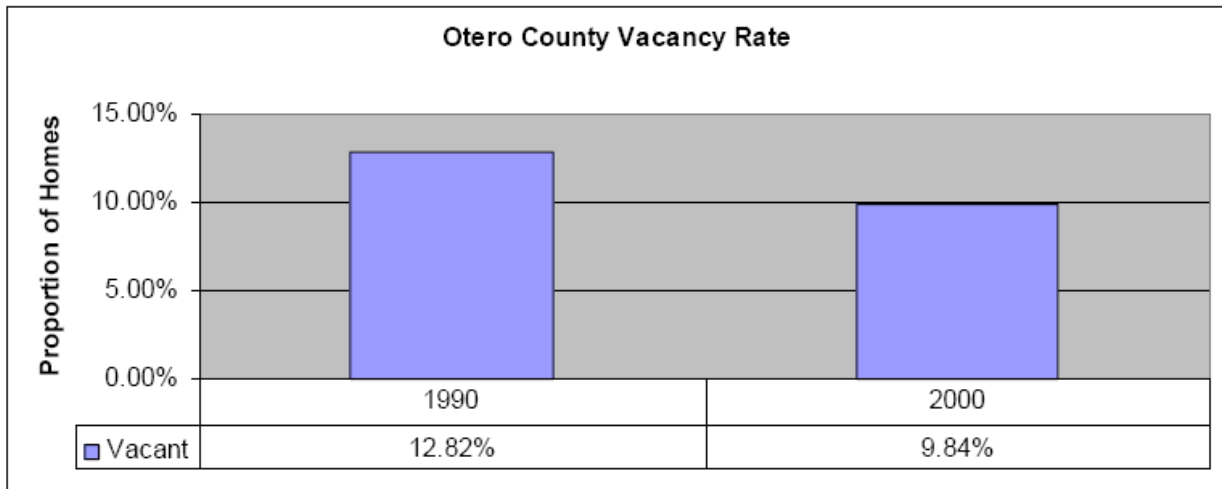
Between 1990 and 2000, the population of Prowers County has increased by 8%. Household population increased by 9%. In the 1990s the group quarters population ranged from 155 people in 1992 to 300 in 2000.

In Prowers County, total housing units increased over the decade by 2%. Households occupied increased by 7% and the number of vacant and seasonal housing units decreased by 27% over the decade.

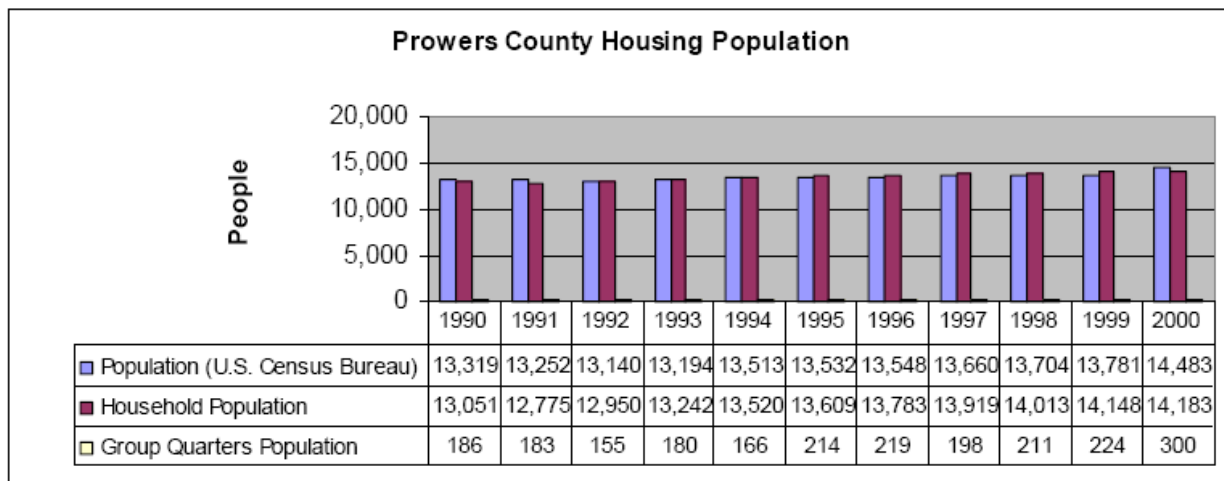
Otero County Average Household Size

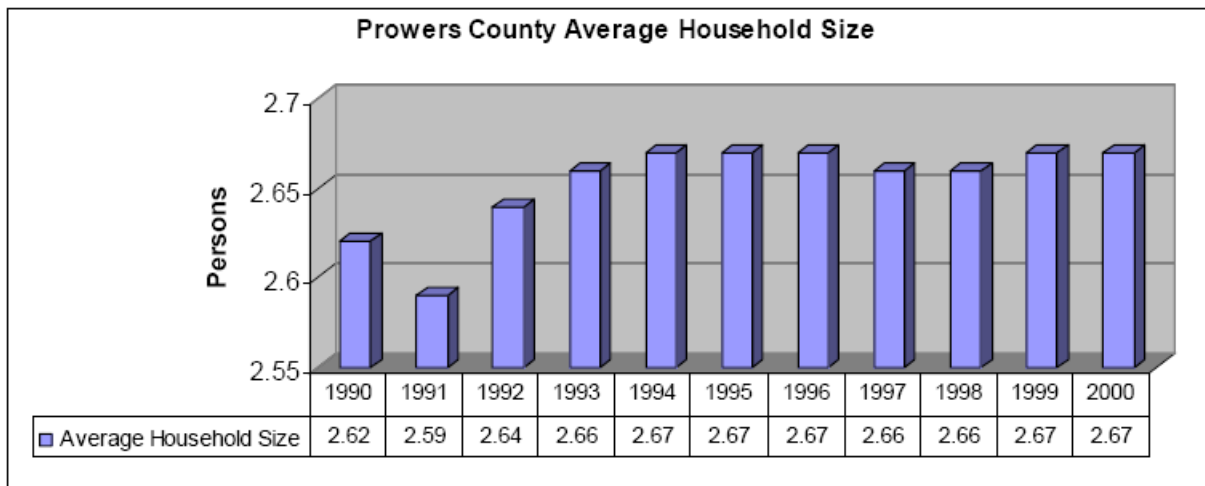
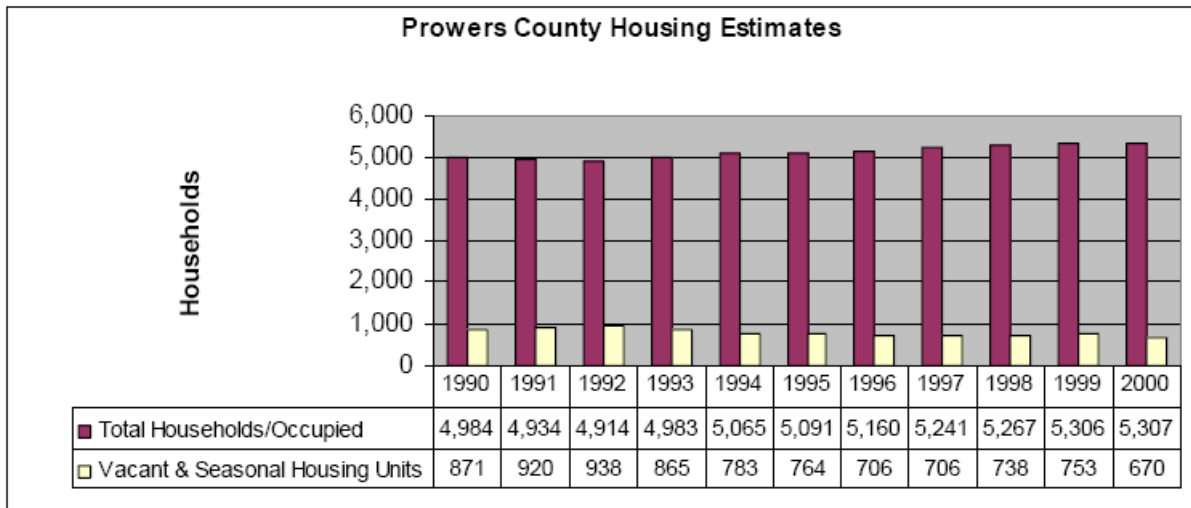


Otero County Vacancy Rate



Prowers County Housing Population





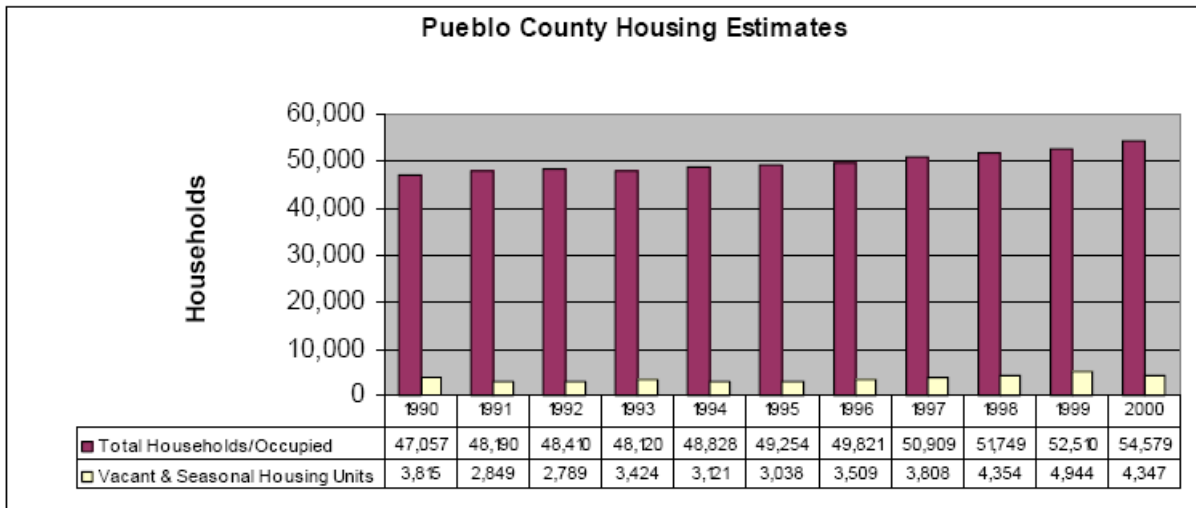
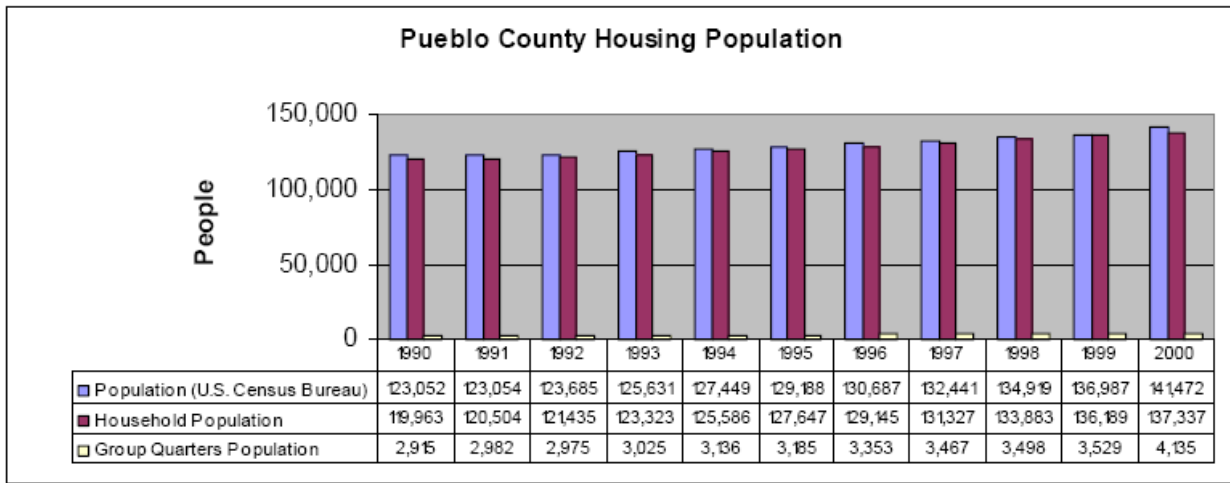
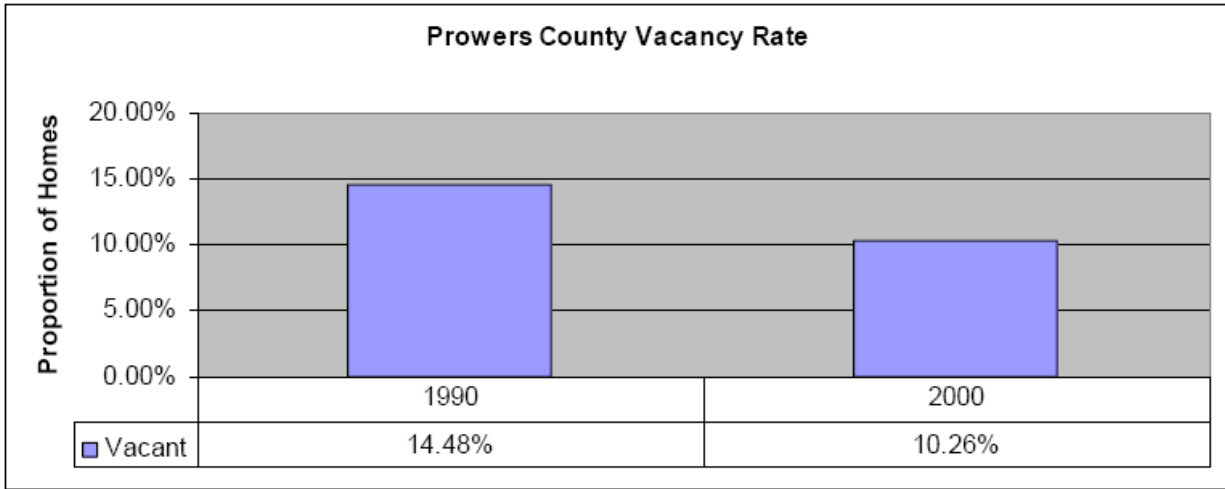
Within the ACT Region, Prowers County had the second highest average household size. Atypically, this measure is showing a stable to increasing trend. Prowers County had a higher average household size than the region for all years of the series.

The housing vacancy rate in Prowers County declined during the 1990s. Both the 1990 and 2000 observations for Prowers County were higher than the regional vacancy rate.

Pueblo County has the largest population in the ACT Region, comprising 57% of the regional total and 4% of the state total in 2000. Over the 10-year period, population increased by 15% and household popula-

tion increased by the same amount. Pueblo County also had the highest group quarters population in the region, comprising 40% of the regional total. The group quarters population grew by 42% over the 10-year period.

Pueblo County had the highest number of housing units in 2000, comprising 55% of the total housing units found in the region and 3% of houses in Colorado. The total number of housing units and households occupied grew by 16% over the decade. The number of vacant and seasonal homes decreased from the 1990 total for two consecutive years. Between 1990 and 2000 there was a 14% increase in vacant and seasonal homes.



The average household size in Pueblo County increased from 1991 until 2000 when it decreased. Compared to the region, Pueblo County had a higher than average household size from 1993-2000.

Pueblo County had the lowest vacancy rate in the ACT Region in 1990 and 2000. The 1990 vacancy rate in Pueblo was lower than the state's vacancy rate. Eleven out of thirteen of the counties in the region had decreases in vacancy rates. Regionally, only Pueblo and Alamosa County had an increase in vacancy rates over the period.

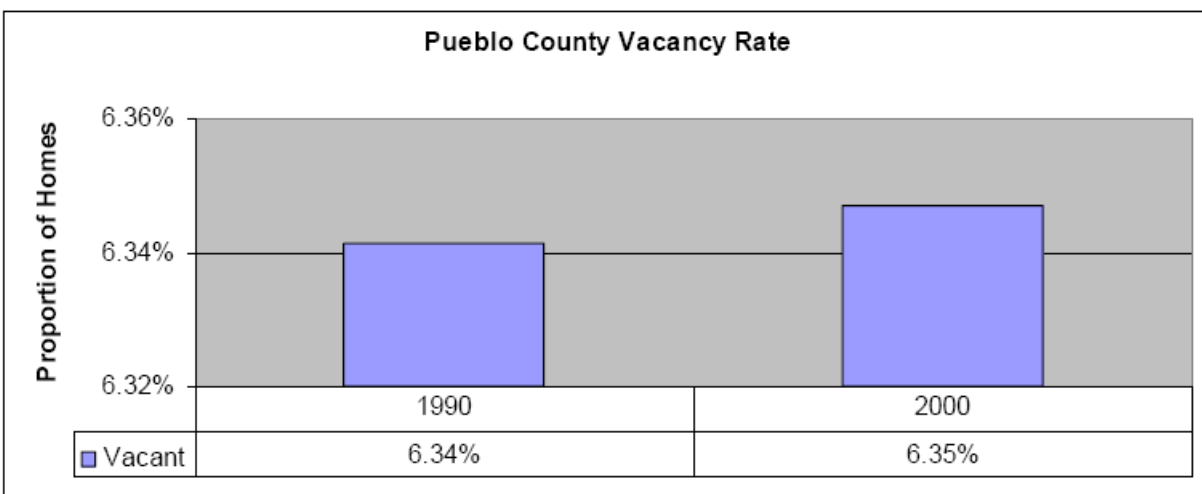
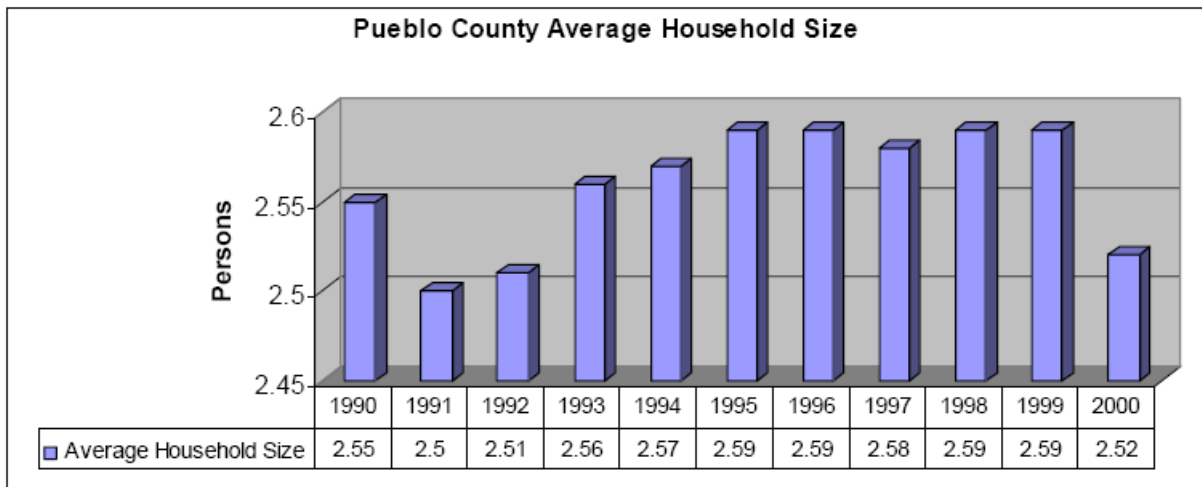
4.3 Housing Conclusions

Increases in population and per capita income create increased demand for housing. Conversely a decrease in population implies downward pressure on housing prices. The housing vacancy rate is the difference

between the rate of growth in population and the rate of growth in the housing stock. Regionally, a decrease in the vacancy rate is observed indicating that population and income growth are outpacing increases or renovations in the regional housing stock, potentially putting upward pressure on general housing prices in the region.

4.4 Summary and overview of building permits

The Housing Division of the U.S. Census Bureau obtains building permits mainly from the annual survey reports. These data reflect new private and public housing units. Prior to 1995 the data reflected the subtraction of demolitions. Due to this significant series change, only the 1995 through 1999 data are provided. Building permits show how much actual new growth is occurring in the county and gives an indication of changes in the supply of housing in the county.



Building permits in Colorado and in the ACT Region increased consistently for every year from 1990 to 2000, with the exception of a state level decrease between 1998 and 1999. The region had 4% of the state's total building permits in 2000.

Pueblo County had the highest number of building permits in the region in 1999, followed by Conejos County. Huerfano County had the third highest number of building permits in 1999. Costilla, Crowley, and Kiowa County had the fewest building permits, and all had fewer than four building permits in 1999. Baca and Bent County had 10 and 14 permits, respectively.

Between 1990 and 1999, Colorado had a 28% increase in building permits. In a consistent increasing trend over the decade, 1998 provided a high point in activity, while in 1995 the lowest number of permits was registered.

Similarly, building permits in the ACT Region showed an increase throughout the decade. A growth rate of 64% occurred between 1995 and 1999. In 1999, the greatest number of building permits were observed, comprising 4% of the state total.

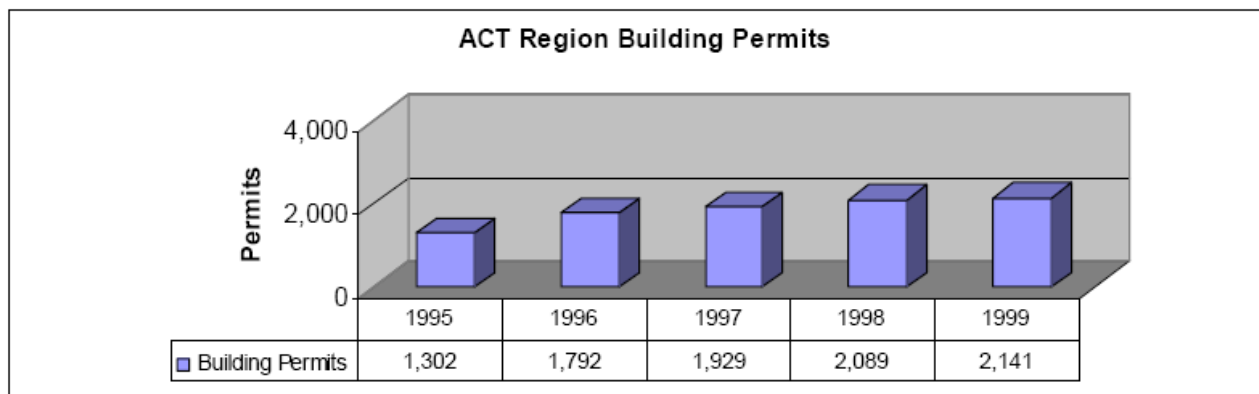
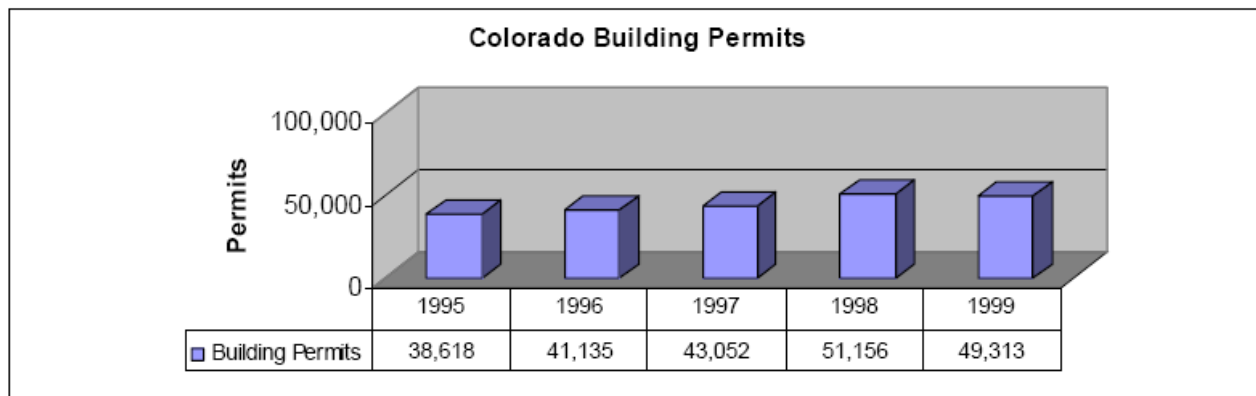
4.5 County trends in building permits

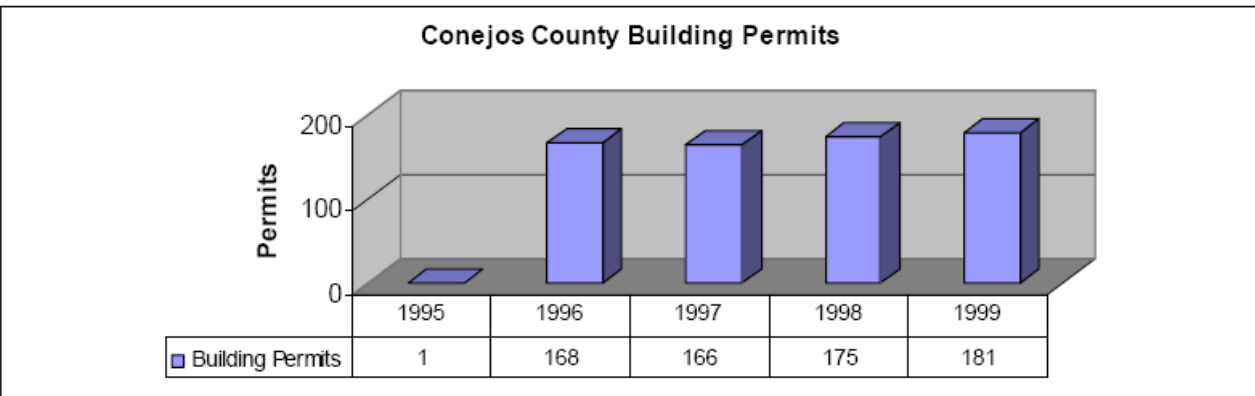
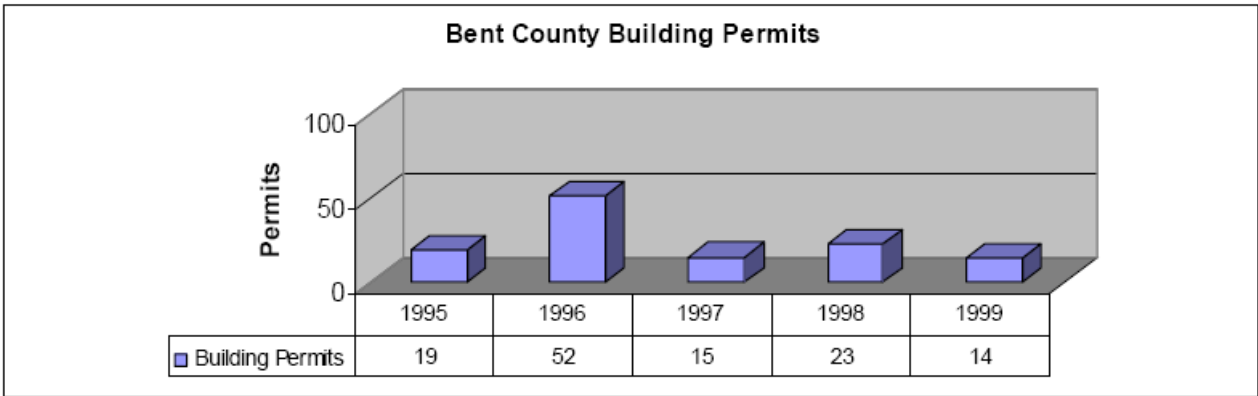
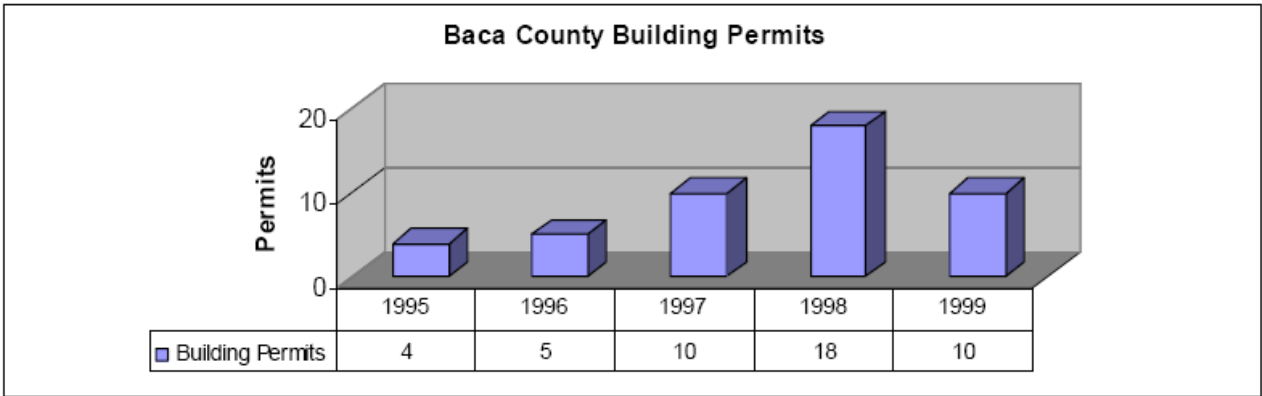
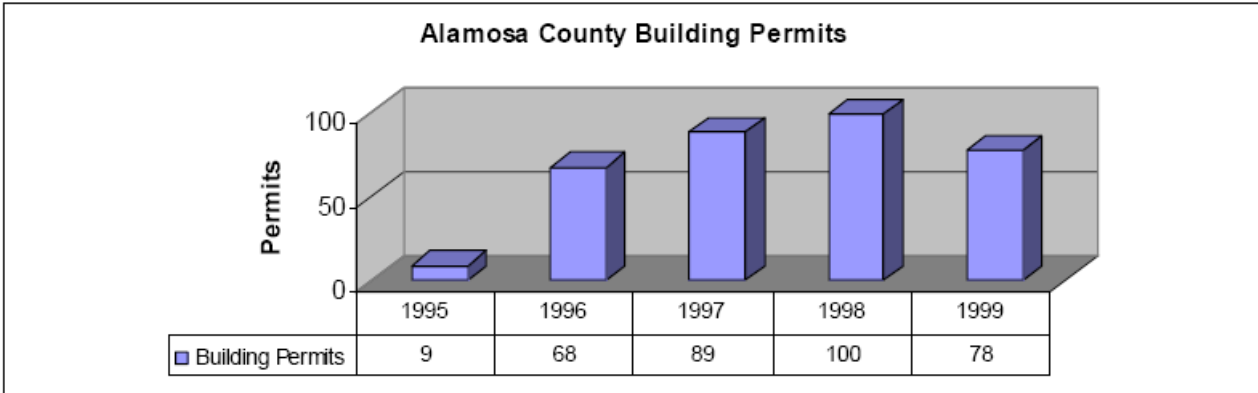
Alamosa County had a 766% increase in the number of building permits over the 5-year period. Building permits rose dramatically from 9 in 1995 to 68 in 1996, then continued increasing until 1998.

Baca County had an increase of 150% in building permits between 1995 and 1999 and a general upward trend throughout the time frame. Building permits reached 18 in 1998, and accounted for the greatest number of permits for Baca County in the period.

Building permits in Bent County decreased from 19 in 1995 to 14 by 1999, or fell by 26%. Between 1995 and 1996 some relatively large increases occurred, going from 19 to a decade high 52 permits by 1996. The least number of permits were issued in 1999.

Regionally, the second highest number of building permits occurred in Conejos County. The data reflects some unusual characteristics, from practically no growth in 1995 to stable growth for the four years concluding the period. Between 1995 and 1999 there was a growth rate of 8%.



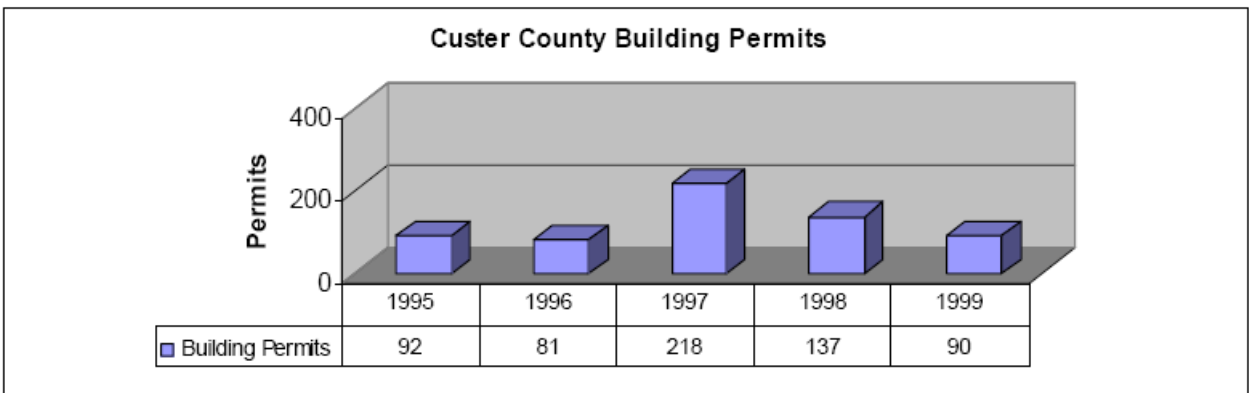
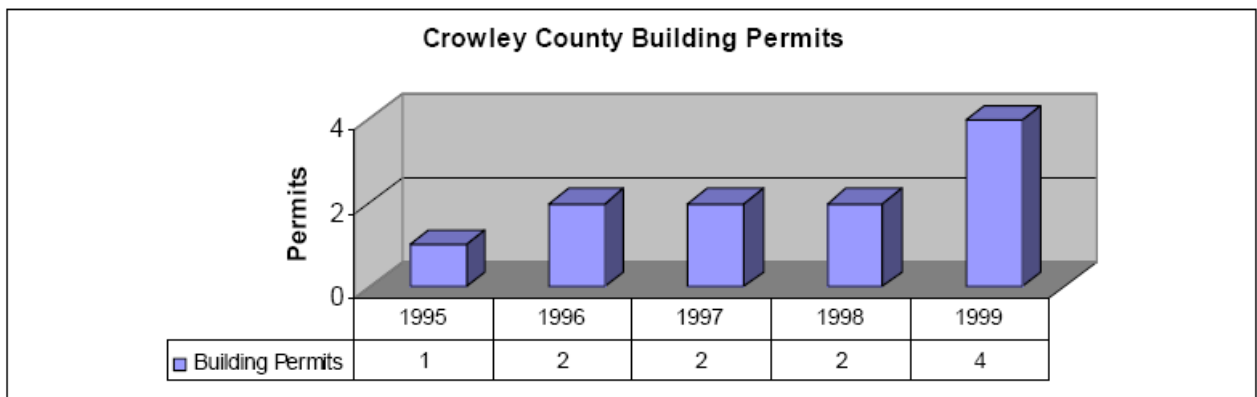
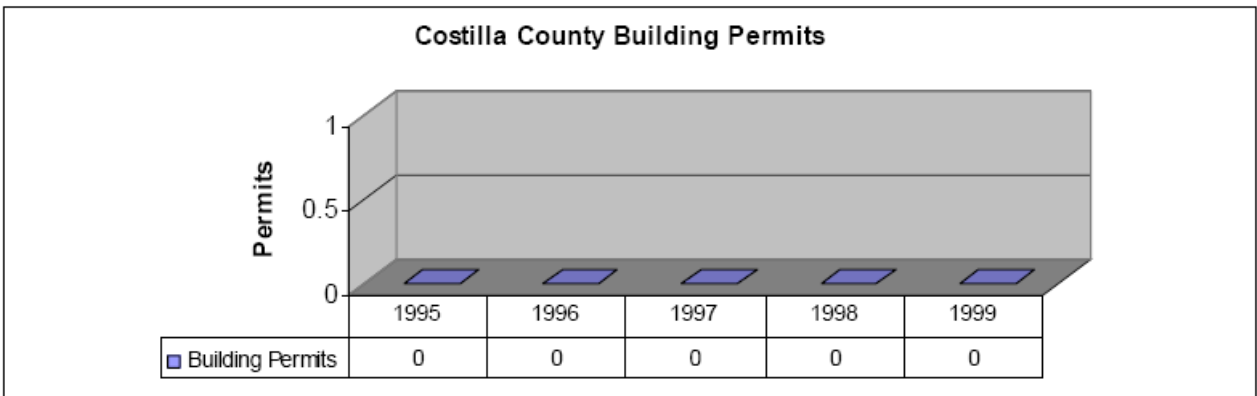


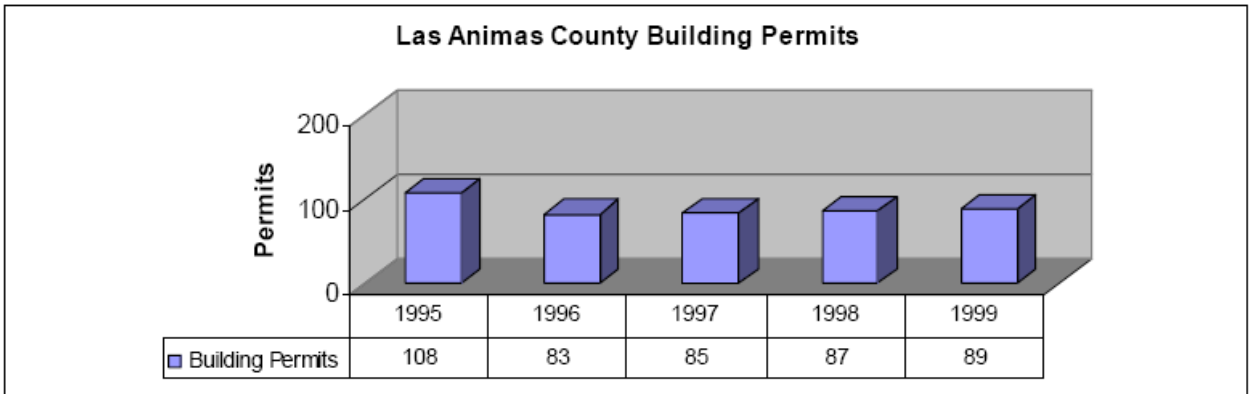
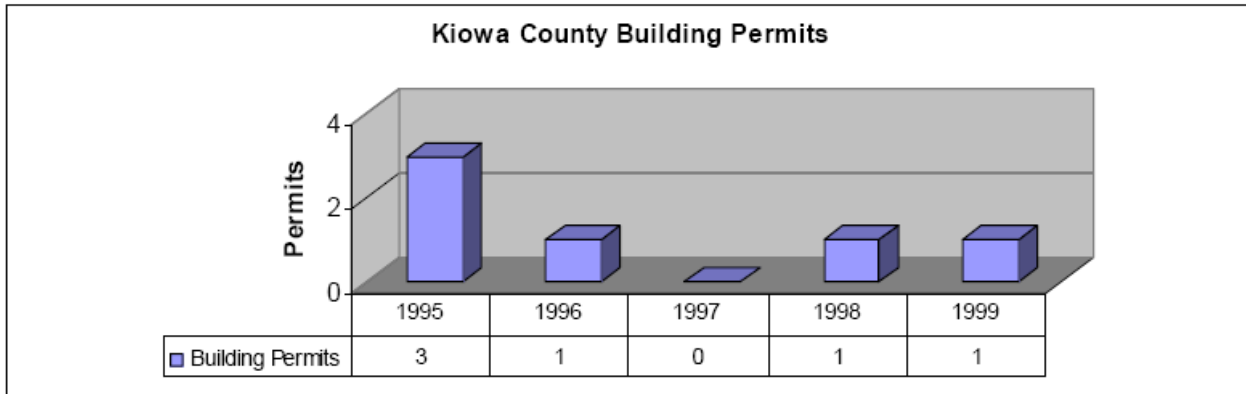
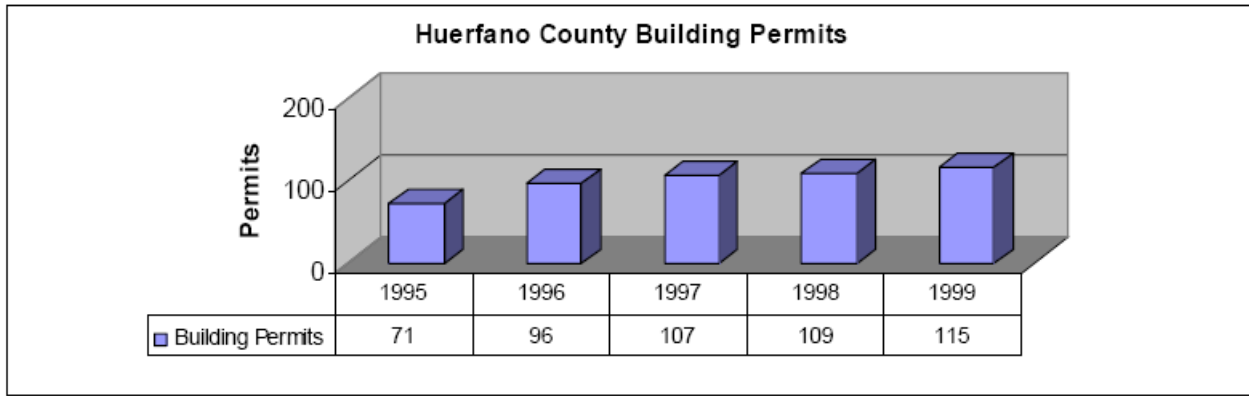
Costilla County had the lowest number of building permits in the entire ACT Region, with no building permits throughout the period. However, this is not due to a lack of building in the county. Rather, it is due to building permits not being submitted to the housing division of the U.S. Census Bureau.

In Crowley County, building permit activity increased, though never surpassing 4 and averaging 2 over the period.

Building permits in Custer County increased and decreased dramatically throughout the period, with 1997 being the year of the greatest number of permits issued. Permits declined for the rest of the period.

Huerfano County showed a 62% increase in building permits over the period, increasing from 71 permits in 1995 to 115 in 1999. Regionally, Huerfano had the third highest number of building permits for 1999, accounting for 5% of the region's total.



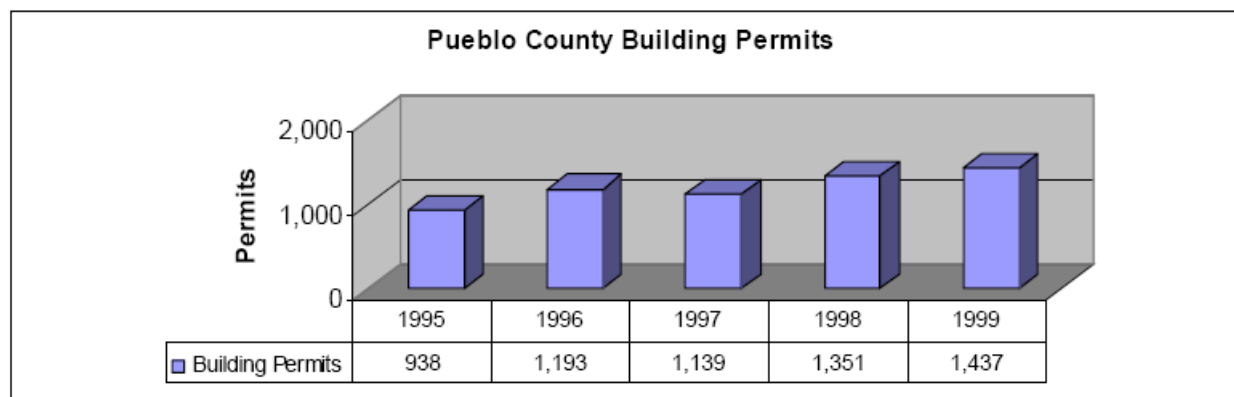
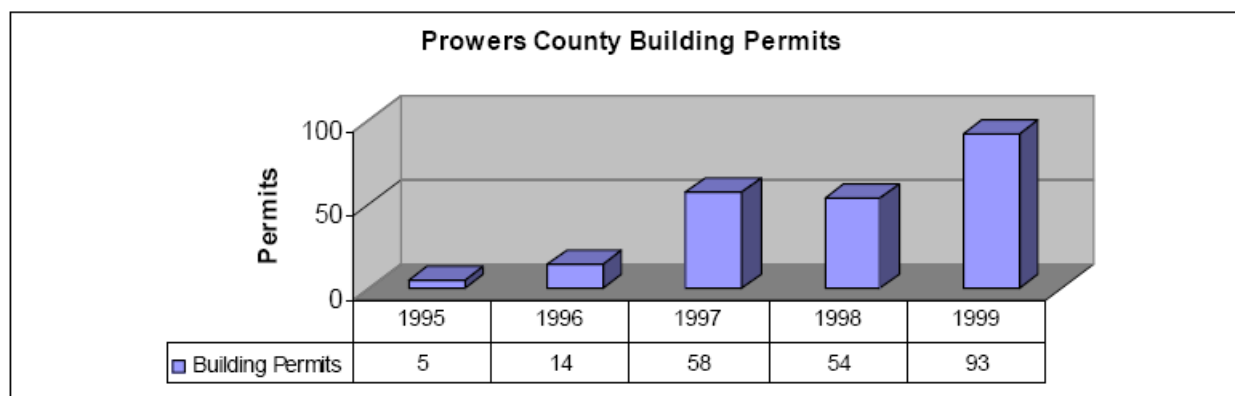
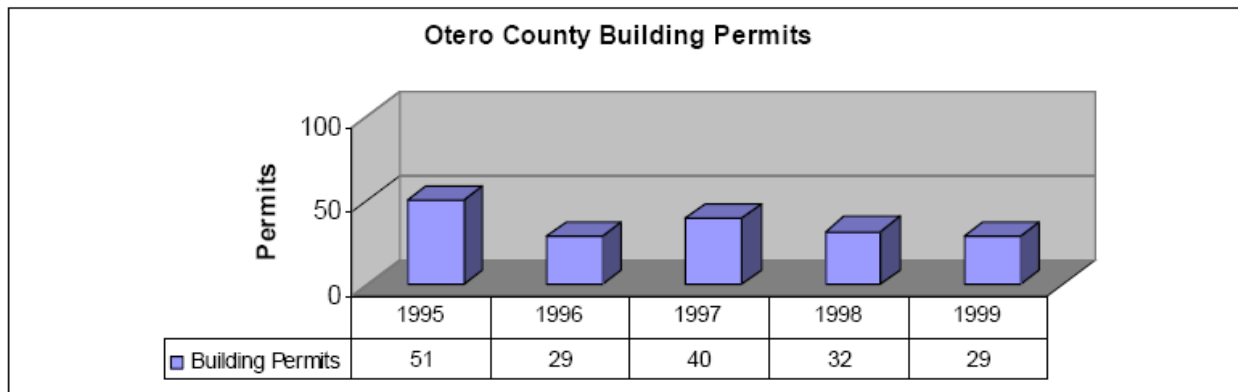


In 1999, Kiowa County ranked twelfth in the number of net building permits regionally. Permit numbers have been relatively few throughout the period, with the greatest number of permits issued occurring in 1995.

Between 1995 and 1999, in Las Animas County building permits showed relatively consistent activity. The least amount of building activity occurred in 1996 and the greatest amount occurred in 1995. Building permits decreased 18% over the period.

Between 1995 and 1999 the number of building permits decreased by 43%. Building permits in the county reached its apogee in 1995 and declined through the end of the decade.

Prowers County had a massive increase of 1760%, in respect to building permits over the period. Building permits were most active in 1999 when 93 were registered.



Pueblo County registered the highest number of building permits throughout the period in comparison to the other twelve counties in the region. Regionally, Pueblo County accounted for 67% of the total in 1999.

Between 1995 and 1999, building permits grew by 53%. Pueblo County permit numbers found their lowest point at the beginning of the observation period and reached their highest point in 1999.

4.6 Building Permit Conclusion

The building of private or public housing units signi-

fies a significant investment on the part of the owner. Construction is a “follower” industry. When an economy is growing for whatever reason, construction demand increases. Therefore, a vibrant construction sector can be considered one indicator of regional economic health. Over the study period, the construction sector demonstrated the greatest growth in the regional economy, growing by 106%, while the number of building permits regionwide increased by 64%, illustrating a close relationship between the two categories.

5. Jobs by Sector

Jobs by sector gives an indication of how important a certain sector of the economy is to the entire county's economy and measures if that sector increases in importance over a period of time. Nine sectors of the economy are assessed in this study, but there are many more components of each sector that compose these nine sectors. For example, manufacturing can be divided into categories such as textiles, lumber, chemicals and many other types of manufacturing.

5.1 Summary and overview of jobs by sector

Colorado had an increase of 48% in all jobs, while the region had a growth rate of 26%. Out of all jobs in the state, the ACT Region accounted for 4% of the state's total in 2000. The highest number of jobs in Colorado and the region are in the service, wholesale & retail, and the government sectors. For Colorado, the most growth existed in the service sector, while at the regional level the construction sector grew the most over the decade.

The most jobs in the ACT Region are located in Pueblo County, followed by Otero County and Alamosa County. In each of the counties with the highest number of jobs, the service sector had the highest employment in 2000. Costilla, Crowley, and Kiowa County have the lowest number of jobs, regionally. Agriculture was the leading employment sector in Costilla County and Kiowa County economy, and the government sector was the number one employer in Crowley County. In every county in the region, the government sector ranked in the top three, except for Custer and Huerfano County. In nine of the thirteen counties the service sector ranked among the top three employers. For those counties that do not have the service sector in the top three sectors of the county economy, the wholesale and retail sector played a substantial role.

Overall, the total number of jobs in Colorado increased from 1,937,369 in 1990 to 2,859,682 in 2000, an increase of 48%. Out of all the sectors in the Colorado economy the service sector accounted for the most jobs (30%). Wholesale and retail trade followed with 21% and government with 16% of all jobs in the state. The service sector grew at the fastest rate (57%) and the finance, insurance, and real estate sector (FIRE) followed with a 47% increase in jobs. The transportation, communication and utilities sector had the third fastest growth rate statewide (46%).

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of jobs in the ACT Region went from 98,322 jobs to 124,305, or a 26% growth over the decade. Out of all jobs in Colorado in 2000, 4% were in the ACT Region. The service sector accounted for 28% of the jobs in the ACT Region and was the number one regional employment sector. The service was followed by the wholesale and retail sector (22%) and the government sector (19%). The construction sector demonstrated the greatest rate of growth in the region, increasing from 3,715 in to 7,661 (106%). Services grew by the second highest rate (40%) and wholesale and retail trade grew third fastest. In the ACT Region, agriculture accounted for 9% of the total jobs in 2000. Mining and extractive industries were the only industries to demonstrate a decrease in employment over the decade, diminishing from 714 in 1990 to 450 in 2000.

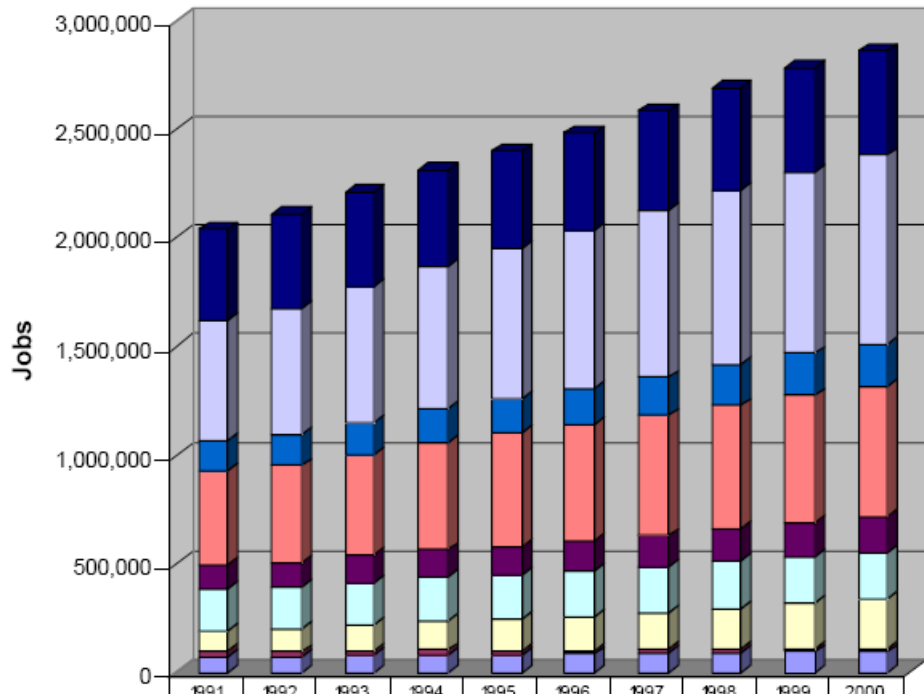
5.2 County trends in jobs by sector

In 2000, there were 10,076 jobs in Alamosa County, or approximately 8% of the region's jobs. The service sector is Alamosa's largest employer with 28% of all jobs in the county. Wholesale and retail trade sector was the next highest (23%) and the government sector had 21% of the total. The construction sector grew at the fastest rate over the decade (150%), followed by finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE) (81%) and, atypically, agriculture, with a 55% increase over the period.

Baca County had 2% of the region's total jobs in 2000. From 1990-2000, every employment sector in the Baca County economy increased, with the exception of FIRE, in which the number of jobs decreased by 12%. The highest proportion of jobs occurred in the agriculture sector, with 47% of the total. Government was the second largest employer (26%) and wholesale and retail trade was third with 11%. The construction sector grew most rapidly over the period (16 to 40 jobs). The number of jobs in Baca County transportation, communication, and utilities increased second most rapidly (67%) and the manufacturing sector increased by 13 jobs, or about 45%, from 29 jobs in 1990 to 44 by 2000.

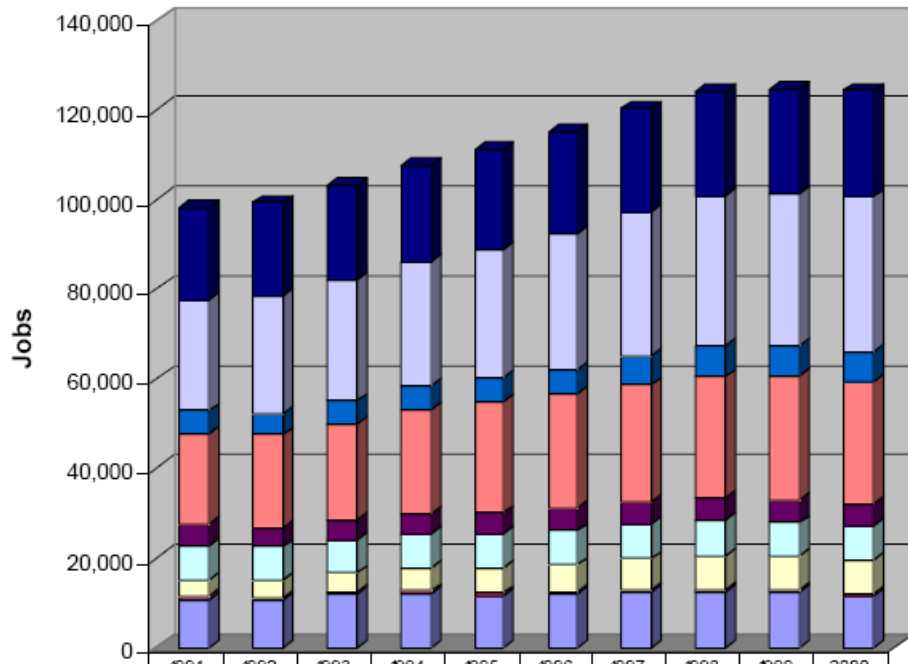
Bent County accounted for 2% of the region's total jobs in 2000. Government had the highest concentration of jobs and accounted for 39% of the total, followed by agriculture, with 26% of the total jobs for 2000. The service sector had the third highest number

Colorado Jobs by Sector



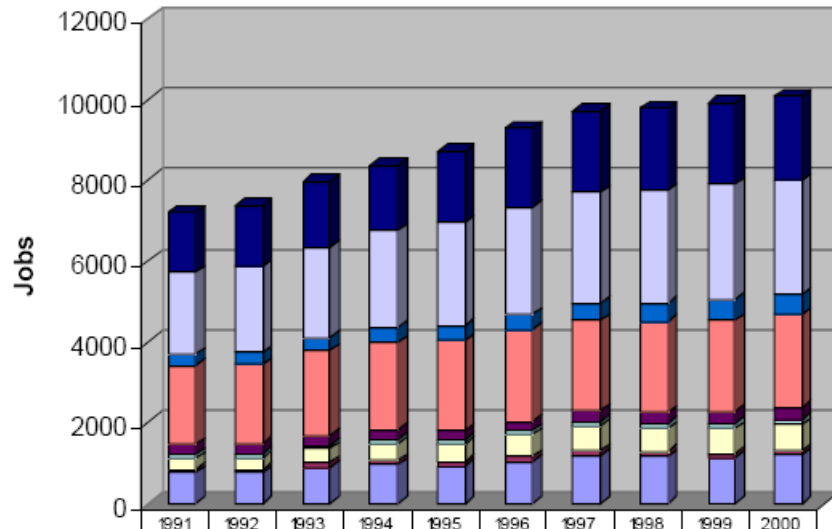
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
■ Government	420,348	433,294	438,743	440,697	443,868	448,187	456,483	466,726	474,365	478,792
■ Services	554,071	586,204	621,221	657,749	694,128	729,517	769,464	803,640	836,601	868,057
■ FIRE	135,803	140,422	149,598	155,930	157,143	164,416	176,172	187,251	193,165	194,315
■ Wholesale and Retail Trade	430,893	442,903	463,315	492,698	522,063	535,244	551,672	566,103	582,370	598,253
■ Transportation, Communications and Utilities	113,515	115,871	122,802	128,542	134,248	138,589	140,828	148,081	160,915	166,424
■ Manufacturing	194,337	193,197	193,903	196,840	202,432	206,477	213,913	217,425	214,447	215,894
■ Construction	93,599	104,362	120,036	135,963	143,218	155,977	167,342	186,315	206,091	226,072
■ Mining and Extractive Industries	24,306	21,753	21,080	20,552	19,304	17,705	18,084	18,165	16,797	16,646
■ Agriculture	72,657	73,002	81,022	83,540	81,311	84,825	89,805	91,658	94,055	95,229

ACT Region Jobs by Sector



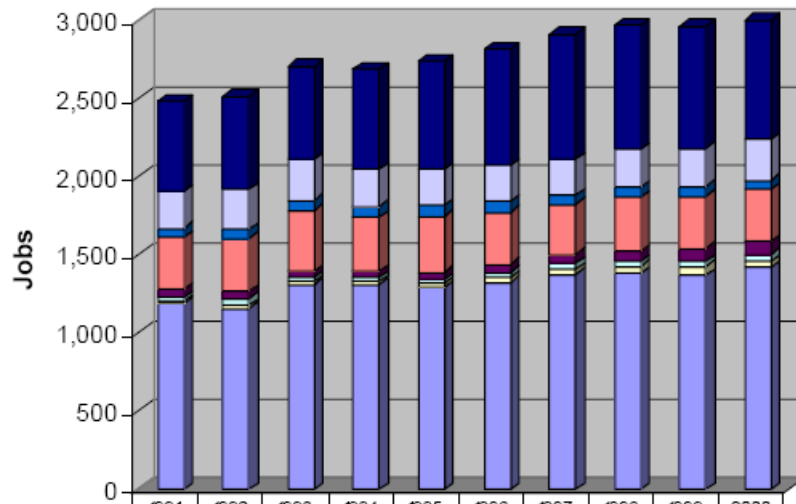
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Government	20,716	20,897	21,105	21,425	22,152	22,562	22,913	23,174	23,389	23,725
Services	24,804	26,228	26,931	27,913	28,826	30,446	32,296	33,469	33,797	34,697
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	4,955	4,685	4,980	5,116	5,259	5,641	6,434	7,081	6,914	6,522
Wholesale and Retail Trade	20,419	20,603	21,753	23,115	24,805	25,434	26,174	27,093	27,740	27,268
Transportation, Communications and Utilities	4,592	4,413	4,391	4,551	4,729	4,976	4,864	4,962	4,950	4,933
Manufacturing	7,647	7,364	7,293	7,597	7,701	7,625	7,855	7,851	7,563	7,599
Construction	3,715	3,883	4,200	5,190	5,428	6,004	6,815	7,597	7,546	7,661
Mining and Extractive Industries	714	635	671	729	780	583	483	523	459	450
Agriculture	10,760	10,523	11,766	11,907	11,396	11,797	12,440	12,366	12,250	11,430

Alamosa County Jobs by Sector



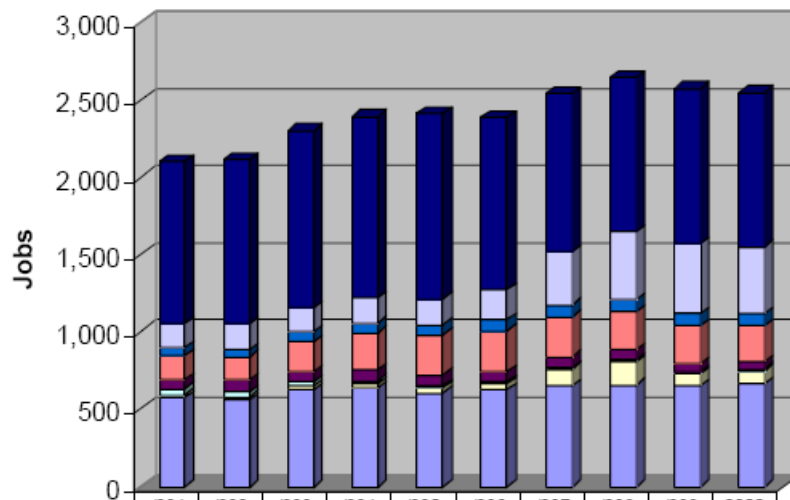
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Government	1469	1,511	1,624	1,610	1,766	1,938	1,999	2,028	2,014	2,062
Services	2,028	2,138	2,225	2,388	2,542	2,657	2,766	2,815	2,838	2,826
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	282	306	330	368	358	375	406	438	520	511
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1,943	1,939	2,095	2,167	2,236	2,265	2,238	2,248	2,254	2,283
Transportation, Communications and Utilities	255	256	249	252	224	237	266	281	293	313
Manufacturing	112	107	91	98	96	102	12	119	117	118
Construction	254	285	349	429	444	545	608	575	621	635
Mining and Extractive Industries	72	87	10	86	116	122	130	116	102	105
Agriculture	787	765	902	974	940	1,043	1,192	1,175	1,154	1,223

Baca County Jobs by Sector



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Government	572	598	598	643	690	741	796	798	778	766
Services	239	254	261	236	230	230	230	240	245	261
FIRE	61	58	64	67	71	69	59	64	61	54
Wholesale and Retail Trade	329	337	386	348	358	332	322	348	332	336
Transportation, Communications and utilities	49	43	40	35	44	49	56	58	81	82
Manufacturing	29	47	29	29	27	32	41	36	36	44
Construction	16	18	16	17	28	33	32	44	61	40
Mining and Extractive Industries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture	1,183	1,155	1,309	1,309	1,288	1,322	1,370	1,379	1,362	1,415

Bent County Jobs by Sector

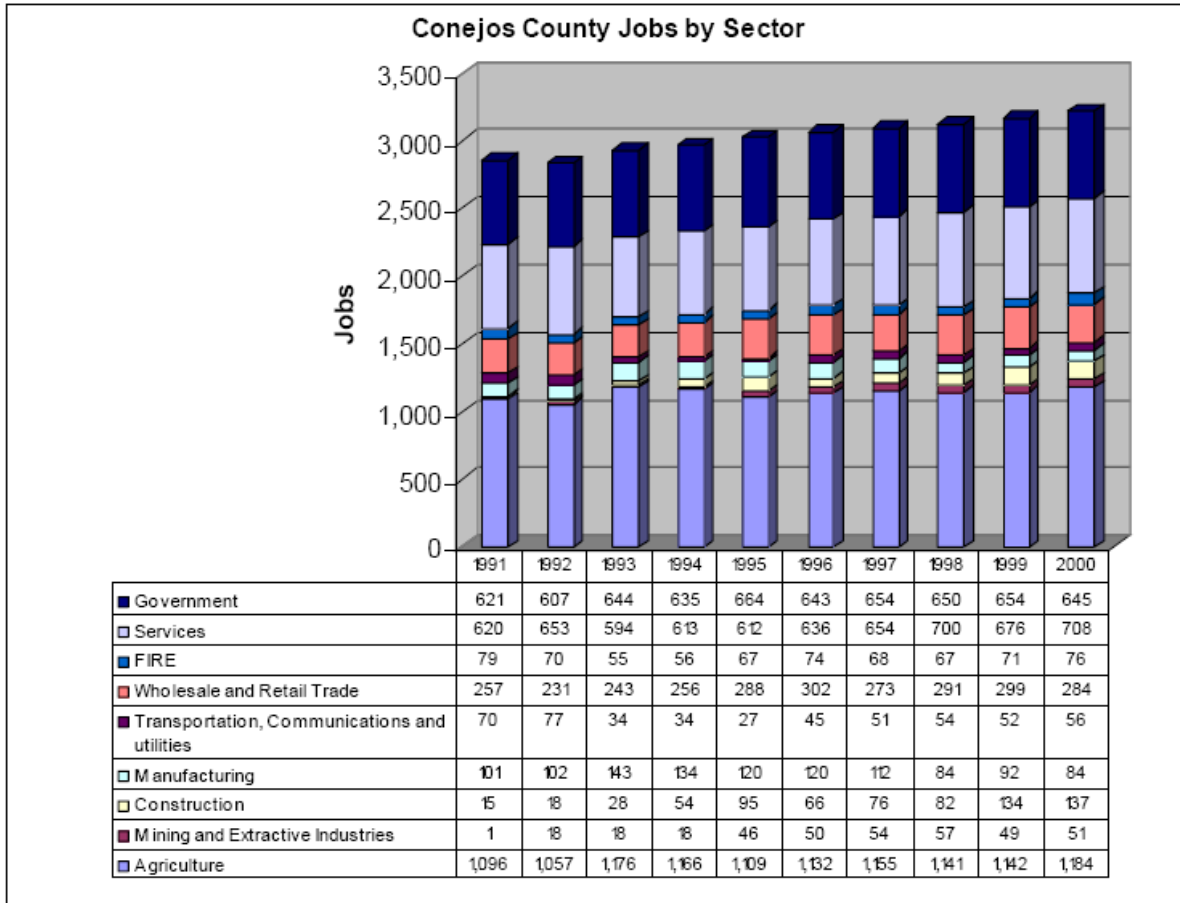


	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
■ Government	1048	1060	1,144	1,171	1,196	1,115	1,021	998	1,005	996
□ Services	159	166	159	163	167	196	345	443	448	433
■ FIRE	49	51	62	64	63	69	77	75	83	81
■ Wholesale and Retail Trade	156	150	198	240	263	267	258	245	241	231
■ Transportation, Communications and utilities	58	77	63	69	68	65	69	65	53	48
□ Manufacturing	39	32	24	20	13	12	11	13	14	13
□ Construction	17	17	23	29	34	39	104	154	79	83
■ Mining and Extractive Industries	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
■ Agriculture	572	562	630	637	606	625	656	657	650	664

of jobs with 17% of the total. Construction, services, and FIRE had the highest growth rates in the county. Construction jobs saw an increase of 388% over the decade, whereas services increased by 172%, and FIRE grew by 65%. However, three economic sectors drew fewer jobs over the period. Manufacturing decreased by 67% between 1990 and 2000, followed by transportation, communications and utilities (-17%) and the government sector (-5%).

Conejos County accounted for 3% of the region's total jobs in 2000. Agriculture was the largest

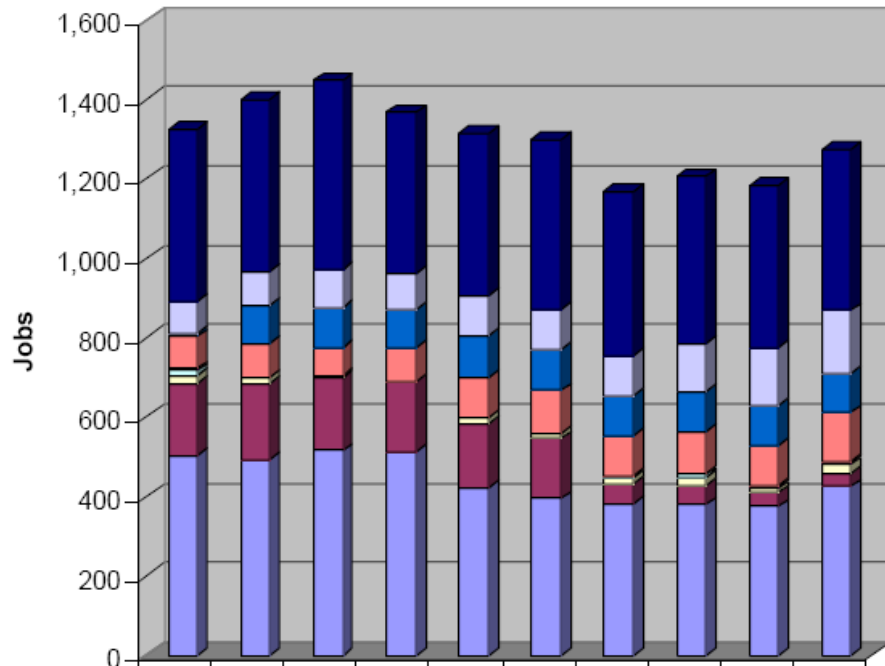
employer in the county with 37% of the total jobs in 2000. The service sector was second with 22% and the government sector was third with 20% of the total. Three sectors of the economy saw a decline over the decade, including transportation, communications and utilities (-20%), manufacturing (-17%), and finance, insurance, and real estate sector, which declined by a small amount. County jobs within the mining and extractive industries sector grew at the most rapid rate, increasing from 1 job in 1990 to 51 by 2000. The construction sector demonstrated the second fastest rate of growth (813%) and the service sector increased 14% over the decade.



Costilla County accounted for 1% of the region's jobs in 2000. Agriculture was the county's largest employer with 33% of the total in 2000. The government sector generated the second most jobs (32%) and the service sector accounted for 12% of all jobs within the county. Four sectors saw decreases in the number of jobs over the period including the mining and extractive industries sector (-82%), agriculture (-16%), government (-7%), and the manufacturing sector, decreasing from 13 jobs in 1990 to 2 in 2000. FIRE, services, and wholesale and retail trade sectors increased the most during the period, increasing from 7 jobs to 100 jobs by 2000. Jobs in the services sector increased by 94% and the wholesale and retail sector increased 55% over the decade.

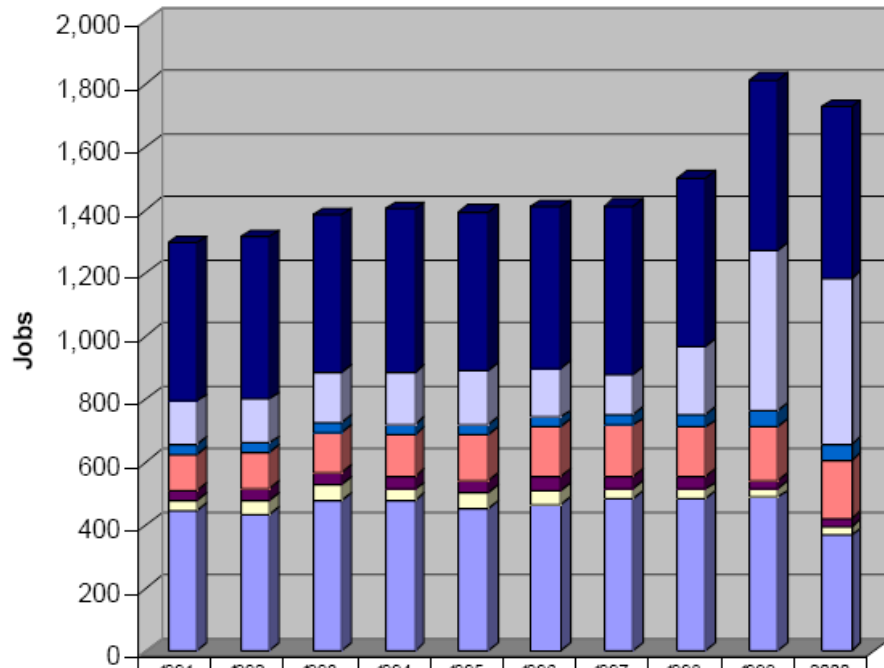
Crowley County accounted for 1% of the region's jobs in 2000. The government sector emerged as the county's top employment sector and accounted for 31% of total jobs in 2000. Services followed closely with approximately 31% of jobs, and agriculture accounted for 21% of the county total in 2000. Agriculture, transportation and communication and utilities sectors declined in jobs over the decade. Transportation, communication, and utilities declined by 25%, while agriculture declined by 18% and construction declined by 11%. The greatest growth took place in the services sector, which increased by 283%. Wholesale and retail trade jobs climbed by 64%. The third highest rate of growth emerged in the FIRE sector, which increased by 61%.

Costilla County Jobs by Sector

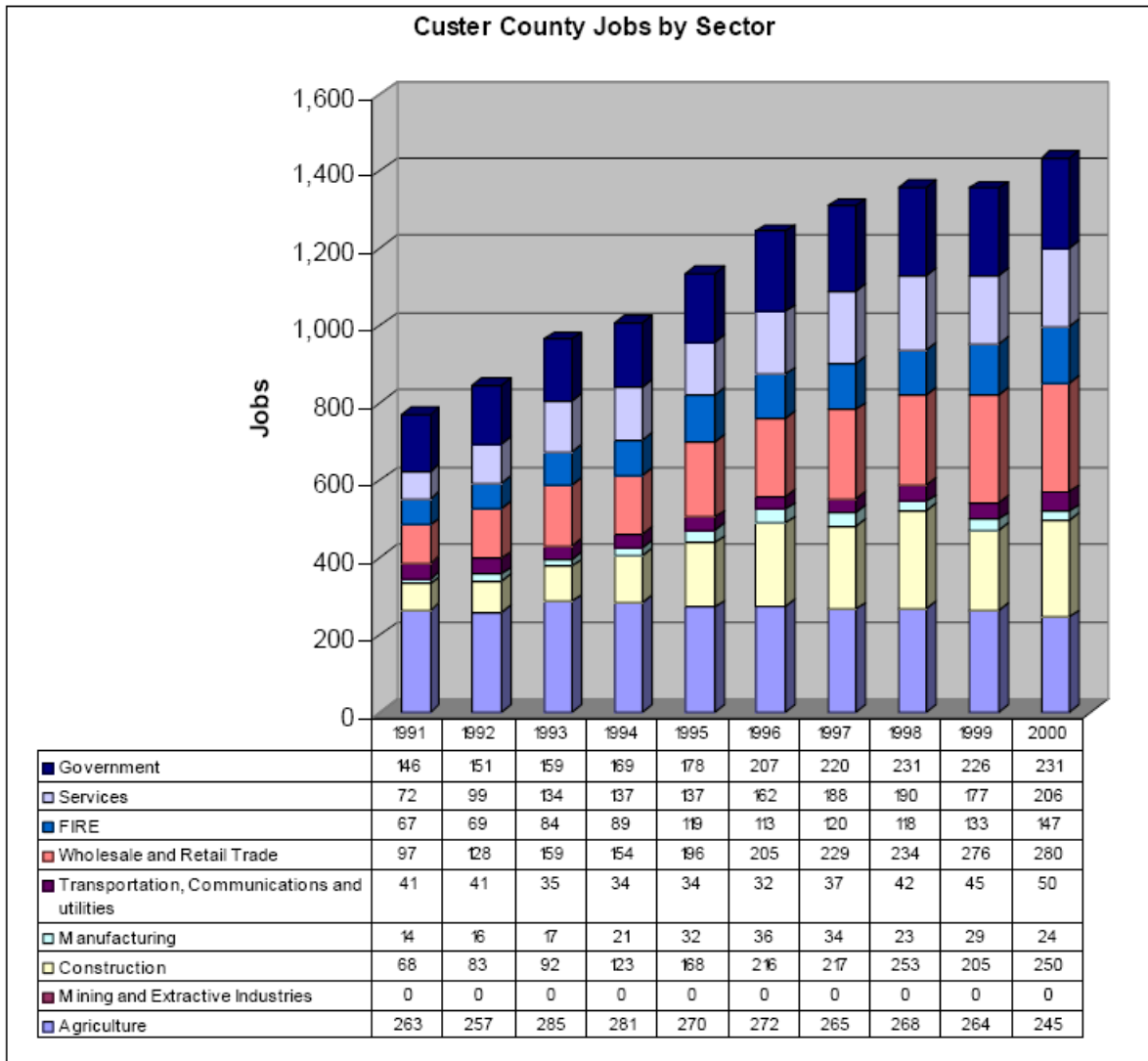


	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Government	434	436	476	404	407	430	44	421	408	405
Services	81	84	94	92	101	101	100	119	145	157
FIRE	7	95	102	98	105	102	100	102	100	100
Wholesale and Retail Trade	80	88	70	82	101	108	101	105	102	124
Transportation, Communications and utilities	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	5
Manufacturing	13	0	0	0	0	1	5	6	2	2
Construction	19	14	4	2	15	12	14	20	10	23
Mining and Extractive Industries	181	193	185	175	160	151	52	49	36	32
Agriculture	504	491	516	514	423	394	382	380	374	425

Crowley County Jobs by Sector

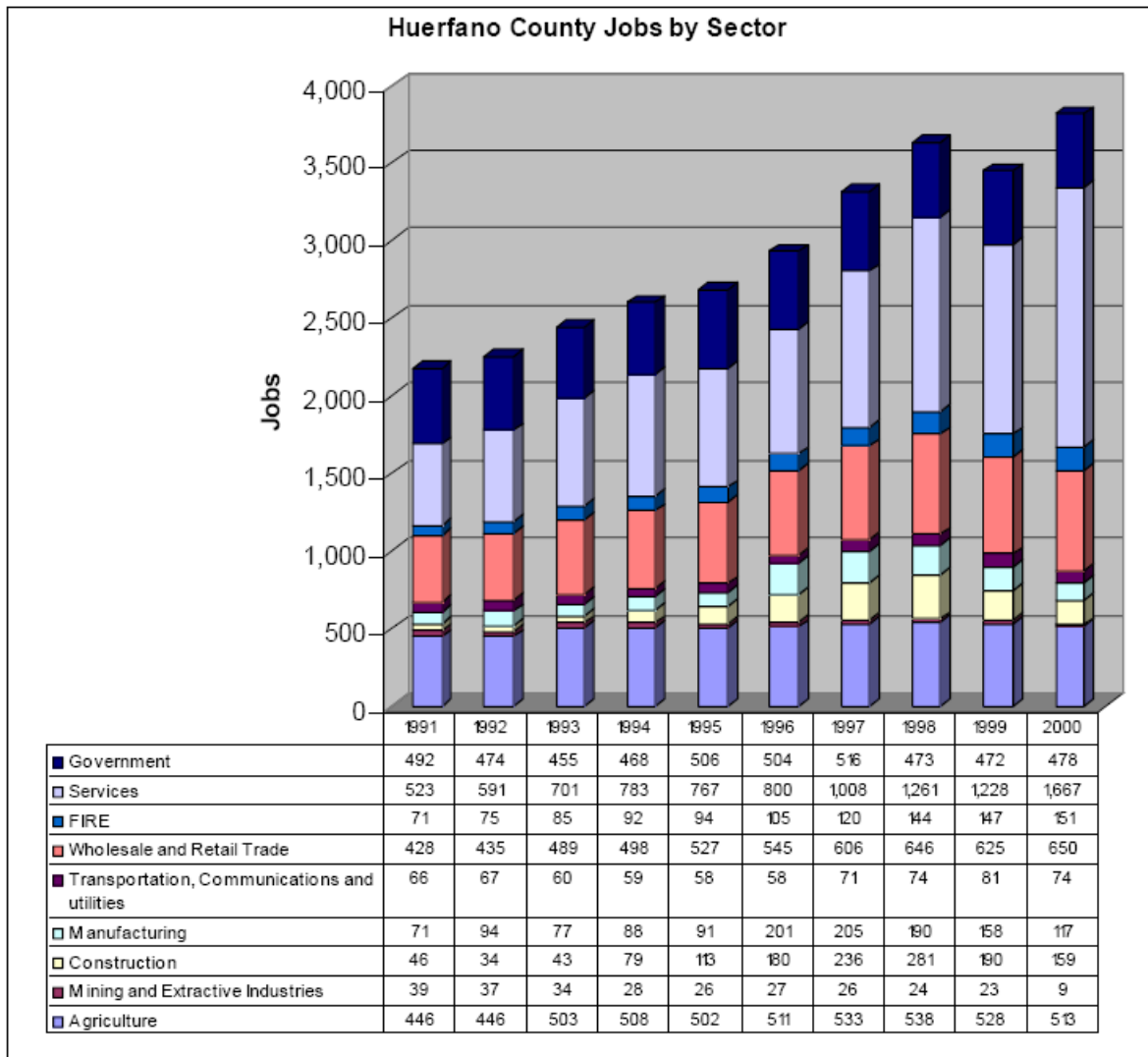


	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Government	502	514	499	518	501	511	533	537	538	542
Services	138	140	160	165	174	156	126	215	509	529
FIRE	33	31	31	31	31	31	36	41	51	53
Wholesale and Retail Trade	111	113	128	134	148	156	161	154	170	182
Transportation, Communications and utilities	32	36	38	43	38	47	40	42	28	24
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	35	46	48	33	49	42	30	29	28	31
Mining and Extractive Industries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture	445	434	481	480	453	467	486	485	488	367



Eight out of nine sectors of the economy in Custer County increased throughout the 1990s. Custer accounted for 1% of the region's total employment in 2000. Wholesale and retail trade emerged as the leading sector, accounting for 20% of the total jobs in 2000, followed by construction (18%), and agriculture (17%). The construction sector grew most quickly in Custer County over the decade (268%), while wholesale and retail trade sector grew by 189%, and the service sector increased by 186% over the period.

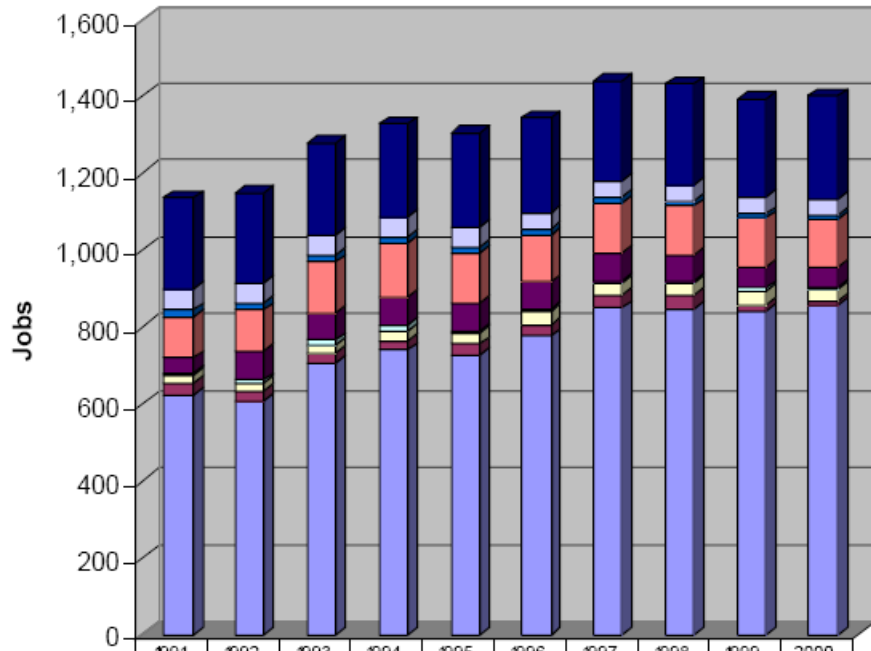
Huerfano County accounted for 3% of the region's total jobs in 2000. Services accounted for the most employment with 44%, followed by wholesale and retail trade with 17%, and agriculture with 13%. Over the decade the only sectors that declined in number of jobs are mining & extractive industries, which declined by 77% and government, which declined by 3%. The sectors that exhibited the highest rate of growth were construction, with a 246% rate of growth, services (219%), and FIRE with a 113% increase in the number of jobs.



Regionally, 1% of the total jobs existed in Kiowa County. Agriculture in Kiowa County had the highest concentrations of jobs in 2000 with 61% of the total, government followed with 19%, and wholesale & retail trade with 9%. Two sectors in the county exhibited signs of significant decreases, FIRE, which declined by 41% and mining & extractive industries, which decreased by 71% between 1990 and 2000. The construction industry showed the highest rate of growth, increasing by 41% over the decade. The second highest rate of job growth took place in transportation, communications and utilities (38%), and agriculture was third (37%).

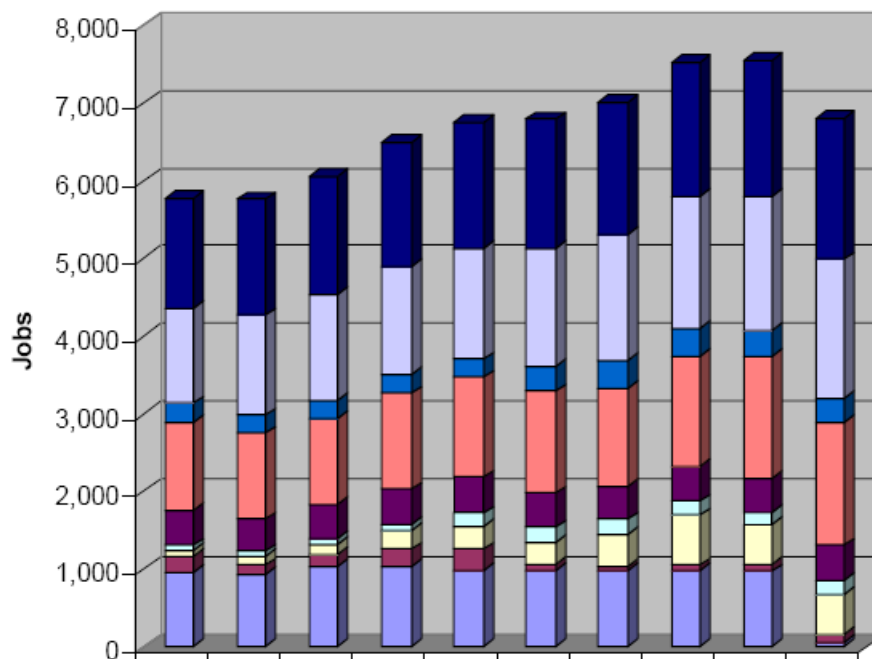
In 2000, Las Animas County accounted for 6% of the region's total jobs. The greatest numbers of jobs were in the government sector (27%), the service sector (26%), and the transportation, communication & utilities sector, with 23% of total jobs in 2000. Two sectors of the Las Animas economy declined: mining & extractive industries (-52%) and agriculture (-93%). Between 1999 and 2000, employment in the agriculture sector decreased dramatically, from 977 to 64 jobs. The construction sector had the highest rate of growth, with the number of jobs increasing by 636% between 1990 and 2000. Manufacturing had the second highest rate of growth (162%), followed by the service sector with a 45% increase.

Kiowa County Jobs by Sector

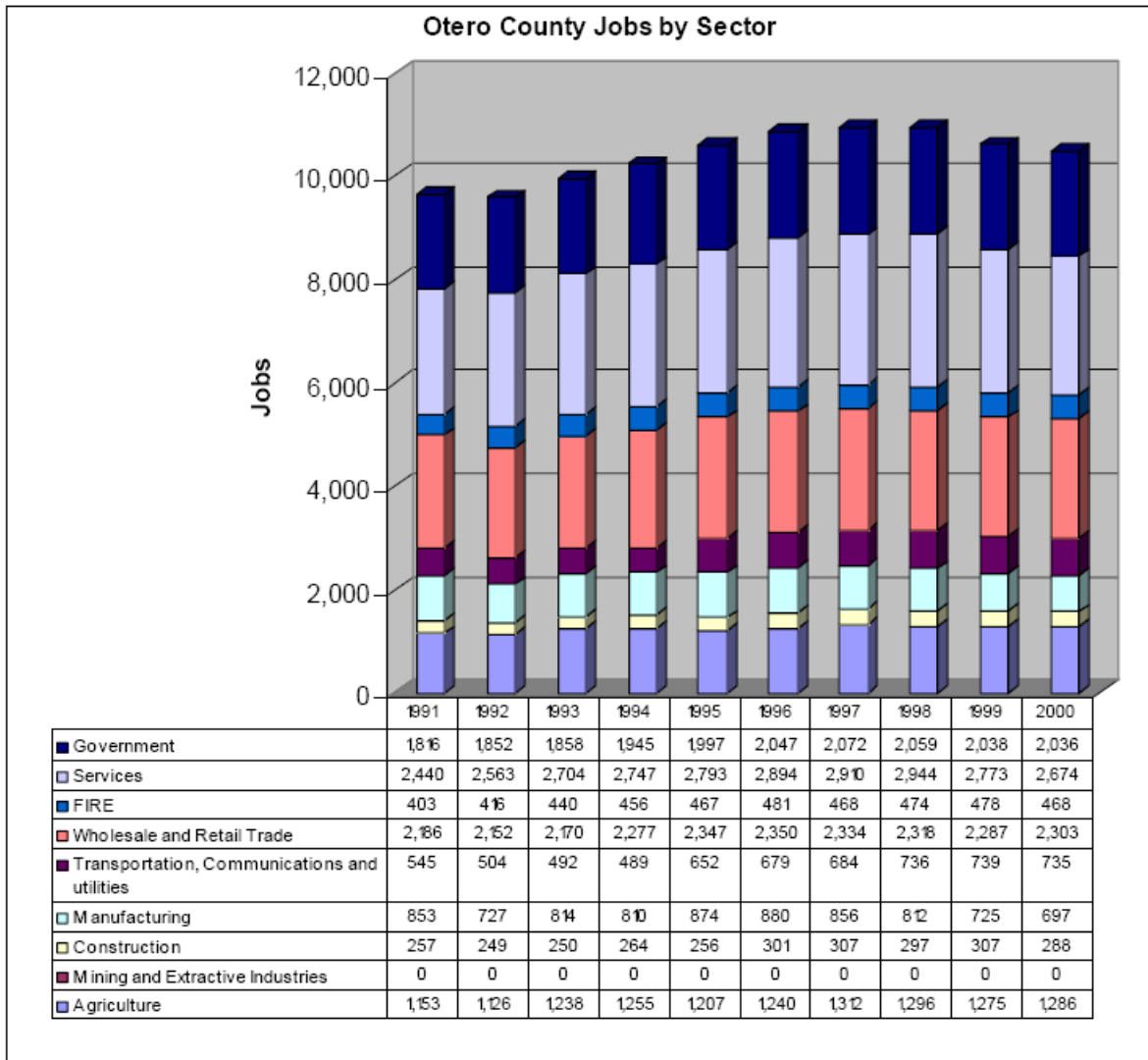


	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
■ Government	237	232	237	242	247	249	261	262	257	269
□ Services	55	54	55	52	52	39	42	43	43	41
■ FIRE	17	17	17	15	14	15	14	11	11	10
■ Wholesale and Retail Trade	108	108	133	141	129	124	132	127	128	126
■ Transportation, Communications and utilities	37	74	70	71	74	70	71	68	54	51
□ Manufacturing	7	9	11	15	4	4	5	5	6	6
□ Construction	22	18	22	26	30	39	32	30	38	31
■ Mining and Extractive Industries	28	29	25	25	28	28	34	40	17	8
■ Agriculture	625	606	708	740	728	776	850	845	840	859

Las Animas County Jobs by Sector



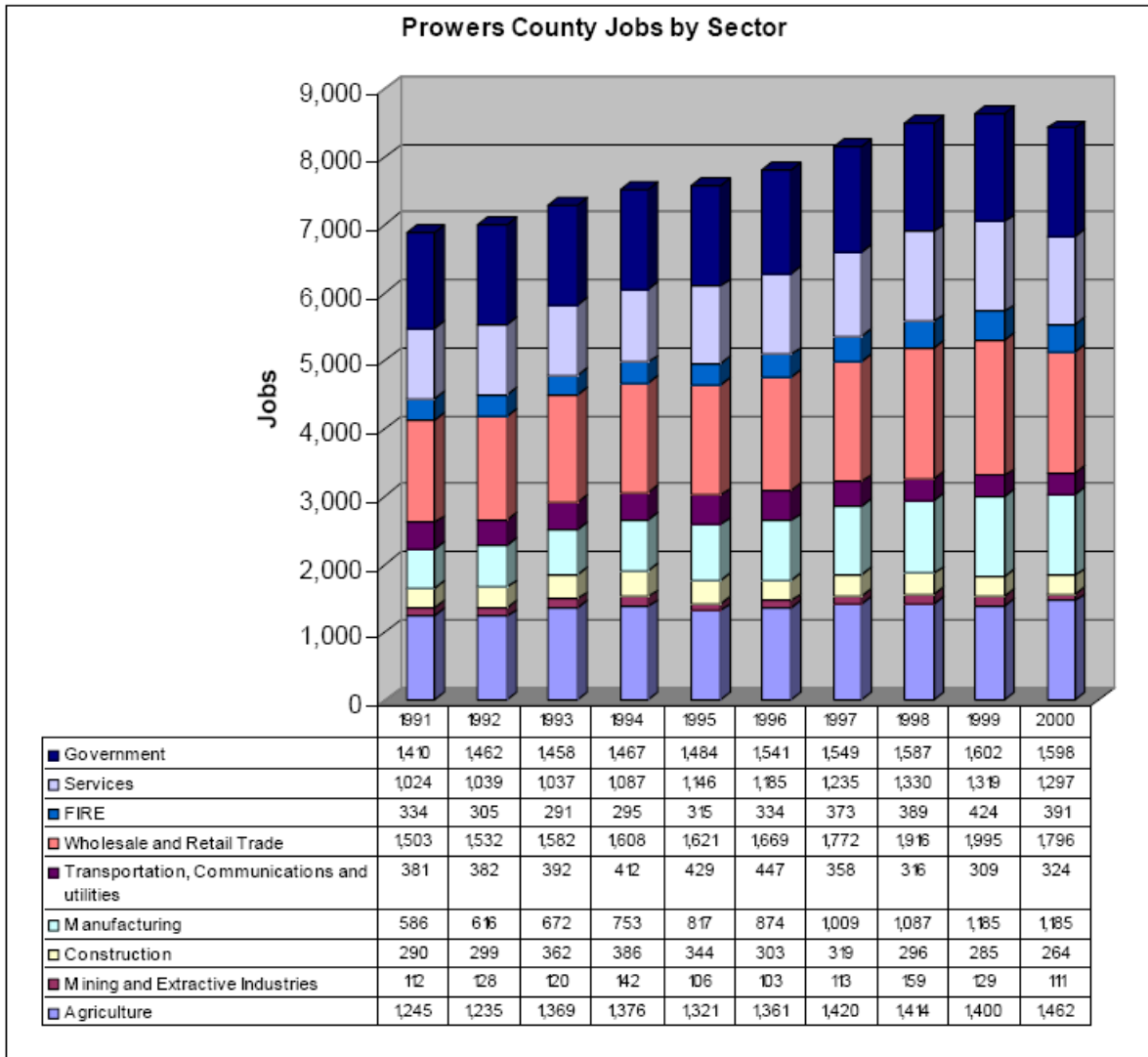
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Government	1417	1492	1513	1594	1625	1660	1702	1737	1742	1827
Services	1224	1288	1378	1395	1438	1522	1612	1699	1731	1783
FIRE	242	235	235	245	227	322	363	351	333	306
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1143	1105	1104	1231	1290	1313	1271	1428	1573	1590
Transportation, Communications and utilities	444	412	438	454	462	436	413	448	432	460
Manufacturing	63	73	79	77	177	189	199	181	162	165
Construction	70	106	126	244	287	295	402	643	520	515
Mining and Extractive Industries	220	109	144	224	274	78	57	56	79	106
Agriculture	956	944	1046	1034	985	978	989	993	977	64



Otero County had 9% of the region's total jobs in 2000. The service sector was the county's largest employer with 25% of the total, wholesale and retail sector was second (22%), and government accounted for 19%. Eight out of nine employment sectors increased between 1990 and 2000. Manufacturing decreased from 853 jobs in 1990 to 697 jobs in 2000 (-18%). The transportation, communication & utilities sector had the highest rate of job growth (35%), followed by FIRE (16%) and agriculture (11%).

Prowers County accounted for 7% of the region's 2000 job total. The wholesale & retail trade sector accounted

for the greatest number of jobs, with 21% of the county total. Government accounted for 19% and agriculture provided 17% of the 2000 total. The two sectors that did not fair so well during the 1990s were transportation, communication, & utilities, which declined by 15% and mining & extractive industries, which declined by 9%. The manufacturing sector created jobs at the greatest rate during the decade, increasing by 102%. The service sector followed with a 27% increase and the wholesale & retail trade sector increased by 19%.

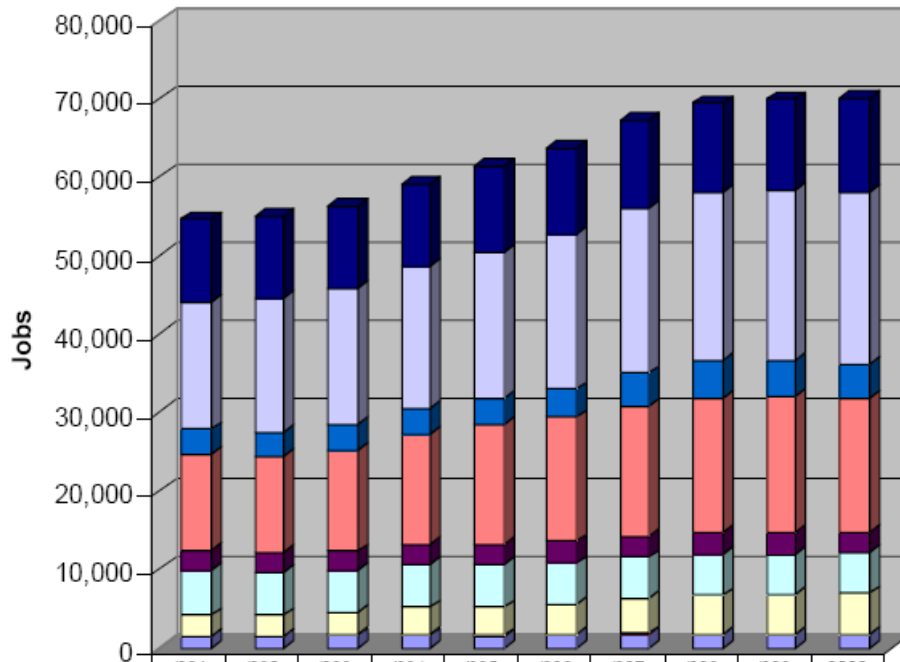


Pueblo County accounted for the vast majority of jobs regionally in 2000 with 57% of all jobs in the region and 2% of the state total. The service sector had the highest percentage of jobs in 2000, with 30% of the total. The wholesale & retail trade sector was second with 24% and the government sector was third with 17% of total county employment. The construction sector had the highest rate of increase (100%), followed by wholesale & retail trade (42%) and the service sector with 37% growth over the decade. Two sectors decreased in size during the 1990s, mining & extractive industries sector jobs declined by 60%, and manufacturing jobs decreased by 11% between 1990 and 2000.

5.3 Job by Sector Conclusions

The evaluation of jobs by sector was done to show how important a specific type of activity is to the overall condition of the county's economy. County planners need to have some idea of the number and proportion of jobs current employers offer to the county residents. If the current distribution or size of major employment sectors is unsatisfactory, then focused efforts to encourage or discourage the development of local economic sectors can take place using the tools at the disposal of the county. Just like any financial portfolio the local economy should be diverse in order to help cope with unforeseen changes in the sector of greatest importance in the counties. Undiversified

Pueblo County Jobs by Sector



Government	10,551	10,508	10,440	10,559	10,891	10,976	11,176	11,393	11,655	11,870
Services	16,201	17,159	17,429	18,055	18,667	19,868	21,081	21,470	21,665	22,115
FiRE	3,310	2,957	3,184	3,240	3,328	3,551	4,230	4,807	4,502	4,174
Wholesale and Retail Trade	12,078	12,285	12,996	13,979	15,301	15,798	16,477	17,033	17,458	17,103
Transportation, Communications and utilities	2,609	2,444	2,480	2,599	2,619	2,811	2,748	2,775	2,778	2,711
Manufacturing	5,759	5,541	5,336	5,552	5,450	5,174	5,266	5,295	5,037	5,144
Construction	2,606	2,696	2,837	3,504	3,565	3,933	4,438	4,893	5,068	5,205
Mining and Extractive Industries	58	34	35	31	24	24	15	19	19	23
Agriculture	1,485	1,445	1,603	1,622	1,564	1,676	1,830	1,795	1,796	1,723

economies are more prone to high amounts of variation. This may be a tolerable risk in a financial portfolio, but due to frictions in the job and housing markets and the benefits of stability to a community, it may not be optimal for community planning. Some counties that may want to consider diversification include; Baca with 47% of current jobs in agriculture, Huerfano, with 44% of jobs in the service sector, and Kiowa with 61% of jobs in agriculture.

6. Labor

The labor information provided in this assessment is the result of both the Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted by the US Census Bureau for the Bureau of

Labor and Statistics, and ES202 data, reported monthly by firms with more than one employee.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis then takes the CPS and ES202 data and makes the addition of wage and salary agriculture jobs, military, and private household employment to give an estimate of all wage and salary employment. To this total the number of proprietors is added, which is found by looking at the Federal Income Tax Schedule Cs filed in those counties. The total number of proprietors in the counties, as estimated by the BEA, is then taken by the Demographers Office and adjusted to provide a more reasonable assessment. In rural areas the BEA estimate is divided

by the estimated average income of wages and salaries employees. In urban counties, the number of proprietors is determined by using national ratios.

6.1 Summary and Overview of labor estimates

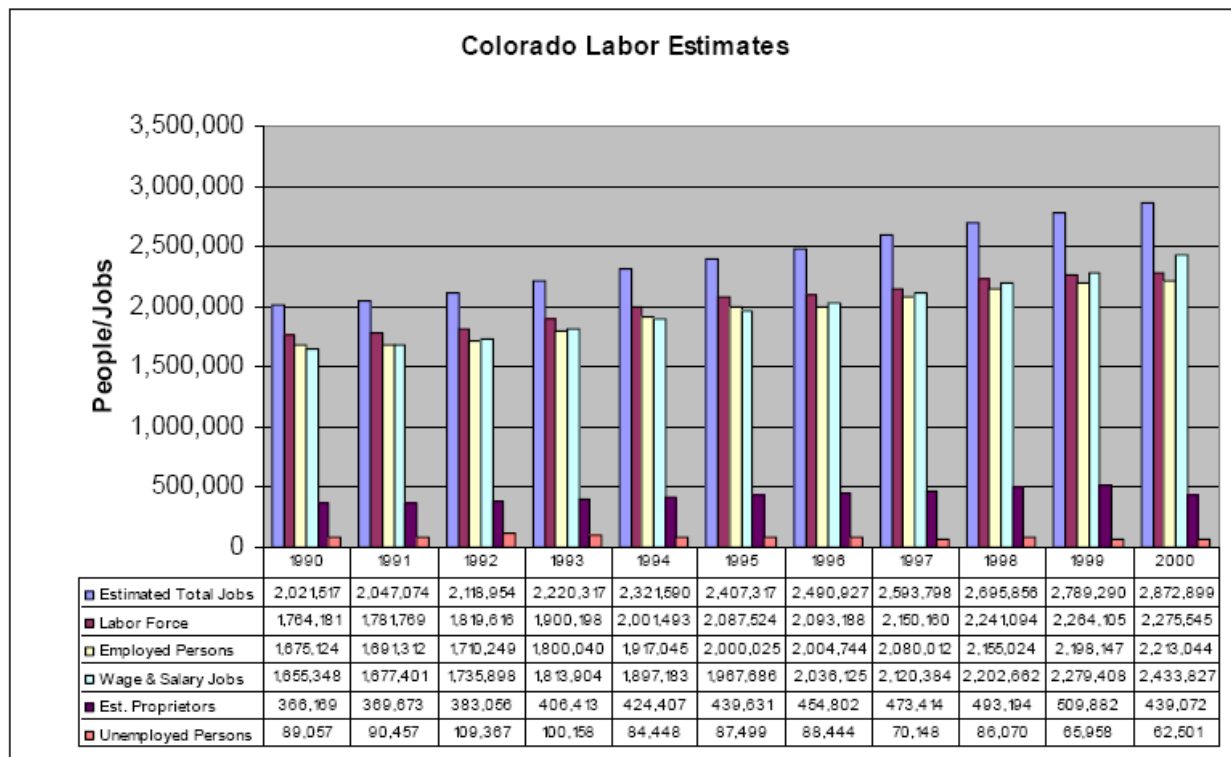
Total estimated jobs in Colorado increased by 42%, while jobs increased by 13% in the ACT Region. The state labor force grew by 29% and the regional labor force grew by 2%. Wage & salary jobs comprised 85% of total jobs at the state level and accounted for 78% of the region's total jobs in 2000. The number of unemployed people in the ACT Region decreased by 35% and 30% statewide over the decade.

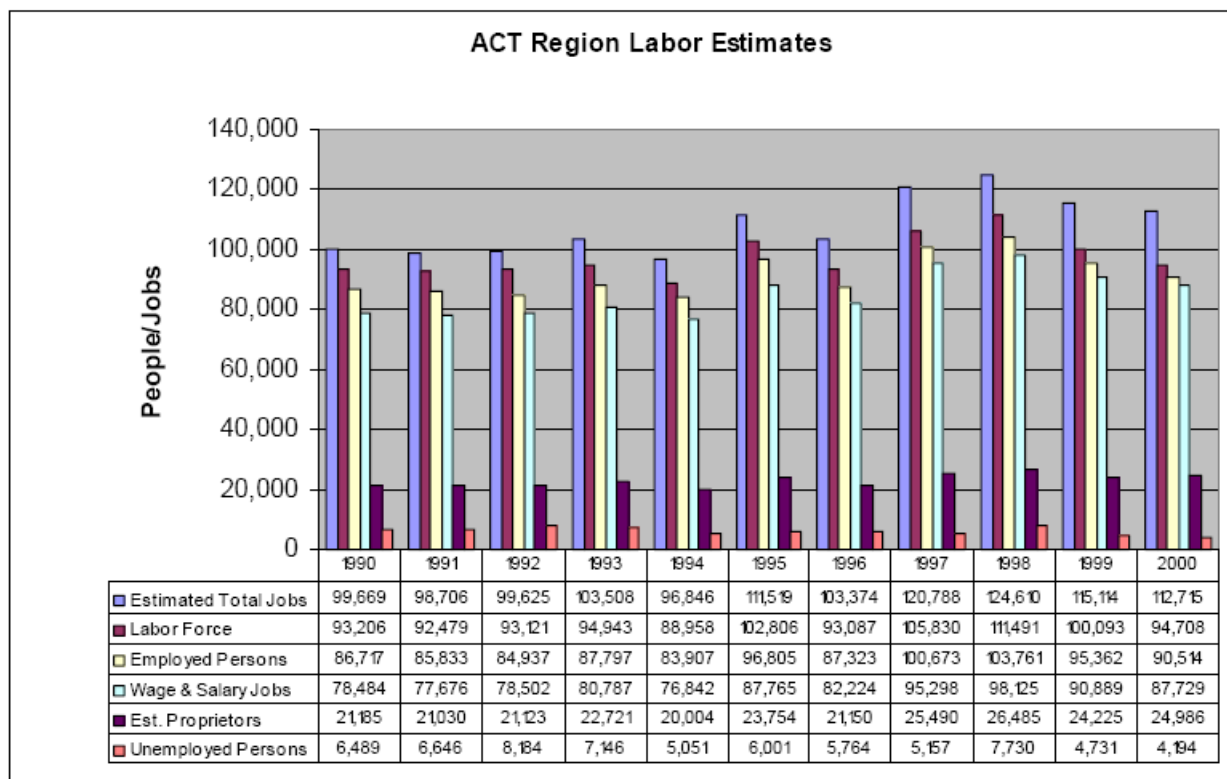
Regionally, Pueblo County had the greatest number of people in all labor categories. The second highest number of total estimated jobs, labor force, employed people, wage and salary jobs, and estimated proprietors were found in Otero County. Alamosa County has the third highest number in each of these outlined categories. Costilla, Kiowa, Custer, and Crowley County consistently had the lowest total labor estimates in the region.

During the 1990s, the Colorado labor market was relatively robust. Colorado had a 42% increase in the number of total estimated jobs, accompanied by a 29%

increase in the labor force. Employed people increased by 32% between 1990 and 2000 and the number of unemployed people decreased by 30% over the period. Wage and salary jobs increased by 47%, while the number of estimated proprietors increased by 20%. Wage and salary jobs accounted for 85% of total estimated jobs in 2000.

The regional labor market was also quite robust through the 1990s, though less so than the state at large. Total estimated jobs increased by 13% during the decade, with the highest number of jobs existing in 1998. The labor force climbed by 2% over the period. The number of employed people grew by 4% between 1990 and 2000, peaking in 1998 at around 110,000 people. The number of wage and salary employees also hit its decade high in 1998. The number of wage and salary employees grew by 12% and estimated proprietors grew by 18%. The state had a lower growth rate. Unemployment decreased in the region by 35% over the period. The greatest number of unemployed people was in 1998. Wage and salary jobs accounted for 78% of the region's total jobs in 2000, while the state had 85%. Generally speaking, the labor market in the ACT Region peaked in 1998, whereas reached its apex statewide in 2000.





6.2 County trends in labor estimates

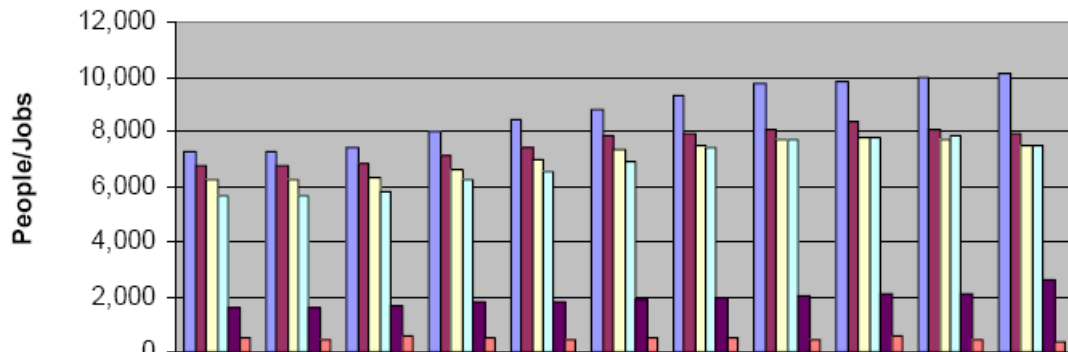
Alamosa County had the third greatest number of jobs (9%), available labor force (8%), employed people (8%), wage and salary jobs (9%), and estimated proprietors (11%) in the region. The total estimated number of jobs in the county reached the period high in 2000, while the region hit its maximum in 1998. The total number of jobs in the county increased by 39% over the decade. The labor force reached its highest level in 1998. Overall, the labor force in the region grew by 17% in the 1990s. Wage and salary jobs in Alamosa County increased by 32% over the decade. The highest number of wage and salary jobs for the decade was in 1999. Estimated proprietors increased by a dramatic 62% during the 1990s, which substantially exceeds the regional rate. The number of unemployed people declined by 17% throughout the period, with the highest number of unemployed people occurring in 1998.

In Baca County, the total estimated number of jobs increased by 18% during the 1990s, with 2000 being the year of the greatest number of jobs. Labor force

numbers reached the decade high in 1999. Baca County had a growth rate of 7% in the available labor force during the period. Employed people also increased during the decade (6%) with a peak of 2,328 people in 1998. Wage and salary jobs, which accounted for 45% of total jobs in 2000, had only a 2% increase during the decade. Estimated proprietors had a remarkable increase of 35%. Unemployed people in the county increased by 50% between 1990 and 2000, from 38 to 57 people.

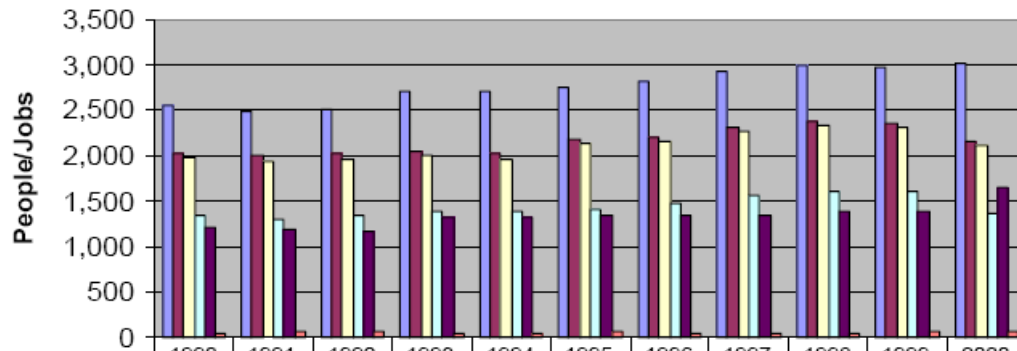
The total estimated number of jobs in Bent County increased by 17% between 1990 and 2000, reaching its peak in 1998. The available labor force decreased by 3% over the decade with substantial variation within the period. Employed people also decreased by 3% from 1990 through 2000. In Bent County, wage and salary jobs increased by 5%, peaking in 1998. Estimated proprietors in the county increased by 47%, from 618 people in 1990 to 911 in 2000, a much higher rate than the state and regional increases. Unemployed people also increased from 68 people in 1990 to 73 people in 2000, or 7%.

Alamosa County Labor Estimates

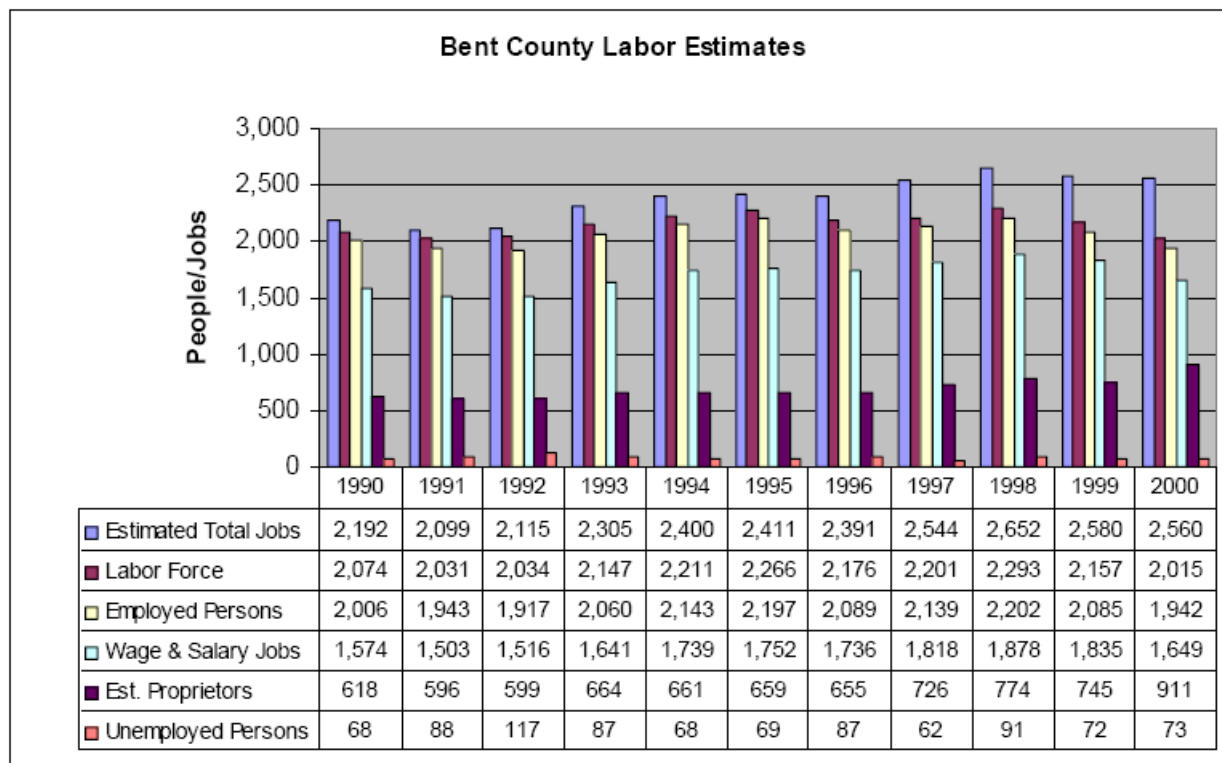


	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Estimated Total Jobs	7,292	7,246	7,436	8,023	8,418	8,767	9,332	9,769	9,851	9,956	10,105
Labor Force	6,734	6,739	6,865	7,104	7,416	7,869	7,938	8,089	8,349	8,104	7,894
Employed Persons	6,255	6,278	6,304	6,601	6,984	7,368	7,462	7,679	7,768	7,693	7,496
Wage & Salary Jobs	5,675	5,641	5,794	6,239	6,579	6,888	7,391	7,742	7,773	7,850	7,487
Est. Proprietors	1,617	1,605	1,642	1,784	1,839	1,879	1,941	2,027	2,078	2,106	2,618
Unemployed Persons	479	461	561	503	432	501	476	410	581	411	398

Baca County Labor Estimates



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Estimated Total Jobs	2,558	2,484	2,518	2,711	2,707	2,750	2,827	2,924	2,985	2,975	3,016
Labor Force	2,027	2,005	2,020	2,055	2,020	2,185	2,209	2,306	2,379	2,360	2,163
Employed Persons	1,989	1,941	1,951	2,001	1,967	2,129	2,161	2,269	2,328	2,303	2,106
Wage & Salary Jobs	1,338	1,297	1,343	1,384	1,389	1,406	1,479	1,571	1,596	1,598	1,369
Est. Proprietors	1,220	1,187	1,175	1,327	1,318	1,344	1,348	1,353	1,389	1,377	1,647
Unemployed Persons	38	64	69	54	53	56	48	37	51	57	57

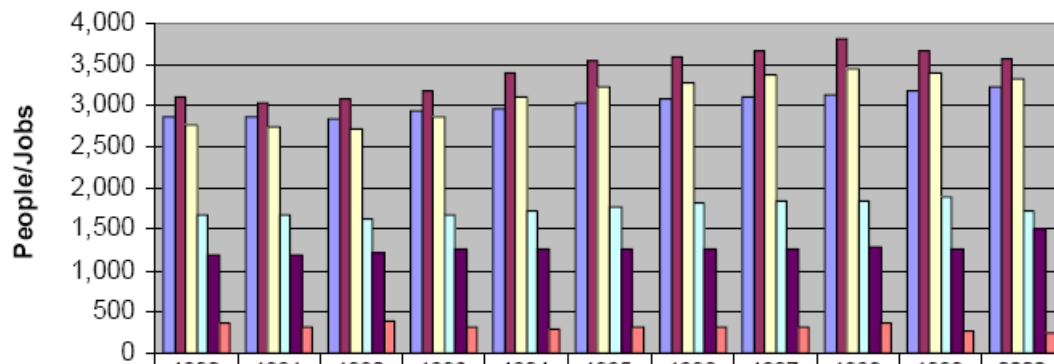


Conejos County grew across all labor categories and the number of unemployed people decreased. Estimated total jobs increased by 13% over the decade, with the highest number of jobs occurring in 2000. The labor force in Conejos County increased by 15% during the period, peaking in 1998. The number of employed people increased by 21% in the 1990s again peaking in 1998. Conejos County wage and salary jobs accounted for 53% of the county total jobs in 2000, increasing by 2%. The estimated number of proprietors increased from 1,186 in 1990 to 1,512 in 2000, or by 27%. Unemployed people decreased from 363 in 1990 to 243 in 2000.

Estimated total jobs in Costilla County remained constant in 1990 and 2000. However, there was substantial

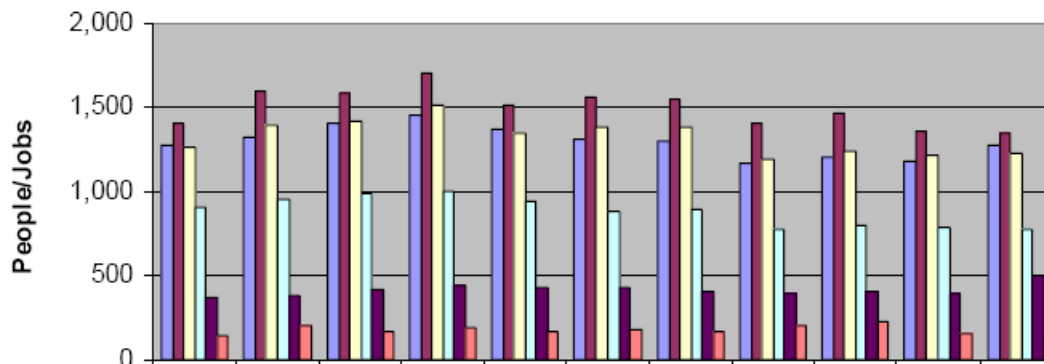
variation in job numbers within the decade. The total number of jobs increased between 1990 and 1993, reaching the decade high. Then in the latter half of the decade the measure crept lower and lower until it increased slightly in 1998 and 2000. The number of people in the labor force grew by 4% in the decade, peaking in 1998. The number of employed people decreased by 3% for the period. Wage and salary jobs also decreased from 904 in 1990 to 773 in 2000. The estimated number of proprietors on the other hand increased by 35%, peaking in 2000. Despite increases in some labor categories and decrease in others, the overall number of unemployed people decreased throughout the decade by 16%.

Conejos County Labor Estimates



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Estimated Total Jobs	2,868	2,861	2,834	2,936	2,966	3,027	3,068	3,098	3,128	3,170	3,227
Labor Force	3,115	3,037	3,088	3,173	3,397	3,551	3,592	3,667	3,801	3,661	3,568
Employed Persons	2,752	2,731	2,704	2,866	3,105	3,234	3,279	3,363	3,435	3,402	3,325
Wage & Salary Jobs	1,682	1,667	1,630	1,666	1,715	1,760	1,807	1,846	1,845	1,899	1,715
Est. Proprietors	1,186	1,194	1,204	1,270	1,251	1,267	1,261	1,252	1,283	1,271	1,512
Unemployed Persons	363	306	384	307	292	317	313	304	366	259	243

Costilla County Labor Estimates



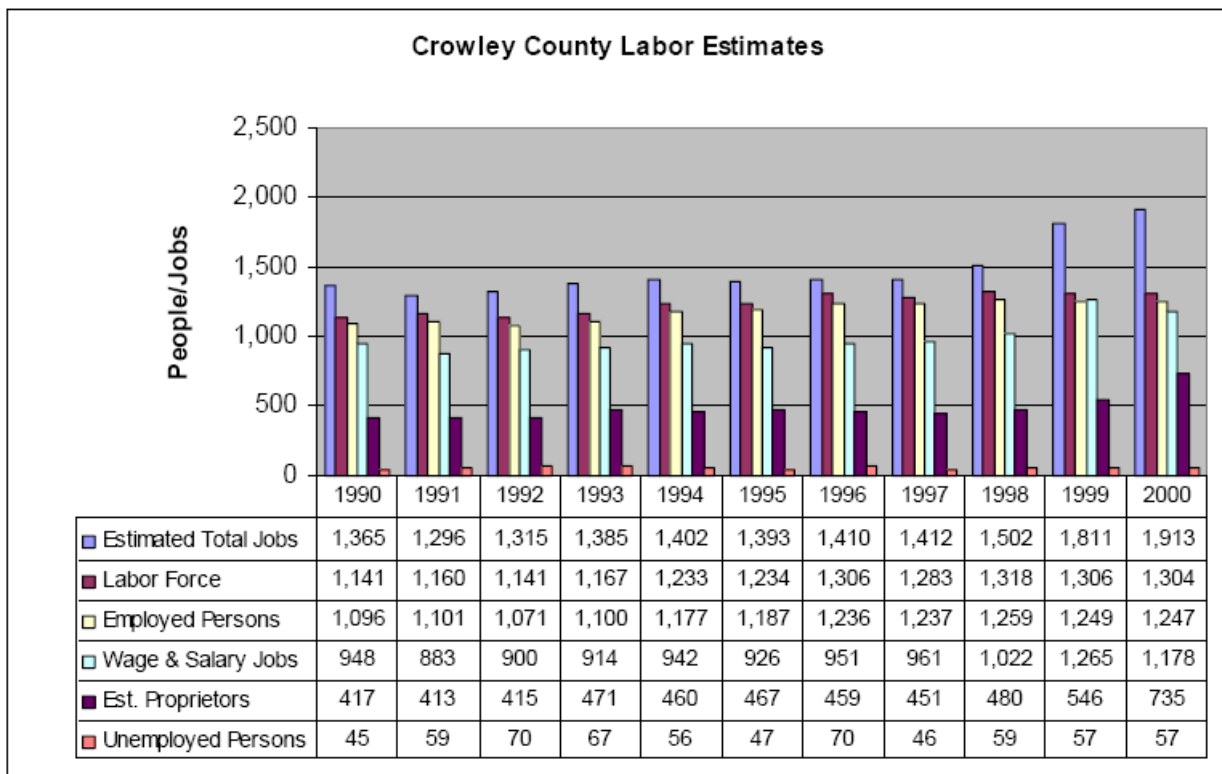
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Estimated Total Jobs	1,274	1,326	1,402	1,449	1,369	1,313	1,302	1,170	1,208	1,183	1,274
Labor Force	1,407	1,593	1,579	1,704	1,514	1,559	1,549	1,399	1,470	1,362	1,348
Employed Persons	1,260	1,393	1,418	1,514	1,346	1,379	1,382	1,192	1,239	1,209	1,224
Wage & Salary Jobs	904	950	986	1,005	938	886	893	774	798	785	773
Est. Proprietors	370	376	416	444	431	427	409	396	410	398	501
Unemployed Persons	147	200	161	190	168	180	167	207	231	153	124

In Crowley County, the estimated total jobs increased by 40% over the decade, a rate much higher than the regional increase. The number of available labor force and employed people increased by 14% for the same time period. In Crowley County, wage and salary jobs, which accounted for 62% of total jobs in 2000, increased by 24% over the decade. The estimated number of proprietors increased by 76% over the decade, with the largest number existing in 2000. The number of unemployed people decreased by 27% for the period, peaking in 1996.

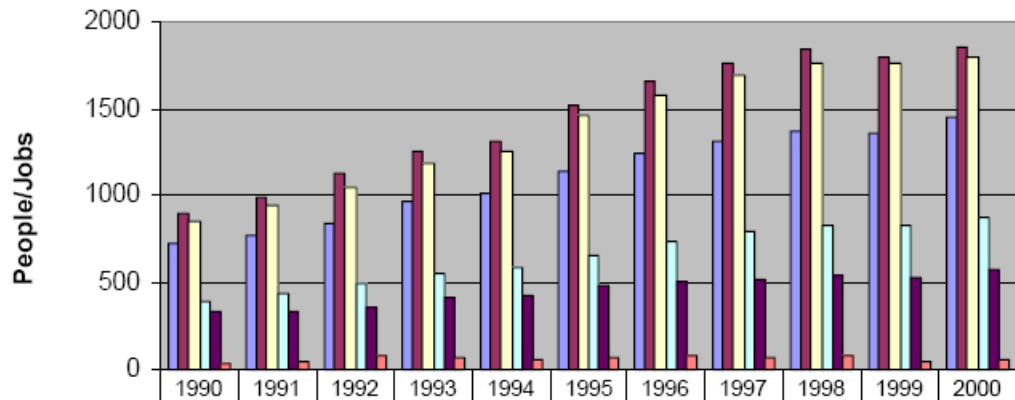
Custer County had impressive growth for many of the labor categories. The estimated total jobs increased by 99% between 1990 and 2000. The labor force in Custer County climbed by 107% and the number of employed people increased by 111% over the 1990s. In 2000, wage and salary jobs, which accounted for 60% of total jobs, increased by 120%. The estimated number of proprietors increased from 331 people in 1990 to 53 in 2000, or by 33% for the period. Unemployed people increased from 40 in 1990 to 53 by 2000, an increase of 33% for the 1990s.

Huerfano County showed strong growth all labor categories. Total estimated jobs increased by 72%, reaching its height at the end of the decade. The available labor force increased by 41%, weathering short-term decreases between 1990-1991 and 1998-1999. The number of employed people climbed from 2,331 in 1990 to 3,373 in 2000, or 45%. The number of wage and salary jobs, which accounted for 56% of total jobs, increased by 57% in the period. Estimated proprietors climbed by 100% over the 1990s. The number of unemployed people declined by 9% for the period. Unemployment peaked in 1998 at 273 people.

Kiowa County had an increase of total estimated jobs of 20% over the decade, peaking in 1997. Labor force, employed people, and wage and salary jobs all decreased in the 1990s. Wage and salary jobs declined by the greatest rate (14%) and by 2000, wage and salary jobs accounted for only 36% of the total jobs in the county. Labor force and employed people both declined by 4% for the period. The greatest growth occurred in estimated proprietors, which increased by 52% in the 1990s. Despite decreases in many of the labor categories, the number of unemployed people decreased for the decade.

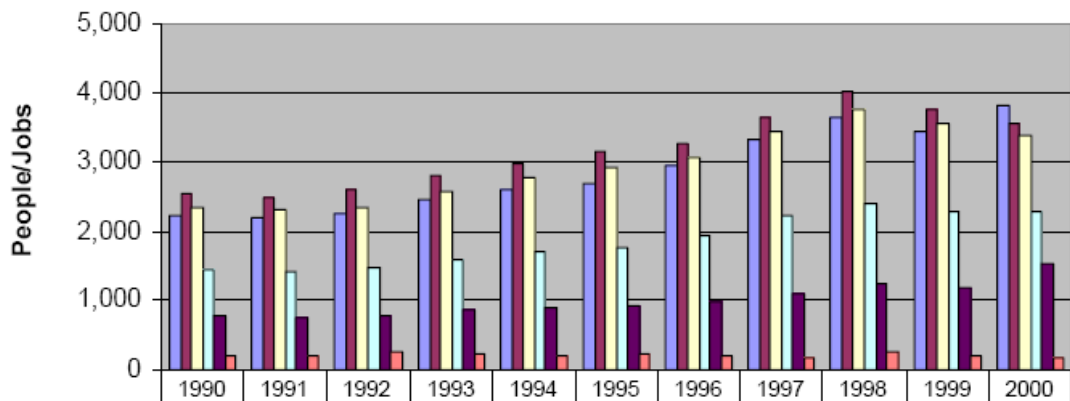


Custer County Labor Estimates

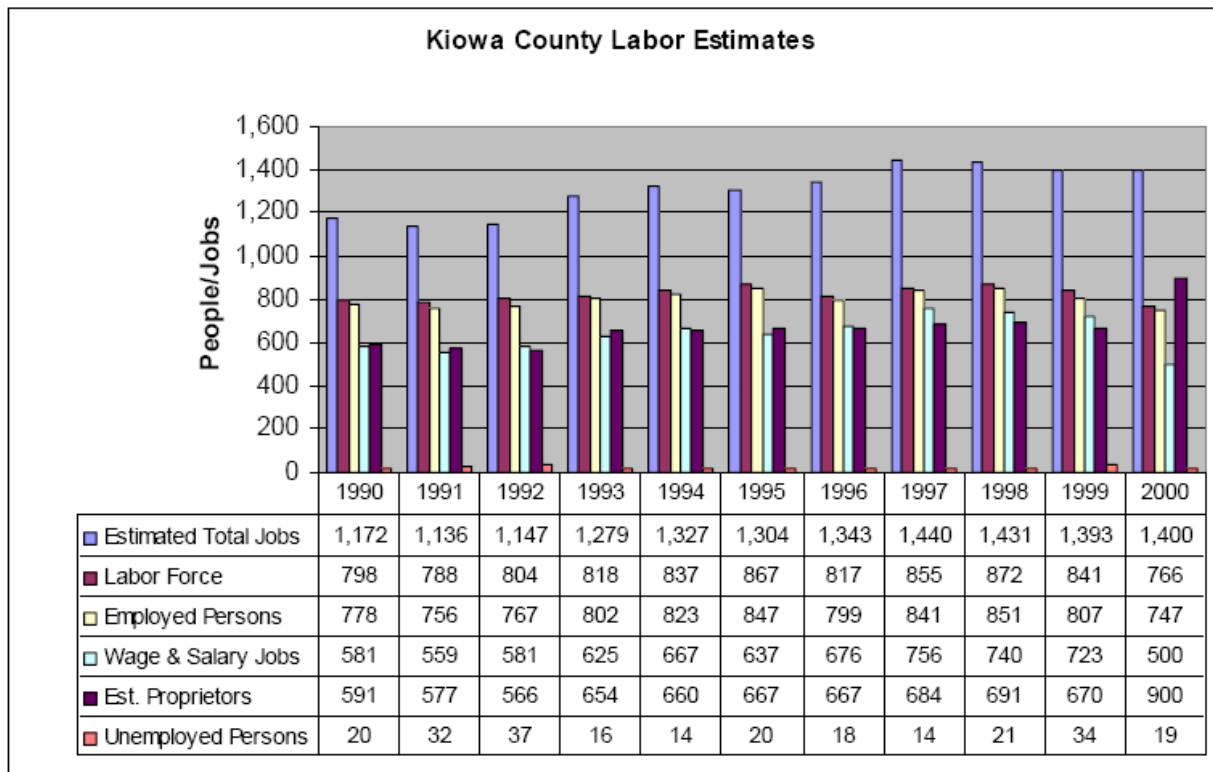


Estimated Total Jobs	727	768	844	965	1,010	1,138	1,245	1,310	1,363	1,359	1,443
Labor Force	893	991	1,126	1,256	1,306	1,521	1,652	1,762	1,836	1,798	1,851
Employed Persons	853	944	1,050	1,186	1,254	1,457	1,576	1,691	1,755	1,755	1,798
Wage & Salary Jobs	396	432	491	550	585	656	741	794	824	828	872
Est. Proprietors	331	336	353	415	425	482	504	516	539	531	571
Unemployed Persons	40	47	76	70	52	64	76	71	81	43	53

Huerfano County Labor Estimates



Estimated Total Jobs	2,227	2,183	2,254	2,448	2,608	2,693	2,934	3,322	3,632	3,453	3,820
Labor Force	2,530	2,500	2,591	2,803	2,983	3,142	3,275	3,631	4,024	3,743	3,555
Employed Persons	2,331	2,310	2,334	2,562	2,780	2,924	3,059	3,446	3,751	3,545	3,373
Wage & Salary Jobs	1,455	1,428	1,484	1,576	1,704	1,763	1,945	2,213	2,400	2,282	2,274
Est. Proprietors	772	755	770	872	904	930	989	1,109	1,232	1,171	1,546
Unemployed Persons	199	190	257	241	203	218	216	185	273	198	182



Las Animas County showed signs of a healthy labor market in the 1990s, with all labor categories increasing in size and the number of unemployed people in decline. The number of total jobs increased by 33% over the period, with the greatest number occurring in 2000. The labor force climbed by 22% over the decade, peaking in 1998. The number of wage and salary jobs, which accounted for 72% of total jobs in 2000, increased by 34% over the period. The estimated number of proprietors increased by 29% for the period, going from 1,667 people in 1990 to 2,154 in 2000. Las Animas County had 445 unemployed people in 1990 and 285 by 2000, a decrease of 36%.

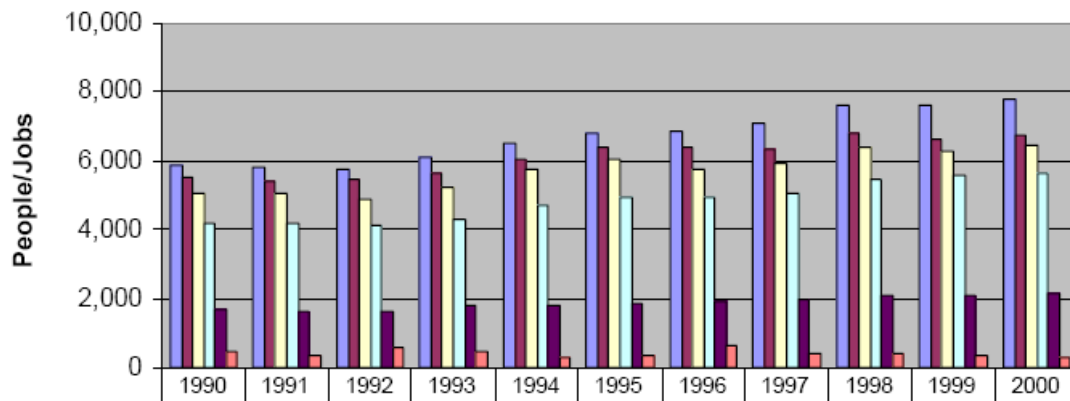
In 2000, Otero County had the second highest total jobs (9%), labor force (9%), employed people (9%), wage and salary jobs (9%), and estimated proprietors (11%) in the ACT Region. Otero County showed an increase in all labor categories and a 25% decrease in unemployed people. The total estimated jobs increased by 10% for the decade and the county labor force increased by 1%. Otero County had the highest amount of available labor in 1998, reaching 8,997 people. The number of employed people increased by 4%, the number of wage and salary jobs, which accounted for 75% of total jobs, increased by 7% for the decade, and the

estimated number of proprietors increased by 20%, greater than the regional rate of increase.

Prowers County exhibited growth in all of the labor categories and a 42% decrease in the number of unemployed people. Regional unemployment decreased by 35% over the period. Estimated total jobs, labor force and employed people in Prowers County increased at a greater rate than the regional average (18%, 8%, and 11% respectively). The number of wage and salary jobs, which accounted for 70% of the total jobs in the county, increased by 14% over the period. The estimated number of proprietors increased by 29% throughout the decade, from 1,948 jobs in 1990 to 2,506 jobs in 2000.

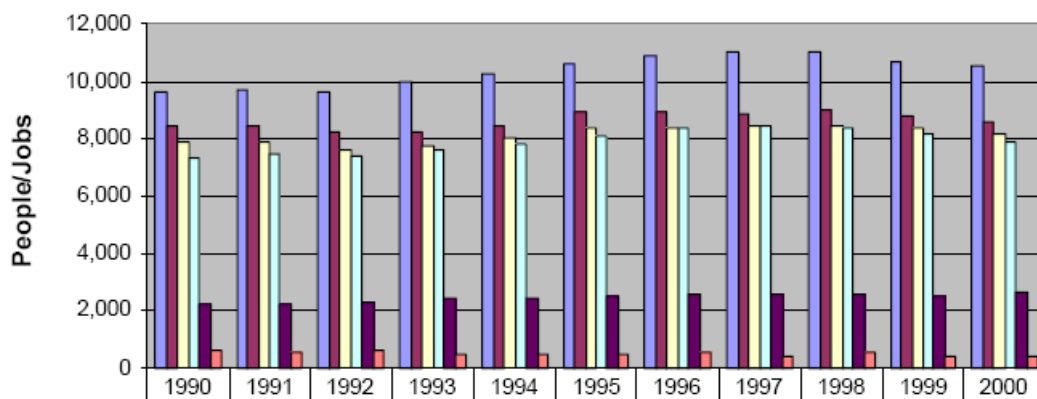
Regionally, Pueblo County has the greatest amount of labor in every economic sector. The total number of jobs in Pueblo County in 2000 accounted for 62% of the regional total and 3% of the state total employment. Pueblo County had an increase of 27% over the period for total jobs, a higher rate of increase than the region. The labor force in Pueblo increased by 11% while the region had a 2% growth rate from 1990-2000.

Las Animas County Labor Estimates



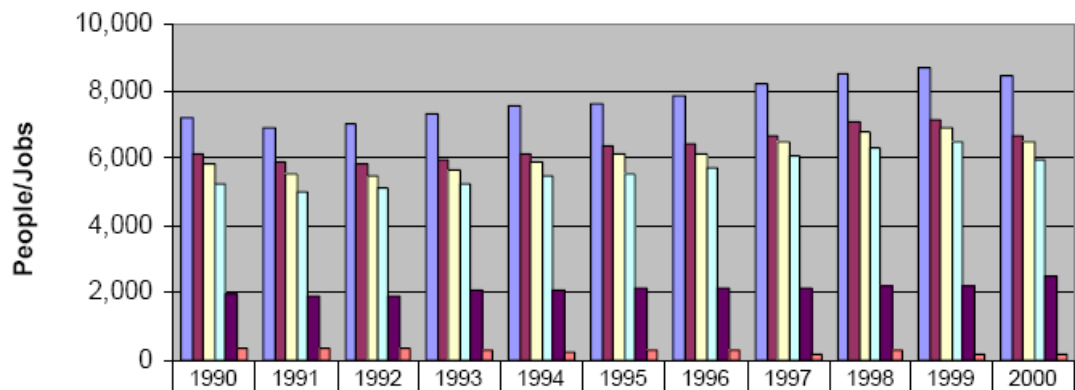
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Estimated Total Jobs	5,879	5,801	5,779	6,086	6,536	6,817	6,850	7,068	7,597	7,632	7,787
Labor Force	5,504	5,400	5,447	5,658	6,046	6,385	6,393	6,332	6,825	6,625	6,739
Employed Persons	5,059	5,032	4,869	5,206	5,747	6,048	5,773	5,926	6,395	6,282	6,454
Wage & Salary Jobs	4,212	4,161	4,126	4,293	4,705	4,968	4,943	5,084	5,486	5,559	5,633
Est. Proprietors	1,667	1,640	1,653	1,793	1,831	1,849	1,907	1,984	2,111	2,073	2,154
Unemployed Persons	445	368	578	452	299	337	620	406	430	343	285

Otero County Labor Estimates



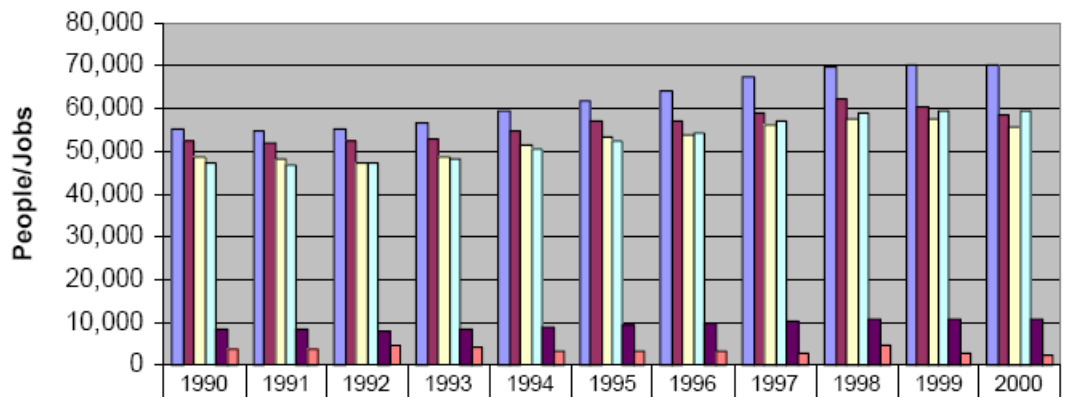
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Estimated Total Jobs	9,597	9,692	9,629	10,003	10,289	10,632	10,914	10,995	10,994	10,679	10,548
Labor Force	8,469	8,409	8,240	8,253	8,472	8,897	8,904	8,872	8,997	8,818	8,595
Employed Persons	7,872	7,858	7,625	7,751	7,995	8,405	8,372	8,442	8,472	8,404	8,144
Wage & Salary Jobs	7,353	7,455	7,361	7,573	7,833	8,111	8,359	8,428	8,389	8,162	7,865
Est. Proprietors	2,244	2,237	2,268	2,430	2,456	2,521	2,555	2,567	2,605	2,517	2,683
Unemployed Persons	597	551	615	502	477	492	532	430	525	414	451

Prowers County Labor Estimates



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Estimated Total Jobs	7,180	6,922	7,034	7,312	7,564	7,627	7,856	8,191	8,537	8,689	8,470
Labor Force	6,159	5,874	5,857	5,928	6,122	6,382	6,427	6,662	7,061	7,140	6,667
Employed Persons	5,826	5,537	5,490	5,635	5,885	6,102	6,155	6,467	6,786	6,933	6,473
Wage & Salary Jobs	5,232	5,023	5,113	5,246	5,466	5,508	5,742	6,052	6,323	6,483	5,964
Est. Proprietors	1,948	1,899	1,921	2,066	2,098	2,119	2,114	2,139	2,214	2,206	2,506
Unemployed Persons	333	337	367	293	237	280	272	195	275	207	194

Pueblo County Labor Estimates



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Estimated Total Jobs	55,338	54,892	55,318	56,606	59,375	61,647	64,061	67,545	69,730	70,190	70,273
Labor Force	52,355	51,952	52,329	52,877	54,837	56,948	56,996	58,771	62,266	60,282	58,300
Employed Persons	48,640	48,009	47,437	48,513	51,652	53,528	53,603	55,981	57,520	57,388	55,787
Wage & Salary Jobs	47,134	46,677	47,177	48,075	50,548	52,504	54,431	57,259	59,051	59,470	59,306
Est. Proprietors	8,204	8,215	8,141	8,531	8,827	9,143	9,630	10,286	10,679	10,720	10,967
Unemployed Persons	3,715	3,943	4,892	4,364	3,185	3,420	3,393	2,790	4,746	2,894	2,513

6.3 Labor Conclusion

The Senior Economist for the Colorado governor's office claimed that in 1999, Colorado had the best economy in the nation and the second best throughout the 1990s. This contention was fueled, in part, due to sustained employment growth and wage and salary job growth. The 1990s were extraordinary economic times, but not for everybody, since there has been an increase in unemployed people in Baca, Bent, Crowley, and Custer counties and wage and salary jobs decreased in Costilla and Kiowa. Growth in the state of Colorado was uneven and some of the ACT counties were among those who did not benefit as greatly from the boom. Estimated total jobs increased in every county with the exception of remaining constant in Costilla, implying a consistent or increasing demand for labor in each county examined. Generally, there were consistent changes in the number of estimated jobs, showing that the labor force had sufficient time to under take new available positions. However, this was not the case in Costilla. The rising tide of Colorado's economy floated most boats, but some within the ACT region were left a bit lower than others.

7. Local Tax Information

Sales and property taxes are used by local governments to provide services to their constituencies. A mill levy is a type of property tax, also referred to as an ad valorem tax. One mill is equivalent to 1/1000 of the total assessed value of a property. Generally speaking, the number of mills levied against the value of real estate adjusts to reflect changes in the value of local real estate relative to community service needs. Property taxes are one of the major tools used by local governments to pay for public schools and other essential community services. If property values increase and mill levies do not decrease then either the community has decided to sponsor more services per capita or community growth is not paying its way and is being subsidized by current residents. Sales taxes constitute a high proportion of the total state tax revenue. State sales tax revenues increase consistently on an annual basis and by 2001 accounted for 33% of the total tax revenue collected by the state.

7.1 Summary and overview of tax information

In Colorado, total property value increased by 68% from 1990-2000, while property value in the region increased by 44%. In both cases the property tax rate reduced over the period. Retail sales tax revenue

increased by 140% statewide, while regional tax revenues increased by 103%.

Regionally, Pueblo County generated the highest amount of state sales taxes, followed by Alamosa and Otero County. Kiowa County generated the least sales taxes, Costilla was twelfth and Crowley County was ranked eleventh of the thirteen counties in the ACT region.

Pueblo County had the highest total taxable value in 2000, followed by Las Animas and Huerfano County. The lowest taxable value occurred in Crowley County followed by Kiowa and Conejos County. Kiowa County had the highest county mill levy, followed by Crowley and Bent. Custer County imposed the lowest county mill levy, followed by Las Animas and Costilla County.

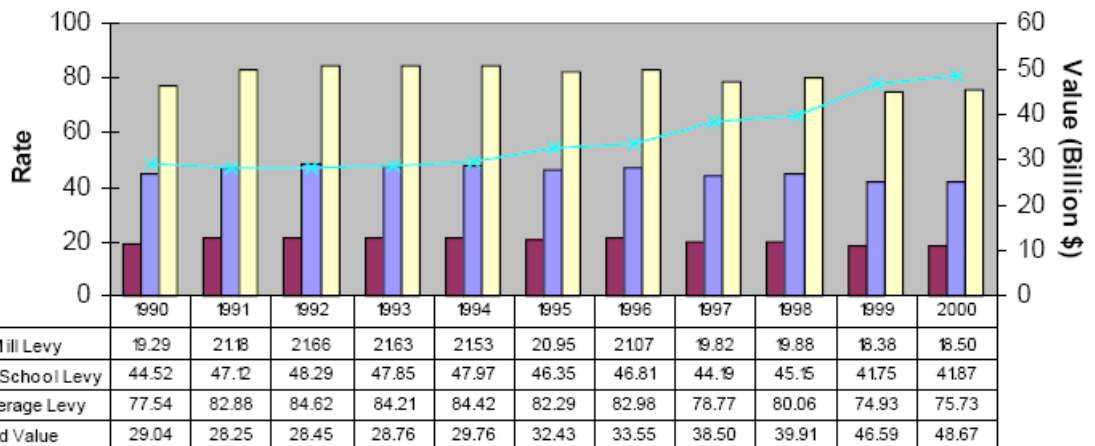
Alamosa County had the highest average school levy, followed by Kiowa and Costilla County. Bent County imposed the lowest average school levy, followed by Crowley and Las Animas County. Kiowa County, Pueblo County and Alamosa County all had the highest total average levy. Las Animas County had the lowest total average mill levy for 2000, followed by Custer and Conejos County.

The total taxable assessed value of property in Colorado grew by 68% in the past decade. The state mill levy decreased by 4%, while the average school levy and total average mill levy dropped by 6% and 2%, respectively.

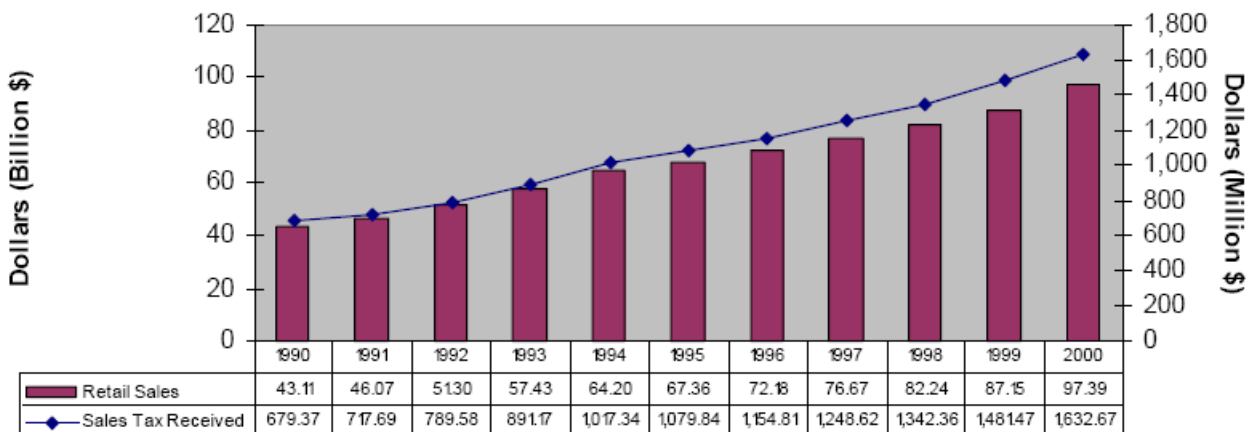
Retail sales in Colorado increased by 126% over the 1990s, while the sales tax generated increased by 140%. Retail sales in Colorado have grown consistently and steadily over the decade.

Total taxable assessed value in the ACT Region grew at a slower pace than the state as a whole, although it increased by 44% though the 1990s. The regional mill levy remained relatively steady throughout the 1992-1997 period, with a decade high regional average of 27.37 was observed in 1991. When the value of total taxable property started to increase in 1997, cuts in the regional property tax rates were implemented. The average school levy in the region decreased by a rate greater than that of the state, declining by 14%. The total average levy also declined by a rate higher than that of the state, falling by 8% over the 1990s.

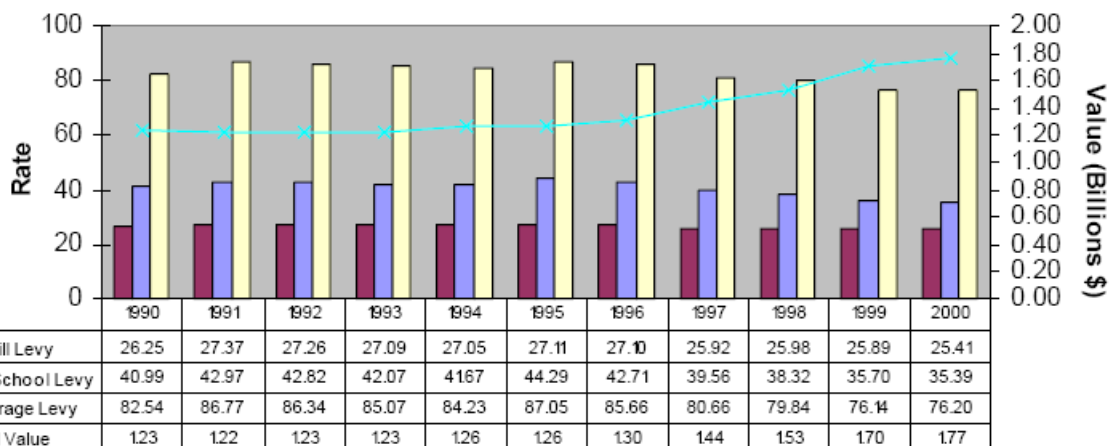
Colorado Property Taxation



Colorado Sales Tax



ACT Region Property Taxation



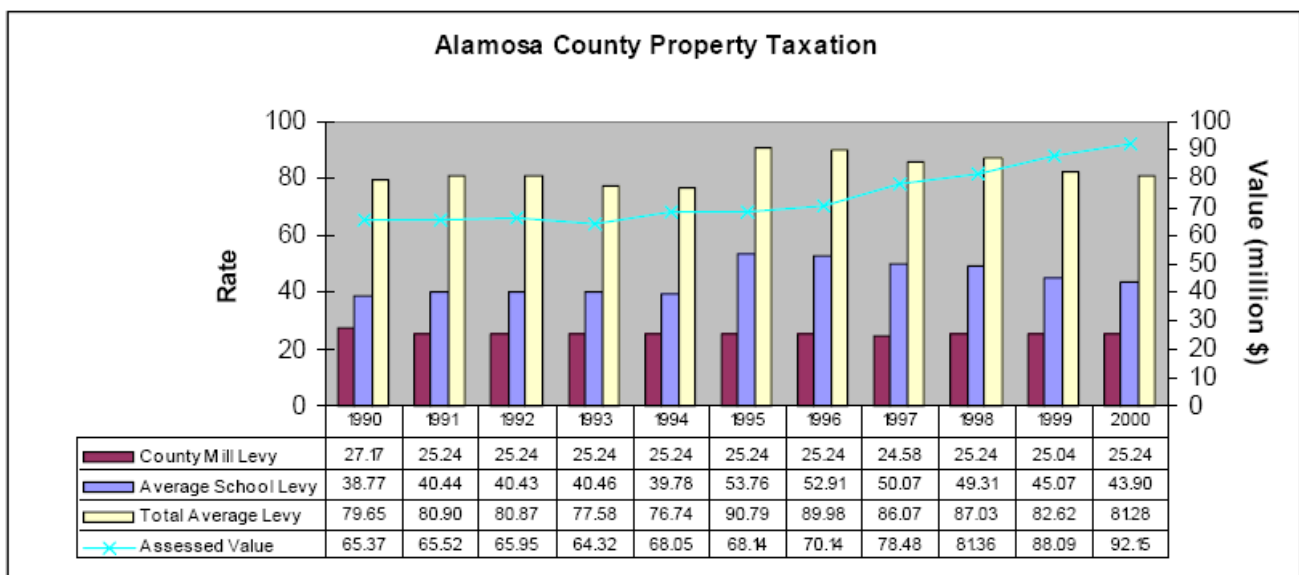
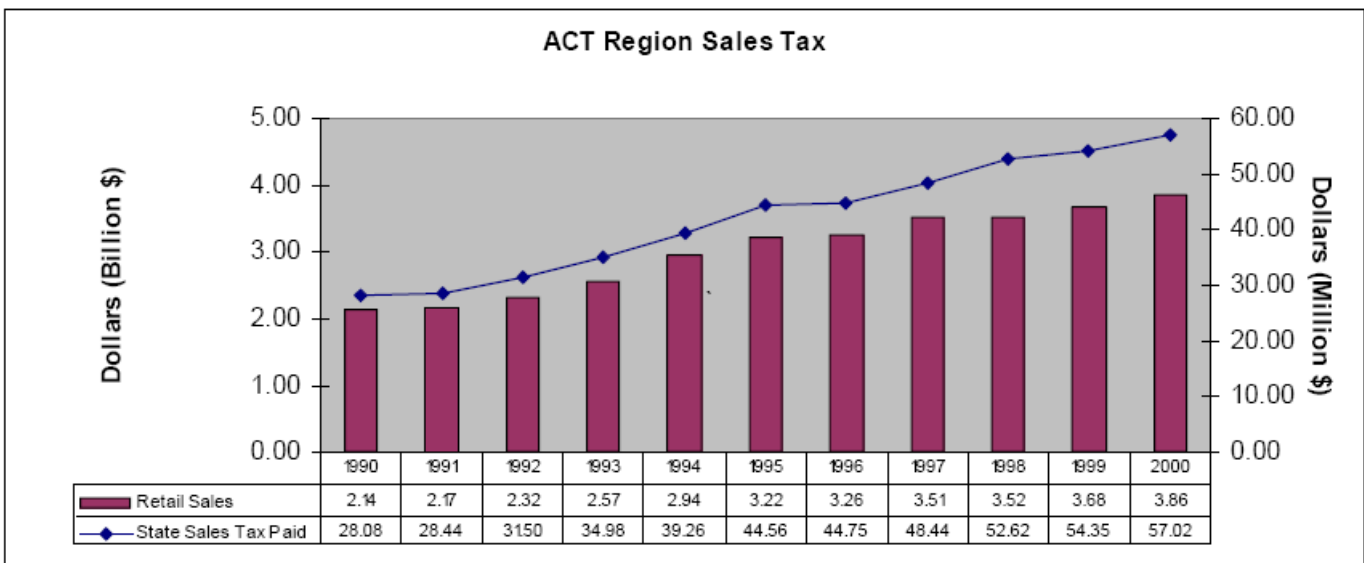
Between 1990 and 2000, retail sales in the ACT Region increased 80%. The region had persistent increases in retail sales increases and state sales tax generated increased by 103% over the period.

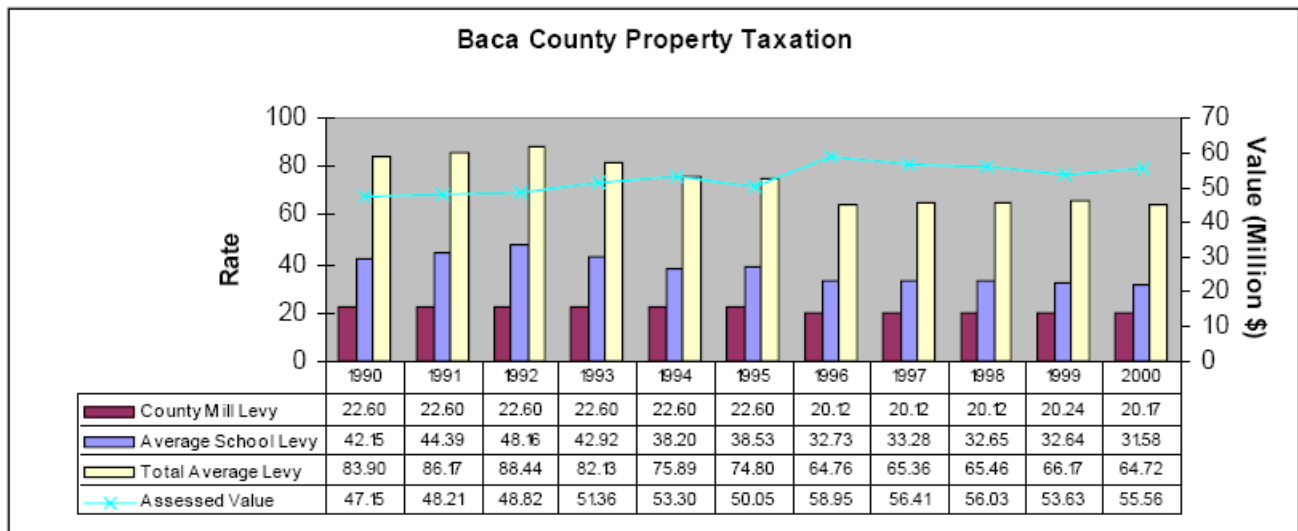
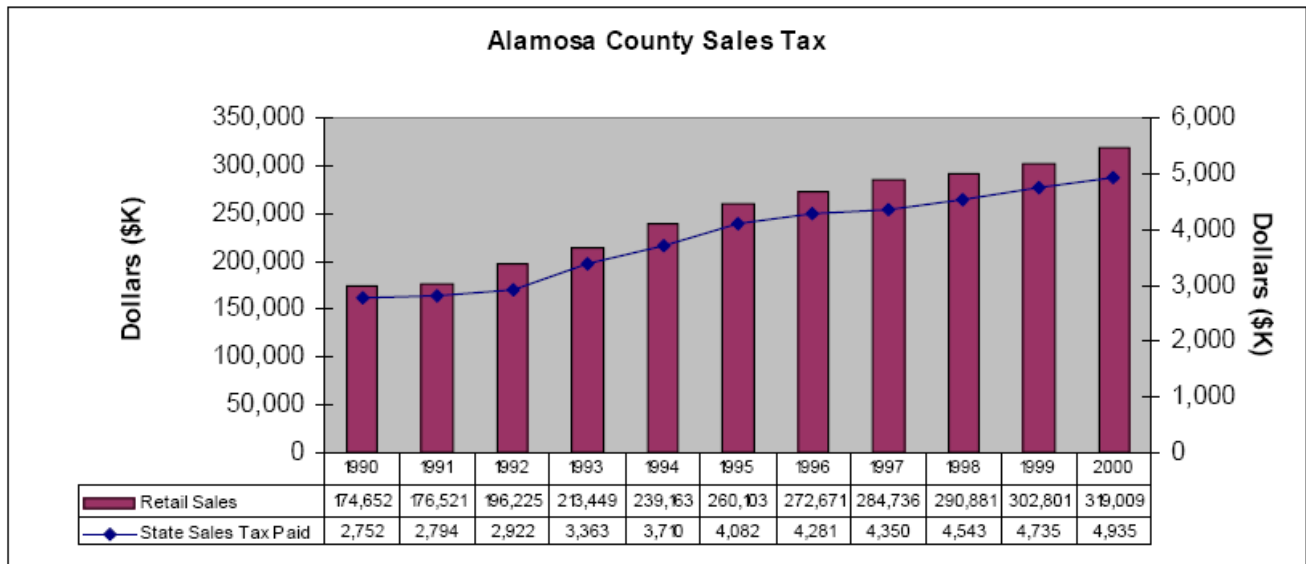
7.2 County trends in property and retail taxes

Total taxable assessed value in Alamosa County increased from \$65.4 million in 1990 to \$92.2 million in 2000, or by 41%. Between 1991 and 1996, the county mill levy remained constant at 25.24, then decreased in 1997, when taxable value increased by approximately \$8 million from the 1996 total taxable assessed value. During the decade, the highest county mill levy existed in 1990, when the rate was 27.17.

Alamosa County had the highest average school levy and the third highest total average levy regionwide in 2000. The average school levy in the county increased by 13% over the period, while the total average levy increased by 2%.

Regionally, Alamosa County had the third highest retail sales for the year 2000. Consequently, the county also had the second highest sales tax generated in the region. Over the decade, retail sales increased 83%, and sales tax generated increased 79%. Both retail sales and sales tax generated increased consistently over the decade.



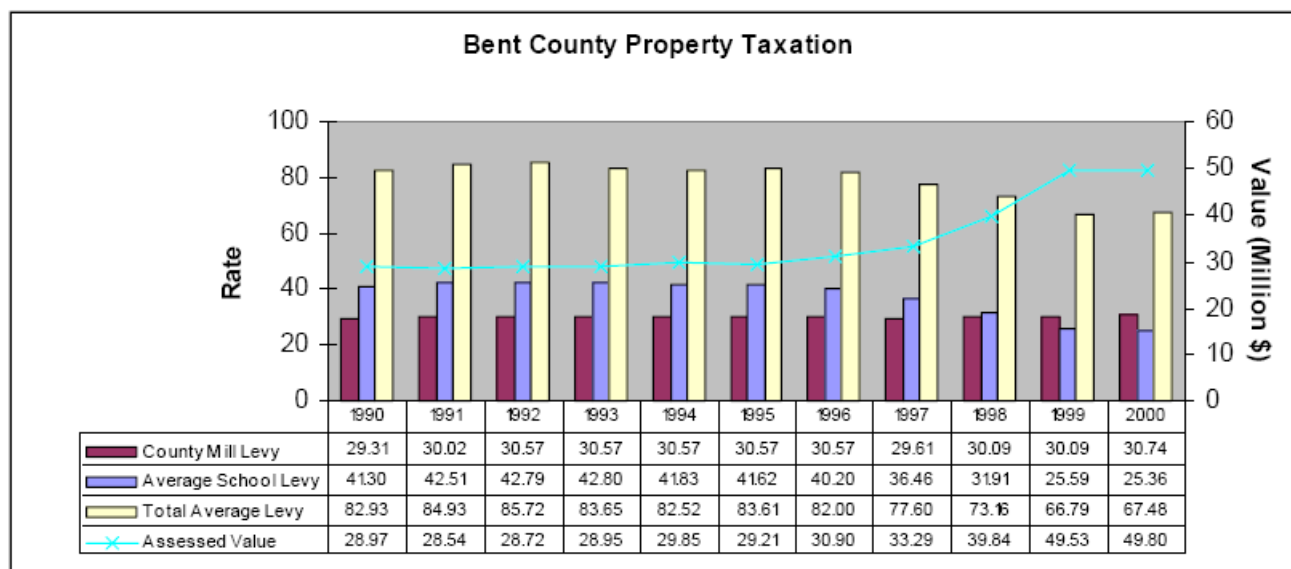
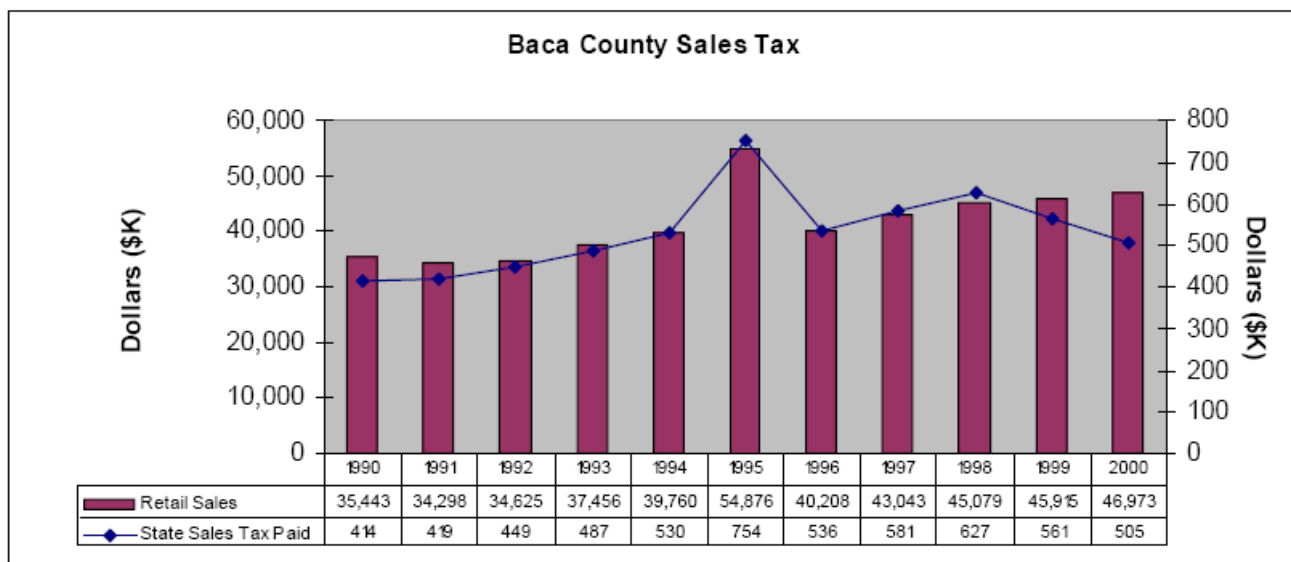


Baca County's total taxable property value increased from \$47.2 million in 1990 to \$55.6 million in 2000. The three levy categories decreased during the 1990s. The county mill levy declined by 11% over the period, while average school levy and total average levy declined by 25% and 23%, respectively. Between 1990 and 1995, the county mill levy remained constant at 22.6 then decreased in 1996 to 20.12, where the rate remained until 1998, increasing slightly in 2000.

Retail sales in Baca County increased from \$35.4 million in 1990 to \$46.9 million in 2000, or a 33%

increase. State sales tax generated by the county increased 22% over the decade.

Regionwide, Bent County had the third highest mill levy in 2000, increasing by 5% over the decade. Bent County also had the lowest average school levy within the region in 2000. Both average school levy and total average levy declined over the period, decreasing by 39% and 19%, respectively. Total taxable assessed value increased by 72% over the decade.



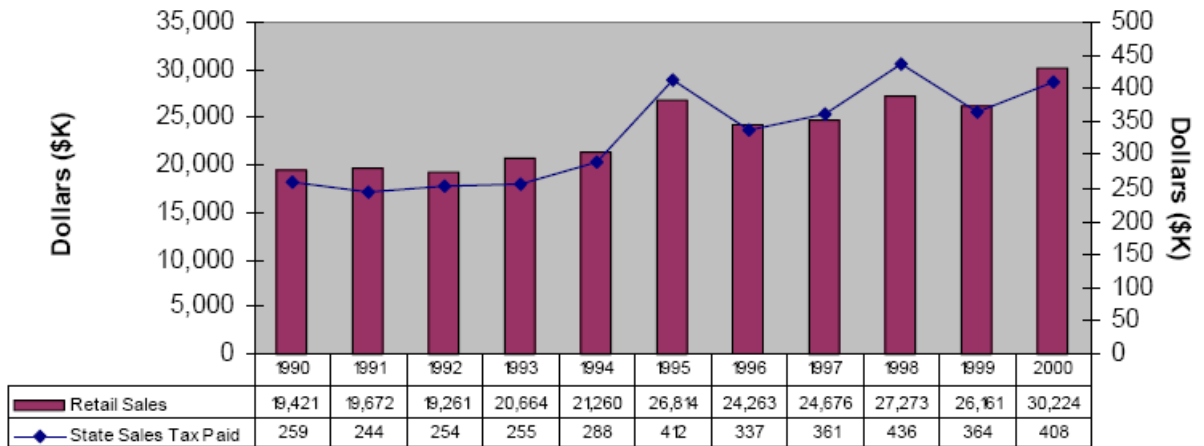
Sales in Bent County increased by 56%, and state sales tax generated increased by 58% over the decade. Sales tax generated reached the decade high in 1998, and the highest recorded retail sales occurred in 2000.

Conejos County was ranked eleventh for the total taxable assessed value in 2000 in the region. Despite this, Conejos County had a 29% increase in value over the decade. In 2000, a noticeable increase in total taxable value occurred while the county mill levy declined from the previous year. Despite this, there was an overall 7% increase in the county mill levy. Average school

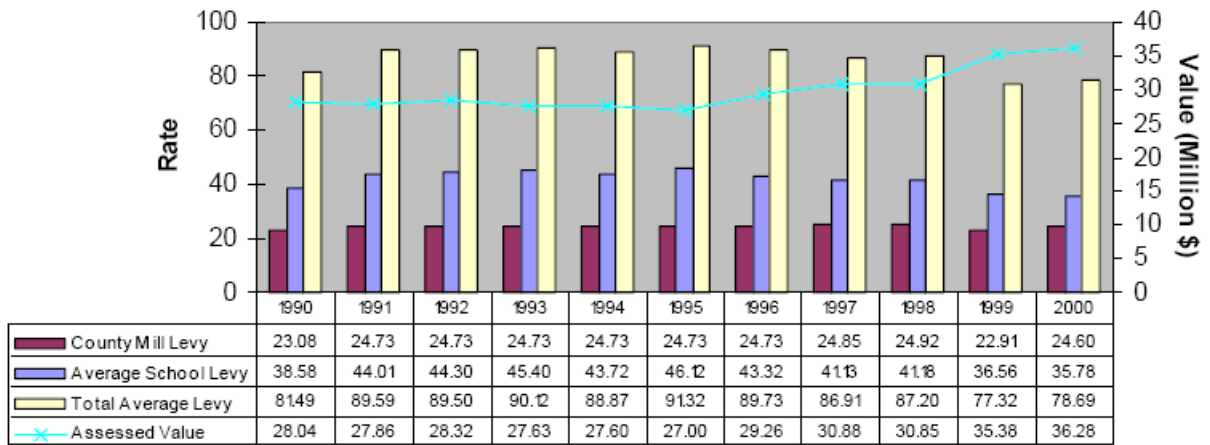
levy and total average levy decreased by 7% and 3%, respectively.

Retail sales in Conejos County peaked in 1994, increasing 119% from the previous year. State sales tax generated by Conejos County increased substantially in 1995 before resuming the increasing trend over the decade. Between 1990 and 2000, the overall retail sales increased 46% and state sales tax generated increased by 99%.

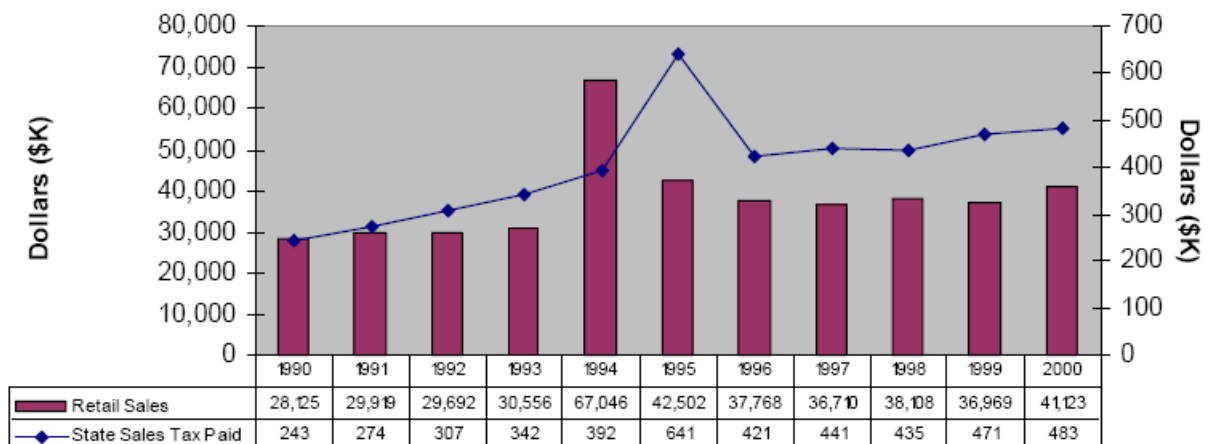
Bent County Sales Tax



Conejos County Property Taxation



Conejos County Sales Tax

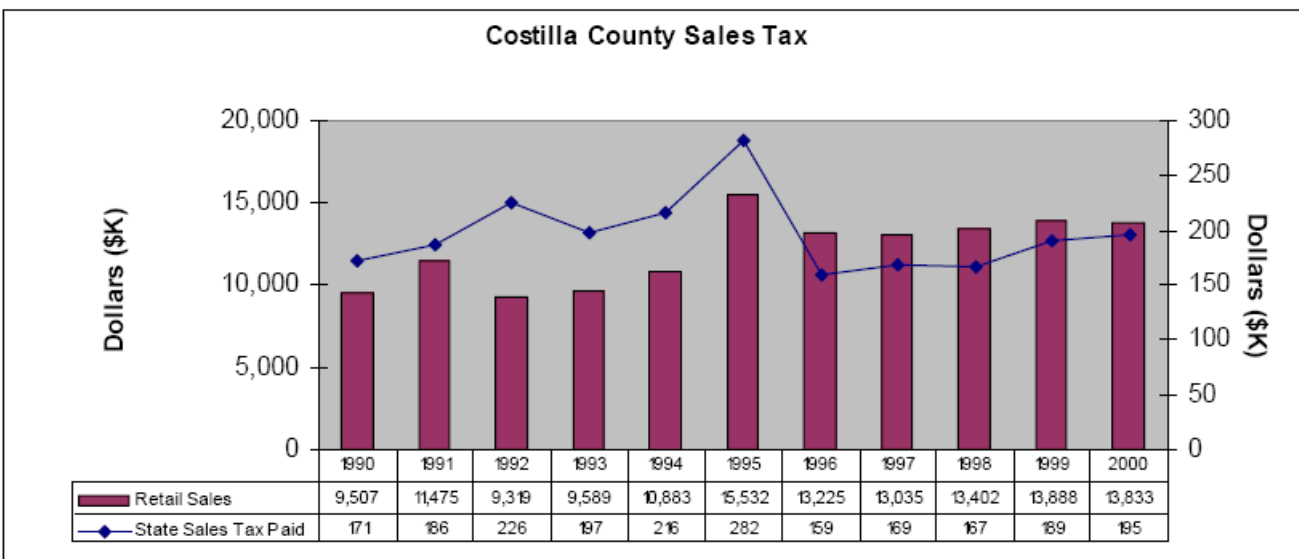
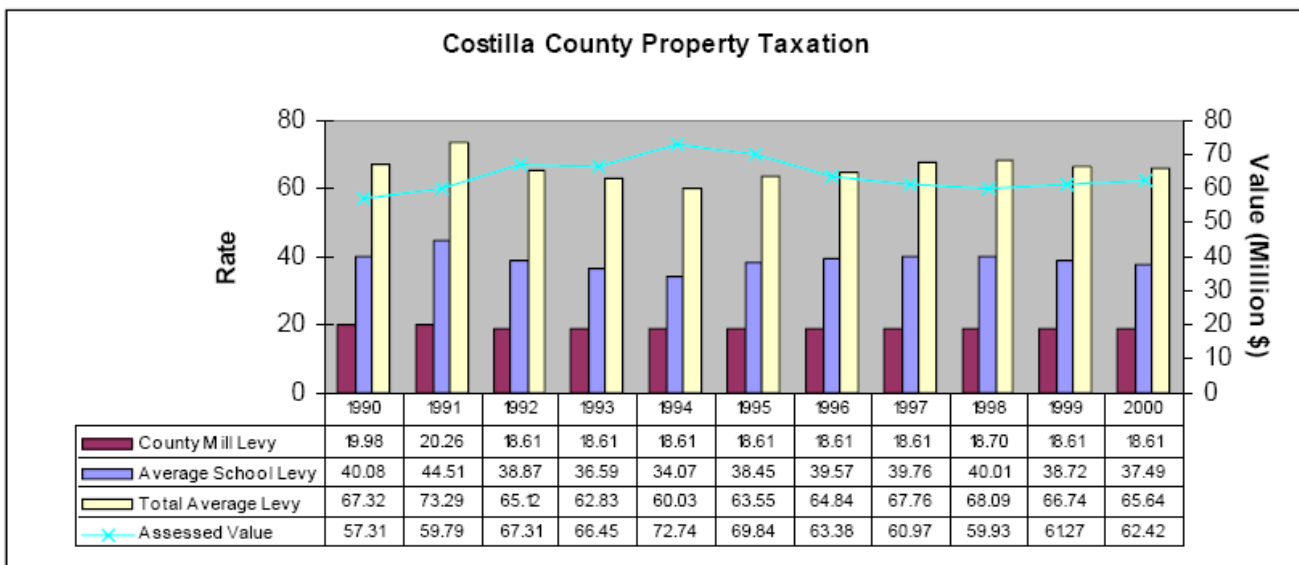


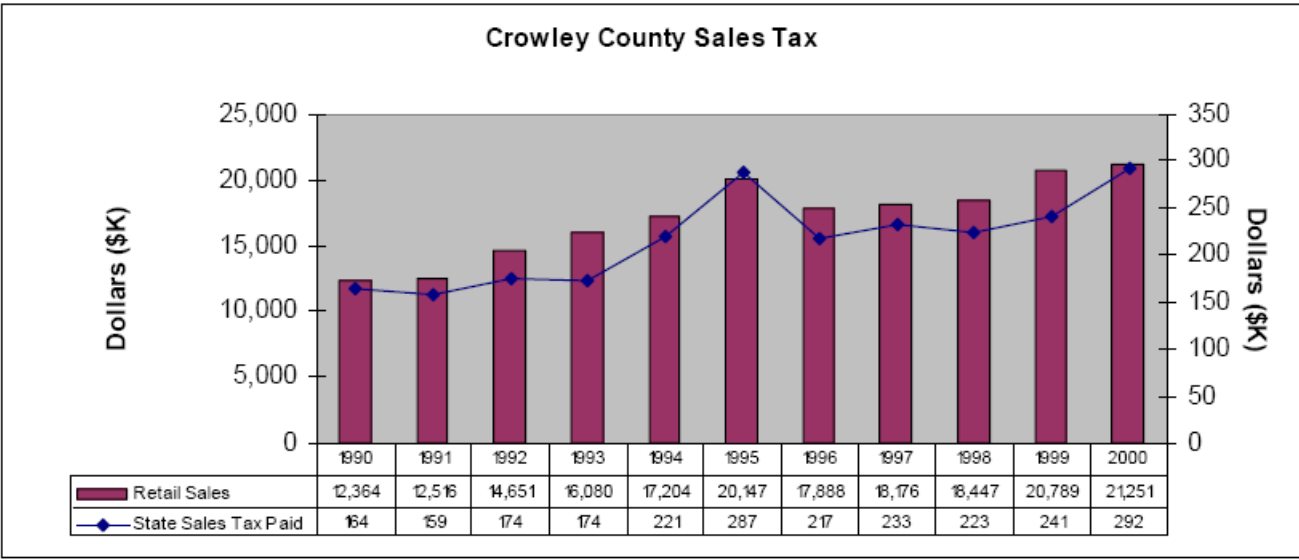
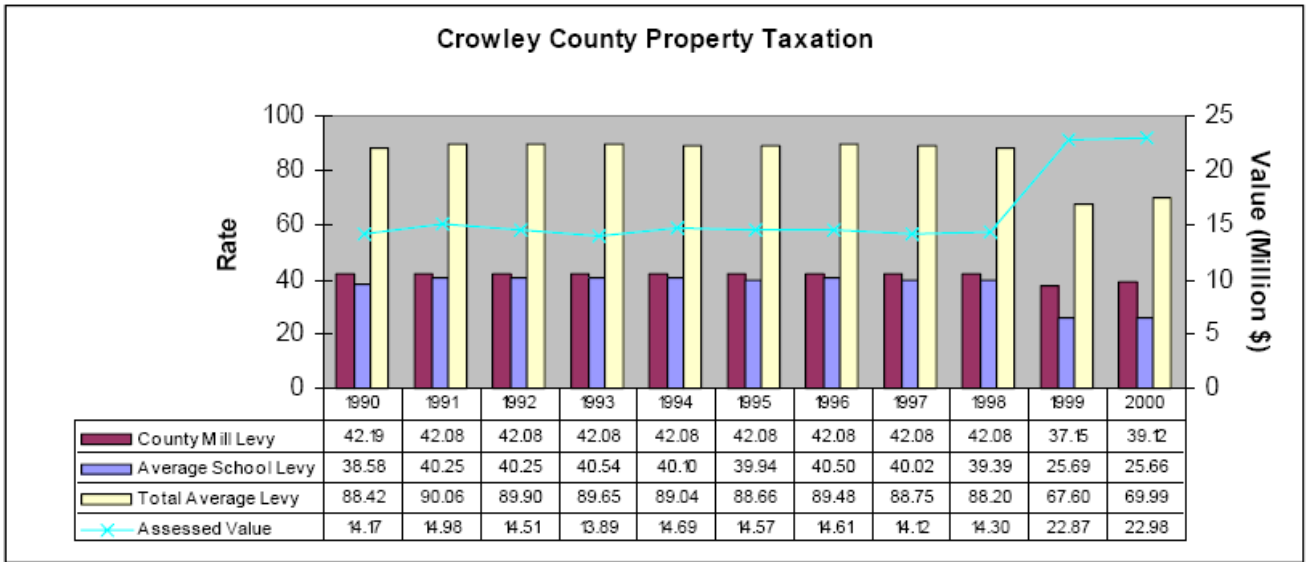
Costilla County had the eleventh highest county mill levy and the third highest average school levy in the region. The total taxable assessed value for Costilla County increased by 9% over the period, peaking in 1994. The county mill levy decreased by 7% over the period, while the average school levy and total average levy declined by 6% and 3%, respectively.

Retail sales in Costilla County increased by 46% over the decade, peaking in 1995. Costilla County was ranked twelfth in state sales tax generated regionally in 2000, although sales tax revenues increased by 14% over the decade. Similar to the highest amount of retail

sales, the highest amount of state sales tax generated by Costilla County occurred in 1995.

Crowley County had the second highest mill levy in the ACT Region in 2000, while also having the twelfth ranked average school levy and the lowest assessed value in 2000. Despite having the lowest total assessed value, it increased by 62% over the decade. The county mill levy stayed above 42 from 1990 to 1998, but then dropped in 1999 when the total taxable assessed value increased. The county mill levy decreased by 7% in the period, while both average school levy and total average levy declined by 33% and 21%, respectively.



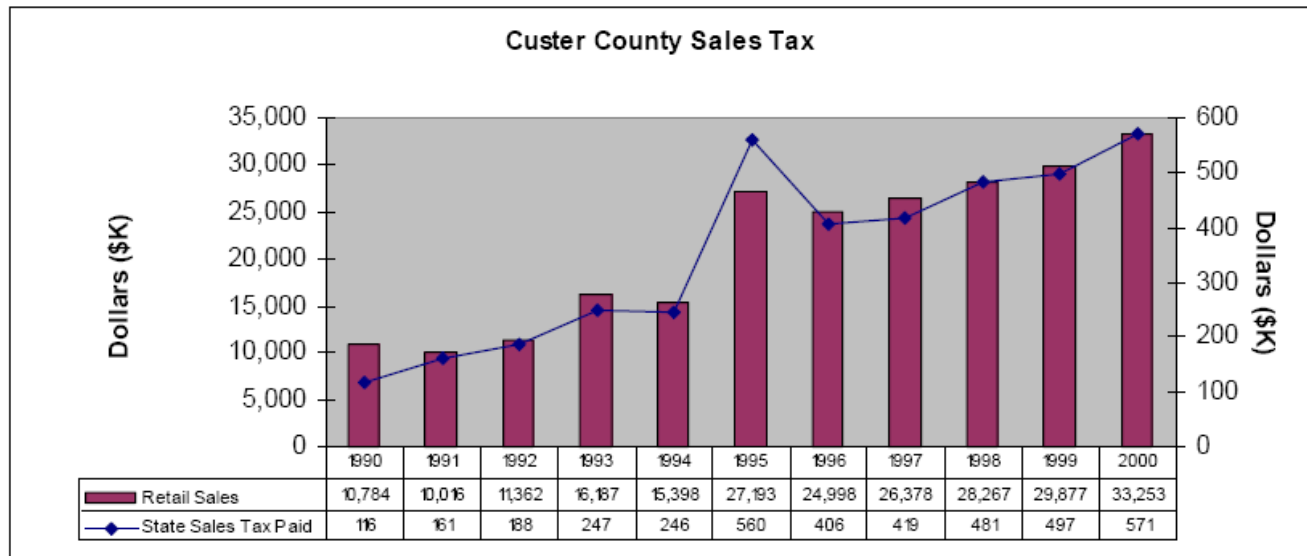
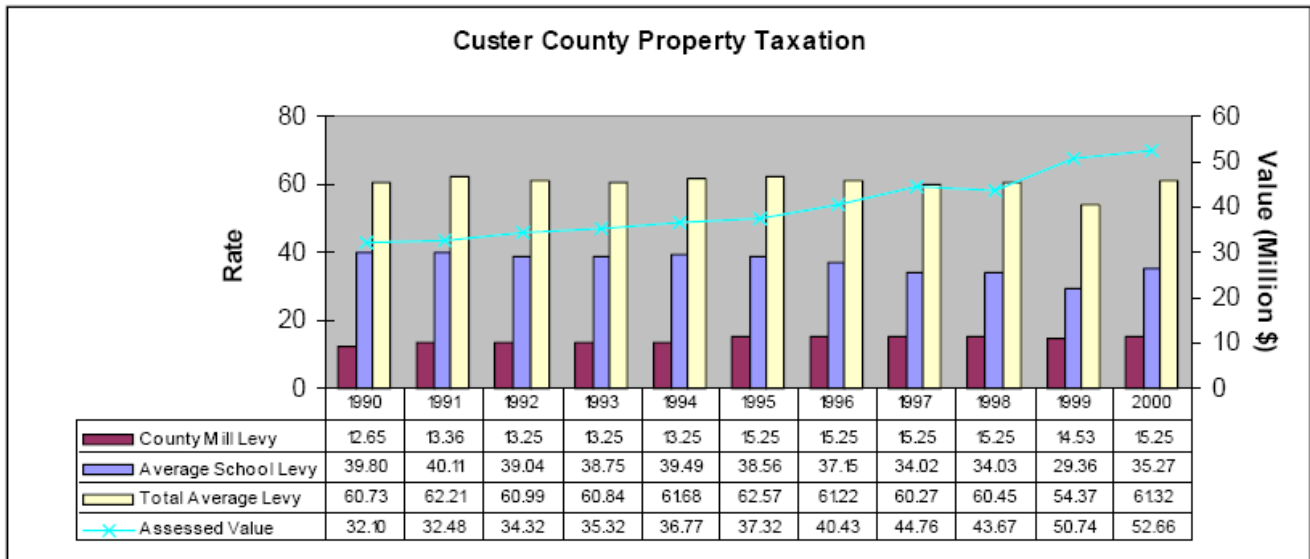


Retail sales in Crowley increased by 72% during the 1990s and state sales tax generated increased by 78%. Despite having a large increase over the decade, Crowley County ranked eleventh in sales tax generated in the region in 2000. In every year retail sales in the county increased with the exception 1996. Crowley generated the least sales tax revenue in 1991 and the most in 2000.

Regionally, Custer County had the lowest mill levy for 2000 and the twelfth ranking in total average levy. Total taxable assessed value increased by 64% over the

decade, following a consistent upward trend. The county mill levy remained stable from 1992 to 1994, and then increased from 13.25 to 15.25 in 1995, after which it remained fairly steady through the remainder of the decade. The average total school levy declined 11% over the period, while the county mill levy and the total average levy increased by 21% and 1%, respectively.

Retail sales in Custer County increased dramatically over the decade (208%). The state sales tax generated increased by 392%. Retail sales and state sales tax

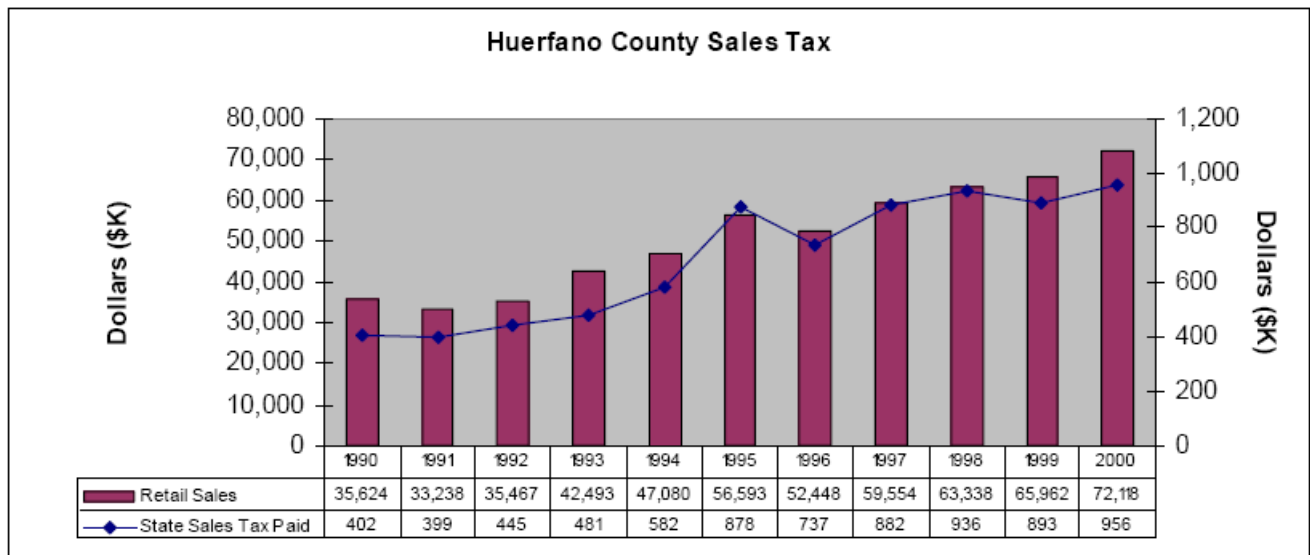
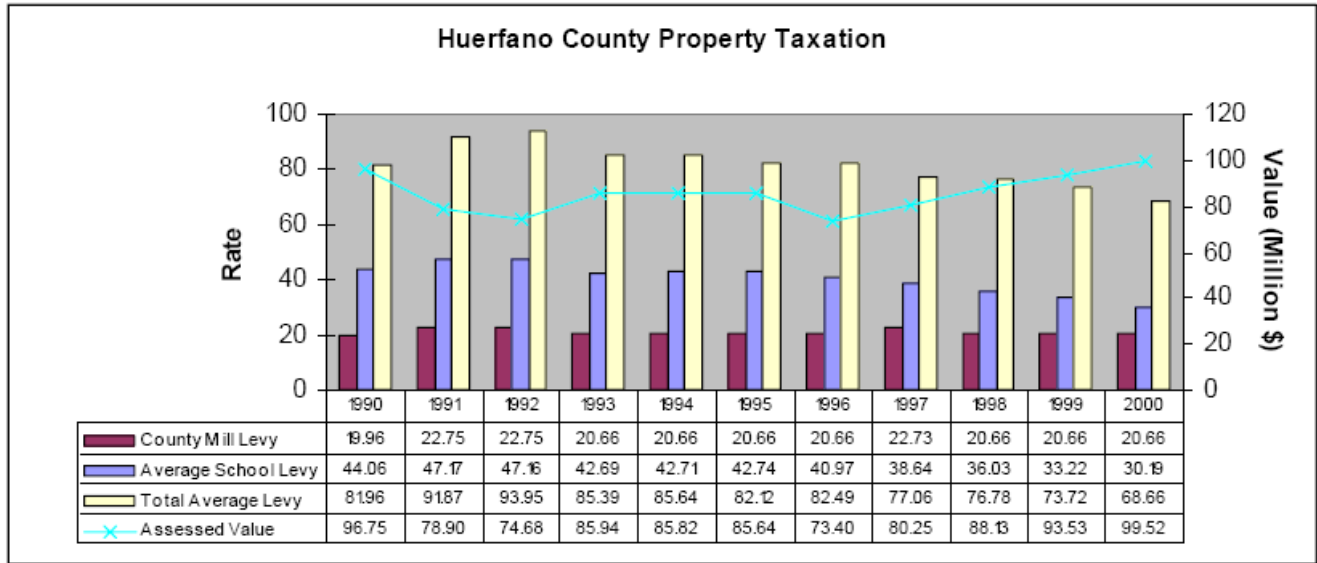


generated increased most markedly between 1994 and 1995, registering 77% and 136% increases, respectively. Both categories reached their highest point at the end of the decade.

Huerfano County had a 3% increase in the total taxable value during the 1990s. Regionwide, Huerfano had the third highest assessed value in 2000. County total assessed value followed a “U” shaped trend over the decade, decreasing, then stabilizing and finally returning to close to its 1990 level by 2000. Generally, an

inverse relationship between the mill levy rate and the total assessed value is in evidence. Huerfano County had a mill levy of 19.96 in 1990 that rose to 20.66 by 2000, an increase of 4%. Average school levy decreased by 31%, while total average levy declined by 16% for the decade.

In Huerfano County retail sales increased 102% and sales tax generated increased by 138%, each following a steady upward trend throughout the decade.

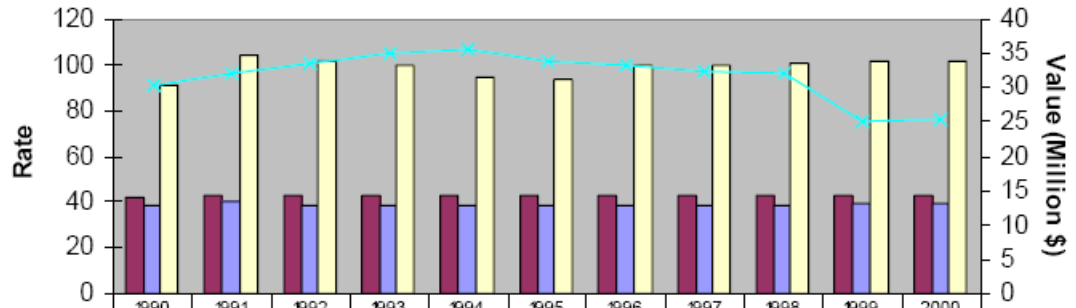


Regionwide, Kiowa County had the highest county mill levy and total average levy. Kiowa County also had the second highest average school levy in 2000 and the ranked twelfth in total taxable value in 2000, regionally. During the decade, Kiowa County realized a 16% decline in total taxable value. In 1990, the county mill levy was 42.25, increasing the following year to 42.73 to hold steady through the end of the decade. The average school levy for Kiowa County increased by 1%, while the total average levy increased by 11%.

Within the ACT Region, Kiowa County had the lowest amount of state sales tax generated in 2000. Sales tax generated decreased 21% between 1990 and 2000, even though retail sales increased by 16%.

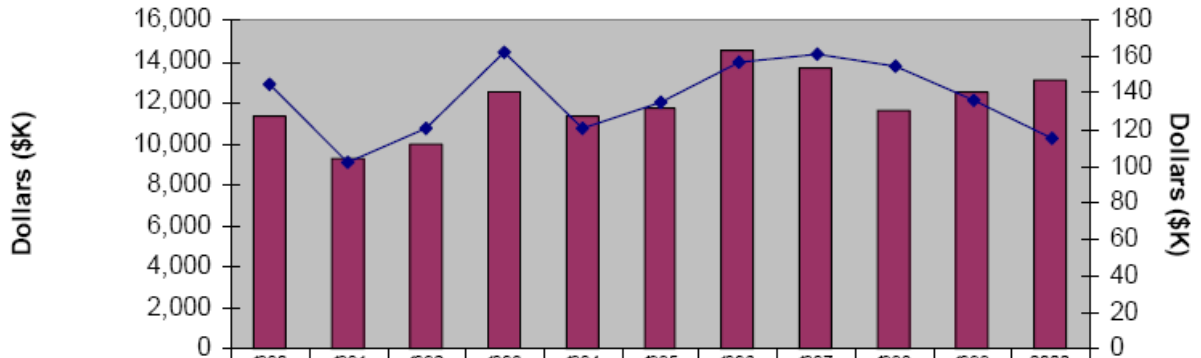
Regionally, Las Animas County had the second highest total assessed value for the 2000. Regionally, Las Animas County had the lowest total average levy, the twelfth ranking county mill levy, and the eleventh ranked average school levy in 2000. Taxable value increased by 94% over the decade. The highest mill

Kiowa County Property Taxation



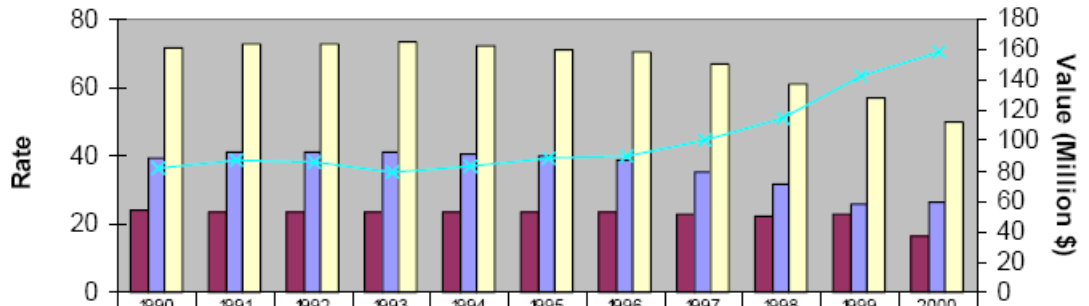
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
County Mill Levy	42.25	42.73	42.73	42.73	42.73	42.73	42.73	42.73	42.73	42.73	42.73
Average School Levy	38.82	40.19	38.86	38.47	38.50	38.52	38.56	38.58	38.72	39.16	39.10
Total Average Levy	90.93	103.91	101.67	100.23	94.25	94.16	100.24	100.22	100.44	101.51	101.35
Assessed Value	30.26	32.07	33.57	35.05	35.70	33.97	33.26	32.48	32.24	25.13	25.37

Kiowa County Sales Tax



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Retail Sales	11,270	9,238	9,940	12,502	11,281	11,734	14,563	13,641	11,647	12,490	13,101
State Sales Tax Paid	145	102	120	162	120	135	157	162	154	136	115

Las Animas County Property Taxation

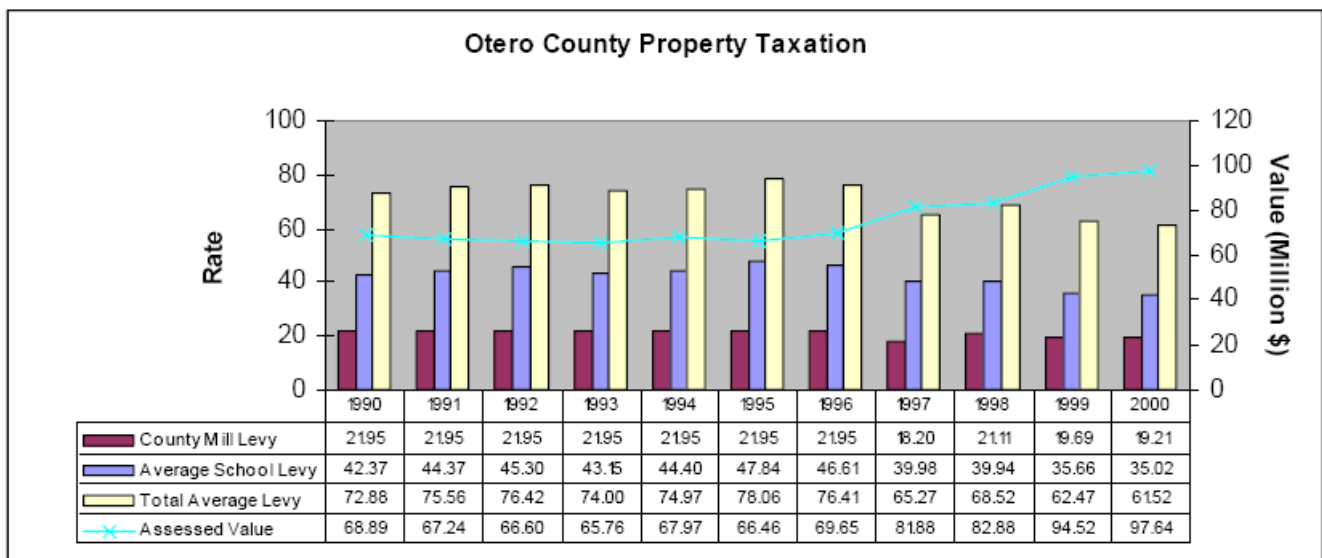
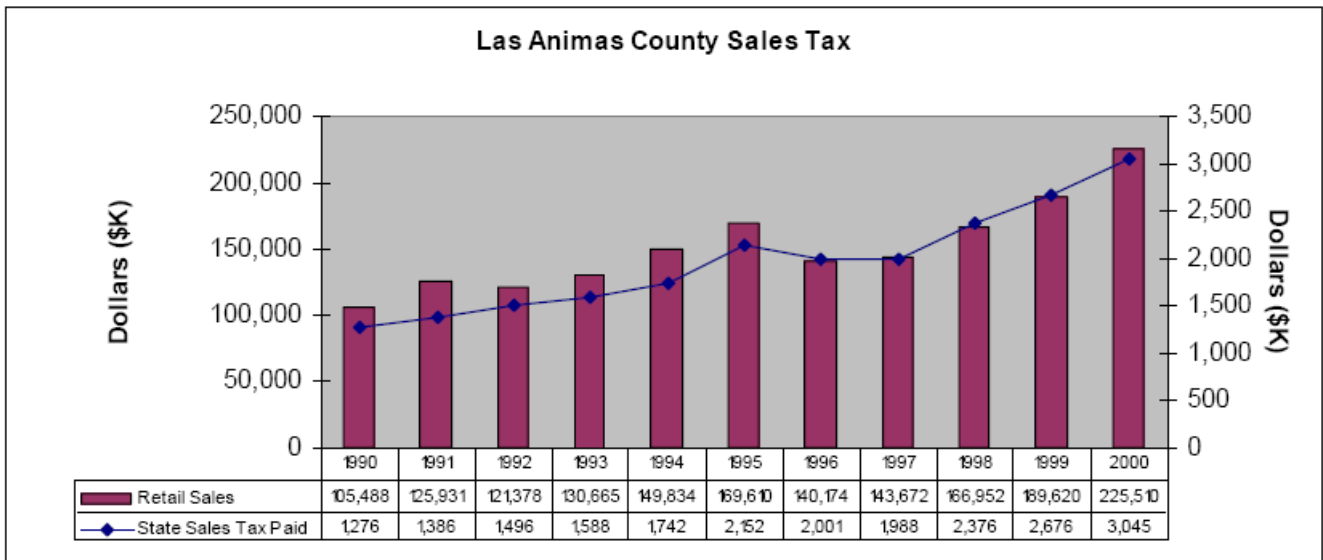


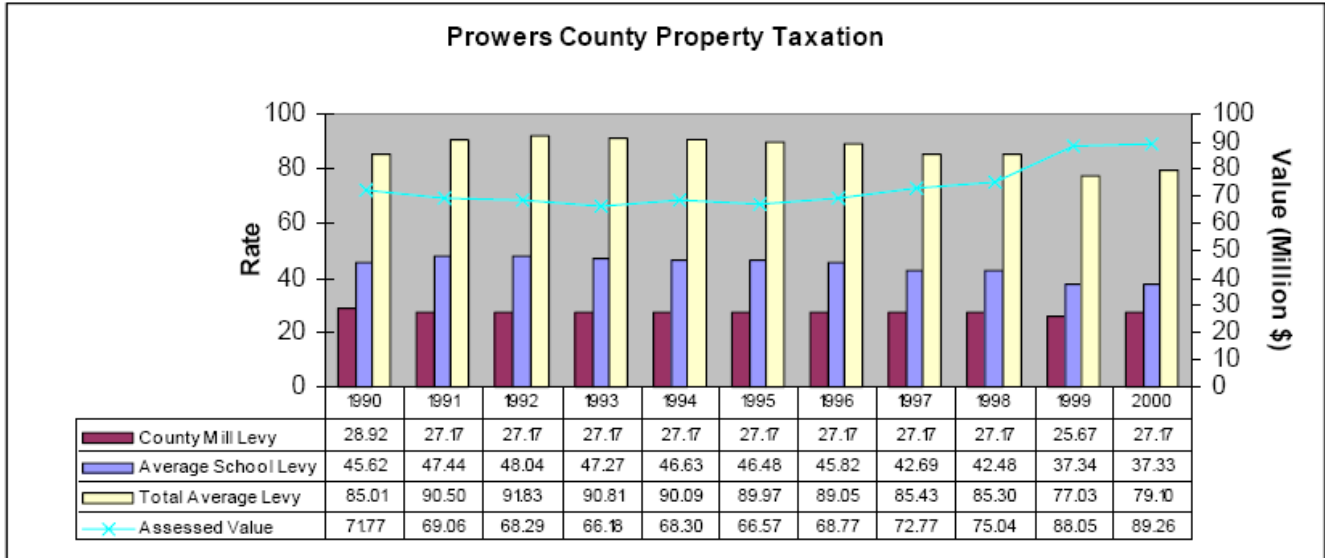
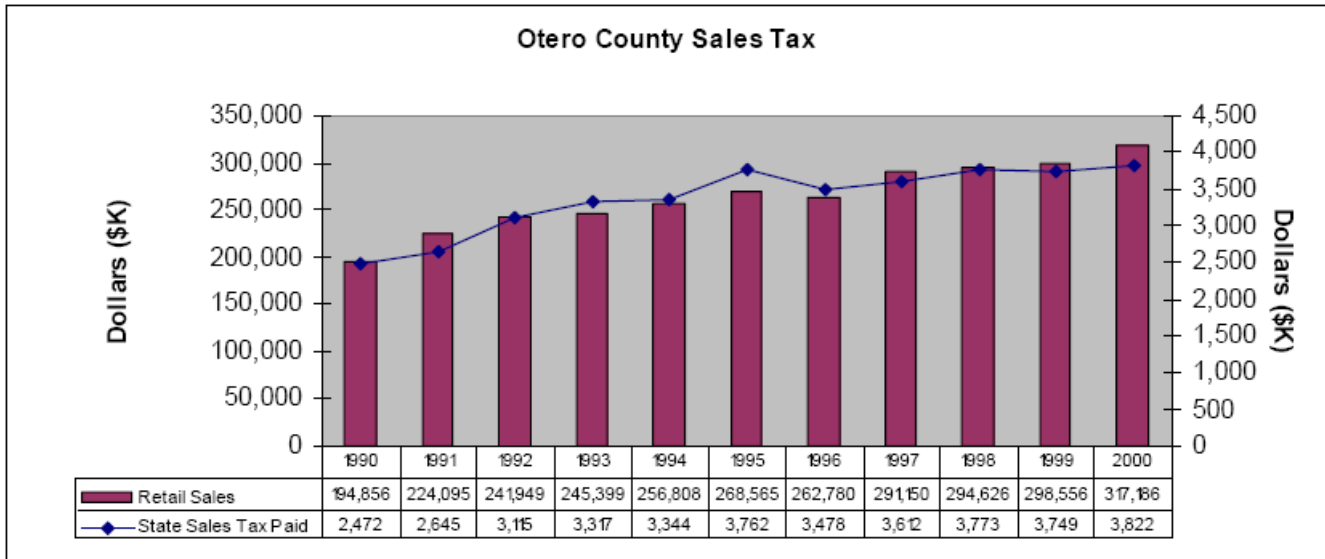
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
County Mill Levy	23.90	23.73	23.73	23.73	23.73	23.73	23.73	23.06	22.38	22.81	16.18
Average School Levy	39.43	41.02	41.22	40.89	40.57	40.02	38.85	35.58	31.52	25.81	26.45
Total Average Levy	71.56	72.90	73.13	73.33	72.59	71.46	70.57	67.20	61.04	56.81	50.28
Assessed Value	81.99	86.96	85.47	79.09	83.38	88.59	90.52	100.51	115.03	142.30	159.00

levy for the decade occurred in 1990 when it reached 23.9, then held relatively constant until dropping in 1997 and 1998, when the decade low rate of about 22 was observed. During the period the county mill levy declined by 32%, while average school levy declined by 33% and total average levy decreased by 30%.

The sales tax generated by Las Animas increased by 139% and retail sales increased by 114% through the 1990s. Both measures followed fairly consistent upward trends through the decade, reaching retail sales of \$225.5 million and sales tax generated of \$3 million by 2000.

Otero County had the third highest total taxable value and eleventh ranked total average levy regionwide in 2000. The county mill levy remained at 21.95 between 1990 and 1996, and then dropped slightly as taxable value increased from 1998 through 2000. Over the entire period the county mill levy decreased by 12%, while the average school levy and the total average levy decreased by was stable, if slightly decreasing, 17% and 16%, respectively. The total taxable value through 1993, eventually increasing by 42% over the decade and reaching its highest level in 2000.



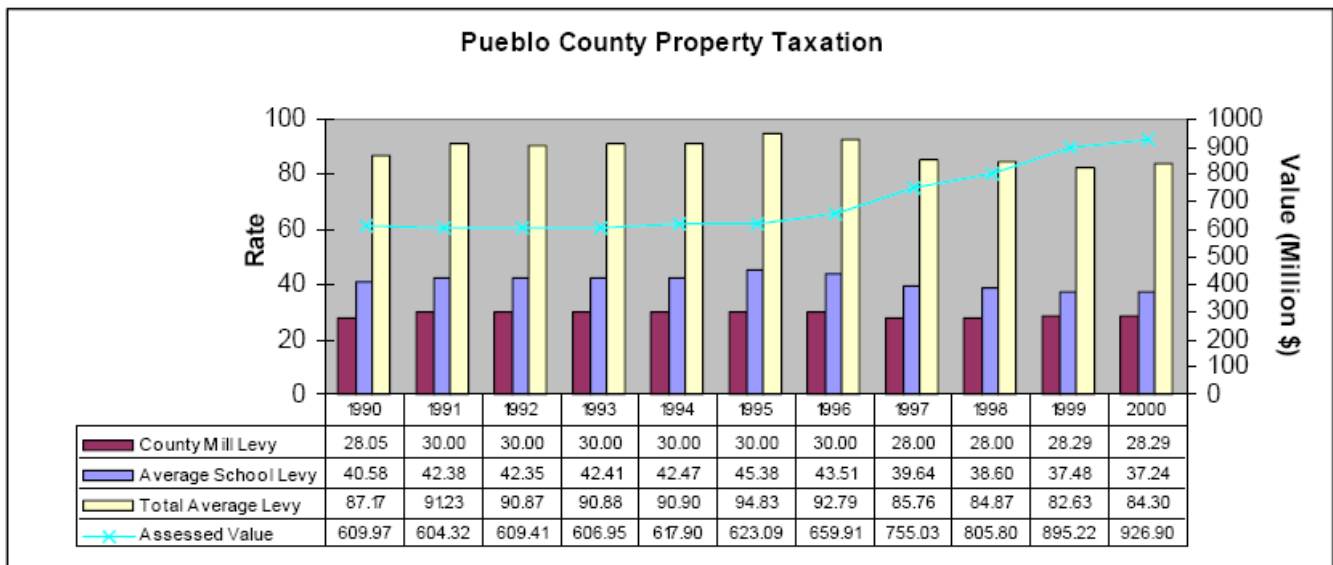
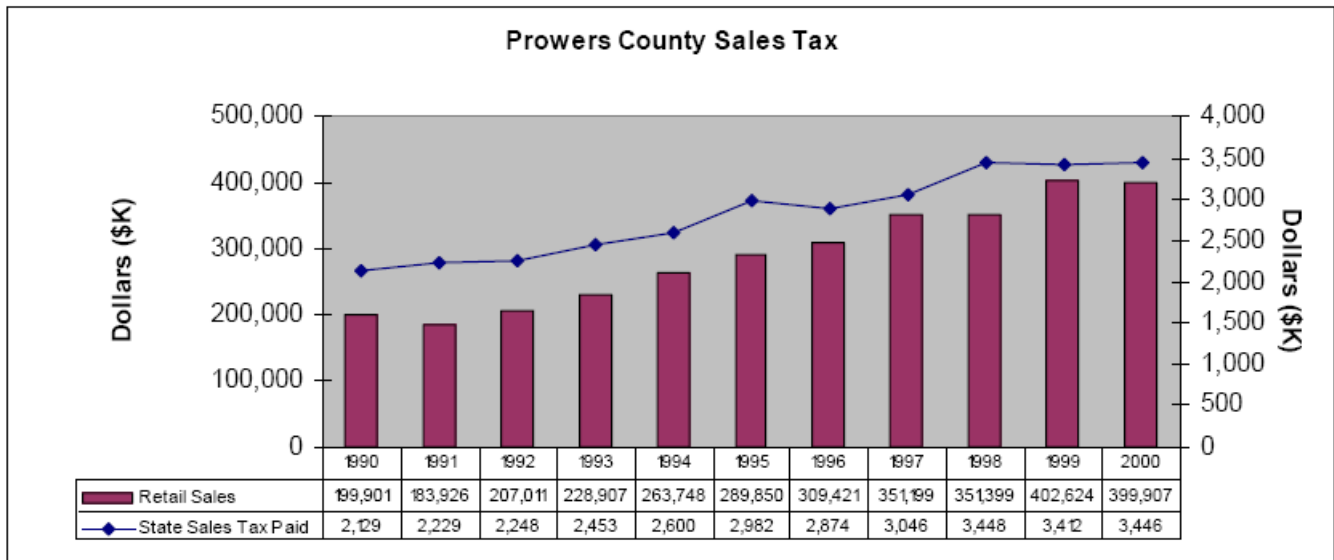


During the 1990s, Otero County had an increase by 63% in retail sales and an increase of 55% in state sales tax revenues generated. Both measures trended consistently upward over the period. The \$3.8 million in state sales tax generated was the third highest regionwide for 2000.

After remaining relatively stable through 1996, Prowers County increased in total taxable value by 24% over the decade of the 1990s. The mill levy was inversely related to taxable value hitting its highest

value in 1991 and reaching its decade low in 2000. The county mill levy decreased by 6% for the period, while average school levy decreased by 18% and total average levy declined by 7%.

Retail sales in Prowers County increased by 100% over the 1990s. Prowers County had the second highest regionwide retail sales in 2000. State sales tax generated increased by 62% over the period. Both sales and tax revenues following a general upward trend throughout the decade.

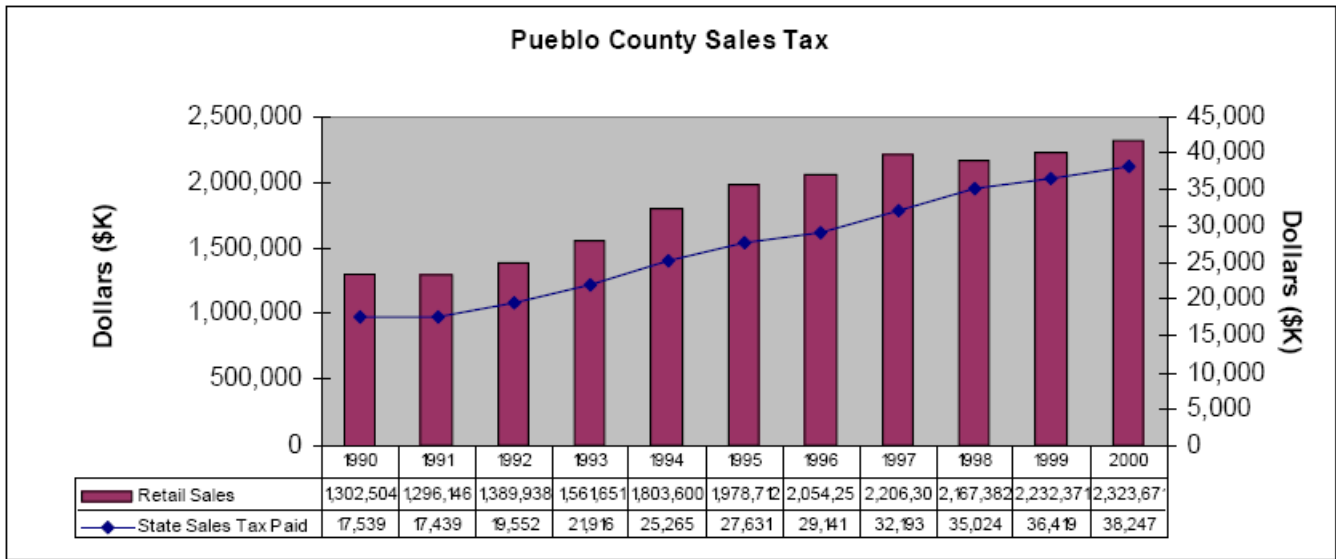


Pueblo County had the highest recorded assessed value in the region for 2000 and also had the second highest total average levy in 2000. Taxable value in Pueblo County climbed by 52% over the decade, as the mill levy had an inverse, if variable, relationship with property values for the same period. Following a two point increase in 1991, the mill levy remained constant until 1997 when it was dropped to the decade low for two years, increasing slightly in 2000 and ending the decade at a slightly higher rate than it began. Over the period the county mill levy increased by 1%, while the average school levy and total average levy declined by 8% and 3%, respectively.

Regionwide, Pueblo County had the highest retail sales and state sales tax generated for 2000. Retail sales in the county increased by 78% over the decade and sales tax increased by 118%. The highest recorded retail sales and state sales tax generated occurred in 2000, which accounted for 60% of all retail sales and 67% of sales tax generated by the region.

7.3 Taxation Conclusion

The mill levy is a property tax that is used to provide essential government services to the community (e.g, roads, emergency services, and public education). For a given portfolio of services it can be expected that



total assessed value and average mill levy should be inversely related. Increases in population create greater demands on public services, but also generate sales tax and property tax revenues. If increases in population and assessed value are not accompanied by reductions in average tax burden, then population growth is not paying its way or the community has decided to increase the amount or quality of services provided per capita. For example, Alamosa and Custer County both experienced increases in population and assessed value. Despite this there were increases in the mill levy over the period.

Sales taxes are typically regressive, which means that poorer people suffer a disproportionate amount of the sales tax burden. For example, regardless of who you are you are going to pay 2% on the purchase of good. That 2% represents a higher proportion of a poor person's income than that of a wealthier individual. Increases in sales tax rates as a substitute for increasing mill levies (which tend to place greater burden on the relatively wealthy) for counties who are concerned about their poorer residents. However, sales taxes are popular in counties for which tourism is an important economic sector. Tourists pay sales taxes, but not mill levies. Either due to population growth, income growth or actual increases in sales tax rates, the total sales tax paid have increased in every county of the ACT region throughout the observation period.

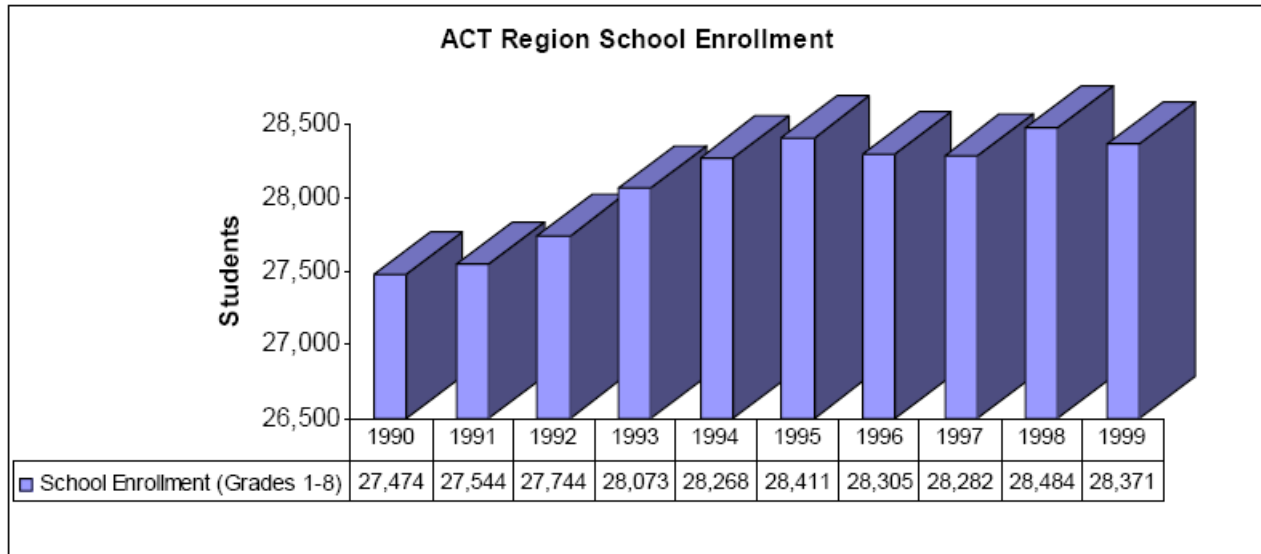
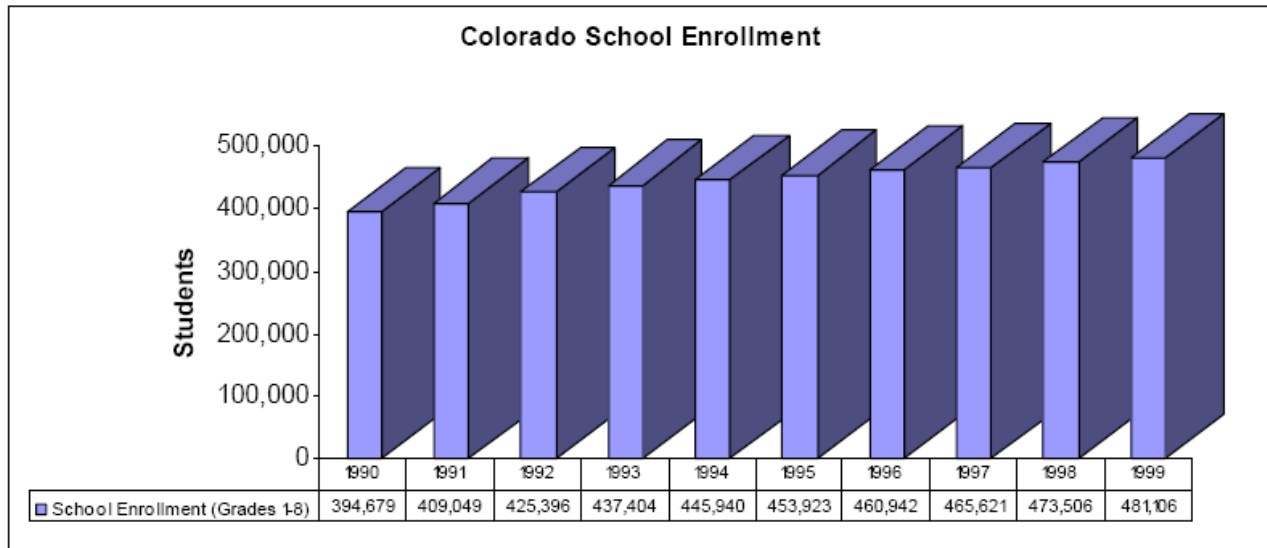
8. Education

Colorado had the nation's highest percentage of residents with college degrees (more than 1 in 3) and ranks third highest in the percentage of high school graduates. Colorado's high school class of 2001 had a graduation rate of 80.5%, which was slightly less than the 80.9% rate in 2000. This report uses the October Average Daily Attendance and is reported by the Colorado Department of Education.

8.1 School enrollment summary and overview

Colorado had consistent increases in the number of students enrolled into grades 1-8, while the region had some decreases in the period. Overall, the ACT Region had a 3% increased enrollment for the period, while the state had a 21% increase.

Using the most recent data available, Pueblo County had the highest number of students in the 1-8 grade in 1999. Otero County had the second most students, followed by Alamosa County. Kiowa County had the fewest students, Custer County enrolled the second fewest students, and Crowley County had the third fewest students enrolled in 1999. Baca, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers Counties showed decreases in students in grades 1-8 over the decade, while the rest of the region experienced increases.



Overall, school enrollment in the ACT Region increased by 3% for the period, with the greatest number of students enrolled in 1998. Between 1990 and 1995, enrollment increased steadily before declining in 1996. Between 1995 and 1999, the region had small variations in the number of students, but for the most part remained relatively stable.

8.2 County trends in school enrollment

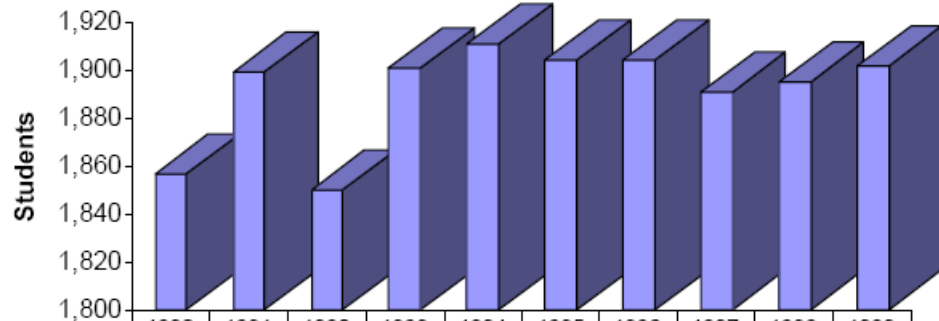
Alamosa County showed some variation in the number of students enrolled, but the high in 1994 is only 61 students more than that of the low recorded in 1992. Over the decade, Alamosa County had an 2% increase in enrollment. Regionwide, Alamosa County had the

third highest number of enrolled students in grades 1-8, accounting for 7% of the region's total in 1999.

Baca County had a 16% decrease in school enrollment by the end of the 1990s. From 1990-1996 Baca County enrollment remained within a 40 student band between 534 and 573 students. From 1995 through 1999 enrollment declined at an average rate of 25 students per year.

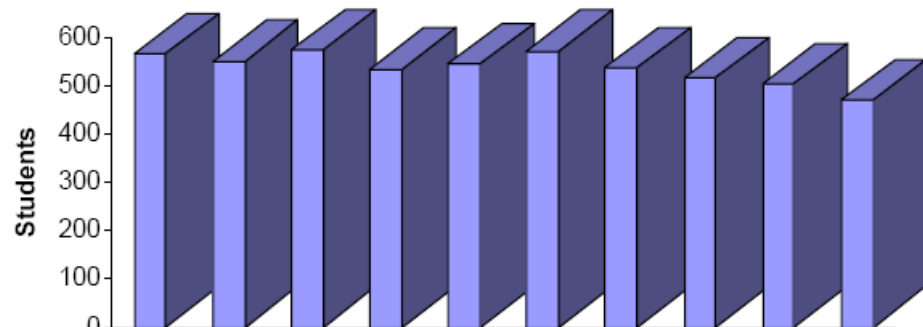
Over the decade, Bent County had a 6% increase in the number of students in grades 1-8. However, year to year variation in Bent County enrollments were substantial (2-9%) within the period. The highest student

Alamosa County School Enrollment



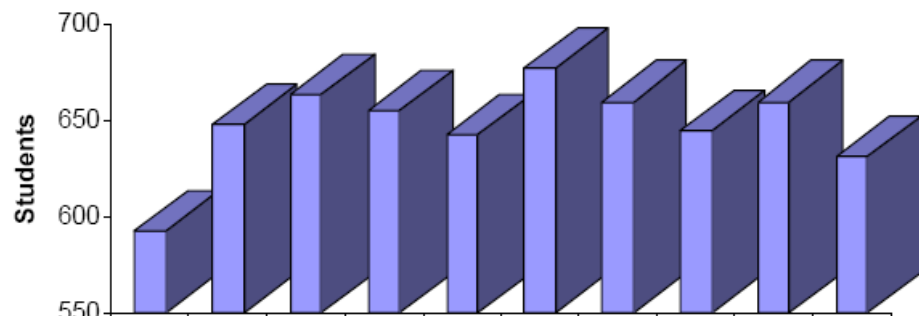
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
School Enrollment (Grades 1-8)	1,857	1,899	1,850	1,901	1,911	1,904	1,904	1,891	1,895	1,902

Baca County School Enrollment



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
School Enrollment (Grades 1-8)	566	551	573	534	543	571	535	517	503	470

Bent County School Enrollment



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
School Enrollment (Grades 1-8)	593	648	664	655	643	677	660	645	660	631

enrollment was in 1995 and the lowest occurred in 1990.

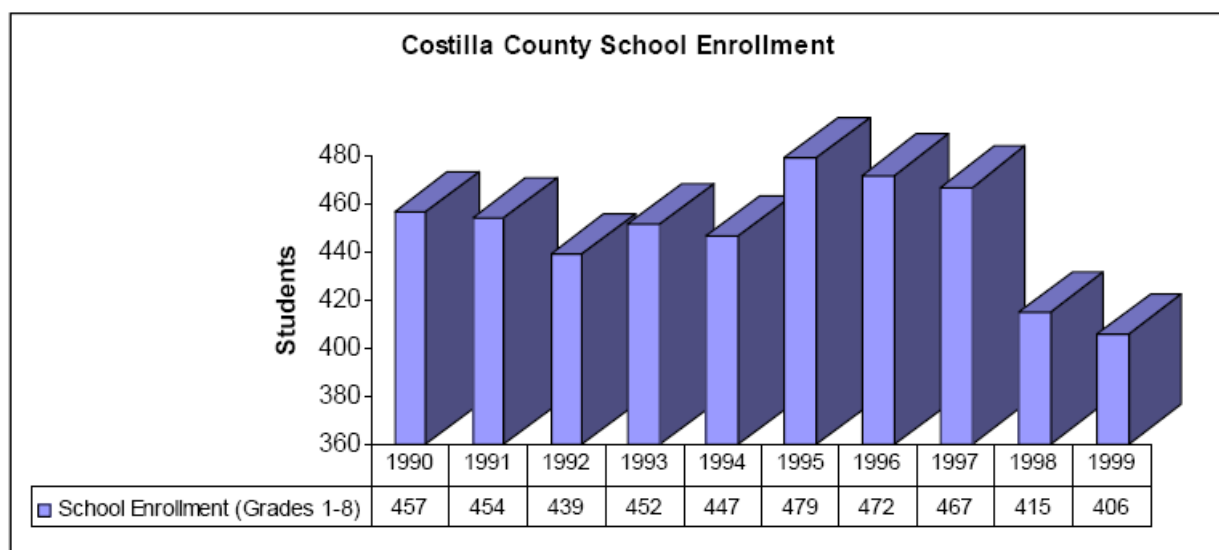
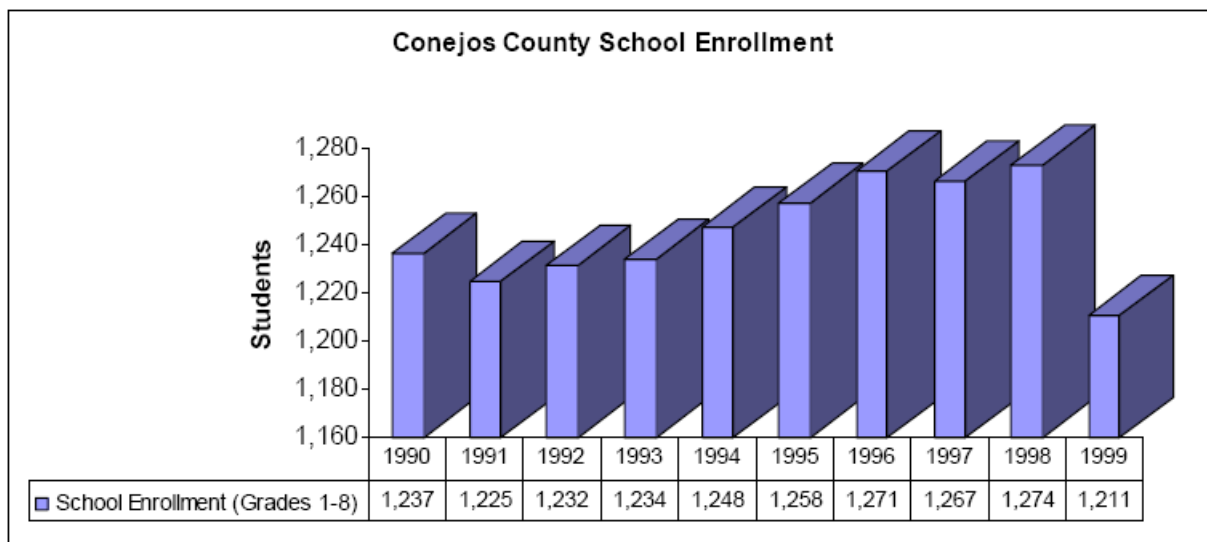
After increasing for most of the decade, Conejos County school enrollment had a net decrease 2% (26 students) over the period. Conejos County had increases for every year following 1991 until reaching the period high in 1998. Between 1998 and 1999, a relatively large (5%) decrease in students was observed. Conejos County schools reached the period low school enrollment in 1999 with 1,211 students.

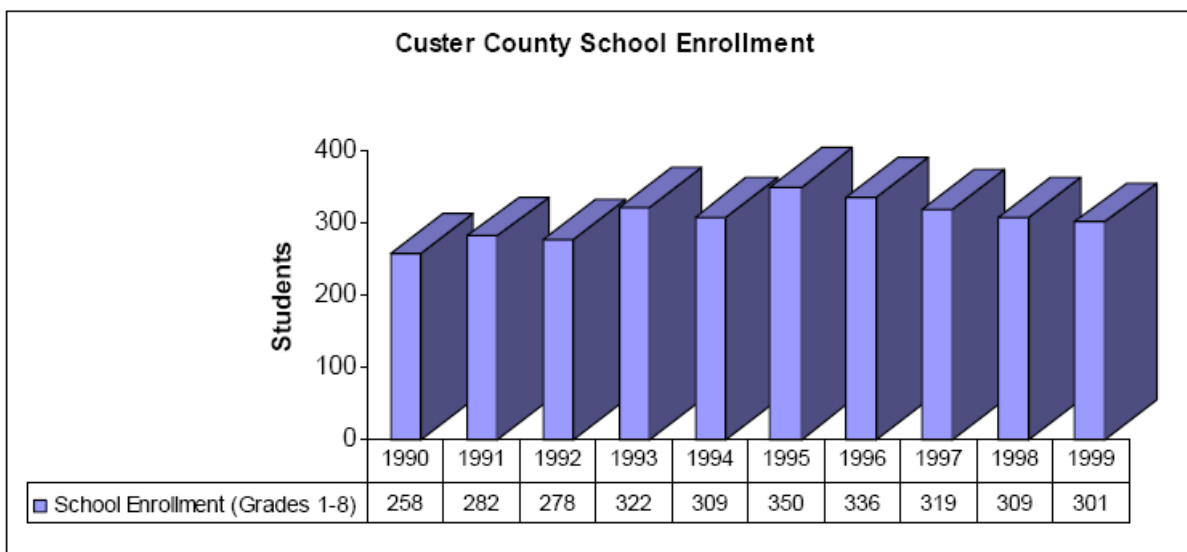
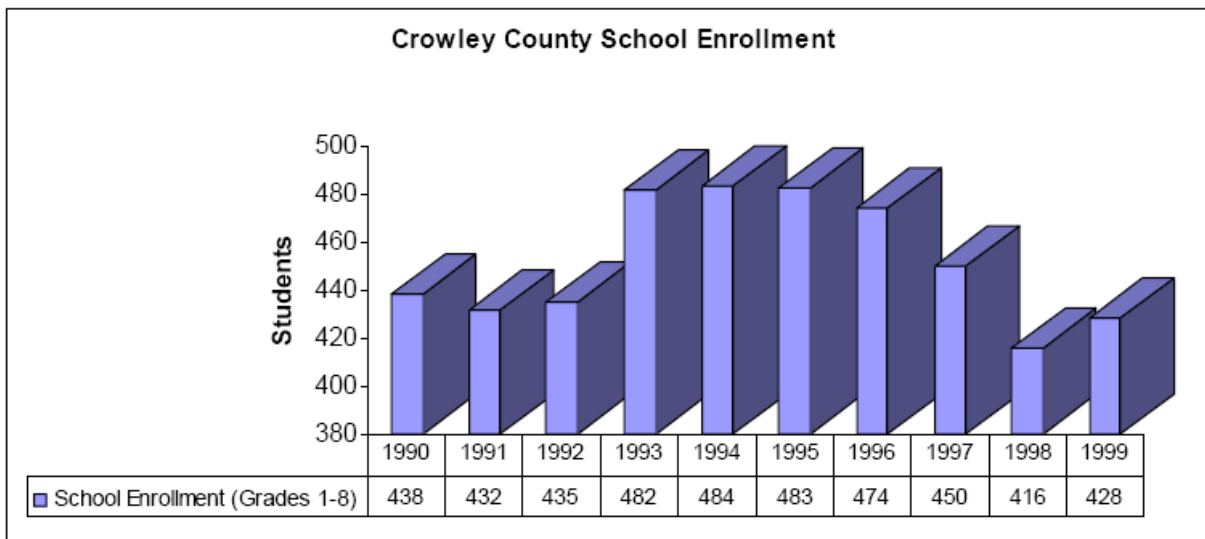
Regionwide, Costilla County had the eleventh ranked number of enrolled students in 1999. Costilla County also had an 11% (51 student) decrease in the number of enrolled students over the period. The period low

was in 1999, and the period high occurred in 1995. Enrollments were relatively stable in the first half of the 1990s, while a general decline in enrollments was observed in the latter half of the decade.

Crowley County elementary student enrollments increased by 44 students and 11% by 1994 before declining to a net loss of 10 students by the end of the 1990s. The number of students in Crowley County hit the period low of 416 students in 1998.

Regionwide, Custer County ranked twelfth in the number of students in grades 1-8. However, Custer County school enrollment increased by 17% for the period, rising from 258 students in 1990 to 301 pupils by 1999. The highest recorded observation occurred in





1995, when enrollment reached 350 students. Steady annual decreases were observed for the remainder of the observation period.

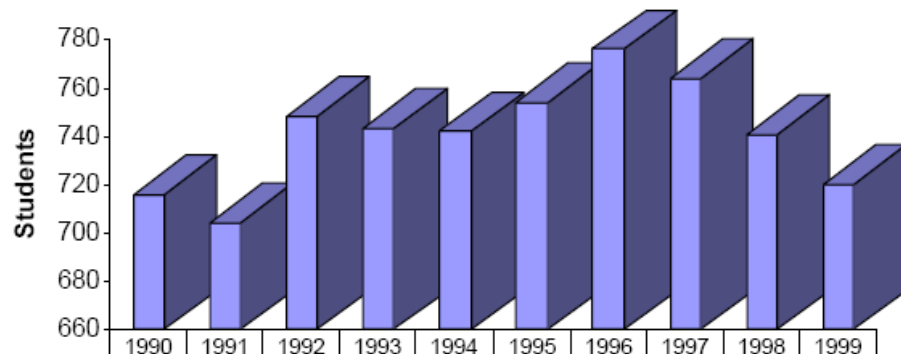
Huerfano County had a 1% net increase in the number of students over the decade. The most students were registered 1996, reaching 776, and the fewest students occurred in 1991, when the county total equaled 704 students.

Regionwide, Kiowa County enrolled the fewest students in grades 1-8. County enrollments decreased consistently through the decade reaching the end of the

decade with 33% (92) fewer students than it had in 1990.

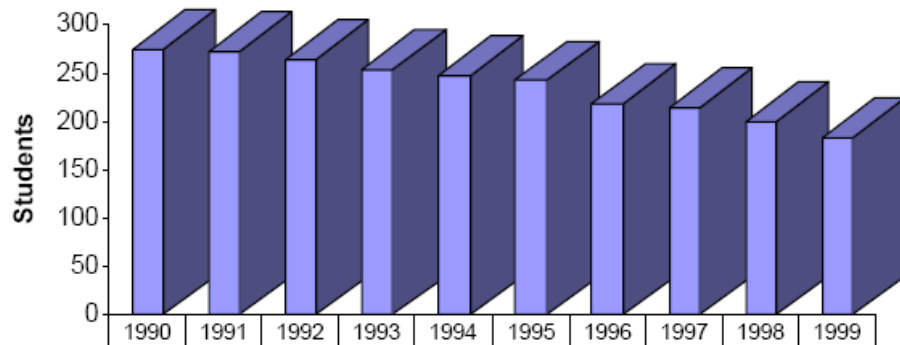
Between 1990 and 1999, Las Animas County had an 8% increase in students enrolled in grades 1-8. The lowest number of students in Las Animas occurred in 1991, when the number reached 1,528. With the exception of 1995 and 1996, student enrollment in Las Animas County increased at a steady rate throughout the decade. Enrollments increased by 3% (50 students) from 1994 to 1995 and then decreased by 4% (63 students) the following year before resuming relatively consistent increases through 1999.

Huerfano County School Enrollment



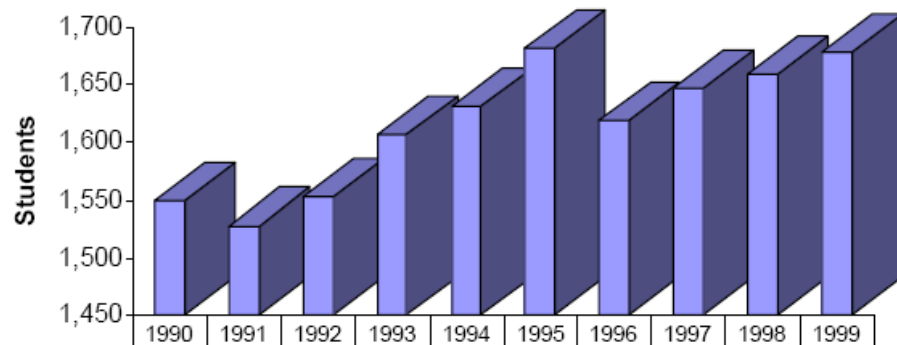
■ School Enrollment (Grades 1-8)	716	704	748	743	742	754	776	764	741	720
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Kiowa County School Enrollment



■ School Enrollment (Grades 1-8)	275	272	264	254	247	242	218	214	200	183
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Las Animas County School Enrollment



■ School Enrollment (Grades 1-8)	1,550	1,528	1,553	1,607	1,632	1,682	1,619	1,647	1,659	1,678
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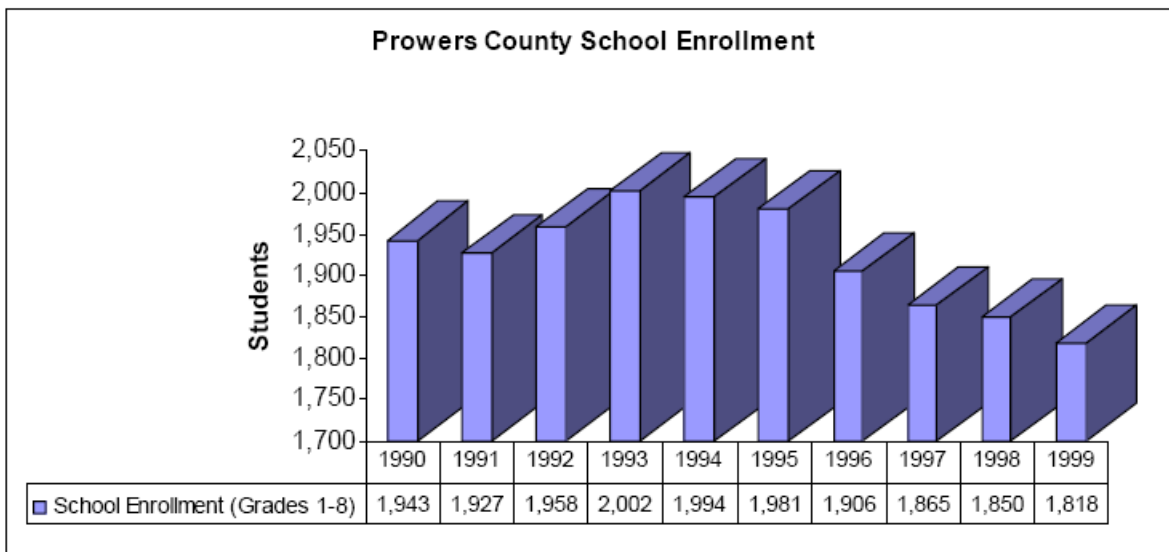
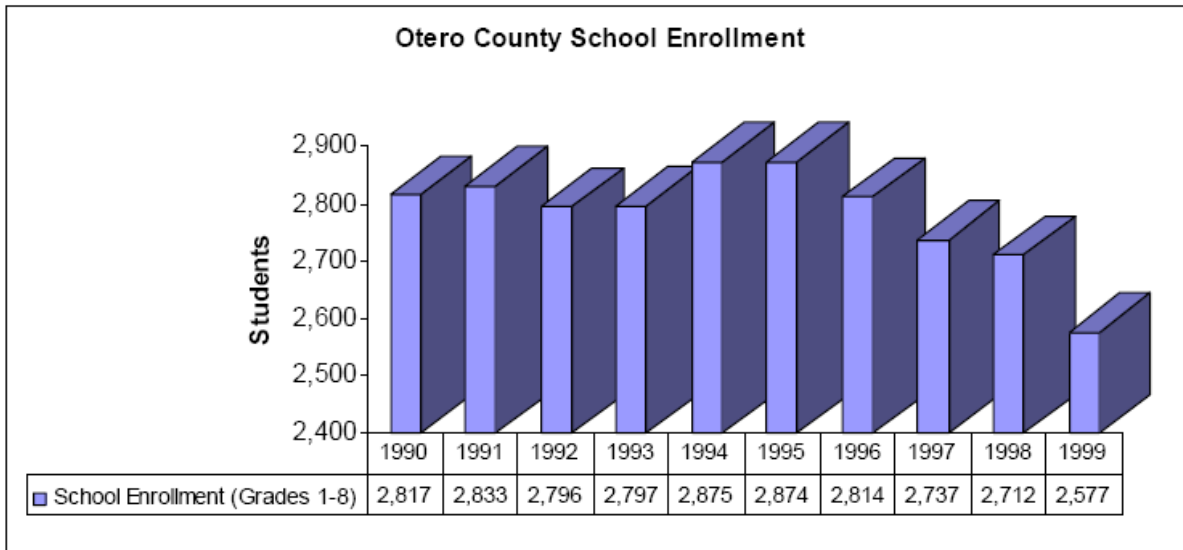
Regionally, Otero County had the second highest number of students in grades 1-8, accounting for 9% of the region's total. Despite its important regional role, Otero had a 9% decrease in the number of enrolled students in the decade and saw consistent and relatively rapid declines since 1995. The greatest number of students enrolled occurred in 1994, when the total reached 2,875. The period low occurred in 1999.

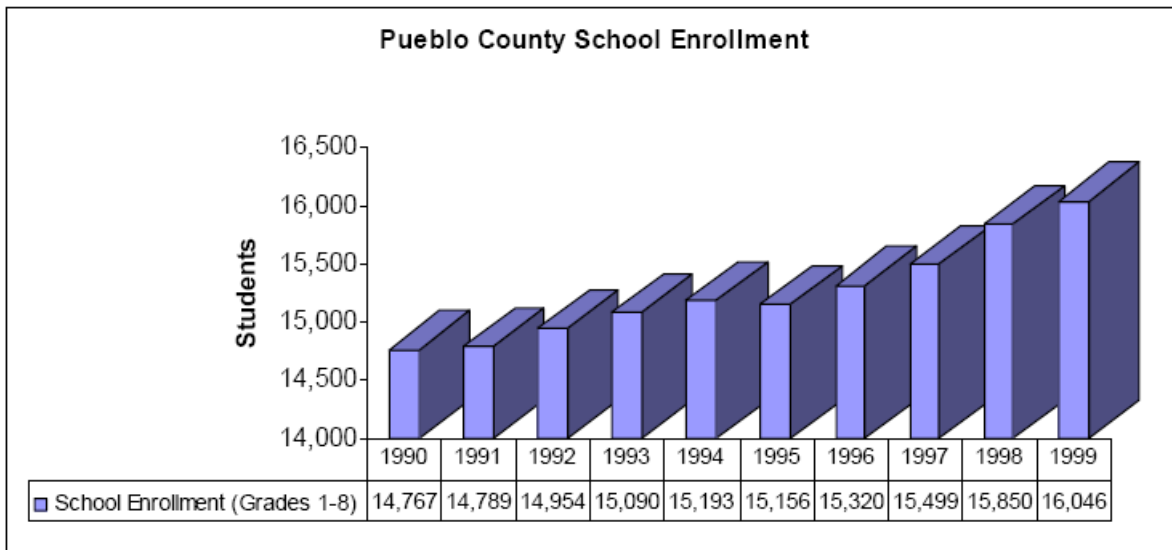
Prowers County reached peak enrollment in 1993 with the number of students steadily declining since that year. Overall, Otero enrolled 6% (75) fewer students in 1999 than in 1990.

Regionally, Pueblo County had the greatest numbers of students in grades 1-8, accounting for 57% of the region's total in 1999. Pueblo County also had a 9% and consistent increase in the number of students over the period. In only one year, 1995, was a decrease in students from the previous year observed.

8.3 School Enrollment Conclusion

An educated populace is essential to a well functioning democracy. Some aspects of education are also important for job training. Education is an expensive and lengthy process that will be underprovided from a societal perspective without government action.





Counties bear the majority of the costs of education in the form of mill levies. However, studies have shown that educated people are less costly to society in terms of the use of certain public services such as welfare, and are less likely to commit crimes. There are also studies that show positive correlation between health status and the level of educational attainment. Higher education also tends to correlate with higher taxable income. County enrollment trends can facilitate planning for educational services. Moreover, school enrollment shows what the county workforce will be in the near future and provides some insight to the county's labor force. School enrollment within the ACT region demonstrates a great variety of county level trends. Each county will want to examine its enrollment trends in assessing future investment in education and educational infrastructure and in considering possibilities for cross-district and cross-county partnerships in primary and secondary education.

8.4 School district revenue and expenditure summary and overview

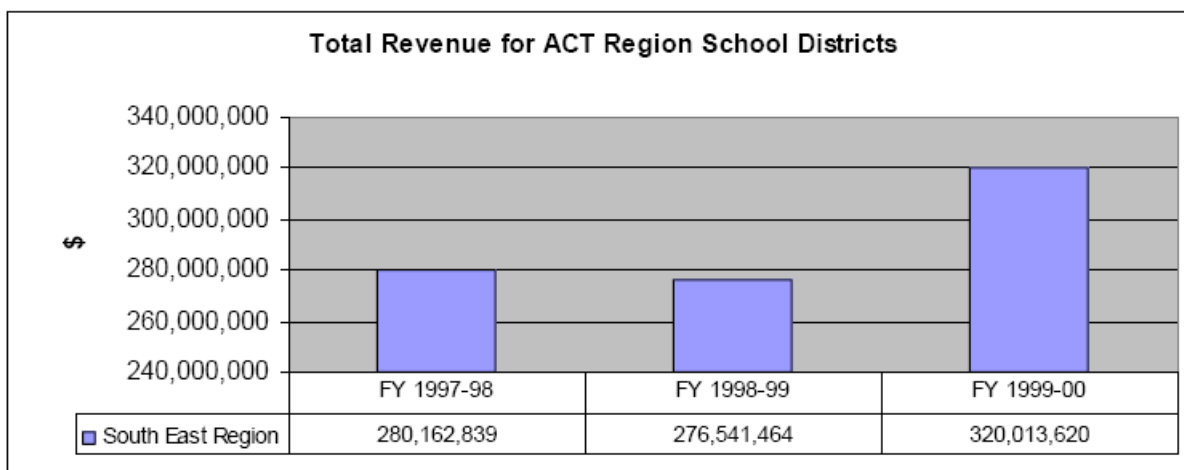
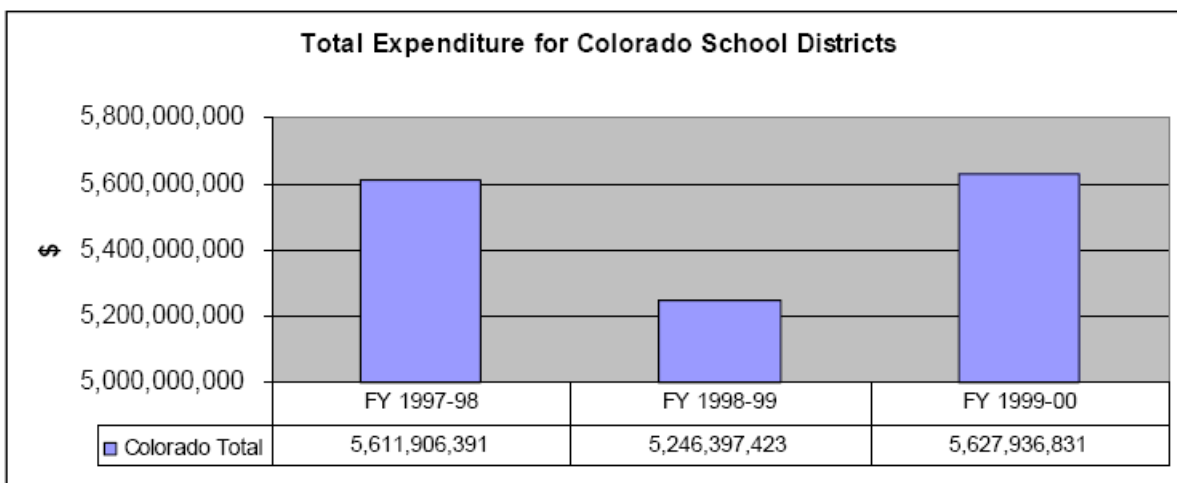
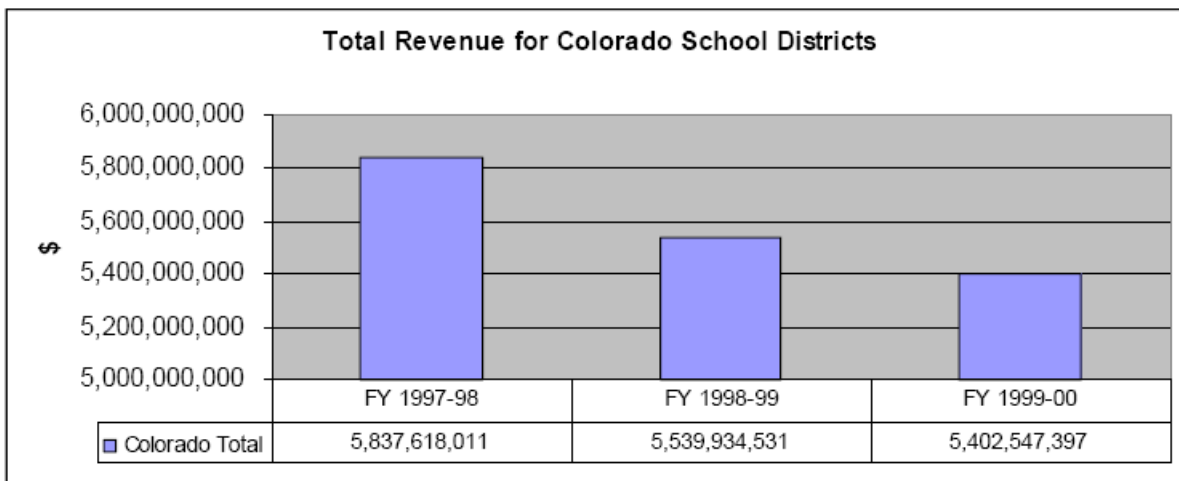
School districts make use a number of sources of federal, state and local funds. Total school district revenue for Colorado declined by 7% over since the 1997-98 school year. The ACT Region had a decrease in school district revenue between FY 1997 and FY 1998, but over the entire period had a 14% growth rate. Colorado school district expenditures increased by less than 1%, while the regional school district expenditures decreased by less than 1% over the period.

The highest level of revenues and expenditures were found in Pueblo County and Otero was second. The third highest expenditures occurred in Las Animas County and Prowers County had the third highest revenue in 1999-2000. Custer County had the lowest county total school district revenue and expenditures, while Kiowa County ranked twelfth and Crowley County ranked eleventh for 1999-2000.

For the 1997 fiscal year, Colorado school districts had total revenues of \$5.8 billion, decreasing by 5% in 1998, and then 3% in 1999, yielding a 7% decrease in total school district revenues over the most recent school years of record.

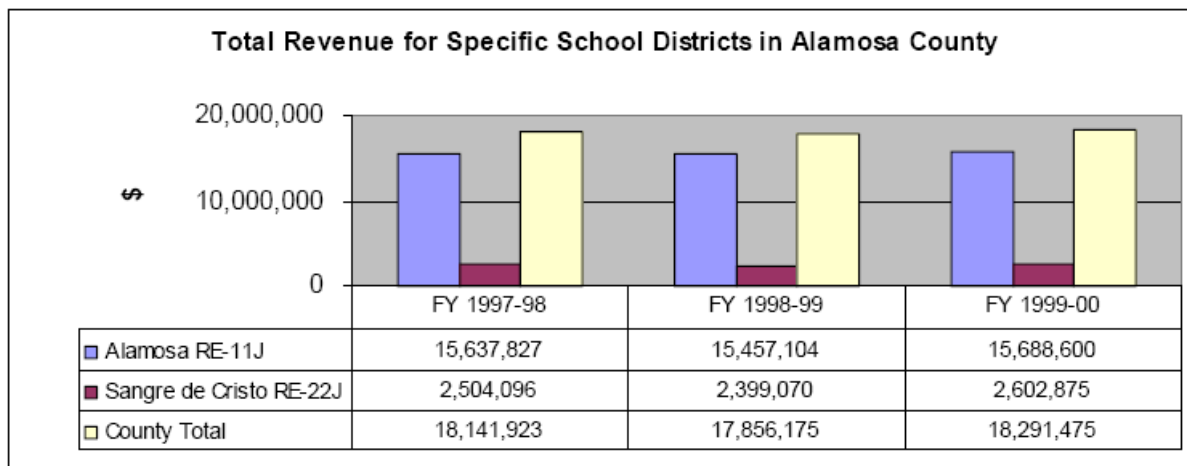
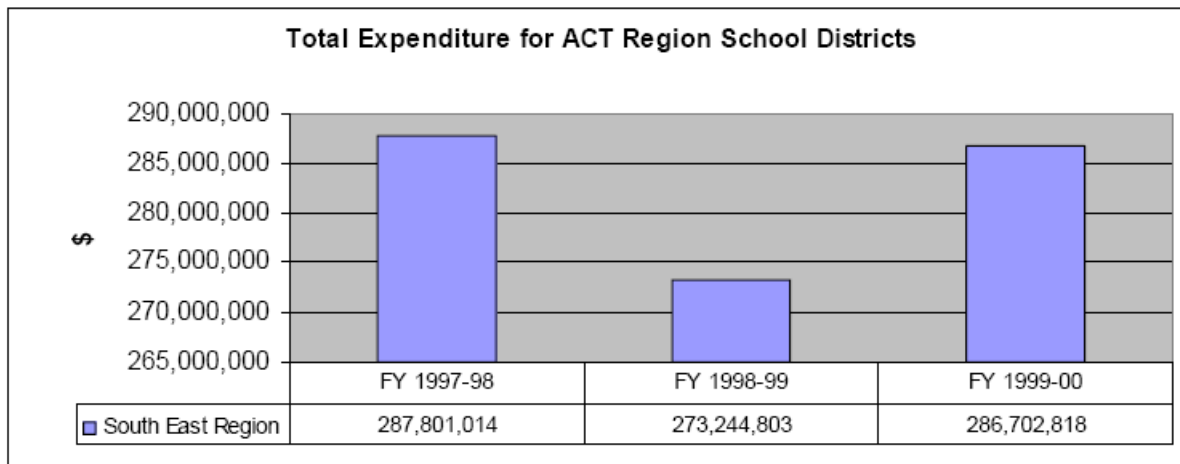
Total expenditures of Colorado school districts decreased by 7% between fiscal year 1997 and 1998, but increased by a similar amount between 1998 and 1999.

Revenues exceeded expenditures for the first two years in the series, but the system as a whole was in deficit for the 1999-2000 school year based upon these figures. In 1997, the difference between total revenue and total expenditures for all school districts in Colorado equaled \$225 million more in revenue than that of expenditures. The following year revenues exceeded expenditures by \$294 million. However, the tables turned in 1999 when expenditures exceeded the total revenues by \$225 million.



In the ACT region, total school revenues declined by 1% between 1997 and 1998, then climbed by 16% between 1998 and 1999. The total revenue for 1999 accounted for 6% of the state total.

Total school district expenditures in the region decreased by 5% between 1997 and 1998, then increased by the same percentage between 1998 and 1999. The total expenditures in 1999 accounted for 5%



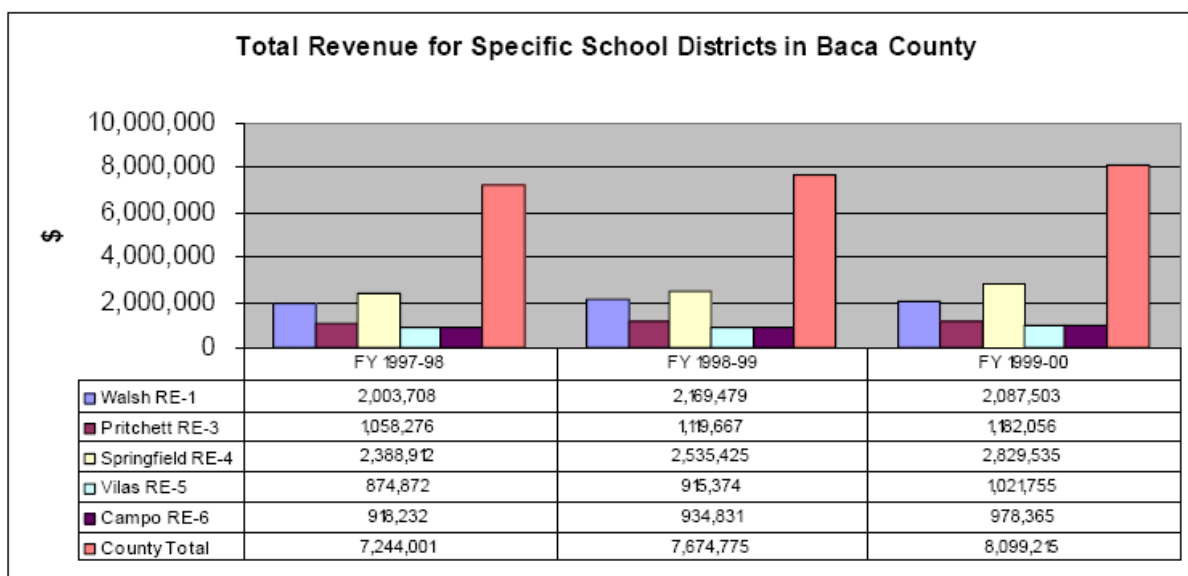
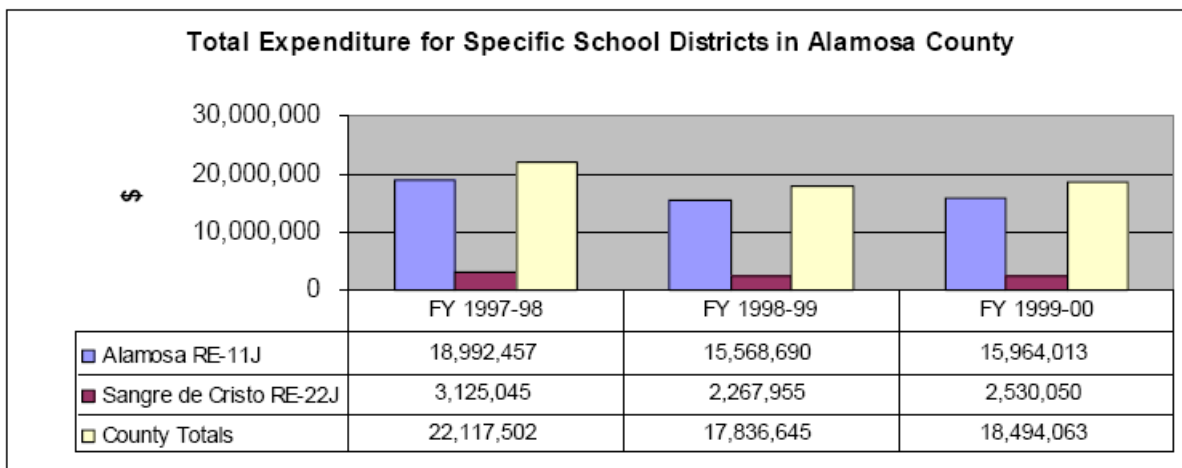
the state total. Regionally, total expenditures in 1997 exceeded the total revenues by \$7.6 million. In 1998, the total revenue exceeded the total expenditures by \$3.3 million. In 1999, total revenue jumped by a substantial amount causing \$33.3 million more in revenue than in expenditures in the year's school budget.

8.5 County trends in school district revenue and expenditure

In Alamosa County, total revenues decreased by 2% between 1997 and 1998, then increased by a similar amount in 1999. Out of the two school districts in the county, Alamosa RE-11J accounted for 86% of total county school revenue in 1999.

Total expenditures in Alamosa County declined by 19% between 1997 and 1998, and then increased by 4%. Much like total revenues, Alamosa RE-11J also accounted for approximately the same proportion (86%) of total county school district expenditures in 1999. The total school district expenditures for Alamosa County exceeded total revenues by \$4 million in 1997. In 1998, total revenues exceeded total expenditures by \$19,000, and total expenditures exceeded revenues by \$200,000 in 1999.

The county total school district revenues for Baca County increased by 6% between 1997 and 1998 then increased again the following year by 6%. The revenues are fairly evenly distributed with Springfield



having the most each year. Vilas RE-5 had the least revenues in two of the three years of the series (not 1999-2000).

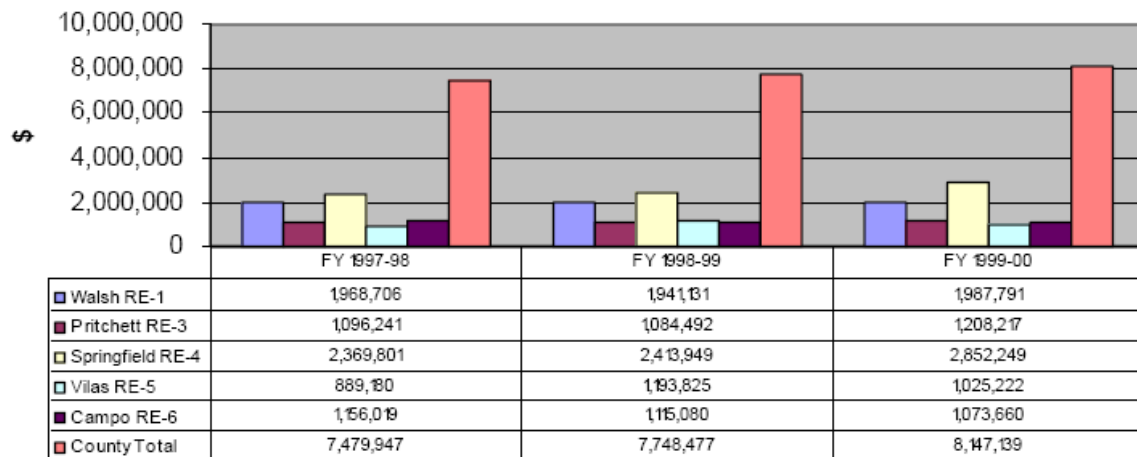
Total school district expenditures increased by 4% between 1997 and 1998, and then increased by 5% in the following year. Baca County school district expenditures behaved much the same as revenues over the period. Springfield-4 had the highest amount in each year, followed by Walsh RE-1. Vilas RE-5 and Campo RE-6 claimed the least amount of county school district budgets. In 1997, 1998, and 1999, total school district expenditures in Baca County exceeded the total revenues. In 1997, expenditures surpassed revenues by

\$236,000. In 1998, expenditures exceeded revenues by \$74,000 and expenditures exceeded total revenues by \$48,000 in 1999.

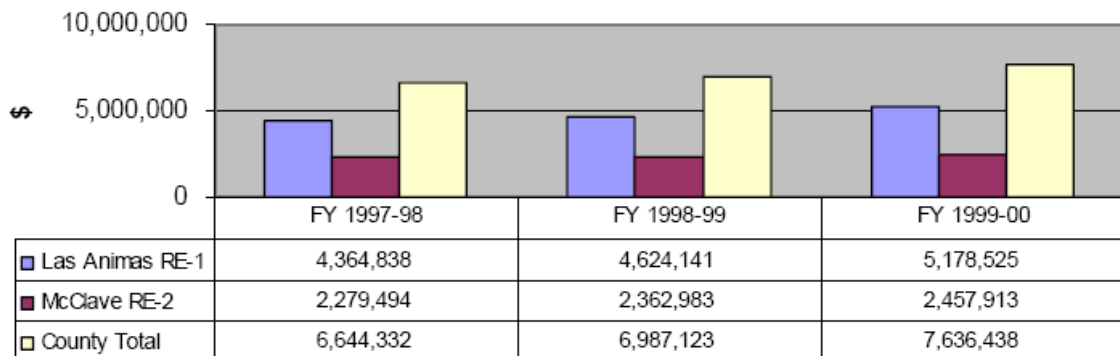
Total revenues in Bent County increased by 5% between 1997 and 1998, and increased by 9% in 1999. Las Animas RE-1 had approximately twice the revenue of McClave RE-2 each year.

Total school district expenditures in Bent County decreased by 2% between 1997 and 1998 and then increased by 3% in 1999. In 1999, Las Animas RE-1 accounted for 66% of the county's total school district expenditures.

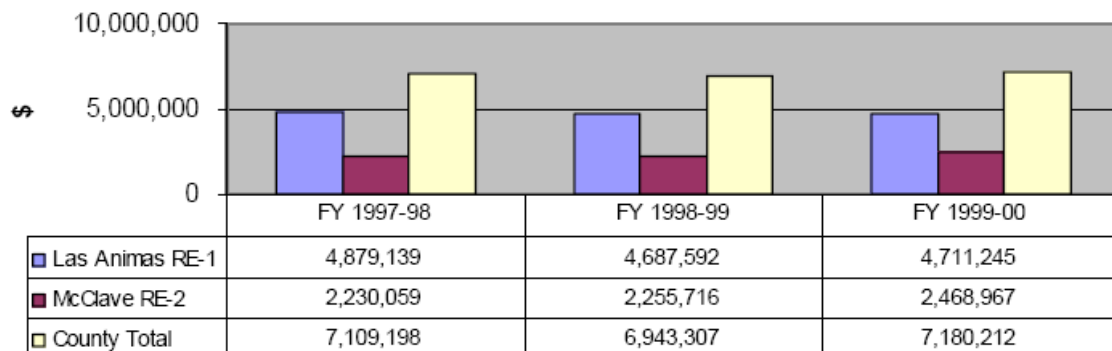
Total Expenditure for Specific School Districts in Baca County



Total Revenues for Specific School Districts in Bent County



Total Expenditure for Specific School Districts in Bent County



In Bent County, the total school district expenditures exceeded the total revenues by \$465,000 for 1997. In 1998 and 1999, the opposite case occurred; revenues in 1998 topped expenditures by \$44,000 and in 1999 revenues surpassed expenditures by \$456,000.

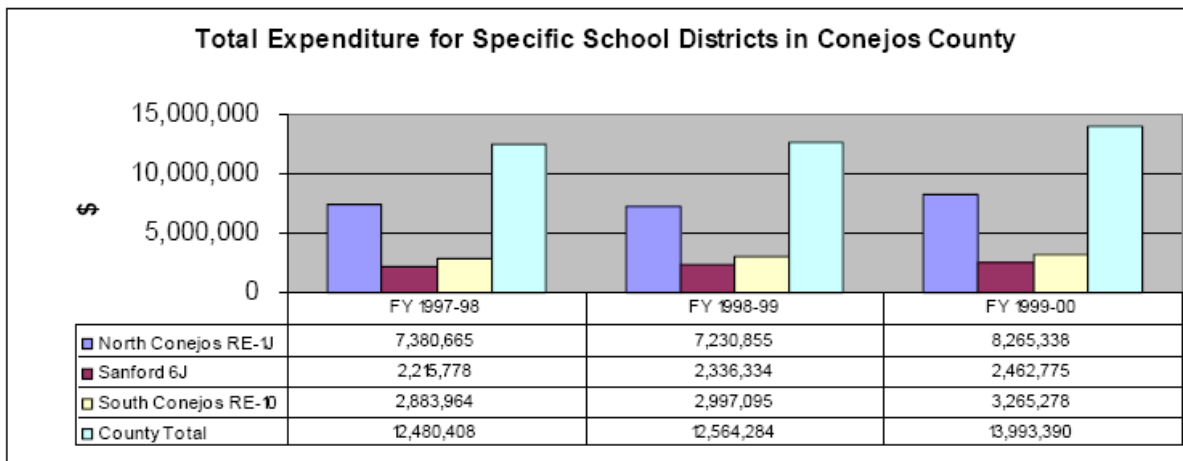
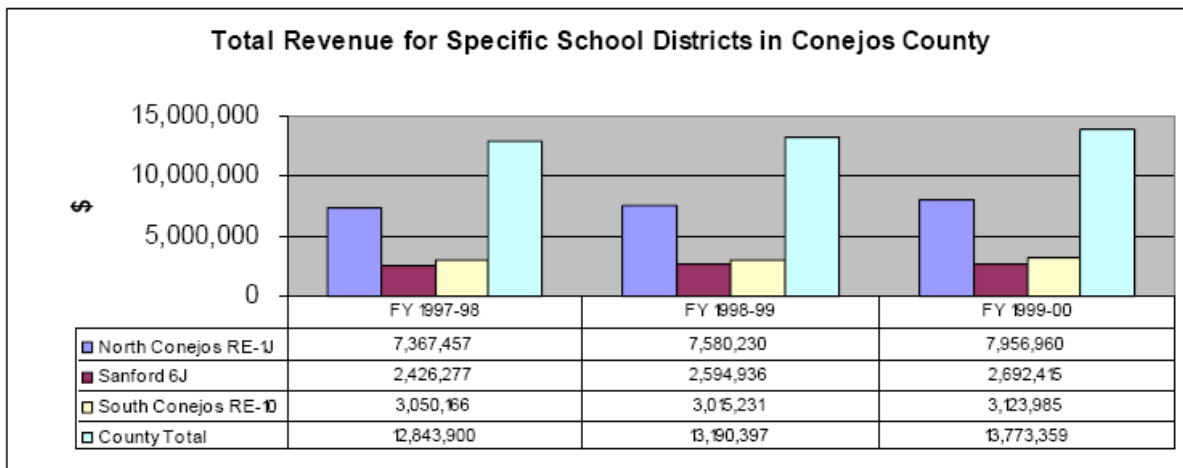
Between 1997 and 1998, revenues increased by 3% across Conejos County school districts. Revenues increased by 4% in each of the subsequent years. North Conejos RE-1J accounted for 58% of the county school district total revenue in 1999.

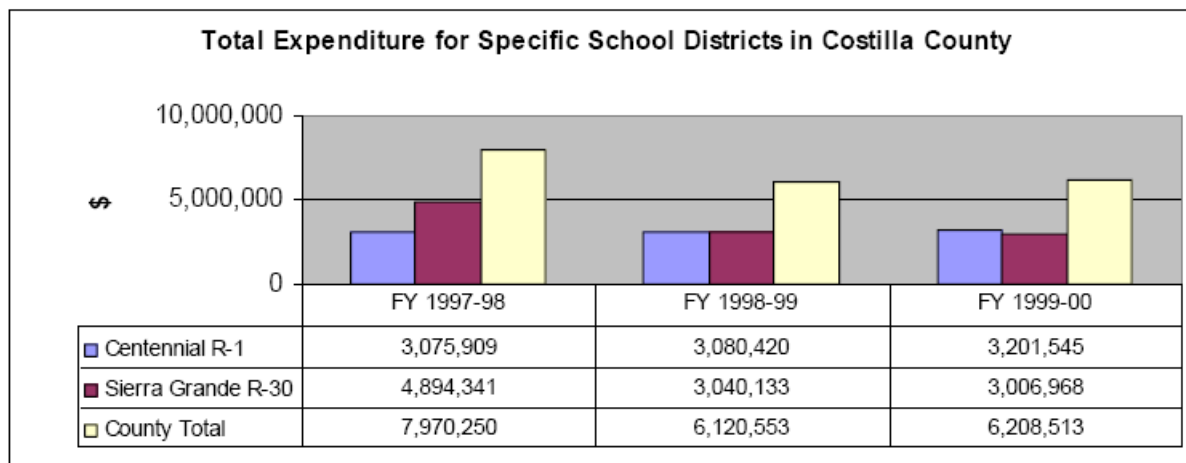
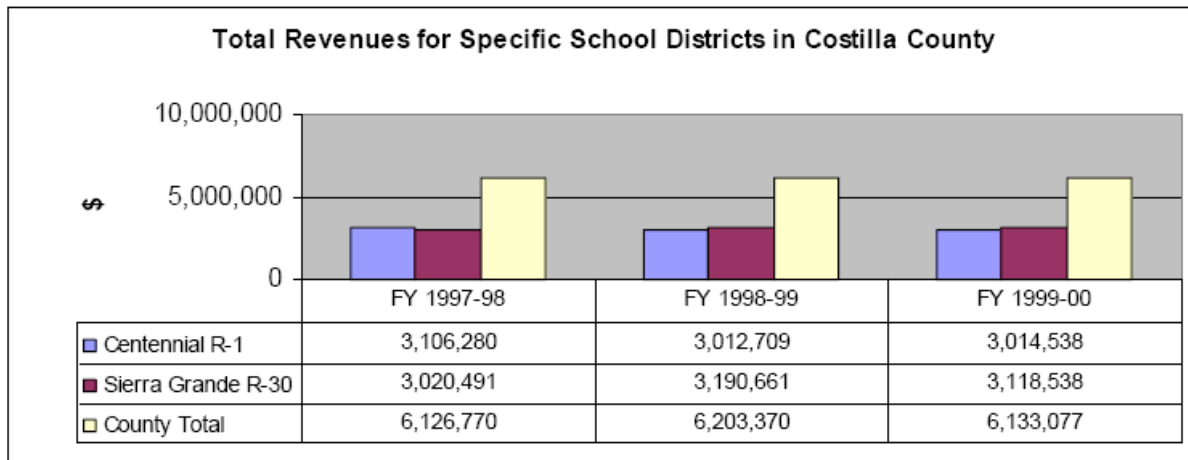
Between 1997 and 1998, county total school district expenditures increased by 7%, then increased by 11% between 1998 and 1999. North Conejos RE-1J accounted for 59% of the county's total expenditures in 1999, whereas South Conejos RE-10 accounted for 23%. Sanford 6J accounted for the least school district expenditures with 18%.

County total school district expenditures in Conejos County exceeded total revenue by \$363,000 in 1997 and revenues exceeded the expenditures by \$626,000 in 1998. In 1999, expenditures exceeded revenues by \$220,000.

In each year of this series, revenue for all school districts in Costilla County increased by 1%. Both Centennial R-1 and Sierra Grande R-30 have approximately equal proportions of annual school district revenues.

From 1997 to 1998, total expenditures for all school districts in Costilla County combined declined by 23%. From 1998 to 1999, total expenditures increased by 1%. In 1997, Sierra Grande R-30 accounted for 61% of the county total expenditures. For the rest of the series each school district accounted for approximately 50% of the total county school expenditures.





For all school districts in Costilla County, the total expenditures in 1997 exceeded the total revenues by \$1.8 million. In 1998, total school district revenues exceeded total expenditures by \$83,000. In 1999, the expenditures exceeded the revenues by \$75,000.

From 1997 to 1998, total Crowley County school district revenue decreased by 8%, and then increased the following year by 6%. Regionwide, Crowley County was ranked eleventh in revenue for the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

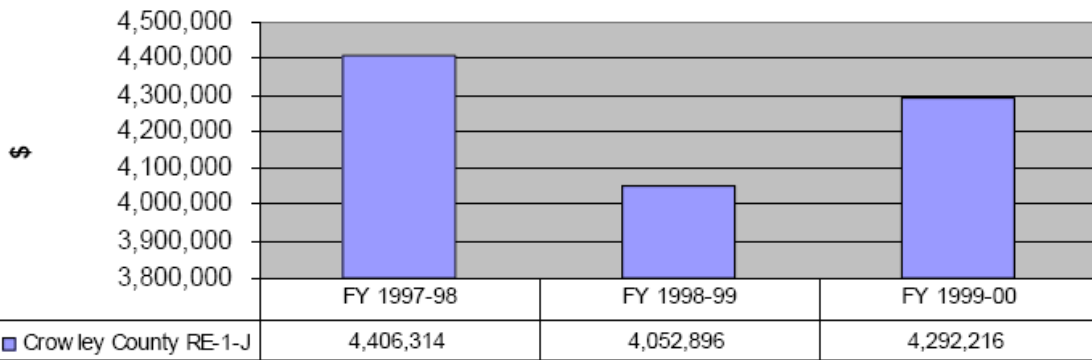
In line with having the eleventh ranked revenues regionally for 1999, Crowley County also had the eleventh ranked level of school district expenditures. Between 1997 and 1998, expenditures decreased by 14%, but increased the following year by 7%. In 1997,

Crowley County school district expenditures exceeded the revenues accrued by \$9,000. In 1998, revenue soared above expenditures by \$246,000 and then by \$234,000 in 1999.

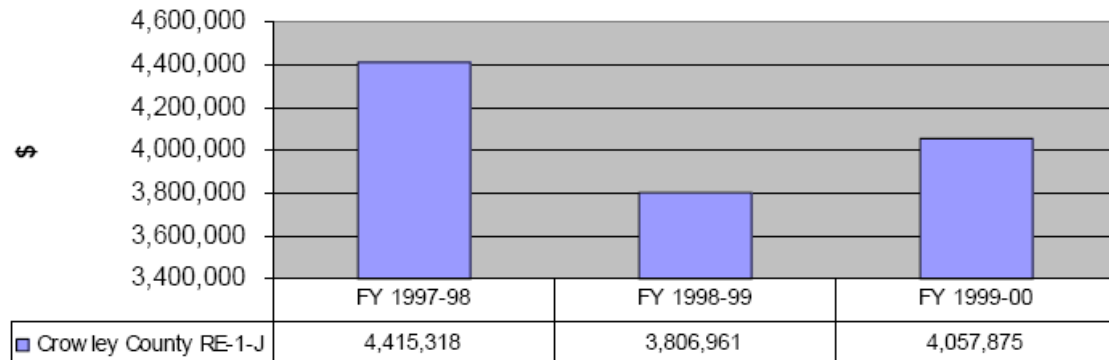
Total school district revenues for Custer County are the lowest in the region. Despite this, two consecutive years of increased revenues were recorded, going from \$2.8 million in 1997 to \$2.85 million in 1998 and then \$3.0 million in 1999.

In part due to their school district revenues, Custer County also had the lowest school district expenditures regionwide. From 1997 to 1998, expenditures increased by 7%, and the following year they increased by 5%.

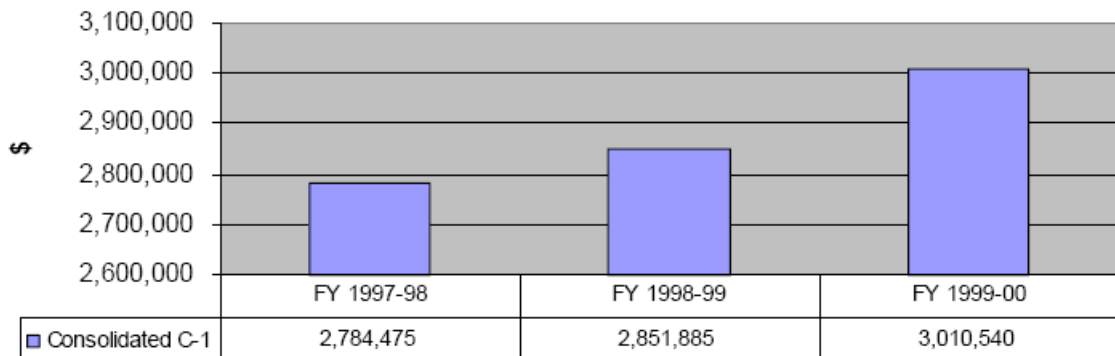
Total Revenue for Specific School Districts in Crowley County

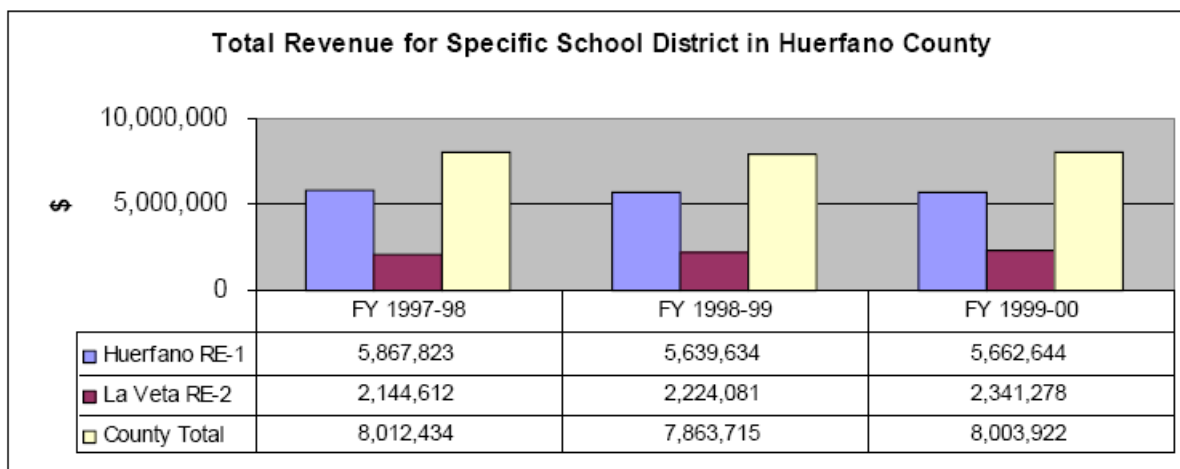
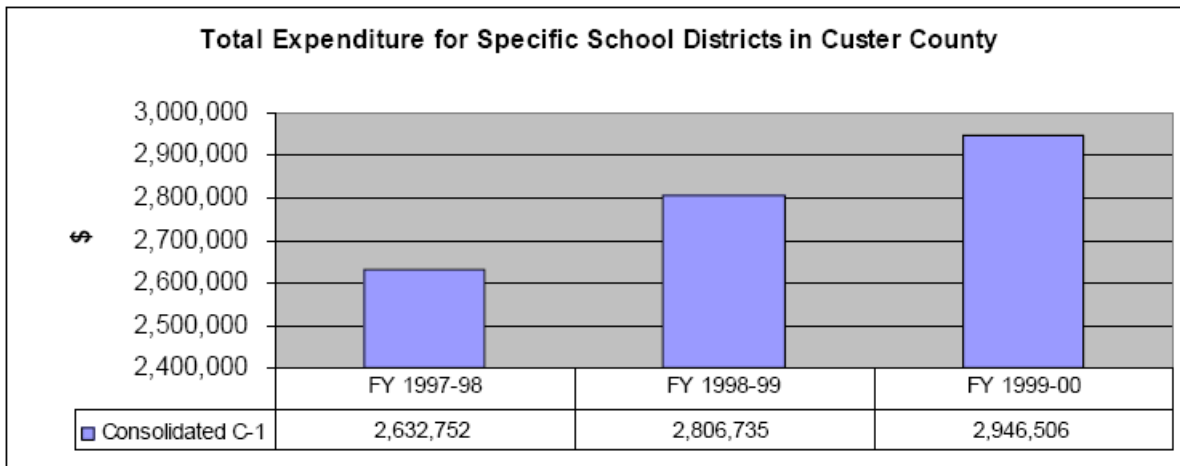


Total Expenditure for Specific School Districts in Crowley County



Total Revenue for Specific School Districts in Custer County





Custer County had three consecutive years of excess revenues. In 1997, total school district revenues exceeded expenditures by \$151,000 and by \$45,000 in 1998. In 1999, the revenues exceeded expenditures by \$64,000.

Between 1997 and 1998, the total school district revenues in Huerfano County decreased by 2%. In 1999, revenues increased by 2%. Huerfano RE-1 school district accounted for 71% of the county total school district revenues in 1999.

Total expenditures for all school districts in the county by 2% increased between 1997 and 1998 and decreased by 2% the following year. Huerfano RE-1 accounted 69% of the total expenditures in 1999.

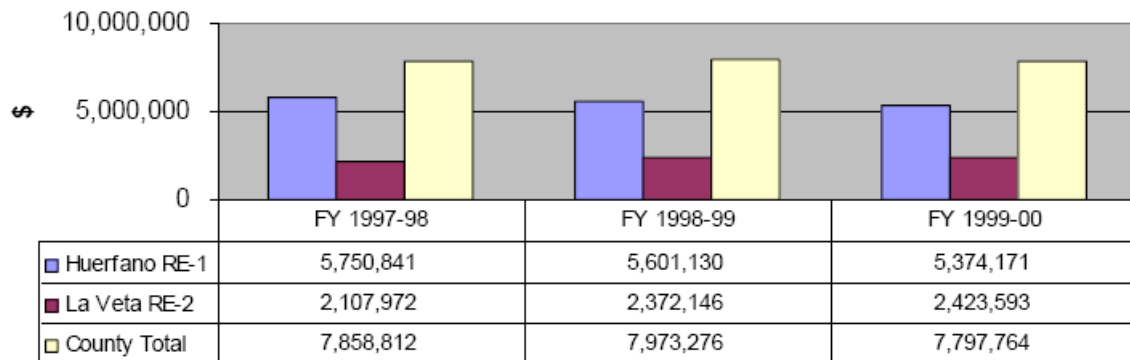
Total school district revenue in Huerfano County exceeded total school district expenditures for every year of this series. In 1997, Huerfano County had a budget surplus of \$154,000 and \$110,000 in 1998. In

1999, Huerfano County school districts had \$206,158 more in revenue than expenditures.

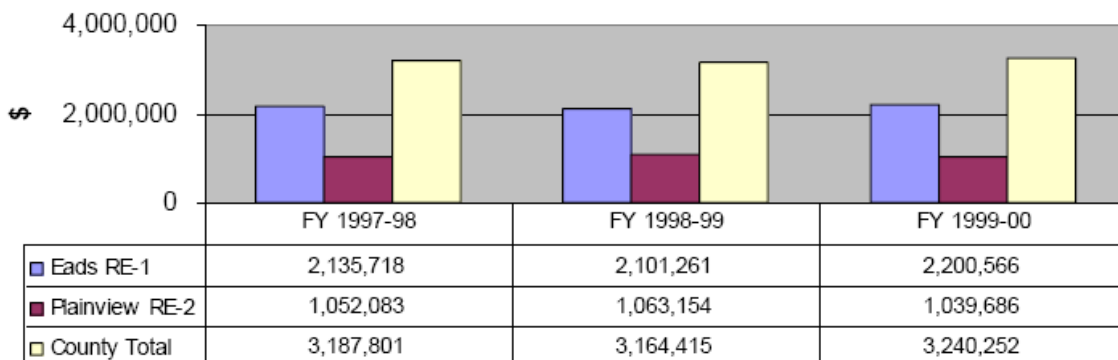
Regionally, the Kiowa County's total school district revenues for 1999 were ranked twelfth. From 1997 to 1998, total school district revenues decreased by 1% and increased by 2% in 1999.

Kiowa County had the twelfth ranked school district expenditures and revenues in the region. Eads RE-1 had 70% of the county total school district expenditure in 1999, whereas Plainview RE-2 had 30%. Expenditures changed little over the period, decreasing by 1% in 1998 and increasing again by 1% in 1999. Total school district expenditures in Kiowa County exceeded the total school district revenues for each year of this observation. In 1997, school district expenditures exceeded the school district revenues by \$126,000. In 1998, total school district expenditures exceeded revenues by \$127,000 and by \$90,000 in 1999.

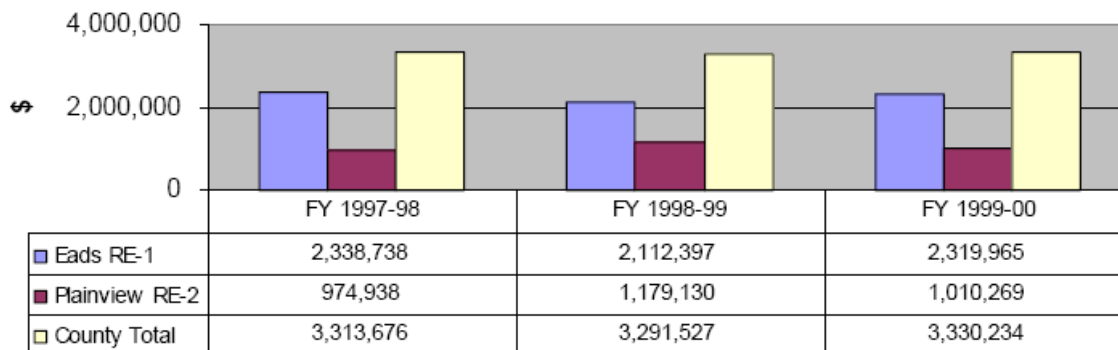
Total Expenditure for Specific School Districts in Huerfano County



Total Revenues for Specific School Districts in Kiowa County



Total Expenditure for Specific School Districts in Kiowa County

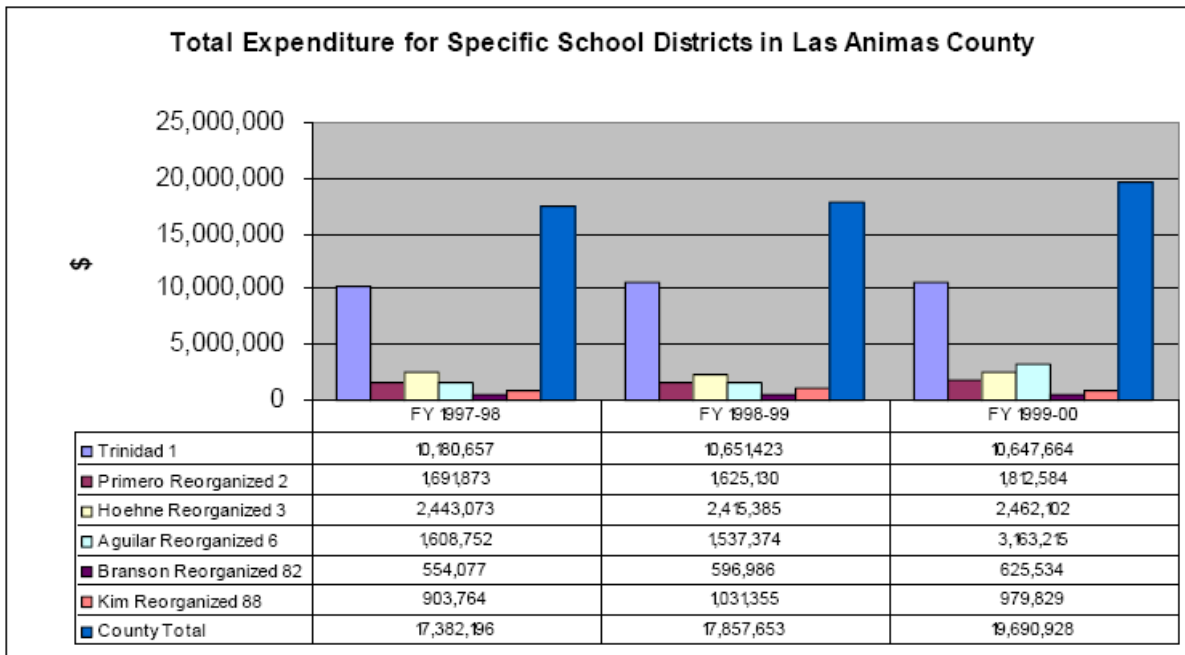
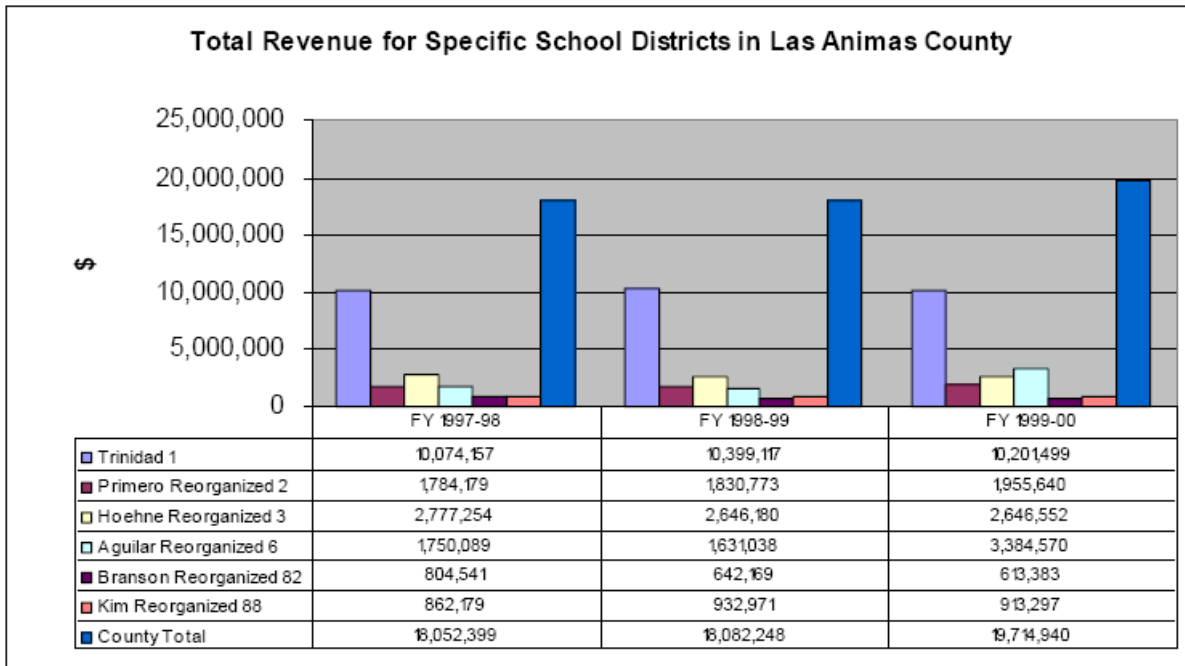


For all school districts in Las Animas County, total revenue remained stable between 1997 and 1998, and then increased by 9% in 1999. Out of the six school districts in the county, Trinidad 1 accounted for 52% of the total county school revenues in 1999. Branson Reorganized 82 had the least amount of school district revenue, accounting for 3% of the 1999 total revenue.

Total school district expenditures in Las Animas County increased between 1997 and 1998 by 3% and then increased by 10% the following year. Within the

ACT Region, Las Animas had the third highest county total school district expenditures in 1999, accounting for 7% of the region's total. Most (54%) of the total county school expenditures are accounted for by Trinidad 1 School District.

School district revenues in Las Animas County exceeded school district expenditures for each year in the outlined period. In 1997, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$670,000, and by \$225,000 in 1998, then by a slimmer margin of \$24,000 in 1999.

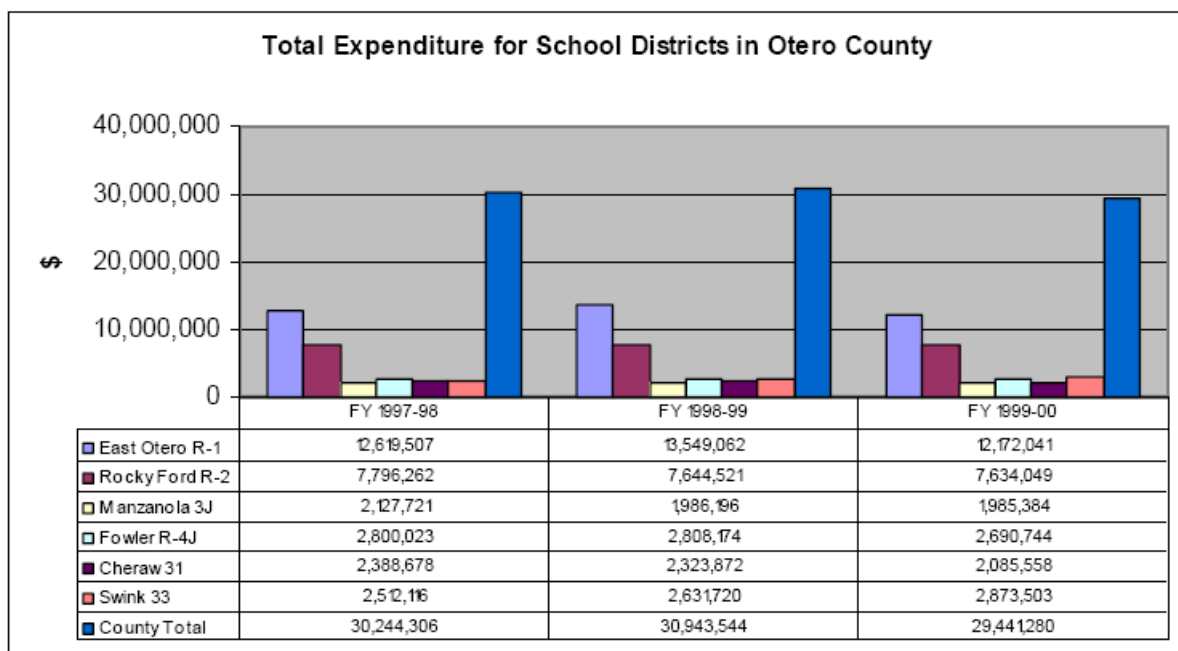
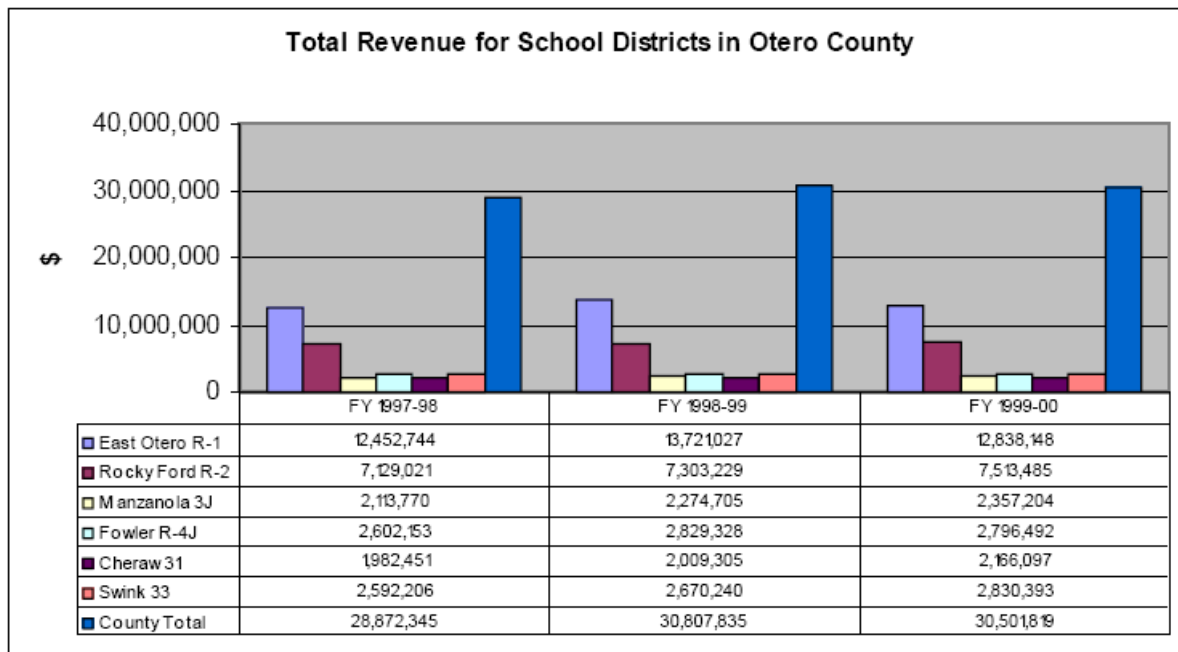


Total school district revenues in Otero County increased by 7% between 1997 and 1998, and then decreased by 1% in 1999. Regionally, Otero County had the second highest total school district revenues for 1999, accounting for 10% of the region in that same year. East Otero R-1 had the most revenues out of all the school districts in the county, accounting for 42% of the county total in 1999. Cheraw 31 had the least amount of county school district revenues, accounting for 7% in 1999.

Total school district expenditure in Otero County increased by 2% between 1997 and 1998, and then

declined by 5% in 1999. Otero County had the second highest school district expenditures in the region, accounting for 10% of the region's total school district expenditures. East Otero R-1 accounted for 41% of the total county school expenditures.

Otero County had budget deficits in school district expenditures in both 1997 and 1998, but ran a surplus in 1999. In 1997, expenditures exceeded revenues by \$1.4 million. In 1998, expenditures exceeded revenues by \$136,000 and in 1999 revenues exceeded expenditures by \$1.1 million.



Between 1997 and 1998, Prowers County had an increase in school district revenues of 3%. Between 1998 and 1999, the county witnessed an increase of 6%. Prowers had the third highest amount of school district revenue regionwide and accounted for 6% of the regional total. Lamar RE-1 school district accounted for 61% of the county's total school district revenue.

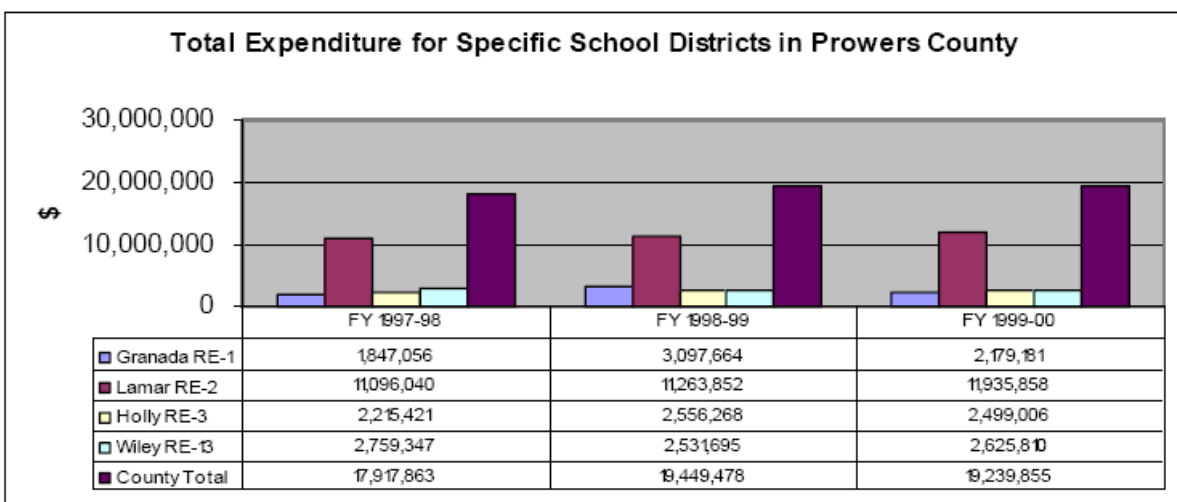
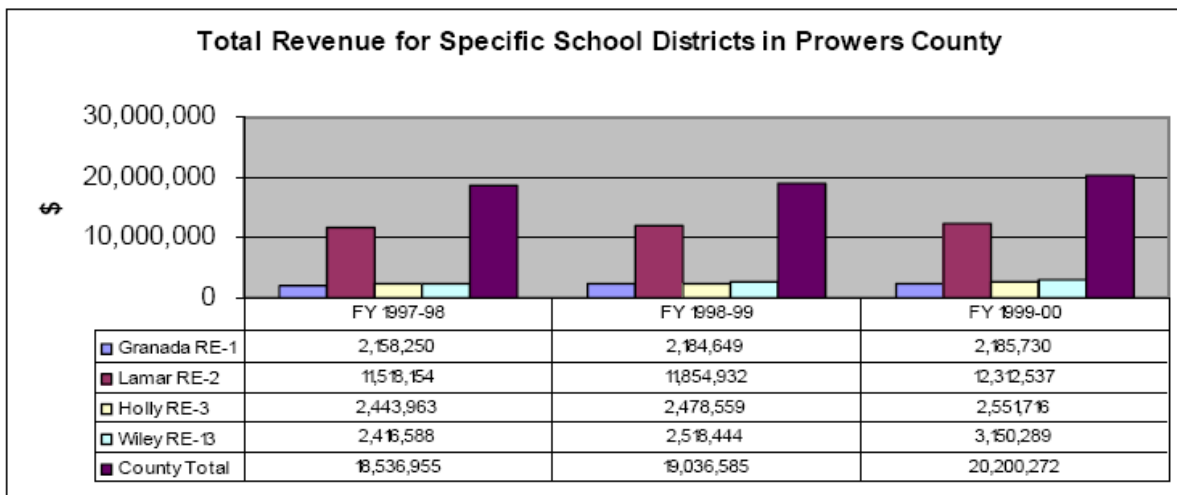
School district expenditures in Prowers County increased by 9% between 1997 and 1998, and then increased by 1% in 1999. Lamar RE-2 also accounted for most of the county's total school district expenditures and accounted for 62% of the total in 1999. The other three school districts each accounted for approximately 15% of the county total.

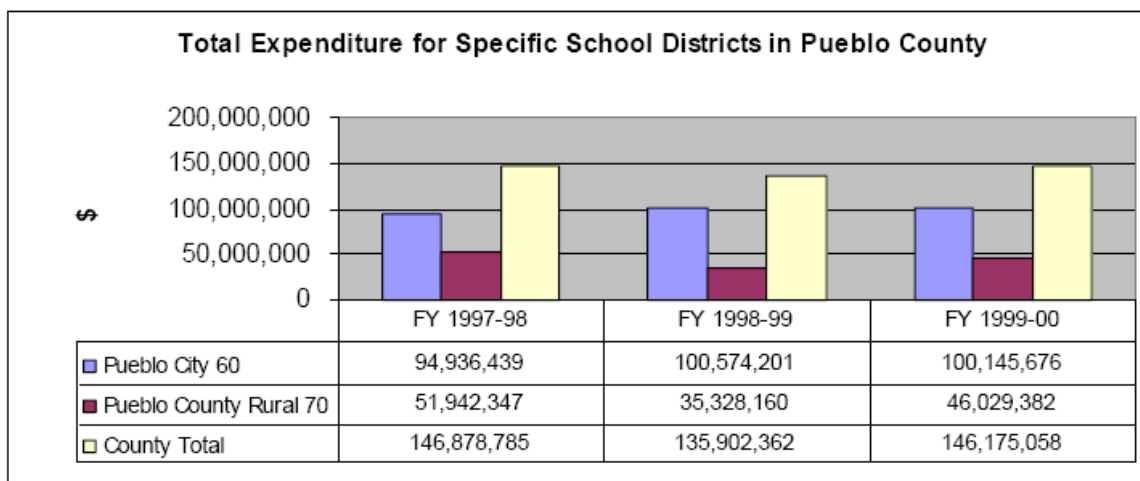
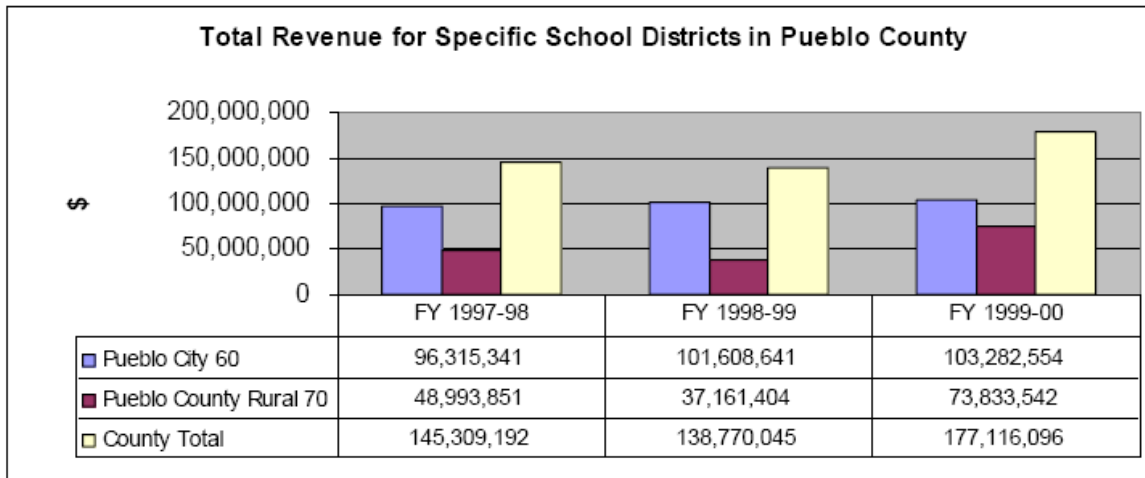
In 1997, the total school district revenues for Prowers County exceeded total school district expenditures by \$619,000, whereas in 1998 expenditures exceeded

revenues by \$413,000. In 1999, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$960,000.

Total school district revenue in Pueblo County decreased between 1997 and 1998, then increased by 28% in 1999. Pueblo County had the highest total school district revenues in 1999, accounting for 55% of the regional total. In 1999, Pueblo City 60 school district revenue accounted for 58% of the total county school revenues.

Like school district revenues, school district expenditures in Pueblo County are the highest in the region. In 1999, Pueblo City 60 school district accounted for 68% of the county total, whereas Pueblo County Rural 70 school district accounted for 32%. Between 1997 and 1998, total school district expenditures for the county decreased by 7% and then increased the following year by 8%.





Total school district expenditures in Pueblo County exceeded revenues for 1997 by \$1.6 million. Total school district revenues exceeded total expenditures by \$2.9 million in 1998, and by \$30.9 million in 1999.

8.6 School District Revenue and Expenditure Conclusion

Many people associate the level of school district expenditure and availability of funds to the quality of education obtained. Poorer school districts cannot afford some of the same resources as that of wealthier school districts; therefore school districts with low fund availability may suffer from a quality disparity. It is more likely that combining student enrollment information with school budget information to derive the expenditures per student would provide a useful measure of the connection between resources and educational quality. Further, student demographics and

determining the amount of the school budget that actually goes to education, as opposed to bussing for example, would better reveal any potential relationships. Research in this area has generated mixed results. Research by James Coleman claims that family background was the leading determinate of performance, not expenditures. Conversely, Ferguson (1991) finds that school resources do contribute to the quality of education. Smaller class sizes, teacher literacy rates, and teacher experience, which are influenced by school district expenditures, are all correlated with student performance. The results are too conflicting to give a definite answer regarding the level of expenditures, but it is obvious that with the more availability of funds, the more money will be spent by the district and the utilization of these funds will differ from student to student even within the same school district.

9. Agriculture

During the 21st century the number of people living on farms and the number of farms has declined substantially. Technological innovation and federal policy in the agriculture sector has facilitated the redundancy of farm labor and the concentration of agricultural production among fewer and fewer larger and larger operations. Farm numbers are not the only indicator of health in the agriculture sector. Cash receipts, expenditures, and net income all provide insight by showing whether crops or livestock receipts have a greater influence in the region and whether the production expenses of a specific type is having negative ramifications for farmers' income.

Increasing pressure has been placed on farmers by society to have more responsibility toward conservation and federal incentive policies have facilitated environmental stewardship in the agriculture sector. Through the Conservation Reserve Program millions of farmland acres have been taken out of agriculture and placed in conservation practices to help reduce erosion and pollution. Farmers not only provide food and fiber to society, but also provide other consumptive and nonconsumptive values of natural resource management through their environmental stewardship of the land. This section includes the amount of those farm goods produced as well as the amount of acreage in the ACT Region under production. In addition to providing crop production volumes and acreage, the number of livestock operations and the value of livestock products are reviewed in this section.

9.1 Summary and overview of farm numbers, land in farms, and value of farmland and buildings

In 1997, 2,190,510 farms covered 956,010,000 acres throughout the nation. In that same year 32.6 million of Colorado's 66.6 million acres were considered farmland acres. These farmland acres were spread among 28,628 farms and ranches. The number of farms in the United States decreased by 8% between 1987 and 1997, while farms in Colorado increased by 4%. The ACT Region experienced a 2% increase in the number of farms from 1987-1997. The land in farms statewide decreased by 4% over the period, while land in farms in the ACT Region decreased by 5%.

The average estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm in Colorado increased by 54%, while average estimated value of farmland increased by 46% in the

ACT Region. From 1987-1997, the value of farmland and the buildings on farmland property decreased in only one of the thirteen counties, indicating a general increase in the value of farmland per farm throughout the region.

Pueblo County had the most farms in the ACT region in 1997. Baca County was second, while Prowers County ranked third. Las Animas County had the most land in farms in the region, followed by Baca and Kiowa Counties. Crowley County had the highest estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm, followed by Las Animas and then Huerfano County.

Regionally, Custer County had the fewest farms, followed by Costilla and Crowley County. Custer County also had the lowest amount of land in farms, followed by Alamosa and Conejos Counties. Conejos County emerged with the lowest estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm, followed by Otero and Pueblo County.

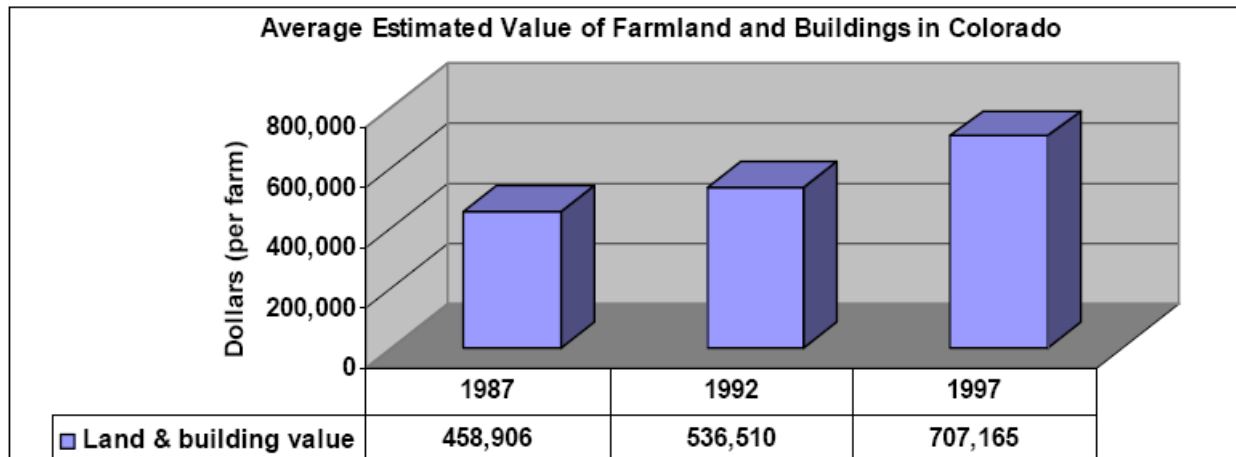
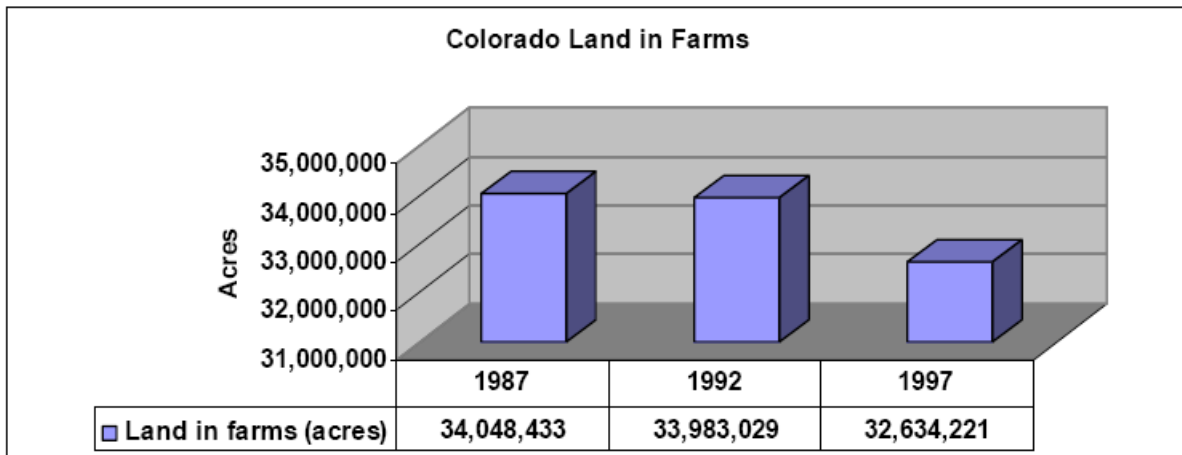
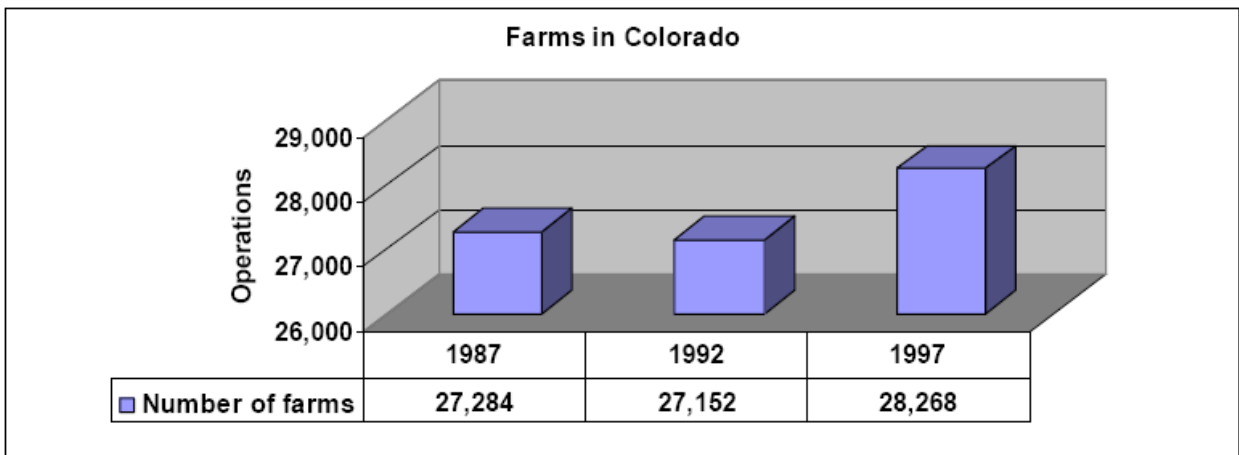
The number of farms in Alamosa, Baca, Bent, Conejos, Costilla, and Prowers decreased over the outlined period. The amount of farmland acreage decreased in all counties with the exception of acreage in Costilla, Huerfano, and Las Animas Counties. The estimated value of land and buildings per farm increased dramatically for all counties in the ACT Region, with only Bent County as the exception.

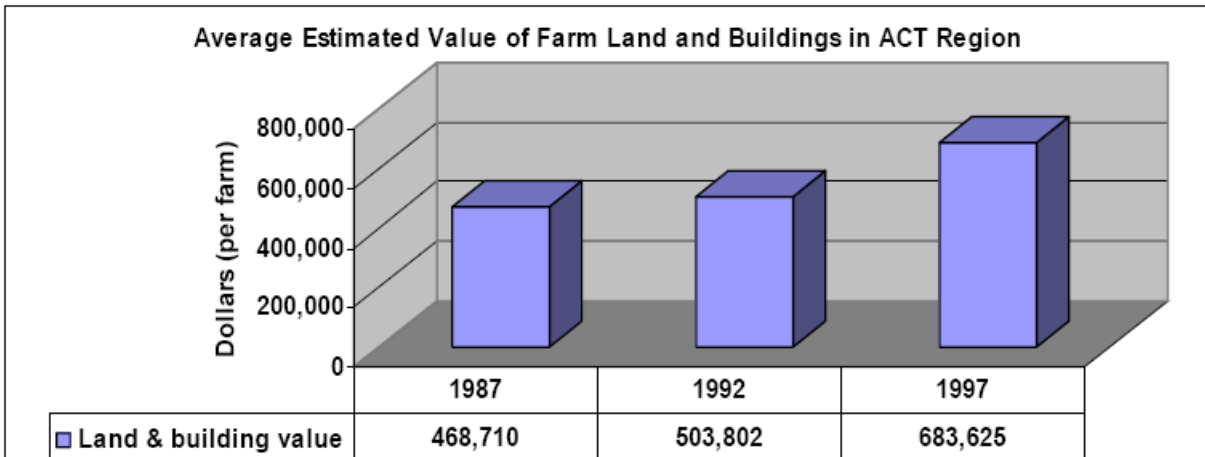
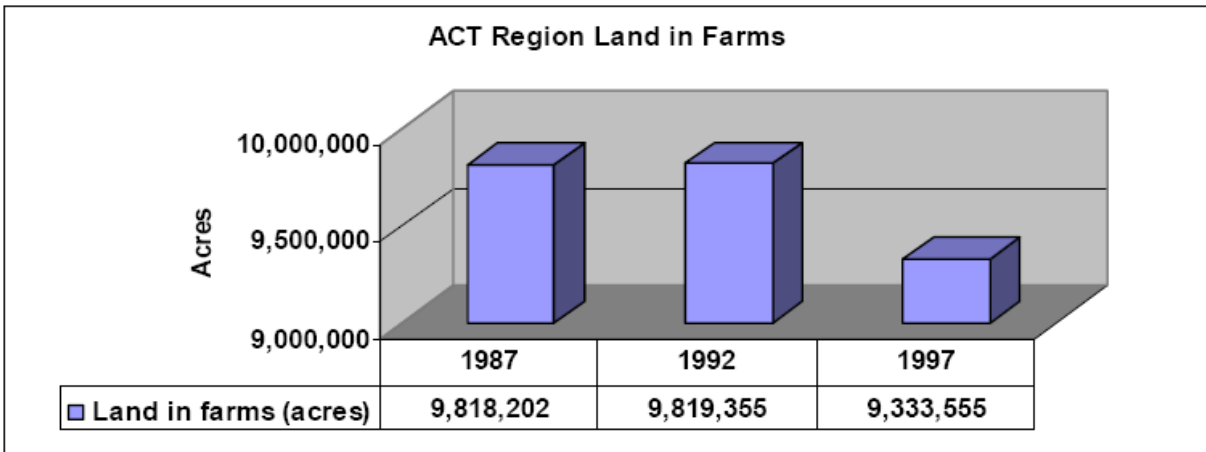
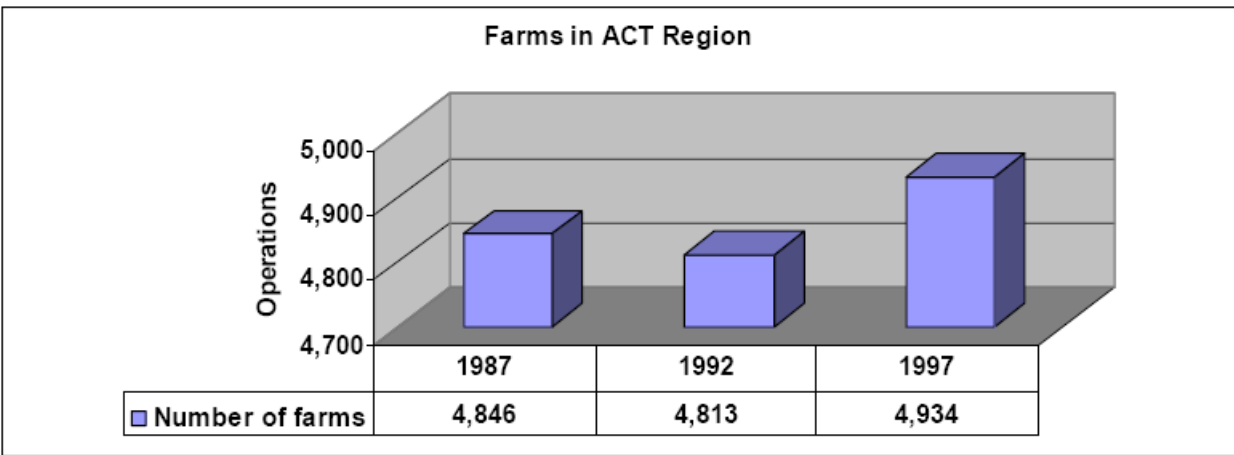
The Census of Agriculture for 1987, 1992, and 1997 showed a decrease in the number of farms between 1987 and 1992 by less than 1%. However, the number of farms increased by 4% between 1992 and 1997.

Between 1987 and 1997, Colorado farmland acreage decreased by 4%. Colorado farmland acreage consistently decreases from the prior observation.

The average estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm increased by 54% in Colorado between 1987 and 1997. Statewide, a consistent increasing trend in the value of farmland and buildings was observed.

Regionally, the number of farms increased by 2% between 1987 and 1997. The number of farms in the region showed a slight decrease between 1987 to 1992. The 1997 total number of farms in the region accounted for 18% of the state total in that year.





Regionally, the number of farms increased by 2% between 1987 and 1997. The number of farms in the region showed a slight decrease between 1987 to 1992. The 1997 total number of farms in the region accounted for 18% of the state total in that year.

Between 1987 and 1997, farmland acres in the ACT Region decreased by 5%. Land in farms increased

slightly from 1987 to 1992. The 1997 regional total represented 29% of the state total.

Between 1987 and 1997, the value of farmland and buildings in the ACT Region increased by 46%. In comparison to the state average value of farms and buildings, the ACT Region's average value is \$24,000 per farm less than the state average.

9.2 County trends in farm numbers, land in farms, and value of farmland and buildings

The number of farms in Alamosa County decreased by 6% between 1987 and 1997. The number of farms in Alamosa County represented 6% of the regional total in 1997.

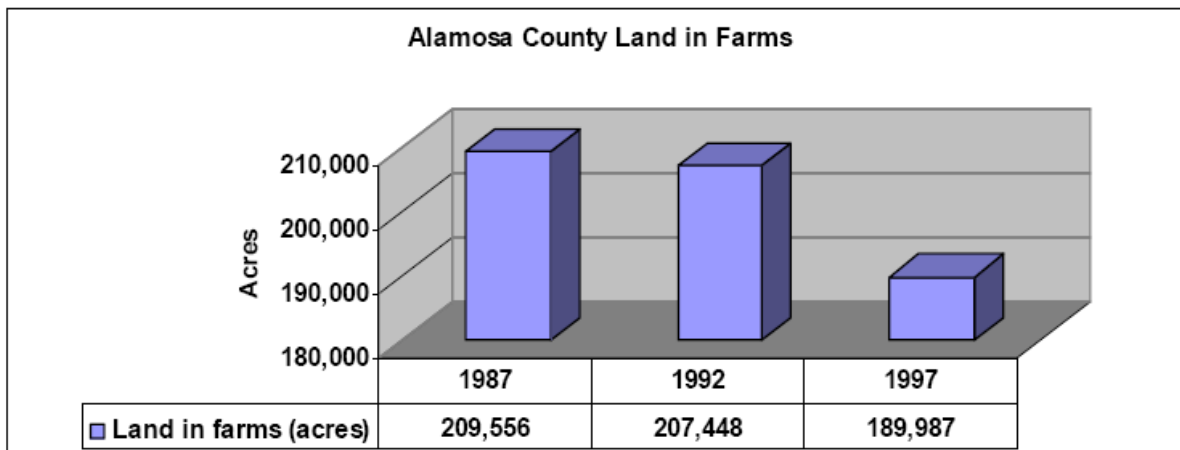
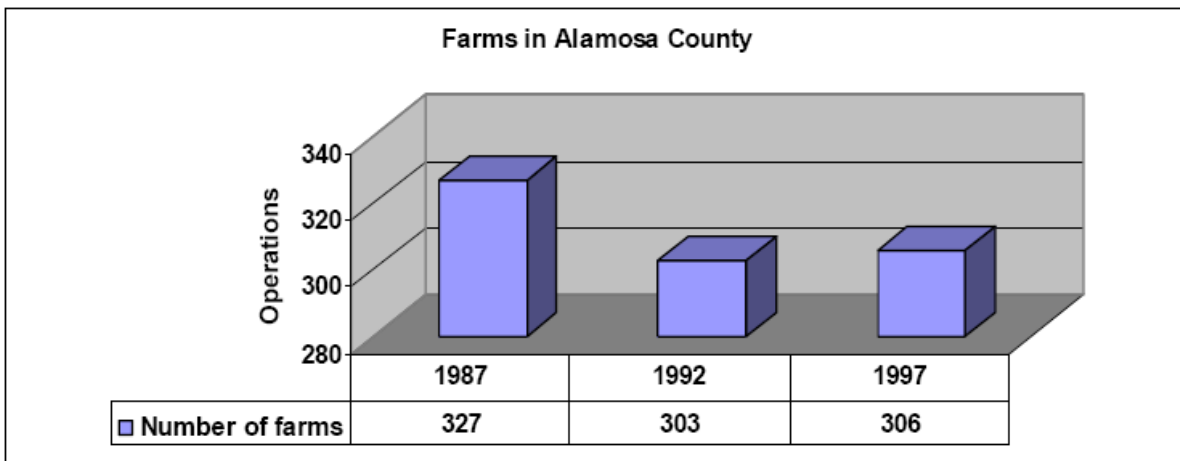
The amount of land in farms in Alamosa County decreased by 9% between 1987 and 1997. Land in farms in Alamosa County represented 2% of the regional total in 1997, ranking twelfth within the ACT region.

The value of farmland and buildings increased by 71% between 1987 and 1997, causing the 1997 county average value of farms to be in excess of the regional average by \$80,000 per farm. The series shows a consistent increasing trend over the observation period.

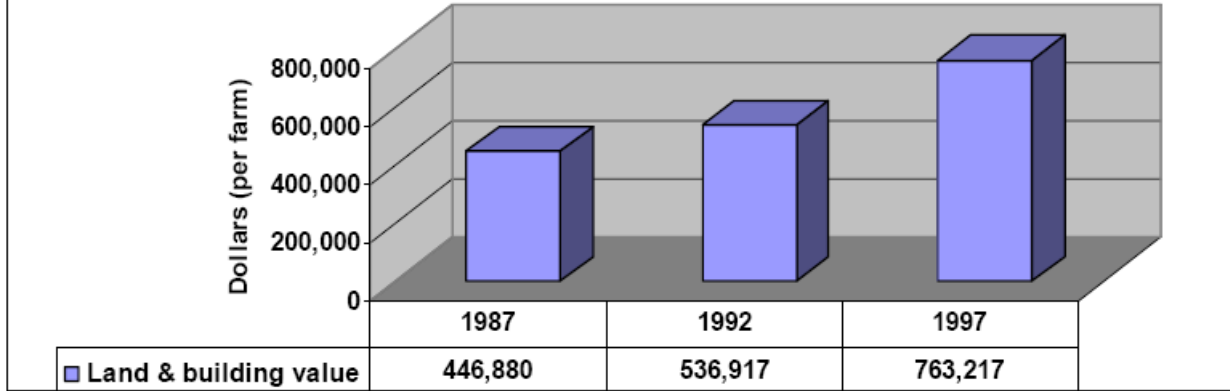
The number of farms in Baca County decreased by 8% between 1987 and 1992, but increased in 1997 by 8%. The total number of farms in Baca County accounted for 12% of the regional total in 1997. Baca County to had the second highest number of farms regionwide in 1997.

The farmland acreage for Baca County decreased by 13% over the period. Its 1.14 million acres of farmland makes Baca County the second highest regionwide in 1997, comprising 12% of the region's total.

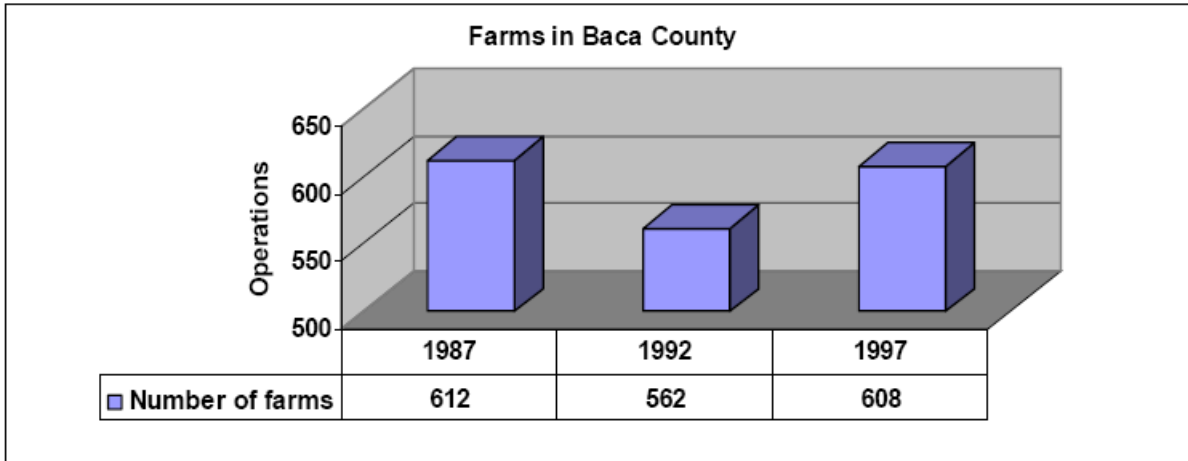
The estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm in Baca County increased by 76% between 1987 and 1997. The county average value exceeded the regional average value of farmland by \$64,000 per farm in 1997.



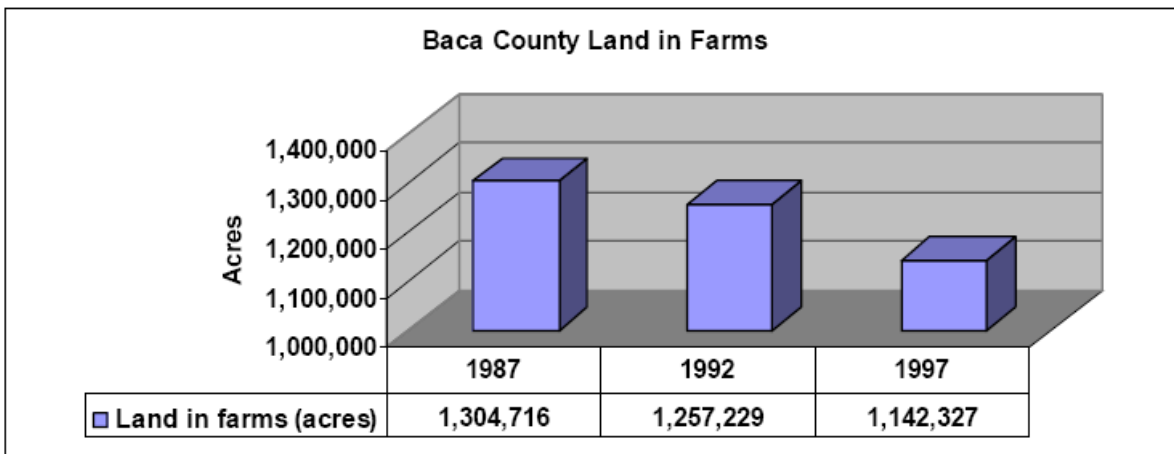
Average Estimated Value of Farmland and Buildings in Alamosa County

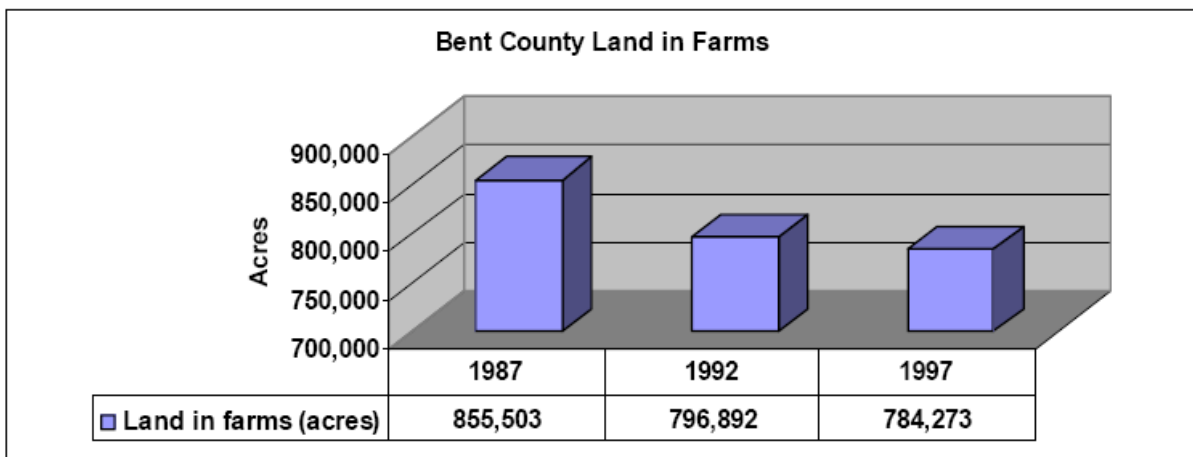
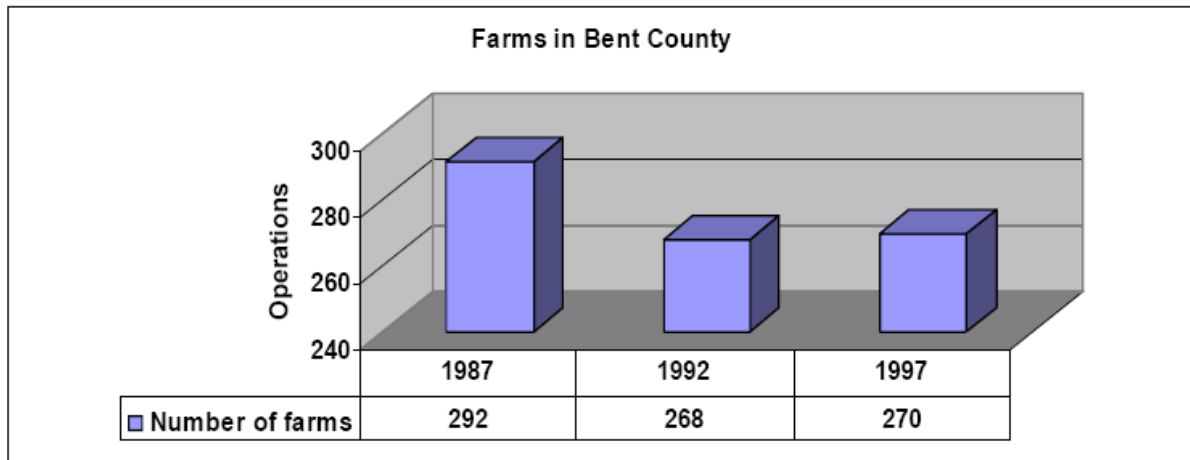
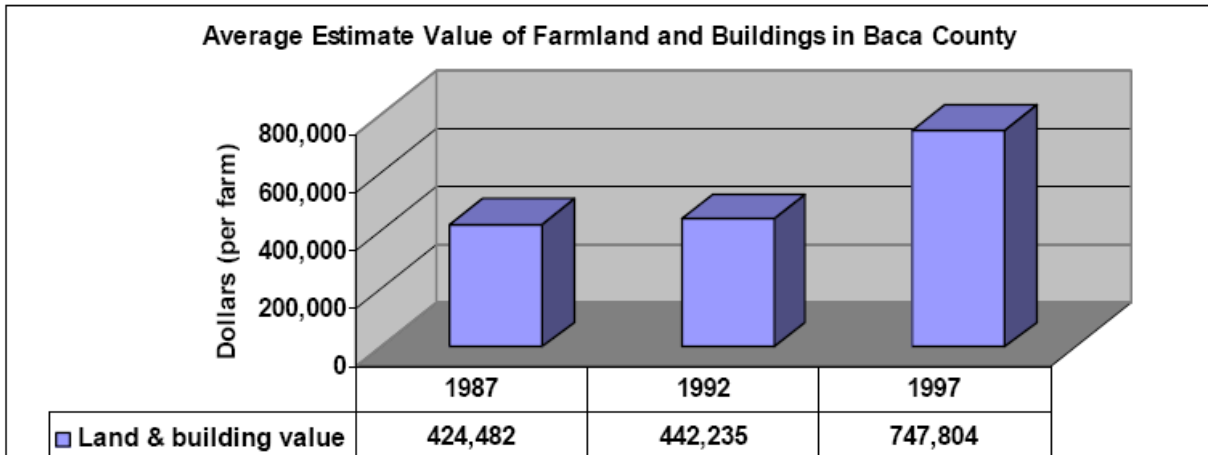


Farms in Baca County



Baca County Land in Farms





The number of farms in Bent County decreased by 8% between 1987 and 1997. In the county, the total number of farms accounted for 6% of the regional total in 1997. The number of farms in the county remained relatively constant between 1992 and 1997, with an increase of only 2 farms.

The amount of land in farms in Bent County decreased by 8% between 1987 and 1997. The total accounted for 8% of the regional total in 1997. A consistent decrease in land in farms was observed for the decade.

The average estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm decreased by 8% between 1987 and 1997. However, the county average was \$101,000 higher per farm than the regional average per farm in 1997.

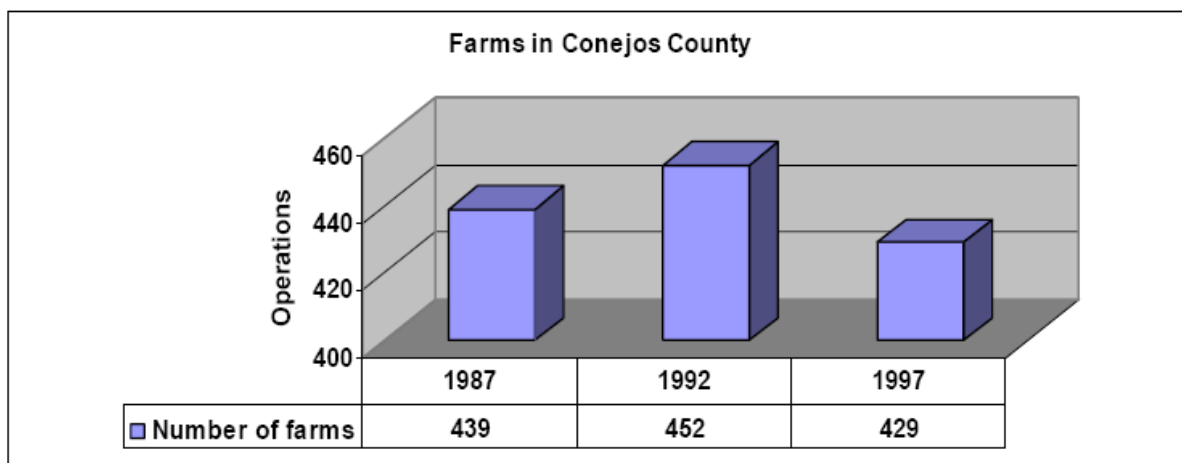
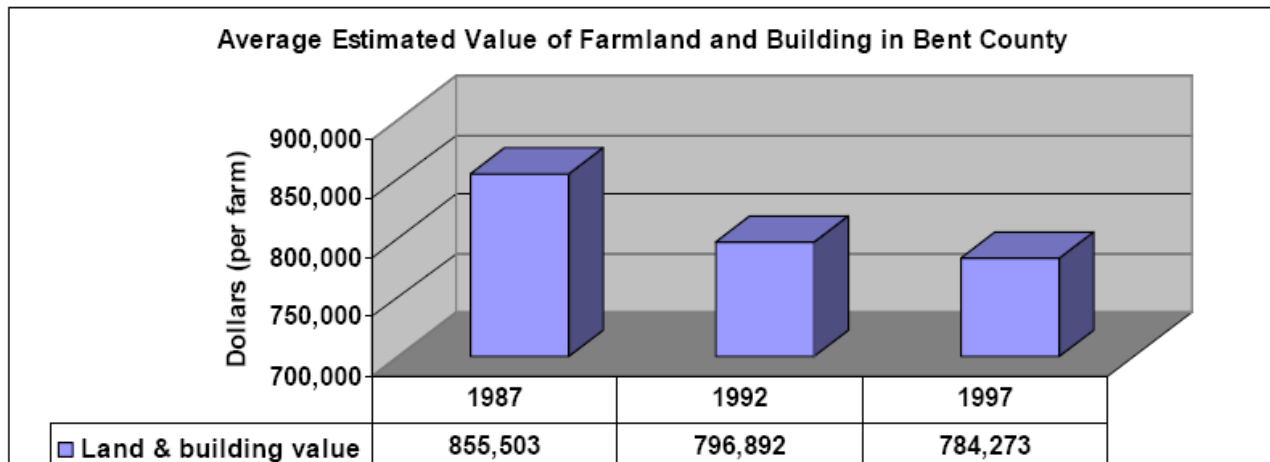
Between 1987 and 1992, the number of farms in Conejos County increased by 3%, but a decrease of 5% was found in the subsequent observation. The total number of farms in Conejos County accounted for 7% of the regional total in 1997.

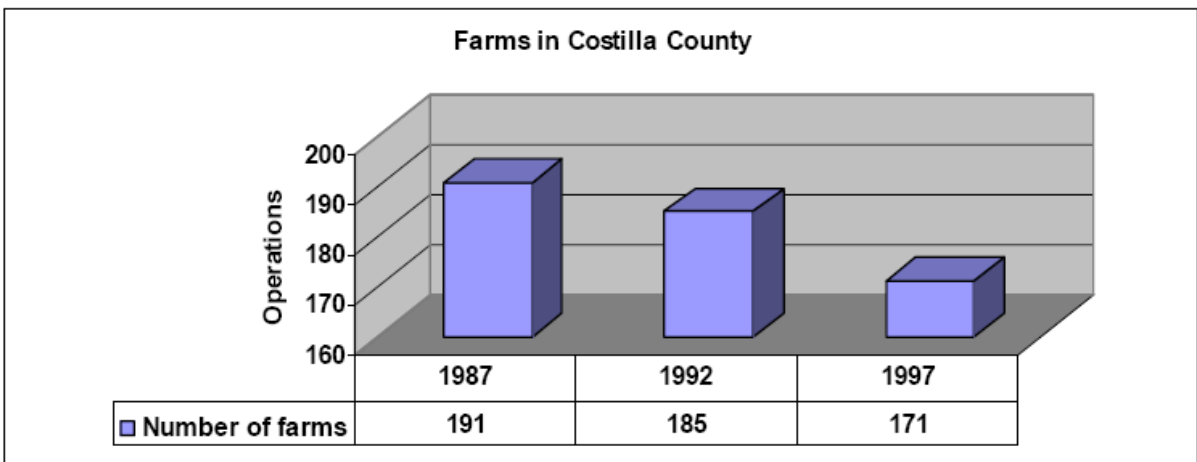
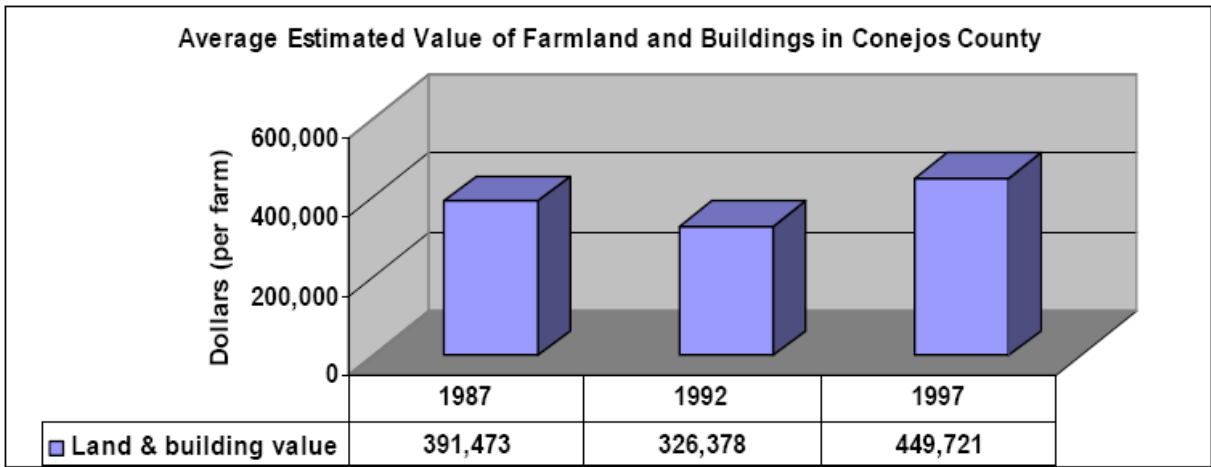
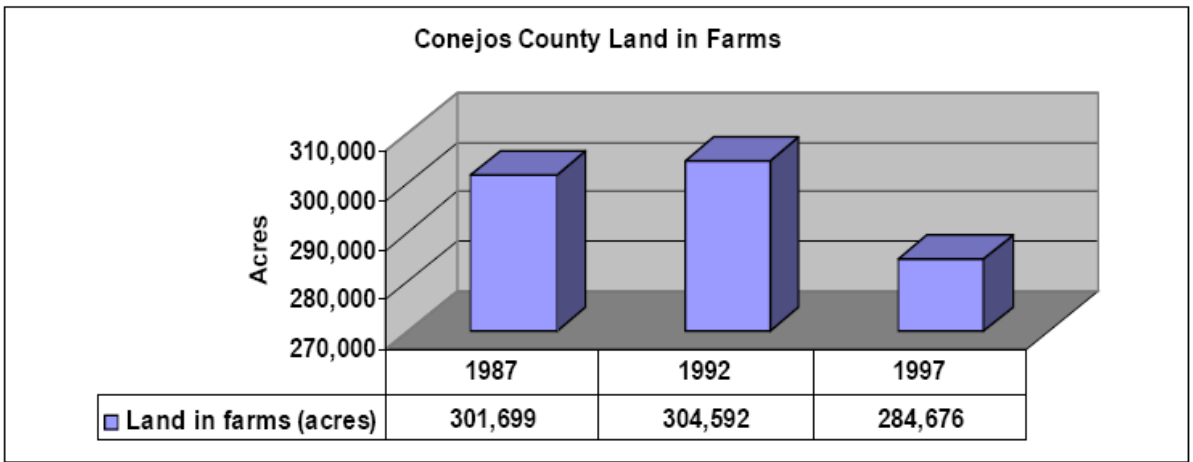
The amount of land in farms in Conejos County increased by 1% between 1987 and 1992, but then decreased by 7% in 1997. The total acres of farmland in Conejos County accounted for only 3% of the regional total in 1997, ranking eleventh regionwide.

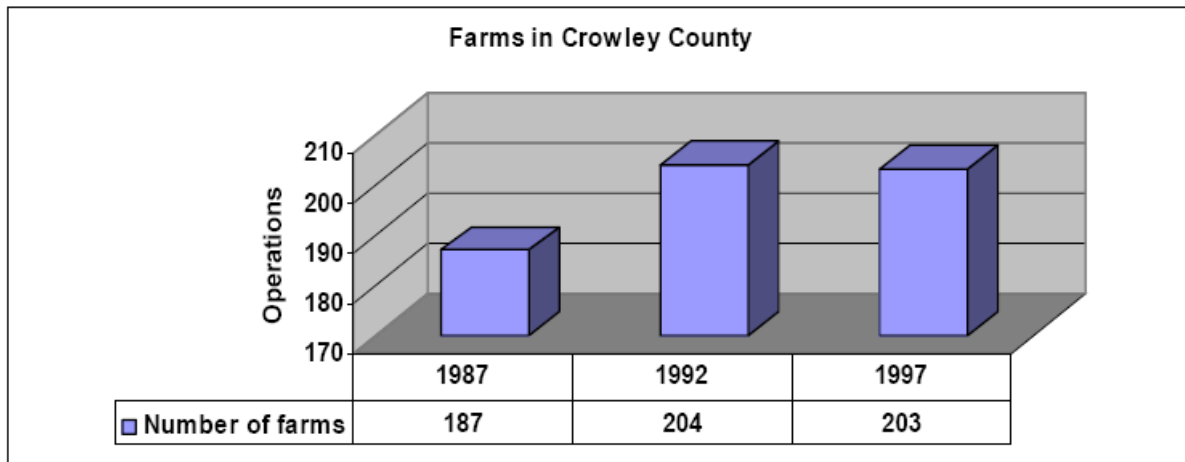
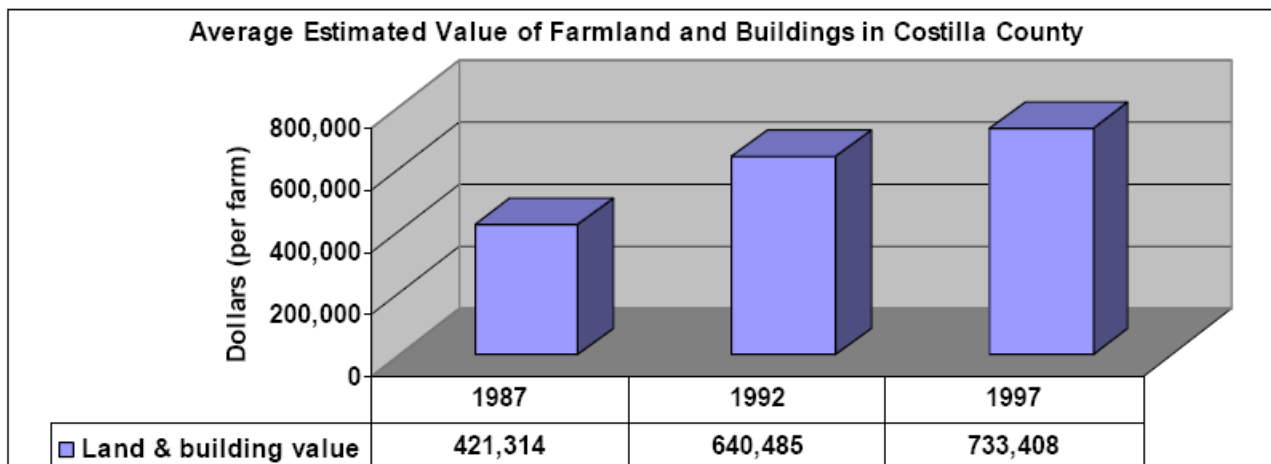
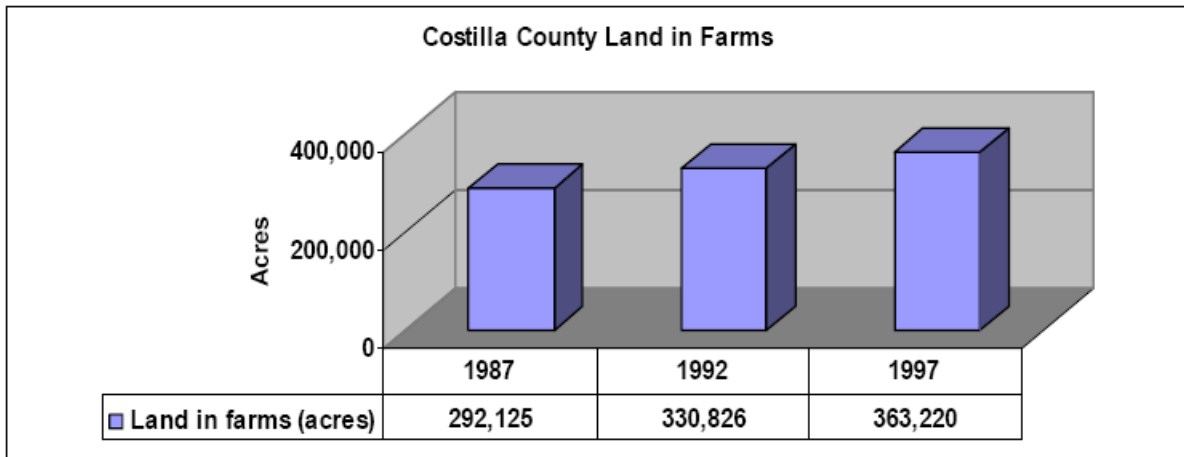
Land and building values increased by 15% overall, but in the first half of the decade this average value per farm decreased by 17% before rebounding by 1997. The estimated value of land and buildings in the county is the lowest regionwide, with the regional average per farm being \$234,000 higher than the county average per farm in 1997.

The number of farms in Costilla County decreased throughout the period, declining by 11% between 1987 and 1997. The number of farms in Costilla County accounted for 4% of the regional total in 1997, ranking it twelfth regionwide.

The amount of land in farms increased throughout the period for a total of 24% between 1987 and 1997. The total acreage accounted for 4% of the regional total in 1997.







The average value of land and buildings per farm in Costilla County increased throughout the decade, leading to an increase of 74%. The county average per farm is \$50,000 more than the regional average value of farmland and buildings in 1997.

The number of farms in Crowley County increased by 9% between 1987 and 1997. The total accounted for 4% of the regional total number of farms in 1997, ranking Crowley County eleventh within the ACT region.

The amount of farmland acreage in Crowley County increased by 4% between 1987 and 1992, and then declined by 8% in 1997, for a net decrease of 5% over the period. The total farm acreage in the county accounted for 4% of the regional total in 1997.

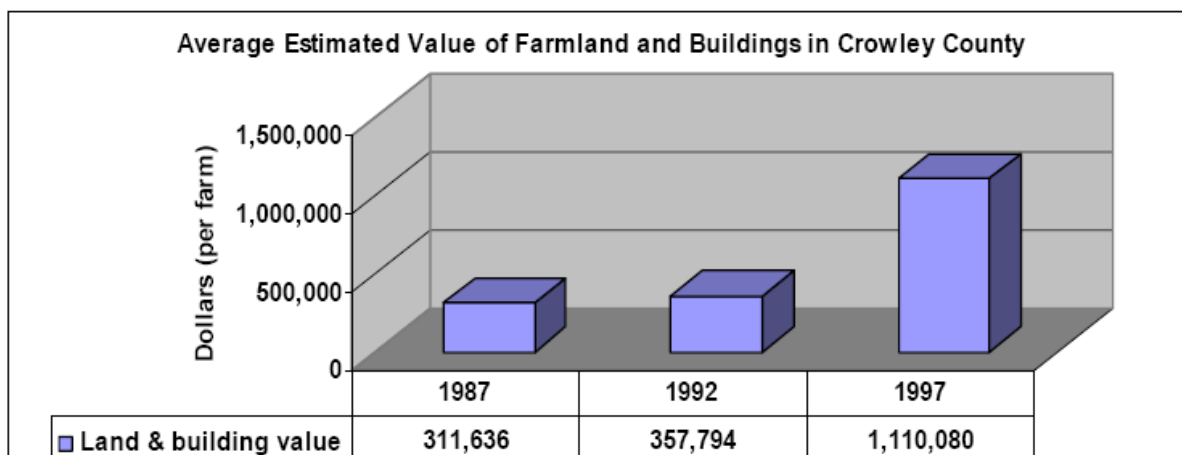
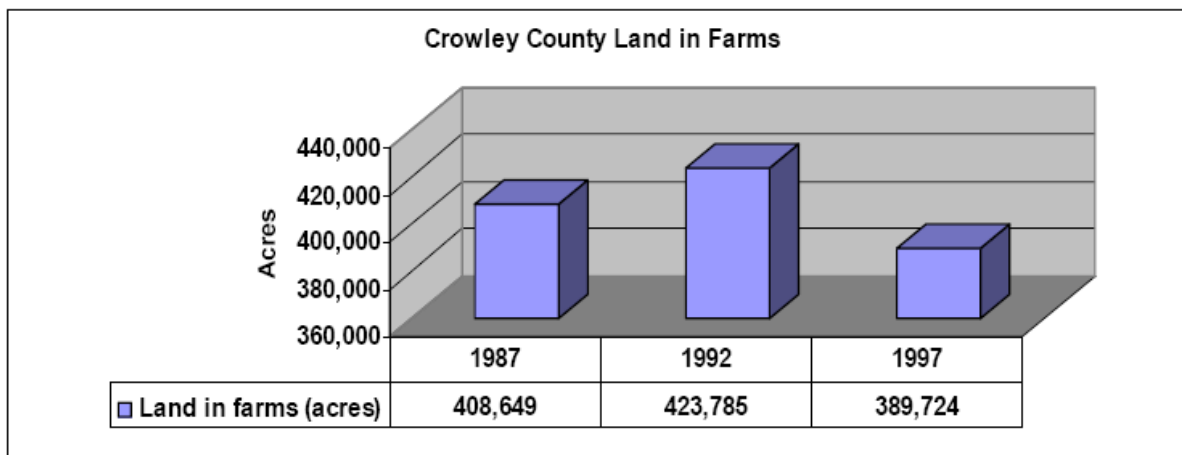
The average estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm in Crowley County increased by a regional high of 256% between 1987 and 1997. Crowley County experienced the highest estimated value of farmland and buildings of all thirteen counties in 1997, exceeding the regional average value of farmland and buildings per farm by \$426,000.

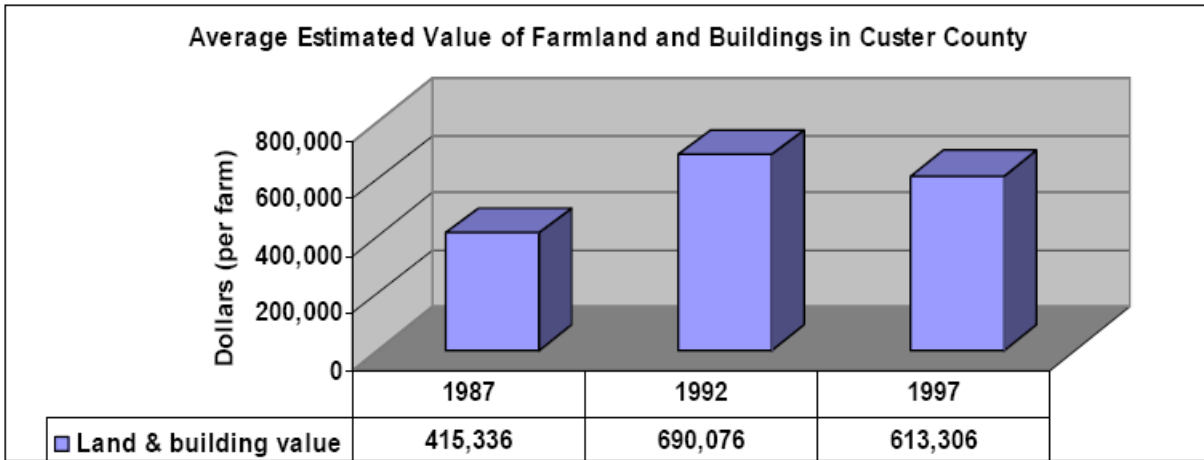
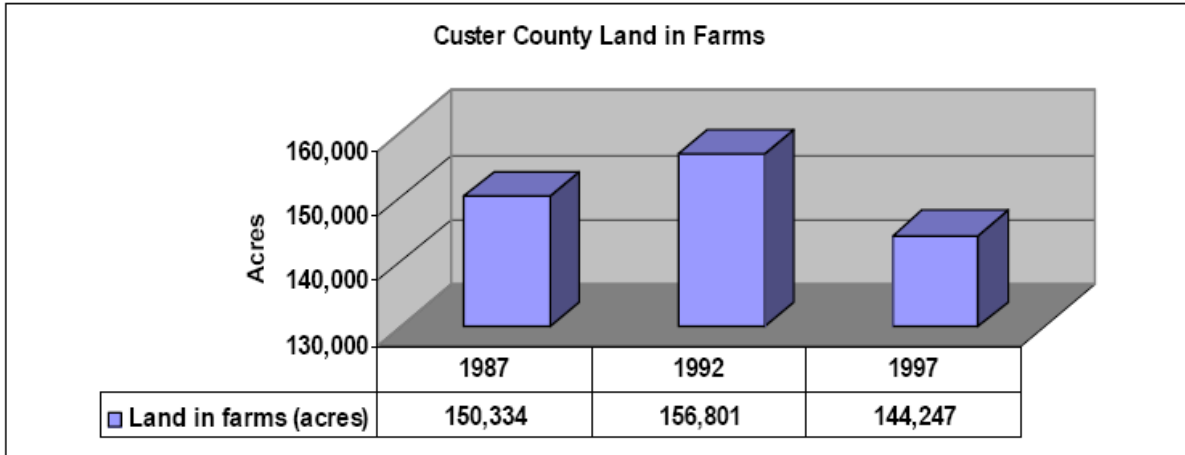
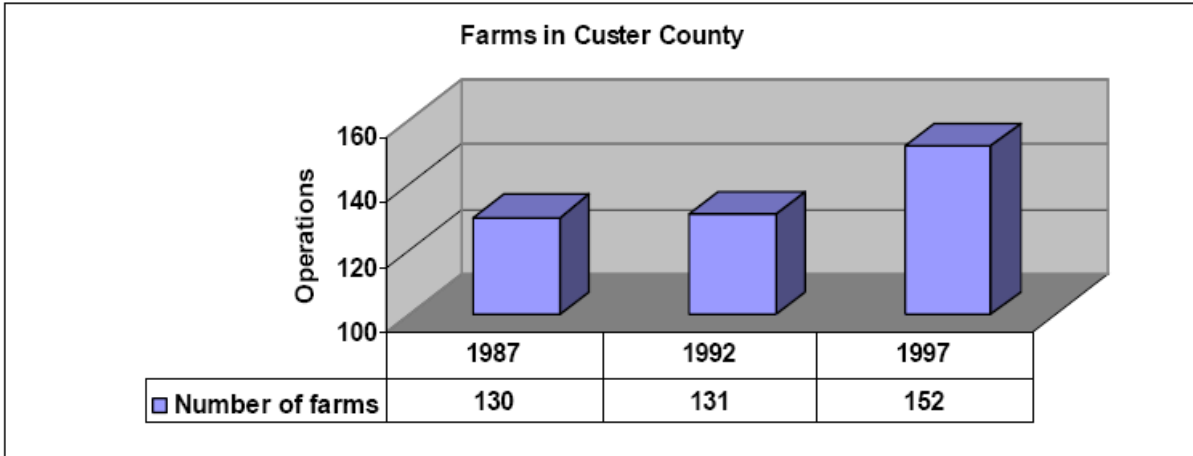
The number of farms in Custer County rose by 17% between 1987 and 1997. The county total accounted

for 4% of the regional total in 1997. However, Custer County had the lowest number of farms among ACT counties in 1997.

Custer County acres in farmland increased by 4% between 1987 and 1992, but then declined by 8% by 1997. The total number of acres in farmland accounted for 2% of the regional total in 1997. Custer County had the lowest number of farmland acres regionwide.

In Custer County, the estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm rose by 66% between 1987 and 1992 and declined by 11% between 1992 and 1997. The value of farms and buildings per farm in Custer County was \$70,000 less than the regional average value in 1997.





The number of farms in Huerfano County rose by 12% between 1987 and 1997. The total number of farms in Huerfano County accounted for 6% of the regional total in 1997.

Huerfano County experienced a less than 1% decrease in the amount of land in farms between 1987 and 1997. The county total land in farms, accounted for 7% of the regional total in 1997.

Farmland and building values in Huerfano County increased by 58% between 1987 and 1997. Huerfano County experienced the third highest total value of farmland and buildings per farm regionwide in 1997. The county had \$170,000 more than the regional average value per farm.

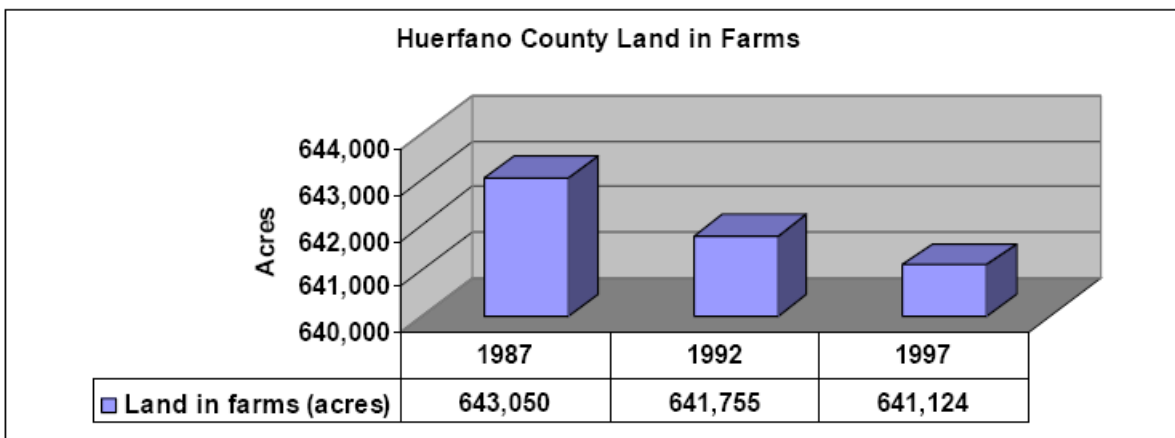
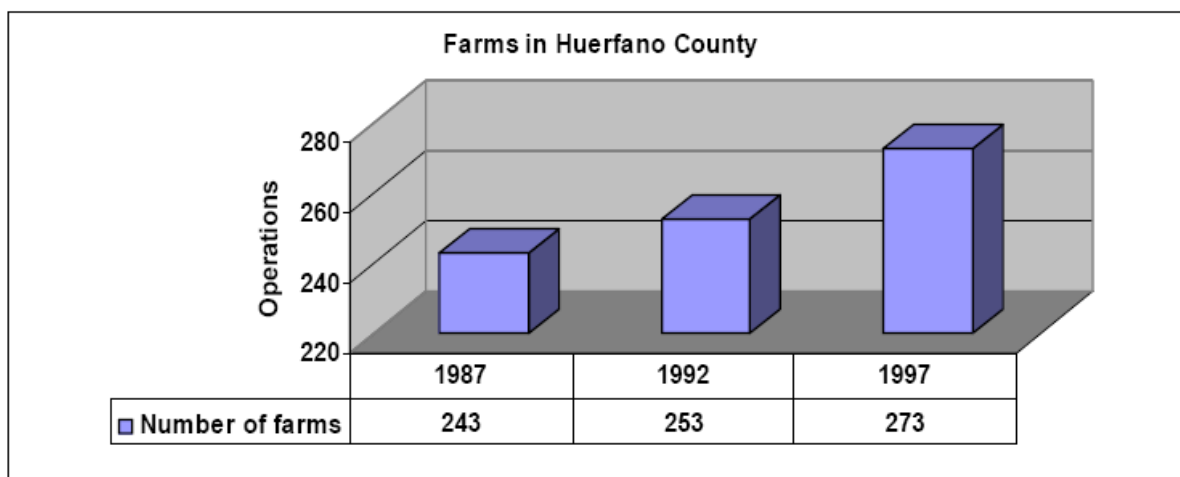
The number of farms in Kiowa County increased by 3% between 1987 and 1997, rebounding in the second

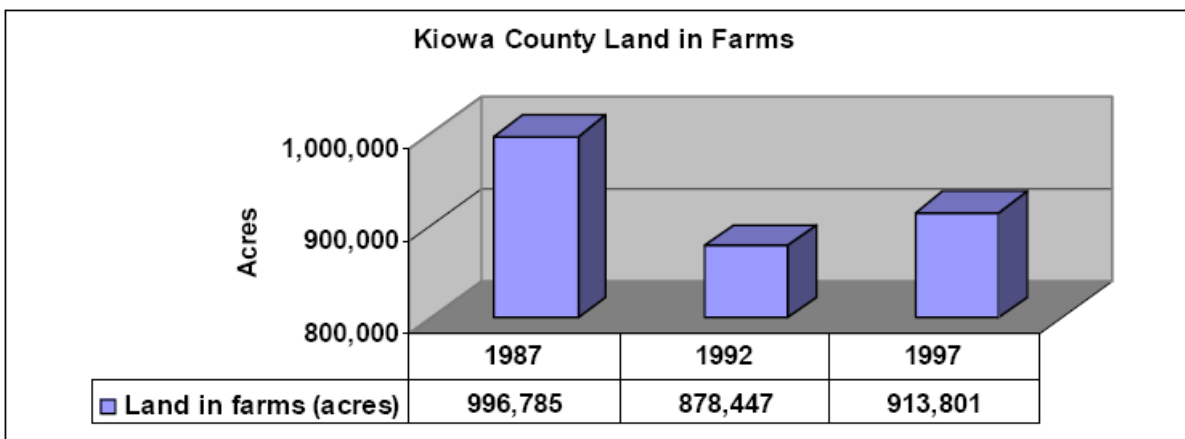
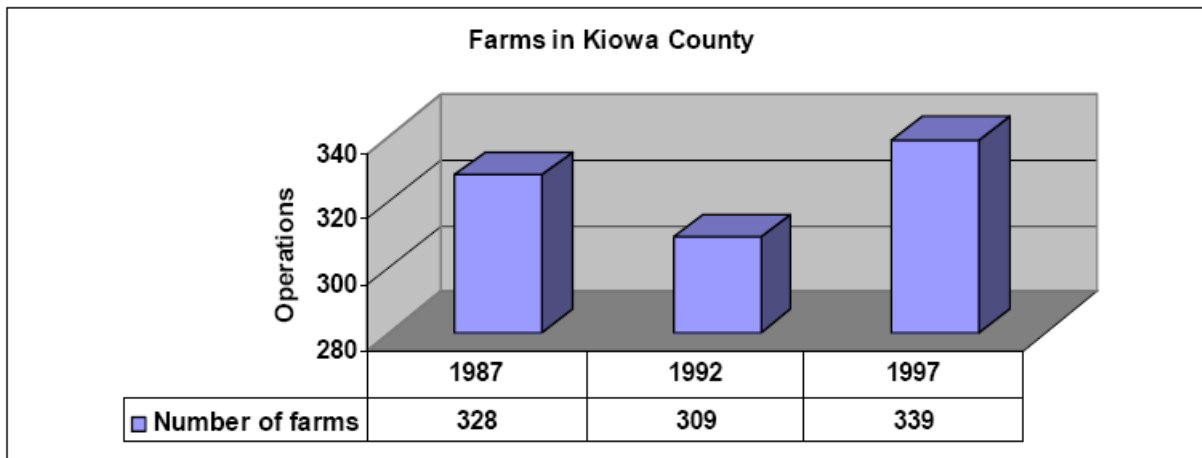
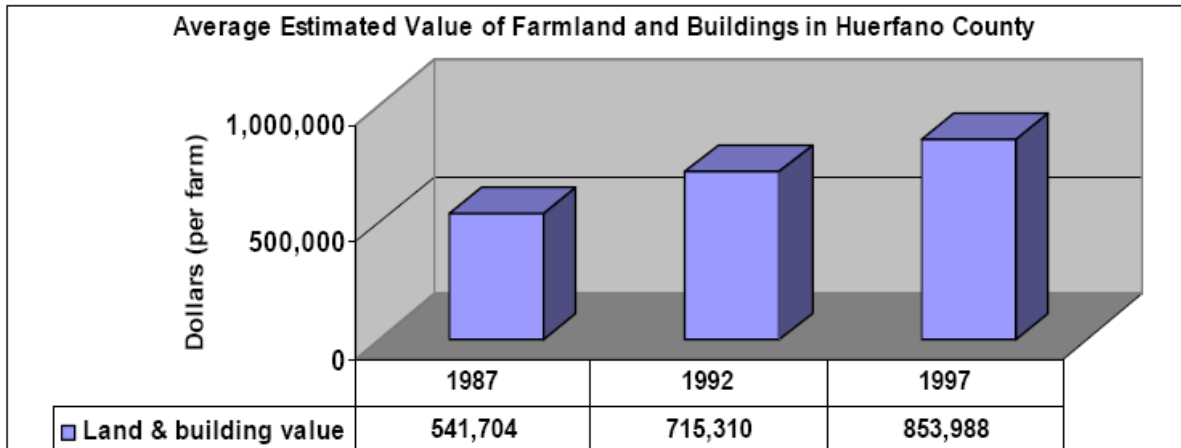
half of the decade after a decrease of 19 farms between 1987 and 1992. Kiowa's total farm count accounted for 7% of the regional total in 1997.

The amount of acreage involved in agricultural production in Kiowa County decreased by 8% between 1987 and 1997. The 1997 total accounted for 10% of the regional total, which made Kiowa County the county with the third highest amount of farm acres regionwide.

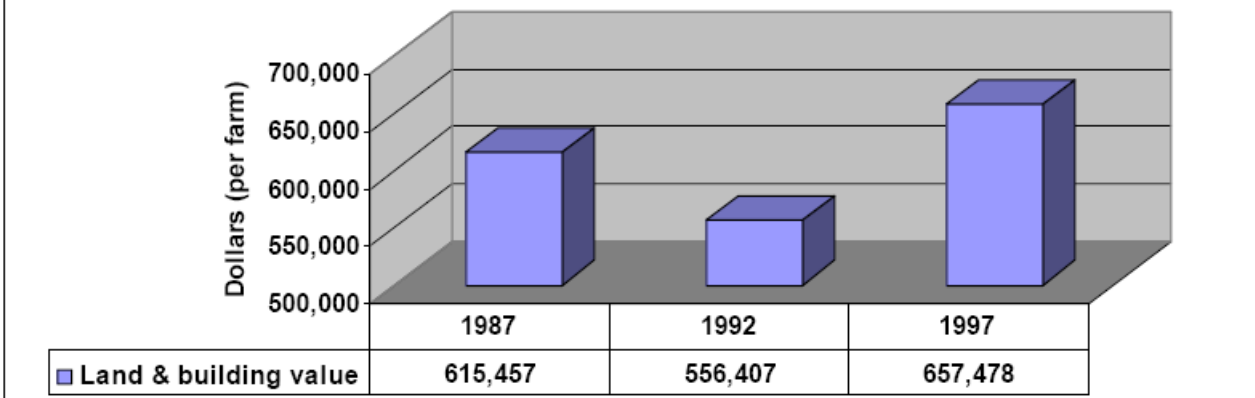
The estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm in Kiowa County increased by 7% between 1987 and 1997, rebounding from a decrease of \$59,000 between 1987 and 1992.

The total value of land and buildings per farm in Kiowa County equaled \$26,000 less than the regional average value per farm in 1997.

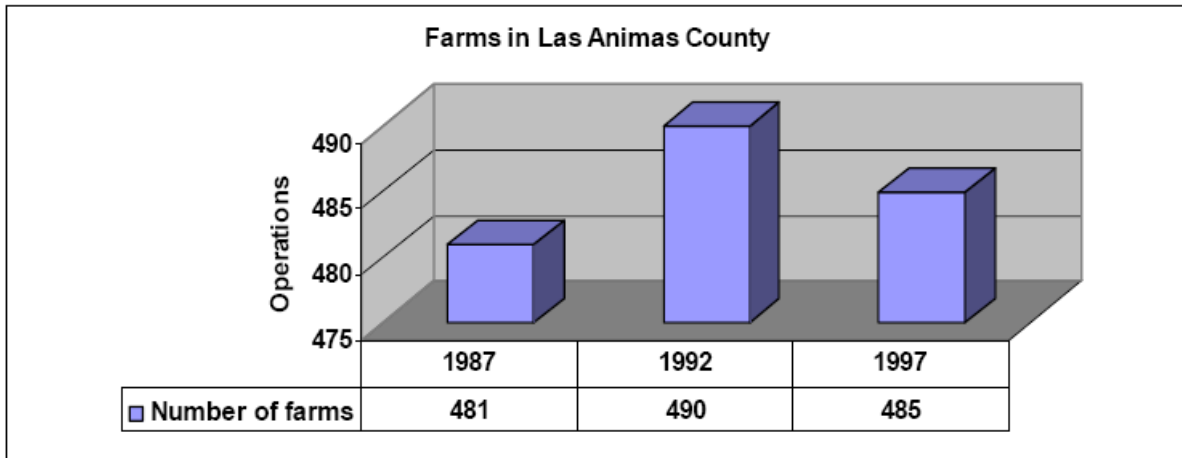




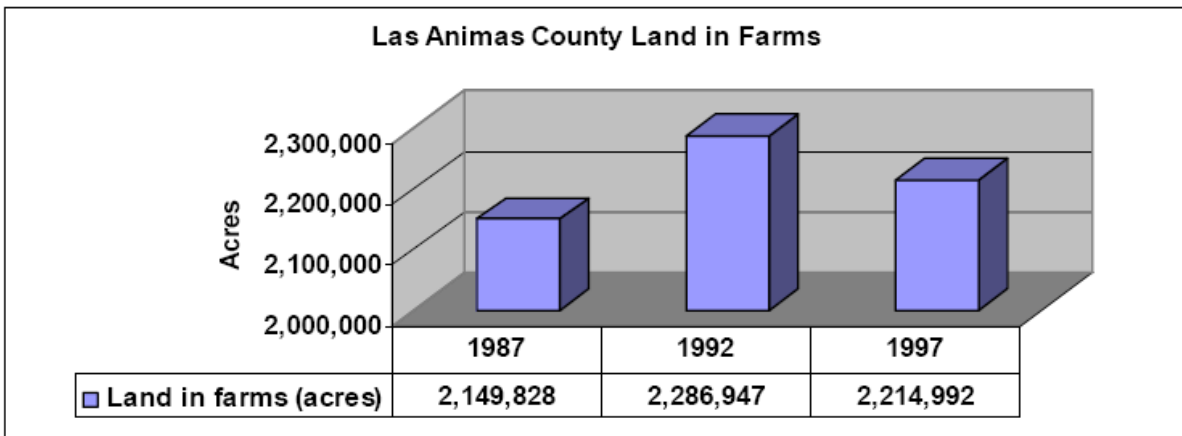
Average Estimated Value of Farmland and Buildings in Kiowa County



Farms in Las Animas County



Las Animas County Land in Farms



Las Animas had 2% more farms in 1992 than in 1987, but decreased by 1% in the second half of the decade, giving an overall increase of 1% between 1987 and 1997. The number of farms in Las Animas County accounted for 10% of the regional total in 1997.

The amount of land in farms in Las Animas County increased by 6% between 1987 and 1992, but then decreased by 3% by 1997, resulting in a net increase of 3% in the number of farms over the decade. The total accounted for 24% of all farmland acres in the region in 1997, ranking first within the ACT region.

Regionally, Las Animas County had the second highest value of farmland and buildings per farm in 1997. The average value per farm exceeded the regional average per farm by \$203,000 in 1997. Average value per farm increased consistently across the period, generating a growth rate of 69% between 1987 and 1997.

Farms in Otero County increased by 4% between 1987 and 1997. The total accounted for 10% of the regional total in 1997. The number of farms in Otero County consistently increased over the decade.

The amount of land in farms in Otero County decreased by 21% between 1987 and 1997. The total number of farmland acres in the county accounted for 7% of the ACT regional total in 1997. Decreases in farm acreage were consistent throughout the period.

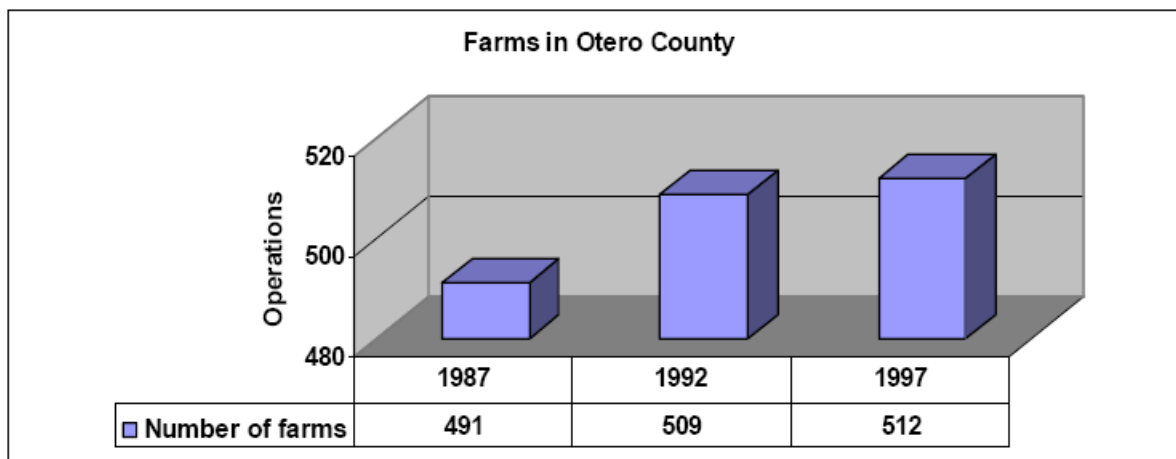
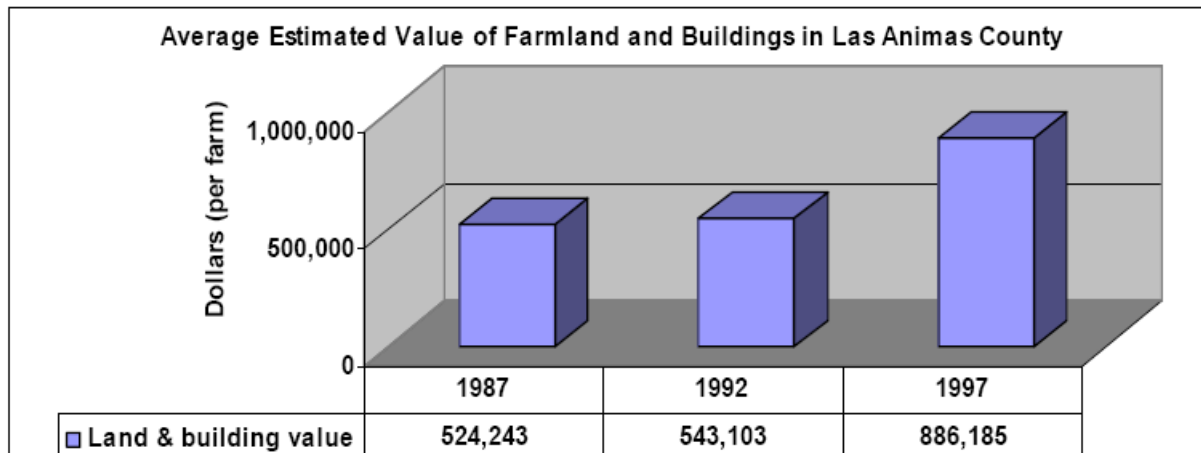
Otero County's average value of farmland and buildings per farm increased consistently throughout the decade, increasing by 35% overall. The total value per farm ranked twelfth regionwide, as the county land and

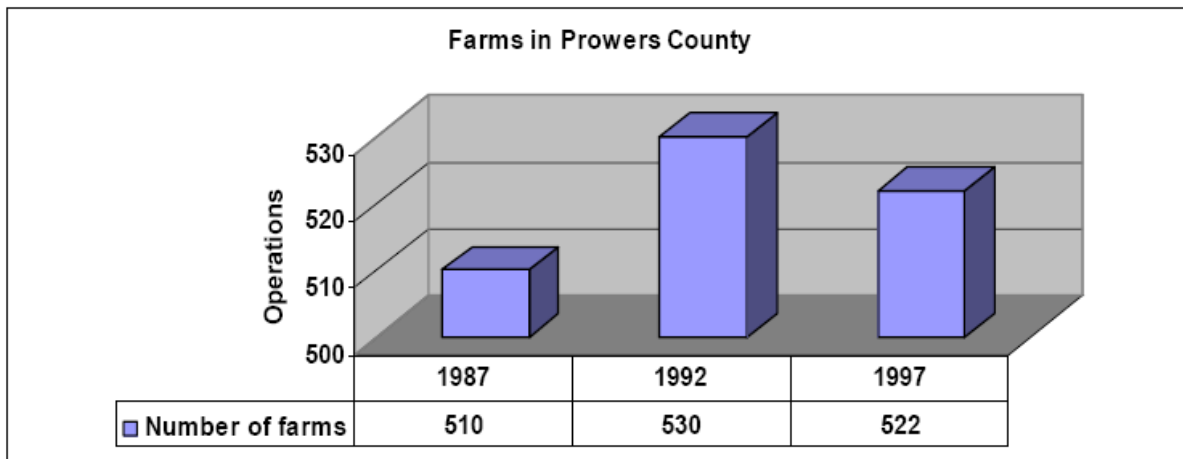
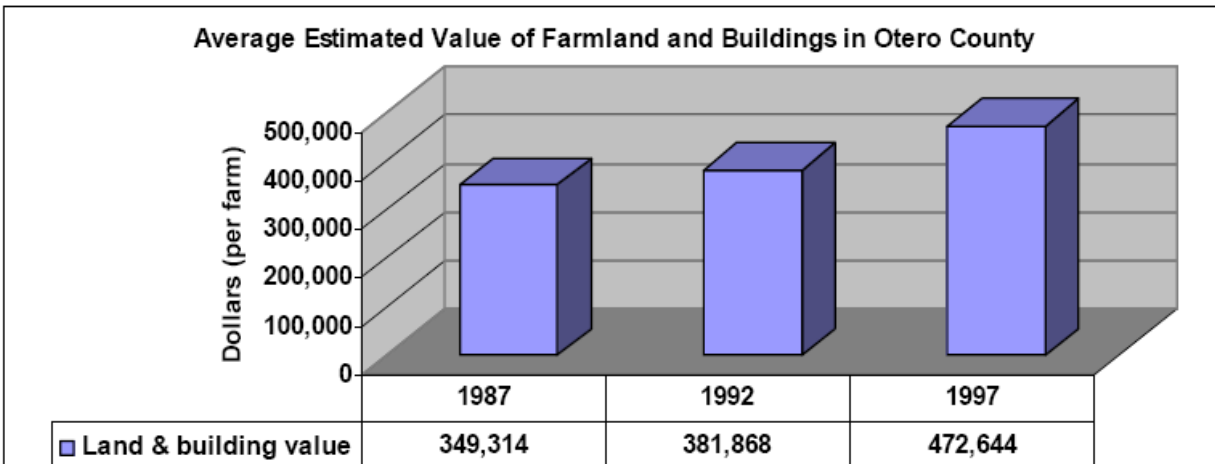
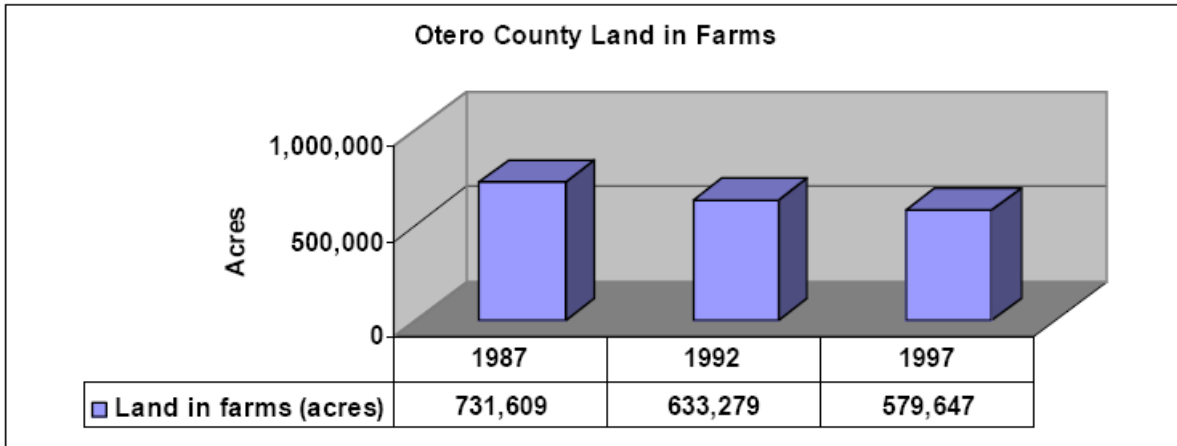
building values per farm were \$211,000 below the regional average.

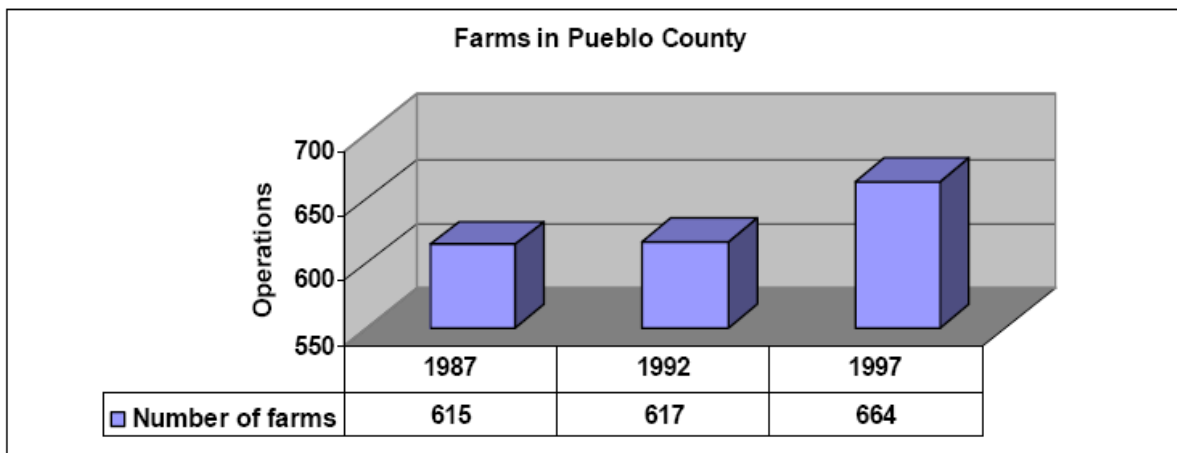
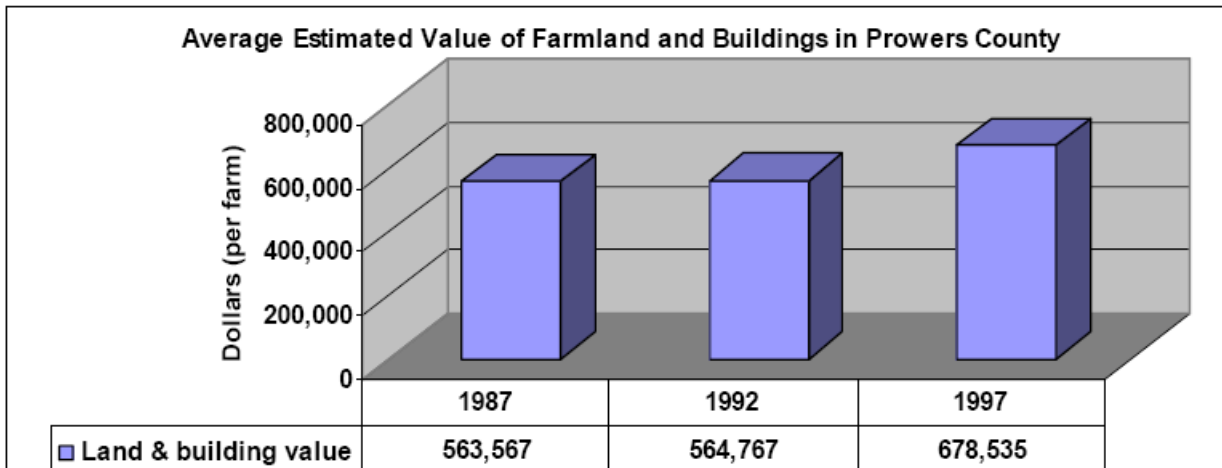
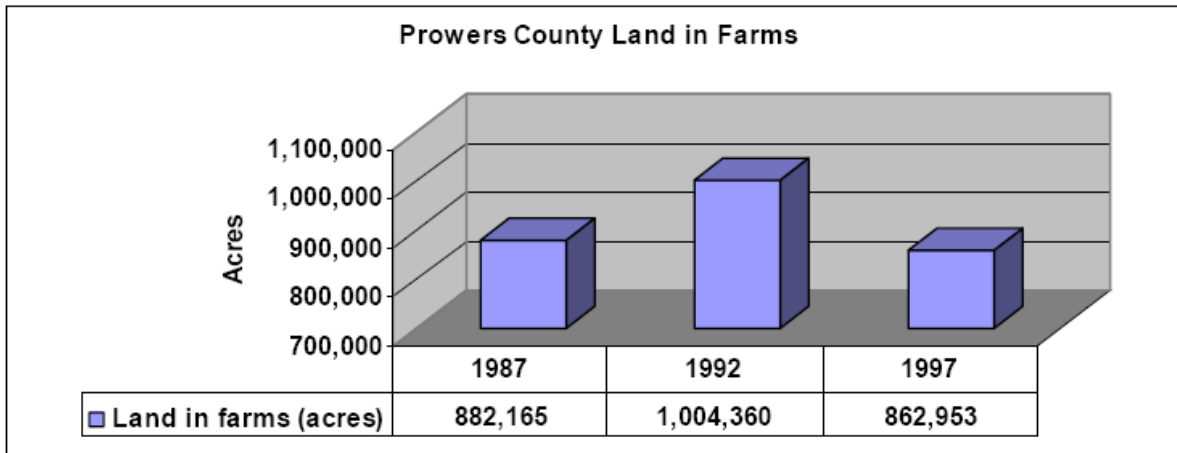
The number of farms in Prowers County increased by 4% between 1987 and 1992, and then decreased by 2%, giving the county 2% growth overall. Prowers County had the third highest number of farms regionally in 1997, accounting for 11% of the regional total.

The number of farmland acres in Prowers County increased by 14% between 1987 and 1992 and then decreased by 14% the following period. Between 1987 and 1997, an overall decrease of 2% occurred in the county. The total number of farms in Prowers County accounted for 9% of the region's total land in farms in 1997.

The estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm in Prowers County increased consistently between 1987 and 1997, growing by 20% over the period. Total value of farmland and buildings per farm in Prowers County was below the regional average value per farm by about \$5,000 in 1997.



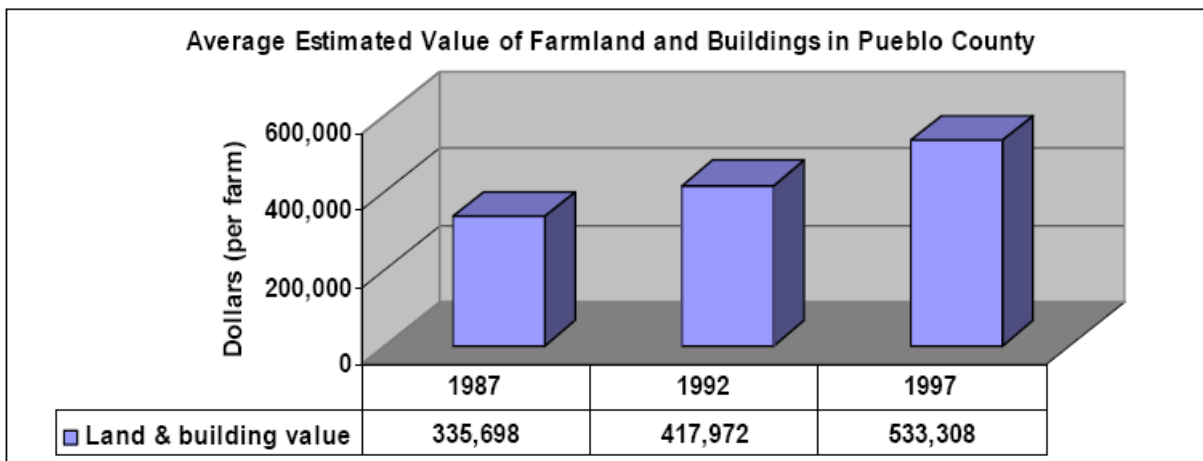
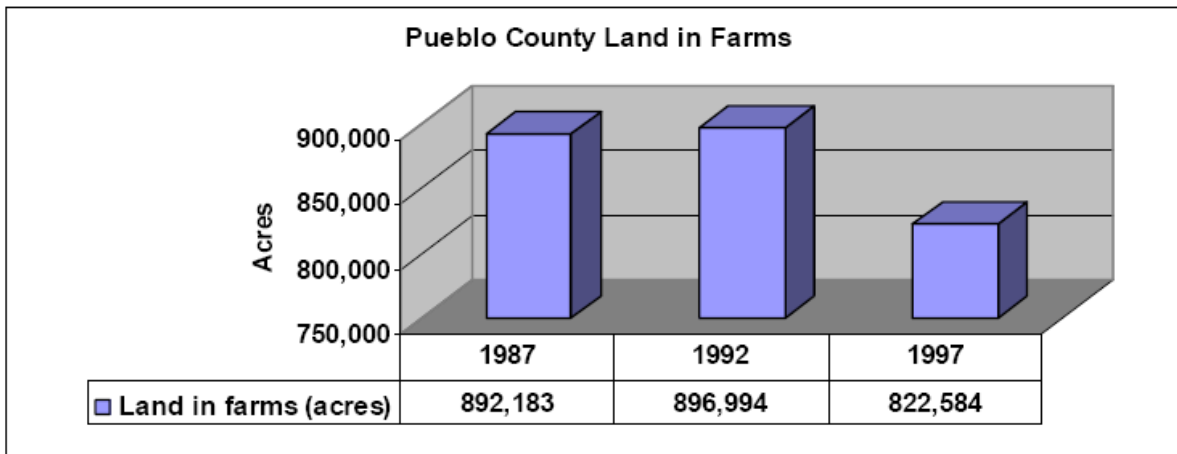




The number of farms in Pueblo County increased consistently throughout the decade, growing by 8% between 1987 and 1997.

Pueblo County had the highest number of farms in the region for 1997, and accounted for 14% of the regional total.

Pueblo County farmland acres increased between 1987 and 1992 by a slim margin, but a more marked decrease occurred between 1992 and 1997. There was an overall decrease of 8% in the number of acres dedicated to agriculture in the county. The total farmland acreage accounted for 9% of the regional total in 1997.



Pueblo County's estimated value of farmland and buildings per farm increased consistently throughout the observation period, growing by 59% between 1987 and 1997. Pueblo County ranked eleventh regionally in total estimated per farm value at some \$150,000 less than that of the regional average.

9.3 Farm Number, Acreage, and Property Value Conclusion

Land in farms has decreased for both the region and the state, while the number of farms has increased in both cases; agricultural parcels are smaller on average than they were at in 1997. The average farm in the region in 1987 had 2,026 acres, and the declined to 1,892 acres by 1997. Closer inspection of agricultural lands would probably reveal more very large operations where most of the agricultural production activi-

ties occur and many more parcels of about 35 acres where little to no actual agricultural production is taking place. Despite experiencing an increase in the number of farms the number of agricultural jobs have decreased in Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Las Animas, and Prowers County during the 1990s. Agriculture land prices are a function of expected future returns, including government farm programs, but also the potential to convert that land to higher intensity uses than agriculture. Thus, population and income growth may be driving agricultural land values beyond what is justifiable from the returns to agricultural production. The property value of farmland and buildings has been increasing while returns to actual farm production have largely been in decline. As a result, farmers and ranchers have a greater incentive to take the land out of agricultural production now than they did in the past.

9.4 Summary and overview of farm income and expense

Farm income and expense estimates in Colorado are the result of cooperation between the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS). The ERS and NASS provide data to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) where they are aggregated into state and national level information. The major income components of this assessment are government payments, miscellaneous income, cash receipts from livestock, crops, and other sources. The expense portion of this study is comprised of purchases of feed, livestock, seed, fertilizer, petroleum, labor, and all other production expenses. In other sections of this study livestock receipts are explored in greater detail. The major difference between the farm income and expense section presented here and the livestock section presented later is that the farm income section below uses estimates whereas sections 9.10- 9.19 use actual data collected from the Census of Agriculture.

Statewide, the majority of cash receipts came from livestock sales. Statewide cash receipts fell by 1% for the period, while the region experienced a 17% decrease. Coloradoan farms realized an 18% increase, while the regions' farmers experienced a 15% increase in cash receipts from crops. Other income at the state level increased by 85% and the ACT Region's other income category grew by 146% during the same period. Imputed and miscellaneous income for the state grew by 113%, while growing by 315% in the region.

At the state and regional level, all production expense categories increased with the exception of a decrease in the purchased livestock expenses. Cash receipts and other income increased by 12% at the state level and decreased by 8% in the region. Total net income including corporate farms throughout the state experienced a 34% decrease in income over the period, while the regional category decreased by 22%. State and regional inventories decreased markedly over the period, which is reflected in decreases in income for the state, region and within many counties.

Using the most recent data, Prowers County had the highest cash receipts from livestock, Otero had the second highest and Crowley County was third. Alamosa County, Baca County, and Prowers County had the highest cash receipts from crops. Baca, Prowers, and Kiowa County were the top three counties in cash receipts from other income. Baca, Kiowa, and Prowers

County had the highest amounts of government payments in 1999. Prowers, Crowley, and Baca County had the highest imputed and miscellaneous income within the region.

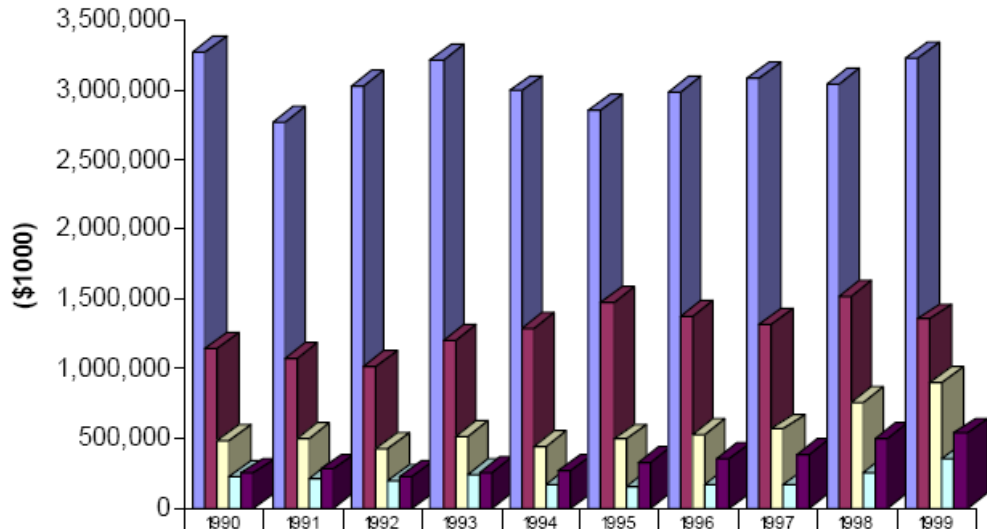
Feed purchase and livestock expenses were the highest in Prowers, Otero, Crowley, and Baca County in 1999. Seed purchase, fertilizer and lime, and petroleum product expenses were highest in Alamosa, Prowers, and Baca County. Hired farm labor and all other expenses were the greatest in Alamosa, Prowers, and Kiowa County within the ACT Region.

Total cash receipts from marketings, total production expenses and total cash receipts and other income were the highest in, Prowers, Otero, and Baca County. Prowers, Baca, and Crowley County had the highest overall net incomes. Alamosa, Kiowa, and Costilla County had the highest total value of inventory change within the region, and were the only counties reporting a positive change in inventory over the period.

Colorado livestock and livestock products cash receipts decreased by 1% between 1990 and 1999. Livestock receipts make up the majority of all cash receipts earned. The cash receipts from crops increased by 18%, from \$1.15 billion in 1990 to \$1.36 billion in 1999. Other income, which is income earned from farm related activities other than crop and livestock production, increased 85% and government payments rose by 6% over the period. Imputed and miscellaneous income increased by 113% statewide over the period. Imputed income consists of income from the rental value of the home if the farm dwelling was rented at market value rather than being occupied by the farmer. Imputed farm income also includes custom work income, rental income, and income from forest products.

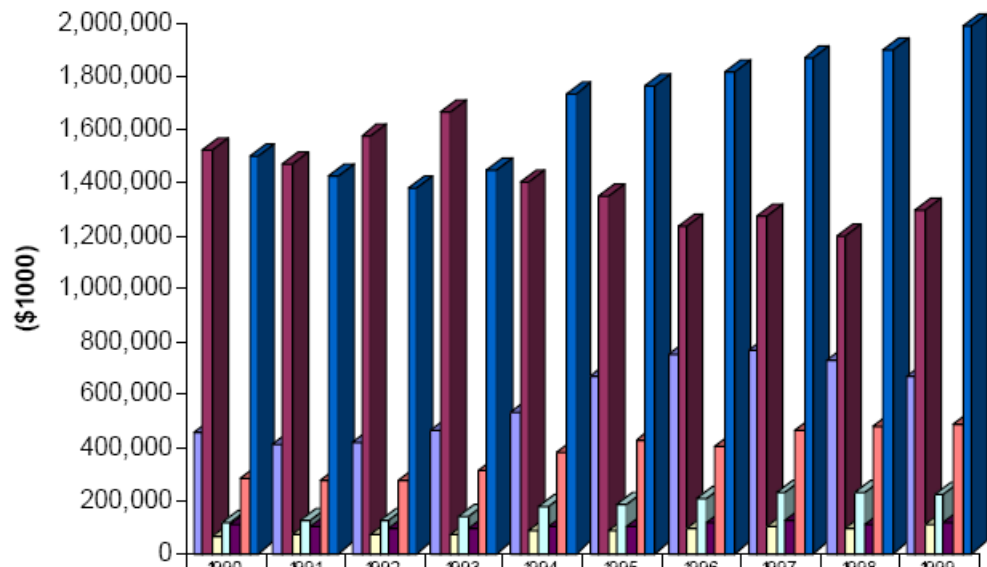
Production expenses increased in all but one expense category between 1990 and 1999. Feed purchases increased by 46% and seed purchases increased by 65% over the decade. Fertilizer and lime expenditures increased by the highest rate in the period, climbing by 85%. Petroleum products purchased increased by 7% and hired farm labor climbed by 73%, whereas the all other expense category climbed by 33% over the decade. Livestock purchase expenses decreased by 15% statewide, the only expense category that declined. The greatest expenditures statewide were in the all other expenses category, accounting for 41% of the total production expenses in 1999. Livestock purchase

Colorado Cash Receipts



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Cash receipts: livestock and products	3,266,796	2,767,708	3,024,186	3,206,597	2,988,246	2,857,647	2,983,400	3,080,970	3,037,123	3,226,519
Cash receipts: crops	1,149,078	1,082,042	1,025,796	1,209,575	1,289,401	1,477,324	1,379,232	1,323,311	1,515,896	1,355,665
Other income	491,694	500,500	439,696	514,861	450,916	499,350	536,728	568,935	757,098	909,712
Government payments	236,723	217,102	203,234	250,253	176,967	166,963	176,240	175,637	257,696	368,005
Imputed and miscellaneous income received	254,971	283,398	236,462	264,608	273,949	332,367	360,488	393,298	499,402	541,707

Colorado Production Expenses



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	455,454	408,701	420,109	462,390	529,534	666,076	750,855	762,373	728,983	666,099
Livestock purchased	1,522,088	1,470,849	1,576,251	1,666,998	1,398,438	1,350,477	1,231,168	1,271,336	1,194,528	1,292,104
Seed purchased	64,602	73,793	68,051	73,278	86,651	83,523	92,715	102,597	97,051	106,756
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	120,493	123,472	123,690	139,727	174,946	185,744	204,636	229,210	229,931	223,090
Petroleum products purchased	107,136	104,258	93,467	91,427	101,268	101,166	118,243	123,210	111,048	114,858
Hired farm labor expenses	280,180	272,215	272,949	311,170	382,211	430,218	403,277	467,551	476,511	485,171
All other production expenses	1,494,709	1,420,361	1,375,264	1,445,584	1,730,199	1,760,753	1,814,017	1,866,387	1,894,887	1,987,323

expenses were the second highest proportion of total expenditures, accounting for 27% of the total.

Corporate farms and farm proprietors experienced a decrease in the amount of income that they received between 1990 and 1999. Corporate farms statewide had a 34% decrease in income for the period, whereas farm proprietors had a decrease of 19%. Total cash receipts and other income increased for the period by 12%, which were largely overshadowed by the 21% increase in production expenses and 109% decrease in the value of inventory change. Total farm labor and proprietors' income decreased by less than 1% for the period.

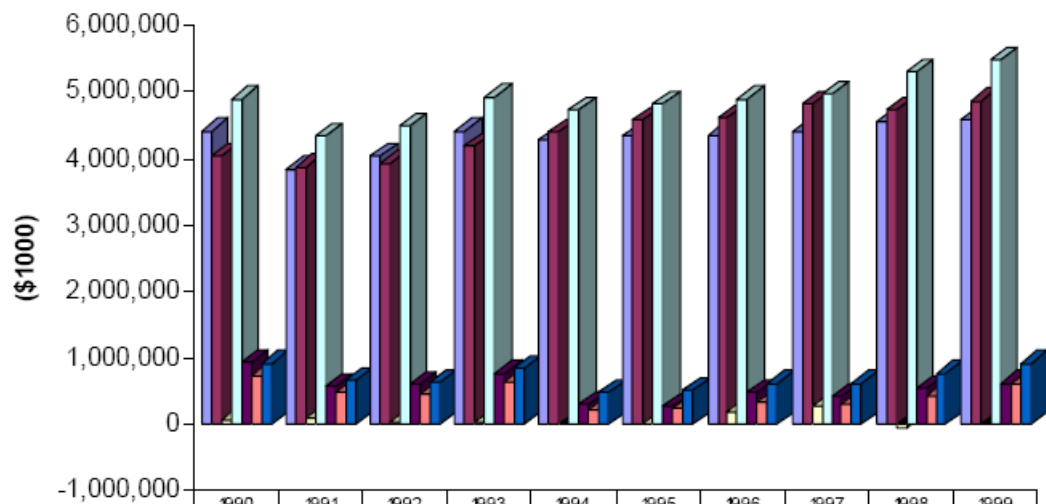
In the ACT Region, a 17% decrease in the cash receipts earned from livestock occurred between 1990 and 1999. On the other hand, cash receipts earned from crops increased by 15% for the same period. Cash receipts from other sources increased by 146% and the amount of government payments increased by 36% through 1999. Imputed and miscellaneous income received went from \$37.8 million in 1990 to \$156.8 in

1999, an increase of 315%. Livestock receipts in the ACT Region comprised the majority of the total cash receipt earned each year.

Feed expenses increased by 25% in the ACT Region over the outlined period, going from \$74.3 million in 1990 to \$93.1 million in 1999, and comprised 14% of the region's total production expenses in 1999. Livestock purchase expenditures decreased by the greatest amount, 37% over the period, or 12% of the region's total production expenses in 1999. Seed purchase expenditures climbed by the second highest rate among the other expenditure categories, growing by 82% for the period.

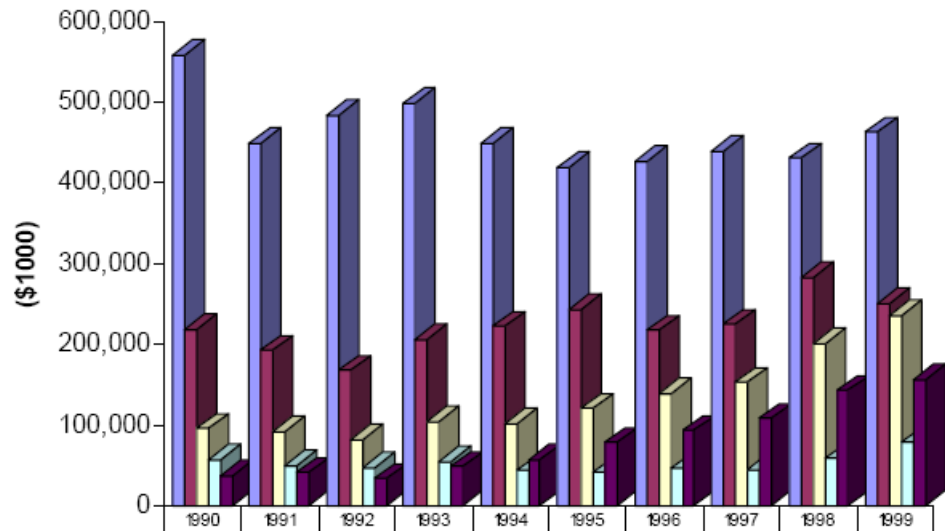
Fertilizer and lime had the greatest increase in expenditures for the period (98%). Total fertilizer expenditures accounted for 19% of the state total in 1999. Hired farm labor expenses increased by 12%, and petroleum product expenditures increased by 84%. The other expenditures category contributed the most (47%) to total expenditures regionally in 1999.

Colorado Income and Expense Totals



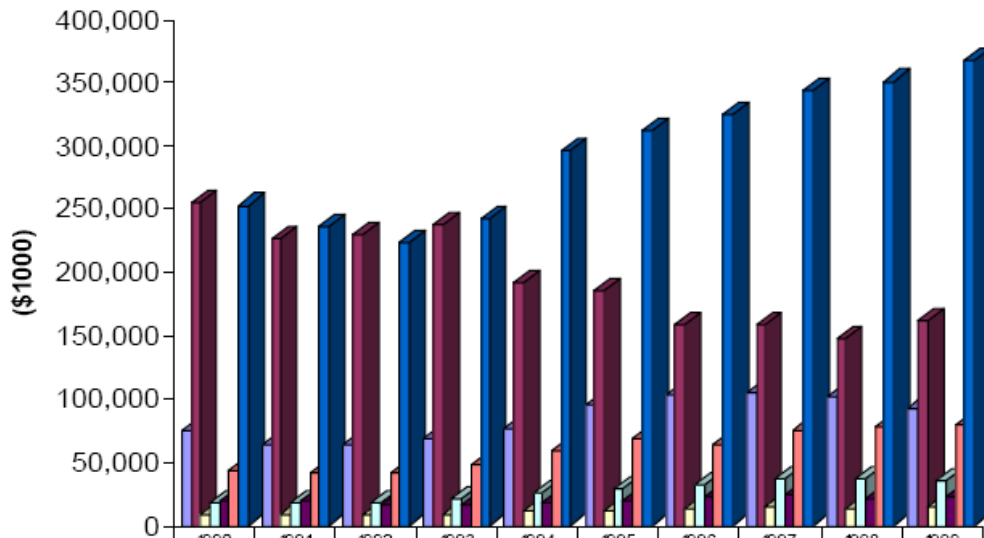
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total cash receipts from marketings (\$000)	4,415,874	3,849,750	4,049,982	4,416,172	4,277,647	4,334,971	4,362,632	4,404,281	4,553,019	4,582,184
Total production expenses	4,044,612	3,873,649	3,929,781	4,190,574	4,403,247	4,577,957	4,614,911	4,822,664	4,732,939	4,875,401
Total value of inventory change	63,934	88,836	31,940	25,514	-26,762	4,998	167,341	256,528	-48,336	-5,719
Total cash receipts and other income	4,907,568	4,350,250	4,489,678	4,931,033	4,728,563	4,834,321	4,899,360	4,973,216	5,310,117	5,491,896
Total net income including corporate farms	926,890	565,437	591,837	765,973	298,554	261,362	471,790	407,080	528,842	610,776
Total net farm proprietors' income	725,852	470,794	449,764	637,317	218,820	229,601	327,582	296,426	433,583	588,297
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	912,477	649,170	625,083	841,724	481,637	512,211	610,243	617,032	760,303	911,182

ACT Region Cash Receipts



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
■ Cash receipts: livestock and products	557,395	448,099	482,321	498,155	449,087	418,576	426,150	437,855	430,038	461,831
■ Cash receipts: crops	217,569	192,633	167,348	206,546	222,291	243,024	216,742	224,174	283,324	250,060
■ Cash receipts: Other income	95,646	91,796	82,401	103,694	101,659	120,335	139,177	152,841	201,645	235,166
■ Government payments	57,827	50,443	48,295	55,175	44,134	41,724	46,087	44,669	58,727	78,364
■ Imputed and miscellaneous income received	37,819	41,316	34,106	48,519	57,525	78,581	93,057	108,172	142,875	156,779

ACT Region Production Expenses



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
■ Feed purchased	74,371	64,613	64,521	68,646	76,297	95,008	104,167	105,152	101,972	93,177
■ Livestock purchased	255,195	227,169	230,576	238,542	192,351	185,171	158,232	158,421	147,422	161,502
■ Seed purchased	8,426	9,365	8,346	9,346	11,354	11,392	12,841	14,670	13,963	15,360
■ Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	18,046	18,542	18,442	21,164	26,620	28,989	31,960	36,606	36,908	35,811
■ Petroleum products purchased	19,978	19,298	16,965	16,783	18,764	19,110	22,410	23,833	21,569	22,309
■ Hired farm labor expenses	43,120	41,918	41,737	48,178	59,426	68,919	64,417	75,918	78,204	79,526
■ All other production expenses	253,075	236,956	224,063	242,780	296,683	311,777	325,603	344,377	351,097	368,225

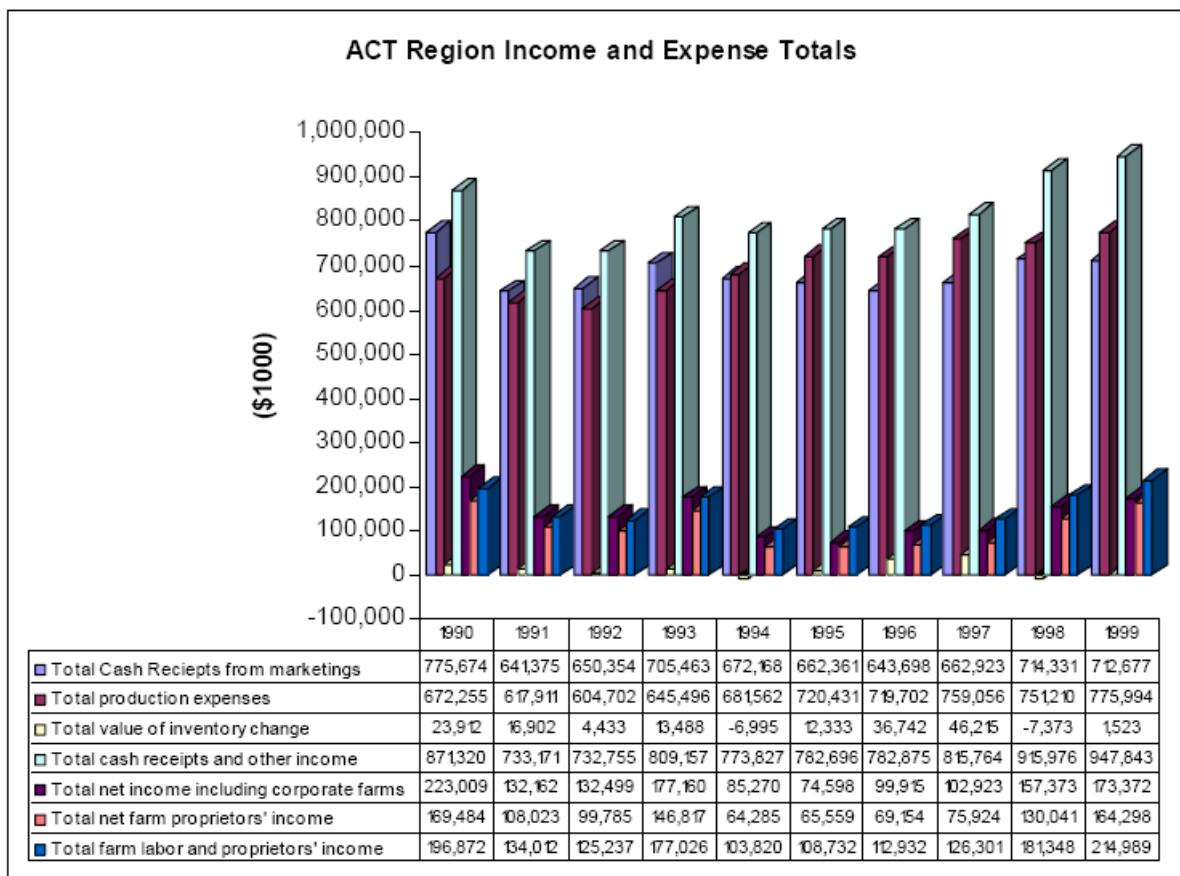
In the ACT Region, total cash receipts from marketings decreased by 8%, whereas total production expenses increased by 15% between 1990 and 1999. The total value of inventory change went from \$23.9 million in 1990 to \$1.5 million in 1999. Cash receipts and other income decreased by 9% over the period. The total net income including corporate farms declined by 22% and total net farm proprietors' income declined by 3% regionwide. The total farm labor and proprietors' income categories both increased by 9% in the period. The ACT Region contributed heavily to the states totals in each category. The region's greatest contribution was to the total net income including corporate farms total and the total net farm proprietors' income, each accounting for 28% of the state's total in 1999. Total farm labor and proprietors' net income in the region accounted for 24% of the state's total in 1999. The ACT Region contributes 22% of the total cash receipts statewide and 17% of total cash receipts and other income. Only 16% of the state's total expenses were production expenses from the ACT Region in 1999.

9.5 County trends in farm income and expenses

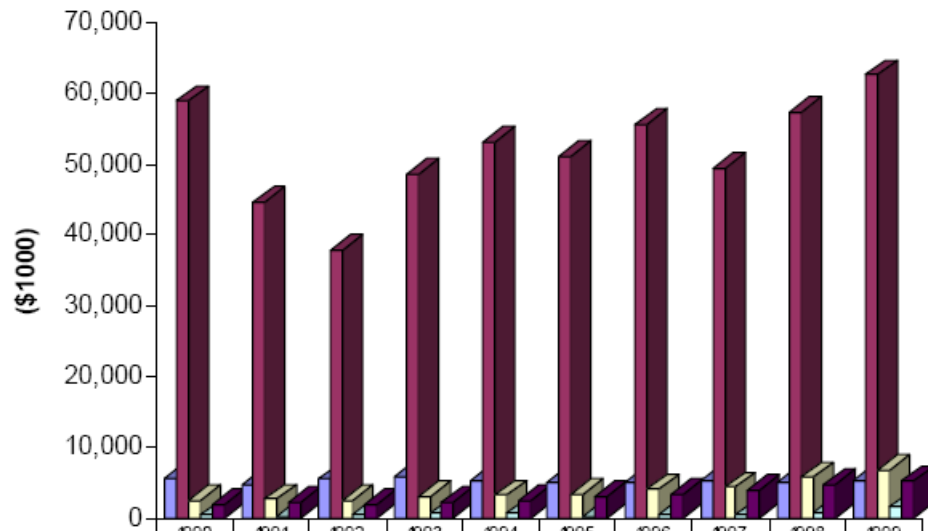
Cash receipts from crops in Alamosa County accounted for 92% of total cash receipts in 1999.

Regionally, this accounted for 25% of the cash receipts earned from crops. Cash receipts from livestock declined by 5% between 1990 and 1999. Cash receipts from other income climbed by 165%, topped only by the 221% increase in government payments during the period. Imputed and miscellaneous income also rose by 151% during the period. Alamosa County comprised 3% of the cash receipts from other income and imputed and miscellaneous income and 2% of the region's total amount of government payments in 1999.

Every expense category in Alamosa County increased between 1990 and 1999. The greatest rate of increase occurred in purchased feed expenditures (145%). Hired farm labor expenses increased by the second greatest rate of 137%. Livestock expenditures grew by 17%, seed purchased expenditures grew by 52%, fertilizer expenditures climbed by 91%, and hired farm labor expenditures grew by 34%. In Alamosa County, the all other production expenditures category accounted for the greatest amount of the county's total production expenditures with 61% of the total in 1999. Regionally, the highest percentage of Alamosa County expenditures was in the seed purchase category at 20% of the region's total 1999. Alamosa County had 18% of the

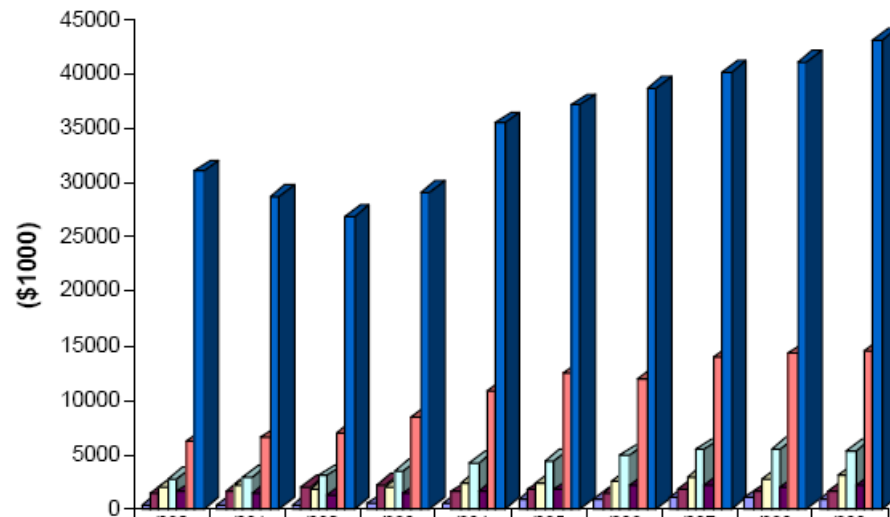


Alamosa County Cash Receipts



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Cash receipts: livestock and products	5,702	4,850	5,488	5,901	5,419	5,130	5,174	5,374	5,096	5,404
Cash receipts: crops	58,793	44,526	37,777	48,472	53,021	51,049	55,526	49,323	57,267	62,477
Cash receipts: Other income	2,585	2,676	2,569	3,107	3,252	3,426	4,078	4,397	5,778	6,837
Government payments	492	385	604	785	709	266	573	492	906	1,581
Imputed and miscellaneous income received	2,093	2,291	1,965	2,322	2,543	3,160	3,505	3,905	4,872	5,256

Alamosa County Production Expenses



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	391	342	342	488	610	885	1,010	1,015	1,050	959
Livestock purchased	1,472	1,717	2,018	2,215	1,589	1,773	1,434	1,886	1,587	1,719
Seed purchased	2,012	2,179	1,903	2,080	2,430	2,378	2,628	2,912	2,788	3,067
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	2,811	2,986	3,068	3,466	4,222	4,500	4,893	5,453	5,530	5,366
Petroleum products purchased	1,601	1,556	1,379	1,446	1,678	1,765	2,134	2,285	2,077	2,149
Hired farm labor expenses	6,190	6,546	7,042	8,479	10,911	12,465	11,962	13,957	14,301	14,643
All other production expenses	31,070	28,713	26,880	29,161	35,496	37,163	38,689	40,143	41,132	43,139

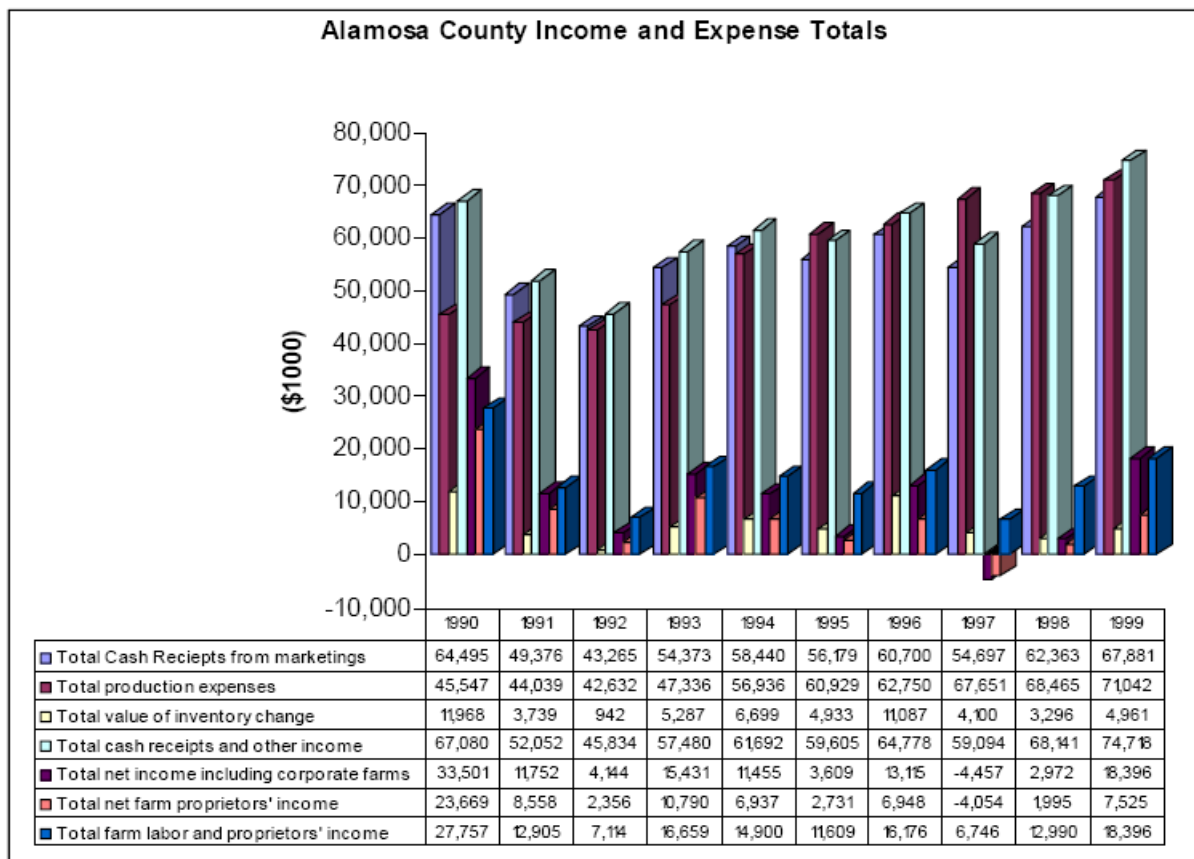
region's hired farm labor expenditure in 1999. All other production expenses in the county accounted for 12% of the regional total in 1999. Fertilizer and lime expenditures in the county accounted for 15% and petroleum product expenditures accounted for 10% of the regional total.

Total cash receipts from marketings in Alamosa County increased by 5% between 1990 and 1999, while total production expenses increased by 56% for the period. Net income for all the outlined categories decreased for the period led by total net income including corporate farms decreasing by 74%, followed by a 68% decrease in farm proprietors' income. Alamosa County's total farm labor and proprietors' income declined by 34% over the decade. Value of inventory change also decreased dramatically for the period, from \$11.9 million in 1990 to \$4.9 million in 1999. Total cash receipts from marketings comprised 10% of the regional total in 1999. Total production expenses and total farm labor and proprietors' income comprised 9% of the regional totals in 1999.

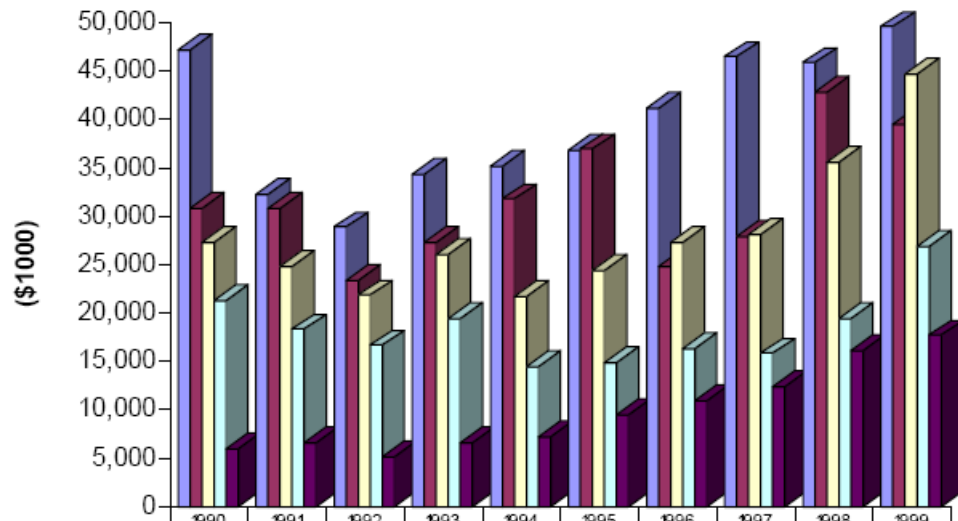
Baca County experienced growth in all the income categories between 1990 and 1999. Imputed and mis-

cellaneous sources grew most rapidly, by 200%, over the period. Cash receipts from other income increased by 64%, or the second highest rate of increase, followed by a 26% increase in government payments. Livestock and product cash receipts increased by 5% in the period. Government payments to the county comprised 34% of the total received by the region in 1999. Cash receipts from other income comprised 19% of the regional total. Crop cash receipts in Baca County comprised 19% of the regional total in 1999, while both livestock receipts and imputed and miscellaneous income in the county comprised 11% of the regional total in 1999.

All production expenses increased in Baca County between 1990 and 1999. Expenditures on fertilizer and lime had the greatest rate of increase, 99%, over the decade. Hired farm labor expenses had the second highest rate of increase, 69%, followed by expenditures on seed, 64%, and feed purchases with a 44% increase. The all other expenditures category grew by 31%, followed by petroleum products (13%) and livestock purchased (5%). The all other production expenses category accounted for 46% of total expenses, followed by livestock purchased expenses

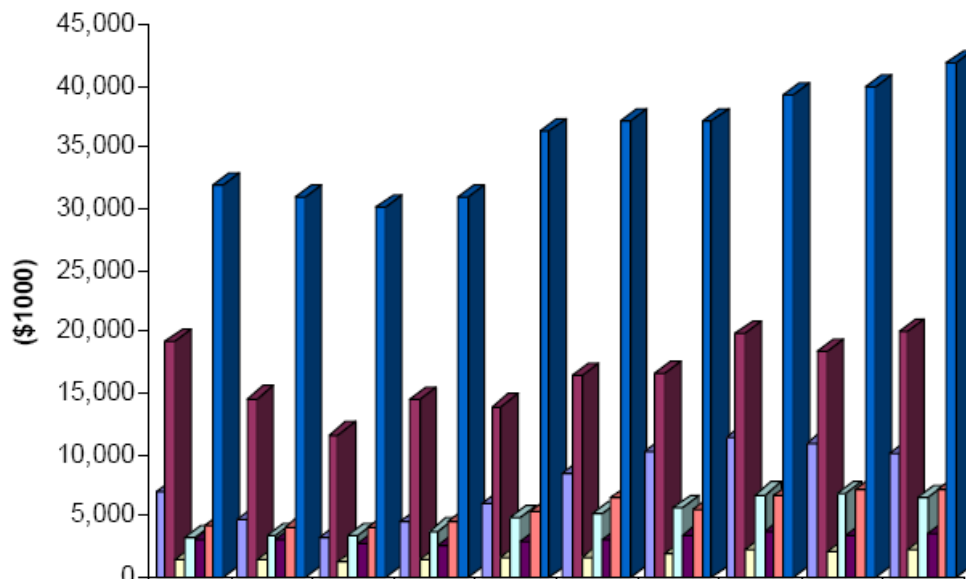


Baca County Cash Receipts



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
■ Cash receipts: livestock and products	47,170	32,95	28,820	34,327	35,153	36,794	41,079	46,414	45,780	49,508
■ Cash receipts: crops	30,872	30,869	23,333	27,252	31,748	36,898	24,734	27,944	42,839	39,413
■ Cash receipts: Other income	27,212	24,805	21,814	26,043	21,648	24,306	27,220	28,154	35,598	44,617
■ Government payments	21,318	18,291	16,629	19,482	14,406	14,818	16,336	15,797	19,441	26,940
■ Imputed and miscellaneous income received	5,894	6,514	5,185	6,561	7,242	9,488	10,884	12,357	16,157	17,677

Baca County Production Expenses



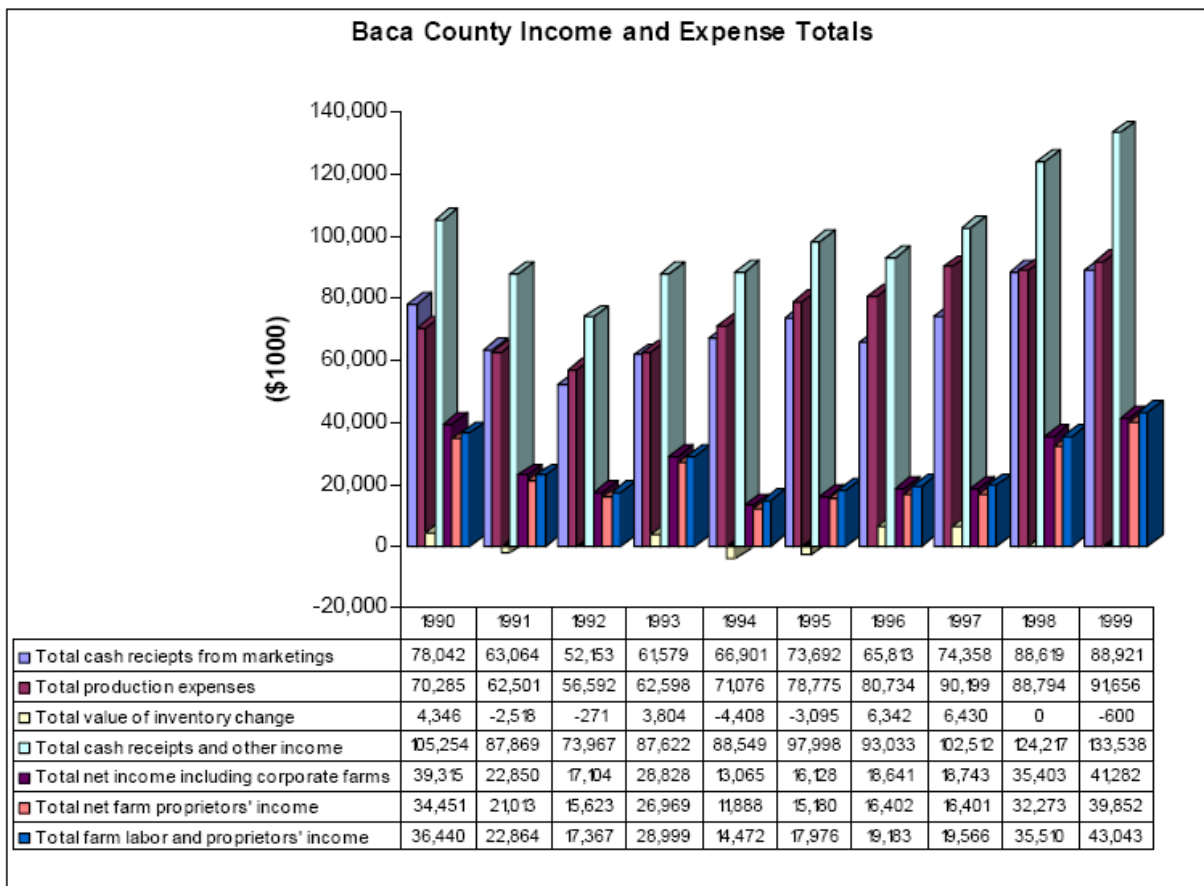
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
■ Feed purchased	6,983	4,737	3,240	4,510	5,982	8,544	10,240	11,499	11,006	10,057
■ Livestock purchased	19,185	14,595	11,662	14,567	13,925	16,510	16,641	19,915	18,380	20,088
■ Seed purchased	1,403	1,508	1,304	1,427	1,710	1,710	1,891	2,203	2,086	2,295
■ Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	3,310	3,386	3,358	3,822	4,814	5,268	5,747	6,746	6,774	6,573
■ Petroleum products purchased	3,171	3,078	2,718	2,664	2,956	3,035	3,506	3,822	3,449	3,568
■ Hired farm labor expenses	4,234	4,149	4,111	4,618	5,380	6,510	5,530	6,672	7,117	7,143
■ All other production expenses	31,999	31,048	30,189	30,990	36,309	37,198	37,179	39,342	39,982	41,932

with 22%. Baca County comprised 18% of the total regional fertilizer and lime costs, 16% of the petroleum expenses, 15% of seed purchase costs, 12% of livestock expenditures and 11% of both feed expenditures and all other production expenses for 1999.

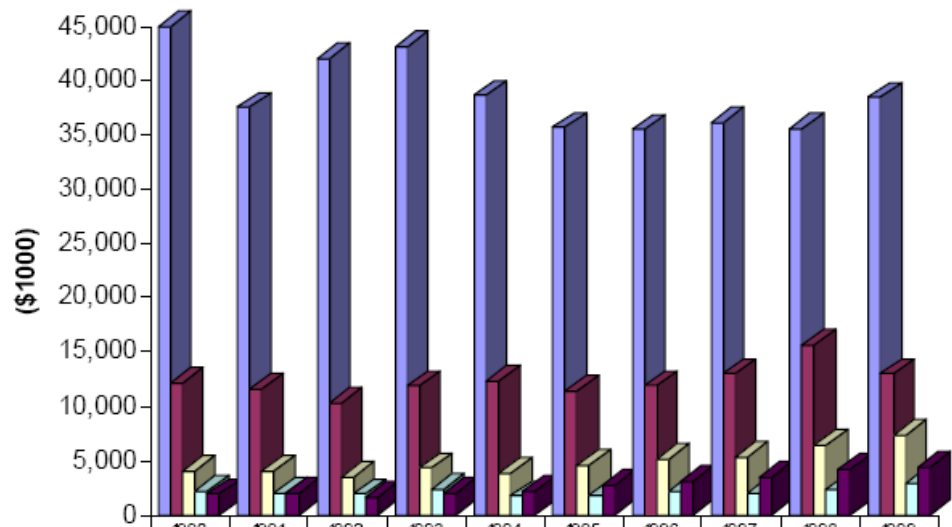
Total cash receipts from marketings increased by 14% in Baca County between 1990 and 1999. However, total production costs increased 30% over the same period. The value of inventory change went from \$4.3 million in 1990 to -\$600,000 in 1999. Total cash receipts and other income displayed a sizable increase of 27% over the period and 14% of the regional total came from Baca County. Total net income including corporate farms increased by 5%. Total net farm proprietors' income increased by 16% and total farm labor and proprietors' income increased by 18% over the decade. All the net farm income categories are responsible for a large share of the regional total in 1999. Total net income including corporate farms in Baca County accounted for 24% of the regional total. Total net farm proprietors' income also had 24% of the regional total and total farm labor and proprietors' income accounted for 20% of the regional total.

Cash receipts from livestock declined by 14% in Bent County between 1990 and 1999. The total livestock receipts accounted for 65% of all cash receipts in 1999. Cash receipts from crops also declined by 7% over the decade. On the other hand, cash receipts from other income increased by 80%. This growth rate was trumped by the growth rate for imputed and miscellaneous income received, which grew by 136%. Government payments increased 32%. Bent County comprised 8% the total regional livestock and product marketing receipts in 1999. In 1999, Bent County accounted for 5% of crop receipts, 4% of government payments, and 3% of both cash receipts from other income and imputed & miscellaneous income regionwide.

All production expenses in Bent County increased with the exception of livestock expenditures, which declined by 10% between 1990 and 1999. Fertilizer and lime expenditures grew most quickly, 166%, followed seed expenditures, 123%. Hired farm labor expenses grew by 86% over the period, and all other production expenditures grew by 40%. Feed expenditures and petroleum products expenditures grew by the lowest growth rates of 28% and 15%, respectively. All

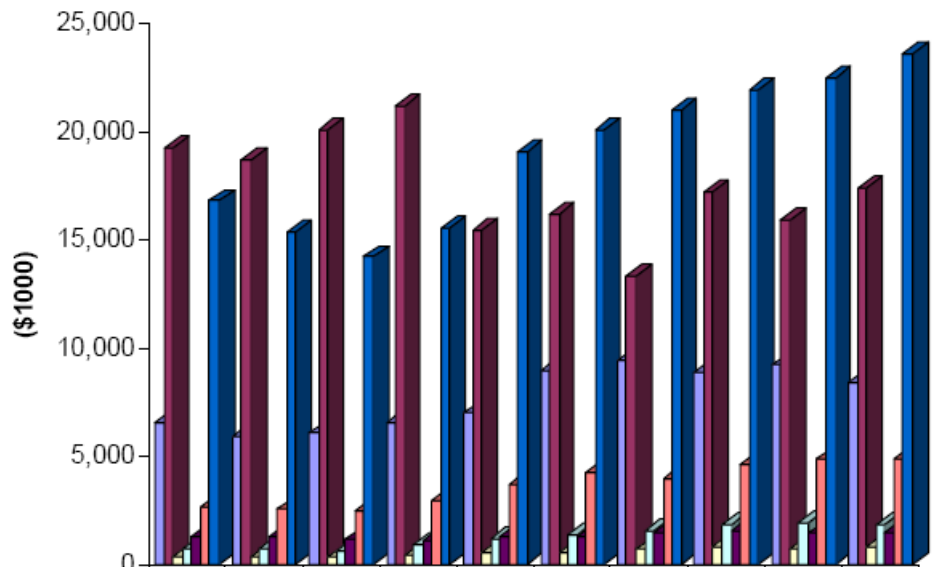


Bent County Cash Receipts



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
■ Cash receipts: livestock and products	44,991	37,560	42,166	43,276	38,660	35,717	35,516	36,243	35,640	38,501
■ Cash receipts: crops	12,096	11,529	10,266	11,862	12,331	11,444	11,856	12,988	15,610	12,990
□ Cash receipts: Other income	4,082	4,016	3,494	4,293	3,842	4,540	5,127	5,363	6,462	7,343
□ Government payments	2,206	2,036	1,901	2,367	1,694	1,838	2,106	1,976	2,334	2,921
■ Imputed and miscellaneous income received	1,876	1,980	1,593	1,926	2,148	2,702	3,021	3,387	4,128	4,422

Bent County Production Expenses



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
■ Feed purchased	6,582	5,916	6,049	6,566	6,969	9,004	9,444	8,890	9,188	8,405
■ Livestock purchased	19,274	18,688	20,102	21,256	15,438	16,219	13,339	17,273	15,927	17,410
□ Seed purchased	367	363	289	383	512	554	660	776	743	817
□ Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	684	671	636	856	1,174	1,360	1,577	1,847	1,872	1,817
■ Petroleum products purchased	1,251	1,239	1,119	1,114	1,238	1,255	1,472	1,535	1,396	1,444
■ Hired farm labor expenses	2,634	2,510	2,469	2,915	3,668	4,259	3,970	4,618	4,835	4,910
■ All other production expenses	16,813	15,369	14,221	15,576	19,107	20,134	21,075	21,969	22,510	23,608

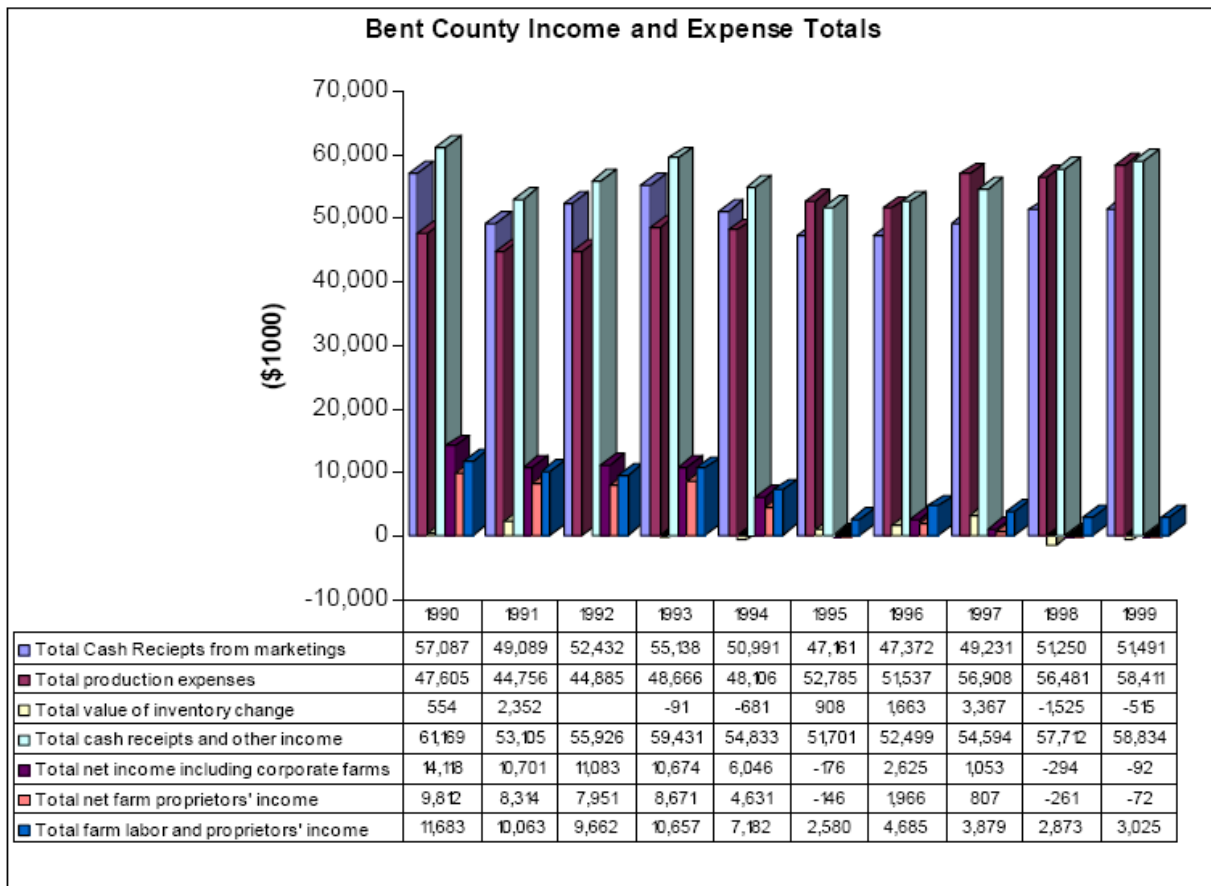
other production expenses accounted for the majority of total expenditures, with all other production expenditures accounting for 40% of the total in 1999. Live-stock purchase expenditures in Bent County were the second highest proportion (30%) of total production expenditures in 1999. Of the county's total expenses, the livestock purchased expense category comprised the highest percentage (11%) the regional total. All other expense categories made up between 5% and 9% of the regional total for 1999.

Total production expenses in Bent County fell by 23% between 1990 and 1999, but cash receipts from marketings decreased by 10% over the same period. The total value of inventory change fell from \$554,000 in 1990 to \$515,000 in 1999. Total cash receipts and other income declined by 4% over the decade, going from \$61.1 million in 1990 to \$58.8 million in 1999. Large decreases were observed for all net income categories. Total net income including corporate farms and total net farm proprietors' income each fell by 101% and total farm labor and proprietors' income fell by 74% in the 1990-1999 period. Bent County comprised 8% of the regional total production expenses in 1999,

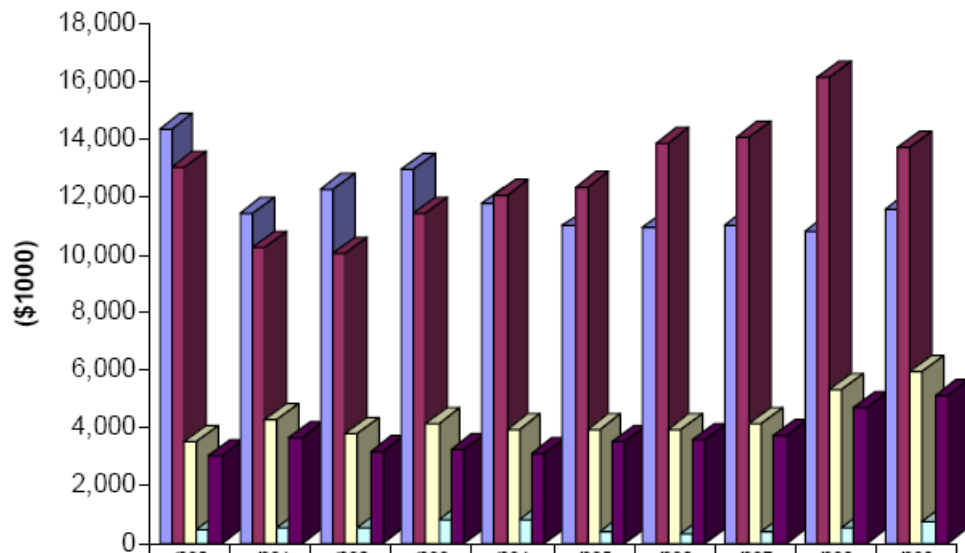
7% of the total cash receipts from marketings and 6% of the total cash receipts and other income.

Cash receipts from crops, and other income saw increases of 6% and 68%, respectively, between 1990 and 1999. Cash receipts from livestock and products decreased by 20% for the same period. Of total cash receipts in the county for 1999, 34% were derived from livestock and 44% were from crops. Government payments increased by 65% over the period, going from \$498,000 in 1990 to \$823,000 in 1999. Imputed and miscellaneous income rose by a substantial rate of 68% over the period. Conejos County comprised 5% of the regional total cash receipts from crops in 1999, 3% of both cash receipts from other income and imputed and miscellaneous income and 1% of the regional total government payments.

Every expense category rose between 1990 and 1999 with the exception of livestock purchased expenses, which decreased by 14%. The other production expense category emerged as the largest expense category, comprising 66% of the total production expenses in 1999. The hired farm labor category emerged as the

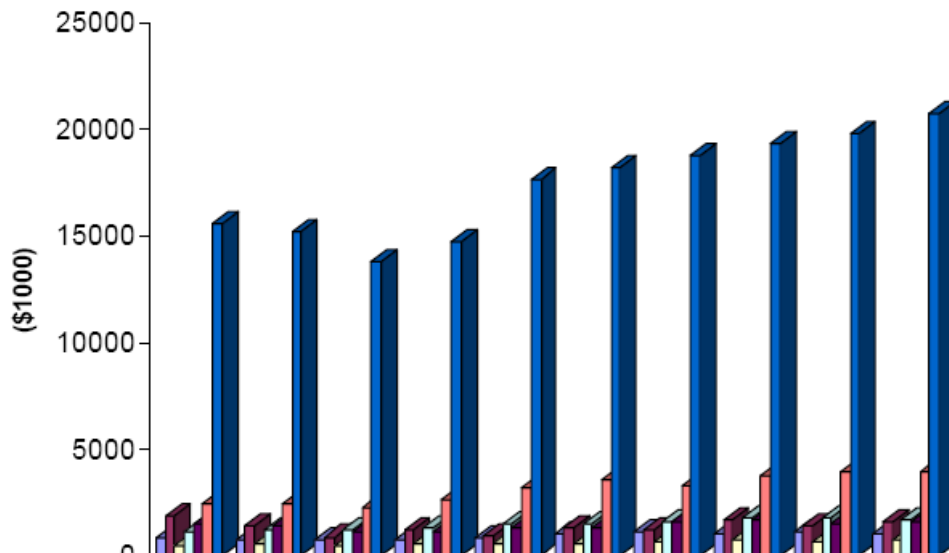


Conejos County Cash Receipts



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
■ Cash receipts: livestock and products	14,333	11,421	12,260	12,933	11,758	10,966	10,912	10,987	10,818	11,533
■ Cash receipts: crops	13,004	10,275	10,041	11,388	12,004	12,339	13,818	14,062	16,135	13,725
■ Cash receipts: Other income	3,553	4,312	3,813	4,152	3,969	3,968	3,983	4,175	5,333	5,964
■ Government payments	498	612	604	870	857	428	361	412	585	823
■ Imputed and miscellaneous income received	3,055	3,700	3,209	3,282	3,112	3,540	3,622	3,763	4,748	5,411

Conejos County Production Expenses



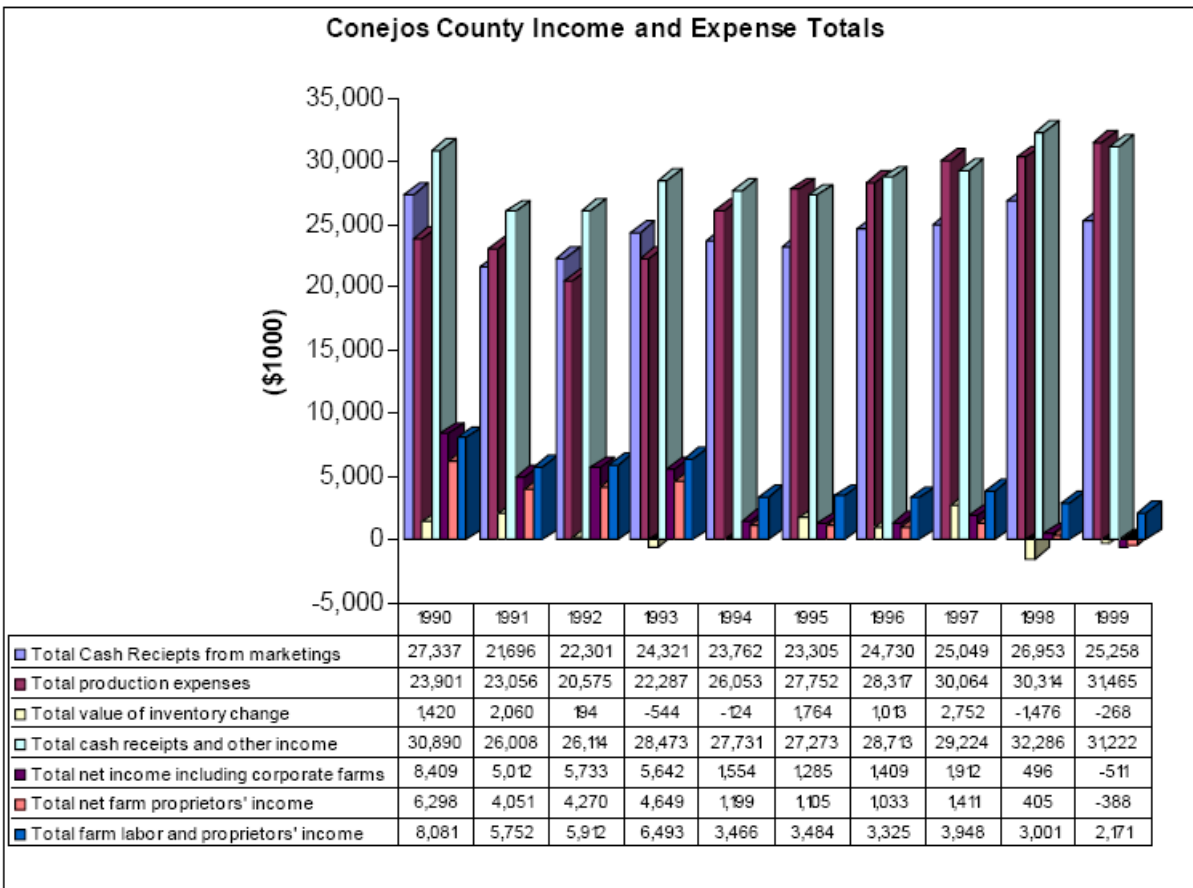
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
■ Feed purchased	879	774	711	772	821	1,062	1,115	1,048	1,084	991
■ Livestock purchased	1,884	1,414	893	1,187	976	1,314	1,193	1,728	1,444	1,613
■ Seed purchased	450	548	490	528	608	589	646	709	679	747
■ Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	1,095	1,227	1,230	1,305	1,511	1,543	1,618	1,751	1,776	1,723
■ Petroleum products purchased	1,508	1,430	1,145	1,163	1,314	1,353	1,606	1,691	1,538	1,590
■ Hired farm labor expenses	2,474	2,464	2,302	2,609	3,156	3,615	3,308	3,774	3,954	3,994
■ All other production expenses	15,611	15,199	13,804	14,723	17,667	18,276	18,831	19,363	19,839	20,807

second highest expense category, comprising 19% of total production expenses in Conejos County in 1999. Seed purchased expenditures increased by the greatest rate (66%), while hired farm labor rose by the second highest amount (61%), and fertilizer and lime expenditures followed by climbing by 57% over the period. The all other production expenses category grew by 33% for the period. Relatively small amounts of increase were observed in both feed purchased expenditures (13%) and petroleum products purchased (5%). Petroleum products expenditures in Conejos comprised 7% of the regional total in 1999. For all the other outlined expense categories, the 1999 county total comprised between 1%-6% of the regional expenses for those same categories.

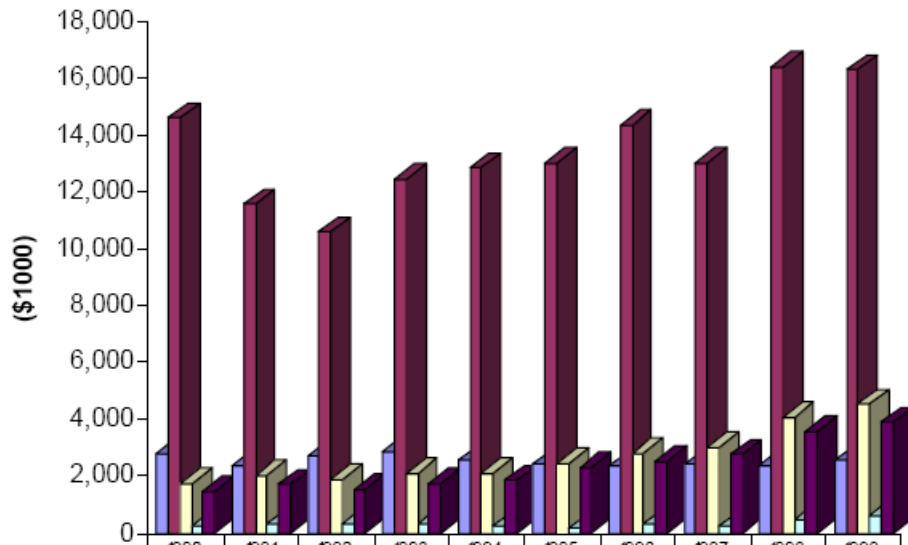
During the 1990s, Conejos County farmers experienced an 8% decrease in cash receipts and a 32% increase in total production expenses. The total value of inventory change was \$1.4 million in 1990 and \$268,000 in 1999. Total cash receipts including other income rose by 1% over the period. For all net income

categories in Conejos County large decreases were observed. Net income including corporate farms and net farm proprietors' income both decreased by 106% over the period while total farm labor and proprietors' income fell by 73%. Conejos County contributed a relatively limited proportion of the regional total. Each category accounted for at most 4% of the regional total in 1999.

Two of the three cash receipt categories increased during the 1990s, with only cash receipts from livestock and livestock products decreasing by 8% in the period. Cash receipts from crops increased by 12% and cash receipts from other income increased by the impressive rate of 158%. Government payments rose by 129%, while imputed and miscellaneous income rose by 163% for the prescribed period. Regionally, cash receipts for crops accounted for the most out of the other categories assessed in the above graph and accounted for 7% of the regional total in 1999. All other income accounted for less than 2% of the regional total in the respective categories for 1999.



Costilla County Cash Receipts



■ Cash receipts: livestock and products	2,794	2,362	2,718	2,863	2,576	2,406	2,366	2,433	2,369	2,561
■ Cash receipts: crops	14,585	11,583	10,567	12,461	12,823	13,006	14,360	13,026	16,391	16,279
■ Cash receipts: Other income	1,759	2,027	1,881	2,097	2,114	2,447	2,823	3,026	4,061	4,538
■ Government payments	279	311	355	341	251	150	295	241	480	639
■ Imputed and miscellaneous income received	1,480	1,716	1,526	1,756	1,863	2,297	2,528	2,785	3,581	3,899

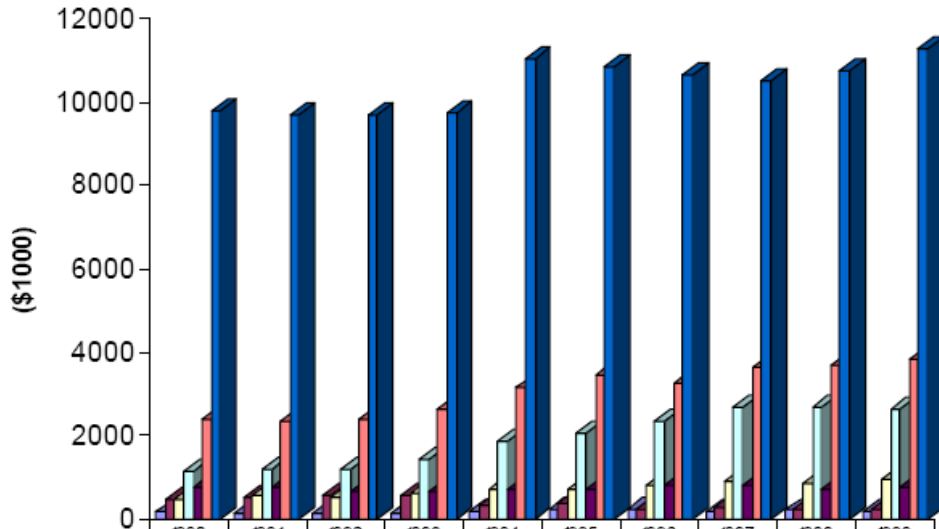
Two of the seven expense categories decreased in the 1990s. Livestock purchases and petroleum products purchases fell by 43% and 2%, respectively. Feed purchases increased by 17% over the decade. Seed purchases doubled in Costilla County, and fertilizer and lime expenses increased by 136% over the period. Hired farm labor expenses climbed by 59% and all other production expenses increased by 16% over the period. Costilla County accounted for 7% of the region's fertilizer and lime expenditures and 6% of the seed purchase expenditures. The remaining expense categories accounted for less than 5% of the region's totals in 1999.

Total cash receipts increased by 8% over the period, but total production expenses increased by 31%. The total value of inventory change decreased from \$2.2 million in 1990 to \$898,000 in 1999. Total cash receipts increased by 22% for the period, and two of the net income categories increased between 1990 and 1999. Net income including corporate farms declined by 28% for the period. Net income with corporate farms excluded improved by 16% and total farm labor

and proprietors' income rose by 42% in the 1990s. Costilla County contributed between 2% and 3% for every category in 1999 to the region's total cash receipt and income categories.

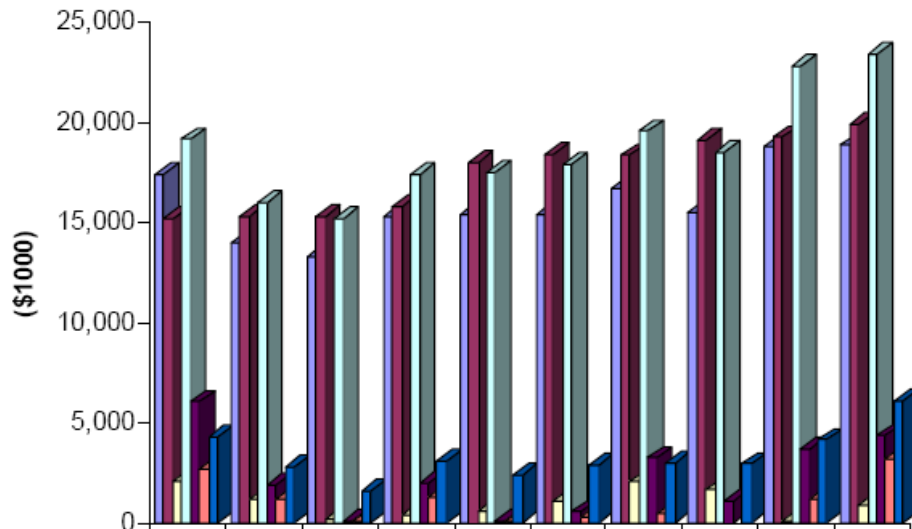
Cash receipts from livestock and livestock products in Crowley County fell by 35% between 1990 and 1999. Conversely, cash receipts from crops increased 34% and an increase of 1081% in cash receipts from other income. Government payments also increased by 7% for the period. Income received from imputed and miscellaneous sources increased 3359% between 1990 and 1999. The county totals for 1999 contributed substantially to the regional totals. Imputed and miscellaneous income from Crowley County contributed 16% of the regional total in 1999. Cash receipts from other income in Crowley County accounted for 11% of the regional total. Although the county cash receipts from livestock and livestock products decreased for the period, the 1999 total accounted for 15% of the regional total. Cash receipts from crops and government payments in Crowley County accounted for only 2% of the regional total in 1999.

Costilla County Production Expenses



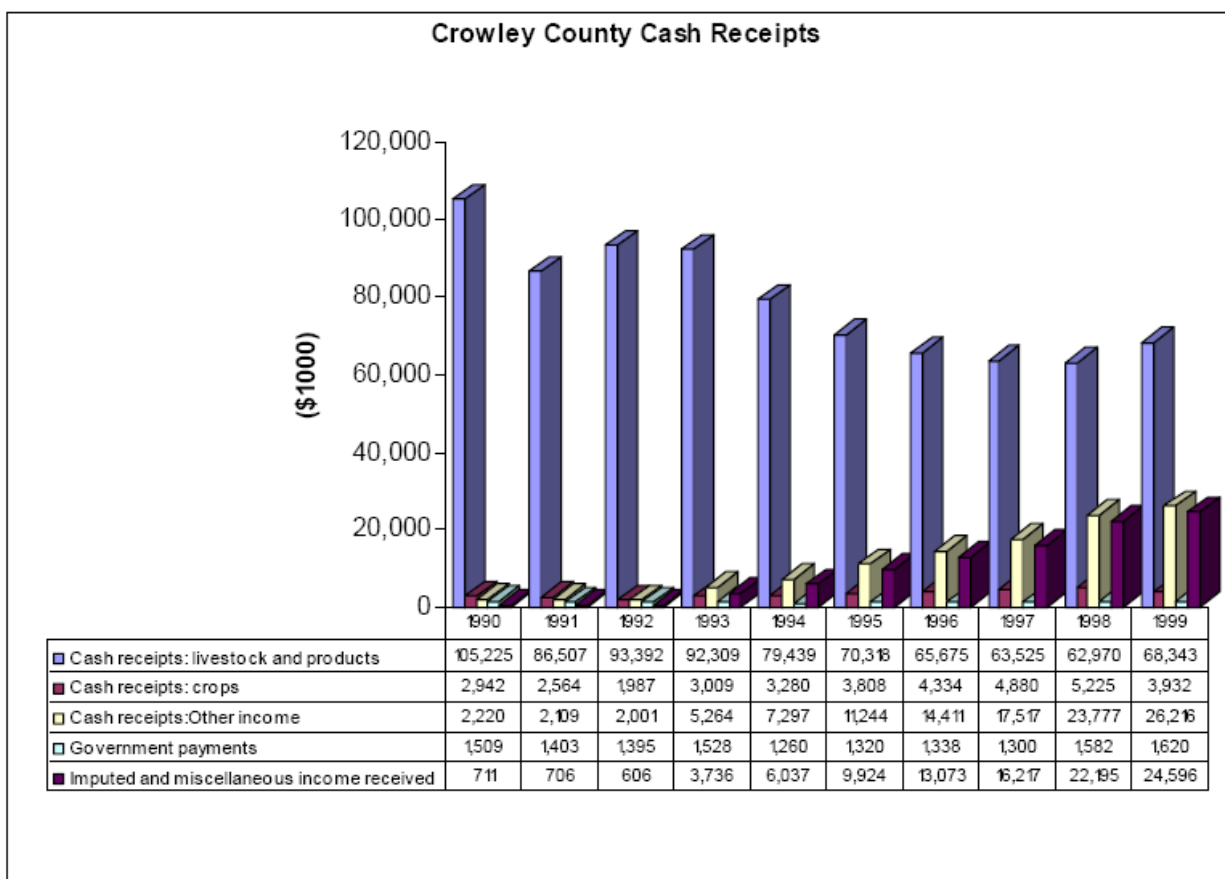
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	170	152	159	168	173	219	227	210	217	199
Livestock purchased	464	534	569	566	350	373	254	297	237	264
Seed purchased	481	579	552	618	735	730	818	915	876	964
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	1,135	1,187	1,203	1,462	1,878	2,083	2,338	2,671	2,708	2,628
Petroleum products purchased	776	767	692	662	711	699	797	809	737	762
Hired farm labor expenses	2,412	2,354	2,415	2,623	3,145	3,448	3,251	3,657	3,714	3,826
All other production expenses	9,771	9,690	9,717	9,731	11,033	10,840	10,658	10,498	10,757	11,282

Costilla County Income and Expense Totals



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Cash Receipts from marketings	17,379	13,965	13,285	15,324	15,399	15,412	16,726	15,459	18,760	16,840
Total production expenses	15,209	15,263	15,307	15,830	16,025	16,392	16,343	19,057	19,246	19,925
Total value of inventory change	2,123	1,172	229	406	646	1,091	2,053	1,671	141	898
Total cash receipts and other income	19,138	15,992	15,166	17,421	17,513	17,859	19,549	18,485	22,821	23,378
Total net income including corporate farms	6,052	1,901	88	1,997	134	558	3,259	1,099	3,716	4,351
Total net farm proprietors' income	2,743	1,235	56	1,336	63	342	458		1,193	3,194
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	4,327	2,777	1,586	3,138	2,414	2,883	3,029	2,968	4,164	6,135

Crowley County Cash Receipts



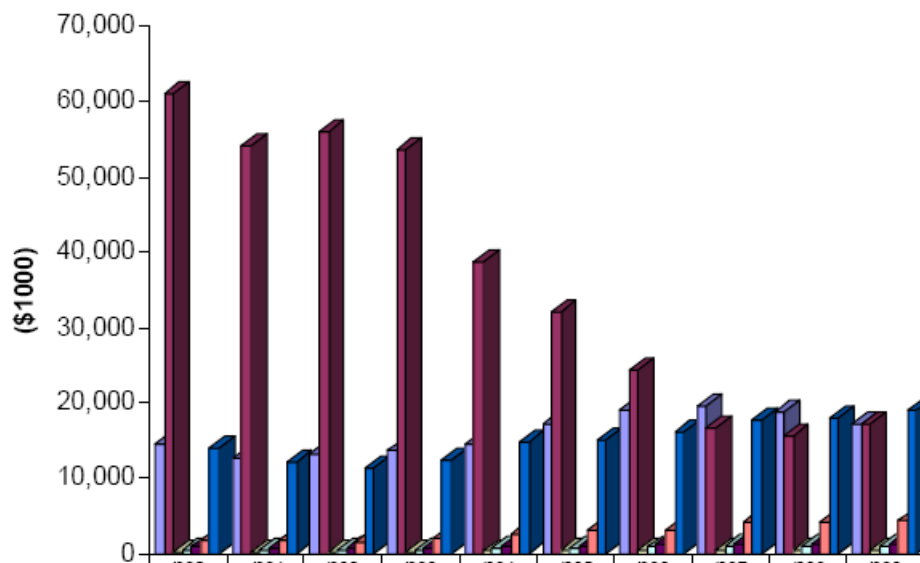
All expense categories increased in the 1990s, with the exception of a 72% decrease in livestock purchases. Crowley County experienced the greatest increase in seed purchases, which grew by 180% for the period. The second highest rate of increase was in the fertilizer and lime expenditure category, which grew by 150% over the period. Hired farm labor expenses also had a huge increase of 136% in the period. Petroleum products expenses, feed purchases and all other production expenses increased by 50%, 18% and 35%, respectively. Crowley County accounted for 18% of the regional feed purchase expenses in 1999 and 11% of the livestock purchase expenses. For all other expense categories, Crowley County accounted for from 3% to 5% of the regional total in 1999.

Total cash receipts in Crowley County decreased in the observed period by 33%, but decreased by 35% in total production expenses for the period. Total value of inventory change went from \$580,000 in 1990 to \$673,000 in 1999. Total cash receipts and other income decreased by 11% between 1990 and 1999. Crowley County had huge increases for each of the net

income categories. Total net income including corporate farms grew by 121% in the period. When excluding the income of corporate farms, the net income of farm proprietors' grew by 138%. Total farm labor and proprietors' net income grew by 133% over the observed period. Crowley County contributed substantially in almost all of the outlined categories at the regional level. Total net farm proprietors' income in 1999 for Crowley County accounted for 22% of the regional total in that same year, whereas 21% of the 1999 regional total for total farm labor and proprietors' income comes from Crowley County. Crowley County made up 10% of the region's total in 1999 for both total cash receipts from marketings and total cash receipts and other income categories.

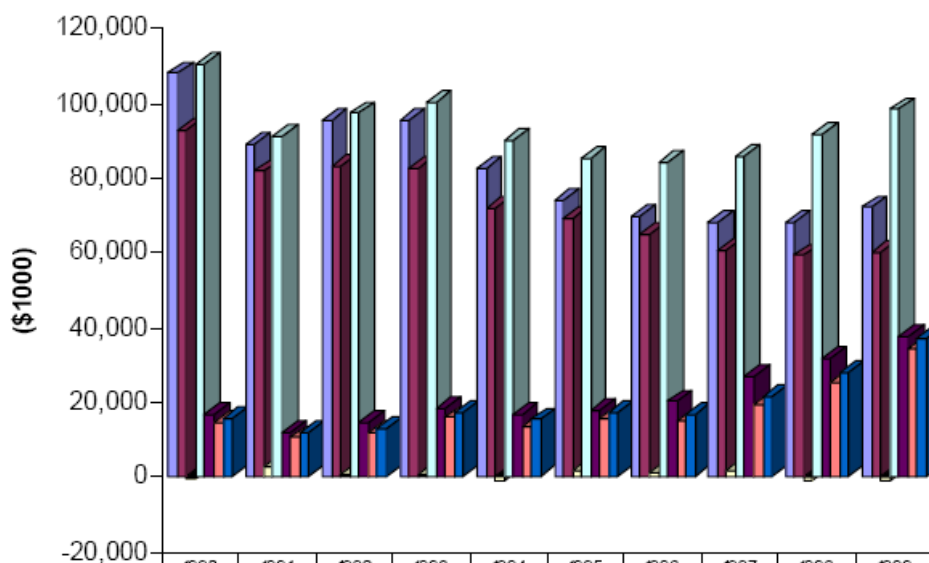
In Custer County, two of the three cash receipt categories increased between 1990 and 1999. Livestock and livestock product receipts decreased by 36% in the period, whereas both crop and other cash receipts grew by 18% and 65%, respectively. Government payments went from \$76,000 in 1990 to less than \$50,000 in 1999, and imputed and miscellaneous income rose by

Crowley County Production Expenses



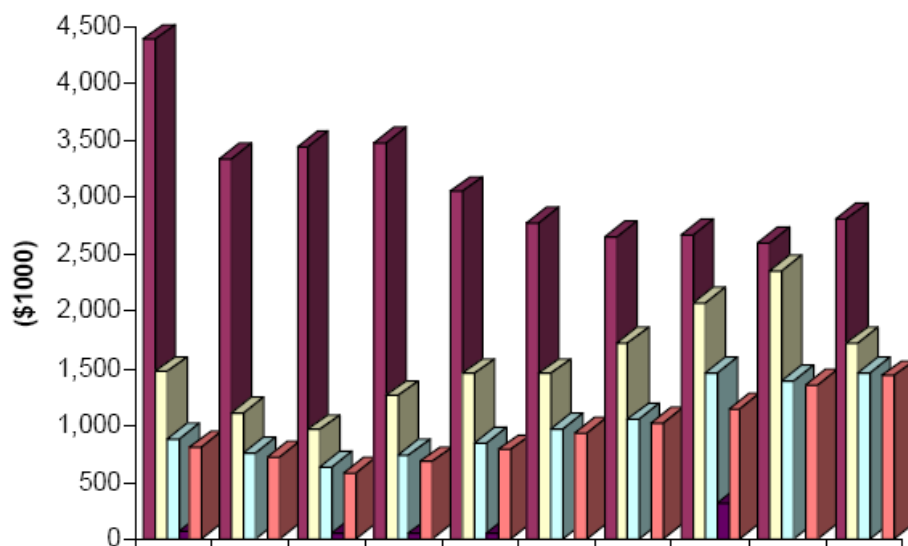
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	14,613	12,654	13,227	13,588	14,398	17,208	19,123	19,586	18,822	17,198
Livestock purchased	61,022	54,091	55,914	53,521	38,764	32,102	24,310	16,598	15,697	17,247
Seed purchased	189	189	163	215	292	318	402	508	482	530
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	385	377	380	464	608	680	807	985	993	963
Petroleum products purchased	810	755	675	718	837	889	1,128	1,294	1,171	1,211
Hired farm labor expenses	1,803	1,625	1,570	1,983	2,616	3,122	3,189	4,077	4,182	4,261
All other production expenses	14,007	12,190	11,424	12,277	14,666	15,111	16,216	17,652	18,011	18,890

Crowley County Income and Expense Totals



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Cash Receipts from marketings	108,167	89,071	95,379	95,318	82,719	74,126	70,009	68,405	68,195	72,275
Total production expenses	92,829	81,881	83,353	82,766	72,181	69,430	65,175	60,700	59,358	60,300
Total value of inventory change	-580	2,830	754	740	-859	1,841	1,057	1,788	-852	-673
Total cash receipts and other income	110,387	91,180	97,380	100,582	90,016	85,370	84,420	85,922	91,972	98,491
Total net income including corporate farms	16,978	12,129	14,781	18,556	16,976	17,781	20,302	27,010	31,762	37,518
Total net farm proprietors' income	14,580	10,640	12,041	15,970	13,647	15,488	14,924	19,529	25,537	34,638
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	15,878	11,845	13,186	17,333	15,425	17,437	16,899	21,807	27,858	36,930

Custer County Cash Receipts



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
■ Cash receipts: livestock and products	4,383	3,341	3,445	3,483	3,050	2,772	2,658	2,670	2,599	2,810
■ Cash receipts: crops	1,469	1,107	962	1,256	1,455	1,452	1,721	2,071	2,354	1,726
■ Cash receipts: Other income	883	764	637	737	844	968	1,057	1,465	1,395	1,458
■ Government payments	76		56	57	60		324			
■ Imputed and miscellaneous income received	807	727	581	680	784	938	1,024	1,141	1,352	1,435

78% for the period. Regionwide, Custer County accounted for 1% of the regional totals in 1999 for each of the outlined income categories.

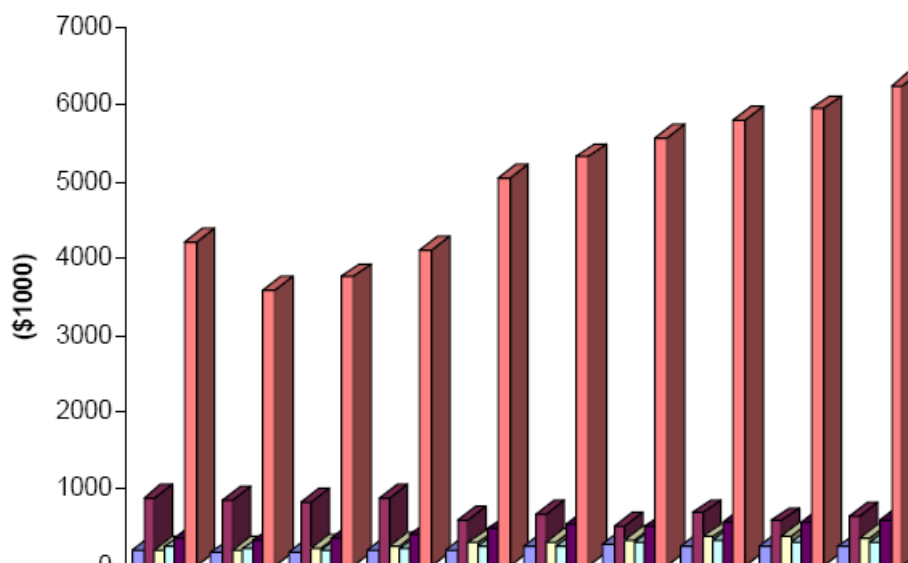
In Custer County, all but one of the expenditure categories rose in the 1990s. Livestock purchase expenditures decreased by 27% for the period. Fertilizer and lime expense had the greatest rate of increase, growing by 75% in the 1990s. Hired farm labor expenses had the second highest rate of increase, 65%, in the period. All other production expenses category climbed by 48%, petroleum products purchased expense increased by 29% and feed purchased expense grew by 20%. Custer County accounted for very little of the regional total expenses in each of the outlined categories, only accounting for between 1% and 2% in 1999.

Custer County income and expense totals exhibited some unhealthy signs between 1990 and 1999. Total cash receipts from marketings decreased by 23%, whereas production expenditures had an increase of 38% for the period. Total value of inventory change went from approximately \$50,000 in 1990 to -

\$113,000 in 1999. Total cash receipts and other income declined by 11% and all net income categories decreased substantially. Total net income including corporate farms declined by 513%, total net farm proprietors' income fell by 584%, and total farm labor and other proprietors' income decreased by 364% in the 1990s. Custer County contributed less than 1% to any regional category in 1999.

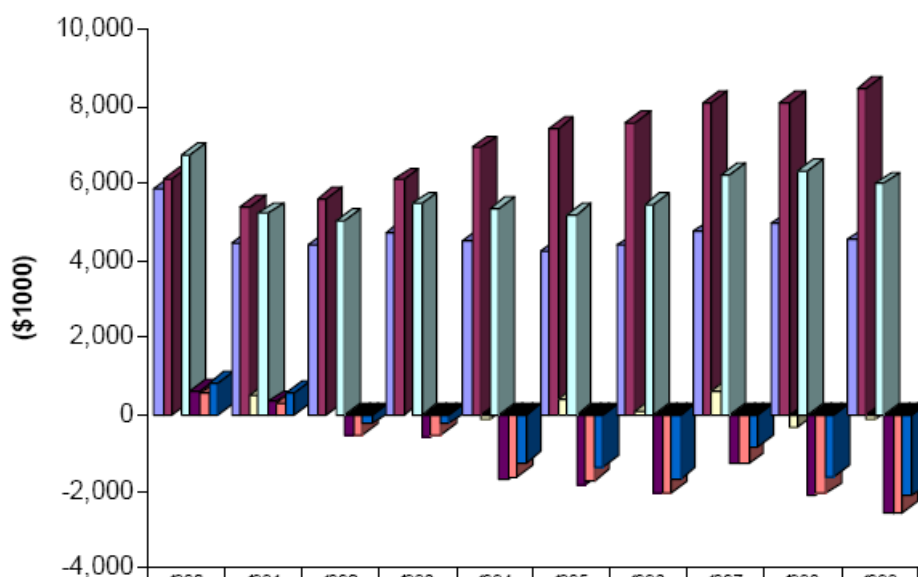
Huerfano County experienced an increase in two of the three cash receipts categories, with only cash receipts from livestock and products decreasing by 1% by the close of the 1990s. Cash receipts from crops and other income increased by 11% and 113%, respectively. Government payments decreased by 86% for the outlined period, whereas imputed and miscellaneous income increased by 190% for the outlined period. Huerfano County contributed little to the regional totals in 1999. Huerfano County's greatest contribution was for imputed and miscellaneous income received, accounting for 3% of the regional total in 1999. All other outlined categories contributed between 1% and 2% to the regional totals in 1999.

Custer County Production Expenses



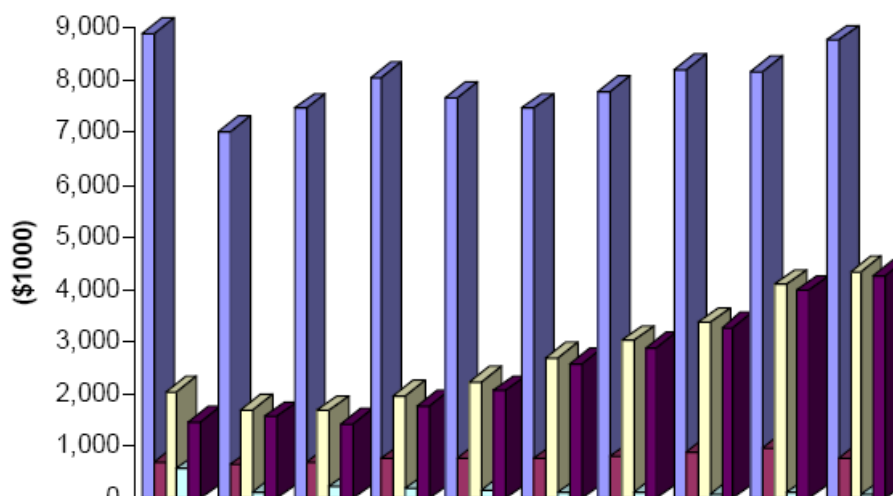
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	206	168	168	202	211	271	281	262	271	248
Livestock purchased	887	861	838	881	604	686	527	692	588	645
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	214	204	228	253	303	319	344	381	387	375
Petroleum products purchased	251	223	219	225	258	269	322	343	312	323
Hired farm labor expenses	360	330	369	407	486	539	511	572	580	593
All other production expenses	4,213	3,594	3,758	4,115	5,048	5,319	5,567	5,802	5,945	6,235

Custer County Income and Expense Totals



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Cash Receipts from marketings	5,852	4,448	4,407	4,739	4,505	4,224	4,379	4,741	4,953	4,536
Total production expenses	6,144	5,389	5,608	6,097	6,931	7,427	7,582	8,088	8,117	8,456
Total value of inventory change		496			-123	383	77	589	-311	-113
Total cash receipts and other income	6,735	5,212	5,044	5,476	5,349	5,192	5,436	6,206	6,348	5,994
Total net income including corporate farms	623	319	-545	-610	-1705	-1852	-2,069	-1,293	-2,080	-2,575
Total net farm proprietors' income	529	278	-519	-558	-1,637	-1,751	-2,053	-1,292	-2,074	-2,561
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	808	554	-253	-256	-1,264	-1,356	-1,667	-863	-1,638	-2,129

Huerfano County Cash Receipts



■ Cash receipts: livestock and products	8,903	7,025	7,476	8,055	7,679	7,476	7,784	8,222	8,179	8,778
■ Cash receipts: crops	710	643	685	762	790	761	806	894	969	786
■ Cash receipts: Other income	2,041	1,703	1,677	1,971	2,233	2,708	3,025	3,376	4,100	4,353
■ Government payments	569	140	231	189	164	120	124	105	111	79
■ Imputed and miscellaneous income received	1,472	1,563	1,446	1,762	2,069	2,588	2,901	3,271	3,989	4,274

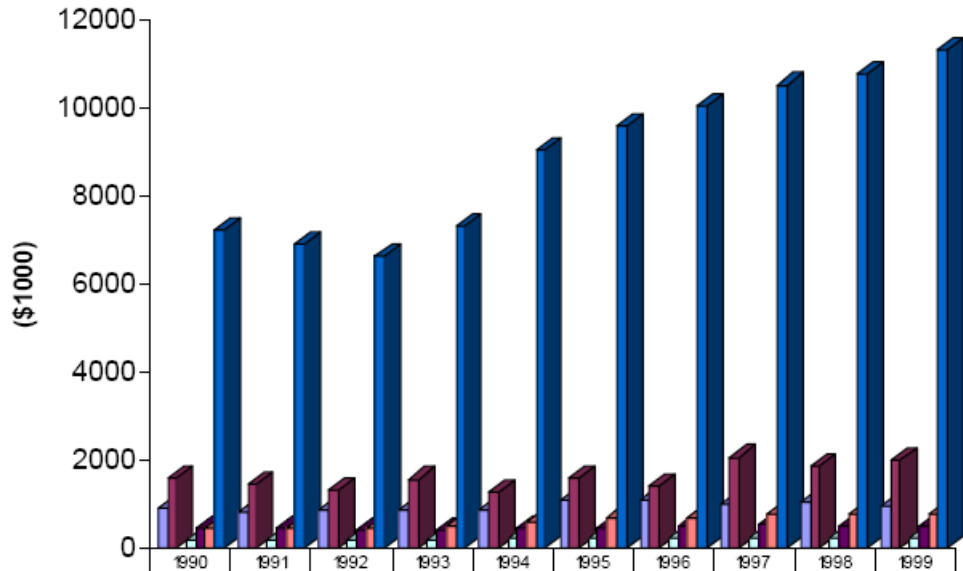
All production expense categories in Huerfano County increased in the 1990-1999 period. The greatest increase was farm labor expense, at 69% for the period. The all other production expense category had the second greatest rate of increase, rising by 56% for the period. Fertilizer and lime expenses and livestock purchase expenses climbed by 28% and 27%, respectively. Petroleum products purchased and feed purchases climbed by 9% and 4%, respectively. The all other production expenses category in Huerfano County accounted for 3% of the regional total in the same category for 1999. All other outlined expense categories accounted for between 1% and 2% of the regional total in 1999.

Huerfano County income and expense totals between 1990 and 1999 show a turn for the worse. Total cash receipts from marketings decreased by 1% in the period, while a 45% increase in production expenses was observed. The value of inventory change went from -\$140,000 in 1990 to -\$261,000 in 1999. Total cash receipts and other income grew by 19% for the period. However, total net income including corporate

farms decreased by 497% over the period, whereas the total net farm proprietors' income decreased by 446%. Total farm labor and proprietors' income fell by 241% for the 1990s. Huerfano County accounted for between 1% and 2% for total cash receipts from marketings, total production expenses, and total cash receipts and other income regionwide in 1999.

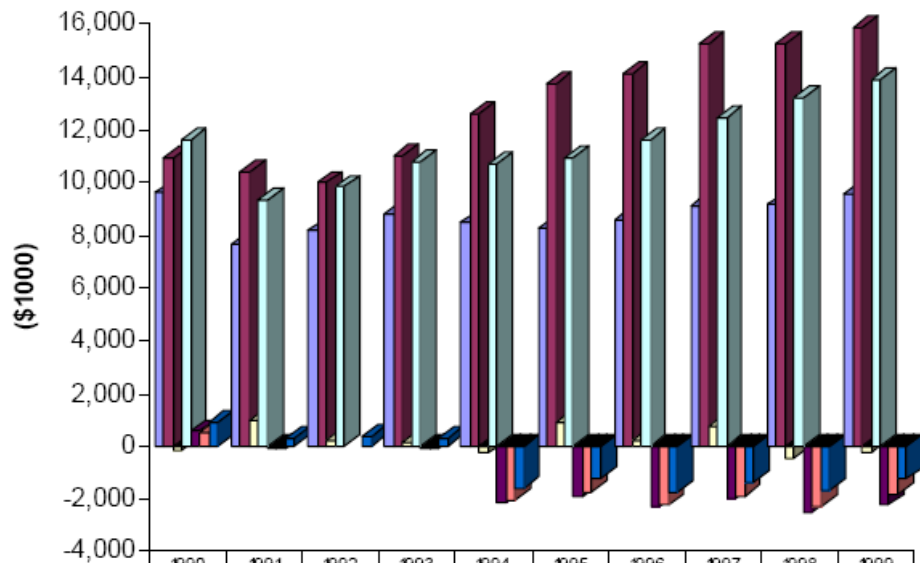
Every income category in Kiowa County increased during the 1990-1999 period. Cash receipts from livestock and products climbed by the greatest amount in the period, growing by 271%. The imputed and miscellaneous income category followed with the second highest rate of increase, growing by 69% for the period. Cash receipts for other income climbed by 48% and government payment grew by 42%. Crop cash receipts in the county had a 20% increase between 1990 and 1999. Kiowa County contributed heavily to the 1999 totals for the region. Government payments accounted for the greatest contribution to the region's totals out of the county, with 26% of the regional total in 1999. Both livestock receipts and

Huerfano County Production Expenses



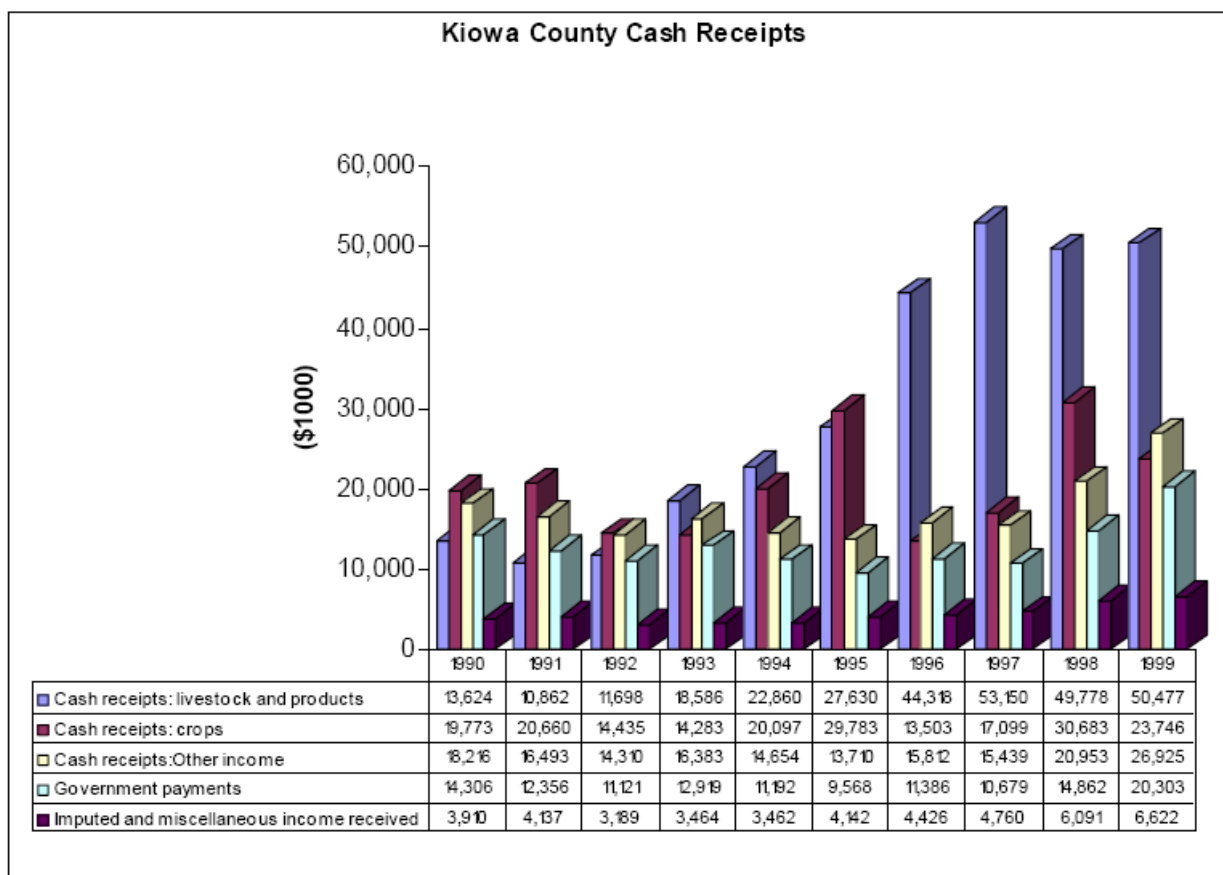
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	934	848	875	893	900	1,116	1,130	1,032	1,067	975
Livestock purchased	1,591	1,466	1,319	1,585	1,273	1,618	1,441	2,081	1,861	2,024
Seed purchased										
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	190	205	215	216	238	233	235	246	250	243
Petroleum products purchased	484	478	428	421	463	466	542	560	509	526
Hired farm labor expenses	476	467	460	521	626	724	693	780	797	802
All other production expenses	7,240	6,897	6,649	7,330	9,039	9,565	10,049	10,509	10,768	11,293

Huerfano County Income and Expense Totals



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Cash Receipts from marketings	9,613	7,668	8,161	8,817	8,469	8,237	8,590	9,116	9,148	9,564
Total production expenses	10,946	10,402	9,990	11,009	12,585	13,763	14,132	15,251	15,293	15,908
Total value of inventory change	-140	959	200	141	-277	883	198	756	-484	-261
Total cash receipts and other income	11,654	9,371	9,838	10,788	10,702	10,945	11,615	12,492	13,248	13,917
Total net income including corporate farms	568	-72		-80	-2,160	-1,935	-2,319	-2,003	-2,529	-2,252
Total net farm proprietors' income	529	-69		-76	-2,076	-1,747	-2,247	-1,923	-2,276	-1,828
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	890	281	387	313	-1,597	-1,233	-1,750	-1,358	-1,698	-1,259

Kiowa County Cash Receipts



other cash receipts accounted for 11% of the regional total in that same year. Cash receipts for crops in Kiowa County accounted for 9% and imputed and miscellaneous income accounted for 4% of the regional total in 1999.

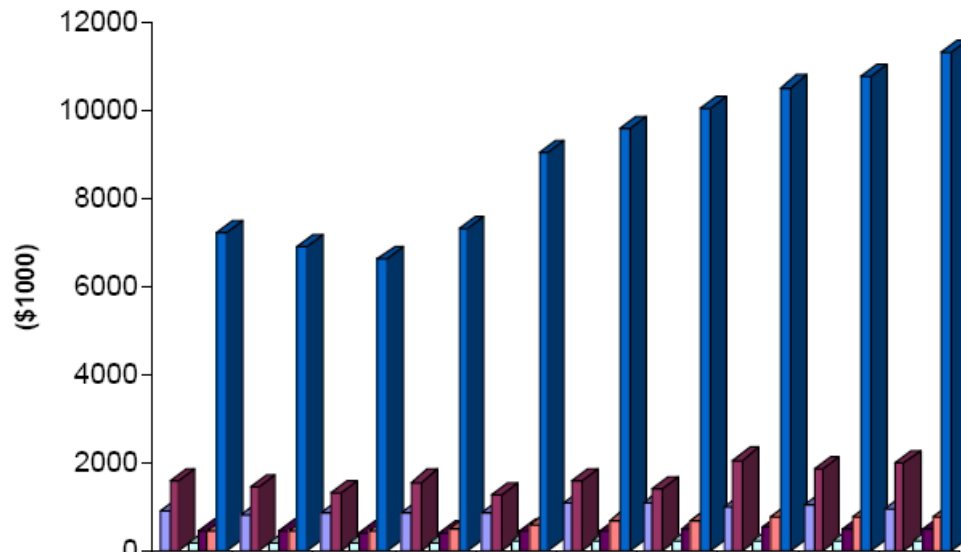
Production expenses in Kiowa County increased in all but one of the expense categories between 1990 and 1999. The only expense category that decreased, livestock purchased expenditure, declined by 55% for the outlined period. Feed purchase expenditures had the greatest increase, growing by 434% over the 1990s. Hired farm labor had the second highest rate of increase, growing by 209% over the period. The all other production expense category increased by 175% and fertilizer and lime expenses grew by 119%. Seed purchase expenses and petroleum expenses grew by 41% and 8%, respectively. Kiowa County contributed 14% of the regional total in 1999 for both hired farm labor expenses and all other expense category. Fertilizer and lime expenses in the county contributed 10% and feed purchase expenses from Kiowa County contributed 9% to the regional total. Kiowa County

accounted for 8% of the regional total petroleum expenses in 1999.

Kiowa County had some signs of improvement in farm income through the 1990s. Total cash receipts from marketings increased by 122% for the period, while production expenses grew 146%. The total value of inventory change decreased by 67% and total cash receipts and other income increased by 96% for the decade. Total net income including corporate farms, total net farm proprietors' income, and total farm labor and proprietors' income increased by 6%, 24% and 45%, respectively. All net farm income categories in Kiowa County contributed 14% to the regional total in 1999, while 11% of the regional total for total cash receipts from other income came from Kiowa County. Both total cash receipts from marketings and total production expenses categories in Kiowa County contributed 10% of the regional total in 1999.

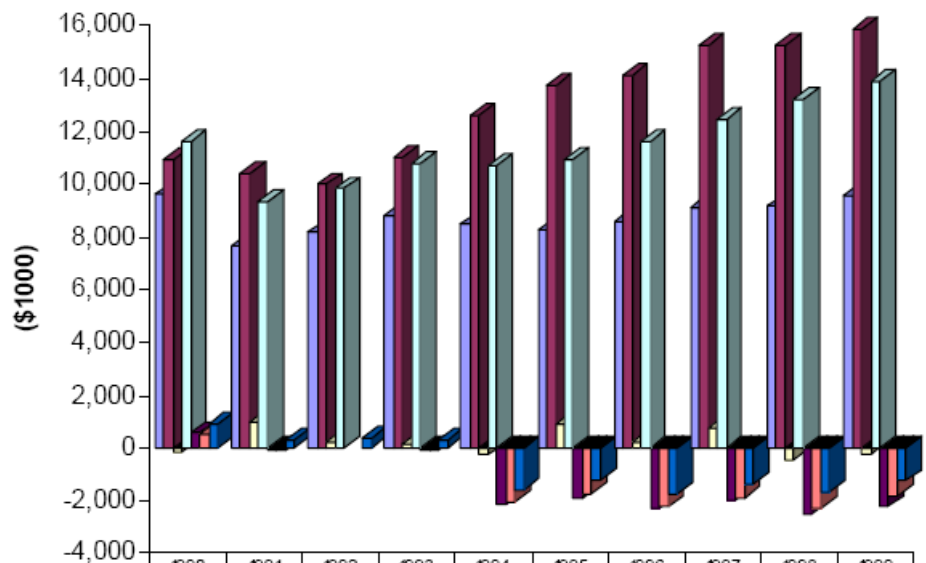
Two of the three cash receipt categories in Las Animas County increased in the 1990s. Cash receipts from livestock and products showed the only decrease out of

Huerfano County Production Expenses



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	934	848	875	893	900	1,116	1,130	1,032	1,067	975
Livestock purchased	1,591	1,466	1,319	1,585	1,273	1,618	1,441	2,081	1,861	2,024
Seed purchased										
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	190	205	215	215	238	233	235	246	250	243
Petroleum products purchased	484	478	428	421	463	466	542	560	509	526
Hired farm labor expenses	476	467	460	521	626	724	693	780	797	802
All other production expenses	7,240	6,897	6,649	7,330	9,039	9,565	10,049	10,509	10,768	11,293

Huerfano County Income and Expense Totals



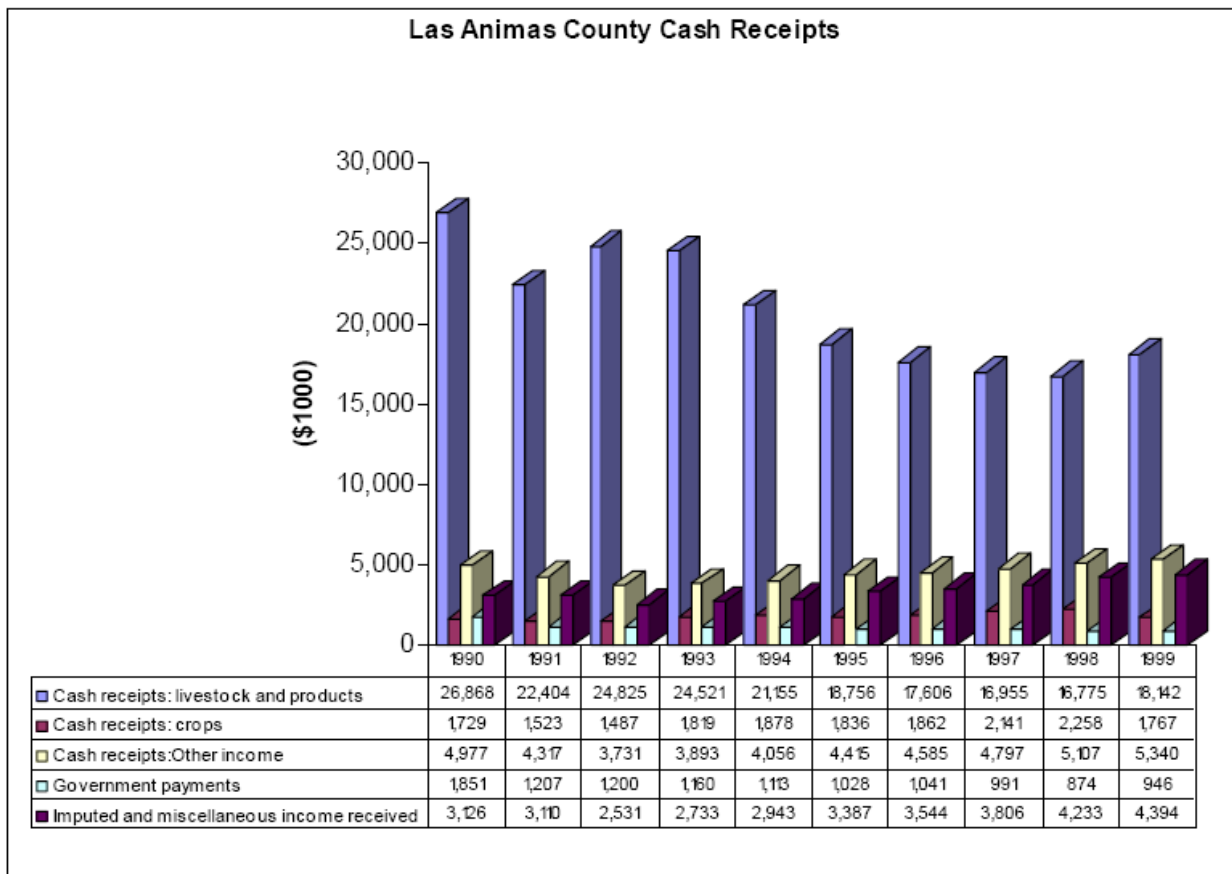
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Cash Receipts from marketings	9,613	7,668	8,161	8,817	8,469	8,237	8,590	9,116	9,148	9,564
Total production expenses	10,946	10,402	9,990	11,009	12,585	13,763	14,132	15,251	15,293	15,908
Total value of inventory change	-140	959	200	141	-277	883	198	756	-484	-261
Total cash receipts and other income	11,654	9,371	9,838	10,788	10,702	10,945	11,615	12,492	13,248	13,917
Total net income including corporate farms	568	-72		-80	-2,160	-1,935	-2,319	-2,003	-2,529	-2,252
Total net farm proprietors' income	529	-69		-76	-2,076	-1,747	-2,247	-1,923	-2,276	-1,828
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	890	281	387	313	-1,597	-1,233	-1,750	-1,358	-1,698	-1,259

all cash receipt categories, declining by 33% for the period. Crop cash receipts and receipts from other income grew by 2% and 7%, respectively. Government payments on the other hand decreased from \$1.8 million in 1990 to \$946,000 in 1999. Imputed and miscellaneous income increased by 41% for the period. Regionally, Las Animas contributed between 1% and 4% for each of the five outlined categories to the 1999 regional totals.

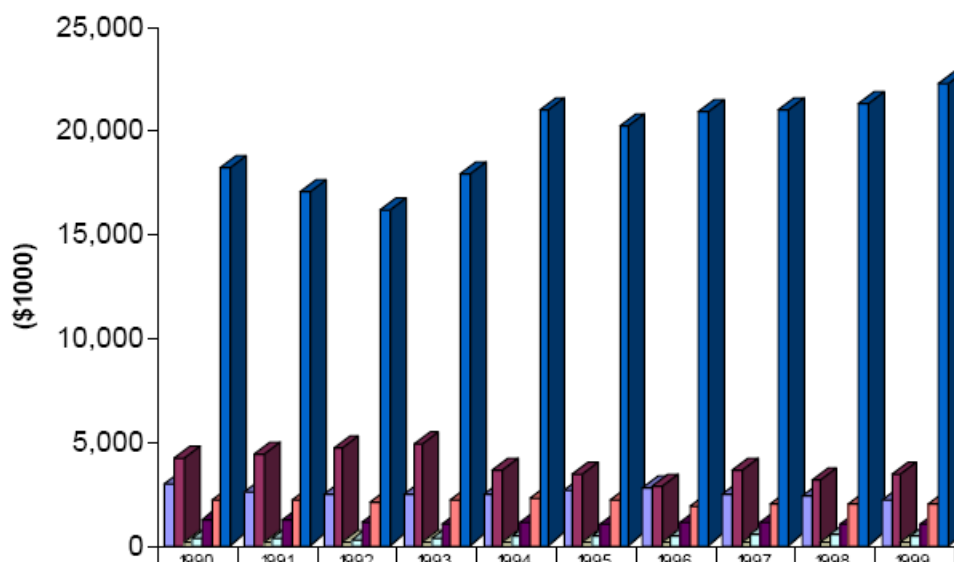
Unlike most of the other counties in the region, Las Animas County experienced quite a number of decreases in the amount of production expenses over the decade. Feed purchase expenditures had the greatest rate of decrease, 26%, for the period. Livestock purchase expenditures had the second greatest decrease, declining by 18% between 1990 and 1999. Petroleum products purchased decreased by 17%, followed by a 9% decrease in the hired farm labor category. Expenditures on fertilizer and lime had the greatest increase out of the expenses categories, growing by 38% over the period. The all other expenses category also increased, but by 23%, with the least amount of

increase (9%) in the category of seed purchased expenditures. Las Animas accounted for 6% of the regional total in the all other production expenses category and 5% of the regional petroleum products purchased category. The other expense categories in Las Animas contributed between 1% and 3% to the regional totals in 1999.

Total cash receipts in Las Animas decreased by 30%, while total expenses increased by 8% from 1990-1999. Total value of inventory change went from -\$520,000 in 1990 to -\$669,000 in 1999. Total cash receipts and other income decreased by 25% for the period. All net income categories displayed dramatic decreases for the period with total net income including corporate farms decreasing by 280%, followed by a 270% decrease total net farm proprietors' income. Total farm labor and proprietors' income fell by 168% in the 1990s. Las Animas accounted for 4% of the region's total production expenses in 1999 and 3% of both total cash receipts from marketings and cash receipts from other income.

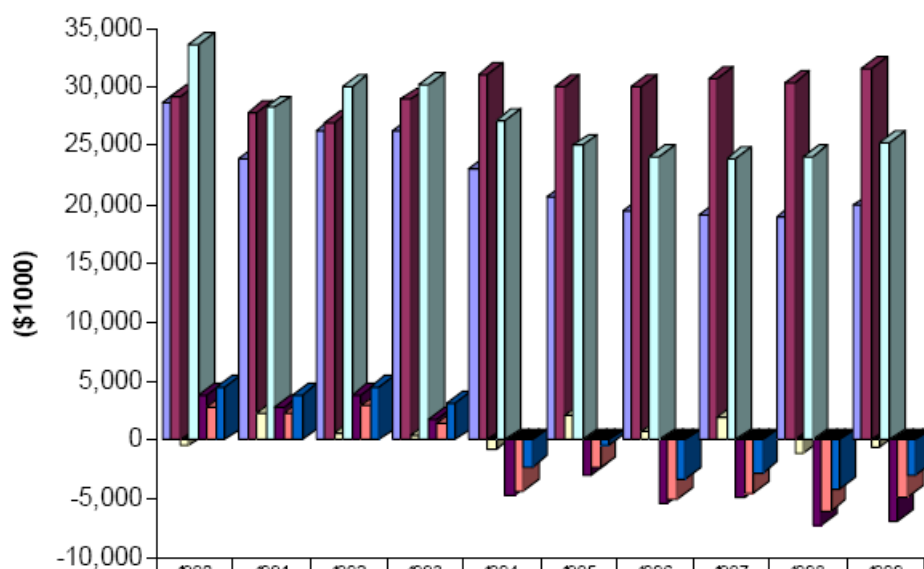


Las Animas County Production Expenses



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	2,911	2,519	2,475	2,468	2,446	2,621	2,709	2,481	2,367	2,163
Livestock purchased	4,193	4,402	4,641	4,860	3,615	3,462	2,836	3,615	3,148	3,450
Seed purchased	135	147	130	136	147	127	134	139	131	144
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	342	320	286	339	412	411	449	486	486	471
Petroleum products purchased	1,254	1,215	1,070	1,046	1,087	990	1,124	1,113	1,002	1,036
Hired farm labor expenses	2,180	2,129	2,111	2,169	2,304	2,172	1,879	1,940	1,960	1,990
All other production expenses	18,181	17,078	16,185	17,915	21,026	20,239	20,908	20,975	21,242	22,278

Las Animas County Income and Expense Totals



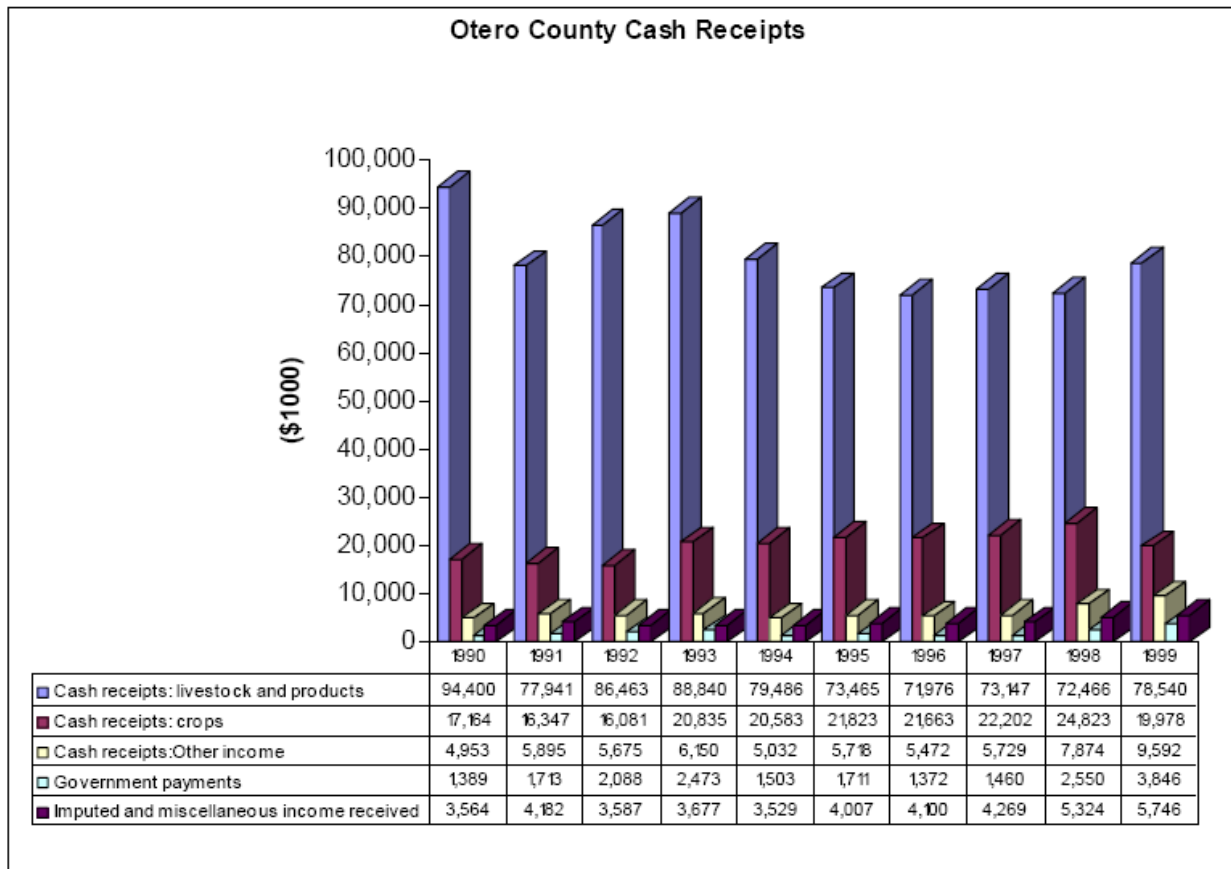
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Cash Receipts from marketings	28,597	23,927	26,312	26,340	23,033	20,592	19,468	19,096	19,033	19,909
Total production expenses	29,196	27,810	26,898	28,933	31,037	30,022	30,039	30,749	30,336	31,532
Total value of inventory change	-520	2,338	628	471	-773	2,027	678	1,980	-1,054	-669
Total cash receipts and other income	33,574	28,244	30,043	30,233	27,089	25,007	24,053	23,893	24,140	25,249
Total net income including corporate farms	3,858	2,772	3,773	1,771	-4,721	-2,988	-5,308	-4,876	-7,250	-6,952
Total net farm proprietors' income	2,830	2,244	2,888	1,462	-4,276	-2,389	-5,007	-4,556	-6,059	-4,802
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	4,437	3,817	4,458	3,125	-2,340	-486	-3,286	-2,776	-4,238	-3,007

With the exception of one cash receipt category, impressive increases occurred across all categories. Cash receipts from livestock and products decreased by 12% in the period. Government payments had the greatest increase, growing by 177%, followed by a 94% increase in cash receipts from other income. Imputed and miscellaneous income rose by 61% and crop cash receipts gained an additional 16% over the 1990s. Cash receipts from livestock and products in Otero County accounted for 17% of the regional total, while Otero County accounted for 8% of regional crop cash receipts. The other three category totals in 1999 accounted for 4% to 5% of the regional totals in 1999.

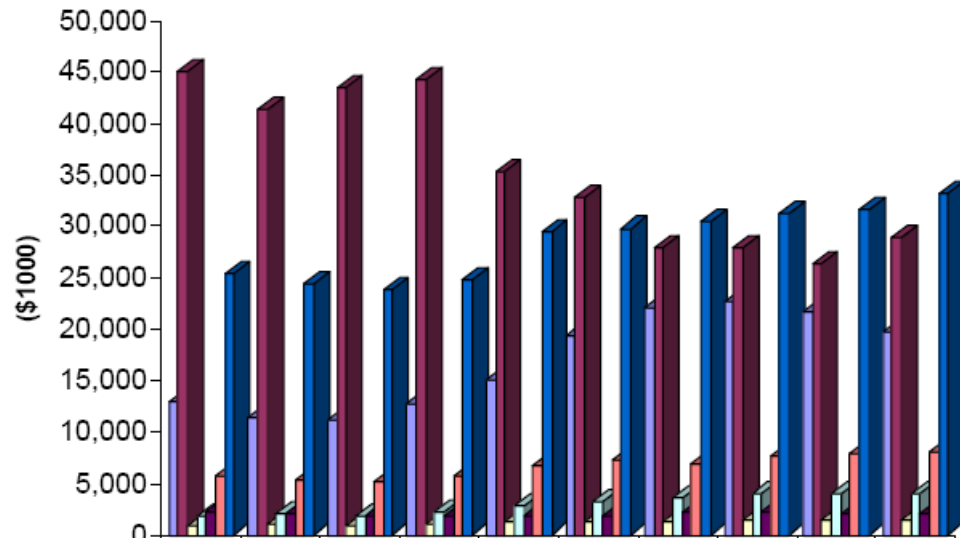
Over the 1990s, production expenses in Otero County decreased in two of the outlined categories. Livestock purchase expenses and petroleum product expenses decreased by 36% and 3%, respectively. Fertilizer and lime expenditures increased at the greatest rate, more than doubling for the period. Seed purchase expenditures followed with an increase of 67%. Feed purchased, hired farm labor, and all other production expenses grew by 54%, 40%, and 31%, respectively. Otero County contributed heavily to the region in

1999, accounting for 21% of the regional total feed purchase expenditures, 18% of livestock purchase expenses, and 11% of fertilizer and lime costs. Otero County also accounted for 10% of seed purchased, petroleum products expenses, hired farm labor costs, and 9% of the all other production expenses category.

Total cash receipts from marketings decreased by 12% for the period while total production expense increased by 4%. Total value of inventory change went from -\$306,000 in 1990 to -\$778,000 in 1999. Total cash receipts and other income fell by 7% for the period. Total net income including corporate farms fell by 56%. Total net farm proprietors' income fell by 34% and total farm labor and proprietors' income fell by 22%. Otero County contributed substantially to some categories to the regional totals in 1990. Total cash receipts from marketings in the county contributed 14% to the regional total in 1999, while 13% of the regional total production expenses occurred in Otero. The county accounted for 11% of total cash receipts from other income for the region and between 6% and 7% of the net income categories in 1999.

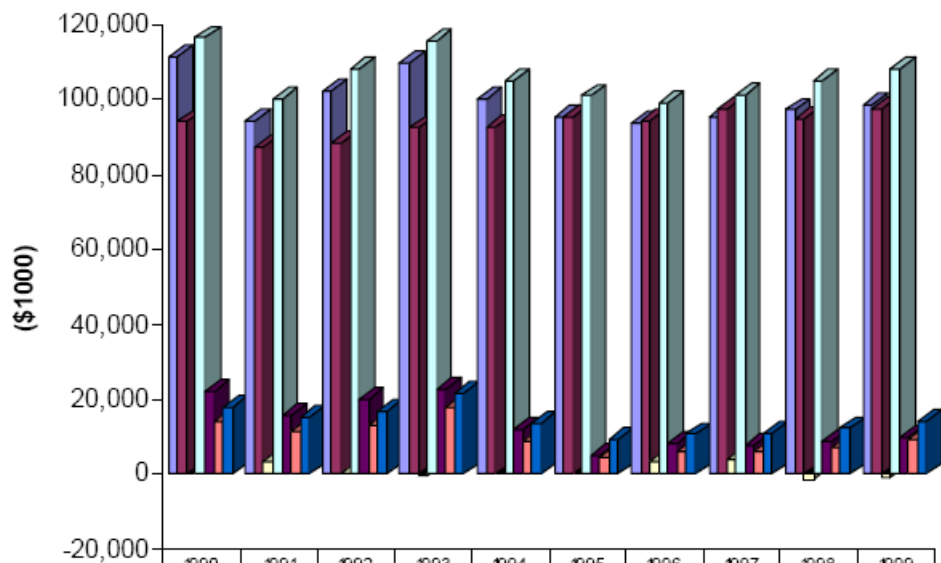


Otero County Production Expenses



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	12,900	11,308	11,266	12,827	15,060	19,306	22,092	22,707	21,712	19,839
Livestock purchased	45,071	41,355	43,550	44,220	35,280	32,778	27,842	27,941	26,323	28,920
Seed purchased	909	1,021	922	1,006	1,202	1,169	1,308	1,455	1,376	1,514
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	1,912	1,946	1,923	2,255	2,903	3,148	3,527	4,005	4,018	3,898
Petroleum products purchased	2,190	2,108	1,850	1,781	1,945	1,919	2,216	2,283	2,057	2,128
Hired farm labor expenses	5,727	5,354	5,163	5,648	6,696	7,368	6,849	7,751	7,892	8,001
All other production expenses	25,361	24,470	23,785	24,787	29,445	29,767	30,487	31,201	31,678	33,223

Otero County Income and Expense Totals



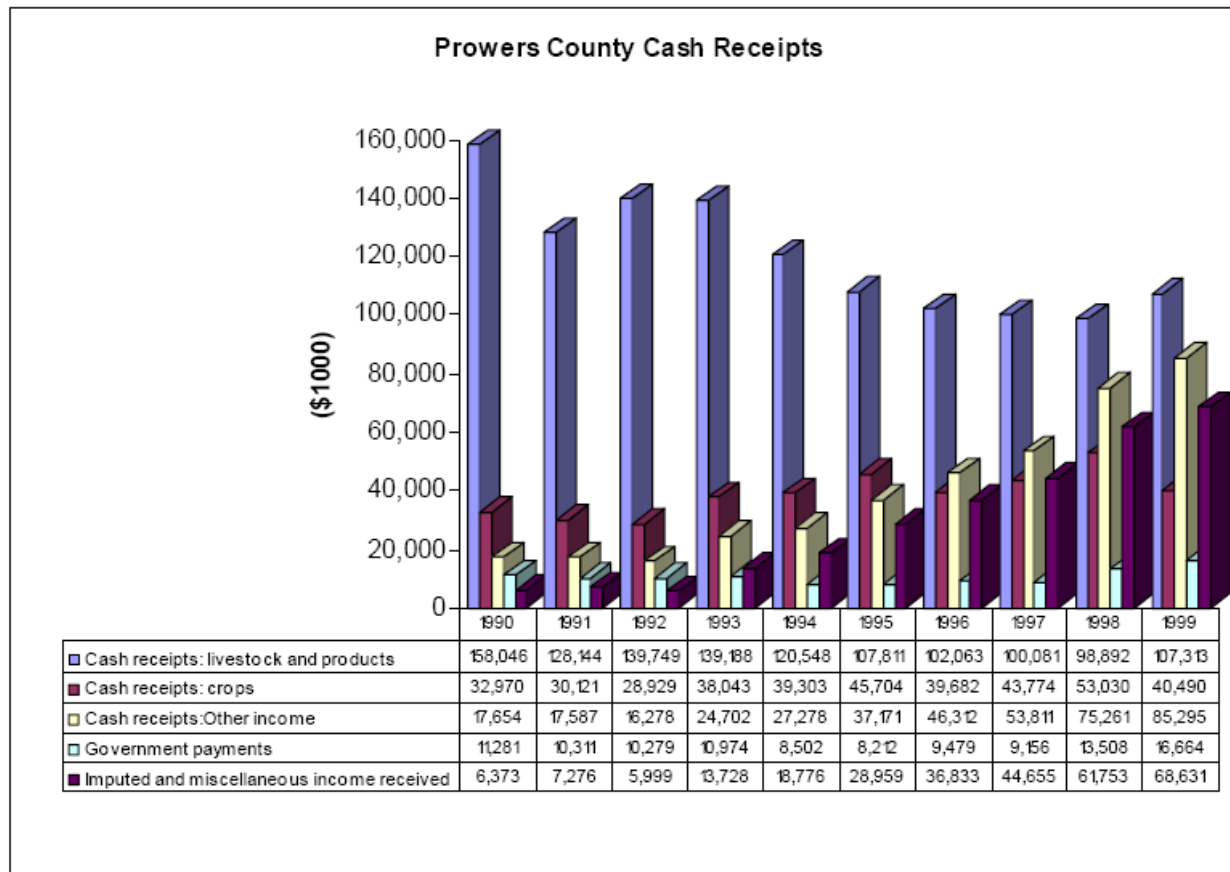
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Cash Receipts from marketings	111,564	94,288	102,544	109,675	100,069	95,288	93,639	95,349	97,289	98,518
Total production expenses	94,070	87,562	88,459	92,524	92,531	95,455	94,321	97,343	95,056	97,523
Total value of inventory change	-306	3,325	515	-476	-430	-343	3,435	4,085	-1,446	-778
Total cash receipts and other income	116,517	100,163	108,219	115,825	105,101	101,006	99,111	101,078	105,163	108,110
Total net income including corporate farms	22,141	15,946	20,275	22,825	12,140	5,208	8,225	7,820	8,661	9,809
Total net farm proprietors' income	13,984	11,606	13,195	17,767	8,954	4,455	6,196	6,166	7,364	9,234
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	18,089	15,334	16,708	21,629	13,663	9,235	10,734	11,061	12,353	14,164

All the income and receipt categories increased over the 1990s, except for a 32% decrease in livestock and product receipts. The imputed and miscellaneous income category exhibited the greatest increase, 977%, over the period. Other income cash receipts grew by 383% and government payments grew by 48%. Cash receipts from crops grew the least quickly, by 23%, over the 1990-1999 period. Prowers County contributed heavily to the regional totals in 1999, accounting for 23% of the regional livestock and products receipts. Cash receipts from other income in Prowers County accounted for 36% of the regional total. Prowers County accounted for 44% of the regional imputed and miscellaneous income and 16% of the regional total cash receipts from crops in 1999.

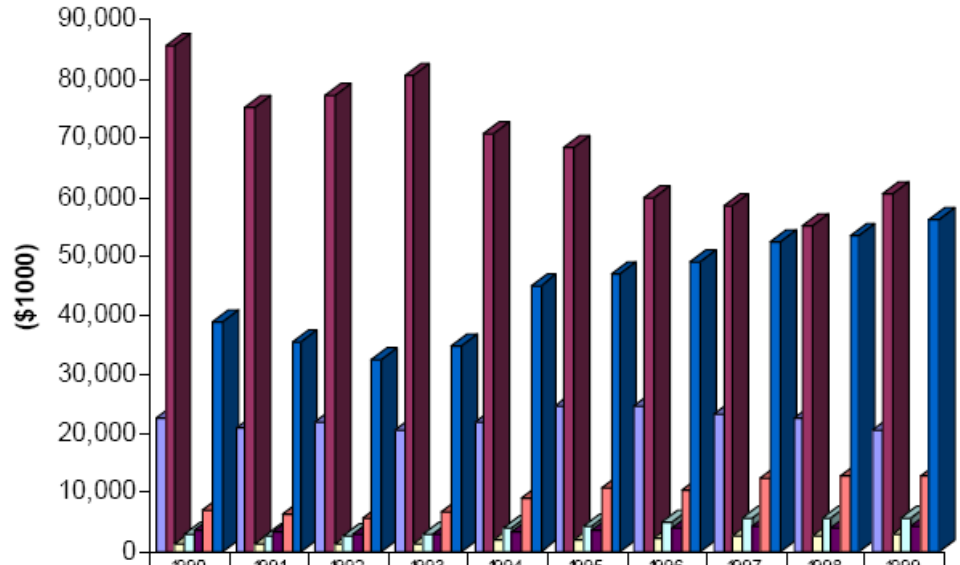
Two of the seven production expense categories showed decreases between 1990 and 1999. Livestock purchase expenses and feed purchased expenses declined by 29% and 9%, respectively over the period. Seed purchase expenditure increased most quickly, climbing by 127%, followed by a 94% increase in fertilizer and lime expenditures. Hired farm labor expenditures increased by 84% and the all other expense category increased by 44%. The least amount of increase occurred for petroleum products expenditures,

which increased by 16% over the decade. Prowers County accounted for a sizable portion of the regional total expenses in 1999, accounting for 38% of the regional livestock purchase expenses, as well as 22% of feed purchase expenses. Prowers County accounted for 19% of both seed purchase costs and petroleum product expenses at the regional level, whereas 16% of the regional fertilizer and lime cost and hired farm labor cost are provided by Prowers County. The regional all other production expenses category derived 15% of its total from Prowers County.

Total cash receipts from marketings in Prowers County decreased by 23% for the 1990s, while virtually no change in the amount of production expenses occurred. The total value of inventory change in the county went from \$2.2 million in 1990 to -\$901,000 in 1999. The total cash receipts and other income category rose by 12% for the period and all net income categories showed healthy increases over the period. Total net income including corporate farms rose by 43% for the 1990s and total net farm proprietors' income increased by 76%. The total farm labor and proprietors' income category increased by 77% for the 1990-1999 period. Again, the county totals in Prowers accounted for a sizable portion of the regional total in 1999, 40% of the

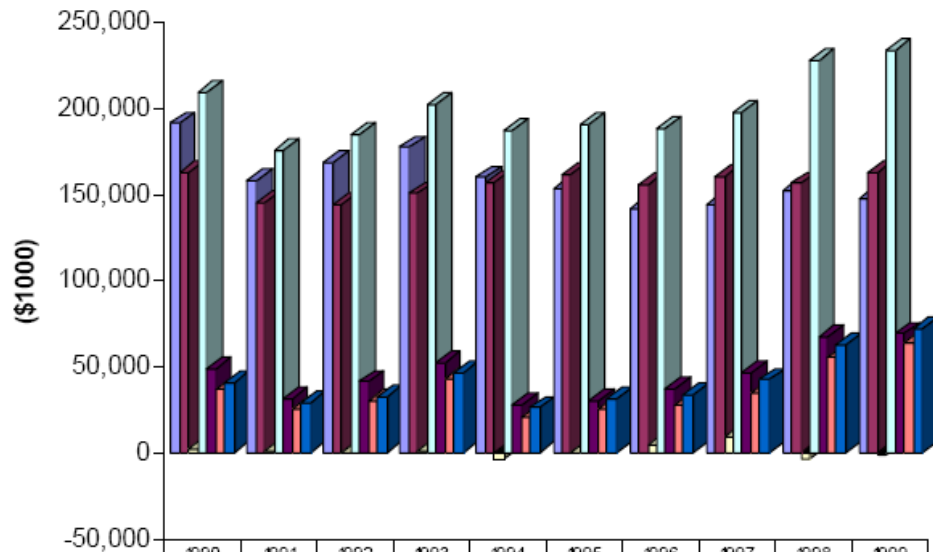


Prowers County Production Expenses



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	22,673	20,900	21,926	20,650	21,898	24,685	24,841	23,485	22,510	20,568
Livestock purchased	85,671	75,232	77,173	80,695	70,816	68,287	59,991	58,546	55,130	60,572
Seed purchased	1,288	1,420	1,262	1,486	1,997	2,055	2,376	2,806	2,660	2,926
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	2,890	2,817	2,660	3,060	4,121	4,473	4,948	5,738	5,771	5,599
Petroleum products purchased	3,648	3,443	2,958	2,935	3,492	3,568	4,192	4,533	4,095	4,235
Hired farm labor expenses	7,080	6,298	5,776	6,879	9,132	10,841	10,325	12,507	12,751	12,991
All other production expenses	39,069	35,503	32,350	34,776	45,013	47,106	49,012	52,516	53,446	56,054

Prowers County Total Cash Receipts



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Cash Receipts from marketings	191,016	158,265	168,678	177,231	159,851	153,515	141,745	143,855	151,922	147,803
Total production expenses	162,319	145,613	144,105	150,481	156,469	161,015	155,685	160,131	156,363	162,945
Total value of inventory change	2,250	1,620	507	1,212	-2,905	499	5,279	9,310	-3,300	-901
Total cash receipts and other income	208,670	175,852	184,956	201,933	187,129	190,686	188,057	197,666	227,183	233,098
Total net income including corporate farms	48,601	31,859	41,358	52,664	27,755	30,170	37,651	46,845	67,520	69,252
Total net farm proprietors' income	36,669	25,664	30,221	43,036	21,272	25,940	27,717	34,966	55,404	64,384
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	40,683	28,974	32,996	46,657	26,384	31,873	34,065	42,576	63,149	72,045

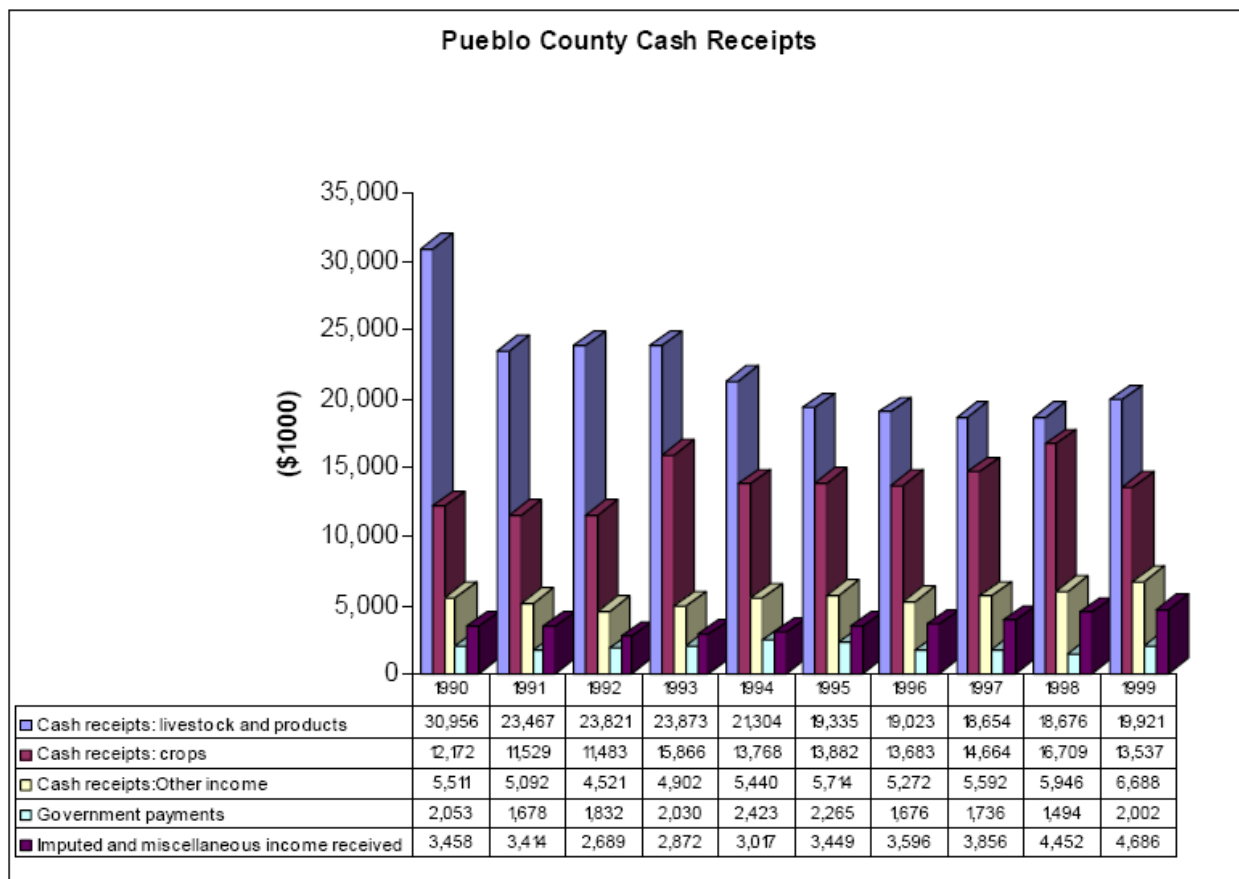
regional total net income including corporate farms was contributed by Prowers County, and 39% of the regional total net farm proprietors' income came from Prowers County. Total farm labor and proprietors' income in Prowers accounted for 34% of the regional total in 1999. Total cash receipts and other income, total cash receipts from marketings, and total production expenses in the county contributed 25%, 21%, and 21%, respectively, to the regional total in 1999.

During the 1990s, Pueblo County experienced a 36% decrease in the amount of cash receipts for livestock and products, but had an increase of 11% and 21% for crop cash receipts and other income cash receipts, respectively. Government payments declined by 3% for the outlined period, while imputed income and miscellaneous income received increased by 36%. Pueblo County accounted for 5% of the region's total cash receipts from crops for 1999, with 4% of the regional cash receipts from livestock coming from Pueblo County. Cash receipts from other income, government payments, and imputed income accounted for 3% of the regional total in 1999.

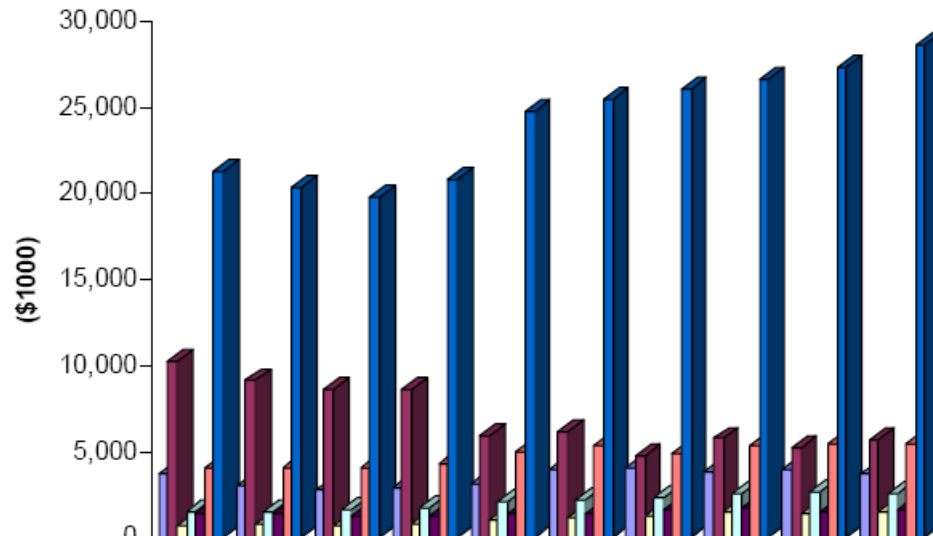
Production expenses in Pueblo County declined in two of the seven expense categories over the 1990-1999

period. Feed and livestock purchases declined by 1% and 45%, respectively. Seed purchase expenditures increased by the greatest amount (154%) of all production expenditures. Fertilizer and lime expenses had the second highest rate of growth, 77%, over the period. Hired farm labor, all other production expenses and petroleum expenditures increased by 36%, 35%, and 12%, respectively. Pueblo County accounted for 10% of the regional total seed purchase expenditures in 1999. Pueblo County comprised 8% of the region's all other expense category. Fertilizer and lime expenditures, petroleum expenditures, and hired farm labor expenses accounted for 7% of the region's total in 1999. Livestock purchased and feed purchased accounted for 4% and 3% of the region's total in 1999.

During the 1990-1999 period, Pueblo County experienced a 22% decrease in the amount of total cash receipts from marketings, while also experiencing a 15% increase in the amount of total production expenditures. The total value of inventory change went from -\$103,000 in 1990 to -\$530,000 in 1999. Total cash receipts and other income fell by 18%, while all net income categories experienced drastic decreases over the decade. Total net income including corporate farms fell by 256% in the 1990s. Total net farm proprietors'

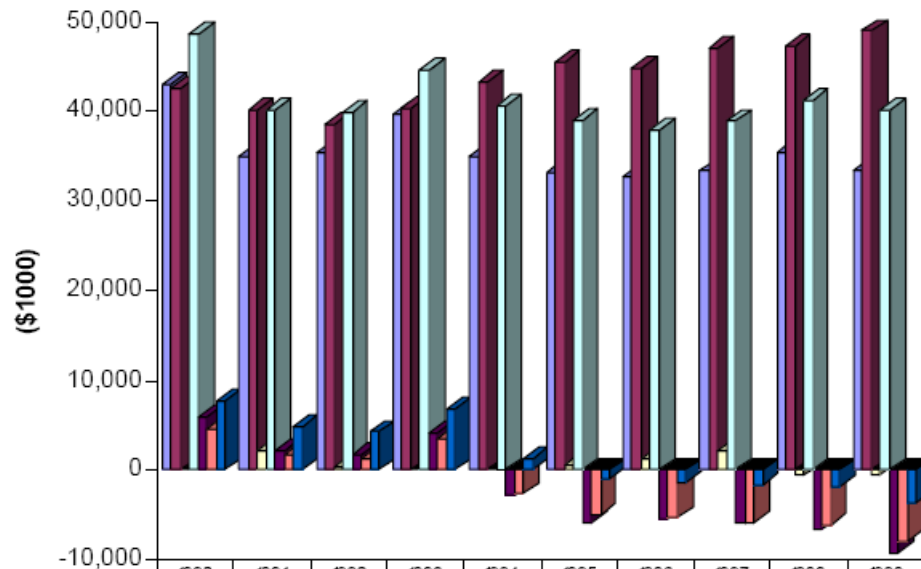


Pueblo County Production Expenses



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Feed purchased	3,640	2,953	2,688	2,890	3,045	3,912	4,084	3,830	3,962	3,620
Livestock purchased	10,206	9,107	8,602	8,610	5,933	6,128	4,727	5,722	5,214	5,631
Seed purchased	596	705	664	811	1,028	1,072	1,246	1,439	1,378	1,516
Fertilizer & lime (incl. ag. chem. 78-fwd.)	1,412	1,502	1,545	1,706	2,041	2,144	2,304	2,544	2,580	2,504
Petroleum products purchased	1,390	1,374	1,237	1,223	1,352	1,365	1,593	1,655	1,505	1,557
Hired farm labor expenses	4,020	3,999	4,057	4,296	4,988	5,307	4,799	5,266	5,393	5,477
All other production expenses	21,284	20,395	19,758	20,860	24,818	25,481	26,083	26,671	27,328	28,661

Pueblo County Income and Expense Totals



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Cash Receipts from marketings	43,128	34,996	35,304	39,739	35,072	33,217	32,706	33,318	35,385	33,458
Total production expenses	42,548	40,035	38,551	40,396	43,205	45,409	44,836	47,127	47,360	48,966
Total value of inventory change	-103	2,057	339	-189	-221	582	1,291	2,160	-698	-530
Total cash receipts and other income	48,639	40,088	39,825	44,641	40,512	38,931	37,978	38,910	41,331	40,146
Total net income including corporate farms	5,988	2,110	1,613	4,056	-2,914	-5,896	-5,567	-6,057	-6,727	-9,350
Total net farm proprietors' income	4,852	1,739	1,222	3,429	-2,706	-5,138	-5,396	-5,877	-6,227	-8,041
Total farm labor and proprietors' income	7,684	4,714	4,215	6,728	1,298	-1,034	-1,513	-1,649	-1,896	-3,776

income also decreased, but by 273%. Total farm labor and proprietors' income fell by 149% over the period. Pueblo County is responsible for 6% of the regional total production expenses in 1999, 5% of the regional total cash receipts from marketings and 4% of the region's total cash receipts and other income tally.

9.6 Agricultural Income and Expense Conclusion

Diversification of agricultural production is a noticeable trend throughout the state, since there have been massive increases in the Other Income and Imputed and Miscellaneous income categories for all counties in the region. Cash receipts from livestock decreased in many of the counties. At first glance, this seems strange since there has been an increase in the number of properties that are considered cattle operations in the region. However, further evaluation of data reveals that the value of cattle sold has decreased over the period throughout the region. Production expenses have continuously increased in every county, except for Las Animas County, showing that farmers have had to continuously pay more and more over the 1990s for the production that they provide, while the price for the output has declined. Total net farm income categories were drastically affected by the total value of inventory change and the increase in production expenses. The positive change in the value of inventory signifies new production within a year. In contrast a negative change, like many of the counties experienced in the later half of the decade, is the result of a draw down in beginning year stocks and represents the sale of commodities produced in prior years.

9.7 Summary and overview for Conservation Reserve Program acreage

The 1985 Farm Bill authorized the USDA, through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, SCS at the time), to accept bids from producers to idle highly erodible cropland under the umbrella of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The CRP has continued to be an important part of subsequent Farm Bills and is prominent in the Conservation Title of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. Colorado contract acreage for 1988-2002 active CRP acreage is reported here.

Colorado currently has more than 2.1 million acres enrolled in the CRP. Thousands of Colorado farmers and ranchers are receiving an annual average payment of more than \$31 per acre for their CRP ground. Most state and the regional CRP acres are enrolled as estab-

lished grass acres. The second highest concentration of CRP acres is enrolled as native grass acres at both the state and the ACT regional level.

Many of the counties that make up the ACT Region have no active CRP acreage. The highest percentage of active CRP acres is in Baca County with 35% of the region's total. The second highest concentration of CRP acreage is in Kiowa County, which had 28% of the region's total, followed by Prowers with 23%. Combined, these three counties accounted for 86% of the total active CRP acreage in the region.

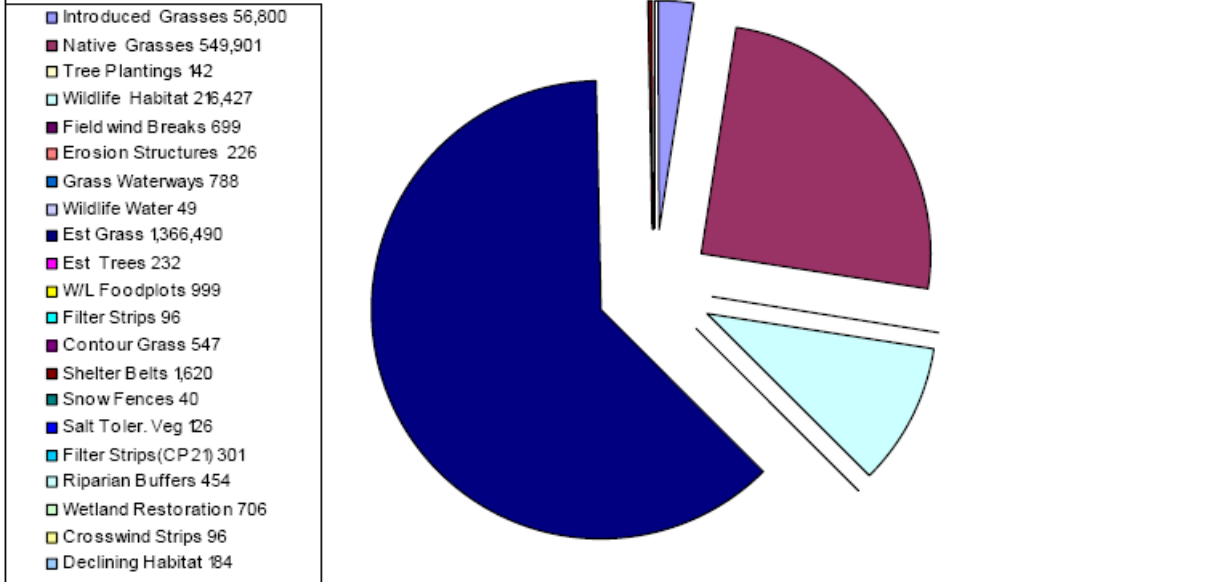
The vast majority of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres in the state are enrolled as established grass acres. This category accounted for 62% of the state's total CRP lands, while the native grass category was the second highest, accounting for 25%. Wildlife habitat acres had the third highest acreage enrolled, with approximately 10% and the remaining categories comprised 3% the of targeted CRP priority practices.

The region made up 34% of Colorado's total active CRP acres. Established grass acres account for 80% of the regional CRP ground. The established grass acres in the ACT Region accounted for 44% of the state's total active established grass CRP acres. Native grasses had the second greatest acreage enrollment and comprised 18% of the region's total CRP acres. The region accounted for 25% of Colorado's total active native grass CRP program acres. Wildlife habitat accounted for the next greatest number of enrolled acres, accounting for 2% of the regional total active acres. The number of wildlife acres in the region comprised 7% of the state's total active acres in the program.

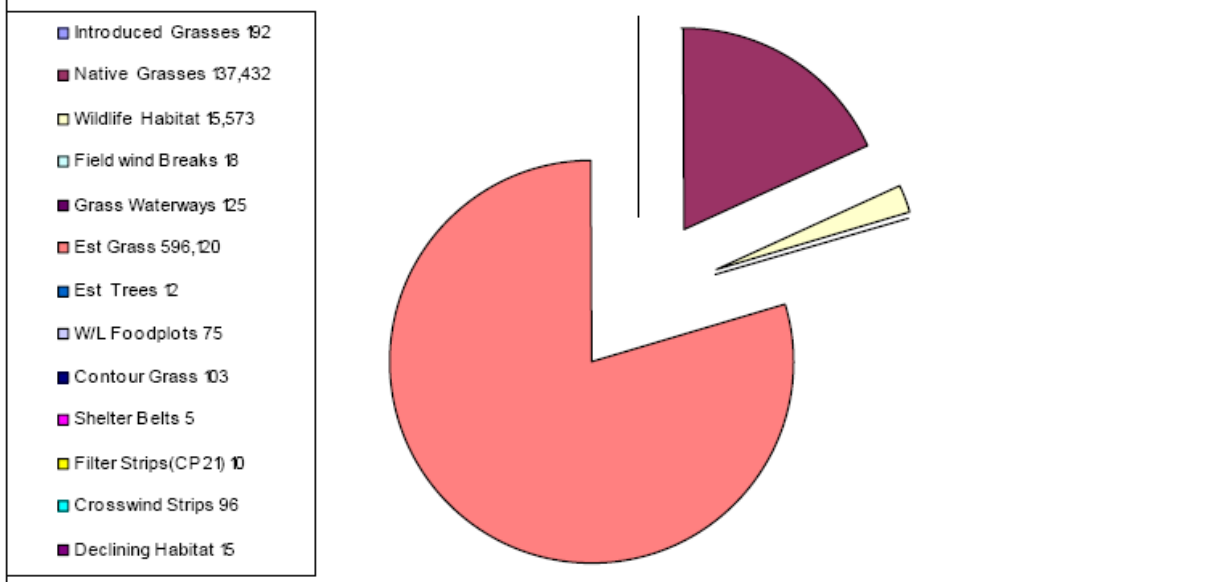
9.8 County trends in Conservation Reserve Program acreage

Baca County comprised 35% of the region's total active CRP acres in 2002. The highest amount of program acres for the county are enrolled as established grasses. The established grassland acres in Baca County comprised 34% of the region's total enrolled established grass acres, and accounted for 78% of Baca County's total active acres. Native grass practice acres in Baca County emerged as the second greatest number of CRP practice acreage out of the county, which constituted for 38% of the region's total in the same category, and 20% of the total acres in the county. The third highest concentration of CRP acres in the county existed as wildlife habitat acres, which constitute 2%

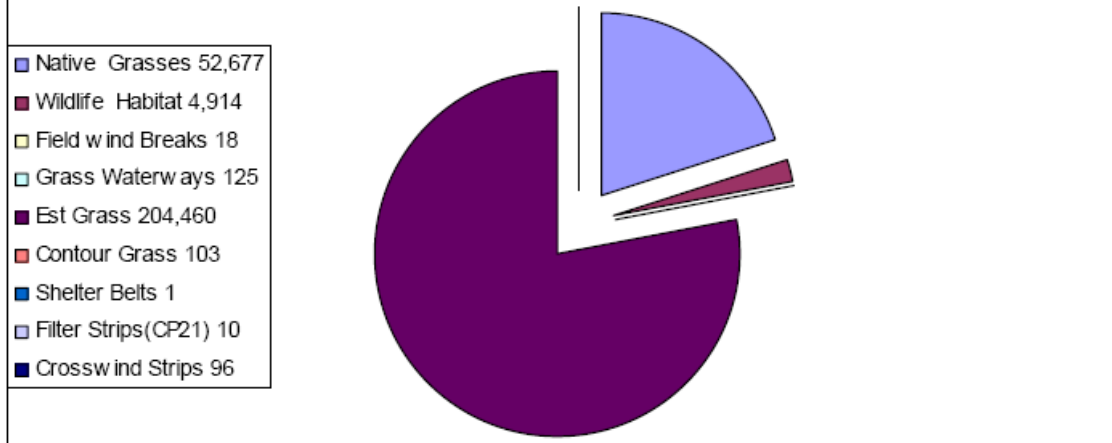
Composition of Total CRP Acres (2,196,924 ac.) in Colorado



Composition of Total Active CRP Acres (749,775 ac.) in the ACT Region



Composition of Total Active CRP Acres (262,403 ac.) in Baca County

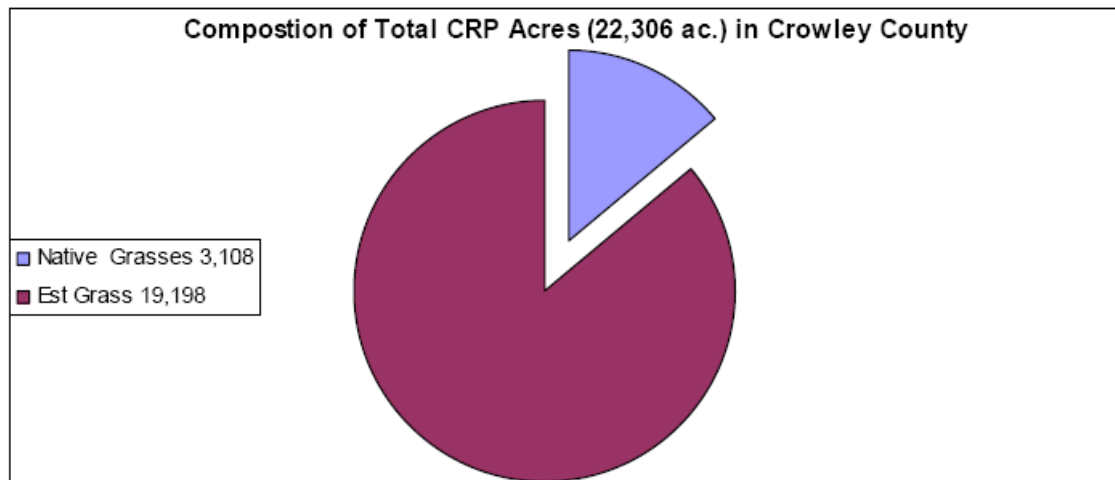
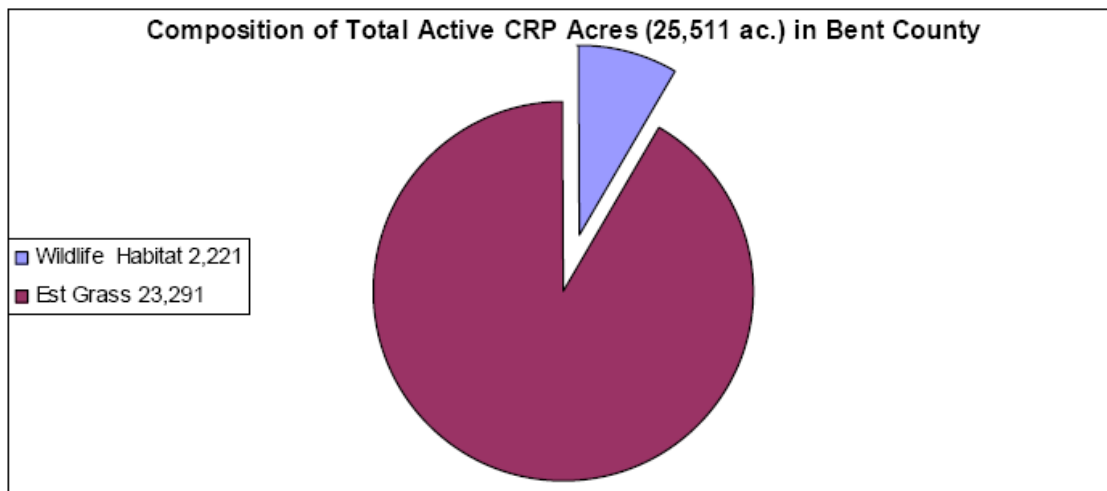


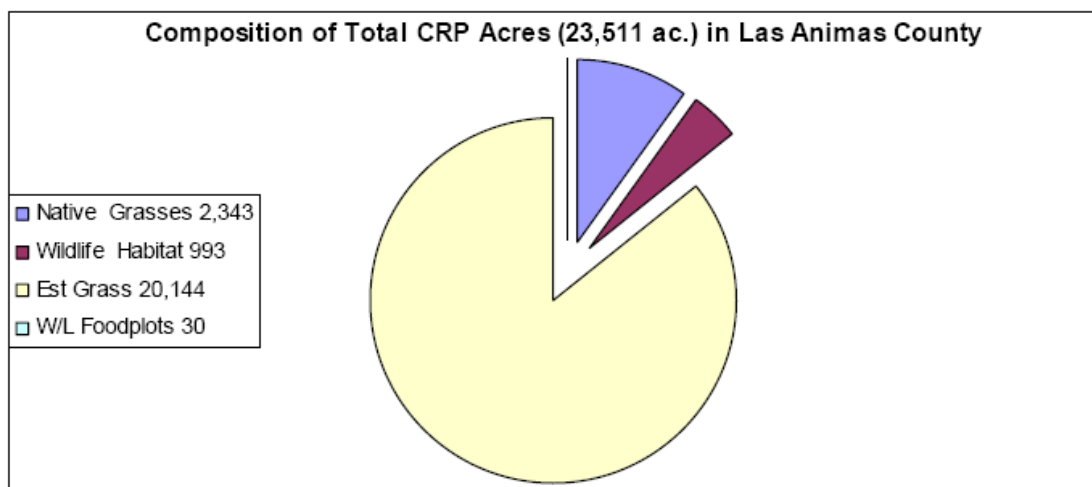
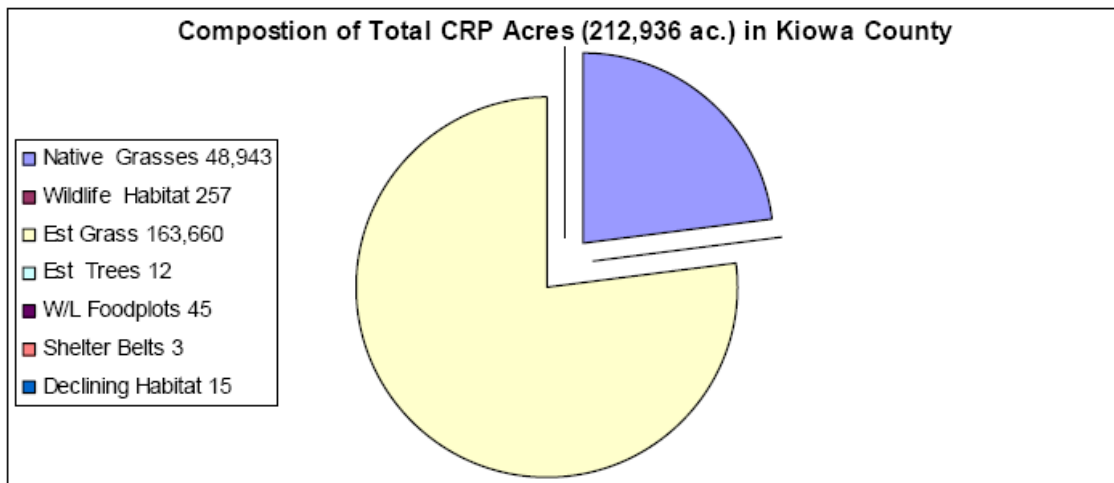
of the county total CPR acres and 32% of the region's total in the same category. Many of the different types of CRP acres found in the region occurred strictly in Baca County. For example: field wind breaks, grass waterways, contour grass, filter strips, and crosswind strip practice acres in the county make up 100% of the regional total.

Active CRP acres in Bent County are made up of two separate practices under the CRP program; established grassland and wildlife habitat. The total number of active acres in Bent County made up only 3% of the region's total CRP acres. Established grass acres in the county make up 91% of total CRP acres in the county, accounting for 4% of the region's total established grass program acres. Although wildlife habitat in the county only comprised a small percentage of the county total (8%), it comprised 14% of the region's total wildlife habitat acres.

Total CRP acres in Crowley County accounted for 3% of the total active CRP acres in the region. The greatest concentration of program acres in the county exist as established grass practices acres, which constitutes for 86% of the county's total active acres, but only accounted for 3% of the total number of establish grass acres in the region. Native grass practices in the county comprised 14% of the total active acres in the county, and 2% of the region's total number of native grass acres.

Kiowa County accounted for 28% of the region's total CRP acreage in 2002. The greatest number of program acres occurred under the established grass practice, accounting for 77% of the county total and 27% of the region's established grass totals. Native grass acreage experienced the second greatest enrollment, which made up 23% of the region's active acreage and 36% of the region's native grass total. Kiowa County





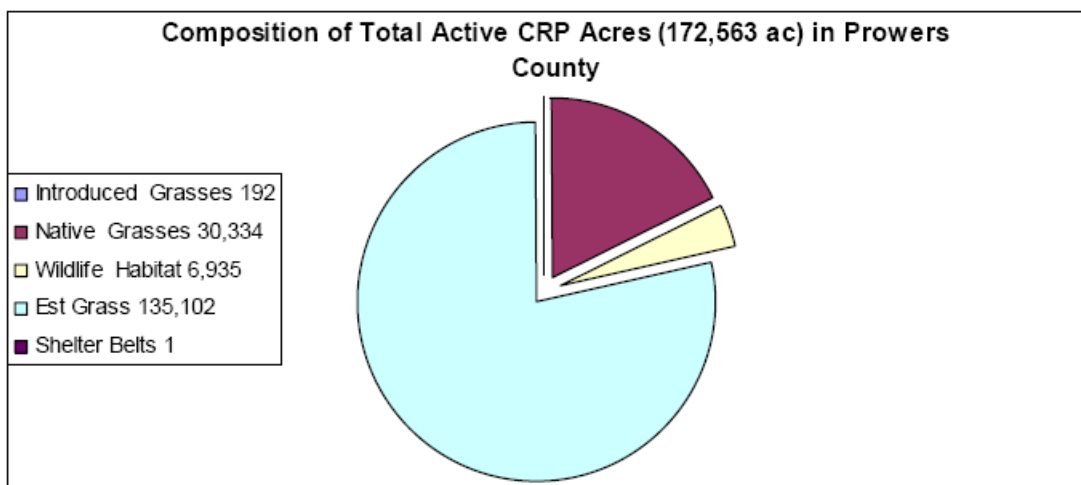
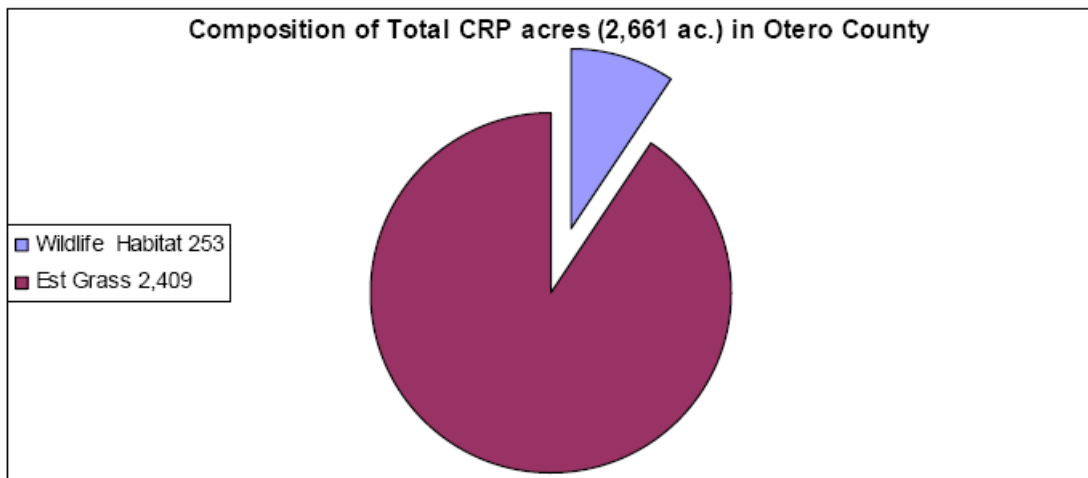
comprised the entire regional total for acres enrolled into established trees and declining habitat practices. The other two practices in the county, shelterbelts and wildlife food plots, comprised a high percentage of the region's total, making up 60% of the regional total in each category.

Total CRP acres in Las Animas County accounted for 3% of the region's total number of active CRP acres. The greatest numbers of acres occurred in the established grass practice and accounted for 86% of the region's total active established grassland CRP acres. The second highest concentration in the county was in native grass, which comprised 10% of the county's total and 2% of the region's total native grass acreage. Wildlife habitat program acres accounted for a small percentage of the county's total (4%) and accounted for 6% of the regional

total in that program. Wildlife food plots in Las Animas accounted for 40% of the regional total in that category.

Overall, Otero County accounted for less than 1% of the region's total number of active CRP acres. The highest concentration of acres for the county occurred in that of established grasses (91%). Established grass practice acres in the county accounted for less than 1% of the total number of active grass acres in the region. Wildlife habitat practice acres accounted for approximately 10% of the total number of active CRP acres in the county and 2% of the regional total in that category.

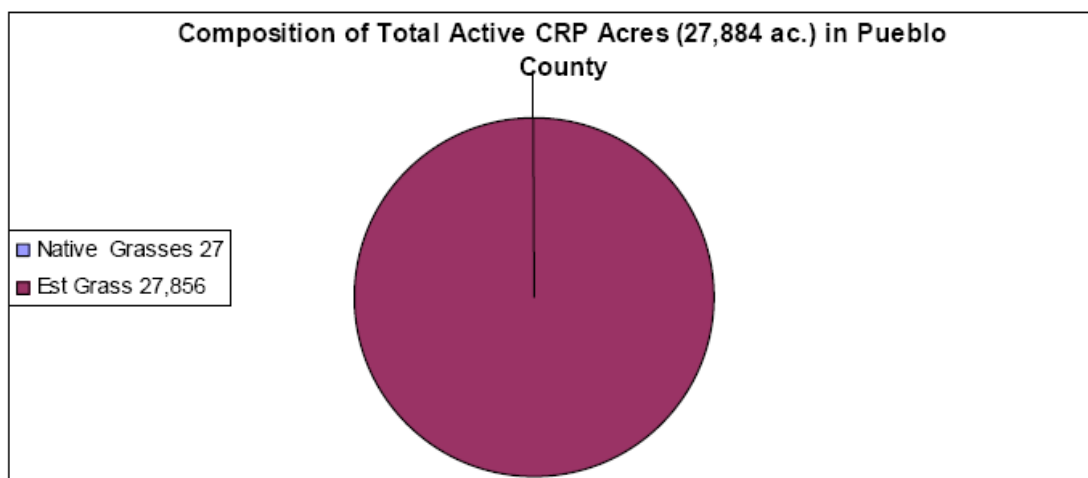
Total active CRP acres in Prowers County comprised 23% of the regional total. Established grass practice acres had the highest concentration of CRP acres in



the county, accounting for 78% of the county's total and 24% of the regional total in that category. Native grasses accounted for the second greatest number of acres, comprising 18% of the county total active acre amount and 22% of the regional total. Wildlife habitat practice acres accounted for 4% of the county total and 45% of the regional total in that category. Introduced grasses accounted for less than 1% of the total CRP acres in the county, yet contributed 100% of the regional total.

Pueblo County total active CRP acres accounted for 4% of the regional total number in that category. Virtually all Pueblo County lands in the CRP program are enrolled as established grass practices. Pueblo County accounted for 5% of the ACT Region's total number of established grass program acres.

9.9 Conservation Reserve Program Conclusion
 The Conservation Reserve Program is federal effort to mitigate the effects of non-point pollution, erosion, and reduce the quantity of production emanating from unsuitable lands. One of the major economic aspects of the CRP program is that it reduces the quantity of production of some crops therefore creates upward pressure on the prices of the crops that are produced. However, idled land does not generate the same local multiplier effects that productive land would. Colorado producers currently have more than 2 million acres, or about 8% of private lands enrolled in this program. Despite county level acreage limits, local hot spots may occur within the state and one might observe reduced economic activity due to participation in the CRP. As a result, local officials may want to consider what economic activity can be generated from idled



land in addition to the \$31 per acre average annual payment received by participating Colorado farmers and ranchers.

9.10 Summary and overview of crop acreage and production

Producers in the United States feed a large number of domestic residents as well as citizens of foreign countries. In 1940, 1 producer fed 22 people and by 2000 this ratio had risen to 1:139. Every year there is a 2% increase in productivity per acre on U.S. farmland. However, the number of farms, farmers and farm acres reduces every year. In Colorado, there has been an increase in the productivity of specific crops and the total crop acreage has also increased. The state of Colorado is ranked in the top five for the production of winter wheat, sunflowers, sorghum, millet, potatoes, sheep, cattle on feed, and many vegetables.

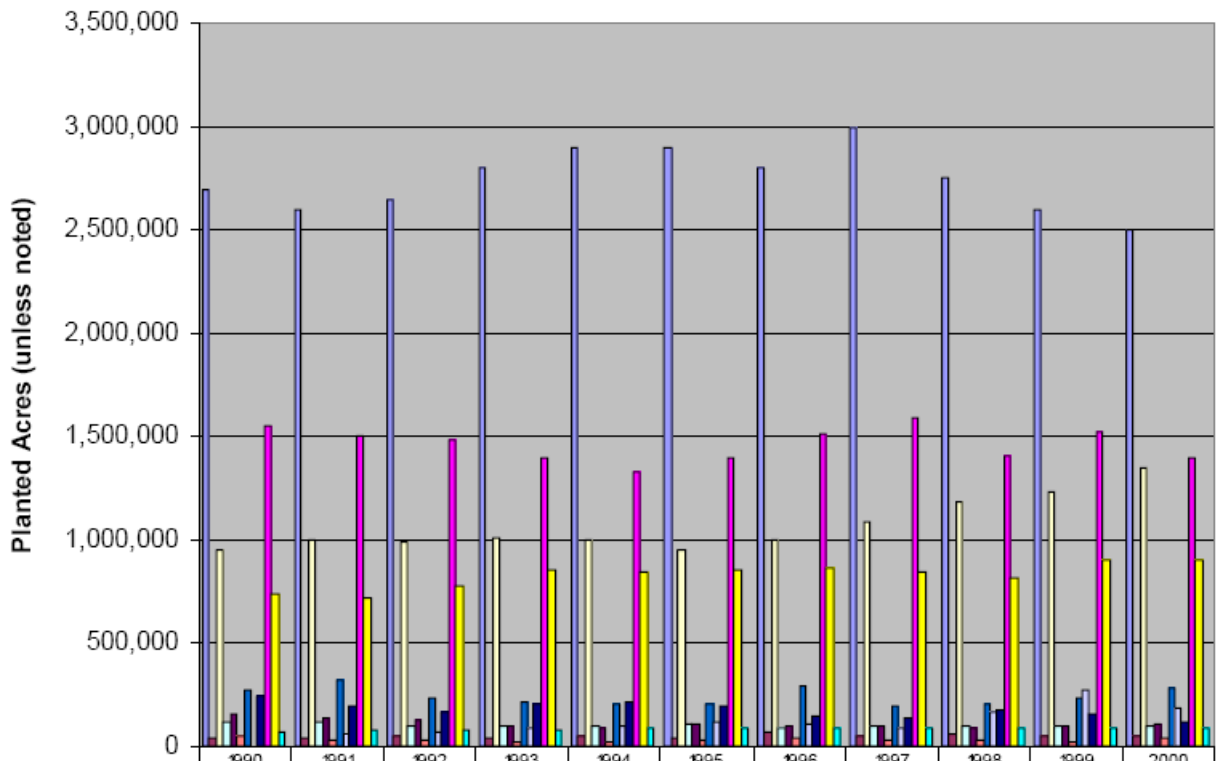
Statewide, the greatest increase in planted acres was in land dedicated to sunflower production. Most of the farmland in Colorado is planted in wheat. However, the greatest volume of production is in corn. Both the state and the region experienced a decrease in acreage devoted to dry beans, barley, oats, all hay and winter wheat. The state experienced a decrease in corn for silage acreage, while the region increased over the period. The ACT Region and the state experienced an increase in acreage dedicated to sorghum, while a reduction occurred in the amount produced over the period. Generally, production of crops in Colorado and the ACT Region expanded. However, dry beans and

winter wheat production declining for both. Statewide, a decrease in silage and oat production occurred, while the region experienced an increase.

Kiowa, Baca, and Prowers Counties have the highest production of winter wheat. Costilla, Alamosa and Conejos Counties experienced the region's top production of spring wheat, oats, and barley in 2000. Baca, Prowers and Otero are the three largest producers of corn for grain and corn for silage. The highest production of sorghum and sunflowers occurs in Baca, Kiowa, and Prowers County. Between Pueblo and Otero County, 100% of the region's total bean production was accounted for in 2000. Prowers, Bent and Alamosa County are the top three producers for alfalfa hay and all hay. The counties that account for all potato production in the region are Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla County.

The total number of crop acres in Colorado increased over the decade, with the greatest rate of increase existing for sunflower acres, which climbed by 193% between 1991-2000. Corn for grain had the next greatest rate of increase, growing by 42%, followed by a 22% increase in alfalfa hay acreage. Potatoes, spring wheat, and sorghum acres increased during the period growing by 16%, 14%, and 4%, respectively. Dry bean acres had the greatest decrease, dropping by 51%, followed by a 29% drop in planted barley acres. Oat acreage declined by 22% over the decade. Colorado also had decreases in corn for silage (14%), all hay (10%), and winter wheat (7%).

Colorado Total Crop Acreage

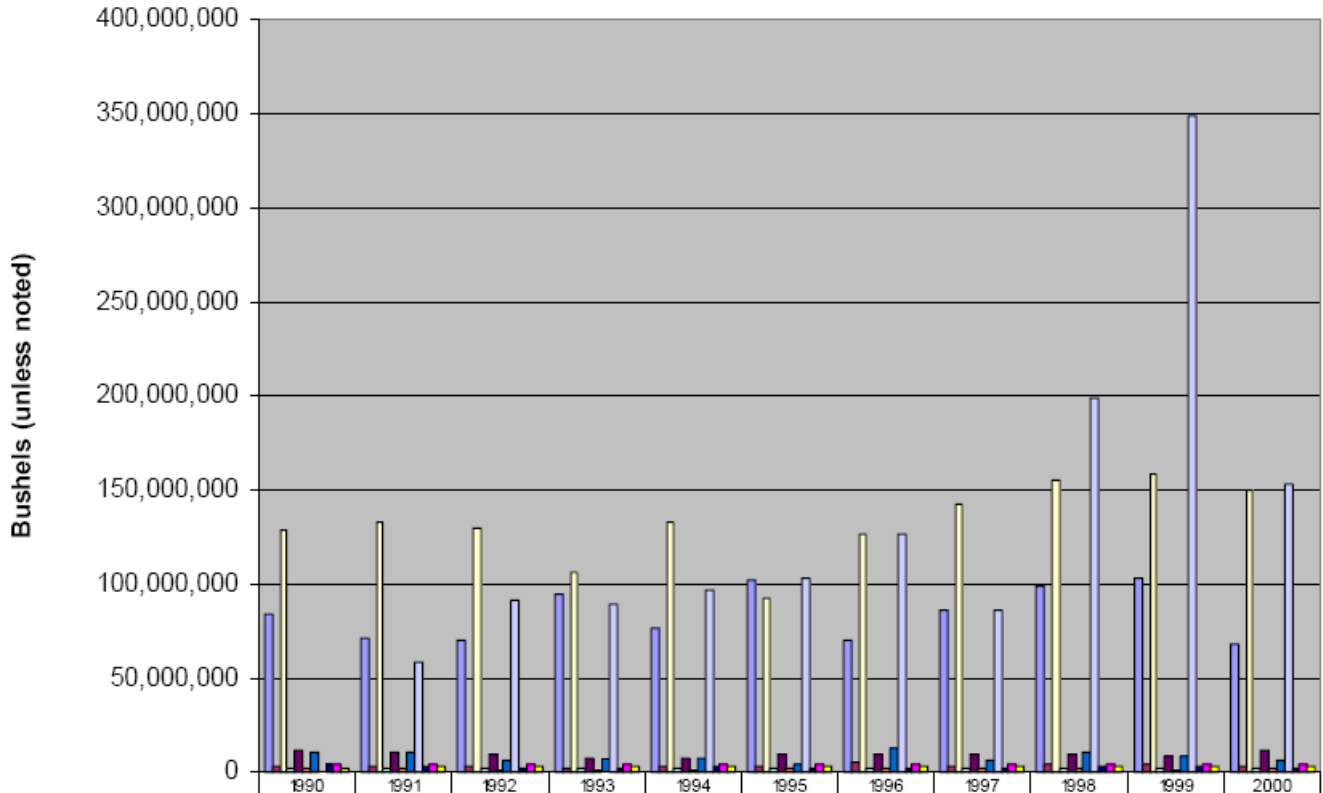


Winter Wheat	2,700,000	2,600,000	2,650,000	2,800,000	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,800,000	3,000,000	2,750,000	2,600,000	2,500,000
Spring Wheat	42,000	38,000	50,000	35,000	45,000	40,000	70,000	53,000	62,000	53,000	48,000
Corn for grain	950,000	995,000	990,000	1,005,000	995,000	950,000	1,000,000	1,090,000	1,180,000	1,230,000	1,350,000
Corn for Silage (Harvested ac.)	117,000	120,000	100,000	100,000	97,000	105,000	90,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Barley	155,000	140,000	130,000	100,000	90,000	110,000	100,000	95,000	90,000	95,000	110,000
Oats (Harvested ac.)	45,000	30,000	26,000	23,000	24,000	33,000	35,000	25,000	25,000	20,000	35,000
Sorghum	270,000	320,000	230,000	210,000	200,000	200,000	290,000	190,000	200,000	230,000	280,000
Sunflowers		63,000	70,000	85,000	100,000	15,000	10,000	85,000	160,000	270,000	185,000
Dry beans	245,000	190,000	164,000	205,000	215,000	190,000	145,000	135,000	170,000	165,000	120,000
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	1,550,000	1,500,000	1,480,000	1,400,000	1,330,000	1,400,000	1,510,000	1,590,000	1,410,000	1,520,000	1,400,000
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	740,000	720,000	780,000	850,000	840,000	850,000	860,000	840,000	810,000	900,000	900,000
Potatoes	72,500	78,000	73,400	80,800	83,200	86,300	88,000	84,800	83,500	84,800	83,900

During the 1990s crop production in Colorado increased for some crops and decreased for others, but for the most part production increased over the period. The greatest increase occurred in the production of sunflowers, which grew by 162% over the period. Alfalfa hay production exhibited the second greatest rate of increase growing by 29%, followed by a 17% increase in the production of corn for grain. Spring wheat production increased by the similar rate of 15% over the period and all hay production increased by the

smallest amount of 7% for the period. Barley production stayed relatively constant throughout the period. The greatest decrease at the state level was in dry bean production, which declined by 54%, followed by a 37% decrease in the production of sorghum. Winter wheat production also declined, by 19% over the observation period, whereas corn for silage had a 16% decrease in production. The least amount of decline took place in oat production.

Colorado Crop Production

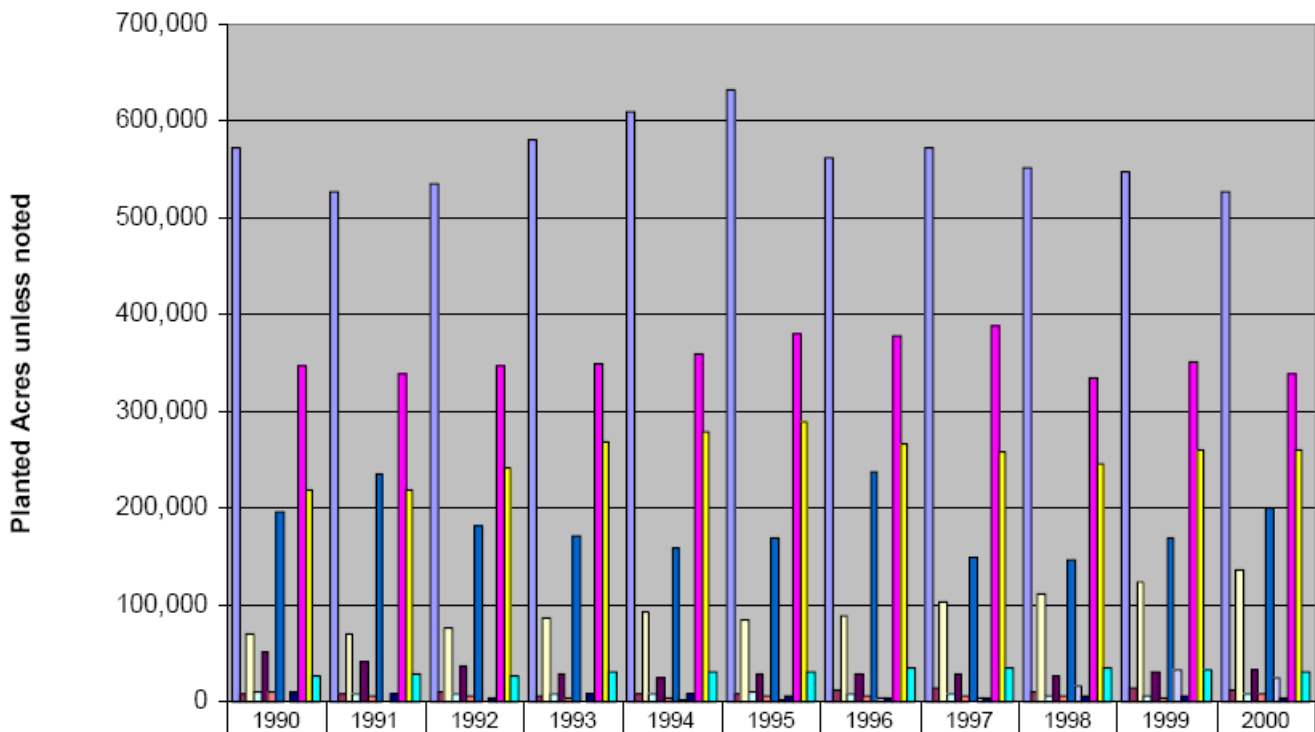


Winter Wheat	84,150,000	71,300,000	70,500,000	94,350,000	76,500,000	102,600,000	70,400,000	86,400,000	99,450,000	103,200,000	68,150,000
Spring Wheat	2,800,000	2,700,000	3,619,000	2,640,000	3,234,000	2,660,000	5,100,000	3,700,000	4,020,000	4,000,000	3,220,000
Corn for Grain	128,650,000	133,100,000	130,240,000	106,800,000	133,500,000	92,130,000	126,380,000	143,080,000	155,150,000	159,040,000	149,860,000
Corn for Silage (tons)	2,633,000	2,640,000	2,250,000	2,100,000	2,037,000	2,100,000	1,935,000	2,250,000	2,400,000	2,400,000	2,200,000
Barley	12,000,000	10,400,000	9,720,000	7,650,000	7,470,000	10,000,000	9,568,000	9,612,000	9,430,000	9,030,000	12,075,000
Oats	2,250,000	1,800,000	1,560,000	1,423,000	1,440,000	2,046,000	1,820,000	1,700,000	1,750,000	1,300,000	2,205,000
Sorghum	10,340,000	10,800,000	6,660,000	7,140,000	7,650,000	4,620,000	13,260,000	6,000,000	10,545,000	8,610,000	6,510,000
Sunflowers (lbs)		58,250,000	91,600,000	89,000,000	96,300,000	103,106,000	126,800,000	86,100,000	199,250,000	348,450,000	153,650,000
Dry Beans (cwt)	4,275,000	3,330,000	2,608,000	2,609,000	3,280,000	2,558,000	2,250,000	2,280,000	2,868,000	2,755,000	1,980,000
All Hay (tons)	3,805,000	4,062,000	4,189,000	4,193,000	4,060,000	4,050,000	4,180,000	4,739,000	4,602,000	4,598,000	4,080,000
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	2,590,000	2,736,000	2,964,000	3,230,000	3,276,000	3,060,000	3,010,000	3,276,000	3,402,000	3,420,000	3,330,000

Total crop acres in Colorado have expanded by 3% for the 1990-2000 period. Sunflower production had the greatest rate of growth (193%) over the period. Corn for grain production had the second highest rate of increase, growing by 42% over the period. Alfalfa hay acres climbed by 22% for the period. Other increases occurred in the number of acres devoted to potatoes, spring wheat, and sorghum increasing by 16%, 14% and 4%, respectively, over the period. However a

decrease in acres devoted to several crops was observed. Dry beans acreage had the greatest decrease (51%), followed by a sizable decrease in barley (29%). The number of harvested acres of oats decreased by 22% for the period and a 10% decrease was observed for all hay-harvested acres. The least amount of decrease occurred in the number of acres dedicated to winter wheat, which declined by 7% for the period.

ACT Region Crop Acreage

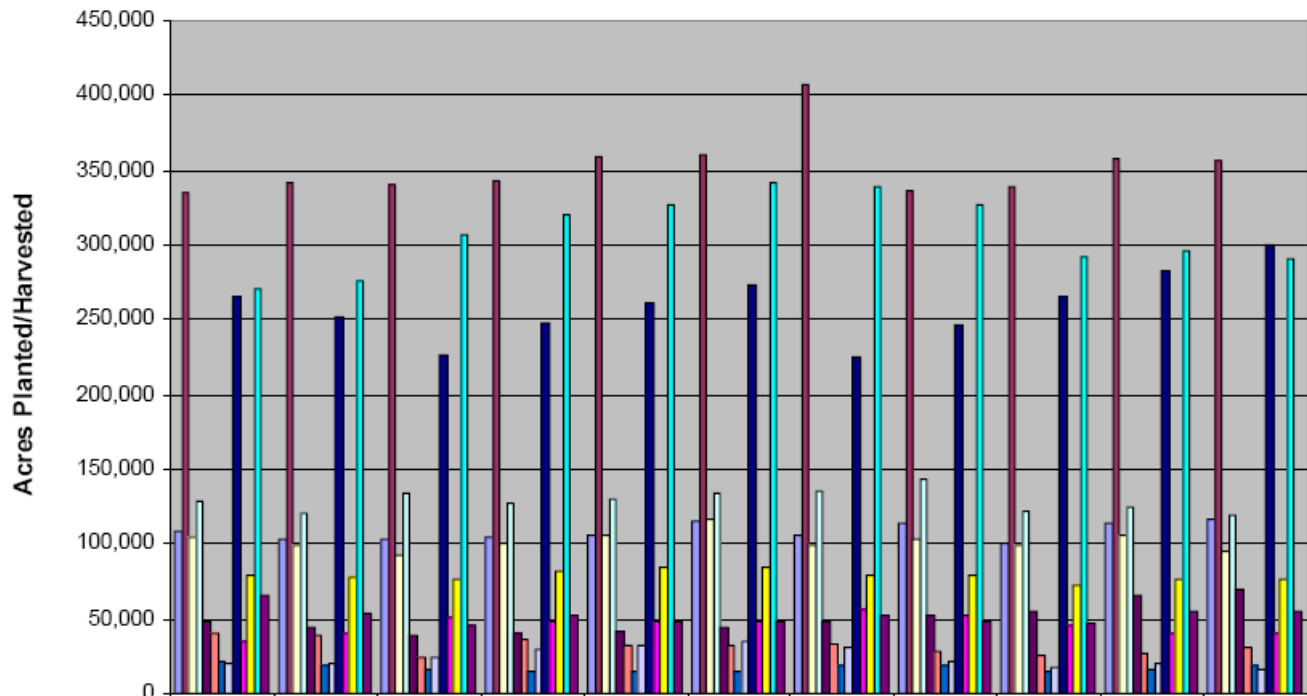


	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	572,500	526,800	535,000	581,000	610,000	632,000	562,000	571,500	552,200	546,500	526,600
Spring Wheat	7,900	9,000	11,100	7,100	7,900	8,300	12,100	14,700	10,300	14,100	12,200
Corn for Grain	69,700	69,600	77,400	87,000	92,100	84,000	87,900	102,900	111,500	124,100	135,600
Corn for Silage	9,600	8,600	7,600	8,600	9,200	10,000	8,500	8,000	6,000	5,800	8,500
Barley	51,500	40,500	38,100	28,400	25,400	29,200	29,100	29,900	27,200	30,600	33,600
Oats	9,500	5,300	5,700	5,000	5,000	6,700	5,400	5,700	5,900	4,700	8,300
Sorghum	196,500	235,000	182,000	171,500	159,500	168,400	237,000	148,700	147,000	169,200	200,000
Sunflowers			300	500	2,400	1,300	3,500	4,600	15,700	34,000	25,000
Dry beans	10,500	7,500	5,100	8,000	7,500	5,800	4,300	4,500	5,500	6,300	4,900
All Hay	346,600	338,200	347,900	349,900	359,800	379,000	378,000	388,300	334,200	351,000	339,000
Alfalfa Hay	219,300	218,200	241,700	267,700	279,000	289,500	266,000	259,000	244,700	260,500	260,500
Potatoes	27,650	28,700	26,900	31,200	31,800	31,600	35,400	34,600	34,800	32,500	31,400

As one can see, the highest concentration of crop acreage occurred in Baca County consistently over the period, with the 2000 total acreage in the county accounting for 22% of the region's total. The second highest for the period changed year to year with Las Animas and Prowers either being in the second or third ranking. By 2000, Kiowa County had 19% of the region's total, while Prowers County accounted for 18%. Conejos County made up the next highest per-

centage of cropland within the ACT Region, with 8% of the region's total crop acres in 2000, followed by Alamosa with 7% in that same year. Bent County comprised 6% of the region's total and Otero County comprised 5% of the same amount. Costilla, Las Animas, Pueblo, Crowley, Custer, and Huerfano Counties made up between 1%-4% for each respective county. The greatest amount of growth in the number of acres occurred in Costilla County, which increased by

Total Crop Production Acreage for the ACT Region



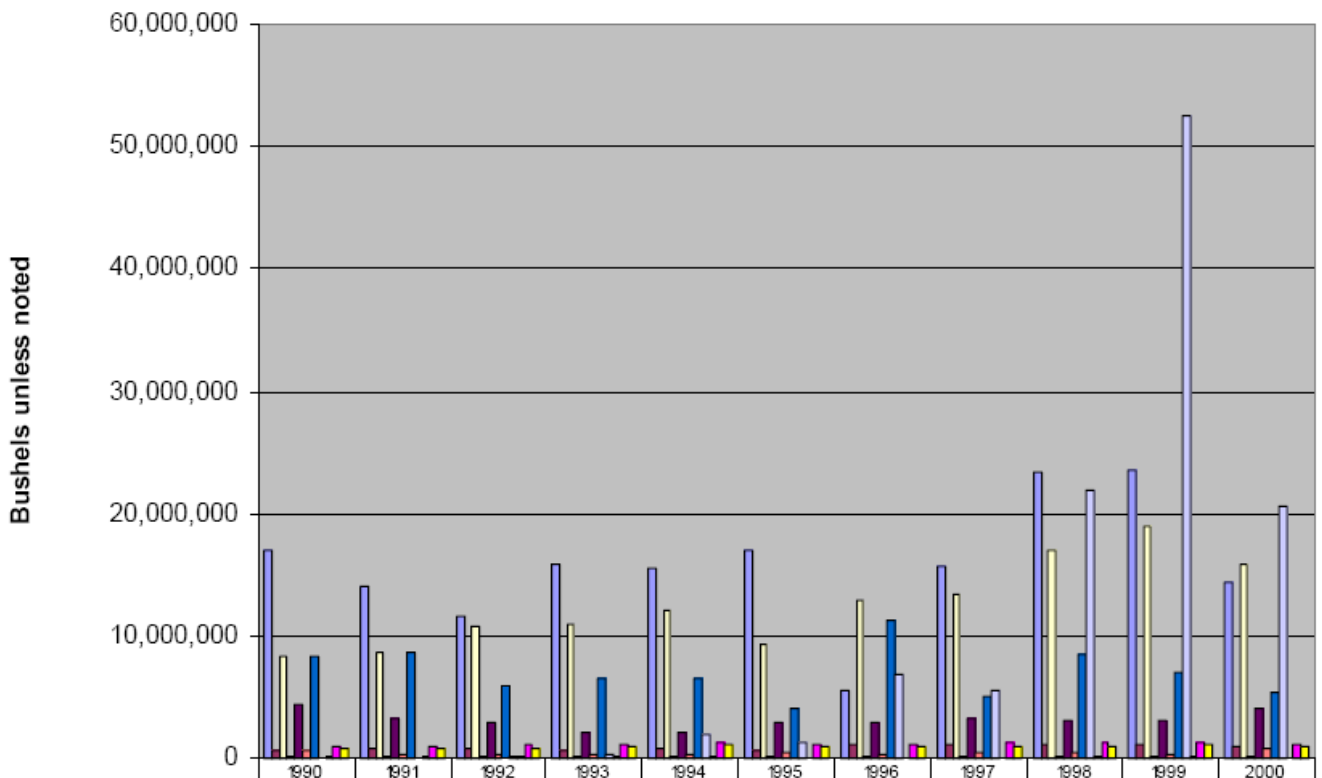
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Alamosa	109,100	102,900	102,900	103,900	105,600	115,000	106,300	114,500	101,000	113,600	116,200
Baca	334,400	341,800	339,800	343,400	359,100	360,300	407,400	336,700	338,200	358,000	355,800
Bent	104,000	99,100	93,000	100,800	106,300	116,600	99,600	102,900	98,700	105,300	94,800
Conejos	129,000	120,700	134,300	127,900	129,700	134,200	135,000	143,700	121,800	124,000	119,300
Costilla	48,050	44,500	39,300	40,100	41,500	44,600	48,100	52,400	54,400	65,000	69,900
Crowley	40,000	39,100	24,500	35,600	31,700	31,700	33,000	28,300	26,000	26,600	30,900
Custer	21,000	19,000	16,300	15,000	15,000	14,500	19,000	19,000	15,000	16,000	19,000
Huerfano	20,500	20,100	23,800	29,000	31,500	34,500	31,000	21,300	18,000	20,000	15,900
Kiowa	265,300	252,200	225,800	248,200	260,800	273,200	225,100	246,900	265,300	282,500	300,100
Las Animas	35,100	40,500	50,300	47,600	48,400	48,300	55,700	51,600	45,600	40,700	40,200
Otero	79,000	77,900	76,900	82,100	84,200	84,300	79,600	78,800	72,800	75,900	76,400
Prowers	270,300	276,200	306,400	320,300	327,400	341,700	338,200	327,200	291,300	295,800	291,100
Pueblo	65,500	53,400	45,500	52,000	48,400	48,100	52,000	47,900	46,300	55,400	55,000

45% over the decade. Las Animas County experienced an increase of 15% for the period, while Kiowa County followed with an increase of 13%, and Prowers County had a growth of 8%. Alamosa and Baca counties both experienced an increase of 6% over the period. Crowley County had the greatest decrease in crop acreage (23%) followed by Huerfano County (22%). The third greatest decrease occurred in Pueblo, where crop acreage declined by 16%. Custer County also experienced a decrease of 10% for the period, while Bent and Conejos Counties both decreased in the amount of crop

acreage by 8% for the period. Otero County decreased by the smallest amount of 3% over the decade.

Generally speaking, crop production in the ACT Region increased over the decade. Wheat production had a 16% decrease, while oats produced decreased 8%, and sorghum production decreased 36%. Sunflower production increased at the greatest rate, 9047%, over the 1992-2000 period. Corn for grain had the second highest rate of increase, 88%, spring wheat and dry beans also increased 70% and 67% over the

ACT Region Crop Production



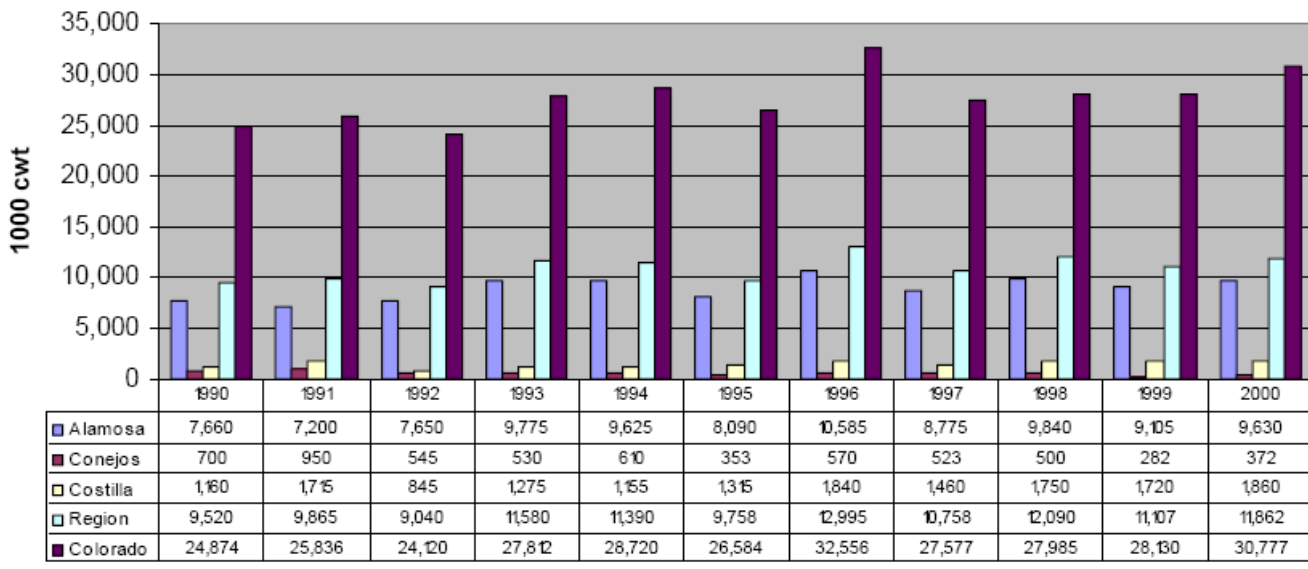
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	16,989,000	14,113,000	11,570,000	15,925,000	15,475,000	16,970,000	5,600,000	15,695,000	23,455,000	23,482,000	14,360,000
Spring Wheat	594,000	792,000	883,000	642,000	765,000	615,000	1,141,000	1,215,000	1,083,000	1,135,000	1,005,000
Corn for Grain	8,416,000	8,603,000	10,867,000	11,005,000	12,104,000	9,355,000	12,845,000	13,480,000	17,000,000	18,950,000	15,800,000
Corn for Silage (tons)	172,300	154,000	156,000	148,000	177,000	181,000	190,000	155,000	120,000	121,000	175,000
Barley	4,395,000	3,193,500	2,924,000	2,130,000	2,127,000	2,982,500	2,928,000	3,229,000	3,130,000	3,150,000	4,059,000
Oats	629,000	406,000	394,000	370,000	392,000	553,000	403,000	546,000	529,000	367,000	780,500
Sorghum	8,383,000	8,700,000	5,896,000	6,528,000	6,583,000	4,139,000	11,332,000	5,012,000	8,580,000	6,993,000	5,345,000
Sunflowers (lbs)	0	0	225,000	360,000	1,960,000	1,230,000	6,840,000	5,500,000	21,850,000	52,450,000	20,580,000
Dry Beans (cwt)	171,000	106,000	82,000	99,500	122,000	75,000	49,000	63,000	96,000	90,500	56,000
All Hay (tons)	1,007,100	1,027,000	1,087,800	1,162,400	1,276,700	1,193,300	1,175,200	1,323,000	1,256,800	1,254,500	1,170,600
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	802,700	813,000	896,000	1,002,900	1,120,500	1,019,500	930,000	1,040,700	1,055,500	1,064,200	1,037,200

period. Alfalfa hay and all hay production increased by 29% and 16% for the period, followed by an increase of 2% in barley production. Regional sorghum production made up the greatest proportion, 82%, of the state production. Oat production had the second highest contribution to the state total at 35% in 2000. Barley production in the region also accounted for a sizable portion of the state's production with 34% of the total. Spring wheat and alfalfa hay production in the region accounted for 31% of the state's total, while all hay production comprised 29% of the state's total for 2000. Winter wheat production in the region accounted for

21% of the state's total and the remaining crops; sunflowers, corn for grain, corn for silage, and dry beans accounted for 13%, 11%, 8% and 3% of the state's total crop production for 2000.

The San Luis Valley is responsible for all potato production in the ACT Region. The region accounted for 39% of potato production statewide in 2000. Alamosa County had the highest amount of production, regionally, with 81% of the region's total in 2000. Alamosa also had an increase in production of 26% over the period. Costilla County had the second highest amount

Potato Production



of potato production in 2000, accounting for 16% of the region's production. Costilla County had an increase in potato production of 60% over the 1990s. Conejos County had the least amount of potato production of the potato producing counties in the region with 3% of the regional total in 2000. Conejos County was the only county decreased its potato production over the outlined period, declining by 47%.

9.11 County trends in crop acreage and production

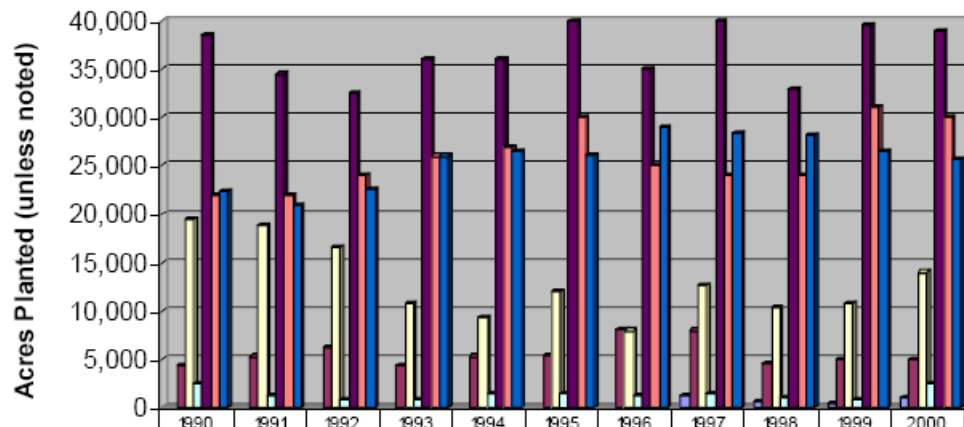
Regionwide, Alamosa County accounted for 82% of the potato acreage, 42% of the barley acres, 41% of the spring wheat acres, 30% of the oat acreage, and 12% of both all hay and alfalfa hay acreage. Winter wheat acreage in the county started in 1997 and had reached 1,000 acres by 2000. The greatest growth in the number of acres dedicated to a specific crop was alfalfa hay, which increased by 36%. Over the decade, spring wheat acres increased by 16%, while potato production acreage increased by 15%. Acreage devoted to oats stayed constant for the decade, and all hay acres increased by a fraction for the period. In Alamosa County, only oat acreage decreased over the period.

Alamosa crop production accounted for the greatest proportion of the region's spring wheat, some 45% in 2000. County barley production accounted for 44% of regional production. Alamosa County oat production

accounted for 29%, and both all hay and alfalfa hay in the county accounted for 12% of the region's total in 2000. Alfalfa hay production had the greatest increase in production, climbing by 96%, followed by a 56% increase in all hay production. Spring wheat and oat production increased by 17% and 15% for the period, while barley production in the county declined by 1%.

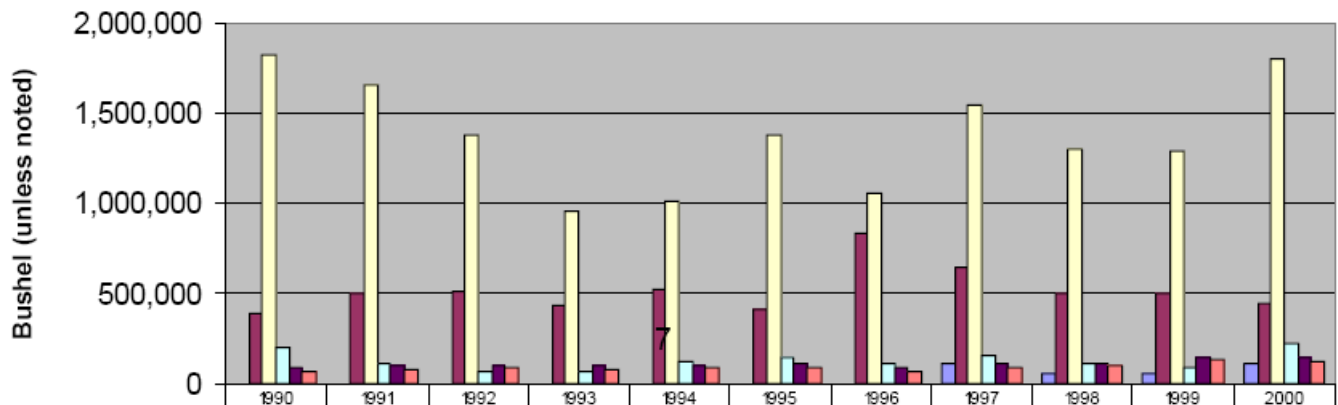
Baca County accounted for a high percentage of sorghum acreage regionally, about 54% of the total, followed by 35% of the region's winter wheat acreage in 2000. Corn for grain acreage accounted for 29% of the region's total and 12% of the region's sunflower acreage in 2000. Corn for silage acreage in the county accounted for 6% and all hay and alfalfa hay acreage in the county accounted for 4% and 3% of the region's total in 2000. The greatest rate of increase in the county occurred in the number of acres dedicated to alfalfa hay production, which climbed by 500% over the decade. Corn for grain had the second greatest rate of increase in acreage, increasing by 254% in the period. All hay acreage in the county also increased for the period, but by 24%. Sorghum acreage increased by the smallest amount for the period, 2%. Two crops decreased in the amount of acreage over the period; corn for silage and winter wheat, which declined by 50% and 8%, respectively. Baca County farmers experimented with the production of different crops grown throughout the decade. Spring wheat, barley,

Alamosa County Crop Acreage



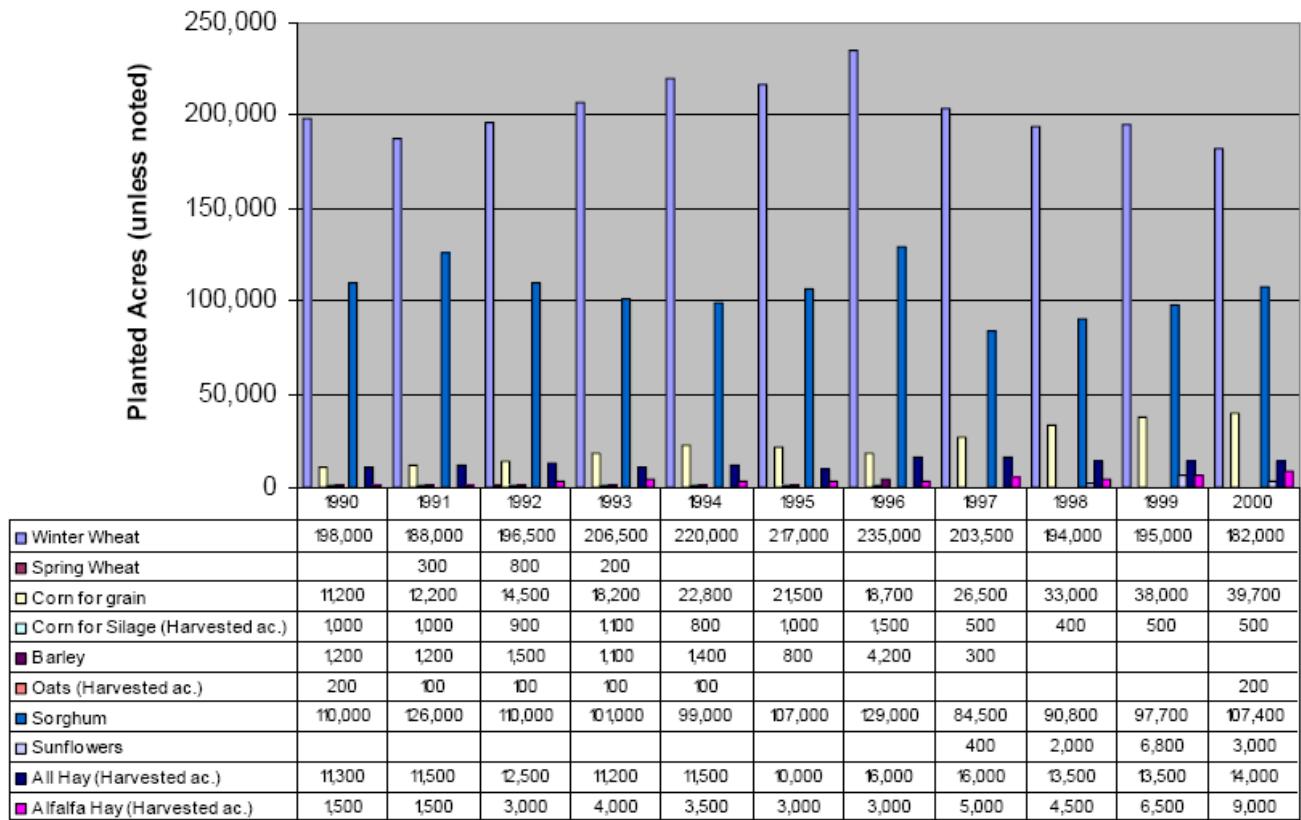
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat								1,200	600	500	1,000
Spring Wheat	4,300	5,300	6,300	4,300	5,300	5,400	8,100	8,000	4,500	5,000	5,000
Barley	19,500	18,800	16,600	10,800	9,300	12,000	8,000	12,700	10,300	10,800	14,000
Oats (Harvested ac.)	2,500	1,300	900	800	1,400	1,500	1,200	1,400	1,000	800	2,500
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	38,500	34,500	32,500	36,000	36,000	40,000	35,000	40,000	33,000	39,500	39,000
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	22,000	22,000	24,000	26,000	27,000	30,000	25,000	24,000	24,000	31,000	30,000
Potatoes	22,300	21,000	22,600	26,000	26,600	26,100	29,000	28,400	28,200	26,500	25,700

Alamosa County Crop Production



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat								10,000	60,000	53,000	10,000
Spring Wheat	385,000	495,000	509,000	430,000	525,000	414,000	837,000	645,000	500,000	500,000	450,000
Barley	1,825,000	1,655,000	1,375,000	955,000	1,010,000	1,378,000	1,060,000	1,550,000	1,300,000	1,290,000	1,800,000
Oats	195,000	113,000	65,000	66,000	19,000	140,000	112,000	154,000	115,000	84,000	225,000
All Hay (tons)	90,900	97,800	98,500	99,900	103,200	113,000	90,000	111,600	114,100	148,200	141,800
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	63,200	73,000	84,000	83,000	87,000	91,500	72,000	85,000	95,000	131,000	124,000

Baca County Crop Acreage



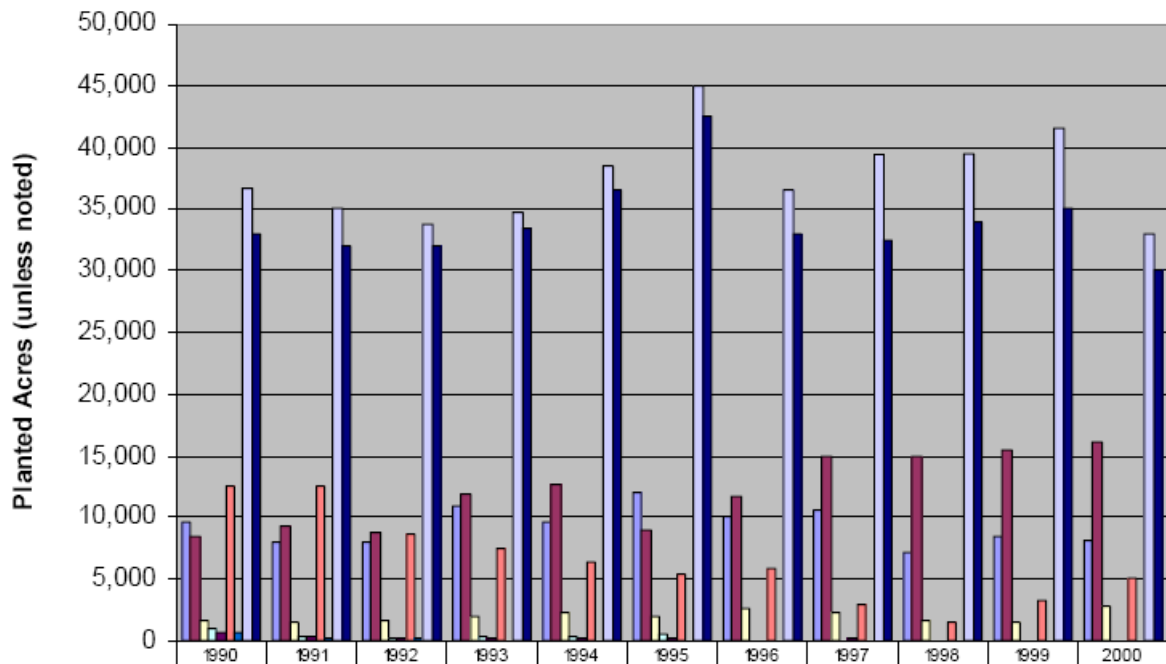
oats and sunflowers sporadically increased and declined in acreage throughout the decade.

Crop production in Baca County represented large proportions of the regional totals including: sorghum production (51%), corn for grain (37%), and winter wheat production (33%). Baca County accounted for 13% of the region's total sunflower production, 6% of corn for silage production, 3% of both all hay and alfalfa hay production and only 1% of oat production in 2000. Alfalfa hay production had the greatest increase in production, increasing by 470%, followed by corn for grain production (345%), and all hay production increased by 81%. Some dramatic decreases in crop production occurred over the period. Sorghum production experienced the greatest decrease at 40%, followed by a 39% decrease in the production of corn for silage and oats. Winter wheat had the least amount of decrease, declining by 27% for the period. Spring

wheat, oats, and sunflowers experienced sporadic increases and decreases throughout the period.

Bent County accounted for the highest percentage of corn for silage acreage in the region, some 32% of the region's total in 2000. Bent County accounted for 12% of the region's total acreage of alfalfa hay and corn for grain in that same year; while 10% of the region's total all hay acreage was located in the county. Regionwide, small amounts of sorghum (3%) and winter wheat acreage (2%) were located in the county for 2000. Corn for grain had the greatest increase in the amount of acreage dedicated to a specific crop, growing by 88%, followed by a 69% increase in the acreage dedicated to corn for silage. Winter wheat acreage had the next greatest increase, which experienced a 15% increase. Bent County experienced a decrease in the acreage for sorghum (60%), all hay (10%), and

Bent County Crop Acreage



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	9,500	8,000	8,000	10,800	9,500	12,000	10,000	10,600	7,100	8,500	8,100
Corn for grain	8,500	9,200	8,700	11,800	12,700	9,000	11,700	15,000	14,900	15,500	16,000
Corn for Silage (Harvested ac.)	1,600	1,400	1,600	2,000	2,300	2,000	2,600	2,200	1,700	1,500	2,700
Barley	900	400	200	300	400	500					
Oats (Harvested ac.)	700	400	100	100	100	200		100			
Sorghum	12,500	12,500	8,600	7,500	6,300	5,400	5,800	3,000	1,500	3,300	5,000
Dry beans	600	200	100								
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	36,700	35,000	33,700	34,800	38,500	45,000	36,500	39,500	39,500	41,500	33,000
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	33,000	32,000	32,000	33,500	36,500	42,500	33,000	32,500	34,000	35,000	30,000

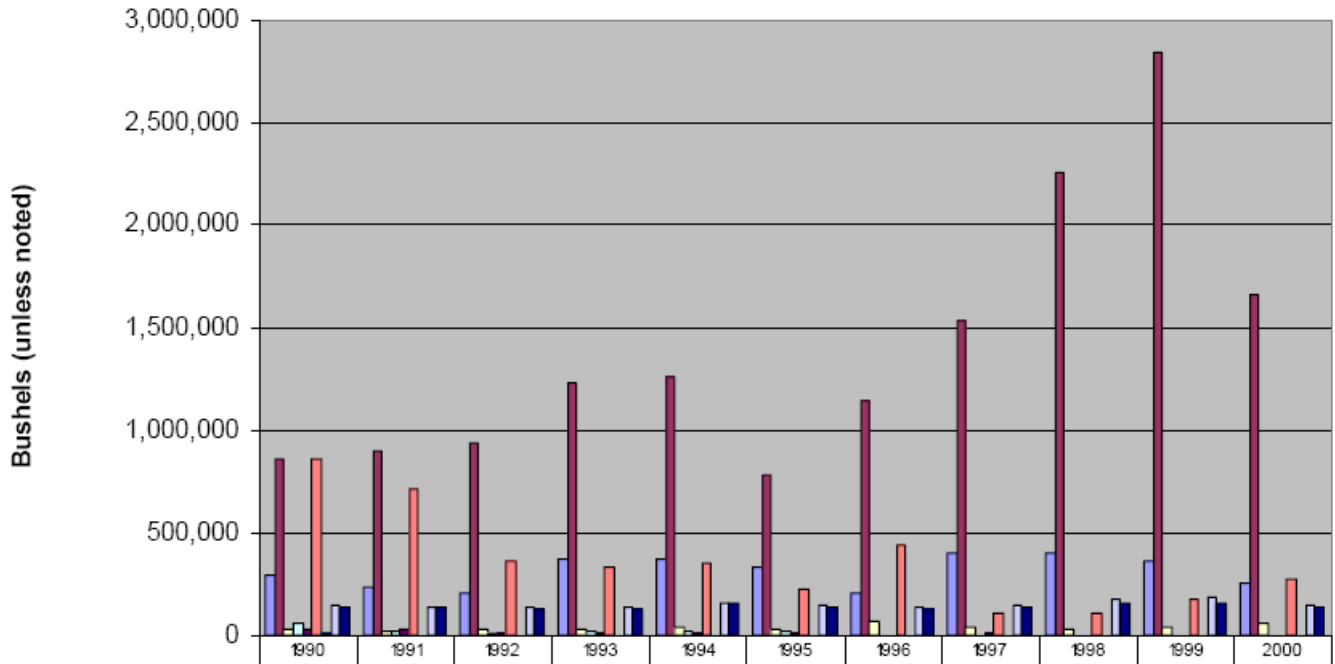
alfalfa hay acres (9%) over the period. Barley, oat and dry bean acres in Bent County have been allocated to other crops or to other uses during this period.

Bent County accounted for 31% of the region's corn for silage production, 13% of the region's alfalfa hay production, and 12% of the region's all hay production. Bent County also accounted for 11% of the corn for grain production, 5% of the sorghum and 2% of the winter wheat production for 2000. Corn for silage had the greatest increase in production (102%), followed by an increase in corn for grain production by 93%. Bent County sorghum production decreased by 68% for the period, while winter wheat production decreased by 15%. Alfalfa hay had the least amount of decrease in the production. All hay production

remained constant throughout the period; as the production of barley, oats, and dry beans completely died out in Bent County during the decade.

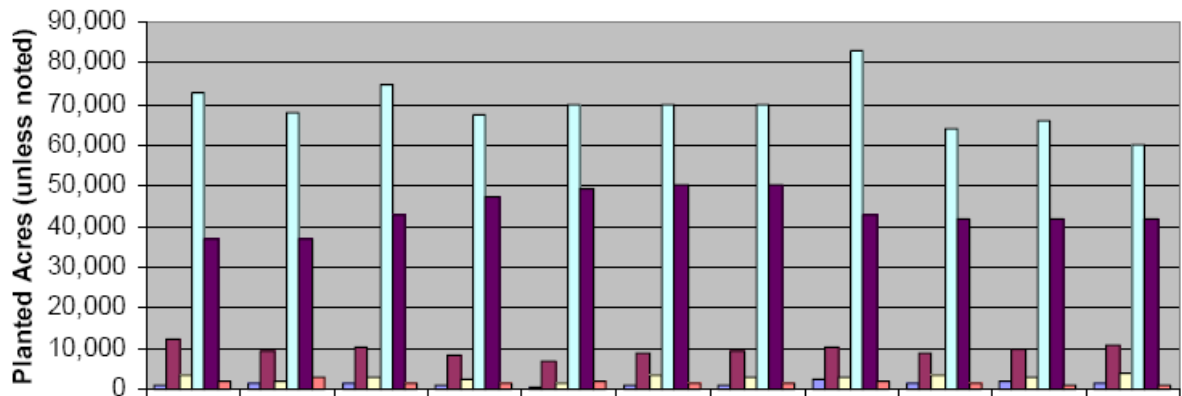
Conejos County accounted for 48% of the region's total oat acreage in 2000, followed by 32% of the region's barley acreage. Conejos County also accounted for 18% of all hay acreage, 16% of alfalfa hay acreage, 13% of spring wheat acreage, and 3% of potato acreage in the region for 2000. Overall, the county experienced a decrease of 8% for all crop acres the 1990-2000 period, but had a 60% increase in spring wheat acreage, 14% increase in both the number of alfalfa hay acres and oats acreage. However, decreases in acres dedicated to potatoes (50%), all hay (18%), and barley (14%) were observed.

Bent County Crop Production



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	295,000	236,000	205,000	375,000	375,000	330,000	210,000	400,000	405,000	360,000	250,000
Corn for Grain	862,000	900,000	940,000	1,235,000	1,260,000	780,000	1,140,000	1,530,000	2,260,000	2,840,000	1,660,000
Corn for Silage (tons)	26,800	23,500	33,000	26,000	40,000	32,000	65,000	42,000	31,000	36,000	54,000
Barley	63,000	19,000	10,000	20,000	16,500	21,000					
Oats	33,000	29,000	5,000	5,000	8,000	12,000		8,000			
Sorghum	856,000	716,000	364,000	330,000	353,000	225,000	435,000	105,000	110,000	175,000	275,000
Dry Beans (cwt)	9,000	3,300	1,600								
All Hay (tons)	144,500	139,400	132,900	132,500	161,100	142,500	139,500	149,700	175,800	183,100	144,300
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	138,000	132,000	129,500	130,200	156,200	136,000	128,000	132,500	160,500	160,700	134,000

Conejos County Crop Acreage



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Spring Wheat	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,100	500	800	1,000	2,500	1,700	2,100	1,600
Barley	12,500	9,100	10,100	8,200	6,900	8,900	9,500	10,200	8,900	9,700	10,700
Oats (Harvested ac.)	3,500	2,200	3,000	2,600	1,500	3,200	3,000	3,100	3,500	3,100	4,000
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	73,000	68,000	75,000	67,500	70,000	70,000	70,000	83,000	64,000	66,000	60,000
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	37,000	37,000	43,000	47,000	49,000	50,000	50,000	43,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
Potatoes	2,000	2,900	1,700	1,500	1,800	1,300	1,500	1,900	1,700	1,100	1,000

Oat production in Conejos County accounted for 51% and barley production 30% of the regional total in 2000. Spring wheat, all hay, and alfalfa hay production in Conejos County accounted for 13%, 12% and 11% of the regional total in 2000. All hay experienced the only decrease in production for any crop in the county, and declined by 3% over the 1990-2000 period. Spring wheat had the greatest increase in the county, with production increasing by 103% for the period. Oat production had the second highest rate of increase, climbing 68% over the 1990s. Conejos County alfalfa hay production increased 17%, while barley production climbed by 4% for the period.

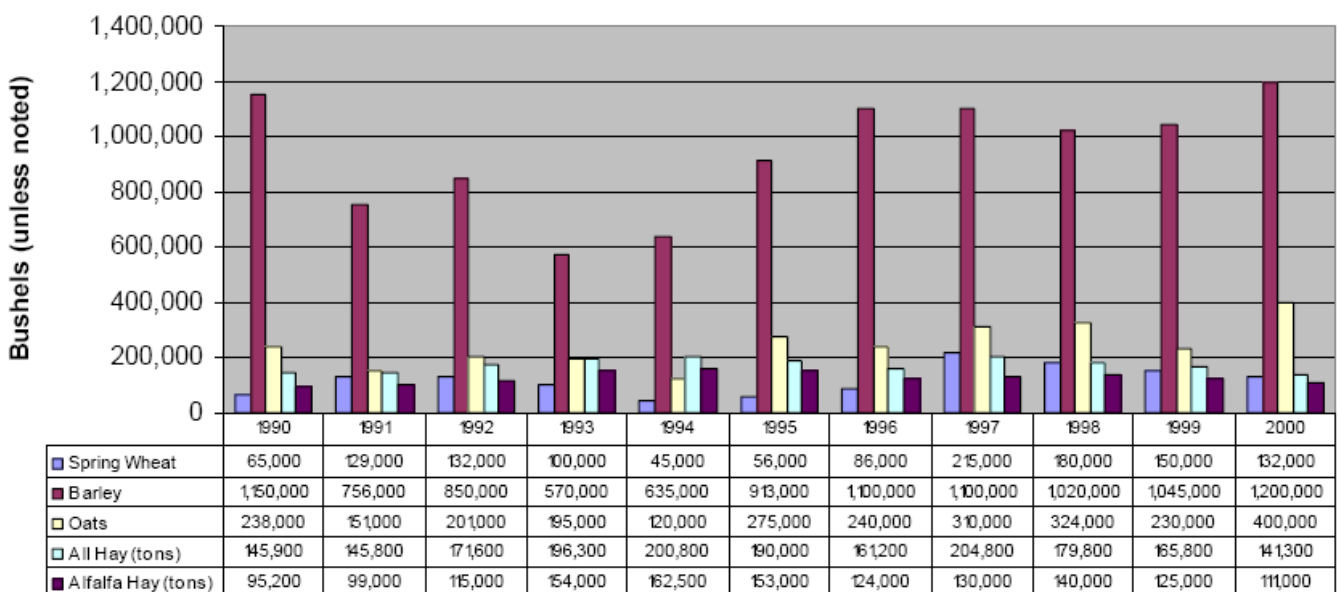
Crop acreage in Costilla County increased by 45% during the 1990s, and the 2000 total acreage of some crops contributed heavily to the regional total. Spring wheat accounted for 46% and barley accounted for 24% of the regional total in 2000. Potato acreage in Costilla County accounted for 15% and oat acreage accounted for 12% of the regional total in 2000. All hay and alfalfa hay in the county accounted for 8% and 9%, respectively, of the regional total. Spring wheat had the greatest rate of growth, climbing by 155% for the period. Alfalfa hay acreage followed, with a 64% increase in the amount of harvested acreage. Potato acreage climbed by 40%, all hay acreage increased by 37% and barley acreage remained constant for the

period. Oat acreage had the only decrease in crop acreage, declining by 33% for the period.

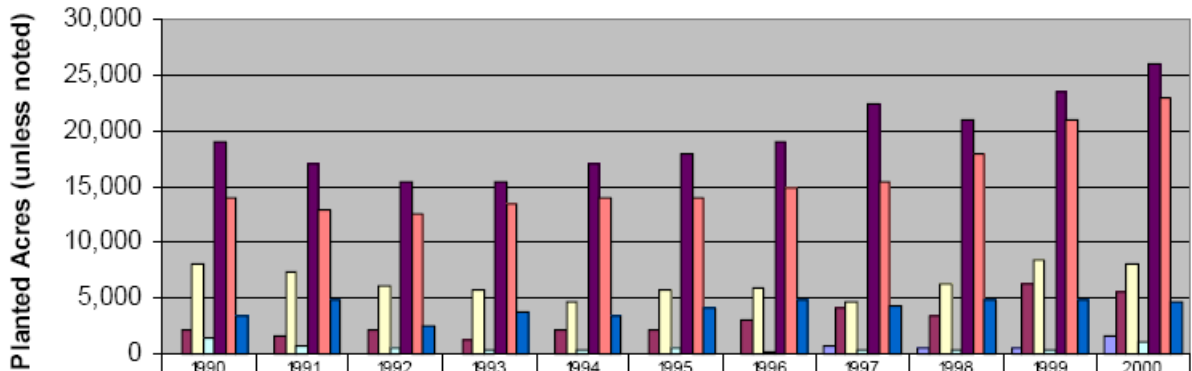
Costilla County accounted for 42% of the region's spring wheat production and 25% of the region's total barley production in 2000. Oat production in the county accounted for 13% of the regional total and 8% of all hay and alfalfa hay. Spring wheat had the greatest increase in production, growing by 213% in the period, followed by a 79% increase in alfalfa hay production. All hay production increased by 53% for the period and barley production increased by 34%. Winter wheat production in the county began in 1997 and by 2000 had increased by 18%.

Crop acreage in Crowley County decreased by 23% over the decade. The total county acreage accounted for a small percentage of the regional total in 2000. The highest concentration of the regional total was in alfalfa hay (4% of the region). Crowley County made up between 1% and 3% of the region's total crop acreage in all other categories. Corn for grain acres in the county decreased by the greatest amount (56%), followed by a 33% decrease in winter wheat acreage. Sorghum acreage decreased 28% and all hay acreage declined by 8% for the decade. Alfalfa hay acreage remained unchanged, but actual varied substantially throughout the decade. Corn for silage, sunflowers and

Conejos County Crop Production

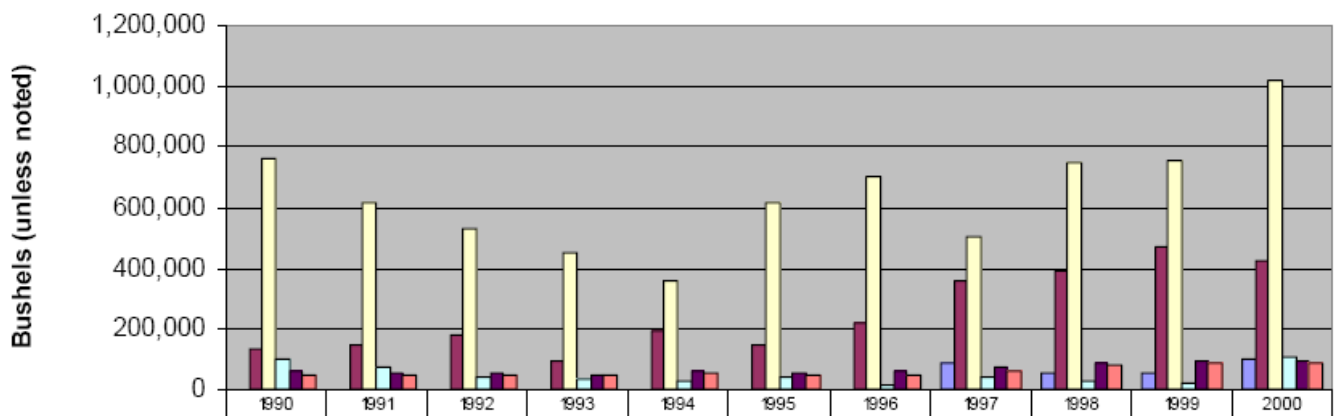


Costilla County Crop Acreage



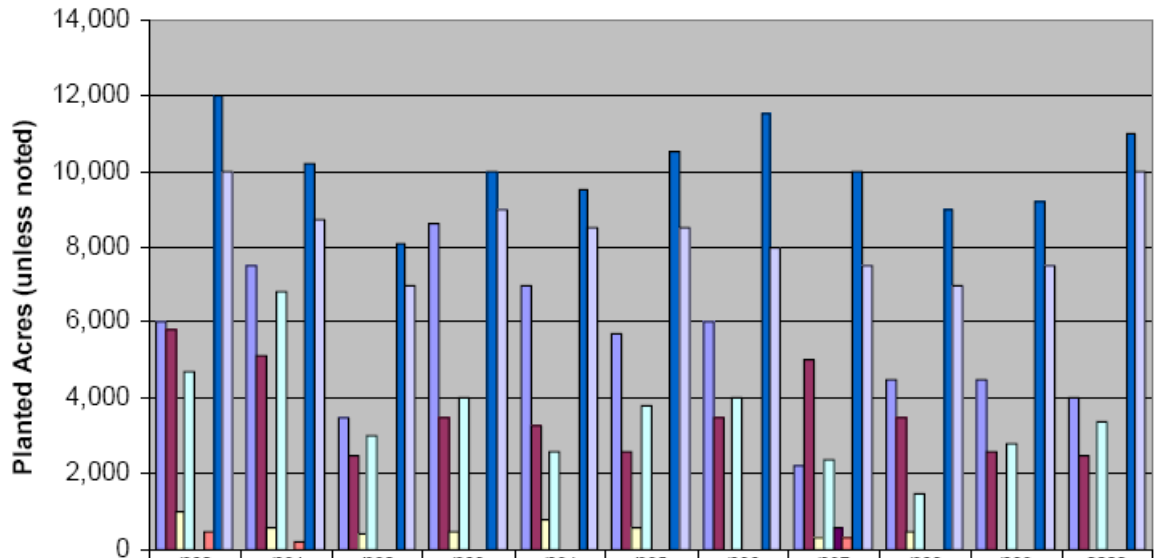
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat								800	600	500	1,600
Spring Wheat	2,200	1,600	2,100	1,300	2,100	2,100	3,000	4,200	3,400	6,300	5,600
Barley	8,000	7,300	6,100	5,700	4,700	5,800	6,000	4,700	6,200	8,500	8,000
Oats (Harvested ac.)	1,500	800	500	400	300	500	200	400	300	300	1,000
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	19,000	17,000	15,500	15,500	17,000	18,000	19,000	22,500	21,000	23,500	26,000
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	14,000	13,000	12,500	13,500	14,000	14,000	15,000	15,500	18,000	21,000	23,000
Potatoes	3,350	4,800	2,600	3,700	3,400	4,200	4,900	4,300	4,900	4,900	4,700

Costilla County Crop Production



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat								85,000	55,000	52,000	100,000
Spring Wheat	135,000	144,000	178,000	95,000	195,000	145,000	218,000	355,000	390,000	470,000	423,000
Barley	760,000	616,000	530,000	450,000	360,000	617,000	700,000	505,000	750,000	755,000	1,020,000
Oats	100,000	70,000	43,000	31,000	27,000	43,000	16,000	38,000	24,000	20,000	105,000
All Hay (tons)	59,800	52,600	50,600	47,900	57,900	51,000	57,000	76,100	85,200	94,200	91,400
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	47,000	44,500	43,500	44,000	51,500	44,500	49,000	60,000	80,000	88,000	84,000

Crowley County Crop Acreage



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	6,000	7,500	3,500	8,600	7,000	5,700	6,000	2,200	4,500	4,500	4,000
Corn for grain	5,800	5,100	2,500	3,500	3,300	2,600	3,500	5,000	3,500	2,600	2,500
Corn for Silage (Harvested ac.)	1,000	600	400	500	800	600		300	500		
Sorghum	4,700	6,800	3,000	4,000	2,600	3,800	4,000	2,400	1,500	2,800	3,400
Sunflowers								600			
Dry beans	500	200						300			
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	12,000	10,200	8,100	10,000	9,500	10,500	11,500	10,000	9,000	9,200	11,000
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	10,000	8,700	7,000	9,000	8,500	8,500	8,000	7,500	7,000	7,500	10,000

dry bean acreages were planted some years but not in others.

Crowley County accounted for a small amount of the region's total production in 2000, while all hay and alfalfa hay accounted for 4% of the region's total. Corn for grain and sorghum production in the county accounted for 2% of the region's total production, and 1% of the region's total winter wheat production in 2000 came from Crowley. Decreases in production were observed for corn for grain, winter wheat, and sorghum, declining by 56%, 43%, and 41%, respectively. However, both hay categories increased by 20% and 13%, with alfalfa hay increasing the most over the period.

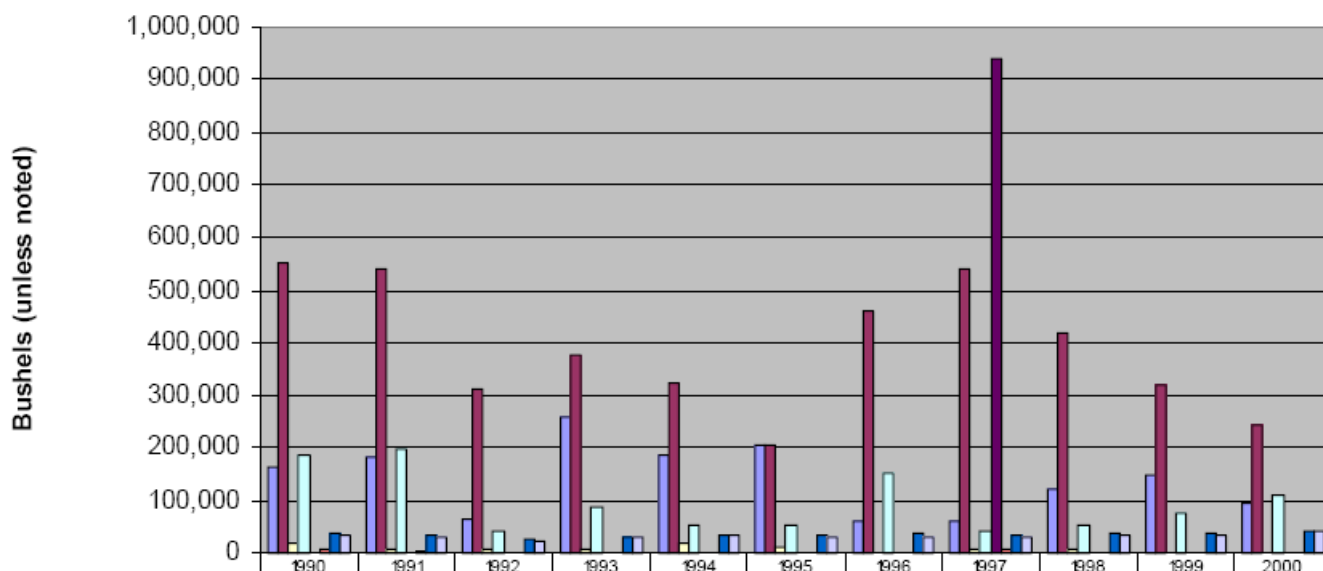
Crop acreage in Custer County declined by 10% overall for the 1990-2000 period. Regionwide, Custer

County accounted for 5% of the region's total all hay acreage and 1% of the region's alfalfa hay acreage in 2000. All hay production decreased by 16% and alfalfa hay decreased by 10% in the same period.

Custer County accounted for 3% of the region's total all hay production and 1% of the region's alfalfa hay production in 2000. All hay production decreased by 8% and alfalfa hay production increased by 55% overall.

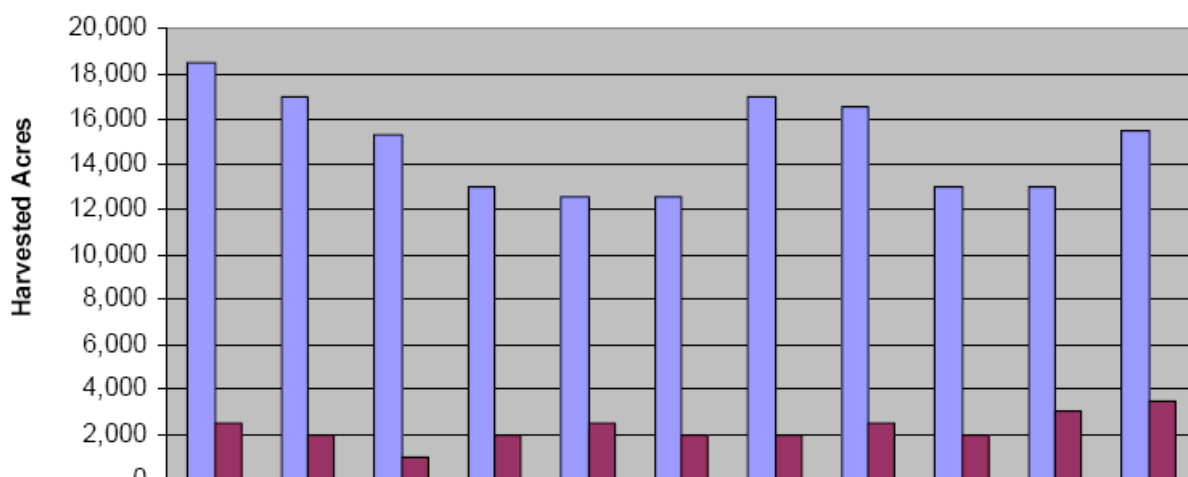
Total crop acreage in Huerfano County decreased by 22% over the period. All hay acreage in Huerfano County accounted for 3% of the region's all hay acreage and 2% of alfalfa hay acreage in 2000. All hay acreage decreased by 25% and alfalfa hay acreage declined by 23% for the outlined period.

Crowley County Crop Production



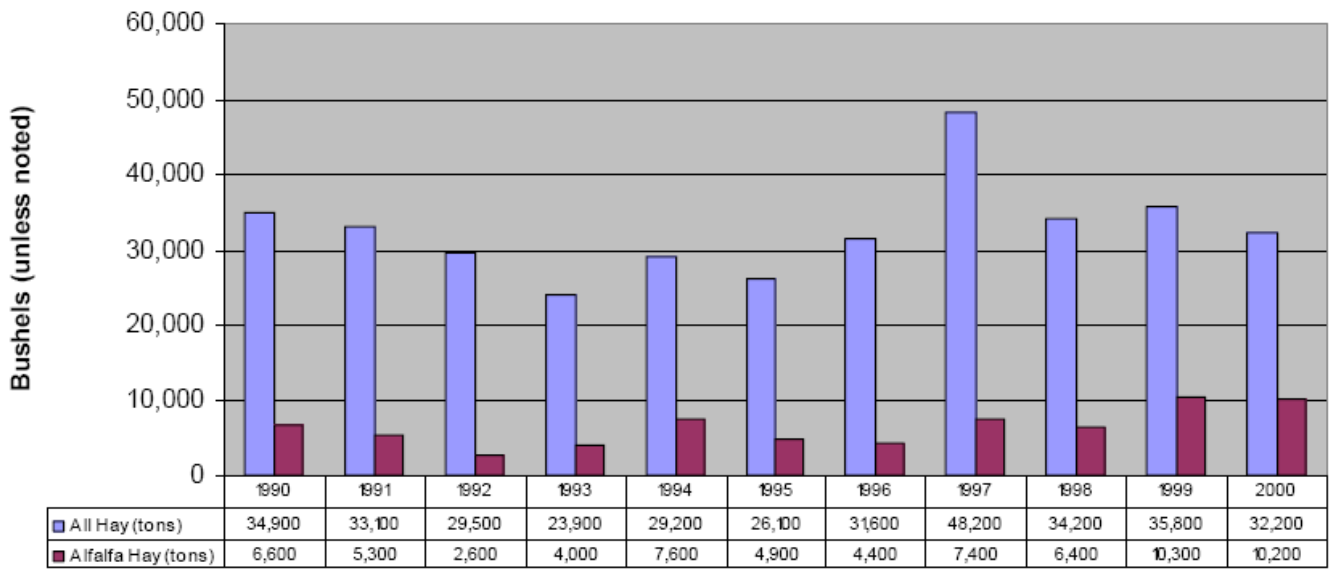
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	164,000	161,000	65,000	257,000	185,000	205,000	60,000	60,000	120,000	150,000	94,000
Corn for Grain	552,000	540,000	310,000	375,000	325,000	205,000	460,000	540,000	420,000	320,000	243,000
Corn for Silage (tons)	18,000	8,500	7,000	9,500	17,500	12,000		6,000	8,000		
Sorghum	187,000	199,000	43,500	86,000	54,000	53,000	153,000	43,000	53,000	75,000	110,000
Sunflowers (lbs)								940,000			
Dry Beans (cwt)	7,500	3,100						6,000			
All Hay (tons)	38,100	34,800	26,600	32,200	36,000	35,900	36,900	35,400	37,100	39,100	43,200
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	34,300	31,600	24,200	30,000	33,900	32,200	30,900	28,800	32,800	34,400	41,000

Custer County Crop Acreage

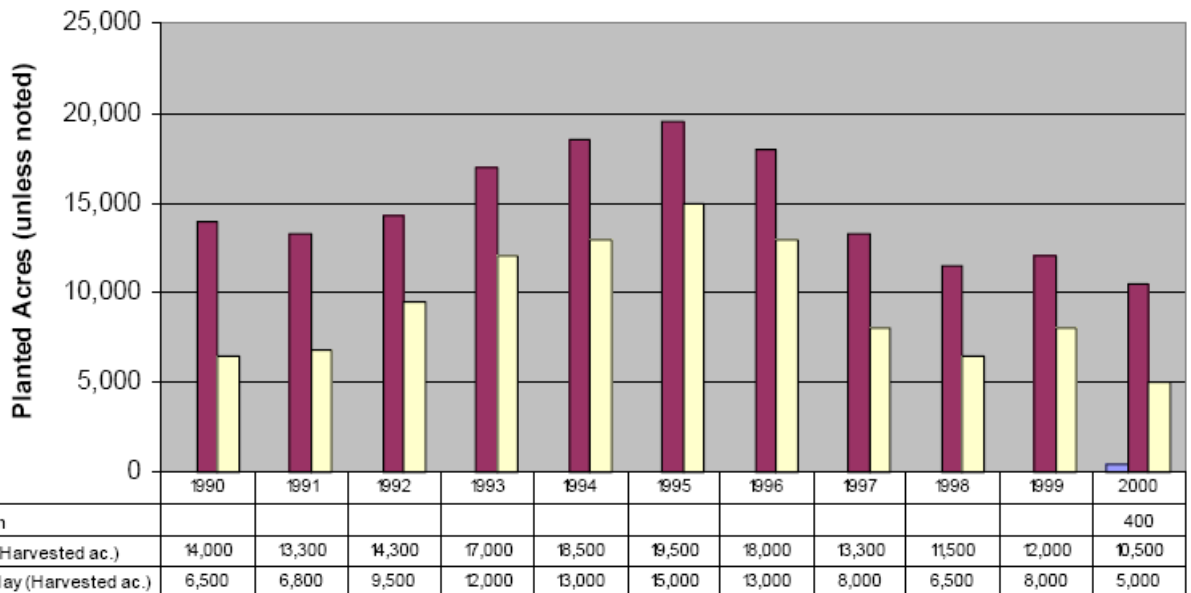


	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	18,500	17,000	15,300	13,000	12,500	12,500	17,000	16,500	13,000	13,000	15,500
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	2,500	2,000	1,000	2,000	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,500	2,000	3,000	3,500

Custer County Crop Production



Huerfano County Crop Acreage

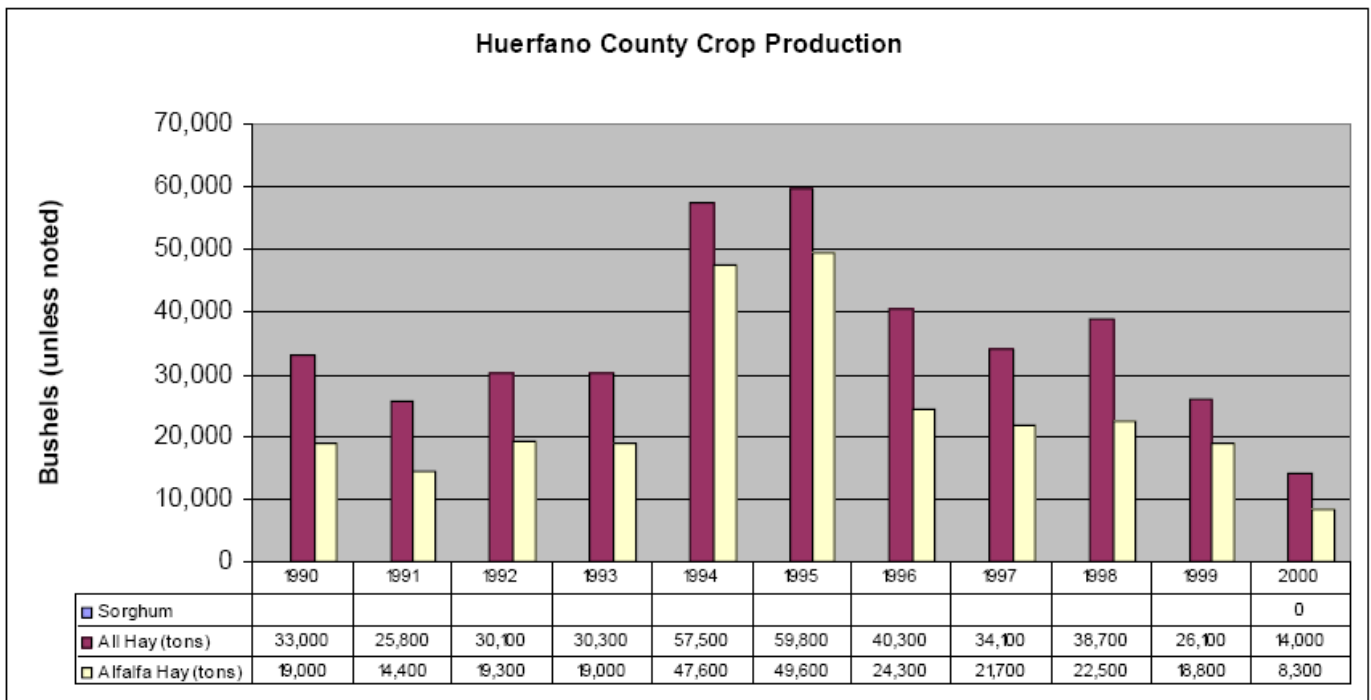


All hay production in Huerfano County decreased by 58% and alfalfa hay decreased by 56% for decade. Huerfano County all hay and alfalfa hay production accounted for 1% of the regional total production of those crops in 2000.

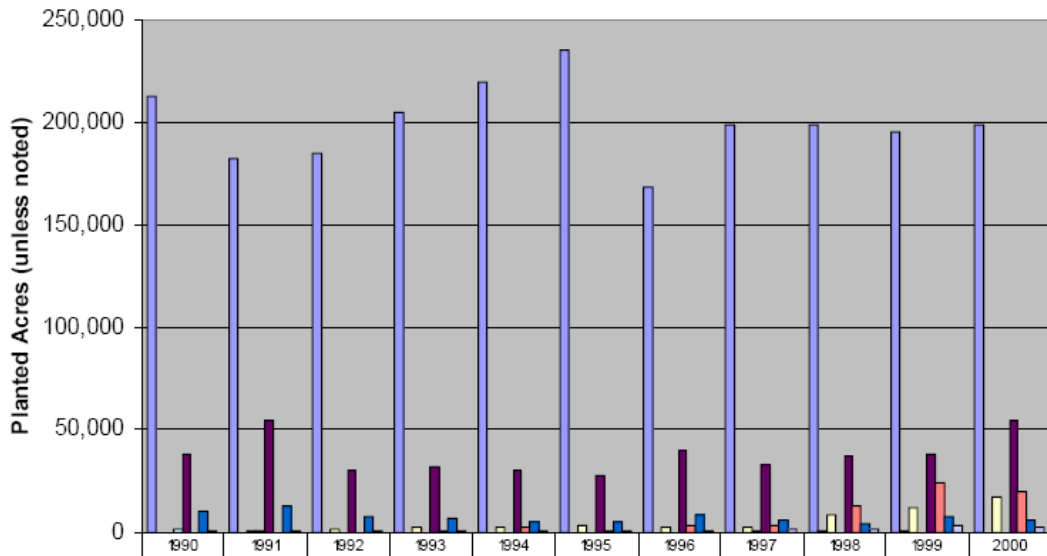
Total acreage in Kiowa County increased by 13% for the 1990-2000 period and most crop acreage in the county contributed heavily for the region's total in 2000. Sunflower acreage in Kiowa County accounted for 80% and winter wheat acreage accounted for 38% of the regional total in 2000. Sorghum, barley, corn for grain accounted for 28%, 14% and 13% of the regional total in 2000. Kiowa County contributed small amounts to the regional total for all hay and alfalfa hay acreage, with only 2% and 1% of the regional totals. Corn for grain had the greatest rate of increase for acreage dedicated to a specific crop, increasing by 5700% for the 1990-2000 period. Alfalfa hay acreage increased by 213% over the decade and sorghum acreage increased by 43%. Barley, all hay, and winter wheat had decreases in the amount of acreage of 89%, 44%, and 7%, respectively, over the decade. Spring wheat and barley experienced sporadic increases and decreases in acreage throughout the decade.

Regionwide, Kiowa County accounted for 82% of the sunflower production and 37% of the region's total winter wheat production in 2000. Total production of sorghum in the county accounted for 23% of the regional total, whereas 2% of the region's total corn production and 1% of both all hay and alfalfa hay production are found in Kiowa. Corn for grain had the greatest rate of increase, 784%, followed by a 345% increase in alfalfa hay production. Sorghum production increased by 8% for the decade, but the production of barley, all hay, and winter wheat, all declined by 93%, 14%, and 5%, respectively, over the decade.

Total acreage in Las Animas County increased by 15% for the decade. Regionwide, Las Animas County accounted for 6% of the acreage for all hay, and 5% of the alfalfa hay in the region in 2000. Las Animas County accounted for 2% of the region's corn for silage, and 1% of both winter wheat and corn for grain. Alfalfa hay and all hay climbed by 35% and 30% for the period. Sorghum acres decreased by 80%, followed by a 60% decrease in number of corn for silage acres in the county. Corn for grain and winter wheat showed a 30% and a 20% decrease in the same period.

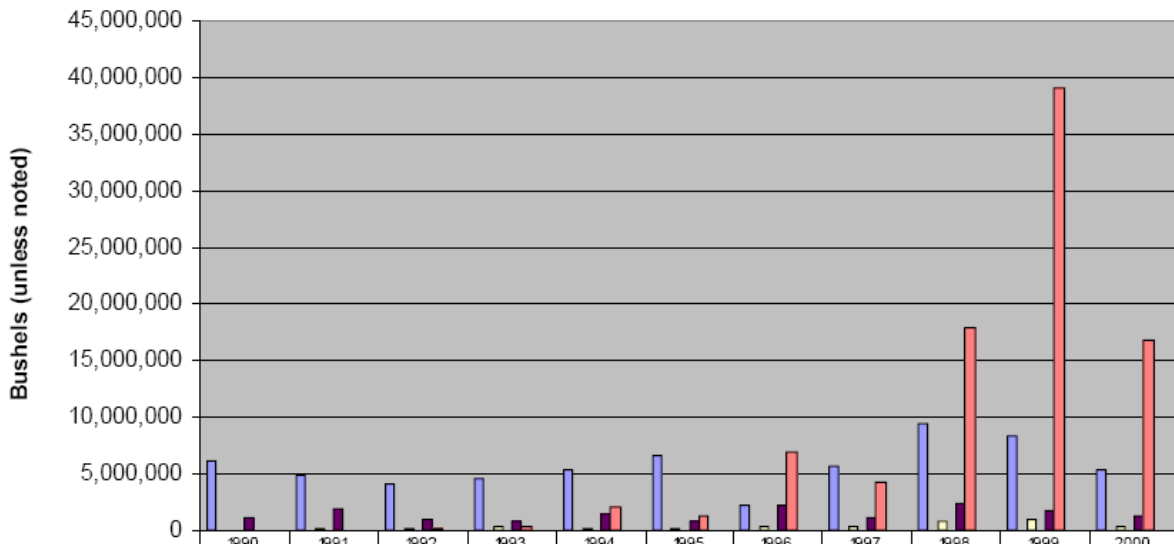


Kiowa County Crop Acreage



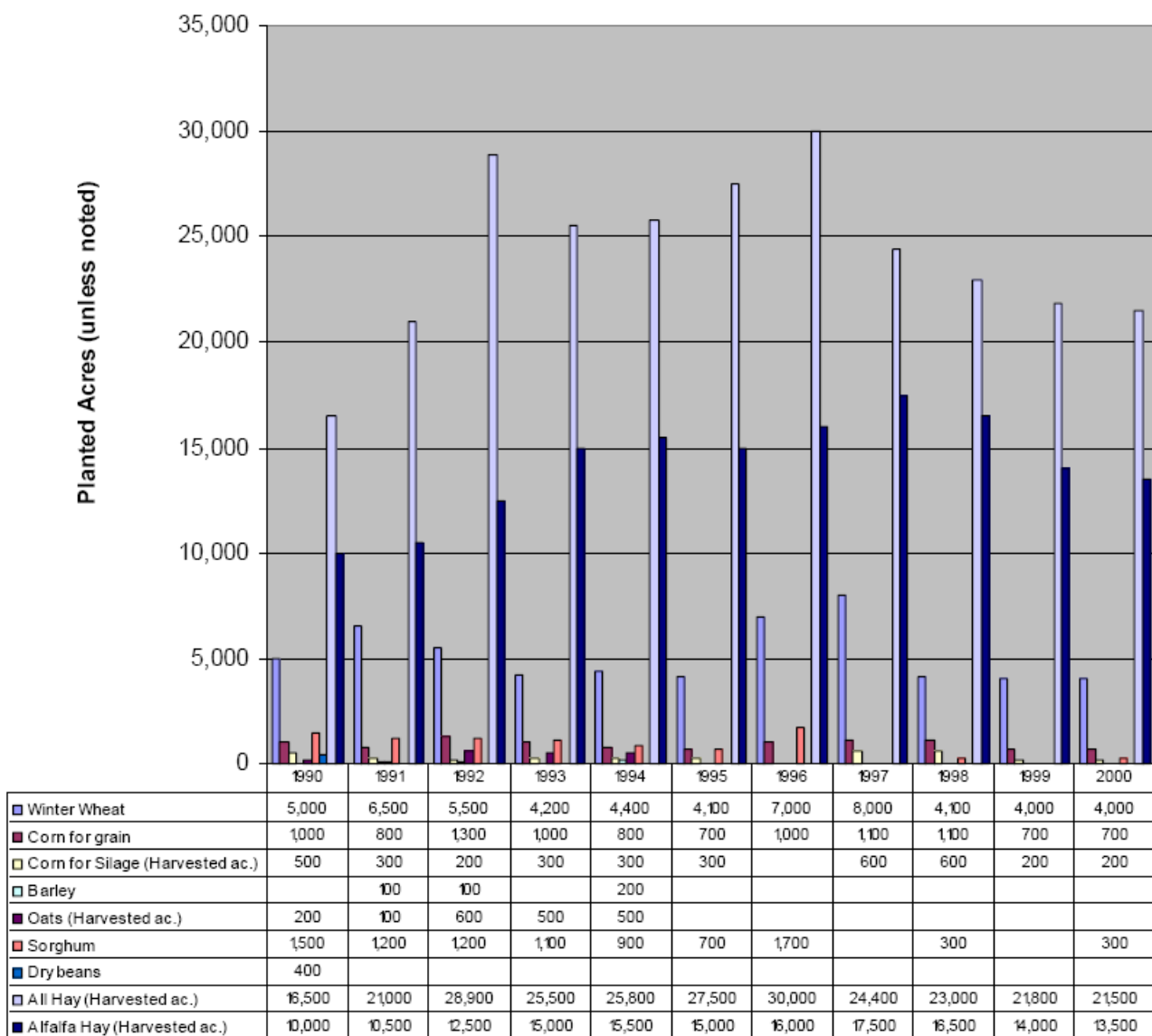
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	213,000	182,000	185,000	205,000	220,000	235,000	168,500	198,500	199,000	195,500	199,000
Spring Wheat									700	700	
Corn for grain	300	1,000	1,800	2,600	2,400	3,500	2,900	2,900	8,500	12,500	17,400
Barley	1,900	800	300	200			200	500	300	300	200
Sorghum	38,500	55,000	30,000	32,000	30,000	27,400	40,000	32,900	37,400	38,500	55,000
Sunflowers			300	500	2,400	1,300	3,500	3,600	13,000	24,000	20,000
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	10,800	12,700	7,700	7,200	5,000	5,500	9,000	6,500	4,700	7,500	6,000
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	800	700	700	700	1,000	500	1,000	2,000	1,700	3,500	2,500

Kiowa County Crop Production



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	6,120,000	4,923,000	4,030,000	4,535,000	5,275,000	6,550,000	2,250,000	5,700,000	9,340,000	8,267,000	5,280,000
Spring Wheat									13,000	15,000	
Corn for Grain	43,000	83,000	177,000	273,000	224,000	215,000	345,000	300,000	790,000	950,000	380,000
Barley	60,000	24,000	9,000	2,000			3,000	14,000	7,000	5,000	4,000
Sorghum	1,143,000	1,880,000	952,000	858,000	1,409,000	765,000	2,136,000	1,150,000	2,290,000	1,703,000	1,235,000
Sunflowers (lbs)			225,000	360,000	1,960,000	1,230,000	6,840,000	4,200,000	17,900,000	39,000,000	16,830,000
All Hay (tons)	14,200	24,600	14,100	13,300	11,500	7,000	23,500	15,200	11,800	20,000	13,500
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	2,300	2,600	2,500	2,400	4,500	2,000	3,000	4,700	4,800	12,500	10,200

Las Animas County Crop Acreage

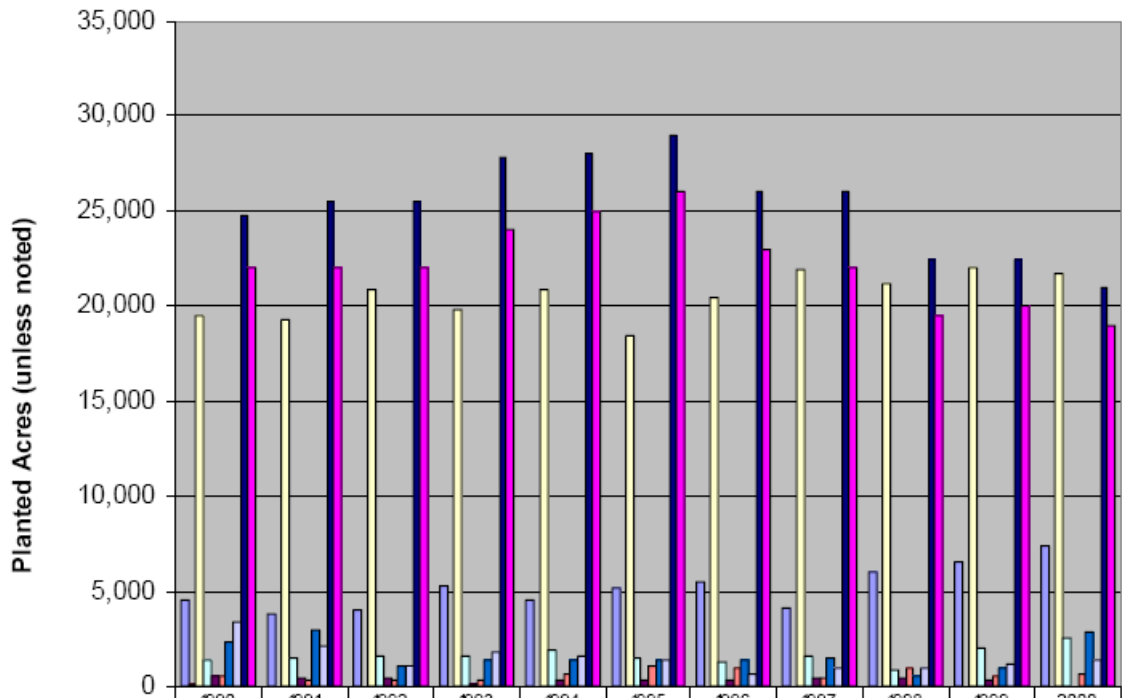


Las Animas County accounted for 5% of all hay production and 4% of the region's alfalfa hay production in 2000. Winter wheat and corn for silage accounted for 1% and 2% of the regional total. The greatest increase in the amount of production was in alfalfa hay (59%) followed by all hay production (41%). Winter wheat had the lowest rate of production increase (9%). The greatest rate of decrease was for corn for silage production (59%), followed by a 10% decrease in the amount of corn production. Las Animas experienced

increases and decreases in the production of barley, oats, sorghum, and dry beans during the 1990s.

Otero County accounted for a large portion of corn for silage acreage (29%) and dry beans acreage (26%) regionwide. Otero County also accounted for 16% of the region's corn for grain acreage and 8% of the region's oats acreage. Of the hay categories, Otero County comprised 6% of the all hay acreage total and 7% of the alfalfa hay category. The greatest rate of

Otero County Crop Acreage

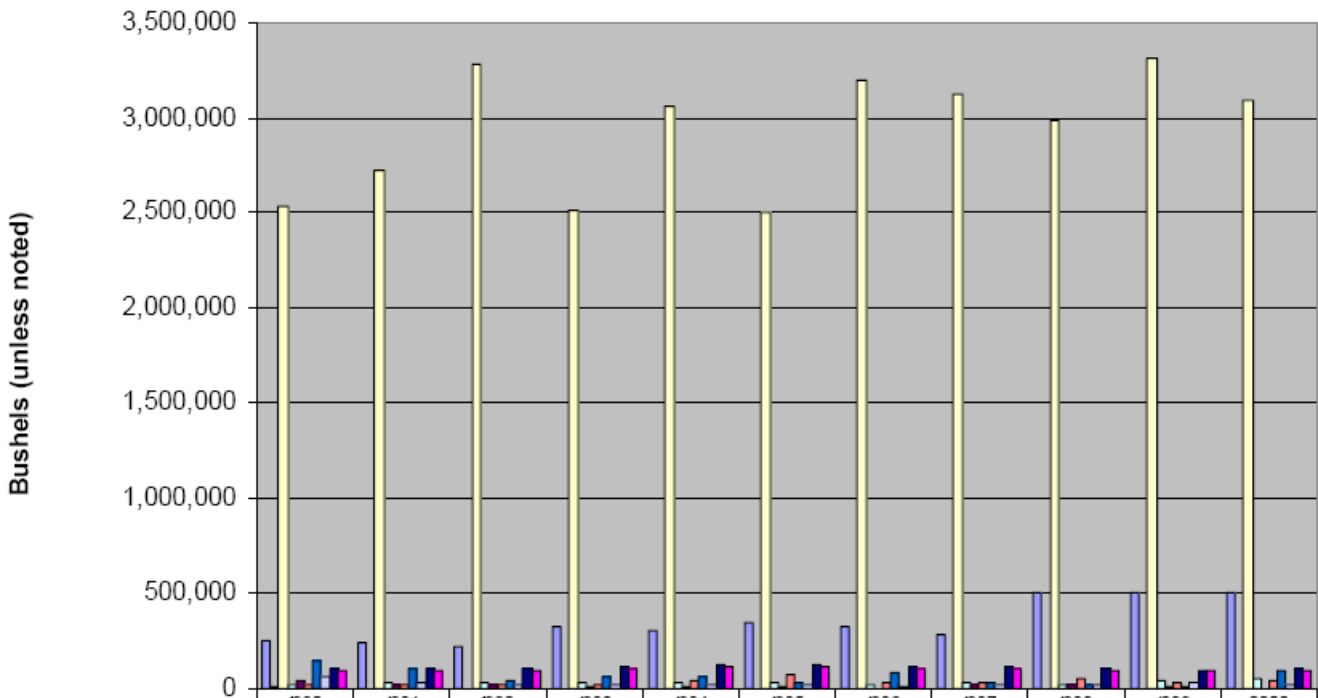


	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	4,500	3,800	4,000	5,300	4,500	5,200	5,500	4,100	6,000	6,500	7,400
Spring Wheat	100										
Corn for grain	19,500	19,300	20,900	19,800	20,900	18,400	20,500	21,900	21,200	22,000	21,700
Corn for Silage (Harvested ac.)	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,900	1,500	1,300	1,600	800	2,000	2,500
Barley	500	400	400	100	300	300	300	400	400	300	
Oats (Harvested ac.)	500	300	300	300	600	1,100	1,000	400	900	500	600
Sorghum	2,300	3,000	1,100	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,500	500	900	2,800
Dry beans	3,400	2,100	1,100	1,800	1,600	1,400	600	900	1,000	1,200	1,400
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	24,800	25,500	25,500	27,800	28,000	29,000	26,000	26,000	22,500	22,500	21,000
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	22,000	22,000	22,000	24,000	25,000	26,000	23,000	22,000	19,500	20,000	19,000

acreage increase was a 79% increase in the amount of corn for silage. The second highest rate of increase was in winter wheat (64%), followed by a 22% increase in the number of sorghum acres. Oats acreage increased by 20% and corn for grain acreage increased by 11% for the 1990s. However, a decrease occurred in dry beans, all hay, and alfalfa hay acreage, declining by 59%, 15%, and 13%, respectively. Barley and spring wheat experienced sporadic plantings in the county during the period. The production of barley dropped off completely by 2000 and the production of spring wheat was only observed in the 1990. Overall, crop acreage decreased 3% in the county over the period.

In 2000, dry beans production in Otero County accounted for 35% of the region's total dry bean production. Corn for silage and for grain accounted for 29% and 20% of the region's total production in 2000. Otero County also accounted for 10% of the region's alfalfa hay production, 9% of all hay production, 6% of oat production, 3% of the winter wheat production, and 2% of the sorghum production for 2000. Some crop production experienced signs of growth for the 1990-2000 period, including winter wheat (100%), corn for silage (98%), oats (73%), corn for grain (22%), and alfalfa hay (2%). All hay remained relatively constant, with only a small increase, whereas production of dry

Otero County Crop Production



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	250,000	237,000	220,000	325,000	310,000	350,000	330,000	280,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Spring Wheat	7,000										
Corn for Grain	2,530,000	2,720,000	3,280,000	2,515,000	3,060,000	2,500,000	3,190,000	3,118,000	2,990,000	3,310,000	3,090,000
Corn for Silage (tons)	25,200	28,500	31,000	30,000	33,500	34,000	26,000	29,000	17,000	38,000	50,000
Barley	42,000	18,000	16,500	8,000	7,000	12,500	3,500	21,000	24,000	15,000	
Oats	26,000	22,000	20,000	20,000	45,000	70,000	35,000	28,000	54,000	33,000	45,000
Sorghum	143,000	102,000	46,000	68,000	67,000	34,000	79,000	30,000	21,000	15,000	90,000
Dry Beans (cwt)	65,500	31,500	16,800	25,000	25,000	23,000	10,000	17,000	18,000	27,000	19,500
All Hay (tons)	103,900	104,300	105,400	119,300	125,900	128,800	116,300	119,300	104,300	96,300	104,100
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	97,400	94,500	93,800	106,800	116,500	119,000	107,000	105,300	95,300	91,500	99,500

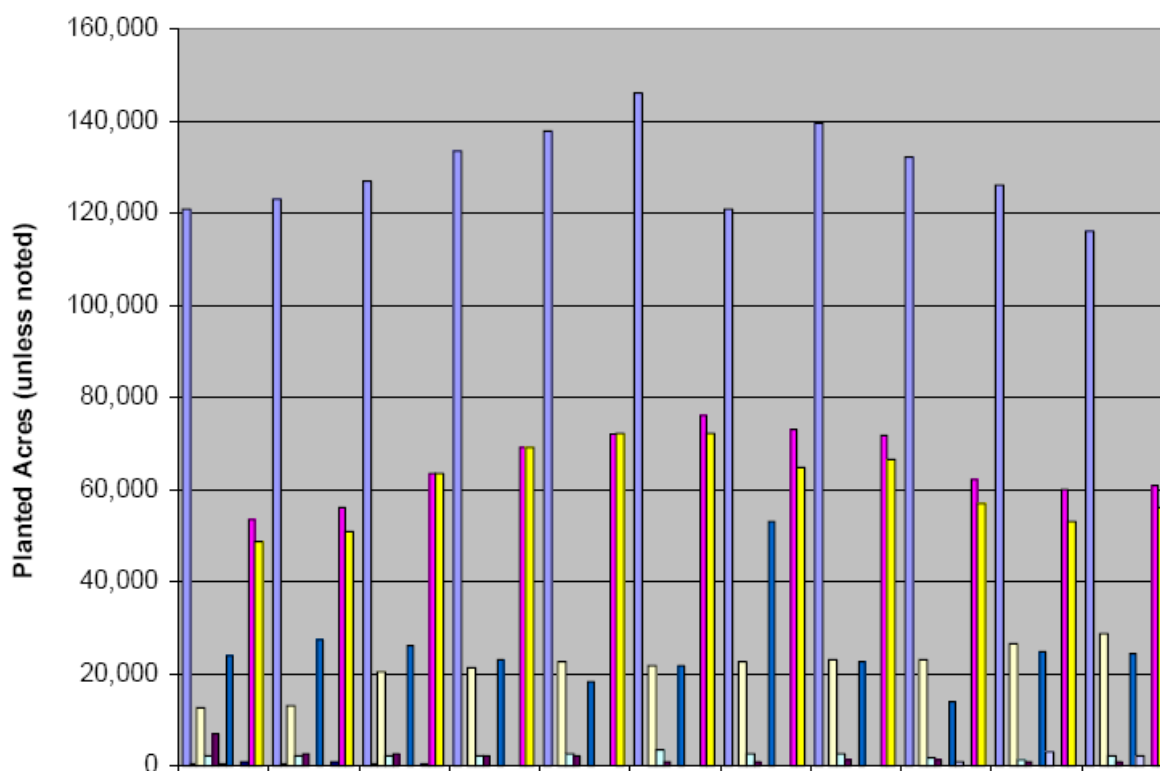
beans (70%) and sorghum (37%) decreased. In 1990, barley experienced a decrease that ended in 2000, when it reached zero production. In 1990, spring wheat experienced its only planting for the period.

Total crop acreage in Prowers County increased by 8% for the decade. Prowers County accounted for 22% of the winter wheat acreage, 27% of the corn for silage total, and 21% of the corn for grain and alfalfa hay acreage totals at the regional level. Prowers County acreage of all hay, sorghum, and sunflowers accounted for 18%, 12%, and 8% of the region's total in 2000. Over the 1990s, Corn for grain acreage had a 129% increase, followed by a 15% increase in the alfalfa hay acreage, and a 14% increase in the amount of all hay

acreage. Corn for silage and sorghum acreage increased by the modest amount of 5% and 2%, respectively. Barley and winter wheat acreage decreased by 90% and 4% for the outlined period. Throughout the period, sporadic changes in the cropping patterns of spring wheat, sunflowers, dry beans, and oats were observed.

Prowers County accounted for 29% of the region's production of corn for silage, 25% of the region's alfalfa hay production, and 23% of both all hay and corn for grain production. Prowers County also accounted for 22% of the region's winter wheat production, 17% of the region's sorghum production, 5% of the sunflower production, and only 1% of the barley

Prowers County Crop Acreage



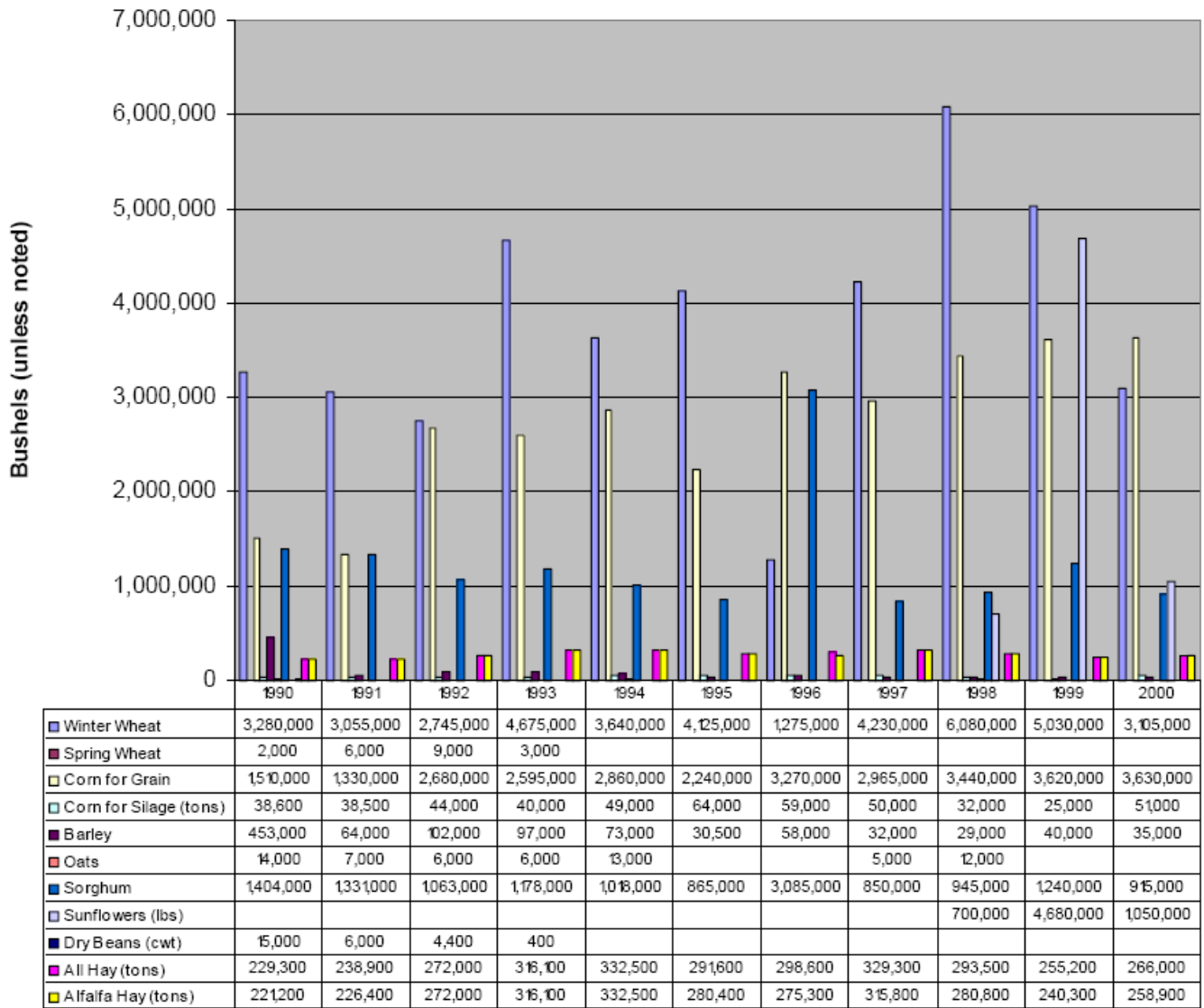
Winter Wheat	121,000	123,000	127,000	133,400	138,000	146,000	121,000	139,500	132,000	126,000	116,000
Spring Wheat	300	300	400	200							
Corn for grain	12,500	13,000	20,300	21,400	22,500	21,700	22,800	23,000	22,900	26,500	28,600
Corn for Silage (Harvested ac.)	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,000	2,400	3,500	2,500	2,500	1,600	1,300	2,300
Barley	7,000	2,400	2,800	2,000	2,200	900	900	1,100	1,100	1,000	700
Oats (Harvested ac.)	300	100	100	100	200			200	200		
Sorghum	24,000	27,500	26,300	23,000	18,100	21,600	53,000	22,600	13,800	24,800	24,500
Sunflowers									700	3,200	2,000
Dry beans	1,000	700	400	200							
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	53,500	56,000	63,500	69,000	72,000	76,000	73,000	71,800	62,000	60,000	61,000
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	48,500	51,000	63,500	69,000	72,000	72,000	65,000	66,500	57,000	53,000	56,000

production in 2000. The greatest rate of increase occurred in the production of corn for grain, which increased by 140% in the period, followed by a 32% increase in the production of corn for silage. Alfalfa and all hay had the smallest increases in production over the decade, increasing by 17% and 16%, respectively. The production of barley, sorghum, and winter wheat declined over the decade, by 92%, 35%, and 5%, respectively.

Pueblo County total planted acreage decreased by 16% for the decade. Regionwide, 71% of the total dry bean

acreage was in Pueblo County in 2000. Pueblo County also accounted for 7% for both alfalfa hay and corn for grain acreage in the region. All hay acreage in Pueblo County accounted for 6% of the regional total in 2000 and 4% of the regional total corn for silage acreage. Winter wheat and sorghum acreage in the county accounted for 1% of the regional total in 2000. Acreage dedicated to specific crops decreased in several cases over the decade, with corn for silage (84%), winter wheat (77%), sorghum (60%), dry beans (24%), and corn for grain acreage (17%) all decreasing. Alfalfa hay and all hay acreage increased by 48% and

Prowers County Crop Production

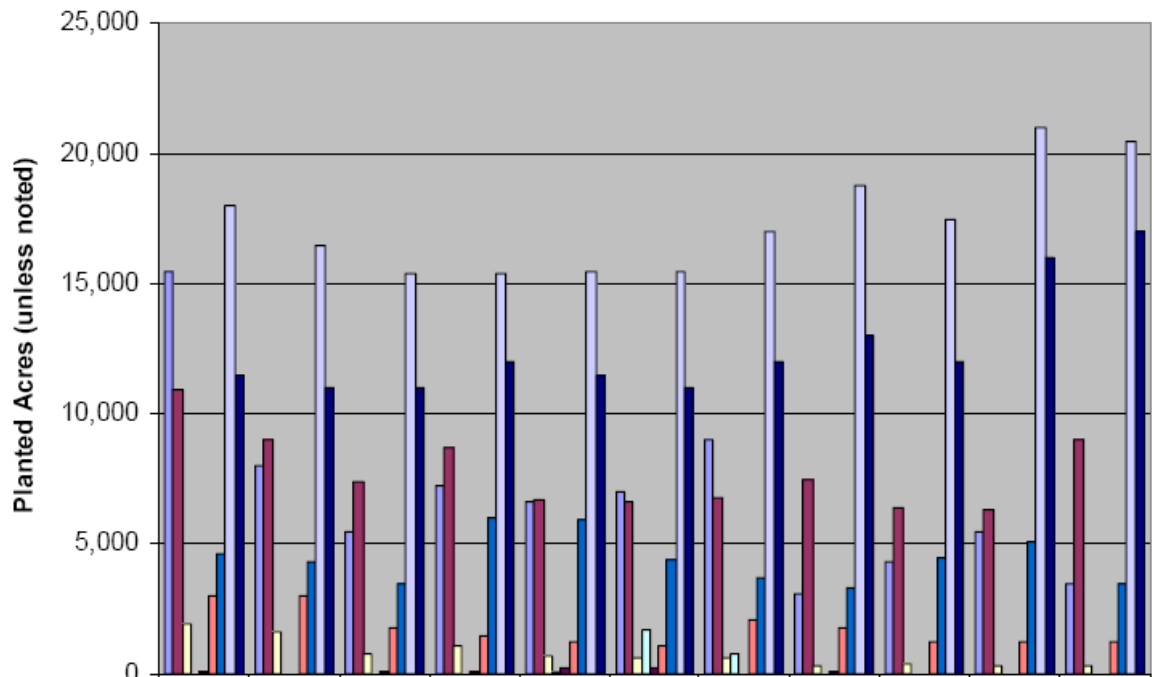


14% for the decade. Barley and oats acreage both exhibited unsystematic planting patterns throughout the decade.

Dry bean production in Pueblo County accounted for 65% for the region's total production in 2000. Alfalfa hay production in the county accounted for 8% and all hay production accounted for 7% of the region's total production. County production totals of corn for grain and corn for silage accounted for 5% and 3% of the region's total in 2000, respectively. Winter wheat and sorghum production accounted for approximately 1% of the region's total production in 2000. Parallel to the

decreases in planted acreage of selected crops, production declines were also in evidence. Production of corn for silage had the greatest rate of decline, falling 84%, followed by sorghum and winter wheat production, both falling by 83% and 68%, respectively. Dry bean production and corn for grain production also decreased by 49% and 45% over the decade. However, alfalfa hay and all hay experienced increases in the production of 81% and 63%, respectively. Barley and oat production in Pueblo County had patterns where there were years of production followed by years characterized by an absence of production.

Pueblo County Crop Acreage



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Winter Wheat	15,500	8,000	5,500	7,200	6,600	7,000	9,000	3,100	4,300	5,500	3,500
Corn for grain	10,900	9,000	7,400	8,700	6,700	6,600	6,800	7,500	6,400	6,300	9,000
Corn for Silage (Harvested ac.)	1,900	1,600	800	1,100	700	600	600	300	400	300	300
Barley					100	1,700	800				
Oats (Harvested ac.)	100		100	100	200	200		100			
Sorghum	3,000	3,000	1,800	1,500	1,200	1,100	2,100	1,800	1,200	1,200	1,200
Dry beans	4,600	4,300	3,500	6,000	5,900	4,400	3,700	3,300	4,500	5,100	3,500
All Hay (Harvested ac.)	18,000	16,500	15,400	15,400	15,500	15,500	17,000	18,800	17,500	21,000	20,500
Alfalfa Hay (Harvested ac.)	11,500	11,000	11,000	12,000	11,500	11,000	12,000	13,000	12,000	16,000	17,000

9.12 Crop Production and Crop Acreage Conclusion

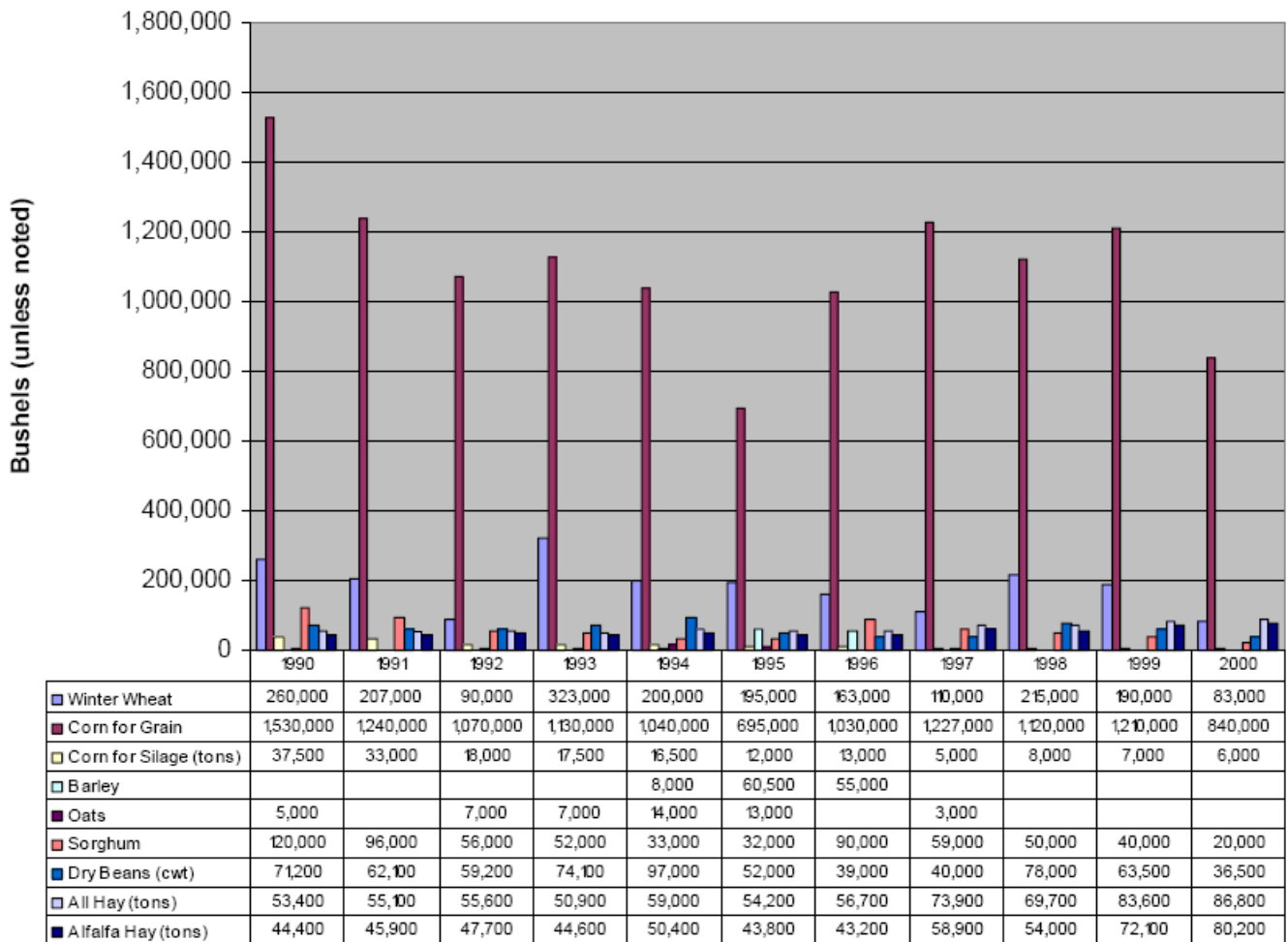
Agriculture production historically has consistently increased in productivity despite experiencing decreases in the number of farmers, farms and planted acres. The number of farmers has increased in the region, while the number of crop acres has declined for the period. Despite this, the region has experienced an increase in the production of every crop except for wheat, barley, and sorghum. Farms, rural residents and urban residents value working landscapes for their productive potential, but also for many other attributes that agricultural lands provide. The number of acres dedicated to crop production has declined in seven of

the thirteen counties over the period. In the worst case Crowley County declined by 23% in the number of acres dedicated to crop production, while the greatest increase of production acres was in Costilla County.

9.13 Summary and overview of cattle operations and value of sales

Colorado was the third largest producer of cattle on feed in the United States in 2000. Cattle and calves cash receipts accounted for 53% of total farm cash receipts for Colorado agriculture in 1999. The number of farms that consider themselves cattle operations has increased over the period. Likewise the value of sales increased over the decade.

Pueblo County Crop Production



Statewide, the dollar amount received from cattle and calves sold has increased over the observation period, while decreasing in the region. The number of cattle operations throughout the state and the region also increased over the period by 7% and 5%, respectively.

Regionwide, the highest number of cattle operations was in Pueblo County, followed by Las Animas County and Baca County. The lowest number of cattle operation in the region occurred in Custer, Costilla, and Alamosa County. The highest value of cattle sales came from Prowers, Otero and Crowley County. Costilla, Custer, and Alamosa County had the lowest value of cattle sales in 1997. Colorado cattle and calves sales increased by 29% over the decade, while the number

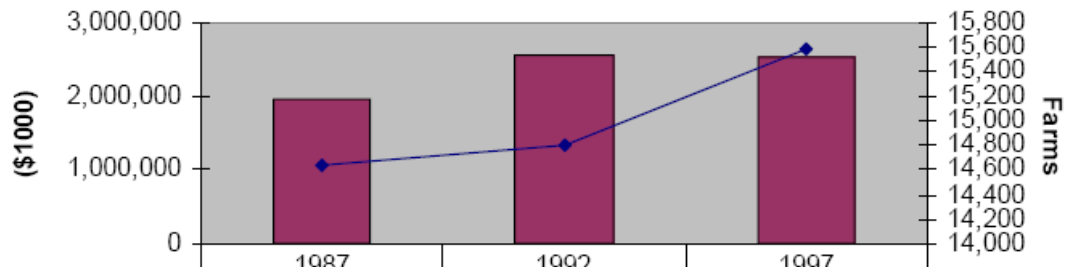
of livestock operations increased by 7%.

The ACT Region accounted for 12% of the state's total value of cattle sales and 20% of the cattle operations in 1997. The value of cattle sold declined by 29% between 1987 and 1997, whereas the number of cattle operations increased by 5% over the period.

9.14 County trend of cattle operations and value of sales

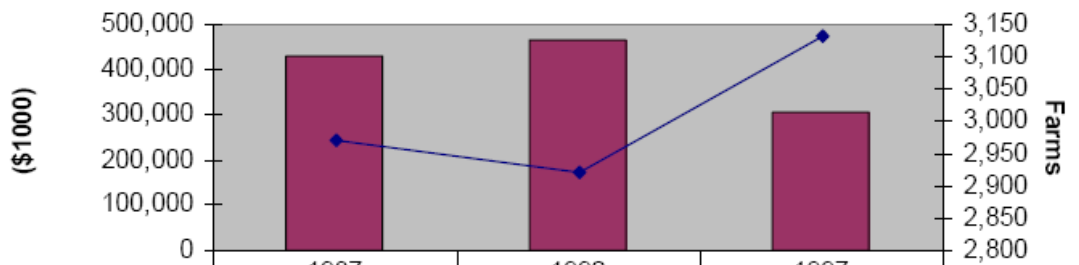
Alamosa County experienced an increase of 27% in the value of cattle and calves sold over the period. The number of operations increased by a modest 1%. Despite a relatively strong increase in the value of cattle sold in the county, the 1997 total only accounted for

Colorado Cattle Farms and Value of Sales



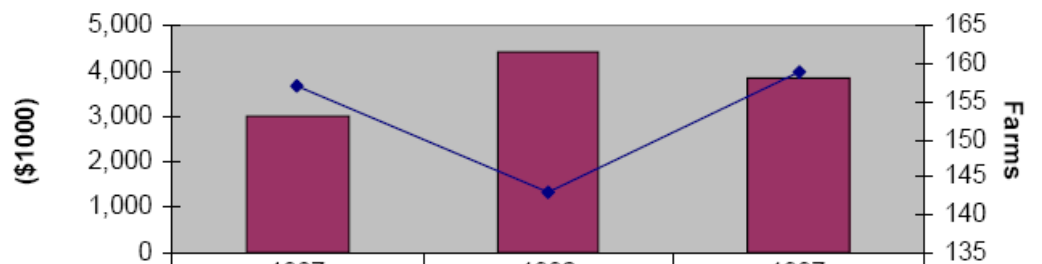
Cattle and Calves sold (\$1000)	1,964,765	2,570,192	2,537,589
Number of farms	14,637	14,797	15,592

ACT Region Cattle Farms and Value of Sales



Cattle and Calves sold (\$1000)	429,034	463,839	306,734
Number of farms	2,970	2,921	3,130

Alamosa County Cattle Farms and Value of Sales



Cattle and Calves sold (\$1000)	3,022	4,411	3,853
Number of farms	157	143	159

1% of the regional total, ranking it the eleventh regionally. Alamosa County also had the eleventh rank for the number of cattle operations regionally for 1997.

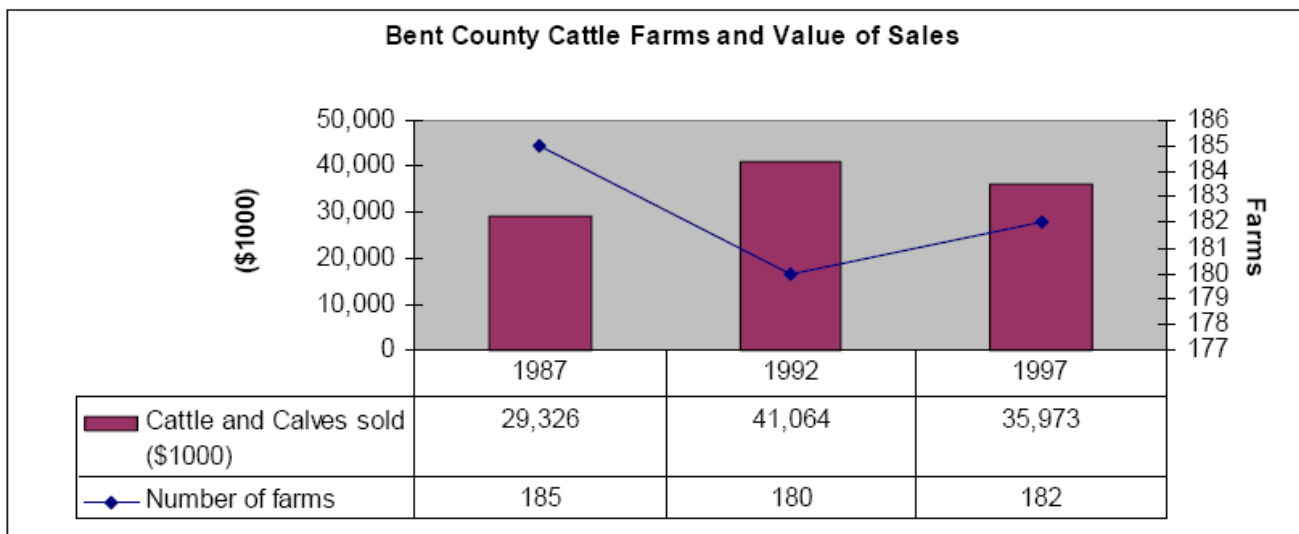
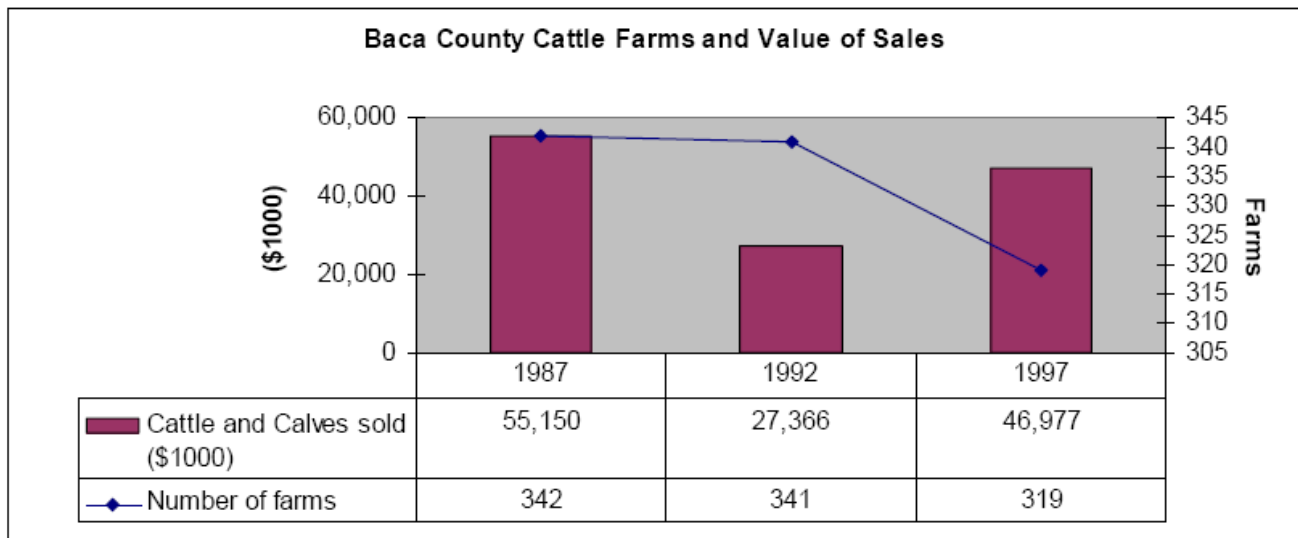
Regionwide, Baca County had the third highest concentration of cattle operations in 1997 and accounted for 10% of the region's total in that same year. Despite this, a 7% decrease in the number of cattle operations occurred over the period. The value of cattle and calves sold in the county also decreased, but by 15%. Regionwide, the 1997 county value of cattle sold accounted for 15% of the region's total in that same year.

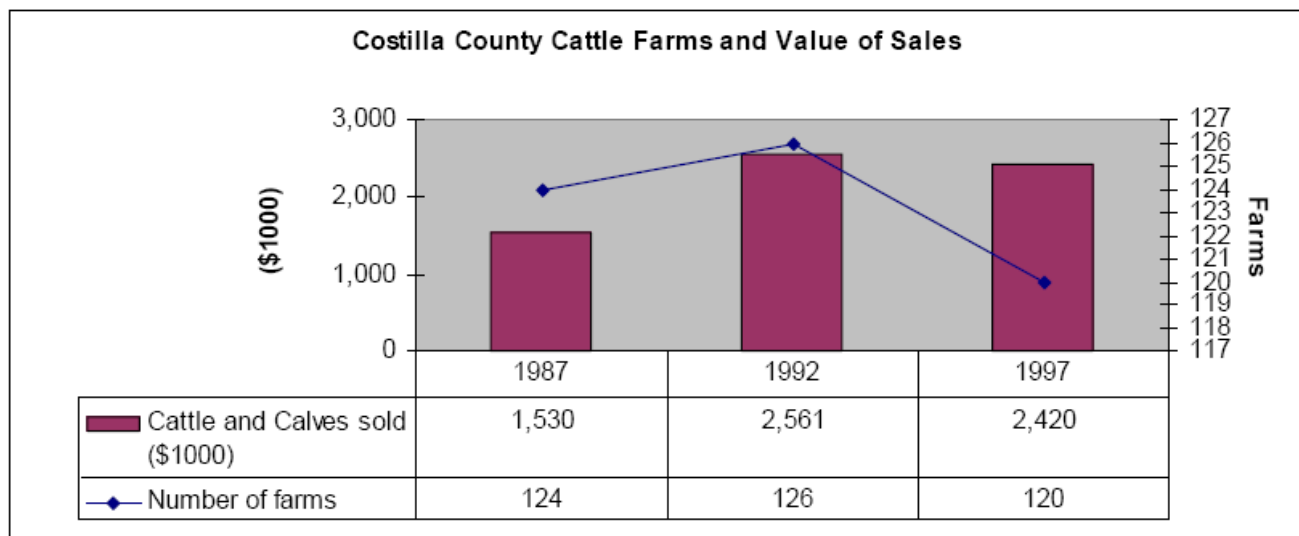
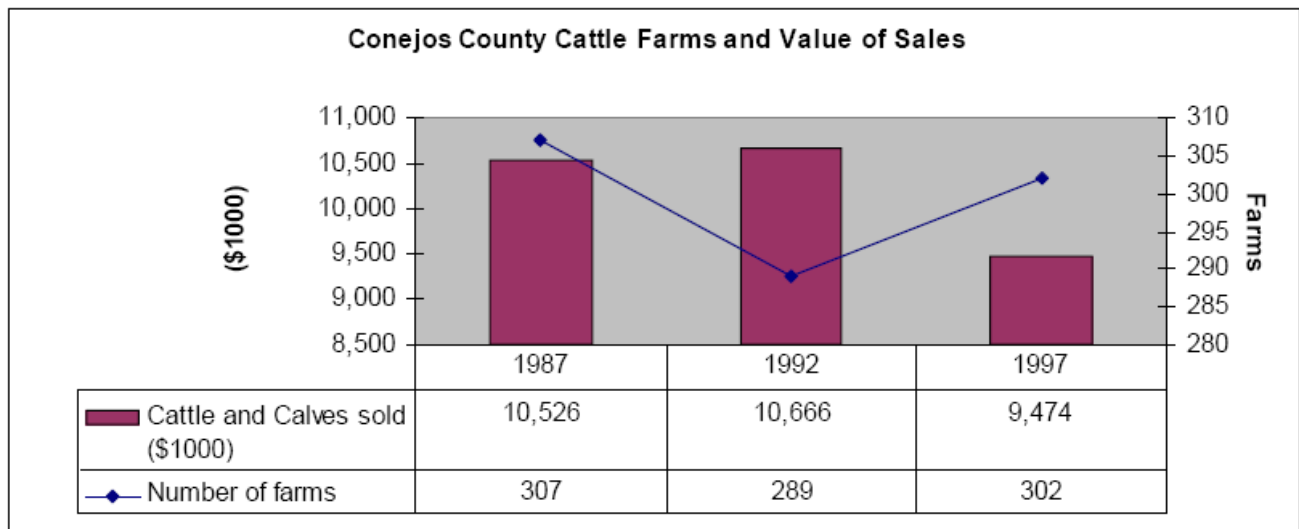
Bent County experienced a growth of 23% in value of cattle sold. However, a 2% decline in the number of cattle operations was observed over the period. The

total county value of sales accounted for 12% while the number of cattle operations in the county accounted for 6% of the regional total.

Both the number of cattle operations and the value of sales decreased over the period for Conejos County. The value of cattle and calves declined by 10% over the period, while the number of cattle operations decreased by 2%. County total value of cattle and calves accounted for 3% of the region's total, while the number of cattle operations in the county accounted for 10% of the region's total in 1997.

The lowest value of cattle and calves sold in the region was in Costilla County, accounting for only 1% of the regional total in 1997. Costilla County's value of cattle





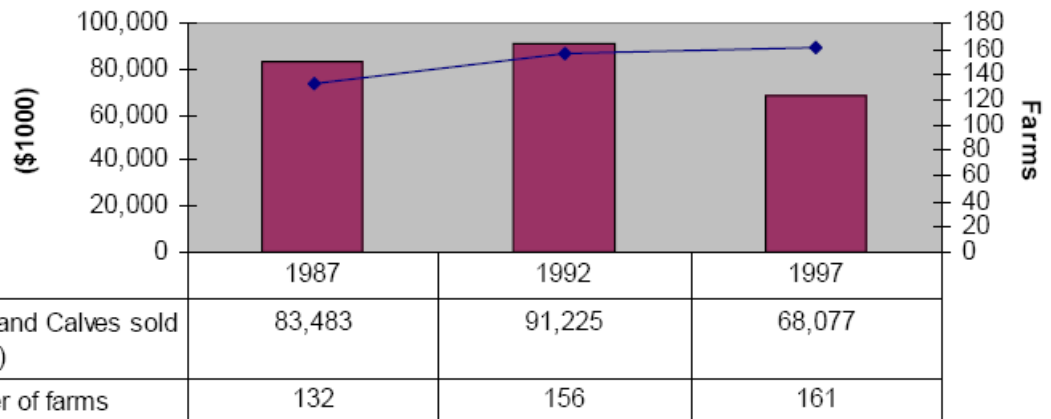
sold ranked twelfth regionally and had 4% cattle operations in the region. Despite having low totals for 1997, Costilla had a dramatic increase of 58% over the observation period for value of cattle sold. The number of cattle operations in Costilla County decreased by 3% for the period.

Crowley County had the third highest value of cattle and calves sold regionwide, accounting for 22% of the region's total value. Despite this, the value of cattle and calves sold decreased by 18% over the observed period. The number of cattle operations for the same period increased by 22%, but accounted for only 5% of the region's total in 1997.

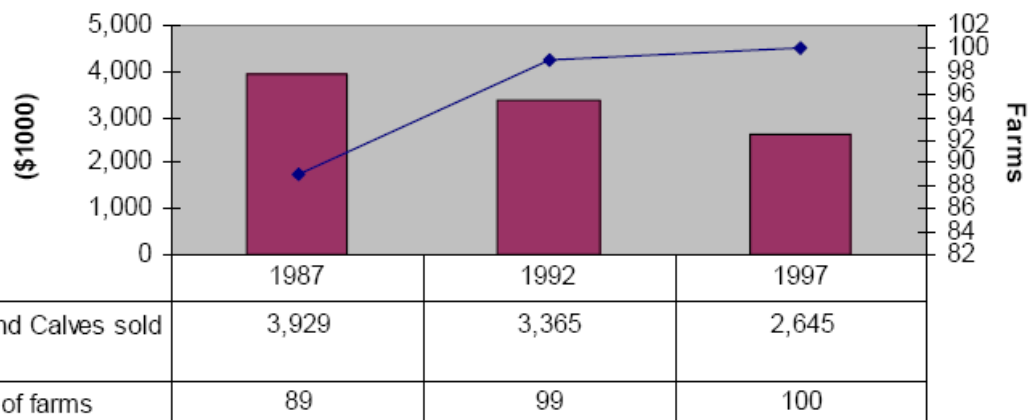
The value of cattle and calves sold in Custer County declined by 33% over the observation period. The total value of cattle sales accounted for only 1% of the region's total in 1997, ranking twelfth regionally. Custer County also ranked twelfth rank in the number of cattle operations and accounted for 3% of the regional total 1997. Despite having low totals, a 12% decrease occurred in the number of cattle operations over the period.

Huerfano County showed an increase of 19% in the value of cattle and calves sales, while a 2% decrease in the number of cattle operations in the county was observed. The total value of cattle and calves sold in

Crowley County Cattle Farms and Value of Sales



Custer County Cattle Farms and Value of Sales



Huerfano accounted for 3% and the number of cattle operations in the county made up 6% of the regional total.

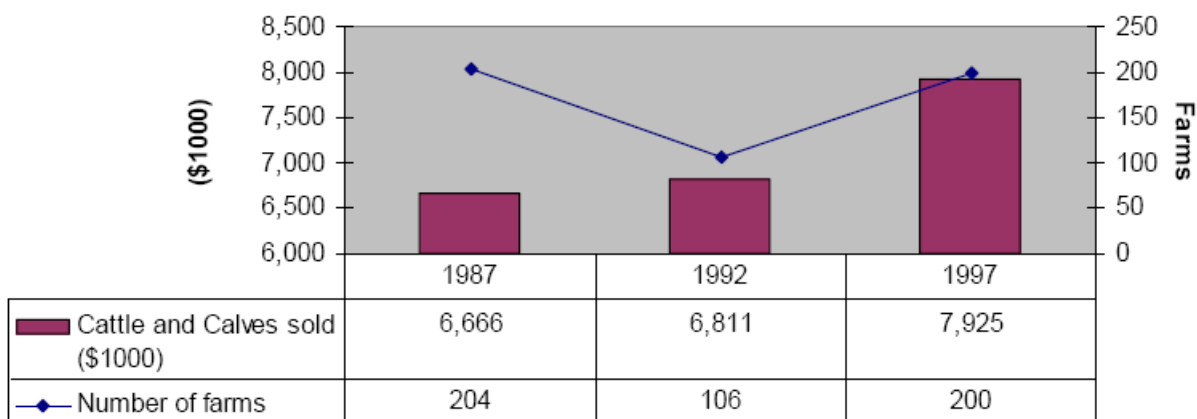
The value of cattle and calves sold in Kiowa County decreased over the period by 23% and accounted for 3% of the region's total sales value in 1997. The number of cattle operations also decreased, but by 4%, and accounted for 5% of the region's total number of cattle operations in 1997.

Regionwide, Las Animas County had the second highest number of cattle operations in the ACT Region for 1997, which accounted for 12% of the total. The num-

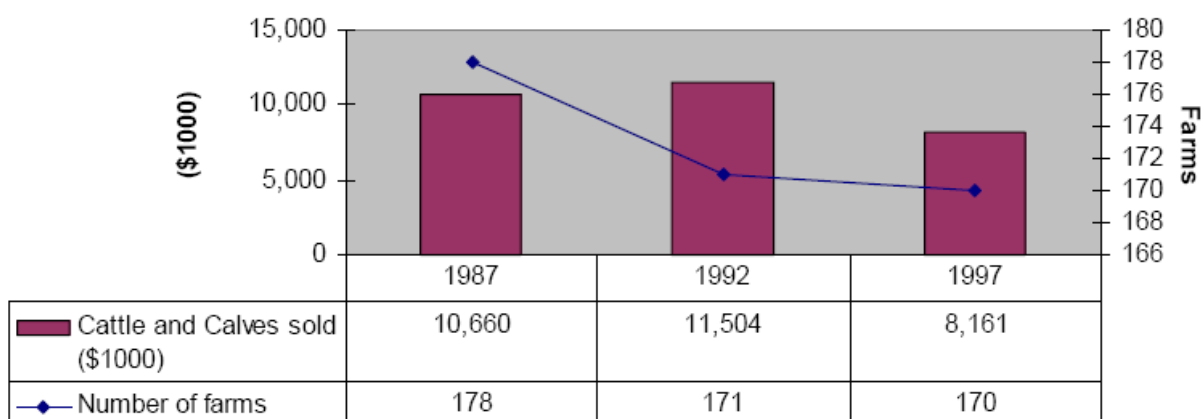
ber of cattle and calve farms decreased by virtually nothing, going from 391 farms in 1987 to 390 by 1997. The value of cattle and calves sold decreased by 3% over the period and accounted for 6% of the region's total in 1997.

Otero County contributed the second highest amount of cattle and calves sold to the regional total. The 1997 total value of cattle and calves sales accounted for 25% of the region's total value of cattle sales. An increase in the value of sales occurred for the outlined period, climbing by 20%. The number of cattle operations in the county accounted for 10% of the region's total and grew by 18% over the decade.

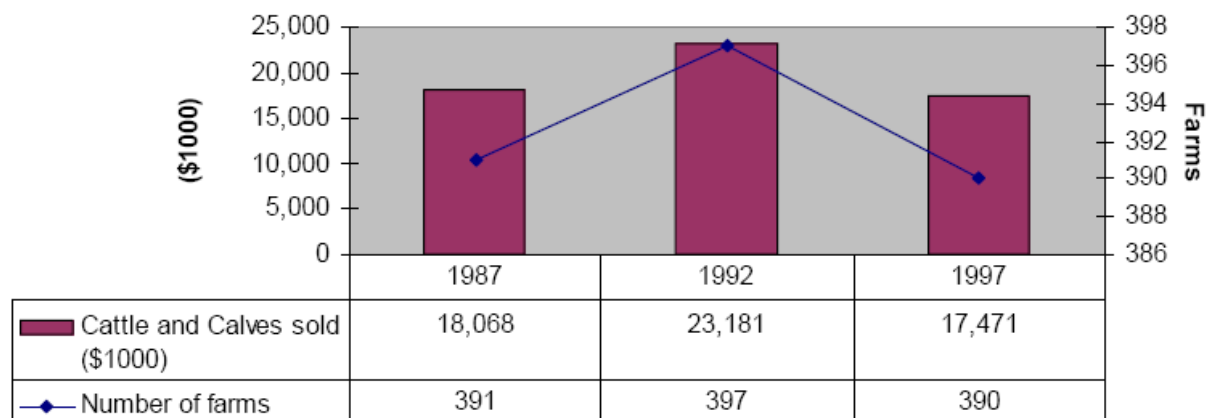
Huerfano County Cattle Farms and Value of Sales

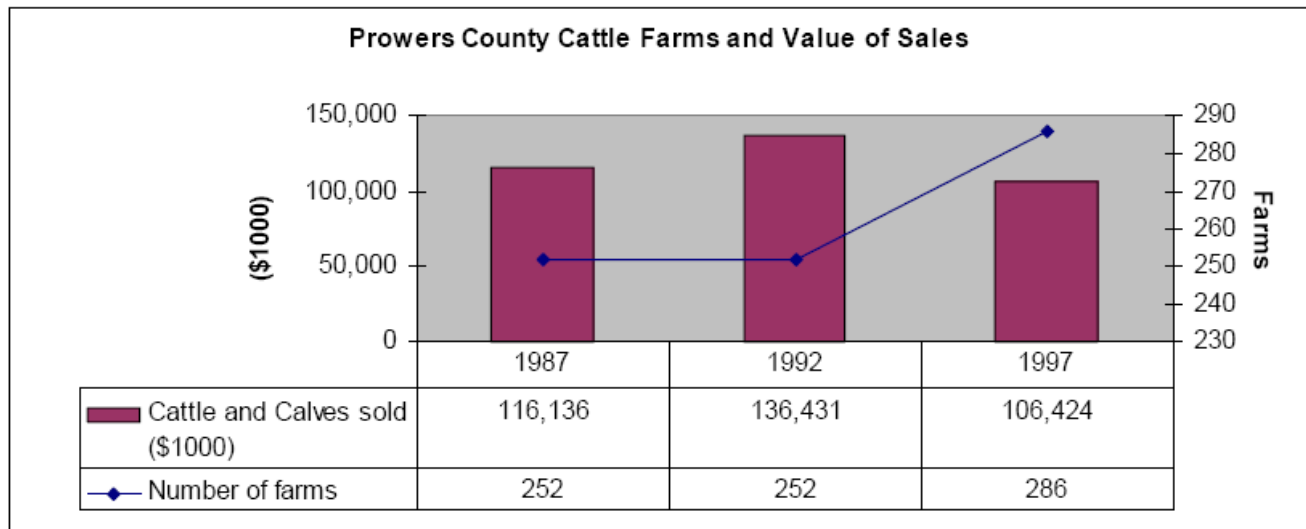
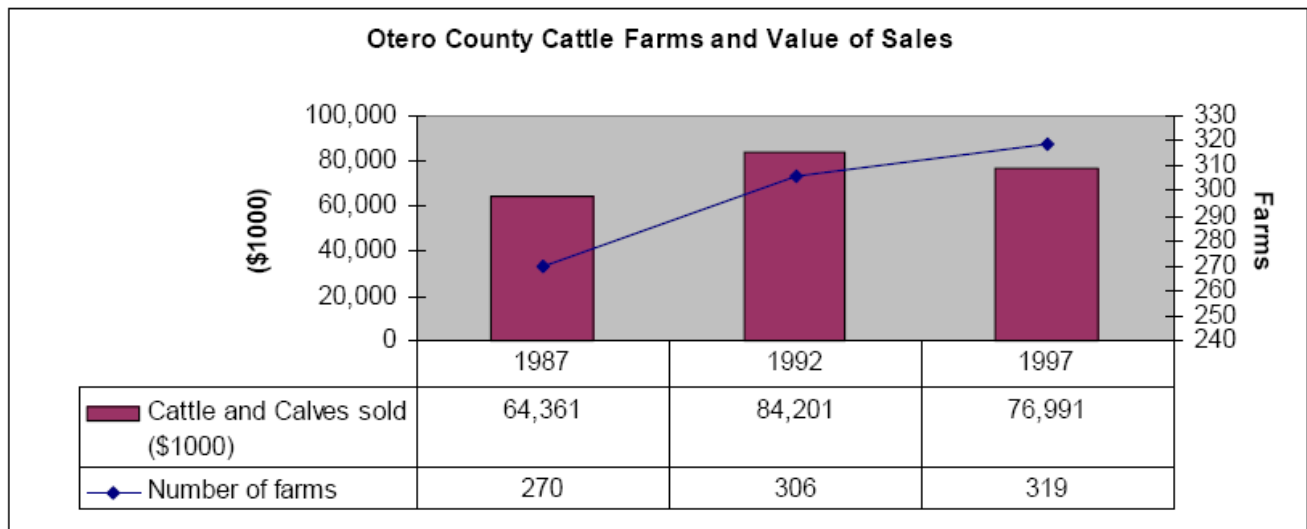


Kiowa County Cattle Farms and Value of Sales



Las Animas County Cattle Farms and Value of Sales





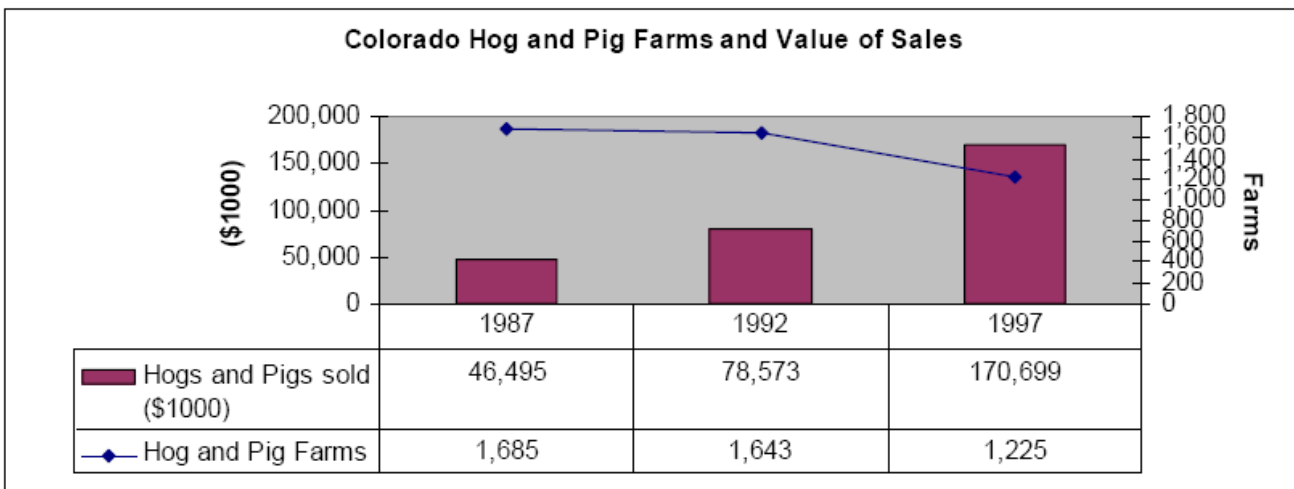
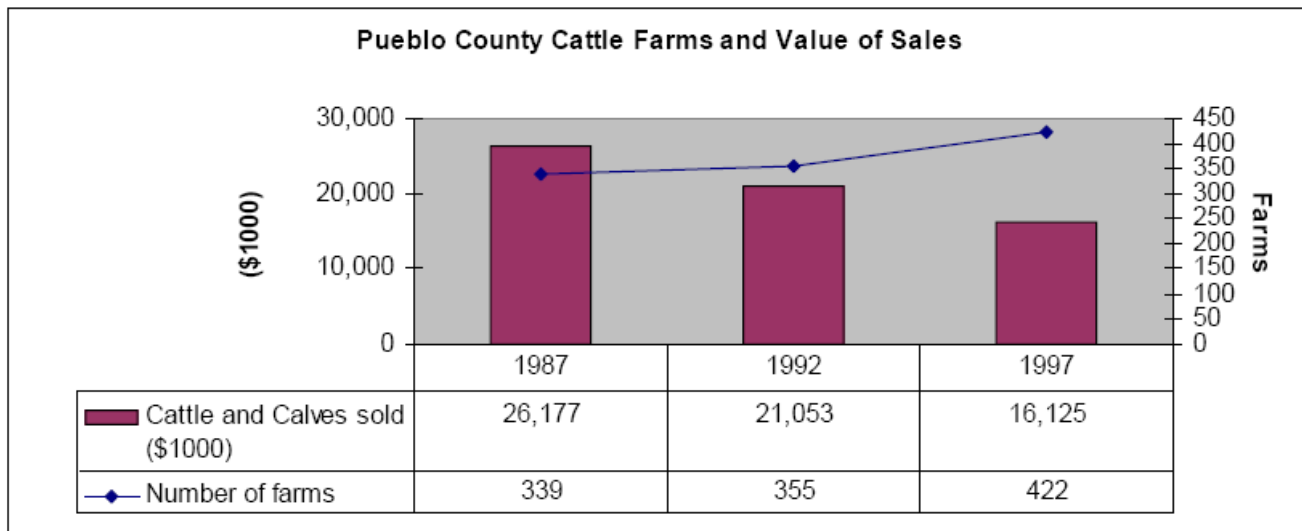
Prowers County had the highest value of cattle and calves sales in the region, accounting for 35% of the regional total in 1997. However, the value of cattle and calves sold in Prowers County decreased by 8% over the observed period. The number of cattle operations increased by 13% and accounted for 9% of the regional total in 1997.

The highest concentration of cattle operations existed in Pueblo County, accounting for 13% of the regional total in 1997. However, the value of cattle sales in Pueblo County accounted for 5% of the regional total, decreasing by 38% over the observation period. The number of cattle and calf operations increased by 24% for the period.

9.15 Summary and overview of hog and pig farms and value of sales

Cash receipts for hog operations in the state have remained relatively constant between 1996 and 1999, while both years accounted for 4.3% of total agriculture cash receipts. In 2000, Colorado ranked 15th in the production of hogs in the nation. In Colorado, the majority of hog production is located outside of the ACT Region.

The number of hog farms throughout the state decreased by 27%, while the ACT Region experienced a 40% decrease in hog farms. Since information at the county level on value of sales cannot be disclosed, the aggregated values at the regional level cannot be



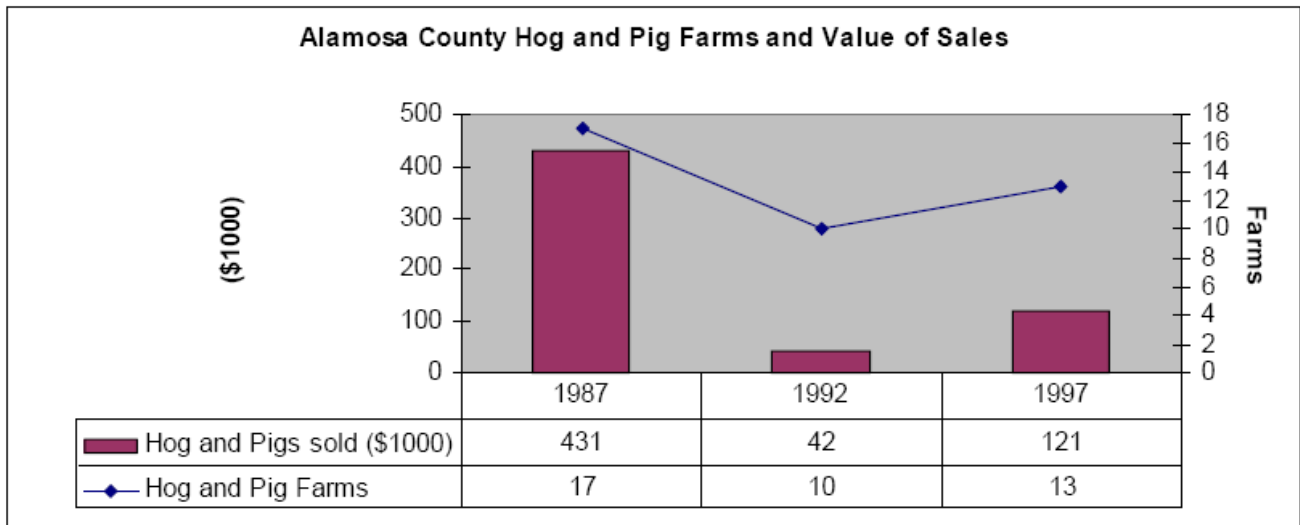
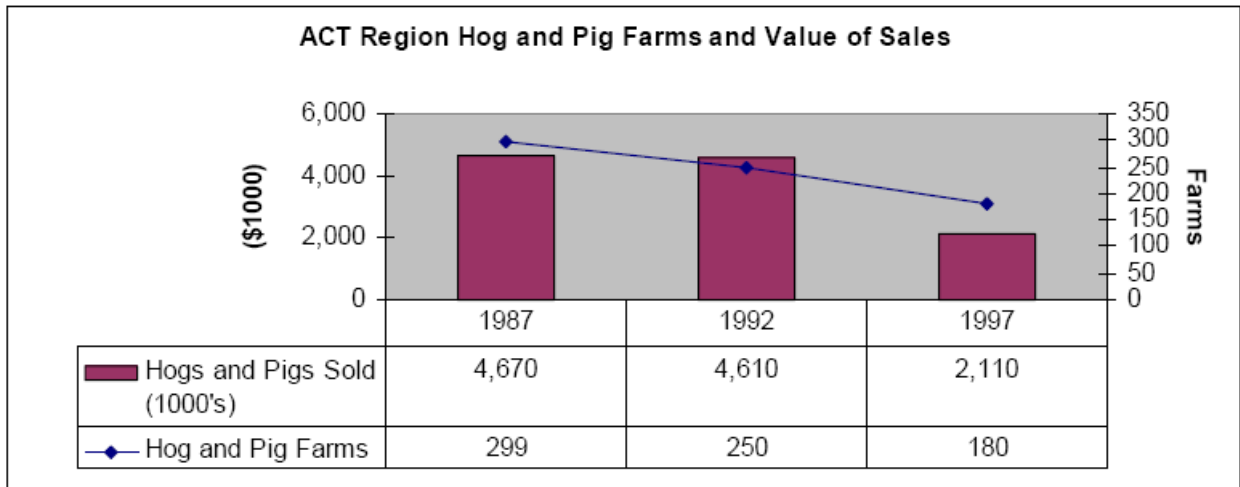
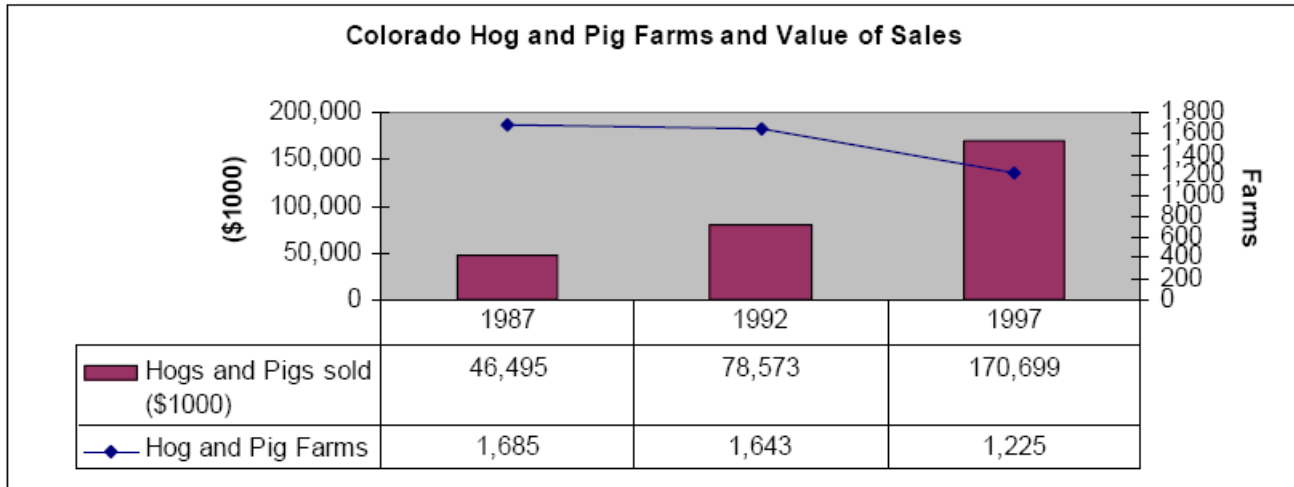
effectively compared to the state aggregated value. Due to the small number of hog farmers in Baca, Bent, Costilla, and Kiowa Counties the total value of swine sales of each respective county has been suppressed from the regional assessment to avoid disclosing information about specific hog farmers in those counties. Despite this, a regional comparison among the other nine remaining counties for the most recent data must suffice.

The lowest number of hog farms in the region occurred in Costilla County, followed by the Huerfano County and then Custer County. The highest number of hog farms existed in Pueblo County, followed by Prowers and Otero County. The highest value of hogs sold

occurred in Prowers County followed by Otero and then Pueblo County.

Hog and pig farms in Colorado have decreased in number by 27% over the observed period, while there has been a 267% increase in the value of hogs and pigs sold. The above graph shows an inverse relationship between these two categories over the period.

The total number of hog and pig farms in the region decreased by 55% over the observed period and accounted for 1% of the state's total in 1997. Hog farms in the region have decrease over the same period, but by 40%. The 1997 total number of hog farms in the region accounted for 15% of the hog farms in the state.



9.16 County trend of hog and pig farms and value of sales

Alamosa County had a 71% decrease in the value of hogs sold and accounted for 6% of the region's total in 1997. The number of hog farms in Alamosa County

also decreased, but by 23% over the period and accounted for 7% of the regional total in 1997.

Both the number of hog farms and the value of hogs sold increased between 1987 and 1992, whereas the

number of hog farms decreased by 1997. Overall the number of hog farms decreased by 24% and accounted for 7% of the regional total in 1997. The value of hogs sold increased by 210% between 1987 and 1992, and the 1992 total accounted for 25% of the regional total.

The number of pig farms in Bent County decreased by 24% and accounted for 11% of the regional total in 1997. The value of hogs sold in the county decreased by 53% between the 1987-1992 observations and accounted for 5% of the regional total value of hog sales in 1992.

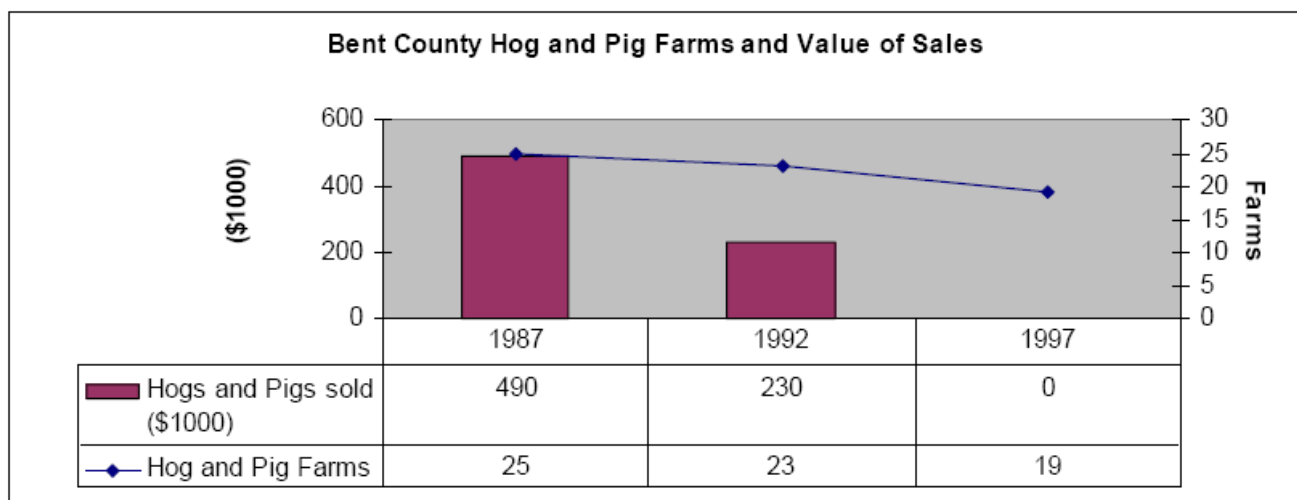
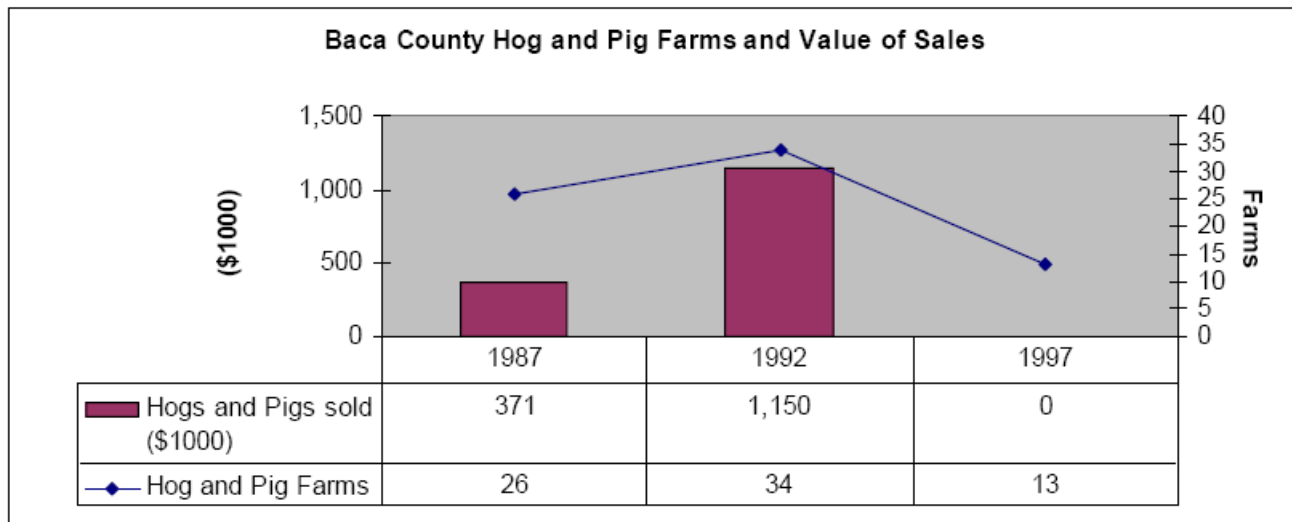
Conejos County ranked eleventh regionally in the value of hog sales and accounted for 2% of the regional total in 1997. The value of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 41% over the period and the number of hog farms also dwindled, but by 62%.

The total hog farms in Conejos County accounted for 7% of the regional total in 1997.

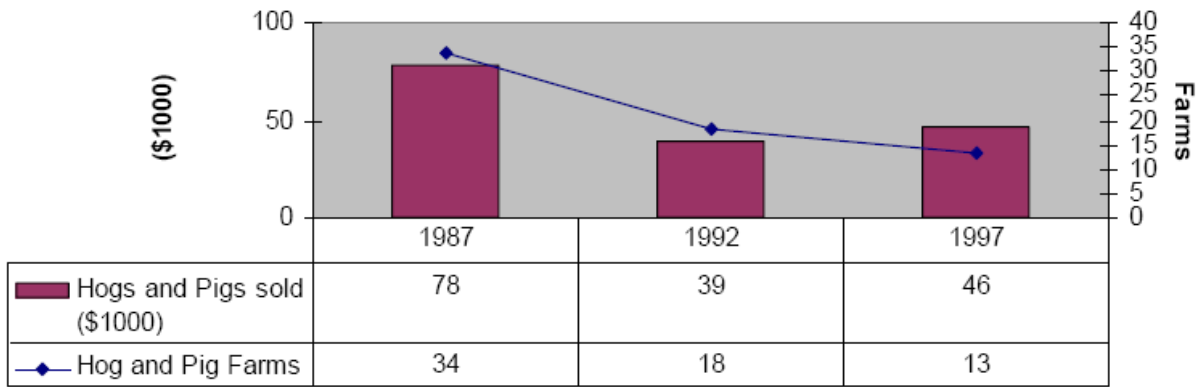
Hog and pig farms in Costilla County decreased by 86%. Regionally, the lowest number of hog farms was found in the county, accounting for 1% of the regional total in 1997. The value of hog farms in Costilla County accounted for less than 1% of the regional total in 1987.

The number of hog farms in Crowley County decreased by 46% and accounted for 4% of the regional total in 1997. The value of hog and pig sales in the county decreased by 64% and accounted for 6% of the regional total in 1997.

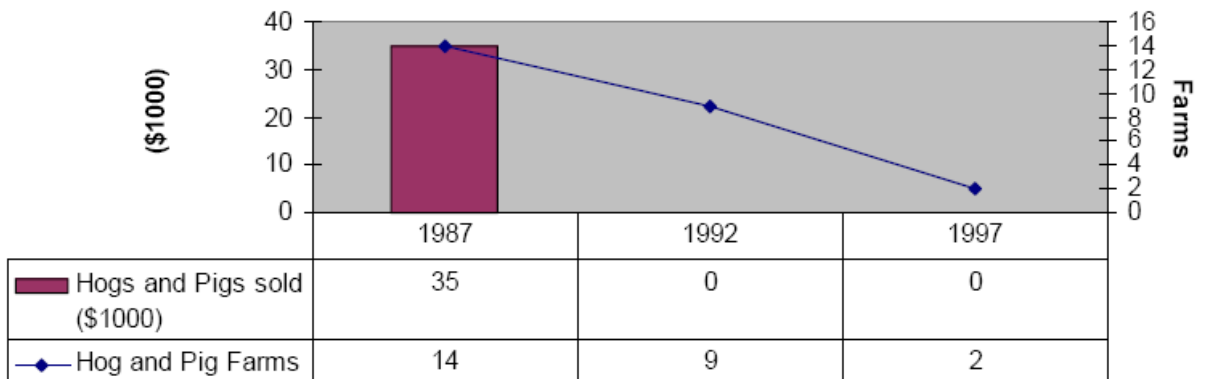
Regionwide, Custer County and Kiowa Counties are ranked eleventh of thirteen in the total number of



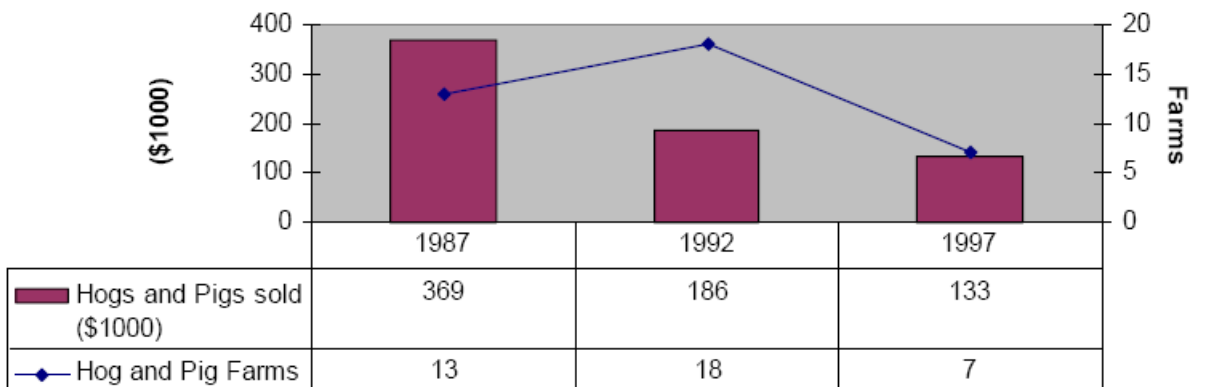
Conejos County Hog and Pig Farms and Value of Sales



Costilla County Hogs and Pig Farms and Value of Sales



Crowley County Hog and Pig Farms and Value of Sales

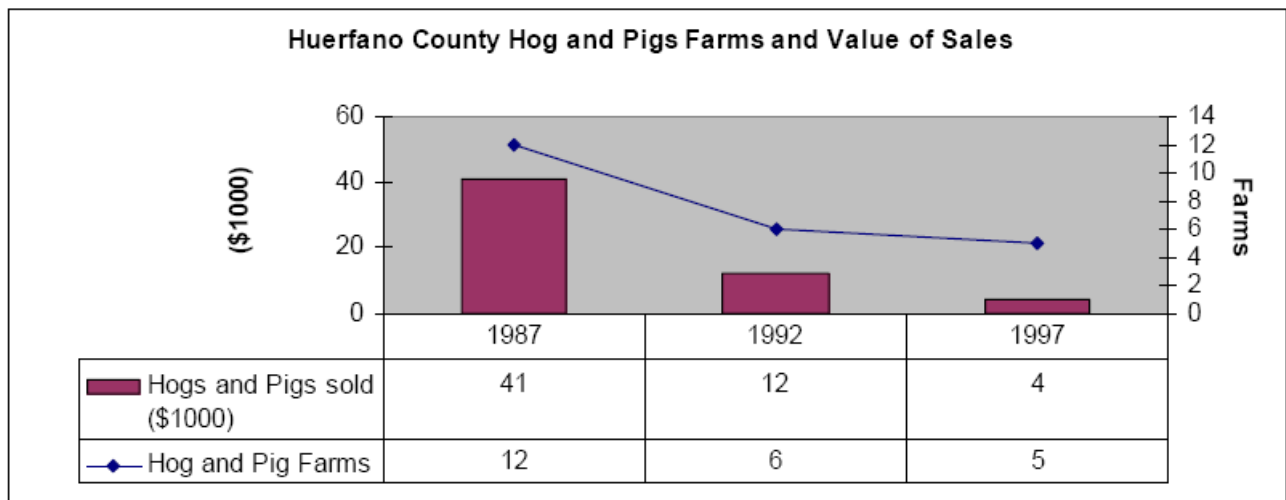
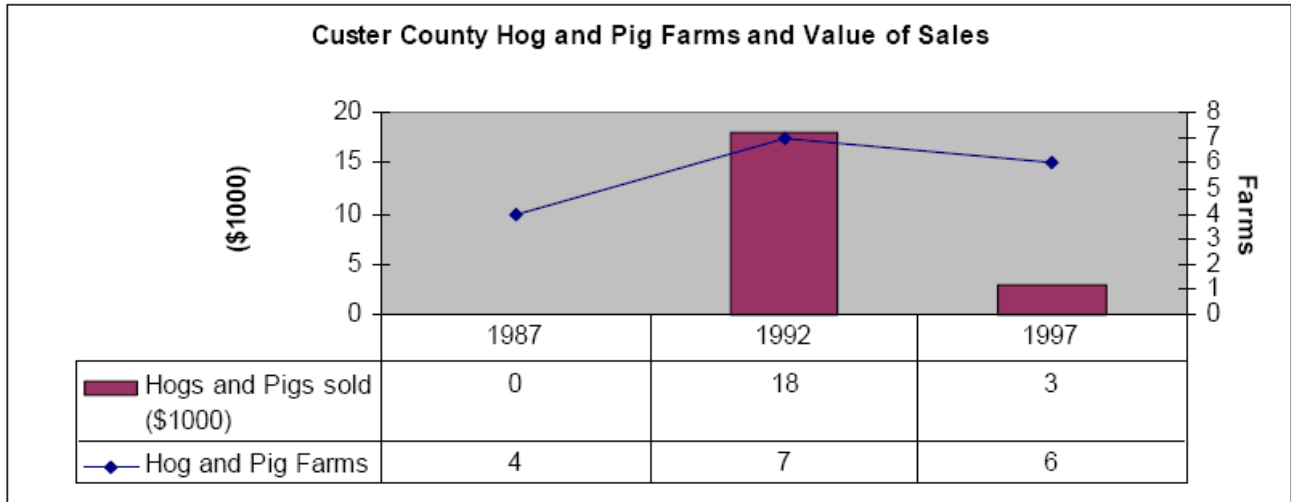


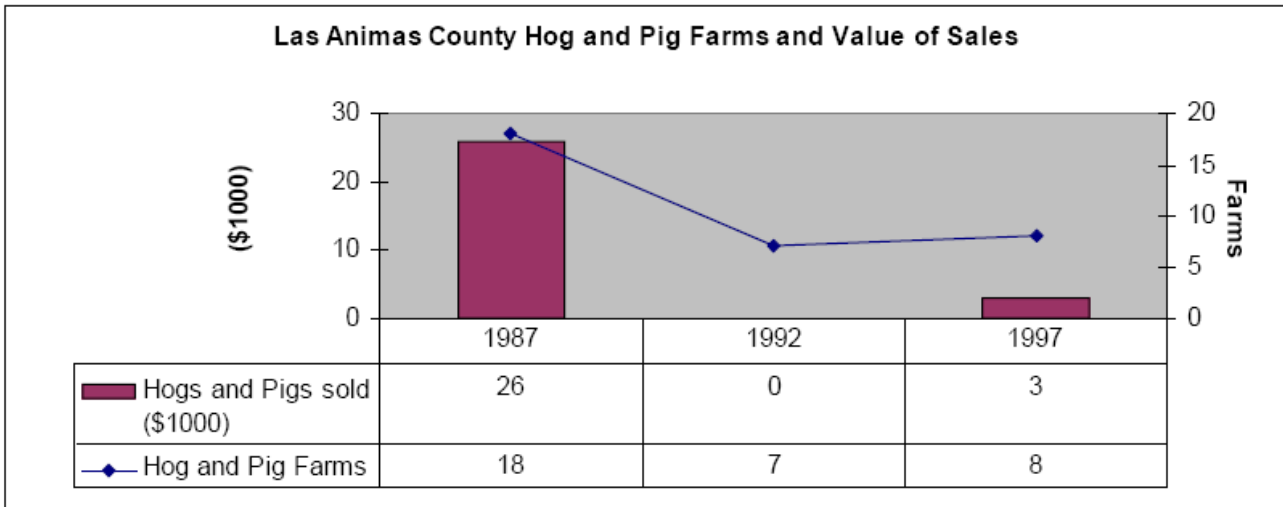
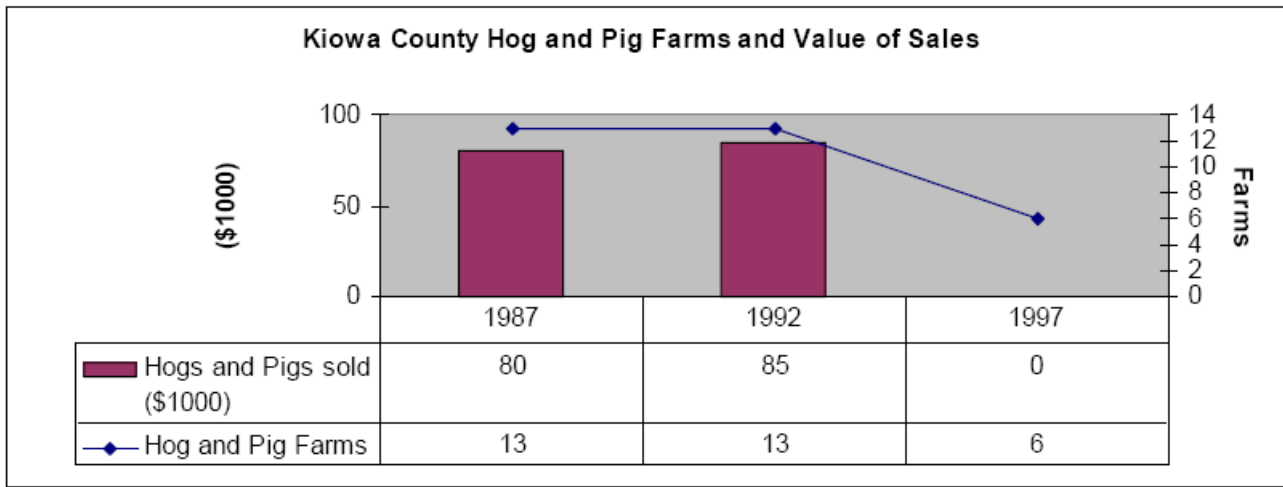
hog farms, each with six farms, which accounted for 3% of the regional total in 1997. The value of hogs and pigs sold in the Custer County equaled Las Animas County totals in 1997 and accounted for less than 1% of the regional total value of hogs sold. This gives both counties the lowest value of hogs and pigs sold region-wide. Despite having low numbers, the number of hog farms in Custer County increased by 50% over the period. The value of hogs sold decreased by 83% for the 1992-1997 period.

Regionally, Huerfano County was ranked twelfth in the value of hogs sold and the number of hog farms, which accounted for less than 1% and 3% of the regional totals, respectively. The value of hogs and pigs sold declined by 90%, while the number of hog farms dwindled by 58% for the period.

Like Custer County, Kiowa County ranks eleventh regionally in the number of hog farms. Hog and pig farms in the county have decreased by 54% over the period, whereas the value of hogs sold increased by 6% between 1987 and 1992. The value of hogs sold accounted for 2% of the regional total in 1992.

Regionally, the lowest value of hogs sold was in Las Animas County, accounting for less than 1% of the regional total in 1997. The value of hogs sold decreased by 88% and the number of hog farms also decreased, by 56% over the period. The total number of hog farms in the county accounted for 4% of the regional total in 1997.





The value of hogs sold in Otero County decreased by 70% over the 1987-1997 period. However, the 1997 total was the second highest in the region and accounted for 18% of the regional total. The second highest number of hog farms within the region was found in Otero County, accounting for 15% of the regional total in 1997. Despite this, a 42% decrease in the number of hog farms in the county was observed.

Regionwide, Prowers County had the highest value of hog sales, accounting for 51% of the regional total in 1997. The value of hog sales increased 13% over the period. Prowers County had the third highest number of hog farms in the region, accounting for 13% of the regional total in 1997. Despite having a relatively high number of hog farms, a 14% decrease in the number of

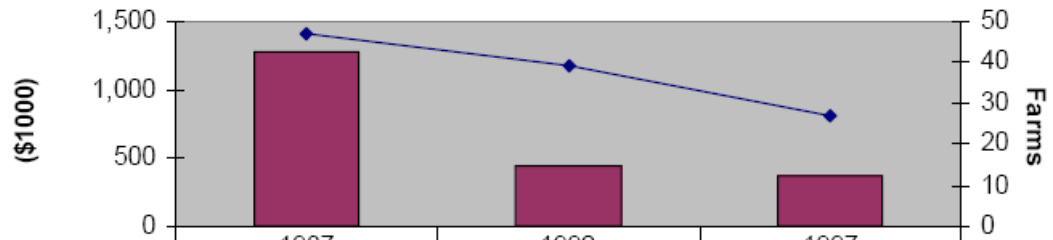
farms was observed over the period.

Regionwide, Pueblo County had the highest number of hog farms, accounting for 21% of the regional total in 1997. Pueblo County also had the third highest value of hogs sold regionally, accounting for 16% of the regional total in 1997. However, both categories recorded decreases over the period. The value of hogs and pigs sold declined by 32%, while the number of hog farms dwindled by 23%.

9.17 Summary and overview of sheep and lamb farms and value

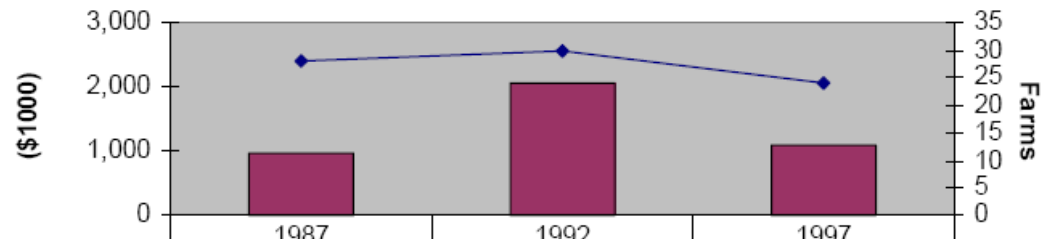
Colorado was the fourth largest producer of sheep and lambs in the nation in 2000. In 1999 sheep and lambs cash receipts accounted for 2.4% of all farm cash receipts. The national trend for sheep and lamb

Otero County Hog and Pig Farms and Value of Sales



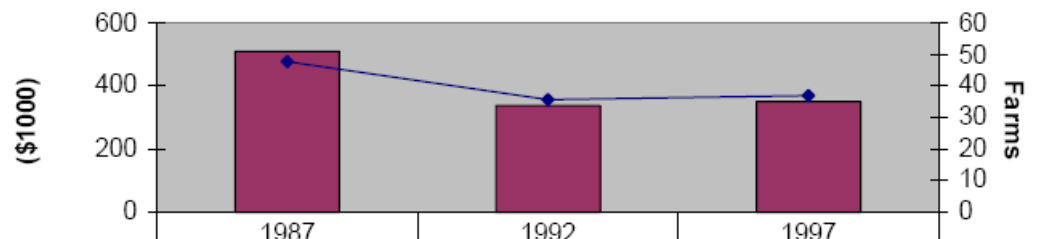
Hogs and Pigs sold (\$1000)	1,276	448	372
Hog and Pig Farms	47	39	27

Prowers County Hog and Pig Farms and Value of Sales



Hogs and Pigs sold (\$1000)	960	2,059	1,080
Hog and Pig Farms	28	30	24

Pueblo County Hog and Pig Farms and Value of Sales



Hogs and Pigs sold (\$1000)	513	341	348
Hog and Pig Farms	48	36	37

production has been in decline since its peak in 1942 when production reached 56 million head. In comparison, the number of lambs and sheep reached only 6.92 million in 2001. Much like the national trend of negative growth, there has been a decrease in the number of sheep farms in Colorado. The value of sheep and lamb sales in the ACT Region has declined, while the number of farms in the region has also decreased. However, there have been increases in sheep farms and the value of sales in some of the counties of the ACT Region.

The value of sheep and lambs sold statewide increased, while the ACT Region felt a decrease over the period. Sheep farm numbers in the region declined by 21% and by 18% statewide over the period. Within the state, the ACT Region accounted for 15% of the total lamb farms in 1997.

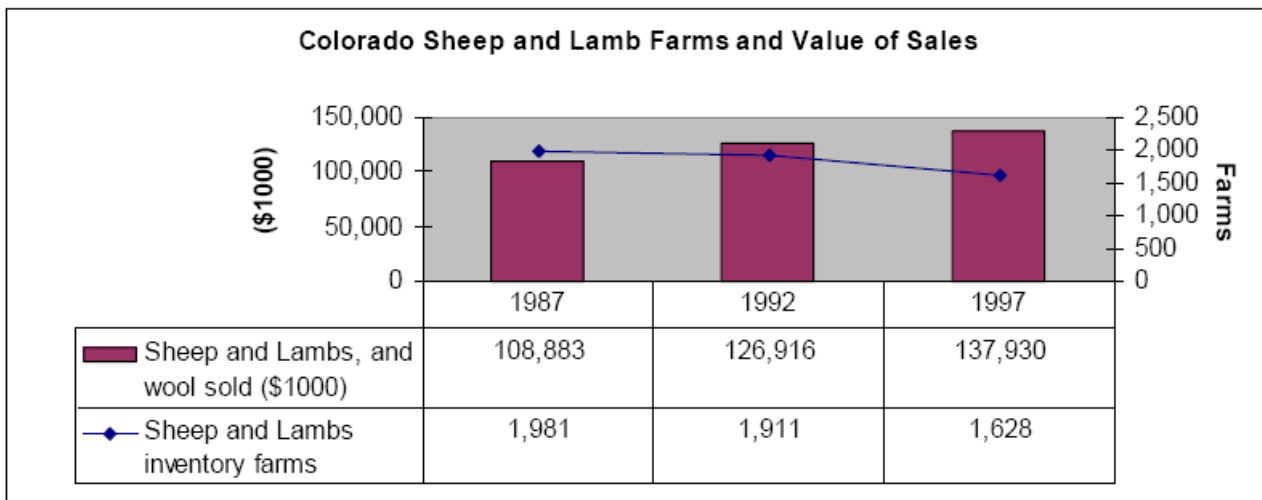
The highest number of sheep and lamb farms were located in Conejos County. Conejos County also had the highest value of sheep, lambs and wool sold regionally in 1997. Otero County had the second highest of both assessed categories, followed by Pueblo County with the third highest number of sheep farms in the region. The third highest value of sheep, lambs and wool sold regionwide were in Costilla County. Regionally, the lowest number of sheep farms were found in Custer County followed by Kiowa County. Las Animas had the eleventh ranked number of sheep farms in the region. The lowest value of sheep, lambs and wool sold also were in these same three counties.

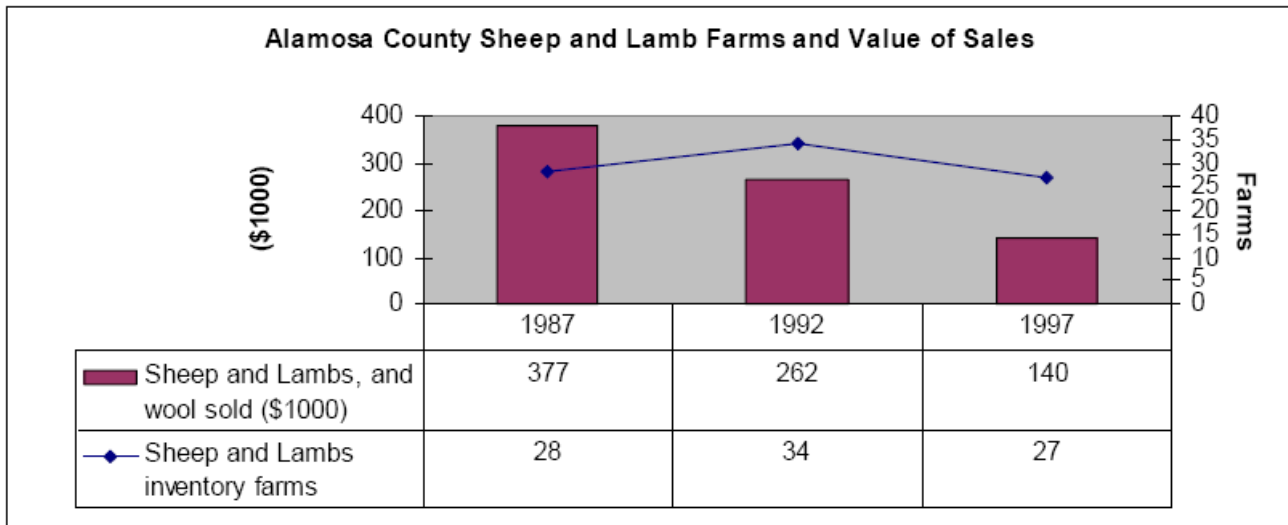
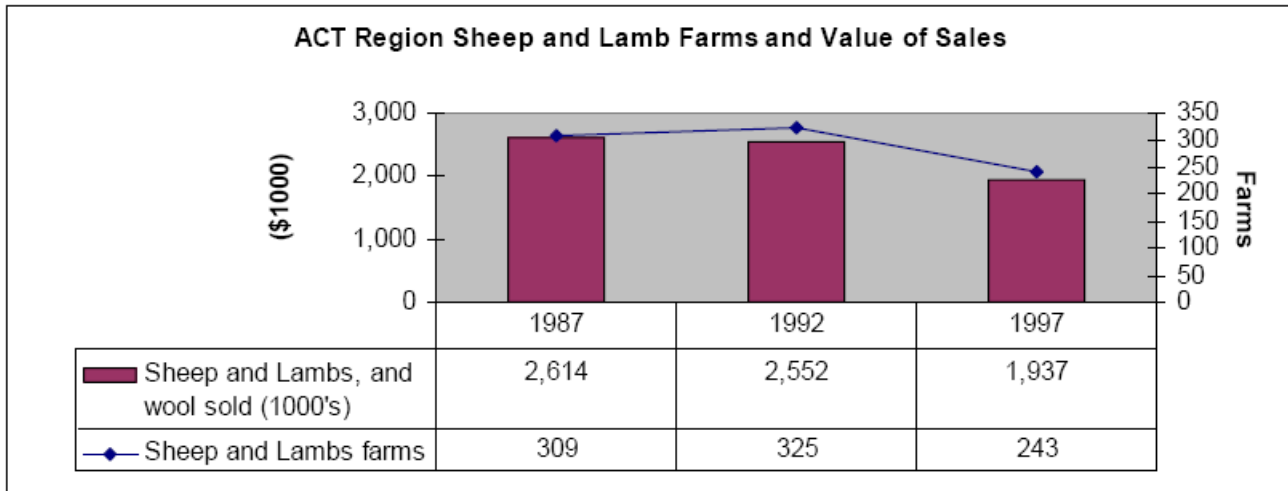
The value of sheep, lamb, and wool sold increased by 27% for Colorado over the period. The number of sheep and lamb farms decreased by 18% statewide over the period. Like the hog and pig data, the state totals reflect the actual number of both sheep farms and the value of sheep and wool sold. However, the value of sheep and wool sold has been suppressed for some counties within the region in order to keep from disclosing income information for specific farms. The state total has these producers included, whereas the regional assessment does not.

The ACT Region accounted for 1% of the total value of sheep, lambs and wool sold in Colorado in 1997, but accounted for 15% of the state's total number of sheep farms. The value of sheep, lambs, and wool sold decreased by 26%, while the number of sheep farms decreased by 21% over the period. Due to disclosure issues, Baca County is excluded from the ACT Region totals.

9.18 County trend of sheep and lamb farms and value

Alamosa County experienced a 63% decrease in the value of sheep, lambs, and wool sold over the outlined period while also having a decrease of 4% in the number of sheep farms. Alamosa County contributed 7% of the total regional value of sheep, lamb, and wool sold and 11% of the region's total number of sheep farms in 1997.





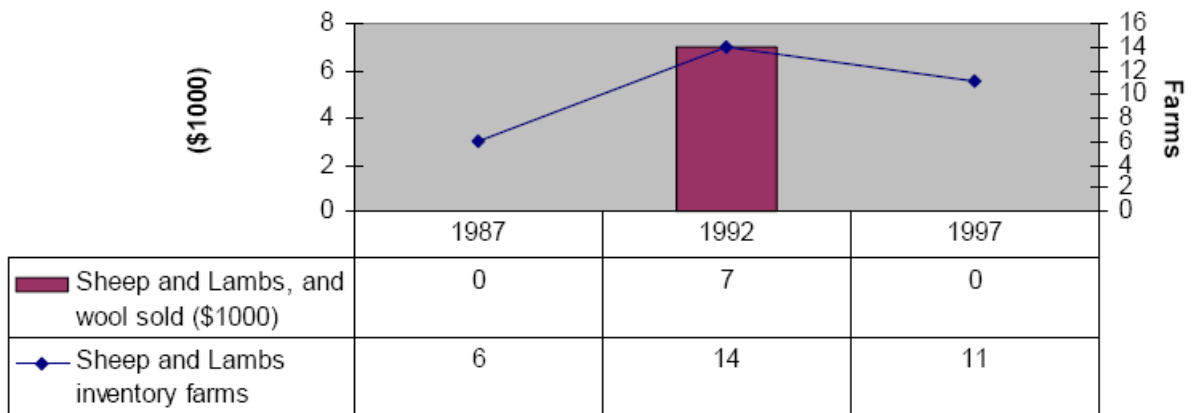
Baca County accounted for 5% of the region's total number of sheep farms in 1997. The total number of sheep farms in the county increased over the period. The 1992 total value of sheep, lamb, and wool sold accounted for less than 1% of the regional total.

Bent County experienced a decrease in both sheep farms and sheep product sales for the period. The total number of sheep farms in the county accounted for 5% of the regional total in 1997 and the number of farms decreased by 48% over the period. The 1997 value of sheep, lambs, and wool accounted for 3% of the regional total, while the decreasing by 48% for the period.

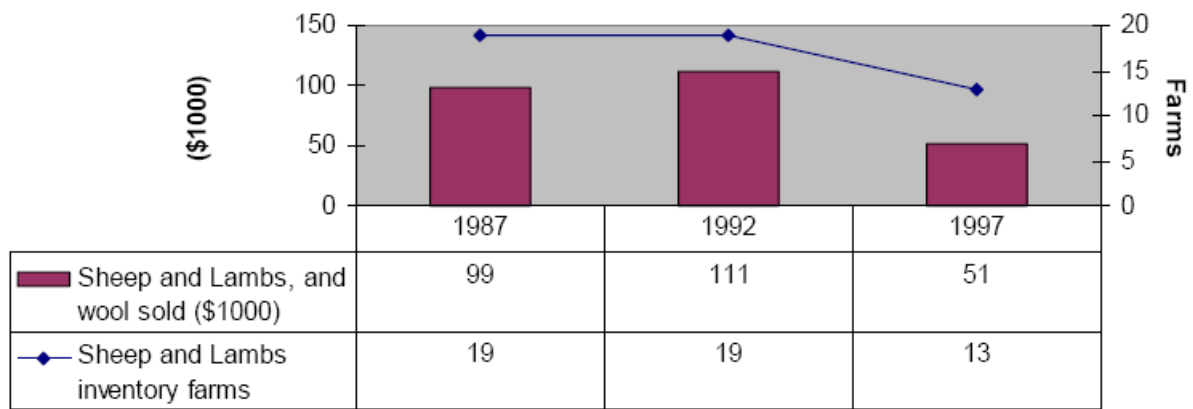
Regionwide, Conejos County had the highest number of sheep farms and the highest value of sheep, lambs, and wool sold, accounting for 19% and 49% of the regional totals in 1997. The value of sheep, lamb, and wool sold decreased by 28% and the number of sheep farms decreased by 45%.

Costilla County had the third highest value of sheep, lamb, and wool sold regionally and accounted for 9% of the regional total in 1997. However, the value of sales decreased by 64% over the period. The number of sheep and lamb farms decreased by 46% over the period. The total number of sheep farms in the county accounted for 8% of the regional total in 1997.

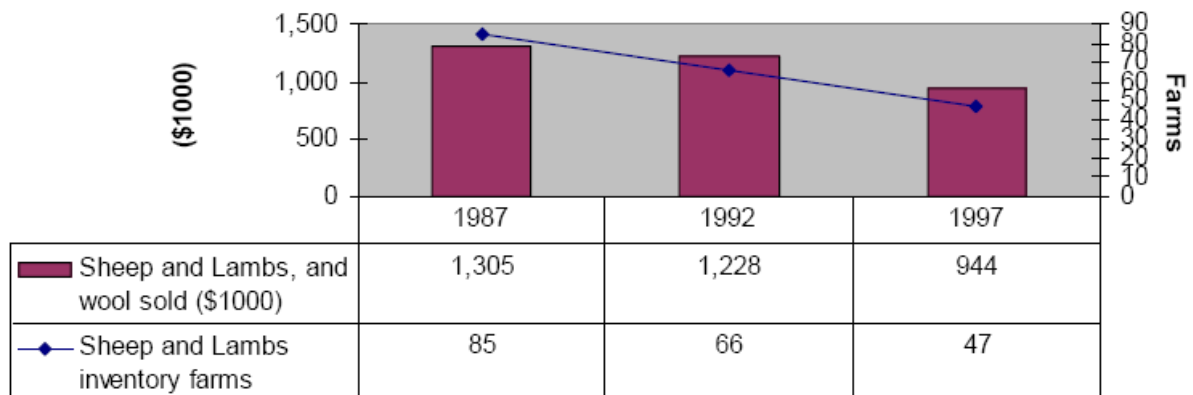
Baca County Sheep and Lamb Farms and Value of Sales

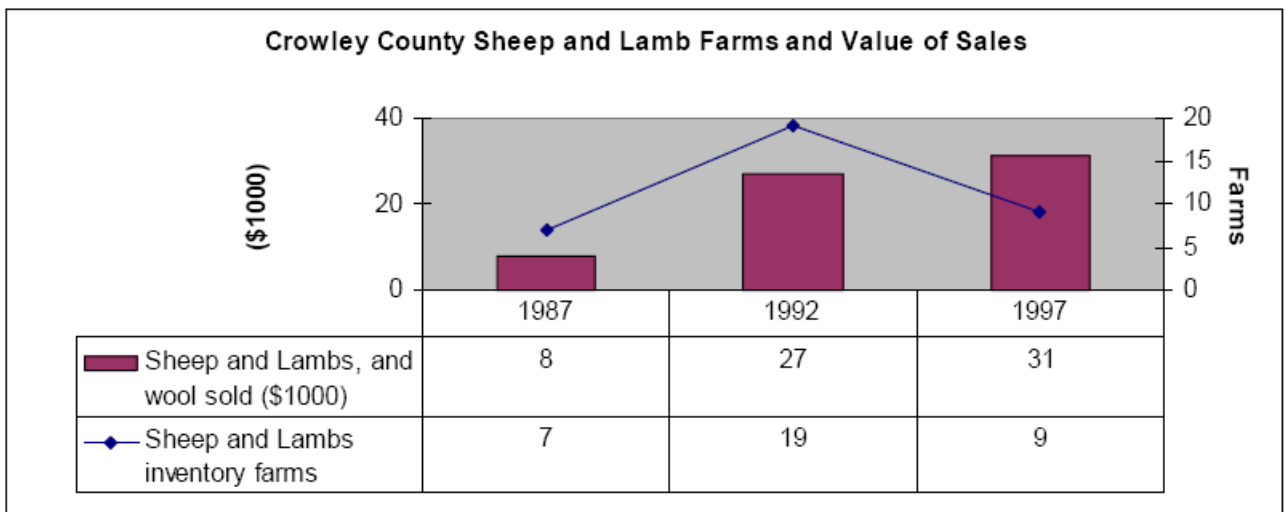
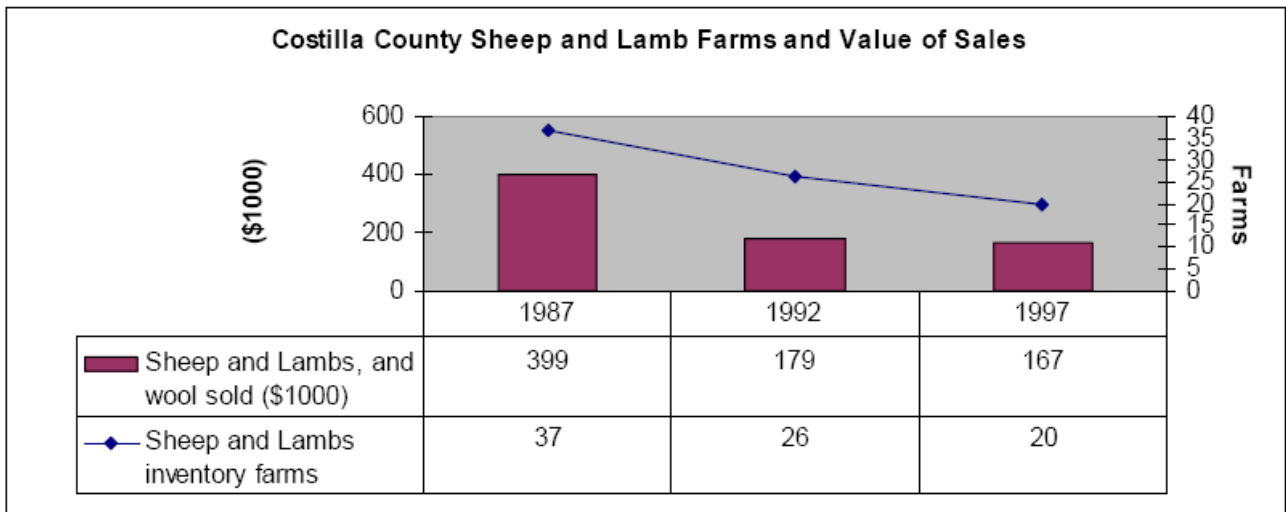


Bent County Sheep and Lamb Farms and Value of Sales



Conejos County Sheep and Lamb Farms and Value of Sales





Sheep, lambs, and wool sold in Crowley County increased by 288% and accounted for 2% of the regional total in 1997. The number of sheep farms in the county grew by 29% for the period, accounting for 4% of the regional total in 1997.

The number of sheep farms in Custer County increased from 1 farm in 1987 to 3 farms by 1997. Custer County had the lowest total number of sheep farms within the ACT Region, accounting for 1% of the regional total in 1997. The value of sheep, lamb, and wool sold in the county ranked eleventh regionally and accounted for 1% of the regional total in 1997.

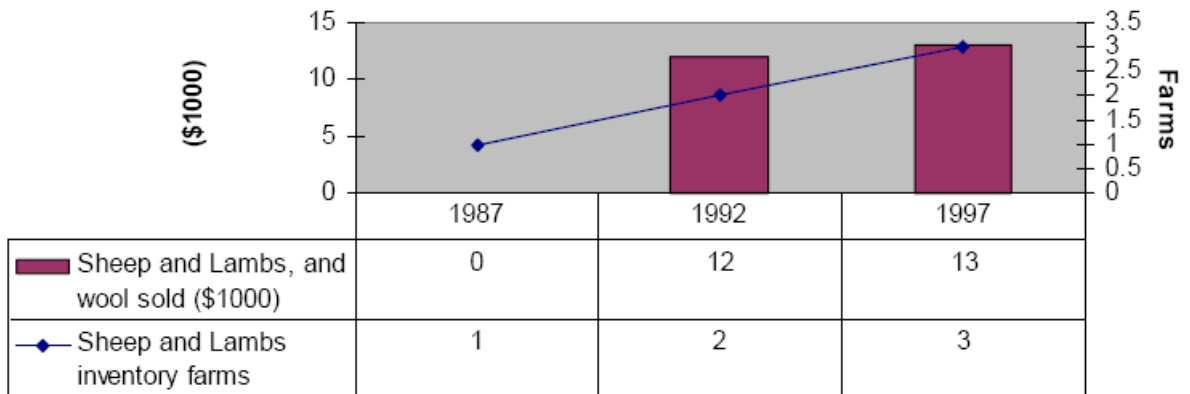
The value of sheep, lambs, and wool sold in Huerfano County increased by 40% and accounted for 1% of the

regional total in 1997. The number of sheep farms in the county declined by 29%, accounting for 4% of the regional total in 1997.

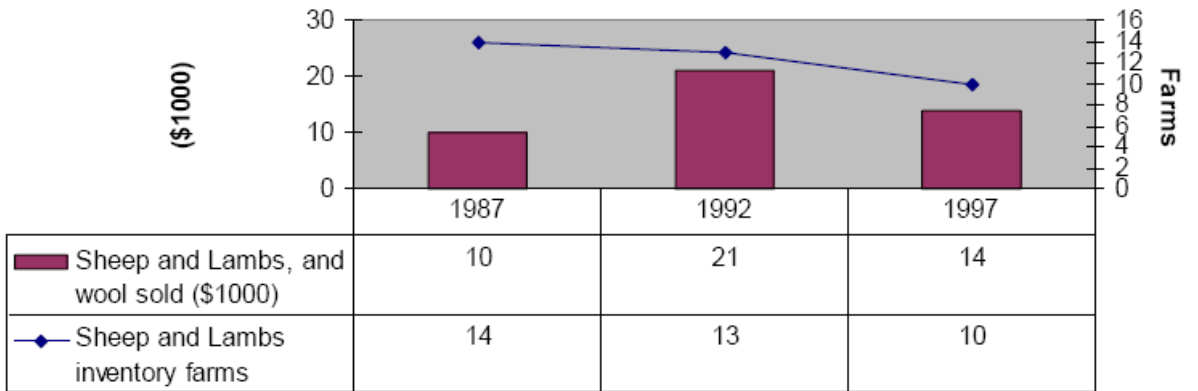
Kiowa County had the lowest value of sheep, lambs, and wool sold and was ranked twelfth in the number of sheep farms in the region in 1997. The value of sheep, lambs, and wool sold decreased by 87% and accounted for less than 1% of the regional total in 1997. Sheep farms in the county declined by 56%, accounting for 2% of the regional total number of sheep farms in 1997.

Las Animas County had the twelfth ranking regionally in the value of sheep, lambs, and wool sold and ranked eleventh for the number of sheep farms. Both of the

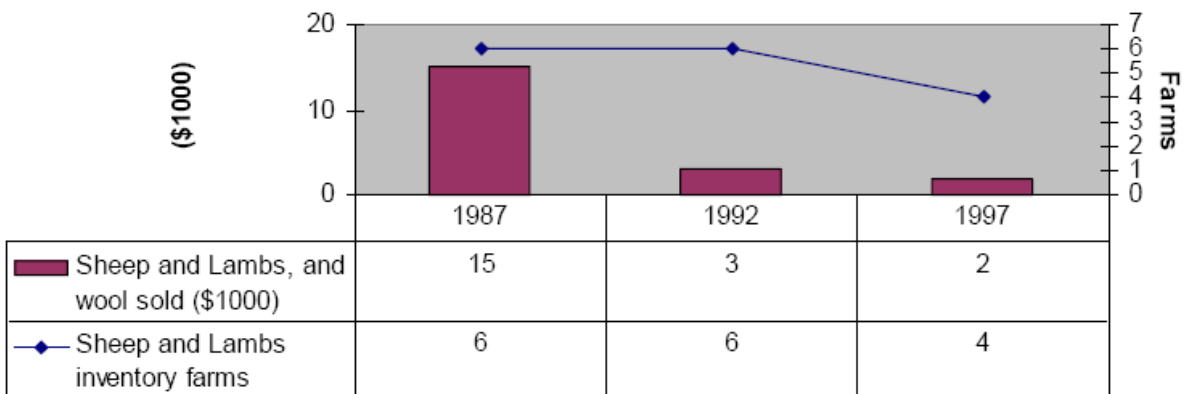
Custer County Sheep and Lamb Farms and Value of Sales



Huerfano County Sheep and Lamb Farms and Value of Sales



Kiowa County Sheep and Lamb Farms and Value of Sales



outlined categories decreased over the period. The value of sheep sold decreased by 92% and the number of sheep farms declined by 74%. Sheep, lamb, and wool sold accounted for less than 1% and sheep farms in the county accounted for 2% of the regional total in 1997.

Otero County had the second highest number of sheep farms and sales, while the value of sheep, lambs, and wool sold accounted for 19% and sheep farms accounted for 15% of the regional total in 1997. Value of sheep, lambs, and wool sold increased by 1%, while the number of sheep and lamb farms decreased by 3% over the period.

The value of sheep, lambs, and wool sold in Prowers County increased by 119% between 1992 and 1997, and accounted for 8% of the regional total. Sheep and

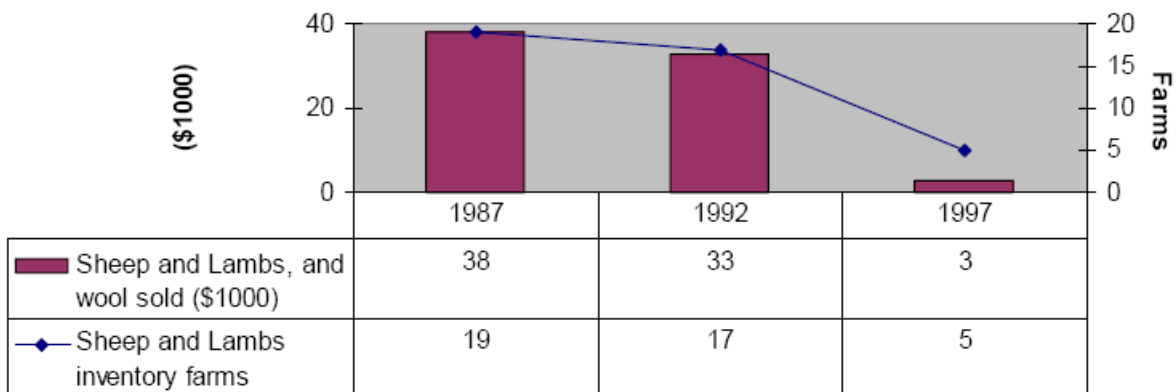
lamb farms increased by 27% and accounted for 12% of the regional total in 1997.

Regionwide, Pueblo County accounted for the third highest concentration of sheep farms and accounted for 12% of the regional total in 1997. The number of sheep farms in Pueblo County rose by 7% over the period. Between 1992 and 1997 the value of sheep, lamb, and wool sold in the county increased by 27%, and accounted for 2% of the regional total.

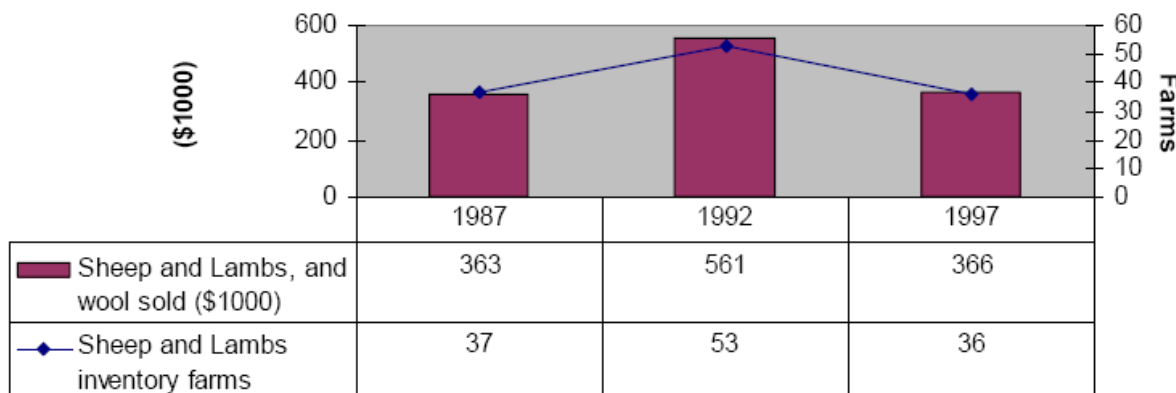
9.19 Livestock Information Conclusion

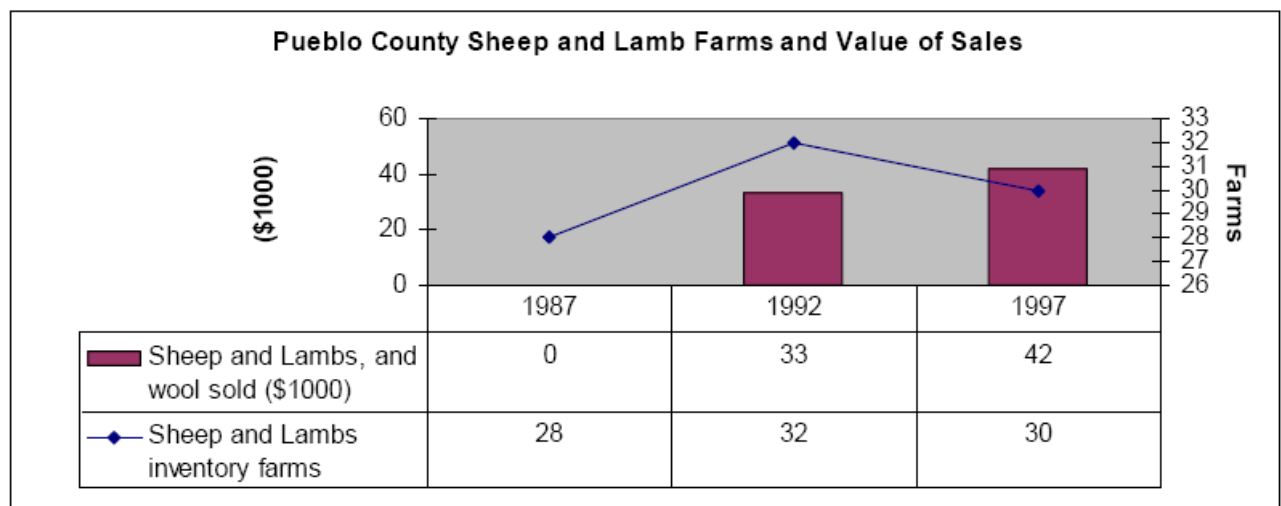
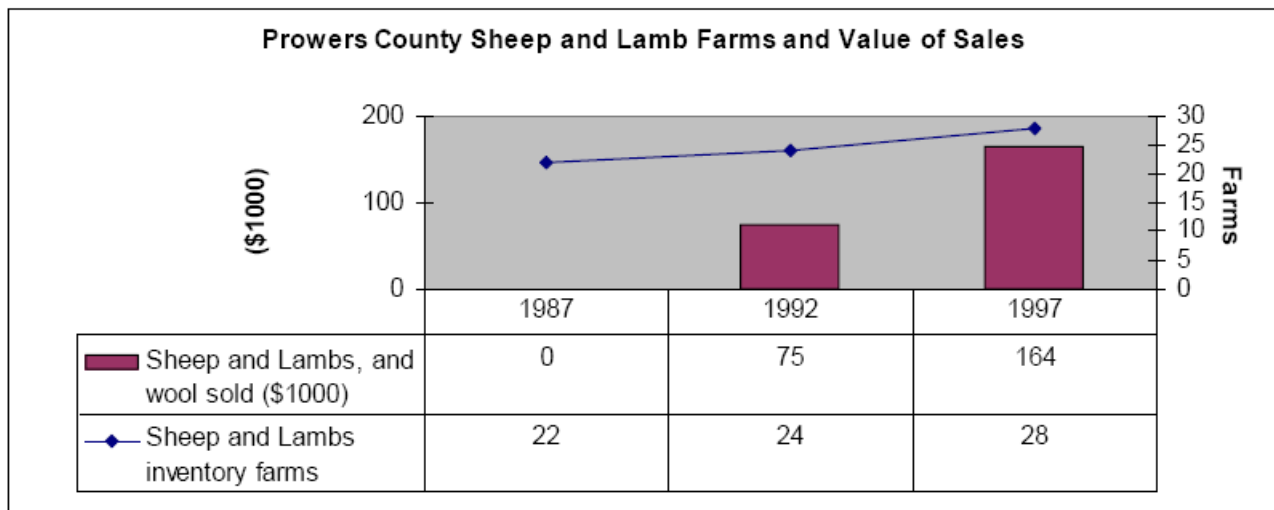
Colorado is a major supplier of livestock to domestic and foreign markets. In 2000, Colorado ranked third in the production of lambs, tenth in all cattle and calves and ninth in pig production. These rankings have remained relatively stable over time. Using county production expense data, there has been a decrease in the

Las Animas County Sheep and Lamb Farms and Value of Sales



Otero County Sheep and Lamb Farms and Value of Sales





amount of feed purchases and livestock purchased expenditures over the 1990s. In addition, the value of livestock sales has also declined for in the region. Based upon the 1990s, it seems that livestock production in the region is in general decline regionally.

10. State and Regional Summary

This report provides an economic profile of the 13 Colorado counties, located in the southeast and south-central region of the state, that comprise the Agricultural Coalition for Tomorrow (ACT). The objective of the report is to lay a foundation of understanding of ACT counties' economies in order to facilitate collaboration in strategic planning for future economic development in the region. Comparison and contrast techniques for growth rates and numerical data were used

to show differences and similarities between counties and to show how counties may share some economic characteristics that would otherwise go undetected. In view of the likely uses of this information, the overall report has been released as separate county reports with state and regional assessments included.

The report illustrates potential areas of common interest or concern within ACT counties such as agriculture, jobs, housing, education, taxes, and other economic areas. This report also brings to focus unique features of counties that are less likely to be advanced through collaboration. This information provides an essential starting point that minimizes inefficiency in the search for regional and subregional economic development strategies, but can only fulfill this role

if the information is actively used, updated and matched with complementary sources of local information to reflect changes in the regional economy over time. A general overview of the state and the region for each area of economic investigation is as follows.

10.1 State and Region Overview

The population of the ACT Region was 6% of state population in 2000, while most people in the ACT Region were between the ages of 25-44. The 45-64 year old age category was the fastest growing age group (35%) in the region over the period, followed by people between the ages of 15 and 24 (21%). The categories of 25 to 44 years of age and under 14 years increased at the relatively low rate of 6% over the period. In 2000, the total Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 37% of the ACT regional population. The Mexican population accounted for 16%, while Other Hispanics accounted for 21% of the regional total. African American and American Indian populations grew far more quickly in the ACT Region than statewide, while the states' White population grew faster than the ACT Region.

In 2000, the total housing stock in the ACT Region accounted for 6% of the state's total housing stock. The rate of increase in housing units statewide (22%) was higher than the region (14%). The average household size in Colorado and the region both showed decreases over the period. Vacancy rates for both the state and the region have decreased over the period, while the ACT Region had a higher vacancy rate than the state.

Colorado had an increase of 48% in all jobs, while the region increased 26%. The ACT Region accounted for 4% of the state's total jobs in 2000. The highest number of jobs in Colorado and the region were in the service, wholesale & retail, and the government sectors. The service sector grew most quickly in Colorado, while construction jobs increased the most quickly in the region. The total estimated jobs in Colorado increased by 42%, 13% in the ACT Region. The state labor force grew by 29% and the regional labor force grew by 2%. Wage & salary jobs comprised 85% of total jobs at the state level and accounted for 78% of the region's total jobs in 2000. The number of unemployed people decreased in the region and the state overall.

In Colorado, total property value increased by 68% from 1990-2000, while property values in the region

increased by 44%. In both cases the property tax rate declined over the period. Retail sales tax revenues increased by 140% statewide, while regional tax revenues increased by 103%.

The ACT Region grades 1-8 enrollment increased by 3% for the period, while the state underwent a 21% increase. School district revenue for Colorado declined by 7% and increased by 14% in the region. Colorado and regional school district expenditures both changed little.

The number of farms statewide increased by 4%, while the region experienced a 2% increase in the number of farms. The land in farms statewide decreased by 4% over the period, while land in farms in the ACT Region decreased by 5%. The average estimated value of farmland and buildings in Colorado increased by 54%, while average estimated value of farmland increased by 46% in the ACT Region.

Statewide, the majority of cash receipts came from livestock sales and fell by 1% over the period, while the region declined by 17%. Both Coloradoan farms and regional farms realized an increase in cash receipts from crops. Other income at the state level increased by 85% and grew by 146% in the ACT Region. Imputed and miscellaneous income for the state grew by 113%, while growing by 315% in the region. At the state and regional level, increases were present in all production expense categories with one exception. Cash receipts and other income increased by 12% at the state level and decreased by 8% in the region. Statewide, total net income including corporate farms decreased by 34% while the region decreased by 22%. Both the state and region experienced a change in inventory that drastically decreased over the period and led to decreases in income for the state and region.

The state and the region both had the greatest concentration of CRP acres in established grass acres and both had the second highest concentration in native grass acres.

The ACT Region and the state experienced an increase in acreage dedicated to sorghum, while productivity declined. Generally speaking, production of crops in Colorado and the region expanded, with dry beans and winter wheat production declining. Statewide, silage and oat production declined, while the region experienced an increase.

Statewide, receipts from cattle and calves increased over the observation period, while decreasing in the region. The number of cattle farms throughout the state and the region also increased over the period by similar rates, while the number of hog farms decreased throughout the state (27%) and the region (40%). The value of sheep and lambs sold increased statewide and decreased in the region, while the number of sheep farms declined for both.

10.2 Overall Conclusion

Population and income growth fuel the local and regional demand for housing and other goods and services that people consume. This increased level of economic activity ripples through the local and regional economy and generates additional government revenues through increasing tax receipts. As the population in the ACT counties has expanded the trend has been for an increase in nonurban home and property purchases, which has caused the property values of the surrounding farmland to increase beyond that which is justified by the returns to agricultural production.

Upward pressure on farmland prices creates additional challenges to farmers in the region and provides additional incentives for them to sell their lands for higher intensity, rural residential or commercial, uses. Land use change of this sort can reduce the provision of aspects of agricultural lands that do not enter fully into market transactions (e.g., rural lifestyle, open space, flood control, wildlife habitat) and may result in lower multiplier effects through the local economy. This type of growth may or may not be in the best interests of the ACT region or of individual localities within the region from a fiscal (service provision versus tax revenue) or a social perspective. A close look at taxation trends against population trends and land use trends may facilitate decision-making in the planning arena.

Throughout the period there was an increased dependence on the construction sector and this was accompanied by an increase in housing numbers for both the state and the region. This showed an increase dependence on the sector for labor. County planners in counties with a high percentage of jobs in specific sectors may want to consider economic development strategies that encourage diversification of the employment base. Diversification allows for the economy to be able to absorb more shocks, rather than being strongly impacted when one sector or another experiences a slowing of economic activity.

This outlined information could be extended to examine the number of smaller farms in the region, in terms of acreage, and how these contribute to the overall agricultural community. Another extension of this research could be measuring county's specialization in a specific industry. Such a study can be accomplished and compared to the surrounding area as well as to the entire nation, through the use of location quotients. Inter-industry expenditures affect and contribute to one another; showing how expenditures in one industry affect another can be established through the use of an Input-Output model.

The use of the presented data is an essential starting point for ACT counties to examine their strengths and commonalities and address areas of regional or local concern. Overall the ACT Region demonstrates strong economic fundamentals and some areas that could use attention. The region contributed heavily to the state totals for some categories of interest, such as agricultural production, but less so in terms of tax revenues generated, for example, with the exception of a few counties. County leaders may want to explore areas in which they wish to place attention in view of the common interests with neighboring or regional county partners. Focused collaboration among selected ACT Region counties on issues of sustained economic development can create opportunities for long term economic health that may not be achievable by individual counties acting on their own.

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