

Section I – INTRODUCTION

Economic and Demographic Profile

Location

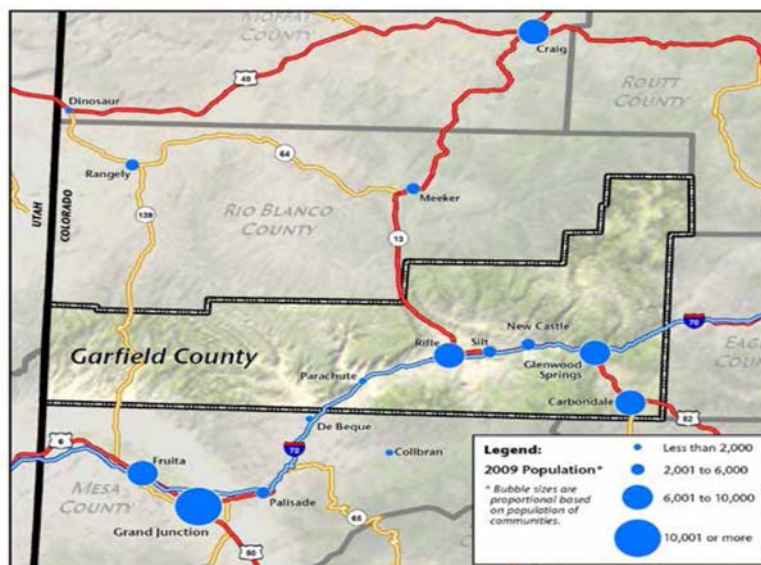
Garfield County is one of the largest counties in Colorado, incorporating nearly 3,000 square miles on the western boundary of the state. The County is situated approximately 150 miles west of Denver and 330 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, Utah. The County is bisected by a 60 mile stretch of I-70, which parallels the Colorado River.

Garfield County, I-70 and the Three-State Rocky Mountain Region



The western portion of the county is a sparsely populated, high desert plateau, while the eastern portion includes the western foothills of the Colorado Rocky Mountains and most of the county's 58,000 residents. Garfield County covers 2,958 square miles or 1,893,120 acres. About sixty percent of all Garfield County lands are federally owned – 1) Bureau of Land Management, 615,973 acres, 2) U.S. Forest Service, 515,865 acres and 3) Bureau of Reclamation, 2,335 acres. There are six towns and cities within Garfield County. They are, in order of incorporation, Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, New Castle, Rifle, Parachute and Silt.

Garfield County, Incorporated Municipalities and the Northwest Colorado Region



Garfield County and its neighbors; Rio Blanco County to the north; Mesa County to the south; and Pitkin County to the southeast, form an integrated economic region. Mesa, Rio Blanco and Garfield counties share a common reliance on natural resource extraction, tourism and ranching. Rio Blanco County is the least populated county in the region, but has considerable natural resource wealth and future development potential. Mesa County's Grand Junction, the largest community in the region, is a shopping, health care and services destination for many residents of western Colorado, as well as for multiple Utah communities to the west.

Pitkin County, and the resort towns of Aspen and Snowmass Village, adjoins Garfield County on its southeastern boundary. During the winter, the only automobile access to these resort communities is through the communities of Glenwood Springs and Carbondale along Highway 82 and through the Roaring Fork Valley. As a result, many residents who work in Pitkin County reside in Garfield County.

Glenwood Springs, the largest community in Garfield County, serves as a shopping and service center for a broad regional area. Glenwood Springs garners a significant share of its retail and commercial services from Pitkin County generated demand, and also attracts business from Eagle County, which includes the towns of Eagle, Gypsum and Basalt. The City of Rifle, about 25 miles west of Glenwood Springs, has grown rapidly in recent years, largely in association with the area's natural gas industry. Rifle is emerging as a second County retail center.

History

Garfield County was founded on February 10, 1883, eight years after Colorado statehood, and named in honor of President James A. Garfield, who was assassinated two years before County formation.

The oldest known human habitation in Garfield County was on Battlement Mesa where an Indian pit house was discovered that dates back approximately 3,000 years. Along the Colorado River and especially along the Roaring Fork River, was the land of the Tabogauche Utes who enjoyed 7,000 square miles of prime hunting ground and the healing waters of the Glenwood Hot Springs. The first white men who visited Garfield County were two Spanish Franciscan Friars, Silvestre Escalante and Francisco Dominguez who came to Colorado in 1776. The top three nationalities that settled in Garfield County were German, Irish and English.

Prospectors from Leadville had reported carbonate deposits in the area as early as 1870. Several parties entered the territory and built Fort Defiance, 3 ½ miles east of the Vapor Caves. Another camp was made on the Flat Tops and named Carbonate City, which later became the first county seat of Garfield County. Carbonate City is now an abandoned mining camp. In August of 1883 by resolution of the County Commissioners Glenwood Springs was named as the county seat. The first election was held on November 6, 1883.

Glenwood Springs, originally called Defiance, is at the confluence of the Roaring Fork and Colorado rivers. In 1887, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad extended tracks through Glenwood Canyon and into Glenwood Springs, serving Aspen and surrounding mining towns and connecting Garfield County with Denver and points east. Railroad service remains an important economic support of the local economy.

The Glenwood Hot Springs Pool was constructed 1887 and remains a nationally recognized spa and recreation facility. The hot springs and pool have been a major visitor attraction for over 120 years. The White River National Forest, which is home to seven of the nation's largest and most recognized ski resorts,

was formally instituted 1905 and continues to be a major force influencing the local economy and defining urbanization patterns.

Glenwood Hot Springs Pool



Source: Google Images

Garfield County, particularly the area between Rifle and Parachute, has many producing natural gas wells and large shale gas deposits. Emerging natural gas production technologies, coupled with rising gas prices, produced a notable energy boom between 2002 and 2009 and natural gas production continues to be a major contributor of the Garfield County economy.

Tourism has long been a staple of the Garfield County economy, including the hot springs attractions in Glenwood Springs, overnight accommodations associated with I-70 and a strong hunting and fishing services industry. In recent years, the tourism/second home industry in nearby Pitkin and Eagle counties stimulated significant construction and services employment and residential housing development in Garfield County, particularly in the Carbondale and Glenwood Springs area. Over the past decade, increasing numbers of retirees have relocated to the area for its relatively mild climate, quality of life, recreation opportunities and expansive open space.

Today, the foundations of Garfield County's economy remain very similar to the economic foundations that shaped this area well over 100 years ago: natural resource development, agriculture, regional services and tourism. The County is notable for its concentration of population and urban development in the area's two major river valleys and the counter balancing large expanses of public lands and lightly populated arid plateaus in the remainder of the county.

Garfield County is a service and residential center for a diverse regional economy. As noted previously, the eastern portions of the County are economically intertwined with tourism and second home industries in nearby Eagle and Pitkin counties. Rio Blanco County to the north has large gas and energy reserves but very little housing or support infrastructure. As a result, the Rifle area is home to many Rio Blanco County workers and could be subject to significant growth pressures if oil shale or natural gas activity expands in the future.

Demographics

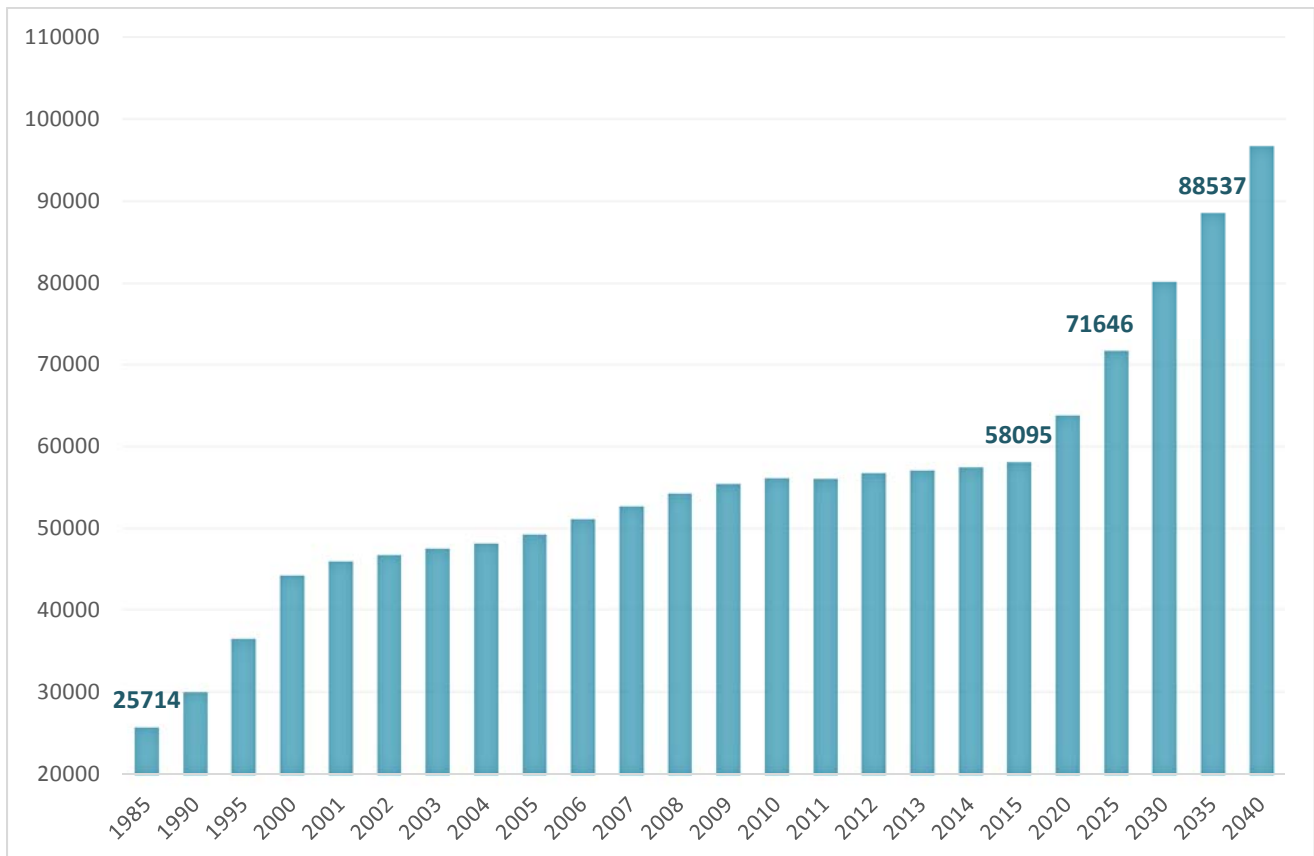
Population

With 58,095 people in 2015, Garfield County is the 13th most populated county, of 64, in the state of Colorado. Generally, Garfield County has experienced a steady increase in population over the past few decades but with more rapid growth at 2.7% occurring between 2004 and 2009. This was largely the result of a burgeoning natural gas extraction industry, but also due to an ongoing but slower expansion of tourism, second home development and regional services. During this period, there was a significant in-migration of new workers and families, which fueled housing development, retail expansion and rapid wage growth. At times during this period, Garfield County experienced shortages of labor and a rapidly appreciating housing market.

In 2008, an abundance of new natural gas reserves were uncovered elsewhere around the country and the value of natural gas began a national decline. The national recession also cut spending on travel, tourism and second home development, with predictable declines in all measures of local economic activity.

Due to the national and local recession, population declined slightly between 2009 and 2011 and has been increasing modestly since 2012 at an average rate of approximately 0.8%. Forecasts project that the population of Garfield County will resume more rapid growth in 2017 and continue at a pace in excess of 2.0% over the next 20 years.

Actual and Projected Population of Garfield County



Source: Colorado Division of Local Government

Garfield County has five municipalities that stretch along the Colorado River and the I-70 corridor and one town, Carbondale, situated along the Roaring Fork River, whose economic fortunes are closely tied to those of Aspen and Snowmass Village. Glenwood Springs remains the largest community in the county. In the period 1990 to 2010, the City of Rifle absorbed the majority share of the county’s new growth—largely because of Rifle’s proximity to the most active natural gas development areas. Population in unincorporated areas, as a percent of total county residents, shrank from 57 percent of all county residents in 1990 to 40 percent in 2015. Between 2013 and 2015, the population has grown over 2% in Silt and New Castle while the County as a whole has grown by 1.69%.

Population of Cities and Towns within Garfield County, July 2015

Municipality	Population 2015
Carbondale	6,646
Glenwood Springs	9,909
New Castle	4,663
Parachute	1,103
Rifle	9,359
Silt	3,046
Unincorporated Area	23,356
Total	58,082

Source: Colorado Division of Local Government

Like much of western Colorado, Garfield County has a largely Caucasian population with a significant Hispanic minority population, which grew rapidly during the mid-2000s energy and construction boom. The county’s proportion of Hispanic and Anglo populations mirrors that of the state as a whole.

Ethnic Diversity, 2015

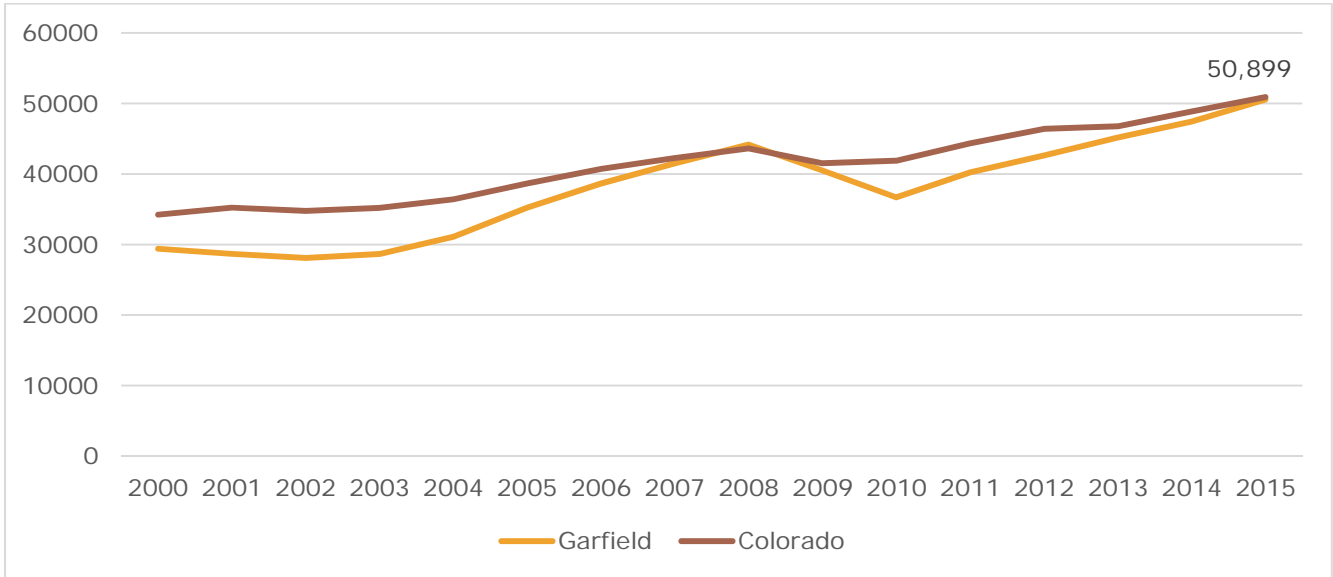
Ethnicity or Race	Percent of population
Caucasian or White	68.2%
Hispanic	29.4%
Other	2.3%
Total	100%

Source: www.city-data.com

- Income**

Steady growth in per capita personal incomes took place until 2008 peaking at \$44,490 when Garfield County exceeded the state. In 2009 per capita personal income for Garfield County declined by 9 percent followed by a more significant drop of 12%. Moderate but steady growth has returned to per capita income since 2011.

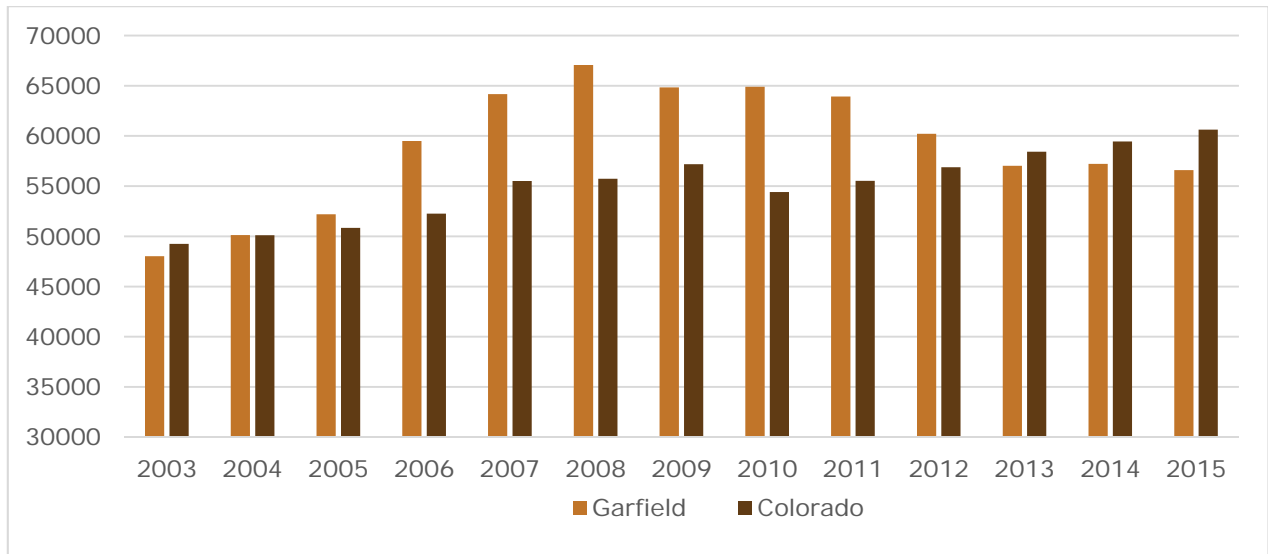
Per Capital Personal Income



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

In 2003, county median household income was slightly below the statewide average; but, by 2010, every community in Garfield County, with the exception of Parachute and Glenwood Springs, reported median household income in excess of the statewide average. However, by 2012, the median household income had dropped below the state median except in Carbondale and New Castle. The median household income of Garfield County is \$56,590 in 2015 which is 7 percent lower than the state median of \$60,629.ⁱ

Median Household Income Comparison of Colorado and Garfield County



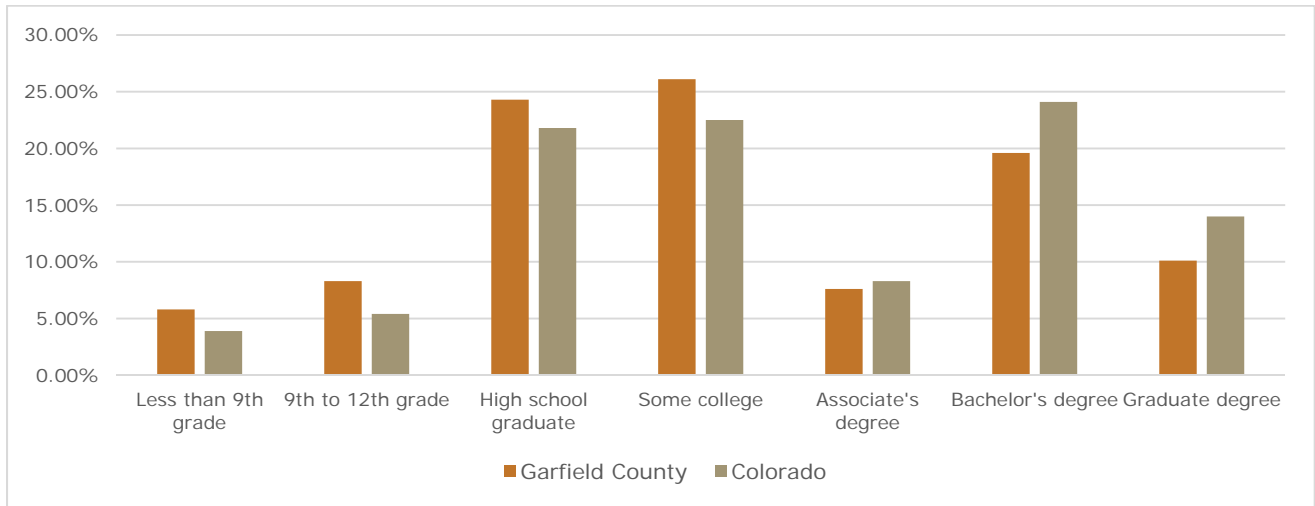
Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

ⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, FactFinder

- **Educational Attainment and Public School Enrollment**

Educational attainment of a Bachelor’s degree or higher, is slightly lower in Garfield County than in the state as a whole.

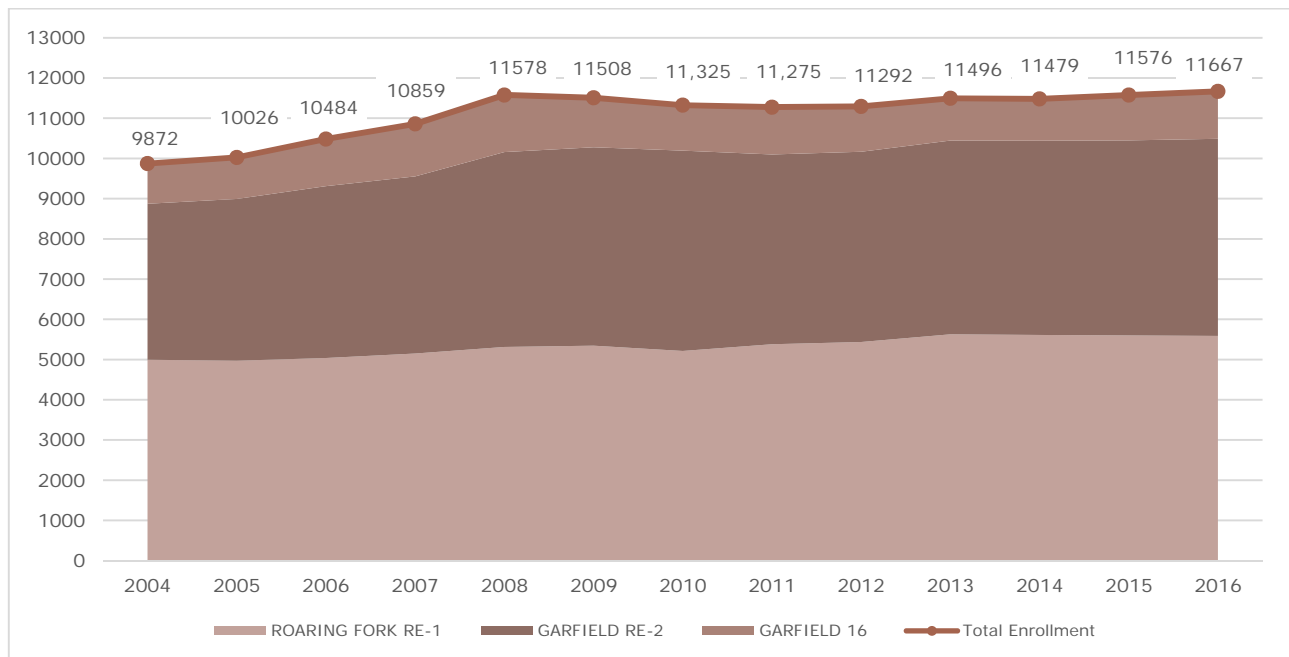
Educational Attainment, Garfield County and Colorado, Population 25 Years and Over (2015)



Source: <http://factfinder.census.gov>

In total, the number of pupils attending public schools in Garfield County grew by 20 percent between 2000 and 2010, faster than state population growth (11 percent) but slower than overall county population growth. Garfield RE-2 and Garfield 16 school districts, which cover the central part of the County, including the towns of Parachute, Rifle, New Castle and Silt, added the largest number of pupils and grew most rapidly during this period. Enrollment peaked in 2008, declining until 2011 with moderate increases in enrollment over the past 5 years. 2016 shows peak enrollment as a total for all districts but with a slight decline in both RE-1 and RE-2 enrollment populations.

Public School Enrollment in Garfield County



Source: Colorado Department of Education, 2004-2012 PK-12 Membership by School District

Economic Conditions

• Labor Force and Employment

Garfield County has seen strong job growth and historically low unemployment rates over the last decade. However, with gas drilling reductions, in combination with the effects of a national economic recession and reduced area tourism and second home development, the County's employment outlook began to change drastically in 2008. There was a significant reduction in both jobs and the available labor force (approximately 14 percent over a two year period) and the unemployment rate spiked, reaching a peak of 11.7 percent in March 2010. Since then there has been a steady drop in unemployment and as of November 2016 Garfield County's unemployment rate was 3.1 percent, slightly higher than the State at 2.8 percent (not seasonally adjusted) and lower than nation at 4.3 percent.

Labor, Employment and Unemployment Rate



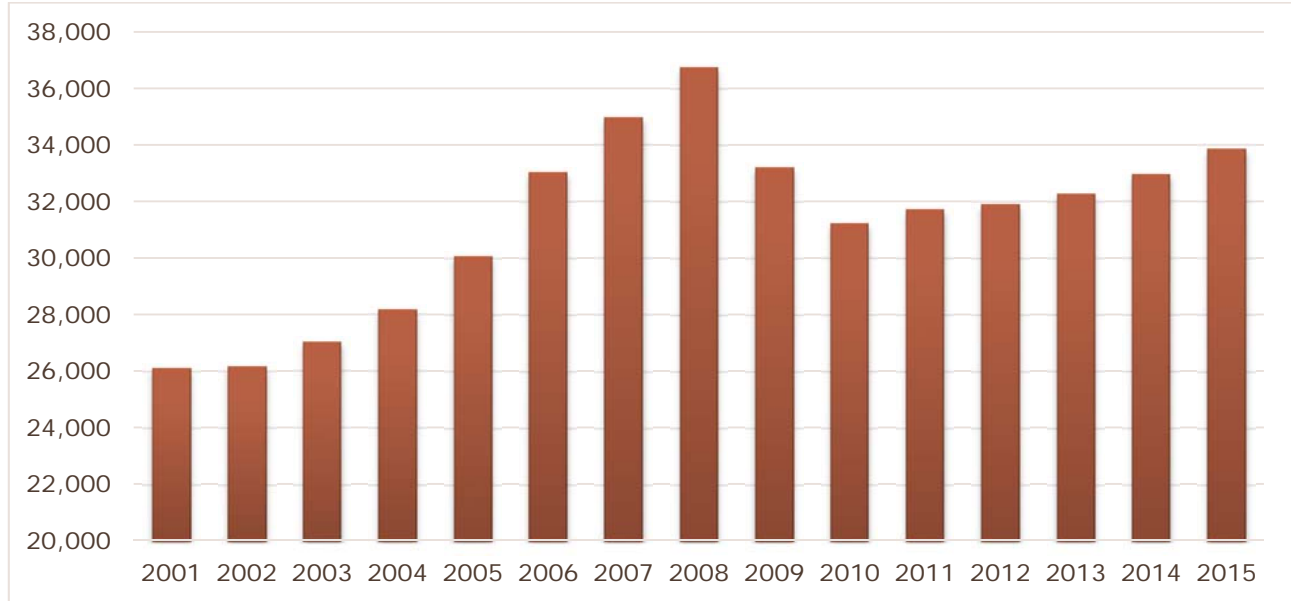
Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)

At the end of the second quarter in 2015 the estimated average annual wage in Garfield County was \$44,148, up from \$43,628 in 2013 and remains consistent at 89 percent of the Colorado average. Garfield County wage ranks as the 14th highest in the state.

• Industry Sector Overview

Between 2003 and 2008, Garfield County employment experienced strong growth, increasing by 10,500 jobs, or about 5 percent per year. Since the Great Recession, the County has been steadily adding jobs by approximately 1.5 percent per year.

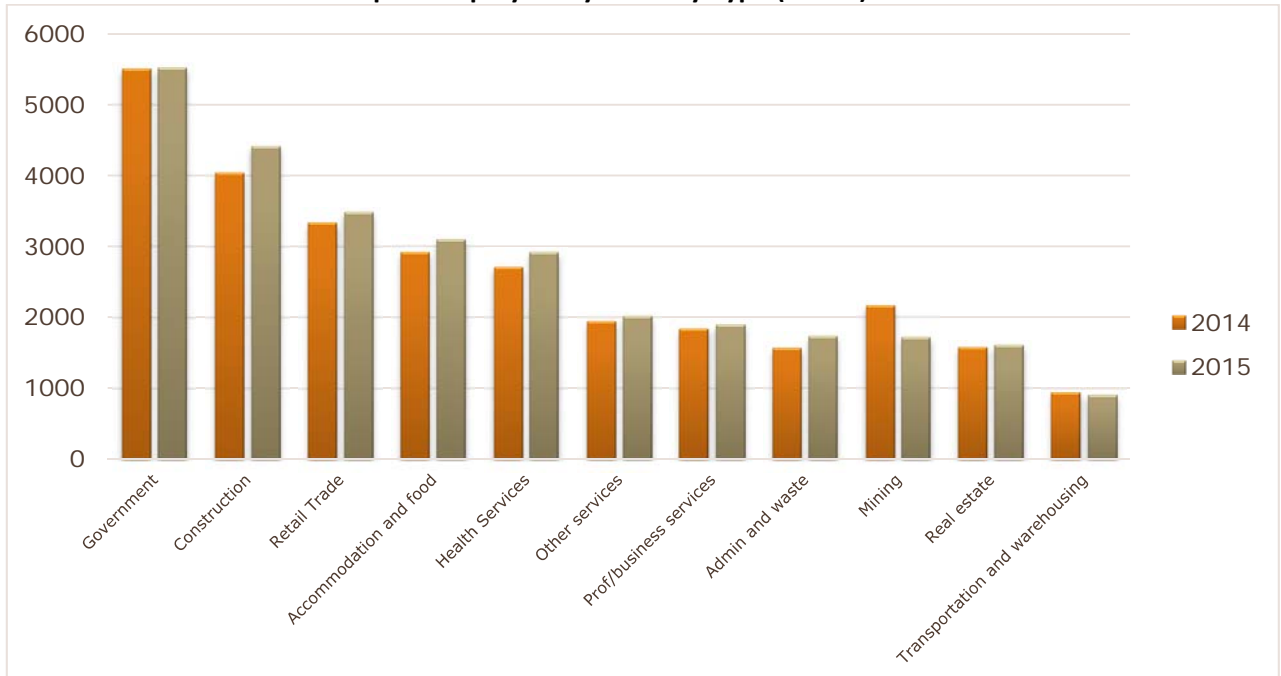
Total Jobs in Garfield County from 2001-2015



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

During this same period of rapid economic expansion, there was a significant shift in employment patterns. The largest increase in employment share by category occurred in the mining and natural resources industry, which includes oil and gas production activities. It should also be noted that many natural resource extraction-related jobs occur in other employment categories, such as construction and transportation. The local construction industry lost a significant share of county employment. The downturn in resort-related real estate construction, beginning in about 2009, had a major impact on Garfield County, which was home to a large share of contractors, fabricators and suppliers that support the second home industry in both Eagle and Pitkin counties. Since 2010, Garfield County has seen a rise again in the construction industry. At the end of 2015 the construction industry and retail trade were the 2nd and 3rd leading employers respectively.

Top 10 Employers by Industry Type (NAICS): 2015



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

Principal Employers in Garfield County, 2016

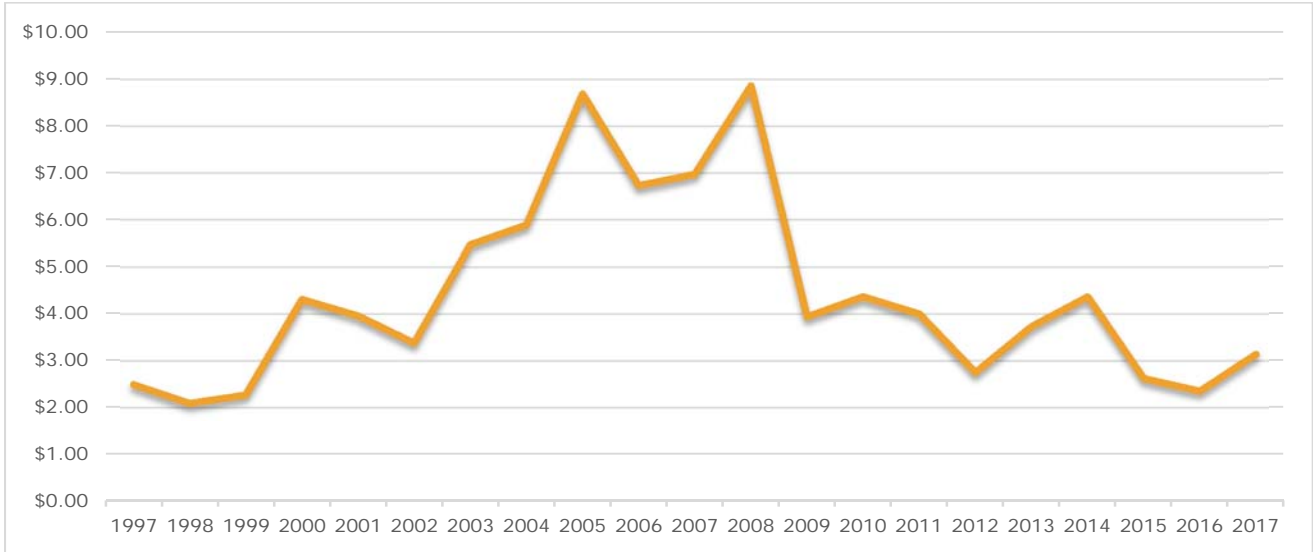
Employer	Rank	Type of Business	Number of Employees	Percentage of Total
Valley View Hospital	1	Healthcare	1,176	4.03%
Roaring Fork School District RE-1	2	Schools	1,061	3.64%
Garfield County School District RE-2	3	Schools	793	2.72%
Grand River Health	4	Healthcare	512	1.75%
Garfield County	5	Government	496	1.70%
Wal-Mart	6	Retail	383	1.31%
Glenwood Hot Springs Lodge & Pool	7	Lodge & Pool	265	0.91%
Colorado Mountain College	8	Schools	234	0.80%
WPX	9	Oil & Gas	212	0.73%
Alpine Bank	10	Bank	167	0.57%
Total employed by principal employers			5,299	18.16%
Employed by other employers			20,606	81.84%
Total employed in Garfield County			25,905	100%

Source: Garfield County Finance Department

- #### Energy and Natural Resource Industry

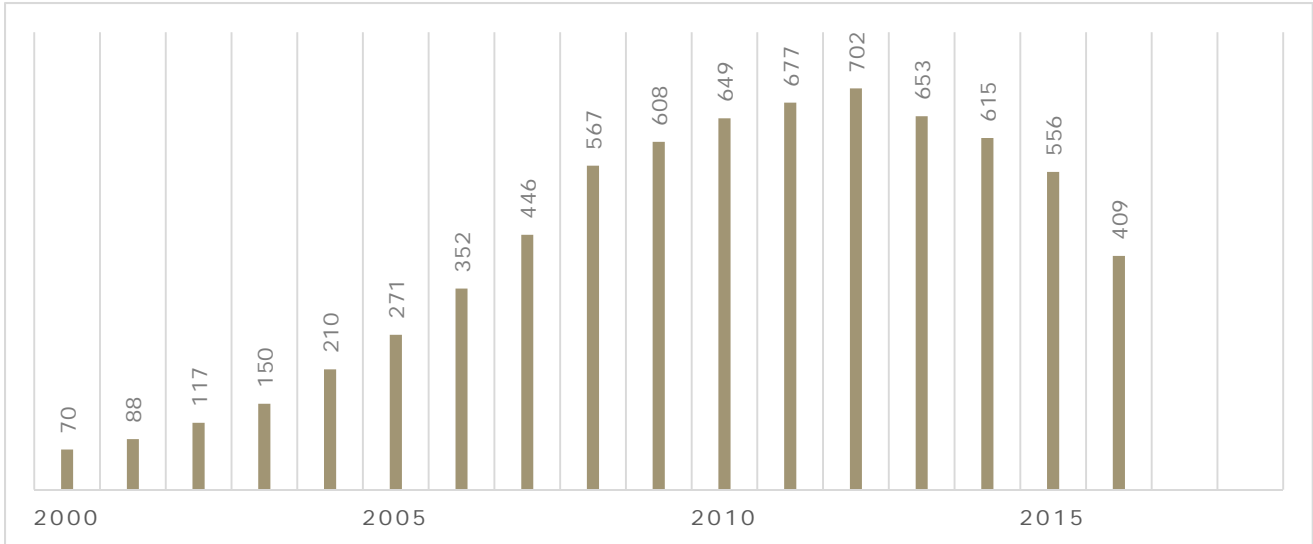
Natural Resource development, specifically natural gas and prospectively oil shale, has had the most dramatic economic influence on Garfield County over the last decade. As of 2008, nearly one-third of all mining industry employment for the State of Colorado was located in Garfield and the neighboring Mesa and Rio Blanco counties. Between 2004 and 2005, Garfield County experienced a rapid increase in its share of statewide mining employees, which then leveled off and modestly declined between 2006 and 2009. Garfield County evolved from a new exploratory play to a large gas producing county. This natural gas boom, which spurred Garfield County's economy in the 2000s, was driven in part by a rapid escalation in gas prices. The industry then slowed dramatically in 2009 as gas prices fell and operators began pulling drilling rigs to pursue emerging gas field prospects elsewhere in the U.S. Since 2012, gas prices continued to decline with a direct impact on the total natural gas and oil production in the County. Gas prices continued to fall in 2016 hitting the lowest point since 1998 (\$1.2 per Million Btu) at \$1.59 per Million Btu in March 2016. The remainder of 2016 has seen promising uptick and forecasters predict an increase in price which was reported at \$3.42 per Million Btu as of January 3, 2017.

Annual Average Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price: Dollars per Million Btu



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

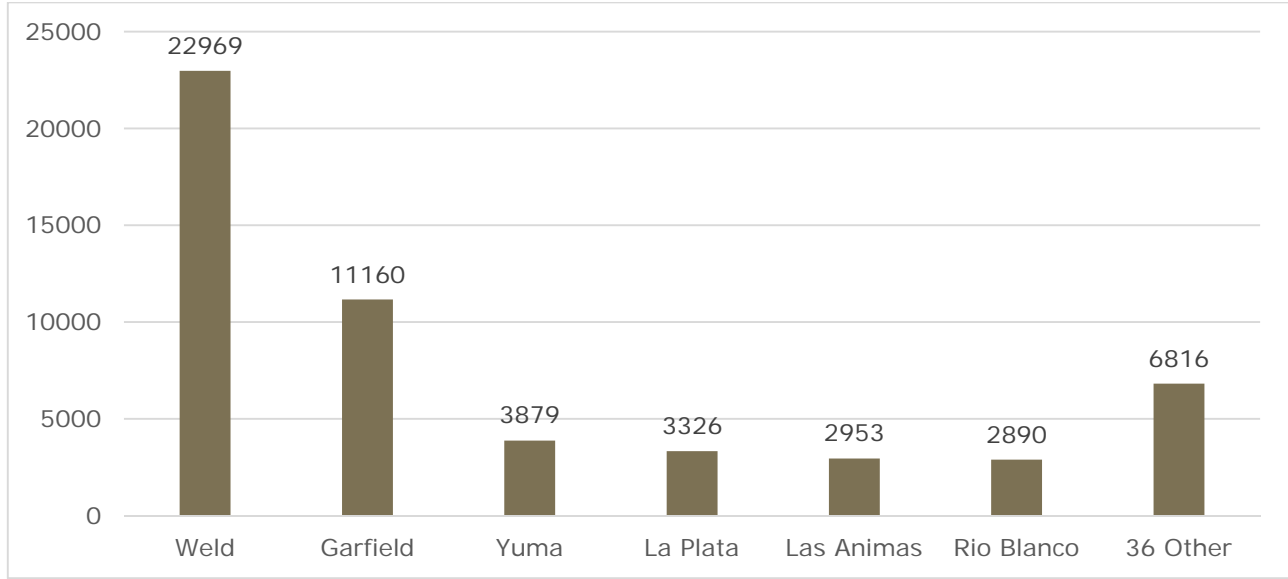
Annual Natural Gas Production for Garfield County: Total Production in Billion Cubic Feet (BCF)



Source: Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

Despite its decline, Garfield County’s energy production continues to represent a significant share of the statewide totals. Garfield County has the second greatest number of active wells in the state, behind Weld County.

Number of Active Wells by County: 2016



Source: Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

In 2016, 26% of Colorado’s drilling permits were for projects located in Garfield County, up from 18% in 2015 and remaining close to the same as 2014 at 25 percent.ⁱⁱ As of December 2016, there are 3 active drilling rigs in Garfield County which is consistent with the number of rigs operating in the County at the same time in 2015.

Drill Rigs in Garfield County by Week

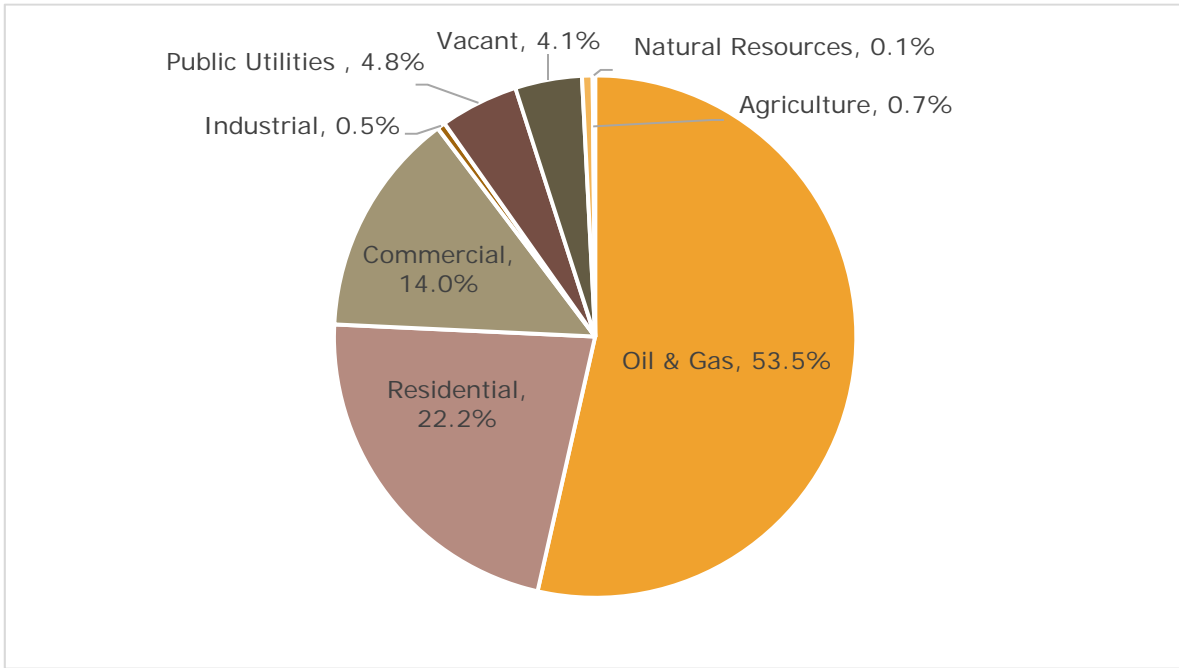


Source: Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

In addition to the local economy, the natural resources industry also has a significant impact on Garfield County taxes and revenues. In 2014, 72.9 percent of total property tax assessed values were accounted for by the oil and gas industry. In 2015 this dropped to 70% with a much more significant drop in 2016 to 53.5%.

ⁱⁱ Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

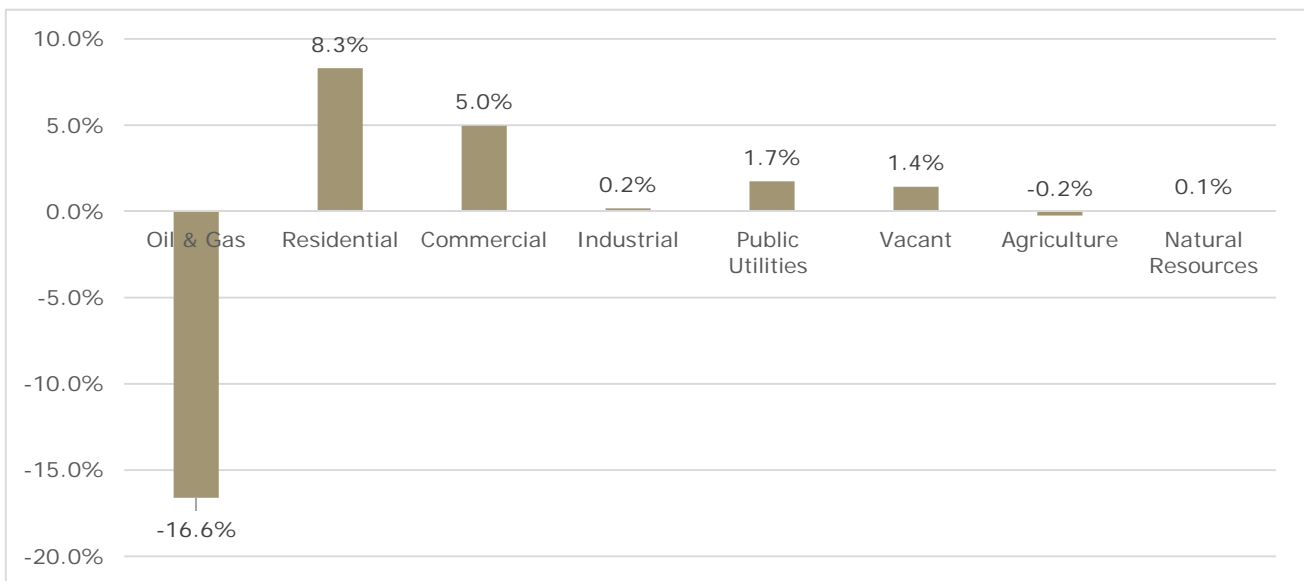
Assessed Value Distribution 2016



Source: Garfield County Assessor

Overall assessed valuation for Garfield County decreased in 2016 due to the significant reduction of assessed valuation for oil and gas – a 16.6 percent reduction. Residential property values had an increase of 8 percent, while commercial had a 5 percent increase, both serving as good indicators of a growing real estate market.

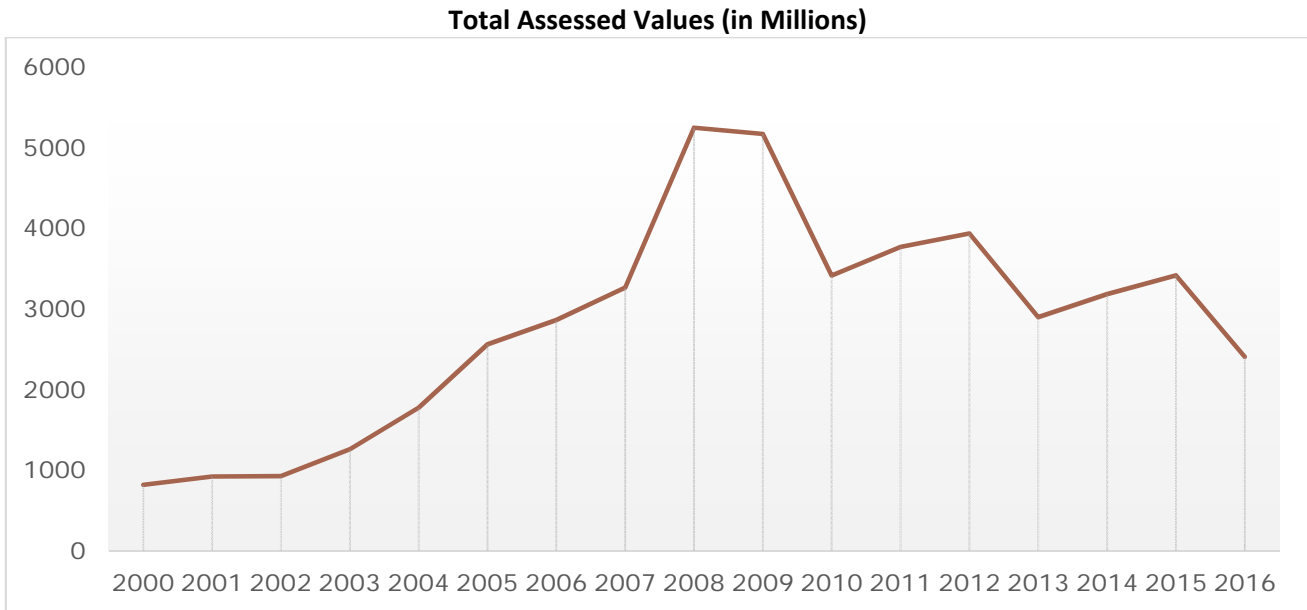
Change in Assessed Value Distribution 2015 to 2016



Source: Garfield County Assessor

For the most part, Garfield County assessed valuations closely follow the rise and the fall of the energy industry. After a substantial drop in value between 2010 and 2011, assessed values increased in 2011 and 2012 and then

dropped again in 2013. Both 2014 and 2015 showed modest increases in assessed valuations with a precipitous drop in 2016.



Source: Garfield County Assessor

The County’s top taxpayers are consistently in the oil and gas industry.

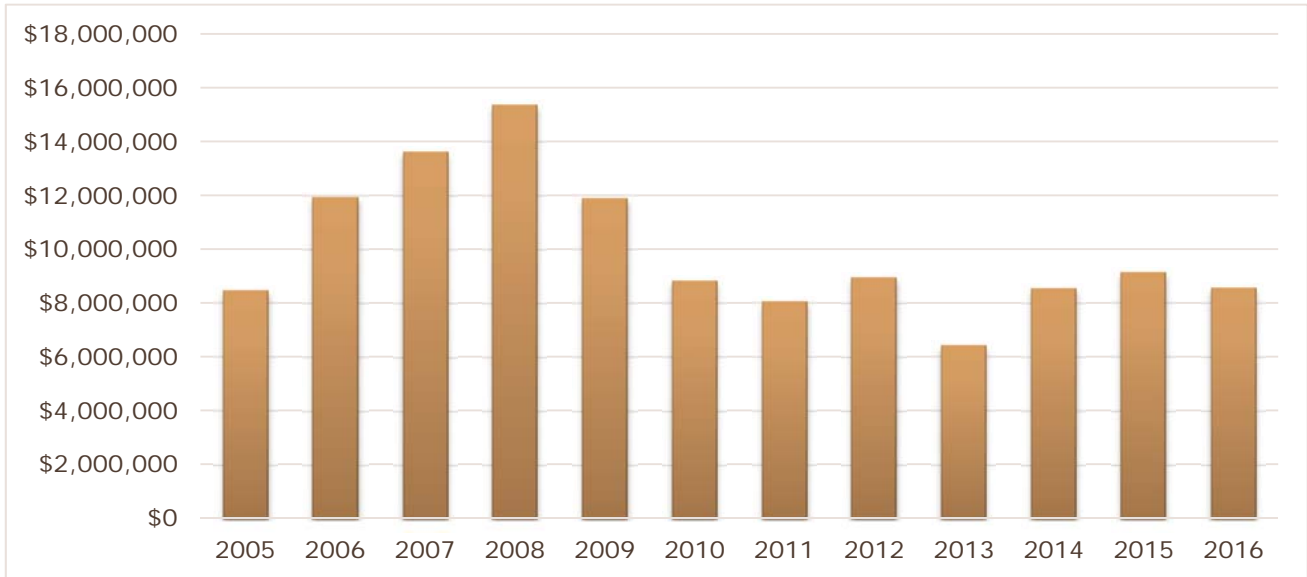
Company	Assessed Value 2015
WPX ENERGY ROCKY MOUNTAIN, LLC	646,838,480.00
ENCANA OIL & GAS (USA) INC	573,779,170.00
VANGUARD OPERATING LLC	164,624,980.00
URSA RESOURCES GROUP II LLC	109,423,850.00
OXY USA WTP LP	91,971,000.00
CAERUS PICEANCE LLC	67,142,180.00
ENTERPRISE GAS PROCESSING LLC	59,799,260.00
BARGATH, INC.	43,267,680.00
CHEVRON NORTH AMERICA EXPLO & PROD CO	36,655,150.00
HUNTER RIDGE ENERGY SERVICES, LLC	30,229,010.00
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO (XCEL)	29,757,300.00

Source: Garfield County Assessor

- **Retail and Tourism**

In addition to the natural resources industry, retail and tourism are an important part of the Garfield County economy. The previously noted “boom” period 2002 to 2008 is evident in retail sales trends (indicated by sales tax collection), as is the sharp economic decline beginning in 2008. Though some retail recovery was seen in 2011 and 2012 it was followed by another decrease in 2013. A modest improvement was seen in both 2014 and 2015 followed by a slight decline in 2016. This decline is presumed to be correlated to the reduction of oil and gas operations within the County as areas west of Glenwood Springs were the only ones to individually experience a decline in sales tax revenues.

Garfield County Gross Sales Tax Collections (before refunds)



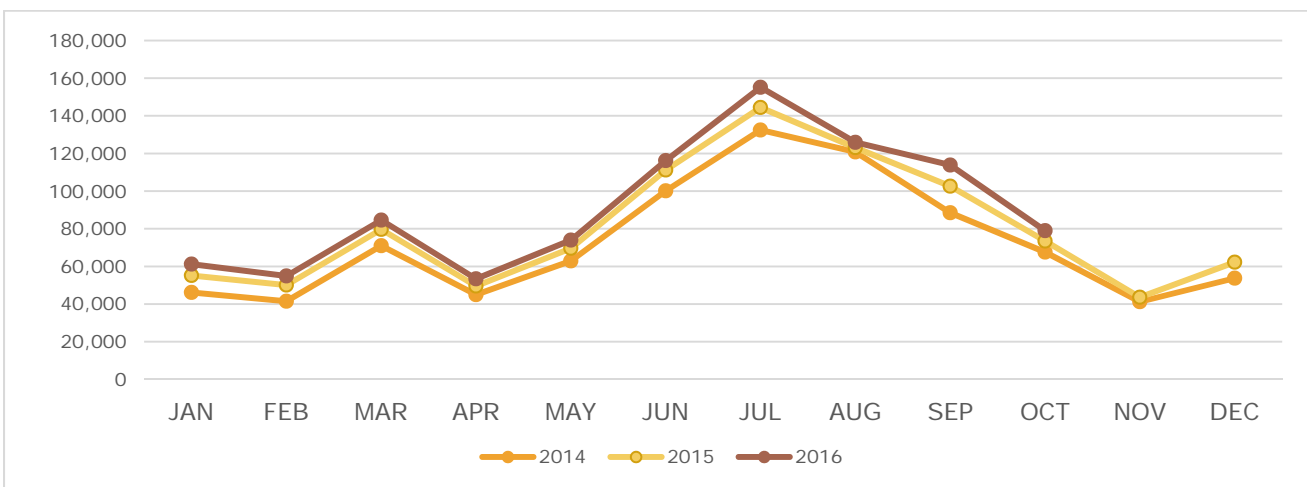
Source: Garfield County Treasurer

The location of the sales is noteworthy. As to be expected, Glenwood Springs and Rifle account for 67 percent of the sales tax income. While the remaining communities and unincorporated areas make up the remaining 33 percent.

County wide, accommodation and Food Services make up nearly 20 percent of the sales tax collection (up 4% since 2015) while retail trade makes up 28 percent of sales tax collection. Wholesale trade collects 5.2 percent and the new marijuana industry (including liquor) has created a significant increase of revenue from tax collection at 5.7 percent.

Glenwood Springs, the municipality with the largest tourism sector, posted strong numbers in 2016, with receipts from the city's 2.5% lodging tax from January 2016 through October 2016 reaching over \$1.5 million, 8.3 percent higher than the previous tax collections in calendar year 2015.

Glenwood Springs Accommodations Monthly Tax Revenues

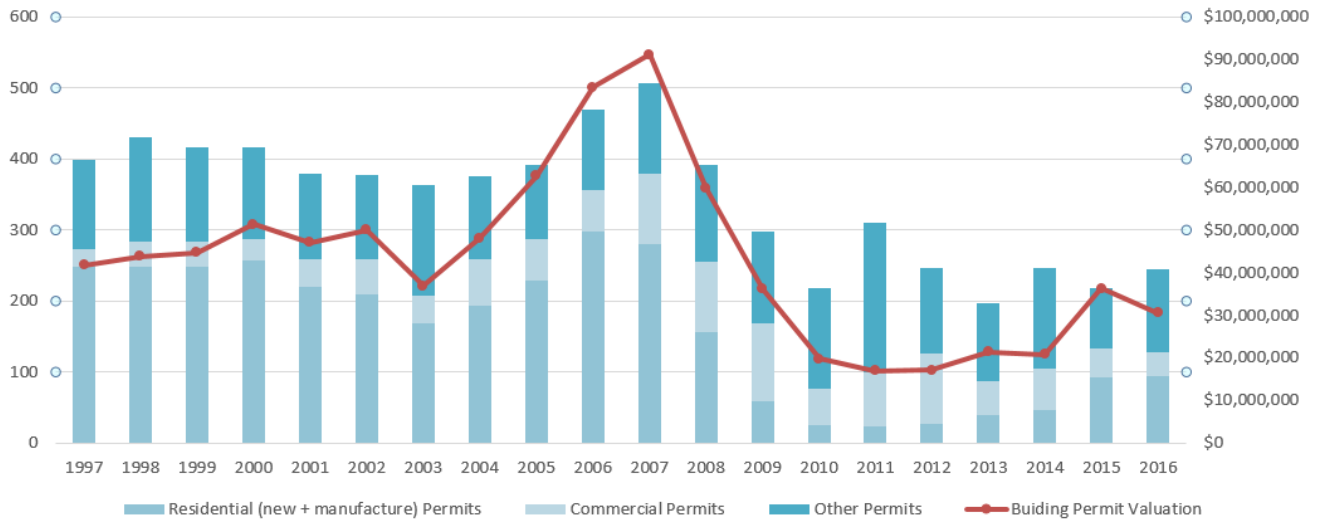


Source: Glenwood Springs Chamber

- **Construction**

One of the best indicators of construction activity is the number of building permits and the value thereof, issued by the Garfield County Community Development Department. These numbers have been inconsistent in recent years as a variety of development pressures come in to play. After a promising uptick in 2011, 2012 and 2013 showed a decline in total permits. A similar pattern occurred 2014 with an uptick in activity followed by 2015 and 2016 with a fewer number of overall permits. The number of new residential homes being permitted has been consistently on the rise with a dramatic increase of almost 400 percent in the 5 years between 2011 and 2016, however commercial permits have contracted significantly (45 percent) in the last two years, seen largely as a reflection of the contraction of the oil and gas industry.

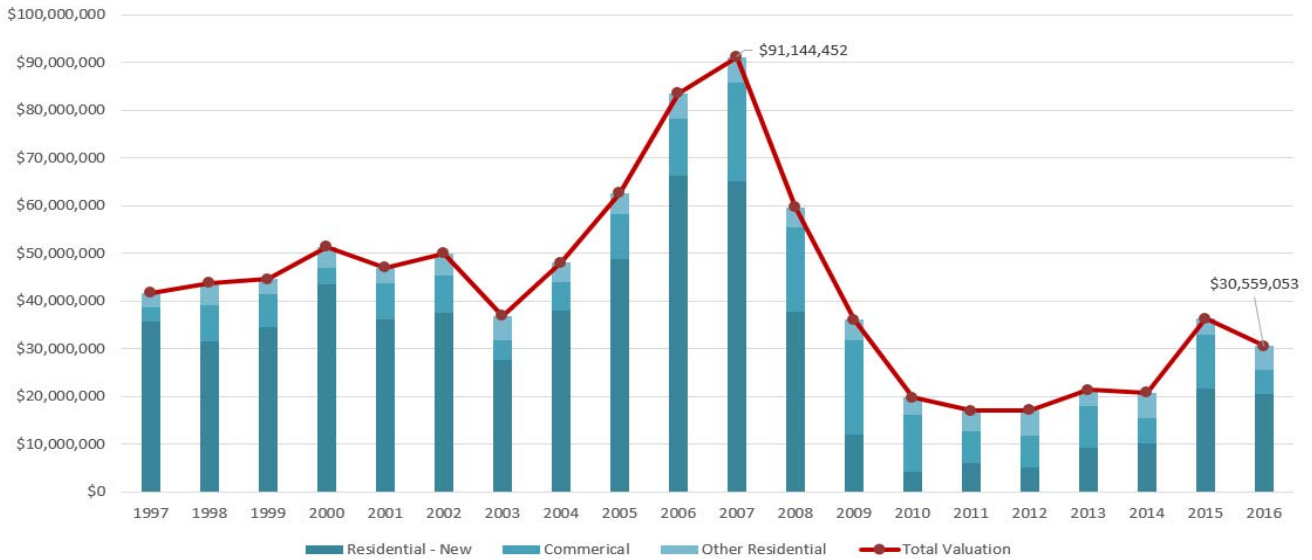
Total Building Permits: 1997-2016



Source: Garfield County Community Development Department

In 2012, valuations showed the first increase since the peak of 2007. Valuations declined slightly again in 2014 due to contraction in valuation for commercial permits but increased significantly in 2015. In 2016, saw a decline of valuations again due to drop in commercial valuations (2016 was on par with 2014) – a drop of 53 percent.

Building Permit Valuations 1997-2016



Source: Garfield County Community Development Department

Real Estate

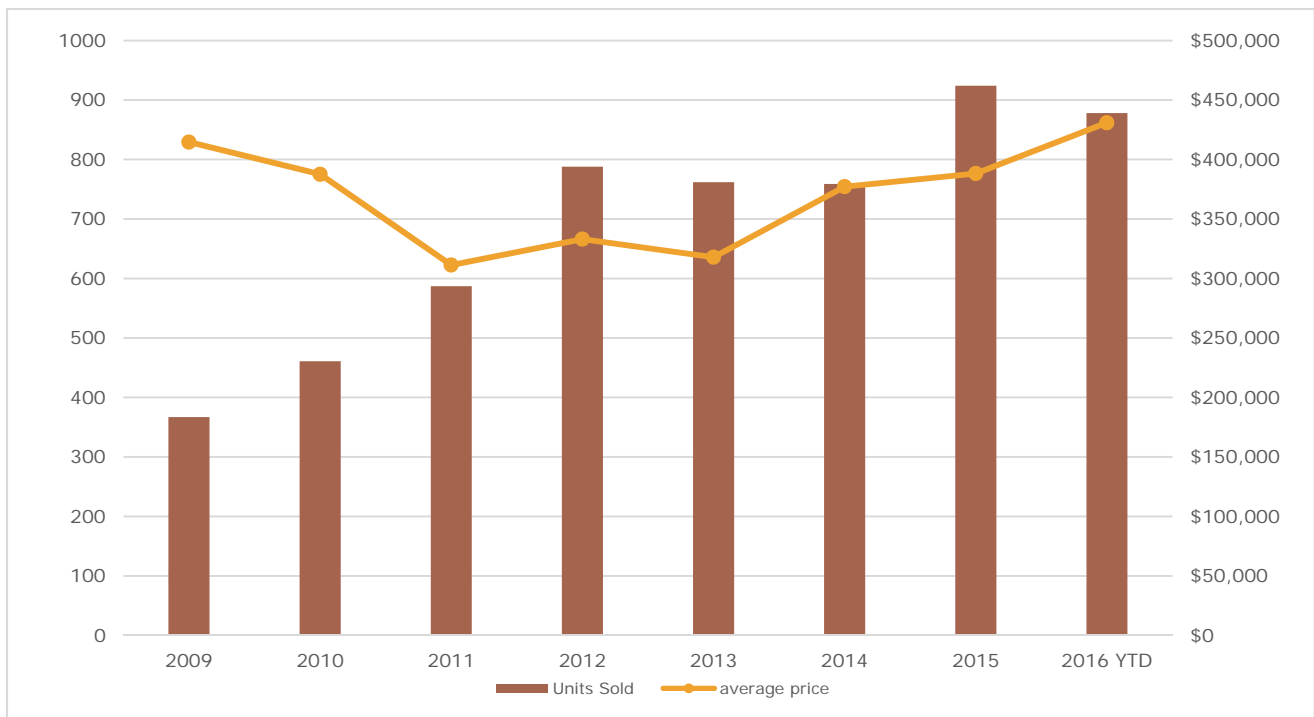
As noted previously, housing values grew rapidly during the energy expansion from 2002 to 2008, concurrent with national trends. Both activity and prices have declined from their 2008 highs but have shown improvement since late 2011. According to the monthly transactions report for Garfield County prepared by Land Title Guarantee Co. of Glenwood Springs, gross sales volume was up almost 35 percent between 2012 and 2013 and 29 percent increase in 2014 over 2013. In 2015 there was an increase of 7% in the value of sales and a 17% increase in the number of transactions over 2014. At the time of printing, year to date numbers were available but excluded December 2016. Transactions for 2016 are estimated to finish at a nearly 7% increase over 2015 and a sales volume increase in dollars exceeding 13 percent.

Volume (\$m) and Number of Real Estate Transactions in Garfield County



Source: Land Title Glenwood Springs

Single Family Home Sales and Average Price



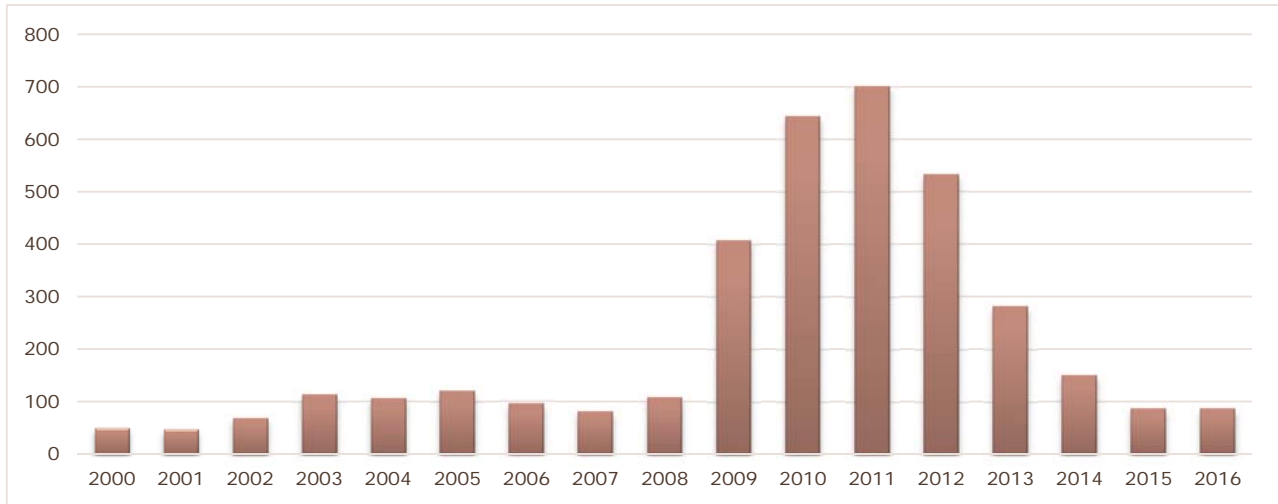
Source: Land Title Glenwood Springs

According to the United States Census, Garfield County did not experience the dramatic decline in values witnessed in many areas around the country during the Great Recession. County housing values grew about 30 percent between 2000 and 2010 and grew another 25 percent between 2010 and 2015. According to Zillow housing prices grew 8.2 percent between 2015 and 2016 and at a median housing price of \$347,100 remain notably above the current statewide median home value of \$318,400.

Foreclosures

A spike in home foreclosures was one consequence of the most recent economic recession. As the housing market recovers, the nation and Colorado are experiencing a drop in the number of foreclosures. In 2012 the number of foreclosures dropped for the first time since 2007 with a significant decrease of 23 percent from a high of 701. Foreclosures have stabilized in 2015 and 2016 with the Public Trustee only opening 87 foreclosures, thus bringing the foreclosure rate on par with pre-recession filings. In 2017 a similar level of foreclosures is expected.

Foreclosure Filings: 2000-2016

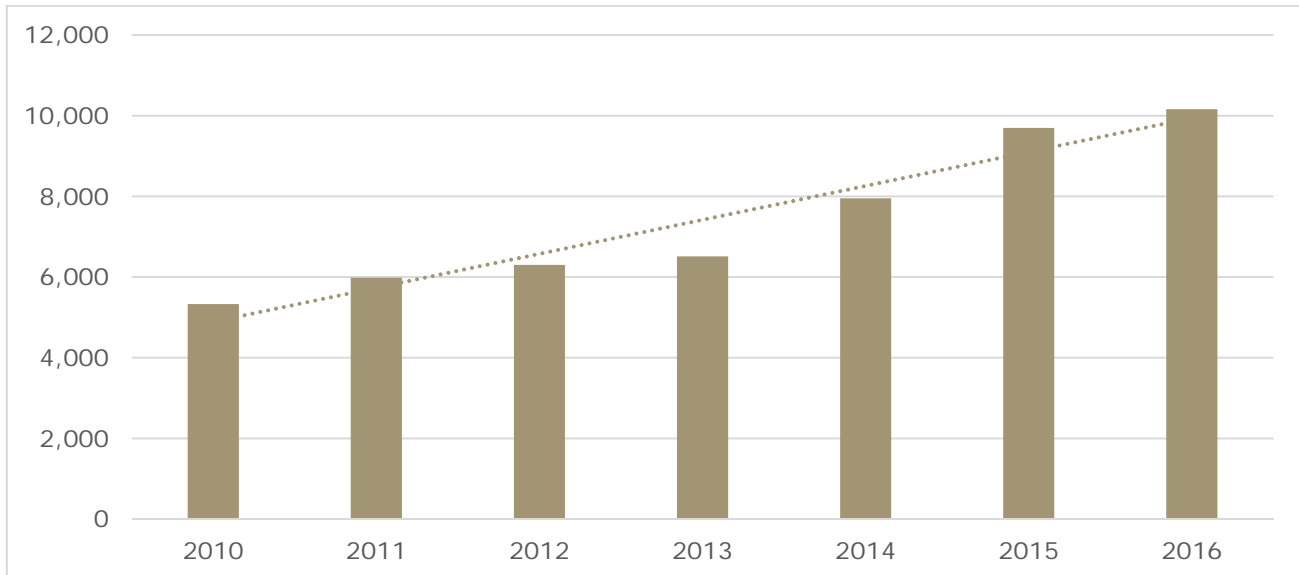


Source: Garfield County Public Trustee

Human Services

The demand for economic security support has progressively increased since 2008. Despite signs of improvement in the economy, the county’s economic security total cases per year increased 59 percent since 2011. This is in part due to new programs being added such as Employment First in 2015. These cases include, in general, services for cash assistance, medical assistance, food assistance and child care. Garfield County does, however, have a lower poverty rate of 10.3 percent than the state at 11.5%.ⁱⁱⁱ

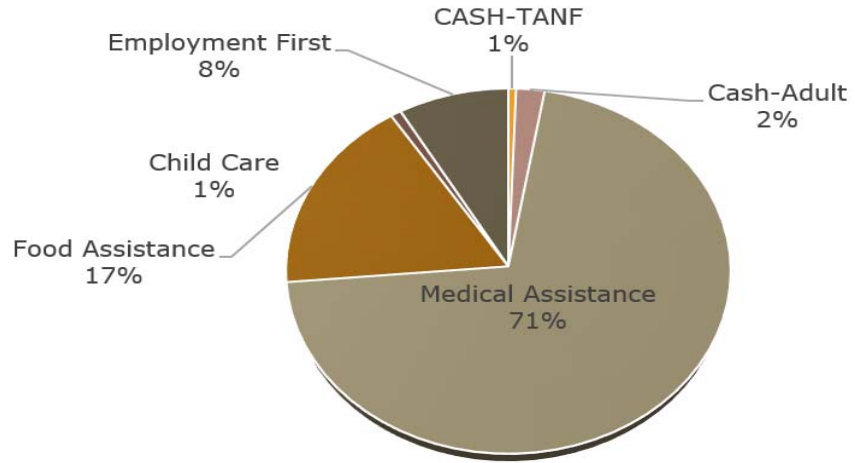
Garfield County Economic Security Cases Monthly Average 2011-2016



Source: Garfield County Department of Human Services

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-13 American Community Survey

Garfield County Economic Security Cases by program 2016



Operating Indicators

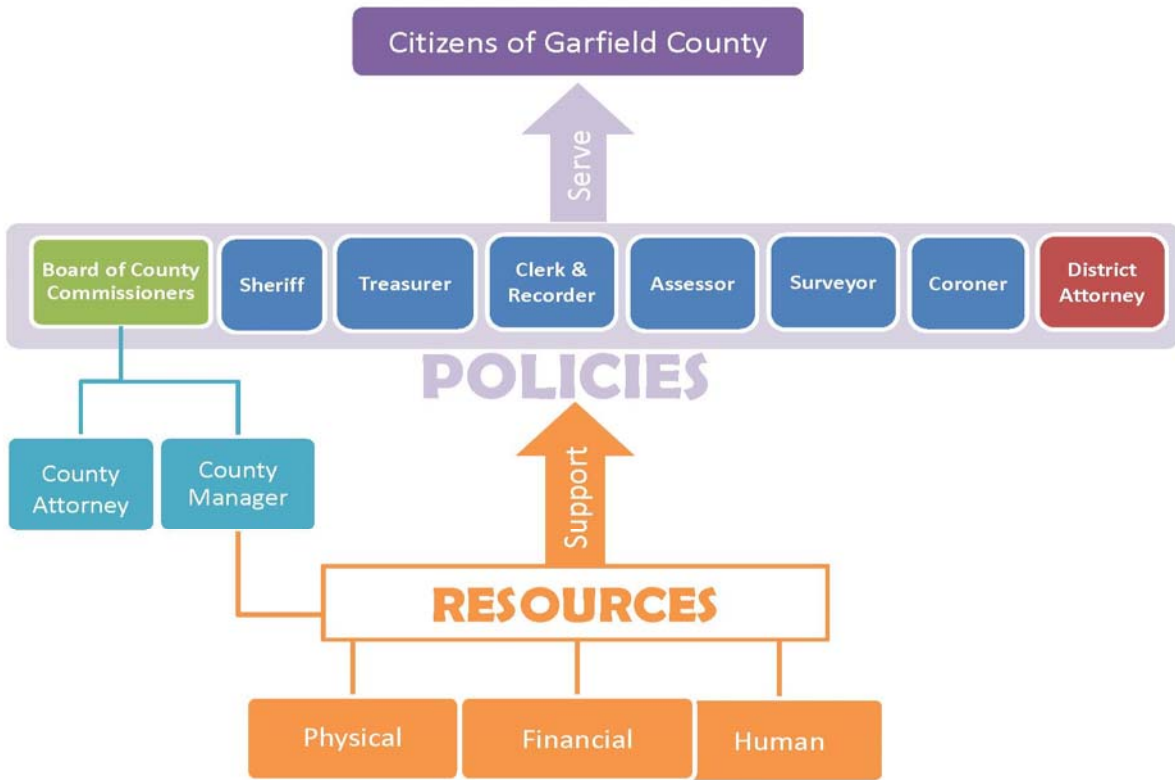
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
General Government						
Number of Employees	119	118	122	125	124	134
Building(s) Sq. footage	57,697	57,697	57,697	38,322	38,322	38,322
Service Level						
Tax notices	29,311	29,267	29,217	29,530	29,350	29,316
Documents recorded	14,186	12,985	15,521	16,672	16,026	16,584
Number of active voters	29,542	28,873	27,480	25,579	21,081	24,047
Parcels assessed	31,449	31,450	31,447	31,635	31,468	30,289
Building permits issued	224	246	197	246	311	218
Public Safety						
Number of Employees	165	164	171	171	171	171
Building(s) Sq. footage	172,905	172,905	172,905	172,665	172,665	172,665
Service Level						
Calls for Law Enforcement Service	96,892	100,440	98,832	91,516	90,754	93,276
Jail bookings	2,502	2,284	2,285	2,591	2,717	2,515
Useful Public Service Clients Sentenced	700	731	797	1,056	1,156	1,087
Public Works						
Number of Employees	63	64	58	57	55	53
Building(s) Sq. footage	93,440	93,440	93,240	93,240	93,240	93,240
Service Level						
Miles of road maintained	965	1,056	702	697	698	695
Health and Welfare						
Number of Employees	135	130	120	116	115	122
Building(s) Sq. footage	55,693	55,693	55,693	55,693	53,438	53,438
Service Level						
Immunizations	6,902	6,576	6,909	9,195	12,660	12,349
Birth Certificates	697	812	769	833	818	866
Death Certificates	344	318	288	248	297	281
Human Services Caseload	11,657	10,136	8,669	9,050	6,090	5,707
Culture and Recreation						
Number of Employees	2	3	3	3	3	3
Building(s) Sq. footage	103,014	103,014	58,314	58,314	58,314	58,314
Service Level						
Fairground service days	355	355	365	365	365	365
County Fair attendance (ticket sales)	6,519	7,308	7,382	3,249	3,091	*4000
Business-type Activities						
Number of Employees	8	8	8	9	9	14
Building(s) Sq. footage	6,760	6,760	6,760	6,760	6,760	6,760
Service Level						
Cubic yds of landfill space consumed	106,230	119,704	84,230	78,567	72,589	77,127

Economic Summary and Budget Forecast

As discussed above, the Garfield County economy has, for the most part, shown signs of improvement in 2016 except for the energy sector. It is expected that this trend will continue in 2017 in most areas of the economy with the energy sector improving. With upturns in the housing and job markets, incomes are expected to rise and with it an increase in retail and tourism and correspondingly sales tax revenues. A decrease in 2015 assessed values in the energy sector has provided less in 2017 property tax revenues, however the outlook for 2018 is not good either and hopefully the energy sector has bottomed out in 2016. The decline in 2015 and 2016 national natural gas prices and a corresponding drop in production in Garfield County has led to a significant decrease in property tax revenues in both budgeted in 2017 and forecasted in 2018.

Despite this forecast drop in revenues, the county continues to experience high demand for many of its services, especially Road and Bridge and Human Services. With careful and prudent management and efficient use of funds and resources it is expected that the county will continue to provide quality services while maintaining operating expenditures at similar levels in 2017 and beyond.

Organizational Chart



Administration

