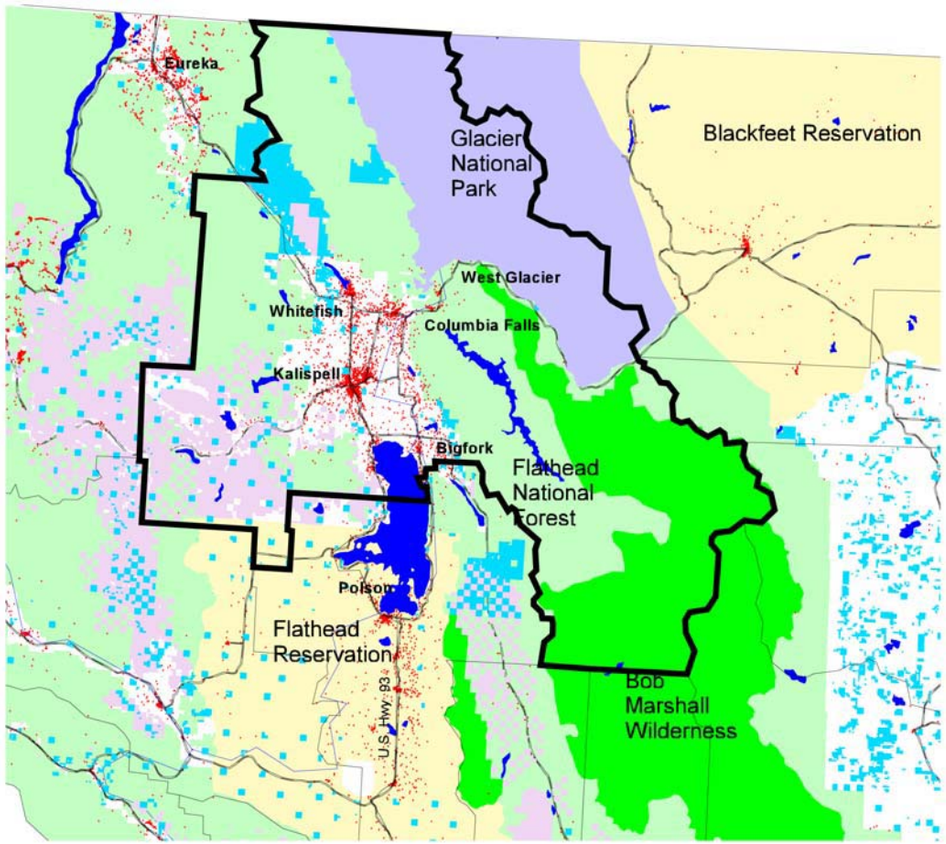

Flathead County is located in northwestern Montana with much of the county's population residing in or nearby the communities of Kalispell, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, and Big Fork. Over half of Glacier National Park falls within Flathead County and West Glacier serves as the park's principal gateway. Adjacent to Glacier National Park to its north is Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada, and to the east, the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The larger area contains many other types of public lands, including national forests and wilderness areas. Beautiful Flathead Lake occupies the counties southern edge, extending into Lake County. Flathead County's population has grown from 52,000 people in 1980 to nearly 75,000 today (each red dot in the map above represents 25 people).

Flathead County, Montana
AREA ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

The Flathead's Changing Economy

Assessing the Role of National Parks in the Economies of High Amenity, Non-metro Regions of the West

October 2002

Prepared for the
National Parks Conservation Association

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Foreword

This study was prepared under a contract with the National Parks Conservation Association, but its findings and conclusions are solely the product of the study's author. The study was prepared by Larry Swanson of the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West at the University of Montana in Missoula. Swanson is a Ph.D. economist and regional analyst and is Associate Director of the Center and head of its Regional Economy program.

The particular focus of this study is the economy of Flathead County. Flathead County occupies over 5,200 square miles in northwestern Montana near the U.S.-Canada border and had a 2000 population of nearly 75,000 people. A defining feature of Flathead County is its proximity to one of the Crown Jewels of America's national parks system – Glacier National Park. Over half of the park's land area falls within Flathead County. Adjacent to Glacier Park on its north side is Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park. To the west of Waterton Park and also touching Glacier Park is Akamina-Kishinena Provincial Park. Flathead National Forest and Lewis and Clark National Forest abut the west and south sides of Glacier Park. And to its east is the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

As can be seen in the illustration on the cover page of this report, public lands occupy a large proportion of the land area of Flathead County. The white space in the map near the center of Flathead County, which are private lands, is where most of the population of the county resides and it is here where most of the population growth occurring in the county is concentrated.

The principal objectives of this study were to: 1) identify and assess key trends and patterns of change in the Flathead County economy, and 2) evaluate the potential role or influence of Glacier National Park in these patterns and trends. In an effort to gauge the potential influence of Glacier Park on the Flathead area economy, other counties throughout the western United States similarly located nearby major national parks were systematically identified and examined. These "National Parks counties" were sub-classified and grouped by population and other characteristics. Past and emerging trends in these national parks counties were then carefully analyzed in identifying patterns of change that may be common to these areas.

Some of these counties have other characteristics very similar to Flathead County, besides their close proximity to a major national park. And because of this, several were selected to serve as "peer counties" in comparing and contrasting economic conditions and trends in the Flathead. This type of area "peer review" is very helpful in properly evaluating and interpreting local area economic circumstances and in gauging the performance of a particular area economy.

This assessment of the Flathead area economy was conducted using the Center's *Regional Economies Assessment Database* or *READ System*. *READ* is a web-based, information and analysis system designed to systematically examine and assess local area and sub-state, multi-county economies throughout the western United States.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The area economy of Flathead County has changed in dramatic ways over the course of the last twenty years. Population is continuing to increase, following a burst in population growth during the early and mid-1990s. Overall employment is growing at a rapid pace, as is area personal income. With this growth, the Flathead area is becoming a larger area "market mass" with more people and more income capable of supporting more business activity and continuing job growth.

In the midst of this growth, the Flathead economy has undergone considerable restructuring and change. In many ways, the economy of the area has become "growth driven," with differentially high rates of employment and labor income growth occurring in a variety of trade and construction sub-sectors directly tied to area population and income growth. Growth in these sectors also is being spurred by a growing number of part-time residents in the area. Population counts by the Census Bureau, while measuring growth in the number of new "permanent residents" in the county do not measure the number of new "part-time residents" of the county, or persons living in the valley part of the year who have not declared the county as their

new permanent residence. These part-time residents appear to be exerting themselves in very visible ways, such as in added area construction activity and added trade and service sector activity.

During the decade of the 1980s, only 2,800 more people moved to Flathead County than the number moving away. However, more than 12,000 more people moved to the county than the number leaving during the decade of the 1990s. And this net migration accounted for 80 percent of the county's total population growth. A rising tide of new residents in Flathead County has been "pulled" to the area even as the area's longstanding staple industry –logging and wood products manufacturing – has struggled and contracted. Labor earnings by wood products workers in the county fluctuated between $60 million and $80 million a year during the 1980s, then rose to nearly $97 million in 1993 before falling back to around $75 million more recently.

Meanwhile, jobs and overall economic activity have been "pushed" along by the rising tide of new residents with dramatic growth in services, trade, and construction. Over the course of the 1990s, construction jobs expanded from 1,925 jobs in 1990 to over 4,200 in 2000. F.I.R.E. sector employment rose from 2,400 jobs in 1990 to nearly 3,800 by decade's end. Service sector jobs, including jobs in health care, business services, and legal services, grew from 9,800 to nearly 16,000. Service and retail trade employment growth combined to add almost 10,000 additional jobs in the county in ten years.

Evidence shows that labor earnings in these trade and service sectors are growing faster than area population and income growth, suggesting the growing influence of non-residents who spend time and money in the area. There is considerable evidence that what is bringing more and more new residents and visitors to Flathead County is the shear attractiveness and natural beauty of the area. The area is noted for its mountains, lakes, and forests. And these natural amenities are anchored by Glacier National Park.

An analysis of counties throughout the western United States that are nearby major national parks, like Glacier, indicates that many of the trends found in the Flathead economy are common to other largely non-metro areas similarly situated in close proximity to large, attractive national parks. A total of 80 counties were identified in close proximity to major national parks in the West and 51 of these counties are largely non-metro in character. Between 1990 and 1999, an estimated 196,000 more people moved to these 51 counties than the number moving away, up considerably from net migration of 64,500 for these same counties in the previous decade.

Largely ignited by net in-migration, Flathead County's population grew from 59,200 in 1990 to nearly 75,000 in 2000, an increase of 26%. Much of the county's increased population is by adults at ages ranging from their mid-40s to late 50s; which are segments of the "baby boom" population. This segment of the population is disproportionately involved in migration trends throughout the interior western United States and growth in their numbers has made the larger Rocky Mountain West region of the United States one of the nation's fastest growing regions.

Evidence suggests that these migration patterns will continue and Flathead County should see continuing net in-migration. Over the course of the current decade, the county's population should grow at an average annual rate of 1.5 percent to 3 percent, meaning that the county's population will reach between 87,000 and 100,000 people by 2010. However, future net in-migration to the area will hinge upon how the area is perceived by potential new migrants as its growth and change continues.

These population counts, while increasing, don't include a growing number of people who make the Flathead area their part-time residence without formally declaring it their permanent residence. While there are no consistent and reliable estimates of the number of people who fall into the category of part-timers, it's possible to generally estimate some of the major impacts these persons may be having on the Flathead area economy. For example, construction activity in the area is growing at a significantly faster pace than population growth. Labor earnings of area construction workers have steadily risen from less than $1 million per 1000 population in the late 1980s to over $1.4 million in 1994 and $1.37 million in 2000. Construction labor earnings per $20 million in area personal income rose from less than $1 million to over $1.4 million as well. This implies that an increasing share of area construction activity is being fueled by non-residents with income sources not reflected in area personal income estimates.

Labor earnings by construction workers in Flathead County have risen sharply. Special trade contractors earnings grew from $24 million in 1987 to nearly $65 million in 2000. General building contractors labor earnings grew from $11 million to $23 million. And heavy construction contractors grew from $8 million to over $14 million.

The same trends in elevated construction activity are occurring in many other areas nearby large national parks in the West, suggesting that the attractiveness of these areas is resulting in not only more residents but more part-time residents who build homes in these areas to live portions of the year.

A variety of other indicators tend to validate the notion that the Flathead area is attracting more and more visitors. Labor earnings by those employed by hotels, motels and other lodging places in the county increased from $10 million in 1987 to nearly $21 million in 2000. Eating and drinking places which provided labor earnings to their employees of under $19 million in 1987 now provide over $32 million in labor income. Businesses involved in amusement and recreation services generated labor earnings of nearly $16 million in 2000, up from less than $5 million in 1987.

As these trends continue and the economy of Flathead County continues to restructure and grow, certain key features in the area's overall attractiveness are taking on new significance. The area's shear attractiveness – its natural features, landscapes, view-ways, mountains, forests, lakes, and wildlife – has clearly become Flathead County's economic engine. As such, the principal threat to continuing economic growth in the area may be that as more and more people come, the very things that have brought them and their incomes to the area may be degraded if not lost as they continue to grow in numbers. In order to sustain area economic vitality in Flathead County, the natural beauty of the area will need to be sustained even as the population and visitation of the area grows.

Based upon an examination of trends and conditions in other areas of the western United States nearby national parks, it is obvious that these national parks have become "key assets" to the economies of these areas, like that of the Flathead Valley. In order to sustain these areas well into the future, these key economic assets will require care and attention. They must be continually tended to and invested in.

Glacier National Park is not the only feature of Flathead County drawing more and more people to the area. But, it is one of the main "anchors" in the area's landscape and environmental resource base that makes the area so attractive.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Population Growth Flathead County and the larger Flathead Valley area is one of Montana's principal "pockets" of population growth and the county is one of the fastest growing counties in Montana. During the last decade the county's population grew by 26 percent, ranking it the 6th fastest in growth among Montana's 56 counties. The increased pace of population growth in the county is being fueled by rising levels of net migration, that is, increased numbers of people moving to the area from other places. This trend in increased net migration can be seen as part of a larger shift in migration patterns that occurred in the western United States more generally since the last decade.

2. Net Migration to the Area The principal source of recent population growth in Flathead County is net migration. Net in-migration for the county, which totaled only 2,800 during the 1980s, increased to over 12,000 during the 1990s. A similar shift in migration patterns occurred in non-metro counties throughout the West nearby national parks. Net migration in 51 such counties in the West went from 64,500 during the 1980s to around 196,000 between 1990 and 1999. Like Flathead County, many other non-metro areas in the interior West are seeing increased population growth, with some of the largest increases occurring in areas with highly-regarded natural amenities. This includes many areas of the West that are nearby major national parks, like Glacier National Park.

3. Changing Area Age Structure Between 1990 and 2000, the largest increases in the population of Flathead County occurred in area residents between their early 40s and late 50s in age. There were also sizeable increases in the population of youths in their teens. For other age groups in the county, there were only modest changes in numbers

from ten years ago. These shifts in age structure have translated into a rising median age of the population from 30 in 1980 to 35 in 1990 and to 39 in 2000. The area birth rate also has fallen considerably from 18 births per 1000 population in 1980 to around 12 births per 1000 more recently. These aging trends of the population should continue.

4. Area Income Composition Income from non-labor sources including investment income and transfer payments, is growing at a faster rate than income from the workplace, referred to as labor income. As a result, labor earnings which accounted for 70 percent of Flathead County's entire personal income base in the late '70s now account for about 60 percent of all income. This shift in income is consistent with trends more generally in non-metro areas of the West including areas nearby national parks with growing populations. This shift in income composition should continue as the population continues to age and grow in number through migration.

5. Area Economic Restructuring Over the course of the last twenty years, the Flathead economy has undergone considerable restructuring and change. Marked increases in employment and labor earnings have occurred in services, retail trade, construction, and finance, insurance and real estate. The county has largely maintained its manufacturing sector, but because of growth in other segments of the economy, area manufacturing now accounts for much smaller shares of area income and employment.

6. Primary "Drivers" of Recent Growth Recent growth in area income and employment in Flathead County can be largely attributable to population growth, including both new permanent residents and part-timers in the area. And evidence suggests that the type of population growth occurring in Flathead County is occurring in many non-metro areas of the western United States that are considered "attractive," particularly in natural amenities and quality of life.

7. Area Economic Vitality and Health Per capita income in Flathead County has risen from less than $15,000 in 1975 (measured in 1996 inflation-adjusted dollars) to more than $21,000 today. Per capita income in the area is roughly commensurate with per capita income levels in other areas of the West that are similar in population size and economic character to Flathead County. The county's poverty rate rose from 9.4 percent in 1979 to 14.5 percent in 1989, before falling back a bit more recently to 14.2 percent in 1997. Similar trends in the incidence of poverty occurred in many other non-metro areas of the West.

8. Challenges and Opportunities There should be little doubt that families, businesses, and communities of Flathead County have been blessed with one of the most spectacular natural environments of any place in North America. This treasure chest of natural amenities includes Glacier National Park, area national forests and wilderness areas, lakes and streams and mountains. It is clear that these amenities have become one of the area's chief economic assets and are largely responsible for the growing number of area residents. During the last twenty years, the area has experienced considerable economic restructuring, which can be painful and divisive. However, this adjustment process would have been much more difficult for the area in the absence of area population growth and growing economic opportunities associated with this growth.

But, continuing growth in the area poses both an opportunity and a challenge. The opportunity lies in using this growth as a "bridge" in the process of re-tooling and transitioning the area's economy, better positioning Flathead County and its communities for future prosperity. The challenge lies in not permitting the very qualities that have brought more and more people and businesses to Flathead County to be unduly and irreparably degraded or lost as this growth continues. In order for growth to be sustained and in order for growth to provide both quantitative and qualitative gains and advances for the area, it must be managed and guided consistent with area community goals and objectives.

1. Area Characterization

The larger economy and processes of economic, technological, and social change play out differently in different types of regions. Migration trends, population aging, and employment trends vary tremendously by type of place. There are certain defining characteristics of every area that heavily influence and shape the nature of local economic activity. Key characteristics to consider include:

1) the size of the local population and personal income bases, which define the size of the local market area;
2) an area's relative isolation or proximity to larger cities; cities that can exert economic dominance over smaller nearby places while also providing economic capacities and potentials for smaller communities in the larger region;
3) longstanding area underlying economic dependencies, including dependencies on industries and sectors like manufacturing, government, agriculture, and travel and tourism;
4) particular racial and cultural features of an area, such as the presence of a large Native American population, that can be further reflected in area income and employment characteristics; and
5) other area-defining features, such as land and water features and area amenities, that can greatly influence the nature of area economic activity and the quality of community life.

It's important to understand the position an area occupies in the continuum between very "urban" or metro places and very "rural" or non-metro places. There are progressively more rural or more urban places as you move up and down a hierarchy of places from the most heavily populated metropolitan cores to the most isolated and sparsely-populated rural areas. And a local area's economic role and overall economic functionality and complexity are in many ways pre-determined by where it sits within this hierarchy of places.

A classification scheme has been developed for placing local areas within a broadly-frame "urban-to-rural hierarchy" of places, based upon both area population levels and proximities to larger cities (the *READ Urban-to-Rural Hierarchy*). Within the *READ* classification system, Flathead County is classified as a "small regional center county." This means that, while Flathead doesn't have a large metro center or city, it does contain the regional center for the immediate area, although small in size (Kalispell). If Kalispell were located in closer proximity to a larger population center, it would not be considered a regional center. However, because of the relative isolation of the area, Kalispell does serve this role, even though its geographic range as a regional center only expands as far as the range of the next regional center.

Counties with smaller population centers that are adjacent to or nearby counties with regional centers are classified as "closely-linked counties," that is, they are nearby and closely-linked economically to the counties where the closest regional center is located. For Flathead County, Lincoln County is a closely-linked nearby county. Lake County which is south of Flathead also is a closely-linked county, but it is also adjacent to the regional center county of Missoula which has a regional center that is considerably larger than Kalispell. Other counties with small population centers that are not adjacent or nearby regional center counties are classified as "isolated rural counties."

This system of classification has been systematically applied to all counties throughout the western United States and a map illustrating how counties have been classified is shown on the next page (*Major Population Centers or Region "Cores" and Their "Closely-Linked" Counties in the* West). Using this system, we are able to identify other areas of the West that have similar characteristics to the Flathead area. Areas and sub-state regions throughout the West having similar underlying characteristics are referred to as "peers areas." We have carefully identified 20 other peer counties to use in comparing, contrasting, and assessing changing conditions and trends in the Flathead area economy.

National Parks Counties in the West

Because a key characteristic of Flathead County is its proximity to a large and important national park – Glacier National Park, other counties in the western United States similarly located nearby large national parks have been carefully identified in determining peer areas for Flathead County. The map on page 7 of this report shows the location of major national parks in the West (shown in purple). Included among

these are Glacier, Yellowstone, North Cascades, Olympic, Mt. Ranier, Yosemite, Death Valley, Rocky Mountain, Grand Canyon, Big Bend and several others. A 40-mile perimeter was then drawn around these parklands using GIS (geographic information software), and all counties whose geographic center lies within this 40-mile perimeter were identified (shown in black and gray on the map).

A total of 80 "national parks" counties were identified in this fashion. These were then sorted according to the size of the largest city or place in each county, using 1990 Census populations. Five of the counties have places over 150,000, and these are classified as metro counties ("Code 1" counties). Another eight of the counties had urban centers of 50,000 to 150,000 and are classified as metro as well ("Code 2" counties). The remaining 67 counties had no place greater than 50,000 population ("Code 3" counties). These were then further classified using the *READ* system. Sixteen of the counties, although not having metro centers, were nearby or closely-linked to metro centers. The remaining 51counties, including Flathead County, are essentially "non-metro" in character. Of these 51 non-metro counties, 11 contain places under 50,000 population that still serve as regional population centers because of their distances from larger centers. This group of 11 counties includes Flathead County. Of the remaining 40 counties, 22 are closely-linked to small and large regional centers while the other 18 counties are classified as "isolate rural areas."

The Appendix to this report contains a listing of counties within each of these groupings. The eleven non-metro counties with small and large regional centers include Flathead County and Gallatin County (Bozeman) in Montana, Jackson (Medford) and Klamath (Altamont) Counties in Oregon, Grays Harbor (Aberdeen) and Clallam (Port Angeles) Counties in Washington, Coconino (Flagstaff) and Mohave (Kingman) Counties in Arizona, Humboldt (Eureka) County in California, Bonneville (Idaho Falls) County in Idaho, and Washington (St. George) County in Utah.

Table 1 page 8 following the map of national parks counties shows population change among these 51 non-metro counties nearby national parks in the West. Population change in the decade of the 1980s is compared with change between 1990 and 1999. Population change occurs in two ways; through the movement of people to and from an area (referred to as "net migration") and through births and deaths (referred to as "natural change"). There was a major shift in migration patterns in the western United States during the last decade and this has had major implications for non-metro areas nearby national parks. Areas of the West seeing significant population gains through net migration during the 1980s were largely a small number of counties in California, Nevada, and a handful of major metro areas. During the 1990s the pattern of migration shifted and spread. Other areas in the West, including many non-metro areas, began to see rising levels of net in-migration, with some of this population growth focused in counties in the Rocky Mountain, Pacific Northwest, and Southwest regions (see map on page 9).

As can be seen in table 1, many of the non-metro counties nearby national parks experienced these gains. The eleven regional center counties, which include Flathead, had net in-migration of nearly 133,000 people between 1990 and 1999, up from 60,000 during the 1980s. Net migration in the 22 counties closely linked to regional centers nearby national parks had net in-migration of over 53,000 in the 1990s, compared with only 10,300 during the 1980s. And the 18 isolated rural counties nearby parks, which experienced net out-migration of 5,800 people in the 1980s, had net in-migration of around 9,700 in the 1990s. Altogether net migration in the 51 non-metro counties went from about 64,500 in the 1980s to nearly 196,000 in the 1990s, more than tripling and accounting for over 70 percent of all population growth in the counties during the period.

For Flathead County alone, net migration jumped from 2,800 during the 1980s to 10,900 between 1990 and 1999, accounting for over 80 percent of the county's total population growth during the period.

These shifts in migration patterns have fueled increased rates of overall population growth in these non-metro areas nearby national parks in the West. And this population growth is further fueling and driving major changes in area economies. These population trends and accompanying economic trends are analyzed in more detail through a series of charts.

Major Population Centers or Region "Cores" and Their "Closely-Linked" Counties in the West

READ Multi-County City-Centered Economic Regions

"Hub" Places by Size *

- 100,000 Population and Greater
- 50,000 to 100,000 Population
- 20,000 to 50,000 Population
- 10,000 to 20,000 Population

Interstate Highways

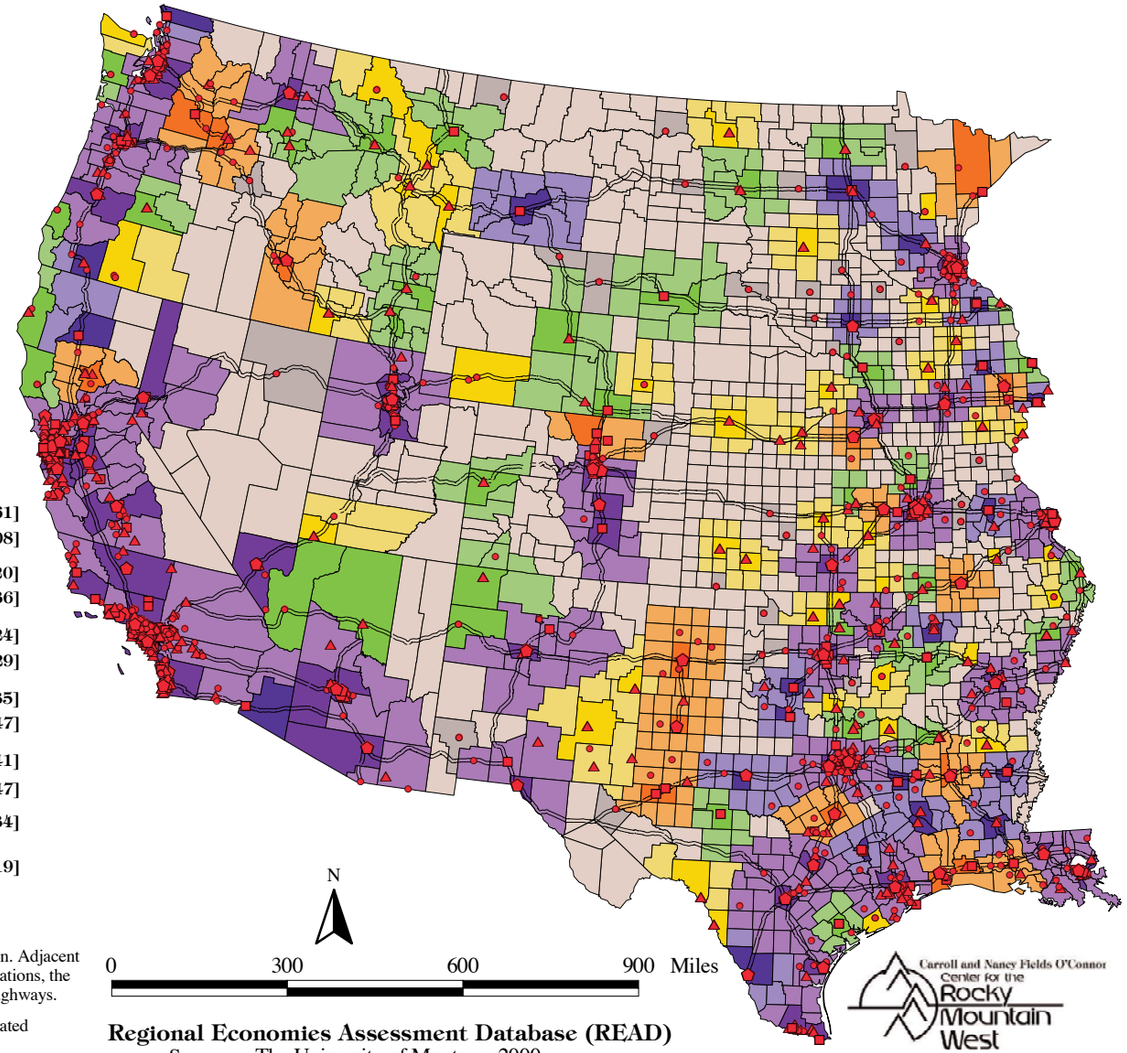
Read Multi-County Core-Based Regions ^

Major Metro Cores, 250,000+ Pop.	[61]
...adjacent and closely linked counties	[308]
2nd "Tier" Metro Cores of 160,000 to 250,000	[20]
...adjacent and closely linked counties	[136]
3rd "Tier" Metro Cores of 100,000 to 160,000	[24]
...adjacent and closely linked counties	[129]
Large Regional Trade Centers, 60,000 to 100,000	[35]
...adjacent and closely linked counties	[147]
Small Regional Trade Centers, 30,000 to 60,000 ~	[41]
...adjacent and closely linked counties	[147]
Isolated Rural Centers (Counties under 35,000 with places of 10,000 to 20,000 pop.)	[34]
Small Isolated Rural Counties Under 35,000 with no place of 10,000 pop.	[419]

* Classifications reflect populations in the 1990 Census of Population.

^ "Core" counties contain the dominant population center(s) of a region. Adjacent and nearby counties are assigned to these based upon their relative locations, the size and dominance of core counties, and visual inspection of major highways.

~ "Core" counties greater than 30,000 population also having incorporated places greater than 20,000 (1990 Census)



Regional Economies Assessment Database (READ)
Swanson, The University of Montana, 2000

Carroll and Nancy Fields O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West

T.J. Albenhaus '00

There's no single way to determine or gauge the size and reach of an area economy. But, it's clear, regional economies at the sub-state level are organized around major population centers and their surrounding, sometimes far-flung trade and service areas. And the articulation of regional economies around major population centers is being steadily magnified by the growing service-sector orientation of the economy as a whole. Cities are the centers of service activity and the marketplaces for most service activity are regionally defined.

A methodology was devised for identifying the dominant centers of each area of the West and then further identifying adjacent and nearby counties that are closely-linked to these centers, both economically and socially, by their proximity. A "top-down," step-by-step approach was used beginning with the very largest cities and their surrounding counties and then moving to progressively smaller centers. This process extended to areas that lie just beyond the reach of the very largest centers and to smaller centers that dominate the regional economies of increasingly less-populated areas.

A "hierarchy" of regional centers is visualized, an urban-rural continuum of region types, ranging from major metro cores and surrounding closely-linked counties to 2nd and 3rd "Tier" metro centers and further to progressively smaller, largely non-metro, large and small regional trade centers. Sparsely-populated areas at great distances from these centers are classified as "isolated rural counties."

READ "Urban-to-Rural" Regional Hierarchy*

READ region types/1	County Pop. Ranges	Pop. Tier/2	*READ* county type/3	County Code:	No. of counties	Amer.Ind. Depend./4	Prod. Ag. Dep./5	Total '90 Pop.	% of Pop.
PURPLE REGIONS			**region cores**	**11a**	51			47,204,134	49%
Major Metros	500,000+ pop.	0+	large closely-linked	**12a**	3			3,257,809	3.4%
500,000+ core pop.	100,000 - 500,000	1,2,3	med. periph.	**12a**	38			7,984,864	8.4%
	35,000 - 100,000	4,5	small periph.	**12a**	63			3,614,755	3.8%
Regions #1 - 28: 28 total	less than 35,000	6,7,8,9	small periph.	**12a**	122			2,095,732	2.2%
PURPLE REGIONS		1	**region cores**	**11b**	10			3,500,840	3.7%
Major Metros	250,000+ pop.	1+	large closely-linked	**12b**	0			0	0.0%
250,000 - 500,000	100,000 - 250,000	2,3	med. periph.	**12b**	1			217,162	0.2%
core populations	35,000 - 100,000	4,5	small periph.	**12b**	26			1,637,702	1.7%
Regions #29 - 38: 10 total	less than 35,000	6,7,8,9	small periph.	**12b**	55	2		911,619	1.0%
ORANGE REGIONS		2,3,4,5	**region cores**	**21**	21			3,507,830	3.7%
Large "2nd Tier" Metros	100,000+ pop.	3+	large closely-linked	**22**	2			322,909	0.3%
160,000 - 250,000	35,000 - 100,000	4,5	med. periph.	**22**	21			1,258,077	1.3%
core populations	20,000 - 35,000	6	small periph.	**22**	28			737,798	0.8%
Regions #39 - 56: 18 total	less than 20,000	7,8,9	small periph.	**22**	84			845,509	0.9%
BLUE REGIONS		3,4,5	**region cores**	**31**	24			2,802,763	2.9%
Small "3rd Tier" Metros	60,000+ pop.	4+	large closely-linked	**32**	6			470,191	0.5%
100,000 - 160,000	20,000 - 60,000	5,6	med. periph.	**32**	47	1		1,483,402	1.6%
Regions #57 - 78: 22 total	less than 20,000	7,8,9	small periph.	**32**	77	3		920,483	1.0%
GREEN REGIONS		3,4,5,6	**region cores**	**41**	35	3		2,682,693	2.8%
Large Regional Centers	35,000+ pop.	5+	large periph.	**42**	8			341,194	0.4%
60,000 - 100,000 pop.	10,000 - 35,000	6,7	med. periph.	**42**	76	1		1,478,623	1.5%
Regions #79 - 112: 34 total	less than 10,000	8,9	small periph.	**42**	63	4		336,357	0.4%
YELLOW REGIONS		5,6	**region cores**	**51**	41			1,802,812	1.9%
Small Regional Centers	20,000+ pop.	6+	large periph.	**52**	18			542,654	0.6%
30,000 - 60,000 pop.	5,000 - 20,000	7,8	med. periph.	**52**	91			962,899	1.0%
Regions #113 - 153: 37 total	less than 5,000	9-	small periph.	**52**	38			111,295	0.1%
GRAY: Isolated Rural Centers (61 total)	Under 35,000 with places greater than 10,000 pop.	5,6,7	isolated rural center	**61**	33		2	779,257	0.8%
LIGHT GRAY:	10,000+ pop. (with I.H. acc.)	7+	iso. rural cos.	**62a**	38	2	7	700,578	0.7%
Small Isolated	10,000+ pop. (no I.H. acc.)	7+	iso. rural cos.	**62b**	100	4	17	1,625,473	1.7%
Rural Counties	1 - 10,000 (with I.H. access)	8,9	iso. rural cos.	**62a**	76	3	44	405,033	0.4%
(Interstate Highway Access)	1 - 10,000 (no I.H. acc.)	8,9	iso. rural cos.	**62b**	204	7	117	979,801	1.0%
Totals for West					1,500	30	187	95,522,248	100%

* A top-down hierarchical method is used in identifying region "core" counties and their surrounding "closely-linked" periphery counties. At the top of this hierarchy are the most "urban" areas, while at the bottom are the most "rural" sparsely-populated and isolated areas.

1/ General descriptors for each READ region type are given based upon the size of a region's core county or counties ('90 populations). At the top are regions centered around major metropolitan centers with county-wide populations greater than 500,000 people.

2/ Counties have been placed into "tier" classes based upon their 1990 populations as follows:

- Tier 0: 500,000 and more
- Tier 1: 250,000 - 500,000
- Tier 2: 160,000 - 250,000
- Tier 3: 100,000 - 160,000
- Tier 4: 60,000 - 100,000
- Tier 5: 30,000 - 60,000
- Tier 6: 20,000 - 30,000
- Tier 7: 10,000 - 20,000
- Tier 8: 5,000 - 10,000
- Tier 9: less than 5,000 pop.

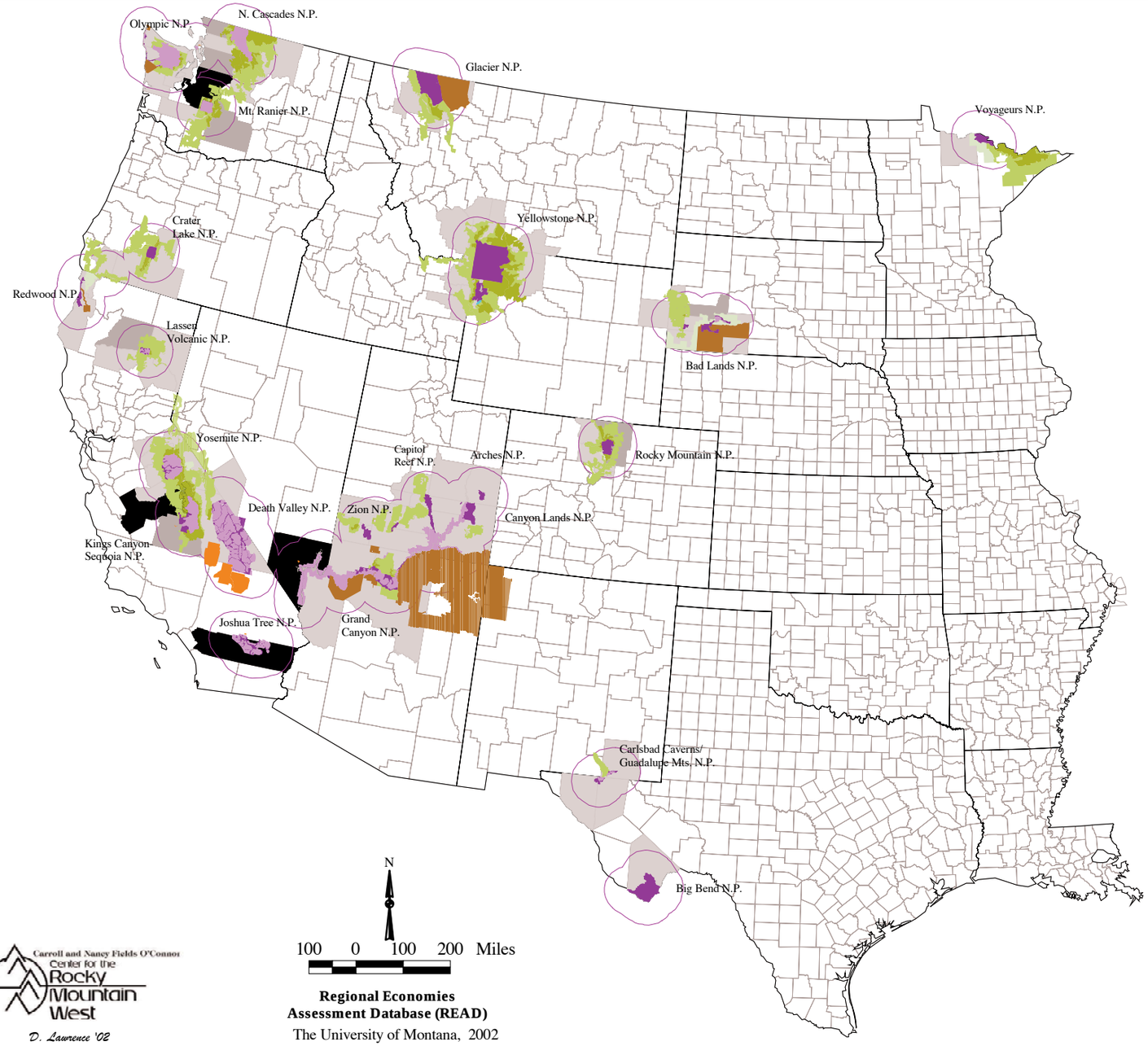
3/ Counties within READ regions are either "core" counties (region centers) or what is referred to as "closely-linked" periphery counties. Some regions have "joint" cores or more than one core county.

4/ "American Indian dependent" counties are ones in which their '90 populations were 25% or more American Indian.

5/ "Ag dependent" counties are rural ones (codes 61 or 62) where the farm sector accounts for 15% or more of area labor income ('92 benchmark).

- Larry Swanson, O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, U. of Montana, 2000

Major National Parks in the West and Other Nearby Federal Lands



The map at the left shows major national parks in the 22-contiguous states largely west of the Mississippi River. Major parks are shown in "pink" and other federal lands adjacent to these parks are shown in other colors (dark green: Forest Service wilderness areas; medium green: F.S. national forests; light green: other F.S. lands; brown: Bureau of Indian Affairs lands (reservations); orange: Dept. of Defense lands.) Other National Park Service lands, besides these more major parks are also shown in pink. The major parks and other federal lands surrounding them together form destination areas for travelers and vacationers, and also largely define the natural setting of nearby communities.

Areas Nearby National Parks in the West

GIS (geographic information systems) software was used in identifying and isolating counties whose geographic centers are within 40 miles of major parks. Further adjustments were then made visually, and the counties nearest to these parks were then grouped according to the size of their largest city.

Counties whose geographic center is within 40 miles of a major national park in the West

CODE			
1		Counties with a place of 150,000 people or more	[5]
2		Counties with a place of 50,000 - 150,000 people	[8]
3		Counties with no place greater than 50,000 people	[67]
		40 mile buffer around select national parks	
		National park lands	
		NPS national monuments, historic sites, battlefields, etc.	
		NPS wilderness, wilderness study, preserves, rec. areas	
		Forest Service national forests	
		Forest Service wilderness & wilderness study areas	
		Forest Service other lands	
		Bureau of Indian Affairs lands	
		Department of Defense lands	

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D. Lawrence '02

Regional Economies Assessment Database (READ)

The University of Montana, 2002

*Table 1: Population Change in Non-Metro Areas Nearby National Parks in the West**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau data and analysis by the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, U. of Montana, 2002

Population in thousands	**1975**	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1980-90 Change No.**	**1980-90 Change %**	**1995**	**1999**	**1990-99 Change No.**	**1990-99 Change %**
Non-metro Counties with Small and Large Regional Centers										
GROUP 2	**646**	**736**	**786**	**864**	*128.3*	*17.4%*	**990**	**1,045**	*180.6*	*20.9%*
Codes 31,41,51			*natural change*		*68.6*	*9.3%*	*natural change*		*49.65*	*5.7%*
11 counties			*net migration*		*60.0*	*8.1%*	*net migration*		*132.85*	*15.4%*
							residual adjust.		*-1.92*	*-0.2%*
Flathead Co.	**44.94**	**51.97**	**57.66**	**59.22**	*7.3*	*14.0%*	**69.49**	**72.77**	*13.6*	*22.9%*
			natural change		*4.4*	*8.6%*	*natural change*		*2.9*	*4.8%*
			net migration		*2.8*	*5.4%*	*net migration*		*10.9*	*18.5%*
							residual adjust.		*-0.2*	*-0.4%*

These counties include Flathead (Kalispell) and Gallatin (Bozeman) in Montana, Jackson (Medford) and Klamath (Altamont) in Oregon, Grays Harbor (Aberdeen) and Clallam (Port Angeles) in Washington, Coconino (Flagstaff) and Mohave (Kingman) in Arizona, Humboldt (Eureka) in California, Bonneville (Idaho Falls) in Idaho, and Washington (St. George) in Utah. Net migration in these 11 counties increased from 60,000 in the 80s to nearly 133,000 in the 90s. Migration alone raised area populations by over 15% during the period.

Non-metro Counties Nearby and Closely-Linked to Small and Large Regional Centers										
GROUP 3	**310**	**360**	**383**	**401**	*40.9*	*11.3%*	**455**	**475**	*74.0*	*18.4%*
Codes 32,42,52			*natural change*		*30.38*	*8.4%*	*natural change*		*20.23*	*5.0%*
22 counties			*net migration*		*10.33*	*2.9%*	*net migration*		*53.16*	*13.2%*
							residual adjust.		*0.62*	*0.2%*

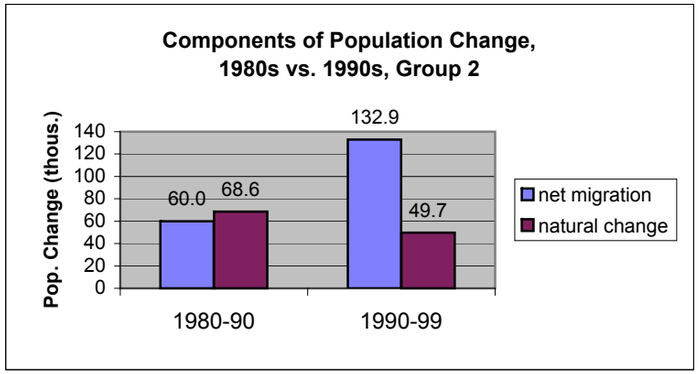
Of these 22 counties, 5 are in South Dakota, 4 are in Utah, and 3 each are in Montana, Idaho, and Washington. One each is in Wyoming, New Mexico, Oregon, and California. Net migration to these 22 counties increased five-fold in going from the '80s to the '90s.

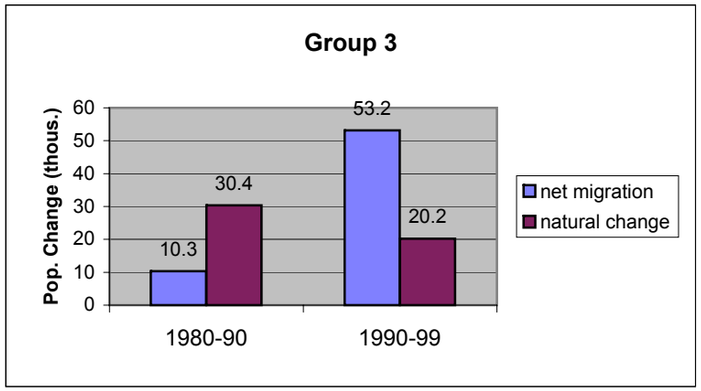
Isolated Rural Counties with small populations										
GROUP 4	**178**	**202**	**215**	**218**	*16.5*	*8.2%*	**232**	**241**	*23.0*	*10.5%*
Codes 61,62a,62b			*natural change*		*22.37*	*11.1%*	*natural change*		*13.92*	*6.4%*
18 counties			*net migration*		*-5.82*	*-2.9%*	*net migration*		*9.7*	*4.4%*
							residual adjust.		*-0.64*	*-0.3%*

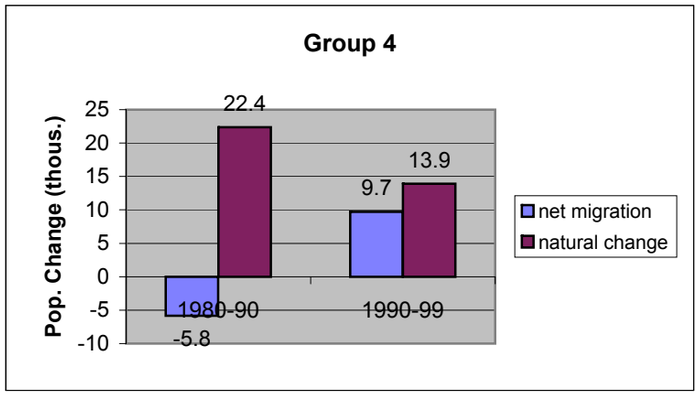
These 18 counties are scattered throughout the West with 5 in Utah, 3 in California, and 2 each in Wyoming and Texas. Colorado, Washington, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota, and Nevada have one each. These sparesely-populated and more isolated rural counties lost nearly 6,000 people through net out-migration in the 80s, but added nearly 10,000 through net in-migration in the 90s.

Total	**1,134**	**1,298**	**1,384**	**1,484**	*185.8*	*14.3%*	**1,677**	**1,761**	*277.6*	*18.7%*
All Codes			*natural change*		*121.4*	*9.4%*	*natural change*		*83.8*	*5.6%*
51 counties			*net migration*		***64.5***	*5.0%*	*net migration*		***195.7***	*13.2%*
							residual adjust.		*-1.9*	*-0.1%*

The 51 counties comprising Groups 2, 3, and 4 above added nearly 196,000 people through net in-migration during the 1990s, increasing their overall population during the decade by more than 13%, considerably more than the 5% from net migration of less than 65,000 in the 80s. While net migration has grown considerably during the 90s, natural change has declined because of falling area birth rates.

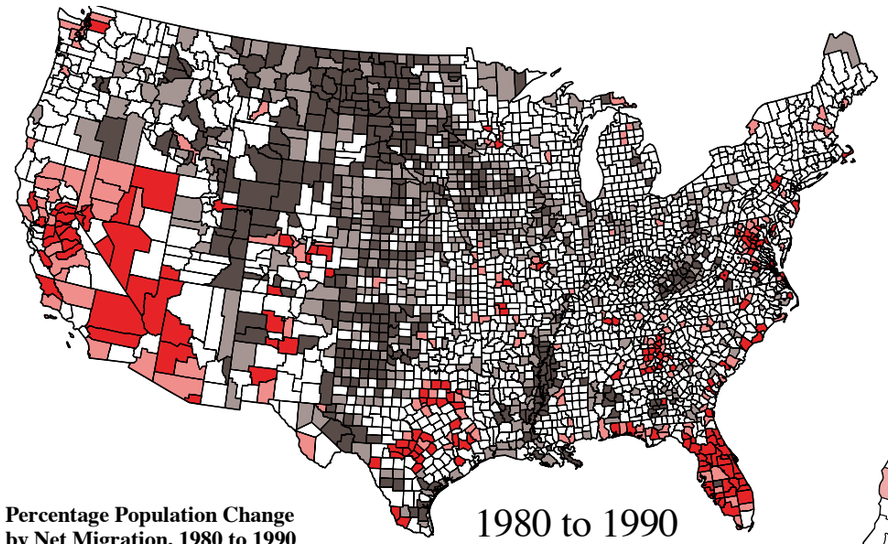






Population Change through Migration in the U. S.

Area population change happens in two ways: change resulting from differences in the number of births and deaths in an area or "natural change," and change resulting from differences in the number of people moving to an area versus those moving away or "migration." The maps show change resulting from migration for two periods: the 1980-90 period at the left and the 1990-99 period in the map below. Losses through migration were extensive during the 1980s and heavily focused in the Plains regions and parts of the Rocky Mountain West, while growth through migration was focused in California in the West and Florida in the East. This pattern has greatly changed and many areas of the West are seeing considerable growth through migration.



Percentage Population Change by Net Migration, 1980 to 1990

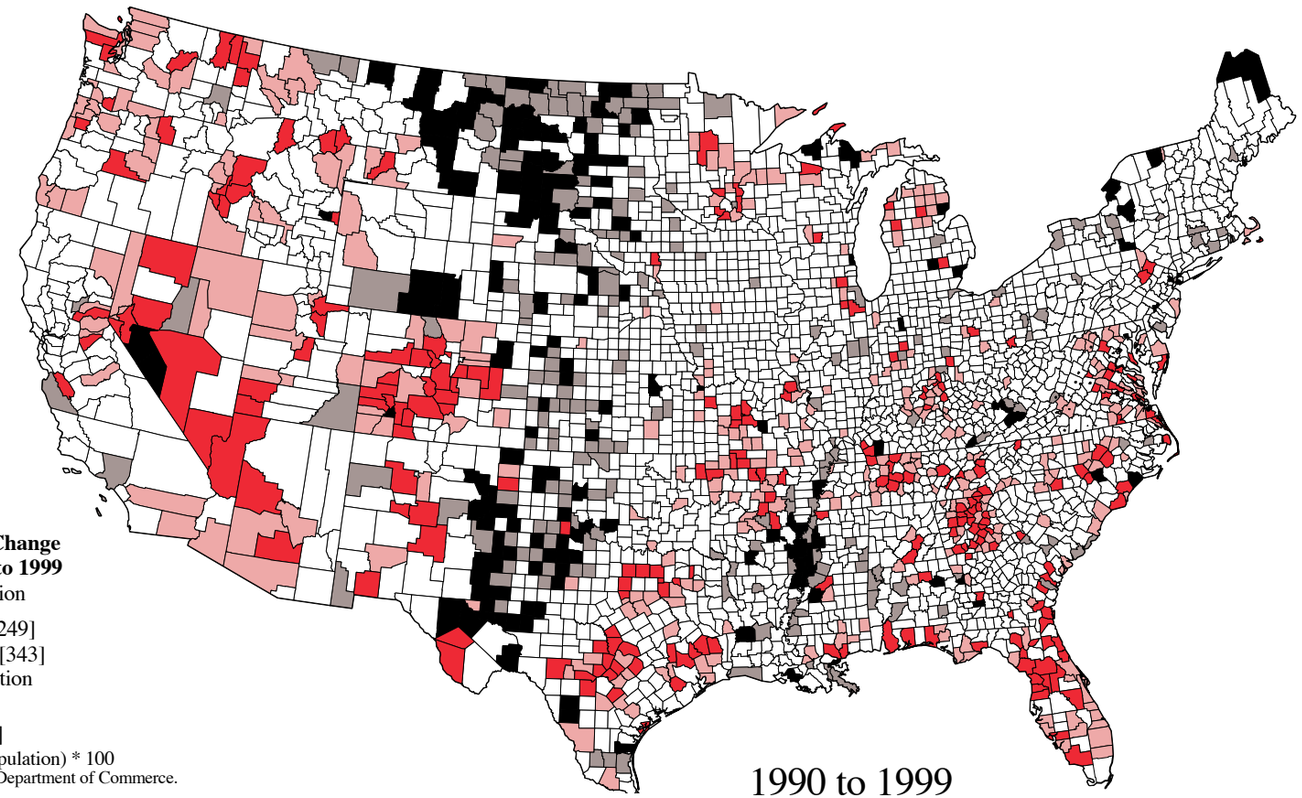
Pop. Change by In-migration

- +25% and more [164]
- +15% to +25% [164]

Pop. Change by Out-migration

- -10% to -15% [675]
- -15% and more [126]

(net migration '80-'90 / '80 population) * 100



Percentage Population Change by Net Migration, 1990 to 1999

Pop. Change by In-migragion

- +22.5% and more [249]
- +13.5% to +22.5% [343]

Pop. Change by Out-migration

- -5.4% to -9% [227]
- -9% and more [162]

(net migration '90-'99 / '90 population) * 100

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce.

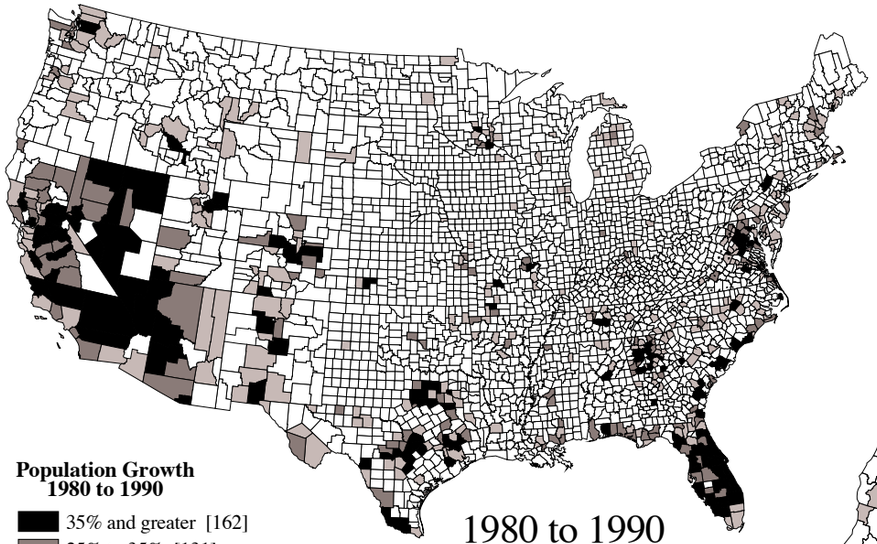
Center for the Rocky Mountain West

Regional Economics Assessment Database (READ)

The University of Montana, 2002

Doug Lawrence '02

Areas of Population Growth in the U.S.

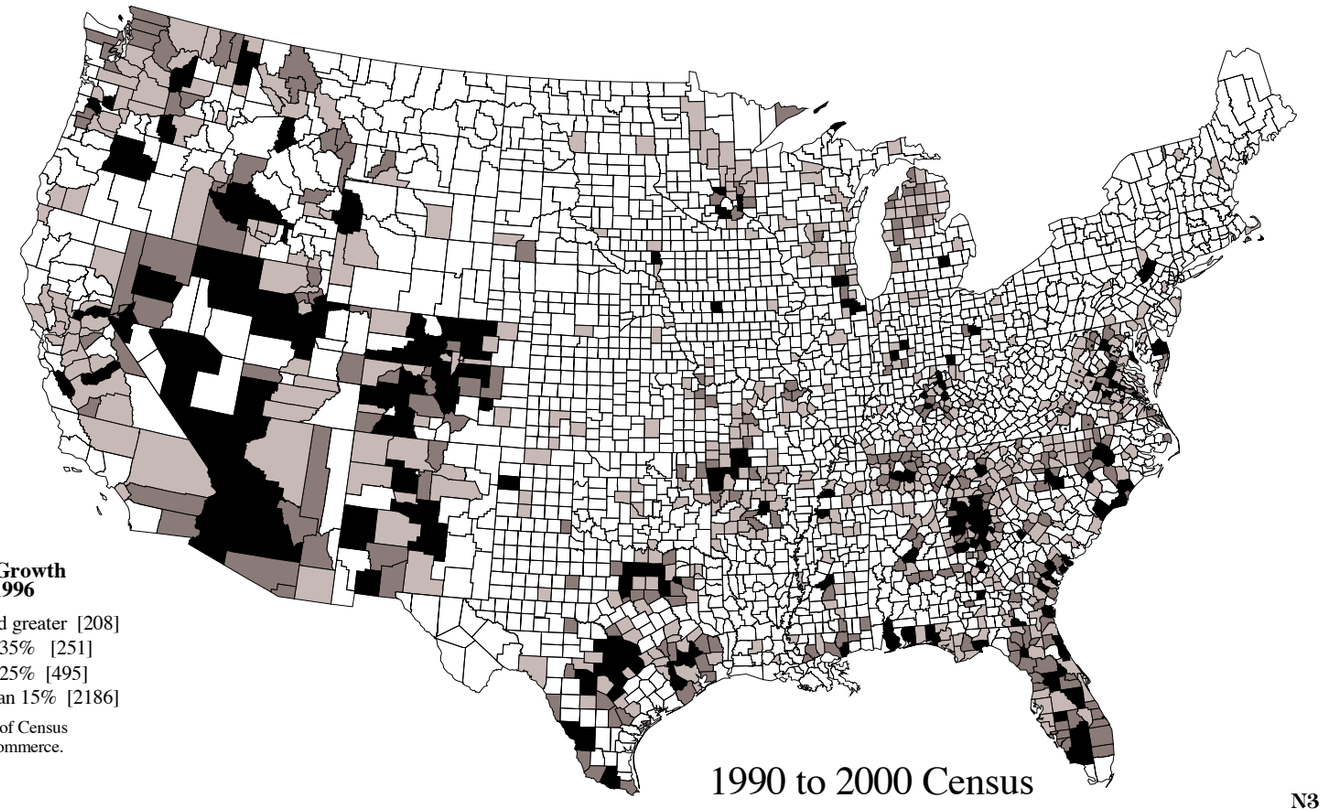


Population Growth 1980 to 1990

- 35% and greater [162]
- 25% to 35% [131]
- 15% to 25% [260]
- Less than 15% [2587]

1980 to 1990

Population growth for two time periods is depicted in the maps; the one at the left shows areas with the greatest percentage population growth between 1980 and 1990 while the map below shows areas with the greatest growth from 1990 to 2000. The pattern of growth in the East, heavily focused in only a few areas during the 1980s, is clearly more widely distributed in the latter period. In the West, growth, once heavily focused in California, Nevada, Arizona, and around a few major cities outside of these states, has spread to other areas, particularly in the Southwest, Rocky Mountain West and Pacific Northwest regions.



Population Growth 1990 to 1996

- 35% and greater [208]
- 25% to 35% [251]
- 15% to 25% [495]
- Less than 15% [2186]

Source: Bureau of Census
U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

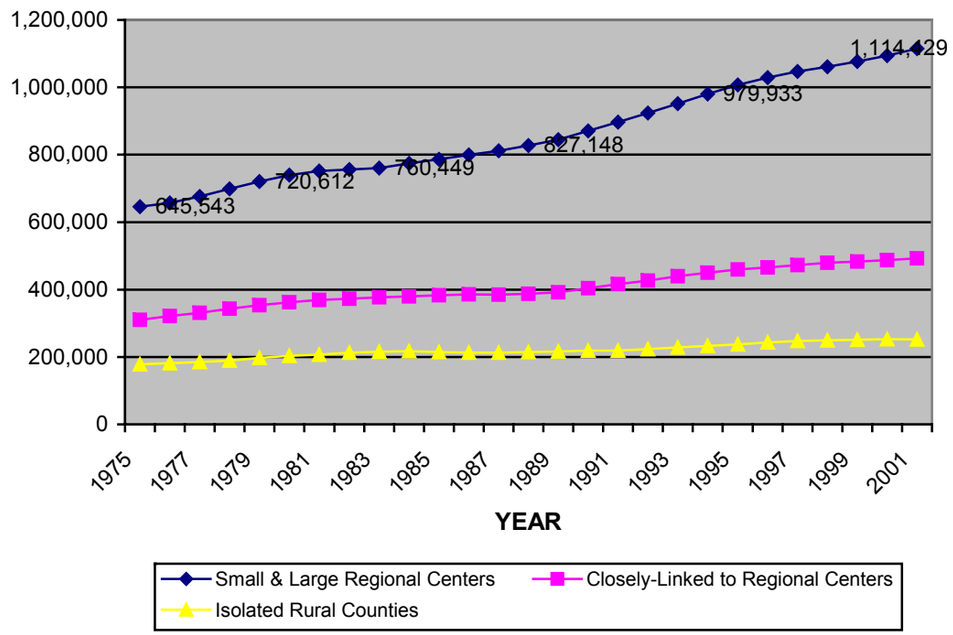
1990 to 2000 Census

Carroll and Nancy Fields O'Connor
Center for the Rocky Mountain West

Regional Economics Assessment Database (READ)
The University of Montana, 2000
David E. Hignuess '97
T.J. Albenhaus '00
Doug Lawrence '02

Population Trends The chart below shows population change among the three groups of national parks counties from 1975 to 2001, which is the latest available annual estimate. The total population of the 11 regional center counties grew at a relatively fast pace in the late 1970s, before flattening out a bit in the early and mid-1980s. The shift in migration patterns spurred population growth in the early and mid-1990s and the total population of the counties now exceeds 1.1 million people.

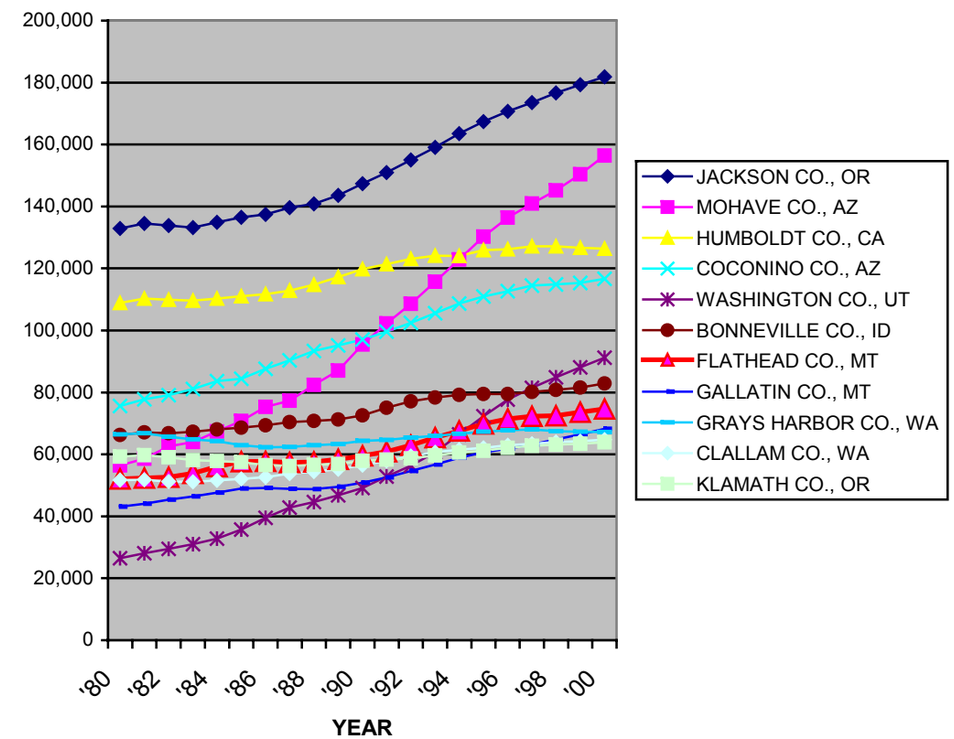
Chart 1: Population in Non-Metro Areas Nearby National Parks in the West, 1980 - 2001



The same pattern can be seen but to lesser degrees with the closely-linked counties. Population growth is occurring at a slower rate in the group of isolated rural counties nearby national parks (shown in yellow in the chart).

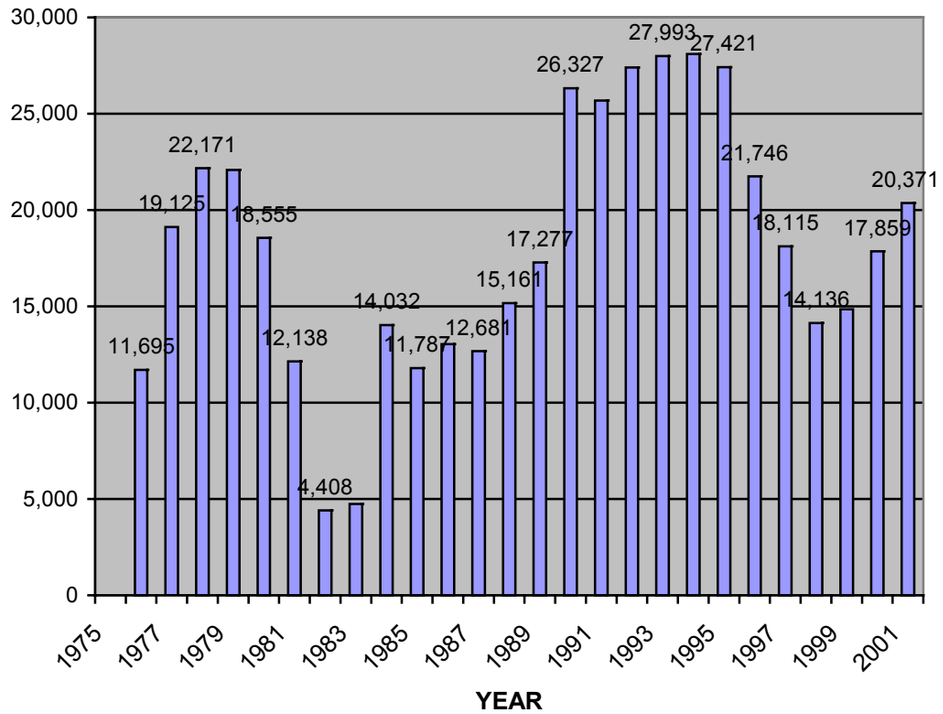
Although showing a common general pattern, population growth among the 11 regional center counties varies considerably with some growing much faster than others. However, nearly all of the counties experienced relatively slow population growth in the early and mid-1980s. A "boost" in population growth clearly occurred in most of the counties in the early 1990s, as with Flathead County. It can also be seen that the pace of population growth slackened a bit in the latter part of the 1990s in most of the counties as well.

Chart 2: Population of Small & Large Regional Centers Nearby National Parks in the West



There are obvious similarities between population trends in the 11 counties nearby national parks with small and large regional centers, which includes Flathead County, and population trends in Flathead County alone. Chart 3 shows annual population changes among the 11 regional center counties between 1975 and 2001.

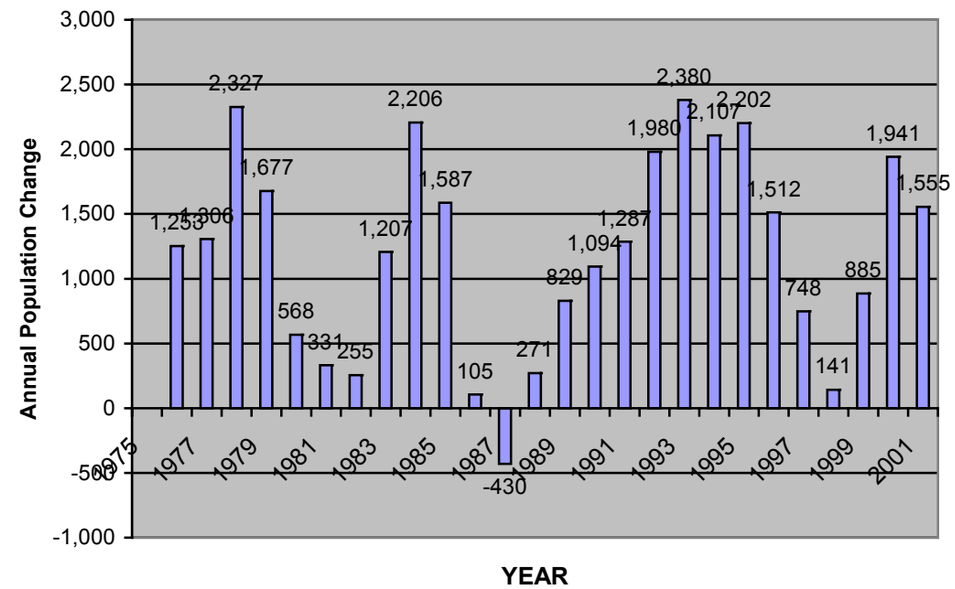
Chart 3: Annual Population Change in National Parks Counties with Small and Large Regional Centers



Population growth slumped in the mid-1980s, then began to increase rapidly. And the large increases in population growth in the early and mid-1990s coincide with recent migration shifts, as have been previously noted. Annual growth began to slip during the latter part of the 1990s before beginning to rise each year in each of the last three years from 1999 to 2001.

A similar pattern characterizes the recent history of population change in Flathead County, as shown in the chart below. Population growth fell off in the county in the early 1980s, just as it had in the other ten counties. Growth temporarily returned in the mid-1980s, before collapsing again between 1985 and 1986. Growth returned and expanded each year from 1989 to 1993 and remained high in 1994 and 1995, before beginning a three-year decline. In more recent years, growth has again surged, a pattern mimicking what has been occurring among small and large regional center counties nearby national parks in the West more generally.

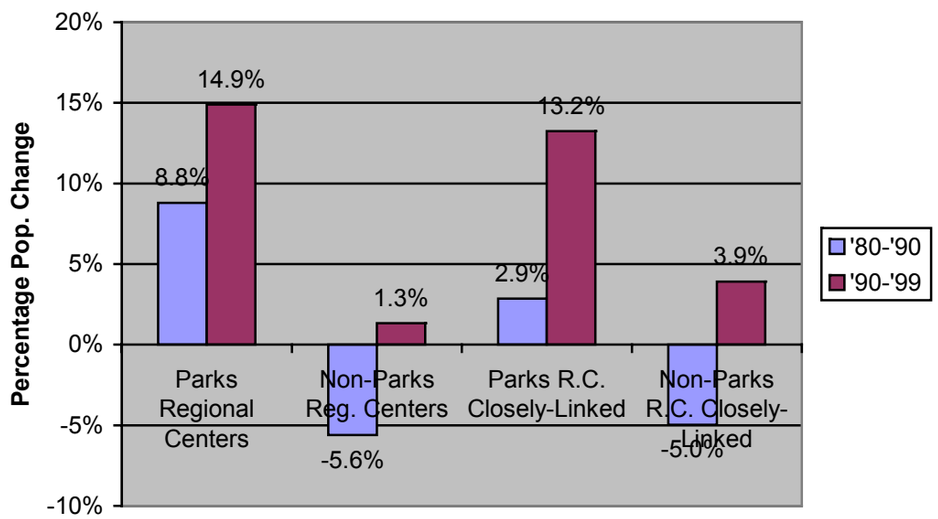
Chart 4: Flathead County Annual Population Change, 1975 - 2001



Comparing Trends in National Parks Counties with Other Similar Counties in the West

It's important to compare and scrutinize how major trends in non-metro areas nearby national parks in the West may compare with similar types of non-metro areas in the West that aren't nearby these parks. Such comparisons provide context for understanding the potential influence that proximity to major national parks may be playing in recent trends in growth and change. The *READ* county classification system is used in identifying counties in the West similarly situated within the urban-to-rural hierarchy of places.

Chart 5: Population Change through Net Migration, National Parks Counties vs. Non-National Parks Counties



The chart above compares the impacts of net migration on area populations during the 1980s and 1990s for "national parks counties" and counties not nearby the parks ("non-national parks counties"). Ten of the eleven counties nearby national parks with small and large regional centers are included in the figures above (the "3rd Tier regional center county of Jackson County, Oregon, is omitted; which is *READ* code 31, blue). And these ten counties (all *READ* county codes 41 and 51) are compared with 65 other regional center counties in the West that are similar in population size and proximity to other population centers. Counties nearby small and large regional centers and considered closely-linked to them (22 counties with *READ* codes 32, 42, 52) are then compared with other non-metro counties of similar size that are closely-linked to small and large regional centers that are not nearby national parks.

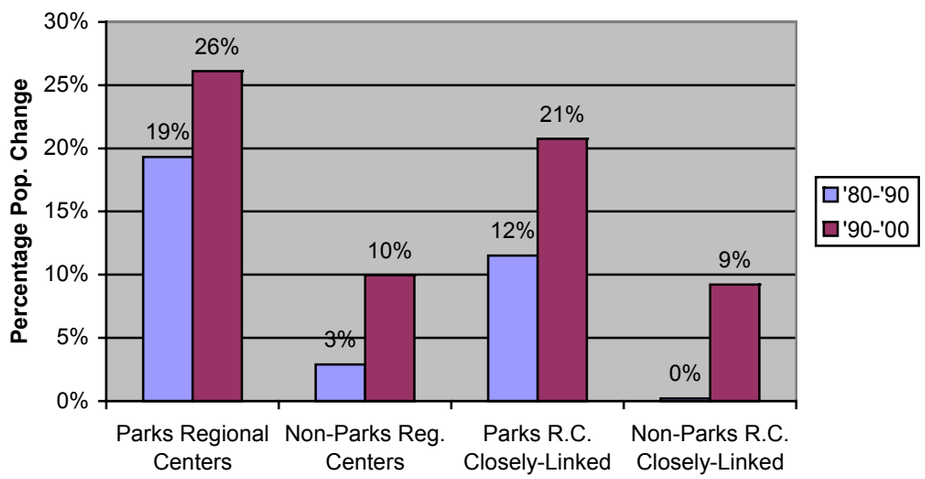
The parks regional center counties had net in-migration that raised their 1980 population be 8.8 percent between 1980 and 1990. During the same period, non-parks regional center counties had net out-migration that reduced their 1980 base populations by 5.6 percent. So, while the parks counties experienced significant in migration during the 1980s, the non-parks counties experienced significant out migration. During the 1990s, net migration increased in the ten regional center counties nearby parks, raising their 1990 base populations by 14.9 percent. In the non-parks regional centers, net migration became positive, but base populations were only increased by 1.3 percent.

For the counties closely-linked to small and large regional centers, net migration raised base populations only modestly during the 1980s (up 2.9%), but raised them significantly during the 1990s (up 13.2 percent). For similar types of counties not nearby these parks, base populations were reduced through net out-migration in the 1980s (down 5%), and increased only modestly during the 1990s (up 3.9%). So, in terms of migration patterns, there is clear evidence that non-metro areas nearby national parks are experiencing much higher rates of net in-migration than non-metro areas without such proximity to parks.

In that net migration is only one component of population change, these same counties were compared for overall population change (chart 6). Between 1980 and 1990 the regional center counties nearby parks increased their population by 19 percent, while similar counties not near these parks grew by only 3 percent. And between 1990 and 2000, the parks regional centers grew by 26 percent as compared to 10 percent growth by the non-parks regional center counties. The population of closely-linked counties nearby parks grew by 12 percent in the 1980s and by 21 percent in the 1990s. For counties of similar size closely-linked to small and large regional centers not nearby

parks, population remained roughly the same from 1980 to 1990 and grew by 9 percent during the 1990s. These trends indicate that there a shift in population growth is occurring in non-metro areas throughout the West, with higher rates of growth in the decade of the '90s than in the decade of the '80s. But, this shift is differentially higher in non-metro areas nearby national parks.

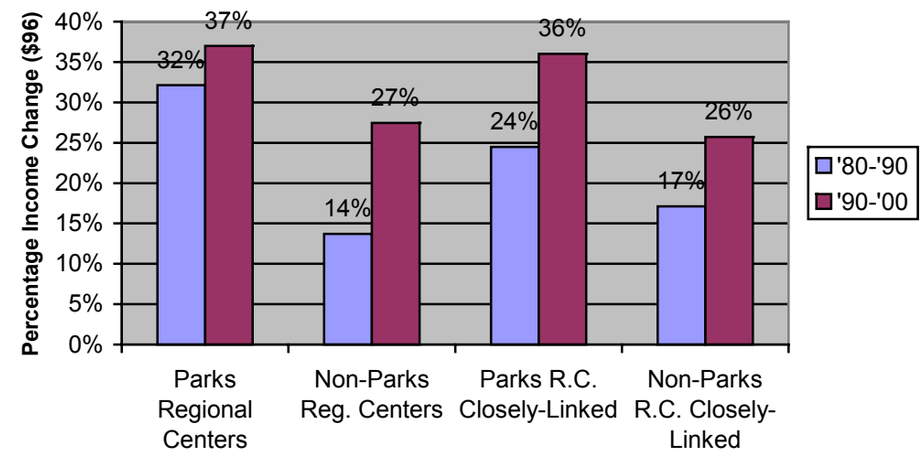
Chart 6: Total Population Change, National Parks Counties vs. Non-National Parks Counties



Total personal income growth was also compared for these counties (chart 7). In areas nearby national parks, income grew by 32 percent in the 1980s and by 37 percent in the 1990s in regional center counties (total personal income as measured in 1996 inflation-adjusted dollars). While gains in personal income reflect both real increased in income and population gains, the income base of non-parks regional center counties grew by 14 percent and 27 percent during the two periods, respectively, rates significantly below those in areas nearby parks.

The same pattern is true with the closely-linked counties. Personal income grew by 24 percent in the 1980s for the parks counties versus 17 percent in the non-parks counties and by 36 percent in the 1990s versus 26 percent. So, the population and income bases in non-metro areas nearby national parks have grown at considerably faster rates than in non-metro areas not similarly situated in close proximity to these parks.

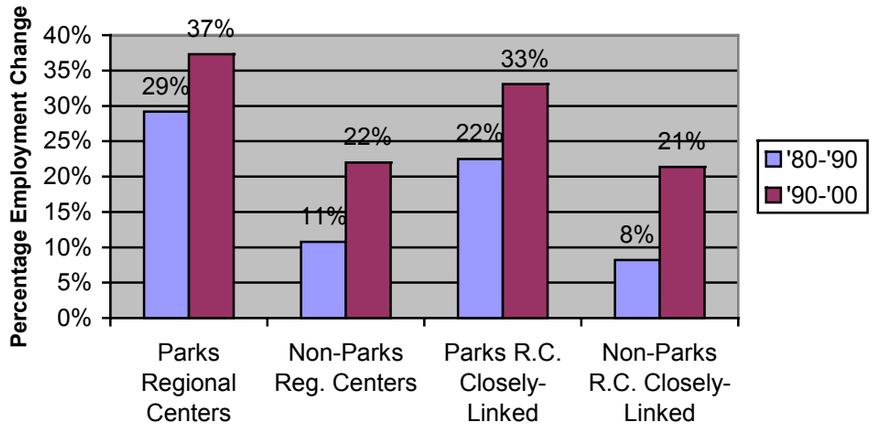
Chart 7: Total Personal Income Growth, National Parks Counties vs. Non-National Parks Counties



These differential rates of growth in population and personal income are further translating into differential rates in employment growth (chart 8). In counties with small and large regional centers nearby national parks, like Flathead County, total employment including both full and part-time employment grew by 29 percent during the 1980s and by 37 percent in the 1990s. This compares with employment growth of 11 percent and 22 percent, respectively, for non-parks regional centers in the West.

In counties closely-linked counties to small and large regional centers, employment grew by 22 percent and 33 percent in national parks areas and by 8 percent and 21 percent in non-parks areas. So, all major components of economic growth (population, income, and employment) are growing at significantly higher rates in non-metro areas nearby national parks in the West than in comparable non-park areas.

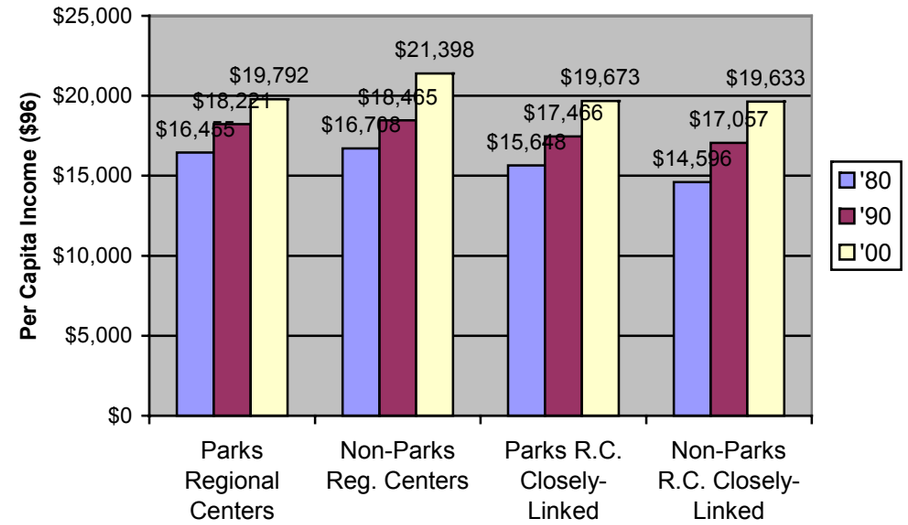
Chart 8: Total Employment Growth, National Parks Counties vs. Non-National Parks Counties



Counties also were compared in terms of per capita income (chart 9). Per capita income, calculated by dividing the total personal income of an area by its total population, is one of the most commonly used measures of area economic prosperity. Per capita income levels in small and large regional center counties nearby parks and not nearby parks were roughly comparable in 1980 and 1990. However, per capita income levels by the year 2000 in non-parks counties are significantly higher than in parks counties ($21,398 versus $19,792). Over the course of the 1990s, per capita income levels grew by nearly 16 percent in non-parks regional centers while growing by only 8.6 percent in parks regional centers, resulting in this gap.

This suggests that although quantitative growth of all types was higher during the 1990s in regional center counties nearby parks than in these counties not near parks, this growth did not automatically translate into gains in per capita incomes by parks regional centers. A comparison of the two sets of closely-linked counties indicates that per capita income levels have been and remain very comparable over the entire period.

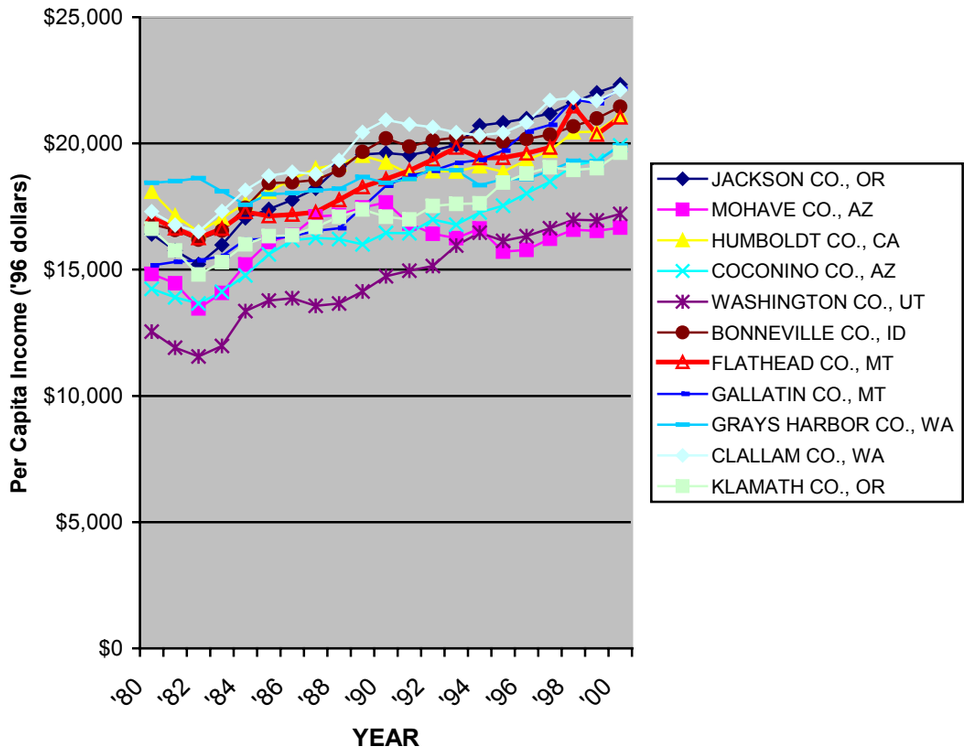
Chart 9: Per Capita Income Over Time, National Parks Counties vs. Non-National Parks Counties



While per capita income for the entire group of 10 regional center counties nearby parks is significantly less than the average for the larger set of regional center counties not nearby parks, per capita income levels in several of the parks regional center counties exceed $21,000 in 2000, including Flathead County. Per capita income levels over time for all 11 regional center counties nearby parks are shown in Chart 10. Per capita income in Flathead County in 2000 was $21,038, ranking it fourth among the 11 counties. The county with the highest per capita income among this group is Jackson County, Oregon (Medford), which was not included in the ten counties used to make these comparisons.

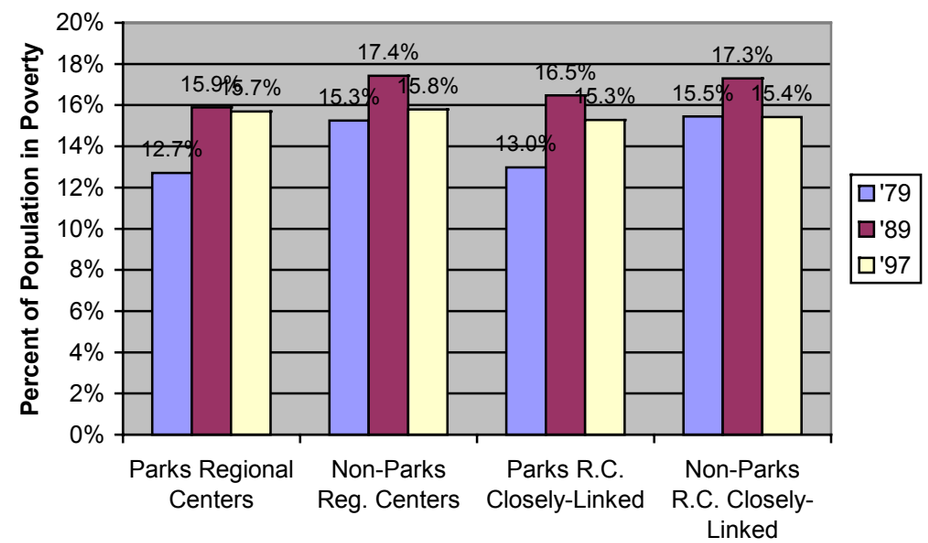
Two of ten counties that were included in the comparisons, Mohave County, Arizona (Kingman) and Washington County, Utah (St. George), have particularly low per capita incomes, as can be seen in the chart. And these two counties by themselves pull the average for the group down considerably.

Chart 10: Per Capita Income for Small and Large Regional Center Counties Nearby National Parks in the West



Another heavily used measure of area economic prosperity is the poverty rate. The number of persons in poverty are carefully estimated periodically for every county in the U.S. Chart 11 shows poverty rates over time for the two sets of national parks counties in relation to poverty rates for comparable areas not nearby parks. In the ten regional center counties nearby parks, the poverty rate rose from 12.7 percent in 1979 to 15.9 percent in 1989. This compares with poverty levels of 15.3 percent in 1979 and 17.4 percent in 1989 for non-parks regional centers. So in the late 1970s and late 1980s, poverty levels were significantly lower in the parks regional centers than in the non-parks regional centers. The same is true for the counties closely-linked to small and large regional centers. For these counties nearby parks, the poverty rate was 13.0 percent and 16.5 percent for 1979 and 1989, respectively, versus 15.5 percent and 17.3 percent for non-parks counties.

Chart 11: Poverty Rates Over Time, National Parks Counties vs. Non-National Parks Counties

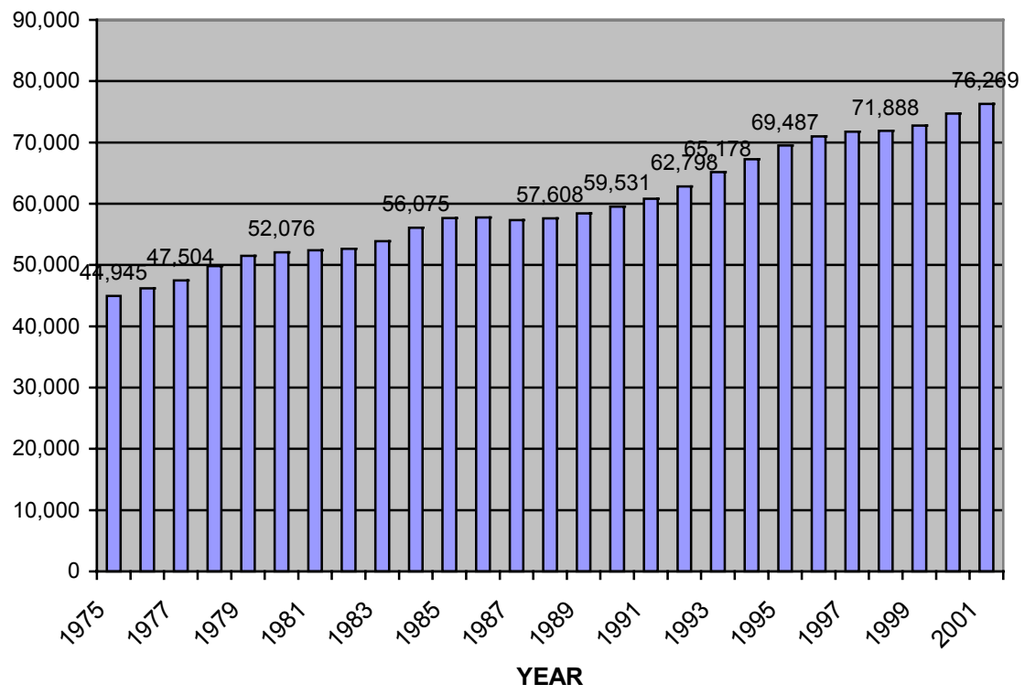


However, a comparison of poverty in 1997 shows considerable convergence in these poverty rates, with rates for all groups ranging from 15.3 to 15.8 percent. The poverty rate nationwide in 1997 was 13.3 percent. So, these poverty rates can be considered modestly high. In sum these comparisons of economic trends and conditions for parks and non-parks counties in the western United States clearly show that the parks counties are growing more rapidly than non-parks counties. But, this growth has yet to translate into higher levels of economic prosperity in areas nearby national parks, as measured by per capita income levels and poverty rates.

II. Growth and Change in the Flathead Economy

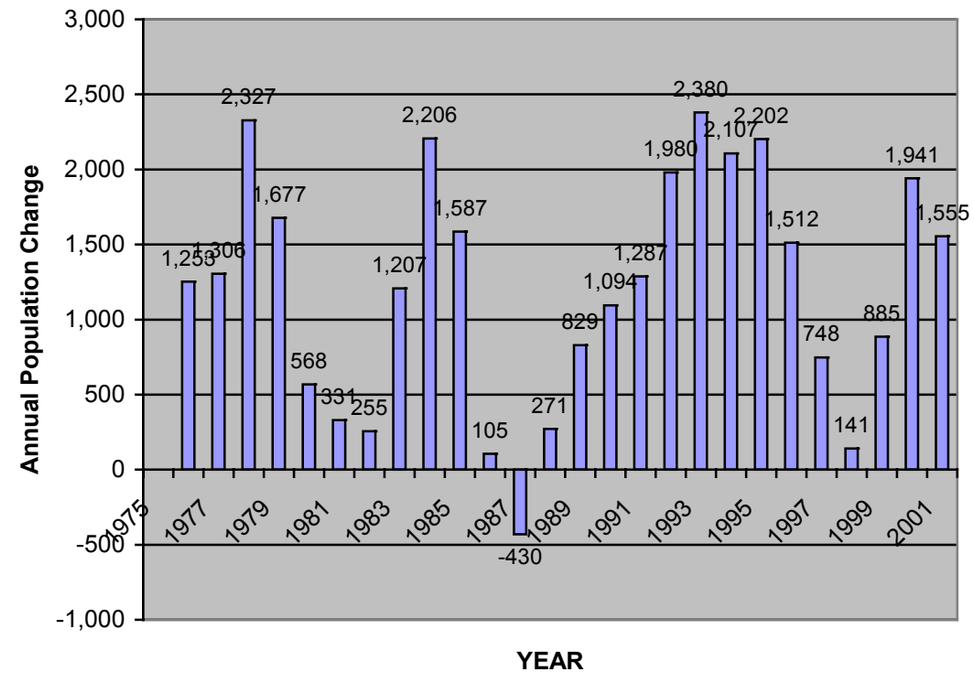
It is clear that there are common patterns in population, income and employment change occurring in non-metro areas nearby major parks in the West, including Flathead County. Flathead County has been experiencing steady population growth for most of the last twenty-five years, as can be seen in Chart 12. Less than 45,000 people lived in the county in the mid-1970s. By 1980 Flathead's population exceeded 52,000 people. By 1990 its population had risen to over 59,000. And after steady growth through the 1990s, the county's population approached 75,000 by decade's end.

Chart 12: Flathead County Population Over Time, 1975 - 2001



The ebbs and flows of population change in Flathead County can be viewed by focusing on annual change only, rather than total change.

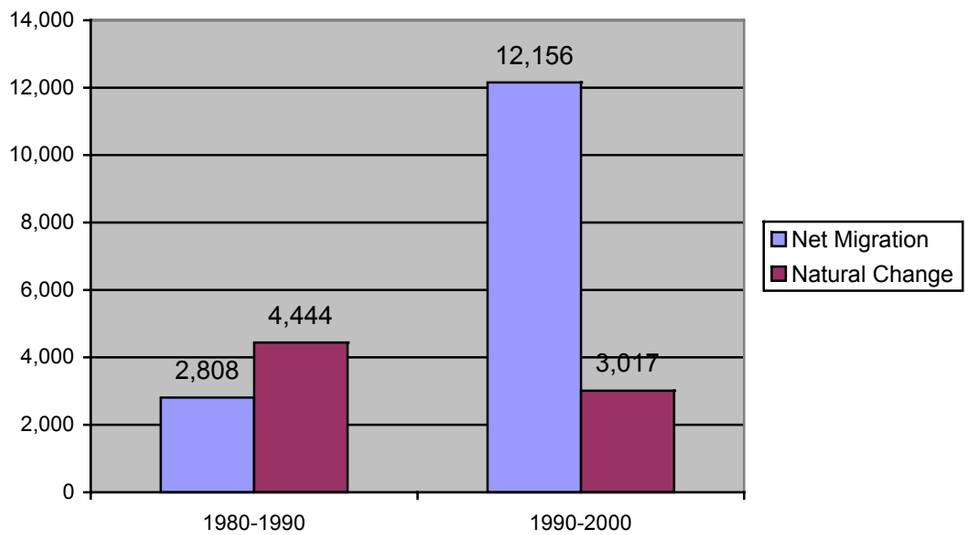
Chart 13: Flathead Co. Annual Population Change, 1975 - 2001



Population growth has come in spurts, as in the late '70s, mid-80s, and early and mid-90s. And the latest available population estimate for July, 2001, suggests that area population growth may be spurting again. Area population change occurs in two fundamental ways: through net migration, or through people moving to the area and moving away from the area; and through what is referred to as "natural change," or through area births and deaths. One of the most significant shifts in the dynamics of population change in Flathead County is the increasing role of net migration. Chart 14

compares cumulative population change in Flathead County during the 1980s and 1990s by major component. During the 1980s, Flathead County's population grew by 7,252 people with over 60 percent of this growth (4,444) accounted for by natural change. During the 1990s, population grew by over 15,000 people with over 80 percent of this growth (12,156) accounted for by net migration; more people moving to the area than the number moving away.

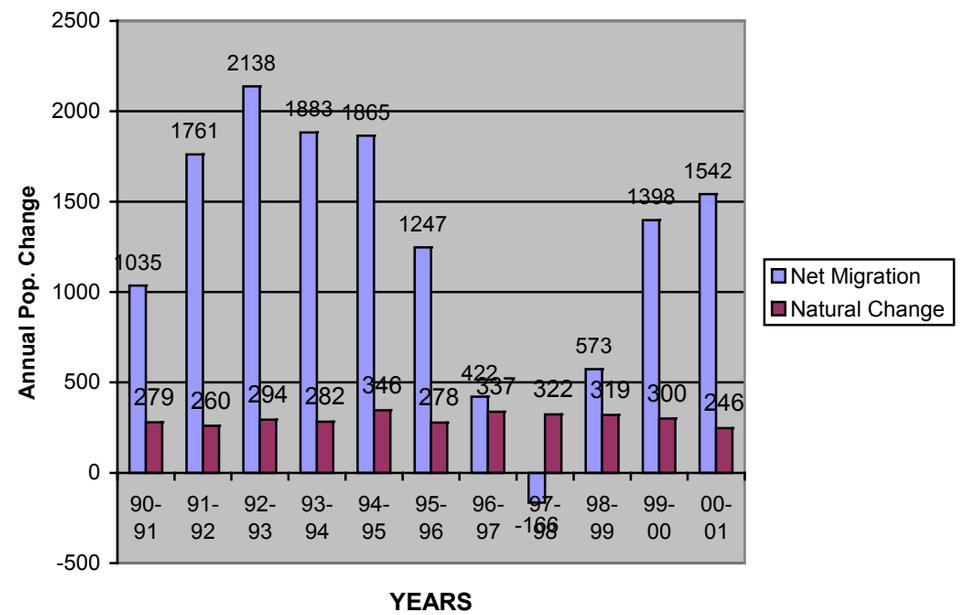
Chart 14: Flathead Co. Population Change by Component, 1980-90 vs. 1990-00



This shift is consistent with population trends in many other non-metro areas of the West that have growing populations. It reflects an aging U.S. population and the influence of a large "baby boom" population segment that is now at ages between 40 and 56. Birth rates are falling, household size (the average number of people living in single households) is falling, and migration patterns are shifting, with these shifts carrying considerable weight in the determination of overall population growth or decline from one area to the next.

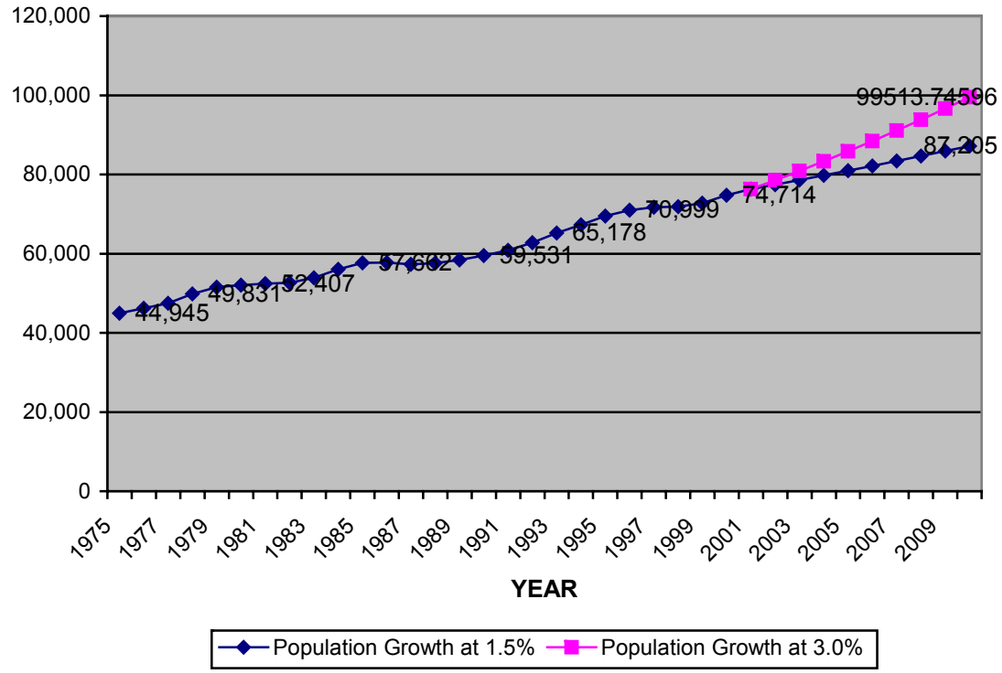
These cumulative figures for population change during the 1990s in Flathead County are broken down year-by-year in Chart 15 below. As can be seen, natural change in the county has ranged from 260 to 346 persons a year throughout the decade. However, the much larger population change component, net migration, has widely fluctuated, rising to as high as 2,138 from 1992 to 1993 to as low as a slight lose from 1997 to 1998.

Chart 15: Flathead County Population Change by Component, 1990 - 2001



The most recent estimates show a return to higher levels of net migration. Based upon recent trends, it is likely that Flathead County's population will growth at roughly 1.5 to 3.0 percent a year over the course of the current decade. At these rates of growth, the county's population will range from 87,000 to 99,000 people by 2010.

Chart 16: Flathead County Past and Projected Population, 1.5% to 3.0% Growth



Population Aging in Flathead County

As the population of Flathead County has grown in size, it has also aged, again, largely reflecting patterns of aging in the larger population of the U.S. This can be seen by comparing Flathead County's population for single year ages in 1990 and 2000, as is done in Chart 17 (next page). Most of the population gains by the county during this period are in segments of the population at ages between 41 and 65 ("baby boomers"). And there has been a sizeable increase in population among teen-age youth. There has been very little population change for younger age children (8 and under) and there has been only a small increase in the county's oldest population members (70 and older).

These age structure shifts in the Flathead population further reveal themselves in the form of a steady rise in the area's median age, which has risen from 30 in 1980 to 39 in the year 2000 (chart 18). With population aging, the area birth rate is steadily falling, going from 18 births per 1000 population in 1980 to 12.4 in 2000.

Chart 18: Population Median Age

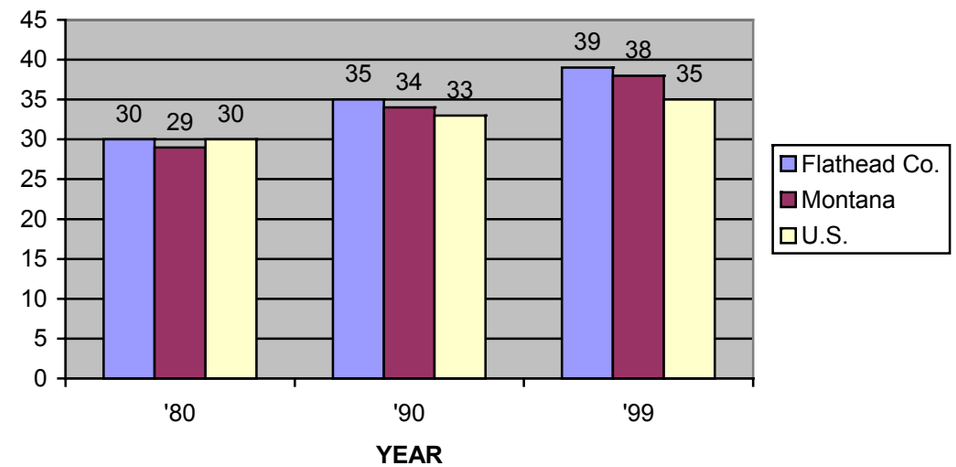


Chart 19: Birth and Death Rates in Flathead County

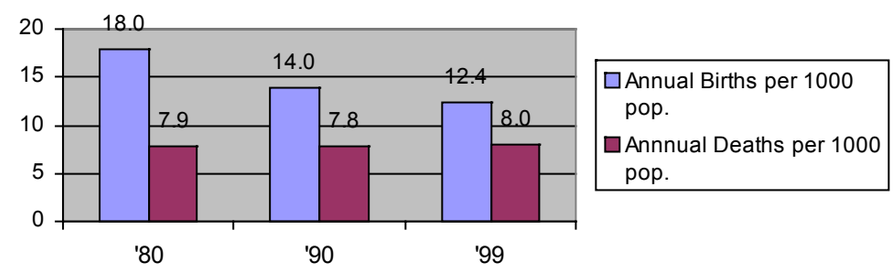
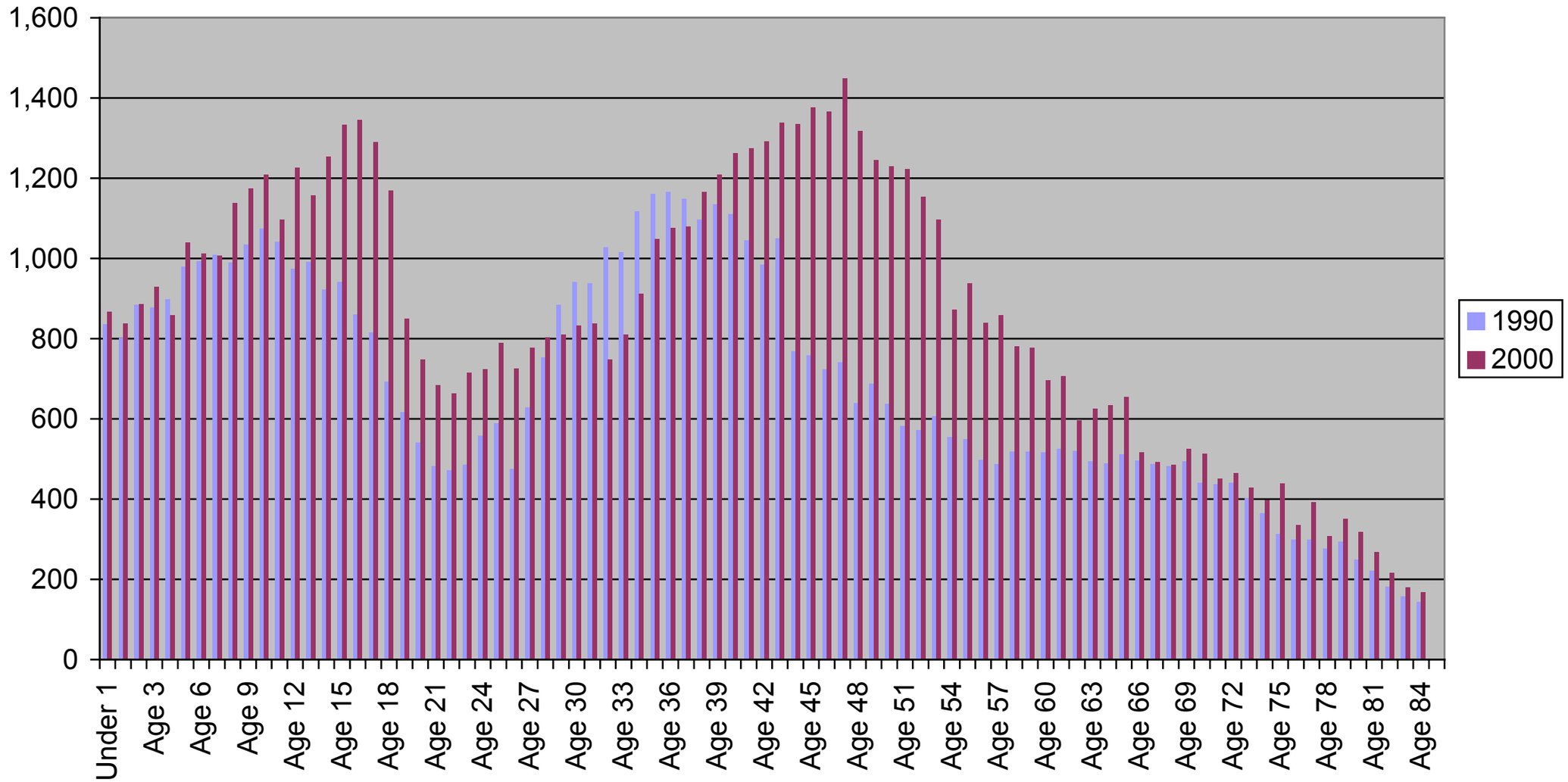


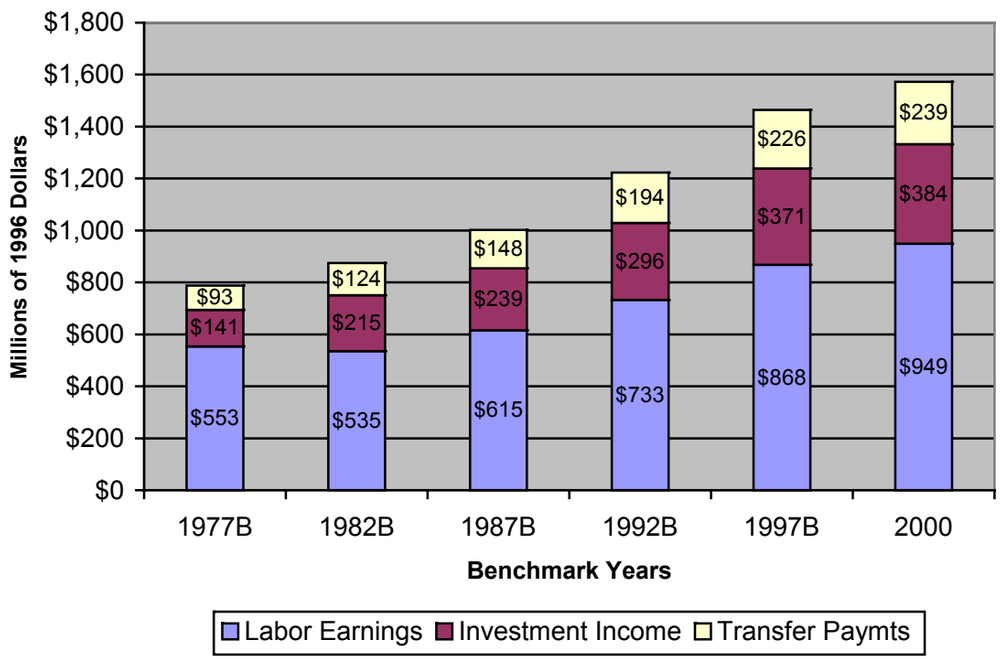
Chart 17: Population by Single-Year Age in Flathead County



Trends in Total Personal Income

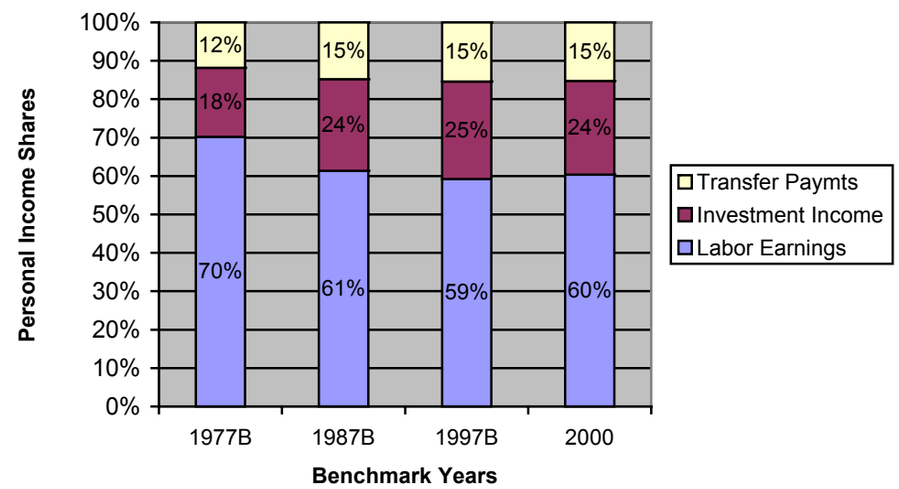
Total personal income is all income received by individuals and households from all sources for a given period of time, such as a year. It includes income from the workplace, or labor earnings. And it includes income from two non-workplace sources; income from investments which is received as rent, dividends, interest earnings, and similar ways, and income from transfer payments, which is primarily income in the form of Social Security payments and Medicare and Medicaid medical payments.

Chart 20: Total Personal Income by Component in Flathead County



The figures in the chart above show total personal income in Flathead County over the last twenty-five years. Values contained in the chart are three-year averages for each of the benchmark years, except year 2000, which is estimates for that year only. All values are in 1996 inflation-adjusted dollars, or constant dollars. Total personal income in the county grew from $787 million in the late '70s to over $1 billion in the late '80s, increasing by $215 million and 27 percent during this period. From the late '80s to the late '90s (moving from the '87 benchmark year to the '97 benchmark), total personal income increased considerably faster, rising by $465 million or 46 percent. It has continued to expand and approached $1.6 billion in the year 2000.

Chart 21: Personal Income Composition in Flathead County



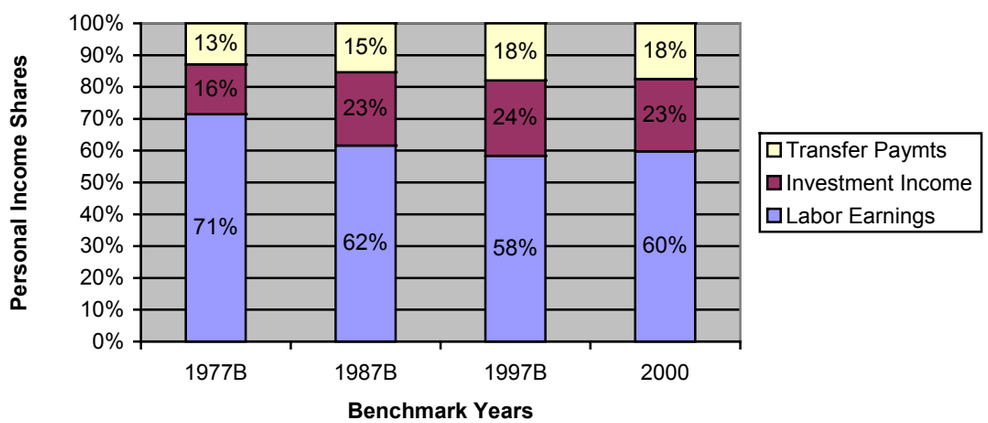
During the 1977-87 period, income from investment sources grew the fastest of the three major sources, rising by nearly 70 percent. And income from transfer payments grew by nearly 60 percent. Meanwhile, income from the workplace grew by only 11 percent. These differential rates of growth in income sources shifted the composition of area

income. Labor earnings, the largest source of income, fell from 70 percent of all income in 1977 to 61 percent in 1987. During the 1987-97 period, labor earnings grew by almost 40 percent and investment income and transfer payments both grew by over 50 percent. This resulted in labor earnings share of personal income falling to 59 percent of all income in the area.

These shifts in personal income composition are characteristic of changes occurring more generally in the larger region. And as the population of Flathead County continues to age, these shifts should continue, with labor earnings gradually falling to roughly half of all area income by the year 2010. It should be kept in mind that these personal income figures do not include any income of area "part-timers," or persons living in the area part of the year who have not made it their permanent residence. Personal income data for individuals is reported for their county of permanent residence.

These personal income shifts are very similar to what is happening in other areas nearby national parks in the West. Chart 22 shows personal income composition for park area counties with small and large regional centers, which includes Flathead County and ten other counties.

Chart 22: Personal Income Composition in National Parks Counties, Small and Large Regional Centers



As with Flathead County, labor earnings in these counties has declined from over 70 percent of all income in the late '70s to around 60 percent more recently. The composition of income and trends in personal income are very similar in these areas.

Per Capita Income Levels and Trends

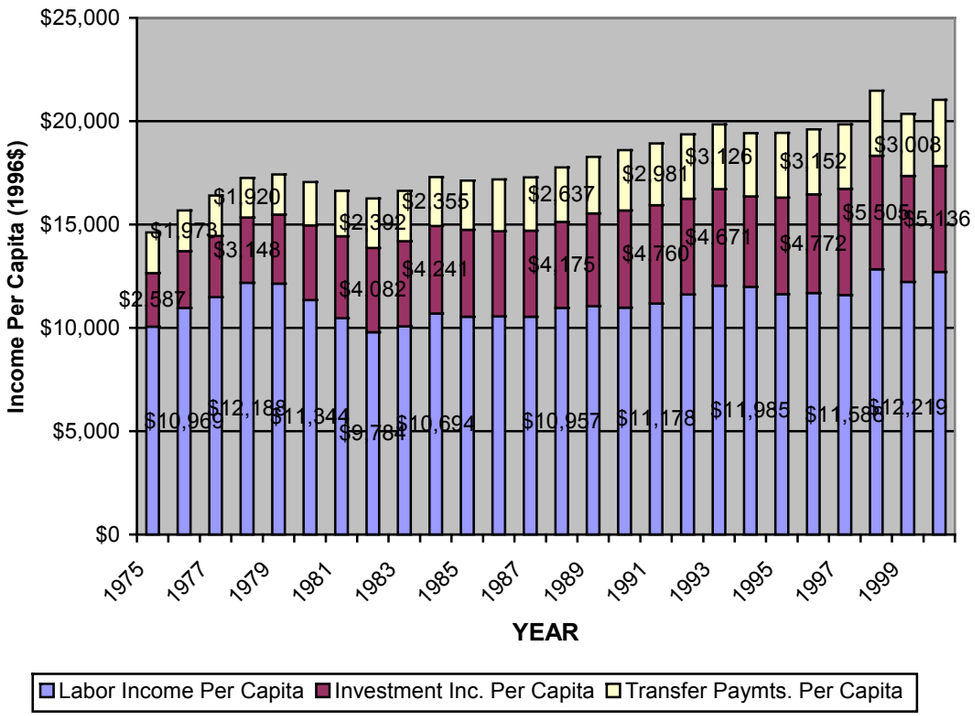
Per capita income is calculated by dividing all of the income received by all residents of an area, including those of all ages, by the total population. As such, this measure is simply an average. It tells us how much personal income there is per person, but it doesn't tell us how income is distributed. However, it is one of the most heavily-used indicators of area economic prosperity.

Chart 23 shows total per capita income and per capita income composition in Flathead County over time in 1996 inflation-adjusted dollars. Per capita income was increasing rapidly each year in the late 1970s, before slumping and actually declining in the early '80s. And during this period it rose from less than $15,000 to more than $17,000 in the early '80s, before falling to around $16,000 in 1982. After rising in 1983 and 1984, per capita income stabilized at just over $17,000, where it remained until 1988.

A steady rise in per capita occurred each year from 1989 to 1993, a period coinciding with considerable population and employment growth in the area. In 1993, per capita income in Flathead County had risen to nearly $20,000. However, in the subsequent year, 1994, per capita income fell below this level and remained under $20,000 until increasing markedly in 1998 when per capita income rose to nearly $21,500. More recently in 2000, per capita income stood at $21,038, again, as measured in 1996 dollars.

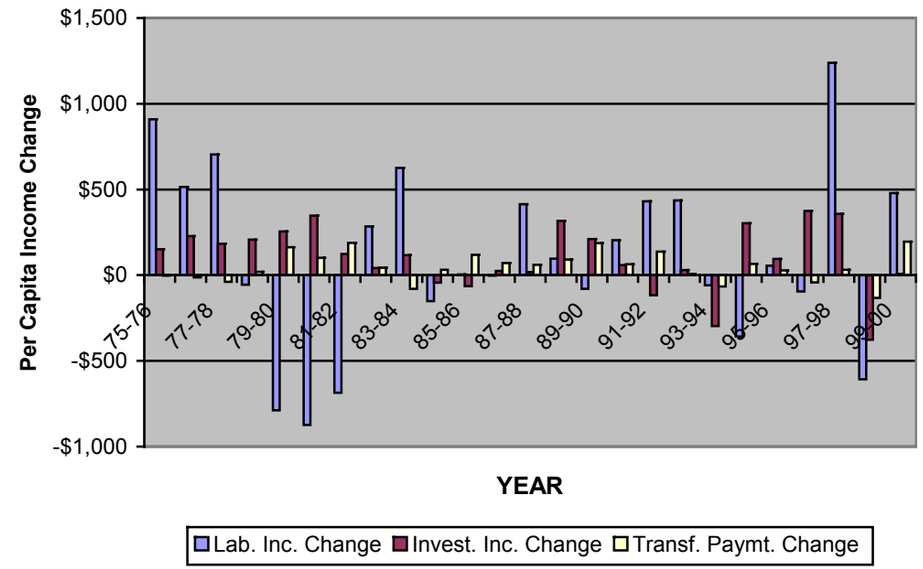
As can be seen by examining the composition of per capita income, most of the swings either up or down in area per capita income are the result of changes in labor earnings, the largest source of personal income. When there have been declines in labor income, these declines have more than off-set continuing increases in non-labor sources of income, e.g., investment income and transfer payments. This is more easily viewed by examining per capita income change by component on an annual basis, as is shown in Chart 24 on the next page.

Chart 23: Flathead Co. Per Capita Income by Component



The blue bars in Chart 24 show per capita labor income changes on an annual basis, and they have been quite erratic. Meanwhile, per capita investment income gains have been more steady, aside from some temporary falls in the mid- and late-90s, as have per capita transfer payment income gains. There were three years of large yearly labor income declines in the early-80s, which coincide with the period of a nationwide recession; a time when the wood products manufacturing industry slumped. And the very large increase in per capita labor income in 1997-98 coincides with a marked one-year increase in labor earnings by manufacturing workers in Flathead County. This was when there was a large pay-off to area manufacturing workers in the primary metals industry.

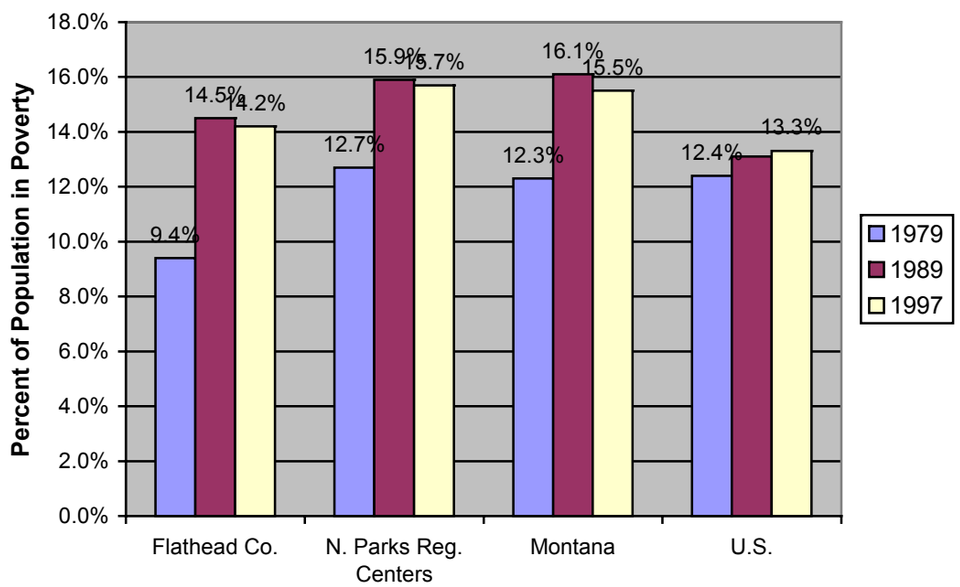
Chart 24: Flathead Co. Annual Per Capita Income Change by Component



An examination of labor earnings by major sector shows how erratic manufacturing labor earnings in Flathead County have been over the last twenty-five years, which are discussed in the next section of this report. Manufacturing labor income in Flathead County has largely been in two sub-sectors for many years; wood products manufacturing and primary metals manufacturing. Wood products manufacturing labor earnings in Flathead County fell by about $20 million in the early '80s, accounting for the labor income slump at that time. And a very large pay-off to workers by a metal products company in 1998 produced the spike in labor earnings in the county in that year.

While per capita income is one of the most common indicators of area economic prosperity, another measure is often used in identifying the breadth and extent of impoverishment in an area. The Census Bureau periodically estimates the number of people in an area living in households with incomes insufficient to cover basic necessities (food, housing, energy, etc.). This measure is referred to as the area poverty rate. The chart below shows poverty levels in Flathead County for three points in time; 1979, 1989, and 1997. For reference purposes, poverty rates also are shown for the group of 11 regional center counties nearby national parks, Montana, and the U.S. as a whole.

Chart 25: Poverty Rates Over Time in Flathead County



Poverty in Flathead County rose from 9.4 percent in 1979 to 14.5 percent ten years later in 1989. Most of this increase in poverty can be associated with a period of difficult economic restructuring and change in the area during the 1980s. This increase in poverty during this period similarly occurred in national park regional center counties more generally, as discussed earlier, and statewide in Montana where the poverty rate increased from 12.3 to 16.1 percent between 1979 and 1989. The incidence of poverty also increased nationwide, but not nearly as much as in these western areas.

Some gains were made in poverty reduction during the 1990s. The 1997 poverty rate in Flathead County was 14.2 percent, down slightly from the ’89 rates, and a similar slight reduction occurred in regional center counties nearby parks. A slight reduction also occurred in Montana, but the rate edged up in the nation as a whole.

Trends in Sector Employment and Labor Earnings

The type of economic restructuring that has been occurring in Flathead County can be viewed by examining sector-level change over time in employment and labor income. There are 14 major sectors of the economy including:

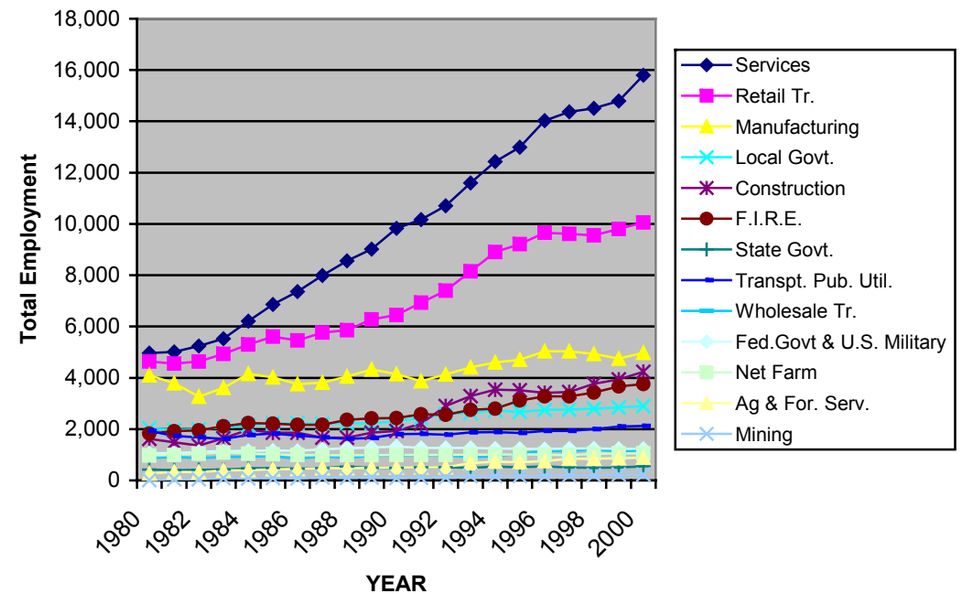
1. Services, including businesses and establishments engaged in health care; business services; legal services; engineering and management services; social services such as day care centers, family counseling, etc.; auto repairs; amusement and recreation services; hotels and other lodging places; membership organizations; and others;
2. Retail Trade, including food stores; home furnishing stores; general merchandise stores; building material stores; auto dealers; apparel stores; eating and drinking places; and others;
3. Manufacturing, including all firms producing durable and non-durable products for commercial sale and distribution;
4. Local Government, including all aspects of city and county government and local public education;
5. Construction, including general building contractors, special trade contractors, and heavy construction builders;
6. Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (F.I.R.E.), including depository institutions like banks and savings and loans; and non-depository establishments engaged in insurance and real estate businesses;

7. State Government, which includes local area employment by divisions of state government;
8. Transportation and Public Utilities, including railroads,; trucking and warehousing; local private transportation; and private communications and utility companies;
9. Wholesale Trade, including establishments that primarily sell merchandise to other businesses;
10. Federal Government, including local area employment by departments and agencies of the U.S. national government;
11. U.S. Military, including area employment in activities and facilities operated by the U.S. military;
12. Farm and Ranch Producers, including area farmers and ranchers;
13. Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishery Services, including firms providing services to ag producers and to timber owners and managers;
14. Mining, which includes companies engaged in all aspects of mining including coal mining, metals and non-metals mining, and oil and gas extraction.

Employment levels in Flathead County for these sectors are shown in Chart 26 at the right for the twenty-year period from 1980 to 2000. Employment figures for each sector include both full and part-time employment and, for some of the sectors where part-time employment is high and increasing over time, this can skew the trends. This is a factor in the very high growth paths for both services and retail trade. However, the chart does clearly demonstrate the type of restructuring that is occurring in Flathead County, with much of the overall employment growth in the county being accounted for by employment growth in the fast-growing services sector and in retail trade.

Between 1980 and 1990, total employment in Flathead County went from 25,000 jobs to nearly 33,300, and of this increase of more than 8,000 jobs, services accounted for nearly 4,900 new jobs; over half of all employment growth. Retail trade added over 1,800 jobs during this period. So, the two trade sectors together – services and retail trade – accounted for nearly 85 percent of all employment growth in the county between 1980 and 1990. As can be seen in the chart, employment change among all of the other sectors of the economy was dwarfed by these changes in just two sectors.

Chart 26: Employment by Sector in Flathead County, 1980 - 2000

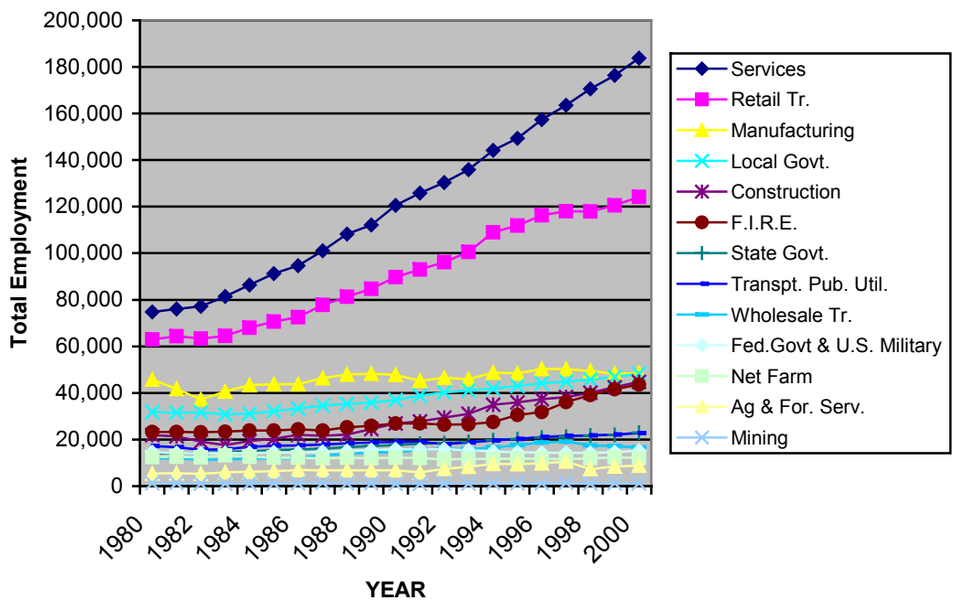


The sectors with the most erratic employment trends are manufacturing (shown in yellow) and construction (shown in maroon). Manufacturing employment in the county has tended to follow a roller-coaster path. But, in spite of this, the county has more than maintained its overall employment in manufacturing. Manufacturing employment stood at 4,000 in 1980, just over 4,100 in 1990, and at nearly 5,000 workers in 2000. Construction employment rose from 1,700 in 1980 to 1,900 in 1990. But, during the 1990s with population and income growth in the county increasing rapidly, area construction employment rose to as high as 3,500 workers by mid-decade and to over 4,200 by decade's end in 2000. However, these gains were again dwarfed by much larger employment gains in services, rising from 9,800 jobs in 1990 to 15,800 jobs in 2000, and in retail trade, increasing from 6,400 jobs in 1990 to more than 10,000 in

2000. During the 1990s, services and retail trade employment growth combined for almost 10,000 additional jobs in the county. But, because of increasing employment growth in other sectors besides these during the 1990s, employment growth in services and retail trade accounted for around 57 percent of all employment growth in the county, down from 85 percent in the prior decade.

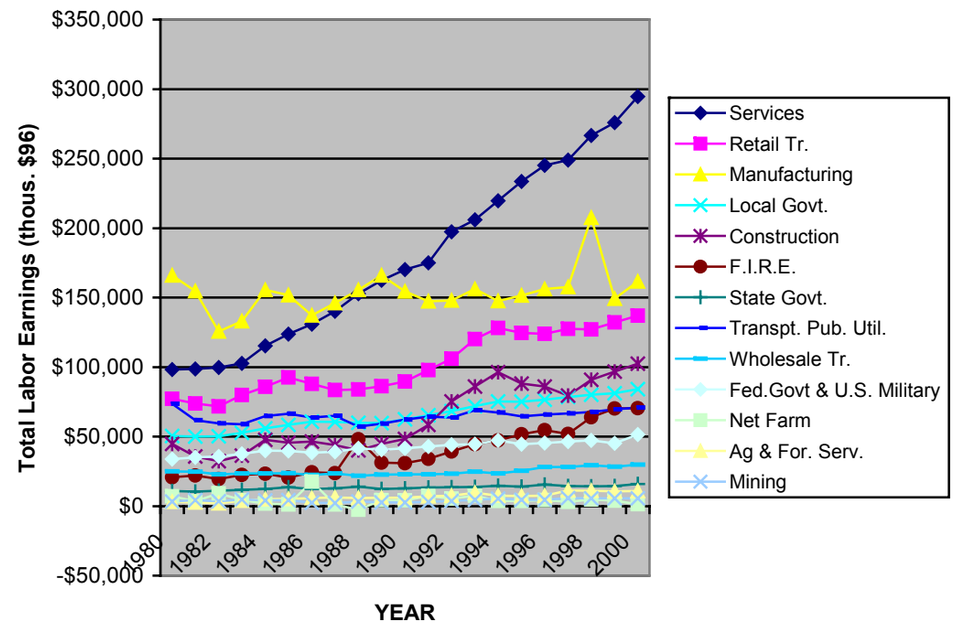
Besides employment growth in manufacturing and construction, employment in the F.I.R.E. sector also has grown markedly in the last decade, rising from 2,400 jobs in 1990 to nearly 3,800 jobs in the year 2000. Government employment of all types rose modestly, rising from 4,100 jobs in 1990 to nearly 4,700 in 2000. The chart below examines sector trends for the 11 regional center counties nearby national parks.

Chart 27: Sector Employment in National Parks Counties with Small and Large Regional Centers, 1980 - 2000



As can be seen, the pattern of employment growth and economic restructuring that is occurring in Flathead County is largely the same pattern that's occurring across the 11 regional center counties nearby parks. Sector change can also be viewed by examining labor earnings by sector rather than employment. The chart below shows sector labor earnings in Flathead County over time.

Chart 28: Labor Earnings by Sector in Flathead County, 1980 - 2000



The growth path of the area's service sector remains very steep when measured in labor earnings, whereas labor earnings by retail trade workers are increasing at a significantly slow rate than retail trade employment. Labor earnings by county service sector workers rose from $98 million in 1980 to $170 million in 1990 to $295 million in 2000. Over

this same period, labor earnings by manufacturing workers went from $166 million to $154 million and to $162 million. So, while fluctuating, manufacturing in the county has been sustained at about the same level over the entire twenty-year period. But, because of the tremendous increase in services labor earnings, services has become the area's dominant sector of the economy. Retail trade labor earnings, which stood at $77 million in 1980, now exceed $136 million, making it the county's third largest sector. Construction labor earnings have seen large gains, going from $45 million in 1980 to $48 million in 1990, before rising precipitously to over $102 million in 2000. The F.I.R.E. sector, which stood at $21 million in labor earnings in 1980, now distributes labor income totaling over $70 million to its workers.

Meanwhile, net farm income in the county has fluctuated at levels under $7 million a year through the last decade. Mining industry labor earnings have stayed under $6 million a year. Earnings by those employed in agricultural and forestry services have risen modestly from $6 million in 1990 to nearly $11 million in 2000.

Because of these differential rates of growth and change among sectors of the economy, the Flathead area economy of today is much different than twenty years ago. The services sector now accounts for 37 percent of all employment and over 33 percent of all labor earnings in the county, up from 25 percent and 19 percent, respectively, in 1980. And manufacturing, which was the county's largest distributor of labor earnings in 1980, now accounts for less than 12 percent of all employment (down from 20 percent in 1980) and 18 percent of all labor earnings (down from 32 percent in 1980). Growth in the Flathead area economy is being led by growth in services, retail trade, construction, and segments of the F.I.R.E. sectors primarily, and all of this growth is directly tied to population growth in the county. These service and trade sectors would have grown in the county without population growth. But, their growth is significantly higher because of population growth, which is being largely spurred by net migration.

Detailed data on sector level activity are contained in several tables at the back of this report including table B.5 ("Labor Earnings and Employment by Major Sector") and B.6 ("Sector Shares of the Economy").

Economic Restructuring in Flathead County

A better understanding of the type of economic restructuring that's occurring in Flathead County can be gained by closely examining income change in the county at many different levels, including the level of sub-sectors. The table on the next page shows income growth and change in Flathead County for three years: 1987, 1997, and 2000. The table following it shows the same data for non-metro regional centers nearby parks. As an examination of trends reveals, economic restructuring in the area has been spurred by two forces. One is decline or stagnation in some of the area's traditional staple industries, such as wood products manufacturing and agriculture. The other is rising levels of area in-migration, which is stimulating economic expansion in trade and service sectors of the economy. Both of these forces are not local in scope. They are expressing themselves in broad regional patterns throughout the western United States.

The table shows total personal income and population at the top on the left. It then shows total personal income broken down by major component, with components rank-ordered by amount of income growth between 1987 and 1997. Area labor earnings grew by over $233 million during this period, a 39 percent increase. However, investment income grew by 56 percent and transfer payments income grew by 52 percent, accounting for the continuing shift in area income composition.

Sector income growth is then shown in the table at the bottom left. Services labor earnings grew by $109 million between 1987 and 1997, a 78 percent increase that accounted for 40 percent of all labor income gains in the county. Retail trade labor earnings grew by $44 million, a 53 percent increase that accounted for 16 percent of all labor income gains. Gains in construction labor earnings accounted for another 13 percent of all labor income increases. So, these three sectors alone accounted for about 70 percent of all labor income gains in the county.

At the right in the table, these sector labor income gains are broken down by sub-sector, focusing on only the fastest-growing sub-sectors (those with gains of more than $3.5 million and over 45 percent) and the few declining sub-sectors.

Table 2: Recent Income Growth and Change in Flathead County

		1987	1997	2000	Change: '87 - '97 Amt.	%
	Income and Population					
	Total Personal Income (thous. 96$)	$990,572	$1,434,546	$1,571,857	$443,974	45%
	Population	57,337	72,288	74,714	14,951	26%
	Per Capita Income	$17,276	$19,845	$21,038	$2,569	15%
	Personal income, adjusted for inflation, has been growing considerably faster than population, resulting in real gains in per capita income over time (up 15% between '87 and '97).					
	Total Personal Income by Major Component (thous. $96)					
#1	Labor earnings	$604,537	$837,665	$948,769	*$233,128*	39%
	share of total income	61%	58%	60%	53%	
#2	Investment income	$238,316	$372,066	$383,749	*$133,750*	56%
	share of total income	24%	26%	24%	30%	
#3	Transfer payments	$147,720	$224,815	$239,339	*$77,095*	52%
	share of total income	15%	16%	15%	17%	
	Labor earnings account for about 60% of all area personal income, but income from non-labor sources (investment income and transfer payments) has been growing more rapidly.					
	Labor Income by Major Sector (thous. $96)					
#1	Services	$140,072	$248,973	$294,721	*$108,901*	*78%*
	share of total labor income	*22%*	*27%*	*28%*	*40%*	
#2	Retail Trade	$83,555	$127,503	$136,856	*$43,948*	*53%*
	share of total labor income	*13%*	*14%*	*13%*	*16%*	
#3	Construction	$43,876	$79,393	$102,465	*$35,517*	*81%*
	share of total labor income	*7%*	*9%*	*10%*	*13%*	
#4	F.I.R.E.	$23,716	$51,939	$70,370	*$28,223*	*119%*
#5	Government	$112,082	$139,206	$151,473	*$27,124*	*24%*
#6	Manufacturing	$145,899	$157,514	$161,555	*$11,615*	*8%*
#7	Ag & Forest. Services	$6,163	$11,226	$10,880	*$5,063*	*82%*
#8	Wholesale Trade	$23,397	$28,149	$29,752	*$4,752*	*20%*
#9	Mining	$2,258	$5,820	$5,558	*$3,562*	*158%*
#10	Net Farm	$1,185	$2,976	$1,433	*$1,791*	*151%*
#11	Transpt. & Public Utilities	$64,942	$66,589	$70,881	*$1,647*	*3%*

Labor earnings by services sector workers grew by $109 million between '87 and '97, accounting for 40% of all labor income gains during the period. Together, services, retail trade, and construction accounted for nearly 70% of all labor income gains in the county.

		Thousands of 1996 Dollars 1987	1997	2000	Change: '87 - '97 Amt.	%
	Fastest Growing Sub-Sectors (gains of more than $3.5 mil. & 45%)					
#1	Health Services	$55,737	$96,468	$110,896	*$40,731*	*73%*
#2	Special Trade Contractors	$24,214	$48,505	$64,903	*$24,291*	*100%*
#3	F.I.R.E., other than depositories	$11,243	$34,593	$49,190	*$23,350*	*208%*
#4	Business Services	$16,483	$37,560	$50,457	*$21,077*	*128%*
#5	Eating & Drinking Places	$18,556	$32,133	$32,179	*$13,577*	*73%*
#6	Amusement & Recreation Serv.	$4,612	$14,828	$15,650	*$10,216*	*222%*
#7	Gen. Merchandise Stores	$6,703	$16,423	$13,542	*$9,720*	*145%*
#8	Auto Dealers & Serv. Stations	$14,120	$21,769	$24,955	*$7,649*	*54%*
#9	Heavy Construction Contract.	$8,588	$14,202	$14,650	*$5,614*	*65%*
#10	Gen. Building Contractors	$11,074	$16,685	$22,913	*$5,611*	*51%*
#11	Miscellaneous Retail	$11,012	$16,048	$18,916	*$5,036*	*46%*
#12	Auto Repairs, Services	$8,920	$13,859	$16,177	*$4,939*	*55%*
#13	Hotels & Lodging Places	$10,323	$14,931	$20,524	*$4,608*	*45%*
#14	Building materials/Garden Supl.	$8,247	$12,146	$15,451	*$3,899*	*47%*
	Subtotal	$209,832	$390,150	$470,403	$180,318	86%
	share of total labor income	32%	42%	45%	66%	
	Declining Sub-Sectors					
	Fabricated Metal Products	$1,401	$471	$623	*-$930*	*-66%*
	Forestry Services	$3,537	$2,493	$3,021	*-$1,044*	*-30%*
	Apparel & Accessory Stores	$4,317	$2,690	$2,485	*-$1,627*	*-38%*
	Lumber & Wood Products	$80,436	$70,068	$74,577	*-$10,368*	-13%
	Subtotal	$88,290	$75,251	$80,083	-$13,039	

The single fastest growing sub-sector of the Flathead economy is health care services, where labor earnings have doubled between 1987 and 2000, and now exceed $110 million. Health services grew by nearly $41 million between '87 and '97, accounting for 38% of all service sector growth. Business services, another large part of the services sector, quadrupled in size. Growth in special trade contractors and "F.I.R.E., other than depositories" (e.g., real estate and insurance) is tied to area construction activity, as is growth in "heavy construction" and "general building contractors". Other fast-growing sub-sectors like "eating places," "amusement and re-creation," "general merchandise," "auto dealers and services stations," "miscellaneous retail," and "hotels and lodging" are growing because of area population growth, tourism and recreation. Significant decline occurred in lumber and wood products manufacturing.

Table 3: Recent Income Growth and Change in Non-Metro Regional Centers Nearby National Parks

		1987	1997	2000	Change: '87 - '97 Amt.	Change: '87 - '97 %
	Income and Population					
	Total Personal Income (Mil. 96$)	$14,245	$20,173	$22,115	$5,928	42%
	Population	811,987	1,047,215	1,094,058	235,228	29%
	Per Capita Income	$17,543	$19,263	$20,214	$1,720	10%
	Personal income, adjusted for inflation, has been growing considerably faster than population, resulting in real gains in per capita income over time (up 10% between '87 and '97).					
	Total Personal Income by Major Component (Mil. $96)					
#1	Labor earnings	$8,799	$11,778	$13,211	*$2,979*	34%
	share of total income	62%	58%	60%	50%	
#2	Investment income	$3,259	$4,768	$5,028	*$1,509*	46%
	share of total income	23%	24%	23%	25%	
#3	Transfer payments	$2,187	$3,627	$3,876	*$1,440*	66%
	share of total income	15%	18%	18%	24%	
	Labor earnings account for about 60% of all area personal income, but income from non-labor sources (investment income and transfer payments) has been growing more rapidly.					
	Labor Income by Major Sector (Mil. $96)					
#1	Services	$1,958	$3,255	$3,853	*$1,297*	*66%*
	share of total labor income	*22%*	*27%*	*28%*	*40%*	
#2	Government	$1,983	$2,557	$2,798	*$573*	*29%*
	share of total labor income	*22%*	*21%*	*21%*	*18%*	
#3	Retail Trade	$1,194	$1,726	$1,913	*$533*	*45%*
	share of total labor income	*13%*	*14%*	*14%*	*17%*	
#4	Construction	$669	$1,019	$1,281	*$350*	*52%*
#5	F.I.R.E.	$302	$602	$731	*$301*	*100%*
#6	Wholesale Trade	$359	$525	$473	*$165*	*46%*
#7	Transpt. & Public Utilities	$675	$749	$785	*$74*	*11%*
#8	Ag & Forest Services	$133	$149	$135	*$16*	*12%*
#9	Mining	$46	$38	*$30*	*-$8*	*-18%*
#10	Net Farm	$110	$100	$85	*-$10*	*-9%*
#11	Manufacturing	$1,621	$1,547	$1,540	*-$74*	*-5%*

Labor earnings by services sector workers grew by $1.3 billion between '87 and '97, accounting for 40% of all labor income gains during the period. Together, services, retail trade, and government accounted for nearly 75% of all labor income gains in the 11 counties.

		Thousands of 1996 Dollars 1987	1997	2000	Change: '87 - '97 Amt.	Change: '87 - '97 %
	Fastest Growing Sub-Sectors (gains of more than $70 mil. & 40%)					
#1	Health Services	$619,315	$1,237,756	$1,414,638	*$618,441*	*100%*
#2	Special Trade Contractors	$346,390	$611,219	$765,391	*$264,829*	*76%*
#3	F.I.R.E., other than depositories	$140,511	$338,391	$413,558	*$197,880*	*141%*
#4	Business Services	$185,778	$374,659	$505,906	*$188,881*	*102%*
#5	Wholesale Trade	$359,355	$524,722	$472,762	*$165,367*	*46%*
#6	Engineering & Management Serv.	$274,201	$401,407	$478,780	*$127,206*	*46%*
#7	Eating & Drinking Places	$254,428	$383,716	$414,335	*$129,288*	*51%*
#8	Auto Dealers & Service Stations	$221,020	$324,441	$356,949	*$103,421*	*47%*
#9	Gen. Building Contractors	$184,268	$283,717	$329,765	*$99,449*	*54%*
#10	Miscellaneous Retail	$195,655	$291,977	$339,653	*$96,322*	*49%*
#11	Food Stores	$201,796	$281,029	$286,646	*$79,233*	*39%*
#12	Hotels & Lodging Places	$140,494	$217,396	$244,035	*$76,902*	*55%*
#13	Social Services	$64,073	$140,126	$177,285	*$76,053*	*119%*
#14	General Merchandise Stores	$118,942	$188,637	$229,454	*$69,695*	*59%*
	Subtotal	$3,306,226	$5,599,193	$6,429,157	$2,292,967	69%
	share of total labor income	37%	46%	47%	71%	
	Declining Sub-Sectors*					
	Railroads	$68,655	$61,323	$56,884	*-$7,332*	*-11%*
	Heavy Construction	$138,084	$123,625	$135,944	*-$14,459*	*-10%*
	U.S. Military	$88,098	$69,444	$69,830	*-$18,654*	*-21%*
	Lumber & Wood Products	$964,535	$741,191	$683,746	*-$223,344*	-23%
	Subtotal	$1,190,717	$934,260	$889,520	-$256,457	

** Declines also occurred in Paper Products and Forestry Services, but cannot be precisely estimated because of data omissions.*

The single fastest growing sub-sector in these areas is health care services, where labor income doubled between 1987 and 2000. Health services grew by over $618 million between '87 and '97 accounting for 48% of all service sector growth. Business services also doubled in size. Growth in special trade contractors and "F.I.R.E., other than depositories" (e.g., real estate and insurance) is tied to area construction activity, as is growth in "general building contractors" and engineering and management services". Other fast-growing sub-sectors like "eating places," "general merchandise," "auto dealers and services stations," "miscellaneous retail," "food stores," and "hotels and lodging" are growing because of area population growth, tourism and recreation. Significant decline occurred in lumber and wood products manufacturing.

In Flathead County, labor earnings growth is being led by health care services (up nearly $41 million between 1987 and 1997), special trade contractors (up $24 million), F.I.R.E. other than depositories which is real estate and insurance activity (up $23 million), and business services (up $21 million). High levels of growth also occurred in eating and drinking places, amusement and recreation services, and general merchandise stores, all with gains of around $10 million or more. Together the 14 fastest growing sub-sectors of the Flathead economy shown in the table accounted for over $180 million in labor income gains, 66 percent of the total gain of $233 million.

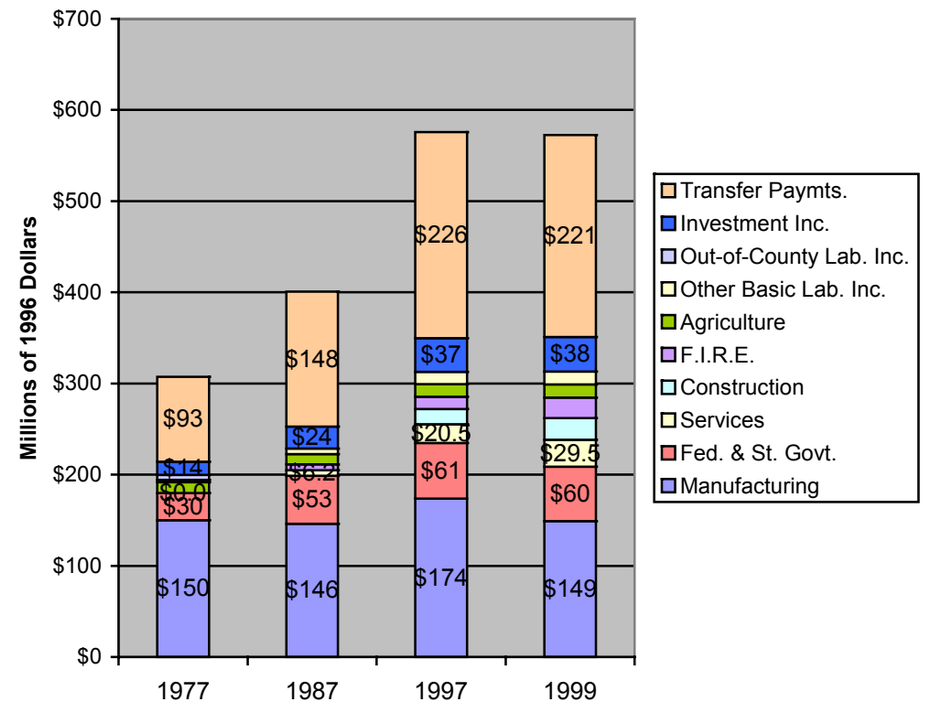
While these sub-sectors have risen in prominence, others have declined largely because of little or no growth. Labor earnings by lumber and wood products manufacturing workers fell by more than $10 million during the period, a 13 percent decline. This sub-sector also accounted for the largest losses in the larger group of regional center counties nearby parks where their labor earnings fell by 23 percent. And, in examining the list of fast-growing sub-sectors in these regional center counties it is clear that this change is very similar to what is occurring in Flathead County. Economic change in places like these is clearly wrapped up in larger forces and patterns of change in the economy more generally. These areas are relatively fast-growing areas in terms of population, income, and employment, and the particular composition and character of this change is resulting in rapid growth in many service and trade sector activities.

Changing Area Economic Base

With these differential rates of growth among sectors and sub-sectors of the Flathead economy, the essential workings of the Flathead economy are changing. The area is developing different dependencies and area attributes that sustain these dependencies are becoming key assets. One way of examining this is by isolating segments of the Flathead economy that are "basic" in nature. Certain segments of an area's economy have greater importance because of their ability to bring "outside income" to an area. Income from sources outside the area, once received by households and individuals, is re-spent generating additional income and employment in the area.

An area's economic base includes all sectors providing income to area residents from non-local sources. This external income can be received as investment income (rent, interest earnings, dividends, etc.), as transfer payments (Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid benefits, etc.), and as labor income, if that labor income is traceable to external sources. The chart below shows components of Flathead County's economic base over time.

Chart 29: Flathead County Area Economic Base by Component Over Time



Since transfer payments come from a source external to the local area at the time they are received by individuals, they can be considered part of an area's economic base. For many areas with large numbers of retirees, transfer payments oftentimes serve as the primary source of external income. In Flathead County, transfer payments are steadily

increasing, as they are in most areas of the U.S. They totaled $93 million in 1977 before climbing to $148 million in 1987 and to $226 million in 1997. As they are received by area residents they are largely spent on goods and services, generating considerable economic activity in the area.

Investment income traceable to outside sources cannot be determined, but for purposes of this assessment, 10 percent of all investment income received by area residents is treated as externally generated. Under this conservative assumption, this source of external income totaled around $14 million in 1977 and grew to an estimated $37 million in 1997. As the area population of Flathead County continues to age, this source of outside income will in all likelihood continue to increase, as will occur with transfer payments income. At present, these two non-labor income sources of externally-supplied income provide $259 million out of $572 million in total basic income, accounting for 45 percent of the area economic base.

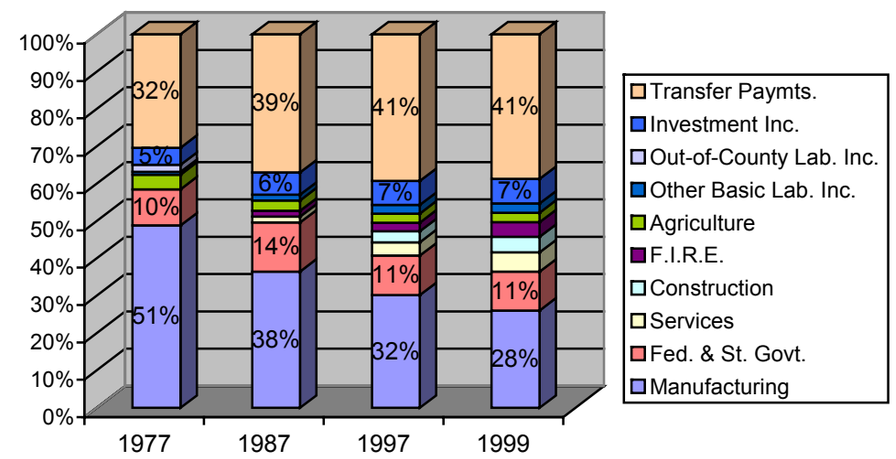
Labor earnings from all employment sectors considered basic – manufacturing, agriculture, federal and state government, and portions of trade and service sectors which have expanded beyond local income sources (estimated through the use of area "location quotients") – totaled around $200 million in 1977, accounting for 65 percent of the area's entire economic base of $295 million. Manufacturing alone accounted for $150 million of this $200 million, so by itself, manufacturing accounted for about half of Flathead County's entire economic base in 1977.

By 1999, labor earnings from employment sectors considered basic totaled over $313 million, accounting for about 55 percent of the area economic base, down from the 65 percent share by basic employment sectors in 1977. Besides this decrease in share of base, there has been considerable compositional change in basic labor earnings in the county. Manufacturing accounted for $149 million, about the same as in 1977. Federal and state government expanded from $30 million to $60 million. Net farm income, which is part of basic, went from $12 million to $14.5 million. However, major contributions to the area's economic base are now being made by trade and service sectors that have grown beyond the area's own income base.

An estimated $29.5 million in labor earnings by service sector workers out of their total of nearly $276 million is considered basic in that it is being supported by income external to the area. This would occur because of both non-residents visiting the area and purchasing services and it would occur through purchases by part-time residents of the area using income they earned somewhere else.

An estimated $23.8 million in labor earnings by area construction workers out of their total of $97 million is considered to be basic in nature (again based upon location quotient analysis). And $22.4 million out of a sector total of over $70 million is estimated to be basic in nature for the F.I.R.E. sector. This is largely associated with real estate and insurance activity in the area generated by non-residents. An additional $14 million in basic labor income was generated by other employment sectors, including retail trade ($8.7 million) and mining ($5.6 million). The changing shares of area economic base resulting from these changes are shown below.

Chart 30: Flathead Co. Area Economic Base Over Time



Through economic restructuring and growth, the economic base of Flathead County has changed considerably. Manufacturing has fallen from over half to just over one quarter

of the area base. Transfer payments and investment income have grown from 37 to 48 percent of base. And many trade and service sector activities have become important contributors to area base by growing beyond local demand. These changes make for a more diversified area economy in Flathead County. But, they also can be seen to be closely tied to area population and income growth. As such, the area's economy is becoming more "growth dependent" and dependent upon area purchases and expenditures by non-residents.

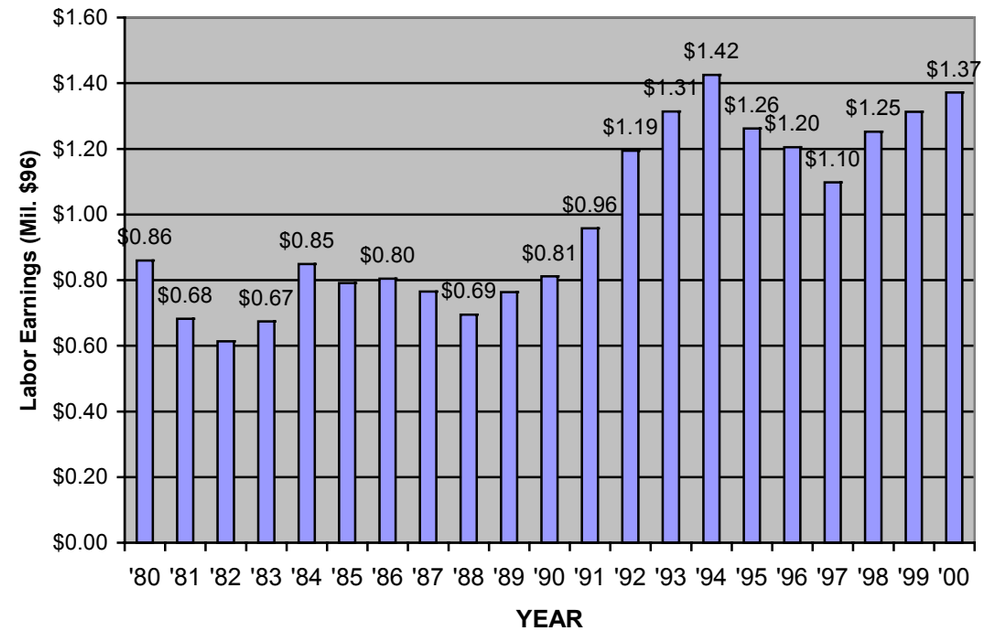
Gauging the Influence of Non-Residents on the Flathead Economy

Anytime an area becomes a "magnet" of sorts for non-residents to spend time in, either as tourist and visitors, or as part-time residents who live part of the year in the area, the area's economy can be significantly affected. However, the amount of local economy activity can be attributed to non-residents is not systematically estimated by data-gathering agencies of government. This can only be estimated.

One way of gauging the growing influence of non-residents on the Flathead area economy is to examine construction activity, as measured by worker labor earnings, per a given base of area permanent residents over time. This is done in the chart at the right which shows construction labor earnings in Flathead County per 1000 population. In 1980 there was $.86 million in construction labor earnings per 1000 population, considering only permanent residents of the county. In 1990 this measure stood at $.81 million per 1000 population. But over the course of the 1990s, at time when the number of permanent residents increased significantly, this ration increased precipitously, reaching $1.42 million in 1994. More recently in 2000 the ratio stood at $1.37 million per 1000 population.

It is possible to attribute much of this increasing ratio to the influence of non-residents who are adding to construction activity in the county beyond what can be attributed to more permanent residents. However, part of this increase could simply be attributed to the higher incomes by area residents, who then spend more on construction. But, the ratio of construction activity to total personal income also is increasing, as shown in chart 32 (next page). At can be seen, construction labor earnings in the county per $20 million in total personal income rose from $.87 million in 1990 to $1.47 million in 1994, an increase of nearly 70 percent. This ratio has declined to $1.30 million per $20 million in total personal income more recently, but still remains high.

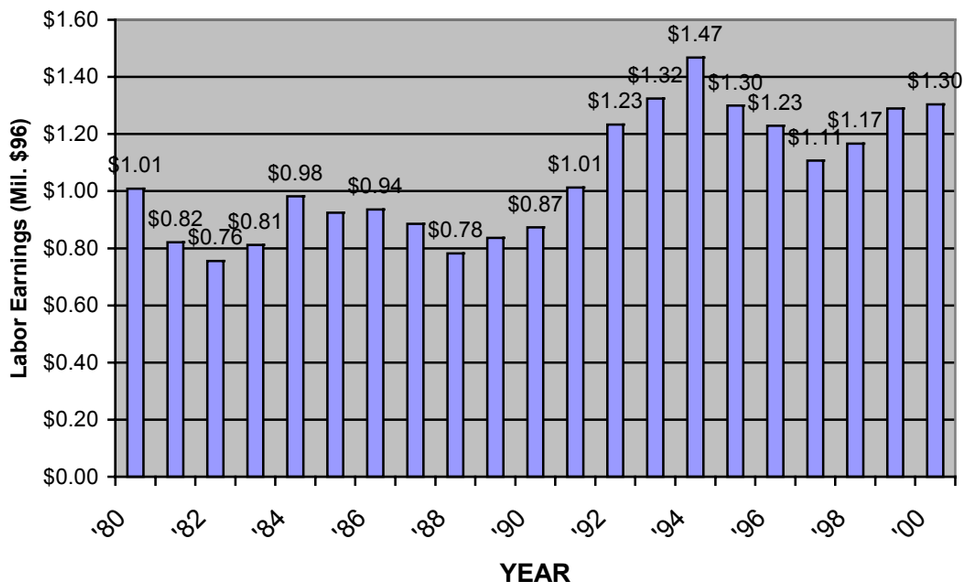
Chart 31: Construction Labor Earnings Per 1000 Population in Flathead County



These significantly higher ratios of construction labor earnings per 1000 population and per $20 million in total personal income are suggestive of a growing role in the area's economy by non-residents who exert this influence with income originating outside of the county. This is the same thing that is occurring in the growth of other trade and service sector activity in the county beyond local demand, as was described previously in discussing the area's changing economic base. What's more, this process whereby the Flathead area economy is being increasingly influenced by non-residents also can be

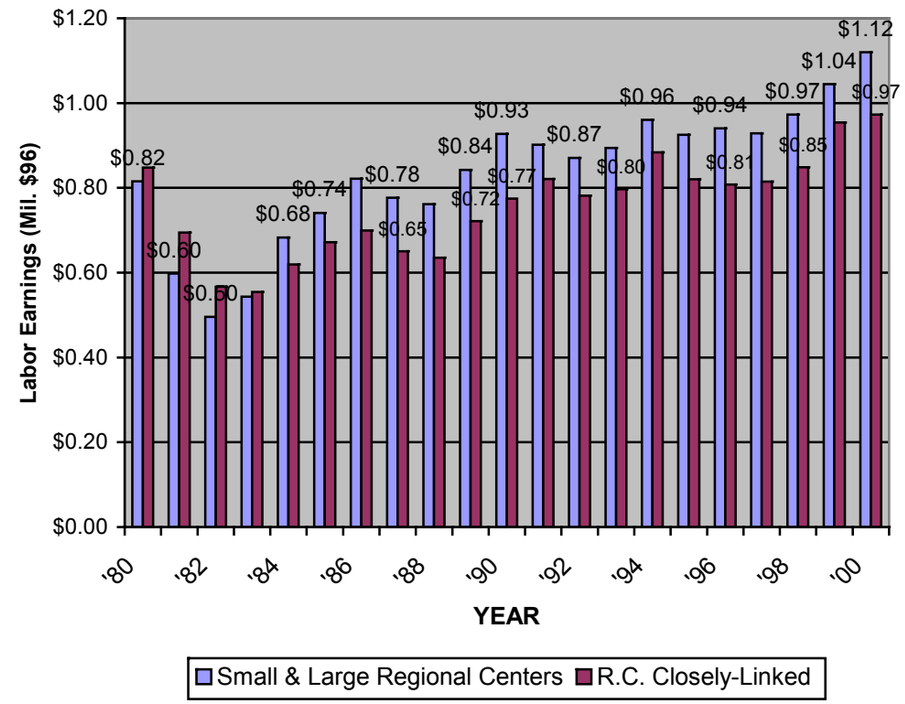
seen in examining similar ratios for construction activity in other areas nearby major national parks in the West.

Chart 32: Construction Labor Earnings Per $20 Mil. Total Personal Income in Flathead County



The figures used in chart 33 are total construction labor earnings per 1000 population for the eleven counties nearby parks with small and large regional centers and for the 22 counties previously identified that are closely-linked to small and large regional centers that are nearby parks (R.C. closely-linked). For both sets of counties, construction activity is clearly expanding beyond the local population base in proceeding through the late 1980s and 1990s. The ratios are higher for the regional center counties reflecting the fact that these counties would be more likely to have major construction companies engaging in this construction than the outlying counties. However, again, both sets of counties are seeing increased activity relative to their area populations of permanent residents.

Chart 33: Construction Labor Earnings Per 1000 Pop., Regional Centers & Closely-Linked Counties Nearby National Parks in the West



Flathead County Peer Review

Key trends and indicators of the Flathead County economy have been evaluated within the context of a "county peer review." Using the *READ* system, 1500 counties in 22 contiguous western states have been classified by type. And these counties were then screened to determine a handful of counties having similar characteristics to Flathead.

A list of counties having similar characteristics to Flathead County were then identified using the following criteria: 1) presence of a small or large regional center, like Kalispell, 2) county-wide populations within 30,000 and 100,000 (Flathead '90 population of 59,200), 3) eliminate counties with populations less than 35,000 and more than 80,000 (with the exception of Humboldt Co., CA, which was kept because its largest city had a population of only 27,000, and the county has other characteristics similar to Flathead); 4) eliminate counties with urban populations less than 20,000 and more than 40,000 (exception: Humboldt Co.); 5) eliminate counties with American Indian populations greater than 8% of total population; and 6) screen remaining counties for similarities in underlying industry dependencies. Through this process, 21 counties were selected to serve as peers for Flathead County.

The list of counties includes six counties, including Flathead County, that are non-metro regional centers nearby major national parks in the West. These include Washington County (St. George) in Utah, Humboldt County (Eureka) in California, Klamath County (Altamont) in Oregon, Clallam County (Port Angeles) in Washington, Gallatin County (Bozeman) in Montana, and Flathead. Particular attention is given to seeing how trends among these six national parks counties compare with the 16 other peer counties that aren't nearby parks.

At the bottom of the list is the average or norm for the 22 peer counties together. And below this is the average or norm for nine of the eleven regional center counties nearby parks. The two counties not included in these nine are Jackson County (Medford) in Oregon because of its county-wide population size (146,000 in '90) and Coconino County (Flagstaff) in Arizona because of its large American Indian population (29% of the total).

Below this is the average or norm for all counties in the West not nearby parks with *READ* codes 41 and 51 (small and large regional centers) that had 1990 county-wide populations between 30,000 and 100,000 (Tiers 4 and 5) and that had American Indian populations under 10 percent of the total. This totals 54 counties and, again, these are small and large regional center counties not nearby national parks. Particular attention is given to how trends in these non-parks regional centers compare with trends in the parks regional centers.

At the bottom of the table are values for conditions and trends for the West as a whole (22 contiguous western states) and for the nation as a whole.

The purpose of a peer review is to *ground* the assessment of a particular local area economy in reality. To properly evaluate how well an area's economy may be performing, it's necessary to know what should be expected. And expectations can be gained in part by examining how important conditions and trends in one area of interest compare with other areas that have similar underlying characteristics. If our area of interest varies significantly from the norm of peer areas, this can be very telling information. It can be helpful in identifying potential "weaknesses" or "strengths" of an area economy. It is useful in identifying common trends and departures from trends common to other areas.

The map on the following page shows other counties in the West that have been selected as peer counties for Flathead County. Most of these counties are yellow in color, as is Flathead, signifying that they are small regional center counties with county-wide populations in 1990 between 30,000 and 60,000. Five of the counties are green in color, signifying that they are large regional center counties with county-wide populations between 60,000 and 100,000. The table on the page following the map (with page 1 at the top right) identifies these counties by name, shows their largest city, identifies population characteristics used in their selection, and contains other important information used in their selection. Pages 2 through 13 then contain a variety of comparisons of important trends and conditions. The 22 peer counties are rank-ordered" using these indicators permitting us to see where Flathead County ranks among peers in these trends.

The following major findings and conclusions were derived in examining these rank orderings and the overall peer review analysis:

1. **Population growth** Flathead County ranks 5th among the 22 peers in population growth, as measured by percentage change between 1990 and 2000, with a 26% increase in population. This compares with a 22-county group norm of 16% growth. The nine regional centers included in the "National Park Lands Peers" increased in population by 28% versus a 10% gain for the larger growth of

regional center counties not nearby parks ("*READ* Regional Center Peers"). The 22 western states as a whole increased in population by 17% versus a 13% increase nationwide. Three of the five fastest growing counties among the 22 peers are national parks counties, including Washington County, Gallatin County, and Flathead. These results suggest that not only is Flathead County relatively fast-growing, but so are many other national parks counties.

2. **Growth by net migration** Flathead County ranks 4th in population growth during the '90s through net in-migration. Net migration alone increased its population by 18% between 1990 and 1999. This compares with a peer group norm of 9%. The group of nine regional center counties nearby parks grew by 16% through net migration as compared to a 12% decline by non-parks regional centers. Among the 22 peer counties, four of the five top-ranked counties in this regard are national parks counties. This supports the notion that net migration is disproportionately high in areas nearby parks, including Flathead County.

3. **Population aging** As measured by median age, Flathead County ranks 4th highest among peers with a median age of 39 in 2000. The 22-county average median age is 37. The average median age for the national park lands peers is 37 versus 35 for the non-park regional centers. This suggests that areas with higher rates of net migration and population growth during the 1990s may be aging more rapidly than other comparable areas without high rates of in-migration, which further suggests that many of the migrants are older than the median age; such as persons in the 40s and 50s.

4. **School age population** Flathead County ranks 8th in the proportion of its population under 18 years of age at 26% in 2000, but this is exactly the same as the 22-county group norm. It's also the same as the national park lands peers norm (26%), which is roughly comparable with the non-parks regional centers norm (25%).

5. **Size of the seniors population** Flathead County's population that is 65 and older represents 10% of the total population in 2000. This compares with a group norm of 9%. So, with a relatively high median age (39) and seniors population that is at the norm, this suggests that Flathead County has a disproportionately large population at ages above the median age and below 65. This combination makes for a relatively mature work force (older workers) and translates into a declining area birth rate. It also translates into shifts in income composition favoring higher levels of non-labor income sources. And it also translates into particular consumption and buying patterns in the area that are associated with a large adult population in their 40s, 50s, and early 60s.

6. **Personal income growth** Flathead County ranks 5th in total personal income growth, with growth in real dollars of 46% between '87 and '97. Three of the top five peer counties in total income growth are national parks counties. The peer group norm for income growth was 31%. This compares with a norm for the national parks peers of 40% and the other non-park regional center peers of 24%. Total income is relatively fast-growing in Flathead County, as it is in many other national parks counties with comparable characteristics.

7. **Personal income composition** Labor income accounted for 59% of all income in Flathead County in '97, ranking the county 10th among peers. This is down from 70% in '77, which is indicative of the personal income shifts occurring in Flathead County. Similar shifts are occurring across the group of peers which, as a group, went from 71% in '77 to '59% in '97. For the national parks peers only, the shift was 71% to 58% and for the non-parks regional center peers the shift was 74% to 63%. This indicates that national parks areas have slightly higher shares of non-labor income sources such as investment income and transfer payments.

8. **Investment income growth** Flathead County ranks 4th in investment income growth between '87 and '97 with a 55% gain. This compares with a peer group norm of 31%. The norm for national parks counties was 39%, while the norm for the non-parks regional centers was 22%. So, investment income is growing considerably faster in national parks areas than non-parks areas. And investment income on a per capita basis was $5,143 in Flathead County in '97, ranking it 6th among peers. The norm for national parks peers was $4,358 as compared to $4,236 for non-parks regional center peers. Investment income per capita grew

by 24% between ’87 and ’97 in Flathead County, as compared to 13% for peer counties as a whole.

9. **Transfer payments income growth** Although transfer payments income grew by 53% between ’87 and ’97 in Flathead County, faster than any other source, the county ranks 10th in such growth among peer counties and the peer group norm was 52%. Among the national parks peers, the norm was 65% growth versus 44% growth in non-parks regional centers. This largely reflects the moderately older populations of the parks counties. On a per capita basis, park lands peers averaged $3,579 per person in transfer payments income as compared to $3,368 for non-parks peers. In Flathead County, per capita transfer payments income was $3,134 in ’97, significantly below other norms, ranking the county 18th in this category.

10. **Wage and salary labor earnings gains** Flathead County ranks 5th in total growth in all wage and salary labor earnings, with an increase of 50% between ’87 and ’97. Total wage and salary income is rising more rapidly in national parks peer counties (39%) than in non-parks peers (22%). But, on a per capita basis, wage and salary income is considerably higher in non-parks areas than in parks areas ($11,030 versus $8,482 in ’97). In Flathead County, wage and salary income per capita totaled $9,689, which falls between these norms, and this ranked the county 10th among peers. On a per worker basis, wage and salary earnings averaged $21,685 in ’97 in Flathead County, ranking it 15th among peers. For the national parks peers, the norm was $21,593 and for the non-parks peers the norm was $22,255. This disparity could be explained by the possible increased incidence of part-time employment in parks areas. However, the ratio of total employment (which includes both full- and part-time employment) to the civilian labor force is higher in non-parks counties (1.27 in ’97) than in the parks counties (1.09). If each person in the labor force was working one job, the ratio would be 1.00. Ratios significantly higher than one are indicative of higher incidences of part-time employment in an area. In Flathead County, the ratio was 1.21 in ’97, which is up from 0.99 in ’87, ranking the county 14th in order from lowest to highest (so Flathead County has the 9th highest ratio among peers). Rising ratios like these help explain why per worker earnings may fall over time, even as wage rates climb. This is because of growth in part-time employment.

11. **Proprietor income gains** Proprietors, or self-employed persons, working in non-farm activities saw their overall labor earnings grow by 28% in Flathead County between ’87 and ’97. This ranks Flathead 10th in this regard among the 22 peers. Proprietor income grew by 31% among the national parks peers and by 19% among the non-parks county peers. These growth rates are significantly less than norms for the West as a whole (53% gain) and nation (45%). On a per capita basis, proprietor income totaled $2,200 per person in Flathead County in ’97, ranking it 7th in this category. Per capita proprietor income for the peer group as a whole was $1,893. For the national parks counties it was $1,790 versus $1,688 for the non-parks peers. Nationwide per capita proprietor income was $1,980. But on a per non-farm proprietor basis, earnings in Flathead County were $12,909 in ’97, down from $16,722 in ’87, and down from $25,476 in ’77. Flathead ranked 18th in this category among peers. This trend is suggestive of the increasing incidence of part-time proprietors, of declining incomes for non-farm proprietors, or of both. Nationwide non-farm proprietors averaged $22,782 in ’97 versus $24,294 in ’77. The peer group norm dropped from $23,523 in ’77 to $16,422 in ’97. For national parks peers, the norm was $15,598 in ’97, down from $24,145 in ’77. For non-parks regional center peers, it dropped from $23,930 to $17,131. This may be suggestive of greater dependence on proprietor employment in parks areas as well as a higher incidence of part-time proprietorships.

12. **Wage and salary employment versus proprietor employment** Among the national parks peers, wage and salary employment accounted for 76% of all employment in ’97, down from 80% in ’77. In the non-parks peer counties, these shares were 81% in ’97 and 83% in ’77. So, there is slightly higher reliance on proprietor employment in the parks areas than in the non-parks areas. In Flathead County, wage and salary employment accounted for only 71% of all employment in ’97, down from 77% in ’77, ranking the county last (22nd) among the 22 peers. Proprietors of all types accounted for fully 29% of all employment in the county. This compares with a peer norm of 23%. So, Flathead County is

heavily dependent on self-employment, as are many other parks counties. This can be interpreted many different ways. It could be construed as an indication of area economic vitality, allowing proprietorships to flourish. It could also be construed as indications of a "by-the-seat-of-your-pants" economy in which part-time self-employment jobs grow out of a necessity to make ends meet. As part-time jobs of this type grow, per proprietor average annual earnings levels fall, as has been occurring. More detailed study would be required to sort this out.

13. **Private versus public or government employment** Flathead County ranked 4th among peers in the growth of all types of private employment. Between '87 and '97 private employment in the county grew by 62%. This compares with a group norm of 34%. Among national parks county peers, the growth was 48% versus 26% for the non-parks peers. National employment growth during this period was 22%. While private employment was growing rapidly in Flathead County, all types of government employment (federal, state, and local including public education) grew by only 15% during this period, ranking the county 12th in this regard. In the national parks counties, public employment grew by 26% versus 11% in the non-parks counties. But, public employment accounted for only 15% of all employment in the parks county peers in '97 as compared to 17% in the non-parks peers. For Flathead County, public employment accounted for only 10% of all employment, and the county ranked 2nd in its reliance on private employment among peers. This very low level of public employment would not be expected in an area that has significant local employment by federal agencies, including the National Park Service. As such, this may be entirely explained by lower levels of local government employment, including public education.

14. **Overall area relative prosperity and well-being** The two most commonly used measures or indicators of area economic well-being are per capita income and the poverty rate. The first measures the average amount of income in an area per person. The second measures the percent of the population living at income levels considered insufficient. In 2000, per capita income in Flathead County was $21,038 in 1996 inflation-adjusted dollars, slightly above the peer group norm of $20,697. This ranked the county 10th among the 22 peers. Between '87 and '97 per capita income in Flathead County rose by 17%, ranking the county 9th in among peers in the rate of growth. Per capita income in the group of nine national parks county peers averaged $19,772 in 2000, and this measure grew by only 8% between '87 and '97. In the non-park regional center peers, per capita income was $21,846 in 200, significantly higher than the park peers, and in these counties per capita income grew by 15% between '87 and '97. These differences suggest that there is some sorting out to do. While national park counties are experiencing higher levels of overall growth in population, income, and employment, this is not translating directly into more rapidly rising per capita income levels than in comparable non-parks counties in the West. And park counties also have a slightly higher overall poverty rate than non-parks counties (15.1% versus 14.7% in '97). Flathead County's '97 poverty rate of 14.2% ranks it 9th lowest among the 22 peers. And this rate is lower than the norm for both national parks peers and non-parks peers.

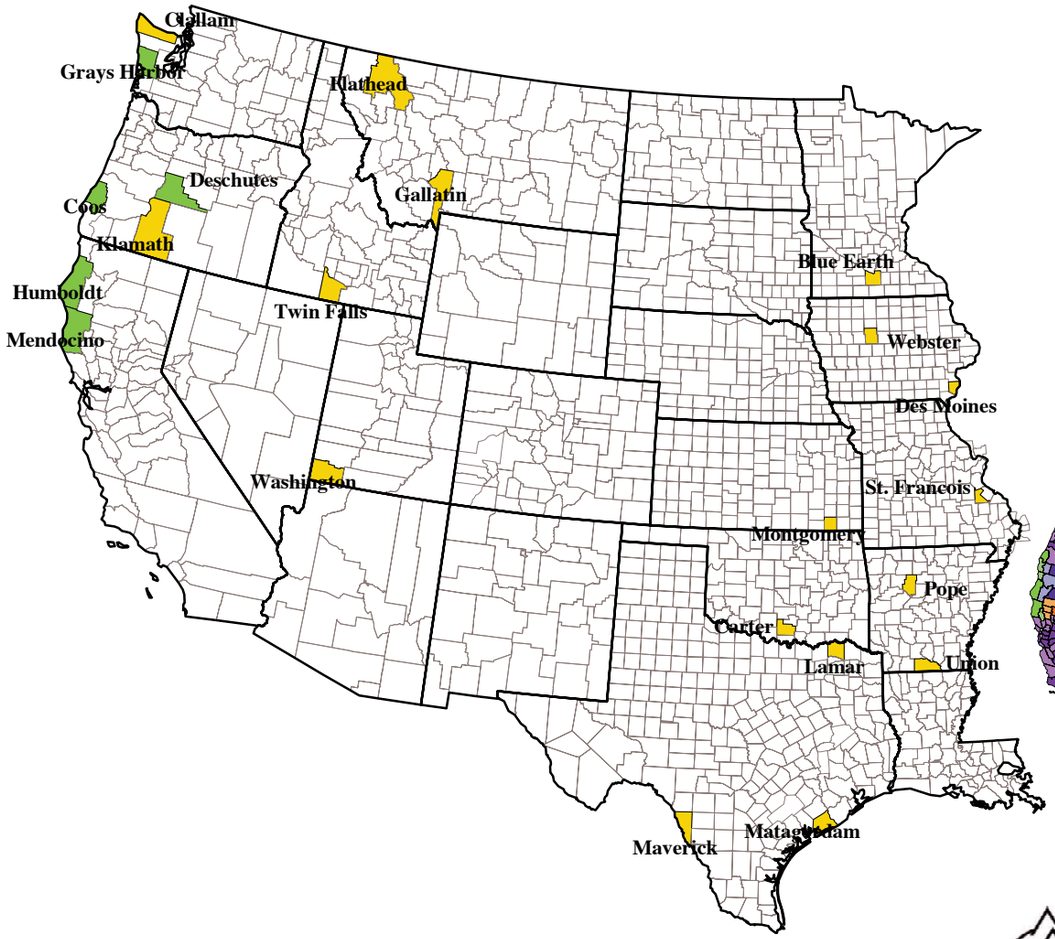
Overall Assessment

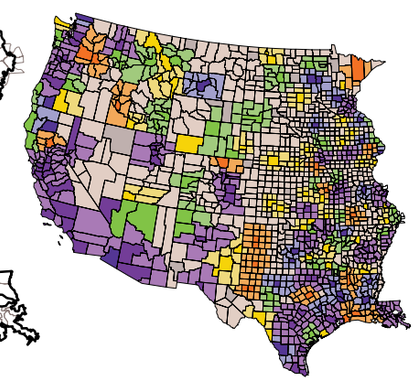
Based upon this peer review, Flathead County is demonstrating relatively high levels of economic vitality as measured by population growth, income growth, and employment growth. However, the county may be overly dependent on private employment and reliance on self-employment, oftentimes on a part-time basis, in carrying the load for many of the area's work force. The county ranks next to last in share of employment accounted for by public employment and it ranks last in the share of employment accounted for by wage and salary workers. And the county ranks 15th is wage and salary income per worker on an annual basis and 18th in average annual earnings per non-farm proprietor. Its ratio of total employment-to-the-civilian labor force (1.21 in '97) is 10th highest among peers and compares with a peer norm of 1.16. So, the county may be a bit overly dependent upon part-time employment.

This combination of conditions suggests that the county's greatest economic development need may lie in cultivating and nurturing employment growth in better paying jobs with better benefits that can fully sustain workers and their families. In short, focus attention on encouraging the creation of "whole jobs" of a higher quality. Little attention should be focused on simply creating more jobs, which is already happening.

READ "Area Peer Review": Flathead County Peers

Evaluating Economic Conditions and Trends Among Counties with Similar Characteristics





READ County Classes Represented:

- Regions centered around population centers with 30,000 to 60,000 [READ code 51]
- Regions centered around populations center with 60,000 to 100,000 [READ code 41]

Carroll and Nancy Fields O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West

Regional Economies Assessment Database (READ)
The University of Montana, 2002
Doug Lawrence '02

Area Characterization To properly interpret local economic conditions and trends, it's important to understand the type of area being assessed. The first thing to consider is whether or not the county in question contains the major regional population center of the larger sub-state region. Kalispell, although small in size, serves as a sub-area regional center because of the relative isolation of the area and distances to larger centers. Flathead County had a 1990 population of 59,200. Within the READ area classification system, the county is included in the group of western counties that are regional center counties with countywide populations of 30,000 to 60,000 people ("small regional trade centers"). The READ county code for this group is "51" (dark yellow counties in the mapping of READ regions). Because Flathead County's population is at the high end of the population range for small regional centers, some counties at the next highest level of regional center counties ("large regional centers," or code "41" shown in dark green in the map) were evaluated as potential peers for Flathead County.

Counties of all types - region cores, adjacent or closely-linked counties, or isolated rural counties - also are sub-grouped by population size or tier. With a 1990 population of 59,200 which grew to nearly 75,000 by the 2000 Census, Flathead is classified as a "Tier 5" county (all western counties with 1990 populations between 30,000 and 60,000). Other characteristics used in identifying peer counties include the size of the county's largest city, underlying industry dependencies (ag dependent, manufacturing dependent, etc.), and other area features.

Selected Flathead County "Peers" The map at the left shows all counties in the 22-state, contiguous West that most closely meet the following criteria:

Flathead County Identifiers	*Peer County Selection Parameters*
1. READ code 51	- all counties codes 41, 51
2. Population Tier 5	- all Tier 4 & 5 counties
3. '90 population of 59.200	- counties between 35,000 and 80,000
4. Urban population: 23,336 (39%)	- counties with urban pop. 20,000 - 40,000
5. Fed./State Govt. dependency (6%)	- counties with dependencies of 3 - 12%
6. Manufacturing dependency (19%)	- counties with dependencies under 35%
7. Production ag dependency (0.9%)	- counties with dependencies under 5%
8. American Indian population (1%)	- counties under 8% American Indian

In applying these selection criteria in a stepwise fashion, a total of 21 counties, including Flathead County, were identified. These counties most closely resemble Flathead County in features and underlying attributes that can significantly influence local economic activity. A 22nd county not matching all these criteria was added to the group (Humboldt Co., California) because of its many similarities to Flathead County. These 22 peer counties are shown at the left. The dark green counties are code "41" counties (5). And the dark yellow are "51" counties (17).

Flathead County "Peers": Area Identifiers & Classifiers

Counties in the West County Name	ST.	Largest City in each county	Each City's 90 Pop.	1990 POPULATION TOTALS Urban Pop.	Rural Pop.	Total Pop.	Land area and population density Area (sq.mi.)	Density (per sq.mi)	Area personal Income Annual ave. for 3 yrs. (91/92/93) in '96 dollars Total (ths.$)	Per Capita	Area Industry Dependencies Share of area '92 labor inc. Fed. & St. Govt.	Manufac-turing	Product. Agricul.	Hotel/motel labor inc. /1000 pop (ths. 96$)	American Indian Population '90 total	pop %	READ CODE Reg. TYPE	Pop Tier	National Parks counties /1	Forest Service lands /2	Interst. Hwy Acc. 0 - w/o 1 - with
POTENTIAL PEER COUNTIES FOR FLATHEAD*																					
HUMBOLDT COUNTY	CA	*Eureka*	27,025	74,996	44,122	**119,118**	4,053	33	$2,246,855	$18,487	11%	17%	0.9%	$119	6,500	5%	41	3	**3**	3	0
MENDOCINO COUNTY	CA	*Ukiah*	14,599	25,704	54,641	**80,345**	3,879	23	$1,545,141	$18,930	3%	18%	1.6%	$228	3,277	4%	41	4	**0**	3	0
DESCHUTES COUNTY	OR	*Bend*	20,469	27,632	47,326	**74,958**	3,055	25	$1,772,485	$21,099	5%	15%	-0.1%	$324	631	1%	41	4	**0**	3	0
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY	WA	*Aberdeen*	16,565	34,272	29,903	**64,175**	2,225	33	$1,212,044	$18,542	4%	28%	1.4%	$187	2,612	4%	41	4	**3**	3	1
COOS COUNTY	OR	*Coos Bay*	15,076	31,523	28,750	**60,273**	1,806	37	$1,077,668	$17,450	7%	17%	4.2%	$95	1,370	2%	41	4	**0**	3	0
FLATHEAD COUNTY	MT	***Kalispell***	11,917	23,336	35,882	**59,218**	5,257	11	$1,194,548	$18,972	6%	19%	0.9%	$201	858	1%	51	5	**3**	3	0
KLAMATH COUNTY	OR	*Altamont*	19,805	36,328	21,374	**57,702**	6,136	9	$973,480	$16,537	11%	21%	1.0%	$83	2,354	4%	51	5	**3**	3	0
CLALLAM COUNTY	WA	*Port Angeles*	17,710	26,860	29,604	**56,464**	2,676	32	$1,222,273	$20,567	11%	18%	0.5%	$109	2,640	5%	51	5	**3**	3	0
BLUE EARTH COUNTY	MN	*Mankato*	31,477	31,468	22,576	**54,044**	766	71	$1,016,865	$18,906	***13%***	14%	1.5%	**na**	124	0%	51	5	**0**	0	0
TWIN FALLS COUNTY	ID	*Twin Falls*	27,591	31,107	22,473	**53,580**	1,929	28	$974,346	$17,410	5%	15%	***9.6%***	$65	300	1%	51	5	**0**	3	1
GALLATIN COUNTY	MT	*Bozeman*	22,660	26,071	24,392	**50,463**	2,533	20	$1,008,898	$18,643	***18%***	8%	3.2%	$365	604	1%	51	5	**3**	3	1
ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY	MO	*Farmington*	11,598	24,442	24,462	**48,904**	452	108	$727,081	$14,471	12%	18%	0.8%	$49	102	0%	51	5	**0**	3	1
WASHINGTON COUNTY	UT	*St. George*	28,502	35,862	12,698	**48,560**	2,430	20	$835,495	$14,866	5%	8%	0.3%	$218	704	1%	51	5	**3**	3	1
UNION COUNTY	AR	*El Dorado*	23,146	23,146	23,573	**46,719**	1,055	44	$908,243	$19,521	4%	***31%***	1.3%	$31	79	0%	51	5	**0**	0	0
POPE COUNTY	AR	*Russellville*	21,260	24,094	21,789	**45,883**	831	55	$818,494	$17,031	**7%**	20%	4.3%	$55	311	1%	51	5	**0**	3	1
LAMAR COUNTY	TX	*Paris*	24,699	24,699	19,250	**43,949**	933	47	$800,940	$18,037	4%	***35%***	0.9%	$34	406	1%	51	5	**0**	0	0
CARTER COUNTY	OK	*Ardmore*	23,079	28,514	14,405	**42,919**	834	51	$794,801	$18,441	4%	25%	0.0%	$46	3,621	8%	51	5	**0**	0	1
DES MOINES COUNTY	IA	*Burlington*	27,208	30,291	12,323	**42,614**	430	99	$850,960	$19,868	2%	***38%***	1.3%	$52	67	0%	51	5	**0**	0	0
WEBSTER COUNTY	IA	*Fort Dodge*	25,894	25,894	14,448	**40,342**	718	56	$759,685	$18,959	5%	20%	4.3%	$38	104	0%	51	5	**0**	0	0
MONTGOMERY COUNTY	KS	*Coffeyville*	12,917	22,859	15,957	**38,816**	651	60	$651,910	$17,077	3%	***34%***	0.4%	$35	898	2%	51	5	**0**	0	0
MATAGORDA COUNTY	TX	*Bay City**	18,170	22,588	14,340	36,928	1,612	33	$652,967	$17,209	2%	9%	4.3%	$32	87	0%	51	5	**0**	0	**0**
MAVERICK COUNTY	TX	*Eagle Pass**	21,407	20,651	15,727	36,378	1,292	28	$325,204	$8,098	9%	8%	1.4%	$23	714	2%	51	5	**0**	0	**0**
						1,083,234			**$20,123,527**	**$18,577**											

**COUNTY CHARACTERISTICS CONSIDERED IN THE SELECTION OF FLATHEAD COUNTY PEERS:*

(1) Counties with READ codes 41 (regional center counties with county-wide populations between 60,000 and 100,000) and 51 (regional center counties with county-wide populations between 30,000 and 60,000).

Note: Humboldt Co. in California was included even though it had a '90 population of 119,000 because its largest city, Eureka, is relatively small and the county has other characteristics common to Flathead County.

(2) Counties with no city greater than 32,000 people (1990 Census), (3) counties with many common underlying industry dependencies, and (4) counties with Am. Indian populations under 10% of totals.

'1/ National Parks counties with "Code 3" are counties whose geographic center is within 40 miles of a major national park in the West, that has no city or place in excess of 50,000 people.

'2/ Forest Service lands counties with "Code 3" are counties whose geographic center is within 30 miles of U.S.F.S. lands in the West (national forests and wilderness areas) with no place greater than 50,000 pop.

Flathead County Peer Review: Recent Trends in Population Growth

Counties rank-ordered by population growth rate, 1990 - 2000

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West: County Name	ST.	National Parks counties	Past and recent population change . . Total 1980 Census	Total 1990 Census	Total 2000 Census	Change: '1990 - 2000 no.	%
# 1	WASHINGTON COUNTY	UT	3	26,065	48,560	90,354	41,794	86%
# 2	DESCHUTES COUNTY	OR	0	62,142	74,958	115,367	40,409	54%
# 3	GALLATIN COUNTY	MT	3	42,865	50,463	67,831	17,368	34%
# 4	MAVERICK COUNTY	TX	0	31,398	36,378	47,297	10,919	30%
# 5	FLATHEAD COUNTY	MT	3	51,966	59,218	74,471	15,253	26%
# 6	TWIN FALLS COUNTY	ID	0	52,927	53,580	64,284	10,704	20%
# 7	POPE COUNTY	AR	0	39,021	45,883	54,469	8,586	19%
# 8	CLALLAM COUNTY	WA	3	51,648	56,464	64,525	8,061	14%
# 9	ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY	MO	0	42,600	48,904	55,641	6,737	14%
#10	KLAMATH COUNTY	OR	3	59,117	57,702	63,775	6,073	11%
#11	LAMAR COUNTY	TX	0	42,156	43,949	48,499	4,550	10%
#12	MENDOCINO COUNTY	CA	0	66,738	80,345	86,265	5,920	7%
#13	CARTER COUNTY	OK	0	43,610	42,919	45,621	2,702	6%
#14	HUMBOLDT COUNTY	CA	3	108,514	119,118	126,518	7,400	6%
#15	GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY	WA	3	66,314	64,175	67,194	3,019	5%
#16	COOS COUNTY	OR	0	64,047	60,273	62,779	2,506	4%
#17	BLUE EARTH COUNTY	MN	0	52,314	54,044	55,941	1,897	4%
#18	MATAGORDA COUNTY	TX	0	37,828	36,928	37,957	1,029	3%
#19	WEBSTER COUNTY	IA	0	45,953	40,342	40,235	-107	0%
#20	DES MOINES COUNTY	IA	0	46,203	42,614	42,351	-263	-1%
#21	UNION COUNTY	AR	0	48,573	46,719	45,629	-1,090	-2%
#22	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	KS	0	42,281	38,816	36,252	-2,564	-7%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm			1,124,280	1,202,352	1,393,255	190,903	16%
	*N. Park Lands Peers**			528,334	621,171	792,222	171,051	28%
	*READ Reg. Center Peers**			3,121,208	3,197,119	3,508,089	310,970	10%
	West Ave./Norm (22 states)			82,732,339	95,488,918	112,042,052	16,553,134	17%
	Nation Ave./Norm			226,542,204	248,718,301	281,421,906	32,703,605	13%

Counties rank-ordered by net migration growth rate, 1990 - 1999

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West by READ Region: County Name	Net population migration: 80-90 no.	% chg. in pop.	Net population migration: 90-99 no.	% chg. in pop.	Pop. Median age 1980	1990	2000
# 1	WASHINGTON COUNTY	16,688	64%	28,867	59%	25	28	31
# 2	DESCHUTES COUNTY	8,052	13%	31,384	42%	30	36	38
# 3	GALLATIN COUNTY	2,884	7%	9,553	19%	25	30	31
# 4	FLATHEAD COUNTY	2,808	5%	10,934	18%	30	35	39
# 5	CLALLAM COUNTY	2,410	5%	9,156	16%	32	38	44
# 6	ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY	5,081	12%	6,606	14%	33	34	37
# 7	TWIN FALLS COUNTY	-3,713	-7%	6,520	12%	30	33	35
# 8	MAVERICK COUNTY	-1,371	-4%	4,278	12%	22	26	28
# 9	POPE COUNTY	4,000	10%	4,210	9%	29	32	35
#10	KLAMATH COUNTY	-5,197	-9%	3,662	6%	30	35	38
#11	COOS COUNTY	-6,166	-10%	2,270	4%	31	38	43
#12	LAMAR COUNTY	459	1%	1,316	3%	33	35	37
#13	GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY	-5,491	-8%	1,692	3%	31	35	39
#14	CARTER COUNTY	-2,580	-6%	1,069	2%	32	35	38
#15	MENDOCINO COUNTY	8,722	13%	1,239	2%	32	36	39
#16	HUMBOLDT COUNTY	2,630	2%	-1,790	-2%	29	33	36
#17	DES MOINES COUNTY	-5,201	-11%	-1,539	-4%	32	36	39
#18	BLUE EARTH COUNTY	-1,981	-4%	-1,983	-4%	26	28	30
#19	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	-4,714	-11%	-1,639	-4%	34	37	39
#20	WEBSTER COUNTY	-7,268	-16%	-1,714	-4%	31	36	38
#21	MATAGORDA COUNTY	-5,445	-14%	-1,774	-5%	28	31	35
#22	UNION COUNTY	-3,739	-8%	-2,288	-5%	33	35	38
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	868	0%	110,029	9%	30	34	37
	*N. Park Lands Peers**	46,732	9%	101,873	16%	29	34	37
	*READ Reg. Center Peers**	-172,491	-6%	-372,472	-12%	29	33	35
	West Ave./Norm (22 states)	4,304,127	5%	4,882,247	5%	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Nation Ave./Norm					30	33	35

** National Parks peers are all non-metro counties nearby parks (Code 3), READ codes 41 & 51 (small and large regional centers), with Am. Indian populations under 10%. READ peers are non-parks counties with READ codes 41 & 51, Tiers 4 & 5, Am. Indian populations under 10%.*

Flathead County Peer Review: Recent Trends in Population Aging

Counties rank-ordered by population median age (oldest to youngest), 2000

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Pop. Median age 1980	1990	2000	Area annual deaths per 1000 pop 1980	1990	1999	Area annual births per 1000 pop 1980	1990	1999
# 1	CLALLAM COUNTY	32	38	**44**	10	11	12.0	17	14	10.3
# 2	COOS COUNTY	31	38	**43**	9	12	13.1	17	12	10.7
# 3	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	34	37	**39**	13	12	13.4	17	14	11.7
# 4	FLATHEAD COUNTY	30	35	**39**	8	8	7.9	18	14	12.2
# 5	MENDOCINO COUNTY	32	36	**39**	9	9	10.1	18	15	11.7
# 6	DES MOINES COUNTY	32	36	**39**	10	11	11.4	17	13	13.8
# 7	GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY	31	35	**39**	10	11	11.3	18	15	13.6
# 8	DESCHUTES COUNTY	30	36	**38**	7	8	7.2	17	14	12.2
# 9	KLAMATH COUNTY	30	35	**38**	8	10	10.2	17	15	13.0
#10	CARTER COUNTY	32	35	**38**	11	12	12.8	15	14	14.8
#11	UNION COUNTY	33	35	**38**	13	12	13.4	17	16	14.5
#12	WEBSTER COUNTY	31	36	**38**	10	11	13.7	17	15	12.7
#13	ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY	33	34	**37**	12	13	11.7	16	13	11.9
#14	LAMAR COUNTY	33	35	**37**	12	12	13.4	15	16	14.4
#15	HUMBOLDT COUNTY	29	33	**36**	8	9	9.1	17	15	11.9
#16	TWIN FALLS COUNTY	30	33	**35**	9	8	9.7	21	15	15.0
#17	POPE COUNTY	29	32	**35**	9	8	8.9	14	16	14.4
#18	MATAGORDA COUNTY	28	31	**35**	9	8	8.7	23	17	16.0
#19	WASHINGTON COUNTY	25	28	**31**	7	8	7.1	29	19	18.9
#20	GALLATIN COUNTY	25	30	**31**	6	5	4.9	16	13	11.9
#21	BLUE EARTH COUNTY	26	28	**30**	8	7	7.6	18	13	11.5
#22	MAVERICK COUNTY	22	26	**28**	5	5	5.1	27	25	22.3
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	30	34	37	9.2	9.5	9.7	18.2	15.1	13.4
	N. Park Lands Peers*	29	34	37	8.1	8.9	9.2	19.2	15.6	13.7
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	29	33	35	8.6	9.0	9.5		15.5	14.4
	West Ave./Norm (22 states)	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.3	7.9	7.9	18.1	18.2	15.7
	Nation Ave./Norm	30	33	35	8.9	8.6	8.7	16.1	16.8	14.6

Counties rank-ordered by school age population %, 2000

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West by READ Region County Name	School Age Population under 18 yrs. of age 1990	2000	% Ch.	School Age Pop. share of total population 1990	2000	Seniors Population persons 65 and older 1990	2000	% Ch.	Seniors Pop. share of total population 1990	2000
# 1	MAVERICK COUNTY	14,067	17,459	24%	39%	**37%**	2,696	3,263	21%	7%	7%
# 2	WASHINGTON COUNTY	17,732	28,190	59%	37%	**31%**	3,885	7,481	93%	8%	8%
# 3	MATAGORDA COUNTY	11,657	11,382	-2%	32%	**30%**	3,087	3,348	8%	8%	9%
# 4	TWIN FALLS COUNTY	16,261	17,920	10%	30%	**28%**	4,445	5,551	25%	8%	9%
# 5	CARTER COUNTY	11,773	11,950	2%	27%	**26%**	4,181	4,377	5%	10%	10%
# 6	LAMAR COUNTY	11,567	12,668	10%	26%	**26%**	3,952	4,961	26%	9%	10%
# 7	UNION COUNTY	12,794	11,832	-8%	27%	**26%**	4,172	4,270	2%	9%	9%
# 8	FLATHEAD COUNTY	16,931	19,287	14%	29%	**26%**	5,119	7,359	44%	9%	10%
# 9	KLAMATH COUNTY	15,704	16,470	5%	27%	**26%**	5,520	6,521	18%	10%	10%
#10	GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY	17,740	17,251	-3%	28%	**26%**	5,893	6,920	17%	9%	10%
#11	MENDOCINO COUNTY	22,511	22,039	-2%	28%	**26%**	6,789	8,809	30%	8%	10%
#12	POPE COUNTY	12,122	13,900	15%	26%	**26%**	3,841	4,912	28%	8%	9%
#13	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	10,009	9,079	-9%	26%	**25%**	3,700	3,635	-2%	10%	10%
#14	DESCHUTES COUNTY	19,976	28,583	43%	27%	**25%**	6,846	11,560	69%	9%	10%
#15	WEBSTER COUNTY	10,489	9,847	-6%	26%	**24%**	4,058	3,476	-14%	10%	9%
#16	DES MOINES COUNTY	10,944	10,328	-6%	26%	**24%**	4,025	4,124	2%	9%	10%
#17	ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY	12,468	13,335	7%	25%	**24%**	4,712	5,330	13%	10%	10%
#18	HUMBOLDT COUNTY	31,308	29,413	-6%	26%	**23%**	9,335	11,111	19%	8%	9%
#19	GALLATIN COUNTY	12,422	14,899	20%	25%	**22%**	3,129	4,645	48%	6%	7%
#20	CLALLAM COUNTY	14,056	14,170	1%	25%	**22%**	5,704	7,626	34%	10%	12%
#21	COOS COUNTY	15,398	13,769	-11%	26%	**22%**	6,359	7,582	19%	11%	12%
#22	BLUE EARTH COUNTY	12,431	11,951	-4%	23%	**21%**	3,668	3,900	6%	7%	7%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	330,360	355,722	8%	27%	26%	105,116	130,761	24%	9%	9%
	N. Park Lands Peers*	173,693	202,068	16%	28%	26%	56,181	79,340	41%	9%	10%
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	865,055	894,094	3%	27%	25%	267,251	305,207	14%	8%	9%
	West Ave./Norm (22 states)	26,217,705	30,199,220	15%	27%	27%	7,521,026	9,123,041	21%	8%	8%
	Nation Ave./Norm	64,177,430	72,293,812	13%	26%	26%	21,093,223	24,274,684	15%	8%	9%

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Flathead County Peer Review: Recent Trends in Total Personal Income Growth

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	National Parks counties	Past and recent total personal income change .. Income in thousands of 1996 dollars Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77 - '87	% Change '87 - '97
	Counties rank-ordered by total personal income growth, 1987-97							
# 1	WASHINGTON CO., UT	3	$249,225	$579,321	$1,354,589	$1,569,814	132%	**134%**
# 2	DESCHUTES CO., OR	0	$844,428	$1,316,672	$2,384,914	$2,805,228	56%	**81%**
# 3	MAVERICK CO., TX	0	$171,950	$268,588	$450,216	$522,064	56%	**68%**
# 4	GALLATIN CO., MT	3	$577,339	$807,538	$1,327,569	$1,512,004	40%	**64%**
# 5	FLATHEAD CO., MT	3	$787,875	$1,002,309	$1,464,470	$1,571,857	27%	**46%**
# 6	POPE CO., AR	0	$466,825	$691,283	$970,422	$1,038,252	48%	**40%**
# 7	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	0	$753,621	$883,768	$1,201,006	$1,265,642	17%	**36%**
# 8	CLALLAM CO., WA	3	$767,480	$1,018,827	$1,360,826	$1,430,849	33%	**34%**
# 9	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	0	$831,222	$965,928	$1,272,573	$1,425,035	16%	**32%**
#10	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	0	$530,991	$684,723	$896,369	$961,841	29%	**31%**
#11	MENDOCINO CO., CA	0	$1,048,166	$1,420,030	$1,790,759	$1,951,415	35%	**26%**
#12	KLAMATH CO., OR	3	$924,057	$943,731	$1,186,500	$1,254,924	2%	**26%**
#13	LAMAR CO., TX	0	$531,506	$747,417	$924,697	$993,894	41%	**24%**
#14	COOS CO., OR	0	$986,303	$1,051,271	$1,246,185	$1,267,032	7%	**19%**
#15	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	3	$1,848,450	$2,140,726	$2,514,313	$2,669,116	16%	**17%**
#16	WEBSTER CO., IA	0	$803,193	$752,517	$869,474	$906,289	-6%	**16%**
#17	UNION CO., AR	0	$712,073	$873,369	$995,952	$1,058,147	23%	**14%**
#18	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	3	$1,061,339	$1,133,098	$1,282,910	$1,337,556	7%	**13%**
#19	DES MOINES CO., IA	0	$817,598	$849,913	$961,391	$1,010,198	4%	**13%**
#20	CARTER CO., OK	0	$610,826	$792,670	$894,872	$924,085	30%	**13%**
#21	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	0	$634,681	$669,955	$690,141	$709,985	6%	**3%**
#22	MATAGORDA CO., TX	0	$518,041	$770,096	$684,052	$712,652	49%	**-11%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm		$16,477,188	$20,363,752	$26,724,200	$28,897,879	24%	**31%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*		$7,874,468	$10,258,170	$14,408,435	$15,729,580	30%	**40%**
	READ Reg. Center Peers*		$47,268,312	$57,505,436	$71,375,692	$76,710,070	22%	**24%**
	West Ave./Norm		$1,361,931,780	$1,942,136,649	$2,579,288,931	$2,933,914,352	43%	**33%**
	Nation Ave./Norm		$3,802,525,818	$5,250,909,091	$6,794,281,570	$7,558,210,909	38%	**29%**

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Personal income component shares: '77 vs. '97 Investment Income 76/77/78	Investment Income 96/97/98	Transfer Payments Income 76/77/78	Transfer Payments Income 96/97/98	Labor Income 76/77/78	Labor Income 96/97/98
	Counties rank-ordered by labor income share in 1997, highest to lowest						
# 1	POPE CO., AR	11%	16%	15%	17%	73%	**67%**
# 2	GALLATIN CO., MT	20%	25%	9%	10%	71%	**65%**
# 3	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	18%	21%	12%	15%	71%	**63%**
# 4	MATAGORDA CO., TX	13%	17%	9%	20%	78%	**63%**
# 5	DES MOINES CO., IA	16%	21%	12%	16%	72%	**63%**
# 6	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	18%	24%	11%	13%	72%	**63%**
# 7	LAMAR CO., TX	12%	17%	19%	21%	69%	**63%**
# 8	WEBSTER CO., IA	18%	21%	12%	18%	70%	**61%**
# 9	CARTER CO., OK	15%	20%	16%	20%	69%	**60%**
#10	FLATHEAD CO., MT	18%	25%	12%	15%	70%	**59%**
#11	DESCHUTES CO., OR	18%	28%	12%	14%	70%	**58%**
#12	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	14%	21%	14%	20%	71%	**58%**
#13	UNION CO., AR	15%	24%	15%	19%	70%	**58%**
#14	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	12%	16%	19%	26%	69%	**58%**
#15	KLAMATH CO., OR	15%	22%	12%	21%	73%	**58%**
#16	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	15%	20%	16%	22%	69%	**58%**
#17	WASHINGTON CO., UT	21%	25%	15%	18%	64%	**57%**
#18	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	14%	19%	14%	25%	72%	**56%**
#19	MENDOCINO CO., CA	17%	25%	16%	20%	67%	**55%**
#20	MAVERICK CO., TX	8%	10%	21%	36%	70%	**54%**
#21	COOS CO., OR	13%	25%	14%	23%	72%	**52%**
#22	CLALLAM CO., WA	21%	32%	14%	22%	65%	**46%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	16%	23%	14%	19%	71%	**59%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	16%	23%	13%	19%	71%	**58%**
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	15%	20%	12%	16%	74%	**63%**
	West Ave./Norm	14%	19%	11%	13%	74%	**68%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	14%	19%	12%	14%	74%	**67%**

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Flathead County Peer Review: Recent Trends in Investment Income Growth

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Past and recent investment income change .. Income in thousands of 1996 dollars Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77 - '87	'87 - '97
	Counties rank-ordered by investment income growth, 1987-97						
# 1	WASHINGTON CO., UT	$53,315	$162,309	$334,905	$388,219	204%	**106%**
# 2	DESCHUTES CO., OR	$154,640	$339,140	$663,243	$728,045	119%	**96%**
# 3	GALLATIN CO., MT	$112,941	$206,608	$336,509	$354,825	83%	**63%**
# 4	FLATHEAD CO., MT	$141,394	$239,178	$370,812	$383,749	69%	**55%**
# 5	CLALLAM CO., WA	$157,399	$307,498	$441,649	$452,373	95%	**44%**
# 6	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	$145,802	$230,055	$311,070	$348,742	58%	**35%**
# 7	POPE CO., AR	$53,682	$116,124	$155,521	$169,551	116%	**34%**
# 8	MENDOCINO CO., CA	$179,376	$336,346	$442,770	$459,632	88%	**32%**
# 9	COOS CO., OR	$130,354	$235,949	$309,118	$307,811	81%	**31%**
#10	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	$132,359	$206,683	$253,140	$258,381	56%	**22%**
#11	KLAMATH CO., OR	$136,231	$212,490	$257,281	$258,054	56%	**21%**
#12	MAVERICK CO., TX	$13,946	$36,382	$43,489	$50,780	161%	**20%**
#13	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	$263,769	$451,249	$538,105	$555,522	71%	**19%**
#14	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	$149,673	$222,294	$246,056	$247,415	49%	**11%**
#15	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	$64,636	$130,876	$144,853	$155,735	102%	**11%**
#16	DES MOINES CO., IA	$129,953	$182,135	$199,605	$209,701	40%	**10%**
#17	UNION CO., AR	$105,840	$214,779	$234,257	$258,574	103%	**9%**
#18	LAMAR CO., TX	$64,115	$151,175	$152,652	$166,001	136%	**1%**
#19	WEBSTER CO., IA	$142,807	$188,823	$186,611	$190,773	32%	**-1%**
#20	CARTER CO., OK	$92,360	$188,088	$178,047	$183,240	104%	**-5%**
#21	MATAGORDA CO., TX	$65,383	$127,445	$117,602	$120,797	95%	**-8%**
#22	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	$94,509	$150,874	$138,102	$136,712	60%	**-8%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$2,584,483	$4,636,501	$6,055,397	$6,384,632	79%	**31%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	$1,253,671	$2,371,164	$3,304,328	$3,484,971	89%	**39%**
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	$6,912,104	$11,942,636	$14,620,357	$15,453,708	73%	**22%**
	West Ave./Norm	$196,965,247	$380,597,872	$490,548,387	$525,568,578	93%	**29%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	$532,085,149	$1,014,047,565	$1,305,290,587	$1,382,182,727	91%	**29%**

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Investment Income Per Capita Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	% Change '87 - '97
	Counties rank-ordered by investment inc. per capita, '97			
# 1	CLALLAM CO., WA	$5,733	**$6,963**	21%
# 2	DESCHUTES CO., OR	$5,039	**$6,444**	28%
# 3	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	$4,334	**$5,638**	30%
# 4	GALLATIN CO., MT	$4,222	**$5,321**	26%
# 5	MENDOCINO CO., CA	$4,463	**$5,244**	17%
# 6	FLATHEAD CO., MT	$4,155	**$5,143**	24%
# 7	UNION CO., AR	$4,496	**$5,090**	13%
# 8	COOS CO., OR	$3,970	**$4,873**	23%
# 9	WEBSTER CO., IA	$4,588	**$4,729**	3%
#10	DES MOINES CO., IA	$4,237	**$4,676**	10%
#11	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	$3,990	**$4,244**	6%
#12	WASHINGTON CO., UT	$3,837	**$4,118**	7%
#13	KLAMATH CO., OR	$3,763	**$4,106**	9%
#14	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	$3,870	**$4,078**	5%
#15	CARTER CO., OK	$4,139	**$3,958**	-4%
#16	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	$3,737	**$3,734**	0%
#17	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	$3,555	**$3,632**	2%
#18	LAMAR CO., TX	$3,465	**$3,236**	-7%
#19	MATAGORDA CO., TX	$3,190	**$3,100**	-3%
#20	POPE CO., AR	$2,644	**$2,959**	12%
#21	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	$2,836	**$2,670**	-6%
#22	MAVERICK CO., TX	$1,036	**$958**	-8%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$3,964	**$4,476**	13%
	N. Park Lands Peers*	$4,067	**$4,358**	7%
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	$3,741	**$4,236**	13%
	West Ave./Norm	$4,131	**$4,564**	10%
	Nation Ave./Norm	$4,185	**$4,788**	14%

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Flathead County Peer Review: Recent Trends in Transfer Payments Income Growth

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Past and recent transfer payments income change .. Income in thousands of 1996 dollars Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77 - '87	'87 - '97
	Counties rank-ordered by transfer payments income growth, 1987-97						
# 1	WASHINGTON CO., UT	$36,176	$92,724	$241,238	$273,515	156%	**160%**
# 2	MAVERICK CO., TX	$36,931	$70,431	$162,084	$164,649	91%	**130%**
# 3	DESCHUTES CO., OR	$100,024	$180,373	$328,918	$374,482	80%	**82%**
# 4	MATAGORDA CO., TX	$49,163	$79,765	$135,088	$135,545	62%	**69%**
# 5	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	$101,194	$147,255	$233,896	$251,191	46%	**59%**
# 6	POPE CO., AR	$70,438	$104,584	$165,640	$180,478	48%	**58%**
# 7	KLAMATH CO., OR	$110,756	$155,047	$244,435	$262,975	40%	**58%**
# 8	COOS CO., OR	$141,613	$183,618	$286,964	$294,081	30%	**56%**
# 9	CLALLAM CO., WA	$107,771	$190,899	$294,603	$316,858	77%	**54%**
#10	FLATHEAD CO., MT	$93,292	$148,138	$225,973	$239,339	59%	**53%**
#11	LAMAR CO., TX	$100,485	$128,350	$190,647	$195,929	28%	**49%**
#12	MENDOCINO CO., CA	$163,938	$244,743	$358,130	$371,015	49%	**46%**
#13	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	$87,207	$128,463	$185,465	$197,129	47%	**44%**
#14	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	$264,676	$354,064	$509,549	$527,969	34%	**44%**
#15	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	$147,936	$222,053	$315,742	$314,976	50%	**42%**
#16	CARTER CO., OK	$95,280	$124,899	$177,291	$181,132	31%	**42%**
#17	GALLATIN CO., MT	$53,409	$93,351	$131,778	$136,967	75%	**41%**
#18	UNION CO., AR	$109,822	$141,572	$185,182	$189,171	29%	**31%**
#19	DES MOINES CO., IA	$97,845	$121,867	$156,279	$163,311	25%	**28%**
#20	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	$90,541	$129,583	$160,201	$162,773	43%	**24%**
#21	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	$102,481	$125,617	$155,159	$159,903	23%	**24%**
#22	WEBSTER CO., IA	$97,024	$126,500	$154,947	$157,373	30%	**22%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$2,258,002	$3,293,896	$4,999,209	$5,250,761	46%	**52%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	$991,693	$1,640,242	$2,713,793	$2,897,485	65%	**65%**
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	$5,600,300	$8,069,733	$11,625,612	$12,097,243	44%	**44%**
	West Ave./Norm	$151,471,853	$219,911,252	$335,171,654	$350,154,135	45%	**52%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	$453,252,232	$624,609,744	$935,812,163	$972,937,273	38%	**50%**

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Transfer Payments Income Per Capita Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	% Change '87 - '97
	Counties rank-ordered by transfer paymt. inc. per capita, '97			
# 1	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	$3,551	**$4,660**	31%
# 2	CLALLAM CO., WA	$3,559	**$4,644**	30%
# 3	COOS CO., OR	$3,090	**$4,524**	46%
# 4	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	$3,191	**$4,312**	35%
# 5	MENDOCINO CO., CA	$3,247	**$4,241**	31%
# 6	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	$3,111	**$4,196**	35%
# 7	LAMAR CO., TX	$2,942	**$4,042**	37%
# 8	UNION CO., AR	$2,963	**$4,024**	36%
# 9	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	$3,131	**$4,019**	28%
#10	CARTER CO., OK	$2,748	**$3,941**	43%
#11	WEBSTER CO., IA	$3,073	**$3,927**	28%
#12	KLAMATH CO., OR	$2,746	**$3,901**	42%
#13	DES MOINES CO., IA	$2,835	**$3,661**	29%
#14	MAVERICK CO., TX	$2,006	**$3,571**	78%
#15	MATAGORDA CO., TX	$1,997	**$3,561**	78%
#16	DESCHUTES CO., OR	$2,680	**$3,196**	19%
#17	POPE CO., AR	$2,381	**$3,152**	32%
#18	FLATHEAD CO., MT	$2,573	**$3,134**	22%
#19	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	$2,405	**$2,988**	24%
#20	WASHINGTON CO., UT	$2,192	**$2,966**	35%
#21	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	$2,441	**$2,903**	19%
#22	GALLATIN CO., MT	$1,908	**$2,084**	9%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$2,816	**$3,696**	31%
	N. Park Lands Peers*	$2,813	**$3,579**	27%
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	$2,528	**$3,368**	33%
	West Ave./Norm	$2,387	**$3,119**	31%
	Nation Ave./Norm	$2,578	**$3,433**	33%

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Flathead County Peer Review: Trends in Wage and Salary Labor Earnings

Counties rank-ordered by wage & salary income growth, 1987-97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Past and recent wage & salary labor income change .. Income in thousands of 1996 dollars Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77 - '87	'87 - '97
# 1	WASHINGTON CO., UT	$94,751	$219,761	$603,195	$721,418	132%	**174%**
# 2	DESCHUTES CO., OR	$436,394	$574,683	$1,046,860	$1,313,510	32%	**82%**
# 3	GALLATIN CO., MT	$306,130	$377,738	$662,417	$805,666	23%	**75%**
# 4	MAVERICK CO., TX	$111,342	$122,124	$197,336	$237,846	10%	**62%**
# 5	FLATHEAD CO., MT	$407,265	$466,449	$698,524	$769,205	15%	**50%**
# 6	POPE CO., AR	$294,250	$390,168	$577,702	$632,582	33%	**48%**
# 7	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	$200,819	$264,629	$388,673	$411,726	32%	**47%**
# 8	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	$402,070	$417,526	$599,306	$640,315	4%	**44%**
# 9	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	$507,671	$552,025	$751,059	$847,242	9%	**36%**
#10	WEBSTER CO., IA	$454,188	$358,330	$451,737	$496,325	-21%	**26%**
#11	KLAMATH CO., OR	$521,277	$454,086	$565,995	$606,597	-13%	**25%**
#12	CLALLAM CO., WA	$400,744	$401,930	$487,587	$510,820	0%	**21%**
#13	LAMAR CO., TX	$287,806	$391,852	$471,065	$493,471	36%	**20%**
#14	MENDOCINO CO., CA	$512,892	$600,914	$706,058	$785,581	17%	**17%**
#15	DES MOINES CO., IA	$563,384	$531,129	$617,159	$656,899	-6%	**16%**
#16	UNION CO., AR	$400,802	$445,302	$508,684	$547,801	11%	**14%**
#17	CARTER CO., OK	$348,258	$423,007	$465,868	$471,396	21%	**10%**
#18	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	$1,015,280	$1,050,689	$1,144,534	$1,205,045	3%	**9%**
#19	COOS CO., OR	$569,163	$479,652	$509,245	$513,131	-16%	**6%**
#20	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	$648,777	$573,233	$597,470	$636,636	-12%	**4%**
#21	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	$363,322	$344,798	$357,212	$383,856	-5%	**4%**
#22	MATAGORDA CO., TX	$313,800	$602,954	$360,598	$358,539	92%	**-40%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$9,160,384	$10,042,979	$12,768,286	$14,045,607	10%	**27%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	$4,253,641	$4,632,305	$6,431,308	$7,171,366	9%	**39%**
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	$28,367,810	$31,109,813	$38,071,717	$41,546,573	10%	**22%**
	West Ave./Norm	$808,696,152	$1,091,970,572	$1,434,045,445	$1,703,562,575	35%	**31%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	$2,307,903,543	$3,004,165,089	$3,805,095,497	$4,396,181,818	30%	**27%**

Counties rank-ordered by wage & salary inc. per capita, '97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Wage & Salary Income Per Capita Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	% Change '87 - '97
# 1	DES MOINES CO., IA	$12,355	**$14,457**	17%
# 2	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	$10,399	**$13,612**	31%
# 3	WEBSTER CO., IA	$8,706	**$11,448**	31%
# 4	UNION CO., AR	$9,321	**$11,054**	19%
# 5	POPE CO., AR	$8,884	**$10,993**	24%
# 6	GALLATIN CO., MT	$7,719	**$10,474**	36%
# 7	CARTER CO., OK	$9,308	**$10,355**	11%
# 8	DESCHUTES CO., OR	$8,539	**$10,171**	19%
# 9	LAMAR CO., TX	$8,982	**$9,987**	11%
#10	FLATHEAD CO., MT	$8,102	**$9,689**	20%
#11	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	$8,540	**$9,659**	13%
#12	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	$7,817	**$9,655**	24%
#13	MATAGORDA CO., TX	$15,093	**$9,504**	-37%
#14	KLAMATH CO., OR	$8,042	**$9,033**	12%
#15	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	$9,290	**$9,028**	-3%
#16	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	$9,168	**$8,819**	-4%
#17	MENDOCINO CO., CA	$7,973	**$8,362**	5%
#18	COOS CO., OR	$8,071	**$8,028**	-1%
#19	CLALLAM CO., WA	$7,494	**$7,687**	3%
#20	WASHINGTON CO., UT	$5,195	**$7,416**	43%
#21	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	$5,735	**$7,165**	25%
#22	MAVERICK CO., TX	$3,478	**$4,348**	25%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$8,587	**$9,439**	10%
	N. Park Lands Peers*	$7,945	**$8,482**	7%
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	$9,744	**$11,030**	13%
	West Ave./Norm	$11,853	**$13,344**	13%
	Nation Ave./Norm	$12,398	**$13,957**	13%

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Flathead County Peer Review: Trends in Non-farm Proprietor Labor Earnings

Counties rank-ordered by non-farm proprietor income growth, 1987-97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West: County Name	Past and recent non-farm proprietor labor income change .. Income in thousands of 1996 dollars: Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77 - '87	% Change '87 - '97
# 1	WASHINGTON CO., UT	$50,381	$86,475	$152,246	$165,735	72%	**76%**
# 2	DESCHUTES CO., OR	$118,594	$172,305	$296,972	$341,585	45%	**72%**
# 3	GALLATIN CO., MT	$79,833	$98,874	$165,192	$191,953	24%	**67%**
# 4	LAMAR CO., TX	$77,457	$80,514	$127,916	$153,287	4%	**59%**
# 5	MAVERICK CO., TX	$18,587	$18,552	$28,991	$39,563	0%	**56%**
# 6	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	$68,656	$63,377	$97,446	$124,409	-8%	**54%**
# 7	CARTER CO., OK	$94,599	$91,859	$131,110	$142,141	-3%	**43%**
# 8	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	$97,163	$80,566	$111,767	$120,638	-17%	**39%**
# 9	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	$213,474	$210,639	$286,435	$347,153	-1%	**36%**
#10	FLATHEAD CO., MT	$115,177	$123,886	$158,641	$179,897	8%	**28%**
#11	MENDOCINO CO., CA	$138,215	$192,789	$237,746	$296,301	39%	**23%**
#12	UNION CO., AR	$86,951	$69,643	$81,266	$88,595	-20%	**17%**
#13	KLAMATH CO., OR	$102,245	$77,795	$89,591	$99,706	-24%	**15%**
#14	CLALLAM CO., WA	$78,488	$96,366	$110,519	$127,101	23%	**15%**
#15	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	$43,809	$52,035	$57,385	$69,748	19%	**10%**
#16	MATAGORDA CO., TX	$50,471	$42,746	$42,207	$45,647	-15%	**-1%**
#17	WEBSTER CO., IA	$68,525	$53,820	$50,734	$55,947	-21%	**-6%**
#18	POPE CO., AR	$52,423	$67,172	$60,122	$56,110	28%	**-10%**
#19	COOS CO., OR	$98,391	$99,688	$89,117	$104,133	1%	**-11%**
#20	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	$104,776	$100,504	$87,921	$108,014	-4%	**-13%**
#21	DES MOINES CO., IA	$66,591	$66,129	$57,395	$65,895	-1%	**-13%**
#22	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	$63,931	$49,686	$39,581	$39,156	-22%	**-20%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$1,888,738	$1,995,419	$2,560,299	$2,962,714	6%	**28%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	$917,580	$1,036,639	$1,357,179	$1,585,758	13%	**31%**
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	$4,975,230	$4,888,204	$5,826,951	$6,666,167	-2%	**19%**
	West Ave./Norm	$128,753,796	$157,561,521	$240,634,957	$285,445,745	22%	**53%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	$303,742,808	$371,824,025	$539,940,004	$622,171,818	22%	**45%**

Cos. rank-ordered by non-farm propr. inc. per capita, '97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West: County Name	Non-farm Proprietor Inc. Per Capita: Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	% Change '87 - '97
# 1	CARTER CO., OK	$2,021	**$2,914**	44%
# 2	DESCHUTES CO., OR	$2,560	**$2,885**	13%
# 3	MENDOCINO CO., CA	$2,558	**$2,816**	10%
# 4	LAMAR CO., TX	$1,846	**$2,712**	47%
# 5	GALLATIN CO., MT	$2,021	**$2,612**	29%
# 6	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	$1,862	**$2,259**	21%
# 7	FLATHEAD CO., MT	$2,152	**$2,200**	2%
# 8	WASHINGTON CO., UT	$2,044	**$1,872**	-8%
# 9	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	$1,508	**$1,801**	19%
#10	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	$1,194	**$1,766**	48%
#11	UNION CO., AR	$1,458	**$1,766**	21%
#12	CLALLAM CO., WA	$1,797	**$1,742**	-3%
#13	KLAMATH CO., OR	$1,378	**$1,430**	4%
#14	COOS CO., OR	$1,678	**$1,405**	-16%
#15	DES MOINES CO., IA	$1,538	**$1,345**	-13%
#16	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	$1,607	**$1,298**	-19%
#17	WEBSTER CO., IA	$1,308	**$1,286**	-2%
#18	POPE CO., AR	$1,530	**$1,144**	-25%
#19	MATAGORDA CO., TX	$1,070	**$1,112**	4%
#20	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	$1,231	**$1,070**	-13%
#21	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	$1,128	**$1,058**	-6%
#22	MAVERICK CO., TX	$528	**$639**	21%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$1,706	**$1,893**	11%
	N. Park Lands Peers*	$1,778	**$1,790**	1%
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	$1,531	**$1,688**	10%
	West Ave./Norm	$1,710	**$2,239**	31%
	Nation Ave./Norm	$1,535	**$1,980**	29%

Counties rank-ordered by proprietor income share, '97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West: County Name	Labor Income Shares: '77 vs. '97 — Wage & Salary Income '77	Wage & Salary Income '97	All Proprietor Income '77	All Proprietor Income '97
# 1	MENDOCINO CO., CA	70%	68%	21%	**24%**
# 2	DESCHUTES CO., OR	72%	72%	20%	**20%**
# 3	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	71%	71%	22%	**20%**
# 4	LAMAR CO., TX	72%	72%	19%	**19%**
# 5	CARTER CO., OK	71%	72%	19%	**19%**
# 6	GALLATIN CO., MT	72%	72%	21%	**19%**
# 7	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	73%	72%	18%	**19%**
# 8	WASHINGTON CO., UT	60%	73%	34%	**18%**
# 9	FLATHEAD CO., MT	71%	74%	21%	**17%**
#10	CLALLAM CO., WA	76%	74%	17%	**17%**
#11	COOS CO., OR	77%	75%	15%	**15%**
#12	UNION CO., AR	74%	76%	16%	**14%**
#13	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	72%	77%	20%	**14%**
#14	WEBSTER CO., IA	73%	77%	19%	**14%**
#15	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	78%	78%	15%	**12%**
#16	POPE CO., AR	73%	78%	18%	**12%**
#17	MATAGORDA CO., TX	76%	78%	16%	**12%**
#18	KLAMATH CO., OR	74%	77%	17%	**12%**
#19	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	74%	78%	18%	**11%**
#20	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	75%	80%	16%	**10%**
#21	MAVERICK CO., TX	84%	78%	8%	**10%**
#22	DES MOINES CO., IA	79%	81%	13%	**9%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	74%	74%	18%	**16%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	74%	75%	18%	**16%**
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	75%	77%	16%	**13%**
	West Ave./Norm	76%	77%	14%	**14%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	79%	79%	12%	**12%**

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Flathead County Peer Review: Trends in Per Worker Earnings (Wage & Salary Workers & Non-farm Propriet

Counties rank-ordered by Wage & Salary earnings per worker, '97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Per worker average annual earnings in '96 dollars All wage & salary workers, incl. part-timers Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	% Change '77-'87	'87-'97
# 1	MATAGORDA CO., TX	$23,644	$33,453	**$27,971**	41%	-16%
# 2	DES MOINES CO., IA	$25,075	$24,983	**$24,483**	0%	-2%
# 3	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	$26,801	$24,164	**$24,092**	-10%	0%
# 4	UNION CO., AR	$21,177	$22,396	**$22,889**	6%	2%
# 5	LAMAR CO., TX	$19,782	$22,736	**$22,686**	15%	0%
# 6	KLAMATH CO., OR	$24,454	$21,743	**$22,679**	-11%	4%
# 7	CARTER CO., OK	$22,204	$24,633	**$22,649**	11%	-8%
# 8	DESCHUTES CO., OR	$22,921	$21,348	**$22,614**	-7%	6%
# 9	CLALLAM CO., WA	$25,222	$22,768	**$22,530**	-10%	-1%
#10	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	$21,371	$21,056	**$22,432**	-1%	7%
#11	POPE CO., AR	$21,835	$21,779	**$22,397**	0%	3%
#12	COOS CO., OR	$26,055	$22,879	**$22,365**	-12%	-2%
#13	WEBSTER CO., IA	$22,203	$20,223	**$22,247**	-9%	10%
#14	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	$25,364	$23,819	**$21,847**	-6%	-8%
#15	FLATHEAD CO., MT	$23,460	$21,895	**$21,685**	-7%	-1%
#16	MENDOCINO CO., CA	$22,805	$20,949	**$20,780**	-8%	-1%
#17	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	$21,195	$21,330	**$20,110**	1%	-6%
#18	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	$19,268	$19,827	**$19,862**	3%	0%
#19	WASHINGTON CO., UT	$17,561	$18,468	**$19,588**	5%	6%
#20	GALLATIN CO., MT	$19,607	$18,442	**$19,159**	-6%	4%
#21	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	$18,288	$18,077	**$18,617**	-1%	3%
#22	MAVERICK CO., TX	$16,195	$16,605	**$18,339**	3%	10%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$22,808	$22,255	**$21,818**	-2%	-2%
	*N. Park Lands Peers**	$23,876	$21,994	**$21,593**	-8%	-2%
	*READ Reg. Center Peers**	$22,486	$22,410	**$22,255**	0%	-1%
	West Ave./Norm	$25,047	$26,740	**$28,332**	7%	6%
	Nation Ave./Norm	$25,523	$27,231	**$29,170**	7%	7%

Counties rank-ordered by Non-farm Proprietor earnings per worker, '97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Per worker average annual earnings in '96 dollars All Non-farm Proprietors, full & part-time Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	% Change '77-'87	'87-'97
# 1	LAMAR CO., TX	$28,449	$20,622	$25,691	-28%	25%
# 2	CARTER CO., OK	$25,055	$18,195	$24,746	-27%	36%
# 3	MENDOCINO CO., CA	$24,822	$21,171	$19,744	-15%	-7%
# 4	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	$26,216	$18,567	$19,721	-29%	6%
# 5	UNION CO., AR	$23,372	$13,904	$19,081	-41%	37%
# 6	DESCHUTES CO., OR	$20,774	$20,289	$17,929	-2%	-12%
# 7	DES MOINES CO., IA	$27,400	$22,652	$16,002	-17%	-29%
# 8	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	$22,657	$15,835	$15,635	-30%	-1%
# 9	GALLATIN CO., MT	$21,860	$14,359	$15,481	-34%	8%
#10	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	$19,276	$12,744	$15,476	-34%	21%
#11	WASHINGTON CO., UT	$28,183	$21,574	$15,401	-23%	-29%
#12	WEBSTER CO., IA	$22,643	$18,556	$15,063	-18%	-19%
#13	KLAMATH CO., OR	$25,085	$15,989	$14,714	-36%	-8%
#14	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	$24,147	$19,334	$14,440	-20%	-25%
#15	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	$19,223	$16,970	$13,919	-12%	-18%
#16	CLALLAM CO., WA	$19,369	$18,815	$13,392	-3%	-29%
#17	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	$21,453	$14,454	$13,293	-33%	-8%
#18	FLATHEAD CO., MT	$25,476	$16,722	$12,909	-34%	-23%
#19	COOS CO., OR	$22,837	$18,441	$12,861	-19%	-30%
#20	POPE CO., AR	$21,418	$16,583	$12,554	-23%	-24%
#21	MATAGORDA CO., TX	$24,099	$14,546	$12,452	-40%	-14%
#22	MAVERICK CO., TX	$22,891	$16,160	$12,276	-29%	-24%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$23,523	$17,765	$16,422	-24%	-8%
	*N. Park Lands Peers**	$24,145	$18,188	$15,598	-25%	-14%
	*READ Reg. Center Peers**	$23,930	$17,745	$17,131	-26%	-3%
	West Ave./Norm	$25,042	$20,000	$22,660	-20%	13%
	Nation Ave./Norm	$24,294	$20,664	$22,782	-15%	10%

Cos. rank-ordered by total employment to civilian labor force, '97, lowest to highest

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West County Name	Ratio of total employment to civil. lab. force '77	'87	'97
# 1	MAVERICK CO., TX	0.92	0.66	**0.74**
# 2	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	0.84	0.92	**1.04**
# 3	MATAGORDA CO., TX	1.26	0.94	**1.05**
# 4	COOS CO., OR	1.01	0.98	**1.09**
# 5	MENDOCINO CO., CA	1.03	1.12	**1.11**
# 6	KLAMATH CO., OR	1.08	1.08	**1.11**
# 7	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	0.99	1.13	**1.12**
# 8	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	1.02	1.13	**1.14**
# 9	DESCHUTES CO., OR	1.04	1.01	**1.17**
#10	GALLATIN CO., MT	1.07	1.08	**1.18**
#11	WASHINGTON CO., UT	1.01	1.02	**1.19**
#12	POPE CO., AR	1.07	0.99	**1.19**
#13	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	1.05	1.16	**1.20**
#14	FLATHEAD CO., MT	1.08	0.99	**1.21**
#15	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	1.19	1.06	**1.21**
#16	WEBSTER CO., IA	1.12	1.06	**1.23**
#17	CLALLAM CO., WA	1.06	1.03	**1.24**
#18	DES MOINES CO., IA	1.34	1.10	**1.25**
#19	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	1.09	1.18	**1.26**
#20	LAMAR CO., TX	1.03	1.06	**1.26**
#21	UNION CO., AR	1.08	1.22	**1.29**
#22	CARTER CO., OK	1.19	1.12	**1.32**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	1.07	1.06	**1.16**
	*N. Park Lands Peers**	1.05	1.05	**1.09**
	*READ Reg. Center Peers**	1.15	1.10	**1.27**
	West Ave./Norm	1.09	1.09	**1.16**
	Nation Ave./Norm	1.06	1.09	**1.15**

** National Parks peers are all non-metro counties nearby parks (Code 3), READ codes 41 & 51 (small and large regional centers) with Am. Indian populations under 10%. READ peers are non-parks counties with READ codes 41 and 51, Tiers 4 and 5, with Am. Indian populations under 10%.*

Flathead County Peer Review: Relative Area Prosperity & Well-being (per capita income and poverty)

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West	Per capita income in 1996 dollars					
	County Name	Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77 - '87	% Change '87 - '97
	Counties rank-ordered by Per Capita Income, highest to lowest, '2000						
# 1	**BLUE EARTH CO., MN**	$16,036	$18,196	$23,064	**$25,498**	13%	27%
# 2	**DESCHUTES CO., OR**	$17,351	$19,564	$23,172	**$24,063**	13%	18%
# 3	**DES MOINES CO., IA**	$17,865	$19,770	$22,521	**$23,904**	11%	14%
# 4	**UNION CO., AR**	$14,779	$18,281	$21,642	**$23,223**	24%	18%
# 5	**MENDOCINO CO., CA**	$17,180	$18,841	$21,208	**$22,593**	10%	13%
# 6	**WEBSTER CO., IA**	$17,150	$18,283	$22,034	**$22,552**	7%	21%
# 7	**GALLATIN CO., MT**	$14,603	$16,502	$20,990	**$22,165**	13%	27%
# 8	**CLALLAM CO., WA**	$16,881	$18,995	$21,454	**$22,114**	13%	13%
# 9	**HUMBOLDT CO., CA**	$17,392	$18,928	$19,832	**$21,125**	9%	5%
#10	**FLATHEAD CO., MT**	$16,467	$17,410	$20,312	**$21,038**	6%	17%
#11	**LAMAR CO., TX**	$13,149	$17,133	$19,605	**$20,440**	30%	14%
#12	**CARTER CO., OK**	$14,287	$17,442	$19,891	**$20,266**	22%	14%
#13	**COOS CO., OR**	$16,119	$17,691	$19,646	**$20,221**	10%	11%
#14	**GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA**	$16,767	$18,122	$18,936	**$19,917**	8%	4%
#15	**TWIN FALLS CO., ID**	$15,119	$16,547	$19,348	**$19,675**	9%	17%
#16	**KLAMATH CO., OR**	$16,328	$16,714	$18,937	**$19,636**	2%	13%
#17	**MONTGOMERY CO., KS**	$15,572	$16,593	$18,662	**$19,634**	7%	12%
#18	**POPE CO., AR**	$12,838	$15,741	$18,466	**$19,052**	23%	17%
#19	**MATAGORDA CO., TX**	$16,161	$19,277	$18,030	**$18,754**	19%	-6%
#20	**ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO**	$13,228	$14,838	$16,525	**$17,254**	12%	11%
#21	**WASHINGTON CO., UT**	$11,857	$13,694	$16,655	**$17,207**	15%	22%
#22	**MAVERICK CO., TX**	$6,408	$7,649	$9,920	**$10,993**	19%	30%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	$15,652	$17,411	$19,755	**$20,697**	11%	13%
	N. Park Lands Peers*	$16,186	$17,593	$19,002	**$19,772**	9%	8%
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	$15,742	$18,011	$20,679	**$21,846**	14%	15%
	West Ave./Norm	$17,405	$21,081	$24,000	**$26,099**	21%	14%
	Nation Ave./Norm	$17,300	$21,670	$24,921	**$26,790**	25%	15%

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West	Persons in Poverty, 1997		
	County Name	Pop. Surveyed	Poverty pop.	Poverty Rate
	Counties rank-ordered by Poverty Rate, lowest to highest, '2000			
# 1	**BLUE EARTH CO., MN**	51,095	5,365	**10.5%**
# 2	**DESCHUTES CO., OR**	106,896	11,331	**10.6%**
# 3	**DES MOINES CO., IA**	42,526	4,848	**11.4%**
# 4	**GALLATIN CO., MT**	60,853	7,059	**11.6%**
# 5	**WEBSTER CO., IA**	38,016	4,638	**12.2%**
# 6	**CLALLAM CO., WA**	63,512	7,812	**12.3%**
# 7	**WASHINGTON CO., UT**	82,937	10,533	**12.7%**
# 8	**TWIN FALLS CO., ID**	62,199	8,770	**14.1%**
# 9	**FLATHEAD CO., MT**	72,380	10,278	**14.2%**
#10	**POPE CO., AR**	51,191	8,037	**15.7%**
#11	**MONTGOMERY CO., KS**	36,774	5,847	**15.9%**
#12	**KLAMATH CO., OR**	63,465	10,091	**15.9%**
#13	**GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA**	67,580	10,948	**16.2%**
#14	**ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO**	52,681	8,587	**16.3%**
#15	**COOS CO., OR**	61,922	10,341	**16.7%**
#16	**MATAGORDA CO., TX**	38,348	6,941	**18.1%**
#17	**MENDOCINO CO., CA**	83,265	15,071	**18.1%**
#18	**HUMBOLDT CO., CA**	120,714	22,332	**18.5%**
#19	**UNION CO., AR**	45,321	8,475	**18.7%**
#20	**CARTER CO., OK**	44,135	8,474	**19.2%**
#21	**LAMAR CO., TX**	45,495	8,917	**19.6%**
#22	**MAVERICK CO., TX**	48,139	19,111	**39.7%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	1,339,444	213,806	**16.0%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	744,365	112,143	**15.1%**
	READ Reg. Center Peers*	3,345,743	492,446	**14.7%**
	West Ave./Norm	106,368,942	15,372,727	**14.5%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	267,472,617	35,573,858	**13.3%**

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Flathead County Peer Review: Recent Trends in Total Employment Growth

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West / County Name	Past and recent total employment change . . Includes both full- and part-time employment: Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77-87	% Change '87-97	Past and recent civilian labor force change . . Includes both employed & unemployed: Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	% Change '77-87	% Change '87-97
	Counties rank-ordered by percent total employment growth, 1987-97											
# 1	WASHINGTON CO., UT	7,510	16,326	41,177	47,443	117%	**152%**	7,433	15,930	34,728	114%	118%
# 2	DESCHUTES CO., OR	25,357	36,474	64,187	75,231	44%	**76%**	24,460	35,967	54,908	47%	53%
# 3	GALLATIN CO., MT	19,978	28,209	46,152	52,058	41%	**64%**	18,732	26,200	39,276	40%	50%
# 4	FLATHEAD CO., MT	22,630	29,543	45,396	48,984	31%	**54%**	21,014	29,848	37,500	42%	26%
# 5	MAVERICK CO., TX	7,890	8,716	13,351	15,531	10%	**53%**	8,570	13,131	17,925	53%	37%
# 6	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	26,839	27,689	38,869	41,383	3%	**40%**	22,522	26,202	32,209	16%	23%
# 7	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	13,927	18,467	25,757	26,192	33%	**39%**	16,526	20,065	24,684	21%	23%
# 8	POPE CO., AR	16,834	22,971	31,556	32,792	36%	**37%**	15,692	23,170	26,450	48%	14%
# 9	CLALLAM CO., WA	20,267	23,202	30,263	31,914	14%	**30%**	19,117	22,499	24,487	18%	9%
#10	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	29,103	32,646	40,898	44,593	12%	**25%**	26,589	27,710	32,386	4%	17%
#11	MENDOCINO CO., CA	29,000	38,938	47,286	49,818	34%	**21%**	28,066	34,867	42,472	24%	22%
#12	LAMAR CO., TX	18,740	22,680	27,465	28,582	21%	**21%**	18,219	21,390	21,802	17%	2%
#13	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	48,973	56,411	67,851	69,448	15%	**20%**	49,447	49,914	60,672	1%	22%
#14	KLAMATH CO., OR	26,417	26,972	32,325	33,777	2%	**20%**	24,473	25,036	29,241	2%	17%
#15	DES MOINES CO., IA	25,802	24,936	29,468	30,788	-3%	**18%**	19,277	22,671	23,555	18%	4%
#16	CARTER CO., OK	20,399	23,308	27,142	27,913	14%	**16%**	17,183	20,873	20,615	21%	-1%
#17	WEBSTER CO., IA	25,010	21,918	24,660	25,614	-12%	**13%**	22,340	20,694	20,125	-7%	-3%
#18	COOS CO., OR	26,858	27,239	30,481	30,798	1%	**12%**	26,651	27,671	27,837	4%	1%
#19	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	28,966	29,392	31,378	32,520	1%	**7%**	28,281	25,958	27,438	-8%	6%
#20	UNION CO., AR	23,007	25,224	26,770	28,101	10%	**6%**	21,368	20,727	20,785	-3%	0%
#21	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	21,142	20,604	21,688	22,064	-3%	**5%**	20,180	17,821	18,050	-12%	1%
#22	MATAGORDA CO., TX	16,183	21,745	17,331	17,028	34%	**-20%**	12,883	23,247	16,569	80%	-29%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	500,832	583,612	761,451	812,572	17%	**30%**	469,023	551,585	653,713	18%	19%
	N. Park Lands Peers*	221,667	273,900	391,324	423,317	24%	**43%**	210,340	261,156	358,324	24%	37%
	READ Peers*	1,522,423	1,714,842	2,102,849	2,212,606	13%	**23%**	1,319,611	1,560,744	1,650,603	18%	6%
	West Ave./Norm	38,644,219	49,891,948	62,402,344	67,465,039	29%	**25%**	35,604,333	45,728,500	53,929,343	28%	18%
	Nation Ave./Norm	105,445,000	130,638,533	156,364,533	167,465,300	24%	**20%**	99,139,333	119,751,500	136,079,333	21%	14%

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West / County Name	Labor Force Unemployment Rates (ave. annual): Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98
	Cos. rank-ordered by unemployment rate, '97			
# 1	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	4.2%	3.6%	**2.7%**
# 2	GALLATIN CO., MT	4.9%	5.3%	**2.9%**
# 3	WEBSTER CO., IA	3.8%	6.2%	**3.4%**
# 4	WASHINGTON CO., UT	4.8%	4.6%	**3.5%**
# 5	DES MOINES CO., IA	5.6%	7.3%	**4.0%**
# 6	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	5.5%	7.0%	**4.6%**
# 7	POPE CO., AR	8.3%	6.6%	**4.7%**
# 8	CARTER CO., OK	5.0%	8.8%	**5.9%**
# 9	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	3.5%	7.0%	**6.0%**
#10	LAMAR CO., TX	6.3%	8.0%	**6.3%**
#11	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	7.4%	8.7%	**6.6%**
#12	UNION CO., AR	5.5%	8.9%	**7.2%**
#13	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	13.6%	8.4%	**7.3%**
#14	FLATHEAD CO., MT	8.4%	8.9%	**7.6%**
#15	DESCHUTES CO., OR	7.9%	8.8%	**7.9%**
#16	MENDOCINO CO., CA	10.4%	8.9%	**8.1%**
#17	CLALLAM CO., WA	9.8%	9.0%	**8.5%**
#18	KLAMATH CO., OR	8.2%	10.3%	**9.4%**
#19	COOS CO., OR	9.1%	9.9%	**9.7%**
#20	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	8.5%	11.1%	**10.4%**
#21	MATAGORDA CO., TX	5.9%	11.3%	**12.8%**
#22	MAVERICK CO., TX	21.6%	29.6%	**27.7%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	7.8%	8.6%	**7.2%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	8.9%	8.0%	**6.3%**
	READ Peers*	5.6%	7.2%	**5.2%**
	West Ave./Norm	6.4%	6.8%	**5.2%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	6.9%	6.2%	**4.9%**

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Flathead County Peer Review: Area Employment Mix .. Wage & Salary Workers vs. Proprietors

Counties rank-ordered by percent W & S employment growth, 1987-97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West: County Name	Past and recent Wage & Salary employment change . . Includes both full- and part-time employment: Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77-87	% Change '87-97
# 1	WASHINGTON CO., UT	5,396	11,900	30,794	35,715	121%	**159%**
# 2	DESCHUTES CO., OR	19,039	26,920	46,293	55,204	41%	**72%**
# 3	GALLATIN CO., MT	15,614	20,482	34,574	39,608	31%	**69%**
# 4	FLATHEAD CO., MT	17,360	21,304	32,212	35,079	23%	**51%**
# 5	MAVERICK CO., TX	6,875	7,355	10,761	12,711	7%	**46%**
# 6	POPE CO., AR	13,476	17,915	25,794	27,245	33%	**44%**
# 7	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	20,868	21,059	30,173	32,205	1%	**43%**
# 8	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	10,981	14,639	20,877	21,089	33%	**43%**
# 9	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	23,755	26,217	33,481	35,992	10%	**28%**
#10	CLALLAM CO., WA	15,889	17,653	21,642	22,482	11%	**23%**
#11	LAMAR CO., TX	14,549	17,235	20,764	21,482	18%	**20%**
#12	CARTER CO., OK	15,685	17,172	20,569	20,962	9%	**20%**
#13	KLAMATH CO., OR	21,317	20,884	24,956	25,987	-2%	**19%**
#14	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	40,028	44,111	52,389	53,166	10%	**19%**
#15	DES MOINES CO., IA	22,468	21,260	25,208	26,119	-5%	**19%**
#16	MENDOCINO CO., CA	22,490	28,685	33,977	35,671	28%	**18%**
#17	WEBSTER CO., IA	20,456	17,719	20,306	20,984	-13%	**15%**
#18	UNION CO., AR	18,926	19,883	22,224	23,252	5%	**12%**
#19	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	17,142	16,165	17,763	18,695	-6%	**10%**
#20	COOS CO., OR	21,844	20,965	22,769	22,801	-4%	**9%**
#21	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	24,207	23,723	24,800	25,580	-2%	**5%**
#22	MATAGORDA CO., TX	13,272	18,024	12,892	12,444	36%	**-28%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	401,636	451,268	585,218	624,473	12%	**30%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	178,153	210,617	297,843	322,836	18%	**41%**
	READ Peers*	1,261,589	1,388,185	1,710,710	1,802,473	10%	**23%**
	West Ave./Norm	32,287,080	40,836,218	50,615,265	54,733,849	26%	**24%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	90,424,000	110,320,333	130,444,667	139,552,000	22%	**18%**

Cos. rank-ordered by percent Proprietor employment growth, 1987-97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West: County Name	Past and recent Proprietor employment change . . Includes both full- and part-time employment: Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77-87	% Change '87-97
# 1	WASHINGTON CO., UT	2,114	4,426	10,383	11,728	109%	**135%**
# 2	MAVERICK CO., TX	1,015	1,362	2,591	2,820	34%	**90%**
# 3	DESCHUTES CO., OR	6,318	9,555	17,894	20,027	51%	**87%**
# 4	FLATHEAD CO., MT	5,270	8,240	13,184	13,905	56%	**60%**
# 5	CLALLAM CO., WA	4,379	5,549	8,621	9,432	27%	**55%**
# 6	GALLATIN CO., MT	4,365	7,727	11,578	12,450	77%	**50%**
# 7	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	5,971	6,631	8,696	9,178	11%	**31%**
# 8	MENDOCINO CO., CA	6,509	10,253	13,309	14,147	58%	**30%**
# 9	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	2,946	3,828	4,880	5,103	30%	**27%**
#10	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	8,944	12,301	15,462	16,282	38%	**26%**
#11	LAMAR CO., TX	4,191	5,445	6,700	7,100	30%	**23%**
#12	COOS CO., OR	5,014	6,274	7,712	7,997	25%	**23%**
#13	KLAMATH CO., OR	5,100	6,087	7,369	7,790	19%	**21%**
#14	MATAGORDA CO., TX	2,911	3,721	4,439	4,584	28%	**19%**
#15	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	4,759	5,669	6,578	6,940	19%	**16%**
#16	DES MOINES CO., IA	3,334	3,677	4,260	4,669	10%	**16%**
#17	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	5,348	6,429	7,417	8,601	20%	**15%**
#18	POPE CO., AR	3,358	5,056	5,762	5,547	51%	**14%**
#19	CARTER CO., OK	4,714	6,136	6,573	6,951	30%	**7%**
#20	WEBSTER CO., IA	4,554	4,199	4,355	4,630	-8%	**4%**
#21	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	4,000	4,439	3,925	3,369	11%	**-12%**
#22	UNION CO., AR	4,081	5,341	4,546	4,849	31%	**-15%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	99,197	132,344	176,232	188,099	33%	**33%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	43,514	63,283	93,481	100,481	45%	**48%**
	READ Peers*	260,834	326,657	392,139	410,133	25%	**20%**
	West Ave./Norm	6,357,139	9,055,730	11,787,079	12,731,190	42%	**30%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	15,021,000	20,318,200	25,919,867	27,913,300	35%	**28%**

Cos. rank-ordered by W & S employ. share, '97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West: County Name	Employment shares '77 vs. '97: W & S '77	W & S '97	Propriet. '77	Propriet. '97
# 1	DES MOINES CO., IA	87%	**86%**	13%	14%
# 2	UNION CO., AR	82%	**83%**	18%	17%
# 3	WEBSTER CO., IA	82%	**82%**	18%	18%
# 4	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	81%	**82%**	19%	18%
# 5	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	82%	**82%**	18%	18%
# 6	POPE CO., AR	80%	**82%**	20%	18%
# 7	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	79%	**81%**	21%	19%
# 8	MAVERICK CO., TX	87%	**81%**	13%	19%
# 9	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	84%	**79%**	16%	21%
#10	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	78%	**78%**	22%	22%
#11	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	82%	**77%**	18%	23%
#12	KLAMATH CO., OR	81%	**77%**	19%	23%
#13	CARTER CO., OK	77%	**76%**	23%	24%
#14	LAMAR CO., TX	78%	**76%**	22%	24%
#15	GALLATIN CO., MT	78%	**75%**	22%	25%
#16	WASHINGTON CO., UT	72%	**75%**	28%	25%
#17	COOS CO., OR	81%	**75%**	19%	25%
#18	MATAGORDA CO., TX	82%	**74%**	18%	26%
#19	DESCHUTES CO., OR	75%	**72%**	25%	28%
#20	MENDOCINO CO., CA	78%	**72%**	22%	28%
#21	CLALLAM CO., WA	78%	**72%**	22%	28%
#22	FLATHEAD CO., MT	77%	**71%**	23%	29%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	80%	**77%**	20%	23%
	N. Park Lands Peers*	80%	**76%**	20%	24%
	READ Peers*	83%	**81%**	17%	19%
	West Ave./Norm	84%	**81%**	16%	19%
	Nation Ave./Norm	86%	**83%**	14%	17%

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Flathead County Peer Review: Area Employment Mix .. Private Employment vs. Public or Government Employment

Counties rank-ordered by percent Private employment growth, 1987-97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West: County Name	Past and recent Private employment change . . Includes both full- and part-time employment: Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77-87	% Change '87-97
# 1	WASHINGTON CO., UT	5,808	13,454	36,238	41,740	132%	**169%**
# 2	DESCHUTES CO., OR	21,047	30,664	56,084	65,852	46%	**83%**
# 3	GALLATIN CO., MT	13,796	20,612	36,671	41,574	49%	**78%**
# 4	FLATHEAD CO., MT	18,598	24,643	39,865	43,245	33%	**62%**
# 5	MAVERICK CO., TX	5,505	5,888	9,426	11,176	7%	**60%**
# 6	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	19,557	21,501	31,128	32,991	10%	**45%**
# 7	POPE CO., AR	13,247	18,860	26,826	27,782	42%	**42%**
# 8	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	10,293	14,297	20,232	20,434	39%	**42%**
# 9	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	22,480	25,168	33,941	37,737	12%	**35%**
#10	CLALLAM CO., WA	16,202	18,088	24,067	25,422	12%	**33%**
#11	KLAMATH CO., OR	19,796	20,384	25,332	26,679	3%	**24%**
#12	MENDOCINO CO., CA	22,682	31,283	38,255	40,218	38%	**22%**
#13	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	38,537	45,532	55,677	55,995	18%	**22%**
#14	LAMAR CO., TX	14,976	18,433	22,515	23,507	23%	**22%**
#15	DES MOINES CO., IA	22,100	21,386	25,944	27,172	-3%	**21%**
#16	CARTER CO., OK	16,628	18,967	22,801	23,413	14%	**20%**
#17	WEBSTER CO., IA	20,052	17,286	20,507	21,020	-14%	**19%**
#18	COOS CO., OR	21,011	21,353	23,972	24,134	2%	**12%**
#19	UNION CO., AR	19,856	21,764	23,570	24,799	10%	**8%**
#20	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	17,269	16,616	17,686	18,019	-4%	**6%**
#21	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	24,156	24,348	25,500	26,653	1%	**5%**
#22	MATAGORDA CO., TX	12,796	18,065	13,058	12,715	41%	**-28%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	396,392	468,591	629,295	672,277	18%	**34%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	174,704	220,936	326,712	354,283	26%	**48%**
	READ Peers*	1,165,568	1,340,364	1,695,506	1,790,457	15%	**26%**
	West Ave./Norm	30,036,801	40,403,356	51,917,444	56,522,997	35%	**28%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	83,854,667	107,351,533	131,472,200	141,621,300	28%	**22%**

Counties rank-ordered by percent Public employment growth, 1987-97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West: County Name	Past and recent Government employment change . . Includes both full- and part-time employment: Ave. for 76/77/78	Ave. for 86/87/88	Ave. for 96/97/98	2000	% Change '77-87	% Change '87-97
# 1	WASHINGTON CO., UT	1,269	2,407	4,403	5,143	90%	**83%**
# 2	MAVERICK CO., TX	1,838	2,394	3,508	3,938	30%	**47%**
# 3	DESCHUTES CO., OR	3,546	4,570	6,488	7,739	29%	**42%**
# 4	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	2,875	3,317	4,679	4,938	15%	**41%**
# 5	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	3,369	3,734	4,993	5,424	11%	**34%**
# 6	GALLATIN CO., MT	5,178	6,423	8,349	9,294	24%	**30%**
# 7	POPE CO., AR	2,298	2,772	3,525	3,852	21%	**27%**
# 8	CLALLAM CO., WA	3,646	4,603	5,759	6,044	26%	**25%**
# 9	LAMAR CO., TX	2,011	2,539	3,086	3,195	26%	**22%**
#10	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	4,033	4,470	5,261	5,263	11%	**18%**
#11	MATAGORDA CO., TX	1,784	2,460	2,843	2,857	38%	**16%**
#12	FLATHEAD CO., MT	3,199	3,915	4,519	4,690	22%	**15%**
#13	COOS CO., OR	4,860	4,859	5,535	5,687	0%	**14%**
#14	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	9,252	9,514	10,739	11,817	3%	**13%**
#15	MENDOCINO CO., CA	4,677	5,631	6,047	6,437	20%	**7%**
#16	KLAMATH CO., OR	4,768	4,601	4,934	5,063	-4%	**7%**
#17	DES MOINES CO., IA	2,556	2,585	2,728	2,861	1%	**6%**
#18	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	2,715	2,853	2,971	3,037	5%	**4%**
#19	WEBSTER CO., IA	2,874	2,979	2,972	3,485	4%	**0%**
#20	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	4,437	5,728	5,561	5,481	29%	**-3%**
#21	UNION CO., AR	2,701	2,977	2,890	3,004	10%	**-3%**
#22	CARTER CO., OK	2,656	3,144	3,003	3,119	18%	**-4%**
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	76,542	88,477	104,794	112,368	16%	**18%**
	N. Park Lands Peers*	37,839	44,113	55,661	59,732	17%	**26%**
	READ Peers*	282,680	308,871	341,800	356,839	9%	**11%**
	West Ave./Norm	6,695,755	7,795,611	8,788,177	9,236,138	16%	**13%**
	Nation Ave./Norm	17,728,667	19,990,000	21,797,333	22,741,000	13%	**9%**

Cos. rank-ordered by Private employ. share, '97

Rank Order of Cos.	Counties in the West: County Name	Employment shares '77 vs. '97: Private '77	Private '97	Public '77	Public '97
# 1	DES MOINES CO., IA	90%	**90%**	10%	10%
# 2	FLATHEAD CO., MT	85%	**90%**	15%	10%
# 3	DESCHUTES CO., OR	86%	**90%**	14%	10%
# 4	WASHINGTON CO., UT	82%	**89%**	18%	11%
# 5	UNION CO., AR	88%	**89%**	12%	11%
# 6	POPE CO., AR	85%	**88%**	15%	12%
# 7	CARTER CO., OK	86%	**88%**	14%	12%
# 8	LAMAR CO., TX	88%	**88%**	12%	12%
# 9	WEBSTER CO., IA	87%	**87%**	13%	13%
#10	MENDOCINO CO., CA	83%	**86%**	17%	14%
#11	TWIN FALLS CO., ID	85%	**86%**	15%	14%
#12	BLUE EARTH CO., MN	84%	**86%**	16%	14%
#13	MONTGOMERY CO., KS	86%	**86%**	14%	14%
#14	HUMBOLDT CO., CA	81%	**84%**	19%	16%
#15	KLAMATH CO., OR	81%	**84%**	19%	16%
#16	GRAYS HARBOR CO., WA	86%	**83%**	14%	17%
#17	MATAGORDA CO., TX	88%	**82%**	12%	18%
#18	GALLATIN CO., MT	73%	**81%**	27%	19%
#19	COOS CO., OR	81%	**81%**	19%	19%
#20	ST. FRANCOIS CO., MO	78%	**81%**	22%	19%
#21	CLALLAM CO., WA	82%	**81%**	18%	19%
#22	MAVERICK CO., TX	75%	**73%**	25%	27%
	Peer Group Ave./Norm	84%	**86%**	16%	14%
	N. Park Lands Peers*	82%	**85%**	18%	15%
	READ Peers*	80%	**83%**	20%	17%
	West Ave./Norm	82%	**86%**	18%	14%
	Nation Ave./Norm	83%	**86%**	17%	14%

** National Parks peers are all non-metro counties nearby parks (Code 3), READ codes 41 & 51 (small and large regional centers) with Am. Indian populations under 10%. READ peers are non-parks counties with READ codes 41 and 51, Tiers 4 and 5, with Am. Indian populations under 10%.*

Counties in the West Nearby Major National Parks: Area Identifiers & Classifiers

Counties in the West by READ Region County Name	ST.	Largest City in each county (bottom: reg. core pop. and core % of tot. pop)	Each City's 90 Pop.	AREA 1990 POPULATION TOTALS Urban Pop.	Rural Pop.	Total Pop.	Land area and population density Area (sq.mi.)	Density (per sq.mi)	Area personal Income Annual ave. for 3 yrs. (91/92/93) in '96 dollars Total (ths.$)	Per Capita	Area Industry Dependencies Share of area '92 labor inc. Fed. & St. Govt.	Manufac-turing	Product. Agricul.	Hotel/motel labor inc. /1000 pop (ths. 96$)	American Indian Population '90 total	pop %	READ CODE Reg. TYPE	Pop Tier	National Parks counties (see below)
Counties with Code 1: Nearby a National Park and having a place over 150,000 pop. *('90 Pop. Census)*																			
ALL READ COUNTY CODES																			
KING COUNTY	WA	***Seattle***	516,259	1,420,007	87,312	1,507,319	2,307	689	$47,321,063	$30,395	5.9%	19.8%	0.1%	$194	15,889	1%	11a	0	1
CLARK COUNTY	**NV**	***Las Vegas***	258,295	724,338	17,121	741,459	8,091	92	$19,419,378	$23,023	5.9%	2.9%	0.0%	$3,811	6,292	1%	11a	0	1
FRESNO COUNTY	CA	***Fresno***	354,202	554,406	113,084	667,490	6,018	111	$13,265,079	$18,855	6.8%	9.2%	8.8%	$59	6,954	1%	11a	0	1
PIERCE COUNTY	WA	*Tacoma*	176,664	511,809	74,394	586,203	1,807	347	$12,588,379	$20,404	18.5%	10.4%	0.4%	$30	7,833	1%	11a	0	1
RIVERSIDE COUNTY	CA	*Riverside*	226,505	1,010,047	160,366	1,170,413	7,304	160	$26,016,336	$20,225	5.1%	11.3%	2.8%	$180	11,288	1%	12a	0	1
Sub-group Total				**4,220,607**	**452,277**	**4,672,884**	**25,526**	**183**	**$118,610,235**	**$25,383**					**48,256**	**1%**			
Counties with Code 2: Nearby a National Park and having a place between 50,000 and 150,000 pop. *('90 Pop. Census)*																			
ALL READ COUNTY CODES																			
SNOHOMISH COUNTY	WA	*Everett*	69,961	370,618	95,024	465,642	2,197	221	$11,201,002	$22,441	3.2%	38.4%	0.5%	$28	5,921	1%	12a	1	2
TULARE COUNTY	CA	*Visalia*	75,636	214,316	97,605	311,921	4,839	64	$5,466,740	$16,552	4.3%	11.9%	12.7%	$53	3,938	1%	12a	1	2
BOULDER COUNTY	CO	*Boulder*	83,312	197,331	28,008	225,339	751	300	$6,318,896	$26,557	9.3%	26.4%	0.3%	$85	1,259	1%	12a	2	2
YAKIMA COUNTY	WA	***Yakima***	54,827	120,344	68,479	188,823	4,312	44	$3,698,933	$18,605	6.1%	12.4%	16.9%	$59	8,355	4%	21	2	2
LARIMER COUNTY	CO	***Fort Collins***	87,758	149,335	36,801	186,136	2,634	71	$4,114,584	$20,743	12.6%	25.2%	0.7%	$107	1,040	1%	21	2	2
SHASTA COUNTY	CA	***Redding***	66,462	90,086	56,950	147,036	3,848	38	$3,063,634	$19,556	7.1%	11.6%	0.5%	$97	3,885	3%	31	3	2
WHATCOM COUNTY	WA	***Bellingham***	52,179	75,695	52,085	127,780	2,504	59	$2,728,883	$19,812	7.1%	17.8%	4.1%	$103	3,848	3%	31	3	2
PENNINGTON COUNTY	SD	***Rapid City***	54,523	66,491	14,852	81,343	2,784	29	$1,620,962	$19,121	22.6%	9.4%	0.2%	$263	5,804	7%	41	4	2
Sub-group Total				**1,284,216**	**449,804**	**1,734,020**	**23,869**	**73**	**$38,213,635**	**$22,038**					**34,050**	**2%**			
Counties with Code 3: Nearby a National Park and having no place greater than 50,000 pop. "closely-linked" to major metro centers over 160,000																			
READ COUNTY CODES: 12a, 12b, 22 (16 counties)																			
KITSAP COUNTY	WA	*Bremerton*	38,142	124,011	65,720	189,731	566	478	$4,277,765	$20,595	50.1%	2.3%	0.2%	$30	3,068	2%	12a	2	3
MADERA COUNTY	CA	*Madera*	29,281	48,763	39,327	88,090	2,153	41	$1,641,845	$16,606	6.1%	15.3%	14.1%	$73	1,409	2%	12a	4	3
ISLAND COUNTY	WA	*Oak Harbor*	17,176	20,971	39,224	60,195	517	286	$1,230,665	$19,316	49.0%	3.1%	0.5%	$47	442	1%	12a	4	3
LEWIS COUNTY	WA	*Centralia*	12,101	18,628	40,730	59,358	2,436	24	$1,095,219	$17,696	6.6%	19.4%	3.9%	$44	614	1%	12a	5	3
TUOLUMNE COUNTY	CA	*Sonora*	4,153	13,074	35,382	48,456	2,275	21	$912,228	$17,995	11.7%	8.7%	-0.2%	$119	974	2%	12a	5	3
MASON COUNTY	WA	*Shelton*	7,241	7,241	31,100	38,341	1,051	39	$738,422	$17,403	11.0%	22.8%	0.9%	$78	1,390	4%	12a	5	3
CALAVERAS COUNTY	CA	*Arnold*	2,385	3,788	28,210	31,998	1,037	31	$655,579	$18,697	3.7%	4.7%	0.9%	$69	678	2%	12a	6	3
MARIPOSA COUNTY	CA	*Mariposa*	1,150	-	14,302	14,302	1,463	10	$283,528	$18,650	15.7%	3.6%	0.9%	$2,868	635	4%	12a	7	3

Counties in the West Nearby Major National Parks: Area Identifiers & Classifiers

Counties in the West by READ Region County Name	ST.	Largest City in each county (bottom: reg. core pop. and core % of tot. pop)	Each City's 90 Pop.	AREA 1990 POPULATION TOTALS Urban Pop.	Rural Pop.	Total Pop.	Land area and population density Area (sq.mi.)	Density (per sq.mi)	Area personal Income Annual ave. for 3 yrs. (91/92/93) in '96 dollars Total (ths.$)	Per Capita	Area Industry Dependencies Share of area '92 labor inc. Fed. & St. Govt.	Manufac-turing	Product. Agricul.	Hotel/motel labor inc. /1000 pop (ths. 96$)	American Indian Population '90 total	pop %	READ CODE Reg. TYPE	Pop Tier	National Parks counties (see below)
CLEAR CREEK COUNTY	CO	*Idaho Springs*	2,077	-	7,619	7,619	396	19	$173,800	$21,614	7.8%	1.9%	0.0%	$132	32	0%	12a	8	3
GILPIN COUNTY	CO	*Central City*	329	-	3,070	3,070	150	20	$65,722	$20,610	1.1%	0.4%	0.0%	$59	36	1%	12a	9	3
HUDSPETH COUNTY	TX	*Dell City*	495	-	2,915	2,915	4,572	1	$26,104	$9,047	24.0%	6.3%	1.6%	$24	9	0%	12a	9	3
ALPINE COUNTY*	CA			-	1,113	1,113	743	1	$24,857	$21,354	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	n.a.	281	**25%**	12b	9	3
CHELAN COUNTY	WA	*Wenatchee*	21,756	27,269	24,981	52,250	2,994	17	$1,171,322	$21,657	7.0%	10.6%	10.3%	$224	468	1%	22	5	3
TEHAMA COUNTY	CA	*Red Bluff*	11,390	18,233	31,392	49,625	2,962	17	$791,264	$15,305	5.6%	19.3%	4.3%	$59	956	2%	22	5	3
PLUMAS COUNTY	CA	*Quincy-east Quincy*	4,451	4,271	15,468	19,739	2,614	8	$401,730	$19,614	9.3%	14.6%	0.7%	$141	600	3%	22	7	3
JACKSON COUNTY	CO	*Walden*	947	-	1,605	1,605	1,621	1	$28,581	$17,318	8.5%	23.8%	11.0%	$91e	26	2%	22	9	3
Sub-group Total				**286,249**	**382,158**	**668,407**	**27,552**	**24**	**$13,518,629**	**$20,225**					**11,618**	**2%**			

**Note: Alpine County in California meet the criteria of the group above, has a large American Indian population (25%).*

Counties with Code 3: Nearby a National Park with no place greater than 50,000 pop. *('90 Census)* ***, that are "region cores" with populations of 30,000 to 160,000***

READ COUNTY CODES: 31, 41, 51 (11 counties)

JACKSON COUNTY	OR	***Medford***	46,951	95,381	51,008	146,389	2,802	52	$2,942,079	$19,078	6.9%	19.3%	1.0%	$110e	1,830	1%	31	3	3
HUMBOLDT COUNTY	CA	***Eureka***	27,025	74,996	44,122	119,118	4,053	33	$2,246,855	$18,487	11.1%	16.6%	0.9%	$119	6,500	5%	41	3	3
COCONINO COUNTY*	**AZ**	***Flagstaff***	**45,857**	64,136	32,455	96,591	18,663	5	$1,641,149	$16,030	18.9%	8.4%	0.3%	$623	28,219	**29%**	41	4	3
MOHAVE COUNTY	**AZ**	***Kingman***	**12,722**	80,008	13,489	93,497	13,471	7	$1,742,846	$16,490	3.6%	10.4%	1.1%	$214	2,134	2%	41	4	3
BONNEVILLE COUNTY	ID	***Idaho Falls***	43,929	56,356	15,851	72,207	1,901	38	$1,480,105	$19,271	6.8%	6.4%	3.4%	$72	383	1%	41	4	3
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY	WA	***Aberdeen***	16,565	34,272	29,903	64,175	2,225	33	$1,212,044	$18,542	4.4%	27.5%	1.4%	$187	2,612	4%	41	4	3
FLATHEAD COUNTY	MT	***Kalispell***	11,917	23,336	35,882	59,218	5,257	11	$1,194,548	$18,972	6.1%	19.3%	0.9%	$201	858	1%	51	5	3
KLAMATH COUNTY	OR	***Altamont***	19,805	36,328	21,374	57,702	6,136	9	$973,480	$16,537	11.3%	21.0%	1.0%	$83	2,354	4%	51	5	3
CLALLAM COUNTY	WA	***Port Angeles***	17,710	26,860	29,604	56,464	2,676	32	$1,222,273	$20,567	10.8%	18.4%	0.5%	$109	2,640	5%	51	5	3
GALLATIN COUNTY	MT	***Bozeman***	22,660	26,071	24,392	50,463	2,533	20	$1,008,898	$18,643	17.5%	7.9%	3.2%	$365	604	1%	51	5	3
WASHINGTON COUNTY	UT	***St. George***	28,502	35,862	12,698	48,560	2,430	20	$835,495	$14,866	5.5%	7.7%	0.3%	$218	704	1%	51	5	3
Sub-group Total				**553,606**	**310,778**	**864,384**	**62,145**	**14**	**$16,499,771**	**$19,088**					**48,838**	**6%**			

**Note: Coconino County in Arizona meet the criteria of the group above, has a large American Indian population (29%).*

Counties with Code 3: Nearby a National Park with no place greater than 50,000 pop. *('90 Census)* ***, "closely-linked" to region cores with populations of 30,000 to 160,000***

READ COUNTY CODES: 32, 42, 52 (22 counties)

SKAGIT COUNTY	WA	*Mount Vernon*	17,647	39,478	40,077	79,555	1,920	45	$1,802,152	$20,839	5.9%	14.8%	6.0%	$69	1,592	2%	32	4	3
JOSEPHINE COUNTY	OR	*Grants Pass*	17,488	25,172	37,477	62,649	1,642	38	$1,102,025	$16,747	5.3%	19.1%	0.5%	$87	854	1%	32	4	3

Counties in the West Nearby Major National Parks: Area Identifiers & Classifiers

Counties in the West by READ Region County Name	ST.	Largest City in each county (bottom: reg. core pop. and core % of tot. pop)	Each City's 90 Pop.	AREA 1990 POPULATION TOTALS Urban Pop.	Rural Pop.	Total Pop.	Land area and population density Area (sq.mi.)	Density (per sq.mi)	Area personal Income Annual ave. for 3 yrs. (91/92/93) in '96 dollars Total (ths.$)	Per Capita	Area Industry Dependencies Share of area '92 labor inc. Fed. & St. Govt.	Manufac-turing	Product. Agricul.	Hotel/motel labor inc. /1000 pop (ths. 96$)	American Indian Population '90 total	pop %	READ CODE Reg. TYPE	Pop Tier	National Parks counties (see below)
SAN JUAN COUNTY	WA	*Friday Harbor*	1,200	-	10,035	10,035	621	60	$320,869	$29,464	3.2%	8.6%	0.4%	$529	73	1%	32	7	3
CARBON COUNTY	MT	*Red Lodge*	1,896	-	8,080	8,080	2,062	4	$148,851	$17,918	6.2%	3.7%	20.3%	$173	41	1%	32	8	3
MADISON COUNTY	ID	*Rexburg*	14,302	14,302	9,372	23,674	473	50	$263,547	$11,079	2.5%	12.2%	11.8%	$20	106	0%	42	6	3
DEL NORTE COUNTY	CA	*Crescent City*	4,380	8,233	15,227	23,460	1,230	23	$389,443	$14,734	28.9%	6.9%	4.2%	$139	1,473	6%	42	6	3
LAWRENCE COUNTY	SD	*Spearfish*	6,966	10,598	10,057	20,655	800	26	$381,870	$17,848	7.5%	8.1%	0.4%	$470	534	3%	42	6	3
FREMONT COUNTY	ID	*St. Anthony*	3,010	3,010	7,927	10,937	1,896	6	$155,522	$13,696	17.3%	9.5%	27.5%	$64	66	1%	42	7	3
SHANNON COUNTY*	SD	*Pine Ridge*	3,059	2,596	7,306	9,902	2,097	5	$85,098	$8,030	31.2%	0.0%	9.5%	$0	9,372	**95%**	42	8	3
FALL RIVER COUNTY	SD	*Hot Springs*	4,325	4,325	3,028	7,353	1,749	4	$119,719	$16,983	35.1%	0.8%	2.6%	$157	449	6%	42	8	3
GRAND COUNTY	UT	*Moab*	3,971	3,971	2,649	6,620	3,694	2	$103,694	$14,665	12.5%	1.7%	0.7%	$585	203	3%	42	8	3
WESTON COUNTY	WY	*Newcastle*	3,003	3,003	3,515	6,518	2,400	3	$138,585	$21,267	5.7%	9.3%	9.6%	n.a.	79	1%	42	8	3
CUSTER COUNTY	SD	*Custer*	1,830	-	6,179	6,179	1,559	4	$110,456	$17,476	27.5%	7.6%	0.4%	$494	155	3%	42	8	3
TETON COUNTY	ID	*Driggs*	727	-	3,439	3,439	451	8	$51,403	$13,291	7.0%	3.7%	28.8%	$134	12	0%	42	9	3
JACKSON COUNTY*	SD	*Kadoka*	832	-	2,811	2,811	1,871	2	$32,107	$11,442	14.3%	1.2%	25.3%	$315	1,192	**42%**	42	9	3
EDDY COUNTY	NM	*Carlsbad*	24,952	35,562	13,043	48,605	4,198	12	$866,681	$16,956	4.7%	6.4%	3.3%	$114	244	1%	52	5	3
IRON COUNTY	UT	*Cedar City*	13,443	13,443	7,346	20,789	3,302	6	$299,108	$13,428	18.8%	10.0%	4.5%	$158	633	3%	52	6	3
JEFFERSON COUNTY	WA	*Port Townsend*	6,067	9,743	10,403	20,146	2,178	11	$475,943	$21,159	8.4%	17.6%	0.5%	$183	549	3%	52	6	3
PARK COUNTY	MT	*Livingston*	6,701	6,701	7,861	14,562	2,667	5	$236,824	$15,897	4.3%	8.7%	4.2%	$480	113	1%	52	7	3
MADISON COUNTY	MT	*Ennis*	660	-	5,989	5,989	3,603	2	$93,415	$15,259	7.3%	3.3%	10.9%	$221	42	1%	52	8	3
KANE COUNTY	UT	*Kanab*	2,148	3,160	2,009	5,169	4,109	1	$81,463	$15,310	10.3%	4.1%	2.1%	$410	76	1%	52	8	3
GARFIELD COUNTY	UT	*Panguitch*	1,343	-	3,980	3,980	5,209	1	$54,702	$13,628	16.2%	9.1%	6.6%	$1,691	72	2%	52	9	3
Sub-group Total				**183,297**	**217,810**	**401,107**	**49,731**	**8**	**$7,313,477**	**$18,233**					**17,930**	**4%**			

**Note: Shannon and Jackson Counties in South Dakota meet the criteria of the group above, but both have large American Indian poulations (95% and 42%, respectively).*

Counties with Code 3: Nearby a National Park with no place greater than 50,000 pop. *('90 Census)* ***, that are "isolated rural counties" under 35,000 pop.***

READ COUNTY CODES: 61, 62a, 62b (18 counties)

SEVIER COUNTY	UT	*Richfield*	5,593	5,593	9,838	15,431	1,918	8	$222,233	$13,946	9.5%	6.9%	9.3%	$143	317	2%	62a	7	3
EMERY COUNTY	UT	*Huntington*	2,316	-	10,332	10,332	4,462	2	$141,020	$13,668	3.1%	0.5%	1.8%	$81	44	0%	62a	7	3
GRAND COUNTY	CO	*Kremmling*	1,296	-	7,966	7,966	1,870	4	$168,630	$20,173	6.5%	2.7%	1.2%	$839e	29	0%	62a	8	3
CULBERSON COUNTY	TX	*Van Horn*	2,930	2,930	477	3,407	3,813	1	$32,592	$10,124	7.7%	3.8%	0.7%	$0	16	0%	62a	9	3

Counties in the West Nearby Major National Parks: Area Identifiers & Classifiers

Counties in the West by READ Region County Name	ST.	Largest City in each county (bottom: reg. core pop. and core % of tot. pop)	Each City's 90 Pop.	AREA 1990 POPULATION TOTALS Urban Pop.	Rural Pop.	Total Pop.	Land area and population density Area (sq.mi.)	Density (per sq.mi)	Area personal Income Annual ave. for 3 yrs. (91/92/93) in '96 dollars Total (ths.$)	Per Capita	Area Industry Dependencies Share of area '92 labor inc. Fed. & St. Govt.	Manufac-turing	Product. Agricul.	Hotel/motel labor inc. /1000 pop (ths. 96$)	American Indian Population '90 total	pop %	READ CODE Reg. TYPE	Pop Tier	National Parks counties (see below)
PIUTE COUNTY	UT	*Circleville*	445	-	1,277	1,277	766	2	$15,764	$11,962	13.3%	7.7%	37.2%	$0	9	1%	62a	9	3
OKANOGAN COUNTY	WA	*Omak*	4,117	4,117	29,233	33,350	5,315	6	$646,911	$18,816	12.5%	8.3%	20.8%	$147	3,567	11%	62b	6	3
LASSEN COUNTY	CA	*Susanville*	7,279	7,279	20,319	27,598	4,721	6	$437,569	$15,581	34.5%	9.3%	0.9%	$81	839	3%	62b	6	3
PARK COUNTY	WY	*Cody*	7,897	13,189	9,989	23,178	6,969	3	$477,013	$20,102	10.9%	4.1%	6.9%	$493	127	1%	62b	6	3
INYO COUNTY	CA	*Bishop*	3,475	8,944	9,337	18,281	10,228	2	$372,180	$20,290	12.8%	2.8%	0.3%	$586	1,824	10%	62b	7	3
KOOCHICHING COUNTY	MN	*International Falls*	8,325	8,325	7,974	16,299	3,154	5	$261,507	$16,195	6.1%	40.6%	0.2%	$188	450	3%	62b	7	3
SAN JUAN COUNTY*	UT	*Blanding*	3,162	3,162	9,459	12,621	7,934	2	$132,084	$10,451	13.8%	4.1%	2.9%	$194	6,858	**54%**	62b	7	3
GLACIER COUNTY*	MT	*Cut Bank*	3,329	3,329	8,792	12,121	3,037	4	$168,106	$13,840	13.7%	1.2%	15.8%	$635	6,823	**56%**	62b	7	3
TETON COUNTY	WY	*Jackson*	4,472	4,472	6,700	11,172	4,222	3	$447,497	$36,397	4.1%	2.1%	0.1%	$3,561	95	1%	62b	7	3
MONO COUNTY	CA	*Mammoth Lakes*	4,785	4,511	5,445	9,956	3,132	3	$204,579	$20,437	10.4%	0.6%	-0.1%	$3,270	367	4%	62b	8	3
BREWSTER COUNTY	TX	*Alpine*	5,637	5,637	3,044	8,681	6,193	1	$129,408	$15,165	24.6%	3.6%	4.1%	$484	19	0%	62b	8	3
BENNETT COUNTY*	SD	*Martin*	1,018	-	3,206	3,206	1,191	3	$43,479	$13,885	9.6%	2.9%	27.6%	$37	1,481	**46%**	62b	9	3
WAYNE COUNTY	UT	*Loa*	364	-	2,177	2,177	2,467	1	$27,052	$12,419	20.3%	4.3%	18.9%	$220	40	2%	62b	9	3
ESMERALDA COUNTY	NV			-	1,344	1,344	3,589	0	$22,742	$17,825	2.4%	0.0%	14.3%	$0	74	6%	62b	9	3
Sub-group Total				**71,488**	**146,909**	**218,397**	**74,980**	**3**	**$3,950,366**	**$18,088**					**22,979**	**11%**			

**Note: San Juan (UT), Glacier (MT), and Bennett (SD) Counties meet the criteria of the group above, but both have large American Indian poulations (54%, 56% and 46%, respectively).*

All Non-metro Code 3 National Parks Counties (51 counties)	**808,391**	**675,497**	**1,483,888**	**186,855**	**8**	**$27,763,614**	**$18,710**	**89,747**	**6%**	

There is a total of 51 Non-metro Code 3 National Parks Counties from the groups above.

If the six "American Indian dependent" counties from the three groups above are excluded, this leaves a total of 45 Non-metro Code 3 National Parks Counties, that are not reservation areas.

Note: "National Parks" counties are those whose geographic center is within 40 miles of major national parks in the West. "Code 1" national parks counties are those with places (cities) of more than 150,000 people. "Code 2" national parks counties are those with places between 50,000 and 150,000. "Code 3" counties are those having no place greater than 50,000 ('90 Census). 16 of these Code 3 counties, while having no large cities, are counties nearby large metro places. The remaining 51 counties can be consider "non-metro" counties nearby large national parks in the West.