

# Delta County

## Demographic and Economic Profile

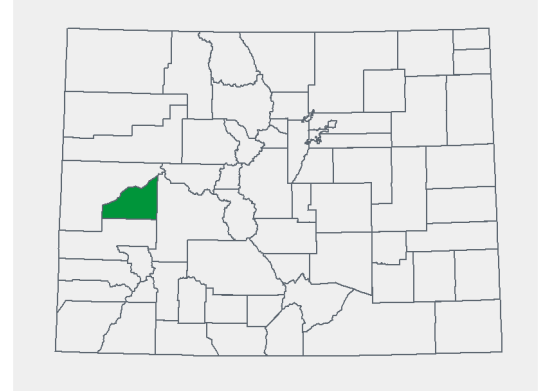


**COLORADO**  
Department of Local Affairs

### Community Quick Facts

Population (2016)	30,471
Population Change 2010 to 2016	-418
Median HH Income (ACS 11-15)	\$42,452
State Median HH Income (ACS 11-15)	\$60,629
Employment (County in 2015)	12,375
Cost of Living Index (State=100)	94.73, Low

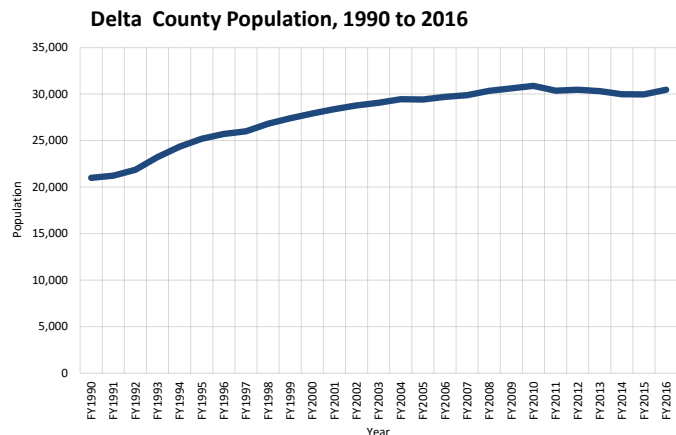
Source: State Demography Office  
U.S. Census Bureau



## Population

Population Estimates and Forecasts for the resident population are produced by the State Demography Office.

- Delta County experienced fast growth between 1990 and 2000, slowing to 1% per year during the 2000s and experiencing slight declines since 2010.
- Since 2010 the County population growth plateaued due to continued declines in employment.



### Population

### Annual Average Growth Rate (%)

	Delta County	Colorado	Delta County	Colorado
1990	20,991	3,294,473		
1995	25,193	3,811,074	3.7%	2.9%
2000	27,909	4,338,801	2.1%	2.6%
2010	30,889	5,050,332	2.0%	1.5%
2016	30,471	5,538,199	-0.2%	1.6%

### Population By Age

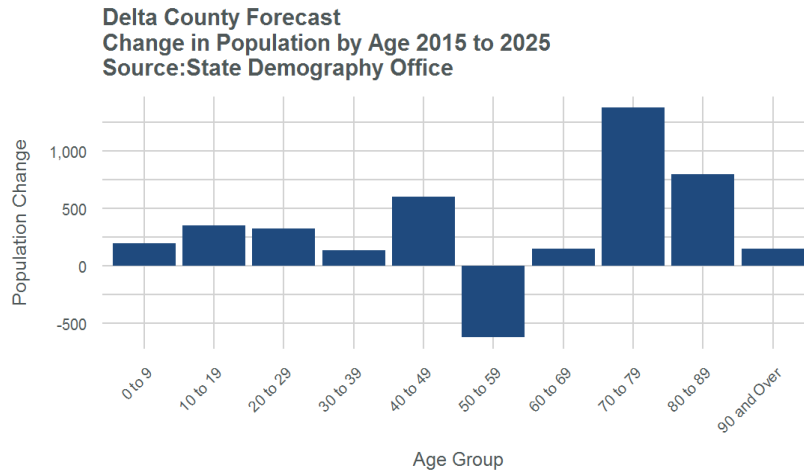
Delta County's population by age is shown in the chart to the right for both 2000 (darker bar) and 2010 (lighter bar). The largest increase was the 55 and older age groups, followed by 25 to 34 and Less than 9. Growth in ages under 10 reflects growth in families with children. The growth in the 55+ could indicate a need to evaluate aging services in the County. The aging population may put downward pressure on local government tax revenue due to changes in spending on taxable goods.

**Delta County Population by Age**  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau



## Population By Age, Continued

Delta County is forecast to reach just over 30,000 by 2020 and 41,000 by 2040. The forecast growth rate is expected to return to an annual average growth rate of 1.2% per year from 2015 to 2030. Most of this growth is forecast adults ages 30-44, those most likely to relocate to Delta County and their children under 10. The number of residents over age 70 will also increase, the result of current older residents aging in place. The forecast growth will be dependent on housing and community services and how well Delta County attracts and retains its population.

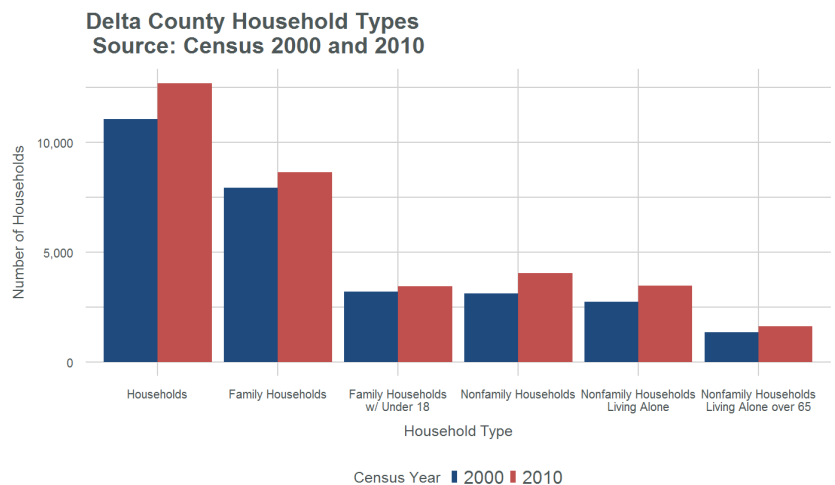


## Housing & Households

Delta County Housing Units	2000	2010	2010 %
Total Housing Units	12,374	14,572	
Occupied Housing Units	11,058	12,703	87.2%
Owner-Occupied Units	8,575	9,569	75.3%
Renter-Occupied Units	2,483	3,134	24.7%
Vacant Housing Units	1,316	1,869	12.8%
For Seasonal	463	756	40.4%
All Other Vacant	853	1,113	59.6%

- The overall vacancy rate was 12.8% in 2010.
- Vacancy rates were slightly higher than the state average and increased between 2000 and 2010.
- Since 2010, the vacancy rate has increased.
- Most of the units are owner occupied (75.3%) with a small rental market.

- There was an increase in households between 2000 and 2010.
- This increase is entirely due to growth in Nonfamily households including non-family households living alone over the age of 65.
- This data is consistent with the aging of Delta County residents.



# Race & Ethnicity

Delta County Population by Race/Ethnicity

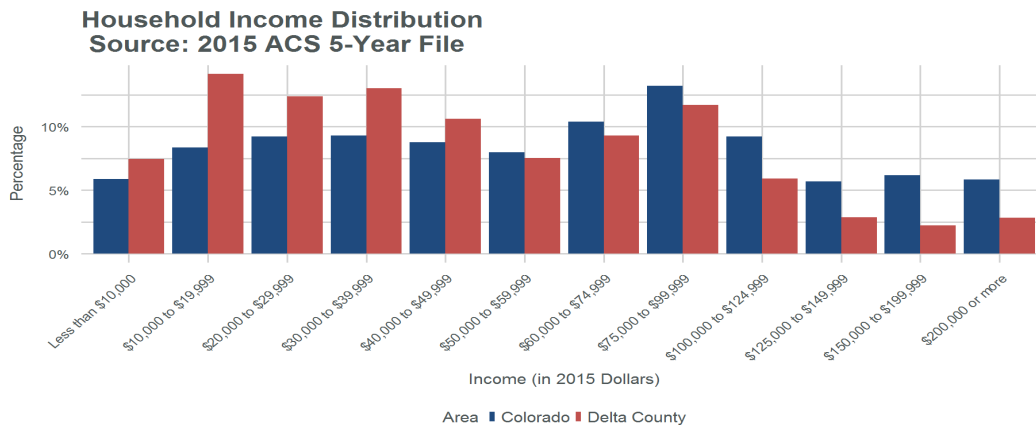
	2000	2010	2010 %	Colorado 2010 %
Total	27,834	30,952		
White	23,945	25,685	83%	70.0%
Black or African American	135	137	0.4%	3.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	150	190	0.6%	0.6%
Asian	83	146	0.5%	2.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other	7	12	0%	0.1%
Some Other Race	24	41	0.1%	0.2%
Two or More	319	396	1.3%	2.0%
Hispanic	3,171	4,345	14%	20.7%

Source: U.S. Census 2010

- Delta is less diverse than the state as a whole but is becoming more diverse over time.
- The Hispanic population increased by 37% between 2000 and 2010, while the White population increased by 7%. Total population growth during that same period was 11%.

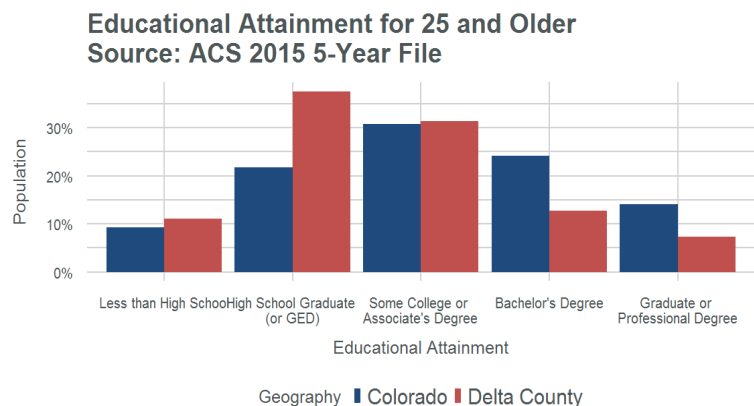
# Income

The graph below compares Delta's income distribution to the state. Delta has a lower median household income than the state, \$42,452 vs. \$60,629. Looking at the income distribution, there is a higher share of households with less than \$50,000 in income compared to the state, which likely reflects the large number of retail, healthcare and government jobs alongside fewer higher wage professional jobs.



# Education

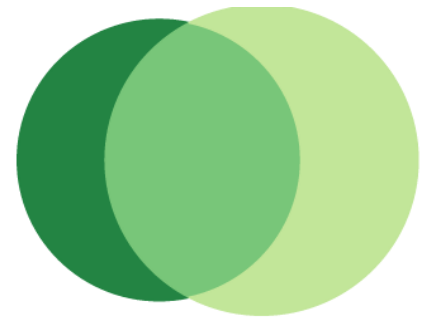
- Delta has a lower share of its population with a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- The largest share of the population has a high school diploma or GED.



# Commuting

## Delta County Commuting Patterns, 2014

Commuting plays an important role in the economy of an area because not all workers live where they work. Commuting impacts local job growth, access to employees, and transportation infrastructure. Delta County acts as a bedroom community to the coal mines in north Gunnison and neighboring Mesa and Montrose counties. About 48% of the resident workforce (light green) works outside of Delta; 52% of residents also work in the county. Of the jobs in Delta (dark green), 63% are filled by residents with 37% being filled by workforce from outside of the county.



■ Jobs in Delta County  
■ Workforce in Delta County  
■ Overlap: Work and Live in Delta County

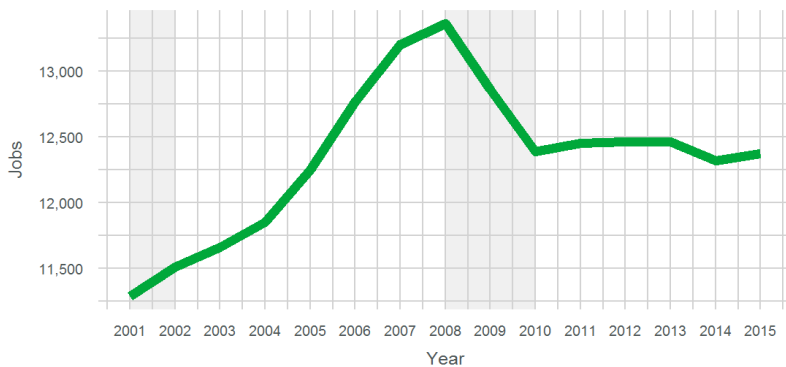
Source: LEHD On the Map, 2016

Note: Data does not include agricultural and self-employed jobs and uses administrative boundaries only.

# Jobs & the Economy

Total employment in the county was estimated to be 11,990 in 2015, down 1,213 jobs from Delta's peak employment in 2007 of 13,202. The industries with the largest loss in jobs since 2007 were construction, retail trade, professional & technical services, manufacturing, wholesale trade, mining, and other services. Unlike most counties across the state, employment in Delta has continued to decline. Agriculture, accommodation and food, health services and education are the only industries that have seen significant employment growth from 2010 to 2015.

Delta County Total Estimated Jobs, 2001 to 2015  
Source: State Demography Office



Note: Grey shading represents beginning to bottom of U.S. recessions.

## 2015 Share of Jobs by Industry

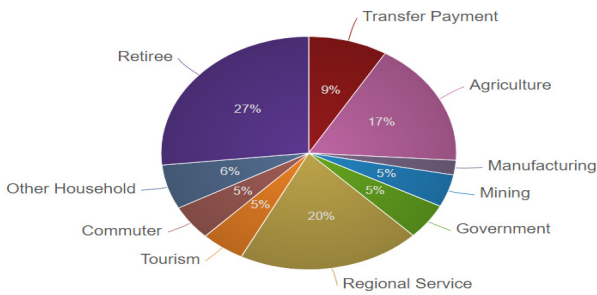
Sector Name	Delta	Colorado
Agriculture	11.2%	1.5%
Mining	3.3%	1.1%
Utilities	0.3%	0.3%
Construction	6.3%	6.5%
Manufacturing	4.5%	4.7%
Wholesale Trade	1.5%	3.5%
Retail Trade	11.9%	9.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	1.1%	2.8%
Information	1.4%	2.4%
Finance and Insurance	2.6%	4.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	3.2%	3.4%
Professional and Technical Services	3.8%	9.1%
Management of Companies	0.2%	1.2%
Administrative and Waste Services	2.9%	6.0%
Educational Services	0.8%	2.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.2%	9.8%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1.1%	2.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	6.4%	8.5%
Other Services	6.7%	5.9%
Government	19.7%	15.2%

Source: SDO Total Estimated Jobs

## Economic Industry Mix

The industrial mix in Delta can be seen at left. The largest industries by employment are government, retail trade, health service, and agriculture, followed by other services, accommodation and food and construction.

## Delta Base Industries, 2015



Source: State Demography Office

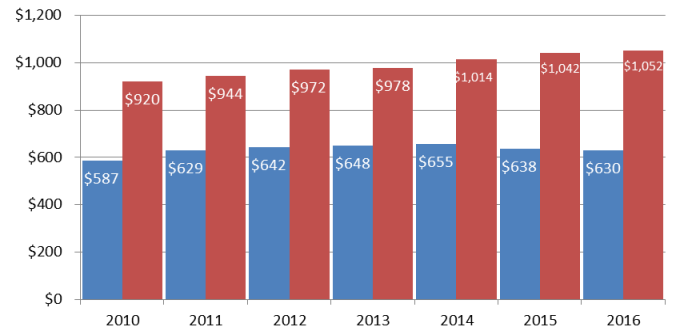
## Economic Base Analysis

The Base Industries chart shows which industries drive the economy in Delta. The chart shows the important share of economic activity driven by retirees; they are a driver because they spend their savings or pensions locally. Agriculture and regional services (like construction and health care) are also important drivers. Commuters and mining are also important drivers, but their impact is less now due to layoffs at coal mines in Delta and Gunnison. Transfer payments (including other household), government and tourism are small, yet important drivers. The county hopes to leverage its rich agricultural heritage to grow its tourism base in the face of declines in mining.

## Average Wage Trends

- Average weekly wages Delta increased by 7.3% between 2010 and 2016 compared to the state which increased by 14.3%.
- Weekly wages of \$630 in Delta in 2015 were 60% of the \$1,052 statewide average.
- Wages in Delta declined by 1% between 2015 and 2016 after falling 3% between 2014 and 2015, while statewide wages increased by 1.0% and 3.7%, respectively. Due to the loss of high-paying mining jobs, weekly wages in 2016 are \$25 lower than they were in 2014.

## Average Weekly Wage



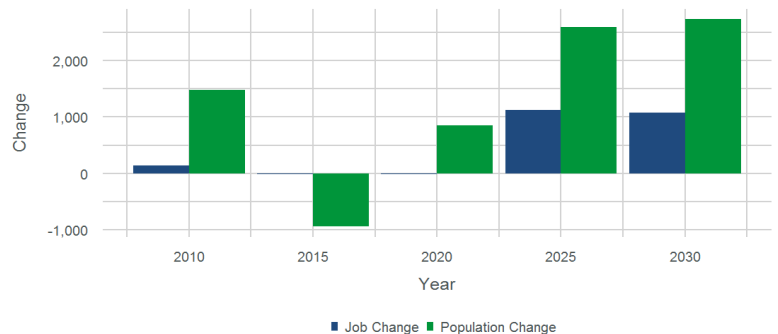
Source: Department of Labor and Employment (QCEW)

## Population and Economic Forecast

The rates of growth of both population and jobs can differ somewhat because of changes in the labor market, i.e., labor force participation rates, age, unemployment rates, multiple job holding, and/or commuting. In addition, macroeconomic conditions such as business cycle fluctuations and faster or slower periods of U.S. and Colorado economic growth can affect overall job growth in a region.

- Population growth is forecast to exceed job growth for the period from 2015 to 2020 and continue through 2030.
- This is driven in part by the aging of the population and the labor force in particular. Population growth occurs as people move into jobs vacated when a person ages out of the labor force. This drives population growth, but not necessarily new jobs.
- Although employment isn't expected to be growing through 2020, population will. This may require additional housing and community services. Additionally, an aging population may require increased need for accessible housing and other aging services.

Delta County  
Forecast Change in Population and Jobs 2010 to 2030  
Source: State Demography Office



	Total Jobs	Population
2010	12,389	30,897
2015	12,375	29,950
2020	12,358	30,799
2025	13,481	33,400
2030	14,556	36,137