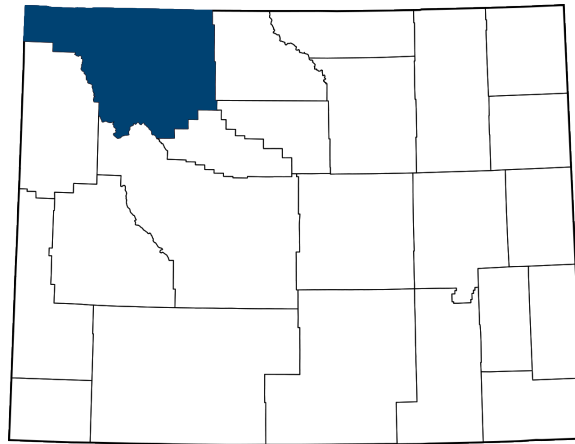


# A Park County Profile: Socioeconomics



## **Park County Board of County Commissioners**

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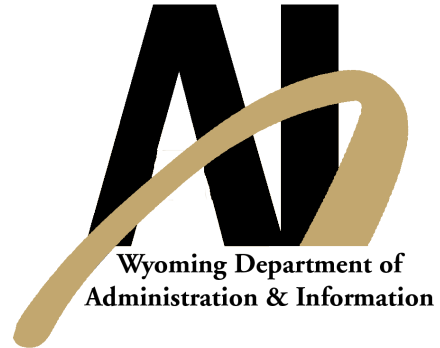
The goal of this document is to provide an accurate picture of Park County's socioeconomic attributes. Accomplishing this requires verifiable and universally accepted substantive data that is objectively incorporated into a narrative format.

Those requirements provide the foundation for this document. The resulting document not only serves the county as it moves forward with its own educational and planning efforts, but also serves to inform state and federal educational and planning efforts as well.

*This socioeconomic profile of Park County is made possible  
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# INTRODUCTION

In a rapidly changing world, timely and accurate information is essential to good decision making. Local officials, state government, federal agencies, and the general public need information on the structure and trends within a region's economy in order to more effectively conduct and participate in public policy decision making processes. Information describing regional economic conditions can aid in the public policy decision making process by providing a perspective on economic structure and changes over time. In addition, the identification of long-term trends can help residents, local official, state government, and federal agencies plan for the future. This report has been developed to provide baseline information on the structure and trends of the Park County economy.

Four types of information are discussed in this report, including: 1) Demographics, 2) Land Characteristics, 3) County Government Finances, and 4) Natural Resource Based Industry Profiles. The Demographic section provides information on the characteristics of the residents of county. The Land Characteristic section provides a perspective on the physical setting of the county. The County Government Finances section considers county government's ability to meet the needs of residents in terms of public services and public infrastructure. The Industry profile section discusses the economic importance of natural resource based industries in the county.

Each type of information is discussed separately in the report. To put Park County's information in perspective, the county data is compared to corresponding data for Wyoming and the United States. A variety of data sources were used to development this socio-economic profile including the Wyoming Department of Administration & Information – Economic Analysis Division's Wyoming County Profiles. The most current data available from these data sources was used in the report. All time series data involving dollars were adjusted for inflation to 2010 dollars since these deflators are latest that are currently available. This report is part of an ongoing cooperative effort between the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming County Commissioners Association, and the Wyoming Department of Administration and Information to develop a socio-economic database for Wyoming Counties. Due to lags in the availability of current county-level data, this profile does not include information on the relatively recent declines in the oil and gas industry in Park County.

# **COUNTY SUMMARY**

## Demographics

Park County experienced modest population growth between 2000 and 2014 increasing from 25,821 residents in 2000 to 28,989 residents in 2014 (+3,168). This represents a 12 percent population increase over the time period. The county's population growth rate during the time period was comparable to the U.S. growth rate (13 percent) but a third lower than Wyoming growth rate (18 percent). Prior to 2009, the county's population growth lagged behind the U.S. However from 2009 through 2013, the county's population growth increased, and was comparable or exceeded the U.S. Conversely, the county's population growth lagged behind Wyoming for the entire time period. In 2014 the county's population decreased by 165 residents (-0.6 percent) while Wyoming's population increased by 0.2 percent and the U.S. population increased by 0.7 percent.

Population increases can occur in one of two ways: 1) Natural Increase (more births than deaths) or 2) Net In-Migration (more people moving in than moving out). Between 2000 and 2014 Park County experienced both types of population growth. While Wyoming and the U.S. experienced somewhat similar rates of population growth from Natural Increase (9 percent and 8 percent, respectively), the county only had 3 percent population growth from Natural Increase. This was probably due to the older age of the population in county. On the other hand, population growth from Net In-Migration in Park county between 2000 and 2014 (9 percent) was comparable to Wyoming's rate (9 percent), but nearly twice the U.S. rate (5 percent). As a result 74 percent of the county's population growth from 2000 through 2014 came from Net In-Migration. This compares to 50 percent for Wyoming and 36 percent for the U.S. Although the higher population growth rate from Net In-Migration partially offset the lower population growth rate from Natural Increase, total population growth for the county (12 percent) was still slightly below population growth for the U.S. (13 percent) and a third lower than population growth for Wyoming (18 percent). Of course immigration is much more restricted at the national level than at the state or county level. However, the comparison is still important in explaining differences in population growth.

People move to an area for a variety of reasons ranging from economic to esthetic. Data from the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership for 2000 through 2014 indicates that the most frequent reason given by new residents to Park County for moving to Wyoming were job related factors (40 percent). Job related factors included Job Transfers, New Jobs, Better Employment Opportunities, and Starting or Expanding a Business. The second most frequent reason was that friends or relatives already resided in the area (26 percent). Nine percent of new residents surveyed indicated that a better quality of life was the primary reason for moving to the county with 25 percent indicating some other reason.

The age distribution of Park County residents is significantly skewed toward the older population cohorts as compared to Wyoming and the nation. In 2014 the largest age groups for Park County were adults 45 to 64 years old (29 percent) and adults 25 to 44 years old (22 percent). Combined, these two age groups represented 51 percent of the total county population. The next largest age group was retirement aged adults 65 and over (20 percent), followed by youth aged 5 to 17 (15 percent), adults 18 to 24 years old (9 percent), and youth under 5 years of age (5 percent). The population distribution for the county was over represented at the upper ends of the age spectrum and under represented at the

lower ends of the age spectrum. Compared to Wyoming and the U.S., the county had a lower proportion of its overall population in the younger age groups of Under 5, 5 to 17, 18 to 24, and 25 to 44. On the other end of the age spectrum, the county had a higher proportion of its overall population in the older age groups of 45 to 64 and 65 and over, especially the 65 and over age category which was 44 percent higher than Wyoming and 39 percent higher than the U.S. Overall, the median age for the county in 2014 (44.1 years) was 20 percent older than the median age for Wyoming (36.8 years) and 17 percent older than the median age for the U.S. (37.7 years). Given the relatively high proportion of the county's residents in the 45 to 64 age group, the county's population is likely to continue to age over time.

White is the predominate category of race in Park County, accounting for 96 percent of the total population. The percentage of the population that is White in the county is 3 percent higher than the percentage for Wyoming and 23 percent higher than the percentage for the U.S.

The federal government defines the term "Hispanic" as a cultural identification rather than a specific race. Thus Hispanics can be individuals of any race that self-identify themselves as "Hispanic" or "Latino" based on heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. In Park County, the percentage of the population classifying themselves as Hispanic (6 percent) was only 33 percent of the U.S. percentage (17 percent) and 59 percent of the Wyoming percentage (10 percent).

Per capita income is a general measure of the economic well-being of a county's population. In 2000, per capita income in Park County was \$33,963 in 2010 dollars. The per capita income for the county in 2000 was 5 percent below Wyoming's per capita income (\$35,796) and 10 percent below the U.S. per capita income (\$37,827). From 2000 to 2014, after adjusting for inflation, per capita income for the county increased by 31 percent to \$44,516. Despite this increase, in 2014 the county's per capita income (\$44,516) was 13 percent lower than Wyoming's (\$51,022) but was 3 percent higher than the U.S. (\$43,044).

There are three sources of per capita income: 1) net labor earnings including wages, salaries, and proprietor (self-employed) income, 2) government transfer payments such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, unemployment, and income maintenance program payments, and 3) investment income representing property income in the form of dividends, interest, and rents. The majority of the growth in the county's per capita income between 2000 and 2014 was the result of growth of net labor earnings (44 percent) with 29 percent coming from higher transfer payments and 27 percent coming from higher investment income. Transfer payments were the fastest growing individual source of per capita income between 2000 and 2014 increasing by 67 percent, while labor earnings increased by 24 percent and investment income increased by 27 percent. In 2000, net labor earnings represented 56 percent of total per capita income, with investment income representing 30 percent, and transfer payments representing 14 percent. In 2014, net labor income represented 53 percent of total per capita income, with investment income representing 30 percent, and transfer payments representing 17 percent.

In 2014 per capita income for Park County was \$47,624 in 2014 dollars. This level of income was 13 percent below per capita income for Wyoming (\$54,584) but 3 percent above per capita income for the U.S. (\$46,050). Among the three regions, the county had the lowest per capita labor earnings (\$25,341) which was 20 percent below per capita labor earnings for Wyoming (\$31,821) and 14 percent below per capita labor earnings for the U.S. (\$29,577). The county had the highest per capita transfer payments (\$8,199) which was 23 percent higher than per capita transfer payments for Wyoming (\$6,676), and 3 percent higher than per capita transfer payments for the U.S. The county's per capita investment income (\$14,084) was 13 percent below per capita investment income for Wyoming (\$16,087), but 65 percent higher than per capita investment income for the U.S. The relative greater importance of transfer payments and investment income and the relatively lesser importance of labor earnings for the county may be a reflection of the older age of the county's population.

The county's 2014 unemployment rate (4.7 percent) was comparable to Wyoming's unemployment rate (4.3 percent) and below the U.S. unemployment rate (6.2 percent). While total per capita income for the county was 13 percent below the state average, the Wyoming Economic Analysis Division estimates that the county's cost-of-living for the second quarter of 2014 was 4 percent below the state average. This difference indicates that, on average, the county's residents were economically somewhat worse-off than the rest of the state in 2014. However, the percent of the county's population that was below the poverty level (8 percent) was one-third below Wyoming's rate (12 percent) and one-half of the U.S. rate (16 percent).

Average household income is another general measure of the economic well-being of a county's population. During the time period 2010 to 2014, the average household for Park County was \$67,802. The average household income for the county during this time period was 6 percent below the Wyoming average (\$72,367) and 9 percent below the U.S. average (\$74,296). Although somewhat lower, household income in the county was more evenly distributed than either Wyoming or the U.S. For example only 7 percent of county households had average income of less than \$15,000 between 2010 and 2014. This was 30 percent lower than the percentage of households in Wyoming that had average income of less than \$15,000 (10 percent) and 46 percent lower than the percentage of households in the U.S. that had average income of less than \$15,000 (12 percent). At the other extreme, only 5 percent of the county households had average income of \$150,000 or more between 2010 and 2014. This was 33 percent lower than the percentage of households in Wyoming that had average income of \$150,000 or more (8 percent) and 48 percent lower than the percentage of households in the U.S. than had average income of \$150,000 or more (10 percent). In terms of the middle categories of household income, the county had a higher percentage of households in all income categories from \$25,000-\$34,999 to \$75,000-\$99,999.

Overall, the educational attainment of Park County's population in terms of a high school degree or higher (94 percent) was higher than Wyoming's (92 percent) and higher than the U.S. (86 percent). The county's population was also somewhat more educated in terms of college or advanced degrees than Wyoming (28 percent vs. 25 percent) and comparable to the U.S. (28 percent vs 29 percent). The percentage of the county population without a high school degree (6 percent) was less than Wyoming's

(8 percent) and substantially lower than the U.S. (14 percent). The percentage of the county's population with a high school degree (29 percent) was similar to Wyoming's (29 percent) but slightly above the U.S. (28 percent). The percentage of the county's population with some college (26 percent) or an associate degree (10 percent) was similar to both Wyoming (27 percent and 10 percent) and the U.S. (21 percent and 8 percent). The percentage of the county's population with either a bachelors (18 percent) or graduate/professional degree (11 percent) was above Wyoming's (17 percent and 8 percent) and comparable to the U.S. (18 percent and 11 percent).

Park County experienced significant employment growth between 2000 and 2014. Employment in the county increased by 22 percent from 2000 through 2014 growing from 17,411 jobs in 2000 to 21,250 jobs in 2014. This employment growth primarily occurred between 2000 and 2008 with county's employment plateauing at around 21,000 jobs since 2008. During this time period Wyoming employment increased by 25 percent and the U.S. employment increased by 12 percent. Employment in all three regions was negatively affected by 2008-2009 recession and slow recovery afterwards, although the county's economy appears to have been less impacted than Wyoming or the U.S. While county employment increased by 22 percent between 2000 and 2014, county population increased by 12 percent suggesting that at least some the job growth in the county was filled by nonresidents during this time period.

Like many rural counties, Local Government was the largest employer in Park County in 2014, accounting for 12 percent of total county employment. Local Government includes all employment associated with the county, towns and cities in the county, and public school districts. Following Local Government were Accommodations & Food Service and Retail Trade both with about 11 percent of total employment. Following Accommodations & Food Services and Retail Trade were Construction and Health Care & Social Services both with about 8 percent of total employment. Following these sectors were Mining, Agriculture, and Other Services all three with about 5 percent of total employment, respectively. Combined these eight sector account for 65 percent of the total employment in the county. The three largest employment sectors in the county's economy, Local Government, Accomodations & Food Services, and Retail Trade represent 34 percent of the total employment in the county. This compares to 30 percent for Wyoming's top three employment sectors and 29 percent for the U.S.'s top three employment sectors. This suggests that county's economy is somewhat less diversified than either Wyoming or the U.S.

Employment in Park County increased by 19 percent from 2001 through 2014. This compares to a 23 percent increase in employment for Wyoming and a 12 percent increase in employment for the U.S. during this time period. The largest increase in employment were in Mining (+555 jobs), which includes oil and gas sector, Health Care & Social Services (+533 jobs), Local Government (+404 jobs), and Real Estate (+323 jobs). Combined these four sectors represented more than 50 percent of the total employment growth in the county. On the other hand, three sectors lost employment between 2001 and 2014 including: Civilian Federal Government (-57 jobs), Retail Trade (-28 jobs), and Transportation & Warehousing (-22 jobs). In terms of individual sectors the fastest growing sector was Mining which more



than doubled in employment between 2001 and 2014. The Bureau of Economic Analysis's "Mining" category includes the oil and gas sector.

In addition to the number of jobs, the labor earnings associated with those jobs is an important consideration. Overall average earnings per job are a general measure of the economic well-being of the local workforce. The Park County economy has a continuing problem with relatively low paying jobs. In 2000, the average earnings per job for the county were \$32,068, in 2010 dollars, which was 14 percent below the Wyoming average earnings per job (\$37,500) and 35 percent below the U.S. average earnings per job (\$49,417). From 2000 through 2014, after adjusting for inflation, county average earnings per job increased by 19 percent to \$38,305. Despite this increase, 2014 county average earnings per job were still 23 percent below the Wyoming average earnings per job (\$49,701) and 28 percent below the U.S. average earnings per job (\$53,247). One of the reasons for the lack of improvement in county average earnings per job may be that average earnings per job for self-employed individuals, which were the major source of job growth in the county from 2000 to 2014, fell from \$22,586 in 2000 to \$16,414 in 2014. The average earnings per job estimates in this section of the report include employer paid benefits for wage and salary jobs. While county average earnings per job were 23 percent below the state average, the Wyoming Economic Analysis Division estimates that the county's cost-of-living for the second quarter of 2014 was 4 percent below the state average. This difference indicates that, on average, the county's workforce was economically somewhat worse-off than the rest of the state in 2014.

Average earnings per job (AEPJ) can vary substantially by sector. In 2014 AEPJ in Park County ranged from over \$96,000 for the Utility sector to less than \$8,800 for Agriculture. After Utilities, the next highest AEPJ was in the Civilian Federal Government sector (\$78,200). Following those two sectors, State Government, Transportation & Warehousing, Local Government, and Mining all had AEPJ of greater than \$60,000. Of the 23 sectors in the county's economy only 7 had AEPJ greater than the Wyoming average (\$53,171) and only 6 had AEPJ greater than the U.S. average (\$56,965). The 7 sectors with AEPJ greater than the Wyoming average represent only 26 percent of the employment in the county and the 6 sectors with AEPJ greater than the U.S. average represent only 24 percent of the jobs in the county. The low AEPJ for the Agricultural sector was primarily due to a \$16.9 million loss in realized net income for the county's agricultural sector in 2014.

The combination of the number of jobs and the average earnings per job determines the relative importance of individual sectors in terms of total labor earnings in the Park County economy. Labor earnings are important because they represent the major source of personal income for county residents. Overall county employment generated \$871 million in labor earnings in 2014. Local Government, due to its large number of employees and relatively high average earnings per job, represents 18 percent of total county labor earnings. Following Local Government were Construction, and Health Care & Social Assistance both with more than 10 percent of total county labor earnings. Retail Trade, Mining, Civilian Federal Government and Accommodations & Food Service each represented around 7 percent of total county labor earnings. These 7 sectors combined represented 68 percent of total county labor earnings. Labor earnings in this section include employer paid benefits.

### **Land characteristics**

Park County contains 4.4 million acres of land. Nearly 80 percent of this land (3.5 million acres) is under federal government management. Of this total, the Forest Service manages 48 percent, with the National Park Service managing 32 percent, the BLM managing 18 percent, and the Bureau of Reclamation managing 2 percent. State land amounts to 4 percent of the county's land area (163,260 acres). Ninety six percent of the state land area in the county is state trust land with the other 4 percent held by the Game and Fish Department. Finally, local government owns 0.1 percent of the county's land area (4,749 acres). Seventy-four percent of the local government land is held by cities, with the county holding 16 percent, and school district/colleges holding 10 percent. As a result of the large government land holdings in the county, only 17 percent of the county's land area is private (770,185 acres). Information from the Wyoming Department of Revenue on acres taxed as agricultural land indicates that 86 percent of the private land in the county is in agricultural use (666,232 acres). Of this total 83 percent is range land (554,899 acres) and 17 percent is irrigated cropland (111,333 acres).

Federal lands are managed for different purposes under differing statutory authority. Three categories of designation are represented in Park County: 1) Protected, 2) Restricted., and 3) General Use. Protected areas include National Parks and Preserves (NPS), Wilderness (NPS, FWS, FS, BLM), National Conservation Areas (BLM), National Monuments (NPS, FS, BLM), National Recreation Areas (NPS, FS, BLM), National Wild and Scenic Rivers (NPS, FS, BLM), Water Fowl Protection Areas (FWS), Wildlife Management Areas (FWS), Research Natural Areas (FS, BLM), Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (BLM), and National Wildlife Refuges (FWS). Restricted areas include Wilderness Study Areas (NPS, FWS, FS, BLM) and Inventoried Roadless Areas (FS). General Use areas include Public Domain Lands (BLM) and National Forests and Grasslands (FS). This data was obtained from the Economic Profile System – Human Dimension Toolkit (NPS = National Park Service, FWS = Fish and Wildlife Service, FS = Forest Service, and BLM = Bureau of Land Management).

In Park County 66 percent of federal lands are designated as protected (2.2 million acres). This amount includes 1.1 million acres of Forest Service land that is designated as national wilderness (63 percent of total Forest Service land in the county). Also, 15 percent of federal lands are designated as restricted (514,812 acres) with only 18 percent designated for general use (609,961 acres). In comparison 65 percent of the total federal lands in Wyoming are designated for general use.

### **County Government Finances**

Wyoming Department of Audit information indicates that the total revenue for Park County Government was \$23.3 million in FY2014. Of this total, the largest source was Taxes which included property taxes (51 percent). Following Taxes was State Aid which included the county's share of the 4 percent sales and use tax revenue (40 percent) and Direct Federal Aid, including PILT payments (8 percent). Combined these three sources represented 99 percent of the total county government revenue in FY2014. Other sources of county government revenue included Charges for Services,

Miscellaneous Revenue, and Other Local Government Revenue. Combined these smaller revenue sources represented 1 percent of the total county government revenue in FY2014.

Compared to all counties in Wyoming, Park County had a slightly higher proportion of revenue from Taxes (51 percent vs. 50 percent). The county's proportion of revenue from State Aid was substantially higher relative to all counties in the state (40 percent vs. 26 percent) and the proportion from Direct Federal Aid was higher relative to all counties in the state (8 percent vs. 6 percent). Other sources of revenue were lower compared to all other counties in the state in terms of Charges for Services (1 percent vs. 7 percent) and Miscellaneous Revenue (0.2 percent vs. 6 percent), and Other Local Government (0.1 percent vs. 5 percent). Overall, the county's per capita revenue (\$805) was 37 percent below the average for all counties in Wyoming (\$1,285).

The total assessed valuation for Park County in 2015 was \$869.6 million. Fifty-five percent of the total valuation was from Mineral Production. Following minerals was Residential Property (31 percent) and Commercial Property (7 percent). Combined these three sources represented 93 percent of the county's total assessed valuation. Other sources of assessed valuation included Industrial Property (3 percent), Agricultural Lands (3 percent) and Utilities (2 percent). Combined these sources represented 7 percent of the county's assessed valuation.

Compared to Wyoming, the county had a lower proportion of assessed valuation from Mineral Production (55 percent vs. 60 percent). The county's proportion of assessed valuation from Residential Property was higher than Wyoming's (31 percent vs. 18 percent). The county's proportion of assessed valuation from Commercial Property was slightly higher than Wyoming's (7 percent vs. 5 percent). The county's assessed valuation for Commercial, Utilities, and Agricultural was lower than Wyoming's (7 percent vs. 15 percent). In terms of Mineral Production, crude oil represented 96 percent of total county mineral assessed valuation, natural gas represented 4 percent of total county mineral assessed valuation, and sand & gravel and gypsum represented less than 1 percent of total county mineral assessed valuation. In terms of Industrial Property, oil and gas extraction facilities represented 64 percent of total county industrial property assessed valuation. Overall, oil and gas production and the associated facilities represent 56 percent of the county's total assessed valuation. This concentration makes county government finances vulnerable to fluctuations in oil and gas prices.

In FY2015 Park County's sales and use tax generated \$31.1 million in sales and use tax revenue. Of this total, 69 percent (\$21.5 million) was retained by state government and 31 percent (\$9.6 million) was returned to local governments in the county. In FY2015 county government's share of the returned sales and use tax revenue was approximately \$4.3 million (45 percent) with the remaining \$5.3 million (55 percent) going to municipal governments in the county. Thirty-five percent of the county's total sales and use tax revenue came from Retail Trade. Following Retail Trade was Leisure & Hospitality (15 percent), Mining (13 percent), and Public Administration (13 percent). Combined these four sectors contributed 76 percent of the county's total sales and use tax revenue. Public Administration represents sales and use tax revenue on motor vehicle purchases which are collected at the time of registration in Wyoming. Utilities, Financial, Wholesale, Construction, Other Services and Other represented a

combined 24 percent of county sales and use tax revenue with Utilities, Financial, Wholesale, and Construction each accounting for 3 percent or more of total county sales and use tax revenue.

Compared to total sales and use tax revenue for Wyoming, the county had a substantially higher proportion of sales and use tax revenue from Retail Trade (35 percent vs. 27 percent). The county's proportion of sales and use tax revenue from Leisure & Hospitality was also higher than Wyoming's (15 percent vs. 9 percent). The proportion of county sales and use tax revenue from Mining was lower than Wyoming's (13 percent vs. 23 percent) and the proportion from Public Administration was somewhat higher compared to Wyoming's (13 percent vs. 10 percent).

The Economic Profile System-Human Dimensions Toolkit indicates that federal land payments to local governments in Park County totaled \$2.5 million in FY2014. The largest source of federal land payments to the county was Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) representing 69 percent of the total amount (\$2.1 million). PILT payments are intended to compensate county governments for non-taxable federal lands within their borders. It is based on a maximum per-acre payment reduced by other federal revenue sharing payments and subject to a per capita population cap. The second largest source of federal payments to the county was Forest Service payments representing 29 percent of the total amount (\$723,589). Forest Service payments can include 25 percent Revenue Sharing funds, Secure Rural School & Community Self Determination Act funds, and Bankhead-Jones Forest Grasslands funds. The third largest source of federal payments to the county was BLM Payments representing 2 percent of the total amount (\$49,291). BLM payments represent revenue sharing funds including grazing fees through the Taylor Grazing Act. Of the \$2.5 million in Federal land payments to the county in FY2014, 84 percent went to county government (\$2.1 million), 12 percent went to local school districts (\$307,525), 2 percent went to grazing districts (\$46,798), and 2 percent went to Resource Advisory Councils (\$57,887). In FY2014 Federal Land Payments to the county represented \$0.49 per acre of eligible Federal land.

The total cost of maintaining county government for Park County in FY2014 was \$24.4 million. This represents a per capita cost of \$842.74 which was 22 percent below the average for all counties in Wyoming (\$1,083.35). The largest cost category was Road and Bridge (19 percent). The second largest category was funding for the Library and Fair Boards (16 percent), primarily the library, followed by the Jail, County Sheriff, and the Landfill each about 9 percent. The combined total of these five cost categories represents 64 percent of the total county budget.

### **Natural Resource-based Industry Profiles**

In 2014, the 2,532 producing oil and gas wells in Park County produced 6.7 million barrels of crude oil and 9.6 million mcf of natural gas. The other major type of mineral production in the county was sand and gravel which produced 190,281 tons in 2014. There was also a small amount of gypsum production in the county during 2014. The mining industry in the county, including the associated industrial property, had an assessed valuation of \$496.6 million dollars in 2015 (2015 assessed valuation for mineral production is based on 2014 production). This valuation represented 57 percent of the total assessed valuation for the county. Based on a county levy of 70.2 mills the mineral industry generated \$34.9 million in property tax revenue in 2015. Of this total, 63 percent went to K-12 schools (\$21.9

million), 17 percent went to local county government (\$6.0 million), 13 percent went to county special districts (\$4.5 million), and 7 percent went to the Community College (\$2.5 million). Special districts in the county included: Hospital, Cemetery, Museum, and Conservation Districts. In 2014 the mining industry in the county supported 1,057 jobs with labor earnings of \$65.0 million. This represented 5 percent of total employment and 7 percent of total labor earnings in the county. The percent of total employment in mining for the county was 5 times the national percentage (0.9%). The average earnings per job for mining in the county were \$61,511 which was 1.5 times the county average (\$40,979). The mining industry ranked 6th out of 23 sectors in the county's economy in terms of total employment and 5th out of 23 sectors in terms of total labor earnings.

In 2012 there were 860 agricultural operations in Park County. These operations managed 813,152 acres in the county. Included in this acreage is 83 percent of the private land in the county. Of the total land in agriculture, 83 percent is classified as grazing land, 13 percent as cropland, 2 percent as woodlands, and 2 percent as farmsteads and buildings. The average size of an agricultural operation in the county was 946 acres. The total cattle and sheep inventory in the county was 49,180 head including 38,036 head of cattle and calves and 11,144 head of sheep and lambs. In 2014, the county ranked 16<sup>th</sup> out of 23 counties in Wyoming in terms of cattle and calves inventory and 12<sup>th</sup> out of 23 counties in terms of sheep and lambs inventory. It also ranked 1st in sugar beet production, 5<sup>th</sup> in corn for grain production, 7<sup>th</sup> in alfalfa hay production, and 16<sup>th</sup> in other hay production. In terms of investment by agricultural operators, the estimated total market value of lands, buildings, and equipment for agriculture in the county was \$1.2 billion. This total included \$1.1 billion in land and buildings and \$90.7 million for equipment and machinery. The average investment per agricultural operation was \$1.4 million. In 2012 agricultural operations in the county paid \$3.5 million in property taxes.

The gross revenue for the agricultural industry in the county in 2014 was \$105.1 million. Of this total 37 percent was from cash receipts for livestock, 46 percent was from cash receipts for crops, 15 percent was from miscellaneous sources, and 2 percent was from government payments. Total employment for agriculture in 2014 was 1,052 jobs with labor earnings of \$9.2 million. This represented 5 percent of the total jobs in the county and 1 percent of the labor earnings. The percent of total employment in agriculture for the county was 3.5 times the national percentage (1.4 percent). The average earnings per job for agriculture in the county were \$8,781 which was 21 percent of the county average (\$40,979). The agriculture industry ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 23 sectors in the county's economy in terms of total employment and 19th out of 23 sectors in terms of total labor earnings. Average earnings per job in agriculture tend to be lower because the employment data includes a large number of small part-time and lifestyle operations that generate limited labor earnings. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data, which is based on employment covered by unemployment insurance, may be a better indicator of average earnings per job for commercial agricultural employment in the county. For 2014, BLS data indicates that the average earnings per job for agricultural employment in Park County was \$30,628.

In addition to jobs and income, agriculture also provides important natural resource amenities such as open space. Open space offers landscapes, lifestyles, and wildlife habitat that can have value to both residents and visitors. Open space is particularly important because it determines the character of the

landscapes surrounding a community. Out of economic necessity, most agricultural operations in the county cover large areas of land; as a result, agriculture can contribute substantially to maintaining open spaces on private lands in a region. As noted above, 83 percent of the private land in county is in agricultural use.

There is evidence that there has actually been some change in ownership of agricultural lands in Park County. Travis et al. (2003) estimated that 107,320 acres of ranchland in the county change ownership in just eleven years (1990-2001). Traditional ranchers bought only 5 percent of these acres of ranchland (4,092 acres) with Amenity Buyers purchasing 74 percent (79,879 acres), Investors - 13 percent (14,221 acres), Developers- 5 percent (5,171 acres), Corporations - 1 percent (729 acres), Other Buyers - 1 percent (640 acres), and Unknown Buyers - 2 percent (1,760 acres). Although only 5 percent of ranchland was directly purchased by developers, the long-term resiliency of the other non-traditional rancher buyers is unknown. Also, since the analysis only considered ranchland sales of 400 acres or more, the amount of ranchland going to development may be understated since such conversions often involve smaller parcels. The authors note that this change in ownership may lead to instability in land tenure for ranchlands in the region and raise concerns with the retention of land in agriculture in the county.

Dean Runyan Associates estimates that visitors spent \$316.4 million while in Park County in 2014. In terms of accommodations, 52 percent of this spending was by visitors staying in hotels/motels, 33 percent by visitors staying in campgrounds, 6 percent was by visitors staying in private homes, 2 percent was by visitors staying in vacation homes, and 7 percent was by visitors not staying overnight. In terms of purchases, 22 percent was spent on arts/entertainment/recreation, 22 percent was spent on food services, 19 percent was spent on accommodations, 19 percent was spent on retail sales, 9 percent was spent on local transportation & gas, 8 percent was spent at food stores, and less than one percent was spent for air transportation.

Dean Runyan estimated that the travel industry generated 3,960 direct jobs in the county in 2014. This represents 19 percent of total employment in the county. Nearly 50 percent of these jobs were in the accommodations and food service sector, 37 percent were in the arts/entertainment/recreation sector, and 14 percent were in the retail trade sector. The labor earnings associated with this employment was estimated to be \$88.4 million. This represents 10 percent of the total labor earnings for the county. Average earnings per job for the travel industry in the county for 2014 were \$22,323. Average earnings per job for the travel industry were 54 percent the county average (\$40,979).

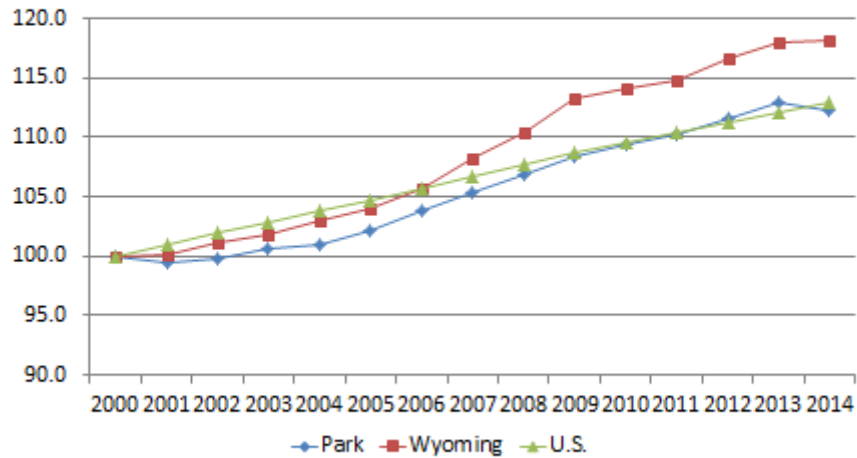
The tax revenue associated with the county's travel industry is estimated to be \$11.3 million with \$4.3 million (38 percent) going to local government and \$7.0 million (62 percent) going to state government.

# DEMOGRAPHICS





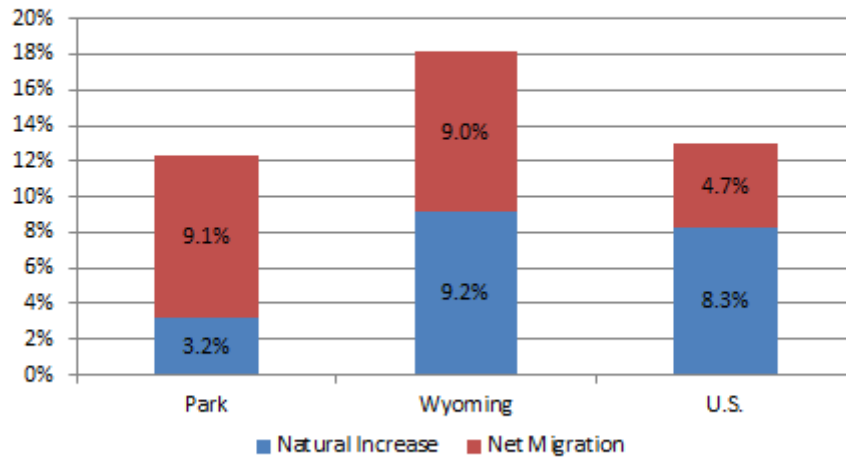
Figure 1.  
Population Growth Index: 2000-2014



Park County experienced modest population growth between 2000 and 2014 increasing from 25,821 residents in 2000 to 28,989 residents in 2014 (+3,168). This represents a 12 percent population increase over the time period. The county’s population growth rate during the time period was comparable to the U.S. growth rate (13 percent) but a third lower than Wyoming growth rate (18 percent). Prior to 2009, the county’s population growth lagged behind the U.S. However from 2009 through 2013, the county’s population growth increased and was comparable or exceeded the U.S. Conversely, the county’s population growth lagged behind Wyoming for the entire time period. In 2014 the county’s population decreased by 165 residents (-0.6 percent) while Wyoming’s population increased by 0.2 percent and the U.S. population increased by 0.7 percent.

**Data Sources:** Wyoming Department of Administration and Information. 2015. Economic Analysis Division, Table 1. Intercensal Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Wyoming: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2010 and Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties of Wyoming: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014.

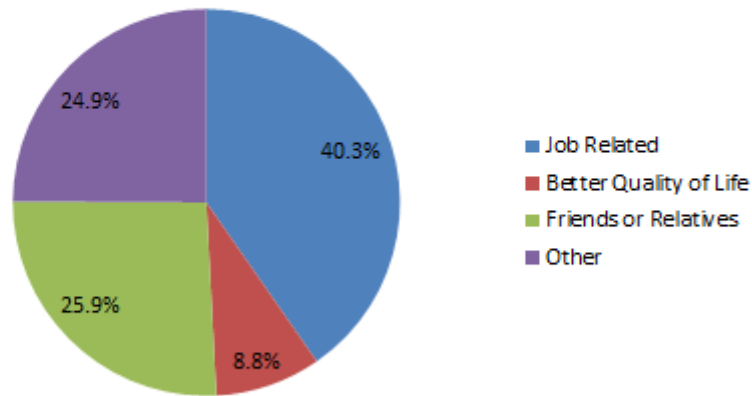
Figure 2.  
Comparison of Source of Population Change: 2000-2014



Population increases can occur in one of two ways: 1) Natural Increase (more births than deaths) or 2) Net In-Migration (more people moving in than moving out). Between 2000 and 2014 Park County experienced both types of population growth (Figure 2). While Wyoming and the U.S. experienced somewhat similar rates of population growth from Natural increase (9 percent and 8 percent, respectively), the county only had 3 percent population growth from Natural Increase. This was probably due to the older age of the population in county, which will be discussed later. On the other hand, population growth from Net In-Migration in the county between 2000 and 2014 (9 percent) was comparable to Wyoming’s rate (9 percent), but nearly twice the U.S. rate (5 percent). As a result 74 percent of the county’s population growth from 2000 through 2014 came from Net In-Migration. This compares to 50 percent for Wyoming and 36 percent for the U.S. Although the higher population growth rate from Net In-Migration partially offset the lower population growth rate from Natural Increase, total population growth for the county (12 percent) was still slightly below population growth for the U.S. (13 percent) and a third lower than population growth for Wyoming (18 percent). Of course immigration is much more restricted at the national level than at the state or county level. However, the comparison is still important in explaining differences in population growth.

**Data Source:** Wyoming Department of Administration and Information. 2015. Economic Analysis Division, Annual Births, Deaths, and Net Migration by County of Residence: 1971-2014.

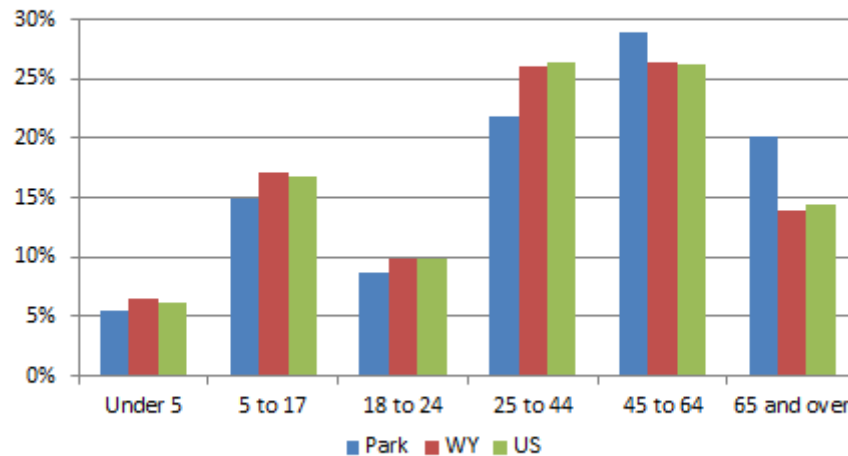
Figure 3.  
Primary Reason for Moving to Park County: 2000-2014



People move to an area for a variety of reasons ranging from economic to esthetic. Data from the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership for 2000 through 2014 (Figure 3) indicates that the most frequent reason given by new residents to Park County for moving to Wyoming were job related factors (40 percent). Job related factors included Job Transfers, New Jobs, Better Employment Opportunities, and Starting or Expanding a Business. The second most frequent reason was that friends or relatives already resided in the area (26 percent). Nine percent of new residents surveyed indicated that a better quality of life was the primary reason for moving to the county with 25 percent indicating some other reason. This data is from the Housing Needs Assessment Survey conducted by the Wyoming Housing Database Partnership in cooperation with the Wyoming Department of Transportation. The survey results are based on a random sample of new residents who were exchanging their previous state's driver's licenses for Wyoming licenses.

**Data Source:** Wyoming Community Development Authority. 2015. Wyoming Housing Database Partnership, Wyoming Profile of Demographics, Economics, and Housing; Volume II: Technical Appendix, Semiannual Report, Appendix G: Housing Needs Assessment Survey Data, 2000-2014.

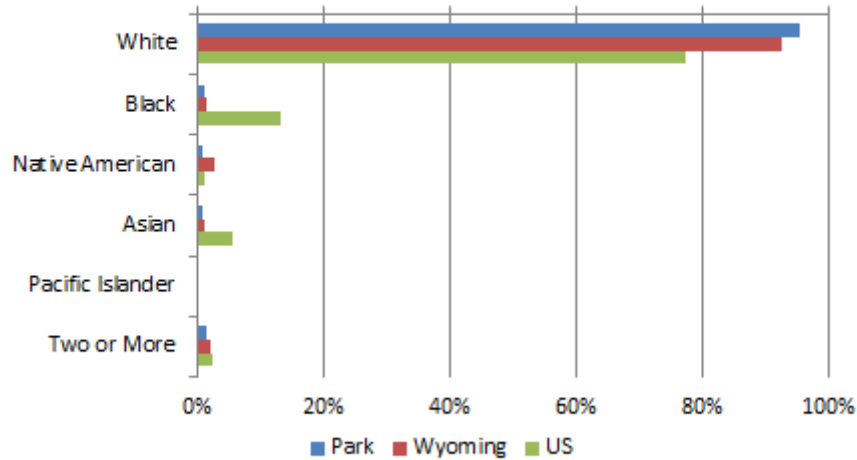
Figure 4.  
Comparison of Population Age Distribution: 2014



In 2014 the largest age groups for Park County were adults 45 to 64 years old (29 percent) and adults 25 to 44 years old (22 percent). Combined, these two age groups represented 51 percent of the total county population (Figure 4). The next largest age group was retirement aged adults 65 and over (20 percent), followed by youth aged 5 to 17 (15 percent), adults 18 to 24 years old (9 percent), and youth under 5 years of age (5 percent). The population distribution for the county was over represented at the upper ends of the age spectrum and under represented at the lower ends of the age spectrum. Compared to Wyoming and the U.S., the county had a lower proportion of its overall population in the younger age groups of Under 5, 5 to 17, 18 to 24, and 25 to 44. On the other end of the age spectrum, the county had a higher proportion of its overall population in the older age groups of 45 to 64 and 65 and over, especially the 65 and over age category which was 44 percent higher than Wyoming and 39 percent higher than the U.S. Overall, the median age for the county in 2014 (44.1 years) was 20 percent older than the median age for Wyoming (36.8 years) and 17 percent older than the median age for the U.S. (37.7 years). Given the relatively high proportion of the county's residents in the 45 to 64 age group, the county's population is likely to continue to age over time.

**Data Source:** Wyoming Department of Administration and Information. 2015. Economic Analysis Division, Annual Estimation of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for Wyoming: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014.

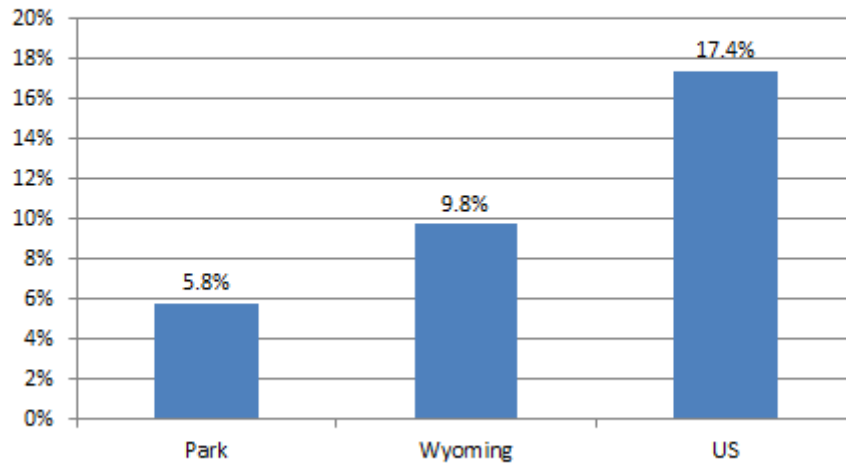
Figure 5.  
Comparison of Population by Race: 2014



White is the predominate category of race in Park County, accounting for 96 percent of the total population (Figure 5). The percentage of the population that is White in the county is 3 percent higher than the percentage for Wyoming and 23 percent higher than the percentage for the U.S. The other five races identified by the federal government account for the remaining 4 percent with Two or More Races being the most common (1.4 percent), followed by Black (1.1 percent), Native American (0.9 percent), Asian (0.8 percent), and Pacific Islanders (0.1 percent). The proportion of the county’s population that was Black (1.1 percent versus 1.6 percent and 13.2 percent), Native American (0.9 percent versus 2.7 percent and 1.2 percent), Asian (0.8 percent versus 1.0 percent and 5.4 percent), Pacific Islander 0.1 percent versus 0.1 percent and 0.2 percent, or Two or More Races (1.4 percent versus 2.0 percent and 2.5 percent) was less than either Wyoming or the U.S.

**Data Source:** Wyoming Department of Administration and Information. 2015. Economic Analysis Division, Table 6. Annual Estimate of the Resident Population by Race for the United States, Wyoming, and Counties: July 1, 2014.

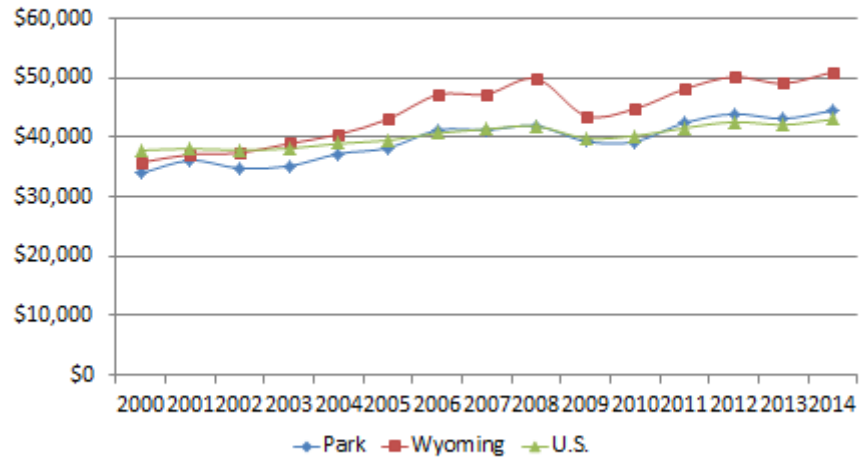
Figure 6.  
Comparison Percent of Population Hispanic: 2014



The federal government defines the term “Hispanic” as a cultural identification rather than a specific race. Thus Hispanics can be individuals of any race that self-identify themselves as “Hispanic” or “Latino” based on heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or person’s parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. In Park County, as shown in Figure 6, the percentage of the population classifying themselves as Hispanic (6 percent) was only 33 percent of the U.S. percentage (17 percent) and 59 percent of the Wyoming percentage (10 percent).

**Data Source:** Wyoming Department of Administration and Information. 2015. Economic Analysis Division, Table 6. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States, Wyoming, and Counties: July 1, 2014.

Figure 7.  
Per Capita Income: 2000-2014  
(Adjusted for Inflation)

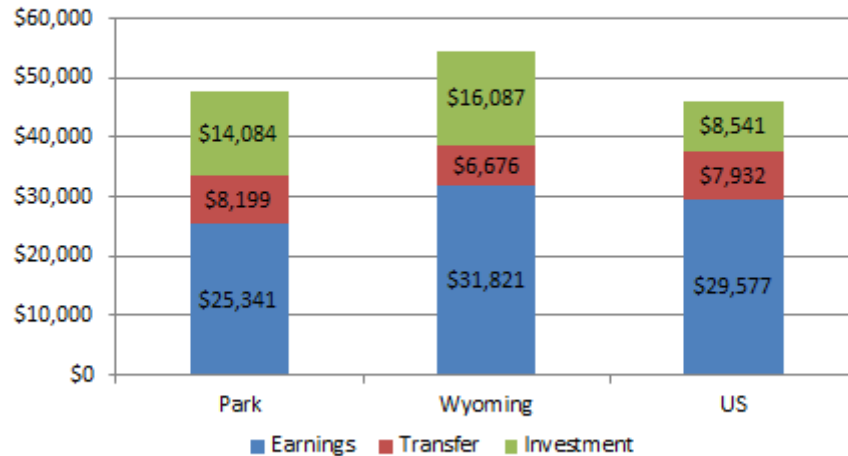


Per capita income is a general measure of the economic well-being of a county’s population. In 2000, per capita income in Park County was \$33,963 in 2010 dollars (Figure 7). The per capita income for the county in 2000 was 5 percent below Wyoming’s per capita income (\$35,796) and 10 percent below the U.S. per capita income (\$37,827). From 2000 to 2014, after adjusting for inflation, per capita income for the county increased by 31 percent to \$44,516. Despite this increase, in 2014 the county’s per capita income (\$44,516) was 13 percent lower than Wyoming’s (\$51,022) but was 3 percent higher than the U.S. (\$43,044).

There are three sources of per capita income: 1) net labor earnings including wages, salaries, and proprietor (self-employed) income, 2) government transfer payments such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, unemployment, and income maintenance program payments, and 3) investment income representing property income in the form of dividends, interest, and rents. The majority of the growth in the county’s per capita income between 2000 and 2014 was the result of growth of net labor earnings (44 percent) with 29 percent coming from higher transfer payments and 27 percent coming from higher investment income. Transfer payments were the fastest growing individual source of per capita income between 2000 and 2014 increasing by 67 percent, while labor earnings increased by 24 percent and investment income increased by 27 percent. In 2000, net labor earnings represented 56 percent of total per capita income, with investment income representing 30 percent, and transfer payments representing 14 percent. In 2014, net labor income represented 53 percent of total per capita income, with investment income representing 30 percent, and transfer payments representing 17 percent.

**Data Source:** U.S. Department of Commerce. 2015. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Table CA30.

**Figure 8.**  
**Comparison of Per Capita Income by Source 2014**



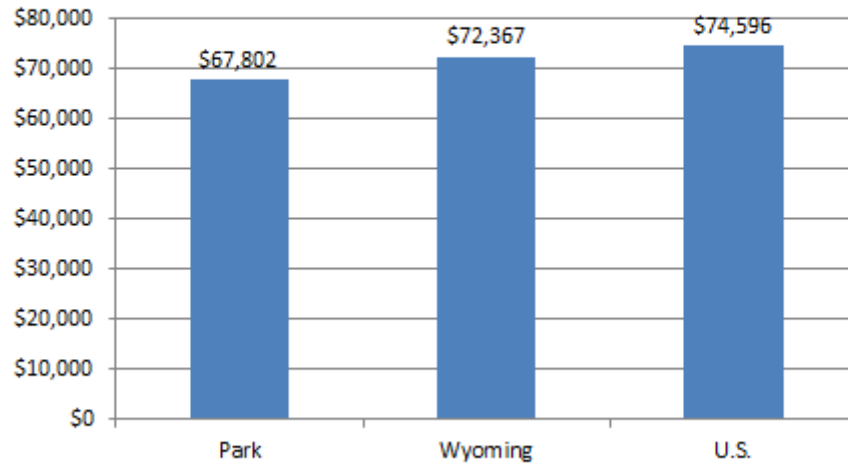
In 2014 per capita income for Park County was \$47,624 in 2014 dollars (Figure 8). This level of income was 13 percent below per capita income for Wyoming (\$54,584) but 3 percent above per capita income for the U.S. (\$46,050). Among the three regions, the county had the lowest per capita labor earnings (\$25,341) which was 20 percent below per capita labor earnings for Wyoming (\$31,821) and 14 percent below per capita labor earnings for the U.S. (\$29,577). The county had the highest per capita transfer payments (\$8,199) which was 23 percent higher than per capita transfer payments for Wyoming (\$6,676), and 3 percent higher than per capita transfer payments for the U.S. The county's per capita investment income (\$14,084) was 13 percent below per capita investment income for Wyoming (\$16,087), but 65 percent higher than per capita investment income for the U.S. The relative greater importance of transfer payments and investment income and the relatively lesser importance of labor earnings for the county may be a reflection of the older age of the county's population.

The county's 2014 unemployment rate (4.7 percent) was comparable to Wyoming's unemployment rate (4.3 percent) and below the U.S. unemployment rate (6.2 percent). While total per capita income for the county was 13 percent below the state average, the Wyoming Economic Analysis Division estimates that the county's cost-of-living for the second quarter of 2014 was 4 percent below the state average. This difference indicates that, on average, the county's residents were economically somewhat worse-off than the rest of the state in 2014. However, the percent of the county's population that was below the poverty level (8 percent) was one-third below Wyoming's rate (12 percent) and one-half of the U.S. rate (16 percent).

**Data Source:** U.S. Department of Commerce. 2015. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Table CA30.



Figure 8a.  
Average Household Income: 2010-2014  
(2014 Dollars)



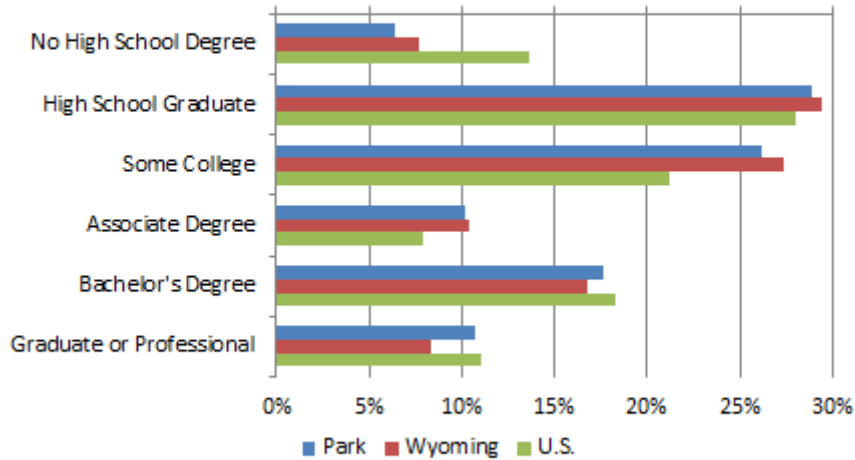
Average household income is another general measure of the economic well-being of a county's population. During the time period 2010 to 2014, the average household for Park County was \$67,802 (Figure 8a). The average household income for the county during this time period was 6 percent below the Wyoming average (\$72,367) and 9 percent below the U.S. average (\$74,296).

Although somewhat lower, household income in the county was more evenly distributed than either Wyoming or the U.S (Table 5a). For example only 7 percent of county households had average income of less than \$15,000 between 2010 and 2014. This was 30 percent lower than the percentage of households in Wyoming that had average income of less than \$15,000 (10 percent) and 46 percent lower than the percentage of households in the U.S. that had average income of less than \$15,000 (12 percent). At the other extreme, only 5 percent of the county households had average income of \$150,000 or more between 2010 and 2014. This was 33 percent lower than the percentage of households in Wyoming that had average income of \$150,000 or more (8 percent) and 48 percent lower than the percentage of households in the U.S. than had average income of \$150,000 or more (10 percent). In terms of the middle categories of household income, the county had a higher percentage of households in all income categories from \$25,000-\$34,999 to \$75,000 to \$99,999.

The information on household income was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey which only reports demographic information for Park County on five-year intervals.

**Data Source:** Wyoming Department of Administration and Information. 2015. Economic Analysis Division, Wyoming County Profiles 2015.

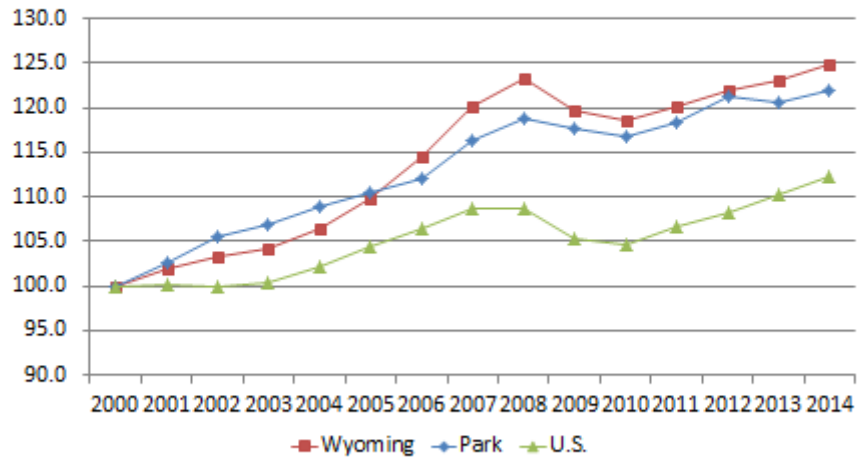
**Figure 9.**  
**Level of Educational Attainment, 2010-2014**  
**(Population 25 Years or Older)**



Overall, the educational attainment of Park County’s population in terms of a high school degree or higher (94 percent) was higher than Wyoming’s (92 percent) and higher than the U.S. (86 percent). The county’s population was also somewhat more educated in terms of college or advanced degrees than Wyoming (28 percent vs. 25 percent) and comparable to the U.S. (28 percent vs 29 percent). The percentage of the county population without a high school degree (6 percent) was less than Wyoming’s (8 percent) and substantially lower than the U.S. (14 percent). The percentage of the county’s population with a high school degree (29 percent) was similar to Wyoming’s (29 percent) but slightly above the U.S. (28 percent). The percentage of the county’s population with some college (26 percent) or an associate degree (10 percent) was similar to both Wyoming (27 percent and 10 percent) and the U.S. (21 percent and 8 percent). The percentage of the county’s population with either a bachelors (18 percent) or graduate/professional degree (11 percent) was above Wyoming’s (17 percent and 8 percent) and comparable to the U.S. (18 percent and 11 percent). In terms of access to educational resources, the county has three public school districts with a total of 15 schools and a 2014 fall enrollment of 3,969. The graduation rate for the public school system was 84 percent compared to a state average of 79 percent. The public school system had 326 certified teachers, 81 certified staff, 35 administrators, and 306 classified staff. Total general fund expenditures for the county’s public school system was \$58.7 million in 2014 with an operating cost of \$16,627 per average daily membership. This compares with an average operating cost of \$17,229 per average daily membership for the state. Northwest Wyoming Community College is located in the county with its main campus in Powell and off-campus facility in Cody.

**Data Source:** Wyoming Department of Administration and Information. 2015. Economic Analysis Division, Wyoming County Profiles 2015.

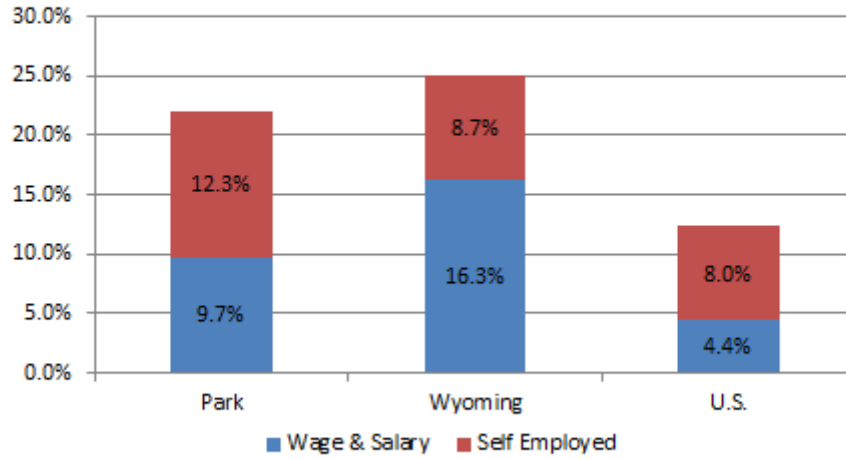
Figure 10.  
Employment Growth Index: 2000-2014



Park County experienced significant employment growth between 2000 and 2014. Employment in the county increased by 22 percent from 2000 through 2014 growing from 17,411 jobs in 2000 to 21,250 jobs in 2014 (Figure 10). This employment growth primarily occurred between 2000 and 2008 with county’s employment plateauing at around 21,000 jobs since 2008. During this time period Wyoming employment increased by 25 percent and the U.S. employment increased by 12 percent. Employment in all three regions was negatively affected by 2008-2009 recession and slow recovery afterwards, although the county’s economy appears to have been less impacted than Wyoming or the U.S. While county employment increased by 22 percent between 2000 and 2014, county population increased by 12 percent suggesting that at least some the job growth in the county was filled by nonresidents during this time period.

**Data Source:** U.S. Department of Commerce. 2015. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Table CA25.

Figure 11.  
Comparison of Employment Growth: 2000-2014



From 2000 to 2014, employment in Park County increased by 22 percent (Figure 11). This increase was 12 percent less than the employment increase for Wyoming (25 percent) and 1.8 times the employment increase for the U.S. (12 percent) during the same time period. Growth from self-employed jobs was particularly strong in the county increasing by 12 percent between 2000 and 2014 compared to 9 percent growth in Wyoming and 8 percent growth in the U.S. Growth in wage and salary employment in the county was not as strong increasing by 40 percent less compared to Wyoming (10 percent versus 16 percent). Still the growth in county wage and salary employment was 2.2 times the anemic growth rate for wage and salary jobs in the U.S. (10 percent versus 4 percent). Overall, self-employed jobs accounted for 56 percent of the total job growth in the county between 2000 and 2014 with wage and salary jobs accounting for 44 percent.

**Data Source:** U.S. Department of Commerce. 2015. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Table CA25.

**Figure 12.****Park County Employment by Sector: 2014**

Sector	Jobs	Percent	LQ
Local Government	2,545	12.0%	1.59
Accommodations & Food Service	2,369	11.1%	1.54
Retail Trade	2,257	10.6%	1.05
Construction	1,772	8.3%	1.61
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,745	8.2%	0.73
Mining (Includes Oil & Gas)	1,057	5.0%	5.46
Agriculture	1,052	5.0%	3.48
Other Services	1,037	4.9%	0.83
Professional Services	964	4.5%	0.56
Real Estate	882	4.2%	0.95
Federal - Civilian	775	3.6%	2.43
Manufacturing	767	3.6%	0.52
Finance & Insurance	727	3.4%	0.65
Management Services	709	3.3%	0.53
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	659	3.1%	1.39
Transportation & Warehousing	420	2.0%	0.59
Wholesale Trade	380	1.8%	0.52
Information	307	1.4%	0.81
State Government	256	1.2%	0.42
Forestry, Fishing, & Ag Support	226	1.1%	2.11
Military	152	0.7%	0.67
Educational Services	124	0.6%	0.24
Utilities	68	0.3%	1.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,250</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>N.A.</b>

Like many rural counties, Local Government was the largest employer in Park County in 2014, accounting for 12 percent of total county employment (Figure 12). Local Government includes all employment associated with the county, towns and cities in the county, and public school districts. Following Local Government were Accommodations & Food Service and Retail Trade both with about 11 percent of total employment. Following Accommodations & Food Services and Retail Trade were Construction and Health Care & Social Services both with about 8 percent of total employment. Following these sectors were Mining (includes oil and gas), Agriculture, and Other Services all three with about 5 percent of total employment, respectively. Combined these eight sector account for 65 percent of the total employment in the county. The three largest employment sectors in the county's economy, Local Government, Accommodations & Food Services, and Retail Trade represent 34 percent of the total employment in the county. This compares to 30 percent for Wyoming's top three employment sectors and 29 percent for the U.S.'s top three employment sectors. This suggests that county's economy is somewhat less diversified than either Wyoming or the U.S.

The location quotients (LQ) in the fourth column of Figure 12 were used to identify Defining Industries in the county. A location quotient is the ratio of an industry's share of total employment in the region relative to the industry's share of total employment at the national level. A large location quotient is an indication of specialization within the county's economy. Defining Industries are important because they play a significant role in a region's growth over time. The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City considers Defining Industries as those with a locational quotient of at least 1.25 that account for at least 0.2 percent of total employment in the region. On this basis Park County has eight Defining Industries: Mining (5.46), Agriculture (3.48), Federal Civilian Government (2.43), Forestry, Fishing, & Ag Support (2.11), Construction (1.61), Local Government (1.59), Accommodations & Food Service (1.54), and Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation (1.39).

**Data Source:** U.S. Department of Commerce. 2014. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Table CA25.

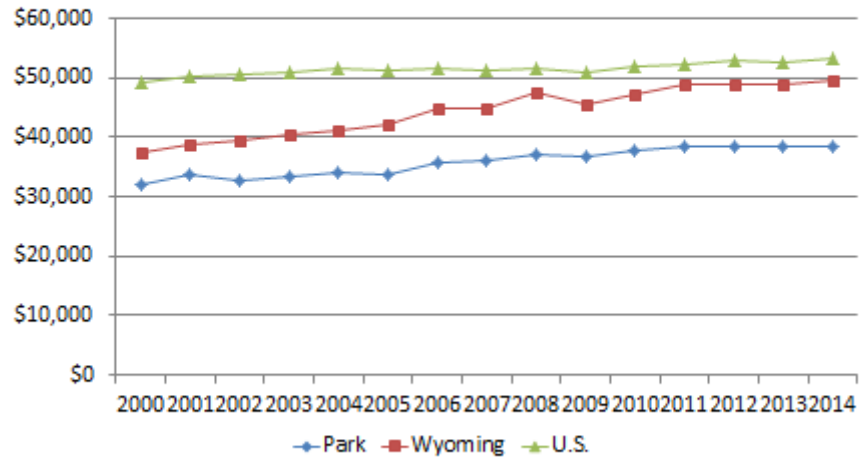
**Figure 13.****Change in Park County Employment by Sector: 2001-2014**

Sector	2001	2014	Change 2001-2014	Percent of Change	Percent Change
Mining (Includes Oil & Gas)	502	1,057	555	16.4%	110.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,212	1,745	533	15.7%	44.0%
Local Government	2,141	2,545	404	11.9%	18.9%
Real Estate	559	882	323	9.5%	57.8%
Construction	1,509	1,772	263	7.8%	17.4%
Management Services	454	709	255	7.5%	56.2%
Professional Services	719	964	245	7.2%	34.1%
Accommodations & Food Service	2,145	2,369	224	6.6%	10.4%
Other Services	912	1,037	125	3.7%	13.7%
Manufacturing	655	767	112	3.3%	17.1%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	567	659	92	2.7%	16.2%
Agriculture	979	1,052	73	2.2%	7.5%
Information	239	307	68	2.0%	28.5%
Forestry, Fishing, & Ag Support	162	226	64	1.9%	39.5%
Wholesale Trade	317	380	63	1.9%	19.9%
Educational Services	90	124	34	1.0%	37.8%
State Government	228	256	28	0.8%	12.3%
Utilities	47	68	21	0.6%	44.7%
Finance & Insurance	719	727	8	0.2%	1.1%
Military	146	152	6	0.2%	4.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	442	420	-22	-0.6%	-5.0%
Retail Trade	2,285	2,257	-28	-0.8%	-1.2%
Federal - Civilian	832	775	-57	-1.7%	-6.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,861</b>	<b>21,250</b>	<b>3,389</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>19.0%</b>

Employment in Park County increased by 19 percent from 2001 through 2014 (Figure 13). This compares to a 23 percent increase in employment for Wyoming and a 12 percent increase in employment for the U.S. during this time period. The largest increase in employment were in Mining (+555 jobs), Health Care & Social Services (+533 jobs), Local Government (+404 jobs), and Real Estate (+323 jobs). Combined these four sectors represented more than 50 percent of the total employment growth in the county. On the other hand, three sectors lost employment between 2001 and 2014 including: Civilian Federal Government (-57 jobs), Retail Trade (-28 jobs), and Transportation & Warehousing (-22 jobs). In terms of individual sectors the fastest growing sector was Mining which more than doubled in employment between 2001 and 2014. The Bureau of Economic Analysis' 'Mining' category includes the oil and gas sector.

**Data Source:** U.S. Department of Commerce. 2015. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Table CA25.

Figure 14.  
Comparison of Average Earnings Per Job: 2000-2014  
(Adjusted for Inflation)



In addition to the number of jobs, the labor earnings associated with those jobs is an important consideration. Overall average earnings per job are a general measure of the economic well-being of the local workforce. Figure 14 illustrates the continuing problem that the Park County economy has with relatively low paying jobs. In 2000, the average earnings per job for the county were \$32,068, in 2010 dollars, which was 14 percent below the Wyoming average earnings per job (\$37,500) and 35 percent below the U.S. average earnings per job (\$49,417). From 2000 through 2014, after adjusting for inflation, county average earnings per job increased by 19 percent to \$38,305. Despite this increase, 2014 county average earnings per job were still 23 percent below the Wyoming average earnings per job (\$49,701) and 28 percent below the U.S. average earnings per job (\$53,247). One of the reasons for the lack of improvement in county average earnings per job may be that average earnings per job for self-employed individuals, which were the major source of job growth in the county from 2000 to 2014, fell from \$22,586 in 2000 to \$16,414 in 2014. The average earnings per job estimates in this section of the report include employer paid benefits for wage and salary jobs.

While county average earnings per job were 23 percent below the state average, the Wyoming Economic Analysis Division estimates that the county's cost-of-living for the second quarter of 2014 was 4 percent below the state average. This difference indicates that, on average, the county's workforce was economically somewhat worse-off than the rest of the state in 2014.

**Data Source:** U.S. Department of Commerce. 2015. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Table CA30.



**Figure 15.**  
**Average Earnings Per Job for Park County: 2014**

Sector	Park Jobs	Earnings (\$1,000)	Park AEPJ	Wyoming AEPJ
Utilities	68	\$6,530	\$96,029	\$116,682
Federal - Civilian	775	\$60,605	\$78,200	\$86,416
State Government	256	\$16,576	\$64,750	\$68,980
Transportation & Warehousing	420	\$27,143	\$64,626	\$75,391
Local Government	2,545	\$158,856	\$62,419	\$64,676
Mining (Includes Oil & Gas)	1,057	\$65,017	\$61,511	\$107,546
Wholesale Trade	380	\$21,432	\$56,400	\$76,551
Construction	1,772	\$92,393	\$52,141	\$61,261
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,745	\$90,781	\$52,023	\$49,360
Information	307	\$14,503	\$47,241	\$52,243
Manufacturing	767	\$33,278	\$43,387	\$69,972
Professional Services	964	\$37,826	\$39,239	\$53,439
Management Services	709	\$25,841	\$36,447	\$33,413
Other Services	1,037	\$31,115	\$30,005	\$35,066
Military	152	\$4,539	\$29,862	\$58,012
Retail Trade	2,257	\$65,833	\$29,168	\$30,633
Finance & Insurance	727	\$20,529	\$28,238	\$34,129
Accommodations & Food Service	2,369	\$56,200	\$23,723	\$25,044
Real Estate	882	\$16,462	\$18,664	\$29,840
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	659	\$10,737	\$16,293	\$14,410
Forestry, Fishing, & Ag Support	226	\$3,681	\$16,288	\$19,934
Educational Services	124	\$1,686	\$13,597	\$23,410
Agriculture	1,052	\$9,238	\$8,781	\$24,694
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,250</b>	<b>\$870,801</b>	<b>\$40,979</b>	<b>\$53,171</b>

Average earnings per job (AEPJ) can vary substantially by sector. In 2014 AEPJ in Park County ranged from over \$96,000 for the Utility sector to less than \$8,800 for Agriculture (Figure 15). After Utilities, the next highest AEPJ was in the Civilian Federal Government sector (\$78,200). Following those two sectors, State Government, Transportation & Warehousing, Local Government, and Mining all had AEPJ of greater than \$60,000. Of the 23 sectors in the county's economy only 7 had AEPJ greater than the Wyoming average (\$53,171) and only 6 had AEPJ greater than the U.S. average (\$56,965). The 7 sectors with AEPJ greater than the Wyoming average represent only 26 percent of the employment in the county and the 6 sectors with AEPJ greater than the U.S. average represent only 24 percent of the jobs in the county. The low AEPJ for the Agricultural sector was primarily due to a \$16.9 million loss in realized net income for the county's agricultural sector in 2014.

**Data Sources:** U.S. Department of Commerce. 2015. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Tables CA25 & CA5.

**Figure 16.**  
**Total Labor Earnings for Park County: 2014**

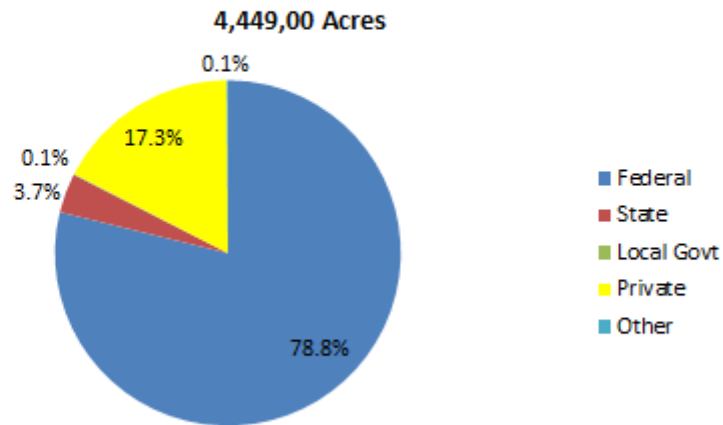
Sector	Jobs	AEPJ	Earnings (\$1,000)	Percent
Local Government	2,545	\$62,419	\$158,856	18.2%
Construction	1,772	\$52,141	\$92,393	10.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,745	\$52,023	\$90,781	10.4%
Retail Trade	2,257	\$29,168	\$65,833	7.6%
Mining (Includes Oil & Gas)	1,057	\$61,511	\$65,017	7.5%
Federal - Civilian	775	\$78,200	\$60,605	7.0%
Accommodations & Food Service	2,369	\$23,723	\$56,200	6.5%
Professional Services	964	\$39,239	\$37,826	4.3%
Manufacturing	767	\$43,387	\$33,278	3.8%
Other Services	1,037	\$30,005	\$31,115	3.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	420	\$64,626	\$27,143	3.1%
Management Services	709	\$36,447	\$25,841	3.0%
Wholesale Trade	380	\$56,400	\$21,432	2.5%
Finance & Insurance	727	\$28,238	\$20,529	2.4%
State Government	256	\$64,750	\$16,576	1.9%
Real Estate	882	\$18,664	\$16,462	1.9%
Information	307	\$47,241	\$14,503	1.7%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	659	\$16,293	\$10,737	1.2%
Agriculture	1,052	\$8,781	\$9,238	1.1%
Utilities	68	\$96,029	\$6,530	0.7%
Military	152	\$29,862	\$4,539	0.5%
Forestry, Fishing, & Ag Support	226	\$16,288	\$3,681	0.4%
Educational Services	124	\$13,597	\$1,686	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,250</b>	<b>\$40,979</b>	<b>870,801</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The combination of the number of jobs and the average earnings per job determines the relative importance of individual sectors in terms of total labor earnings in the Park County economy (Figure 16). Labor earnings are important because they represent the major source of personal income for county residents. Overall county employment generated \$871 million in labor earnings in 2014. Local Government, due to its large number of employees and relatively high average earnings per job, represents 18 percent of total county labor earnings. Following Local Government were Construction, and Health Care & Social Assistance both with more than 10 percent of total county labor earnings. Retail Trade, Mining, Civilian Federal Government and Accommodations & Food Service each represented around 7 percent of total county labor earnings. These 7 sectors combined represented 68 percent of total county labor earnings. Labor earnings in this section include employer paid benefits.

**Data Sources:** U.S. Department of Commerce. 2014. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Tables CA25 & CA5.

# **LAND CHARACTERISTICS**

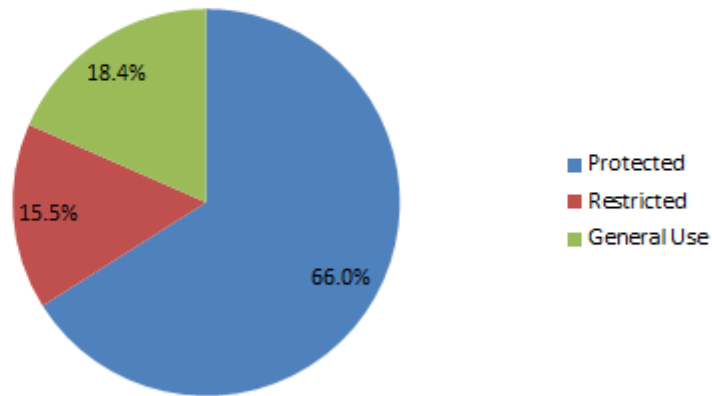
Figure 17.  
Land Ownership in Park County



Park County contains 4.4 million acres of land (Figure 17). Nearly 80 percent of this land (3.5 million acres) is under federal government management. Of this total, the Forest Service manages 48 percent, with the National Park Service managing 32 percent, the BLM managing 18 percent, and the Bureau of Reclamation managing 2 percent. State land amounts to 4 percent of the county's land area (163,260 acres). Ninety six percent of the state land area in the county is state trust land with the other 4 percent held by the Game and Fish Department. Finally, local government owns 0.1 percent of the county's land area (4,749 acres). Seventy-four percent of the local government land is held by cities, with the county holding 16 percent, and school district/colleges holding 10 percent. As a result of the large government land holdings in the county, only 17 percent of the county's land area is private (770,185 acres). Information from the Wyoming Department of Revenue on acres taxed as agricultural land indicates that 86 percent of the private land in the county is in agricultural use (666,232 acres). Of this total 83 percent is range land (554,899 acres) and 17 percent is irrigated cropland (111,333 acres).

**Data Source:** Wyoming Department of Administration and Information. 2015. Economic Analysis Division, Wyoming County Profiles 2015.

Figure 18.  
Management Designation of Federal Lands in Park County



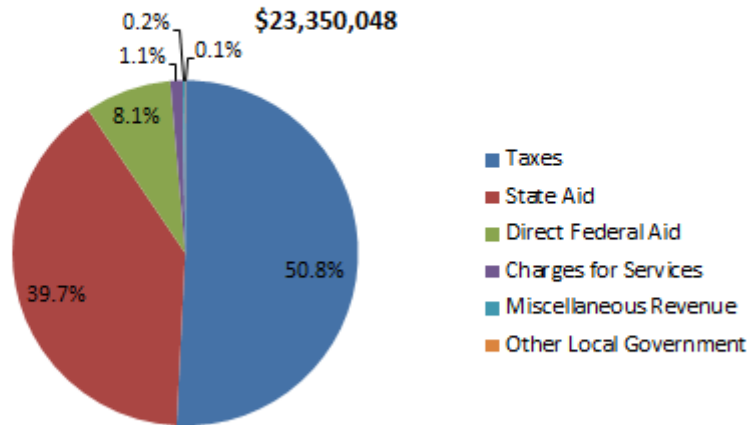
Federal lands are managed for different purposes under differing statutory authority. Three categories of designation are presented in Figure 18: 1) Protected, 2) Restricted., and 3) General Use. Protected areas include National Parks and Preserves (NPS), Wilderness (NPS, FWS, FS, BLM), National Conservation Areas (BLM), National Monuments (NPS, FS, BLM), National Recreation Areas (NPS, FS, BLM), National Wild and Scenic Rivers (NPS, FS, BLM), Water Fowl Protection Areas (FWS), Wildlife Management Areas (FWS), Research Natural Areas (FS, BLM), Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (BLM), and National Wildlife Refuges (FWS). Restricted areas include Wilderness Study Areas (NPS, FWS, FS, BLM) and Inventoried Roadless Areas (FS). General Use areas include Public Domain Lands (BLM) and National Forests and Grasslands (FS). This data was obtained from the Economic Profile System – Human Dimension Toolkit (NPS = National Park Service, FWS = Fish and Wildlife Service, FS = Forest Service, and BLM = Bureau of Land Management).

In Park County 66 percent of federal lands are designated as protected (2.2 million acres). This amount includes 1.1 million acres of Forest Service land that is designated as national wilderness (63 percent of total Forest Service land in the county). Also, 15 percent of federal lands are designated as restricted (514,812 acres) with only 18 percent designated for general use (609,961 acres). In comparison 65 percent of the total federal lands in Wyoming are designated for general use.

**Data Source:** Headwaters Economics. 2014. Economic Profile System-Human Dimension Toolkit, A Profile of Land Use (page 3).

# **County Government Finances**

Figure 19.  
Park County Government Revenue: FY2014

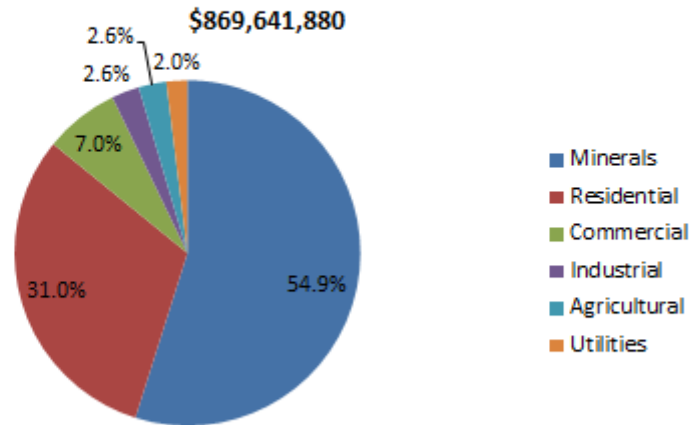


Wyoming Department of Audit information indicates that the total revenue for Park County Government was \$23.3 million in FY2014 (Figure 19). Of this total, the largest source was Taxes which included property taxes (51 percent). Following Taxes was State Aid which included the county’s share of the 4 percent sales and use tax revenue (40 percent) and Direct Federal Aid, including PILT payments (8 percent). Combined these three sources represented 99 percent of the total county government revenue in FY2014. Other sources of county government revenue included Charges for Services, Miscellaneous Revenue, and Other Local Government Revenue. Combined these smaller revenue sources represented 1 percent of the total county government revenue in FY2014.

Compared to all counties in Wyoming, the county had a slightly higher proportion of revenue from Taxes (51 percent vs. 50 percent). The county’s proportion of revenue from State Aid was substantially higher relative to all counties in the state (40 percent vs. 26 percent) and the proportion from Direct Federal Aid was higher relative to all counties in the state (8 percent vs. 6 percent). Other sources of revenue were lower compared to all other counties in the state in terms of Charges for Services (1 percent vs. 7 percent) and Miscellaneous Revenue (0.2 percent vs. 6 percent, and Other Local Government (0.1 percent vs. 5 percent). Overall, the county’s per capita revenue (\$805) was 37 percent below the average for all counties in Wyoming (\$1,285).

**Data Source:** Wyoming Department of Audit. 2014. Cost of Maintaining County Government in Wyoming: For Fiscal Year July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014: As prepared from Reports submitted to the Department of Audit Public Funds.

Figure 20.  
Park County Assessed Valuation: FY2015



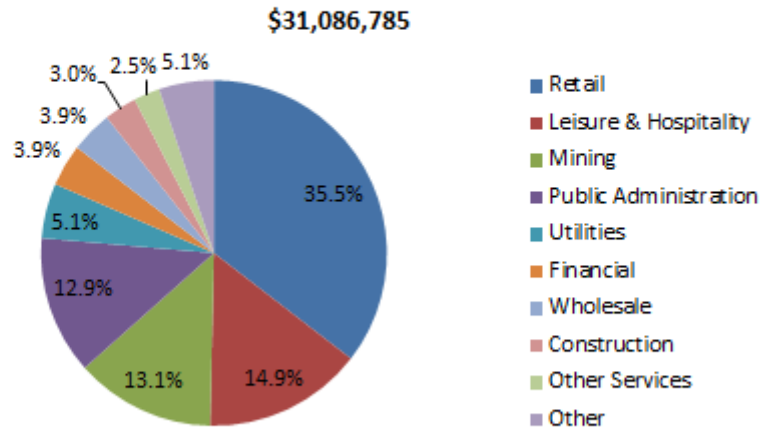
The total assessed valuation for Park County in 2015 was \$869.6 million (Figure 20). Fifty-five percent of the total valuation was from Mineral Production. Following minerals was Residential Property (31 percent) and Commercial Property (7 percent). Combined these three sources represented 93 percent of the county's total assessed valuation. Other sources of assessed valuation included Industrial Property (3 percent), Agricultural Lands (3 percent) and Utilities (2 percent). Combined these sources represented 7 percent of the county's assessed valuation.

Compared to Wyoming, the county had a lower proportion of assessed valuation from Mineral Production (55 percent vs. 60 percent). The county's proportion of assessed valuation from Residential Property was higher than Wyoming's (31 percent vs. 18 percent). The county's proportion of assessed valuation from Commercial Property was slightly higher than Wyoming's (7 percent vs. 5 percent). The county's assessed valuation for Commercial, Utilities, and Agricultural was lower than Wyoming's (7 percent vs. 15 percent). In terms of Mineral Production, crude oil represented 96 percent of total county mineral assessed valuation, natural gas represented 4 percent of total county mineral assessed valuation, and sand & gravel and gypsum represented less than 1 percent of total county mineral assessed valuation. In terms of Industrial Property, oil and gas extraction facilities represented 64 percent of total county industrial property assessed valuation. Overall, oil and gas production and the associated facilities represent 56 percent of the county's total assessed valuation. This concentration makes county government finances vulnerable to fluctuations in oil and gas prices.

**Data Sources:** Wyoming Department of Revenue. 2015. 2015 Annual Report.



Figure 21.  
Park County Sales & Use Tax Revenue: FY2015

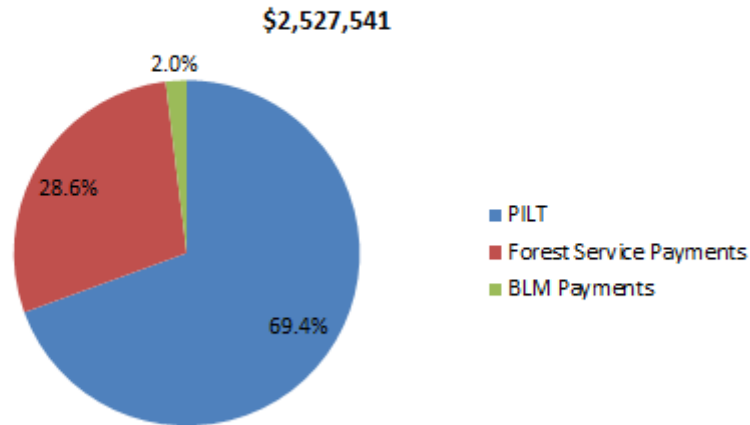


In FY2015 Park County’s sales and use tax generated \$31.1 million in sales and use tax revenue (Figure 21). Of this total, 69 percent (\$21.5 million) was retained by state government and 31 percent (\$9.6 million) was returned to local governments in the county. In FY2015 county government’s share of the returned sales and use tax revenue was approximately \$4.3 million (45 percent) with the remaining \$5.3 million (55 percent) going to municipal governments in the county. Thirty-five percent of the county’s total sales and use tax revenue came from Retail Trade. Following Retail Trade was Leisure & Hospitality (15 percent), Mining (13 percent), and Public Administration (13 percent). Combined these four sectors contributed 76 percent of the county’s total sales and use tax revenue. Public Administration represents sales and use tax revenue on motor vehicle purchases which are collected at the time of registration in Wyoming. Utilities, Financial, Wholesale, Construction, Other Services and Other represented a combined 24 percent of county sales and use tax revenue with Utilities, Financial, Wholesale, and Construction each accounting for 3 percent or more of total county sales and use tax revenue.

Compared to total sales and use tax revenue for Wyoming, the county had a substantially higher proportion of sales and use tax revenue from Retail Trade (35 percent vs. 27 percent). The county’s proportion of sales and use tax revenue from Leisure & Hospitality was also higher than Wyoming’s (15 percent vs. 9 percent). The proportion of county sales and use tax revenue from Mining was lower than Wyoming’s (13 percent vs. 23 percent) and the proportion from Public Administration was somewhat higher compared to Wyoming’s (13 percent vs. 10 percent).

**Data Sources:** Wyoming Department of Administration and Information, Economic Analysis Division. 2015. Wyoming Sales, Use, and Lodging Tax Revenue Report, 40<sup>th</sup> Edition.

Figure 22.  
Park County Federal Land Payment: FY2014



The Economic Profile System-Human Dimensions Toolkit indicates that federal land payments to local governments in Park County totaled \$2.5 million in FY2014 (Figure 22). The largest source of federal land payments to the county was Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) representing 69 percent of the total amount (\$2.1 million). PILT payments are intended to compensate county governments for non-taxable federal lands within their borders. It is based on a maximum per-acre payment reduced by other federal revenue sharing payments and subject to a per capita population cap. The second largest source of federal payments to the county was Forest Service payments representing 29 percent of the total amount (\$723,589). Forest Service payments can include 25 Percent Revenue Sharing funds, Secure Rural School & Community Self Determination Act funds, and Bankhead-Jones Forest Grasslands funds. The third largest source of federal payments to the county was BLM Payments representing 2 percent of the total amount (\$49,291). BLM payments represent revenue sharing funds including grazing fees through the Taylor Grazing Act. Of the \$2.5 million in Federal land payments to the county in FY2014, 84 percent went to county government (\$2.1 million), 12 percent went to local school districts (\$307,525), 2 percent went to grazing districts (\$46,798), and 2 percent went to Resource Advisory Councils (\$57,887). In FY2014 Federal Land Payments to the county represented \$0.49 per acre of eligible Federal land.

**Data Source:** Headwaters Economics. 2015. Economic Profile System-Human Dimension Toolkit, A Profile of Federal Land Payments (page 1).

**Figure 23.****Park County Government Costs, FY2014**

Costs	Amount	Percent	Per Capita
Road and Bridge	\$4,679,327	19.2%	\$161.42
Boards	\$4,022,523	16.5%	\$138.76
Jail	\$2,320,984	9.5%	\$80.06
County Sheriff	\$2,289,139	9.4%	\$78.97
Landfill	\$2,241,658	9.2%	\$77.33
County Administration	\$1,155,141	4.7%	\$39.85
County Attorney	\$978,655	4.0%	\$33.76
County Assessor	\$768,591	3.1%	\$26.51
County Clerk	\$664,217	2.7%	\$22.91
Distict Court	\$648,059	2.7%	\$22.36
County Treasurer	\$614,048	2.5%	\$21.18
Parks & Recreation	\$606,542	2.5%	\$20.92
Construction	\$527,640	2.2%	\$18.20
County Surveyor	\$509,234	2.1%	\$17.57
Health (Not Hospital)	\$456,868	1.9%	\$15.76
County Commissioners	\$442,188	1.8%	\$15.25
Social Services	\$370,000	1.5%	\$12.76
County Planner	\$328,095	1.3%	\$11.32
Civil Defense	\$252,905	1.0%	\$8.72
County Airport	\$125,546	0.5%	\$4.33
Juvenile Probation	\$113,802	0.5%	\$3.93
County Coroner	\$91,399	0.4%	\$3.15
Other	\$77,044	0.3%	\$2.66
Natural Resources	\$70,000	0.3%	\$2.41
Capital	\$40,924	0.2%	\$1.41
Justice or Circuit Court	\$35,603	0.1%	\$1.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,430,132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$842.74</b>

The total cost of maintaining county government for Park County in FY2014 was \$24.4 million (Figure 23). This represents a per capita cost of \$842.74 which was 22 percent below the average for all counties in Wyoming (\$1,083.35). The largest cost category was Road and Bridge (19 percent). The second largest category was funding for the Library and Fair Boards (16 percent), primarily the library, followed by the Jail, County Sheriff, and the Landfill each about 9 percent. The combined total of these five cost categories represents 64 percent of the total county budget.

**Data Source:** Wyoming Department of Audit. 2014. Cost of Maintaining County Government in Wyoming: For Fiscal Year July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014, As prepared from Reports submitted to the Department of Audit Public Funds

# **NATURAL RESOURCE BASED INDUSTRY PROFILES**

**Figure 24.**  
**Park County Mining Industry**

	Amount
<u>Mineral Production (2014)</u>	
Crude Oil (Barrels)	6,687,448
Natural Gas (MCF)	9,622,140
Sand, Gravel, Aggregate (Tons)	263,294
Gypsum (Tons)	80,076
<u>Tax Revenue (2014)</u>	
Assessed Valuation	\$496,650,937
Property Tax Revenue	\$34,902,162
<u>Employment (2013)</u>	
Full & Part-time Jobs	1,057
Labor Earnings	\$65,017,000
Average Earnings Per Job	\$61,511

In 2014, the 2,532 producing oil and gas wells in Park County produced 6.7 million barrels of crude oil and 9.6 million mcf of natural gas (Figure 24). The other major type of mineral production in the county was sand and gravel which produced 190,281 tons in 2014. There was also a small amount of gypsum production in the county during 2014. The mining industry in the county, including the associated industrial property, had an assessed valuation of \$496.6 million dollars in 2015 (2015 assessed valuation for mineral production is based on 2014 production). This valuation represented 57 percent of the total assessed valuation for the county. Based on a county levy of 70.2 mills the mineral industry generated \$34.9 million in property tax revenue in 2015. Of this total, 63 percent went to K-12 schools (\$21.9 million), 17 percent went to local county government (\$6.0 million), 13 percent went to county special districts (\$4.5 million), and 7 percent went to the Community College (\$2.5 million). Special districts in the county included: Hospital, Cemetery, Museum, and Conservation Districts. In 2014 the mining industry in the county supported 1,057 jobs with labor earnings of \$65.0 million. This represented 5 percent of total employment and 7 percent of total labor earnings in the county. The percent of total employment in mining for the county was 5 times the national percentage (0.9%). The average earnings per job for mining in the county were \$61,511 which was 1.5 times the county average (\$40,979). The mining industry ranked 6th out of 23 sectors in the county's economy in terms of total employment and 5th out of 23 sectors in terms of total labor earnings.

**Data Sources:** Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. 2014. OnLine Stats Book, 2014 County Report. Wyoming Department of Revenue. 2015. 2015 Annual Report, State Assessed Valuation: Production Year 2014. U.S. Department of Commerce. 2015. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Table CA25 & CA5.

**Figure 25.**  
**Park County Agricultural Industry**

	Amount
<u>Assets (2012)</u>	
Total Land in Agriculture (Acres)	813,152
Cattle Inventory (Head)	38,036
Sheep Inventory (Head)	11,144
Investment – Land, Buildings, Equipment	\$1,229,558,000
Property Taxes Paid	\$3,521,000
<u>Gross Revenue (2014)</u>	
	\$105,065,000
<u>Employment (2014)</u>	
Jobs	1,052
Labor Earnings	\$9,238,000
Average Earnings Per Job	\$8,781

In 2012 there were 860 agricultural operations in Park County. These operations managed 813,152 acres in the county (Figure 25). Included in this acreage is 83 percent of the private land in the county. Of the total land in agriculture, 83 percent is classified as grazing land, 13 percent as cropland, 2 percent as woodlands, and 2 percent as farmsteads and buildings. The average size of an agricultural operation in the county was 946 acres. The total cattle and sheep inventory in the county was 49,180 head including 38,036 head of cattle and calves and 11,144 head of sheep and lambs. In 2014, the county ranked 16<sup>th</sup> out of 23 counties in Wyoming in terms of cattle and calves inventory and 12<sup>th</sup> out of 23 counties in terms of sheep and lambs inventory. It also ranked 1st in sugar beet production, 5<sup>th</sup> in corn for grain production, 7<sup>th</sup> in alfalfa hay production, and 16<sup>th</sup> in other hay production. In terms of investment by agricultural operators, the estimated total market value of lands, buildings, and equipment for agriculture in the county was \$1.2 billion. This total included \$1.1 billion in land and buildings and \$90.7 million for equipment and machinery. The average investment per agricultural operation was \$1.4 million. In 2012 agricultural operations in the county paid \$3.5 million in property taxes.

The gross revenue for the agricultural industry in the county in 2014 was \$105.1 million. Of this total 37 percent was from cash receipts for livestock, 46 percent was from cash receipts for crops, 15 percent was from miscellaneous sources, and 2 percent was from government payments. Total employment for agriculture in 2014 was 1,052 jobs with labor earnings of \$9.2 million. This represented 5 percent of the total jobs in the county and 1 percent of the labor earnings. The percent of total employment in agriculture for the county was 3.5 times the national percentage (1.4 percent). The average earnings per job for agriculture in the county were \$8,781 which was 21 percent of the county average (\$40,979). The agriculture industry ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 23 sectors in the county's economy in terms of total employment and 19<sup>th</sup> out of 23 sectors in terms of total labor earnings. Average earnings per job in agriculture tend to be low because the employment data includes a large number of small part-time and

lifestyle operations that generate limited labor earnings. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data which is based on employment covered by unemployment insurance may be a better indicator of average earnings per job for commercial agricultural employment in the county. For 2014, BLS data indicates that the average earnings per job for agricultural employment in Park County was \$30,628.

In addition to jobs and income, agriculture also provides important natural resource amenities such as open space. Open space offers landscapes, lifestyles, and wildlife habitat that can have value to both residents and visitors. Open space is particularly important because it determines the character of the landscapes surrounding a community. Out of economic necessity, most agricultural operations in the county cover large areas of land; as a result, agriculture can contribute substantially to maintaining open spaces on private lands in a region. As noted above, 83 percent of the private land in county is in agricultural use. Due to the natural resource amenities associated with agricultural land there is public support for the retention of lands in agriculture. For example, a recent survey sponsored by the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy, and the University of Wyoming found that nearly 80 percent of Wyoming residents felt that they personally benefit from the presence of farms and ranches in Wyoming. In addition, 76 percent of respondents were concerned with the loss of family farms and ranches in the State. Other issues of serious concerns to respondents included the availability of water for farming and ranching (71 percent), and natural areas and ranchland being split up by new development (66 percent).

There have been only a few efforts to quantify the values of agricultural land amenities to residents and visitors in the West. Studies in Colorado have found that ranchland provides important economic benefits to both residents and visitors. Magnan et al. (2005) found that the natural environment, ranchlands, and western historical preservation were the three most important contributors to local quality of life in Routt County. The analysis indicated that the value of ranchlands to current Routt County residents in terms of quality of life is likely to be \$20-\$30 million. Ellingson et al. (2006) found that the natural environment, ranch open space, western historical preservation, and recreational amenities are local assets that strongly add to the summer visitors' experience in Routt County. The analysis indicated that 50 percent of Routt County's summer tourists would reduce their expenditures and time spent in the area if existing ranchlands were converted to urban uses. This reduction would cost the county about \$8 million per year in lost direct revenue. Oren and Seidl (2004) found that Gunnison's public open space and private working landscapes contribute to the quality of winter tourism in the area. Their analysis indicates that wholesale conversion of local ranchland to tourism infrastructure and second homes may reduce winter tourism by as much as 40 percent. The impact of such a change could reach \$14 million dollars and 350 jobs per year. While these economic estimates may not necessarily directly transferable to Park County, they do suggest that there may be significant amenity values associated with ranchlands in the county.

As a result of development pressures from an expanding population base in the West, there are concerns about the retention of agricultural lands as working landscapes. The American Farmland Trust (2002) identified 697,600 acres of "prime" ranchland in Park County and estimated that 334,080 acres (48 percent) could be converted to residential development by 2020. They defined prime ranchland as

private agricultural lands with desirable wildlife characteristics including 1) low rural development densities, 2) proximity to publicly owned lands, 3) year-round water availability, 4) mixed grass and tree cover, and 5) a high variety of vegetation classes. The county ranked 15th among all counties in the Western U.S. in terms of prime rangeland at risk of development.

There is evidence that there has actually been some change in ownership of agricultural lands in Park County. Travis et al. (2003) estimated that 107,320 acres of rangeland in the county change ownership in just eleven years (1990-2001). Traditional ranchers bought only 5 percent of these acres of rangeland (4,092 acres) with Amenity Buyers purchasing 74 percent (79,879 acres), Investors - 13 percent (14,221 acres), Developers - 5 percent (5,171 acres), Corporations - 1 percent (729 acres), Other Buyers - 1 percent (640 acres), and Unknown Buyers - 2 percent (1,760 acres). Although only 5 percent of rangeland was directly purchased by developers, the long-term resiliency of the other non-traditional rancher buyers is unknown. Also, since the analysis only considered rangeland sales of 400 acres or more, the amount of rangeland going to development may be understated since such conversions often involve smaller parcels. The authors note that this change in ownership may lead to instability in land tenure for rangelands in the region and raise concerns with the retention of land in agriculture in the county.

**Data Sources:** USDA. 2014. National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012 Census of Agriculture: Wyoming State and County Data, Volume 1, Geographic Series Part 50, AC-12-A-50, Table 1. County Summary Highlights: 2012 and Table 8. Farms, Land in Farms, Value of Land and Buildings, and Land Use: 2012 and 2007. U.S. Department of Commerce. 2015. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Local Area Personal Income & Employment, Tables CA45, CA25, & CA5. Freedman, K.S. and N.M. Koranta. 2014. Public Opinion on Natural Resource Conservation in Wyoming: Wyoming Open Space Initiative, Ruckelshaus Institute, A Division of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, UW Extension B-1258, October 2014. Magnan, N. A. Seidl, C.J. Mucklow, and D. Alpe. 2005. The Value of Rangeland to Routt County Residents, 1998-2005. Economic Development Report, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Fort Collins, CO, EDR 05-02, October 2005. Ellingson, L., A. Seidl, and C.J. Mucklow. 2006. Tourists' Value of Routt County's Working Landscape, 2005. Economic Development Report, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Fort Collins, CO, EDR 06-05, May 2006. Oren, A., A. Seidl. 2004. Winter Tourism and Land Development in Gunnison, Colorado. Economic Development Report, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Fort Collins, CO, EDR 04-10, August 2004. American Farmland Trust. 2002. Strategic Rangeland in the Rocky Mountain West: Mapping the Threats to Prime Rangeland in Seven Western States, American Farmland Trust, Washington D.C. Travis, W.R., H. Gosnell, and J. H. Haggerty. 2003. Summary Report: Rangeland Dynamics in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, A Report to Yellowstone Heritage, Center of the American West, University of Colorado at Boulder.



**Figure 26.**  
**Park County Travel Industry, 2014**

	Amount
Visitor Spending	\$316.6 Million
Employment	3,960 Jobs
Labor Income	\$88.4 Million
Average Earnings Per Job	\$22,323
Local Tax Revenue	\$4.3 million

Dean Runyan Associates estimates that visitors spent \$316.4 million while in Park County in 2014 (Figure 26). In terms of accommodations, 52 percent of this spending was by visitors staying in hotels/motels, 33 percent by visitors staying in campgrounds, 6 percent was by visitors staying in private homes, 2 percent was by visitors staying in vacation homes, and 7 percent was by visitors not staying overnight. In terms of purchases, 22 percent was spent on arts/entertainment/recreation, 22 percent was spent on food services, 19 percent was spent on accommodations, 19 percent was spent on retail sales, 9 percent was spent on local transportation & gas, 8 percent was spent at food stores, and less than one percent was spent for air transportation.

Dean Runyan estimated that the travel industry generated 3,960 direct jobs in the county in 2014. This represents 19 percent of total employment in the county. Nearly 50 percent of these jobs were in the accommodations and food service sector, 37 percent were in the arts/entertainment/recreation sector, and 14 percent were in the retail trade sector. The labor earnings associated with this employment was estimated to be \$88.4 million. This represents 10 percent of the total labor earnings for the county. Average earnings per job for the travel industry in the county for 2014 were \$22,323. Average earnings per job for the travel industry were 54 percent the county average (\$40,979).

The tax revenue associated with the county's travel industry is estimated to be \$11.3 million with \$4.3 million (38 percent) going to local government and \$7.0 million (62 percent) going to state government.

**Data Source:** Dean Runyan Associates. 2015. Wyoming Travel Impacts: 2000-2014, Prepared for Wyoming Office of Tourism, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

# **TABLES**

<b>Table 1. Population, 2000-2014</b>			
Year	Park	Wyoming	U.S.
2000	25,821	494,300	282,162,411
2001	25,696	494,657	284,968,955
2002	25,761	500,017	287,625,193
2003	25,988	503,453	290,107,933
2004	26,078	509,106	292,805,298
2005	26,372	514,157	295,516,599
2006	26,789	522,667	298,379,912
2007	27,209	534,876	301,231,207
2008	27,594	546,043	304,093,966
2009	28,008	559,851	306,771,529
2010	28,262	564,358	309,347,057
2011	28,467	567,631	311,721,632
2012	28,805	576,893	314,112,078
2013	29,154	583,223	316,497,531
2014	28,989	584,153	318,857,056
Change	3,168	89,853	36,694,645
Percent	12.3%	18.2%	13.0%
Source	Park	Wyoming	U.S.
Natural Increase	823	45,287	23,352,126
Net Migration	2,345	44,566	13,342,519
Total Change	3,168	89,853	36,694,645

Source: WY Department of A & I - Economic Analysis Division

**Table 2. Primary Reason for Moving to Park County, 2000-2014**

Reason	Number	Percent
Job Related	1,634	40.3%
Better Quality of Life	358	8.8%
Friends or Relatives	1,049	25.9%
Other	1,010	24.9%
Total	4,051	100.0%

Source: Wyoming Community Development Authority

<b>Table 3. Age of Population, 2014</b>						
				Park	Wyoming	U.S.
Age	Park	Wyoming	U.S.	Percent	Percent	Percent
Under 5	1,590	38,171	19,876,883	5.5%	6.5%	6.2%
5 to 17	4,343	100,152	53,706,735	15.0%	17.1%	16.8%
18 to 24	2,535	57,443	31,464,158	8.7%	9.8%	9.9%
25 to 44	6,321	152,555	84,029,637	21.8%	26.1%	26.4%
45 to 64	8,377	154,191	83,536,432	28.9%	26.4%	26.2%
65 and over	5,823	81,641	46,243,211	20.1%	14.0%	14.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,989</b>	<b>584,153</b>	<b>318,857,056</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Median Age	44.1	36.8	37.7			

Source: WY Department of A & I - Economic Analysis Division

<b>Table 4. Race of Population, 2014</b>						
				Park	Wyoming	U.S.
Race	Park	Wyoming	U.S.	Percent	Percent	Percent
White	27,719	541,596	246,660,710	95.6%	92.7%	77.4%
Black	329	9,112	42,158,238	1.1%	1.6%	13.2%
Native American	251	15,541	3,960,971	0.9%	2.7%	1.2%
Asian	246	5,821	17,339,053	0.8%	1.0%	5.4%
Pacific Islander	24	632	741,601	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Two or More	420	11,451	7,996,483	1.4%	2.0%	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,989</b>	<b>584,153</b>	<b>318,857,056</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Identity	Park	Wyoming	U.S.	Percent	Percent	Percent
Hispanic	1,676	57,065	55,387,539	5.8%	9.8%	17.4%
Non-Hispanic	27,313	527,088	263,469,517	94.2%	90.2%	82.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,989</b>	<b>584,153</b>	<b>318,857,056</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: WY Department of A & I - Economic Analysis Division

<b>Table 5. Per Capita Income, 2014</b>						
				Park	Wyoming	U.S.
Type	Park	Wyoming	U.S.	Percent	Percent	Percent
Net Earnings	\$25,341	\$31,821	\$29,577	53.2%	58.3%	64.2%
Transfer Payments	\$8,199	\$6,676	\$7,932	17.2%	12.2%	17.2%
Investment	\$14,084	\$16,087	\$8,541	29.6%	29.5%	18.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,624</b>	<b>\$54,584</b>	<b>\$46,050</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
	Deflated	Deflated	Deflated	Deflated	Deflated	Deflated
	Park	Park	Park	Park	Wyoming	U.S.
Year	Earnings	Tranfer	Investment	Total	Total	Total
2000	\$19,037	\$4,598	\$10,328	\$33,963	\$35,796	\$37,827
2001	\$20,732	\$4,980	\$10,420	\$36,132	\$37,146	\$38,118
2002	\$20,604	\$5,196	\$8,999	\$34,798	\$37,425	\$37,869
2003	\$20,982	\$5,296	\$8,909	\$35,187	\$38,979	\$38,152
2004	\$21,613	\$5,613	\$10,040	\$37,266	\$40,538	\$38,976
2005	\$21,581	\$5,868	\$10,777	\$38,226	\$43,096	\$39,508
2006	\$22,509	\$6,077	\$12,636	\$41,222	\$47,172	\$40,722
2007	\$22,998	\$6,249	\$12,030	\$41,276	\$47,321	\$41,410
2008	\$24,023	\$6,905	\$11,017	\$41,945	\$49,908	\$41,900
2009	\$22,763	\$7,320	\$9,272	\$39,355	\$43,680	\$39,857
2010	\$22,888	\$7,583	\$8,830	\$39,301	\$44,846	\$40,277
2011	\$23,847	\$7,544	\$11,081	\$42,472	\$48,146	\$41,594
2012	\$23,939	\$7,352	\$12,667	\$43,959	\$50,198	\$42,606
2013	\$23,316	\$7,504	\$12,356	\$43,177	\$49,117	\$42,143
2014	\$23,687	\$7,664	\$13,165	\$44,516	\$51,022	\$43,044
Change	\$4,650	\$3,066	\$2,837	\$10,553	\$15,225	\$5,216
Percent of Total	44.1%	29.1%	26.9%	100.0%	N.A.	N.A.
Percent Change	24.4%	66.7%	27.5%	31.1%	42.5%	13.8%
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis						

**Table 5a. Household Income, 2010-2014 (2014 Dollars)**

Income Level	Park	Wyoming	U.S.
Less Than \$10,000	3.7%	4.9%	7.2%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	3.0%	4.7%	5.3%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	9.1%	9.8%	10.7%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	11.7%	10.1%	10.2%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	15.7%	13.5%	13.5%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	21.8%	19.4%	17.9%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	16.5%	14.1%	12.2%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	13.3%	15.7%	13.0%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	2.8%	4.6%	5.0%
\$200,000 or More	2.4%	3.2%	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$67,802</b>	<b>\$72,367</b>	<b>\$74,596</b>

Source: WY Department of A & I - Economic Analysis Division

<b>Table 6. Educational Attainment Level, 2010-2014</b>						
Degree	Park	Wyoming	U.S.	Park Percent	Wyoming Percent	U.S. Percent
No High School Degree	1,298	29,345	28,431,634	6.4%	7.7%	13.6%
High School Graduate	5,860	112,043	58,535,716	28.9%	29.4%	28.0%
Some College	5,313	104,421	44,319,899	26.2%	27.4%	21.2%
Associate Degree	2,068	39,634	16,515,434	10.2%	10.4%	7.9%
Bachelor's Degree	3,569	64,024	38,257,272	17.6%	16.8%	18.3%
Graduate or Professional	2,170	31,631	22,996,174	10.7%	8.3%	11.0%
<b>Total Population 25 Yrs or Older</b>	<b>20,278</b>	<b>381,098</b>	<b>209,056,129</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
High School Degree or Higher	18,980	351,753	180,624,495	93.6%	92.3%	86.4%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	5,739	95,656	61,253,446	28.3%	25.1%	29.3%

Source: WY Department of A & I - Economic Analysis Division

<b>Table 7. Employment, 2000-2014</b>					
Year	Park W&S	Park SelfEmpl	Park Total	Wyoming Total	U.S. Total
2000	12,905	4,506	17,411	322,283	165,370,800
2001	13,021	4,840	17,861	328,624	165,519,200
2002	13,359	5,016	18,375	333,038	165,159,100
2003	13,594	5,021	18,615	335,584	166,026,500
2004	13,648	5,306	18,954	343,080	169,036,700
2005	13,733	5,508	19,241	353,738	172,557,400
2006	13,878	5,639	19,517	368,896	176,123,600
2007	14,189	6,077	20,266	386,979	179,885,700
2008	14,573	6,112	20,685	397,453	179,639,900
2009	14,240	6,236	20,476	385,819	174,233,700
2010	14,104	6,231	20,335	382,160	173,034,700
2011	14,413	6,199	20,612	387,124	176,278,700
2012	14,757	6,351	21,108	393,041	179,081,700
2013	14,439	6,541	20,980	396,381	182,390,100
2014	14,599	6,651	21,250	402,763	185,798,800
Percent Change 2000-2014	13.1%	47.6%	22.0%	25.0%	12.4%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Table 8. Park County Employment by Sector, 2014**

Sector	Jobs	Percent	LQ
Local Government	2,545	12.0%	1.59
Accommodations & Food Service	2,369	11.1%	1.54
Retail Trade	2,257	10.6%	1.05
Construction	1,772	8.3%	1.61
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,745	8.2%	0.73
Mining (Includes Oil & Gas)	1,057	5.0%	5.46
Agriculture	1,052	5.0%	3.48
Other Services	1,037	4.9%	0.83
Professional Services	964	4.5%	0.56
Real Estate	882	4.2%	0.95
Federal - Civilian	775	3.6%	2.43
Manufacturing	767	3.6%	0.52
Finance & Insurance	727	3.4%	0.65
Management Services	709	3.3%	0.53
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	659	3.1%	1.39
Transportation & Warehousing	420	2.0%	0.59
Wholesale Trade	380	1.8%	0.52
Information	307	1.4%	0.81
State Government	256	1.2%	0.42
Forestry, Fishing, & Ag Support	226	1.1%	2.11
Military	152	0.7%	0.67
Educational Services	124	0.6%	0.24
Utilities	68	0.3%	1.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,250</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis			



Sector	2001	2014	Change 2001-2014	Percent of Change	Percent Change
Mining (Includes Oil & Gas)	502	1,057	555	16.4%	110.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,212	1,745	533	15.7%	44.0%
Local Government	2,141	2,545	404	11.9%	18.9%
Real Estate	559	882	323	9.5%	57.8%
Construction	1,509	1,772	263	7.8%	17.4%
Management Services	454	709	255	7.5%	56.2%
Professional Services	719	964	245	7.2%	34.1%
Accommodations & Food Service	2,145	2,369	224	6.6%	10.4%
Other Services	912	1,037	125	3.7%	13.7%
Manufacturing	655	767	112	3.3%	17.1%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	567	659	92	2.7%	16.2%
Agriculture	979	1,052	73	2.2%	7.5%
Information	239	307	68	2.0%	28.5%
Forestry, Fishing, & Ag Support	162	226	64	1.9%	39.5%
Wholesale Trade	317	380	63	1.9%	19.9%
Educational Services	90	124	34	1.0%	37.8%
State Government	228	256	28	0.8%	12.3%
Utilities	47	68	21	0.6%	44.7%
Finance & Insurance	719	727	8	0.2%	1.1%
Military	146	152	6	0.2%	4.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	442	420	-22	-0.6%	-5.0%
Retail Trade	2,285	2,257	-28	-0.8%	-1.2%
Federal - Civilian	832	775	-57	-1.7%	-6.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,861</b>	<b>21,250</b>	<b>3,389</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>19.0%</b>
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis					

<b>Table 10. Average Earnings Per Job*, 2000-2014</b>			
	Deflated	Deflated	Deflated
Year	Park	Wyoming	U.S.
2000	\$32,068	\$37,500	\$49,417
2001	\$33,822	\$38,936	\$50,224
2002	\$32,807	\$39,420	\$50,514
2003	\$33,342	\$40,528	\$51,011
2004	\$33,907	\$41,171	\$51,710
2005	\$33,806	\$42,095	\$51,407
2006	\$35,788	\$45,011	\$51,783
2007	\$35,984	\$44,934	\$51,289
2008	\$37,271	\$47,675	\$51,634
2009	\$36,896	\$45,519	\$50,797
2010	\$37,874	\$47,087	\$51,873
2011	\$38,412	\$48,763	\$52,198
2012	\$38,291	\$48,988	\$52,887
2013	\$38,494	\$48,825	\$52,621
2014	\$38,305	\$49,701	\$53,247
Percent Change	19.4%	32.5%	7.8%
* Average earnings per job includes employer paid benefits			
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis			

	Park	Earnings	Park	Wyoming
Sector	Jobs	(\$1,000)	AEPJ	AEPJ
Utilities	68	\$6,530	\$96,029	\$116,682
Federal - Civilian	775	\$60,605	\$78,200	\$86,416
State Government	256	\$16,576	\$64,750	\$68,980
Transportation & Warehousing	420	\$27,143	\$64,626	\$75,391
Local Government	2,545	\$158,856	\$62,419	\$64,676
Mining (Includes Oil & Gas)	1,057	\$65,017	\$61,511	\$107,546
Wholesale Trade	380	\$21,432	\$56,400	\$76,551
Construction	1,772	\$92,393	\$52,141	\$61,261
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,745	\$90,781	\$52,023	\$49,360
Information	307	\$14,503	\$47,241	\$52,243
Manufacturing	767	\$33,278	\$43,387	\$69,972
Professional Services	964	\$37,826	\$39,239	\$53,439
Management Services	709	\$25,841	\$36,447	\$33,413
Other Services	1,037	\$31,115	\$30,005	\$35,066
Military	152	\$4,539	\$29,862	\$58,012
Retail Trade	2,257	\$65,833	\$29,168	\$30,633
Finance & Insurance	727	\$20,529	\$28,238	\$34,129
Accommodations & Food Service	2,369	\$56,200	\$23,723	\$25,044
Real Estate	882	\$16,462	\$18,664	\$29,840
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	659	\$10,737	\$16,293	\$14,410
Forestry, Fishing, & Ag Support	226	\$3,681	\$16,288	\$19,934
Educational Services	124	\$1,686	\$13,597	\$23,410
Agriculture	1,052	\$9,238	\$8,781	\$24,694
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,250</b>	<b>\$870,801</b>	<b>\$40,979</b>	<b>\$53,171</b>
* Average earnings per job includes employer paid benefits				
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis				

Sector	Jobs	AEPJ	Earnings (\$1,000)	Percent
Local Government	2,545	\$62,419	\$158,856	18.2%
Construction	1,772	\$52,141	\$92,393	10.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,745	\$52,023	\$90,781	10.4%
Retail Trade	2,257	\$29,168	\$65,833	7.6%
Mining (Includes Oil & Gas)	1,057	\$61,511	\$65,017	7.5%
Federal - Civilian	775	\$78,200	\$60,605	7.0%
Accommodations & Food Service	2,369	\$23,723	\$56,200	6.5%
Professional Services	964	\$39,239	\$37,826	4.3%
Manufacturing	767	\$43,387	\$33,278	3.8%
Other Services	1,037	\$30,005	\$31,115	3.6%
Transportation & Warehousing	420	\$64,626	\$27,143	3.1%
Management Services	709	\$36,447	\$25,841	3.0%
Wholesale Trade	380	\$56,400	\$21,432	2.5%
Finance & Insurance	727	\$28,238	\$20,529	2.4%
State Government	256	\$64,750	\$16,576	1.9%
Real Estate	882	\$18,664	\$16,462	1.9%
Information	307	\$47,241	\$14,503	1.7%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	659	\$16,293	\$10,737	1.2%
Agriculture	1,052	\$8,781	\$9,238	1.1%
Utilities	68	\$96,029	\$6,530	0.7%
Military	152	\$29,862	\$4,539	0.5%
Forestry, Fishing, & Ag Support	226	\$16,288	\$3,681	0.4%
Educational Services	124	\$13,597	\$1,686	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,250</b>	<b>\$40,979</b>	<b>870,801</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis				

<b>Table 12. Land Ownership in Park County</b>			
Owner	Acres	Percent of Total	Percent of Type
Forest Service	1,700,160	38.2%	48.5%
National Park Service	1,115,776	25.1%	31.8%
BLM	625,792	14.1%	17.8%
Bureau of Reclamation	64,704	1.5%	1.8%
<b>Total Federal</b>	<b>3,506,432</b>	<b>78.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
State Trust Lands	156,992	3.5%	96.2%
Recreation Commission	0	0.0%	0.0%
Fish & Game	6,268	0.1%	3.8%
<b>Total State</b>	<b>163,260</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
County	753	0.0%	15.9%
Cities	3,505	0.1%	73.8%
School Dist. & Colleges	491	0.0%	10.3%
<b>Total Local Government</b>	<b>4,749</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>770,185</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>4,374</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total Land Area</b>	<b>4,449,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Source: Wyoming County Profiles 2015

**Table 13. Acres of Taxable Agricultural Land in Park County**

Classification	Acres	Percent
Irrigated Lands	111,333	16.7%
Dry Farm Land	0	0.0%
Range Land	554,899	83.3%
<b>Total Taxable Ag Land</b>	<b>666,232</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue 2013 Annual Report

**Table 14. Management Designations of Federal Land in Park County**

Type	Acres	Percent
Protected	2,186,257	66.0%
Restricted	514,812	15.5%
General Use	609,961	18.4%
<b>Total Federal Lands</b>	<b>3,311,030</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Economic Profile System - Human Dimensions Toolkit

**Table 15. Park County Government Revenue, FY2014**

Source	Amount	Percent
Taxes	\$11,862,797	50.8%
State Aid	\$9,275,845	39.7%
Direct Federal Aid	\$1,885,861	8.1%
Charges for Services	\$268,504	1.1%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$44,597	0.2%
Other Local Government	\$12,444	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,350,048</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Wyoming Department of Audit

**Table 16. Park County Assessed Valuation, 2015**

Property Type	Amount	Percent
Minerals	\$477,136,880	54.9%
Residential Property	\$269,580,537	31.0%
Commercial Property	\$60,766,493	7.0%
Industrial Property	\$22,678,100	2.6%
Agricultural Lands	\$22,484,698	2.6%
Utilities	\$16,994,762	2.0%
<b>Total Valuation</b>	<b>\$869,641,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Crude Oil	\$457,646,852	95.9%
Natural Gas	\$17,925,636	3.8%
Gypsum	\$575,586	0.1%
Sand & Gravel	\$988,806	0.2%
<b>Total Minerals</b>	<b>\$477,136,880</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue

**Table 17. Park County Sales & Use Tax Revenue, FY2015**

Industry	Sales Tax	Use Tax	Sales & Use	Percent
Retail	\$10,685,601	\$338,089	\$11,023,690	35.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	\$4,538,748	\$90,713	\$4,629,461	14.9%
Mining	\$757,573	\$3,307,293	\$4,064,866	13.1%
Public Administration	\$2,610,695	\$1,414,723	\$4,025,418	12.9%
Utilities	\$1,560,159	\$39,740	\$1,599,899	5.1%
Financial	\$891,870	\$333,671	\$1,225,541	3.9%
Wholesale	\$1,090,867	\$120,682	\$1,211,549	3.9%
Construction	\$288,175	\$657,772	\$945,947	3.0%
Other Services	\$756,229	\$6,780	\$763,009	2.5%
Manufacturing	\$717,643	\$18,309	\$735,952	2.4%
Information	\$623,703	\$18,826	\$642,529	2.1%
Business Services	\$175,673	\$5,314	\$180,987	0.6%
Agr & Other	\$19,665	\$0	\$19,665	0.1%
Transportation	\$15,078	\$1,192	\$16,270	0.1%
Education & Health	\$1,453	\$549	\$2,002	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,733,132</b>	<b>\$6,353,653</b>	<b>\$31,086,785</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Wyoming Economic Analysis Division

**Table 18. Park County Federal Land Payments, FY2014**

Source	Amount	Percent
PILT	\$1,754,661	69.4%
Forest Service Payments	\$723,589	28.6%
BLM Payments	\$49,291	2.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,527,541</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Distributions	Amount	Percent
County Government	\$2,113,003	83.7%
Local School Districts	\$307,525	12.2%
Grazing Districts	\$46,798	1.9%
Resource Advisory Councils	\$57,887	2.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,525,213</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Economic Profile System - Human Dimension Toolkit

County Costs	Amount	Percent	Per Capita
Road and Bridge	\$4,679,327	19.2%	\$161.42
Boards	\$4,022,523	16.5%	\$138.76
Jail	\$2,320,984	9.5%	\$80.06
County Sheriff	\$2,289,139	9.4%	\$78.97
Landfill	\$2,241,658	9.2%	\$77.33
County Administration	\$1,155,141	4.7%	\$39.85
County Attorney	\$978,655	4.0%	\$33.76
County Assessor	\$768,591	3.1%	\$26.51
County Clerk	\$664,217	2.7%	\$22.91
Distict Court	\$648,059	2.7%	\$22.36
County Treasurer	\$614,048	2.5%	\$21.18
Parks & Recreation	\$606,542	2.5%	\$20.92
Construction	\$527,640	2.2%	\$18.20
County Surveyor	\$509,234	2.1%	\$17.57
Health (Not Hospital)	\$456,868	1.9%	\$15.76
County Commissioners	\$442,188	1.8%	\$15.25
Social Services	\$370,000	1.5%	\$12.76
County Planner	\$328,095	1.3%	\$11.32
Civil Defense	\$252,905	1.0%	\$8.72
County Airport	\$125,546	0.5%	\$4.33
Juvenile Probation	\$113,802	0.5%	\$3.93
County Coroner	\$91,399	0.4%	\$3.15
Other	\$77,044	0.3%	\$2.66
Natural Resources	\$70,000	0.3%	\$2.41
Capital	\$40,924	0.2%	\$1.41
Justice or Circuit Court	\$35,603	0.1%	\$1.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,430,132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$842.74</b>
Source: Wyoming Department of Audit			



<b>Table 20. Park County Mining Industry</b>	
<b>Mineral Production 2014</b>	
Type	Production
Oil (Barrels)	6,687,448
Gas (MCF)	9,622,140
Sand & Gravel (Tons)	190,281
Aggregate (Tons)	73,013
Gypsum (Tons)	80,076

Source: Wyoming Oil & Gas Conservation Commission & State Inspector of Mines of Wyoming

<b>Tax Revenue 2015 (2014 Production)</b>							
	Assessed	Percent	County	K-12	Special	Community	Total
	Valuation		Revenue	Revenue	Districts	College	Revenue
			(12.0 Mills)	(45.2 Mills)	(8.9 Mills)	(6.5 Mills)	(72.6 Mills)
Crude Oil	\$457,646,852	92.1%	\$5,491,762	\$20,195,544	\$4,185,608	\$2,288,234	\$32,161,149
Natural Gas	\$17,925,636	3.6%	\$215,108	\$791,042	\$163,947	\$89,628	\$1,259,725
Sand & Gravel	\$988,806	0.2%	\$11,866	\$43,635	\$9,044	\$4,944	\$69,488
Mining Facilities	\$19,514,057	3.9%	\$234,169	\$861,138	\$178,474	\$97,570	\$1,371,351
Bentonite	\$575,586	0.1%	\$6,907	\$25,400	\$5,264	\$2,878	\$40,449
<b>Total Minerals</b>	<b>\$496,650,937</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$5,959,811</b>	<b>\$21,916,759</b>	<b>\$4,542,337</b>	<b>\$2,483,255</b>	<b>\$34,902,162</b>
Percent			17.1%	62.8%	13.0%	7.1%	100.0%

Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue

<b>Employment 2014</b>			
	Mining	Total	Percent
			Mining
Jobs	1,057	21,250	5.0%
Labor Income	\$65,017,000	\$870,801,000	7.5%
Average Earnings/Job	\$61,511	\$40,979	150.1%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

<b>Table 21. Park County Agricultural Industry</b>				
<b>Physical Characteristics 2012</b>				
Land Use	Acres	Percent	Number of Farms	Average Size (Acres)
Total Cropland	109,878	13.5%		
Total Woodland	14,945	1.8%		
Grazing Land	673,413	82.8%		
Farmstead	14,916	1.8%		
<b>Total Land</b>	<b>813,152</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>946</b>
	<b>Cattle &amp; Calves</b>	<b>Sheep &amp; Lambs</b>	<b>Total Head</b>	
Inventory	38,036	11,144	49,180	
	<b>Land &amp; Buildings</b>	<b>Machinery &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Combined Investment</b>	
Market Value	\$1,138,896,000	\$90,662,000	\$1,229,558,000	
Average Per Farm	\$1,324,298	\$105,421	\$1,429,719	
Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture				
<b>Gross Revenue</b>				
Type	Amount	Percent		
Cash Receipts - Livestock	\$38,571,000	36.7%		
Cash Receipts - Crops	\$48,444,000	46.1%		
Government Payments	\$2,369,000	2.3%		
Miscellaneous Income	\$15,681,000	14.9%		
<b>Total Gross Revenue</b>	<b>\$105,065,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis				
<b>Employment</b>				
	Agriculture	County Total	Percent Agriculture	
Jobs	1,052	21,250	5.0%	
Labor Income	\$9,238,000	\$870,801,000	1.1%	
Average Earnings/Job	\$8,781	\$40,979	21.4%	
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis				