What we do

Engaged research institute
- aims to understand, analyze and inform economic development strategies
- focus on underserved regions and populations in Colorado
Who we are

www.CSUREDI.org
Who we are

Meet the Team

19 research associates
From 8 dept. / units

Stephan Weiler
Professor of Economics
stephan.weiler@colostate.edu
Website

Dawn Thilmany
Professor of Agricultural Economics
Dawn.Thilmany@ColoState.edu
Website
www.CSUREDI.org

May 2023

This report highlights the relative importance of federal procurement spending in the private sector across different regions of Colorado. Several Colorado counties receive a significant amount (over $3,000 per capita a year) of federal spending. The reduction in federal spending from the Budget Control Act of 2011 led to a decline of approximately 10,000 jobs and an increase in unemployment and demands on the social safety net....

Read REDI Report

Economic wins and losses from reintroducing wolves in Colorado

April 2023

Benjamin Ghasemi, Dana L. Hoag, Jesse Burkhardt, Robin Young

Wolves

In 2020, Coloradans narrowly voted, 51-49%, to reintroduce wolves in late. We estimate that the benefits to yes-voters are about $115 million/year, likely more than 50 times government spending for those that will experience losses. Almost 90% of the benefits fall in the Front Range, where very few people will ever encounter a wolf, while about 4% fall on the Western Slope, where almost all costs occur....

Read REDI Report
The BCA of 2011 raised the debt ceiling by $900 billion, but was coupled with $917 billion in cuts over the subsequent 10 years. These cuts impacted many Colorado firms. Figure 2 shows the changes in contracts per capita for counties in the state. While firms often try to court government contracts to bolster their business, nonetheless, it creates challenges when those contracts dry up. The spending cuts in the mid-2010s give us a case study on the economic impacts to Coloradans from a reduction in government contracts and provide insights into how Colorado might be impacted by future cuts or caps to discretionary federal spending.

![Figure 2: Cuts in Procurement Spending by County, 2011-2017](image)

Note: Areas shaded in gray saw slight increases in federal procurement in this time period.

The reduction in spending primarily impacted the demand for the goods and services, and subsequently the labor market. Table 1 shows that almost 10,000 jobs were lost in the most affected areas in Colorado with over half of that centered in the Boulder and Colorado Springs MSAs. This translated to 6,000 more Coloradans unemployed.

Due to the employment losses there was substantial increase in demand for social safety net programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It is helpful to view a prospective disruption in the context of current economic conditions. While in early 2023 the labor market has remained strong, nonetheless, elevated interest rates coupled with a decrease in federal spending could lead to a contraction.

Table 1. Estimated Economic Impact on Colorado from the Budget Control Act of 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>SNAP increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulder MSA</td>
<td>-1,284</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>1,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Springs MSA</td>
<td>-3,847</td>
<td>1,997</td>
<td>3,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>-9,902</td>
<td>5,968</td>
<td>6,173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimating the costs and benefits of wolf reintroduction
(Note Robin Young is one of the authors)

- Amendment 114 in 2020
- Diffuse benefits and concentrated costs
- Benefits of $115 million (existence or “warm-glow” value)
- Costs are not less well-known, approximately $2 million
Economic Model
Economic Model
Economic Model
Economic Model
Economic Model

Mesa County Change in Coefficient of Specialization
EDA Region and Colorado Included for Comparison

Coefficient of Specialization (On Scale from 0 to 1)

Year

2001 2019

Mesa County
Allied
Colorado

0.107 0.144 0.215
0.159 0.19
0.089
Economic Model

Personal Income by Major Component in Mesa County
From 1969 to 2020 in Millions of Nominal USD

Component: Investment Income, Resident Earnings, Transfer Payments
Economic Model

Mesa County to US Non-Employer Statistics
Receipts/Establishment Growth vs. Location Quotient Matrix

Establishment Location Quotient (US Base)


Transport & Warehouse: $50,189
Ed Stat Svcs: $10,551
Admin. & Waste Svcs: $20,931
Wholesale Trade: $74,346
HC & Soc. Assist: $31,504
Construction: $71,806
RE, Rental & Lease: $83,030
Retail Trade: $35,119
Other Svcs, ex Pub. Admin.: $29,712
Fin. & Insurance: $59,151
Prof. & Tech Svcs: $33,994
Arts, Entertain. & Rec.: $17,383
Accom. & Food Svcs: $35,511
Manufacturing: $51,375
Economic Model
Economic Model

Mesa County Resident Worker Surplus/(Deficit)
By Industry [NAICS 2-digit Sectors]

Resident Surplus/(Deficit)
Economic Model
Economic Model

Rental Housing Affordability in Mesa County
Gross Rent As a Percentage of Income (GRAPI)

Latest ACS Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Burdened</th>
<th>Near-Burdened</th>
<th>Unburdened</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>9,796</td>
<td>4,451</td>
<td>4,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>52.04%</td>
<td>24.31%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>6,848</td>
<td>4,576</td>
<td>3,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46.69%</td>
<td>24.31%</td>
<td>26.83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Rental Housing Units

GRAPI Range: Burdened, Near-Burdened, Unburdened
Mortgaged Housing Affordability in Mesa County
Selected Monthly Owner Costs As Percentage of Income (SMOCAPI)

Latest ACS Year

2019
- Burdened: 8,228 (29.3%)
- Near-Burdened: 7,825 (27.9%)
- Unburdened: 12,018 (42.8%)

2010
- Burdened: 10,469 (36.1%)
- Near-Burdened: 8,618 (29.8%)
- Unburdened: 9,874 (34.1%)
1. Non-employer bubble graphs
2. Employer bubble graphs
3. Establishment dynamism
4. Jobs dynamism
5. Coefficient of specialization
6. Labor productivity
7. Personal income by major component
8. Housing affordability
9. Commuting flows

Ideas and suggestions welcome!
REDI adjacent grants and resources

- EDA University Center
- USDA Region Food Business Center
Planning and Technical Support to Diversify Economic Opportunities in Colorado

This EDA funded project covers three distinct regions in Colorado, including those that are historically economically distressed, and more recently, impacted by the economic disruptions of COVID-19. This work represents collaborations with partners in each of the regions who help identify current technical assistance needs of their communities and regions that strategically target sectors that offer promise as recovery pathways for the region.
EDA University Center overview

Collaboration team
- REDI, OEE, and I4E
- $750,000 grant over 5 year starts Jan 2024

Key focus areas
- Applied research, technical assistance and information dissemination

Service area
- Entire state of Colorado
- Primary focus on underserved rural and mountain communities
EDA University Center scope of work

1. **Enhancing Colorado-focused applied research**
   (1) examining regional interdependency within clusters and across the spatial landscape
   (2) workforce housing analysis
   (3) analyzing, organizing and sharing regional data
   (4) identifying the features of state, local and regional economies that support recovery, resiliency and economic growth including affordable housing policy and special economic districts
   (5) aiding in mitigating poverty and economic inequality

2. **Provide technical assistance through educational programming and direct community support**
   (1) individual-level (I4E activities)
   (2) municipal / regional-level (REDI)
EDA University Center scope of work

3. Infuse and disseminate information generated by our applied research and exchanges with practitioners and community members.
(1) organizing and sharing regional data tools by expanding our REDI Economic Indicator Reports, policy briefs, and other resources.
(2) presentations to local stakeholders at conferences and webinars
(3) technical reports
(4) workforce housing analysis
(5) professional publications infused by UC projects
(6) media interviews
(7) bi-annual newsletters
EDA University Center Team

Campus

Komarek
Hill
Miller
Alves Pena
Shrake
Rhodes

Extension

Didero
Wilkins
Engell
USDA Regional Food Business Centers Geographic Regions

Northwest
Colorado State University and Oregon State University
The NW and Rocky Mountain Food Business Center will provide foundational business development support for small and mid-sized food and agriculture businesses participating in local and regional food sectors, focusing on these four high priority areas:

1. Supporting **animal protein supply chains** that respond more nimbly to changes in demand or supply
2. Assisting **food entrepreneurs** in successfully entering local, regional or national markets
3. Expanding and diversifying markets for **climate resilient agricultural** products
4. Supporting **right-sized, appropriately targeted investment** in food value chain infrastructure to enhance business success and long-term viability
ACTIVITIES

**Coordination**
- Cultivate and coordinate partnerships across diverse organizations and regional initiatives
- Serve as a state/regional resource and capacity building hub for federal grants and programs

**Technical Assistance**
- Engage TA providers to support thematic needs and business development programs
- Support diverse activities and outcomes with emphasis on value chain and coordination, scaling up small/mid-tier operations and one-on-one assistance

**Capacity Building**
- Implement Business Builder Awards to build capacity among under-invested operations
- Expand supply chain professional development and strategy for thematic and regional market leaders
COLORADO TEAM ROLES

Dawn Thilmany, Co-PI, CSU Lead
Becca Jablonski, Data and Evaluation Lead
Martha Sullins, Center Program Manager

Animal Protein: Tommy Bass (MSU) and Rebecca Thistlethwaite (NMPAM)
Climate Resilient Ag: Colette DePhelps (UoI) with Martha Sullins (CSU, interim)
Food Entrepreneurs: Sarah Mason (OSU) and Ashley Colpaart (Food Corridor)
Investment: Sydney DeLuna (Oregon Food Hub) and Amy Mattias (Sun Valley Institute)

Regional Leads

Underserved Stakeholder Groups

Theme Leads

State Leads

Libby Christensen, CSU State Co-Lead
Brian Coppom, CDA, State Co-Lead

- AgrAbility
- AgWell
- Hunger Free Colorado
- Good Food Collective
- SLV Local Foods Coalition
- Valley Food Partnership
- Focus Points/Comal
- Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger
- Nourish
- Community Ag Alliance
- School Districts
- Veterans for Farmers
- Fort Lewis University
- ...but we are just getting started!
2024 Winter Fancy Food Show

We're headed back to Las Vegas in 2024 for the 48th Winter Fancy Food Show! Join us Sunday, January 22 through Tuesday, January 24 at the Las Vegas Convention Center West Hall to discover new products, network with industry's best and brightest, learn about innovations and trends, and get business done! Mark your calendars and join thousands of your industry peers for the 2024 Winter Fancy Food Show.
NEXT STEPS

- Get Connected!
  - Sign up for email communications: https://col.st/u6pAT
  - Colorado Food Summit in December at SPUR
    - https://nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com/event/colorado-food-summit/
  - Bookmark our website: https://nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com/
  - Connect us with who you think needs to help us set priorities, engagement project, direct initiatives and invest resources.
    - Colorado - Libby Christensen at libby.christensen@colostate.edu
    - Program - Martha Sullins at martha.sullins@colostate.edu
    - Regionwide - Dawn Thilmany at dawn.thilmany@colostate.edu
Working with OEE going forward