DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHANGE IN THE RRCC SERVICE AREA, 2000-2010
Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness – December 28, 2012

The following research brief concerns demographic changes in the RRCC service area over the past ten years. It will also present the College's current demographic environment. The tables presented in the paper are a series of tools that can be used for environmental scanning and planning, both now and in the future. The analysis that accompanies each table will suggest what the data mean for RRCC. Hopefully, both the tables and analysis will prompt additional observations and questions. Please contact me if you have additional data needs as a result of this study.

Table 1
State, Metropolitan, and Service Area Population Change

	2000 Population	2010 Population	# Change	% Change
Colorado	4,301,261	5,029,196	727,935	16.9%
Denver Metropolitan Area[1]	2,109,282	2,489,661	380,379	18.0%
Clear Creek County	9,322	9,088	-234	-2.5%
Gilpin County	4,757	5,441	684	14.4%
Jefferson County[2]	527,056	534,543	7,487	1.4%
Park County	14,523	16,206	1,683	11.6%
Central Jefferson County	23,952	24,390	438	1.8%
Golden Area Jefferson County	29,997	35,260	5,263	17.5%
Northeast Jefferson County	450,166	450,008	-158	0.0%
South Jefferson County	22,941	24,885	1,944	8.5%
Arvada city, Colorado	102,505	106,433	3,928	3.8%
Edgewater city, Colorado	5,287	5,170	-117	-2.2%
Golden city, Colorado	17,411	18,867	1,456	8.4%
Lakewood city, Colorado	144,089	142,980	-1,109	-0.8%
Wheat Ridge city, Colorado	33,015	30,166	-2,849	-8.6%

[1] Denver Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area

[2] The RRCC service area contains most but not all of Jefferson County. Small portions on the southeast and northeast are in other college service areas. Since all major communities in Jefferson County are in the RRCC service area, and the sections outside the RRCC service area in Jefferson County are small, this study will use data for Jefferson County as a whole.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and American Fact Finder (American Community Survey Intercensal Estimates)

Table 1 gives three different views of population change in the RRCC service area. The four counties are given first followed by Jefferson County subdivisions and major municipalities within Jefferson County. If we examine the county data, the service area seems to have been relatively stable over the past ten years when compared to the Denver metropolitan area and Colorado as a whole. However, a more focused look at the county subdivisions and the municipalities show that, within the apparent overall stability at the county level, the RRCC service area has been undergoing major change over the past ten

years. The following sections of this study will examine those changes using the three views of the service area.

A few notes on the Jefferson County Subdivisions will be helpful at this point. The four subdivisions are formal geographic units set by the U.S. Census Bureau in coordination with Jefferson County officials. The approximate boundaries of the four Jefferson Census County Divisions (CCDs) are as follows.

- Central
  - o On the north, a line running south of Genesee to the Lakewood city limits.
  - o On the east, a line following C470 to US 285, and then running west of Aspen Park to the Park County line.
  - o On the south, the Park County line.
  - o On the west, the Clear Creek and Park County lines.
- Golden Area
  - o On the north, the Boulder County line.
  - o On the east, the Wheat Ridge/ Arvada/Lakewood city limits.
  - o On the south, the city limits of Genesee.
  - o On the west, the Gilpin County line.
- Northeast
  - o On the north, the Boulder and Broomfield County lines.
  - o On the east, the Adams/Denver County line.
  - o On the south, a line following the Lakewood and Morrison city limits.
  - o On the west, a line following C470 through Wheat Ridge/ Arvada/Lakewood city limits.
- South
  - o On the north, a line from Aspen Park through the Morrison/Lakewood city limits.
  - o On the east, the Arapahoe and Douglas County lines.
  - o On the south, the Park County line.
  - o On the west, the Park County line.

Just as Jefferson County contains most of the service area population (94.6% in 2010), the Northeast county subdivision is the most heavily urbanized and holds the majority of the population in Jefferson County (79.6% in 2010). The Golden county subdivision and Golden city had the largest growth rates between 2000 and 2010. Arvada city had the largest absolute numerical growth in population. The population of Edgewater city, Lakewood city, and Wheat Ridge city all declined in population.

In Fall 2011, 75.2% of RRCC enrollment came from Jefferson County and 2.6% of enrollment came from Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Park counties. Within Jefferson County, Fall 2011 enrollment was more evenly distributed from the four subdivisions than one might guess from the 2010 Census distribution.

County Subdivision	2010 Total Population	Fall 2011 RRCC Enrollment from Jefferson County
Central	24,390 (4.6%)	851 (11.9%)
Golden	35,260 (6.6%)	1,866 (26.0%)
Northeast	450,008 (84.2%)	3,652 (50.9%)
South	24,885 (4.6%)	805 (11.2%)

Just as the population density and population change varies within the counties, so does the educational attainment of the population. Jefferson County has the highest percentage of the population with no

postsecondary credential. The Northeast subdivision has the highest percentage with no postsecondary credential in Jefferson County. The service area municipalities closest to the core metropolitan area, Edgewater and Wheat Ridge, have the highest proportion of their population with no postsecondary credential

Table 2
Educational Attainment - RRCC Service Area Counties
2010 Population Aged 25 Years and Older

	No Postsecondary Credential		Two-year Degree		Four-year Degree		Graduate or Professional Degree	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Denver Metropolitan Area[1]	896,953	55.1%	118,344	7.3%	399,863	24.5%	213,995	13.1%
Clear Creek County	3,657	52.6%	515	7.4%	1,755	25.3%	1,022	14.7%
Gilpin County	2,444	60.5%	491	12.2%	614	15.2%	491	12.2%
Jefferson County[2]	191,556	51.5%	30,872	8.3%	97,080	26.1%	52,446	14.1%
Park County	6,894	56.6%	1,169	9.6%	2,777	22.8%	1,340	11.0%
Central Jefferson County	5,377	32.4%	1,494	9.0%	5,510	33.2%	4,215	25.4%
Golden Area Jefferson County	9,000	38.9%	1,388	6.0%	7,126	30.8%	5,622	24.3%
Northeast Jefferson County	171,045	56.1%	24,391	8.0%	73,784	24.2%	35,672	11.7%
South Jefferson County	5,832	32.5%	1,328	7.4%	6,711	37.4%	4,074	22.7%
Arvada city, Colorado	41,976	58.7%	5,792	8.1%	16,161	22.6%	7,580	10.6%
Edgewater city, Colorado	2,466	74.2%	140	4.2%	495	14.9%	223	6.7%
Golden city, Colorado	5,045	42.8%	719	6.1%	3,548	30.1%	2,475	21.0%
Lakewood city, Colorado	57,451	58.3%	7,194	7.3%	22,271	22.6%	11,628	11.8%
Wheat Ridge city, Colorado	14,482	65.2%	1,621	7.3%	4,020	18.1%	2,088	9.4%

[1] Denver Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area

[2] The RRCC service area contains most but not all of Jefferson County. Small portions on the southeast and northeast are in other college service areas. Since all major communities in Jefferson County are in the RRCC service area, and the sections outside the RRCC service area in Jefferson County are small, this study will use data for Jefferson County as a whole.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and American Fact Finder (American Community Survey Intercensal Estimates)

The population of the RRCC service area aged at a faster rate between 2000 and 2010 than either Colorado or the Denver Metropolitan Area. The 19 and younger age group in Jefferson County declined by 9.6% while the 60 years or older age group increased by 43.5%. Over the past decade the median age for Jefferson County increased by 3.6 years from 36.8 to 40.4. Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Park counties also showed the same trends as did the Jefferson County cities. Arvada, Golden, and Lakewood increased residents aged 60 years or more by 6.5%, 5.9%, and 3.6% respectively. The only cities whose median age increased less than the Denver Metropolitan Area were Edgewater and Golden.

Table 3
Change in Population by Age
RRCC Service Area Counties

2010	Total population Number	%	19 Years and Younger		20 to 34 Years		35 to 59 Years		60 Years and Older		Median age (years)
Colorado	5,029,196	100	1,364,692	27.1%	1,074,893	21.4%	1,770,706	35.2%	818,905	16.3%	36.1
Denver Metropolitan Area[1]	2,489,661	100	679,678	27.3%	540,256	21.7%	901,257	36.2%	368,470	14.8%	35.6
Clear Creek County	9,088	100	1,724	19.0%	1,221	13.4%	4,214	46.4%	1,929	21.2%	46.6
Gilpin County	5,441	100	1,032	19.0%	737	13.5%	2,697	49.6%	975	17.9%	45.6
Jefferson County[2]	534,543	100	132,544	24.8%	97,216	18.2%	204,248	38.2%	100,535	18.8%	40.4
Park County	16,206	100	3,391	20.9%	1,869	11.5%	7,604	46.9%	3,342	20.6%	46.9

2000	Total population Number	%	19 Years and Younger		20 to 34 Years		35 to 59 Years		60 Years and Older		Median age (years)
Colorado	4,301,261	100	1,224,668	28.5%	970,265	22.6%	1,545,670	35.9%	560,658	13.0%	34.3
Denver Metropolitan Area[1]	2,109,282	100	596,927	28.3%	489,353	23.2%	765,669	36.3%	257,332	12.2%	34.1
Clear Creek County	9,322	100	2,270	24.4%	1,471	15.8%	4,527	48.6%	1,054	11.3%	40.2
Gilpin County	4,757	100	1,077	22.6%	981	20.6%	2,287	48.1%	412	8.7%	38.3
Jefferson County[2]	527,056	100	146,555	27.8%	101,184	19.2%	209,239	39.7%	70,078	13.3%	36.8
Park County	14,523	100	3,690	25.4%	2,094	14.4%	7,087	48.8%	1,652	11.4%	40.0

Change 2000-2010	Total population Number	% Change	19 Years and Younger Number	% Change	20 to 34 Years Number	% Change	35 to 59 Years Number	% Change	60 Years and Older Number	% Change	Median age (years)
Colorado	727,935	16.9%	140,024	11.4%	104,628	10.8%	225,036	14.6%	258,247	46.1%	1.8
Denver Metropolitan Area[1]	380,379	18.0%	82,751	13.9%	50,903	10.4%	135,588	17.7%	111,138	43.2%	1.5
Clear Creek County	-234	-2.5%	-546	-24.1%	-250	-17.0%	-313	-6.9%	875	83.0%	6.4
Gilpin County	684	14.4%	-45	-4.2%	-244	-24.9%	410	17.9%	563	136.7%	7.3
Jefferson County[2]	7,487	1.4%	-14,011	-9.6%	-3,968	-3.9%	-4,991	-2.4%	30,457	43.5%	3.6
Park County	1,683	11.6%	-299	-8.1%	-225	-10.7%	517	7.3%	1,690	102.3%	6.9

[1] Denver Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area

[2] The RRCC service area contains most but not all of Jefferson County. Small portions on the southeast and northeast are in other college service areas. Since all major communities in Jefferson County are in the RRCC service area, and the sections outside the RRCC service area in Jefferson County are small, this study will use data for Jefferson County as a whole.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and American Fact Finder (American Community Survey Intercensal Estimates)

Table 4
Change in Age Groups 2000 - 2010
RRCC Service Area Municipalities

2010 Age	Arvada	%	Edgewater	%	Golden	%	Lakewood	%	Wheatridge	%
19 or Less	27,275	25.6%	1,352	26.2%	4,652	24.7%	33,358	23.3%	6,191	20.5%
20-24 Years	5,836	5.5%	387	7.5%	2,444	13.0%	10,299	7.2%	1,603	5.3%
25 - 34	12,597	11.8%	1,077	20.8%	2,601	13.8%	20,414	14.3%	4,092	13.6%
35-59	39,257	36.9%	1,623	31.4%	6,356	33.7%	50,049	35.0%	10,856	36.0%
60 or more	21,468	20.2%	731	14.1%	2,814	14.9%	28,860	20.2%	7,424	24.6%
Total	106,433	100.0%	5,170	100.0%	18,867	100.0%	142,980	100.0%	30,166	100.0%
Median Age	40.5		32.5		33.9		39.2		43.7	

2000 Age	Arvada	%	Edgewater	%	Golden	%	Lakewood	%	Wheatridge	%
19 or Less	29496	28.8%	1377	26.0%	4791	27.5%	35393	24.6%	7599	23.0%
20-24 Years	5639	5.5%	486	9.2%	1914	11.0%	10527	7.3%	1813	5.5%
25 - 34	12420	12.1%	1105	20.9%	2650	15.2%	22244	15.4%	4293	13.0%
35-59	40127	39.1%	1634	30.9%	6277	36.1%	52289	36.3%	11570	35.0%
60 or more	14823	14.5%	685	13.0%	1779	10.2%	23636	16.4%	7740	23.4%
Total	102,505	100.0%	5,287	100.0%	17,411	100.0%	144,089	100.0%	33,015	100.0%
Median Age	37.1		31.8		32.4		36.8		40.2	

% Change 2000 - 2010 Age	Arvada	%	Edgewater	%	Golden	%	Lakewood	%	Wheatridge	%
19 or Less	-2,221	-2.2%	-25	-0.5%	-139	-0.8%	-2,035	-1.4%	-1,408	-4.3%
20-24 Years	197	0.2%	-99	-1.9%	530	3.0%	-228	-0.2%	-210	-0.6%
25 - 34	177	0.2%	-28	-0.5%	-49	-0.3%	-1,830	-1.3%	-201	-0.6%
35-59	-870	-0.8%	-11	-0.2%	79	0.5%	-2,240	-1.6%	-714	-2.2%
60 or more	6,645	6.5%	46	0.9%	1,035	5.9%	5,224	3.6%	-316	-1.0%
Total	3,928	3.8%	-117	-2.2%	1,456	8.4%	-1,109	-0.8%	-2,849	-8.6%
Median Age	3.4		0.7		1.5		2.4		3.5	

Source: U.S. Census, CO State Demographer Profiles, and American Fact Finder (American Community Survey Intercensal Estimates)

The "graying" of the RRCC service area is one major trend that occurred between 2000 and 2010. Growth of the Hispanic population in the service area is another. Over the past decade, the Hispanic population of Jefferson County increased by 45.8%. Park and Gilpin Counties also had notable increases. In Jefferson County, the Hispanic population increase of 23,996 people offset a decrease of 20,256 in the White not Hispanic population.

Both the decline in the White, not Hispanic population and the increase in the Hispanic population were fueled by younger age groups. In Jefferson County from 2000 to 2010 the Hispanic population 17 years and younger increased from 18,419 to 26,353, an increase of 7,934 or 43.1%. In contrast, the White, Not Hispanic population 17 years and younger decreased from 106,217 to 83,380, a decrease of 22,837or 21.5%.

Table 5
2010 Population by Race and Hispanic Origin
RRCC Service Area Counties

County	Total Population	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic Origin (of any race)
		White	Black/African American	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander alone	Some Other Race alone	Two or More Races Total	
Colorado[1]	5,029,196	3,520,793	188,778	31,244	141,225	7,622	100,847	1,038,687
Clear Creek	9,088	8,371	50	56	54	11	117	429
Gilpin	5,441	4,947	28	34	84	3	78	267
Jefferson[2]	534,543	427,160	5,001	2,638	14,072	715	8,512	76,445
Park	16,206	14,842	69	117	101	14	280	783

2000 Population by Race and Hispanic Origin
RRCC Service Area Counties

County	Total Population	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic Origin (of any race)
		White	Black/African American	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander alone	Some Other Race alone	Two or More Races Total	
Colorado[1]	4,301,261	3,202,880	158,443	28,982	97,122	5,512	122,187	735,601
Clear Creek	9,322	8,759	26	46	36	11	112	361
Gilpin	4,757	4,377	24	33	42	11	89	202
Jefferson[2]	527,056	447,416	4,312	2,748	12,190	534	11,466	52,449
Park	14,523	13,431	67	101	63	21	267	628

Table 6
Absolute Population Change from 2000 to 2010 by Race and Hispanic Origin
RRCC Service Area Counties - Total Population

County	Total Population Change	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic Origin (of any race)
		White	Black/African American	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander alone	Some Other Race alone	Two or More Races Total	
Colorado[1]	727,935	317,913	30,335	2,262	44,103	2,110	-21,340	303,086
Clear Creek	-234	-388	24	10	18	0	5	68
Gilpin	684	570	4	1	42	-8	-11	65
Jefferson[2]	7,487	-20,256	689	-110	1,882	181	-2,954	23,996
Park	1,683	1,411	2	16	38	-7	13	155

Table 7
Percent Change from 2000 to 2010 Population by Race and Hispanic Origin
RRCC Service Area Counties - Total Population

County	Total Population Change	Non-Hispanic						Hispanic Origin (of any race)
		White	Black/African American	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander alone	Some Other Race alone	Two or More Races Total	
Colorado[1]	16.9	9.9	19.1	7.8	45.4	38.3	-17.5	41.2
Clear Creek	-2.5	-4.4	92.3	21.7	50.0	0.0	4.5	18.8
Gilpin	14.4	13.0	16.7	3.0	100.0	-72.7	-12.4	32.2
Jefferson[2]	1.4	-4.5	16.0	-4.0	15.4	33.9	-25.8	45.8
Park	11.6	10.5	3.0	15.8	60.3	-33.3	4.9	24.7

[1] Due to differences between the 2000 and 2010 Census, comparisons for the Denver Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area are not currently available.

[2] The RRCC service area contains most but not all of Jefferson County. Small portions on the southeast and northeast are in other college service areas. Since all major communities in Jefferson County are in the RRCC service area, and the sections outside the RRCC service area in Jefferson County are small, this study will use data for Jefferson County as a whole.

Source: U.S. Census, Colorado State Demographer, and American Community Survey

Table 8
Absolute Change from 2000 to 2010 Population by Race and Hispanic Origin
RRCC Service Area Counties - Population Aged 18+ Years

| County | Total Population Change | Non-Hispanic | | | | | | Hispanic Origin (of any race) |
		White	Black/African American	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander alone	Some Other Race alone	Two or More Races Total	
Colorado[1]	603,121	336,653	27,477	2,893	34,252	1,626	12,637	187,583
Clear Creek	298	164	23	11	14	2	24	60
Gilpin	731	651	2	9	37	-6	3	35
Jefferson[2]	21,883	2,581	679	-38	1,897	143	559	16,062
Park	1,993	1,763	3	16	44	1	28	138

Table 9
Percent Change from 2000 to 2010 Population by Race and Hispanic Origin
RRCC Service Area Counties - Population Aged 18+ Years

| County | Total Population Change | Non-Hispanic | | | | | | Hispanic Origin (of any race) |
		White	Black/African American	American Indian & Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander alone	Some Other Race alone	Two or More Races Total	
Colorado[1]	18.8	13.6	24.7	13.7	46.8	50.4	30.9	39.3
Clear Creek	4.1	2.4	115.0	33.3	46.7	50.0	53.3	24.2
Gilpin	19.5	18.7	10.0	45.0	115.6	-66.7	6.8	23.6
Jefferson[2]	5.6	0.8	22.1	-1.9	21.5	46.1	13.7	47.2
Park	17.9	17.0	6.1	20.0	118.9	11.1	20.6	33.7

[1] Due to differences between the 2000 and 2010 Census, comparisons for the Denver Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area are not currently available.

[2] The RRCC service area contains most but not all of Jefferson County. Small portions on the southeast and northeast are in other college service areas. Since all major communities in Jefferson County are in the RRCC service area, and the sections outside the RRCC service area in Jefferson County are small, this study will use data for Jefferson County as a whole.

Source: U.S. Census, Colorado State Demographer, and American Community Survey

These shifts in ethnic composition were echoed in Jefferson County School District enrollment. Between Fall 2000 and Fall 2011 pupil membership counts, the number of Hispanic students grew from 10,589 to 20,192 students, an increase of 90.7%. The number of White, not Hispanic students went from 72,320 to 58,295, a decrease of 19.4%. Hispanic students increased their share of enrollment from 12.1% in Fall 2000 to 23.5% in Fall 2011. The percentage of White, not Hispanic students went from 82.5% in Fall 2000 to 67.9% in Fall 2011.

Year	Total Service Area High School Graduates	Jefferson County Schools – Total Graduates	Jefferson County Schools – Hispanic Graduates	Jefferson County Schools – White, not Hispanic Graduates
2010-11	5,697	5,492	913	4,164
2009-10	5,788	5,580	798	4,827
2008-09	5,701	5,496	732	4,513
2007-08	4,799	5,484	686	4,587

The supply of recent high school graduates in our service area has been fairly stable even though Colorado has experienced a demographic "trough" in the number of high school graduates over the past five years. The number of Hispanic graduates has been keeping pace with increases in the Hispanic school-aged population, although Hispanic graduation rates do lag behind White, not Hispanic rates by eleven percentage points for the class of 2011. Although the number of high school graduates is projected to increase for Colorado in the near future, the aging RRCC service area suggests that the supply of recent high school graduates may remain stable in the future, or slightly decrease.

Table 10
2010 Hispanic or Latino (of any race) Population and Percent Change
RRCC Service Area Municipalities

Municipality	Hispanic or Latino		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	2000	2010	Number	Percent
Arvada city	10,031	14,536	4,505	44.9%
Edgewater city	1,939	2,310	371	19.1%
Golden city	1,130	1,553	423	37.4%
Lakewood city	20,949	31,467	10,518	50.2%
Wheat Ridge city	4,434	6,309	1,875	42.3%

2010 Hispanic or Latino (of any race) Population and Percent Change
RRCC Service Area Municipalities - Total Population 18 years and over

Municipality	Hispanic or Latino		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	2000	2010	Number	Percent
Arvada city	6,260	9,154	2,894	46.2%
Edgewater city	1,287	1,474	187	14.5%
Golden city	826	1,220	394	47.7%
Lakewood city	13,892	20,623	6,731	48.5%
Wheat Ridge city	2,908	4,192	1,284	44.2%

2010 Hispanic or Latino (of any race) Population and Percent Change
RRCC Service Area Municipalities - Total Population Under 18 years

Municipality	Hispanic or Latino		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	2000	2010	Number	Percent
Arvada city	3,771	5,382	1,611	42.7%
Edgewater city	652	836	184	28.2%
Golden city	304	333	29	9.5%
Lakewood city	7,057	10,844	3,787	53.7%
Wheat Ridge city	1,526	2,117	591	38.7%

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

The income and housing indicators in Table 11 suggest that the RRCC service area is quite sound economically. However, Table 12, like the previous data on educational attainment in Table 2, shows that there is a great amount of variation in the socioeconomic status of service area residents. The Northeast is the least affluent of the county subdivisions. Again, the service area municipalities closer to the core metropolitan area are those with lower income, lower housing values, lower rates of home ownership, and a higher percentage of families with children who are below the poverty line.

Table 11
Income and Housing
RRCC Service Area Counties

Median Household Income	2000	2010	% Change
Denver Metropolitan Area[1]	$51,191	$60,452	18.1%
Clear Creek County	$50,997	$62,756	23.1%
Gilpin County	$51,942	$59,394	14.3%
Jefferson County	$57,339	$67,827	18.3%
Park County	$51,899	$61,284	18.1%

Homeowner Occupancy	2000	2010	% Change
Denver Metropolitan Area[1]	66.5%	64.2%	-3.5%
Clear Creek County	76.1%	76.7%	0.8%
Gilpin County	78.4%	77.0%	-1.8%
Jefferson County	72.5%	70.7%	-2.5%
Park County	87.6%	84.6%	-3.4%

Median House Value	2000	2010	% Change
Denver Metropolitan Area[1]	$176,600	$245,900	39.2%
Clear Creek County	$200,400	$279,600	39.5%
Gilpin County	$180,600	$316,400	75.2%
Jefferson County	$187,900	$259,400	38.1%
Park County	$172,100	$246,100	43.0%

[1] Denver Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area
Source: U.S. Census and American Fact Finder

Table 12
Income and Housing - 2010
RRCC Service Area Municipalities and County Subdivisions

	Median Household Income	Homeowner Occupancy Rate	Median Housing Value	% of Families With Children Below Poverty
Denver Metropolitan Area	$60,452	64.2%	$245,900	13.7%
Arvada city, Colorado	$65,942	74.3%	$239,700	8.7%
Edgewater city, Colorado	$43,082	41.4%	$191,400	37.8%
Golden city, Colorado	$53,896	59.4%	$325,400	16.0%
Lakewood city, Colorado	$52,690	59.3%	$236,900	16.7%
Wheat Ridge city, Colorado	$47,014	56.8%	$235,700	16.1%
Central Jefferson County	$95,947	83.8%	$393,800	3.4%
Golden Area Jefferson County	$77,189	73.6%	$404,900	7.9%
Northeast Jefferson County	$62,407	69.3%	$244,400	10.4%
South Jefferson County	$114,478	94.5%	$427,800	2.0%

Source: U.S. Census and American Fact Finder (American Community Survey)

Table 13
Change in Employment, 2000 - 2009
Clear Creek County

Occupation and Industry	2000 Clear Creek County		2009 Clear Creek County		Change 2000-2009 Clear Creek County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Employed civilian population 16 years and over	5,661	100	5,411	100	-250	-4.4%
OCCUPATION						
Management, professional, and related occupations	2,242	39.6%	1,990	0.7%	-252	-11.2%
Service occupations	930	16.4%	1,013	0.4%	83	8.9%
Sales and office occupations	1,280	22.6%	1,348	0.5%	68	5.3%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	32	0.6%	30	0.0%	-2	-6.3%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	696	12.3%	583	0.2%	-113	-16.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	481	8.5%	447	0.2%	-34	-7.1%
INDUSTRY						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	182	3.2%	123	0.0%	-59	-32.4%
Construction	604	10.7%	562	0.2%	-42	-7.0%
Manufacturing	307	5.4%	114	0.0%	-193	-62.9%
Wholesale trade	199	3.5%	128	0.0%	-71	-35.7%
Retail trade	534	9.4%	695	0.2%	161	30.1%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	298	5.3%	343	0.1%	45	15.1%
Information	166	2.9%	80	0.0%	-86	-51.8%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	334	5.9%	364	0.1%	30	9.0%
Professional, scientific, management, and administrative	651	11.5%	822	0.3%	171	26.3%
Educational, health and social services	857	15.1%	778	0.3%	-79	-9.2%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	955	16.9%	846	0.3%	-109	-11.4%
Other services (except public administration)	181	3.2%	153	0.1%	-28	-15.5%
Public administration	393	6.9%	403	0.1%	10	2.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Table 14
Change in Employment, 2000 - 2009
Gilpin County

Occupation and Industry	2000 Gilpin County		2009 Gilpin County		Change 2000-2009 Gilpin County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Employed civilian population 16 years and over	3,077	100	3,039	100	-38	-1.2%
OCCUPATION						
Management, professional, and related occupations	1,076	35.0%	1,190	0.4%	114	10.6%
Service occupations	585	19.0%	744	0.3%	159	27.2%
Sales and office occupations	700	22.7%	595	0.2%	-105	-15.0%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	5	0.2%	17	0.0%	12	240.0%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	460	14.9%	351	0.1%	-109	-23.7%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	251	8.2%	142	0.1%	-109	-43.4%
INDUSTRY						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	34	1.1%	51	0.0%	17	50.0%
Construction	392	12.7%	272	0.1%	-120	-30.6%
Manufacturing	190	6.2%	104	0.0%	-86	-45.3%
Wholesale trade	92	3.0%	70	0.0%	-22	-23.9%
Retail trade	227	7.4%	219	0.1%	-8	-3.5%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	113	3.7%	88	0.0%	-25	-22.1%
Information	130	4.2%	58	0.0%	-72	-55.4%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	72	2.3%	71	0.0%	-1	-1.4%
Professional, scientific, management, and administrative	302	9.8%	318	0.1%	16	5.3%
Educational, health and social services	397	12.9%	426	0.2%	29	7.3%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	836	27.2%	889	0.3%	53	6.3%
Other services (except public administration)	124	4.0%	176	0.1%	52	41.9%
Public administration	168	5.5%	297	0.1%	129	76.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Table 15
Change in Employment, 2000 - 2009
Jefferson County

Occupation and Industry	2000 Jefferson County		2009 Jefferson County		Change 2000-2009 Jefferson County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Employed civilian population 16 years and over	290,962	100	283,328	100	-7,634	-2.6%
OCCUPATION						
Management, professional, and related occupations	120,145	41.3%	117,775	41.6%	-2,370	-2.0%
Service occupations	33,581	11.5%	39,415	13.9%	5,834	17.4%
Sales and office occupations	83,837	28.8%	75,745	26.7%	-8,092	-9.7%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	301	0.1%	318	0.1%	17	5.6%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	27,807	9.6%	26,364	9.3%	-1,443	-5.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	25,291	8.7%	23,711	8.4%	-1,580	-6.2%
INDUSTRY						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	2,641	0.9%	2,983	1.1%	342	12.9%
Construction	24,697	8.5%	24,065	8.5%	-632	-2.6%
Manufacturing	27,040	9.3%	23,184	8.2%	-3,856	-14.3%
Wholesale trade	11,279	3.9%	10,526	3.7%	-753	-6.7%
Retail trade	34,214	11.8%	32,559	11.5%	-1,655	-4.8%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	14,233	4.9%	13,102	4.6%	-1,131	-7.9%
Information	15,815	5.4%	9,656	3.4%	-6,159	-38.9%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	24,782	8.5%	23,562	8.3%	-1,220	-4.9%
Professional, scientific, management, and administrative	38,621	13.3%	39,790	14.0%	1,169	3.0%
Educational, health and social services	45,495	15.6%	48,916	17.3%	3,421	7.5%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation & food services	22,314	7.7%	25,450	9.0%	3,136	14.1%
Other services (except public administration)	13,688	4.7%	14,545	5.1%	857	6.3%
Public administration	16,143	5.5%	14,990	5.3%	-1,153	-7.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Table 16
Change in Employment, 2000 - 2009
Park County

Occupation and Industry	2000 Park County		2009 Park County		Change 2000-2009 Park County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Employed civilian population 16 years and over	7,902	100	8,721	100	819	10.4%
OCCUPATION						
Management, professional, and related occupations	2,623	33.2%	3,072	1.1%	449	17.1%
Service occupations	1,044	13.2%	1,245	0.4%	201	19.3%
Sales and office occupations	2,084	26.4%	2,387	0.8%	303	14.5%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	46	0.6%	59	0.0%	13	28.3%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	1,319	16.7%	1,368	0.5%	49	3.7%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	786	9.9%	590	0.2%	-196	-24.9%
INDUSTRY						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	258	3.3%	208	0.1%	-50	-19.4%
Construction	1,290	16.3%	1,538	0.5%	248	19.2%
Manufacturing	564	7.1%	463	0.2%	-101	-17.9%
Wholesale trade	207	2.6%	224	0.1%	17	8.2%
Retail trade	1,004	12.7%	953	0.3%	-51	-5.1%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	366	4.6%	237	0.1%	-129	-35.2%
Information	332	4.2%	285	0.1%	-47	-14.2%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	481	6.1%	591	0.2%	110	22.9%
Professional, scientific, management, and administrative	702	8.9%	1,088	0.4%	386	55.0%
Educational, health and social services	1,187	15.0%	1,211	0.4%	24	2.0%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food	789	10.0%	908	0.3%	119	15.1%
Other services (except public administration)	366	4.6%	442	0.2%	76	20.8%
Public administration	356	4.5%	573	0.2%	217	61.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

Table 13 through Table 16 presents data on occupational changes in the RRCC service area from 2000 to 2009. As background to these tables, it is important to note that the number of individuals aged 16 years and older increased in this time period for Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park counties while remaining steady in Clear Creek county. In spite of this, with the exception of Park County, the number of individuals aged 16 and older employed in the labor force decreased. This corresponds with increased unemployment rates for all the service area counties. Between 2000 and 2009, the unemployment rate increased;

- from 1.5% to 5.3% in Clear Creek County;
- from 1.7% to 4.6% in Gilpin County;
- from 2.3% to 6.0% in Jefferson County;
- from 2.0% to 5.7% in Park County.

Unemployment rates for White, not Hispanic individuals are lower in each county than those for other racial and ethnic groups. Women's labor force participation rates in Jefferson and Park Counties are comparable at about 75% of all women 16 and older, and about 66% of women 16 and older with children at home. The participation rates for both groups of women were higher in Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties. The overall women's labor force participation rate in all four counties was higher than the national rate of 64%.

Service Occupations were the only occupational category that grew in each county between 2000 and 2009. This category includes healthcare support, protective services, food preparation and service, building and grounds maintenance, and personal care services. Managerial, Professional, and Administrative Occupations increased in Gilpin and Park Counties, and declined slightly in Jefferson County. This category includes business and financial management, engineering and architecture, lab science and computer science, healthcare practitioners, education, and legal occupations. Office Support Occupations declined in Jefferson and Clear Creek Counties, and increased in Gilpin and Park Counties.

In regard to employment change by industry, Professional, Scientific, Management, and Administrative Services was the only industry category to expand in all the service area counties. Jefferson County also had expansion in Educational, Health, and Social Services as well as Art, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations, and Food Services. Park County was the only county with an expansion in Construction and Wholesale Trade. It should also be noted that Park County increased employment in every occupational category except Production, Transportation, and Materials Moving.

For the RRCC service area in 2009, employed individuals aged 16 years or more were employed in the following types of organizations.

County	Total Employed Individuals Aged 16 Years or More	% Employed by Private Companies	% Local, State, and Federal Government Workers	% Self-Employed	% Private, Not-For-Profit Organizations
Clear Creek	5,411	61.2%	16.1%	19.2%	3.5%
Gilpin	3,039	54.7%	20.8%	18.1%	6.4%
Jefferson	283,328	66.1%	14.1%	13.4%	6.5%
Park	8,721	57.8%	17.1%	20.6%	4.5%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey

It is worthwhile to observe the 2009 labor force participation rates for the key age groups that provide a large portion of RRCC's enrollment each semester.

County	Total 16-19 Years Old	% Employed		Total 20-24 Years Old	% Employed		Total 25-44 Years Old	% Employed
Clear Creek	572	47.7%		241	76.8%		2,262	87.2%
Gilpin	217	14.3%		255	52.9%		1,458	84.1%
Jefferson	29,707	39.1%		32,179	73.8%		142,871	82.3%
Park	799	45.8%		556	59.0%		4,379	75.3%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey

The employment rates for these age groups suggest that our pool of traditional-aged college students, and our pool of older, returning students, balance both work and school from a very early age. As we know from our student surveys, many also balance work and school with family responsibilities as well. This suggests that the expectations for, appeal and benefit of on-line and alternative learning delivery modalities typical of postsecondary students today also apply to students from our service area. We need to create options for student choice and time, as well as the place and pace of learning.

Table 17
Population Projections, 2000-2040
RRCC Service Area Counties

| COUNTIES | Colorado State Demographer's Office Projections | | | | | | | Average Annual Percent Change | | | | | |
	July, 2010	July, 2015	July, 2020	July, 2025	July, 2030	July, 2035	July, 2040	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40
COLORADO	5,046,990	5,499,618	6,043,504	6,567,980	7,058,019	7,520,178	7,958,167	1.7%	1.9%	1.7%	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%
Clear Creek	9,098	10,033	11,192	12,369	13,513	14,618	15,714	2.0%	2.2%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%
Gilpin	5,453	5,964	6,557	7,165	7,734	8,300	8,850	1.8%	1.9%	1.8%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%
Jefferson	535,209	557,179	590,327	623,405	650,764	669,357	684,058	0.8%	1.2%	1.1%	0.9%	0.6%	0.4%
Park	16,291	19,714	24,100	29,285	33,404	35,638	36,519	3.9%	4.1%	4.0%	2.7%	1.3%	0.5%

Note: These projections are based on intercensal estimates. The July 2010 forecast is not consistent with exact 2010 census counts.
Source: Colorado State Demographer's Office

In summary, the RRCC service area has undergone several major demographic changes over the past decade. The service area has aged. This has resulted primarily from an increase in older White, not Hispanic residents. At the same time, the service area has become more diverse through a major increase in Hispanic residents, especially those in younger age groups. The increase of Hispanic residents have kept the population of the service area relatively stable, or at least buffered what would otherwise have been major declines in such critical groups as the school-aged population and working adults in mid-career. Population growth projections for the service area counties (see Table 17) suggest very small growth rates in the future. Therefore, it is likely that the trends of the past ten years will continue into at least the foreseeable future.

If the current trends continue, the pool of high school graduates in the service area is likely to stay at current levels or even undergo slight declines. The school-age population and high school graduates will become more diverse and postsecondary competition for these students will intensify. Articulation with

our local high schools will take on new importance both as an enrollment management and a program growth strategy.

Current RRCC enrollment patterns, discussed above on Page 2, suggest that there is growth potential in the Northeast county subdivision. This is the case for both younger, first-time college students and older students who are returning to school for a postsecondary credential. At the same time, RRCC should continue to appeal to students in the more affluent areas of the service area by building on its reputation for academic excellence, particularly for pre-professional and transfer programs in such areas as STEM, pre-engineering, and health care professions.

Occupational and industry growth patterns in our service area indicate the importance of preparing students for service occupations that require strong technical and general educational abilities, such as healthcare support and protective services. We also need to prepare our students for professional careers as healthcare practitioners, business, hospitality and finance managers, engineers, and education and social service providers. Many of these students will go on to complete baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degrees. RRCC needs to prepare both types of students to compete in a 21st century labor market and lay the foundation for life-long learning. We must continue to do this through articulation with other colleges and universities, and through continuing education and training that advances the careers of our students and the success of their employers.

The demographic changes over the past decade present a picture of two service areas: an aging, affluent White, non-Hispanic population living in unincorporated suburbs, and another that is less affluent, more diverse, and concentrated in the major municipalities closer to the core metropolitan area. RRCC has the opportunity to bridge these two service areas. We must be prepared to understand and serve an increasingly diverse student body. We also need to anticipate emerging technologies, changes in the general knowledge and skills required of all students, and new occupational performance expectations. As an open access college we must work on focusing our efforts on what is most important. Hopefully, this brief study will contribute to the development of that focus based on greater understanding of our students and the diverse communities we serve.