

Study Area Demographics

GARFIELD COUNTY

Garfield County, named after President James A. Garfield, is home of Glenwood Hot Springs Pool & Lodge, the largest naturally heated outdoor swimming pool in the world. The county seat is Glenwood Springs, located on I-70, which runs east/west through the county. The towns of Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, Parachute, Rifle, and Silt are also located along I-70.

2000 CENSUS

The 2000 Census population for Garfield County was 43,791. The population by census block group is shown in Table II-1 on the following page.

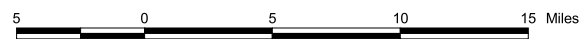
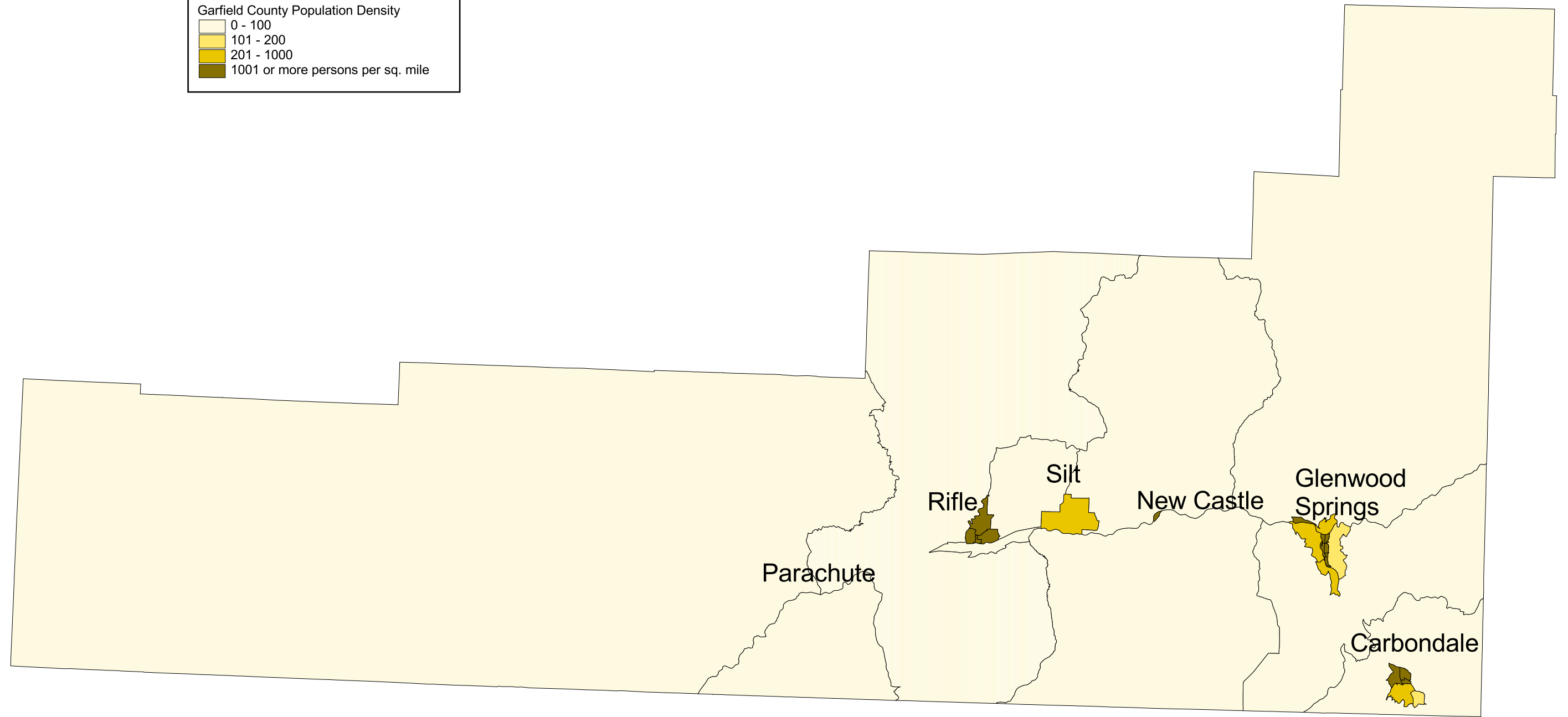
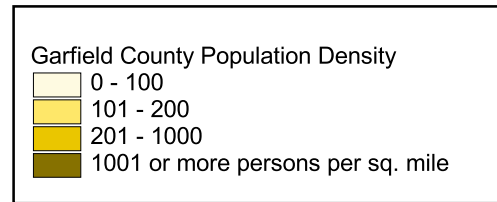
Figure II-1 illustrates the population density. The majority of the population resides in the incorporated communities and within the I-70 and SH 82 corridors. Several unincorporated areas have concentrations of population, but the majority of the county has a very low population density.

**Table II-1
2000 General Population Characteristics**

County	Census Tract	Census Block Group	Area Description	Land Area (sq.ml.)	Total Population (Persons) #	Population by Gender		Population by Race				
						Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian	Asian/Pac. Is.	Other Race
Garfield	951600	1	N.E. Portion of County	575.2	2,492	1,263	1,229	2,322	0	0	0	140
	951600	2	N.W. Glenwood Springs	0.4	837	444	393	622	0	0	0	215
	951600	3	N.E. Glenwood Springs	1.2	245	124	121	207	0	0	0	38
	951700	1	S. Central Glenwood Springs	3.8	474	199	275	468	0	0	0	6
	951700	2	N. Central Glenwood Springs	0.2	1,168	565	603	1,014	0	0	0	133
	951700	3	N.W. Central Glenwood Springs	0.2	532	284	248	527	0	0	0	5
	951700	4	West Glenwood Springs Area	3.1	1,152	506	646	1,133	0	0	0	8
	951700	5	Central Glenwood Springs	0.2	504	284	220	435	0	0	0	64
	951700	6	Central Glenwood Springs	0.2	717	359	358	589	12	0	0	116
	951700	7	S. Central Glenwood Springs	0.2	500	239	261	448	0	0	0	40
	951700	8	S. Glenwood Springs	1.6	1,047	567	480	1,032	0	0	0	8
	951801	1	S.E. Corner of County	68.1	2,485	1,351	1,134	2,245	0	0	0	231
	951801	2	Carbondale Area	0.5	1,148	628	520	1,058	0	0	0	63
	951801	3	Central Carbondale	0.2	1,536	872	664	1,213	16	0	0	300
	951801	4	S.E. Corner of Carbondale	0.8	125	71	54	107	0	0	0	8
	951801	5	N.W. Corner of Carbondale	1.0	1,339	644	695	1,028	0	0	0	311
	951801	6	S.W. Corner of Carbondale	2.0	1,847	884	963	1,612	0	0	0	235
	951802	1	Area between Glenwood and Carbondale	142.8	2,634	1,285	1,349	2,406	0	0	0	183
	951900	1	New Castle, North to County Line	211.0	3,063	1,563	1,500	2,905	5	0	0	145
	951900	2	Silt Area	7.4	2,333	1,200	1,133	2,067	0	0	0	246
	951900	3	S.W. of New Castle	0.2	901	429	472	817	0	0	0	81
	951900	4	S. Central Garfield County	203.3	1,214	661	553	1,199	0	0	0	3
	952000	1	Central Garfield from S. Co Line to N. Co Line	405.3	1,223	678	545	1,149	35	0	0	22
	952000	2	N.E. of Rifle Area	32.4	1,847	863	984	1,509	0	0	0	309
	952000	3	N.E. Rifle Area	2.2	2,696	1,494	1,202	2,334	0	0	0	353
	952000	4	W. Central Rifle Area	0.7	1,512	807	705	1,382	0	0	0	103
	952000	5	Downtown Rifle Area	0.2	490	247	243	490	0	0	0	0
	952000	6	E. Central Rifle Area	1.1	2,171	1,031	1,140	2,047	0	0	0	89
	952000	7	I-70 Corridor, Rifle Interchange Area	4.8	452	246	206	312	0	0	0	126
	952100	1	Parachute Area West to County Line	1,213.4	1,150	592	558	989	1	0	0	119
952100	2	Battlement Mesa Area	72.2	3,957	1,934	2,023	3,758	21	0	0	163	
TOTALS: GARFIELD COUNTY				2,955.7	43,791	22,314	21,477	39,424	90	0	0	3,863

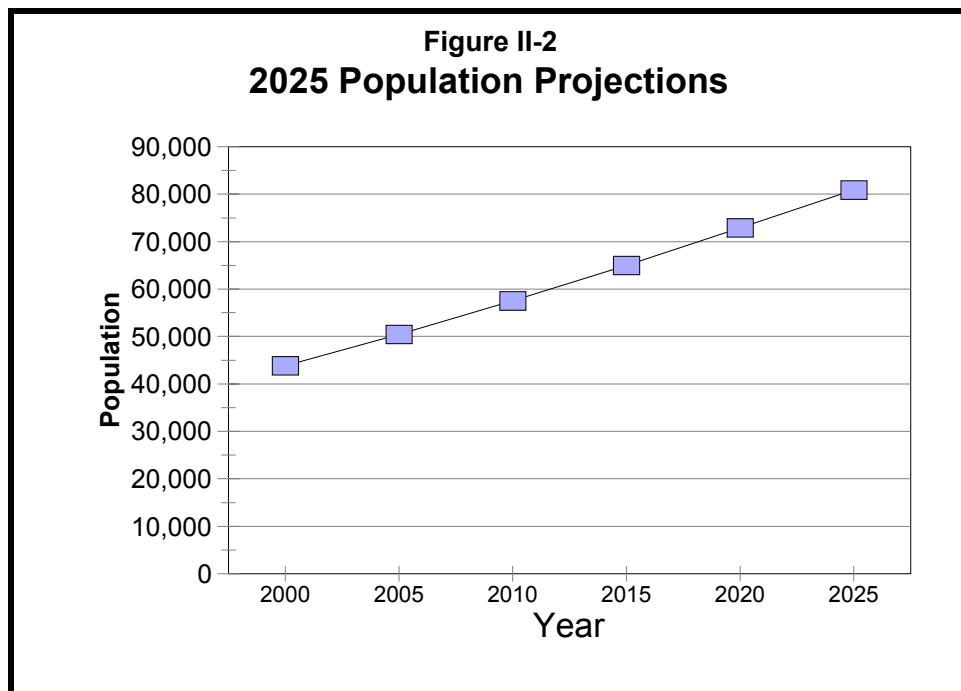
Source: 2000 US Census of Population and Housing, STF 3

Figure II-1
Population Density



POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population trends for Garfield County are shown in Figure II-2. The population for the county rose to 43,791 persons, a 44 percent increase between 1990 and 2000. Additionally, according to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Garfield County’s population is projected to increase approximately 98 percent by 2025 to 86,922 persons. As a comparison, the State of Colorado’s population is projected to increase by approximately 50 percent over the same time period.



Population

As part of estimating future populations for the county, it is important to look at the seasonal population projections. Neither the Census nor the Colorado Division of Local Governments maintains data regarding seasonal population. Thus, seasonal population estimates for summer and winter are based upon the *2000-2025 Intermountain Regional Transportation Plan*, with updates based upon the 2000 Census and population projections from the Colorado Division of Local Affairs.

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In 2000, Garfield County experienced an 18 percent increase in population during the peak winter season. Table II-2 shows the estimated permanent population and peak season projections for 2000 and 2025.

Table II-2 Garfield County - Seasonal Population Projections		
Season	2000	2025
Peak	51,957	160,804
Permanent	44,219	86,922
<i>Source: Intermountain Regional Transportation Plan, 1999; Colorado State Demographers Office, December 2003 - Preliminary Estimates/Projections, LSC., 2004.</i>		

Economy and Employment

Table II-3 shows the available 2000 employment data for Garfield County. Approximately 28,000 people from Garfield County are employed, with Services as the highest sector at 29 percent. Wholesale and Retail Trade is the next highest sector at 22 percent.

Table II-3 Employment by Sector of the Economy		
Industry	Garfield County	
	2000	%
Agriculture, Forestry	1,609	6%
Construction	5,067	18%
Manufacturing	552	2%
Transp., Comm., Utilities	807	3%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6,221	22%
Financial, Insurance, Real Estate	2,109	8%
Services	8,071	29%
Government	3,481	12%
TOTAL	27,917	100%
<i>Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, 2003.</i>		

Table II-4 shows the projected employment for Garfield County. The 2000 employment figure of 28,501 is projected to increase to 35,422 by 2010 and 45,836 by 2025.

Table II-4 2025 Regional Projected Employment			
County	2000	2010	2025
Garfield	28,501	35,422	45,836

Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, 2003.

Major Employers

Table II-5 lists the major employers in Garfield County.

Table II-5 Major Employers in Garfield County
Employer
Garfield County
RE-2 School District
Grand River Hospital District
Alpine Bank Central Operations
American Soda
Colorado Veteran's Nursing Home
City of Rifle
Colorado Department of Corrections
US Forest Service

Source: Local Chambers of Commerce, LSC 2003.