RURAL COMMUNITIES

RURAL AREAS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Here we review key characteristics of three rural regions combined, encompassing the communities of Loma. Mack, De Beque, Collbran, Mesa, Whitewater and Gateway as well as outlying households.

GROWTH IN THE WEST

6.2%

Between 2011 and 2019, the population of the west rural region grew by 6.2%, while the population decreased in the east by 2.7% and the south by 0.4%.

45.8%

of residents in rural areas are female, compared to **50.6**% in Mesa County.

3.2%

Rural regions have the lowest rates of single female households with children at 3.2%.

HISPANIC/LATINO 6.3%

Total Population (2019): **15,668**

Median Age

West	**45.1 years**
East	**43.8 years**
South	**55.6 years**

Educational Attainment

High School Diploma	Bachelor's Degree
90.8%	**26.7%**

Median Household Income

West	**$68,864**
East	**$66,484**
South	**$77,261**

Rural regions have median household incomes that are $11,105-21,882 higher than the County as a whole.
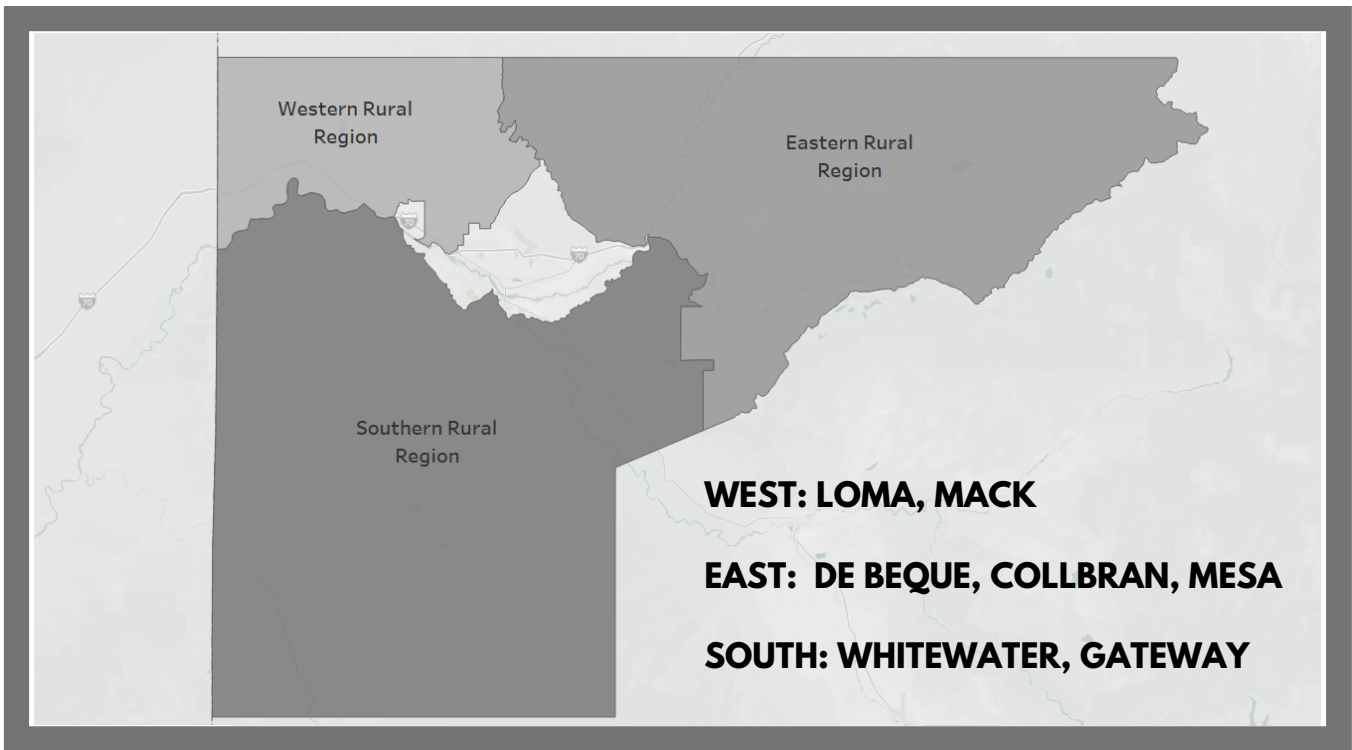
Employment Status

Percentage of those 16+ in labor force	Unemployment Rate
59.4%	**3.1%**

SNAP Usage

2.8%

RURAL RESIDENTS ACCOUNT FOR **10.4%** OF MESA COUNTY'S POPULATION

WEST: LOMA, MACK

EAST: DE BEQUE, COLLBRAN, MESA

SOUTH: WHITEWATER, GATEWAY

49.2%

Overall, 49.2% of rural households have one or more people 60 years or older.

The south rural region has the highest concentration of older adults in the county at 58.6%, compared to 43.1% in the west rural region, and 47.7% in the east rural region.

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Residents in rural areas tend to be older than the County as a whole.

Household composition:
- Total households: 6,226
- Households with children: 26.0% (1,618 households)
- Includes 60+: 49.2% (3,064 households)
- Single female households with children: 3.2% (202 households)

Percent of households that rent: 9.4%
Housing 30% or more of income:
Total: 19.1% • Renter: 26.2% • Owner: 18.3%

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Fewer people in rural communities are in the labor force (59.4%) than the average across Mesa County, but within the working population, unemployment is much lower.

Rural areas have fewer renters, and housing costs represent a smaller financial burden than the County as a whole.

REFERENCES USED
COMMUNITY PROFILE SECTION

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- American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates - *Selected Economic Characteristics*, Table DP03
- American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates - *Selected Economic Characteristics*, Table DP03
- American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates - *Selected Housing Characteristics*, Table DP04
- American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates - *Demographic and Housing Estimates*, Table DP05
- American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates - *Age and Sex*, Table S0101
- American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates - *Households and Families*, Table S1101
- American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates - *Educational Attainment*, Table S1501
- American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates - *Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months*, Table S1701
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