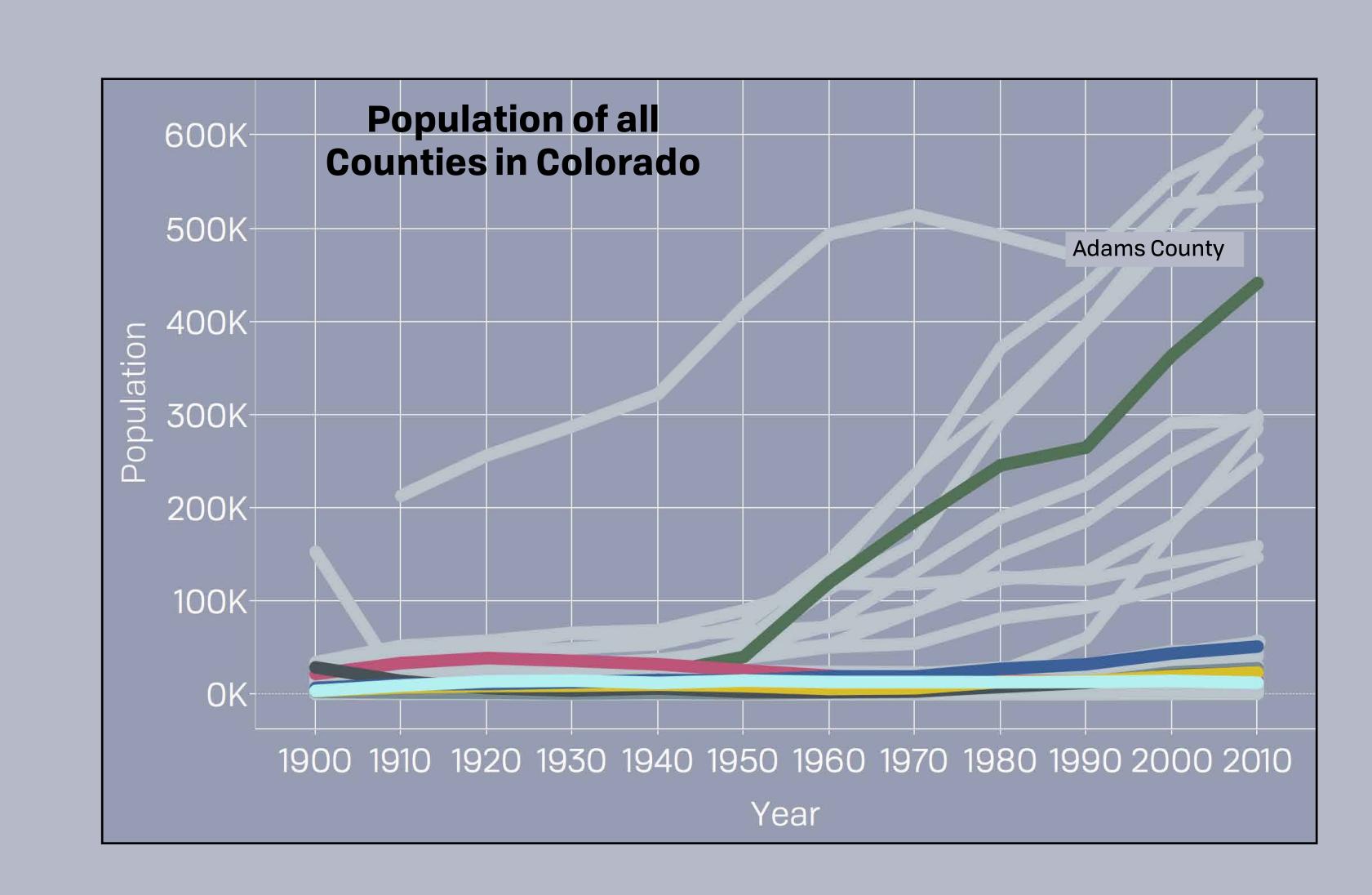
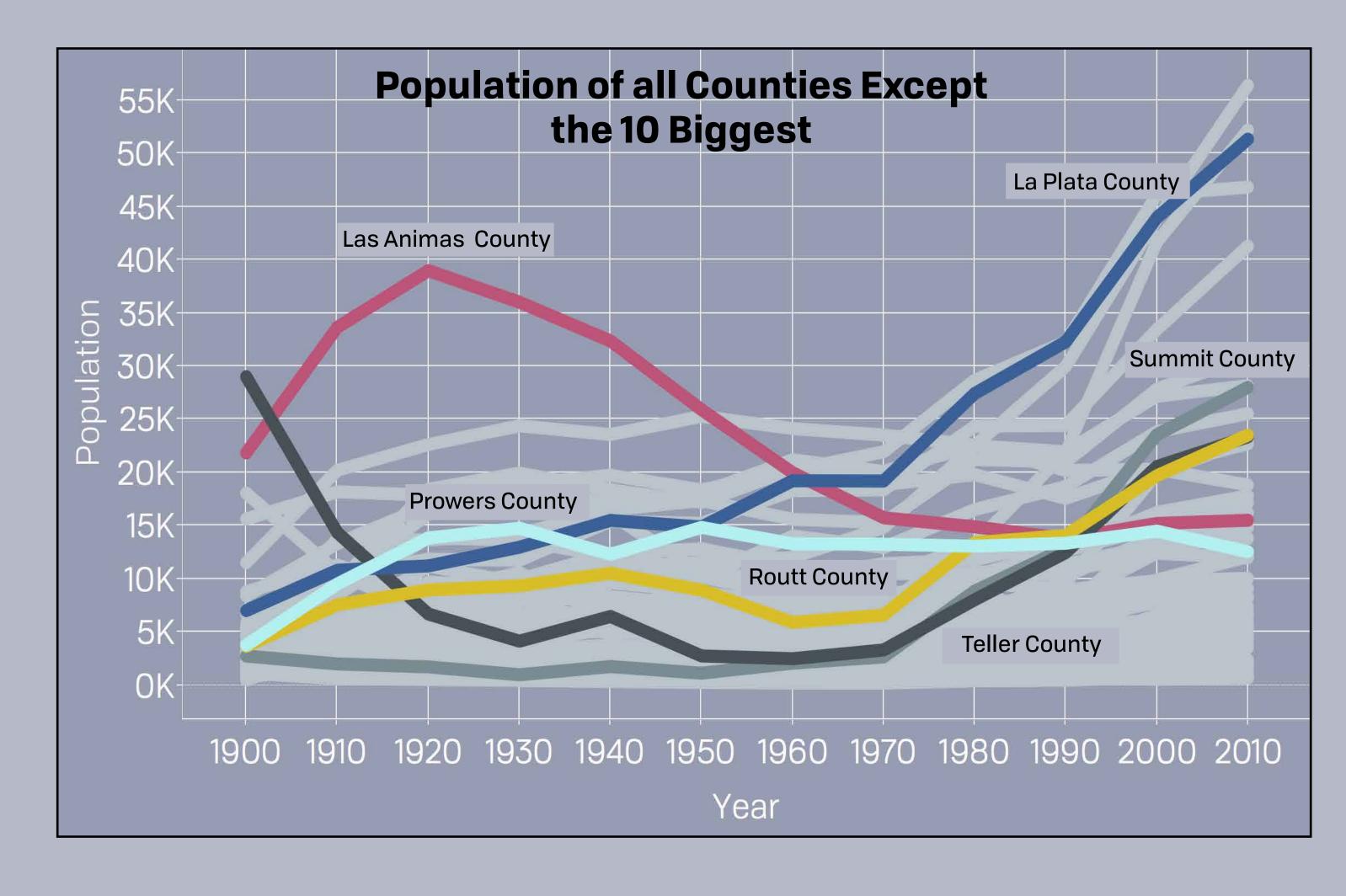
RISE AND FALL COLORADO'S COUNTES

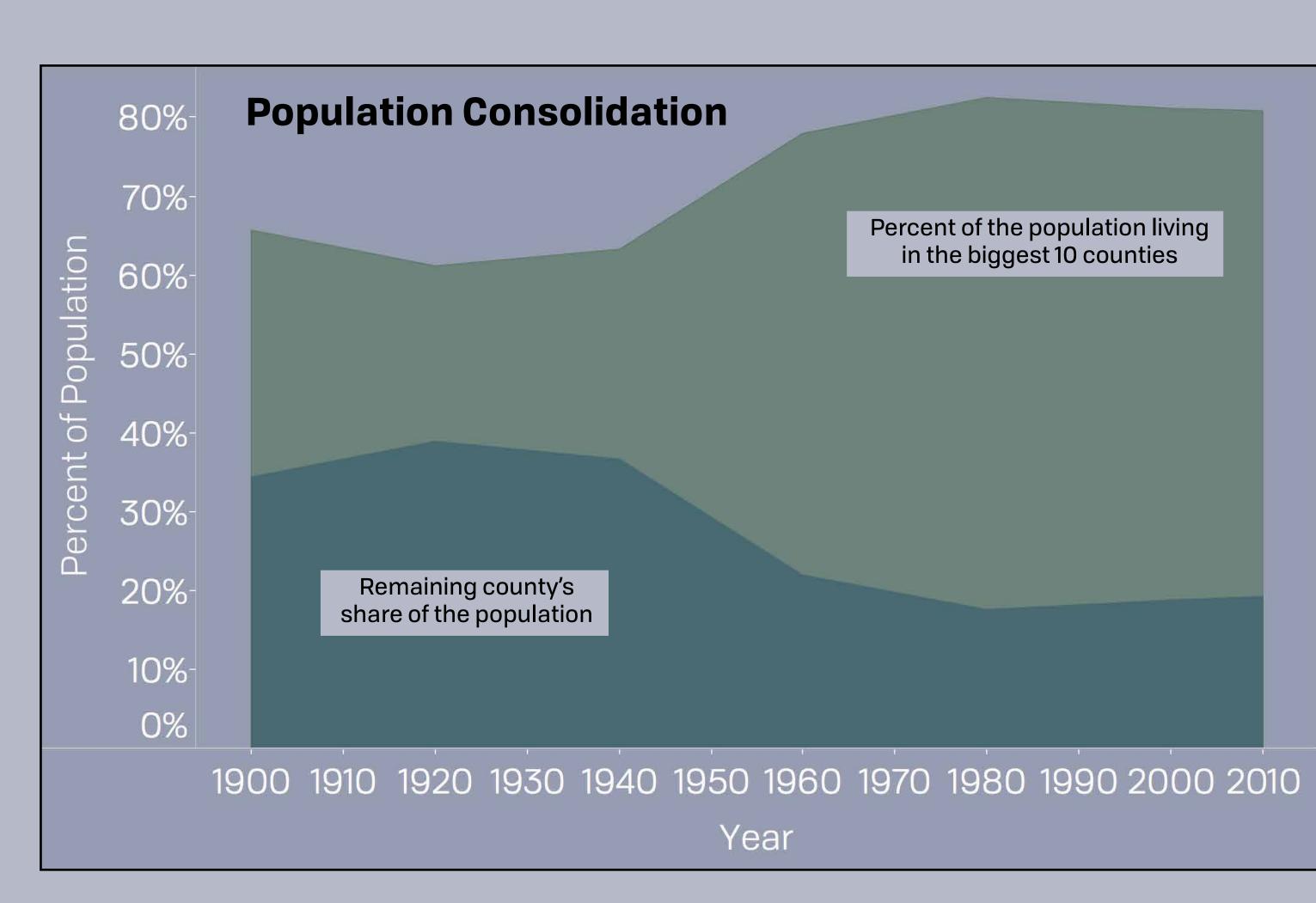
Colorado has seen tremendous population growth in the past 20 years. In fact, Colorado as a whole has been steadily growing since its inception. That growth, however, has not been borne evenly. Some counties that boomed in the early half of the century have experienced steady decline since. Other counties have benefited from the trend towards urbanization seeing continuous growth throughout the century. Others, still, have weathered booms and busts.

In this exhibit we will examine the factors contributing to the uneven growth and decline of a selection of Colorado counties. We have selected a county from each region listed below. They are representative of the disparate experiences of the counties statewide. What political, environmental, geological, social and other factors contributed to the success or decline of these counties. What can the shrinking counties learn from those that have been able to recover from population decline?

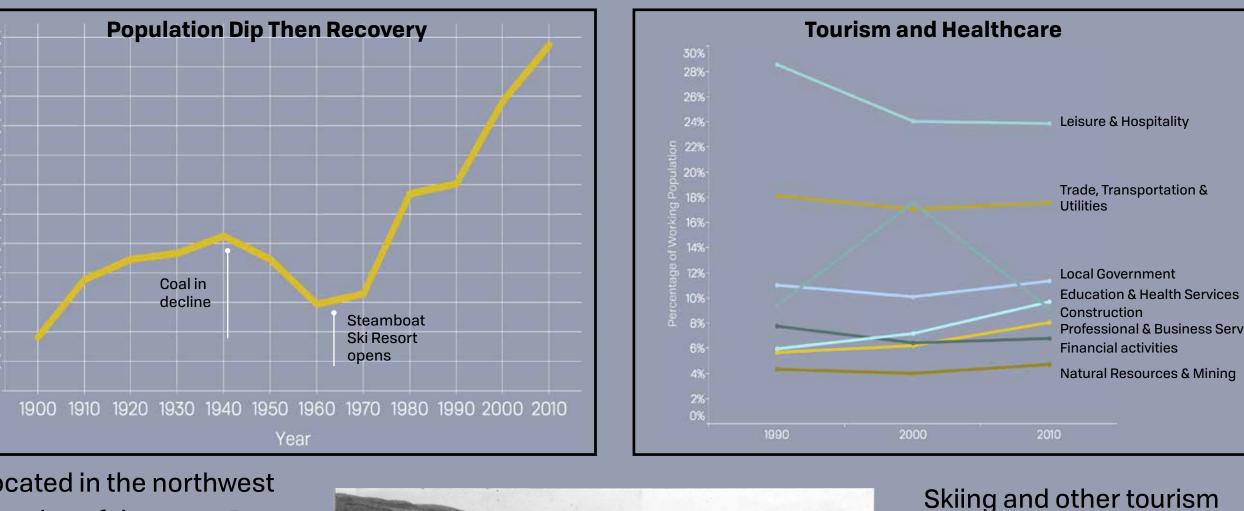
COUNTY POPULATIONS EXAMINED







ROUTT COUNTY



Lportion of the state, Routt ous, although not as rugged as

The major industry of the to the southeast. Ranching also had its place in the county as around the state. Commodit such as cattle, hay, lettuce and strawberries were the major agricultural exports from the

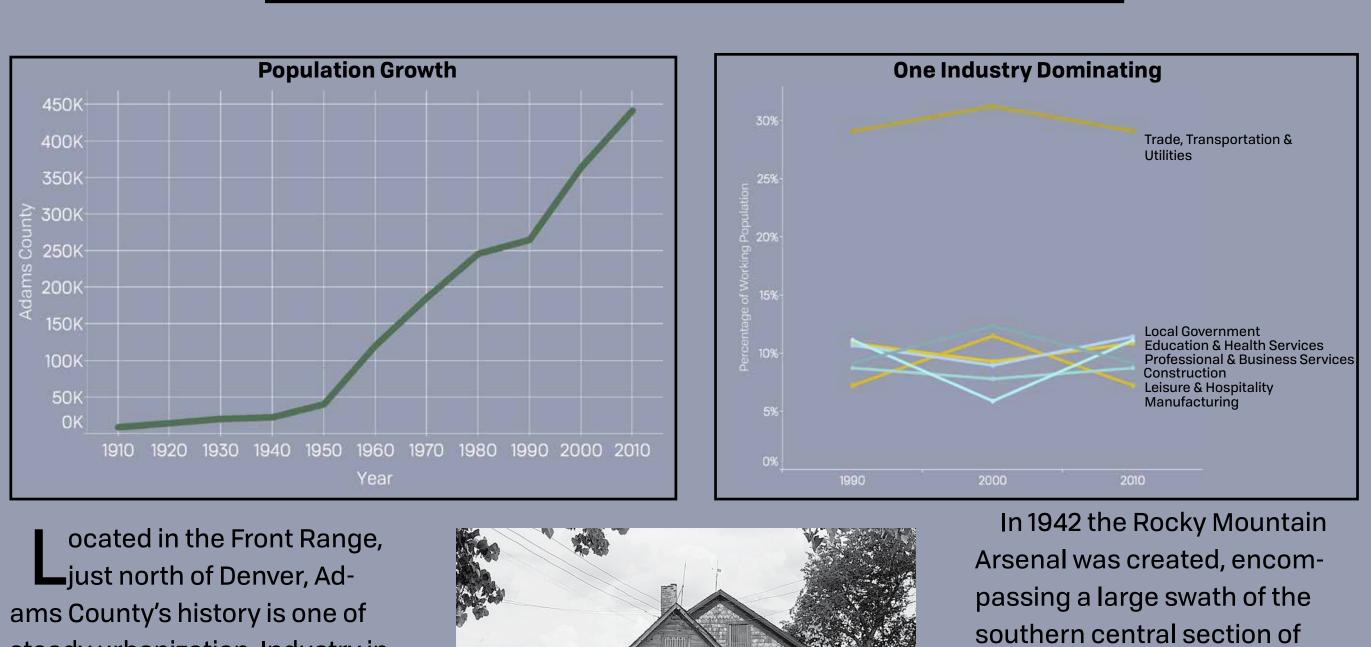
west, Moffat County, coal min-

ing is a major source of income.

Today, coal does not play as major a role in Routt County economics as it once did. Coal is still mined at one large mine in the district, however, and in the neighboring county to the

lospitality and Construction took a hit. Major additions t & 2010, which services Routt as

ADAMS COUNTY



the first half of the century of and manufacturing. The county does not contain the coa mineral resources other Colo mining was never a substantial

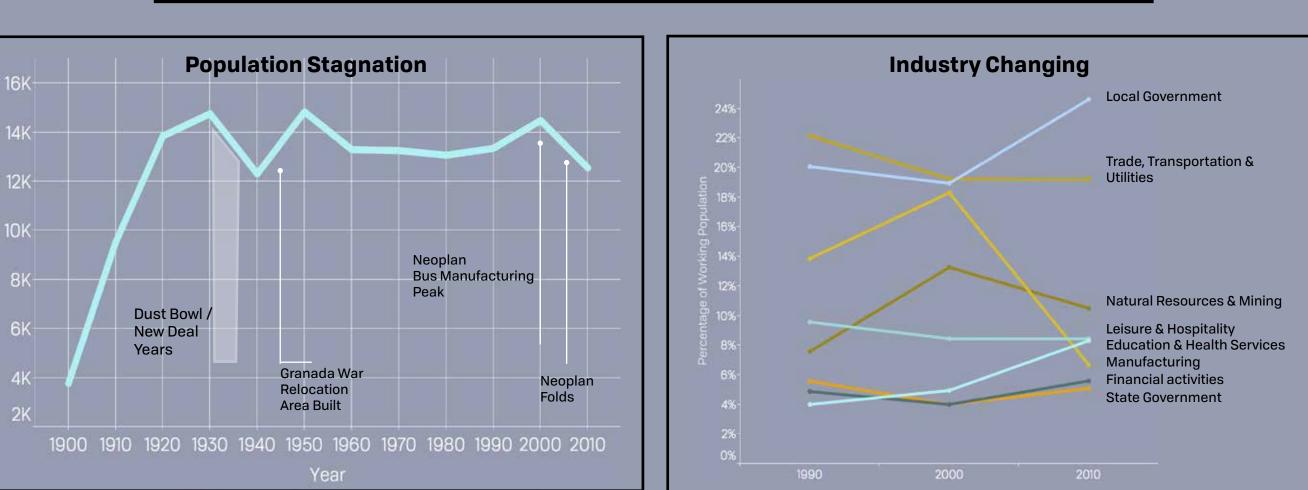
form of employment. The county has contained a number of gravel and sand quarries, some verted into recreational lakes Adams County is significant profile. The eastern three quar ters of the county is rural and unincorporated. The eastern quarter, on the other hand, is either densely urban or suburban. Today, only 4% of the pop-

ulation lives in the rural areas of

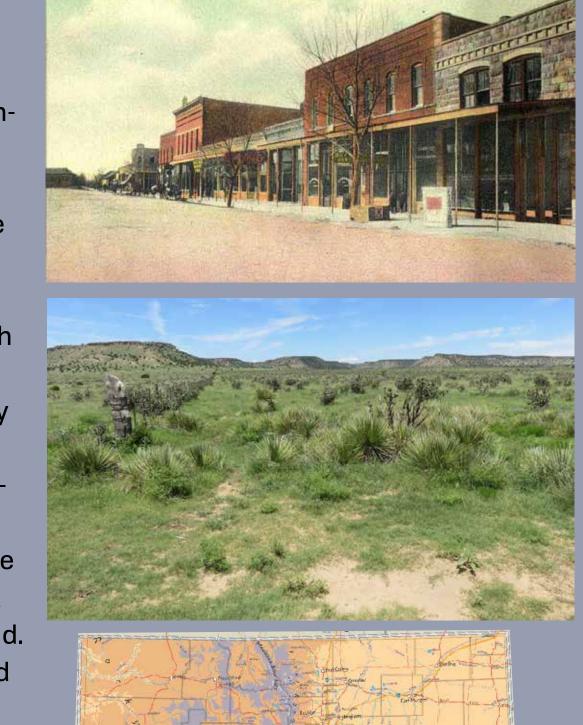
height, the arsenal employed tal, located in the town of Auro-

ra, opened in 1918, somewhat ironically to treat the large chemical weapons during WWI. At the time, the town had 1000 residents. It was further enlarged in 1941 and is still in use as a hospital today. In the 50s the hospital treated President heart conditions.

PROWERS COUNTY



Lcorner of the state, Pro ers County is a land of prairi and canyons. The Arkansas River passes through the cour tively arid landscape. Until the turn of the century, the Santa the county, following the Arka and goods through trade. Due to the hard, dry land traditional farming was not successful in the county. Therefo homesteaders tended to stick to grazing animals on their land Prowers County has never had the mineral extraction draw other Colorado counties ex perienced, but it did serve a a way-station for travelers o their way to the mountains

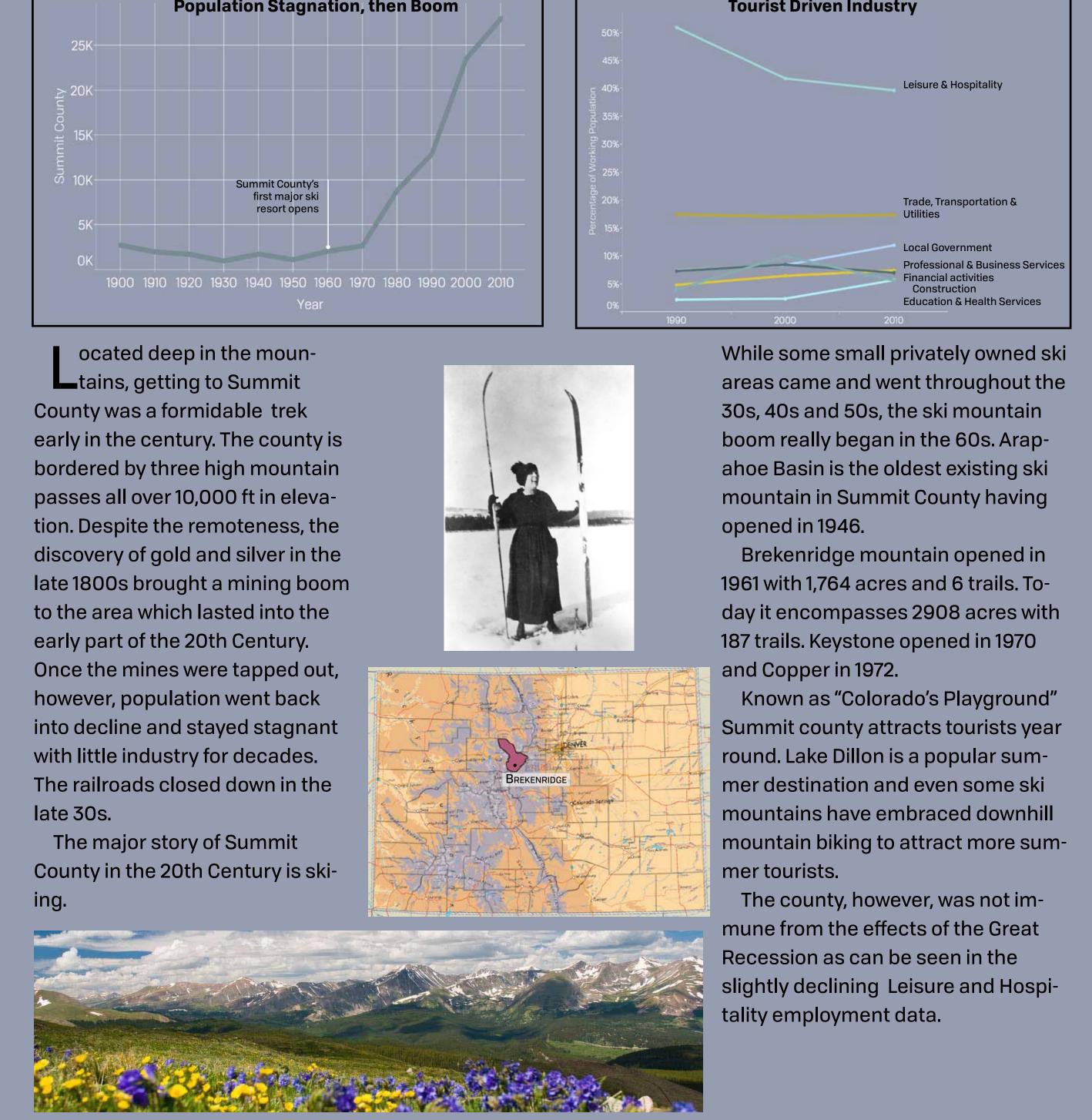


In the 1930s and 40s Roos and jobs to the county sufferi

In 1942 a Japanese internthe small town of Granada to ulation of the county has re mained level as young peopl

are drawn away to the cities t the east and west. Manufac turing has come and gone in the county and fewer and few people tend the ranches the traditionally relied upon. The opening and subsequent clo ing of the Neoplan Bus Mar ufacturer can be seen in the population growth and decline around the year 2000.

SUMMIT COUNTY



LA PLATA COUNTY

Population Steady Growth

1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990

ocated in the southwest

Lcorner of the state, La Pla

the northeast. The county seat

ta county lies just southwest o

the mineral rich mountains to

of Durango was originally es-

other minerals mined in those

tablished to receive silver ar

mountains. With the combin

tion of the Animas River and

nearby coal sources the city

was a prime location for smelt-

ers and coal driven steam en-

gines to process ore from the

Native American reservations:

the Southern Ute and the Ute

the Southern Ute tribe has be-

tribe members and non-Indi-

off the reservation have been

built including oil and gas

come a major employer of both

ans. New business both on and

Mountain Tribes. In recent years

The county encompasses two

Diversified Industry

Trade, Transportation &

Leisure & Hospitality

State Government

production, natural gas gath

ering, real estate development

gravel products, media, and

Traditionally the county re-

and timber industries but since

the 1970s the county has been

transitioning to tourism and

embracing a more urban popu-

is the largest public universi-

ty outside of the Front Range

and attracts students from all

ernment provide the majority

of jobs in the county. Like most

other counties, construction

and tourism were hit during the

Great Recession. The construc-

tion crash, however, was not as

sever for La Plata as for other

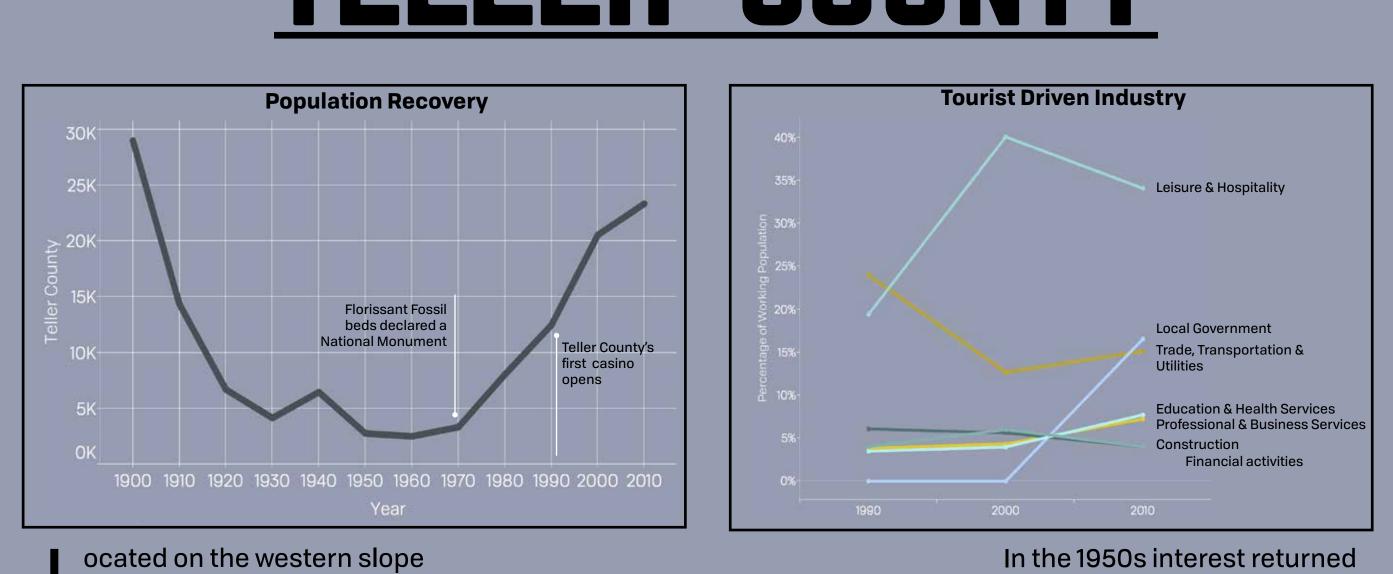
Today tourism and state gov-

across the state.

Fort Lewis College in Durango

Education & Health Services

TELLER COUNTY



Lof Pike's Peak, Teller County is indicative of a typical Colorado county shaped by mineral and coal mining. The peak of the Teller County mining boom centered in Cripple Creek, came around the turn of the century. The value of the gold mined in the county was greater than all other gold mining operations ever conducted in the US combined- a though much of that money was funneled out to Front Range cities like Colorado Springs. In the 1890s the county was the site of some of the first mining union revolts. As the mineral and coal mines became tapped out the population of the county went into a deep decline. With lack of work, young people were forced to move over the mountain to the cities on the Front Range. In 1922 the railroad, which used to ferry the goods and money that

sustained the county, went bank-

to the county as fossils were discovered in Florissant. In 1969 the Florissant Fossil beds were declared a National Monument attracting tourists to the area. Today the area is known for adventure tourism, historical tourism, and gambling. In 1991 gambling came to the county as can be seen in the boom in the leisure and hospitality workforce. The town of Cripple Creek has a robust historical society. As is similar to many other counties, the major employer, leisure and hospitality, took a hit during the Great Recession and local government has served to fill the void.

and has served as a way-sta tion for travelers on their way to the mountains. Coal mining smelting and refining were the dominant force in the econom of the county at the turn of the century. Additionally, farming The Depression and the dust bowl years, however, took a toll

on the county. Works Project Administration jobs, funded through the New Deal, helped to buoy the county some but could not halt the steady population decline. Trinidad, the county seat was once a bustling city with great mansions and roads paved with bricks emblazoned with the name Trinidad.

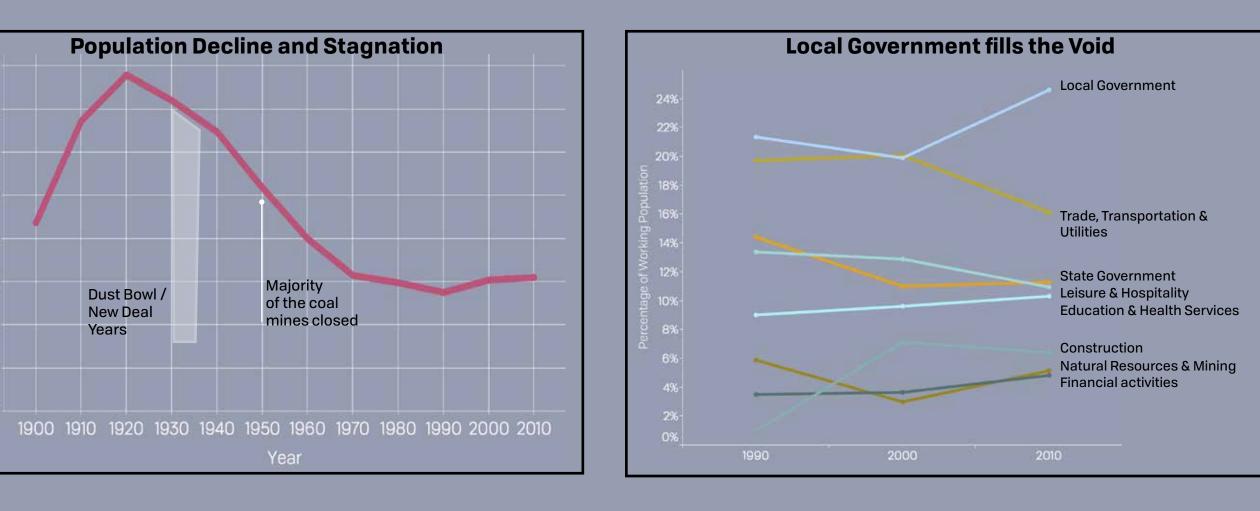
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

Major Ski Resort

Mineral Belt

Historic or Current

Coal Mining District



ocated on the southern a mountain and a plains count and ranching played an import-

with the legalization of mari-

juana in 2012. The county as a whole, however, has essentia ly not recovered from decline after the coal boom in the early part of the century. Tourism makes up a small portion of the county's income and has not taken off as in other counties. This is despite being easily accessed by the Interstate 25 cor-

owned by mine bosses, are now

either boarding houses, histo

cal museums or have fallen in

begun to recover, especially

Trinidad, in recent years, has

TRINIDAD

Created by: Sarah Reed