SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE FOR

CITY OF ELKO STUDY AREA AND THE

REST OF ELKO COUNTY STUDY AREA
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Introduction

Local communities need current and accurate information to help plan and make
important decisions. This report was prepared to provide a socioeconomic profile for the City of
Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area of Elko County. The information
presented is intended to provide interested parties with a variety of demographic, social,
economic and housing data for each of two areas of the county. The data results of this study can
be used for background material for a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
in Elko County and the feasibility analysis for a regional business incubator.

City of Elko Study Area consists of the Census Bureau’s Zip Code Tabulation Areas
(ZCTAs) 89801 (Elko), 89803 (Elko) and 89815 (Spring Creek). The Rest of County Study
Area consists of ZCTAs 89822 (Carlin), 89823 (Deeth), 89824 (Halleck), 89825 (Jackpot),
89826 (Jarbidge), 89828 (Lamoille), 89830 (Montello), 89831 (Mountain City), 89832
(Owyhee), 89833 (Ruby Valley), 89834 (Tuscarora), 89835 (Wells), 89883 (West Wendover),
and 898XX (Elko County). Investigation revealed 0% of residents in the 898XX ZCTA did
reside outside Elko County during the period when the census data used in these analyses were
collected). See Figure 1 for a map of Elko County ZCTAs. Original underlying data for these
two areas are from U. S. Census 2000 data in Summary Files 1, and 3. UCED calculated sums
and averages for the areas using the Census Bureau ZCTA data.

To put each individual community or study area’s data into perspective, data for City of
Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area are compared with the county as a
whole, the State of Nevada and the United States. County, state and national level statistics are
from the same Census Bureau summary files.

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1 Zip Code Tabulation Areas do not exactly correspond to U.S. Postal Service ZIP codes. Also, Zip Code Tabulation
Areas do not correlate with other Census Bureau geography levels such as states, counties, census tracts and so forth
and are not comparable over time. For more information http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/tigermap.html#ZIP.

2 Data in Summary File 1 is 100% data from the Census short-form which attempts to canvas each household in the
United States and includes very basic information such as race, age and sex. Data in Summary File 3 is sample data
from the Census long-form given to approximately 1 in 6 households in the nation, which is then weighted so as to
represent the entire population. Summary File 3 and 4 contain more detailed information such as income, education
and occupation.
Elko County Demographic Analysis by Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)
**Population Distribution, Year 2000**

Population is the total residents in an area. Residence refers to the “usual place” where a person lives. This is not necessarily the same as legal residence.

Total Elko County population was 45,291 in 2000. The City of Elko has a population of 32,382, or 71% of the total county population. The population of all remaining communities and rural residents of Elko County was 29%

![Population Distribution, Year 2000](image)

Source: US Census 2000
Population by Race, Year 2000

The Census Bureau tabulates race from self-identification of respondents. In addition to the five categories of White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, and for those who do not identify with the above-specified groups “other,” the category of Hispanic is independently calculated. Respondents identifying themselves as Hispanic can simultaneously identify themselves as “White only,” “Black or African American only,” etc., requiring the Hispanic statistics to be subtracted from the non-Hispanic “White only,” etc., designations. The standard summary model of race statistics that groups Alaskan Native with American Indian and Asian with Pacific Islander has been used here.

Source: US Census 2000
Population by Age, Year 2000

Age data are reported for the total population. In 2000, 21% of the total population of the U.S. was 55 years of age or older. For the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area, the proportionate share of total population 55 years and older was 13.1% and 14.3%, respectively, which was lower than the national or state of Nevada average.

Source: US Census 2000
Median Age, Year 2000

In 2000, the median age of the total population for the county was 31.2 years, which is lower than the U.S. median age of 35.3 years and the state median age of 35 years. The median age for the City of Elko Study Area was 31.9 years of age as compared to the Rest of Elko County Study Area of 40.2 years of age. ZCTAs with low population numbers frequently have high median age values, while ZCTAs with larger population numbers would have median ages more similar to the overall Elko County population. This creates a bias toward an older population for median value for the Rest of Elko County Study Area.³

³ Areas with small populations will show more variability in estimated averages than will areas with larger populations.
Population by Highest Level of Educational Attainment, Year 2000

Educational attainment shows the highest level of education completed by persons who are 25 years or older. For persons still enrolled in school, the previous year/level completed is shown. Educational attainment provides insight into the type of workforce available and provides some indication of an area’s educational system.

In 2000, 24.4% of the US population at least 25 years old had a bachelor’s degree or higher education level. However, the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area had only 16.2% and 10.9%, respectively, of their population 25 years and older with a bachelor’s degree or higher. Also, 17.0% and 31.2% of the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area, respectively, persons 25 years of age and older had not completed high school. For comparison, 19.6% and 19.3% of the nation and state of Nevada, respectively, persons 25 years of age and older had not completed high school.
The Elko City Study Area had a lower proportionate share of persons 25 years of age and older without a high school diploma as compared to the Rest of Elko County Study Area, state of Nevada, and nation. However, to compete in the “new economy,” a local educated workforce is essential. Both City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area have proportionate shares of person 25 years and older population below the national and state average. This educational level for both study areas may make it difficult to compete for “new economy” industries and jobs.
**Total Households & Average Household Size, Year 2000**

Total households are occupied housing units. Average household size is calculated by dividing total persons in households by the number of households.

In 2000, 15,638 households were reported in Elko County, with an average household size of 2.85 persons. The average household size for year 2000 in the US and Nevada were 2.59 and 2.62, respectively.

The average household size in City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area was 2.96 and 2.41 persons per household, respectively, in 2000. The average household size in the City of Elko Study Area was higher than the national and state average, but lower for the Rest of Elko County Area.

Source: US Census 2000
Household Characteristics, Year 2000

Household type is identified by the presence of relatives and the number of persons. There are family households and non-family households. In addition, families are further classified as those of married couples with or without children (married couple families) and single parents with children (female [male] householder, no husband [wife] present). Non-family households include singles living alone, and any number of other adult combinations.

In 2000, 51.7% of national households were traditional married couple families, 49.7% in the state of Nevada. Both the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area have a higher proportionate share of households with married couple families (City of Elko Study Area was 61.6%, and Rest of County was 53.1) than the national and state of Nevada averages. However, the proportionate share of total non-family households is lower than state and national averages across all Elko demographic partitions.

Source: US Census 2000
Households with Persons 65 Years and Older, Year 2000

Household with persons 65 years or older includes singles living alone, and all family permutations. In 2000, 23.4% of total U.S. households included a person who was 65 years or older. Nevada was slightly lower with 21.3%. The City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area had 12.1% and 14.6% of households with persons 65 years or older. These study area shares were lower than national and state of Nevada averages.

Source: US Census 2000
Household Income Distribution by Income Category, Year 1999

Household income includes the total income received in the calendar year of all household members aged 15 years and older. Income sources include wages, self-employment, interest and dividends, Social Security, public assistance, retirement, disability, and other sources such as alimony, child support and unemployment.

In 1999, 58% and 55.9% of the U.S. and state of Nevada households, respectively, reported household incomes of $50,000 or less. For the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area, 46.6% and 66.2% of study area households, respectively, had household incomes of $50,000 or less.

Source: US Census 2000
Average Household Income and Per Capita Income, Year 1999

Average household income represents the mean of the income distribution. It is calculated from the aggregate of total household income divided by all households in the distribution. Per capita income is the average income for all persons, calculated from total income of persons 15 years and older.

For the U.S. and state of Nevada, average household income in 1999 was $56,604 and $55,463, respectively. For Elko County, average household income in 1999 was $51,847, which is lower than the national and state average. For the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area, average household income in 1999 was reported to be $45,385 and $39,271, respectively. Both study areas had average household income levels below the national and state averages. Per capita income follows the same trends.

Source: US Census 2000
Labor Force and Unemployment, Year 2001

Labor force includes civilian employed, unemployed, and the U.S. Armed Forces. Employed includes all persons who were at work or temporarily absent. Unemployed are persons seeking work in the previous 4 weeks and able to work. An unemployment rate is total unemployed divided by the sum of civilian employed plus unemployed persons. For scale, the percent of the population (dependency sector) not in the labor force has been included.

In 2000, there were 138,820,935 persons in the national labor force and 1,003,293 in the state of Nevada labor force. Elko County reported a labor force of 22,924 in 2000.

Source: US Census 2000
Labor Force Participation Rate, Year 2000

Labor force participation rate is people in the labor force divided by the total population aged 16 and over. Homemakers, retired people, students and those who were in the labor force but are no longer actively pursuing employment are some of the people who could make up the population that was not participating in the labor force.

Elko County has a much higher estimated labor participation rate (70.8%) than does the state of Nevada (65.2%) or the United States (63.9%). The Rest of Elko County Study Area (69.9%) is only slightly lower than City of Elko Study Area (71.2%) labor participation rate.

Source: US Census 2000
Labor Force by Occupation, Year 2000

Labor force characteristics are reported for persons 16 years and older who were employed during the reference week, which is the week preceding enumeration. The U.S. Census Bureau labor force data are collected by household.

In 2000, the proportionate occupation share of the national labor force was 60.3% white collar, 14.9% service, and 24.1% blue collar. For Elko County and the City of Elko Study Area, the proportionate share of total labor force in the service occupation was lower than Elko County and the City of Elko Study Area. However, Rest of Elko County Study Area had proportionate share in service occupation higher than the state average. Of interest, is the larger proportionate share of total Rest of Elko County Study Area labor force in the farming occupation (3.2%) when compared to the City of Elko Study Area (0.6%), Elko County (1.3%), state of Nevada (0.3%), and the nation (0.7%).
Percent Employed by Industry for 2000

The U.S. Census Bureau reports Civilian Employed Population age 16 years and older by industry for those who were employed during the reference week, which is the week preceding enumeration. These data are collected for individual workers.

The figure and table showing percentage of civilian population 16 years of age and older employed by sector provides insights as to economic base by representative study area. For the state of Nevada, which is heavily influenced by Clark County (Las Vegas), over 26% of civilian population are employed in the Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Service Sector. This proportionate share indicates the influence of the Clark County casino industry on the state economy. For comparison, the Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Service Sector in Elko County, the City of Elko Study Area, and the Rest of Elko County Study Area make up 22.17%, 12.40%, and 46.90%, respectively, of the areas total civilian population employment by sector.

In comparison to show the strength of the national resources industries in Elko County, the City of Elko Study Area, and Rest of Elko County Study Area, the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining Sector make up 22.08%, 24.91%, and 14.92%, respectively, of total civilian population employed by sector for these three study areas. In comparison, the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining Sector make up only 1.60% and 1.87%, respectively, of total civilian population employment in the state of Nevada and the U.S.
### Percent Employed Population by Industry, Year 2000

#### Percent Employed Population Age 16 Years and Older by Industry US Nevada Elko County City of Elko Rest of County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>Nevada</th>
<th>Elko County</th>
<th>City of Elko</th>
<th>Rest of County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining</td>
<td>1.87%</td>
<td>1.60%</td>
<td>22.08%</td>
<td>24.91%</td>
<td>14.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>6.78%</td>
<td>9.25%</td>
<td>8.01%</td>
<td>8.99%</td>
<td>6.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>14.10%</td>
<td>4.91%</td>
<td>1.43%</td>
<td>1.43%</td>
<td>1.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>3.66%</td>
<td>2.69%</td>
<td>2.73%</td>
<td>3.23%</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>11.73%</td>
<td>11.29%</td>
<td>9.41%</td>
<td>10.61%</td>
<td>6.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and warehousing, and utilities</td>
<td>5.20%</td>
<td>5.15%</td>
<td>3.41%</td>
<td>3.47%</td>
<td>3.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>3.08%</td>
<td>2.35%</td>
<td>1.39%</td>
<td>1.05%</td>
<td>0.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing</td>
<td>6.89%</td>
<td>6.45%</td>
<td>2.91%</td>
<td>3.56%</td>
<td>1.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste services</td>
<td>9.30%</td>
<td>8.80%</td>
<td>4.07%</td>
<td>4.99%</td>
<td>1.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational, health and social services</td>
<td>19.52%</td>
<td>12.85%</td>
<td>13.61%</td>
<td>15.38%</td>
<td>9.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services</td>
<td>7.87%</td>
<td>26.32%</td>
<td>22.17%</td>
<td>12.40%</td>
<td>46.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services (except public administration)</td>
<td>4.87%</td>
<td>3.84%</td>
<td>3.88%</td>
<td>4.34%</td>
<td>2.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td>4.79%</td>
<td>4.49%</td>
<td>4.93%</td>
<td>5.44%</td>
<td>3.64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Labor Force by Place of Work, Year 2000

Place of work is reported to the U.S. Census for employed persons 16 years and older. Data given is for individual workers who were employed during the reference week, which is the week preceding enumeration.

From the following graph, 88.4% and 89.0% workers 16 years of age and older in the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area, respectively, work in Elko County. Approximately 7.3% of workers 16 years of age and older in the Rest of Elko County Study Area work outside the state of Nevada, as compared to only 1.5% in the City of Elko Study Area. Also, 10.1% of workers 16 years of age and older in the City of Elko Study Area work in other Nevada counties, as compared to 3.7% in the Rest of Elko County Study Area.

Source: US Census 2000
Housing Characteristics, Year 2000

Total housing units are all units occupied and vacant, year-round and seasonal. Home value is the homeowner’s estimate of value, for owner-occupied units that include only one-family houses on less than 10 acres without a business or medical office on the property.

In year 2000, state of Nevada median home values ($142,000) were higher than the nation ($119,600), Elko County ($123,000), the City of Elko Study Area ($122,233), and the Rest of Elko County Study Area ($82,021). Median home values for the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area were 13.92% and 42.24%, respectively, below the state median.
**Housing Occupancy, Year 2000**

Housing units are considered occupied if the person(s) living there at the time of enumeration did not have a usual home elsewhere. Occupancy rate is calculated by dividing total occupied housing units by total housing units.

Housing units are considered vacant if unoccupied, or if the occupants had a usual home elsewhere at the time of enumeration. Vacancy rate is calculated by dividing total vacant housing units by total housing units.

In 2000 the U.S. and the State of Nevada reported an occupancy rate of 91% and 90.8%, respectively. These occupancy rates were higher than occupancy rates reported in Elko County of 84.7%, the City of Elko Study Area of 89.2%, and the Rest of Elko County Study Area of 74.8%.

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**Percent Housing Vacancy, Year 2000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Occupied</th>
<th>Vacant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>91.0%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>90.8%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elko County</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Elko</td>
<td>89.2%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of County</td>
<td>74.8%</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: US Census 2000
Type of Housing Vacancy, Year 2000

Total vacant housing units include the number of housing units vacant year-round plus the number of units reporting seasonal vacancy. Housing units are considered vacant if unoccupied or if the occupants had a usual home elsewhere at the time of enumeration. These numbers include total housing units inclusive of rentals, and tenant-owned properties.

In the chart below, the year-round and seasonal vacancy rates add up to the percent of vacant units. For comparison, the percent seasonal vacancy in the Rest of Elko County Study Rea (10.6%) was much higher than the City of Elko Study Area (2.0%), Elko County (4.7%), the state of Nevada (2.5%), and the nation (3.7%).
Summary

Below are summary notes of this publication:

- Data for the City of Elko Study Area consists of Census Bureau Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA) 89801 (Elko), 89803 (Elko) and 89815 (Spring Creek). The Rest of County Study Area consists of ZCTAs 89822 (Carlin), 89823 (Deeth), 89824 (Halleck), 89825 (Jackpot), 89826 (Jarbidge), 89828 (Lamoille), 89830 (Montello), 89831 (Mountain City), 89832 (Owyhee), 89833 (Ruby Valley), 89834 (Tuscarora), 89835 (Wells), 89883 (West Wendover), and 898XX (Elko County).

- The City of Elko Study Area makes up 71%, while the Rest of Elko County Study Area makes up 29% of total Elko County population.

- Distribution of the population by race shows reduced ethnic diversity in the City of Elko Study Area, but more ethnic diversity in the Rest of Elko County when compared to the nation and state of Nevada.

- For the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area, proportionate share of total population over 65 years of age was 5.5% and 6.2%, respectively, in 2000 as compared to the state of Nevada and national averages of 11.0% and 12.4%, respectively.

- Median age for the City of Elko Study Area in 2000 was reported as 31.9 years of age as compared to the Rest of Elko County Study Area of 40.2 years of age.

- Median age for the City of Elko Study Area in 2000 was younger at 31.9 years of age as compared to the state of Nevada and the U.S. of 35.0 years of age and 35.3 years of age, respectively.

- In 2000, 24.4% of the national population 25 years of age or older graduated from college or higher education levels. However, only 16.2% and 10.9% of the City of Elko Study Area and Rest of Elko County Study Area, respectively, were college graduates or higher. This would indicate that the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area would have difficulty competing in the new economy.

- Average household size for the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area were 2.96 persons and 2.41 persons, respectively, in 2000. For comparison, the national and state average household sizes were reported to be 2.59 persons and 2.62 persons, respectively.

- Approximately 12.1% and 14.6% of the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area and households, respectively, has persons 65 years or older.

- For the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area, 46.6% and 66.2% of study area households, respectively, had household incomes of $50,000 or less. For the City of Elko Study Area (46.6%), this value was below the national (58%) and
state (55.9%) average. However, proportionate share of households earning $50,000 or less was much higher for the Rest of Elko County Study Area (66.2%) than the national (58%) and state (55.9%) average.

- For both the City of Elko Study Area ($45,385) and the Rest of Elko County Study Area ($39,271), average household income was below the national ($56,604) and state ($55,463) average household income average.

- For the City of Elko Study Area, approximately 28.8% of the population is not in the labor force, which is lower than the national (36.1%) and state (34.8%) values. For the Rest of Elko County Study Area, approximately 30.4% of the population is not in the labor force, which is lower than the national and state values.

- The City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area had a higher labor force participation rate of 71.2% and 69.6%, respectively, than the state of Nevada (65.2%), and the nation (63.9%).

- The City of Elko Study Area (17.2%) realized a lower proportionate share of total labor force in the service occupations as compared to the state of Nevada (24.6%). However, the Rest of Elko County Study Area (35.2%) realized a higher proportionate share of total labor force in the service occupations as compared to the state of Nevada (24.6%)

- The Rest of Elko County Study Area had 3.2% of persons employed in farming occupation as compared to 0.6% in the City of Elko Study Area, 0.3% in the state of Nevada, and 0.7% in the U.S.

- For the City of Elko Study Area and the Rest of Elko County Study Area, the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining Sector was 24.91% and 14.92%, respectively, of study area employment as compared to the national and state of Nevada proportionate share in this economic sector of 1.60% and 1.87%, respectively.

- Approximately 88.4% and 89.0% of City Elko Study Area and Rest of Elko County Study Area workers 16 years of age or older, respectively, work in Elko County.

- Approximately 7.3% of workers 16 years of age or older in the Rest of Elko County Study Area work outside the state of Nevada as compared to only 1.5% in the City of Elko Study Area.

- Approximately 10.1% of workers 16 years of age or older in the City of Elko Study Area work in other Nevada counties as compared to 3.7% for the Rest of Elko County Study Area.

- In 2000, housing values in the City of Elko Study Area ($122,233) and the Rest of Elko County Study Area ($82,021) were below the state of Nevada ($142,000) and national ($119,000) median in 2000.
In 2000, the occupancy housing rate for the City of Elko Study Area (89.2%) and the Rest of Elko County Study Area (74.8%) were lower than the state of Nevada rate (90.8%) and national rate (91.0%) in 1999.

The percent of seasonal housing vacancy in the Rest of Elko County Study Area (10.6%) was much higher than the City of Elko Study Area (2.0%), Elko County (4.7%), the state of Nevada (2.5%), and the nation (3.7%).