

HEADWATERS ECONOMICS RESEARCH UPDATE

February 2009

www.headwaterseconomics.org



HEADWATERS
ECONOMICS

Economic Profile System **Making Better Economic and Land Management Decisions**

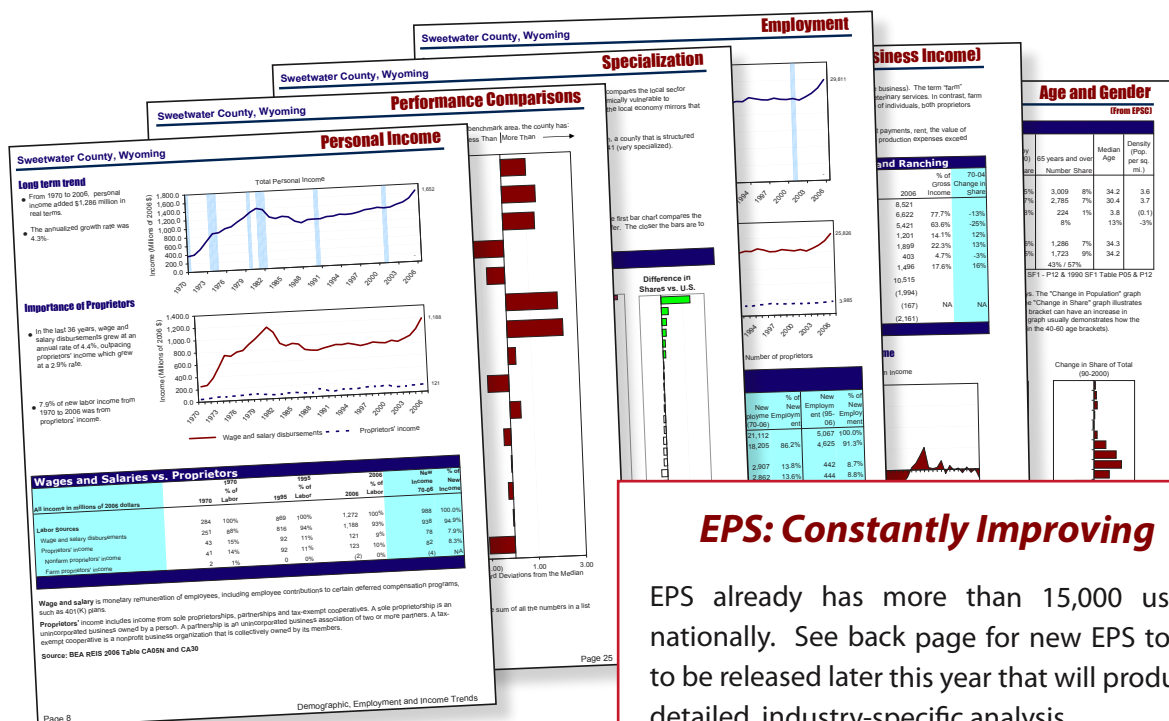
The Economic Profile System (EPS) is a free, easy-to-use software application used by public lands managers, county planners, economic development directors, county commissioners, businesses, researchers, and others to produce detailed socioeconomic profiles of their communities, counties, and regions.

Getting economics right is important, and EPS helps make better decisions by providing and analyzing more than 1,500 published variables (such as population, jobs, income, wages, relationships between economic sectors, age, education, or housing affordability) for more than 90,000 geographies

nation-wide including towns, counties, and states, as well as custom aggregations of counties.

A companion to EPS, called EPSC, employs detailed information from the decennial census, and is a useful tool for conducting analysis on specific demographic characteristics (such as age distribution, poverty, racial compositions, languages spoken, or education rates) at the community level.

EPS was funded by and developed in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management over the last ten years. Beginning in 2007, the Forest Service joined the partnership.



EPS: Constantly Improving

EPS already has more than 15,000 users nationally. See back page for new EPS tools to be released later this year that will produce detailed, industry-specific analysis.

EPS Provides Reliable and Credible Economic Analysis

EPS provides reliable and credible information that is translated into easy to understand analysis for both experts and non-specialists. EPS, for example, helps elected officials and land managers better understand the extent of timber's role in the economy or the share of retirement and investment income in their particular county or region.

One of the principle advantages of EPS is as a timesaving device. Analysts no longer have to spend weeks hunting for data, downloading it from web sites, standardizing the variables, adjusting numbers for inflation, and making charts, tables, and figures. All of that is done automatically by EPS, freeing users for the important work—utilizing the information and trends to make better economic development and long-term planning decisions.

EPS also contains data for small rural geographies which federal sources sometimes restrict. Using a variety of databases and econometric techniques, EPS has a built-in data gap estimation system and clearly indicates when this application has been applied.

Key Benefits

- EPS is free
- Easy to use for both experts and non-economists
- Uses only published statistics from federal data sources
- Updated every year with the latest data
- Available nation-wide
- Estimates data gaps for rural geographies

"I just want to commend you and thank you for EPS. It is the type of resource that causes me to say, 'Why didn't we do that?'"

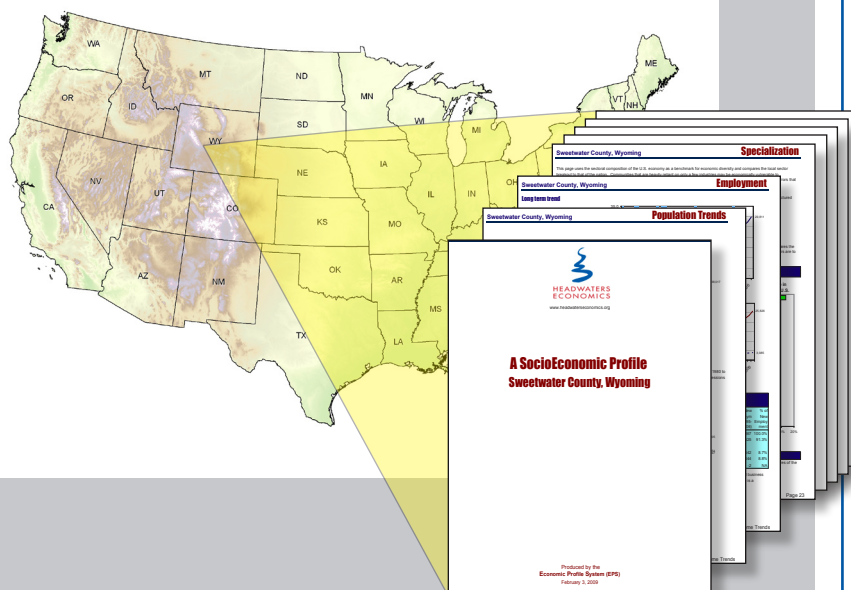
--PROFESSOR BILL PINKOVITZ, CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Three Ways You Can Use EPS

THERE ARE THREE WAYS to produce detailed EPS profiles automatically and efficiently at a variety of geographic scales from our web page: www.headwaterseconomics.org/eps.

1. Click on the interactive map on our web page to download and view finished EPS profiles in PDF format for any county or state.
2. Install EPS software to your personal computer which provides access to the raw data in Excel format and can provide aggregate profiles.
3. Contact Headwaters Economics for custom analysis or tailored profiles.

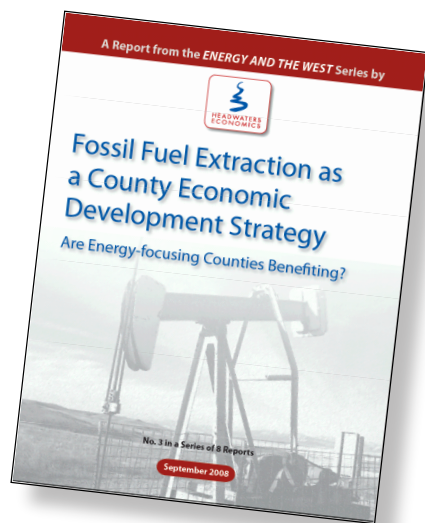
EPS Covers Every County and State Including Alaska and Hawaii.



EPS Enhances Research and Outreach

Headwaters Economics uses EPS on a daily basis as a powerful research and outreach tool. Two recent examples demonstrate its broad application.

EPS was crucial to our ability to analyze the impacts of fossil fuel extraction on western counties.



www.headwaterseconomics.org/energy

EPS enhances our outreach work such as engaging citizens and agency staff to update management plans for the Sequoia National Forest in California.



www.headwaterseconomics.org/sequoia.php

How the Public Uses EPS

As the Mayor of Choteau, I used EPS to better understand our community. The charts, graphs and interpretive notations were very helpful and easy to understand. EPS provided a touchstone for the whole community as we worked together to create a vision of our future and identify our community's competitive advantages.



--DAN CLARK, FORMER MAYOR,
CHOTEAU, MONTANA

For ten years the Bureau of Land Management has sponsored the development of the Economic Profile System. Making information readily available to the communities and interest groups affected by BLM's actions furthers our goal of a cooperative approach to resource management.

--DR. ROB WINTHROP, SENIOR SOCIAL SCIENTIST,
BLM, WASHINGTON, DC.

I wanted to write and tell you how much I like your county profiles. I direct a regional leadership and policy collaborative in northwest California (Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino counties) and on my website I link to your profiles.

--KATHLEEN E. MOXON, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS,
HUMBOLDT AREA FOUNDATION, CALIFORNIA

"EPS is just the tool we needed to work our way through Forest Plan Revision. EPS is great because it provides scientifically credible information in a format that even those of us who aren't professional economists can understand. It's really improved our ability to communicate with the public.

--RON POTTS, PLANNER,
SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST, NEW MEXICO

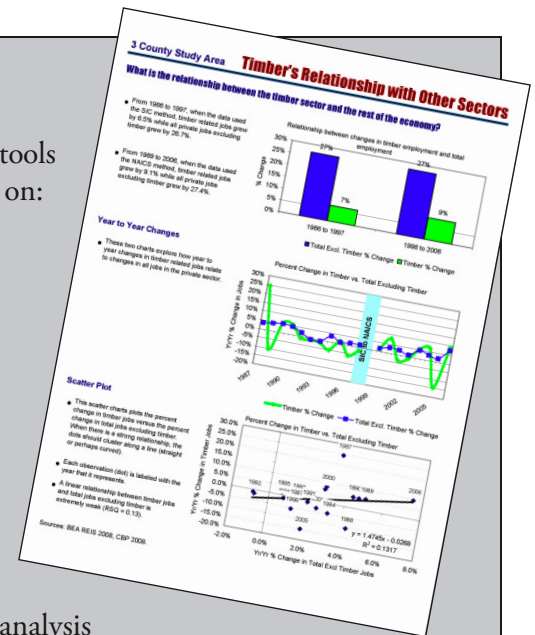
EPS is Constantly Improving

Later this year, Headwaters Economics will release new analysis tools as part of EPS that will produce detailed, industry-specific chapters on:

- Timber and Wood Products
- Mining and Energy Development
- Travel and Tourism
- Agriculture
- Government
- Service Industries
- Non-Labor Income
- Environmental Justice

Working closely with the Forest Service, Headwaters Economics is producing a new feature called the Human Dimensions Toolkit. HDT will provide color-coded interpretive analysis and will push information from any EPS profile into a Microsoft Word document to make it easier to share and turn into planning documents.

Like all EPS products, these new tools will be free, easy to use, and available nation-wide.



MISSION STATEMENT

Headwaters Economics is an independent, non-profit research group. Our mission is to improve community development and land management decisions in the West.

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