

### Unemployment Rate Update

- La Plata County unemployment rate was 4.0% in December 2021. The national rate was 3.9% in the same time period and Colorado's rate was 4.8%. November's rate was 4.2% in La Plata County.
- San Juan County was 4.3% in December and 4.9% in November.
- Archuleta County was 3.8%, down from 4.0 in November.
- Montezuma County was 4.7%. November was 4.8%.

See more here: <https://www.colmigateway.com/vosnet/analyzer/resultsNew.aspx?session=labforce&pu=1&plang=E>

### Durango-La Plata County Airport

- Last year was officially the busiest of all time for airline passenger traffic at Durango-La Plata County Airport. Total airline traffic was 1.7% higher than in 2019, when the previous record was established, and a remarkable 101% more than passenger traffic in 2020 when the pandemic weighed heavily on demand.

### La Plata County Land Use Code Update

- La Plata County will avoid a stall on the rewrite of Chapter 90, oil and gas regulations. The county's natural resources planner left for another opportunity but County Manager Chuck Stevens said the county will continue to move forward with the rewrite. A draft is expected later this year.

### LPEA Update

- LPEA will host a virtual town hall meeting on Thursday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m. to give the latest updates on the ongoing negotiations around LPEA's future power supply options.
- This will be the last town hall meeting on this subject before the LPEA Board of Directors votes on a path forward at its February 16, 2022, meeting.
- Pre-registration is required. You must be an LPEA member or have a close affiliation with LPEA to attend. Register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ylRk-ecLQEGPWZyN6eTr7A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ylRk-ecLQEGPWZyN6eTr7A)

### Legislation - Sales Tax

- SB 32 - Concerning simplification of local sales and use tax compliance and administration for retailers that make retail sales in local taxing jurisdictions where they have limited physical presence. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-032> (CO Chamber of Commerce supports) Sent to Senate Appropriations Committee.
- HB 1027 - Concerning the extension of the small retailer exception to the sales and use tax destination sourcing rules. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1027> Sent to the Governor. (CO Chamber supports)
- HB 1039 - Concerning simplification of the means by which proof of eligibility for sales and use tax exemptions is established. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1039> (CO Chamber supports) Sent to the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee for a hearing Feb. 17 at 1:30pm.

### Legislation - Housing

- HB 1051 - Concerning modification of the Colorado affordable housing tax credit, and, in connection therewith, extending the time during which the credit may be claimed and increasing the yearly amount of credits that can be allocated. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1051> (CO Association of Realtors supports) Sent to the House Transportation and Local Government Committee.
- SB 60 - Concerning limiting increases in homeowner association fees associated with the use of common elements in a common interest community. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-060> (CAR Supports) Sent to the Senate Local Government Committee for a hearing on Feb. 8 at 1:30 pm.

- HB 1082 - Concerning the enforcement of state housing laws by the department of law, and, in connection therewith, establishing a fair housing unit within the department of law. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-072> Sent to the House Judiciary Committee for a hearing Feb. 9 at 1:30 pm.
- HB 1102 - Concerning protected classes in fair housing practices, and, in connection therewith, including a veteran or military status as a protected class. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1102> House Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Refer Unamended to House Committee of the Whole.
- HB 1006 - Concerning the property tax exemption for property used as an integral part of a child care center. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1006> (CAR supports) Assigned to House Committee on Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services and Refer Unamended to Appropriations.

#### **Legislation - Wildfire Mitigation**

- SB 7 - Concerning outreach to the public relating to wildfire risk mitigation practices. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-007> (CAR Supports) Assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee.
- HB 1011 - Concerning the establishment of a state grant program that provides funding to local governments that dedicate resources for wildfire mitigation purposes. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1011> House Energy and Environment Committee for a hearing Feb. 9. (CAR Supports)
- HB 1007 - Concerning wildfire mitigation assistance for landowners. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1007> House Energy & Environment Committee for a hearing Feb. 9.

#### **Legislation - Oil & Gas**

- SB 26 - Concerning an oil and gas operator's sole ability to review and protest property tax. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-026> Senate Finance Committee Hearing Feb. 9 at 1:30pm.

#### **Legislation - Energy/Environment**

- HB 1018 - Concerning a state regulated utility's practices regarding a customer's ability to pay the customer's utility bill. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1018> (CO Chamber supports) House Energy & Environment Committee for a hearing Feb. 10 at 1:30pm.
- HB 1026 - Concerning the replacement of the income tax deduction for amounts spent by an employer to provide alternative transportation options to employees with an income tax credit for amounts spent by an employer for that purpose. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1026> (CO Chamber supports) House Appropriations Committee.

#### **Legislation - Broadband**

- SB 83 - Concerning a broadband provider's use of the public rights-of-way. <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb22-083> Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee hearing on Feb. 15 at 1:30 pm.

#### **Election 2022 (Primary Election 6/28/22)**

##### LPC Treasurer Candidates

- Allison Aichele, (D) incumbent
- Erin Hutchins, (I)

##### LPC Commissioner, District 1

- Clyde Church, (D) incumbent
- Brad Blake, (R)
- Jack Turner (I)

##### 3rd Congressional District

- Lauren Boebert, (R) incumbent
- Don Coram (R)
- Marina Zimmerman (R)
- Debby Burnett (D)
- Naziha In'am Hadil (D)
- Susan Martinez (D)

- Kellie Rhodes (D)
- Sol Sandoval (D)
- Donald Valdez (D)
- Colin Wilhelm (D)
- Scott Yates (D)
- Kristin Skowronski (I)

US Senate Colorado

- Michael Bennet (D) incumbent
- Eli Bremer (R)
- Gino Campana (R)
- Deborah Flora (R)
- Ron Hanks (R)
- Julie Henry (R)
- Gregory Moore (R)
- Joe O’Dea (R)
- Peter Yu (R)
- Teal’c Anderson (Freedom Party)
- Aaron Trevino (I)

**Meetings attended January 11 - February 8**

1/11 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	1/25 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting
1/12 - 8 am Eggs and Issues	1/26 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
1/12 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	1/27 - 2 pm Joint Durango Council/LPC BOCC Meeting
1/12 - 11:30 am Evernote Training	1/27 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission
1/13 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	1/31 - 9 am BOCC Special Business Meeting*
1/18 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session	2/1 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting*
1/18 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	2/1 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session*
1/19 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	2/1 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting*
1/24 - 11:30 am BOCC Work Session	2/2 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time*
1/24 - 5 pm Durango Planning Commission	2/8 - 9:15 am LAC Meeting

\* Covered after the meeting takes place