

***Popular Annual Financial Report  
Douglas County, Nebraska  
For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013  
Issued by Thomas F. Cavanaugh,  
Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller***

Photos on cover page:

Top of page-Douglas County Courthouse, courtesy of Douglas County Historical Society

Upper left photo—view of Omaha looking west from downtown

Upper right photo-view of Omaha, looking east from downtown

Lower left photo-Desert Dome at Henry Doorly Zoo

Lower right photo-Standing Bear Lake



FOUND INSIDE:  
SOURCES OF COUNTY FUNDS  
COUNTY EXPENSES FOR 2013  
COUNTY REVENUES FOR 2013  
ASSETS/LIABILITIES  
BONDED INDEBTEDNESS  
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
ABOUT DOUGLAS COUNTY

### To our citizens:

It is with great pleasure that we present to you [Douglas County's Popular Annual Financial Report \(PAFR\)](#) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

The PAFR is not as detailed as a CAFR, but summarizes the governmental activities that are supported by your tax dollars. The schedules shown in the PAFR are different from the GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) compliant financial statements found in the CAFR because accounting data is summarized and combined and does not contain information about the various component units of your county government.

The information in this PAFR is taken from the County's CAFR, audited by Hayes and Associates. For more detailed accounting data, please refer to the Douglas County 2013 CAFR found on the Clerk/Comptroller's website at <http://www.douglascountyclerk.org/finance-division>.

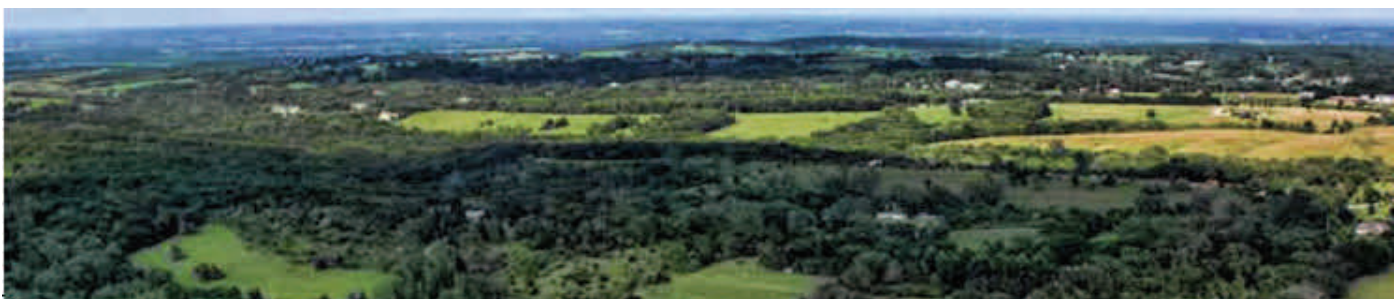
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Douglas County for their continued support in our efforts to strengthen accountability and efficiency in local government.

And, I would like to extend thanks to the staff of the Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's office, whose work on the Douglas County CAFR and the Douglas County PAFR demonstrates their professionalism and dedication to their roles as public servants.

The PAFR is designed to provide a simpler, more streamlined view of how your Douglas County government spends the tax dollars it collects from the citizens we serve, and an idea of the kinds of services Douglas County employees are engaged in as they work to safeguard the resources of the county.

I encourage you to visit [our website](#), to visit the office, and to phone us with any questions you have about the information provided in both the CAFR and the PAFR.

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Room H08  
Omaha, NE 68183





Memorial Park, Omaha, Nebraska



The Court at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition

Douglas County, Nebraska, was incorporated in 1854, and named after Stephen A. Douglas, who had introduced the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act, which made Kansas and Nebraska official territories. Before Nebraska was admitted to the Union in 1867, Omaha, now the county seat of Douglas County, was the state capitol of the Nebraska Territory.

Today, the county covers approximately 340 square miles, with the latest census figures showing an estimated population of 531,265, and it comprises part of one of the nation's major metropolitan areas along the Missouri River, with [Omaha](#) as its largest city. Other cities/villages in Douglas County include [Valley](#), [Ralston](#), [Waterloo](#), [Bennington](#), and [Boys Town](#). Omaha is the major insurance and telemarketing center of the United States, and the county has a broad-based economy with strong trade, service, and manufacturing sectors. Omaha is corporate headquarters to the Gallup Organization and to five Fortune 500 companies, Mutual of Omaha, the Union Pacific Railroad, Berkshire Hathaway, Peter Kiewit & Sons, and ConAgra Foods, Inc. Other major employers of Douglas County residents include Offutt Air Force Base, Alegent Health, Methodist Health System, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Douglas County sits on the western side of the Missouri River, and has a number of lakes and reservoirs, a state recreation area, the world class [Henry Doorly Zoo](#), and numerous historical sites. It is also home to the [University of Nebraska Medical Center](#), the [University of Nebraska at Omaha](#), [Creighton University](#), and a number of other colleges and community colleges. Each spring, the NCAA brings its College World Series to Omaha, and the city hosts the games in a new stadium. The city has also hosted the Olympic Swim Trials at the convention center for the last two Olympics.

[Douglas County government](#) operates under the board of commissioners form of government, with seven commissioners elected by district, and nine separately elected county officials who are elected county-wide. The board of commissioners retains budget setting authority over the nine independently elected officials, and is responsible for the management of approximately 74.18% of all county operations. 22.59% of the county's budget is managed by nine independently elected officials and 3.23% is primarily managed by the state court system.

Douglas County elected officials are committed to their mission to provide basic services including public health and safety services, care for the indigent, providing both prosecutorial and public defender services, budgetary oversight of district, county and juvenile courts, and general government services (like collection and disbursement of taxes, building and maintaining bridges and roads) in the most efficient manner possible. The County operates a long term care facility and a mental health care facility, the county's landfill operations, and correctional facilities for both adults and youth.

While county officials continue an ongoing process of examining services that are not mandated by law, the board of commissioners raised the tax levy from 0.26459 in the 2013 fiscal year to 0.28059 for the 2014 fiscal year. Long term goals revolve around attempting to absorb cuts in state aid without having additional increases in the tax levy by looking at consolidation of offices, elimination of elected positions and elimination of non-mandated services. One example is the consolidation of the Assessor and Register of Deeds offices, which was approved by the voters in 2012, and will be effective January 1, 2015.

### **Douglas County's Mission Statement:**

To respect and respond to Douglas County citizens and provide quality services in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

### **Value Statements:**

- We value Responsive Government
  - We value Public Engagement
- We value Collaborative and Creative problem solving
  - We value Public/Private Partnerships

### **Douglas County Elected Officials for 2012/2013**

#### County Commissioners

Mary Ann Borgeson, Chair (District 6)  
Mike Boyle (District 1)  
Clare Duda (District 7)  
Marc Kraft (District 5)  
P. J. Morgan (District 4)  
Chris Rodgers (District 3)  
Pam Tusa (District 2)

#### **County-wide Elected Officials**

<u>County Assessor</u>	Roger Morrissey
<u>County Attorney</u>	Don Kleine
<u>Clerk/Comptroller</u>	Thomas F. Cavanaugh
<u>Clerk of the District Court</u>	John Friend
<u>Engineer</u>	Tom Doyle
<u>Public Defender</u>	Tom Riley
<u>Register of Deeds</u>	Diane Battiato
<u>Sheriff</u>	Tim Dunning
<u>Treasurer</u>	John Ewing

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN DOUGLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Budget management in Douglas County government is led by the appointed Budget and Finance Director in conjunction with the Douglas County Board's Finance Committee and the County's Chief Administrative Officer. They are responsible for developing the county's budget each year, and that budget is approved by the County Board. Each county-wide elected official submits their office's budget during the budget process, and those budgets are included in the total county budget.

The Douglas County Clerk serves as the county's comptroller, responsible for all financial reporting duties. Nebraska law charges the comptroller with the duty to act as the general accountant and fiscal agent of the county and to exercise a general supervision over all officers of the county charged in any manner with the receipt, collection, or disbursement of the county revenue. The comptroller audits all claims made for payment, using county funds and keeps the accounting records of the county.

In performing these duties, the Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller relies on the highly professional staff of the Administration, Finance, Payroll, and Records Divisions of the Clerk/

Comptroller's office. Staff are encouraged to participate in local and national professional associations and to receive continuing education that helps us to keep up to date on the ever changing federal, state and local regulations governing accounting and auditing.

The Clerk/Comptroller's focus has been on strengthening the county's internal controls and accountability to the citizens we all serve.

### Financial Reporting Awards

**The Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's office has also received the GFOA's prestigious Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting award for each fiscal year since the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, and the GFOA's Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award since 2009.**

### Available Public Information On-line

[Weekly supplier checks](#), [calendar year supplier payments](#), [monthly budget to actual expenditure reports](#), [tax rates for all political subdivisions in the county](#), [bonded indebtedness for all political subdivisions in the county](#).

## SOURCES OF COUNTY FUNDS

COUNTIES IN NEBRASKA DO NOT LEVY SALES OR INCOME TAXES. ABOUT 46% PERCENT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY'S BUDGET EACH YEAR COMES FROM PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS.

DOUGLAS COUNTY ALSO RECEIVES FUNDING FROM FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS, AND FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA'S REIMBURSEMENTS FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR BOTH ADULTS AND JUVENILES.

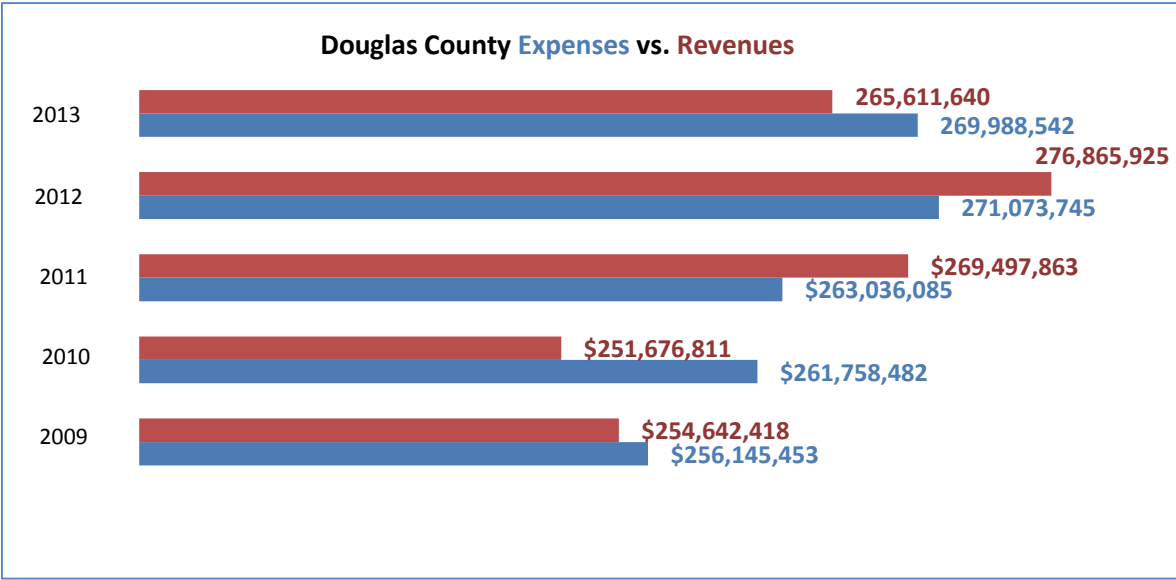
THE COUNTY'S LONG TERM CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AT THE HEALTH CENTER RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FROM PATIENT'S HEALTH INSURANCE AND FROM MEDICARE AND MEDICAID.

THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT USES FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT FUNDS TO RUN HEALTH CARE AND NUTRITION CLINICS AND TO ATTEND TO PUBLIC HEALTH CARE ISSUES IN OUR COUNTY.

THE COUNTY'S ROAD DEPARTMENT IS FUNDED BY PASS-THROUGH FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE STATE OF NEBRASKA FOR ITS ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.

AND, THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S BUDGET IS SUPPORTED NOT ONLY BY TAX DOLLARS, BUT BY MONIES CONFISCATED IN ITS DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

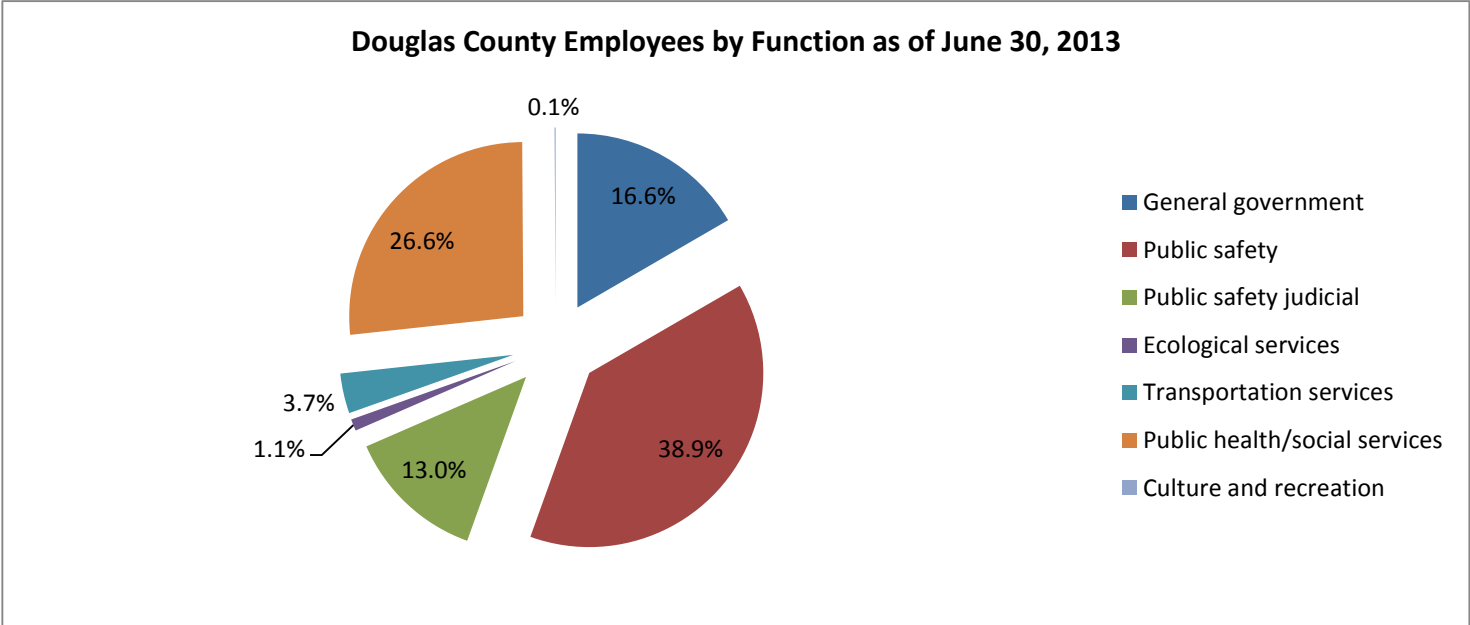
FINALLY, ABOUT 30% OF THE COUNTY'S REVENUES COME FROM FEES FOR SERVICES, FINES AND LICENSES.



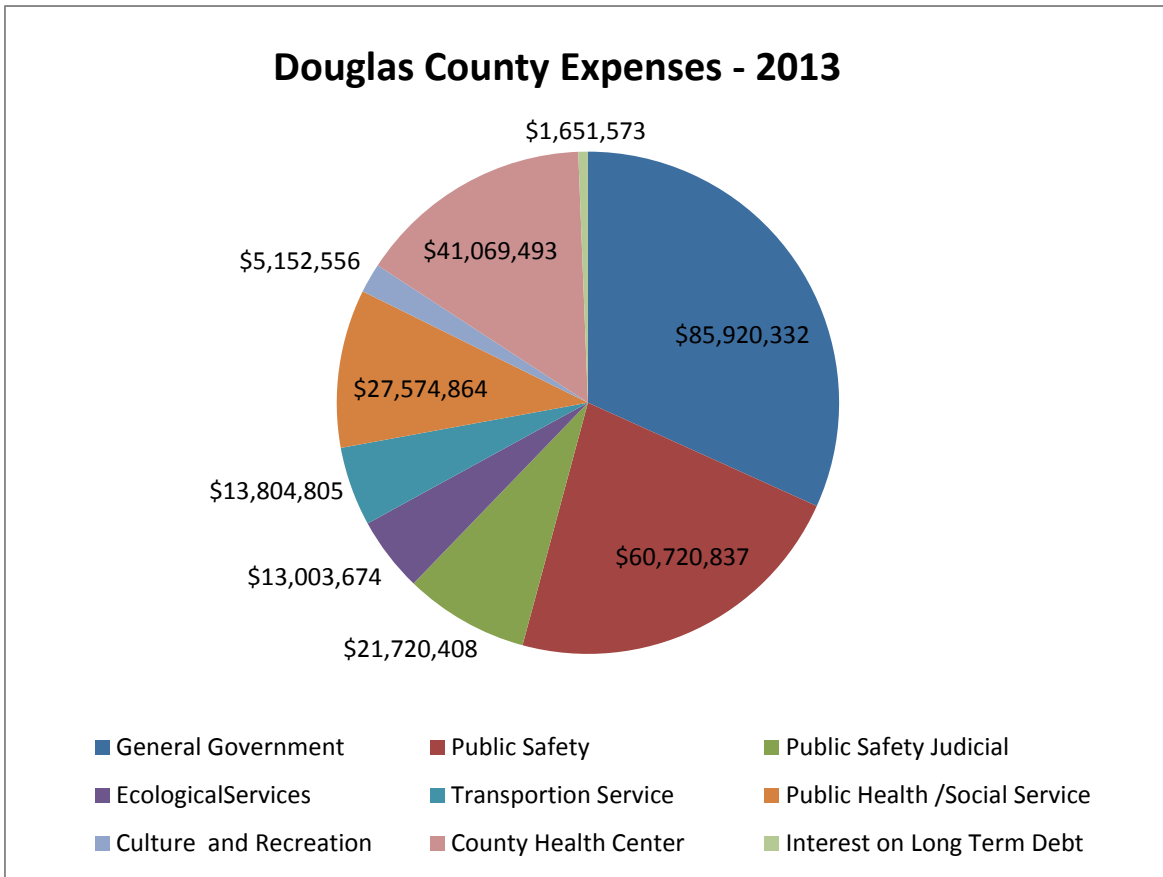
Data for this graph is taken from the Changes in Net Assets schedule of the Statistical Section of the Douglas County 2013 CAFR; CAFR data goes back 10 years. For ease of presentation, this graph only shows for the past five years.

In addition to property tax dollars, the County also collects inheritance tax and lodging tax dollars, which are budgeted for special projects and tourism activities. Douglas County receives reimbursement from other governments for housing and educational expenses for inmates in the youth and adult correctional facilities, road and bridge construction costs, and health and social services costs.

At the end of the 2012/2013 fiscal year, on June 30, 2013, Douglas County had a total of 2,014 FTE's. The graph below shows the breakdown of these employees by function—additional data about what these employees do can be found in the statistical section of the [County's CAFR](#) (Operating Indicators by Function).

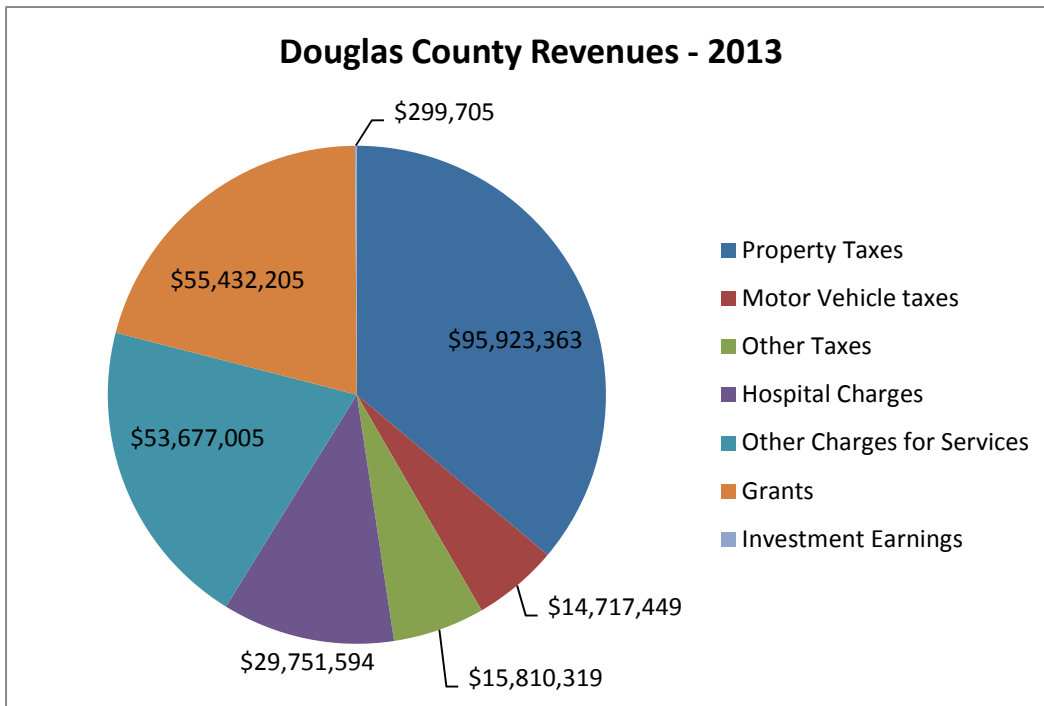


## Douglas County Expenses - 2013



Expenses for the 2013 fiscal year were down .4% from expenses for the 2012 fiscal year.  
 Revenues for the 2013 fiscal year were down 2.3% from revenues for the 2012 fiscal year.  
 The ratio of unrestricted reserves to total expenditures is a healthy 16% (slightly higher than the benchmark of 15%).

## Douglas County Revenues - 2013



Data in these charts can be found in the statistical section of the [County's CAFR](#), Changes in Net Assets.



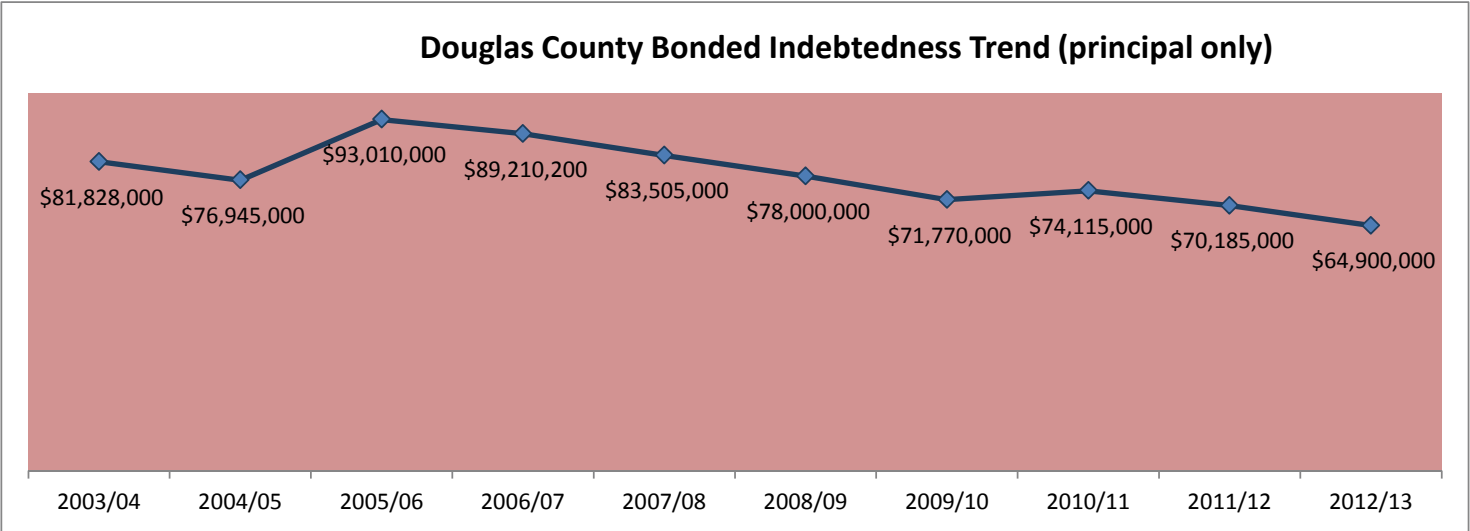
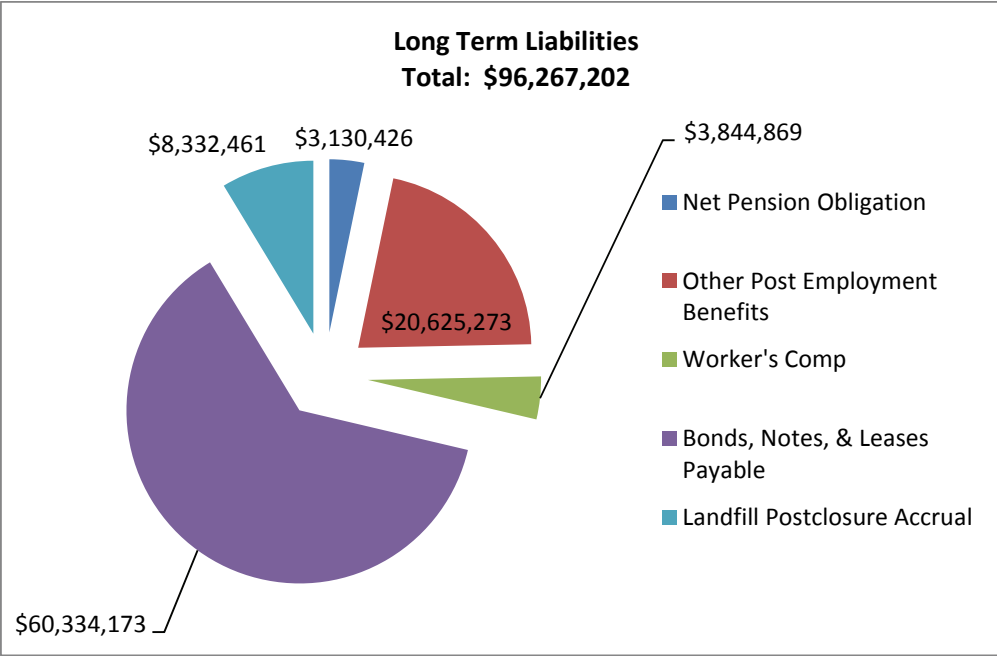
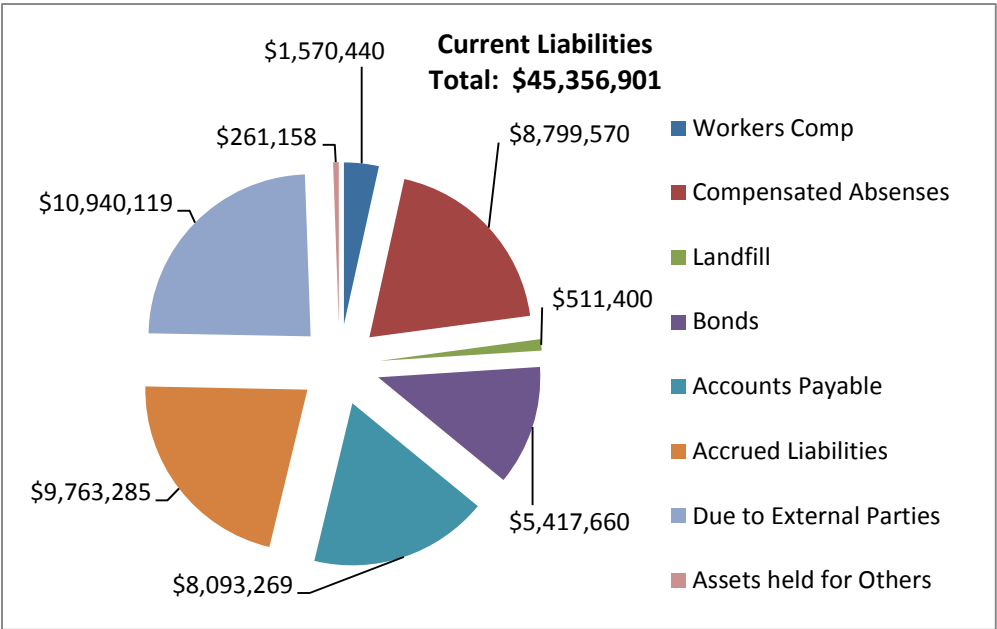
**Douglas County holds an AAA rating from Standard & Poor's, and an Aaa from Moody's Investor Service.**

The county's current liabilities as of the end of the 2013 fiscal year increased by nearly \$5 million, the ratio of current assets (those that can be converted to cash within one year) to current liabilities (obligations coming due within one year) is 2.119 to 1, slightly higher than the recommended ratio of 2 to 1.

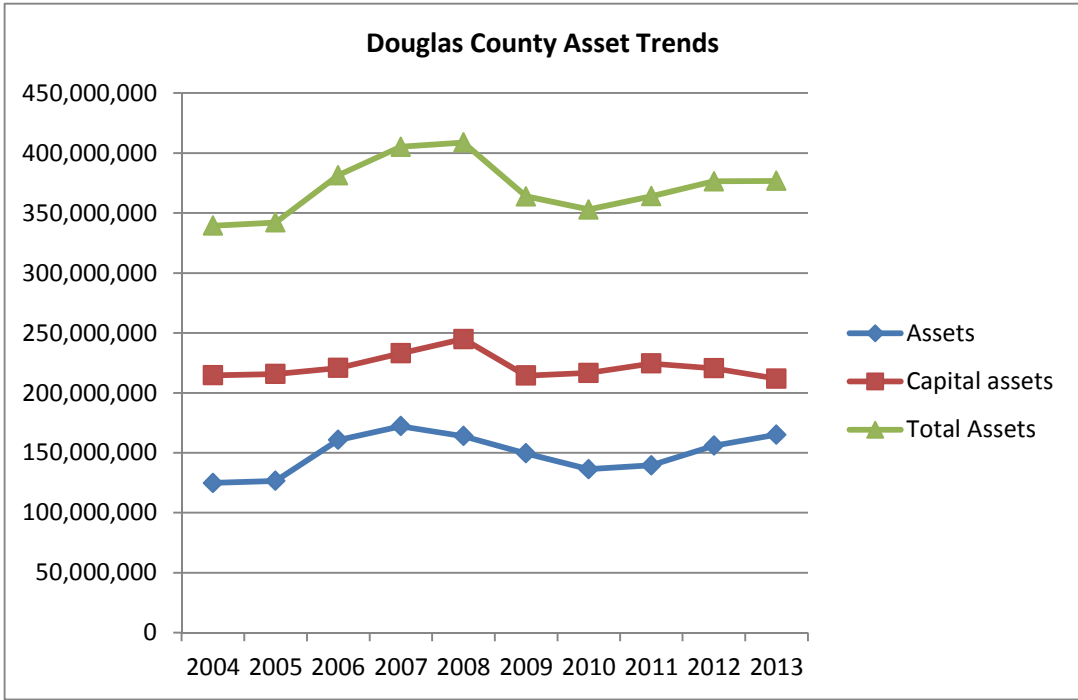
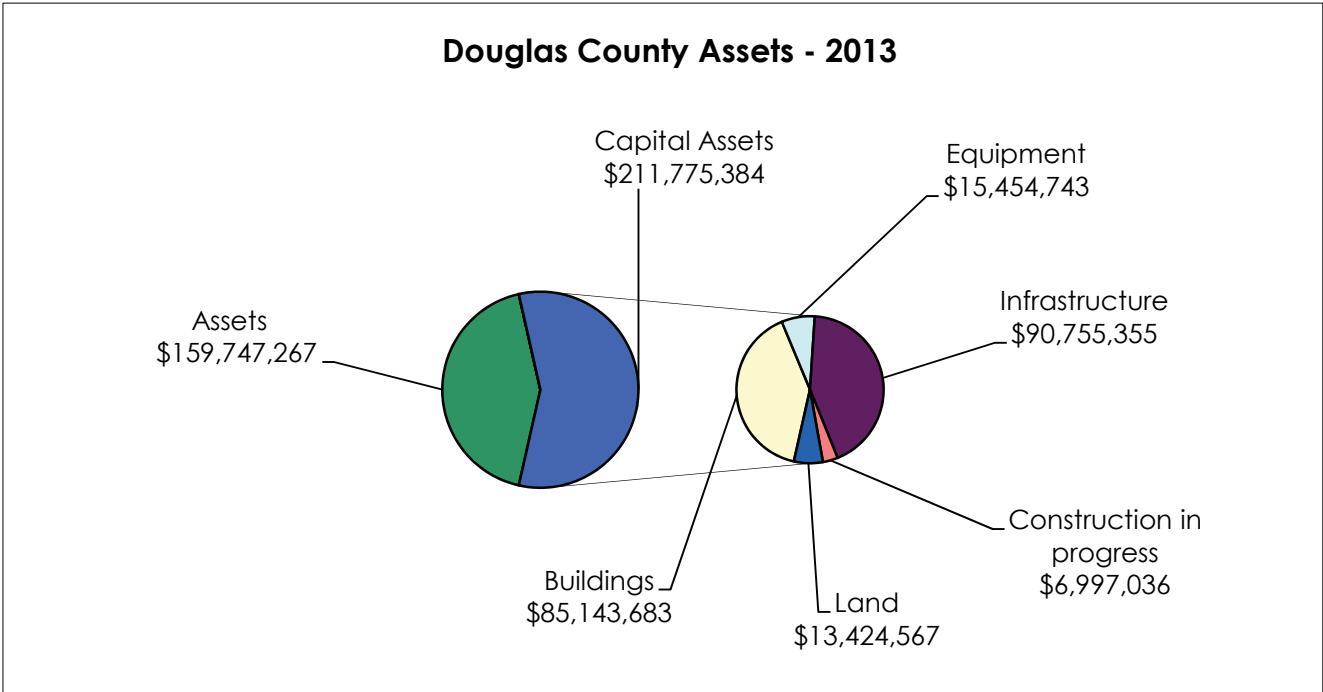
There was a slight decrease in long term liabilities from the 2012 fiscal year to the 2013 fiscal year—a decrease of \$232,134.

Douglas County continues to pay down its debt (last bonds issued were for construction at the County's Law Enforcement Center and the Douglas County Health Center).

2012/13 the county's debt service ratio (cost of payment on bond principal and interest—% 7,238,161— compared to total expenses) was 2.7% (well below the 15% benchmark for governments).



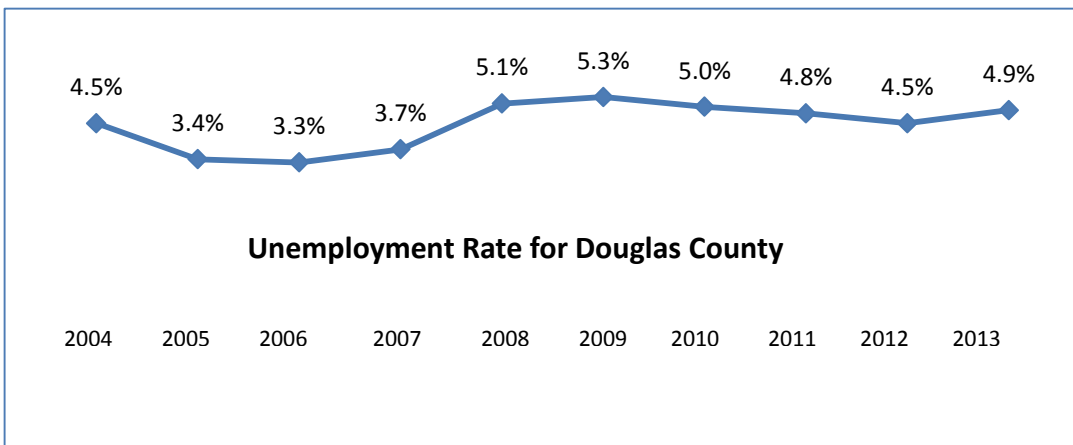
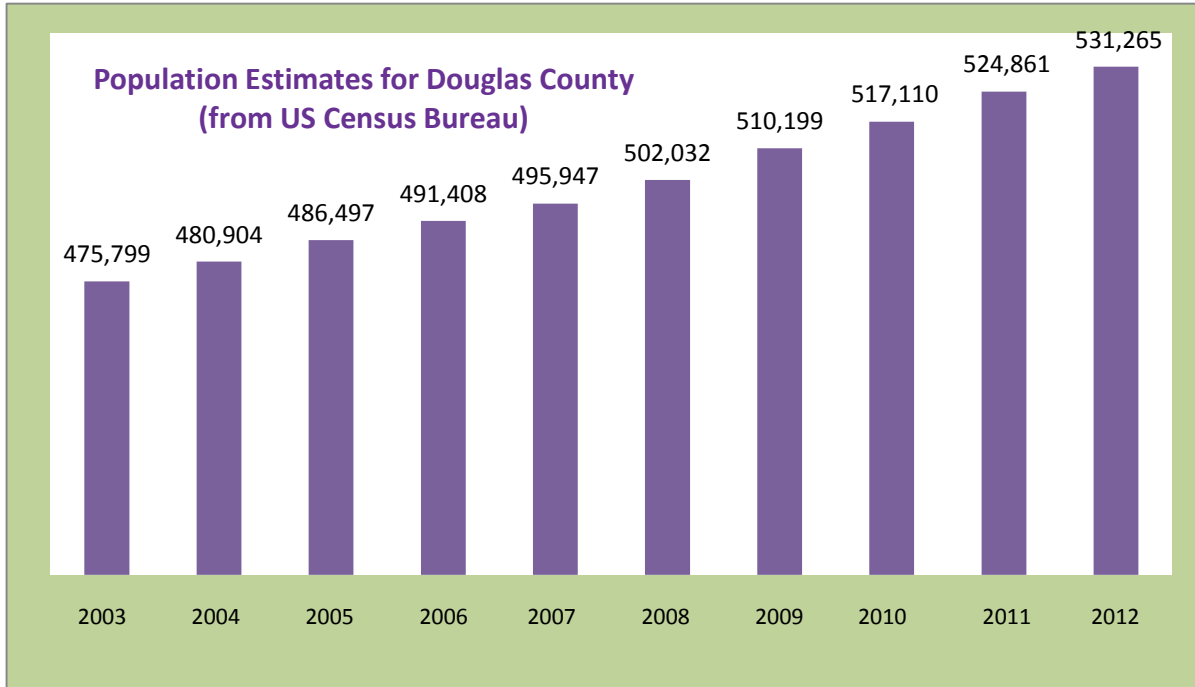
# Douglas County's Assets Information



	Total Assets
2004	\$ 339,458,568
2005	\$ 342,180,547
2006	\$ 381,518,161
2007	\$ 405,199,733
2008	\$ 408,810,443
2009	\$ 363,873,249
2010	\$ 353,005,482
2011	\$ 364,039,252
2012	\$ 375,585,863
2013	\$ 371,522,651

The county's net assets decreased from \$236,820,343 in fiscal year 2012 to \$234,195,517 in fiscal year 2013. While this is a very small decrease in net assets, net assets should increase from year to year.

## Demographic Statistics for Douglas County 2012/2013



Per Capita Personal Income*	
2003	36,700
2004	39,970
2005	41,693
2006	43,599
2007	45,946
2008	46,576
2009	44,776
2010	45,473
2011	47,008
2012	unavailable

\*Figures from State of Nebraska  
Dept. of Economic Development

Percent High School Graduate or Higher	
2004	89.2%
2005	89.3%
2006	90.2%
2007	89.4%
2008	90.1%
2009	89.9%
2010	89.9%
2011	89.9%
2012	89.9%
2013	unavailable

Figures from the NE Dept. of  
Economic Development.

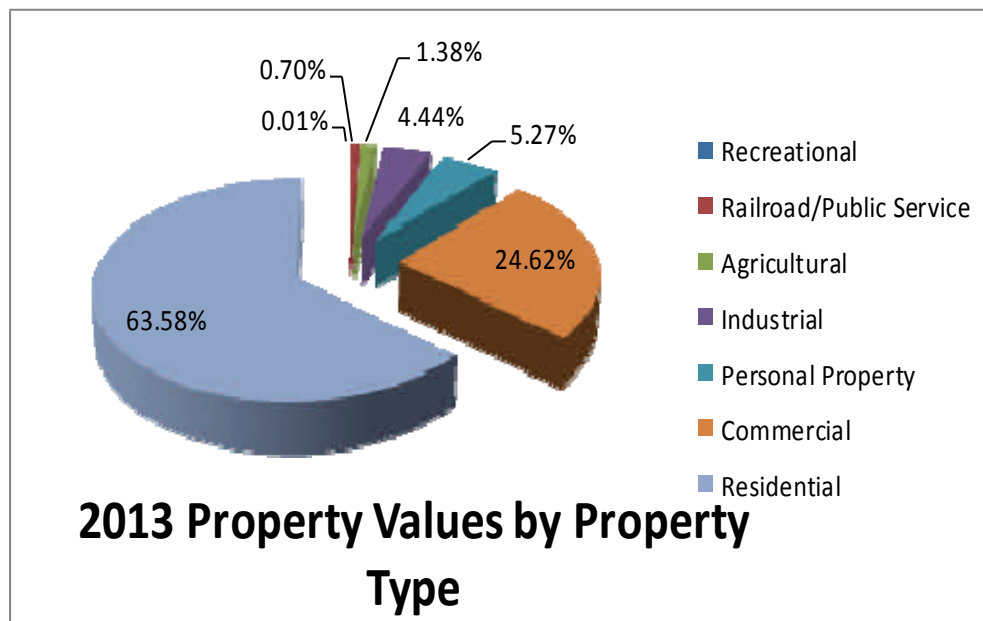
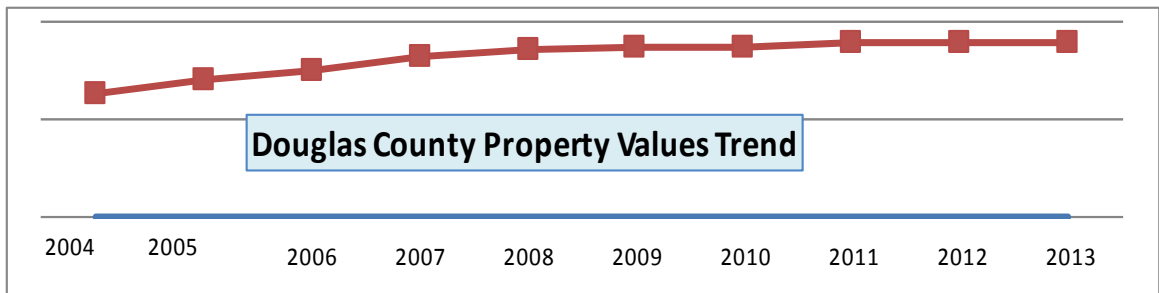
# Douglas County's Property Values

Total Property Valuations for Douglas County	
2004	\$ 25,116,141,220
2005	\$ 28,438,564,530
2006	\$ 30,230,677,500
2007	\$ 33,113,148,550
2008	\$ 34,319,256,604
2009	\$ 35,148,821,745
2010	\$ 35,152,409,012
2011	\$ 35,669,576,370
2012	\$ 35,862,835,530
2013	\$ 36,087,485,525

Figures from the Douglas County Assessor

Unlike many areas of the United States, Douglas County's property values have not seen as drastic a dip in the last several years. They have showed a flattening of the rate of increase.

Analysis of census data also shows, Douglas County continues to show gains in population.



## Glossary of Terms

**Function:** The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requires government financial statements to report by function, and defines those functions as culture/recreation, ecological services, public safety judicial, general government, public health/social services, and public safety.

**GASB:** Governmental Accounting Standards Board—the independent organization that establishes and improves standards for accounting and financial reporting for U.S. state and local governments.

**Net Pension Obligation:** The accumulated difference between the employer's required and actual contributions.

**Other Post Employment Benefits:** Retiree health care costs.

**Compensated Absences:** Accruals for time worked in excess of an employee's regularly scheduled work week taken in time off rather than in pay.

**Landfill postclosure accrual:** Douglas County accrues revenues that are earmarked for the costs associated with the future closing of the current landfill.



## What your Douglas County government does for you

- [Long term care facility](#)
- [Mental health care facility](#)
- [Maintain all county \(not city\) roads and bridges](#)
  - [Landfill](#)
- [Court administration \(County, District, Juvenile\)](#)
- [Adult correctional facility and Youth Detention Center](#)
  - [Juvenile Assistance Center](#)
- [Medical and sustenance care for indigent citizens](#)
- [Process all real estate transactions and maintain property records](#)
  - [Provide public defender services to county residents](#)
- [Prosecute all felony charges/advise county government officers](#)
  - [Issue marriage licenses](#)
  - [Issue liquor, tobacco and locksmith licenses](#)
- [With the State of Nebraska and Sarpy County, provide Extension Service to county residents](#)
  - [Provide services to veterans in Douglas County](#)
  - [Provide 911 services to the residents of Douglas County](#)
- [Assess property values, calculate and collect taxes that run city, county and state governments](#)
  - [Provide law enforcement services to the citizens of Douglas County](#)
    - [Provide copies of birth and death certificates](#)
    - [Health care, immunization and STD clinic services](#)
      - [Noxious weed control](#)
  - [Provide all election and voter registration services to the citizens of Douglas County](#)

**Link to Douglas County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports (CAFR's),  
Monthly Departmental Expenses to Budget Reports, Weekly Supplier Check Report**

[www.douglascountyclerk.org/finance-division](http://www.douglascountyclerk.org/finance-division)