



# PRESS RELEASE

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Colorado Department of Labor and Employment | 633 17th Street, Suite 1200 | Denver, CO 80202

## For Immediate Release

Date: October 18, 2024

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## Colorado Employment Situation – September 2024

12,700 Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Added in September;  
Unemployment Rate Remains at 4.0 Percent

### Household survey data

- According to the survey of households, the **number of unemployed individuals** grew by 2,300 to 130,800 from August to September. However, due to rounding, Colorado's seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** was unchanged over the same time period at 4.0 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.1 percent from August to September.
- Colorado's **labor force** increased by 2,200 in August to 3,249,200. The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force was 67.9 percent in September, unchanged from the last four months. The U.S. labor force participation rate was 62.7 percent in September, unchanged from the two prior months.
- The **number of individuals employed** in Colorado decreased by 100 in September to 3,118,400, which represents 65.2 percent of the state's 16+ population. Colorado's employment-population ratio of 65.2 in September decreased one-tenth of a percentage point from the month prior. The national employment-population ratio increased two-tenths of a percentage point from August to September at 60.2 percent.

## Establishment survey data

- Employers in Colorado added 12,700 **nonfarm payroll jobs** from August to September for a total of 3,009,700 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs grew by 11,300, while government grew by 1,400 jobs.
- **August estimates** were revised down to 2,997,000, and the over the month change from July to August was a gain of 7,000 rather than the originally estimated increase of 7,400 (monthly revisions are based on additional responses from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates).
- **The private industry sectors with significant job gains** in September were: educational and health services ( $\approx 3,200$ ), leisure and hospitality ( $\approx 2,500$ ), trade, transportation, and utilities ( $\approx 2,100$ ), construction ( $\approx 2,000$ ), and professional and business services ( $\approx 1,800$ ). There were no private industry sectors with significant over the month **job losses**.
- **Since September 2023**, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 47,100, with the private sector growing by 28,300 and government adding 18,800 jobs. The largest **private sector job gains** were in educational and health services ( $\approx 11,900$ ), leisure and hospitality ( $\approx 7,400$ ), financial activities ( $\approx 5,800$ ), and other services ( $\approx 4,500$ ). During that same period, **payroll jobs declined** in information ( $\approx 4,100$ ), and manufacturing ( $\approx 1,300$ ). Colorado's **rate of job growth** over the past year is 1.6 percent, equal to the U.S. rate of 1.6 percent.
- Over the year, the **average workweek** for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 33.4 to 33.8 hours, while **average hourly earnings** grew from \$36.00 to \$38.64, three dollars and twenty-eight cents more than the national average hourly earnings of \$35.36.

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## Informational Section

All Colorado estimates from the establishment and household surveys, including greater geographic detail, are available at [Colorado LMI Gateway](#). Estimates for all states and the nation are available at the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

For data visualizations, visit [CDLE's Labor Market Information on Tableau](#).

The **October 2024 Colorado Employment Situation** will be released at 8:00 AM on Monday, November 18, 2024. The full schedule of release dates for calendar year 2024 estimates is available at [Labor Market Information](#).

## Technical Notes

This release provides information on industry employment and labor force statistics for September 2024, the most current estimates available from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. The reference period for the establishment and household surveys was the pay period or week that includes the 12th of the month.

The unemployment rate, labor force, labor force participation, total employment, and the number of unemployed are based on a survey of households. The total employment estimate derived from this survey is intended to measure the number of people employed.

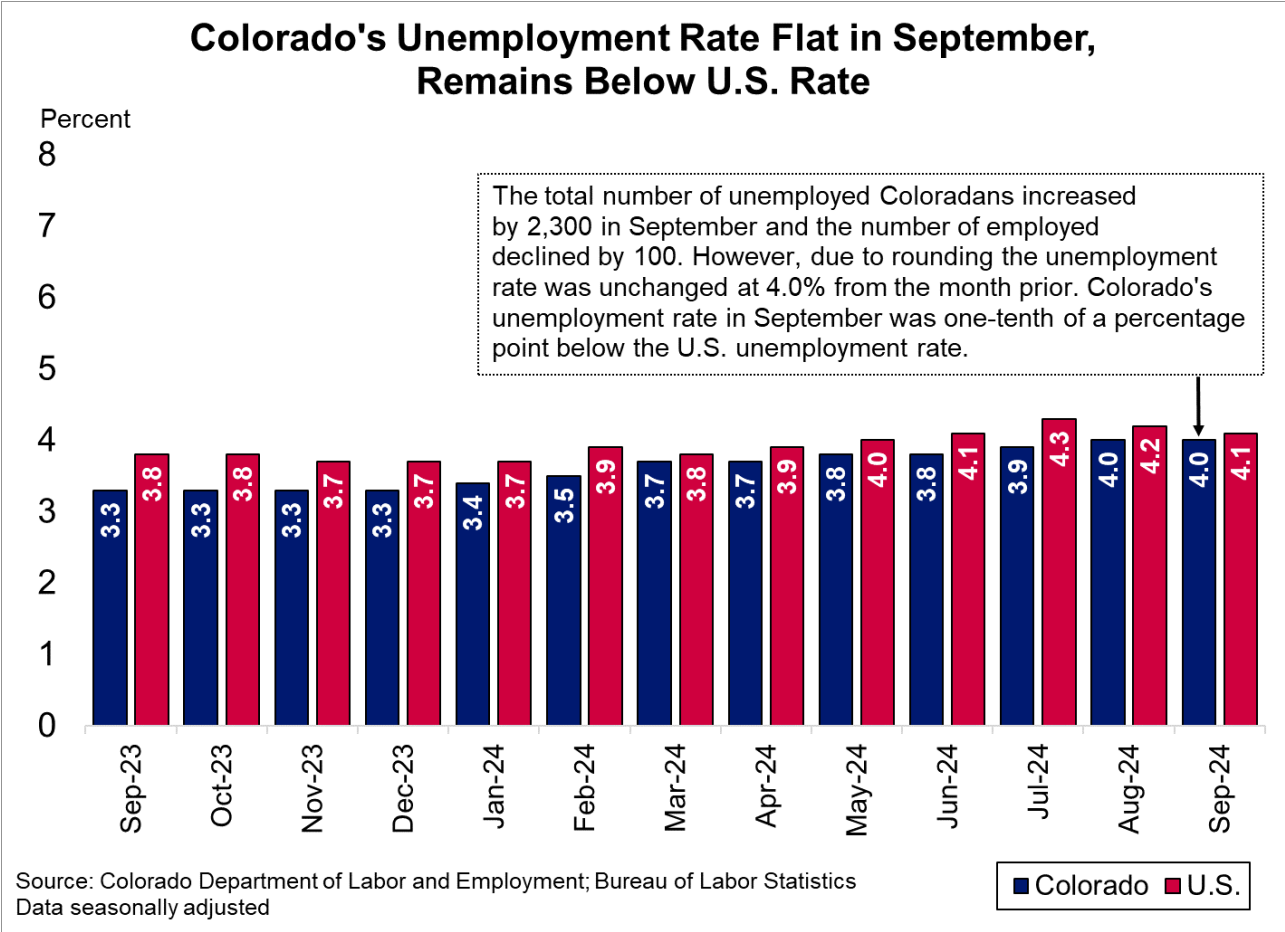
Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed. Other series based on this survey include private sector average weekly hours, average hourly earnings, and average weekly earnings.

The business establishment survey covers about seven times the number of households surveyed and is therefore considered a more reliable indicator of economic conditions. Because the estimates are based on two separate surveys, one measuring jobs by worksite and the other measuring persons employed and unemployed by household, estimates based on these surveys may provide seemingly conflicting results.

## Supplemental Charts & Tables

Supplemental charts and tables are available on the remaining pages.

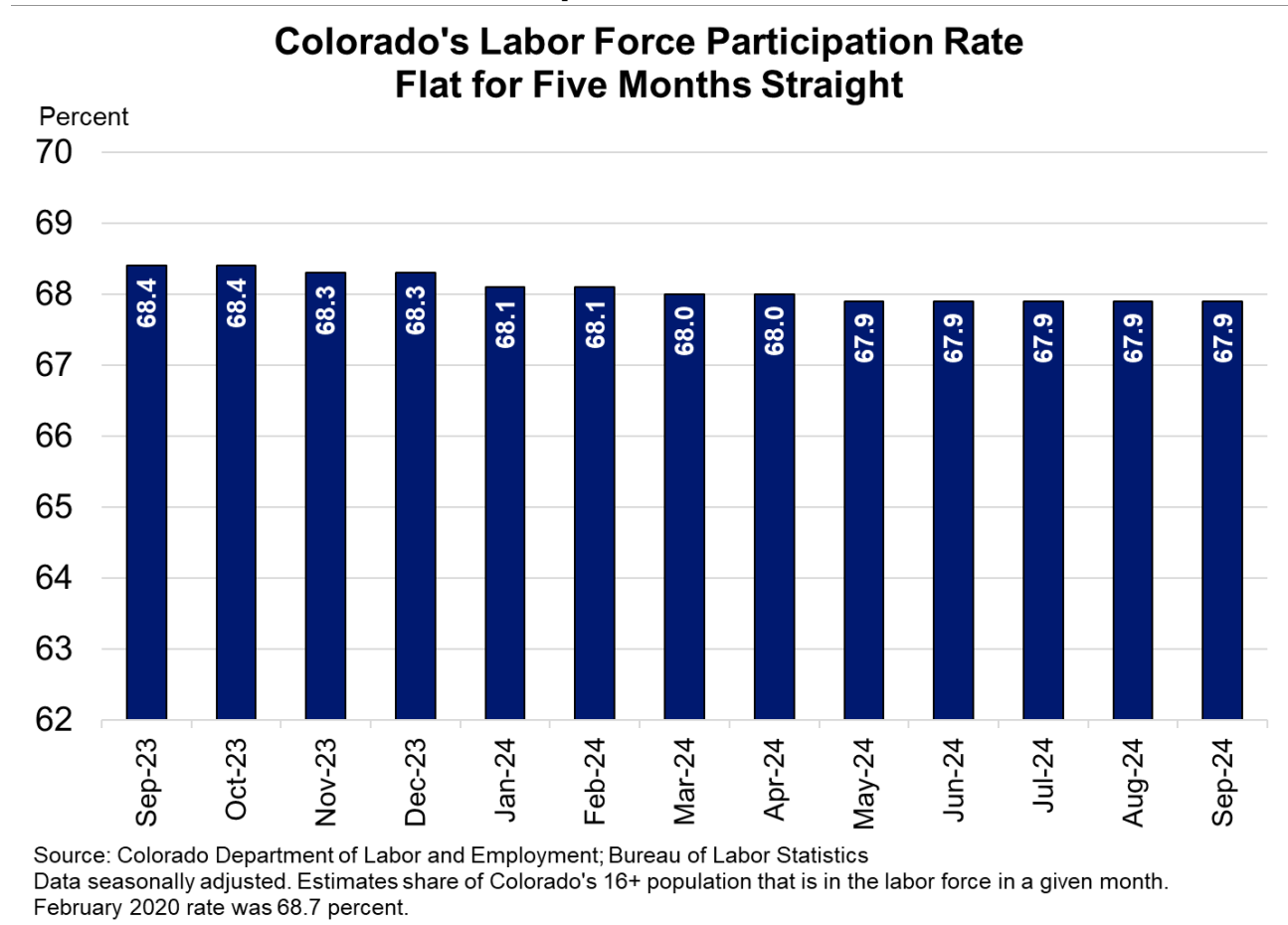
# Colorado and U.S. Unemployment Rates, Over Past Year



## Chart information:

- Colorado’s September 2024 unemployment rate was 4.0 percent, while the U.S. rate was 4.1 percent.
- Prior month rates were 4.0 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively.
- The total number of employed Coloradans decreased by 100 in September and the number of unemployed increased by 2,300 (to 130,800). However, due to rounding the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.0 percent.
- Unemployment rate for Colorado has ranged between 3.3 and 4.0 percent over the past year, while the U.S. range has been 3.7 and 4.3 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

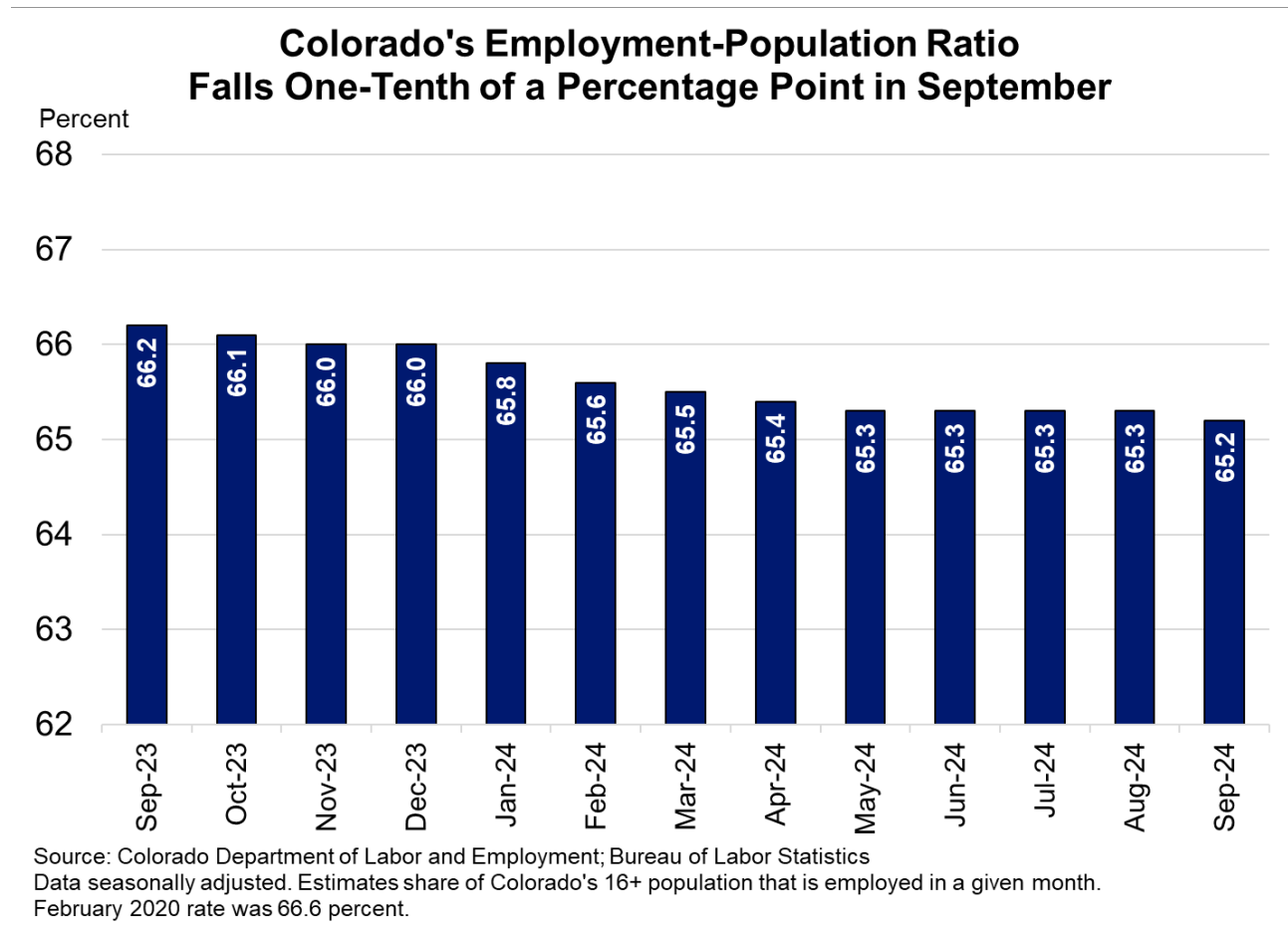
## Colorado Labor Force Participation Rate, Over Past Year



### Chart information:

- Colorado's September 2024 labor force participation rate (LFPR) was 67.9 percent, unchanged from the prior four months.
- A year prior, Colorado's labor force participation rate was 68.4 percent.
- The labor force participation rate for Colorado has ranged between 67.9 percent and 68.4 percent over the past year.
- The September 2024 rate of 67.9 percent is below the February 2020 pre-pandemic rate of 68.7 percent.
- The labor force participation rate estimates the share of Colorado's 16+ population that is in the labor force in a given month.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Colorado Employment-Population Ratio, Over Past Year

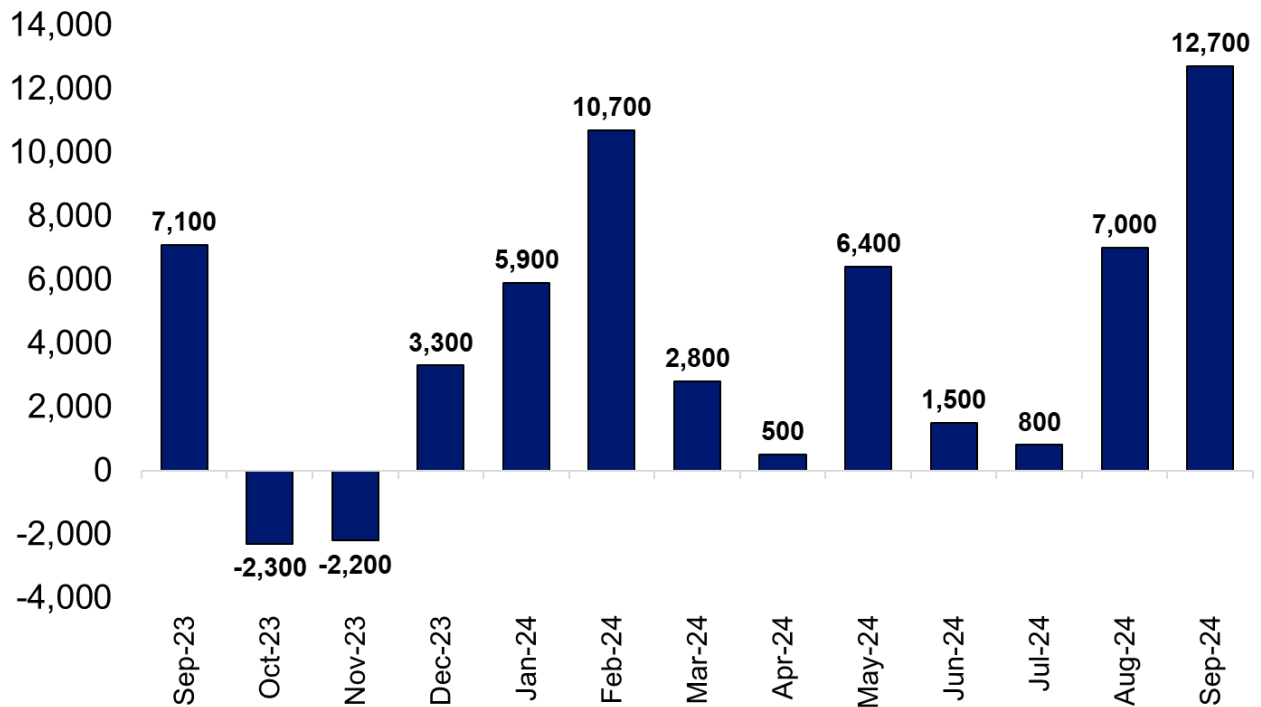


### Chart information:

- Colorado's September 2024 employment-population ratio (EPOP) was 65.2 percent, a decrease of one-tenth of a percent from the prior four months' rate of 65.3 percent.
- A year prior, Colorado's employment-population ratio was 66.2 percent.
- The employment-population ratio for Colorado has ranged between 65.2 percent and 66.2 percent over the past year.
- The September 2024 ratio of 65.2 percent is below the February 2020 pre-pandemic rate of 66.6 percent.
- The employment-population ratio estimates the share of Colorado's 16+ population that is employed in a given month.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Colorado Monthly Change in the Number of Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs, Over Past Year

### Colorado Added 12,700 Total Nonfarm Jobs in September; August Numbers Revised Down 400



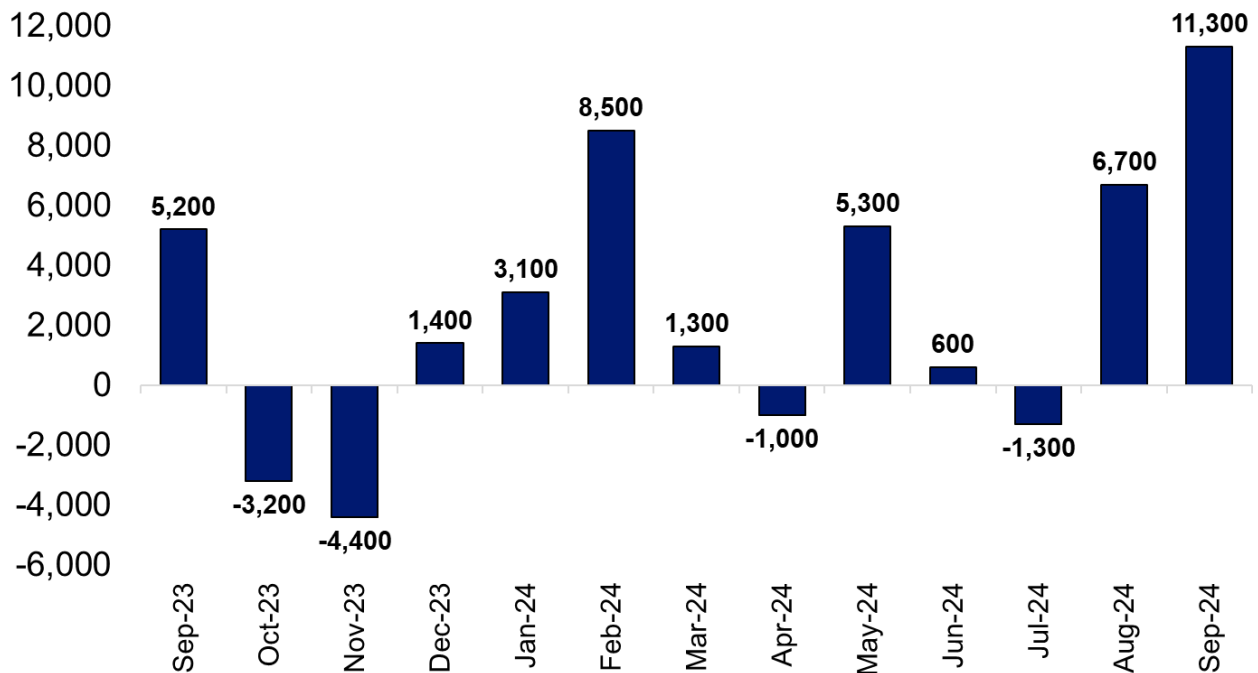
Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Data seasonally adjusted

#### Chart information:

- Colorado added 12,700 total nonfarm jobs in September 2024, while August numbers were revised down by 400. The August revision shows an increase of 7,000 rather than the previously reported increase of 7,400 jobs.
- Since September 2023, the monthly change in Colorado's total nonfarm jobs has ranged between -2,300 (October 2023) and +12,700 (September 2024).
- Out of the 13 months displayed, two have experienced over the month decreases, while over the month increases have occurred in 11 months.
- The average monthly change in Colorado's total nonfarm jobs over the past year is +4,200.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Colorado Monthly Change in the Number of Private Sector Payroll Jobs, Over Past Year

### Private Sector Increased by 11,300 Jobs in September; August Figures Revised Down 1,000



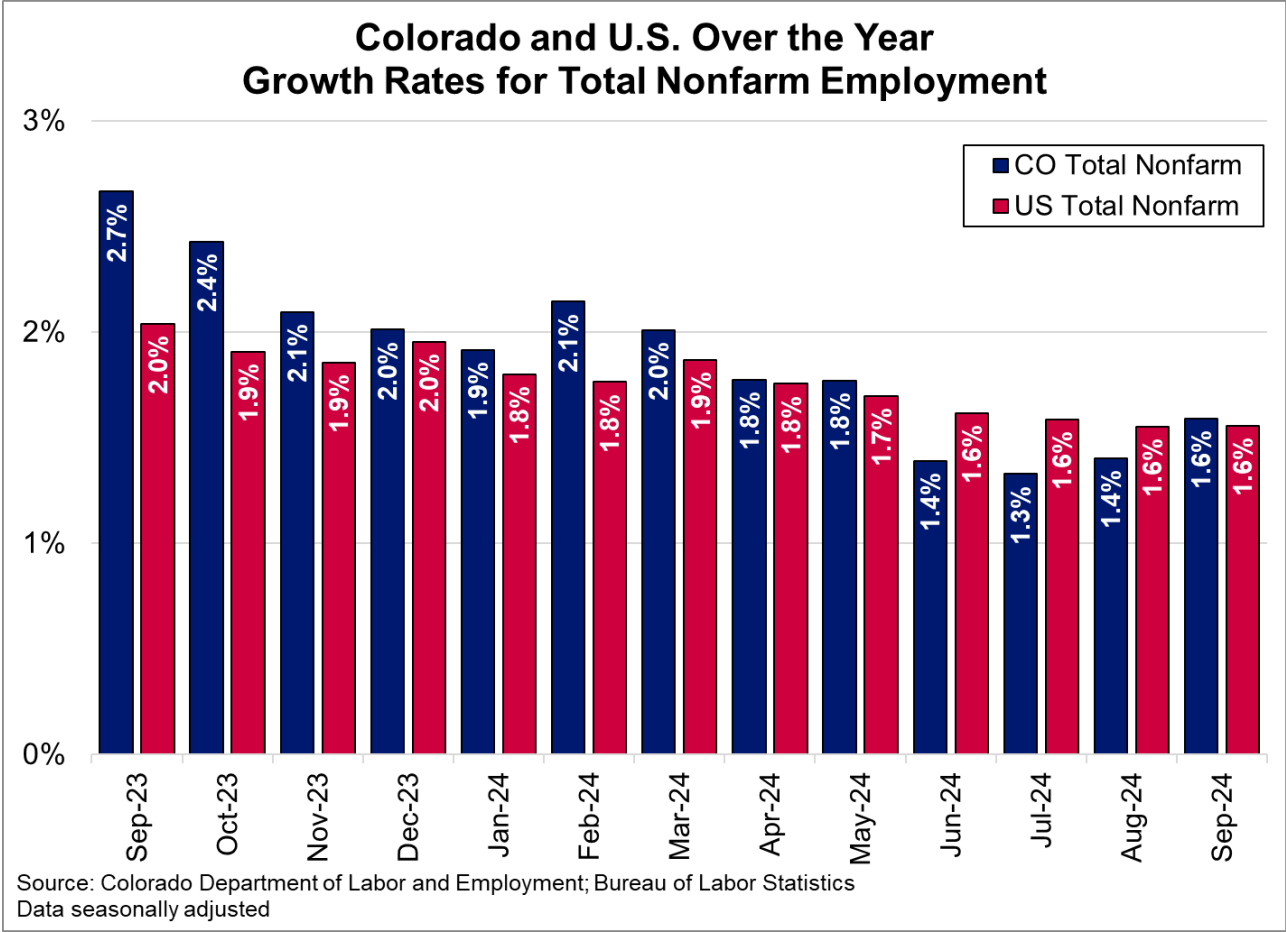
Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Data seasonally adjusted

#### Chart information:

- Colorado private sector jobs increased by 11,300 in September 2024, while August numbers were revised down by 1,000. The August revision shows an increase of 6,700 rather than the previously reported increase of 7,700 jobs.
- Since September 2023, the monthly change in Colorado's private sector jobs has ranged between -4,400 (November 2023) and +11,300 (September 2024).
- Out of the 13 months displayed, four have experienced over the month decreases, while over the month increases have occurred in nine months.
- The average monthly change in Colorado's private sector jobs over the past year is +2,600.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



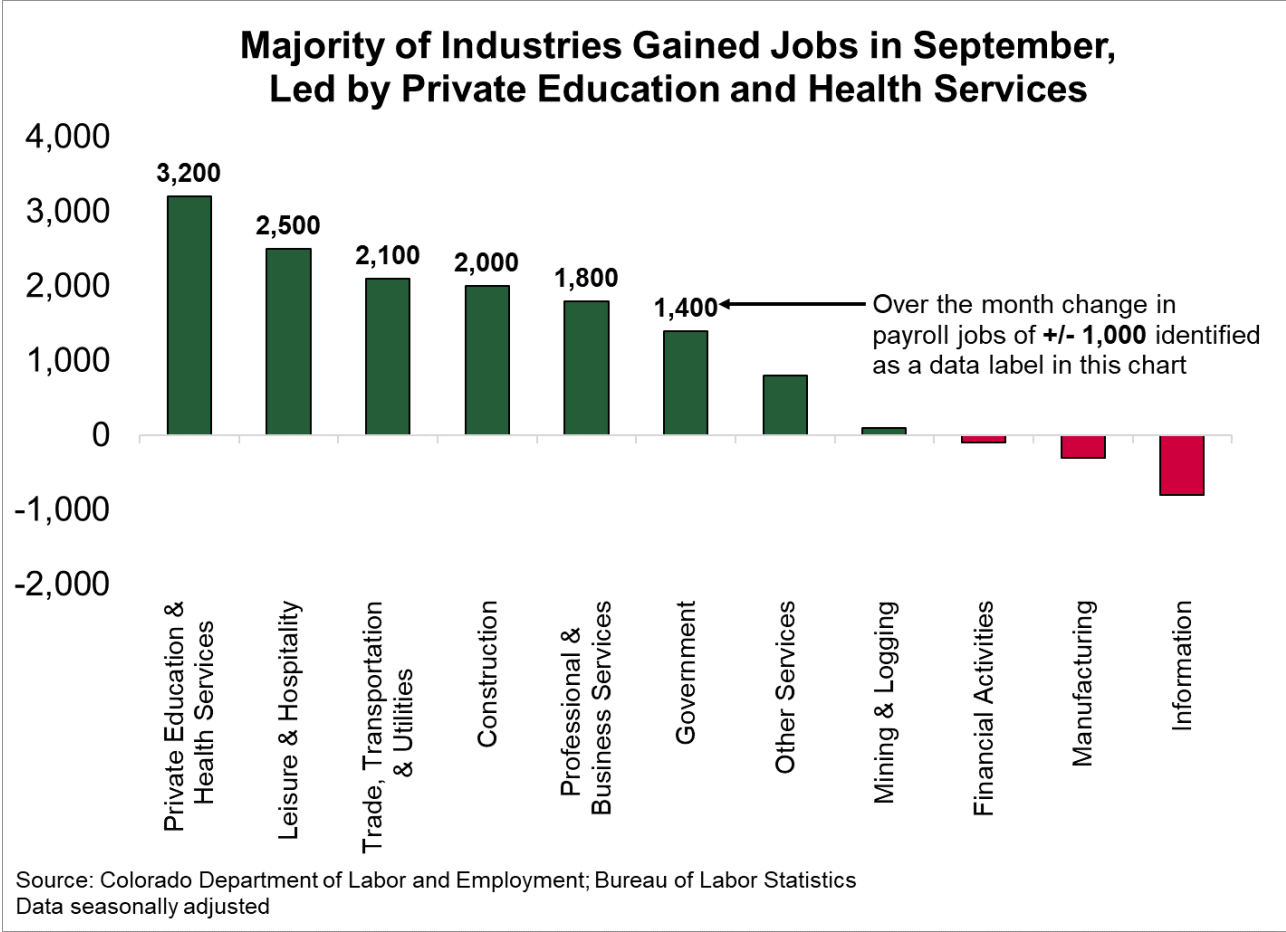
# Colorado and U.S. Over the Year Growth Rates for Total Nonfarm Employment, Over Past Year



## Chart information:

- Colorado’s over the year growth rate for total nonfarm employment was 1.6 percent in September 2024, equal to the U.S. rate of 1.6 percent.
- Total nonfarm employment growth rates for Colorado and the U.S. a year prior were 2.7 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively.
- Colorado has lagged the U.S. growth rate in three of the past 13 months, has exceeded it in seven months, and was the same in three months. The difference ranged between three-tenths of a percentage point lower (July 2024) and seven-tenths of a percentage point higher (September 2023).
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# Colorado Most Recent Monthly Change in Payroll Jobs at the Industry Supersector Level

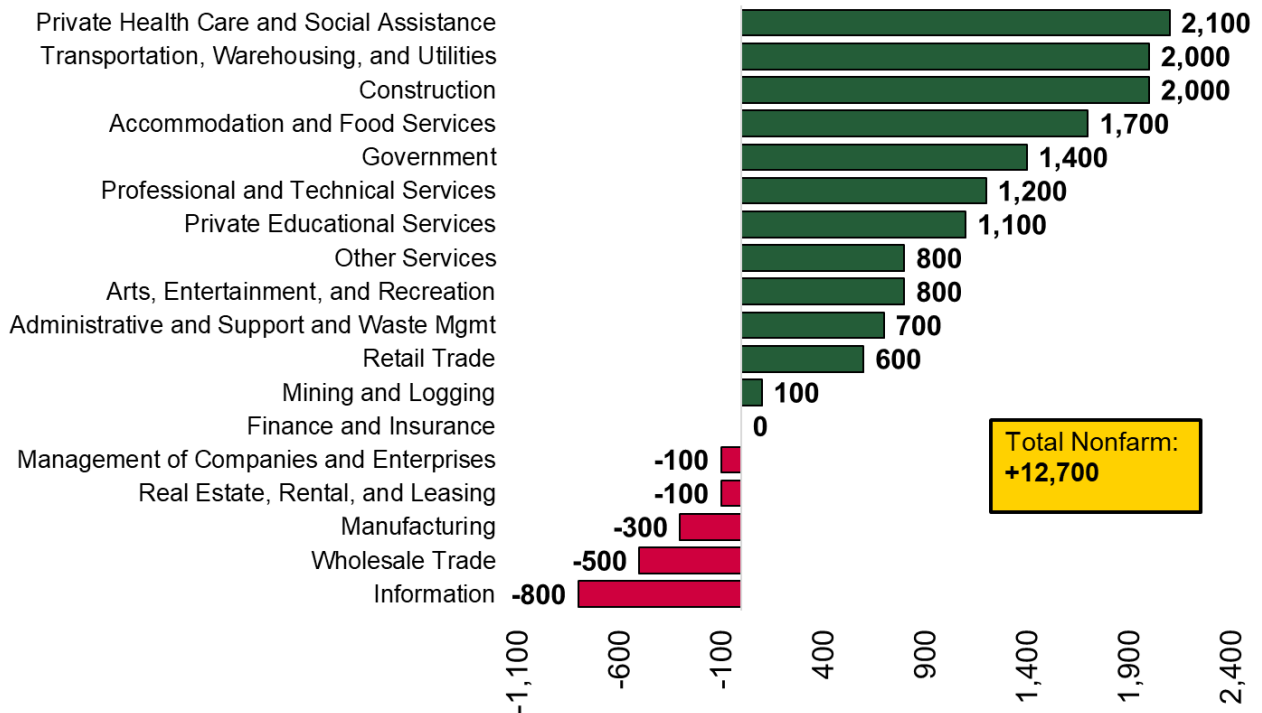


## Chart information:

- Eight Colorado industry supersectors gained jobs in September 2024 and three industry supersectors experienced decreases in employment levels.
- Notable over the month increases occurred in private education and health services (+3,200), leisure and hospitality (+2,500), trade, transportation, and utilities (+2,100), construction (+2,000), professional and business services (+1,800), and government (+1,400).
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Colorado Change in Payroll Jobs for Most Recent Month, by Industry Sector

### Change in Payroll Jobs in September 2024, by Industry Sector



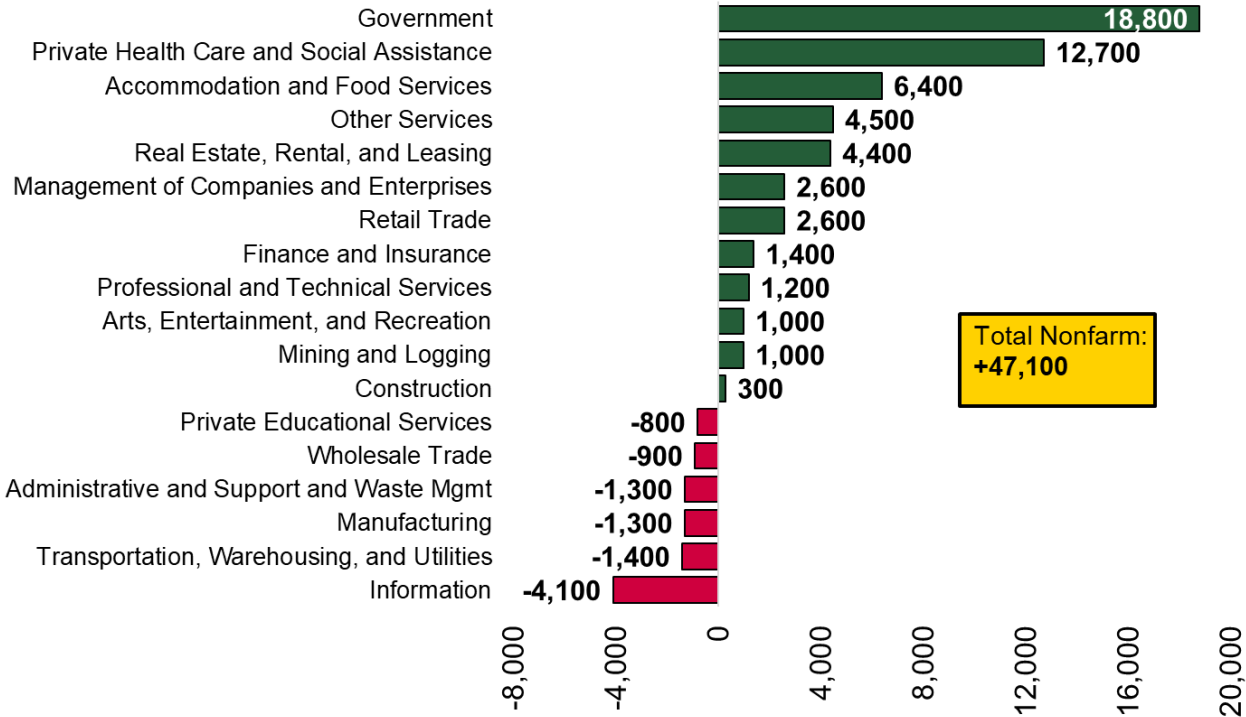
Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Data seasonally adjusted, August 2024 to September 2024

#### Chart information:

- From August 2024 to September 2024, Colorado added 12,700 nonfarm payroll jobs.
- Private health care and social assistance added the most jobs at 2,100.
- Transportation, warehousing, and utilities as well as construction added the second most jobs over that period at 2,000 each.
- Accommodation and food services added the third most jobs, at 1,700.
- The industry sectors with the largest declines over the past year are: information (-800) and wholesale trade (-500).
- Out of Colorado's 18 industry sectors, 12 added jobs in September 2024, five experienced job loss, and one was unchanged.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# Colorado Change in Payroll Jobs Over Past 12 Months, by Industry Sector

## Change in Payroll Jobs Over Past 12 Months, by Industry Sector



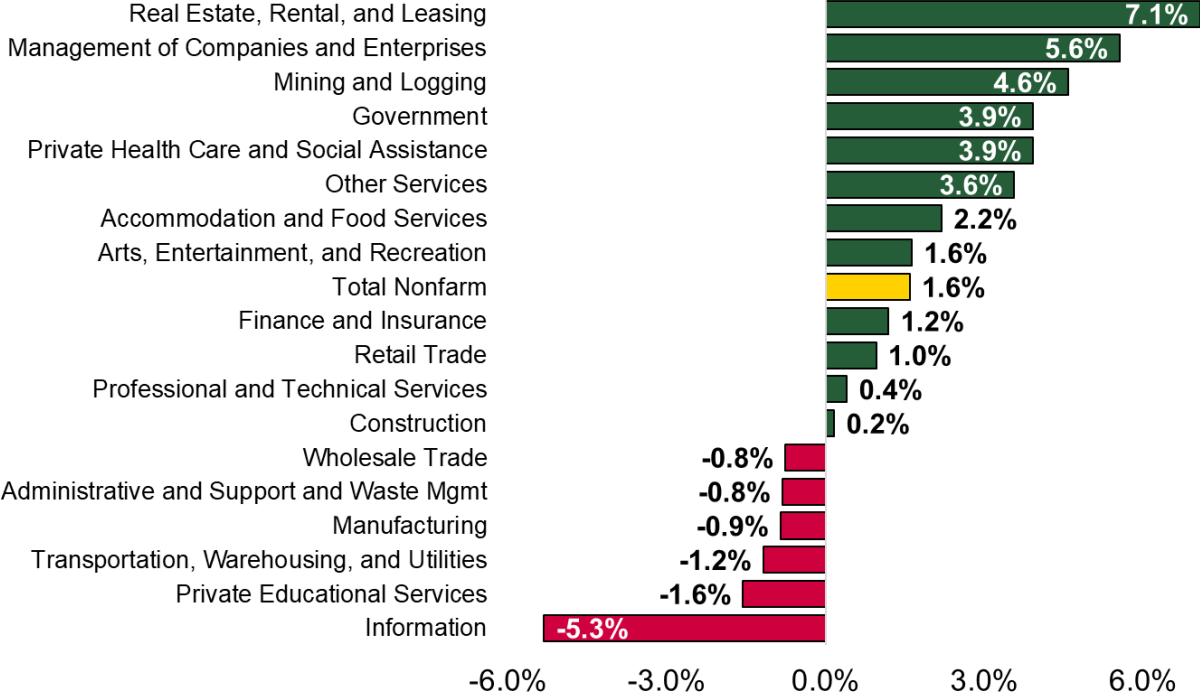
Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Data seasonally adjusted, September 2023 to September 2024

### Chart information:

- Over the past 12 months, Colorado has added 47,100 nonfarm payroll jobs.
- Government has added the most jobs at 18,800.
- Private health care and social assistance (+12,700) and accommodation and food services (+6,400) added the second and third most jobs, respectively, over that period.
- The industry sectors with the largest declines over the past year are: information (-4,100), transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-1,400), manufacturing (-1,300), and administrative and support and waste management (-1,300).
- Out of Colorado’s 18 industry sectors, 12 have added jobs over the past 12 months, while six have experienced job loss.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# Over the Year Growth Rates, by Industry Sector, for Most Recent Month

## September 2024 Over the Year Growth Rates, by Industry Sector

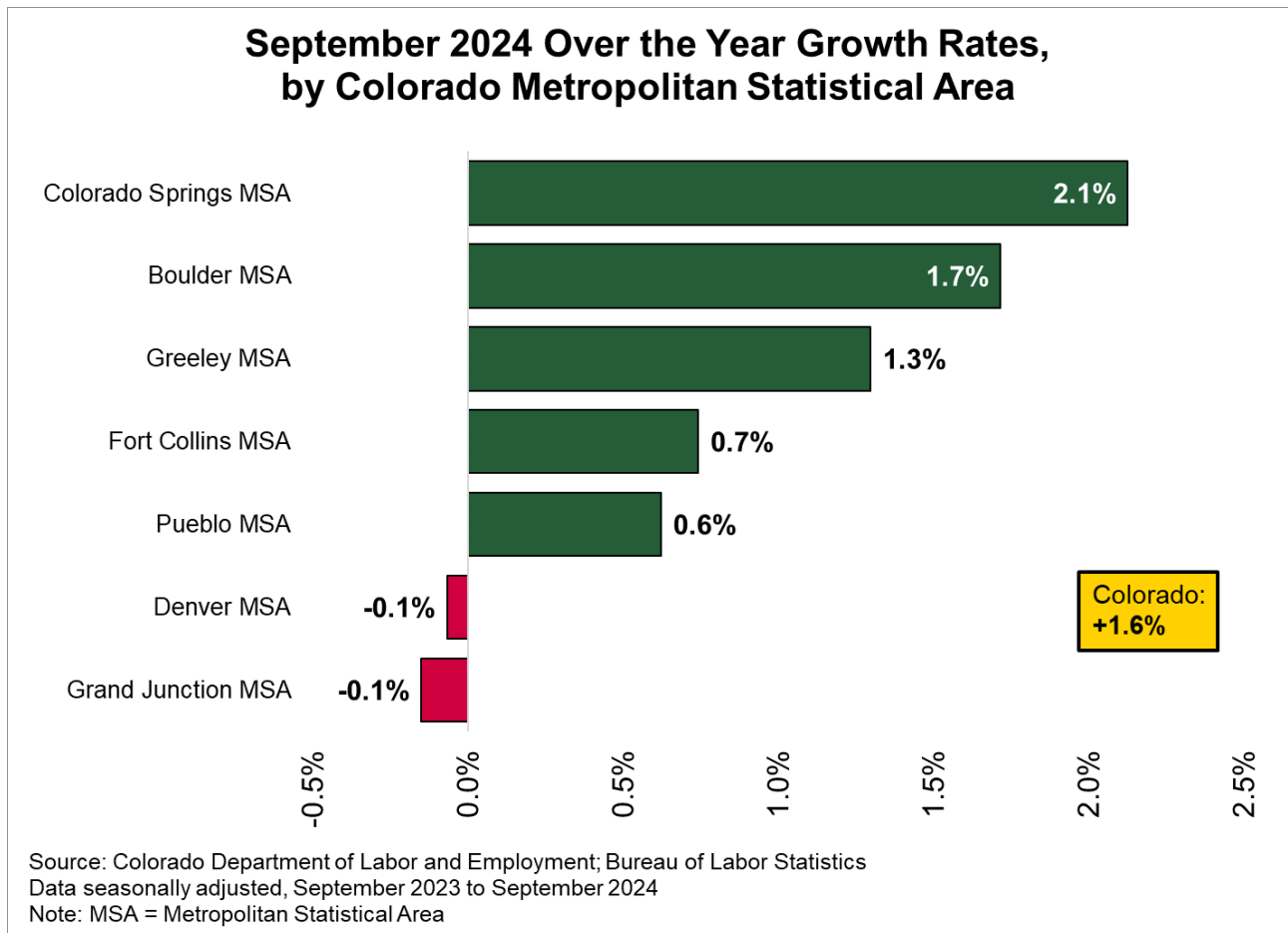


Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Data seasonally adjusted, September 2023 to September 2024

### Chart information:

- Colorado’s over the year growth rate for total nonfarm employment was 1.6 percent in September 2024.
- Out of Colorado’s 18 industry sectors, seven had over the year growth rates that exceeded 1.6 percent, one matched 1.6 percent, and 10 fell short of 1.6 percent.
- The industry sectors with the fastest growth rates over the past year are: real estate, rental, and leasing (7.1%), management of companies and enterprises (5.6%), and mining and logging (4.6%).
- The industry sectors with the slowest growth rates over the past year are: information (-5.3%), private educational services (-1.6%), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-1.2%).
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

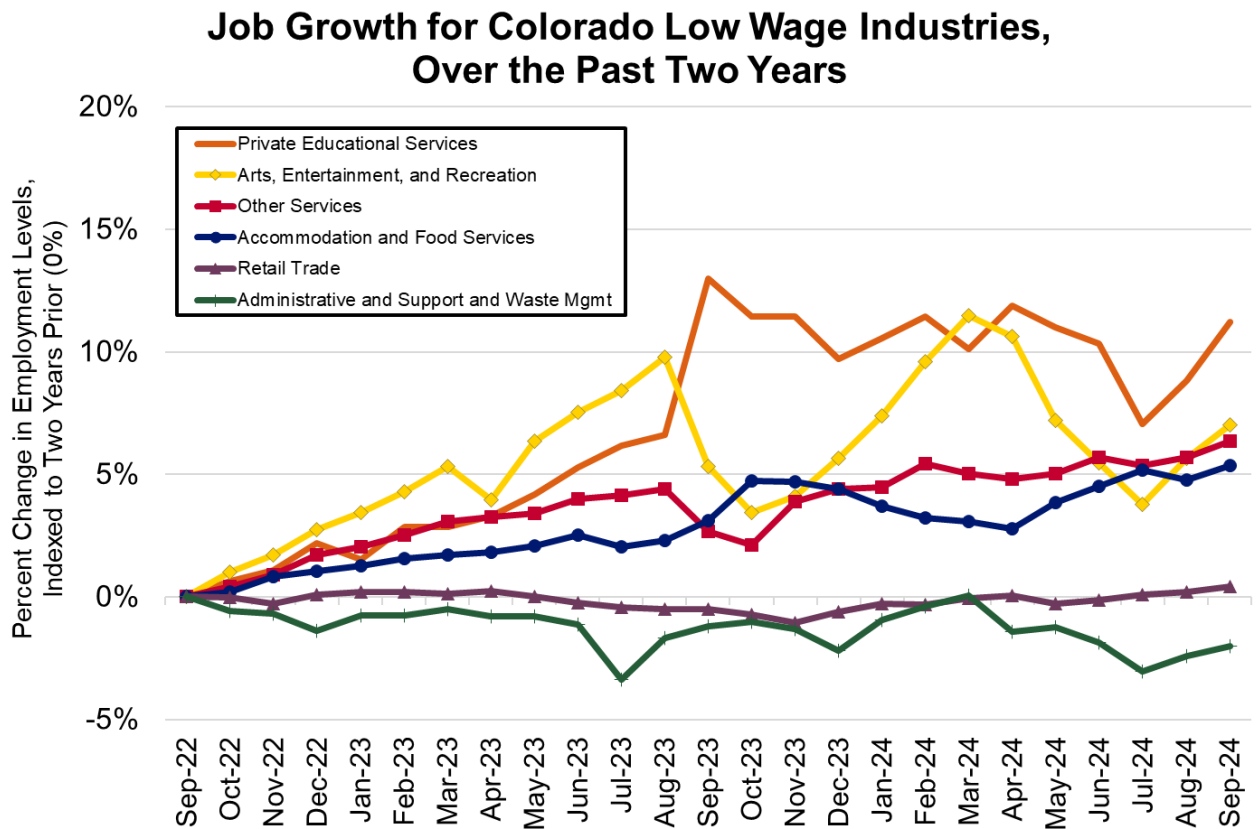
## Over the Year Growth Rates, by Colorado Metropolitan Statistical Area, for Most Recent Month



### Chart information:

- Colorado's over the year growth rate for total nonfarm employment was 1.6 percent in September 2024.
- Among Colorado's seven metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), the Colorado Springs MSA had the highest growth rate (2.1%). Boulder and Greeley had the second and third highest growth rates at 1.7 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively.
- Fort Collins (0.7%) and Pueblo (0.6%) also added jobs over the past year.
- The Grand Junction and Denver MSAs both declined by -0.1% over the past year.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# Job Growth for Colorado Low Wage Industries, Over Past Two Years

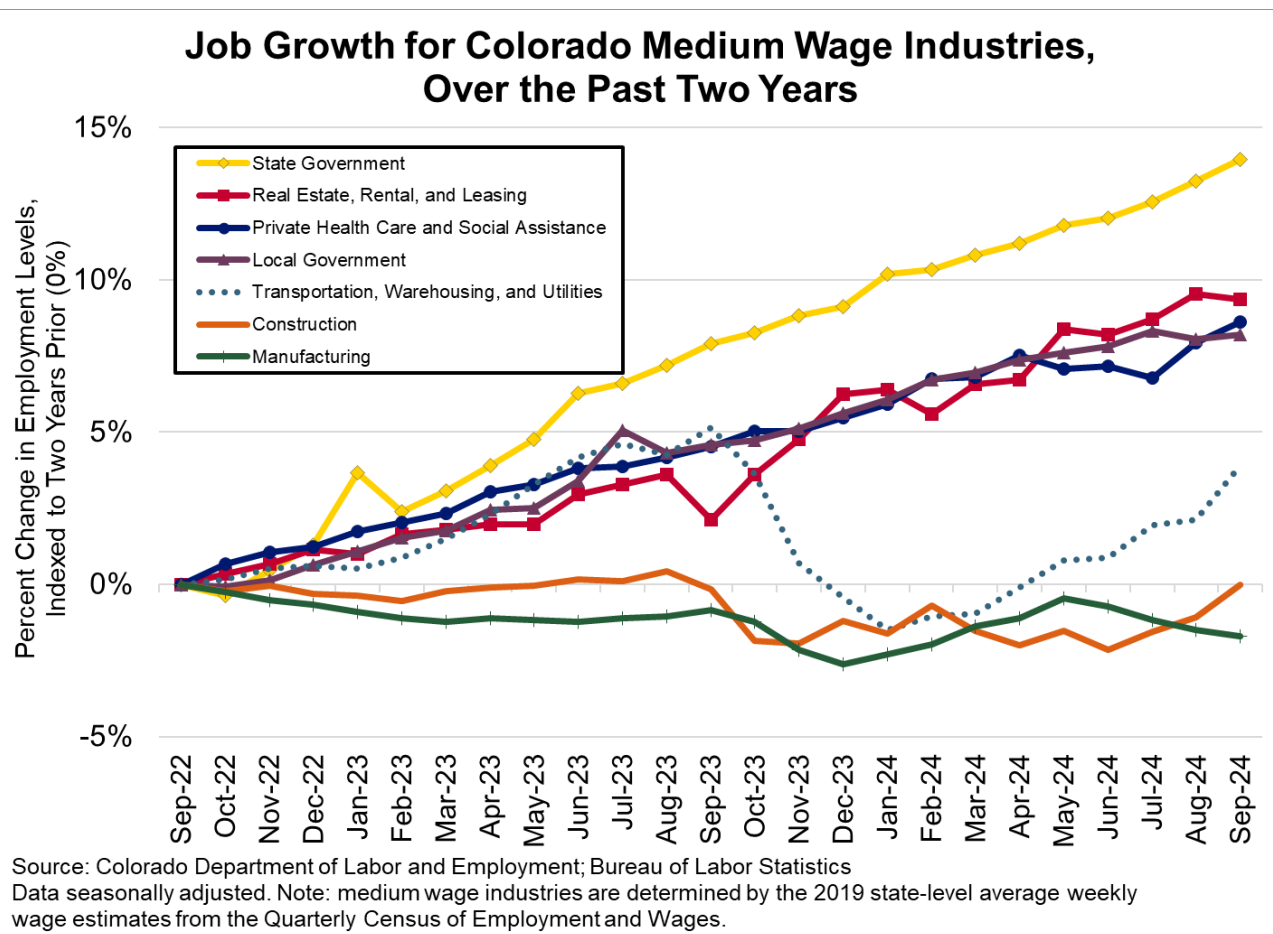


Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Data seasonally adjusted. Note: low wage industries are determined by the 2019 state-level average weekly wage estimates from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

## Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for low wage industries in Colorado over the past two years. The measurement period spans from September 2022 to the most recent month available, September 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to September 2022, while values below 0 percent indicate employment levels have decreased.
- Low wage industries include: retail trade; administrative and support and waste management services; private education services; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; and other services.
- As of September 2024, five low wage industries have an index value over 0 percent while one has an index value below 0 percent. Administrative and support and waste management and retail trade have the lowest growth rates over the past two years, at -2.0 and 0.4 percent, respectively. Private educational services has the fastest growth rate during that period, at 11.2 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Job Growth for Colorado Medium Wage Industries, Over Past Two Years

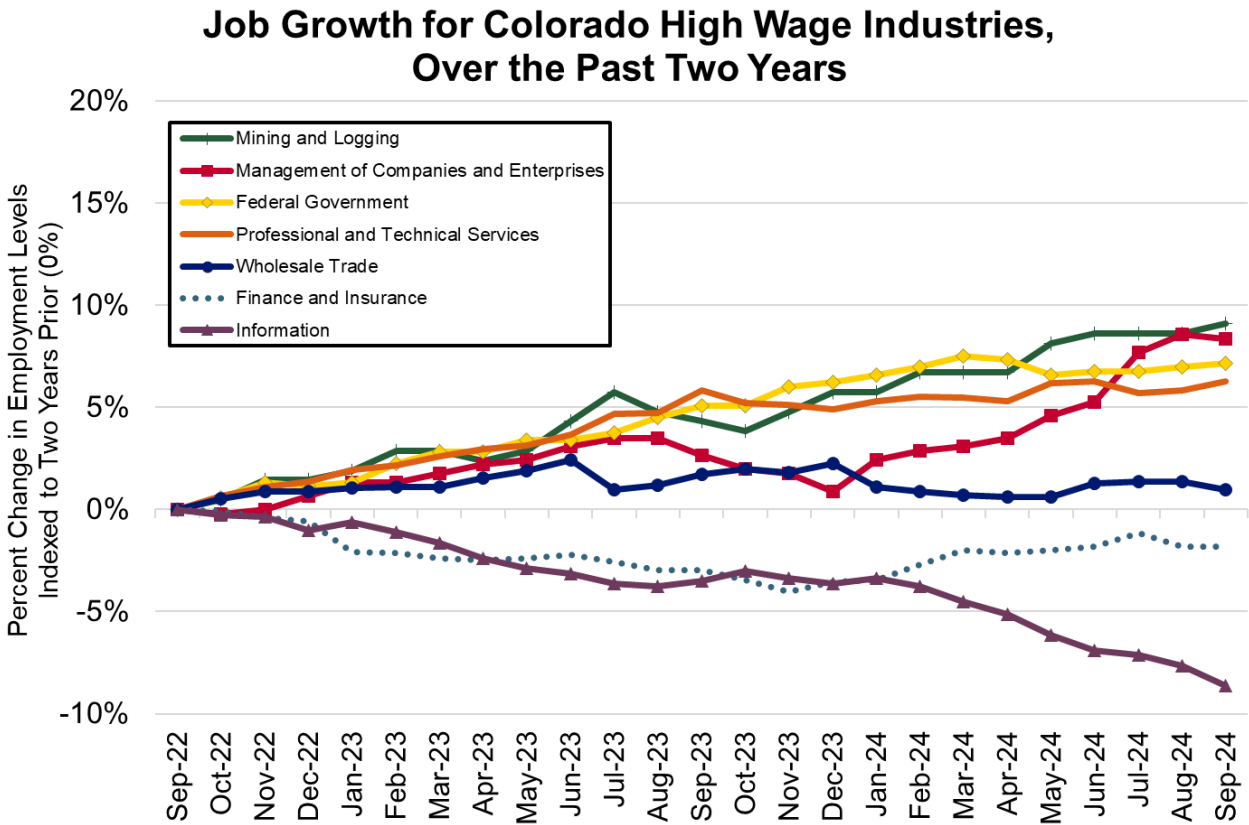


### Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for medium wage industries in Colorado over the past two years. The measurement period spans from September 2022 to the most recent month available, September 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to September 2022, while values below 0 percent indicate employment levels have decreased.
- Medium wage industries include: construction; manufacturing; transportation, warehousing, and utilities; real estate, rental, and leasing; private health care and social assistance; state government; and local government.
- As of September 2024, six medium wage industries have an index value at or over 0 percent, two have an index value below 0 percent. Manufacturing and construction have the lowest growth rates over the past two years, at -1.7 percent and 0.0 percent, respectively. State government has the fastest growth rate during that period, at 13.9 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



# Job Growth for Colorado High Wage Industries, Over Past Two Years

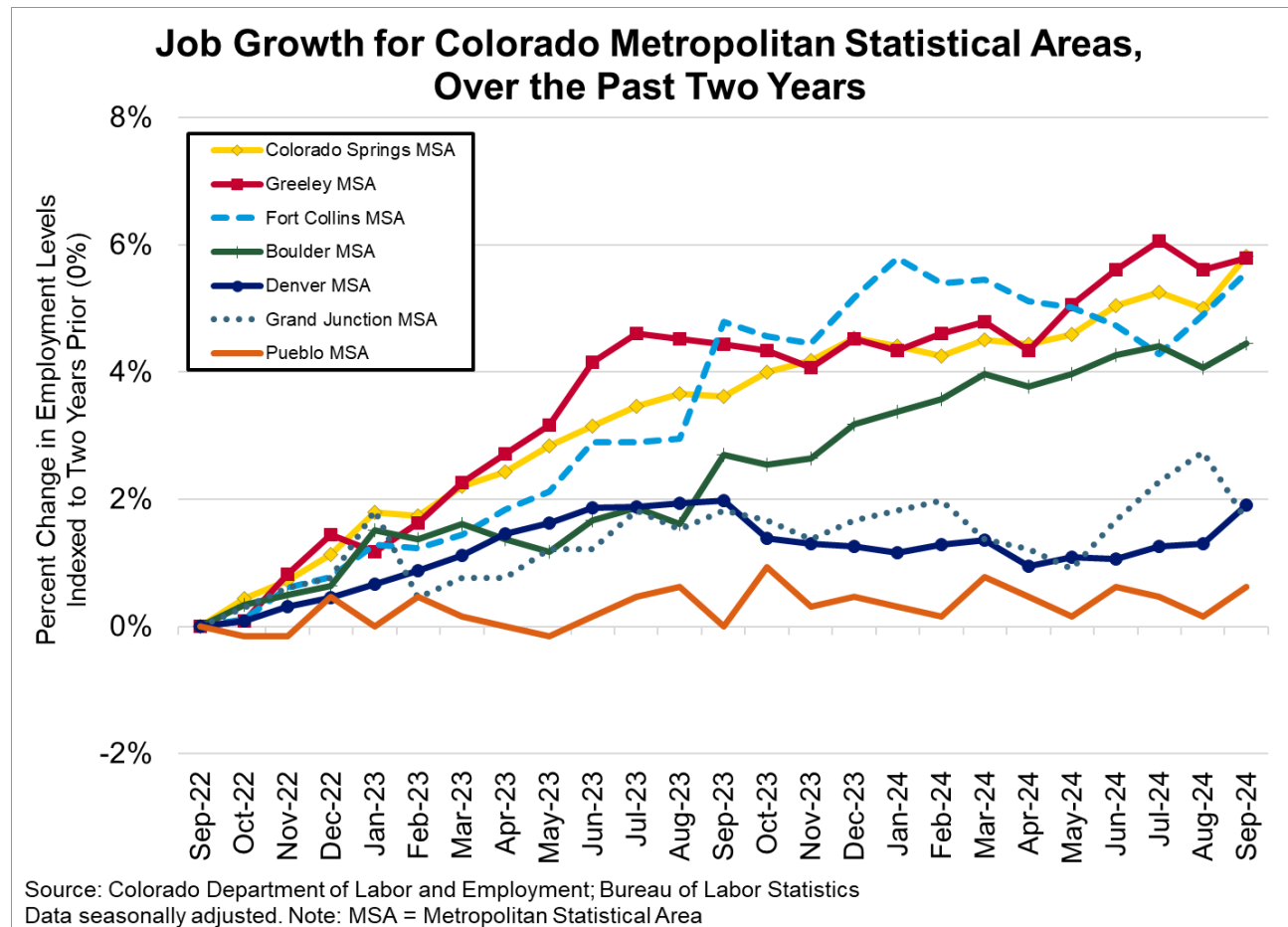


Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Bureau of Labor Statistics  
 Data seasonally adjusted. Note: high wage industries are determined by the 2019 state-level average weekly wage estimates from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

## Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for high wage industries in Colorado over the past two years. The measurement period spans from September 2022 to the most recent month available, September 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to September 2022, while values below 0 percent indicate employment levels have decreased.
- High wage industries include: mining and logging; wholesale trade; information; finance and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; and federal government.
- As of September 2024, five high wage industries have an index value over 0 percent, while two have an index value below 0 percent. Information has the lowest growth rate over the past two years, at -8.6 percent. Mining and logging has the fastest growth rate during that period, at 9.1 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

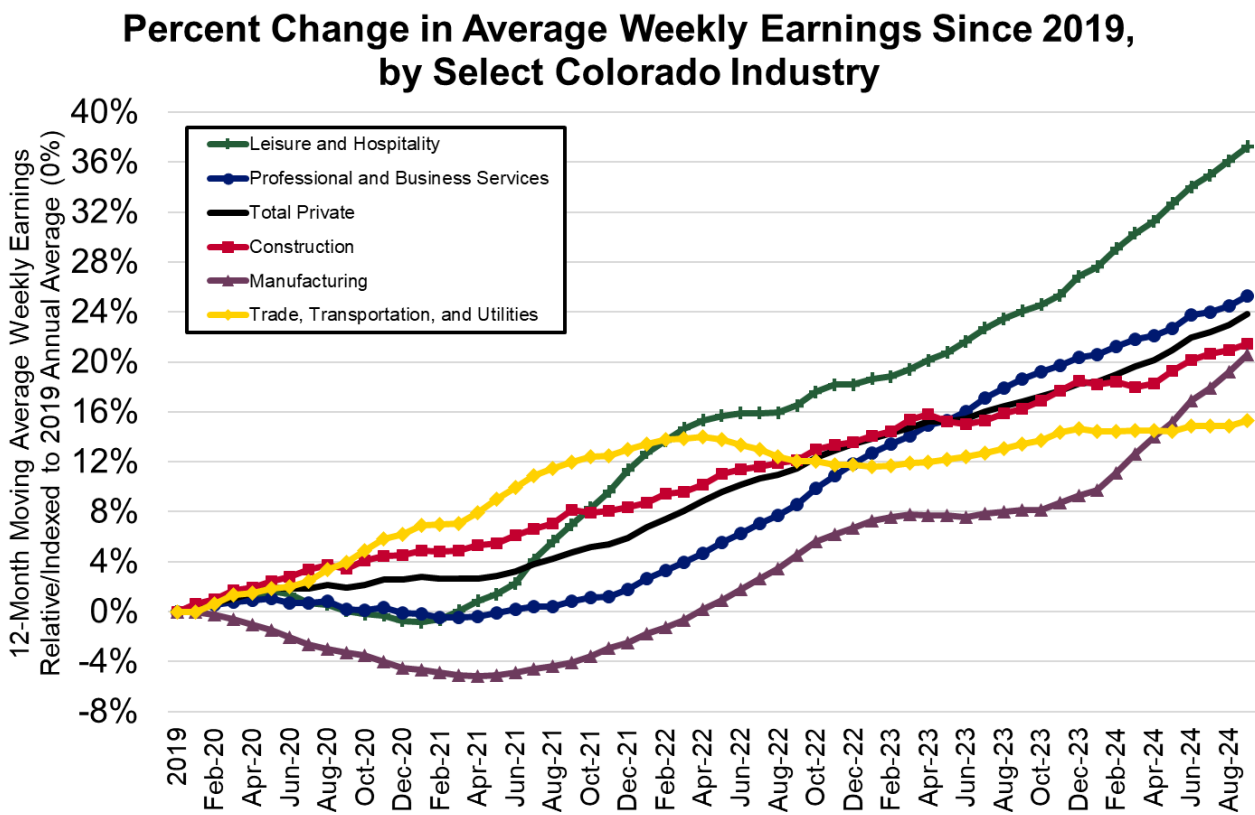
## Job Growth for Colorado Substate Areas, Over Past Two Years



### Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for Colorado substate areas over the past two years. The measurement period spans from September 2022 to the most recent month available, September 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to September 2022, while values below 0 percent indicate employment levels have decreased.
- Areas included are Colorado's seven metropolitan statistical areas (MSA). Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, Grand Junction, Greeley, and Pueblo are MSAs.
- As of September 2024, all seven areas have an index value over 0 percent. Pueblo MSA has the lowest growth rate over the past two years, at 0.6 percent. The Greeley MSA and the Colorado Springs MSA have the fastest growth rates during that period, at 5.8 percent each.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Percent Change in Average Weekly Earnings Since 2019, by Select Colorado Industry



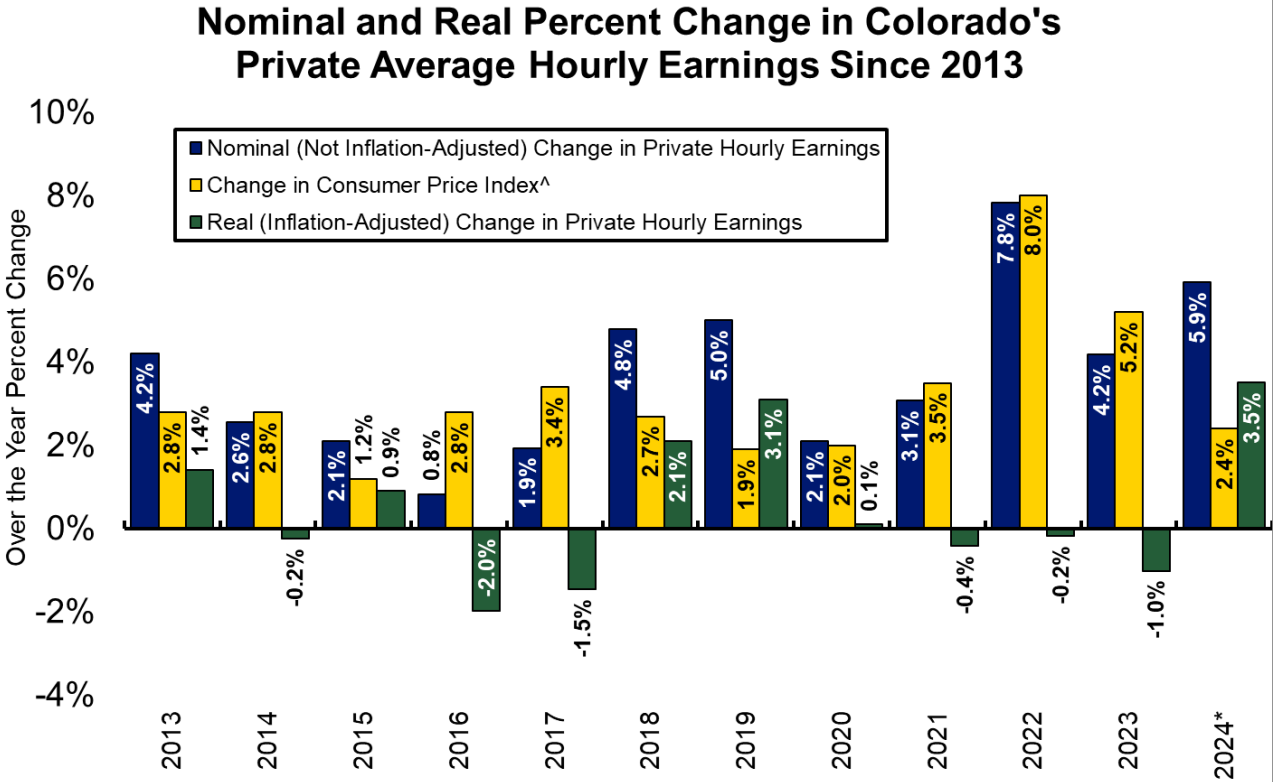
Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Bureau of Labor Statistics

Data not seasonally adjusted. Note: each month on this chart represents a 12-month moving average and measures the percent change in average weekly earnings compared to the 2019 annual average for that industry.

### Chart information:

- Each month on this chart represents a 12-month moving average and measures the percent change in average weekly earnings compared to the 2019 annual average for an industry. Values above 0 percent indicate that wages have grown relative to 2019, while values below 0 percent indicate wages have declined.
- The five Colorado industries displayed in this chart, along with total private sector, are: construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation, and utilities (TTU); professional and business services (PBS); and leisure and hospitality.
- Leisure and hospitality has the steepest change in earnings, at just over 37 percent, using the most recent 12-month average data available.
- Earnings gains for PBS, total private, construction, manufacturing range between just under 21 and over 25 percent.
- Wage growth lags for TTU, at just over 15 percent.
- These data are not seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# Nominal and Real Percent Change in Colorado's Private Average Hourly Earnings Since 2013

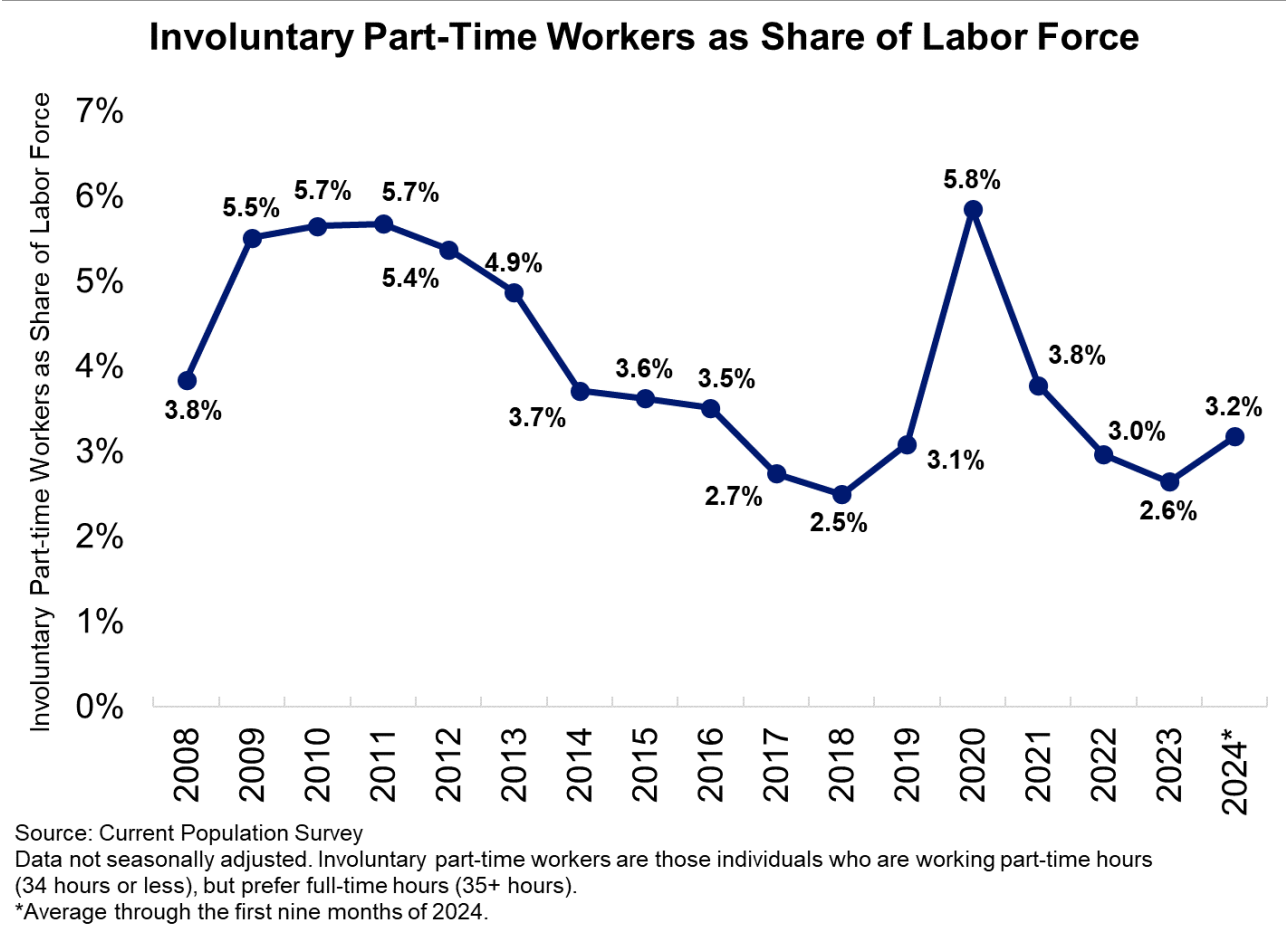


Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment estimates; Bureau of Labor Statistics  
<sup>^</sup>Note: Denver-Aurora-Lakewood CPI-U estimates were utilized to adjust average hourly earnings for inflation.  
 \*2024 nominal earnings growth is measured using data for January to September compared to the same period the year prior, while real earnings were adjusted using the over-the-year change in CPI-U for January, March, May, July, & September 2024.

## Chart information:

- This chart displays annualized hourly wage data for Colorado from 2013 to 2024.
- Each year contains three key data points: 1) the nominal (not inflation-adjusted) change in private hourly earnings; 2) the change in the consumer price index (CPI) for the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area, which is used as an inflation measure; and 3) the real (inflation-adjusted) change in private hourly earnings, which simply takes the difference of the first two data points.
- 2024 nominal earnings growth is measured using data for January to September compared to the same period the year prior, while real earnings were adjusted using the over-the-year change in CPI for January, March, May, July, and September 2024.
- Real earnings have increased by 3.5 percent in 2024, compared to a drop of 1.0 percent in 2023, and a decrease of 0.2 percent in 2022.
- These data are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

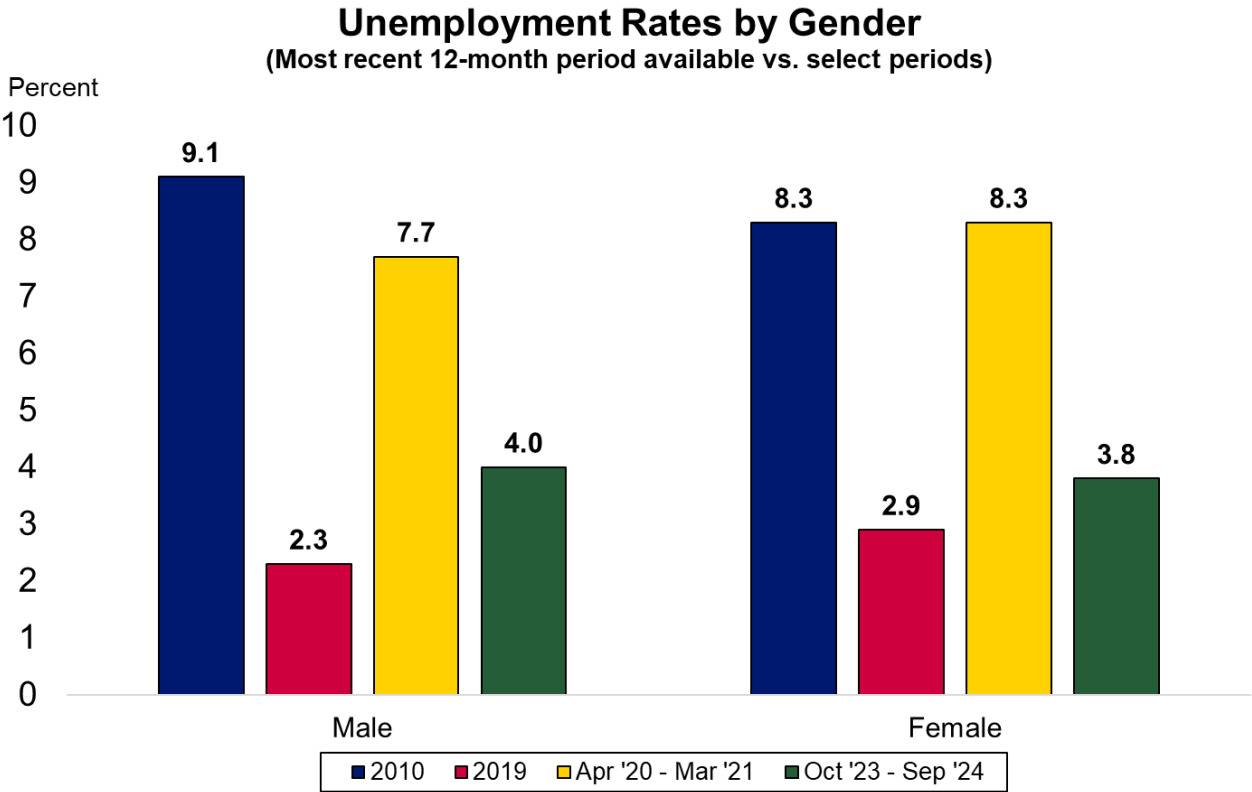
# Colorado Involuntary Part-Time Workers as Share of Labor Force, Since 2008



## Chart information:

- This chart displays the estimated share of Colorado’s labor force that works part-time hours (34 hours or less), but prefer full-time hours (35+ hours), from 2008 to 2024. This metric is known as involuntary part-time or part-time for economic reasons.
- The average involuntary part-time share in 2024 is 3.2 percent, a significant improvement from the rate of 5.8 percent in 2020.
- The 2024 rate of 3.2 percent translates to approximately 102,000 individuals in Colorado.
- For historical context, the involuntary part-time rate exceeded 5.0 percent from 2009 to 2012, during the height of the Great Recession. The rate reached a low 2.5 percent in 2018.
- These data are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# Colorado Unemployment Rates by Gender, Most Recent 12-Month Period Available vs. Select Periods

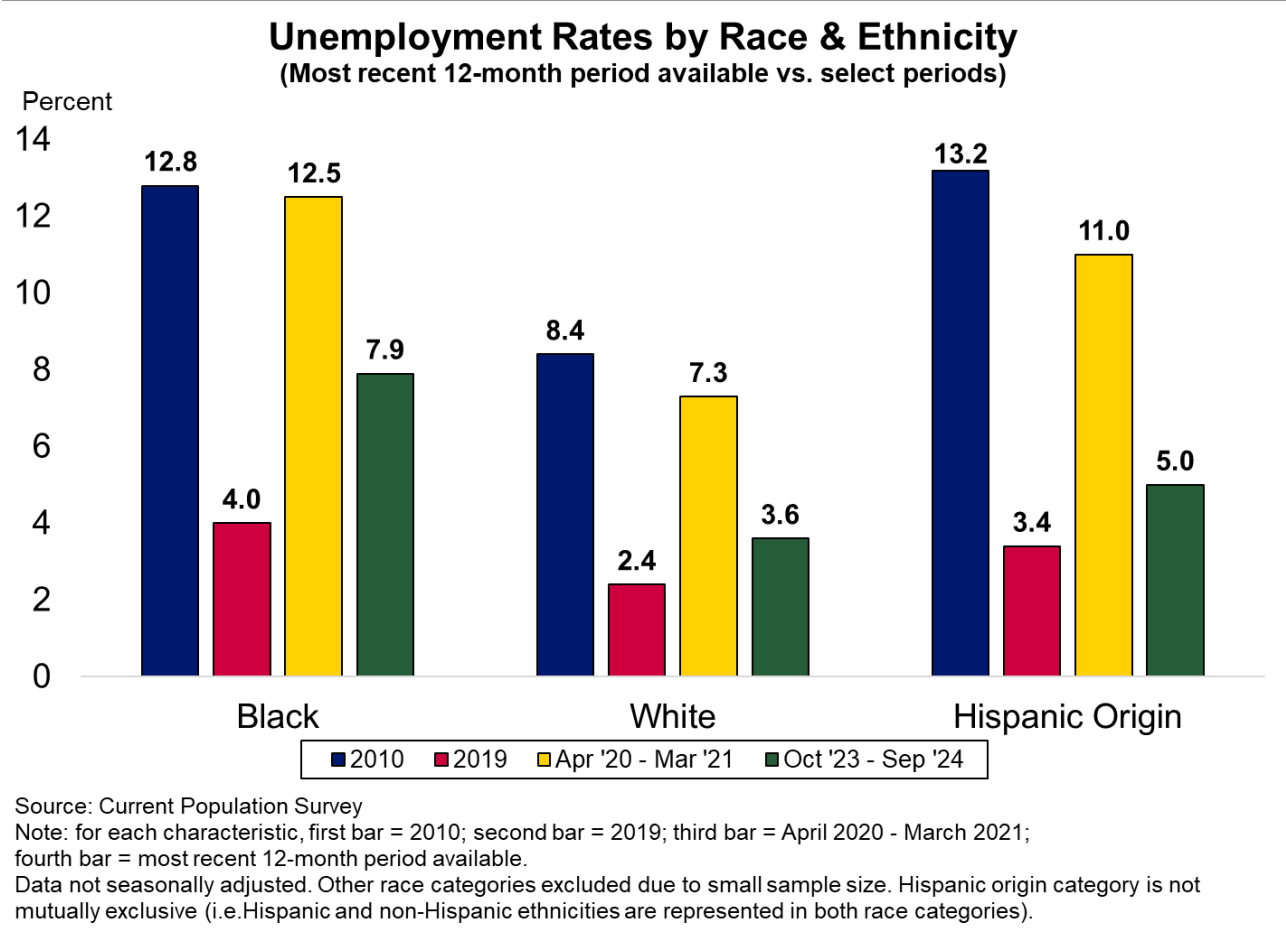


Source: Current Population Survey  
Note: for each characteristic, first bar = 2010; second bar = 2019; third bar = April 2020 - March 2021; fourth bar = most recent 12-month period available.  
Data not seasonally adjusted. Unemployment rates by gender for individuals 16 years and older.

### Chart information:

- This chart compares Colorado unemployment rates by gender over four select periods. The periods are: 2010 (the height of the Great Recession); 2019 (marking the last year of a long economic expansion); the 12-month period spanning April 2020 to March 2021 (the height of the pandemic); and the most recent 12-month period available (October 2023 to September 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, the male unemployment rate is 4.0 percent, and the female unemployment rate is 3.8 percent. The current male unemployment rate is higher than the 2019 rate of 2.3 percent, and the current female unemployment rate is higher the 2019 rate of 2.9 percent.
- Unemployment rates by gender are vastly improved from their pandemic peaks, which ranged between 7.7 percent and 8.3 percent.
- These data are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and come from the Current Population Survey.

# Colorado Unemployment Rates by Race and Ethnicity, Most Recent 12-Month Period Available vs. Select Periods

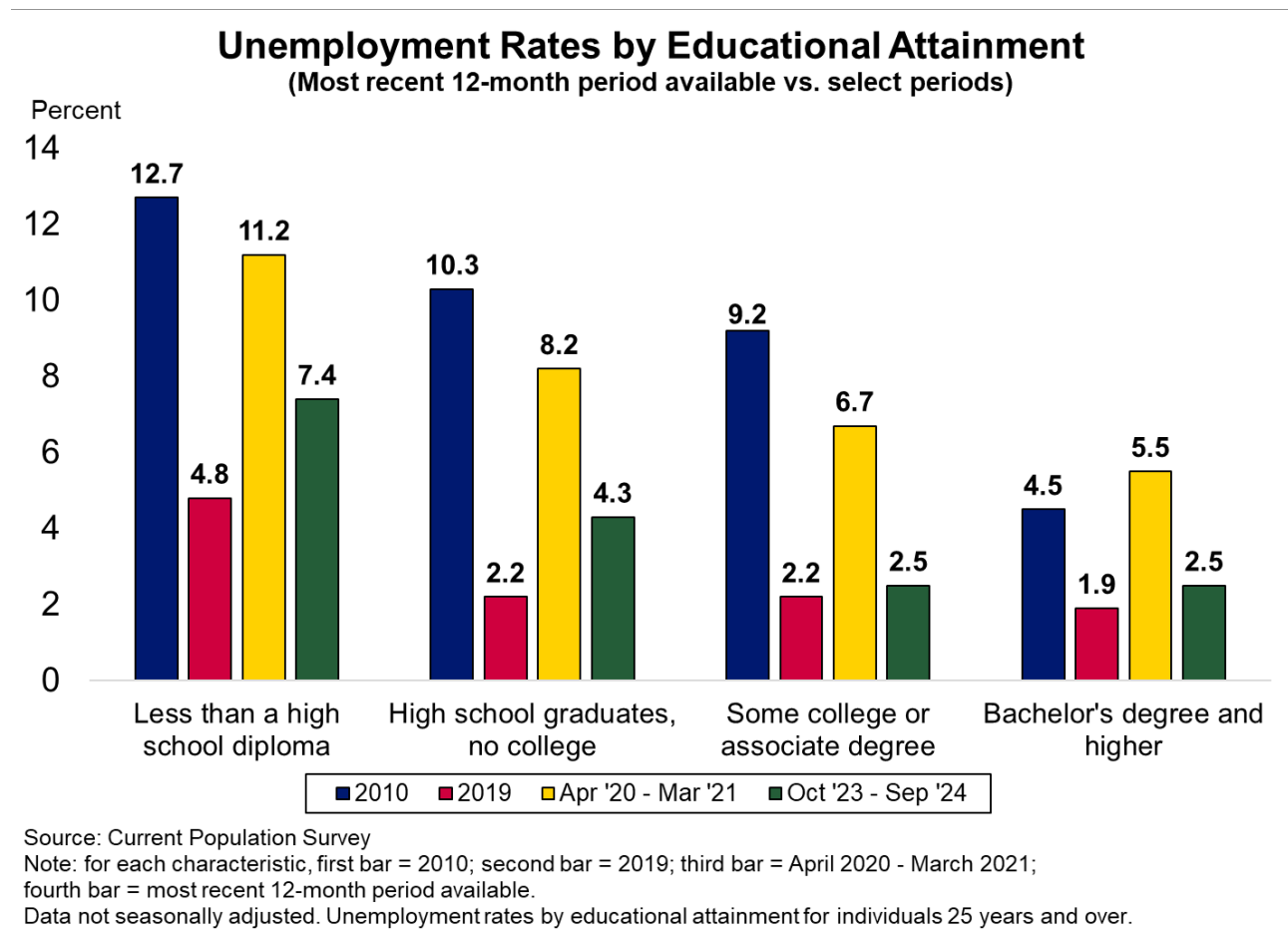


### Chart information:

- This chart compares Colorado unemployment rates by race and ethnicity over four select periods. The periods are: 2010 (the height of the Great Recession); 2019 (marking the last year of a long economic expansion); the 12-month period spanning April 2020 to March 2021 (the height of the pandemic); and the most recent 12-month period available (October 2023 to September 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, the Black unemployment rate is 7.9 percent, the White unemployment rate is 3.6 percent, and the Hispanic unemployment rate is 5.0 percent. The 2019 rates for those groups were 4.0 percent, 2.4 percent, and 3.4 percent, respectively.
- Unemployment rates by race and ethnicity are vastly improved from their pandemic peaks, which ranged between 7.3 percent and 12.5 percent.
- These data are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and come from the Current Population Survey.



## Colorado Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment, Most Recent 12-Month Period Available vs. Select Periods

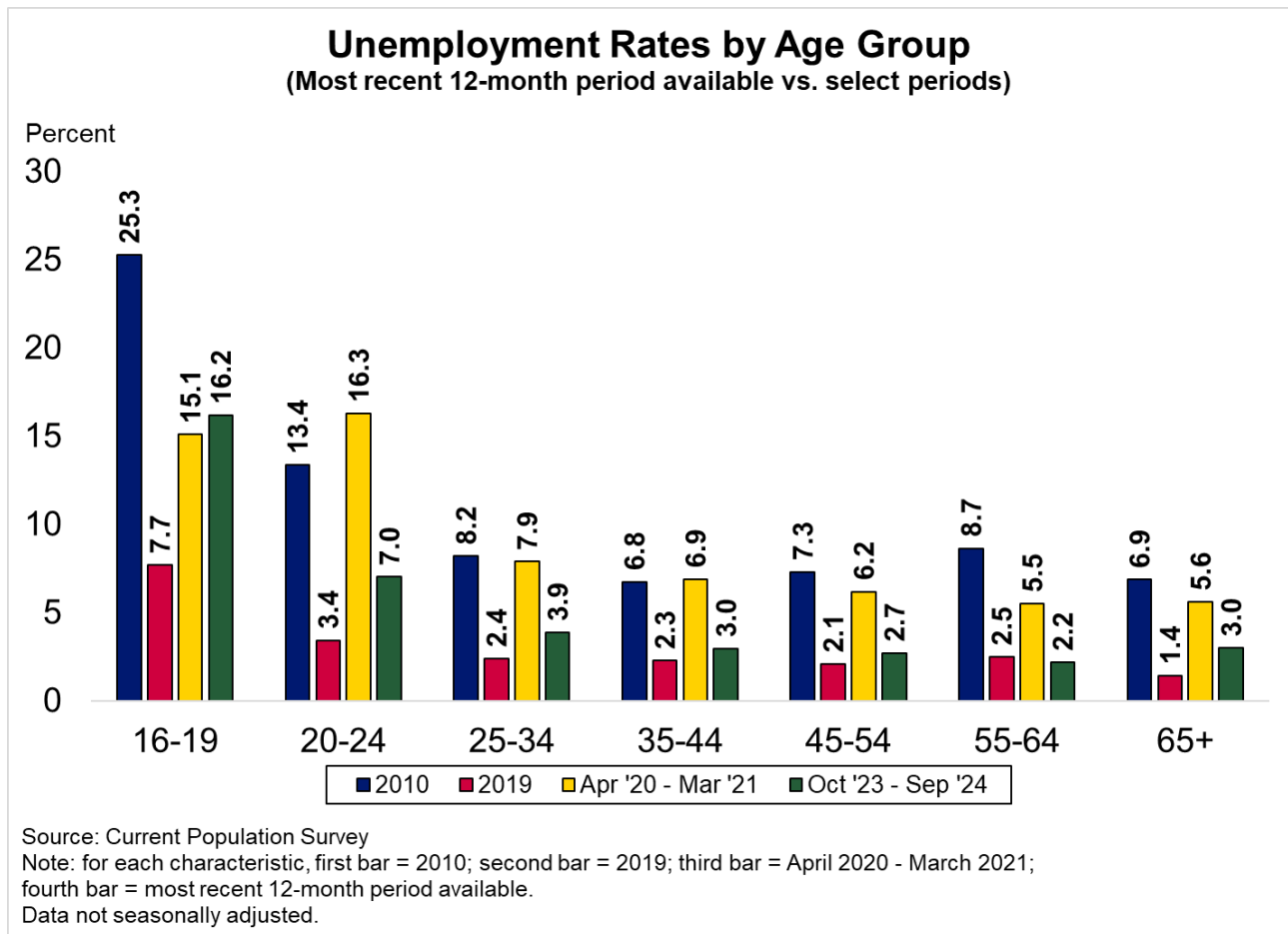


### Chart information:

- This chart compares Colorado unemployment rates by levels of education over four select periods. The periods are: 2010 (the height of the Great Recession); 2019 (marking the last year of a long economic expansion); the 12-month period spanning April 2020 to March 2021 (the height of the pandemic); and the most recent 12-month period available (October 2023 to September 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, unemployment rates by education level are: less than a high school diploma (7.4 percent); high school graduates, no college (4.3 percent); some college or associate degree (2.5 percent); and bachelor's degree and higher (2.5 percent). Respectively, those rates in 2019 were: 4.8 percent; 2.2 percent; 2.2 percent; and 1.9 percent.
- All of the unemployment rates by levels of education are vastly improved from their pandemic peaks, which ranged between 5.5 percent and 11.2 percent.
- These data are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and come from the Current Population Survey.



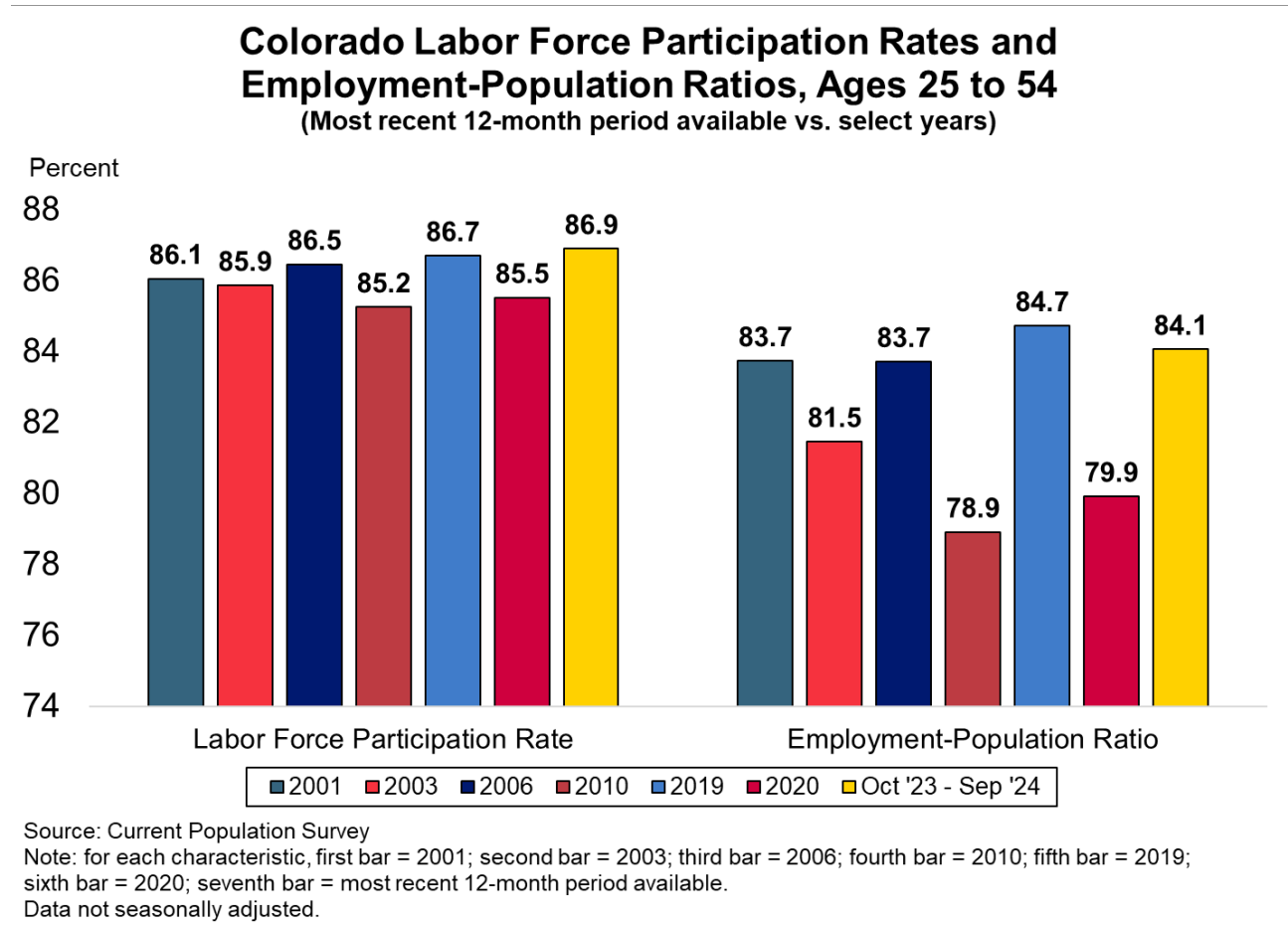
## Colorado Unemployment Rates by Age Group, Most Recent 12-Month Period Available vs. Select Periods



### Chart information:

- This chart compares Colorado unemployment rates between seven age cohorts over four select periods. The periods are: 2010 (the height of the Great Recession); 2019 (marking the last year of a long economic expansion); the 12-month period spanning April 2020 to March 2021 (the height of the pandemic); and the most recent 12-month period available (October 2023 to September 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, unemployment rates by cohort are: 16-19 (16.2%); 20-24 (7.0%); 25-34 (3.9%); 35-44 (3.0%); 45-54 (2.7%); 55-64 (2.2%); and 65+ (3.0%). Respectively, those rates in 2019 were: 7.7 percent; 3.4 percent; 2.4 percent; 2.3 percent; 2.1 percent; 2.5 percent; and 1.4 percent.
- All of the unemployment rates by age cohort aside from 16-19 are vastly improved from their pandemic peaks, which ranged between 5.5 percent and 16.3 percent. For the most recent 12-month period, the 16-19 unemployment rate (16.2%) exceeds its pandemic peak of 15.1%.
- These data are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and come from the Current Population Survey.

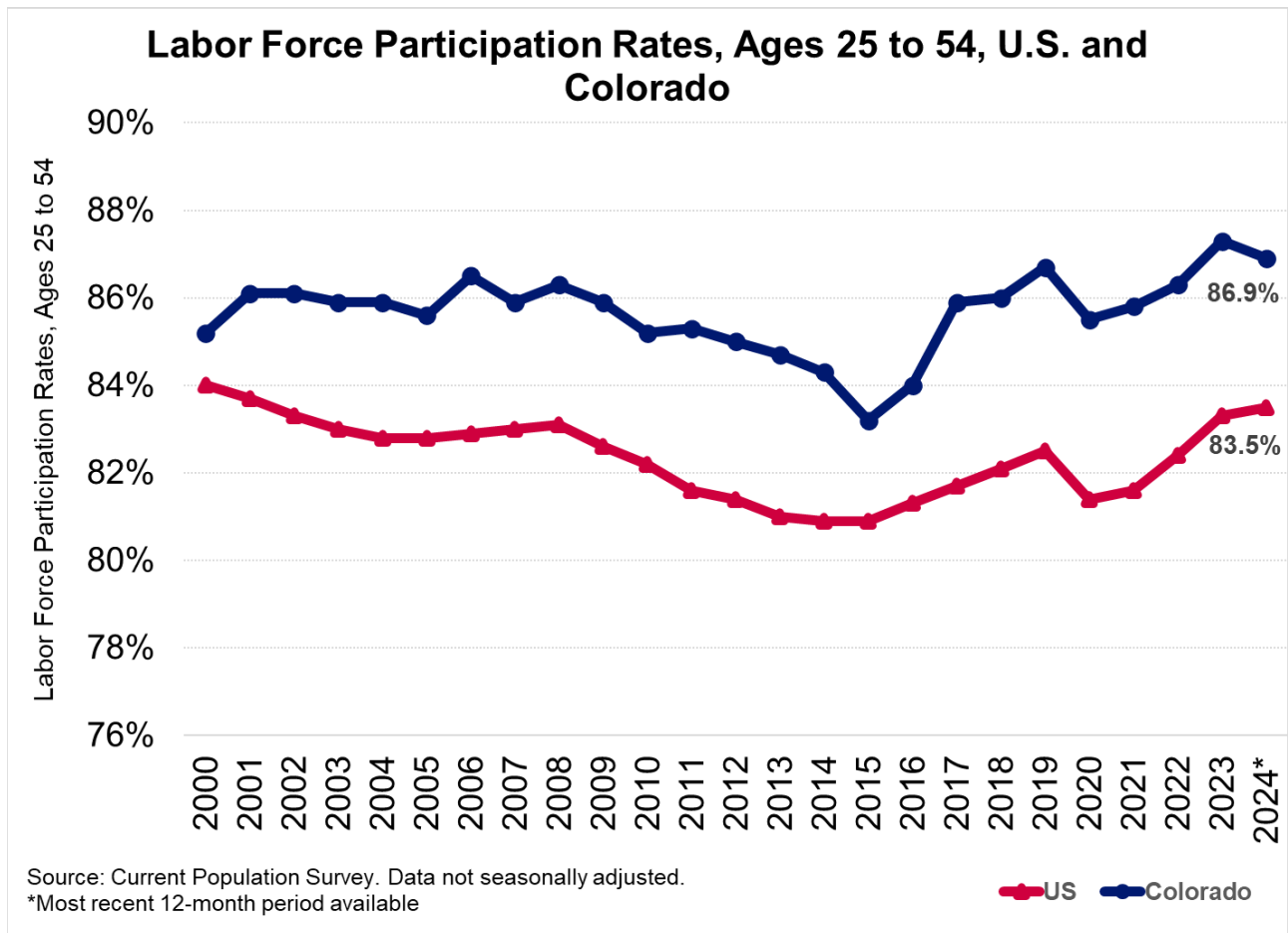
## Colorado Ages 25 to 54 Labor Force Participation Rates and Employment-Population Ratios, Most Recent 12-Month Period Available vs. Select Periods



### Chart information:

- This chart compares Colorado labor force participation rates (LFPR) and employment-population (EPOP) ratios for individuals between the ages of 25 and 54, over seven select periods. The periods were selected by years with growing state economies (2001, 2006, and 2019), years with economic downturns (2003, 2010, and 2020), and the most recent 12-month period available (October 2023 to September 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, the 25-54 LFPR is 86.9 percent, while the 25-54 EPOP is 84.1 percent. LFPR currently is historically high, surpassing the 2001, 2006, and 2019 periods, while EPOP exceeds 2001 and 2006 rates and is six-tenths of a percentage point lower than 2019.
- The current 25-54 LFPR and EPOP rates are vastly improved from their 2020 levels, which were at 85.5 percent and 79.9 percent, respectively.
- These data are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and come from the Current Population Survey.

## Labor Force Participation Rates, Ages 25 to 54, U.S. and Colorado



### Chart information:

- This chart displays the labor force participation rate of the United States and Colorado for individuals between the ages of 25 and 54 (also known as prime age) from 2000 to the most recent 12-month period available (October 2023 to September 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, the labor force participation rates for prime age workers in the United States and Colorado were 83.5 percent and 86.9 percent, respectively.
- Colorado's prime age labor force participation rate is consistently higher than that of the United States, ranging between 1.2 percentage points higher (2000) and 4.2 percentage points higher (2017, 2019, and 2021).
- These data are not seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Colorado Labor Force Summary

Source: Colorado Department of Labor & Employment; Bureau of Labor Statistics

Values in Thousands.

### Seasonally Adjusted Data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

Labor Force Component	Sep-24	Aug-24	Sep-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	3,249.2	3,247.0	3,238.0	2.2	11.3
Unemployment	130.8	128.5	106.2	2.3	24.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.0	4.0	3.3	0.0	0.7
Employment	3,118.4	3,118.5	3,131.8	-0.1	-13.3

### Not Seasonally Adjusted Data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program

Labor Force Component	Sep-24	Aug-24	Sep-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	3,263.7	3,269.3	3,254.5	-5.6	9.2
Unemployment	133.4	141.6	101.0	-8.2	32.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.1	4.3	3.1	-0.2	1.0
Employment	3,130.3	3,127.8	3,153.6	2.6	-23.2

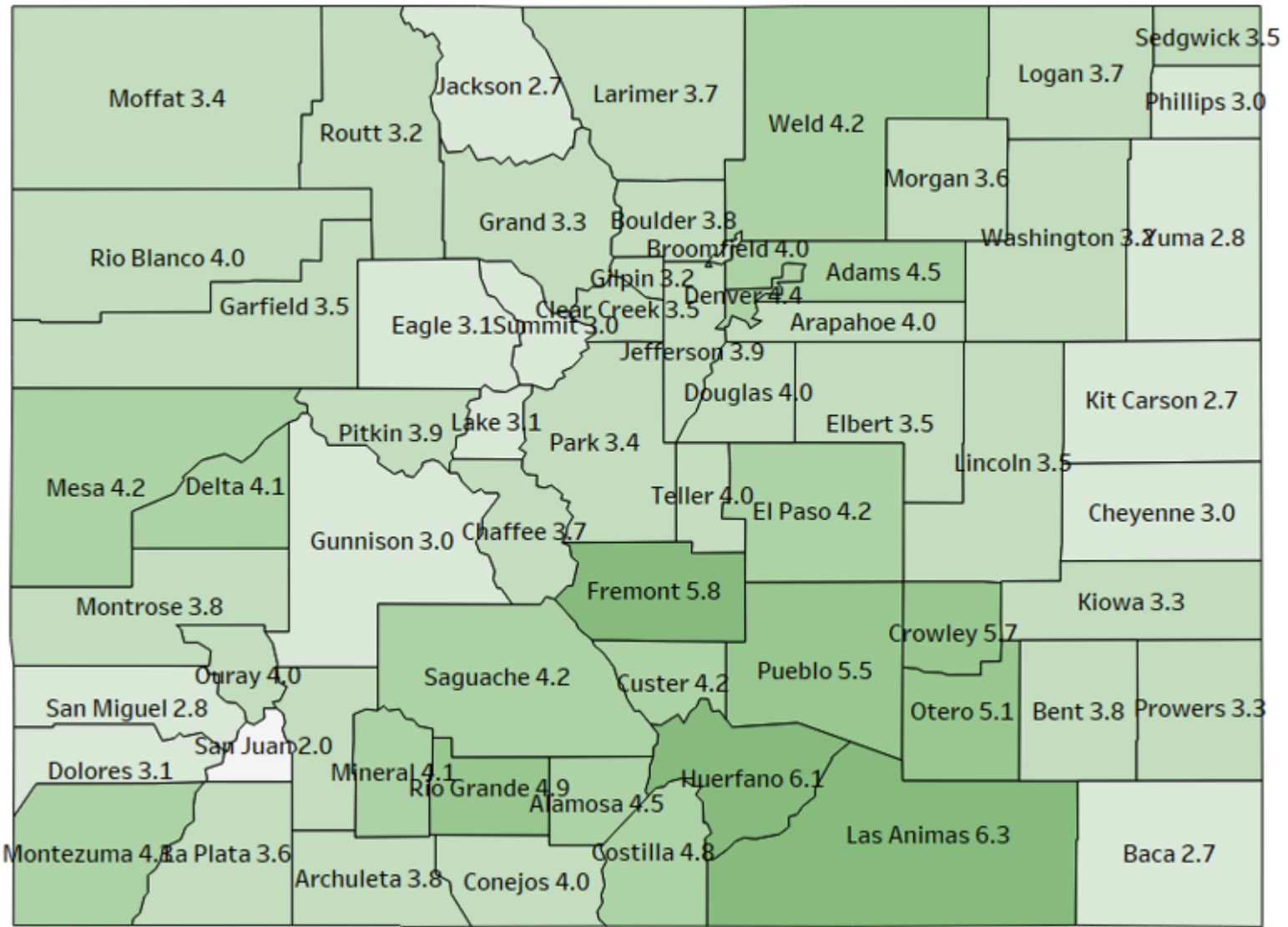
### Seasonally Adjusted Data from the Current Employment Statistics Program

Industry	Sep-24	Aug-24	Sep-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Mining & Logging	22.8	22.7	21.8	0.1	1.0
Construction	184.9	182.9	184.6	2.0	0.3
Manufacturing	150.6	150.9	151.9	-0.3	-1.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	509.6	507.5	509.3	2.1	0.3
Information	72.9	73.7	77.0	-0.8	-4.1
Financial Activities	185.6	185.7	179.8	-0.1	5.8
Professional & Business Services	506.7	504.9	504.2	1.8	2.5
Educational & Health Services	387.1	383.9	375.2	3.2	11.9
Leisure & Hospitality	360.6	358.1	353.2	2.5	7.4
Other Services	130.8	130.0	126.3	0.8	4.5
Government	498.1	496.7	479.3	1.4	18.8
Total Nonfarm Employment	3,009.7	2,997.0	2,962.6	12.7	47.1

### Not Seasonally Adjusted Data from the Current Employment Statistics Program

Industry	Sep-24	Aug-24	Sep-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Mining & Logging	22.9	23.0	21.9	-0.1	1.0
Construction	188.1	188.0	186.1	0.1	2.0
Manufacturing	150.5	150.9	151.6	-0.4	-1.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	505.0	504.4	502.6	0.6	2.4
Information	72.8	73.8	76.5	-1.0	-3.7
Financial Activities	184.4	186.5	179.0	-2.1	5.4
Professional & Business Services	508.0	508.7	505.2	-0.7	2.8
Educational & Health Services	386.3	381.4	373.1	4.9	13.2
Leisure & Hospitality	359.6	371.2	352.2	-11.6	7.4
Other Services	131.2	131.5	125.9	-0.3	5.3
Government	501.8	485.6	483.6	16.2	18.2
Total Nonfarm Employment	3,010.6	3,005.0	2,957.7	5.6	52.9

# County Unemployment Rates September 2024



Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Labor Market Information

Note: Data is not seasonally adjusted. For an accessible data table of the county unemployment rates, go to the [Not Seasonally Adjusted Labor Forced by Metro Area and County Table 3. By County](#) on the following page.

**Not Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force by Metro Area and County**

Note: All estimates made in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and adjusted to Current Population Survey data. Estimates have been revised to incorporate population data from the American Community Survey.

**Table 1. Statewide**

Statewide	September 2024 Labor Force	September 2024 Employment	September 2024 Unemployment	September 2024 Rate	August 2024 Labor Force	August 2024 Employment	August 2024 Unemployment	August 2024 Rate
Colorado	3,263,735	3,130,337	133,398	4.1	3,269,346	3,127,777	141,569	4.3

**Table 2. By Metropolitan Statistical Area**

Metropolitan Statistical Area	September 2024 Labor Force	September 2024 Employment	September 2024 Unemployment	September 2024 Rate	August 2024 Labor Force	August 2024 Employment	August 2024 Unemployment	August 2024 Rate
Boulder	205,749	197,875	7,874	3.8	203,476	195,149	8,327	4.1
Colorado Springs	387,486	371,084	16,402	4.2	386,061	368,694	17,367	4.5
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood	1,750,674	1,678,235	72,439	4.1	1,749,312	1,672,609	76,703	4.4
Fort Collins	218,880	210,820	8,060	3.7	217,730	209,188	8,542	3.9
Grand Junction	77,226	74,016	3,210	4.2	77,228	73,811	3,417	4.4
Greeley	175,141	167,707	7,434	4.2	175,894	167,978	7,916	4.5
Pueblo	75,890	71,734	4,156	5.5	75,505	70,993	4,512	6.0

**Table 3. By County**

Counties	September 2024 Labor Force	September 2024 Employment	September 2024 Unemployment	September 2024 Rate	August 2024 Labor Force	August 2024 Employment	August 2024 Unemployment	August 2024 Rate
Adams	286,506	273,646	12,860	4.5	286,718	273,202	13,516	4.7
Alamosa	7,796	7,447	349	4.5	7,979	7,601	378	4.7
Arapahoe	379,981	364,788	15,193	4.0	379,416	363,332	16,084	4.2
Archuleta	6,740	6,484	256	3.8	6,977	6,692	285	4.1
Baca	2,018	1,963	55	2.7	2,148	2,088	60	2.8
Bent	1,903	1,830	73	3.8	2,012	1,936	76	3.8
Boulder	205,749	197,875	7,874	3.8	203,476	195,149	8,327	4.1
Broomfield	43,317	41,599	1,718	4.0	43,313	41,486	1,827	4.2
Chaffee	10,398	10,015	383	3.7	10,852	10,443	409	3.8
Cheyenne	1,061	1,029	32	3.0	1,110	1,080	30	2.7
Clear Creek	6,199	5,984	215	3.5	6,209	5,963	246	4.0
Conejos	3,785	3,635	150	4.0	3,932	3,770	162	4.1
Costilla	1,894	1,804	90	4.8	1,928	1,828	100	5.2
Crowley	1,362	1,285	77	5.7	1,380	1,303	77	5.6
Custer	2,052	1,965	87	4.2	2,127	2,033	94	4.4
Delta	14,187	13,605	582	4.1	14,440	13,812	628	4.3
Denver	443,481	424,138	19,343	4.4	442,965	422,525	20,440	4.6
Dolores	1,076	1,043	33	3.1	1,143	1,106	37	3.2
Douglas	211,733	203,247	8,486	4.0	211,556	202,557	8,999	4.3
Eagle	34,497	33,422	1,075	3.1	35,596	34,456	1,140	3.2
El Paso	373,619	357,766	15,853	4.2	372,290	355,512	16,778	4.5
Elbert	16,151	15,580	571	3.5	16,309	15,692	617	3.8
Fremont	14,648	13,804	844	5.8	14,859	13,965	894	6.0
Garfield	32,093	30,983	1,110	3.5	33,178	31,989	1,189	3.6
Gilpin	3,951	3,823	128	3.2	3,942	3,804	138	3.5
Grand	9,527	9,213	314	3.3	10,165	9,832	333	3.3
Gunnison	11,581	11,229	352	3.0	11,853	11,479	374	3.2
Hinsdale	476	461	15	3.2	490	476	14	2.9
Huerfano	2,564	2,408	156	6.1	2,591	2,428	163	6.3
Jackson	947	921	26	2.7	1,003	973	30	3.0
Jefferson	347,715	334,186	13,529	3.9	347,281	332,855	14,426	4.2
Kiowa	879	850	29	3.3	940	910	30	3.2
Kit Carson	4,223	4,107	116	2.7	4,480	4,361	119	2.7
La Plata	31,582	30,458	1,124	3.6	31,893	30,686	1,207	3.8
Lake	5,083	4,926	157	3.1	5,147	4,973	174	3.4
Larimer	218,880	210,820	8,060	3.7	217,730	209,188	8,542	3.9
Las Animas	5,703	5,345	358	6.3	5,807	5,422	385	6.6
Lincoln	2,285	2,204	81	3.5	2,404	2,320	84	3.5
Logan	10,124	9,745	379	3.7	10,232	9,816	416	4.1
Mesa	77,226	74,016	3,210	4.2	77,228	73,811	3,417	4.4
Mineral	468	449	19	4.1	513	492	21	4.1
Moffat	7,062	6,819	243	3.4	7,159	6,892	267	3.7
Montezuma	11,976	11,464	512	4.3	12,216	11,647	569	4.7
Montrose	22,010	21,170	840	3.8	22,433	21,533	900	4.0
Morgan	15,616	15,052	564	3.6	16,141	15,523	618	3.8
Otero	7,682	7,288	394	5.1	7,899	7,462	437	5.5
Ouray	2,558	2,455	103	4.0	2,638	2,523	115	4.4
Park	11,640	11,244	396	3.4	11,603	11,193	410	3.5
Phillips	2,402	2,330	72	3.0	2,648	2,568	80	3.0
Pitkin	10,961	10,535	426	3.9	11,226	10,817	409	3.6
Prowers	6,430	6,219	211	3.3	6,581	6,349	232	3.5
Pueblo	75,890	71,734	4,156	5.5	75,505	70,993	4,512	6.0
Rio Blanco	2,731	2,621	110	4.0	2,743	2,625	118	4.3
Rio Grande	5,223	4,968	255	4.9	5,570	5,286	284	5.1
Routt	16,455	15,924	531	3.2	17,299	16,747	552	3.2
Saguache	3,422	3,279	143	4.2	3,610	3,462	148	4.1
San Juan	686	672	14	2.0	733	716	17	2.3
San Miguel	5,877	5,712	165	2.8	6,087	5,917	170	2.8
Sedgwick	1,160	1,119	41	3.5	1,226	1,185	41	3.3
Summit	21,592	20,948	644	3.0	22,233	21,563	670	3.0
Teller	13,867	13,318	549	4.0	13,771	13,182	589	4.3
Washington	2,624	2,541	83	3.2	2,757	2,670	87	3.2
Weld	175,141	167,707	7,434	4.2	175,894	167,978	7,916	4.5
Yuma	5,269	5,120	149	2.8	5,758	5,598	160	2.8

**Not Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force by Metro Area and County**

Note: All estimates made in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and adjusted to Current Population Survey data. Estimates have been revised to incorporate population data from the American Community Survey.

**Table 1. Statewide**

Statewide	September 2024 Labor Force	September 2024 Employment	September 2024 Unemployment	September 2024 Rate	September 2023 Labor Force	September 2023 Employment	September 2023 Unemployment	September 2023 Rate
Colorado	3,263,735	3,130,337	133,398	4.1	3,254,529	3,153,559	100,970	3.1

**Table 2. By Metropolitan Statistical Area**

Metropolitan Statistical Area	September 2024 Labor Force	September 2024 Employment	September 2024 Unemployment	September 2024 Rate	September 2023 Labor Force	September 2023 Employment	September 2023 Unemployment	September 2023 Rate
Boulder	205,749	197,875	7,874	3.8	204,897	199,015	5,882	2.9
Colorado Springs	387,486	371,084	16,402	4.2	381,822	369,319	12,503	3.3
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood	1,750,674	1,678,235	72,439	4.1	1,750,663	1,696,048	54,615	3.1
Fort Collins	218,880	210,820	8,060	3.7	219,262	213,173	6,089	2.8
Grand Junction	77,226	74,016	3,210	4.2	77,375	74,936	2,439	3.2
Greeley	175,141	167,707	7,434	4.2	174,606	168,998	5,608	3.2
Pueblo	75,890	71,734	4,156	5.5	75,819	72,607	3,212	4.2

**Table 3. By County**

Counties	September 2024 Labor Force	September 2024 Employment	September 2024 Unemployment	September 2024 Rate	September 2023 Labor Force	September 2023 Employment	September 2023 Unemployment	September 2023 Rate
Adams	286,506	273,646	12,860	4.5	285,954	276,464	9,490	3.3
Alamosa	7,796	7,447	349	4.5	8,030	7,740	290	3.6
Arapahoe	379,981	364,788	15,193	4.0	380,370	368,625	11,745	3.1
Archuleta	6,740	6,484	256	3.8	6,861	6,655	206	3.0
Baca	2,018	1,963	55	2.7	2,072	2,029	43	2.1
Bent	1,903	1,830	73	3.8	1,862	1,817	45	2.4
Boulder	205,749	197,875	7,874	3.8	204,897	199,015	5,882	2.9
Broomfield	43,317	41,599	1,718	4.0	43,297	41,980	1,317	3.0
Chaffee	10,398	10,015	383	3.7	10,114	9,818	296	2.9
Cheyenne	1,061	1,029	32	3.0	1,075	1,053	22	2.0
Clear Creek	6,199	5,984	215	3.5	6,216	6,055	161	2.6
Conejos	3,785	3,635	150	4.0	3,923	3,796	127	3.2
Costilla	1,894	1,804	90	4.8	1,866	1,790	76	4.1
Crowley	1,362	1,285	77	5.7	1,360	1,308	52	3.8
Custer	2,052	1,965	87	4.2	2,177	2,110	67	3.1
Delta	14,187	13,605	582	4.1	13,930	13,473	457	3.3
Denver	443,481	424,138	19,343	4.4	443,169	428,562	14,607	3.3
Dolores	1,076	1,043	33	3.1	1,124	1,095	29	2.6
Douglas	211,733	203,247	8,486	4.0	211,551	205,318	6,233	2.9
Eagle	34,497	33,422	1,075	3.1	34,381	33,543	838	2.4
El Paso	373,619	357,766	15,853	4.2	368,122	356,019	12,103	3.3
Elbert	16,151	15,580	571	3.5	16,280	15,845	435	2.7
Fremont	14,648	13,804	844	5.8	14,517	13,859	658	4.5
Garfield	32,093	30,983	1,110	3.5	31,385	30,548	837	2.7
Gilpin	3,951	3,823	128	3.2	3,968	3,871	97	2.4
Grand	9,527	9,213	314	3.3	9,284	9,042	242	2.6
Gunnison	11,581	11,229	352	3.0	11,542	11,270	272	2.4
Hinsdale	476	461	15	3.2	485	473	12	2.5
Huerfano	2,564	2,408	156	6.1	2,526	2,403	123	4.9
Jackson	947	921	26	2.7	1,003	982	21	2.1
Jefferson	347,715	334,186	13,529	3.9	348,116	337,891	10,225	2.9
Kiowa	879	850	29	3.3	915	897	18	2.0
Kit Carson	4,223	4,107	116	2.7	4,211	4,135	76	1.8
La Plata	31,582	30,458	1,124	3.6	31,293	30,455	838	2.7
Lake	5,083	4,926	157	3.1	4,901	4,784	117	2.4
Larimer	218,880	210,820	8,060	3.7	219,262	213,173	6,089	2.8
Las Animas	5,703	5,345	358	6.3	5,868	5,586	282	4.8
Lincoln	2,285	2,204	81	3.5	2,252	2,193	59	2.6
Logan	10,124	9,745	379	3.7	10,174	9,908	266	2.6
Mesa	77,226	74,016	3,210	4.2	77,375	74,936	2,439	3.2
Mineral	468	449	19	4.1	441	428	13	2.9
Moffat	7,062	6,819	243	3.4	6,931	6,741	190	2.7
Montezuma	11,976	11,464	512	4.3	12,204	11,794	410	3.4
Montrose	22,010	21,170	840	3.8	21,727	21,088	639	2.9
Morgan	15,616	15,052	564	3.6	15,620	15,158	462	3.0
Otero	7,682	7,288	394	5.1	7,770	7,474	296	3.8
Ouray	2,558	2,455	103	4.0	2,563	2,492	71	2.8
Park	11,640	11,244	396	3.4	11,742	11,437	305	2.6
Phillips	2,402	2,330	72	3.0	2,475	2,420	55	2.2
Pitkin	10,961	10,535	426	3.9	10,724	10,410	314	2.9
Prowers	6,430	6,219	211	3.3	6,379	6,209	170	2.7
Pueblo	75,890	71,734	4,156	5.5	75,819	72,607	3,212	4.2
Rio Blanco	2,731	2,621	110	4.0	2,787	2,708	79	2.8
Rio Grande	5,223	4,968	255	4.9	5,304	5,118	186	3.5
Routt	16,455	15,924	531	3.2	15,855	15,449	406	2.6
Saguache	3,422	3,279	143	4.2	3,451	3,330	121	3.5
San Juan	686	672	14	2.0	648	632	16	2.5
San Miguel	5,877	5,712	165	2.8	5,782	5,658	124	2.1
Sedgwick	1,160	1,119	41	3.5	1,139	1,108	31	2.7
Summit	21,592	20,948	644	3.0	20,910	20,416	494	2.4
Teller	13,867	13,318	549	4.0	13,700	13,300	400	2.9
Washington	2,624	2,541	83	3.2	2,744	2,677	67	2.4
Weld	175,141	167,707	7,434	4.2	174,606	168,998	5,608	3.2
Yuma	5,269	5,120	149	2.8	5,499	5,392	107	1.9

**Not Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force for Select Cities in Colorado**

All estimates made in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, and Bureau of Labor Statistics and adjusted to Current Population Survey data. Estimates have been revised to incorporate population data from the American Community Survey.

**Table 1. Over the Month**

Area	September 2024 Labor Force	September 2024 Employment	September 2024 Unemployment	September 2024 Rate	August 2024 Labor Force	August 2024 Employment	August 2024 Unemployment	August 2024 Rate
Arvada	72,019	69,158	2,861	4.0	71,941	68,887	3,054	4.2
Aurora	212,739	203,660	9,079	4.3	212,582	202,900	9,682	4.6
Boulder	69,065	66,337	2,728	3.9	68,329	65,423	2,906	4.3
Brighton	21,162	20,156	1,006	4.8	21,186	20,126	1,060	5.0
Castle Rock	40,032	38,421	1,611	4.0	40,004	38,290	1,714	4.3
Centennial	65,845	63,403	2,442	3.7	65,716	63,150	2,566	3.9
Colorado Springs	258,982	248,401	10,581	4.1	258,101	246,836	11,265	4.4
Commerce City	31,533	30,031	1,502	4.8	31,546	29,982	1,564	5.0
Englewood	22,177	21,267	910	4.1	22,125	21,182	943	4.3
Erie	19,087	18,404	683	3.6	19,055	18,307	748	3.9
Fort Collins	106,078	102,218	3,860	3.6	105,504	101,427	4,077	3.9
Fountain	14,179	13,547	632	4.5	14,111	13,462	649	4.6
Grand Junction	31,201	29,835	1,366	4.4	31,213	29,752	1,461	4.7
Greeley	53,950	51,350	2,600	4.8	54,170	51,433	2,737	5.1
Lafayette	18,392	17,713	679	3.7	18,191	17,469	722	4.0
Lakewood	90,751	87,012	3,739	4.1	90,699	86,666	4,033	4.4
Littleton	26,136	25,124	1,012	3.9	26,098	25,024	1,074	4.1
Longmont	58,243	55,910	2,333	4.0	57,613	55,150	2,463	4.3
Loveland	48,469	46,625	1,844	3.8	48,237	46,264	1,973	4.1
Northglenn	22,046	21,072	974	4.4	22,057	21,038	1,019	4.6
Parker	35,542	34,086	1,456	4.1	35,465	33,970	1,495	4.2
Pueblo	48,361	45,536	2,825	5.8	48,154	45,066	3,088	6.4
Thornton	85,293	81,775	3,518	4.1	85,361	81,642	3,719	4.4
Westminster	69,085	66,213	2,872	4.2	69,078	66,040	3,038	4.4
Wheat Ridge	17,857	17,098	759	4.3	17,863	17,030	833	4.7
Windsor	16,106	15,497	609	3.8	16,113	15,491	622	3.9

**Table 2. Over the Year**

Area	September 2024 Labor Force	September 2024 Employment	September 2024 Unemployment	September 2024 Rate	September 2023 Labor Force	September 2023 Employment	September 2023 Unemployment	September 2023 Rate
Arvada	72,019	69,158	2,861	4.0	72,046	69,923	2,123	2.9
Aurora	212,739	203,660	9,079	4.3	212,855	205,797	7,058	3.3
Boulder	69,065	66,337	2,728	3.9	68,730	66,719	2,011	2.9
Brighton	21,162	20,156	1,006	4.8	21,096	20,362	734	3.5
Castle Rock	40,032	38,421	1,611	4.0	40,030	38,812	1,218	3.0
Centennial	65,845	63,403	2,442	3.7	65,984	64,070	1,914	2.9
Colorado Springs	258,982	248,401	10,581	4.1	255,230	247,188	8,042	3.2
Commerce City	31,533	30,031	1,502	4.8	31,412	30,340	1,072	3.4
Englewood	22,177	21,267	910	4.1	22,188	21,491	697	3.1
Erie	19,087	18,404	683	3.6	19,069	18,530	539	2.8
Fort Collins	106,078	102,218	3,860	3.6	106,313	103,359	2,954	2.8
Fountain	14,179	13,547	632	4.5	13,956	13,481	475	3.4
Grand Junction	31,201	29,835	1,366	4.4	31,230	30,206	1,024	3.3
Greeley	53,950	51,350	2,600	4.8	53,619	51,745	1,874	3.5
Lafayette	18,392	17,713	679	3.7	18,281	17,815	466	2.5
Lakewood	90,751	87,012	3,739	4.1	90,826	87,977	2,849	3.1
Littleton	26,136	25,124	1,012	3.9	26,162	25,389	773	3.0
Longmont	58,243	55,910	2,333	4.0	58,041	56,234	1,807	3.1
Loveland	48,469	46,625	1,844	3.8	48,515	47,145	1,370	2.8
Northglenn	22,046	21,072	974	4.4	22,080	21,289	791	3.6
Parker	35,542	34,086	1,456	4.1	35,491	34,433	1,058	3.0
Pueblo	48,361	45,536	2,825	5.8	48,318	46,090	2,228	4.6
Thornton	85,293	81,775	3,518	4.1	85,184	82,617	2,567	3.0
Westminster	69,085	66,213	2,872	4.2	69,126	66,916	2,210	3.2
Wheat Ridge	17,857	17,098	759	4.3	17,937	17,287	650	3.6
Windsor	16,106	15,497	609	3.8	16,087	15,629	458	2.8