



# PRESS RELEASE

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

## For Immediate Release

Date: December 20, 2024

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## Colorado Employment Situation – November 2024

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Decline by 3,900 in November;  
Unemployment Rate Increases to 4.3 Percent

### Household survey data

- According to the survey of households, the **number of unemployed individuals** grew by 4,600 to 139,300 from October to November. Colorado's seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** increased two-tenths of a percentage point over the same time period to 4.3 percent. The national unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.2 percent from October to November.
- Colorado's **labor force** declined by 300 in November to 3,253,300. The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force was 67.9 percent in November, unchanged from the last six months. The U.S. labor force participation rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 62.5 percent in November.
- The **number of individuals employed** in Colorado decreased by 4,900 in November to 3,114,000, which represents 65.0 percent of the state's 16+ population. Colorado's employment-population ratio of 65.0 in November decreased one-tenth of a percentage point from the month prior. The national employment-population ratio decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to 59.8 percent from October to November.

## Establishment survey data

- Employers in Colorado lost 3,900 **nonfarm payroll jobs** from October to November for a total of 3,011,000 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs decreased by 5,500, while government added 1,600 jobs.
- **October estimates** were revised down to 3,014,900, and the over the month change from September to October was a gain of 4,100 rather than the originally estimated increase of 9,000 (monthly revisions are based on additional responses from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates).
- **The private industry sector with significant over the month job gains** in November was education and health services ( $\approx 1,100$ ). The private industry sectors with significant over the month **job losses** were: professional and business services ( $\approx 3,500$ ), and trade, transportation, and utilities ( $\approx 2,300$ ).
- **Since November 2023**, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 52,900, with the private sector growing by 35,100 and government adding 17,800 jobs. The largest **private sector job gains** were in educational and health services ( $\approx 12,300$ ), leisure and hospitality ( $\approx 7,000$ ), construction ( $\approx 6,200$ ), financial activities ( $\approx 4,100$ ), and trade, transportation, and utilities ( $\approx 3,400$ ). During that same period, **payroll jobs declined** in information ( $\approx 3,500$ ), and manufacturing ( $\approx 500$ ). Colorado's **rate of job growth** over the past year is 1.8 percent, above the U.S. rate of 1.4 percent.
- Over the year, the **average workweek** for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 33.3 to 32.8 hours, while **average hourly earnings** grew from \$36.82 to \$39.20, three dollars and fifty-nine cents more than the national average hourly earnings of \$35.61.

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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 **December 2024 Colorado Employment Situation** will be released at 8:00 AM on Monday, January 27, 2025. 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 November 2024, the most current estimates available from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. The reference period for the establishment survey was the pay period or week that includes the 12th of the month. While the reference period for the household survey is typically during the week that includes the 12th of the month, in November 2024 it was the week that includes the 5th of the month (i.e. November 3rd - 9th). For more information on these infrequent reference week shifts, go to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

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.

## Bureau of Labor Statistics Notice

On December 18, 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics [published a notice](#) that they will suspend publication of labor force and unemployment rate data for Colorado and its substate areas due

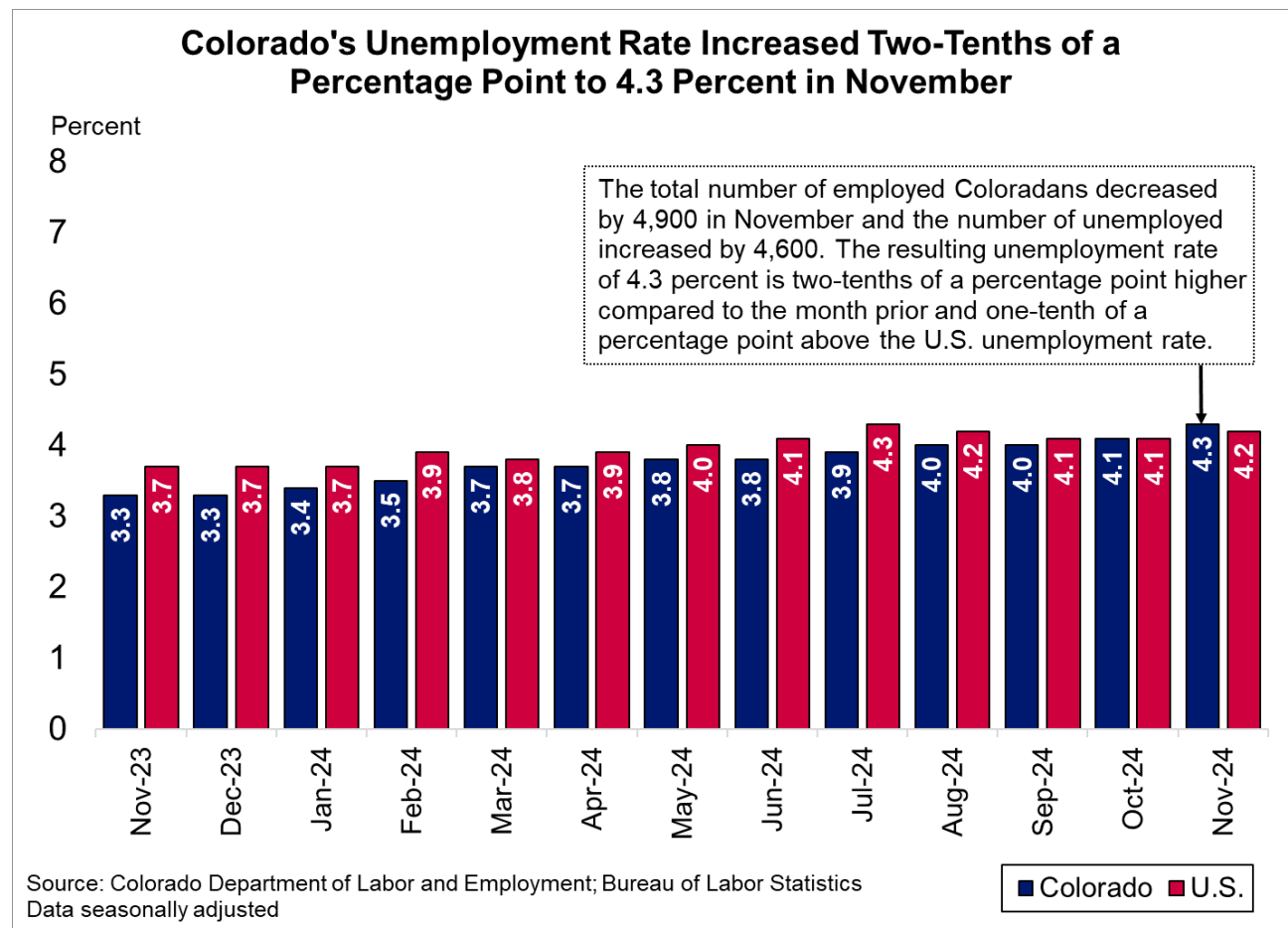
to previously suppressed Q2 2024 QCEW data. Revisions to estimates for 2024 and possibly earlier will exclude Colorado and its local areas.

While CDLE continues to work with the BLS for resolution, no timeline has been agreed to. Colorado will continue to produce (and publish) employment data related to Calendar Year 2024. From March 2025, further employment releases may be impacted. Colorado has made significant progress in data cleanup of the Q2 2024 QCEW file, which is now available on [LMI Gateway](#).

## **Supplemental Charts & Tables**

Supplemental charts and tables are available on the remaining pages.

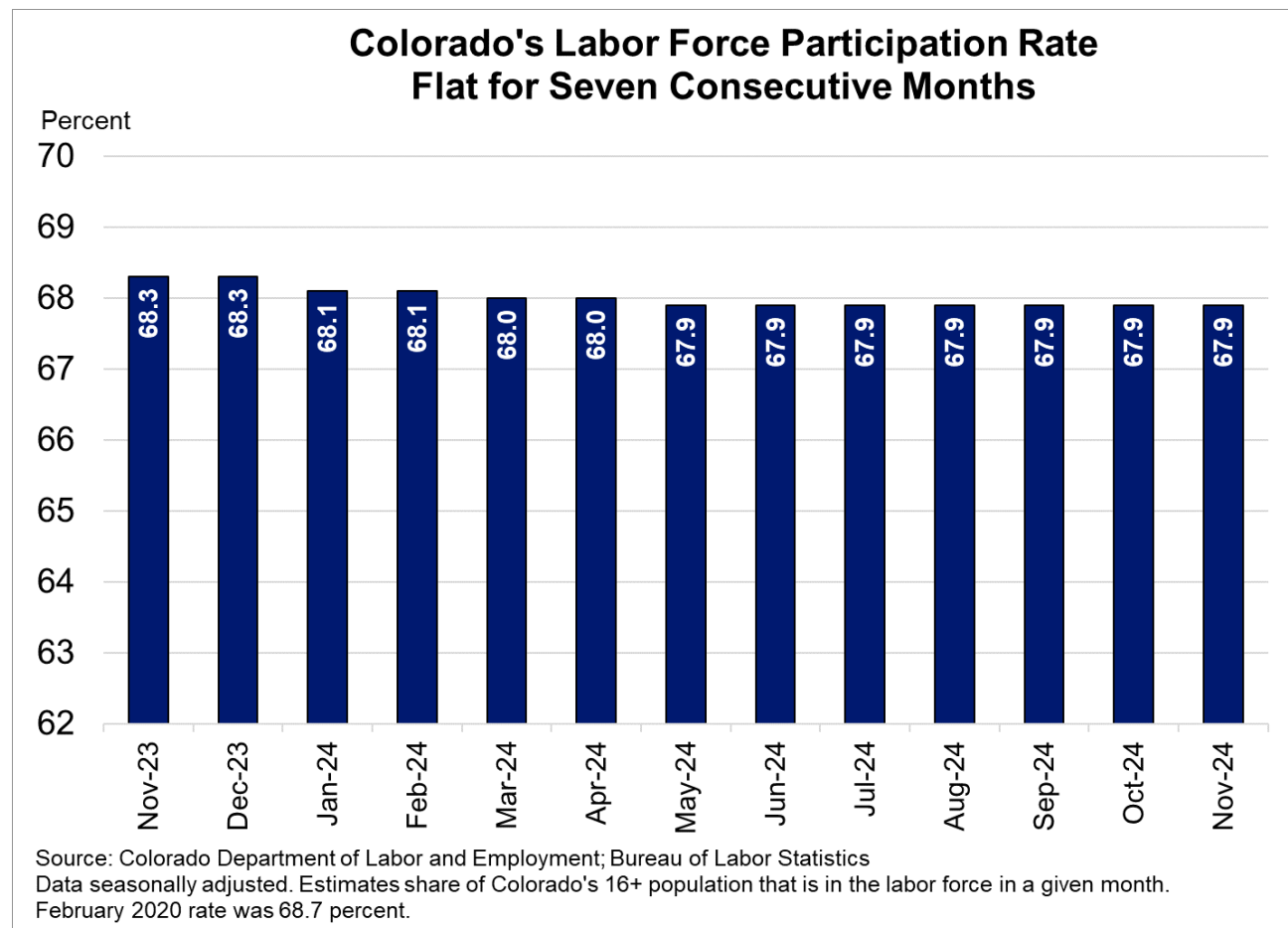
## Colorado and U.S. Unemployment Rates, Over Past Year



### Chart information:

- Colorado's November 2024 unemployment rate was 4.3 percent, one-tenth of a percentage point higher than the U.S. rate of 4.2 percent. The last time that the Colorado unemployment rate exceeded the U.S. unemployment rate was in December 2021 when the rates were 4.2 and 3.9 percent, respectively.
- Prior month rates were 4.1 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively.
- The total number of employed Coloradans decreased by 4,900 in November to 3,114,000.
- The total number of unemployed Coloradans grew by 4,600 to 139,300.
- The unemployment rate for Colorado has ranged between 3.3 and 4.3 percent over the past year, while the U.S. has ranged from 3.7 to 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.

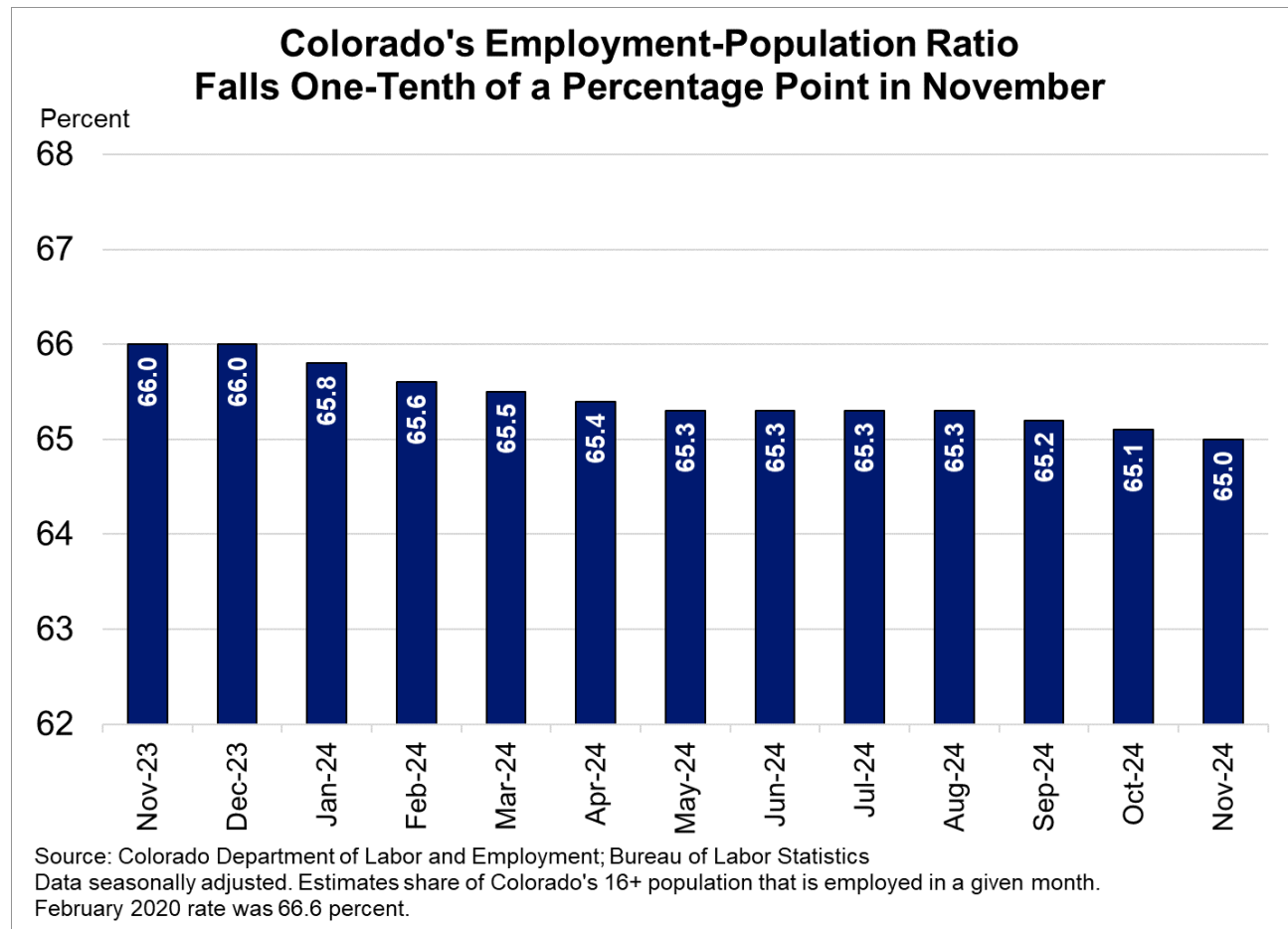
## Colorado Labor Force Participation Rate, Over Past Year



### Chart information:

- Colorado's November 2024 labor force participation rate (LFPR) was 67.9 percent, unchanged for seven consecutive months.
- A year prior, Colorado's labor force participation rate was 68.3 percent.
- The labor force participation rate for Colorado has ranged between 67.9 percent and 68.3 percent over the past year.
- The November 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.

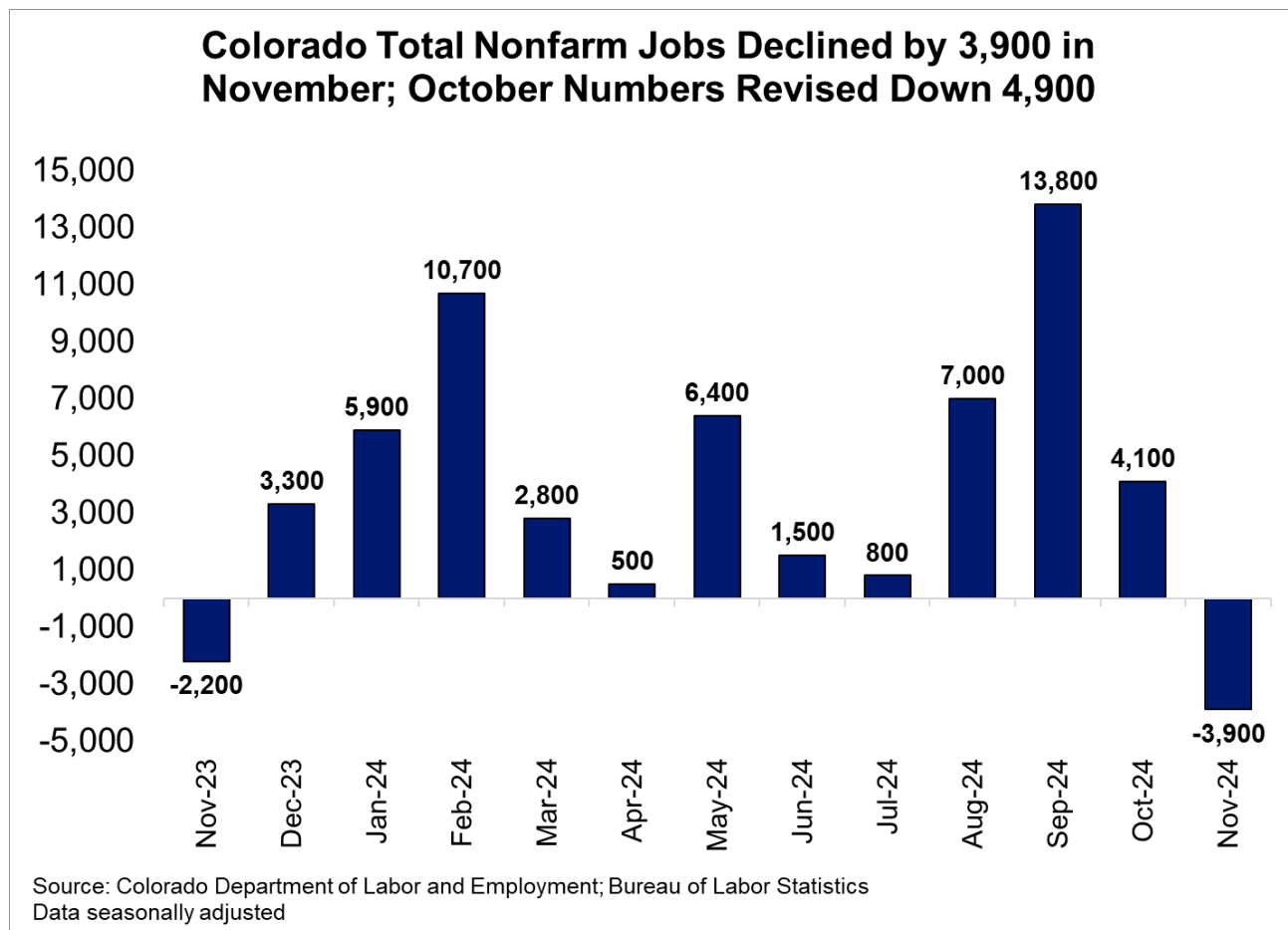
## Colorado Employment-Population Ratio, Over Past Year



### Chart information:

- Colorado's November 2024 employment-population ratio (EPOP) was 65.0 percent, a decrease of one-tenth of a percentage point from the prior month's rate of 65.1 percent.
- A year prior, Colorado's employment-population ratio was 66.0 percent.
- The employment-population ratio for Colorado has ranged between 65.0 percent and 66.0 percent over the past year.
- The November 2024 ratio of 65.0 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

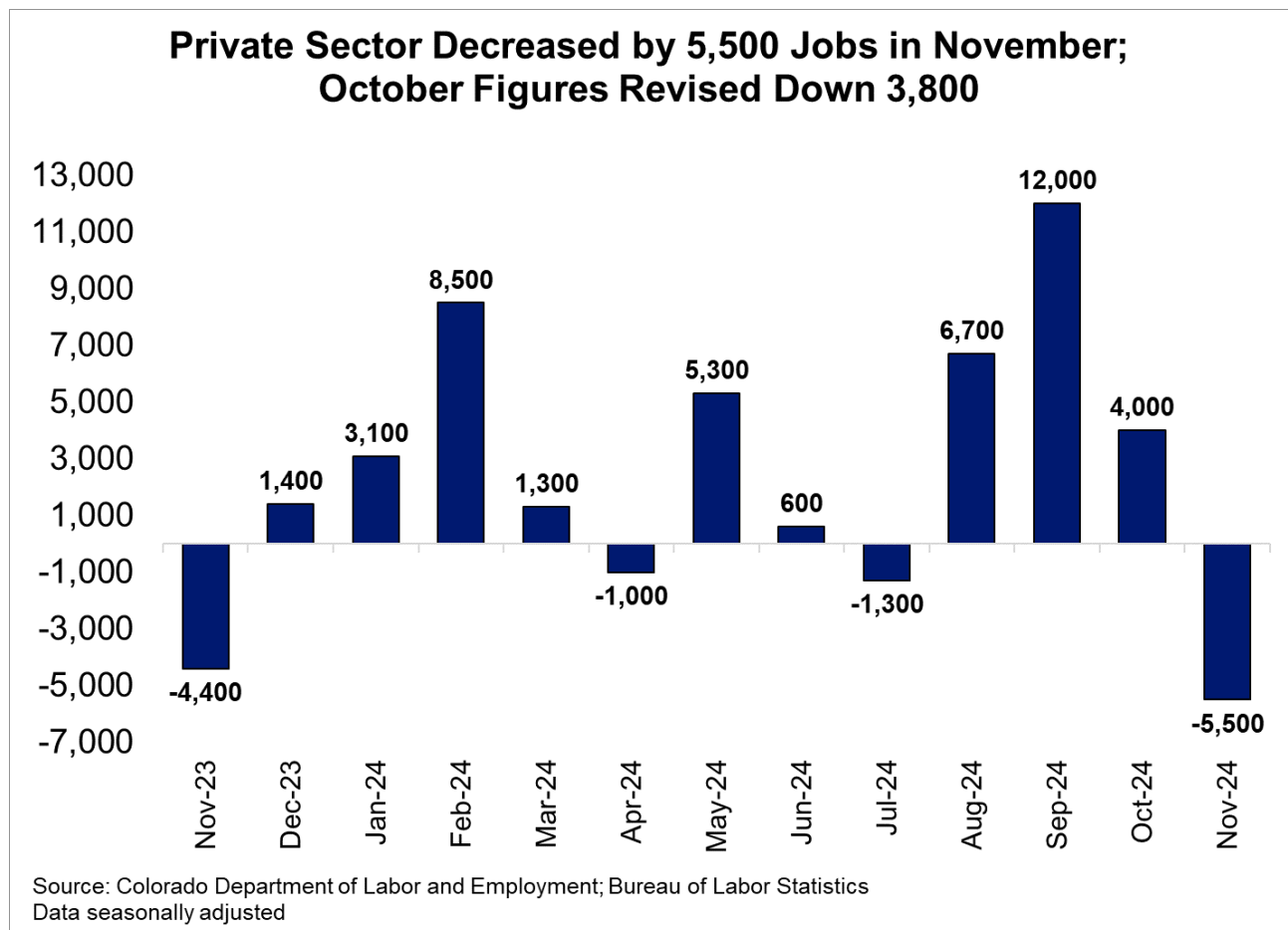


### Chart information:

- Colorado lost 3,900 total nonfarm jobs in November 2024, while October numbers were revised down by 4,900. The October revision shows an increase of 4,100 rather than the previously reported increase of 9,000 jobs.
- Since November 2023, the monthly change in Colorado's total nonfarm jobs has ranged between -3,900 (November 2024) and +13,800 (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 +3,900.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



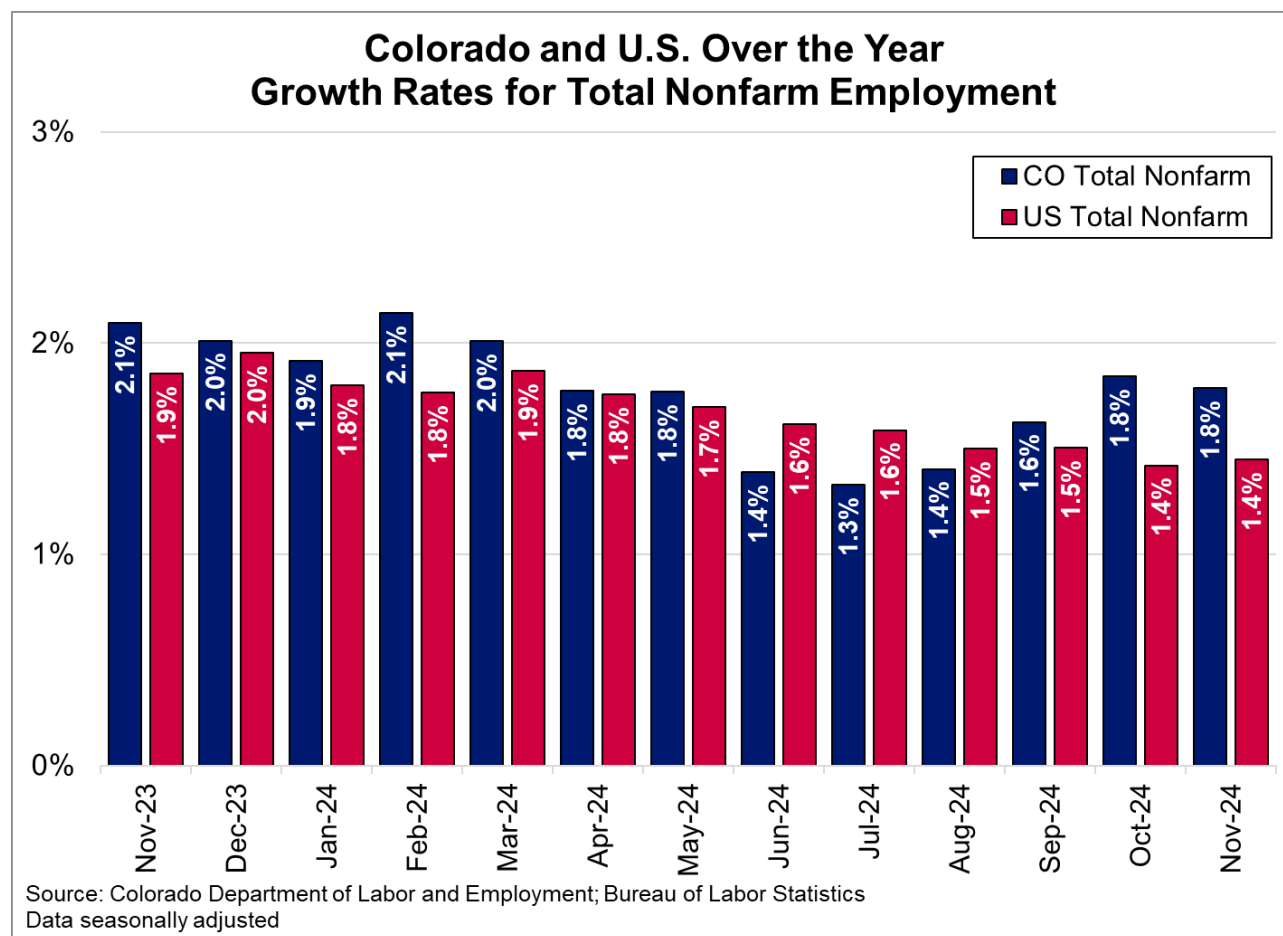
## Colorado Monthly Change in the Number of Private Sector Payroll Jobs, Over Past Year



### Chart information:

- Colorado private sector jobs declined by 5,500 in November 2024, while October numbers were revised down by 3,800. The October revision shows an increase of 4,000 rather than the previously reported increase of 7,800 jobs.
- Since November 2023, the monthly change in Colorado's private sector jobs has ranged between -5,500 (November 2024) and +12,000 (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 +2,400.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

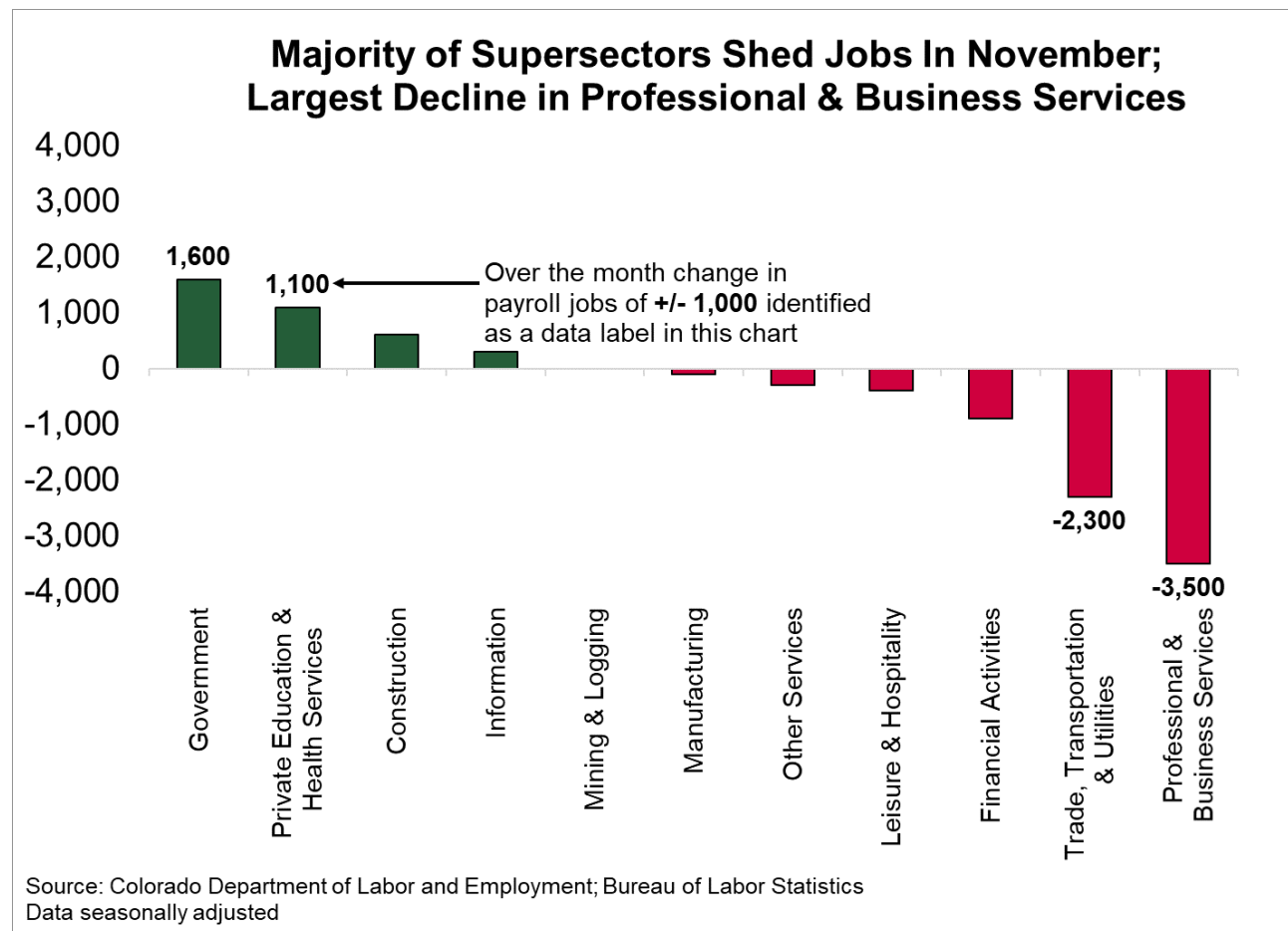
## Colorado and U.S. Over the Year Growth Rates for Total Nonfarm Employment, Over Past Year



### Chart information:

- Colorado's over the year growth rate for total nonfarm employment was 1.8 percent in November 2024, higher than the U.S. rate of 1.4 percent.
- Total nonfarm employment growth rates for Colorado and the U.S. a year prior were 2.1 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively.
- Colorado has lagged the U.S. growth rate in three of the past 13 months, has exceeded it in eight months, and was the same in two months. The difference ranged between three-tenths of a percentage point lower (July 2024) and four-tenths of a percentage point higher (October and November 2024).
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

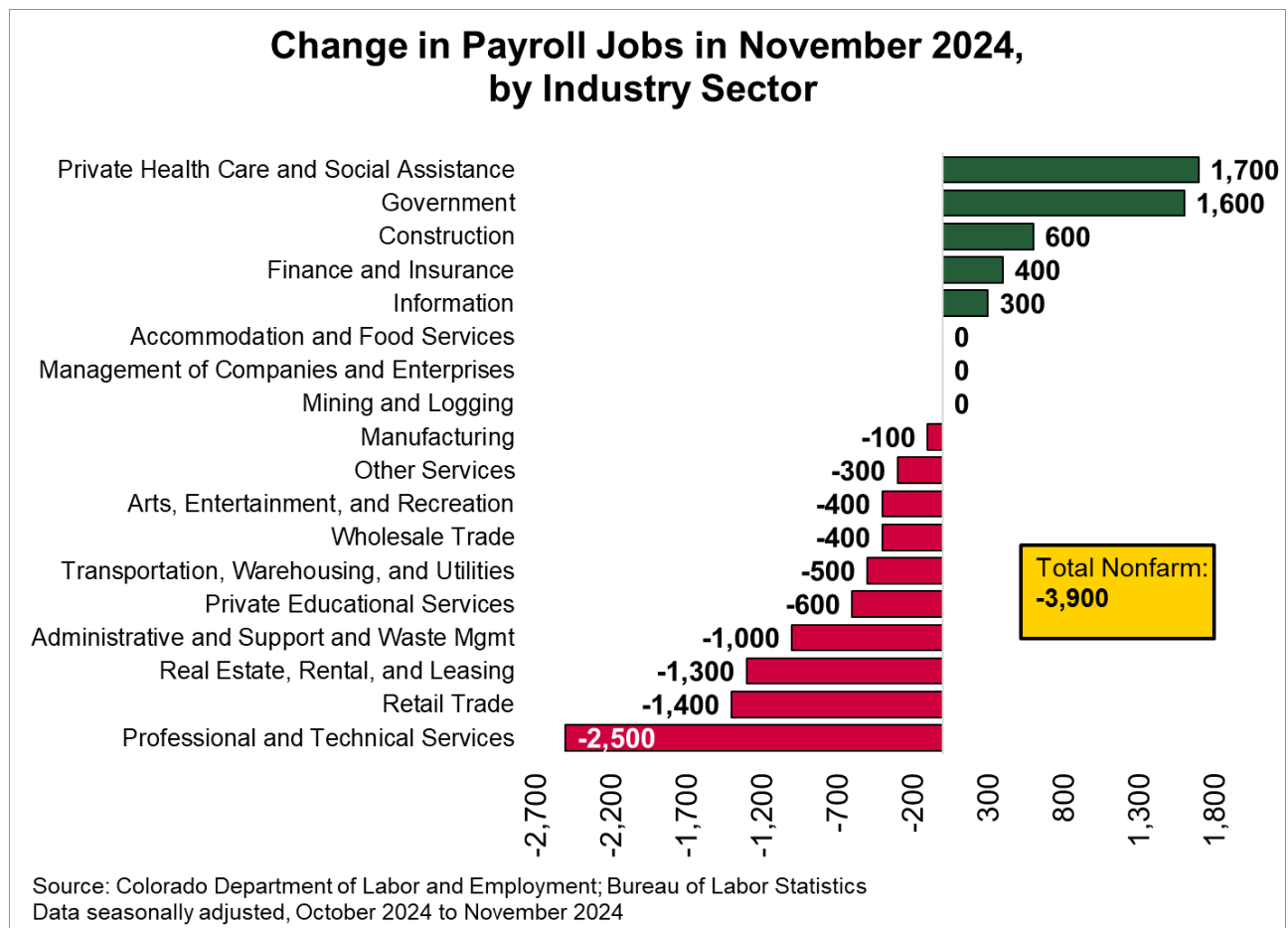
## Colorado Most Recent Monthly Change in Payroll Jobs at the Industry Supersector Level



### Chart information:

- Four Colorado industry supersectors gained jobs in November 2024, six industry supersectors experienced decreases in employment levels, and one industry supersector was unchanged.
- Notable over the month increases occurred in government (+1,600) and private education and health services (+1,100).
- Notable over the month decreases occurred in professional and business services (-3,500) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-2,300).
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

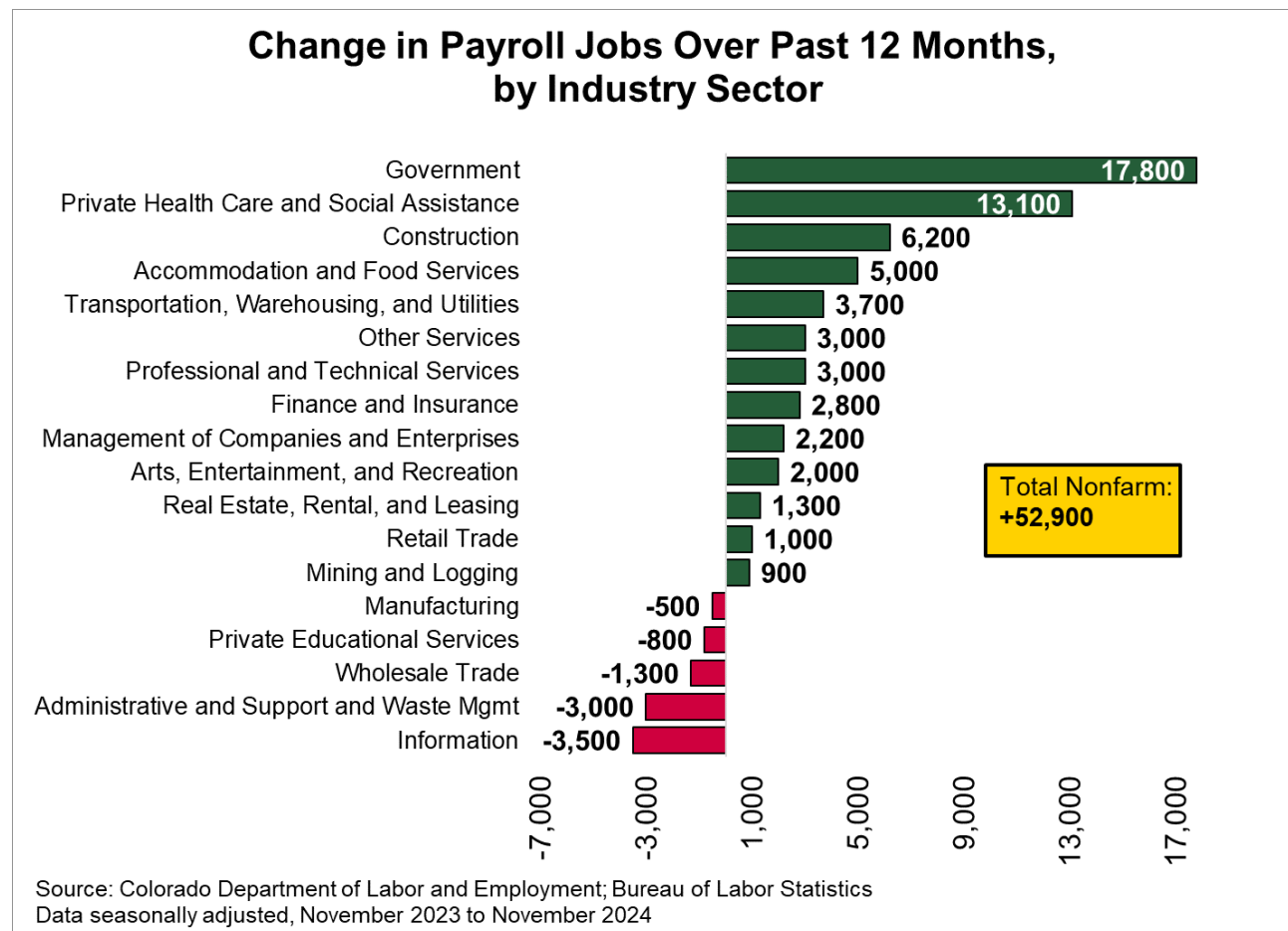
## Colorado Change in Payroll Jobs for Most Recent Month, by Industry Sector



### Chart information:

- From October 2024 to November 2024, Colorado shed 3,900 nonfarm payroll jobs.
- Private health care and social assistance added the most jobs at 1,700.
- Government added the second most jobs over that period at 1,600.
- Construction added the third most jobs at 600.
- The industry sectors with the largest declines were professional and technical services (-2,500), retail trade (-1,400), and real estate, rental, and leasing (-1,300).
- Out of Colorado's 18 industry sectors, five added jobs in November 2024, 10 experienced job loss, and three were unchanged.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

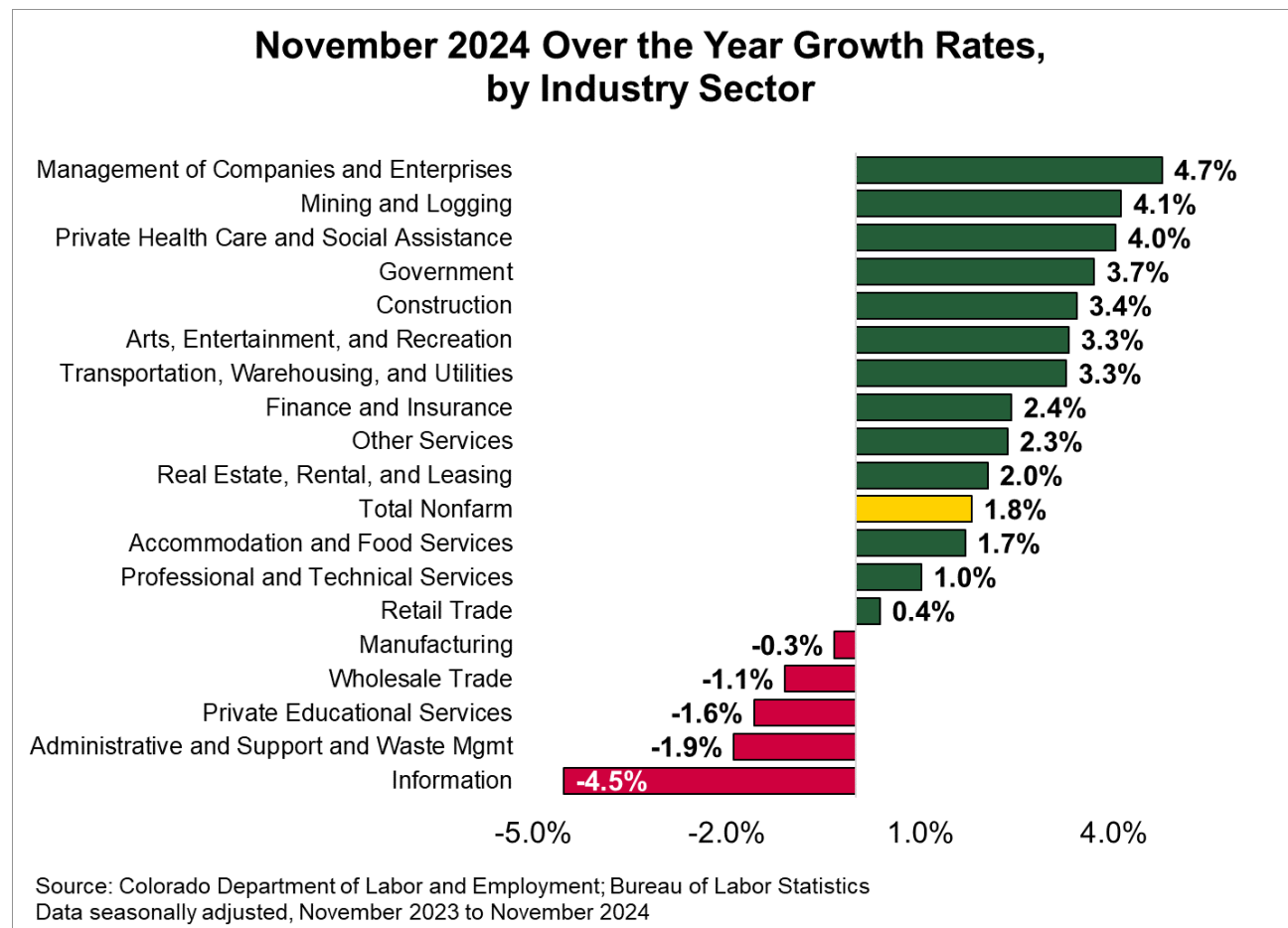
## Colorado Change in Payroll Jobs Over Past 12 Months, by Industry Sector



### Chart information:

- Over the past 12 months, Colorado has added 52,900 nonfarm payroll jobs.
- Government has added the most jobs at 17,800.
- Private health care and social assistance (+13,100) and construction (+6,200) added the second and third most jobs, respectively, over that period.
- The industry sectors with the largest declines over the past year are: information (-3,500), administrative and support and waste management (-3,000), and wholesale trade (-1,300).
- Out of Colorado's 18 industry sectors, 13 have added jobs over the past 12 months, while five 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.

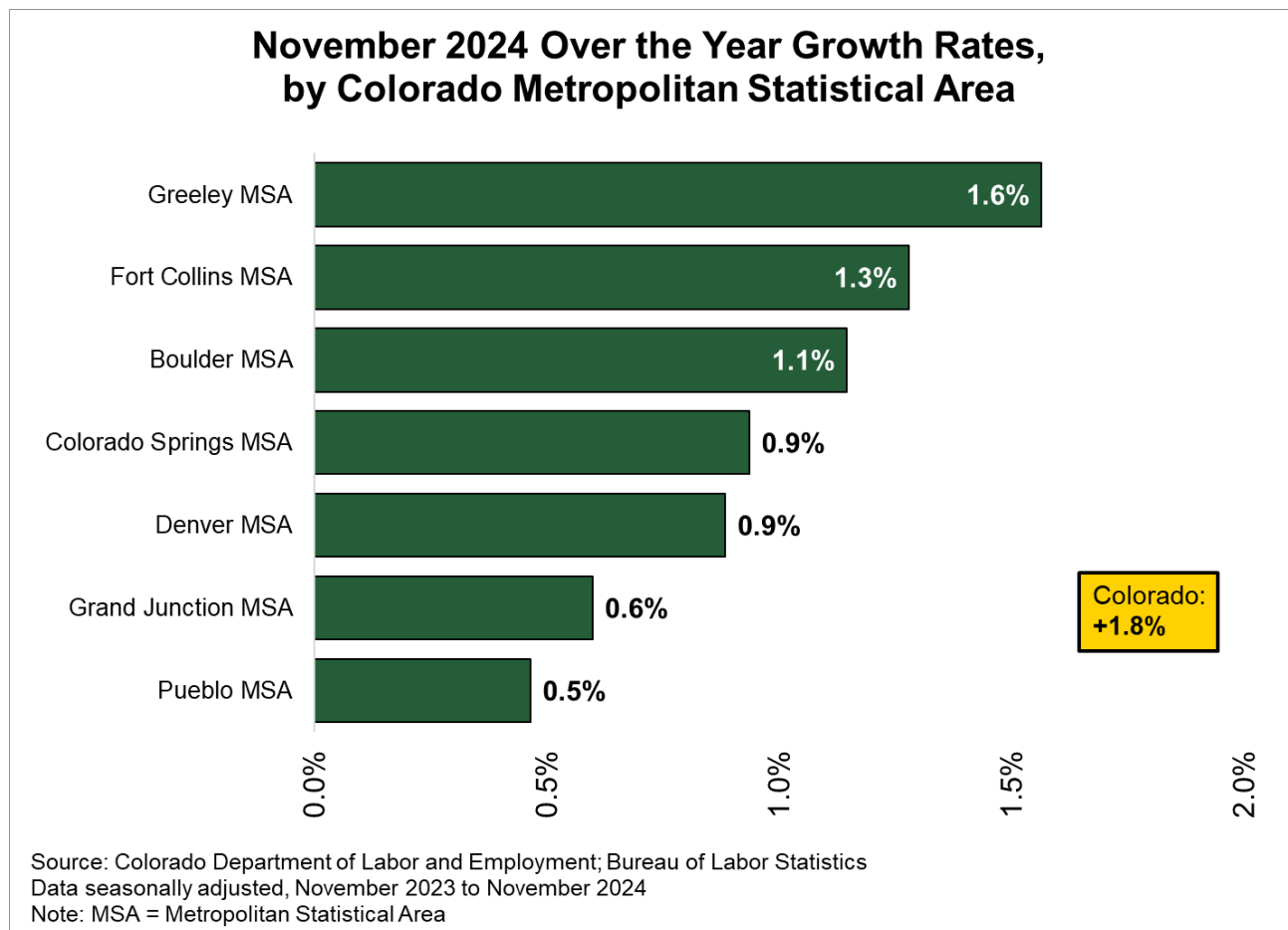
## Over the Year Growth Rates, by Industry Sector, for Most Recent Month



### Chart information:

- Colorado's over the year growth rate for total nonfarm employment was 1.8 percent in November 2024.
- Out of Colorado's 18 industry sectors, ten had over the year growth rates that exceeded 1.8 percent and eight fell short of 1.8 percent.
- The industry sectors with the fastest growth rates over the past year are: management of companies and enterprises (4.7%), mining and logging (4.1%), and private health care and social assistance (4.0%).
- The industry sectors with the slowest growth rates over the past year are: information (-4.5%), administrative and support and waste management (-1.9%), and private educational services (-1.6%).
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

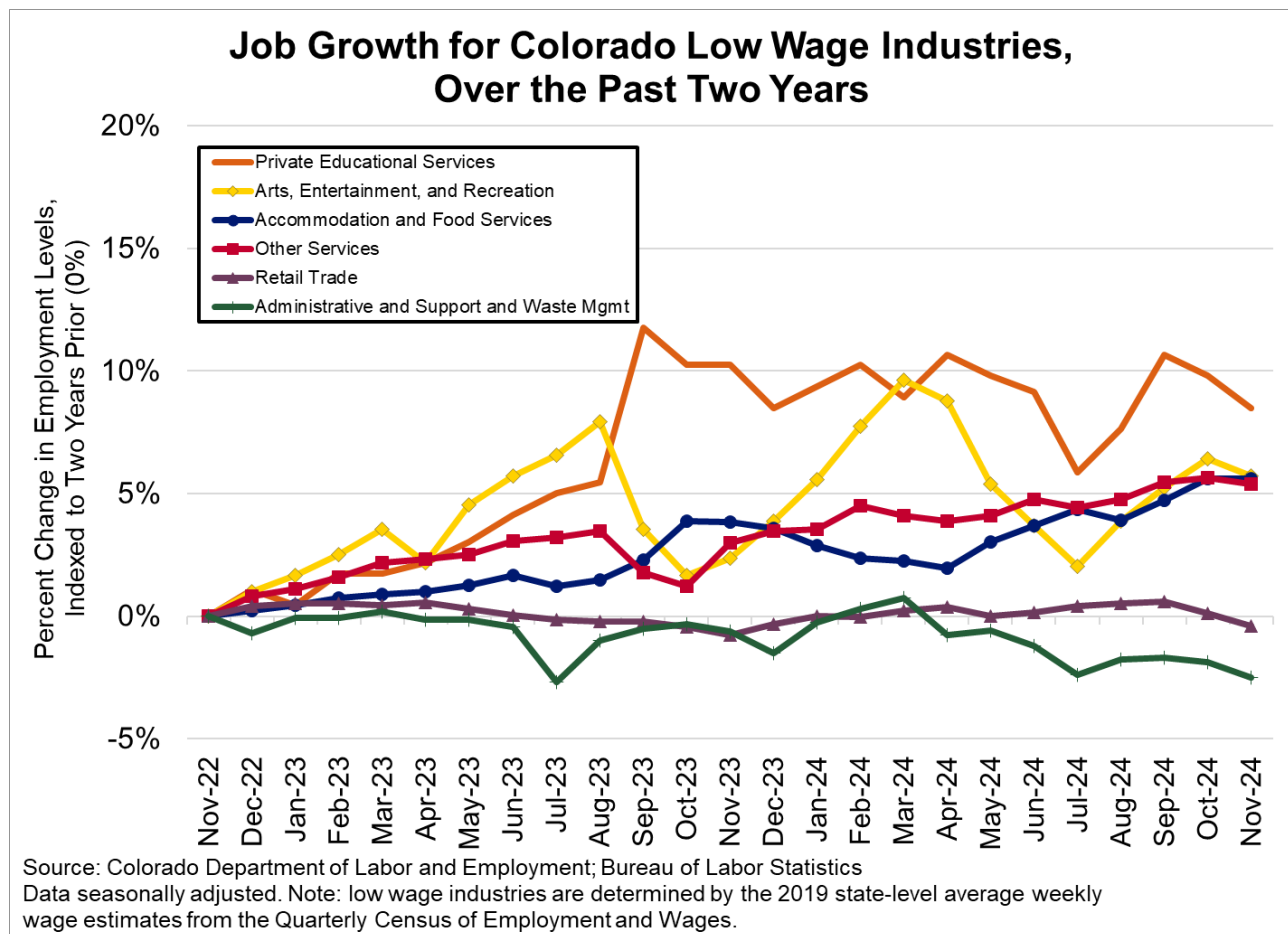
## Over the Year Growth Rates, by Colorado Metropolitan Statistical Area, for Most Recent Month



### Chart information:

- Colorado's over the year growth rate for total nonfarm employment was 1.8 percent in November 2024.
- Among Colorado's seven metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), the Greeley MSA had the highest growth rate (1.6%). Fort Collins and Boulder had the second and third highest growth rates at 1.3 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively.
- Colorado Springs (0.9%), Denver (0.9%), Grand Junction (0.6%), and Pueblo (0.5%) also added jobs 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

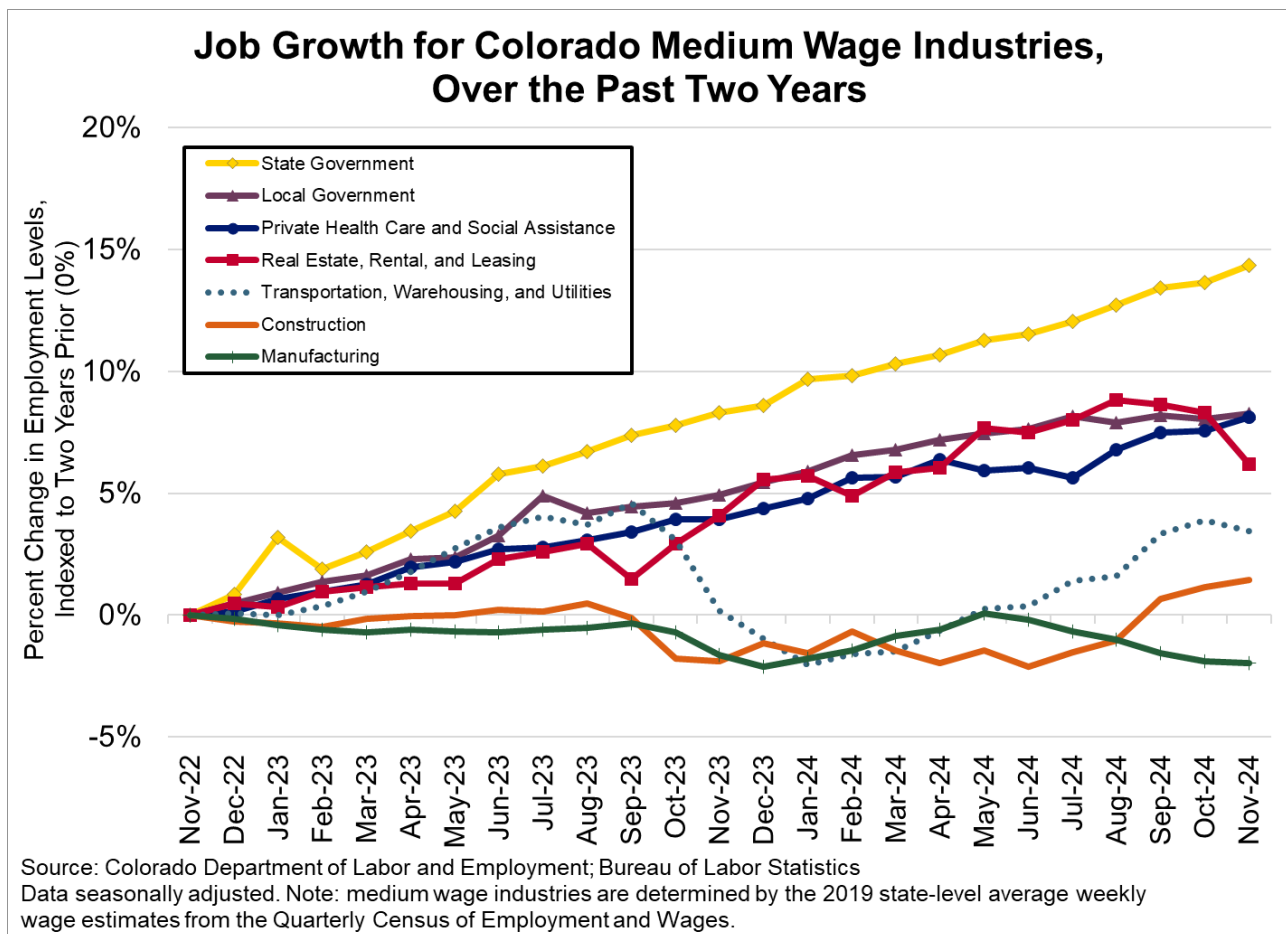


### Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for low wage industries in Colorado over the past two years. The measurement period spans from November 2022 to the most recent month available, November 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to November 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 November 2024, four low wage industries have an index value over 0 percent while two have 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 -2.5 and -0.4 percent, respectively. Private educational services has the fastest growth rate during that period, at 8.5 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



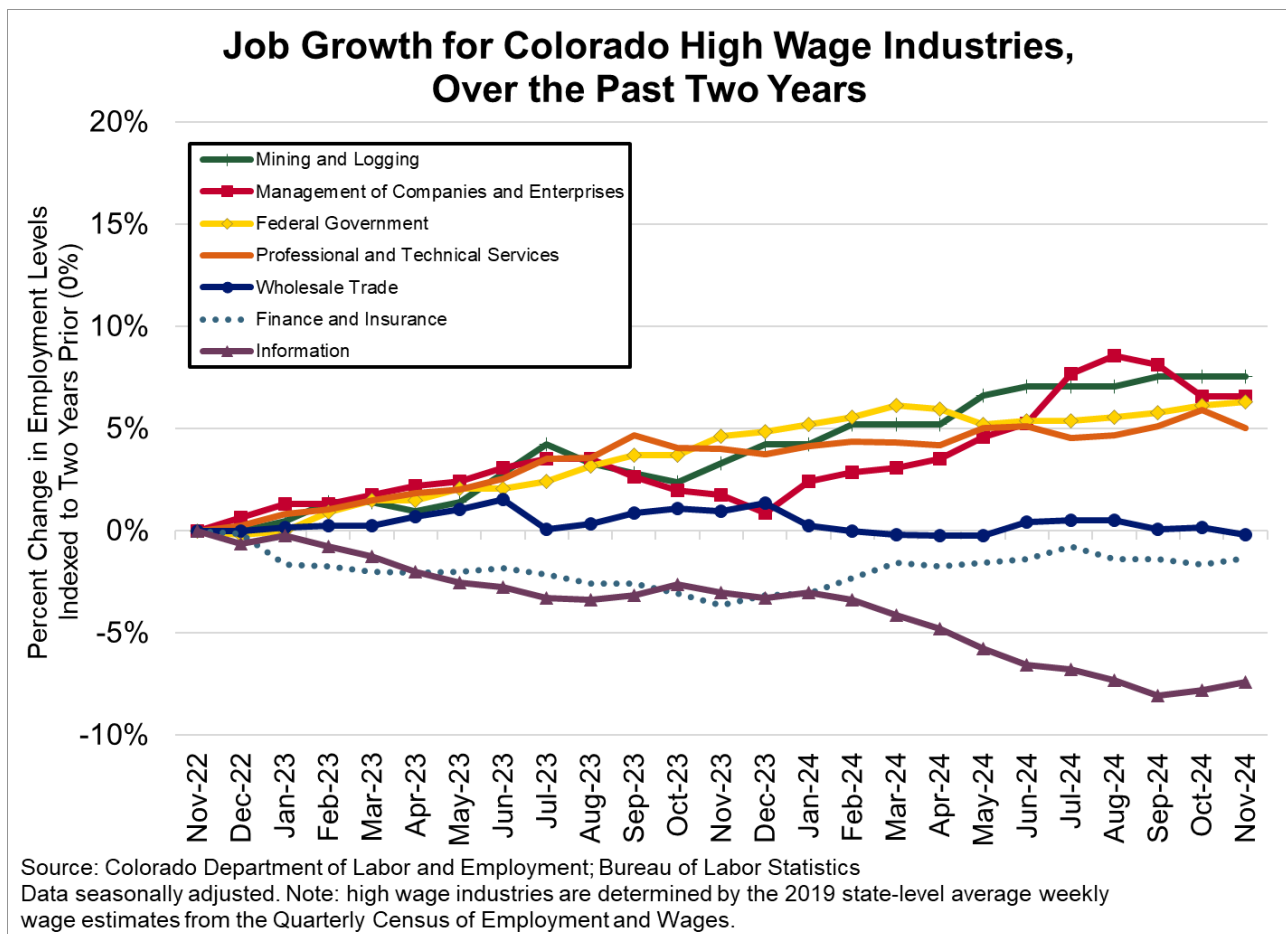
## Job Growth for Colorado Medium Wage Industries, Over Past Two Years



### Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for medium wage industries in Colorado over the past two years. The measurement period spans from November 2022 to the most recent month available, November 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to November 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 November 2024, six medium wage industries have an index value over 0 percent and one has an index value below 0 percent. Manufacturing has the lowest growth rate over the past two years, at -2.0 percent. State government has the fastest growth rate during that period, at 14.3 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

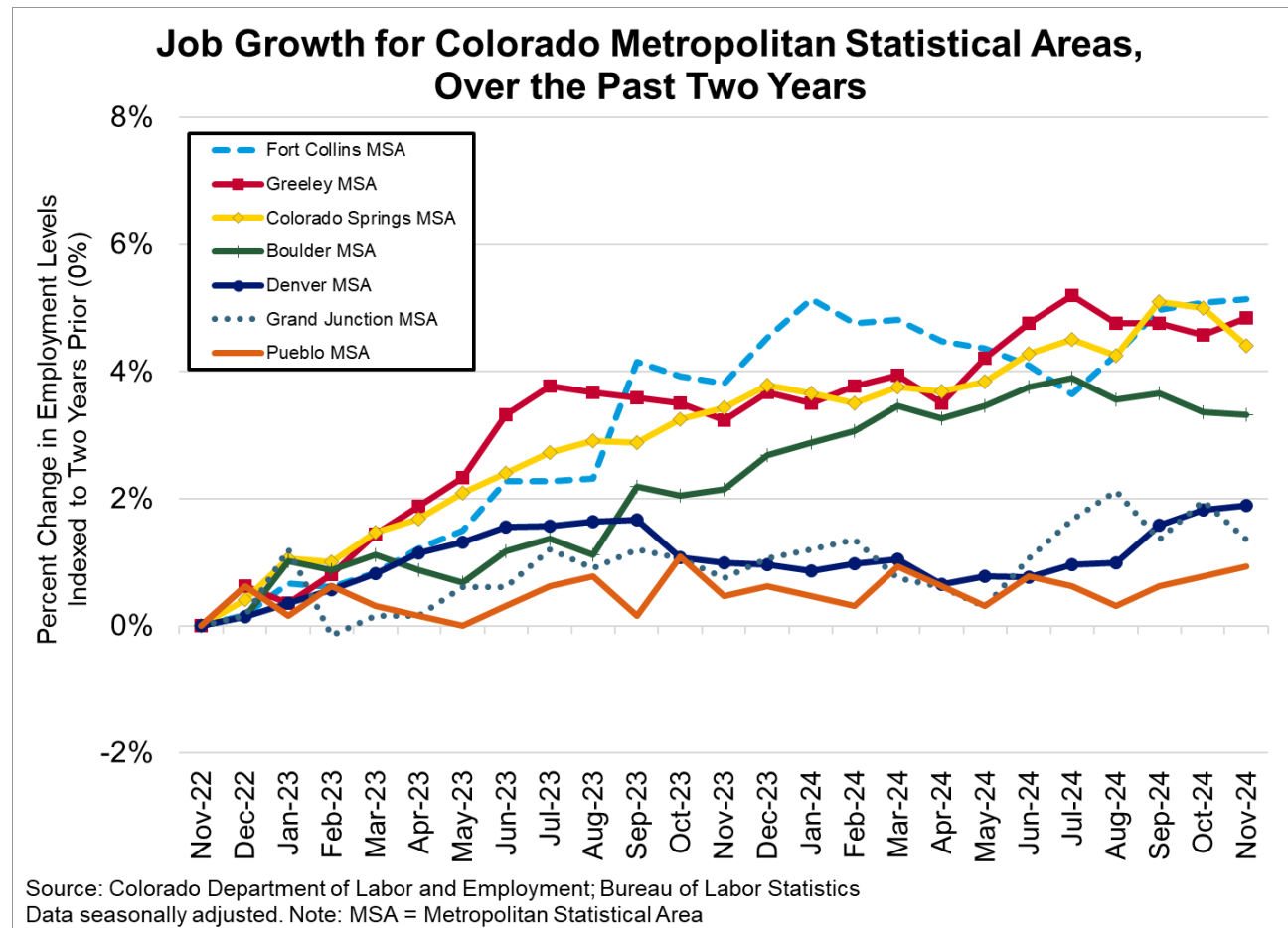
## Job Growth for Colorado High Wage Industries, Over Past Two Years



### Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for high wage industries in Colorado over the past two years. The measurement period spans from November 2022 to the most recent month available, November 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to November 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 November 2024, four high wage industries have an index value over 0 percent, while three have an index value below 0 percent. Information has the lowest growth rate over the past two years, at -7.4 percent. Mining and logging has the fastest growth rate during that period, at 7.5 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

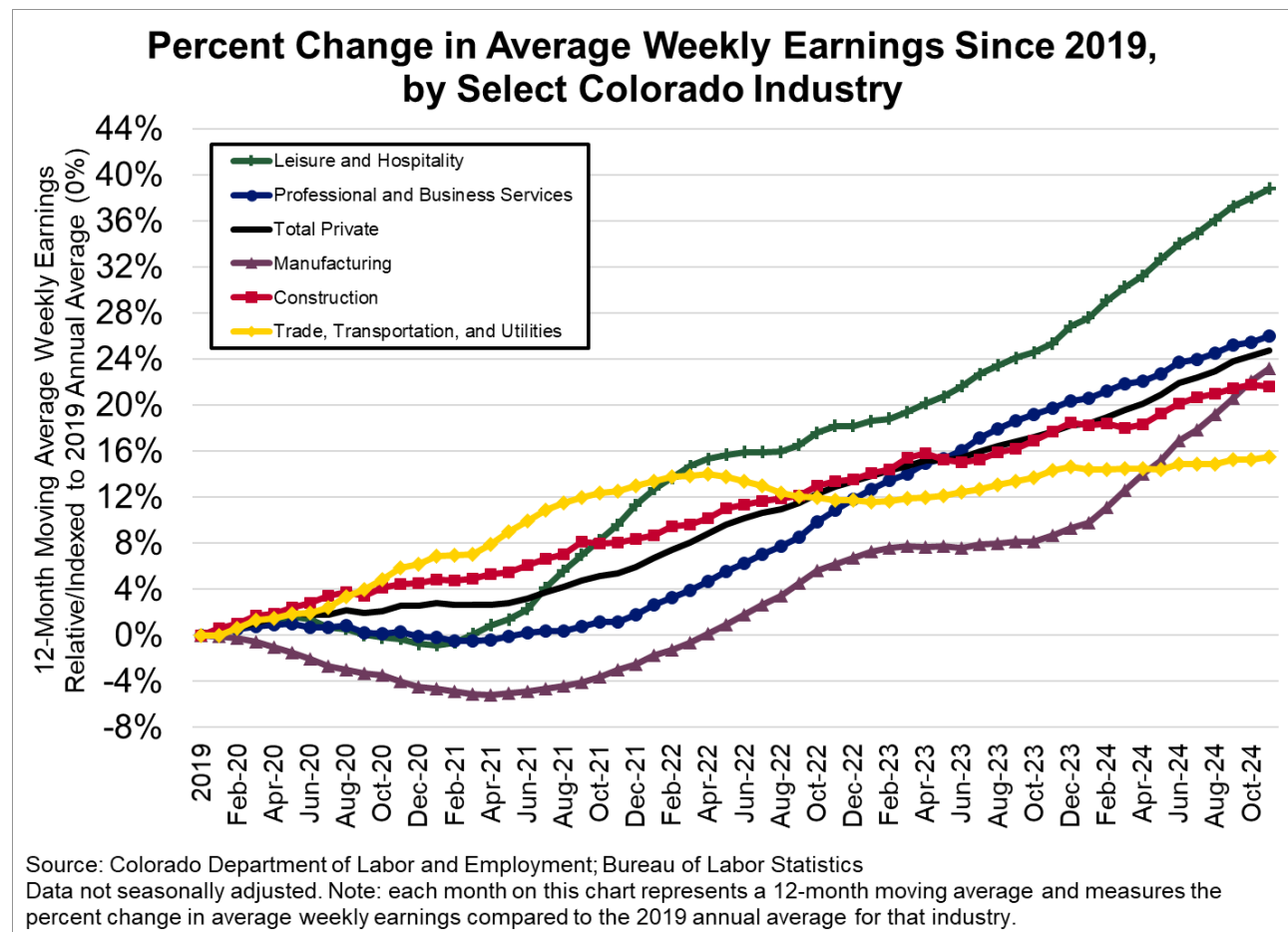
## Job Growth for Colorado Substate Areas, Over Past Two Years



### Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for Colorado substate areas over the past two years. The measurement period spans from November 2022 to the most recent month available, November 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to November 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 November 2024, all seven areas have an index value over 0 percent. The Pueblo MSA has the lowest growth rate over the past two years, at 0.9 percent. The Fort Collins MSA has the fastest growth rate during that period, at 5.1 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

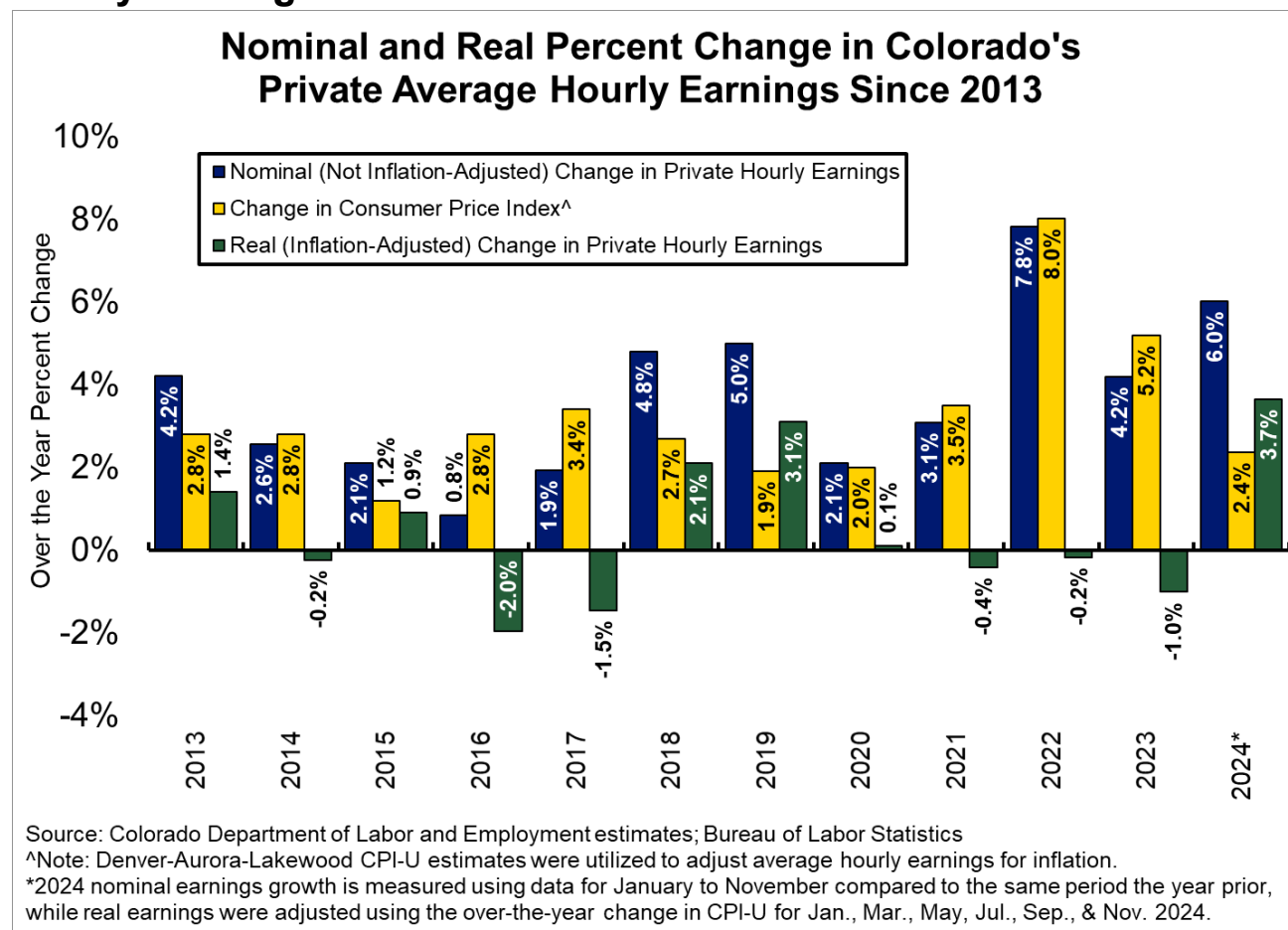
## Percent Change in Average Weekly Earnings Since 2019, by Select Colorado Industry



### 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 nearly 39 percent, using the most recent 12-month average data available.
- Earnings gains for PBS, total private, manufacturing, and construction range between just under 22 and 26 percent.
- Wage growth lags for TTU, which is between 15 and 16 percent.
- These data are not seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

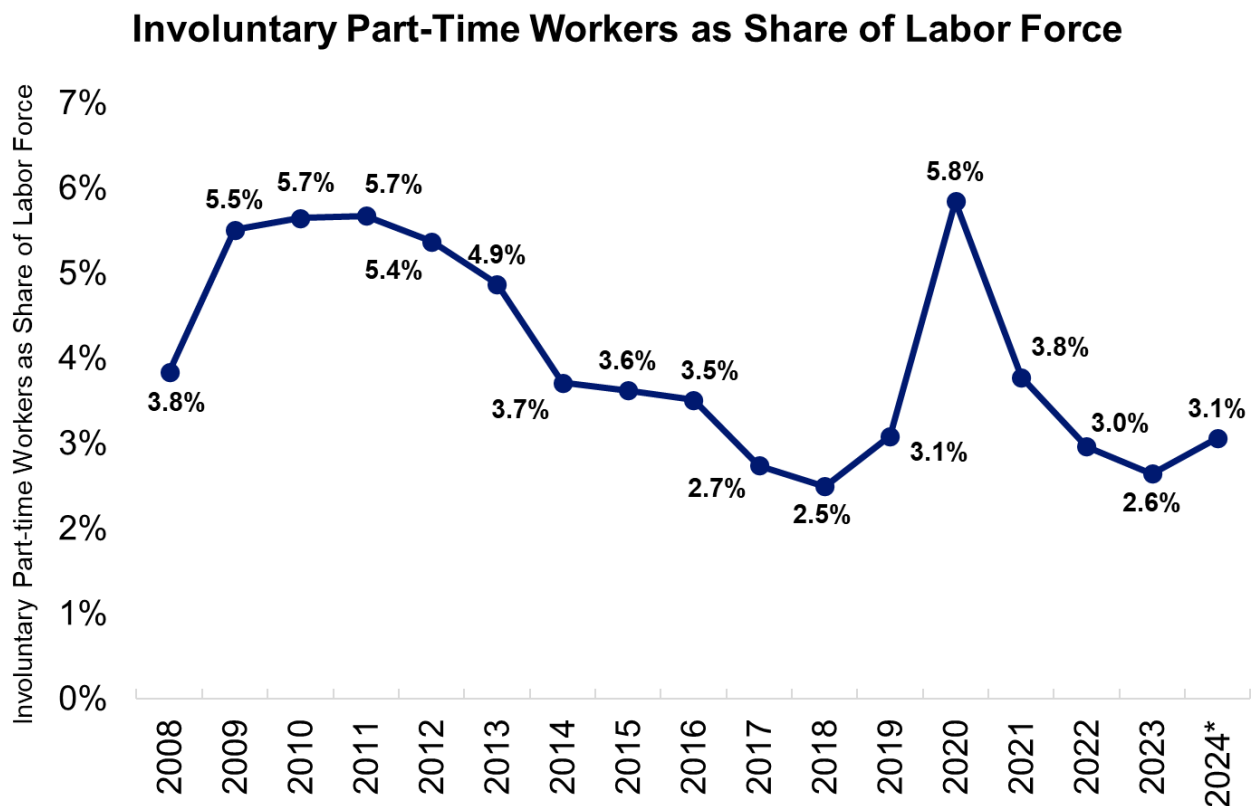
## Nominal and Real Percent Change in Colorado's Private Average Hourly Earnings Since 2013



### 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 November 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, September, and November 2024.
- Real earnings have increased by 3.7 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



Source: Current Population Survey

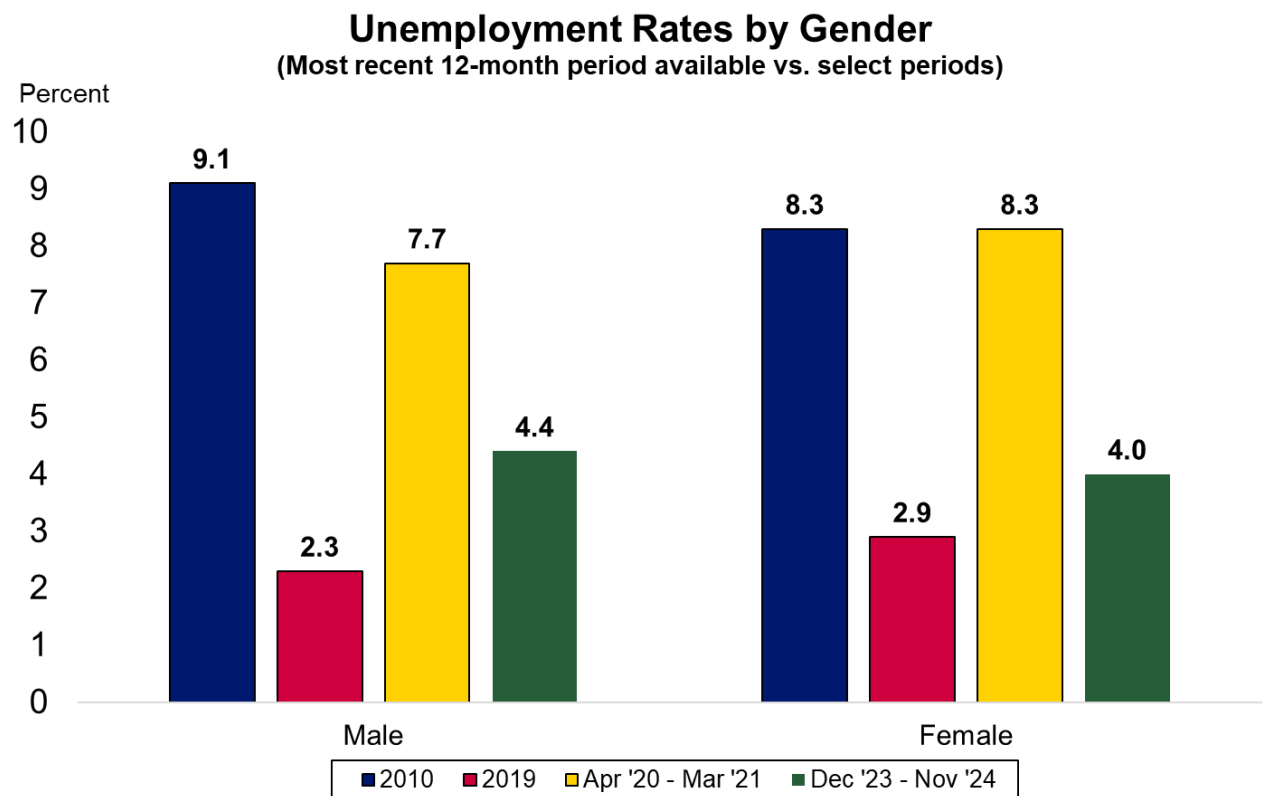
Data not seasonally adjusted. Involuntary part-time workers are those individuals who are working part-time hours (34 hours or less), but prefer full-time hours (35+ hours).

\*Average through the first eleven months of 2024.

### 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 3.1 percent, a significant improvement from the rate of 5.8 percent in 2020.
- The 2024 rate of 3.1 percent translates to approximately 98,000 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

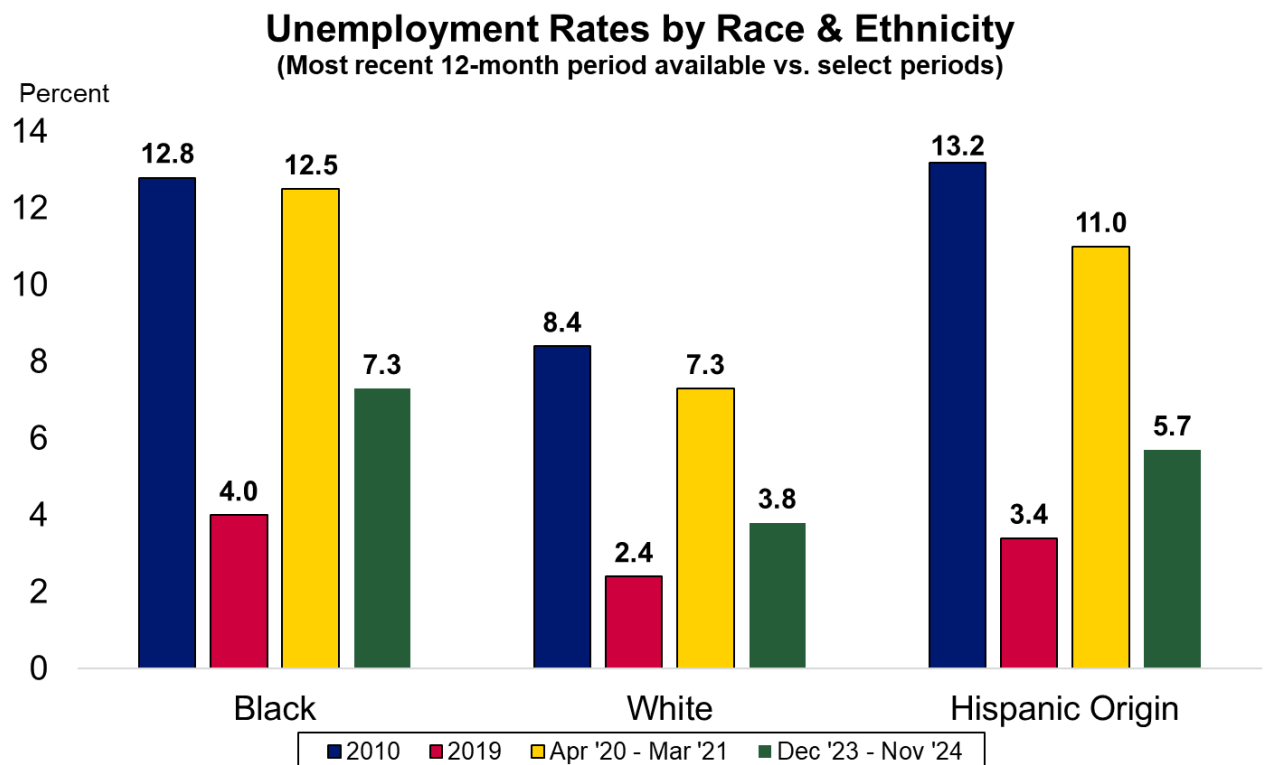


### Chart information:

- 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 (December 2023 to November 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, the male unemployment rate is 4.4 percent, and the female unemployment rate is 4.0 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



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.

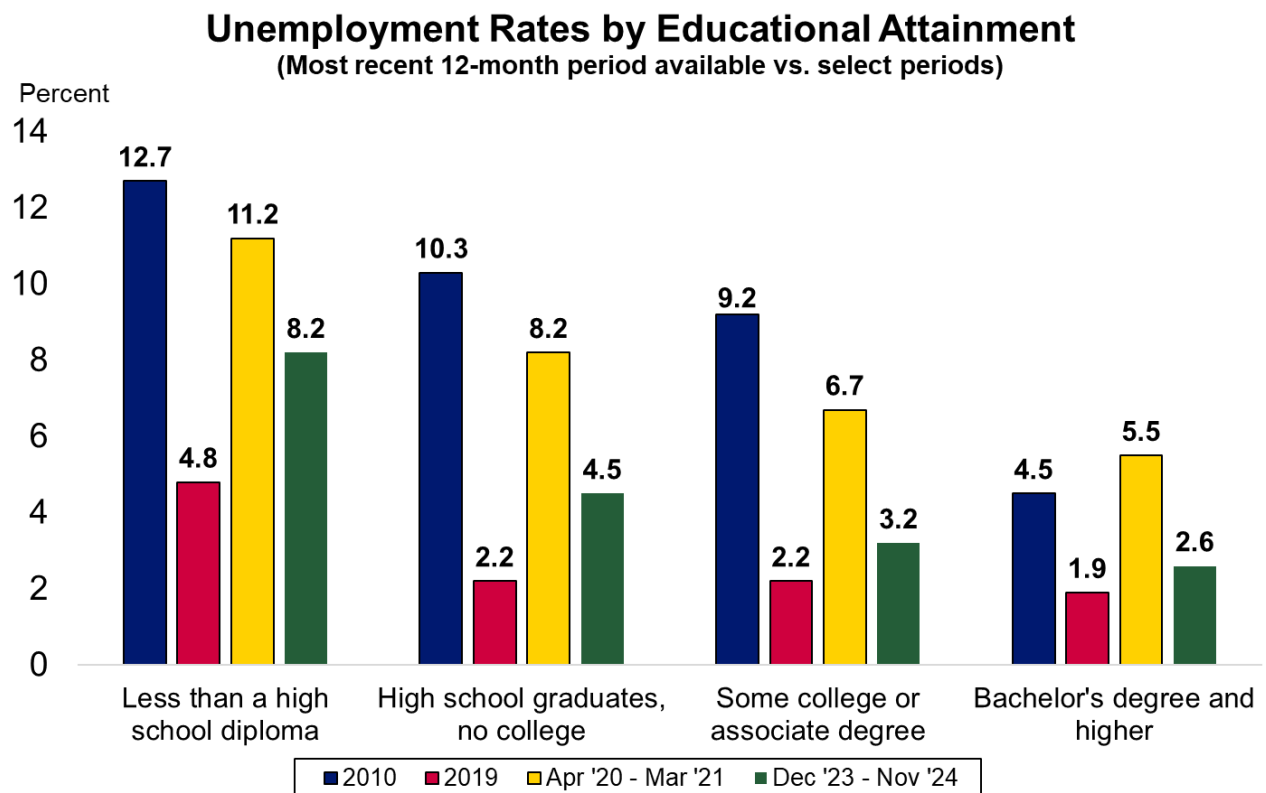
Data not seasonally adjusted. Other race categories excluded due to small sample size. Hispanic origin category is not mutually exclusive (i.e. Hispanic and non-Hispanic ethnicities are represented in both race categories).

### 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 (December 2023 to November 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, the Black unemployment rate is 7.3 percent, the White unemployment rate is 3.8 percent, and the Hispanic unemployment rate is 5.7 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



Source: Current Population Survey

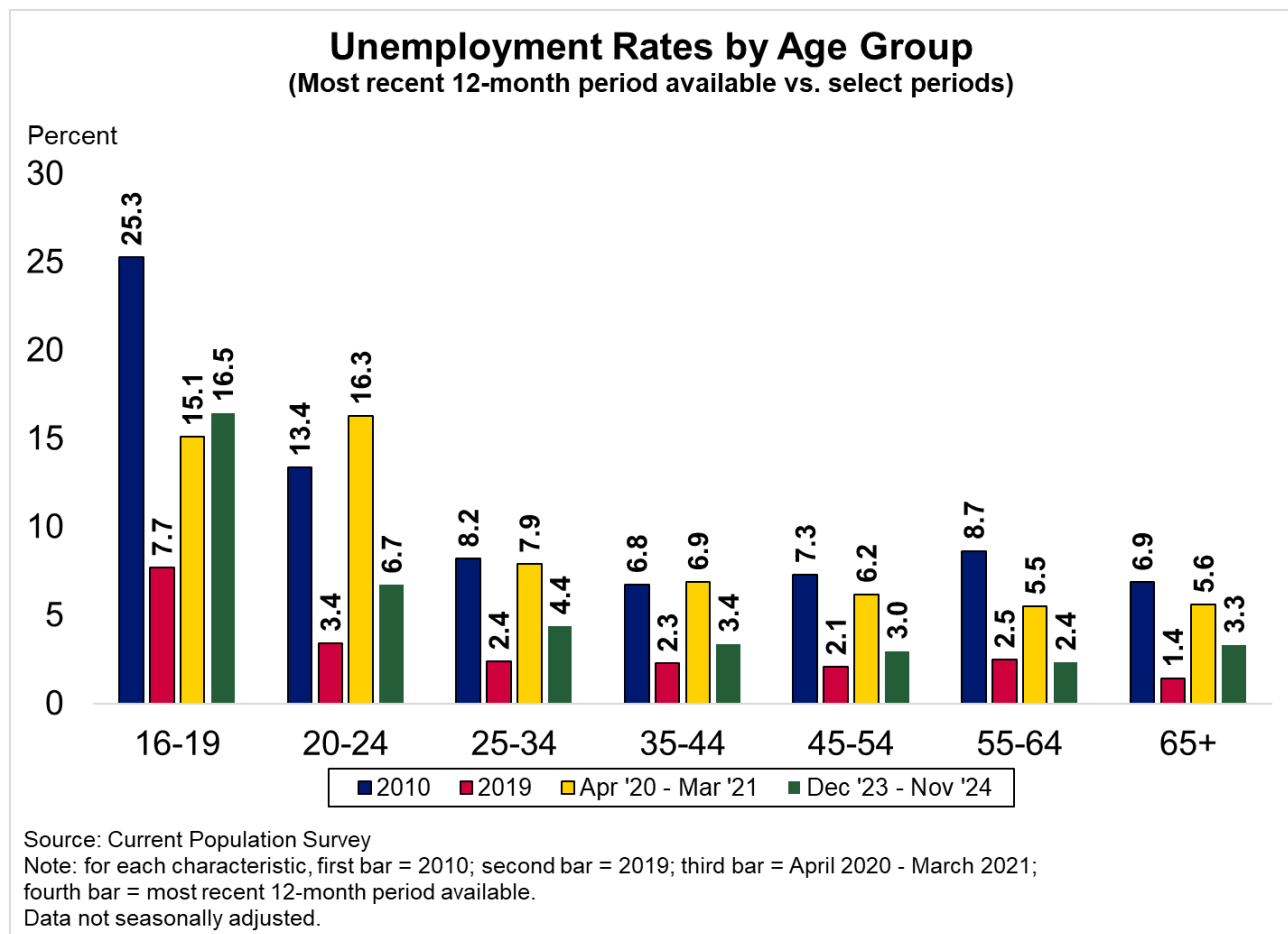
Note: for each characteristic, first bar = 2010; second bar = 2019; third bar = April 2020 - March 2021; fourth bar = most recent 12-month period available.

Data not seasonally adjusted. Unemployment rates by educational attainment for individuals 25 years and over.

### 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 (December 2023 to November 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, unemployment rates by education level are: less than a high school diploma (8.2 percent); high school graduates, no college (4.5 percent); some college or associate degree (3.2 percent); and bachelor's degree and higher (2.6 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.

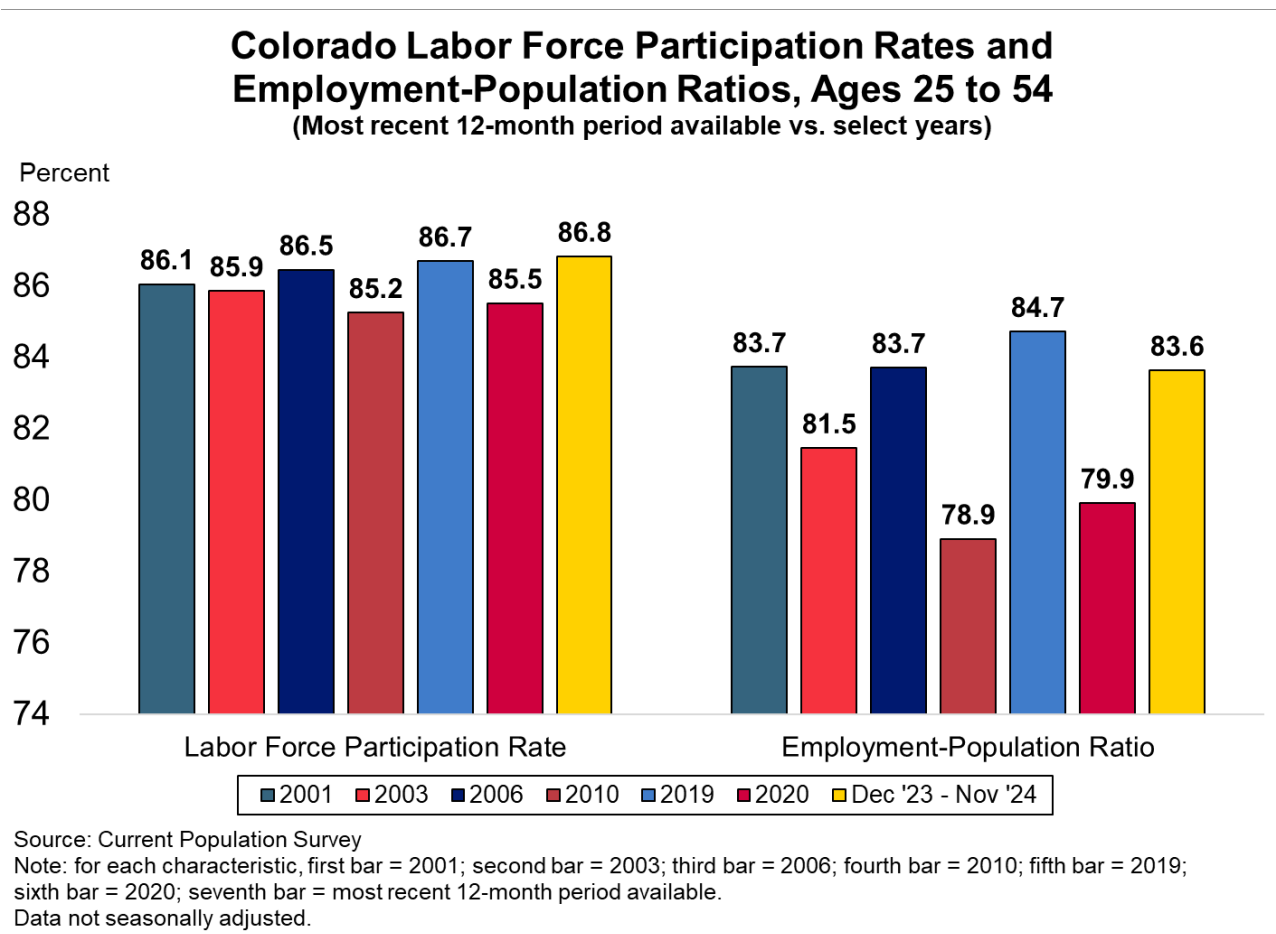
## Colorado Unemployment Rates by Age Group, Most Recent 12-Month Period Available vs. Select Periods



### 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 (December 2023 to November 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, unemployment rates by cohort are: 16-19 (16.5%); 20-24 (6.7%); 25-34 (4.4%); 35-44 (3.4%); 45-54 (3.0%); 55-64 (2.4%); and 65+ (3.3%). 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 (16.5%) 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.

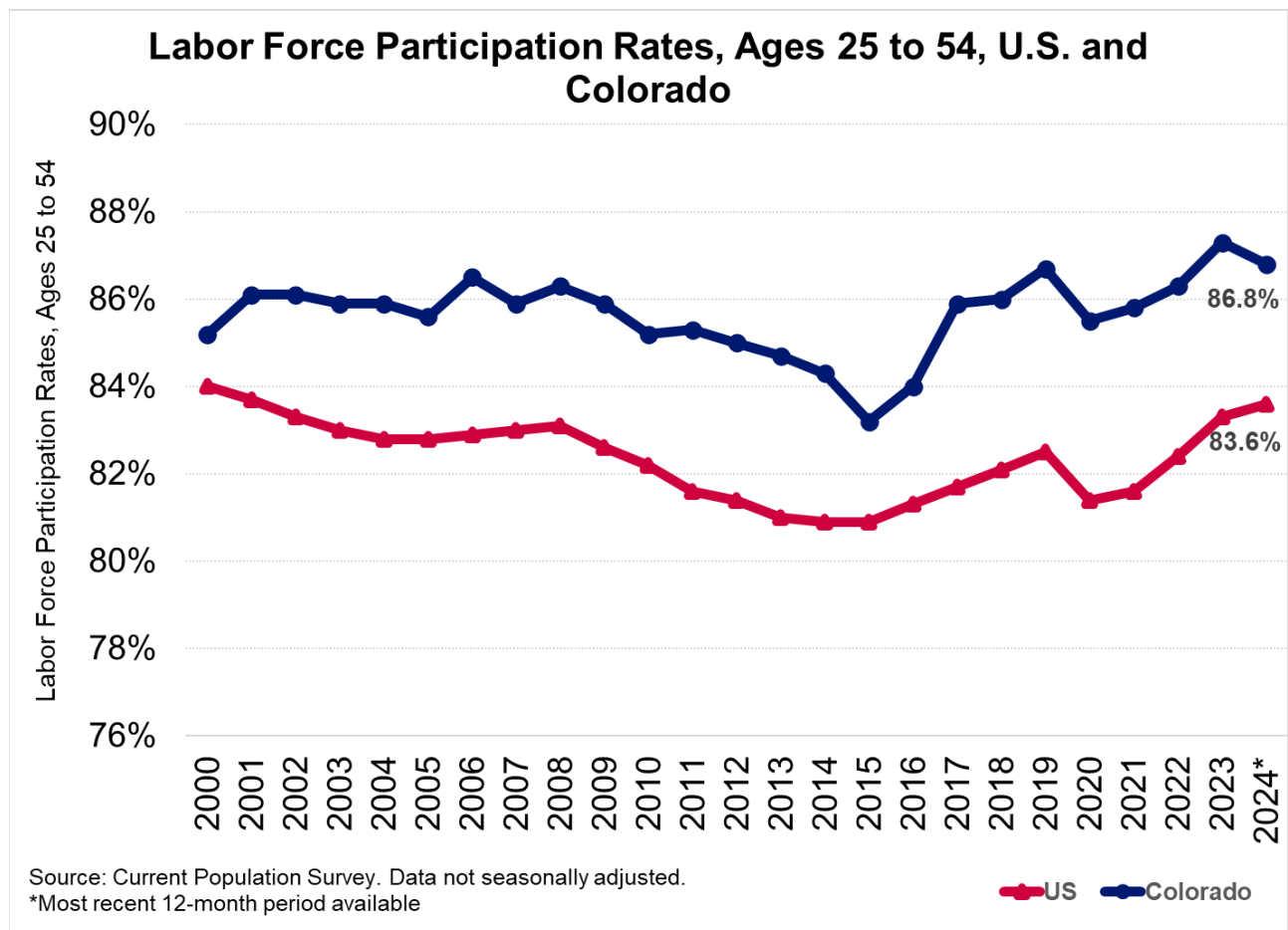
## Colorado Ages 25 to 54 Labor Force Participation Rates and Employment-Population Ratios, Most Recent 12-Month Period Available vs. Select Periods



### 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 (December 2023 to November 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, the 25-54 LFPR is 86.8 percent, while the 25-54 EPOP is 83.6 percent. The current LFPR surpasses the 2001, 2006, and 2019 periods, while EPOP has dropped one-tenth of a percentage point below the 2001 and 2006 periods and is 1.1 percentage points 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 (December 2023 to November 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 83.6 percent and 86.8 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	Nov-24	Oct-24	Nov-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	3,253.3	3,253.5	3,239.3	-0.3	14.0
Unemployment	139.3	134.7	107.7	4.6	31.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	4.1	3.3	0.2	1.0
Employment	3,114.0	3,118.8	3,131.6	-4.9	-17.6

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

Labor Force Component	Nov-24	Oct-24	Nov-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	3,248.7	3,272.5	3,255.6	-23.8	-7.0
Unemployment	146.5	143.8	104.8	2.7	41.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	4.4	3.2	0.1	1.3
Employment	3,102.2	3,128.6	3,150.8	-26.5	-48.6

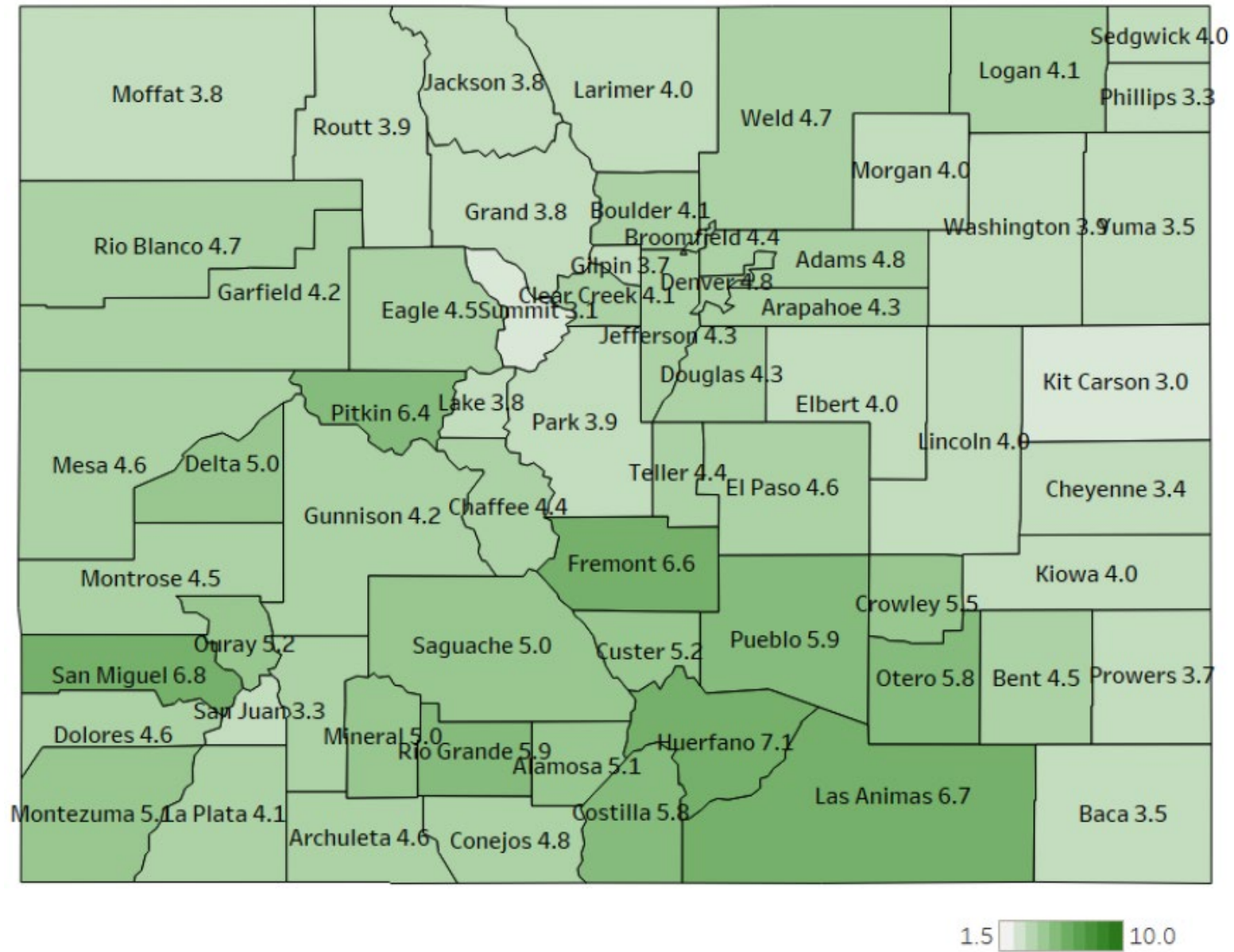
### Seasonally Adjusted Data from the Current Employment Statistics Program

Industry	Nov-24	Oct-24	Nov-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Mining & Logging	22.8	22.8	21.9	0.0	0.9
Construction	187.5	186.9	181.3	0.6	6.2
Manufacturing	149.4	149.5	149.9	-0.1	-0.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	506.3	508.6	502.9	-2.3	3.4
Information	73.6	73.3	77.1	0.3	-3.5
Financial Activities	184.2	185.1	180.1	-0.9	4.1
Professional & Business Services	503.8	507.3	501.6	-3.5	2.2
Educational & Health Services	388.4	387.3	376.1	1.1	12.3
Leisure & Hospitality	364.0	364.4	357.0	-0.4	7.0
Other Services	130.8	131.1	127.8	-0.3	3.0
Government	500.2	498.6	482.4	1.6	17.8
Total Nonfarm Employment	3,011.0	3,014.9	2,958.1	-3.9	52.9

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

Industry	Nov-24	Oct-24	Nov-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Mining & Logging	22.6	22.9	21.8	-0.3	0.8
Construction	187.7	190.1	181.0	-2.4	6.7
Manufacturing	149.2	149.7	149.9	-0.5	-0.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	513.4	507.3	511.3	6.1	2.1
Information	74.2	73.9	77.6	0.3	-3.4
Financial Activities	184.0	184.9	180.3	-0.9	3.7
Professional & Business Services	505.1	512.3	503.8	-7.2	1.3
Educational & Health Services	390.7	389.8	377.9	0.9	12.8
Leisure & Hospitality	352.6	355.5	345.3	-2.9	7.3
Other Services	129.9	131.5	127.1	-1.6	2.8
Government	507.4	505.5	490.0	1.9	17.4
Total Nonfarm Employment	3,016.8	3,023.4	2,966.0	-6.6	50.8

# County Unemployment Rates November 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 Force 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	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate	October 2024 Labor Force	October 2024 Employment	October 2024 Unemployment	October 2024 Rate
Colorado	3,248,650	3,102,166	146,484	4.5	3,272,465	3,128,632	143,833	4.4

**Table 2. By Metropolitan Statistical Area**

Metropolitan Statistical Area	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate	October 2024 Labor Force	October 2024 Employment	October 2024 Unemployment	October 2024 Rate
Boulder	205,571	197,122	8,449	4.1	205,804	197,453	8,351	4.1
Colorado Springs	384,681	366,876	17,805	4.6	387,789	370,339	17,450	4.5
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood	1,750,321	1,671,373	78,948	4.5	1,754,803	1,676,378	78,425	4.5
Fort Collins	218,620	209,827	8,793	4.0	220,533	211,960	8,573	3.9
Grand Junction	76,834	73,275	3,559	4.6	77,494	74,086	3,408	4.4
Greeley	173,386	165,301	8,085	4.7	176,577	168,646	7,931	4.5
Pueblo	76,199	71,724	4,475	5.9	76,546	72,100	4,446	5.8

**Table 3. By County**

Counties	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate	October 2024 Labor Force	October 2024 Employment	October 2024 Unemployment	October 2024 Rate
Adams	285,890	272,032	13,858	4.8	287,291	273,535	13,756	4.8
Alamosa	7,534	7,152	382	5.1	7,922	7,554	368	4.6
Arapahoe	380,084	363,566	16,518	4.3	380,623	364,270	16,353	4.3
Archuleta	6,634	6,328	306	4.6	6,769	6,473	296	4.4
Baca	1,910	1,844	66	3.5	2,128	2,067	61	2.9
Bent	1,772	1,692	80	4.5	1,949	1,876	73	3.7
Boulder	205,571	197,122	8,449	4.1	205,804	197,453	8,351	4.1
Broomfield	43,312	41,423	1,889	4.4	43,444	41,550	1,894	4.4
Chaffee	10,243	9,796	447	4.4	10,188	9,755	433	4.3
Cheyenne	967	934	33	3.4	1,121	1,091	30	2.7
Clear Creek	6,213	5,960	253	4.1	6,216	5,979	237	3.8
Conejos	3,590	3,417	173	4.8	3,876	3,718	158	4.1
Costilla	1,833	1,726	107	5.8	1,933	1,835	98	5.1
Crowley	1,334	1,261	73	5.5	1,382	1,308	74	5.4
Custer	1,987	1,884	103	5.2	2,086	1,989	97	4.7
Delta	13,689	13,002	687	5.0	14,425	13,777	648	4.5
Denver	443,824	422,648	21,176	4.8	444,659	423,563	21,096	4.7
Dolores	1,045	997	48	4.6	1,132	1,092	40	3.5
Douglas	211,553	202,458	9,095	4.3	212,015	202,997	9,018	4.3
Eagle	33,670	32,150	1,520	4.5	34,030	32,726	1,304	3.8
El Paso	370,857	353,663	17,194	4.6	373,917	357,060	16,857	4.5
Elbert	15,939	15,296	643	4.0	16,275	15,662	613	3.8
Fremont	14,415	13,463	952	6.6	14,438	13,515	923	6.4
Garfield	30,979	29,682	1,297	4.2	31,503	30,297	1,206	3.8
Gilpin	3,955	3,810	145	3.7	3,964	3,818	146	3.7
Grand	9,280	8,924	356	3.8	8,934	8,584	350	3.9
Gunnison	11,203	10,738	465	4.2	11,489	11,096	393	3.4
Hinsdale	366	350	16	4.4	378	363	15	4.0
Huerfano	2,482	2,305	177	7.1	2,592	2,425	167	6.4
Jackson	795	765	30	3.8	928	903	25	2.7
Jefferson	347,914	332,995	14,919	4.3	348,627	333,760	14,867	4.3
Kiowa	766	735	31	4.0	892	861	31	3.5
Kit Carson	3,992	3,873	119	3.0	4,377	4,261	116	2.7
La Plata	31,005	29,743	1,262	4.1	31,750	30,545	1,205	3.8
Lake	5,030	4,840	190	3.8	5,009	4,836	173	3.5
Larimer	218,620	209,827	8,793	4.0	220,533	211,960	8,573	3.9
Las Animas	5,704	5,319	385	6.7	5,882	5,499	383	6.5
Lincoln	2,219	2,130	89	4.0	2,357	2,272	85	3.6
Logan	9,921	9,518	403	4.1	10,367	9,972	395	3.8
Mesa	76,834	73,275	3,559	4.6	77,494	74,086	3,408	4.4
Mineral	518	492	26	5.0	458	436	22	4.8
Moffat	6,978	6,715	263	3.8	7,091	6,839	252	3.6
Montezuma	11,559	10,966	593	5.1	12,019	11,470	549	4.6
Montrose	21,541	20,580	961	4.5	22,154	21,250	904	4.1
Morgan	15,189	14,581	608	4.0	16,132	15,551	581	3.6
Otero	7,484	7,050	434	5.8	7,870	7,455	415	5.3
Ouray	2,305	2,184	121	5.2	2,488	2,373	115	4.6
Park	11,637	11,185	452	3.9	11,689	11,244	445	3.8
Phillips	2,193	2,120	73	3.3	2,540	2,469	71	2.8
Pitkin	10,843	10,153	690	6.4	10,866	10,284	582	5.4
Prowers	6,103	5,877	226	3.7	6,570	6,348	222	3.4
Pueblo	76,199	71,724	4,475	5.9	76,546	72,100	4,446	5.8
Rio Blanco	2,667	2,542	125	4.7	2,795	2,682	113	4.0
Rio Grande	4,847	4,559	288	5.9	5,345	5,078	267	5.0
Routt	16,187	15,562	625	3.9	16,484	15,880	604	3.7
Saguache	3,189	3,031	158	5.0	3,507	3,361	146	4.2
San Juan	519	502	17	3.3	628	612	16	2.5
San Miguel	4,994	4,655	339	6.8	5,527	5,320	207	3.7
Sedgwick	1,069	1,026	43	4.0	1,187	1,145	42	3.5
Summit	23,373	22,648	725	3.1	21,194	20,445	749	3.5
Teller	13,824	13,213	611	4.4	13,872	13,279	593	4.3
Washington	2,402	2,309	93	3.9	2,698	2,609	89	3.3
Weld	173,386	165,301	8,085	4.7	176,577	168,646	7,931	4.5
Yuma	4,712	4,548	164	3.5	5,529	5,374	155	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	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate	November 2023 Labor Force	November 2023 Employment	November 2023 Unemployment	November 2023 Rate
Colorado	3,248,650	3,102,166	146,484	4.5	3,255,625	3,150,785	104,840	3.2

Table 2. By Metropolitan Statistical Area

Metropolitan Statistical Area	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate	November 2023 Labor Force	November 2023 Employment	November 2023 Unemployment	November 2023 Rate
Boulder	205,571	197,122	8,449	4.1	207,052	201,090	5,962	2.9
Colorado Springs	384,681	366,876	17,805	4.6	385,401	372,585	12,816	3.3
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood	1,750,321	1,671,373	78,948	4.5	1,753,984	1,697,586	56,398	3.2
Fort Collins	218,620	209,827	8,793	4.0	218,967	212,693	6,274	2.9
Grand Junction	76,834	73,275	3,559	4.6	77,270	74,712	2,558	3.3
Greeley	173,386	165,301	8,085	4.7	173,765	168,088	5,677	3.3
Pueblo	76,199	71,724	4,475	5.9	76,358	73,063	3,295	4.3

Table 3. By County

Counties	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate	November 2023 Labor Force	November 2023 Employment	November 2023 Unemployment	November 2023 Rate
Adams	285,890	272,032	13,858	4.8	285,860	276,184	9,676	3.4
Alamosa	7,534	7,152	382	5.1	7,805	7,517	288	3.7
Arapahoe	380,084	363,566	16,518	4.3	381,162	369,235	11,927	3.1
Archuleta	6,634	6,328	306	4.6	6,791	6,572	219	3.2
Baca	1,910	1,844	66	3.5	1,972	1,929	43	2.2
Bent	1,772	1,692	80	4.5	1,751	1,695	56	3.2
Boulder	205,571	197,122	8,449	4.1	207,052	201,090	5,962	2.9
Broomfield	43,312	41,423	1,889	4.4	43,399	42,002	1,397	3.2
Chaffee	10,243	9,796	447	4.4	10,028	9,708	320	3.2
Cheyenne	967	934	33	3.4	994	971	23	2.3
Clear Creek	6,213	5,960	253	4.1	6,248	6,062	186	3.0
Conejos	3,590	3,417	173	4.8	3,740	3,613	127	3.4
Costilla	1,833	1,726	107	5.8	1,806	1,731	75	4.2
Crowley	1,334	1,261	73	5.5	1,345	1,297	48	3.6
Custer	1,987	1,884	103	5.2	2,115	2,047	68	3.2
Delta	13,689	13,002	687	5.0	13,498	13,015	483	3.6
Denver	443,824	422,648	21,176	4.8	444,442	429,191	15,251	3.4
Dolores	1,045	997	48	4.6	1,096	1,061	35	3.2
Douglas	211,553	202,458	9,095	4.3	211,875	205,532	6,343	3.0
Eagle	33,670	32,150	1,520	4.5	33,712	32,625	1,087	3.2
El Paso	370,857	353,663	17,194	4.6	371,500	359,119	12,381	3.3
Elbert	15,939	15,296	643	4.0	16,095	15,647	448	2.8
Fremont	14,415	13,463	952	6.6	14,333	13,660	673	4.7
Garfield	30,979	29,682	1,297	4.2	30,503	29,591	912	3.0
Gilpin	3,955	3,810	145	3.7	3,990	3,879	111	2.8
Grand	9,280	8,924	356	3.8	9,105	8,848	257	2.8
Gunnison	11,203	10,738	465	4.2	11,239	10,900	339	3.0
Hinsdale	366	350	16	4.4	378	365	13	3.4
Huerfano	2,482	2,305	177	7.1	2,456	2,327	129	5.3
Jackson	795	765	30	3.8	845	828	17	2.0
Jefferson	347,914	332,995	14,919	4.3	349,132	338,406	10,726	3.1
Kiowa	766	735	31	4.0	810	791	19	2.3
Kit Carson	3,992	3,873	119	3.0	4,013	3,938	75	1.9
La Plata	31,005	29,743	1,262	4.1	30,977	30,065	912	2.9
Lake	5,030	4,840	190	3.8	4,886	4,752	134	2.7
Larimer	218,620	209,827	8,793	4.0	218,967	212,693	6,274	2.9
Las Animas	5,704	5,319	385	6.7	5,911	5,622	289	4.9
Lincoln	2,219	2,130	89	4.0	2,196	2,138	58	2.6
Logan	9,921	9,518	403	4.1	10,043	9,777	266	2.6
Mesa	76,834	73,275	3,559	4.6	77,270	74,712	2,558	3.3
Mineral	518	492	26	5.0	486	473	13	2.7
Moffat	6,978	6,715	263	3.8	6,915	6,707	208	3.0
Montezuma	11,559	10,966	593	5.1	11,861	11,412	449	3.8
Montrose	21,541	20,580	961	4.5	21,412	20,714	698	3.3
Morgan	15,189	14,581	608	4.0	15,293	14,829	464	3.0
Otero	7,484	7,050	434	5.8	7,603	7,312	291	3.8
Ouray	2,305	2,184	121	5.2	2,328	2,247	81	3.5
Park	11,637	11,185	452	3.9	11,781	11,448	333	2.8
Phillips	2,193	2,120	73	3.3	2,281	2,230	51	2.2
Pitkin	10,843	10,153	690	6.4	10,705	10,150	555	5.2
Prowers	6,103	5,877	226	3.7	6,095	5,927	168	2.8
Pueblo	76,199	71,724	4,475	5.9	76,358	73,063	3,295	4.3
Rio Blanco	2,667	2,542	125	4.7	2,744	2,655	89	3.2
Rio Grande	4,847	4,559	288	5.9	4,971	4,756	215	4.3
Routt	16,187	15,562	625	3.9	15,712	15,260	452	2.9
Saguache	3,189	3,031	158	5.0	3,229	3,115	114	3.5
San Juan	519	502	17	3.3	500	482	18	3.6
San Miguel	4,994	4,655	339	6.8	4,970	4,678	292	5.9
Sedgwick	1,069	1,026	43	4.0	1,064	1,027	37	3.5
Summit	23,373	22,648	725	3.1	22,797	22,280	517	2.3
Teller	13,824	13,213	611	4.4	13,901	13,466	435	3.1
Washington	2,402	2,309	93	3.9	2,535	2,470	65	2.6
Weld	173,386	165,301	8,085	4.7	173,765	168,088	5,677	3.3
Yuma	4,712	4,548	164	3.5	4,981	4,864	117	2.3



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	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate	October 2024 Labor Force	October 2024 Employment	October 2024 Unemployment	October 2024 Rate
Arvada	72,089	68,906	3,183	4.4	72,236	69,071	3,165	4.4
Aurora	212,770	202,921	9,849	4.6	213,108	203,393	9,715	4.6
Boulder	68,957	66,085	2,872	4.2	68,968	66,196	2,772	4.0
Brighton	21,155	20,030	1,125	5.3	21,259	20,153	1,106	5.2
Castle Rock	40,073	38,272	1,801	4.5	40,145	38,374	1,771	4.4
Centennial	65,815	63,190	2,625	4.0	65,907	63,313	2,594	3.9
Colorado Springs	257,121	245,552	11,569	4.5	259,296	247,911	11,385	4.4
Commerce City	31,490	29,854	1,636	5.2	31,619	30,018	1,601	5.1
Englewood	22,195	21,196	999	4.5	22,269	21,237	1,032	4.6
Erie	18,956	18,227	729	3.8	19,174	18,444	730	3.8
Fort Collins	105,846	101,737	4,109	3.9	106,713	102,771	3,942	3.7
Fountain	14,077	13,392	685	4.9	14,174	13,521	653	4.6
Grand Junction	31,018	29,536	1,482	4.8	31,303	29,863	1,440	4.6
Greeley	53,305	50,613	2,692	5.1	54,357	51,638	2,719	5.0
Lafayette	18,373	17,645	728	4.0	18,392	17,675	717	3.9
Lakewood	90,839	86,702	4,137	4.6	91,029	86,901	4,128	4.5
Littleton	26,176	25,040	1,136	4.3	26,204	25,089	1,115	4.3
Longmont	58,229	55,691	2,538	4.4	58,359	55,797	2,562	4.4
Loveland	48,438	46,405	2,033	4.2	48,893	46,877	2,016	4.1
Northglenn	22,013	20,948	1,065	4.8	22,108	21,064	1,044	4.7
Parker	35,459	33,954	1,505	4.2	35,553	34,044	1,509	4.2
Pueblo	48,583	45,530	3,053	6.3	48,760	45,769	2,991	6.1
Thornton	85,061	81,293	3,768	4.4	85,482	81,742	3,740	4.4
Westminster	68,991	65,886	3,105	4.5	69,302	66,162	3,140	4.5
Wheat Ridge	17,916	17,037	879	4.9	17,939	17,076	863	4.8
Windsor	15,998	15,308	690	4.3	16,280	15,583	697	4.3

Table 2. Over the Year

Area	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate	November 2023 Labor Force	November 2023 Employment	November 2023 Unemployment	November 2023 Rate
Arvada	72,089	68,906	3,183	4.4	72,214	70,024	2,190	3.0
Aurora	212,770	202,921	9,849	4.6	213,207	206,076	7,131	3.3
Boulder	68,957	66,085	2,872	4.2	69,379	67,415	1,964	2.8
Brighton	21,155	20,030	1,125	5.3	21,088	20,337	751	3.6
Castle Rock	40,073	38,272	1,801	4.5	40,091	38,853	1,238	3.1
Centennial	65,815	63,190	2,625	4.0	66,114	64,176	1,938	2.9
Colorado Springs	257,121	245,552	11,569	4.5	257,615	249,340	8,275	3.2
Commerce City	31,490	29,854	1,636	5.2	31,388	30,309	1,079	3.4
Englewood	22,195	21,196	999	4.5	22,247	21,526	721	3.2
Erie	18,956	18,227	729	3.8	19,123	18,561	562	2.9
Fort Collins	105,846	101,737	4,109	3.9	106,146	103,127	3,019	2.8
Fountain	14,077	13,392	685	4.9	14,083	13,599	484	3.4
Grand Junction	31,018	29,536	1,482	4.8	31,180	30,116	1,064	3.4
Greeley	53,305	50,613	2,692	5.1	53,297	51,467	1,830	3.4
Lafayette	18,373	17,645	728	4.0	18,534	18,000	534	2.9
Lakewood	90,839	86,702	4,137	4.6	91,174	88,111	3,063	3.4
Littleton	26,176	25,040	1,136	4.3	26,225	25,431	794	3.0
Longmont	58,229	55,691	2,538	4.4	58,601	56,811	1,790	3.1
Loveland	48,438	46,405	2,033	4.2	48,441	47,039	1,402	2.9
Northglenn	22,013	20,948	1,065	4.8	22,089	21,268	821	3.7
Parker	35,459	33,954	1,505	4.2	35,491	34,469	1,022	2.9
Pueblo	48,583	45,530	3,053	6.3	48,649	46,380	2,269	4.7
Thornton	85,061	81,293	3,768	4.4	85,122	82,534	2,588	3.0
Westminster	68,991	65,886	3,105	4.5	69,246	66,920	2,326	3.4
Wheat Ridge	17,916	17,037	879	4.9	17,960	17,314	646	3.6
Windsor	15,998	15,308	690	4.3	16,041	15,555	486	3.0