



# PRESS RELEASE

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

## For Immediate Release

Date: January 27, 2025

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## Colorado Employment Situation – December 2024

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase by 300 in December;  
Unemployment Rate Increases to 4.4 Percent

### Household survey data

- According to the survey of households, the **number of unemployed individuals** increased by 5,100 to 144,400 from November to December. Colorado's seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** increased one-tenth of a percentage point over the same time period to 4.4 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.1 percent from November to December.
- Colorado's **labor force** increased by 1,800 in December to 3,255,000. The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force was 67.9 percent in December, unchanged from the last seven months. The U.S. labor force participation rate remained unchanged at 62.5 percent in December.
- The **number of individuals employed** in Colorado decreased by 3,300 in December to 3,110,600, which represents 64.9 percent of the state's 16+ population. Colorado's employment-population ratio of 64.9 in December decreased one-tenth of a percentage point from the month prior. The national employment-population ratio increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 60.0 percent from November to December.

## Establishment survey data

- Employers in Colorado gained 300 **nonfarm payroll jobs** from November to December for a total of 3,010,000 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private sector payroll jobs decreased by 800, while government added 1,100 jobs.
- **November estimates** were revised down to 3,009,700, and the over the month change from October to November was a decrease of 5,200 jobs rather than the originally estimated decrease of 3,900 (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 December was: professional and business services ( $\approx 1,300$ ) and manufacturing ( $\approx 1,100$ ). The private industry sectors with significant over the month **job losses** were: leisure and hospitality ( $\approx 1,300$ ), and financial activities ( $\approx 1,200$ ).
- **Since December 2023**, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 48,600, with the private sector growing by 32,600 and government adding 16,000 jobs. The largest **private sector job gains** were in educational and health services ( $\approx 12,000$ ), professional and business services ( $\approx 7,400$ ), trade, transportation, and utilities ( $\approx 5,000$ ), construction ( $\approx 4,400$ ), and leisure and hospitality ( $\approx 3,600$ ). During that same period, **payroll jobs declined** in information ( $\approx 3,800$ ). Colorado's **rate of job growth** over the past year is 1.6 percent, above the U.S. rate of 1.4 percent.
- Over the year, the **average workweek** for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls increased from 33.3 to 33.6 hours, while **average hourly earnings** grew from \$36.94 to \$39.63, three dollars and ninety-four cents more than the national average hourly earnings of \$35.69.

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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](#).

## Notice

Due to annual benchmarking, there is not an Employment Situation update released during the month of February. The **January 2025 Colorado Employment Situation** would typically be published in March after the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) completes their annual benchmarking activities. However, on December 18, 2024, the BLS announced a decision to suppress Colorado data due to quality concerns associated with a [modernization of Colorado's UI system](#). Accordingly, CDLE will not publish a release of employment data in association with the BLS in March 2025. Programs impacted include:

- Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW)
- Current Employment Statistics (CES)
- Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
- Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics (OEWS)

The CDLE remains committed to producing high quality data and is working with the BLS to limit disruptions to all future releases. A schedule of release dates for calendar year 2025 employment estimates will be available at [Labor Market Information](#) after the BLS suppressions are lifted.

## Technical Notes

This release provides information on industry employment and labor force statistics for December 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 household survey's reference period typically covers the week that includes the 12th of the month, that shifted to the week that include the 5th of the month for December. 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.

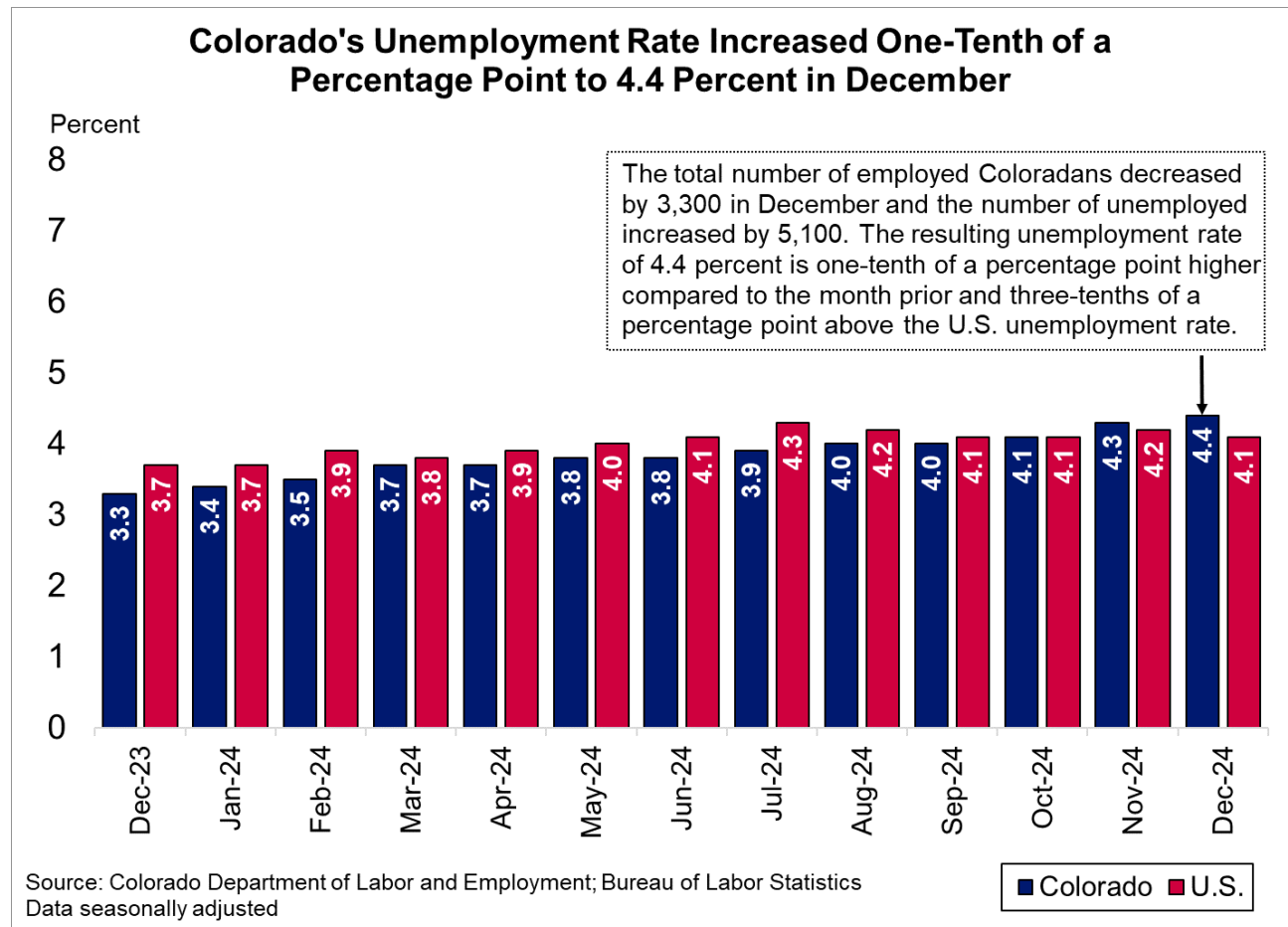
Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed. Other series based on this survey include private sector average weekly hours, average hourly earnings, and average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

## **Supplemental Charts & Tables**

Supplemental charts and tables are available on the remaining pages.

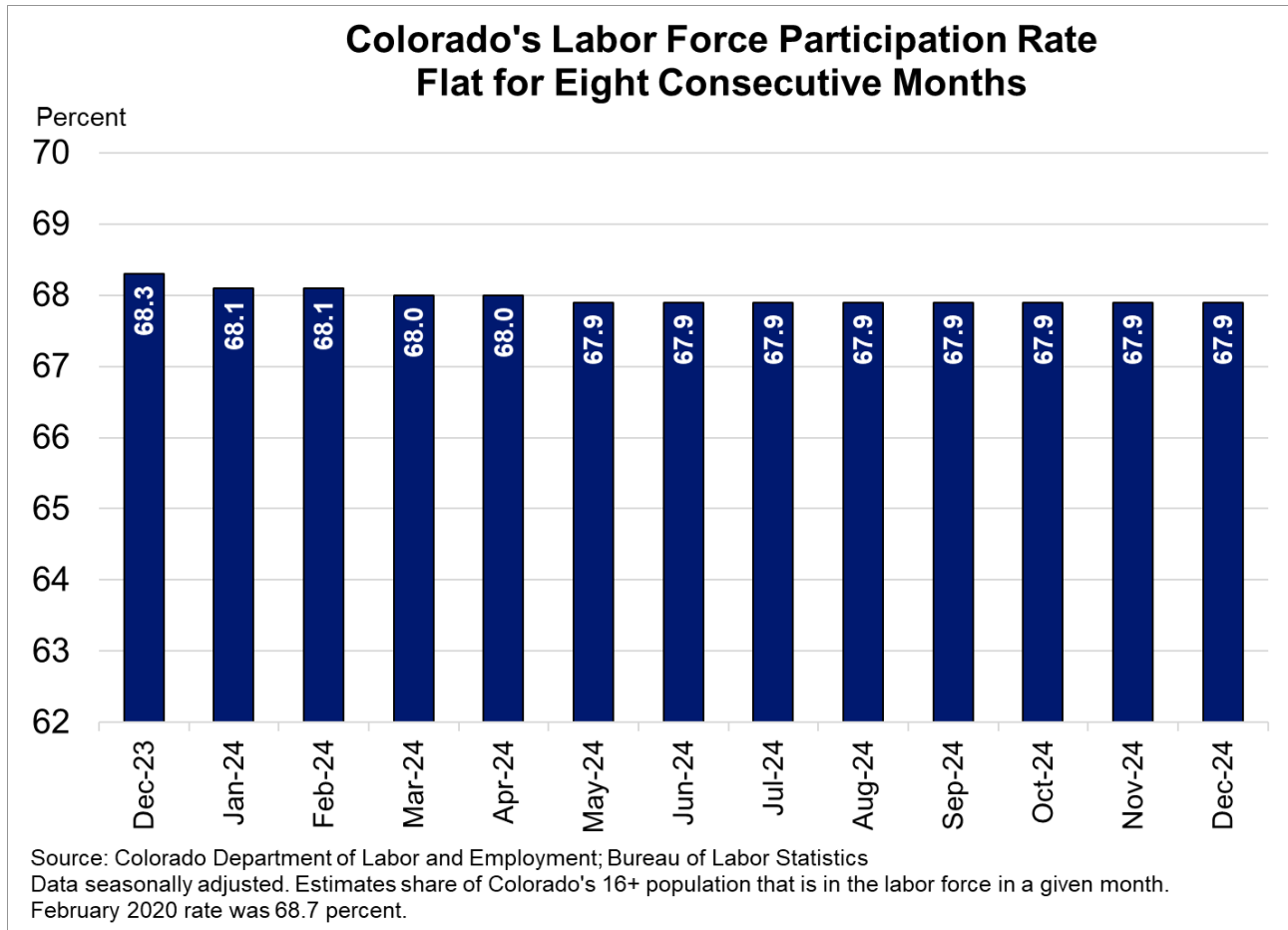
## Colorado and U.S. Unemployment Rates, Over Past Year



### Chart information:

- Colorado's December 2024 unemployment rate was 4.4 percent, three-tenths of a percentage point higher than the U.S. rate of 4.1 percent.
- Prior month rates were 4.3 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively.
- The total number of employed Coloradans decreased by 3,300 in December and the number of unemployed increased by 5,100, resulting in an unemployment rate of 4.4 percent, one-tenth of a percentage point higher than a month prior.
- Number of unemployed Coloradans grew by 5,100 to 144,400.
- Unemployment rate for Colorado has ranged between 3.3 and 4.4 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.

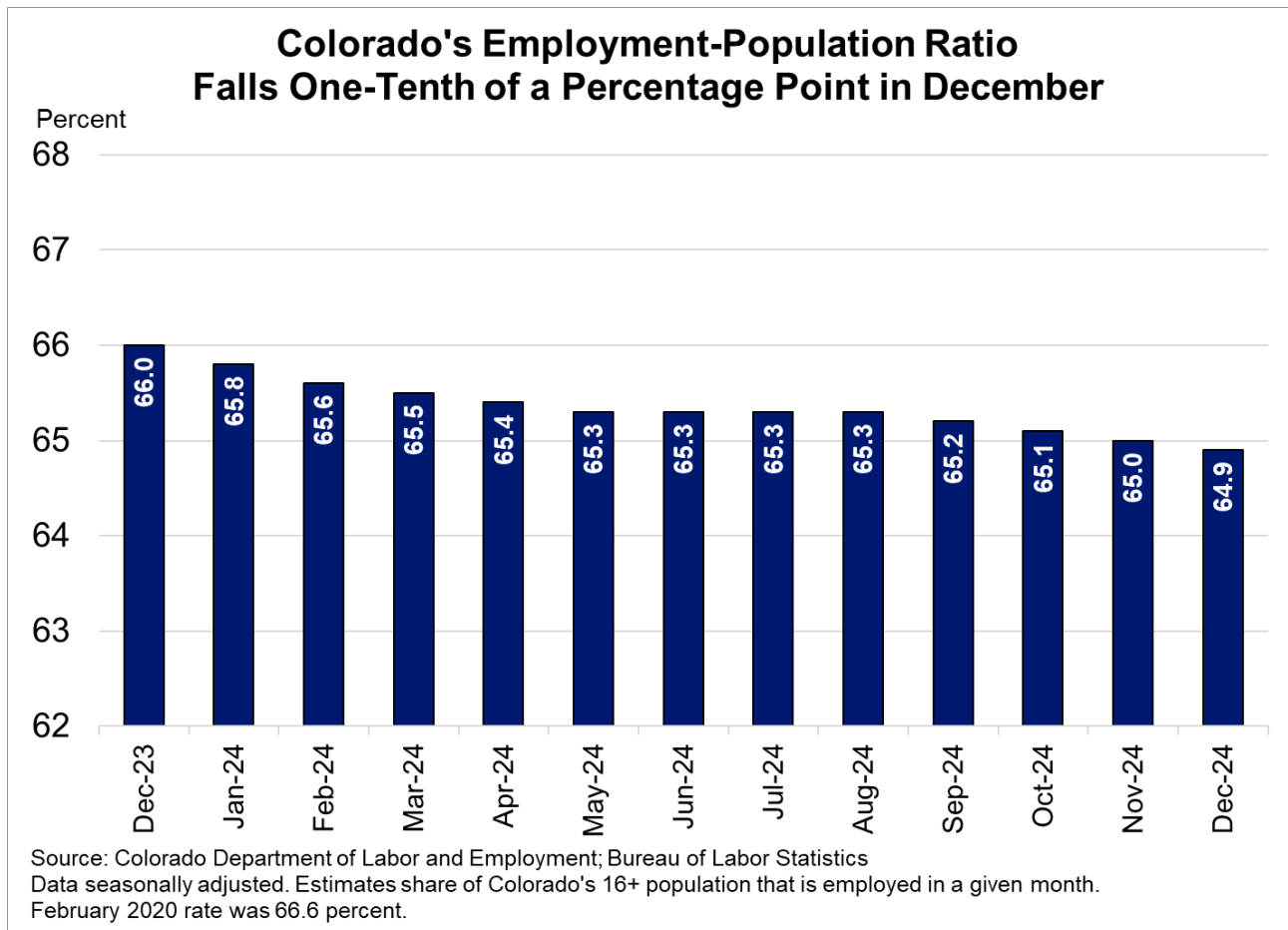
## Colorado Labor Force Participation Rate, Over Past Year



### Chart information:

- Colorado's December 2024 labor force participation rate (LFPR) was 67.9 percent, unchanged for eight 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 December 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.

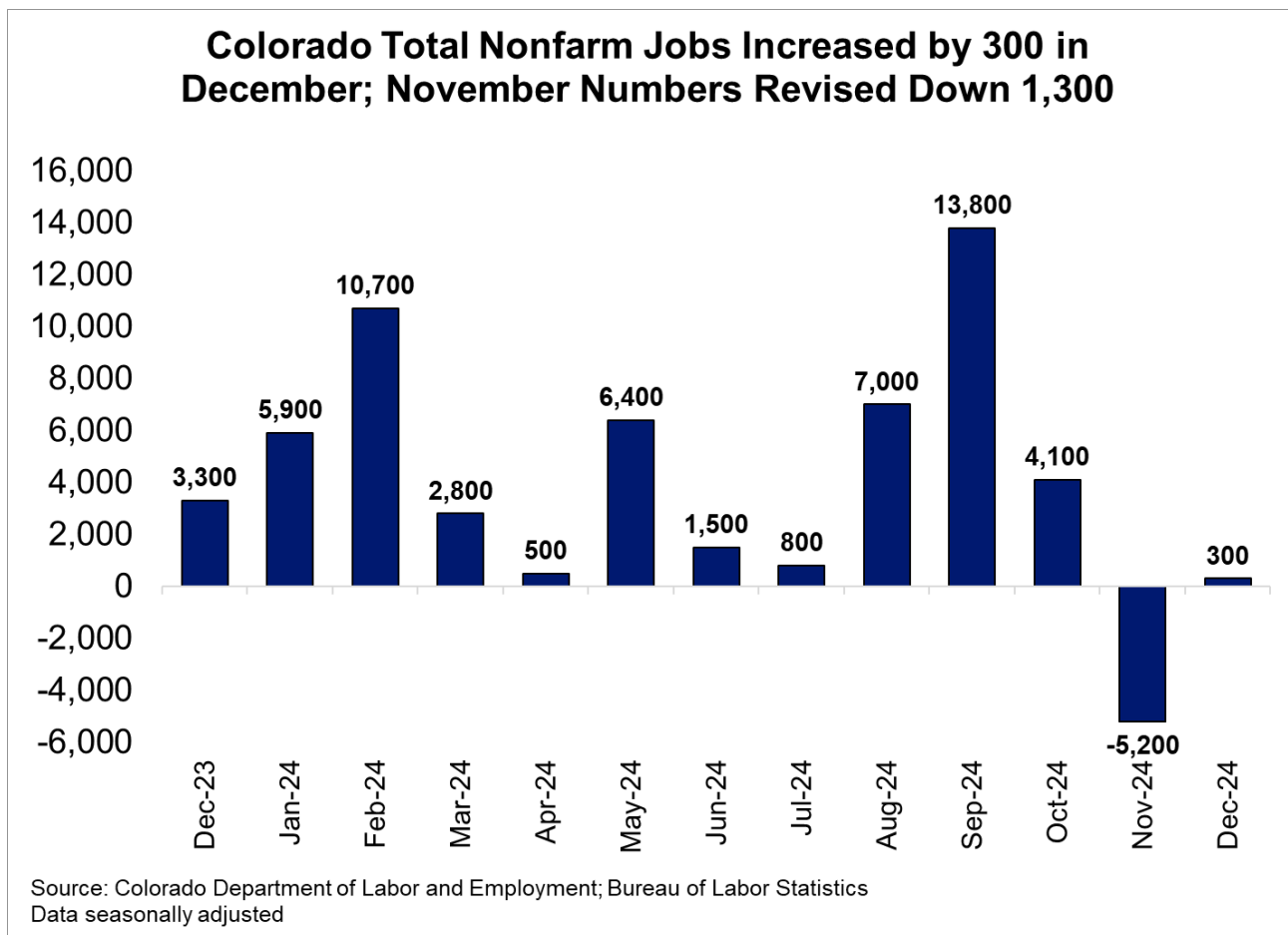
## Colorado Employment-Population Ratio, Over Past Year



### Chart information:

- Colorado's December 2024 employment-population ratio (EPOP) was 64.9 percent, a decrease of one-tenth of a percentage point from the prior month's rate of 65.0 percent.
- A year prior, Colorado's employment-population ratio was 66.0 percent.
- The employment-population ratio for Colorado has ranged between 64.9 percent and 66.0 percent over the past year.
- The December 2024 ratio of 64.9 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

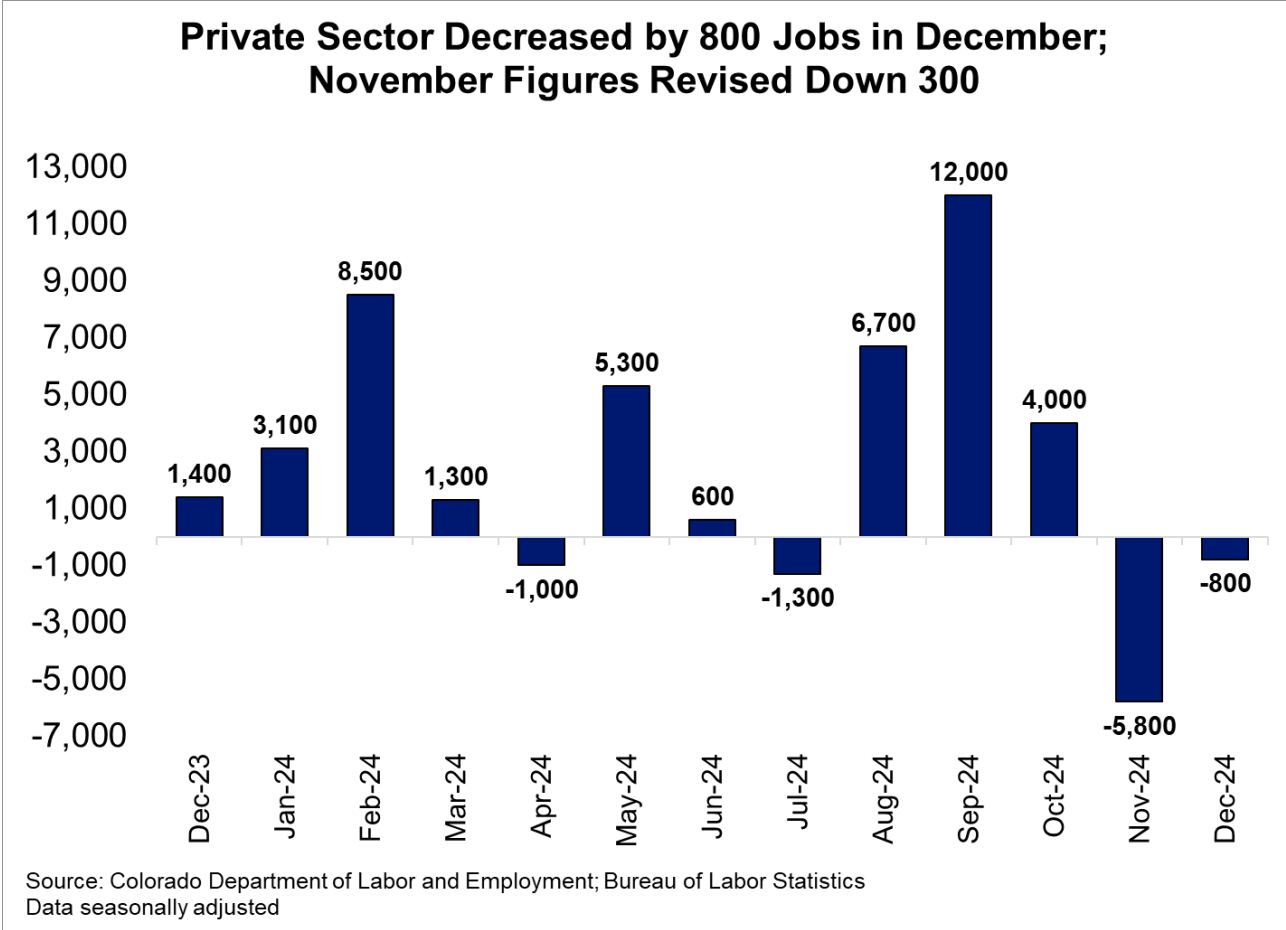


### Chart information:

- Colorado gained 300 total nonfarm jobs in December 2024, while November numbers were revised down by 1,300. The November revision shows a decrease of 5,200 rather than the previously reported decrease of 3,900 jobs.
- Since December 2023, the monthly change in Colorado's total nonfarm jobs has ranged between -5,200 (November 2024) and +13,800 (September 2024).
- Out of the 13 months displayed, one has experienced an over the month decrease, while over the month increases have occurred in 12 months.
- The average monthly change in Colorado's total nonfarm jobs over the past year is +4,000.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



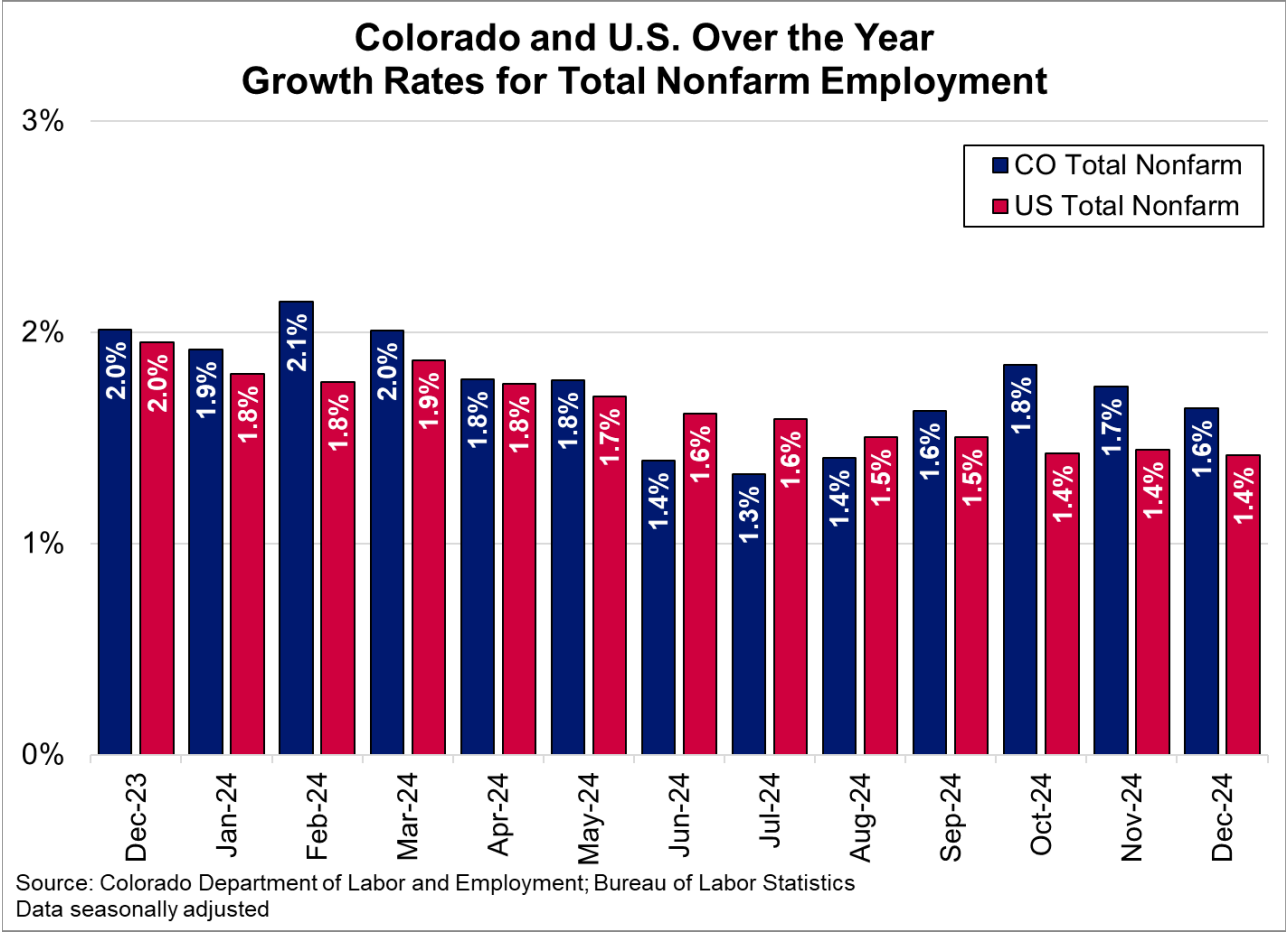
# Colorado Monthly Change in the Number of Private Sector Payroll Jobs, Over Past Year



### Chart information:

- Colorado private sector jobs declined by 800 in December 2024, while November numbers were revised down by 300. The November revision shows a decrease of 5,800 rather than the previously reported decrease of 5,500 jobs.
- Since December 2023, the monthly change in Colorado’s private sector jobs has ranged between -5,800 (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 +2,600.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

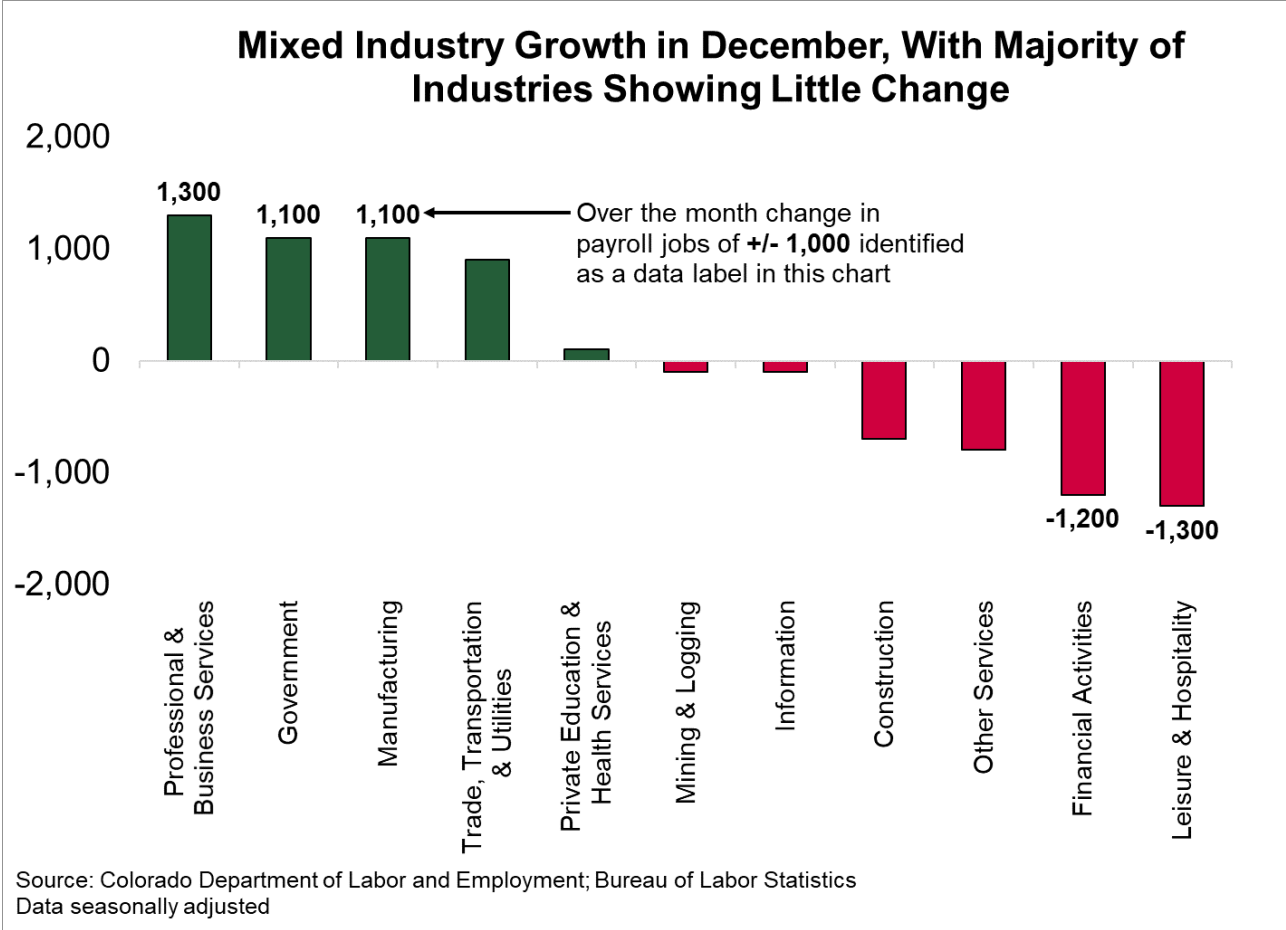
# Colorado and U.S. Over the Year Growth Rates for Total Nonfarm Employment, Over Past Year



## Chart information:

- Colorado’s over the year growth rate for total nonfarm employment was 1.6 percent in December 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 2.0 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 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 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:

- Six Colorado industry supersectors gained jobs in December 2024 and six industry supersectors experienced decreases in employment levels.
- Notable over the month increases occurred in professional and business services (+1,300), government (+1,100), and manufacturing (+1,100).
- Notable over the month decreases occurred in leisure and hospitality (-1,300) and financial activities (-1,200).
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

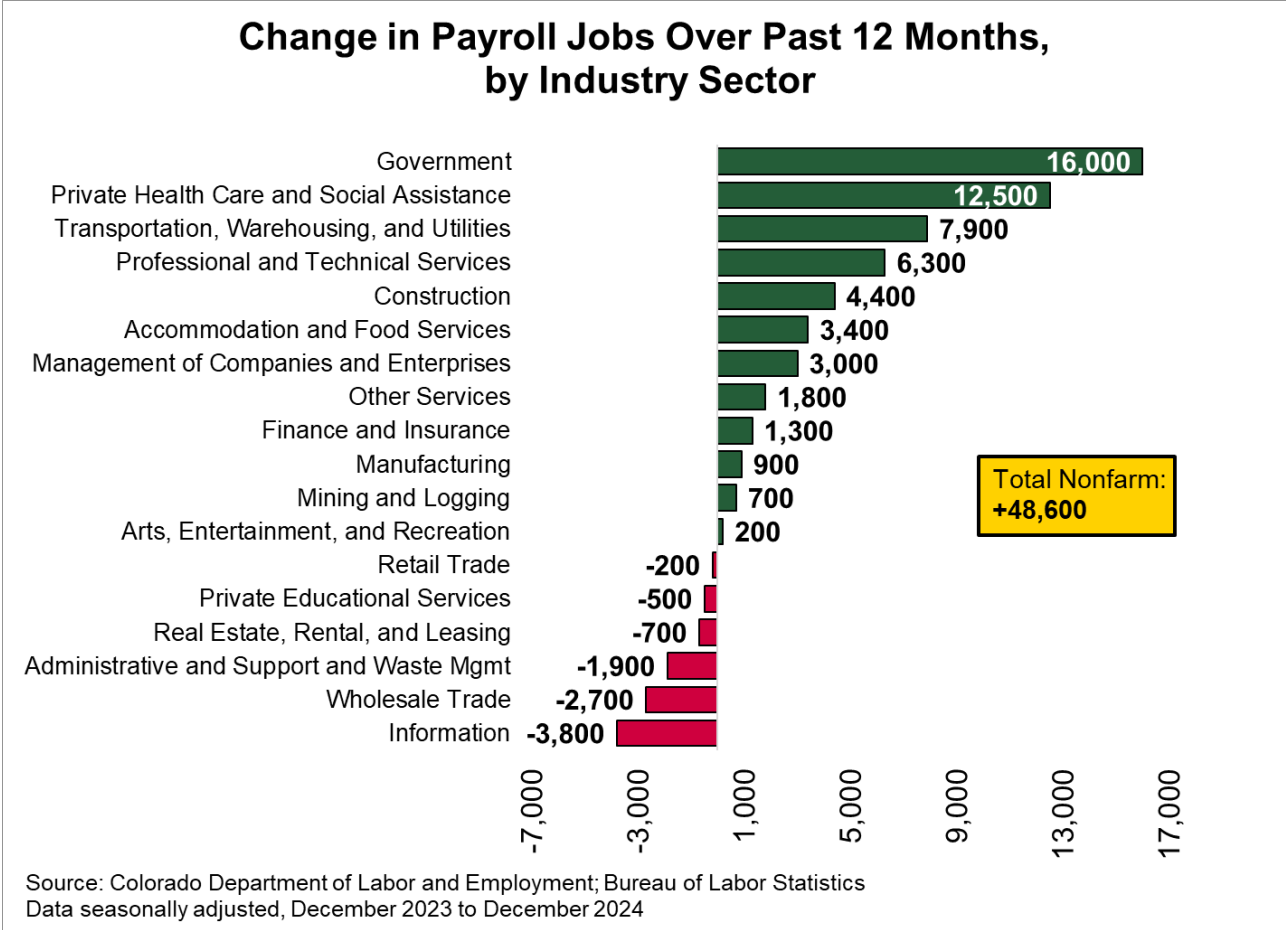
# Colorado Change in Payroll Jobs for Most Recent Month, by Industry Sector



## Chart information:

- From November 2024 to December 2024, Colorado added 300 nonfarm payroll jobs.
- Professional and technical services added the most jobs at 1,700.
- Government and manufacturing added the second most jobs over that period at 1,100 each.
- The industry sectors with the largest declines were accommodation and food services (-900), other services (-800), and administrative and support and waste management (-800).
- Out of Colorado’s 18 industry sectors, seven added jobs in December 2024 and 11 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.

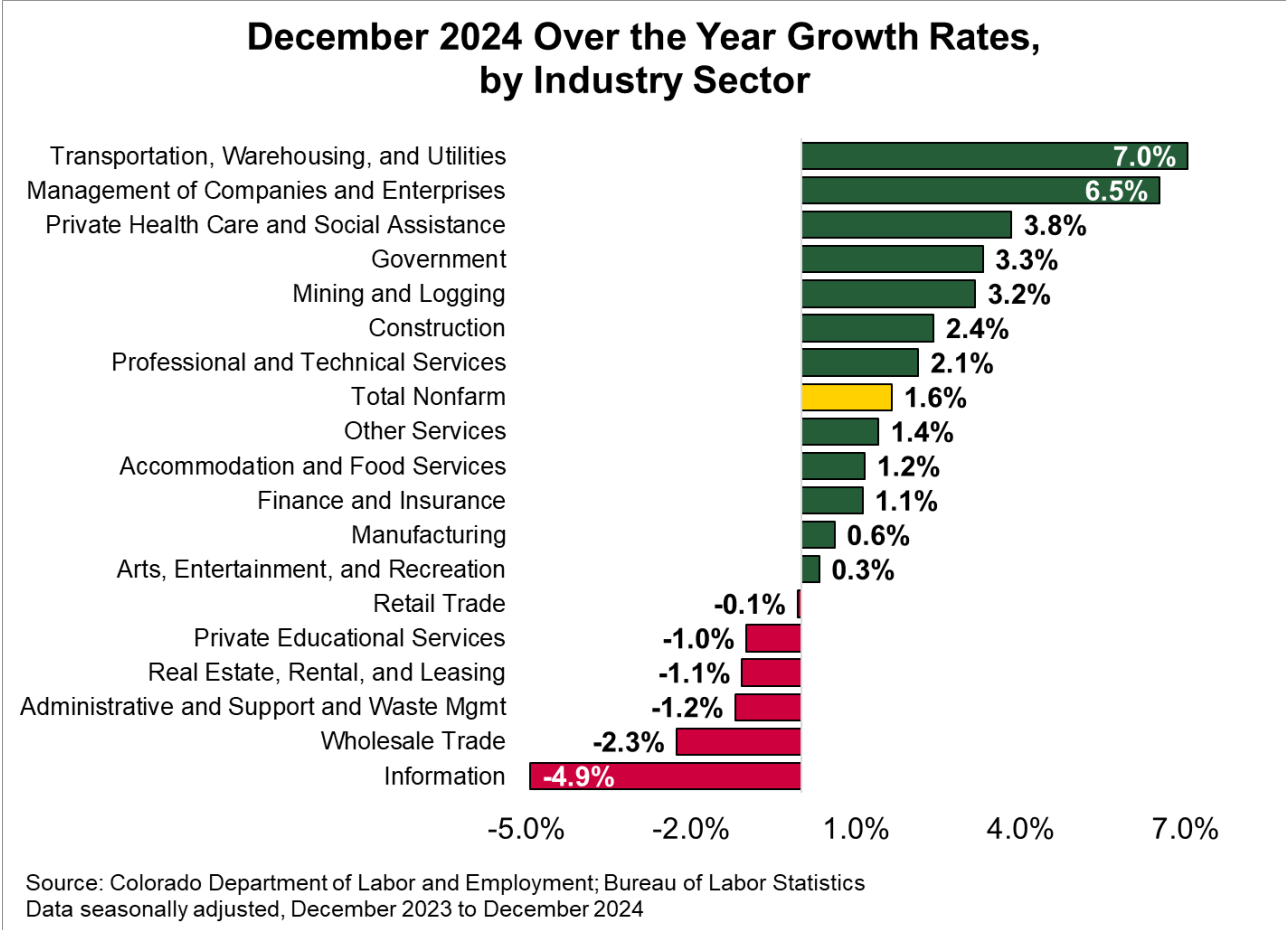
# Colorado Change in Payroll Jobs Over Past 12 Months, by Industry Sector



## Chart information:

- Over the past 12 months, Colorado has added 48,600 nonfarm payroll jobs.
- Government has added the most jobs at 16,000.
- Private health care and social assistance (+12,500) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+7,900) added the second and third most jobs, respectively, over that period.
- The industry sectors with the largest declines over the past year are: information (-3,800), wholesale trade (-2,700), and administrative and support and waste management (-1,900).
- 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.

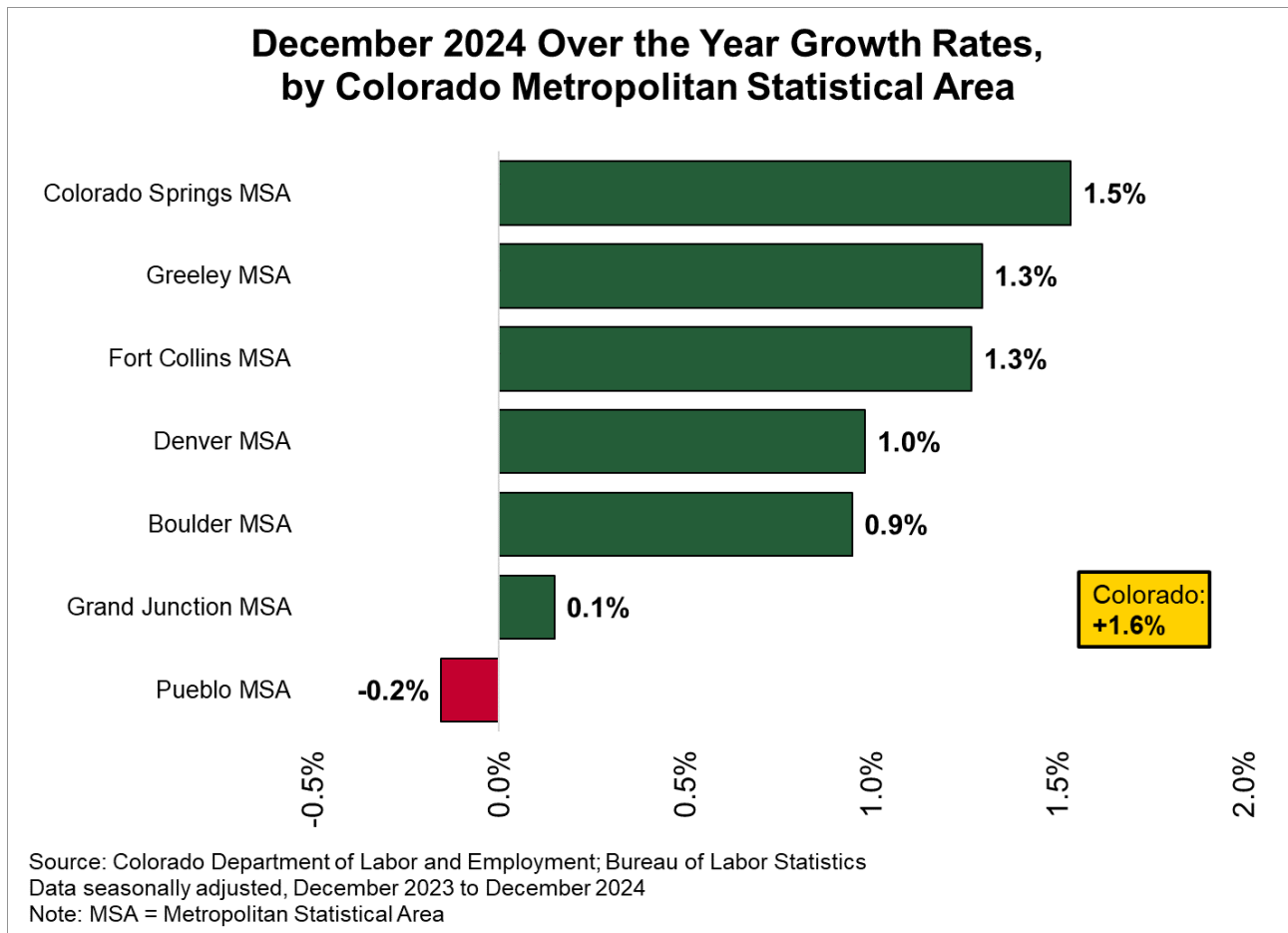
# Over the Year Growth Rates, by Industry Sector, for Most Recent Month



## Chart information:

- Colorado’s over the year growth rate for total nonfarm employment was 1.6 percent in December 2024.
- Out of Colorado’s 18 industry sectors, seven had over the year growth rates that exceeded 1.6 percent and 11 fell short of 1.6 percent.
- The industry sectors with the fastest growth rates over the past year are: transportation, warehousing, and utilities (7.0%), management of companies and enterprises (6.5%), and private health care and social assistance (3.8%).
- The industry sectors with the slowest growth rates over the past year are: information (-4.9%), wholesale trade (-2.3%), and administrative and support and waste management (-1.2%).
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

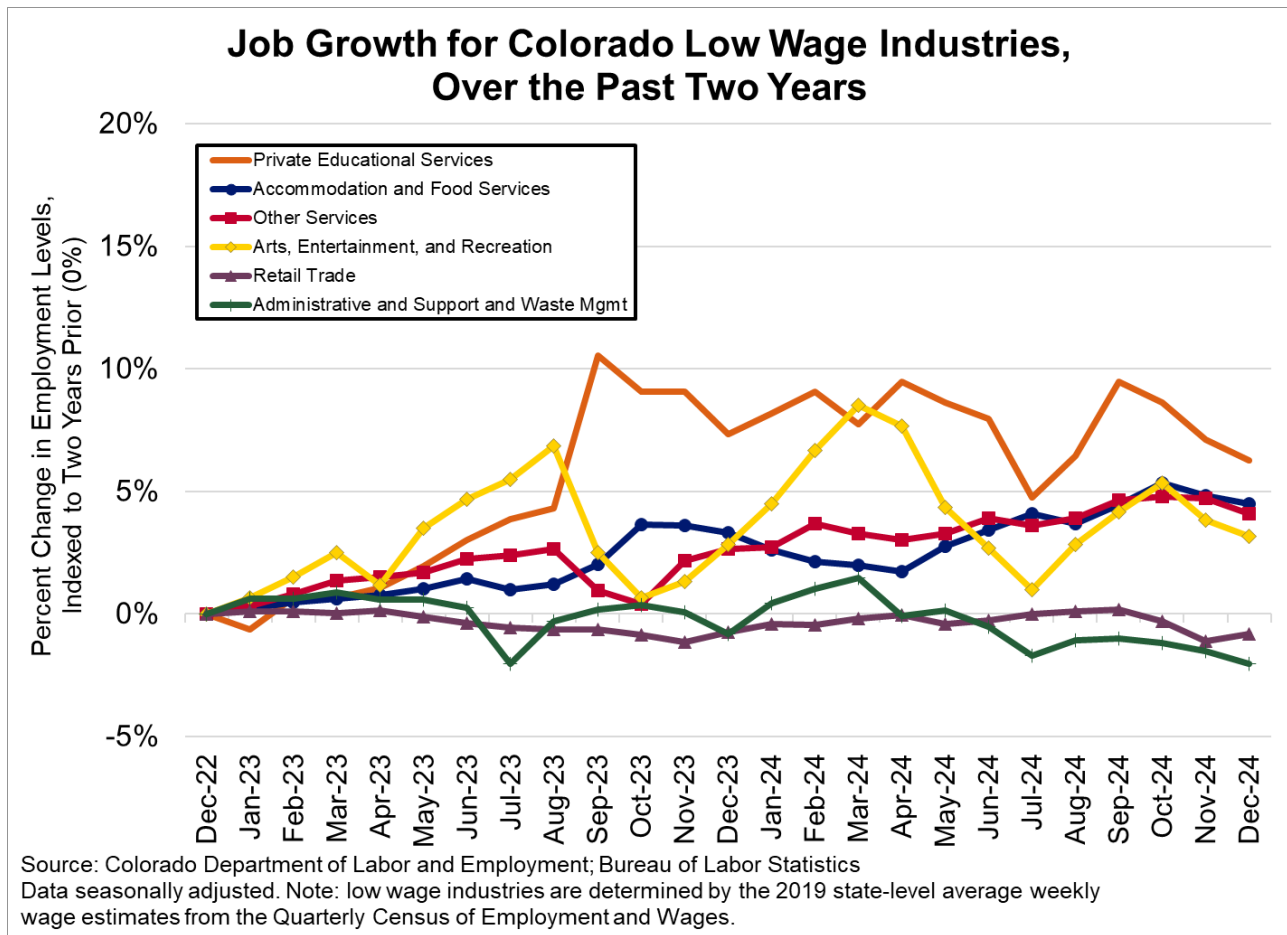
## Over the Year Growth Rates, by Colorado Metropolitan Statistical Area, for Most Recent Month



### Chart information:

- Colorado's over the year growth rate for total nonfarm employment was 1.6 percent in December 2024.
- Among Colorado's seven metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), the Colorado Springs MSA had the highest growth rate (1.5%). Greeley and Fort Collins were tied for the second highest growth rate at 1.3 percent each.
- Denver (1.0%), Boulder (0.9%), and Grand Junction (0.1%) also added jobs over the past year.
- The Pueblo MSA declined by -0.2% 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

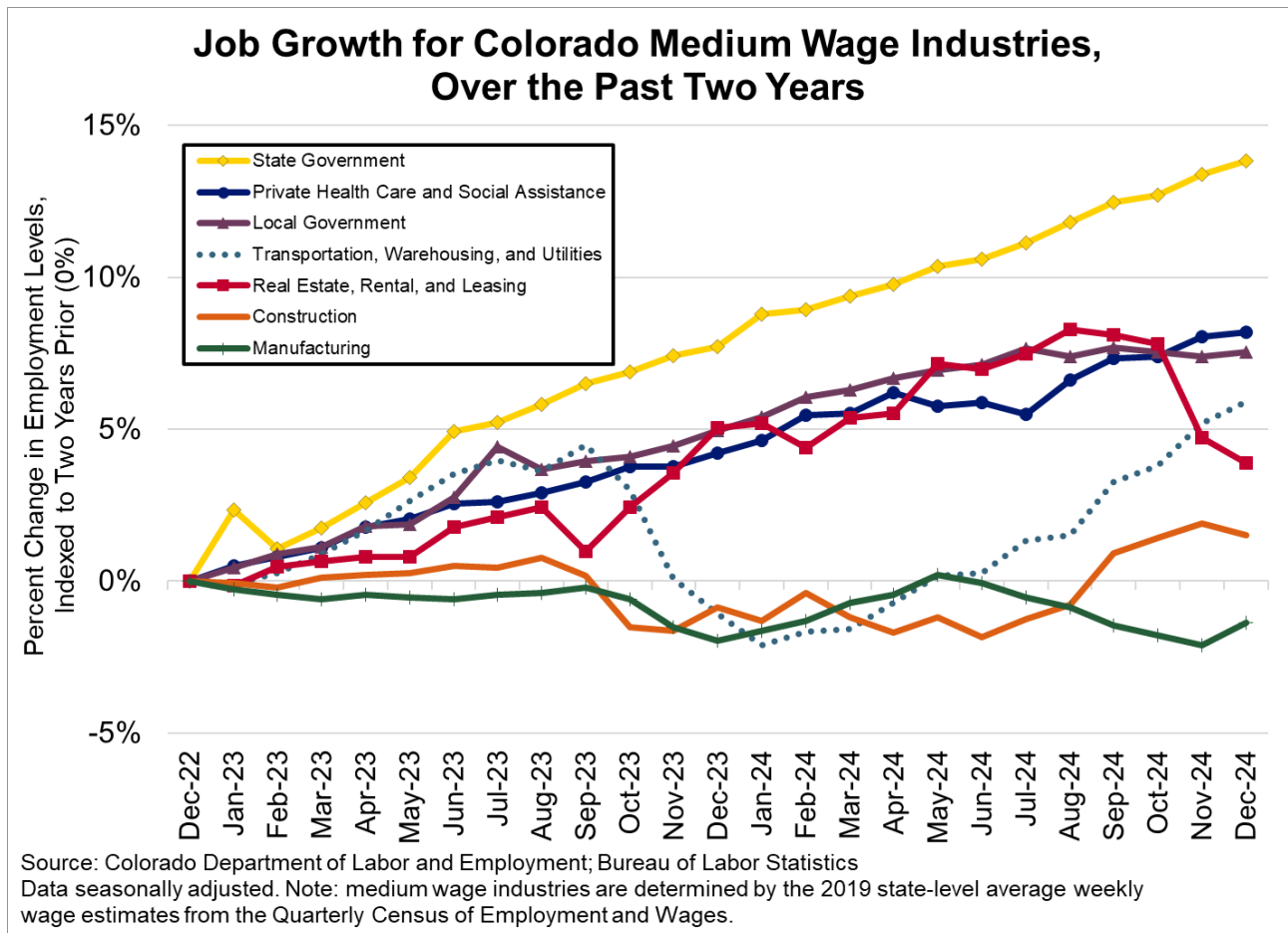


### Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for low wage industries in Colorado over the past two years. The measurement period spans from December 2022 to the most recent month available, December 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to December 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 December 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 -2.0 and -0.8 percent, respectively. Private educational services has the fastest growth rate during that period, at 6.3 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



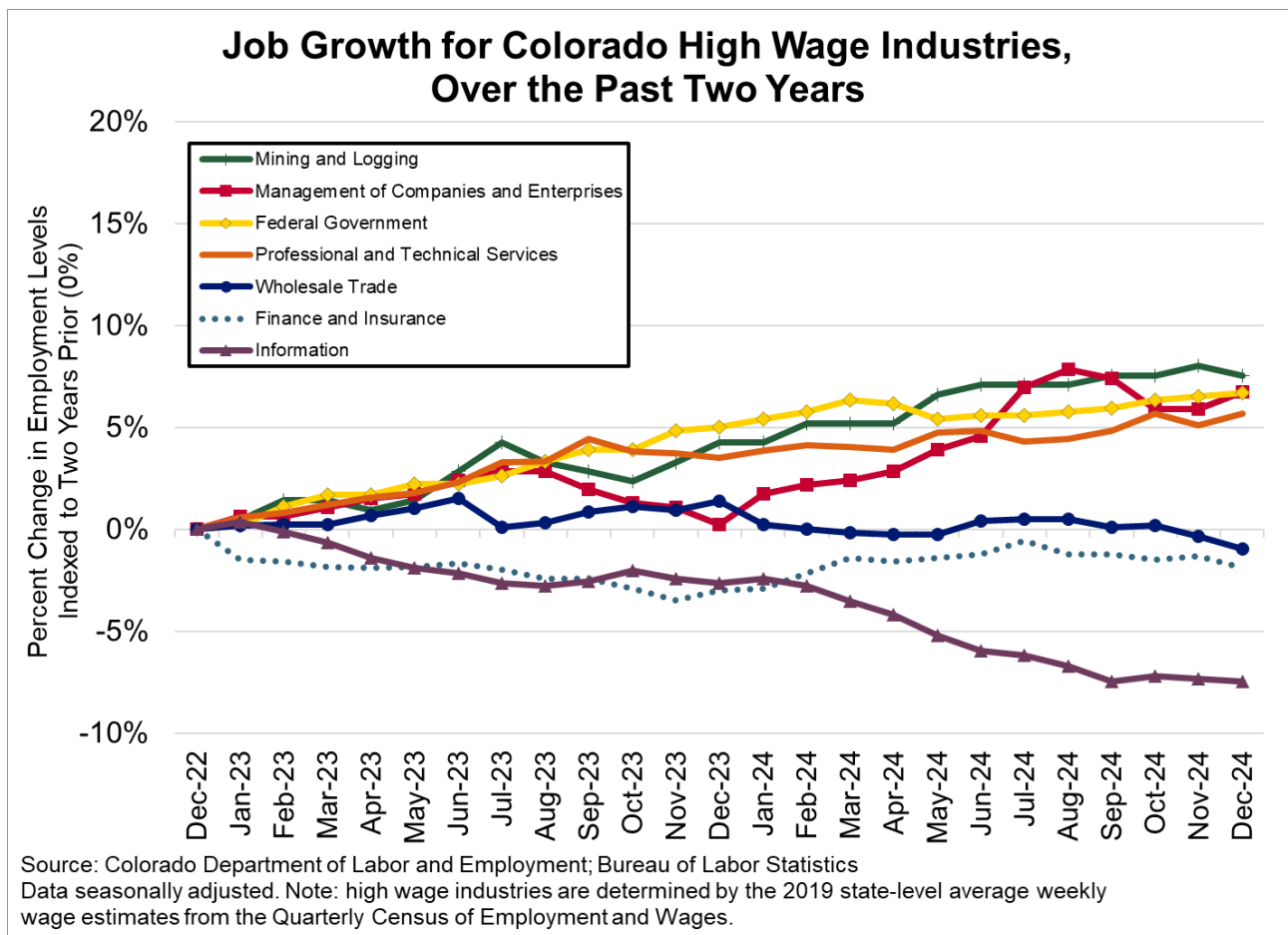
## Job Growth for Colorado Medium Wage Industries, Over Past Two Years



### Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for medium wage industries in Colorado over the past two years. The measurement period spans from December 2022 to the most recent month available, December 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to December 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 December 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 -1.4 percent. State government has the fastest growth rate during that period, at 13.8 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

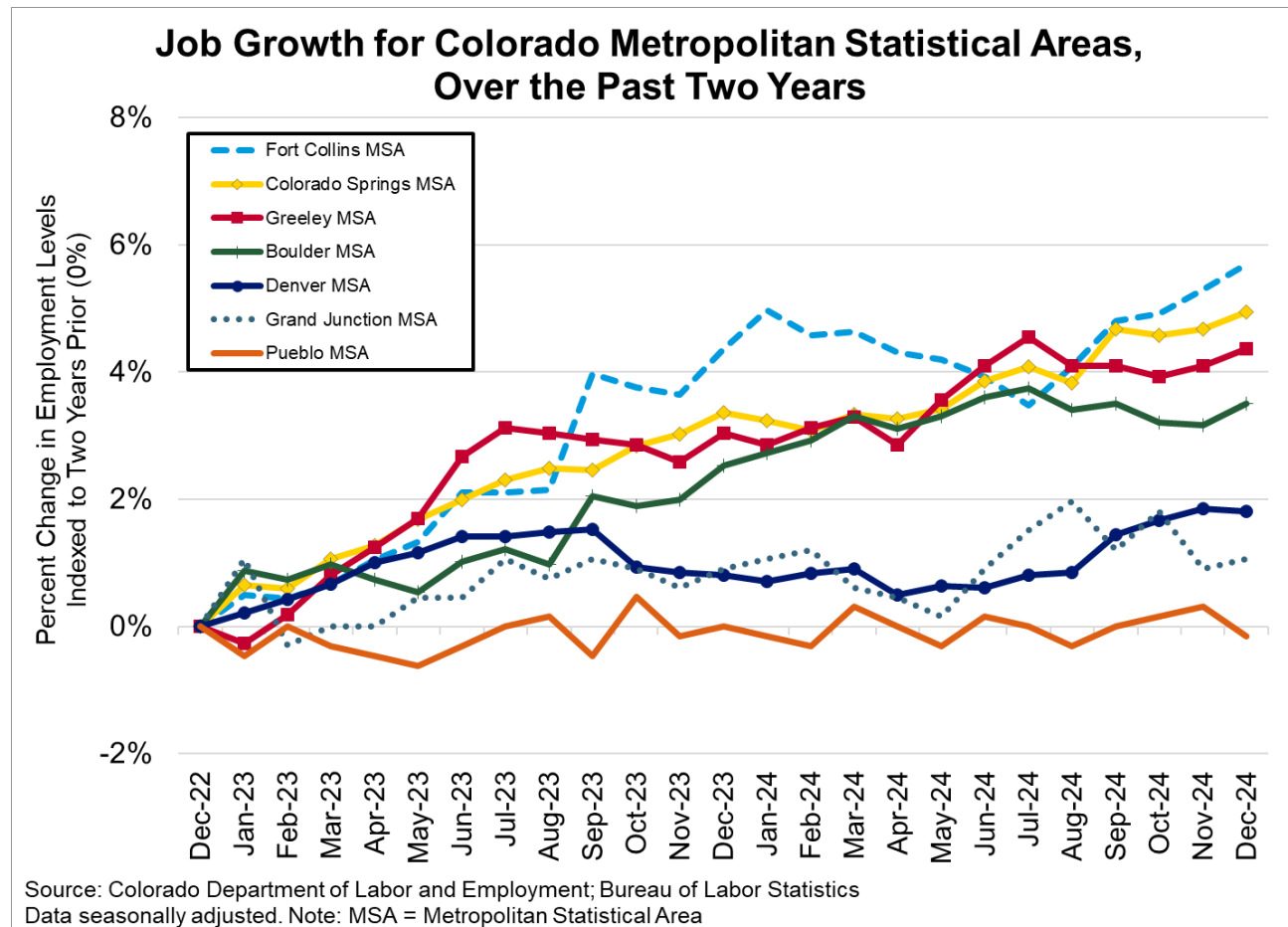
## Job Growth for Colorado High Wage Industries, Over Past Two Years



### Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for high wage industries in Colorado over the past two years. The measurement period spans from December 2022 to the most recent month available, December 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to December 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 December 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 -7.5 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.

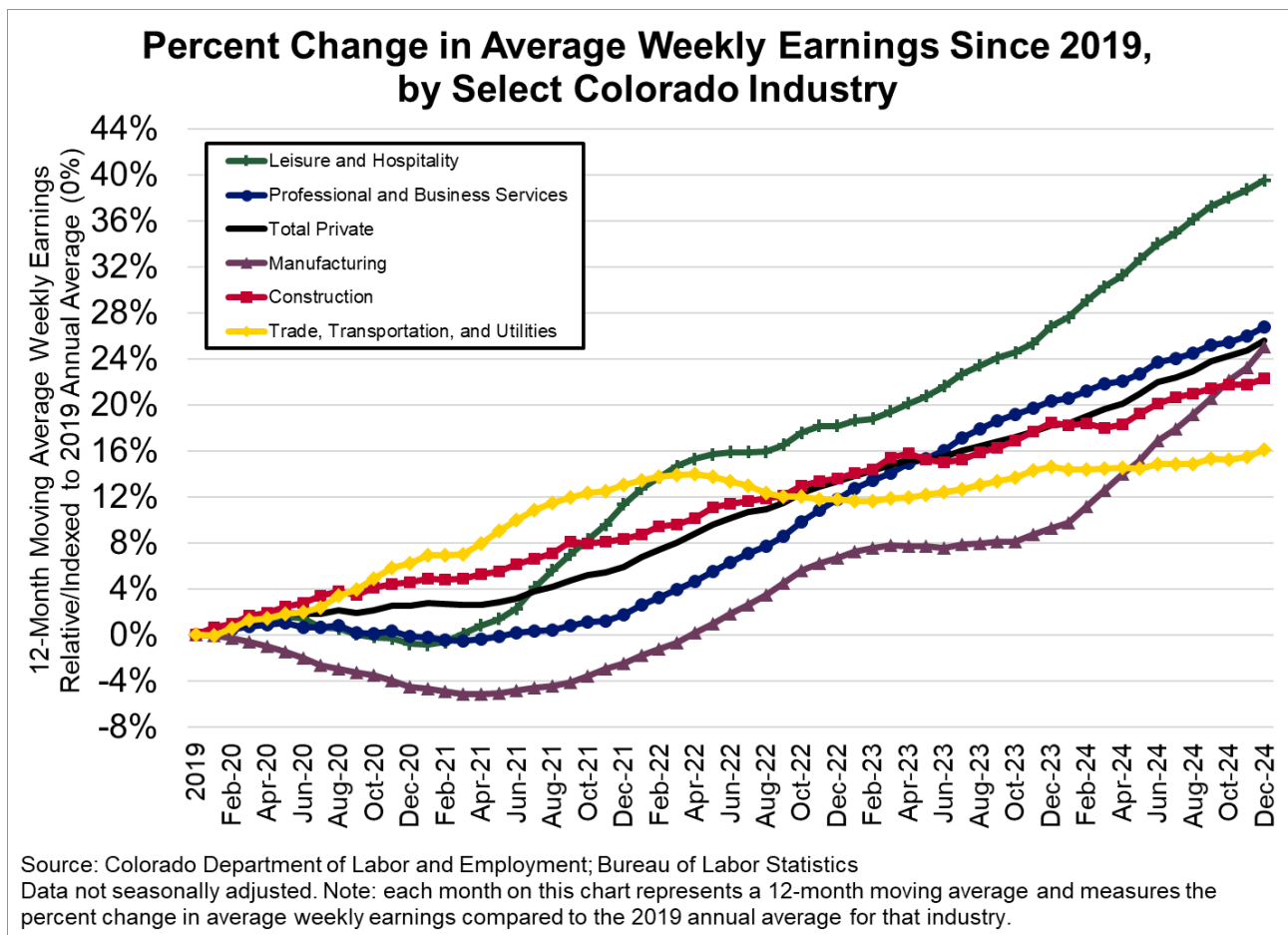
## Job Growth for Colorado Substate Areas, Over Past Two Years



### Chart information:

- This chart measures job growth for Colorado substate areas over the past two years. The measurement period spans from December 2022 to the most recent month available, December 2024. Values above 0 percent indicate employment levels have increased relative to December 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 December 2024, six areas have an index value over 0 percent and one has an index value below 0 percent. The Pueblo MSA has the lowest growth rate over the past two years, at -0.2 percent. The Fort Collins MSA has the fastest growth rate during that period, at 5.7 percent.
- These data are seasonally adjusted and are produced by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

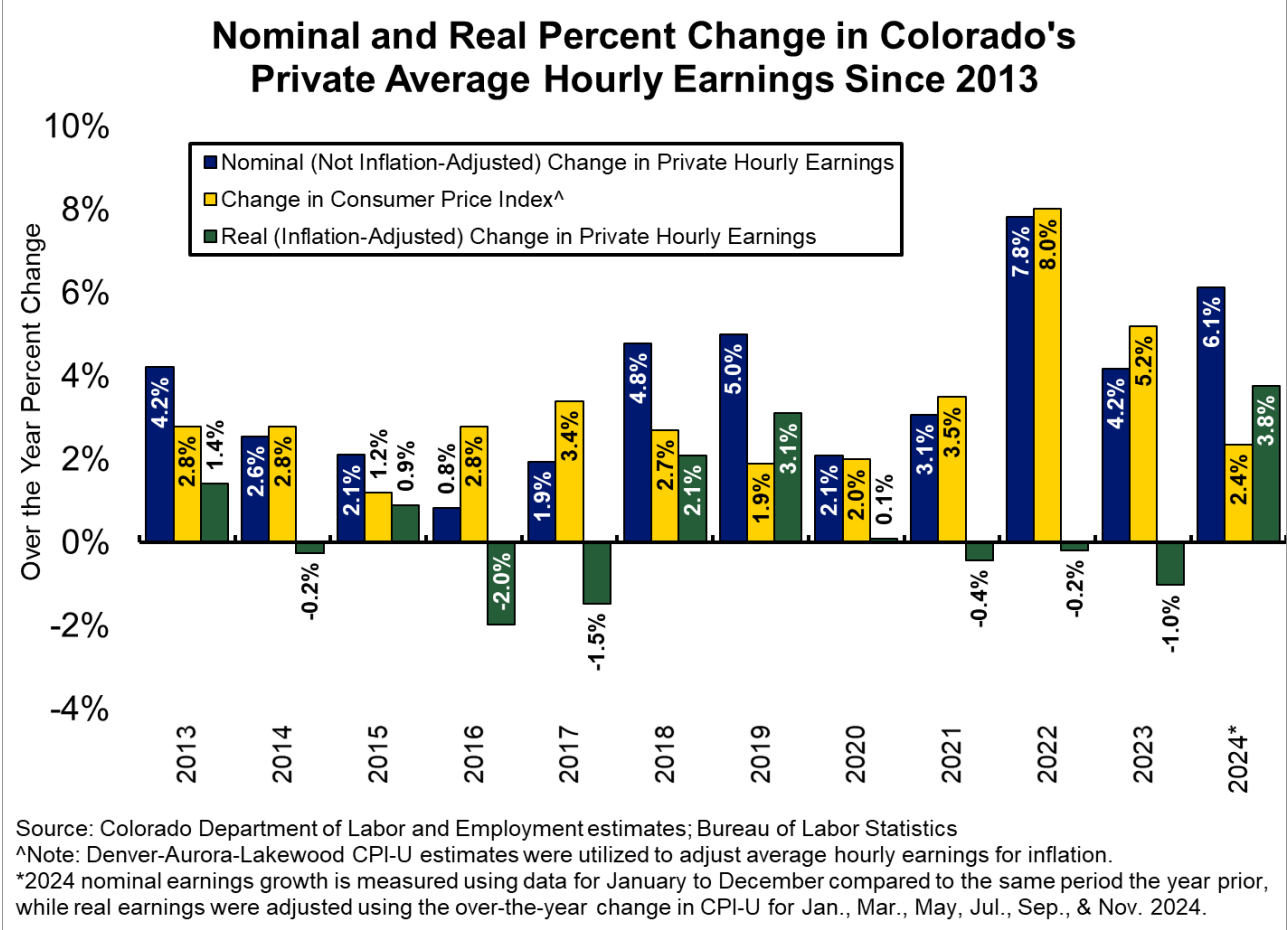
## Percent Change in Average Weekly Earnings Since 2019, by Select Colorado Industry



### 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 40 percent, using the most recent 12-month average data available.
- Earnings gains for PBS, total private, manufacturing, and construction range between 22 and just under 27 percent.
- Wage growth lags for TTU, which is just above 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.

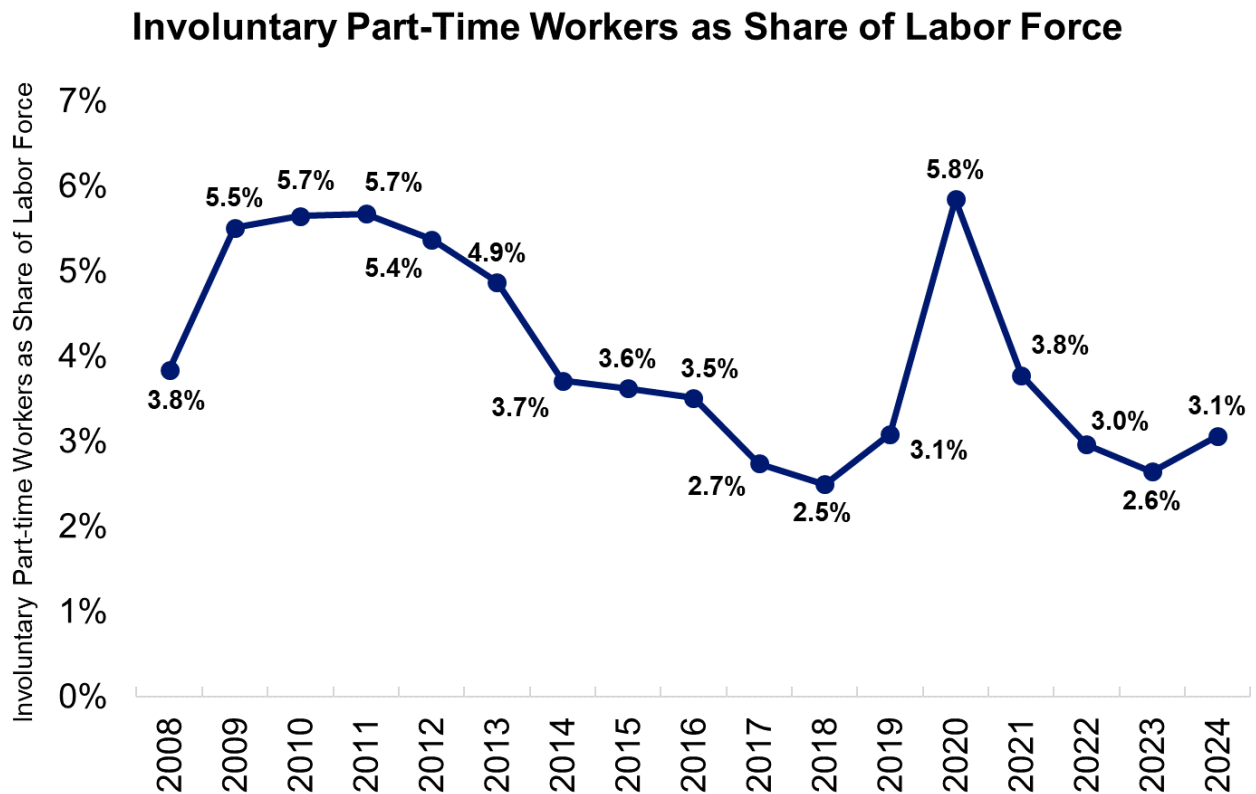
# Nominal and Real Percent Change in Colorado's Private Average Hourly Earnings Since 2013



## 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 December 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 3.8 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



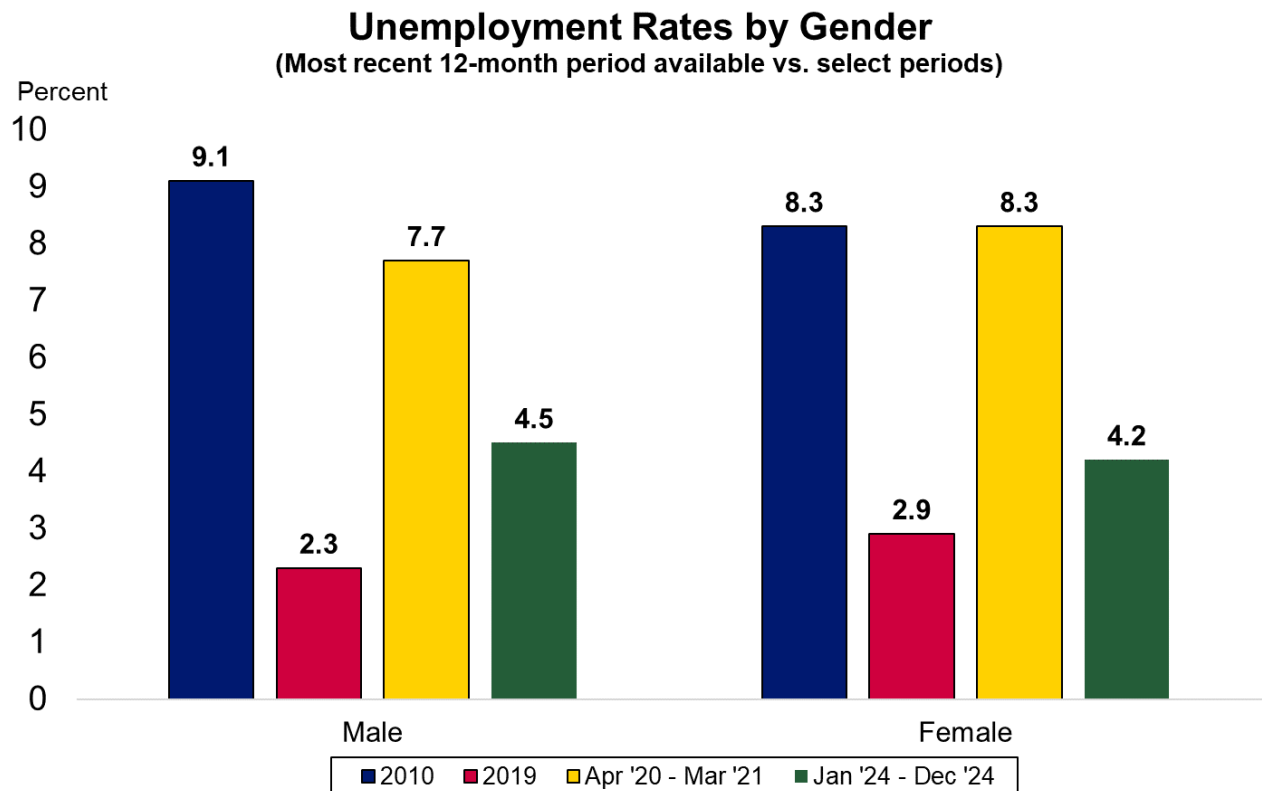
Source: Current Population Survey

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).

### 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



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.

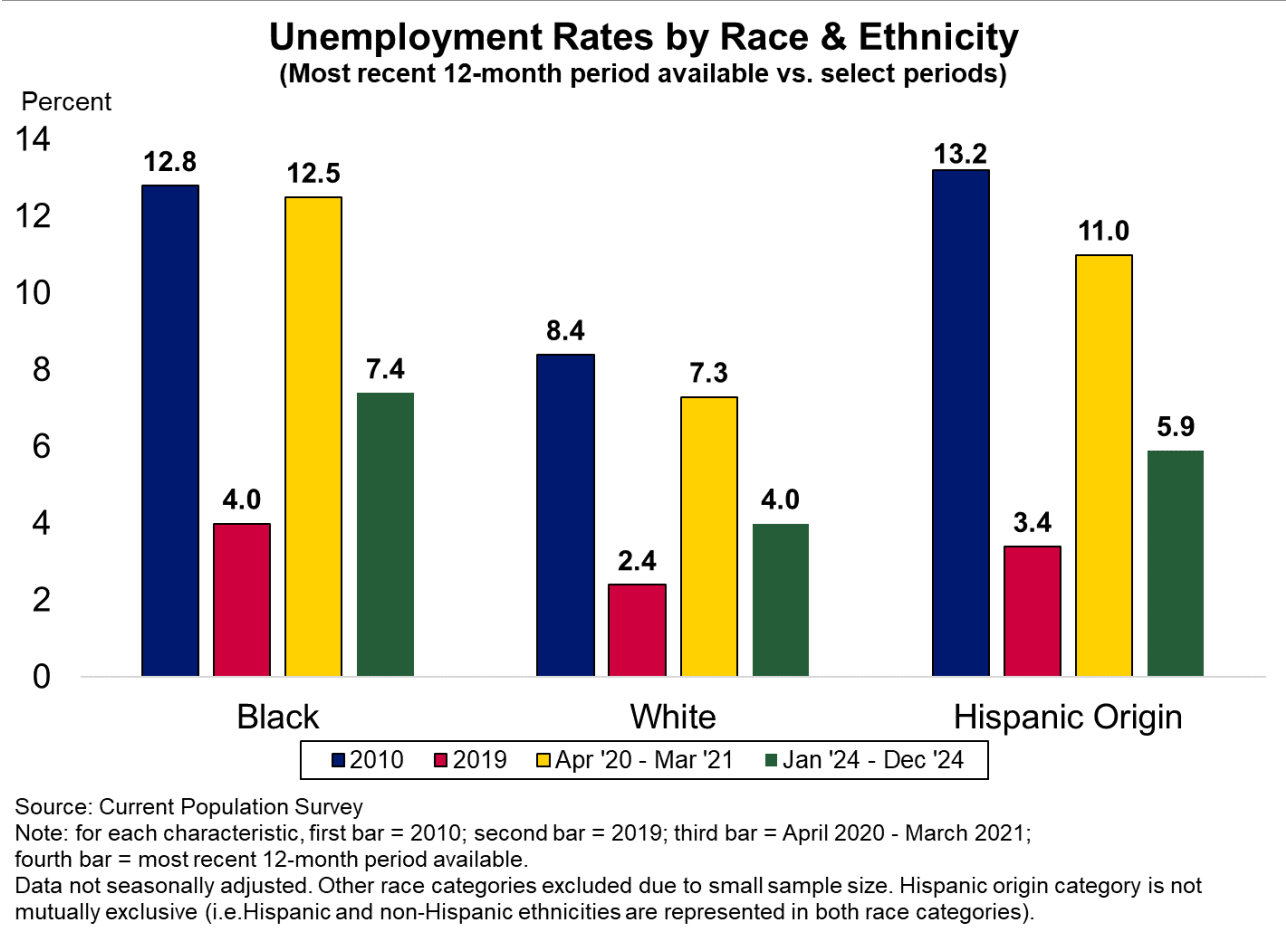
Data not seasonally adjusted. Unemployment rates by gender for individuals 16 years and older.

### 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 (January 2024 to December 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, the male unemployment rate is 4.5 percent, and the female unemployment rate is 4.2 percent. The current male unemployment rate is higher than the 2019 rate of 2.3 percent, and the current female unemployment rate is higher than 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

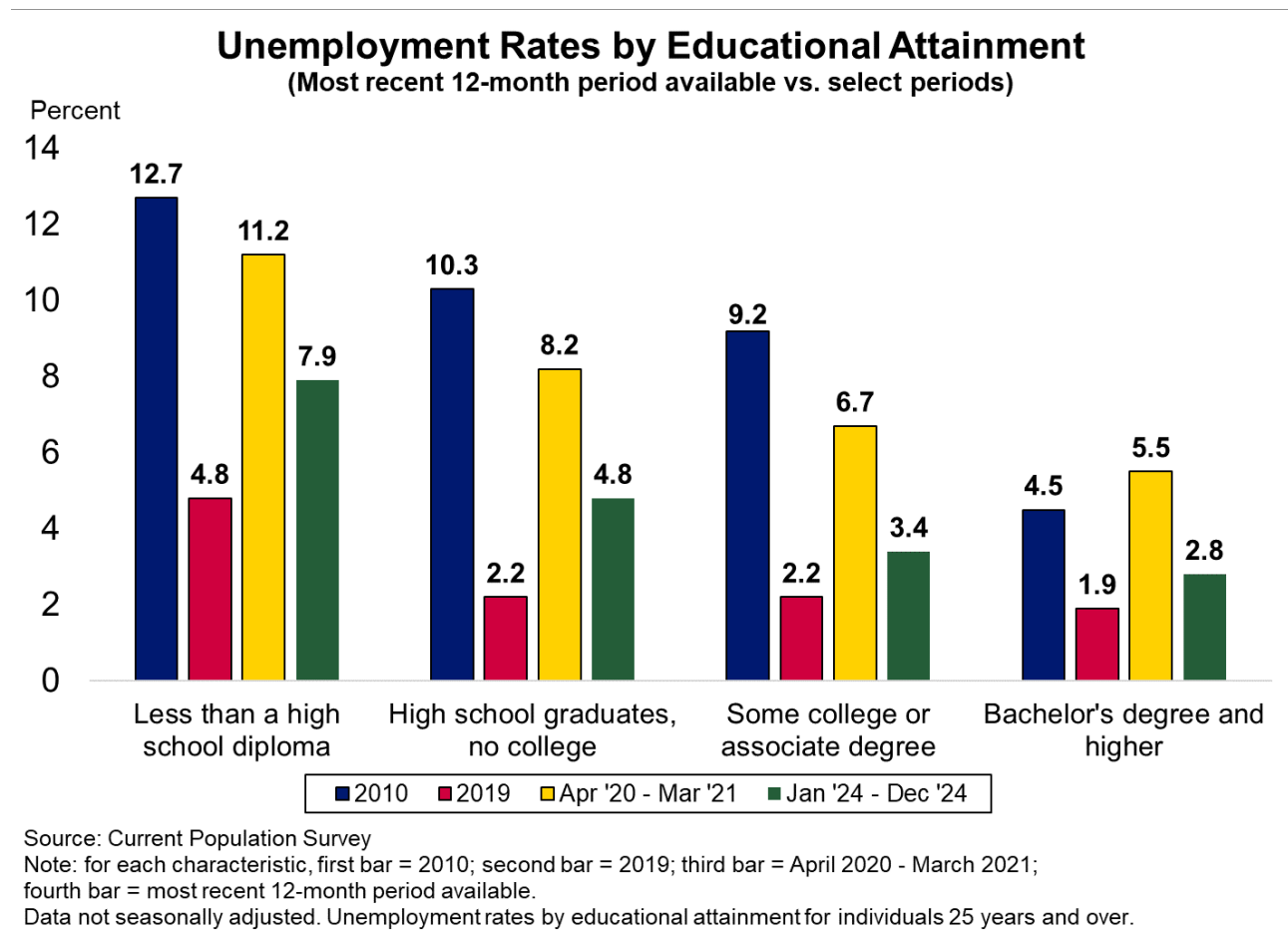


## Chart information:

- 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 (January 2024 to December 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, the Black unemployment rate is 7.4 percent, the White unemployment rate is 4.0 percent, and the Hispanic unemployment rate is 5.9 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.



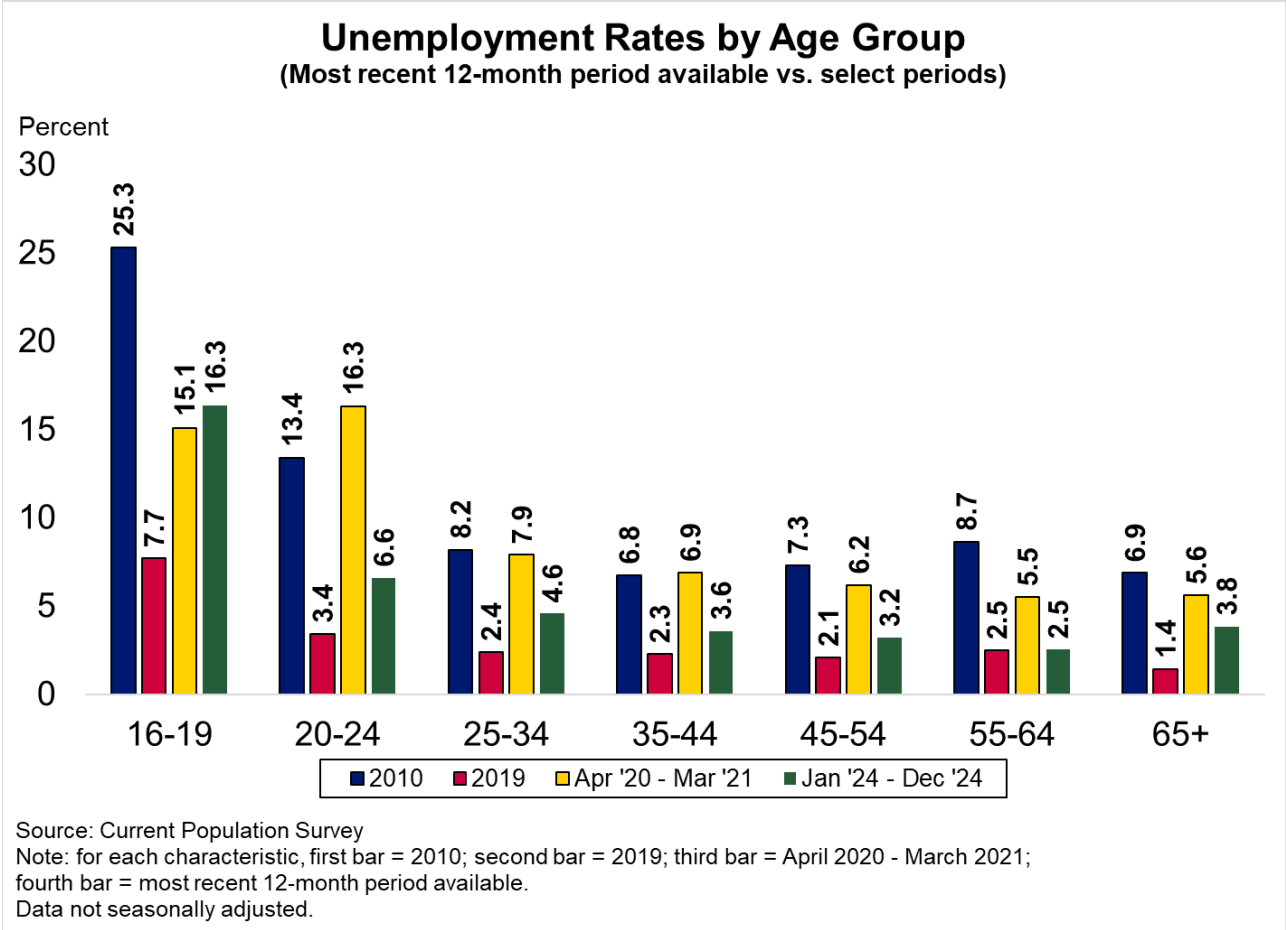
## Colorado Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment, Most Recent 12-Month Period Available vs. Select Periods



### 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 (January 2024 to December 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, unemployment rates by education level are: less than a high school diploma (7.9 percent); high school graduates, no college (4.8 percent); some college or associate degree (3.4 percent); and bachelor's degree and higher (2.8 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.

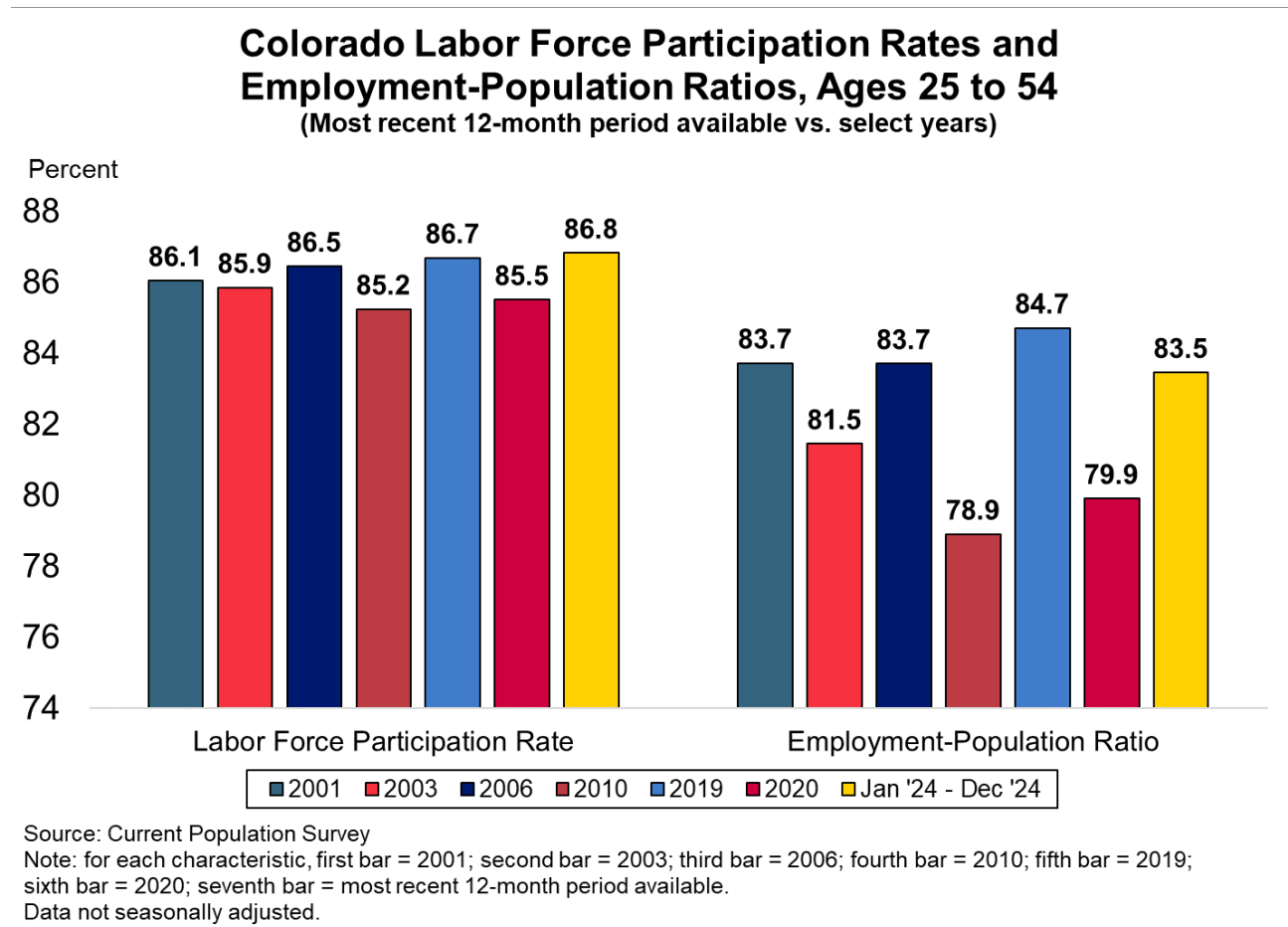
# Colorado Unemployment Rates by Age Group, Most Recent 12-Month Period Available vs. Select Periods



## 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 (January 2024 to December 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, unemployment rates by cohort are: 16-19 (16.3%); 20-24 (6.6%); 25-34 (4.6%); 35-44 (3.6%); 45-54 (3.2%); 55-64 (2.5%); and 65+ (3.8%). 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 (16.3%) 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.

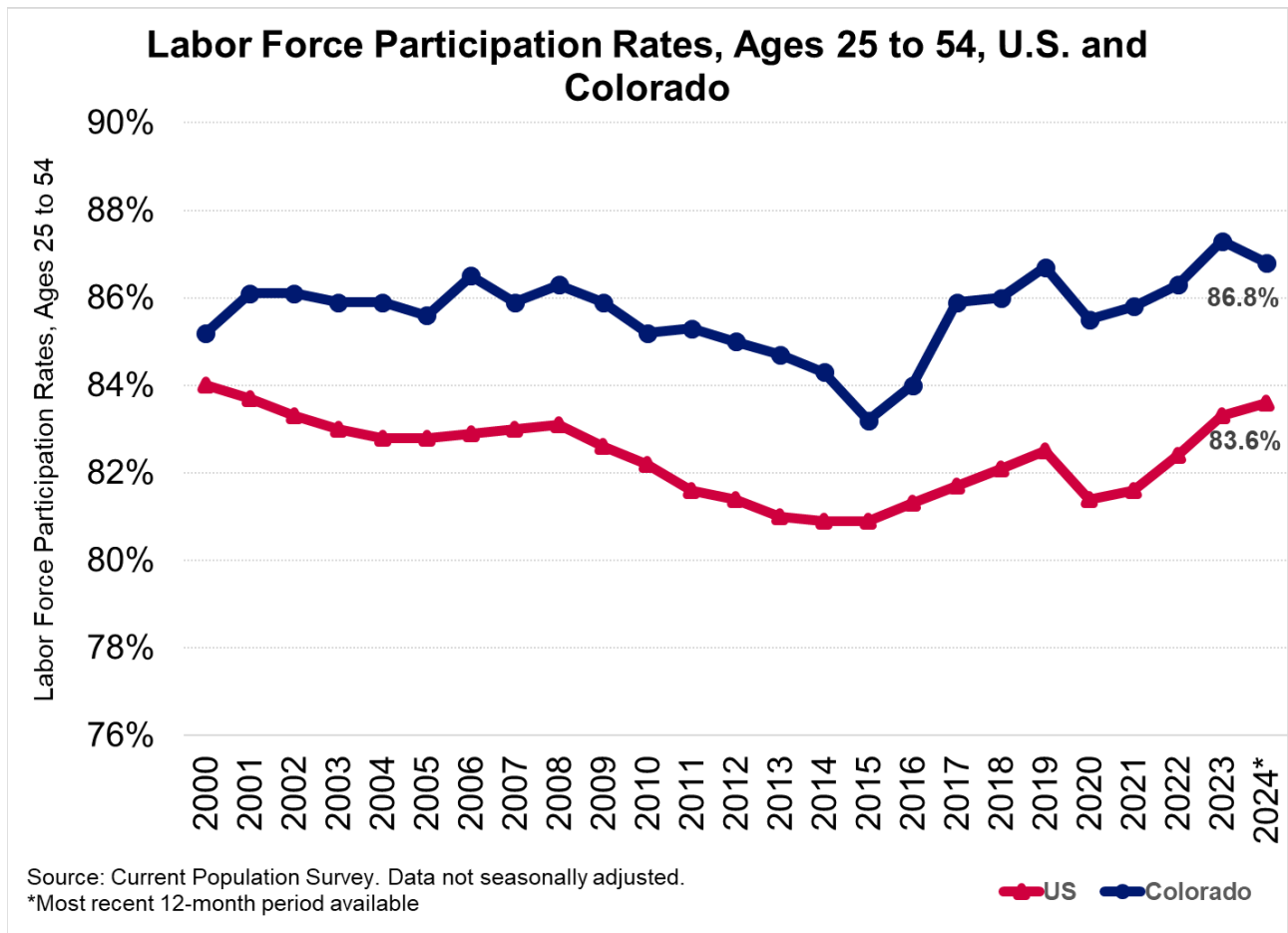
## Colorado Ages 25 to 54 Labor Force Participation Rates and Employment-Population Ratios, Most Recent 12-Month Period Available vs. Select Periods



### 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 (January 2024 to December 2024).
- For the most recent 12-month period available, the 25-54 LFPR is 86.8 percent, while the 25-54 EPOP is 83.5 percent. The current LFPR surpasses the 2001, 2006, and 2019 periods, while EPOP has dropped two-tenths of a percentage point below the 2001 and 2006 periods and is 1.2 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 (January 2024 to December 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	Dec-24	Nov-24	Dec-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	3,255.0	3,253.2	3,239.8	1.8	15.2
Unemployment	144.4	139.3	107.6	5.1	36.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.4	4.3	3.3	0.1	1.1
Employment	3,110.6	3,113.9	3,132.2	-3.3	-21.6

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

Labor Force Component	Dec-24	Nov-24	Dec-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Total Civilian Labor Force	3,248.2	3,248.4	3,228.8	-0.2	19.4
Unemployment	147.4	146.7	105.3	0.7	42.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	4.5	3.3	0.0	1.2
Employment	3,100.8	3,101.7	3,123.5	-0.9	-22.7

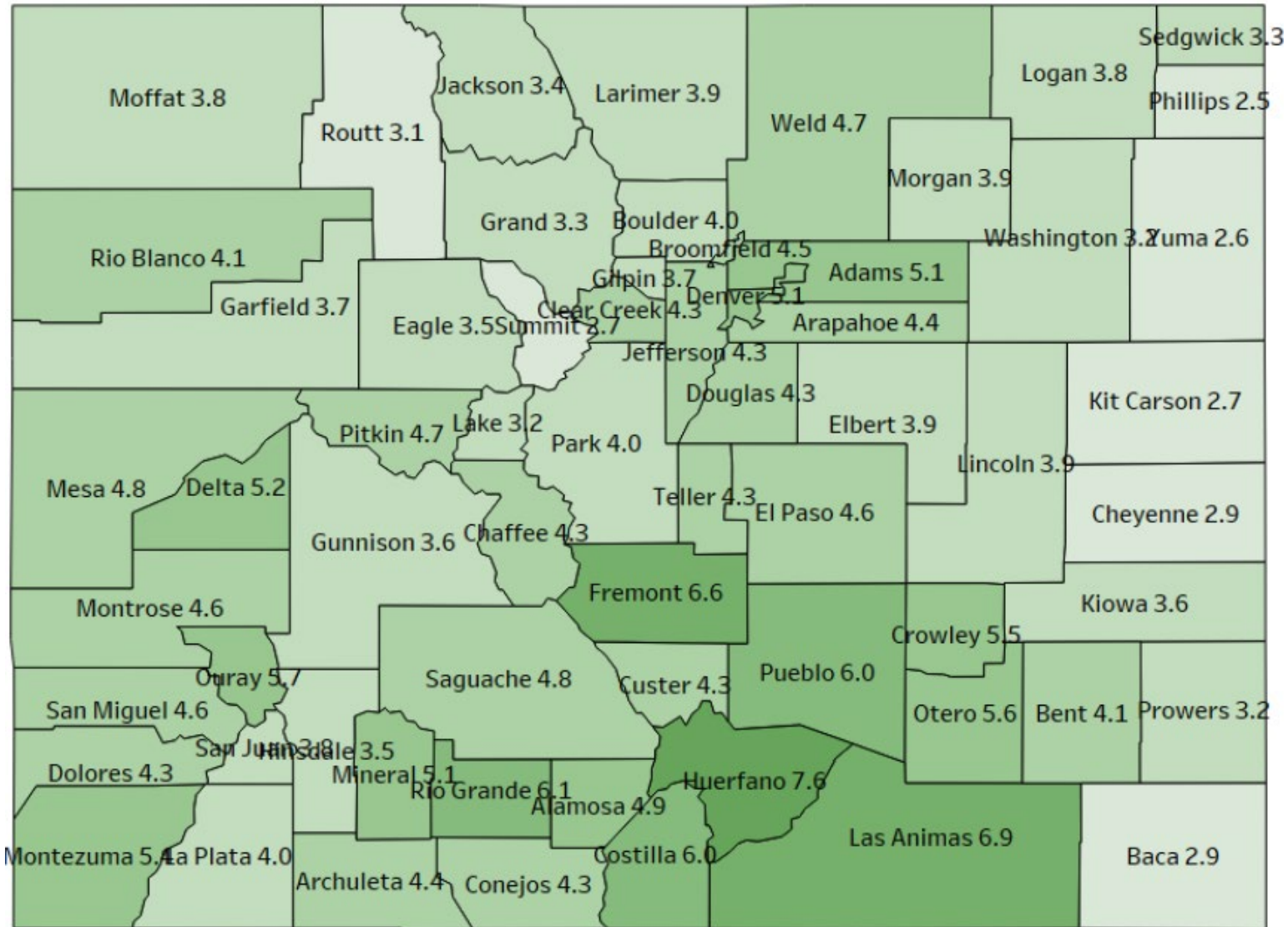
### Seasonally Adjusted Data from the Current Employment Statistics Program

Industry	Dec-24	Nov-24	Dec-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Mining & Logging	22.8	22.9	22.1	-0.1	0.7
Construction	187.1	187.8	182.7	-0.7	4.4
Manufacturing	150.1	149.0	149.2	1.1	0.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	508.3	507.4	503.3	0.9	5.0
Information	73.1	73.2	76.9	-0.1	-3.8
Financial Activities	182.2	183.4	181.6	-1.2	0.6
Professional & Business Services	506.5	505.2	499.1	1.3	7.4
Educational & Health Services	388.7	388.6	376.7	0.1	12.0
Leisure & Hospitality	360.7	362.0	357.1	-1.3	3.6
Other Services	130.2	131.0	128.4	-0.8	1.8
Government	500.3	499.2	484.3	1.1	16.0
Total Nonfarm Employment	3,010.0	3,009.7	2,961.4	0.3	48.6

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

Industry	Dec-24	Nov-24	Dec-23	Change From Last Month	Change From Last Year
Mining & Logging	22.6	22.7	21.9	-0.1	0.7
Construction	185.2	188.1	180.6	-2.9	4.6
Manufacturing	150.3	148.6	149.3	1.7	1.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	522.3	514.9	518.2	7.4	4.1
Information	73.3	73.8	77.0	-0.5	-3.7
Financial Activities	184.1	183.6	184.0	0.5	0.1
Professional & Business Services	506.3	506.7	499.0	-0.4	7.3
Educational & Health Services	390.7	390.8	379.0	-0.1	11.7
Leisure & Hospitality	360.8	350.8	356.8	10.0	4.0
Other Services	129.9	130.3	128.2	-0.4	1.7
Government	503.5	506.3	488.3	-2.8	15.2
Total Nonfarm Employment	3,029.0	3,016.6	2,982.3	12.4	46.7

# County Unemployment Rates December 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	December 2024 Labor Force	December 2024 Employment	December 2024 Unemployment	December 2024 Rate	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate
Colorado	3,248,177	3,100,795	147,382	4.5	3,248,365	3,101,708	146,657	4.5

**Table 2. By Metropolitan Statistical Area**

Metropolitan Statistical Area	December 2024 Labor Force	December 2024 Employment	December 2024 Unemployment	December 2024 Rate	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate
Boulder	204,144	195,886	8,258	4.0	205,333	196,882	8,451	4.1
Colorado Springs	384,337	366,537	17,800	4.6	386,197	368,341	17,856	4.6
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood	1,738,236	1,657,422	80,814	4.6	1,750,035	1,670,986	79,049	4.5
Fort Collins	217,669	209,094	8,575	3.9	218,573	209,776	8,797	4.0
Grand Junction	76,116	72,448	3,668	4.8	76,663	73,100	3,563	4.6
Greeley	173,250	165,138	8,112	4.7	173,192	165,090	8,102	4.7
Pueblo	75,330	70,779	4,551	6.0	76,021	71,538	4,483	5.9

**Table 3. By County**

Counties	December 2024 Labor Force	December 2024 Employment	December 2024 Unemployment	December 2024 Rate	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate
Adams	284,365	269,917	14,448	5.1	285,866	271,970	13,896	4.9
Alamosa	7,653	7,277	376	4.9	7,519	7,138	381	5.1
Arapahoe	377,017	360,364	16,653	4.4	380,030	363,483	16,547	4.4
Archuleta	6,655	6,365	290	4.4	6,622	6,316	306	4.6
Baca	2,017	1,959	58	2.9	1,907	1,841	66	3.5
Bent	1,866	1,790	76	4.1	1,768	1,689	79	4.5
Boulder	204,144	195,886	8,258	4.0	205,333	196,882	8,451	4.1
Broomfield	42,962	41,018	1,944	4.5	43,308	41,414	1,894	4.4
Chaffee	10,230	9,794	436	4.3	10,222	9,777	445	4.4
Cheyenne	1,043	1,013	30	2.9	966	933	33	3.4
Clear Creek	6,180	5,917	263	4.3	6,211	5,958	253	4.1
Conejos	3,703	3,542	161	4.3	3,584	3,411	173	4.8
Costilla	1,889	1,776	113	6.0	1,830	1,723	107	5.8
Crowley	1,349	1,275	74	5.5	1,332	1,259	73	5.5
Custer	2,048	1,960	88	4.3	1,983	1,881	102	5.1
Delta	13,986	13,262	724	5.2	13,663	12,977	686	5.0
Denver	441,222	418,921	22,301	5.1	443,748	422,552	21,196	4.8
Dolores	1,059	1,013	46	4.3	1,043	995	48	4.6
Douglas	209,626	200,659	8,967	4.3	211,513	202,413	9,100	4.3
Eagle	36,618	35,321	1,297	3.5	33,604	32,088	1,516	4.5
El Paso	370,534	353,321	17,213	4.6	372,322	355,077	17,245	4.6
Elbert	15,995	15,378	617	3.9	15,933	15,291	642	4.0
Fremont	14,283	13,343	940	6.6	14,389	13,437	952	6.6
Garfield	33,277	32,044	1,233	3.7	30,921	29,624	1,297	4.2
Gilpin	3,931	3,784	147	3.7	3,952	3,809	143	3.6
Grand	10,016	9,684	332	3.3	9,262	8,907	355	3.8
Gunnison	11,893	11,467	426	3.6	11,183	10,717	466	4.2
Hinsdale	347	335	12	3.5	365	349	16	4.4
Huerfano	2,542	2,349	193	7.6	2,477	2,300	177	7.1
Jackson	826	798	28	3.4	794	764	30	3.8
Jefferson	345,301	330,290	15,011	4.3	347,839	332,915	14,924	4.3
Kiowa	843	813	30	3.6	765	734	31	4.1
Kit Carson	4,145	4,034	111	2.7	3,984	3,866	118	3.0
La Plata	31,233	29,987	1,246	4.0	30,948	29,685	1,263	4.1
Lake	5,324	5,151	173	3.2	5,022	4,831	191	3.8
Larimer	217,669	209,094	8,575	3.9	218,573	209,776	8,797	4.0
Las Animas	5,785	5,387	398	6.9	5,693	5,308	385	6.8
Lincoln	2,253	2,166	87	3.9	2,214	2,125	89	4.0
Logan	10,114	9,732	382	3.8	9,901	9,499	402	4.1
Mesa	76,116	72,448	3,668	4.8	76,663	73,100	3,563	4.6
Mineral	587	557	30	5.1	517	491	26	5.0
Moffat	7,123	6,853	270	3.8	6,965	6,702	263	3.8
Montezuma	11,627	10,996	631	5.4	11,540	10,945	595	5.2
Montrose	21,640	20,654	986	4.6	21,499	20,540	959	4.5
Morgan	15,408	14,813	595	3.9	15,159	14,552	607	4.0
Otero	7,666	7,235	431	5.6	7,471	7,036	435	5.8
Ouray	2,377	2,241	136	5.7	2,301	2,180	121	5.3
Park	11,637	11,174	463	4.0	11,635	11,181	454	3.9
Phillips	2,340	2,282	58	2.5	2,189	2,116	73	3.3
Pitkin	11,474	10,937	537	4.7	10,823	10,133	690	6.4
Prowers	6,270	6,072	198	3.2	6,091	5,866	225	3.7
Pueblo	75,330	70,779	4,551	6.0	76,021	71,538	4,483	5.9
Rio Blanco	2,652	2,542	110	4.1	2,662	2,537	125	4.7
Rio Grande	5,106	4,793	313	6.1	4,839	4,550	289	6.0
Routt	17,585	17,034	551	3.1	16,161	15,532	629	3.9
Saguache	3,366	3,205	161	4.8	3,181	3,025	156	4.9
San Juan	551	530	21	3.8	518	501	17	3.3
San Miguel	6,227	5,943	284	4.6	4,984	4,646	338	6.8
Sedgwick	1,129	1,092	37	3.3	1,067	1,024	43	4.0
Summit	25,334	24,654	680	2.7	23,326	22,604	722	3.1
Teller	13,803	13,216	587	4.3	13,875	13,264	611	4.4
Washington	2,543	2,462	81	3.2	2,396	2,304	92	3.8
Weld	173,250	165,138	8,112	4.7	173,192	165,090	8,102	4.7
Yuma	5,091	4,957	134	2.6	4,703	4,539	164	3.5

**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	December 2024 Labor Force	December 2024 Employment	December 2024 Unemployment	December 2024 Rate	December 2023 Labor Force	December 2023 Employment	December 2023 Unemployment	December 2023 Rate
Colorado	3,248,177	3,100,795	147,382	4.5	3,228,781	3,123,476	105,305	3.3

**Table 2. By Metropolitan Statistical Area**

Metropolitan Statistical Area	December 2024 Labor Force	December 2024 Employment	December 2024 Unemployment	December 2024 Rate	December 2023 Labor Force	December 2023 Employment	December 2023 Unemployment	December 2023 Rate
Boulder	204,144	195,886	8,258	4.0	204,165	198,302	5,863	2.9
Colorado Springs	384,337	366,537	17,800	4.6	380,381	367,691	12,690	3.3
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood	1,738,236	1,657,422	80,814	4.6	1,729,191	1,671,816	57,375	3.3
Fort Collins	217,669	209,094	8,575	3.9	216,346	210,213	6,133	2.8
Grand Junction	76,116	72,448	3,668	4.8	76,153	73,455	2,698	3.5
Greeley	173,250	165,138	8,112	4.7	172,178	166,454	5,724	3.3
Pueblo	75,330	70,779	4,551	6.0	75,406	71,966	3,440	4.6

**Table 3. By County**

Counties	December 2024 Labor Force	December 2024 Employment	December 2024 Unemployment	December 2024 Rate	December 2023 Labor Force	December 2023 Employment	December 2023 Unemployment	December 2023 Rate
Adams	284,365	269,917	14,448	5.1	282,126	272,097	10,029	3.6
Alamosa	7,653	7,277	376	4.9	7,853	7,552	301	3.8
Arapahoe	377,017	360,364	16,653	4.4	375,539	363,505	12,034	3.2
Archuleta	6,655	6,365	290	4.4	6,744	6,532	212	3.1
Baca	2,017	1,959	58	2.9	2,044	2,001	43	2.1
Bent	1,866	1,790	76	4.1	1,806	1,758	48	2.7
Boulder	204,144	195,886	8,258	4.0	204,165	198,302	5,863	2.9
Broomfield	42,962	41,018	1,944	4.5	42,666	41,316	1,350	3.2
Chaffee	10,230	9,794	436	4.3	9,946	9,628	318	3.2
Cheyenne	1,043	1,013	30	2.9	1,042	1,022	20	1.9
Clear Creek	6,180	5,917	263	4.3	6,149	5,976	173	2.8
Conejos	3,703	3,542	161	4.3	3,802	3,680	122	3.2
Costilla	1,889	1,776	113	6.0	1,842	1,757	85	4.6
Crowley	1,349	1,275	74	5.5	1,350	1,297	53	3.9
Custer	2,048	1,960	88	4.3	2,162	2,098	64	3.0
Delta	13,986	13,262	724	5.2	13,615	13,103	512	3.8
Denver	441,222	418,921	22,301	5.1	438,477	422,522	15,955	3.6
Dolores	1,059	1,013	46	4.3	1,081	1,055	26	2.4
Douglas	209,626	200,659	8,967	4.3	208,510	202,323	6,187	3.0
Eagle	36,618	35,321	1,297	3.5	36,435	35,490	945	2.6
El Paso	370,534	353,321	17,213	4.6	366,645	354,386	12,259	3.3
Elbert	15,995	15,378	617	3.9	16,014	15,572	442	2.8
Fremont	14,283	13,343	940	6.6	14,140	13,444	696	4.9
Garfield	33,277	32,044	1,233	3.7	32,553	31,638	915	2.8
Gilpin	3,931	3,784	147	3.7	3,932	3,825	107	2.7
Grand	10,016	9,684	332	3.3	9,767	9,521	246	2.5
Gunnison	11,893	11,467	426	3.6	11,820	11,526	294	2.5
Hinsdale	347	335	12	3.5	354	345	9	2.5
Huerfano	2,542	2,349	193	7.6	2,483	2,341	142	5.7
Jackson	826	798	28	3.4	859	841	18	2.1
Jefferson	345,301	330,290	15,011	4.3	344,113	333,339	10,774	3.1
Kiowa	843	813	30	3.6	863	847	16	1.9
Kit Carson	4,145	4,034	111	2.7	4,092	4,024	68	1.7
La Plata	31,233	29,987	1,246	4.0	30,981	30,056	925	3.0
Lake	5,324	5,151	173	3.2	5,153	5,021	132	2.6
Larimer	217,669	209,094	8,575	3.9	216,346	210,213	6,133	2.8
Las Animas	5,785	5,387	398	6.9	5,931	5,627	304	5.1
Lincoln	2,253	2,166	87	3.9	2,198	2,141	57	2.6
Logan	10,114	9,732	382	3.8	10,047	9,797	250	2.5
Mesa	76,116	72,448	3,668	4.8	76,153	73,455	2,698	3.5
Mineral	587	557	30	5.1	540	529	11	2.0
Moffat	7,123	6,853	270	3.8	7,006	6,781	225	3.2
Montezuma	11,627	10,996	631	5.4	11,811	11,321	490	4.1
Montrose	21,640	20,654	986	4.6	21,276	20,571	705	3.3
Morgan	15,408	14,813	595	3.9	15,285	14,849	436	2.9
Otero	7,666	7,235	431	5.6	7,688	7,392	296	3.9
Ouray	2,377	2,241	136	5.7	2,353	2,282	71	3.0
Park	11,637	11,174	463	4.0	11,665	11,341	324	2.8
Phillips	2,340	2,282	58	2.5	2,374	2,331	43	1.8
Pitkin	11,474	10,937	537	4.7	11,188	10,830	358	3.2
Prowers	6,270	6,072	198	3.2	6,177	6,025	152	2.5
Pueblo	75,330	70,779	4,551	6.0	75,406	71,966	3,440	4.6
Rio Blanco	2,652	2,542	110	4.1	2,706	2,621	85	3.1
Rio Grande	5,106	4,793	313	6.1	5,156	4,900	256	5.0
Routt	17,585	17,034	551	3.1	16,920	16,519	401	2.4
Saguache	3,366	3,205	161	4.8	3,340	3,223	117	3.5
San Juan	551	530	21	3.8	519	502	17	3.3
San Miguel	6,227	5,943	284	4.6	6,108	5,905	203	3.3
Sedgwick	1,129	1,092	37	3.3	1,107	1,070	37	3.3
Summit	25,334	24,654	680	2.7	24,576	24,080	496	2.0
Teller	13,803	13,216	587	4.3	13,736	13,305	431	3.1
Washington	2,543	2,462	81	3.2	2,624	2,563	61	2.3
Weld	173,250	165,138	8,112	4.7	172,178	166,454	5,724	3.3
Yuma	5,091	4,957	134	2.6	5,242	5,141	101	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	December 2024 Labor Force	December 2024 Employment	December 2024 Unemployment	December 2024 Rate	November 2024 Labor Force	November 2024 Employment	November 2024 Unemployment	November 2024 Rate
Arvada	71,502	68,347	3,155	4.4	72,061	68,890	3,171	4.4
Aurora	211,157	201,156	10,001	4.7	212,756	202,875	9,881	4.6
Boulder	68,216	65,670	2,546	3.7	68,870	66,004	2,866	4.2
Brighton	21,032	19,880	1,152	5.5	21,149	20,025	1,124	5.3
Castle Rock	39,791	37,932	1,859	4.7	40,071	38,263	1,808	4.5
Centennial	65,250	62,634	2,616	4.0	65,813	63,176	2,637	4.0
Colorado Springs	257,025	245,315	11,710	4.6	258,139	246,534	11,605	4.5
Commerce City	31,493	29,621	1,872	5.9	31,488	29,847	1,641	5.2
Englewood	21,985	21,009	976	4.4	22,188	21,191	997	4.5
Erie	18,914	18,165	749	4.0	18,934	18,204	730	3.9
Fort Collins	105,284	101,382	3,902	3.7	105,821	101,712	4,109	3.9
Fountain	14,031	13,379	652	4.6	14,130	13,446	684	4.8
Grand Junction	30,716	29,203	1,513	4.9	30,947	29,466	1,481	4.8
Greeley	53,172	50,563	2,609	4.9	53,250	50,549	2,701	5.1
Lafayette	18,274	17,535	739	4.0	18,352	17,624	728	4.0
Lakewood	90,264	85,998	4,266	4.7	90,831	86,681	4,150	4.6
Littleton	25,915	24,821	1,094	4.2	26,168	25,034	1,134	4.3
Longmont	58,026	55,346	2,680	4.6	58,166	55,624	2,542	4.4
Loveland	48,270	46,243	2,027	4.2	48,430	46,394	2,036	4.2
Northglenn	21,943	20,785	1,158	5.3	22,018	20,943	1,075	4.9
Parker	35,182	33,652	1,530	4.3	35,446	33,946	1,500	4.2
Pueblo	48,107	44,930	3,177	6.6	48,476	45,412	3,064	6.3
Thornton	84,379	80,661	3,718	4.4	85,041	81,274	3,767	4.4
Westminster	68,526	65,365	3,161	4.6	68,985	65,872	3,113	4.5
Wheat Ridge	17,833	16,898	935	5.2	17,912	17,033	879	4.9
Windsor	15,977	15,284	693	4.3	15,984	15,292	692	4.3

**Table 2. Over the Year**

Area	December 2024 Labor Force	December 2024 Employment	December 2024 Unemployment	December 2024 Rate	December 2023 Labor Force	December 2023 Employment	December 2023 Unemployment	December 2023 Rate
Arvada	71,502	68,347	3,155	4.4	71,276	68,976	2,300	3.2
Aurora	211,157	201,156	10,001	4.7	210,074	202,895	7,179	3.4
Boulder	68,216	65,670	2,546	3.7	68,261	66,480	1,781	2.6
Brighton	21,032	19,880	1,152	5.5	20,797	20,041	756	3.6
Castle Rock	39,791	37,932	1,859	4.7	39,489	38,246	1,243	3.1
Centennial	65,250	62,634	2,616	4.0	65,007	63,180	1,827	2.8
Colorado Springs	257,025	245,315	11,710	4.6	254,289	246,054	8,235	3.2
Commerce City	31,493	29,621	1,872	5.9	31,000	29,861	1,139	3.7
Englewood	21,985	21,009	976	4.4	21,899	21,192	707	3.2
Erie	18,914	18,165	749	4.0	18,909	18,346	563	3.0
Fort Collins	105,284	101,382	3,902	3.7	104,800	101,924	2,876	2.7
Fountain	14,031	13,379	652	4.6	13,892	13,419	473	3.4
Grand Junction	30,716	29,203	1,513	4.9	30,693	29,609	1,084	3.5
Greeley	53,172	50,563	2,609	4.9	52,778	50,966	1,812	3.4
Lafayette	18,274	17,535	739	4.0	18,316	17,751	565	3.1
Lakewood	90,264	85,998	4,266	4.7	89,891	86,792	3,099	3.4
Littleton	25,915	24,821	1,094	4.2	25,832	25,037	795	3.1
Longmont	58,026	55,346	2,680	4.6	57,895	56,026	1,869	3.2
Loveland	48,270	46,243	2,027	4.2	47,923	46,491	1,432	3.0
Northglenn	21,943	20,785	1,158	5.3	21,754	20,953	801	3.7
Parker	35,182	33,652	1,530	4.3	34,939	33,931	1,008	2.9
Pueblo	48,107	44,930	3,177	6.6	48,065	45,684	2,381	5.0
Thornton	84,379	80,661	3,718	4.4	84,006	81,312	2,694	3.2
Westminster	68,526	65,365	3,161	4.6	68,323	65,925	2,398	3.5
Wheat Ridge	17,833	16,898	935	5.2	17,712	17,054	658	3.7
Windsor	15,977	15,284	693	4.3	15,873	15,397	476	3.0