



# AEROSPACE

*Colorado: Home to some of  
the most intelligent life in  
the galaxy.*



- full report -

2020



Often called a “center of influence,” the Metro Denver EDC was the nation’s first regional economic development organization. From Castle Rock to Fort Collins and Golden to Greeley, we represent the nine counties and 66 communities that contribute to our resilient economy and incredible culture. All told, the EDC’s service territory makes up two-thirds of the Colorado GDP and approximately three-quarters of the state’s population.

Thanks to the leadership and generosity of 250 of Colorado’s most influential companies, the EDC works to monitor and advance the Metro Denver economy through corporate attraction and retention; workforce development; domestic and global marketing; investments in infrastructure; and public policy that fosters a pro-business climate.

The data we produce is foundational to the work we do. Publications like our annual Industry Cluster Studies offer the companies we court (as well as the regional partners we support) a deeper understanding of what’s happening across Metro Denver, and for certain industries, the state more broadly. We track this data closely – leveraging the intel and insights to not only drive corporate recruitment and investment, but foster competition, build a culture of impact and innovation, strengthen the business community and work to ensure that life and work in Metro Denver are thriving.

*- Aerospace Report -*

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# AEROSPACE

**INDUSTRY**  
*snapshot*  
(U.S. DATA IN PARENTHESES)

<b>Companies</b>	<b>Average Wage</b>	<b>*Emp. Ranking</b>
290	\$142,990	1 <small>*Employment Concentration Ranking</small>

<b>Direct Employment:</b> 33,460	<b>Direct Employment Concentration (2020):</b> 1.1% (0.2%)	<b>5-Year Employment Growth (2015-2020):</b> 30.1% (18.4%)	<b>1-Year Employment Growth (2020):</b> 10.0% (3.7%)
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## Industry Overview

With the highest concentration of private aerospace workers in the nation, the Aerospace Cluster is a critical driver of Colorado's economic growth. Colorado's aerospace companies provide cutting-edge technology to top contractors in the state, including products for earth observation, remote sensing, space exploration and human spacecraft for commercial, military and civil space applications. Colorado companies also produce planetary spacecraft and launch systems, from research and development to launch and mission support. The state has the nation's second-largest aerospace economy behind California, with 290 businesses classified as aerospace companies and over 500 aerospace companies and suppliers providing space-related products and services. 2020 was a blockbuster year for aerospace employment growth, and the industry was the fastest-growing cluster in the Metro Denver region.

The majority of Colorado's key aerospace businesses, facilities, and research institutions are located in the nine-county Metro Denver and Northern Colorado region, comprised of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld counties. The region's 26,680 private sector aerospace workers represent 80% of all aerospace workers in Colorado. The region is home to more than 200 aerospace companies, representing nearly 69% of the state's total companies in the cluster.

The state is home to major U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) facilities, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) research and development activities and the Colorado Air and Space Port in Adams County. NASA activity in Colorado generates more than \$4.5 billion in total economic impact annually, supporting close to 23,000 jobs. Colorado has the second-highest share of program impacts among all states for NASA's Moon to Mars program, which supports 12,420 jobs statewide.

In 2019 the U.S. DoD reestablished U.S. Space Command, with its temporary headquarters located at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado Springs, the site of the first U.S. Space Command. Additionally, the U.S. Navy plans to relocate its Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) from California to Jefferson County in conjunction with Lockheed Martin, the Navy's prime contractor for the program.

## Cluster Definition

In this report, the Aerospace Cluster is defined by 19, six-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes including search, detection and navigation instrument manufacturing; guided missile and space vehicle manufacturing; satellite telecommunications; and research and development. This definition allows for a comparative analysis of Colorado and the Metro Denver and Northern Colorado region's aerospace industry clusters relative to other states and metropolitan regions. This definition also avoids double-counting workers in other adjacent technology clusters such as information technology and aviation.

# Cluster Job Growth

- Colorado aerospace employment grew 10% between 2019 and 2020 registering six consecutive years of growth.
- Employment increased by 30.1% over the past five years, outpacing nationwide growth by nearly 12 percentage points.
- 33,460 employees worked at 290 Colorado aerospace companies.
- Colorado ranked first in the nation for private aerospace concentration and second for total private aerospace employment.
- 62,270 private and military workers in the Aerospace Cluster support an additional 170,340 workers in all industries throughout Colorado, bringing direct and indirect employment supported by the Aerospace Cluster to 232,610 workers.
- 63% of Colorado’s aerospace companies have 10 or fewer employees.

# Major Industry Investments, Expansions & Milestones

- Japanese aerospace company **ispace U.S. Technologies** chose Denver for its headquarters to grow and develop a lunar lander designed to help establish industries on the moon.
- **Lockheed Martin Space** added about 400 new hires throughout Colorado. The company also expects to fill about 500 positions in Metro Denver, which are concentrated in various engineering disciplines.
- **Northrop Grumman** plans to add hundreds of new jobs across Metro Denver and Colorado Springs. The company currently has 350 open positions and will increase that number as it works on new nuclear missile systems and satellite instruments.
- **Barber-Nichols Inc.** began construction on a new 43,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Arvada, which will improve efficiency by consolidating machining, quality control and manufacturing support operations.
- **Raytheon Technologies Corp.** will hire 200 workers in Aurora and expects to continue adding jobs as a part of a larger plan to add 400-500 positions by 2024.
- Luxembourg-headquartered **Kleos Space S.A.** plans to open its principal U.S. engineering office in Denver. The company could create up to 100 jobs as it continues to expand in the area.
- **L3Harris** plans to hire 100 workers in Colorado Springs over the next year to work on a \$1.2 billion, 10-year U.S. Space Force Space and Missile Systems Center contract to modernize the way U.S. Space Force tracks activities and objects in space.

- **General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems** (GA-EMS) opened a new 33,514-square-foot spacecraft development, integration and test factory in Centennial, tripling GA-EMS’ capacity for satellite production, integration and testing for single to constellation-sized orders.
- **York Space Systems** opened its new spacecraft production facility in Denver that triples its existing footprint and will expedite the mass manufacturing of the company’s spacecraft platform.
- Arvada-based **Special Aerospace Services LLC** (SAS) expanded its manufacturing facility and added specialized equipment within its SAS Flight Factory to undertake classified work and strengthen its aerospace supply chain.
- **The Aerospace Corporation** broke ground on a \$100 million second state-of-the-art research and development facility in Colorado Springs. The 90,000-square-foot facility will be completed in 2022 and house an additional 200 technical employees.
- A new \$148 million **Combined Space Operations Facility** will be built at Schriever Space Force Base to accommodate growing demand for classified space work. The project is slated for completion in 2022.
- Lafayette-based **Blue Canyon Technologies** built a new 80,000-square-foot satellite manufacturing facility designed to produce 100 satellites a year. In 2020 **Raytheon Technologies** acquired Blue Canyon, and the company will continue to operate out of its Boulder and Lafayette locations and retain its existing workforce.
- Longmont-based **Roccor LLC** was acquired by **Redwire LLC**. Roccor will remain headquartered in Longmont and plans to expand its workforce from about 80 to more than 100 in 2021.
- **Ball Aerospace** has submitted preliminary plans for three new buildings at its Boulder campus, adding 375,000 square feet to the existing 27-acre site.

# Major Contract Awards

- **United Launch Alliance** (ULA) was awarded a firm, fixed-price, indefinite-delivery contract by the U.S. Space Force to launch 60% of the missions on its newest launch procurement contract to launch critical national security space missions.
- **Lockheed Martin Space** was awarded a \$473.8 million contract for the U.S. Navy’s Trident II nuclear missiles through 2026. Nearly 80% of the work will be based in Jefferson County.
- The U.S. Space Force added \$378 million for **Raytheon Technologies Corp.** to shift its hardware provider for its Colorado-based global positioning systems contract.
- **Maxar Technologies Inc.** was awarded \$49 million by the U.S. Army Geospatial Center to create portable tactical ground systems to enable geospatial intelligence data downlinks from satellites to users in remote locations.
- NASA awarded **Lockheed Martin** \$89.7 million for an in-space demonstration mission to test more than a dozen cryogenic fluid management technologies, positioning them for infusion into future space systems.



# Major Contractors

Nine of the country’s major space contractors have a significant presence in Colorado. These companies support the DoD to procure, place and manage national space assets for the military. They also provide manned and unmanned spacecraft, instrumentation and ground-control services for NASA and other agencies.



## Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.

[www.ballaerospace.com](http://www.ballaerospace.com)

Based in Boulder, Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. provides support of space and Earth science, space exploration, national security and intelligence, and tactical programs. Ball Aerospace creates innovative space solutions, enables more accurate weather forecasts, drives insightful observations of our planet and delivers actionable data and intelligence.



## Boeing

[www.boeing.com](http://www.boeing.com)

Metro Denver is home to the company’s Digital Solutions and Analytics division based in Englewood and the Boeing Denver Engineering Center in Aurora. Located in Colorado Springs with operations at Schriever Space Force Base, the Boeing Mission Operations Support Center maintains satellite ground control system test environments and solutions. Boeing also has leading missile and weapon systems programs in Colorado, including the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system, the nation’s only homeland defense against long-range ballistic missile attacks.



## L3Harris Technologies, Inc.

[www.l3harris.com](http://www.l3harris.com)

L3Harris Technologies, Inc. provides advanced defense and commercial technologies across air, land, sea, space and cyber domains. The company has offices across Colorado, including Broomfield and Colorado Springs. Colorado is a key location for the Applied Defense Solutions segment, which provides aerospace engineering, software development and space situational awareness.



## Lockheed Martin

[www.lockheedmartin.com](http://www.lockheedmartin.com)

Lockheed Martin develops products ranging from human space flight systems and navigation, meteorological and communications satellites to ground station and missile defense systems. The Lockheed Martin Space unit headquartered in Jefferson County designs, develops, tests and manufactures advanced technology systems for its government, international and commercial customers.



## Maxar Technologies

[www.maxar.com](http://www.maxar.com)

Headquartered in Westminster, Maxar Technologies is a global innovator in Earth intelligence and space infrastructure. The company delivers systems to help monitor, understand and navigate Earth, delivers global broadband communications, and explores and advances the use of space. The company provides vertically integrated capabilities and expertise including satellites, Earth imagery, robotics, geospatial data and analytics to help customers anticipate and address mission-critical challenges.



## Northrop Grumman

[www.northropgrumman.com](http://www.northropgrumman.com)

Northrop Grumman provides a range of products and services in autonomous systems; cyber; command, control, communications and computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR); space strike; and logistics and modernization. The company also works with advanced aircraft, unmanned aircraft vehicles, naval vessels and space technology.



## Raytheon

[www.rtx.com](http://www.rtx.com)

Aurora serves as a major hub for Raytheon Technologies Corp.’s Intelligence & Space division that provides satellite ground-control system development and data management specialties. The company develops technologically advanced and integrated products, services and solutions across integrated air and missile defense; electronic warfare; command, control, communications, computers, cyber, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and space systems.



## Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC)

[www.sncorp.com](http://www.sncorp.com)

Sierra Nevada Corporation’s (SNC) Space Systems business area, located in Louisville, develops subsystems and components for space applications; is a prime contractor for small satellites; and owns and operates the *Dream Chaser*® spacecraft. The company’s two Centennial divisions – the ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance), Aviation, and Security (IAS) and the Electronic and Information Systems (EIS) – provide products and services for a variety of airborne systems.



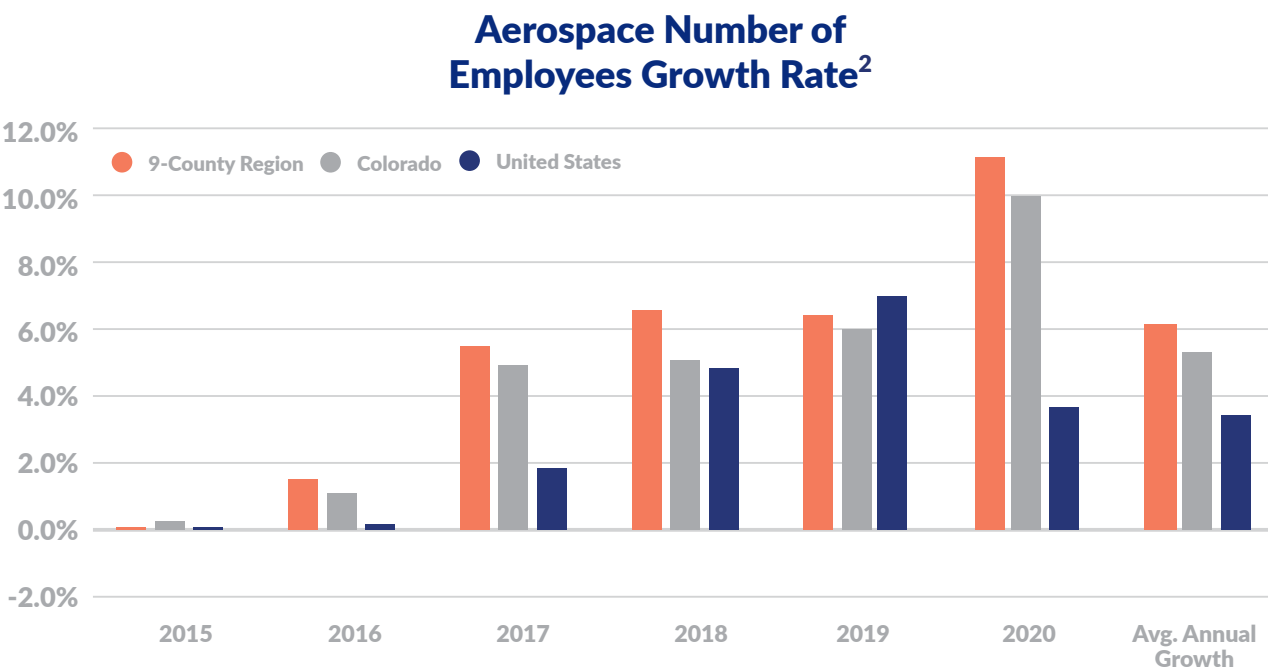
## United Launch Alliance (ULA)

[www.ulalaunch.com](http://www.ulalaunch.com)

With more than a century of combined heritage, United Launch Alliance (ULA) is the nation’s most experienced and reliable launch service provider. ULA employs nearly half of its workforce at its Centennial headquarters. ULA’s program management, engineering and mission support functions are concentrated in Colorado. This includes development of ULA’s new Vulcan Centaur rocket.

# Economic Profile

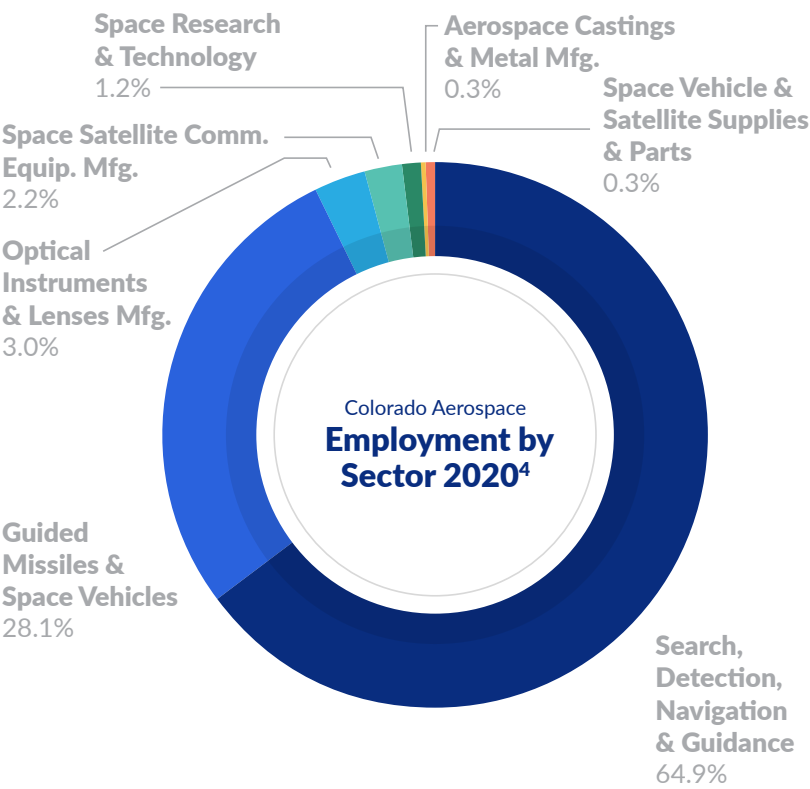
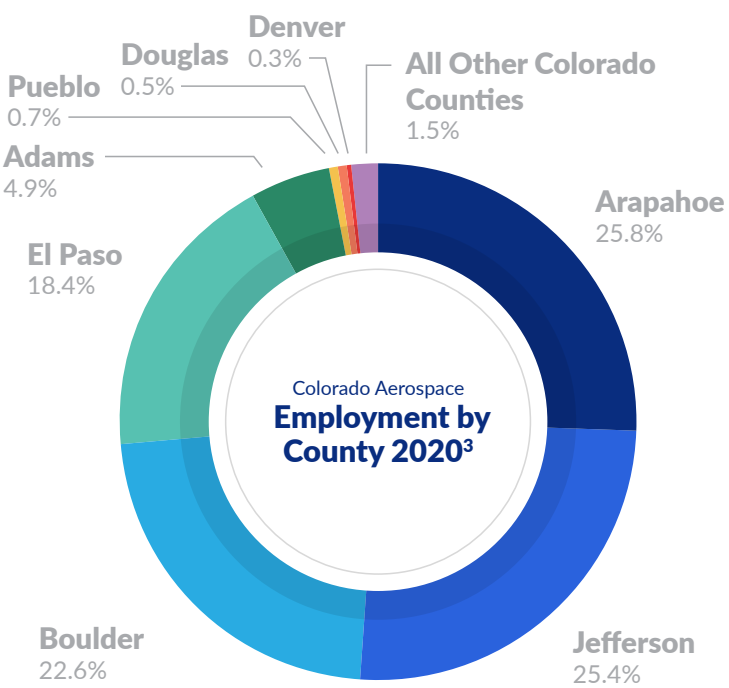
Aerospace Employment and Company Profile 2020 <sup>1</sup>			
	9-County Region	Colorado	U.S.A.
Direct employment, 2020	26,680	33,460	384,270
Number of direct companies, 2020	200	290	6,230
One-year direct employment growth, 2019-2020	11.2%	10.0%	3.7%
Five-year direct employment growth, 2015-2020	35.3%	30.1%	18.4%
Avg. annual direct employment growth, 2015-2020	6.2%	5.4%	3.4%
Direct employment concentration	1.2%	1.1%	0.2%
% of companies with <10 employees	59.2%	62.8%	64.9%



<sup>1</sup> Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., Hoover's Online Database; Market Analysis Profile, 2015-2020; Development Research Partners.

<sup>2</sup> Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., Hoover's Online Database; Market Analysis Profile, 2015-2020.

<sup>3</sup> Market Analysis Profile, 2020; Development Research Partners.



<sup>4</sup> Market Analysis Profile, 2020; Development Research Partners.

<sup>5</sup> Direct employment rank based on the number of employees in the industry cluster in a state. Employment concentration rank based on the direct cluster employment in a state expressed as a percent of total employment in all industries in the same state. Rankings are for the 50 states. No multiplier effects are included. 1st = highest for both rankings.

**9-County RANKINGS<sup>5</sup>**

**1st**  
Aerospace direct employment

**1st**  
Aerospace direct employment concentration

## Private Aerospace Workforce Profile

Colorado has the nation's second-most highly educated workforce, ranking behind Massachusetts among the percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher. The state's robust educational system and research centers are preparing the future aerospace workforce.

- **The University of Colorado Boulder** is the top public university for NASA research funding in the U.S., accounting for 5.2% of the total awards to educational institutions in fiscal year 2019.
- **CU Boulder** is also a leading university for training astronauts and providing a pipeline of qualified aerospace workers, with its aerospace engineering sciences graduate program ranked among the top 10 in 2020. (*U.S. News & World Report*).
- **Metropolitan State University of Denver's** Aerospace Engineering Science Building houses multiple disciplines to answer the advanced manufacturing workforce needs of the aviation and aerospace industries.
- **The Colorado School of Mines** Space Resources Program is the world's first multi-disciplinary graduate program in the developing field of space resources.
- In 2020, the **Space Foundation**, based in Colorado Springs, launched its Center for Innovation and Education to provide awareness, training, connections and mentorship to qualified individuals looking to work in the space industry.
- **The University of Colorado-Colorado Springs** is designated as the Space Education Consortium's lead university to educate the nation's future aerospace workforce.
- **The U.S. Air Force Academy** offers the No. 3 undergraduate program in aerospace engineering where a doctoral degree is not offered in 2020. (*U.S. News & World Report*)

<sup>6</sup> Direct employment rank based on the number of employees in the industry cluster in a state or region. Employment concentration rank based on the direct cluster employment in a state or region expressed as a percent of total employment in all industries in the same state or region. Rankings are for the 50 largest metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) and 50 states. No multiplier effects are included. 1st = highest for both rankings.

<sup>7</sup> Provided by Arapahoe/Douglas Works! QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, & Self Employed - EMSI 2020.3 Class of Worker.

<sup>8</sup> Provided by Arapahoe/Douglas Works! QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, & Self Employed - EMSI 2020.3 Class of Worker.

## Age Distribution

- The Aerospace Cluster has a larger share of employees between the ages of 35 and 64 years old (69.8%) compared with the age distribution across all industries in the state (57.9%).

- The largest share of workers in the Aerospace Cluster were between the ages of 45 and 54 years old.

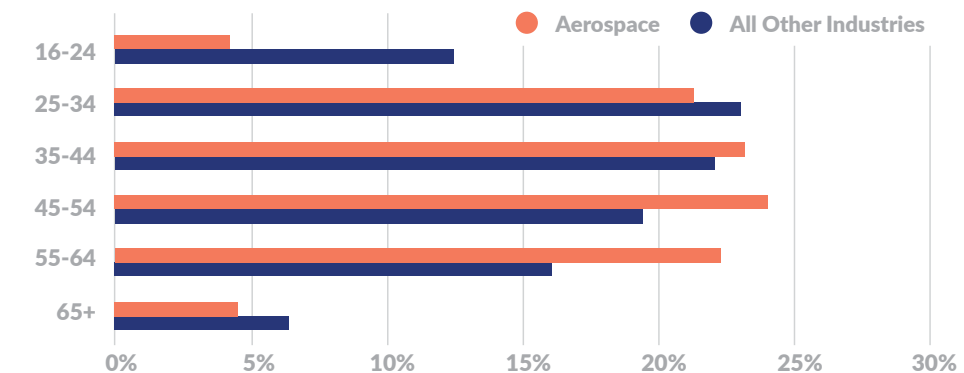
## Wages

- Wages in the Aerospace Cluster are among the highest across all industry clusters: the 2019 average annual salary was \$142,990, compared with \$111,430 nationwide, or 28.3% more than the national average.
- The average starting salary for workers in the Aerospace Cluster was \$62,010 in the state, compared with \$37,350 across all industries.
- Total Colorado aerospace payroll exceeded \$4.3 billion in 2019.

## Occupation & Salary Profile

The Occupation & Salary Profile below includes the 10 largest aerospace occupations in the state. For these 10 largest occupations, the chart details the total number of workers employed in that occupation across all industries, the number of available applicants that would like to be working in that occupation, the number of recent graduates that are qualified for that occupation and the median and sample percentile annual salaries.

## Colorado's Distribution of Employment by Age<sup>7</sup>



## Colorado Aerospace Occupation & Salary Profile, 2020<sup>8</sup>

10 Largest Aerospace Occupations in Colorado	Total Working Across All Industries (2020)	Number of Available Applicants (2020)	Number of Graduates (2019)	Median Salary	10th Percentile Salary	25th Percentile Salary	75th Percentile Salary	90th Percentile Salary
1. Software developers & software quality assurance analysts & testers	47,384	3,342	2,576	\$109,696	\$66,361	\$85,113	\$135,746	\$162,404
2. Project management specialists & business operations specialists, all other	53,054	3,742	50	\$79,354	\$44,765	\$57,897	\$106,651	\$138,443
3. Electrical, electronic, & electromechanical assemblers, except coil winders, tapers, & finishers	5,766	407	78	\$35,108	\$25,905	\$29,591	\$43,021	\$54,116
4. Electronics engineers, except computer	6,348	448	588	\$109,509	\$69,896	\$85,869	\$142,796	\$166,295
5. Aerospace engineers	2,343	165	324	\$119,612	\$72,261	\$90,838	\$157,941	\$190,469
6. Mechanical engineers	5,833	411	1,292	\$93,029	\$57,603	\$71,942	\$123,066	\$164,612
7. Industrial engineers	3,932	277	13	\$98,277	\$65,018	\$78,281	\$123,914	\$152,657
8. Computer hardware engineers	4,851	342	132	\$117,318	\$68,492	\$89,610	\$147,955	\$177,177
9. General & operations managers	40,993	2,891	11,102	\$109,474	\$49,232	\$69,899	\$173,385	\$249,862
10. Buyers & purchasing agents	10,158	716	96	\$64,136	\$35,984	\$46,933	\$85,601	\$109,703

**Notes:** The number of available applicants is a point-in-time measurement of the number of people who have registered in Colorado's workforce development system's statewide database, Connecting Colorado, as being able and available to work in a particular occupation. Results should be interpreted with caution since registration in Connecting Colorado is self-reported. In addition, the skills rubric may assign up to four occupation codes for each registrant. Therefore, the number of available applicants could be inflated.



# Military Aerospace Profile

Colorado is the U.S. center for national security space and is home to one of the highest concentrations of high-ranking military positions in the nation. Many aerospace and defense firms have located near the diverse mix of DoD military installations and major command centers. The state’s military assets generate an annual economic impact of approximately \$36.6 billion, or just over 7% of the state’s total economic output. Defense-related economic activity directly and indirectly supports about 247,000 jobs, or 7.5% of the state’s workforce.

Colorado is also rapidly becoming a national leader in cybersecurity commerce, employment, and innovation, with the National Cybersecurity Center located in Colorado Springs. The state is home to leading cybersecurity firms, including recognized names such as **Optiv**, **LogRhythm**, **Ping Identity** and **Webroot**. Colorado also boasts one of the only cybersecurity-focused accelerators in the nation, **Darkfield**.

## Major Military Installations

- **Buckley Space Force Base** in Aurora is home to the Buckley Garrison of the United States Space Force (formerly 460th Space Wing) and supports over 85 tenant organizations that represent all branches of the military. The base is also home to the Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado, one of the nation’s three satellite ground stations operated by the National Reconnaissance Office. Buckley is home to the only space-based missile warning system in the nation. The base also hosts the Colorado Air National Guard 120th Fighter Squadron and its F-16C fighters and has an annual economic impact of nearly \$1.3 billion to the region.
- Space Force Bases in Colorado Springs include Peterson Space Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station, and Schriever Space Force Base.
- The U.S. Space Force’s **Peterson-Schriever Garrison** (formerly 21st and 50th Space Wings) was stood up at **Peterson Space Force Base** in 2020.
- **Peterson Space Force Base** is also the home of NORAD, USNORTHCOM, SMDC/ARSTRAT, the 302nd Airlift Wing, and a number of smaller tenant units.
- **Schriever Space Force Base** is home to the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center, the Missile Defense Integration

and Operations Center, the 310th Space Wing, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade, the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense and numerous tenant organizations. In addition to tracking and maintaining the command and control, warning, navigational and communications satellites for the U.S. Space Command, Schriever Space Force Base also performs diverse cyberspace operations.

- Following the U.S. Space Force’s deactivation of some former U.S. Air Force space wings and replacement with Space Deltas and Garrisons, seven of the eight newly created Space Deltas are located in Colorado:

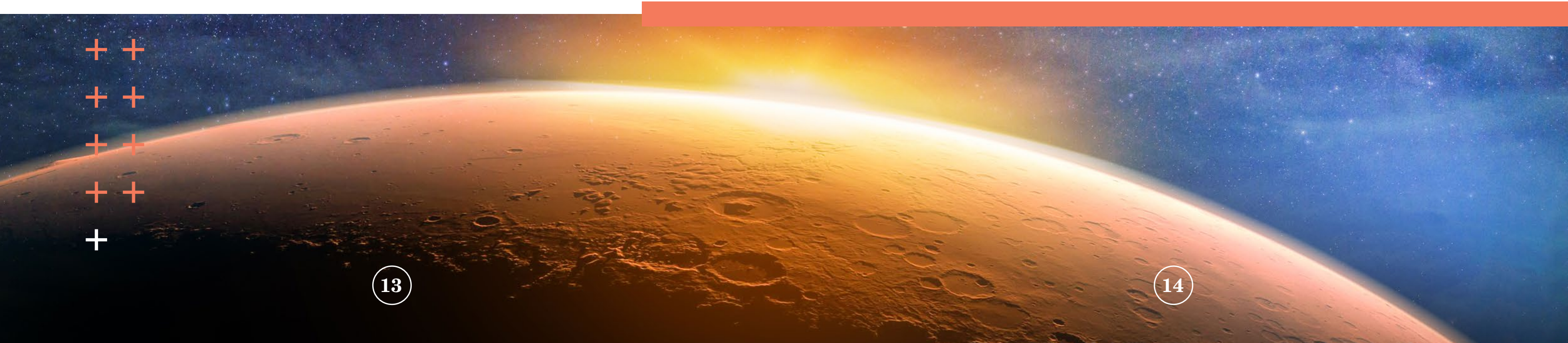
- **Space Delta 2** is focused on space domain awareness and is housed at Peterson Space Force Base.
- **Space Delta 3** is focused on electronic warfare and is housed at Peterson Space Force Base.
- **Space Delta 4** is focused on missile warning and replaces the 460th Operations Group at Buckley Space Force Base.
- **Space Delta 6** focuses on cyberspace operations and replaces the 50th Network Operations Group at Schriever Space Force Base.
- **Space Delta 7** focuses on intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance at Peterson Space Force Base.
- **Space Delta 8** is focused on satellite communications and navigation warfare and replaces the 50th Operations Group at Schriever Space Force Base.
- **Space Delta 9** focuses on orbital warfare and is housed at Schriever Space Force Base.

- **Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station** in Colorado Springs hosts the NORAD and USNORTHCOM Alternate Command Center and other national security activities.

- **The United States Air Force Academy** in Colorado Springs was established in 1954 as an accredited college to educate officers in the U.S. Air Force. The 10th Air Base Wing is the host wing for the Air Force Academy and provides base-level support activities including medical, law enforcement and force protection, engineering, communications, logistics, military and civilian personnel and financial management with 30 programs of study and 19 research centers and institutes.

Defense and Aerospace-Related Personnel Profile, 2020	
Government Installation	Personnel
Buckley Space Force Base	10,290
Peterson Complex*	7,650
U.S. Air Force Academy	7,730
Schriever Space Force Base	3,150
Total Employment	28,820

\*Peterson Complex total includes personnel at Peterson Space Force Base and Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station (including NORAD, USNORTHCOM, AFSPC, and SMDC/ARSTRAT).





# Industry Infrastructure Support

Colorado's state leadership is actively engaged in efforts to support and expand the state's aerospace industry. Colorado's congressional delegation works to provide a long-term, coordinated and unified approach to ensure continued investment in the state's academic, military and commercial aerospace infrastructure. Maj. Gen. Jay H. Lindell serves as Colorado's state-appointed Aerospace and Defense Industry Champion, and in 2015 the Colorado Legislature formed a bipartisan Aerospace and Defense Caucus. In addition:



## *The Colorado Space Coalition (CSC)*

The Colorado Space Coalition (CSC) is an initiative of the Metro Denver EDC and comprises a broad range of industry stakeholders who work to promote Colorado as a leading aerospace state. Coalition members – including aerospace companies, academic groups and economic development organizations – promote Colorado's significant aerospace assets nationally and advance legislation vital to industry growth and success.



## *The Colorado Space Business Roundtable (CSBR)*

The Colorado Space Business Roundtable (CSBR) is an independent, nonprofit organization promoting the growth of space and space-related industry in Colorado, with particular focus on small space businesses. CSBR members include a broad cross-section of the Colorado space community that supports the space industry with services, advocacy and procurement.



## *The Colorado Chapter of Aerospace States Association*

The Colorado Chapter of the Aerospace States Association is comprised of the CSC, the CSBR and the Colorado Chapter of Citizens for Space Exploration. The partnership collaborates on industry events, outreach and advocacy efforts in support of federal aerospace and aviation policy development. Colorado Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera serves as national Vice Chair of the Aerospace States Association.



## *The Space Foundation*

The Space Foundation, a Colorado Springs-based organization, is a global nonprofit advocate for the advancement of space-related endeavors to inspire, educate, connect and advocate for the global space community. Founded in 1983, the Space Foundation develops objective space awareness for government, industry and the public, and is a recognized leader in educational space programs and major industry events. The Space Foundation also hosts the annual Space Symposium, the premier gathering of the global space community.



## *The Colorado Chapter for Citizens for Space Exploration*

The Colorado Chapter for Citizens for Space Exploration comprises private citizens, small business owners, students, teachers, space and non-space business representatives and county and municipal officials. The Chapter actively promotes awareness of the benefits of America's Human Space Exploration Program and support for NASA.



## *The American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics (AIAA)*

The American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics (AIAA) Rocky Mountain Section represents aerospace technical professionals, students and educators in Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Members advance innovation and technical excellence through monthly programs, university chapters, policy advocacy, public outreach, STEM education, technical committees and professional development.

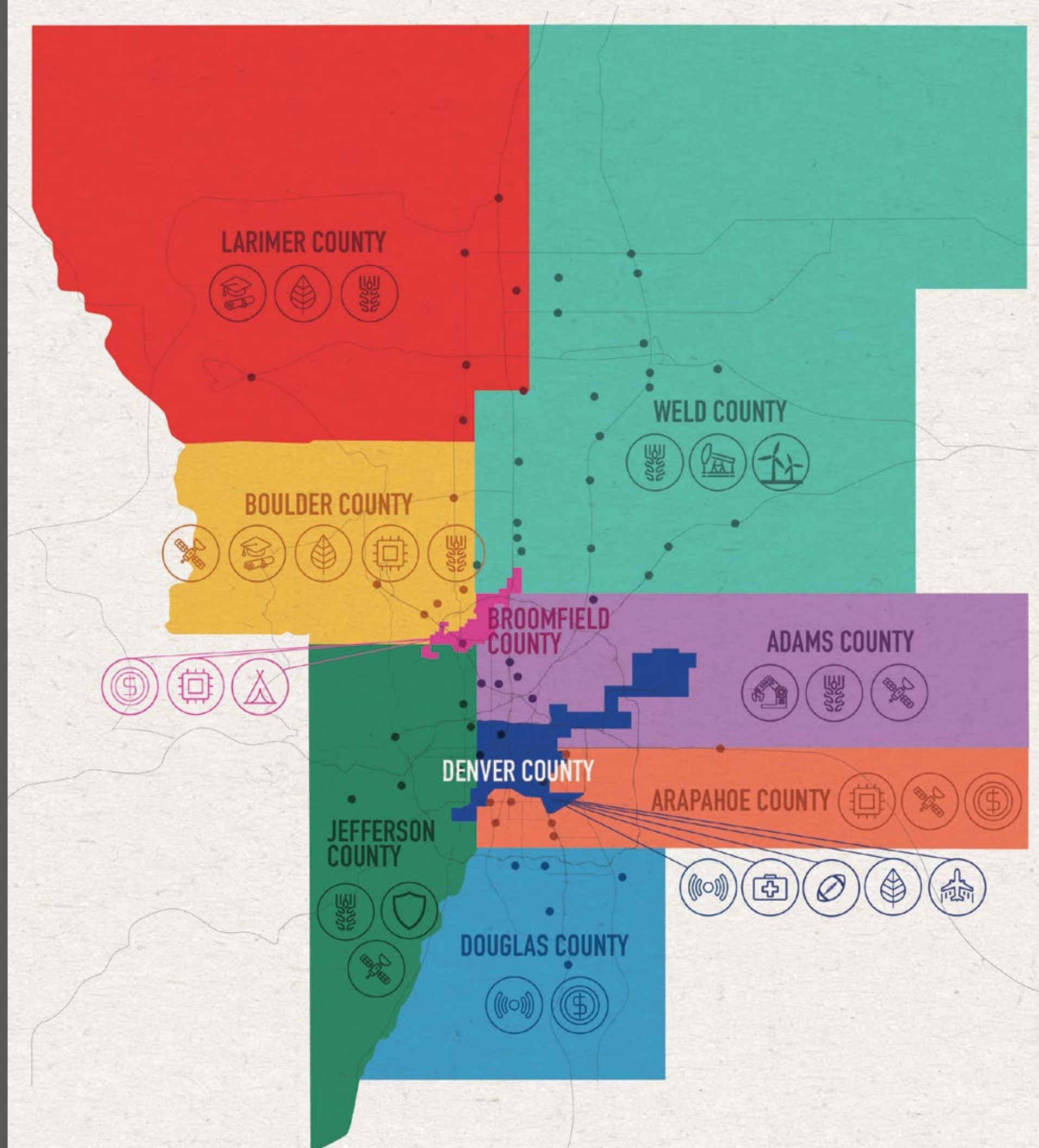


Aerospace Day at the Capitol,  
March 2020.





## Metro Denver Industry Map



## Notable Rankings

#1

Colorado made an impressive showing in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report's "Best Places to Live" list with Front Range cities ranking #1, #2, #4 and #5.

#1

Colorado was recently named the top state for Women-Led Startups by small business reviewer, Merchant Maverick.

#1

USA Today recently named DEN the Best Large Airport in the U.S.

#2

U.S. News & World Report ranked Colorado as the second-best state economy in the country, after four years maintaining the top spot.

#2

Colorado is the second-best state in the U.S. to retire in, according to a study by WalletHub.

#2

Milken Institute named Colorado #2 for "Best State for Technology and Science," with a strong entrepreneurial infrastructure and STEM workforce.

#3

Colorado saw the third largest increase of millennials in the past five years, according to Haven Life.

#3

Denver ranked third for STEM job growth, according to the 2020 STEMdex.

#4

A new study by Spanning says Colorado has the fourth-most tech jobs per capita - citing 123,040 tech workers at a median annual wage of \$94,880.

#4

Denver took in the #4 spot for U.S. cities that people moved to in 2020, according to Updater.com.

#6

LinkedIn gave Denver the 6th place ranking for cities with the most opportunity for job seekers.

#6

Denver ranked sixth among the "Best U.S. Cities for Remote Workers" in 2020, according to BusinessInsider.com.

Data research provided by Development Research Partners, Inc.  
Founded in 1994, DRP specializes in economic research for local and state government  
and private sector businesses, including industry cluster research, industry trends analysis  
and strategic competitive analysis.  
[www.developmentresearch.net](http://www.developmentresearch.net)



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