



AVIATION

Despite a tough year, the region's aviation industry remains a powerful economic engine.



- full report -

2020



MetroDenverEDC

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.

- Aviation Report -

CONTENTS

04 Industry
Overview

05 Cluster
Definition

05 Cluster Job
Growth

06 Major Industry Investments,
Expansions & Milestones

10 Nine-County Region
Airport Information

15 Economic
Profile

17 Workforce
Profile

18 Industry Infrastructure
Support



AVIATION

INDUSTRY
snapshot
(U.S. DATA IN PARENTHESES)

Companies

970

Average Wage

\$77,510

*Emp. Ranking

11

*Employment
Concentration
Ranking

**Direct
Employment:**
21,340

**Direct Employment
Concentration (2020):**
1.0% (0.6%)

**5-Year Employment
Growth (2015-2020):**
18.5% (0.3%)

**1-Year Employment
Growth (2020):**
-7.6% (-9.7%)

Industry Overview

The Metro Denver and Northern Colorado region is a global center for the aviation industry. The Denver International Airport (DEN) and eight regional airports support over 276,650 jobs and \$12.1 billion in payroll while generating nearly \$37 billion in economic output annually. Colorado's airports support approximately 8% of the state's economy.

DEN celebrated 25 years of service in February 2020. DEN is forecast to rank as the third-busiest U.S. airport and one of the top 10 busiest airports in the world. Over the past 25 years, DEN has grown from serving 31 million passengers in 1995 to 69 million passengers and nonstop service to over 210 destinations in 12 countries in 2019. DEN generates over \$33.5 billion in annual economic impact for Colorado and supports nearly 260,000 jobs. In 2019, DEN served more than three million international passengers, solidifying Denver's position as a global city.

With more than 970 aviation companies, access to top aviation training facilities and proximity to cutting-edge aviation technology developments, the region provides a strong foundation for aviation industry growth. The number of aviation companies in the region has increased every year for the last 10 years, nearly doubling since 2011. Colorado has a long tradition of serving as a national model for technical innovation and collaboration in aviation projects. This continues with pioneering the next generation of air traffic control technology with Colorado's Remote Tower Project at Northern Colorado Regional Airport. The region continues to expand as a thriving hub for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) research and development and is also at the forefront of efforts to develop suborbital flight capabilities through the activities of the Colorado Air and Space Port located in Adams County. United Airlines' flight-training center in Denver is the largest single-site flight training center in the world, with more than 12,000 United pilots training at the facility every year.

The COVID-19 pandemic generated unparalleled disruption and impacts on the global aviation industry in 2020. The Metro Denver region's market strength and competitive advantage as a central point for connecting passengers has helped the Aviation Cluster weather the pandemic. Despite an anticipated three-year recovery for many of the region's aviation companies, airports and organizations, several positive developments were noted in 2020.

- Throughout the summer of 2020, DEN often ranked first in the U.S. for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) throughput, and for the period of June-December, DEN ranked as the first or second U.S. airport in TSA throughput for 22 of 31 weeks, supporting strong domestic passenger demand, since international travel was minimal through most of 2020.
- Of the 20 busiest U.S. airports, DEN was the top airport for year-over-year seat capacity retention for each of the last five months of 2020 compared with 2019 levels.
- Air cargo operations at DEN remained strong through 2020, with the amount of cargo totaling 661.1 million pounds, down only 1.6% over the same period in 2019.



Cluster Definition

The Metro Denver and Northern Colorado region is comprised of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld counties. In this report, the Aviation Cluster is defined by 42, six-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes including aircraft manufacturing and technology, passenger and freight air transportation, airport operations, airlines, air traffic control and support services. This definition allows for a comparative analysis of the Metro Denver and Northern Colorado region's Aviation Cluster relative to other metropolitan regions across the nation. This definition also avoids double-counting workers in other adjacent technology clusters such as Information Technology and Aerospace.

Cluster Job Growth

- Aviation employment declined by 7.6% between 2019 and 2020 due to impacts from COVID-19.
- Aviation companies are better positioned to weather the adversity of COVID-19. The region's employment decline was less severe than the 9.7% employment decline nationwide.
- The region's five-year aviation employment growth was 18.5%, compared with 0.3% nationwide.
- More than 21,340 employees worked in over 970 aviation companies in the region.
- The Aviation Cluster employs 1.0% of the region's total employment base, compared with 0.6% employment concentration nationwide.
- Nearly 87% of Colorado's aviation employment is located in the Metro Denver region
- Over 85% of the region's cluster companies have 10 or fewer employees.

Major Industry Investments, Expansions & Milestones

- Construction is underway at **Southwest Airlines'** new \$100 million airplane maintenance hangar. The 130,000-square-foot hangar could house up to three 737 Boeing planes, with space for eight additional planes, and is slated for completion by early 2022.
- **Copa Airlines** celebrated the third anniversary of its inaugural service at DEN. Copa connects DEN to 28 destinations in 17 countries in the Americas with up to three weekly flights.
- The **National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)** broke ground on its new \$22 million facility at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport that will support NCAR's aviation missions. The new 42,000-square-foot facility will replace NCAR's existing flight center at the airport and will support development and calibration of scientific airborne sensors, among other functions.
- **Sheltair Aviation Services LLC** opened its new terminal and hangar spaces at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport. The project includes a 10,400-square-foot terminal and 4,455 square feet of office space, as well as 11 acres of apron space and 31,050 square feet of cabin-class hangar space for airplane storage.
- A new \$8 million, 15,805-square-foot administrative and community building opened at **Centennial Airport**, which will serve as the new home of the **Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority** and includes three conference rooms, an updated airport operations center, an emergency operations center and an employee wellness center.
- **Boeing** subsidiary, **Jeppesen**, won a new 10-year agreement with Denver-based **Frontier Airlines** to implement a range of digital crew, flight-planning, and operations tools for automating and enhancing airline crew-planning and aircraft assignment processes.
- Broomfield-based **Vita Inclinata Technologies Inc.** expanded into a new 11,144-square-foot headquarters facility. The company's existing headquarters will be converted into an assembly facility to bring its Load Stability Systems into the market by early 2021.
- Centennial-based **Boom Technology Inc.** raised \$50 million to continue developing its high-speed XB-1 test plane, bringing the company's valuation to more than \$1 billion. The test plane was unveiled in October 2020 and is in the design phase, with a scaled-down prototype scheduled to fly in 2021. Boom plans to break ground on a factory for full-scaled aircraft in 2022.
- Greenwood Village-based **Air Methods Corp.** signed a \$24 million, five-year HCare Smart support contract with **Airbus Helicopters, Inc.** to cover its fleet of EC145 helicopters. The company transports more than 70,000 people every year and features over 450 helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.

Denver International Airport Expansion

Several projects are underway as part of DEN's five-year capital improvement program to meet the current and future needs of the airport.

Gate Expansion Plan

- DEN's \$1.5 billion gate expansion plan will add 39 new gates spread among the three concourses, increasing overall capacity by 30% for domestic and international routes. The project remains on schedule for completion by the end of 2021 and will be operational in 2022.
- To complement the ongoing expansion work, DEN executed \$560 million in contract amendments to facilitate airlines' moves and to update and renew aging airport facilities including the relocation of some airline spaces, improvements to existing restrooms, new carpeting, upgraded furniture, ceiling repairs, and updated wayfinding. The concourse renewal work is expected to be complete in 2024.
- Two of DEN's largest airlines, **United Airlines and Southwest**, signed new use and lease agreements, renting all the additional gates under construction. United will eventually operate out of 90 gates, while Southwest will operate out of 40 gates. The new leases extend until 2035.
- DEN completed the first of four expansion areas with the openings of four new gates and several new passenger amenities on Concourse B-West, including DEN's first outdoor patio.

Great Hall

- Since DEN took over the Great Hall Project in November 2019, the project has met both of its construction milestones ahead of schedule: completion of the installation of the steel for the new airline ticketing pods on Level 6 and completion of the 4,100-square-foot Central Monitoring Facility.
- Denver City Council approved plans for Phase 2 of the Project, which will relocate the south checkpoint to the northwest side of Level 6, fortifying the existing north checkpoint and enhancing the passenger experience, all within the original \$770 million budget.
- Great Hall Project construction moves into Phase 2 in early 2021 and is slated for completion by mid-2024.

Peña Project

- Construction began on the \$30 million Return-to-Terminal capital improvement project on Peña Boulevard between Jackson Gap Street and Jeppesen Terminal to improve and simplify traffic flow. The project is part of a larger \$3.5 billion capital improvement program and scheduled for completion in mid-2021.

Federal Inspection Services (FIS) Improvements

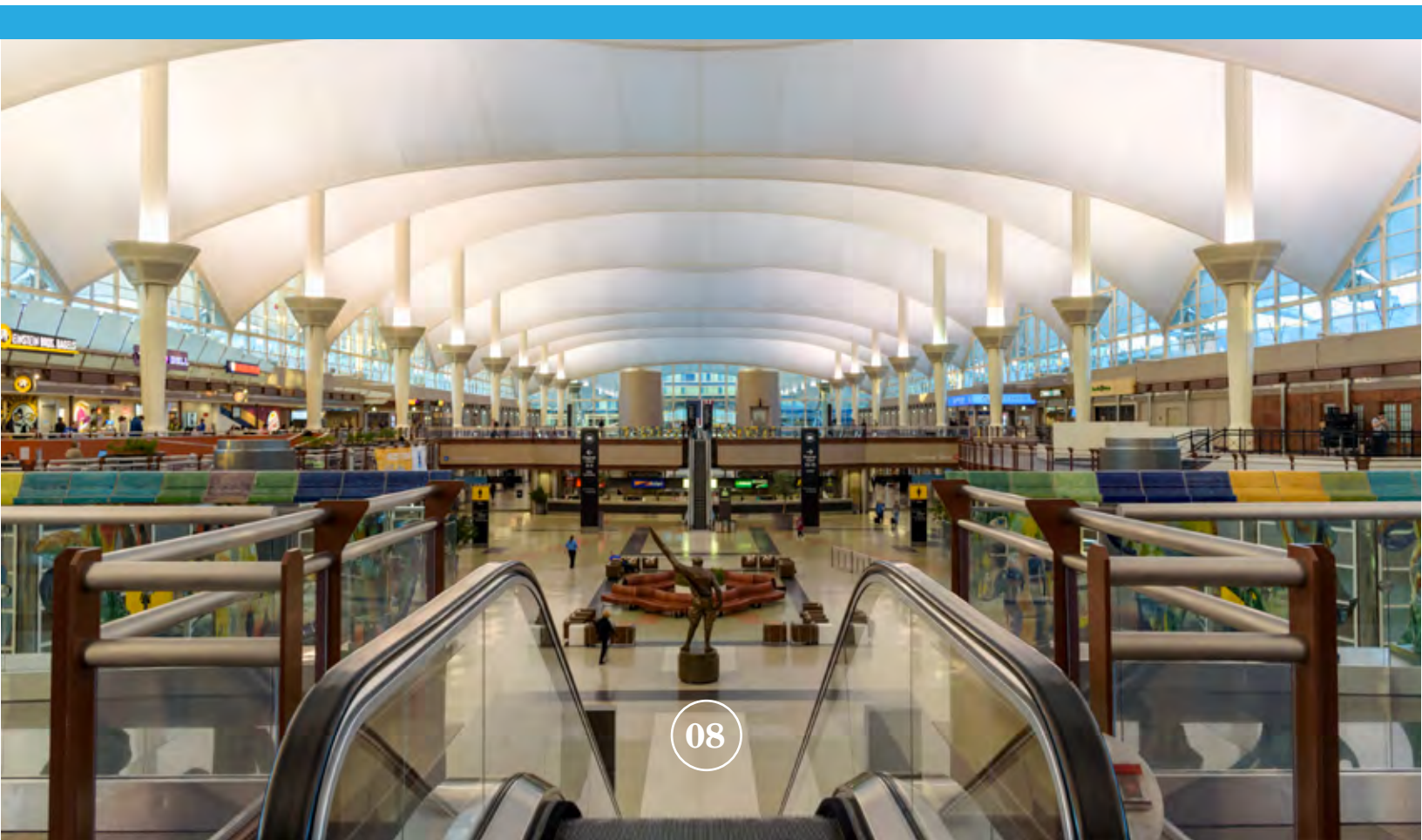
- DEN has taken advantage of lower passenger traffic by accelerating some much-needed improvements including upgrades in the FIS area, where the international arrivals area is located. Improvements included new carpet, signage and lighting.

Customer Experience Innovations

- DEN launched VerfiFLY, a new pilot program that allows passengers to reduce contact by enabling them to reserve a spot in the TSA security line and a limited-capacity underground train car.
- DEN and Daon partnered to create contactless, biometric solutions throughout the airport. The partnership will provide enhanced safety for travelers and streamline airport operations using Daon's IdentityX® for digital onboarding and authentication.

Denver's Global Gateway

- Denver's Global Gateway, the expansive development surrounding DEN that encompasses nearly 16,000 acres, has progressed amid COVID-19. A request for an offer on a 3.8-acre land development opportunity is underway. If approved, construction will begin in 2021 on the northwest corner of 56th Avenue and the future Telluride Street. The new development will be ready for occupancy in late 2022.



Air Space Redesign

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) implemented new Denver-area flight paths as part of the FAA's Metroplex initiative to coordinate airspace around congested metropolitan areas and modernize the National Airspace System through 2025.

- The Denver Metroplex Project includes 29 new satellite-based routes and modifications to 15 existing routes to move air traffic more safely and efficiently throughout the region. The reconfiguration is also essential for the adoption of the FAA's Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen).
- The effort impacts DEN, Centennial Airport, Greeley-Weld County Airport, Northern Colorado Regional Airport and Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport.

Colorado Air & Space Port

Colorado is a leader in commercial space research, development, and transportation. Following FAA approval of its site operator license in 2018, Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP) continues to develop its capability to ultimately serve as a facility for horizontal take offs and landings in Colorado by aircraft capable of suborbital flight.

- Construction began on 18 new hangars at CASP, with completion expected by early 2021.
- Japanese space company **PD AeroSpace LTD.** and CASP entered an MOU that includes establishing a U.S. presence at CASP, working with CASP to create a relationship with the FAA and, eventually, conducting test flights and evaluations.
- California-based **New Frontier Aerospace** signed an agreement with CASP for ground and low altitude flight testing of its rocket-powered HyperDrone system. The technology combines the best features of the helicopter and the high-speed airplane, carrying supplies six times faster than commercial jets and 30 times faster than conventional drones.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The region is a leader in unmanned and autonomous systems research and application, and Colorado is a vibrant base of commercial and military UAS activity, with among the highest number of UAS operators per capita.

- Centennial-based **Liteye Systems** won a \$10 million contract to deliver its Anti-UAS Defense Systems to the U.S. government. The contract is the latest of several deliveries of the systems that deploy state-of-the-art radar, precision thermal and daylight cameras and advanced video tracking to neutralize hostile or errant drones.
- Boulder-based **Black Swift Technologies** unveiled its Black Swift E2™ quadcopter specifically designed for automated industrial and structural inspections. The technology conducts highly accurate, up-close inspections of infrastructures, even in extreme environmental conditions.

- With its variety of airspace, environmental conditions and terrain, Colorado provides an ideal geographic location for federal, state and private UAS research and operations, including more than 35,000 square miles of FAA-approved UAS operation areas.
- Since 2015, Colorado has had the highest altitude, most geographically diverse UAS test areas in the nation, covering six counties and 5.1 million acres. These include the Chaffee County UAS test area and a nearly 8,100-square-mile air space in the San Luis Valley where testing can be conducted to heights of up to 15,000 feet.

Nine-County Region Airport Information

Denver International Airport (DEN)

DEN is a state-of-the-art facility owned and operated by the City and County of Denver. Occupying 53 square miles and located approximately 24 miles northeast of downtown Denver, DEN is the primary airport serving the nine-county region and the state of Colorado. DEN is one of the few major U.S. airports with room to expand to accommodate future growth.



Rankings & Awards

- SkyTrax recognized DEN as the top ranked North American airport in the 60 to 70 million passenger category, the No. 4 airport in North America, and the second-best regional airport in North America.
- J.D. Power ranked DEN as the fourth best “Mega Airport” in North America in the 2020 North America Airport Satisfaction Study.
- DEN received the prestigious Balchen/Post award that recognizes airports across the U.S. for outstanding snow and ice removal operations and for maintaining airport operations during challenging winter conditions.

Passenger Traffic

- COVID-19 impacts caused passenger traffic to decline 51.1% between 2019 and 2020, with more than 33.7 million passengers traveling through DEN in 2020.
- 2019 saw DEN's highest passenger traffic in its 25-year history, with more than 69 million passengers.
- Passenger traffic through TSA checkpoints was down only 54% at DEN, compared with 62% in the U.S. in 2020.
- International passenger traffic declined 70.1% between 2019 and 2020, totaling over 949,000 passengers.

Air Service

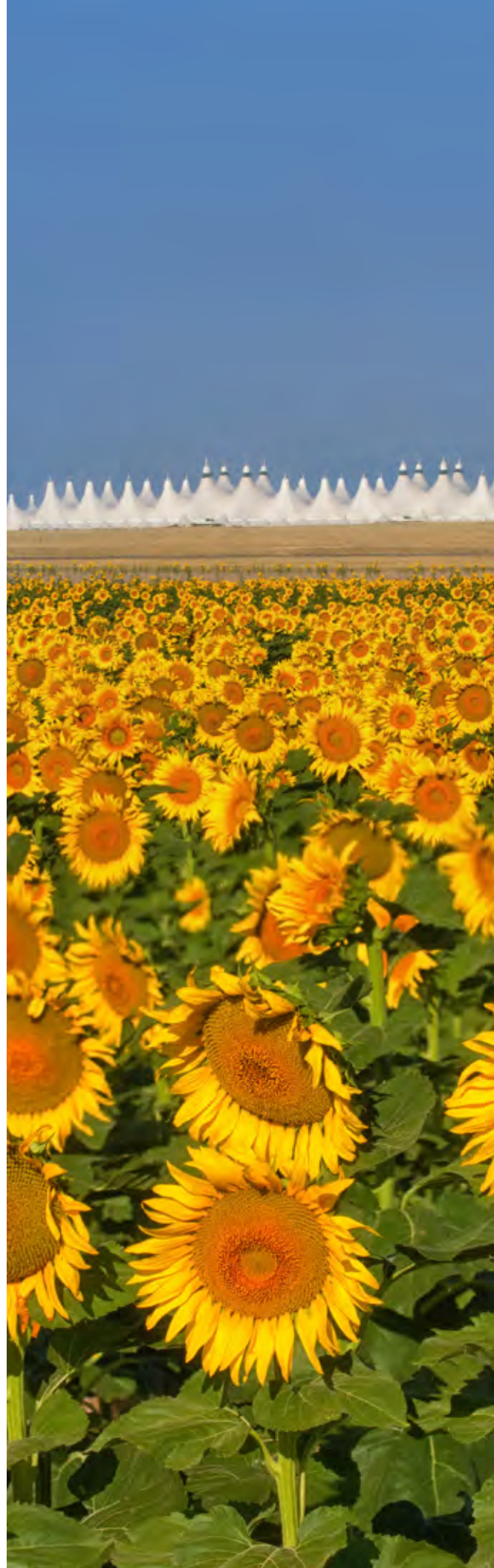
- Located near the geographic center of the United States, DEN is the only major hub airport within a 500-mile radius.
- As of Q1 2021, DEN offers a robust air service network with nonstop service to more than 170 destinations worldwide. Twenty-two airlines are committed to providing service, although some international carriers have temporarily suspended service as a result of low demand due to COVID-19.
- DEN's largest carriers are **United**, Southwest and **Frontier Airlines**.
- DEN ranked as the fourth-largest hub by scheduled seat capacity in United's network.
- In Q4 2020 and Q1 2021, DEN ranked as the largest hub in United's network.
- DEN is Southwest Airlines' largest station in the company's network.
- DEN is Frontier Airlines' largest hub in terms of seat capacity and destination count.
- Nonstop flights from DEN to San José, Costa Rica and Nassau, Bahamas began in 2020.
- DEN is home to several world-class cargo movers and support facilities, including DHL, UPS, FedEx and United Airlines cargo.
- Sixteen cargo airlines and 17 major and national carriers provide cargo service at DEN.
- There are no operation curfews, making DEN a 24-hour cargo operation. The layout of the airfield and a 39-acre cargo ramp make freight handling efficient.

Facilities & Infrastructure

- DEN is the largest airport in North America by land area and the second largest in the world.
- Six non-intersecting runways, three concourses, and 115 gates with 38 ground load positions serve the airport.
- The airport has the space to double its runways and facilities to serve 100 million passengers a year, with an additional 16,000 acres of land available for commercial development.
- The Jeppesen Terminal at DEN features 1.5 million square feet of space, and includes passenger ticketing, baggage claim, ground transportation, international arrivals, shops and restaurants, office areas and the TSA security checkpoints.
- DEN implemented the first phase of its new public parking system, which includes upgraded hardware and software and contactless payment methods. The new system will be in use at all DEN facilities by the end of 2021.
- DEN was awarded \$12 million to rehabilitate the taxiway and taxiway lighting as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Airport Improvement grants.
- DEN continued maintenance work on the train to the gates and terminal that includes 80 upgraded doors and mechanical updates. The 18-month project is slated for completion in 2021.
- Since 2010, DEN has worked closely with the FAA, Jeppesen, the major airlines, and Rocky Mountain and Centennial Airports to implement NextGen and UAS.

Sustainability

- DEN is among one of the most eco-friendly airports in the world and is an industry leader in sustainability.
- DEN was the first airport in the nation to receive ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certification in 2004 and renewed its Environment Policy in April 2020 to reaffirm and comply with the most recent ISO Standard.
- DEN features one of the largest commercial airport solar power arrays in the U.S., with seven arrays and a total design capacity of 25,500,000 kWh annually.
- The new expansion on the west side of Concourse B features the first rooftop solar system at DEN, with the capability to generate nearly 100 kilowatts of electricity. The project will reduce energy use by 20% over conventional design and will reduce water use by nearly 50%.
- DEN boasts 52 electric vehicle charging stations across parking garages, lots and the 61st and Peña Station, and incorporates 293 alternatively fueled vehicles in its airport fleet.
- Waste reduction efforts at DEN divert more than 2,667 tons of landfill waste annually.
- Over 72% of all aircraft deicing fluid is collected, with two-thirds distilled and re-purposed for industrial use.
- Four buildings at DEN have LEED green building certifications, including the Westin at DEN, which is the highest LEED-rated hotel at any major airport.



Reliever Airports

Three reliever airports – those designated by the FAA to relieve traffic at commercial airports and general aviation airports as well as provide other aviation services – are strategically located throughout the nine-county region.



Centennial Airport (APA) is the premier international reliever and business airport in the United States, connecting people, places and product. APA is the third-busiest general aviation airport in the U.S. and supports 23 business parks and 6,000-plus businesses in the south metro area. Located on 1,400 acres, APA has four, award-winning fixed-based operators with premium hangar space providing all concierge services; a fully staffed 24/7 FAA Air Traffic Control Tower; 24/7 on-demand U.S. Customs clearances; and gateway service to Ronald Regan Washington National Airport. APA has three runways, including a 10,000 CAT1 ILS runway. APA's economic contribution nearly doubled in just five years, generating more than \$2 billion for the region annually, the highest among the state's general aviation airports.

APA received \$4 million in 2020 to reconstruct runway lighting and rehabilitate the taxiway as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Airport Improvement grants.



Colorado Air and Space Port (CASP) is located six miles southeast of DEN and is one of the largest general aviation airports in the U.S. with 3,200 acres of land, offering exceptional opportunities for business and hangar development. The facility is the region's only reliever airport without major residential areas nearby and no noise or over-flight impacts. The nation's tallest general aviation tower controls two 8,000-foot/CAT 1 ILS full-precision runways and the associated taxiway and ramp system. Outstanding fixed-based operator and concierge services, restaurant and full-service catering services, aircraft maintenance, flight training and aircraft hangaring and storage are all available at the facility. CASP supports local and state governments with the building of a Colorado National Guard armory, as well as the Colorado Department of Transportation Aeronautical Division and Colorado State Patrol office. The airport generates more than \$116 million in annual economic impact to the region.





Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (BJC), located between downtown Denver and Boulder, is the most convenient reliever airport to downtown Denver, and the fourth-busiest airport in Colorado. BJC has three runways, including a 9,000-foot CAT 1 ILS runway, and offers a user-fee U.S. Customs Office open 24 hours a day. BJC is an FAA Part 139 Certified Airport with regional air service and large, on-demand aircraft charter. BJC is home to nearly 70 aviation-related companies and flight departments, including the U.S. headquarters of Pilatus Business Aircraft and the U.S. Forest Service tanker base. The airport generates over \$730 million in annual economic impact to the region.

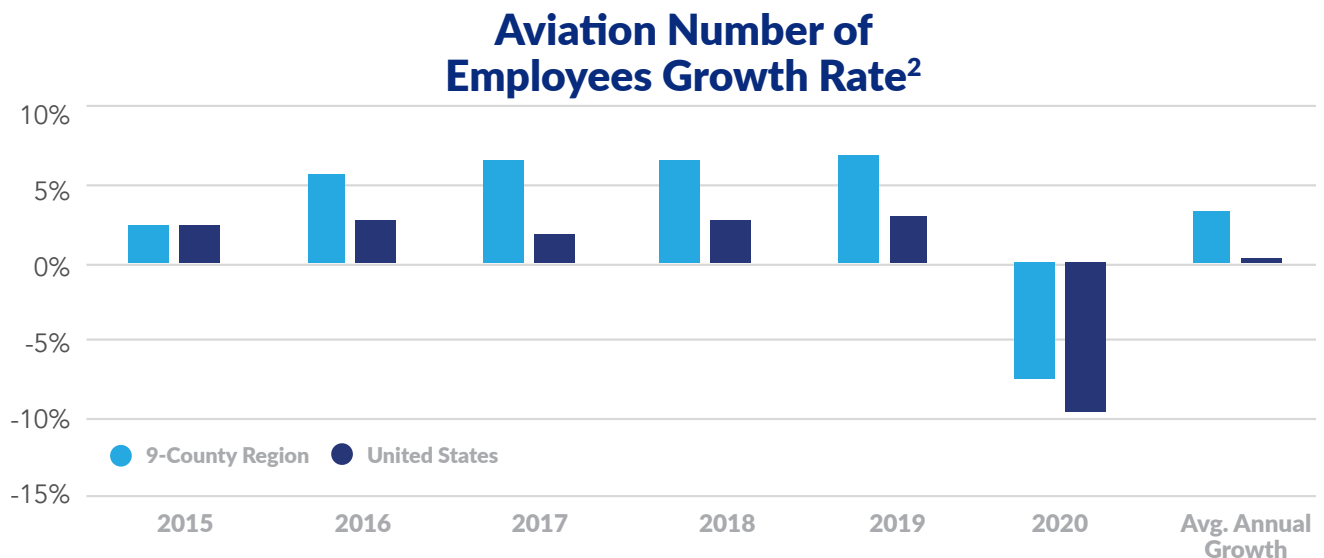
General Aviation Airports

Five general aviation airports are also located in the nine-county region:

- ▶ Boulder Municipal Airport
- ▶ Erie Municipal Airport
- ▶ Greeley-Weld County Airport
- ▶ Northern Colorado Regional Airport
- ▶ Vance Brand Municipal Airport

Economic Profile

| <div>+</div> Aviation Employment & Company Profile, 2020¹ | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------|
| | 9-County Region | U.S.A. |
| Direct employment, 2020 | 21,340 | 1,054,420 |
| Number of direct companies, 2020 | 970 | 42,530 |
| One-year direct employment growth, 2019-2020 | -7.6% | -9.7% |
| Five-year direct employment growth, 2015-2020 | 18.5% | 0.3% |
| Avg. annual direct employment growth, 2015-2020 | 3.4% | 0.1% |
| Direct employment concentration | 1.0% | 0.6% |
| % of companies with <10 employees | 85.4% | 77.3% |



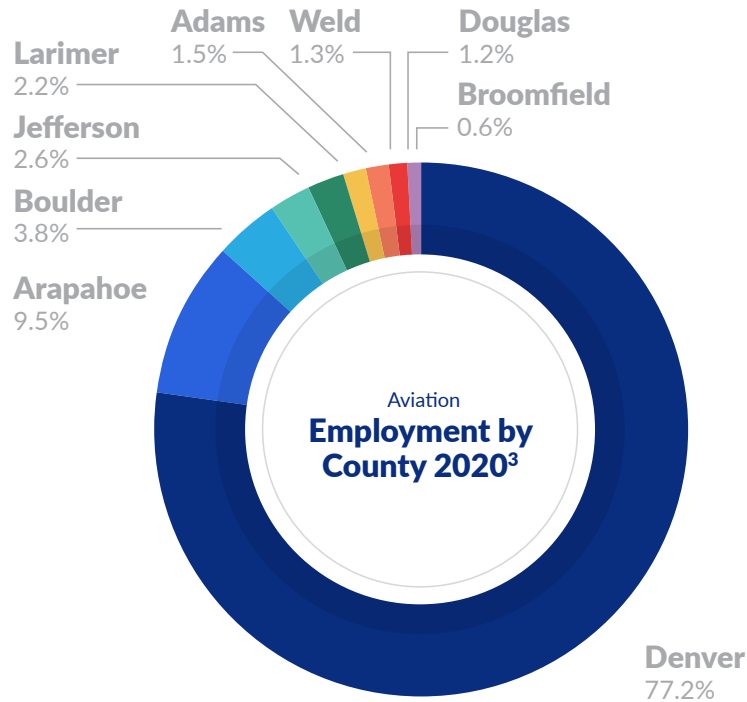
¹ Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., Hoover's Online Database; Market Analysis Profile, 2015-2020; Development Research Partners.

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

³ Market Analysis Profile, 2020; Development Research Partners.

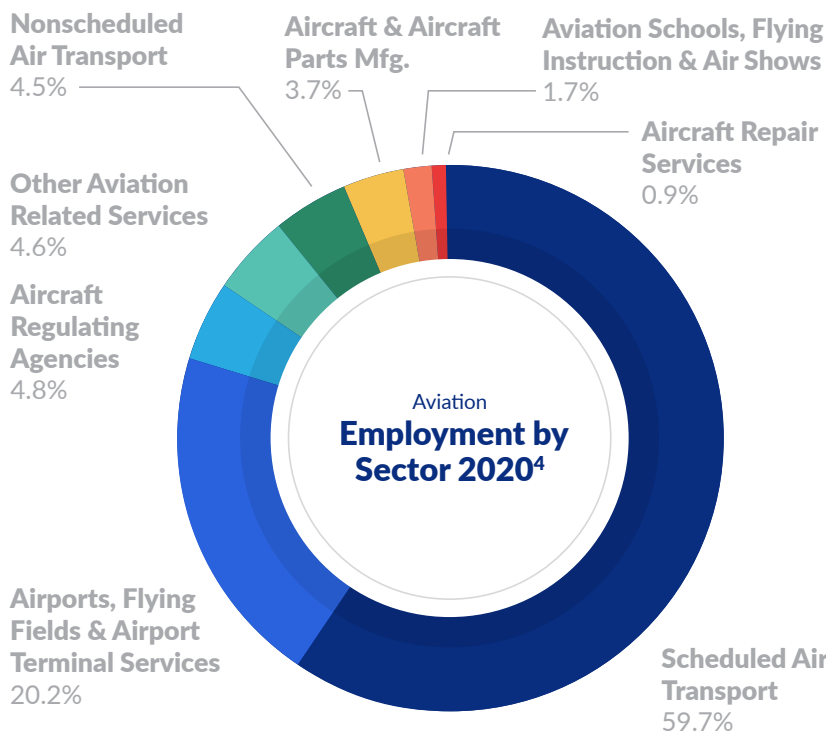


9-County⁵ RANKINGS



9th

Aviation direct
employment



11th

Aviation direct
employment
concentration

⁴ Market Analysis Profile, 2020; Development Research Partners.

⁵ 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.

Workforce Profile

- The Aviation Cluster expanded by about 3,300 employees between 2015 and 2020, considerably outpacing the rate of aviation employment nationwide during this period.
- Aircraft mechanics and service technicians are expected to grow at the fastest pace by 2025 in the region, rising 12%.
- Airline pilots, copilots and flight engineers had the third-highest employment concentration, fifth-highest employment level and seventh-highest pay in the Denver MSA among metro areas in the U.S. in 2019, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Colorado had the seventh-highest share of active pilots and flight instructors in the U.S. in 2019, according to the FAA.

Educational institutions across the region are training the future aviation workforce:

- **Metropolitan State University of Denver's (MSU Denver) Aviation and Aerospace Science Department** is the fifth-largest collegiate aviation program in the nation. The Robert K. Mock World Indoor Airport, located on campus, is one of the world's premier collegiate aviation and aerospace computer and flight simulation training laboratories. Other training and simulation laboratories on campus include the Air Traffic Control Lab, the Jet Lab and the UAS/UAV Lab.
- **ATP Flight School LLC**, a Florida-based group of pilot training operations, opened a new school at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport. Students at ATP will have access to a fleet of Cessna 172 aircraft for training.
- **DEN Academy** launched a new virtual aviation learning experience for students in 7th through 10th grades. DEN Academy is an introduction to aviation through interactive learning, critical thinking and team projects.
- Several educational institutions throughout the region offer partnerships with private companies including Jeppesen-Boeing, United Airlines, Envoy and Mesa Airlines to provide internship and job opportunities.
- **Aims Community College** and **MSU Denver** are among 37 schools in the nation approved under the FAA's Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative.
- **The Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum** hosts a range of education programs for students of all ages, including the Teacher Flight Program, Summer Camps, Wings Aerospace Pathways, Introduction to Ground School and the Young Eagles Flight Experience Program.

Age Distribution

- The Aviation Cluster has a larger share of employees between the ages of 45 and 64 years old (40.5%), compared with the age distribution across all industries in the region (35.7%).
- The 2019 average annual salary for workers in the Aviation cluster was \$77,510 in the nine-county region, compared with the national average of \$77,420.

⁶ Provided by Arapahoe/Douglas Works!; QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, & Self Employed - EMSI 2020.3 Class of Worker.

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

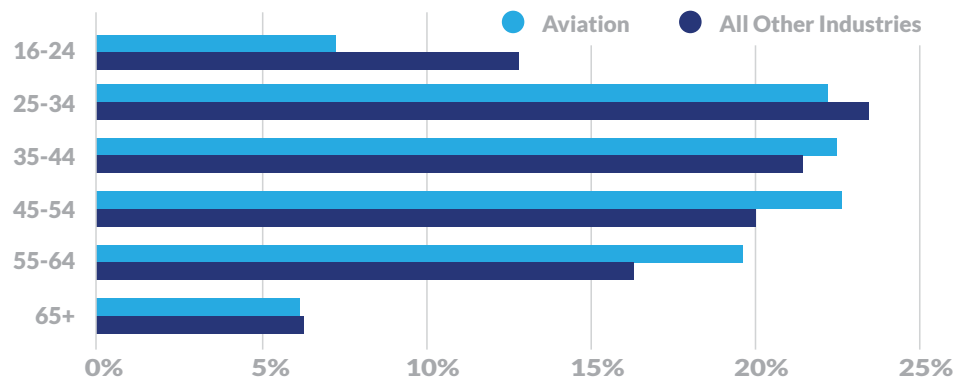
Wages

- The average starting salary for workers in the Aviation Cluster was \$51,180 in the region, compared with \$39,070 across all industries.
- Total payroll reached nearly \$1.8 billion in 2019.

Occupation & Salary Profile

The Occupation & Salary Profile below includes the 10 largest aviation occupations in the region. 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.

Metro Denver & Northern Colorado's Distribution of Employment by Age⁶



Metro Denver & Northern Colorado Aviation Occupation & Salary Profile, 2020⁷

| 10 Largest Aviation Occupations in Metro Denver & Northern 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. Janitors & cleaners, except maids & housekeeping cleaners | 30,387 | 2,199 | 0 | \$28,596 | \$23,224 | \$24,851 | \$33,863 | \$41,228 |
| 2. Civil engineers | 8,883 | 643 | 425 | \$86,736 | \$55,698 | \$67,910 | \$115,303 | \$147,616 |
| 3. Project management specialists & business operations specialists, all other | 42,873 | 3,103 | 50 | \$80,642 | \$45,847 | \$58,960 | \$108,751 | \$142,539 |
| 4. Flight attendants | 4,437 | 321 | 0 | \$50,278 | \$28,221 | \$33,935 | \$62,221 | \$74,551 |
| 5. Airline pilots, copilots, & flight engineers | 3,924 | 284 | 69 | \$187,085 | \$56,884 | \$110,674 | \$244,453 | \$352,188 |
| 6. Information & record clerks, all other | 9,601 | 695 | 0 | \$45,036 | \$32,151 | \$36,976 | \$54,376 | \$63,551 |
| 7. Painters, construction & maintenance | 5,196 | 376 | 46 | \$38,707 | \$17,579 | \$28,962 | \$48,599 | \$59,254 |
| 8. Mechanical engineers | 5,058 | 366 | 1,170 | \$92,967 | \$59,500 | \$72,096 | \$123,587 | \$163,868 |
| 9. Software developers & software quality assurance analysts & testers | 39,511 | 2,860 | 1,671 | \$108,957 | \$66,127 | \$84,400 | \$135,987 | \$163,147 |
| 10. Computer occupations, all other | 12,295 | 890 | 1,657 | \$102,401 | \$58,260 | \$76,043 | \$129,659 | \$161,716 |

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.

Industry Infrastructure Support



CDOT's Division of Aeronautics supports Colorado's general aviation and regional commercial aviation community through aviation fuel tax revenues, a discretionary aviation grant program and long-range system planning in partnership with Colorado's general aviation airports.



MDAC is an industry affiliate of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation that serves as a private-sector advocate dedicated to the continued growth and development of the region's aviation industry, including the long-term growth and vision of DEN and Metro Denver's three reliever and five general aviation airports.



The Colorado Airport Operators Association (CAOA) represents the interests of owners, operators and users of the state's 74 public use airports, providing legislative advocacy at state and national levels, promoting exchanges of ideas and information and encouraging public understanding of the value of aviation and airports to Colorado communities.



The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) is a grass-roots organization focused on communicating the value of business and general aviation to state and local communities, better integrating business and general aviation into Colorado's broader transportation system and improving access to rural communities throughout the state.



UAS Colorado is a non-profit business league, committed to supporting UAS industry development and the safe integration and use of UAS throughout the state. The group provides organizational structure and support for UAS professionals, advocacy for public policy, promotion of safe, professional operation of UAS sites in Colorado and campaigns to increase public understanding of the value and importance of UAS.



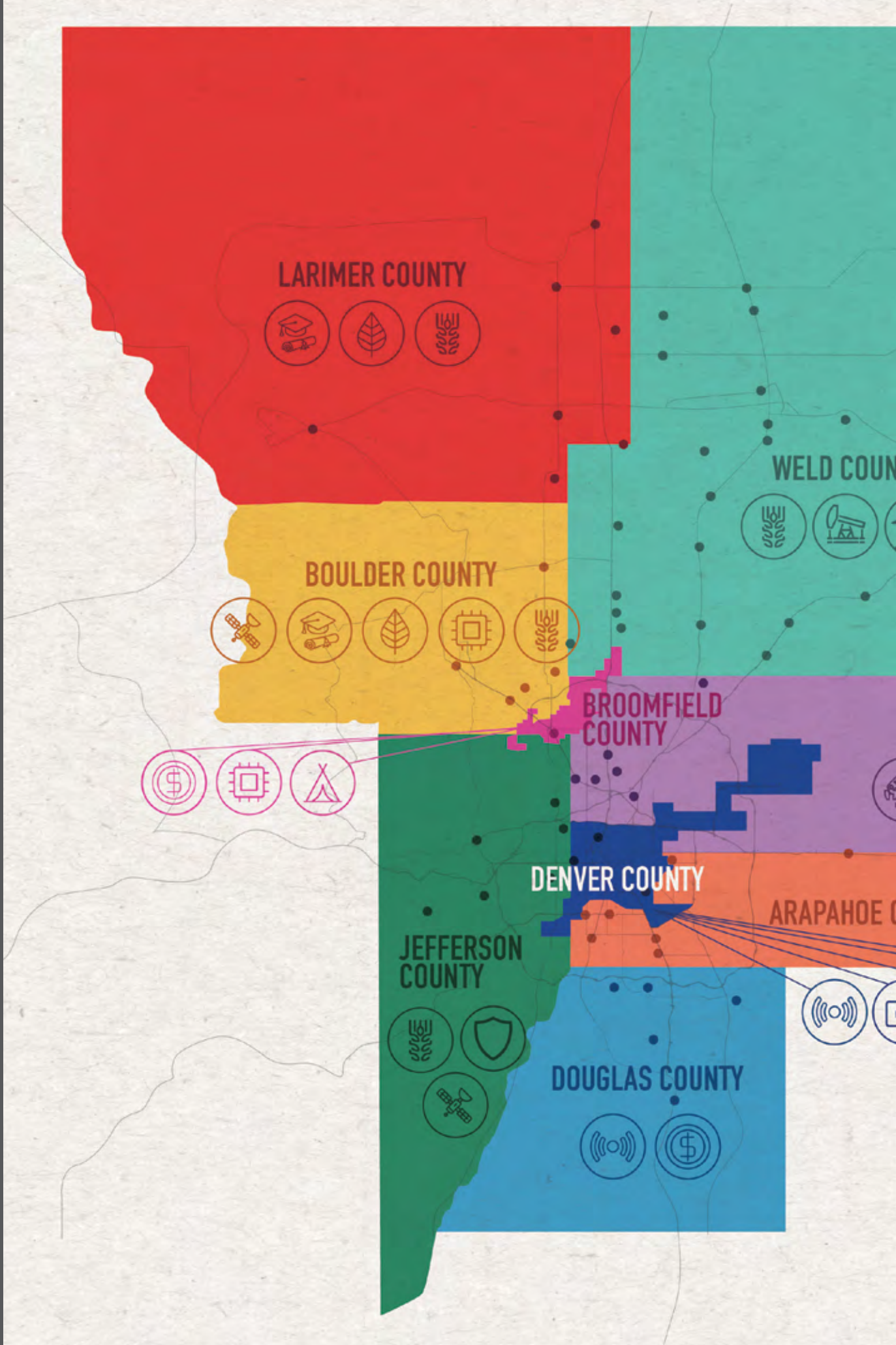
The Rocky Mountain Chapter of Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) provides leadership to promote the growth of UAS across the Rocky Mountain Region through education, advocacy and leadership. The Chapter is also dedicated to promoting the safe and legal operation of unmanned vehicles regardless of the medium within which they operate.



The Colorado Agricultural Aviation Association serves its membership by addressing legislative concerns, offering education about pertinent issues and promoting technical programs to enhance the betterment of agricultural aviation and its related activities.



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



For additional information, contact us:

**1445 Market Street
Denver, CO 80202-1790
303.620.8092**

email: info@metrodenver.org | www.metrodenver.org