



**Metro Denver**  
Economic Development Corporation

# Monthly Economic Indicators

March Update:  
2016 Benchmark  
Employment Revision

Energetic Bodies. Energetic Minds.

[www.metrodenver.org](http://www.metrodenver.org)



Development Research Partners

[www.developmentresearch.net](http://www.developmentresearch.net)

# MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS: UPDATE

## 2015 and 2016 Employment Revisions

The annual benchmark revision of the Current Employment Statistics (CES) resulted in a downward adjustment to Metro Denver's nonfarm wage and salary employment in 2016, and an upward adjustment in 2015. The CES employment estimates, which are derived using a sampling methodology, are benchmarked annually to actual employment counts from a census of the employer population. These counts come primarily from employment data provided in unemployment insurance tax reports that nearly all employers are required to file with state workforce agencies.

Annual average employment in 2015 reached 1,577,900, which was 2,500 jobs higher than the unrevised series. Data for six of the 11 supersectors was revised upwards, with the largest upward revisions in total jobs in the education and health services supersector (+1,300 jobs), the wholesale and retail trade supersector (+600 jobs), and leisure and hospitality (+600 jobs). Employment in both manufacturing and financial activities was revised down by 200 jobs. As a result, the annual average employment growth rate in 2015 increased from 3.5 percent to 3.6 percent, representing the addition of 55,200 jobs during the year.

The revision resulted in a lower increase in employment in 2016. Whereas preliminary data released throughout 2016 indicated a 3.2 percent employment growth rate, revised data revealed that employment increased at a slower pace of 2.5 percent. This means that employment in 2016 increased by 40,100 jobs, as opposed to the increase of 50,000 jobs suggested by the preliminary data.

**Annual Benchmark Revision, Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment  
(000s, not seasonally adjusted)**

	2014	2015	2016	Annual Growth Rate, 2014-15	Annual Growth Rate, 2015-16	Absolute Change, 2015	Absolute Change, 2016
<b>Total 11-County Metro Denver*</b>	1,522.6	1,577.9	1,618.0	3.6%	2.5%	55.2	40.1
Denver-Aurora MSA	1,346.3	1,397.4	1,433.0	3.8%	2.5%	51.1	35.6
Boulder-Longmont MSA	176.3	180.5	185.0	2.3%	2.5%	4.1	4.6
Natural Resources & Construction	95.3	100.1	102.2	5.0%	2.2%	4.8	2.2
Manufacturing	82.9	85.6	86.5	3.3%	1.1%	2.7	0.9
Wholesale & Retail Trade	221.6	228.2	232.5	3.0%	1.9%	6.6	4.3
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	52.6	54.1	55.6	2.8%	2.8%	1.5	1.5
Information	53.5	54.0	54.3	1.0%	0.5%	0.5	0.3
Financial Activities	105.3	109.5	112.8	4.0%	3.0%	4.2	3.3
Professional & Business Services	275.5	285.3	291.7	3.5%	2.3%	9.8	6.4
Education & Health Services	190.7	200.8	208.5	5.3%	3.9%	10.1	7.7
Leisure & Hospitality	167.4	175.2	181.9	4.6%	3.9%	7.7	6.8
Other Services	58.2	59.5	61.3	2.1%	3.0%	1.2	1.8
Government	219.6	225.7	230.7	2.8%	2.2%	6.1	5.0
Federal Gov't	29.7	30.3	30.7	1.8%	1.5%	0.5	0.5
State Gov't	56.1	58.1	60.0	3.5%	3.3%	2.0	1.9
Local Gov't	133.8	137.4	140.0	2.7%	1.9%	3.6	2.6
Colorado	2,464.9	2,541.9	2,598.3	3.1%	2.2%	77.0	56.4
United States	138,958	141,843	144,306	2.08%	1.7%	2,885	2,463

\*Includes the Denver-Aurora MSA (Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park counties) and the Boulder-Longmont MSA (Boulder County).

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Labor Market Information; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS: UPDATE

Job growth in 2016 was weaker than originally estimated in five of the 11 supersectors. The largest downward revision occurred in the natural resources and construction sector, as revised data revealed that the supersector added 2,200 jobs in 2016, which was 6,500 fewer jobs than preliminary estimates. Employment in the leisure and hospitality supersector was also revised downwards by 3,500 jobs and the professional and business services supersector was revised downward by 2,900 jobs. Employment was revised upwards in wholesale and retail trade (+2,000 jobs), education and health services (+1,900 jobs), financial activities (+1,600 jobs), transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+1,200 jobs), information (+600 jobs), and other services (+300 jobs).

The revised employment data revealed that all 11 supersectors added jobs from 2015 to 2016. The strongest rate of growth was achieved in the education and health services and leisure and hospitality supersectors, which both posted a 3.9 percent increase and added 7,700 jobs and 6,800 jobs in 2016, respectively. The smallest increase, in both percentage and absolute terms, occurred in the information sector. Nonetheless, this was welcome news as preliminary estimates indicated that the information sector would record no growth over 2016.

Similar to changes in Metro Denver data, revised statewide employment data suggested slower growth than initially estimated. Revised benchmark data showed that Colorado posted a 3.1 percent increase in employment in 2015, which was followed by a slower 2.2 percent increase in 2016. Preliminary data suggested that 2015 employment rose 3.1 percent and 2016 employment rose at a 2.7 percent pace. As a result, nonfarm employment in Colorado reached 2.6 million in 2016, adding 56,400 jobs over-the-year, as opposed to the preliminary estimate of 67,700.

National employment rates were unchanged in 2015 and 2016 after the revision. U.S. employment increased 2.1 percent in 2015 and 1.7 percent in 2016.

### January 2017 Employment

Metro Denver employment fell 1.4 percent between December 2016 and January 2017 (-23,700 jobs), a typical trend for that time of year. However, employment rose 2.1 percent between January 2016 and 2017. Seven of the 11 supersectors recorded declines in employment over-the-month, with the largest decline occurring in the transportation, warehousing, and utilities supersector (-4.1 percent). The financial activities supersector reported the largest increase in employment, rising 1.3 percent between December 2016 and January 2017. Between January 2015 and 2016, eight of the 11 supersectors reported employment growth, with the education and health services supersector reporting the largest increase (+4.8 percent). The natural resources and construction (-0.2 percent), manufacturing (-0.5 percent), and information (-0.6 percent) supersectors declined during the period.

Total January employment in Colorado was up 1.7 percent over-the-year, but declined 1.6 percent between December 2016 and January 2017. National employment levels in January declined 2 percent compared with December, but were 1.5 percent above the previous year's level.

# MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS: UPDATE

## Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment (000s, not seasonally adjusted)

	Month of Jan-17 (p)	Month of Dec-16	Month of Jan-16	Year-to- Date Average 2017	Year-to- Date Average 2016	Year-to- Date Average % Change	Annual Growth Rate 2012	Annual Growth Rate 2007
<b>Total 11-County Metro Denver*</b>	1,613.7	1,637.4	1,580.8	1,613.7	1,580.8	2.1%	2.9%	2.1%
Denver-Aurora MSA	1,427.2	1,448.4	1,398.9	1,427.2	1,398.9	2.0%	2.9%	2.1%
Boulder-Longmont MSA	186.5	189.0	181.9	186.5	181.9	2.5%	2.7%	2.2%
Natural Resources & Construction	97.7	101.7	97.9	97.7	97.9	-0.2%	5.1%	-1.4%
Manufacturing	85.6	86.7	86.0	85.6	86.0	-0.5%	2.2%	-1.5%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	233.3	239.7	229.3	233.3	229.3	1.7%	2.2%	2.1%
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	56.8	59.2	55.2	56.8	55.2	2.9%	2.7%	2.8%
Information	53.5	53.3	53.8	53.5	53.8	-0.6%	-0.9%	0.8%
Financial Activities	115.5	114.0	111.2	115.5	111.2	3.9%	2.1%	-0.6%
Professional & Business Services	287.7	293.9	283.4	287.7	283.4	1.5%	5.1%	5.7%
Education & Health Services	213.7	213.4	203.9	213.7	203.9	4.8%	3.7%	3.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	178.6	180.6	172.8	178.6	172.8	3.4%	3.4%	2.6%
Other Services	62.0	61.7	59.7	62.0	59.7	3.9%	2.8%	2.0%
Government	229.3	233.2	227.6	229.3	227.6	0.7%	0.9%	1.8%
Federal Gov't	30.9	31.0	30.4	30.9	30.4	1.6%	-0.8%	-0.7%
State Gov't	60.0	62.5	59.4	60.0	59.4	1.0%	1.8%	2.8%
Local Gov't	138.4	139.7	137.8	138.4	137.8	0.4%	0.9%	2.1%
Colorado	2,588.2	2,631.0	2,543.7	2,588.2	2,543.7	1.7%	2.4%	2.3%
United States	143,261	146,158	141,088	143,261	141,088	1.5%	1.7%	1.1%

\*Includes the Denver-Aurora-Broomfield MSA (Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park Counties) and the Boulder-Longmont MSA (Boulder County).

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Labor Market Information. (p) = preliminary

## 2015 and 2016 Labor Force Revisions

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) labor force data is revised each year based on new information and updated methodologies.

The average annual unemployment rate for the seven-county Metro Denver area was revised to 3.7 percent in 2015 from the previous estimate of 3.6 percent, due to a slight increase to the originally estimated size of the labor force. The size of the labor force was revised upwards in all seven counties except for Jefferson County.

Revised labor force data for 2016 revealed that the unemployment rate was revised downward by 0.1 percentage points in Broomfield County and remained unchanged in the other six counties. As a result, the unemployment rate for the seven-county Metro Denver area was unchanged from the preliminary estimate of 3.1 percent in 2016. The labor force in the seven-county area was revised downwards by about 1,700 individuals and the number unemployed was revised upwards by about 130 individuals.

# MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS: UPDATE

## Labor Force Statistics (000s, not seasonally adjusted)

	2014		2015		2016	
	Total Labor Force	Ann Avg Unemp. Rate	Total Labor Force	Ann Avg Unemp. Rate	Total Labor Force	Ann Avg Unemp. Rate
Metro Denver	1,637,333	4.7%	1,655,552	3.7%	1,689,647	3.1%
Adams County	245,809	5.7%	248,474	4.4%	253,515	3.6%
Arapahoe County	332,255	4.9%	335,254	3.7%	341,904	3.1%
Boulder County	176,733	4.1%	177,250	3.2%	180,909	2.7%
Broomfield County	34,285	4.2%	35,636	3.3%	36,455	2.9%
Denver County	369,925	4.8%	376,619	3.7%	384,331	3.1%
Douglas County	169,740	4.0%	172,619	3.1%	176,472	2.7%
Jefferson County	308,586	4.5%	309,700	3.5%	316,062	3.0%
Colorado	2,810,415	5.0%	2,833,509	3.9%	2,891,046	3.3%
United States	155,922	6.2%	157,130	5.3%	159,187	4.9%

Note: data are subject to further revisions.

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

Similarly, data revisions at the state level resulted in no change in the unemployment rate of 3.3 percent in 2016, but data revisions decreased Colorado's labor force by 1,784 in 2016. The Colorado unemployment rate averaged 3.9 percent in 2015. The U.S. unemployment rate averaged 4.9 percent in 2016, down from 5.3 percent in 2015.

## January 2017 Labor Force

Metro Denver's unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points over-the-year in January to 3.1 percent. All seven counties in Metro Denver reported declines in the unemployment rate between January 2016 and 2017, ranging from a 0.6 percentage point decrease in Adams County to a 0.1 percentage point decline in the Broomfield County. The Colorado unemployment rate declined by 0.5 percentage points to reach 3.3 percent and the national rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 5.1 percent.

## Labor Force Statistics (000s, not seasonally adjusted civilian labor force)

	Jan 2017 (p)		2017 YTD AVG		2016 YTD AVG		2012	2007
	Labor Force	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Unemp. Rate	Ann Avg Unemp. Rate	Ann Avg Unemp. Rate
Metro Denver	1,693.8	3.1%	1,693.8	3.1%	1,663.3	3.5%	7.6%	3.8%
Adams County	254.2	3.7%	254.2	3.7%	250.1	4.3%	9.4%	4.2%
Arapahoe County	342.3	3.1%	342.3	3.1%	336.3	3.5%	7.7%	3.7%
Boulder County	182.4	2.6%	182.4	2.6%	178.8	3.0%	6.2%	3.3%
Broomfield County	36.5	3.0%	36.5	3.0%	35.8	3.1%	6.6%	3.5%
Denver County	385.2	3.2%	385.2	3.2%	378.3	3.6%	7.9%	4.1%
Douglas County	176.6	2.6%	176.6	2.6%	173.2	2.9%	6.0%	3.1%
Jefferson County	316.5	3.0%	316.5	3.0%	310.8	3.3%	7.4%	3.6%
Colorado	2,896.7	3.3%	2,896.7	3.3%	2,848.9	3.8%	7.9%	3.7%
United States	158,676	5.1%	158,676	5.1%	157,347	5.3%	8.1%	4.6%

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Labor Market Information. (p) =preliminary

The count of new Metro Denver claims for unemployment insurance filed in January 2017 was 4.5 percent higher than the count filed in January 2016. The January count of claims filed statewide was down 7.4 percent over-the-year. The increase in claims may be attributed to an increase in layoffs of seasonal workers from holiday hiring.

# MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS: UPDATE

## Weekly First-Time Unemployment Insurance Claims

	Month of Jan-17	Month of Dec-16	Month of Jan-17	YTD Avg 2017	YTD Avg 2016	YTD Avg % Change	Ann Avg 2012	Ann Avg 2007
Metro Denver	1,542	1,478	1,475	1,542	1,475	4.5%	1,627	1,211
Colorado	2,746	2,917	2,965	2,746	2,965	-7.4%	3,123	2,211

*Note: Reference week data includes the 19th day of the month for all months except November and December, which include the 12th day of the month.*

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



Development  
Research Partners

---



*Economic and Demographic Research*

*Industry Studies*

*Fiscal and Economic Impact Analysis*

*Real Estate Economics*

---

10184 West Belleview Avenue  
Suite 100  
Littleton, Colorado 80127  
[www.DevelopmentResearch.net](http://www.DevelopmentResearch.net)  
303.991.0070