



Metro Denver
Economic Development Corporation

Monthly Economic Indicators

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March Update:
2017 Benchmark
Employment Revision

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MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS: UPDATE

2016 and 2017 Employment Revisions

The annual benchmark revision of the Current Employment Statistics (CES) resulted in an upward adjustment to Metro Denver's nonfarm wage and salary employment in both 2016 and 2017. 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 2016 reached 1,619,200, which was 1,200 jobs higher than the unrevised series. Data for nine of the 11 supersectors was revised upwards, with the largest upward revisions in total jobs in the government supersector (+900 jobs), the other services supersector (+800 jobs), and the natural resources and construction supersector (+500 jobs). Employment in the education and health services supersector was revised down by 1,400 jobs, and was revised down by 800 jobs in the wholesale and retail trade supersector. As a result, the annual average employment growth rate in 2016 increased from 2.5 percent to 2.6 percent, representing the addition of 41,200 jobs during the year.

The revision resulted in a lower increase in employment in 2017. Whereas preliminary data released throughout 2017 indicated a 2 percent employment growth rate, revised data revealed that employment increased at a slower pace of 1.9 percent. This means that employment in 2017 increased by 31,300 jobs, as opposed to the increase of 32,200 jobs suggested by the preliminary data.

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

	2015	2016	2017	Annual Growth Rate, 2015-16	Annual Growth Rate, 2016-17	Absolute Change, 2016	Absolute Change, 2017
Total 11-County Metro Denver*	1,578.1	1,619.2	1,650.5	2.6%	1.9%	41.2	31.3
Denver-Aurora MSA	1,397.6	1,434.1	1,461.7	2.6%	1.9%	36.5	27.6
Boulder-Longmont MSA	180.5	185.2	188.8	2.6%	1.9%	4.7	3.6
Natural Resources & Construction	100.1	102.7	107.6	2.7%	4.7%	2.7	4.9
Manufacturing	85.6	86.6	87.5	1.2%	1.0%	1.0	0.9
Wholesale & Retail Trade	227.5	231.7	234.0	1.8%	1.0%	4.2	2.3
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	54.5	55.8	58.0	2.5%	4.0%	1.3	2.2
Information	54.0	54.7	55.3	1.2%	1.1%	0.6	0.6
Financial Activities	109.5	113.1	115.6	3.3%	2.2%	3.6	2.5
Professional & Business Services	285.3	291.8	298.1	2.3%	2.2%	6.5	6.3
Education & Health Services	200.8	207.1	209.8	3.2%	1.3%	6.3	2.7
Leisure & Hospitality	175.2	182.1	187.4	3.9%	2.9%	6.9	5.3
Other Services	59.9	62.0	62.8	3.5%	1.3%	2.1	0.8
Government	225.7	231.6	234.4	2.6%	1.2%	5.9	2.8
Federal Gov't	30.3	30.7	30.7	1.5%	-0.2%	0.5	-0.1
State Gov't	58.1	60.3	62.9	3.9%	4.3%	2.3	2.6
Local Gov't	137.4	140.5	140.8	2.3%	0.2%	3.1	0.3
Colorado	2,541.7	2,602.4	2,658.6	2.4%	2.2%	60.7	56.2
United States	141,843	144,352	146,624	1.8%	1.6%	2,509	2,272

*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 2017 was weaker than originally estimated in five of the 11 supersectors. The largest downward revision occurred in the education and health services sector, as revised data revealed that the supersector added only 2,700 jobs in 2017, or 5,700 fewer jobs than preliminary estimates. Employment in the wholesale and retail trade supersector was revised downwards by 2,200 jobs and the leisure and hospitality supersector was revised downward by 2,100 jobs. Employment was revised upwards in natural resources and construction (+4,100 jobs), government (+2,300 jobs), information (+1,600 jobs), manufacturing (+1,500 jobs), and financial activities (+1,200 jobs). Employment in transportation, warehousing, and utilities was unchanged.

The revised employment data revealed that all 11 supersectors added jobs from 2016 to 2017. The strongest rates of growth were achieved in the natural resources and construction supersector (+4.7 percent) and the transportation, warehousing, and utilities supersector (+4 percent), which added 4,900 jobs and 2,200 jobs, respectively. The largest contributors to absolute growth in 2017 were professional and business services (+6,300) and leisure and hospitality (+5,300). The slowest growing supersectors were manufacturing (+1 percent), wholesale and retail trade (+1 percent), and government (+1.2 percent).

Revised statewide employment data suggested faster growth in 2017 than initially estimated. Revised benchmark data showed that Colorado posted a 2.2 percent increase in employment in 2017, up from the preliminary estimate of 1.9 percent. As a result, nonfarm employment in Colorado reached 2.7 million in 2017, adding 56,200 jobs over-the-year, as opposed to the preliminary estimate of 50,100.

National employment was also revised upward in both 2016 and 2017. U.S. employment increased 1.8 percent in 2016, faster than the preliminary estimate of 1.7 percent. In 2017, growth was revised up to 1.6 percent from preliminary data indicating a 1.5 percent rate.

January 2018 Employment

Metro Denver employment fell 1.8 percent between December 2017 and January 2018 (-30,500 jobs), a typical trend for that time of year. However, employment rose 2.4 percent between January 2017 and 2018. Nine of the 11 supersectors recorded declines in employment over-the-month, with the largest decline occurring in the transportation, warehousing, and utilities supersector (-3.9 percent). The information supersector reported the largest increase in employment, rising 0.5 percent between December 2017 and January 2018. Between January 2017 and 2018, 10 of the 11 supersectors reported employment growth, with the natural resources and construction supersector reporting the largest increase (+6.1 percent), followed by information (+5.1 percent). The only supersector that declined over-the-year was government, which fell 1 percent from January 2017 to January 2018.

Total January employment in Colorado was up 2.6 percent over-the-year, but declined 1.7 percent between December 2017 and January 2018. National employment levels in January declined 2.1 percent compared with December, but were 1.4 percent above the previous year's level.

MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS: UPDATE

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

	Month of Jan-18 (p)	Month of Dec-17	Month of Jan-17	Year-to- Date Average 2018	Year-to- Date Average 2017	Year-to- Date Average % Change	Annual Growth Rate 2013	Annual Growth Rate 2008
Total 11-County Metro Denver*	1,645.8	1,676.3	1,607.8	1,645.8	1,607.8	2.4%	3.6%	1.0%
Denver-Aurora MSA	1,459.9	1,483.9	1,425.0	1,459.9	1,425.0	2.4%	3.7%	1.0%
Boulder-Longmont MSA	185.9	192.4	182.8	185.9	182.8	1.7%	2.3%	0.9%
Natural Resources & Construction	107.3	110.9	101.1	107.3	101.1	6.1%	9.7%	-1.5%
Manufacturing	87.8	88.4	86.5	87.8	86.5	1.5%	1.6%	-2.3%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	237.2	240.0	231.8	237.2	231.8	2.3%	2.6%	0.1%
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	59.6	62.0	57.8	59.6	57.8	3.1%	5.1%	0.3%
Information	57.3	57.0	54.5	57.3	54.5	5.1%	1.6%	-1.7%
Financial Activities	115.3	116.6	113.9	115.3	113.9	1.2%	3.6%	-2.2%
Professional & Business Services	293.8	300.9	287.5	293.8	287.5	2.2%	4.3%	2.1%
Education & Health Services	212.8	212.4	206.2	212.8	206.2	3.2%	4.2%	4.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	184.8	189.6	177.4	184.8	177.4	4.2%	3.9%	1.4%
Other Services	62.5	62.6	61.4	62.5	61.4	1.8%	2.1%	2.7%
Government	227.4	235.9	229.7	227.4	229.7	-1.0%	1.9%	2.6%
Federal Gov't	30.2	30.2	30.8	30.2	30.8	-1.9%	-1.2%	-0.7%
State Gov't	59.4	66.6	58.1	59.4	58.1	2.2%	2.7%	3.7%
Local Gov't	137.8	139.1	140.8	137.8	140.8	-2.1%	2.2%	3.0%
Colorado	2,657.8	2,704.7	2,591.6	2,657.8	2,591.6	2.6%	3.0%	0.8%
United States	145,472	148,530	143,393	145,472	143,393	1.4%	1.6%	-0.5%

*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

2016 and 2017 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 down to 3 percent in 2016 from the previous estimate of 3.1 percent, due to a slight decrease to the originally estimated size of the labor force. The size of the labor force was revised downwards in three of the seven Metro Denver counties, with the largest revision in Arapahoe County (-1,400).

The size of the labor force was also revised down for the seven-county Metro Denver area in 2017. However, estimates of the unemployed population were revised up for all seven counties, resulting in a higher revised unemployment rate. Revised data for 2017 revealed that the unemployment rate was revised upward by 0.2 percentage points for all seven Metro Denver counties. The revised unemployment rate for Metro Denver was up 0.2 percentage points to 2.7 percent from an unrevised 2.5 percent.

MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS: UPDATE

Labor Force Statistics (not seasonally adjusted)

	2015		2016		2017	
	Total Labor Force	Ann Avg Unemp. Rate	Total Labor Force	Ann Avg Unemp. Rate	Total Labor Force	Ann Avg Unemp. Rate
Metro Denver	1,650,465	3.6%	1,689,287	3.0%	1,743,362	2.7%
Adams County	247,717	4.4%	253,559	3.6%	261,302	3.1%
Arapahoe County	334,230	3.7%	340,485	3.1%	351,417	2.8%
Boulder County	176,707	3.2%	180,799	2.7%	186,852	2.4%
Broomfield County	35,527	3.3%	36,767	2.9%	37,972	2.6%
Denver County	375,443	3.7%	384,939	3.1%	397,166	2.8%
Douglas County	172,092	3.1%	177,470	2.7%	183,263	2.4%
Jefferson County	308,749	3.5%	315,267	2.9%	325,390	2.6%
Colorado	2,824,758	3.9%	2,893,269	3.3%	2,992,307	2.8%
United States	157,130,000	5.3%	159,187,000	4.9%	160,320,000	4.4%

Note: data are subject to further revisions.

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

Similarly, data at the state level resulted in a slight upward revision of the unemployment rate in 2017. Both the size of the labor force and unemployed population for the state were revised upwards, resulting in a 0.1 percentage point increase from 2.7 percent to 2.8 percent in 2017. Revised data for 2016 indicate the state's unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.3 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate averaged 4.4 percent in 2017, down from 4.9 percent in 2016.

January 2018 Labor Force

Metro Denver's unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points over-the-year in January to 3.2 percent, within which five counties in Metro Denver reported an increase and two reported no change. The rate increased 0.3 percentage points over-the year in Boulder and Douglas counties, increased 0.2 percentage points in Arapahoe, Denver, and Jefferson counties, and was unchanged in Adams and Broomfield counties. The Colorado unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to reach 3.3 percent, but the national rate fell 0.6 percentage points to 4.5 percent.

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

	Jan 2018 (p)		2018 YTD AVG		2017 YTD AVG		2013	2008
	Labor Force	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Unemp. Rate	Ann Avg Unemp. Rate	Ann Avg Unemp. Rate
Metro Denver	1,752.9	3.2%	1,752.9	3.2%	1,700.6	3.0%	6.5%	4.9%
Adams County	263.4	3.6%	263.4	3.6%	255.6	3.6%	8.1%	5.4%
Arapahoe County	353.7	3.2%	353.7	3.2%	342.8	3.0%	6.6%	4.9%
Boulder County	186.0	2.9%	186.0	2.9%	181.0	2.6%	5.5%	4.1%
Broomfield County	38.2	2.9%	38.2	2.9%	37.1	2.9%	5.8%	4.5%
Denver County	400.0	3.3%	400.0	3.3%	388.0	3.1%	6.6%	5.4%
Douglas County	184.3	2.8%	184.3	2.8%	178.6	2.5%	5.3%	4.2%
Jefferson County	327.4	3.1%	327.4	3.1%	317.5	2.9%	6.3%	4.7%
Colorado	3,016.3	3.3%	3,016.3	3.3%	2,921.1	3.2%	6.9%	4.8%
United States	160,037	4.5%	160,037	4.5%	158,676	5.1%	7.4%	5.8%

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

MONTHLY ECONOMIC INDICATORS: UPDATE

The count of new Metro Denver claims for unemployment insurance filed in January 2018 was 13.7 percent lower than the count filed in January 2017. The January count of claims filed statewide was down 7.3 percent over-the-year. First-time unemployment insurance claims have fallen over-the-year in Metro Denver for 12 consecutive months.

Weekly First-Time Unemployment Insurance Claims

	Month of Jan-18	Month of Dec-17	Month of Jan-17	YTD Avg 2018	YTD Avg 2017	YTD Avg % Change	Ann Avg 2013	Ann Avg 2008
Metro Denver	1,330	1,391	1,542	1,330	1,542	-13.7%	1,625	1,738
Colorado	2,546	2,839	2,746	2,546	2,746	-7.3%	3,166	3,112

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.



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