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# DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## Colo. holds onto No. 2 for aerospace jobs

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It is rocket science in Colorado, apparently.

The state boasts of the second highest concentration of aerospace workers in the country, second to California, according to research released Wednesday by Development Research Partners and the Metro Denver Economic Development Corp.

The organizations calculated that last year Colorado had surpassed Texas to climb from third to second. This week's study verifies the prediction, finding industry employment rose nearly 13 percent in the past year, reaching 26,650.

Economist Patty Silverstein pointed to the arrival of United Launch Alliance workers to the area from Southern California, Lockheed Martin Space Systems winning the \$8.2 billion Orion space capsule contract from NASA and work preceding the Sept. 18 launch of Longmont-based DigitalGlobe's WorldView-1 imaging satellite as primary drivers of the job growth.

United Launch Alliance is the merged rocket-building operation of Lockheed Martin Corp. and The Boeing Co.

Silverstein calculated that the industry grew by 27.4 percent over the past five years, easily outstripping the 2.7 percent national growth rate in aerospace employment over the same time period.

The top five states for overall employment were: California, Colorado, Texas, New Jersey and Florida, the report said.

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