

Lit Scan

Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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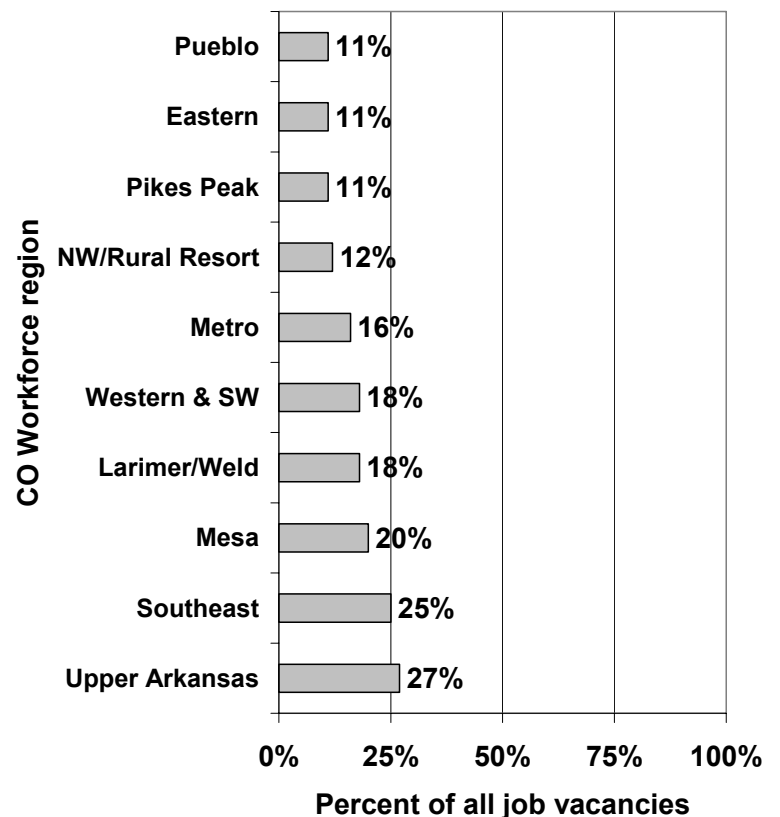
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Colorado Job Vacancies and Educational Attainment: The Impact on Employability of a High School or GED Diploma, 2002

Not completing high school or earning a GED has a devastating negative impact on an individual's employability.

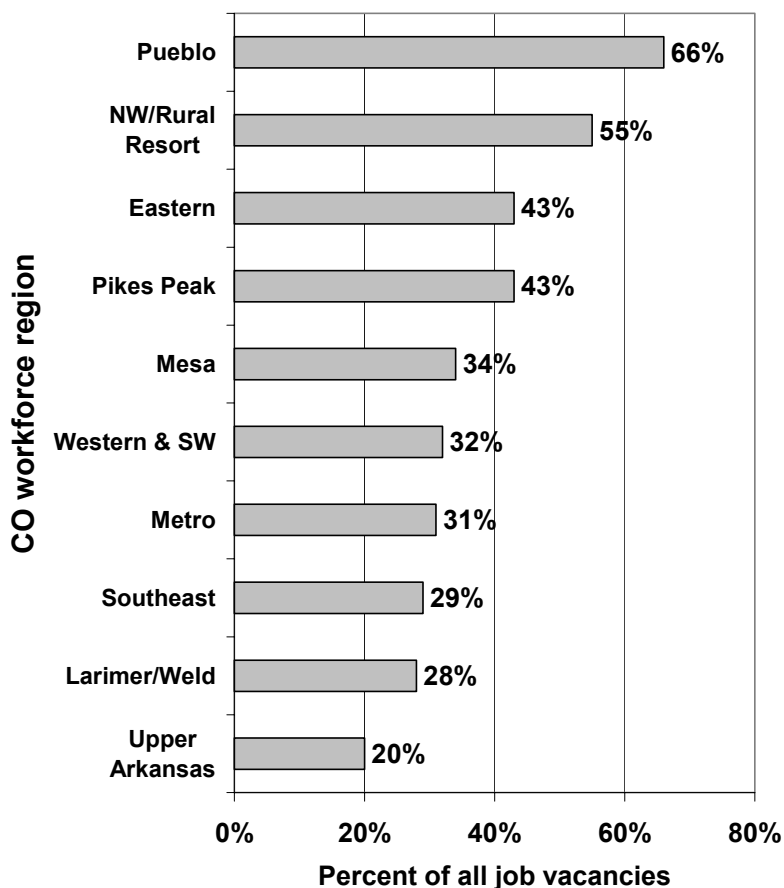
- Across 10 Colorado regions, the typical percentage of job vacancies open to those without a high school/GED diploma is around 17 percent. That is only one job out of every six.
- In the Pueblo, Eastern, and Pikes Peak areas, only 11 percent of vacant jobs are available to high school dropouts—little more than one job in every 10.
- In the highly populated northern part of the Front Range, the Denver Metro and Larimer/Weld areas, the share of vacant jobs for dropouts is 16 and 18 percent, respectively.
- The employment prospects of those without high school or GED diplomas are best in the Southeast and Upper Arkansas regions at 25 and 27 percent, respectively. There, those without the most basic educational credential are eligible for only one job out of four.

Percent of Job Vacancies Open to Coloradans Without a High School/GED Diploma, 2002



**Colorado Job Vacancies and Educational Attainment:
The Impact on Employability of a High School or GED Diploma, 2002**

**Percent of Job Vacancies
Open to Coloradans With
High School/GED Diplomas Only, 2002**



SOURCE

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Colorado **Job Vacancy Surveys**, 2002. Available at: <http://www.coworkforce.com/LMI/WRA/VacSurv.asp>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The employment prospects of high school and GED graduates are decidedly more optimistic.

- Across all 10 Colorado regions, the typical share of job vacancies available to those with a high school education (but no college) is about one-third.
- In the Eastern and Pikes Peak regions, high school dropouts are eligible for 43 percent of vacant jobs, and that share rises to 55 percent in the Northwest/Rural Resort region and 65 percent in the Pueblo region.

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

Between July 2002 and January 2003, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) released 10 regional job vacancy surveys reporting on available jobs by level of required educational attainment and by average wage range. Conducted between April 22 and May 31, 2002, the surveys did not involve all employers, but a large enough percentage in all regions to be statistically representative of all employers. For most regions, the surveys reached between one-third and half of all employers.

Employers Participating in CDLE Job Vacancy Surveys: Number & Percent of All Employers, 2002

Colorado Region	Number	Percent
Denver Metro	3,639	38%
Eastern	593	33%+
Larimer/Weld	1,954	52%
Mesa	955	48%
Northwest/Rural Resort	796	40%
Pikes Peak	2,053	41%
Pueblo	981	50%+
Southeast	479	33%+
Upper Arkansas	463	54%
Western & Southwest	733	22%