

Lit Scan

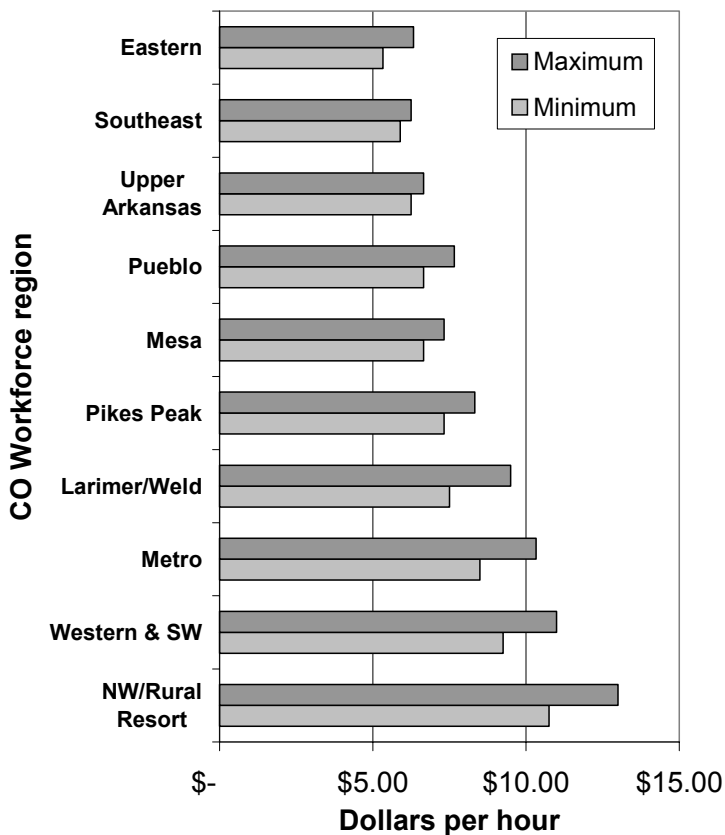
Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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

**Hourly Wage Ranges for Vacant Jobs
Requiring Less Than a High School/GED
Diploma, 2002**



Not completing high school or earning a GED can dramatically limit an individual's ability to obtain a job that pays a living wage.

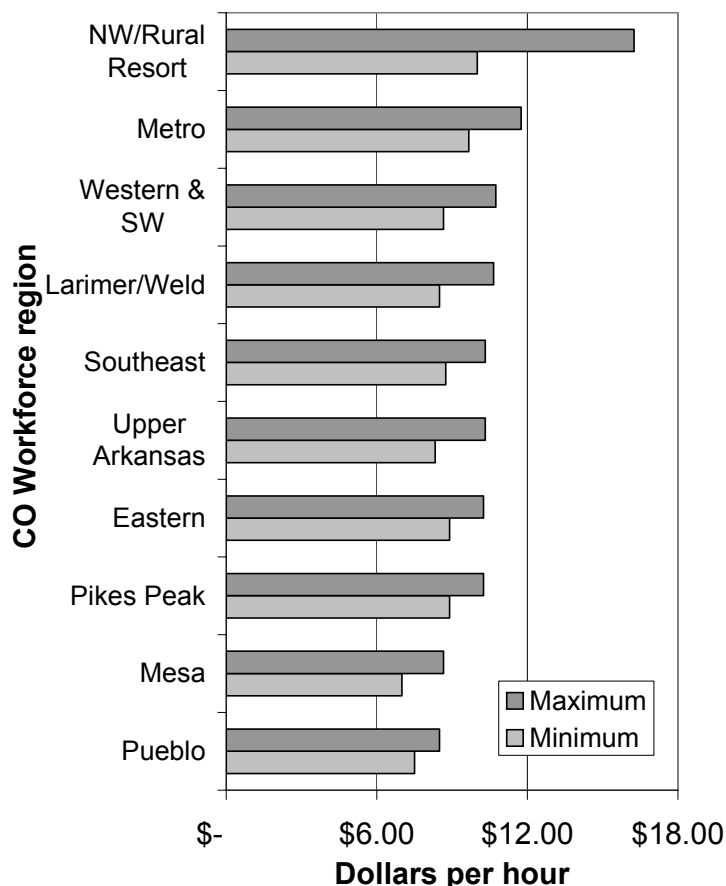
- Across 10 Colorado regions, job vacancies open to those without a high school/GED diploma tend to pay between \$6.50 and \$8.50 an hour.
- In the Eastern and Southeast regions, the wage range for jobs open to dropouts falls between \$5.50 to \$6.50.
- In the highly populated northern part of the Front Range, the Denver Metro and Larimer/Weld areas, the wage range for vacant jobs for dropouts falls between \$8.50 and \$10.50.
- The earnings potential of those without high school or GED diplomas are best in the Western & Southwest and Northwest/Rural Resort regions at \$9.25 to \$13.00.

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

The earnings potential of high school and GED graduates are decidedly more optimistic.

- Across all 10 Colorado regions, the typical wage range for jobs available to those with a high school education (but no college) falls between \$8.00 and \$10.50. That is an increase of about 25 percent over the earnings of those without diplomas.
- In the Denver Metro region, high school graduates are eligible for jobs paying between \$9.50 and \$12.00 per hour. That is an increase of about 15 percent over the earnings of Metro residents without diplomas.
- The region with the highest wage range for jobs available to high school graduates is the Northwest/Rural Resort region. There, a diploma can mean a job paying between \$10.00 and \$16.25 per hour. At that rate, those jobs top out paying 25 percent more than the jobs left to dropouts.

**Hourly Wage Ranges for Vacant Jobs
Requiring a High School/GED Diploma Only,
2002**



**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%

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.

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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