

Colorado Career Outlook

Higher Education



COLORADO
Office of Labor
Market Information
Department of Labor and Employment

Based on occupational projections through 2033

Grand Junction

Are you searching for a new career path or looking for that perfect job?

You can use the information in this flyer to help you plan and make informed decisions based on your interests and lifestyle. This overview provides information based on wages and projected demand for occupations within the next 10 years, along with the level of education or training needed for entry-level employment in these fields.



Education Pays

Further education and training may be a great benefit to your career. Typically, more education results in higher weekly earnings and lower unemployment rates.

Median Annual Earnings in Colorado

- Graduate or Professional degree - - \$83,202
- Bachelor's degree - - - - - \$67,578
- Associate degree or some college - - \$46,270
- High school graduate or GED - - - - \$41,596
- Less than a high school diploma - - \$35,024

Source

U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

Note

Data includes individuals 25 years and over with earnings.

Colorado Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment

- Less than a high school diploma - - - - 6.9%
- High school graduate, no college - - - - 3.0%
- Some college or associate degree - - - - 2.4%
- Bachelor's degree and higher - - - - - 1.7%

Source

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

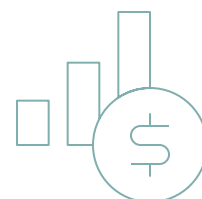
Note

Data is based on a 12-month average from January 2023 to December 2023 and includes individuals 25 years and over.

Colorado Labor Market Information

The Office of Labor Market Information (LMI) within the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment collects and analyzes information about labor market trends throughout Colorado.

- For more labor market information, visit cdle.colorado.gov/lmi
- For more career and education planning, visit mycoloradojourney.com
- For job opportunities, visit connectingcolorado.com



Colorado Workforce Centers

Visit cdle.colorado.gov/wfc to find your local workforce center.

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The median wage is the middle salary for each occupation. A percentile wage estimate shows what percentage of workers in an occupation earn less than or more than that amount. For more information, visit www.bls.gov/oes/oes_perc.htm.

Certificate/Associates	25th Percentile Annual	Median Annual	75th Percentile Annual
Occupation Title			
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$34,780	\$38,992	\$43,680
Medical Assistants	\$37,486	\$43,976	\$46,623
Massage Therapists	\$51,248	\$63,454	\$71,208
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$45,713	\$52,590	\$63,623
Firefighters	\$56,700	\$65,695	\$83,921
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$54,676	\$61,266	\$66,246
Dental Hygienists	\$89,096	\$95,605	\$96,039
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	\$29,143	\$31,593	\$56,380
Dental Assistants	\$38,228	\$46,767	\$49,433
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$45,675	\$56,333	\$59,856

Bachelor's Degree	25th Percentile Annual	Median Annual	75th Percentile Annual
Occupation Title			
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$41,708	\$51,780	\$65,709
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$47,795	\$60,505	\$86,466
Management Analysts	\$62,588	\$82,975	\$112,345
Registered Nurses	\$77,308	\$86,943	\$107,744
Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	\$49,731	\$49,731	\$61,933
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	\$49,954	\$61,569	\$79,228
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$50,200	\$50,200	\$61,742
Project Management Specialists	\$67,272	\$86,147	\$107,251
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	\$45,037	\$51,403	\$62,674
Accountants and Auditors	\$58,401	\$73,438	\$95,015

Master's/Professional Degree	25th Percentile Annual	Median Annual	75th Percentile Annual
Occupation Title			
Nurse Practitioners	\$98,851	\$117,860	\$131,982
Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	\$28,392	\$40,762	\$67,564
Physician Assistants	\$105,639	\$119,706	\$138,771
Speech-Language Pathologists	\$86,177	\$102,519	\$112,137
Business Teachers, Postsecondary	\$36,360	\$36,360	\$85,089
Physical Therapists	\$86,448	\$95,123	\$111,721
Educational, Guidance, and Career Counselors and Advisors	\$44,858	\$50,203	\$60,661
Occupational Therapists	\$89,557	\$103,857	\$109,554
Marriage and Family Therapists	\$48,564	\$48,564	\$66,269
Librarians and Media Collections Specialists	\$57,193	\$61,744	\$65,211