



COLORADO CAREER OUTLOOK

HIGHER EDUCATION *Northwest*

Based on Occupational projections through 2030



COLORADO
Department of
Labor and Employment
Office of Labor Market Information

In this overview, you'll find information on careers that are expected to be the fastest growing occupations within the next 10 years, along with the level of education or training needed for entry-level employment in these fields, and wage ranges for each. Wage information comes directly from Colorado businesses statewide.

If you are trying to decide on the type of job or career you would like to pursue, are considering a change in your current career path, or are interested in exploring further education or training, this information can help you plan and make informed decisions based on your lifestyle.

Education Pays

Education and training can be a great benefit to workers in their careers. Typically, more education results in higher weekly earnings and lower unemployment rates.

2019 Median Annual Earnings in Colorado

Graduate or Professional degree	\$71,616
Bachelor's degree	\$58,229
Associate degree or some college	\$40,819
High school graduate or GED	\$35,537
Less than a high school diploma	\$30,968

Based on population 25 years and older with earnings. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Colorado Unemployment Rates by Educational Attainment

Less than a high school diploma	8.7%
High school graduate, no college	7.8%
Some college or associate degree	5.5%
Bachelor's degree and higher	4.4%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey

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. Data are presented in a variety of ways: industry and occupational employment and wages, current and projected industry and occupation levels, occupation wages, and labor force statistics. LMI conducts various research projects and assists workforce centers and others with information requests.

- For more labor market information, visit colmigateway.com
- 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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Certificate / Associate Degree

Occupational Title	Wage Range
Firefighters	\$33,786 - \$62,884
Massage Therapists	\$25,211 - \$54,071
Medical Assistants	\$36,103 - \$44,552
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	\$37,647 - \$63,960
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	\$27,300 - \$47,521
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	\$34,501 - \$46,202
Nursing Assistants	\$30,651 - \$38,858
Dental Hygienists	\$84,727 - \$98,109
Dental Assistants	\$31,781 - \$50,983
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	\$28,544 - \$40,189
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$35,323 - \$58,410
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$40,336 - \$61,086
Medical Dosimetrists, Medical Records Specialists, and Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other	\$38,356 - \$59,703
Skincare Specialists	\$25,088 - \$49,510
Web Developers and Digital Interface Designers	\$47,330 - \$81,392

Bachelor's Degree

Occupational Title	Wage Range
Registered Nurses	\$59,599 - \$88,421
General and Operations Managers	\$58,592 - \$143,586
Coaches and Scouts	\$27,422 - \$50,351
Accountants and Auditors	\$46,236 - \$116,875
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$35,959 - \$77,397
Project Management Specialists and Business Operations Specialists, All Other	\$43,266 - \$92,099
Personal Service Managers; Entertainment & Recreation Managers, Except Gambling; and Managers, All Other	\$72,359 - \$136,364
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$40,708 - \$60,322
Human Resources Specialists	\$40,170 - \$76,784
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	\$38,266 - \$60,163
Civil Engineers	\$70,290 - \$127,403
Meeting, Convention, and Event Planners	\$37,814 - \$62,638
Architects, Except Landscape and Naval	N/A
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$51,555 - \$96,170
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	\$41,498 - \$60,324

Master's / Professional Degree

Occupational Title	Wage Range
Lawyers	N/A
Physical Therapists	\$59,314 - \$95,512
Speech-Language Pathologists	\$60,370 - \$90,225
Physician Assistants	\$93,132 - \$124,238
Urban and Regional Planners	\$43,692 - \$87,840
Nurse Practitioners	\$81,453 - \$121,810
Veterinarians	\$69,084 - \$117,930
Educational, Guidance, School, and Vocational Counselors	\$45,596 - \$69,764
Occupational Therapists	\$70,691 - \$99,479
Dentists, General	\$91,795 - \$112,978
Healthcare Social Workers	\$39,385 - \$65,511
Education Administrators, Elementary and Secondary School	\$72,988 - \$107,441
Pharmacists	\$112,238 - \$148,984
Surgeons, Except Ophthalmologists	N/A
Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$71,682 - \$108,798