

JUNE 2026 LABOR MARKET REPORT

AUTHORS: COLE ANDERSON, ERIK GAMM

Summary

Colorado experienced moderate employment growth over the last month. After losing 400 nonfarm jobs in May, the state added 4,800 in June: the private sector dominated that growth, of which governments generated just 100. Substantial losses in the information and trade/transportation/utilities sectors, which lost 1,700 jobs each, were overcome by the addition of 4,000 net new jobs in the leisure/hospitality sector and modest increases elsewhere.

Key Findings

- Over the past year, Colorado has experienced relatively high job growth. The state ranks 8th among states in nonfarm employment growth over this time.
- Colorado's total employment grew by 4,800 in June, 4,700 of which were private-sector jobs. Local governments added 100 jobs while the federal and state governments added none.
- Despite employment growth, Colorado's LFPR dropped for the fifth consecutive month. It fell by 0.3 percentage points in June for a total of 1.6 ppt over the last year.
- On its own, Colorado's strong 12-month employment growth lacks some context. The state has added 28,600 net new jobs over the last year, but this finding includes the 24,200 jobs lost in June 2025—the highest one-month decline since April 2020.

Sector Leaderboard

Sector	1M Change	12M Change	12M Rate (CO / US)
Construction	+1.5k	+6.1k	+3.3% / +1.3%
Financial Activities	+0.2k	-4.5k	-2.5% / -0.7%
Information	-1.7k	-5.3k	-7.6% / -2.4%
Leisure & hospitality	+4k	+13k	+3.8% / +1.0%
Manufacturing	+1k	-1.1k	-0.8% / -0.6%
Mining & logging	-0.2K	-0.9k	-4.3% / +0.8%
Other services	+1.2k	-2.2k	-1.7% / +0.5%
Private education & health services	+0.3k	+20.8k	+5.3% / +2.3%
Professional & business services	+0.1k	+4K	+0.8% / +0.6%
Trade, transportation & utilities	-1.7k	-0.2k	0% / -0.1%
Government	+0.1k	-1.1k	-0.2% / -0.5%
Total private	+4.7k	+29.7k	+1.2% / +0.6%
Total nonfarm	+4.8k	+28.6k	+1% / +0.4%

Job Growth Rate Rank

8th

over the last 12 months

LFPR

65.6% (-0.3 pp)

12M change: -1.6 pp

#10

Unemployment Rate

3.9% (+0.0 pp)

12M change: -0.1 pp

#28

Private vs. Public Jobs

4.7k / 0.1k

12M change: +29.7k / -1.1k

Total Nonfarm Jobs

2,970.8k (+4.8k)

12M change: +28.6k

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Private Employment Wages & Hours

Non-seasonally adjusted earnings and hours measures for the private payroll side of the labor market.

Average hourly earnings **\$39.33** (-\$0.38)
12M change: +\$0.18

Average weekly earnings **\$1,318** (-\$4.78)
12M change: -\$9.63

Average weekly hours **33.5** (+0.2)
12M change: -0.4

Demand / Turnover (December)

Labor demand and turnover measures.

Openings
110k (-6k)
12M average: 133k

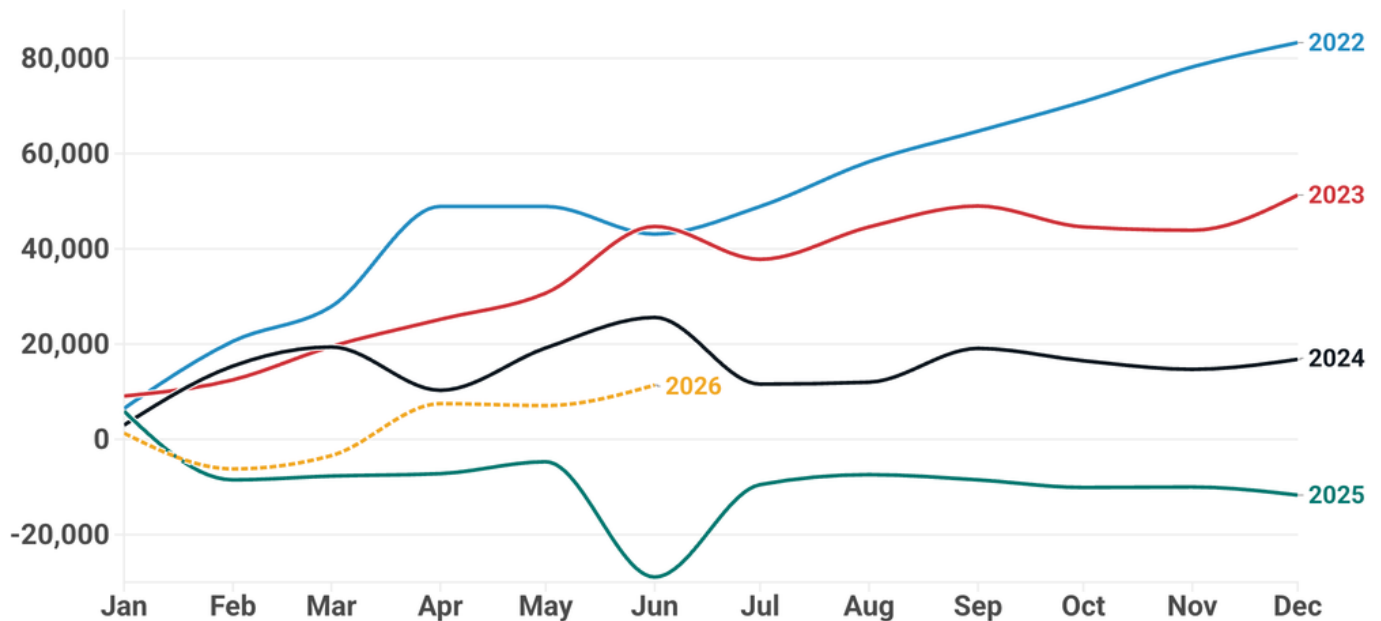
Hires
96k (-7k)
12M average: 112k

Total Separations
97k (-22k)
12M average: 105k

Unemp. Per Opening
1.1 (+0.0)
12M change: -0.1

Cumulative Jobs Added by Year in Colorado

From December 2025 to June 2026, total employment increased by 11,400 jobs compared to a decrease of 28,900 jobs this time last year.



Definitions and methodology notes

Definitions of the report’s labor-market terms

Payroll employment terms	BLS CES	Labor force terms	BLS CPS/LAUS	Labor demand and turnover terms	BLS JOLTS
Total nonfarm jobs Employment reported by the Current Employment Statistics program for workers on non-farm payrolls. It reflects payroll jobs, not unique people, so a person with more than one job can be counted more than once.		Labor force All people age 16 and older who are classified as either employed or unemployed. In plain terms, it is the number of people working or actively looking for work.		Job openings Open positions employers are actively recruiting to fill.	
Private jobs The private-sector portion of nonfarm payroll employment. It excludes government payroll employment.		Employed People are classified as employed if, during the reference week, they did any paid work, worked in their own business or farm, worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business, or were temporarily absent from a job.		Hires All additions to payroll during the month, whether they are new hires, recalls, or other additions.	
Government jobs The government portion of nonfarm payroll employment, including federal, state, and local government payrolls.		Unemployed People are classified as unemployed if they were not employed, were available for work, and had actively looked for work in the last 4 weeks, or were on temporary layoff.		Quits Voluntary separations initiated by employees, except retirements and transfers to other locations.	
Average hourly earnings Gross payrolls divided by total hours worked during the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. This is an earnings measure, not a posted wage-rate measure.		Labor force participation rate The labor force as a percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population.		Layoffs and discharges Involuntary separations initiated by the employer, including layoffs with no intent to rehire, discharges, and certain terminations of temporary or seasonal workers.	
Average weekly hours Average paid hours during the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Paid time can include holidays, sick leave, and other paid leave.		Unemployment rate The number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force.		Total separations The sum of quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations.	
Average weekly earnings A weekly earnings measure derived from average hourly earnings and average weekly hours.					

Report notes

Seasonally adjusted A BLS statistical adjustment that removes recurring seasonal influences so underlying month-to-month changes are isolated.	1-month change Report convention: current month minus prior month.	12-month change Report convention: current month minus the same month one year earlier.
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