



Economic Overview

Delta County, Colorado



Demographic Profile.....	3
Employment Trends	5
Unemployment Rate	5
Wage Trends	6
Cost of Living Index	7
Industry Snapshot	8
Occupation Snapshot	10
Industry Clusters	12
Education Levels.....	13
Gross Domestic Product.....	14
Delta County, Colorado Regional Map.....	16
FAQ.....	17

Demographic Profile

The population in Delta County, Colorado was 31,173 per American Community Survey data for 2017-2021.

The region has a civilian labor force of 12,792 with a participation rate of 49.6%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Delta County, Colorado, 22.8% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 35.8% in the nation.

The median household income in Delta County, Colorado is \$56,349 and the median house value is \$291,400.

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Delta County, Colorado	Colorado	USA	Delta County, Colorado	Colorado	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	31,173	5,770,790	331,097,593
Male	50.2%	50.7%	49.6%	15,642	2,927,588	164,200,298
Female	49.8%	49.3%	50.4%	15,531	2,843,202	166,897,295
Median Age ²	—	—	—	47.8	37.3	38.5
Under 18 Years	19.6%	21.5%	22.1%	6,105	1,241,310	73,213,705
18 to 24 Years	7.0%	9.5%	9.4%	2,169	546,720	31,282,896
25 to 34 Years	9.0%	15.6%	13.7%	2,791	897,631	45,388,153
35 to 44 Years	11.6%	14.2%	12.9%	3,618	819,807	42,810,359
45 to 54 Years	10.5%	12.3%	12.4%	3,272	708,248	41,087,357
55 to 64 Years	15.5%	12.2%	12.9%	4,827	701,721	42,577,475
65 to 74 Years	16.2%	9.2%	9.7%	5,040	531,638	32,260,679
75 Years and Over	10.7%	5.6%	6.8%	3,351	323,715	22,476,969
Race: White	88.1%	76.1%	65.9%	27,478	4,393,409	218,123,424
Race: Black or African American	0.6%	4.0%	12.5%	190	233,712	41,288,572
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.8%	1.0%	0.8%	241	57,022	2,786,431
Race: Asian	0.6%	3.2%	5.8%	195	185,431	19,112,979
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0	8,094	624,863
Race: Some Other Race	2.1%	4.9%	6.0%	641	283,146	20,018,544
Race: Two or More Races	7.8%	10.6%	8.8%	2,428	609,976	29,142,780
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	15.5%	22.1%	18.7%	4,838	1,273,762	61,755,866
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	31,602	5,839,926	333,287,557
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	0.4%	1.2%	0.6%	113	64,627	1,940,990
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	27.7	56.4	94.3
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	49.6%	68.3%	63.3%	12,792	3,165,225	167,857,207
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	72.4%	85.5%	82.8%	7,010	2,053,081	106,380,520
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.9%	0.5%	0	40,188	1,236,378
Veterans, Age 18-64	5.5%	5.6%	4.3%	922	203,520	8,636,019
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	47.6%	80.7%	77.1%	439	164,300	6,656,238
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$56,349	\$87,598	\$75,149
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$33,055	\$47,346	\$41,261
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	26.0	25.6	26.7
Commute via Public Transportation	0.6%	2.1%	3.8%	73	63,953	5,945,723
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	12.0%	7.5%	10.1%	1,745	235,678	17,373,867
High School Graduate	37.9%	19.7%	25.1%	5,493	617,102	43,176,248
Some College, No Degree	20.3%	19.5%	19.7%	2,941	608,370	33,916,989

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Delta County, Colorado	Colorado	USA	Delta County, Colorado	Colorado	USA
Associate's Degree	7.0%	8.6%	9.2%	1,015	270,412	15,886,884
Bachelor's Degree	16.9%	28.7%	22.4%	2,458	897,551	38,451,123
Postgraduate Degree	5.9%	15.9%	13.4%	856	498,294	23,058,233
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	14,841	2,500,095	140,943,613
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5}	—	—	—	\$291,400	\$465,900	\$281,900
Homeowner Vacancy	2.6%	0.8%	1.1%	246	12,484	931,393
Rental Vacancy	4.1%	5.1%	5.5%	126	42,035	2,623,236
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	23.9%	33.8%	35.2%	2,935	770,497	44,238,593
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	4.2%	5.0%	8.3%	509	113,738	10,474,870
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	15.0%	9.6%	12.5%	4,525	540,105	40,521,584
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	11.4%	7.6%	11.5%	1,404	173,191	14,486,880
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.2%	1.3%	1.4%	378	75,417	4,476,703
Disconnected Youth ³	5.4%	2.4%	2.5%	82	7,246	430,795
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	28.5%	28.0%	34.0%	1,600	333,496	23,568,955
Uninsured	11.0%	7.8%	8.7%	3,325	443,740	28,315,092
With a Disability, Age 18-64	14.9%	9.1%	10.5%	2,352	327,119	20,879,820
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	28.9%	54.4%	45.5%	679	177,934	9,492,098
Foreign Born	4.2%	9.5%	13.7%	1,301	547,602	45,281,071
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	3.2%	5.5%	8.2%	949	297,289	25,704,846

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2018-2022, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

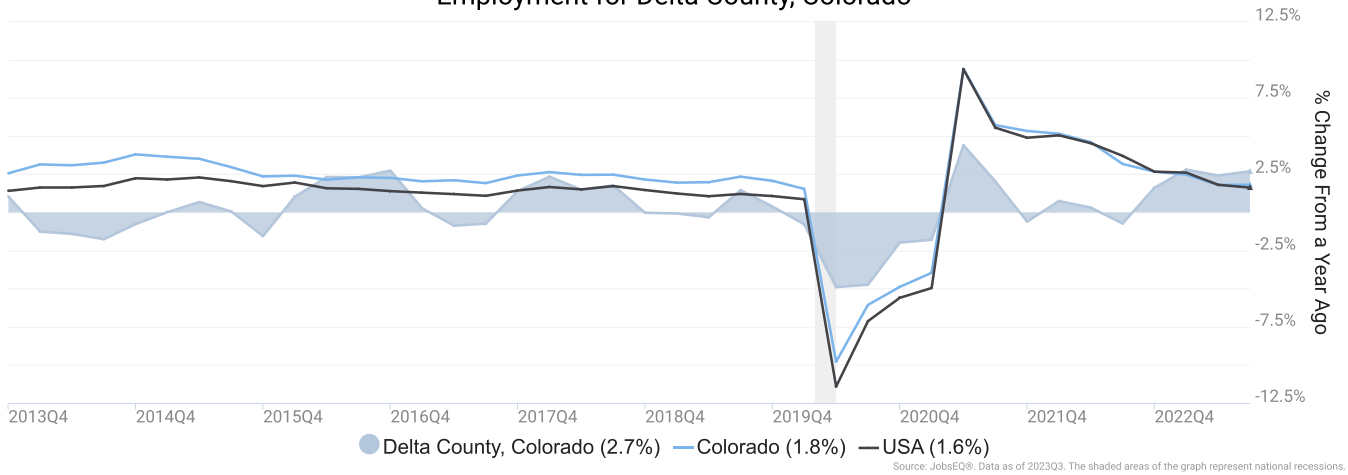
4. Census Population Estimate for 2022, annual average growth rate since 2012. Post-2019 data for Connecticut counties are imputed by Chmura.

5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

Employment Trends

As of 2023Q3, total employment for Delta County, Colorado was 10,377 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2023Q3, employment increased 2.7% in the region.

Employment for Delta County, Colorado

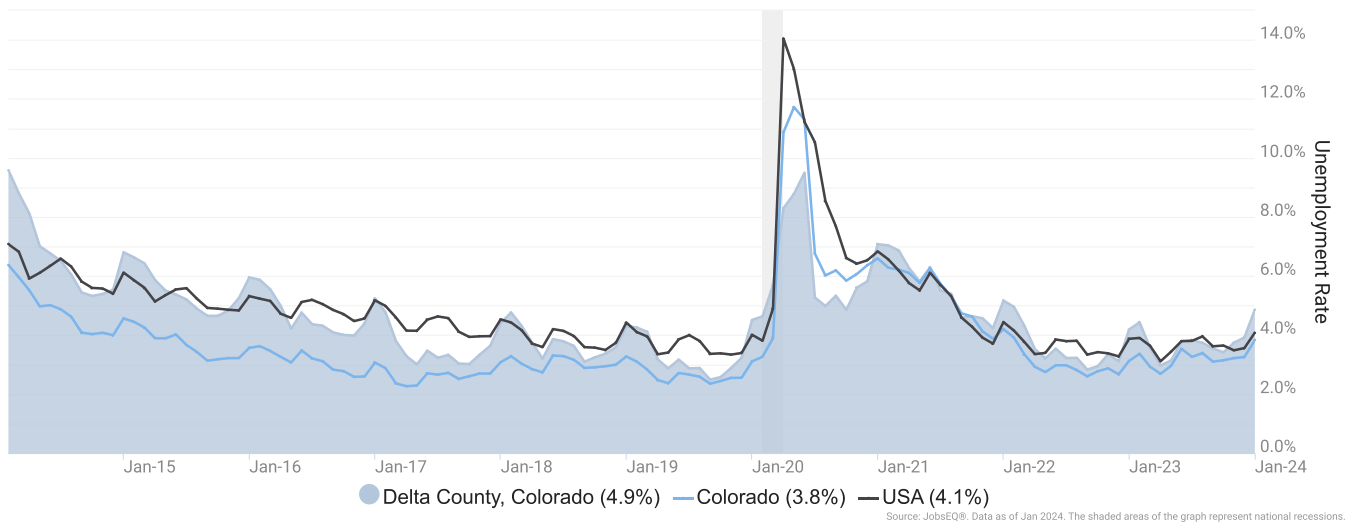


Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for Delta County, Colorado was 4.9% as of January 2024. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 4.1%. One year earlier, in January 2023, the unemployment rate in Delta County, Colorado was 4.2%.

Unemployment Rate for Delta County, Colorado

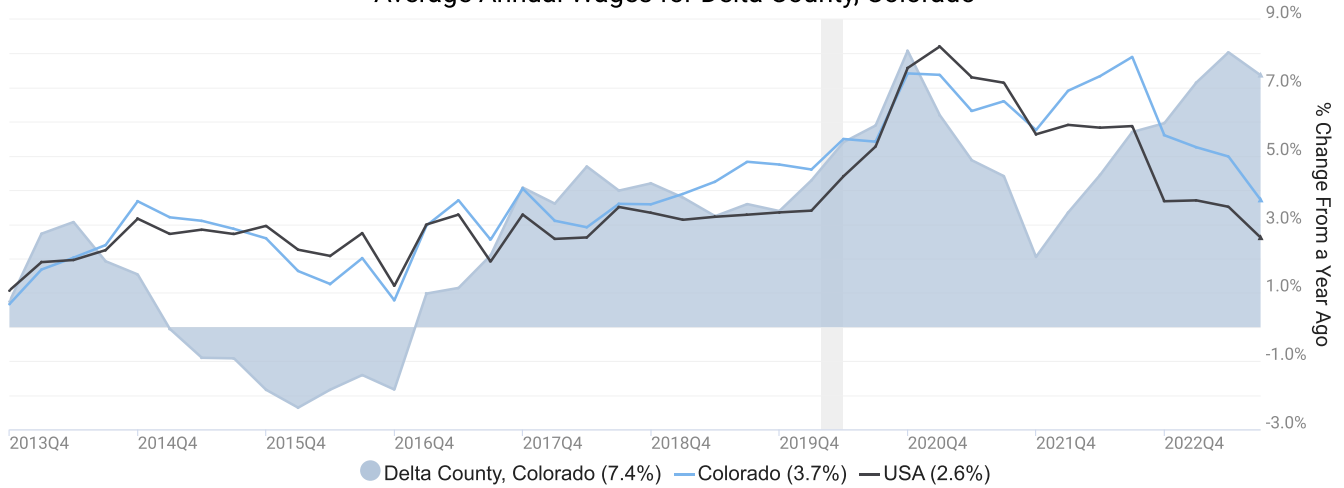


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through January 2024.

Wage Trends

The average worker in Delta County, Colorado earned annual wages of \$43,090 as of 2023Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 7.4% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$70,183 in the nation as of 2023Q3.

Average Annual Wages for Delta County, Colorado



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 2.7% higher in Delta County, Colorado than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Delta County, Colorado	\$43,090	102.7	\$41,944
Colorado	\$74,873	108.0	\$69,302
USA	\$70,183	100.0	\$70,183

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

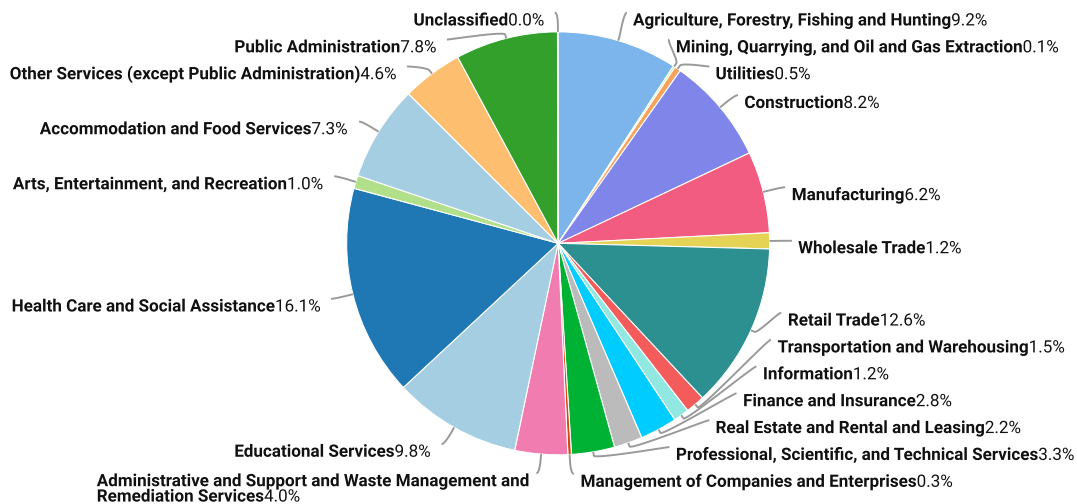
Data as of 2023Q3

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2023Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Delta County, Colorado is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 1,673 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (1,308 workers) and Educational Services (1,014). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (LQ = 7.22), Public Administration (1.71), and Construction (1.37).

Total Workers for Delta County, Colorado by Industry



Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2023Q3

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3.

Sectors in Delta County, Colorado with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$76,366), Utilities (\$74,371), and Finance and Insurance (\$69,342). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (+156 jobs), Public Administration (+105), and Manufacturing (+102).

Over the next 1 year, employment in Delta County, Colorado is projected to expand by 9 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +1.0% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+16 jobs), Other Services (except Public Administration) (+1), and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+1).

Delta County, Colorado, 2023Q3¹

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	1,673	\$52,743	1.11	-359	-3.8%	180	79	85	16	1.0%
44	Retail Trade	1,308	\$35,191	1.27	21	0.3%	174	80	100	-6	-0.4%
61	Educational Services	1,014	\$37,534	1.23	20	0.4%	95	47	49	0	0.0%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	952	\$27,854	7.22	4	0.1%	109	55	58	-5	-0.5%
23	Construction	848	\$47,459	1.37	73	1.8%	73	30	44	0	0.0%
92	Public Administration	813	\$53,324	1.71	105	2.8%	74	33	42	0	0.0%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	759	\$22,541	0.84	-49	-1.2%	134	60	74	0	0.0%
31	Manufacturing	647	\$45,246	0.77	102	3.5%	64	26	39	-1	-0.1%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	480	\$33,038	1.08	53	2.4%	56	24	31	1	0.2%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	417	\$42,610	0.64	156	9.8%	48	21	27	0	0.1%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	342	\$62,341	0.45	51	3.3%	29	11	17	1	0.4%
52	Finance and Insurance	293	\$69,342	0.71	35	2.6%	25	10	14	1	0.2%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	224	\$62,942	1.22	-42	-3.4%	22	10	11	1	0.3%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	152	\$51,581	0.30	2	0.3%	16	7	9	0	-0.2%
42	Wholesale Trade	128	\$50,412	0.33	9	1.5%	12	5	8	-1	-0.5%
51	Information	125	\$49,702	0.60	-40	-5.4%	11	4	7	0	-0.1%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	104	\$21,252	0.52	32	7.5%	16	7	9	1	0.5%
22	Utilities	50	\$74,371	0.95	0	-0.2%	4	2	3	0	-0.2%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	29	\$76,366	0.18	6	5.1%	3	1	1	0	0.8%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	15	\$65,599	0.40	-118	-35.4%	1	1	1	0	0.2%
99	Unclassified	3	\$67,609	0.15	1	5.0%	0	0	0	0	0.1%
Total - All Industries		10,377	\$43,090	1.00	63	0.1%	1,141	499	633	9	0.1%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2023Q3

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Delta County, Colorado is Management Occupations, employing 1,104 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (1,017 workers) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (993). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (LQ = 3.82), Management Occupations (1.41), and Construction and Extraction Occupations (1.35).

Occupation groups in Delta County, Colorado with the highest average wages per worker are Computer and Mathematical Occupations (\$96,800), Management Occupations (\$92,900), and Architecture and Engineering Occupations (\$86,700). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.1% among Legal Occupations to 5.8% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Delta County, Colorado is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +1.7% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+11 jobs) and Community and Social Service Occupations (+3). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (146 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (133).

Delta County, Colorado, 2023Q3¹

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
11-0000	Management	1,104	\$92,900	1.41	14	1.2%	61	26	0.5%	93	51	43	-2	-0.2%
41-0000	Sales and Related	1,017	\$47,800	1.11	54	4.3%	49	42	0.8%	129	61	72	-5	-0.5%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	993	\$43,800	0.79	39	3.2%	33	0	0.0%	100	51	56	-8	-0.8%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	775	\$35,900	0.92	66	5.8%	49	-31	-0.8%	147	66	80	0	0.0%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	721	\$47,800	1.31	20	2.8%	8	5	0.1%	63	31	31	1	0.1%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	648	\$40,300	0.71	52	5.0%	24	77	2.6%	88	36	50	2	0.4%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	638	\$51,800	1.35	49	4.5%	15	-11	-0.3%	55	22	32	1	0.2%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	607	\$35,800	1.31	29	4.1%	50	-293	-7.6%	97	42	44	11	1.7%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	597	\$84,800	0.98	10	1.6%	231	26	0.9%	36	19	15	2	0.3%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	559	\$75,400	0.85	13	2.1%	22	95	3.8%	46	17	27	2	0.3%
51-0000	Production	473	\$43,900	0.81	26	3.8%	7	50	2.3%	49	21	30	-2	-0.4%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	394	\$53,400	0.97	12	2.0%	21	15	0.8%	35	15	19	0	0.1%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	311	\$37,200	0.92	24	5.1%	7	10	0.7%	41	19	22	0	0.1%
33-0000	Protective Service	256	\$57,200	1.15	9	3.2%	6	33	2.8%	28	13	15	0	-0.1%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	237	\$40,500	3.82	14	5.4%	3	16	1.4%	33	13	21	-1	-0.4%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	233	\$52,500	1.25	4	2.1%	23	-1	-0.1%	23	9	11	3	1.1%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	233	\$39,800	0.91	12	4.0%	4	0	0.0%	41	15	24	2	0.7%

Delta County, Colorado, 2023Q3¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	187	\$58,000	0.98	7	3.6%	8	19	2.2%	19	8	10	0	0.2%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	155	\$96,800	0.47	3	2.0%	21	20	2.7%	11	4	6	1	0.7%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	92	\$86,700	0.55	2	2.0%	15	4	1.0%	6	3	4	0	0.1%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	86	\$75,500	0.95	1	1.7%	14	11	2.8%	8	2	5	0	0.4%
23-0000	Legal	59	\$85,900	0.69	1	1.1%	1	4	1.4%	4	2	2	0	0.3%
Total - All Occupations		10,377	\$55,400	1.00	463	3.6%	672	117	0.2%	1,152	521	622	9	0.1%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2023Q3 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

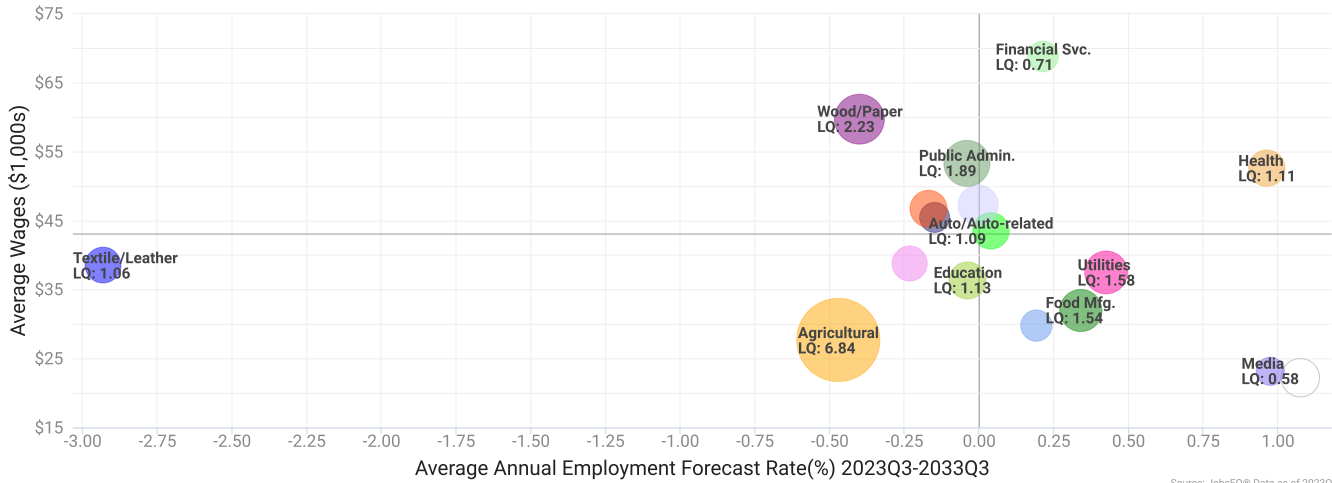
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2023Q2, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3. Wages by occupation are as of 2023 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Delta County, Colorado with the highest relative concentration is Agricultural with a location quotient of 6.84. This cluster employs 945 workers in the region with an average wage of \$27,677. Employment in the Agricultural cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.5% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Delta County, Colorado as of 2023Q3



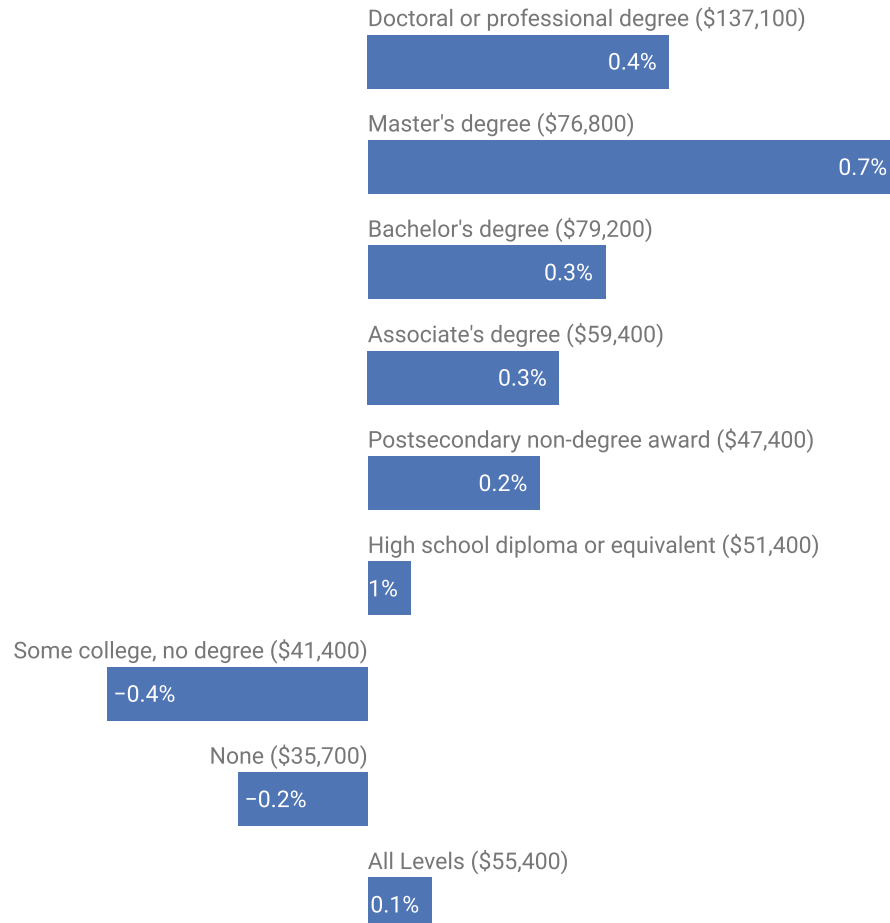
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2023Q3

Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2023Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Delta County, Colorado is projected to grow 0.1% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.4% per year, those requiring a bachelor’s degree are forecast to grow 0.3% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.3% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

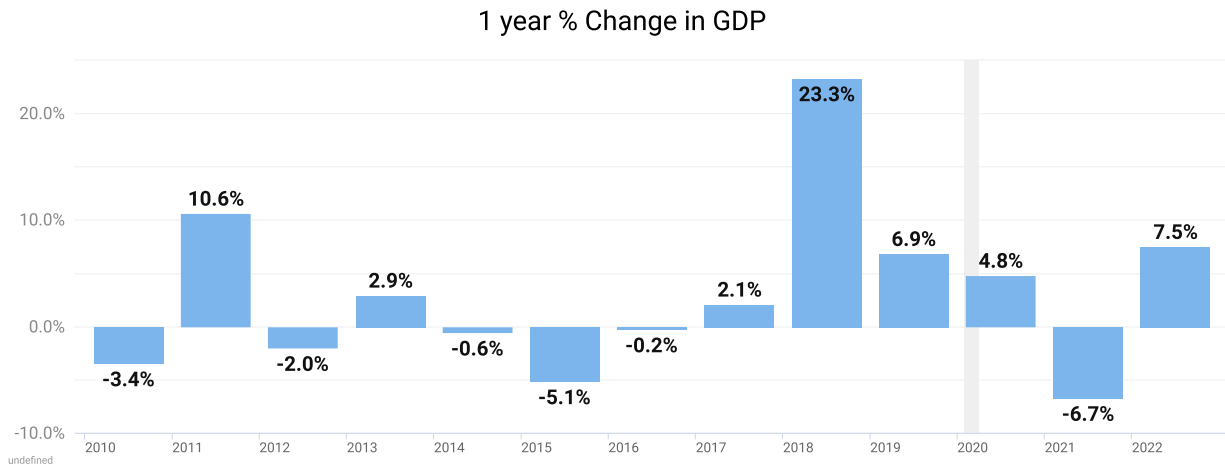


Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2023Q3

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2023Q3. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2022, nominal GDP in Delta County, Colorado expanded 7.5%. This follows a contraction of 6.7% in 2021. As of 2022, total GDP in Delta County, Colorado was \$993,404,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

Of the sectors in Delta County, Colorado, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2022, \$202,407,000. The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance (\$129,352,000); Retail Trade (\$107,497,000); and Construction (\$80,174,000).

GDP (in \$ millions)

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)



Health Care and Social Assistance (62)



Retail Trade (44)



Construction (23)



Manufacturing (31)



Public Administration (92)



Educational Services (61)



Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (11)



Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54)

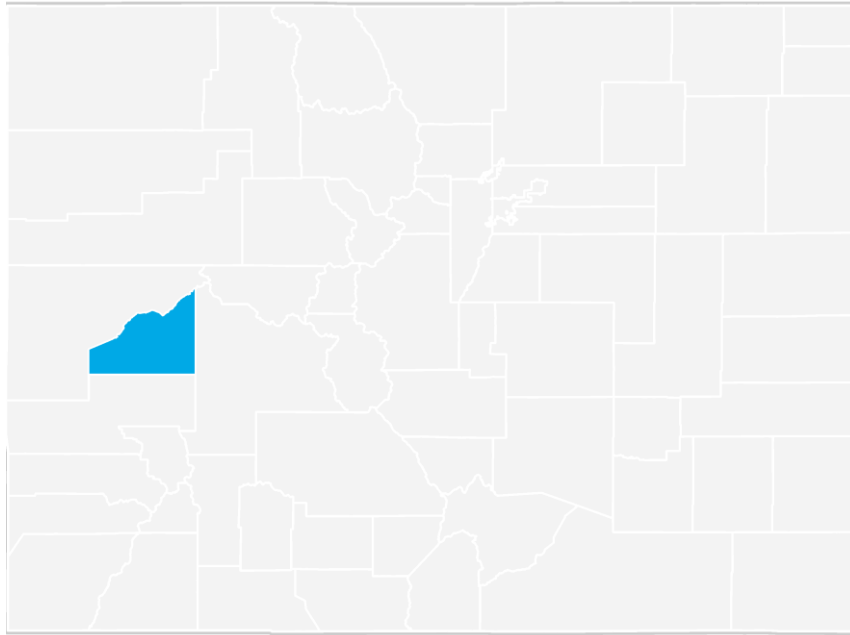


Other Services (except Public Administration) (81)



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

Delta County, Colorado Regional Map



FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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