

### Rankings

The Denver South region is a hub of innovation and entrepreneurial activity. The region received several recent accolades for its strong entrepreneurial environment, including:

- Inc.com ranked Denver as the fourth-hottest startup city in the U.S. in 2020, and ranked among the top 10 for the rate of entrepreneurship, high-growth company density, and wage growth.
- Denver ranked ninth among the “Top 20 Best Tech Cities for IT Jobs,” according to the 2019 Tech Town Index by CompTIA.
- According to CompTIA’s *Cyberstates 2020* report, Metro Denver ranked as the No. 16 metro area in the U.S. for total tech jobs and No. 9 for most jobs added in the past year.
- Denver was the eighth-best market for tech talent in 2019, according to CBRE’s annual “Scoring Tech Talent” report.
- SmallBusinessTrends.com named Denver second in 2019 among the “Best Cities for Women Entrepreneurs.”
- Denver ranked among Inc.com’s top 10 “Best Cities for Startups Success” in 2019.
- Denver ranked among the top 50 most high-tech cities in the world in 2019, according to BusinessInsider.com.

### Business Size

Denver South has a strong base of small businesses.

- More than 85 percent of the businesses in the Denver South region employ fewer than 10 workers and nearly 98 percent employ fewer than 100 workers.

### New Business Filings

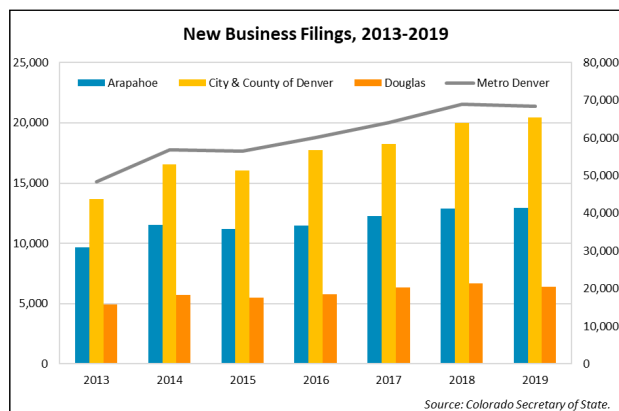
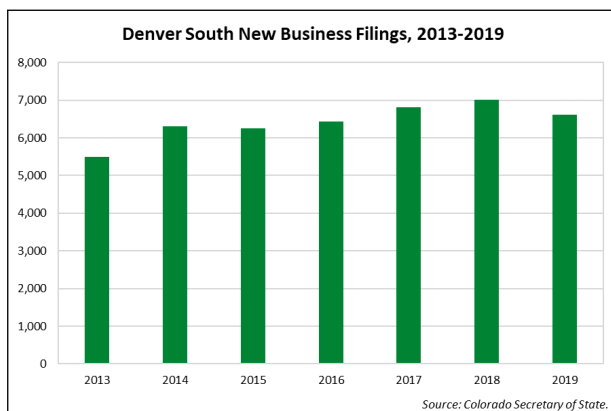
The number of new business filings in the Denver South region grew an average of 3.2 percent per year, compared with 6 in Metro Denver.

- Over 1,100 new businesses filings were added to the Denver South region between 2013 and 2019.
- New businesses in the Denver South region represent about 10 percent of the new businesses in Metro Denver.

**Denver South Business Size, 2019**

Employees	Percentage
1	21.3%
2 to 9	64.0%
10 to 49	10.3%
50 to 99	2.0%
100 to 249	1.1%
250 to 499	0.4%
500 to 999	0.2%
1,000 to 2,499	0.1%
2,500>	0.0%
Unknown	0.7%

Source: Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., Hoover’s Marketplace Database.

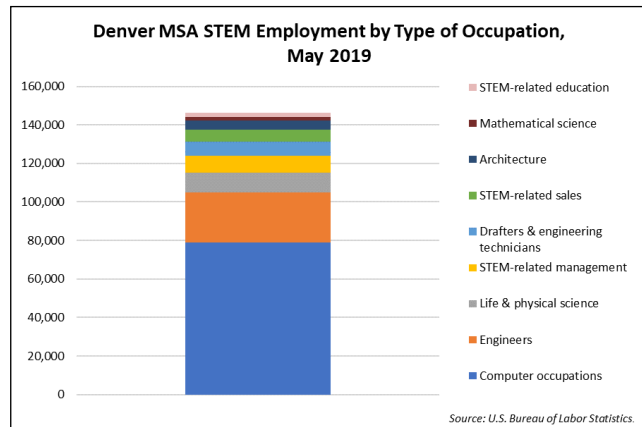
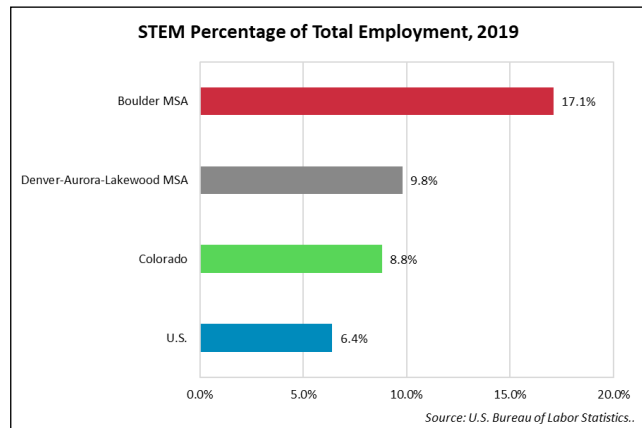


**Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM)**

STEM occupations demonstrate the concentration of high-tech jobs generally associated with innovation in a community.

According to Wallethub, Denver ranked among the top 30 metro areas for STEM professionals in 2020. Denver ranked 14th in professional opportunities for STEM workers.

- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated there were nearly 150,000 STEM jobs in 2019 in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood MSA, representing 9.8 percent of all occupations. STEM occupations were about one-and-a-half times the national average of 6.4 percent.
- Computer occupations made up about 54 percent of STEM employment in the Denver MSA, and engineers made up an additional 18 percent.



**Patents**

A common metric used to measure innovation and R&D is patents.

- Among the three counties, Douglas County had the most utility patents granted per resident from 2000 to 2015.
- Utility patents doubled in all three counties over this period, and rose at least 4 percent per year between 2000 and 2015, exceeding the Metro Denver rate of 4.3 percent per year over the period.

