

**Rankings**

The Denver South region is a hub of innovation and entrepreneurial activity and continually ranks as a top location.

- Denver is in the top 30 startup ecosystems in the world and No. 12 in North America, according to Startup Genome.
- Denver ranked No. 9 among the “Best Cities to Start a Business” in 2022, according to Clever.
- Metro Denver has the seventh-most tech jobs per capita among large metros in the U.S. and Boulder had the third-most tech jobs per capita among small metros. (Spanning, 2021)
- Denver was the eighth-fastest growing city for entrepreneurs in 2021, with 32 percent growth in small businesses founded over-the-year. (LinkedIn, *State of Entrepreneurship*)
- Denver ranked 11th in CBRE’s 2021 Tech-30 report with high-tech job growth of 11.5 percent and high-tech office market rent growth of 8.9 percent.
- Denver ranked among the “Top 12 Best Cities for Tech Jobs in 2021.” (TechTarget)
- Metro Denver ranked No. 6 among large metros with the most startup business activity in 2021. (Roofstock, 2021)
- Metro Denver and Boulder ranked among the top 10 “Great Places to Start a Business After the Pandemic” in 2021. (Times of Entrepreneurship)
- Colorado ranked first for “Best States for Women-Led Startups in 2021” by small business reviewer Merchant Maverick.
- Ninety-eight percent of Colorado’s businesses are small businesses and 43,780 new businesses have been formed in the first quarter of 2022 alone. (Colorado Secretary of State)

**Business Size**

Denver South is primarily comprised of small businesses.

- More than 86 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**

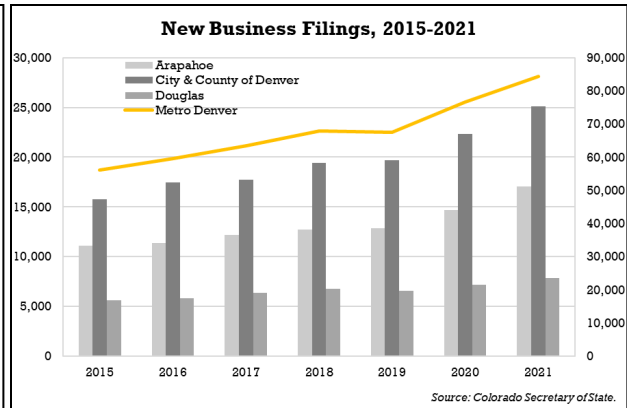
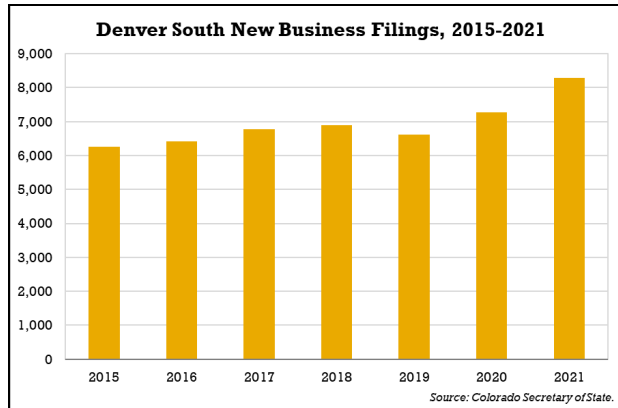
Between 2015 and 2021, the number of new business filings in the Denver South region grew an average of 4.8 percent per year.

- In 2021, the rate of new business filings in the Denver South region rose the fastest pace in the six-year period, rising 14 percent.
- Over 2,020 new businesses filings were added to the Denver South region between 2015 and 2021.
- New businesses in the Denver South region represent about 10 percent of the new businesses in Metro Denver.

**Denver South Business Size, 2021**

Employees	Percentage
1	20.9%
2 to 9	65.3%
10 to 49	9.7%
50 to 99	1.8%
100 to 249	1.0%
250 to 499	0.3%
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.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated there were over 147,000 STEM jobs in 2021 in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood MSA, representing 10 percent of all occupations. STEM occupations were about one-and-a-half times more concentrated than the national average of 6.6 percent.

- Computer occupations represent about 50 percent of STEM employment in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood MSA, and engineers made up an additional 18.4 percent.

