

Northern Colorado

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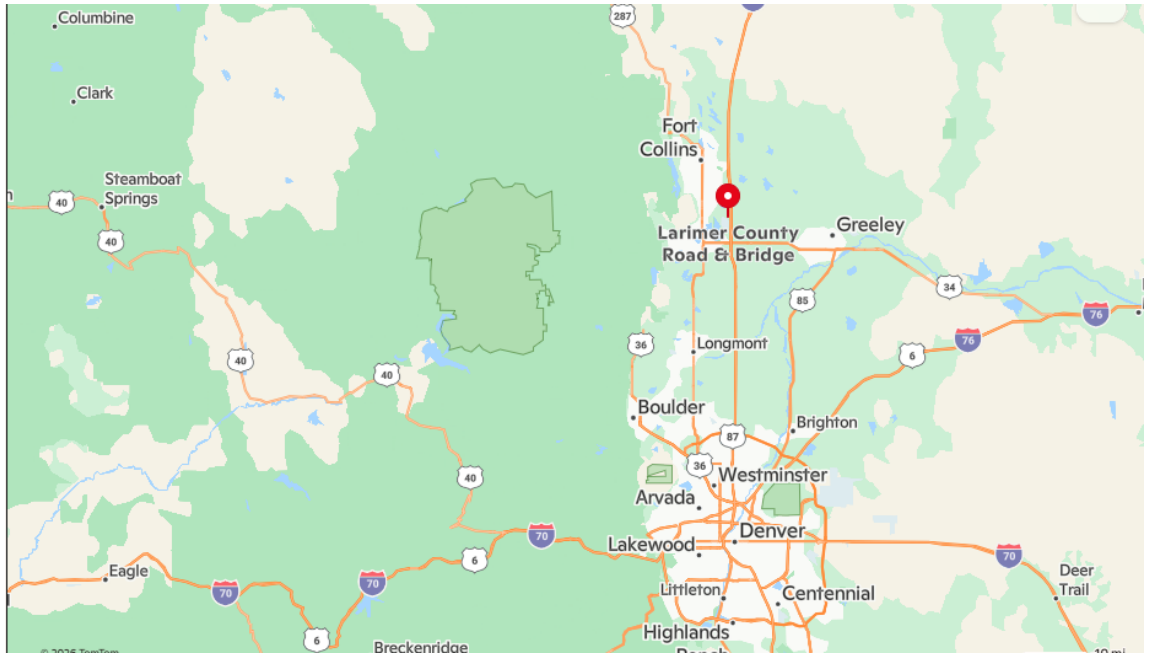
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Northern Colorado, encompassing Larimer and Weld Counties, is one of the state's most steadily growing and collaborative regional economies, a place where innovation and practicality intersect. Located along the I-25 corridor between Denver and Cheyenne, the region benefits from strong connections to Denver International Airport, rail lines, and major highways. With a labor market exceeding 380,000 workers, Larimer and Weld Counties share deep economic and workforce ties, supported by complementary industries, commuter flows, and coordinated education-to-employment systems.

As of 2024, Northern Colorado's combined population has reached 744,319 residents, reflecting continued growth and regional appeal. Larimer County has 374,574 residents, up 0.8% year-over-year, while Weld County, one of Colorado's fastest-growing counties, has added 2.6% year-over-year to reach 369,745 people.

Northern Colorado illustrates a balanced demographic profile that supports both near-term opportunity and long-term stability. Weld County is home to many young families, with over 25% of residents under age 19 and the region's highest share of married households and households with children, demonstrating its family-oriented character and steady population growth. Larimer County complements that dynamic with a strong base of young adults and early-career professionals. For employers, these demographics present an advantage of steady inflows of educated workers who are well-positioned to join and strengthen the local economy.

Northern Colorado's economic foundation blends established and emerging industries. Agriculture, energy, and manufacturing continue to anchor the regional economy, while new opportunities are expanding in bioscience and medical devices, fabrication and production technology manufacturing, distribution and e-commerce, food processing and manufacturing, information technology, and plastics. Collaborative efforts like the Northern Colorado Regional Economic Development Initiative (NoCo REDI), NoCo Works, and 6 local sector partnerships help employers and educators adapt quickly to evolving needs, retraining and connecting workers with in-demand careers.

Educational institutions including Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado, Aims Community College, and Front Range Community College provide a strong base for lifelong learning and workforce readiness. The region exceeds the national average in educational attainment, with over 40% of residents over age 25 holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

The region's infrastructure supports this balanced, sustainable growth. Advanced healthcare systems such as UCHealth and Banner Health ensure high-quality medical care and innovation capacity. High-speed broadband, modern utilities, and a diverse mix of real estate, from industrial and flex space to vibrant downtowns, provide a practical framework for business expansion and community development.

Northern Colorado's entrepreneurial ecosystem contributes to its resiliency and forward momentum. Organizations such as Innosphere Ventures have supported more than 220 startups, helping them raise \$1.2 billion and create over 2,500 jobs. Regional initiatives like Elevate Quantum and the NSF ASCEND Engine are advancing new technologies and fostering collaboration across Colorado and Wyoming. These efforts reflect the region's commitment to practical innovation, developing industries and workforce capacity in ways that sustain long-term opportunity.

Companies such as Woodward, Otter Products, Bobo's, Ursa Major, Hach, JBS, Leprino Foods, Tolmar, Vestas, Agilent Technologies, Aurora Organic Dairy, Anheuser-Busch, New Belgium Brewing, and Halliburton exemplify the range of businesses contributing to Northern Colorado's growth. Together, they represent the region's ability to produce high-quality goods, drive technological advancement, and sustain a robust local supply chain.

With its diverse economy, strong infrastructure, skilled workforce, and collaborative partnerships, Northern Colorado is a region growing with purpose. Its communities are working together to create an environment where businesses, institutions, and families can thrive, anchored by shared values of resilience, opportunity, and sustainable growth.