[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Infobox U.S. state](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state) [Template:Infobox U.S. state symbols](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state_symbols)

**Colorado** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en),[[1]](#cite_note-1) or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)[[2]](#cite_note-2)) ([Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language) for "ruddy") is a [state](/wiki/U.S._state) in the [United States](/wiki/United_States) encompassing most of the [Southern Rocky Mountains](/wiki/Southern_Rocky_Mountains) as well as the northeastern portion of the [Colorado Plateau](/wiki/Colorado_Plateau) and the western edge of the [Great Plains](/wiki/Great_Plains). Colorado is part of the [Western United States](/wiki/Western_United_States), the [Southwestern United States](/wiki/Southwestern_United_States), and the [Mountain States](/wiki/Mountain_States). Colorado is the [8th most extensive](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area) and the [22nd most populous](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_population) of the [50 United States](/wiki/50_United_States). The [United States Census Bureau](/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) estimates that the population of Colorado was 5,456,574 on July 1, 2015, an increase of 8.50% since the [2010 United States Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census).<ref name=PopEstUS>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The state was named for the [Colorado River](/wiki/Colorado_River), which [Spanish travelers](/wiki/Conquistador#North_America_exploration) named the *Río Colorado* for the [ruddy](/wiki/Wiktionary:ruddy) ([Template:Lang-es](/wiki/Template:Lang-es)) silt the river carried from the mountains. The [Territory of Colorado](/wiki/Territory_of_Colorado) was organized on February 28, 1861, and on August 1, 1876, [U.S. President](/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) [Ulysses S. Grant](/wiki/Ulysses_S._Grant) signed Proclamation 230 admitting Colorado to the [Union](/wiki/United_States) as the 38th state. Colorado is nicknamed the "[Centennial State](/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_nicknames)" because it became a state in the same year as the [centennial](/wiki/Century) of the [United States Declaration of Independence](/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence).

Colorado is bordered by [Wyoming](/wiki/Wyoming) to the north, [Nebraska](/wiki/Nebraska) to the northeast, [Kansas](/wiki/Kansas) to the east, [Oklahoma](/wiki/Oklahoma) to the southeast, [New Mexico](/wiki/New_Mexico) to the south, [Utah](/wiki/Utah) to the west, and [Arizona](/wiki/Arizona) to the southwest, at the [Four Corners](/wiki/Four_Corners). Colorado is noted for its vivid landscape of mountains, forests, [high plains](/wiki/High_Plains_(United_States)), [mesas](/wiki/Mesa), [canyons](/wiki/Canyon), [plateaus](/wiki/Plateau), rivers, and [desert lands](/wiki/Desert).

[Denver](/wiki/Denver) is the capital and the [most populous city](/wiki/Colorado_municipalities_by_population) of Colorado. Residents of the state are properly known as "[Coloradoans](/wiki/List_of_people_from_Colorado)", although the term "Coloradan" is used in modern times.<ref name=statestyle>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=Coloradan>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

## Contents

* 1 Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]
  + 1.1 Mountains[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]
  + 1.2 Plains[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]
  + 1.3 Front range[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]
  + 1.4 Continental Divide[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]
  + 1.5 Southern region[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]
  + 1.6 Peaks[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]
  + 1.7 Colorado Western Slope[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]
* 2 Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]
  + 2.1 Eastern Plains[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]
  + 2.2 West of the plains and foothills[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]
  + 2.3 Extreme weather[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]
  + 2.4 Records[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]
  + 2.5 Earthquakes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]
* 3 History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]
  + 3.1 Territory act[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]
  + 3.2 Statehood[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]
* 4 Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]
  + 4.1 Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]
  + 4.2 Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]
* 5 Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]
  + 5.1 Fine arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]
    - 5.1.1 Film[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]
  + 5.2 Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]
  + 5.3 Wine and beer[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]
  + 5.4 Marijuana and Hemp[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]
    - 5.4.1 Medicinal use[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]
    - 5.4.2 Recreational use[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]
* 6 Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]
  + 6.1 Philanthropy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]
  + 6.2 Natural resources[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]
* 7 Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]
* 8 Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]
  + 8.1 State government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]
  + 8.2 Counties[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]
    - 8.2.1 Metropolitan areas[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]
  + 8.3 Municipalities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]
  + 8.4 Unincorporated communities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]
  + 8.5 Special districts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]
  + 8.6 Federal politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]
  + 8.7 Significant bills passed in Colorado[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]
* 9 Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]
* 10 Military installations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]
* 11 Protected areas[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]
* 12 Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]
  + 12.1 Professional sports teams[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]
  + 12.2 College athletics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]
* 13 See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]
* 14 References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]
* 15 Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]
* 16 External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Colorado is notable for its diverse geography, ranging from alpine mountains, arid plains and deserts with huge sand dunes, deep canyons, sandstone and granite rock formations, rivers, lakes, and lush forests. The borders of Colorado were originally defined to be lines of latitude and longitude, making its shape a latitude-longitude quadrangle which stretches from [37°N](/wiki/37th_parallel_north) to [41°N](/wiki/41st_parallel_north) latitude and from [102°03'W](/wiki/25th_meridian_west_from_Washington) to [109°03'W](/wiki/32nd_meridian_west_from_Washington) longitude ([25°W](/wiki/25th_meridian_west_from_Washington) to [32°W](/wiki/32nd_meridian_west_from_Washington) from the [Washington Meridian](/wiki/Washington_Meridian)).<ref name=Colorado\_Enabling\_Act/> Colorado, [Wyoming](/wiki/Wyoming) and [Utah](/wiki/Utah) are the only states which have boundaries defined solely by lines of latitude and longitude.

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Elkmts.JPG) [Elk Mountains](/wiki/Elk_Mountains_(Colorado)) near [Aspen, Colorado](/wiki/Aspen,_Colorado) showing the [Maroon Bells](/wiki/Maroon_Bells) [thumb|Mountains and lakes near](/wiki/File:Tenmile.JPG) [Breckenridge, Colorado](/wiki/Breckenridge,_Colorado)

### Mountains[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The summit of [Mount Elbert](/wiki/Mount_Elbert) at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) elevation in [Lake County](/wiki/Lake_County,_Colorado) is the highest point in Colorado and the Rocky Mountains of North America.<ref name=Mount\_Elbert>[Template:Cite ngs](/wiki/Template:Cite_ngs)</ref> Colorado is the only U.S. state that lies entirely above 1000 meters elevation. The point where the [Arikaree River](/wiki/Arikaree_River) flows out of [Yuma County, Colorado](/wiki/Yuma_County,_Colorado), and into [Cheyenne County, Kansas](/wiki/Cheyenne_County,_Kansas), is the lowest point in Colorado at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) elevation. This point, which holds the distinction of being the highest low elevation point of any state,<ref name=USGS/>[[3]](#cite_note-3) is higher than the high elevation points of 18 states and the District of Columbia. [thumb|A view of the arid high plains in Southeastern Colorado](/wiki/File:Picketwire_Canyon.jpg) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Calhanpm.JPG) [Calhan Paint Mines](/wiki/Calhan_Paint_Mines) on the Colorado Eastern Plains

### Plains[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

A little less than one half of the area of Colorado is flat and rolling land. East of the Rocky Mountains are the [Colorado Eastern Plains](/wiki/Colorado_Eastern_Plains) of the [High Plains](/wiki/High_Plains_(United_States)), the section of the Great Plains within Nebraska at elevations ranging from roughly [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[4]](#cite_note-4) The Colorado plains are usually thought of as [prairies](/wiki/Prairie), but actually they have many patches of [deciduous forests](/wiki/Deciduous_forests), [buttes](/wiki/Butte), and [canyons](/wiki/Canyons), much like the high plains in New Mexico as well. Eastern Colorado is presently mainly covered in farmland, along with small farming villages and towns. [Precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) is fair, averaging from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) annually.<ref name=ccc>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> [Corn](/wiki/Maize), wheat, [hay](/wiki/Hay), [soybeans](/wiki/Soybeans), and [oats](/wiki/Oats) are all typical crops, and most of the villages and towns in this region boast both a [water tower](/wiki/Water_tower) and a [grain elevator](/wiki/Grain_elevator). As well as the farming of crops, Eastern Colorado has a good deal of livestock raising, such as at cattle ranches and [hog farms](/wiki/Intensive_pig_farming) and [irrigation](/wiki/Irrigation) water is available from the South Platte, the Arkansas River, and a few other streams, and also from subterranean sources, including [artesian wells](/wiki/Artesian_well). However, heavy use of ground water from wells for irrigation has caused underground water reserves to decline.

### Front range[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Condiv.JPG)[Front Range](/wiki/Front_Range) Peaks west of Denver

Roughly 70% of Colorado's population resides along the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains in the [Front Range Urban Corridor](/wiki/Front_Range_Urban_Corridor) between [Cheyenne, Wyoming](/wiki/Cheyenne,_Wyoming), and [Pueblo, Colorado](/wiki/Pueblo,_Colorado). This region is partially protected from prevailing storms that blow in from the Pacific Ocean region by the high Rockies in the middle of Colorado. The only other significant population centers are the cities of [Grand Junction](/wiki/Grand_Junction,_Colorado), [Durango](/wiki/Durango,_Colorado), and [Montrose](/wiki/Montrose,_Colorado), all in western Colorado.

### Continental Divide[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Continental-Divide_Monarch-Pass_2012-10-28.JPG)[Continental Divide](/wiki/Continental_Divide_of_the_Americas) at [Monarch Pass](/wiki/Monarch_Pass) The [Continental Divide of the Americas](/wiki/Continental_Divide_of_the_Americas) extends along the crest of the [Rocky Mountains](/wiki/Rocky_Mountains). The area of Colorado to the west of the Continental Divide is called the [Western Slope of Colorado](/wiki/Colorado_Western_Slope). Drainage water west of the Continental Divide flows to the southwest via the [Colorado River](/wiki/Colorado_River_(U.S.)) and the [Green River](/wiki/Green_River_(Utah)) into the [Gulf of California](/wiki/Gulf_of_California).

Within the interior of the Rocky Mountains are several large parks which are high broad basins. In the north, on the east side of the Continental Divide is the [North Park of Colorado](/wiki/North_Park_(Colorado_basin)). The North Park is drained by the [North Platte River](/wiki/North_Platte_River), which flows north into Wyoming and Nebraska. Just to the south of North Park, but on the western side of the Continental Divide, is the [Middle Park of Colorado](/wiki/Middle_Park_(Colorado_basin)), which is drained by the Colorado River. The [South Park of Colorado](/wiki/South_Park_(Park_County,_Colorado)) is the region of the [headwaters](/wiki/Headwater) of the South Platte River.

### Southern region[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|left|The tallest dunes in North America at](/wiki/File:Mt_Herard_sand.JPG) [Great Sand Dunes National Park](/wiki/Great_Sand_Dunes_National_Park) in southern Colorado In southmost Colorado is the large [San Luis Valley](/wiki/San_Luis_Valley), where the headwaters of the [Rio Grande](/wiki/Rio_Grande) are located. The valley sits between the [Sangre De Cristo Mountains](/wiki/Sangre_De_Cristo_Mountains) and [San Juan Mountains](/wiki/San_Juan_Mountains), and consists of large desert lands that eventually run into the mountains. The Rio Grande drains due south into New Mexico, Mexico, and Texas. Across the [Sangre de Cristo Range](/wiki/Sangre_de_Cristo_Range) to the east of the San Luis Valley lies the [Wet Mountain Valley](/wiki/Wet_Mountain_Valley). These basins, particularly the San Luis Valley, lie along the [Rio Grande Rift](/wiki/Rio_Grande_Rift), a major [geological formation](/wiki/Geological_formation) of the Rocky Mountains, and its branches. [thumb|right|The high desert lands that make up the San Luis Valley in Southern Colorado](/wiki/File:ChicoClosedBasin.jpg)

### Peaks[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) To the west of the Great Plains of Colorado rises the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. Notable peaks of the Rocky Mountains include [Longs Peak](/wiki/Longs_Peak), [Mount Evans](/wiki/Mount_Evans), [Pikes Peak](/wiki/Pikes_Peak), and the [Spanish Peaks](/wiki/Spanish_Peaks) near [Walsenburg](/wiki/Walsenburg,_Colorado), in southern Colorado. This area drains to the east and the southeast, ultimately either via the [Mississippi River](/wiki/Mississippi_River) or the [Rio Grande](/wiki/Rio_Grande) into the [Gulf of Mexico](/wiki/Gulf_of_Mexico). [thumb|Peaks of the](/wiki/File:SANJUANMTNS.JPG) [San Juan Mountains](/wiki/San_Juan_Mountains)

The Rocky Mountains within Colorado contain about 53 peaks that are [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) or higher in elevation above sea level, known as [fourteeners](/wiki/Colorado_fourteeners).[[5]](#cite_note-5) These mountains are largely covered with trees such as [conifers](/wiki/Conifer) and [aspens](/wiki/Aspen) up to the [tree line](/wiki/Tree_line), at an elevation of about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in southern Colorado to about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in northern Colorado. Above this only alpine vegetation grows. Only small parts of the Colorado Rockies are snow-covered year round.

Much of the alpine snow melts by mid-August with the exception of a few snowcapped peaks and a few small glaciers. The [Colorado Mineral Belt](/wiki/Colorado_Mineral_Belt), stretching from the [San Juan Mountains](/wiki/San_Juan_Mountains) in the southwest to [Boulder](/wiki/Boulder,_Colorado) and [Central City](/wiki/Central_City,_Colorado) on the front range, contains most of the historic gold- and silver-mining districts of Colorado. [Mount Elbert](/wiki/Mount_Elbert) is the highest summit of the [Rocky Mountains](/wiki/Rocky_Mountains). The 30 [highest major summits](/wiki/Highest_mountain_peaks_of_the_Rocky_Mountains) of the [Rocky Mountains](/wiki/Rocky_Mountains) of North America all lie within the state.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:BlackCanyon.JPG)[Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park](/wiki/Black_Canyon_of_the_Gunnison_National_Park) near [Montrose](/wiki/Montrose,_Colorado) [thumb|left|Rim Arch in the](/wiki/File:East_rim_arch.jpg) [Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness](/wiki/Black_Ridge_Canyons_Wilderness) in western Colorado [thumb|left|Sandstone cliffs along the Colorado River north of](/wiki/File:Redcanyon.JPG) [Wolcott](/wiki/Wolcott,_Colorado) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Lake_CO.JPG)[Hanging Lake](/wiki/Hanging_Lake) near [Glenwood Springs](/wiki/Glenwood_Springs,_Colorado)

### Colorado Western Slope[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|left|The Grand Valley in Western Colorado, a large valley made up of high desert terrain. The city of Grand Junction is located in the heart of the valley](/wiki/File:Grand_Valley,_Colorado.jpg) The Western Slope of Colorado is drained by the Colorado River and its tributaries (primarily the [Green River](/wiki/Green_River_(Utah)) and the [San Juan River](/wiki/San_Juan_River_(Colorado_River))) or by evaporation in its arid areas. The Colorado River flows through [Glenwood Canyon](/wiki/Glenwood_Canyon) and then through an arid valley made up of desert from [Rifle](/wiki/Rifle,_Colorado) to [Parachute](/wiki/Parachute,_Colorado), through the desert canyon of [De Beque Canyon](/wiki/De_Beque_Canyon), and into the arid desert of [Grand Valley](/wiki/Grand_Valley_(Colorado-Utah)), where the city of Grand Junction is located. Also prominent in or near the southern portion of the Western Slope are the [Grand Mesa](/wiki/Grand_Mesa), which lies to the southeast of Grand Junction; the high San Juan Mountains, a rugged mountain range; and to the west of the San Juan Mountains, the [Colorado Plateau](/wiki/Colorado_Plateau), a high arid region that borders Southern Utah.

The city of [Grand Junction, Colorado](/wiki/Grand_Junction,_Colorado) is the largest city on the Western Slope. Grand Junction and Durango are the only major centers of [television broadcasting](/wiki/Television_broadcasting) west of the Continental Divide in Colorado, though most mountain resort communities publish daily newspapers. Higher education in and near the Western Slope can be found at [Colorado Mesa University](/wiki/Colorado_Mesa_University) in Grand Junction, [Western State College of Colorado](/wiki/Western_State_College_of_Colorado) in Gunnison, [Fort Lewis College](/wiki/Fort_Lewis_College) in Durango, and [Colorado Mountain College](/wiki/Colorado_Mountain_College) in Glenwood Springs and Steamboat Springs.

Grand Junction is located along [Interstate 70](/wiki/Interstate_70_in_Colorado), the only major highway in Western Colorado. Grand Junction is also along the major railroad of the Western Slope, the [Union Pacific](/wiki/Union_Pacific). This railroad also provides the tracks for [Amtrak's](/wiki/Amtrak) [California Zephyr](/wiki/California_Zephyr) passenger train, which crosses the Rocky Mountains between Denver and Grand Junction via a route on which there are no continuous highways.

[thumb|right|The Colorado National Monument near Grand Junction. The monument is made up of high desert canyons and sandstone rock formations](/wiki/File:Colorado_National_Monument_(4939640266).jpg)

The Western Slope lies in close proximity to multiple notable destinations in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, including [Glenwood Springs](/wiki/Glenwood_Springs,_Colorado), with its resort hot springs, and the [ski resorts](/wiki/Ski_resort) of [Aspen](/wiki/Aspen,_Colorado), [Breckenridge](/wiki/Breckenridge,_Colorado), [Vail](/wiki/Vail,_Colorado), [Crested Butte](/wiki/Crested_Butte,_Colorado), [Steamboat Springs](/wiki/Steamboat_Springs,_Colorado), and [Telluride](/wiki/Telluride,_Colorado).

The northwestern corner of Colorado is a sparsely populated region, and it contains part of the noted [Dinosaur National Monument](/wiki/Dinosaur_National_Monument), which is not only a [paleontological](/wiki/Paleontology) area, but is also a scenic area of rocky hills, canyons, arid desert, and streambeds. Here, the Green River briefly crosses over into Colorado.

From west to east, the land of Colorado consists of desert lands, desert plateaus, alpine mountains, National Forests, relatively flat grasslands, scattered forests, buttes, and canyons in the western edge of the [Great Plains](/wiki/Great_Plains). The famous [Pikes Peak](/wiki/Pikes_Peak) is located just west of [Colorado Springs](/wiki/Colorado_Springs,_Colorado). Its isolated peak is visible from nearly the Kansas border on clear days, and also far to the north and the south.[[6]](#cite_note-6) Desert lands in Colorado are located in and around areas such as the [Pueblo](/wiki/Pueblo,_Colorado), [Canon City](/wiki/Canon_City,_Colorado), [Florence](/wiki/Florence,_Colorado), [Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve](/wiki/Great_Sand_Dunes_National_Park_and_Preserve), [San Luis Valley](/wiki/San_Luis_Valley), [Cortez](/wiki/Cortez,_Colorado), [Canyon of the Ancients National Monument](/wiki/Canyon_of_the_Ancients_National_Monument), [Hovenweep National Monument](/wiki/Hovenweep_National_Monument), [Ute Mountain](/wiki/Ute_Mountain), [Delta](/wiki/Delta,_Colorado), [Grand Junction](/wiki/Grand_Junction,_Colorado), [Colorado National Monument](/wiki/Colorado_National_Monument), and other areas surrounding the [Uncompahgre Plateau](/wiki/Uncompahgre_Plateau) and [Uncompahgre National Forest](/wiki/Uncompahgre_National_Forest).

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Four_Corners_Monument_(1).jpg) [Four Corners Monument](/wiki/Four_Corners_Monument), with [Ute Mountain](/wiki/Ute_Mountain) in the distance Colorado is one of four states in the United States that share a common geographic point the [Four Corners](/wiki/Four_Corners) together with Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. At this intersection, it is possible to stand in four states at once.

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

## Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|300px|Colorado map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Colorado_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) The [climate](/wiki/Climate) of Colorado is more complex than states outside of the [Mountain States](/wiki/Mountain_States) region. Unlike most other states, southern Colorado is not always warmer than northern Colorado. Most of Colorado is made up of mountains, foothills, high plains, and desert lands. Mountains and surrounding valleys greatly affect local climate.

As a general rule, with an increase in elevation comes a decrease in temperature and an increase in [precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)). Northeast, east, and southeast Colorado are mostly the high plains, while Northern Colorado is a mix of high plains, foothills, and mountains. Northwest and west Colorado are predominantly mountainous, with some desert lands mixed in. Southwest and southern Colorado are a complex mixture of desert and mountain areas.

### Eastern Plains[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:PivotWithDrops.JPG)[Center-pivot irrigation](/wiki/Center_pivot_irrigation) of wheat growing in [Yuma County](/wiki/Yuma_County,_Colorado)

The climate of the Eastern Plains is [semiarid](/wiki/Semi-arid_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification): [*BSk*](/wiki/Cold_semi-arid_climate)) with low [humidity](/wiki/Humidity) and moderate [precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)), usually from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) annually. The area is known for its abundant sunshine and cool, clear nights, which give this area a great average [diurnal temperature range](/wiki/Diurnal_temperature_variation). The difference between the highs of the days and the lows of the nights can be considerable as warmth dissipates to the space during clear nights, the heat radiation not being trapped by clouds.

The Front Range urban corridor, where most of the population of Colorado resides, lies in a pronounced [precipitation shadow](/wiki/Rain_shadow) as a result of being on the [lee](/wiki/Leeward) side of the Rocky Mountains.[[7]](#cite_note-7) In summer, this area can have many days above 95 °F (35 °C) and often 100 °F (38 °C).[[8]](#cite_note-8) On the plains, the winter lows usually range from 25 to −10 °F (−4 to −23 °C). About 75% of the precipitation falls within the growing season, from April to September, but this area is very prone to droughts. Most of the precipitation comes from [thunderstorms](/wiki/Thunderstorm), which can be severe, and from major [snowstorms](/wiki/Snowstorm) that occur in the winter and early spring. Otherwise, winters tend to be mostly dry and cold.[[9]](#cite_note-9) In much of the region, March is the snowiest month. April and May are normally the rainiest months, while April is the wettest month overall. The Front Range cities closer to the mountains tend to be warmer in the winter due to [Chinook winds](/wiki/Chinook_wind) which warm the area, sometimes bringing temperatures of 70 °F (21 °C) or higher in the winter.[[9]](#cite_note-9) The average July temperature is 55 °F (13 °C) in the morning and 90 °F (32 °C) in the afternoon. The average January temperature is 18 °F (−8 °C) in the morning and 48 °F (9 °C) in the afternoon, although variation between consecutive days can be 40 °F (22 °C).

### West of the plains and foothills[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

West of the plains and foothills, the weather of Colorado is much less uniform. Even places a few miles apart can experience entirely different weather depending on the topography of the area. Most valleys have a semi-arid climate, which becomes an [alpine climate](/wiki/Alpine_climate) at higher elevations. Humid [microclimates](/wiki/Microclimate) also exist in some areas. Generally, the wettest season in western Colorado is winter while June is the driest month.

The mountains have mild summers with many days of high temperatures between 60 and 85 °F (16 and 29 °C), although thunderstorms can cause sudden but brief drops in temperature. The winters bring abundant, powdery snowfall to the mountains with plenty of sunshine between major storms. The western slope has high summer temperatures similar to those found on the plains, while the winters tend to be slightly cooler due to the lack of warming winds common to the plains and Front Range. Other areas in the west have their own unique climate.

### Extreme weather[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|Snow highlights the rugged mountains, as well as the urban and agricultural landscapes of the Colorado plains.](/wiki/File:October_Snow_in_Colorado.jpg)

Extreme weather changes are common in Colorado, although the majority of extreme weather occurs in the least populated areas of the state. Thunderstorms are common east of the Continental Divide in the spring and summer, yet are usually brief. [Hail](/wiki/Hail) is a common sight in the mountains east of the divide and in the northwest part of the state. The Eastern Plains have had some of the biggest hail storms in North America.<ref name=ccc/>

The Eastern Plains are part of the extreme western portion of [Tornado Alley](/wiki/Tornado_Alley); some damaging tornadoes in the Eastern Plains include the 1990 [Limon](/wiki/Limon,_Colorado) [F3](/wiki/Fujita_scale) tornado and the 2008 [Windsor](/wiki/Windsor,_Colorado) [EF3](/wiki/Enhanced_Fujita_Scale) tornado, which devastated the small town.[[10]](#cite_note-10)The plains are also susceptible to occasional floods, which are caused both by [thunderstorms](/wiki/Thunderstorm) and by the rapid melting of snow in the mountains during warm weather. Notable examples include the [Big Thompson River](/wiki/Big_Thompson_River) flooding of 1976 and the [2013 Colorado floods](/wiki/2013_Colorado_floods). Denver's record in 1901 for the number of consecutive days above 90 °F (32 °C) was broken during the summer of 2008. The new record of 24 consecutive days surpassed the previous record by almost a week.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Much of Colorado is a very dry state averaging only [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of precipitation per year statewide and rarely experiences a time when some portion of the state is not in some degree of drought.[[12]](#cite_note-12) The lack of precipitation contributes to the severity of [wildfires](/wiki/Wildfire) in the state, such as the [Hayman Fire](/wiki/Hayman_Fire), one of the largest wildfires in American history, and the [Fourmile Canyon Fire](/wiki/Fourmile_Canyon#Fourmile_Canyon_Fire) of 2010, which until the [Waldo Canyon Fire](/wiki/Waldo_Canyon_Fire) and [High Park Fire](/wiki/High_Park_Fire) of June 2012, and the [Black Forest Fire](/wiki/Black_Forest_Fire) of June 2013, was the most destructive wildfire in Colorado's recorded history.

However, some of the mountainous regions of Colorado receive a huge amount of moisture from winter snowfalls. The spring melts of these snows often cause great waterflows in the [Yampa River](/wiki/Yampa_River), the [Colorado River](/wiki/Colorado_River), the Rio Grande, the Arkansas River, [Cherry Creek](/wiki/Cherry_Creek_(Colorado)), the North Platte River, and the South Platte River. [thumb|250px|The Yampa River, from a high overlook](/wiki/File:Overlook_of_Yampa_River.jpg)

Water flowing out of the Colorado Rocky Mountains is a very significant source of water for the farms, towns, and cities of the southwest states of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada, as well as the Midwest, such as Nebraska and Kansas, and the southern states of Oklahoma and Texas. A significant amount of water is also diverted for use in California; occasionally (formerly naturally and consistently), the flow of water reaches northern Mexico.

### Records[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

The highest ambient air temperature ever recorded in Colorado was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on July 11, 1888, at [Bennett](/wiki/Bennett,_Colorado). The lowest air temperature was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on February 1, 1985, at [Maybell](/wiki/Maybell,_Colorado).<ref name=StateMaxTemps>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=StateMinTemps>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> {| class="wikitable" "text-align:center; font-size:90%; margin: 1em auto;"| |+ Monthly normal high and low temperatures for various Colorado cities[[13]](#cite_note-13)|+(°F) (°C) |- ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000; height:17px;"| City ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Jan ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Feb ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Mar ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Apr ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| May ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Jun ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Jul ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Aug ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Sep ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Oct ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Nov ! style="background:#e5afaa; color:#000;"| Dec |- ! style="background:#f8f3ca; color:#000; height:16px; text-align:left;"| Alamosa | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 34/−2  
2/−19 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 40/6  
4/−14 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 50/17  
10/−8 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 59/24  
15/−4 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 69/33  
21/1 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 79/41  
26/5 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 82/47  
28/8 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 80/46  
27/8 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 73/40  
23/4 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 62/25  
17/−4 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 47/12  
8/−11 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 35/1  
2/−17 |- ! style="background:#c5dfe1; color:#000; height:16px; text-align:left;"| Colorado Springs | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 43/18  
6/−8 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 45/20  
7/−7 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 52/26  
11/−3 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 60/33  
16/1 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 69/43  
21/6 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 79/51  
26/11 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 85/57  
29/14 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 82/56  
28/13 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 75/47  
24/8 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 63/36  
17/2 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 51/25  
11/−4 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 42/18  
6/−8 |- ! style="background:#f8f3ca; color:#000; height:16px; text-align:left;"| Denver | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 49/20  
9/−7 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 49/21  
9/−6 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 56/29  
13/−2 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 64/35  
18/2 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 73/46  
23/8 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 84/54  
29/12 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 92/61  
33/16 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 89/60  
32/16 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 81/50  
27/10 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 68/37  
20/3 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 55/26  
13/−3 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 47/18  
8/−8 |- ! style="background:#c5dfe1; color:#000; height:16px; text-align:left;"| Grand Junction | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 38/17  
3/−8 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 45/24  
7/−4 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 57/31  
14/-1 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 65/38  
18/3 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 76/47  
24/8 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 88/56  
31/13 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 93/63  
34/17 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 90/61  
32/16 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 80/52  
27/11 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 66/40  
19/4 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 51/28  
11/−2 | style="text-align:center; background:#c5dfe1; color:#C00;"| 39/19  
4/−7 |- ! style="background:#f8f3ca; color:#000; height:16px; text-align:left;"| Pueblo | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 47/14  
8/−10 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 51/17  
11/−8 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 59/26  
15/−3 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 67/34  
19/1 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 77/44  
25/7 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 87/53  
31/12 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 93/59  
34/15 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 90/58  
32/14 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 82/48  
28/9 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 69/34  
21/1 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 56/23  
13/−5 | style="text-align:center; background:#f8f3ca; color:#C00;"| 46/14  
8/−10 |}

### Earthquakes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

Despite its mountainous terrain, Colorado is relatively quiescent seismically. The U.S. [National Earthquake Information Center](/wiki/National_Earthquake_Information_Center) is located in [Golden](/wiki/Golden,_Colorado).

On August 22, 2011, a 5.3 [magnitude](/wiki/Seismic_scale) earthquake occurred nine miles west-southwest of the city of [Trinidad](/wiki/Trinidad,_Colorado).[[14]](#cite_note-14) There were no casualties and only a small amount of damage was reported. It was the second largest earthquake in Colorado. A magnitude 5.7 earthquake was recorded in 1973.[[15]](#cite_note-15)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[thumb|The ruins of the](/wiki/File:Mesa-Verde---Cliff-Palace-in_1891_-_edit1.jpg) [Cliff Palace](/wiki/Cliff_Palace) at [Mesa Verde](/wiki/Mesa_Verde_National_Park) as photographed by [Gustaf Nordenskiöld](/wiki/Gustaf_Nordenskiöld) in 1891. [thumb|Great Kiva at Chimney Rock in the San Juan Mountains of Southwestern Colorado. It is said to have been built by the Ancient Pueblo peoples.](/wiki/File:Great_Kiva_at_Chimney_Rock_Colorado.JPG) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The region that is today the state of Colorado has been inhabited by [Native Americans](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas) for more than 13,000 years. The [Lindenmeier Site](/wiki/Lindenmeier_Site) in [Larimer County](/wiki/Larimer_County,_Colorado) contains [artifacts](/wiki/Artifact_(archaeology)) dating from approximately 11200 BC to 3000 BC. The eastern edge of the [Rocky Mountains](/wiki/Rocky_Mountains) was a [major migration route](/wiki/Human_migration) that was important to the spread of early peoples throughout the Americas. The [Ancient Pueblo peoples](/wiki/Ancient_Pueblo_peoples) lived in the [valleys](/wiki/Valley) and [mesas](/wiki/Mesa) of the [Colorado Plateau](/wiki/Colorado_Plateau).[[16]](#cite_note-16) The [Ute Nation](/wiki/Ute_Nation) inhabited the mountain valleys of the [Southern Rocky Mountains](/wiki/Southern_Rocky_Mountains) and the [Western Rocky Mountains](/wiki/Western_Rocky_Mountains), even as far east as the Front Range of present day. The [Apache](/wiki/Apache) and the [Comanche](/wiki/Comanche) also inhabited Eastern and Southeastern parts of the state. At times, the [Arapaho Nation](/wiki/Arapaho_Nation) and the [Cheyenne Nation](/wiki/Cheyenne_Nation) moved west to hunt across the [High Plains](/wiki/High_Plains_(United_States)).

The U.S. acquired a territorial claim to the eastern Rocky Mountains with the [Louisiana Purchase](/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase) from France in 1803. This U.S. claim conflicted with the claim by [Spain](/wiki/Spain) to the upper [Arkansas River Basin](/wiki/Arkansas_River) as the exclusive trading zone of its colony of [Santa Fé de Nuevo Méjico](/wiki/Santa_Fé_de_Nuevo_Méjico). In 1806, [Zebulon Pike](/wiki/Zebulon_Pike) led a [U.S. Army reconnaissance expedition](/wiki/Pike_expedition) into the disputed region. Colonel Pike and his men were arrested by Spanish cavalrymen in the [San Luis Valley](/wiki/San_Luis_Valley) the following February, taken to [Chihuahua](/wiki/Chihuahua,_Chihuahua), and expelled from Mexico the following July.

The U.S. relinquished its claim to all land south and west of the [Arkansas River](/wiki/Arkansas_River) and south of [42nd parallel north](/wiki/42nd_parallel_north) and west of the [100th meridian west](/wiki/100th_meridian_west) as part of its purchase of Florida from Spain with the [Adams-Onís Treaty](/wiki/Adams-Onís_Treaty) of 1819. The treaty took effect February 22, 1821. Having settled its border with Spain, the U.S. admitted the southeastern portion of the [Territory of Missouri](/wiki/Territory_of_Missouri) to the [Union](/wiki/United_States) as the [state of Missouri](/wiki/State_of_Missouri) on August 10, 1821. The remainder of Missouri Territory, including what would become northeastern Colorado, became unorganized territory, and remained so for 33 years over the [question of slavery](/wiki/Slavery_in_the_United_States). After 11 years of war, Spain finally recognized the independence of Mexico with the [Treaty of Córdoba](/wiki/Treaty_of_Córdoba) signed on August 24, 1821. Mexico eventually ratified the Adams-Onís Treaty in 1831. The [Texian Revolt](/wiki/Texian_Revolt) of 1835–36 fomented a dispute between the U.S. and Mexico which eventually erupted into the [Mexican–American War](/wiki/Mexican–American_War) in 1846. Mexico surrendered its northern territory to the U.S. with the [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](/wiki/Treaty_of_Guadalupe_Hidalgo) at the conclusion of the war in 1848. [thumb|Map of the Mexican cession, with the white representing the territory the United States received from Mexico. Well over half of Colorado was received during this treaty.](/wiki/File:Mexican_Cession_in_Mexican_View.PNG)

Most American [settlers](/wiki/Settler) traveling overland west to the [Oregon Country](/wiki/Oregon_Country), namely the new goldfields of California, or the new [Mormon](/wiki/Mormon) settlements of the [State of Deseret](/wiki/State_of_Deseret) in the [Salt Lake Valley](/wiki/Salt_Lake_Valley), avoided the rugged [Southern Rocky Mountains](/wiki/Southern_Rocky_Mountains), and instead followed the [North Platte River](/wiki/North_Platte_River) and [Sweetwater River](/wiki/Sweetwater_River_(Wyoming)) to [South Pass (Wyoming)](/wiki/South_Pass_(Wyoming)), the lowest crossing of the [Continental Divide](/wiki/Continental_Divide) between the Southern Rocky Mountains and the Central Rocky Mountains. In 1849, the Mormons of the Salt Lake Valley organized the extralegal [State of Deseret](/wiki/State_of_Deseret), claiming the entire [Great Basin](/wiki/Great_Basin) and all lands drained by the rivers [Green](/wiki/Green_River_(Utah)), [Grand](/wiki/Colorado_River), and [Colorado](/wiki/Colorado_River). The federal government of the U.S. flatly refused to recognize the new Mormon government, because it was [theocratic](/wiki/History_of_The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints#Brigham_Young's_early_theocratic_leadership) and sanctioned [plural marriage](/wiki/Mormonism_and_polygamy). Instead, the [Compromise of 1850](/wiki/Compromise_of_1850) divided the [Mexican Cession](/wiki/Mexican_Cession) and the northwestern claims of Texas into a new state and two new territories, the [state of California](/wiki/State_of_California), the [Territory of New Mexico](/wiki/Territory_of_New_Mexico), and the [Territory of Utah](/wiki/Territory_of_Utah). On April 9, 1851, [Mexican American](/wiki/Mexican_American) settlers from the area of [Taos](/wiki/Taos,_New_Mexico) settled the village of [San Luis](/wiki/San_Luis,_Colorado), then in the [New Mexico Territory](/wiki/New_Mexico_Territory), later to become Colorado's first permanent [Euro-American](/wiki/European_American) [settlement](/wiki/Settlement_(migration)). [thumb|The Anasazi Heritage Center in](/wiki/File:Anasazi_Heritage_Center.jpg) [Dolores](/wiki/Dolores,_Colorado)

In 1854, Senator [Stephen A. Douglas](/wiki/Stephen_A._Douglas) persuaded the [U.S. Congress](/wiki/U.S._Congress) to divide the unorganized territory east of the [Continental Divide](/wiki/Continental_Divide) into two new organized territories, the [Territory of Kansas](/wiki/Territory_of_Kansas) and the [Territory of Nebraska](/wiki/Territory_of_Nebraska), and an unorganized southern region known as the [Indian territory](/wiki/Indian_territory). Each new territory was to decide the fate of slavery within its boundaries, but this compromise merely served to fuel animosity between [free soil](/wiki/Free_soil) and [pro-slavery](/wiki/Proslavery_in_the_antebellum_United_States) factions.

The gold seekers organized the [Provisional Government of the Territory of Jefferson](/wiki/Jefferson_Territory) on August 24, 1859, but this new territory failed to secure approval from the [Congress of the United States](/wiki/Congress_of_the_United_States) embroiled in the debate over slavery. The election of [Abraham Lincoln](/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln) for the President of the United States on November 6, 1860, led to the [secession](/wiki/Secession) of nine southern [slave states](/wiki/Slave_states) and the threat of [civil war among the states](/wiki/American_Civil_War). Seeking to augment the political power of the [Union states](/wiki/Free_state_(United_States)), the [Republican Party](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) dominated Congress quickly admitted the eastern portion of the [Territory of Kansas](/wiki/Territory_of_Kansas) into the [Union](/wiki/United_States) as the free [State of Kansas](/wiki/Kansas) on January 29, 1861, leaving the western portion of the Kansas Territory, and its gold-mining areas, as unorganized territory.

### Territory act[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[thumb|left|The territories of](/wiki/File:1860_colorado_territory_map.png) [New Mexico](/wiki/New_Mexico_Territory), [Utah](/wiki/Utah_Territory), [Kansas](/wiki/Kansas_Territory), and [Nebraska](/wiki/Nebraska_Territory) before the creation of the [Territory of Colorado](/wiki/Territory_of_Colorado) Thirty days later on February 28, 1861, outgoing U.S. President [James Buchanan](/wiki/James_Buchanan) signed an Act of Congress organizing the [free](/wiki/Free_state_(United_States)) [Territory of Colorado](/wiki/Territory_of_Colorado).<ref name=ColoradoTerritory>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The original boundaries of Colorado remain unchanged today. The name Colorado was chosen because it was commonly believed that the [Colorado River](/wiki/Colorado_River) originated in the territory.<ref name=Colorado\_River>Early explorers identified the [Gunnison River](/wiki/Gunnison_River) in Colorado as the [headwaters](/wiki/Headwaters) of the Colorado River. The [Grand River](/wiki/Colorado_River) in Colorado was later tentatively identified as the primary headwaters of the river. Finally in 1916, [E.C. LaRue](/wiki/E.C._LaRue), the Chief Hydrologist of the [United States Geological Survey](/wiki/United_States_Geological_Survey), identified the Green River in southwestern Wyoming as the proper headwaters of the actual, overall Colorado River.</ref> In 1776, Spanish priest [Silvestre Vélez de Escalante](/wiki/Silvestre_Vélez_de_Escalante) recorded that [Native Americans](/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas) in the area knew the river as [*el Rio Colorado*](/wiki/Es:Rio_Colorado) for the red-brown silt that the river carried from the mountains.[[17]](#cite_note-17) In 1859, a [U.S. Army](/wiki/U.S._Army) [topographic](/wiki/Topography) expedition led by Captain [John Macomb](/wiki/John_Navarre_Macomb,_Jr.) located the confluence of the [Green River](/wiki/Green_River_(Utah)) with the [Grand River](/wiki/Grand_River_(Colorado)) in what is now [Canyonlands National Park](/wiki/Canyonlands_National_Park) in [Utah](/wiki/Utah).<ref name=Macomb>Report of the exploring expedition from Santa Fé, New Mexico, to the junction of the Grand and Green Rivers of the great Colorado of the West, in 1859: under the command of Capt. J. N. Macomb, Corps of topographical engineers, Volume 1 [@ archive.org](https://archive.org/stream/reportofexplorin00unitrich#page/n5/mode/2up)</ref> The Macomb party designated the confluence as the source of the Colorado River.

On April 12, 1861, [South Carolina](/wiki/South_Carolina) artillery opened fire on [Fort Sumter](/wiki/Fort_Sumter) to start the [American Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War). While many gold seekers held sympathies for the [Confederacy](/wiki/Confederate_States_of_America), the vast majority remained fiercely loyal to the [Union](/wiki/Union_(American_Civil_War)) cause.

In 1862, a force of Texas cavalry invaded the [Territory of New Mexico](/wiki/Territory_of_New_Mexico) and captured [Santa Fe](/wiki/Santa_Fe,_New_Mexico) on March 10. The object of this [Western Campaign](/wiki/New_Mexico_Campaign) was to seize or disrupt the gold fields of Colorado and California and to seize ports on the Pacific Ocean for the Confederacy. A hastily organized force of Colorado volunteers force-marched from [Denver City, Colorado Territory](/wiki/Denver_City,_Colorado_Territory), to [Glorieta Pass](/wiki/Glorieta_Pass), New Mexico Territory, in an attempt to block the Texans. On March 28, the Coloradans and local New Mexico volunteers stopped the Texans at the [Battle of Glorieta Pass](/wiki/Battle_of_Glorieta_Pass), destroyed their cannon and supply wagons, and ran off 500 of their horses and mules. The Texans were forced to retreat to Santa Fe. Having lost the supplies for their campaign and finding little support in New Mexico, the Texans abandoned Santa Fe and returned to [San Antonio](/wiki/San_Antonio) in defeat. The Confederacy made no further attempts to seize the Southwestern United States.

In 1864, [Territorial Governor](/wiki/Governor_of_Colorado) [John Evans](/wiki/John_Evans_(governor)) appointed the Reverend [John Chivington](/wiki/John_Chivington) as Colonel of the Colorado Volunteers with orders to protect white settlers from [Cheyenne](/wiki/Cheyenne) and [Arapaho](/wiki/Arapaho) warriors who were accused of stealing cattle. Colonel Chivington ordered his men to attack a band of Cheyenne and Arapaho encamped along Sand Creek. Chivington reported that his troops killed more than 500 warriors. The militia returned to Denver City in triumph, but several officers reported that the so-called battle was a blatant massacre of Indians at peace, that most of the dead were women and children, and that bodies of the dead had been hideously mutilated and desecrated. Three U.S. Army inquiries condemned the action, and incoming [President](/wiki/U.S._President) [Andrew Johnson](/wiki/Andrew_Johnson) asked Governor Evans for his resignation, but none of the perpetrators was ever punished. This event is now known as the [Sand Creek massacre](/wiki/Sand_Creek_massacre).

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Mount_of_the_Holy_Cross.jpeg)[Mount of the Holy Cross](/wiki/Mount_of_the_Holy_Cross) was photographed by [William Henry Jackson](/wiki/William_Henry_Jackson) in 1874 In the midst and aftermath of Civil War, many discouraged prospectors returned to their homes, but a few stayed and developed mines, mills, farms, ranches, roads, and towns in Colorado Territory. On September 14, 1864, James Huff discovered silver near [Argentine Pass](/wiki/Argentine_Pass), the first of many silver strikes. In 1867, the [Union Pacific Railroad](/wiki/Union_Pacific_Railroad) laid its tracks west to [Weir](/wiki/Julesburg,_Colorado), now [Julesburg](/wiki/Julesburg,_Colorado), in the northeast corner of the Territory. The Union Pacific linked up with the [Central Pacific Railroad](/wiki/Central_Pacific_Railroad) at [Promontory Summit, Utah](/wiki/Promontory_Summit,_Utah), on May 10, 1869, to form the [First Transcontinental Railroad](/wiki/First_Transcontinental_Railroad). The [Denver Pacific Railway](/wiki/Denver_Pacific_Railway) reached Denver in June the following year, and the [Kansas Pacific](/wiki/Kansas_Pacific) arrived two months later to forge the second line across the continent. In 1872, rich veins of silver were discovered in the [San Juan Mountains](/wiki/San_Juan_Mountains) on the [Ute Indian](/wiki/Ute_tribe) reservation in southwestern Colorado. The Ute people were removed from the San Juans the following year.

### Statehood[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Georgetown_loop_1899.jpg) [Georgetown Loop](/wiki/Georgetown_Loop) of the [Colorado Central Railroad](/wiki/Colorado_Central_Railroad) as photographed by [William Henry Jackson](/wiki/William_Henry_Jackson) in 1899 The [United States Congress](/wiki/United_States_Congress) passed an enabling act on March 3, 1875, specifying the requirements for the [Territory of Colorado](/wiki/Territory_of_Colorado) to become a state.<ref name=Colorado\_Enabling\_Act>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> On August 1, 1876 (28 days after the [Centennial of the United States](/wiki/Centennial_of_the_United_States)), U.S. President [Ulysses S. Grant](/wiki/Ulysses_S._Grant) signed a proclamation admitting Colorado to the [Union](/wiki/United_States) as the [38th state](/wiki/U.S._state) and earning it the moniker "Centennial State".<ref name=Colorado\_Statehood\_Proclamation>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The discovery of a major silver lode near [Leadville](/wiki/Leadville,_Colorado) in 1878 triggered the [Colorado Silver Boom](/wiki/Colorado_Silver_Boom). The [Sherman Silver Purchase Act](/wiki/Sherman_Silver_Purchase_Act) of 1890 invigorated silver mining, and Colorado's last, but greatest, gold strike at [Cripple Creek](/wiki/Cripple_Creek,_Colorado) a few months later lured a new generation of gold seekers. Colorado women were granted the [right to vote](/wiki/Suffrage) beginning on November 7, 1893, making Colorado the second state to grant [universal suffrage](/wiki/Universal_suffrage) and the first one by a [popular vote](/wiki/Popular_vote) (of Colorado men). The repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act in 1893 led to a staggering collapse of the mining and agricultural economy of Colorado, but the state slowly and steadily recovered. Between the 1880s and 1930s, Denver's floriculture industry developed into a major industry in Colorado.[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19) This period became known locally as the [Carnation Gold Rush](/wiki/Carnation_Gold_Rush).[[20]](#cite_note-20) Colorado became the first western state to host a major political convention when the [Democratic Party](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) met in Denver in 1908. By the [U.S. Census in 1930](/wiki/United_States_Census,_1930), the population of Colorado first exceeded one million residents. Colorado suffered greatly through the [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression) and the [Dust Bowl](/wiki/Dust_Bowl) of the 1930s, but a major wave of [immigration](/wiki/Immigration) following World War II boosted Colorado's fortune. Tourism became a mainstay of the state economy, and high technology became an important economic engine. The [United States Census Bureau](/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) estimated that the population of Colorado exceeded five million in 2009.

Three [warships](/wiki/Warship) of the [U.S. Navy](/wiki/U.S._Navy) have been named the USS [*Colorado*](/wiki/USS_Colorado). The first USS *Colorado* was named for the Colorado River. The later two ships were named in honor of the state, including the [battleship](/wiki/Battleship) USS [*Colorado*](/wiki/USS_Colorado_(BB-45)) which served in [World War II in the Pacific](/wiki/War_in_the_Pacific) beginning in 1941. At the time of the [Attack on Pearl Harbor](/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor), this USS *Colorado* was located at the naval base in San Diego, Calif. and hence went unscathed. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[thumb|350px|Colorado Population Density Map.](/wiki/File:Colorado_population_map.png) [Template:US Census population](/wiki/Template:US_Census_population)

The [United States Census Bureau](/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) estimates that the population of Colorado was 5,456,574 on July 1, 2015, a 8.5% increase since the [2010 United States Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census).<ref name=PopEstUS/> Colorado's most populous city, and capital, is [Denver](/wiki/Denver). The [Denver-Aurora-Boulder Combined Statistical Area](/wiki/Denver-Aurora,_CO_Combined_Statistical_Area) with an estimated 2013 population of 3,277,309, has 60% of the state's residents.

The largest increases are expected in the [Front Range Urban Corridor](/wiki/Front_Range_Urban_Corridor), especially in the [Denver metropolitan area](/wiki/Denver_metropolitan_area). The state's fastest-growing counties are [Douglas](/wiki/Douglas_County,_Colorado) and [Weld](/wiki/Weld_County,_Colorado).[[21]](#cite_note-21) The [center of population](/wiki/Center_of_population) of Colorado is located just north of the village of Critchell in [Jefferson County](/wiki/Jefferson_County,_Colorado).[[22]](#cite_note-22) According to the [2010 United States Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census), Colorado had a population of 5,029,196. Racial composition of the state's population was:

* 81.3% [White American](/wiki/White_American) (70.0% [Non-Hispanic White](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_White), 11.3% [Hispanic white](/wiki/White_Hispanic))
* 20.7% [Hispanic and Latino American](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_American) (of any race made) heritage
* 7.2% Some Other Race
* 4.0% [Black](/wiki/African_American) or African American
* 3.4% [Multiracial American](/wiki/Multiracial_American)
* 2.8% [Asian American](/wiki/Asian_American)
* 1.1% [American Indian](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) and [Alaska Native](/wiki/Alaska_Native)
* 0.1% [Native Hawaiian](/wiki/Native_Hawaiian) and Other [Pacific Islander](/wiki/Pacific_Islander)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Colorado Racial Breakdown of Population** | | | | |
| **Racial composition** | **1970**[**[23]**](#cite_note-23) | **1990**[**[23]**](#cite_note-23) | **2000**[**[24]**](#cite_note-24) | **2010**[**[25]**](#cite_note-25) |
| [White](/wiki/White_American) (includes [White Hispanics](/wiki/White_Hispanic)) | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% |
| [Black](/wiki/African_American) | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% |
| [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American) | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% |
| [Native](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% |
| [Native Hawaiian](/wiki/Native_Hawaiian) and [other Pacific Islander](/wiki/Pacific_Islander) | align=right| [Template:Ntsh](/wiki/Template:Ntsh)– | align=right| [Template:Ntsh](/wiki/Template:Ntsh)– | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% |
| [Other race](/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States_Census) | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% |
| [Two or more races](/wiki/Multiracial_American) | align=right| [Template:Ntsh](/wiki/Template:Ntsh)– | align=right| [Template:Ntsh](/wiki/Template:Ntsh)– | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% | align=right| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts)% |

People of [Hispanic and Latino American](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_American) (of any race made) heritage, made up 20.7% of the population.[[26]](#cite_note-26) According to the 2000 Census, the largest ancestry groups in Colorado are [German](/wiki/German_Americans) (22%) including of Swiss and [Austrian](/wiki/Austrians) nationalities, [Mexican](/wiki/Mexican-American) (18%), Irish (12%), and English (12%). Persons reporting [German ancestry](/wiki/German_Americans) are especially numerous in the Front Range, the Rockies (west-central counties) and Eastern parts/High Plains.

Colorado has a high proportion of [Hispanic](/wiki/Hispanic), mostly [Mexican-American](/wiki/Mexican-American), citizens in Metropolitan Denver, Colorado Springs, as well as the smaller cities of Greeley and Pueblo, and elsewhere. Colorado is well known for its strong Latino culture and presence. Southern, Southwestern, and Southeastern Colorado has a large number of [Hispanos](/wiki/Hispanos), the descendants of the early Mexican settlers of colonial Spanish origin. In 1940, the Census Bureau reported Colorado's population as 8.2% Hispanic and 90.3% non-Hispanic white.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The Hispanic population of Colorado has continued to grow quickly over the past decades. By 2012, Hispanics made up 21% of Colorado's population, and [Non-Hispanic Whites](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_White) made up 69%.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Colorado, like New Mexico, is very rich in Spanish idioms.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Colorado also has some large African-American communities located in Denver, in the neighborhoods of Montbello, Five Points, Whittier, and many other East Denver areas. A relatively large population of African Americans are also found in Colorado Springs on the east and southeast side of the city. The state has sizable numbers of Asian-Americans of [Mongolian](/wiki/Mongolian_American), [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_American), [Filipino](/wiki/Filipino_American), [Korean](/wiki/Koreans), [Southeast Asian](/wiki/Southeast_Asian) and [Japanese](/wiki/Japanese_American) descent. The highest population of Asian Americans can be found on the south and southeast side of Denver, as well as some on Denver's southwest side. The Denver metropolitan area is considered more liberal and diverse than much of the state when it comes to political issues and environmental concerns.

There were a total of 70,331 births in Colorado in 2006. (Birth rate of 14.6 per thousand.) In 2007, non-Hispanic whites were involved in 59.1% of all the births.[[30]](#cite_note-30) Some 14.06% of those births involved a non-Hispanic white person and someone of a different race, most often with a couple including one Hispanic. A birth where at least one Hispanic person was involved counted for 43% of the births in Colorado.[[31]](#cite_note-31) As of the [2010 Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census), Colorado has the seventh highest percentage of Hispanics (20.7%) in the U.S. behind [New Mexico](/wiki/New_Mexico) (46.3%), California (37.6%), Texas (37.6%), [Arizona](/wiki/Arizona) (29.6%), [Nevada](/wiki/Nevada) (26.5%), and Florida (22.5%). Per the 2000 census, the Hispanic population is estimated to be 918,899 or approximately 20% of the state total population. Colorado has the 5th largest population of [Mexican-Americans](/wiki/Mexican-Americans) behind California, Texas, Arizona, and Illinois. In percentages, Colorado has the 6th highest percentage of Mexican-Americans behind New Mexico, California, Texas, Arizona, and Nevada.[[32]](#cite_note-32) In 2011, 46% of Colorado's population younger than the age of one were minorities, meaning that they had at least one parent who was not non-Hispanic white.[[33]](#cite_note-33)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Colorado_Rocky_Mtn_Church.jpg) [Chapel on the Rock](/wiki/Chapel_on_the_Rock) at Camp Saint Malo near [Allenspark](/wiki/Allenspark,_Colorado). [thumb|The Cadet Chapel at the](/wiki/File:USAFA_Chapel_from_terrazzo.JPG) [United States Air Force Academy](/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_Academy) near [Colorado Springs](/wiki/Colorado_Springs,_Colorado). Major religious affiliations of the people of Colorado are 64% Christian, of whom there are 44% Protestants, 19% [Roman Catholics](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_the_United_States), 3% [Latter Day Saint](/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints)/Mormon,[[34]](#cite_note-34) 2% Jews, 1% [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim), 1% Buddhist and 0.5% Hindu. The religiously unaffiliated make up 25% of the population.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The largest denominations by number of adherents in 2010 were the [Catholic Church](/wiki/Catholic_Church) with 811,630; non-denominational Evangelical Protestants with 229,981; and [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) with 142,473.[[36]](#cite_note-36)

|  |
| --- |
| **Religion** |
| Protestant | 44% |
| Unaffiliated | 25% |
| [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic) | 19% |
| [Mormon](/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints) | 3% |
| [Jewish](/wiki/Judaism) | 2% |
| [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim) | 1% |
| [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhist) | 1% |
| [Hindu](/wiki/Hindu) | 0.5% |

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

According to several studies, Coloradans have the lowest rates of obesity of any state in the US.[[37]](#cite_note-37) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), 18% of the population was considered medically obese, and while the lowest in the nation, the percentage had increased from 17% in 2004. Former Colorado Governor [Bill Ritter](/wiki/Bill_Ritter) commented: "As an avid fisherman and bike rider, I know first-hand that Colorado provides a great environment for active, healthy lifestyles," although he highlighted the need for continued education and support to slow the growth of obesity in the state.[[38]](#cite_note-38)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:HistoryColoradoCenter1.jpg)[History Colorado Center](/wiki/History_Colorado_Center) in Denver [thumb|Street art in Denver](/wiki/File:Denver_Colorado_Art.jpg)

* [List of museums in Colorado](/wiki/List_of_museums_in_Colorado)

### Fine arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

* [Music of Colorado](/wiki/Music_of_Colorado)
* [Theater in Colorado](/wiki/Theater_in_Colorado)

#### Film[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

A number of film productions have shot on location in Colorado, especially prominent [Westerns](/wiki/Western_(genre)) like [*True Grit*](/wiki/True_Grit_(1969_film)), [*The Searchers*](/wiki/The_Searchers_(film)) and [*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*](/wiki/Butch_Cassidy_and_the_Sundance_Kid)*.* A number of historic military forts, railways with trains still operating, mining ghost towns have been utilized and transformed for historical accuracy in well known films. There are also a number of scenic highways and mountain passes that helped to feature the open road in films such as [*Vanishing Point*](/wiki/Vanishing_Point_(1971_film)), [*Bingo*](/wiki/Bingo_(1991_film)) and [*Starman*](/wiki/Starman_(film)). Some Colorado landmarks have been featured in films, such as [The Stanley Hotel](/wiki/The_Stanley_Hotel) in [*Dumb and Dumber*](/wiki/Dumb_and_Dumber) and the [Sculptured House](/wiki/Sculptured_House) in [*Sleeper*](/wiki/Sleeper_(1973_film)). The Colorado Office of Film and Television has noted that over 400 films have been shot in Colorado.[[39]](#cite_note-39) There are also a number of established film festivals in Colorado, including [Aspen Shortsfest](/wiki/Aspen_Shortsfest), [Boulder International Film Festival](/wiki/Boulder_International_Film_Festival), [Castle Rock Film Festival](/wiki/Castle_Rock_Film_Festival), [Denver Film Festival](/wiki/Denver_Film_Festival), [Festivus film festival](/wiki/Festivus_film_festival), [Mile High Horror Film Festival](/wiki/Mile_High_Horror_Film_Festival), [Moondance International Film Festival](/wiki/Moondance_International_Film_Festival), [Mountainfilm in Telluride](/wiki/Mountainfilm_in_Telluride), [Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival](/wiki/Rocky_Mountain_Women's_Film_Festival), and [Telluride Film Festival](/wiki/Telluride_Film_Festival).

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

Colorado is known for its [Southwest](/wiki/Cuisine_of_the_Southwestern_United_States) and [Rocky Mountain cuisine](/wiki/Rocky_Mountain_cuisine). Mexican restaurants are prominent throughout the state.

[Boulder, Colorado](/wiki/Boulder,_Colorado) was named America's Foodiest Town 2010 by [Bon Appétit](/wiki/Bon_Appétit).[[40]](#cite_note-40) Boulder, and Colorado in general, is home to a number of national food and beverage companies, top-tier restaurants and farmers' markets. [Boulder, Colorado](/wiki/Boulder,_Colorado) also has more Master [Sommeliers](/wiki/Sommelier) per capita than any other city, including San Francisco and New York.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The [Food & Wine Classic](/wiki/Food_&_Wine_Classic) is held annually each June in [Aspen, Colorado](/wiki/Aspen,_Colorado). Aspen also has a reputation as the culinary capital of the Rocky Mountain region.[[42]](#cite_note-42) [Denver](/wiki/Denver) is known for steak, but now has a diverse culinary scene with many top-tier restaurants.[[43]](#cite_note-43)

### Wine and beer[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Colorado wines](/wiki/Colorado_wine) include award-winning varietals that have attracted favorable notice from outside the state.[[44]](#cite_note-44) With wines made from traditional [*Vitis vinifera*](/wiki/Vitis_vinifera) grapes along with wines made from cherries, peaches, plums and honey, Colorado wines have won top national and international awards for their quality.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Colorado's grape growing regions contain the highest elevation [vineyards](/wiki/Vineyard) in the United States,[[46]](#cite_note-46) with most [viticulture](/wiki/Viticulture) in the state practiced between [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_sea_level). The mountain [climate](/wiki/Climate) ensures warm summer days and cool nights. Colorado is home to two designated [American Viticultural Areas](/wiki/American_Viticultural_Area) of the [Grand Valley AVA](/wiki/Grand_Valley_AVA) and the [West Elks AVA](/wiki/West_Elks_AVA),[[47]](#cite_note-47) where most of the vineyards in the state are located. However, an increasing number of wineries are located along the [Front Range](/wiki/Front_Range).[[48]](#cite_note-48) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Colorado is home to many nationally praised [microbreweries](/wiki/Microbreweries),[[49]](#cite_note-49) including [New Belgium Brewing Company](/wiki/New_Belgium_Brewing_Company), [Odell Brewing Company](/wiki/Odell_Brewing_Company), [Great Divide Brewing Company](/wiki/Great_Divide_Brewing_Company), and [Oskar Blues Brewery](/wiki/Oskar_Blues_Brewery). The area of northern Colorado near the between the cities of Denver, [Boulder](/wiki/Boulder), and [Fort Collins](/wiki/Fort_Collins) is known as the "Napa Valley of Beer" due to its high density of [craft breweries](/wiki/Craft_breweries).[[50]](#cite_note-50)

### Marijuana and Hemp[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

Colorado is open to pot tourism.[[51]](#cite_note-51) With the adoption of their [64th state amendment](/wiki/Colorado_Amendment_64) In 2013 Colorado became the first state in the union to [legalize](/wiki/Legality_of_cannabis_by_US_state) the [medicinal](/wiki/Medical_cannabis_in_the_United_States#Colorado) (2000), [recreational](/wiki/Colorado_Amendment_64) (2014) and [industrial](/wiki/Hemp) (2013) use of marijuana. Colorado's marijuana industry sold 996 million dollars worth of marijuana in 2015.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Colorado regulates hemp as any part of the plant with less than 0.03% THC.[[53]](#cite_note-53) Amendment 64, adopted by the voters in the 2014 general election, forces the Colorado state legislature to enact legislation governing the cultivation, processing and sale of recreational marijuana and industrial hemp.[[54]](#cite_note-54) On April 4, 2014 Senate Bill 14-184 addressing oversight of Colorado's industrial hemp program was first introduced, ultimately being signed into law by Governor John Hickenlooper on May 31, 2014.[[55]](#cite_note-55)

#### Medicinal use[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

On November 7, 2000, 54% of Colorado voters passed Amendment 20, which amends the Colorado State constitution to allow the [medical use of marijuana](/wiki/Medical_use_of_cannabis).[[56]](#cite_note-56) A patient's medical use of marijuana, within the following limits, is lawful:

* (I) No more than two ounces of a usable form of marijuana; and
* (II) No more than twelve marijuana plants, with six or fewer being mature, flowering plants that are producing a usable form of marijuana.[[57]](#cite_note-57)Currently Colorado has listed "eight medical conditions for which patients can use marijuana – cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, muscle spasms, seizures, severe pain, severe nausea and cachexia or dramatic weight loss and muscle atrophy."<ref name=Young>[Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)</ref> Colorado Governor [John Hickenlooper](/wiki/John_Hickenlooper) has allocated about half of the state's $13 million "Medical Marijuana Program Cash Fund"<ref name=MMPCF>[Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation) Several links are found, including .PDF documents to download.</ref> to medical research in the 2014 budget.<ref name=Campbell>[Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)</ref><ref name=Markus>[Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)</ref>

#### Recreational use[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

On November 6, 2012, voters amended the state constitution to protect ["personal use" of marijuana for adults](/wiki/Colorado_Amendment_64), establishing a framework to regulate [marijuana](/wiki/Cannabis_(drug)) in a manner similar to [alcohol](/wiki/Alcoholic_beverage).[[58]](#cite_note-58) The first recreational marijuana shops in Colorado, and by extension the United States, opened their doors on January 1, 2014.<ref name=Healy>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> In Colorado marijuana sales generate high amounts of tax money to be used for repairs, schools etc.[[59]](#cite_note-59)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[thumb|upright|right|Denver Energy Center  
The Denver financial district along 17th Street is known as the](/wiki/File:Denver_CO_DT_WTC_AMH_322.JPG) [*Wall Street of the West*](/wiki/Wall_Street_of_the_West). [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) CNBC's list of "Top States for Business for 2010" has recognized Colorado as the third best state in the nation, falling short to only Texas and Virginia.[[60]](#cite_note-60)[thumb|](/wiki/File:Corn_production_in_Colorado.jpg)[Corn](/wiki/Maize) growing in [Larimer County](/wiki/Larimer_County,_Colorado)

The [Bureau of Economic Analysis](/wiki/Bureau_of_Economic_Analysis) estimates that the total state product in 2010 was $257.6 billion.[[61]](#cite_note-61) [Per capita personal income](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_GDP_per_capita_(nominal)) in 2010 was $51 940, ranking Colorado 11th in the nation.[[62]](#cite_note-62) The state's economy broadened from its mid-19th century roots in mining when irrigated agriculture developed, and by the late 19th century, raising livestock had become important. Early industry was based on the extraction and processing of minerals and agricultural products. Current agricultural products are cattle, wheat, [dairy products](/wiki/Dairy_product), [corn](/wiki/Maize), and [hay](/wiki/Hay).

The [federal government](/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States) is also a major economic force in the state with many important federal facilities including [NORAD](/wiki/NORAD) (North American Aerospace Defense Command), [United States Air Force Academy](/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_Academy), Schriever Air Force Base located approximately 10 miles (16 kilometers) east of [Peterson Air Force Base](/wiki/Peterson_Air_Force_Base), and Fort Carson, both located in [Colorado Springs](/wiki/Colorado_Springs,_Colorado) within El Paso County; [NOAA](/wiki/NOAA), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory ([NREL](/wiki/NREL)) in Golden, and the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](/wiki/National_Institute_of_Standards_and_Technology) in [Boulder](/wiki/Boulder,_Colorado); [U.S. Geological Survey](/wiki/U.S._Geological_Survey) and other government agencies at the [Denver Federal Center](/wiki/Denver_Federal_Center) near [Lakewood](/wiki/Lakewood,_Colorado); the [Denver Mint](/wiki/Denver_Mint), [Buckley Air Force Base](/wiki/Buckley_Air_Force_Base), the [Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals](/wiki/United_States_Court_of_Appeals_for_the_Tenth_Circuit) and the [Byron G. Rogers Federal Building and United States Courthouse](/wiki/Byron_G._Rogers_Federal_Building_and_United_States_Courthouse) in Denver; and a federal [Supermax Prison](/wiki/ADX_Florence) and other federal prisons near [Cañon City](/wiki/Cañon_City,_Colorado). In addition to these and other [federal agencies](/wiki/Independent_Agencies_of_the_United_States_Government), Colorado has abundant [National Forest](/wiki/United_States_National_Forest) land and four [National Parks](/wiki/List_of_National_Parks_of_the_United_States) that contribute to federal ownership of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of land in Colorado, or 37% of the total area of the state.[[63]](#cite_note-63)In the second half of the 20th century, the industrial and service sectors have expanded greatly. The state's economy is diversified and is notable for its concentration of scientific research and high-technology industries. Other industries include [food processing](/wiki/Food_processing), transportation equipment, [machinery](/wiki/Mechanical_engineering), [chemical products](/wiki/Chemical_engineering), the extraction of metals such as gold (see [Gold mining in Colorado](/wiki/Gold_mining_in_Colorado)), silver, and [molybdenum](/wiki/Molybdenum). Colorado now also has the largest annual production of beer of any state.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Denver is an important financial center.

A number of nationally known brand names have originated in Colorado factories and laboratories. From [Denver](/wiki/Denver#Economy) came the forerunner of telecommunications giant [Qwest](/wiki/Qwest_Corporation) in 1879, [Samsonite](/wiki/Samsonite) luggage in 1910, [Gates](/wiki/Gates_Corporation) belts and hoses in 1911, and [Russell Stover Candies](/wiki/Russell_Stover_Candies) in 1923. Kuner canned vegetables began in [Brighton](/wiki/Brighton,_Colorado) in 1864. From [Golden](/wiki/Golden,_Colorado) came [Coors](/wiki/Coors_Brewing_Company) beer in 1873, [CoorsTek](/wiki/CoorsTek) industrial ceramics in 1920, and [Jolly Rancher](/wiki/Jolly_Rancher) candy in 1949. [CF&I](/wiki/Colorado_Fuel_and_Iron) railroad rails, wire, nails and pipe debuted in [Pueblo](/wiki/Pueblo,_Colorado) in 1892. [Holly Sugar](/wiki/Imperial_Sugar) was first milled from beets in [Holly](/wiki/Holly,_Colorado) in 1905, and later moved its headquarters to Colorado Springs. The present-day [Swift](/wiki/Swift_&_Company) packed meat of [Greeley](/wiki/Greeley,_Colorado) evolved from Monfort of Colorado, Inc., established in 1930. [Estes](/wiki/Estes_Industries) model rockets were launched in [Penrose](/wiki/Penrose,_Colorado) in 1958. [Fort Collins](/wiki/Fort_Collins,_Colorado) has been the home of [Woodward Governor Company's](/wiki/Woodward_Governor_Company) motor controllers (governors) since 1870, and [Waterpik](/wiki/Oral_irrigator) dental water jets and showerheads since 1962. [Celestial Seasonings](/wiki/Celestial_Seasonings) herbal teas have been made in [Boulder](/wiki/Boulder,_Colorado) since 1969. [Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory](/wiki/Rocky_Mountain_Chocolate_Factory) made its first candy in [Durango](/wiki/Durango,_Colorado) in 1981.

Colorado has a flat 4.63% [income tax](/wiki/Income_tax), regardless of income level. Unlike most states, which calculate taxes based on federal *adjusted gross income*, Colorado taxes are based on *taxable income* – income after federal exemptions and federal itemized (or standard) deductions.[[65]](#cite_note-65)[[66]](#cite_note-66) Colorado's state [sales tax](/wiki/Sales_tax) is 2.9% on retail sales. When state revenues exceed state constitutional limits, according to Colorado's [Taxpayer Bill of Rights](/wiki/Taxpayer_Bill_of_Rights) legislation, full-year Colorado residents can claim a sales tax refund on their individual state income tax return. Many counties and cities charge their own rates in addition to the base state rate. There are also certain county and special district taxes that may apply.

Real estate and personal business property are taxable in Colorado. The state's senior property tax exemption was temporarily suspended by the Colorado Legislature in 2003. The tax break is scheduled to return for assessment year 2006, payable in 2007.

As of August 2014, the state's unemployment rate is 5.3%.[[67]](#cite_note-67)

### Philanthropy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

Major philanthropic organizations based in Colorado, include the [Daniels Fund](/wiki/Daniels_Fund), the Anschutz Family Foundation, the [Gates Family Foundation](/wiki/Gates_Family_Foundation), the El Pomar Foundation and the [Boettcher Foundation](/wiki/Boettcher_Foundation) grant each year from approximately $7 billion[[68]](#cite_note-68) of assets.

### Natural resources[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[thumb|An](/wiki/File:Grand_Junction_Trip_92007_131.JPG) [oil well](/wiki/Oil_well) in western Colorado Colorado has significant [hydrocarbon](/wiki/Hydrocarbon) resources. According to the [Energy Information Administration](/wiki/Energy_Information_Administration), Colorado hosts seven of the Nation's 100 largest natural gas fields and two of its 100 largest [oil fields](/wiki/Oil_field). Conventional and unconventional natural gas output from several Colorado basins typically account for more than 5 percent of annual U.S. natural gas production. Colorado's [oil shale](/wiki/Oil_shale) deposits hold an estimated [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of oil – nearly as much oil as the entire world's proven oil reserves; the economic viability of the oil shale, however, has not been demonstrated.[[69]](#cite_note-69) Substantial deposits of [bituminous](/wiki/Bituminous_coal), [subbituminous](/wiki/Sub-bituminous_coal), and [lignite](/wiki/Lignite) coal are found in the state.

[Uranium mining in Colorado](/wiki/Uranium_mining_in_Colorado), United States, goes back to 1872, when pitchblende ore was taken from gold mines near Central City, Colorado. The Colorado uranium industry has seen booms and busts, but continues to this day. Not counting byproduct uranium from phosphate, Colorado is considered to have the third largest uranium reserves of any US state, behind Wyoming and New Mexico.

Uranium price increases from 2001 to 2007 prompted a number of companies to revive uranium mining in Colorado. However, price drops and financing problems in late 2008 forced these companies to cancel or scale back uranium-mining projects. There are no currently producing uranium mines in Colorado.

Colorado's high Rocky Mountain ridges and eastern plains offer [wind power](/wiki/Wind_power) potential, and geologic activity in the mountain areas provides potential for [geothermal power](/wiki/Geothermal_electricity) development. Much of the state is sunny and could produce [solar power](/wiki/Solar_power_in_Colorado). Major rivers flowing from the Rocky Mountains offer [hydroelectric power](/wiki/Hydroelectricity) resources. Corn grown in the flat eastern part of the state offers potential resources for [ethanol](/wiki/Ethanol) production.

## Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|A Colorado state welcome sign](/wiki/File:Colorado.JPG)

Colorado's primary mode of transportation (in terms of passengers) is its highway system. [Interstate 25](/wiki/Interstate_25_in_Colorado) (I-25) is the primary north–south highway in the state, connecting Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Denver, and Fort Collins, and extending north to Wyoming and south to New Mexico. [I-70](/wiki/Interstate_70_in_Colorado) is the primary east–west corridor. It connects Grand Junction and the mountain communities with Denver, and enters Utah and Kansas. The state is home to a network of US and Colorado highways that provide access to all principal areas of the state. Smaller communities are only connected to this network via county roads.

[thumb|right|The main terminal of Denver International Airport evokes the peaks of the](/wiki/File:DIA.jpg) [Front Range](/wiki/Front_Range). [Denver International Airport](/wiki/Denver_International_Airport) (DIA) is the fourth busiest domestic U.S. airport and thirteenth [busiest world airport](/wiki/World's_busiest_airports_by_passenger_traffic)[[70]](#cite_note-70) DIA handles by far the largest volume of commercial air traffic in Colorado, and is the busiest U.S. hub airport between Chicago and the Pacific coast, making Denver the most important airport for connecting passenger traffic in the western United States.

Extensive public transportation bus services are offered both intra-city and inter-city—including the Denver metro area's extensive RTD services. The [Regional Transportation District](/wiki/Regional_Transportation_District) (RTD) operates the popular [RTD Bus & Light Rail](/wiki/RTD_Bus_&_Light_Rail) transit system in the [Denver Metropolitan Area](/wiki/Denver_Metropolitan_Area). As of January 2013 the RTD rail system had 170 light rail vehicles, serving [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of track.

[thumb|left|The westbound and eastbound](/wiki/File:California_Zephyr--Eastbound_meets_Westbound_in_Glenwood_Canyon.jpg) [*California Zephyrs*](/wiki/California_Zephyr) meet in the [Glenwood Canyon](/wiki/Glenwood_Canyon). [Amtrak](/wiki/Amtrak) operates two legendary passenger rail lines in Colorado, the [California Zephyr](/wiki/California_Zephyr) and [Southwest Chief](/wiki/Southwest_Chief). Colorado's contribution to world railroad history was forged principally by the [Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad](/wiki/Denver_and_Rio_Grande_Western_Railroad) which began in 1870 and wrote the book on mountain railroading. In 1988 the "Rio Grande" acquired, but was merged into, the [Southern Pacific Railroad](/wiki/Southern_Pacific_Railroad) by their joint owner [Philip Anschutz](/wiki/Philip_Anschutz). On September 11, 1996, Anschutz sold the combined company to the [Union Pacific Railroad](/wiki/Union_Pacific_Railroad), creating the largest railroad network in the United States. The Anschutz sale was partly in response to the earlier merger of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe which formed the large Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF), Union Pacific's principal competitor in western U.S. railroading. Both Union Pacific and BNSF have extensive freight operations in Colorado.

Colorado's freight railroad network consists of 2,688 miles of Class I trackage. It is integral to the U.S. economy, being a critical artery for the movement of energy, agriculture, mining, and industrial commodities as well as general freight and manufactured products between the East and Midwest and the Pacific coast states.[[71]](#cite_note-71)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

In August 2014, Colorado began to issue driver licenses to [aliens](/wiki/Alien_(law)) [not lawfully in the United States](/wiki/Illegal_immigration_to_the_United_States) who lived in Colorado.[[72]](#cite_note-72) In September 2014, [KCNC](/wiki/KCNC) reported that 524 non-citizens were issued licenses issued to U.S. Citizens living in Colorado.[[73]](#cite_note-73)

## Government and politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

{| class=wikitable style="float:right; margin-left:1em" ! colspan = 6 | Colorado registered voters as of April 1, 2016[[74]](#cite_note-74)|- ! colspan = 2 | Party ! Number of Voters ! Percentage |- [Template:American politics/party colors/Independent/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Independent/row) | [Unaffiliated](/wiki/Independent_politician#United_States) | style="text-align:center;"| 1,315,973 | style="text-align:center;"| 36.51% |- [Template:American politics/party colors/Democratic/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Democratic/row) | [Democratic](/wiki/Colorado_Democratic_Party) | style="text-align:center;"| 1,119,655 | style="text-align:center;"| 31.06% |- [Template:American politics/party colors/Republican/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Republican/row) | [Republican](/wiki/Colorado_Republican_Party) | style="text-align:center;"| 1,117,244 | style="text-align:center;"| 30.99% |- [Template:American politics/party colors/Libertarian/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Libertarian/row) | [Libertarian](/wiki/Libertarian_Party_of_Colorado) | style="text-align:center;"| 32,450 | style="text-align:center;"| 0.9% |- [Template:American politics/party colors/Green/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Green/row) | [Green](/wiki/Green_Party_of_Colorado) | style="text-align:center;"| 9,916 | style="text-align:center;"| 0.28% |- [Template:American politics/party colors/Constitution/row](/wiki/Template:American_politics/party_colors/Constitution/row) | [American Constitution](/wiki/American_Constitution_Party_(Colorado)) | style="text-align:center;"| 9,193 | style="text-align:center;"| 0.26% |- | rowspan=1 colspan=2 align="left" | UNI | style="text-align:center;"| 271 | style="text-align:center;"| 0.007% |- ! colspan = 2 | Total ! style="text-align:center;"| 3,604,702 ! style="text-align:center;"| 100% |}

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The Five Executive Officers of the State of Colorado | | | |
| **Office** | **Incumbent** | **Party** | **Term** |
| [Governor](/wiki/Governor_of_Colorado) | [John Hickenlooper](/wiki/John_Hickenlooper) | align=center|[Democratic](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) | align=center|2011–2019 |
| [Lieutenant Governor](/wiki/Lieutenant_Governor_of_Colorado) | [Donna Lynne](/wiki/Donna_Lynne_(United_States_politician)) | align=center|[Democratic](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) | align=center|2016–2019 |
| [Secretary of State](/wiki/Secretary_of_State_of_Colorado) | [Wayne W. Williams](/wiki/Wayne_W._Williams) | align=center|[Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) | align=center|2015–2019 |
| [State Treasurer](/wiki/Colorado_State_Treasurer) | [Walker Stapleton](/wiki/Walker_Stapleton) | align=center|[Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) | align=center|2011–2019 |
| [Attorney General](/wiki/Colorado_Attorney_General) | [Cynthia Coffman](/wiki/Cynthia_Coffman_(politician)) | align=center|[Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) | align=center|2015–2019 |

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### State government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Like the federal government and all other U.S. states, Colorado's [state constitution](/wiki/Constitution_of_the_State_of_Colorado) provides for three branches of government: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial branches.

The [Governor of Colorado](/wiki/Governor_of_Colorado) heads the state's executive branch. The current governor is [John Hickenlooper](/wiki/John_Hickenlooper), a [Democrat](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)). Colorado's other statewide elected executive officers are the [Lieutenant Governor of Colorado](/wiki/Lieutenant_Governor_of_Colorado) (elected on a [ticket](/wiki/Ticket_(election)) with the Governor), [Secretary of State of Colorado](/wiki/Secretary_of_State_of_Colorado), [Colorado State Treasurer](/wiki/Colorado_State_Treasurer), and [Attorney General of Colorado](/wiki/Attorney_General_of_Colorado), all of whom serve four-year terms. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Gubernatorial election results | | |
| **Year** | [**Republican**](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) | [**Democratic**](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) |
| [2014](/wiki/Colorado_gubernatorial_election,_2014) | 45.95% *938,195* | **49.3%** *1,006,433* |
| [2010](/wiki/Colorado_gubernatorial_election,_2010) | 11.3% *199,034* | **51.0%** *912,005* |
| [2006](/wiki/Colorado_gubernatorial_election,_2006) | 40.16% *625,886* | **56.98%** *888,096* |
| [2002](/wiki/Colorado_gubernatorial_election,_2002) | **62.62%** *884,584* | 33.65% *475,373* |
| [1998](/wiki/Colorado_gubernatorial_election,_1998) | **49.06%** *648,202* | 48.43% *639,905* |
| [1994](/wiki/United_States_gubernatorial_elections,_1994) | 38.70% *432,042* | **55.47%** *619,205* |
| [1990](/wiki/United_States_gubernatorial_elections,_1990) | 35.43% *358,403* | **61.89%** *626,032* |

The seven-member [Colorado Supreme Court](/wiki/Colorado_Supreme_Court) is the highest judicial court in the state. The state legislative body is the [Colorado General Assembly](/wiki/Colorado_General_Assembly), which is made up of two houses, the [House of Representatives](/wiki/Colorado_House_of_Representatives) and the [Senate](/wiki/Colorado_Senate). The House has 65 members and the Senate has 35. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the [Republican Party](/wiki/United_States_Republican_Party) holds an 18 to 17 majority in the Senate and a 31 to 34 minority in the House.

Most Coloradans are native to other states (nearly 60% according to the 2000 census),[[75]](#cite_note-75) and this is illustrated by the fact that the state did not have a native-born governor from 1975 (when [John David Vanderhoof](/wiki/John_David_Vanderhoof) left office) until 2007, when Bill Ritter took office; [his election](/wiki/Colorado_gubernatorial_election,_2006) the previous year marked the first electoral victory for a native-born Coloradan in a gubernatorial race since 1958 (Vanderhoof had ascended from the Lieutenant Governorship when [John Arthur Love](/wiki/John_Arthur_Love) was given a position in [Richard Nixon's](/wiki/Richard_Nixon) administration in 1973). [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Counties[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[thumb|An enlargeable map of the](/wiki/File:Map_of_Colorado_counties,_labelled.svg) [64 counties](/wiki/List_of_counties_in_Colorado) of the State of Colorado [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The State of Colorado is divided into 64 [counties](/wiki/County_(United_States)).<ref name= CountiesCO>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Counties are important units of government in Colorado since the state has no secondary civil subdivisions such as townships. Two of these counties, the [City and County of Denver](/wiki/Denver) and the [City and County of Broomfield](/wiki/Broomfield,_Colorado), have [consolidated city and county governments](/wiki/Consolidated_city-county).

Nine Colorado counties have a population in excess of 250,000 each, while eight Colorado counties have a population of less than 2,500 each. The ten most populous Colorado counties are all located in the [Front Range Urban Corridor](/wiki/Front_Range_Urban_Corridor). [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The 15 Colorado counties with a population of at least 50,000 | | | | |
| **Rank** | **County** | **2013 Estimate** | **2010 Census** | **Change** |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [El Paso County](/wiki/El_Paso_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Template:Hs](/wiki/Template:Hs)[City and County of Denver](/wiki/Denver) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Arapahoe County](/wiki/Arapahoe_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Jefferson County](/wiki/Jefferson_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Adams County](/wiki/Adams_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Larimer County](/wiki/Larimer_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Boulder County](/wiki/Boulder_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Douglas County](/wiki/Douglas_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Weld County](/wiki/Weld_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Pueblo County](/wiki/Pueblo_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Mesa County](/wiki/Mesa_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Template:Hs](/wiki/Template:Hs)[City and County of Broomfield](/wiki/Broomfield,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Garfield County](/wiki/Garfield_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [La Plata County](/wiki/La_Plata_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Eagle County](/wiki/Eagle_County,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |

#### Metropolitan areas[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[thumb|Map of the 14](/wiki/File:Colorado_census_statistical_areas.svg) [Core Based Statistical Areas](/wiki/Core_Based_Statistical_Area) in the state of Colorado. [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The [United States Office of Management and Budget](/wiki/United_States_Office_of_Management_and_Budget) (OMB) has defined one [Combined Statistical Area](/wiki/Combined_Statistical_Area) (CSA),<ref name=CSA>The [United States Office of Management and Budget](/wiki/United_States_Office_of_Management_and_Budget) defines a [Combined Statistical Area](/wiki/Combined_Statistical_Area) (CSA) as an aggregate of adjacent [Core Based Statistical Areas](/wiki/Core_Based_Statistical_Area) that are linked by commuting ties.</ref> seven [Metropolitan Statistical Areas](/wiki/Metropolitan_Statistical_Area) (MSAs),<ref name=MSA>The [United States Office of Management and Budget](/wiki/United_States_Office_of_Management_and_Budget) defines a [Metropolitan Statistical Area](/wiki/Metropolitan_Statistical_Area) (MSA) as a [Core Based Statistical Area](/wiki/Core_Based_Statistical_Area) having at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties.</ref> and seven [Micropolitan Statistical Areas](/wiki/Micropolitan_Statistical_Area) (μSAs)[[76]](#cite_note-76) in the state of Colorado.<ref name=OMB\_10-02>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The most populous of the 14 [Core Based Statistical Areas](/wiki/Core_Based_Statistical_Area) in Colorado is the [Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO Metropolitan Statistical Area](/wiki/Denver-Aurora-Broomfield,_CO_Metropolitan_Statistical_Area). This area had an estimated population of 2,599,504 on July 1, 2011, an increase of +2.20% since the [2010 United States Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census).<ref name=AF>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The more extensive [Denver-Aurora-Boulder, CO Combined Statistical Area](/wiki/Denver-Aurora-Boulder,_CO_Combined_Statistical_Area) had an estimated population of 3,157,520 on July 1, 2011, an increase of +2.16% since the 2010 United States Census.<ref name=AF/>

The most populous extended metropolitan region in Rocky Mountain Region is the [Front Range Urban Corridor](/wiki/Front_Range_Urban_Corridor) along the northeast face of the [Southern Rocky Mountains](/wiki/Southern_Rocky_Mountains). This region with [Denver](/wiki/Denver) at its center had an estimated population of 4,495,181 on July 1, 2012, an increase of +3.73% since the 2010 United States Census.<ref name=AF/> [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Municipalities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The state of Colorado currently has 271 active [incorporated municipalities](/wiki/Municipal_corporation), including 196 towns, 73 cities, and two consolidated city and county governments.<ref name=COmuniStatus>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=COgovTypes>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Colorado municipalities operate under one of five types of municipal governing authority. Colorado has one town with a [territorial charter](/wiki/Colorado_municipalities#Territorial_charter_municipality), 160 [statutory towns](/wiki/Colorado_municipalities#Statutory_town), 12 [statutory cities](/wiki/Colorado_municipalities#Statutory_city), 96 [home rule municipalities](/wiki/Colorado_municipalities#Home_rule_municipality) (61 cities and 35 towns), and 2 [consolidated city and county governments](/wiki/Colorado_municipalities#Consolidated_city_and_county). [Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The 26 Colorado municipalities with a population of at least 25,000 | | | | |
| **Rank** | **Municipality** | **2014 Estimate** | **2010 Census** | **Change** |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City and County of Denver](/wiki/Denver) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Colorado Springs](/wiki/Colorado_Springs,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Aurora](/wiki/Aurora,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Fort Collins](/wiki/Fort_Collins,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Lakewood](/wiki/Lakewood,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Thornton](/wiki/Thornton,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Arvada](/wiki/Arvada,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Westminster](/wiki/Westminster,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Pueblo](/wiki/Pueblo,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Centennial](/wiki/Centennial,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Boulder](/wiki/Boulder,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Greeley](/wiki/Greeley,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Longmont](/wiki/Longmont,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Loveland](/wiki/Loveland,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City and County of Broomfield](/wiki/Broomfield,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Grand Junction](/wiki/Grand_Junction,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Town of Castle Rock](/wiki/Castle_Rock,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Commerce City](/wiki/Commerce_City,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Town of Parker](/wiki/Parker,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Littleton](/wiki/Littleton,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Northglenn](/wiki/Northglenn,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Brighton](/wiki/Brighton,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Englewood](/wiki/Englewood,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Wheat Ridge](/wiki/Wheat_Ridge,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Fountain](/wiki/Fountain,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center|[Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [City of Lafayette](/wiki/Lafayette,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |

### Unincorporated communities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) In addition to its 271 municipalities, Colorado has 187 [unincorporated](/wiki/Unincorporated_area) [Census Designated Places](/wiki/Census-designated_place) and many other small communities. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The 16 Census Designated Places in Colorado with a population of at least 10,000 | | | | |
| **Rank** | **Census Designated Place** | **2010 Census** | **2000 Census** | **Change** |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Highlands Ranch](/wiki/Highlands_Ranch,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Security-Widefield](/wiki/Security-Widefield,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Ken Caryl](/wiki/Ken_Caryl,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Dakota Ridge](/wiki/Dakota_Ridge,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Pueblo West](/wiki/Pueblo_West,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Columbine](/wiki/Columbine,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Clifton](/wiki/Clifton,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Sherrelwood](/wiki/Sherrelwood,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Cimarron Hills](/wiki/Cimarron_Hills,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Welby](/wiki/Welby,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Fort Carson](/wiki/Fort_Carson,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Black Forest](/wiki/Black_Forest,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Berkley](/wiki/Berkley,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Cherry Creek](/wiki/Cherry_Creek,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Template:Hs](/wiki/Template:Hs)[The Pinery](/wiki/The_Pinery,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |
| align=center| [Template:Nts](/wiki/Template:Nts) | [Edwards](/wiki/Edwards,_Colorado) | [Template:Change](/wiki/Template:Change) |  |  |

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

### Special districts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

The state of Colorado has more than 3,000 districts with taxing authority. These districts may provide schools, law enforcement, fire protection, water, sewage, drainage, irrigation, transportation, recreation, infrastructure, cultural facilities, business support, redevelopment, or other services.

Some of these districts have authority to levy sales tax and well as property tax and use fees. This has led to a hodgepodge of sales tax and property tax rates in Colorado. There are some street intersections in Colorado with a different sales tax rate on each corner, sometimes substantially different.

Some of the more notable Colorado districts are:

* The [Regional Transportation District](/wiki/Regional_Transportation_District) (RTD), which affects the counties of Denver, Boulder, Jefferson, and portions of Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, and Douglas Counties
* The [Scientific and Cultural Facilities District](/wiki/Scientific_and_Cultural_Facilities_District) (SCFD), a special regional tax district with physical boundaries contiguous with county boundaries of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties
  + It is a 0.1% retail sales and use tax (one penny on every $10).
  + According to the Colorado statute, the SCFD distributes the money to local organizations on an annual basis. These organizations must provide for the enlightenment and entertainment of the public through the production, presentation, exhibition, advancement or preservation of art, music, theater, dance, zoology, botany, natural history or cultural history.
  + As directed by statute, SCFD recipient organizations are currently divided into three "tiers" among which receipts are allocated by percentage.
    - Tier I includes regional organizations: the Denver Art Museum, the Denver Botanic Gardens, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the Denver Zoo, and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. It receives 65.5%.
    - Tier II currently includes 26 regional organizations. Tier II receives 21%.
    - Tier III has over 280 local organizations such as small theaters, orchestras, art centers, and natural history, cultural history, and community groups. Tier III organizations apply for funding to the county cultural councils via a grant process. This tier receives 13.5%.
  + An 11-member board of directors oversees the distributions in accordance with the Colorado Revised Statutes. Seven board members are appointed by county commissioners (in Denver, the Denver City Council) and four members are appointed by the Governor of Colorado.
* The Football Stadium District (FD or FTBL), approved by the voters to pay for and help build the [Denver Broncos'](/wiki/Denver_Broncos) stadium [Sports Authority Field at Mile High](/wiki/Sports_Authority_Field_at_Mile_High)
* Local Improvement Districts (LID) within designated areas of southeast Jefferson and Boulder counties
* Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) taxes at varying rates in Basalt, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, Gunnison County

### Federal politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Presidential elections results | | |
| **Year** | [**Republican**](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) | [**Democratic**](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) |
| [2012](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Colorado,_2012) | 46.12% *1,185,050* | **51.49%** *1,322,998* |
| [2008](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Colorado,_2008) | 44.71% *1,073,584* | **53.66%** *1,288,568* |
| [2004](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Colorado,_2004) | **51.69%** *1,101,255* | 47.02% *1,001,732* |
| [2000](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Colorado,_2000) | **50.75%** *883,745* | 42.39% *738,227* |
| [1996](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Colorado,_1996) | **45.80%** *691,848* | 44.43% *671,152* |
| [1992](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Colorado,_1992) | 35.87% *562,850* | **40.13%** 629,681 |
| [1988](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Colorado,_1988) | **53.06%** *728,177* | 45.28% *621,453* |

Colorado is considered a [swing state](/wiki/Swing_state) in both state and federal elections. Coloradans have elected 17 [Democrats](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) and 12 [Republicans](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) to the governorship in the last 100 years. In presidential politics, Colorado was considered a reliably Republican state during the post-World War II era, only voting for the Democratic candidate in 1948, 1964 and 1992. However, it became a competitive swing state by the turn of the century, and voted consecutively for Democrat Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012.

Colorado politics has the contrast of conservative cities such as Colorado Springs and liberal cities such as Boulder and Denver. Democrats are strongest in [metropolitan Denver](/wiki/Denver_Metropolitan_Area), the college towns of [Fort Collins](/wiki/Fort_Collins,_Colorado) and [Boulder](/wiki/Boulder,_Colorado), southern Colorado (including Pueblo), and a few western ski resort counties. The Republicans are strongest in the Eastern Plains, Colorado Springs, Greeley, and far Western Colorado near Grand Junction.

The state of Colorado is represented by its two [United States Senators](/wiki/United_States_Senator):

* [United States Senate Class 2](/wiki/Classes_of_United_States_Senators) – [Cory Gardner](/wiki/Cory_Gardner) ([Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States))) 2015–
* [United States Senate Class 3](/wiki/Classes_of_United_States_Senators) – [Michael Bennet](/wiki/Michael_Bennet) ([Democratic](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States))) 2009–

Colorado is represented by seven [Representatives](/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) to the [United States House of Representatives](/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives):

* [Colorado's 1st congressional district](/wiki/Colorado's_1st_congressional_district) – [Diana DeGette](/wiki/Diana_DeGette) ([Democratic](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States))) 1997–
* [Colorado's 2nd congressional district](/wiki/Colorado's_2nd_congressional_district) – [Jared Polis](/wiki/Jared_Polis) ([Democratic](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States))) 2009–
* [Colorado's 3rd congressional district](/wiki/Colorado's_3rd_congressional_district) – [Scott Tipton](/wiki/Scott_Tipton) ([Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States))) 2011–
* [Colorado's 4th congressional district](/wiki/Colorado's_4th_congressional_district) – [Ken Buck](/wiki/Ken_Buck) ([Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States))) 2015–
* [Colorado's 5th congressional district](/wiki/Colorado's_5th_congressional_district) – [Doug Lamborn](/wiki/Doug_Lamborn) ([Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States))) 2007–
* [Colorado's 6th congressional district](/wiki/Colorado's_6th_congressional_district) – [Mike Coffman](/wiki/Mike_Coffman) ([Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States))) 2009–
* [Colorado's 7th congressional district](/wiki/Colorado's_7th_congressional_district) – [Ed Perlmutter](/wiki/Ed_Perlmutter) ([Democratic](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States))) 2007–

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Significant bills passed in Colorado[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

On the November 8, 1932 ballot, Colorado approved the [repeal of alcohol prohibition](/wiki/Repeal_of_Prohibition) more than a year before the [Twenty-first Amendment to the United States Constitution](/wiki/Twenty-first_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution) was ratified.

In 2012, voters amended the state constitution protecting ["personal use" of marijuana for adults](/wiki/Colorado_Amendment_64), establishing a framework to regulate [cannabis](/wiki/Cannabis_(drug)) in a manner similar to [alcohol](/wiki/Alcoholic_beverage). The first recreational marijuana shops in Colorado, and by extension the United States, opened their doors on January 1, 2014.<ref name=Healy/>

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Cutler_Hall.JPG)[Colorado College](/wiki/Colorado_College). [thumb|](/wiki/File:CSMCampus.jpg)[Colorado School of Mines](/wiki/Colorado_School_of_Mines). [thumb|](/wiki/File:CSU_University_Center_for_the_Arts.jpg)[Colorado State University](/wiki/Colorado_State_University). [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Cadet_chapel.jpg) [United States Air Force Academy](/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_Academy). [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Norlin_Library_-_Colorado.jpg) [University of Colorado Boulder](/wiki/University_of_Colorado_Boulder). [thumb|The](/wiki/File:University_of_Denver_campus_pics_003.jpg) [University of Denver](/wiki/University_of_Denver). Colleges and universities in Colorado:

* [Adams State University](/wiki/Adams_State_University)
* [Aims Community College](/wiki/Aims_Community_College)
* [Arapahoe Community College](/wiki/Arapahoe_Community_College)
* [Art Institute of Colorado](/wiki/Art_Institute_of_Colorado)
* [Belleview Christian College & Bible Seminary](/wiki/Pillar_of_Fire_International)
* [Colorado Christian University](/wiki/Colorado_Christian_University)
* [Colorado College](/wiki/Colorado_College)
* [Colorado Mesa University](/wiki/Colorado_Mesa_University)
* [Colorado Mountain College](/wiki/Colorado_Mountain_College)
* [Colorado Northwestern Community College](/wiki/Colorado_Northwestern_Community_College)
* [Colorado School of Mines](/wiki/Colorado_School_of_Mines)
* [Colorado State University System](/wiki/Colorado_State_University)
  + [Colorado State University](/wiki/Colorado_State_University)
  + [Colorado State University-Pueblo](/wiki/Colorado_State_University-Pueblo)
* [Colorado Technical University](/wiki/Colorado_Technical_University)
* [Community College of Aurora](/wiki/Community_College_of_Aurora)
* [Community College of Denver](/wiki/Community_College_of_Denver)
* [Denver Seminary](/wiki/Denver_Seminary)
* [DeVry University](/wiki/DeVry_University)
* [Emily Griffith Opportunity School](/wiki/Emily_Griffith_Opportunity_School)
* [Ecotech Institute](/wiki/Ecotech_Institute)
* [Fort Lewis College](/wiki/Fort_Lewis_College)
* [Front Range Community College](/wiki/Front_Range_Community_College)
* [Iliff School of Theology](/wiki/Iliff_School_of_Theology)
* [Johnson & Wales University](/wiki/Johnson_&_Wales_University)
* [Lamar Community College](/wiki/Lamar_Community_College)
* [Metropolitan State University of Denver](/wiki/Metropolitan_State_University_of_Denver)
* [Morgan Community College](/wiki/Morgan_Community_College)
* [Naropa University](/wiki/Naropa_University)
* [Nazarene Bible College](/wiki/Nazarene_Bible_College)
* [Northeastern Junior College](/wiki/Northeastern_Junior_College)
* [Otero Junior College](/wiki/Otero_Junior_College)
* [Pikes Peak Community College](/wiki/Pikes_Peak_Community_College)
* [Pueblo Community College](/wiki/Pueblo_Community_College)
* [Red Rocks Community College](/wiki/Red_Rocks_Community_College)
* [Regis University](/wiki/Regis_University)
* [Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design](/wiki/Rocky_Mountain_College_of_Art_and_Design)
* [Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine](/wiki/Rocky_Vista_University_College_of_Osteopathic_Medicine)
* [Trinidad State Junior College](/wiki/Trinidad_State_Junior_College)
* [United States Air Force Academy](/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_Academy)
* [University of Colorado System](/wiki/University_of_Colorado_System)
  + [University of Colorado Boulder](/wiki/University_of_Colorado_Boulder)
  + [University of Colorado Colorado Springs](/wiki/University_of_Colorado_Colorado_Springs)
  + [University of Colorado Denver](/wiki/University_of_Colorado_Denver)
    - [Anschutz Medical Campus](/wiki/Anschutz_Medical_Campus)
    - [Auraria Campus](/wiki/Auraria_Campus)
* [University of Denver](/wiki/University_of_Denver)
* [University of Northern Colorado](/wiki/University_of_Northern_Colorado)
* [Western State Colorado University](/wiki/Western_State_Colorado_University)[[77]](#cite_note-77)

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Military installations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Carsongate.JPG)[Fort Carson](/wiki/Fort_Carson). [thumb|](/wiki/File:PetersonAFB.jpg)[Peterson Air Force Base](/wiki/Peterson_Air_Force_Base). Colorado is currently the home of seven major military bases and installations.

* [Air Reserve Personnel Center](/wiki/Air_Reserve_Personnel_Center)
* [Buckley Air Force Base](/wiki/Buckley_Air_Force_Base)
* [Fort Carson](/wiki/Fort_Carson) (U.S. Army)
  + [Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site](/wiki/Piñon_Canyon_Maneuver_Site)
* [Peterson Air Force Base](/wiki/Peterson_Air_Force_Base)
  + [Cheyenne Mountain Division](/wiki/Cheyenne_Mountain_Division)
* [Pueblo Chemical Depot](/wiki/Pueblo_Chemical_Depot) (U.S. Army)
* [Schriever Air Force Base](/wiki/Schriever_Air_Force_Base)
* [United States Air Force Academy](/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_Academy)

Former Military installations and outposts include:

* [Camp Collins](/wiki/Camp_Collins) (1862-1870)
* [Camp Hale](/wiki/Camp_Hale) (1942-1945)
* [Fitzsimons Army Hospital](/wiki/Fitzsimons_Army_Medical_Center) (1918-1999)
* [Fort Garland](/wiki/Fort_Garland) (1858–1883)
* [Fort Logan](/wiki/Fort_Logan) (1887-1946)
* [Lowry Air Force Base](/wiki/Lowry_Air_Force_Base) (1938-1994)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Protected areas[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Lowry_Pueblo_ruins.jpg)[Lowry Pueblo](/wiki/Lowry_Pueblo) in [Canyons of the Ancients National Monument](/wiki/Canyons_of_the_Ancients_National_Monument) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Coloradodunes.jpg)[Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve](/wiki/Great_Sand_Dunes_National_Park_and_Preserve) [thumb|Spruce Tree House in](/wiki/File:SpruceTreeHouseLong.jpg) [Mesa Verde National Park](/wiki/Mesa_Verde_National_Park) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Colorado is home to [four national parks](/wiki/List_of_national_parks_in_Colorado), [eight national monuments](/wiki/National_monuments_of_Colorado), [two national recreation areas](/wiki/National_recreation_areas_of_Colorado), [two national historic sites](/wiki/National_historic_sites_of_Colorado), [three national historic trails](/wiki/National_historic_trails_of_Colorado), [one national scenic trail](/wiki/National_scenic_trail_of_Colorado), [11 national forests](/wiki/National_forests_of_Colorado), [two national grasslands](/wiki/National_grasslands_of_Colorado), [42 national wilderness areas](/wiki/National_wilderness_areas_of_Colorado), [two national conservation areas](/wiki/List_of_federal_lands_in_Colorado#National_Conservation_Areas), [eight national wildlife refuges](/wiki/National_wildlife_refuges_of_Colorado), [44 state parks](/wiki/List_of_Colorado_state_parks), [307 state wildlife areas](/wiki/Colorado_Division_of_Wildlife), and numerous other scenic, historic, and recreational areas.

Units of the National Park System in Colorado:

* [Arapaho National Recreation Area](/wiki/Arapaho_National_Recreation_Area)<ref name=NFS>Managed by the [United States Department of Agriculture](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Agriculture), [National Forest Service](/wiki/National_Forest_Service).</ref>
* [Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site](/wiki/Bent's_Old_Fort_National_Historic_Site)
* [Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park](/wiki/Black_Canyon_of_the_Gunnison_National_Park)
* [Browns Canyon National Monument](/wiki/Browns_Canyon_National_Monument)<ref name=BLMNFS>Jointly managed by the [United States Department of the Interior](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_the_Interior), [Bureau of Land Management](/wiki/Bureau_of_Land_Management) and the [United States Department of Agriculture](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Agriculture), [National Forest Service](/wiki/National_Forest_Service).</ref>
* [Canyons of the Ancients National Monument](/wiki/Canyons_of_the_Ancients_National_Monument)<ref name=BLM>Managed by the [United States Department of the Interior](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_the_Interior), [Bureau of Land Management](/wiki/Bureau_of_Land_Management).</ref>
* [Chimney Rock National Monument](/wiki/Chimney_Rock_National_Monument)<ref name=NFS/>
* [Colorado National Monument](/wiki/Colorado_National_Monument)
* [Continental Divide National Scenic Trail](/wiki/Continental_Divide_National_Scenic_Trail)<ref name=NFSNPSBLM>Jointly managed by the [United States Department of Agriculture](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Agriculture), [National Forest Service](/wiki/National_Forest_Service), and the [United States Department of the Interior](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_the_Interior), [National Park Service](/wiki/National_Park_Service) and [Bureau of Land Management](/wiki/Bureau_of_Land_Management).</ref>
* [Curecanti National Recreation Area](/wiki/Curecanti_National_Recreation_Area)
* [Dinosaur National Monument](/wiki/Dinosaur_National_Monument)
* [Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument](/wiki/Florissant_Fossil_Beds_National_Monument)
* [Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve](/wiki/Great_Sand_Dunes_National_Park_and_Preserve)
* [Hovenweep National Monument](/wiki/Hovenweep_National_Monument)
* [Mesa Verde National Park](/wiki/Mesa_Verde_National_Park) and UNESCO [World Heritage Site](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site)
* [Old Spanish National Historic Trail](/wiki/Old_Spanish_National_Historic_Trail)
* [Pony Express National Historic Trail](/wiki/Pony_Express_National_Historic_Trail)
* [Rocky Mountain National Park](/wiki/Rocky_Mountain_National_Park)
* [Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site](/wiki/Sand_Creek_Massacre_National_Historic_Site)
* [Santa Fe National Historic Trail](/wiki/Santa_Fe_National_Historic_Trail)
* [Yucca House National Monument](/wiki/Yucca_House_National_Monument)

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

## Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[thumb|upright|The](/wiki/File:Coors_field_1.JPG) [Colorado Rockies](/wiki/Colorado_Rockies) baseball club at [Coors Field](/wiki/Coors_Field). [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Denver_invesco_stadium_1.jpg)[Sports Authority Field at Mile High](/wiki/Sports_Authority_Field_at_Mile_High), home of the [Denver Broncos](/wiki/Denver_Broncos) and the [Denver Outlaws](/wiki/Denver_Outlaws). [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Pepsi_Center.jpg)[Pepsi Center](/wiki/Pepsi_Center), home of the [Denver Nuggets](/wiki/Denver_Nuggets), the [Colorado Avalanche](/wiki/Colorado_Avalanche), and the [Colorado Mammoth](/wiki/Colorado_Mammoth). [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Dick's_Park.jpg)[Dick's Sporting Goods Park](/wiki/Dick's_Sporting_Goods_Park), home of the [Colorado Rapids](/wiki/Colorado_Rapids). [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Colorado has five [major professional sports leagues](/wiki/Major_professional_sports_league), all based in the Denver metropolitan area. Colorado is the least populous state with a franchise in each of the major professional sports leagues.

The [Pikes Peak International Hill Climb](/wiki/Pikes_Peak_International_Hill_Climb) is a major hillclimbing motor race held at the Pikes Peak Highway.

The [Cherry Hills Country Club](/wiki/Cherry_Hills_Country_Club) has hosted several professional golf tournaments, including the [U.S. Open](/wiki/U.S._Open_(golf)), [U.S. Senior Open](/wiki/U.S._Senior_Open), [U.S. Women's Open](/wiki/U.S._Women's_Open), [PGA Championship](/wiki/PGA_Championship) and [BMW Championship](/wiki/BMW_Championship_(PGA_Tour)).

### Professional sports teams[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Professional Sports Clubs in Colorado | | | | |
| **Club** | **Home** | **First game** | **Sport** | **League** |
| [Denver Broncos](/wiki/Denver_Broncos) | [Denver](/wiki/Denver) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | [Football](/wiki/American_football) | [National Football League](/wiki/National_Football_League) |
| [Denver Barbarians](/wiki/Denver_Barbarians) | [Denver](/wiki/Denver) | align=right|[Template:DtsSpring](/wiki/Template:Dts) 1967 | [Rugby Union](/wiki/Rugby_Union) | [Pacific Rugby Premiership](/wiki/Rugby_union_in_the_United_States#Pacific_Rugby_Premiership_and_Atlantic_Rugby_Premiership_(2014–present)) |
| [Denver Nuggets](/wiki/Denver_Nuggets) | [Denver](/wiki/Denver) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | [Basketball](/wiki/Basketball) | [National Basketball Association](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) |
| [Colorado Springs Sky Sox](/wiki/Colorado_Springs_Sky_Sox) | [Colorado Springs](/wiki/Colorado_Springs,_Colorado) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | [Baseball](/wiki/Baseball) | [Minor League Baseball](/wiki/Minor_League_Baseball) (AAA) |
| [Colorado Rockies](/wiki/Colorado_Rockies) | [Denver](/wiki/Denver) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | Baseball | [Major League Baseball](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) |
| [Colorado Avalanche](/wiki/Colorado_Avalanche) | [Denver](/wiki/Denver) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | [Ice hockey](/wiki/Ice_hockey) | [National Hockey League](/wiki/National_Hockey_League) |
| [Colorado Rapids](/wiki/Colorado_Rapids) | [Commerce City](/wiki/Commerce_City,_Colorado) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | [Soccer](/wiki/Association_football) | [Major League Soccer](/wiki/Major_League_Soccer) |
| [Colorado Mammoth](/wiki/Colorado_Mammoth) | [Denver](/wiki/Denver) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | [Lacrosse](/wiki/Lacrosse) | [National Lacrosse League](/wiki/National_Lacrosse_League) |
| [Colorado Eagles](/wiki/Colorado_Eagles) | [Loveland](/wiki/Loveland,_Colorado) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | Ice hockey | [ECHL](/wiki/ECHL) |
| [Denver Outlaws](/wiki/Denver_Outlaws) | [Denver](/wiki/Denver) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | Lacrosse | [Major League Lacrosse](/wiki/Major_League_Lacrosse) |
| [Glendale Raptors](/wiki/Glendale_Raptors) | [Glendale](/wiki/Glendale,_Colorado) | align=right|[Template:DtsFall](/wiki/Template:Dts) 2006 | [Rugby Union](/wiki/Rugby_Union) | [Pacific Rugby Premiership](/wiki/Rugby_union_in_the_United_States#Pacific_Rugby_Premiership_and_Atlantic_Rugby_Premiership_(2014–present)) |
| [Grand Junction Rockies](/wiki/Grand_Junction_Rockies) | [Grand Junction](/wiki/Grand_Junction,_Colorado) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | Baseball | [Minor League Baseball](/wiki/Minor_League_Baseball) (Rookie) |
| [Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC](/wiki/Colorado_Springs_Switchbacks_FC) | [Colorado Springs](/wiki/Colorado_Springs,_Colorado) | align=right|[Template:Dts](/wiki/Template:Dts) | Soccer | [United Soccer League](/wiki/United_Soccer_League) |
| [Denver Stampede](/wiki/Denver_Stampede) | [Denver](/wiki/Denver,_Colorado) | align=right|[Template:DtsApril](/wiki/Template:Dts), 17 2016 | [Rugby Union](/wiki/Rugby_Union) | [PRO Rugby](/wiki/PRO_Rugby) |

### College athletics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) The following universities and colleges participate in the [National Collegiate Athletic Association](/wiki/National_Collegiate_Athletic_Association) [Division I](/wiki/NCAA_Division_I). The most popular college sports program is the University of Colorado Buffaloes, who used to play in the Big-12 but now play in the Pac-12. They have won the 1957 and 1991 [Orange Bowl](/wiki/Orange_Bowl), 1995 [Fiesta Bowl](/wiki/Fiesta_Bowl) and 1996 [Cotton Bowl Classic](/wiki/Cotton_Bowl_Classic).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NCAA Division I athletic programs in Colorado | | | |
| **Team** | **School** | **City** | **Conference** |
| [Air Force Falcons](/wiki/Air_Force_Falcons) | [United States Air Force Academy](/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_Academy) | [Colorado Springs](/wiki/Colorado_Springs,_Colorado) | [Mountain West](/wiki/Mountain_West_Conference)[[78]](#cite_note-78) |
| [Colorado Buffaloes](/wiki/Colorado_Buffaloes) | [University of Colorado Boulder](/wiki/University_of_Colorado_Boulder) | [Boulder](/wiki/Boulder,_Colorado) | [Pac-12](/wiki/Pac-12_Conference)[[79]](#cite_note-79) |
| [Colorado State Rams](/wiki/Colorado_State_Rams) | [Colorado State University](/wiki/Colorado_State_University) | [Fort Collins](/wiki/Fort_Collins,_Colorado) | [Mountain West](/wiki/Mountain_West_Conference) |
| [Denver Pioneers](/wiki/Denver_Pioneers) | [University of Denver](/wiki/University_of_Denver) | [Denver](/wiki/Denver) | [Summit](/wiki/The_Summit_League)[[80]](#cite_note-80) |
| [Northern Colorado Bears](/wiki/Northern_Colorado_Bears) | [University of Northern Colorado](/wiki/University_of_Northern_Colorado) | [Greeley](/wiki/Greeley,_Colorado) | [Big Sky](/wiki/Big_Sky_Conference)[[81]](#cite_note-81)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear) |

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Outline of Colorado](/wiki/Outline_of_Colorado) – organized list of topics about Colorado
* [Index of Colorado-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Colorado-related_articles)
* [Bibliography of Colorado](/wiki/Bibliography_of_Colorado)
* [List of people from Colorado](/wiki/List_of_people_from_Colorado)
* [Wikipedia books on Colorado](/wiki/Category:Wikipedia_books_on_Colorado)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* Explore Colorado, A Naturalist's Handbook, The Denver Museum of Natural History and Westcliff Publishers, 1995, ISBN 1-56579-124-X for an excellent guide to the ecological regions of Colorado.
* The Archeology of Colorado, Revised Edition, E. Steve Cassells, Johnson Books, Boulder, Colorado, 1997, trade paperback, ISBN 1-55566-193-9.
* Chokecherry Places, Essays from the High Plains, Merrill Gilfillan, Johnson Press, Boulder, Colorado, trade paperback, ISBN 1-55566-227-7.
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [*The Tie That Binds*](/wiki/The_Tie_That_Binds_(novel)), [Kent Haruf](/wiki/Kent_Haruf), 1984, hardcover, ISBN 0-03-071979-8, a fictional account of farming in Colorado.
* Railroads of Colorado: Your Guide to Colorado's Historic Trains and Railway Sites, Claude Wiatrowski, Voyageur Press, 2002, hardcover, 160 pages, ISBN 0-89658-591-3
* Study Finds Legal Marijuana Motivates Many Tourists to Visit Colorado, (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_29225304/marijuana-has-huge-influence-colorado-tourism-state-survey>

[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

[Template:External links](/wiki/Template:External_links) [Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

State government

* [Colorado state government website](http://www.Colorado.gov/)
  + [Colorado Department of Transportation](http://www.dot.state.co.us/)
    - [Colorado highway maps](http://www.dot.state.co.us/App_DTD_DataAccess/Maps/index.cfm?fuseaction=MapsMain&MenuType=Maps)
      * [Colorado Travel Map](http://dtdexternal.dot.state.co.us/travelmap/)
  + [Colorado counties](http://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/local_governments/counties.html)
  + [Colorado municipalities](http://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/local_governments/municipalities.html)
  + [Colorado special districts](http://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/local_governments/lgov_a.html)
  + [Colorado tourism](http://www.colorado.com/)
* [List of searchable databases produced by Colorado state agencies](http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Colorado) hosted by the [American Library Association Government Documents Roundtable](http://wikis.ala.org/godort/index.php/Main_Page).

Federal government

* [Energy & Environmental Data for Colorado](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state_energy_profiles.cfm?sid=CO)
* [USGS Colorado state facts, real-time, geographic, and other scientific resources of Colorado](http://www.usgs.gov/state/state.asp?State=CO)
* [United States Census Bureau](http://www.census.gov/)
  + [Colorado QuickFacts](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/08000.html)
  + [Colorado economic data](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/QTTable?_bm=n&_lang=en&qr_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U_DP3&ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&geo_id=04000US08)
  + [Colorado housing data](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/QTTable?_bm=n&_lang=en&qr_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U_DP4&ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&geo_id=04000US08)
  + [Colorado social data](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/QTTable?_bm=n&_lang=en&qr_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U_DP2&ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&geo_id=04000US08)
* [USDA ERS Colorado state facts](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-fact-sheets/state-data.aspx?StateFIPS=08&StateName=Colorado#.U8VjNLEXtQs)

Other

* [History Colorado](http://www.historycolorado.org/)
* [Colorado County Evolution](http://www.stanwyck.com/cogenweb/cocounties.html)
* [Ask Colorado](http://www.askcolorado.org/)
* [2000 Census of Population and Housing for Colorado](http://www2.census.gov/census_2000/datasets/demographic_profile/Colorado/2kh08.pdf)
* [Mountain and Desert Plants of Colorado and the Southwest](http://swcoloradowildflowers.com/),
* [Climate of Colorado](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/narratives/COLORADO.htm)
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Template:Osmrelation-inline](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation-inline)
* [Holocene Volcano in Colorado (Smithsonian Institution Global Volcanism Program)](http://www.volcano.si.edu/volcano.cfm?vn=328010&vtab=Background)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

[Template:Geographic location](/wiki/Template:Geographic_location) [Template:S-start](/wiki/Template:S-start) [Template:S-bef](/wiki/Template:S-bef) [Template:S-ttl](/wiki/Template:S-ttl) [Template:S-aft](/wiki/Template:S-aft) [Template:S-end](/wiki/Template:S-end) [Template:Colorado](/wiki/Template:Colorado) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Colorado](/wiki/Category:Colorado) [Category:Former Spanish colonies](/wiki/Category:Former_Spanish_colonies) [Category:States and territories established in 1876](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1876) [Category:States of the United States](/wiki/Category:States_of_the_United_States) [Category:Western United States](/wiki/Category:Western_United_States) [Category:1876 establishments in the United States](/wiki/Category:1876_establishments_in_the_United_States)