

AEROSPACE

WORKFORCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO



Industry Description and Employment Trends

Jefferson County's aerospace industry includes a broad spectrum of companies, products, and systems for commercial, military, and civil space applications. Companies in the aerospace industry research, develop, design, and manufacture guided missiles, spacecraft, satellites and other communications equipment, as well as navigation and detection instruments. Further, companies in the aerospace industry also produce planetary spacecraft and launch systems and provide mission support.

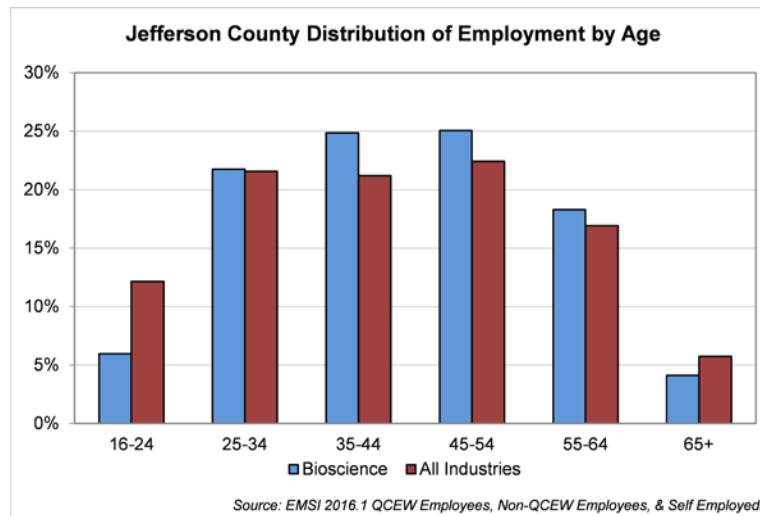
Employment in the nine-county Metro Denver and Northern Colorado region's¹ aerospace industry rose slightly between 2014 and 2015 (+0.03 percent). From 2010 to 2015, employment in the region's aerospace industry increased 0.9 percent. More than 31 percent of the aerospace employment in the nine-county region is located in Jefferson County.

¹The nine-county region is comprised of two principal areas, Metro Denver and Northern Colorado. Metro Denver consists of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties. Northern Colorado consists of Larimer and Weld counties.

Workforce Profile

Jefferson County's labor force includes nearly 311,500 individuals, representing 19 percent of the total labor force in Metro Denver and 11 percent of the state's labor force. Jefferson County's labor force includes a large pool of talented, well-educated, and highly skilled workers. Of Jefferson County's adult population, 42 percent are college graduates and 94.1 percent have graduated from high school. Jefferson County's aerospace industry has a larger share of employees (54 percent) that are between the ages of 45 and 64 years old, compared with the age distribution across all industries (39.4 percent).

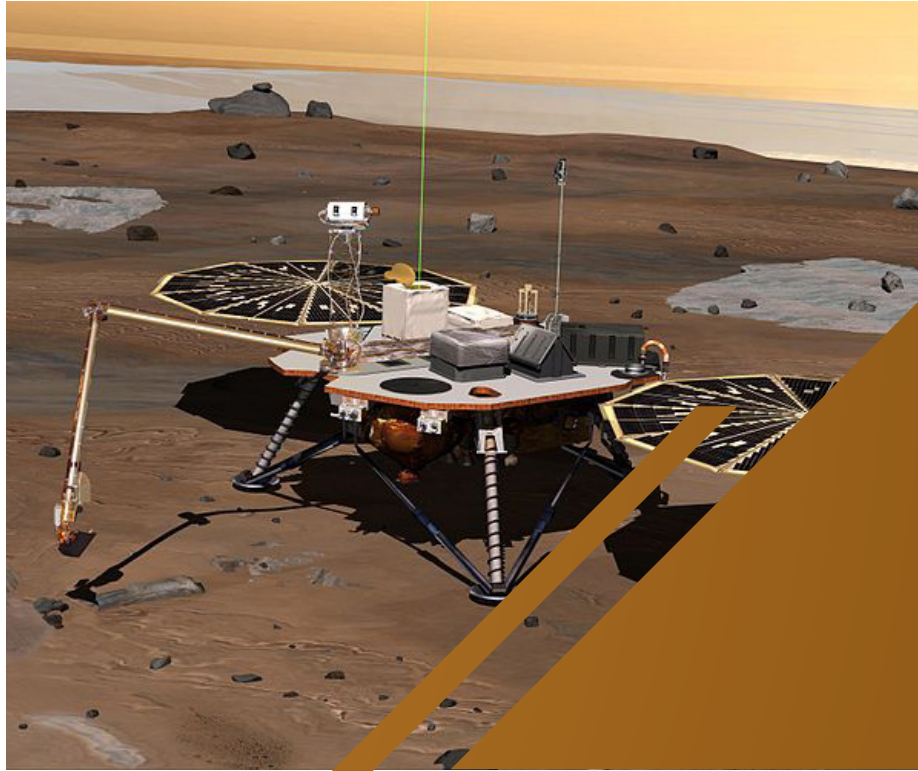
Employers in the aerospace industry are generally seeking workers with a high level of education. About 57 percent of aerospace-related occupations in Jefferson County require a bachelor's degree or higher, while 32.2 percent require a high school diploma or equivalent. Of the aerospace-related occupations, 30.3 percent require some sort of on-the-job training.



| Wages 20 Largest Aerospace Occupations in Jefferson County | Median Salary | 10th Percentile Salary | 25th Percentile Salary | 75th Percentile Salary | 90th Percentile Salary |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Aerospace Engineers | \$116,505 | \$75,980 | \$93,848 | \$141,121 | \$168,479 |
| 2. Mechanical Engineers | \$82,181 | \$52,182 | \$65,941 | \$109,207 | \$136,371 |
| 3. Business Operations Specialists, All Other | \$70,617 | \$37,878 | \$50,886 | \$92,639 | \$119,831 |
| 4. Software Developers, Systems Software | \$94,993 | \$60,384 | \$76,650 | \$115,360 | \$139,973 |
| 5. Biological Technicians | \$42,876 | \$30,879 | \$34,884 | \$54,772 | \$67,313 |
| 6. Software Developers, Applications | \$91,307 | \$59,057 | \$73,147 | \$111,418 | \$133,592 |
| 7. Industrial Engineers | \$91,786 | \$57,679 | \$73,670 | \$110,697 | \$130,016 |
| 8. Purchasing Agents, Except Wholesale, Retail, & Farm Products | \$64,202 | \$40,900 | \$51,462 | \$84,137 | \$99,959 |
| 9. Machinists | \$47,464 | \$24,215 | \$35,054 | \$58,343 | \$67,468 |
| 10. Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers | \$41,208 | \$21,731 | \$31,039 | \$55,506 | \$69,411 |
| 11. Logisticians | \$75,566 | \$51,390 | \$60,462 | \$97,724 | \$129,612 |
| 12. Electronics Engineers, Except Computer | \$88,057 | \$60,350 | \$70,372 | \$113,193 | \$137,706 |
| 13. Electrical Engineers | \$88,264 | \$57,598 | \$70,671 | \$109,629 | \$132,919 |
| 14. Secretaries & Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive | \$34,448 | \$22,174 | \$27,436 | \$42,775 | \$50,947 |
| 15. Accountants & Auditors | \$62,096 | \$38,096 | \$47,330 | \$80,883 | \$102,307 |
| 16. General & Operations Managers | \$105,047 | \$49,563 | \$70,421 | \$164,166 | \$237,120 |
| 17. Architectural & Engineering Managers | \$143,986 | \$106,411 | \$123,152 | \$175,590 | \$291,573 |
| 18. Aircraft Mechanics & Service Technicians | \$83,473 | \$50,018 | \$67,289 | \$95,568 | \$102,678 |
| 19. Computer Systems Analysts | \$75,936 | \$52,098 | \$61,868 | \$98,741 | \$128,251 |
| 20. First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers | \$58,864 | \$35,595 | \$45,977 | \$73,818 | \$93,266 |

Wages & Occupations

Wages in the aerospace industry are among the highest across all industries. The 2015 average annual salary of aerospace workers in Jefferson County was \$154,900, compared with the average of \$51,300 for all workers in Jefferson County. The table below includes data for the 20 largest aerospace occupations in the county. It portrays the industry workforce supply as consisting of three main components: those currently working in that occupation either in the industry or in a similar job in some other industry (total working across all industries); the number of available applicants that would like to be working in that occupation; and the number of recent graduates that are qualified for that occupation.



| Occupation Data 20 Largest Aerospace Occupations in Jefferson County | Total Working Across All In- dustries (2015) | Number of Available Applicants (2016) ¹ | Number of Graduates (2014) ² | 2015-2020 Projected Occupation Growth Rate |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| 1. Aerospace Engineers | 724 | 14 | 260 | 0.0% |
| 2. Mechanical Engineers | 1,137 | 65 | 650 | 5.7% |
| 3. Business Operations Specialists, All Other | 4,609 | 107 | 49 | 3.5% |
| 4. Software Developers, Systems Software | 1,232 | 29 | 1,553 | 11.4% |
| 5. Biological Technicians | 598 | 10 | 0 | 7.9% |
| 6. Software Developers, Applications | 2,227 | 43 | 1,478 | 11.0% |
| 7. Industrial Engineers | 457 | 21 | 6 | 5.7% |
| 8. Purchasing Agents, Except Wholesale, Retail, & Farm Products | 767 | 29 | 0 | 2.9% |
| 9. Machinists | 585 | 31 | 92 | 8.0% |
| 10. Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers | 608 | 17 | 0 | 6.4% |
| 11. Logisticians | 412 | 6 | 0 | 10.4% |
| 12. Electronics Engineers, Except Computer | 546 | 10 | 476 | 6.2% |
| 13. Electrical Engineers | 522 | 31 | 424 | 8.8% |
| 14. Secretaries & Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive | 5,526 | 83 | 70 | 8.4% |
| 15. Accountants & Auditors | 3,531 | 27 | 1,124 | 6.3% |
| 16. General & Operations Managers | 3,774 | 206 | 9,551 | 7.4% |
| 17. Architectural & Engineering Managers | 458 | 46 | 3,906 | 10.5% |
| 18. Aircraft Mechanics & Service Technicians | 158 | 7 | 198 | -5.1% |
| 19. Computer Systems Analysts | 1,020 | 53 | 1,869 | 14.7% |
| 20. First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers | 660 | 39 | 0 | 3.9% |

¹The number of available applicants is a point-in-time measurement of the number of people who have registered in Colorado's workforce development system's statewide database, Connecting Colorado, as being able and available to work in a particular occupation. Results should be interpreted with caution since registration in Connecting Colorado is self-reported. In addition, the skills rubric may assign up to four occupation codes for each registrant. Therefore, the number of available applicants could be inflated.

²The number of graduates represents a 10-county region consisting of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld Counties. Sources: EMSI 2016.1 QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, & Self-Employed; Connecting Colorado, 2016.

Educational Institutions

The 10-county region's² educational institutions provide an excellent support system for area businesses. There are 28 public higher education institutions in Colorado, of which eight four-year and seven two-year public institutions offering comprehensive curricula are located in the 10-county region. In addition, there are more than 100 private and religious accredited institutions and nearly 380 private occupational and technical schools offering courses in dozens of program areas throughout the state. Although not exhaustive, a list of the major, accredited educational institutions with the greatest number of graduates for the largest aerospace occupations in Jefferson County are included below. A directory of all higher education institutions with corresponding websites may be accessed via highered.colorado.gov.

- **Colorado State University**
www.colostate.edu
- **Colorado Technical University Online**
www.coloradotech.edu
- **University of Colorado: Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver**
www.cu.edu
- **Colorado State University Global Campus**
www.colostate.edu
- **Metropolitan State University of Denver**
www.msudenver.edu
- **University of Denver**
www.du.edu
- **Colorado Technical University Colorado Springs**
www.coloradotech.edu/colorado-springs



- **Regis University**
www.regis.edu
- **Red Rocks Community College**
www.rrcc.edu
- **Arapahoe Community College**
www.arapahoe.edu
- **Front Range Community College**
www.frontrange.edu

²The 10-county region consists of the Metro Denver and Northern Colorado region and El Paso County.

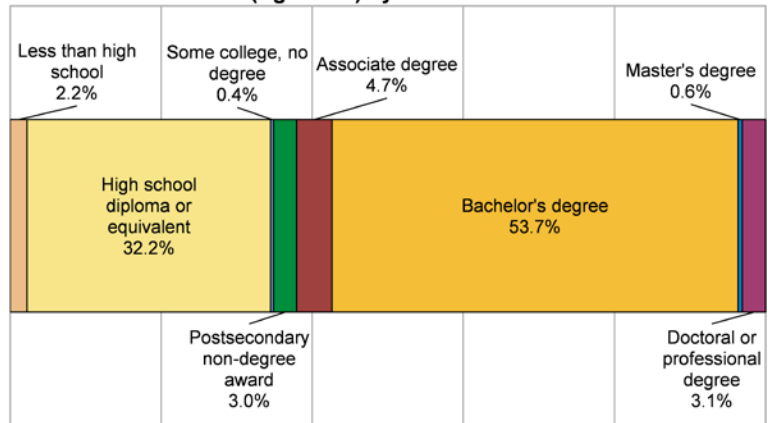


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Distribution of Jefferson County's Aerospace-Related Workforce (Ages 25+) by Educational Attainment



Note: These values are based on the individuals in each aerospace-related occupation.
Source: EMSI 2016.1 QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, & Self Employed.