Analysis of the Colorado High Technology Industry

OVERVIEW

Analysis by cber.co
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Definition of High-Tech Employment

Change in Concentration of High-Tech Employment by NAICS

Defining the High Technology Industry
Business Dynamic Statistics

There are many definitions of High Tech (HT) Industries.

- The Census Bureau states that, "The Business Dynamics Statistics of U.S. High Tech Industries (BDS-HT) is an experimental data product extending the set of statistics published by the Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS) program. BDS-HT is a component of a broader set of approaches aimed at better measuring the business dynamics of innovative firms (BDS-IF), described in greater detail in Goldschlag & Perlman (2017)."
- BDS-HT provides annual measures of business dynamics for High-Tech and non-high-tech (non-HT) industries, defined by the occupation intensity of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) categories.
- For details, go to https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/bds-high-tech.html#accordion-bd794b571f-item-50d27511b6.

This data provides trends and in-depth information for 45 years from 1978 to 2022.

The various employment reports can be confusing.

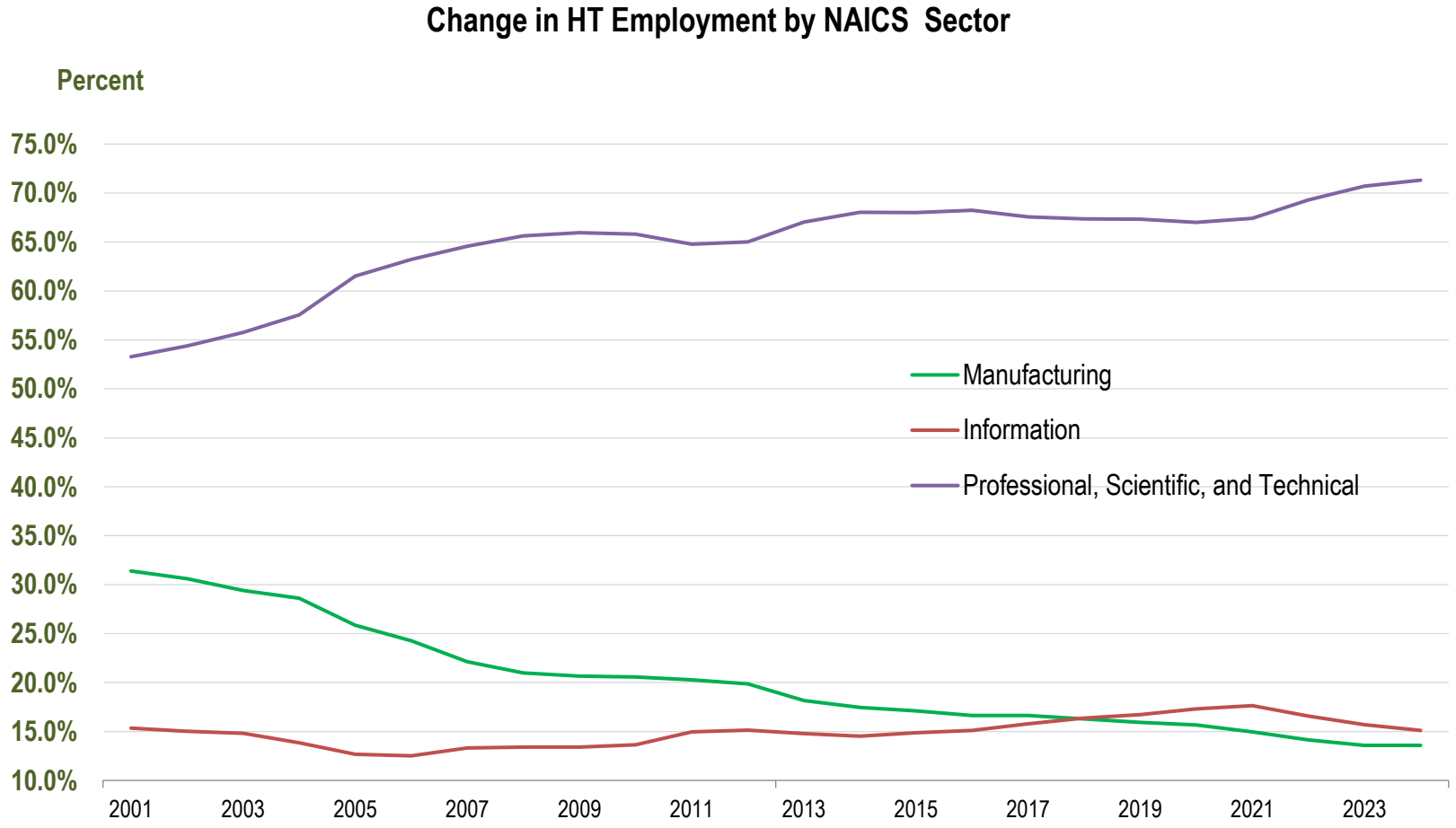
- The Census Bureau prepares the data for the *County Business Patterns* (CBP). The Bureau of Labor Statistics prepares the CES and QCEW data series.
- The CBP data focuses on business flows. It primarily includes private sector employees, and the BLS includes civilian government employees. CBP does a better job of including employees in nonprofit and membership organizations.

For additional information, please refer to https://www.bea.gov/help/faq/104.

List of High-Tech Industries

NAICS	Description
3341	Computer and Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing
3342	Communications Equipment Manufacturing
3344	Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Manufacturing
3345	Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical, and Control Instruments Manufacturing
3364	Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing
5112	Software Publishers
5182	Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services
5191	Other Information Services
5413	Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services
5415	Computer Systems Design and Related Services
5417	Scientific Research and Development Services

Change in Colorado HT Employment by NAICS Sector 2001 to 2024



High Tech Employment

A review of the Colorado QCEW annual data shows how the mix of employees changed by NAICS sector: Manufacturing, Information, and PST.

- PST increased from 53.3% to 71.3% (purple)
- Durable goods manufacturing declined from 31.4% to 13.6%.
- Information remained stable, 15.3% to 15.1%.

Companies such as Amgen, Novartis, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, StorageTek, Sun Microsystems, Level 3, and Exabyte are examples of job destruction that has occurred in the Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins MSAs.

Establishments have moved to these areas, and new establishments have been formed; however, there has been a lot of churn (job creation vs. job destruction).

Source: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ces/data/public-use-data/experimental-bds/bds-high-tech/definitions.html, cber.co.

High-Tech Employment by State

High-Tech Share of Employment

High-Tech Employment and Establishments by MSA

Colorado HT Employment

Key Points

- Colorado HT employment initially peaked in 2001 at 159,810 employees.
- In 2001, HT employment was 8.2% of total employment (HT + non-HT employment).
- Colorado HT employment increased to 191,868 in 2022, an increase of 32,058 from the previous peak in 2001.
- In 2022, HT employment was 7.8% of the total.
- Half of the US HT employees work in seven states (CA, TX, NY, VA, FL, MA, and WA)
- In 2022, Colorado was ranked 13th among all states with 191,868 HT employees.

Top States by Number of HT Employees 2022

Top States by Number of HT Employees					
Rank	FIPS	State	Establishments	HT Employees	Avg. Employees/Establishments
1	6	CA	45,615	1,412,055	31.0
2	48	TX	25,154	633,803	25.2
3	36	NY	16,745	398,371	23.8
4	51	VA	13,353	381,624	28.6
5	12	FL	21,621	349,690	16.2
6	25	MA	9,085	343,438	37.8
7	53	WA	8,307	264,710	31.9
8	17	IL	10,555	252,079	23.9
9	42	PA	10,426	239,802	23.0
10	34	NJ	10,084	228,969	22.7
11	24	MD	8,404	228,303	27.2
12	13	GA	9,133	223,980	24.5
13	8	CO	9,264	191,868	20.7
14	37	NC	8,282	191,447	23.1
15	39	OH	7,585	188,998	24.9
16	26	MI	6,983	179,106	25.6
17	4	AZ	5,665	144,679	25.5
18	27	MN	5,116	134,051	26.2
19	29	MO	3,775	121,192	32.1
20	9	CT	3,157	111,266	35.1

Top States by Number of HT Employees

In 2022, the top two states in HT employment were California and Texas. They had 2,045,858 HT employees. The following five states had 1,737,833 HT employees. The top seven states had 3,783,691 HT employees. About half of all HT employees worked in these states.

The remaining states and the District of Columbia employed a total of 3,780,607 HT employees.

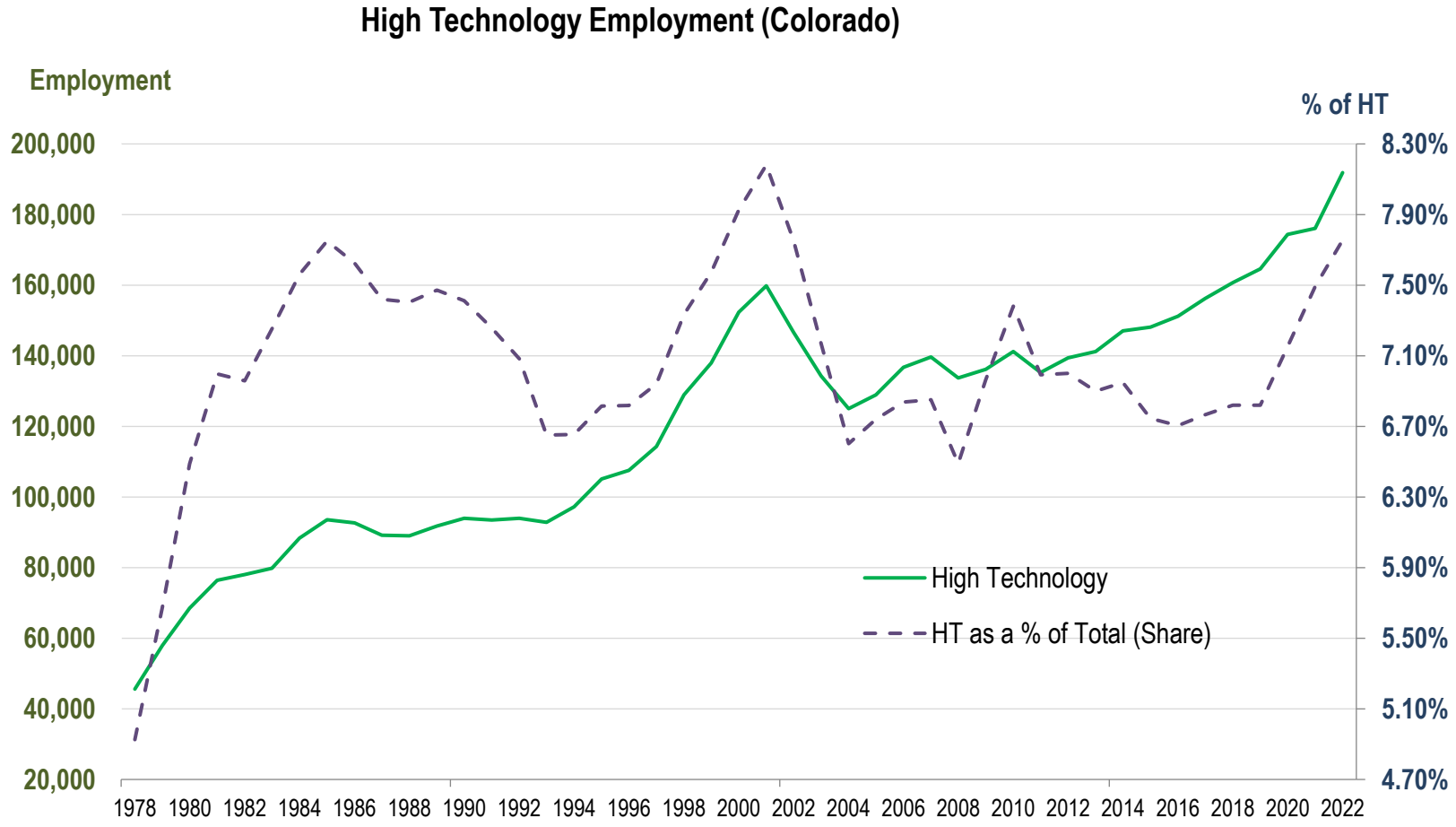
Colorado was ranked 13th for the number of HT employees. It was ranked 21st for the number of non-HT employees (not shown).

Colorado has a competitive advantage in the number of HT employees. That advantage is in smaller, specific clusters, such as aerospace, defense, bioscience, quantum, and cybersecurity.

The Colorado HT industry is a small but critical part of the Colorado and U.S. economies.

Source: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ces/data/public-use-data/experimental-bds/bds-high-tech/definitions.html, cber.co.

High Technology
1978-2022 Colorado



High Tech Employment

HT employment (green) has had periods of strong growth, stagnation, and decline.

There were four periods of growth

- 1978 to 1985
- 1993 to 2001 – Colorado tech boom.
- 2005 to 2007 – A growth spurt occurred after the downturn following the 2001 recession.
- 2011 to 2022 – Employment growth occurred after the Great Financial Crisis. There was growth during and after the pandemic

HT employment share increased significantly between 1978 and 2001, from 4.9% to 8.2%.

There were periods of stagnation and decline:

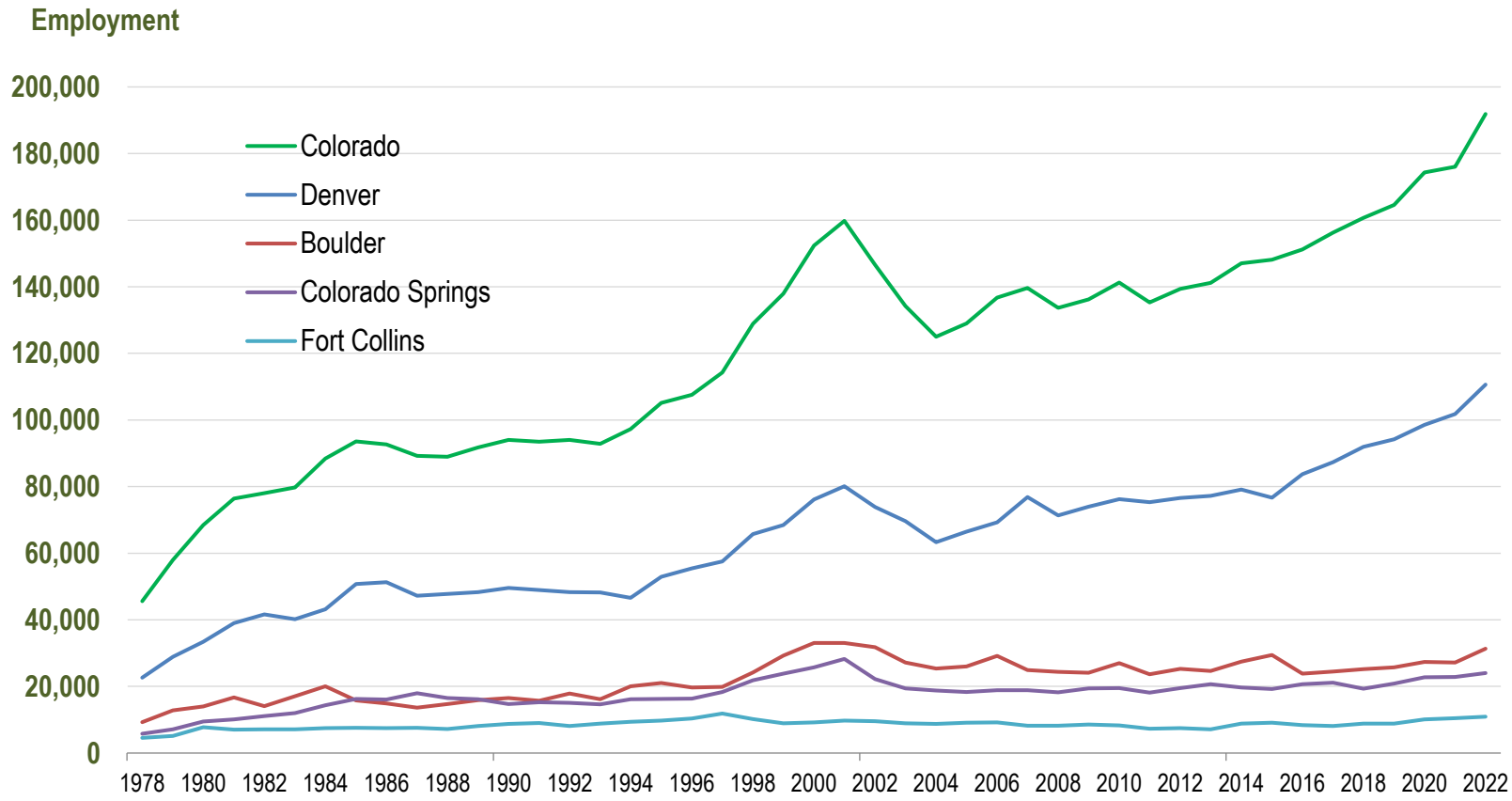
- 1986 to 1992 – lost market share
- 2002 to 2004 – lost market share
- 2010 to 2019 – lost market share.

Each downturn or period of limited growth followed a recession. Note that during a period of strong growth after the Great Financial Crisis, HT employment increased, but it lost market share.

Source: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ces/data/public-use-data/experimental-bds/bds-high-tech/definitions.html, cber.co.

High Technology Colorado and MSAs
1978-2022 Colorado

High Technology Employment (Colorado and MSAs) 1978 - 2022



High Tech Employment

HT employment increased from 45,594 in 1978 to 159,810 in 2001 and 191,868 in 2022 (green).

- The increase was driven by Denver MSA (blue) employment of 22,636 in 1978 to 80,067 in 2001 and 110,627 in 2022.
- The job creation and destruction rates for Denver were similar to the state, i.e., Denver dictates state HT growth.

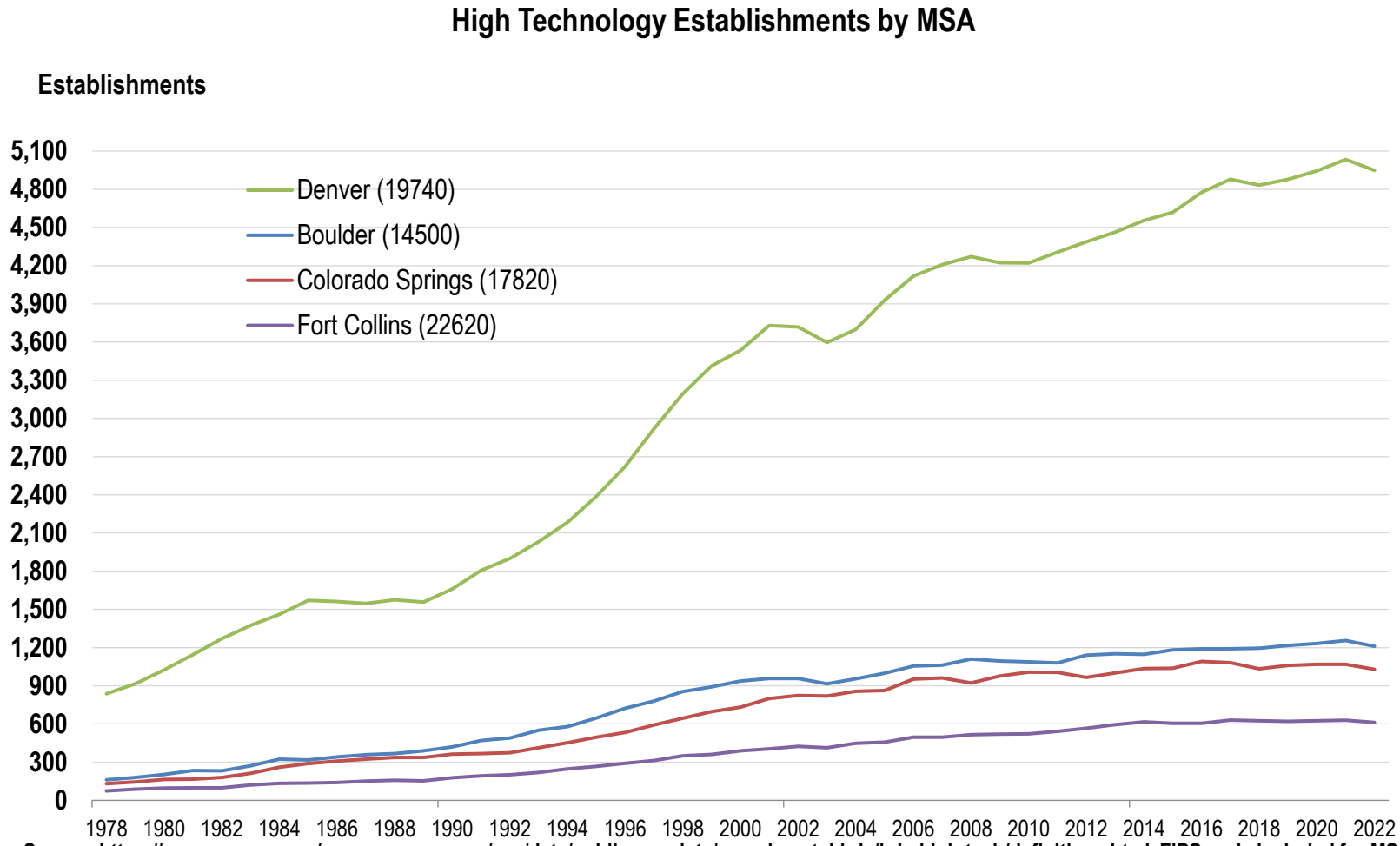
HT employment has been flat in Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins for the past 25 to 30 years.

- Boulder peaked at 33,056 in 2000.
- Colorado Springs topped out at 28,253 in 2001.
- Fort Collins peaked at 11,860 in 1997.

Companies such as Amgen, Novartis, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, StorageTek, Sun Microsystems, Level 3, and Exabyte are examples of job destruction that has occurred in the Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins MSAs. Both sides of the equation have been impacted as major companies have also moved to these areas.

Source: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ces/data/public-use-data/experimental-bds/bds-high-tech/definitions.html, cber.co.

High Technology Colorado
1978-2022 Number of Establishments



Source: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ces/data/public-use-data/experimental-bds/bds-high-tech/definitions.html, FIPS code included for MSA, cber.co.

Number of Establishments

The number of Denver establishments was flat in the late 1980s.

Employment for the Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins MSAs spiked around 2000 (the end of the tech boom).

Colorado HT changed at that time, and the mix of companies by primary NAICS codes shifted away from Manufacturing to the Professional, Scientific, and Technical sector.

- HT employment for Boulder peaked at 33,056 in 2000. At that time, there were 936 establishments. There were 1,209 in 2022.
- Colorado Springs HT employment topped out at 28,253 in 2001. There were 800 establishments. In 2022, there were 1,029.
- Fort Collins HT peaked at 11,860 in 1997. There were 312 establishments. In 2022, there were 612.

There was growth in the number of establishments. There was extreme job destruction that affected employment in Boulder, Fort Collins, and Colorado Springs.

Concentration of High-Tech (HT) Employees and non-High Technology (non-HT) Establishments

Key Points

The Census Bureau provided data for the state and the largest coarse MSAs. The smallest MSAs (Pueblo and Grand Junction) and micropolitan areas are part of the non-metro total. The non-metro total is the state total less the sum of the coarse MSAs.

In 2022, about 92% of tech employment and 84% of tech establishments were in the Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins MSAs. The breakdown by MSA follows:

- Denver has 58% of the HT employees but 53% of the HT establishments.
- Boulder has 16% of the HT employees and 13% of the HT establishments.
- Colorado Springs has 12% of the HT employees and 11% of the HT establishments.
- Fort Collins has 6% of the HT employees and 7% of the HT establishments.

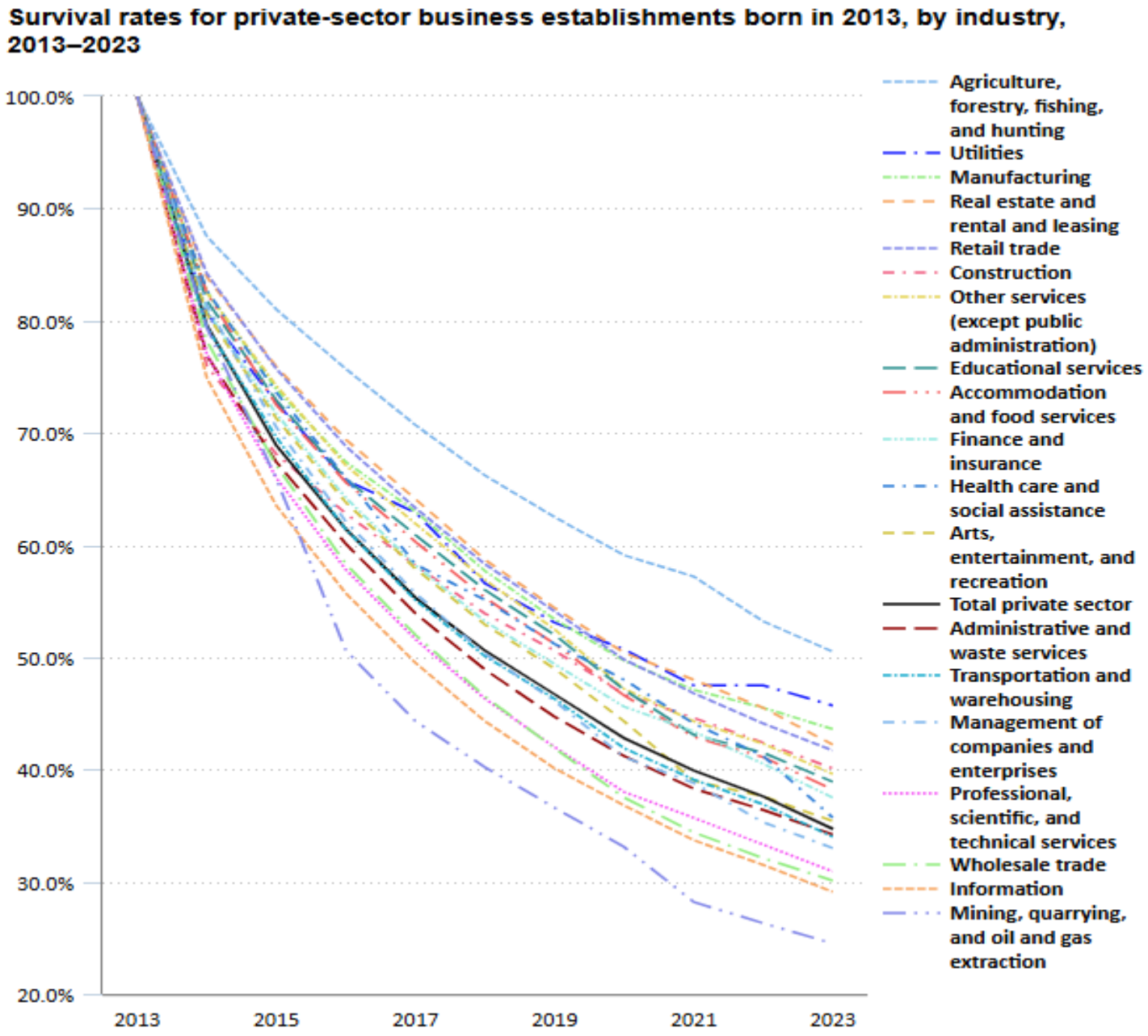
The breakdown of Colorado employees follows:

- 191,868 HT employees at 9,264 establishments.
- 2,282,210 non-HT employees at 148,777 establishments.
- 2,474,078 total HT+ non-HT employees at 158,041 establishments.

Note that this data series is different from the CES and QCEW employment data produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Establishment Births are Important

The Primary Source of New High-Tech Employment is from Existing Establishments



U.S. Survival Rates All Industries

The chart shows the negative impact of establishment exits over time. It illustrates the survival rates for U.S. establishments by NAICS industry.

The chart shows the survival rate of establishments opened in 2013. They are in descending order based on the percentage that has survived in 2023. The scale is on the left.

- About 50.5% of the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting establishments were opened in 2013 and were still in existence in 2023 (top).
- Only 24.5% of mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction establishments opened in 2013 were in existence in 2023 (bottom).

The sectors that are relevant to Colorado HT follow:

- Manufacturing 43.6%.
- Professional, scientific, and technical services 30.9%
- Information 29.1%.

The survival rates for PST and Information are comparatively weak.

Source: https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2024/34-7-percent-of-business-establishments-born-in-2013-were-still-operating-in-2023.htm#:~:text=The%20agriculture%2C%20forestry%2C%20fishing%2C,Establishment%20Age%20and%20Survival%20Data.

Colorado Survival Rates All Industries

- In 2013, there were 13,850 establishments opened in Colorado, and 4,211 were still open in 2024.
- The establishment survival rate is 30.4% in 2024.
- The number of employees increased from 52,519 in 2013 to 58,419 in 2019 (pre-COVID). The number of employees has since decreased to 51,379 in 2024.
- The average number of employees per establishment increased from 3.8 in 2013 to 12.2 in 2024.
- The survival rates were above 90.0% for all establishments (prior year) since 2017 (8 years).
- Between 1995 and 2001, the starting annual total employment from surviving companies was greater than 90,000. The total was below 73,000 from 2002 to 2022. The totals for 2023 and 2024 exceeded 80,000 (not shown). Innovation in all industries may be returning to Colorado.

Survival of private sector establishments by opening year - Colorado					
Year	Annual Openings	Total Employees	Survival Rates	Survival Rates Prior Year	Average Employees
March 2013	13,850	52,519	100.0%	-	3.8
March 2014	10,996	54,977	79.4%	79.4%	5.0
March 2015	9,548	56,480	68.9%	86.8%	5.9
March 2016	8,404	56,678	60.7%	88.0%	6.7
March 2017	7,609	57,197	54.9%	90.5%	7.6
March 2018	6,891	58,005	49.8%	90.6%	8.4
March 2019	6,346	58,419	45.8%	92.1%	9.2
March 2020	5,711	56,483	41.2%	90.0%	9.9
March 2021	5,425	54,809	39.2%	95.0%	10.1
March 2022	5,068	56,550	36.6%	93.4%	11.2
March 2023	4,635	54,641	33.5%	91.5%	11.8
March 2024	4,211	51,379	30.4%	90.9%	12.2
Source: https://www.bls.gov/bdm/co_age_total_table7.txt					

What Role Should High-Tech Employment Play in the Colorado Economy?

Summary of Analysis of Colorado HT and Non-HT Establishments and Employment – Looking Ahead

High Tech Employment – The Future?

This analysis provides a succinct overview of the Colorado HT industry. In doing so, it raises more questions than it provides answers about the role of HT in the state economy.

- Is there an appropriate level of HT employment for the HT hub in Denver and other MSAs? If so, what is it? What technologies should the state focus on that will complement the assets in Denver and Colorado? Does Colorado have the supply chain to support existing and future technologies? If not, can it develop the supply chain? Colorado has an educated workforce. Is it sufficient to support future growth in HT employment? If not, can Colorado create a sufficient workforce training program?

- Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins have higher education and federal facilities that are distinctive competencies. Are these being fully utilized for the benefit of the state? Is it appropriate and possible to increase the impact of the HT industry on these MSAs (establishments and employees)? If so, how will that be accomplished, i.e., what technologies can be introduced for further development in these areas? Is it possible to create a critical mass of HT employment in other areas of Colorado, such as Weld and Adams County, Pueblo, and the Western Slope? What does Colorado need to have an efficient HT infrastructure? Is it possible to have too much HT infrastructure in a region?

- Is it possible to reduce the level of job destruction or increase the level of job creation – to increase net creation? Is Michael Porter's theory of clusters (Harvard) still an appropriate strategy for Colorado? If so, what clusters are appropriate for Colorado? How does Paul Romer's theory of endogenous growth, or enabling technologies, apply to Colorado?

- Should the state have a science-based technology economic development effort to support the growth of HT employment? What technology-based economic development practices have been most effective in the past? Would it be appropriate to replicate a derivative of them in the current economy?

Colorado is fortunate to have 191,868 HT employees. What is the next step for the state's HT industry?

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Analysis of the Colorado Advanced Technology Industry OVERVIEW
1978 to 2022

This analysis is for informational purposes only. Any opinions or interpretations of data are those of the presenter. As such, they do not represent the viewpoints of any group or particular organization.
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gary Horvath has produced annual employment forecasts of the state economy for over 30 years. They have been supplemented by monthly economic updates and indices that track economic performance over the short term. In addition, he has directed three statewide analyses that included reviews of all 64 county economies.

Horvath was the principal investigator for a state and federally funded project to prepare a nanotechnology roadmap for Colorado. As well, he was a co-founder of the Colorado Photonics Industry Association, a trade group for Colorado's Photonics cluster. Horvath has been an active board member of the group since its inception.

Horvath has also served on the Board of Directors for the Economic Development Council of Colorado, Northwest Denver Business Partnership, Adams County Regional Economic Partnership, and Broomfield Economic Development Corporation. Horvath has also been the chair of the electronics committee in the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade early stage and proof of concept Advanced Industries grant program, and he served on the 2021 Colorado Legislative Redistricting Commission.

MSA Notes

The following slides include MSA notes by year from 2000 to 2025. They are Google searches for each year designed to identify general economic comments or company losses for each year.

The data provides information that will help explain why high-tech employment increased during this period, but remained flat in the Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins economies.

The terms for a search were as follows.
“City (high-tech or company) job losses in (year), example: Denver high-tech job losses in 2025.

At times, information may be duplicated. It may also be different because it is from different sources. In most cases, a data source was not provided. Verification may be appropriate depending on how the data is used.

The major points found in the information are:

- Each MSA is distinct
- Each MSA was hit extremely hard by the 2000 technology recession.
- The job creation and destruction are different for high-tech and non-high-tech companies.
- Total employment in the cluster of companies in the Denver MSA has increased. That has not been the case in Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins. There are still many successful high-tech companies in those clusters.

Denver

2000

In the year 2000, Denver experienced significant job losses, especially in sectors like finance, insurance, and retail, alongside national trends of tech-related cuts as the dot-com bubble burst, with companies like **Qwest Communications** later announcing major cuts in the early 2000s, and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) showing increased separations in retail and finance, reflecting a broader economic shift.

Key Denver/Colorado Company Layoffs Around 2000-2002

- **Qwest Communications:** The Denver-based telecom giant announced substantial layoffs (thousands) in the early 2000s due to revenue forecast issues, adding to existing job cuts.
- **Charles Schwab Corp.:** In the early 2000s, this major brokerage laid off hundreds of workers (around 395) in Colorado as part of national restructuring.
- **Safeco:** The insurance provider cut about 60 positions in Lakewood as part of a national consolidation effort.
- **Fiserv Inc.:** This data services company closed its Denver unit by March 2002, eliminating 200 jobs due to a slowdown in its securities processing business.

Broader Economic Context in 2000

- **Tech Downturn:** The dot-com bust led to significant tech sector job losses nationally, impacting Colorado's burgeoning tech scene.
- **Manufacturing Decline:** U.S. manufacturing began shedding jobs in the early 2000s due to increased productivity and import competition, a trend felt in Colorado's manufacturing sector.
- **Retail & Finance:** The BLS noted high numbers of layoffs in retail (general merchandise, miscellaneous) and finance/insurance/real estate (depository institutions) in 2000.

In Summary: Denver companies faced job cuts in 2000 and the subsequent years, driven by the tech bubble's collapse, national industry consolidation (finance, insurance), and a broader shift in the manufacturing sector, with major players like Qwest, Schwab, and Fiserv significantly impacting local employment.

2001

In 2001, Denver and the rest of Colorado experienced significant job losses, primarily in the **technology and telecommunications sectors**, as a result of the dot-com bubble burst and the national recession.

Colorado's tech sector was hit particularly hard, with employers shedding more than 13% of tech jobs, a rate higher than the national average. The downturn affected many specific companies in the Denver and Boulder areas, including:

- **Rhythms NetConnections**: This Arapahoe County-based DSL Internet service provider laid off about 700 employees nationwide in August 2001, including 600 in Colorado, after filing for bankruptcy.
- **Avaya Inc.**: This communications systems and software company announced 100 layoffs in Colorado in October 2001, following an earlier cut of 833 Colorado employees in July at its Westminster and Highlands Ranch offices.
- **Mshow.com**: A video conferencing firm headquartered in Highlands Ranch, Mshow.com cut its total workforce by 58%, which included 120 jobs in Colorado.
- **T-Netix**: Another Arapahoe County firm providing telecom services to the corrections industry, T-Netix moved its headquarters to Dallas, eliminating 47 local jobs.
- **HomePlace Stores of America**: As part of a national bankruptcy and store closure plan, its University Hills location in Denver closed, laying off 40 workers.
- **United States Mint**: The Denver production plant was affected by national layoffs as the U.S. Mint reduced its workforce by 357 employees nationwide due to decreased demand for new coins.

The job losses were part of a broader economic trend where the manufacturing sector, especially in computer and electronic products, was heavily affected nationwide. The travel industry also saw intensified job cutbacks in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

Denver

2002

In 2002, the Denver area experienced significant job losses, with a net loss of approximately 29,700 jobs (a 2.2% decline). These losses were heavily concentrated in the **telecommunications and high-technology sectors**, which were reeling from the "dot-com" bust and the general economic slowdown.

Companies with Major Job Losses in 2002

Several companies announced significant layoffs or facility closures in or around Denver during 2002:

•**Qwest Communications International, Inc.:** Planned to cut another 7,000 jobs nationwide, including 1,500 to 1,800 in Colorado, by mid-2002. This was part of ongoing job cuts in the telecommunications industry.

•**AT&T Broadband (merged with Comcast Corp.):** Announced the loss of 1,700 jobs in the Denver area as a result of the merger.

•**Autoliv Inc.:** Announced the closure of its airbag component construction facility in Aurora, resulting in the loss of 500 jobs by the end of the following year.

•**Charles Schwab Corp.:** The discount brokerage laid off 395 jobs in Colorado across its service operations and call centers due to poor stock market performance.

•**PentaStar (formerly Optimal Communications):** Cut 370 jobs in March 2002 due to debt issues and uncollectible receivables.

•**Fiserv Inc.:** Eliminated 200 jobs by closing its Denver unit in March 2002.

•**Hamilton Sundstrand:** A long-time aerospace company, announced a phase-out of its Adams County plant, eventually leading to 210 job terminations.

•**TeleTech Holdings Inc.:** Announced up to 600 layoffs at their customer care center after losing a contract with the U.S. Postal Service.

Broader Economic Context

•**Overall Trend:** Colorado experienced a net loss of 50,000 jobs in 2002 – a record.

•**Affected Sectors:** Beyond tech and telecom, other industries facing declines included construction, manufacturing, and transportation. The only sectors that showed job growth in the Denver metro area were oil and gas mining and local government.

•**Office Market Impact:** The high volume of layoffs, especially in the high-tech and telecom sectors, led to a surplus of office space and a high office vacancy rate (around 18.8% mid-year) in the Denver metro area.

2003

In 2003, Colorado experienced significant overall job losses, particularly due to the lingering effects of the **tech and telecom bust**. Specific Denver-area companies that had job losses or related business issues in or around 2003 included firms in the software, finance, and telecommunications sectors.

Overview of the Economic Situation in 2003

State-wide Losses: Colorado lost a total of 74,100 jobs in 2002 and 2003 combined. The state's economic recovery lagged behind the national average.

Industry Impacts: The goods-producing sectors of the economy experienced negative growth in 2003. The tech and telecom industries, which had a strong presence in the Denver metro area, were particularly hard hit during this period.

Specific Companies with Noted Job Losses

While comprehensive records of every single company's 2003 layoffs are not publicly available in a single source, reports from the time mention the following:

- **J.D. Edwards:** This Denver-based software company laid off 242 people due to poor earnings, shortly before being acquired by PeopleSoft in 2003.
- **Hamilton Sundstrand Denver:** The Denver operations of this company were part of Trade Adjustment Assistance petitions related to job losses in March/April 2003.
- **Riskology Inc.:** This tech firm was among the notable corporate bankruptcies in Colorado during 2003.
- **Univance Telecom:** This telecommunications concern also experienced bankruptcy in 2003.
- **RMI.net and Kickstart.com:** These Denver and Greenwood Village-based internet firms laid off 27 and 20 people, respectively.

The broader economic conditions meant that many other companies likely had smaller, unpublicized job cuts as the state worked through the post-recession period.

Denver

2004
In 2004, the Denver area, as part of a national trend in the technology sector's post-dot-com bubble slump, experienced **continued job losses** in high-tech and telecommunications companies, though the rate of decline was significantly slower than in previous years.

Specific Company Layoffs in the Denver Area
Several companies in the broader Colorado area announced layoffs or closures that affected Denver and surrounding locations:
MCI: The telecommunications giant notified thousands of workers nationwide in March 2004 that their jobs would end within 90 days, with nearly **1,000** of those workers located in Colorado. Later in June, MCI announced an additional 2,000 U.S. sales jobs cut, primarily affecting call centers in Colorado Springs and Wichita, Kansas.
Storage Technology Corp. (Louisville): The data storage maker announced cuts of **70 to 80 jobs** in Colorado, primarily at its Louisville site, at the beginning of 2004.
Gateway Inc.: Gateway announced plans to eliminate 2,500 jobs nationally, which affected its four retail stores in Colorado, though the specific number of local employees was not disclosed.

Broader Industry Trends
State and national data from 2004 indicate that the high-tech industry was beginning to stabilize, but job losses persisted:
Slowing Losses: Nationwide, the high-tech industry lost a net of 25,300 jobs in 2004, a dramatic improvement from the 333,000 jobs lost in 2003 and 612,000 in 2002. This suggested that the "hemorrhaging stopped" on a national level.
Sector-Specific Impact: Within the high-tech sector, the **communications services** industry was hit the hardest by layoffs in 2004, both nationally and in Colorado. Conversely, the software services and engineering/tech services industries actually saw job growth.
Overall State Economy: The state had significant trouble replacing the technology and telecommunications jobs lost during the preceding boom-and-bust cycle.

2005
In 2005, several companies with a presence in Colorado announced **job cuts** as part of broader restructurings, though not all were strictly based in Denver. Major statewide or national companies that contributed to job losses in 2005 included:
Hewlett-Packard (HP): HP announced a major worldwide restructuring in July 2005 that included plans to cut 14,500 jobs globally. The company had a significant employee base in Northern Colorado (Fort Collins and Loveland), where some of these cuts occurred.
First Data: In December 2005, the credit card transaction services company laid off 3% of its workforce across various operations, including positions in Denver, as part of an effort to streamline operations and enhance profitability.
StorageTek: This data storage company, based in Colorado, had planned a 20% workforce reduction from its 8,700 employees after posting a loss from operations in late 2004/early 2005, prior to being acquired by Sun Microsystems later that year.
Celestica: This electronics manufacturing services company laid off hundreds of workers in Northern Colorado in April 2005.
Delta Air Lines: As part of a battle for survival, Delta announced 7,000 to 9,000 job cuts nationwide in September 2005.
Other Colorado companies: Smaller-scale job cuts were also reported in other parts of the state, such as the closure of the Bay Valley Foods plant (153 employees) and the Neoplan USA bus-manufacturing plant (300 employees) in Southeast Colorado (La Junta and Lamar) in November 2005.
Overall, while the state's economy showed signs of recovery and job growth in some sectors, industries like telecommunications and manufacturing continued to experience job losses and internal company reorganizations were a significant cause of mass layoffs in Colorado during this period.

Denver

2006
In 2006, significant job losses in the Denver area were primarily reported at **Qwest Communications**, **Oracle Corp.**, and **Eaton Corp.** The manufacturing sector across Colorado also experienced a general decline in employment.

Specific Denver/Colorado company job cuts reported in 2006 included:
Qwest Communications: The Denver-based phone company cut approximately 600 jobs in Colorado as part of a larger workforce reduction of nearly 1,300 positions nationwide that year.
Oracle Corp.: The software company announced a national layoff of 2,000 workers following its acquisition of Siebel Systems, which was expected to impact its Denver office. The exact number of local job cuts was not specified at the time.
Eaton Corp.: The industrial manufacturer announced plans to eliminate 140 aerospace jobs in the Denver area by relocating operations from Aurora and closing its Denver aerospace facility to other locations.
The Denver Newspaper Agency: The agency, which operated the *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News*, laid off eight workers and planned to cut 16 more positions through buyouts or additional layoffs due to declining advertising revenue.
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL): Congress cut $28 million from NREL's budget, forcing the Golden-based lab to lay off 32 employees.

Overall, Colorado's manufacturing employment dropped by 1.4 percent (over 3,000 jobs) between May 2005 and May 2006, and the state saw general job losses in this sector throughout the year.

2007
In 2007, Denver saw job losses at specific companies, notably in the **manufacturing, construction, financial services, and information sectors**, with some employers conducting significant layoffs as the national economy started entering a recession.
Specific Denver-area companies and sectors with reported job losses include:
First Data Corp.: In November 2007, the electronic payments processor announced a consolidation that included cutting about 100 positions in its Denver-area operations as part of a global 6% workforce reduction.
LSI Corp.: This technology company cut 60 jobs in Colorado in June 2007 as part of a larger global workforce reduction.
The Denver Post: The newspaper offered buyouts in April 2007 with the goal of eliminating 37 positions due to declining advertising revenues.

Manufacturing Sector: The manufacturing sector in Colorado experienced steady job declines throughout the year.

Construction and Information Sectors: Statewide data indicated that both the construction and information sectors saw net job losses in 2007.

Overall, the state's economy experienced strong job growth from 2005 through much of 2007, with a low unemployment rate of 3.7% in 2007. However, the national recession officially began in December 2007, which led to more widespread job losses across various sectors in 2008.

Denver

2008

In 2008, Denver-area companies across various sectors, including **construction, financial services, manufacturing, and natural resources**, experienced significant job losses as the national recession deepened. Widespread job cuts occurred across the metro area.

Specific Company Job Cuts

Western Union: The Greenwood Village-based financial services company announced in November 2008 that it would eliminate **200 jobs** globally, including **60** in the metro Denver area.

Adams Aircraft: In January 2008, the Centennial-based jet manufacturer laid off **170 workers** locally (part of a total 300 job cuts across multiple states). This was 40% of its workforce.

Gannett Co.: The parent company of the *Fort Collins Coloradoan* cut its workforce by 10% in October 2008, resulting in five layoffs and the elimination of two vacant positions at the local paper.

Lehman Brothers: Though a national financial giant, its shutdown of wholesale and correspondent lending activities (including with its Aurora Loan Services subsidiary) impacted operations in Colorado, leading to some consolidation of offices and job cuts, the exact local number of which was not immediately detailed.

Broader Denver Job Market Trends

Overall, the Denver-Aurora-Broomfield area ended **December 2008** with a loss of **16,200 non-farm payroll jobs** compared to December 2007. Regional unemployment rate rose from **4.0 percent** to **6.1 percent** during the year. The job losses were across many industries:

Construction and **manufacturing** continued shedding jobs throughout the year.

Financial services firms, including mortgage brokers and real estate companies, were hit hard by the housing crisis.

Key growth engines like **professional and business services** and **retail trade** also went negative by the end of 2008.

The economic downturn in Denver was part of a larger national crisis that saw **2.6 million jobs lost** across the United States in 2008, with the job market deteriorating more quickly in Q4..

2009

In 2009, the Denver area experienced significant job losses across various sectors during the recession, totaling approximately **39,700 jobs** lost. While specific, comprehensive lists of every private company are not available, several major employers and government entities announced notable cutbacks.

Key Sectors and Employers with Job Losses

Construction: The construction industry was hit hard, with state-wide employment in the sector down 14.4%, or 23,200 jobs, from 2008 to 2009.

Government (City of Denver): The City of Denver itself announced layoffs of over 170 employees, mostly in non-safety departments like Human Services and the Office of Economic Development, to address a $160 million budget shortfall. An additional 600 vacant positions were also left unfilled.

Media: The media industry saw significant consolidation and cuts. The business side of The Denver Post laid off 40 employees as part of a larger plan to cut 200 positions following the closure of the *Rocky Mountain News* in February 2009.

Airlines: Frontier Airlines announced a loss of 140 jobs in December 2009.

National Companies with Local Impact:

General Electric (GE): The company reduced its overall global workforce by 19,000 in 2009 due to the recession.

Home Depot: Announced plans for 7,000 layoffs nationally in January 2009.

Overall, the job losses were widespread across many industries, including manufacturing, retail, and professional services, as the local economy caught up with the national recession in a "fierce way".

Denver

2010

In 2010, the Denver area and the state experienced job losses, although at a slower rate than the peak of the recession in 2009. The job losses were concentrated in **construction**, **manufacturing**, and **information** sectors, with some specific companies announcing significant layoffs.

Overall Job Market in Denver

The Denver-Aurora-Broomfield metropolitan area lost 2.9% of its jobs in the 12 months ending in March 2010. Colorado as a whole experienced a decline of 68,200 jobs (3%) during the 12 months ending in September 2010. Employment levels in Denver's metropolitan areas bottomed out in Q1 2010. Initial forecasts for statewide job losses in 2010 were revised sharply higher mid-year, indicating a more severe and prolonged downturn than initially anticipated.

Companies and Sectors with Significant Losses

Comprehensive lists of all individual company losses are not publicly available in aggregate data. industry reports highlight specific companies and sectors that were hit particularly hard:

Time Warner Cable laid off 350 workers across Colorado and closed two offices in the Denver suburbs of Englewood in January 2010.

The **construction** sector was the hardest hit in the state, continuing to post the largest decline of all industry sectors throughout 2010. Architectural and engineering firms faced significant hits due to the drying up of project pipelines.

The **manufacturing** sector saw payrolls fall by more than 6.5% in Colorado.

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services experienced a 4.1% decline in the first half of 2010. Successful firms' hiring efforts only partially offset losses from other PST companies.

Government job losses occurred at the city level, with Denver officials announcing layoffs of over 170 city employees and the elimination of over 600 vacant positions in late 2009, with the effects carrying into 2010 budget considerations.

In total, Colorado counted 6,815 initial claims for unemployment insurance due to mass layoffs at 54 companies during the first seven months of 2010.

2011

In 2011, Denver's economy was in a slow recovery phase from the Great Recession, with overall job growth, but specific sectors and organizations experienced job losses.

Specific Companies and Organizations with Job Losses in 2011

Lockheed Martin: In June 2011, the company announced plans to cut 1,200 jobs from its space systems business, which has significant operations in the Denver area.

Focus on the Family: The Colorado Springs-based Christian ministry eliminated 49 jobs in September 2011 due to a projected decrease in donations.

City and County of Denver Government: Denver Mayor Michael Hancock's administration implemented measures to balance the 2012 budget, including the elimination of 95 city jobs, most of which were vacant. The city also required employees to take furlough days, which was equivalent to an additional 70 positions in savings.

General Economic Context

Overall, the state of Colorado, including Denver, was in a period of slow job recovery in 2011.

Job Growth vs. Losses: The private sector added jobs, but growth was modest, and many large corporations were hesitant to hire due to economic uncertainty.

Key Sectors with Declines: The **construction**, **information**, and **financial activities** sectors continued to experience job losses year-over-year in Colorado.

Manufacturing: While the sector generally showed a slight increase in 2011, it had experienced significant losses in the preceding years, with certain subsectors like lumber and wood products seeing large declines.

While specific, large-scale mass layoffs across numerous private Denver companies were not the dominant trend in 2011 (which saw a decline in mass layoff events statewide), the economy had not fully recovered the jobs lost during the recession

Denver

2012
In 2012, while overall mass layoffs in Colorado declined, specific companies in the Denver area did report significant job cuts, most notably in the **wind energy and defense contracting sectors**.

Key companies with major job losses in or around Denver in 2012 included:
Vestas Wind Systems: The wind turbine manufacturer had multiple rounds of layoffs at its Colorado plants (including Brighton and Windsor) throughout the year, citing uncertainty over federal tax credits. The job cuts totaled around 500 positions in Colorado.
Allonhill: This Denver-based company laid off approximately 140 employees in December 2012.
Boeing: The company cut 100 jobs in Colorado after losing a contract.
Walker Component Group Corp.: A supplier to Vestas, this company laid off about 15 people, roughly 30% of its workforce, in May 2012 due to the downturn in the wind industry.
Phillips 66: The company announced it was canceling plans for a major alternative-fuels research and development center near Denver (in Louisville), which impacted potential future jobs in the area.

Overall, the state's economy was generally improving in 2012, with an annual job growth rate of 1.9%, but the job market still experienced fluctuations and significant specific industry challenges.

2013
In 2013, Denver and the broader Colorado area experienced a mixed job market with overall net gains, but several major companies and organizations still announced significant job cuts. Major entities with job losses in or around Denver in 2013 included:
First Data Corp.: The company announced in November 2013 it would cut 550 jobs in the metro Denver area as part of a move to match its cost structure with lower volumes.
Denver Health Medical Center: The hospital announced plans to cut approximately 300 jobs through a combination of layoffs, attrition, and reduced hiring to address a budget problem stemming from federal spending cuts and an increasing number of uninsured patients.
ESPN: The sports network, a unit of The Walt Disney Company, cut 300 to 400 jobs company-wide and closed a small Denver office.
MillerCoors: The company announced it was laying off 200 workers and eliminating 160 unfilled positions across the company, including 30 jobs at its Golden plant, due to declining sales.
Natural Resources and Mining Sector: The sector in Colorado experienced a 2.3% drop in employment through May 2013, representing a loss of around 700 jobs.
Despite these specific job losses, Colorado's overall job market was in recovery in 2013, with consistent gross job gains and a net positive employment change throughout the year. Planned layoffs by Colorado companies did increase in November 2013 for the second consecutive month, according to the outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

Denver

2014
In 2014, major job losses in the Denver area included cuts at **Crocs** and a general net loss of private-sector jobs in the state during August of that year. Overall, the year was characterized by strong job growth in the metro Denver area that outpaced the national average, though some specific sectors and companies experienced reductions.

Specific instances of job losses announced by Denver-area companies in 2014 included:
Crocs announced in July 2014 that it was cutting 183 jobs and closing stores following a significant drop in earnings.

Colorado as a whole experienced a **net loss of 700 jobs** in August, the first monthly decline since 2011, with the private sector accounting for virtually all the losses. This was an exception in a year of general job growth.

Across all of Colorado, the total number of planned job cuts announced in February 2014 was significantly lower than the previous year, indicating a generally improving job market.
Some employment sectors in the broader Denver/Colorado area, such as construction, manufacturing, information, and finance, saw a decline in employment shares over a multi-year period encompassing 2014.

Despite these specific losses, metro Denver's overall job market performed well in 2014, with payroll jobs growing by a significant margin compared to the national average.

2015
In 2015, significant job losses in primarily occurred in the **oil and gas industry** due to falling prices, and through large-scale national corporate restructurings that impacted local offices.
Major companies with job cuts impacting Denver employees included:
Noble Energy: Cut 100 jobs in Greeley and Denver in April 2015 as part of an "organizational realignment" due to declining crude oil prices.
WPX Energy: The Tulsa-based company cut 36 jobs across Colorado (25 in Denver and 11 in Parachute) and offered relocation to around 120 Denver employees as it consolidated most of its Denver workforce to its headquarters to reduce costs.
Bill Barrett Corp.: The Denver-based company laid off "less than 20 percent" of its staff in a reorganization that also eliminated the CFO position.
Halliburton Co.: While a Houston-based company, this major oilfield service provider with Colorado operations announced global cuts of 4,000 jobs in late 2015 and another 5,000 in early 2016, impacting local operations.
Zillow: Its acquisition of Trulia led to 30 job cuts in the Denver office in February 2015.
Lockheed Martin: Announced plans to lay off 500 employees nationwide in its IT services division, which had a significant presence in Colorado.
Hewlett-Packard (HP): As part of its split into two companies, HP cut 30,000 jobs globally in September 2015, affecting its workforce across various locations.
EOS CCA: This debt collection agency closed its Denver office, resulting in 60 layoffs effective November 2015.
Freeport-McMoRan: The owner of a Clear Creek County mine, which employed Denver-area residents, announced two rounds of job cuts (80 in August and 130 in November) due to a deteriorating market for molybdenum.
Overall, while oil and gas faced significant challenges, the Denver-area economy generally continued to show growth and a strong job market compared to the national average during 2015.

Denver

2016

In 2016, major company job losses in Denver were primarily concentrated in the **oil and gas industry** due to a steep downturn in commodity prices, along with some reductions at a major aerospace company and the state's leading coal mine.

Key companies with significant job losses included:

Halliburton Co.: The major oilfield services company, which has operations in Colorado, announced it would cut another 5,000 workers globally in February 2016, following nearly 4,000 cuts in late 2015.

Bill Barrett Corp.: The Denver-based oil and gas firm laid off "less than 20 percent" of its staff in a reorganization that also eliminated the chief financial officer position.

Bonanza Creek: This Denver oil and gas company announced job cuts (26 employees and 17 contract positions) and a reorganization in March 2016 to align with the low commodity price environment.

Integra Telecom Holdings Inc.: The telecom company laid off 59 Denver employees in August 2016 as part of a restructuring and downsizing.

United Launch Alliance (ULA): The Centennial-based aerospace company laid off 87 Colorado workers as part of a broader workforce reduction across its locations in June 2016.

West Elk Mine: The owners of Colorado's leading coal mine cut 80 workers, about a quarter of the workforce, blaming declining demand for coal.

Overall, while the state experienced a net gain in jobs in most sectors during the year, the mining and logging industry saw the largest statewide job losses, with approximately 4,000 jobs disappearing between August 2015 and August 2016. The broader Denver area economy generally grew, outpacing the national employment rates, but the energy sector faced substantial challenges.

2017

In 2017, significant job losses and notable staff reductions occurred at the following companies: In November 2017, ***The Denver Post*** announced a round of layoffs affecting seven union-covered positions in the newsroom and advertising support, and an additional four non-union advertising managers were terminated. This followed a previous buyout and dismissal round the year before.

Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman: These defense contractors collectively planned to cut about 130 jobs in Colorado Springs in November 2017, due to the conclusion of specific federal government contracts.

TapInfluence Inc.: In March 2017, this Denver marketing technology company laid off several staff members as part of a strategic shift in its business model to focus more on product and technology.

DCP Midstream: In March and April 2017, this company laid off 136 employees in Denver.

Pinnacle Architectural Lighting Inc.: This company planned to lay off 151 employees through the end of May in Denver in 2017.

Other reported job losses in Colorado in 2017, as per Colorado Department of Labor WARN notices, included Wanzek Construction (666 employees in Pueblo), SSI Venture/Aspen Sports (141 employees across multiple locations), and MV Transportation (198 employees in Denver starting June 30).

Overall, while there were specific company cuts, the general Denver job market in 2017 experienced growth, as widespread city government layoffs and large-scale corporate cuts making headlines in recent years (e.g., the city's 2025 budget cuts) did not occur in 2017.

Denver

2018

In 2018, one of the most notable instances of job losses in Denver was **massive job cuts at *The Denver Post***. In March 2018, the newspaper announced massive job cuts, including 30 newsroom positions (25 union and 5 management roles), as part of ongoing efforts by its owner, Alden Global Capital's Digital First Media, to maintain profitability through job reductions.

While the general Denver job market in 2018 experienced overall growth, driven partly by strong construction hiring, specific sectors or companies faced cuts. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment provides labor market information and statistics.

The following were on the CDLE WARN list for 2018: First Data, 149 employees; North Grumman, 123 employees, loss of contract; Sandoz, 205 employees, closure and Wide Open West Networks, 203 employees, downsizing.

2019

In 2019, one of the most significant single job losses in the Denver area occurred when **Invesco laid off approximately 850 workers** as part of its acquisition of Oppenheimer Funds. The total number of employees at that location was around 1,000 before the cuts began.

Trucking industry: The year 2019 saw a number of closures in the trucking industry nationally, which likely affected Denver-based operations, though a specific single company closure was not highlighted in the search results.

Specific, large-scale layoffs by other individual companies in Denver in 2019 were not as widely reported as the Invesco cuts. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment provides detailed data on employment and job losses by sector, which can be accessed on their website.

The following were in the 2019 CDLE WARN List for 2019: AstraZeneca, 210 employees, closure: Sandoz, closure; Upsher-Smith Labs, 74, closure.

Denver

2020

In 2020, Denver companies in the **leisure and hospitality** sector experienced the most significant job losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. Other impacted sectors included **education and health services** and **other services**.

Sectors with Significant Job Losses

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) reported that job losses were concentrated in specific private sectors throughout the state.

Leisure and Hospitality: This sector was hit hardest, losing approximately 91,500 jobs across Colorado between December 2019 and December 2020. Businesses like hotels and restaurants were heavily affected by closures, capacity limits, and a lack of tourism.

Education and Health Services: This sector experienced losses of around 16,700 jobs in the same period.

Other Services: This category saw approximately 8,000 jobs lost.

Specific Denver-Area Companies with Layoffs

The following filed WARN notices for mass layoffs:

DCP Midstream: Laid off 136 employees in March and April.

Pinnacle Architectural Lighting Inc.: Laid off 151 employees through the end of May.

MV Transportation: Laid off 198 employees starting in June.

Checkr: The background check startup laid off 64 employees across its San Francisco and Denver offices due to a client hiring slowdown.

Huckleberry Roasters: Laid off 33 of its 38 employees due to restaurant closures.

Overall Context

Overall, Colorado lost 342,300 nonfarm payroll jobs between February and April 2020, the initial stages of the pandemic, with a recovery rate of about 61.2% by November 2020.

2021

In 2021, the Denver job market, like that of the wider state, experienced significant job recovery following the initial pandemic losses of 2020, rather than widespread job losses. While some individual companies may have had minor adjustments, the overall trend was strong job growth.

Overall Job Market in 2021

Job Gains: From May 2020 through December 2021, Colorado added back 335,500 jobs.

Unemployment Rate: Colorado's unemployment rate decreased throughout 2021, finishing the year at 3.9% in December.

Key Growth Sectors: The largest annual percent increases in employment for the state came from Leisure and Hospitality; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; and PBS.

Notable Company/Sector Activity

Specific, major company-wide job losses in Denver were not dominant in 2021. The focus was on recovery. However, some sectors and specific companies saw employment shifts:

Manufacturing: While the sector saw a bounce back, companies like Lockheed Martin, Ball Corp., and Raytheon remained major employers, managing their workforce in a dynamic environment.

City Government: The City and County of Denver government budgeted for savings in 2021 by holding approximately 400 open jobs unfilled, rather than through major layoffs of existing staff, to manage costs

Startups: A few tech startups in the Denver area, such as Checkr and Conga, had layoffs in 2020 due to the pandemic's immediate impact. In general, 2021 was characterized by a robust recovery in employment across the Denver area, with overall job growth being the prevailing trend.

The following were in the 2021 CDLE WARN List for 2021: Novartis, 400 employees, closure: Ttech Services, 200, closure; Crestone Resources, 156 employees, acquisition; T. Rowe Price, 287 employees, Pomeray Technologies, 44 employees, loss of contract.

Denver

2022

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment reported that in 2022, Colorado's job growth rate was strong at 3.7%, compared to the national rate of 3.0%. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased throughout the year, ending December 2022 at 3.3%.

Job Losses by Industry

The market was generally strong with some scattered losses:

Construction: The Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area experienced construction job losses of around 4,300 jobs (a 4% decrease) between September 2023 and September 2024 (a timeframe which overlaps with the 2022 period).

Educational and Health Services: EHS had job losses of 2,600 positions in December 2022.

Financial Activities: This sector had job losses of around 1,100 in December 2022 and a total decline of 3,400 payroll jobs over the course of the year.

Manufacturing: This sector saw a decline of 400 jobs statewide.

Notable Company/Entity Job Reductions

Specific company layoffs were generally limited and less impactful on the overall market. Tech companies nationally experienced significant layoffs, those workers in Denver were quickly rehired by non-tech employers.Twitter had voluntary layoffs at one point in the year. Additional layoffs also occurred. The total was about 130 people in Boulder. Inscripta, a Boulder Biotech firm also had a WARN notice for about 43 workers.

The City and County of Denver did not have significant layoffs in 2022.

Heibar Installation Inc. (a Clayton Homes company): A WARN notice was filed for this Denver-area manufacturing plant, which would result in 74 workers losing their jobs at the beginning of 2023, following the December 2022 announcement of the plant's closure.

2023

In 2023, Denver experienced job losses across several industries and within city government, with significant cuts in the **technology, manufacturing, and financial sectors**, and notable layoffs by specific companies. The Denver metropolitan area lost about 7,100 jobs YOY by November 2023.

Major Company and Sector Layoffs in Denver Area in 2023

Several companies in reported significant layoffs through WARN notices and news reports:

DCP Midstream: 136 employees laid off in March and April.

Pinnacle Architectural Lighting Inc.: 151 employees were laid off through the end of May.

MV Transportation: 198 employees were laid off starting June 30.

Gymshark: 65 employees laid off in March.

WIX.com: 62 employees laid off in April.

Friday Health Plans: 98 employees were laid off in Denver and Alamosa in April.

Laramar Group LLC: 76 employees laid off in Denver and Broomfield.

Chevron:125 people were laid off starting in July.

Dish Network, LLC: 157 employees were laid off in early 2024, following a trend of industry cuts.

Denver City Government: The city itself had significant job cuts, eliminating 171 positions and closing 665 vacant roles across various departments due to a budget shortfall.

Industry-Wide Trends

Technology: Colorado was hit particularly hard by a wave of national tech sector layoffs because the state has a higher concentration of tech jobs than the national average.

Manufacturing: Denver County experienced a 4.9% decline in manufacturing jobs, a loss of 936 positions, between September 2023 and September 2024.

Financial Activities: This sector saw significant over-the-month job losses in December 2023.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: This sector experienced job declines throughout 2023.

While some sectors faced challenges, others, like educational and health services and leisure and hospitality, still saw job gains over the year in Colorado.

Denver

2024

Major Company and City Layoffs

City and County of Denver: Facing a projected budget shortfall, the city announced the layoff of 171 employees and the elimination of 665 vacant positions in August 2024, impacting approximately 8.4% of its total budgeted workforce.

Chevron: Following its acquisition of PDC Energy, Chevron announced plans to lay off 125 employees at its Denver office, with cuts starting in July 2024.

DISH Network: The telecommunications company planned to lay off a total of 166 employees in Colorado, with notices issued in March 2024.

Inspirato: The Denver-based luxury travel company laid off 15% of its workforce in August 2024 as part of a private equity shakeup.

Wells Fargo: The bank announced 70 job cuts in its Denver-area offices in August 2024.

Charter Communications: The telecom giant, which has a base in Denver, announced national layoffs of around 1,200 employees to streamline management.

Other companies affected through the WARN system were: Boeing (63 employees), AGC Biologics (85 employees), and Logrhythm (85 employees).

Industry-Wide Trends

Construction: The Denver metro area reported the second-largest decline in construction employment among 358 metropolitan areas nationwide between July 2023 and July 2024.

Restaurants: Analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data indicated that Denver's full-service restaurant employment saw a loss of roughly 4.2% from 2023 to 2024, outpacing the state average.

Overall Market: Despite these specific losses, the broader Colorado private sector added jobs over the year, although Denver was noted as the only metropolitan area in the state that was losing jobs overall in mid-2024, with nearly 10,000 jobs lost in the year prior to August 2024.

2025

In 2025, Denver experienced significant public sector job losses, most notably from the **City and County of Denver** and various federal government agencies with local operations.

Public Sector Layoffs

City and County of Denver: The city laid off 169 employees and eliminated 666 vacant positions in August 2025 to address a significant budget shortfall. The cuts were part of an effort to save approximately $100 million in the 2026 budget.

Federal Government Agencies: Nearly 200 Colorado-based positions within the Interior Department and related agencies (including the BLM, NPS, and USGS were slated for cuts due to a government shutdown and funding realignments.

Johns Hopkins University: The university cut 247 domestic positions (some in the Denver area) and almost 2,000 international roles after losing over $800 million in USAID funding.

Private Sector Company Layoffs

Several private companies in the Denver area also announced layoffs, which are typically tracked via Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) notices filed with the state.

***The Business Journals* Layoff Tracker:** A tracker from *The Business Journals* identified significant cuts at various companies in late 2025, including:

A hospitality company is planning to lay off 125 workers due to remodeling at the airport.

A metro-area power company is cutting over 100 jobs due to a mine closure.

Gates Industrial, a Denver-based manufacturer, planning to close factories and lay off hundreds.

Newmont, a gold giant, is conducting multiple rounds of corporate layoffs at its Denver HQ.

TIAA is laying off more people in Denver.

Zynex Medical filed for bankruptcy protection

A biotech company is closing local facilities and laying off 278 workers.

Heibar Installation Inc. is planning to cut 74 jobs in Denver.

Gymshark: The company laid off 65 employees in Denver in March

Colorado Springs

2000
In 2000, Colorado Springs experienced some job losses in the high-tech and manufacturing sectors, though the overall labor market was described as healthy. Layoffs were reported at companies including **Dynamic Details Inc.** and **Trimm Technologies Inc.**.

Specific job losses in Colorado Springs high-tech and manufacturing companies in 2000 included:
Dynamic Details Inc.: Announced the layoff of 275 workers.
Trimm Technologies Inc.: 80 employees lost their jobs.
AccessAir: Announced layoffs of 19 employees.

While some tech firms in the broader Colorado advanced technology sector announced cuts in late 2000 or early 2001 (such as Agilent Technologies, LSI Logic, and M/A-Com Inc.), the specific layoffs above were noted as occurring within the year 2000 in Colorado Springs.

The year 2000 represented a peak in the national economy, but also the start of a period where U.S. manufacturing employment began a sharp decline, a trend that accelerated between 2000 and 2010. The Colorado job market in 2000 was generally tight, but facing fluctuations in high-tech industries that would impact the economy in the subsequent years, particularly during the dot-com bubble crash in the early 2000s.

2001
In 2001, Colorado Springs, like the rest of the state, experienced significant high-tech job losses as a result of the **dot-com bubble burst**. While several large, national tech firms announced widespread cuts, specific information directly linking major *Colorado Springs* high-tech companies to specific 2001 job losses is limited in the provided snippets, though the region was heavily impacted overall.
Overview of the Situation
Colorado was hit hard: The state experienced relatively more pronounced technology job losses compared to the rest of the U.S., shedding more than 13% of its tech jobs on average. The greater concentration of tech workers in Colorado made the downturn more severe in the region.
Widespread Industry Cuts: The job cuts were widespread across the tech industry nationally, particularly in telecommunications, computers, and electronics manufacturing. Companies like Hewlett-Packard (HP), Dell, Cisco, and others announced significant layoffs globally, which would have likely affected their Colorado operations, including those in Colorado Springs.
Colorado Springs Impact: Colorado Springs maintained a high concentration of tech jobs, making it vulnerable to the industry-wide contraction. The local economy felt the impact, and the tech sector did not spur the recovery after the bust.
Specific Companies (National Context)
While specific local layoff numbers for 2001 are scarce, major national and international tech companies with operations that would have been affected included:
Hewlett-Packard (HP): The company announced global job cuts in 2001, which likely impacted its Colorado Springs presence.
WorldCom: This telecommunications firm announced significant job losses during the 2001 downturn.
Gateway: The personal computer company also made substantial job cuts in 2001.
The year 2001 was a disastrous year for high-tech industries, with the primary reasons for layoffs being cost-cutting, a shift in business models, and companies going out of business.

Colorado Springs

2002

In 2002, the Colorado Springs high-tech industry experienced significant job losses, with area firms cutting nearly **4,500 jobs** due to the continuing effects of the dot-com bubble burst.

Overall Impact: The job cuts in the high-tech sector, particularly in semiconductor manufacturing and software development, slowed Colorado Springs' overall economic growth, though the area still managed a small net positive job growth (0.7%) for the first quarter of 2002, unlike the rest of the state which saw job declines.

Industry Concentration: Colorado was heavily concentrated in high-tech workers, leading the nation in high-tech jobs per capita in 2002. This high concentration meant the state was disproportionately affected by the industry downturn, shedding a larger percentage of tech jobs than the national average.

Specific Companies:

Gateway, a personal computer maker, announced cutbacks, including layoffs in Colorado Springs.

LSI Logic and **SCI Systems** implemented job cuts or closed facilities in the area.

WorldCom (MCI), a major telecommunications company, began mass layoffs nationwide in June 2002 following an accounting scandal. These cuts affected businesses in the Colorado Springs area. Nearly 1,000 MCI workers in Colorado were ultimately laid off around this period, with some cuts happening in 2004 as part of the fallout.

Industry Impact: The high-tech industry nationwide shed over half a million jobs in 2002. Colorado lost about 13% of its high-tech workforce overall in 2002, a decline ranging from 5% to 15% in various states with significant tech sectors.

Economic Context: The job losses contributed to an increase in El Paso County's unemployment rate, which soared to 6.6% in 2002, compared with 4.5% in 2001. The state of Colorado as a whole saw a net loss of 50,000 jobs in 2002, the highest loss ever recorded at that time. The state's information technology (IT) sector was among the hardest hit, with 45% of its IT firms downsizing that year.

2003

Economic Context in 2003

Overall Job Losses: Colorado as a whole lost 34,600 non-farm jobs in 2003, its second consecutive year of job losses.

El Paso County: The local area around Colorado Springs (El Paso County) saw nonfarm employment decline by 1.6% in 2002, and the unemployment rate was 6.3% in April 2003.

Key Sectors Affected: The national and state manufacturing and telecommunications sectors were hit particularly hard, with job losses occurring monthly for nearly three years.

Notable Layoffs and Business Activity

While the search results did not provide an exhaustive list of every company, several notable business events occurred that contributed to the job losses:

Exabyte Corp.: The data-storage company, based in Boulder but indicative of the state's tech struggles, laid off 40 employees in March 2003 as part of ongoing cost-cutting measures.

Bankruptcies: Notable corporate bankruptcies in Colorado in 2003 included tech firm Riskology Inc., telecom concern Univance Telecom, and the Colorado Springs Symphony Orchestra Association.

Military Impact: The deployment of Fort Carson troops was expected to negatively impact the local economy as reservists might send their incomes home rather than spend them in El Paso County.

Call Centers: In a positive development that somewhat offset losses, the ICT Group Inc. announced plans to open a new call center for Virgin Mobile in Colorado Springs, expected to eventually employ approximately 500 workers. The year 2003 was the third straight year that incomes in the Colorado Springs region lagged behind the rest of the U.S., reflecting a prolonged period of economic weakness. Based on the AeA's estimates, the U.S. high-tech industry ended the year with about 5.73 million workers, down from 6.5 million employees at the end of 2001. The 2002 contraction included 146,000 job losses in the software sector, the first time employment in that high-tech niche has fallen in the seven years that AeA has been compiling its state-of-the-industry report.

Colorado Springs

2004
In 2004, the Colorado Springs area, and Colorado generally, continued to experience job losses in the high-tech sector, though at a slower rate than in previous years following the 2000-2004 downturn.

Specific companies with significant job cuts announced in Colorado during 2004 included:
MCI: Announced a nationwide layoff of thousands of workers in March 2004, nearly 1,000 of whom were located in Colorado.
Gateway Inc.: The computer maker eliminated 2,500 jobs (40% of its retail workforce) nationally, an undisclosed number of which were in its four Colorado stores.

Storage Technology Corp. (Louisville, CO): Cut 70 to 80 jobs, primarily at its Louisville site, though this may have had an impact on the broader Colorado tech scene which includes Colorado Springs.

While specific, large-scale job cuts attributed *solely* to individual high-tech companies based *strictly* within Colorado Springs in 2004 are not itemized in the available search snippets, general reports indicated: The Colorado Springs area had been "inundated with newly laid-off technical workers" around that time. An article in the local *Gazette* newspaper on September 3, 2004, specifically addressed the sentiment that "IT job cuts likely went too deep".

Overall, the high-tech industry lost a total of 25,000 jobs in the U.S. in 2004, which was a significant improvement compared to the 333,000 jobs lost in 2003.

2005
In 2005, Colorado Springs' tech sector saw significant job losses, particularly in computer manufacturing and related fields, with Colorado as a whole experiencing the second-highest tech job loss of any state, though specific company names weren't highlighted in these national reports; major trends pointed to shifts in the info sector, including telecom, with firms like Seagate and Maxtor potentially impacting the state after their merger/acquisition, affecting workers in places like Longmont.

Key Details:
Overall State Impact: Colorado lost around 1,700 tech jobs in 2005, making it second only to Kansas for tech job decline, as noted by Phys.org.
Industry Focus: The losses were concentrated in computer and related manufacturing, and general tech manufacturing, per the BLS.
Information Sector Decline: The broader information sector (including telecom) continued shedding jobs, with Colorado losing 3,800 jobs in 2005, a sharp drop from its 2000 peak.
Company Mention (Indirect): While not directly in the Springs, the acquisition of Maxtor by Seagate (both with heavy Longmont presence) in 2005 foreshadowed layoffs, impacting the region's tech workforce.
So, while specific Springs companies aren't named in these broader reports, the local tech scene was affected by state-wide trends and broader industry consolidation in computer/hardware manufacturing during 2005.

In 2005, one specific high-tech company in Colorado Springs, **Amtel Corp.**, laid off 150 people at its electronic chip-making plant. This local job loss occurred within the context of a challenging year for the state's tech industry as a whole. Colorado lost a total of 1,700 technology jobs in 2005, the second most of any state that year. Most of these statewide losses were concentrated in computer and related manufacturing sectors. Nationally, the high-tech industry showed a slight increase in employment for 2005 overall, but some sectors, such as communications services and specific areas of manufacturing, continued to shed jobs.

Colorado Springs

2006
In 2004, the Colorado Springs area, and Colorado generally, continued to experience job losses in the high-tech sector, though at a slower rate than in previous years following the 2000-2004 downturn.

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Overall, the high-tech industry lost a total of 25,000 jobs in the U.S. in 2004, which was a significant improvement compared to the 333,000 jobs lost in 2003.

2007
In 2007, Colorado Springs' high-tech and manufacturing sectors continued to experience job losses as part of a longer-term trend that included significant layoffs at companies like **Intel**. The community had lost approximately 17,000 manufacturing/technology-related jobs since 2000.
Key Events and Context in 2007
Intel Relocation: A major factor was Intel Corp.'s decision to relocate its Colorado Springs facility to China, which was expected to cause the largest decline in the state's computer and electronics sector in 2008 following the 2007 announcement.
State-wide Trend: A report by the AeA (a high-tech industry trade association) in April 2007 indicated that Colorado had fallen from first to third place in the nation for tech worker concentration and lost 1,700 tech jobs in 2005 (the most recent data available at the time of the report), a trend that continued through 2007.
Economic Shift: High-paying manufacturing and information jobs were being replaced with lower-wage service sector jobs, leading to a record wage gap between El Paso County (which includes Colorado Springs) and the rest of the state by 2008.
Overall Economy: The national economy began entering a recession in December 2007, which impacted job markets broadly. The housing market correction and the subsequent spread of financial troubles began showing significant signs of impacting the broader economy during 2007.

Colorado Springs

2008

In 2008, Colorado Springs saw significant high-tech job losses, largely due to **Intel Corp.'s decision to close its manufacturing facility** and relocate to China, and job cuts at companies like **Hewlett-Packard (HP)**.

Key Company Job Losses in 2008

Intel Corp.: Intel's decision to relocate its Colorado Springs manufacturing facility to China was expected to result in the largest decline in the local computer and electronics sector in 2008. The broader Colorado manufacturing sector lost 4,000 jobs that year, continuing a steady decline that began in the late 1990s.

Hewlett-Packard (HP): In June 2008, HP was reportedly in internal discussions with employees regarding the possible relocation of around 800 call center workers, though technical support and R&D jobs were initially expected to remain in the Springs.

Sun Microsystems: While a specific number for Colorado Springs wasn't available, in November 2008, Sun Microsystems cut nearly 6,000 people company-wide (over 15% of its workforce) as it struggled to compete with rivals like IBM and HP.

Context of the 2008 Recession in Colorado Springs

Colorado Springs was significantly impacted by the 2008 economic crisis, which followed a period of strong high-tech job growth in the 1990s and early 2000s.

The area had already lost more than 40% of its manufacturing and information technology jobs since a peak in 2000, with more than 15,000 high-paying jobs vanishing before the 2008 crisis fully hit.

The city's economy, heavily reliant on sales tax revenue, saw significant cuts to public services as residents lost jobs and struggled financially.

While 2008 was a difficult year locally, a 2010 report noted that overall Colorado added 5,100 high-tech jobs statewide in 2008, a peak year for tech job additions during that recession period at a state level, indicating some sectors of the state's tech economy were more resilient than the Colorado Springs manufacturing component.

2009

In 2009, the high-tech sector in Colorado Springs and across the state experienced job losses as a result of the Great Recession.

State Level: Colorado's high-tech workforce decreased, with a loss of approximately 5,300 jobs between 2009 and 2010, a drop of 3.2%.

National Level: The U.S. high-tech sector as a whole lost 245,600 jobs in 2009, which represented about 4% of its total workforce, as the recession had a major impact on the industry. The economic downturn in 2009 was characterized by rising unemployment levels nationally, which affected many industries. Reports from the time indicated that high-tech employees in the Pikes Peak region were experiencing significant financial and psychological impacts from layoffs during that period.

Local Context

Colorado Springs' economy has long been anchored by military, aviation, and related institutions, with the tech and aerospace sectors being significant components. In Colorado Springs, the broader economic downturn led to a city-wide hiring freeze and layoffs in various municipal departments, including information technology, in late 2008 and into 2009. While specific private company numbers are sparse, the Pikes Peak region had previously experienced high-tech layoffs in the early 2000s, highlighting the sector's volatility in the area.

The data from this period indicates that Colorado Springs, like the rest of the nation, faced a challenging job market during the recession, with the tech industry experiencing significant contraction.

Colorado Trend: Colorado's high-tech workforce fell from 162,200 in 2009 to 156,900 in 2010. While the state's economy fared better than the national average in 2008, economists predicted job losses for Colorado in 2009 as the recession deepened.

Affected Sectors: Nationally, the manufacturing segment of the high-tech industry was the hardest hit, accounting for nearly half of all tech job losses. Engineering and tech services, as well as communications services, also saw significant cuts.

Colorado Springs

2010

In 2010, **Colorado lost 5,300 tech industry jobs statewide**, a decline attributed to cutbacks in telecommunications and engineering services companies. The city, a known tech hub, was significantly affected by broader state and national trends of high-tech manufacturing decline.

Context of Job Losses in 2010

Statewide Decline: The overall tech industry job loss in Colorado was substantial, reflecting the lingering effects of the recession.

Manufacturing Hit Hard: Computer and electronic-products manufacturing jobs in the state more than halved between June 2000 and June 2010, a major hit to a key part of the high-tech sector.

Regional Impact: Colorado Springs maintained a higher-than-average concentration of tech jobs but was not immune to the economic conditions. The region experienced a general decline in the economy, with many primary jobs being replaced by lower-income positions.

Industry Shift: The decline in manufacturing jobs created a shift, with growth occurring in related areas like research and development, computer systems design, and engineering services, which typically offer higher-level jobs.

Notable Company Information

The history of high-tech companies in the Colorado Springs area showed significant volatility:

Apple: An Apple plant in Fountain, near Colorado Springs, was once the company's largest manufacturing facility, but those jobs were eventually outsourced internationally.

X-IO/Xiotech: This data storage company acquired a research operation from Seagate in Colorado Springs in 2007 and moved its headquarters there in 2011, but later faced its own challenges and shut down manufacturing operations in 2016 after failing to secure financing.

The city was part of a challenging economic environment for the high-tech sector at that time.

2011

In 2011, while the national tech sector saw overall job cuts decrease, Colorado as a whole lost 5,300 tech industry jobs. However, no single, major high-tech company in **Colorado Springs** was specifically identified in the search results as having a massive job loss event of hundreds or thousands of positions *within that precise year*, unlike previous or later years.

The local economy in 2011 was still dealing with the aftermath of earlier high-tech job losses from the 2000s, such as the closure of the former Apple plant, which resulted in more than 15,000 vanished jobs in manufacturing and IT since the job boom of 2000. An early 2011 report noted that many of these manufacturing and web development jobs had disappeared or been shipped offshore.

The 2011 general outlook for the state's professional, scientific, and technical services subsector was a slight rise in employment for some engineering firms due to specific infrastructure spending. The tech sector nationwide actually experienced its lowest level of planned job cuts since 1997 during 2011.

Later years saw significant, specific job cuts in the Colorado Springs tech scene, including:
X-IO shutting down manufacturing and laying off 107 employees **in 2016**.
Microchip Technology cutting 200 to 275 jobs **in late 2019.**
TeKnowledge announcing over (**300 layoffs in late 2025.**

Colorado Springs

2012
In 2012, there were notable job losses in the Colorado Springs area. The region also faced broader economic impacts from the Waldo Canyon fire. Specific company-related job losses in Colorado Springs in 2012 included:
Boeing: The company cut about 100 jobs in December after losing a significant contract to maintain Air Force software for the GPS satellite network to Lockheed Martin Corp.
Hewlett-Packard (HP): As part of a larger plan to cut 27,000 jobs company-wide, HP, which had operations in Colorado Springs, announced potential layoffs in the state. The exact number of local job losses was not specified at the time of the announcement in May 2012.

Regional Context:
The manufacturing sector in Colorado Springs had already lost 55% of its jobs since the recession began, and decreased another 0.8% in the year leading up to May 2012.
Overall, the Colorado Springs area saw very modest employment growth of only 0.5% year-over-year through May 2012, compared to the statewide average of 1.9%. The local unemployment rate dipped in August because hundreds of residents left the job market rather than net job creation. Statewide, mass layoff events (50 or more workers from a single employer) actually declined in Colorado in 2012 compared to the previous two years, indicating a slowdown.

Overall Job Market Weakness: A February 2012 report noted that Colorado Springs was struggling to add private-sector jobs, losing 1,800 positions between 2010 and 2011. The city ranked poorly (99th among 100 metro areas) in raw numbers for job growth during that time. The local economy at the time was noted for a decline in "primary jobs,".
State and National Context: Statewide, the technology sector actually increased. The U.S. tech sector as a whole experienced its largest YOY percentage increase in net employment in 2012 (2.88%) from the previous year. Colorado's tech industry remained a strong component of the state's economy during this period.

2013
In 2013, several Colorado Springs companies in the tech and defense contracting sectors announced **job cuts due to federal budget sequestration and corporate restructuring**.
Key job losses in or around 2013 included:
Intelligent Software Solutions Inc. (ISS): The company cut 40 jobs in March 2013, blaming automatic federal budget cuts. The sequestration broadly impacted defense contractors in the region.
Quantum Corporation: In July 2013, the company confirmed plans to lay off 170 workers in Colorado Springs as it shut down its local manufacturing operation and moved the work to a contractor in Alabama.
S4: While a precise date for the layoffs is not available in the snippets for 2013, S4, an IT contractor for NORAD and U.S. Northern Command, eventually lost a contract that led to nearly 80 IT workers being laid off. The federal government and military contractor job cuts were a general trend in the Springs area economy around that time.
Federal/Military Contractors: The broader economic data for 2013, analyzed in 2014, indicated that local federal employment dropped by 900 from the year prior. The number of workers in the professional, scientific, and technical sector (which encompasses most defense contractors in the area) also fell by 500 during that same period.
These losses were part of a national trend where the tech sector accounted for 11% of all job cuts announced in 2013.
While other companies in the Colorado Springs area announced layoffs around that time, the primary cause for the high-tech/defense sector job losses in 2013 was linked to federal spending cuts and contract issues.

Colorado Springs

2014
In 2014, the primary reported high-tech job losses in Colorado Springs were 125 positions at **Exelis Inc.**. While the area experienced overall job growth that year, the tech industry saw some specific contractions.

Company Layoffs in 2014
Exelis Inc.: The company laid off 125 employees in Colorado Springs.
Symantec Corporation: This company had a smaller layoff, cutting 4 positions.

Broader Economic Context
Overall Local Economy: Despite specific company cutbacks, the Colorado Springs area's overall job market recovered jobs lost during the prior recession and saw significant growth throughout 2014.

Statewide Trends: While Southern Colorado, including Colorado Springs, struggled with job recovery in the first quarter of 2014, other areas like Denver and Fort Collins saw significant gains.

Overall, the state's tech industry was a key economic driver, with a high degree of job churn (both creation and destruction) that led to net job growth.

Other major tech company layoffs occurred in different years (e.g., TeKnowledge in 2025, S4 in 2019, X-IO in 2016), but in 2014, the Exelis layoff was the most significant in the Colorado Springs tech sector based on available public records.

2015
In 2015, several companies in the Colorado Springs area announced job cuts.

Specific high-tech and defense-related job losses reported in or around 2015 included:
Lockheed Martin: The company announced plans to lay off as many as **270 employees** in Colorado Springs in September 2015 after losing a major contract to a competitor.
Hewlett-Packard (HP): As part of a global restructuring and company split, HP cut 30,000 jobs worldwide, with an unspecified number affecting its Colorado Springs operations which included call centers and service groups.
Diamond Materials Tech: This developer of diamond wire-cutting technology, which served the solar market, cut **45 jobs** by September 2015. The company had already eliminated 150 positions since October 2014 following a major client's bankruptcy.
Atmel: In February 2015, a company product line once touted as its "future" was cut, though the specific number of local job losses was not detailed in the available snippets.
These layoffs were part of broader shifts in the technology and defense sectors during that period, influenced by changing client demands, contract losses, and industry restructuring.

Colorado Springs

2016

In 2016, Colorado Springs experienced a net job gain overall, with employers adding nearly 8,000 jobs.

Overall Job Market in 2016

The Colorado Springs area's job growth slowed slightly in 2016 compared to previous years but remained strong, with a 2.9% growth rate from 2015, resulting in a net increase of around 7,000 to 8,000 jobs by year-end.

Sectors with Job Losses

While some sectors like trade, transportation, utilities, education, and health services saw significant job gains. The specific sectors that observed job losses included:

Information sector: This sector shed jobs, though specific company names and numbers are not detailed in the provided data.

Manufacturing: This sector also experienced job losses, with 400 positions shed. The Microchip Technology acquisition of Atmel occurred in 2016; while that specific transaction aimed to move production to the Colorado Springs plant, job cuts related to declining product lines would happen later, toward the end of 2019.

In 2016, a key high-tech company in Colorado Springs, **X-IO Technologies**, announced significant job losses as it shut down its local manufacturing operations.

X-IO Technologies: The computer storage manufacturer laid off 70 to 80 employees in May 2016 as it ceased its Colorado Springs manufacturing after failing to secure financing. The company initially notified the state of a potential layoff of up to 107 employees under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act. The job cuts were part of a strategic shift to focus on data analysis and cybersecurity software due to a shrinking storage market.

Other news snippets may mention TeKnowledge and Microchip layoffs. They occurred in 2025, so they are not relevant to 2016 job losses.

2017

In 2017, the Colorado Springs high-technology sector generally experienced **job growth**, particularly within the professional and technical services industries. However, there was a specific, significant layoff announcement in early 2018 at the call center operator **StarTek**, which involved hundreds of job losses.

While the overall economic outlook for Colorado Springs in 2017 was positive with new job additions across various sectors, no major high-technology company job losses were reported in the search results specifically for that year.

Overall Trend: The area added thousands of jobs in 2017, with the professional and technical services industry contributing significantly to this growth.

Information Sector: The information industry was the primary sector to lose jobs, shedding a total of 100 jobs over the course of the year.

Manufacturing Sector: The manufacturing sector also experienced job losses, with about 400 positions shed.

Colorado Springs

2018

In 2018, there were no major reports of significant high-tech company job losses in Colorado Springs; instead, the overall trend indicated **job growth** in the technology sector for the region. Colorado's tech industry experienced overall growth in 2018, with the Denver/Boulder region, in particular, adding over 25,000 tech workers. Colorado Springs was also recognized as an "up-and-coming tech market" that year, with strong job growth projections and a high concentration of tech-related jobs.

Specific data points for 2018 in Colorado Springs show:

The city ranked highly among top technology sites in the U.S..

Tech wages in the area were growing.

There was a significant number of tech degree completions from local institutions, indicating a healthy talent pipeline.

In 2018, Colorado Springs experienced significant job losses, primarily concentrated in the **call center industry**, with closures and moving operations, resulting in approximately **1,000 lost jobs**.

Key companies involved in major job losses in 2018 included:

StarTek: Laid off all workers at its call center on March 31, moving the positions to the Philippines and possibly Honduras. An earlier round of layoffs of 261 employees occurred in February.

Conduent: Closed its call center on October 12, resulting in the layoff of all 410 employees.

Alorica: Closed its call center around December 31, 2017/early 2018, laying off employees.

Wells Fargo: Laid off 53 employees in October after shutting down its Consumer Lending Group Home Equity Fulfillment division.

Wide Open West (WOW): Laid off 24 "loyalty specialists" in February, moving some of those jobs to Nicaragua and Alabama.

2019

In late 2019, two technology companies in Colorado Springs announced significant job losses:

Microchip Technology: In December 2019, the Arizona-based semiconductor manufacturer announced plans to cut between 200 and 275 jobs at its Colorado Springs plant. The reductions were a mix of layoffs, voluntary resignations, and transfers, and the layoffs were scheduled to occur in early 2020.

S4 Inc.: Also in December 2019, S4 Inc., a Massachusetts-based government contractor, announced it would lay off 77 IT employees in Colorado Springs after losing a federal contract for IT systems management at NORAD and U.S. Northern Command. These job losses were effective in January 2020.

Both events marked a challenging period for the local high-tech job market at the end of that year.

In addition, **HomeAdvisor** closed its Colorado Springs office and laid off 223 employees.

Colorado Springs

2020

In 2020, Colorado Springs experienced significant high-tech job losses, primarily from two companies.

Microchip Technology: In early 2020, the Arizona-based semiconductor manufacturer cut between 200 and 275 jobs at its Colorado Springs plant through a mix of layoffs, voluntary resignations, and transfers. This reduction lowered the facility's workforce from 800 to just over 500 employees. The cuts were part of a broader trend of chip manufacturing moving overseas, signaling a potential end to the local chipmaking industry that once employed thousands.

S4 Inc.: A Massachusetts-based IT and cybersecurity provider for the U.S. government, S4 Inc. laid off 77 employees in January 2020. The company cited the loss of a major contract for IT service management at Peterson Air Force Base as the reason for the layoffs.

Broader Economic Context

While the Colorado Springs area generally showed resilience due to its large military, aerospace, and cybersecurity sectors; however, the state lost hundreds of thousands of jobs between February and April 2020. Colorado Springs lost **32,700 jobs** by April 2020, their lowest level since June 2015.

The job recovery in Colorado Springs was strong, and by the second quarter of 2021, the area had nearly recovered all jobs lost during the pandemic.

Impact by Industry

The job losses were most severe in specific industries statewide and in Colorado Springs:

Leisure and Hospitality: This sector experienced the largest private-sector job losses across the state, with tens of thousands of jobs cut due to social distancing restrictions and closures of restaurants, hotels, and entertainment venues.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities: TTU also saw significant job cuts across Colorado in 2020.

Construction: The construction industry experienced job losses less than L&H.

Other Services and Education and Health Services: These sectors had significant YOY job losses.

2021

- In 2021, the Colorado Springs area generally experienced strong job recovery, becoming the first metro area in Colorado to regain all jobs lost during the pandemic disruption. However, a few specific companies did announce job cuts that year.
- **Companies with Noteworthy Job Losses in 2021**
- **T. Rowe Price**: This financial services company cut **282 workers** in Colorado Springs, outsourcing the work to a contractor.
- **United Airlines**: The airline laid off **454 workers** across Colorado as a result of outsourcing its catering services to Gate Gourmet.
- **Pikes Peak Ranger District Office**: At least **four people** lost their jobs at this U.S. Forest Service office in Colorado Springs.
- **General Job Market Context in 2021**
- Overall, Colorado Springs and the state experienced a significant rebound in employer demand, surpassing the national average for job recovery rates during much of 2021. By the second quarter of 2021, total employment in Colorado Springs was at 99.8 percent of its level from a year prior, a loss of just 548 jobs, indicating a robust local economy compared to other metro areas.
- While there were some isolated layoffs, the general trend was one of growth, with the largest private sector job gains occurring in:
- Leisure and hospitality
- Professional and business services
- Trade, transportation, and utilities
- **State-level trends:** Across Colorado, some specific sectors, such as **education and health services** (~1,600 jobs) and **financial activities** (~1,200 jobs), experienced job losses in some individual months of 2021, though these were generally offset by large gains in other sectors like leisure and hospitality and professional and business services.

Colorado Springs

2022

In 2022, the state of Colorado, including the Colorado Springs area, saw overall job growth, and no specific reports of major, large-scale tech company job losses in Colorado Springs were found that year. The local economy maintained one of the nation's stronger job recovery rates from the pandemic. The local economy was performing well, with one report in March 2022 indicating that Colorado Springs had a 119% job recovery rate from the pandemic job losses.

While nationwide tech companies like Meta, Lyft, Coinbase, and Shopify announced significant job cuts in 2022, these were general trends and did not necessarily result in major specific layoffs reported for the Colorado Springs area at the time.

Economic Wins: The city's pro-business climate contributed to several business expansions. For example, Entegris Inc., a global advanced materials supplier, announced plans to build a new manufacturing center, a $600 million project expected to bring nearly 600 new jobs to the area.

Unemployment Rate: The unemployment rate in Colorado Springs remained relatively low and stable throughout 2022, generally staying between 2.8% and 4.3%.

Notable Company Job Loss Information (State-wide context)

While Colorado Springs was generally in a strong position, some job cuts were announced by companies with a statewide presence or national operations, but not necessarily a major local impact:

Starry Inc.: An internet provider, laid off 41 workers at its Centennial office (not Colorado Springs) in October 2022 due to business changes.

Chord Energy: The company resulting from the Whiting Petroleum and Oasis Petroleum merger, planned to lay off 104 workers in Denver in December 2022.

Planterra: This plant-protein food maker was closing its Lafayette office and Denver plant, impacting approximately 121 employees.

In summary, 2022 was a period of strong job growth and economic recovery for Colorado Springs, with specific company job losses being part of broader state or national economic shifts rather than a local trend of decline.

2023

In 2023, the Colorado Springs high-tech sector experienced overall **job growth** but was impacted by a major national trend of tech industry layoffs, though no specific mass job losses tied to a single company *within* Colorado Springs facilities were widely reported for that year. The region actually saw a 12.3% growth in tech employment over the five years leading up to 2023.

While global tech giants such as Google and Microsoft announced significant company-wide job cuts in 2023, these were part of broader national and international restructuring and were not reported as major single-event layoffs at their Colorado Springs sites at that time.

In 2023, high-tech companies in the Colorado Springs area, specifically the Broomfield facility, experienced job losses primarily associated with **Broadcom's acquisition of VMware**, which resulted in the layoff of **184 local employees**.

The layoffs were a consequence of the $69 billion merger between semiconductor manufacturer Broadcom and VMware, which was finalized in November 2023. The job cuts were part of a larger, nationwide workforce reduction following the acquisition.

News reports for Colorado Springs-specific tech layoffs in 2023 were limited, primarily focusing on the wider national trends and how outdated hiring practices might be a problem for placing new talent locally. The local tech employment base was strong, with over 20,000 tech workers in 2023, demonstrating a growing market.

The area ranked as the second up-and-coming market for tech talent in North America in a 2024 report based on 2023 data, indicating a generally positive employment environment despite national volatility.

Colorado Springs

2024

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2025

In 2025, Colorado Springs saw mixed job trends, with general growth but specific losses. While sectors like Health Services and PBS gained jobs, Financial Activities saw declines, and broader state reports showed less job growth than estimated, with ongoing shifts towards tech roles and away from cashier/telemarketing.

Key Job Loss Areas & Factors (2025):

City Government: Around 40 positions were cut due to a projected $31 million budget deficit, impacting city services and raises for employees.

Microchip:In early 2025, Microchip announced permanent layoffs affecting 238 employees at its Colorado Springs semiconductor facility, with notifications in March and effective layoffs in May.

TeKnowledge, a global technology company providing AI and cybersecurity services, announced plans in September 2025 to eliminate 324 positions at its Colorado Springs facility. The company cited "changing client demand, significant changes in the global technology landscape, economic conditions, and industry structure" as reasons for the reduction. The layoffs were scheduled for October 30 to December 30, 2025. Most of the eliminated positions were technical support engineers.

Slowing Local Economy: High interest rates, low consumer spending, and reduced revenue contributed to the city's budget challenges, as noted by the Mayor.

State-Level Revisions: A federal report in September 2025 revised previous data, showing 51,200 *fewer* jobs created in Colorado over the year ending March 2025.

Broader Context & Trends:

Long-Term Shifts: The job market is moving towards AI, cybersecurity, FinTech, and healthcare, while automation threatens roles like cashiers and telemarketers.

While Colorado Springs' economy showed resilience and growth in some areas, significant factors, including city budget constraints and broader economic slowdowns, led to specific job reductions and revisions to job creation figures throughout 2025.

Fort Collins

2000

In 2000, high-tech and manufacturing job losses began in the Fort Collins and Greeley areas, a precursor to the more severe tech bubble burst and recession in 2001.

Specific job losses in 2000 included:

EFTC Corp. (Electronic Fab Technology Corp.) in Greeley, a small-lot electronics manufacturer, began its significant decline and layoffs in the late 1990s due to an Asian economic slump, continuing into 2000 and beyond.

Hewlett-Packard (HP), a major employer in Fort Collins, experienced various cycles of layoffs and downsizing around this period as the tech industry began to face challenges. HP's operations were central to the Fort Collins tech scene.

Colorado's information sector, which includes internet and software development companies, began experiencing large employment declines in metropolitan areas like Fort Collins and Greeley starting in 2000.

The year 2000 marked the start of an economic downturn in the tech sector, which led to a more significant and pronounced period of job losses across Colorado between 2001 and 2003, especially in manufacturing and technology.

2001

During the 2001 dot-com bubble collapse, the Fort Collins/Greeley area experienced significant high-tech job losses, with major companies like **Agilent Technologies** announcing substantial layoffs. Overall, technology job losses were more pronounced in Colorado than the national average.

Specific Company Layoffs

Agilent Technologies announced plans in mid-2001 to lay off 400 of its 5,800 Colorado workers by the end of September of that year.

Hewlett-Packard (HP), a foundational high-tech employer in Fort Collins, was also affected by the broader economic downturn and experienced significant job cuts, with reports from Silicon Valley at the time mentioning layoffs at companies previously considered safe, such as HP.

Regional and State Context

Overall Impact on Colorado: Technology job losses in Colorado were relatively more severe than in the rest of the U.S. In 2001, employers in the state shed more than 13% of their tech jobs, compared to the U.S. average of 7%.

Wider Economic Indicators: The recession, which began in early 2001, led to rising office vacancy rates across the Front Range. The office vacancy rate in the northwest area of Colorado, which includes Boulder and likely Fort Collins/Greeley, reached 35.2% during 2001, reflecting the severe impact on the business sector.

Regional Trends: While the specific number of jobs lost in the Fort Collins/Greeley area is difficult to isolate precisely from the available data, the region was not immune to the national and statewide trends of significant high-tech industry contraction. The job market for high-tech workers nationwide shrank by nearly 19% between March 2001 and April 2004.

Fort Collins

2002

In 2002, the Fort Collins and Greeley areas experienced significant job losses, primarily in the technology and manufacturing sectors, as a result of the early 2000s recession and company-specific restructuring.

Specific company actions in 2002 included:

Sykes Enterprises Inc.: The company closed its Greeley customer support center in the first quarter of 2002, resulting in approximately **200 job losses**. The closure was attributed to reduced call volumes as a result of a downturn in the dot-com industry and general technology purchases.

Hewlett-Packard (HP): A major employer in the region, HP announced it would cut an additional **1,800 jobs** globally beyond the 15,000 reductions already planned as part of its merger with Compaq. These were part of multiple layoffs that affected HP's Fort Collins operations around that time.

Agribusiness: Meat processing plants in Greeley and Fort Morgan announced 190 job losses in January 2004 due to concerns over "mad cow disease", but this reflects the general volatility in that sector during the early 2000s recession.

Statewide Context: Colorado as a whole lost a net of some **25,000 technology jobs** during 2002, highlighting that the local losses were part of a broader statewide trend.

Despite the losses, the area saw some employment stability and even growth in other sectors. For instance, the Fort Collins-Loveland area unemployment rate in July 2002 was 3.4%, nearly equal to the previous year, suggesting a relatively strong local labor market compared to other parts of the state experiencing higher unemployment. Greeley also had several stable major employers like the school district, university, and hospitals which helped anchor the local economy.

2003

In 2003, Fort Collins experienced job losses across its high-tech sector, mirroring a national trend during the post-dot-com bubble downturn. Specific major companies that contributed to job cuts in the area included **Hewlett-Packard (HP)** and its spin-off **Agilent Technologies**, and **Advanced Energy Industries**.

The specific number of jobs lost at each company within Fort Collins in 2003 is not fully detailed in available summaries, but reports confirm significant cuts in the region around that time as the state's economy struggled.

Hewlett-Packard (HP): Following its major merger with Compaq in 2002, HP underwent extensive global job cuts that continued into subsequent years, affecting its large workforce in Fort Collins.

Agilent Technologies: The semiconductor maker, a spin-off from HP, was also cutting jobs, with reports noting 100 cuts in 2004 that moved some positions overseas.

Advanced Energy Industries: This company, which produces equipment for computer chip manufacturing, also announced significant layoffs and moved some manufacturing operations in the early-to-mid 2000s.

Celestica: While their major cuts of 800 workers in Fort Collins occurred in 2005 as part of a consolidation plan, the decision was related to the overall industry climate and the performance of the plant was not cited as a reason.

The job losses in Fort Collins were part of a larger trend of economic downturn in the early 2000s, where several high-tech firms in the area reported significant job cuts

Overall, the high-tech industry nationwide lost 333,000 jobs in 2003, with the local Fort Collins situation being part of this broader industry contraction. The full scope of individual company losses contributed to a challenging economic environment for the city's tech sector during that period.

Fort Collins

2004

In 2024, the primary reported high-tech job loss event in Fort Collins was at the fintech company **BillGO**, which laid off 80 employees. Other large national tech companies also had significant layoffs in 2024, but the local impact in Fort Collins was less specific in reporting, though OtterBox has had recurring layoffs in recent years.

Specific Fort Collins Layoffs in 2024

BillGO: In February 2024, the bill-paying software startup BillGO laid off 80 employees. The layoffs affected staff at the company's Fort Collins headquarters on E. Harmony Road, as well as remote workers in other states. The company cited a "material change" in business opportunities as the reason for the cuts, which primarily impacted engineering roles.

Broader Colorado and National Context

OtterBox: While not a single major event reported for 2024 specifically in the search results, the local community on Reddit noted a pattern of ongoing layoffs and organizational restructuring at the Fort Collins-based OtterBox around that time.

State-Level Data Issues: Colorado experienced data quality issues with its employment statistics in 2024 due to a system upgrade, which made precise state-wide job loss figures uncertain for a period.

National Tech Trends: The national tech industry saw widespread layoffs throughout 2024, driven by factors such as over hiring during the pandemic, economic shifts, and a pivot towards AI and automation. Major companies like Google, Microsoft, Amazon, and Intel announced significant job cuts globally.

2005

- In 2005, the Fort Collins high-tech sector experienced **significant job losses, primarily from Celestica, which closed a major plant, and as part of Hewlett-Packard's (HP) global restructuring**.
- **Key Companies and Job Losses**
- **Celestica:** The electronics manufacturer announced in April 2005 that it would close its Fort Collins plant, resulting in approximately **800 job losses** (around 500 full-time and 300 part-time positions). The company, which had purchased HP's printed circuit assembly operation years earlier, cited consolidation and a move to lower-cost solutions as the reasons for the closure.
- **Hewlett-Packard (HP):** In July 2005, HP announced a massive worldwide restructuring plan involving 14,500 job cuts (about 10% of its global workforce) over 18 months. While the company did not specify the exact number of job losses for the Fort Collins campus at the time of the announcement, the area was a major hub for HP's operations and was significantly affected by the ongoing, multi-year trend of cuts and spinoffs.
- **Other companies:** The overall technology industry in the region was still recovering from the early 2000s tech bust, and other companies also experienced shifts. For example, Intel bought HP's Itanium chip design team and moved 400 workers to a new facility, changing the employment landscape but not necessarily resulting in net job losses for those specific employees in 2005.
- The job losses were part of a broader trend of technology manufacturing jobs moving overseas and corporate consolidations to cut costs and increase competitiveness.

Fort Collins

2006

In 2006, while the state of Colorado experienced a net loss of high-tech jobs overall, the **Fort Collins-Loveland area specifically saw high employment growth** in general, and no major, specific high-tech company job losses were publicly reported for that year.

The economic context for Fort Collins in 2006 included:

Overall Growth: The Fort Collins/Loveland area had a robust 7.7% nonfarm employment growth rate as of November 2006, which was one of the highest in the state.

State-Level Trend: Colorado as a whole experienced a loss of 1,700 high-tech jobs between 2005 and 2006, earning it a spot on a list of "Bottom 5 Cyberstates". This indicates that while other parts of the state struggled with tech employment, Fort Collins remained strong.

Company News:

Waterpik closed its Loveland facility in January 2006, though the number of high-tech specific jobs lost is not specified.

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) announced plans in July 2006 to open a center in Fort Collins, which was expected to create 200 new jobs.

Job cuts at major local employer Hewlett-Packard (HP) were more prominent in the years immediately prior (2004, 2005) and following 2006, as part of larger global restructuring efforts.

In summary, 2006 appears to have been a relatively stable or positive year for high-tech employment within Fort Collins itself, contrasting with the state-wide trend and surrounding years which featured more significant layoffs.

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2007

In 2007, the Fort Collins high-tech industry experienced significant job losses, with the **Hardware Cluster shedding an estimated 800 jobs**, contributing to an overall decline of 838 workers in the local technology sector.

This local contraction occurred within a broader state and national context of a struggling high-tech industry that had been losing jobs since the early 2000s.

Specific Company and Industry Impacts

Hewlett-Packard (HP): While specific numbers for Fort Collins in 2007 are not precisely itemized in reports, HP was a major local employer and had been "bleeding jobs by the hundreds over the years" through outsourcing and consolidation efforts. In 2006, Intel purchased a building across from the HP campus and moved its 400 Fort Collins workers there in 2007, a move that consolidated operations but did not represent new job losses in that specific instance.

Celestica: This company, which had purchased HP's printed circuit assembly operation earlier, announced in 2005 that it would consolidate operations elsewhere, a process that likely impacted the job market around 2007, though specific 2007 figures are not available.

Dako: The firm Dako announced layoffs of 30 people in Fort Collins in July 2007.

State-Level Trends: A 2007 report noted that Colorado's high-tech employment dropped by approximately 1,700 jobs statewide, causing the state to slip from first to third place nationally in the concentration of tech workers.

Overall Local Sector: The Fort Collins Technology Cluster saw a 7.0% decline in employment in 2007, with hardware manufacturing being hit the hardest at an 18.6% job contraction.

These job losses were part of an economic downturn that preceded the official start of the Great Recession in December 2007, with the local hardware sector being a primary area of impact.

Fort Collins

2008

In 2008, a prominent Fort Collins high-tech company that announced job losses was **Advanced Energy Industries**, which cut about 114 jobs globally, impacting its local workforce. Hewlett-Packard (HP), another major tech employer in the city, was also undergoing significant global changes and job cuts during this period, though specific local numbers for 2008 are less precise in available reports.

Advanced Energy Industries

In December 2008, Advanced Energy (a provider of power and control technologies) announced it would reduce its global workforce by approximately 7%, or 114 people. This was part of a cost-saving measure to "better align its cost structure with current market conditions" during the Great Recession. Other measures included executive pay cuts and reductions in board of directors' fees.

Hewlett-Packard (HP)

HP has a long history in Fort Collins and was a major employer. While the company experienced numerous layoffs and downsizings over the years, the global scale of job cuts in 2008 was massive. The company acquired EDS in 2008 and decided to dismiss 24,600 "redundant" employees globally. While the exact number of job losses in the Fort Collins office in 2008 alone isn't clearly delineated, the site's workforce has significantly decreased from its peak of 3,200 employees, reflecting a general trend of consolidation and job reductions over time due to economic shifts and company splits.

Broader Fort Collins Tech Sector Impact

Overall, the technology cluster in Fort Collins was impacted by the recession. From late 2008 to late 2009, the broader technology cluster in Fort Collins shed 707 jobs. The "Hardware component" specifically accounted for the majority of these losses. Despite these localized hardships, Colorado as a whole actually managed to add 5,100 high-tech jobs in 2008, a testament to the complex and varied impact of the recession across different regions and sectors.

2009

In 2009, the high-tech sector in Fort Collins, particularly the hardware component, experienced significant job losses as part of the broader economic recession.

Overall Statistics

The Fort Collins **Technology Cluster** shed **707 jobs** (an 11.9% decline) from the fourth quarter of 2008 to the fourth quarter of 2009.

The **Hardware Cluster**, which comprised the majority of the local tech industry, was most heavily impacted, accounting for over 95% of these losses.

Key Companies and Specific Cuts

Advanced Energy Industries Inc., a major Fort Collins tech firm, implemented significant workforce reductions in and around 2009:

In December 2008, the company announced a global workforce reduction of about 114 people, or 7% of its total workforce.

In March 2009, it announced a further reduction of approximately **330 people** globally (22% of its workforce) and a 10% salary cut for executives. These cuts affected the local Fort Collins manufacturing plant.

Hewlett-Packard (HP), a foundational and major employer in Fort Collins, experienced global job cuts during this period (part of 47,540 company-wide job cuts since the recession began). While specific 2009 local numbers are not detailed in the snippets, the company saw thousands of engineers pass through its doors over the years with ongoing downsizing efforts.

Other companies in Northern Colorado were also affected, including Seagate, which had job cuts at its nearby Longmont facility. Woodward Governor, a local company, also confirmed plans to cut employee levels in March 2009 to match a lowered sales outlook. The job losses in Fort Collins mirrored national trends where the U.S. high-tech sector lost 245,600 jobs in 2009, with high-tech manufacturing being the biggest loser.

Fort Collins

2010

In 2010, the Fort Collins area continued to experience job losses in the high-tech sector, a trend that had been ongoing since the early 2000s. While there weren't specific mass layoff announcements from major individual tech companies in 2010 (unlike previous years), overall data indicated a decline in the sector's employment.

Key points regarding the high-tech job situation in and around 2010:

The broader "Technology Cluster" (hardware and software combined) in Fort Collins had lost a total of 838 jobs over the three years leading up to a September 2010 report.

The majority of these losses (800 jobs) were in the Hardware Cluster, while the Software Cluster shed 37 jobs in that same period.

State-wide, economists in July 2010 expected Colorado to lose more jobs than initially predicted for the year as businesses remained cautious about hiring.

The period between the third quarter of 2007 and the second quarter of 2010 saw the loss of 134,000 jobs across several industries in Colorado, including computer and electronic product manufacturing and telecommunications.

Despite the general decline, a July 2010 article noted that Hewlett-Packard (HP), a major local employer, was adding jobs in Fort Collins, contrasting with the company's worldwide layoff announcements that year.

Overall, 2010 was a period of continued contraction for the local high-tech manufacturing sector, even as some individual companies and other sectors like professional and technical services began to show signs of recovery.

2011

In 2011, national reports indicated a generally positive trend for the tech industry with a net gain in jobs overall, and no specific major job losses were publicly announced by a single high-tech company operating in Fort Collins at the time.

While no single large layoff event in Fort Collins' tech sector was reported in 2011, the period was characterized by broader economic shifts and ongoing, smaller-scale changes within major local employers like Hewlett-Packard (HP) as part of their national and global strategies.

Key points regarding the 2011 timeframe:

National Tech Trends: The year 2011 saw the lowest level of planned job cuts in the computer, electronics, and telecommunications sectors since 1997, and the industry as a whole added more jobs than it cut.

Local Context: The local economy was still in a recovery phase following the Great Recession. Discussions in Fort Collins centered on the need for economic development to offset general, natural job losses and the growth of high-tech startups as a source of job creation.

Hewlett-Packard (HP): As a major employer in the region, HP was undergoing a long-term evolution with ongoing downsizings and campus sales over several years, but specific large-scale, publicly announced local layoffs did not occur in 2011 itself. A major national round of job cuts was announced the following year in May 2012.

Agilent Technologies: In nearby Loveland, Agilent negotiated a deal to sell its campus to the city in May 2011, though this was part of a larger plan to revitalize the area rather than a direct mass layoff event.

In summary, 2011 was a relatively stable year for the high-tech sector in Fort Collins compared to other years, with no major company-specific job loss announcements.

Fort Collins

2012

In 2012, the primary high-tech company in Fort Collins that experienced job losses was **Hewlett-Packard (HP)**, as part of a major global restructuring.

Hewlett-Packard (HP) Job Losses

Global Cuts: In May 2012, HP announced a company-wide plan to cut approximately 27,000 jobs globally over two years in an effort to save costs.

Fort Collins Impact: The company did not specify the exact number of job losses for the Fort Collins site at the time of the initial announcement, but it was confirmed that some employees in Colorado operations, including those in Fort Collins, would be affected. HP had operations in Fort Collins, Loveland, Littleton, and Colorado Springs.

The global tech industry experienced significant layoffs in 2012, with other major companies like Yahoo, Cisco, and Nokia also announcing job cuts, which contributed to a high level of tech-sector layoffs for the year. The Fort Collins area, with its strong historical ties to HP, has experienced various waves of tech-related job changes over the years, though the 2012 cuts were part of a large, high-profile restructuring event for HP.

2013

In 2013, there were no specific reports found of major mass layoffs at a single high-tech company in Fort Collins. General reports from the time suggest that the tech sector nationally was actually a "bright spot" of the economy with declining job cuts compared to the previous year.

While some news snippets discuss various tech company layoffs in Fort Collins, such as Advanced Energy and HP, these occurred in different years (e.g., 2004, 2008, 2016).

The year 2013 in Colorado's tech scene was primarily noted for:

Job Creation: Four Colorado cities were among the top 10 in tech startup lists, indicating a robust and growing startup environment that created net new jobs, which more than compensated for early-stage business failures.

Declining Mass Layoffs: The total number of mass layoffs across all industries in Colorado declined in December 2012 compared to the year prior, and extended mass layoff events nationally reached their lowest levels in the first quarter of 2013.

Therefore, 2013 appears to have been a relatively stable or growth-oriented year for the Fort Collins high-tech sector, not one marked by significant job losses.

Fort Collins

2014

In 2014, while major global high-tech companies like Hewlett-Packard (HP) announced significant job cuts, there were no large-scale, specific **local job losses** from a single high-tech company site announced in Fort Collins, CO. Instead, the region saw a continuation of a gradual, long-term decline in the local tech sector employment that began after its peak around the early 2000s.

Context of the 2014 Tech Job Market

National Trends: The year 2014 saw a general rise in tech-sector job cuts nationally, reaching over 100,000, primarily driven by large restructuring efforts from "old-guard" tech giants like Microsoft (18,000 global cuts) and HP (16,000 global cuts that year, part of over 50,000 since 2013). These were global or national announcements, not specifically targeted at the Fort Collins facility.

Fort Collins Outlook: At the time, an October 2014 article noted that while overall employment in computer and electronic product manufacturing in the county had dropped steadily since its peak in 2000, the local tech sector was still considered a potential source for future growth.

The Fort Collins tech community, while historically shaped by the presence and subsequent downsizing/spinoffs of HP (which led to companies like Agilent, Avago, and Keysight), did not experience a single major, public mass layoff event in 2014. The ongoing trend was one of gradual change and industry flux rather than a specific, major single-year event.

2015

In 2015, Fort Collins' tech scene saw significant shifts with the historic split of **Hewlett-Packard (HP)**, leading to uncertainty for its ~2,000 local workers as operations divided into **HP Inc.** and **Hewlett Packard Enterprise**, while another firm, **Veeco**, began its closure, affecting around 30 jobs, though major widespread tech layoffs weren't the primary story, but rather industry restructuring.

Key Tech Company Impacts in 2015:

Hewlett-Packard (HP) Split:

The big story was HP's corporate separation into two entities (HP Inc. for PCs/printers and HPE for enterprise services/hardware).

About 2,000 Fort Collins employees faced uncertainty as they awaited the impact of this massive restructuring, with ongoing downsizing in subsequent years.

Veeco Instruments:

Veeco, a semiconductor equipment maker, started closing its Fort Collins facility in 2015, impacting around 30 workers in stages, though this was announced in 2014, with final cuts in 2015.

Other Industry Trends:

Nationally, the tech sector saw overall cuts decrease in 2015 compared to 2014, though large companies like Microsoft, Intel, and Unisys still announced significant layoffs, influencing the broader tech environment that Fort Collins is part of.

While 2015 wasn't defined by a single massive tech layoff event in Fort Collins, the HP split marked a major transition, and Veeco's closure represented specific job losses within the local high-tech sector.

Lockheed Martin: In September 2015, Lockheed announced 500 layoffs in its IT services division nationwide due to "shifting government priorities," which affected its Colorado workforce, including employees at the Waterton Canyon campus, though the exact number of job losses in Fort Collins specifically was not clear. While some news reports mention a 2015 tech sector trend of over 79,000 job cuts nationally, the information available for Fort Collins points to the HP split as the most significant event that year.

Fort Collins

2016

In 2016, a key Fort Collins high-tech company that experienced significant job losses was **Otter Products** (maker of OtterBox cases). Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) and HP Inc. were also undergoing global restructuring and layoffs that affected their local workforce.

Specific Company Job Losses in 2016

Otter Products: In March 2016, the Fort Collins-based company confirmed an undisclosed number of job cuts as part of a departmental restructuring. This followed a "small number of jobs" layoff in July of the previous year. News sources, citing internal sources, estimated the layoffs in the range of 65 to 80 employees. At the time, the company employed about 1,000 people, with roughly 850 in Colorado.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) / HP Inc.: While specific numbers for the Fort Collins campus in 2016 are not precisely detailed in the results, both HPE and HP Inc. (which had split into two separate companies in 2015) were undergoing major, multi-year global workforce reductions during this time due to slumping PC sales and a shift to software-based solutions. The Fort Collins campus, a major employer, was impacted by these ongoing changes and the sale of parts of its vast campus property to developers.

Broader Industry Context

Across the tech industry in 2016, many large, traditional hardware-focused companies were shedding jobs as the industry shifted towards cloud and software-based services. Companies like Cisco, Intel, Microsoft, and Symantec all announced major global layoff plans in 2016, which would have had ripple effects across the sector, including in tech communities like Fort Collins. Fort Collins data for a period including 2016 shows the local Technology Cluster experienced a 7.0% decline in workers, with a significant contraction in the Hardware Cluster.

2017

In 2017, the most significant job changes in the Fort Collins tech sector involved the ongoing workforce reduction at the Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) and HP Inc. sites, which saw their combined employment fall to approximately 900-1,100 employees.

While no single major high-tech company layoff was reported as a specific event *in* Fort Collins during 2017, the city experienced a general downward trend in high-tech employment that year, continuing from a peak around the early 2000s.

Key Details

Hewlett Packard (HP Inc. and HPE): The Fort Collins site, split into two companies in 2015, had a combined workforce of 900 to 1,100 by 2017, a substantial drop from its peak employment of 3,200. This indicates a continuous reduction in force over several years, including through 2017. The companies were among the city's largest private employers, though operating at a fraction of their former size.

General Trend: A 2017 small business survey by the City of Fort Collins indicated that while many tech companies reported increased profits, only a few respondents overall expected fewer employees, suggesting that widespread mass layoffs across numerous small tech firms were not the dominant story of the year.

Federal Cuts: Plans by the Trump administration to cut 39 positions at the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Fort Collins Science Center were revealed in late 2017/early 2018, though these were part of a federal government initiative and not a private tech company.

The general narrative for Fort Collins in 2017 was one of a mature tech community that had already seen significant downsizing from major employers like HP over time, rather than a year marked by a single, large-scale job-loss event at a high-tech firm.

Fort Collins

2018

In 2018, Fort Collins experienced some minor, ongoing job fluctuations typical for the tech industry, but there were no reports of massive, single-event job losses from a high-tech company that year. Fort Collins had a generally stable job market in 2018 with low unemployment and overall job growth. Reports from the time indicated:

The high-tech employment trend had been slightly downward in Fort Collins since its peak around the early 2000s, but this represented a long-term trend rather than a specific event in 2018.

Small, "low rumble" layoffs in higher-tech companies were occurring due to routine business decisions by corporate offices outside the city, rather than a "tidal wave" of cuts.

A survey of local businesses that year indicated the technology sector had the highest rate (60%) of increased profits, with very few total respondents expecting fewer employees across all industries.

Major, single-event tech layoffs in the area, such as those at Agilent Technologies, Advanced Energy, and Celestica, occurred in other years, notably in the early to mid-2000s and more recently in the 2020s.

2019

In 2019, news coverage regarding the Fort Collins high-tech sector focused on the long-term downsizing of Hewlett Packard Enterprise and HP Inc., rather than specific major job losses or large-scale layoffs announced that year. The Fort Collins area has historically seen a dynamic tech industry with a pattern of company spin-offs and employment fluctuations, but no single significant tech-company layoff event was reported for 2019 in the search results.

Key points from the news in and around 2019:

Hewlett Packard (HP Inc. and HPE): The news from June 2019 discussed how the HP campuses, once employing 3,200 people at their peak, had seen employment drop to between 900 and 1,100 workers by 2017 due to years of downsizing, spin-offs, and property sales.

General Context: The Fort Collins tech community was characterized by an entrepreneurial spirit, with many engineers from the original HP presence fostering new local businesses.

Other Layoffs (Outside 2019): Major tech job losses in Fort Collins that made headlines in other years included Advanced Energy Industries and Agilent Technologies cuts in 2004, and a large layoff by BillGO in 2024.

Overall, 2019 appears to have been a relatively stable year in terms of major, publicly announced tech company layoffs in Fort Collins, with the ongoing, gradual shifts at HP being the most notable long-term trend.

Fort Collins

2020

In 2020, Fort Collins experienced city-wide job losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with significant impacts felt across all sectors, including the high-tech industry.

While no single large-scale, high-tech specific layoff announcement for a major company in Fort Collins in 2020 was prominent in the search results, several key events and general economic trends indicate job instability and losses:

Pandemic-wide Job Losses: The state of Colorado lost 376,300 jobs in March and April 2020, with high numbers of individuals filing for initial unemployment claims throughout the year. Fort Collins eventually recovered its pre-pandemic payroll losses by December 2021, indicating a significant downturn in 2020.

Advanced Energy Headquarters Shift: Advanced Energy Industries Inc. (Nasdaq: AEIS), a major local tech manufacturer, moved its official headquarters from Fort Collins to Denver in 2020. While employees were not immediately laid off, the move represented the loss of a major corporate headquarters from Northern Colorado and a significant blow to the local tech scene's profile.

General High-Tech Trends: High-tech employment in the Fort Collins area had been on a slight downward trend for years following a peak around the early 2000s, with a number of spin-offs and downsizings occurring at companies like Hewlett Packard (HP) over the decade leading up to 2020.

Government Job Cuts: A separate, non-private-sector job cut proposal in late 2019/early 2020 at the U.S. Geological Survey's Fort Collins Science Center was set to eliminate 39 positions, which would have impacted public sector research and tech jobs.

Overall, the high-tech sector, along with others, faced challenges in 2020 due to the broader economic impact of the pandemic and pre-existing local trends.

2021

In 2021, the Fort Collins area generally experienced job growth and high leadership turnover as part of the "Great Resignation," with specific job losses in the information sector, rather than significant, widely reported mass layoffs at major high-tech firms.

Fort Collins High-Tech Employment in 2021

Overall Economic Climate: The Fort Collins economy recovered during 2021, with nonfarm payrolls increasing annually. The local job market was dynamic, marked by high employee turnover, often referred to as the "Great Resignation".

Information Sector Losses: The only sector to consistently lose jobs in the Fort Collins Housing Market Area (HMA) during both 2021 and 2022 was the **information sector**, which declined by an average of 200 jobs, or 6.9%, annually.

Company-Specific Layoffs: No major, single-event mass layoffs were widely reported for specific high-tech companies in Fort Collins in 2021.

Public Sector: The primary reported job cuts in the public records around that time were proposed or potential federal government position cuts at agencies like the USGS Fort Collins Science Center, which were part of political discussions/litigation in other years (e.g., 2025 in the search results, but the context suggests these reports may be misdated and refer to prior actions or proposals).

Private Companies: Companies such as Hewlett-Packard had seen multi-year divestment of operations in the region leading up to 2021, but specific 2021 mass layoffs were not a primary news item.

Context for Tech Layoffs

It is important to note that the massive tech layoffs that made national news occurred primarily in late 2022 and throughout 2023-2025, not 2021, as many companies adjusted their workforces after a pandemic-era hiring boom. In contrast, 2021 in Fort Collins was a period of overall job recovery and growth in most sectors.

Fort Collins

2022

In 2022, the Fort Collins area did not see significant, specific, publicly reported mass layoffs in its high-tech sector, though the general tech industry experienced a slight downward trend in employment that year. The major tech layoffs that occurred in 2022 primarily affected employees in large national and international companies, not specific Fort Collins-based firms.

Fort Collins High-Tech Employment in 2022

Overall Trend: The Fort Collins Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), along with Boulder and Colorado Springs MSAs, saw high-tech employment peak between 1997 and 2002, and trend slightly downward through 2022.

Information Sector Losses: The only sector in the Fort Collins Housing Market Area to lose jobs during 2021 and 2022 was the information sector, which saw an average annual decline of about 200 jobs, or 6.9 percent. This suggests a general contraction rather than a single, large-scale layoff event.

Company-Specific Data: Major local employers like Hewlett-Packard (HP) have seen changes over time, including the divestment and sale of campuses, but reports from 2022 do not indicate a single mass layoff in Fort Collins.

State and National Context

State-Level: Tech layoffs affected Colorado-based employees of national tech giants in late 2022, including Twitter (87 employees in Boulder), Lyft, Stripe, and Meta. However, specific numbers for Fort Collins employees were not widely reported.

National Tech Layoffs: The year 2022 saw a significant wave of layoffs across the U.S. tech industry, with companies like Amazon, Meta, and Microsoft cutting thousands of jobs nationally.

Job Market Strength: Despite some localized tech job losses, Colorado maintained a strong overall job market, with the Fort Collins area consistently having one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state.

While the national tech sector experienced a major reset and general high-tech employment trended slightly down in Fort Collins during 2022, there was no single large, publicly announced job loss event at a specific Fort Collins high-tech company that year.

2023

In 2023, the most notable specific event regarding high-tech company job losses in Fort Collins was a restructuring and an unspecified number of layoffs at **Otter Products**, the local technology accessories company.

While comprehensive, localized data on exact job losses for every high-tech company in Fort Collins specifically is difficult to track publicly, 2023 was characterized by significant, widespread tech sector layoffs nationally, which also impacted Colorado and its major tech hubs, including Fort Collins.

Key Events and Context in 2023

Otter Products Layoffs: In January 2023, Fort Collins-based Otter Products announced a company-wide restructuring and layoffs, attributing the decision to "continued challenges with macroeconomic conditions". The exact number of affected workers was not disclosed, as the cuts affected both local and remote employees, but the news was significant for the local tech community.

Widespread Tech Industry Cuts: The situation in Fort Collins mirrored a broader national trend. The U.S. tech sector saw a massive surge in layoffs in 2023, with around 200,000 U.S. tech employees laid off across the year as companies like Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, and Google made significant workforce reductions.

Impact on Colorado: Colorado, with its significant tech industry presence (ranking as the third most concentrated tech economy in the nation), was not immune to these cutbacks. Denver, Boulder, and Colorado Springs also experienced job cuts from tech giants with local offices.

Hiring Practices Shift: The trend in 2023 highlighted a shift in the labor market. After massive pandemic-era hiring sprees, companies reversed course and adopted more cautious, and sometimes outdated, hiring practices that made it difficult even for skilled new talent to find jobs, despite reported labor shortages in some areas.

Overall, while specific job loss numbers per company for Fort Collins are limited, the city's tech sector experienced the effects of the broader industry downturn in 2023, exemplified by the restructuring at its prominent local company, Otter Products.

Fort Collins

2024

In 2024, the primary reported high-tech job losses in Fort Collins were at the fintech company **BillGO**, which planned to lay off 80 people, mostly engineers, by March 31. There were also general reports of ongoing, smaller-scale layoffs at **OtterBox**.

Specific Fort Collins Job Losses in 2024

BillGO: In February 2024, it was reported that BillGO, a bill-paying fintech company, intended to cut 80 jobs at its Fort Collins headquarters and across remote positions. The company cited a "material change" in business opportunities as the reason for the layoffs. Most of the impacted employees were engineers.

OtterBox: Throughout 2024, online forums and local reports mentioned a series of recurring layoffs and organizational restructuring at OtterBox, a prominent local tech/accessories company. The exact number of total job losses across 2024 is not publicly specified in the provided search results but was described as ongoing.

Broader Context

State Level: At the state level, Colorado experienced some data reporting issues with its labor statistics in 2024, making precise statewide tracking difficult; however, overall, Fort Collins was noted for having positive job growth (1.6%) during parts of the year, even as Denver experienced a slight decline.

National Tech Trends: The Fort Collins job cuts occurred within a larger national trend of significant tech industry layoffs in 2024, with companies like Amazon, Microsoft, and Google making workforce reductions often attributed to over hiring during the pandemic, economic shifts, and a strong focus on AI investments.

Government Cuts (Note): While not high-tech private sector, proposed federal cuts in late 2025 were projected to impact nearly 40 positions at the U.S. Geological Survey's Fort Collins Science Center.

2025

In 2025, several federal government departments with offices in Fort Collins announced significant job cuts, but there were no specific reports found regarding mass layoffs by a single major private high-tech company based there. Layoffs in Colorado's broader tech and professional services sectors occurred throughout the year, but the specific impact on Fort Collins' private sector high-tech companies has been varied.

Fort Collins Specific Job Cuts (2025)

The most notable job losses announced in Fort Collins in 2025 were within federal government agencies:

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): The Fort Collins Science Center was slated to potentially lose 39 positions as part of a larger Department of the Interior restructuring.

USDA: While there were some job losses reported in other government sectors, Fort Collins was actually announced as one of five new regional hubs for relocated USDA employees, which is expected to bring new jobs to the area.

Broader Colorado and National Tech Sector Trends (2025)

State-level data and reports from national trackers indicate a volatile year for the tech sector, but specific details for private companies in Fort Collins are limited:

State Level: Colorado's professional and business services sector, which includes tech jobs, experienced overall job losses of 3,800 positions between May 2024 and May 2025. The state releases monthly WARN (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification) notices for mass layoffs, which primarily listed job cuts at other locations in Colorado, such as Pueblo and Jefferson County.

National Tech Industry: The tech industry nationally saw over 141,000 job cuts through October 2025, with major companies like Intel, Microsoft, and Amazon conducting layoffs across their U.S. operations. The rise of AI and general economic pressures were cited as reasons for these cuts.

Boulder

2000

In 2000, Boulder's high-tech sector experienced the initial stages of the **dot-com bubble burst**, which led to a slowdown in job growth and significant job cuts in the following years. While 2000 itself saw slight job growth in the manufacturing sector and overall robust employment, the subsequent recession heavily impacted the technology-centric Boulder Valley.

The Onset of Job Losses

The high-tech industry in Boulder, with its heavy concentration of IT and telecommunications employment, was particularly vulnerable when the bubble burst in early 2001. Although the most severe job losses occurred in 2001 and beyond, the year 2000 marked the end of the high-growth period, with signs of trouble emerging in late 2000.

Specific company actions in and around 2000 included:

Storage Technology Corp. (StorageTek) in Louisville laid off 350 people as part of a worldwide restructuring due to poor earnings and a falling stock price.

The overall **transportation, communications, and public utilities sector** experienced lower job increases in 2000 after robust growth in 1999, which was a harbinger of the 6,300 job losses the sector would suffer in 2001.

Impact and Key Companies Involved

The bursting of the bubble "rocked the high-tech-centric Boulder Valley". Companies that subsequently executed mass layoffs in the early 2000s included: Sun Microsystems, Qwest, Exabyte, GE Access, Displaytech, Evoke Communications, and Broomfield-based Level 3 Communications.

The local economy, highly reliant on these sectors, experienced significant pain. Nonfarm payrolls fell significantly during 2002 and 2003, with the information sector declining sharply. The office vacancy rate in the northwest area of Colorado, including Boulder, more than doubled in 2001 and reached 36.0% in early 2002, reflecting the widespread impact of the downturn.

2001

In 2001, several Boulder-area high-tech companies experienced significant job losses due to the burst of the dot-com bubble. The tech industry in Colorado was hit particularly hard, with a larger share of the labor force in tech occupations compared to the national average.

Companies and Specific Job Cuts in 2001

Exabyte Corp.: This data storage company, headquartered in Boulder, announced it would cut 200 jobs at its local headquarters, with plans for additional cuts overseas.

NetLibrary: The Boulder-based academic book seller cut approximately 20 positions in one round of layoffs and a total of around 40 employees after pulling its initial public offering (IPO) in December 2000.

Zight Corp.: This microdisplay manufacturer closed at the end of 2001, having laid off a total of 100 employees throughout the year due to the economic downturn.

IBM Corp.: As part of a nationwide plan, IBM announced the layoff of about 24 employees in the Microelectronics Division of its Boulder chip manufacturing and development plant.

Level 3 Communications Inc.: While based in nearby Broomfield, Level 3 had its first-ever round of layoffs in April 2001 and ended the year having cut a total of 2,500 jobs across the company.

Broader Impact on Colorado and Boulder

The year 2001 marked a significant downturn for the tech sector.

Colorado's tech employment losses were more pronounced than the U.S. average, with employers in the state shedding more than 13% of their tech jobs, compared to the U.S., which lost 7% on average.

Venture capital investment in Colorado fell sharply in 2001, declining 70% from $5 billion to $1.5 billion, indicating a severe freeze in funding for tech companies.

The high-tech corridor along Highway 36 (which connects Westminster and Superior toward Boulder) saw its commercial vacancy rate soar from 1.64% in December 2000 to 29.3% by mid-2001, reflecting the widespread contraction.

Boulder

2002
In 2002, the Boulder high-tech sector experienced significant job losses as a result of the bursting of the dot-com bubble.
Specific Company Job Losses in 2002
Exabyte Corp.: This data storage company cut 33% of its nationwide workforce in January 2002, including 100 jobs at its Boulder headquarters. This followed previous cuts of 235 jobs in the spring of 2001 and 80 in November 2001.
Carrier Access: The company, which manufactured access equipment for telecommunications companies, cut 26 employees (5% of its staff) in January 2002, with 12 cuts at its Boulder headquarters.
SignalSoft: This software developer cut 30 employees, including 17in Boulder (early 2002).
DataPlay: The privately held data storage firm terminated its remaining 120 workers in October 2002. It put itself up for sale after failing to raise funds to continue operations.
Circadence Corp.: An Internet applications provider, Circadence cut 22 more jobs in January 2002. Its total workforce was down to 15 employees from 194 five months prior.
GE Access: While a layoff of 55 workers occurred in April 2001, the firm was among several mentioned as having executed mass layoffs during the overall tech bust period.
Level 3 Communications Inc. (Broomfield): Level 3 announced plans to cut another 750 jobs worldwide in October 2002.That reduction saw 40% of its workforce cut since April 2001.
Broader Economic Context
The entire state of Colorado saw a net loss of 50,000 jobs in 2002. The high-tech and telecommunications sectors were the most affected locally and nationally. The U.S. high-tech industry shed over half a million jobs in 2002 alone. The "Silicon Range" (Boulder County) had a very high concentration of tech workers and was extremely vulnerable to the downturn.

2003
In 2003, the Boulder area continued to experience significant job losses in the high-tech sector as a lingering effect of the dot-com bubble burst. While specific company-by-company numbers for that exact year are limited in the search results, the overall trend indicated a major regional downturn.

Overall Job Loss Data
Regional Impact: Between January 2001 and January 2003, the Boulder area saw a job loss rate exceeding **16 percent**, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Continued Decline: Nonfarm payrolls in the Boulder HMA (Housing Market Area) fell by an average of 5,150 jobs annually, or 3.1 percent, during 2002 and 2003, with the information and professional services sectors accounting for a large portion of this decline.
Statewide Trend: Colorado saw a net loss of approximately 25,000 technology jobs in 2002, with job losses expected to slow down in 2003 but continue nonetheless.

Companies Affected in the Boulder Valley
The period was marked by workforce reductions, bankruptcies, and company closures. Firms that executed mass layoffs in the early 2000s within the Boulder Valley and surrounding area included:
Agilent Technologies
Sun Microsystems (which had major national layoffs, some affecting the Colorado operations)
Qwest
Exabyte
GE Access
Displaytech
Evoke Communications
netLibrary (which went bankrupt)
Many of these companies were high-flying, venture-backed internet startups that could not survive the decline in corporate spending and the economic downturn.

Boulder

2004

In 2004, the Boulder area's high-tech manufacturing sector continued to experience **job losses**, a trend that began after the dot-com bubble burst in the early 2000s.

While Colorado as a whole began to see overall job growth in 2004, the high-tech and goods-producing sectors remained an area of weakness.

Continued Decline: Employment in the computer and electronic products manufacturing subsector in the Boulder area fell from 14,650 jobs in 2001 to 10,650 jobs in 2003, and the decline continued from 2004 through 2010.

Offshoring Vulnerability: A report from the Brookings Institution indicated that the Boulder metropolitan area was one of five U.S. metros most vulnerable to job losses from the offshoring of service-sector jobs, projecting a potential loss of 3.1 to 4.3 percent of jobs to offshoring between 2004 and 2015.

Regional Context: The Northern Colorado region (including Boulder, Fort Collins, etc.) lost more than 2,000 technology jobs between 2001 and 2003, and layoffs in the sector persisted into 2004.

Overall State Trends: Despite the tech sector's struggles, the broader Colorado economy was expected to show modest overall job growth in 2004, driven by growth in service-producing sectors. The tech industry downturn in the early 2000s significantly impacted the high-tech-centric Boulder Valley, and 2004 was still part of the period of struggle and restructuring for the sector.

2005

The most significant high-tech job losses affecting the Boulder area in 2005 were a result of **mergers and acquisitions**, specifically **Sun Microsystems' $4.1 billion buyout of StorageTek**.

Key Events and Impacts

StorageTek Acquisition: The 2005 acquisition of the homegrown StorageTek by Sun Microsystems combined two of the area's largest employers and led to subsequent job cuts as operations were consolidated.

Other M&A Activity: The data storage industry saw broader consolidation, with Seagate Technology's acquisition of Maxtor resulting in hundreds of job losses in Longmont, where both companies had facilities. Additionally, Broomfield-based McData had job cuts following its acquisition of Computer Network Technology Corp., and was later acquired by Brocade Communications, leading to more consolidation.

Overall Trend: The Boulder Valley economy was largely adding jobs during this period, with Boulder adding 300 tech workers from 2005 to 2006, as the area slowly recovered from the bursting of the telecommunications and technology bubble in the early 2000s. However, specific companies were heavily impacted by mergers that consolidated roles and facilities.

Hewlett-Packard (HP) Cuts: In July 2005, it was reported that Hewlett-Packard, which employed about 6,000 people in Colorado (many in Fort Collins and Loveland), was planning job cuts nationwide, the exact number in Colorado was unknown at the time.

While the region experienced some overall job growth in 2005, the high-tech sector, particularly the data storage segment, faced significant localized job losses due to major corporate restructuring and acquisitions.

Boulder

2006
In 2006, the Boulder area experienced tech job losses, most notably from major employers **IBM** and **Sun Microsystems**, which were part of a broader trend of consolidation and job cuts in the state's high-tech sector.

Details of Job Losses in 2006

IBM cut 200 jobs at its campus located between Boulder and Longmont. Despite these cuts, the company became the No. 1 private-sector employer in the Boulder Valley at the time.
Sun Microsystems, another major employer in Broomfield, also cut jobs in 2006, though the exact number in the immediate area is not specified in the snippets. These cuts followed its 2005 acquisition of the homegrown StorageTek, which led to consolidation.
Level 3 Communications was also in a period of workforce reductions due to acquisitions, having cut about 400 jobs in Colorado over the two years preceding early 2007.

State-wide Trend: Colorado as a whole lost an estimated 1,700 high-tech jobs in 2006, leading it to lose its long-held ranking as the state with the greatest concentration of high-tech workers.
Industry Consolidation: Mergers and acquisitions in the data storage industry, such as Seagate's acquisition of Maxtor, resulted in hundreds of job losses in Longmont.

2007
In 2007, the tech industry in the broader Colorado area, including the Boulder Valley, experienced targeted job cuts and a decline in its national ranking for tech concentration, a continuation of a post-dot-com bust trend, even as the overall state economy showed slight job growth.
Key points regarding job losses:
Major Employer Cuts: Two of the largest private-sector employers in Boulder and Broomfield counties, **IBM** and **Sun Microsystems Inc.**, both cut jobs in 2006 and held steady or continued to cut in 2007. IBM cut 200 jobs at its local campus and Sun operations also saw reductions before being acquired later.
Sector-Specific Declines: While the broader information sector was predicted to add some jobs statewide, the **telecommunications subsector** continued to shed positions due to ongoing consolidation, with an expected loss of 500 jobs in Colorado in 2007.
Manufacturing Decline: The computer and electronics manufacturing subsector in Colorado saw a significant 9% decline in employment in 2007.
Acquisition Impacts: Mergers and acquisitions led to job consolidation and losses. For example, Seagate Technology's acquisition of Maxtor resulted in hundreds of job losses in Longmont (where both had sites), and the acquisition of McData by Brocade Communications also impacted employment in Broomfield. Level 3 Communications, based in Broomfield, also had layoffs as a result of integrating acquired companies.
Overall State Trends: A report by the AeA (American Electronics Association) indicated that Colorado's high-tech industry employment dropped by about 1,700 jobs in the year leading up to April 2007, causing the state to slip from first to third in the nation for tech worker concentration. This was part of a broader trend where the state's economy began to show signs of the impending Great Recession, which officially began in December 2007.

Boulder

2008

The 2008 financial crisis had a significant impact on Boulder-area companies, and while the state of Colorado experienced overall job growth early in the year, local publicly traded tech companies did suffer hits, leading to layoffs that extended into 2009.

Impact on Boulder Tech Companies in 2008

Company-Specific Layoffs: Several Boulder-area publicly traded companies, including **Sun Microsystems Inc.**, **Level 3 Communications Inc.**, and **AeroGrow International**, experienced financial difficulties and subsequently laid off employees.

Acquisitions and Restructuring: Layoffs also resulted from corporate restructuring and acquisitions. For example, Seagate Technology's acquisition of Maxtor led to hundreds of job losses in nearby Longmont, where both companies had facilities. Broomfield-based McData also went through job cuts following its acquisition by Brocade Communications.

Broader Economic Context: The tech sector nationally experienced a surge in job cuts in late 2008, with over 100,000 jobs lost across nearly 300 different tech and media companies by mid-December.

Lagging Effect: While the national recession officially began in December 2007, Colorado was initially slower to feel the full effects, with some job growth in early 2008. However, by the end of 2008, university economists were predicting significant job losses for the state in 2009.

In general, the tech industry did not experience the same level of over-hiring that preceded the dot-com bust of the early 2000s, which helped mitigate some of the most severe potential job losses. However, the economic downturn ultimately forced many companies to implement aggressive cost-cutting measures, including significant workforce reductions.

2009

In 2009, the Boulder tech sector, like the overall national economy, experienced significant job losses as part of the Great Recession. While the full extent of job losses at specific, individual companies is not completely documented in public records, the area's **unemployment rate climbed to 6.6 percent** in June and July 2009, tying previous highs set during the 2002 dot-com bust.

General Impact on the Boulder Economy in 2009

Overall Job Market: Colorado was expected to lose between 55,000 and 65,000 jobs for the year 2009 across all sectors. The state's manufacturing sector, which included tech-related durable goods production (like computer-storage drives), lost 14,100 jobs between June 2008 and June 2009.

Tech Industry Specifics: Businesses, from small shops to large tech companies, scaled back operations, reflecting the tight credit and reduced consumer spending that characterized the recession. The technology industry in the area was particularly hard-hit, leading to a higher-than-normal number of skilled workers seeking employment.

Company-Specific Layoffs: Specific instances of layoffs that occurred around 2009 included:

AeroGrow: Cut one-third of its workforce in August 2009.

Lexmark International: Announced plans in October 2009 to cut 825 jobs companywide, with a facility located between Boulder and Longmont.

Insmed: Included 25 Boulder employees in layoffs announced in August 2009.

Ericsson: While the major cuts of 150 positions at its Boulder office came in September 2010, the economic conditions leading to such consolidations were present during 2009.

The job losses had a trickle-down effect on the local economy, impacting supporting businesses like restaurants and retailers, and leading to declines in sales tax revenue for local municipalities.

Boulder

2010
In 2010, the Boulder high-tech and professional services sectors experienced overall employment declines as the area continued to feel the effects of the Great Recession. A significant specific job loss that year was **Ericsson's decision to cut approximately 150 of 180 positions** at its Boulder office.
Context of Job Losses in 2010

Overall Economic Climate: The Boulder area and the state of Colorado experienced job losses caused by the recession during both 2009 and 2010. Economists noted cautious optimism but significant caution from companies regarding new hiring.
Sector Performance: The "Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services" sector—which includes many tech and engineering firms—was one of the hardest hit, with employment down 4.1% by mid-2010. The manufacturing sector also experienced significant average annual losses.

Specific Company Layoffs:
Ericsson: The most notable individual company layoff identified in 2010 involved the telecom giant Ericsson, which consolidated operations and nearly closed its Boulder office, eliminating around 150 jobs.

General Trends: The job losses were a result of a combination of company closures and staff reductions across various firms, as the gains made by some successful companies were offset by steep losses elsewhere in the sector.
Despite the losses, local experts noted that the high-tech community remained resilient, with a strong startup scene and support network, including the TechStars program, which helped laid-off workers find new opportunities.

2011
In 2011, Boulder's economy began a **rebound from prior years' job losses**, though some specific tech-related sectors experienced continued cut. The TechAmerica Foundation reported that Colorado lost 5,300 tech industry jobs in 2010, mainly in telecom and engineering services. However, 2011 data suggested a more positive trend nationally; a report by Challenger, Gray & Christmas indicated that planned U.S. tech sector job cuts in 2011 were the lowest since 1997, a significant drop from previous years.

State-level tech losses: Colorado as a whole saw a net loss of 5,300 tech industry jobs in 2010, mainly in telecommunications and engineering services. The 2011 state economic outlook projected that the manufacturing, information, and government sectors would continue to lose jobs, even as overall state employment was expected to grow slowly.
Boulder-area recovery: The broader Boulder economy had been expanding since 2011, following job losses in 2009 and 2010. By 2012, nonfarm payrolls had surpassed their pre-recession peak.
National trends: Nationally, the tech sector saw dramatically fewer job cuts in 2011 than in previous years, with computer and electronic manufacturing companies actually seeing a net gain in jobs.
Notable Local Layoffs
While the general trend was recovery, specific companies in the Boulder area did experience restructuring and layoffs:
InfoPrint Solutions: Ricoh, which had fully acquired the outfit from IBM, continued to have rounds of layoffs in 2011 as it moved the company's headquarters out of Boulder.
Butterball: A major non-tech employer, Butterball, announced the shuttering of its Longmont plant in September 2011, resulting in 350 job losses.
In general, 2011 marked a transition period where the area began to recover from the Great Recession, positioning itself for the high-growth tech startup period that followed in the mid-2010s.

Boulder

2012

The economy in the Boulder area was expanding in 2012, recovering from the prior recession, and there were generally **no widespread job losses in the high-tech sector** that year. In fact, overall nonfarm payrolls in the area surpassed their prerecession peak during 2012.

While some large national and international tech companies like Hewlett-Packard, Yahoo, and Cisco announced significant global layoffs in 2012, these were part of broader corporate restructurings and were not specifically concentrated in Boulder. The local economy was in a period of growth and recovery.

A 2014 report noted that while the overall software publishing sector in Colorado recorded net job losses in 2012 and 2013, the Boulder HMA (Housing Market Area) economy expanded in 2012. The losses in the software sector were a statewide trend and did not represent a major local downturn at the time.

The 2012 net job losses in the "software publishing" sector in Colorado were primarily due to specific large companies undergoing **national and global restructurings and strategic shifts**, rather than a broad, local economic downturn. These included a general industry move towards cloud-based services and increased competition. While general mass layoffs in Colorado fell in 2012, individual large, established tech companies like Hewlett-Packard (HP), Cisco, and Motorola Mobility (then owned by Google) announced major job cuts globally as part of restructuring efforts.

2013

In 2013, the **Colorado software publishing sector, which includes many Boulder-area companies, experienced net job losses**, declining by 4.2%. This was counter to the national trend of job growth in the software industry at the time.

Specific data on total job losses for all high-tech companies in Boulder in 2013 is not readily available in public search results, as data is often reported at a sector or state level. However, a major report from that time highlighted:

US-based tech employers overall announced fewer planned job cuts in 2013 compared to 2012, with the sector seen as a "bright spot of the economy" despite some specific cuts.

In 2013, specific companies with reported job cuts or other events included:

Tendril Networks Inc. (home energy management firm): Laid off 59 employees in January 2013 as part of a restructuring to achieve profitability.

Ball Aerospace: Announced plans to lay off between 100 and 125 workers in the Boulder area in the summer of 2013 due to delayed contract decisions and skill-mix issues.

Array BioPharma Inc. : Announced plans to eliminate about 20% of its staff, an estimated 50 jobs, in August 2013.

Trada Inc. (online pay-per-click advertising agency): Appeared to lay off "dozens" of staff members in November 2013 as part of a restructuring, though the exact number was not disclosed.

Level 3 Communications Inc.: Trimmed its global workforce by a "low single digits" percentage in January 2013 (impacting an estimated 200-400 employees globally, with some in the local headquarters) as part of a merger integration.

Rally Software, a local cloud-based software firm, went public in April 2013, which was generally seen as a positive sign for the local tech scene at the time.

Backflip Studios, a mobile gaming studio, was acquired by Hasbro in 2013. However, its significant layoffs and office closure occurred later, in 2019.

Boulder

2014

In 2014, the Boulder area high-tech sector experienced both job growth and some specific instances of job losses as the industry evolved.

Specific Job Losses

GHX (Global Healthcare Exchange): In March 2014, Louisville-based GHX laid off more than 130 workers following its acquisition by a private equity firm.

IBM (potential): The parent company, IBM, was undergoing massive national and global job cuts and reorganization during this period, which likely impacted its Boulder operations, though specific numbers for the local office were not explicitly detailed in the search results for that exact year.

National Telecommunications Industry: Job cuts in the telecommunications industry nationwide increased by 68 percent in 2014, a trend that may have had local impacts.

Overall Context

Despite these specific layoffs, the general trend for high-tech in the Boulder area was positive:

Overall Growth: The Boulder metropolitan area recorded a gain of 3,700 payroll jobs between March 2013 and March 2014, and the state as a whole was experiencing strong job growth.

Acquisitions and Expansion: Twitter acquired the Boulder-based social media aggregation company Gnip for $134 million in 2014, which led to Twitter establishing a significant local presence and creating a "center of gravity" for the local tech scene.

Strong Local Market: Tech firms in Boulder were competing fiercely for software engineers, and analysts predicted continued job growth and a "strong finish for 2014" for the state's economy.

In essence, while specific companies announced cuts as part of restructuring or acquisition fallout, the overall high-tech job market in Boulder in 2014 was generally strong and growing.

2015

In 2015, key specific job losses in or near Boulder in 2015 include:

Seagate: The data storage company confirmed cutting just under 70 jobs at its Longmont design center in September 2015 as part of a global "workforce optimization" plan.

Datu Health: The digital health company closed its Boulder headquarters in October 2015, resulting in the layoff of 42 employees as its software engineering functions were consolidated under its investment partner.

IBM: Throughout 2015, the company had ongoing, rolling job cuts across various divisions, including its Global Technology Services unit, which impacted employees at the Boulder campus. While specific numbers for 2015 alone are not fully detailed in the search results, ongoing "resource actions" (layoffs) were a known issue, with some work being moved overseas.

Intuit: The company announced the closure of its Douglas County call center in July 2015 (59 jobs). This was part of a company-wide reduction of 550 jobs due to a business model shift.

Overall, while there were significant individual company layoffs, a 2015 industry survey noted that job growth in the manufacturing sector (which includes some tech/industrial machinery) was up 1.7% in Boulder that year, indicating a mixed economic picture.

Amgen: While primarily a biotech firm, its job cuts had a large impact on the Longmont area's job loss numbers in early 2015. The Longmont Area Economic Council noted that a majority of the area's net job loss in the first quarter was due to Amgen's cutbacks.

Lockheed Martin: In September 2015, Lockheed Martin announced a nationwide layoff of about 500 people in its Information Systems & Global Solutions (IS&GS) division as part of a strategic review. While the exact number of job losses in the Colorado facilities (which employed about 3,400 in that division) was not specified, the state was one of the key locations for the division, and was expected to be impacted by voluntary and involuntary cuts.

Boulder

2016

In 2016,specific job losses in 2016 included:

Concentrix: In February 2016, Concentrix announced it was closing its site on the IBM Boulder campus, a move that resulted in the loss of approximately **270 jobs**.

IBM: Throughout 2016, IBM had multiple rounds of layoffs both nationally and in Boulder as part of its ongoing restructuring and "lift and Grip shift" strategy to move jobs offshore.

In March 2016, approximately **20 to 30 workers** were laid off from the Boulder facility.

Further unspecific rounds of job cuts were also reported in May 2016, impacting offices across the U.S., including Boulder.

Seagate Technology: In July 2016, Seagate announced global job cuts of 6,500 positions (14% of its workforce), but company officials initially indicated the Longmont design center might largely escape the impact, with most cuts expected at manufacturing facilities in Europe and Asia.

Pinnacle Foods: While not strictly a high-tech company, in August 2016, Pinnacle Foods announced it would cut **85 manufacturing and support roles** in Boulder as it moved production of its Evol Foods brand to Arkansas to accommodate growth.

In 2016, **Bioscience/Biotechnology** was identified as a growing powerhouse, relying on the area's research institutions and a network of supporting professional services. Companies in this field were focused on areas like tissue engineering and diagnostics. In addition, Colorado had a leading **"space cluster"** with significant activity in Boulder, including research, design, and manufacturing of satellites, space vehicles, and navigation equipment. Cleantech, Quantum Computing, and IT software specializations were other tech sectors with potential for growth.

2017

In July 2017, Sovrn, a company that provides tools for online publishers, announced it had laid off 27 people from its Boulder and Denver offices. The cuts represented 14% of the company's U.S. workforce at the time. According to CEO Walter Knapp, the decision was part of a strategy to "focus and prioritize" the company's operations amid rapid growth.

Broader Context

The overall high-tech job market in Boulder during this period was strong, with the area ranking highly for its concentration of tech jobs. Major companies like Google and Amazon were growing their presence in the area, driving employment. However, the year still saw targeted layoffs and restructurings within individual companies as the market evolved.

Other, related job shifts occurred nationally with some impact on Colorado:

A Denver-based tech startup, **TapInfluence**, also cut jobs in March 2017, less than a year after a significant funding round, highlighting some volatility in the broader Denver-Boulder tech corridor.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE): While not exclusively in Boulder, HPE announced in September 2017 that it was cutting 5,000 jobs globally, which was 10% of its total workforce. The company had facilities in Colorado (including one in Fort Collins that employed between 900 and 1,100 workers at the time) that were impacted by company-wide downsizing trends, though specific Boulder numbers were not detailed in the available reports.

Oracle: Oracle, which had acquired Sun Microsystems years earlier, eliminated more than 2,500 jobs globally in September 2017 within the former Sun division, affecting various locations. It is likely this impacted some Colorado-based employees, though a specific Boulder facility was not singled out.

National Labs: Concerns were raised in 2017 about potential job losses at federally funded labs in Boulder County (like NOAA and CU Boulder's CIRES) due to federal funding shortfalls, affecting nearly 3,600 employees, but these were related to government funding rather than private tech sector market shifts.

Boulder

2018

In January 2018, **Sphero,** the Boulder-based robot toy maker laid off approximately 45 employees, which was about a quarter of its staff, following a difficult holiday sales season. The company announced a strategic shift to focus on educational robots.

IBM: Throughout 2018, ProPublica and the *Boulder Daily Camera* reported on IBM's strategy of significant workforce reductions in the U.S., which disproportionately affected older workers, with estimates of more than 20,000 American employees ages 40 and over eliminated in the preceding five years. While not a single mass layoff event in Boulder, this reflected ongoing job cuts at its local facilities.

Conagra Brands: In June 2018, Conagra Brands acquired Pinnacle Foods Inc., the parent company of Boulder Brands. This acquisition eventually led to the closure of the Boulder office, with all 100 positions being eliminated beginning in May 2019 and continuing through March 2020. The decision was driven by post-acquisition integration needs.

Federal/NOAA-related cuts: There were also reports of significant federal funding cuts impacting local science and research jobs associated with the University of Colorado Boulder's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) and NOAA offices in the area, although the exact numbers for 2018 are less precise in the provided snippets. These were linked to the political climate and budget changes at the time.

Overall, 2018 saw a mix of company-specific restructuring and acquisition impacts rather than a widespread tech-industry crash in Boulder, a situation different from the broader tech industry layoffs seen in subsequent years.

2019

Key events in 2019 related to high-tech employment in Boulder included:

Conagra Brands Office Closure: In February 2019, Conagra Brands announced it was closing its Boulder office and eliminating all **100 positions** as a result of its post-acquisition integration of Pinnacle Foods Inc. Some employees were offered jobs at other facilities, but the Boulder office closed permanently at the end of the year.

Encision Inc. Personnel Cuts: In August 2019, Boulder-based medical device company Encision Inc. announced it was reducing personnel and company-wide spending due to a 20% decline in revenue. The company expected to save more than $1 million annually through these cuts to return to profitability.

Despite these individual company job losses, broader data suggested a healthy overall tech climate in Boulder for the year. A March 2019 report ranked Boulder fourth in the U.S. for the highest percentage of high-tech jobs, driven by large employers like Google and Amazon.

Boulder

2020

In 2020, the Boulder area, like many regions, experienced significant job losses across all sectors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with an estimated **15,700 jobs lost as of September 2020**. Specific high-tech companies were not the primary drivers of layoffs at that time; rather, the economic downturn was widespread.

While the tech industry in the Boulder area did not experience the widespread mass layoffs seen in later years, the following events occurred in or around 2020:

Overall Economic Impact: Boulder County's economy was robust but still lost approximately 15,700 jobs by September 2020, requiring recovery efforts. The state of Colorado as a whole was forecast to lose 128,500 jobs that year.

Conagra Brands Office Closure: In an event that began before the main impact of the pandemic but extended into early 2020, Conagra Brands closed its Boulder office, eliminating all 100 positions. This was a result of post-acquisition integration of Pinnacle Foods Inc. and occurred from late May 2019 through March 20, 2020. While a food company, this was an office closure affecting local employment.

General Tech Trends: The 2020 period was actually characterized by a hiring bonanza for many large tech companies nationally, as they expanded during the pandemic-driven remote work shift. The significant tech layoffs in Boulder and elsewhere largely occurred later, from 2022 into 2025.

Overall, the job losses in Boulder during 2020 were primarily driven by the broad economic effects of the pandemic across various industries, rather than specific, large-scale layoffs concentrated solely within the high-tech sector itself.

2021

In 2021, the **Boulder high-tech sector, specifically professional and technical services, experienced a net increase in jobs and businesses** despite an overall decrease in employment across the city due to pandemic-related losses in other sectors like hospitality. There were no significant, specific mass tech company job losses reported in Boulder during that year.

The 2021 Job Market in Boulder

Overall Trend: The period between 2019 and 2021 saw an overall decrease of 2,200 jobs in Boulder across all industries. However, this was largely driven by losses in sectors such as accommodation and food services, and arts, entertainment, and recreation.

High-Tech/Professional Services: The **Professional and Technical Services** industry, which includes many high-tech jobs like computer design and scientific research, actually experienced significant growth, adding approximately 6,097 jobs over a ten-year span that included 2021. The number of businesses in this sector also increased, indicating a period of startup activity and expansion.

Remote Work: A business survey from August 2021 found that many Boulder companies, particularly those in the tech-heavy professional services sector, shifted to remote work arrangements during the pandemic and planned to continue offering remote options indefinitely, which helped maintain employment levels.

Context of Job Market Changes

The tech industry experienced a global boom during the pandemic, leading to significant over-hiring that resulted in widespread layoffs in later years (2022-2025). However, in 2021, the Colorado economy as a whole was in a strong recovery phase, with private payroll jobs largely rebounding from 2020 lows.

While the "Information" sector was projected to see a minor decline in 2021, this was a small fraction compared to the gains in other professional and business services, and the data does not indicate a major wave of high-tech company job losses unique to Boulder in that specific year.

Boulder

2022

Major companies, such as Meta, Amazon, and Stripe, have implemented significant workforce reductions due to economic uncertainties, rising interest rates, and post-pandemic market corrections. Despite these specific layoffs, the general demand for tech workers in the broader Denver MSA remained strong during much of 2022, with job postings increasing by 40% year-over-year in the first half of the year.

Specific Company Layoffs in Denver/Boulder Area (2022)

Automox: The cybersecurity firm, despite raising significant funding the previous year, reduced its workforce due to the "broader economic climate". The company cut about 18% of its staff, or approximately 75 employees. The company had also cut about 10% of its workforce in April 2022.

Twitter: Following Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter in late October 2022, a massive round of global layoffs ensued. A WARN notice confirmed that 87 employees at the Boulder office were terminated.

Lyft: The ride-sharing company announced significant global job cuts in November, impacting approximately 700 employees (13% of its workforce). At least seven former employees listed themselves as located in Denver on public job loss trackers.

Stripe: The financial tech company cut 14% of its global staff (about 1,100 employees) in November..

Meta Platforms Inc. : Meta conducted mass layoffs in November, cutting over 11,000 employees globally. The company has a Denver office, and many local workers were reportedly affected, although the exact number of Colorado-based employees was not publicly confirmed at the time.

NextBite: The Denver-based virtual restaurant company laid off employees in July 2022.

Outside: The Boulder-based outdoor media and tech company (formerly Outside Interactive) laid off 12% of its staff in November due to "unprecedented pressures" from the economic climate.

American Financing Corporation: The mortgage lender in Aurora, laid off 194 employees in November. The tech industry slowdown in lending demand was a factor. Many other major tech companies without significant local offices also had large-scale layoffs in 2022 that affected some remote workers in the region, including Amazon, Microsoft, Coinbase, and Robinhood.

2023

In 2023, Boulder experienced significant high-tech and related job losses across several companies and sectors, primarily driven by **national industry trends**, **macroeconomic conditions**, and **federal funding cuts**.

Specific instances of job losses in the Boulder area during 2023 include:

Pfizer: The company announced in October 2023 that it would be cutting an unspecified number of jobs in its Boulder research and development operations and eventually closing the facility.

Bonusly: This Boulder-based software startup laid off 30% of its staff in March 2023 to create a leaner workforce and reach profitability. The cuts affected employees across various departments, including software engineering and marketing.

National Layoffs with Local Impact: Major national tech companies with a presence in the Denver-Boulder area conducted widespread layoffs in 2023 that affected local employees. These include Google, Meta (Facebook), and Amazon. Google alone cut approximately 12,000 jobs globally in 2023.

Federal and Research Sector: The professional and business services sector, which includes scientific research and computer design, experienced job losses. Federal funding cuts, particularly to agencies like NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), resulted in job losses and an uncertain environment for related private companies and university partners, such as CU Boulder.

While the overall Boulder job market remained relatively strong in 2023 with low unemployment rates compared to national and state averages, the tech industry faced challenges. The local tech scene experienced changes, with some companies downsizing office footprints or moving to hybrid models, a trend accelerated by the pandemic and rising costs of living.

Boulder

2024

In 2024, the Boulder high-tech and related professional services sectors experienced significant job losses, primarily driven by a biotech company's facility closure, a national non-profit's restructuring due to federal funding cuts, and broader economic headwinds.

Specific instances of job losses in Boulder during 2024 included:

AGC Biologics: This biotech contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) announced plans in May and September 2024 to close its facilities in Boulder and Longmont, resulting in an estimated **278 layoffs** (engineers and manufacturing jobs).

National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT): The Boulder-based non-profit, founded to advance gender equity in tech at CU Boulder, laid off staff and modified its operations due to the withdrawal of federal support and associated pressure on inclusive language policies.

Techstars: The startup accelerator moved its headquarters from Boulder to New York and closed its original Boulder accelerator program in February 2024, signaling a shift in the local startup landscape.

Federal Labs: Nearly 3,600 employees at federally funded labs in Boulder County, such as the NOAA office, faced concerns and potential job losses amid federal budget cuts, with some 80 workers being abruptly terminated in early 2025 following the initial news and actions in late 2024.

These local events occurred within the context of a challenging year for the broader tech industry nationwide, which saw around 95,000 reported layoffs in the U.S. in 2024 as companies adjusted post-pandemic growth and focused on AI investments. The professional and business services sector in Colorado as a whole, which includes many tech jobs, saw a significant employment drop.

2025

In 2025, Boulder's tech scene, part of the broader **Professional and Business Services** and **Information** sectors, experienced a slowdown and projected job losses, as noted in economic forecasts. These national trends had an impact on the local job market sentiment, as companies across the board became more cautious with hiring.

Slowing Growth: The state faced sluggish job growth throughout 2025, with more than half of its largest sectors experiencing job losses. Employers were hesitant to hire.

Noteworthy Local Layoffs

While the broader private tech sector saw a general slowdown, specific significant job cuts reported in Boulder during 2025 were primarily in the public sector:

Boulder County Government: The county announced significant cuts to address a multi-million dollar budget deficit. There were 31 employees laid off. About 60 vacant positions were eliminated.

Federal Labs: Proposed federal budget cuts in early 2025 threatened hundreds of jobs at local federal labs, including those under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Nearly 500 federal workers across Colorado filed for unemployment in the wake of these changes.

City of Boulder: The city implemented a hiring freeze for most vacant positions due to a projected $10 million budget shortfall.

National Context

Nationally, major tech companies such as Microsoft, Google, Intel, and Salesforce all conducted significant layoffs in 2025, contributing to over 50,000 tech worker job losses in the first half of the year alone. These national trends had an impact on the local job market sentiment, as companies across the board became more cautious with hiring.

Professional and Business Services: PBS experienced its third consecutive year of job losses in 2025. It saw the largest drop in employment across the state, at 5.8%. The sector's struggles were compounded by cuts to federal research funding, which specifically impacted local scientific communities and companies that partner with universities and federal labs.