



COLORADO

ADVANCED INDUSTRY  
**AEROSPACE**



**INDUSTRY FACTS**

2013 TOTAL EXPORTS

**\$300**  
MILLION

**TOP 3 EXPORT MARKETS**

- 1. New Zealand
- 2. Canada
- 3. Saudi Arabia

**NUMBER OF COMPANIES**

**140**

**AVERAGE ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT**

**25.1K**

*Colorado is a thriving aerospace hub that includes companies developing a complete spectrum of products and systems for commercial, military and civil space applications.*

Colorado's aerospace companies provide research and development, design, and manufacture of guided missiles, space vehicles, satellites and other communications equipment, and navigation and detection instruments. Companies in the aerospace industry also produce planetary spacecraft and launch systems, as well as provide mission support.

**Aerospace Assets**

Colorado ranked as the third-largest space economy in the United States in 2013. The industry receives support from four military commands, eight major space contractors, National Aeronautics and Space Administration research activities, and several universities involved in extensive space research. Colorado is also actively cultivating innovation and commercial space opportunities, including the development of Spaceport Colorado and has significant unmanned aerial vehicle (UAVs) assets. Colorado is at the center of global innovation in the aerospace and space industry, hosting the Space Symposium annually in Colorado Springs.

**Major Employers**

- Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation
- The Boeing Company
- DigitalGlobe, Inc.
- Exelis
- Honeywell Technology Solutions
- Lockheed Martin
- Northrop Grumman
- Raytheon Company
- Sierra Nevada Corporation
- United Launch Alliance

**Workforce**

Colorado's aerospace industry includes a large pool of talented, well-educated and highly skilled workers. Compared with the age distribution across all industries, the aerospace industry has a larger share of employees that are between the ages of 35 and 64 years old.

Nearly 68 percent of the aerospace-related workforce in Colorado require specific higher-level training, while 32 percent require some sort of on-the-job training.

**Education and Training**

The higher education system in Colorado provides an excellent support system for the aerospace industry in the state and offers a broad range of business, management, engineering and technical degrees. There are 28 public institutions

# TOP BY EMPLOYMENT OCCUPATIONS

1. Aerospace Engineers

2. Business Operations Specialists, All Other

3. Software Developers, Systems Software

4. Software Developers, Applications

5. Mechanical Engineers

ANNUAL  
PAYROLL  
**\$3.2**  
BILLION

DID YOU  
KNOW?

**1st in the US for private aerospace employment concentration**  
(Development Research Partners, 2013)

**One of the highest astronaut alumni in the nation**  
(University of Colorado, 2014)

**4th highest NASA prime contract awards in the nation—more than \$1.7 billion—in 2013**  
(NASA, 2014)

**4th in science and engineering occupations percentage of all occupations in 2012**  
(National Science Foundation, 2014)

of higher education in Colorado, consisting of 13 four-year and 15 two-year public institutions offering aerospace-related programs. In addition, there are nearly 30 private and religious accredited institutions and roughly 10 private occupational and technical schools offering aerospace-related programs throughout the state.

## Key Locational Factors

### 1. Access to a large, highly technical and scientific workforce

- Of Colorado's adult population, more than 37 percent has completed a bachelor's or higher-level degree, making Colorado the second-most highly educated state in the nation behind Massachusetts. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey)
- Colorado ranked ninth in the number of science and engineering graduate students per 1,000 individuals ages 25-34 years old in 2011. (National Science Foundation, 2014)

### 2. Proximity to top-ranked research colleges and universities

- The University of Colorado Boulder's aerospace engineering sciences graduate program ranked among the top 10 in the nation. (U.S. News & World Report, 2014)
- The U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs ranked second among schools that do not offer doctoral degrees for its undergraduate aerospace engineering program for the 14th-consecutive year. (U.S. News & World Report, 2014)

### 3. Low to moderate costs of doing business

- Colorado offers single-factor tax apportionment, which assesses taxes on a company's sales in the state only. (State of Colorado)
- Along with few regulatory burdens, Colorado's corporate income tax rate of 4.63 percent is one of the lowest and most competitive tax structures in the nation. (State of Colorado; The Tax Foundation)
- Colorado has the nation's eighth-best tax climate for small businesses and entrepreneurs. (Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, 2013)

### 4. Business organizations and resources designed to encourage industry growth

- The Colorado Space Coalition works to make Colorado a center of excellence for space. The Coalition promotes the state's significant aerospace assets nationally and advances legislation vital to industry growth and success.

*Colorado's advanced industries include aerospace, advanced manufacturing, bioscience, electronics, energy and natural resources (including Cleantech), technology and information and infrastructure engineering. For more information about available grants, visit [www.advancecolorado.com/aiprograms](http://www.advancecolorado.com/aiprograms).*

**Learn more about Colorado's aerospace industry at [www.advancecolorado.com/aerospace](http://www.advancecolorado.com/aerospace).**



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**Note:** Data reflects only private aerospace employment in Colorado and excludes military employment.

**Sources:** Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. Marketplace database, July-Sept. 2007-2010; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Development Research Partners; WISERTrade.