NoCo Recovers



INTRODUCTION

To create a tool to track the economic recovery in Northern Colorado, we selected a set of indicators that represent critical aspects of the Larimer and Weld County economies, are based on data that is accessible in a useable format, and updated frequently with little lag time.

The selected indicators are updated at least monthly with no more than a two-month lag and are primarily available at the county level. They provide almost real-time insights about economic conditions and recovery status.

They address the following questions:

- Are residents engaged in engaged in the labor market and do they have jobs?
- Are regional businesses able to maintain their workforce? Are they hiring?
- Are consumers spending money in our economy?
- Are visitors coming back?
- Is our real estate market stable? Are businesses closing and leaving unoccupied commercial spaces?
- Is the construction industry active and purchasing materials to support future growth?

This list of indicators is not exhaustive, but does represent well-rounded measures that can signal areas of strength or weakness in the recovery from the economic shock induced by the COVID-19 Pandemic.









INDICATOR	STATUS	TREND
Unemployment Rate	Mixed	\
Labor Force	High	↑
Job Postings	High	1
Nonfarm Employment	Mixed	1
Bankruptcies	Low	\
Retail Sales	High	1
Mobility	Mixed	1
Hotel Occupancy and Revenue	Mixed	1
Visitors to Rocky Mountain NP	High	1
Median Home Price	High	↑
Commercial Vacancy Rates	High	\longleftrightarrow
Building Materials Use Tax	High	1



THE PANDEMIC AND BUSINESS CLOSURE TIMELINE IN NORTHERN COLORADO

March 14-22, 2020

Gov. Polis orders closure of ski resorts; suspension of dine-in services; closure of non-essential services; suspension of in-person schooling, postponement of elective/non-essential surgeries; reduction of in-person workforces at noncritical workplaces.

April 27, 2020 Colorado's

Safer-at-Home order goes into effect.

May 21-25, 2020

RMNP opens back up with limited visitors. Larimer County receives approval to relax some restrictions. Polis announces quidelines for restaurants and day camps.

> June 30, 2020 Bars close again

Nov 3, 2020

New Safer-At-Home color dial classification system is put in place. Larimer County classified at Level Orange.

Jan 4, 2021

Larimer County moves to Level Orange. Indoor dining becomes available at reduced capacity.

April 16, 2021

Many statewide restrictions lifted. allowing counties to implement regulations at the local level.

March 9, 2020

First COVID-19 case in Northern Colorado

Personal services and in-person retail resume.

March 25, 2020

Larimer County issues stay-at-home order. Statewide order follows shortly thereafter.

May 1, 2020

June 15, 2020

Colorado's Protect-Our-Neighbors phase goes into effect. Bars open at limited capacity several days later.

July 21, 2020

Colorado's 10 p.m. last call implemented

Nov 24, 2020

As cases surge, Larimer County moves to Level Red. This ended dine-in services and reduced capacity at other businesses.

Feb 6, 2021

Larimer County moves to Level Yellow, More businesses are allowed to open at limited capacity

May 2021

46% of populations 16+ in Larimer and **Weld Counties** fully vaccinated. Larimer moves to Level Green. Weld lifts public health orders.



EMPLOYMENT | Unemployment Rate

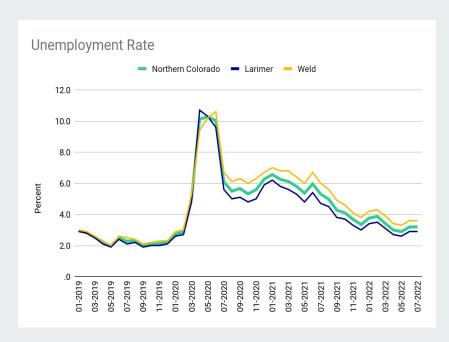
	CURRENT JUL 2022	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVERAGE	LOW	HIGH
Northern Colorado	3.2%	+0.8 percentage pts	2.7% Jan 2020	10.3% May 2020
Larimer	2.9%	+0.7 percentage pts	2.6% May 2022	10.7% Apr 2020
Weld	3.5%	+1.1 percentage pts	2.9% Jan 2020	10.6% Jun 2020

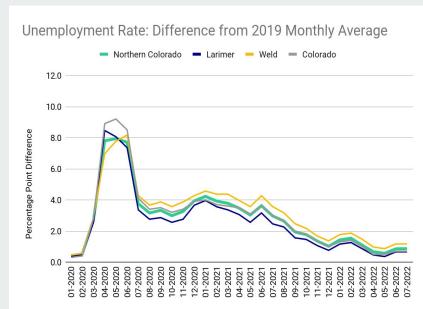
What: The unemployment rate measures the percent of people who are jobless, looking for a job, and available for work as a percent of the labor force. These estimates are derived from a national household survey.

Why: The unemployment rate is an indicator of access to economic opportunity. High unemployment represents a loss of jobs and a loss of income, which impacts economic self-sufficiency and influences consumer expenditures.

Summary: While the unemployment rate peaked in Larimer County in April, it peaked in Weld County in June. After rising about 8 percentage points higher than the monthly average in 2019, unemployment steadily declined aside from periodic, seasonal upticks.







Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. **Frequency:** monthly, 2-month delay

Updated: 09/12/2022

EMPLOYMENT | Civilian Labor Force

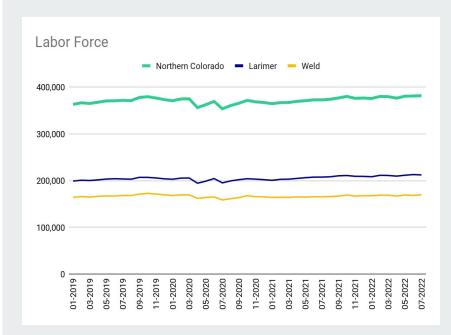
	CURRENT JUL 2022	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVG.	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	381,501	+2.8%	353,467 Jul 2020	381,501 Jul 2022
Larimer	212,013	+4.4%	194,269 Apr 2020	212,013 Jul 2022
Weld	169,488	+1.0%	158,497 Jul 2020	169,488 Jul 2022

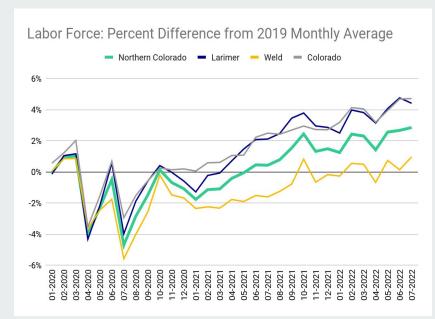
What: The labor force consists of the employed (people with jobs) and the unemployed (people who are jobless, looking for a job, and available for work).

Why: Changes in the labor force can measure workers' desire and ability to work. During normal years, the labor force is fairly stable. However, during this pandemic, workers not only face increased uncertainty about their prospects of finding work but also must consider factors such as health risk, vulnerability, and childcare when deciding whether or not to participate in the labor force.

Summary: At the beginning of the pandemic, many workers dropped out of the labor force. Although workers re-entered in June 2020, the labor force contracted again later that summer as it does seasonally. By fall of 2020, the labor force had more or less recovered in Larimer County. In Weld County, the labor force was slower to recover.







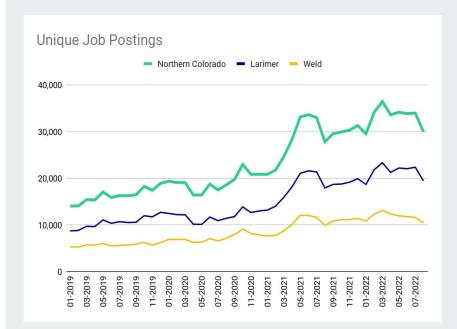
EMPLOYMENT | Unique Job Postings

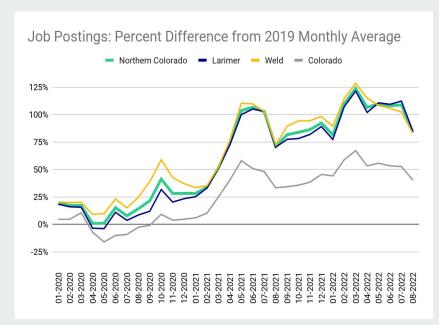
	CURRENT AUG 2022	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVERAGE	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	29,927	+134.7%	16,507 May 2020	37,701 Jul 2022
Larimer	19,442	+131.5%	10,183 May 2020	24,211 Jul 2022
Weld	10,485	+129.7%	6,291 May 2020	13,490 Jul 2022

What: The job postings in this dataset are those considered to be unique and "active," meaning they are currently available online and are open for applications.

Why: Job postings are a leading indicator of emerging labor market trends. They are a measure of recruitment marketing by employers purportedly looking to fill job vacancies. Higher levels of job posting activity can be indicative of heightened hiring activity in a labor market and vice versa.

Summary: In May 2020, job posting activity bottomed out. Since then, posting activity has picked up dramatically, accelerating significantly in the first half 2021. There was a sharp declines during the summers of 2021 and 2022. However, posting activity has remained high in comparison to its pre-pandemic level.





Source: Emsi.
Frequency: monthly, no delay
Updated: 09/12/2022

EMPLOYMENT | Unique Job Postings per Unemployed Worker

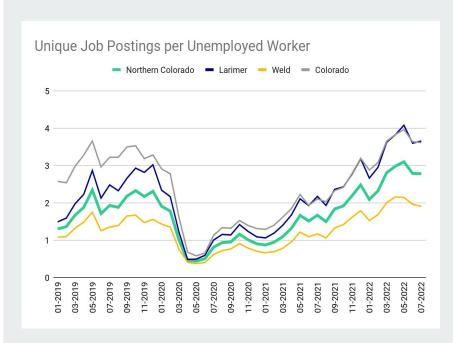
	CURRENT JUL 2022	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVERAGE	LOW	HIGH
Northern Colorado	2.8	+44.7%	0.4 May 2020	3.3 May 2022
Larimer	3.7	+53.8%	0.5 May 2020	4.3 May 2022
Weld	1.9	+33.7%	0.4 May 2020	2.3 May 2022

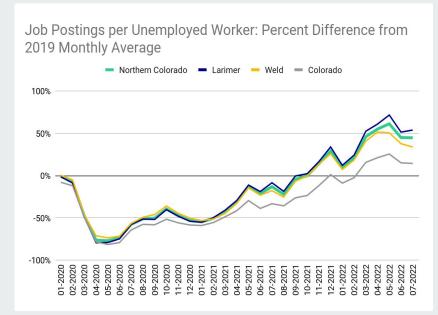
What: The job postings per unemployed worker is the number of unique active job postings divided by the number of workers who are not employed and actively seeking work.

Why: Job postings per unemployed worker provides an indicator of the supply of available workers relative to the number of job openings.

Summary: In April 2020, the number of unemployed workers reached its peak, and in May 2020, job posting activity bottomed out. At that time, there were about two unemployed workers for every job posting. Since then, posting activity has rapidly increased and the number of unemployed workers has declined. Currently, in Northern Colorado, there are almost three job postings for every unemployed worker.







Source: Emsi. US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Frequency: monthly, no delay Updated: 09/12/2022

EMPLOYMENT | Total Nonfarm Employment

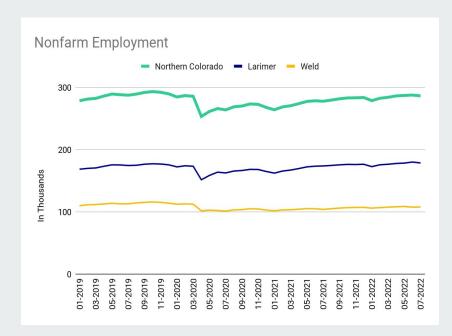
	CURRENT JUL 2022	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVERAGE	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	286,400	-0.4%	253,100 Apr 2020	287,100 May 2020
Larimer	178,600	+2.6%	151,400 Apr 2020	178,600 Jul 2022
Weld	107,800	-4.9%	101,000 Jul 2020	112,800 Feb 2020

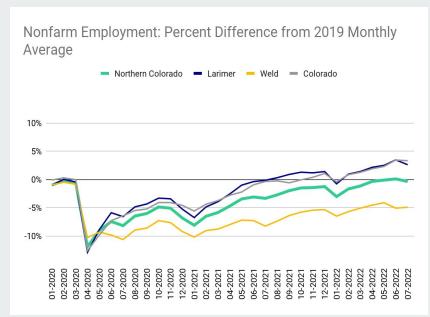
What: Total nonfarm employment is a measurement of the total number of workers. These estimates are provided monthly based on national survey of businesses and government agencies.

Why: This measure of employment is based on the place of work and provides insights into employment levels at employers based in Larimer and Weld Counties.

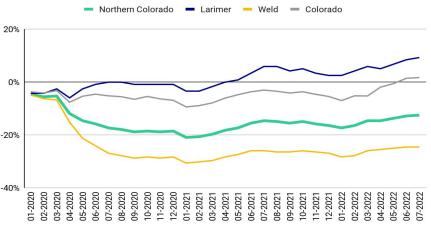
Summary: The economic shutdown in the spring of 2020 meant that employers in Northern Colorado shed almost 34,000 jobs, a drop of 12 percent. Since April, employers in Larimer and Weld Counties have recovered many of the jobs - Weld County at a slower rate. Larimer County recovered back to 2019 average employment in August 2021 and Northern Colorado recovered temporarily in May 2022 while Weld County employment is still more than 4.0 percent lower.

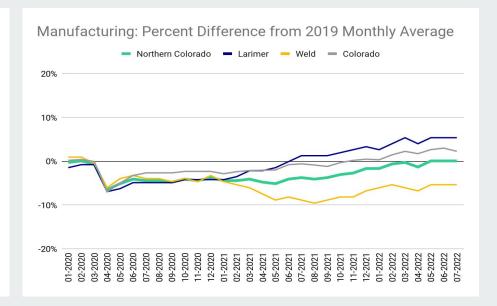




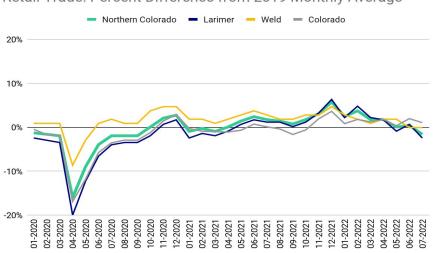


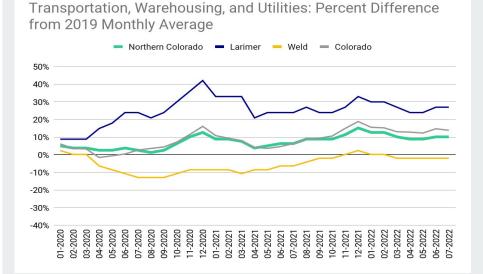




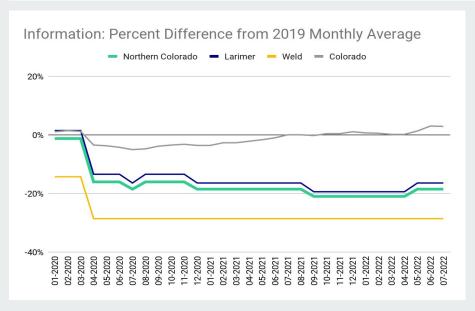


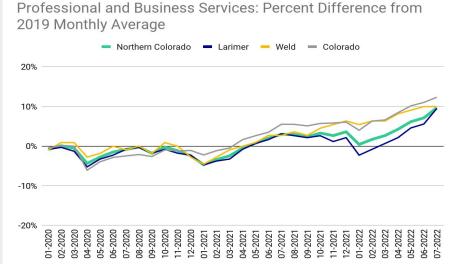


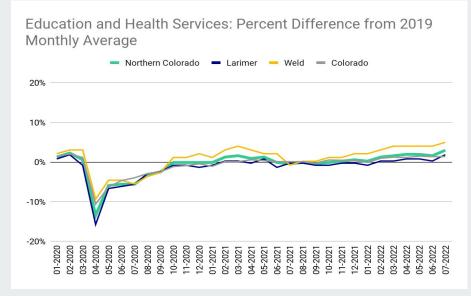


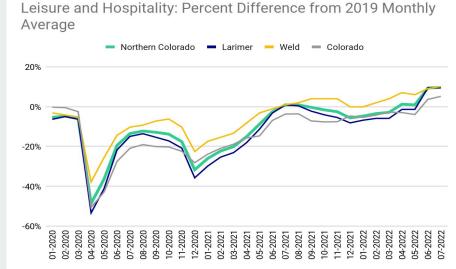




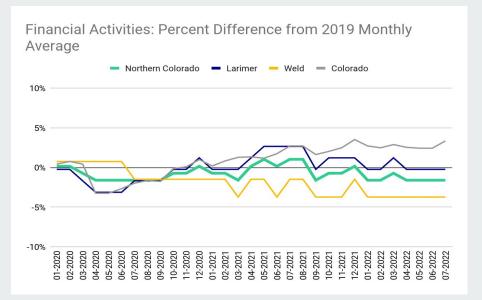


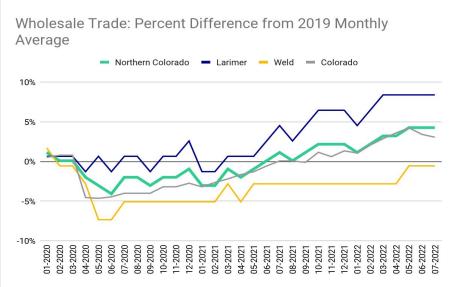


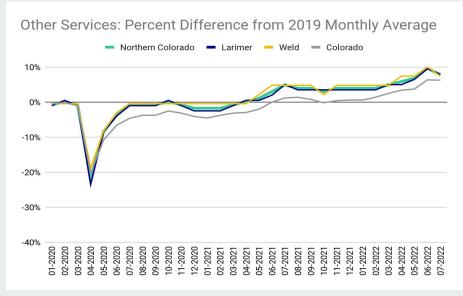




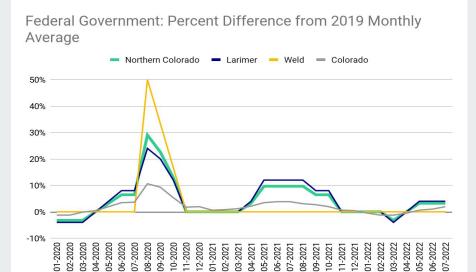


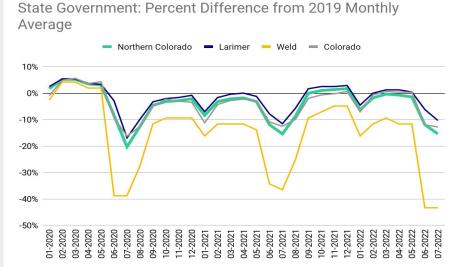


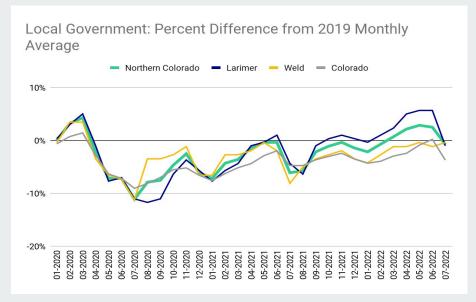


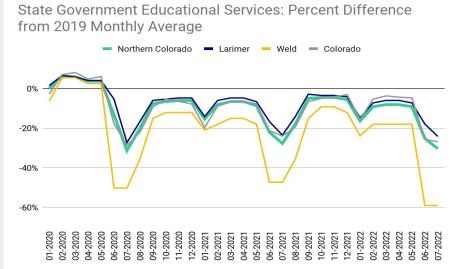














EMPLOYMENT | Change in Nonfarm Employment by Industry, Feb 2020 to July 2022

	Larimer		Weld		Northern Colorado		Colorado	
Sector	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Nonfarm	4,500	2.6%	-5,000	-4.4%	800	0.3%	84,700	3.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,200	15.2%	1,400	14.9%	4,500	14.8%	19,500	5.7%
Professional and Business Services	2,000	9.9%	1,000	9.0%	2,200	7.0%	53,300	12.1%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,600	14.2%	-3,900	-19.5%	-2,400	-7.7%	12,200	6.1%
Manufacturing	900	6.2%	-900	-6.3%	0	0.0%	2,800	1.9%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	600	16.7%	-100	-2.2%	500	6.1%	9,800	9.9%
Other Services	500	7.5%	300	7.9%	1,000	9.5%	7,300	6.4%
Wholesale Trade	400	7.7%	0	0.0%	400	4.2%	2,500	2.2%
Federal Government	200	8.3%	0	0.0%	200	6.7%	1,700	3.2%
Retail Trade	100	0.5%	-100	-0.9%	600	2.0%	7,400	2.8%
Education and Health Services	0	0.0%	200	1.9%	-200	-0.7%	-2,300	-0.6%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%	-200	-4.4%	-200	-1.8%	4,500	2.6%
Information	-600	-17.6%	-100	-16.7%	-700	-17.5%	1,100	1.4%
Local Government	-600	-3.9%	-500	-3.7%	-200	-0.7%	-12,100	-4.4%
State Government	-3,800	-14.9%	-2,100	-45.7%	-4,900	-16.3%	-23,000	-16.8%
State Government Educational Services	-4,900	-28.8%	-2,200	-61.1%	-6,100	-29.6%	-26,800	-31.7%



EMPLOYMENT | Average Hourly Earnings

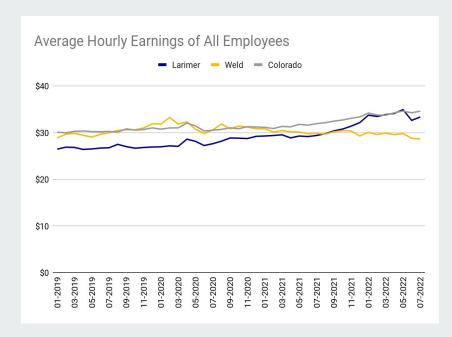
	CURRENT JUL2022	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVERAGE	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Larimer	\$33.34	+24.5%	\$26.95 Jan 2020	\$34.93 May 2022
Weld	\$28.64	-4.8%	\$29.80 Jul 2020	\$33.22 Feb 2020

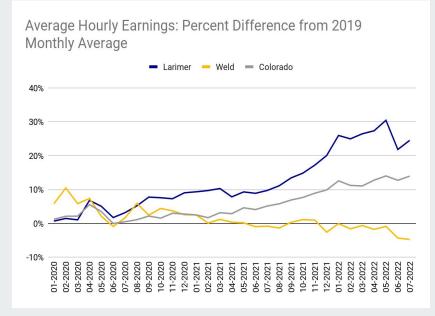
What: Average hourly earnings are collected as "gross" earnings per the average hours for which pay was received. Earnings include overtime and regular bonuses, but not benefits, irregular bonuses, or retroactive pay.

Why: They reflect changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates as well as premium pay. They also reflect shifts in the number of employees between relatively high-paid and low-paid work.

Summary: The Pandemic-related recession has had a marked impact on the leisure and hospitality sector, which resulted in the shedding of many lower-wage jobs and a corresponding uptick in average hourly earnings. The re-opening of the economy in summer 2020 led to an adjustment in the average hourly earnings. Since that time, Larimer County has seen a significant uptick in average hourly earnings. Weld County has been on a mostly downward trajectory due to the loss of jobs in the Oil & Gas sector.







SMALL & LOCAL BUSINESS | Bankruptcy Filings

What: The number of business and non-business cases filed in US Bankruptcy Courts measures the volume of bankruptcy filings in a 12-month period. The cases include those related to all chapters of the Bankruptcy Code - Chapter 7, Chapter 11, or Other.

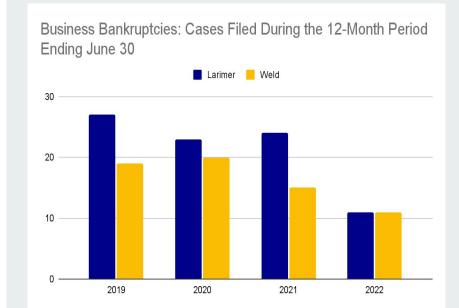
Why: Bankruptcies are a measure of financial distress.

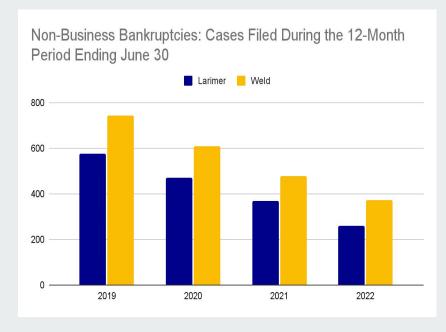
Summary: In the 12 months ending June 30, both Larimer and Weld Counties saw temporary upticks in business bankruptcies during the Pandemic - in Larimer County the uptick was delayed until 2021; in Weld County the uptick was in 2020. In contrast, non-business bankruptcies declined during the Pandemic. In 2022, both counties saw declines in both business and non-business filing.

This likely indicates that the Pandemic supports helped individuals and some businesses weather the economic downturn. However, the uptick in business bankruptcies show that the supports may not have been enough.

As the Pandemic continues, it is yet to be seen if these supports will provide a long enough lifeline to help distressed individuals and businesses make it through the Pandemic and the ensuing economic uncertainty, especially now that many of the support programs are no longer available..







Source: U.S. Bankruptcy Courts. Frequency: quarterly, 3-month lag Updated: 08/03/2022

RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Retail Sales

	CURRENT JUN 2022 (MILLIONS)	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	\$3,188.9	+34.8%	\$1,682.5 Apr 2020	\$3,828.0 Dec 2020
Larimer	\$1,613.9	+39.1%	\$806.2 Apr 2020	\$2,017.3 Dec 2020
Weld	\$1,574.9	+30.8%	\$858.2 Jan 2021	\$1,823.3 Dec 2021

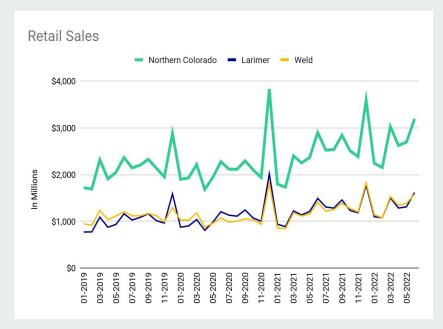
What: Retail sales are an indicator of consumer spending. As of 2019, retail sales are reported as of the location of the purchaser, which would include any online purchases shipped to locations in Larimer and Weld Counties.

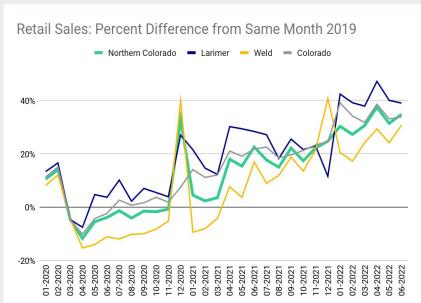
Why: Consumer spending accounts for about 70% of the US economy; thus, retail sales can be an important indicator of the general health of an economy. In addition, local governments derive much of their tax revenue from retail sales. In this way, retail sales are an indicator of the health of the public sector.

summary: In Larimer County, retail sales bottomed out in April 2020 and have been above 2019 levels since June 2020. In Weld County, retail sales also bottomed out in April 2020 but remained lower than 2019 levels until April 2021, with the exception of December.

Currently, retail sales in both counties are well above 2019 levels.







Source: Colorado Department of Revenue Frequency: monthly, 2-month delay Updated: 09/12/2022 RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Retail Sales by Select Industry

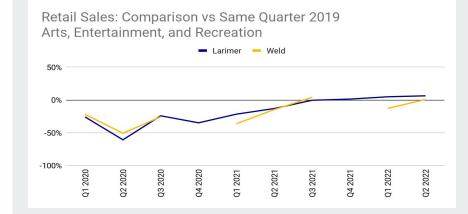
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	CURRENT Q2 2022 (MILLIONS)	COMPARISON TO Q1 2019	LOW	нісн
Larimer:				
Arts	\$23.9	+6.3%	-60.8%	+6.3%
Clothing	\$75.7	+16.1%	-41.9%	+16.1%
Food Svcs	\$270.5	+22.4%	-36.5%	+22.4%
Weld:				
Arts	\$8.8	+0.7%	-50.8%	+4.0%
Clothing	\$32.5	+41.5%	-8.9%	+42.5%
Food Svcs	\$140.2	+20.6%	-20.8%	+20.6%

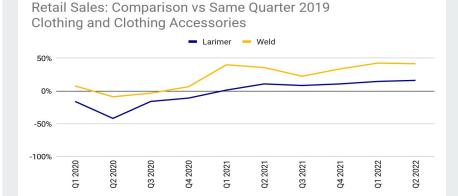
What: Retail sales are an indicator of consumer spending as well as an indicator of business revenues. In this capacity, retail sales can reflect the health of businesses.

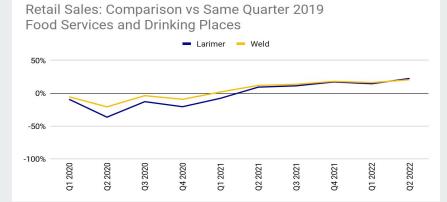
Why: These three industries were selected because many consumer-oriented, locally-owned businesses are in these sectors.

Summary: All three sectors were particularly hard it in the second quarter 2020 when stay-at-home orders where in effect and business capacity was severely limited. Arts, entertainment, and recreation sales were the most negatively impacted by COVID and were the slowest to recover. Clothing and clothing accessories and food services have been more resilient and surpassed 2019 levels in both counties by the second quarter of 2021.









Source: Colorado Department of Revenue **Frequency:** quarterly, 2-month delay

Updated: 09/12/2022

RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Community Mobility

	CURRENT (AUG 31, 2022) COMPARISON TO JAN 2020 BASELINE	LOW	ніен
Larimer:			
Retail & Rec	-2%	-53%	+9%
Workplace	-25%	-53%	+4%
Weld:			
Retail & Rec	-2%	-42%	+8%
Workplace	-12%	-46%	+5%

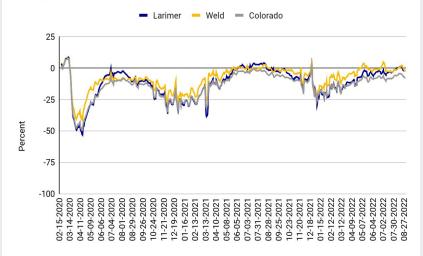
What: Google's community mobility tracks aggregated, anonymized data to provide insights into movement trends. It shows the percent difference from the January 2020 baseline.

Why: Policies and individual responses related to the Pandemic greatly influence people's movement and spending. People's visits to retail and recreation destination and the workplace provide insights into the flow of customers and workers.

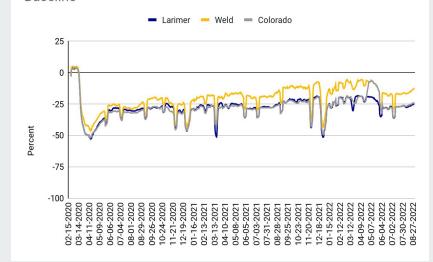
Summary: Community mobility dropped by as much as 50 percent during the April stay-at-home order. Mobility has recovered to retail and recreation places, but for workplaces, it is significantly lower than baseline levels in Larimer County but is closer to recovery in Weld County.







Community Mobility, Workplace: 7-day Average Comparison to Baseline



Source: Google Frequency: daily Updated: 09/12/2022

RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Hotel Occupancy

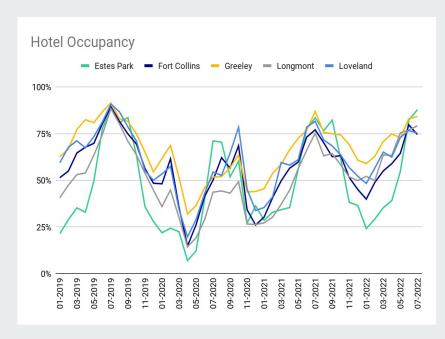
	CURRENT JUL 2022	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	ніен
Estes Park	87.8%	-1.5%	7.0% Apr 2020	87.8% Jul 2022
Fort Collins	74.5%	-16.7%	14.8% Apr 2020	77.0% Jul 2021
Greeley	84.1%	-8.0%	31.9% Apr 2020	86.9% Jul 2021
Longmont	79.2%	-10.4%	14.4% Apr 2020	79.2% Jul 2022
Loveland	75.3%	-17.1%	19.7% Apr 2020	81.6% Jul 2021

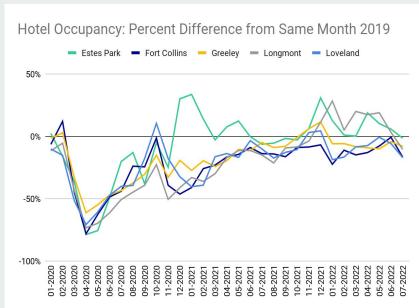
What: The hotel occupancy shows the percent of open hotel rooms that are occupied.

Why: The hotel occupancy rate is an indicator of the performance of the hospitality sector. It shows capacity utilization and reflects the visitation level to these destinations. The hospitality sector, a major employment sector, also generates visitor spending which supports other sectors.

Summary: The hotel occupancy rate declined dramatically in April 2020 in all the Northern Colorado markets. Estes Park and Longmont have since experienced fairly strong performance while the other markets experienced more gradual progress toward recovery.







Source: Rocky Mountain Lodging Report, Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association Frequency: monthly, 1-month delay

Updated: 08/19/2022

RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Revenue per Available Room

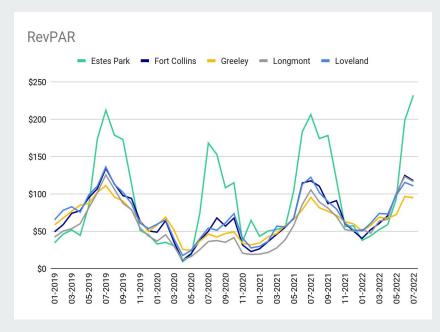
	CURRENT JUL 2022	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нісн
Estes Park	\$232.12	+9.4%	\$9.31 Apr 2020	\$232.12 Jul 2022
Fort Collins	\$117.74	-12.2%	\$11.32 Apr 2020	\$117.74 Jul 2022
Greeley	\$94.94	-14.6%	\$24.67 May 2020	\$94.94 Jul 2022
Longmont	\$116.50	-7.2%	\$11.91 Apr 2020	\$116.50 Jul 2022
Loveland	\$110.82	-18.6%	\$17.56 Apr 2020	\$110.82 Jul 2022

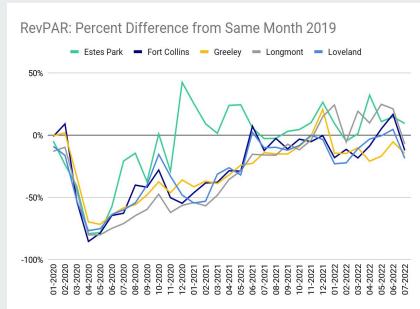
What: Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) is another key performance indicator of the hospitality industry that is calculated by multiplying the average daily room rate by the occupancy rate.

Why: RevPAR is an indicator of profitability in the hospitality sector.

Summary: All of the five regional markets saw extreme drops in RevPAR in April. With the exception of Estes Park, the markets saw gradual improvement reaching seasonal peaks each summer. Estes Park, however, saw a strong improvement in the summer of 2020 and experienced an exceptional winter and spring season before heading back to 2019 levels in the summer of 2021.







Source: Rocky Mountain Lodging Report, Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association Frequency: monthly, 1-month delay

Updated: 08/19/2022

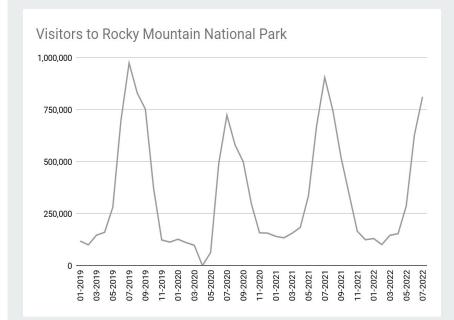
RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Visitors to Rocky Mountain National Park

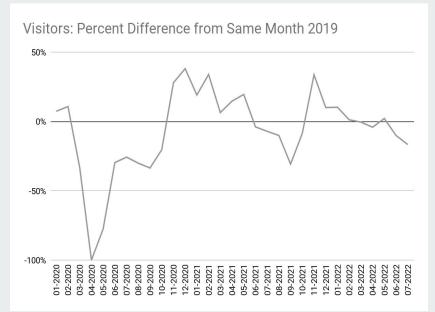
	CURRENT JUL 2022	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нісн
Recreation Visitors	811,861	-16.6%	0 Apr 2020	904,767 Jul 2021

What: Monthly recreation visitors to Rocky Mountain National Park is the number of individuals that enter the park for recreational purposes.

Why: The number of monthly recreation visitors is an indicator of the health of the tourism sector in the region as it captures the visitors to one of the largest tourist destinations in Northern Colorado.

Summary: Rocky Mountain National Park closed completely at the beginning of the Pandemic but opened back up for the summer tourism season. However, visitation over the summer and fall remained about 30 percent below 2019 levels due to the reservation system that limited visitation to the park. Although the East Troublesome and Cameron Peak Fires impacted the park significantly in October and November 2020, visitation was 38 percent higher in December 2020 than it was in December 2019 and continued to be elevated through spring 2021. The reservation system was back in place in 2021 and 2022 from June to October, which held the number of visitors to lower-than-average levels. ALEXANDER





Source: National Park Service Frequency: monthly, 1-month delay

Updated: 09/12/2022

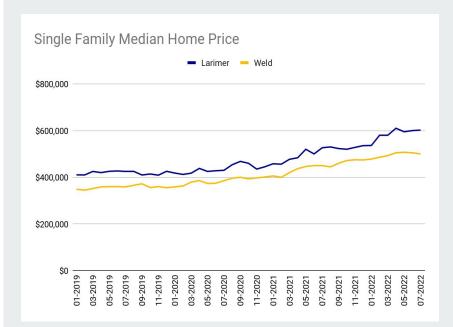
REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION | Median Home Price

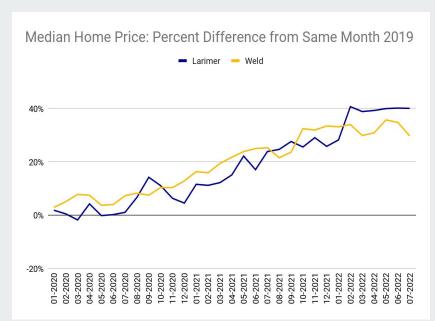
	CURRENT JUN 2022	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Larimer	\$602,000	+40.1%	\$412,155 Feb 2020	\$602,000 Jul 2022
Weld	\$500,055	+29.8%	\$358,900 Jan 2020	\$507,036 May 2022

What: The median price is where half homes sold for more and half homes sold for less.

Why: The median home price is a good indicator of the conditions of the residential real estate market as well as housing affordability.

Summary: In spite of the Pandemic, the residential real estate market has continued to be strong. In both counties, the median home price has continued to be on an upward trajectory. Though there has been quite a bit of variability, particularly in Larimer County, the median home prices are more than 30 percent higher than the same month in 2019.







REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION | Commercial Vacancy Rates

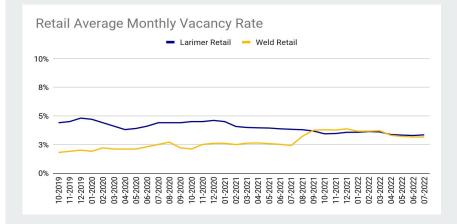
	CURRENT JUL 2022	COMPARISON TO FEB 2020 MONTHLY AVERAGE	LOW	НІСН
Larimer:				
Retail	3.3%	-24.1%	3.8%	4.7%
Office	5.1%	+11.8%	4.5%	7.9%
Industrial	4.3%	+78.3%	2.2%	4.5%
Weld:				
Retail	3.2%	+43.3%	1.9%	3.9%
Office	7.0%	+139.7%	2.6%	7.0%
Industrial	3.7%	+42.9%	2.3%	4.3%

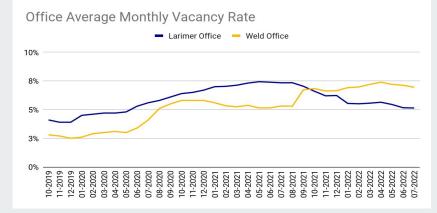
What: The average monthly vacancy rate is the average of the daily vacancy rate, which is the amount of space vacant divided by the rentable building area.

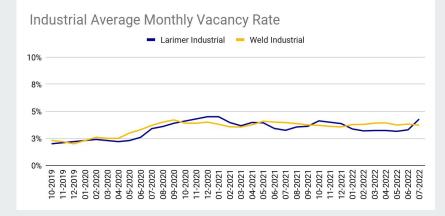
Why: Commercial vacancy rates are indicators of conditions of the commercial real estate market. Changes in the vacancy rate can reflect changes in the region's rentable building area or changes in the amount of space being leased.

Summary: The average monthly vacancy rate for retail were the most stable in both counties until a recent uptick of the retail vacancy rate in Weld County. The office and industrial rates in both have increased dramatically during the Pandemic and have remained elevated. Larimer office vacancy has been declining since mid 2021.









Source: CoStar Frequency: daily, no delay Updated: 08/23/2022

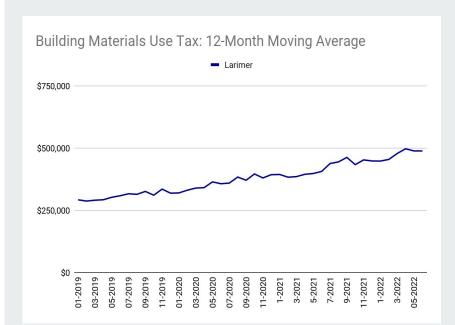
REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION | Building Material Use Tax

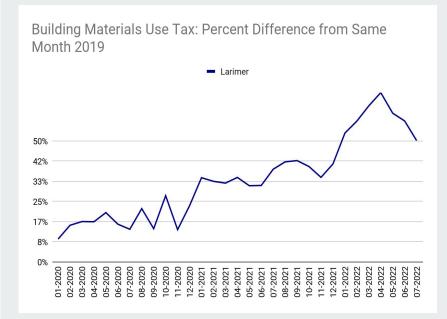
	CURRENT JUL 2022	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нісн
Larimer	475,699	+50.2%	\$320,110 Jan 2020	\$488,727 MAY 2022

What: Larimer County collects an estimated deposit of building material use tax at the time a building permit is issued. It is a prepayment of sales tax on building material used for a permitted project and is reconciled upon completion of the project. The 12-month moving average provides a smoothed trend line to better gauge general directional change.

Why: Building permits and building material purchases are important indicators of the health of the construction industry.

Summary: The 12-month average for the building materials use tax has been steadily climbing. Even during the pandemic, 2020 levels are more than 10 percent higher than the 2019 12-month moving average. By April 2022, the 12-month average was more than 70 percent higher than the average in April 2019. While this is a reflection of the level of activity, it also encompasses the growth in the prices of construction materials.





Source: Larimer County
Frequency: monthly, no delay
Updated: 08/03/2022