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	High	<u> </u>
Labor Force	High	\uparrow
Job Postings	High	\uparrow
Nonfarm Employment	Mixed	<u> </u>
Bankruptcies	Low	1
Retail Sales	High	\uparrow
Mobility	Mixed	↑
Hotel Occupancy and Revenue	Mixed	↑
Visitors to Rocky Mountain NP	High	↑
Median Home Price	High	↑
Commercial Vacancy Rates	Mixed	\longleftrightarrow
Building Materials Use Tax	High	<u> </u>



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

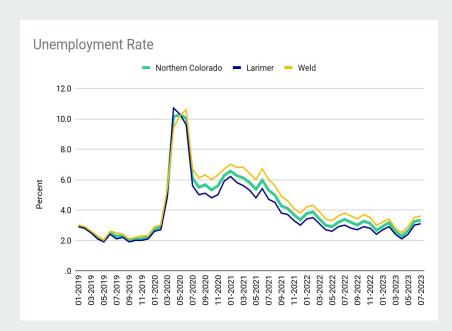
	CURRENT JULY 2023	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVERAGE	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	3.3%	+1.0 percentage pts	2.3% May 2023	10.3% May 2020
Larimer	3.1%	+0.9 percentage pts	2.1% May 2023	10.7% Apr 2020
Weld	3.6%	+1.2 percentage pts	2.5% May 2023	10.6% Jun 2020

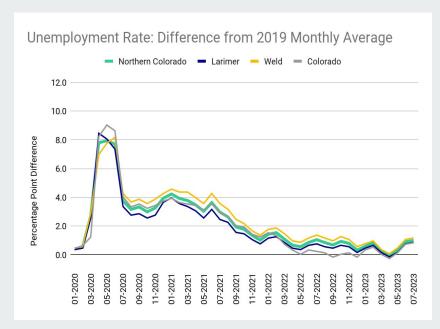
What: The unemployment rate measures the percent of people who are jobless, looking for a job, and available for work as a percent of the labor force. These estimates are derived from a national household survey.

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: Unemployment rate peaked in Larimer County in April and 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. As of July 2023, both counties are slightly above their pre-Pandemic levels.







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

Updated: 09/05/2023

EMPLOYMENT | Civilian Labor Force

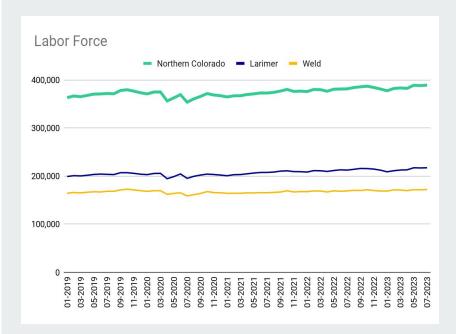
	CURRENT JULY 2023	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVG.	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	388,845	+4.8%	353,467 Jul 2020	388,594 May 2023
Larimer	217,035	+6.9%	194,269 Apr 2020	217,572 May 2023
Weld	171,810	+2.3%	158,497 Jul 2020	171,572 May 2023

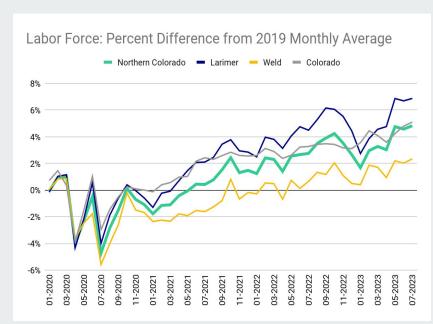
What: The labor force consists of the employed (people with jobs) and the unemployed (people who are jobless, looking for a job, and available for work).

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, reaching pre-Pandemic levels in late 2021.







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

Updated: 09/05/2023

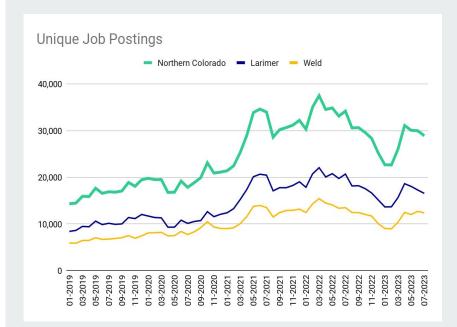
EMPLOYMENT | Unique Job Postings

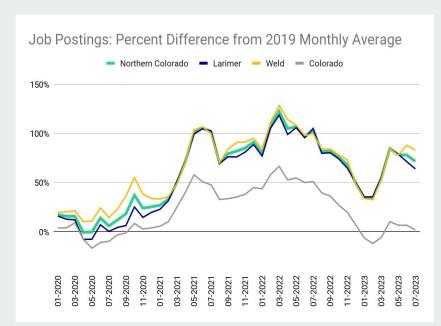
	CURRENT JULY 2023	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVERAGE	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	28,898	+71.7%	16,748 Apr 2020	37,482 Mar 2022
Larimer	16,539	+64.1%	9,299 May 2020	22,055 Mar 2022
Weld	12,359	+83.1%	7,449 May 2020	15,427 Mar 2022

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. Then, posting activity picked up dramatically, accelerating significantly in the first half 2021. While posting activity has remained high in comparison to its pre-Pandemic level, it decreased for much of 2022 but has been back on the rise in the first half of 2023.





Source: Emsi.
Frequency: monthly, no delay
Updated: 09/05/2023

EMPLOYMENT | Unique Job Postings per Unemployed Worker

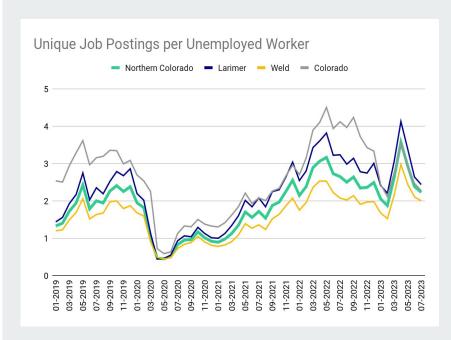
	CURRENT JULY 2023	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVERAGE	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	2.2	+12.2%	0.5 May 2020	3.6 Apr 2023
Larimer	2.4	+7.3%	0.4 May 2020	4.1 Apr 2023
Weld	2.0	+19.4%	0.4 May 2020	3.0 Apr 2023

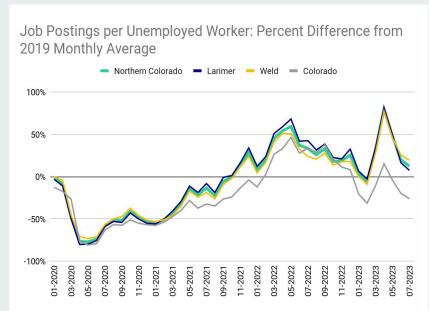
What: The job postings per unemployed worker is the number of unique active job postings divided by the number of workers who are not employed and actively seeking work.

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. Since May 2021, there have been two or more job postings for every unemployed worker except for a brief decline in early 2023.







Source: Emsi. US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Frequency: monthly, no delay Updated: 09/05/2023

EMPLOYMENT | Total Nonfarm Employment

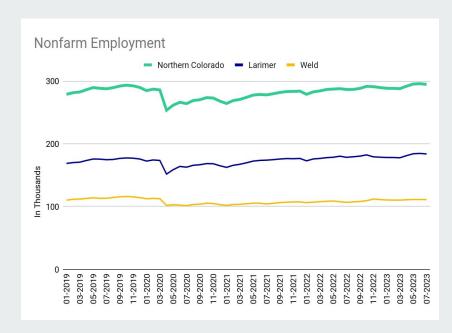
	CURRENT JULY 2023	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVERAGE	LOW	НІСН
Northern Colorado	294,600	+2.5%	253,300 Apr 2020	295,600 Jun 2023
Larimer	183,700	+5.5%	151,600 Apr 2020	184,500 Jun 2023
Weld	110,900	-2.2%	101,300 Jul 2020	112,800 Feb 2020

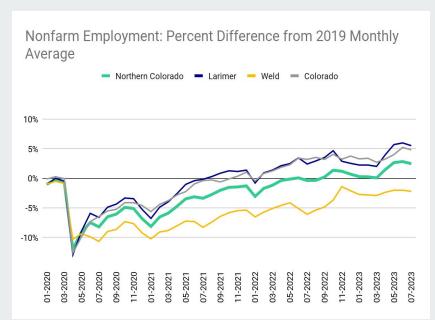
What: Total nonfarm employment is a measurement of the total number of workers. These estimates are provided monthly based on national survey of businesses and government agencies.

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.

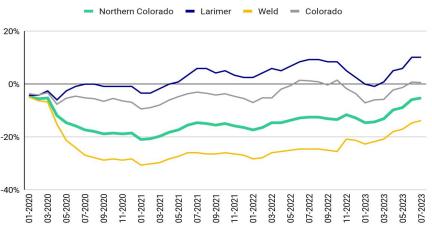
Summary: The economic shutdown in the spring of 2020 meant that employers in Northern Colorado shed almost 34,000 jobs, a drop of 12 percent. Since April, employers in Larimer and Weld Counties have recovered many of the jobs - Weld County at a slower rate. Larimer County recovered back to 2019 average employment in August 2021 and Northern Colorado recovered in September 2022 while Weld County employment is still 2.0 percent lower.

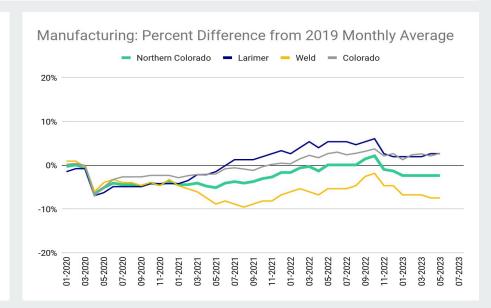


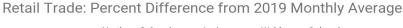


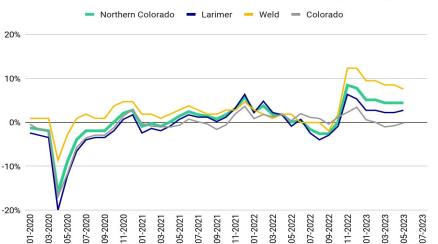


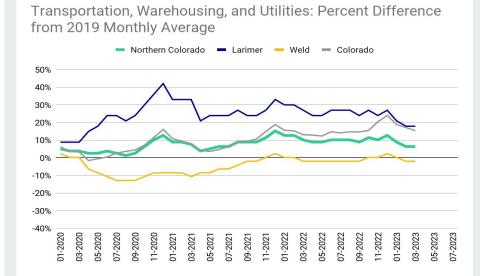




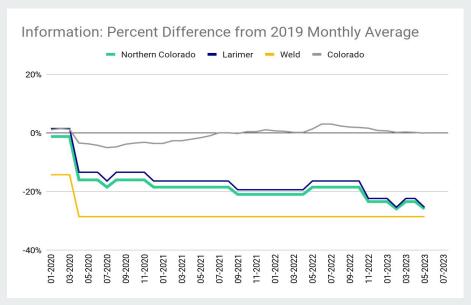


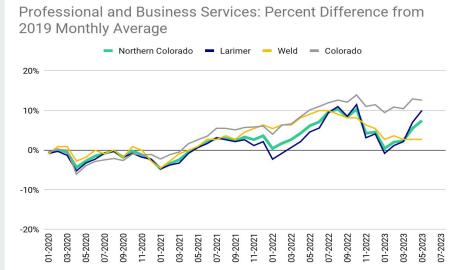


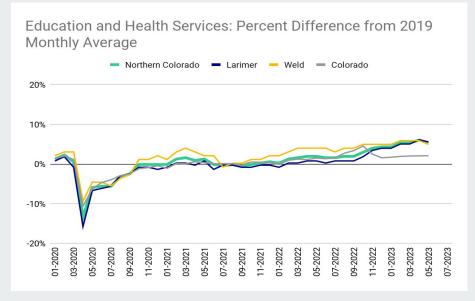


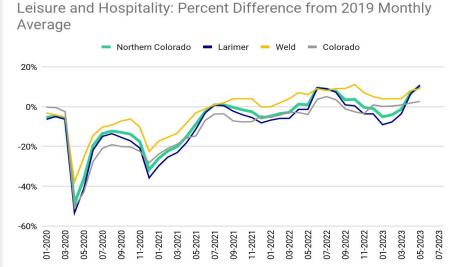




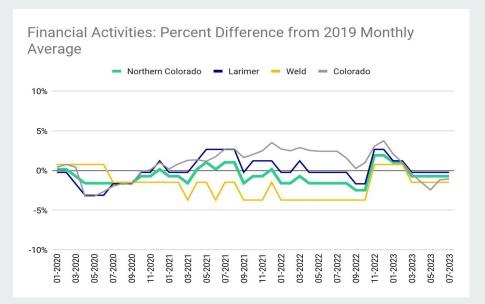


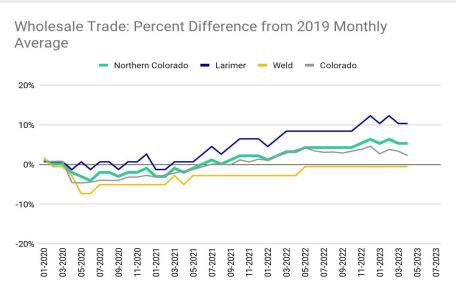


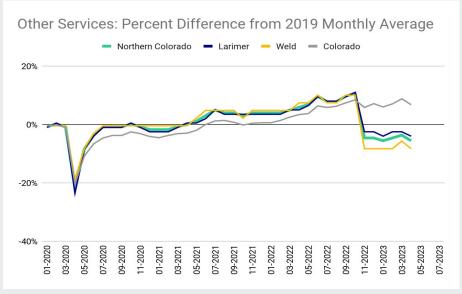




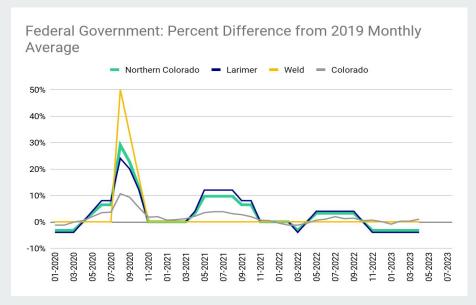


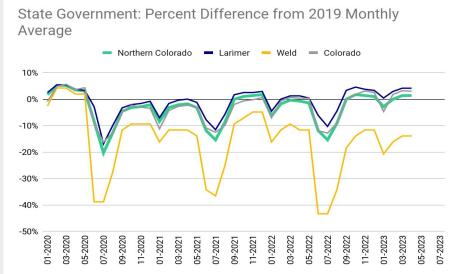


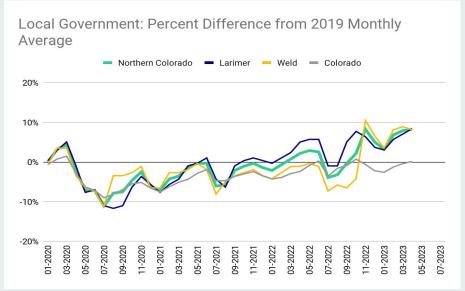


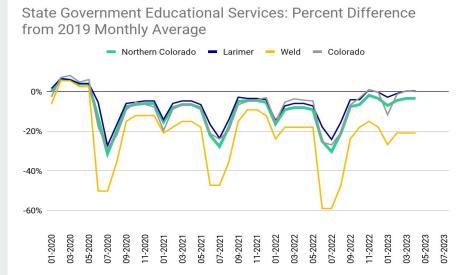














EMPLOYMENT | Change in Nonfarm Employment by Industry, Feb 2020 to July 2023

	Larimer		Weld		Northern Colorado		Colorado	
Sector	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Nonfarm	9,600	5.5%	-1,900	-1.7%	7,700	2.7%	126,800	4.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	6,100	29.0%	1,400	14.9%	7,500	24.7%	32,300	9.4%
Professional and Business Services	2,600	12.8%	500	4.5%	3,100	9.9%	62,000	14.1%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,700	15.0%	-1,600	-8.0%	100	0.3%	9,800	4.9%
Retail Trade	1,100	5.9%	500	4.7%	1,600	5.4%	5,700	2.1%
Manufacturing	800	5.5%	-900	-6.3%	-100	-0.3%	5,100	3.4%
Education and Health Services	700	3.7%	200	1.9%	900	3.0%	-200	-0.1%
Wholesale Trade	500	9.6%	0	0.0%	500	5.2%	300	0.3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	300	8.3%	-200	-4.3%	100	1.2%	11,300	11.5%
Federal Government	300	12.5%	0	0.0%	300	10.0%	3,100	5.9%
Financial Activities	0	0.0%	-100	-2.2%	-100	-0.9%	-3,200	-1.8%
Other Services	-100	-1.5%	-200	-5.3%	-300	-2.9%	12,700	11.1%
Local Government	-300	-1.9%	500	3.7%	200	0.7%	6,000	2.2%
Information	-800	-23.5%	-100	-16.7%	-900	-22.5%	-1,000	-1.3%
State Government	-3,300	-12.9%	-1,900	-41.3%	-5,200	-17.3%	-17,100	-12.5%
State Government Educational Services	-4,700	-27.6%	-2,000	-55.6%	-6,700	-32.5%	-21,000	-24.9%



EMPLOYMENT | Average Hourly Earnings

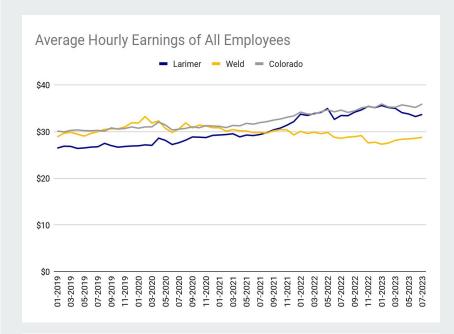
	CURRENT JULY 2023	COMPARISON TO 2019 AVERAGE	LOW	ніен
Northern Colorado	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Larimer	\$33.68	+25.8%	\$26.95 Jan 2020	\$35.58 Jan 2023
Weld	\$28.77	-4.4%	\$27.30 Jan 2023	\$33.22 Feb 2020

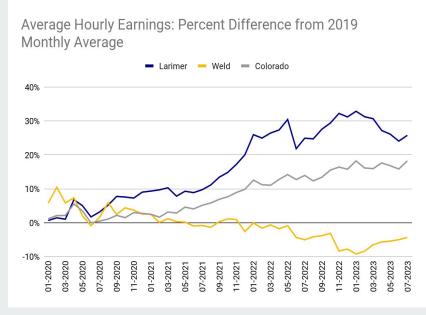
What: Average hourly earnings are collected as "gross" earnings per the average hours for which pay was received. Earnings include overtime and regular bonuses, but not benefits, irregular bonuses, or retroactive pay.

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 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 job losses in the sectors with the highest paid workers.







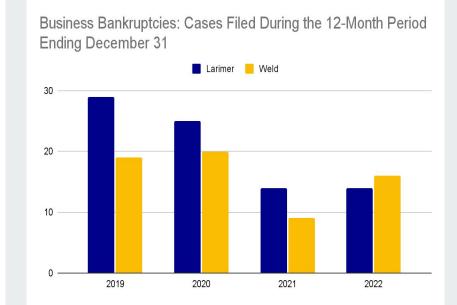
SMALL & LOCAL BUSINESS | Bankruptcy Filings

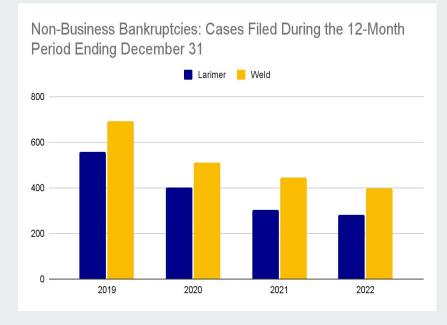
What: The number of business and non-business cases filed in US Bankruptcy Courts measures the volume of bankruptcy filings in a 12-month period. The cases include those related to all chapters of the Bankruptcy Code - Chapter 7, Chapter 11, or Other.

Why: Bankruptcies are a measure of financial distress.

Summary: In the 12 months ending December 31, 2022 Weld County saw an uptick in business bankruptcies compared to 2021. In contrast, non-business bankruptcies declined. In Larimer County, the number of business bankruptcies stayed flat from 2021 to 2022 and non-business bankruptcies declined slightly. The level of both business and non-business cases in both counties that were filed in 2021 and in 2022 is lower than it was in both 2019 and 2020.

The data shows that the Pandemic supports did seem to stabilize business and personal finances. Even with the uptick in business bankruptcies in Weld County, the level is still below pre-Pandemic levels.







Source: U.S. Bankruptcy Courts. Frequency: quarterly, 3-month lag Updated: 04/26/2023

RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Retail Sales

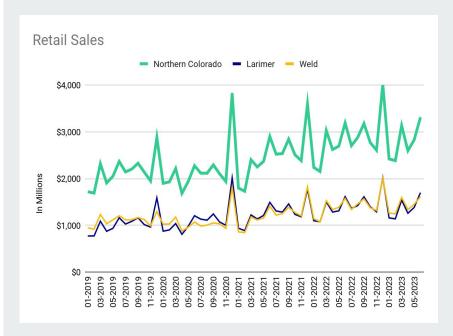
	CURRENT JUNE 2023 (MILLIONS)	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нісн
Northern Colorado	\$3,310.7	+40.0%	\$1,682.5 Apr 2020	\$4,023.5.0 Dec 2022
Larimer	\$1,698.0	+46.3%	\$806.2 Apr 2020	\$2,017.9 Dec 2022
Weld	\$1,612.6	+33.9%	\$843.7 Feb 2021	\$2,005.6 Dec 2022

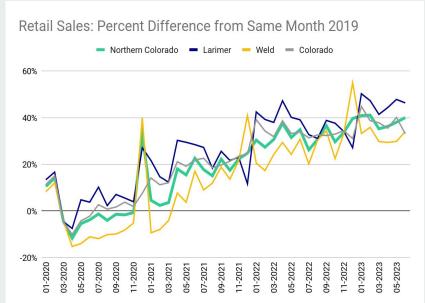
What: Retail sales are an indicator of consumer spending. As of 2019, retail sales are reported as of the location of the purchaser, which would include any online purchases shipped to locations in Larimer and Weld Counties.

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 were slower to recover. Currently, retail sales in both counties are well above 2019 levels and rising, even when adjusted for inflation.







Source: Colorado Department of Revenue Frequency: monthly, 2-month delay Updated: 09/05/2023 RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Retail Sales by Select Industry

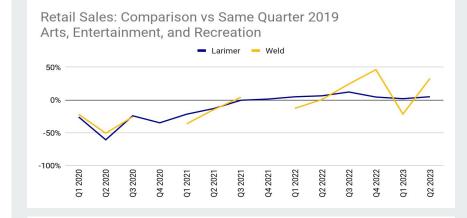
	CURRENT Q2 2023 (MILLIONS)	COMPARISON TO SAME Q 2019	LOW	нісн
Larimer:				
Arts	\$23.7	+4.9%	-60.8%	+12.1%
Clothing	\$94.3	+44.7%	-41.9%	+49.9%
Food Svcs	\$294.3	+33.2%	-36.5%	+33.2%
Weld:				
Arts	\$11.6	+32.8%	-60.8%	+46.3%
Clothing	\$56.9	+148.2%	-8.9%	+156%
Food Svcs	\$152	+30.8%	-20.8%	+30.8%

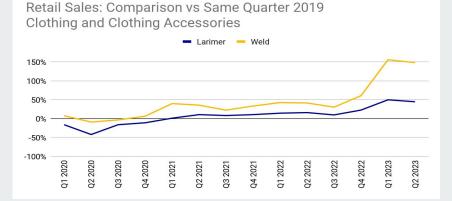
What: Retail sales are an indicator of consumer spending as well as an indicator of business revenues. In this capacity, retail sales can reflect the health of businesses.

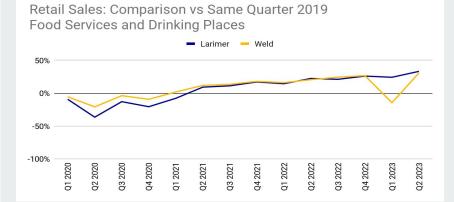
Why: These three industries were selected because many consumer-oriented, locally-owned businesses are in these sectors.

Summary: All three sectors were particularly hard it in the second quarter 2020. 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 Q2 2021 and have continued to rise. Weld County saw a 148% increase in clothing in Q2 2023.









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

Updated: 9/05/2023

RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Hotel Occupancy

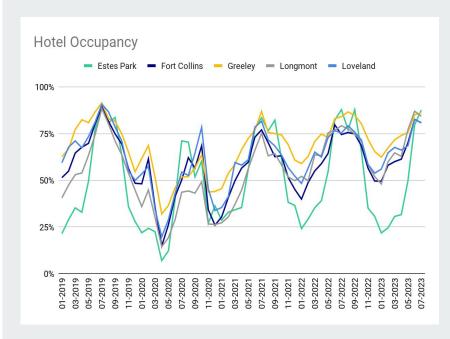
	CURRENT JULY 2023	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нівн
Estes Park	87.6%	-1.7%	7.0% Apr 2020	87.8% Jul 2022
Fort Collins	80.8%	-9.6%	14.8% Apr 2020	82.6% Jun 2023
Greeley	86.3%	-5.6%	31.9% Apr 2020	86.9% Jul 2021
Longmont	84.3%	-4.6%	14.4% Apr 2020	87.0% Jun 2023
Loveland	80.9%	-10.9%	19.7% Apr 2020	82.5% Jun 2023

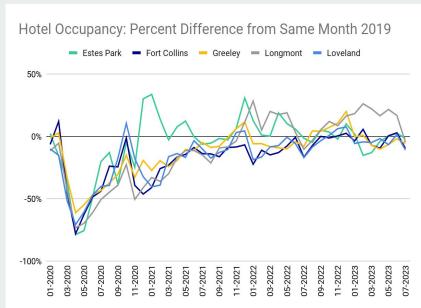
What: The hotel occupancy shows the percent of open hotel rooms that are occupied.

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 2020 & 2021. Estes Park and Longmont were the first markets to recover while the other markets experienced more gradual progress. However, in 2023, tourism in Northern Colorado has been weaker.







Source: Rocky Mountain Lodging Report, Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association Frequency: monthly, 1-month delay
Updated: 09/05/2023

RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Revenue per Available Room

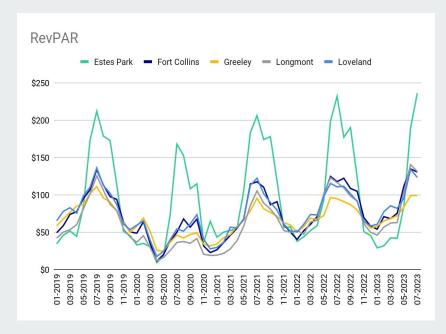
	CURRENT JULY 2023	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нісн
Estes Park	\$236.17	+11.3%	\$9.31 Apr 2020	\$236.17 Jul 2023
Fort Collins	\$130.68	-2.6%	\$11.32 Apr 2020	\$134.89 Jun 2023
Greeley	\$99.42	-10.6%	\$24.67 May 2020	\$99.42 Jul 2023
Longmont	\$131.47	+4.8%	\$11.91 Apr 2020	\$140.54 Jun 2022
Loveland	\$123.44	-9.4%	\$17.56 Apr 2020	\$134.27 Jun 2023

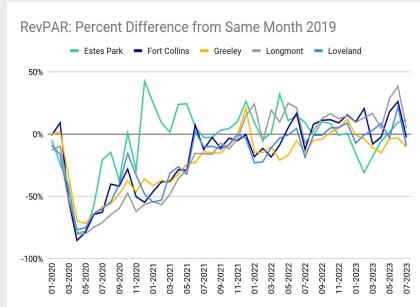
What: Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) is another key performance indicator of the hospitality industry that is calculated by multiplying the average daily room rate by the occupancy rate.

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. By summer 2022, most markets had normalized with Ft. Collins and Longmont often exceeding pre-pandemic numbers. Estes Park saw a slight decline in the 22-23 winter season.







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

Updated: 09/05/2023

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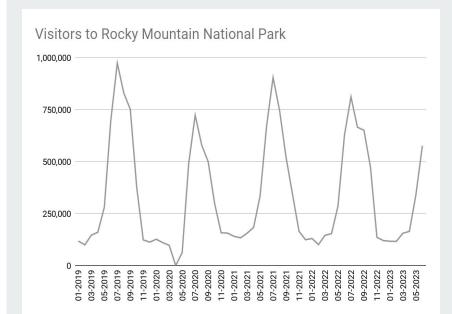
RETAIL & HOSPITALITY | Visitors to Rocky Mountain National Park

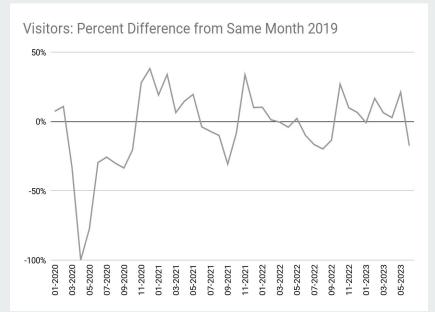
	CURRENT JUNE 2023	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нісн
Recreation Visitors	576,304	-17.5%	0 Apr 2020	904,767 Jul 2021

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: 08/03/2023

REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION | Median Home Price

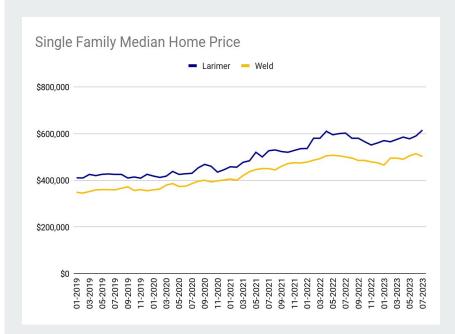
	CURRENT JUNE 2023	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нівн
Northern Colorado	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Larimer	\$614,745	+44.6%	\$412,155 Feb 2020	\$614,745 Jul 2023
Weld	\$501,750	+39.8%	\$358,900 Jan 2020	\$513,950 Jun 2023

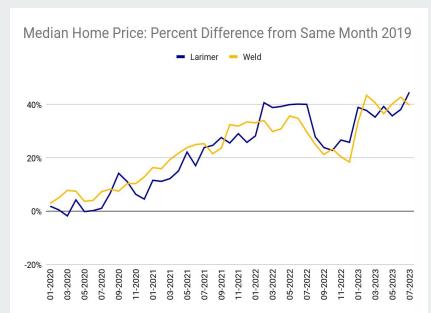
What: The median price is where half homes sold for more and half homes sold for less.

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 remained more than 30 percent higher than the same month in 2019 for the first half of 2022. In the last quarter of 2022, the housing market showed signs of slowing with the rise of interest rates impact the mortgage market, but prices seemed to stabilize in the first half of 2023.







Source: Colorado Association of Realtors Frequency: monthly, 1-month delay Updated: 09/05/2023

REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION | Commercial Vacancy Rates

	CURRENT JULY 2023	COMPARISON TO FEB 2020 MONTHLY AVERAGE	LOW	нісн
Larimer:				
Retail	4.0%	-9.4%	3.2%	4.7%
Office	5.9%	+34.4%	4.5%	7.4%
Industrial	4.8%	+9.2%	2.2%	4.8%
Weld:				
Retail	3.3%	-25.6%	1.9%	4.1%
Office	7.3%	+66.0%	2.6%	7.4%
Industrial	3.1%	-29.4%	2.3%	4.2%

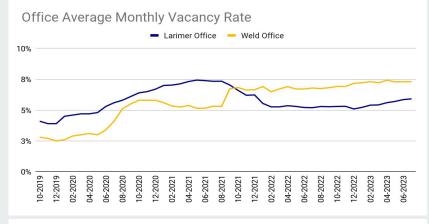
What: The average monthly vacancy rate is the average of the daily vacancy rate, which is the amount of space vacant divided by the rentable building area.

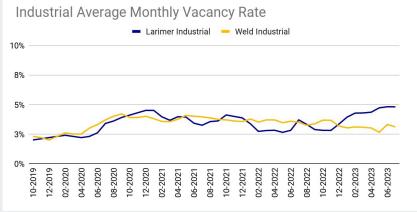
Why: Commercial vacancy rates are indicators of conditions of the commercial real estate market. Changes in the vacancy rate can reflect changes in the region's rentable building area or changes in the amount of space being leased.

Summary: The average monthly vacancy rates for retail were the most stable in both counties until a 2021 uptick of the retail vacancy rate in Weld County. Office vacancy rates have increased the most – more so in Weld County than in Larimer. Industrial vacancy rates have been gradually declining in Weld county but increasing in Larimer County.









Source: CoStar Frequency: daily, no delay Updated: 09/05/2023

REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION | Building Material Use Tax

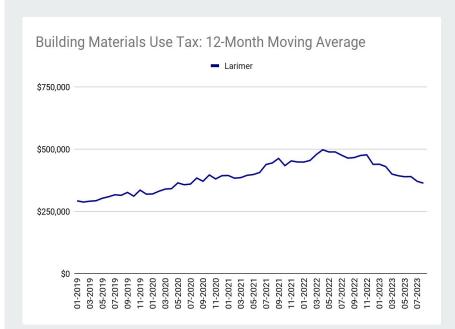
	CURRENT AUG 2023	COMPARISON TO SAME MONTH IN 2019	LOW	нісн
Larimer	\$474,083.4	+15.5%	\$320,110 Jan 2020	\$497,478 Apr 2022

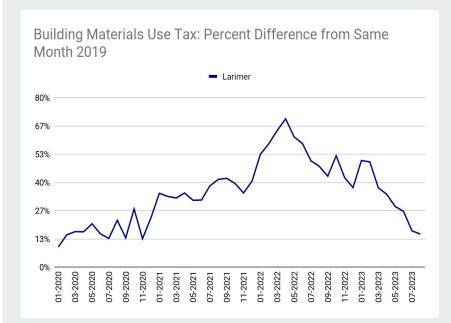
What: Larimer County collects an estimated deposit of building material use tax at the time a building permit is issued. It is a prepayment of sales tax on building material used for a permitted project and is reconciled upon completion of the project. The 12-month moving average provides a smoothed 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. Since May 2022, the 12-month moving average has been on the decline, but still remains above pre-Pandemic levels.







Source: Larimer County
Frequency: monthly, no delay
Updated: 09/05/2023