



NEWSLETTER



What's Really Happening in Colorado's Manufacturing Sector?

At first glance, the numbers tell a concerning story. Since 2000, Colorado's manufacturing sector has seen a 21.1% drop in employment, representing a loss of nearly 40,000 jobs. In fact, manufacturing's share of total employment in the state fell from 10.1% in 2000 to just 6.1% in 2024.

But a closer look reveals a powerful, and far more optimistic, trend. While jobs have decreased, the sector's output has skyrocketed. Colorado's real manufacturing GDP grew by an impressive 71.7% over the same period

The disconnect between employment and output highlights a significant shift

The modern factory floor is leaner, more automated, and more productive. The decline in jobs is not a sign of a shrinking industry, but rather an evolving one—moving toward advanced, less labor-intensive production. As new software, automation, and advanced manufacturing processes reduce the need for manual labor, high-value industries like pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and aerospace are generating substantial output with fewer workers. This trend is a testament to the state's strategic shift toward a capital-intensive, technology-driven manufacturing economy.



Advanced Industries Accelerator Program

Ultimately, while the number of jobs has declined, Colorado's manufacturing sector is not in decline. It's transforming, becoming more productive and cementing its role as a key player in the nation's high-tech industrial landscape.

