This summary presents a sampling of economic information for the area; supplemental data are provided for regions and the nation. Subjects include unemployment, employment, wages, prices, spending, and benefits. All data are not seasonally adjusted and some may be subject to revision. Area definitions may differ by subject. For more area summaries and geographic definitions, see www.bls.gov/regions/economic-summaries.htm.

**Unemployment rates** for the nation and selected areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Dec-18</th>
<th>Dec-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder area</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder Co.</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

**Average weekly wages** for all industries by county

Boulder area, second quarter 2019

(U.S. = $1,095; Area = $1,306)

**Over-the-year changes in employment on nonfarm payrolls** and employment by major industry sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total nonfarm</td>
<td>203.9</td>
<td>5.2 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining, logging, and construction</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>0.1 1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>0.0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade, transportation, and utilities</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>0.7 2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>0.2 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial activities</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>-0.1 -1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional and business services</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>0.8 2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and health services</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>0.8 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure and hospitality</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>0.7 3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0.1 1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>1.9 4.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over-the-year change in the prices paid by urban consumers for selected categories

**12-month percent change in CPI-U, December 2019**

- All items: 3.3% (Mountain division), 2.3% (U.S. city average)
- Food: 2.2%
- Energy: 1.8%
- Housing: 2.5%
- Transport: 3.4%

Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Price Index.

Over-the-year changes in the selling prices received by producers for selected industries nationwide

**12-month percent changes in PPI**

- General freight trucking: -2.0%
- Hospitals: 0%
- Computer & electronic product mfg: 0.0%

Source: U.S. BLS, Producer Price Index.

Average annual spending and percent distribution for selected categories

**Average annual expenditures, United States and West, 2018**

- All items: $12,657 (West), $11,185 (United States)
- Food Energy: $4,892 (West), $4,968 (United States)
- Health: $8,281 (West), $7,296 (United States)
- Ins & pens: $8,913 (West), $7,923 (United States)
- Transp: $10,530 (West), $9,761 (United States)
- Housing: $22,840 (West), $20,091 (United States)

Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Average hourly wages for selected occupations

**Occupation** | **Boulder area** | **United States**
--- | --- | ---
All occupations | $31.10 | $24.98
Computer hardware engineers | 61.07 | 56.66
Software developers, applications | 53.13 | 51.96
Technical writers | 45.70 | 36.30
Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors | 25.88 | 23.04
Food batchmakers | 14.92 | 15.43
Lifeguards, ski patrol, and other recreational protective service workers | 12.07 | 11.74


Employer costs per hour worked for wages and selected employee benefits by geographic division

**Private industry, September 2019** | **Mountain (1)** | **United States**
--- | --- | ---
Total compensation | $33.77 | $34.77
Wages and salaries | 24.10 | 24.38
Total benefits | 9.67 | 10.38
Paid leave | 2.37 | 2.50
Vacation | 1.19 | 1.29
Supplemental pay | 0.97 | 1.12
Insurance | 2.50 | 2.78
Retirement and savings | 1.29 | 1.31
Legally required benefits | 2.54 | 2.68

(1) The states that compose the Mountain census division are: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.
Source: U.S. BLS, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation.

Over-the-year changes in wages and salaries

**12-month percent changes in ECI**

Source: U.S. BLS, Employment Cost Index.