

## Geography

Together, Arapahoe and Douglas counties make up the southeast portion of the Denver Metro Area, which also includes Adams, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Elbert, Gilpin, Park and Jefferson counties.

Arapahoe County is 806 square miles in area, and was first incorporated as part of the Kansas Territory in 1855. It was one of the original 17 counties when the Colorado Territory was organized in 1861, and is currently the third most populous of the 64 counties now in Colorado.



Douglas County is 842 square miles in area, and was ranked number 1 among the nation's counties for the rate of population growth during the 1990s, but had fallen to 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation by March 2010. It is one of only four counties in the Western United States in the top 10 growth list, and the only county in Colorado in the top 10.

## People

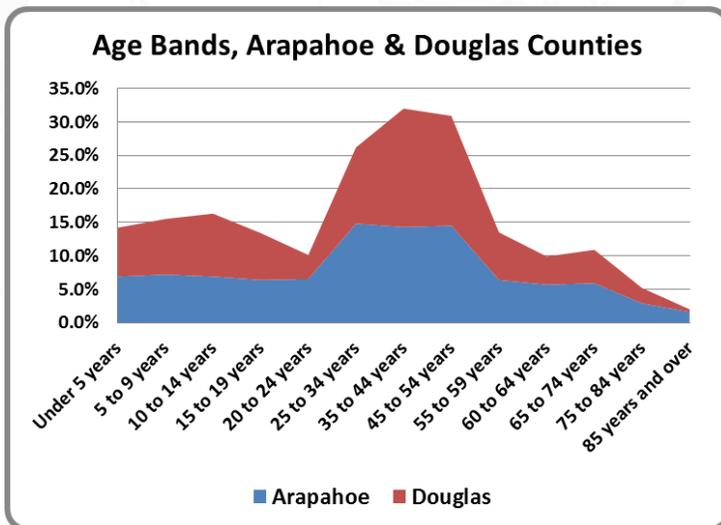
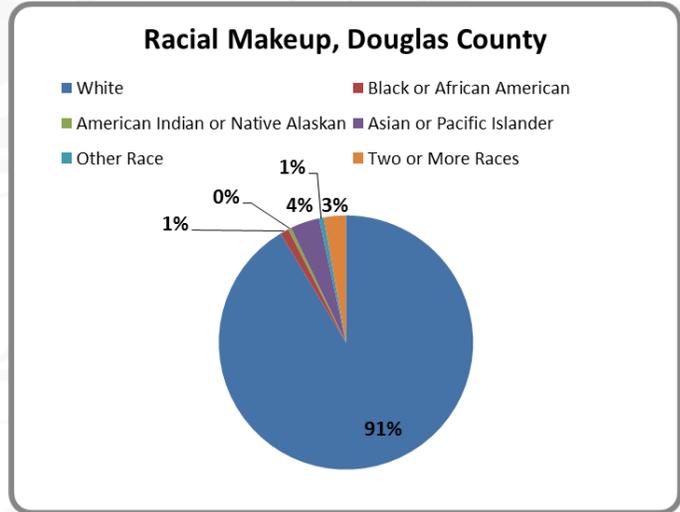
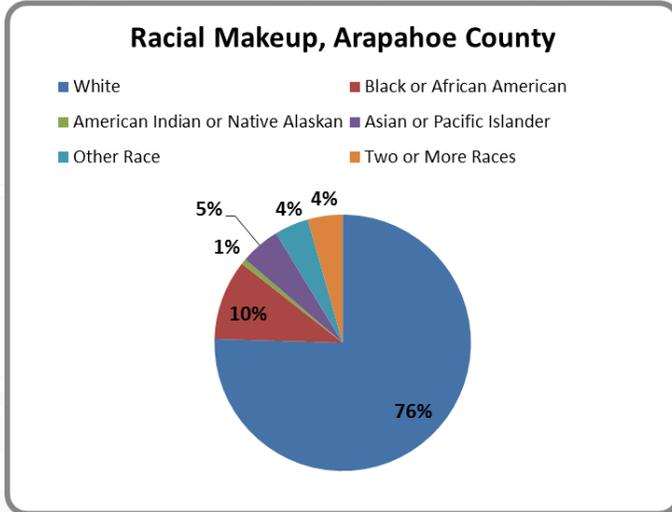
### Arapahoe County

- In 2011, the population of Arapahoe County was 584,948, up 3.6% from 2010
- Of these, 436,827 (74.6%) are over 18 years of age
- Males make up 49.1% of the population; females 50.9%
- The median age in Arapahoe County is 35.9, up from 35.6 in 2010
- 109,385 (18.7%) of the people in Arapahoe County are Hispanic or Latino, up from 11.8% in 2000
- Of the civilian population 18 years and older, 45,185 (10.4%) are veterans
- There are 52,816 (9.1%) persons with disabilities in Arapahoe County
- 123,198 (21.1%) of the people in Arapahoe County speak a language other than English at home
- Of all people in Arapahoe County, 12.1% live in poverty, and 16.9% of children under 18 years old live in poverty
- The median household income in 2011 is \$56,722

### Douglas County

- In 2010, the population of Douglas County was 292,167 up 2.1% from 2010
- Of these, 205,195 (70.2%) are over 18 years of age
- Males make up 49.8% of the population; females 50.2%
- The median age in Douglas County is 37.4, up from 36.3 in 2010
- 22,789 (7.8%) of the people in Douglas County are Hispanic or Latino, up from 5.1% in 2000
- Of the civilian population 18 years and older, 18,375 (9.0%) are veterans
- There are 16,234 (5.6%) persons with disabilities in Douglas County
- Nearly 23,797 (8.1%) of the people in Douglas County speak a language other than English at home
- Of all people in Douglas County, 5.0% live in poverty, and 6.5% of children under 18 years old live in poverty
- The median household income in 2011 is \$93,573

The pie charts show racial makeup of each county.



This chart shows the age demographics of Arapahoe and Douglas counties. Note the large numbers of people between 35 and 54 years of age. The aging population and simultaneous increase in life expectancy has ramifications for the healthcare and social assistance, real estate, finance and insurance, services and government industry groups.

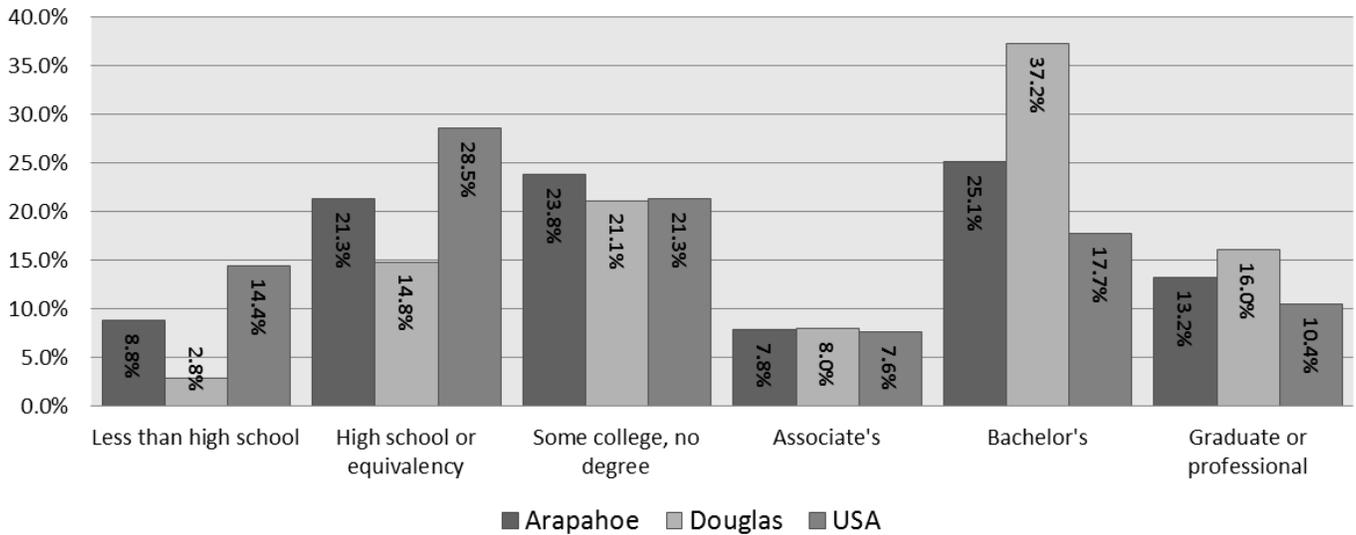
In terms of an aging workforce, it also hints at skilled worker shortages to come. An example is the finance industry in the Denver Metro area. In this industry, 53% of the labor force is 45 years or older. Overall, **45% of the workforce in the Denver Metro area is 45 years or older.**

Many aging baby boomers had intended to retire, but are still in the labor market because they lost money in the recession. However, policy makers can expect that within the next decade, they will begin leaving the labor force in earnest, which will create critical skill gaps in the region's labor force, and may adversely affect the economic vitality of the region. At this point, public-private partnerships must be in place to address the ongoing competitiveness of the region's labor force.

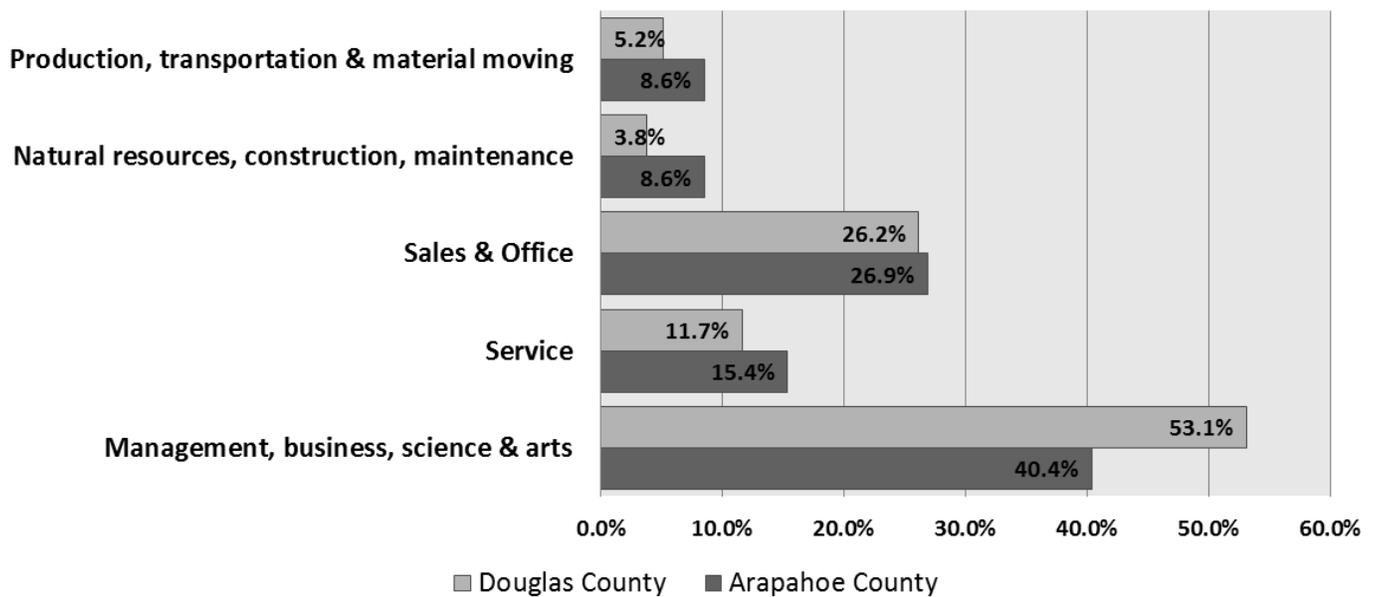
## Workforce

Arapahoe and Douglas counties market themselves through the quality of their respective workforces. This chart shows the educational attainment in both counties is substantially higher at the top end than the average in the United States.

## Educational Attainment, Population 25 Years and Older



## Occupational Makeup of Labor Force



## Economy

As shown in the table below, the two-county region is an economic powerhouse, with 33.5% of the employment in the greater Denver Metro area, 33.4% of worker earnings and 30.4% of gross receipts. The table has been sorted by **location quotient**, which is the relative concentration of an industry group to its concentration within the state as a whole. The two-county area is a regional hub for information, oil & gas, finance and insurance. The relatively high concentration in the professional, technical and scientific group creates an intellectual and economic environment that attracts new business. This, coupled with superior transportation infrastructure, including Centennial Airport, has contributed to the location of many corporate headquarters along I-25 between Hampden Avenue in south Denver and Lincoln Avenue in northern Douglas County.

Jobs, Earnings & Sales, Arapahoe & Douglas Counties								
NAICS	Industry	Jobs	Percent of Metro Denver	Earnings	Percent of Metro Denver	Sales	Percent of Metro Denver	2013 Location Quotient
51	Information	27,171	50.9%	\$ 2,724,456,775	51.9%	\$ 13,878,235,642	53.6%	2.37
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	9,600	36.3%	\$ 769,608,178	26.0%	\$ 3,520,456,968	25.7%	2.06
52	Finance and Insurance	59,656	48.0%	\$ 4,808,876,044	48.5%	\$ 14,568,313,798	48.5%	1.99
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	10,342	36.8%	\$ 1,664,407,945	39.9%	\$ 3,053,488,508	39.9%	1.55
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	59,923	36.4%	\$ 4,594,392,959	36.5%	\$ 7,909,192,252	36.2%	1.54
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	35,476	39.4%	\$ 1,321,542,848	37.3%	\$ 8,232,772,513	35.3%	1.39
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	39,101	35.1%	\$ 1,455,714,530	36.4%	\$ 2,783,543,065	35.7%	1.20
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	14,201	34.7%	\$ 429,164,492	33.6%	\$ 916,068,869	33.0%	1.19
23	Construction	30,765	33.2%	\$ 1,553,330,999	33.6%	\$ 3,253,978,570	33.6%	1.14
44-45	Retail Trade	57,506	37.9%	\$ 1,773,448,363	38.3%	\$ 4,373,959,163	38.3%	1.03
42	Wholesale Trade	19,794	27.9%	\$ 1,964,050,488	32.3%	\$ 5,347,807,165	32.3%	0.99
72	Accommodation and Food Services	33,664	28.7%	\$ 677,859,323	27.2%	\$ 2,019,507,003	26.5%	0.86
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	50,443	33.6%	\$ 2,856,665,417	34.8%	\$ 5,111,393,028	34.5%	0.83
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	28,027	33.4%	\$ 754,192,026	32.3%	\$ 1,443,384,770	32.2%	0.81
61	Educational Services (Private)	10,770	28.1%	\$ 340,732,722	27.5%	\$ 598,361,169	28.0%	0.77
90	Government	50,186	25.7%	\$ 2,874,254,083	22.0%	\$ 11,131,353,374	17.2%	0.65
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	7,989	15.5%	\$ 316,063,471	12.1%	\$ 824,424,239	10.5%	0.45
31-33	Manufacturing	11,624	17.2%	\$ 740,573,500	14.0%	\$ 3,082,318,083	10.8%	0.30
22	Utilities	439	11.5%	\$ 50,618,593	9.9%	\$ 256,789,969	10.0%	0.23
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	2,087	26.9%	\$ 68,006,573	34.5%	\$ 306,469,207	38.5%	0.19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>558,764</b>	<b>33.5%</b>	<b>\$ 31,737,959,329</b>	<b>33.4%</b>	<b>\$ 92,611,817,355</b>	<b>30.4%</b>	

Source: EMSI Complete Employment, 2013.2

## Conclusion

The leadership in Arapahoe and Douglas counties has created a business-friendly environment that will attract new business, keep existing business and encourage entrepreneurship. The strength of these partnerships will keep the economy in the two-county area viable and growing through the next decade and beyond.