

## January 2021 Colorado Employment Update

March 2021

The latest Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) state employment and labor force data released March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, shows the rollercoaster employment trend continued through January. While Colorado ended 2020 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest increase in the unemployment rate of all states from the start of last year, the January 2021 data shows a sharp turnaround. Even though January data is a promising sign of recovery, there is still a long way to climb to reach pre-pandemic employment levels.

### Key Findings on Colorado Employment as of January 2021

- The state’s unemployment rate dropped .3 percentage points to 6.6%. While this is tied for the 22<sup>nd</sup> highest unemployment rate, there are 34 states with a lower unemployment rate.
- Colorado added 32,300 total nonfarm jobs between the months of December 2020 and January 2021, ranking the 5<sup>th</sup> largest total increase among all states.
- The monthly growth rate in total nonfarm jobs ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> highest among all states at 1.2%. Only Minnesota at 1.9% and New Hampshire at 1.4% ranked higher.
- Despite the large increase in employment in January, total employment in Colorado was still down 5.7%, or 160,800 nonfarm jobs, relative to January 2020. This ranked Colorado 27<sup>th</sup> nationally on a percentage basis.
  - Utah added 3,200 jobs in January yet was only down 2,600, or .2%, from January 2020
  - California lost 69,900 jobs resulting in total loss of 1.75 million jobs, or 10%, from January 2020
  - Arizona added 13,700 jobs in January, resulting in a 4% reduction in jobs compared to January 2020 or -114,500 jobs.

### Deeper Dive into Colorado Industries

- The leisure and hospitality industry added 21,200 in January, however total employment in the sector was at 77% of its January 2020 level, a reduction of 81,100 jobs.
- Professional business and technical services sector added 4,200 jobs in January, yet is still has 8,000, or -1.8%, fewer jobs than 12-months earlier.
- The mining, logging and construction sector added just 400 jobs in January. The combined sector was down 13,600 jobs or -6.6% in January 2021 from 12-months earlier.

### Change in Total Employment by Industry January 2020 to January 2021

