



# RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, & DESIGN “RED” INDUSTRY

The Research, Engineering, & Design “RED” industry is one of Jefferson County’s fastest growing industries. From 2018 – 2023, industry employment in the county grew 23.5%, outpacing the national growth rate of 17%. With a location quotient of 2.79, the concentration of “RED” jobs in Jefferson County is nearly 3 times the national average.



## Industry Snapshot



Companies  
**1,010**



Jobs  
**11,709**



Average Wage  
**\$135,500**



Jobs Multiplier  
**2.04**



Location Quotient  
**2.79**

- Jefferson County is home to the Colorado School of Mines (Mines), which continues to rank as one of the **top engineering schools in the nation**. With its recently awarded Carnegie R1 Classification, the university is among the top 4% of research institutions in the nation. Since 2016, research funding at Mines has grown 45%. In 2023, Mines was awarded over \$100 million for research.
- With a job concentration of 3.43, Jefferson County has **243% more engineers** than the national average.
- Colorado has the **2nd highest concentration** of engineers and **ranks 2nd** for its technology and science workforce, with 7.8% of the state’s workforce employed in science and engineering occupations.
- Jefferson County’s **highly educated workforce** is growing. Residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher increased by more than 11% from 2000 to 2023. Today, 51.9% of the residents in Jefferson County have a bachelor’s degree or higher, helping position Colorado as the nation’s **2nd most educated workforce**. The county ranks 44th in the nation for the highest concentration of residents with a bachelor’s degree.
- Colorado ranks 2nd for the **best state to start a business** and #1 as the **best state for women entrepreneurs**.
- To **support the business community**, Jefferson County recently eliminated its portion of the business personal property tax, becoming one of the first counties in Colorado to eliminate this tax.

