



Computer Hardware and Storage

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Benchmark Storage
Chaparral
Cisco Systems
CreekPath Systems
Exabyte
Hewlett Packard Company
IBM InPhase Technologies
omega Corp.
Left Hand Networks
Maxtor Corp.
McData
Quantum
Ramtron International
SANZ, Inc.
Seagate Technology
SRC Computers
Storage Tek
Sun Microsystems
Tahemus

Profile and Trends in Colorado

Colorado companies have been involved in the computer hardware and storage industry for many years. Growth of this industry is partly driven by the market demand of Colorado's strong high-tech sector. In a recent study conducted by the Progressive Policy Institute, Colorado ranked 1st in the nation for high-tech jobs (as a percentage of total employment) and second for its concentration of technology firms. Colorado's high-tech industry ranks:

- 1st in employment concentration
- 12th in total employment
- 6th in average wages
- 11th in number of establishments

Major Players Call Colorado Home

IBM, HP, StorageTek, Sun Microsystems, and McData all have operations in Colorado. StorageTek, is headquartered in Louisville, employs over 7,000 people worldwide, including 3,000 in the state. As a result of StorageTek's success, many other smaller storage firms have begun to emerge over the past few years, making the Front Range one of the most important locations in the storage world. Companies like LeftHand Networks, CreekPath Systems, SANZ, Inc., and Tabernus are growing into major players in the storage systems and networking field.

The highest concentration of hardware manufacturing firms is in Boulder and El Paso Counties. Boulder County is home to 126 firms and El Paso County is home to 81. Employment is roughly 10,703 in Boulder and 10,063 in El Paso. Together, these two counties account for over 56% of the total employment in the hardware manufacturing sector. Other counties with significant employment concentration include Larimer, Adams, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Weld, Denver, and Broomfield. In storage, Boulder County accounts for over 92% of the total storage employment in the state, with 3,681 total employees. El Paso County has the second highest concentration of storage jobs, with 290 total employees.

Colorado Research

The presence of many universities and research centers within the state create another area of strength for this industry in Colorado. The state's research universities create a highly educated employment base, and provide research support for the computer hardware and storage industry. The University of Colorado at Boulder offers undergraduate and graduate level programs, as well as certificate programs in data storage. CU Colorado Springs is home to the Network Information and Space Security Center (NISSC).

In 2003, NISSC became part of the StorageNetworking.org academic advisory board, which will work to develop regional and local data storage user groups. Colorado Springs is also home to the Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) Technology Center. The center conducts storage research and development and also provides educational courses for industry leaders, including manufacturers, vendors, partners, and end-users.