

THORNTON PRIMARY EMPLOYER REPORT

AUGUST 2026



NEW OR ON THE MOVE

Thornton continues to see primary employment growth. The following employers opened or announced plans to open to-date in 2026.

Opened/Expanded in 2026: Representing over 600 jobs.



Coming Soon: Representing over 800 jobs.

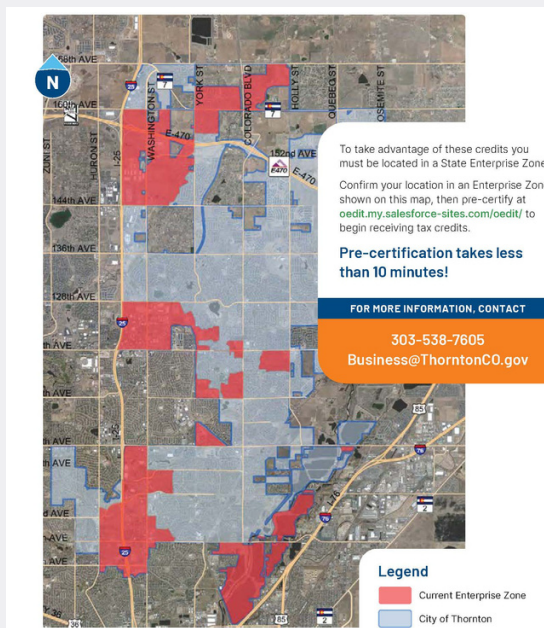


ENTERPRISE ZONE

The Colorado Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program is designed to promote a business-friendly environment by offering state income tax credits. Taxpayers investing in Enterprise Zones can earn credit on their Colorado income tax by planning and executing specific economic development activities. Some of these credits can be carried over for up to 5 years in certain cases.

To take advantage of these credits you must pre-certify each year, and begin receiving tax credits by visiting oedit.colorado.gov/enterprise-zone-program. Pre-certification takes less than 10 minutes! The Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade completed the 2025 redesignation process. The map below reflects changes made to the Thornton-area EZ zone.

For further information or assistance, contact Wendi Nafziger at wendi.nafziger@thorntonco.gov.



Enterprise Tax Credits May Include:

- **Investment Tax Credit:** Providing businesses with a tax credit of 3% for equipment purchases up to \$2 million.
- **New Employee Credit:** A tax credit offering businesses \$1,100 per new job created.
- **Health Insurance:** Offers businesses \$1,000 per insured job. Available for the first two years in a State Enterprise Zone.
- **Job Training:** Companies implementing a qualified job-training program for their employees may claim an income tax credit of 12% of their eligible training costs.
- **Research and Development Tax Credit:** A tax credit of up to 3% for businesses, depending on the increase of a company's research and development expenditures within an Enterprise Zone during the previous two income tax years.

BUSINESS GRANTS

Thornton Business Improvement Grant (BIG)

The Business Improvement Grant (BIG), administered by the Office of Economic Development, is available to help fund business improvements that will result in the creation and retention of jobs, increased sales revenue, and increased capital investment in Thornton facilities. BIG is primarily a matching funds program. Once approved, the Planning, Development Engineering, and Building Divisions work with awardees to coordinate permits, inspections, and project requirements.

Note: Two changes were made to the program in 2026. 1) Applicants must have a Thornton business license for 24 months to apply (previously 12 months); and 2) Applicants can receive grant funds every 3 years (previously 5 years).

South Thornton Attraction & Revitalization Grant (STAR)

The STAR grant is a reimbursement grant designed to enhance and revitalize commercial areas in the South Thornton Development Area (South TDA; identified as within the TDA, South of 104th Avenue) by attracting and supporting new and expanding businesses to the area, assisting business owners with building improvements, and assisting with the cost of permitting and licensing, regulatory compliance, equipment purchases or exterior and façade improvements.



THORNTON BUSINESS SAFETY

The Thornton Business Safety program is intended to grow relationships and partnerships between the Thornton Police Department, the City of Thornton, and Thornton businesses of all sizes in order to prevent crime and promote a safe environment for employees and customers. Visit this website at <https://businessinthornton.com/local-business/thornton-area-business-safety-program>.

SMART COMMUTE



Smart Commute is a people-powered transportation management organization. They can assist you and your employees in finding alternative transportation options at your business location. For customized information or to learn more, visit smartcommute.org/about-us.

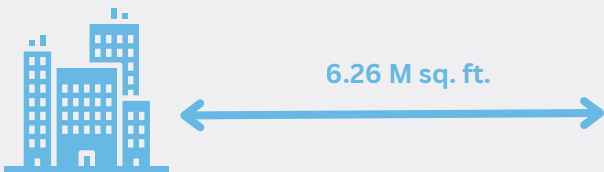
PRIMARY EMPLOYER IMPACT

Thornton has seen an increase in the number of primary jobs over the last decade. They occupy more than 6 million square feet of commercial space and support over 7,968 jobs, strengthening the local workforce and economy.

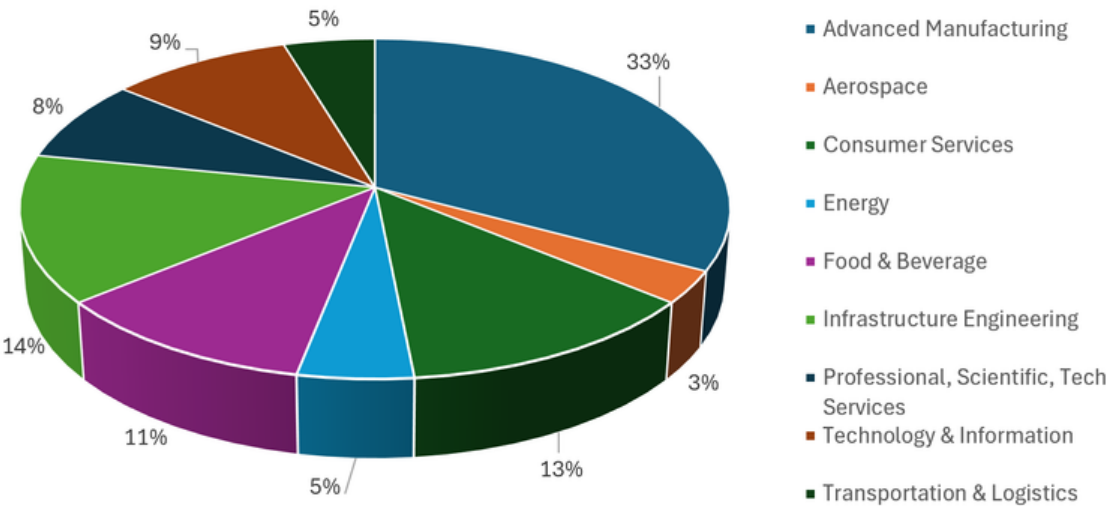
Primary Employers Represent Over 7,968 Jobs



Space Occupied by Primary Employers



Primary Industry by Sector Breakdown





REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITIES

Thornton offers a variety of real estate opportunities for new/expanding businesses. View the major business parks, offering move-in ready employment space to accommodate businesses of all sizes.

[25 Commerce Park](#)

[25 North Business Park](#)

[5280 Logistics Park](#)

[Creekside Innovation Park](#)

[Crossroads 25](#)

[Eagle 25 Logistics Center](#)

[Innovate 25](#)

[North Washington Commerce Center](#)

[Pulse 25 Industrial Center](#)

THORNTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Office of Economic Development's dedicated team is here to provide unwavering support to Thornton businesses and individuals seeking to establish or transfer their operations here. Our array of comprehensive services is designed to simplify your search and decision-making process, including:

- Property searches
- Incentives
- City process liaison
- Enterprise Zone assistance
- Issue resolution

For further assistance, contact Wendi Nafziger at wendi.nafziger@thorntonco.gov.



USEFUL LINKS

- [United Power](#)
- [Xcel Energy](#)
- [Colorado Office of Economic Development & Int'l Trade](#)
- [Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation](#)
- [City of Thornton Building](#)
- [City of Thornton Development Code Summary \(updated\)](#)
- [City of Thornton Planning](#)
- [City of Thornton Water](#)
- [Front Range Community College](#)
- [Manufacturer's Edge](#)

For more information or business assistance, contact:

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