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Doing Business in Littleton

Littleton
Anything But Little

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
2255 WEST BERRY AVENUE, LITTLETON, CO 80120 • 303-795-3758
**Location**

Just 20 minutes from Downtown Denver, the City of Littleton encompasses 14 square miles. It is bordered on the north by Englewood, on the south by Highlands Ranch, on the east by Centennial and on the west by unincorporated Jefferson County. Getting around is easy with quick access to I-25, C-470 and South Santa Fe Drive.

**Resident Profile**

The Littleton resident is a person who wants to live in a place where there is a strong sense of community and high quality of life with a small-town feeling. The residents of Littleton are active families who want to live in a place with top-ranked schools, easy access to open space and trails, and proximity to entertainment such as Littleton’s historic downtown.

**Visitor Profile**

The Littleton visitor is a day-traveler who wants to visit a historic Colorado town that’s convenient and in proximity to Denver. The visitor is someone who wants to explore unique shops, dine at local places and support local business owners. They come to Littleton to experience the vibrant historic downtown, active trail system and parks and local attractions. More than 1,500 acres of parks and open space and active trails in Littleton attract cyclists and trail runners or a family wanting to experience Colorado’s beautiful scenery. Visitors include business travelers, families and groups.

**Incorporated**

March 8, 1890

**Population**

42,514

**Area**

14 Square Miles

**Median Household Income**

$52,487

**Earned Degrees**

42.9%

**Average Household Size**

2.25

**Elevation**

5,389 ft.

**Miles of Streets**

161

**Miles of Bikeways and Trails**

35

**Single-Family Housing Units**

12,958

**Multi-Family Housing Units**

6,303

**Retail Space**

3,286,000 sq. ft.

**Office Space**

3,057,342 sq. ft.

**Industrial Space**

3,303,394 sq. ft.
**Education**

Littleton Public Schools are rated at the highest level in Colorado (Source: EdNews Colorado). Residents are well educated with 42.9% having a bachelor’s degree or higher. The Colorado average is 36.3% (Source: US Census Bureau).

Arapahoe Community College is located just south of Downtown Littleton and offers 85 degrees and certificates matching a wide variety of study and career goals.

**Labor Force Data**

Littleton has a population with diverse experience in a myriad of industries. Details can be found at: go2littleton.com/site-selection/.

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**Why Do Business in Littleton?**

Business owners choose Littleton to build their businesses because of the location, small-town feeling, strong sense of community and high quality of life. Littleton enterprises tend to be small businesses and Colorado companies that become an integrated part of the community. They take an active role in learning about neighboring businesses and historic elements. Littleton business owners have experienced long-standing growth in the community and have flourished for decades. Littleton seeks new business opportunities with local Colorado companies that will have a strong economic impact while strengthening the overall quality of life of Littleton residents.
**Amenities and Services**

**Light Rail**
Littleton has two light rail stations operating as part of the Regional Transportation District’s (RTD) C and D Lines. RTD plans to extend this line south to Highlands Ranch.

**Downtown Station**
- **Lines:** C/D  • **Fare zone:** C
- **Location:** Southeast corner of Alamo and Prince Street
- **Parking spaces:** 461

**Mineral Station**
- **Lines:** C/D  • **Fare zone:** C
- **Location:** South Santa Fe Drive and Mineral Avenue
- **Parking spaces:** 1,227

**Library**
The Bemis Library collection includes more than 180,000 items. Information is available through various media such as CDs and DVDs as well as in a variety of foreign languages including Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese.

**Museum**
Often cited as one of the top ten local history museums in the United States, the Littleton Museum has an outstanding reputation within the museum community. It is one of only 700 museums to be fully accredited by the American Association of Museums and is recognized as one of two Smithsonian Affiliates in Colorado.
**Parks, Trails and Open Space**

The City of Littleton has more than 1,477 acres of parks, trails and open space.

**Hudson Gardens & Event Center**

Hudson Gardens is a 30 acre, non-profit botanical gardens located along the bank of the South Platte River. It features a first-class summer concert series and boasts one of the best places along the Front Range to host an event, business meeting, or memorable wedding.

**Downtown Main Street**

Experience the relaxed ambiance of a different era. Downtown Littleton offers a charming Main Street lined with turn-of-the-century buildings that house some of the metro area's most unique, independently owned businesses. There are art galleries, antique and specialty gift shops, clothing boutiques and many quaint restaurants and bars.

**Aspen Grove Lifestyle Center**

Aspen Grove Lifestyle Center, Colorado's premiere open-air retail village, is home to 55 of Colorado's finest stores and restaurants, including: Pottery Barn, The Gap, Apple, Pier One Imports, Williams-Sonoma, Ted's Montana Grill and more! Aspen Grove offers convenient storefront parking, mountain views and an atmosphere every bit as inviting as the stores it showcases.
## Tax Rates and Top Employers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tax Description</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Income</td>
<td>4.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Taxes 2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FICA Match</td>
<td>7.65%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FUTA ($7,000 Limit)</td>
<td>.600%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUTA $10,000 Limit</td>
<td>2.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Property Tax</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Personal Property Tax</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales Use Tax State of Colorado</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arapahoe County</td>
<td>.25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas County</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Tax City of Littleton</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arapahoe County</td>
<td>4.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas County</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Littleton General Use Tax</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Littleton One Time Use Tax</td>
<td>3%</td>
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**BUSINESS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUSINESS</th>
<th>TOTAL EMPLOYEES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CenturyLink</td>
<td>1,663</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dish Network</td>
<td>1,543</td>
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<tr>
<td>Littleton Adventist Hospital</td>
<td>967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Littleton Public Schools</td>
<td>830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arapahoe Community College</td>
<td>632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arapahoe County</td>
<td>522</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic National Distributing</td>
<td>425</td>
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<td>City of Littleton</td>
<td>463</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center Point</td>
<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Globus</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
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A "General Use Tax" is a 3 percent tax imposed on every person in the city for the privilege of storing, using or consuming, in the city, any articles of tangible personal property purchased at retail and not subjected to city sales tax without regard to whether the property is purchased from sources within or outside the city.

For those who purchase an existing business within the city limits or establish a new business within the city limits, a one-time use tax of 3 percent must be paid on the purchase price of all furniture, fixtures, equipment and supplies made incidental to the opening of the business.
State Incentives

Private Activity Bonds (Tax-Exempt Industrial Revenue Bonds)

Locally sponsored by the county and municipal governing bodies, up to $10 million of tax-exempt private activity bonds are available per qualified manufacturing project through the statewide allocation. Typically, tax-exempt bonds offer an interest rate 70% - 80% of the prime rate. Total project costs cannot exceed $10 million. Bond proceeds can be used for land acquisition, site improvements, building construction, and purchase of machinery and equipment. More information: advancecolorado.com.

Economic Development Commission Funds

The State of Colorado offers, on a per project basis, low-interest loan assistance to businesses for new locations or expansions in Colorado, authorized by the Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC). Amounts and terms of the loans are determined by the EDC. Loan proceeds can be used for construction and operating capital. More information: advancecolorado.com.

Customized Job Training Grants

The State of Colorado’s Customized Job Training Programs make grants available to businesses training new employees (through the Colorado FIRST Program) or re-training existing employees (through the Existing Industry Training Program). These programs, administered through the State Office of Business Development and the State Community College and Occupational Educational System, offer assistance to companies to help cover the costs associated with training and re-training employees. The typical job-training grant averages $400 per trainee. Arapahoe Community College can assist with customized training activities through company-approved curricula. More information: advancecolorado.com.

County/Local Incentives

Employee Recruitment Services

The City of Littleton Economic Development Department offers customized recruitment information and strategies.

The Colorado Works! Programs offers customized solutions for employee recruiting, screening, and training needs. Employers in the south metro Denver area will find all state and federal job service programs conveniently coordinated through the Arapahoe/Douglas Works Job Service Office. More information: adworks.org.

Revitalization Incentive Grant

The Littleton City Council approved funds for a Revitalization Incentive Grant designed to help renew the appear-
ance of businesses located in buildings constructed prior to 2000. In 2013, $50,000 was budgeted for the program and $75,000 was approved for 2014. Matching funds are available for up to $10,000 per project. The goal of the program is to leverage private money to make affordable and creative improvements to older business properties. All work must be in areas visible from the public right-of-way and may include landscaping, signage, exterior lighting, architectural/design assistance, and parking area and façade improvements. More information can be found at littletongov.org/econdev.

New/Expanding Business Incentive Payments (Personal Property)

The State of Colorado allows local taxing units to provide incentive payments to new or expanding companies. These payments are negotiated with the individual county, municipality, or school district, and can total as much as 50% of the amount of taxes levied by the jurisdiction on the personal property of the new or expanding business. This payment is allowed for a maximum of ten years.

Plan Review and Construction Permitting – Expedited Plan Review

Development plan review and construction permitting is typically achieved in the City of Littleton in 90 days or less, a significant incentive (and advantage) over many other local and national jurisdictions. A single point-of-contact can be arranged to handle all applications and requests.

Sales Tax Share Back

The City of Littleton is committed to exceptional quality development within its boundaries. To achieve this goal, it has some of the most stringent design requirements in the metro area. To encourage businesses to renovate buildings that may not meet current design guidelines, the city will consider, on a case-by-case basis, granting a sales tax share-back to businesses that invest in the renovation and upgrade of the exterior of a building to meet these high standards.

To qualify, businesses must construct facilities that meet or exceed current design guidelines, and generate enough sales tax revenue to justify the investment. Contact the economic development director for more information at 303-795-3749.

Economic Development

The City of Littleton is committed to attracting and supporting business growth. The city council has undergone comprehensive training to better understand what is required to support the economic vitality of the community. The city has streamlined its planning and development processes to accommodate business needs.
ON AVERAGE, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ASSISTS 300 BUSINESSES ANNUALLY.

Staff is available to meet with and discuss specific business requirements. The city provides a no cost, pre-planning assessment that includes representatives from the various compliance departments so businesses don’t have to spend time in multiple meetings.

Littleton adopted Comprehensive and Economic Development Plans in 2013. These plans consider the most effective way to improve every aspect of the community. Littleton is a progressive city offering excellent opportunities for investors, developers and business owners to locate and thrive. Businesses and residents benefit from the transportation system, walkability, open space and trails, recreational facilities, cultural amenities and superior schools.

**Business Resources**

The City of Littleton’s Economic Development Department provides no-cost, high-end business resources for any company operating within the city limits. The business development team can assist in the planning stages of a new business, or help those looking to locate in Littleton or wanting to expand an existing business.

For those starting a new business, staff will review their plan, analyze the market, and make sure all of the government requirements are covered.

For those planning to locate in Littleton or already in business, staff can help grow the customer base through market analysis and effective strategies including:

- Internet Marketing and Social Media Strategies
- Networking Strategies and Contacts
- Competitor Research
- Industry Trend Information
- Market Research – Demographic and Expenditure Information
- Find Available Properties within Littleton City Limits
- Assist with Employment Needs - Recruitment/ Hiring Strategies
- Targeted Marketing Lists for Business-to-Consumer or Business-to-Business
- Assistance Locating and Evaluating Suppliers
- Access to Business Finance Information and Resources
- Liaison Assistance with City Departments
- Business Education Seminars

To schedule an appointment with the team, contact Jo Anne Ricca at jricca@littletongov.org or call 303-795-3758.
HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OPENED IN MAY 2013. IT OFFERS A FULL CONTINUUM OF REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SUFFERED A MAJOR ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS.

THE FIRST ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE AND CINEMA IN COLORADO OPENED IN THE ASPEN GROVE LIFESTYLE CENTER (7301 SOUTH SANTA FE DRIVE) IN 2013.