

# DATA BYTES

## Employment in the Denver Metro Region

As part of our mission to transform data into actionable information that improves the social sector's ability to serve low-income communities, Shift Research Lab develops and maintains web-based technology tools that provide free data and analysis on social issues. We continuously update these tools with the most current information available from our data partners. To highlight new data that is added, we are releasing Shift Data Bytes—an ongoing series of data snapshots.

Every year, Shift acquires data sets from the Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics (LEHD) and publishes them to Community Facts. In this edition of Data Bytes, we provide insight into what this new data tells us about employment in neighborhoods across metro Denver.

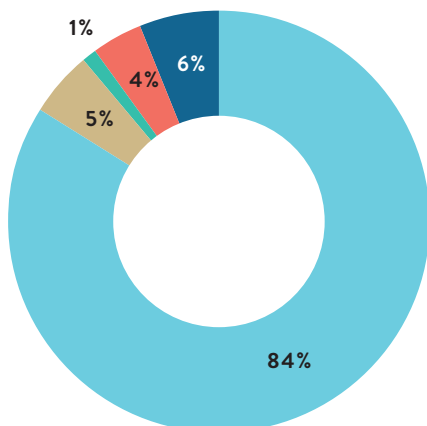
### POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT

The charts below show the racial composition of metro Denver's population\* (left) and employed individuals (right) from 2011 through 2015. Notably, the non-White population makes up 16 percent of metro Denver's population, but comprises only 11 percent of employed individuals. In contrast, metro Denver's White population makes up 84 percent of the total population and 89 percent of employed individuals. It's also worth noting that non-White Hispanic populations make up 19 percent of metro Denver's population and comprise 15 percent of employed individuals.

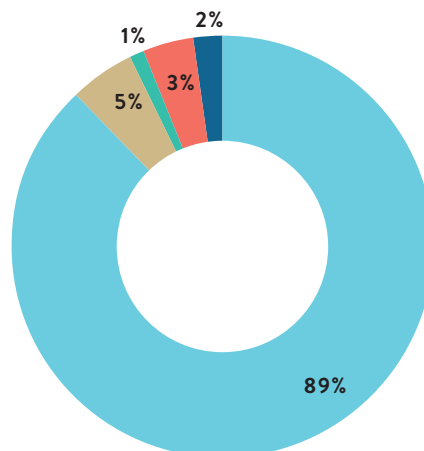
### KEY FINDINGS

- Metro Denver's White population makes up 84 percent of the region's population and 89 percent of employed individuals.
- The majority of people who work in Boulder and the Denver Tech Center (DTC) commute more than 5 miles to work.
- Boulder and DTC, two of the region's biggest job hubs, have 10 percent more employees with bachelor or advanced degrees than the metro region as a whole.

POPULATION BY RACE



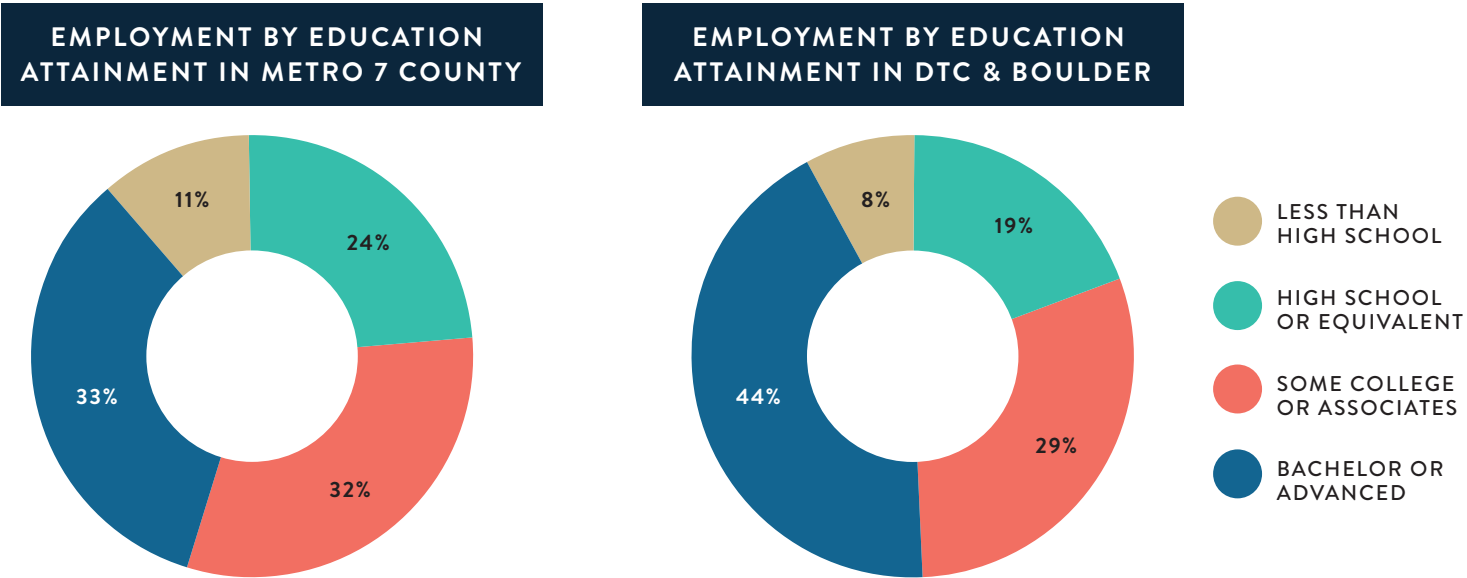
EMPLOYMENT BY RACE



\*These population stats are drawn from the labor age population, which is 16 years or older.  
Source: American Community Survey (ACS): 2015.

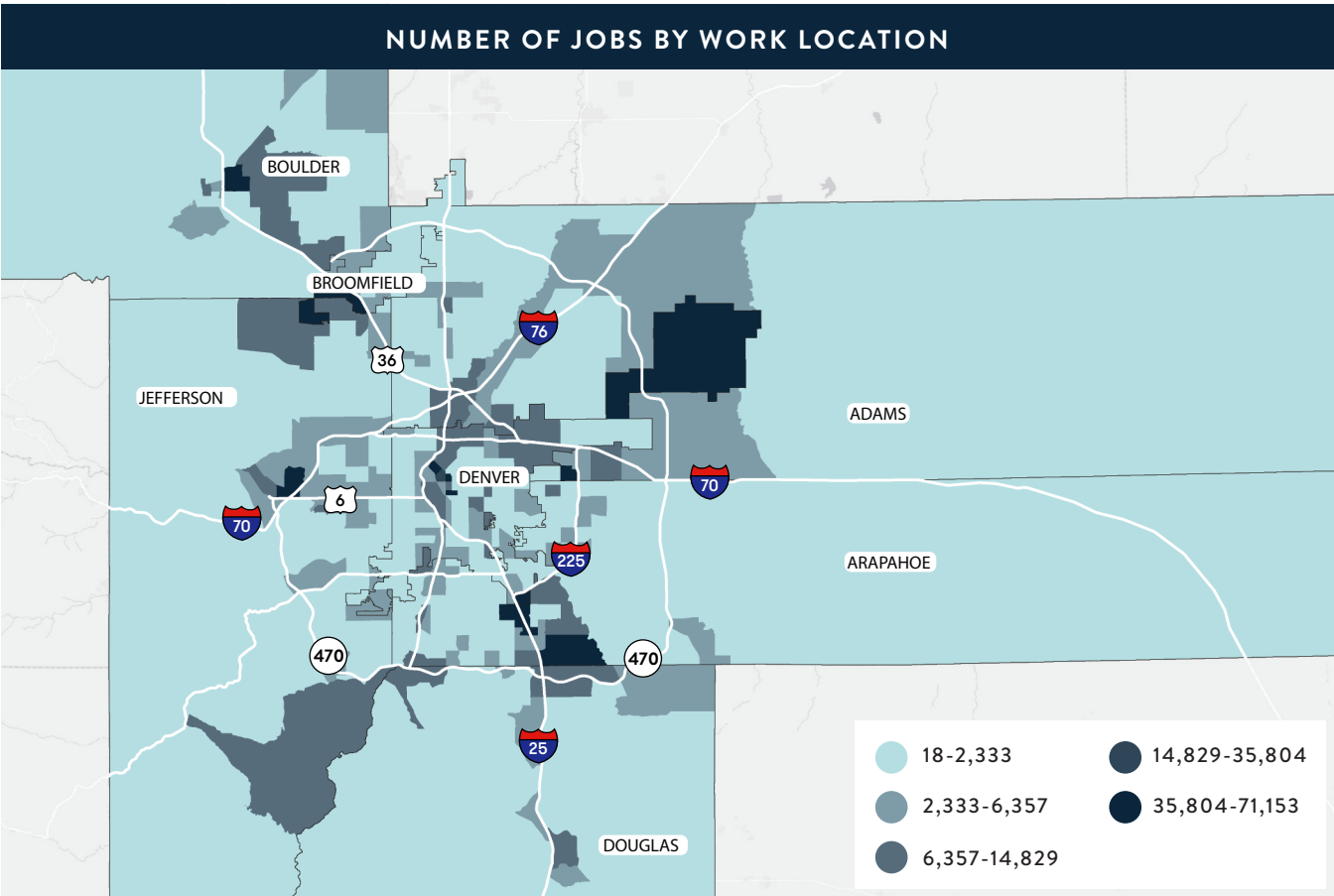
## EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

The charts below shows the education attainment of employed individuals in the Denver metro region (left) as well as two of the region’s major job hubs, Boulder and DTC (right). Individuals with either some college, associates, bachelor or advanced degrees make up the majority of the region’s employed population. The region’s job hubs have 10 percent more employees with bachelor or advanced degrees than the region as a whole.



## WHERE THE JOBS ARE

The map below shows where jobs are located in the region. The greatest concentration of jobs is in the urban core, with dense pockets in the DTC, I-70 corridor, and Boulder.





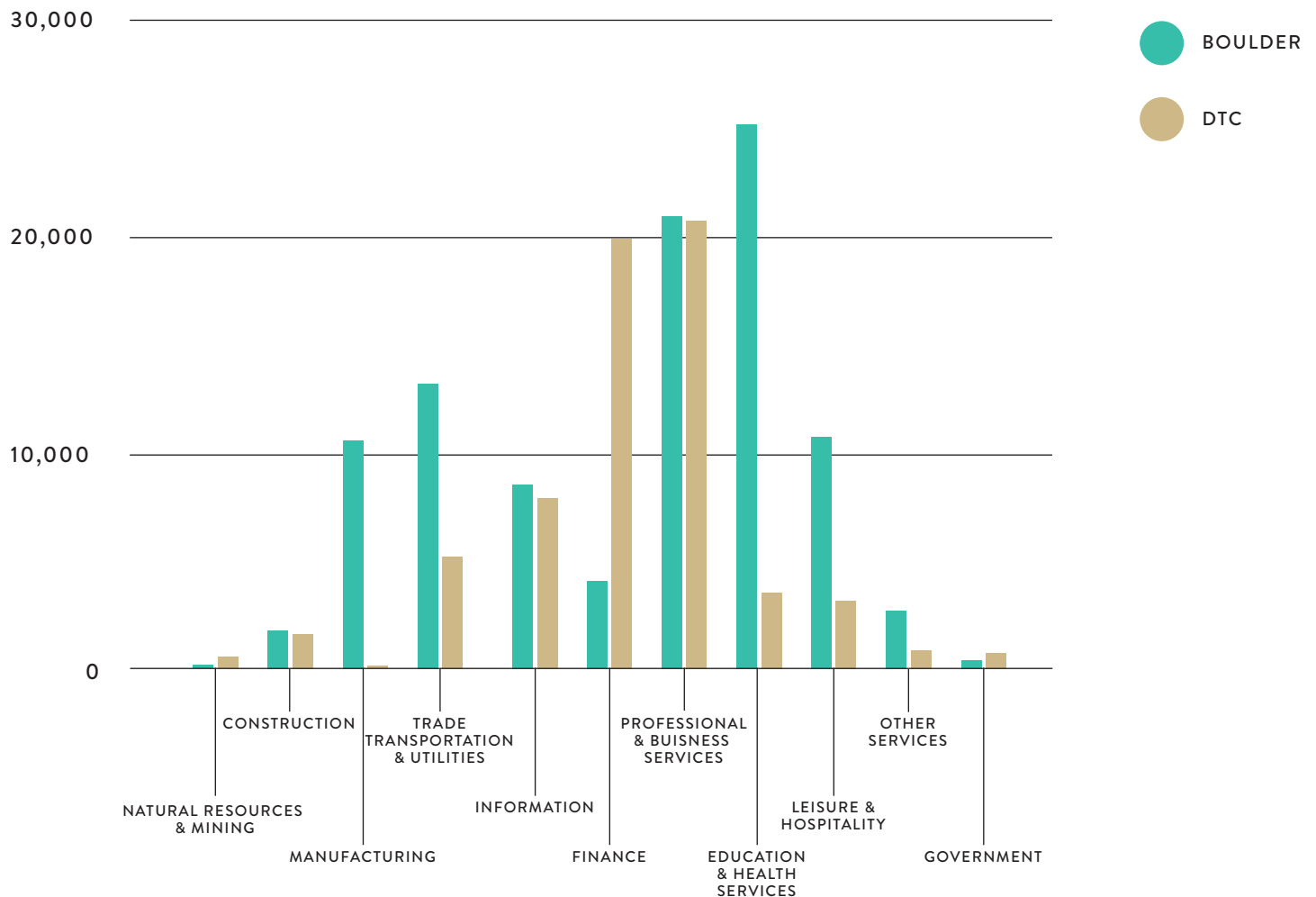
## ABOUT LONGITUDINAL EMPLOYER HOUSEHOLD DYNAMICS (LEHD)

The LEHD provides “origin-destination data,” which can be used to examine how far employees commute to work, as well as basic characteristics about workers’ age, income and industry.\* The following analyses highlight how this data can be used to provide insight into where employees live and how far they travel to work.

### APPROACH 1: A DEEPER DIVE INTO JOB HUBS

The graph below shows the number of jobs by industry in both Boulder and the DTC. Because Boulder is the home of the University of Colorado, it has significantly more education and health services jobs, as compared to the DTC, which has a greater number of finance jobs.

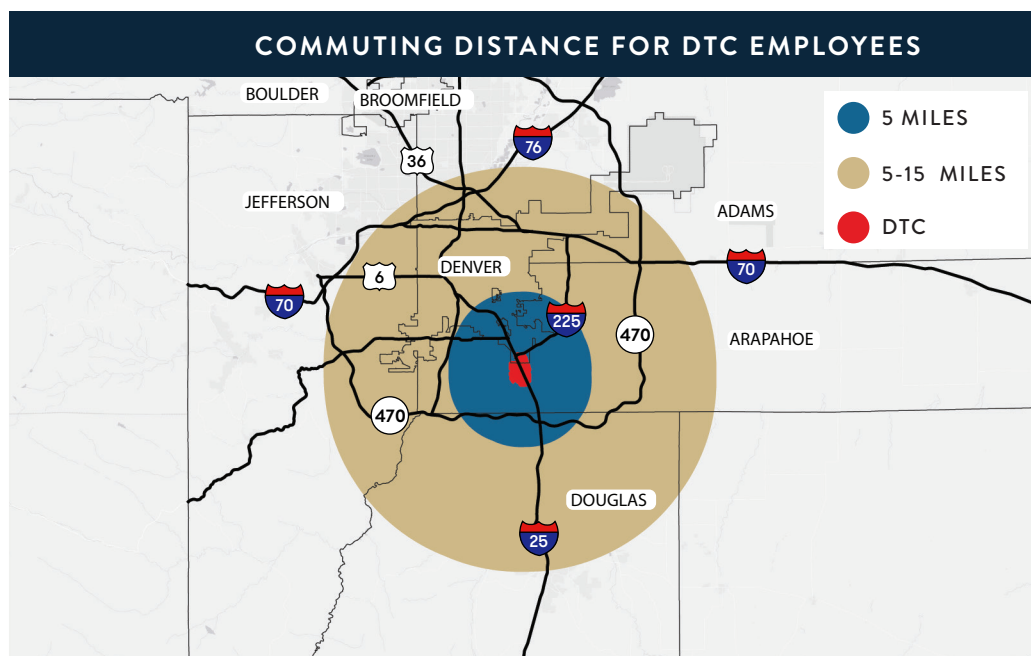
#### NUMBER OF JOBS BY INDUSTRY DTC VS BOULDER



\*As part of this analysis, we aggregated the LEHD industry data into “Super-Sectors,” which groups workers’ industries into broader categories. For more information about the definition of “Super-Sectors,” check out the Bureau of Labor Statistics website.

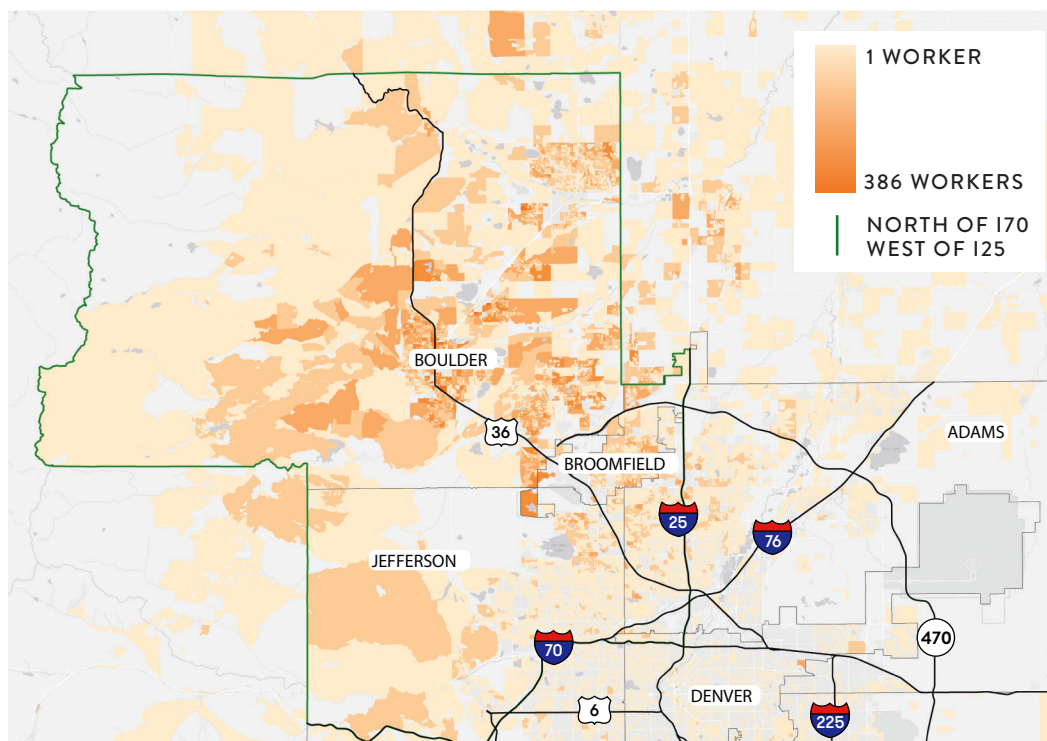
## APPROACH 2: SHARE OF WORKERS BY APPROXIMATE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO WORK

The map to the right shows how far individuals that work in the DTC commute to work. 26 percent of employees commute less than five miles to work while 74 percent of workers commute five or more miles.



## APPROACH 3: DENSITY OF PLACE OF RESIDENCE

The map to the right shows where people who work in Boulder live. 69 percent of individuals who work in Boulder live in metro Denver & west of I-25 and north of I-70.



## HUNGRY FOR MORE DATA BYTES?

Have more questions about employment specifically, or Shift's work more generally? Contact Jennifer Newcomer, Shift's Principal of Research, at [jnewcomer@garycommunity.org](mailto:jnewcomer@garycommunity.org).

For a more in-depth look at this data, explore [Community Facts](#).

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