

## Workforce

### Existing Labor Force








As the hub of Northeast Colorado, Sterling provides job opportunities for a large number of people within commuting distance. Within a 45 mile commuting range the potential workforce is over 33,000, according to the 2008 Labor Force Study of Northeast CO, conducted by Colorado State University and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

Additionally, this region graduates a high percentage of students that pursue high level degrees that become a challenge to find the necessary local employment to bring them back. This is a very captive professional workforce in our region as these are highly skilled and talented workers that desire to return to the communities in our area for the right jobs.

For the entire Northeast Region, the 2008 study showed an estimate of 133,000 employable individuals of age 18+ able to be accessed within the six county area.

Also, according to the study, 13% of all employed individuals classified themselves as being in management, while nearly 12% stated that they worked in office and administrative support positions. Other important occupational categories cited by Northeastern Colorado area employees include: installation, maintenance and repair (8.3%); sales (8.2%); and production occupations (6.5%). The general occupations with the fewest labor force participants (less than 1% each and fewer than 2,500 employees total) included: jobs in architecture and engineering; the military; and computer and mathematical fields.

### Logan County Citizen Workforce Education Attainment

	Education Level	2016 Population	2016 Percent
●	Less Than 9th Grade	972	6.2% 
●	9th Grade to 12th Grade	1,172	7.5% 
●	High School Diploma	4,673	29.9% 
●	Some College	4,239	27.1% 
●	Associate's Degree	2,211	14.1% 
●	Bachelor's Degree	1,462	9.3% 
●	Graduate Degree and Higher	915	5.9% 

### University Research and College Training Partners

Sterling is fortunate to have a local community college, Northeastern Junior College (NJC), capable of assisting with specific job training programs, and helping fill a talent pipeline to feed into new businesses. Being local, NJC has the ability to quickly adapt and create new programs to solve the challenges faced by area employers. One example is the Industrial and Wind Technician Program that was developed to support the area wind farms. The program graduates 20-25 students per year and runs 100% placement with local and national wind farm operators. The program also feeds many of the area industrial businesses such as the Cargill Beef Plant and other entities that need talented and well trained technicians to keep their operations running smoothly.

In addition to NJC, Sterling has a strong relationship with Colorado State University based out of Fort Collins, CO. The two schools, NJC and CSU, regularly team up on projects and work in tandem on various programs. Sterling is also home to the first CSU Rural Engagement Center and multiple CSU Extension Offices. This relationship is one that can be leveraged for potential employers for agricultural and other emerging industries.

### Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Whether starting a business or looking for additional employees – The Sterling Workforce Center provides assistance and resources to meet your workforce needs: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdle/businesses-employers>