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Strong Employment Growth Continues in April

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Colorado's non-farm businesses added 3,800 jobs in April. The state continues to defy the trend of job losses in most of the country. Thirty-nine states had job losses, one held steady and 10 added workers to their payrolls. Colorado's unemployment rate remained steady at 4.4 percent.

The state's strongest growth was in the Grand Junction region, where energy exploration and development dominates and spurs additional economic activity. The northern Front Range regions of Fort Collins-Loveland and Greeley also had above average employment gains through April, led by the local and state education sectors. Overall growth of 3 percent in the Fort Collins-Loveland region was led by a 4 percent gain in the trade, transportation and utilities sector and a 3.7 percent increase in government workers. Greeley's overall increase of 3.3 percent was spurred by strong gains in manufacturing and government.

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The Colorado Springs and Boulder regions had positive, but below par, employment gains during the first four months of 2008.

Figure 1. Employment Gains through April 2008

