

Colorado Employment Outlook Summary

Each year, thousands of Coloradans seek employment while others enroll in educational programs designed to prepare them for various occupations. Without information about future occupational and industry trends, students and job seekers are likely to find their employment search both frustrating and inefficient. This report summarizes the most recent short- and long-term industry and occupational projections produced by economists at the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). Short-term forecasts are for the period 2005-07 while long-term projections cover the years 2004-14. Both sets of forecasts are available for Colorado's seven Metropolitan Statistical Areas as well as the State as a whole at <http://www.coworkforce.com/lmi/oeo/oeo.asp>

The data found in this report were produced using projections software approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The industry staffing patterns incorporated into the projections system result from business surveys conducted by CDLE. Employers in selected industry groups are surveyed to determine occupational distributions within their firms. The survey results are then applied to industry forecasts and aggregated to produce detailed estimates of the total occupational employment within each industry. CDLE economists evaluate alternative forecasting model results for reasonableness using their knowledge of state and national economic trends and inter-industry relationships; adjustments are then made where necessary.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment feels that these projections are reliable as general guides to occupational demand and will assist those interested in making more informed occupational choices. However, forecasting the future is not an exact science and international, national and local events can each have significant impacts on Colorado's economy. Moreover, the projections models may not take into account certain factors related to such things as immigration, business relocation, emergence of new occupations, or industrial and scientific development. We therefore urge readers to inform themselves of these trends when using projections information, particularly in business planning or career counseling.

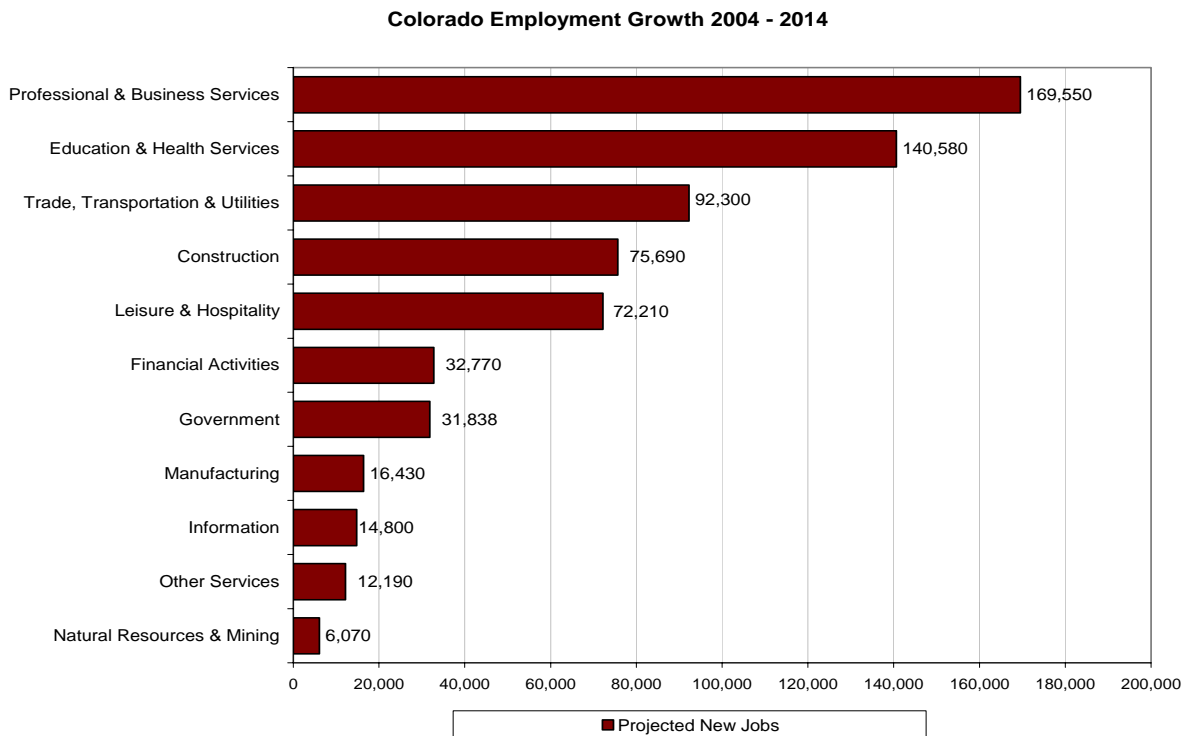
NAICS	2005	2007	Absolute Change	Percent Change	Annual Percent Change	2004	2014	Absolute Change	Percent Change	Annual Percent Change
Total Employment	2,335,510	2,421,240	85,730	4%	2%	2,129,170	2,792,490	663,320	31%	3%
Construction	158,620	174,520	15,900	10%	5%	151,430	227,120	75,690	50%	5%
Manufacturing	150,450	147,680	-2,770	-2%	-1%	154,470	170,900	16,430	11%	1%
Natural Resources & Mining	18,730	21,680	2,950	16%	8%	16,620	22,690	6,070	37%	4%
Education & Health Services	394,210	412,910	18,700	5%	2%	382,010	522,590	140,580	37%	4%
Financial Activities	153,010	159,710	6,700	4%	2%	150,390	183,160	32,770	22%	2%
Government	178,530	182,510	3,980	2%	1%	178,032	209,870	31,838	18%	2%
Information	77,410	74,220	-3,190	-4%	-2%	81,270	96,070	14,800	18%	2%
Leisure & Hospitality	256,460	268,650	12,190	5%	2%	251,350	323,560	72,210	29%	3%
Other Services	65,370	66,570	1,200	2%	1%	65,270	77,460	12,190	19%	2%
Professional & Business Services	316,560	335,380	18,820	6%	3%	298,790	468,340	169,550	57%	6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	421,510	431,770	10,260	2%	1%	419,530	511,830	92,300	22%	2%

Industry Outlook

The 2005 average annual total employment for Colorado measured just over 2.3 million people. According to the Colorado Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 15 percent of total employment is in the goods-producing industry sectors (natural resources and mining, construction, and manufacturing); all other employment is grouped into the services sectors. Currently, the trade, transportation and utilities sector employs the highest proportion of total employment at 19 percent, followed by the education and health services sector with 18 percent of Colorado’s workers. Professional and business services closely follows, employing 14 percent, while the leisure and hospitality category make up 12 percent of Colorado’s workforce.

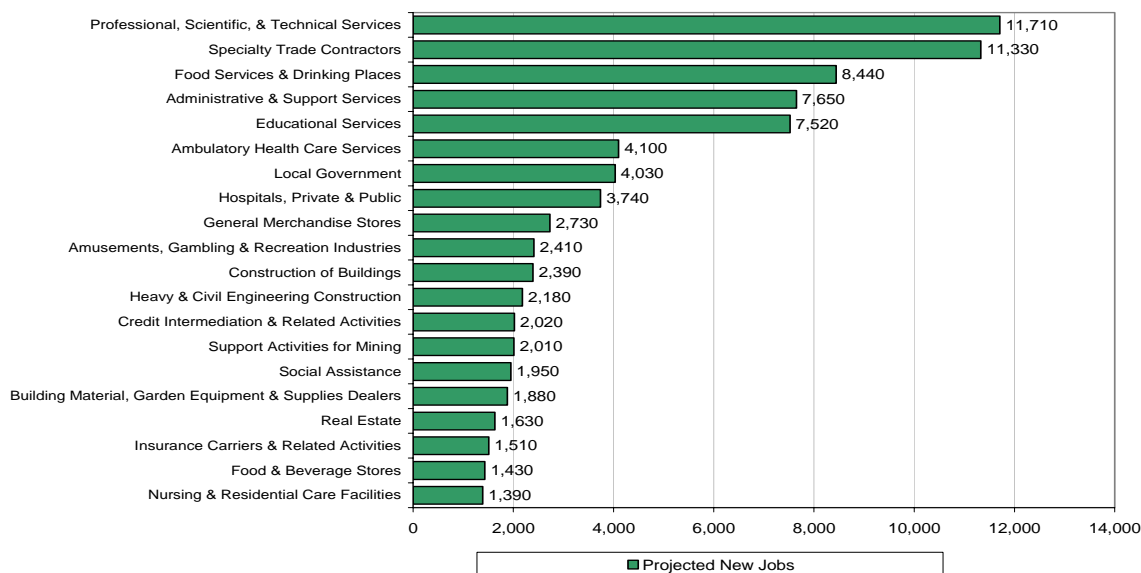
Colorado’s employment is forecast to reach nearly 2.8 million by 2014, an increase of 31 percent between 2004 and 2014. The anticipated annual employment gain of about 3 percent over the next 10 years is slightly lower than the long-term growth of 3.5 percent. Percentage employment shares of the State’s major industries will change little over the next decade.

Within the goods-producing division, most new jobs will come in construction. Over the next decade, it is expected that the industry will expand to 227,000 by the year 2014 – a 50 percent increase from the 2004 employment levels. Only the professional and business services industry is forecast to advance by a greater relative amount through 2014. Construction should also grow rapidly over the short-term. Within construction, specialty trade contractors is the second fastest growing industry, with 11,330 new jobs by 2007. Opportunities are also expected to be plentiful within the heavy and civil engineering subsector.



Colorado Employment Outlook Summary

**Top 20 Fastest Growing Industries by Absolute Change
Colorado Statewide 2005 - 2007**



The State's smallest major industry, natural resources and mining, is forecast to grow at the fastest rate over the next two years. Mining will account for most of the growth, and its various subsectors are projected to be among the fastest growing in Colorado through 2007. Support activities for mining tops the charts, increasing by about 15 percent annually to 2007 and 8 percent annually through 2014. Significant increases are also expected in non-oil and gas mining as well as oil and gas extraction. While employment in the industry will slow over the long run, annual employment increases in most mining related activity will remain at 3 percent or more through 2014.

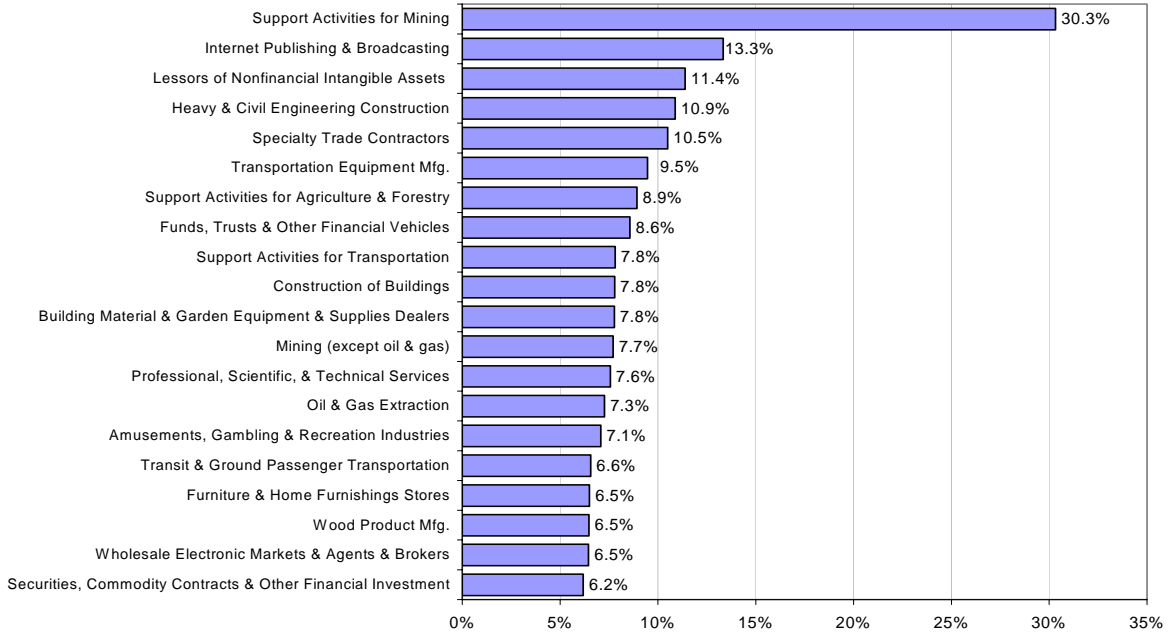
Among the service-producing industries, the greatest increases will be found in professional and business services for both the short and long run. By 2007 the sector is expected to add 18,800 jobs and by 2014 projected gains total nearly 170,000. This industry is also one of the leaders in terms of percentage change over both the short- and long-term. Over the next 10 years employment within the sector is forecast to grow twice as fast as that of the State. Some of the many groups within this subsector include legal, veterinary, architectural, and engineering services; computer systems design; and research and development activities. Included within professional and business services are administrative and support services such as credit bureaus; landscaping and janitorial services; and temporary help and personnel agencies.

Substantial growth is also foreseen for education and health services, the State's largest major sector. The sector is projected to gain about 140,000 new jobs over the next 10 years with the majority concentrated in educational services including elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools. Among the health services sectors, most new openings are projected to be in ambulatory services with hospitals and nursing facilities following closely.

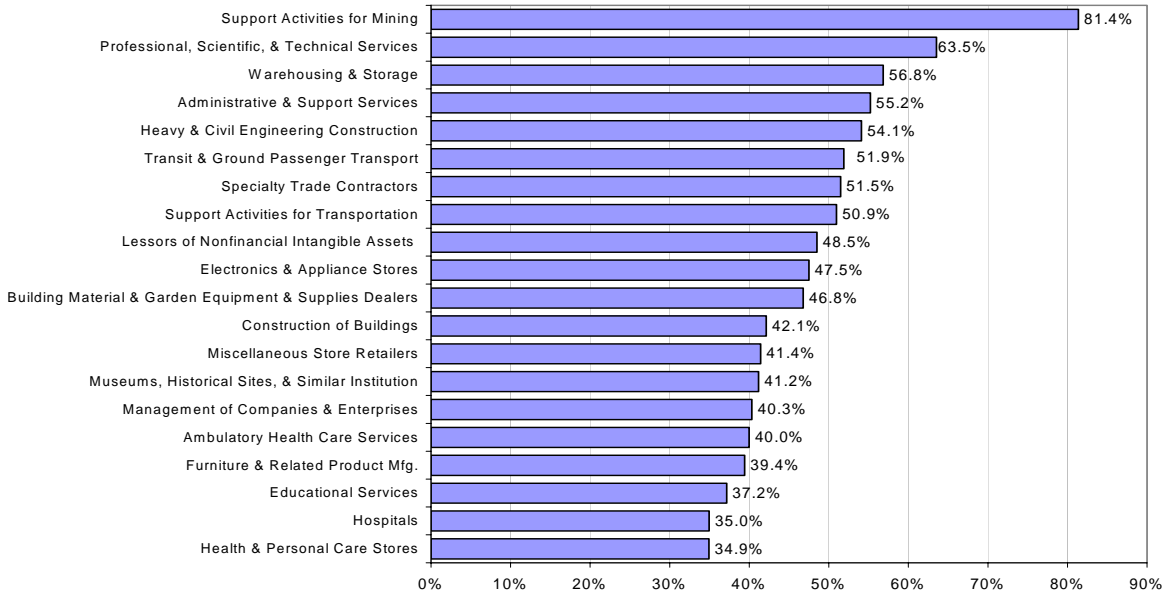
Other industries expected to be among the fastest growing over both the short and long run are general merchandise stores; building materials and garden supplies dealers; amusement, gambling and other recreation; and restaurants. Within these industries are some of the occupations that rank among the fastest growing in Colorado.

Colorado Employment Outlook Summary

**Top 20 Fastest Growing Industries by Percent Change
Colorado Statewide 2005 - 2007**



**Top 20 Fastest Growing Industries by Percent Change
Colorado Statewide 2004 - 2014**



Occupational Outlook

The number of persons in a particular occupation changes for two reasons: growth or decline in the industries in which the occupation is found and because new workers are hired to replace those who change jobs or leave the labor force. Projections of overall occupational demand based only upon new job growth would underestimate job opportunities for many occupations. In terms of occupational job opportunities, replacement demand significantly adds to the demand due to new job growth.

The occupations expected to grow the most over the next decade are retail salespersons, customer service representatives, and wait staff – positions usually on the top of the charts when the economy is expanding and disposable incomes and consumer spending are on the upswing. Not only do local retail shops beef up employment to accommodate the increase in demand, but long-term growth includes the construction of more retail outlets and restaurants in newly developed areas.

With retail salespersons and wait staff, approximately one-third of total annual openings are new jobs. The remaining two-thirds are needed to replace those who moved to other positions within the company, found new jobs elsewhere, or left for some other reason. For customer service representatives, nearly three out of every four new positions are due to industry growth. Between 2005 and 2007, Colorado is expected to add nearly 4,000 retail salespersons, over 2,000 waiters and waitresses, and 1,700 customer service representatives. By 2014, Colorado will see an increase of over 27,000 retail salespersons.

Ranking second both in the short- and long-terms, registered nurses are expected to add 2,200 new positions by 2007 and over 14,700 by 2014. Combining that with replacement hiring, by 2014 Colorado will have a total of over 25,000 registered nurses. Two-thirds of these positions will result from new jobs with the remaining one-third due to replacement hiring.

Also in the top 25 occupations are jobs found in the professional and business services and related support services. Although occupations in the support industries typically require on-the-job training, all occupations in professional and business services (as well as those in the medical and educational arenas) require postsecondary education. Most of these jobs include managers, computer software engineers and accountants. Over one-half of the annual openings will be new jobs due to growth.

Construction occupations rank higher in the short run and include carpenters, electricians, and plumbers, among others. While these occupations do not require postsecondary education, they are more likely to require moderate to long-term on-the-job training. With these fast growing occupations, over 75 percent are due to new growth.

As with the industry projections, percentage changes in the occupational projections are greatest for mining occupations in the short-term and professional business services over the long-term. While much smaller in numbers, occupations in mining make up nine of the top 10 occupations in the short-term with service unit operators (oil, gas, and mining) at the top of the rankings for 2007 and second on the long-term chart. Over 80 percent of all derrick operators, riggers, roustabouts and rotary drill operators will be new jobs while the remaining 20 percent will be due to replacements.

Colorado Employment Outlook Summary

Top 25 Occupations by Absolute Change

Occupational Title	2-Year 2005-2007	Average Annual Openings			Occupational Title	10-Year 2004-2014	Average Annual Openings		
	Projected Change in Employment	New Jobs	Replac- ements	Total		Projected Change in Employment	New Jobs	Replac- ements	Total
Retail Salespersons	3,820	1,910	3,250	5,160	Retail Salespersons	27,230	2,720	2,890	5,610
Registered Nurses	2,220	1,110	610	1,720	Registered Nurses	14,680	1,470	680	2,150
Waiters and Waitresses	2,120	1,060	2,710	3,770	Customer Service Reps	14,230	1,420	550	1,970
Food Preparation and Serving	2,080	1,040	2,350	3,390	Food Preparation and Serving	13,520	1,350	1,830	3,180
Carpenters	1,770	890	380	1,270	Waiters and Waitresses	13,400	1,340	2,340	3,680
Customer Service Reps	1,730	870	530	1,400	Janitors and Cleaners	13,320	1,330	660	1,990
Construction Laborers	1,700	850	280	1,130	Office Clerks, General	12,440	1,240	1,260	2,500
Janitors and Cleaners	1,640	820	680	1,500	General Managers	11,350	1,130	640	1,770
Office Clerks, General	1,580	790	1,250	2,040	Computer Software Engineers, Applications	11,270	1,130	150	1,280
General and Operations Managers	1,540	770	570	1,340	Business Operations Specialists	10,120	1,010	450	1,460
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	1,310	660	130	790	Cashiers	9,330	930	2,600	3,530
First-Line Supervisors of Construction/Extraction Workers	1,310	650	260	910	Accountants and Auditors	8,900	890	420	1,310
Electricians	1,180	590	240	830	Carpenters	8,790	880	340	1,220
Accountants and Auditors	1,100	550	410	960	Construction Laborers	8,430	840	270	1,110
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	1,030	520	480	1,000	Elementary School Teachers	7,720	770	500	1,270
Business Operations Specialists	990	500	320	820	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	7,560	760	640	1,400
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	940	470	210	680	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	7,550	760	430	1,190
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	930	470	620	1,090	Laborers/Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	6,870	690	960	1,650
Restaurant Cooks	920	460	780	1,240	Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	6,820	680	110	790
Elementary School Teachers	890	440	460	900	Computer Systems Analysts	6,510	650	150	800
Maintenance and Repair Workers	880	440	360	800	Teacher Assistants	6,410	640	340	980
Receptionists and Information Clerks	850	420	510	930	First-Line Supervisors of Construction/Extraction Workers	6,350	640	250	890
Sales Reps, Wholesale and Manufacturing	810	410	760	1,170	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	6,250	630	400	1,030
Construction Equipment Operators	800	400	230	630	Receptionists and Information Clerks	6,120	610	490	1,100
Teacher Assistants	790	390	310	700	Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	6,000	600	440	1,040

Colorado Employment Outlook Summary

Top 25 Occupations by Percent Change

Occupational Title	2-Year 2005-2007	Average Annual Openings			Occupational Title	10-Year 2004-2014	Average Annual Openings		
	Projected % Change in Employment	New Jobs	Replace- ments	Total Openings		Projected % Change in Employment	New Jobs	Replace- ments	Total Openings
Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining	29.9%	130	20	150	Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	87.6%	450	60	510
Derrick Operators, Oil and Gas	29.2%	110	20	130	Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining	82.1%	60	20	80
Rotary Drill Operators, Oil and Gas	28.3%	70	10	80	Derrick Operators, Oil and Gas	81.8%	50	20	70
Roustabouts, Oil and Gas	28.2%	110	20	130	Riggers	80.0%	20	10	30
Riggers	28.1%	50	10	60	Roustabouts, Oil and Gas	79.0%	50	20	70
Embalmers	25.0%	0	0	0	Rotary Drill Operators, Oil and Gas	77.8%	30	10	40
Extraction Workers, All Other	25.0%	30	10	40	Computer Software Engineers, Applications	73.7%	1,130	150	1,280
Loading Machine Operators, Underground Mining	25.0%	0	0	0	Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	63.7%	680	110	790
Helpers--Extraction Workers	15.4%	30	10	40	Extraction Workers, All Other	63.2%	10	10	20
Geological and Petroleum Technicians	14.5%	40	10	50	Database Administrators	62.1%	170	30	200
Geography Teachers, Postsecondary	14.3%	0	0	0	Biomedical Engineers	61.9%	10	0	10
Fence Erectors	13.3%	10	0	10	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	61.0%	110	20	130
Reinforcing Iron and Rebar Workers	13.2%	20	10	30	Library Science Teachers, Postsecondary	60.0%	0	0	0
Elevator Installers and Repairers	13.0%	10	10	20	Aircraft Cargo Handling Supervisors	60.0%	10	0	10
Farm, Ranch, and Other Agricultural Managers	12.5%	0	0	0	Environmental Engineers	59.0%	70	20	90
Choreographers	12.5%	0	10	10	Tile and Marble Setters	58.8%	30	10	40
Helpers--Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	11.9%	40	30	70	Network and Computer Systems Administrators	58.6%	370	70	440
Mechanical Door Repairers	11.9%	20	10	30	Anthropology and Archeology Teachers, Postsecondary	57.1%	10	0	10
Continuous Mining Machine Operators	11.8%	10	10	20	Geography Teachers, Postsecondary	57.1%	0	0	0
Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	10.9%	310	110	420	Physician Assistants	56.6%	100	30	130
Helpers--Roofers	10.7%	20	10	30	Logging Equipment Operators	56.5%	10	0	10
Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators	10.4%	100	50	150	Helpers--Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	56.3%	40	30	70
Gaming Surveillance Officers	10.3%	10	10	20	Reinforcing Iron and Rebar Workers	55.6%	20	10	30
Petroleum Engineers	10.0%	30	20	50	Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	55.3%	300	110	410
Cooks	10.0%	0	0	0	Mechanical Door Repairers	55.0%	20	10	30