

HIGH-TECH WORKFORCE

ENTREPRENEURS

GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY

SOFTWARE

CLUSTER PROFILE FORT COLLINS, CO



Fort Collins is home to a large, diverse high-tech workforce. Despite the ups and downs of the tech sector, Fort Collins remains an attractive location for new businesses. Companies that specialize in data mapping, computer programming, Internet service, software development and computer facilities management are grouped in the Software cluster. The City of Fort Collins and its residents value the software companies and agencies that make their home here.

SOFTWARE

Innovation thrives here! Approximately 180 software companies are located in Fort Collins; 80 percent employ less than 10 people. Technology they have developed is used at the top levels of the government, military and private businesses. Colorado State University's main campus in Fort Collins has a legacy of GIS curriculum and career paths across disciplines.

Start-up assistance for seed high-tech companies is available through the Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative (RMII), a high-tech incubator for innovative companies. Offering mentoring, physical space, business advisement and funding options, RMII is equipped to assist up-and-coming technology firms of all kinds.

STRENGTHS

- Synergistic relationships between other software companies along the Colorado I-25 Corridor
- Access to skilled workforce
- Reliable and affordable infrastructure
- High quality of life
- Denver International Airport, one hour's drive

LEGACY OF GIS

The legacy of geospatial technology is rich and diverse in Northern Colorado:

- Hewlett Packard established location-based computer system centers in Loveland and Fort Collins in 1960 and 1978
- Colorado State University began teaching GIS in 1980's in their Natural Resources Dept.
- In the 1990s, nearly a dozen GIS companies opened their doors in Fort Collins
- Geospatial technologies have been used successfully by local government agencies in Northern Colorado since the 1980's
- In the fall of 2007, RMII began hosting meetings with private businesses and public agencies to begin the work of building a cluster to support the "GIS Alley"

SAMPLE SOFTWARE COMPANIES

- Clear Path Labs
- New Century Software
- I-cubed
- Information Technology Experts, Inc. (ITX)
- Integware, Inc.
- Red Hen Systems
- Riverside Technologies
- Secure 64

SAMPLE HARDWARE COMPANIES

- AMD
- Avago
- Hewlett Packard
- Intel
- LSI
- National Semi-Conductor
- Pelco

ENRICHING THE ECONOMY

- Fort Collins has one of the highest Software and Hardware employment concentrations in the country
- Both Software and Hardware industries have seen increases in the number of companies, employment and salaries since 2004
- Workforce development and initiatives are priorities for local educational institutions and businesses

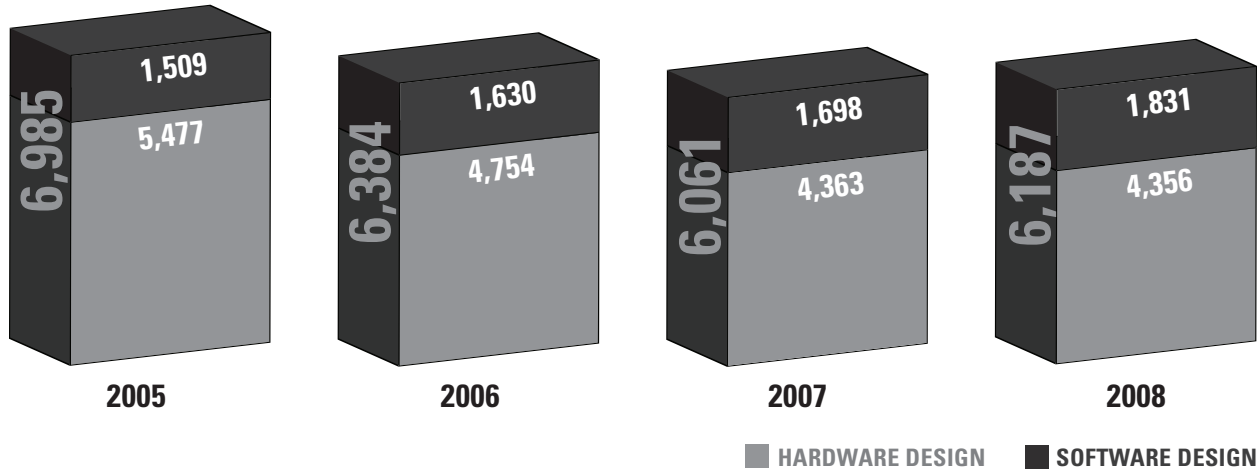
COLLABORATION & RESOURCES

- Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative
- Colorado State University
- Front Range Community College
- Poudre School District
- ESRI
- Microsoft@BizSpark™ through RMII

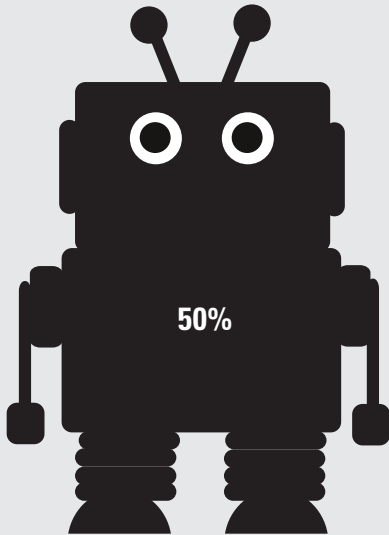
SOFTWARE

EMPLOYMENT TREND

number of employees



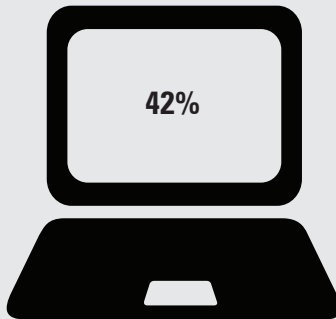
2008 EMPLOYMENT COMPOSITION



Professional, Scientific
& Technical Services



Publishing Industries
(except internet)



Computer & Electronic
Product Mfg.



Internet Service Providers,
Web Search Portals,
and Data Processing Services

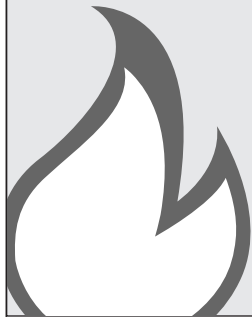
2008 EARNINGS



\$129 M
SOFTWARE DESIGN



\$534 M
HARDWARE DESIGN



WHAT'S HOT

1. Integware, Inc., named to the Technology Fast 50 for Colorado, a ranking of the 50 fastest growing technology, media, telecommunications, and life sciences companies in the area by Deloitte LLP
2. GIS career track classes available at the high school level, through Poudre School District

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Following your passions and pursuing your career don't have to be mutually exclusive.

- **Best Places for Businesses and Careers, 2nd;** *Forbes Magazine* March 2009
- **Best Quality of Life for Mid-sized Metropolitan Areas, 7th;** *bizjournal.com*, March 2009
- **Best Place to Live in the Nation, 2nd;** *Money Magazine*, July 2008
- **Best-Educated Cities in America, 10th;** *Forbes magazine*, November 2008
- **One of the Best Places to Raise Your Kids;** *Business Week*, November 2008
- **100 Best Places to Live and Launch, 39th;** *Money Magazine* March 2008
- **One of 30 Fast Cities, due to innovation and creativity of workforce;** *Fast Company Magazine*, July 2007

CONTACTS

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For more information on expanding or relocating your business

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GIS Alley, Rocky Mountain GeoSpatial Cluster gisalley.com

Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative rmi2.org

Doing business in Fort Collins fcgov.com/business

Online entrepreneur support fortcollinsinnovation.com

Community information ftcollins.com