

Economic Activity Report

January 2021



Commerce City Quarterly Report Quarterly Economic Summary January 2021 34,000 30,893 32,000 **Employment** 30,000 Down -3.8% from 2Q 2019 2Q 2019 3Q 2019 4Q 2019 1Q 2020 2Q 2020 \$1,200 \$1,158 **Average Weekly Wage** Up 4.4% from 2Q 2019 \$1,000 3Q 2019 4Q 2019 1Q 2020 2Q 2020 3.0% -0.3% 2.0% **Labor Force Growth** 1.0% Down 2.9 percentage 0.0% Rate points from 3Q 2019 -1.0% 3Q 2019 4Q 2019 1Q 2020 2Q 2020 3Q 2020 7.5% U.S. Colorado **Unemployment Rate** Up 4.9 percentage points Metro Denver Commerce City from 3Q 2019 0.0% 2.0% 4.0% 6.0% 8.0% 10.0% 419 400 **Existing Home Sales** 200 Down 2.1 percent from 3Q 2019 3Q 2019 3Q 2020 \$409,190 \$500,000 Single-Family Detached Average **Price** Up 8.8% from 3Q 2019 \$400,000 \$300,000 \$287,564 Single-Family Attached Average Price \$200,000 Up 4% from 3Q 2019 3Q 2019 4Q 2019 1Q 2020 2Q 2020 \$1,600 8.0% 6.5% **Apartment Vacancy Rate** Up 3.1 percentage points from 3Q 2019 \$1,500 4.0% 2.0% \$1,450 \$1,549 \$1,400 0.0% **Apartment Average Lease Rate** Up 11.8 from 3Q 2019 City/Brighton

1.2%

1.6%

7.6%

1.8%

Office Vacancy

Retail Vacancy

Warehouse Vacancy

All Other Industrial Vacancy

■ 4Q 2019

Retail

Warehouse

4.0%

2.0% 0.0%

Commerce City Economic Headlines

- Plans were submitted for a roughly 65-acre mixed-use community at the former Mile High Greyhound Park in Commerce City. The plans include 800 housing units, new retail space, and a 3-acre park. The first phase of construction will include a 223-unit affordable apartment building called The Landing at Greyhound Park.
- Becknell Industrial and Ares Management Corp. plan to construct a three-building, 1.5 million-square-foot project at Tower Rd. and E 84th Ave. in Commerce City. The project will include a 1 million-square-foot distribution facility for an unnamed national home improvement retailer. The other two buildings are a 330,000-square-foot cross-dock warehouse and a 170,500-square-foot rear-load building.
- ♦ Trammell Crow Company and Clarion Partners LLC plan to construct a 1.17 million-square-foot industrial park on a roughly 90-acre site in Commerce City. The park, called 104th Commerce Park, will be constructed in two phases. The first phase will be delivered in 2022 and the second will be about 18 to 24 months after that
- Calgary-based oil producer Suncor announced it will cut 10 to 15 percent of its workforce in the next 18 months. Suncor employs about 450 people in Commerce City and 50 people in its downtown Denver office and pipelines group. Suncor also supports about 5,000 contractors at its 229-acre Suncor USA refinery complex north of Denver. It is unclear how many jobs in Metro Denver will be affected by the cuts.
- ♦ The Denver MSA ranked No. 9 on Realtor.com's "Top Housing Markets for 2021". The report looked at past home sale prices, number of sales, the rate of new construction, and previous and anticipated economic, household, and income growth across the 100 largest metro areas. It estimated Denver will have a median home price of \$520,000 in 2021, home prices will increase 5.4 percent, and home sales will increase 12.5 percent during the period. The report stated that Denver's tech market is expanding rapidly, and the area is mainly attracting Californians looking for a more affordable major city.
- ♦ According to CBRE, Metro Denver ranked No. 13 for top life science markets across the U.S. The rankings factored in size, growth, concentration of life sciences employment, concentration of R&D life sciences employment, size of laboratory inventory, and amount of venture capital funding. Metro Denver attracted \$310 million for the year ending in the first quarter of 2020 and had about 2.1 million square feet of lab space with a vacancy rate of 7.8 percent during the period. The report noted that the top 13 leading markets are fueling the bulk of growth in the life sciences industry nationwide, offering the nation's largest and most concentrated life sciences and R&D employment bases.
- ♦ Denver ranked 13th for overall real estate prospects, according to the "Emerging Trends in Real Estate" 2021 survey by the Urban Land Institute and PwC. The survey interviewed real estate professionals across 80 U.S. cities in August and September. Denver, which is classified as an "18-hour city," ranked ninth for homebuilding prospects.
- ♦ The 2020 State New Economy Index ranked Colorado 8th for its economic structure, meaning that it closely matches the ideal structure of an innovation-driven economy. The index looked at 25 indicators divided into 5 categories, including knowledge jobs, globalization, economic dynamism, the digital economy, and innovation capacity. Colorado ranked No. 7 in 2017 and reached a peak of No. 3 in the 1999 and 2002 index.

Employment

The number of businesses throughout Commerce City rose by 123 between the second quarters of 2019 and 2020, an increase of 8.4 percent. Nine of the 12 supersectors reported over-the-year increases in the number of businesses, with the largest increases in leisure and hospitality (+21.9 percent), construction (+17.6 percent), and professional and business services (+15 percent). Construction also added the most businesses during the year, rising by 39. The information supersector reported the only over-the-year decrease of 26.7 percent, representing 4 fewer businesses, while mining and logging and government reported no change during the period.

Business and Employment Indicators by Supersector

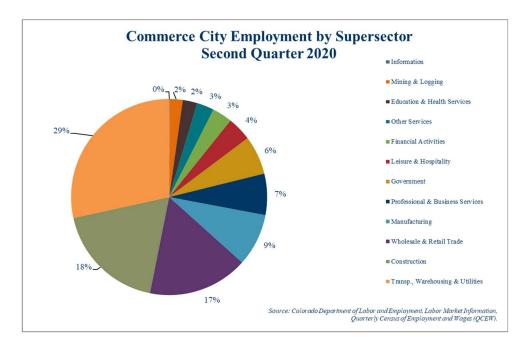
	Commerce City					Metro Denver		
	Quarterly Business		Average Weekly		Quarterly Employment		Quarterly Employmen	
	Cor	unt	Wage		Level		Level	
	2Q 2020	2Q 2019	2Q 2020	2Q 2019	2Q 2020	2Q 2019	2Q 2020	2Q 2019
Total All Industries	1,583	1,460	\$1,158	\$1,109	30,893	32,126	1,532,549	1,691,333
Private Sector								
Mining & Logging	24	24	\$2,331	\$2,147	666	1,097	13,363	15,423
Construction	261	222	\$1,287	\$1,172	5,690	5,407	103,009	105,388
Manufacturing	103	100	\$1,392	\$1,258	2,680	2,852	86,027	90,041
Wholesale & Retail Trade	309	290	\$1,113	\$1,132	5,097	5,175	211,998	234,314
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	168	166	\$1,073	\$1,044	8,785	8,981	66,533	63,628
Information	11	15	\$1,425	\$1,288	25	51	58,965	59,133
Financial Activities	124	121	\$1,168	\$999	1,020	1,065	112,033	115,153
Professional & Business Services	268	233	\$1,179	\$1,113	2,103	2,345	302,640	317,054
Education & Health Services	81	79	\$880	\$875	742	788	193,930	214,024
Leisure & Hospitality	89	73	\$540	\$569	1,231	1,193	113,736	190,510
Other Services	130	125	\$982	\$904	874	1,035	41,832	52,229
Government	12	12	\$1,104	\$972	1,976	2,138	228,322	234,260

Note: Industry data may not add to all-industry total due to rounding, suppressed data, and employment that cannot be assigned to an industry.

Source: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Labor Market Information. Ouarterly Census of Employment and Wages (OCEW).

The average weekly wage across all supersectors in Commerce City rose 4.4 percent to \$1,158 per week. Ten of the 12 supersectors reported over-the-year increases in the average weekly wage, led by financial activities (+16.9 percent), government (+13.6 percent), and information (+10.7 percent). The leisure and hospitality supersector reported the largest over-the-year decline in the average weekly wage of 5.1 percent, followed by wholesale and retail trade that fell 1.7 percent. The leisure and hospitality sector reported the lowest weekly wage in 2Q 2020 of \$540, while mining and logging reported the highest weekly wage of \$2,331 during the period.

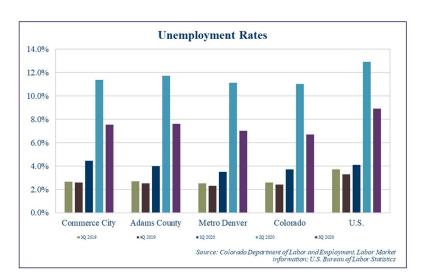
Employment in Commerce City fell 3.8 percent between the second quarters of 2019 and 2020, declining by 1,232 workers during the period. This was the first quarter where the full effects of the pandemic were represented in the data, contributing to the over-the-year decline in employment. Ten of the 12 supersectors reported over-the-year decreases in employment. The information supersector reported the largest over-the-year decrease of 50 percent, followed by mining and logging (-39.3 percent), other services (15.5 percent), and professional and business services (-10.3 percent). Construction reported the largest over-the-year increase of 5.2 percent, while leisure and hospitality rose 3.2 percent during the period.



Employment in Metro Denver fell 9.4 percent between the second quarters of 2019 and 2020, representing a fall of nearly 159,000 workers. Eleven of the 12 supersectors in Metro Denver reported over-the-year decreases in employment, with the largest decreases reported in leisure and hospitality (-40.3 percent), other services (-19.9 percent), and mining and logging (-13.4 percent). Transportation, warehousing, and utilities reported the only over-the-year increase of 4.6 percent.

Labor Force and Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Commerce City rose 4.9 percentage points to 7.5 percent between the third quarters of 2019 and 2020. Adams County reported the same percentage point increase as Commerce City, rising to 7.6 percent in 3Q 2020. The labor force in Commerce City fell 0.3 percent, falling by 101 people to 30,382 people working or looking for a job. The labor force in Adams County also fell 0.3 percent over-the-year to 276,772 people. Unemployment in Metro Denver rose 4.5 percentage points over-the-year to 7 percent, while the labor force fell 0.8 percent to nearly 1.84 million workers.



The unemployment rate throughout Colorado was 6.7 percent in the third quarter of 2020, up 4.1 percentage points from the same time last year, while the labor force fell 1.9 percent in the state. Nationally, unemployment rose 5.2 percentage points to 8.9 percent between the third quarters of

]	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate		
	3Q 2020	3Q 2019	Yr/Yr % Change	3Q 2020	3Q 2019
Commerce City	30,382	30,483	-0.3%	7.5%	2.7%
Adams County	276,772	277,685	-0.3%	7.6%	2.7%
Metro Denver	1,838,924	1,853,616	-0.8%	7.0%	2.5%
Colorado	3,113,995	3,173,677	-1.9%	6.7%	2.6%
U.S. (000s)	160,804	164,301	-2.1%	8.9%	3.7%

Sources: Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Labor Market Information; U.S.

Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2019 and 2020, while the labor force fell 2.1 percent during the period.

Consumer Activity

Consumer Confidence

The Conference Board's National Consumer Confidence Index decreased 25.8 percent over-the-year to 94.3 in the fourth quarter of 2020. Over-the-quarter, the national index rose 1.3 percent. The quarterly increase reflects a rebound for the second quarter in a row following a sharp decline reported in April and May due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consumers' assessment of current conditions decreased at the end of 4Q 2020 due to rising cases of COVID-19, but consumers were more optimistic about the short-term outlook heading into 2021, and their assessment of the job market and short-term income prospects also increased.



Colorado is included in the Mountain Region Index and the area reported a 23.2 percent decrease in consumer confidence between the fourth quarters of 2019 and 2020. Over-the-quarter, confidence rose 14.7 percent. The Present Situations Index fell 42.2 percent over-the-year to 109.8 at the end of the fourth quarter of 2020, while the Expectations Index fell 4.6 percent to 100.5 during the period.

Residential Real Estate

Home Sales

Single-family detached home sales in Commerce City increased by 1 between the third quarters of 2019 and 2020 to 369 homes sold, an increase of 0.3 percent. Six of the seven counties in Metro Denver reported over-the-year increases in detached home sales. Boulder County reported the largest increase of 22.5 percent, followed by Denver County (+20 percent) and Douglas County (+17.6 percent). Adams County reported the only over-the-year decrease of 0.3 percent, falling to 2,188 homes sold in 3Q 2020. Detached sales in Metro Denver rose 14 percent over-the-year, rising to 14,144 homes sold.

Single-family detached home prices in Commerce City rose 8.8 percent to \$409,190, an increase of \$33,052 between the third quarters of 2019 and 2020. All seven counties reported increases in detached prices, with the largest increases reported in Arapahoe County (+12.9 percent), Jefferson County (+11.7 percent), and Denver County (+11 percent). Douglas County reported the most modest increase of 5.4 percent during the period. Detached prices in Metro Denver rose 10.6 percent over-the-year to \$579,361. Adams County reported the lowest detached price of \$430,798 in 3Q 2020, while Boulder County reported the highest price of \$744,389.

Single-family attached home sales in Commerce City fell 16.7 percent between the third quarters of 2019 and 2020 to 50 homes sold, representing 10 fewer sales over the period. All seven counties reported over-the-year increases in attached home sales. Douglas County reported the largest increase of 24.6 percent, followed by Adams County (+14.1 percent), Broomfield County (+13.3 percent), and Jefferson County (+8.2 percent). Denver County reported the most modest increase of 5.1 percent during the period. Attached home sales in Metro Denver rose 8.5 percent 4,448 homes sold in the third quarter of 2020.

Existing Home Sales

	Commerce Metro Denver County Markets							Metro	
	City	Adams	Arapahoe	Boulder	Broomfield	Denver	Douglas	Jefferson	Denver Total
Home Sales									
Single-Family Detached									
3Q 2020	369	2,188	2,729	1,407	302	2,771	2,049	2,698	14,144
3Q 2019	368	2,195	2,379	1,149	285	2,309	1,742	2,351	12,410
Single-Family Attached									
3Q 2020	50	584	1,276	292	34	1,033	385	844	4,448
3Q 2019	60	512	1,210	276	30	983	309	780	4,100
Average Sold Price									
Single-Family Detached									
3Q 2020	\$409,190	\$430,798	\$533,214	\$744,389	\$552,694	\$650,329	\$606,213	\$570,163	\$579,361
3Q 2019	\$376,138	\$399,748	\$472,468	\$696,516	\$516,031	\$585,626	\$575,365	\$510,564	\$524,065
Single-Family Attached									
3Q 2020	\$287,564	\$290,143	\$294,128	\$410,364	\$336,194	\$363,572	\$368,963	\$305,186	\$326,260
3Q 2019	\$276,445	\$272,804	\$276,665	\$403,188	\$335,460	\$353,501	\$345,206	\$286,727	\$310,632

Source: Colorado Comps LLC.

The average price for a single-family attached home in Commerce City rose 4 percent over-the-year to \$287,564, an increase of \$11,119 between the third quarters of 2019 and 2020. All seven counties reported increases in the attached home price. Douglas County reported the largest increase of 6.9 percent, followed by Jefferson County (+6.4 percent) and Adams County (+6.4 percent). Broomfield County reported the most modest over-the-year increase of 0.2 percent. Adams County reported the lowest average price in 3Q 2020 of \$290,143, while Boulder County reported the highest average price of \$410,364. Attached home prices in Metro Denver rose 5 percent to \$326,260, an increase of \$15,628 in the third quarter of 2020.

Apartment Market

The Commerce City/Brighton apartment rental market reported a vacancy rate of 6.5 percent in the third quarter of 2020, an increase of 3.1 percentage points from the previous quarter and 3.1 percentage points from the same time last year. This large increase was due to new units leasing up in the market area. The average rental rate for Commerce City rose 11.8 percent over-the-year to \$1,549 per month. The rental rate rose 7.7 percent compared with the previous quarter, increasing by \$111 per month. The three-bedroom apartment market reported the largest over-the-year increase of 12.7 percent, or by \$233 per month, while the one-bedroom market reported the most modest increase of 5.1 percent during the period. Adams County reported a vacancy rate of 4.2 percent in 3Q 2020, up 0.8 percentage points from the previous quarter and up 0.2 percentage points from the same time last year. The average lease rate in Adams County rose 2.9 percent over-the-year to \$1,464 per month.

Average Apartment Rents and Vacancy Third Quarter 2020

	Vacancy Rate	Efficiency	1 Bed	2 Bed 1 Bath	2 Bed 2 Bath	3 Bed	Other	All
Adams County	4.2%	\$1,146	\$1,279	\$1,388	\$1,671	\$2,080	-	\$1,464
Commerce City/Brighton	6.5%	-	\$1,315	\$1,445	\$1,664	\$2,066	-	\$1,549
Metro Denver	4.9%	\$1,224	\$1,359	\$1,408	\$1,781	\$2,079	\$1,572	\$1,522

Source: Denver Metro Apartment Vacancy and Rent Survey.

The apartment vacancy rate in Metro Denver was 4.9 percent in the third quarter of 2020, 0.2 percentage points above the vacancy rate from the same time last year and 0.2 percentage points below the rate from the second quarter of 2020. The average rental rate increased 1 percent over-the-year, or by \$15, to \$1,522 per month in 3Q 2020. The rental rate was 1.1 percent above the level from the previous quarter.

Foreclosures

Foreclosure filings fell across Metro Denver between the third quarters of 2019 and 2020, falling by 560 filings to 84, a decrease of 87 percent. The low filings were due to the foreclosure moratorium in effect in Colorado from April 30 to July 13 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, homeowners with a federally backed mortgage, which covers two-thirds of residential mortgages across the U.S., are protected from foreclosure until February 28, 2021. All seven counties reported decreases in filings, led by Broomfield County (-90.9 percent), Jefferson County (-89 percent), and Adams County (-88.1 percent). Arapahoe County reported the most foreclosures in the third quarter of 2020 at 23, while Broomfield County reported the least number of filings at 1 during the period.

Residential Construction

The number of residential units permitted in Commerce City rose 163.8 percent between the fourth quarters of 2019 and 2020, rising from 163 units to 430 units. Multi-family units permitted accounted for a majority of the increase, rising from 0 units in 4Q 2019 to 180 units permitted in 4Q 2020. Single-family detached units permitted rose 39.4 percent, representing an additional 56 units over-the-year. The average valuation of a detached home fell 8.2 percent to \$285,060. Attached units permitted rose from 21 in 4Q 2019 to 52 in 4Q 2020, while the average valuation rose 21.4 percent to \$210,433 during the period.

Commerce City Residential Units Permitted

	Single-Fa	amily Detached		ominiums and ownhomes		Multi-	Family	Total Units
	Units	Avg. Valuation Per Unit	Units	Avg. Valuation Per Unit	Permits	Units	Avg. Valuation Per Unit	I otal Units
4Q 2020	198	\$285,060	52	\$210,433	6	180	\$113,480	430
4Q 2019	142	\$310,663	21	\$173,295	0	0	\$0	163
Yr/Yr % Change	39.4%	-8.2%	148%	21.4%	-	-	-	163.8%

Source: Commerce City Development Center, Building Permits and Fees.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, new residential units permitted in Metro Denver rose 27.8 percent between the third quarters of 2019 and 2020, totaling 5,652 units compared with 4,423 units the prior year. Multi-family units accounted for 42 percent of the total in 3Q 2020 and reported an over-the-year increase of 89.9 percent, representing 1,125 additional units permitted during the period. The number of single-family attached units permitted rose 271.1 percent over-the-year to 167, while single-family detached units permitted fell 0.6 percent, or by 18 units, to 3,109 during the period.

Commercial Real Estate

Note: lease rates for industrial, flex, and retail property are triple-net; office rates are full-service.

Office Market

There was 525,388 square feet of office space in Commerce City in the fourth quarter of 2020, the same amount as the same time last year. The office vacancy rate decreased 1.7 percentage points over-the-year to 1.2 percent vacancy. The average lease rate rose 6.2 percent to \$24.69 per square foot, an increase of \$1.45 from the same time last year.

The office market in Metro Denver added over 1.58 million square feet of space between the fourth quarters of 2019 and 2020, an increase of 0.8 percent during the period. The office vacancy rate rose 1.9 percentage points to 10.9 percent in 4Q 2020, while the average lease rate rose 2.9 percent to \$28.37 per square foot.

Retail Market

The retail market in Commerce City added 22,714 square feet of space between the fourth quarters of 2019 and 2020, representing a 1.4 percent increase. Retail vacancy rose 0.1 percentage points over-the-year to 1.6 percent. The average lease rate rose 7.8 percent, or by \$1.28, to \$17.60 per square foot.

The Metro Denver retail market added over 904,000 square feet of rentable space between the fourth quarters of 2019 and 2020. The vacancy rate in the retail market rose 0.9 percentage points to 5.1 percent during the period, while the average lease rate rose 1.7 percent to \$18.87 per square foot.

Commercial Vacancy and Lease Rates by Property Type

		Total Existing Square Footage		Vacano	y Rate	Avg Lease Rate (per sq. ft.)		
		4Q 2020	4Q 2019	4Q 2020	4Q 2019	4Q 2020	4Q 2019	
Office	Commerce City	525,388	525,388	1.2%	2.9%	\$24.69	\$23.24	
Office	Metro Denver	198,000,742	196,417,799	10.9%	9.0%	\$28.37	\$27.58	
Retail	Commerce City	1,602,271	1,579,557	1.6%	1.5%	\$17.60	\$16.32	
Kettti	Metro Denver	174,716,330	173,812,073	5.1%	4.2%	\$18.87	\$18.55	
Flex	Commerce City	267,906	267,906	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	
Tiex	Metro Denver	47,871,097	47,466,866	7.4%	5.7%	\$13.55	\$12.68	
	Commerce City							
	Warehouse Distribution	9,220,576	8,662,576	7.6%	4.9%	\$9.18	\$9.56	
	All Other Industrial	2,416,965	2,416,965	1.8%	2.2%	\$11.97	\$10.69	
Industrial	Metro Denver							
	Warehouse Distribution	174,746,028	171,414,404	6.1%	5.2%	\$8.46	\$8.38	
	All Other Industrial	53,940,225	53,281,650	3.0%	3.3%	\$8.82	\$8.22	

Note: Vacancy rate and average lease rate are for direct space only (excludes sublet space). Industrial, flex, and retail lease rates are triple-net; office rates are full-service.

Source: CoStar Realty Information, Inc.

Flex Market

Commerce City reported a total of 267,906 square feet of flex space in the fourth quarter of 2020, unchanged from the same time last year. Vacancy has remained at 0 percent since the second quarter of 2018. No average lease rate was reported.

The flex market in Metro Denver reported over 47.87 million square feet of rentable space in the fourth quarter of 2020, up 0.9 percent from the same time last year. The vacancy rate rose 1.7 percentage points to 7.4 percent vacancy, while the lease rate rose 6.9 percent to \$13.55 per square foot during the period.

Industrial Market

Warehouse distribution represented 79.2 percent of Commerce City's industrial rentable space, totaling over 9.2 million square feet. Warehouse distribution in Commerce City represented 5.3 percent of all warehouse space in Metro Denver. Warehouse vacancy rose 2.7 percentage points over-the-year to 7.6 percent, while the average lease rate fell 4 percent to \$9.18 per square foot during the period.

There was nearly 2.42 million square feet of all other industrial space in Commerce City in 4Q 2020, the same amount as the same time last year. Vacancy fell 0.4 percentage points over-the-year to 1.8 percent, while the average lease rate increased 12 percent, or by \$1.28, to \$11.97 per square foot during the period.

Warehouse distribution space in Metro Denver accounted for 76.4 percent of total industrial space during the fourth quarter of 2020. Over 3.3 million square feet of warehouse distribution space was added between the fourth quarters of 2019 and 2020, an increase of 1.9 percent during the period. The vacancy rate for warehouse space rose 0.9 percentage points over-the-year to 6.1 percent. The average lease rate rose 1 percent to \$8.46 per square foot, representing an additional \$0.08 per square foot during the period

There was about 659,000 square feet of all other industrial space added to Metro Denver between the fourth quarters of 2019 and 2020, an increase of 1.2 percent. Vacancy decreased 0.3 percentage points to 3 percent, while the average lease rate rose 7.3 percent to \$8.82 per square foot.

Nonresidential Construction

There were three nonresidential projects permitted during the fourth quarter of 2020 that will add 57,310 square feet of nonresidential space to Commerce City. The largest project was a group of seven RV storage buildings at 10600 Havana St. that will deliver 47,970 square feet valued at about \$1.04 million.

Commerce City Commercial Building Permits Issued, 4Q 2020								
Project Description	Valuation	Total Square Feet						
RV Storage Buildings B1-B7 - 10600 Havana St.	\$1,043,946	47,970						
Leeper Industrial Park Metal Building	\$241,000	4,999						
Aspen Hills Clubhouse	\$1,310,091	4,341						

Source: Commerce City Development Center, Building Permits and Fees.

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