Appendix B: Peer metropolitan statistical area comparison of the Denver region

The Denver Regional Council of Governments is often used as a benchmark for other rapidly growing regions. For the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, DRCOG staff has chosen to use several similarly sized and rapidly growing markets as peers for comparison, including:

- Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, Texas.
- Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minnesota-Wisconsin.

The Denver region incorporates both the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood metropolitan statistical area as well as the Boulder metropolitan statistical area. Both are included in the peer comparison charts that follow.

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Median age by metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Racial composition by metropolitan statistical area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>White alone</th>
<th>Black or African American alone</th>
<th>American Indian and Alaska Native alone</th>
<th>Asian alone</th>
<th>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone</th>
<th>Some other race alone</th>
<th>Two or more races</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, Colorado</td>
<td>75.10%</td>
<td>5.60%</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
<td>4.30%</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td>5.30%</td>
<td>8.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder, Colorado</td>
<td>84.90%</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
<td>4.70%</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td>2.20%</td>
<td>6.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, Texas</td>
<td>68.70%</td>
<td>7.30%</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
<td>6.20%</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td>7.30%</td>
<td>9.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minnesota-Wisconsin</td>
<td>76.40%</td>
<td>8.80%</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>6.80%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>2.40%</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, Oregon-Washington</td>
<td>77.40%</td>
<td>2.80%</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
<td>6.90%</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>3.60%</td>
<td>8.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah</td>
<td>76.60%</td>
<td>1.80%</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
<td>3.90%</td>
<td>1.50%</td>
<td>8.80%</td>
<td>6.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Washington</td>
<td>64.80%</td>
<td>5.90%</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
<td>14.50%</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>9.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Educational attainment by metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Share of population with bachelor’s degree or higher by metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Share of population with bachelor’s degree or higher by race and ethnicity and metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Poverty rate by age and metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Poverty rate by race and ethnicity and metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Tenure by metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Share of cost-burdened households by tenure and metropolitan statistical area

- **Renter cost-burdened**
- **Owner cost-burdened**

- Denver
- Boulder
- Austin
- Minneapolis
- Portland
- Salt Lake City
- Seattle

*U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates*
Share of cost-burdened renters by age group and metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Share of cost-burdened homeowners by age group and metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Commuting by metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Median earnings in the past 12 months by educational attainment and metropolitan statistical area

U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates
Employed population in civilian labor force by metropolitan statistical area

- Denver
- Boulder
- Austin
- Minneapolis
- Portland
- Salt Lake City
- Seattle

_U.S. Census Bureau. (2023) 2017-2021 American Community Survey, five-year estimates_
S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC. (2023) S&P/Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index