

#21 Best U.S. Metro for Commercial Builders — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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Denver ranks among the nation's top 25 in nonresidential construction activity

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THE DATA

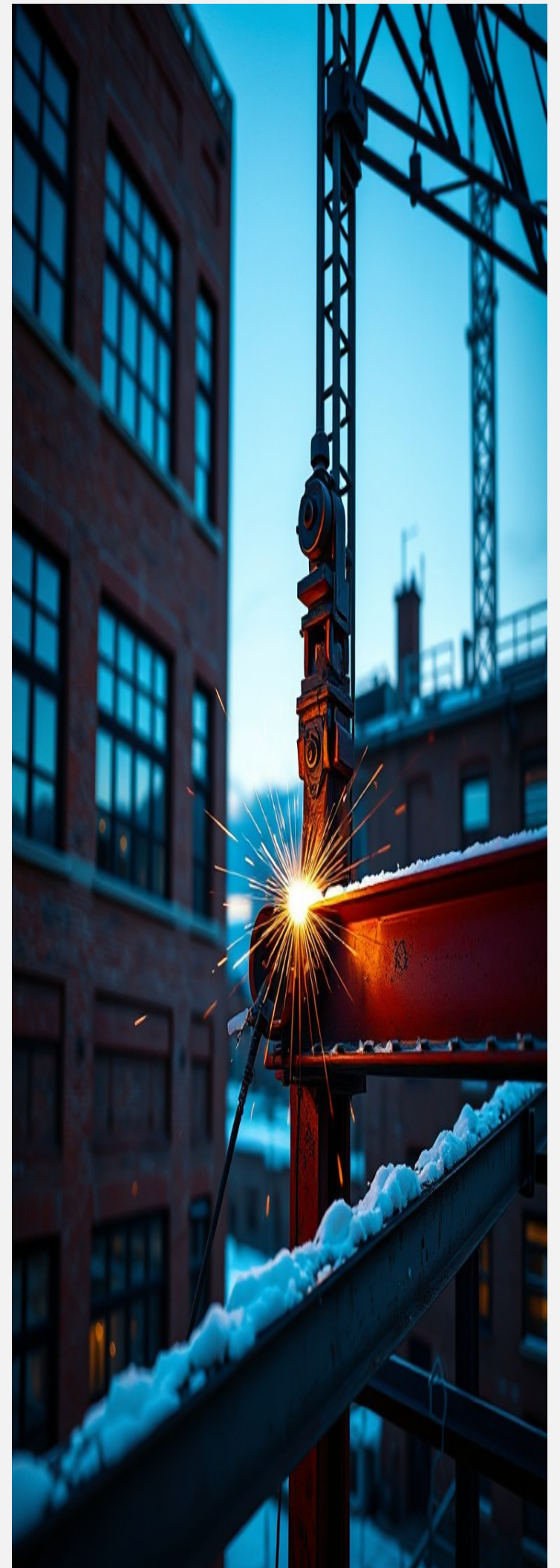
407

Commercial Builders (2022)

Denver-Aurora-Centennial, CO ranks #21 of 830 U.S. metros on commercial builders, based on 2022 County Business Patterns data.

This figure reflects a robust pipeline of office, retail, and industrial development, signaling sustained investor confidence in Denver's long-term economic trajectory. The ranking is not about luxury or speculation—it is about foundational infrastructure growth. Even as affordability pressures mount, the city's commercial construction footprint remains among the strongest in the nation, suggesting structural strength beyond housing alone.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 2362 (Nonresidential building construction) · ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-02-denver-istand-2362-msa>



01

Construction as a Stability Anchor

This foundation may buffer future housing volatility, as commercial activity generates jobs, tax revenue, and long-term demand for services and housing. The fact that Denver maintains such a high rank despite elevated poverty and rent burden indicates that economic activity is not being stifled by affordability challenges—it is being sustained by real, physical investment in the city's infrastructure.



02

Affordability vs. Investment Paradox

The city's ability to attract 407 commercial builders indicates a strong investor outlook, but this does not automatically translate into inclusive growth. The tension between robust construction and persistent affordability pressures highlights a critical policy and development imperative: how to ensure that commercial growth translates into equitable economic opportunity. Without deliberate inclusion strategies, this construction boom risks reinforcing inequality.

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