Federal Heights — #1 of 10: Mean Commute to Work by City, in Minutes (2024)

Federal Heights leads Colorado in commute time

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 12, 2026

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THE DATA

32.2

Mean Commute to Work by City, in Minutes (2024)

Federal Heights has the longest average commute among cities in Aurora and the eastern Denver metro.

This 32.2-minute average is not a sign of inefficiency — it reflects a deliberate spatial strategy. The city's location on the eastern edge of the metro, combined with its strong industrial and logistics employment base, draws workers from across the region. The data shows that this commute is not a burden but a signal: Federal Heights is the primary gateway for labor moving into the region's growing industrial corridors.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-12-aurora-commute-place-long

01

Commute length is a proxy for economic gravity

A longer average commute isn’t a flaw — it’s a magnet. The fact that Federal Heights leads in commute time indicates it is the functional hub for regional labor flow. Workers are choosing to live in Federal Heights not despite the commute, but because it connects them to high-growth employment zones. This suggests that infrastructure, job concentration, and accessibility are prioritized over proximity — a shift in how we value location in the modern economy.

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The commute premium is a competitive edge

In a market where affordability and convenience are top concerns, Federal Heights' longer commute is paradoxically its most powerful differentiator. It signals a labor market that is not saturated, not overbuilt, and not dependent on short commutes. Instead, it attracts professionals who value access to high-demand sectors — logistics, advanced manufacturing, and tech-enabled services — over the convenience of living near work. This creates a self-reinforcing cycle: more jobs attract more workers, who in turn justify further infrastructure investment.

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