

2010 Rankings

Colorado Springs **ranked 4th** best drivers according to the "Allstate America's Best Drivers Report" which ranked America's 200 largest cities in terms of car collision frequency to identify which cities have the safest drivers. (09/10)

Colorado **ranked 8th** best state for business according to Chief Executive's Magazine. Rankings were based on business leaders direct experience with taxation and regulation, quality of workforce and living environment. (08/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 8th** "Safest City for Children" according to Men's Health Magazine. The study was based on accidental death rates for kids ages 5 to 14, number of car-seat inspection locations per child, sex offenders per capita, percentage of abused children protected from further abuse, and the strength of child-restraint laws and bike-helmet laws. (08/10)

Colorado **ranked 3rd** best state in the country for doing business, citing the strength, health and diversity of the state's economy according to CNBC. (07/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 19th** "Best City for Families" according to Parenting.com. Cities were ranked based on health, safety, education, economy and recreation. (06/10)

Colorado Springs has **5 high schools** listed on Newsweek's annual "America's Best High Schools" list. The ranking is based on how hard their staffs work to challenge students with advanced-placement courses and tests. (06/10)

Colorado Springs was listed in RelocateAmerica.com's "**Top 100** Places to Live in America for 2010". The list focused on communities poised for recovery and future growth. The editorial team discovered communities with strong local leadership, employment opportunities, thriving community commitment, improving real estate markets, growing green initiatives, plentiful recreational options and an overall high quality of life. (05/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 12th** best place for business and careers according to Forbes.com. The annual rankings are based on factors such as cost of doing business, job growth, education attainment and population. (04/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 18th** Friendliest Bike City in America by Bicycling magazine. Editors evaluated cities with 100,000 or more people, with the rankings based on cycling-friendly statistics (numbers of bike lanes and routes, bike racks, city projects completed and planned) and bike culture (number of bike commuters, cycling clubs, cycling events, renowned bike shops). (04/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 4th** Fittest City by Gallup. Gallup's telephone survey, which was conducted between December 29, 2009 and January 2, 2010, calculated average body mass index based on the heights and weights the respondents provided. The study also recorded information of health habits such as eating, exercise and access to health insurance. (03/10)

Colorado Springs **wins** national award for cultural diversity by the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a constituency group of the National League of Cities. The award is based on implementing quality and innovative programs in communities to enhance and promote cultural diversity. Each year, the City Cultural Diversity Awards recognize city programs which encourage citizen involvement and show an appreciation of cultural diversity. (03/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 6th** "Most Wired City" by Forbes.com. The study was compiled by computing the percentage of Internet users with high-speed connections in a particular city and the number of companies providing high-speed Internet in that area. (03/10)

2009 Rankings

Colorado Springs **ranked 10th** “Best City to be a Woman” according to Women’s Health magazine. The study was based on 35 health and lifestyle areas including health, life and fitness. (12/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked as one of the top** “10 Best Drivers’ Cities in America” list according to Car & Driver magazine. Factors such as frequency of sunny days, car ownership costs, and annual road salt use factored into the ratings. (12/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 9th** in “America’s Best Bang-For-The-Buck Cities” by Forbes.com. The study was based on solid housing markets, relatively stable employment, enviable cost of living and quick commutes. (11/09)

Colorado **ranked 8th** “Healthiest State in the Nation” by the United Health Foundation. The survey evaluated measures that ranged from basic health statistics such as cancer and high-blood pressure to lifestyle indicators such as unemployment, geographic disparities and crime. (11/09)

Colorado **ranked 4th** “Happiest State” by MSNBC.com. The study includes six types of well-being: overall evaluation of lives, emotional health, physical health, healthy behaviors (such as whether a person smokes or exercises), and job satisfaction. (11/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 24th** Metro Least Touched by Recession by BusinessWeek. The report was based on a combination of stable home prices and sizable sectors in health care, energy, government, and education. (10/09)

Colorado **ranked 6th** “brainiest state” according to U.S. News and World Report. The study included factors such as the foods each state eats, population’s physical health and mental health, and social well-being. In all, 21 measures went into calculating each score. (10/09)

Colorado **ranked 4th** best state for business according to Forbes.com. The annual rankings are based on six factors: costs, labor supply, regulatory environment, current economic climate, growth prospects and quality of life. (09/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 7th** “Best City to Raise an Outdoor Kid” by Backpacker Magazine. The survey used metrics including climate, landscape, air pollution, obesity rates, Boy’s Life subscribers, and online voting by Backpacker readers. (09/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 3rd** in “Best Cities for a Housing Recovery” by Forbes.com. Forbes looked at 161 of the country’s largest metropolitan statistical areas (or metros) where sales activity had picked up over the last year, but where foreclosure sales, as a percentage of overall sales were the lowest. (08/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked Best Place to Live** by Outside.online. Factors like cost of living, unemployment, nightlife, commute time, access to green spaces and multisport factor including quality and proximity to biking, running, paddling, hiking, and skiing. (07/09)

Colorado **ranked 3rd** best state in the country for doing business, citing the strength, health and diversity of the state’s economy according to CNBC. (07/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 10th** best drivers according to the "Allstate America's Best Drivers Report™" which ranked America's 200 largest cities in terms of car collision frequency to identify which cities have the safest drivers. (07/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 3rd** most-obsessed sports town in America by Men's Health Magazine. The survey based its conclusion on ticket sales, apparel sales and television viewership. (07/09)

Colorado continues to have the **lowest percentage** of obese adults at 18.9 percent according to Trust for America's Health. (07/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 3rd** Midsize Magnet city by Next Cities™. The recent study looked at the 60 U.S. Hotspots for Young, Talent Workers. The indexes used for the study included cost of lifestyle, city's future job growth potential, the health of the city, places to go and things to do, education opportunities, commute times and diversity. (06/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 8th** best city to find a fresh start according to BusinessWeek.com. The survey was ranked based on the percentage of companies planning to hire in the third quarter, according to a new Manpower survey of 28,348 U.S. employers that was conducted April 6-29. (06/09)

Colorado **ranked 15th** in the top states in developing a "clean-energy economy," according to a report out this week by the Pew Charitable Trusts. The study was comprised of five categories: (1) Clean Energy; (2) Energy Efficiency; (3) Environmentally Friendly Production; (4) Conservation and Pollution Mitigation; and (5) Training and Support. (06/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 14th** for areas with the cleanest air in the American Lung Association (ALA) State of the Air 2009 report. (04/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 6th** top city for defense jobs according to ClearJobs.com. According to the report, two Air Force Bases and the U.S. Air Force Academy, the aerospace industry is only second to tourism in Colorado Springs. The focus is on highly technical missions, chiefly systems engineering and space surveillance. (04/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 6th** in the Top Ten Alternative Fueled City Fleets. The study was based on the percentage of their city vehicle fleets using alternative fuels including biodiesel, hydrogen, ethanol and compressed natural gas, as well as electric and gas-hybrid vehicles. (03/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 10th** on the 2009 Forbes Best Places for Business and Careers list. The rankings are based on income and growth, cost of doing business, available labor, crime rates, housing costs and net migration. 200 large metropolitan areas were ranked. (03/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 9th** in America's Best Midsize Metropolitan Areas according to MSNBC. The scores went to well-rounded places with healthy economies, light traffic, moderate costs of living, impressive housing stocks and strong educational systems. (03/09)

Colorado **ranked 4th** best state to live according to Gallup and Healthways, a disease management company. The survey found that residents enjoy their jobs, express deep optimism about future prospects and even manage to stay healthy. (03/08)

Colorado **ranked 2nd** in the Index of Free States according to a study done by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Indicators included income taxation, fireworks laws, home-schooling rules to drug policy. (03/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked one of the best** southwest cities for defense jobs by FedSmith.com. The survey found that Colorado Springs has a niche market for defense technology partly due to 4 military installations in the city. (02/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 2nd** fittest city in the country as ranked by Men's Fitness magazine. The survey was based on 14 categories ranging from the number of fitness centers to air quality to commute times. (01/09)

Colorado **ranked 3rd** best state to start a business according to U.S. News & World Report. What's attracting so many people to Colorado might be the third-most-educated workforce in the nation. That brainy workforce has pushed Colorado to fourth place in terms of the number of patents issued to companies or individuals per 1,000 workers. The state also finishes in the top half of all states in terms of the level of income, capital gains, consumption, and property taxes. (01/09)

2008 Rankings

Colorado Springs **ranked 7th** in a U.S. News & World Report study on the 10 cities most safe from natural disasters. The cities were ranked by risk of natural disasters that could change the landscape of a city in a short period of time, affecting most city structures, water and energy supplies, in addition to the widespread loss of life. (11/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 9th** in a study by Scarborough Research of the nation's most text-happy cities. Tied with Oklahoma City and Las Vegas, 52 percent of cell phone owners in Colorado Springs use their phones' text messaging feature. (11/08)

The Pikes Peak Library District, located in the Colorado Springs region, **ranked 9th** out of 79 large library systems in the United States by Hennen's American Public Library Ratings. Criteria for the rankings including circulation, materials, reference service and funding levels. (10/08)

Manitou Springs, located 5 miles west of Colorado Springs, **ranked 2nd** in "America's Coolest Small Towns" by Yahoo! Travel. All of the towns that made the list have fewer than 10,000 people — but rival larger cities when it comes to good food, culture, and quality of life. (09/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 7th** in the top "10 Cities Where Jobs, Home Prices Are Growing" according to Forbes.com. The study found that from 2007 through 2012, the economy is expected to experience 2% and 1.6% average annual job growth. That means more in-migration and more money in the economy, factors that help businesses grow and profit—and put more money in residents' pockets. (08/08)

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs is among the best in the nation, according to the editors of U.S. News and World Report. In the 2009 college rankings edition, "America's Best Colleges," released August 2008, the magazine's editors **ranked the UCCS undergraduate engineering program 10th** in the nation among public engineering schools offering bachelors or master's degrees. The magazine's also ranked the Air Force Academy **as the best** baccalaureate college in the West and Colorado College **ranked 30th** for national liberal arts schools. (08/08)

Colorado Springs was **named "DogTown USA 2008"** by Dog Fancy Magazine. The criteria used to select the winning city include plenty of dog-friendly open spaces and dog parks, events celebrating dogs and their owners, high vet-to-dog ratios, abundant pet supply and other services, and municipal laws that support and protect all pets. (07/08)

Colorado **ranked as the slimmest state** for the 18th year in a row. MedMD Health News reports that Colorado cuts the leanest figure, with 18.7% of its adults in the obese range. (07/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 7th** in the nation in the percentage of its work force employed in high-technology industries during 2006, according to a report by the American Electronics Association. (07/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 9th** "Best Place to Raise a Family" by BestLife Magazine. Criteria for the study included a safe location, good schools with favorable student-teacher ratios, above-average test scores, plenty of museums, parks and pediatricians also contributed. (06/08)

Colorado **ranked 3rd** in the Milken Institute's survey of how well states are nurturing a high-tech economy. (06/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 3rd** "Best City to Live in the U.S." according to MSNBC.com's sift through "best of" rankings from several prominent organizations and formed its own list of Best Places to Live in the U.S. (06/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked in the top 20** for areas with the cleanest air in the American Lung Association (ALA) State of the Air 2008 report. (05/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 5th** "Best Cities to Live, Work and Play," by Kiplinger's Personal Finance. The study included population growth, income growth, job growth, job quality and the existence of a "creative class" when making the rankings. (05/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 11th** in the nation's top 20 cities for relocation among "mid-sized metro areas." The ranking, by Worldwide ERC, included job growth for 2007, percentage of nearby top-ranked colleges, average in-state tuition for four-year public colleges, percentage of population growth since 2000, number of pediatricians per 100,000 population and separate sales and income tax categories. (05/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 11th** best place to build a data center, according to a study by The Boyd Co. Inc. Power costs, abundant supply of highly educated workers, availability of government-approved training programs and a low risk of natural disaster were categories in the study. (05/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 28th** best place to live and launch by CNNMoney.com. The study included interviewing entrepreneurs, local officials, and business experts to identify towns with the strongest small-business programs (such as tax incentives or favorable zoning regimes) and the most appealing leisure resources (such as a lively downtown, great fishing, or beautiful parks). (05/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked in the top 10** Greenest Places to Retire study by U.S. News & World Report. Colorado Springs offered a balance mix of wilderness preserves and landscaped parks. (04/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 10th** smartest metro according to a recent study by bizjournals. The study's objective was to identify those markets with the strongest collective brainpower, as indicated by their residents' educational attainment. Seventy-one percent of Colorado Springs' adults have gone to college. That's the second-best rate in the nation, topped only by Madison's 75 percent. (04/08)

Colorado **ranked 16th** in the "2007 Top Twenty Healthiest States" according to a report published by the United Health Foundation (<http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/ahr2007/states/Colorado.html>), unchanged from 2006. The strengths for Colorado included a low prevalence of obesity at 18.2 percent of the population, few poor physical health days per month at 2.9 days in the previous 30 days, a low rate of cancer deaths at 176.8 deaths per 100,000 population and a low rate of preventable hospitalizations with 56.2 discharges per 1,000 Medicare enrollees.

Colorado Springs **ranked as the fittest city** in the country as ranked by Men's Fitness magazine. The survey was based on 14 categories ranging from the number of fitness centers to air quality to commute times. (02/08)

2007 Rankings

Colorado Springs **ranked 13th** in Expansion Managements' mid-sized metropolitans where companies tend to grow best. (10/07)

Colorado Springs **ranked 11th** in Computerworld's America's techiest cities. Colorado Springs has 12,511 workers in the IT field or 4.3% of the workforce. (10/07)

Colorado Springs **ranked in the top 10** cities for people who read or contribute to blogs. Research found that bloggers are more advanced online than your average Internet use, and more tech savvy overall. (10/07)

Colorado Springs **ranked 1st** by Forbes.com for America's Most Pet-Friendly city. Generous public space, ample veterinary care and wealth of pet-friendly retailers were all included in the study. (10/07)

Colorado Springs **ranked 14th** best location for those with a security clearance to find a job according to ClearanceJobs.com. Reasons cited included the large number of military bases as well as defense and aerospace contactors operating in Colorado Springs. (09/07)

Colorado Springs **ranked in the top 25** cities in RelocateAmerica.com's "Top 25 Places to Live, to go to School 2007". The list recognizes communities with strong support and spirit for their local schools, high parental involvement, strong academic achievement and performance, caring faculty and staff and successful extracurricular programs with opportunities for children to explore and excel in many areas of interest. (09/07)

The undergraduate engineering program at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs is among the best in the nation, according to the editors of U.S. News and World Report. In the 2008 college rankings edition, "America's Best Colleges," released August 20, the magazine's editors **ranked the UCCS undergraduate engineering program 9th** in the nation among public engineering schools offering bachelor's or master's degrees. The magazine's editors **ranked all of UCCS 10th** among public Western universities. (08/07)

Colorado ranked 11th in high-exports nationally, according to American Electronics Association. From 2006 to 2007, Colorado's high-tech exports grew by 16 percent, at total of \$592 million. (07/07)

El Paso County ranked in the top 20 for Midsize Counties for Recruitment & Attraction by Expansion Magazine. Rankings were based on the number of business establishments (headquarters, subsidiaries, independents) that relocated to another market during the most recent 8-year period and still survive today and the numbers of companies opened during the most recent 8-year period and still survive today, as a percent of all business establishments in the market. (06/07)

Colorado Springs ranked 8th for safest driving city by Researchers with Allstate Insurance Company. The report analyzed two years of internal crash data to calculate the chance that drivers in 200 of the nation's most populated cities would be involved in an accident. (06/07)

Colorado Springs ranked 1st in the United States as the most dog-friendly city according to Men's Health magazine. Rankings were based on seven categories, including pet stores per capita, lowest incident of heartworm, number of boarding and day care facilities for pets, number of dog parks and veterinarian practices. (06/07)

Colorado Springs ranked 4th in the 2007 Best Cities for Relocating Families by Worldwide ERC and Primacy Relocation for small metro areas (350,000 – 575,000 population). Metro areas were rated based on factors such as crime rate, cost of living, education, climate and housing market. Housing data evaluated ranged from affordability to property tax and rate of appreciation. (05/07)

Colorado Springs ranked 4th best city to live by Cities Ranked & Rated, 2nd Edition. Cities were ranked on the following 10 major criteria: economy and jobs; cost of living; climate; education; health and healthcare; crime; transportation; leisure; arts and culture and overall quality of life. (05/07)

Expansion Management has rated Colorado Springs as a 5 star (top rating) Knowledge Worker Metro. Rankings compared all 362 MSAs in the area of college-education work force – scientists, engineers, medical doctors, Ph.D.s and others with graduate and post graduate degrees, providing the foundation for the knowledge sector economy. These communities share one common thread, the presence of one or more major research university. (05/07)

Colorado ranked as the 9th fastest-growing state according to the Kauffman Foundation's Information Technology and Innovation Foundation recent study. The Rocky Mountain States have a strong demand for energy and agriculture, now generally having a lower unemployment and faster growth than the rest of the country. (02/07)

Colorado Springs was ranked 3rd greatest place to live according to Earth Day Network's new environmental report card. The new report evaluates a long list of environmental and health indicators including toxics and waste; air quality; drinking and surface water; quality of life; parks and recreation opportunities; human and public health; and global warming and climate change. (02/07)

Colorado Springs ranked in the top 50 of Expansion Management's "America's 50 Hottest Cities" list for 2007. The ranking is based on a survey of site selection professionals, and ranks cities according to their reputation as good places to expand or locate business. Expansion Management magazine ran the full story in its January 2007 issue. (02/07)

Colorado ranked as the most heart-healthy state by Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (02/07)

Colorado Springs ranked as the 3rd fittest city in the country as ranked by Men's Fitness magazine. The survey was based on 14 categories ranging from the number of fitness centers to air quality to commute times. (02/07)

Colorado Springs ranked 7th in "the Best Cities in America to have a Baby" according to FitPregnancy magazine, encompassing everything from doctors and hospitals to doulas, midwives, breastfeeding success rates, birth and health risk, stroller-friendly trails and parks, affordability, and a whole lot more. (01/07)

Colorado Springs ranked 12th in Cooking Light's magazine "Cooking Light 20 Best Cities", encompassing the best in healthful cuisine and lifestyle. (01/07)

2006 Rankings

Colorado ranked 4th in economic competitiveness by Suffolk University's Beacon Hill Institute. Colorado also ranked 3rd in the nation with the percentage of engineers and scientists in the workforce and ranked 1st in the percentage of total wage and salary jobs in high technology share of all business establishments. (12/06)

Colorado ranked 4th in economic competitiveness by Suffolk University's Beacon Hill Institute. Colorado also ranked 3rd in the nation with the percentage of engineers and scientists in the workforce and ranked 1st in the percentage of total wage and salary jobs in high technology share of all business establishments. (12/06)

Colorado Springs ranked 33rd in the America's Most Literate Cities study, ranking the 69 largest cities (population 250,000 and above) in the United States. This study focuses on six key indicators of literacy: the Internet, newspaper circulation, number of bookstores, library resources, periodical publishing resources, and educational attainment. Central Connecticut State University (12/06)
http://www.ccsu.edu/amlc06/Overall_Rankings/Top10.htm

Colorado Springs ranked 7th in the nation as a prime candidate for cost-effective and secure data centers according to InformationWeek's "The Best and Worst Cities for Data Centers" study. (10/06)
<http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=193401105>

Colorado Springs Utilities ranked 3rd in the nation among medium-sized utilities for their customer service according to a survey conducted by J.D. Power and Associates. (10/06)

Colorado Springs ranked 16th in CNNMoney.com's America's smartest cities. Rankings were based on such things as the number of booksellers, libraries and newspaper circulation - as well as educational attainment. (08/06) http://money.cnn.com/2006/08/29/real_estate/brainiest_cities/index.htm

Colorado as the 5th best state for business according to Forbes Magazine with Colorado Springs ranking 35th overall. Rankings were based on cost of labor, energy and taxes, educational attainment, net migration and projected population growth. (08/06)
http://www.forbes.com/lists/2006/9/06beststates_Colorado_090005_print.html

Colorado Springs ranked 1st in CNNMoney.com's Best Places to Live, Best Big Cities. Rankings were based on housing, education, quality of life, leisure and culture, weather health. (07/06)
<http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bplive/2006/snapshots/PL0816000.html>

Colorado ranked 2nd for entrepreneurs according to a study by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. (07/06) (<http://www.kauffman.org/items.cfm?itemID=703>)

Colorado Springs ranked 1st for medium size cities according to Sperlings Best Places ranking of Top "Chill" Cities. The study researched both the behavior of a city's residents and the opportunities that a city provides for its residents to hang out and enjoy their lives together. (06/06)
<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060621/nyw124.html?v=59>

Colorado Springs ranked as 4th smartest city, according to Bizjournals.com. The ranking reflects the community's collective brainpower, which is tied to its residents' abilities to innovate, create, compete -- and make money. (06/06)
http://www.bizjournals.com/edit_special/40.html

Colorado Springs ranked 9th for safest driving city by Researchers with Allstate Insurance Company. The report analyzed two years of internal crash data to calculate the chance that drivers in 200 of the nation's most populated cities would be involved in an accident. (05/06)
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1110AP_Safe_Driving_City.html

Colorado Springs ranked in the top 20 for areas with the cleanest air in the American Lung Association (ALA) State of the Air 2006 report. (04/06)

Colorado Springs ranked 4th in the nation with areas having the highest percentage of residents with a high school diploma. Colorado Springs also ranked 17th in the nation with areas having the highest percentage of residents with a bachelors degree. (04/06)

Colorado was ranked 4th lowest in the national for per capita taxes, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. (03/06)

Colorado Springs ranked 2nd in the nation for the best city for walking, according to Prevention magazine and the American Medical Association. Criteria included percentage of people who regularly walk (either for fitness or to get to/from work) and "walker-friendly" attributes such as low crime rates, mild temperatures, participation in recreation activities and pet ownership. (03/06)

Colorado Springs ranked 71st in top job-generating cities in America, according to the Milken Institute. Healthy construction growth and growth in the service sector were reasons cited for the ranking. (02/06)

Colorado Springs ranked as the 6th fittest city in the country as ranked by Men's Fitness magazine. The survey was based on 14 categories ranging from the number of fitness centers to air quality to commute times. (01/06)