

## 2012 Rankings

Colorado Springs **ranked 7<sup>th</sup>** best in West for small business according to an analysis by G. Scott Thomas, who covers demographic trends in his "On Numbers" blog for The Business Journals. The ranking is based on a six-part formula that takes into account population and employment growth, as well as local concentrations of small businesses with fewer than 100 workers. (04/12)

Colorado **ranked 5<sup>th</sup>** Best Places to Live by MoneyRates.com. To determine rankings, the study looked at average income, cost of living (based on the ACCRA Cost of Living Index), state income tax rate and unemployment rate. (03/12)

Colorado Springs **ranked 8<sup>th</sup>** Fittest City in the West according to Sunset Magazine. (03/12)

Colorado Springs **ranked 6<sup>th</sup>** Best Weekend Getaway by U.S. News & World Report. The rankings were based on places with just the right ratio of relaxation and entertainment. (03/12)

Colorado **ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>** best state for competitiveness in Beacon Hill Institute's annual "State Competitiveness Report". The index is based on a set of 44 indicators divided into eight sub indexes – government and fiscal policy, security, infrastructure, human resources, technology, business incubation, openness, and environmental policy. (03/12)

Colorado **ranked 6<sup>th</sup>** wellbeing in the Nation by Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. The ranking is based on life evaluation, emotional health, work environment, physical health, healthy behaviors, and basic access to clean water, medicine, food, shelter, healthcare, etc. (03/12)

Colorado Springs **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** Safest City in the United States by insuranceProviders.com. The study was based on crime rate, likelihood of natural disasters and driving safety. (02/12)

Colorado Springs **ranked 9<sup>th</sup>** best city for a data center according to an analysis conducted by location consultants The Boyd Company. In addition to offering lower operating costs, the cities Boyd identified "all tend to be in the middle of the country where you have this idea of relative immunity from natural disasters — at least perceived lower vulnerability to natural disasters." (01/12)

Colorado **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** top state for LEED-certified commercial and institutional green buildings per capita, based on the U.S. 2010 Census information according to U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). (01/12)

## 2011 Rankings

Colorado Springs **ranked 17<sup>th</sup>** Most Secure Place to Live by Farmers Insurance Group's 8th annual study. The ranking consisted of crime statistics, extreme weather, risk of natural disasters, housing depreciation, foreclosures, air quality, terrorist threats, environmental hazards, life expectancy, mortality rates from cancer and motor vehicle accidents, and job loss numbers in 379 U.S. municipalities. (12/12)

Colorado **ranked 9<sup>th</sup>** "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. (12/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** in MSN.com's Cities of Convention Wisdom. The survey looked at amenities (such as meeting spaces and available hotel rooms) and combined them with our American cities' disparate cultures--and their ineffable charms. (11/11)

Colorado **ranked 5<sup>th</sup>** Best State for Business and Careers by Forbes. The survey included business costs, labor supply, regulatory environment, economic climate, growth prospects and quality of life. (11/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** in the nation for military veterans and their families to call home by Livability.com. The rankings were based on quality of life attributes that appeal to veterans, such as modern climate, low cost of living, unemployment rate and outdoor recreational opportunities. Officials said they also gave additional consideration to places with military institutions and VA hospitals. (11/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 5<sup>th</sup>** Great City for Young Adults by Kiplinger. The best cities needed to offer a combination of employment opportunities, social activities and be affordable. (10/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 7<sup>th</sup>** on Builder Magazine's Top 20 list of healthiest markets projection for 2012. The projections use Moody's Economy.com data, which focus on jobs, price appreciation, population growth and other factors that drive housing. Moody's expects housing metrics to be up across the board in 2012, with home prices climbing 2.6%, employment rising 1.4%, households increasing 1.8%, and median incomes rising a hefty 2.9%. (10/11)

Colorado **ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the nation in concentration of high-tech workers according to TechAmerica Foundation. The report details national and state trends in high-tech employment, wages, and other key economic factors. (10/11)

Garden of the Gods, located on the westside of Colorado Springs, **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** Great Public Space by American Planning Association. The program celebrates places of exemplary character, quality, and planning. Places are selected annually and represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for tomorrow. (10/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 9<sup>th</sup>** for recovery in the currently economic downturn according to Brookings Institute. The ranking was based on a combination of a well-educated workforce and industries that have not been hit as hard by the recession. (09/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 11<sup>th</sup>** Best Drivers Report by Allstate. The report ranks America's 200 largest cities in terms of car collision frequency to identify which cities have the safest drivers. (09/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 4<sup>th</sup>** Best Value City by Kiplinger's Personal Finance. Value was defined as low living costs, strong economies and great amenities. (07/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 15<sup>th</sup>** Best City for Families according to Parenting.com. The top places to live were based on the quality of schools, affordable homes, low crime rates, jobs, and parkland. (07/11)

Colorado continues to have the **lowest percentage** of obese adults at 19.8 percent according to Trust for America's Health. (07/11)

Colorado **ranked 5<sup>th</sup>** Best State for Business by CNBC. The ranking looked at cost of doing business, workforce, quality of life, transportation & infrastructure, economy, education, technology & innovation, business friendliness, access to capital and cost of living. (06/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 4<sup>th</sup>** Mountain States Metro Area Leading Locations according to Area Development. The Mountain State metro areas performed the best on Area Development's 100 Leading Locations list. As business populations shift and site selection continuously evolves, smaller regional and metro areas emerge from amongst the field of usual big-city suspects as desirable locations for companies of all sizes. The list brings these locations to light by showing how they stack up to the rest of the field when considering 14 highly regarded surveys. (06/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 6<sup>th</sup>** best in getting the "bang for your buck" metropolitan areas in America. The report, by U.S. News, adjusted incomes by computing median household incomes and the cost of living index, or COLI, as measured by the Council for Community Economic Research. The index takes into account prices on a variety of basic goods and services, including groceries, housing, utilities, healthcare, and transportation, as well as common expenses like movie tickets and newspapers. (06/11)

Colorado **ranked 5<sup>th</sup>** the nation in clean-energy leadership, according to Clean Edge Inc.'s U.S. Clean Energy Leadership Index. The ranking based on a number of factors, including each state's total electricity produced by clean-energy sources, hybrid and electric vehicles on the road, clean-energy venture and patent activity, and policy regulations and incentives. (05/11)

Colorado Springs ranked in the "**10 Great Cities for College Grads**" by Kiplinger. Kiplinger notes that the Springs "features dozens of restaurants, bars, art museums and concert halls within a walkable, nine-block radius. And with the Rocky Mountains looming over the city, Colorado Springs is an outdoor enthusiast's delight. It ranks among the country's fittest cities, according to a Gallup survey conducted last year." (05/11)

Colorado **ranked 12<sup>th</sup>** Best State for Business according to Chief Executive Magazine. The annual ranking is based on 500 CEOs consideration of a wide range of criteria, from taxation and regulation to workforce quality and living environment. (05/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 7<sup>th</sup>** in the nation for cities poised for an “early turnaround” in the housing market according to a study released by Realtor.com. Criteria included market conditions such as sales, prices and days on the market. (04/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 18<sup>th</sup>** greenest city by The Daily Beast. To find the greenest cities with 100,000 or more people, rankings were based on citizen behavior across five categories with the final ranking determined by a comparison of each city’s performance compared to the average for each category. (04/11)

Colorado **ranked 10<sup>th</sup>** best state tax environment for entrepreneurship and small business, according to a report from the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. The report rates Colorado particularly favorably for having low top corporate income tax rates (eighth lowest among the states) and adjusted unemployment tax rates (seventh lowest), as well as 10th for best top corporate capital gains tax rates (with first meaning lowest and 50th highest); 14th for lowest sales, gross-receipts and excise taxes; 6th for lowest top personal income tax rates; 18th for top capital gains tax rates as well as for gas taxes; and 19th for state and local property taxes. (04/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 8<sup>th</sup>** by fDiIntelligence.com in the Top 10 Large Cities FDI Strategy category. The ranking is based upon number of staff dedicated to promote and facilitate inward investment and systems / programs in place, key initiatives implemented, high-growth sectors / sub-sectors, incentives available, major infrastructure and urban planning projects. (04/11)

Colorado **ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the national for wind energy jobs in 2010 according to the American Wind Energy Association. More than 5,000 Coloradans are employed in the wind energy industry, up from less than 2,000 in 2010. (04/11)

Colorado **ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>** Smartest State by CNNMoney.com. The ranking is based on a weighted score reflecting four different education-level statistics for each state: the percentage of the population (age 25 and older) that has less than a high-school degree, some college, a Bachelor's degree, or a Master's or professional degree. (03/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 4<sup>th</sup>** Least Angry City in America according to Men’sHealth. The survey calculated the number of aggravated assaults per capita (FBI), the number of people with high blood pressure (CDC), the amount of time spent in traffic during rush hour (Texas Transportation Institute), and the number of anger-management specialists per capita (American Psychological Association). (03/11)

Colorado Springs **made the top 16** of Forbes Best Retirement Cities. The study looked at populations starting at around 100,000, looking at a lot of issues besides costs. Issues included weather, availability of doctors, driving environment, crime rates and opportunities for an active retirement, which we defined by the extent of volunteering and outdoor paths for bicycling and walking, affordable housing, low cost of living, safe streets. (03/11)

Colorado **ranked 5<sup>th</sup>** Happiest State in the Nation by Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. The ranking is based on life evaluation, emotional health, work environment, physical health, healthy behaviors, and basic access to clean water, medicine, food, shelter, healthcare, etc. (03/11)

Colorado Springs was named as **one of the top 12** Distinctive Destinations by The National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Trust's list recognizes communities that offer cultural and recreational experiences different from the typical vacation destination. (02/11)

Colorado Springs **ranked 8<sup>th</sup>** in CNNMoney.com's Housing Markets: Best Recovery Bet. Demand for housing has grown along with the population. That rose almost 17% from 2000 through 2009, faster than the national average of just over 9%. (02/11)

Colorado **ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the Nation for its Investment in Technology and Science Assets according to the Milliken Institute. Colorado's strongest performance was in the technology concentration and dynamism component, where it ranked second. Colorado climbed six places to sixth in the number of Inc. 500 companies per 10,000 business establishments. These fast-growing, job-creating firms have led to its ascension in technology concentration and dynamism. (01/11)

Colorado **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** Relocation Destination by Allied Van Lines. Analysts cited Colorado's quality of life and relatively low unemployment rate as reasons that more people are moving to the state than are moving out. (01/11)

## 2010 Rankings

Colorado Springs **ranked 14<sup>th</sup>** Safest City in America by FreeBackgroundChecksUSA.com. The survey included comparing crime occurrences, such as violent crime; robbery; aggravated assault; larceny-theft; and motor vehicle theft; to the population of each area. (12/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 15<sup>th</sup>** brainiest city by Portfolio.com. The study assigned point values to five rungs of an educational ladder, ranging from high-school dropouts to holders of advanced degrees. The score for a given market depended on the percentage of adult residents (25 or older) on each rung. The higher the score, the stronger a market's collective brainpower. (12/10)

Colorado **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** state for competitiveness in Beacon Hill Institute's annual "State Competitiveness Report". The index is based on a set of 43 indicators divided into eight sub indexes – government and fiscal policy, security, infrastructure, human resources, technology, business incubation, openness, and environmental policy. (10/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 10<sup>th</sup>** for "Best Teeth" by Men's Health Magazine. The survey was based on community water fluoridation; the percentage of people who saw a dentist in the past year or have had their teeth extracted; the percentage of households using dental floss; money spent on oral hygiene products; and the number of dentist offices per capita. (10/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** "Pet Friendly Cities: America's Best Places to Live with Pets" by Livability.com. Rankings were based on cities with pet friendly parks and trails, quality veterinary care, active animal welfare groups, as well as an abundance of pet boutiques and retail shops. These cities also had to offer an exceptionally high quality of life for the owners who love those pets. From quality healthcare and higher education to diverse job opportunities and active artistic and cultural scenes, these cities are some of the best places to work, live and play in America. (10/10)

Colorado **ranked 4<sup>th</sup>** "Best States for Business and Careers" by Forbes.com. Annual rankings are based on six factors: costs, labor supply, regulatory environment, current economic climate, growth prospects and quality of life. (10/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 17<sup>th</sup>** among mid-size cities readers of AmericanStyle magazine's annual Top 25 Arts Destination poll. A lifestyle publication for arts enthusiasts, collectors and travelers, recognizes the power of the arts in promoting economic development and community revitalization. Through the poll, readers tell where they've been going to view, enjoy and shop for great art. (10/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 6<sup>th</sup>** on Forbes.com "America's Best Housing Markets For Investors". The rankings were based on populations over 400,000 with a variety of factors, including historic population growth, job growth, housing price changes and the mix of jobs in an area. (09/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 8<sup>th</sup>** 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 8<sup>th</sup>** "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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 7<sup>th</sup>** "Best Mid-Size City" by Portfolio.com. The study was ranked on healthy economies, moderate living costs, light traffic and strong educational systems. Portfolio.com compared 109 medium-sized markets with populations between 250,000 and 750,000. (06/10)

Colorado continues **to have the lowest** percentage of obese adults at 19.1 percent according to Trust for America's Health. (06/10)

Colorado Springs **ranked 19<sup>th</sup>** "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 12<sup>th</sup>** 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 18<sup>th</sup>** 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 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 **ranked 6<sup>th</sup>** "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 10<sup>th</sup>** “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 9<sup>th</sup>** 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 8<sup>th</sup>** “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 4<sup>th</sup>** “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 24<sup>th</sup>** 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 6<sup>th</sup>** “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 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 7<sup>th</sup>** “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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 10<sup>th</sup>** best drivers according to the "Allstate America's Best Drivers Report<sup>TM</sup>" 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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>** Midsize Magnet city by Next Cities<sup>TM</sup>. 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 8<sup>th</sup>** 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 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 14<sup>th</sup>** for areas with the cleanest air in the American Lung Association (ALA) State of the Air 2009 report. (04/09)

Colorado Springs **ranked 6<sup>th</sup>** 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 6<sup>th</sup>** 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 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 9<sup>th</sup>** 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 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 9<sup>th</sup>** 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 9<sup>th</sup>** 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 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 30<sup>th</sup>** 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 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 9<sup>th</sup>** "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 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the Milken Institute's survey of how well states are nurturing a high-tech economy. (06/08)

Colorado Springs **ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>** "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 5<sup>th</sup>** "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 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 28<sup>th</sup>** 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 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 16<sup>th</sup>** 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 13<sup>th</sup>** in Expansion Managements' mid-sized metropolitans where companies tend to grow best. (10/07)

Colorado Springs **ranked 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 8<sup>th</sup>** 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 1<sup>st</sup>** 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 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 4<sup>th</sup>** 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 9<sup>th</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 12<sup>th</sup>** in Cooking Light's magazine "Cooking Light 20 Best Cities", encompassing the best in healthful cuisine and lifestyle. (01/07)

## 2006 Rankings

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

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

Colorado Springs **ranked 33<sup>rd</sup>** 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](http://www.ccsu.edu/amlc06/Overall_Rankings/Top10.htm)

Colorado Springs **ranked 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 16<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://money.cnn.com/2006/08/29/real_estate/brainiest_cities/index.htm)

Colorado as the 5<sup>th</sup> best state for business according to Forbes Magazine with Colorado Springs ranking 35<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.forbes.com/lists/2006/9/06beststates_Colorado_090005_print.html)

Colorado Springs **ranked 1<sup>st</sup>** 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 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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 1<sup>st</sup>** 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 4<sup>th</sup>** 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)

Colorado Springs **ranked 9<sup>th</sup>** 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)

Colorado Springs **ranked in the top 20** for areas with the cleanest air in the American Lung Association

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

Colorado Springs **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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 71<sup>st</sup>** 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 6<sup>th</sup>** 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)

## 2005 Rankings

Colorado **ranked 4<sup>th</sup>** in economic competitiveness by Suffolk University's Beacon Hill Institute. Colorado also ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation with the percentage of engineers and scientists in the workforce and ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the percentage of total wage and salary jobs in high technology. (12/05)

Colorado Springs **ranked 19<sup>th</sup>** 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 (11/05)

Colorado Springs has been identified in the book "Life 2.0: How People Across America Are Transforming Their Lives by Finding the Where of Their Happiness" by Richard Karlgaard. Karlgaard listed 150 top places to live and work in America, based on affordable housing, creative challenges and opportunity. Colorado Springs was noted for its "natural beauty and business friendliness" and rated 6<sup>th</sup> among smaller metro areas for creativity. (11/05)

Colorado Springs **ranked 8<sup>th</sup>** on Fast Magazine's 10 Fastest Cities in America. The magazine picked the 10 U.S. cities "that are showing the highest rates of growth among the creative class" (the scientists, engineers, artists, cultural creatives, managers and professionals who together comprise more than 30 percent of the U.S. economy). (10/05)

Colorado is the **leanest state** in the U.S., according to a study done by the Trust for America's Health advocacy group. (08/05)

Colorado Springs **ranked 14<sup>th</sup>** in Runner's World Magazine. Data factored into the decision-making: the number of running clubs per city; the annual number of road races; the amount of land set aside for park usage; air quality measurements; weather data and crime statistics. Runner's World also factored in the results of a poll in which its readers ranked their favorite running cities. (08/05)

Expansion Management has rated Colorado Springs as a 5 star (top rating) Business Opportunity Metro. Rankings compared all 362 MSAs in the areas of public education, health care cost and availability, transportation and logistics infrastructure, quality of life, strength of pool of knowledge workers, government influences on the business climate, and, finally, the metro's reputation among prominent corporate site location consultants. (07/05)

Colorado Springs **ranked 19<sup>th</sup>** on Farmers Insurance Group's list of most secure places to live in America among 331 U.S. cities. (06/05)

Intel Corporation ranked Colorado Springs **15<sup>th</sup>** on their list of most unwired cities. (06/05)

Colorado Springs **ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the 2005 Best Cities for Relocating Families by Employee Relocation Council and Primacy Relocation. (05/05)

Colorado Springs **ranked 23<sup>rd</sup>** on the 2004 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. 150 metropolitan large metropolitan areas were ranked. [www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com) (05/05)

According to the Cyberstates 2005 report by the American Electronics Association, Colorado **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** for population with college degree, new companies and business starts. The survey also shows that among all 50 states, Colorado also ranked No. 3 for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants and No. 4 for long-term job growth and venture capital investment. (04/05)

Colorado Springs was listed in "**America's Top 100 Places to Live in 2005**" report published by Relocate America. (04/05)

Colorado Springs **ranked 8<sup>th</sup>** among the nation's 100 largest metro areas for business growth during the past four years according to a study completed by infoUSA. The state of Colorado ranked 2nd in the study. (03/05)

Colorado Springs **ranked in the top 10** for business growth during the past five years by *Sales Genie*® *Survey of U.S. Businesses*. The survey includes a report citing the number of businesses and the corresponding business growth/decline for the top 100 MSA's in the U.S. (03/05)

Colorado Springs **ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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. (01/05)

Colorado Springs has been **ranked 18<sup>th</sup>** in Expansion Management's "America's 50 Hottest Cities" list for 2004. 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 2005 issue. (01/05)

## 2004 Rankings

The Center for Digital Government in California recently named Colorado Springs as the **10<sup>th</sup> best** in the Top 10 Digital Cities for its use of Internet technology. The survey compared cities with 250,000 people or more. (12/04)

Colorado Springs **ranked 15<sup>th</sup>** among the top metropolitan areas for software-related employment in 2003, according to the Software and Information Industry Association. Metropolitan areas were ranked by contrasting software jobs with the population. (11/04)

Forbes names Colorado Springs one of the **Ten Best**, Fastest Growing, Business Friendly Metros. The ten cities rated by Forbes are mainly located in America's South and West. Americans have long known that Colorado Springs is beautiful, but only recently have they begun to flock there in such large numbers. Colorado Springs' metro population shot up 30%, to 516,000, between 1990 and 2000. The town's natural beauty and business friendliness have attracted many new companies. Progressive, whose many divisions comprise the country's third-largest auto insurance group, built three new buildings for a 30-acre campus in Colorado Springs at the end of 2003. (08/04)

Colorado Springs **ranked 15<sup>th</sup>** most literate of big cities, according to the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. Factors considered for the study included education, newspaper circulation, library resources, magazine and journal publishers and 22 other variables. (08/04)

Colorado **ranked 9<sup>th</sup>** best state for health rankings by *America's Health: State Health Rankings 2003 Edition*. Colorado ranked in the top ten overall states for seven of the last eight years. Colorado also ranks among the top ten states for six of the 17 individual measures; the state has a low prevalence of smoking, a low risk for heart disease, strong support for public health care, a low rate of deaths from heart disease, a low rate of cancer deaths and a low premature death rate. (07/04)

Colorado Springs **ranked 26<sup>th</sup>** on the 2003 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. 150 metropolitan large metropolitan areas were ranked. [www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com) (05/04)

Colorado Springs **ranked in the top 20** for areas with the cleanest air in the American Lung Association (ALA) State of the Air 2004 report. (04/04)

Colorado Springs **ranked 6<sup>th</sup>** in Relocate-America.com's 2004 list of America's Top 100 places to live. The survey is based on nominations by a current or past resident, or other individuals familiar with the community's benefits, compared against education, crime, employment & housing data for the past year and compared based on the number of votes and inquiries they received over the previous year and the TOP 100 is then selected. (04/04)

Colorado Springs **ranked 16<sup>th</sup>** best walking city by APMA & Prevention Magazine's 2004 study of 125 cities. This study was based on 20 criteria including: Percentage Who Walk to Work, Population Density (Population/Square Mile); Body Mass Index ; Urban Sprawl Index; Annual Attendance at Museums/100,000; Air Quality Index and Violent Crime Incidents/100,000. (04/04)

The Milken Institute's State Technology and Science Index has moved **Colorado to 2nd** in the nation in 2004 for those aged 25 and above holding a bachelor's or higher degree, up from 4th on the 2002 index. Colorado was 2nd in recent degrees in science or engineering as a percent of the civilian workforce. (03/04)

Colorado Springs **ranked 6<sup>th</sup>** in *Business 2.0* magazine's 10 hottest job markets in America Report. The "boom villages" share a sophistication that belies their size, with a confluence of natural amenities and constructed amenities including restaurants, artistic institutions, and a decent university. The weighted formula included federally forecasted growth rates in sectors containing the economy's 10 most skilled occupational clusters with artists, scientists, marketing people, engineers and the media. (03/04)

Colorado Springs has been **ranked 6<sup>th</sup>** in Expansion Management's "America's 50 Hottest Cities" list for 2003. 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 will run the full story in its January 2004 issue. (01/04)

Colorado Springs **ranked 20<sup>th</sup>** healthiest city in the country as ranked by Men's Health magazine. 20 Statistical parameters included long life, ranged from prostate-cancer rates to car accidents to air quality. Figures compiled by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Census Bureau and other sources. (01/04)

## 2003 Rankings

Colorado Springs **ranked 19<sup>th</sup>** in the country for college graduates, and 18<sup>th</sup> in the country for high school graduates, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. 89 percent of Colorado Springs residents are at least high school graduates. 35 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher. Not coincidentally, the same survey puts Colorado Springs low in its poverty rate; just under 8 percent of the population live in poverty in a community where the median household income is \$49,254. [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) (12/03)

The Center for Digital Government ranks Colorado Springs and Los Angeles, CA in **second place** in its annual ranking of information technology in government and education. Mayors, city managers and chief information officers in 300 U.S. cities participated in the survey which reviewed information technology use in streamlining operations and delivering quality service to citizens. (12/03)

Colorado ranks among the **top 5 states** among the best economic development, according to the 2003 annual rankings from the Corporation for Enterprise Development in Washington. Colorado ranked 1<sup>st</sup> for having the fewest number of business closures during the past year and ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> for the number of companies created. (11/03)

Colorado Springs **ranked 49<sup>th</sup>** out of 331 metro areas for the "Top Metros for Finding a Highly Educated Work" according to Expansion Management. Expansion Management took a variety of yardsticks as a starting point to develop our 2003 High-Value Labor Market (HVLM) metro rankings. These yardsticks include science & engineering workers as a percent of the work force in U.S. metros, the number of patents issued, and the level of R&D spending. To this mix we added number and type of colleges in each metro, and we gave extra weight to institutions that offer advanced degrees. (09/03)

Colorado Springs **ranked 13<sup>th</sup>** on the 2003 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. 150 metropolitan large metropolitan areas were ranked. [www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com) (05/03)

Colorado Springs **ranked in the top 20** for areas with the cleanest air in the American Lung Association (ALA) State of the Air 2003 report. (05/03)

Colorado **ranked 8<sup>th</sup>** best place in the U.S. to run a small business, according to a report on Microsoft bCentral. The report weighs several recent "best places" surveys as well as labor laws, minimum wage, worker's comp rates, significant starts (companies started in the last ten years), and young growers (companies with a fast growth rate as a percentage and an absolute measure), among other criteria. [www.bcentral.com](http://www.bcentral.com) (05/03)

Hewlett-Packard Company and USAA have been named in the "**Top 30 Companies** for Executive Women". The ranking, from the *National Association for Female Executives*, recognizes companies that make strong efforts to promote women to senior leadership positions. (01/03)

The Center for Digital Government in California recently named Colorado Springs as the **6<sup>th</sup> best** in the Top 10 Digital Cities for its use of Internet technology. The survey compared cities with 250,000 people or more. (01/03)

## 2002 Rankings

Colorado Springs has been **ranked 5<sup>th</sup>** in Expansion Management's "America's 50 Hottest Cities" list for 2002. 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 will run the full story in its January 2003 issue. (12/02)

**Smart Growth America** recently released its 2002 Sprawl Index. Out of 83 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) compared in the Index, Colorado Springs ranked 71st, indicating that Colorado Springs has less sprawl than 70 of the 83 metro areas ranked. On an Index scale where the lower the score, the worse the problem, Colorado Springs averaged 124.40, indicating above average performance in the areas ranked: Density Factor, Mixed Use, Centeredness, and Street Accessibility. For a city of over 500,000 residents, in which managing growth is a chief concern, that's no small feat. (11/02)

Colorado Springs **ranked 7<sup>th</sup>** top 10 healthiest cities in the country as ranked by Men's Health magazine. 20 Statistical parameters included long life, ranged from prostate-cancer rates to car accidents to air quality. Figures compiled by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Census Bureau and other sources. (10/02)

Colorado Springs ranked as one of America's **5 Best Mountain Biking Towns**, according to *Bike*. Criteria included great trails, cost of living and healthy job markets. (06/02)

Colorado **ranked 4<sup>th</sup>** on a list of the best-performing states in the technology-driven, globalized "new" economy, according to a report compiled by the Democratic think tank Progressive Policy Institute. Rankings were based on how many knowledge jobs a state has to the percentage of adults with Internet access to venture capital investments. Colorado's ranked highest in workforce education, information technology jobs outside the IT industry and number of patents issued. (06/02)

The Center for Digital Government in California recently named Colorado Springs as the **5<sup>th</sup> best top** wired city hall in America. The survey compared cities with 250,000 people or more. (01/02)

Colorado Springs was **ranked as the fittest city** out of the 50 biggest U.S. cities, according to Men's Fitness magazine. The survey was based on 16 categories including sports activities, air and water quality, low rates of obesity, TV viewing and short commute times. (01/02)

## 2001 Rankings

The Milken Institute has ranked Colorado as one of the top three states in the best position to take advantage of opportunities for growth in the New Economy. Criteria for the ranking included research and development dollars, percentage of advanced degrees, number of patents issued, venture capital investment, business starts and IPO proceeds. (11/01)

Colorado leads the nation in the number of high-tech workers per capita, with 97 of every 1,000 private-sector workers employed in technology in 2000, according to "Cybercities" report by the Nasdaq Stock Market. (06/01)

Colorado Springs **ranked in the top 10** for areas with the cleanest air in the American Lung Association (ALA) State of the Air 2001 report. (05/01)

Colorado Springs was **ranked 5<sup>th</sup>** in Expansion Management's Top 25 High-Tech Cities in January 2001. Ranking was based on number of jobs created between 1993 - 1998 and percentage of high-tech job creation. Colorado Springs had 11,004 jobs created with 24.4% of those being in the High-Tech industry. (02/01)

Colorado Springs was also ranked the **10th Hottest City** for Business Relocation and Expansion in Expansion Management's "America's 50 Hottest Cities for Business Relocation and Expansion". Polling over 75 prominent site selection consultant for their choice of the best cities for expanding or relocating manufacturing companies. Factors included business environment, work force quality, operating costs, incentive programs, working training programs, and ease of working with local officials.

## 2000 Rankings

Colorado Springs was **ranked 13<sup>th</sup>** fittest city in the nation, by Men's Fitness Magazine, possible because the Springs has the second highest water shed rating of any city according to the EPA. (02/00)

According to "Cybercities" report, released by the American Electronics Association, Colorado Springs **leads the nation** in high-tech job growth and is the second most "tech-savvy" metropolitan city in the nation. Colorado Springs ranked 7th nationwide in high-tech workers per capita, with 137 workers out of every 1,000 employed in technology jobs in 1998. (12/00)

Colorado Springs **ranked 17<sup>th</sup>** fastest growing city in the United States, and 80th largest city, according to population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau in October 2000.

The Milken Institute of Santa Monica, CA reported that Colorado has been **among the top five states** in high-tech growth over the past decade, with Colorado Springs' growth performance at 55 percent faster than the national average. Colorado Springs has a diverse high-tech base with many clusters promoting growth. (8/00)

Westmoreland Coal Company, American Telecasting, Inc., Enterprise Software, Inc., Ramtron International Corporation, Spectranetics Corporation and Optika, Inc. were the Colorado Springs-based companies named by ColoradoBiz Magazine to the list of Top 150 Colorado-Based Companies. The combined 1999 revenue of these companies totaled \$216 million. High tech had a very strong showing among the companies listed. U.S. West ranked first in the state. Firstworld Communications, a Greenwood Village telecommunications firm, showed the fastest growth at a staggering 4,954% in 1999. (6/00)

A study recently released by The Software and Information Industry Association ranked Colorado Springs **ranked 6<sup>th</sup>** in the U.S. for software work force concentration. Colorado Springs has more than 10,000 employees in the software industry. (6/00)

An American Electronics Association Overview of the High Technology Industry **ranked Colorado 1st** in the nation in concentration of high tech workers. Colorado had 84 high tech workers per 1,000 private sector workers, translating into over 145,655 high tech workers in the Colorado labor force. Colorado ranked 5th in the nation in high tech job growth. (5/00)

Colorado Springs was **ranked 10<sup>th</sup>** best place in America to do business in the May 2000 *Forbes Magazine*. Criteria for this ranking including high-tech presence wage and salary growth, job growth and low business costs.

More memory design talent in Colorado Springs than anywhere else in the U.S. (Rocky Mountain Technology Expo, (7/00)