

# Colorado



## Rankings 2010

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### Demographics

Population 2009	5,024,748
Per Capita Personal Income:	\$43,021
Median Household Income:	\$57,148
Labor Force Participation:	72.8%
Unemployment Rate:	7.8% (Apr. 2010)
Median Age:	35.7 years

### State Symbols



State Flag:	
State Nickname:	Centennial State
State Flower:	Columbine
State Animal:	Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
State Bird:	Lark Bunting
State Fish:	Greenback Cutthroat Trout

Best States for Business: 4th  
*Forbes Magazine*

Venture Capital per capita: 3rd  
*Beacon Hill State Competitiveness*

Technology Industry  
Employment Concentration: 3rd  
*TechAmerica Cyberstates 2010*

Research & Development Inputs:  
*Milken Institute* 4th

Entrepreneurial Activity: 2nd  
*ITIF New Economy Index*

Fortune 500 Companies  
Headquartered in Colorado: 8  
*Fortune Magazine 2010*

High Tech Establishments: 10th  
*Cyberstates 2010*

Most Preferred State to Live In: 5<sup>th</sup>  
*The Harris Poll, 2009*

Percent of Sunny Days: 4<sup>th</sup>  
*CQ Press "State Rankings"*

Largest Space Economy: 1st  
(In terms of private employment)  
*Development Research Partners*

State Technology & Science  
Index: 3rd  
*Milken Institute*

Percent of Adults in the Labor  
Force: 5<sup>th</sup>  
*US Census Bureau*

Percent of Population with a  
Bachelor's Degree or More: 2nd  
*US Census Bureau, American Com. Survey*

Science and Engineering  
Degrees, per capita: 9th  
*Beacon Hill State Competitiveness 2009*

Scientists and Engineers as a  
Percent of Labor Force: 3rd  
*Beacon Hill State Competitiveness*

Economic Outlook: 2nd  
*ALEC Laffer State Econ Comp. Index*

Patents, per 1,000  
Workers: 2nd  
*ITIF New Economy Index*

Average Elevation: 1<sup>st</sup>  
*CQ Press State Rankings*

## Additional 2010 Rankings

- American Express' *Open Forum* site recently ranked Colorado as the second most small-business friendly state.
- Five Colorado cities made the list of Forbes best places for business and careers. Fort Collins ranked fourth; Denver ranked sixth; Colorado Springs came in at #12; Boulder at #14; and Greeley 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Denver ranks in seventh place among 43 U.S. metro areas in a report on America's "green cities." The "Green Cities Index", compiled by the Business Courier of Cincinnati, ranks metro areas on a variety of environmental factors, including traffic congestion, transit use, water quality, carbon emissions, LEED-certified projects and number of "green" jobs.
- Metro Denver ranks in fourth place among 25 U.S. cities with the most energy-efficient buildings, behind Los Angeles, Washington DC and San Francisco, in a US EPA ranking for 2009. Denver was up from 7<sup>th</sup> in 2008.
- A Bloomberg Businessweek report named Boulder America's best city for tech startups. Boulder now has the highest concentration of software engineers per capita in the nation, many of them in startup companies. The report cited the University of Colorado and the Boulder lifestyle as magnets for attracting young tech entrepreneurs.
- TechAmerica Foundation's *Cyberstates 2010* reported that Colorado added 5,100 net new tech jobs in 2008, the latest year of data available, but cautioned that the 2009 report will reflect downturns in tech along with the rest of the economy. Colorado maintained its #3 ranking in concentration of tech employment, with 86 of every 1,000 private sector workers in high tech.
- Colorado is "among the top states in the country" for workforce development and training, according to a report Tuesday from the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) and [National Chamber Foundation](#).
- "Colorado has made workforce development and education two of its top priorities, working both activities into the state's overall economic development strategy," the "Enterprising States" report says.

- ❖ Colorado contains 75% of the land area in the U.S. with an elevation over 10,000 feet.
- ❖ Colorado is the #1 ski destination in North America, with 26 ski areas.
- ❖ Colorado has 54 mountains peaks over 14,000 feet in elevations, the “fourteeners.”