

# Denver, Fort Collins rate high for careers; Colorado Springs also on list

Denver and Fort Collins each climbed two rungs to round out the top five in Forbes' 16th annual list of Best Places for Business and Careers.

Denver, No. 6 last year and No. 4 this year out of 200 cities, was dinged for business and living costs that are higher than any other city among the top five but was praised for its diverse economy and outdoor recreation opportunities that draw young employees.

Fort Collins, No. 7 last year and No. 5 this year, got high marks for research facilities at Colorado State University that continue to draw high-tech companies such as Intel and Hewlett-Packard.

Forbes' assessment also noted that the city has the highest level of high school graduation (95 percent of adult residents) and ninth best college graduation rate (45 percent of adults).

Raleigh, N.C., Des Moines, Iowa, and Provo, Utah, ranked Nos. 1-3.

Greeley finished No. 20 on the list of business-friendly environments, but it's the place in Colorado to go for long-term job prospects, ranking No. 4 on that list for a projected annual job growth rate of 3.8 percent and median household income of \$56,143. Colorado Springs came in at No. 29 out of 200.

To compile the list, Forbes rates the 200 largest metro areas on a dozen factors related to jobs, the cost of business, income growth, quality of life and education of the labor force.