

FOUNTAIN BUSINESS CLIMATE

The Fountain City Council is pro-business and has enacted policies to create a business friendly, helpful environment through city government processes that are streamlined and reviewed regularly. An economic development plan has been adopted, as well as incentive policies to attract businesses, with regular business visits to stay in touch with business needs. The goal is to expedite business openings and create jobs, with a high quality of life and sustainable community.

The City has a “Quick Response Team” to answer business development questions quickly and a “FastTrack Team” to assist businesses through agencies’ and departments’ processes quickly and efficiently.

CITY OF FOUNTAIN ACCOLADES

Best Places in Colorado for Young Families (2014 NerdWallet)

American City on the Rise (2014 NerdWallet)

All America City (2002 National Civic League)

Millennium City (2000 New York Times)

REGIONAL BUSINESS CLIMATE

Business climate rankings for the Pikes Peak region and Colorado Springs MSA:

5th Mid-Sized American Cities (2013)

2nd Fittest City in America (2013 Facebook)

7th Top State for Business (2013 CNBC)

6th Most Wired City (2010)

24th Metro Least Touched by Recession (2009)

3rd Best for Housing Recovery (2009)

14th for Cleanest Air (2009)

6th Top City for Defense Jobs (2009)

31 Fortune 500 Companies have a presence in Colorado Springs

Southern Colorado Economic Forecasts

The Southern Colorado Forum annually assesses the business climate in El Paso County. Presentations are available at

<http://www.southerncoloradoeconomicforum.com/>

STATE OF COLORADO BUSINESS CLIMATE

National Rankings

2nd Best City to be a Tech Worker (2014 SmartAsset.com)

1st in The 50 State Economies (2014 Business Insider)

6th Best State for K-12 Education (2014 Wallethub)

6th Best State for the New Economy (2014 Forbes)

6th State with the Fastest Growing Economy (2014 24/7 Wall Street)

4th Best State to Make a Living (2014 MSN)

2nd Best State for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (2013 Inc. Magazine)

2nd Best State to Start a Business (2013 CNBC)

5th Best State for Clean Tech Leadership (2013 Clean Edge Inc.)

7th Best State to Do Business (2013 CNBC)
5th Best State to Make a Living (2012 MoneyRates.com)
1st Best State for Labor Supply (2012 Forbes)
5th Strongest Housing Market (2012 24/7 Wall Street)
3rd State Technology and Science Index (2009 Milken Institute)
3rd Percent of Population with a Bachelor's degree or more (U.S. Census Bureau)
Ten Fortune 500 companies are headquartered in Colorado

Colorado has a diverse economic base. The state is not dependent on any single sector, but has a strong core of businesses in a variety of high-tech and traditional sectors. Colorado's strength in mature high tech industries such as telecommunications, software development, and high tech manufacturing has resulted in **one of the highest concentrations of high tech workers among all 50 states, ranking third.** Emerging industries such as biotech, photonics, homeland security and aerospace, nanotech and renewable energy are gaining momentum.

- Colorado is a major transportation center.
- Colorado has 17 commercial and 62 general aviation airports located throughout the state.
- Denver International Airport (DIA) was the 5th busiest in the US in 2014, and 15th busiest in the world.
- Exports of manufactured products totaled over \$8.6 billion in 2013.

Colorado has a diverse manufacturing base, especially in high-tech durable goods. The manufacturing sector as a whole consists of over 5900 companies that employ almost 120,000 workers in Colorado. Equally important is Health care that accounts for approximately 253,000 workers employed.

Among the state's largest service industry sectors are Information, and Professional & Technical Services, and Administrative/Business service. Included within these categories are telecommunications, Internet services, software development, temporary employment agencies, and advertising, among others. Professional services such as legal and engineering are also major components of this sector. Together, these sectors employ nearly 400,000 Coloradans.

Agriculture and mining are Colorado's traditional economic strongholds—

- Colorado has a strong heritage in farming and ranching, as well as great depth in natural and organic foods, craft beverages and global restaurant franchises. The industry generates more than \$5 billion dollars in economic output annually.
- In 2013, Colorado mineral and energy output remains consistent with the state's reputation as resource abundant. From a total energy production basis, Colorado is the seventh-largest producer overall, producing 2,747 trillion British Thermal Units.

Tourism is a major component of Colorado's economic base. It encompasses a cross section of economic sectors, though not reported as a separate economic sector. Accommodations & Food Services, along with Recreation Services, provide a reasonable indication of tourism activity. Visitors are drawn to Colorado year round, for the world-class skiing in the winter months, and the myriad of recreational activities and breathtaking scenery in the summer. Colorado's travel and tourism industry generated almost \$11 billion in 2013.

Source: Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade

For more information contact: Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade
<http://www.advancecolorado.com>