

# UNIVERSAL REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Universal Reference Publications announces the Fourteenth Edition of *America's Top-Rated Cities: A Statistical Handbook***

Universal Reference Publications, an imprint of Grey House Publishing, is proud to announce the publication of the Fourteenth Edition of *America's Top-Rated Cities: A Statistical Handbook*. This brand new set offers current, comprehensive statistical information in one easy-to-use source on 100 cities that have been cited as the best for business and living in the United States. Conveniently arranged by city, this four-volume set allows readers to see, at a glance, a concise social, business, economic, demographic and environmental profile of each city, including brief evaluative comments. There are four volumes in the set, each covering a specific region of the United States: Southern, Western, Central and Eastern.

This 2007 edition contains numerous updates and additions, including three new cities: Edison, NJ, Cary, NC and Thousand Oaks, CA. We've also expanded our Rankings section, so that many cities have six or more pages of information on how the city fared in various ranking surveys, with data pulled from over 200 sources (many more than were used in previous editions). New rankings noted for this 2007 edition include: Best Drivers, Greenest, Dog-Friendliest, and Most Inventive. The Statistical Tables section has been expanded as well, with six more tables than in the 2006 edition, bringing the total to 94. A minimum of 75% of all data in this section has been updated and verified.

Each city chapter is divided into three major sections: Background (updated with significant news in both business and living environments), Rankings (enhanced with survey results from over 200 sources), and Statistical Tables (updated with new data plus many new data points). Every chapter is followed by Comparative Statistics, which arrange the data across 73 tables. The six appendices and maps of each region will make finding specific or comparative data easy.

**BACKGROUND ESSAY:** Each of the 100 city chapters begins with an informative background essay that combines history with current events. Our revision process updates these narratives to reflect changes that have occurred in the city in the past year. They touch on the city's environment, politics, employment, cultural offerings, climate, and often include interesting trivia.

**RANKINGS INFORMATION:** This section has grown tremendously over previous editions and now contains summary write-ups from over 200 books, articles, and reports. This information is presented in 11 categories, arranged in an easy-to-read, bulleted format, and feature results from both annual surveys and one-shot studies. Categories include Business/Finance, Health/Environment, Women/Minorities, Children/Family, and Dating/Romance. You'll recognize many topics from previous editions such as: Healthiest Cities for People and Pets, Most Creative, Most Fun, Safest, Best to Save Money, Most Polite, Top Arts, Best/Worst for Dating, and Most Vegetarian-Friendly. Some of the new ranking criteria that have been added to this 2007 edition are listed in the paragraph above. Not all of the survey information gathered is complimentary, so this section also

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features topics such as: Fattest, Asthma Hot Spots, Most Dangerous for Pedestrians, and Most Polluted.

**STATISTICAL TABLES:** As with the Rankings, the Statistical Tables have been increased and enhanced over the years so that each city chapter in this 2007 edition includes 94 tables—52 in the Business section and 42 in the Living section. This is an increase of six tables over the previous edition and over 50 more than were featured in the 1998 edition! The Business Environment section includes hard facts and figures on 13 topics, including City Finances, Demographics, Income, Employment, Taxes, Real Estate, and Transportation. The Living Environment section also includes 13 topics, such as Housing, Health Care, Education, Safety, Recreation, Media, and Climate. New topics include Best High Schools, Mortality Rates, Educational Attainment, and Home Price Valuations.

**APPENDICES:** Each volume contains six helpful appendices:

- Appendix A: Historical Metropolitan Area Definitions: Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) and New England County Metropolitan Areas (NECMA).
- Appendix B: Current Metropolitan Area Definitions: Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA), Metropolitan Division (MSAD), and New England City and Town Areas (NECTA).
- Appendix C: Counties
- Appendix D: Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development Organizations. Addresses, phone numbers and fax numbers of these additional resources helps readers find more detailed information on each city.
- Appendix E: State Departments of Labor and Employment. A source of additional, more specific economic and employment data, with address and phone numbers for easy access.
- Appendix F: Comparative Statistics. City-by-city comparison comprised of 73 tables. Each volume includes all 100 cities, making for easy comparisons.

*America's Top-Rated Cities: A Statistical Handbook* is designed for a wide range of readers: private individuals considering relocating a residence or business; professionals considering expanding their business or changing careers; corporations considering relocation, opening up additional offices or creating new divisions; government agencies; general and market researchers; real estate consultants; human resource personnel; urban planners; investors and urban government students. This outstanding source of information will be widely used in any reference collection.

Praise for previous editions:

*"Top-Rated Cities provides more information. It's a valuable addition to the literature for its concise, varied information, in-depth coverage and clear organization. Recommended for all public, academic, and special libraries."*

—Choice

*"The source to consult first, [it covers] the sort of data important in making decisions about relocating a family or a business...It provides a very convenient starting point, especially for those who want more information than Places Rated yields."*

—Wilson Library Bulletin

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*America's Top-Rated Cities: A Statistical Handbook*

4-Volume Set	Softcover ISBN: 978-1-59237-184-6	3,424 pages	\$195.00
Volume 1: Southern	Softcover ISBN: 978-1-59237-185-3	867 pages	\$59.95
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