

UNIVERSAL REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

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Universal Reference Publications announces the Fifteenth 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 Fifteenth 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.

To offer a more varied representation of American cities, this fifteenth edition includes no more than one city from each metro area, with the exception of Minneapolis/St. Paul and Tampa/St. Petersburg. As a result, we have replaced 16 cities, from coast to coast, based not only on location, certainly, but on our unique rating process. The 16 new cities are:

**Augusta GA * Jackson MS * Tallahassee FL * Oakland CA * Oxnard CA * Riverside CA *
Santa Ana CA * Santa Rosa CA * Spokane WA * Evansville IN * Little Rock AR *
South Bend IN * Warren MI * Allentown PA * Dayton OH * Toledo OH**

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.

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RANKINGS INFORMATION: This section has again grown tremendously over the previous edition. Each city has rankings from a possible 238 books, articles, and reports. For easy reference, these Rankings are categorized into 11 topics like: Business/ Finance, Health/ Environment, Seniors/ Retirement, Sports/ Recreation, Dating/ Romance, and Culture/ Performing Arts. The Rankings are presented in an easy-to-read, bulleted format and include results from both annual surveys and one-shot studies. This 2008 edition also includes many new Rankings, such as:

Most Organic . . . Riskiest for ID Theft . . . Greediest . . . Rainiest . . . Most Obese . . . Cleanest . . . Best Fishing . . . Best for Artists . . . Best for Hispanics . . . Most Sun Smart . . . Best to Have a Baby . . . Most Wired . . . Healthiest for Latinas.

STATISTICAL TABLES: As with the Rankings, the Statistical Tables have been increased and enhanced over the years. Each city chapter now includes 97 tables – 52 in BUSINESS and 45 in LIVING. 85% to 90% of statistical data has been updated. A wide variety of new topics have been included in this edition such as, **Average Grocery Prices, Cost of Gasoline, Best Colleges, and Best Business Schools.** Health Risk topics have been expanded to include data on **Obesity and Alcohol Consumption.** Business Environment includes a new section, **State Business Tax Climate Index.** Living Environment includes 2 new topics, **At-Risk data** and names of **Professional Sports Teams.**

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: Includes addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers of these additional resources to help 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: Shows city-by-city comparison within 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

America's Top-Rated Cities: A Statistical Handbook, 2008

4-Volume Set	Softcover ISBN: 978-1-59237-349-9	3,424 pages	\$225.00
Volume 1: Southern	Softcover ISBN: 978-1-59237-350-5	867 pages	\$65.00
Volume 2: Western	Softcover ISBN: 978-1-59237-351-2	889 pages	\$65.00
Volume 3: Central	Softcover ISBN: 978-1-59237-352-9	767 pages	\$65.00
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