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Money BEST PLACES TO LIVE 2006

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Las Cruces, NM

Population: 77,797

[Compare Las Cruces to Top 10 Best Places](#)

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Financial

	City stats	Best places average
Median family income (per year)	\$40,506	\$76,893
Family purchasing power (annual, cost-of-living adjusted)	\$47,431	\$68,109
Sales tax	7.00%	6.55%
State income tax rate (highest bracket)	5.30%*	6.46%
State income tax rate (lowest bracket)	1.70%*	2.74%
Auto insurance premiums (Average for the state)	\$2,157	\$2,207
Job growth % (2000-2005)	8.18%	10.97%

Housing

	City stats	Best places average
Median home price	\$156,275	\$259,566
Home price gain (2004-2005)	11.90%	9.26%

Education

	City stats	Best places average
Colleges, universities and professional schools	1	8
Junior colleges and technical institutes	1	0
Test scores reading (% +/- state average)	9.4%	13.3%
Test scores math (% +/- state average)	14.3%	16.9%
% students attending public/private schools	94.2/5.80	88.4/11.59

Quality of life

	City stats	Best places average
Air quality index (% of days AQI ranked as good)	50.1%	71.9%
Personal crime risk (100 is nat'l average; lower is better)	134	45
Property crime risk (100 is nat'l average; lower is better)	135	74
Personal crime incidents (per 100,000)	450	228
Property crime incidents (per 100,000)	5,289	3,105
Median commute time (in minutes)	14.4	20.8



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Nearby places

See city stats	Compare
El Paso, TX	<input type="checkbox"/>
Albuquerque, NM	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rio Rancho, NM	<input type="checkbox"/>
Santa Fe, NM	<input type="checkbox"/>
Catalina Foothills, AZ	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tucson, AZ	<input type="checkbox"/>
Casas Adobes, AZ	<input type="checkbox"/>
Odessa, TX	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midland, TX	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lubbock, TX	<input type="checkbox"/>

[COMPARE](#)

What the bloggers say

- Colorado Springs is a joke! The job market is great if you have a backgrou...
 - Broken Arrow, number 66 on the list, is a pretty good place to live. It's ...
 - Can anyone please tell me which is the best place to move from this list fo...
- [Have your say](#)

New Mexico companies

FORTUNE 500	
Company	F500 rank
PNM Resources	785
Thornburg Mortgage	951
See the rest	
Biggest employers	
Company	Employees
Mediplex Group Inc, The	10,000

Find your best place

Criteria	Not important	Very important
Affordable housing	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plentiful leisure activities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plentiful cultural options	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job growth	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sunny weather	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Short commute time	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Good health care access	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Find best places by

City: [GO](#) State: [GO](#)

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No Life Insurance?
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	age	male
10-Yr Level Term Life Insurance	35	\$16.97
\$500,000 Policy (monthly premiums)	40	\$21.75
	45	\$34.80
	50	\$50.90

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Top earning cities

	Median household income
Greenwich, CT	\$112,493
Cupertino, CA	\$110,518
San Ramon, CA	\$109,500
See the rest	

Hottest cities

	Avg. high temp in July (°F)
Avondale, AZ	107.6°F
Glendale, AZ	107.6°F
Peoria, AZ	107.6°F
See the rest	

Priciest homes

	Median price
Newport Beach, CA	\$1,362,500
Greenwich, CT	\$1,129,000
Santa Barbara, CA	\$979,500

% population with commute 45 mins. or longer	8.2%	13.4%
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Leisure and culture

	City stats	Best places average
Movie theaters (within 15 miles)	4	22
Restaurants (within 15 miles)	290	2,268
Bars (within 15 miles)	12	127
Public golf courses (within 30 miles)	4	74
Libraries (within 15 miles)	5	43
Museums (accredited by AAM within 30 miles)	0	7
Ski resorts (within 100 miles)	2	10

Weather

	City stats	Best places average
Annual precipitation (inches)	11.44	36.00
Clear days	193	107
High temp in July °F	94.9°	87.7°
Low temp in Jan °F	21.1°	23.5°

Health*


	City stats	Best places average
Has health plan (% of residents)	71.7%	88.2%
Body mass index (avg. for residents)	27	27
Cancer mortality (per 100,000, age-adjusted)	161.4	191.3
Cardiac mortality (per 100,000)	160.3	202.0

Meet the neighbors

	City stats	Best places average
Median age	30.9	34.5
Completed at least some college (% of residents)	59.4%	63.9%
Married	44.2%	54.3%
Divorced	11.7%	9.3%
Amount spent on vacations (domestic and foreign, household avg. per year)	\$7,096	\$7,549

*County data
 Income tax notes:
 These states allow personal exemption or standard deductions as provided in the IRC. Utah allows a personal exemption equal to three-fourths the federal exemptions.
 The tax brackets reported are for single individuals. For married couples filing jointly, the same rates apply for income under \$8,000 to over \$24,000. Married households filing separately pay the tax imposed on half the income.

Sandia National Laboratories	7,200
Lovelace Sandia Health System Inc	1,967

 Feedback on the Best Places to Live list?
[E-mail the editors](#)

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Most educated

	% residents with graduate degrees
Arlington, VA	35.7%
Davis, CA	34.6%
Brookline, MA	32.5%

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Most singles

	% single residents
Bloomington, IN	58.2%
New Brunswick, NJ	54.6%
College Station, TX	54.3%

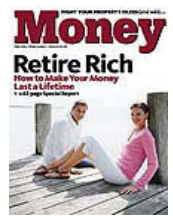
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Youngest

	Median age
Jacksonville, NC	22.90
Provo, UT	23.28
New Brunswick, NJ	24.16

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* : Time reflects local markets trading time. † - Intraday data delayed 15 minutes for Nasdaq, and 20 minutes for other exchanges. • [Disclaimer](#)

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