



# Rockies Baseline

*Vital Signs for a Region in Transition*

By Bryan Hurlbutt

## THE 2006 COLORADO COLLEGE STATE OF THE ROCKIES REPORT CARD

Each year, we update a set of key demographic indicators—the Vital Signs—to take the pulse of the Rockies region. This year's updated stats, which come from 2004 data, are compared to the baseline year 2000 to track trends in the rapidly changing eight Rockies states. The Vital Signs set the stage for the rest of the *State of the Rockies Report Card* by defining certain characteristics of our unique region and, thus, providing a regional context through which the *Report Card* topics can be better understood.

What traits distinguish the Rockies region from the rest of the U.S.? How do trends vary from state to state within the region? How has the Rockies region changed over the years? These questions and others are answered in the Vital Signs.



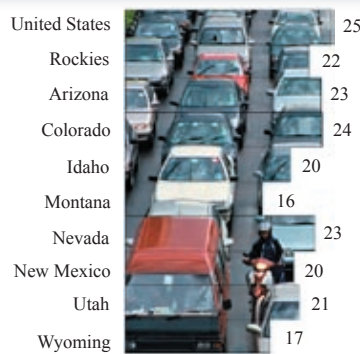
The Vital Signs dispel common myths that the Rocky Mountain West is still a lawless, backward land of rugged cowboys roaming remote locations, fending for themselves, and living off the land. As in years past, this year's Vital Signs show that we are diverse, well-educated, and mobile, and for better or worse, most of us work in offices. And, perhaps the most critical

indicator of all, the region's population is growing swiftly—over three times faster than the U.S. population.

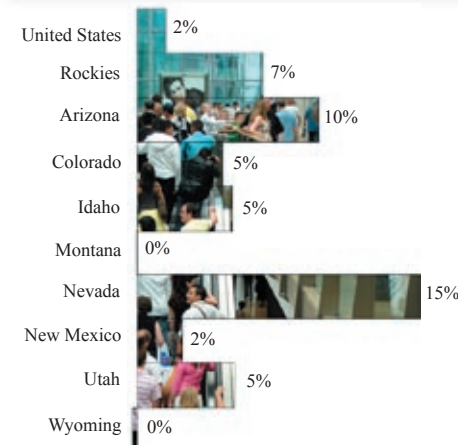
All data, unless otherwise indicated, come from the 2000 Census and the 2004 American Community Survey, both of which were conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The data are available at <http://www.census.gov/>.

*About the author: Bryan Hurlbutt (Colorado College class of 2004) is program coordinator for the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project.*

Minutes of Mean Travel Time to Work, 2004



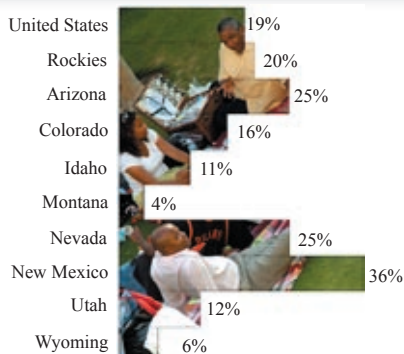
Population Growth, 2000 to 2004



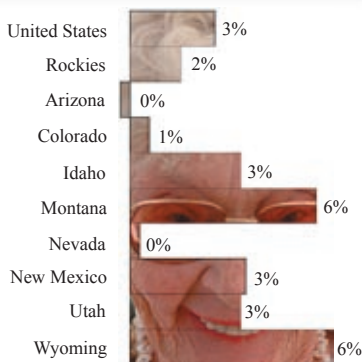
Population & Age, 2004

	Population	Population, Growth since 2000	Percentage of Population Age 0-19	Percentage of Population Age 65+	Median Age	Median Age, Change since 2000
United States	285,691,501	2%	28%	12%	36	3%
Rockies	19,400,701	7%	30%	11%	34	2%
-Arizona	5,633,997	10%	30%	13%	34	0%
-Colorado	4,498,611	5%	28%	10%	35	1%
-Idaho	1,360,152	5%	30%	11%	34	3%
-Montana	901,901	0%	26%	13%	40	6%
-Nevada	2,301,197	15%	28%	11%	35	0%
-New Mexico	1,862,837	2%	29%	12%	36	3%
-Utah	2,349,472	5%	34%	8%	28	3%
-Wyoming	492,534	0%	26%	12%	38	6%

Percentage of Population Who Speak a Language Other than English at Home, 2004



Change in Median Age, 2000 to 2004



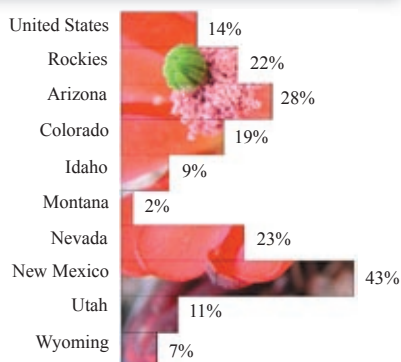
Language, 2000 and 2004

Percentage of the Population Age 5 and Older Who Speak the Following Language at Home	English Only 2004	Language other than English 2004	Language other than English 2000
United States	81%	19%	18%
Rockies	80%	20%	20%
-Arizona	75%	25%	26%
-Colorado	84%	16%	15%
-Idaho	89%	11%	9%
-Montana	96%	4%	5%
-Nevada	75%	25%	23%
-New Mexico	64%	36%	37%
-Utah	88%	12%	13%
-Wyoming	94%	6%	6%

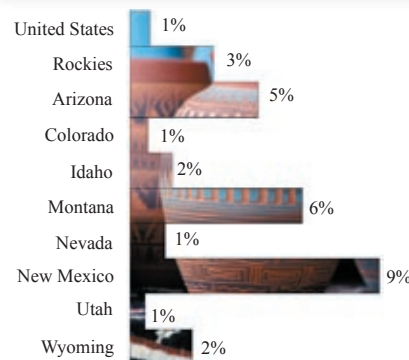
Race & Ethnicity, 2004

Percentage of Population Who Identifies as the Following	American Indian and Alaska Native	Black or African	White	Hispanic or Latino (any race)
United States	1%	12%	76%	14%
Rockies	3%	3%	82%	22%
-Arizona	5%	3%	77%	28%
-Colorado	1%	4%	83%	19%
-Idaho	2%	0%	92%	9%
-Montana	6%	0%	90%	2%
-Nevada	1%	7%	78%	23%
-New Mexico	9%	2%	71%	43%
-Utah	1%	1%	91%	11%
-Wyoming	2%	1%	93%	7%

Percentage of Population Who Identify as Hispanic or Latino, 2004



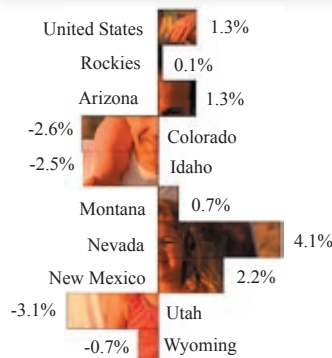
Percentage of Population Who Identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, 2004



## Families, 2004

	Family Households as a Percentage of all Households	Non-family Households as a Percentage of all Households	Average Family Size in Number of People	Average Family Size, Change since 2000
United States	67%	33%	3.2	1.3%
Rockies	67%	33%	3.2	0.1%
-Arizona	67%	33%	3.2	1.3%
-Colorado	64%	36%	3.0	-2.6%
-Idaho	71%	29%	3.1	-2.5%
-Montana	65%	35%	3.0	0.7%
-Nevada	64%	36%	3.3	4.1%
-New Mexico	65%	35%	3.3	2.2%
-Utah	76%	24%	3.5	-3.1%
-Wyoming	65%	35%	3.0	-0.7%

## Change in Family Size, 2000 to 2004



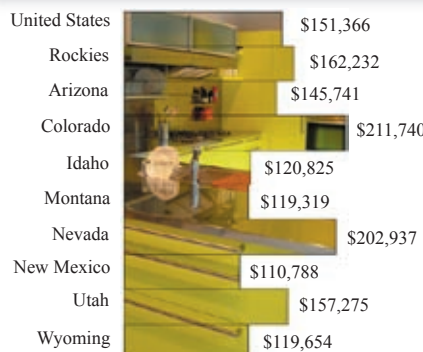
## Housing Units, 2004

	Occupied Housing Units	Owner-occupied Units as a Percentage of Occupied Housing Units	Renter-occupied Units as a Percentage of Occupied Housing Units	Average Number of Residents in Owner-occupied Units	Average Number of Residents in Renter-occupied Units
United States	109,902,090	67%	13%	2.7	2.4
Rockies	7,431,821	68%	12%	2.7	2.4
-Arizona	2,131,534	69%	12%	2.7	2.5
-Colorado	1,850,238	69%	13%	2.6	2.2
-Idaho	515,252	72%	10%	2.7	2.4
-Montana	368,530	69%	13%	2.5	2.3
-Nevada	871,915	61%	15%	2.7	2.5
-New Mexico	711,827	69%	12%	2.7	2.4
-Utah	780,029	70%	10%	3.2	2.7

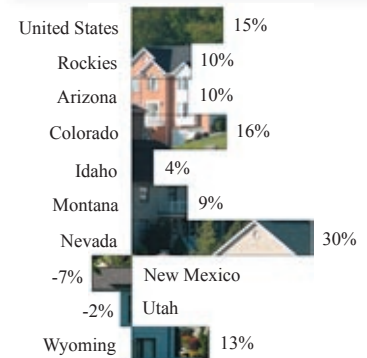
## Home Values & Costs, 2004

	Median Home Value	Median Home Value, Change since 2000	Median Monthly Costs for Housing Units with Mortgage	Median Monthly Costs for Housing Units without Mortgage	Median Rent	Median Rent, Change since 2000
United States	\$151,366	15%	\$1,212	\$345	\$694	5%
Rockies	\$162,232	10%	\$1,161	\$297	\$672	0%
-Arizona	\$145,741	10%	\$1,130	\$284	\$691	2%
-Colorado	\$211,740	16%	\$1,355	\$325	\$724	-2%
-Idaho	\$120,825	4%	\$953	\$271	\$566	0%
-Montana	\$119,319	9%	\$974	\$301	\$520	6%
-Nevada	\$202,937	30%	\$1,274	\$341	\$787	3%
-New Mexico	\$110,788	-7%	\$935	\$249	\$546	-1%
-Utah	\$157,275	-2%	\$1,164	\$291	\$662	1%
-Wyoming	\$119,654	13%	\$954	\$275	\$534	11%

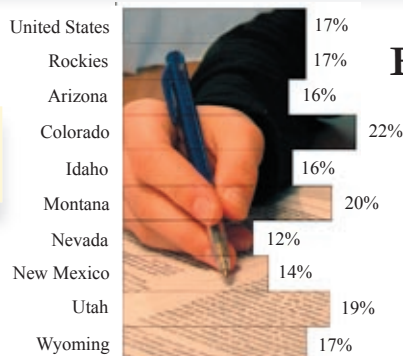
## Median Home Value, 2004



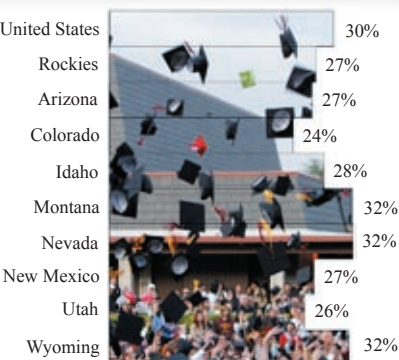
## Change in Median Home Value, 2000 to 2004



## Percentage of Population 25 and Older Who Earned Bachelor's Degree, 2004



## Percentage of Population 25 and Older Who Graduated High School, 2004



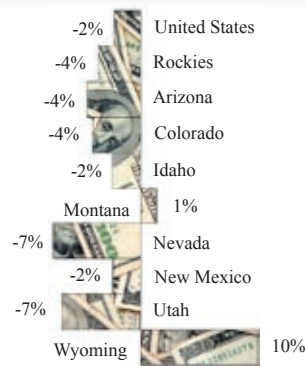
## Educational Attainment, 2000 and 2004

Percentage of Population 25 & Older Who	Graduated High School (including equivalency), 2004	Graduated High School (including equivalency), 2000	Earned Bachelor's Degree, 2004	Earned Bachelor's Degree, 2000	Earned Graduate/Professional Degree, 2004	Earned Graduate/Professional Degree, 2000
United States	30%	29%	17%	16%	10%	9%
Rockies	27%	26%	17%	17%	9%	9%
-Arizona	27%	24%	16%	15%	9%	8%
-Colorado	24%	23%	22%	22%	12%	11%
-Idaho	28%	28%	16%	15%	8%	7%
-Montana	32%	31%	20%	17%	8%	7%
-Nevada	32%	29%	12%	12%	7%	6%
-New Mexico	27%	27%	14%	14%	10%	10%
-Utah	26%	25%	19%	18%	9%	8%
-Wyoming	32%	31%	17%	15%	8%	7%

## Income, 2004

	Median Household Income	Median Household Income, Change since 2000	Mean Household Income	Median Family Income	Median Family Income, Change since 2000	Mean Family Income	Per Capita Income	Per Capita Income, Change since 2000
United States	\$44,684	-3%	\$60,070	\$53,692	-2%	\$69,593	\$24,020	1%
Rockies	\$43,391	-5%	\$57,020	\$51,148	-4%	\$65,172	\$22,460	0%
-Arizona	\$41,995	-6%	\$56,984	\$48,995	-4%	\$64,784	\$22,105	-1%
-Colorado	\$48,198	-7%	\$63,004	\$58,849	-4%	\$74,147	\$25,945	-2%
-Idaho	\$39,934	-3%	\$50,200	\$46,586	-2%	\$56,552	\$19,269	-2%
-Montana	\$35,239	-3%	\$45,779	\$44,958	1%	\$54,291	\$19,565	4%
-Nevada	\$44,646	-9%	\$59,825	\$51,722	-7%	\$67,450	\$23,938	-1%
-New Mexico	\$36,043	-4%	\$49,114	\$42,240	-2%	\$55,613	\$20,234	7%
-Utah	\$47,074	-6%	\$57,696	\$52,286	-7%	\$63,398	\$19,584	-2%
-Wyoming	\$44,275	7%	\$55,751	\$54,935	10%	\$65,334	\$24,036	15%

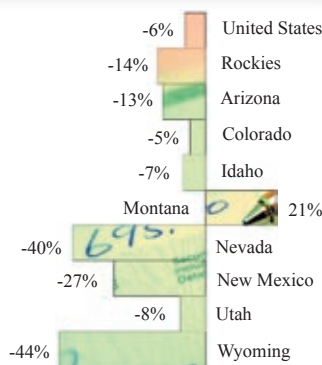
## Change in Median Family Income, 2000 to 2004



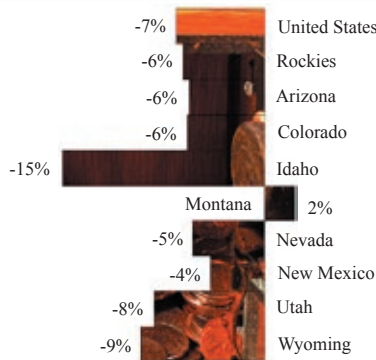
## Median Family Income, 2004



## Change in Mean Cash Public Assistance Income, 2000 to 2004



## Change in Mean Retirement Income, 2000 to 2004



## Poverty, 2000 & 2004

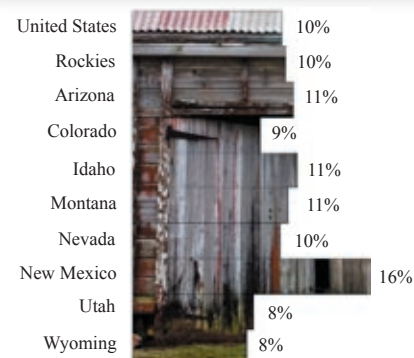
Percentage of the Following Groups Whose Income in the Past 12 Months is below the Poverty Level	All Families, 2004		All Families, 2000	
	All People, 2004	All People, 2000	All People, 2004	All People, 2000
United States	10%	9%	13%	12%
Rockies	10%	9%	13%	12%
-Arizona	11%	10%	14%	14%
-Colorado	9%	6%	11%	9%
-Idaho	11%	8%	14%	11%
-Montana	11%	10%	14%	14%
-Nevada	10%	8%	13%	10%
-New Mexico	16%	15%	19%	18%
-Utah	8%	6%	11%	9%
-Wyoming	8%	8%	10%	11%

## Income by Type, 2004

	Mean Earnings	Mean Earnings, Change since 2000	Mean Social Security Income	Mean Social Security Income, Change since 2000	Mean Retirement Income	Mean Retirement Income, Change since 2000	Mean Supplemental Security Income	Mean Supplemental Security Income, Change since 2000	Mean Cash Public Assistance Income	Mean Cash Public Assistance Income, Change since 2000
United States	\$61,341	-1%	\$13,046	5%	\$17,798	-7%	\$6,907	0%	\$3,116	-6%
Rockies	\$56,557	-2%	\$13,071	4%	\$18,680	-6%	\$6,969	0%	\$2,420	-14%
-Arizona	\$57,283	-1%	\$13,689	4%	\$18,892	-6%	\$7,472	4%	\$2,484	-13%
-Colorado	\$62,499	-4%	\$12,604	4%	\$19,992	-6%	\$6,473	-6%	\$2,530	-5%
-Idaho	\$50,624	0%	\$13,034	5%	\$14,699	-15%	\$6,546	-2%	\$1,869	-7%
-Montana	\$44,871	2%	\$13,101	8%	\$16,983	2%	\$7,073	5%	\$3,232	21%
-Nevada	\$58,966	-3%	\$12,728	2%	\$19,368	-5%	\$7,564	1%	\$1,856	-40%
-New Mexico	\$47,975	0%	\$11,800	2%	\$19,514	-4%	\$6,748	5%	\$2,288	-27%
-Utah	\$56,479	-6%	\$13,729	6%	\$17,805	-8%	\$6,734	-7%	\$2,920	-8%
-Wyoming	\$53,351	7%	\$13,585	9%	\$16,193	-9%	\$5,904	-18%	\$1,476	-44%

## Families in Poverty, 2004

As a Percentage of All Families



## Employment by Occupation, 2004

Percentage of Civilian Population 16 and Older Employed in the Following Occupations	Management, Professional, and Related	Service	Sales and Office	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	Construction, Extraction, Maintenance, and Repair	Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	Employed Civilian Population 16 and Older
United States	34%	16%	26%	1%	10%	13%	134,259,460
Rockies	33%	17%	26%	1%	11%	11%	9,132,410
-Arizona	32%	17%	28%	0%	11%	11%	2,497,460
-Colorado	37%	15%	26%	1%	11%	10%	2,253,357
-Idaho	33%	15%	25%	3%	10%	15%	636,533
-Montana	35%	18%	24%	2%	11%	9%	453,643
-Nevada	26%	25%	26%	0%	12%	10%	1,090,563
-New Mexico	36%	17%	24%	1%	12%	9%	839,881
-Utah	34%	16%	28%	0%	10%	12%	1,099,283
-Wyoming	32%	17%	22%	2%	15%	13%	261,690

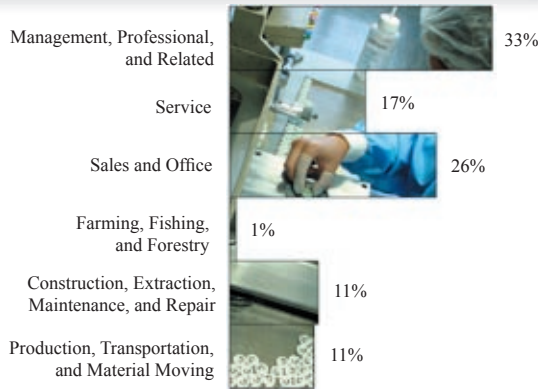
### The United States Employment by Occupation, 2004



### The United States Employment Growth by Occupation, 2000 to 2004



### The Rockies Region Employment by Occupation, 2004



## Employment Growth by Occupation, 2000 to 2004

Percentage Growth of the Number of Civilians 16 and Older Employed in the Following Occupations	Management, Professional, and Related	Service	Sales and Office	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	Construction, Extraction, Maintenance, and Repair	Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	All Occupations
United States	5%	13%	1%	-5%	7%	-8%	3%
Rockies	9%	15%	4%	-0%	11%	3%	8%
-Arizona	10%	20%	10%	-13%	14%	9%	12%
-Colorado	2%	7%	-3%	3%	11%	-1%	2%
-Idaho	10%	4%	5%	3%	-1%	9%	6%
-Montana	13%	14%	1%	-2%	7%	-11%	6%
-Nevada	20%	21%	11%	13%	22%	11%	17%
-New Mexico	16%	13%	3%	46%	15%	-3%	10%
-Utah	9%	19%	1%	-68%	3%	-5%	5%
-Wyoming	16%	12%	-2%	19%	9%	7%	9%

### The Rockies Region Employment Growth by Occupation, 2000 to 2004



## Employment by Industry, 2004



Percentage of Civilian Population 16 and Older Employed in the Following Industries	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	Information	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services	Other Services (except public administration)	Public Administration	Total Employed Civilian Population 16 and Older
United States	2%	7%	12%	4%	12%	5%	3%	7%	10%	20%	9%	5%	5%	134,259,460
Rockies	3%	9%	8%	3%	12%	5%	2%	7%	10%	19%	11%	5%	5%	9,132,410
-Arizona	1%	10%	9%	4%	12%	6%	2%	8%	10%	19%	10%	5%	5%	2,497,460
-Colorado	3%	9%	8%	3%	12%	5%	4%	8%	13%	17%	9%	5%	4%	2,253,357
-Idaho	5%	9%	12%	4%	12%	4%	2%	5%	10%	20%	7%	5%	5%	636,533
-Montana	7%	8%	5%	3%	12%	5%	2%	6%	7%	22%	11%	5%	6%	453,643
-Nevada	1%	10%	5%	3%	11%	5%	2%	7%	9%	13%	25%	4%	5%	1,090,563
-New Mexico	5%	8%	5%	3%	11%	5%	2%	5%	9%	23%	10%	5%	9%	839,881
-Utah	1%	8%	10%	4%	13%	4%	3%	7%	11%	20%	9%	5%	6%	1,099,283
-Wyoming	12%	9%	4%	2%	11%	7%	2%	5%	6%	20%	11%	5%	7%	261,690

## Employment Growth by Industry, 2000 to 2004



Percentage Growth of the Number of Civilians 16 and Older Employed in the Following Industries	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	Information	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services	Other Services (except public administration)	Public Administration	All Industries
United States	-0%	14%	-11%	8%	3%	-0%	-14%	7%	8%	6%	12%	3%	7%	3%
Rockies	4%	16%	-4%	15%	6%	10%	-18%	12%	13%	11%	7%	11%	9%	8%
-Arizona	-24%	29%	-6%	21%	11%	31%	-23%	17%	9%	16%	9%	14%	11%	12%
-Colorado	27%	5%	-5%	2%	1%	4%	-26%	6%	12%	4%	-4%	5%	-1%	2%
-Idaho	-15%	19%	0%	11%	1%	0%	1%	11%	27%	12%	-10%	21%	-5%	6%
-Montana	0%	20%	-11%	7%	-1%	-7%	11%	8%	16%	9%	10%	5%	15%	6%
-Nevada	-9%	28%	31%	28%	15%	6%	-1%	19%	24%	18%	13%	7%	18%	17%
-New Mexico	35%	12%	-12%	19%	0%	11%	3%	3%	6%	15%	8%	13%	22%	10%
-Utah	-31%	-1%	-9%	26%	7%	-9%	-18%	10%	18%	9%	17%	14%	6%	5%
-Wyoming	24%	11%	-20%	11%	1%	10%	-6%	12%	8%	1%	19%	12%	23%	9%

## How Various Groups Rank the Rockies States

	Best Digital Government, 2005 <sup>1</sup>	Best Return on Federal Tax Dollar, 2003 <sup>2</sup>	Most Expensive Residential Electricity, 2003 <sup>3</sup>	Smartest States, 2004 <sup>4</sup>	Best Elementary Schools, 2003 <sup>5</sup>	Best Middle Schools, 2003 <sup>6</sup>	Healthiest States, 2004 <sup>7</sup>	Best Business Tax Climate, 2004 <sup>8</sup>	Best Technology and Science, 2004 <sup>9</sup>
Arizona	28	21	22	48	43	41	23	19	17
Colorado	13	41	25	21	16	9	13	8	3
Idaho	15	18	49	29	29	25	18	31	30
Montana	26	8	35	10	17	6	26	17	38
Nevada	10	46	14	49	45	44	37	6	43
New Mexico	45	1	15	50	50	50	38	40	14
Utah	1	22	44	28	28	23	5	26	9
Wyoming	50	25	42	16	8	11	28	7	41

## Government Performance Project Grading State Government, 2005 <http://results.gpponline.org/>

Sources, Ranking the States

- [http://www.brown.edu/Administration/News\\_Bureau/2005-06/05-023.html](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/News_Bureau/2005-06/05-023.html).
- <http://www.nemw.org/fundsrank.htm>.
- <http://www.eia.doe.gov/ncic/rankings/stateelectricityprice2003.htm>.
- <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0931043.html>.
- [http://www.psk12.com/rating/USthreeR-sph/STATE\\_US\\_level\\_Elementary\\_CountyID\\_0\\_year\\_2003.html](http://www.psk12.com/rating/USthreeR-sph/STATE_US_level_Elementary_CountyID_0_year_2003.html).
- [http://www.psk12.com/rating/USthreeR-sph/STATE\\_US\\_level\\_Elementary\\_CountyID\\_0\\_year\\_2003.html](http://www.psk12.com/rating/USthreeR-sph/STATE_US_level_Elementary_CountyID_0_year_2003.html).
- <http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/shr2004/Findings.html>.
- <http://www.taxfoundation.org/research/topic/90.html>.
- [www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/nstech\\_index04.pdf](http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/nstech_index04.pdf).

	Overall	Money	People	Infrastructure	Information
Arizona	B	B	B	B-	B-
Colorado	C+	C-	C+	C+	C+
Idaho	B-	B+	B	C+	C+
Montana	C+	C+	C+	B-	C
Nevada	B-	C+	C+	B+	B-
New Mexico	C+	B	C+	D+	B
Utah	A-	A	B+	A	A-
Wyoming	C	B	D+	C	C