

Boulder No. 14 on Forbes' best places for business rankings

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The city of Boulder placed No. 14 among Forbes magazine 2010 list of the top 200 U.S. metropolitan cities for business and careers.

The rankings, released late last week, were based on criteria such as projected job growth, cost of living, educational attainment and home prices.

Boulder was the No. 1 city in the categories of educational attainment, with the share of the population above age 25 with a bachelor's degree; and in subprime mortgages, with 5.1 percent of total originations between 2006 and 2006.

Boulder-based Dynamic Materials Co. (Nasdaq: BOOM), a maker of explosion-welded clad metal plates, was highlighted as a local firm that made Forbes' "best small companies" list.

Boulder placed in the low to mid 100s in the areas of colleges, cost of doing business and cost of living. Boulder was 133rd in colleges, Forbes' measure of the number of four-year colleges in the area; 136th in the cost of doing business, an index based on cost of labor, energy, taxes and office space; and 167th in the cost of living, an index based on cost of housing, utilities, transportation and other costs.

Susan Graf, chief executive officer of the Boulder Chamber, said city and business officials need to be cognizant of the area's cost of living and cost of doing business. There's a delicate balance of having a good place to work and also a good place to live, she said.

"I think we should definitely be aware of it as an issue and try not to make it any more expensive," she said. "...People are willing to pay a little bit of a premium, but there's only so much of a premium that they'll pay."

Boulder is one of four Colorado cities that placed in the top 15 on Forbes' list. Five Colorado cities made the list and all ranked within the top 30.

Fort Collins ranked No. 4; Denver was No. 6; Colorado Springs placed No. 12; and Greeley ranked No. 29.

For more information, view the full [report](#) or the interactive [Top 200 list](#).

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