

# Columbia Kudos



## BUSINESS

The 2004 Mayor's Challenge ranked Columbia 14th out of 331 US metro areas for Business Expansion and Relocation. Metros were judged based upon public education, college-educated work force, health care costs and availability, government taxes and spending, quality of life and logistics infrastructure. Columbia ranked 5th in metro areas with populations of 250,000 or less.

*Forbes* listed Columbia the 38th "Best Small Metro for Business" in a 2004 study that ranked 168 areas with populations up to 335,000. Factors included cost of living, job growth and educational attainment. This is the second year in a row Columbia has ranked in the top 40.

*Sprint Business* ranked Columbia the "26th Most Productive City in America" in a 1999 study of 313 metro areas. Productivity was determined using eight criteria including employment rates, growth and educational attainment.

The US Conference of Mayors recognized Columbia for having the second highest growth rate (22.75 percent) in high-tech output among all US metro cities in 1999.

*Inc.* magazine reported in 2001 that Columbia's Socket Internet Services was one of the fastest growing private firms in the United States. Socket provides internet services to cities in eight states.

*Restaurant Business Magazine's* 2002 site survey named Columbia the 43rd best spot in the nation to open a new restaurant. Factors leading to Columbia's high ranking include recent growth, Columbia's position as a regional destination for dining and shopping, its high levels of disposable income and its high per capita restaurant sales.

## EDUCATION

*U.S. News & World Report* rated the University of Missouri-Columbia's College of Business 27th in the nation among public business schools. The business school tied for 44th overall in the magazine's 2002 college rankings, which were based upon several forms of information, including a survey of deans and senior faculty members.

*Expansion Management's* 2002 Education Quotient rated the Columbia Public School District a "Gold District" in their study based on graduate outcomes and the community's commitment to public education (teacher's salaries, student-teacher ratios, and per pupil expenditures).

*Black Issues in Higher Education* (2002) ranked Columbia College among the top 75 accredited colleges and universities in the nation to confer bachelor's degrees to African-Americans.

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked the graduate program at the University of Missouri-Columbia's College of Education 32nd in the nation based upon GRE scores, Ph.D. and Ed.D. acceptance rates, student/faculty ratio and funded research. (2003)

*U.S. News & World Report* put the University of Missouri-Columbia's School of Law in the top 100 law schools in the nation, based upon LSAT scores, graduate employment and bar passage rate. (2003)

Columbia, Missouri  
is consistently listed among the  
**top cities** in the United States  
by magazines, leading newspapers and other  
national publications. With its  
**healthy and growing economy,**  
excellent public school system, top-notch healthcare  
facilities, central location,  
prime transportation services and **positive**  
**attitude towards business,**  
Columbia has much to brag about.

# HEALTH

*Modern Healthcare* and *U.S. News & World Report* published studies naming two Columbia hospitals, Columbia Regional Hospital and Boone Hospital Center, among the nation's top 100 orthopedic hospitals. (2001)

*U.S. News & World Report* named the University of Missouri Healthcare System one of the top 50 cancer treatment hospitals in the country. (2001)

*Modern Healthcare* published the results of a 2001 study naming Boone Hospital Center one of the country's top 100 cardiovascular hospitals.

*Good Housekeeping* magazine's 1999 guide to the "Top 318 Cancer Specialists for Women" cited Columbia as home to two of those professionals specializing in lung, breast, and colon disease in women.

*American Health for Women* called Columbia one of the 10 "Healthiest Cities for Women" in 1997, based on women's health options, career potential, crime index, environment, family life, fitness, and urban stressors.

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked the University of Missouri-Columbia's School of Medicine's Department of Family and Community Medicine the second-best in the nation. The department has ranked in the top three for the past eight years in the study based on expert opinion about program quality, quality of faculty and performance of students when they enter and leave the program. (2003)

*Organic Style* magazine listed Columbia ninth in their 2003 "healthy cities" study. Factors included air quality, toxics, agricultural area and regional pollution. (2003)

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked the University of Missouri-Columbia's School of Medicine 11th as educators of primary care physicians, citing factors such as average undergraduate GPA, average MCAT scores and faculty/student ratios. (2002)

# COMMUNITY

*Sperling's Best Places* and MSN internet service ranked Columbia ninth out of 331 metropolitan areas in their 2003 "Best Places to Live in America" study. The rankings are based on data collected in 70 categories including cost of living, crime rate, education, housing, arts and culture, health, leisure, transportation and weather.

*Expansion Management* magazine rated Columbia a five-star city in their 2003 Quality of Life Quotient. Measured against 328 other metro areas, Columbia fared well in traditional quality of life indicators, as well as average wages, work force availability, transportation infrastructure, education levels, and available institutions of higher learning.

*Money* magazine named Columbia a runner-up in the small city division of their "Best Places to Live 2000" competition due to factors such as economy, schools, and healthcare. Columbia has ranked in this competition 13 of the past 15 years.

KBIA, the University of Missouri-Columbia's NPR station, was the most-listened to University-licensed NPR station and the second most-listened to public radio station in the nation in 2000.

The *Editor & Publisher Market Guide* ranked Columbia the third best US metropolitan area in 1999 after studying the cost of living index, crime index, and education levels in Columbia.

*50 Fabulous Places to Raise Your Family* (1997) named Columbia one of only a few "fabulous" Midwestern communities in which to raise a family.

*Fortune* ranked Columbia ninth in the nation in their 1997 "Smart Cities" study based on the percentage of citizens who hold a four-year college degree.

*Modern Maturity* (2000) selected Columbia as one of "The 50 Most Alive Places to Live" in the nation. Criteria included ethnic diversity, recreational options, cultural vitality, low crime rate,

lifelong learning opportunities, good hospitals and restaurants, public transportation, walking accessibility and civic activities.

*Men's Journal* listed Columbia the 34th best place to live in the nation in their 2003 study that described Columbia as the "idyllic midwestern college town."

