

DOUGLAS COUNTY RANKINGS

2000 Rankings and Notable Facts

- **Forbes Magazine** ranked Lawrence, Kansas as the 10th best smaller metro area to launch a business or a career 2000.
- Ranked 6th in the nation by the US census for per capita bachelor degree attainment at 42.6% (2000)

2001 Rankings and Notable Facts

- Lawrence ranked 43rd in **Expansion Management's** January 2001 listing of "America's Hottest Cities for Business Relocation and Expansion."
- The University of Kansas ranks third in the nation among public research universities nationwide for percentage of students participating in study abroad programs according to the **Institute of International Education**. During the 2000-01 school year, 1,141 KU students who participated in study abroad programs represented almost 23 percent of graduating KU students in 2001. www.opendoors.iienetwork.org
- **Forbes Magazine** ranked Lawrence, Kansas as the 19th best smaller metro area to launch a business or a career 2001.

2002 Rankings and Notable Facts

- Lawrence ranked by **Forbes** among Top Ten Best Small Cities for Business based on job growth plus activity in critical technologies that foster future growth 2002
- **Golf Digest** magazine has named Lawrence 40th out of 314 best metro areas for golf for 2002.
- **New York Times** ranked Lawrence #2 in job growth (3%) among top metros in the nation in 2002
- **Forbes Magazine** ranked Lawrence, Kansas as the 9th best smaller metro area to launch a business or a career 2002.

2003 Rankings and Notable Facts

- Lawrence ranked by **Forbes** among Top Ten Best Small Cities for Business based on job growth plus activity in critical technologies that foster future growth 2003
- USD 497 school district recipient of 2003 **Expansion Management Magazine's** (economic development site selector trade publication) Gold Ribbon designation ranking USD 497 in the top 17% of school districts in the nation based upon graduation outcome index (ACT scores, graduation rates), community's commitment to education (per pupil expenditure) and the community education levels.
- **Men's Journal Magazine** (2003) ranked Lawrence 10th for one of the 50 Best Places to Live with a population of 50,000 to 100,000.
- Lawrence ranked 14th on the **Milkin Institute's** list for strong economy cities in smaller metros by wage and salary growth, job growth and high-tech output growth. (2003)
- **Forbes Magazine** ranked Lawrence, Kansas as the 7th best smaller metro area to launch a business or a career 2003.
- The University of Kansas' School of Pharmacy ranks second in the nation by **National Institute of Health** for research funding. (2003)

2004 Rankings and Notable Facts

- **U.S. News** ranks Twenty-two graduate programs at the University of Kansas in the top 25 among the nation's public universities, according to the 2004 edition of U.S. News America's Best Graduate Schools.
- Lawrence ranked in top 100 Places to Live in 2004 according to **Relocate-America.com**.
- **Forbes Magazine** ranked Lawrence, Kansas as the 6th best smaller metro area to launch a business or a career 2004. *Lawrence climbed up a spot from its 2003 ranking of #7. In the five years Forbes has been ranking "smaller metros", Lawrence has consistently ranked in the top 20: 2000- #10; 2001- #19; 2002- #9; 2003- #7; 2004-#6.*
- Lawrence secondary schools rank 2nd among the nation's 370 metropolitan areas by **Expansion Management Magazine**, a national publication for site location advisors. (2004) (ranking based off of academic performance measures and a community's financial commitment to education)

2005 Rankings and Notable Facts

- Lawrence, Kansas ranked as one of 362 5-Star Quality of Life Metros by **Expansion Management Magazine**, March 2005 (ranking based off of low crime rate, affordable housing, quality public schools, reasonable standard of living, spouse employment opportunities, adult education levels, traffic and commuting, continuing education opportunities, commercial air access)
- Lawrence, Kansas was ranked 2nd in spouse employment opportunities by **Expansion Management Magazine**, March 2005 (Measurement used were unemployment statistics)
- Lawrence, Kansas MSA public schools rank 4th among the nation's 362 metropolitan areas by **Expansion Management Magazine**, a national publication for site location advisors. April 2005 (ranking based off of academic performance measures and a community's financial commitment to education)
- Kansas was ranked #1 by **Expansion Management Magazines** 3rd annual Health Care Cost Quotient Rankings 2005. Making Kansas the most overall cost effective states for companies and their employees when it comes to cost and availability. The ranking is based on data grouped into five major categories: health care facilities, health care providers, health insurance costs, health care provider costs, and malpractice insurance costs.