

2008 Rankings

- Des Moines was ranked the most affordable city to host a tradeshow by Tradeshow Week.
- The city is also the sixth best place to raise a family by Best Life magazine.
- Des Moines was ranked 25th on the Milken Institute's Economic Growth List for 2008, and was the only Midwestern city in the top 25.
- In October 2008, Des Moines was ranked [fifth in the best markets to make money](#) by the Today Show.
- Iowa is one of the least expensive states to vacation in according to AAA Living. The average cost of lodging and meals is \$169.81 compared to a national average of \$243.53.
- Greater Des Moines was ranked as the 4th best place for business and careers for the second year in a row byForbes.com.
- Des Moines has the greatest number of parks per square mile according to Prevention Magazine.
- The Civic Center of Greater Des Moines was ranked in the top 15 theaters in the world ahead of other Midwest theaters such as the Orpheum Theatre in Minneapolis and the Fabulous Fox Theater in St. Louis by Pollstar Magazine.
- Iowa ranks #2 nationally in cost of doing business by the Milken Institute.
- Greater Des Moines ranked 9th in Kiplinger's Personal Finance's top ten places to live.
- Des Moines ranked as number one in the country of best cities for clean drinking water by Forbes.com.
- Des Moines/West Des Moines is 5th in the category of best cities for relocating families ranked by the Worldwide ERC, the association for workforce mobility.
- Greater Des Moines ranked 6th in Best Life Magazine's best places to raise a family ranking. This was featured on the Today show in May.
- Family Circle Magazine named the city of Ankeny as one of the top 10 best towns for families in the United States.
- The Des Moines Arts Festival was ranked 7th in the Art Fair Source Book's list of top 20 art fairs.
- Prevention Magazine named Des Moines the number one walking city in Iowa.
- Des Moines is the 4th happiest city in the country for women. SELF Magazine.