

New Mexico Business Weekly - January 29, 2010
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NEW MEXICO BUSINESS WEEKLY

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BusinessWeek: Rio Rancho state's fastest-growing city

New Mexico Business Weekly

BusinessWeek magazine has named Rio Rancho the fastest-growing city in the state for 2010.

"Rio Rancho's population has risen 53.8 percent since 2000 because employment opportunities have increased," Mayor Tom Swisstack said in a news release.

According to the **U.S. Census**, Rio Rancho is the state's third-largest city, with an estimated population of 79,655.

Swisstack also touted a low crime rate, high quality of life, varied housing options and "one of the best school districts in the state."

The magazine said communities that experienced growth over the past decade had "the best mix of economic activity, access to job centers and a good environment for families."

Companies like **Intel** and **Hewlett-Packard** contributed to Rio Rancho's ranking, according to BusinessWeek.

In December, HP opened a new customer service and technical support center in the City Centre area. HP says that by 2012, it will employ at least 1,350 people full time at its complex.

To identify areas in each state experiencing high growth, BusinessWeek partnered with the **Gadberry Group**, a location and population analysis company. Only places with 10,000 or more "occupied households" were considered. Factors such as increases in number of households, income and household net worth were used in making selections.

BusinessWeek has named Rio Rancho as the best place to raise children in the state for two years in a row.

To see the complete list of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., visit BusinessWeek's **Web Site**.

For more information about Rio Rancho, visit the city's **Web site**.

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