

Community Profile

History



General William Jackson Palmer founded Colorado Springs in 1871, envisioning a resort community always in view of Colorado's famous Pikes Peak. Within seven years, the Antlers Hotel was built; and by 1918, the renowned Broadmoor Hotel was constructed.

Beginning in the late 1800s, Colorado Springs became a natural health destination for tuberculosis patients because of the nearly 300 days of sunshine a year, natural mineral springs, and dry mountain air.

Throughout its history, Colorado Springs has been a popular tourist destination due to its surrounding natural beauty and magnificent climate. Some of the more visited sightseeing attractions in and around Colorado Springs include Garden of the Gods, Pikes Peak – America's Mountain, United States Olympic Headquarters and Training Center, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, United States Air Force Academy, and The Broadmoor Hotel.

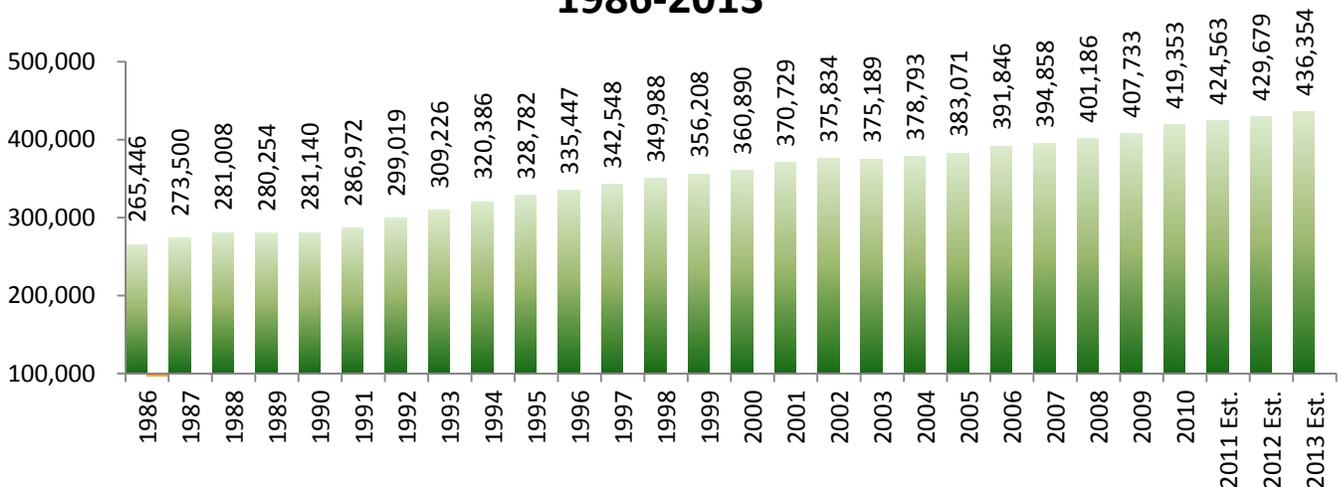
Population

Colorado Springs is located at the foot of Pikes Peak, 70 miles south of Denver. With a land area of 194.85 square miles and a 2013 estimated population of 436,354, Colorado Springs is the State's largest city in terms of area and second only to Denver in population.

The population of Colorado Springs has grown dramatically since the 1980s, increasing 60.8% from 1986 to the estimated 2013 population.



Colorado Springs Population 1986-2013



Local Economy

The economic base has become quite diversified with a mix of military installations, defense contracting, healthcare, software development, semiconductor manufacturing, telecommunications, data centers, religious and nonprofit associations, and of course, tourism.

Area military installations are a significant factor in the local economy, constituting over 20% of all employment. Five major military installations are in the city: Fort Carson, Schriever and Peterson Air Force Bases, Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, and the United States Air Force Academy.

The spectacular climate and lack of significant natural disasters make it a choice location for software development, semiconductor manufacturing, data centers, and telecommunications. The health care industry is the second highest employer in the City.

Top Ten Private Sector Employers (Excluding School Districts)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Health System at UCH • Penrose-St. Francis Health Services • Broadmoor Hotel • Progressive Insurance Company • Verizon Business • Atmel Corporation • Northrop Grumman Corporation • United Services Automobile Association (USAA) • Lockheed Martin Corporation • Compassion International

Source: Economic Development Corporation (July 2011)

Education

There are nine public school districts serving Colorado Springs with more than 100 public elementary, middle, junior, and senior high schools. There are also more than 50 private, parochial, and charter schools.

In addition, Colorado Springs has more than 50 vocational and two-year schools, colleges, and universities. Below is a list of the City's largest colleges and universities.

Largest Post-Secondary Schools in the City	
School	Students
1. Pikes Peak Community College	14,741
2. University of Colorado at Colorado Springs	9,321
3. United States Air Force Academy	4,528
4. Colorado Technical University	2,947
5. Colorado College	2,008
6. Regis University	1,900
7. Nazarene Bible College	909
8. University of Phoenix	727
9. Intellitec College	569
10. Everest College	500

Source: Economic Development Corporation (2012)