

Forbes Best Places Rankings
Tacoma 1999-2008

	note	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Overall		64	84	116	102	135	126	123	80	71	43
Advanced Degrees	1					NA	NA				
Engineers	2							120			
Colleges	3								70	70	70
Cost of Doing Business	4					87	93	78	120	110	84
Housing Affordability Index	5					119					
Cost Of Living	6						90	102	135	125	137
Crime Rate	7					113	133	127	176	184	185
Culture & Leisure	8						37	38	34	29	20
Educational Attainment	9					116	115	115	152	150	152
Income Growth	10						150	149	13	29	8
Job Growth	11						48	36	37	27	31
Net Migration	12						27	34	58	63	63
Wage & Salary Growth - 5 year	13	115	196	188	154						
Wage & Salary Growth - 1 year	14	134	66	141	65						
Relative Job Growth - 5 year	15	74	120	124	130						
Relative Job Growth - 1 year	16	13	191	182	177						
Number of tech clusters	17	73	97	170	163						
High-Tech Concentration	18	81	99	160	180						
Tech output growth - 5 year	19	77	56	45							
Tech output growth - 1 year	20	63	108	133							
5-Year High-Tech GDP Growth	21				161						
1-Year High-Tech GDP Growth	22				263						
Job Momentum	23				64						

- 1 Ph. Ds per 100,000 residents.
- 2 Engineers as a percent of total employment.
- 3 Measure of 4-year colleges in area with extra credit for highly rated schools.
- 4 Index based on cost of labor, energy, taxes and office space.
- 5 Proportion of the median priced home that a household earning the median income could afford to purchase at prevailing mortgage rates.
- 6 Index based on cost of housing, utilities, transportation and other expenditures.
- 7 Crimes per 100,000 residents.
- 8 Index based on museums, theaters, golf course, sports teams and other activities.
- 9 Share of Population over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher.
- 10 * 5-year annualized figures.
- 11 * 5-year annualized figures.
- 12 * 5-year annualized figures.
- 13 Wage and salary growth over the most recent five year period available. This reflects sustained gains in earnings power.
- 14 Most recent annual wage and salary growth. This reflects momentum in the region.
- 15 Job growth over the most recent five-year period. Sustained gains are reflected.
- 16 Most recent annual job growth. Momentum is reflected.
- 17 Breadth of high-tech clusters in a region.
- 18 This column measures the degree to which a region's economic output is concentrated in high-tech clusters, relative to the national average.
- 19 Growth of such clustering over a five-year period
- 20 Clustering growth in the latest annual period.
- 21 Growth of such clustering over a five-year period.
- 22 Clustering growth in the latest annual period.
- 23 A 3-month moving employment average based on the most recent quarterly employment figures.