

The Durango Community



Nestled in the Animas River Valley and surrounded by two million acres of the San Juan National Forest, Durango is a gem in the rough located in La Plata County in the southwestern corner of Colorado. Here the majestic Rocky Mountains meet the serene desert of the Four Corners region where Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado converge. Nature creates a playground of pine forests, aspen groves, lakes, streams and spectacular views around Durango.

In our backyard is Mesa Verde National Park, designated as a World Heritage site for its collection of prehistoric artifacts and cliff dwellings. Durango is situated at 6,512 feet above sea level and has a dry, moderate climate with air and water that is among the purest in the United States. In the nearby mountains, we have our own ski area, Durango Mountain Resort, with natural hot springs in the vicinity.

As our county seat, Durango is a regional hub for commerce. The county population estimate for July, 2007, is 16 thousand residents. We are home to a four-year college, regional medical facility, modern commercial airport, and a wide variety of boutiques, specialty shops, galleries and many diverse restaurants. We are proud of our three prominent historic districts: Main Avenue Historic District, East Third Avenue Historic Residential District and the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad right-of-way between Durango and Silverton, Colorado. Our mountain scenery and excellent quality of life make it a great place to visit or relocate.

The Durango Chamber of Commerce is proud to offer a leadership program that helps develop the future of Durango. Leadership La Plata is the leadership skills and broad based community education arm of the Durango Chamber of Commerce. Each Year, 16 diverse, civic minded and active community members from throughout the county are selected to participate in this influential program.

Photo of Columbine © Lisa Mackey

Employment, Income, & Tax

Per Capita Income

Area	Per Capita Personal Income 1995	Per Capita Personal Income 2000	Per Capita Personal Income 2003	Per Capita Personal Income 2004 (P)
United States	\$23,076	\$29,845	\$31,427	\$32,937
Colorado	\$24,226	\$33,370	\$34,561	\$36,063
La Plata County	\$20,998	\$27,408	\$29,807	(NA)

La Plata County Top Employers

Employer	2005	La Plata County	2004
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	1,091	Unemployed	987
Mercy Medical Center	750	Employed	26,466
Durango School District	660	Total Labor Force	27,453
Fort Lewis College	650	Unemployment Rate	3.6%
U.S. Government	459	State Unemployment Rate	4.6%
Wal-Mart	***	U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.5%
La Plata County	400	Source: Colorado Dept. of Labor and Bureau of Labor Statistics	
CO State Government	238		
City of Durango	270		
Durango Mountain Resort	125-690		
Source: Individual employer statistics, Colorado Dept. of Labor and Employment, Colorado Employment and Wages, 2004. Notes: *** Figures not available			

State Income Tax

Tax rate is 4.75% of taxable income.

Sales & Use Tax

Tax totals 7.9% and is comprised of 2.9% state, 2% county and 3.0% city. Within the Durango Enterprise Zone, the purchase of equipment and machines or tools used exclusively for manufacturing in the zone are exempt from the 2.9% state sales/use tax.

Lodger's Tax

A tax of 2% is collected on all lodging properties in the county and city.

Property Tax

Property is assessed at 29% of actual value for industrial and commercial and at 9.74% for residential.

The Durango Climate



CLIMATE: Durango enjoys an ideal four season climate with moderate temperatures year-round.

Winters: mostly mild and sunny. Winter snowfall is an average of 71" a year, but because of low elevation and great solar exposure (300 days of sunshine per year) snow removal is only an occasional chore of manageable size. At higher elevations, like Durango Mountain Resort, snowfall averages 250" per year.

Springtime: brings warmer weather with rain (annual precipitation of 19" per year) to brighten up greening lawns and high country meadows. During summer, temperatures seldom reach more than the high 80s and then just for a week or two. Rivers and reservoirs stay relatively full in summer, due to deep snow accumulation in the surrounding mountains.

Fall: days are cool and dry, perfect for a mountain hike or drive to see the golden aspen and red-orange scrub oak.

Month	Low (F)	High (F)	Snow (inches)	Rain (inches)
January	10.5	39.5	16.9"	1.62
February	16.0	44.7	14.2"	1.49"
March	22.6	51.8	10.5"	1.68"
April	29.2	61.2	3.4"	1.35"
May	35.5	70.2	0.5"	1.12"
June	42.0	80.6	0.0"	.80"
July	50.0	85.0	0.0"	1.95"
August	49.0	83.1	0.0"	0.0"
September	41.0	83.1	0.0"	0.0"
October	31.3	65.5	1.1"	1.92"
November	21.5	52.1	5.5"	1.33"
December	13.0	41.3	16.3"	1.74"

Durango's Location

LOCATION :Durango is located in La Plata County in the southwest corner of Colorado. Located in the Animas River Valley and surrounded by the San Juan Mountains, Durango is close to the Four Corners area, where Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona meet. The city of Durango comprises 4.37 square miles, while La Plata County is 1,700 square miles.

Distance to Major Cities (in miles)

Albuquerque	215	Phoenix	461
Denver	350	Santa Fe	216
Grand Junction	169	Salt Lake City	413

ALTITUDE: Our high altitude affects each individual differently. Avoid altitude sickness by drinking plenty of water, eating light meals that are high in carbohydrates and going easy on the strenuous exercise for the first couple of days. Common symptoms of altitude sickness are headaches, nausea and dizziness. Your body will gradually adjust to the altitude and these symptoms will eventually disappear.

ELEVATION	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
6,512 feet	37degrees 16N	107 degrees 62W

Photo of Columbine © Lisa Mackey

Education in Durango

Durango School District 9-R

201 E. 12th St., Durango, CO 81301
(970) 247-5411, ext. 1440

Durango School District 9-R serves the community through 11 schools, including 1 comprehensive high school, 2 middle schools, 7 elementary schools, and the EXCEL Charter School for 6th through 12th grade students. Enrollment has remained steady for the past several years at 4,900 students.

Bayfield School District 10

24 S. Clover, Bayfield, CO 81122
(970) 884-2496

Bayfield School District 10 consists of 1 high school, 1 middle school and 1 elementary school. A total of 1,047 students attended Bayfield schools in 1999/00,

Ignacio School District 11

315 Ignacio St., Ignacio, CO 81137
(970) 563-9434

Ignacio School District 11 consists of 1 high school, 1 junior high, 1 intermediate and 1 elementary school. A total of 1,054 students attended Ignacio schools in 1999/00.

Adult Education Center, Inc.

301 E. 12th St.
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 385-4354

Fort Lewis College

1000 Rim Drive, Durango, CO 81301
(970) 247-7010

Fort Lewis College is a four-year, fully accredited, liberal arts institution and a member of the Colorado State University System. Fort Lewis has 24 degree programs with an enrollment of approximately 4,500 students. The campus sits on 362 acres overlooking Durango with 1,560 students living on campus in 15 residence halls and apartment complexes.

Pueblo Community College

701 Camino del Rio, Suite 100, Durango, CO 81301
(970) 247-2929

Pueblo Community College Southwest Center provides educational programs and services to the citizens of La Plata, Archuleta, Montezuma, Dolores, and San Juan Counties. Area high schools partner with the Southwest Center sites to offer courses to students and community members at the high school facilities.

Local Government

[La Plata County](#)

1060 E. 2nd Avenue
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 382-6200

[City of Durango](#)

949 E. 2nd Avenue
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 385-2800.



City Span 10 programming includes:

City Span 10 broadcasts 24 hours a day on Bresnan Communications cable's channel 10. Broadcast coverage includes the entire City limits and selected surrounding areas.

Taxes

The City of Durango is supported primarily by a sales and use tax imposed by the City at a rate of 3.0%. City sales and use tax accounts for approximately 63% of general fund revenues annually and 18% of the general fund revenues come from La Plata County's 2% sales tax

Photo of Columbine © Lisa Mackey

Health Care

[Mercy Medical Center](#)

1010 Three Springs Blvd.
Durango, CO
(970) 247-4311

Completed in June of 2006, Mercy Regional Medical Center is the largest and most technologically advanced hospital in Southwest Colorado. More than 130 board-certified physicians on the hospital's medical staff provide care in 34 medical specialties, including 24-hour walk-in emergency care, intensive care, orthopedic surgery, spine surgery, cardiology, and more. With 82 beds (all private rooms), state-of-the-art technology, specialized medical services, and amenities such as a healing garden, the \$80 million facility attracts patients from throughout the Four Corners region. Mercy is a designated level III regional trauma center and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO). The not-for-profit hospital's 713 employees make it one of the largest employers in Durango.

[Durango Cancer Center](#)

3801 N. Main Avenue, Durango
(970) 385-4746

Located in beautiful Southwest Colorado, the Durango Cancer Center provides comprehensive support, education and state-of-the-art treatment services for residents and visitors in the Four Corners region. We are an integral part of Mercy Medical Center's Cancer Program which is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer.

[La Plata Medical Society](#)

La Plata Medical Society The La Plata Medical Society is a membership of physicians of La Plata and Archuleta counties whose purpose it is to increase the quality of medical care for their patients. LPlataMedicalSociety.com provides an online resource for information about the physicians and medical care in our area. With detailed physician profiles, information about available specialists, group practices and surgical facilities, and even a referral mechanism by ailment or condition, this web site proves to be a valuable resource for local medical referral.

[Southwest Women's Health Associates](#)

1199 Main Avenue, Suite 205
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 247-0042

www.southwestwomenshealth.com

Established in 1989 by nurse practitioners, Southwest Women's Health Associates provides high quality health care services to women in an atmosphere of confidentiality, dignity and respect. We provide general women's health care including treatment of minor acute illnesses, management of stable chronic conditions and testing for osteoporosis. Our providers are committed to working with patients to help them meet their optimum and unique health care needs.

AIR SERVICE

The Durango/La Plata County Airport, located 15 miles southeast of the City of Durango and accessed via US Hwy 172, is a publicly-owned commercial service and general aviation facility, operated jointly by the City of Durango and La Plata County. The 9,200 foot primary runway, lit and equipped with navigational aids, can handle the majority of commercial-sized aircraft. Currently, United Express offers service to Denver, and America West provides service to Phoenix. Business and recreational travelers also enjoy private aircraft and charter service at Durango/La Plata with on-site, fixed-based operators.

