

FACT SHEET

Welcome to Albuquerque

Cost of Living

- **Pay Structure-** MDA employees in Albuquerque have the similar pay grade structure as employees in Washington, D.C. Although the locality pay in D.C. is higher, it's offset by Albuquerque's lower cost of living.
- **Cost of Living Index-** The cost of living index in Albuquerque falls slightly below the national average, and residents enjoy high quality living for less.
- **Groceries-** Grocery costs are 12.5% below the national average. (bestplaces.com)
- **Health-** Health expenses are 12.3% below the national average. (bestplaces.com)
- **Fuel costs-** Throughout New Mexico, gas prices typically remain 10 to 15 cents below the national average. (www.gasprices.aaa.com)

Local Attractions

- **Paa-Ko Ridge Golf Course-** With over 300 days of sunshine per year on average, Albuquerque is a golfer's dream. Paa-Ko Ridge was one of only 17 U.S. course given a five-star rating by Golf Digest.
- **Cochiti Dam and Reservoir-** Located 45 miles northwest of Albuquerque is a wakeless lake offering wind sailing, fishing and other recreational facilities.
- **Baseball Team-** The Albuquerque Isotopes are a Triple-A MiLB team for the Colorado Rockies and play in a beautiful park that can accommodate seating for over 13,000 fans.
- **Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway-** Get a bird's eye view from the observation deck atop 10,378 foot Sandia Peak in the Cibola National Forest an 11,000 square-mile panoramic view of the "Land of Enchantment".
- **Outdoor Markets-** Enjoy what local growers, farmers, and arts markets have to offer!
- **Albuquerque BioPark-** This Albuquerque zoo is given a 4 ½ out of 5 stars on TripAdvisor.com. It hosts more than 1.5 million guests per year! (www.cabq.com)

Local Events

- **International Balloon Fiesta-** The world's largest balloon festival is held in mid-October with more than 500 balloons. Put it on your to-do list because it's an amazing site to see!
- **Route 66 Summerfest-** This free event has something for everyone. Summerfest features live music of all genres, a car show, a market, and food and drink vendors.
- **New Mexico State Fair-** Ranked by SmartAsset.com as one of the top 10 state fairs in the country. The New Mexico State Fair is a 10-day event featuring live music, competitions, vendors, a rodeo, and so much more.
- **River of Lights: Holiday Light Show-** Held in the beautiful Albuquerque BioPark, the annual River of Lights has become an Albuquerque tradition. The show features over 550 sculptures and light displays, and millions of twinkle lights. It attracts over 128,000 attendees.

Schools

- **Elementary Schools and Middle Schools-** North Star Elementary School received an "A" rating. Desert Ridge Middle School received a "B+" rating for strong performance in math and reading. (Niche.com)
- **High Schools-** Six high schools in the area received an "A" rating, and have excellent academic performance with an average ACT score of 25. (Niche.com)
- **Colleges/Universities-** The University of New Mexico is recognized for its Medicine, Law and Electrical Engineering programs. The #1 ranked university in the state, New Mexico Tech is just an hour away from Albuquerque. Students pay \$2,000 less per year than the national average at New Mexico Tech, and the average starting salary after graduation is \$50,000 which is \$17,000 above the national average. (Niche.com)

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A. Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.
Approved for Public Release 19-MDA-10149 (15 Jul 19)

STELLAR TEAM, NOBLE MISSION!

