

Milken ranks Provo 7th best performing city in nation

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PROVO -- Provo city officials say they don't wake up in the morning looking for the next best rating, but when it comes they most certainly use it to their advantage. The Milken Institute released data this week ranking the Provo metro area the seventh best performing city in the nation.

There are several criteria on which the data is collected, including jobs, wages and salaries and technology growth.

"It's an honor to be listed in the ranking," economic development director Dixon Holmes said. "Think of all the communities in the country. That we are seventh is super."

Milken ranks more than 370 metro areas into the annual Best Performing Cities Index. Just a couple of years ago Provo was ranked 25th.

"Provo City has been on Milken's radar screen for several years now, as evidenced by our consistently improving ranking," city spokesman Corey Norman said. "As a team, we focus on quality of life and livability. Our jobs, tech-savvy residents and wages are such that people outside of Utah are noticing us for all the right reasons."

The growth in performance also is a part of the city's 2030 plan to build a stable, sustainable community.

"It's no surprise to me that Provo's ranking has improved each of the past three years," Mayor John Curtis said. "We've been thoughtful about preparing for our future and have a real resident-driven plan for the city in our Vision 2030 that provides a level of predictability moving forward."

Curtis added that this is a great reminder that Provo is moving in the right direction.

"The city is trying to attract new employers and grow businesses already here," Holmes said. "A high ranking isn't going to hurt us."

He noted that Milken gathers data from numerous sources and looks at everything from how many building permits have been issued to how clean the city keeps its streets. While Holmes said they don't seek to be recognized, the city continually has a goal to become better, not just for those who might look to come to the area, but more so for the residents who are already here.

-- *Genelle Pugmire covers Provo City, Provo School District, Orem City, UDOT's I-15 CORE Project. She also tackles variety of other topics including business features. Read more from [Genelle Pugmire here](#).*