



## Victor Valley scores high for affordable housing, sunshine

[BROOKE EDWARDS](#) and [MELODY NG](#), Staff Writers

2010-07-14 17:03:23



The Victor Valley didn't make its mark on CNN Money Magazine's list of top 100 small cities in the country for families, with Eden Prairie, Minn. taking the title.

However, local cities did outrank those desirable hometowns in a few categories, including Victorville's job growth rate over the last decade, the number of sunny days here and the affordability of housing.

"Better living" is how Mike Hines, 30, put it, citing the cleanliness, safety and quality of schools in his town of Apple Valley.

California cities already had several odds stacked against them going into CNN's "Best Places to Live 2010" survey, which ranked cities with populations between 50,000 and 300,000 on 38 factors from air quality to property taxes. Income tax rates for the highest bracket here are nearly 30 percent above the "best places" average, sales tax is more than 51 percent higher and there's a fraction of the per-person spending on the arts.

Irvine was the only city in California to make the list's top 25, snagging the No. 22 spot as one of the most highly educated towns in America. Only three other Golden State cities made the list at all: Yorba Linda at No. 38, Pleasanton No. 63 and Rocklin No. 65.

But Victorville trounced the competition when it came to job growth between 2000 and 2009, with a 76 percent hike, according to CNN's survey. The average "best places" city only saw a 15.7 percent growth.

While local median incomes are nearly 40 percent below the "best places" average, Victor Valley residents only have to drive an hour and a half or so to hit the country's No. 1 hot spot for the single and wealthy: Newport Beach. There, 30 percent of the population is unmarried and the average median income is \$144,917 a year.

Locally, residents are a bit younger and have a slightly higher divorce rate than the average "best places" city. There's less access to restaurants, movie theaters, libraries and museums — in keeping with the rural quality that drew some families here in the first place.

Crime rates in Hesperia were right on par with the "best places" average, with Apple Valley's only slightly higher. Victorville, though, had triple the personal crime incidents and 58 percent more property crime incidents.

To read the full story, see Thursday's Daily Press. To subscribe to the Daily Press in print or online, call (760) 241-7755, 1-800-553-2006 or click [here](#).

For a detailed look at the winners and how other cities stacked up, visit [www.money.cnn.com](http://www.money.cnn.com).

Brooke Edwards may be reached at (760) 955-5358 or at [bedwards@VVDailyPress.com](mailto:bedwards@VVDailyPress.com).

© Copyright 2010 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.  
[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)