

# 2012 Economic Health Summary

*Fort Collins: Crafting a dynamic culture of innovation and stewardship to cultivate quality of place and economic health.*

The City of Fort Collins enjoys an economic, social, and environmental vitality that many communities envy. The mission of the Economic Health Office provides a unifying theme geared towards preserving vitality and promoting economic health. If you have interest in understanding the goals and objectives of the Economic Health Office further, please visit [fcgov.com/business](http://fcgov.com/business) and review the full 2012 Economic Health Overview.



## Highlights from 2012

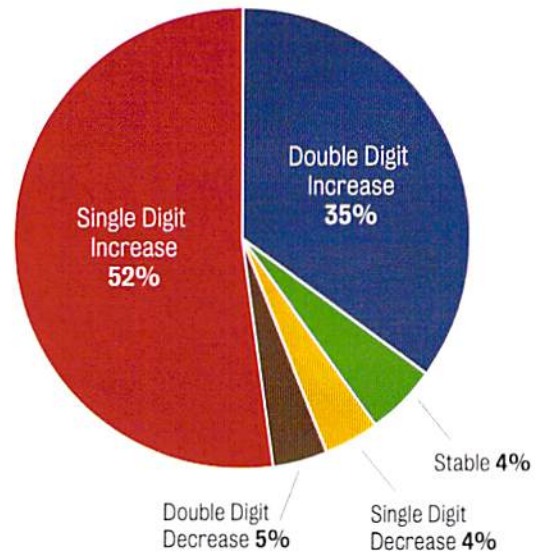
2012 proved to be a busy year for businesses and the City's Economic Health Office (EHO). During 2012, EHO staff worked tirelessly to meet community needs by visiting businesses, sitting on boards and commissions and leveraging resources.

### Major Accomplishments

- EHO staff, in collaboration with the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce and Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation (NCEDEC), held nine Kitchen Cabinet Breakfast meetings for business executives in 2012. The purpose of the breakfast meeting is to learn more about businesses' common challenges globally, nationally and regionally. In addition, it is an opportunity to build stronger working relationships. In all, **31 business executives** attended the Kitchen Cabinet Breakfast. The three most common issues discussed by business executives were skills mismatch, the cost of healthcare and financing. Although these issues are large in nature, the group continues to work toward collaborative solutions and resources.
- **Visited 60 businesses** to gain a better understanding of their day-to-day operations, their successes, organizational needs and opportunities.
- Brought forward **2 Business Assistance Packages**, Forney Industries and Avago Technologies, that were approved by City Council for a total **153 new jobs created** and **\$17.25 million private investment**.
- **Sponsored 9 events** including the Small Business Development Center's Leading Edge, InnovatioNews, Fort Collins Bike Alliance – Interbike, NetZero Cities, Smart Grid Live 2012 and many more.
- **Assisted on 15 special projects**. Although all the special projects are relevant to the economic vitality of Fort Collins, perhaps the two most significant were the Economic Health Strategic Plan adoption and the Midtown Urban Design Plan.
- The Economic Health Office's commitment to continued professional development led to **6 economic development training sessions**.
- Considered **7 Urban Renewal Authority (URA) prospects**. Of these seven, **2 URA loan agreements** were executed, resulting in an estimated **\$3.0 million investment**.
- EHO staff **actively participate in numerous boards and commissions** within our community, such as Make Change NoCo, Larimer County Workforce Force Investment Board, Larimer County SBDC Board and the Colorado Water Innovation Cluster.

## A Look Forward to 2013

2013 looks to be another exciting year of economic vitality for the City of Fort Collins. The City is seeing major investments in the community by businesses and residents alike. Based on the business retention and expansion survey conducted in 2012, 88% of businesses expect single and double-digit growth within the next five years.



## Awards and Recognition

- American Institute's Economic Research 75 Best College Towns and Cities for 2012-2013 – March 2013
- 4th Healthiest Mid-Size City in U.S.: 2012 Gallup-Healthways Survey - Feb 2013
- 2012 Project Award Winner, Re-construction of the SH 392 & I-25 Interchange: American Public Works Association, Colorado Chapter - Jan 2013
- 2012 Top Downtown in the Country: Livability.com - Nov 2012
- Ranked 3rd on Allstate America's Best Drivers Report: AllState - Sep 2012
- One of the Ten Best Vacation Cities for Beer Lovers: Yahoo! Travel.com - Jul 2012
- Ranked 3rd in the nation on Best Places to Do Business list: Forbes.com - Jun 2012
- Ranked 11th on America's Top 50 Bike-Friendly Cities: Bicycle Magazine - May 2012
- Fort Collins-Loveland, Third Skinniest Metro Area on the Well-Being Index: Gallup and Healthways - Mar 2012
- Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport, winner of two "Best in Colorado" awards: Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association - Mar 2012
- One of the Top 10 Best Places to Retire: CBS Money Watch - Feb 2012



For the full 2012 Economic Health Overview, please visit [fcgov.com/business](http://fcgov.com/business).