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Special Report

Best Places For Business And Careers

Edited By Kurt Badenhausen, 05.05.05, 6:00 PM ET

Where are the best places to jump-start a business or a career? Texas and Virginia, with highly educated labor forces and relatively low business costs, score well on our annual ranking of the 150 biggest metros (populations over 345,000), with seven areas in the top 20. No other state places more than one locale in the upper echelon. More



Editor's Welcome



The Ten Best Metros

Best Metros

- 1. Boise ID
2. Raleigh-Durham NC
3. Austin TX
4. Washington DC
5. Albuquerque NM
6. Huntsville AL
7. Fayetteville AR
8. Norfolk VA
9. Atlanta GA
10. Madison WI

Complete List

Map

The 150 Largest Metro Areas



Best Smaller Metros

- 1. Sioux Falls SD
2. Rochester MN
3. State College PA
4. Fargo ND

Sort Best Metros By:

Rank | Name | Cost of Doing Business | Job Growth | Educational Attainment | Population

Sort Best Small Metros By:

Rank | Name | Cost of Doing Business | Job Growth | Educational Attainment | Population

The Best



Business Costs Living Costs Engineers Crime Rates Job Growth Employment Rates

The Worst



Business Costs Living Costs Engineers Crime Rates Job Growth Employment Rates

Verizon Wireless advertisement for Broadband Access, featuring a man using a laptop and a PC card, with text 'Get Unlimited FAST ACCESS from Verizon Wireless' and 'ONLY \$59.99 MONTHLY ACCESS'.

ForbesAutos.com

Is Bigger Better? Forbes AUTOS

With gas guzzlers now going green, the 'go heavy or go home' maxi no longer applies. See the biggest, the best and

Best Places By State

Best Small Places By State

Featured

Threadbare No More

By Mark Tatge

Smart technology is helping revive the tattered textile industry--and putting Raleigh-Durham back on the map.

Too Much Of A Good Thing?

By Matthew Swibel

Highly productive workers are keeping manufacturing jobs in tiny Pella, Iowa. But they're also foiling economic growth.

Biloxi Blues

By Luisa Kroll

The Gulf Coast region seems to have everything going for it. How come it's such a mess?

Polls

Which is **most** important for a dynamic metro area?

- Low business costs
- Low cost of living
- Low crime rate
- Lots of engineers
- Low unemployment rate
- High job growth
- They are all important
- None of the above
- I don't know

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Which is **least** important for a dynamic metro area?

- Low business costs
- Low cost of living
- Low crime rate
- Lots of engineers
- Low unemployment rate
- High job growth
- They are all important
- None of the above
- I don't know

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5. Bismarck ND
6. Rapid City SD
7. Lincoln NE
8. Las Cruces NM
9. Iowa City IA
10. Bloomington IN

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