



Special Report

Best Places For Business And Careers

Kurt Badenhausen, 05.05.05, 6:00 PM ET

2002 2003 2004 2005

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

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

Best Places By State

All

Best Small Places By State

All

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

Complete List

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