



Special Report

# Best Places For Business And Careers

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

### 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



## The Worst



## 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

## Downloads

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By Mark Tatge

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

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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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