



Special Report

## Best Places For Business And Careers

03.19.08, 6:00 PM ET

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RANK	METRO AREA	COST OF DOING BUSINESS (RANK) <sup>1</sup>	JOB GROWTH (RANK) <sup>2</sup>	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (RANK) <sup>3</sup>	METRO AREA POPULATION (THOU)
1	Raleigh NC	16	21	11	1,034
2	Boise ID	17	13	87	585
3	Fort Collins CO	60	80	6	281
4	Des Moines IA	49	60	44	543
5	Lexington KY	40	110	37	443
6	Atlanta GA	114	69	34	5,266
7	Richmond VA	46	75	62	1,211
8	Olympia WA	100	22	41	240
9	Spokane WA	35	36	85	452
10	Knoxville TN	19	84	95	673
11	Provo UT	75	8	30	483
12	Durham NC	36	82	8	472
13	Albuquerque NM	34	47	55	833
14	Indianapolis IN	71	95	64	1,688
15	Nashville TN	42	45	79	1,470
16	Colorado Springs CO	89	115	25	608
17	Fayetteville AR	12	16	143	431
18	Lincoln NE	21	132	24	288
19	Springfield MO	10	41	140	410
20	Seattle WA	158	61	15	2,545
21	Mercer County NJ	160	42	18	370
22	Naples FL	103	5	49	320
23	Ogden UT	68	29	94	506
24	Lynchburg VA	27	58	164	241
25	Washington DC-Northern VA	181	39	7	4,191

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FULL COVERAGE >

<sup>1</sup>Index based on cost of labor, energy, taxes and office space.

<sup>2</sup>5-year annualized figures.

<sup>3</sup>Share of Population over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Sources: *Economy.com*; *Sperling's BestPlaces*.

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26	Asheville NC	2	91	125	404
27	Gainesville FL	62	73	13	247
28	Virginia Beach VA	29	100	111	1,660
29	Madison WI	131	96	12	549
30	Allentown PA	64	85	131	811
31	Denver CO	129	113	20	2,454
32	Little Rock AR	31	72	104	660
33	Houston TX	122	46	69	5,682
34	Omaha NE	78	109	57	838
35	Portland OR	134	55	52	2,173
36	Eugene OR	22	78	81	341
37	Charlotte NC	57	53	51	1,633
38	Wilmington NC	3	12	107	335
39	San Antonio TX	15	49	120	1,989
40	Lake County IL	138	120	21	885
41	Tampa-St. Petersburg FL	113	32	132	2,739
42	Cedar Rapids IA	20	131	83	252
43	Tacoma WA	84	31	152	782
44	Phoenix AZ	130	10	93	4,157
45	Oklahoma City OK	23	86	97	1,181
46	Sarasota FL	101	14	100	695
47	Austin TX	143	28	14	1,568
48	Ann Arbor MI	140	191	3	347
49	Tucson AZ	107	27	72	964
50	Huntsville AL	88	34	27	383

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51	Edison NJ	179	135	26	2,320
52	Rochester NY	86	175	58	1,035
53	Harrisburg PA	108	136	106	529
54	Pensacola FL	73	35	134	443
55	Jackson MS	90	70	76	534
56	Columbia SC	59	74	71	719
57	Greeley CO	111	23	127	241
58	Hagerstown MD	74	89	189	265
59	Winston-Salem NC	7	118	112	463
60	Salem OR	51	54	149	389
61	Lakeland FL	79	15	188	571
62	West Palm Beach FL	173	24	59	1,311
63	Fort Worth-Arlington TX	96	66	86	2,031
64	Orlando FL	137	11	99	2,038
65	Tallahassee FL	99	52	17	341
66	Jacksonville FL	132	30	123	1,296
67	Portland ME	156	145	50	514
68	Wilmington DE	41	127	77	699
69	St. Louis MO	77	151	98	2,831
70	Palm Bay FL	119	33	114	544
71	Baltimore MD	154	124	40	2,670
72	Fort Lauderdale FL	142	25	90	1,825
73	Fort Wayne IN	11	134	142	412
74	Poughkeepsie NY	135	108	101	677
75	Camden NJ	149	71	89	1,260

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76	Cape Coral FL	94	1	138	591
77	Boulder CO	126	129	1	285
78	Riverside CA	124	7	184	4,120
79	Gary IN	33	147	175	705

80	Columbus OH	97	150	48	1,743
81	Scranton PA	63	140	178	550
82	Salt Lake City UT	104	26	63	1,085
83	Pittsburgh PA	118	179	116	2,363
84	Greensboro NC	1	139	115	696
85	Sacramento CA	169	51	67	2,097
86	New Haven CT	147	173	65	849
87	South Bend IN	28	178	141	320
88	Holland MI	115	166	80	261
89	Charleston SC	92	37	84	617
90	Savannah GA	83	18	121	327
91	Louisville KY	37	126	144	1,232
92	Santa Ana CA	184	64	29	3,016
93	Dallas TX	168	59	31	4,113
94	Albany NY	176	159	43	853
95	Kansas City MO	127	122	47	1,988
96	Deltona FL	80	19	173	507
97	Fort Smith AR	9	63	198	292
98	Roanoke VA	14	169	150	296
99	York PA	98	65	166	422
100	Huntington WV	38	90	190	285

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101	Cincinnati OH	120	144	96	2,118
102	Montgomery AL	53	57	88	369
103	Minneapolis-St. Paul MN	172	116	23	3,214
104	Bethesda MD	164	104	2	1,172
105	Chicago IL	155	157	42	7,984
106	San Diego CA	189	97	38	2,953
107	Newark NJ	185	171	28	2,159
108	Peoria IL	58	102	146	371
109	Hartford CT	146	167	35	1,195
110	Ocala FL	109	6	194	331
111	Green Bay WI	93	123	154	301

112	Las Vegas NV	121	2	167	1,846
113	Milwaukee WI	153	158	68	1,515
114	Warren MI	144	196	61	2,510
115	Kingsport TN	8	148	186	303
116	Davenport IA	30	142	155	377
117	Clarksville TN	24	56	181	242
118	Providence RI	145	152	118	1,619
119	Port St. Lucie FL	117	4	156	403
120	Worcester MA	188	153	70	788
121	New York NY	200	143	46	11,570
122	Rockingham County NH	186	98	36	420
123	Lancaster PA	82	117	153	499
124	Duluth MN	69	155	151	273
125	Greenville SC	76	103	113	610

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126	Grand Rapids MI	67	183	124	779
127	Columbus GA	47	146	162	297
128	Amarillo TX	45	67	145	244
129	Long Island NY	170	141	32	2,790
130	Chattanooga TN	18	106	157	497
131	Oxnard CA	174	92	75	811
132	Philadelphia PA	193	165	45	3,893
133	Southern Conn.	191	156	9	905
134	Manchester NH	187	125	39	404
135	Akron OH	102	94	102	700
136	Evansville IN	26	176	177	352
137	Reno NV	106	20	108	410
138	Lansing MI	91	194	54	454
139	Wichita KS	48	121	92	597
140	Tulsa OK	65	101	128	903
141	Syracuse NY	163	172	82	650
142	Baton Rouge LA	50	43	126	759
143	Honolulu HI	195	38	60	915

144	Dayton OH	70	193	122	838
145	El Paso TX	13	105	182	750
146	Anchorage AK	105	68	74	363
147	Miami FL	165	88	135	2,435
148	Kalamazoo MI	123	188	66	320
149	Cleveland OH	139	185	109	2,104
150	Charleston WV	39	164	176	306

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151	Norwich CT	167	161	78	263
152	Memphis TN	81	112	129	1,285
153	Birmingham AL	85	111	119	1,114
154	Los Angeles CA	178	154	105	9,986
155	Cambridge MA	196	190	4	1,473
156	Myrtle Beach SC	54	9	161	248
157	Oakland CA	192	163	19	2,501
158	Augusta GA	55	128	147	529
159	Mobile AL	25	107	165	413
160	Boston MA	199	168	16	1,843
161	New Orleans LA	56	200	110	1,093
162	Shreveport LA	5	81	158	387
163	Lafayette LA	32	50	133	256
164	Buffalo NY	151	177	117	1,135
165	Santa Barbara CA	157	114	53	403
166	San Francisco CA	197	184	5	1,709
167	Binghamton NY	136	189	130	247
168	Springfield MA	166	174	91	687
169	San Luis Obispo CA	177	119	73	260
170	McAllen TX	128	3	197	715
171	Peabody MA	194	180	33	739
172	Fayetteville NC	6	40	171	344
173	Toledo OH	72	182	137	653
174	San Jose CA	198	187	10	1,803
175	Canton OH	44	197	180	410



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176	Rockford IL	87	162	160	355
177	Hickory NC	4	195	196	363
178	Youngstown OH	61	192	185	585
179	Bakersfield CA	161	17	193	789
180	Reading PA	125	130	163	405
181	Spartanburg SC	66	170	169	273
182	Lubbock TX	110	77	103	263
183	Beaumont TX	43	133	191	368
184	Erie PA	141	160	148	279
185	Atlantic City NJ	182	149	159	273
186	Fresno CA	148	62	172	903
187	Santa Cruz CA	171	138	22	251
188	Santa Rosa CA	175	137	56	469
189	Corpus Christi TX	52	87	168	419
190	Flint MI	95	198	183	441
191	Brownsville TX	116	83	195	396
192	Vallejo CA	159	48	139	416
193	Utica NY	190	181	174	297
194	Visalia CA	152	44	199	429
195	Detroit MI	162	199	179	1,946
196	Stockton CA	183	79	187	684
197	Killeen TX	112	93	170	355
198	Modesto CA	133	99	192	520
199	Merced CA	180	76	200	249
200	Salinas CA	150	186	136	411

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