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## Special Report

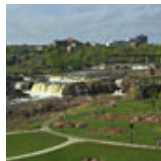
# Best Places For Business And Careers

Kurt Badenhausen 04.05.07, 6:00 PM ET

The news on the economy in recent months has been uninspiring. The subprime lending mess threatens to accelerate the housing slowdown. Gas prices are at their highest in eight months. Gross domestic product growth this year is expected to be less than 3% for the first time since 2003. But one part of the country consistently manages to produce strong economic growth and still keep costs down. For the second straight year the Southeast placed 5 metros in the Top 10 of our Best Places for Business and Careers. While most economies in the West have also outperformed their peers in the Northeast and Midwest over the past four years, living costs there have risen dramatically. Housing prices in Phoenix, spurred in part by easy lending, are up 57% in the past two years, knocking it off our Top 10.



In Pictures: [Best Places for Business and Careers](#)



In Pictures: [Best Small Places for Business and Careers](#)

For this year's ranking we relied on economic research firm Economy.com (owned by Moody's) for its indexes on business and living costs. It also supplied five-year historical figures on job and income growth, as well as migration trends. Other data used in the rankings came courtesy of Portland, Ore. researcher Bertrand Sperling. He considered the education of the workforce in each metro area, as well as such quality-of-life issues as crime rates and cultural opportunities. [More...](#)

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## The Best

### Best Metros

1. [Raleigh NC](#)
  2. [Provo UT](#)
  3. [Boise ID](#)
  4. [Des Moines IA](#)
  5. [Knoxville TN](#)
  6. [Albuquerque NM](#)
  7. [Durham NC](#)
  8. [Fayetteville AR](#)
  9. [Nashville TN](#)
  10. [Olympia WA](#)
- [Complete List](#)

### Map



### Best Smaller Metros

1. [Sioux Falls SD](#)
  2. [Bismarck ND](#)
  3. [Columbia MO](#)
  4. [Fargo ND](#)
  5. [Iowa City IA](#)
  6. [Bloomington IN](#)
  7. [Rapid City SD](#)
  8. [Las Cruces NM](#)
  9. [Morgantown WV](#)
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- Boise, Idaho
- Des Moines, Iowa
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- Durham, N.C.
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- Nashville, Tenn.
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- None of the above
- I don't know

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