

May 9, 2003

Forbes: Austin tops list of places for business

Austin is the best place in the country for business and careers, according to the June issue of Forbes magazine on newstands Friday.

A high quality of life and educated labor force lifted Texas' capital city to the top of the financial publication's list.

Austin outshone 149 other large metro areas for Forbes' 2003 list of the Best Places for Business and Careers.

"Even in hard economic times, the qualities that make Austin a special place to live and work and play stand out nationally," says Toby Futrell, Austin's city manager.

In addition to income and job growth, this year's list uses criteria such as the cost to do business, housing affordability, qualifications of the labor pool and attractiveness of a region based on crime rates.

The top 10 of the Forbes Best Places for Business and Careers are:

1. Austin.
2. Boise, Idaho.
3. Raleigh-Durham, N.C.
4. Atlanta.
5. Provo, Utah.
6. Madison, Wis.
7. Omaha, Neb.
8. Des Moines, Iowa
9. Dallas.
10. Washington, D.C.-Northern Virginia.