

Special Report

## Best Places For Business And Careers

05.09.03, 7:00 AM ET

**To reflect the changing times**, we changed the way we compile our ranking of Best Places For Business And Careers, turning to analysts at Economy.com, the West Chester, Pa.-based economic and financial research firm. In this, our fifth annual survey, we still kept a careful eye on income and job growth. But we also gave special attention to the cost-of-doing-business, which includes the prices of labor, energy, taxes and office space. We looked closely at the qualifications of the available pool of labor. For the first time our rankings also characterized the attractiveness of a region by figuring in crime rates, housing costs and net migration.

1. [Austin, TX](#)
2. [Boise, ID](#)
3. [Raleigh-Durham, NC](#)
4. [Atlanta, GA](#)
5. [Madison, WI](#)
6. [Provo, UT](#)
7. [Omaha, NE](#)
8. [Des Moines, IA](#)
9. [Dallas, TX](#)
10. [Washington, DC-Northern VA](#)