



Special Report

## Best Places For Business And Careers

Edited By Kurt Badenhausen, 05.05.05

**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.

### 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](#)