

THE BEST PLACES
FORBES' 2011 RANKING OF AMERICA'S BEST PLACES FOR BUSINESS



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New York, NY (July 1, 2011) — Raleigh, N.C. tops Forbes' 2011 ranking of America's Top Metros For Business in “The Best Places” (p. 67), also available online at www.forbes.com/best-places. The nation's heartland is home to 80% of the top 25 regions on the list of Best Places. Des Moines, Iowa; Provo, Utah; Lexington, Ky. and Fort Collins, Colo. round out the top five large metro areas. Among the Best Small Places – metros with fewer than 250,000 people – Manhattan, Kans. is No. 1, followed by Sioux Falls, S.D.; Bismarck, N.D.; Logan, Utah; and Bowling Green, Ky.

Detroit is far from No. 1 on the list, but Mayor Dave Bing has plans to make the city great again, in “City of Hope,” (p. 86 and at www.forbes.com/detroit). To help yank the city back from the brink, he's leaning on the best minds in business, government and education. Here's why it might work this time, with a compelling conversation among Bing and 14 other business and political leaders who spoke with Forbes' Detroit Bureau Chief about how it might work, in “The Conversation” (p. 89). In “Boomtowns and Busts” (p. 76), some numbers behind the list, plus Texas vs. California and “Spotlight on Rochester, N.Y.”

With the release of the 2011 Best Places list on Forbes.com, Forbes Media launches its interactive “Places” profile pages, which complement its previously launched “Companies” and “People” profile pages. Together these pages offer Forbes.com readers access to comprehensive information about the cities, people and companies Forbes covers.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

SKEWED VIEW (p. 22) – Your favorite TV sitcoms and dramas all share a carefully disguised political slant according to lawyer and author Ben Shapiro.

MONSTER BILLIONAIRE MANSIONS (p. 24) – Think *your* home is expensive? Four recent monster deals.

CUT THE MIDDLEMAN (p. 46) – Advice for homeowners who are thinking of selling their homes without a realtor. It's a lot of work, but it can definitely pay off.

ALL GROWN UP (p. 98) – Southwest Airlines is turning 40, and is now the biggest domestic airline. Can CEO Gary Kelly keep up the maverick shtick?

WILL FACEBOOK DESTROY YOUR JOB SEARCH? (p. 104) – Employers are using companies like Social Intelligence Corp. to dig ever deeper into our social media lives. A conversation with readers.

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