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Special Report Best Small Places For Business And Careers

03.19.08, 6:00 PM ET

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RANK	METRO AREA	COST OF DOING BUSINESS (RANK) ¹	JOB GROWTH (RANK) ²	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (RANK) ³	METRO AREA POPULATION (THOU)
1	Sioux Falls SD	3	49	30	218
2	Iowa City IA	22	68	5	141
3	Bloomington IN	11	120	23	181
4	Columbia MO	13	65	6	156
5	Bismarck ND	18	25	33	102
6	Morgantown WV	37	19	28	116
7	Rapid City SD	1	87	49	120
8	Greenville NC	4	27	35	168
9	Charlottesville VA	31	41	7	191
10	Blacksburg VA	33	107	29	152
11	Fargo ND	62	38	22	189
12	Bowling Green KY	48	26	48	115
13	Athens GA	94	63	16	188
14	Las Cruces NM	40	30	54	198
15	Waterloo IA	49	125	53	162
16	Lafayette IN	17	145	20	188
17	Columbus IN	39	61	60	75
18	Dubuque IA	68	37	61	92
19	Winchester VA	44	21	99	120
20	Bloomington IL	25	159	9	162
21	Coeur d'Alene ID	29	3	91	135
22	Pocatello ID	26	52	42	86
23	State College PA	106	123	8	142
24	Lawrence KS	91	128	4	113
25	Johnson City TN	30	56	93	192

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¹Index based on cost of labor, energy, taxes and office space.
²5-year annualized figures.
³Share of Population over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher.
 Sources: Economy.com; Sperling's BestPlaces.

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