

■ MONDAY: Building permits, site plans, leases ■ TUESDAY: Promotions, new hires ■ WEDNESDAY: Patents ■ THURSDAY: New businesses, bankruptcies ■ FRIDAY: Calendar

Divided Triangle in Forbes ranking

Two cities among 10 best places

By JOHN MURAWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Forbes magazine rates Raleigh and Durham among the nation's top 10 places to do business or have a career.

The ranking, included in the magazine's May 22 issue, catapults the Triangle into the pro-business stratosphere shared by such hot destinations as Fayetteville, Ark., Albuquerque, N.M., and Boise, Idaho.

It's an odd assortment of corporate meccas, without question, because of Forbes' methodology, which takes into account housing costs and arts and leisure.

"These areas provide a good combination of low costs, educated labor supply, and strong job and income growth," said Forbes associate editor Kurt Badenhäusen. "The difference between second and third, or between second and sixth, is really ... [splitting] hairs here."

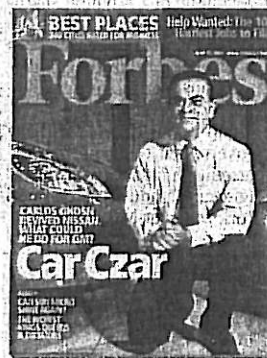
The Triangle has ranked in the top 10 of the Forbes list for the past four years, coming in second last year.

This is the first time that Raleigh and Durham are rated separately, because until now, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget had lumped the two cities together as one metropolitan statistical area, Badenhäusen said.

"Durham is doing just fine on its own, thriving within the tech-heavy Research Triangle," according to Forbes.com. "The city can claim to have the nation's sixth-most-educated labor force: 40 percent of its adult population holds a college degree and 18 percent an advanced degree."

With Asheville ranked 24th, North Carolina is the only state with three cities in the top 25.

Major urban centers such as San Francisco, Boston and New York were knocked out of the top tier largely because of exorbitant housing costs.



FORBES' HOT LIST

In Forbes magazine's latest ranking, North Carolina has three cities in the top 25, more than any other state.

Best metro areas for business and careers

1. Albuquerque, N.M.
2. Raleigh
3. Houston
4. Boise, Idaho
5. Knoxville, Tenn.
6. Phoenix
7. Nashville, Tenn.
8. Durham
9. Fayetteville, Ark.
10. Indianapolis
24. Asheville

SOURCE: FORBES MAGAZINE