

SMALL-BUSINESS VITALITY RANKINGS

Portfolio.com & bizjournals used a six-part formula to analyze the nation's 100 largest metros, looking for the places that are most conducive to the creation and development of small businesses.

2010 rank	Metropolitan area	Small-business vitality score	Small businesses (2007)	Small businesses per 1,000 residents (2007)	Change in private-sector employment (2004-09)	Change in population (2003-08)	Population (2008)
1	Austin	51.05	38,602	24.24	15.58%	19.52%	1,652,602
2	Baton Rouge, La.	37.19	17,527	22.78	9.95%	7.72%	774,327
3	Raleigh	32.89	28,649	27.44	9.99%	22.46%	1,088,765
4	Charleston, S.C.	32.49	16,896	26.8	5.95%	11.77%	644,506
5	Portland, Maine	30.1	17,747	34.64	-2.00%	1.61%	514,065
6	McAllen-Edinburg, Texas	28.69	10,312	14.62	17.65%	15.69%	726,604
7	Miami-Fort Lauderdale	28.5	175,917	32.62	-0.30%	3.26%	5,414,772
8	Des Moines, Iowa	27.62	14,733	27	4.87%	10.28%	556,230
9	Salt Lake City	27.08	32,195	29.39	8.04%	9.73%	1,115,692
10	Seattle	26.51	98,486	29.86	6.45%	6.63%	3,344,813
11	Little Rock, Ark.	24.05	17,589	26.42	2.97%	7.26%	675,069
12	Columbia, S.C.	23.32	17,303	24.18	4.02%	8.24%	728,063
13	Jacksonville	21.96	35,477	27.34	1.06%	9.96%	1,313,228
14	Omaha	19.45	21,770	26.3	3.20%	6.03%	837,925
15	Oklahoma City	19.34	32,110	27	3.29%	6.64%	1,206,142
16	Greenville, S.C.	17.78	15,365	25.08	3.72%	8.39%	624,715
17	Orlando	16.41	57,525	28.36	2.81%	14.06%	2,054,574
18	Madison, Wis.	16.12	15,211	27.44	1.27%	6.70%	561,505
19	Washington	15.92	139,218	26.26	2.08%	5.38%	5,358,130
20	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	13.72	16,905	25.28	-2.42%	3.17%	672,525

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