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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Rating and Rankings

## Houston #1

### **Top Texas Employer - Dow Chemical, Freeport**

*Texas Workforce Commission - November 19, 2010*

### **Lowest Estimated Land and Regulation Costs**

*New Geography - November 1, 2010*

### **Best Cities to Start a New Career**

*The Daily Beast - October 2010*

### **Best Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Program - University of Houston**

*The Princeton Review (as reported by Entrepreneur.com) – September 2010*

### **America's Best Airports**

*Travel + Leisure – July 2010*

### **Largest 5 Year Employment Gain (June 2005 - June 2010)**

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (as Reported by the Houston Business Journal) – July 28, 2010*

### **Top Cities for Recent College Grads**

*Bloomberg Businessweek – July 16, 2010*

### **Top Local Government Green Power Purchaser**

*Environmental Protection Agency - July 6, 2010*

### **The Office Building of the Year (TOBY) Award - Legacy Center Business Park and Greenway Plaza**

*BOMA International – June 17, 2010*

### **Best Cities for Young Professionals**

*Forbes.com – June 17, 2010*

### **Highest Level of Entrepreneurial Activity Among Largest Metro Areas**

*Kauffman Foundation of Entrepreneurship – May 2010*

### **Top U.S. Manufacturing Cities**

*Manufacturers' News – May 21, 2010*

### **Top Destination City**

*U-Haul International – April 2, 2010*

### **Largest Population Gain - Harris County**

*U.S. Census Bureau – March 23, 2010*

### **Top Selling Master-Planned Community - Cinco Ranch**

*RCLCO– March 22, 2010*

### **Highest Growth Rate in Texas - Atascocita**

*Bloomberg BusinessWeek and Gadberry Group– January 2010*

### **Texas' Largest Hospital District - Harris County Hospital District**

*Greater Houston Partnership Research - December 2009*

**Mega Market of the Year***Southern Business Development - August 2009***Highest Quality of Life Among Students - Rice University***Princeton Review (as reported by Rice University) - July 28, 2009***America's Best Hospitals - Cancer, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center***U.S News & World Report - July 15, 2009***Lowest Cost of Living Among Major Metro Areas***ACCRA Cost of Living Index - Second Quarter 2009***Best City to Get Ahead***Forbes.com - June 19, 2009***Top Texas Tourist Destination***Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism- May 12, 2009***Most Business Friendly***FDI Magazine - April 2009***Top Metro in the Nation***Site Selection Magazine - March 2009***Best Affordable Suburb in Texas - Friendswood***BusinessWeek- February 2009***Nation's Healthiest Housing Market***Builder and Hanley Wood Market Intelligence - February 2009***Best U.S. City to Earn a Living***Forbes.com - August 18, 2008***Best City to Buy a Home***Forbes.com - July 14, 2008***Best City to Live, Work and Play***Kiplinger's Personal Finance - July 2008***Best City for Your Job***BusinessWeek - June 12, 2008***Best City for Recent College Grads***Forbes.com - June 26, 2008***Largest IT Service Economy***Onforce, Inc. (VoIP Monitor) – December 5, 2008***Most Accessible City for the Disabled***The National Organization on Disability - February 14, 2008***Highest Population Growth in the Nation***U.S. Census Bureau (as reported in the Houston Business Journal) - July 10, 2008*

# Houston #2

**World's Top Amphitheatres - Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion***Pollstar Magazine (as reported by CultureMap.com) - October 18, 2010***Most Charity Conscious Cities***Charity Navigator - June 1, 2010***Largest Population Gain Among Metro Areas**

*U.S. Census Bureau - March 23, 2010*

**Counties with Highest Job Growth - Montgomery**

*Bureau of Labor Statistics - October 16, 2009*

**Nation's Top Export Markets**

*U.S. Department of Commerce - July 14, 2008*

# Houston #3

**Number of Fortune 500 Headquarters**

*Fortune Magazine - April 2010*

**Best Cities for Jobs**

*Forbes.com - April 20, 2010*

**Best Housing Markets**

*Forbes.com - February 2010*

**Counties with Highest Job Growth - Fort Bend**

*Bureau of Labor Statistics - October 16, 2009*

**Fastest Growing Cities**

*US Census Bureau - July 2009*

**North American Cities of the Future**

*FDI Magazine - April 2009*

**Green Jobs**

*Global Insight - October 2008*

**Nation's Most Charitable Cities**

*Charity Navigator's 2008 Metro Market Charitable Analysis Study*

# Houston #4

**Best Value in Private Colleges - Rice University**

*Kiplinger - October 2010*

**Annual Exports**

*The Brookings Institution - July 2010*

**Economic Strength**

*Policom Corporation - May 13, 2010*

**Where the Recession is Easing**

*Forbes.com - March 2010*

**America's Most Generous Cities**

*Entertainment Publications (as reported by PRNewswire) - December 2009*

**Hottest Labor Markets**

*Bizjournals.com - October 16, 2009*

**Best Metro Areas to Launch a Small Business**

*CNN Money - October 2009*

**Green Space**

*Smarter Cities - August 2009*

**Cities Where Your Nest Egg Goes Farthest**

*Forbes.com - October 2008*

**Best Big City for Business**

*Inc.com - July 2008*

**Top Ten Up-and-Coming Tech Cities**

*Forbes.com - March 10, 2008*

**Top Cities for African Americans**

*BlackEnterprise.com - September 17, 2007*

**Best Value in Private Institutions - Rice University**

*Kiplinger's - February 2009*

## Houston #5

**Top Counties for Job Growth - Fort Bend County**

*CNN Money - July 12, 2010*

**Best Places for Young Adults**

*Portfolio.com - March 2010*

**Best Performing Cities**

*Milken Institute- November 2009*

**Top Markets for Income Growth**

*BizJournals.com- September 2009*

**Highest Total Personal Income**

*Bureau of Economic Analysis - August 6, 2009*

**America's Best Hospitals - Heart, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital**

*U.S News & World Report - July 15, 2009*

**Largest Share of National GETUP**

*Federal Highway Administration; Department of Commerce (as reported in the New York Times) – July 2, 2009*

## Houston #6

**Best Cities to Own a Home**

*Forbes.com – October 26, 2010*

**Top Graduate Programs for Entrepreneurs - Rice University**

*The Princeton Review (as reported by Entrepreneur.com) – September 2010*

**Total Single Establishment Births - Harris County**

*Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy – May 2010*

**Most Employed in Science and Engineering Occupations**

*Bureau of Labor Statistics (as reported by the National Science Foundation) – April 2010*

**Most Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings**

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – March 2010*

**Where the Jobs Are - Fort Bend County**

*CNNMoney.com - July 13, 2009*

**Best U.S. University for Nanotechnology Research and Commercialization**

*Small Times: Annual University Survey - May 5, 2009*

**Highest Number of Master's Degrees**

*The Comparative Guide to American Suburbs 2009/2010 Edition*

**Top U.S. Real Estate Investment Markets**

*Urban Land Institute (as reported in the Houston Business Journal) - January 10, 2008*

# Houston #7

**America's Most Affordable Cities**

*Forbes.com - October 28, 2010*

**Top U.S. Art Cities**

*Artforum.com - 2010*

**Least Expensive Large U.S. Cities for Business**

*KPMG - April 2010*

**World's Smartest Cities**

*Forbes.com - December 2009*

**America's Most Visited Museums - Houston Museum of Natural Science**

*ForbesTraveler.com - March 10, 2009*

# Houston #8

**Top Cities for Clean-Tech Jobs**

*Clean Edge, Inc. - October 2010*

**America's Fastest Recovering Cities**

*Forbes.com - November 19, 2009*

# Houston #9

**America's Best Airports - George Bush Intercontinental**

*The Daily Beast - November 2010*

**Most Livable Bargain Markets**

*MSN Real Estate - October 2009*

**Most Affordable Cities for Dating**

*Match.com - August 18, 2009*

**Best Zoos for Kids**

*Parents.com - April 14, 2009*

# Houston #10

**Inc. 5000 - Top Metro Areas**

*Inc. Magazine - August 24, 2010*

**Green Energy Leaders**

*Scientific American- June 2009*

**The World's Most Inventive Cities**

*BusinessWeek - April 2009*

**Highest Number of High School Graduates - Cinco Ranch**

# Houston "Other"

**10 American Cities Best Situated for Recovery**

*Newsweek – November 8, 2010*

**10 Great Cities for Young Adults**

*Kiplinger.com – July 27, 2010*

**America's Best Children's Hospitals - Texas Children's Hospital**

*U.S. News and World Report – June 2, 2010*

**America's Top 10 Underrated Cities**

*Sherman's Travel – May 2010*

**Top 5 Locations for Logistics Companies - Greenspoint District**

*Expansion Solutions Magazine (as reported by GlobeSt.com) – April 21, 2010*

**Ten Technology Incubators that are Changing the World - Houston Technology Center**

*Forbes.com - April 16, 2010*

**America's Safest Cities - Sugar Land**

*CQ Press (as reported in the Houston Business Journal) - November 23, 2009*

**Great Places in America - Montrose**

*American Planning Association - October 2009*

**Top Ten Places for Tech Jobs**

*US News and World Report- September 15, 2009*

**World Capital of the Future**

*Forbes.com- September 2, 2009*

# Texas #1

**Top States for Surface Trade with Mexico**

*Bureau of Transportation Statistics – November 3, 2010*

**America's Top States for Business**

*CNBC - July 13, 2010*

**Most Popular Destination for Movers**

*Relocation.com (as reported in the Houston Business Journal) - July 8, 2010*

**Best State To Do Business**

*Chief Executive Magazine - April 29, 2010*

**Top States for Mobile Capital Investment**

*CoStar Group - April 28, 2010*

**Highest Population Growth in the Nation**

*U.S. Census Bureau - December 2009*

**Best Business Climate**

*Site Selection Magazine, Executive Survey - October 2009*

**Wind Power Capacity**

*American Wind Energy Association - April 13, 2009*

**Fortune 500 Headquarters**

*Fortune Magazine - April 2009*

**Nation's Number One Exporting State**

*U.S. Department of Commerce - February 2009*

**Residential Relocations**

*Allied Van Lines' Magnet States Report (as reported in the Houston Business Journal) - January 19, 2009*

**America's Top State for Business**

*CNBC.com - July 2008*

**Most Favorable Business Climate in the Nation**

*Development Counselors International (DCI) - "Winning Strategies in Economic Development Marketing" - July 2008*

**2008 Gold Shovel Recipient**

*Area Development Magazine - June/July 2008*