

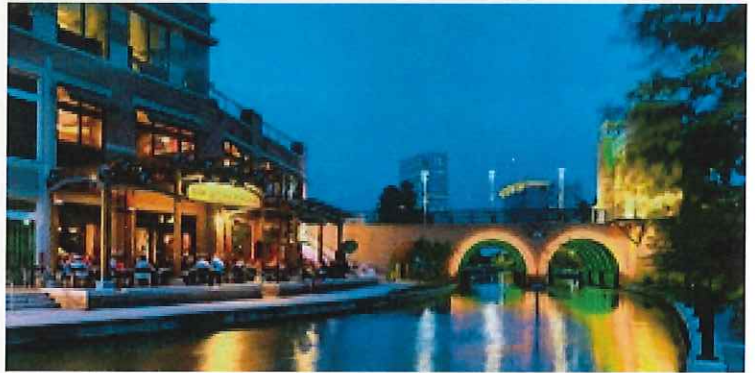
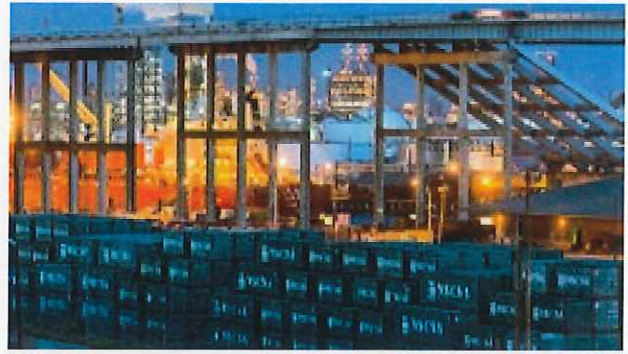


- **Metro Atlanta**
- **Metro Dallas-Fort Worth**
- **Metro Houston**
- **Tampa Bay**

We continue with our series, "The Best of Economic Development in the American South." Since the spring 2015 issue, we have featured the best of economic development in all 15 Southern states, and now we move to mega-markets (populations over 2.5 million). We polled members of the Southern Economic Development Roundtable to come up with the best of 20 economic development categories in metro Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and Tampa Bay. You can use the results as a unique aid in your search for a suitable site for your business in the American South.



BEST OF HOUSTON



Sugar Land was named one of best places to live, best places for headquarter operations and best places for the life sciences in Metro Houston. Sugar Land was "the center of the sugar industry from Texas colonial days and the site of the first sugar refinery in Texas located by S.M. Williams on land granted to him by the Mexican government."

The Port of Houston (top right) was also named one of Metro Houston's most important employers.

The Woodlands (right) was named one of best places to live, best places for headquarter operations and best places for the life sciences in Metro Houston.

Also receiving votes: Clear Creek Independent School District; Conroe Independent School District; Humble Independent School District.

7. Best Places for Headquarter Operations in Metro Houston

- Energy Corridor
- Greenspoint
- Sugar Land
- The Woodlands

Also receiving votes: Downtown Houston; Northwest Harris County; Westchase District.

8. Best Places for Startups in Metro Houston

- Houston Technology Center
- Rice Alliance
- RED Labs

Also receiving votes: Surge Accelerator.

9. Best Places to Start a Business in Metro Houston's Suburbs

- Katy
- League City

- Stafford
- Sugar Land
- Webster

Also receiving votes: Deer Park; The Woodlands.

10. Best Places for the Life Sciences in Metro Houston

- Houston
- Pearland
- Sugar Land
- The Woodlands

Also receiving votes: Conroe; Friendswood; Stafford.

11. Best Large Blocks of Class A Office Space in Metro Houston

- Downtown Houston
- Energy Corridor
- Greenspoint

12. Best Places for Distribution Centers in Metro Houston

- Baytown
- Cedar Port Industrial Park
- Cypress
- Katy

Also receiving votes: Conroe; Houston; Humble;

Northwest Houston

13. Best Small Town Manufacturing Workforces in Metro Houston

- Baytown
- La Porte
- Pasadena

Also receiving votes: Freeport; Texas City.

14. Best Places for Manufacturing in the North Houston Region

- Conroe
- The Woodlands
- Tomball

15. Best Places for Manufacturing in the East Houston Region

- Baytown
- La Porte
- Pasadena

16. Best Places for Manufacturing in the South Houston Region

- Angleton
- Brazoria County
- Freeport
- Pearland

17. Best Places for Manufacturing in the West Houston Region

- Katy
- Rosenberg
- Sealy

18. Best Industrial/Flex Sites in Metro Houston

- AmeriPort Industrial Park-Chambers County
- Generation Park-Harris County
- Cedar Port Industrial Park-Chambers County

19. Best Community Colleges in Metro Houston for Workforce Training

- Houston Community College
- Lone Star College
- San Jacinto College

20. Fastest Growing Counties in Metro Houston (2010-2014)

- Fort Bend County 17 percent
- Harris County 11 percent
- Brazoria County 8.1 percent