

Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Quality of Life

Over and over again, the Fargo Moorhead community is ranked among the best places in the country to live, work, attend school and conduct business.

- **Forbes magazine named Fargo to their list of America’s ‘most transformed neighborhoods.’** “Since 1999 more than \$100 million in investments have poured into the so-called ‘Renaissance Zone,’” says the Web site. “Building values rose 100 percent from 2000 to 2009 and North Dakota State University’s expansion in the area has led to a growing young adult demographic.” (August 29, 2011)
- **North Dakota is the only state in the nation to actually be doing better than it was before the recession according to a CNN article entitle “Struggling to Climb Out of the Jobs Hole.”** The article touts North Dakota’s low unemployment rate and job creation numbers in a variety of sectors. (August 12, 2011)
- **Fargo Moorhead’s RibFest made Livability’s list of Top 10 Food Festivals.** “If you want ribs done right, head to Fargo for the annual Happy Harry’s Ribfest,” the article says. “With an array of ribs and barbecue from restaurants all over the country, a riblet fest and “lip-smackin’ lunch” you’re sure to leave this ‘fest satisfied.” (August 10, 2011)
- **Fargo Moorhead is one of the Top 10 College Towns according to Livability.** The ranking is based on where academic endeavors extend beyond the campus and energize the community. According to the article, “Home to multiple campuses, Fargo has earned a reputation of a bona fide college town, but that’s only half the attraction. With a low unemployment rate and plenty of entertainment options, Fargo is fast becoming a location destination of choice.” (August 10, 2011)
- **Fargo was named number six on Inman News’ list of the 10 real estate markets to watch throughout 2011.** Inman News examined housing, economic and demographic data for metropolitan areas nationwide in compiling the list. The list says that the Fargo market is home to several oil, agricultural, medical and technology companies, including Microsoft, that provide ready jobs for graduating students. (August 8, 2011)
- **Fargo has the third lowest jobless rate in the U.S. according to the Labor Department.** The national unemployment rate ticked up to 9.2 percent while Fargo Moorhead’s unemployment is at a 4.2 percent. (August 4, 2011)
- Data from the Labor Department shows that **North Dakota has the shortest term unemployment of any state.** The study examined the length of time that Americans have been trying to find work and found that North Dakota workers were only without employment for 7.6 weeks. (July 22, 2011)
- **North Dakota was named the most social state in the Union** by Tagged, the leading social network for meeting new people. According to the June 2011 study,

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Tagged found that the average North Dakotan requested a staggering 1,956 new friend connections. (July 22, 2011)

- A monthly analysis by The Associated Press shows **that economic stress remains low in the Dakotas**. North Dakota's economy is being fueled by a booming oil industry and by good agriculture markets. The state has been the least stressed since the recession began in December 2007. The list of 20 least economically stressed counties included the North Dakota counties of Ward, Burleigh, Morton, Cass and Grand Forks (July 19, 2011)
- A CNBC report gave North Dakota the top ranking in its economy category for the nation's top business states. The report, *America's Top States for Business in 2011*, scored all 50 states on 43 measures of competitiveness developed with input from business groups. (June 29, 2011)
- "How North Dakota outpaced the U.S. economy" was the headline of a June 16, 2011 article on CNNMoney.com, **outlining a recent report of the economic growth of states** released by the Commerce Department. North Dakota grew the most in 2010, with 7.1 percent growth over 2009. States the article: "North Dakota's mining sector was quite small compared to its overall economy. That has started to change recently due to new technology that makes it possible to tap billions of barrels of oil in a remote area of the state known as Bakken." (June 16, 2011)
- **Cass County, North Dakota** is number one on Bloomberg Businessweek's 2011 list of America's Best Affordable Places to live. The article cites the cost of living, low crime rate and strong job market, as well as clean air and water, high quality schools and outstanding medical facilities. (May 31, 2011)
- **North Dakota is the number one state for job seekers according to an article by MSN Careers**. "During the recession, the unemployment rate in North Dakota peaked at a point that was lower than the pre-recession unemployment levels in many states, reaching a high of 4.3 percent in 2009. Since then it has slowly declined to 3.3 percent, the lowest level in the country by far," says the article. (May 25, 2011)
- **Fargo ranks near the top of the country when it comes to financial fitness, according to a list compiled by Men's Health magazine**. In the magazine's June issue, which hits the newsstands Tuesday, Fargo received a grade of A-minus, good for the No. 9 ranking as the "most fiscally fit" among 100 major U.S. cities. The news release said the magazine "tabulated personal bankruptcy rates (FDIC); average credit scores, debt, late payments, and credit usage (Experian); percentage of homes facing foreclosure (RealtyTrac); percentage of homeowners and renters who spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing (U.S. Census); and average 401(k) contributions (BrightScope)" to come up with the rankings. (May 20, 2011)

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- **Cass County, North Dakota has bragging rights when it comes to stress-free living.** The county is on the top 20 list for places with the least economic stress. Cass County joins two other North Dakota counties on the Associated Press' stress index. North Dakota was the only state to have three counties in the top 20. (May 5, 2011)
- **Minnesota ranked number two and North Dakota ranked number one on CNBC's list of the states with the healthiest housing markets.** The list was based on five key criteria: debt-to-income ratio, unemployment, home ownership, negative equity and the average loan-to-value ratio. Minnesota's low rate of unemployment helped them to their number two ranking while North Dakota's very low cost of ownership and very low unemployment helped them achieve their spot at number one. (April 21, 2011)
- **Minnesota is ranked among the 10 Best States to Make a Living** according to an April 15 Money Reports list. The listing, which rates Minnesota at number 10, looked at average state wages, state unemployment rate, state tax rate and state cost of living. (April 15, 2011)
- Ladies and gentlemen, meet the new Fargo Moorhead. In the spring issue of Minnesota Meetings + Events, **Sheri O'Meara** writes (in an article entitled *Meet the 'New' Fargo North Dakota*) about how **Fargo Moorhead has become a revitalized city with a strong economy and great national reputation.** "It's quite a different picture than the one painted in the 1996 Coen brothers' film 'Fargo,'" she writes. "The truth is, the area is evolving and its economy is strong." (April 12, 2011)
- **Marino Eccher of The Forum of Fargo Moorhead wrote about the appeal of Fargo and North Dakota in his April 4 article entitled *Fargo, State of North Dakota Media Darlings.*** "In New York, they're cooing about the Dakota work ethic. In Southern California, they're casting longing glances at the Hotel Donaldson. In Washington, they're whispering sweet nothings about burgeoning budget surpluses," he writes. "It's the makings of a smoldering national infatuation – or at least a media crush – directed at Fargo and North Dakota. The love letters in the blossoming affair come in the form of fawning profiles, editorials and best-of-lists popping up everywhere from in-flight magazines to the London Times." (April 4, 2011)
- **North Dakota is number one, or darn close to it, according to Carla Fried, in her CBS Money Watch article *Why North Dakota May Be the Best State in the Country to Live In.*** Fried sites the low unemployment rate, statewide GDP growth, best job growth, stable housing market, low violent crime rate and lowest credit card default rate as just a few of the reasons that North Dakota soars above the rest. (March 23, 2011)
- **Fargo topped Forbes' list of best places to retire in the United States.** The list of 16 cities that seniors should consider included a surprising number of places with

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cold winters. Only five cities in the list were even in the southern-most region of the country. (March 23, 2011)

- **Joel Kotkin, executive editor of NewGeography.com, wrote an article in the Wall Street Journal entitled *Why North Dakota is booming*.** “Oil is the principal reason North Dakota enjoys arguably the best fiscal situation in all the states,” Kotkin writes. “North Dakota, however, is no one-note Prairie sheikdom. North Dakota now outperforms the nation in everything from the percentage of college graduates under the age of 45 to per-capita numbers of engineering and science graduates.” (March 14, 2011)
- **Dennis Cauchon calls North Dakota’s economy it’s superstar in a USA Today article entitled *North Dakota economy booms, population soars*.** “North Dakota, the state with the nation’s lowest unemployment rate, capped a decade of economic prosperity with dramatic population growth in its biggest cities,” he says. “The superstar of North Dakota is its economy. North Dakota is enjoying an oil boom in the western part of the state, drawing workers from across the country [and] is one of the few states to add manufacturing jobs over the decade.” (March 2011)
- **Fargo Moorhead was named in Inman News’ 10 Real Estate Markets to Watch in 2011.** The report examined the housing, economic and demographic data for metropolitan area nationwide. Fargo, which ranked number 6 on the list, was credited with low unemployment and a state oil boom that affected the area’s housing market (March 11, 2011).
- **Fargo Moorhead was named best place to forget the recession by Men’s Journal.** The magazine’s editors selected 18 towns they believed have mastered the art of living well in the 21st century by prioritizing localism, sustainability and conservation. Fargo was chosen for its low taxes and unemployment, budget surplus and revitalized downtown. (March 8, 2011)
- **North Dakota ranked third in wellbeing according to the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index.** Minnesota also ranked in the top 10 states for wellbeing on the index, which is based on daily surveys conducted from January through December 2010. Measures included life evaluation, emotional health, work environment, physical health, healthy behaviors and basic access. (March 7, 2011)
- **North Dakota was named one of the best job markets in 2010** according to the Gallup Job Creation index. North Dakota and the District of Columbia were the two best job markets in 2010. More than half of the 10 best jobs in 2010 were energy- and commodity-producing states. (March 7, 2011)
- **Star Tribune special reporter Lisa Meyers McClintick featured downtown Fargo in her February 19th article *Grab popcorn and parka for film fest*.** “Here’s a

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little secret,” she writes, “Fargo is thriving. Despite the economic downturn in much of the nation, western North Dakota’s oil boom and a stable Fargo economy has kept its historic downtown humming with sophisticated boutiques and artsy restaurants that began filling in five years ago.” (February 19, 2011)

- **Fargo Moorhead was named to Forbes.com’s list of the best cities for active retirement.** “Despite periodic flooding, North Dakota’s largest city shows wells in all our criteria, with the highest ranking in the volunteerism measure,” the article says. Fargo ranked 18th on the list that looks at *Bicycling* magazine’s list of the top 50 cities for bicycling, the percentage of the adult population who volunteer their services for worthy causes, the FBI’s statistics on violent crime rates and the U.S. Census Bureau’s number of physicians per capita. (February 15, 2011)
- **Fargo Moorhead was rated one of “America’s least angry cities” by Men’s Health magazine.** The metro was the third least angry city in the study that examined the number of aggravated assaults per capita, the number of people with high blood pressure, the amount of time spent in rush-hour traffic and the number of anger-management specialists per capita. (February 8, 2011)
- **North Dakota is among the nation’s leaders in growing jobs,** according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Chamber Foundation’s Enterprising States survey. The study highlights how state and local policies – including those in North Dakota – play a vital role in spurring job creation and economic development. (January 10, 2011)
- **Fargo Moorhead is among the healthiest cities in America.** Men’s Health and Women’s Health magazines ranked Fargo Moorhead number 2 for both men and women in their ranking of the 10 Best and Worst cities for health in the United States. To determine which cities were the most inhabitant-friendly, Men’s Health and Women’s Health took into consideration 100 cities and over 30 key criteria spanning everything from cost of living to cancer rates, life expectancy to healthy eating and exercise habits. They also gathered and calculated data on death and obesity rates of male and female citizens in each location. Finally, the magazines considered quality of life including factors such as the ratio of single women to single men (and vice versa). (December 20, 2010)

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- **Fargo was featured as a perfect city for art-lovers** in a MPR News article written by Marianne Combs. She writes, “So I just got back from spending three days in Fargo Moorhead, checking out the local arts and culture scene. Color me *impressed*. Three days was not enough time to explore the scene in depth, but it was enough to give me a sense of just what I’m missing.” (November 13, 2010)
- **Washington Post writer Rachel Dry visited Fargo in her article *Following Steinbeck to Fargo* and gave the metro rave reviews.** “The cold can be brutal, everyone said, but also character-enhancing. That seems like an awfully chilly silver lining, but it does work out pretty well. On the highway outside Fargo, I’d seen billboards: ‘Be Grateful.’ ‘Be Kind.’ ‘Be Nice.’ They seemed like the most unnecessary large-type imperatives you could put on a billboard in this Zip code. Everyone here is kind and nice.” (November 12, 2010)
- **Fargo, North Dakota, jumped nine spots to become the best-performing small metro in 2010** according to the Milken Institute. The Best-Performing Cities index is updated on an annual basis to provide an objective, comprehensive measure of economic performance across metropolitan areas of the country. In most years, it gives a good indication of the underlying structural performance of regional economies. (October 2010)
- According to Men’s Health magazine, **Fargo has the second-best teeth in America.** Fargo was given an A+ for dental health in the magazines ranking that used several criteria, including the percentage of the population visiting dentists, money spent on dental care and products and those who use a public fluoridated water system as well as the number of dentists per capita. (October 2010)
- **North Dakota ranks first in the nation in state competitiveness according to the 2010 edition of the Beacon Hill Institute’s (BHI) annual State Competitiveness rankings.** The state rose from second place in 2009, third place in 2008 and fourth in 2007. The BHI competitiveness index is based on a set of 43 indicators divided into eight sub-indexes – government and fiscal policy, security, infrastructure, human resources, technology, business incubation, openness and environmental policy. (October 28, 2010)
- **North Dakota ranked second in 24/7 Wall Street’s survey of the Best and Worst Run States in America.** The survey found that North Dakota, the second best run state in the nation, owes much of its success to a well-managed state economy. Minnesota ranked fifth on the best run state list, due to its top ten ranking in GDP per capita, health insurance coverage and high school completion rate. The survey looked at surveys with complete data sets and used this data with weights to metrics that are most important to prudent governance. (October 4, 2010)

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- **Forbes Magazine recently ranked Fargo ninth in its top small locations to do business.** The magazine considered cities with populations of less than 245,000. The ranking was based on business and living costs, job growth, income growth, educational attainment and expected economic growth. It also considered quality of life - crime, cultural and recreational opportunities. Forbes studied the percentage of subprime mortgages handed out over three years and the number of highly ranked four-year colleges in the area. (September 2010)
- **Fargo and Moorhead have been named the most secure mid-sized cities in the U.S. by Farmers Insurance.** The insurer's 2009 national survey studied the most secure cities with populations of 150,000 to 500,000, among other things. The survey factored in crime, extreme weather, natural disasters, housing depreciation, foreclosures, air quality, terrorist threats, environmental hazards, life expectancy and job loss numbers. (September 19, 2010)
- **For the second year, the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) held a water-tasting competition at its annual conference in Duluth and, for the second year, Moorhead was awarded "Best in Glass."** Moorhead competed against other Minnesota cities for this award. Water industry professionals attending the conference tasted water samples from all competing communities and voted on the best tasting. The top three vote recipients competed in a panel of experts and Moorhead came out on top. With this award, Moorhead's water will now compete nationally at the AWWA Annual Conference held in Washington, D.C., in June 2011 (September 2010)
- **The Red River Valley Research Corridor was recently featured in Inc. Magazine as one of the 20 areas nationwide "where great ideas are born."** The Red River Valley Research Corridor is as an effort to commercialize research from the area's four universities. Its biggest supporter is Senator Byron Dorgan, who has funneled \$694 million to region to build labs and help procure federal contracts for local companies. The Research Corridor, which was first envisioned eight years ago by Senator Dorgan, encourages start-ups in the field of infectious disease vaccines, microelectronics and aerospace. (Summer 2010)
- **The annual Kids Count Data Book ranked Minnesota second and North Dakota 12 in the nation for children's well-being.** Indicators for the ranking include low birth weight babies, infant mortality, child deaths, teen deaths, teen births, teen high school dropouts, teens not working and the economical situation of a child's parents. (July 2010)
- **North Dakota led the nation in new home construction from 2008 to 2009.** Census figures released by the State Data Center showed North Dakota at a 12.8% increase in new housing units, the nation's highest gain. New housing authorized by building permits rose from 2,833 to 3,195 statewide last year. Much of the growth

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was in North Dakota's largest cities, **including Fargo**, which ranked second in the Midwest for the largest increases in housing units. (June 2010)

- **North Dakota has the strongest economy.** According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, North Dakota has the highest income and job growth over the last decade. The study looked at the number of jobs and the strength of the Gross State Product to determine that North Dakota has been “the top performer since the 2007 peak and is fifth since 2000.” The Chamber also cited North Dakota’s resistance to the recession, the lowest unemployment rate in the country and strong agriculture and energy sectors as reasons for the ranking. For more information, visit www.uschamber.com. (May 2010)
- **Fargo named one of the cleanest cities.** The American Lung Association’s 2010 State of the Air named Fargo-Wahpeton one the cleanest cities in the U.S. and one of only two cities to appear on all three lists of cleanest cities. The State of the Air reports looks at levels of ozone and particle pollution found in monitoring sites across the United States in 2006, 2007 and 2008. For more information, visit www.lungusa.org. (April 2010)
- **Fargo was named one of the best small metros in Forbes’ 12th Annual ranking of the Best Places for Business and Careers.** Fargo ranked ninth on the list, which examines metro areas with populations of less than 245,000. The list examines 12 metrics including costs of doing business and living, job and income growth, educational attainment and projected economic growth. It also takes into account the number of top ranked universities in an area, the status of home mortgage environments, crime rates, cultural and recreational amenities and net migration patterns. (April 2010)
- **Fargo has been named one of the most bike-friendly metros in the U.S.** The city was recently ranked 46th on Bicycling Magazine’s list of top 50 communities that cater to cyclists. The magazine looked at cities with populations of more than 100,000 and considered communities from each state. To make the top 50, cities often have segregated bike lanes, municipal bike racks and bike boulevards as well as support a vibrant diverse bike culture. Bicycling Magazine noted that Fargo has employed a bicycle coordinator since 2006 and has more than 200 miles of bike paths as reasons for the city making the top 50. (April 2010)
- **Minnesota and North Dakota rank in the top 10 states for well-being according to the 2009 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index.** Minnesota took fourth and North Dakota took ninth in the index, whose state-level data encompasses more than 350,000 interviews conducted among national adults ages 18 and older across all 50 states. (February 2010)

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- **Fargo Moorhead was named a best metro area for small business start ups by CNNMoney.com** in its 2009 Best Places to Launch list. The article states: “Fargo is noted more for its rich farmland and the occasional flooding of the Red River than for being a high-tech hotbed. But that perception is slowly changing. Senator Byron Dorgan has actively promoted eastern North Dakota as a tech corridor – an effort entrepreneurs say is paying off.” (October 2009)
- The editors of Children's Health magazine named **Fargo Moorhead the third best place in the nation to raise kids**, based on more than 30 factors deemed vitally important by parents, including crime and safety, education, economics, housing, cultural attractions and health. (October 2009)
- In an October 21 article entitled “D.C. leads nation in percentage of jobs lost in September,” the Washington Post states, “**North Dakota remained the easiest state in which to get a job**, with a 4.2 percent unemployment rate, followed by its mate, South Dakota, at 4.8 percent and the state immediately to the south, Nebraska (4.9 percent). That’s odd. Some sort of Wheat Belt job boom.” (October 2009)
- **Fargo ranked in the top ten Healthiest Places for Women 2009** by Self magazine. *Self* says “stressors such as crime and unemployment are rare, and women report more social and emotional support than almost anywhere else. (October 2009)
- **Fargo ranked at 15 in the best college towns in America**, by the American Institute for Economic Research. Ratings were based on cultural amenities, student population, job and internship prospects, the quality of life the city offers and professional opportunities available to residents. (September 2009)
- **North Dakota ranked 7th on Forbes’ list of The Best States for Business**. The ranking measures six vital categories for business: costs, labor supply, regulatory environment, current economic climate, growth prospects and quality of life.
- **Fargo at number three rank in a national study** to find the “[The 100 Best \(and Worst\) Places to Raise a Family](http://The 100 Best (and Worst) Places to Raise a Family).” The editors of Children's Health embarked on a comprehensive statistical analysis to rank 100 noteworthy American cities scattered across the country. More than 30 factors that parents deem vitally important, including crime and safety, education, economics, housing, cultural attractions, and health were considered. (September 2009)
- **North Dakota and Minnesota rank in the top 10 states for well-being** according to “Well-Being: Hawaii, Utah Still Top the Nation.” The article reports survey results from the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index and the AHIP State and Congressional District Resource for Well-Being. (August 2009)

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- North Dakota emerges as the country's economic powerhouse, in the article "Arizona economy third weakest in US," in the Phoenix Business Journal. **North Dakota lead the country in job growth (1.6%), construction job growth (5.2%) and the lowest unemployment rate (4.2) among the states and the District of Columbia.** (August 2009)
- CBS News producer Jack Halsbond penned "[Great American Vacation – Fargo, North Dakota](#)," an article on Examiner.com, which chronicles the travels of one of the CBS Early Show's Winnebagos traveling the country in June and July as part of the "Great American Vacation" giveaway. (August 2009)
- The annual [Kids Count Data Book](#) has ranked **Minnesota as second and North Dakota as number seven in the nation for children's well being.** Indicators for the rankings included low birth weight babies, infant mortality, child deaths, teen deaths, teen births, teen drops outs and teens not working. (July 2009)
- Forbes.com has listed **North Dakota State University and Fargo as number five in an article called "[Top College Towns for Jobs](#)."** The article by Matt Woolsey carries the headline "Post-grads in these 20 metros where job growth is rising should stay put." The article suggests that research universities are conducive to great environments for business, providing an educated labor force and centers of innovation stemming from university research. To conduct its, Forbes used U.S. metropolitan statistical area data and examined job growth using data from Moody's Economy.com. The article pegs the percentage of workers in university jobs in Fargo at 2.9 percent and Fargo's job growth since 2008 at 2.45 percent. (May 2009)
- A report from the [American Lung Association](#) names **Fargo Moorhead as the only city listed as the best city for ozone pollution, short-term particle pollution and long-term particle pollution.** The rest of the state of North Dakota earned 100 "A" grades for air quality. (April 2009)
- **Fargo Moorhead has topped a list of 72 areas studied by [Earth Day Network](#) and ranked for environmental health.** The study looked at more than 200 indicators including parks, commute times, recycling rates and population density. Fargo scored best in the areas of air quality, drinking and surface water, and toxins and waste. (April 2009)
- **Fargo Moorhead ranked number 15 on the [Best U.S. Cities for Job Growth](#)** published on NewGeography.com in connection with *Forbes*. The ranking emphasizes the robustness of a region's growth and includes all metropolitan statistical areas for which the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports monthly employment data. **Fargo Moorhead was number seven on the list of *Best Small Places for Business and Careers*.** Some of the areas taken into consideration in compiling the rankings are cost of doing business (based on cost of labor, energy, taxes and office

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space), cost of living (based on cost of housing, utilities, transportation and other expenditures), crime rate, educational attainment, job growth and projected job growth. (April 2009)

- In 2009 rankings released by [CO Press](#), **Minnesota took the top spot for a second consecutive year as the number one “Healthiest State” in the nation. North Dakota ranked fourth safest state and Minnesota ranked 18th**, both down one place from 2008. (March 2009)
- Fargo ranked **seventh best city for women** in the January/February issue of [Women’s Health Magazine](#), which looked at 100 of the largest cities in the United States and based its rankings on 38 factors such as cancer rates, air quality and the number of gym memberships. Fargo Moorhead ranked **first in length of life and came in as the 27th healthiest and 58th fittest city**. [Men’s Health](#) magazine ranked cities for the opposite sex. Fargo Moorhead **ranked 14th overall on the men’s list** – down from sixth in 2008 and came in at **second for quality of life**. (December 2008)
- **Fargo Moorhead ranked seventh in the list of 30 Best Markets to Find a Job released by MSN and CareerBuilder.com**. Three hundred sixty-nine urban metropolitan cities were ranked. Factors considered included unemployment rates and job growth. Fargo was one of only nine areas in the in the survey that registered unemployment rates under three percent. (October 2008)
- **North Dakota ranked first in road maintenance by the Reason Foundation** in its July 2009 report on the performance of state highway systems, road conditions and expenditures. North Dakota ranked first in the nation for maintaining its roads and bridges, was first in overall performance and tied for first for best urban interstate condition and for its lack of urban interstate congestion. (July 2008)
- **Fargo Moorhead was named the fifth healthiest place to live and retire in America** by [AARP The Magazine](#) in its September/October 2008 issue. AARP evaluated over 20 measures of vitality and incorporated not only the physical aspects of a community (clean air and water), but also the health and habits of people who live there, taking into special consideration the health needs of people age 50+. In announcing the list, AARP stated Fargo Moorhead ranks #9 in the nation for regular flossing and brushing; it has one of the best air quality index scores; uses biodiesel fuel to power its transit buses; and it has made a serious commitment to incorporate methane-powered generators, solar panels, and wind generators in to the city’s infrastructure. (July 2008)
- **Fargo Moorhead was number 46 on the list of Best U.S. Cities for Doing Business**, released by [Inc.com](#). When compared with small cities with similar population, Fargo Moorhead rose in the ranks to number 28. The Inc.com list focuses

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on short- and long-term job growth, outlining not just where jobs are being created, but where the momentum is shifting. (July 2008)

- **Fargo Moorhead was number 88 in [Money magazine's](#) list of the top 100 best small cities in the nation.** The magazine cites Fargo's strengths as a cultural college town with a strong nightlife, economy and medical industry, calling it "one of the most dynamic places in the famously frigid north." *Money* ranked cities with populations of 50,000 to 100,000. (July 2008)
- **Minnesota placed second and North Dakota seventh in the [KIDS COUNT](#) ranking of U.S. states for child well being.** Key indicators studied include percent of low birthweight babies, infant mortality rates, child death rate, teen death rate, teen birth rate, percent of teens who are high school dropouts, percent of teens not attending school and not working, percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment, percent of children in poverty and percent of children in single-parent families. KIDS COUNT is an initiative of The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (July 2007)
- For the third year in a row, **North Dakota led the nation as the least expensive place for a family of four to vacation.** While AAA recommends travelers budget \$244 per day on national average for 2008 travels, those vacationing in North Dakota can enjoy a budget much smaller – approximately \$85 less than the national averages. According to [AAA's Annual Vacation Cost Survey](#), North Dakota has an average daily cost of \$159 for food and lodging. (May 2008)
- Fargo has been **named one of the cleanest cities in America**, according to the American Lung Association's [State of the Air: 2008](#) report. The rankings were based on ozone pollution levels produced when heat and sunlight come into contact with pollutants from power plants, cars, refineries and other sources. Fargo and Salinas, Calif. were named the cleanest cities. (May 2008)
- Fargo Moorhead ranked **ninth in the nation for dental health and oral hygiene**, according to the [April issue of Men's Health](#) magazine. The study used statistics from the Centers for Disease Control for dental visits, teeth pulled and fluoridation of water. Flossing statistics came from Mediamark Research, a marketing research firm. (April 2008)
- **Fargo was number 24 in [Fortune Small Business](#) magazine's top 100 Best Places to Live and Launch a Business in 2008.** The magazine "scoured the country for towns that combine a great business environment with alluring leisure opportunities." Editors took into account economic conditions, natural beauty, affordable housing and easy access to diversions such as museums and fishing. The list appeared in their April 2008 issue. (April 2008)

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- **[Forbes Magazine](#) ranked Fargo Moorhead eleventh on a list of the Best Small Metro Areas for Business and Careers.** One hundred seventy-nine cities with populations less than 235,000 were ranked. Factors considered included cost of doing business, cost of living, job and income growth, migration trends, educational attainment and quality of life issues such as crime rates and cultural opportunities. (April 2008)
- In 2008 rankings released by [CQ Press](#), **Minnesota took the top spot as the number one “Healthiest State” in the nation, with North Dakota securing the number nine spot on the list. Both states made the top ten in the “Most Livable State” category, with Minnesota at number four and North Dakota at number 10. North Dakota was named the third “Safest State” in the nation.** (March 2008)
- Fargo was named **the third greenest city in America** by [Organic Gardening](#) magazine in its February/March 2008 issue. The article mentions Metro Area Transit’s “use of biodiesel fuel to power transit buses, which is one reason Fargo’s Air Quality Index is one of the country’s best.” The article also highlights the methane-powered generator, and the solar panels and wind generator that are producing electricity at the Fargo landfill; the city’s distribution of cloth shopping bags to residents; and the 2,000 trees and shrubs planted on Earth Day 2007. (February 2008)
- **Fargo was named one of the strongest real estate markets for 2008** by [Veros Real Estate Solutions](#). Covering the period from Dec. 1, 2007 through Dec. 1, 2008, the numbers reflect both the current and anticipated prospective image of the current mortgage credit “crisis.” The forecast which ranks the five weakest and five strongest markets, reflects projected market gains and declines for single family residences in most major metropolitan and some non-metro areas. The predicted five strongest markets were Wichita, Kan., Raleigh/Cary, N.C., Sioux Falls, S.D., Fargo and Tulsa, Okla. (January 2008)
- **North Dakota ranked fourth in the nation in state competitiveness** according to the 2007 edition of the [Beacon Hill Institute’s](#) (BHI) annual State Competitiveness rankings. North Dakota has been steadily climbing this ranking since it was first published in 2001. The BHI Index tracks 42 measures within 10 categories including infrastructure, environmental policy, government and fiscal policy, and technology. (January 2008)
- **North Dakota ranked seventh in the nation in the Best States for Jobs list** compiled by Anthony Balderrama of [CareerBuilder.com](#). The study ranked states based on their unemployment rates as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in January 2008. (January 2008)



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- Our community ranked **third in the nation for happiness among women**, as reported by [Self magazine](#) in its December 2007 issue. The study also placed Fargo Moorhead as the **10th healthiest community for women**. *Self* magazine sorts through data in 50 categories, including accessible health care and safety, to rank the health of U.S. communities. (December 2007)

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- **[Expansion Management Magazine](#) ranked Fargo in their top 10 Business Opportunity Metros.** The fifth annual Mayor’s Challenge is the magazine’s “Best of the Best” ranking of metro areas that have achieved solid ratings in the magazine’s numerous studies throughout the past year. These ratings are used to evaluate the potential of each of the metro areas in the U.S. according to several major categories. Fargo ranked in the 99th percentile for quality of life. With 99 being the highest possible score, Fargo was one of three metros nationwide to receive high Quality of Life marks. (August 2007)
- **Minnesota was ranked number one and North Dakota number eight in the nation for child well-being.** The 18th annual study is part of the [2007 National KIDS COUNT Data Book](#), released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The publication provides policy makers and citizens with factual data for making decisions that affect the futures of all children. (August 2007)
- On August 9, **North Dakota was featured on [The Today Show’s](#) “America the Beautiful” series.** “Amber Waves of Grain: Discover America’s Farms” highlighted the state’s wheat fields. Ninety percent of the states’ land area is farms and ranches and North Dakota ranks No. 1 in the production of durum and spring wheat. (August 2007)
- **North Dakota took the top spot for the second consecutive year in the [Reason Foundation’s](#) report on the overall performance of state road systems.** The Reason Foundation’s study measures the performance of state-owned roads and highways from 1984 to 2005 in 12 different categories, including traffic fatalities, congestion, pavement condition, bridge condition, highway maintenance and administrative costs. North Dakota tied with South Carolina for the top spot. (June 2007)
- North Dakota was among eight states profiled for their significant efforts to attract jobs, money and a talented work force in a publication released by the [National Governors Associations](#) entitled “Investing in Innovation.” The article states: **North Dakota funds public-private centers of excellence that focus on state strengths such as surface protection, leveraging at least a 2:1 match from the private sector.** The R&D experience of North Dakota is proof positive that finding a niche – in this instance surface protection – and succeeding flows from strategic thinking and a solid R&D foundation. (July 2007)
- [Cosmopolitan](#) magazine **placed Fargo-Moorhead in their 100 Hot-City Guide**, citing the trendy Hotel Donaldson as the “Girls Night Out” locale. In a February 2007 article about Valentine’s Day destinations, *USA Today* stated, “Forget the Coen Brothers’ black comedy. Far from being a frozen wasteland, Fargo [Moorhead] has the makings for a dreamy weekend – starting with the sophisticated, contemporary Hotel Donaldson.” (July 2007)

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- According to [AAA's](#) annual vacation cost survey, **North Dakota leads the nation as the least expensive place for a family of four to vacation.** ND had an average daily cost of \$187 for food and lodging, almost \$100 lower than the national average. (July 2007)
- [Forbes Magazine](#) ranked **North Dakota ninth and Minnesota tenth on the second annual list of the Best States for Business.** States were rated on best growth prospects, best labor pools, best regulatory environments, quality of life and low business costs. Minnesota topped the list in terms of best quality of life, while North Dakota was in the top five for low business costs. (July 2007)
- **Fargo Moorhead ranked in the top 100 metropolitan areas in [POLICOM Corporation's 2007 Economic Strength Rankings.](#)** POLICOM rates 363 metropolitan areas on their long-term ability to consistently grow in size and quality. (July 2007)
- According to the [American Lung Association's](#) State of the Air 2007 report card, **Fargo-Moorhead is one on the cleanest cities in the nation.** The study graded cities and counties according to ozone pollution, 24-hour particle pollution and annual particle pollution. Fargo-Moorhead was one of only three cities in the country to top all three lists. North Dakota also received straight A's for its air quality in the eight counties monitored. (June 2007)
- [Forbes Magazine](#) ranked **Fargo Moorhead fourth on a list of the Best Small Metro Areas for Business and Careers, marking the fifth consecutive year Fargo Moorhead has made the top five in the category.** One hundred seventy-nine cities with populations less than 235,000 were ranked. Factors considered included cost of doing business, cost of living, job and income growth, migration trends, educational attainment and quality of life issues such as crime rates and cultural opportunities. (April 2007)
- **Downtown Fargo was featured in a list of ten "Downtown Turnarounds"** in the April 2007 issue of *Urban Land* magazine. Since the inception of the renaissance zone in 1999, millions of dollars have been invested in downtown Fargo, rehabilitating storefronts, converting vacant buildings for commercial and residential use, and sprucing up streets, bringing residents, offices and even nightlife for downtown. (April 2007)
- In 2007 rankings release by *Morgan Quitno Press*, **Minnesota was named the second "Most Livable State" (matching the 2006 ranking) and the second "Healthiest State" in the nation** (up from number three in 2006). **North Dakota continues its reign as the "Safest State," a title it has held ten times in the 14 years *Morgan Quitno Press* has issues its awards.** (March 2007)

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- **Fargo ranked as one of the 10 best affordable places to live and work**, according to an online story posted March 21, 2007, on MSN Real Estate. Based on data provided by Sperling’s Best Places, the story notes that Fargo Moorhead unemployment is the lowest in the country at 2.6 percent, and its central location is turning the city into a leading air-cargo hub. The article states: “Downtown is classic mid-America with a mix of modern buildings and many well-preserved brick structures. Well-kept parks line the waterfront. Fargo is best known as a friendly area with a strong Scandinavian influence and a strong, varied economy including farm-equipment manufacturers and food processors.” (March 2007)
- **Fargo Moorhead topped the list of U.S. cities ranked on 200 environmental, health and quality of life indicators** compiled in the 2007 Urban Environment report released by the Earth Day Network. The report found that Fargo has the lowest percentage of population at risk from environmental hazards. The nation’s 50 largest cities and the largest city in each state were scrutinized in seven categories: toxins and waste; air quality; drinking and surface water; quality of life; parks and recreation opportunities; public health; and global warming and climate change. (February 2007)
- **Fargo Moorhead topped a list of “15 Great Cities for Job Seekers,”** posted on MSN.com on January 16, 2007. The article listed Fargo Moorhead’s unemployment rate at 1.5 percent (obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Sept. 2006), and the mean annual wage at \$32,580. Predominant occupations include management, professional and related occupation and the largest percentage of the work force (22.8 percent) is related to education, health and social services. (January 2007)
- *Self* magazine named **Fargo Moorhead the Happiest City in America for women** in its Best Places for Women 2006 list. According to *Self*, reasons for our happy women include low violent crime rates, low unemployment, short commutes and the fewest number of days of depression experience by residents. Small population was also a factor, lending to close relationships among families and neighbors. (December 2006)
- **“Fargo Moorhead is a thriving metropolis** of slightly less than 200,000 that grew over 20 percent between 1990 and 2000,” reads an article in *The Wall Street Journal*. **“As entrepreneurial activity has expanded, Fargo [Moorhead] is being transformed. Its downtown is home to hip clothing stores and a great boutique hotel. There’s even a thriving art scene.** [Employers] pitch employees based on such often underestimated factors like good schools, reasonable housing prices (the median home price is under \$150,000), short commutes, the nation’s lowest crime rate and ample outdoor recreation. (August 2006)

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- *Expansion Management* magazine designated **Fargo-Moorhead a “Five Star Business Opportunity Metro,”** a designation awarded to the top 20 percent of the 362 metro areas. Cities that earn this distinction can rightfully consider themselves to be among the elite in that particular category (i.e., public schools, health care costs, logistics infrastructure, etc.). (August 2006)
- **A study published by *Men’s Health* magazine analyzing the anger level of American cities ranked Fargo Moorhead number 98 out of 100, making it the third least angry city of those studied.** Factors evaluated included the percentage a men with high blood pressure, the FBI rates of aggravated assaults, Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers on workplace deaths from assaults and other violence, and traffic-congestion data and speeding citations. (August 2006)
- ***MeritCare Health System* was rated one of the nation’s 100 Most Wired Hospitals and Health Systems in 2006** by *Hospitals & Health Networks*. This is MeritCare’s eighth year on the list, which surveys the nation’s hospitals on their use of information technology to accomplish strategic and operational goals, including safety and quality objectives. (July 2006)
- **Fargo Moorhead’s low-stress environment and quality schools play heavily into its 69th place ranking among *Money* magazine’s 100 “Best Places to Live” 2006 edition.** The magazine researched small cities that have the best blend of good jobs, low crime, quality schools, open space, rational home prices and lots to do. (July 2006)
- **Fargo Moorhead made the list of America’s Top Rated Smaller Cities** published by Grey House Publishing. Cities are ranked by population growth, median income, unemployment rate and crime rate. (June 2006)
- **Fargo Moorhead ranked third among small metros in the nation on the *Forbes* Best Places for Business and Careers list.** The ranking evaluates communities on six measures: business costs, living costs, education, crime rate, job growth and income growth. (May 2006)
- **Moody’s *Economy.com*’s Business Vitality Index Ranking placed Fargo Moorhead fourth of the nation’s metropolitan area economies for its long-term growth potential.** Indicators considered include the descriptions of current economic conditions and factors pertaining to prospective conditions, as well as potential economic risks. *Economy.com* states that “Fargo Moorhead is home to significant universities that are joining the local community to spur economic growth and provide highly educated work forces to attract economic expansion. Also key is that this area continues to enjoy relatively low business and living costs and affordable housing.” (April 2006)

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- In 2006 rankings released by *Morgan Quitno Press*, **Minnesota was named the second “Most Livable,” the third “Healthiest” and the sixth “Smartest” state in the nation. North Dakota has been ranked the “Safest State”** for the ninth time in the 13 years that *Morgan Quitno Press* has issued its awards. (March 2006)
- Both **North Dakota (7th) and Minnesota (8th) made the top 10 in *Expansion Management’s Healthcare Cost Quotient*** which takes into account healthcare facilities, healthcare providers, health insurance costs, healthcare provider visit costs, and malpractice costs. (February 2006)
- **North Dakota and Minnesota both earned a ranking in the top 10 states as reported in the fifth annual “State Competitiveness Report 2005,”** conducted by the *Suffolk University* based *Beacon Hill Institute*. The study reported that North Dakota ranked 6th and Minnesota ranked 8th. The report cited the state’s strong technology base, the quality of its work force and its generous support for new business ventures. (January 2006)
- **Fargo Public Schools was designated a Gold Medal school district** by *Expansion Management* magazine in its 2006 Education Quotient issue. The magazine compares 2,800 schools (districts with 3,300 students or more) across the nation and compare how well their students are prepared to enter the work force. The Gold Medal distinction is given to the top 16 percent of the schools nationally. (December 2005)
- In the United Health Foundation’s *America’s Health: State Health Rankings 2005*, **Minnesota was named the healthiest state in the nation**, a position it has held for 10 of the last 16 years of the study. Minnesota’s strengths include ranking first for a low rate of cardiovascular deaths, a low premature death rate and a low percentage of uninsured population. **North Dakota makes the list as the sixth healthiest state in the nation**, ranking first with the lowest violent crime rate and the fewest infectious diseases. (December 2005)
- In *Morgan Quitno Press’* 2005 City Crime Ranking, **Fargo-Moorhead secured the spot of America’s twelfth safest city**. The study examines cities with populations of over 75,000 in the U.S. and bases its findings on six basic crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft. (November 2005)
- **Fargo has been named on of the best places to live, raise a family, work and do business** by *Forbes* magazine’s publisher, Rich Karlgaard. In his book “Life 2.0: How People Across America Are Transforming Their Lives by Finding the Where of Their Happiness,” Karlgaard states, “**Fargo is a friendly, fresh-air place to raise a family. Schools are among the best in the Midwest and the economy is thumping.**” Karlgaard lists **Fargo among the 25 best IQ Campuses for emerging centers of biotechnology and information technology**. (November 2005)

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- **Minnesota ranked third and North Dakota eleventh in the nation for treating workers best**, according to the “Decent Work in America” study released by the University of Massachusetts Amherst Political Economy Research Institute, which evaluates states on job quality, job opportunities and workplace fairness. In further breakdowns of the results, **Minnesota ranked first in job quality**, which includes average wages (adjusted for cost of living) and the proportion of workers who receive health and retirement benefits; and **North Dakota ranked first in job opportunities**, which include unemployment rate and rate of involuntary part-time employment. (October 2005)
- **Minnesota was ranked the sixth smartest state in the U.S.** in *Morgan Quitno’s* 2005 Smartest State Award, based on 21 factors recognizing commitment to students and teachers, emphasizing excellence in the classroom and ensuring that public elementary and secondary schools are efficiently-run. (October 2005)
- **The Milken Institute ranks North Dakota as the 2nd lowest cost state in its “2005 Cost of Doing Business Index.”** The study reports that North Dakota’s cost of doing business is 23 percent lower than the national average. (August 2005)
- *Expansion Management* magazine has **designated Fargo-Moorhead as one of “America’s Top Business Opportunity Metros for 2005,”** based upon the results of the annual MAYOR’S CHALLENGE rankings of the overall business climate and attractiveness to growing companies throughout the world. (July 2005)
- **Fargo-Moorhead ranks third (among small market MSAs) in the “Best U.S. Cities for Relocating Families”** study conducted by the Worldwide Employee Relocation Council (ERC) and Primary Relocation, a Tennessee-based relocation firm. The study includes standard livability benchmarks like tax burdens, cost of living and crime rates and factors that are vital to new residents, such as how long it takes to qualify for in-state tuition. (May 2005)
- **Forbes magazine ranked the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan statistical area fourth out of 168 small metro areas in the nation to do business and advance careers.** The rankings are based on a sum of rankings in nine categories, including wage and salary growth, job growth activity in critical industries that foster future growth and quality life issues. (May 2005)
- **Fargo-Moorhead ranked 14th in the nation for “Cleanest U.S. Cities for Long-Term Particle Pollution” and made the “Cleanest U.S. Cities for Ozone Air Pollution” list,** as reported in the American Lung Association’s State of the Air 2005 report. (April 2005)

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- **North Dakota has been ranked the “Safest State”** for the eighth time in the 12 years that *Morgan Quitno Press* has issued its awards. **Minnesota ranked as the second “Most Livable State,” the fourth “Healthiest State” and the fifth “Most Improved State.”** (March 2005)
- **North Dakota ranked as the most cost-friendly state in the nation** by *Small Times*, a magazine that covers the latest developments in nanotechnology, MEMS and microsystems. (March 2005)
- **North Dakota ranked fourth in the nation in *Expansion Management* magazine’s 2005 Health Care Cost Quotient**, based on data grouped into five major categories: health care facilities, health care providers, health insurance costs, health care provider costs and malpractice insurance costs. (February 2005)
- **The InCharge Institute of America ranks Fargo-Moorhead as the 8th best community (among small market MSAs) for personal “financial fitness.”** The “Consumer Financial Fitness in Metropolitan Areas” study looks at how different population centers measure up in offering the economic climate and conditions that promote financial fitness for its citizens. (January 2005)
- **Fargo-Moorhead rated fifth on *Business Development Outlook* magazine’s list of “Best Places for a Thriving Economy.”** Among the criteria considered for the study were total sales taxes, the cost of living, property value, property tax rates and the average cost of utilities. (December 2004)
- **The *Milken Institute* ranks Fargo-Moorhead number 20 for “Best Performing Communities – Small Metros.”** The index measures where jobs are being created, economies are growing and businesses are thriving. (November 2004)
- **Fargo-Moorhead ranks 12th in *Sperling’s Best Places 2004 Quality of Life Report***, reported by *Business Development Outlook Magazine*. Fargo-Moorhead joins 32 cities, such as Boston, San Francisco and New York on this year’s list. (October 2004)
- **The Fargo-Moorhead metro area ranked among the top areas in the United States in which to locate a company**, according to a study published in *Expansion Management* magazine. Fargo-Moorhead placed ninth overall when compared to 331 metropolitan statistical areas of all sizes throughout the country, and placed third on the list of top metro areas with populations of less than 250,000. (July 2004)
- In a *Money* magazine article, addressing the question of “What Makes a Place Hot,” a leading authority states there is a declining interest in larger cities and a **“resurgence in less expensive places like Fargo...that are gaining population.”** (June 2004)

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- *Expansion Management* magazine gave **Fargo-Moorhead a “Five Star Community” rating, the highest-level, in its annual Quality of Life Quotient.** Components included affordable housing, available work force, standard of living, education levels, educational facilities, unemployment rates and peace of mind, described as the relative tranquility of a particular area. (May 2004)
- **Fargo-Moorhead was ranked the second-best small city in the entire country for business and careers** by *Forbes* magazine. Results were based on an extensive study that examined the cost of doing business, including expenses related to labor, energy, taxes and office space. Also factored into the study were the concentration of college graduates, job and income growth, migration patterns, crime rates and a culture and leisure index. (May 2004)
- **Fargo Public Schools received the highest possible “Gold Medal” rating** in a report published by *Expansion Management* magazine. The publication completed a detailed analysis of 2,800 secondary school districts throughout the United States. Fargo schools ranked in the top 17 percent in the nation. (April 2004)
- **Minnesota was named the nation’s second Most Livable State and North Dakota was ranked 15th** by *Morgan Quitno Press* in their 2004 rankings. (April 2004)
- In seven out of the past eight years, *Morgan Quitno Press* has ranked **North Dakota the number-one safest state in the entire nation** in its annual crime survey. (1997 to 2004)
- *Morgan Quitno Press* ranked **Minnesota the fifth Healthiest State in the nation and rated North Dakota twelfth**, based on 21 factors, including access to healthcare providers, affordability of health care and a generally healthy population. (April 2004)
- “In the last three years, **Fargo has begun to reinvent itself as improbably stylish, worldly, even luxurious,**” proclaimed a front-page story in the *Los Angeles Times*. The centerpiece of the story is the rebirth of downtown Fargo, including a \$9 million facelift and a Renaissance Zone that has launched 65 transformation projects over the course of the past three years. (March 2004)
- National Public Radio reported, “Many communities have been struggling with job losses and a sputtering economy. But quietly, **Fargo, North Dakota has been flourishing.** Fargo has steadily created jobs and over the last few years has consistently posted one of the nation’s lowest unemployment rates.” (March 2004)
- “How Fargo, N.D. Restarted the American Dream Machine,” is the headline that appeared in the March issue of *Employee Benefit News*. The **Fargo-Moorhead**

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community is praised for its core value of community activism and willingness to address the issues of job development and related economic revival. (March 2004)

- **Fargo-Moorhead continues to be one of the best places in the nation to start a new business**, according to the results of a national study published by *Inc.* magazine. Fargo-Moorhead was ranked 15th out of the 277 small cities included in the study. (March 2004)
- **Fargo-Moorhead was rated the second least-stressful small metro area in the United States** in a report published by Sperling's Best Places. The index is comprised of different factors associated with stress, including unemployment rates, divorce rates, commute times, violent crimes, property crimes, suicide rates and others. (January 2004)
- **North Dakota is ranked among the top-nine states as having the cleanest air in the nation**, according to the 2003 report from the Corporation for Enterprise Development. (November 2003)
- In an article headlined "Hot Towns," *Time* magazine reported, "The hottest places in America to find jobs are small and midsize towns," citing **Fargo as example of communities that are leading the United States in job growth.** (November 2003)
- *Self* magazine named **Fargo-Moorhead the nation's least stressful community and the ninth healthiest for females.** (November 2003)
- **Fargo-Moorhead is among the top 25 safest metropolitan areas in the entire nation**, according to the results of the tenth annual America's Safest City rankings prepared by *Morgan Quitno Press.* (November 2003)
- **Fargo-Moorhead was rated among the top 50 most logistics friendly cities in America, receiving a "Five-Star Logistics City" rating** from *Expansion Management* and *Logistics Today* magazines. The study compared 331 metropolitan statistical areas in ten major logistics categories, including the quality and diversity of each community's road and highway network. (September 2003)
- **North Dakota was ranked best in the nation in the quality of hospital health care** in the sixth annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study. Researchers evaluated each of the country's nearly 5,000 hospitals, measuring them on 26 common procedures and conditions. (September 2003)
- *Money* magazine included **Fargo in a list of the top-ten best cities in the nation in which to start a business or get a job.** The ranking, based on Economy.com's Business Vitality Index, included factors such as job growth and volatility, net



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migration, cost-of-doing business, education levels and real-estate prices. (August 2003)

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- *Employment Review* magazine and its affiliate, BestJobsUSA.com, ranked **Fargo-Moorhead the seventh-best place to live and work in America**. The publication stated, “An excellent unemployment rate, a diverse work force and low cost of living, reasonable housing costs and outstanding educational opportunities make the Fargo-Moorhead area an ideal choice for both individuals seeking relocation and businesses that are ready to move.” (July 2003)
- In its 2003 ranking of “Best Performing Cities,” the *Milken Institute* rated Fargo-Moorhead **19th in job creation and economic growth among small metro areas in the nation**. The index measures where jobs are being created, economies are growing and businesses are thriving. (June 2003)
- *Business Facilities* magazine ranked **North Dakota the sixth-best state in the nation in which to locate a business**, based on the overall cost of doing business. (March 2003)
- **Fargo-Moorhead ranked ninth nationally for its “health quotient,”** according to *Expansion Management* magazine, which rated areas on a variety of criteria to measure low costs, fewest risks and best coverage for employers. (March 2003)
- The *Wall Street Journal* lauded **Fargo as an oasis of prosperity, stating, “as most of the nation struggles to shake off the recession, Fargo’s economy has stayed strong and steady,** attracting investment, adding jobs and extending a decade of prosperity.” (November 2002)
- *Business Week* magazine included **Fargo-Moorhead in its "Dazzling Dozen" list of small cities nationwide in which “local economies are humming along** despite a national slowdown.” (October 2002)
- In its list of the 200 Best Cities for Women - 2002, the *Ladies Home Journal* ranked **Fargo the 13th-best smaller city for women in the nation**. Selection criteria included crime rates, health, education, economy, jobs, lifestyle and child care. (May 2002)
- **Fargo-Moorhead was ranked 10th among labor markets its size for cultivating high-growth companies** by the National Commission on Entrepreneurship, a Washington, D.C. economic think tank. (August 2001)
- Population Connection ranked the **Fargo-Moorhead community fifth among 140 comparable-sized communities as a great place to raise kids**, based on community life, economics, education, environment, health, population change and public safety. (August 2001)



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- *Inc.*, *Fortune* and *Kiplinger's* magazines all reported the results of research by Cognetics, Inc. that ranked **Fargo Moorhead the second-best small metro area in the country in which to start and grow a business.** (April 2001)

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