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PRESS RELEASE: Expansion Management Magazine Publishes its 8th Annual QUALITY OF LIFE QUOTIENT™ Ranking of 362 Metros

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Click here for [List of 5-Star Quality of Life Metros](#)
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CLEVELAND, OH — June 12, 2006 — If you owned a mid-sized (100-500 employees) company that is growing rapidly, and you needed to find the best place to locate a new manufacturing or distribution facility, or perhaps a back office operation, why would you care about something like quality of life?

After all, with the possible exception of transferring a few key employees, most of your future employees will be hired from your new location anyway. The reason you would care is that each of your new employees will want to be able to tap into the American Dream, and the cost to you as an employer will vary from metro to metro.

Expansion Management magazine, which is mailed bimonthly to more than 45,000 CEOs, vice presidents, directors and other executives of companies that have indicated they are considering expanding into new geographic areas, recently published its 8th annual "Quality of Life Quotient™ ratings of the 362 metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) throughout the United States in its May-June 2006 issue.

The magazine rates metro areas as a way of providing its readers with a basis for comparing the type of living and working environment they are likely to encounter in various communities around the country. The Top 20 percent of MSAs earned the coveted "Five Star" distinction, while the next 20 percent were designated as "Four Star Quality of Life Metros."

"True quality of life is about employees being able to afford to tap into the American Dream," said Bill King, editor of Expansion Management, a monthly magazine for executives of companies that are actively looking for the best location to expand or relocate their facilities within the next one to three years. "It's about being able to afford to own a home, to be able to send your children to good schools, to feel safe from crime, to live in a place with a reasonable cost of living. This study simply shows you a way to quantify what most people still consider a highly subjective area."

A significant part of the American Dream involves home ownership, or at least the ability to afford to live in a decent house or apartment. Just as important are good public schools, as well as the ability of families and individuals to meet their financial needs and desires. Median family income, per capita income and per capita disposable income levels were combined with cost of living adjustments, state and local tax burdens, family and individual poverty levels, and unemployment rates. In all, a total of 362 MSAs were compared according to



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nearly 50 statistical criteria and came up with a ranking that most middle-class people can identify with.

“Quality of life is available at just about any place in the United States,” said Bill King, editor of Expansion Management magazine. “The only question is how much it will cost to an individual to tap into it. That’s an important issue for employers, because it translates into how much an employer will have to pay to obtain and retain quality employees.”

To read the 2006 Quality of Life Quotient article, go to Expansion Management’s Web site at www.ExpansionManagement.com and look under **RESEARCH STUDIES**.

Expansion Management is a bimonthly magazine published by Penton Media (www.penton.com), a diversified business-to-business media company that provides high-quality content and integrated marketing solutions to the following industries: aviation; design/engineering; electronics; food/retail; government/compliance; business technology/enterprise IT; leisure/hospitality; manufacturing; mechanical systems/construction; health/nutrition and natural and organic products; and supply chain. Founded in 1892, Penton produces market-focused magazines, trade shows, conferences and online media, and provides a broad range of custom media and direct marketing solutions for business-to-business customers worldwide.

VARIOUS RANKINGS BY CATEGORY

LOWEST CRIME RATES

1. Logan, Utah-Idaho MSA
2. Fond du Lac, Wis. MSA
3. Glens Falls, N.Y. MSA
4. Wausau, Wis. MSA
5. La Crosse, Wis.-Minn.
6. State College, Pa. MSA
7. Appleton, Wis. MSA
8. Oshkosh-Neenah, Wis. MSA
9. Bismarck, N.D. MSA
10. Sheboygan, Wis. MSA

MOST AFFORDABLE HOUSING

1. Weirton-Steubenville, W.Va.-Ohio MSA
2. Parkersburg-Marietta, W.Va.-Ohio MSA
3. Huntington-Ashland, W.Va.-Ky.-Ohio MSA
4. Fort Smith, Ark.-Okla. MSA
5. Wheeling, W.Va.-Ohio MSA
6. Morristown, Tenn. MSA
7. Johnson City, Tenn. MSA
8. Kingsport-Bristol, Tenn.-Va. MSA
9. Brownsville-Harlingen, Texas MSA
10. Great Falls, Mont. MSA

BEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1. State College, Pa. MSA
2. Ithaca, N.Y. MSA
3. Lawrence, Kan. MSA
4. Iowa City, Iowa MSA
5. Sheboygan, Wis. MSA
6. Charlottesville, Va. MSA
7. Eau Claire, Wis. MSA
8. Madison, Wis. MSA
9. Columbia, Mo. MSA
10. Harrisonburg, Va. MSA

BEST OVERALL STANDARD OF LIVING

1. Manchester-Nashua, N.H. MSA
2. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va. MSA
3. Naples-Marco Island, Fla. MSA
4. Austin-Round Rock, Texas MSA
5. Boulder, Colo. MSA
6. Sioux Falls, S.D. MSA
7. Charlottesville, Va. MSA
8. Huntsville, Ala. MSA
9. Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice, Fla. MSA

10. Reno-Sparks, Nev. MSA

HIGHEST ADULT EDUCATION LEVELS

1. Ithaca, N.Y. MSA
2. Boulder, Colo. MSA
3. Gainesville, Fla. MSA
4. Charlottesville, Va. MSA
5. Madison, Wis. MSA
6. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va. MSA
7. Durham, N.C. MSA
8. Raleigh-Cary, N.C. MSA
9. San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Calif. MSA
10. Corvallis, Ore. MSA

EASIEST COMMUTE TO WORK

1. Great Falls, Mont. MSA
2. Lubbock, Texas MSA
3. Casper, Wyo. MSA
4. Dubuque, Iowa MSA
5. Rochester, Minn. MSA
6. Cheyenne, Wyo. MSA
7. Billings, Mont. MSA
8. Champaign-Urbana, Ill.
9. Missoula, Mont. MSA
10. Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa MSA

BEST CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

1. New York-Newark-Edison, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa. MSA
2. Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis. MSA
3. Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Mass.-N.H. MSA
4. Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. MSA
5. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif. MSA
6. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif. MSA
7. Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas MSA
8. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va. MSA
9. Baltimore-Towson, Md. MSA
10. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga. MSA

BEST COMMERCIAL AIR ACCESS

1. New York-Newark-Edison, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa. MSA
2. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif. MSA
3. Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, Fla. MSA
4. Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis. MSA
5. San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif. MSA
6. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va. MSA
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4-Star Quality of Life Metros

Akron, Ohio MSA
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Pa.-N.J.
Amarillo, Texas MSA
Anchorage, Alaska MSA
Ann Arbor, Mich. MSA
Asheville, N.C. MSA
Bellingham, Wash. MSA
Boulder, Colo. MSA
Bowling Green, Ky. MSA
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, Conn. MSA
Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Tonawanda, N.Y. MSA
Cincinnati-Middletown, Ohio-Ky.-Ind. MSA
Colorado Springs, Colo. MSA
Columbus, Ohio MSA
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas MSA
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, Iowa-Ill. MSA
Dayton, Ohio MSA
Eugene-Springfield, Ore. MSA
Fairbanks, Alaska MSA
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, Ark.-Mo. MSA
Fond du Lac, Wis. MSA
Fort Collins-Loveland, Colo. MSA
Fort Walton Beach-Crestview-Destin, Fla. MSA
Gainesville, Fla. MSA
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, Mich. MSA
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, Conn.
Holland-Grand Haven, Mich. MSA
Honolulu, Hawaii MSA
Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, Texas MSA
Indianapolis, Ind. MSA
Ithaca, N.Y. MSA
Kansas City, Mo.-Kan. MSA
Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood, Texas MSA
Lancaster, Pa. MSA
Lansing-East Lansing, Mich. MSA
Lebanon, Pa. MSA
Lewiston, Idaho-Wash. MSA
Louisville, Ky.-Ind. MSA
Manchester-Nashua, N.H. MSA
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minn.-Wis. MSA
Morgantown, W.Va. MSA

Oshkosh-Neenah, Wis. MSA
Owensboro, Ky. MSA
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, Fla. MSA
Parkersburg-Marietta, W. Va.-Ohio MSA
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md. MSA
Pittsfield, Mass. MSA
Portland-South Portland, Maine MSA
Provo-Orem, Utah MSA
Richmond, Va. MSA
Salt Lake City, Utah MSA
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, Calif. MSA
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Calif. MSA
San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles, Calif. MSA
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Goleta, Calif. MSA
Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Pa. MSA
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Wash. MSA
South Bend-Mishawaka, Ind.-Mich. MSA
Spokane, Wash. MSA
Springfield, Ill. MSA
St. Cloud, Minn. MSA
St. Louis, Mo.-Ill. MSA
Tallahassee, Fla. MSA
Terre Haute, Ind. MSA
Topeka, Kan. MSA
Trenton-Ewing, N.J. MSA
Tyler, Texas MSA
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Va.-N.C. MSA
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va. MSA
Wichita Falls, Texas MSA
Wichita, Kan. MSA
Worcester, Mass. MSA

SOURCE: 2006 Quality of Life Quotient™, *Expansion Management* magazine