



MEDIA RELEASE

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Dubuque Ranks #1 in Projected Job Growth on *Forbes.com* List City Surges 156 Places in Ranking

DUBUQUE, IOWA – April 26, 2010 – The Great Recession took its toll in cities and communities across the nation. Most metro areas saw home prices decline along with household incomes. The employment picture across the country could be described as dismal at best.

According to *Forbes.com*, Middle America is leading the way to recovery, and Dubuque is ranked as the **#1 Best Smaller Metro for Projected Job Growth**. *Forbes.com* ranked Dubuque at 157th in projected job growth on its 2009 list, giving Dubuque the nod as the largest gainer in the U.S. The ranking is based on three-year annualized figures and compares 184 smaller metro areas with populations ranging from 55,000 to 245,000. Only 15 communities making the grade have populations smaller than Dubuque.

Dubuque also pushed ahead to a 15th place overall ranking on the **Best Small Places for Business and Careers**, moving up 25 places from its 2009 ranking of 40th. The overall ranking consists of 12 metrics including costs (business and living), job growth (past and projected), income growth, educational attainment, and projected economic growth. Also factored in are quality-of-life issues like crime, cultural and recreational opportunities, as well as net migration patterns. Lastly, included are the percentage of subprime mortgages handed out over a three-year stretch and the number of highly ranked four-year colleges in the area, per *Forbes.com's* annual college rankings.

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