



Lafayette, LA offers the essential elements needed to ensure the growth and development of its business community. Lafayette is set apart by its strategic location, a world-class workforce, a pro-business climate, and an unmatched quality of life. These attributes, complemented by a high-tech infrastructure and quality real estate, make Lafayette a unique place to live, work, play and do business.

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**Next Urban Powerhouses** - Realtor.com ranked Lafayette second in its list of 10 Smaller Cities Poised to Skyrocket. Researchers looked at housing price appreciation, five-year population trends, income growth, economic statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and cultural amenities. Realtor.com, May 2018

**Millennial Home Buyers** - Lafayette ranked sixth on Realtor.com's list of communities with the largest share of millennial mortgages. According to the National Association of Realtors, millennials bought 36% of homes last year, the highest share of any age group. Realtor.com, April 2018

**Fiber Price Savings** - A Harvard University study cites LUS Fiber as the best in the nation for price savings. In the study, "Community-Owned Fiber Networks: Value Leaders in America," Harvard University examined pricing of community-owned fiber networks with local competitors and concluded LUS Fiber's broadband Internet pricing provided customers with the greatest annual costs savings. Harvard University, January 2018

**Sports Economic Impact** - LCVC and the 2017 National Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament of Champions were named a 2017 Champion of Economic Impact in Sports Tourism by *Sports Event Management*. The event brought in more than 1,000 boxers, coaches and officials from 50 states. The tournament, a qualifying event for the U.S. Olympic Trials, had an estimated economic impact of \$3.68 million. Sports Destination Management, November 2017

**Low-Cost Retirement** - Lafayette was selected as a top retirement destination by *Where to Retire*, the only magazine in America geared to helping people with retirement relocation decisions. Lafayette was profiled in a feature titled "8 Praiseworthy Low-Cost Cities" along with Cleveland, TN; Moses Lake, WA; Pueblo, CO; Sierra Vista, AZ; Tampa, FL; Tupelo, MS; and Waco, TX. *Where to Retire*, November/December 2017

**Foreign Direct Investment** - *FDI Magazine*, a London-based publication, ranked Lafayette in the top 10 of small North American cities for Foreign Direct Investment Strategy in their American Cities of the Future rankings. *FDI Magazine* April 2017

**Job Growth Leader** - Lafayette was recognized as the fifth best city for job growth in the U.S. in the current issue of *Business Facilities*. *Business Facilities* July/August 2015

**Foreign Direct Investment** - *FDI Magazine*, a London-based publication, ranked Lafayette second for Foreign Direct Investment Strategy for small cities with populations between 100 and 350 thousand in their American Cities of the Future rankings. *FDI Magazine* April 2015

Top 10 in the South - Southern Business and Development recognized Lafayette in its annual Top 10 issue as a sizzling mid-market economy. The announcement of 1,000 technology jobs in 2014 further strengthens Lafayette's economic diversification which has been driven by the healthcare, energy and entertainment sectors. SB&D Winter 2015

Best Performing Cities - For the sixth time in seven years, the Lafayette MSA is ranked in the top 25 metro areas in the Best Performing Cities Index. Lafayette gained five spots, coming in at 19 out of the 200 largest metros. Editors note that Lafayette has benefited from a strong energy sector. Recent announcements by Bell Helicopter, CGI, Perficient and Enquero point to the region's diversification efforts. Milken Institute, January 2015

Fastest Internet - Lafayette was named as having the fastest home Internet in the world, according to Open Technology Institute's report, "2014 Speed Leaders for Home Broadband." LUS Fiber's Gig connection, with equal upload and download speeds, puts the Hub City on par with world cities like Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong. Lafayette is tied for first place with only six other cities from around the world and only three cities in North America. Open Technology Institute, December 2014

Happiest City - Lafayette residents are the happiest in the U.S. according to a study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Researchers measured life satisfaction of based on data collected from a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey, and ranked the cities after adjusting the results for income, age, race, sex and other research-backed factors that influence happiness levels. National Bureau of Economic Research, July 2014

Industrial Boomtown - Lafayette ranks as the eighth best manufacturing city in the U.S. in an analysis completed by New Geography. Lafayette moved up 14 spots from its 2013 rank. Lafayette is also the number one mid-sized metro area in the nation, up two spots from 2013. Local manufacturing employment grew 7.4% between 2012 and 2013. Forbes, June 2014

Leading Locations - Lafayette was ranked as the fifth best mid-sized city and the seventh best Southern city in Area Development's 2014 Leading Locations list for economic and job growth. Overall, Lafayette ranked 17th among the 379 metropolitan areas surveyed for the list. The rankings are based on 21 economic and workforce indicators. Area Development, May 2014

Best Cities for Jobs - Lafayette ranked as the 27th overall city in the 2014 Best Cities for Jobs list. Lafayette ranked fifth in mid-sized communities, those with 150,000 to 450,000 non-farm jobs, up one spot from 2013. Job growth in Lafayette between 2008 and 2013 was 5.9%. The index is calculated from recent growth trends, short-term growth, mid-term growth, and long-term momentum. Forbes, April 2014

Top 10 in the South - Lafayette was named one of the top 10 shining examples of economic development in the South by Southern Business and Development. New business announcements from Freeport McMoRan Oil and Gas, Newpark Resources and Bell Helicopter illustrate the community-wide economic development approach that is in place in Lafayette. SB&D Winter 2014

Best Performing Cities - For the second year, the Lafayette MSA is ranked 24th out of the 200 largest metro areas in the Best Performing Cities Index compiled by the Milken Institute. Lafayette's low cost of doing business and our proximity to energy operations in the Gulf of Mexico were listed as assets to our continued success. Milken Institute, December 2013

Leading Locations - Lafayette ranked first on Area Development's list of 380 U.S. MSAs surveyed for the Leading Locations list. Lafayette also finished first on the lists for best mid-sized cities and best Southern cities. Lafayette topped the mid-sized city list and the overall list for Economic Strength which looked at workforce and labor factors. Lafayette ranked first for Recession-Busting mid-sized cities (second overall). New this year, Lafayette ranked first overall for Year-Over-Year Growth which looked at growth since 2011, measuring short-term economic success. Source: Area Development, May 2013

# LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA