

Forbes: America's Coolest Cities 2014

Forbes

By Erin Carlyle | Forbes.com

Forbes partnered with Sperling's BestPlaces and started with the 60 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas, ranking them on six factors weighted equally.

Entertainment and Recreation We considered entertainment options per capita which measures ways you might spend a Saturday: sports events, zoos, golf courses, ski areas, National Parks, and cultural options including theater and musical performances as well as local museums.

"Foodie Factor" The "foodie factor" is based on the number of restaurants and bars per capita. We gave preference to cities with a greater percentage of local spots. Chain restaurants like TGI Fridays tend to be less exciting than home-grown bistros.

Diversity We used Sperling's Diversity Index, which measures the likelihood of meeting someone of a different race or ethnicity, favoring cities with greater diversity.

Age We factored in age, drawing on US Census Bureau data and favored places with a large population of people aged 20-34.

Population Growth With data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Moody's Analytics, we measured population

20. Santa Ana, California





1. Washington DC



5. San Francisco



6. San Diego



9. Boston



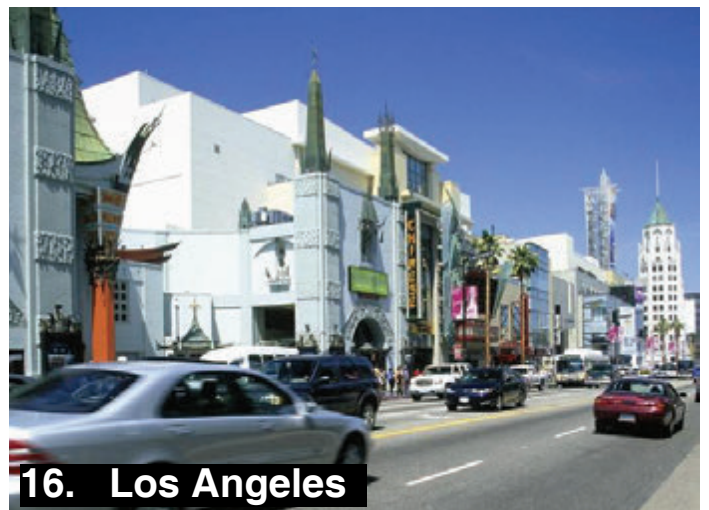
10. Dallas



11. New York



13. Miami



16. Los Angeles