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Worldwide ERC® & Primacy Relocation Name 2005's "Best Cities for Relocating Families"

SAN DIEGO – [May 19, 2005] - Worldwide ERC® (the Employee Relocation Council) and Primacy Relocation announced this week that Washington, D.C.; Boulder, Colorado; and Athens, Georgia, are 2005's Best Cities for Relocating Families™ among large, medium and small U.S. metropolitan areas. The two organizations worked with Bert Sperling of Sperling's BestPlaces to rate cities based on those factors – short-term and long-term – that determine the likelihood of a successful relocation. [full list at end of document]

The results changed from last year's study when Sperling and Primacy's research team broadened their definition of the American family to include elder-care and assisted-living statistics from the federal Administration on Aging. Every year, research shows that transferees place an increasing priority on finding safe and meaningful care for their aging parents.

Worldwide ERC Executive Vice President H. Cris Collie, CAE, said, "Relocations occur for business reasons, but more and more often, they succeed because of a combination of family needs that are met."

The study lists the top 50 U.S. cities in their population categories, based in part on indicators familiar to all city rankings, such as cost of living, taxes, home costs/appreciation, schools, and climate. The rankings also consider criteria often overlooked, but helpful to have, once a family actually moves to one of these "best cities."

"Even the best relocation benefit programs can't ease all the burden of bureaucratic hassles and unexpected fees," said Primacy CEO Matt Spinolo. "So we factored in such elements as commute times, and out-of-state tuition rules at local universities—and now we take a close

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look at how well each state monitors long-term care facilities."

ERC and Primacy announced the results of the survey at the National Relocation Conference in San Diego. Full results of the survey are available at www.primacy.com and will be published in *MOBILITY* magazine this summer.

Worldwide ERC[®] is the membership association of choice for more than 10,000 corporate and government relocation managers, real estate companies, appraisers, and a range of service firms and individuals from industries that address relocation-related workforce issues.

Primacy Relocation is a full-service relocation provider, addressing both U.S.-based and global needs for companies around the world, including home sales, destination services, household goods move management, program administration, and international assignment (expatriate) support. In addition to its Memphis headquarters, Primacy has offices in Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Omaha, Sacramento and Washington, D.C.; as well as Basel, Geneva, Lausanne, London, Montréal, Munich, Neuchâtel, Shanghai and Zurich. Primacy is online (in eight languages) at www.primacy.com.

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Full Results:

New criteria for the 2005 Best Cities for Relocating Families included nuanced climate criteria to give value to those cities where mild winters, mild summers, and plentiful rainfall combine to keep utility prices reasonable. We also included elder-care and assisted-living statistics from the federal Administration on Aging.

These internal and external changes resulted in a number of shifts in the rankings. Washington, D.C. shot from #18 to #1, unseating Austin, which is #2 this year.

In the medium sized markets (pop. 250,000 to 500,000) Boulder, Colorado, held on to #1, with challenger Lexington, KY, moving up from #8 to #2.

Athens takes the prize as best small city for relocating families, with Cheyenne, Wyoming, a close second and Fargo, North Dakota, moving up from the pack to #3. Last year's winner, Yolo County, California (Davis), is ranked 4th this year.

Ranking charts are on the next two pages



Large Markets

Metropolitan Statistical Areas with populations over 500,000

rank	City	State
1	Washington	DC-MD-VA-WV
2	Austin-San Marcos	TX
3	Colorado Springs	CO
4	Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon	NJ
5	Louisville	KY-IN
6	San Jose	CA
7	New Orleans	LA
8	Denver	CO
9	Orange County	CA
10	Knoxville	TN
11	Albuquerque	NM
12	Monmouth-Ocean	NJ
13	Oklahoma City	OK
14	Nashville	TN
15	Ventura	CA
16	Baltimore	MD
17	San Francisco	CA
18	Fort Worth-Arlington	TX
19	Providence-Fall River-Warwick	RI-MA
20	Baton Rouge	LA
21	San Antonio	TX
22	Las Vegas	NV-AZ
23	Memphis	TN-AR-MS
24	Atlanta	GA
25	Tulsa	OK
26	Bergen-Passaic	NJ
27	Wilmington-Newark	DE-MD
28	Dallas	TX
29	Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle	PA
30	Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	PA
31	Seattle-Bellevue-Everett	WA
32	El Paso	TX
33	Jersey City	NJ
34	Oakland	CA
35	Los Angeles-Long Beach	CA
36	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	TX
37	Nassau-Suffolk	NY
38	Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill	NC
39	Houston	TX
40	Phoenix-Mesa	AZ
41	Sacramento	CA
42	Salt Lake City-Ogden	UT
43	Sarasota-Bradenton	FL
44	Newark	NJ
45	Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton	PA
46	San Diego	CA
47	Philadelphia	PA-NJ
48	Richmond-Petersburg	VA
49	Orlando	FL
50	Jacksonville	FL

Medium Markets

Metropolitan Statistical Areas with populations 250,000 - 500,000

rank	City	State
1	Boulder-Longmont	CO
2	Lexington	KY
3	Fort Collins-Loveland	CO
4	Burlington	VT
5	Greeley	CO
6	Provo-Orem	UT
7	Boise City	ID
8	Clarksville-Hopkinsville	TN-KY
9	Manchester	NH
10	Portsmouth-Rochester	NH-ME
11	Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula	MS
12	Trenton	NJ
13	Lafayette	LA
14	Evansville-Henderson	IN-KY
15	Bremerton	WA
16	Augusta-Aiken	GA-SC
17	Anchorage	AK
18	Brazoria	TX
19	Shreveport-Bossier City	LA
20	Columbus	GA-AL
21	Jackson	MS
22	Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers	AR
23	Reno	NV
24	Portland	ME
25	Olympia	WA
26	Lowell	MA-NH
27	Worcester	MA-CT
28	Macon	GA
29	Lawrence	MA-NH
30	Savannah	GA
31	Brockton	MA
32	Erie	PA
33	Charleston	WV
34	Montgomery	AL
35	Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol	TN-VA
36	Galveston-Texas City	TX
37	Barnstable-Yarmouth	MA
38	Chattanooga	TN-GA
39	Santa Barbara-Santa Maria	CA
40	Asheville	NC
41	Fort Smith	AR-OK
42	Hamilton-Middletown	OH
43	Johnstown	PA
44	Huntsville	AL
45	Santa Cruz-Watsonville	CA
46	Huntington-Ashland	WV-KY
47	Killeen-Temple	TX
48	Madison	WI
49	Waco	TX
50	New London-Norwich	CT-RI

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Small Markets

2005 Best Cities for Relocating Families, con't.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas with populations 50,000 – 250,000

rank	Metro area	States
1	Athens	GA
2	Cheyenne	WY
3	Fargo-Moorhead	ND-MN
4	Yolo	CA
5	Enid	OK
6	Grand Forks	ND-MN
7	Hagerstown	MD
8	Pocatello	ID
9	Dover	DE
10	Casper	WY
11	Bellingham	WA
12	Cumberland	MD-WV
13	Nashua	NH
14	Owensboro	KY
15	Iowa City	IA
16	Great Falls	MT
17	Grand Junction	CO
18	State College	PA
19	Bryan-College Station	TX
20	Fitchburg-Leominster	MA-NH
21	Bangor	ME
22	New Bedford	MA
23	Missoula	MT
24	Billings	MT
25	Flagstaff	AZ-UT
26	Texarkana-Texarkana	TX-AR
27	Lawrence	KS
28	Bismarck	ND
29	La Crosse	WI-MN
30	Pueblo	CO
31	Parkersburg-Marietta	WV-OH
32	Lawton	OK
33	Hattiesburg	MS
34	Lewiston-Auburn	ME
35	Pittsfield	MA
36	Lafayette	IN
37	Florence	SC
38	Charlottesville	VA
39	Bloomington	IN
40	Alexandria	LA
41	Wheeling	WV-OH
42	Las Cruces	NM
43	Santa Fe	NM
44	Monroe	LA
45	Jacksonville	NC
46	Steubenville-Weirton	OH-WV
47	Kenosha	WI
48	Albany	GA
49	Lake Charles	LA
50	Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton	NJ

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