

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES FOUR NORTH CAROLINA METROS MAKE MAGAZINE'S
'50 HOTTEST CITIES' LIST**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that four North Carolina metropolitan areas ranked among “America’s 50 Hottest Cities” for business relocation or expansion in the January-February issue of *Expansion Management* magazine. The publication is scheduled to hit newsstands today.

“*Expansion Management* examined the business climate, workforce quality and manufacturing costs of metropolitan areas across the nation,” Easley said. “I am pleased that four North Carolina cities are included in the Top 50 list. This ranking offers further proof that North Carolina continues to be one of the best places to locate and expand a company.”

Metropolitan areas included in the magazine’s eighth annual ranking are: Charlotte-Gastonia, No. 6; Raleigh-Cary, No. 16; Winston-Salem, No. 34; and Greensboro-High Point, No. 47. The rankings resulted from a magazine survey of more than 80 site location consultants who were asked to list their top city choices for relocating or expanding manufacturing companies, taking into consideration such factors incentive programs and the ease of working with local political and economic development officials. North Carolina, Tennessee and Florida tied for second place with four metropolitan areas each. Five cities in Texas made the list.

“The Hot Cities poll attempts to measure the perceptions of professional site location consultants, whose business it is to help companies select the best locations for future facility expansions,” said *Expansion Management* Chief Editor Bill King. “Having four metros in the Top 50 means that top site location consultants believe your state offers the right business climate. This top ranking increases the odds that more companies would choose North Carolina to expand or relocate businesses.”

In addition to this recognition, North Carolina has earned a No. 1 ranking for business climate from *Site Selection* magazine four out of the last five years and was named 2005 “State of the Year” by *Southern Business and Development Magazine*, which also ranked the state No. 1 “Comeback Kid” in the Winter 2005 edition for its ability to recover from textile job losses.

For more information about *Expansion Management*’s “America’s 50 Hottest Cities” list, visit its website at <http://www.expansionmanagement.com/>.

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