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## Midwest's No. 1 Dreamtown? Pierre, South Dakota

For those who find small-town life appealing, Pierre is the best choice in the Midwest and ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation, according to a recent study conducted by Bizjournals.

The study was inspired by the heavy public interest in small-town life and business opportunities. More than 1.7 million people move from metropolitan areas to small cities or rural counties each year, according to U.S. Census Bureau research.

According to Bizjournals, the best scores went to “well-rounded places with strong economies, light traffic, moderate costs of living, first-class educational systems, and good access to big-city attractions.”

Included in the study were factors like population growth, per capita income, percentage of management and professional jobs, affordable housing, low taxations, and percentage of adults with college degrees. Pierre ranked especially well on commute times and professional occupations.

Bizjournals, the online media division of the American City Business Journals, the nation's leading publisher of metropolitan business newspapers, analyzed data from all 577 locales in the United States classified as micropolitan areas. Each micropolitan area consists of a county or cluster of counties that are economically dependent on a central city, town or village with 10,000 to 50,000 residents.

All of the statistics used in the study were from two federal agencies, The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The data was the most recent and most comprehensive available at the micropolitan level.

Topping the list nationwide were Bozeman, Montana; Jackson, Wyoming; and Durango, Colorado. Pierre ranked #8 nationally, but came out on top for the Midwest Region.

The complete study can be found on the American City Business Journal web site at [http://www.bizjournals.com/edit\\_special/41.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/edit_special/41.html).

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