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Raleigh-Cary second on list of 'best-performing' metros

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The Raleigh-Cary area is No. 2 on a new list of metropolitan areas that are creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth.

The Milken Institute and **Greenstreet Real Estate Partners** put together the 2008 list of America's "Best Performing Cities," which puts a special focus on technology growth. The list also puts Wilmington at No. 6 and Durham at No. 21.

Last year, Wilmington ranked second on the list, while Raleigh was eighth and Durham was 74th. Durham had the 10th largest improvement among the 200 metropolitan areas ranked this year.

Criteria used to put together the list include job growth, growth in wages, and an area's high-tech economic growth, the organizers say.

Raleigh-Cary came in No. 1 for job growth between March 2007 and March 2008. Durham ranked 11th in job growth during that same period. Durham's highest category ranking was fifth for concentration of high tech industry; Raleigh-Cary ranked 18th in that category.

Among other North Carolina metros, Charlotte ranks No. 26, with Asheville No. 46, Winston-Salem No. 99 and Greensboro No. 141.

Provo, Utah is No. 1 nationally, with Detroit at No. 200. To see the full list, **click here**.

The Milken Institute is a nonpartisan think tank based in California. Greenstreet Real Estate Partners is based in Miami.

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