

FULL SPECIAL REPORT

America's best jobs in the hottest markets

The great American hiring boom is slowing down--but as labor cools with the rest of the economy, a few choice regions will stay red-hot. You just have to know where to look.

By Paul Kihla, Business 2.0 Magazine senior writer

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10. ATLANTA, GA

2-year job-growth forecast: 4.6%

Metropolitan-area population: 5.1 million

Who's hiring now: AGL Resources, Home Depot, Newell Rubbermaid

Hottest jobs Regional sales manager (\$86,400), senior software developer (\$84,900), IT project manager (\$83,000), business process/management consultant (\$76,500), senior financial analyst (\$72,100), construction project manager (\$70,300)

Atlanta leads the nation in attracting the labor market's most coveted demographic: college-educated workers ages 25 to 34. Among the key reasons is that housing costs have stayed dramatically lower here than in inflated coastal markets like Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. Katrina spillover has brought other transplants, helping to seed new jobs and businesses. Ironically, while traditional pillars like Delta Air Lines and BellSouth are starting to sag, small and medium size businesses are picking up the slack. One driver: Midtown Mile, a 14-block complex, opens its first phase next year with dozens of new hotels, shops, and offices. Another is Technology Enterprise Park, a bioscience research center. "Most of the growth is coming from small firms that hire a dozen workers," says Rajeev Dhawan, director of Georgia State University's Economic Forecasting Center.



COURTESY: 1010 MIDTOWN

Hundreds of new businesses will soon line the 14-block Midtown Mile.

[See the interactive map](#)
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Sources: Conference Board, Global Insight, Moody's Economy.com, PayScale, and Radford Surveys & Consulting.