

## Study: Tampa Bay area cheap place to do business

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The Tampa Bay area region ranked as one of the lowest for overall business costs among the 25 major U.S. markets studied by KPMG, one of the largest professional services firms in the world.

Tampa Bay tied with Dallas Fort-Worth in the ranking with a score of 97.3 on a scale where 100 is the U.S. average. Only Atlanta had a lower cost, according to the study, at 96.9.

The KPMG study measured the combined impact of 27 cost components that are most likely to vary by location, including tax, labor and facility costs. The basis for comparison is the after-tax cost of start-up and operations over 10 years.

Major communities include those with 1.5 million or more residents.

"Business costs are an important factor companies use in the decision-making process when choosing where to relocate and expand. This ranking shows that the Tampa Bay region remains very competitive in this important measure for economic growth," said Chris Steinocher, chief operating officer and senior vice president of marketing & business development for the Tampa Bay Partnership, an economic development group that includes Manatee and Sarasota counties.