

Forbes Magazine: Cincinnati is a bargain

Forbes magazine has realized what Cincinnatians have known for a long time: it's a pretty good bargain living here.

An abundance of affordable housing and the reasonable cost of living caused the region to be ranked fifth on Forbes' list of America's Best Bargain Cities, released Friday.

"It's great for a national publication such as Forbes to recognize that Cincinnati USA doesn't have many of the headaches associated with big cities, such as the high cost of living and long commute time," said Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber spokesman Chris Kemper.

Forbes looked at the 50 largest metro regions and scored them based on average salaries for college-educated workers, unemployment rates, cost of living, and affordable housing.

Cincinnati tied with Indianapolis for fifth place.

The top three bargains were Austin, Texas, Phoenix and Washington, D.C., followed by Fort Worth, Texas.

Austin scored well based on its low unemployment (5.5 percent) and its low cost of living.

Washington made the top three based on high salaries and low unemployment.