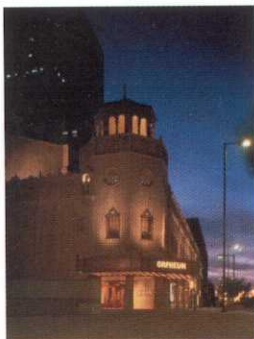


# BEST CITIES

to start and grow  
a company in now

THERE IS SUCH A THING AS FERTILE GROUND FOR START-UPS. Some locations have just the right factors needed for the success of a particular business—lots of available capital, a skilled labor pool, the enriching atmosphere created by universities, advanced transportation facilities, and good roads, not to mention the psychic rewards of great weather, and in one instance you'll read about here, proximity to the beach. ■ The advantages of one location over another can be powerful. The question is, Are you in the right place for your business? Our ranking of the best cities in America for new and growing companies is the perfect place to begin looking for the answer.



Arts, culture and entertainment thrive in Phoenix venues, such as the historic Orpheum Theatre.

## 50 BEST LARGE METRO AREAS

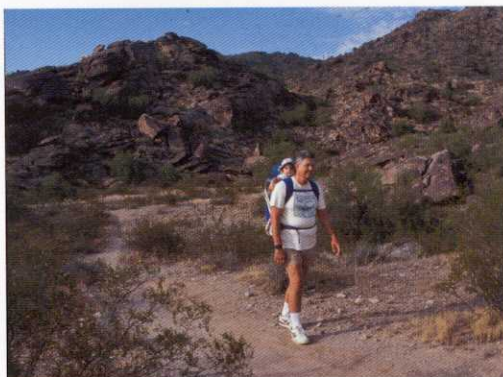
**1 Phoenix, AZ**  
Rapid population growth means more customers and more workers, particularly for high-tech companies, while a renovated art museum, four major sports franchises, and the sunny climate attract residents.



Copper Square, in the heart of downtown Phoenix.



Work and play mix well in Phoenix's year round, sunny climate.



Residents can enjoy all-season outdoor recreation in Phoenix's award-winning parks and trails systems.