USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: usatoday.com

Looking for a job? You might have a harder time finding a good one in these 10 states

Unemployment is down, but when it comes to job hunting, all states aren't equal.

Looking at a range of factors – from the jobless rate, to how much house workers may be able to afford based on pay – career search site Zippia ranked which states are best and worst when it comes to job prospects.

Louisiana, with one of the lowest median incomes and highest jobless rates in the nation, ranked at the bottom. Connecticut meanwhile offered the best possibilities among the 10 worst-performing states.

"There are two common themes that run through these states,'' said Chris Kolmar, Zippia's co-founder. "Unemployment rates that generally tend on the higher side of the national average and ... wages that have not grown as fast in the past several years as states with better overall job markets.''

The list:

• 1. Louisiana
• 2. Arizona
• 3. Kentucky
• 4. Mississippi
• 5. Alabama
• 6. Wyoming
• 7. West Virginia
• 8. Alaska
• 9. New Mexico
• 10. Connecticut

Fuente
https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/02/28/these-ten-states-where-may-harder-find-good-job/3008037002/

Foto: Entrepreneur

Amazon's real estate chief wants to hyper-focus on Virginia

Two weeks after killing a deal to build a new campus in New York City, Amazon is expressing lots of love for the company's remaining second headquarters site -- Arlington, Virginia. "We want to locate in a community where not only our company but our employees are welcome, and we feel that in Arlington," said Amazon's worldwide head of economic development, Holly Sullivan, speaking before a crowd of local real estate types at an event sponsored by the news website Bisnow. Sullivan said the company sent a representative around to bars and coffeeshops while they were vetting sites in Crystal City, the dull collection of office buildings just across the river from Washington, DC, chatting up residents to see what they thought of Amazon coming to the area.

In contrast, Amazon had faced fierce opposition from local politicians in Queens as well as some activist groups, although polls showed that the majority of New York residents supported their plan to put 25,000 workers in Long Island City. "We think we could've gotten New York done, but you always have to say, what are the costs?" Sullivan said. "We think we made a very prudent decision that gives us an opportunity to hyper-focus on Virginia." The path to getting a nearly $3 billion package of tax incentives negotiated in New York by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio had been complicated by a shift in power in New York's state senate. In Virginia, however, the $750 million incentive package sailed through the legislature and was signed by Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam in early February. Yet a handful of protesters interrupted Thursday's event for several minutes, chanting a demand for public hearings on the Amazon deal. They were met with boos from the sold-out audience, before being shepherded out.

New York officials, while mourning Amazon's decision to scratch plans for New York, have also said that Amazon's public relations strategy was partly to blame for local opposition, along with "misinformation" about the nature of tax incentives. "I think they were not prepared in the way they reacted," said New York City Economic Development Corporation director James Patchett in a speech hosted by Crain's New York Business last week. "They didn't perform particularly well during their public hearings. They never hired a single New Yorker. They never really connected with people in the city." Amazon only informed officials that it had chosen Long Island City 24 hours before planning to make a public announcement, Patchett said, which left them scrambling to organize the rollout.

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https://edition.cnn.com/business/live-news/stock-market-news-today-022819/index.html

Foto: usatoday.com

How to estimate how much your home is worth for free before you list it for sale

What is your house worth? Many people go for years without questioning the stated value of their home. This mistake could mean you're paying too much in property taxes and affect how much you could make (or lose) if you decide to sell.

Many factors go into determining a home's value, including location, square footage, age, the condition of the house and neighborhood "comps," to name a few. Before you speak with buyers or real estate agents, gather several different estimates. They will research prices online, too.

Remember, these figures are only estimates of your home's potential sale price. You won't know the accurate value until you get serious offers from buyers.

Start at the very top
Realtor.com is very easy to use. Select Sell, enter your complete address, and then, Get Estimate. This site offers a cool feature. You can see potential profit or losses by breaking down several factors, such as the sale price minus real estate agent commission, or the balance owed on your mortgage. Here's an example: Your estimated sale price is $250,000, you owe $120,000 on your mortgage, you'll be paying a 6% commission plus a 1% transfer tax and plan to allow $3,000 for repairs/improvements/staging. You're looking at $109,500 for estimated proceeds.
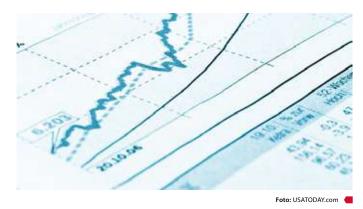
Get a second opinion on your home's value
Zillow.com's estimate feature is similar to Realtor.com. First, go Zillow.com and select Sell, enter your exact address and then Search.

You'll see "Zestimate." Toward the bottom of the page, you also see comparable homes in the area that recently sold. You can select any one for more detailed information.

Then get a third opinion
Trulia.com can also help you find an estimate, and you can also research properties in other areas. To see the estimated value of your home, type your address into the search bar.

After clicking search, you'll see your Trulia Estimate and more useful data. Pay attention to the pricing trends in your ZIP code. It tells you the average listing price, median sale price and average sale price per square foot.

Fuente
https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/columnist/komando/2019/02/28/how-much-my-house-worth-estimate-value-your-home-free/2991016002/

Foto: USATODAY.com

US markets open with a shrug

The Dow was essentially flat at market open. The S&P 500 drifted 0.1%, lower while the Nasdaq slipped 0.2%.

US GDP numbers for the fourth quarter looked better than expected. The broad measure of the nation's economy grew slower than the previous quarter, but the slowdown wasn't as bad as what economists feared.

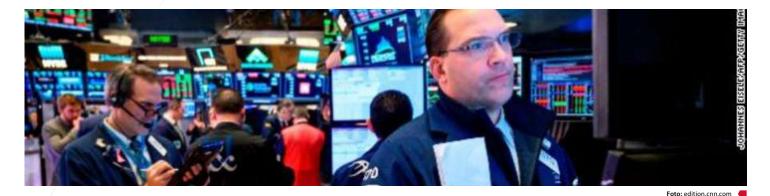Shares in AB InBev (BUD) grew 4% after the world's biggest brewer said it expects strong sales in 2019.

JCPenney (JCP) stock soared 27% to $1.57 after the retailer reported that its holiday stretch wasn't as bad as some feared — an encouraging sign for the troubled retailer.

L Brands (LB) fell 6%. The Victoria's Secret owner said its lingerie store struggled to draw customers during the holidays.

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https://edition.cnn.com/business/live-news/stock-market-news-today-022819/index.html

Foto: edition.cnn.com

Markets check before the bell

Global stock markets have dipped as investors react to negative economic data in Asia and the abrupt end of a summit between the United States and North Korea.

US stock futures are pointing lower. European markets opened down and most indexes in Asia closed with losses.

Official Chinese data showed the country's manufacturing sector weakened again in February, raising concerns about the slowdown in the world's second largest economy.

The collapse of nuclear talks between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un also contributed to the sour mood among investors, especially in South Korea. South Korea's benchmark Kospi index closed down 1.8%.

Some investors had bet that improved relations between North Korea and the rest of the world would mean new business for regional infrastructure and mining companies. That now looks less likely.

Yong Pyong Resorts, which builds ski resorts and gold courses, fell 25% in Seoul.
Sungshin Cement stock dropped 20%.
Dohwa Engineering dropped 26%.
Mining company Ilshin Stone saw its shares decline 27%.