

Best-Performing Cities 2013

WHERE AMERICA'S
JOBS ARE CREATED
AND SUSTAINED



MEDICAL DEVICE TECHNOLOGY
BIO
OIL
NATURAL GAS
SOCIAL MEDIA
TECHNOLOGY
HOUSING
TRANSPORTATION
COMPUTER CHIPS
BIOTECH
BIOMEDICAL
ENERGY
MOBILE
BIG DATA
MILITARY
INNOVATION
MANUFACTURING
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
VENTURE CAPITAL
SOFTWARE
INFRASTRUCTURE
SCIENCE
BIOSCIENCE
IMPORTING
EDUCATION
TOURISM
AEROSPACE
ENERGY



DECEMBER 2013

Best-Performing Cities 2013

WHERE AMERICA'S
JOBS ARE CREATED
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MILKEN INSTITUTE

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Executive Summary

What critical factors determine which U.S. metros are thriving or merely surviving? Which places possess the traits that will lead to success? Our annual Best-Performing Cities report provides a fact-based, comprehensive metric system across metropolitan areas that highlights the job, wage, and technology trends that shape current and future prospects.

Technology and energy were the forces powering this year's top performers, even more so than in 2012. Of course, tech firms didn't just fall from the sky; the leading tech metros cultivated these assets through indigenous innovation and strategic recruitment. Some were successful despite being high-cost, high-regulation locations. For example, **San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA**; **San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA**; and **Cambridge-Newton-Framingham, MA**, have developed critical masses of R&D assets and infrastructure that make it easier to innovate in those metros than in many lower-cost locations. The friction costs of innovation are minimized. Other tech centers are capturing more of their locally generated innovation and filling in the missing ingredients as needed. **Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX**, **Raleigh-Cary, NC**, and **Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO**, fall into this category.

Even five years ago, few would have predicted the extent of the shale oil and gas revolution taking place in the United States. Technological advancements such as horizontal drilling with hydraulic fracturing have altered the energy landscape of North America and potentially the world. Oil production in North Dakota alone increased by more than 400 percent from 2007 to 2012. The indirect effects of that boom helped place **Fargo, ND-MN**, and **Bismarck, ND**, among the Top 5 small cities. World-class energy clusters such as **Houston-Sugarland-Baytown, TX**, and the more remote **Greeley, CO**, are also witnessing significant ripple effects across their economies from this oil and gas exploration renaissance.

Among this year's key findings:

- » **Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX**, reclaimed the top spot as our 2013 Best-Performing Large City. Austin's technology base is highly diversified and has been performing admirably.
- » The Lone Star State, which has both technology and energy assets, claimed three of the Top 10 and seven of the Top 25 large cities.
- » Colorado and California are each home to four of the Top 25 large cities.
- » Technology hubs dominated with 13 of them in the Top 25, and technology growth helped propel several other metros into the top ranks.
- » The shale oil and gas boom thrust nine other metros into the Top 25.
- » **Columbia, MO**, was the Best-Performing Small City with the help of high-tech industries like telecommunications, which saw employment grow by 60 percent from 2007 to 2012.
- » **Hagerstown-Martinsburg, MD-WV**, recorded the biggest gain among the large cities, vaulting 100 spots.

The U.S. economy continues to expand at a modest pace despite the political dysfunction in Washington. Labor markets are improving modestly, adding 194,000 jobs per month over the past year, and private-sector employment has regained more than 80 percent of the jobs lost during the recession. In the public sector, however, government employment is far below its previous levels due to the severity of state and local budget crises.

These improving fundamentals stem largely from consumers shedding debt, the housing market recovering, the euro-zone recession ending, and business confidence being restored. Orders for non-defense, non-aircraft capital goods—primarily information and communications equipment—have been increasing in recent months, indicating that firms are more confident in the strength of the recovery. An associated surge in Internet-related technology services and social media is propelling growth in many metros around the country.

2013 Best-Performing City

This year's Best-Performing City, Austin, is a case study in concocting the proper recipe for economic vitality. A rising technology center, it is creating high-quality jobs that improve the region's overall wage structure. Economic development officials rightly tout its business-friendly, low-tax, low-regulation climate when recruiting outside the state, particularly when soliciting California firms. They also herald the business startups of local entrepreneurs, the spinouts from the University of Texas, Austin, and the number and quality of UT graduates.

Austin's technology base is fairly diversified: hardware, chips and communication gear, computer system design, Internet-related services, and biomedical research. The metro has its share of homegrown tech companies—Dell, Freescale Semiconductor, Flextronics International, and National Instruments among them—and has been successful at attracting technology icons from elsewhere as well. The financial services sector is also adding jobs.

Biggest Gainers

Many factors propelled the biggest gainers. The recovery in auto production and capital goods gave a boost to **Toledo, OH; Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI; and Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL.** The housing recovery helped metros such as **Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ; Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach, FL; and Port St. Lucie, FL.** The tech boom in San Jose and San Francisco spread across the Bay to **Oakland-Fremont-Hayward** and north to **Vallejo-Fairfield.** Similar dynamics were at play in **Manchester-Nashua, NH,** which benefited from technology spillovers from Greater Boston.

Best-Performing Small City

Columbia, MO, jumped nine spots to take first in the 2013 index. It performed well across the board, with growth in high-tech GDP and the number of high-tech industries driving its top ranking. The unemployment rate fell to 4.7 percent in 2012, well below the state's rate of 6.9 percent. Telecommunications, which saw employment rise by 60 percent from 2007 to 2012, is playing a critical role. Employment in professional, scientific, and technical services increased by 1,450 jobs over the same period, a huge gain in a small metro. ABC Laboratories and IDEXX RADIL conduct contract research at the University of Missouri Discovery Ridge research park, and plans are under way to expand lab and office space on-site.

Table 1. Top 25 best-performing large cities

Rank according to 2013 index			
Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	2013 rank	2012 rank	Spots up/down
Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX	1	2	1
Provo-Orem, UT	2	7	5
San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA	3	36	33
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	4	1	-3
Salt Lake City, UT	5	6	1
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA	6	13	7
Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX	7	14	7
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	8	4	-4
Boulder, CO	9	15	6
Greeley, CO	10	42	32
Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC	11	9	-2
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	12	22	10
Raleigh-Cary, NC	13	3	-10
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin, TN	14	27	13
Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO	15	30	15
Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	16	10	-6
Corpus Christi, TX	17	44	27
Trenton-Ewing, NJ	18	28	10
Bakersfield-Delano, CA	19	19	0
Fort Collins-Loveland, CO	20	12	-8
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	21	23	2
Laredo, TX	22	26	4
Cambridge-Newton-Framingham, MA	23	8	-15
Lafayette, LA	24	24	0
San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles, CA	25	106	81

Source: Milken Institute.



ON THE WEB

Data for each metro area can be found at www.best-cities.org

Introduction

The Best-Performing Cities index was designed to measure objectively which U.S. metropolitan areas are promoting economic vitality based on job creation and retention, the quality of new jobs, and other criteria. The index shows where employment is stable and expanding, wages and salaries are increasing, and economies and businesses are thriving.

The goal is to help businesses, investors, industry associations, development agencies and government officials, academics, and public-policy groups monitor and evaluate the performance of metros where they work and do business relative to the rest of the country. The index also provides benchmarking data that can inform approaches to improving a region's performance. In addition, the index provides a tool for understanding consumer markets and business opportunities as communities attempt to fully recover from the financial crisis and Great Recession.

The weak economic recovery has meant subpar job growth for most U.S. metros. Each region must chart its own path forward, relying on its assets and removing obstacles that impede performance. Nevertheless, there are lessons from communities that have rebounded that could be useful to metros that lag behind. Too many communities lack a strategic economic vision: They must decide which industries, with the proper support, can propel their metro forward, and they must identify and promote their comparative advantages—even as they change over time in response to global pressures. A key attribute of the most successful metros is their focus on startup firms and providing the support systems to help them succeed. An educated, talented workforce with strong technical skills allows communities to compete on productivity and not costs.

The 2013 edition applies the methodology used previously. We employ the geographic terms and definitions used by the Office of Management and Budget. The OMB defines a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) as a region generally consisting of a large population nucleus and adjacent territory with a high degree of economic and social integration, as measured by community ties. With these parameters, the agency identifies 379 metropolitan statistical areas. County population growth accounts for the creation of new MSAs.

If specific criteria are met, an MSA with a single nucleus and a population of 2.5 million or more is further divided into geographic areas called metropolitan divisions (MD), of which there are currently 29 in the country. For example, three metropolitan divisions (San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara and Oakland-Fremont-Hayward) comprise the San Francisco-San Jose-Oakland MSA. We include the smaller MDs in the index to reflect more detailed geographic growth patterns.

An Emphasis on Outcomes

Table 2 shows the components used to calculate the Best-Performing Cities rankings. The index measures growth in jobs, wages, salaries, and technology output over five years (2007-12 for jobs and technology output, and 2006-11 for wages and salaries) to adjust for extreme variations in business cycles. It also incorporates the latest available year's performance in these areas (2011-12 for jobs and technology output, and 2010-11 for wages and salaries). In addition, it includes a measure of 12-month job growth (July 2012-July 2013) to capture recent momentum among metropolitan economies.¹

Employment growth is weighted more heavily because of its critical importance to community vitality, as is growth in wages and salaries because it signals the quality of the jobs being created and retained. Other measures reflect the concentration and diversity of technology industries within the MSAs. High-tech location quotients (LQs), which measure the industry's concentration in a particular metro relative to the national average, are included to gauge an area's participation in the knowledge-based economy. We also measure the number of specific high-tech fields (out of a possible 22) whose concentrations in an MSA are higher than the national average.

Table 2. Components of the Best-Performing Cities index

Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	Weight
Job growth (2007-12)	0.143
Job growth (2011-12)	0.143
Wage and salary growth (2006-11)	0.143
Wage and salary growth (2010-11)	0.143
Short-term job growth (July 2012-July 2013)	0.143
High-tech GDP growth (2007-12)	0.071
High-tech GDP growth (2011-12)	0.071
High-tech GDP concentration (2012)	0.071
Number of high-tech industries with LQ>1 (2012)	0.071

Source: Milken Institute.

Best-Performing Cities is solely an outcomes-based index. It does not incorporate input measures (business costs, cost-of-living components, and quality-of-life conditions such as commute times or crime rates). These measures, although important, are prone to wide variations and can be highly subjective.

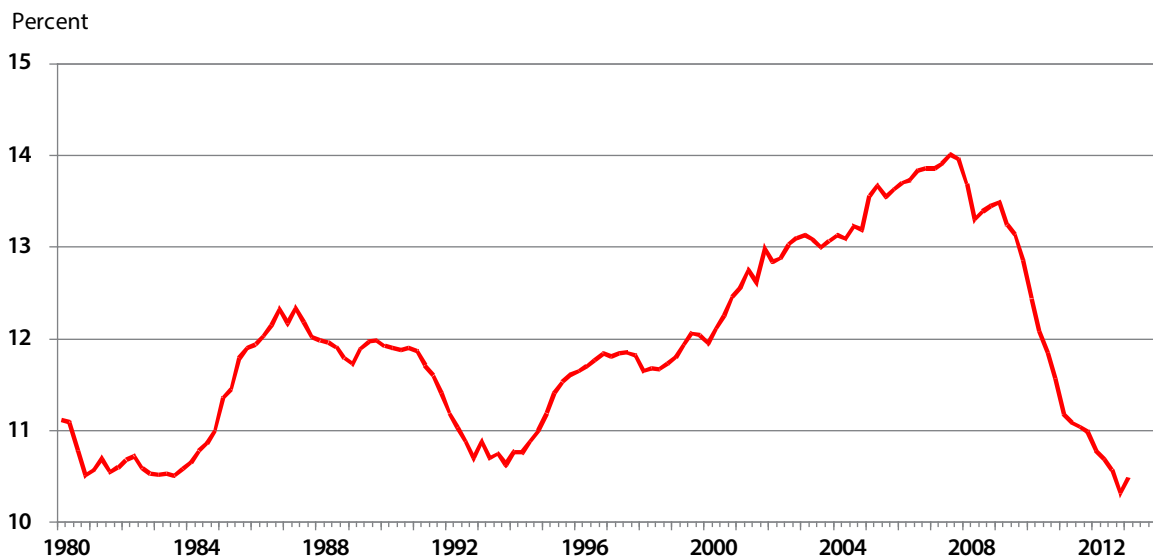
National Economic Conditions

The U.S. economy continues to expand at a modest pace despite the political dysfunction in Washington. At the end of 2012, concern that the U.S. government might go over the fiscal cliff sapped business and consumer confidence, and economic growth paused. By the second quarter of 2013, real GDP growth had accelerated to 2.5 percent. That growth would have been 1.0 to 1.5 percentage points higher without the one-two punch of higher taxes at the beginning of the year and federal sequestration cuts that kicked in during the second quarter of 2013. This suggests that the underlying growth fundamentals improved somewhat, but that full escape velocity may not have been achieved.

Labor markets are improving modestly, adding 194,000 jobs per month over the past year, and private-sector employment has regained more than 80 percent of the jobs lost during the recession. Many of the new private-sector jobs pay below-average wages, but the higher-paying professional and business services have accelerated hiring. In the public sector, however, government employment is far below its previous levels.

These improving economic growth fundamentals stem largely from consumers shedding their debt, the housing market recovering, the euro-zone recession ending, and business confidence being restored. At 10.4 percent, the ratio of consumers' debt payments relative to their disposable income is the lowest in at least three decades, down from 14.1 percent at its peak in 2008 as shown in figure 1. Consumers are taking advantage of low interest rates and diminished debt-service burdens to buy more light vehicles. At an annual rate of 16 million in September, sales are nearly at pre-crisis levels, and many auto manufacturers are hiring again. While recent housing figures show some pullback due to higher mortgage rates, new construction of homes and apartments is likely to advance based on household formation gains and low housing inventories.

Figure 1. Consumer debt service payments as a share of disposable income



Source: U.S. Board of Government of the Federal Reserve System.

The biggest risk for the global economy over the past 18 months has been the sovereign debt and associated banking crisis in the euro zone. After six quarters of contraction, the euro zone exited recession in the second quarter. Its annualized real GDP growth was 1.3 percent, and a number of indicators—particularly the Purchasing Manager Indices (PMI), point to ongoing growth in the third quarter. At 51.5 in August and just a slight dip in September, the composite PMI was at its highest in more than two years and safely in expansion territory. This bodes well for an increase in U.S. exports to the euro zone.

U.S. corporate balance sheets are in great shape after businesses took advantage of low interest rates and issued new bonds to retire higher-priced debt. Corporate profits relative to national income are at a post-World War II high. Orders for non-defense, non-aircraft capital goods—largely information and communications equipment—have been increasing in recent months, indicating that firms are more confident in the strength of the recovery.

Biggest Gainers

A variety of factors propelled the metro areas that gained the most in the rankings. The recovery in auto production and capital goods gave a boost to **Toledo, OH**; **Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI**; and **Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL**. The housing recovery helped **Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ**; **Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach, FL**; and **Port St. Lucie, FL**. The tech boom in San Jose and San Francisco spread across the Bay to **Oakland-Fremont-Hayward, CA**, and north to **Vallejo-Fairfield, CA**. Similar dynamics were at play in **Manchester-Nashua, NH**, which benefited from technology spillovers from Greater Boston. Several others were hit hard by the recession and have finally started to grow again.

Table 3. Biggest gainers among large MSAs

Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	2013 rank	2012 rank	Spots climbed
Hagerstown-Martinsburg, MD-WV	70	170	100
Lexington-Fayette, KY	44	137	93
Spokane, WA	74	161	87
Springfield, MO	62	144	82
San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles, CA	25	106	81
Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR	71	151	80
Tulsa, OK	42	118	76
Visalia-Porterville, CA	99	168	69
Edison-New Brunswick, NJ	102	169	67
Oakland-Fremont-Hayward, CA	92	155	63
Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	81	140	59
Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ	66	122	56
Manchester-Nashua, NH	72	126	54
Savannah, GA	94	147	53
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	48	100	52
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach, FL	129	179	50
Toledo, OH	131	180	49
Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI	86	134	48
Roanoke, VA	95	142	47
Port St. Lucie, FL	149	195	46

Source: Milken Institute.

Biggest Decliners

Economic circumstances and corporate downsizing are largely to blame in the metros that lost the most positions. In many cases, these areas were less affected by the recession due to their heavy reliance on the service sector, so they had less ground to recoup compared to their peers. (For example, New York metros fall into this category.) In the case of **Kennewick-Pasco-Richland, WA**, the winding down of the Hanford nuclear waste site cleanup was a major contributor. Similarly, **Utica-Rome, NY**, has suffered from downsizing at MetLife, which accounted for one in five financial services jobs in the region.

Table 4. Biggest decliners among large MSAs (Change in rankings)

Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	2013 rank	2012 rank	Spots gained/lost
Utica-Rome, NY	186	83	-103
Chattanooga, TN-GA	174	80	-94
Olympia, WA	170	77	-93
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA	153	64	-89
Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH	189	110	-79
Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol, TN-VA	152	74	-78
Lansing-East Lansing, MI	197	120	-77
Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, NY	160	84	-76
Columbus, GA-AL	110	37	-73
Salinas, CA	175	102	-73
Syracuse, NY	154	87	-67
Rochester, NY	119	54	-65
Evansville, IN-KY	166	101	-65
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, PA	173	111	-62
Dayton, OH	172	117	-55
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	150	99	-51
Kennewick-Pasco-Richland, WA	65	16	-49
Lubbock, TX	69	20	-49
Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	137	91	-46
Fort Wayne, IN	104	59	-45

Source: Milken Institute.



Downtown Austin along the Colorado River

Top 25 Best-Performing Large Cities

Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, Texas

Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, Texas, reclaimed the top spot in our 2013 Best-Performing Cities ranking after slipping to second last year. Austin ranked second in long-term job growth and ninth in one-year job growth in the latest index. A rising technology center, it is creating high-quality employment that improves the region's overall wage structure. Economic development officials rightly tout its business-friendly, low-tax, low-regulation climate when recruiting outside the state, particularly when soliciting California firms. Austin's recruitment strategy includes promoting the startups of local entrepreneurs, the spinouts from the local University of Texas campus, and the number and quality of UT graduates.

Austin's technology base is fairly diversified: hardware, chips and communication gear, computer system design, Internet-related services, and biomedical research. The metro has its share of homegrown tech companies—Dell, Freescale Semiconductor, Flextronics International, and National Instruments among them—and has been successful at attracting technology icons from elsewhere as well. For instance, Apple now employs 3,500 in the metro area, where it can hire designers and engineers for less than in its headquarters of Cupertino, California. In addition, IBM has more than 6,000 employees in the metro area. The homegrown National Instruments, which produces testing and measurement instruments and associated software, announced in February that it will add 1,000 jobs with an average wage exceeding \$72,000.²



Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, Texas

(gained 1 spot)

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	2 ND
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	9 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	11 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	12 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	18 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	39 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	18 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	13 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	12 TH

ASSETS:

- » The metro is rapidly becoming an important technology center, with the 13th-highest concentration of technology output in the nation.
- » The University of Texas, Austin—a major research university with over 50,000 students—aids in recruiting firms from outside the region.

LIABILITIES:

- » Chip demand remains depressed and may not recover as cheaper locations in Asia grab a larger share of the shrinking market.

The financial services sector is also adding jobs. Visa plans to build a software development center in Austin that will employ 800 workers with an anticipated average salary of \$112,000.³ Incentives certainly played a role in Visa's choosing Austin, but the city has other draws: skilled young professionals and a hip image that makes it easy to recruit workers from out of state. Accenture, AT&T, and Time Warner Cable announced major expansions in the Austin area this year.

This influx of young professionals, who prefer renting or buying condominiums, is also changing the mix of housing construction and causing builders to hire. Multifamily construction permits almost tripled in 2012 vs. 2011, hitting 11,300. Construction employment shot up 7.6 percent from June 2012 to June 2013.

The Austin Chamber of Commerce has played an active role in the city's success. The chamber led Opportunity Austin, a five-year effort launched in 2004 to promote investment resulting in job creation. Its aim was to create 72,000 regional jobs. At year-end 2012, 190,900 jobs had been added with wages totaling \$9.9 billion.⁴ Opportunity Austin 3.0—the next five-year phase—will focus on eight industries: clean technology, data centers, digital media, HQ/regional offices, medical device/biosciences, semiconductors, software, and wireless.



(gained 5 spots)
Provo–Orem, UT

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	31 ST
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	1 ST
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	30 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	17 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	7 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	9 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	12 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	22 ND
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	19 TH

ASSETS:

- » A growing tech hub strong in computer systems and chip production. Second-fastest growth in patents.
- » Brigham Young University educates the tech workforce and helps commercialize research.

LIABILITIES:

- » Weak worldwide demand for PCs could cause distress for chip manufacturers.

PROVO-OREM, UTAH, continued its steady climb in the rankings, rising five places to second this year. The metro recorded the highest one-year job growth among its peers in 2012 and, more recently, the seventh-highest job growth over the 12 months ending in July 2013. Software, anchored by Novell, and computer system design have led the expansion. The backbone of the metro’s thriving tech sector is Brigham Young University, which educates the workforce and participates in the commercialization of research. The metro ranks second in patent growth from 1990 to 2010.⁵ Ancestry.com is a major employer as well.

Provo is also one of three U.S. cities with Google Fiber, a superfast fiber-optic service,⁶ which should aid in the recruitment and expansion of cloud storage firms in the region and warehousing activity. The metro will also benefit from NuSkin’s proposed \$85 million Innovation Center, an expansion at Utah Valley University, and a new data storage center the National Security Agency is building near Camp Williams, which will likely increase local data-processing and computer jobs. New home and apartment activity is driving new construction jobs, with double-digit employment gains in recent months.



(gained 33 spots)
San Francisco–San Mateo–Redwood City, CA

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	36 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	3 RD
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	44 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	8 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	44 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	4 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	2 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	8 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	12 TH

ASSETS:

- » Technology, media, and information sectors converge in the metro.
- » Growth in Internet and mobile services in the U.S. and Asia supports expansion and job creation in this tech mecca.

LIABILITIES:

- » Activists who decry the rising cost of living fueled by the tech boom call for limits on tech expansion.

SAN FRANCISCO-SAN MATEO-REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA, leapt 33 places to third in our 2013 ranking, thanks to a boom in Internet-related technology services and social media. The metro proves that a high-cost, regulation-heavy area can expand if it supports innovation and entrepreneurs. San Francisco ranked second and fourth respectively, in one-year and five-year high-tech GDP growth. Third in one-year job growth, the metro has seen an influx of residents, which has led to rapid gains in housing costs. Multifamily building is recovering, and construction employment has seen gains of 6 percent to 7 percent over the past year.

Computer systems design, which employs more than 48,000 in the metro, accounted for about 15 percent of job creation over the past three years.⁷ Even Silicon Valley stalwarts such as Oracle are hiring in the San Francisco metro to expand their talent pool. (Oracle now eclipses Salesforce.com as the leading software employer).

San Francisco is positioned to benefit from the blending of technology and media. Its online publishing sector had a growth spurt in 2012, and Twitter’s recent IPO portends additional activity. The expansion of biotechnology at Mission Bay is fueling growth as well, as is expanding business travel and the return of international tourism. Per capita income is among the highest in the country at \$74,000.



(dropped 3 spots)
**San Jose–Sunnyvale–
 Santa Clara, CA**

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	60 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	14 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	10 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	2 ND
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	48 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	21 ST
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	49 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	1 ST
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	3 RD

ASSETS:

- » Leading innovation ecosystem has a mix of startups and established firms and the risk capital and universities to support them.
- » Deep technical talent pool attracts traditional employers as well.

LIABILITIES:

- » Rising housing costs and office rents add to the high cost of doing business.

SAN JOSE-SUNNYVALE-SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, last year’s top performer, slipped to fourth this year. Its wage growth in 2011 ranked second in the nation, reflecting the high compensation of tech jobs. If anything, it has become a victim of its own success: Rising housing and business costs due to the tech sector’s recovery are slowing growth. The metro has returned to peak employment levels after the Great Recession, and recent data suggest more of the same, given that Santa Clara County in August saw the largest one-month jump in employment in more than 13 years with 8,500 jobs.⁸

The region remains the world’s premier technology cluster—one that others aspire to emulate. Its tech sector is constantly adapting and spawning new species of firms. For example, “big data” was hardly a category several years ago; now the metro has several leaders in this field and is attracting more. For example, CA Technologies, headquartered in Islandia, N.Y., is expanding its Santa Clara office⁹ to tap into the region’s developers, engineers, researchers, and product managers. The same talent pool is drawing so-called “nonstore retailers,” a category that witnessed a 26 percent jump in jobs (or more than 440 positions) over the past 12 months. For example, Wisconsin-based Kohl’s is the newest retailer to establish Internet operations in Silicon Valley.¹⁰ All this tech activity has a high multiplier impact on the local service sector and beyond.



(gained 1 spot)
Salt Lake City, UT

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	43 RD
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	15 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	34 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	43 RD
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	4 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	10 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	45 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	44 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	11 TH

ASSETS:

- » The University of Utah’s commercialization efforts, the educated workforce, and low business costs support this rapidly growing tech center.
- » Salt Lake’s diverse industry mix is less volatile than average.

LIABILITIES:

- » Federal spending cuts from sequestration will likely affect defense and aerospace.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, consistently a top performer, edged up one position to fifth overall. Its success is based on the targeted recruitment of large, high-value-added firms (it lured several hundred Goldman Sachs positions) and on startups emerging from local universities. The metro ranked 10th in five-year high-tech GDP growth this year, in part due to the Utah Science Technology and Research Initiative (USTAR). Founded by the University of Utah in 2006 to leverage commercialization opportunities, USTAR is now a recognized leader in technology-based economic development. It recently won the State Science and Technology Institute’s 2013 Expanding Research Capacity award.¹¹

The metro’s technology landscape includes computer system design, software, medical devices, and biopharmaceuticals. Cybersecurity is also a growing industry; California-based FireEye is creating 250 positions that pay significantly more than the metro’s average annual wage.¹² During 2012, Salt Lake added 2,600 professional, scientific, and technical services jobs—a gain of more than 7 percent. Leisure and hospitality services are adding jobs at a brisk pace as outdoor tourism expands. Financial services firms beyond Goldman Sachs are thriving, too. A strong recovery in housing and commercial construction is a by-product of this success. Salt Lake’s economy shows no signs of slowing with recent job growth at fourth in the nation.



(gained 7 spots)
**Seattle–Bellevue–
 Everett, WA**

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	68 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	28 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	36 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	15 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	20 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	17 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	11 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	5 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	36 TH

ASSETS:

- » Strong tech industry concentration (fifth-highest in the country).
- » Greater demand for commercial aircraft in China should boost the metro’s aerospace industry.

LIABILITIES:

- » Weaker spending on business equipment and software will lower demand for tech and software products.

SEATTLE-BELLEVUE-EVERETT, WASHINGTON, leaped seven positions to land at sixth. The resurgence in commercial aircraft manufacturing is driving that performance along with software. Aerospace added nearly 7,000 high-skilled manufacturing jobs in 2011-2012, while software companies added 5,000 jobs over the past five years.¹³ Expansion of the metro’s workforce has increased demand for housing, which will help restore construction jobs. Recent growth in the metro’s high-tech sector has been one of the strongest in the nation at 11th in one-year high-tech GDP growth. Seattle continues to boast one of the highest concentrations of high-tech activity—nearly three times the national average.

With commercial air travel expected to grow over the next couple of decades as emerging nations grow more prosperous, expansion is in the future for Boeing and its 82,000-person workforce in the metro. Local manufacturers like Orion Industries will benefit from the ripple effects as will a number of professional services industries that will help support the industry.¹⁴

Google will also be expanding its presence in the Seattle area; it recently broke ground on an expansion that will double the size of its current campus by 2015. The Kirkland campus is one of Google’s largest engineering offices outside its California headquarters.¹⁵



(gained 7 spots)
Dallas–Plano–Irving, TX

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	21 ST
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	26 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	48 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	22 ND
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	16 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	52 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	75 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	24 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	19 TH

ASSETS:

- » In addition to a high concentration of tech industries, the metro has one of the most diverse economies in the United States.
- » Economic growth was among the fastest in the nation from July 2012 to July 2013.

LIABILITIES:

- » Population growth will lead to a higher cost of living, making nearby cities more attractive.

DALLAS-PLANO-IRVING, TEXAS, climbed seven positions to claim seventh overall. The region ranked 21st in five-year job growth and boasts one of the most diverse economies in the nation. Employment at corporate headquarters increased more than 16 percent (or about 4,200 workers) from 2007 to 2012. The growth of corporate establishments has generated demand in other sectors such as housing, professional and health services, and retail. More recently, Dallas has witnessed a strong recovery in housing as sales spiked 16 percent since last year.¹⁶ As a result, the financial services sector that supports these activities has expanded: Credit intermediation and insurance carriers added 5,000 jobs in 2011-2012.

While population growth will likely lead to a higher cost of living, Dallas has the benefit of an educated workforce that ensures it will maintain long-term competitive advantages. Known as a hub for telecoms and distribution, the metro is gradually expanding its role in aerospace. American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and Lockheed Martin are key players.



(dropped 4 spots)
**Houston–Sugar Land–
 Baytown, TX**

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	7 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	7 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	5 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	7 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	15 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	73 RD
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	78 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	105 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	133 RD

ASSETS:

- » A booming energy sector contributes to broader job gains.
- » The metro has a favorable regulatory climate, extensive trade and distribution infrastructure, and a strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico.

LIABILITIES:

- » Oil price volatility could curb growth.

HOUSTON–SUGAR LAND–BAYTOWN, TEXAS, slipped four positions to eighth but remains in the upper echelon in employment and wage growth. Driven by oil and gas exploration and supporting industries, the metro’s five-year job growth was the seventh-highest in the nation. Mining support and oil extraction created 11,000 jobs in 2011-2012 with benefits that rippled throughout the economy. Increased energy production in local shale plays is creating jobs in both upstream and downstream activities; professional and scientific services saw one of the biggest gains at more than 10,500 jobs. Administrative, machinery and fabricated metal product manufacturing, and nonresidential construction also had significant job gains.

Houston’s energy infrastructure is set to expand further as worldwide demand for energy continues to grow. Phillips 66 hopes to develop a 100,000-barrel-per-day natural gas liquids fractionator and construct an LPG export terminal, both of which would generate hundreds of construction jobs. CPCChem also plans to build a world-scale ethane cracker in Baytown and two polyethylene units in Old Ocean, a \$6 billion investment expected to produce at least 10,000 engineering and construction jobs.¹⁷



(gained 6 spots)
Boulder, CO

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	26 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	22 ND
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	95 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	45 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	42 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	36 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	47 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	2 ND
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	3 RD

ASSETS:

- » A large concentration of high-skilled workers supports the metro’s emerging industry clusters.
- » The University of Colorado, Boulder anchors the area’s tech companies and startups.

LIABILITIES:

- » The high cost of living and record-high home values may discourage new residents.

BOULDER, COLORADO, jumped six positions to ninth in the index. A tech powerhouse, the metro has the second-highest output concentration in the nation. In fact, tech is three times more important to the metro than to the nation as a whole. Boulder has experienced broad-based employment gains and ranked 26th in five-year job growth. Professional, scientific, and technical services added 1,000 jobs in 2011-2012, while computer and electronic product manufacturing added 520 positions.

A leader in electronics components and semiconductors, Boulder is home to a tech industry base led by companies such as IBM, Level 3 Communications, and Oracle. The University of Colorado—Boulder’s top employer—supports these industries and recently announced a new office to better link industry players with the university.¹⁸ Over the past few years, Boulder’s business development efforts have led to growth in cleantech, medical devices, aerospace, and health care.¹⁹

The university’s federally funded research labs have helped to create a more entrepreneurial-friendly business climate in Boulder. The city recently ranked first in the country in the density of high-tech startups at roughly 6.3 times the U.S. average.²⁰



(gained 32 spots)
Greeley, CO

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	15 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	8 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	23 RD
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	3 RD
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	57 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	12 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	106 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	150 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	109 TH

ASSETS:

- » Energy exploration and newly discovered shale deposits will provide long-term stability.
- » Strong population growth will boost housing and services sectors.

LIABILITIES:

- » Educational attainment is lower than the national average.
- » Tax credits for energy production from wind expire at the end of 2013.

GREELEY, COLORADO, vaulted an impressive 32 positions to 10th in this year’s index. The natural gas and oil boom has led to increased energy exploration in the metro, helping to drive growth. In the one-year measure, Greeley ranked eighth and third, respectively, in employment and wage growth as companies that support mining activities added 800 positions. The Niobrara Shale has generated large-scale investments, with Noble Energy leading the way. The company recently announced plans to expand its 65,650-square-foot headquarters, which was just completed last year.²¹ Noble is expected to invest at least \$8 billion in the metro over the next five years, which is more than likely to generate construction jobs during that period.²²

Extending the U.S. Wind Production Tax Credit that expires at the end of 2013 would also enhance opportunities for investment and growth in the metro. Vestas Wind Systems, which operates four plants in Colorado, plans to expand its factory workforce in the area.²³



(dropped 2 spots)
Charleston–N. Charleston–
Summerville, SC

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	28 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	19 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	22 ND
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	24 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	96 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	5 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	79 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	77 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	68 TH

ASSETS:

- » Boeing’s growing presence makes the metro a viable aerospace hub.
- » Increased container traffic at the Port of Charleston will spur more economic activity.

LIABILITIES:

- » Federal defense cuts are likely to weaken the military’s presence.

CHARLESTON-NORTH CHARLESTON-SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, slid two positions to 11th in this year’s index. High-tech output grew nearly 22 percentage points faster than the national average over the five years ending 2012—the fifth-fastest pace in the nation. The metro ranked 19th in one-year job growth, driven largely by the aerospace industry. Transportation equipment manufacturing also added more than 1,100 jobs from 2011 to 2012.

Boeing, a key player in the metro’s aerospace hub, announced a \$1 billion expansion that will create 2,000 jobs over the next eight years. The state will provide \$120 million in incentives for upfront expansion costs such as utilities and site preparation at Boeing’s North Charleston manufacturing complex.²⁴ The additional jobs would raise Boeing’s total workforce in North Charleston to 8,000.²⁵

The Port of Charleston will provide significant opportunities for further economic expansion. Together, the Port Authority and the state will inject \$2 billion into new port-related infrastructure, including deepening Charleston Harbor to accommodate larger container ships from the Panama Canal.²⁶



(gained 10 spots)
**San Antonio–
 New Braunfels, TX**

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	9 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	49 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	13 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	31 ST
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	111 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	60 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	28 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	75 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	36 TH

ASSETS:

- » Medical military operations expanded in the metro after the nationwide base restructuring and closures, providing a significant source of job growth.
- » The metro is benefitting from energy exploration in the Eagle Ford Shale and related activities.

LIABILITIES:

- » Sequestration could pressure military and aerospace spending.

SAN ANTONIO-NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, leapt 10 positions to 12th in this year’s index. The metro ranked ninth and 13th, respectively, in five-year job and wage growth. The primary source of growth has been military medical-related operations stemming from the realignment and closure of military bases elsewhere. One of the largest medical facilities in the nation, Fort Sam Houston will continue to lend stability and contribute to economic expansion in the metro. Ambulatory health-care services also created more than 12,000 jobs over the five years ending in 2012.

Oil and gas exploration in the Eagle Ford Shale also helped fuel regional growth. Record drilling levels and high-producing wells are creating a hotbed of industry activity, leading to new jobs in the energy sector and peripheral industries. The Eagle Ford Shale is the largest oil and gas development in the world based on capital investment, according to a Wood Mackenzie report released in January 2013.²⁷

The metro is also benefitting from the work of the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation, which helped to locate or expand 14 companies, including HVHC Inc., Ercam Trackers, and CGI Federal. Together, these companies are expected to generate 2,000 new jobs.²⁸



(dropped 10 spots)
Raleigh–Cary, NC

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	29 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	24 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	30 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	60 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	131 ST
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	44 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	17 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	16 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	7 TH

ASSETS:

- » Sizable educated workforces, strong universities presence and comparatively low operating costs for businesses.
- » Research Triangle location attracts high-skilled labor force and supports regional industry cluster.

LIABILITIES:

- » Spending cuts at the state government level pose downside risks to public sector employment.

RALEIGH-CARY, NORTH CAROLINA, fell 10 spots to 13th in this year’s index, but it consistently ranks among the top contenders from year to year. With a diverse high-tech industry base, the metro outperforms the national average in a number of categories, most notably high-tech GDP growth in 2011- 2012. The metro ranked 16th and seventh, respectively, in high-tech GDP concentration and diversity. Expansion in tech industries contributed to job growth in professional, scientific, and technical services (2,700 jobs) and administrative and support services (2,300 jobs).

MetLife recently announced that it will open new hubs in the metro to facilitate global technology services and operations that will add 2,600 high-paying jobs over the next three years. The metro’s educated workforce and lower-cost business environment have recently attracted financial services firms including Fidelity Investments, Deutsche Bank, and Credit Suisse.²⁹



(gained 13 spots)
**Nashville–Davidson–
 Murfreesboro–Franklin, TN**

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	16 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	4 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	68 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	69 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	11 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	133 RD
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	6 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	112 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	50 TH

ASSETS:

- » Attractive cultural amenities, skilled workforce, and favorable business climate yield competitive advantages.
- » Key auto makers contributing to expanding manufacturing cluster.

LIABILITIES:

- » Longer-term auto production will face both domestic and global competition.

NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON-MURFREESBORO-FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE, gained 13 positions in this year's index to land at 14th. The metro posted the fourth-highest one-year job growth in the nation and ranked sixth in one-year high-tech GDP growth. More recently, employment in the metro grew 3.6 percent over the 12 months ending in July 2013—the 11th-fastest pace in the nation. Driven by an increase in automobile production, transportation equipment manufacturing added nearly 4,000 jobs over the year ending in 2012.

Pent-up demand in vehicle sales and aggressive marketing have led to higher U.S. market share for Nissan Motor Co. The company expected to hire 900 more workers at its assembly operations in Smyrna raising the plant's labor force to well over 7,000 workers.³⁰ Nashville's tourism industry hit a record high in 2012 as evidenced by higher hotel tax revenues.³¹ The opening of the \$585 million Music City Convention Center, completion of the 800-bed Omni Hotel next door, and an expansion of the Country Music Hall of Fame are part of the renaissance.³² Food services and drinking places added the most jobs at just over 4,100 in the year ending in 2012.



(gained 15 spots)
**Denver–Aurora–
 Broomfield, CO**

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	44 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	30 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	56 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	52 ND
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	30 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	87 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	100 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	19 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	19 TH

ASSETS:

- » Attractive business climate, skilled workforce, and strong international links.
- » Diverse high-tech industry mix triggering high growth.

LIABILITIES:

- » Weakening global economy could restrain growth of high-tech products such as semiconductors.

DENVER-AURORA-BROOMFIELD, COLORADO, jumped 15 spots to finish at 15th on this year's index. The metro area has witnessed broad-based job growth and ranked 30th in recent job growth for the year ending July 2013. High-tech GDP concentration exceeds the national average by 60 percent, and the metro's high-tech industry mix is relatively diverse. Administrative and support services along with professional and scientific services created over 9,500 jobs in 2011-2012.

Along with the key industries of telecommunications, aerospace, and manufacturing, Denver also serves as a major energy research center and a regional headquarters for government agencies.³³ The city's Business Incentive Fund helped attract and retain eight companies, which is expected to result in over 1,600 jobs and \$6 million in direct fiscal benefit over five years.³⁴ It helped Southwest Airlines open a new pilot and flight-attendant base in Denver in 2012, prompted SCL Health System to move its headquarters to Denver, and allowed Raymond James Financial to build a new data center. Altogether, business expansions reported by the Denver Office of Economic Development are projected to provide \$162.1 million in capital investment.³⁵



#16 *(dropped 6 spots)*
Fort Worth–Arlington, TX

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	13 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	23 RD
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	41 ST
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	64 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	12 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	91 ST
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	105 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	61 ST
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	91 ST

ASSETS:

- » Strategic central location supports warehousing and distribution operations.
- » Cost advantages draw new businesses and manufacturers.

LIABILITIES:

- » Sequestration could curb local military aircraft manufacturing.

FORT WORTH-ARLINGTON, TEXAS, declined six positions to 16th despite significant job growth. Over the 12 months ending July 2013, employment growth expanded by 3.6 percent to rank 12th in the nation. Over the past five years, job growth has exceeded the national average by nearly seven percentage points. The metro’s strategic location and relatively low business costs appeal to warehousing and transportation industries. Support activities for mining (1,400 jobs), truck transportation (1,300 jobs), repair and maintenance (1,000 jobs), and heavy construction (1,000 jobs) have all added considerable employment over the past year.

Drawn by Fort Worth-Arlington’s cost advantages, GE Transportation is expected to add 220 high-tech positions to its new locomotive manufacturing plant in north Fort Worth.³⁶ Despite the impacts of sequestration, a new deal with the Pentagon could ramp up production of F-35 fighter jets at Lockheed Martin and lead to more than 2,400 additional manufacturing jobs over the next several years.³⁷ The recent merger of American Airlines and U.S. Airways could also provide opportunities for growth, particularly in administration, support, and management-related services.³⁸



#17 *(gained 27 spots)*
Corpus Christi, TX

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	10 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	5 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	32 ND
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	32 ND
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	14 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	102 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	9 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	179 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	186 TH

ASSETS:

- » Steady exploration at Eagle Ford Shale will help drive the economy and increase demand for transportation and related services.
- » The Port of Corpus Christi will experience increased traffic stemming from the oil boom, and eventually, from expansion of the Panama Canal.

LIABILITIES:

- » Lower energy prices in the future could stall further economic growth.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, leaped 27 positions to 17th. Led by increased oil exploration at the Eagle Ford Shale and a rise in activity at the Port of Corpus Christi, the metro’s employment base grew 2.1 percentage points faster than the national average in 2011-2012—the fifth-fastest rate in the nation. Elevated oil prices have kept shale production steady and contributed to increased traffic at the port. Support activities for mining alone added 1,400 jobs in 2011-2012 with gains in a number of related industries: construction of buildings (1,380), repair and maintenance (540), truck transportation and related support activities (520), and heavy and civil engineering (320).

The expansion of the Panama Canal is already attracting more business to the port area. In one of the largest single overseas investments by a Chinese state-owned firm, TPCO America Corp. is planning a \$1 billion steel casing and pipe manufacturing plant. In addition, Austrian firm Voestalpine plans to build a \$700 million facility, and Swiss energy firm Trafigura is seeking to construct a \$250 million terminal.³⁹ Longer term, the metro’s deep-water port, rail systems, and access to highways will attract more manufacturing activities, including steel, plastics, and petrochemicals.⁴⁰



(gained 10 spots)
Trenton–Ewing, NJ

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	26 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	89 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	42 ND
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	83 RD
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	26 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	35 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	26 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	33 RD
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	36 TH

ASSETS:

- » An educated workforce (38 percent of residents have a college degree, including 18 percent with a graduate or professional degree) attracts high-skill jobs.

LIABILITIES:

- » Reduced state revenues will affect public-sector employment.

TRENTON-EWING, NEW JERSEY, climbed 10 spots to finish 18th, largely due to improvements in one-year job growth, high-tech GDP growth, and tech industry concentration. Access to employment in neighboring states with better economies has kept Trenton’s unemployment rate several percentage points lower than those of other New Jersey metros.

The public sector is by far the largest employer in the Trenton-Ewing metro at 28 percent of the workforce in 2012. Reduced tax collections in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy⁴¹ have imposed budget constraints on state government and affected employment in the capital.

Although employment dipped during the recession, more people in the metro are employed than ever before, and job growth is coming from a broad base of industries. Providers of professional, scientific, and technical services—the largest private-sector source of employment—added 910 jobs in 2012, while educational services created 1,140 positions.



(unchanged)
Bakersfield–Delano, CA

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	31 ST
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	12 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	25 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	33 RD
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	65 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	7 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	118 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	144 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	68 TH

ASSETS:

- » The metro benefits from being close to Los Angeles but with lower overhead costs.
- » The Monterey Shale has the potential to strengthen the regional mining industry.

LIABILITIES:

- » The metro lags the state and the nation in educational attainment.

BAKERSFIELD-DELANO, CALIFORNIA, held steady at 19th due to a good performance in job and wage growth. Despite lagging the state and the nation in educational attainment, the Bakersfield-Delano metro had the seventh-highest growth in five-year high-tech output, but the one-year indicator is less competitive. At 13.3 percent in 2012, unemployment remains higher than in many other regions on the list and well above the national average.

With a location near major markets, good transportation links, and competitively priced real estate, the Bakersfield-Delano metro is an attractive site for distribution centers. Caterpillar opened a new parts distribution center there in 2012 to serve California, Nevada, and Arizona.⁴² Local military bases support consumer spending, but military budget cuts could dull the impact.

Interest in the vast oil reserves in the Monterey Shale has been tempered by technical and state regulatory challenges to extracting oil from the formation. This may prevent the mining industry from meeting some of the more optimistic growth projections.⁴³ However, employment at firms supporting the oil and gas industry expanded by 830 jobs in 2012.



#20 *(dropped 8 spots)*
Fort Collins-Loveland, CO

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	19 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	30 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	60 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	38 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	27 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	105 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	165 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	31 ST
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	24 TH

ASSETS:

- » Employers are drawn to the skilled workforce; the metro’s educational attainment is much higher than the state or national average.
- » The quality of life and economic opportunities attract new residents.

LIABILITIES:

- » Reliance on cyclical industries puts jobs at risk.

FORT COLLINS-LOVELAND, COLORADO, dropped eight spots to 20th despite strong, broad-based job growth. Performance on both the five-year and one-year high-tech GDP measures declined significantly compared to the 2012 rankings. But the metro is doing well overall: Unemployment is lower than the state and national averages, people are moving to the area, and total employment is higher than before the recession.

A high level of educational attainment—45 percent of the population has a bachelor’s degree or higher⁴⁴—makes Fort Collins-Loveland an attractive location for firms seeking highly skilled labor. The region has benefited from the presence of Colorado State University as a stable source of employment, a large consumer base, and a catalyst for research and innovation. Companies like Intel have invested in Fort Collins, bolstering technology manufacturing. Manufacturers of computers and electronic products lost employment in 2012, but those positions were more than offset by growth in the manufacturing of fabricated metal products, machinery, plastics, and rubber products.



(gained 2 spots)
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	99 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	75 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	73 ND
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	20 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	50 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	2 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	13 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	4 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	50 TH

ASSETS:

- » The metro has a well-established, thriving high-tech cluster and ranks fourth in the nation for tech share of GDP.
- » The young and highly skilled workforce is attractive to potential employers.

LIABILITIES:

- » Renewable-energy manufacturing firms face stiff international competition.

PORTLAND-VANCOUVER-HILLSBORO, OREGON-WASHINGTON, ranked 21st, climbing two spots based on its high-tech performance. The metro was second in five-year high-tech output growth and has a high concentration of tech industries. Though still higher than the U.S. average, unemployment is dropping.

The metro has an educated labor force: More than 35 percent of residents hold a university degree, or 6 percentage points higher than the national average.⁴⁵ Its population is growing, with a net gain of more than 16,000 residents in 2012. Growth of the tech sector has been fueled in part by other West Coast-based companies expanding into Portland in search of skilled employees.⁴⁶

With more than 15,000 employees locally, Intel is the largest employer. In Hillsboro, Intel broke ground on a state-of-the-art semiconductor manufacturing factory in 2013, the second phase of the D1X research manufacturing site.⁴⁷ The \$2 billion budgeted for the first year of construction is likely to boost professional service and construction employment in 2013.

Not all advanced manufacturing is thriving; some solar power manufacturers have scaled back or shut down production because of competition from foreign producers and other energy sources.



(gained 4 spots)
Laredo, TX

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	4 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	32 ND
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	12 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	6 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	64 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	38 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	40 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	199 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	199 TH

ASSETS:

- » Border location acts as a gateway for Mexican goods and manufactured products.
- » Its growing population has a median age of 28.2—nine years younger than the national average.

LIABILITIES:

- » Low per capita income limits growth in consumer demand.

LAREDO, TEXAS, climbed four spots to finish 22nd. With strong wage growth and the fourth-highest five-year job growth among the large metros, Laredo has also performed better in high-tech output since last year.

Services—especially hospitality, health, and administrative services—added the most jobs from 2007 to 2012. Despite strong wage growth, per capita income is still well below the state and national average. While population growth has slowed, it is still increasing faster than the national average, and the median age is more than nine years less than the average.

Although Laredo added 520 support jobs for oil and gas activity in 2012, development related to the Eagle Ford Shale is slowing. Low prices for dry gas found in the shale near Laredo have diverted investment to other parts of the formation that contain oil and more lucrative natural gas liquids.

Located on the U.S.-Mexico border and with significant employment in the transportation sector, Laredo will benefit from increased imports as the economic recovery continues.⁴⁸ The Laredo Sector Border Control employs around 2,000 people, making it one of the largest employers after the local school districts and the City of Laredo.



(dropped 15 spots)
Cambridge-Newton-Framingham, MA

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	38 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	112 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	17 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	29 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	117 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	31 ST
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	70 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	3 RD
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	3 RD

ASSETS:

- » The metro has a highly diverse tech sector driven by innovation.
- » The combination of high-quality research institutions, corporate R&D, and a skilled workforce attracts businesses and startups to the area.

LIABILITIES:

- » The cost of doing business is high.

The CAMBRIDGE-NEWTON-FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, metro plummeted to 23rd after last year's Top 10 finish. Short-term job growth was weaker, and although the number of high-tech industries and high-tech GDP concentration remained high, one-year tech growth was less robust than in the 2012 index.

Cambridge enjoys an expanding economy and low unemployment thanks to a stable base of education and health-care employers and the third-highest share of tech economic output in the nation. Already constituting 23 percent of regional employment, the professional and business service sector added 3,280 professional, scientific, and technical service positions in 2012. As a result of these high-paying jobs, per capita income is well above the state and national averages, which in turn attracts new residents.

The metro's strong research institutions, highly educated workforce, and existing industry concentration make it an attractive place for biotech and pharmaceutical companies. The life sciences industry continues to expand inside the urban core.⁴⁹ Sanofi recently opened a new R&D center, and other pharmaceutical industry leaders like Novartis and Pfizer are due to expand in the coming year.⁵⁰



(unchanged)
Lafayette, LA

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	12 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	16 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	7 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	28 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	32 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	142 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	139 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	171 ST
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	109 TH

ASSETS:

- » The cost of doing business is relatively low.
- » Lafayette is close to energy operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

LIABILITIES:

- » A tight state budget is affecting public-sector employment.

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, held steady at 24th on the basis of strong job and wage growth. Unemployment is low—it has consistently been several points less than the national average since the recession began—and is recovering more quickly than in Louisiana overall.

State budget deficits have put pressure on public services and public-sector employment, although the region’s largest employer, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has mitigated the impact by raising tuition and fees.⁵¹ The second-largest employer, Lafayette General Medical Center, is increasing capacity and expanding its surgery and emergency care center.⁵²

With energy resources nearby and low business costs, Lafayette is home to many back-office operations that serve the oil and gas industry. In 2012, almost 15,000 people were employed in oil and gas support services—more than in any other industry—for a total of 11 percent of employment. In mid-2013, Plains Exploration and Production, a Houston-based independent oil and gas company, announced it would expand its local footprint by locating administrative offices and a parts warehouse in Lafayette to serve its Gulf of Mexico deep-water operations.⁵³



(gained 81 spots)
San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles, CA

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	93 RD
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	6 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	90 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	91 ST
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	6 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	16 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	36 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	103 RD
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	50 TH

ASSETS:

- » Wineries benefit from consumers’ rising personal income.
- » Desirable location supports residential real estate prices.

LIABILITIES:

- » Tight state budget limits growth at publicly funded major employers.

SAN LUIS OBISPO-PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA, skyrocketed 81 spots to 25th in this year’s rankings. Impressive one-year and short-term job growth along with good high-tech GDP growth fueled this meteoric rise up the rankings—the largest gain of any large metro in the Top 25.

Service industries were the driving factor, creating 950 administrative and support service jobs and 600 jobs in restaurants and bars. Heavy on retail and tourism, the metro benefitted from the ripple effects of rising incomes—for example, consumers’ increased thirst for local wine.⁵⁴

California’s budget challenges have weakened the job market at major government employers like Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Atascadero State Hospital, and the California Men’s Colony. Newly added fiscal sources should limit the impact going forward assuming revenue meets projections.⁵⁵



ON THE WEB

Data for each metro area can be found at www.best-cities.org

Complete Results

2013 Best-Performing Large Cities

RANKINGS BY COMPONENT

RANK CHANGE	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012 - 7/2013)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2012)	NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WITH LQ>=1 (2012)
1	2	1	Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX	2	9	11	12	18	39	18	13	12
5	7	2	Provo-Orem, UT	31	1	30	17	7	9	12	22	19
33	36	3	San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, CA	36	3	44	8	44	4	2	8	12
-3	1	4	San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	60	14	10	2	48	21	49	1	3
1	6	5	Salt Lake City, UT	43	15	34	43	4	10	45	44	11
7	13	6	Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA	68	28	36	15	20	17	11	5	36
7	14	7	Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX	21	26	48	22	16	52	75	24	19
-4	4	8	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	7	7	5	7	15	73	78	105	133
6	15	9	Boulder, CO	26	22	95	45	42	36	47	2	3
32	42	10	Greeley, CO	15	8	23	3	57	12	106	150	109
-2	9	11	Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville, SC	28	19	22	24	96	5	79	77	68
10	22	12	San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	9	49	13	31	111	60	28	75	36
-10	3	13	Raleigh-Cary, NC	29	24	30	60	131	44	17	16	7
13	27	14	Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin, TN	16	4	68	69	11	133	6	112	50
15	30	15	Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO	44	30	56	52	30	87	100	19	19
-6	10	16	Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	13	23	41	64	12	91	105	61	91
27	44	17	Corpus Christi, TX	10	5	32	32	14	102	9	179	186
10	28	18	Trenton-Ewing, NJ	26	89	42	83	26	35	26	33	36
0	19	19	Bakersfield-Delano, CA	31	12	25	33	65	7	118	144	68
-8	12	20	Fort Collins-Loveland, CO	19	30	60	38	27	105	165	31	24
2	23	21	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	99	75	73	20	50	2	13	4	50
4	26	22	Laredo, TX	4	32	12	6	64	38	40	199	199
-15	8	23	Cambridge-Newton-Framingham, MA	38	112	17	29	117	31	70	3	3
0	24	24	Lafayette, LA	12	16	7	28	32	142	139	171	109
81	106	25	San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles, CA	93	6	90	91	6	16	36	103	50
24	50	26	Ogden-Clearfield, UT	57	36	50	57	68	13	24	105	109
8	35	27	Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC	61	17	88	19	53	54	76	112	91
4	32	28	Oklahoma City, OK	18	46	16	11	33	129	134	165	161
20	49	29	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	73	62	85	46	31	27	122	45	50
42	72	30	Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA	35	53	38	55	37	83	21	153	161
2	33	31	Pittsburgh, PA	33	121	33	26	109	29	109	70	50
8	40	32	Holland-Grand Haven, MI	70	32	177	4	10	84	4	121	109
18	51	33	Indianapolis-Carmel, IN	51	25	105	54	79	118	43	32	91
-23	11	34	New York-White Plains-Wayne, NY-NJ	25	76	70	66	80	66	86	94	36
-17	18	35	El Paso, TX	10	110	4	23	151	50	56	127	91
-5	31	36	Baltimore-Towson, MD	49	70	55	82	95	15	149	40	24

COMPLETE RESULTS: 2013 BEST-PERFORMING LARGE CITIES *continued*

RANK CHANGE	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2012)	NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WITH LQ>=1 (2012)
16	53	37	Columbus, OH	39	29	71	40	93	94	131	94	91
1	39	38	Bethesda-Rockville-Frederick, MD	70	157	46	75	21	30	158	21	24
27	66	39	Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Goleta, CA	102	52	104	79	70	59	66	24	12
3	43	40	Clarksville, TN-KY	22	20	8	5	140	28	188	190	186
29	70	41	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	128	70	134	64	19	57	30	36	36
76	118	42	Tulsa, OK	98	77	59	13	71	81	65	131	91
30	73	43	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	118	57	79	77	92	51	102	17	1
93	137	44	Lexington-Fayette, KY	67	43	102	69	9	155	156	80	50
-40	5	45	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	20	119	21	117	108	65	150	20	24
0	46	46	Boston-Quincy, MA	53	100	72	79	118	34	38	70	50
5	52	47	Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, SC	104	108	75	36	52	69	62	72	91
52	100	48	Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	51	11	163	27	8	138	104	152	133
22	71	49	Madison, WI	41	151	51	35	166	49	52	43	24
-33	17	50	Peabody, MA	30	107	54	55	126	114	184	9	7
12	63	51	Killeen-Temple-Fort Hood, TX	8	139	3	42	77	120	194	105	109
13	65	52	Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	48	89	87	95	54	95	63	97	68
-6	47	53	Anchorage, AK	5	81	9	113	122	33	130	121	133
-25	29	54	Brownsville-Harlingen, TX	6	68	14	153	29	1	199	179	161
7	62	55	Peoria, IL	69	38	49	1	200	11	39	139	186
25	81	56	Lincoln, NE	24	56	67	96	141	89	51	73	109
-16	41	57	Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO	34	18	27	90	2	195	200	179	186
27	85	58	Louisville-Jefferson County, KY-IN	84	47	109	110	49	14	33	147	109
-21	38	59	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	3	80	6	83	69	178	132	198	133
-39	21	60	Durham-Chapel Hill, NC	46	50	24	142	138	173	116	6	50
-6	55	61	Cedar Rapids, IA	23	123	26	61	193	23	180	65	36
82	144	62	Springfield, MO	86	101	102	144	67	19	14	94	50
-29	34	63	Worcester, MA	73	166	74	61	91	55	152	34	12
-39	25	64	Knoxville, TN	79	171	64	67	43	68	153	75	68
-49	16	65	Kennewick-Pasco-Richland, WA	1	200	1	77	123	82	198	39	109
56	122	66	Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale, AZ	182	36	175	52	47	74	61	50	68
-19	48	67	Nassau-Suffolk, NY	54	94	61	149	66	111	159	63	68
36	104	68	Kansas City, MO-KS	81	87	100	141	107	141	27	35	19
-49	20	69	Lubbock, TX	14	138	37	131	35	191	178	87	91
100	170	70	Hagerstown-Martinsburg, MD-WV	47	13	137	57	110	103	128	171	133
80	151	71	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR	65	129	47	86	51	196	161	92	68
54	126	72	Manchester-Nashua, NH	123	143	114	41	125	6	141	10	36
13	86	73	Boise City-Nampa, ID	121	21	179	151	46	46	48	23	133
87	161	74	Spokane, WA	138	130	79	105	40	71	42	103	91
-18	57	75	Colorado Springs, CO	115	154	40	87	102	127	143	14	12
2	78	76	Baton Rouge, LA	42	73	19	131	100	147	85	171	161
37	114	77	Wilmington, NC	154	86	66	91	58	75	155	85	68

COMPLETE RESULTS: 2013 BEST-PERFORMING LARGE CITIES *continued*

RANK CHANGE	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012 - 7/2013)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2012)	NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WITH LQ>=1 (2012)
19	97	78	Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine, CA	174	44	176	91	73	91	53	29	3
29	108	79	Spartanburg, SC	112	1	141	116	38	122	32	195	133
12	92	80	Warren-Troy-Farmington Hills, MI	149	27	185	9	115	135	69	61	68
59	140	81	Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	168	83	93	190	24	53	3	68	68
-26	56	82	Fayetteville, NC	37	193	2	50	145	48	72	170	186
30	113	83	Naples-Marco Island, FL	186	10	199	89	3	64	1	159	133
-15	69	84	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	62	97	69	164	150	40	122	40	68
8	93	85	Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	100	136	99	72	90	77	76	66	161
48	134	86	Chicago-Joliet-Naperville, IL-IN-WI	127	103	140	85	72	104	58	90	68
-11	76	87	Ann Arbor, MI	44	60	168	155	84	164	64	59	68
-43	45	88	New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	17	133	15	156	173	80	20	161	133
-1	88	89	Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC	82	190	45	138	78	26	36	145	109
6	96	90	Green Bay, WI	63	117	83	104	76	139	29	171	161
-31	60	91	Rockingham County-Strafford County, NH	66	123	128	106	120	62	185	50	12
63	155	92	Oakland-Fremont-Hayward, CA	164	44	153	126	135	58	72	18	2
45	138	93	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	162	50	169	119	13	166	110	66	36
53	147	94	Savannah, GA	106	40	84	125	172	86	10	80	186
47	142	95	Roanoke, VA	103	110	123	140	106	42	59	102	50
-17	79	96	Erie, PA	84	171	62	10	163	100	106	131	109
-2	95	97	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA	157	82	138	110	98	107	113	24	12
26	124	98	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	136	40	172	108	45	157	135	77	68
69	168	99	Visalia-Porterville, CA	130	62	82	166	39	36	126	187	133
-42	58	100	Asheville, NC	107	115	124	165	17	72	121	143	50
-40	61	101	Huntsville, AL	54	174	18	167	186	61	154	7	24
67	169	102	Edison-New Brunswick, NJ	116	65	136	170	63	158	140	24	24
20	123	103	Santa Cruz-Watsonville, CA	179	65	173	119	1	113	176	69	24
-45	59	104	Fort Wayne, IN	139	117	149	50	171	32	74	63	50
-2	103	105	Honolulu, HI	76	65	52	97	144	130	136	161	186
-12	94	106	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	125	132	129	49	88	183	190	48	24
-25	82	107	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	40	114	90	145	139	153	83	108	91
-41	67	108	York-Hanover, PA	94	149	79	79	146	40	177	127	68
-19	90	109	Philadelphia, PA	77	159	76	128	133	126	145	42	50
-73	37	110	Columbus, GA-AL	78	174	28	37	152	192	189	123	91
-43	68	111	Richmond, VA	75	61	107	94	153	154	191	117	91
37	149	112	Canton-Massillon, OH	125	54	151	16	112	93	142	197	186
-24	89	113	Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	129	119	119	107	114	110	84	100	68
-39	75	114	Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	50	145	78	98	155	140	186	80	91
35	150	115	Tucson, AZ	160	103	150	161	28	182	80	58	24
0	116	116	Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX	83	182	20	17	157	167	106	175	186
-5	112	117	Gary, IN	117	78	94	25	189	119	112	190	133
15	133	118	Lake County-Kenosha County, IL-WI	108	95	101	175	188	56	111	30	36

COMPLETE RESULTS: 2013 BEST-PERFORMING LARGE CITIES *continued*

RANK CHANGE	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2012)	NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WITH LQ>=1 (2012)
-65	54	119	Rochester, NY	56	163	110	133	183	97	127	37	19
5	125	120	Jackson, MS	90	155	96	138	128	24	50	153	133
11	132	121	Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	101	127	57	74	178	115	81	153	161
7	129	122	Columbia, SC	109	72	117	157	61	106	157	159	133
16	139	123	Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	121	145	112	173	34	144	68	112	109
43	167	124	Gainesville, FL	120	103	118	183	36	145	101	135	109
16	141	125	Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	150	102	164	127	75	174	167	24	9
-28	98	126	Reading, PA	96	133	106	100	116	76	175	127	133
27	154	127	Springfield, MA	58	140	108	160	165	70	34	139	109
37	165	128	Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway, SC	175	47	190	161	5	85	44	185	161
50	179	129	Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach, FL	171	42	183	124	59	163	187	87	36
5	135	130	Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	88	148	77	115	174	90	169	100	68
49	180	131	Toledo, OH	161	85	178	71	99	79	93	165	109
-25	107	132	Tacoma, WA	133	143	39	176	62	146	144	130	109
-12	121	133	Jacksonville, FL	148	98	167	158	25	150	88	117	91
-29	105	134	Mobile, AL	145	196	53	88	159	20	82	131	133
-8	127	135	Greensboro-High Point, NC	175	163	153	102	137	25	25	98	50
38	174	136	Winston-Salem, NC	142	68	133	128	142	186	7	161	91
-46	91	137	Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	86	165	98	146	143	101	103	123	68
40	178	138	Duluth, MN-WI	89	166	65	72	180	156	88	165	133
25	164	139	Flint, MI	193	156	198	46	56	18	120	98	161
22	162	140	Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	134	149	131	76	134	151	98	90	109
31	172	141	Akron, OH	137	106	139	119	74	131	92	138	186
-33	109	142	New Haven-Milford, CT	124	131	122	149	104	194	146	52	50
-7	136	143	St. Louis, MO-IL	132	188	120	103	129	98	163	53	50
-13	131	144	Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall, FL	114	57	152	67	147	176	167	161	133
-30	115	145	Rockford, IL	180	59	174	43	197	116	31	135	133
27	173	146	Wilmington, DE-MD-NJ	143	170	148	30	127	67	151	108	161
30	177	147	Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	140	89	156	46	194	132	91	123	133
-18	130	148	Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	144	161	127	122	162	47	147	73	36
46	195	149	Port St. Lucie, FL	183	64	187	146	85	112	23	139	133
-51	99	150	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	155	122	143	154	121	22	54	147	133
-8	143	151	Charleston, WV	80	182	35	39	185	171	197	165	186
-78	74	152	Kingsport-Bristol-Bristol, TN-VA	96	178	86	21	160	190	195	165	133
-89	64	153	Shreveport-Bossier City, LA	64	198	29	57	198	165	173	175	161
-67	87	154	Syracuse, NY	95	185	111	178	113	149	125	59	68
-7	148	155	Albuquerque, NM	170	197	130	181	97	43	137	12	24
0	156	156	Salem, OR	172	194	135	194	81	3	55	49	109
-29	128	157	Santa Rosa-Petaluma, CA	196	116	171	113	124	128	124	53	24
-13	145	158	Fresno, CA	178	162	124	163	60	109	22	157	109
-40	119	159	Merced, CA	92	98	116	200	105	8	196	190	161

COMPLETE RESULTS: 2013 BEST-PERFORMING LARGE CITIES *continued*

RANK CHANGE	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012 - 7/2013)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2012)	NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WITH LQ>=1 (2012)
-76	84	160	Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, NY	72	176	89	168	161	88	172	55	133
33	194	161	Ocala, FL	199	96	196	185	23	168	41	86	91
25	187	162	Bradenton-Sarasota-Venice, FL	195	38	200	137	148	78	16	135	133
25	188	163	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach, FL	175	35	188	152	87	160	97	112	161
29	193	164	Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	191	34	197	61	156	185	5	179	161
17	182	165	Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA	187	84	147	130	177	117	169	45	36
-65	101	166	Evansville, IN-KY	59	142	132	142	187	180	133	80	109
23	190	167	Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn, MI	181	89	192	14	195	170	71	112	133
-8	160	168	Lancaster, PA	110	112	146	177	101	63	171	145	161
6	175	169	Newark-Union, NJ-PA	153	127	160	168	82	175	164	45	68
-93	77	170	Olympia, WA	113	180	63	188	132	136	57	150	161
-12	159	171	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	189	54	182	135	168	120	94	119	109
-55	117	172	Dayton, OH	156	140	180	117	181	99	173	57	36
-62	111	173	Scranton--Wilkes-Barre, PA	105	186	96	159	149	161	148	108	109
-94	80	174	Chattanooga, TN-GA	135	87	115	100	154	189	183	179	186
-73	102	175	Salinas, CA	141	125	113	189	86	125	182	175	133
-23	153	176	South Bend-Mishawaka, IN-MI	173	195	165	108	196	44	8	108	91
-11	166	177	Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	185	180	181	198	94	162	94	11	9
6	184	178	Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL	190	153	191	193	83	123	19	123	68
18	197	179	Birmingham-Hoover, AL	151	93	158	136	182	159	67	139	161
-9	171	180	Camden, NJ	163	147	162	195	119	124	160	77	36
-23	158	181	Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	152	151	186	34	169	181	117	185	109
1	183	182	Montgomery, AL	159	133	126	182	176	134	99	87	109
-37	146	183	Wichita, KS	147	136	142	146	167	199	166	15	133
1	185	184	Kalamazoo-Portage, MI	165	173	144	134	170	188	46	80	109
4	189	185	Stockton, CA	194	109	166	180	22	137	179	179	161
-103	83	186	Utica-Rome, NY	111	192	90	196	158	179	192	92	50
-35	152	187	Norwich-New London, CT	91	179	121	184	192	200	181	37	68
11	199	188	Modesto, CA	169	79	159	178	136	197	35	187	161
-79	110	189	Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH	146	188	43	171	184	108	115	190	161
-9	181	190	Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, NC	198	176	193	99	164	152	15	147	68
-28	163	191	Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, FL	158	168	145	112	103	169	193	131	186
6	198	192	Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	197	73	194	174	89	172	87	187	161
3	196	193	Fort Smith, AR-OK	166	159	157	186	55	198	60	199	161
-2	192	194	Tallahassee, FL	167	199	161	199	41	184	138	119	91
-4	191	195	Eugene-Springfield, OR	192	184	170	122	190	193	119	55	50
n/a	small 81	196	Gulfport-Biloxi, MS	119	191	58	197	199	148	129	175	161
-77	120	197	Lansing-East Lansing, MI	130	187	155	192	191	96	90	157	161
-12	186	198	Reno-Sparks, NV	200	158	195	171	175	143	94	153	133
1	200	199	Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	184	125	184	187	179	177	114	195	199
-24	176	200	Atlantic City-Hammonton, NJ	188	169	189	191	130	187	162	194	161



University of Missouri at Columbia

Top 10 Best-Performing Small Cities

In addition to ranking the 200 largest U.S. metro areas, the Best-Performing Cities project includes a companion index that measures the performance of smaller cities. The 2013 index covers 179 small metros, as it has for the past two years.

Six of the Top 10 small cities in the 2013 index also ranked in the Top 10 in 2012, including this year's No. 1 best-performing small city, **Columbia, Missouri**. But second-ranked **Columbus, Indiana**, is a newcomer, climbing 13 positions since last year.

Along with high concentrations of public-sector employees, energy continues to be a key driver for the top-tier small cities. For example, oil production in North Dakota has increased by more than 400 percent from 2007 to 2012, placing **Fargo, North Dakota-Minnesota**, and **Bismarck, North Dakota**, in the Top Five.

Table 5. Top 10 best-performing small cities

Rankings in 2013 vs. 2012		
Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)	2013 rank	2012 rank
Columbia, MO	1	10
Columbus, IN	2	15
Fargo, ND-MN	3	5
Bismarck, ND	4	3
Midland, TX	5	8
Williamsport, PA	6	19
Longview, TX	7	6
San Angelo, TX	8	18
Morgantown, WV	9	2
Dubuque, IA	10	13

Source: Milken Institute.



(gained 9 spots)
Columbia, MO

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	17 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	15 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	26 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	36 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	16 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	2 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	11 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	26 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	6 TH

ASSETS:

- » The large student population drives consumer activity.
- » University-sponsored research creates opportunities for new business starts.

LIABILITIES:

- » Tight state budget may affect the University of Missouri, the metro's largest employer.

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, jumped nine spots to take first in the 2013 index after gaining 15 spots in 2012 to break into the top 10. It had strong performance across the board, with growth in high-tech GDP and the number of high-tech industries driving its top ranking.

Unemployment in Columbia fell to 4.7 percent in 2012, well below the state rate of 6.9 percent. Although the construction of private multi-family housing⁵⁶ targeting the increasing numbers of students at the University of Missouri⁵⁷ has helped return construction activity to near pre-recession levels, construction employment has not rebounded completely. The large student population supports local retail outlets, with food and beverage stores growing by close to 150 percent from 2007 to 2012—more than in any other metro area.⁵⁸

High-tech industries like telecommunications, which saw employment grow by 60 percent from 2007 to 2012, are playing a critical role in Columbia's strong performance. Employment in professional, scientific, and technical services increased by 1,450 jobs over the same period. ABC Laboratories and IDEXX RADIL conduct contract research at the University of Missouri Discovery Ridge research park, and plans are under way to expand the facility and increase lab and office space on-site.⁵⁹



(gained 13 spots)
Columbus, IN

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	7 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	3 RD
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	33 RD
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	4 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	32 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	102 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	9 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	59 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	42 ND

ASSETS:

- » Columbus's strong manufacturing base serves U.S. and global markets.

LIABILITIES:

- » The metro has a high concentration of employment in one industry sector.

COLUMBUS, INDIANA, leapt 13 spots this year to second place due largely to Top 10 finishes in one- and five-year job growth, one-year wage growth, and one-year high-tech GDP growth. However, recent job growth for the year ending July 2013 was not as strong and could indicate a temporary deceleration.

Columbus has a robust manufacturing base (36.5 percent of metro employment in 2012), with strengths in machinery and transportation equipment manufacturing. From 2007 to 2012, these industries added 1,580 jobs and 580 jobs, respectively, drawing from a workforce that has a high concentration of engineering and manufacturing talent.⁶⁰

Cummins Inc., headquartered in Columbus and employing 15 percent of the local workforce, saw global demand for its diesel engines and power-generation systems slow toward the end of 2012.⁶¹



(gained 2 spots)
Fargo, ND-MN

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	5 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	8 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	9 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	10 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	29 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	82 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	18 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	59 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	93 RD

ASSETS:

- » Fargo's educated population is attractive to high-value employers.
- » The metro is home to regionally important health-care and education industries.

LIABILITIES:

- » Tight labor market means Fargo needs to attract more workers.

FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA-MINNESOTA, gained two spots to finish third in this year's index of best-performing small cities. Stronger job and wage growth than its peers on both the one- and five-year measures contributed to the improvement.

Fargo has an educated workforce and a tight labor market, which results in low unemployment and the need to attract new residents to sustain growth. Headquarters and back-office operations contributed to Fargo's success; the metro gained 910 jobs in management of companies and enterprises and 800 in administrative services from 2007 to 2012. Over the same period, the health-care industry added thousands of jobs across ambulatory health-care services, nursing, and residential care.

Fargo has benefited from North Dakota's oil boom despite not having any directly related employment. The record state revenue from oil and gas taxes⁶² has meant that North Dakota State University—the second-largest employer in Fargo—has not faced the same budget cuts as universities in many other states. Fees and enrollment⁶³ have remained steady throughout the recession.



(dropped 1 spot)
Bismarck, ND

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	3 RD
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	7 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	6 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	8 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	20 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	88 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	13 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	88 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	134 TH

ASSETS:

- » The prevalence of government and health-care services provide stability.
- » Oil-rich region provides opportunities for energy-related growth.

LIABILITIES:

- » Bismarck's growth is constrained by a tight labor market.

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA, inched down a spot to fourth in the 2013 rankings. The metro posted Top 10 performances on one-year and five-year job and wage growth; its population is growing; and the unemployment rate remains low.

Hospitals are among the metro's largest employers, and health-care industries added hundreds of jobs from 2007 to 2012, particularly nursing and residential-care services (1,090 jobs) and hospitals (820 positions).

Oil production in North Dakota has skyrocketed by more than 400 percent from 2007 to 2012.⁶⁴ The rising tax revenues generated by this rapid growth has kept state government stable, which has benefitted Bismarck as the state capital. As the industry matures and moves from exploration and drilling to production, Bismarck's administrative and support services will likely expand along with it based on the metro's position as a regional economic hub. Given the tight markets for labor and office space, future growth will require new migrants and new construction.



(gained 3 spots)
Midland, TX

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	1 ST
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	1 ST
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	1 ST
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	2 ND
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	2 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	121 ST
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	122 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	144 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	93 RD

ASSETS:

- » High oil prices support the economy.
- » High energy industry wages support consumer spending.

LIABILITIES:

- » Low diversity exposes the economy to fluctuations in oil prices.

MIDLAND, TEXAS, edged up three spots to fifth in the 2013 index. The metro turned in an exceptional performance in one- and five-year job and wage growth, ranking first or second on all four measures. A second-place finish in short-term job growth indicates that Midland's positive momentum remains strong.

Oil exploration and production along with a cluster of associated industries are driving the impressive growth of Midland's economy. Employment in support activities increased by 3,450 jobs from 2007 to 2012—with half of the new positions added in 2012. The oil and gas extraction industry itself added 2,800 jobs. Dawson Geophysical, which acquires seismic data for oil and gas exploration, is one of the largest employers in Midland, with a workforce of approximately 1,500 people.⁶⁵

High oil prices and proximity to key pipelines have helped Midland outperform its peers in job growth. The metro's higher-than-average median household income⁶⁶ supported more robust consumer spending, with 2012 retail sales gaining 13 percent over 2011.⁶⁷



(gained 13 spots)
Williamsport, PA

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	9 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	24 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	10 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	3 RD
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	78 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	56 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	143 RD
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	67 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	25 TH

ASSETS:

- » Williamsport is close to northeastern markets for natural gas from the Marcellus Shale.
- » The metro has experienced steady growth in property values.

LIABILITIES:

- » Williamsport is dependent on manufacturing industries that are in decline.

WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA, skyrocketed 13 spots to sixth overall, with strong five-year job growth, and Top 10 rankings in one- and five-year wage growth. The metro's performance in high-tech measures was not as strong.

Located over the dry gas portion of the Marcellus Shale, Williamsport has seen significant employment growth in industries related to unconventional natural gas extraction despite little direct employment in oil and gas extraction (150 jobs in 2012). From 2007 to 2012, mining support industries created 2,020 more jobs. Employment in other extraction-related industries including waste management and remediation services, heavy and civil engineering construction, and truck transportation more than doubled over the five-year period.

The metro's high-tech GDP growth has lagged that of its peers, and the low educational attainment of the local workforce⁶⁸—18 percent of Williamsport residents have bachelor's degrees vs. 27 percent for the state as a whole, 34 percent for Pittsburgh, and 23 percent for Philadelphia—may inhibit future growth.



(dropped 1 spot)
Longview, TX

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	10 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	21 ST
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	8 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	7 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	22 ND
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	90 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	154 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	81 ST
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	93 RD

ASSETS:

- » Broad-based manufacturing sector.
- » Low cost of doing business.

LIABILITIES:

- » Vulnerable to energy industry shocks.

LONGVIEW, TEXAS, slid one spot to seventh place, but a strong and diverse manufacturing base ensures that the metro continues to experience solid job and wage growth. With companies like Eastman Chemical, Trinity Rail, and Joy Global manufacturing chemicals, railway cars, and mining equipment, Longview’s major employers serve a number of different industries.

Despite the slowing development of dry gas in the Haynesville Shale due to lower prices for natural gas, support activities for mining added 690 jobs from 2007 to 2012. Strong wage growth has supported consumer spending, with retail sales increasing by five percent in 2012⁶⁹ and food services and drinking places adding 850 jobs from 2007 to 2012.

Health care is also a source of investment and job creation in Longview. Two major hospitals—Good Shepherd Medical Center (the region’s largest employer) and Longview Regional Medical Center—are in the process of significantly expanding their facilities.⁷⁰



(gained 10 spots)
San Angelo, TX

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	28 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	34 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	22 ND
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	21 ST
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	13 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	165 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	88 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	40 TH
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	57 TH

ASSETS:

- » University and military populations provide a stable base of consumers.
- » The Cline Shale may provide growth opportunities if oil prices remain high.

LIABILITIES:

- » Federal budget cuts put jobs and incomes at Goodfellow Air Force Base at risk.

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS, leapt 10 spots to eighth in the index based on good short-term job growth and improvements in measures of high-tech GDP growth.

In addition to being major employers, Goodfellow Air Force Base and Angelo State University entail large military and student populations that support growth in consumer spending. Retail sales in the metro increased 16 percent in 2012.⁷¹ However, federal budget cuts have already resulted in some furlough days in 2013,⁷² and further reductions in defense spending could threaten military jobs and incomes.

If oil prices remain high, increasing interest in the Cline Shale has the potential to drive future growth in San Angelo.⁷³ The support activities for mining industry added 160 jobs in 2012 (a 20 percent increase), but in the short term, the oil and gas extraction industry may focus investment on shallower shales where the resources can be extracted at lower cost.



(dropped 7 spots)
Morgantown, WV

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	4 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	45 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	4 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	86 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	24 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	4 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	100 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	81 ST
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	93 RD

ASSETS:

- » The metro has an educated workforce.
- » Morgantown’s education and health-care industries provide economic stability.

LIABILITIES:

- » Frozen wages and rising tuition due to state budget cuts may limit the disposable income of West Virginia University staff and students.

MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA, dove seven spots to ninth place in the 2013 index. Despite excellent rankings in five-year job, wage and high-tech GDP growth, the metro’s recent results lag behind those of its peers. However, unemployment remains well below the state and national averages.

Home to West Virginia University, the metro’s largest employer, Morgantown also has a growing health-care industry. Ambulatory health-care services and hospitals added 910 jobs combined from 2007 to 2012, and professional, scientific, and technical services added 660 positions.

Generic drug manufacturer Mylan Inc. is the metro’s largest private employer. It provided 9 percent of the U.S. prescriptions dispensed in 2012, the second-largest U.S. market share (up from third in 2008).⁷⁴ Mylan conducts pharmaceutical R&D, production and distribution in Morgantown.⁷⁵ This, coupled with research conducted at WVU and the National Energy Technology Laboratory, gives Morgantown the opportunity to translate its educated workforce and R&D partnerships into future high-tech growth.



(gained 3 spots)
Dubuque, IA

JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	15 TH
JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	29 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	25 TH
WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	16 TH
SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	140 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	6 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	90 TH
HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION	33 RD
NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES (LQ>=1)	25 TH

ASSETS:

- » The cost of doing business is comparatively low.

LIABILITIES:

- » The metro is vulnerable to business cycles due to a high concentration of manufacturing companies.

DUBUQUE, IOWA, climbed three spots to break into the Top 10 best-performing small cities. The secret to its success is five-year high-tech GDP growth and improvements in one- and five-year job and wage growth. However, short-term job growth points to a slowdown.

Professional, scientific, and technical services experienced significant growth, creating 1,840 jobs from 2007 to 2012—an increase of 126 percent. But the bulk of these jobs were added in 2009-2011, and growth has slowed more recently.

Manufacturing is important to the Dubuque economy, providing 14.8 percent of employment in 2012, but this concentration means Dubuque is more vulnerable to the business cycle. Machinery manufacturing added 240 jobs in 2012, a 10 percent increase. John Deere Dubuque Works, a manufacturer of agricultural machinery, is the largest employer. Demand for farming equipment is expected to remain high in the short term as increased food prices and low interest rates encourage farmers to make equipment purchases that were delayed during the recession.⁷⁶



ON THE WEB

Data for each metro area can be found at www.best-cities.org

Complete Results

2013 Best-Performing Small Cities

RANKINGS BY COMPONENT

RANK CHANGE	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012 - 7/2013)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2012)	NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WITH LQ>=1 (2012)
9	10	1	Columbia, MO	17	15	26	36	16	2	11	26	6
13	15	2	Columbus, IN	7	3	33	4	32	102	9	59	42
2	5	3	Fargo, ND-MN	5	8	9	10	29	82	18	59	93
-1	3	4	Bismarck, ND	3	7	6	8	20	88	13	88	134
3	8	5	Midland, TX	1	1	1	2	2	121	122	144	93
13	19	6	Williamsport, PA	9	24	10	3	78	56	143	67	25
-1	6	7	Longview, TX	10	21	8	7	22	90	154	81	93
10	18	8	San Angelo, TX	28	34	22	21	13	165	88	40	57
-7	2	9	Morgantown, WV	4	45	4	86	24	4	100	81	93
3	13	10	Dubuque, IA	15	29	25	16	140	6	90	33	25
18	29	11	St. Joseph, MO-KS	13	18	52	85	28	57	86	44	42
15	27	12	Cheyenne, WY	31	64	38	29	3	47	92	101	57
17	30	13	Greenville, NC	46	14	34	87	47	49	20	13	93
-10	4	14	Odessa, TX	2	2	2	1	7	101	163	178	168
1	16	15	Iowa City, IA	19	57	18	41	88	52	85	28	42
7	23	16	Victoria, TX	32	36	45	9	81	59	68	63	93
-16	1	17	Logan, UT-ID	62	52	17	87	93	17	48	5	6
68	86	18	Jonesboro, AR	16	50	29	28	6	172	28	151	93
-5	14	19	Sioux Falls, SD	14	25	21	37	64	118	95	76	93
17	37	20	Lafayette, IN	34	13	57	15	109	104	78	50	25
11	32	21	Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford, VA	43	28	123	38	18	63	67	41	57
9	31	22	Waco, TX	45	89	41	129	34	3	41	6	3
5	28	23	Burlington-South Burlington, VT	34	84	60	66	53	16	104	4	25
0	24	24	Lebanon, PA	24	27	36	39	164	13	120	21	13
94	119	25	Cleveland, TN	18	4	105	14	83	48	66	120	93
59	85	26	Billings, MT	36	19	24	23	102	79	115	101	93
41	68	27	Fairbanks, AK	20	79	23	18	70	29	107	149	93
-21	7	28	State College, PA	37	162	15	31	97	27	75	8	6
41	70	29	El Centro, CA	55	32	48	131	17	19	6	126	93
48	78	30	St. Cloud, MN	65	45	75	53	39	105	8	107	57
-5	26	31	Casper, WY	21	11	14	6	123	98	89	174	134
61	93	32	Ithaca, NY	12	75	56	118	38	85	159	15	6
24	57	33	Appleton, WI	70	102	99	44	19	60	29	50	57
102	136	34	Napa, CA	73	9	97	97	5	107	98	54	57
13	48	35	Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA	25	34	27	26	85	94	114	145	134
10	46	36	Corvallis, OR	42	88	110	105	52	22	61	1	3

COMPLETE RESULTS: 2013 BEST-PERFORMING SMALL CITIES *continued*

RANK CHANGE	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2012)	NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WITH LQ>=1 (2012)
52	89	37	Auburn-Opelika, AL	39	17	91	45	46	92	53	136	134
15	53	38	College Station-Bryan, TX	8	147	13	90	42	72	49	44	134
2	41	39	Rapid City, SD	27	107	30	53	96	67	30	119	57
27	67	40	Winchester, VA-WV	66	53	100	43	1	139	34	111	93
-3	38	41	Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux, LA	64	20	11	155	33	36	12	165	134
79	121	42	Kankakee-Bradley, IL	74	47	107	101	60	42	15	37	42
41	84	43	Barnstable Town, MA	92	37	122	101	27	43	91	20	25
-4	40	44	Owensboro, KY	23	16	63	47	51	97	146	165	134
-10	35	45	Bellingham, WA	104	77	37	79	133	7	63	9	3
1	47	46	Burlington, NC	130	61	149	32	30	46	76	39	1
71	118	47	Abilene, TX	48	87	42	59	37	116	127	95	93
-39	9	48	Tyler, TX	51	110	55	91	106	38	64	29	25
-10	39	49	Gainesville, GA	94	38	89	12	86	136	5	126	93
73	123	50	Flagstaff, AZ	117	51	84	109	31	9	32	41	134
50	101	51	Valdosta, GA	128	33	73	133	84	15	4	76	13
-7	45	52	Jacksonville, NC	11	91	3	148	50	30	152	136	93
-1	52	53	La Crosse, WI-MN	49	53	49	97	87	74	136	107	42
115	169	54	Lake Charles, LA	82	39	61	35	35	134	102	157	134
-21	34	55	Elizabethtown, KY	40	95	7	5	170	50	168	95	93
90	146	56	Muskegon-Norton Shores, MI	140	43	161	25	9	91	39	107	57
106	163	57	Madera-Chowchilla, CA	136	42	94	114	14	87	35	72	57
17	75	58	Grand Forks, ND-MN	22	23	32	70	127	122	73	145	168
-42	17	59	Amarillo, TX	38	119	31	100	40	51	105	111	134
47	107	60	Eau Claire, WI	67	48	79	103	45	157	124	48	57
-17	44	61	Joplin, MO	47	69	64	83	114	40	148	105	25
-20	42	62	Rochester, MN	63	29	67	178	116	39	81	23	25
47	110	63	St. George, UT	162	6	163	73	12	68	10	72	93
-21	43	64	Oshkosh-Neenah, WI	54	138	74	77	56	113	69	54	42
29	94	65	Fond du Lac, WI	145	93	117	70	21	62	55	54	13
-46	20	66	Glens Falls, NY	76	143	62	79	11	131	132	19	57
16	83	67	Wenatchee-East Wenatchee, WA	84	80	65	69	54	33	101	114	134
-56	12	68	Cumberland, MD-WV	52	146	47	109	100	5	116	50	13
61	130	69	Tuscaloosa, AL	91	57	82	56	23	53	169	170	93
-10	60	70	Johnson City, TN	85	98	80	48	162	103	23	29	13
-10	61	71	Ames, IA	33	76	54	113	112	78	36	95	134
-39	33	72	Pueblo, CO	57	149	20	30	139	115	98	76	42
55	128	73	Missoula, MT	71	59	71	93	155	66	40	87	42
52	126	74	Pittsfield, MA	82	90	137	84	75	83	42	24	57
16	91	75	Bloomington, IN	72	132	66	111	153	20	37	2	25
-3	73	76	Goldsboro, NC	115	104	83	26	82	11	70	120	134
-23	54	77	Sherman-Denison, TX	79	118	87	34	48	142	125	37	134

COMPLETE RESULTS: 2013 BEST-PERFORMING SMALL CITIES *continued*

RANK CHANGE	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012-7/2013)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2012)	NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WITH LQ>=1 (2012)
59	137	78	Yakima, WA	81	132	53	117	49	26	16	136	134
21	100	79	Great Falls, MT	41	119	46	144	126	10	23	105	93
-55	25	80	Hanford-Corcoran, CA	56	130	68	140	10	69	62	163	93
-32	49	81	Danville, VA	80	100	129	104	77	35	26	101	57
-61	21	82	Las Cruces, NM	30	155	19	156	134	18	166	16	13
-33	50	83	Grand Junction, CO	113	66	43	51	91	119	130	93	134
54	138	84	Bend, OR	177	97	169	66	72	23	7	7	6
26	111	85	Fort Walton Beach-Crestview-Destin, FL	132	127	132	57	4	152	123	9	25
-12	74	86	Altoona, PA	97	148	69	73	80	64	141	32	57
11	98	87	Bowling Green, KY	43	26	77	53	119	126	173	170	134
8	96	88	Idaho Falls, ID	102	59	95	167	44	77	140	44	42
-78	11	89	Charlottesville, VA	58	114	50	60	176	95	170	25	42
-34	56	90	Pascagoula, MS	107	153	16	179	15	153	47	54	57
48	139	91	Yuma, AZ	114	22	78	92	178	1	121	68	93
24	116	92	Yuba City, CA	172	86	108	124	25	76	31	68	57
-38	55	93	Hinesville-Fort Stewart, GA	6	177	5	11	128	171	171	136	134
1	95	94	Athens-Clarke County, GA	89	68	101	137	90	41	81	91	93
36	131	95	Sumter, SC	117	92	124	20	68	137	112	95	93
76	172	96	Chico, CA	158	71	142	99	79	55	17	68	42
-21	76	97	Coeur d'Alene, ID	126	134	133	120	8	54	135	29	25
-32	66	98	Bloomington-Normal, IL	53	113	35	107	160	93	138	43	93
-19	80	99	Johnstown, PA	96	161	70	116	105	45	129	16	25
-64	36	100	Elmira, NY	93	174	28	46	167	69	156	48	25
-43	58	101	Texarkana, TX-Texarkana, AR	61	158	51	95	41	164	44	165	134
25	127	102	Anderson, SC	127	67	102	24	76	37	160	165	168
32	135	103	Anderson, IN	74	107	167	94	36	65	147	99	57
-42	62	104	Elkhart-Goshen, IN	175	5	178	42	89	174	1	114	57
73	178	105	Lawrence, KS	87	98	115	160	69	34	2	99	134
-84	22	106	Harrisonburg, VA	60	116	81	79	59	158	179	111	93
-20	87	107	Sioux City, IA-NE-SD	68	73	76	177	71	108	33	136	134
67	175	108	Janesville, WI	171	44	174	58	98	73	27	93	57
-32	77	109	Terre Haute, IN	108	95	103	157	103	160	18	18	13
-11	99	110	Macon, GA	90	61	146	111	55	163	134	68	57
9	120	111	Monroe, LA	86	83	93	132	149	61	59	86	57
-24	88	112	Parkersburg-Marietta-Vienna, WV-OH	129	145	121	49	130	31	51	63	57
-49	64	113	Warner Robins, GA	29	149	39	133	132	141	57	63	134
-6	108	114	Medford, OR	166	81	160	133	121	12	45	11	1
-25	90	115	Kokomo, IN	157	10	179	13	74	140	164	136	93
-34	82	116	Salisbury, MD	134	56	136	149	175	28	58	14	6
44	161	117	Hot Springs, AR	98	73	114	62	150	166	21	120	134
-14	104	118	Hattiesburg, MS	88	81	86	127	118	129	110	152	57

COMPLETE RESULTS: 2013 BEST-PERFORMING SMALL CITIES *continued*

RANK CHANGE	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012 - 7/2013)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2012)	NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WITH LQ>=1 (2012)
-5	114	119	Racine, WI	131	102	140	33	165	86	14	114	93
-57	63	120	Jefferson City, MO	120	164	85	165	108	25	38	62	42
23	144	121	Topeka, KS	59	125	59	78	144	148	109	134	134
48	170	122	Muncie, IN	103	12	162	106	146	144	132	91	42
-10	113	123	Jackson, TN	69	40	134	65	110	150	144	174	168
5	129	124	Florence, SC	125	31	138	141	95	110	128	131	42
22	147	125	Bay City, MI	101	55	148	75	152	135	108	33	134
-61	65	126	Lewiston, ID-WA	142	173	96	143	99	8	65	81	13
-25	102	127	Springfield, IL	50	149	40	108	122	170	165	72	134
-69	59	128	Lewiston-Auburn, ME	100	111	98	115	115	75	50	145	134
-57	72	129	Lynchburg, VA	132	136	109	145	113	14	149	27	25
-6	124	130	Farmington, NM	122	128	44	19	142	96	139	179	168
-19	112	131	Champaign-Urbana, IL	149	157	72	175	26	123	157	44	13
35	167	132	Rome, GA	150	65	152	161	148	44	25	59	25
19	152	133	Sebastian-Vero Beach, FL	161	63	171	127	43	159	93	76	57
-28	106	134	Decatur, AL	152	141	119	96	67	24	106	145	93
-18	117	135	Wheeling, WV-OH	77	131	58	72	135	112	137	157	168
18	154	136	Michigan City-La Porte, IN	159	104	144	61	158	99	70	76	25
-66	71	137	Lawton, OK	26	172	12	154	129	146	97	160	168
-23	115	138	Decatur, IL	112	160	106	49	179	109	77	131	42
9	148	139	Longview, WA	141	69	116	153	171	32	22	126	93
15	155	140	Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA	148	106	113	137	104	111	72	136	57
4	145	141	Gadsden, AL	106	94	131	125	66	128	172	160	93
-45	97	142	Dover, DE	109	140	118	121	125	120	84	131	57
-92	51	143	Kingston, NY	124	152	120	162	138	84	87	50	13
-52	92	144	Sandusky, OH	111	176	164	52	58	168	80	170	93
32	177	145	Punta Gorda, FL	144	77	173	76	111	156	3	152	168
10	156	146	Albany, GA	135	119	128	159	137	80	51	63	93
-15	132	147	Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, MI	104	117	168	21	169	151	155	88	93
-6	142	148	Pocatello, ID	156	156	127	63	107	162	102	120	57
-16	133	149	Jackson, MI	153	123	143	17	141	149	74	149	134
-81	69	150	Florence-Muscle Shoals, AL	99	122	90	146	73	89	175	170	168
2	153	151	Redding, CA	174	154	165	119	57	147	79	85	13
-30	122	152	Alexandria, LA	95	169	87	130	136	71	83	155	134
-12	141	153	Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton, NJ	155	159	125	152	62	125	113	88	57
-5	149	154	Wichita Falls, TX	138	144	135	163	117	154	60	33	57
19	174	155	Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH	150	100	158	68	177	58	94	152	93
-53	103	156	Springfield, OH	119	134	147	40	157	21	153	176	168
0	157	157	Ocean City, NJ	143	84	154	176	63	130	56	163	134
8	166	158	Brunswick, GA	170	71	166	147	101	114	126	120	57
-9	150	159	Bangor, ME	78	112	112	137	147	176	177	120	93

COMPLETE RESULTS: 2013 BEST-PERFORMING SMALL CITIES *continued*

RANK CHANGE	2012 RANK	2013 RANK	METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA	JOB GROWTH (2007-12)	JOB GROWTH (2011-12)	WAGE GROWTH (2006-11)	WAGE GROWTH (2010-11)	SHORT-TERM JOB GROWTH (7/2012 - 7/2013)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2007-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP GROWTH (2011-12)	HIGH-TECH GDP CONCENTRATION (2012)	NUMBER OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES WITH LQ>=1 (2012)
-2	158	160	Danville, IL	123	109	126	82	166	177	178	126	57
3	164	161	Monroe, MI	165	49	177	89	173	132	54	126	134
n/a	Large 157	162	Bremerton-Silverdale, WA	121	166	92	141	143	133	119	81	93
-23	140	163	Lima, OH	147	126	150	63	172	117	161	114	57
-59	105	164	Binghamton, NY	138	165	130	171	145	106	151	3	6
3	168	165	Mansfield, OH	160	167	175	122	163	124	43	21	25
-87	79	166	Niles-Benton Harbor, MI	154	128	138	150	65	143	118	136	134
-42	125	167	Battle Creek, MI	109	115	145	173	61	100	174	155	168
-34	134	168	Santa Fe, NM	146	138	104	157	92	169	162	107	93
-26	143	169	Rocky Mount, NC	173	171	159	136	168	127	96	11	13
-8	162	170	Prescott, AZ	176	40	172	166	151	161	150	114	57
-62	109	171	Panama City-Lynn Haven-Panama City Beach, FL	116	141	151	164	159	155	167	54	57
-21	151	172	Sheboygan, WI	169	137	155	151	131	81	145	134	57
-13	160	173	Morristown, TN	168	124	156	123	154	178	45	165	93
2	176	174	Wausau, WI	164	168	157	126	120	138	131	157	134
-10	165	175	Dothan, AL	163	163	153	168	94	173	117	160	134
3	179	176	Carson City, NV	178	178	170	170	156	145	111	72	57
-6	171	177	Dalton, GA	179	179	176	168	124	175	141	33	93
-5	173	178	Anniston-Oxford, AL	167	175	111	172	161	167	176	101	93
-20	159	179	Pine Bluff, AR	137	169	141	174	174	179	158	177	168



ON THE WEB

Data for each metro area can be found at www.best-cities.org

Endnotes

- 1 The latest 12-month job performance calculates the percentage change from the same month in the previous year (e.g. the change in jobs from July 2012 to July 2013). The percentage change is a measure of recent momentum, capturing which metropolitan areas have improved their performance in recent months.

The annual growth rate measures the percentage change from calendar year 2011 to 2012. While the annual growth rate does not indicate whether high growth was achieved in the first or latter half of the year, the 12-month growth rate captures that aspect. Employment, wage, and gross metro product data are compiled from various government agencies, including the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), and the Census Bureau. More detailed coverage on individual sectors is derived from Moody's Analytics at economy.com

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