

2008 Best Performing Cities

Small 124 Cities List

2009 rank	2008 Metro rank	2008 Metro code	Metropolitan area	5-yr job growth 2003-2008	1-yr job growth 2008	5-yr wages/salaries growth 2002-2007	1-yr wages/salaries growth 2007	Job growth (Mar 08-Mar 09)	5-yr relative HT GDP growth 2003-2008	1-yr relative HT GDP growth 2007-2008	High-Tech GDP LQ 2008	# of HT GDP LQs over 1, 2008	Population 2008	Overall			
				2008 Value Rank	2008 Value Rank	2007 Value Rank	2007 Value Rank	Rank	2008 Value Rank	2008 Value Rank	2008 Value Rank	Rank	(Thousands)	Rank			
1	1	MMD	Midland, TX MSA	120.00	106.61	131.83	104.92	2.18%	101.67	97.73	0.72	35	129.5	100.00			
2	7	MGRJ	Grand Junction, CO MSA	116.90	103.25	118.01	103.79	-0.73%	111.14	96.10	0.73	34	204.7	167.37			
3	5	MTYL	Tyler, TX MSA	105.15	104.65	113.91	103.99	2.47%	92.54	97.46	0.58	34	143.2	169.26			
4	26	MODE	Odesa, TX MSA	118.48	107.11	126.32	101.78	0.95%	115.63	97.45	0.75	28	201.3	179.74			
5	10	MODE	Odesa, TX MSA	107.07	102.23	105.69	105.36	3.26%	99.17	97.46	0.37	107	131.9	188.34			
6	29	MKNE	Kennecott-Pasco-Richland, WA MSA	104.24	104.24	103.69	103.69	0.32%	109.19	101.21	1.26	3	50	235.8			
7	15	MBSM	Bismack, ND MSA	107.61	102.20	108.84	101.60	0.99%	106.25	99.51	0.62	55	4	50	193.88		
8	6	MWAR	Warner Robins, GA MSA	110.93	100.42	108.84	100.87	-1.54%	147.07	4	0.94	9	207.69	207.69			
9	11	MLSC	Las Cruces, NM MSA	106.66	101.99	107.39	100.13	0.74%	130.09	8	0.81	20	133.2	208.67			
10	17	MFAR	Fargo, ND-MN MSA	108.56	103.21	107.39	101.67	0.74%	103.68	42	0.68	4	195.7	209.22			
11	45	MPAS	Pascagoula, MS MSA	105.40	105.21	103.26	101.52	-2.15%	123.72	14	0.74	30	153.1	219.66			
12	23	MSLU	Sloux Falls, SD MSA	106.92	101.34	105.18	101.15	-0.65%	120.78	15	0.68	5	34	232.9			
13	8	MBEL	Bellingham, WA MSA	108.52	101.48	111.59	102.02	-2.57%	108.12	33	0.76	25	5	34	228.96		
14	38	MCSB	College Station-Bryan, TX MSA	104.86	104.12	107.41	101.04	-1.35%	119.24	19	0.74	30	4	50	207.4		
15	2	MCOE	Coeur d'Alene, ID MSA	117.32	100.53	116.49	100.98	-0.15%	129.63	4	0.59	61	4	50	137.5		
16	12	MCHE	Cheyenne, WY MSA	108.41	102.64	113.54	106.43	0.00%	97.68	64	0.50	76	87.5	248.64			
17	87	MWVA	Wilmington, NC MSA	106.41	101.86	109.43	101.86	-0.15%	107.68	116	0.50	76	94	186.9			
18	27	MWAC	Waco, TX MSA	108.62	101.01	104.90	104.33	-0.08%	149.01	3	0.83	18	76	164.3			
19	16	MHMT	Houma-Bayou Canne-Thibodaux, LA MSA	110.18	101.93	118.00	102.06	1.56%	102.62	45	0.23	118	201.1	270.32			
20	44	MHAD	Hialeah, FL MSA	113.40	103.38	109.00	102.06	0.51%	103.93	41	0.27	118	113	206.9			
21	21	MABI	Ablene, TX MSA	103.08	103.34	101.94	101.24	0.01%	102.74	44	0.49	79	5	195.5	285.93		
22	25	MIOU	Iowa City, IA MSA	103.32	100.69	100.69	100.80	-1.32%	174.50	40	0.74	30	5	34	149.4		
23	72	MGLF	Glens Falls, NY MSA	99.80	100.94	100.82	101.34	-1.28%	94.05	69	1.14	5	8	4	128.8		
24	24	MBLI	Billings, MT MSA	106.99	100.72	109.03	101.36	-0.56%	110.76	31	0.58	63	4	50	304.14		
25	64	MITH	Ithaca, NY MSA	100.96	101.63	99.27	101.81	-0.93%	82.04	101	0.92	11	5	34	328.49		
26	15	MCHV	Charlottesville, VA MSA	107.55	100.28	106.18	98.61	-2.45%	98.09	58	0.86	17	8	4	194.4		
27	28	MMOG	Morgantown, WV MSA	109.49	102.43	105.02	100.33	-0.44%	85.86	89	0.42	95	2	99	118.5		
28	3	MBSB	Bend, OR MSA	115.57	96.63	119	98.89	-4.02%	132.22	6	0.89	16	9	1	168.5		
29	66	MRAP	Rapid City, SD MSA	101.67	102.04	99.25	100.99	-0.49%	94.81	67	0.48	82	3	76	122.5		
30	4	MSAU	St. George, UT MSA	125.38	96.1	142.56	103.73	-0.75%	111.96	25	0.77	85	3	76	370.16		
31	78	MALF	Alexandria, LA MSA	105.77	103.56	105.77	103.23	-1.24%	93.05	97	0.29	115	0	120	153.1		
32	47	MSIG	State College, PA MSA	99.95	101.43	98.86	100.00	-2.58%	87.83	63	0.94	9	1	144.8	379.79		
33	14	MPOE	Puerto Rico MSA	103.02	100.86	103.02	100.86	-0.26%	93.05	93	0.94	9	1	144.8	379.79		
34	13	MPOE	Puerto Rico MSA	103.02	100.86	103.02	100.86	-0.26%	93.05	93	0.94	9	1	144.8	379.79		
35	14	MPOE	Puerto Rico MSA	103.02	100.86	103.02	100.86	-0.26%	93.05	93	0.94	9	1	144.8	379.79		
36	14	MPOE	Puerto Rico MSA	103.02	100.86	103.02	100.86	-0.26%	93.05	93	0.94	9	1	144.8	379.79		
37	80	MBLD	Bloomington-Normal, IL MSA	103.08	100.51	102.66	98.30	-1.85%	93.33	52	0.52	73	4	50	403.19		
38	106	MTOU	Topeka, KS MSA	96.38	101.82	94.11	99.41	0.44%	90.31	77	0.75	28	4	50	165.3		
39	30	MJOP	Joplin, MO MSA	94.37	101.02	92.06	102.44	-0.11%	90.22	66	0.48	82	4	50	409.32		
40	63	MJOP	Joplin, MO MSA	101.61	101.39	97.52	97.52	-0.62%	89.42	81	0.43	90	4	50	172.9		
41	35	MSTJ	St. Joseph, MO-KS MSA	107.68	101.02	98.72	100.37	-2.19%	88.92	82	0.60	60	2	99	415.05		
42	22	MYUM	Yuma, AZ MSA	111.75	8	112.63	102.25	-0.95%	167.42	2	0.34	111	3	76	194.3		
43	22	MVGL	Greenville, NC MSA	108.89	101.03	102.97	102.50	-3.95%	123	67	0.69	38	2	99	176.8		
44	50	MGRF	Grand Forks, ND-MN MSA	102.56	100.83	98.88	100.54	-0.19%	101.26	47	0.38	105	2	99	421.49		
45	43	MSAS	Salisbury, MD MSA	102.39	99.47	103.87	98.29	-3.13%	81	104.64	0.74	30	8	4	120.2		
46	54	MDUB	Dubuque, IA MSA	102.40	100.48	100.89	98.04	-3.76%	94	111.90	26	1.02	22	4	120.2		
47	46	MROE	Rochester, MN MSA	102.02	100.38	98.32	98.04	-2.93%	77	81.95	103	1.01	7	8	4	195.8	
48	42	MTUS	Tuscaloosa, AL MSA	104.98	99.79	98.50	98.50	-0.75%	114.65	117	0.77	23	6	23	182.9		
49	92	MIBC	Blackburg-Christiansburg-Radford, VA MSA	96.62	100.39	98.50	98.50	-2.45%	114.65	22	0.44	87	3	76	439.68		
50	6	MCOE	Coeur d'Alene, ID MSA	117.32	100.53	116.49	100.98	-0.15%	98.11	57	0.34	111	2	99	208.8		
51	64	MCOE	Coeur d'Alene, ID MSA	117.32	100.53	116.49	100.98	-0.15%	98.11	57	0.34	111	2	99	208.8		
52	74	MLOK	Lake Charles, LA MSA	102.36	100.57	98.05	98.05	-0.32%	103.32	72	0.72	36	6	23	441.56		
53	74	MLOK	Lake Charles, LA MSA	102.36	100.57	98.05	98.05	-0.32%	103.32	72	0.72	36	6	23	441.56		
54	39	MMED	Medford, OR MSA	95.85	100.29	90.22	101.33	-1.81%	90.55	70	0.43	70	3	76	164.3		
55	58	MSTC	St. Cloud, MN MSA	101.63	101.29	90.22	98.64	1.77%	114.83	21	0.69	38	7	13	224.2		
56	58	MSTC	St. Cloud, MN MSA	101.63	101.29	90.22	98.64	1.77%	114.83	21	0.69	38	7	13	224.2		
57	55	MVAD	Vadodis, GA MSA	109.00	101.42	98.39	101.08	-2.14%	75.41	114	0.52	73	6	23	187.0		
58	55	MVAD	Vadodis, GA MSA	109.00	101.42	98.39	101.08	-2.14%	75.41	114	0.52	73	6	23	187.0		
59	57	MVAD	Vadodis, GA MSA	109.00	101.42	98.39	101.08	-2.14%	75.41	114	0.52	73	6	23	187.0		
60	37	MVAD	Vadodis, GA MSA	103.93	101.02	93.67	97.82	-1.08%	94.55	68	0.97	49	1	19	4	8	183.9
61	56	MEAU	Eau Claire, WI MSA	102.13	98.72	96.63	98.63	-1.59%	94.55	68	0.97	49	1	19	4	8	183.9
62	37	MATH	Mathews, VA MSA	105.88	103.05	112	98.12	-2.51%	128.83	10	0.76	25	2	99	158.7		
63	81	MPIS	Pittsfield, MA MSA	98.16	100.86	94.57	100.83	-4.76%	82.39	99	0.43	90	3	76	189.3		
64	07	MILAF	Lafayette, IN MSA	101.16	100.86	94.57	100.83	-4.76%	134.06	5	0.99	97	3	76	129.4		
65	67	MBRE	Bremerton-Silverdale, WA MSA	102.05	100.03	92.25	97.78	-0.10%	80.27	107	0.79	49	4	50	192.9		
66	51	MFLD	Florence, SC MSA	98.89	100.72	95.35	100.99	-3.10%	88.85	119	0.66	46	3	76	239.8		
67	96	MOSH	Shoshone, WI MSA	98.03	100.72	95.35	100.99	-3.10%	88.85	119	0.66	46	3	76	239.8		
68	06	MSPR	Springfield, IL MSA	96.56	100.92	91.06	97.99	-0.74%	97.42	61	0.42	96	2	99	489.08		
69	24	MWVA	Wilmington, NC MSA	106.41	100.79	106.01	96.65	-0.46%	105.65	3	0.61	98	3	76	162.1		
70	21	MWVA	Wilmington, NC MSA	106.41	100.79	106.01	96.65	-0.46%	105.65	3	0.61	98	3	76	162.1		
71	62	MNIS	Missisquoi, VT MSA	100.03	97.2	98.88	98.88	-1.81%	111.21	20	0.68	117	0	120	482.29		
72	31	MPAN	Panama City-Lynn Haven, FL MSA	100.03	97.49	101.84	98.88	-1.81%	111.21	20	0.68	117	0	120	482.29		
73	30	MPAN	Panama City-Lynn Haven, FL MSA	100.03	97.49	101.84	98.88	-1.81%	111.21	20	0.68	117	0	120	482.29		
74	32	MDEC	Decatur, IL MSA	107.34	92.92	111	97.92	-3.91%	103.05	43	0.64	57	4	50	101.19		
75	32	MFWB	Fort Walton Beach-Crestview-Destin, FL MSA	96.61	100.38	96.61	96.61	-2.00%	104.04	40	0.82	70	4	50	108.3		
76	61	MWHV	Wichita Falls, TX MSA	99.63	97.14	106.93	96.35	-2.53%	124.45	68	1.11	6	9	1	179.7		
77	3	MAPP	Appleton, WI MSA	96.42	95.71	101.57	101.57	-2.60%	95.60	65	0.91	13	2	34	511.01		
78	53	MAPP	Appleton, WI MSA	96.42	95.71	101.57	101.57	-2.60%	95.60	65	0.91	13	2	34	511.01		
79	87	MBUN	Burlington, NC MSA	96.29	99.39	92.52	100.65	-4.88%	126.08	11	0.78	22	5	13	522.57		
80	97	MBUN	Burlington, NC MSA	96.29	99.39	92.52	100.65	-4.88%	126.08	11	0.78	22	5	13	522.57		

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2009 rank	2008 Metro rank	Metropolitan area	5-yr job growth 2003-2008	1-yr job growth 2007-2008	5-yr wages/salaries growth 2002-2007	1-yr wages/salaries growth 2002-2007	Job growth (Mar 09)	5-yr relative HT GDP growth 2003-2008	1-yr relative HT GDP growth 2007-2008	High-Tech GDP LQ 2008	# of HT GDP LQs over 1, 2008	Population 2008	Overall
			2003 Value Rank	2008 Value Rank	2002 Value Rank	2007 Value Rank	Growth Rank	2003 Value Rank	2008 Value Rank	2008 Value Rank	2008 Value Rank	(Thousands)	
76	71	MNA	101.66	53	96.65	52	-6.41%	78.88	110	0.56	66	133.4	528.39
77	91	MAJ	98.75	78	95.49	86	-3.06%	93.21	73	0.83	18	144.3	531.68
78	93	MRO	96.11	98	91.40	104	-5.32%	120.18	16	1.50	1	146.4	531.67
79	34	MAN	101.78	51	103.13	40	-2.65%	78.80	111	0.65	46	4	532.35
80	77	MKS	92.35	115	99.60	54	-2.36%	60.15	122	0.65	50	7	535.97
81	102	MMA	96.42	95	90.87	108	-3.35%	89.95	78	0.76	25	13	537.03
82	111	MSC	99.69	70	102.48	112	-1.83%	80.83	106	0.94	105	3	546.84
83	66	MYA	99.51	73	100.79	107	-2.53%	89.73	116	0.23	121	1	550.63
84	84	MVA	98.91	81	100.72	106	-2.53%	93.73	115	0.23	121	1	550.63
85	30	MHA	103.01	62	98.66	74	-2.05%	97.07	82	0.65	50	11	556.36
86	101	MBA	93.73	100	98.66	100	-2.05%	81.74	105	0.96	21	4	559.84
87	103	MAR	100.00	65	97.12	73	-3.38%	81.74	105	0.96	21	4	559.84
88	82	MBA	96.66	90	93.20	101	-1.67%	99.65	55	0.95	90	4	566.05
89	76	MFR	102.73	42	99.11	61	-1.67%	99.65	55	0.95	90	4	566.05
90	90	MJE	97.45	85	94.52	88	-2.63%	99.65	55	0.95	90	4	566.05
91	89	MWA	96.22	80	96.05	80	-3.71%	85.93	87	0.63	72	1	571.60
92	88	MUR	96.80	87	95.58	85	-4.33%	119.86	17	105.23	9	113	584.55
93	73	MGL	92.11	118	93.51	94	-3.06%	79.14	109	0.98	40	3	587.08
94	52	MCH	98.13	82	100.47	82	-3.44%	92.20	75	0.94	39	3	592.40
95	118	MWH	97.79	83	95.32	81	-0.58%	84.71	92	0.74	72	6	593.75
96	109	MOR	92.72	114	91.39	105	-0.02%	93.37	71	0.91	58	2	596.50
97	48	MDO	105.34	34	98.74	64	-5.71%	99.10	54	0.94	110	2	606.53
98	98	MAL	95.40	104	92.19	102	-3.71%	114.60	24	93.94	102	99	610.95
99	79	MDE	100.53	62	96.32	79	-4.90%	106.55	35	0.98	80	7	612.20
100	100	MWR	95.92	109	95.65	70	-1.61%	83.94	86	0.94	107	13	612.13
101	110	MWR	95.92	109	95.65	70	-1.61%	83.94	86	0.94	107	13	612.13
102	114	MWR	95.57	103	90.78	109	-3.53%	89.45	80	0.92	73	4	613.59
103	117	MAT	99.02	120	93.49	121	-2.80%	89.45	80	0.92	73	4	613.59
104	85	MAT	99.80	68	93.49	82	-3.70%	104.62	39	105.91	8	34	619.84
105	115	MUN	99.30	119	95.79	82	-3.70%	74.70	115	105.91	8	34	620.27
106	63	MFL	105.87	31	107.83	21	-5.32%	98.69	56	100.63	29	3	633.33
107	112	MRA	96.72	89	91.23	106	-3.61%	34.57	124	72.45	42	5	637.82
108	70	MOT	99.44	74	99.95	50	-3.05%	113.78	24	101.53	25	99	640.55
109	105	MSH	98.89	77	93.97	90	-3.89%	85.66	90	94.81	30	76	644.24
110	97	MNL	100.41	111	97.44	108	-4.48%	76.51	113	107.18	6	141.0	647.00
111	100	MAL	99.15	105	92.53	97	-3.70%	89.72	79	103.49	13	4	651.30
112	95	MTR	98.87	108	90.42	111	-2.75%	97.78	60	95.31	98	5	654.09
113	59	MRE	92.16	117	96.76	106	-5.25%	81.88	104	93.93	111	34	654.69
114	122	MIL	88.83	121	97.06	117	-1.64%	84.33	95	96.21	85	6	702.16
115	75	MJN	96.59	93	93.27	95	-6.20%	101.17	49	102.37	17	2	703.20
116	96	MEL	93.97	107	95.57	96	-13.56%	111.38	28	95.43	96	2	707.00
117	119	MDE	92.84	124	99.57	109	-13.56%	82.01	102	98.46	38	34	727.04
118	110	MDE	92.84	124	99.57	109	-13.56%	82.01	102	98.46	38	34	727.04
119	110	MDE	92.84	124	99.57	109	-13.56%	82.01	102	98.46	38	34	727.04
120	84	MLEW	95.75	108	93.84	102	-3.47%	83.98	100	98.94	46	1	745.88
121	116	MUS	96.66	102	92.47	98	-5.29%	77.89	112	77.11	123	0	753.78
122	121	MSA	92.88	113	86.95	109	-5.29%	82.82	96	86.25	122	2	763.88
123	123	MBCR	89.53	122	80.47	124	-4.10%	52.38	123	96.76	81	4	804.70
124	124	MJAK	89.49	123	84.85	119	-4.68%	87.91	83	95.68	91	50	812.54
													850.27
													879.45

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Moody's Economy.com, Milken Institute.