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Austin MSA Named in Top 10 Percent in Exports

The U.S. Department of Commerce has released new export data for 2005 and 2006 that emphasizes the positive impact exports have on metro economies. The data contains merchandise export values for 369 metro areas totaling more than \$1.4 trillion in exports. In 2006, over 100 cities recorded exports of \$1 billion or more.

The Austin MSA ranked 25th nationally in 2006, contributing more than \$8.3 billion to the local economy. Other Texas MSAs that ranked in the top 20 include Houston No. 2, Dallas No. 9 and El Paso No. 20.

"Exports boost jobs, grow the economy and allow businesses to prosper," said U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez. "These new data show that cities across the country are thriving in the global economy. It also reinforces the positive role that trade and exports had in creating jobs and growing local economies."

Austin's largest export category is computer and electronic products and our top global trading partners include South Korea, Taiwan, Mexico and China. The Austin MSA ranks second in the nation in exports to Taiwan and third in the nation in exports to South Korea.

In 2006, over 100 cities recorded exports of \$1 billion or more and according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, final 2007 exports numbers are expected to exceed 2006 totals.

As Austin attracts new, innovative companies like Samsung, the impact of technology-based companies relocating to Austin will have a positive influence on the region. **Recently Austin has been given such titles as Expansion Management's "Top City to Relocate a Company," and "Best Place for Business" by Moody's Economy.com.**

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Courtesy of JB Goodwin