



New Report Ranks America's Top-Performing Cities

What are America's best-performing cities?

Cities with strong technology, energy and trade sectors lead the nation in job creation, according to a report released today by the Milken Institute and Greenstreet Real Estate Partners.

In the 2008 Best-Performing Cities Index, Provo, Utah, leads the rankings, which are dominated by thriving metro areas in Texas, Washington, Utah, Alabama and the Carolinas.

The annual index provides a snapshot of where America's jobs are being created and sustained. It factors in both long- and short-term indicators of employment and salary growth, as well as technology output measurements. The 2008 results reveal a broad rebound in the technology sector, plus strong activity in exports and energy production.

The top **10 cities for 2008** (with their 2007 rankings in parentheses) are:

1. Provo-Orem, Utah (8)
2. Raleigh-Cary, North Carolina (10)
3. Salt Lake City, Utah (18)
- 4. Austin-Round Rock, Texas (20)**
5. Huntsville, Alabama (16)
6. Wilmington, North Carolina (2)
7. McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Texas (7)
8. Tacoma, Washington (50)
9. Olympia, Washington (37 in the 2007 ranking of small metros)
10. Charleston-North Charleston, South Carolina (12)

Several metros that once topped the rankings fell due to a sharp downturn in their housing and construction markets; formerly booming locations in Florida and California took particularly significant hits. Cities in the industrial Midwest that depend on manufacturing also continue to suffer a long-term decline.

The ***Milken Institute/Greenstreet Real Estate Partners Best-Performing Cities 2008*** index is available for free download at www.milkeninstitute.org. The national rankings and underlying data can also be explored at <http://bestcities.milkeninstitute.org>.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin