

American Growth Project



February 2023 Report FASTEST-GROWING ECONOMIES AMONG THE TOP 100 MIDSIZE CITIES



To date, our work on the American Growth Project has focused on the United States' most populous urban areas. Our previous analyses of growth and productivity in the 50 largest Extended Metropolitan Areas (EMAs) have served to illustrate the tremendous amount of economic diversity to be found within the United States, revealing stark variations in economic trends, major industries and migration patterns in the country's largest cities. Taken together, these findings have reinforced our view that national statistics alone fail to account for the underlying drivers of economic expansion and contraction - and thus tell an incomplete story of the country's economic health. It is only upon examining the full range of America's microeconomies - including our cities, towns, suburbs and rural communities – that we can begin to appreciate the myriad and complex determinants of broader U.S., and sometimes even global, economic trends. With that in mind, we turn now to the task of measuring and analyzing economic activity in the

Forecasted 2023 GDP Growth Rates for Midsize Cities



next largest set of EMAs: the top 100 midsize cities.

In total, our largest 100 midsize cities house roughly 62 million people (or 19% of the U.S. population) and drive 15% of U.S. GDP. These cities range in population from Buffalo, New York, at 1.2 million to Wilmington, North Carolina, at 285,000; for comparison, our largest EMA is New York City, with nearly 24 million residents. Meanwhile, the midsize-city economies range in size from an estimated \$101 billion in 2023 (Albany, New York) to \$13 billion (Roanoke, Virginia). Albany's economy is actually larger than those of six of the 50 largest cities – and Fresno's economy, the smallest among our largest 50 cities, is smaller than the top 10 midsize-city economies. While these statistics give a general sense of the diversity within our midsize cities, the goal of our project is to assess where these economies are headed – as well as what the drivers of their economic success or failure might be. The fact that the midsize EMAs have a larger share of national population than they do of national GDP already tells us something (by contrast, the 50 largest cities had a larger share of national GDP than the national population). Overall, we estimate that the growth rate of every midsize EMA will slow in 2023. That stems largely from our view that a recession will occur in late 2023 or early 2024. Given our projection of a relatively mild recession, however, we expect more than half of our midsize cities to experience positive growth. This phenomenon is not new; during 2020, when the national economy shrank 2.8% – the largest decline in 70 years – 23 of our 100 midsize cities expanded (led by Amarillo, Texas, which grew 3.8%). As we'll see, cities with strong economic fundamentals, such as emerging industries and positive migration inflow, can perform well even during a national economic slowdown.

2023 Projections: What Makes a Midsize City Grow?

Our 2023 growth estimates for the 100 midsize cities range widely. At the top of our rankings, we expect the economy of Midland, Texas, to grow at a rate of 6.7%; at the bottom – and only a few hundred miles away – Beaumont, Texas, is expected to contract by 1.3%. Interestingly, Midland's economy is projected to grow more than twice as fast as that of the San Francisco Bay Area – our leader among the 50 largest cities for 2023. Even more astounding is the fact that Midland's productivity – economic output per employee – is 25% larger than San Francisco's (recall from our analysis of productivity that San Francisco's productivity is almost double the U.S. national average). How can that be? As discussed in greater detail below, Midland is heavily dependent on the highly productive industry of oil production, which requires only a small number of workers to produce large quantities of a highly valued product. Given the effects of technological progress within the oil industry – for example, advancements in hydraulic fracturing, known as fracking, that allow the production of oil from previously unviable sources - San Francisco and Midland may be more similar than you might think, as they're both propelled to the top of our rankings by productivity-enhancing innovation.

The examples of Midland and Amarillo, which sits second on our leaderboard, illustrate a factor that can be both a strength and weakness of smaller cities: Both Midland and



FASTEST-GROWING MIDSIZE CITIES for 2023

1	Midland Texas
2	Amarillo Texas
3	Fort Collins Colorado
4	Santa Barbara California
5	Fayetteville and Springdale Arkansas
6	Wichita Kansas
7	Albany New York
8	Salinas California
9	Charleston South Carolina
10	Visalia California



Amarillo are more heavily dependent on one particular industry than are most larger cities. In Amarillo this central sector is also the oil industry, though Amarillo specializes in refining as opposed to Midland's focus on oil extraction. This is borne out in our data; indices of industry concentration show that the employment on average in our midsize EMAs is more concentrated, relying on fewer industries for job creation than our largest cities.¹ This means these cities can have explosive growth when these industries are in demand - and particularly when innovation is occurring. The downside is that such heavy reliance on a single industry can make midsize cities more vulnerable to busts

if that primary sector experiences a slump. Moreover, there are generally limits to how large one industry can be in a particular city – for instance, if Midland's economy and population expand meaningfully, its industry mix is likely to diversify, which would in turn significantly slow its (previously explosive) growth rate.

While the remainder of our top 10 cities are not quite as dependent on single industries as the oil towns of Midland and Amarillo, they do tend to have higher concentrations of faster-growing industries such as tech and finance. Most of them specialize in a particular area of tech – such as aerospace (Charleston, South Carolina, and Wichita, Kansas), clean tech (Fort Collins, Colorado) and agricultural tech (Salinas, California) – but some also have a growing traditional tech component (Albany and Fort Collins).

Additionally, many of these EMAs have a strong affiliation with a military base, including Charleston, Wichita and Santa Barbara, California. In fact, the 10 fastest-growing midsize EMAs are twice as likely to contain a military base as the 10 slowest growers. Thus, tech industries may be leveraging a relationship with military bases in the region, both in terms of development of technology for the military as well as by taking advantage of the skilled labor coming out of the military. In its annual study of the economic impact of national security spending across the state, the California Research Bureau found such activity produced \$158.2 billion in economic impact at the state and local level during 2021 alone. The largest economic benefits were experienced in industries such as aerospace manufacturing; search, detection and navigation instruments manufacturing; and scientific research and development.²

On the flip side, our analysis suggests cities with an overreliance on **anchor institutions**, such as a university or a hospital, tend to grow more slowly. This does not mean that these institutions cannot be a source of growth; rather, as we discussed in Having a university or hospital can spur innovation and create a skilled workforce. But if these institutions occupy too large a share of economic activity, it can mean the EMA is not attracting the right mix of other growth industries.





previous reports, having a university or hospital can spur innovation and create a skilled workforce. But if these institutions occupy too large a share of economic activity, it can mean the EMA is not attracting the right mix of other growth industries. This question around the utility and economic benefits of anchor institutions is one that we will examine in future research.

Strength in Numbers: Turning Population Growth into Economic Health

Another important driver of the fastest-growing midsize microeconomies is population growth. Some, such as Charleston, Fort Collins, and Fayetteville and Springdale, Arkansas, are experiencing some of the strongest population growth in the nation overall. For many, an influx of new residents has created the potential for rapid employment growth; the Fayetteville and Springdale EMA has the second-fastest employment gains in the past 10 years, while Fort Collins is fifth and Charleston is ninth. Meanwhile, Spokane, Washington, which is estimated to be the 11th-fastest-growing midsize economy in 2023, delivered our sixth-best 10-year employment gains. Other midsize EMAs leading the pack in employment may not rank as highly in 2023, but that's largely a byproduct of the explosive growth these areas experienced in years prior. The 10-year employment leader, Boise,

Idaho, was in the top 10 last year, but now stands in the middle of the 2023 economic growth pack; as a result of a meaningful slowdown in employment and housing-related activity, Boise is expected to experience one of the biggest decelerations in growth. This is also the case in four EMAs in Florida – North Port and Sarasota; Cape Coral and Fort Myers; Tallahassee; and Palm Bay – which have also experienced rapid population and employment gains in recent years and now are expected to meaningfully decelerate.³

But population growth doesn't always translate into employment and economic growth. For example, the fastest-growing midsize city by population is Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, yet it is 15th in 10-year employment growth and 19th in 10-year economic growth (ranking 56th in estimated 2023 GDP growth). This is because much of the population growth in Myrtle Beach has been from retirees, with the fastest 10-year population growth occurring in the 65-plus demographic. Migration of retirees certainly can spur economic growth – it does and will drive workers to the area – but as our economic estimates illustrate, it does not drive the economy as much as nonretiree migration, which increases employment. And, as we'll see in closer looks at our top 10, the flow of new residents to these smaller areas often creates issues of housing affordability and access as home

and rental prices increase sharply in response to increased demand.

The difference between population and employment dynamics in our midsize cities suggests some interesting differences between the largest and midsize U.S. cities. Notably, our analysis indicates midsize city growth is determined more by internal dynamics – what is going on in particular industries or migration patterns in those cities - rather than what is going on in the rest of the United States, which is a more important determinant of big-city growth. However, this may merely reflect the midsize cities' smaller size, which allows demographic and migration patterns to have a bigger impact. (We will explore these dynamics in future reports.) But this may help explain why the Beaumont economy - which has reported the largest average economic contraction of any midsize city during the past decade – is expected to continue the trend to contract the most in 2023. Though its overall population has grown slightly during the last 10 years, its prime working age (25-54) population has shrunk meaningfully.

Beaumont's challenges, as well as the 4-percentage-point gap between population and GDP for the entirety of our midsize cities that we noted earlier, brings us back to the **power of productivity**. Many of our midsize cities observe negative population dynamics that are worse than those of the top 50 cities, especially among the prime working age population. As such, these smaller urban areas must increasingly rely on productivity to power their economic growth. In future reports, we will look at this issue in depth when we analyze the drivers of EMA productivity.

To be sure, midsize cities are not alone in this problem. Our largest cities will eventually face the same demographic troubles as the national population continues to increase in average age. But midsize cities face a unique challenge: They're large enough to experience many of the issues faced by urban areas (e.g., housing, transit and affordability) but small enough to be profoundly affected by negative impacts to population or their central industries. The most successful of these cities can walk this line, while others struggle to find their identity in the middle ground between metropolis and large town. The economic diversity of these cities should suffice to illustrate the essential role they play in the U.S. economy – and it is one we will certainly revisit in future American Growth Project reports.

Midsize cities face a unique challenge: They're large enough to experience many of the issues faced by urban areas (e.g., housing, transit and affordability) but small enough to be profoundly affected by negative impacts to population or their central industries





Midland, Texas

Since the 1920s, oil and energy have been the preeminent sectors in Midland (and its sibling city, Odessa, which is in the same EMA). Productivity in the oil sector drives the city's high performance; the mining and construction sector employs roughly 30% of the area's workforce but accounts for a whopping 60% of the EMA's GDP. Recent technological advances in hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to extract oil and gas have led to a boom in the West Texas area over the past decade – and population has grown accordingly, increasing 30% in the 2010s. The 2022 spike in energy prices propelled it to the top of our fastest-growing midsize cities.

Amarillo, Texas

As in our analysis of the fastest-growing economies in large U.S. cities, Texas is home to multiple top-10 entries. Even in a state with several booming areas, Amarillo stands out, as it had the lowest unemployment level in the state in 2022 (2.6%). Amarillo is home to a diverse set of industries, including meatpacking, petroleum extraction, agriculture and logistics; the EMA also hosts a major refinery in Borger with a strong economic presence, reflected in the city's high percentage of employment in nondurable manufacturing (which accounted for nearly 25% of the EMA's GDP in 2021). The city has really taken off since the pandemic; fiscal 2021 marked the city's strongest economic growth in 30 years and brought in record sales tax revenue, which it then used to fund business incentives through the Amarillo Economic Development Corp.





Fort Collins, Colorado

Fort Collins has maintained excellent economic health and stability throughout the past decade, as demonstrated by its 55% growth in GDP (second only to Midland in our 100 midsize cities) and 28% growth in employment in the past 10 years. Public-private partnerships were essential to bolstering the city's standing; the zero-energy district FortZED and a comprehensive city plan (which includes dedicated urban planning around livability, easy transportation and business incentives) serve as two examples of how the city has fostered private initiatives. The approach has yielded consistent expansion: The Fort Collins EMA observed 7.9% job growth between 2016 and 2021, and has accounted for roughly 95% of the state's multifamily building permits since 2010.

Santa Barbara, California

While Santa Barbara is the more recognizable city in this EMA, the area's growth has actually been driven by its lesser-known neighbor, Santa Maria. From 2000 to 2020, Santa Maria's population grew roughly 40.1%, allowing it to eclipse Santa Barbara as the largest city in Santa Barbara County (and in this EMA). Aerospace and agriculture are the major industries in Santa Maria and the northern side of the county, while tourism and government represent major employers in Santa Barbara and the south.





Fayetteville & Springdale, Arkansas

Fayetteville, which is Arkansas' second-largest city (behind the capital of Little Rock) and home to the state's flagship university, is projected to be among the fastest-growing cities in the United States by 2060. That may be a few years off, but Fayetteville, Springdale and the surrounding Northwest Arkansas region have certainly been on the rise – the area reported 7,500 new jobs between 2019 and 2021 and a growth in median household income of 16.4%. However, the all-too-familiar growing pain of ballooning housing prices now plagues the area; Northwest Arkansas reported the second-largest increase in median housing price of any U.S. metropolitan area in 2022.

Wichita, Kansas

As the headquarters of the second-largest privately held company in the U.S. (Koch Industries), as well as a major hub for the largest (Cargill), Wichita benefits from a wealth of economic and business resources. According to Wichita State University's Center for Economic Development and Business Research, the city tends to outperform state and national trends – and is projected to continue to do so in 2023, even if a recession should hit. And, as the "Air Capital of the World" (so dubbed in 1929 by the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce for its concentration of aircraft manufacturers), Wichita is poised to benefit from the continued recovery of air travel and the airline industry after its pandemic-related setback.





Albany, New York

New York City may lay claim to being one of the world's unofficial capitals, but the actual New York state capital has been quietly building its own reputation. Albany boasts strong employment from government, healthcare and education, as well as easy access to the Hudson Valley, the Adirondack Mountains and major metropolitan areas such as Montreal and Boston. Tech jobs have been gradually coming to the area as well, with employers such as Plug Power (hydrogen fuel cells) and GlobalFoundries (semiconductors) recently expanding their manufacturing facilities in Albany – which may offset the region's relatively stagnant population growth.

Salinas, California

Roughly 100 miles south of the San Francisco Bay Area (which has dominated the rankings of our largest U.S. cities), Salinas has long been recognized as a major agricultural center – its crop output alone delivers more than \$8 billion in annual economic impact, according to one study. The city's proximity to the Bay Area is a boon for its strong agricultural technology sector; since 2015, Forbes' AgTech Summit has taken place in Salinas. Housing affordability remains an issue, however, as the Housing Opportunity Index (the percentage of homes sold that are affordable to families earning the area's median income) for the city has fallen drastically in the past year and a half, and hovering around 5% as of February 2023.





Charleston, South Carolina

A burgeoning tech sector has in recent years bolstered the growth of "Silicon Harbor," with the city leading the nation in IT job growth for much of the 2010s. Aerospace and automotive manufacturing also helped drive growth in the area, with Boeing and Mercedes-Benz each having major assembly plants in Charleston County. Moreover, the pandemic appears not to have disrupted Charleston's continued expansion – the city came in 10th in U-Haul's 2022 growth rankings, which are based on net migration that the rental truck company observes in its data.

Visalia, California

Located in central California's San Joaquin Valley, Visalia has posted record numbers – even through the pandemic. In fiscal 2021, sales tax revenue increased 14% year over year, property tax revenue went up 6% and hotel tax revenue shot up 22%. The city also reported record numbers of building alterations and additions in 2021, as well as the highest number of new multifamily units since 2007. UPS and MilliporeSigma have built new distribution facilities in the city's industrial park in recent years, expanding the area's industry beyond its traditional agricultural focus.



How We Create Growth Projections

The principal building block in creating the underlying growth for EMAs is at the county level – the deepest level we can drill down to for most economic data. This allows us the flexibility to incorporate all economically connected areas in our EMAs. Our "data crosswalk" allows us to incorporate data from different levels of aggregation, which is important because some statistics are available only on a metro or state level. Since our ranking of city size is based on population, this group of 100 midsize cities represents those from the EMA with the 51st-largest population in the United States (Buffalo, New York) to the EMA with the 150th largest (Wilmington, North Carolina).

Most real-time measurement of economic activity relies on

either demand side (adding up consumption, investment, government spending and external trade) or the income side (household plus business incomes) accounting. Given the data limitations alluded to above, our measure of growth relies on a combination of these accounting methods. We apply our econometrics to high-frequency data from the income side (e.g., employment) and demand side (e.g., housing) within a nationwide framework to estimate the individual EMA growth rates while ensuring they remain consistent with our estimates of national growth. As we continue with the American Growth Project, we will continue refining and expanding the techniques we use to provide a more robust picture of the drivers of that growth.

Rank	EMA Name	2023 GDP Growth	2022 GDP Growth	Change in Growth	GDP (2023, billions USD)	GDP Share of U.S. Total (2023)	Population (2020, millions)	Population Share of U.S. Total (2020)
1	Midland, Texas	6.7%	9.49	6 -2.7%	69	0.3%	0.3	0.1%
2	Amarillo, Texas	2.5%	3.19	-0.5%	27	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
3	Fort Collins, Colorado	1.7%	4.59	-2.8%	29	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
4	Santa Barbara, California	1.1%	3.99	-2.8%	39	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
5	Fayetteville and Springdale, Arkansas	0.9%	3.59	-2.5%	38	0.1%	0.5	0.2%
6	Wichita, Kansas	0.9%	2.29	-1.3%	48	0.2%	0.7	0.2%
7	Albany, New York	0.9%	2.49	-1.5%	101	0.4%	1.2	0.4%
8	Salinas, California	0.8%	2.69	-1.8%	35	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
9	Charleston, South Carolina	0.8%	2.99	-2.2%	58	0.2%	0.8	0.2%
10	Visalia, California	0.8%	3.49	-2.6%	24	0.1%	0.5	0.1%
11	Spokane, Washington	0.7%	2.79	-1.9%	46	0.2%	0.8	0.2%
12	Omaha, Nebraska	0.7%	2.19	6 -1.4%	87	0.3%	1.0	0.3%
13	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	0.7%	2.79	-2.0%	36	0.1%	0.5	0.1%
14	Des Moines, Iowa	0.7%	2.79	-2.0%	83	0.3%	0.9	0.3%
15	Wilmington, North Carolina	0.7%	3.19	6 -2.4%	21	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
16	South Bend, Indiana	0.6%	2.59	6 -1.9%	61	0.2%	0.8	0.2%
17	Lubbock, Texas	0.6%	2.29	ó -1.5%	22	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
18	Portland, Maine	0.6%	1.19	6 -0.5%	50	0.2%	0.7	0.2%
19	Huntsville, Alabama	0.6%	2.49	ó -1.8%	47	0.2%	0.6	0.2%
20	Shreveport, Louisiana	0.6%	2.79	-2.1%	29	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
21	Destin, Florida	0.6%	2.79	6 -2.2%	22	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
22	Gainesville, Florida	0.6%	2.59	-1.9%	24	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
23	Bakersfield, California	0.6%	2.99	6 -2.3%	60	0.2%	0.9	0.3%
24	Asheville, North Carolina	0.5%	2.99	6 -2.3%	32	0.1%	0.5	0.2%
25	Buffalo, New York	0.5%	2.69	-2.0%	92	0.3%	1.2	0.4%
26	Savannah, Georgia	0.5%	1.79	6 -1.2%	39	0.1%	0.6	0.2%
27	Boise, Idaho	0.5%	3.39	6 -2.7%	55	0.2%	0.9	0.3%
28	Colorado Springs, Colorado	0.5%	2.89	6 -2.3%	50	0.2%	0.8	0.2%
29	Tulsa, Oklahoma	0.5%	1.89	6 -1.3%	78	0.3%	1.1	0.3%
30	Brownsville, Texas	0.5%	1.59	6 -1.1%	16	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
31	Madison, Wisconsin	0.4%	0.99	6 -0.5%	78	0.3%	0.9	0.3%
32	Palm Bay, Florida	0.4%	2.99	6 -2.5%	35	0.1%	0.6	0.2%
33	Walla Walla, Washington	0.4%	2.29	6 -1.8%	24	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
34	Fort Wayne, Indiana	0.4%	1.99	6 -1.5%	42	0.2%	0.6	0.2%
35	Salisbury, Maryland	0.4%	1.39	6 -0.9%	30	0.1%	0.5	0.1%
36	Syracuse, New York	0.4%	2.09	-1.6%	57	0.2%	0.7	0.2%
37	Columbus, Georgia	0.4%	1.49	6 -1.0%	27	0.1%	0.5	0.2%
38	Killeen, Texas	0.3%	1.69	6 -1.3%	25	0.1%	0.5	0.1%
39	Peoria, Illinois	0.3%	1.39	-1.0%	27	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
40	Knoxville, Tennessee	0.3%	1.99	6 -1.6%	73	0.3%	1.2	0.3%
41	Medford, Oregon	0.3%	1.39		16	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
42	Gulfport, Mississippi	0.2%	1.79	-1.4%	24	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
43	Springfield, Illinois	0.2%	1.39	6 -1.1%	20	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
44	Rochester, New York	0.2%	1.49		83	0.3%	1.2	0.4%
45	Augusta, Georgia	0.2%	0.59		35	0.1%	0.6	0.2%
46	Lincoln, Nebraska	0.2%	1.49		27	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
47	Ocala, Florida	0.1%	2.19		15	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
48	Honolulu, Hawaii	0.1%	1.39		76	0.3%	1.0	0.3%
49	Utica, New York	0.1%	1.59		17	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
50	El Paso, Texas	0.1%	1.19		52	0.2%	1.1	0.3%
50	,	.1 0.170	.= ''''	1.070	52	0.270	1	0.070

Rank	EMA Name	2023 GDP Growth	2022 GDP Growth	Change in Growth	GDP (2023, billions USD)	GDP Share of U.S. Total (2023)	Population (2020, millions)	Population Share of U.S. Total (2020)
51	Johnson City, Tennessee	0.1%	0.7%	-0.6%	27	0.1%	0.5	0.2%
52	Columbia, South Carolina	0.1%	0.3%	-0.3%	59	0.2%	1.0	0.3%
53	Kalamazoo, Michigan	0.1%	1.7%	-1.7%	31	0.1%	0.5	0.2%
54	Longview, Texas	0.0%	1.5%	-1.5%	19	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
55	Scranton, Pennsylvania	0.0%	1.9%	-1.8%	34	0.1%	0.6	0.2%
56	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina	0.0%	1.8%	-1.8%	28	0.1%	0.6	0.2%
57	Tucson, Arizona	0.0%	1.7%	-1.7%	59	0.2%	1.1	0.3%
58	Reno, Nevada	0.0%	1.2%	-1.1%	51	0.2%	0.7	0.2%
59	Eugene, Oregon	0.0%	1.8%	-1.8%	21	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
60	Rocky Mount, North Carolina	0.0%	0.8%	-0.8%	16	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
61	Lansing, Michigan	0.0%	2.1%	-2.1%	33	0.1%	0.5	0.2%
62	Green Bay, Wisconsin	0.0%	0.1%	-0.2%	26	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
63	Fayetteville, North Carolina	-0.1%	1.8%	-1.8%	43	0.2%	0.8	0.3%
64	Anchorage, Alaska	-0.1%	2.2%	-2.2%	32	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
65	Corpus Christi, Texas	-0.1%	1.3%	-1.3%	33	0.1%	0.5	0.2%
66	Charleston, West Virginia	-0.1%	0.6%	-0.6%	42	0.2%	0.8	0.2%
67	Mobile, Alabama	-0.1%	0.9%	-1.0%	38	0.1%	0.7	0.2%
68	Lexington, Kentucky	-0.1%	1.2%	-1.3%	47	0.2%	0.7	0.2%
69	Allentown, Pennsylvania	-0.1%	2.2%	-2.3%	58	0.2%	0.9	0.3%
70	Wausau, Wisconsin	-0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	22	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
71	Springfield, Massachusetts	-0.1%	0.7%	-0.8%	42	0.2%	0.7	0.2%
72	North Port and Sarasota, Florida	-0.1%	3.4%	-3.5%	60	0.2%	1.1	0.3%
73	Pensacola, Florida	-0.1%	2.2%	-2.4%	29	0.1%	0.5	0.2%
74	Dayton, Ohio	-0.2%	0.8%	-0.9%	70	0.3%	1.1	0.3%
75	Quad Cities, Iowa and Illinois	-0.2%	2.1%	-2.2%	34	0.1%	0.5	0.1%
76	Toledo, Ohio	-0.2%	1.3%	-1.5%	59	0.2%	0.8	0.3%
77	Lancaster, Pennsylvania	-0.2%	0.8%	-0.9%	37	0.1%	0.6	0.2%
78	Roanoke, Virginia	-0.2%	0.7%	-0.8%	13	0.0%	0.3	0.1%
79	Evansville, Indiana	-0.2%	1.3%	-1.5%	24	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
80	Cape Coral and Fort Myers, Florida	-0.2%	2.7%	-2.9%	74	0.3%	1.2	0.4%
81	Jackson, Mississippi	-0.2%	0.4%	-0.6%	39	0.1%	0.7	0.2%
82	Chattanooga, Tennessee	-0.3%	0.2%	-0.5%	61	0.2%	1.0	0.3%
83	Appleton, Wisconsin	-0.3%	0.4%	-0.6%	31	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
84	Macon, Georgia	-0.3%	0.1%	-0.4%	23	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
85	Little Rock, Arkansas	-0.3%	1.0%	-1.3%	55	0.2%	0.9	0.3%
86	Springfield, Missouri	-0.3%	1.1%	-1.4%	27	0.1%	0.5	0.1%
87	Clarksville, Tennessee	-0.3%	0.6%	-1.0%	16	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
88	McAllen, Texas	-0.3%	1.2%	-1.6%	30	0.1%	0.9	0.3%
89	Saginaw, Michigan	-0.4%	0.9%	-1.3%	22	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
90	Duluth, Minnesota	-0.5%	1.2%	-1.7%	18	0.1%	0.3	0.1%
91	Tallahassee, Florida	-0.5%	2.3%	-2.7%	23	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
92	Rockford, Illinois	-0.6%	1.1%	-1.7%	25	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
93	Albuquerque, New Mexico	-0.6%	1.2%	-1.8%	69	0.3%	1.2	0.4%
94	Erie, Pennsylvania	-0.6%	0.7%	-1.3%	18	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
95	Montgomery, Alabama	-0.7%	0.8%	-1.5%	26	0.1%	0.5	0.1%
96	Hickory, North Carolina	-0.9%	1.4%		19	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
97	Lafayette, Louisiana	-0.9%	1.2%	-2.1%	31	0.1%	0.6	0.2%
98	Youngstown, Ohio	-1.0%	-0.3%		29	0.1%	0.6	0.2%
99	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	-1.1%	0.8%		62	0.2%	0.9	0.3%
100	Beaumont, Texas	-1.3%	0.4%	-1.7%	27	0.1%	0.4	0.1%
			1 **			1	1	1

Endnotes

- 1 The index used here is the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI), a standard measure of industry concentration that measures the degree of concentration in a specific market.
- 2 Bedi, S. & Pannell, B. "California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts, 2022 Update." California Research Bureau, California State Library, Oct. 2022. <u>https://</u> militarycouncil.ca.gov/wp-content/ <u>uploads/sites/81/2022/10/2022_</u> <u>California_Statewide_MEIS.</u> pdf?emrc=63ea74be66676
- 3 Estimating growth in 2023 for southwest Florida is challenging because of the impact of Hurricane lan, which could be responsible for spurring a rebuilding boom that is hard to account for within our model.
- 4 Davis, K., & Szeto, D. (2017). At the Heart of Texas: Cities' Industry Clusters Drive Growth. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. https://www.dallasfed.org/research/ heart/midland
- 5 Distel, M. (2019, November 17). The West Texas Oil Boom That Changed The World. Fossil Fuel. https://fossilfuel. com/the-west-texas-oil-boom-thatchanged-the-world/
- 6 Blankley, B. (2023, January 23). Texas job growth smashes records again. The Center Square. <u>https://www.</u> <u>thecentersquare.com/texas/texas-</u> job-growth-smashes-records-again/ <u>article_8cd2a44c-9b5c-11ed-9c3c-</u> bf675cb80457.html
- 7 Business & Industry in Amarillo. Amarillo Economic Development Corporation. https://www.amarilloedc.com/businessand-industry
- 8 Mitchell, T. (2021, February 23). Amarillo experiencing most economic development in 30 years. KFDA. <u>https://</u> www.newschannel10.com/2021/02/24/ amarillo-experiencing-most-economicdevelopment-years/

- 9 What We Do: Pioneering the Future of Energy. FortZED. https://w.fortzed.com/ what-is-fortzed/what-we-do/
- 10 *City Plan*. City of Fort Collins. <u>https://</u> www.fcgov.com/cityplan/
- 11 Leeds School of Business. 58th Annual Colorado Business Economic Outlook 2023. University of Colorado-Boulder. https://www.colorado.edu/business/ sites/default/files/attached-files/2023_ beof_book_final_122122_lr_rev.pdf
- 12 Burciaga, M. (2020, April 8). Population growth in northern Santa Barbara County outpacing South Coast. Santa Maria Times. <u>https://santamariatimes.</u> com/news/local/population-growthin-northern-santa-barbara-countyoutpacing-south-coast/article_32f47c2a-8414-5e43-84e5-9197affc4b9b.html
- 13 Stebbis, S. (2022, September 16). *Fayetteville, AR Will Be Among the Fastest Growing Cities by 2060*. The Center Square. https://www.thecentersquare. <u>com/missouri/fayetteville-ar-will-be-</u> <u>among-the-fastest-growing-cities-</u> <u>by-2060/article_da7b97c8-b07b-5fd4-</u> <u>abf9-2ed51596a679.html</u>
- 14 Golden, A. (2022, October 28). NWA's boom demands bold planning, experts say. Axios NW Arkansas. https://www.axios.com/local/nwarkansas/2022/10/28/nwas-economyboom-bold-planning
- 15 Carranza, J. (2022, July 18). Northwest Arkansas facing 'crisis of success' as rapid growth leads to rising home value. 5 News. https://www.5newsonline. com/article/money/economy/ northwest-arkansas-facing-crisis-ofsuccess/527-6acb77cd-ad63-4b0d-acd0a1c07abb97f4
- 16 Center for Economic Development & Business Research. 2023 Wichita Employment Forecast. Wichita State University. <u>https://cedbr.org/forecastblog</u>

- 17 Diana, C., & Raudins, S. (2022, October 20). *Move Here Now*. Albany Business Review. <u>https://www.bizjournals.com/</u> <u>albany/news/2022/10/20/albany-region-</u> jobs-growth-move-here-now.html
- 18 U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). Annual Resident Population by Metropolitan Area: Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY MSA. Haver Analytics Dataset.
- 19 *Economic Impact*. City of Salinas. <u>https://</u> <u>www.cityofsalinas.org/our-city-services/</u> <u>city-manager/economic-development</u>
- 20 National Association of Home Builders/ Wells Fargo. (2023). *Housing Opportunity Index: Salinas, CA MSA*. Haver Analytics Dataset.
- 21 Swartz, J. (2017, July 29). Silicon Harbor has become a tech landing spot for some weary city dwellers. USA Today. https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/ columnist/2017/07/29/silicon-harborhas-become-tech-landing-spot-someweary-city-dwellers/481879001/
- 22 *Key Industries*. Charleston County Economic Development. <u>https://www.</u> <u>charlestoncountydevelopment.org/key-</u> <u>industries/</u>
- 23 Charleston Daily. (2023, January 4). *U-Haul U.S. Growth Cities of 2022: Charleston-North Charleston Region Ranked 10th*. <u>https://charlestondaily.</u> <u>net/u-haul-u-s-growth-cities-of-2022-</u> <u>charleston-north-charleston-ranked-</u> <u>10th/</u>





Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise Leveraging the Private Sector for the Public Good kenaninstitute.unc.edu

in company/kenan-institute-of-private-enterprise

f 🎔 🗿 @kenaninstitute 🕒 / UNCKenanInstitute