



Metropolitan Policy Program

at BROOKINGS

The new Brookings analysis of States' Metropolitan Areas is available at: http://www.brookings.edu/metro/50_states.aspx.

Contact: Rachel Harvey, 202.797.6073, rh Harvey@brookings.edu
John Fairbanks, 202.797.6087, jfairbanks@brookings.edu

Next Economy Being Built in America's Metros

New Brookings research identifies 47 states as "majority metro" economies

Washington, D.C. — As state economies regain their footing in the wake of the Great Recession, America's metropolitan areas will lead their transformation to the next economy, according to a new analysis by the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program.

The new report, *Metropolitan Areas and the Next American Economy: A 50-State Analysis*, finds metro areas—cities and their surrounding suburbs and outlying rural areas—contain outsized shares of the assets that can drive the next wave of economic growth in states and nationwide—international exports, innovative and educated workers, and lower-carbon forms of development. In 47 states, metropolitan areas generate a majority of total economic output.

The report contains profiles for each state that illustrate the degree to which its population, jobs, economic output, and key attributes for economic growth are concentrated in its metropolitan areas.

“Our research shows that metro areas are poised to lead in the next economy,” said Alan Berube, Senior Fellow and Research Director of the Metropolitan Policy Program and co-author of the report. “State economic leaders should cultivate metropolitan-led strategies for economic growth, building from metro areas’ distinctive assets and market strengths to grow quality jobs and promote sustainable, statewide prosperity.”

The report also finds that:

- In almost every state, the majority of economic activity occurs in metropolitan areas. These majority-metro economies include even those states often considered to be “rural” in nature, such as Idaho, Iowa, North and South Dakota, and West Virginia.
- In 15 states across the country, including Massachusetts, Georgia, Minnesota, and Washington, one large metropolitan area alone accounts for the majority of state economic output.

- In 30 states, metro areas among the 100 largest nationwide generate a majority of internationally exported goods and services. In states where metro areas specialize in advanced manufacturing and services, they out-perform other areas in export production. In more agriculturally-oriented states, smaller metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas generate disproportionate shares of statewide exports.
- Metros boast disproportionate shares of the assets that will drive the next economy. America's 366 metros produce 85 percent of U.S. exports, employ 93 percent of workers in science and engineering and 89 percent of workers with a post-secondary degree, and are home to 86 percent of low-carbon commuters.

“The road to a more productive and sustainable economy that holds more promise for more Americans runs through our metros,” Berube said.

About the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings—*Created in 1996, the Metropolitan Policy Program (MPP) provides decision-makers with cutting-edge research and policy ideas for improving the health and prosperity of metropolitan areas, including their component cities, suburbs, and rural areas. To learn more, please visit: www.brookings.edu/metro.*

-END-