

B | Metropolitan Policy Program at BROOKINGS

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Report: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/metro-monitor-2017/>
Data: <https://www.brookings.edu/interactives/metro-monitor-2017-dashboard/>

Inclusive economic growth still eludes most U.S. metropolitan areas

Brookings ranks the 100 largest metro areas on measures of growth, prosperity, and inclusion

Washington, DC—New economic inclusion rankings for the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas were released today by the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program.

The 2017 Metro Monitor is the annual update to the program's signature economic benchmarking tool. The report measures and ranks the performance of the nation's 100 largest metropolitan economies in three critical areas of economic development: **growth, prosperity, and inclusion**. The 2017 update focuses on 2010-2015, a period when the nation hastened its recovery from the Great Recession.

After years of slow but steady recovery, the U.S. economy is, by most conventional measures, in remarkable condition. However, a full recovery from the Great Recession remains out of reach for many people and communities.

The report highlights three trends from the 2010-15 period.

While many metropolitan areas experienced economic growth, fewer saw increases in prosperity and productivity, and even fewer made progress on economic inclusion.

Overall, 63 large metro areas posted positive changes on of the Metro Monitor's growth measures, just 45 large metro areas saw improvements across prosperity measures, and only 37 large metro areas made improvements on all inclusion measures.

Many of the 100 largest metropolitan areas performed well in at least one of the three dimensions of growth, prosperity, or inclusion. Only a few managed above-average performance in all three areas.

To measure growth, prosperity, and inclusion, the authors use nine unique, economic indicators. **While many places improved on one or more indicators during this period of accelerating recovery, only 11 places made improvements on all nine** - Albany, Austin, Charleston, Columbus, Dayton, Denver, Oklahoma City, Omaha, San Antonio, Tulsa, and Worcester

The report also finds that many of the metropolitan areas that performed well across all three categories had something in common: a robust advanced industries sector. Knowledge- and research-intensive advanced services industries, such as information and professional services, and technology-intensive advanced manufacturing industries appear to have played a big role in the success of these consistently high-performing metro areas.

The Metro Monitor reveals that most metro areas still face gaps between headline growth and bottom-line prosperity and inclusion. “Economic growth that improves standards of living for all people is possible,” said Brookings Senior Research Associate Richard Shearer, lead author of the report. “But not as common as one might hope.”

The Metro Monitor aims to advance new ways of measuring economic success and help metropolitan leaders explore whether they are improving the trajectory of their local economies. The research seeks to help these leaders understand in greater depth the factors and trends that contribute to or hinder progress toward continuously increasing growth, prosperity, and inclusion in metropolitan America, and how new models of economic development can help deliver an advanced economy that works for all.

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The ***Metropolitan Policy Program*** at Brookings delivers research and solutions to help metropolitan leaders build an advanced economy that works for all. To learn more, please visit www.brookings.edu/metro. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/brookingsmetro.