

2004 Best Performing Cities

118 Smaller Metros

2003 Rank	2004 Rank	Metro	5-yr Job Growth 1998 - 2003		1-yr Job Growth 2002 - 2003		5-yr Wages & Salaries Growth 1997 - 2002		1-yr Wages & Salaries Growth 2001 - 2002		Job Growth (Apr 03 - Apr 04)		5-yr Relative HT GDP (Growth 1998 - 2003)		1-yr Relative HT GDP (Growth 2002 - 2003)		High-Tech GDP LQ		# of HT GDP LQs Over 1		MSA Population 2003 (in Thousands)	Overall Index
			2003 Value	Rank	2003 Value	Rank	2002 Value	Rank	2002 Value	Rank	Growth	Rank	2003 Value	Rank	2003 Value	Rank	2003 Value	Rank	2003 Value	Rank		
N/A	1	Missoula MT	114.35	1	102.69	7	106.40	6	103.85	6	2.45%	12	116.77	8	102.18	19	0.67	37	7	13	98.62	100.00
3	2	Las Cruces NM	113.45	2	103.40	3	103.62	16	105.33	3	1.61%	26	104.19	20	109.76	5	1.10	14	8	9	182.16	104.96
5	3	Santa Fe NM	105.57	17	102.21	13	105.93	8	104.18	5	1.66%	25	83.54	46	104.56	11	0.73	33	6	19	155.23	173.76
29	4	Dover DE	107.05	11	103.14	4	97.13	49	105.37	2	2.73%	9	131.77	3	110.58	4	0.44	75	3	54	134.39	202.84
23	5	Casper WY	108.08	8	102.22	11	108.77	4	105.69	1	3.24%	5	103.86	21	96.67	64	0.37	88	2	74	68.21	216.31
6	6	Yuma AZ	110.06	7	103.54	2	101.59	24	103.77	7	3.22%	6	105.57	19	97.57	55	0.46	73	2	74	171.13	221.99
N/A	7	Flagstaff AZ	107.63	9	101.30	29	100.71	30	102.16	32	0.98%	37	193.80	1	105.04	9	2.15	2	3	54	127.34	241.13
4	8	Billings MT	101.18	44	101.19	32	103.25	18	103.50	12	2.44%	13	113.62	12	102.84	15	0.58	49	5	32	133.19	245.39
12	9	Redding CA	112.15	3	101.66	24	102.26	20	102.35	25	1.36%	30	93.27	29	102.63	16	0.53	60	3	54	175.65	257.45
11	10	Sioux Falls SD	107.03	12	101.22	30	108.71	5	103.15	18	1.29%	32	84.15	44	100.63	26	0.54	57	4	42	183.92	257.45
2	11	Tyler TX	104.12	24	100.58	51	100.45	31	101.80	40	2.13%	21	112.46	14	103.96	13	1.07	15	10	2	184.02	268.09
31	12	Medford-Ashland OR	104.81	19	102.21	14	99.77	33	100.52	80	2.27%	17	131.21	4	109.36	6	1.30	10	3	54	190.08	283.69
1	13	Iowa City IA	103.08	33	103.69	112	109.94	3	103.61	8	5.17%	1	111.45	15	96.53	72	0.99	18	13	1	115.55	297.87
16*	14	Houma LA	103.88	25	102.58	8	104.29	14	104.97	4	-0.24%	84	112.81	13	104.40	12	0.46	72	2	74	197.39	312.77
8	15	Cheyenne WY	103.64	28	101.07	35	101.01	29	102.34	26	0.73%	42	127.61	6	96.63	69	0.74	31	6	19	84.08	315.60
13	16	Fort Walton Beach FL	103.76	26	102.33	10	101.51	26	102.44	24	2.02%	23	77.12	62	95.40	86	0.59	48	5	32	176.10	316.31
N/A	17	Lewiston-Auburn ME	105.58	16	100.78	43	103.58	17	103.24	14	0.65%	46	107.27	18	94.99	91	0.44	77	6	19	106.12	338.30
7	18	Punta Gorda FL	110.55	5	102.12	15	110.07	2	102.48	23	1.81%	24	79.35	54	96.64	68	0.26	109	0	114	153.39	342.55
17	19	Rapid City SD	103.38	31	101.00	36	105.27	10	102.90	20	0.40%	54	92.97	30	101.25	22	0.54	56	2	74	91.88	343.26
19	20	Fargo-Moorhead ND-MN	103.69	27	101.79	22	102.13	21	102.26	28	-0.09%	76	94.74	26	97.69	53	0.67	38	6	19	179.12	343.26
10	21	Bismarck ND	104.51	20	102.36	9	101.58	25	103.19	15	-0.19%	81	87.40	37	96.50	59	0.62	42	3	54	96.83	348.94
18	22	Rochester MN	110.22	6	101.52	26	111.38	1	102.12	33	0.34%	59	57.90	102	95.29	88	1.04	17	3	54	362.41	381.38
41	23	Eau Claire WI	101.02	45	101.22	31	98.31	40	103.55	11	2.20%	19	64.81	87	98.05	48	0.58	50	4	42	183.06	368.09
21	24	Yolo CA	111.44	4	103.13	5	99.70	35	98.81	105	2.81%	8	76.63	65	101.21	23	0.55	53	2	74	150.94	368.09
N/A	25	Burlington VT	102.87	34	100.23	58	104.63	13	99.98	91	1.21%	33	93.39	28	98.17	46	1.33	8	7	13	203.50	392.20
9	26	Bryan-College Station TX	106.61	13	101.17	33	102.63	19	100.36	82	2.86%	7	77.40	60	97.79	51	0.60	44	1	96	159.83	396.45
34	27	Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton NJ	99.66	54	101.90	17	92.58	79	103.02	19	0.33%	60	113.70	11	98.89	38	0.59	47	6	19	149.31	406.38
45	28	St. Cloud MN	104.38	22	99.91	72	106.04	7	101.79	41	0.85%	40	71.98	75	97.63	54	0.49	64	6	19	174.07	408.51
69*	29	Richland-Kennewick-Pasco WA	102.56	36	100.61	48	101.38	27	100.89	70	0.30%	61	72.33	73	100.51	27	1.05	16	10	2	209.79	426.95
20	30	La Crosse WI-MN	100.06	51	100.01	69	97.09	50	102.72	21	3.34%	3	75.48	69	95.90	79	0.67	39	4	42	128.59	437.59
54*	31	Myrtle Beach SC	103.53	29	101.87	18	105.80	9	101.29	60	1.56%	27	69.76	82	95.84	81	0.36	90	1	96	210.76	450.35
28	32	Wausau WI	102.35	39	100.69	44	97.06	51	102.72	22	0.43%	52	79.54	52	93.34	76	0.45	74	2	74	127.17	462.41
N/A	33	Bangor ME	101.59	41	99.94	71	99.40	37	102.02	34	-0.38%	89	119.44	7	98.55	42	0.63	41	1	96	146.98	463.12
92	34	Dubuque IA	97.20	74	101.87	19	90.14	96	102.31	27	2.33%	16	70.70	80	98.08	47	0.73	34	5	32	90.05	465.96
53	35	Bloomington IN	102.35	38	104.54	1	91.80	83	100.11	88	3.75%	2	53.47	106	93.48	103	0.89	24	6	19	122.90	479.43
42	36	Sheboygan WI	99.19	57	99.86	73	97.86	44	101.95	35	3.28%	4	82.07	48	94.88	95	0.49	65	4	42	113.38	479.43
13*	37	Chico-Paradise CA	105.81	15	100.87	40	101.91	23	101.05	68	0.57%	48	70.83	79	99.72	32	0.40	82	1	96	211.01	480.14
24	38	Greenville NC	104.47	21	100.30	55	97.70	45	100.61	76	-0.01%	74	88.25	34	95.67	83	1.32	9	8	9	138.69	480.14
32	39	Dothan AL	98.80	59	100.14	63	96.98	52	103.17	17	-0.18%	80	116.07	9	97.33	56	0.86	26	3	54	140.71	487.23
40	40	Bloomington-Normal IL	104.33	23	98.79	106	104.73	12	99.51	100	-0.65%	93	111.44	16	130.76	2	1.60	4	8	9	156.88	495.74
38	41	Pocatello ID	101.00	46	100.58	52	99.04	62	100.34	84	0.26%	65	130.14	5	198.24	1	1.95	3	2	74	75.63	497.16
30	42	Charlottesville VA	100.09	49	100.02	67	104.06	15	99.98	92	1.40%	29	90.29	32	94.62	96	0.85	28	3	54	166.69	506.38
69	43	Abilene TX	96.65	78	101.70	23	89.25	101	101.32	58	2.14%	20	86.50	41	99.36	35	0.57	51	5	32	125.34	509.93
15	44	State College PA	101.27	43	99.12	95	97.38	47	101.59	51	0.27%	64	79.30	55	98.42	44	0.86	25	9	6	141.64	517.73
27	45	Athens GA	98.29	65	100.92	38	97.97	42	100.57	77	-0.67%	94	99.88	23	99.28	37	0.85	27	7	13	158.85	519.15
112*	46	Clarksville-Hopkinsville TN-KY	105.41	18	100.44	53	99.05	38	101.77	43	0.12%	69	85.22	43	96.90	60	0.34	93	1	96	210.98	520.57
N/A	47	Hagerstown MD	105.90	14	100.78	42	95.55	55	102.20	29	0.46%	51	63.31	91	94.92	93	0.33	98	2	74	136.80	523.40
46	48	Alexandria LA	98.78	60	100.79	41	96.59	54	101.63	49	0.35%	57	79.71	51	101.10	25	0.48	66	2	74	127.39	523.40
78	49	Glens Falls NY	101.79	40	103.02	6	87.65	103	97.93	113	2.40%	14	67.31	84	96.40	75	0.97	21	8	9	126.59	525.53
25	50	Panama City FL	99.98	52	101.83	21	95.92	57	102.18	30	1.51%	28	60.21	98	96.55	71	0.32	100	1	96	155.19	525.53
82	51	Terre Haute IN	98.68	61	102.07	16	89.56	98	101.08	66	2.35%	15	57.64	104	95.40	87	0.98	19	5	32	147.88	534.75
54	52	Elkhart-Goshen IN	96.66	77	102.22	12	93.27	74	103.58	10	2.63%	10	46.05	114	88.94	113	0.48	69	1	96	188.78	537.59
43	53	Champaign-Urbana IL	102.76	35	100.01	68	98.98	39	99.50	102	-1.03%	101	109.73	17	109.08	7	0.67	36	4	42	186.80	561.70
35	54	Great Falls MT	95.62	88	100.88	39	92.47	80	103.18	16	0.56%	49	92.41	31	101.32	21	0.31	102	1	96	79.56	563.12
14	55	Lawrence KS	103.39	30	99.19	91	100.08	32	97.75	115	-1.92%	113	148.84	2	100.48	28	1.19	12	10	2	102.98	571.63
57	56	Grand Forks ND-MN	100.07	50	101.84	20	84.17	100	101.57	52	0.60%	47	80.70	50	102.51	18	0.36	89	0	114	95.64	578.72
62	57	Altoona PA	101.35	42	100.92	37	94.17	68	101.31	59	0.16%	67	64.02	88	96.66	67	0.53	61	3	54	127.18	578.72
33	58	San Angelo TX	96.59	79	99.38	85	95.84	58	99.55	99	2.06%	22	79.29	56	95.53	84	1.54	5	9	6	103.53	593.62
89	59	Annisland AL	94.81	93	101.31	28	82.56	116	101.66	48	1.00%	36	93.53	27	99.62	33	0.37	86	3	54	112.01	597.16

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				2003 Value	Rank	2003 Value	Rank	2003 Value	Rank	2003 Value	Rank	Growth	Rank	2003 Value	Rank	2003 Value	Rank	2003 Value	Rank	2003 Value	Rank		
120*	80	Cedar Rapids IA	CED	97.29	72	98.77	107	101.97	22	100.04	89	-1.19%	104	63.34	90	93.48	102	1.40	7	7	13	196.20	709.22
N/A	81	Pittsfield MA	PIS	98.06	68	99.41	83	91.79	85	100.01	90	-0.72%	97	87.99	35	98.76	39	0.55	54	4	42	133.31	720.57
55	82	Waterloo-Cedar Falls IA	WAE	95.76	87	99.79	75	90.68	91	102.17	31	0.96%	38	49.00	110	89.86	112	0.42	79	2	74	126.42	722.70
N/A	83	Hattiesburg MS	HAT	98.22	66	100.06	66	95.44	60	101.86	39	-0.25%	85	52.79	108	91.71	109	0.33	99	2	74	116.34	724.82
122*	84	Springfield IL	SPR	93.65	99	96.78	117	95.49	59	100.13	87	-0.27%	86	87.71	36	96.67	65	0.79	29	10	2	204.47	729.08
26	85	Lafayette IN	LAF	97.25	73	97.38	115	91.80	84	100.36	83	-0.31%	87	71.01	78	99.90	31	1.23	11	5	32	188.80	734.75
N/A	86	Corvallis OR	COV	85.66	118	100.12	64	86.14	109	98.62	106	-0.19%	82	103.82	22	111.51	3	3.49	1	3	54	79.33	736.17
63	87	Cumberland MD-WV	CUM	97.89	70	99.66	78	91.04	89	101.69	44	-0.65%	92	65.47	86	99.97	30	0.31	103	2	74	100.82	736.88
165*	88	Racine WI	RAC	93.89	97	99.77	76	86.46	108	101.66	46	0.00%	72	45.01	115	97.14	58	0.52	63	6	19	192.28	746.81
73	89	Parkersburg-Marietta WV-OH	PAR	97.48	71	98.97	101	87.09	106	101.61	50	0.14%	68	60.50	95	97.20	57	0.39	84	4	42	149.84	758.87
65	90	Jackson MI	JAK	98.81	58	99.06	99	92.70	77	100.56	79	-0.48%	90	72.29	74	98.03	49	0.37	87	3	54	162.32	758.87
71	91	St. Joseph MO	STJ	92.97	104	99.44	81	99.77	34	100.74	74	-0.87%	98	61.16	94	95.04	90	0.48	67	3	54	101.72	770.92
49	92	Owensboro KY	OWE	95.38	90	99.43	82	94.23	66	101.26	61	0.70%	44	48.36	112	96.13	77	0.24	113	0	114	92.54	781.56
76	93	Wheeling WV-OH	WHE	96.83	76	99.44	80	93.81	71	101.87	36	-1.65%	110	58.65	100	94.42	99	0.30	106	3	54	150.36	783.69
77	94	Pine Bluff AR	PIN	95.45	89	100.42	54	91.16	87	99.98	93	2.25%	18	46.82	113	88.29	115	0.26	110	1	96	82.89	791.49
58	95	Lake Charles LA	LAK	94.73	94	99.21	90	89.33	99	101.67	45	0.35%	58	76.69	64	95.24	89	0.35	92	0	114	183.89	802.13
84	96	Joplin MO	JOP	96.13	83	100.18	62	94.24	65	101.17	64	-0.13%	78	41.78	116	86.27	117	0.32	101	1	96	162.15	804.26
91	97	Gadsden AL	GAD	90.55	116	97.44	114	84.64	114	103.36	13	-2.86%	117	84.14	45	96.61	70	0.61	43	5	32	103.04	807.09
50	98	Grand Junction CO	GRJ	99.40	55	99.26	86	99.50	36	97.58	116	-1.04%	102	69.33	83	91.54	111	0.38	85	2	74	124.68	810.64
66	99	Decatur AL	DEZ	92.33	107	97.32	116	94.23	67	99.48	103	-2.97%	118	89.20	33	98.75	40	0.72	35	6	19	147.20	814.89
79	100	Kankakee IL	KAK	95.93	84	99.24	88	90.71	90	99.88	94	0.23%	66	58.00	101	87.88	116	0.54	59	5	32	105.63	817.02
60	101	Topeka KS	TOP	96.19	82	97.73	113	92.04	82	96.32	117	-0.69%	96	89.23	24	88.93	114	0.95	23	6	19	170.90	822.70
80	102	Sharon PA	SHA	97.13	75	98.58	108	92.86	75	101.17	65	-1.00%	100	83.27	47	96.67	66	0.29	108	1	96	119.90	833.33
72	103	Steubenville-Weirton OH-WV	STE	93.54	100	100.19	61	90.24	93	101.45	55	-1.98%	114	87.30	38	96.41	74	0.15	118	1	96	128.57	831.21
47	104	Enid OK	END	91.41	111	98.95	103	90.29	92	100.89	71	0.00%	71	71.82	76	103.16	14	0.19	115	2	74	57.11	833.33
92	105	Janesville-Beloit WI	JAN	93.12	102	99.83	74	86.49	107	100.67	75	-0.15%	79	61.45	93	98.02	50	0.31	104	2	74	154.79	847.52
68	106	Goldsboro NC	GOL	93.75	98	99.19	92	92.12	81	99.57	98	-1.14%	103	95.12	25	95.84	80	0.43	78	2	74	113.10	851.77
96	107	Kokomo IN	KOK	91.80	109	99.18	93	85.85	112	101.66	47	0.40%	53	76.37	66	93.21	105	0.25	111	1	96	101.30	855.32
56	108	Sumter SC	SUT	92.72	106	99.95	70	89.65	97	100.26	85	-0.36%	88	63.79	89	94.61	97	0.47	70	2	74	105.96	866.67
N/A	109	Rocky Mount NC	ROM	91.67	110	99.07	98	90.21	94	99.51	101	-1.23%	105	60.31	97	94.40	100	1.47	6	9	6	144.63	868.79
94	110	Decatur IL	DEC	90.57	115	98.58	109	87.33	104	98.16	111	0.00%	70	79.53	53	95.51	85	0.65	40	5	32	111.18	870.92
85	111	Danville VA	DNV	95.86	85	99.26	87	85.57	113	98.40	108	1.11%	34	65.75	85	92.28	108	0.20	114	1	96	108.63	891.49
61	112	Sioux City IA-NE	SIO	90.94	114	96.66	118	90.17	95	101.23	63	-0.64%	91	86.64	39	92.78	107	0.40	83	2	74	123.71	897.16
48	113	Pueblo CO	PUE	94.13	96	98.87	105	93.38	73	97.95	112	-1.44%	108	69.95	81	94.60	98	0.54	58	4	42	148.75	898.58
87	114	Mansfield OH	MAS	92.33	108	99.10	96	87.95	102	100.20	86	-1.83%	111	41.47	117	93.42	104	0.60	45	5	32	174.36	924.82
88	115	Elmira NY	ELM	91.27	112	99.13	94	86.12	110	95.69	118	-2.18%	115	48.50	111	96.76	63	0.96	22	4	42	90.41	947.52
95	116	Muncie IN	MUN	91.07	113	98.96	102	82.08	117	98.26	110	-1.24%	106	76.89	63	99.97	29	0.33	97	3	54	117.49	949.65
N/A	117	Jamestown NY	JAD	93.52	101	99.03	100	84.02	115	97.77	114	-1.29%	107	60.36	96	93.83	101	0.47	71	2	74	137.65	1004.26
67	118	Florence AL	FLR	89.33	117	98.43	110	78.34	118	98.47	107	-1.87%	112	77.98	59	98.64	41	0.29	107	1	96	141.50	1014.89

\*Indicates this city's position on last year's 200 largest metros list