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SYNEVA Economics LLC

# Press Release

## **Metro Winners & Laggards List: October 2015**

### **Economic Research Firm Introduces Monthly Assessment of US Metros by Employment Growth Rates**

**Asheville, North Carolina, October 28, 2015-** Adding another tool to help Economic Development agencies, Chambers of Commerce and municipal governments understand their local economies; research firm SYNEVA Economics today introduces the Metro Winners & Laggards List. The list identifies high growth leaders, emerging leaders, laggards and a metros watch list. The list coincides with release of the Metro Employment Index <http://syneva.com/home/metro-employment-index/>. The list will provide an objective means to identify metros with strong and emerging employment growth and those experiencing consistent or developing declines. “Our hope is that community leaders use the list to better understand where their own economy stands and lead to further research of what is driving employment growth or decline in other communities,” noted Tom Tveidt, research economist at SYNEVA Economics.

Definitions for the list (most recent employment data is September 2015, from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics):

**Metro High Growth Leaders:** Currently experiencing six or more consecutive months of employment growth with annual growth rates in the top 25% of all metros, as measured by the year-over-year change in employment for the same month.

**Metro Emerging Leaders:** Currently experiencing its third consecutive month of employment growth with annual growth rates in the top 25% of all metros, as measured by the year-over-year change in employment for the same month. Growth rates over the previous three months did not reach the top 25%.

**Metro Laggards:** Currently experiencing six or more consecutive months of employment declines, as measured by the year-over-year change in employment for the same month.

**Metro Watch List:** Currently entering its third consecutive month of employment declines, as measured by the year-over-year change in employment for the same month. Previous three months did not experience consecutive declines.

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Metro High Growth Leaders	September 2015 Annual Growth Rate
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	2.9%
Austin-Round Rock, TX	3.2%
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX	2.9%
Bellingham, WA	4.0%
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	3.2%
Coeur d'Alene, ID	3.3%
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	3.0%
Elkhart-Goshen, IN	3.6%
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	3.3%
Grants Pass, OR	2.8%
Greeley, CO	3.8%
Greensboro-High Point, NC	2.6%
Idaho Falls, ID	4.2%
Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson, IN	2.8%
Jonesboro, AR	4.7%
Lake Charles, LA	3.9%
Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	3.9%
Midland, TX	2.8%
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island, FL	3.3%
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	2.7%
Odessa, TX	2.7%
Ogden-Clearfield, UT	3.1%
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	3.7%
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	3.3%
Provo-Orem, UT	6.2%
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	2.8%
Salt Lake City, UT	3.7%
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	3.7%
San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	3.5%
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	3.4%
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	4.8%
Santa Maria-Santa Barbara, CA	3.4%
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	3.3%
Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	3.4%
Yakima, WA	2.9%

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<b>Metro Emerging Leaders</b>	<b>September 2015 Annual Growth Rate</b>
Bismarck, ND	3.0%
Green Bay, WI	3.0%
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	2.7%
Manhattan, KS	2.7%
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	3.3%
Medford, OR	4.9%
Punta Gorda, FL	3.3%
Sacramento--Roseville--Arden-Arcade, CA	2.6%
Victoria, TX	3.3%

<b>Metro Laggards</b>	<b>September 2015 Annual Growth Rate</b>
Binghamton, NY	-0.9%
Cape Girardeau, MO-IL	-2.7%
Charleston, WV	-1.0%
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	-2.3%
Decatur, IL	-0.8%
Florence-Muscle Shoals, AL	-2.3%
Great Falls, MT	-1.4%
Gulfport-Biloxi-Pascagoula, MS	-1.3%
Houma-Thibodaux, LA	-2.0%
Jefferson City, MO	-0.3%
Lafayette, LA	-1.7%
Las Cruces, NM	-1.8%
Lawton, OK	-2.7%
Lebanon, PA	-1.6%
Monroe, LA	-1.2%
Norwich-New London-Westerly, CT-RI NECTA	-0.3%
Peoria, IL	-0.8%
Pine Bluff, AR	-6.5%
Rocky Mount, NC	-1.8%
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA	-0.9%
St. Joseph, MO-KS	-1.6%
Warner Robins, GA	-1.4%
Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA	-0.8%
Wichita Falls, TX	-2.2%
Yuma, AZ	-0.2%

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Metro Watch List	September 2015 Annual Growth Rate
Alexandria, LA	-0.6%
Casper, WY	-1.6%
Goldsboro, NC	-1.7%
Hattiesburg, MS	-0.3%
Longview, WA	-1.5%
Mount Vernon-Anacortes, WA	-0.8%
Williamsport, PA	-1.8%

### **About SYNEVA Economics LLC**

SYNEVA Economics LLC (tagline: *understand your economy*) is a private research and information firm dedicated to assisting decision makers with high-quality, innovative, local and regional economic analysis. Since 2003 the firm has provided clear, unbiased and insightful analysis to dozens of communities and organizations across the United States. Services include community economic and demographic assessments, industry target selections, industry appraisals, impact analyses, and workforce/skills analyses.