

Contact: Tom Tveidt
SYNEVA Economics LLC
PO Box 885
Asheville NC 28802
Phone 828-734-5021
Email tom@syneva.com

SYNEVA Economics LLC

Press Release

SYNEVA Economics Metro Leaders & Laggards: April 2016

Current Leaders & Laggards: A Look at Rankings

Asheville, North Carolina, June 1, 2016- With today's release of April 2016 metro employment numbers by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; research firm SYNEVA Economics presents the latest Metro Leaders & Laggards list. The summary identifies high growth leaders, emerging leaders, laggards and a metros watch list. The release coincides with the update of the online Metro Employment Index <http://syneva.com/home/metro-employment-index/>. The listing provides an objective means to identify metros with strong and emerging employment growth and those experiencing consistent or developing declines. Definitions can be found on Page 7.

In this month's release **we examine rankings among metro leaders & laggards**. For each month over the last five years we ranked all 387 metros for their rate of employment growth; a number one rank means the highest growth rate for that month, while a rank of 387 would mean the lowest rate. We look at the average rankings over one and five years and the highest and lowest rankings over the last five years. Besides the absolute rankings, the spread between the five-year high and low rank indicates employment change volatility. Does a metro consistently hold within the same ranking range or swing between high and low rankings? The results help show relative employment stability, an important factor when examining long range economic performance.

Among current *Metro High Growth Leaders* the *Austin-Round Rock, TX* metro has held within a narrow range of near-top rankings over the last five years; presently at 22nd, its lowest rank was 44th, while its five-year average rank is 18th. At the other end is *Ocean City, NJ*; while presently 45th, the metro's ranking fluctuated between 1st and 387th within the last five years. And among current *Metro Laggards*, the *Odessa, TX* metro exhibits the same volatility; presently 386th, the metro also has experienced rank shifting between 1st and 387th over the last five years.

Metro High Growth Leaders

(data through April 2016)

Metro High Growth Leader	April 2016 Employment Growth Rate	April 2016	Rank (among all 387 US Metros)			
			One- Year Average	Five- Year Average	Five- Year Highest	Five- Year Lowest
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	3.2%	59	71	87	27	206
Austin-Round Rock, TX	4.0%	22	14	18	7	44
Bend-Redmond, OR	6.3%	3	3	76	1	335
Brunswick, GA	3.3%	51	62	208	15	378
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	4.9%	7	12	24	3	94
Charlottesville, VA	3.5%	41	68	157	18	338
Coeur d'Alene, ID	3.2%	61	89	116	5	368
College Station-Bryan, TX	3.8%	26	30	120	4	387
Columbia, MO	3.4%	44	115	146	7	381
Columbus, IN	3.5%	40	90	96	1	369
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	3.9%	25	37	51	25	95
Daphne-Fairhope-Foley, AL	3.3%	55	37	88	11	304
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, FL	3.4%	48	55	147	29	269
El Paso, TX	3.0%	83	86	176	49	303
Elizabethtown-Fort Knox, KY	3.6%	31	49	166	4	371
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO	4.4%	16	10	52	7	154
Fort Collins, CO	3.4%	47	36	56	21	197
Fresno, CA	3.8%	27	43	117	19	356
Gainesville, GA	4.2%	17	10	50	4	197
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort, SC	3.4%	50	46	93	6	354
Idaho Falls, ID	3.6%	33	19	177	2	372
Jacksonville, FL	3.5%	39	36	116	23	276
Janesville-Beloit, WI	4.4%	14	94	145	14	348
Jonesboro, AR	3.3%	53	53	136	8	355
Kennewick-Richland, WA	3.2%	64	52	201	12	386
Killeen-Temple, TX	3.1%	74	44	174	14	342
Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	3.0%	80	57	145	26	353
Logan, UT-ID	3.6%	35	55	119	29	367
Madera, CA	7.7%	1	191	168	1	386
Manhattan, KS	3.1%	71	62	174	3	378

Metro High Growth Leader	April 2016 Employment Growth Rate	April 2016	Rank (among all 387 US Metros)			
			One- Year Average	Five- Year Average	Five- Year Highest	Five- Year Lowest
Merced, CA	3.2%	63	111	165	17	386
Modesto, CA	3.6%	34	72	123	27	379
Napa, CA	3.6%	36	55	61	5	364
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin TN	3.2%	60	47	31	11	61
Ocean City, NJ	3.4%	45	81	198	1	387
Ogden-Clearfield, UT	4.7%	8	20	74	6	188
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	4.5%	11	15	55	9	193
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	3.6%	32	50	85	32	171
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	3.1%	70	64	84	37	151
Portsmouth, NH-ME NECTA	3.9%	24	26	151	4	331
Prescott, AZ	3.7%	29	77	111	13	374
Provo-Orem, UT	5.7%	4	5	12	1	42
Raleigh, NC	3.4%	46	35	57	14	136
Reno, NV	4.1%	20	34	124	9	361
Richmond, VA	3.7%	30	58	134	12	236
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	3.3%	57	35	64	8	308
Salinas, CA	3.3%	52	58	180	5	382
Salisbury, MD-DE	4.4%	15	64	195	8	371
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	3.2%	66	40	47	16	139
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	4.1%	19	24	29	12	70
Savannah, GA	4.0%	23	40	91	11	259
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	3.3%	58	73	80	39	130
Sebring, FL	4.4%	13	91	239	3	384
Spartanburg, SC	3.1%	69	63	95	33	228
St. George, UT	7.0%	2	4	20	1	194
Stockton-Lodi, CA	4.5%	12	33	80	6	345
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	3.4%	49	57	88	45	157
Trenton, NJ	3.2%	62	71	164	18	341
Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	3.1%	75	45	120	25	352
Winchester, VA-WV	4.6%	9	79	122	7	337
Yuba City, CA	3.0%	82	51	161	7	343

Metro Laggards

(data through April 2016)

Metro Laggards	April 2016 Employment Growth Rate	April 2016	Rank (among all 387 US Metros)			
			One- Year Average	Five- Year Average	Five- Year Highest	Five- Year Lowest
Beckley, WV	-1.5%	374	373	309	9	387
Casper, WY	-6.6%	387	383	158	6	387
Charleston, WV	-0.9%	364	374	331	117	378
Cumberland, MD-WV	-1.3%	372	373	325	107	383
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	-1.6%	375	352	280	82	375
Duluth, MN-WI	-1.8%	377	350	256	80	381
Fairbanks, AK	-1.8%	379	333	300	58	385
Farmington, NM	-0.8%	358	361	210	17	379
Houma-Thibodaux, LA	-4.7%	385	386	174	10	387
Jackson, MI	-1.8%	378	349	242	63	378
Jacksonville, NC	-0.2%	337	346	268	53	384
Johnstown, PA	-0.9%	361	365	355	190	383
Lafayette, LA	-3.6%	384	383	216	10	384
Longview, TX	-0.5%	349	377	225	23	383
Midland, TX	-2.8%	383	383	87	1	386
Odessa, TX	-5.0%	386	386	111	1	387
Pine Bluff, AR	-0.6%	354	345	353	186	387
Rochester, NY	-0.4%	343	315	270	111	362
Shreveport-Bossier City, LA	-1.9%	380	360	331	138	386
Sierra Vista-Douglas, AZ	-1.2%	370	367	361	217	387
Topeka, KS	-0.4%	348	324	287	83	362
Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA	-0.4%	347	370	250	54	378
Wheeling, WV-OH	-0.1%	335	356	279	68	381
Williamsport, PA	-2.3%	381	376	240	4	385
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	-0.3%	340	336	279	73	354

Metro Emerging Leaders

(data through April 2016)

Metro Emerging Leaders	April 2016 Employment Growth Rate	April 2016	Rank (among all 387 US Metros)			
			One- Year Average	Five- Year Average	Five- Year Highest	Five- Year Lowest
Ann Arbor, MI	5.2%	5	125	162	5	294
Athens-Clarke County, GA	4.5%	10	82	183	10	355
Barnstable Town, MA NECTA	2.9%	85	128	170	18	366
Boise City, ID	4.1%	21	69	64	17	150
Cleveland, TN	4.2%	18	188	117	1	382
Colorado Springs, CO	2.7%	104	75	131	38	280
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO	3.2%	67	69	53	16	135
El Centro, CA	5.1%	6	113	168	6	387
Fort Wayne, IN	2.7%	106	95	187	9	355
Gadsden, AL	3.8%	28	181	209	28	364
Gainesville, FL	3.0%	78	97	201	50	318
Kahului-Wailuku-Lahaina, HI	3.3%	54	102	96	9	221
Knoxville, TN	2.7%	103	103	181	69	324
Lake Charles, LA	3.0%	77	62	95	2	287
Lima, OH	3.5%	43	185	262	40	379
Lubbock, TX	3.1%	73	108	152	44	358
Monroe, MI	3.6%	37	148	123	7	365
Morristown, TN	3.1%	68	95	190	53	346
Salem, OR	3.0%	79	71	156	24	380
Sioux Falls, SD	2.8%	93	118	100	23	221
Tucson, AZ	3.1%	76	200	230	74	359

Metro Watch List

(data through April 2016)

Metro Watch List	April 2016 Employment Growth Rate	April 2016	Rank (among all 387 US Metros)			
			One- Year Average	Five- Year Average	Five- Year Highest	Five- Year Lowest
Bangor, ME NECTA	-0.8%	357	277	244	49	357
Bloomington, IL	-2.7%	382	305	318	177	383
Carbondale-Marion, IL	-1.7%	376	197	253	22	387
Carson City, NV	-0.7%	356	295	316	95	386
Elkhart-Goshen, IN	-0.9%	360	157	49	2	372
Elmira, NY	-1.0%	368	346	329	66	383
Erie, PA	-1.0%	366	321	285	11	373
Evansville, IN-KY	-0.2%	336	298	237	35	371
Great Falls, MT	-1.1%	369	296	266	122	369
Michigan City-La Porte, IN	-1.4%	373	327	313	101	377
Rapid City, SD	-0.3%	342	312	222	63	356
Staunton-Waynesboro, VA	-1.0%	367	268	257	133	370
Tulsa, OK	-0.4%	344	289	179	54	354

Definitions

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 percentage 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 percentage change in employment for the same month. Growth rates over the previous consecutive 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 percentage 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 percentage change in employment for the same month. Previous three months did not experience consecutive declines.

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.