

Where the Action Is

Best Places

2005

TO COMPILE THESE RANKINGS, *Inc.* measured job growth: current-year growth, average annual growth over three years, and growth over the first and second halves of the 10 years ending September 2004. We also measured the extent to which employment growth has been spread over a range of industries. Growth factors account for about two-thirds of a city's final score; balance of growth among sectors accounts for the remainder.



#1 RENO, NEV.	2004 Rank	1-Year Job Growth	5-Year Job Growth	Index Score
	13	4.0%	11.1%	81.9

THE ONETIME GAMBLING and divorce mecca is now a center for high tech and business and financial services. A 30-minute flight from the Bay area, Reno boasts excellent Internet and communication connectivity at low prices, and cheap and reliable electrical power, which has become questionable in California. New office parks are full of circuit-board makers and telephone-support centers. A University of Nevada campus, scenic Lake Tahoe, and some of the best skiing in the West sweeten the deal.

2005 Rank		2004 Rank	1-Year Job Growth	5-Year Job Growth	Index Score
2	Boise, Idaho	59	4.0%	11.6%	79.9
A growing local university, attractive surroundings, and a pro-business political climate make Boise a top choice for footloose techies—particularly those looking to buy a house and start a family and enjoy a high quality of life at a fraction of what it might cost elsewhere.					
3	Casper, Wyo.	9	3.4%	12.6%	79.5
Thanks to new technology, a century-old oil field near town is producing black gold again, creating jobs and boosting business for services in the energy sector. With no state income tax, a friendly regulatory climate, and cheap living, jobs have grown 22% in the last decade—and companies keep moving in.					
4	Green Bay, Wis.	1	3.9%	7.1%	79.3
Green Bay has a little of everything—a growing tech sector, specialty manufacturing, and an expanding business services sector. Wisconsin is not a low-tax state, but state government helps entrepreneurs by stressing work force preparation and expedited regulation.					
5	Medford, Oreg.	75	3.0%	8.1%	78.3
Located 27 miles from the California border, this area is generating jobs across a range of industries—high tech, retail, health care, and business services. Tax incentives and a stable work force draw entrepreneurs—and encourage established firms to grow. Existing businesses account for nearly 85% of new jobs in the region.					
6	Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif.	7	2.4%	17.4%	78.3
High housing prices on the coast are leading more educated people to join the largely blue-collar folks who moved here in the 1980s and 1990s. Wholesale trade, anchored by a growing warehouse and trucking sector, has been gaining strength for years, and manufacturing and business services are beginning to follow.					
7	Melbourne-Titusville-Palm Bay, Fla.	64	2.1%	8.6%	77.1
Best known as home to Cape Canaveral, this area has seen its population soar as newcomers discover reasonably priced homes and a stable job market. Robust industries include aviation, medical technology, optics, and electronics.					
8	Missoula, Mont.	4	1.6%	10.9%	76.8
With low crime, a flourishing arts scene, and enough outdoor activities to keep locals busy all year, Missoula has seen employment surge in industries like health care, business services, and tourism. The local university churns out a steady stream of entrepreneurs, particularly in biotechnology and life sciences.					
9	Fort Myers-Cape Coral, Fla.	41	3.7%	21.9%	76.1
Long considered a destination for retirees, this region is now among the leaders in attracting young, single, educated people. The reasons: an expanding diversified economy, reasonable housing costs, no state income tax—and, oh yes, warm, sunny weather all year round.					
10	Jacksonville, Fla.	21	2.3%	7.0%	73.5
Plentiful jobs, reasonable home prices, and no state income tax make Jacksonville an appealing place to call home. Jobs in education and health care are up, as is work in wholesale trade. Congestion could be a problem going forward, but \$1.75 billion is being invested in new roads and infrastructure.					
11	Northern Virginia	53	3.1%	13.1%	73.5
Not every place that is thriving can credit low housing costs. The suburbs south of Washington, D.C., have seen housing prices soar. But as long as the nation remains on a war footing, northern Virginia will continue to prosper, with a strong high-tech and business-services base.					

2005 Rank		2004 Rank	1-Year Job Growth	5-Year Job Growth	Index Score
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12	Daytona Beach, Fla.	52	2.9%	14.8%	73.4
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In the past decade, Daytona Beach has gained nearly 40,000 jobs and seen its population balloon to more than 443,000. Well-heeled retirees are a big chunk of the newcomers, ratcheting up demand for health care and business services.

13	Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, Va.	86	1.2%	6.9%	73.2
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Home to the nation's largest naval base, this region lives and breathes military. The current run-up in defense spending has fueled gains for everyone from shipbuilders to tech consultants. Tourists also play a key role in the local economy, helping boost jobs in hospitality 5% over the past year.

14	Las Vegas, Nev.	14	4.9%	20.7%	72.9
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Don't take too many bets against Sin City. Population growth is driving the economy, along with low taxes, sunshine, and affordable housing. The area is attracting more educated workers and some high-end sectors, like business services and manufacturing, diversifying the economy beyond gambling, entertainment, and tourism.

15	La Crosse, Wis.	70	2.9%	5.5%	72.2
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La Crosse has enjoyed explosive growth in business services—more than 20% since 2001. It's also benefited from Wisconsin's resurgence in manufacturing and improved business climate.

16	Phoenix, Ariz.	28	2.6%	8.2%	71.2
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The Valley of the Sun continues to expand. Business and financial services are growing solidly and manufacturing appears to be on the rebound. That's helped make Phoenix a major draw for young, educated people in search of low housing prices.

17	Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach, Fla.	19	2.1%	12.7%	70.5
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Jobs here are up nearly 30% in the past 10 years, driven by a steady stream of newcomers who need everything from condos to car repair shops. Positions in business services and health care are up more than 10% since 2001.

18	Knoxville, Tenn.	117	1.5%	8.3%	70.4
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Thirty-five thousand new jobs by 2007—that's the goal Knoxville set for itself two years ago, and so far, so good. To date, the area has added 7,300 positions and recorded \$526 million in new capital investments. It's seen a boon in financial services, with call centers processing everything from student loans to mortgages.

19	Bloomington, Ind.	236	3.1%	6.6%	69.7
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Not only is Indiana University the largest employer in town, its faculty and students have helped spawn 60 tech-related start-ups. Manufacturing and retail are rebounding, and the economy got a lift when two health care concerns added 1,000 jobs.

20	Orlando, Fla.	26	2.2%	7.9%	69.7
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Orlando is gaining people at a rapid rate, sparking sectors like financial and business services; military- and entertainment-related high tech also are strong. The Mouse empire and its spinoffs, as well as low housing prices and no state income tax, don't hurt either.



2005 Rank		2004 Rank	1-Year Job Growth	5-Year Job Growth	Index Score
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21	Manchester, N.H.	36	0.0%	6.8%	69.5
22	San Diego, Calif.	34	1.5%	9.2%	69.4
23	Des Moines, Iowa	62	2.7%	2.8%	69.3
24	South New Jersey	18	1.5%	6.4%	69.1
25	Burlington, Vt.	27	2.2%	5.3%	69.0
26	Fayetteville-Springdale, Ark.	67	2.5%	18.8%	68.5
27	Amarillo, Texas	110	1.1%	3.6%	68.1
28	Washington, D.C.	29	2.5%	9.4%	68.1
29	Suburban Maryland-D.C.	25	1.8%	7.6%	67.9
30	Bakersfield, Calif.	12	0.6%	10.0%	67.6
31	Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah	104	1.8%	2.1%	67.2
32	Portland, Maine	58	1.0%	8.0%	67.0
33	Pensacola, Fla.	164	2.2%	4.2%	67.0
34	Lakeland-Winter Haven, Fla.	78	1.7%	8.0%	66.6
35	Spokane, Wash.	190	1.7%	4.8%	66.4

BIG MOVER Far enough away from the sprawl of the West Coast but still just a day or two's drive from several major metro areas, this city is becoming a hub for disaster-recovery centers and back-office operations. Credit goes to a skilled work force, low costs, and a pro-business climate.

36	Putnam County, N.Y.	98	4.1%	12.9%	66.3
37	Rockland County, N.Y.	10	1.9%	7.6%	66.1
38	Madison, Wis.	3	1.1%	5.9%	66.1
39	Monmouth-Ocean, N.J.	48	2.3%	9.8%	66.0
40	Bryan-College Station, Texas	38	2.7%	10.4%	65.8
41	Longview-Marshall, Texas	151	2.2%	3.7%	65.7
42	Sioux Falls, S.D.	11	1.0%	5.4%	65.7
43	Stockton, Calif.	35	2.0%	9.9%	65.5
44	St. Louis, Mo.	96	2.7%	-0.6%	65.5
45	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach, Fla.	17	1.7%	15.2%	65.2
46	Dutchess County, N.Y.	30	2.0%	9.3%	65.1
47	Nashville, Tenn.	99	1.1%	3.1%	64.8
48	Orange County, Calif.	66	0.4%	6.2%	64.6
49	Cincinnati, Ohio	91	0.8%	-0.3%	64.5
50	Bismarck, N.D.	37	0.6%	5.9%	64.4
51	Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc, Calif.	116	2.6%	6.0%	64.2
52	Provo-Orem, Utah	144	3.7%	7.3%	63.7
53	Nassau-Suffolk, N.Y.	39	1.1%	3.9%	63.7
54	Tacoma, Wash.	87	3.0%	6.8%	63.5
55	Fargo-Moorhead, N.D.	68	-0.3%	5.7%	63.4
56	Trenton, N.J.	123	1.4%	11.1%	63.1
57	Jackson, Miss.	54	1.1%	3.5%	63.0
58	Las Cruces, N.Mex.	69	2.5%	14.6%	62.9
59	Memphis, Tenn.	118	0.5%	0.3%	62.6
60	Tucson, Ariz.	20	1.8%	4.1%	62.4
61	Anchorage, Alaska	31	1.5%	9.4%	61.6
62	Dubuque, Iowa	239	2.0%	1.0%	61.5
63	Newark-Northern N.J.	23	1.0%	2.5%	61.5
64	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla.	32	1.2%	8.6%	61.4
65	San Antonio, Texas	16	1.3%	4.1%	61.3
66	Milwaukee, Wis.	179	1.9%	-2.3%	61.1
67	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, Texas	61	3.1%	23.0%	61.0
68	Lafayette, La.	126	1.1%	6.0%	60.9
69	Sarasota, Fla.	5	2.2%	12.5%	60.8
70	Laredo, Texas	159	5.0%	20.4%	60.8
71	Charleston, S.C.	174	3.2%	5.9%	60.7
72	Seattle, Wash.	163	1.8%	-1.9%	60.5
73	Albuquerque, N.Mex.	15	1.8%	6.5%	60.4

2005 Rank		2004 Rank	1-Year Job Growth	5-Year Job Growth	Index Score
74	Odessa, Texas	205	-0.1%	7.2%	60.4
75	Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon, N.J.	56	2.4%	0.7%	59.7
76	Chattanooga, Tenn.	95	0.9%	1.6%	59.5
77	Glens Falls, N.Y.	93	1.5%	4.2%	59.4
78	Miami-Hialeah, Fla.	57	1.1%	2.5%	59.4
79	Fresno, Calif.	8	0.8%	8.2%	58.9
80	Grand Forks, N.D.	102	0.8%	2.0%	58.7
81	Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	115	0.8%	1.6%	58.6
82	San Angelo, Texas	234	2.2%	2.4%	58.6
83	Tyler, Texas	114	2.0%	7.0%	58.5
84	Atlanta, Ga.	6	0.7%	1.9%	58.3

"HOTLANTA" COOLS DOWN The city fell from its first-place perch among large cities last year. Retail and manufacturing are down, and jobs in business services, the largest sector of the city's economy, have slipped 5.5% since 2001. Education and health care remain bright spots, thanks to the area's huge population growth.

85	Terre Haute, Ind.	221	1.4%	1.8%	58.3
86	Westchester County, N.Y.	49	0.9%	2.7%	58.3
87	Augusta, Ga.	113	0.7%	0.4%	58.2
88	Richmond-Petersburg, Va.	40	1.6%	4.6%	58.1
89	St. Cloud, Minn.	161	1.1%	4.3%	58.1
90	Newburgh, N.Y.	71	2.1%	7.8%	57.9
91	Kansas City, Mo.	90	0.3%	-2.6%	57.7
92	Providence, R.I.	111	0.6%	2.7%	57.4
93	Savannah, Ga.	155	1.1%	4.6%	57.1
94	Barre-Montpelier, Vt.	2	1.2%	5.5%	56.7
95	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N.Y.	85	1.1%	3.4%	56.6
96	Cleveland, Ohio	150	0.0%	-5.1%	56.6
97	Houston, Texas	100	1.2%	4.0%	56.5
98	Gainesville, Fla.	252	2.5%	8.9%	56.5
99	Lewiston-Auburn, Maine	129	1.4%	6.1%	56.4
100	Dover, Del.	261	4.2%	12.8%	56.4
101	Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle, Pa.	50	0.6%	2.8%	56.3
102	Indianapolis, Ind.	167	-0.9%	0.9%	55.8
103	Honolulu, Hawaii	74	2.7%	6.8%	55.8
104	Modesto, Calif.	33	0.7%	6.8%	55.6
105	Portland, Ore.	213	0.7%	-2.2%	55.6
106	Asheville, N.C.	173	1.5%	2.3%	55.4
107	South Bend-Mishawaka, Ind.	250	1.9%	-1.7%	55.4
108	Waco, Texas	24	1.0%	0.0%	55.3
109	Brockton, Mass.	153	0.8%	3.2%	55.3
110	Wilmington, Del.	178	2.1%	1.3%	55.1
111	Raleigh-Durham, N.C.	176	2.2%	4.1%	54.8
112	Abilene, Texas	145	2.0%	3.1%	54.7
113	Eugene-Springfield, Ore.	172	1.7%	0.4%	54.7
114	Tallahassee, Fla.	187	2.2%	3.7%	54.6
115	Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	88	0.5%	1.2%	54.5
116	Rapid City, S.D.	101	2.0%	5.3%	54.5
117	Beaumont-Port Arthur, Texas	72	-0.1%	-1.9%	54.4
118	Allentown-Bethlehem, Pa.	83	0.3%	2.6%	54.1
119	Rochester, Minn.	119	2.0%	10.0%	54.1
120	Huntsville, Ala.	256	1.0%	5.3%	54.0
121	Little Rock-North Little Rock, Ark.	184	0.4%	1.3%	53.9
122	Springfield, Mo.	47	0.7%	3.8%	53.9
123	New Orleans, La.	42	-0.2%	-1.2%	53.7
124	Brazoria, Texas	170	2.4%	5.4%	53.6
125	Wheeling, W.Va.	180	1.4%	0.4%	53.6

2005 Rank		2004 Rank	1-Year Job Growth	5-Year Job Growth	Index Score
126	Columbus, Ohio	134	0.0%	0.6%	53.3
127	Sacramento, Calif.	107	0.0%	8.8%	53.3
128	Mobile, Ala.	186	1.1%	-1.0%	53.3
129	Albany, Ga.	73	0.4%	-2.4%	53.3
130	Corpus Christi, Texas	43	-0.4%	1.1%	53.1
131	Lake Charles, La.	77	3.2%	-1.8%	53.1
132	Vallejo-Fairfield-Napa, Calif.	22	0.0%	10.1%	53.1
133	Davenport-Rock Island-Moline, Ill.	133	-0.2%	-4.0%	53.0
134	Baton Rouge, La.	51	-0.2%	0.7%	52.9
135	Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, N.C.	156	1.7%	1.8%	52.7
136	Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa	207	3.6%	2.7%	52.4
137	Santa Fe, N.Mex.	97	1.2%	7.1%	52.4
138	Birmingham, Ala.	109	0.2%	-1.6%	52.3
139	Altoona, Pa.	63	0.2%	1.0%	52.2
140	Ventura, Calif.	216	0.4%	7.2%	52.1
141	Chicago, Ill.	139	0.3%	-1.8%	51.7
142	Lima, Ohio	215	0.6%	-4.3%	51.7
143	Macon-Warner Robins, Ga.	131	0.4%	0.9%	51.4
144	Shreveport, La.	121	-0.1%	-1.8%	51.1
145	Hamilton-Middletown, Ohio	177	-0.7%	3.8%	50.4
146	Dallas, Texas	125	0.6%	-0.3%	50.3
147	Lancaster, Pa.	55	0.8%	3.1%	50.3
148	Duluth, Minn.	237	1.2%	1.6%	50.2
149	Pine Bluff, Ark.	182	3.1%	0.9%	50.1
150	Oklahoma City, Okla.	82	1.6%	1.6%	49.6
151	Worcester, Mass.	270	1.1%	1.3%	49.6
152	Austin, Texas	46	0.8%	2.6%	49.4
153	Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif.	141	0.4%	-0.2%	49.3

WEST COAST BLUES From lousy schools and expensive housing to high taxes and mind-boggling traffic, L.A. has lots of problems. Yet the region still has many advantages—including the nation's largest port complex, a spectacular physical setting, Hollywood, and great weather—that keep it from falling to the bottom of the list.

154	Evansville, Ind.	196	-0.1%	1.1%	49.2
155	Eau Claire, Wis.	238	1.5%	2.8%	48.9
156	Syracuse, N.Y.	44	0.9%	-0.6%	48.7
157	Waterbury, Conn.	248	0.4%	-5.8%	48.7
158	Atlantic City, N.J.	166	0.6%	3.1%	48.7
159	Peoria, Ill.	175	0.5%	-3.3%	48.7
160	Galveston-Texas City, Texas	253	1.8%	1.8%	48.7
161	Lexington-Fayette, Ky.	130	0.8%	-2.9%	48.6
162	Pittsburgh, Pa.	148	0.0%	-0.4%	48.6
163	Victoria, Texas	200	2.3%	1.3%	48.3
164	Springfield, Mass.	212	1.6%	0.5%	48.2
165	Texarkana, Texas	217	2.3%	2.5%	48.1
166	Lubbock, Texas	171	2.4%	3.4%	48.0
167	Montgomery, Ala.	84	1.0%	-0.2%	48.0
168	Sheboygan, Wis.	135	4.4%	3.3%	47.9
169	Colorado Springs, Colo.	168	0.5%	1.4%	47.4
170	Louisville, Ky.	89	-0.2%	-4.0%	47.3
171	Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol, Tenn.	160	0.1%	0.6%	47.2
172	Gary-Hammond, Ind.	220	-0.8%	-4.1%	47.1
173	Fitchburg-Leominster, Mass.	120	1.2%	-1.3%	47.1
174	Buffalo, N.Y.	112	0.0%	-1.9%	46.9
175	Nashua, N.H.	269	0.0%	-1.1%	46.7
176	Monroe, La.	157	-0.2%	1.3%	46.6
177	Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	199	-0.8%	-0.6%	46.6
178	Wausau, Wis.	138	0.6%	3.9%	46.4

2005 Rank		2004 Rank	1-Year Job Growth	5-Year Job Growth	Index Score
179	Jersey City, N.J.	81	2.8%	1.7%	46.3
180	Lincoln, Nebr.	127	1.0%	3.2%	46.3
181	Williamsport, Pa.	210	1.1%	-0.8%	45.9
182	Charleston, W.Va.	132	0.6%	-2.1%	45.8
183	Bergen-Passaic, N.J.	106	1.3%	-0.4%	45.8
184	New York, N.Y.	225	1.1%	-2.1%	45.5

MAKING STRIDES The Big Apple is replacing jobs lost in the early 2000s—despite high taxes and soaring housing prices. The city still draws young, ambitious people from the U.S. and abroad. The problem comes when they start thinking about buying a house, starting a business, or having kids. Then, for many, it's fuggedaboutit.

185	Santa Rosa-Petaluma, Calif.	201	0.6%	0.6%	45.4
186	Tulsa, Okla.	162	0.1%	-4.9%	45.4
187	Lowell, Mass.	230	0.9%	-2.0%	44.6
188	San Francisco, Calif.	223	0.2%	-8.9%	44.6
189	Danbury, Conn.	45	0.8%	1.9%	44.2
190	Hartford, Conn.	192	-1.4%	-4.5%	44.0
191	Columbus, Ga.	242	-0.6%	-2.3%	44.0
192	Akron, Ohio	60	-0.5%	-2.3%	43.9
193	Roanoke, Va.	229	0.9%	-0.7%	43.9
194	Benton Harbor, Mich.	274	0.5%	-5.3%	43.9
195	Rochester, N.Y.	226	-0.6%	-3.0%	43.7
196	Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester, N.H.	137	0.9%	3.7%	43.1
197	Decatur, Ill.	209	-0.1%	-11.1%	43.1
198	Youngstown-Warren, Ohio	203	-0.8%	-9.0%	42.8
199	Kankakee, Ill.	224	0.3%	-2.1%	42.7
200	York, Pa.	183	0.5%	-0.8%	42.7
201	Toledo, Ohio	243	-1.7%	-7.3%	42.6
202	Dayton-Springfield, Ohio	232	-1.1%	-5.7%	42.6
203	Boston, Mass.	204	-0.3%	-3.4%	42.5
204	Bristol, Va.	79	1.0%	1.3%	42.4
205	Rockford, Ill.	240	-0.3%	-6.5%	42.2
206	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	197	0.7%	-0.6%	41.2
207	Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton, N.J.	194	-0.6%	0.3%	41.1
208	Stuebenville-Weirton, Ohio	268	-3.8%	-5.6%	41.0
209	Alexandria, La.	246	-0.4%	-2.2%	41.0
210	Johnstown, Pa.	231	0.3%	-2.7%	41.0
211	Oakland, Calif.	94	0.5%	1.0%	40.5
212	Lawrence, Kansas	260	0.1%	4.5%	40.4
213	Detroit, Mich.	146	-1.6%	-6.8%	40.2
214	Enid, Okla.	92	-2.6%	-5.2%	39.9
215	Salem, Oreg.	206	0.3%	0.7%	39.8
216	El Paso, Texas	142	1.5%	2.1%	39.4
217	Ann Arbor, Mich.	227	0.2%	2.0%	38.9
218	Wichita Falls, Texas	254	0.9%	-0.8%	38.8
219	Owensboro, Ky.	128	-0.2%	-3.8%	38.5
220	Sioux City, Iowa	218	-0.8%	-7.9%	38.5
221	Wichita, Kansas	249	0.5%	-3.7%	38.4
222	Stamford, Conn.	244	0.1%	-6.7%	38.3
223	Greenville-Spartanburg, S.C.	235	-0.4%	-3.9%	38.2
224	Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah, Wis.	143	1.0%	1.6%	38.2
225	Fort Wayne, Ind.	169	0.9%	-4.4%	38.2
226	Omaha, Nebr.	65	-1.3%	-0.1%	37.8
227	Erie, Pa.	241	1.4%	-2.6%	37.8
228	Charlottesville, Va.	208	1.8%	2.9%	37.8
229	Bridgeport-Milford, Conn.	191	-0.3%	-2.7%	37.7
230	Janesville-Beloit, Wis.	193	-0.8%	-5.8%	37.7
231	Houma-Thibodaux, La.	152	-3.3%	9.1%	37.6

2005 Rank		2004 Rank	1-Year Job Growth	5-Year Job Growth	Index Score
232	Mansfield, Ohio	251	-1.5%	-7.1%	37.6
233	Utica-Rome, N.Y.	76	0.2%	-1.5%	37.6
234	Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, N.C.	147	0.1%	-4.0%	37.4
235	Brownsville-Harlingen, Texas	108	0.7%	10.1%	36.8
236	New Haven-Meriden, Conn.	103	-0.5%	-3.3%	36.7
237	Lafayette, Ind.	273	2.8%	0.9%	36.1
238	Elmira, N.Y.	211	-0.8%	-7.7%	36.1
239	Reading, Pa.	219	0.4%	-2.5%	36.0
240	Kenosha, Wis.	136	-1.0%	-1.0%	35.9
241	Saginaw-Bay City-Midland, Mich.	233	-4.2%	-8.3%	35.7
242	Champaign-Urbana-Rantoul, Ill.	149	-0.9%	0.3%	35.4
243	Canton, Ohio	247	-0.3%	-4.1%	33.6
244	Elkhart-Goshen, Ind.	124	-0.6%	-5.2%	33.6
245	Bloomington-Normal, Ill.	185	-0.8%	-0.2%	33.6
246	Topeka, Kansas	181	-1.1%	-1.5%	33.5
247	Iowa City, Iowa	198	-2.2%	6.6%	33.4
248	State College, Pa.	258	0.4%	4.1%	33.1
249	Pittsfield, Mass.	188	-0.6%	-0.6%	33.0
250	Racine, Wis.	140	-0.2%	-3.7%	32.9
251	Killeen-Temple, Texas	122	1.1%	2.3%	32.7
252	Springfield, Ill.	263	-0.1%	-3.0%	32.6
253	New Bedford, Mass.	262	-0.3%	-0.9%	31.8
254	San Jose, Calif.	266	-1.3%	-14.1%	31.8
255	Fort Smith, Ark.	80	-1.0%	-2.4%	31.6
256	Salinas-Seaside-Monterey, Calif.	158	-1.7%	1.5%	31.5
257	Athens, Ga.	195	-0.3%	1.5%	31.2
258	Baltimore, Md.	245	2.2%	-4.6%	31.1
259	Grand Rapids, Mich.	265	0.0%	-3.5%	30.8
260	Lynchburg, Va.	259	0.5%	-2.5%	30.1
261	Parkersburg-Marietta, W.Va.	189	-0.3%	-0.2%	29.2
262	Kokomo, Ind.	271	1.9%	-8.8%	29.1
263	Kalamazoo, Mich.	272	-0.9%	-4.3%	28.6
264	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	154	-2.5%	-7.2%	27.5
265	Philadelphia, Pa.	202	-0.2%	-1.3%	26.6
266	Columbia, S.C.	264	0.3%	-3.7%	25.6
267	Sherman-Denison, Texas	257	-0.8%	-3.2%	25.5
268	Danville, Va.	255	0.6%	-1.0%	25.5
269	Lawton, Okla.	275	-0.7%	-0.4%	24.8
270	Jackson, Mich.	267	-2.2%	-3.2%	24.0
271	Flint, Mich.	222	-1.6%	-8.7%	19.0
272	Sharon, Pa.	276	-0.7%	-1.7%	18.2
273	Lansing-East Lansing, Mich.	214	-3.8%	-1.1%	17.4
274	Muncie, Ind.	228	-2.5%	-6.3%	13.5

DOWN, NOT OUT Name a big employer in Muncie and it's probably moved out or downsized. Manufacturing and retail have been hard hit, both plummeting 19% since 2001. Still, locals remain optimistic, pointing to a new \$73 million auto-parts facility and a year-old angel investor network.

