

Key Findings

2013 Metro Economy Performance

- In 2013 U.S. Metro area were home to 84% of nation's population, 86% of total employment, 87% of real income, 90% of housing starts and 90% of gross domestic product (GDP).
- In 2013, 294 metros (81%) saw their real gross metro product (GMP) increase. Of those 294, 21 metros saw growth of 4% or more, 52 saw growth of 3% or more, 120 of 2% or more, and 230 of 1% or more.
- Among the 100 largest metro areas, Austin saw the largest real GMP increase of 4.6% followed by San Jose and Nashville of 4.2%, San Francisco 4.1%, New Orleans 3.9%, and Charlotte and Fayetteville at 3.8%.
- Led by \$1.4 trillion in New York, the gross metropolitan output (GMP) of 33 U.S. metros surpassed \$100 billion in 2013, with Austin, Columbus, and Sacramento surpassing that level for the first time.
- Combined, the nation's 10 highest-producing metro economies surpassed the output of 37 states (See Appendix Table 4). New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago all rank in the top ten when compared to state economies (See Appendix Table 3).
- Eight of the world's top 40 (and 36 of the top 100) highest producing economies are U.S. metro areas. New York's ranks 13th among nations of the world, ahead of Spain, South Korea and Mexico. Los Angeles ranks 20th in the world, followed by Chicago at 23rd.
- Houston, Washington, Dallas, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Boston, Atlanta and Miami all rank among the top 50 economies of the world (See Appendix Table 2).
- By the fourth quarter of 2013, 284 metro areas had seen their unemployment rates fall below 8%, while 205 fell below 7%, 121 dropped under 6%, 49 had rates less than 5%, and 49 dropped below 4% (See Appendix Table 10).

U.S. Metro Economy Forecast

- Real economic growth for the nation will accelerate in 2014 to 2.3%, with a second quarter rebound to 3.7%. For the rest of the year, growth is projected to average 3.0%, inflation just under 2%, housing starts above one million units, and unemployment dipping towards 6%.
- 344 metros (95%) will see real GMP growth in 2014. Only 19 metros will see no growth or decline.
- In 2014, U.S. metros will supply 87% of the nation's payroll, 88% of total income, 97% of population growth and 91% of real GDP growth to the nation's economy.

- 337 metro economies (93%) will experience year-over-year employment growth in 2014, with 254 seeing growth of 1% or more, 116 at 2% or greater, and 33 at 3% or higher (See Appendix Table 8).
- In 2015 real GMP growth will accelerate yet again, reaching 3.2% annual growth for all metropolitan areas and the U.S. alike.
- In 2015, all U.S. metros will see growth of 1% or better, with nearly half (172) metros experiencing growth in excess of 3% and only 32 metros (9%) will see growth of less than 2%.
- At yearend 2013, 123 metros (34%) had returned to their pre-recession employment levels. That number will grow to 175 (48%) by this year, and to 219 (60%) by end of 2015 (See Appendix Table 11).
- By the end of 2016, 324 metros will have jobless rates below 7%, 269 under 6%, 144 less than 5%, and 49 will drop below 4% (See Appendix Table 10).
- Longer term, through 2020, U.S. metros will continue to be the crux of economic growth, supplying 89% of the employment and real income growth, 92% of real GDP growth, and 94% of population growth.
- Through 2020, Austin (4.4% average annual change), Raleigh (4.3%) and Fayetteville (4.2%) will be the three fastest growing large metros.
- U.S. metros will experience a 1.5% compound annual employment growth through 2020.

U.S. Metro Population Forecast

- Over the next 30 years, the report projects that the metro population will grow by 25%, approximately 66 million people.