



DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF RICHMOND COUNTY

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AUGUSTA RANKS IN TOP 9% OF EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN USA; TOP 20% IN USA IN RECESSION RECOVERY

The Augusta MSA is one of only 79 nationwide communities showing progress from the nationwide recession, according to the latest “Adversity Index” from Moody’s Economy and MSNBC. The Adversity Index measures the economic health of 392 metro areas and all 50 states. The information was released today by the Development Authority of Richmond County.

Additionally, Augusta’s “Employment Growth Rank” is one of the best in the nation, standing at #36 out of 392 metro areas in the United States, according to Moody’s and MSNBC.

(more)

Each month, the Adversity Index uses data on employment, industrial production, housing starts and home prices to label each state or metro area as expanding, at risk of recession, in recession or recovering.

According to the latest Moody's and MSNBC Adversity Index, only 30 of the 151 metro areas of the twelve southern United States...including four metro areas in the State of Georgia, including Augusta...showed recovery from the recession.

“This is the first month in 2009 when any metro area has moved from recession into the ‘recovery’ category, indicating that the economy grew from six months earlier,” said Bill Dedmon, an investigative reporter with MSNBC. Out of 392 metro areas in the nation, 79 are in recovery, according to the August data on jobs, manufacturing and housing.

The Employment Growth rankings indicate the strength of the overall economy, and Augusta ranked in the top percentiles. Moody's and MSNBC gave Augusta high marks for job creation and the lack of major layoffs in specific industries. Augusta had the third highest ranking out of fourteen MSAs in the State of Georgia, after Columbus and Warner-Robins.

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(See rankings on Page Three)

Here are the metro areas in the twelve southern states where the Adversity Index shows a recovery beginning in August:

- **Alabama (2 out of 12 metro areas in recovery):** Huntsville; Mobile.
- **Arkansas (3 out of 8):** Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers; Hot Springs; Little Rock-North Little Rock.
- **Florida (0 out of 22).**
- **Georgia (4 out of 15):** Augusta-Richmond County; Columbus; Savannah; Warner Robins.
- **Kentucky (1 out of 9):** Elizabethtown.
- **Louisiana (2 out of 8):** Baton Rouge; New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner.
- **Mississippi (2 out of 5):** Jackson; Pascagoula.
- **North Carolina (3 out of 15):** Goldsboro; Greenville; Winston-Salem.
- **South Carolina (2 out of 10):** Columbia; Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach.
- **Tennessee (1 out of 10):** Cleveland.
- **Texas (7 out of 26):** Austin-Round Rock; Brownsville-Harlingen; Dallas-Plano-Irving; El Paso; Lubbock; McAllen-Edinburg-Pharr; San Antonio.
- **Virginia (3 out of 11):** Charlottesville; Harrisonburg; Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News.

Here are the “Employment Growth Ranks in the United States” (1 =Best, 392=Worst), showing only the TOP FIVE of the fourteen Georgia MSAs, in alphabetical order:

Augusta	36
Columbus	4
Hinesville	53
Savannah	98
Warner Robins	24