

Region Two: Sister Regions Benchmarking

Part of the Michigan
Prosperity Initiative



The Michigan Prosperity Initiative

The Michigan Prosperity Initiative (MPI) is an innovative effort by Michigan State University, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the Michigan Association of Regions, the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Association of Planning, and Michigan State University Extension to help return economic prosperity to the state. The MSU Land Policy Institute (LPI) is leading this effort. From mid-April to mid-June, one-hundred training programs will be offered across the state by LPI and MSUE educators in over fifty locations. There are three separate training programs. New Economy 101 will describe how Michigan's present economic circumstances developed and emphasize that because Michigan has many assets there is good reason to be hopeful about our economic future. The New Economy 201 program focuses on a simple common vision and basic goals for prosperity; it will describe in detail Michigan's critical assets and then identify place-based strategies to help us create new prosperity on a regional basis. The New Economy 301 program, focuses on detailed economic analyses that can be performed to help inform regional strategic growth plans and the key strategies necessary to implement those plans. Following this statewide educational effort, MSU will assist each of the fourteen State Planning and Development Regions in creating a new strategic growth plan, the results of which will be used to create the first-ever State Strategic Growth Plan by the end of 2010.

Michigan Prosperity Initiative Partners



michigan municipal league



Land Policy Institute

Comparative Benchmarking

“Sister Regions” were selected from a comprehensive list of all counties within the United States. Based on the selection of counties of similar population, geographic size, similar core city population, and density. Regional areas that are similar in land area and population density are preliminary determinants of geographical complexity due to implied similarities within transportation needs, developmental growth patterns, and home and urban arrangements between relatively similar regions. This allows the comparison of places that were similar in area, population and density, and where pertinent, in the size of the major city or cities in the region. Only contiguous regions were used in this analysis and the final selections were also reviewed for similar influence from major cities, similar benchmark characteristics (such as coastal communities), and other factors. The resultant list provides a solid selection of regions from throughout the U.S. for benchmarking.

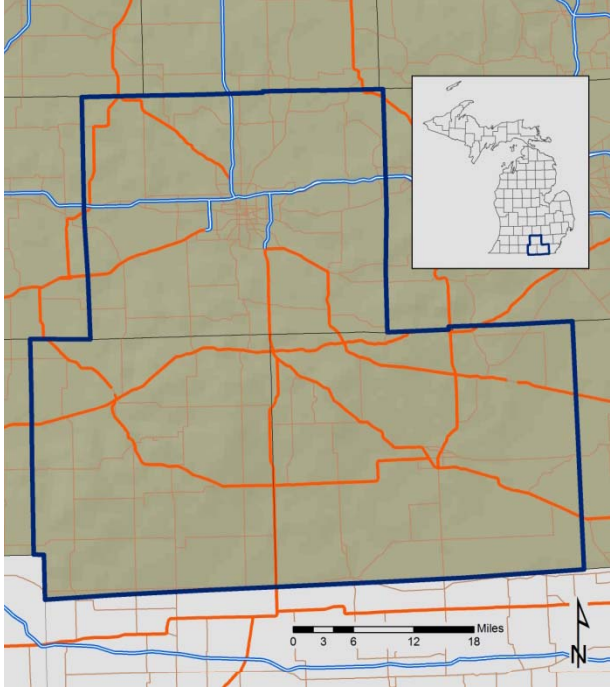
Please note that the comparable regions we have listed are not necessarily comprised of all the counties within a state designated regional planning and development commission that serves those counties. That is because states do not use the same criteria to define their geopolitical (state planning and development) regions. With three exceptions, Michigan’s regions are very large compared to regions in many other states (and smaller than others in a few).

So, if there is a planning and development “region” elsewhere in the country that is much bigger in area than your planning and development region, but the counties that make up the core of the economic region are similar to yours, then only those counties are on the list as part of a comparable economic region. That is one of the reasons we did not use the name of the state planning and development region to label comparable regions. Our focus is comparability for regional economic purposes, NOT for geopolitical reasons.

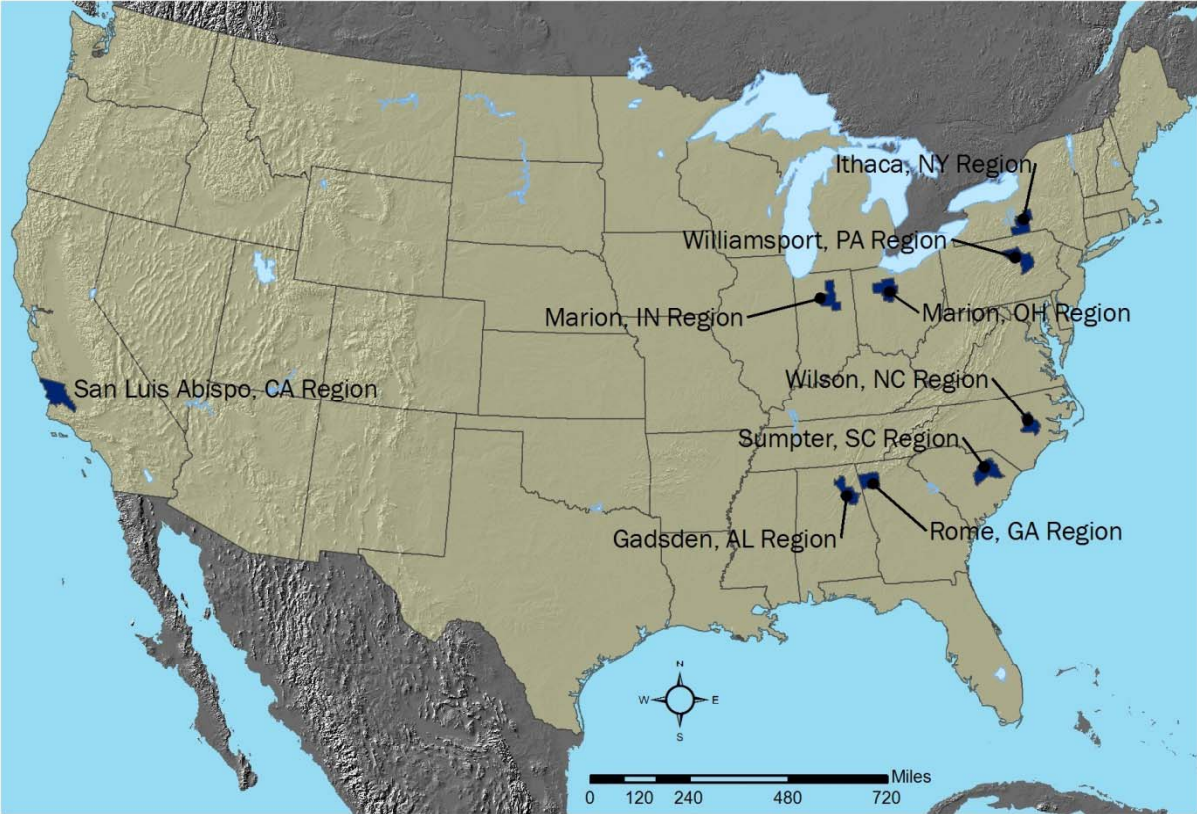
The Land Policy Institute then gathered performance and asset indicators for all counties in the U.S. in 64 different categories. They include demographic and employment data, land cover, green space, infrastructure, intellectual property and other variables. Each Sister Region was then ranked against all other regions on each variable with 1 being the best score. Two variables are much more important than the others, these are change in income and change in employment and are used for the inde.

Finally, the data was reorganized into New Economy assets categories including: Green Infrastructure; Creative Employment; Knowledge Assets and Quality of Life. Only about half of the variables fall into these categories. The balance are demographic variables or are not easily categorized.

Region Two Basemap

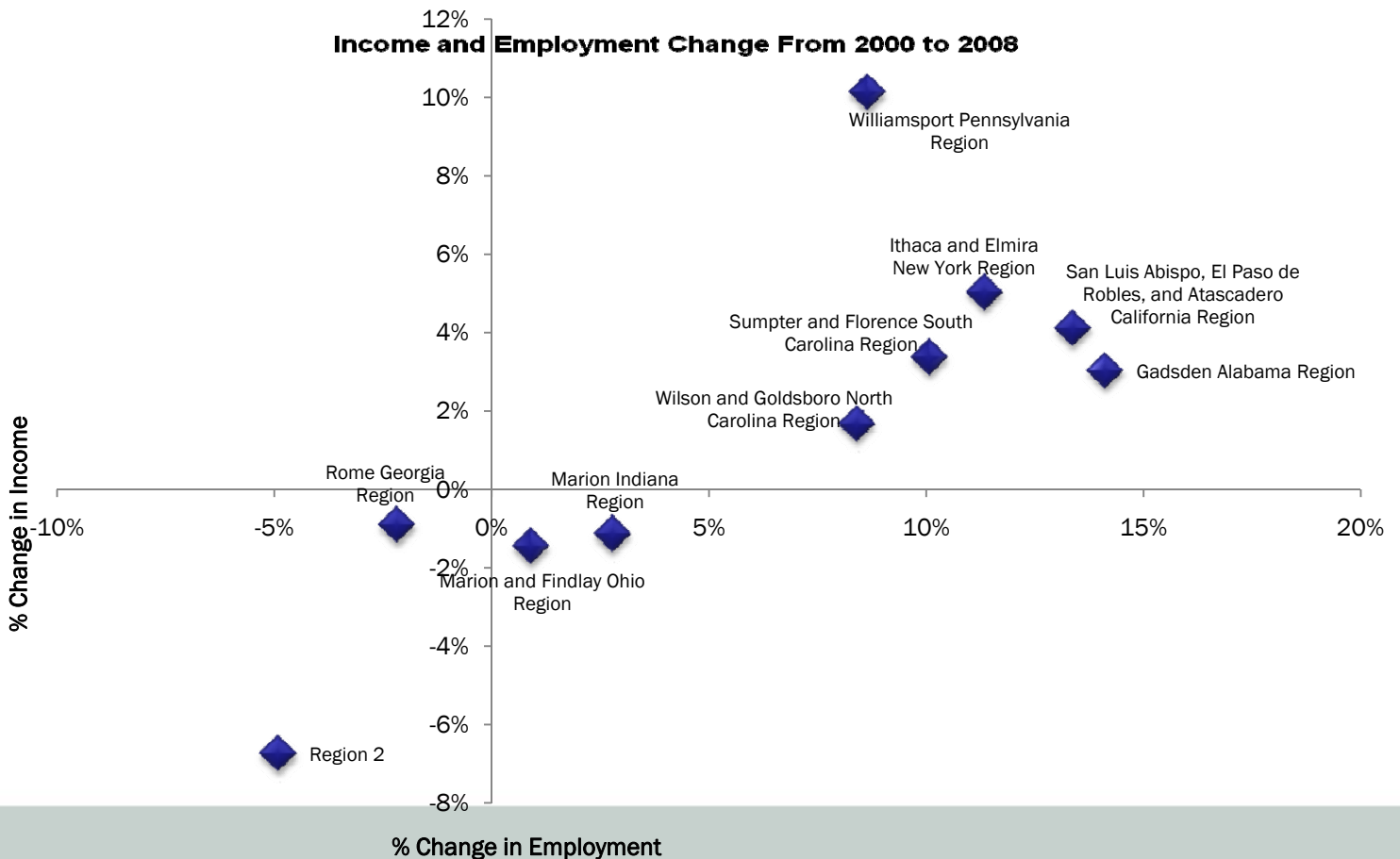


Region Two Comparative Regions



Region Two Economic Indicators

Region	Change in Employment Per Capita 2000 - 2008	Change in Per Capita Income 2000 - 2008	Index of Employment and Income Rank
San Luis Abispo, El Paso de Robles, and Atascadero California Region	3	1	3
Ithaca and Elmira New York Region	2	2	4
Williamsport Pennsylvania Region	1	5	5
Gadsden Alabama Region	5	3	15
Sumpter and Florence South Carolina Region	4	4	16
Wilson and Goldboro North Carolina Region	6	6	36
Marion Indiana Region	8	7	56
Rome Georgia Region	7	9	63
Marion and Findlay Ohio Region	9	8	72
Region 2 Planning Commission	10	10	100



Land Use Comparison

LPI Index of Employment and Income (Rank)	Region	Area of water 2001 per Square Mile	Area of forestland 2001 per Square Mile	Area of wetlands 2001 per Square Mile	Area of agricultural land 2001 per Square Mile	Area of open space 2001 per Square Mile
3	San Luis Abispo, El Paso de Robles, and Atascadero California Region	10	7	8	10	1
4	Ithaca and Elmira New York Region	6	3	4	6	5
5	Williamsport Pennsylvania Region	4	1	9	7	7
15	Gadsden Alabama Region	1	4	6	8	10
16	Sumpter and Florence South Carolina Region	8	6	1	5	3
36	Wilson and Goldboro North Carolina Region	7	5	2	4	4
56	Marion Indiana Region	3	9	5	2	9
63	Rome Georgia Region	5	2	7	9	6
72	Marion and Findlay Ohio Region	9	10	10	1	2
100	Region 2 Planning Commission	2	8	3	3	8

Quality of Life Rankings

LPI Index of Employment and Income (Rank)	Region	Total number of establishments in 2000 per capita	Violent Crime Rate 2005	Unemployment Rate in 2008	Total Employment 2000 per capita	Poverty Rate 1999
3	San Luis Abispo, El Paso de Robles, and Atascadero California Region	1	7	3	7	6
4	Ithaca and Elmira New York Region	10	3	2	3	7
5	Williamsport Pennsylvania Region	6	4	4	6	5
15	Gadsden Alabama Region	4	8	1	8	8
16	Sumpter and Florence South Carolina Region	8	10	9	10	10
36	Wilson and Goldboro North Carolina Region	5	9	5	9	9
56	Marion Indiana Region	3	1	7	2	2
63	Rome Georgia Region	9	5	8	4	4
72	Marion and Findlay Ohio Region	2	2	6	1	3
100	Region 2 Planning Commission	7	6	10	5	1

LPI Index of Employment and Income (Rank)	Region	Change in Per Capita Income 2000 - 2008	Property Crime Rate 2005	Change in Employment Per Capita 2000 - 2008	Percent Owner Occupied Housing Units in 2000
3	San Luis Abispo, El Paso de Robles, and Atascadero California Region	1	6	3	1
4	Ithaca and Elmira New York Region	2	2	2	3
5	Williamsport Pennsylvania Region	5	1	1	4
15	Gadsden Alabama Region	3	7	5	5
16	Sumpter and Florence South Carolina Region	4	10	4	6
36	Wilson and Goldboro North Carolina Region	6	9	6	2
56	Marion Indiana Region	7	3	8	8
63	Rome Georgia Region	9	8	7	7
72	Marion and Findlay Ohio Region	8	4	9	9
100	Region 2 Planning Commission	10	5	10	10

Creative Class Employment

LPI Index of Employment and Income (Rank)	Region	Creative Class Employment 1990 per capita	Creative Core Employment 1990 per capita	Creative Professional Employment 1990 per capita
3	San Luis Abispo, El Paso de Robles, and Atascadero California Region	2	2	1
4	Ithaca and Elmira New York Region	1	1	2
5	Williamsport Pennsylvania Region	8	10	7
15	Gadsden Alabama Region	6	7	3
16	Sumpter and Florence South Carolina Region	7	5	8
36	Wilson and Goldboro North Carolina Region	4	3	5
56	Marion Indiana Region	10	8	10
63	Rome Georgia Region	9	9	9
72	Marion and Findlay Ohio Region	5	6	6
100	Region 2 Planning Commission	3	4	4

LPI Index of Employment and Income (Rank)	Region	Creative Class Employment 2000 per capita	Creative Core Employment 2000 per capita	Creative Professional Employment 2000 per capita
3	San Luis Abispo, El Paso de Robles, and Atascadero California Region	2	2	1
4	Ithaca and Elmira New York Region	1	1	3
5	Williamsport Pennsylvania Region	8	10	8
15	Gadsden Alabama Region	4	6	4
16	Sumpter and Florence South Carolina Region	3	5	2
36	Wilson and Goldboro North Carolina Region	6	7	5
56	Marion Indiana Region	10	9	10
63	Rome Georgia Region	7	4	7
72	Marion and Findlay Ohio Region	9	8	9
100	Region 2 Planning Commission	5	3	6

Knowledge Economy Assets

LPI Index of Employment and Income (Rank)	Region	Number of Utility Patents in 1999 per capita	Percent bachelor's degree or higher 2000 for persons age 25+	Foreign born population in 2000 per capita	Change in foreign born population 1990 - 2000	'Resident Population age 25 to 34 in 2008 per capita
3	San Luis Abispo, El Paso de Robles, and Atascadero California Region	2	2	1	3	3
4	Ithaca and Elmira New York Region	1	1	2	7	1
5	Williamsport Pennsylvania Region	5	5	9	9	10
15	Gadsden Alabama Region	10	6	5	4	6
16	Sumpter and Florence South Carolina Region	6	3	7	6	9
36	Wilson and Goldboro North Carolina Region	9	7	4	2	8
56	Marion Indiana Region	4	9	6	5	7
63	Rome Georgia Region	8	10	3	1	2
72	Marion and Findlay Ohio Region	7	8	10	10	4
100	Region 2 Planning Commission	3	4	8	8	5

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