

POLICOM **CORPORATION**

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TOPIC: POLICOM Corporation Releases 2009 Economic Strength Rankings.

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Houston, TX Area Strongest Economy in America

The Houston, TX metropolitan area has the strongest local economy in the nation according to POLICOM Corporation's annual economic strength rankings. Hilton Head, SC is top among the "Micropolitan" areas which are smaller urban centers.

"Economic strength is the long-term tendency for an area to consistently grow in both size and quality," stated William H. Fruth, President of POLICOM. POLICOM, located in Palm City, FL, specializes in analyzing local and state economies.

POLICOM annually ranks the 366 Metropolitan Statistical Areas and 574 Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the United States so POLICOM can study the characteristics of strong and weak economies in the county. POLICOM measures 23 different economic factors over a twenty year period to determine its ranking. The formulas determine how an economy has behaved over an extended period of time. Data stretching from 1988 to 2007 was used for this study.

"The top rated areas have had rapid, consistent growth in both size and quality for an extended period of time," stated Fruth. "The rankings do not reflect the latest 'hotspot' or boom town, but the areas which have the best economic foundation."

The Micropolitan areas are smaller economies and do not have city with a population greater than 50,000 people. According to Fruth, their economies fluctuate much more than the larger Metropolitan areas.

For economic strength rankings for all areas along with POLICOM's methodology, go to www.policom.com.

The following are the ten strongest and weakest Metropolitan and Micropolitan areas.

2009	Ten Strongest Metropolitan Areas	2009	Ten Weakest Metropolitan Areas
1	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX (MSA)	366	Danville, IL (MSA)
2	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV (MSA)	365	Danville, VA (MSA)
3	Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC (MSA)	364	Pascagoula, MS (MSA)
4	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (MSA)	363	Pine Bluff, AR (MSA)
5	Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN (MSA)	362	Weirton-Steubenville, WV-OH (MSA)
6	Madison, WI (MSA)	360	Mansfield, OH (MSA)
7	Denver-Aurora-Broomfield, CO (MSA)	359	Springfield, OH (MSA)
8	San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA (MSA)	358	Muncie, IN (MSA)
9	Kansas City, MO-KS (MSA)	357	Gadsden, AL (MSA)
10	Salt Lake City, UT (MSA)	356	Bay City, MI (MSA)
2009	Ten Strongest Micropolitan Areas	2009	Ten Weakest Micropolitan Areas
1	Hilton Head Island-Beaufort, SC (McrSA)	574	Tallulah, LA (McrSA)
2	Edwards, CO (McrSA)	573	Indianola, MS (McrSA)
3	Kahului-Wailuku, HI (McrSA)	572	Marshall, MO (McrSA)
4	Durango, CO (McrSA)	571	Silver City, NM (McrSA)
5	Concord, NH (McrSA)	570	Lincoln, IL (McrSA)
6	Bozeman, MT (McrSA)	569	Jennings, LA (McrSA)
7	Lebanon, NH-VT (McrSA)	568	Pittsburg, KS (McrSA)
8	Gillette, WY (McrSA)	567	Hope, AR (McrSA)
9	Helena, MT (McrSA)	566	Fitzgerald, GA (McrSA)
10	Easton, MD (McrSA)	565	Helena-West Helena, AR (McrSA)