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Rust Belt Cities Should Try Embracing the Suburbs.

Merging aging urban centers with surrounding municipalities shows promise as a path to revival.

Some U.S. cities have seen their fortunes rise in the new economy. Technology hubs such as San Francisco and Seattle, as well as coastal metropolises like New York and Los Angeles, are thriving. But some less-glamorous cities — especially in the Midwest — have been struggling. St. Louis isn't the worst off, but it's definitely in the latter category.

The numbers aren't all bad. Unemployment in St. Louis is low — only about 3 percent. Poverty in the city has fallen slightly, though at 25 percent it's still very high. But people are still streaming out of the city (which may be one reason for the low unemployment rate:

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Bloomberg Opinion

By Noah Smith

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