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What Makes a Top Performing City?

The tech and hospitality industries drive sustainable economic performance, but broadband access, affordability and resilience also play key roles, according to the Milken Institute.

The Milken Institute today released the latest edition of its Best Performing Cities Index, a report that ranks hundreds of metropolitan areas on economic performance. The Austin, Texas, area ranked No. 1 among large cities for the first time since 2013, ending the three-year reign of Provo, Utah.

Idaho Falls, Idaho, was top among small cities, performing well across nearly all metrics. In addition to a strong and diverse job market, the city also has low rates of income inequality, meaning there's a relatively small difference between the highest and lowest earners' incomes.

Researchers studied more than 400 metropolitan areas and compared 13 metrics across three broad categories: labor market performance, tech industry impacts and access to economic opportunities.

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Route Fifty

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