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Butler County, Ohio, the Hamilton-Middletown Metropolitan Statistical Area, was ranked as the best performing Ohio metro area for job creation in the Milken Institute's 2004 Best Performing Cities Index. The index ranks U.S. metros based on their ability to create and sustain jobs. It includes both long-term (five years) and short-term (one year) measurements of employment and salary growth. There are also four measurements of technology output growth, which are included because of tech's crucial role in regional economic growth.



The Milken Institute Best Performing Cities index ranks U.S. metropolitan areas based upon their economic performance and their ability to create, as well as keep, the greatest number of jobs in the nation.

Metros with low business costs and a knowledge-based economy demonstrate that new jobs can be created in America and need not move offshore. This index enables businesses, industry associations, economic development agencies, investors, academics, governments, and public policy groups, to assess and monitor recent metro performance.

The Best Performing Cities index is outcomes-based. Its components measure job, wage and salary, and technology growth.