



# Competitive Intelligence Benchmarking Tool:

G R E A T E R   D E T R O I T



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# Introduction

Benchmarks are an important indicator of a region's performance. Not only do they provide a way to measure performance, they do so in a way that shows how a region performs in relation to others. The information revealed through benchmarks lets a region gauge its standing in relation to comparable ones and, armed with that information, to select areas in need of focus, policy scrutiny, or improvement. Benchmarks also show who is performing extremely well in an area and whose models might be best replicated for success.

This report benchmarks Greater Detroit's performance in ten major areas:

Economic Development	Health and Social Services
Technology	Public Works
Education	Housing and Planning
Arts, Culture, and Recreation	Administration and Finance
Environment and Natural Resources	Public Safety

Each performance area is represented by a series of benchmarks pertaining to that area. The measures, which were culled from a wide variety of organizations, were selected for their rigorous methodology. Detailed analyses of methodologies may be found in National Policy Research Council's *GovGuide* Second Edition (2006).

All benchmarks offer the most recent data available as of December, 2006. Only rankings above 40 are included here. That is, if a locale ranked below 40, it is represented in these tables with a '-'. Where available, we have included multi-year rankings. Readers should proceed with caution when comparing performance from one year to the next, as in many instances, methods or criteria upon which measures are based have been modified.

The Greater Detroit area is here defined as the following areas: Detroit City, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Dearborn, Farmington, Bloomfield Hills, Pontiac, Troy, Auburn Hills, Richmond, and Shelby.

In this report, Greater Detroit's performance is compared and contrasted to that of 10 comparable cities: Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Columbus, OH; Denver, CO; Houston, TX; Indianapolis, IN; Nashville, TN; Philadelphia, PA; and Pittsburgh, PA. These cities were chosen on the basis of their comparable size and economic standing.

# Benchmarking

Benchmarking or any other form of comparative analysis often begins and ends with defining where a region stands relative to others. The problem with these types of analyses is twofold. First, such analyses are best perceived not as a *fait accompli* but rather as guides—indicators of where a region and its leaders need to conduct further analysis. Second, there is a danger in allowing external sources to define and frame perceptions and future opportunities. Every region should interpret rankings according to its own internal values and objectives.

Use these benchmarks to stimulate critical analysis and discussion about what meaningful steps are necessary for transforming your region into a vibrant community of innovation. Learn by best principles and practices from other locations but adapt them to local culture and mindset. Determine which benchmarks have most internal meaning and impact and prioritize their implementation.

We encourage the following uses of this Competitive Intelligence Benchmarking Tool for regional capacity building and the strengthening of human and infrastructural assets.

1. The metrics presented here should serve as guides to additional SWOT and Gap Analysis—identifying strengths and opportunities as well as weaknesses and threats. Use the benchmarks to provide a foundation on which to base further analysis.
2. Several regions exceed or fall short of others. Rather than focusing on a particular positive or negative rank status, regions should look to the rankings presented here to determine what is happening and to learn best practices or principles missing from local efforts and initiatives. In other words, regions should use rankings information to move toward further clarification: toward identifying, for example, what conditions have been for success or failure and what kinds of parallel conditions face civic, business, academic and political leaders.
3. Rarely does a single metric or benchmark tell the complete story of a region. But when linked, benchmarks can begin to construct a richer picture. For instance, combined benchmarks on parks, culture and the arts, and public safety can communicate notions about quality of life and attractiveness to non-residents seeking to relocate.
4. Economic Development benchmarks shape the framework for recruitment and expansion of traditional and technology-based firms. Typically taxes, regulations, and economic conditions are viewed as the ‘directionals’ for positive versus negative growth. However, so do access to broadband infrastructure, well-trained and educated employees, mobility and transportation. Here, determining what a region wishes to focus on is more important than

throwing one's hands in the air because 'our region is ranked so pitifully against these others.'

5. Benchmarking must be viewed over time, not in one snapshot of a year or two. For instance, the bubble of the dot.com funding from venture capital must be seen over a period of time so as to identify a baseline of actual dollars flowing into a region at its highest and lowest periods, rather than the artificial peak when resources circulated without regard to real business plans. Though the Competitive Intelligence Benchmarking Tool covers 2004 and 2005 datasets, we encourage regions to look back at least five to seven years to gain better insight into improvement or decline.
6. We seek not just to answer questions but, more importantly, to raise them. If a region has had a significant brain gain or drain, what conditions existed for the movement of knowledge resources? What types of career opportunities existed in the region for employment past graduation? Were individuals attracted to the region because of its commercial potential, solid scientific and technical infrastructure, or its quality of life? Simply put: good benchmarks ask that a region drill down further into the conditions for success or failure.
7. Finally, those overused words—regionalism, collaboration, integration, alignment—really do matter. Is the community of leadership on the same page as to the vital definitions of place-based, technology-focused economic development and the social capital necessary for catalyzing innovation? The benchmarks presented here should cause regions to examine the *interconnections* between activities, initiatives, and programs that improve or enhance performance.

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# Economic Development



Greater Detroit did not attain top 40 status on most economic development measures. Nashville and Atlanta may have lessons to offer.

The Greater Detroit area of Ann Arbor ranked 16—and third among the comparison cities—among the Best Cities for Business and Career Opportunities (Table 1).

Detroit ranked 29, outranking Boston and Philadelphia, among Leading Large Cities for Starting and Growing a Company (Table 2).

Detroit did not attain top 40 ranking in the following categories: Best Large Cities for Small Business, Strongest City Economies, Best Cities for Business Expansion and Relocation, Most Economically Competitive Cities, and Best Large Cities for Business (Tables 3-7).

Nashville and Atlanta’s relatively high standing in these categories recommends further examination into their economic development efforts.

Table 1

## Best Cities for Business and Career Opportunities

CITY	2004	2005
Atlanta, GA	5	9
Houston, TX	15	13
<b>Ann Arbor, MI</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>
Denver, CO	36	29
Pittsburgh, PA	46	32
Indianapolis, IN	34	33
Boston, MA	42	40
Chicago, IL	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
Nashville, TN	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–

Source: *Forbes* (2005)

Table 2

## Leading Large Cities for Starting and Growing a Company

CITY	2005
Indianapolis, IN	5
Atlanta, GA	7
Nashville, TN	8
Chicago, IL	12
Denver, CO	14
Columbus, OH	16
Houston, TX	19
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>29</b>
Boston, MA	31
Philadelphia, PA	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–

Source: *Entrepreneurial Hot Spots* (2005)



Table 3

Best Large Cities for Small Business	
CITY	2005
Denver, CO	8
Atlanta, GA	28
Indianapolis, IN	39
Boston, MA	–
Chicago, IL	–
Columbus, OH	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	–
Houston, TX	–
Nashville, TN	–
Philadelphia, PA	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–

Source: *American City Business Journals* (2005)

Table 6

Most Economically Competitive Cities		
CITY	2004	2005
Boston, MA	4	1
Denver, CO	5	4
Atlanta, GA	11	13
Nashville, TN	23	14
Houston, TX	33	24
Indianapolis, IN	36	37
Pittsburgh, PA	40	40
Chicago, IL	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–

Source: *Metro Area & State Competitiveness Report* (2004 & 2005)

Table 4

Strongest City Economies		
CITY	2004	2005
Atlanta, GA	2	2
Nashville, TN	7	4
Denver, CO	4	9
Columbus, OH	18	12
Indianapolis, IN	20	14
Boston, MA	26	17
Chicago, IL	39	27
Houston, TX	24	32
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *Economic Strength Rankings* (2004 & 2005)

Table 7

Best Large Cities for Business		
CITY	2004	2005
Nashville, TN	33	19
Houston, TX	34	32
Atlanta, GA	1	33
Indianapolis, IN	54	34
Boston, MA	–	–
Chicago, IL	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
Denver, CO	–	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *Inc.* (2004 & 2005)

Table 5

Best Cities for Business Expansion and Relocation		
CITY	2004	2005
Nashville, TN	2	1
Atlanta, GA	1	2
Indianapolis, IN	–	4
Chicago, IL	10	29
Houston, TX	–	34
Boston, MA	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
Denver, CO	–	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *Expansion Management* (2004 & 2005)



Greater Detroit has a solid standing in global and wireless connectivity. Ann Arbor is a key technology asset. Atlanta may serve as a useful model.

In terms of its technology performance, Detroit ranked most favorably (16 of 40) in the Most Globally Connected Cities category (Table 8). Comparative cities Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, and Houston ranked among the top 10.

In the Leading Wireless Cities category Detroit ranked 37 (Table 9). Comparative cities Atlanta and Denver ranked among the top 10.

The Greater Detroit city of Ann Arbor ranked 32 among Most Technologically Savvy Cities, suggesting that this area is a key technology asset. (Table 10)

Detroit did not attain top 40 ranking in Most Technologically Savvy Cities (Table 10), Best Cities for Broadband (Table 11), Best Cities for High Tech Headquarters (Table 12), or Cities with Highest Technology Concentration and Diversity (Table 13). Atlanta and Denver's consistently high scores in these categories suggests they may offer model strategies for success.

Table 8

### Most Globally Connected Cities

CITY	2005
Chicago, IL	2
Atlanta, GA	6
Boston, MA	8
Houston, TX	10
Denver, CO	12
Philadelphia, PA	13
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>16</b>
Indianapolis, IN	21
Pittsburgh, PA	23
Columbus, OH	28
Nashville, TN	-

Source: *US Cities in the World City Network* (2005)

Table 9

### Leading Wireless Cities

CITY	2004	2005
Atlanta, GA	16	6
Denver, CO	10	7
Chicago, IL	11	12
Boston, MA	17	13
Columbus, OH	36	16
Nashville, TN	-	27
Houston, TX	26	28
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>37</b>
Indianapolis, IN	-	-
Philadelphia, PA	-	-
Pittsburgh, PA	-	-

Source: *Most Unwired Cities* (2004 & 2005)

Table 10

### Most Technologically Savvy Cities

CITY	2005
Atlanta, GA	2
Boston, MA	4
Chicago, IL	6
Columbus, OH	7
Houston, TX	10
Denver, CO	14
Philadelphia, PA	15
<b>Ann Arbor, MI</b>	<b>32</b>
Indianapolis, IN	-
Nashville, TN	-
Pittsburgh, PA	-

Source: *Popular Science* (2005)

Table 11

### Best Cities for Broadband

CITY	2003
Chicago, IL	1
Atlanta, GA	4
Denver, CO	8
Houston, TX	10
Philadelphia, PA	16
Boston, MA	17
Indianapolis, IN	21
Columbus, OH	-
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	-
Nashville, TN	-
Pittsburgh, PA	-

Source: *Expansion Management* (2003)

Table 12

### Best Cities for High-Tech Headquarters

CITY	2004	2005
Atlanta, GA	21	6
Houston, TX	21	10
Denver, CO	15	19
Philadelphia, PA	21	19
Boston, MA	-	34
Chicago, IL	-	-
Columbus, OH	-	-
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	-	-
Indianapolis, IN	-	-
Nashville, TN	-	-
Pittsburgh, PA	-	-

Source: *Technology Fast 500* (2004 & 2005)

Table 13

### Cities with Highest Technology Concentration and Diversity

CITY	RANK
Denver, CO	20
Philadelphia, PA	39
Atlanta, GA	-
Boston, MA	-
Chicago, IL	-
Columbus, OH	-
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	-
Houston, TX	-
Indianapolis, IN	-
Nashville, TN	-
Pittsburgh, PA	-

Source: *Best Performing Cities* (2005)

# Education



With Ann Arbor its key seat of brainpower, Greater Detroit ranked toward the bottom of the comparative group in literacy and brain gain.

Ann Arbor ranked 8 of Cities With Most Brainpower—second in the comparative group only to Boston’s rank of 5 (Table 14).

Leading Brain Gain Cities Denver and Atlanta led the comparative group at ranks 2 and 3, respectively. Detroit did not rank among the top 40 (Table 15).

Eight of the comparative cities ranked among the top 40 Cities With Highest Literacy (Table 16); four—Atlanta, Denver, Boston, and Pittsburgh—were in the top 10.

No cities among the comparative group—Detroit included—ranked among the top 40 Cities With Best Schools (Table 17).

Table 14

### Cities With Most Brainpower

CITY	2003	2005
Boston, MA	13	5
<b>Ann Arbor, MI</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>8</b>
Denver, CO	14	22
Atlanta, GA	–	31
Chicago, IL	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
Houston, TX	–	–
Indianapolis, IN	–	–
Nashville, TN	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *American City Business Journals* (2003 & 2005)

Table 15

### Leading Brain Gain Cities

CITY	2004
Denver, CO	2
Atlanta, GA	3
Houston, TX	16
Nashville, TN	19
Indianapolis, IN	25
Chicago, IL	36
Boston, MA	–
Columbus, OH	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>–</b>
Philadelphia, PA	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–

Source: *Labor Supply Pressures and the “Brain Drain”* (2004)

Table 16

### Cities With Best School Districts

CITY	2005
Denver, CO	–
Atlanta, GA	–
Houston, TX	–
Nashville, TN	–
Indianapolis, IN	–
Chicago, IL	–
Boston, MA	–
Columbus, OH	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	–
Philadelphia, PA	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–

Source: *Expansion Management Magazine: Education Quotient* (2005)

Table 17

### Cities With Highest Literacy

CITY	2004	2005
Atlanta, GA	15	4
Denver, CO	7	6
Boston, MA	8	7
Pittsburgh, PA	3	8
Columbus, OH	11	12
Nashville, TN	29	17
Indianapolis, IN	27	23
Philadelphia, PA	46	32
Chicago, IL	–	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	–	–
Houston, TX	–	–

Source: *America's Most Literate Cities* (2004 & 2005)

# Arts, Culture, and Recreation



Greater Detroit's cultural strengths are its sports climate and attractiveness for kids and senior living. Improvement areas include arts and creativity.

Detroit ranked 3 (up from 7) as a Top City for Sports Fans (Table 18), 4 as a Most Kid-Friendly City (Table 19), and 13 among Best Cities for Seniors (Table 20).

While Detroit ranked 25 as a Top Art Destination City—8 of 11 among the comparative group (Table 21)—it did not rank in the top 40 among Most Creative Cities (Table 22). Of the comparison group, only Boston and Atlanta ranked as top creative cities (7 and 28, respectively).

Detroit's rank of 32 as an attractive City for Young Single Adults represents a drop from 2004's rank of 16 (Table 23). Its rank of 24 as a Most Racially Integrated City place it at the approximate midpoint of the comparative group (Table 24).

Neither Detroit nor any of its comparative Cities ranked above 40 in the Cities with Best Quality of Life index (Table 25).

Table 18

## Best Cities for Sports Fans

CITY	2004	2005
Boston, MA	1	1
Philadelphia, PA	9	2
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
Houston, TX	4	6
Atlanta, GA	13	9
Denver, CO	12	13
Chicago, IL	11	15
Indianapolis, IN	16	17
Pittsburgh, PA	24	18
Nashville, TN	19	25
Columbus, OH	35	33

Source: *Sporting News: Best Sports Cities (2004 & 2005)*

Table 19

## Most Kid-Friendly Cities

CITY	2002	2004
Boston, MA	10	2
Denver, CO	19	7
Philadelphia, PA	–	8
Chicago, IL	16	9
Atlanta, GA	1	13
Houston, TX	13	15
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>
Columbus, OH	–	–
Indianapolis, IN	–	–
Nashville, TN	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *Kid Friendly Cities: Report Card (2002 & 2004)*

Table 20

### Best Cities for Seniors

CITY	2004
Pittsburgh, PA	4
Philadelphia, PA	6
Boston, MA	8
Chicago, IL	10
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>13</b>
Indianapolis, IN	15
Denver, CO	19
Nashville, TN	22
Houston, TX	24
Columbus, OH	28
Atlanta, GA	36

Source: Bankers Life and Casualty Company (2004)

Table 21

### Best Art Destination Cities

	2004	2005
Chicago, IL	2	2
Boston, MA	9	7
Philadelphia, PA	19	9
Denver, CO	–	14
Houston, TX	–	17
Nashville, TN	–	19
Columbus, OH	–	20
Indianapolis, IN	–	24
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>25</b>
Atlanta, GA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: American Style (2004 & 2005)

Table 22

### Most Creative Cities

CITY	2005
Boston, MA	7
Atlanta, GA	28
Chicago, IL	–
Columbus, OH	–
Denver, CO	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>–</b>
Houston, TX	–
Indianapolis, IN	–
Nashville, TN	–
Philadelphia, PA	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–

Source: Flight of the Creative Class (2005)

Table 23

### Best Cities for Single Young Adults

CITY	2004	2005
Denver, CO	1	1
Atlanta, GA	6	4
Boston, MA	2	5
Chicago, IL	9	11
Philadelphia, PA	12	15
Houston, TX	17	16
Columbus, OH	18	21
Indianapolis, IN	34	27
Nashville, TN	22	29
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>32</b>
Pittsburgh, PA	29	40

Source: Forbes (2004 & 2005)

Table 24

### Most Racially Integrated Cities

CITY	2003
Nashville, TN	3
Columbus, OH	7
Indianapolis, IN	8
Philadelphia, PA	19
Boston, MA	22
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>24</b>
Atlanta, GA	30
Denver, CO	32
Houston, TX	34
Chicago, IL	36
Pittsburgh, PA	–

Source: Racial Integration in Urban America (2003)

Table 25

### Cities With Best Quality of Life

CITY	2004	2005
Atlanta, GA	–	–
Boston, MA	–	–
Chicago, IL	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
Denver, CO	–	–
Detroit, MI	–	–
Houston, TX	–	–
Indianapolis, IN	–	–
Nashville, TN	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: Expansion Management Magazine (2004 & 2005)

# Environment and Natural Resources



Commitment to the environment is a category Greater Detroit is little celebrated for. Yet its scores suggest that the region deserves recognition.

In the category of the Environment and Natural Resources, Detroit ranked second (up from 4) as a Most Environmentally Committed City (Table 26). Only Atlanta performed better.

Among Best Cities for Green Architecture (Table 27), Detroit ranked 32.

Atlanta, ranking first in the Most Environmentally Committed Cities and Best Cities for Green Architecture categories, may offer models for comparison.

Table 26

## Most Environmentally Committed Cities

CITY	2004	2005
Atlanta, GA	5	1
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
Boston, MA	9	11
Columbus, OH	14	12
Indianapolis, IN	35	15
Houston, TX	12	25
Philadelphia, PA	24	27
Nashville, TN	21	28
Chicago, IL	42	34

Source: National Policy Research Council Database (2004 & 2005)

Table 27

## Best Cities for Green Architecture

CITY	2005
Atlanta, GA	1
Boston, MA	7
Philadelphia, PA	9
Denver, CO	14
Chicago, IL	15
Nashville, TN	27
Houston, TX	29
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>32</b>
Columbus, OH	34

Source: SustainLane US City Rankings (2005)



# Health and Social Services



With strong hospitals and a lack of wide income disparities, Greater Detroit's health and social services sector appears relatively healthy.

Detroit ranked 8 among Cities with Best Hospital Quality of Care (Table 28), out-ranked only by Boston, Indianapolis, and Columbus. Detroit's rank of 25 among Cities With Narrowest Income Gap (Table 29) suggests its social services system is providing an equal playing field.

Detroit ranked 12 among Cities Most Committed to Public Health and Welfare (Table 30). Of the comparison cities, only Boston and Indianapolis had consistently higher scores in the health sector.

Table 28

Cities With Best Hospital Quality of Care	
CITY	2005
Boston, MA	4
Indianapolis, IN	6
Columbus, OH	7
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>8</b>
Philadelphia, PA	23
Nashville, TN	25
Pittsburgh, PA	27
Atlanta, GA	28
Houston, TX	31
Chicago, IL	34
Denver, CO	–

Source: *The Top Ranked and Bottom Ranked Performances in Measures of the Quality of Care* (2005)

Table 29

### Cities With Narrowest Income Gap

CITY	2004
Indianapolis, IN	4
Columbus, OH	17
Denver, CO	18
Houston, TX	21
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>25</b>
Chicago, IL	26
Philadelphia, PA	27
Pittsburgh, PA	29
Boston, MA	35
Atlanta, GA	39
Nashville, TN	–

Source: *Income Inequality* (2004)

Table 30

### Cities Most Committed to Health and Welfare

CITY	2004	2005
Philadelphia, PA	5	4
Indianapolis, IN	6	5
Boston, MA	7	6
Denver, CO	4	7
Nashville, TN	8	8
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
Chicago, IL	13	14
Columbus, OH	22	18
Houston, TX	24	24
Atlanta, GA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *National Policy Research Council Database* (2004 & 2005)

# Public Works



Greater Detroit ranks high in infrastructure resources and commitment to public works. Its transportation networks fare more moderately.

Detroit moved to 9 (from 11) of Cities With Best Infrastructure Resources (Table 31), outranking all of the comparative cities but Houston.

Detroit ranked 21 in Cities Least Affected by Gas Prices (Table 32), and 31 in Cities with Most Affordable Parking (Table 33).

Detroit ranked a strong 19 among Cities Most Committed to Public Works, outranking Denver, Chicago, Houston, Columbus, Boston, and Pittsburgh (Table 34).

While its airports are quite busy (Detroit ranked 11 in Cities With Busiest Passenger Airports, second only to Chicago, Atlanta, Houston, and Denver), its public transportation system is less so (Detroit ranked 23 in Cities With Busiest Public Transportation Systems) (Tables 35 and 36). Detroit did not make top 40 ranking in Cities With Busiest Ports (Table 37).

Table 31

## Cities With Best Infrastructure Resources

CITY	2004	2005
Houston, TX	9	2
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>
Chicago, IL	10	12
Nashville, TN	26	17
Atlanta, GA	7	19
Boston, MA	95	23
Indianapolis, IN	24	25
Denver, CO	61	39
Columbus, OH	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *Logistics Today* (2004 & 2005)

Table 32

## Cities With Households Least Affected by Gas Prices

CITIES	2005
Philadelphia, PA	3
Boston, MA	7
Pittsburgh, PA	8
Atlanta, GA	9
Houston, TX	15
Chicago, IL	17
Denver, CO	17
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>21</b>
Columbus, OH	–
Indianapolis, IN	–
Nashville, TN	–

Source: *Driven to Spend: Pumping Dollars out of our Households and Communities* (2005)

Table 33

### Cities With Most Affordable Parking

CITY	2004	2005
Atlanta, GA	14	16
Indianapolis, IN	19	22
Nashville, TN	20	23
Denver, CO	22	24
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>
Houston, TX	33	36
Pittsburgh, PA	38	40
Boston, MA	–	–
Chicago, IL	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–

Source: *Colliers International Parking Survey* (2004 & 2005)

Table 34

### Cities Most Committed to Public Works

CITY	2004	2005
Nashville, TN	3	6
Atlanta, GA	7	7
Philadelphia, PA	15	13
Indianapolis, IN	38	15
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>
Denver, CO	14	20
Chicago, IL	23	23
Houston, TX	25	25
Columbus, OH	28	33
Boston, MA	34	38
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *National Policy Research Council Database* (2004 & 2005)

Table 35

### Cities With Busiest Passenger Airports

CITY	2004	2005
Chicago, IL	1	1
Atlanta, GA	2	2
Houston, TX	6	6
Denver, CO	7	8
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
Philadelphia, PA	17	15
Boston, MA	18	19
Pittsburgh, PA	30	35
Nashville, TN	41	40
Columbus, OH	–	–
Indianapolis, IN	–	–

Source: *Air Transport Association: Annual Report* (2004 & 2005)

Table 36

### Cities With Busiest Public Transportation Systems

CITY	2005
Chicago, IL	2
Boston, MA	3
Philadelphia, PA	7
Atlanta, GA	10
Houston, TX	12
Denver, CO	19
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>23</b>
Columbus, OH	39
Indianapolis, IN	40
Nashville, TN	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–

Source: *City Rankings, Regional Public Transportation Ridership* (2005)

Table 37

### Cities With Busiest Ports

CITY	2004	2005
Houston, TX	10	10
Philadelphia, PA	23	19
Boston, MA	22	22
Atlanta, GA	–	–
Chicago, IL	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
Denver, CO	–	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
Indianapolis, IN	–	–
Nashville, TN	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *American Association of Port Authorities Statistics* (2004 & 2005)

# Housing and Planning



Housing purchase and rental—particularly the former—are among Greater Detroit’s strong suits. The city also has moderate urban sprawl.

Detroit ranked 10 and Warren ranked 30 among Most Affordable Cities for Buying a Home, outranked only by Indianapolis of the comparison group. Detroit ranked 26 among Most Affordable Cities for Renting a Home (Table 38, 39).

Detroit ranked 21 among the Most Affordable Cities for Commercial Real Estate (Table 40) and 36 among Cities with Most Stable Housing Markets, beating out only Boston in the comparative group (Table 41).

Detroit did not rank among the top 40 in Best Cities for Infill Development (Table 42).

Detroit ranked 39 among Least Sprawling Cities, while Ann Arbor ranked 30 (Table 43). Detroit outranked Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, and Denver in this category.

Table 38

## Most Affordable Cities for Buying a Home

CITY	2004	2005
Indianapolis, IN	5	3
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Warren, MI</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>
Atlanta, GA	34	35
Pittsburgh, PA	38	38
Boston, MA	–	–
Chicago, IL	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
Denver, CO	–	–
Detroit, MI	–	–
Houston, TX	–	–
Nashville, TN	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–

Source: *Housing Opportunity Index* (2004 & 2005)

Table 39

## Most Affordable Cities for Renting a Home

CITY	2003	2005
Pittsburgh, PA	5	4
Columbus, OH	11	5
Nashville, TN	19	8
Indianapolis, IN	4	9
Houston, TX	24	22
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>26</b>
Atlanta, GA	44	29
Denver, CO	47	36
Chicago, IL	46	38
Boston, MA	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–

Source: *Paycheck to Paycheck* (2003 & 2005)

Table 40

### Most Affordable Cities for Commercial Real Estate

CITY	2004	2005
Columbus, OH	4	4
Indianapolis, IN	16	11
Pittsburgh, PA	37	13
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>
Nashville, TN	12	24
Atlanta, GA	36	28
Philadelphia, PA	–	29
Houston, TX	31	32
Denver, CO	38	34
Boston, MA	–	–
Chicago, IL	–	–

Source: *Expansion Management* (2004 & 2005)

Table 41

### Cities With Most Stable Housing Markets

CITY	2004	2005
Pittsburgh, PA	7	1
Indianapolis, IN	8	2
Nashville, TN	9	7
Philadelphia, PA	12	12
Columbus, OH	14	5
Chicago, IL	20	23
Atlanta, GA	22	22
Houston, TX	27	13
Denver, CO	38	27
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>
Boston, MA	–	–

Source: *Economic and Real Estate Trends* (2004 & 2005)

Table 42

### Best Cities for Infill Development

CITY	2005
Chicago, IL	2
Houston, TX	8
Boston, MA	10
Atlanta, GA	12
Philadelphia, PA	14
Denver, CO	19
Nashville, TN	33
Pittsburgh, PA	34
Indianapolis, IN	40
Columbus, OH	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>–</b>

Source: *The State of the Nation's Housing* (2005)

Table 43

### Least Sprawling Cities

CITY	2005
Columbus, OH	3
Indianapolis, IN	13
Philadelphia, PA	20
<b>Ann Arbor, MI</b>	<b>30</b>
Nashville, TN	34
Pittsburgh, PA	36
Houston, TX	37
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>39</b>
Atlanta, GA	–
Boston, MA	–
Chicago, IL	–
Denver, CO	–

Source: *The State of the Nation's Housing* (2005)

# Administration and Finance



Greater Detroit's strengths are a well-managed government and a progressive tax system. Areas for improvement include government automation.

Detroit improved its rank from 12 to 5 as one of the Most Efficient City Governments (Table 44), second only to Indianapolis and Denver.

In terms of Best-Managed City Governments (Table 45), Detroit received a B-, outranking Columbus, Atlanta, Nashville, and Pittsburgh.

While Detroit ranked 37 of 40 among Cities With Most Progressive Tax Systems (Table 46), it was not ranked among the top 40 Cities With Best E-Government or Best Digital Government (Tables 47 and 48).

Denver's relatively number one rank in E-Government recommends it as a model to watch for government administration.

Nashville's rankings in the Digital Government and E-Government categories (8 and 5) suggests it has successfully implemented government online automation.

Table 44

## Most Efficient City Governments

CITY	2004	2005
Indianapolis, IN	3	2
Denver, CO	34	3
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>
Boston, MA	21	15
Nashville, TN	8	22
Chicago, IL	47	35
Columbus, OH	40	36
Atlanta, GA	24	39
Houston, TX	29	40
Philadelphia, PA	-	-
Pittsburgh, PA	-	-

Source: National Policy Research Council Database (2004 & 2005)

Table 45

## Best-Managed City Governments

CITY	2002
Indianapolis, IN	B+
Philadelphia, PA	B
Boston, MA	B-
Chicago, IL	B-
Denver, CO	B-
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>B-</b>
Columbus, OH	C
Atlanta, GA	C+
Houston, TX	C+
Nashville, TN	C+
Pittsburgh, PA	-

Source: Grading the Cities: A Management Report Card (2002)

Table 46

### Cities With the Most Progressive Tax Systems

CITY	2004	2005
Atlanta, GA	17	17
Denver, CO	24	18
Boston, MA	31	24
Columbus, OH	30	32
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>
Philadelphia, PA	38	38
Indianapolis, IN	39	40
Chicago, IL	–	–
Houston, TX	–	–
Nashville, TN	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *Tax Rates and Tax Burdens* (2004 & 2005)

Table 47

### Best Digital City Governments\*

CITY	2004	2005
Chicago, IL	–	5
Nashville, TN	–	8
Atlanta, GA	–	–
Boston, MA	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
Denver, CO	–	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	–	–
Houston, TX	–	–
Indianapolis, IN	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *Digital Cities Survey* (2004 & 2005). \*Cities of population 250,000

Table 48

### Cities With Best E-Government

CITY	2003	2004
Denver, CO	1	1
Boston, MA	3	7
Houston, TX	6	9
Columbus, OH	40	17
Nashville, TN	5	23
Indianapolis, IN	34	25
Atlanta, GA	–	–
Chicago, IL	–	–
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *Urban E-Government* (2003 & 2004)

# Public Safety



Greater Detroit areas rank consistently and significantly high in Safety. Detroit should recognize its strength in this crucial quality-of-life factor.

The Greater Detroit areas of Warren, Livonia, Sterling Heights, and Ann Arbor ranked among the top 40 Least Dangerous Cities at 32 (Table 49).

The Greater Detroit areas of Troy and Farmington Hills ranked among the top 40 Safest Cities (6 and 31, respectively) (Table 50).

And Detroit maintained its solid rank of 14—up one from its prior year rank of 15—among Cities Most Dedicated to Public Safety (Table 51).

Table 50

### Safest Cities

CITY	2004	2005
<b>Troy, MI</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Farmington Hills, MI</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>
Atlanta, GA	–	–
Boston, MA	–	–
Chicago, IL	–	–
Columbus, OH	–	–
Denver, CO	–	–
Houston, TX	–	–
Indianapolis, IN	–	–
Nashville, TN	–	–
Philadelphia, PA	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *Most Dangerous and Safest Cities* (2004 & 2005)

Table 49

### Least Dangerous Cities

CITY	2005
<b>Warren, MI</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Livonia, MI</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Sterling Heights, MI</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Ann Arbor, MI</b>	<b>32</b>
Atlanta, GA	–
Boston, MA	–
Chicago, IL	–
Columbus, OH	–
Houston, TX	–
Indianapolis, IN	–
Nashville, TN	–
Philadelphia, PA	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–

Source: *Uniform Crime Report* (2004 & 2005)

Table 51

### Cities Most Dedicated to Public Safety

CITY	2004	2005
Boston, MA	3	3
Philadelphia, PA	7	5
Atlanta, GA	11	7
Denver, CO	10	11
Columbus, OH	17	12
<b>Detroit, MI</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>
Chicago, IL	14	15
Nashville, TN	18	20
Houston, TX	26	32
Indianapolis, IN	–	–
Pittsburgh, PA	–	–

Source: *National Policy Research Council Database* (2004 & 2005)



# Summary Tables

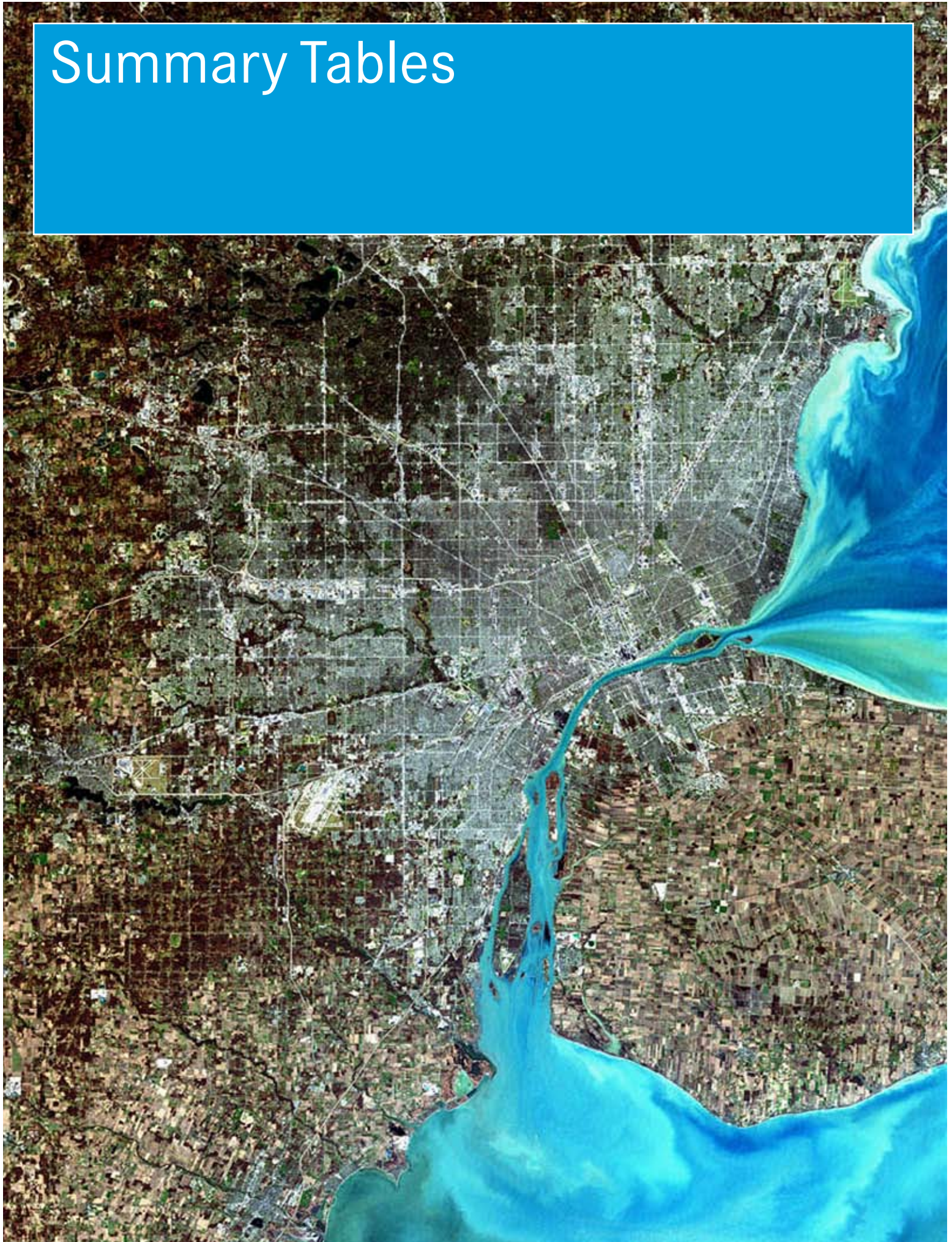


Table 53

### Economic Development Summary Table

	Atlanta	Boston	Chicago	Columbus	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Nashville	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Best Cities for Business Expansion and Relocation</b>	2	-	29	-	-	-	34	4	1	-	-
<b>Best Cities for Business and Career Opportunities</b>	9	40	-	-	29	16*	13	33	-	-	32
<b>Best Large Cities for Business</b>	33	-	-	-	-	-	32	34	19	-	-
<b>Most Economically Competitive Cities</b>	13	1	-	-	4	-	24	37	14	-	40
<b>Leading Large Cities for Starting and Growing a Company</b>	7	31	12	16	14	29	19	5	8	-	-
<b>Strongest City Economies</b>	2	17	27	12	9	-	32	14	4	-	-
<b>Best Large Cities for Small Business</b>	28	-	-	-	8	-	-	39	-	-	-

\* = Ann Arbor

Table 52

**Technology Summary Table**

	Atlanta	Boston	Chicago	Columbus	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Nashville	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Leading Wireless Cities</b>	6	13	12	16	7	37	28	-	27	-	-
<b>Most Globally Connected Cities</b>	6	8	2	28	12	16	10	21	-	13	23
<b>Best Cities for Broadband</b>	4	17	1	-	8	-	10	21	-	16	-
<b>Best Cities for High-Tech Headquarters</b>	6	34	-	-	19	-	10	-	-	19	-
<b>Cities With Highest Technology Concentration and Diversity</b>	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	39	-
<b>Most Technologically Savvy Cities</b>	2	4	6	7	14	32*	10	-	-	15	-

\* = Ann Arbor

Table 55

**Education Summary Table**

	Atlanta	Boston	Chicago	Columbus	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Nashville	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Cities With Highest Literacy</b>	4	7	-	12	6	-	-	23	17	32	8
<b>Cities With Most Brainpower</b>	31	5	-	-	22	8	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Leading Brain Gain Cities</b>	3	-	36	-	2	-	16	25	19	-	-
<b>Cities With Best School Districts</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 54

**Arts, Culture, and Recreation Summary Table**

	Atlanta	Boston	Chicago	Columbus	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Nashville	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Most Creative Cities</b>	28	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Best Art Destination Cities</b>	-	7	2	20	14	25	17	24	19	9	-
<b>Best Cities for Single Young Adults</b>	4	5	11	21	1	32	16	27	29	15	40
<b>Best Cities for Seniors</b>	36	8	10	28	19	13	24	15	22	6	4
<b>Most Racially Integrated Cities</b>	30	22	36	7	32	24	34	8	3	19	-
<b>Best Cities for Sports Fans</b>	9	1	15	33	13	3	6	17	25	2	18
<b>Most Kid-Friendly Cities</b>	13	2	9	-	7	19	15	-	-	8	-
<b>Cities with Best Quality of Life</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 57

**Environment and Natural Resources Summary Table**

	Atlanta	Boston	Chicago	Columbus	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Nashville	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Most Environmentally Committed Cities</b>	1	11	34	12	-	2	25	15	28	27	-
<b>Best Cities for Green Architecture</b>	1	7	15	34	14	32	29	-	27	9	-

Table 61

**Health and Social Services Summary Table**

	Atlanta	Boston	Chicago	Columbus	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Nashville	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Cities With Best Hospital Quality of Care</b>	28	4	34	7	-	8	31	6	25	23	27
<b>Cities Most Committed to Health and Welfare</b>	-	6	14	18	7	12	24	5	8	4	-
<b>Cities With Narrowest Income Gap</b>	39	35	26	17	18	25	21	4	-	27	29

Table 60

## Public Works Summary Table

	Atlanta	Boston	Chicago	Columbus	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Nashville	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Cities With Best Infrastructure Resources</b>	19	23	12	-	39	9	2	25	17	-	-
<b>Cities With Households Least Affected By Gas Prices</b>	9	7	17	-	17	21	15	-	-	3	8
<b>Cities With Busiest Ports</b>	-	22	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	19	-
<b>Cities With Most Affordable Parking</b>	16	-	-	-	24	31	36	22	23	-	40
<b>Cities With Busiest Passenger Airports</b>	2	19	1	-	8	11	6	-	40	15	35
<b>Cities With Busiest Public Transportation Systems</b>	10	3	2	39	19	23	12	40	-	7	-
<b>Cities Most Committed To Public Works</b>	7	38	23	33	20	19	25	15	6	13	-



Table 59

**Housing and Planning Summary Table**

	Atlanta	Boston	Chicago	Columbus	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Nashville	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Most Affordable Cities For Renting A Home</b>	29	-	38	5	36	*	22	9	8	-	4
<b>Most Affordable Cities For Buying A Home</b>	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	38
<b>Most Affordable Cities For Comm. Real Estate</b>	28	-	-	4	34	21	32	11	24	29	13
<b>Best Cities For Infill Development</b>	12	10	2	-	19	-	8	40	33	14	34
<b>Cities With The Most Stable Housing Markets</b>	22	-	23	5	27	36	13	2	7	12	1
<b>Least Sprawling Cities</b>	-	-	-	3	-	**	37	13	34	20	36

\* Greater Detroit Areas ranked as follows: Detroit City (10), Warren (30).

\*\* Greater Detroit Areas ranked as follows: Ann Arbor (30), Detroit City (39).

Table 56

### Government Administration and Finance Summary Table

	Atlanta	Boston	Chicago	Columbus	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Nashville	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Cities With Most Progressive Tax Systems</b>	17	24	-	32	18	37	-	40	-	38	-
<b>Most Efficient City Governments</b>	39	15	35	36	3	5	40	2	22	-	-
<b>Best-Managed City Governments</b>	C+	B-	B-	C	B-	B-	C+	B+	C+	B	-
<b>Cities With Best E-Government</b>	-	7	-	17	1	-	9	25	23	-	-
<b>Best Digital City Governments</b>	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-

Table 58

**Public Safety Summary Table**

	Atlanta	Boston	Chicago	Columbus	Denver	Detroit	Houston	Indianapolis	Nashville	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
<b>Cities Most Dedicated to Public Safety</b>	7	3	15	12	11	14	32	-	20	5	-
<b>Least Dangerous Cities</b>	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Safest Cities</b>	-	-	-	-	-	**	-	-	-	-	-

\* Greater Detroit Areas ranked as follows: Warren (2), Livonia (8), Sterling Heights (18), Ann Arbor (32).

\*\* Greater Detroit Areas ranked as follows: Troy (6), Farmington Hills (31).

