• State of Utah •

Fundamentals Of Economic Prosperity Evaluation

Methodology and Background

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camoin associates

Introduction

The following data analysis highlights the fundamentals of economic prosperity in the State of Utah and each of the Economic Development Districts / Association of Governments.

Camoin Associates developed a series of indicators for the state and each AOG to represent a framework around 6 I's:

- Infrastructure
- Innovation
- Intellectual Capital
- Interest
- Investment
- International

The development of the indicators considered population differences and other demographic anomalies that may affect the data results. State data and county data may be represented slightly different due to data availability.

In some cases, the differential between scoring is nominal and therefore rankings should be carefully considered.

The results of the data analysis are intended to help direct each AOG in the development of their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

This data will be presented at September workshops to each AOG and used to generate discussion about where there are weakness in the economy and how engagement, analysis and strategy of the CEDS can work towards mitigating those weakness.

This is also valuable information for the State to examine regional differences among the AOGs and determine how and where specific investments will move the needle on economic prosperity.

Defining Each "I"

Infrastructure Includes Roads, Water & Sewer, Bridges, Telecommunications, Airport Access, Business Parks, Railroads, Digital/Broadband, Office Buildings, Retail/Community Facilities, Public Transportation, Energy, Housing (availability, affordability, desirability)

Innovation Includes Birth of New Industries, New Value-Add Products and Services, Research Labs, Commercialization of Products, Garage Inventors, Adapting to Disruptive Technologies, Idea Generation

Intellectual Capital Includes Pre-School to 12th Grade, Higher Education Institutions, Skills of Workforce, Job Training Programs, Life-Long Learning Opportunities

International Includes Global Trade and Export of Products and Services, Direct Foreign Investment, Cultural Amenities, Ethnic Influences, Languages Spoken, Access to World Markets, Learning Opportunities, Awareness of Region Worldwide, Ease of Travel

Interest Includes Appeal of Area to Residents, Visitors, Outside Interests, Tourism, Intrigue and Inspiration, Vibrant Downtowns, Place Making, Creative Capital, Arts, Culture and Entertainment, History/Heritage, Outdoor Splendor

Investment Includes Public Investment in Infrastructure, Angel and Venture Capital Investment, Commercial Lending, Educational Resources, Economic Development Financing, Small Business Support, Human Capital, Social Support System, Philanthropy, Volunteerism

Note that not every concept from the definitions above is reflected in the data, however, we did choose indicators that best reflect the spirit of each category.

Methodology

- We attempted to compile metrics that quantify the components of the 6 I's, requisite drivers for a region's economic prosperity, while acknowledging that some are easier to measure than others.

- Data selection was constrained by sources that were available at the state and/or county level.

- Whenever possible we used "normalized" measures—per capita amounts, shares, etc.—so as not to penalize smaller states and counties.

- We ranked each region (state, EDD, county) on each component metric, then averaged the ranks of the metrics in each I. We then ranked these average ranks to simplify each region's score for each I. In this approach, all components are given equal weight and we do not account for the distribution of values within a given metric (e.g., the distance between the highest and lowest values).

- For the overall ranks, we calculated the average of each I's average rank, then ranked the averages of the averages. This approach weights each I equally rather than favoring those with more component metrics.