



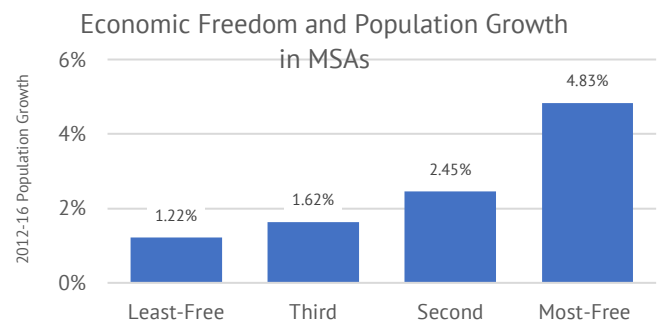
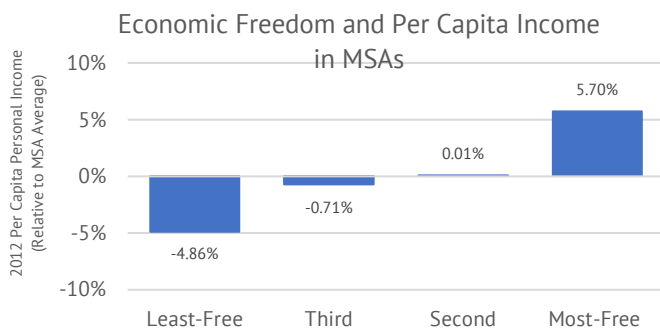
U.S. METRO AREA ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

Nation- and state-level research finds many markers of prosperity are directly associated with economic freedom:



- Overall Income
- Entrepreneurial Activity
- Per Capita Income
- Net In-Migration Population
- Local Government Credit Ratings
- Female Labor Market Participation
- Local Government Credit Ratings

But is high state-level economic freedom reflected in prosperity markers more locally? Examining U.S. metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) finds that local economic freedom is a good predictor of prosperity markers of population growth and per capita income:



Local economies tend to follow the lead of their states: High economic freedom states, such as Florida and Texas, have high economic freedom MSAs; low economic freedom states, such as California and New Jersey, have low economic freedom MSAs—in both high and low population MSAs.



Metropolitan Area	Economic Freedom Score	Rank	2012 Population
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX MSA	8.00	1	6,180,817
Jacksonville, FL MSA	7.92	2	1,379,131
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL MSA	7.88	3	2,847,624
Richmond, VA MSA	7.81	4	1,233,682
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX MSA	7.80	5	6,704,080
Nashville-Davidson—Murfreesboro—Franklin, TN MSA	7.70	6	1,727,218
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL MSA	7.66	7	5,779,518
Austin-Round Rock, TX MSA	7.65	8	1,834,319
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL MSA	7.50	9	2,226,473
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX MSA	7.47	10	2,237,381
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA MSA	5.23	52	4,342,166
Rochester, NY MSA	5.38	51	1,083,350
Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY MSA	5.41	50	1,135,633
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA MSA	5.44	49	19,864,434
Cleveland-Elyria, OH MSA	5.68	48	2,064,240
Columbus, OH MSA	5.94	47	1,946,428
Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA MSA	5.95	46	2,288,142
Sacramento-Roseville-Arden-Arcade, CA MSA	6.01	45	2,193,741
Providence-Warwick-Pawtucket, RI MSA	6.03	44	1,604,242
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA	6.14	43	13,038,490

*Those with 2012 population of one million or greater.

Metropolitan Area	Economic Freedom Score	Rank	2012 Population
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island, FL MSA	8.55	1	332,332
Midland, TX MSA	8.54	2	152,143
Sebastian-Vero Beach, FL MSA	8.43	3	140,650
Sioux Falls, SD MSA	8.28	4	237,753
Manchester-Nashua, NH MSA	8.28	5	402,651
The Villages, FL MSA	8.19	6	102,790
Tyler, TX MSA	8.06	7	214,774
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin, FL MSA	7.99	8	247,584
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, FL MSA	7.97	9	462,584
San Angelo, TX MSA	7.95	10	114,993
El Centro, CA MSA	4.22	330	177,287
Kingston, NY MSA	4.39	329	181,811
Visalia-Porterville, CA MSA	4.39	328	450,701
Binghamton, NY MSA	4.81	327	249,219
Glens Falls, NY MSA	4.81	326	128,484
Ocean City, NJ MSA	4.81	325	96,460
Merced, CA MSA	4.86	324	261,430
Yuba City, CA MSA	5.05	323	167,263
Atlantic City-Hammonton, NJ MSA	5.09	322	275,604
Vineland-Bridgeton, NJ MSA	5.10	321	157,071

*Those with 2012 population below one million.

CONCLUSION: Local economies with greater economic freedom tend to have higher incomes and faster population growth. <https://reason.org/wp-content/uploads/mefi-study.pdf>