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## Kalamazoo-Portage Metro leads nation out of recession

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – According to an *MSNBC* report released on Thursday, October 15, 2009, the Kalamazoo-Portage Metro area ranked in the top metro areas in the nation leading the way out of the recession.

Out of 384 metro areas studied in the nation, 79 were indicated to be in recovery according to August data on jobs, manufacturing and housing; the Kalamazoo-Portage Metro area was included in this group. Of the remaining metros, 270 have a “moderating recession,” with the final 35 in a full recession.

The report based its findings on the Adversity Index which uses data on employment, industrial production, housing starts and home prices to label each state or metro area as expanding, at risk of recession, in recession or recovering. The index was developed by [msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com) and [Moody's Economy.com](http://Moody's Economy.com).

The Kalamazoo-Portage Metro area was the only metro area in Michigan out of 16 to make the list. For more information, go to:  
[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33312701/ns/business-eye\\_on\\_the\\_economy/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33312701/ns/business-eye_on_the_economy/).

“The Kalamazoo Region has remained steadfast in its belief of facing the nation’s economic difficulties in an optimistic manner. The current report released by *MSNBC* shows the results of our positive and focused approach, as well as our ability to adjust to change,” said Ron Kitchens, Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Michigan First. “At a time when our nation is craving hope, Southwest Michigan must stand proudly and enlighten others on the opportunities and advantages in our region.”

### About Southwest Michigan First

Southwest Michigan First is the catalyst stimulating growth across the Kalamazoo Region. Nationally recognized for its groundbreaking Community Capitalism approach to

economic development, Southwest Michigan First is a private nonprofit corporation fully committed to its mission of jobs and wealth creation. Whether you're a site selector, an investor, an entrepreneur or part of an existing company looking to grow, Southwest Michigan First has the resources and expertise to assist you in identifying and surpassing your company's goals. For more information, visit [www.southwestmichiganfirst.com](http://www.southwestmichiganfirst.com).

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