

**PRESS RELEASE: February 2, 2023**

# Wooster Micropolitan Economy Jumps Up to #7 and Top Ohio Spot



**WHO/WHEN:** The **Wooster Micropolitan Area** earned the **TOP 7th** spot in the **nation** in Policom Corporation's **2023** Annual Economic Strength Rankings report. The rank jumped from #14 in last year's rankings. The report assessed all 543 US micropolitan areas nationwide. The result highlights gains in standard of living and investment. *Consistency* of growth is another factor included in the calculation.

Fellow Ohio micropolitans winning spots in the Top 100 include Celina, Ohio ranked 45; Mount Vernon, Ohio ranked 74; and Wapakoneta, Ohio ranked 99.

**WHAT:** Micropolitans are areas of one or two counties with a single principal city of 10,000 to 50,000 people, which is the City of Wooster in the case of Wayne County. These areas operate as their own economies, independently of a larger metropolitan area. These rankings indicate how well a community is growing economically. The rankings are developed by weighing jobs, wage and salary, and income maintenance (welfare) across multiple economic sectors, which are then evaluated through a two-decade period to affirm consistency in growth.

**WHERE:** With 27,232 residents as of the last census, the City of Wooster is the core City of the micropolitan area, accounting for nearly half of all of Wayne County's paid wages. The City has been growing at a rate 4x faster than the rest of the County, which itself saw growth at a time when the majority of Northeast Ohio lost population.

**WHY:** The ranking shares how Wooster is faring among similar-sized independent economies. The study evaluates how an economy has behaved, not necessarily what has caused it to perform. Wooster's continued strength may owe itself in large part to its heavily diversified manufacturing sector which sees continual creative advancements, supportive business environment, constructive public-private partnerships, and the community's efforts toward fostering a high quality of life to attract and retain economic opportunities, which would include a vibrant downtown, top-ranked school systems, growing network of parks, and excellent infrastructure.

**MORE:** The official report for 2023 is available at [policom.com](http://policom.com)

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