

# Helena Business

## Chamber of Commerce News

**Helena's Business Advocate for Over 120 Years! August 2011**

### Helena Hits 2nd In Nation For Economic Strength!

Helena was ranked number 2 of 576 cities studied nationwide by Policom Corporation, an independent economic research firm specializing in analyzing local and state economies. For 2010, Helena was 6th in the nation. The only other Montana cities showing strong in this study is Bozeman who is ranked 7th – same as in 2010 and Butte who is 17th (up from 27th in 2010). Kalispell dropped from 35th in 2010 to 45th.

The research done by Policom determines the dynamics of local economies and then they determine if an area is growing or declining, what is causing this to happen. The economic strength rankings are created so they can study the characteristics of strong and weak economies. The highest ranked areas have had rapid, consistent growth in both size and a high quality of life for an extended period of time. Helena is rated within a Micropolitan statistical study of cities over 10,000 and under 50,000 population.

Quality of the economy is based on what residents of a city earn as this influences their standard of living more than anything. Small business and in particular the construction & retail industries are extremely reactive to the “flow of money” coming into an area.

They typically grow or decline in direct proportion to the condition of the economy. Consistency of growth is also very important in identifying the local economy character. Check out the full report at [www.policom.com](http://www.policom.com)