



For Immediate Release

June 10, 2009

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Micropolitan Rankings Released

Policom Corporation, an independent economic research firm, recently released their 2009 Economic Strength Rankings for metropolitan and micropolitan communities in the United States. Burlington, Iowa was ranked the 110th strongest of 574 micropolitan economies in the U.S. This ranking is up from 123rd in 2008 and 292nd in 2004. Burlington received the highest ranking of any Iowa micropolitan community.

“We are very pleased to be identified as the highest ranked Iowa community in the Policom micropolitan analysis and to have risen in the ranking for five consecutive years,” commented Dennis Hinkle, President of the Greater Burlington Partnership. “This ranking puts the Burlington micropolitan area in the top 20% in the United States. Everyone involved in making our community a better place should take a measure of credit for this sustained improvement.”

Micropolitan communities have less than 50,000 and more than 10,000 in population. Approximately 11% of the nation’s population reside in micropolitan areas. There are fifteen micropolitan areas in Iowa. According to Policom the stronger communities have had “consistent growth in both size and quality for an extended period of time. The lowest ranked areas have been in volatile decline for an extended period of time.

Burlington Micropolitan Rankings Since 2004

Year	Ranking
2004	292
2005	224
2006	148
2007	136
2008	123
2009	110

2009 Iowa Micropolitan Rankings

Micropolitan Area	Ranking
Burlington	110
Muscatine	118
Marshalltown	121

Clinton	149
Ft. Dodge	187
Mason City	203
Pella	239
Ft. Madison/Keokuk	287
Spencer	297
Spirit Lake	340
Ottumwa	344
Boone	381
Newton	385
Storm Lake	460
Oskaloosa	497

Policom analyzes a number of positive and negative factors regarding a micropolitan area's economy to identify the rankings. These factor's include: job levels, earnings, income, per capita welfare payments and per capita medical assistance for the poor.

The Policom study can be found at www.policom.com .