



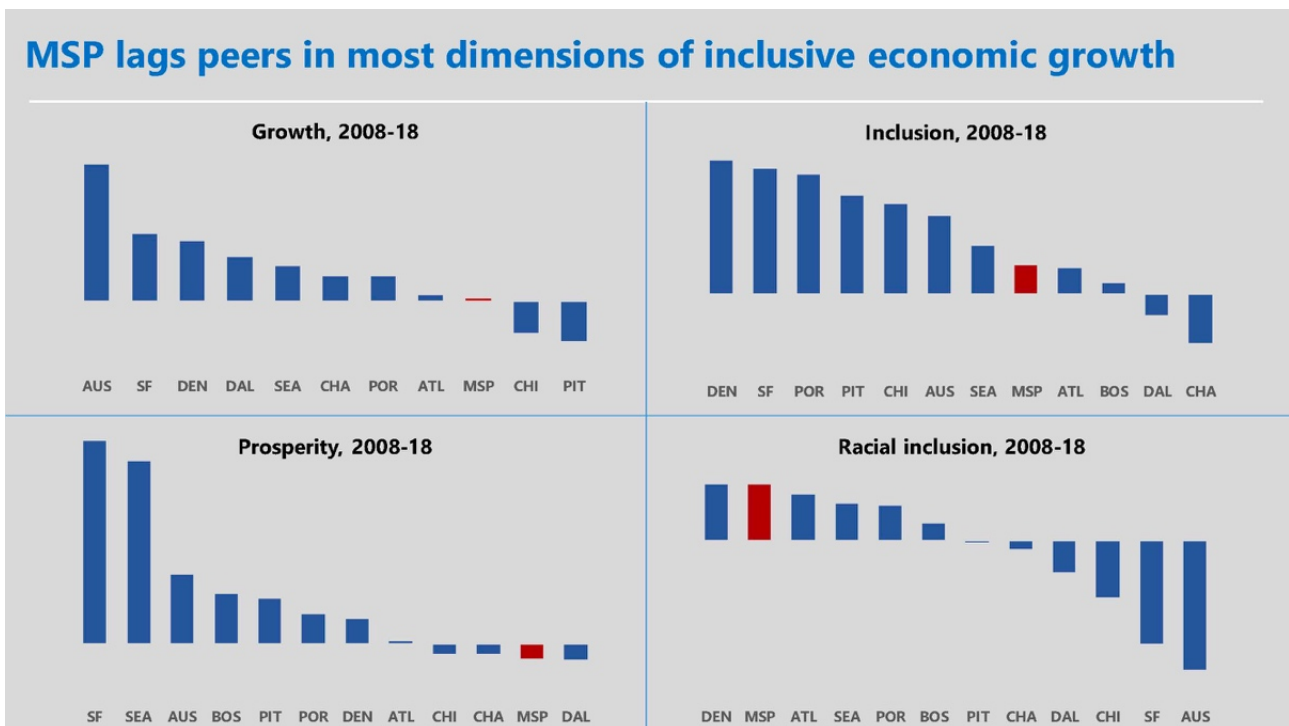
Contacts:
 Tawanna Black,
 Founder & CEO, Center for Economic Inclusion
 Non-Resident Fellow, Brookings Institution Metro Policy Program
 612-816-8576, tblack@centerforeconomicinclusion.org

Mary Beth Hanson,
 Media Consultant
 612-812-6733, mb360llc@gmail.com

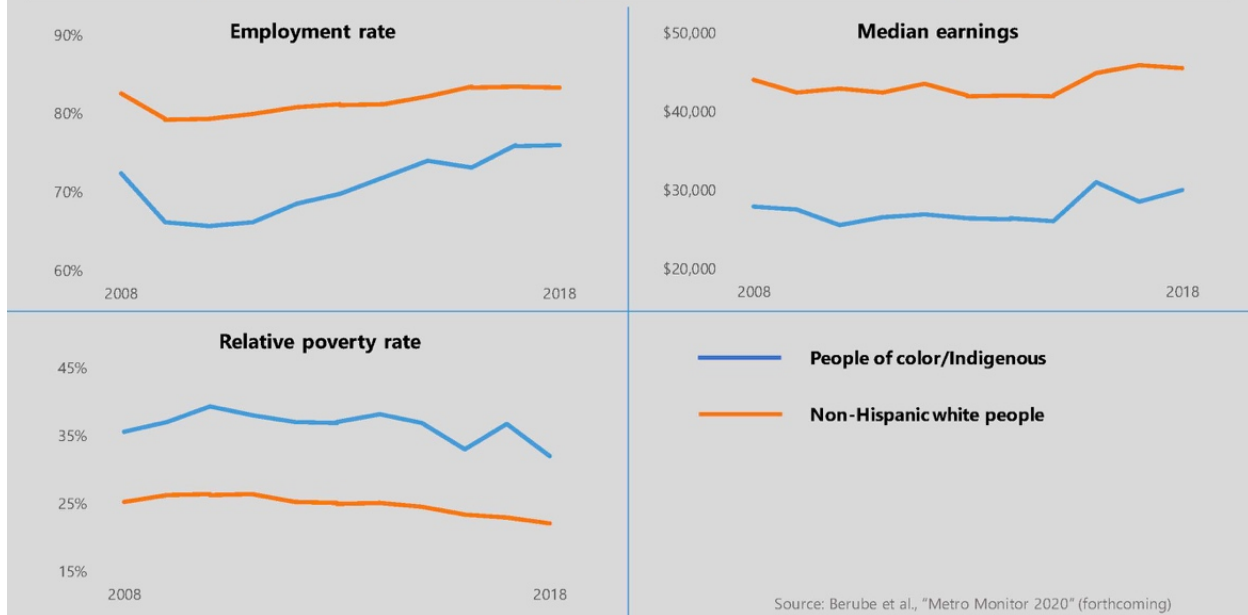
Brookings Report Shows Modest Improvement in Racial Inclusion and Lagging Progress in Inclusive Growth for Minneapolis-St. Paul Market

(SAINT PAUL, Mar. 5) The Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program has released Metro Monitor 2020, its annual survey of economic growth, prosperity, and racial inclusion in the nation’s 192 largest metropolitan areas. Data for the **Minneapolis-Saint Paul (MSP)** metro area can be found [here](#).

The report demonstrates that **MSP lags its peer markets in most dimensions of inclusive economic growth**. And, while the region made progress from 2008-2018 in narrowing the racial employment gap, the path toward creating equitable racial wealth, shared prosperity, and inclusive growth remains elusive.



Racial disparities are narrowing in MSP but remain significant



The Center for Economic Inclusion (Twin Cities) and the Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program (Washington, D.C.) have a working partnership to expand local awareness, action, and shared accountability for building racially equitable income and wealth and advancing economic inclusion and inclusive growth.

According to Brookings, while the Minneapolis-Saint Paul region is leading many of our peer markets in the change in narrowing racial employment inequities over time, our racial inequities continue to persist at rates that are constraining our growth, prosperity, and inclusion, ultimately hindering economic competitiveness.

From 2008-2018:

- MSP ranked in the top fifth of very large metro areas in racial inclusion and geographic inclusion, while also boasting relatively strong performance on growth (22nd out of 53 metros)
- 7.6% increase in average annual wages
- 7.3% increase in productivity
- 7% increase in standard of living
- Relative poverty gap between white metro residents and people of color decreased by only **.6%** for that same time period
- Median earnings gap only narrowed by \$521 to \$15, 576; (38 of 43 metros)

“The Metro Monitor data highlight the importance of accelerated, focused action and accountability for creating an inclusive regional economy,” according to Tawanna Black, the Center for Economic

Inclusion's founder and CEO, and non-resident Fellow of the Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program. "While inclusive economic growth can drive our region's ability to compete for talent and business, we cannot allow rankings to mask the limited impact they have had for families at the lowest rungs of our economic ladder, particularly workers of color, who have been excluded from our regions' economic prosperity for far too long."

"The time has never been better for MSP leaders to ensure that our values of inclusion and shared prosperity are fully reflected in the budgets, hiring, and contracting decisions of every Minnesota business and government agency," continued Black. "While we are making measurable progress, our history of racial and economic exclusion means we must work twice as hard to scale and sustain that progress and ensure our workplaces are racially inclusive and fully reflective of the diversity in our market, while ensuring our markets are stimulating economic growth in every neighborhood of the region."

"Minneapolis-St. Paul is beginning to show signs of progress toward narrowing its racial and neighborhood disparities but needs to sustain this momentum over many years to ensure that all of its residents and communities enjoy equal access to economic opportunity," said Alan Berube, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the Metropolitan Policy Program, Brookings Institution.

Partnership to Achieve an Inclusive Regional Economy

The Center for Economic Inclusion and Brookings began a partnership in 2017 to equip Minneapolis-Saint Paul business leaders and policy makers with the most relevant and rigorous applied research to inform strategies and dismantle institutional racism.

In 2019, the Center launched the **Indicators for an Inclusive Regional Economy** in partnership with Brookings. The project [website](#) features an interactive online platform that allows users to examine factors of inclusive growth in talent, economic development, transportation, and housing disaggregated by race, geography, and income across the 7-county metro area. The platform also offers users referrals to local organizations taking action to build inclusive growth in each domain.

"Meaningful, measurable, sustainable inclusive growth will require meaningful, measurable, sustained action to impact a number of measures of shared prosperity. The Indicators platform is a powerful tool to advance our shared vision of an inclusive regional economy," said Black.

Economic data for all 100 metro areas is featured in the dashboard of local indicators of inclusive growth, accessible [here](#). Indicators that align with the Metro Monitor 2020 data will be updated and released at the Center's [Powering Inclusion Summit](#) on April 30, 2020.

The Summit will convene business, philanthropic, and public sector executives and community leaders for a conversation on the state of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul economy through the lens of inclusion. In addition to national and local plenary speakers and 10 breakout sessions, Brookings' Berube present the 2020 dashboard of local indicators of inclusive growth, disaggregated by race and place. Learn more about the Summit and register, [here](#).

About the Metro Monitor 2020 Report

The report's subtitle, "Inclusion remains elusive amid widespread metro growth and rising prosperity," shows a continued national trend of racial exclusion amidst growing economic prosperity. This year's report focuses on economic performance across two time periods: from 2017 to 2018, the latest year of data available across all indicators, and 2008 to 2018.

The Monitor measures each metro area's performance on:

- **Growth** (size and dynamism of the regional economy)
- **Prosperity** (average wealth and income the regional economy produces)
- **Inclusion** (how changes in growth and prosperity are distributed among the region's individuals and households)
- **Racial inclusion** (extent to which regional changes in inclusion expand or narrow differences by race and ethnicity)
- **Geographic inclusion** (extent to which regional changes in inclusion expand or narrow differences between the most advantaged and disadvantaged neighborhoods)

Metro Monitor 2020 tracks the inclusive economic growth performance of the 192 largest U.S. metro areas, which together are home to 77% of the nation's population and contribute 85% of the nation's GDP. This year's edition of the Metro Monitor analyzes two time periods: from 2008 to 2018, which indicates how metro areas have fared since the onset of the Great Recession; and from 2017 to 2018, the latest year of data available across all indicators.

With an expanded set of metro areas, Metro Monitor 2020 for the first time categorizes metro areas into three classes based on size: **very large metro areas** (populations over 1 million, 53 total), **large metro areas** (populations between 500,000 and 1 million, 56 total), and **midsized metro areas** (populations between 250,000 and 500,000, 83 total). Metro areas are ranked on their performance in the five Metro Monitor dimensions within their size class.

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About the Center for Economic Inclusion

The Center for Economic Inclusion is dedicated exclusively to advancing inclusive growth for regional prosperity. The Center equips public and private sector leaders and policy makers with the knowledge, tools, and resources to connect data to action, dismantle racially exclusive systems, and build inclusive workplaces and communities. We elevate data-informed, market responsive practices that center people of color and grow our regional economy. Learn more at CenterforEconomicInclusion.org. Engage with us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).