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## St. Louis ranks "very high" on resilience measure

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St. Louis ranks "very high" on resilience measure

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Maybe it's our experience in dealing with 100-degree heat, subzero cold and frequent floods. Maybe it's our Midwestern stoicism. Whatever the explanation, St. Louis ranks in the top tier of U.S. metro areas on a regional-resilience measure developed at the **University of Buffalo**.

The index is supposed to measure a region's ability to bounce back from both natural disasters and recessions. It makes that judgment using 15 economic, demographic and "connectivity" measures, with the latter including things like voter participation rate. Researchers place St. Louis in the "very resilient" category; we rank 53rd among all 361 U.S. metro areas and 11th among the 52 largest cities.

St. Louis' best showing, No. 11 overall, comes in a rootedness gauge that measures how long residents have lived here. (Perhaps this explains the "Where did you go to high school?" fixation.) Our worst categories are economic equality (No. 227) and "civic infrastructure" (No. 190; are you paying attention, **RCGA?**)

In case you're wondering about Joplin, the city in Missouri that could really use some resilience these days, it didn't do so well on this index. It ranked as having "low resilience," 260th among U.S. metro areas and 85th among 89 Midwestern cities.

Read more from *David Nicklaus, who is the business columnist for the Post-Dispatch. On Twitter, follow him @dnickbiz and the Business section @postdispatchbiz.*

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