eCities 2023 Summary

iLabs, Office of Engagement and Impact

College of Business

University of Michigan-Dearborn

eCities is an annual research study that examines community-level factors that foster entrepreneurship and small business development. The focus is on entrepreneurship and small business growth because of their importance to the expansion and diversification of regional economies and job creation. The primary purpose of eCities is to understand the impact of the str

Data Sources

In 2023, five-year's worth of publicly available data on communities was collected by the eCities team to analyze trends surrounding business and economic cycles. Such data demonstrates growth, investments, and the cost of doing business within the communities.

More specifically, eCities examined eleven publicly available data points relating to community growth and investment metrics that impact the business community. Data was collected on 277 Michigan communities from 54 of the 83 counties in the state. Communities were chosen based on population, geography, and relative size within counties.

> *Property Values (7 data points):* Examines the changes in the amount of real commercial property, real industrial property, real total property, personal commercial property, personal industrial property, total personal property, and overall total property

> *Property Taxes (1 data point):* Examines the changes in the average non-homestead tax rate

> *Governmental Assets (3 data points):* Examines the changes in non-depreciated, depreciated, and total governmental assets

In addition to the quantitative data collection and analysis, all communities were invited to respond to a short-answer survey regarding business climate improvement efforts and small business support. More specifically, community leaders were asked to respond to the following statements:

1. Please describe a policy created or action taken by your local government (or coordi

2023 Five-Star and Four-Star Communities

183 communities were recognized as 5-star and 4-star communities. The 5-star and 4-star communities in the eCities project are part of a group of Michigan communities that have seen the strongest growth in business development over the past five years, while controlling the costs of doing business in town.

Five-Star Honored Communities

Ada Township	Grand Rapids Township	Orion Township
Allendale Township	Green Oak Township	City of Owosso
Alpine Township	City of Greenville	Park Township
Antwerp Township	City of Grosse Pointe	Pere Marquette Township
Atlas Township	City of Grosse Pointe Park	Plainfield Township
City of Berkley	Hamburg Township	City of Pontiac
Blendon Township	City of Hamtramck	City of Rochester Hills
Byron Township	Harrison Township	City of Royal Oak

Four-Star Honored Communities

City of Adrian	Elmwood Township	City of New Baltimore
City of Albion	City of Fenton	City of Norton Shores
City of Allegan	City of Flint	City of Novi
City of Alma	City of Frankenmuth	City of Oak Park

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Highlights

This year