

Problem: Illinois' economy trails leading New Economy states, and regional differences in economic performance within Illinois are great.

When considering such innovation assets as investment in academic research and development or the number of businesses created from university research, Illinois does no better than average in incorporating such assets into its economy. Illinois also needs to improve its performance in making venture capital available to finance business startups, in creating and growing technology startups, and translating its enviable university research standing into entrepreneurial activity.

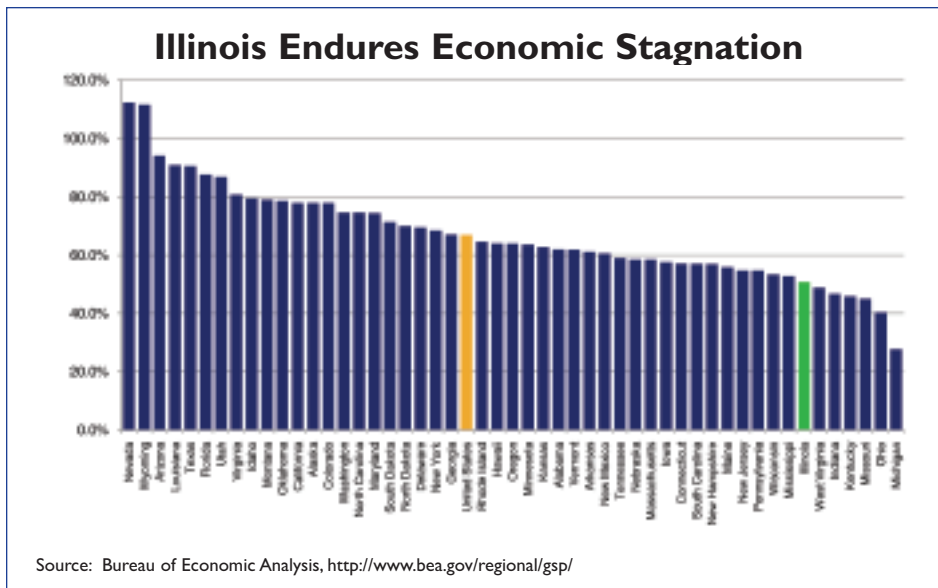


Figure 14. Change in gross state product, 1997-2007. Like its Midwestern neighbors, Illinois' economic growth over the past decade has been far below the national average.

Illinois Shows Progress on New Economy Index ...

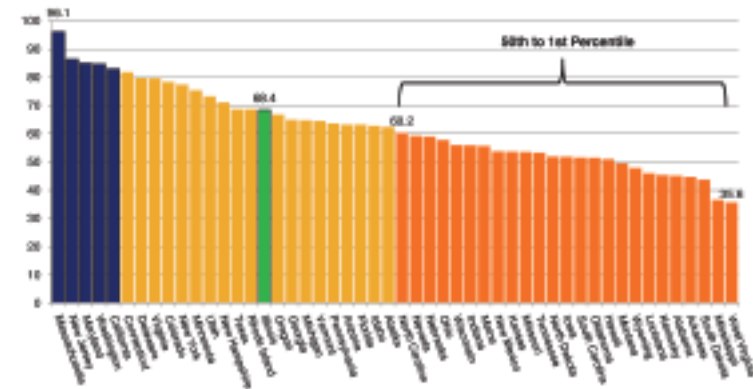


Figure 15. New Economy Index, 2007. In spite of its slow economic growth over the past decade, Illinois ranks 16th in the most recent Index, up six places since 1999.

... But Only Average in Innovation Assets

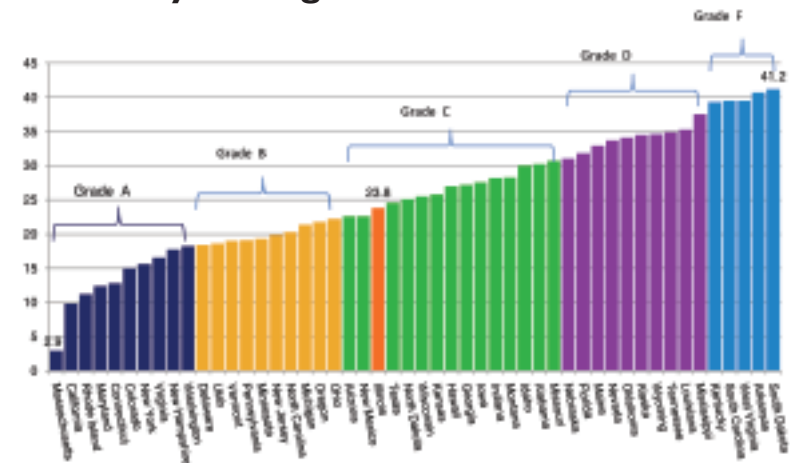


Figure 16. Overall state scores on measures of innovation assets, 2007. Illinois is in the middle of the pack in the number of assets commonly required for future innovation and growth of the state economy.



GOAL 4

Better integrate Illinois' educational, research, and innovation assets to meet economic needs of the state and its regions.

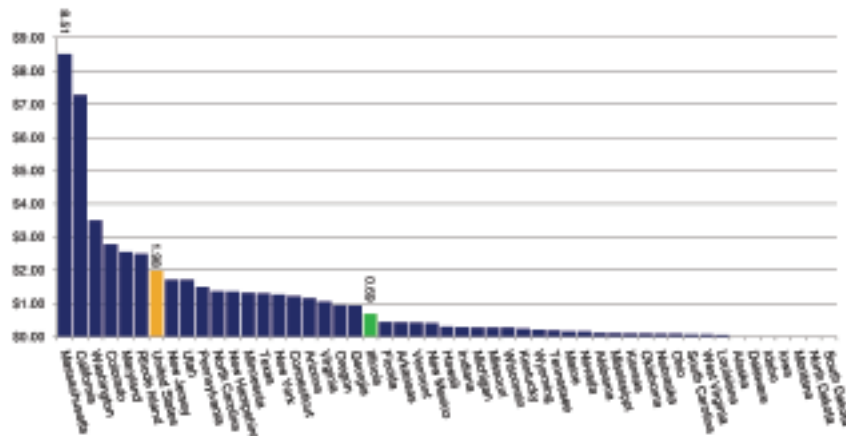
RECOMMENDATION: Boost Illinois into the ranks of the five states with the fastest growing economies.

Strategy: Develop resource pools and incentives that capitalize on state and regional strengths and address state and regional weaknesses.

Strategy: Develop cutting-edge educational programs across the P-20 spectrum that will prepare students to succeed in the global economy.

Strategy: Remove barriers that impede the entrepreneurial spirit without jeopardizing public service, protection, and safety.

Venture Capital: Room for Improvement



Source: National Science Foundation, 2008

Figure 17. Venture capital disbursed per \$1,000 of gross domestic product by state, 2006. Illinois ranks below the national average in the amount of venture capital and far below the leading New Economy states.

