

## **EconSouth 2011**

Grassroots: Augusta, Georgia; Lafayette, Louisiana; Muscle Shoals, Alabama

### **Discussion questions**

1. What are the leading industries for each of the three metro areas featured in the *Grassroots* articles? What are the similarities and differences among the metro areas?
2. How do the unemployment rates of these metro areas compare to that of their states as well as the nation's?
3. Using the data from the U.S. Census Bureau featuring metro population, median household income, and median owner occupied home values how do these metro areas compare and contrast?
4. What are potential costs versus benefits derived from the Lafayette city-owned high-speed fiber optic networks? How might this network address the issue of the digital divide as [cited](#) by Susan P. Crawford, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law professor?
5. Identify the sources of economic growth in each of the metro areas. What are similarities among the three, if any?

### **Related links**

[Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

[The Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Shoals Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Kia Motors \(Westport, Georgia\)](#)