

2014's Most and Least Educated Cities



Call them what you will: the cream of the crop, the best and brightest, the intellectual elite. But it's official; the college-educated third of Americans are society's new upper crust. Research has shown that skilled workers who are also degree holders tend to pump the most money into their local economies over time. A city's prosperity, one then can assume, depends in large part on the productivity of its educated citizens.

However expensive college may be in 2014, its economic returns “remain high and provide a pathway for individual economic mobility,” according to a recent [report](#) from the Treasury and Education departments. The latter further [pointed out](#) that education “expands job opportunities” and “boosts America's competitiveness” in the global arena.

A little more than a year ago, the Economic Policy Institute also released its [report](#) on the effects of education on state finances. The EPI's findings suggested that college degrees are supremely important in helping to resuscitate [weak economies](#). One way to strengthen states is to attract well-paying employers “by investing in education and increasing the number of well-educated workers.”

As the fall semester commences, WalletHub analyzed the 150 largest metropolitan statistical areas in the United States to determine where the most educated Americans are choosing to settle. We examined each city across nine key metrics. Among the set are educational attainment, the percentage of workers with jobs in computer, engineering and science fields as well as the quality and size of each metro area's universities.

Main Findings

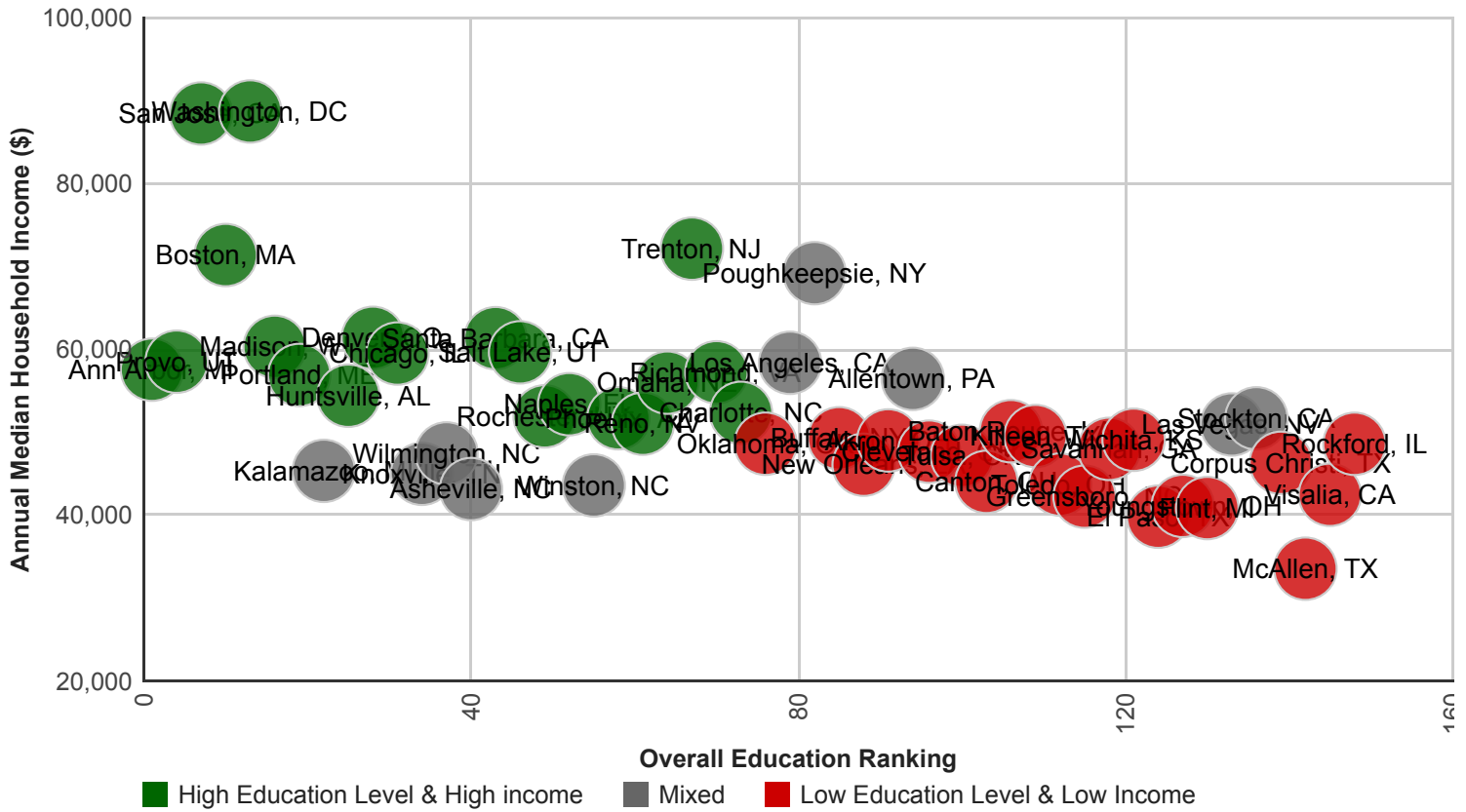
Overall Rank	MSA	Education Level Rank	Quality of Education Rank
1	Ann Arbor, MI	1	2
2	Raleigh, NC	12	1
3	Durham, NC	13	9
4	Provo, UT	23	8
5	Manchester, NH	10	N/A
6	Seattle, WA	5	29
7	San Jose, CA	15	17
8	Colorado Springs, CO	9	31
9	Baltimore, MD	17	20

10	Boston, MA	4	52
11	Austin, TX	26	13
12	Tallahassee, FL	23	14
13	Washington, DC	3	54
14	San Francisco, CA	21	28
15	Lansing, MI	28	22
16	Madison, WI	2	68
17	Atlanta, GA	34	24
18	Anchorage, AK	29	31
19	Portland, ME	8	81
20	Albany, NY	7	63
21	San Diego, CA	37	30
22	Kalamazoo, MI	31	50
23	Lexington, KY	40	21
24	Portland, OR	11	81
25	Huntsville, AL	17	59
26	Sacramento, CA	56	15
27	Pittsburgh, PA	43	25
28	Denver, CO	16	61
29	Honolulu, HI	41	43
30	Nashville, TN	74	7
31	Chicago, IL	44	44
32	Eugene, OR	51	47
33	Indianapolis, IN	52	49
34	Knoxville, TN	70	18
35	Spokane, WA	49	31
36	Tucson, AZ	54	51
37	Wilmington, NC	67	3
38	Minneapolis, MN	6	94
39	Charleston, SC	58	11
40	Asheville, NC	69	3
41	Santa Rosa, CA	60	16
42	Hartford, CT	19	93
43	Santa Barbara, CA	73	46
44	Des Moines, IA	32	95
45	Columbus, OH	30	90

46	Salt Lake, UT	36	74
T-47	Albuquerque, NM	55	62
T-47	North Port, FL	78	11
49	Rochester, NY	20	115
50	Oxnard, CA	71	27
51	New York, NY	48	69
52	Naples, FL	90	3
53	Palm Bay, FL	68	58
54	Greenville, SC	113	10
55	Winston, NC	100	18
56	Houston, TX	97	25
57	Virginia Beach, VA	42	86
58	Phoenix, AZ	81	55
59	New Haven, CT	50	79
60	Boise, ID	57	75
61	Reno, NV	94	45
62	Cincinnati, OH	59	71
63	Milwaukee, WI	33	118
64	Omaha, NE	22	132
65	St. Louis, MO	35	117
66	Worcester, MA	38	116
67	Trenton, NJ	27	132
68	Columbia, SC	66	70
69	Bridgeport, CT	14	144
70	Richmond, VA	62	80
71	South Bend, IN	102	47
72	Detroit, MI	65	81
73	Charlotte, NC	61	89
74	Kansas City, MO	25	129
75	Fayetteville, AR	116	23
76	Oklahoma, OK	86	55
77	Philadelphia, PA	39	125
78	Birmingham, AL	99	55
79	Los Angeles, CA	90	64
80	Dallas, TX	80	77
81	Syracuse, NY	52	121
82	Poughkeepsie, NY	44	130

83	Harrisburg, PA	72	95
84	Grand Rapids, MI	82	75
85	Buffalo, NY	46	128
86	Orlando, FL	93	73
87	Little Rock, AR	83	81
88	New Orleans, LA	118	53
89	Ogden, UT	47	132
90	Springfield, MO	107	31
91	Akron, OH	63	126
92	Jacksonville, FL	87	95
93	Dayton, OH	79	119
94	Allentown, PA	96	91
95	Louisville/Jefferson County, KY	98	87
T-96	San Antonio, TX	115	31
T-96	Cleveland, OH	64	130
98	Tampa, FL	101	78
99	Fort Wayne, IN	92	95
100	Tulsa, OK	103	60
101	Reading, PA	132	3
102	Springfield, MA	75	127
103	Canton, OH	117	31
104	Providence, RI	89	122
105	York, PA	123	31
106	Baton Rouge, LA	120	72
107	Miami, FL	114	91
108	Salem, OR	125	31
109	Killeen, TX	104	81
110	Shreveport, LA	126	31
111	Cape Coral, FL	127	31
112	Toledo, OH	95	124
113	Mobile, AL	128	31
114	Peoria, IL	77	132
115	Greensboro, NC	122	88
116	Fayetteville, NC	105	95
117	Pensacola, FL	106	95
118	Savannah, GA	85	132
119	Vallejo, CA	112	95

120	Jackson, MS	88	132
121	Wichita, KS	75	146
122	Evansville, IN	119	95
123	Davenport, IA	84	144
124	El Paso, TX	139	31
125	Deltona, FL	134	65
126	Port St. Lucie, FL	124	95
127	Youngstown, OH	131	95
128	Montgomery, AL	110	132
129	Lancaster, PA	133	95
130	Flint, MI	111	132
131	Riverside, CA	138	120
132	Ocala, FL	135	95
133	Las Vegas, NV	136	95
134	Scranton, PA	121	132
135	Hickory, NC	143	65
136	Stockton, CA	141	123
T-137	Memphis, TN	108	146
T-137	Augusta, GA	108	146
139	Corpus Christi, TX	140	95
140	Chattanooga, TN	128	132
141	Fresno, CA	142	95
142	McAllen, TX	150	65
143	Lakeland, FL	145	95
144	Bakersfield, CA	148	95
145	Visalia, CA	146	95
146	Modesto, CA	147	95
147	Brownsville, TX	149	95
148	Rockford, IL	130	146
149	Salinas, CA	137	132
150	Beaumont, TX	143	132



Note: For readability reasons we displayed in this chart only 50 metro-area from our total sample of 150.

Highest Percentage of High School Diploma Holders

1. Madison, WI
2. Colorado Springs, CO
3. Ann Arbor, MI
4. Provo, UT
5. Minneapolis, MN

Lowest Percentage of High School Diploma Holders

146. Bakersfield, CA
147. Salinas, CA
148. Visalia, CA
149. Brownsville, TX
150. McAllen, TX

Highest Percentage of College-Experienced Adults or Associate's Degree Holders

1. Ann Arbor, MI
2. Provo, UT
3. Madison, WI
4. Colorado Springs, CO

Lowest Percentage of College-Experienced Adults or Associate's Degree Holders

146. Reading, PA
147. Lancaster, PA
148. Visalia, CA
149. Brownsville, TX

5. Washington, DC

Highest Percentage of Bachelor's Degree Holders

1. Ann Arbor, MI
2. Washington, DC
3. San Jose, CA
4. Bridgeport, CT
5. San Francisco, CA



Best MSA vs Worst MSA = 3X Difference

150. McAllen, TX

Lowest Percentage of Bachelor's Degree Holders

146. Beaumont, TX
147. McAllen, TX
148. Brownsville, TX
149. Bakersfield, CA
150. Visalia, CA

Highest Percentage of Graduate or Professional Degree Holders

1. Ann Arbor, MI
2. Washington, DC
3. Durham, NC
4. San Jose, CA
5. Bridgeport, CT



Best MSA vs Worst MSA = 4X Difference

Lowest Percentage of Graduate or Professional Degree Holders

146. Bakersfield, CA
147. McAllen, TX
148. Beaumont, TX
149. Visalia, CA
150. Brownsville, TX

Highest Number of Doctors per Capita

1. Akron, OH
2. Little Rock, AR
3. Winston-Salem, NC
4. Ann Arbor, MI
5. Syracuse, NY



Best MSA vs Worst MSA = 6X Difference

Lowest Number of Doctors per Capita

138. Provo-Orem, UT
139. Salinas, CA
140. Beaumont, TX
141. McAllen, TX
142. Santa Rosa, CA

Highest Percentage of Workers with Computer, Engineering and Science Jobs

1. San Jose, CA
2. Huntsville, AL
3. Ann Arbor, MI
4. Washington, DC
5. Raleigh, NC



Best MSA vs Worst MSA = 6X Difference

Lowest Percentage of Workers with Computer, Engineering and Science Jobs

146. Cape Coral, FL
147. Ocala, FL
148. McAllen, TX
149. Brownsville, TX
150. Visalia, CA

Highest Average Quality of Top Universities

1. New Haven, CT
2. San Jose, CA
- T-3. Nashville, TN
- T-3. South Bend, IN
5. Winston-Salem, NC



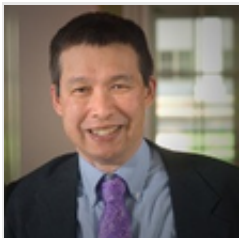
Lowest Average Quality of Top Universities

- T-73. Kansas City, MO
- T-73. Albuquerque, NM
- T-75. Indianapolis, IN
- T-75. Reno, NV
- T-75. Akron, OH Metro Area
78. Charlotte, NC

Ask the Experts

As research has evidenced, a skilled and educated workforce can immensely boost the local, state and national economies. To gain insight on strategies that government authorities can employ as well as how we must approach educational development collectively, we asked a panel of experts to weigh in. Click on the experts' profiles to read their bios and responses to the following key questions:

1. Should local authorities tailor programs that attract highly educated people? If so, what types of programs?
2. Should the federal government tailor programs that attract highly educated people from abroad? If so, what types of programs?
3. In your opinion, what is the most important step we need to take as a country in order to develop a more educated and skilled workforce?



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Methodology

To identify America's intellectual hubs, WalletHub analyzed the 150 largest metropolitan statistical areas in the United States based on two key dimensions. They include "education level" and "quality of education," both of which were weighted equally. We then identified nine metrics that are relevant to those dimensions. The set is listed below.

Education Level - Total Weight: 5

- Percentage of adults aged 25 and older with a high school diploma or higher: Full Weight
- Percentage of adults aged 25 and older with some college experience or an associate's degree or higher: Full Weight
- Percentage of adults aged 25 and older with some college experience or an associate's degree or higher: Full Weight
- Percentage of adults aged 25 and older with a graduate or professional degree or higher: Full Weight
- Number of Doctors per Capita: Half Weight
- Percentage of Workers with Jobs in Computer, Engineering, and Science Fields: Half Weight

Quality of Education - Total Weight: 5

- Public School System Ranking: Full Weight
- Average Quality of Universities: Three-Quarter Weight
- Number of Enrolled Students in Top 200 Universities per Capita: Quarter Weight

Sources: Data used to create these rankings is courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, GreatSchools.org and U.S. News & World Report.