

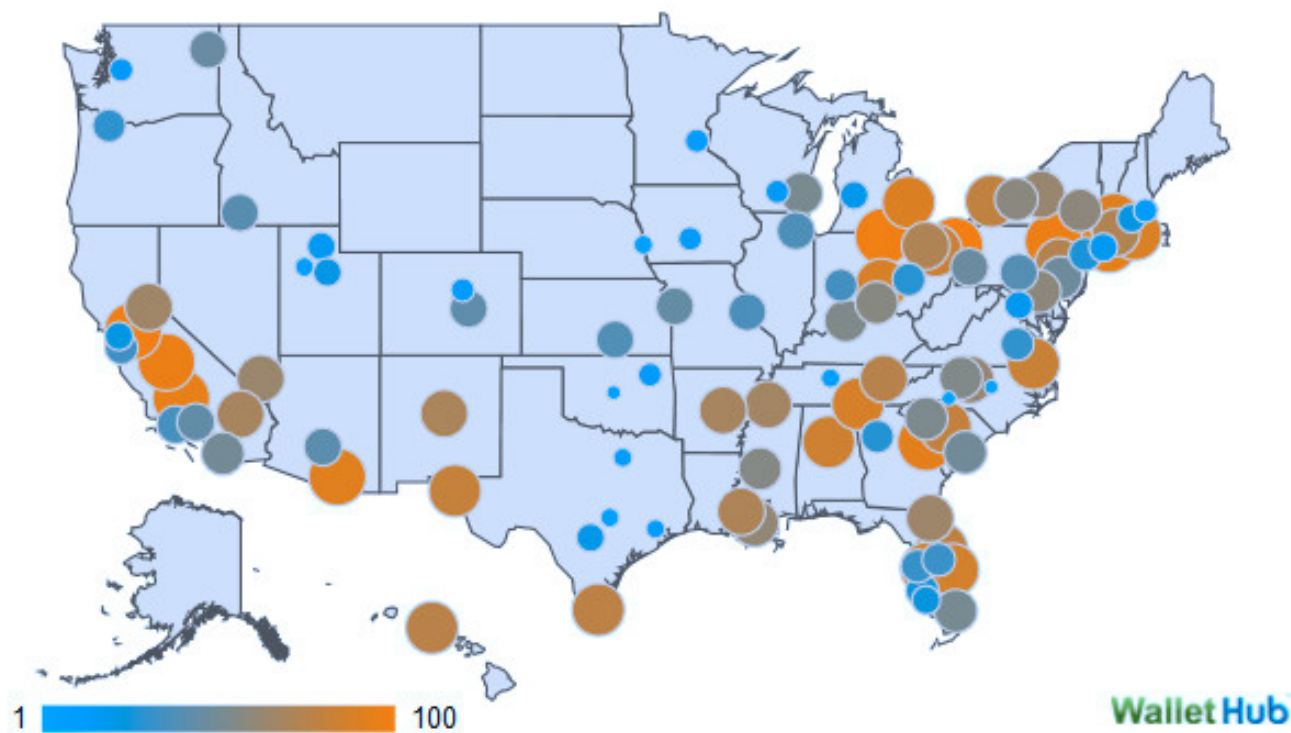
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compared with \$19 to \$20 an hour in states where 40 percent or more of the working population holds at least a bachelor's degree.

Aug. 18, 2015

Main Findings



They may not always be the brightest bulbs in the chandelier, but the college-educated third of Americans often have a leg up on their degree-less peers. With more schooling, they not only have access to better job opportunities and bigger salaries, but educated workers also [fill their cities' coffers](#) with the most tax dollars over time, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

One way to strengthen an economy, the EPI suggests, is to attract well-paying

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percentage of adults aged 25 and older with a bachelor’s degree or higher to the attainment gap between women and men. You can find the complete ranking, additional expert commentary and a detailed methodology below.

Source: [WalletHub](#)

Overall Rank	MSA	“Education Level” Rank	“Quality of Education & Attainment Gap” Rank
1	Ann Arbor, MI	1	4
2	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	3	19
3	Madison, WI	2	51
4	Provo-Orem, UT	11	6
5	Colorado Springs, CO	4	47
6	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	6	31
7	Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	5	63
8	Lansing-East Lansing, MI	15	1
9	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	7	59
10	Raleigh, NC	10	49
11	Tallahassee, FL	17	15
12	Durham-Chapel Hill, NC	18	9
13	Portland-South Portland, ME	12	68
14	San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	21	5

Overall

MSA

“Education

“Quality of Education &

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19	Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	23	30
20	San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	16	110
21	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	8	149
22	Manchester-Nashua, NH	19	128
23	Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	20	116
24	Honolulu, HI	30	14
25	Huntsville, AL	25	99
26	Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	27	102
27	Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA	26	111
28	Kansas City, MO-KS	24	130
29	Anchorage, AK	33	33
30	Eugene, OR	39	9
31	Lexington-Fayette, KY	32	62
32	Salt Lake City, UT	35	24
33	Rochester, NY	28	138
34	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	37	32
35	St. Louis, MO-IL	29	126
36	Columbus, OH	34	106
37	Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	36	65

Overall	MSA	“Education	“Quality of Education &
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41	Worcester, MA-CT	41	89
43	Santa Rosa, CA	45	40
44	New Haven-Milford, CT	43	83
45	Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	47	59
46	Pittsburgh, PA	48	42
47	Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY	37	124
48	Albuquerque, NM	51	36
49	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	40	135
50	Boise City, ID	49	72
51	Tucson, AZ	54	38
52	Charleston-North Charleston, SC	50	80
53	Asheville, NC	59	35
54	Spokane-Spokane Valley, WA	56	74
55	Santa Maria-Santa Barbara, CA	64	7
56	North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	52	115
57	Ogden-Clearfield, UT	46	145
58	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA	54	122
59	Richmond, VA	58	113
60	Columbia, SC	60	76
61	Syracuse, NY	56	125

Overall	MCSA	“Education	“Quality of Education &
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66	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	62	106
67	Savannah, GA	64	95
68	Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	73	82
69	Reno, NV	84	8
70	Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	67	121
71	Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island, FL	67	131
72	Akron, OH	70	132
73	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	77	74
74	Wichita, KS	67	139
75	Dayton, OH	75	120
76	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	78	86
77	Springfield, MA	80	73
78	Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	74	137
79	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR	83	58
80	Jacksonville, FL	82	90
81	Oklahoma City, OK	86	17
82	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	80	111
83	Cleveland-Elyria, OH	71	150
84	Jackson, MS	78	134

Overall

MCSA

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88	Rocky Hill, CT	90	110
89	Springfield, MO	93	27
90	Birmingham-Hoover, AL	90	71
91	Providence-Warwick, RI-MA	89	97
92	Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	94	57
93	Fort Wayne, IN	95	54
94	Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN	91	91
95	Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	85	147
96	Fayetteville, NC	98	56
97	Knoxville, TN	104	12
98	Toledo, OH	95	83
99	Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	99	77
100	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	102	69
101	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	100	94
102	Tulsa, OK	101	64
103	Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, FL	92	133
104	Killeen-Temple, TX	103	93
105	Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO	107	23
106	New Orleans-Metairie, LA	111	18
107	Greensboro-High Point, NC	107	34
108	Baton Rouge, LA	109	46

Overall

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114	Greenville-Anderson- Mauldin, SC	118	41
115	Salisbury, MD-DE	115	81
116	Flint, MI	116	108
117	Port St. Lucie, FL	114	126
118	Myrtle Beach-Conway- North Myrtle Beach, SC-NC	119	103
119	Deltona-Daytona Beach- Ormond Beach, FL	119	104
120	Winston-Salem, NC	124	2
121	Salem, OR	119	108
122	York-Hanover, PA	123	67
123	Gulfport-Biloxi-Pascagoula, MS	125	47
124	Scranton–Wilkes-Barre– Hazleton, PA	113	146
125	Las Vegas-Henderson- Paradise, NV	130	20
126	Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC	122	129
127	Shreveport-Bossier City, LA	128	77
128	Youngstown-Warren- Boardman, OH-PA	129	83
129	Rockford, IL	127	135
130	Mobile, AL	133	44
131	Chattanooga, TN-GA	125	143
132	Salinas, CA	132	96

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137	Stockton-Lodi, CA	111	28
138	Corpus Christi, TX	138	100
139	Reading, PA	135	144
140	Ocala, FL	137	117
141	Fresno, CA	141	70
142	Lafayette, LA	143	79
143	Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, NC	145	61
144	Modesto, CA	146	42
145	Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL	144	98
146	Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX	140	114
147	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	148	21
148	Bakersfield, CA	147	45
149	Visalia-Porterville, CA	149	51
150	Brownsville-Harlingen, TX	150	141

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