

Wage Inequality

This table ranks the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas (by employment) based on their wage inequality ratios in 2005. To read more on metropolitan areas' performance on key indicators of productive, inclusive, and sustainable growth, please see the recent Brookings report, "MetroPolicy: Shaping a New Federal Partnership for a Metropolitan Nation," available at www.blueprintprosperity.org.

••	Wage ratio between 90th and 10th percentiles,	
Metro	2005	Rank
Lancaster, PA	4.6	1
Springfield, MA	4.8	2
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, PA	4.9	3
Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT	4.9	4
Las Vegas-Paradise, NV	4.9	5
Worcester, MA	5.0	6
Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA	5.1	7
Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME	5.1	8
Greensboro-High Point, NC	5.1	9
Cape Coral-Fort Myers, FL	5.2	10
Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice, FL	5.2	11
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI	5.2	12
Jacksonville, FL	5.2	13
Chattanooga, TN-GA	5.3	14
Greenville-Mauldin-Easley, SC	5.3	15
New Haven-Milford, CT	5.3	16
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, RI-MA	5.3	17
Harrisburg-Carlisle, PA	5.3	18
Madison, WI	5.3	19
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	5.3	20
Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA	5.3	21
Orlando-Kissimmee, FL	5.3	22
Wichita, KS	5.4	23
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	5.4	24
Louisville-Jefferson County, KY-IN	5.4	25
Honolulu, HI	5.4	26
Boise City-Nampa, ID	5.5	27
Grand Rapids-Wyoming, MI	5.5	28
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC	5.5	29
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	5.5	30
Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, AR	5.5	31
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	5.5	32
Syracuse, NY	5.5	33
Salt Lake City, UT	5.6	34
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ	5.6	35
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	5.6	36
Tucson, AZ	5.6	
	5.6	37 38
Columbus, OH		
Kansas City, MO-KS	5.6	39
Columbia, SC	5.7	40
Charleston-North Charleston, SC	5.7	41
Dayton, OH	5.7	42
Knoxville, TN	5.7	43
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	5.7	44
Indianapolis-Carmel, IN	5.7	45
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	5.7	46
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, OR-WA	5.8	47
Denver-Aurora, CO	5.8	48
Rochester, NY	5.8	49

Memphis, TN-MS-AR	Metro	Wage ratio between 90th and 10th percentiles, 2005	Rank
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	100-metro average	6.3	

These figures report the hourly wage ratios for the working-age population between the highest earners (the 90th percentile) and the lowest earners (the 10th percentile) for metropolitan areas in 2005.

Source: Brookings analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2005 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). The underlying data are not always available for officially defined metropolitan areas. Where necessary, calculations are based on approximations of these areas which can include individuals not living in the offical metropolitan area and/or exclude individuals who are. In most cases, the sum of these improperly included and excluded individuals is not more than 10 percent of the actual metropolitan area population.