

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.

Metro	Wage ratio between 90th and 10th percentiles, 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	37
Columbus, OH	5.6	38
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

Metro	Wage ratio between 90th and 10th percentiles, 2005	Rank
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	5.8	50
St. Louis, MO-IL	5.8	51
Richmond, VA	5.8	52
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	5.8	53
Colorado Springs, CO	5.8	54
Tulsa, OK	5.8	55
Akron, OH	5.8	56
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	5.9	57
Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC	5.9	58
Oklahoma City, OK	5.9	59
El Paso, TX	5.9	60
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	5.9	61
Youngstown-Warren-Boardman, OH-PA	5.9	62
Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	6.0	63
Pittsburgh, PA	6.0	64
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL	6.0	65
Lexington-Fayette, KY	6.0	66
Sacramento-Arden-Arcade-Roseville, CA	6.0	67
Fresno, CA	6.0	68
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	6.0	69
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL	6.1	70
Lansing-East Lansing, MI	6.1	71
Stockton, CA	6.1	72
San Antonio, TX	6.1	73
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA	6.1	74
Toledo, OH	6.1	75
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	6.1	76
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	6.2	77
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	6.2	78
Raleigh-Cary, NC	6.2	79
Baton Rouge, LA	6.3	80
Austin-Round Rock, TX	6.3	81
Bakersfield, CA	6.3	82
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	6.3	83
Baltimore-Towson, MD	6.3	84
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT	6.4	85
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	6.4	86
Albuquerque, NM	6.5	87
Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC	6.5	88
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	6.6	89
Jackson, MS	6.6	90
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	6.7	91
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	6.7	92
Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, NY	6.8	93
Durham, NC	6.8	94
Trenton-Ewing, NJ	6.8	95
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	6.8	96
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA	6.9	97
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	7.0	98
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX	7.1	99
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	7.6	100
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 official 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.