



Best/Worst Metro Areas for Building Wealth

California Cities Take Top and Bottom Spots

NEW YORK – October 24, 2016 – The San Francisco Bay Area is the best U.S. metropolitan area for building wealth, according to a new Bankrate.com (NYSE: RATE) report. The study ranked 21 large metro areas in five categories: savable income, human capital, debt burden, homeownership and access to financial services. Click here for more information:

<http://www.bankrate.com/finance/savings/what-makes-cities-good-for-building-wealth.aspx>

The nation's highest savable income is a big part of San Francisco's #1 overall ranking. The average Bay Area resident can sock away \$16,657 per year, almost twice the national average, after subtracting local expenses from incomes. While it's a very expensive place to live, there are plenty of high-paying jobs, so residents are able to keep their non-mortgage debts low (5th-lowest among the 21 markets) and their credit scores high (2nd-highest).

Minneapolis/St. Paul is second-best overall (aided by the lowest average unemployment rate over the past five years), Washington, D.C. is third (only San Franciscans are able to save more), St. Louis is fourth (it offers the best access to financial services) and Detroit is fifth (it has the highest homeownership rate and the lowest non-mortgage debt burden).

Riverside/San Bernardino, Calif. came in last overall and in four subcategories: GDP per capita, average unemployment rate, average credit score and bank branches per 100,000 residents. Miami is the second-worst place to get rich (subtracting its average expenses from its average income results in a loss of \$3,613 per year, worst in the nation by far). Tampa, Atlanta and Houston are third-, fourth- and fifth-worst, respectively.

“Different metro areas affect households’ abilities to amass wealth in different ways,” said Bankrate.com analyst Claes Bell, CFA. “In some metro areas, like San Francisco, homeownership can be prohibitively expensive, but higher-than-average salaries can help residents stash more money away in tax-advantaged retirement accounts. On the other hand, Minneapolis-area residents don’t earn as much, but the area’s affordable housing and recovering real estate market provide opportunities to build wealth over the long term through home equity.”

External sources: ATTOM Data Solutions, Experian, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Association of Realtors, Pew Research Center, S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller Home Price Indices, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Education

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