The Greater MSP Region Affordability Snapshot

Greater MSP has a lower cost of living than many of the top-30 U.S. metros

Overall, Greater MSP’s cost of living is 91% of the average total composite for top-30 U.S. metros.

Greater MSP’s relative housing costs are 70% of the average for the top-30 U.S. metros, less than Dallas and Atlanta.

Groceries: 105%  Utilities: 98%  Health Care: 106%  Misc.: 114%


That raises the question of why managers love Minnesota. Affordability has got to be one factor: Minnesota regularly ranks high on lists that measure income relative to the local cost of living.

Bloomberg, 2018

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MAJOR EXPENSES

Practically speaking, housing and transportation account for the majority of household spending among those in major U.S. metros. How does Greater MSP stack up against our peers?

On average, Greater MSP residents spend the lowest percentage of their income on housing and transportation among peer regions:

- Austin: 52%
- Charlotte: 52%
- Portland: 52%
- Atlanta: 52%
- Chicago: 52%
- Dallas: 49%
- Pittsburgh: 49%
- Seattle: 49%
- San Francisco: 48%
- Boston: 47%
- Denver: 47%
- Greater MSP: 45%


INFLATION: Prices are stable in Greater MSP, and inflation trails the U.S. average

In 2017, Greater MSP’s Consumer Price Index was 239.239, lower than the U.S. average.


The most recent Price Parity Index, the Bureau of Economic Analysis’ measure of relative goods & service prices across the U.S., ranks Greater MSP 15th highest among major U.S. metros.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Price Parity, 2015

Good schools, a relatively low cost of living and high median household income offer native residents and transplants alike ample opportunity for work and economic advancement in Minnesota, ranking the state second for opportunity.

U.S. News & World Report

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