How Maryland Ranks

Various state ranking tables covering topics such as income, poverty, education, commuting, and others were released with the 2016 American Community Survey on September 14, 2016. Each table ranks each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia from one to 51. Below are some of the highlights of these ranking tables.

Maryland continues to be one of the more prosperous states in the U.S.

- Maryland's median household income of $78,945 (+/- $-737) is ranked number one in the nation (statistically tied with the District of Columbia).

- The overall poverty rate of 9.7 percent (+/- 0.3%) is ranked 49th and is statistically tied with five other states. Only New Hampshire has a statistically lower poverty rate (7.3%, +/-0.6%). It should be mentioned, however, that poverty data does not take into account how housing costs and other expenses would vary among the states. Therefore, a high income state will always have a relatively low poverty rate.

- The childhood poverty rate of 12.4 percent (+/- 0.6%) is ranked 45th (statistically tied with eight other states).

- The elderly poverty rate (those ages 65 and over) of 8.2% (+/- 0.5%) is ranked 31st (statistically tied with 22 other states).

Maryland residents are well educated

- The percent of the population age 25 and over with a Bachelor's degree or higher of 39.3 percent (+/- 0.4%) is ranked fourth.

- The percent of the population age 25 and over with an advanced degree (18.5 percent, +/- 0.3%) is ranked third.

Maryland residents are actively engaged in the labor force

- Percent of the population ages 16 to 64 who are employed, 73.7 percent (+/- 0.3%) is ranked 10th (statistically tied with six other states).

- The percent of married couple families with both husband and wife in the labor force, 58.4% (+/-0.5%) is ranked seventh (statistically tied with three other states).

Maryland residents are more likely to have health insurance

- 6.1 percent (+/- 0.3%) of the civilian non-institutional population lacks health insurance, which is ranked 33rd (statistically tied with Oregon, New York, Washington, New Hampshire and Delaware).

Maryland workers have one of the longest commute times to work, are more likely to use mass transit, and are more likely to work outside their county of residence

- The average commute time for a Maryland worker is 32.8 minutes (+/- 0.3 minutes) ranked second only to New York (33.4 minutes, +/-0.1).

- 8.5 percent (+/- 0.3%) of Maryland workers use transit to get to work, ranked sixth.

- Nearly one half (46.0%, +/- 0.5%) of Maryland workers work outside their county of residence (statistically tied with and ranked third after New Jersey at 46.6 percent (+/- 0.4%.

Maryland housing and rental costs are relatively expensive

- The percent of mortgage owners spending 30 percent or more of their household income for housing costs (28.8%, +/- 0.7%) is ranked 15th (statistically tied with 10 other states).

- The percent of renters paying 30 percent or more of their household income for rent, 46.3% (+/-1.0%), is ranked 13th, (statistically tied with 11 other states).

Maryland attracts residents from all over the world

- Foreign-born residents comprise 15.3 percent (+/-0.3%) of the State's population, ranked ninth.

- The percent of native population born in their state of residence (56.3%, +/-0.4%) ranks 36th (statistically tied with Virginia and Montana).

Maryland residents are less prone to move

- 12.9 percent (+/- 0.4%), lived in a different house one year ago, ranked 40th (statistically tied with 11 other states).

Maryland households are more likely to have high-speed internet

- The percentage of households with a broadband internet subscription is 85.8 percent (+/- 0.4%), ranked fourth (statistically tied with four other states).