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## Do You Live in One of the Country's Highest-Earning Cities?

by Juli Weiner July 14, 2010, 8:20 AM

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Thomas Friedman's house in the Washington, D.C. suburbs.

*Google Maps via Wonkette.*

Mazel tov, residents of Washington, D.C., and its environs: your area tops off [a new regional property earnings index](#). The rankings were developed by the [Martin Prosperity Institute](#), an economic think-tank affiliated with the University of Toronto. Toronto, though it plays New York in movies, is just outside the United States and is therefore a reliably disinterested party. Actually, New York barely breaks the top 20: it sits at 16, behind metropolitan areas such as Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, and Boulder, Colorado. This will at least supply citizens of Gotham with a ready-made response if out-of-town visitors note of a lack of economic diversity, which out-out-town visitors very well could.

Following closely behind our nation's capitol are San Jose, California, and Stamford, Connecticut. "Regions with more knowledge-based, professional, and creative jobs have higher incomes on average, as do regions with high concentrations of high-tech industries," wrote the Daily Beast's Richard Florida, who has chronicled the economy and its effects on quality of life

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for [The Atlantic](#) and the [Washington Monthly](#), among others. This would explain Washington's triumph: its suburbs include the Maryland hamlets of Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and Silver Spring, which are all overrun with professionals and creative types. In fact, last year *Forbes* [ranked Bethesda as its most educated small town in America](#), noting, “Bethesda also boasts the highest percentage of residents with advanced degrees in the country, with 51.5% of residents over 25 who have master's degrees or Ph.D.'s.” Who knew academia was so lucrative?