

# The Best (and Worst) Paying Cities for Women

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## 5. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA

- > **Women's pay as a pct. of men's:** 89.0%
- > **Median earnings for men:** \$45,802 (31st lowest)
- > **Median earnings for women:** \$40,786 (28th highest)

The Los Angeles area was one of the most equitable in the nation for pay, by gender. And in a number of sectors, the wage differences between men and women were especially small. In retail, women's median earnings in 2012 were 90% those of men's. In the transportation and utilities sector, women earned more than 95% of what men did. The wage gap women faced, however, was also still largely dependent on their occupation. Women in legal occupations had median earnings of more than \$80,000, but they still made just 61.6% of what men made. Additionally, women in health care practitioner roles had median earnings that were 81.5% of the median for men. Still, in both cases, the wage gap was smaller in the Los Angeles area than in a number of other major cities.

## 4. Albuquerque, NM

- > **Women's pay as a pct. of men's:** 89.1%
- > **Median earnings for men:** \$42,084 (16th lowest)
- > **Median earnings for women:** \$37,491 (48th highest)

Women earned close to what men earned in the Albuquerque metro area in 2012. In the area's biggest sector, health care and educational services, women's median earnings were 88% those of men. Women earned nearly as much as men in other sectors as well. In transportation and utilities, for example, women earned 98 cents to every dollar that men earned. And in several other sectors that men traditionally dominate, women earned more than men. Despite the region's strengths, women still earned just three quarters of what men made in computer and mathematical occupations, among the worst pay gaps nationwide.

## 3. McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX

- > **Women's pay as a pct. of men's:** 89.9%
- > **Median earnings for men:** \$31,614 (the lowest)
- > **Median earnings for women:** \$28,409 (2nd lowest)

A typical household income in the McAllen-Edinburg area was just \$33,761 in 2012, less than in any other major metro area. Low earnings for both men and women may account in part for the small pay gap. For example, in the retail sector — where low-wage jobs are common nationwide,

and are particularly low in the McAllen metro area — men and women were paid nearly the same in 2012. This sector accounted for nearly 14% of all jobs in the area, among the most for any large metro area in the nation. In some occupations, women even considerably out earned their male counterparts. Women in health care occupations were much more likely than those in other cities to be paid as much as or more than men working in similar jobs. A female health care practitioner earned nearly \$58,000 in 2012, while a male earned just above \$52,000.

## **2. Fresno, CA**

- > **Women's pay as a pct. of men's:** 91.3%
- > **Median earnings for men:** \$38,433 (4th lowest)
- > **Median earnings for women:** \$35,088 (28th lowest)

More than 12% of employees in the Fresno metro area worked in the agriculture and mining sector, more than in all but one other large metro area. Fresno County was “the top producing county in the nation based on gross value of agricultural production” in 2012, according to the Fresno County Department of Agriculture. Just 18.7% of people employed in the sector in 2012 were women. Still, women were paid relatively well. In Fresno, the median pay for women was 87% that of men, much higher than in most sectors, and far better than the national wage gap for the sector. Nationwide, female workers in agriculture and mining earned just 75% of what men did in 2012.

## **1. Durham-Chapel Hill, NC**

- > **Women's pay as a pct. of men's:** 97.4%
- > **Median earnings for men:** \$46,364 (41st lowest)
- > **Median earnings for women:** \$45,159 (12th highest)

Female workers in Durham, North Carolina and the surrounding area earned 97.4% of what men earned, best in the country. The region, which is often known as the Research Triangle, is home to a large number of research and development companies working in biotechnology and other high-tech fields. The area is also home to several major universities, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University. Women in the area working in education had median earnings of \$45,455 in 2012, which was 93% of what men in the same field made. Women also did well in other sectors. In manufacturing, for example, women made 93% of when men made, which is the nation's narrowest gender gap in that sector.

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