



THE COST OF LEAVING MICHIGAN

"Mikey the Millennial Stays Home to Earn More"

Newflash for recent college grads and millennials in Michigan: The grass is not always greener in those hot cities "somewhere else." Consider the case of "Mikey the Millennial." Mikey, a Metro Detroit native, is an honors graduate from a state university in Michigan. Mikey has a talent for computer programming and an impressive number of internships under his belt. Since graduating in December, he's found a bunch of information technology and "knowledge" economy job leads in Metro Detroit by reading Metromode.com.

He interviewed well and just accepted an offer as an "Applications System Analyst" for an upstart IT firm in Oakland County. He posts the great news on his Facebook page and immediately gets slammed by a half-dozen college friends who've moved away. "Hey Mikey," one pal writes. "Don't be a doink. Move somewhere cool!" Mikey grins and types a reply. "LOL. Let's compare paychecks and bank balances!"

Mikey is so smug because he did some quality-of-life homework. Salaries are higher in Michigan. Cost of living is lower.

METRO AREA	2-WK PAYCHECK	ANNUAL SALARY	SALARY YOU NEED TO EARN TO EQUAL THE COST OF LIVING IN METRO DETROIT	POCKETBOOK (COST) OF LEAVING METRO DETROIT
ATLANTA	\$1,351	\$50,003	\$58,224	(8,221.00)
AUSTIN	\$1,418	\$48,603	\$50,026	(\$1,423)
CHICAGO	\$1,449	\$49,814	\$62,420	(\$12,606)
DETROIT	\$1,489	\$54,516	\$54,516	\$0
GRAND RAPIDS	\$1,405	\$51,064	\$53,953	(\$2,889)
LOS ANGELES	\$1,497	\$55,747	\$75,648	(\$19,901)
NEW YORK	\$1,568	\$59,129	\$90,085	(\$30,956)
PHOENIX	\$1,434	\$49,226	\$53,651	(\$4,425)
SAN FRANCISCO	\$1,608	\$60,713	\$84,519	(\$23,806)
SEATTLE	\$1,589	\$55,234	\$60,882	(\$5,648)

SOURCES: Salary.com "Salary Wizard" (swz.salary.com/salarywizard/layoutscripts/swzl_newsearch.asp) and
Salary.com Cost of Living Wizard (swz.salary.com/CostOfLivingWizard/layoutscripts/coll_start.asp?presentsalary=54516)

