

North Brevard Prosperity Scorecard 2022

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A region's prosperity can be examined through many lenses. Typical measures of economic health generally count the number of large companies in an area, calculate average or median wages, and graph employment versus unemployment rates. Increasingly, however, economists have begun studying other factors that they deem equally, if not more crucial, to the assessment of a successful economy. Metrics measured that help determine this success include: rates of poverty and access to food and transportation; the number of people who are educated; and the overall physical and mental health in a given population; along with racial and gender gaps in each category.

Economic and financial success is typically enjoyed by healthy and educated people, who have resources available to them for accessing higher education and well-paying job opportunities. Additionally, overarching employment rates and median wages capture only a general picture of a local economy, and do not illustrate the relative successes or disparities experienced by women and minorities. **Therefore, a better indicator of prosperity is when economic success, educational achievement, and access to resources are enjoyed by all of the people who make up our society.**

"We should measure the prosperity of the nation not by the number of millionaires, but by the absence of poverty; the prevalence of health; the efficiency of the public schools; and the number of people who can, and do read worthwhile books." --W.E.B. Du Bois

To prepare a "North Brevard Prosperity Scorecard" considering these factors, the agency analyzed U.S Census Bureau data from U.S. 5-Year Census Tables on the "Titusville Census County Division," (CCD) for a geographic area that included the City of Titusville proper and the unincorporated communities of Mims, and Scottsmoor. The analysis considered gaps in race, gender, and ethnicity across three main areas –Income and Employment, Education, and Health and Safety – by comparing Census tables on the Titusville CDC for the five-year period between 2010-2014 against data in the Census tables for 2015-2019.

Below are the key findings from the full analysis conducted in December 2021.

Key Findings

Income and Employment

The median income in Titusville's CCD **increased by \$8,000**, but not equally. Female householders' median income increased by about \$7,300, while male householders reported a median increase of \$15,176. Men are employed in greater numbers than women in almost every sector and industry throughout the region (exceptions are education and health care services).

Although the employment and labor rate increased among black residents, black households reported a median income increase of only **\$1,683**. Hispanic households actually reported a decrease of **\$7,353**; corresponding to a phenomenon in which the Latin-American born population also significantly decreased. The median income gap between male and female householders and black and white residents widened during this interval.

However, the percentage of low-income households in the region decreased, and the percentage of households reporting middle and higher wages increased. Unsurprisingly, the overall employment and labor-force participation rate took a significant hit in 2020, but since then the unemployment rate steadily declined, coming down to **3.2%** for the Titusville-Palm Bay-Melbourne metro as of December 2021.

Education

In Brevard County overall, the reading scores fell in 2021, a possible reflection of E-learning and interruptions in normal school operations.

When comparing five-year tables, the Titusville CCD region saw a rise in the percent of the population with a Bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S) or higher. In 2019, 33% of the Hispanic population had a B.S. or higher; compared to 23% of white residents, and 14% of black residents.

Men, however, reported a higher median earning than women at every educational level. The wage gap between men and women with a graduate or professional degree increased, with men's median earnings at **\$45K** more than women with the same education level. The gender wage gap **decreased** for those with less than a graduate or professional degree.

Health and Safety

In Brevard County as a whole, more people died in 2020 than the average number of deaths over 2014-2019, due to Covid-19 and other possible related complications.

Since 2018, homicide has been the leading cause of death for black residents in Brevard County.

In Titusville's CCD, roughly 13% of black residents do not have a computer or internet access, compared to 5% of white residents.

The number of children aged five years and younger living below the poverty line increased, but in Brevard County, the food insecurity rate has been steadily declining over the last five years, suggesting that measures taken to combat childhood hunger have largely been successful.

Areas of Consideration

Median Income

White: ↑ \$7.6K
Black: ↑ \$1.7K
Hispanic: ↓ \$7.4K
Female: ↑ \$7.3K
Male: ↑ \$15.1K

Unemployment Rate

White: ↓ 12.8% to 6%
Black: ↓ 19.4% to 10.1%
Hispanic: ↓ 11.1% to 6.6%
Female: ↓ 11.9% to 7.4%
Male: ↓ 13.5% to 6.4%

Labor Participation Rate

White: ↓ 51.2% to 48.8%
Black: ↑ 59.9% to 64.2%
Hispanic: ↓ 68.9% to 59.9%
Female: ↓ 67.9% to 64.1%
Male: ↑ 75.2% to 79.1%

- Positives: Unemployment rates have decreased in Titusville's CCD all across the board. Median income has increased for most minority groups and women, though not all to the same degree.
- Critical Areas: The labor participation rate for women and the Hispanic population has decreased.

Gender Wage Gap: Education

High School Equivalency: ↓ \$ 6.9K to \$3.4K
Some College/AA: ↓ \$ 15.3K to \$11.8K
B.S.: ↓ \$ 24.3K to \$17.6K
Grad/Professional Degree: ↑ \$38.2K to \$44.9K

B.S. or Higher

Total: ↑ 22% to 23%
Female: ↑ 20.1% to 21.6%
Male: ↑ 24% to 25%

- Positives: The percentage of people with a B.S. or higher increased, and the wage gap between men and women decreased among those with a B.S, some college or high school equivalency.
- Critical Areas: The median salary for men with a professional or graduate degree is double that of women with a professional/graduate degree, with the gap widening between genders.

Households W/Out Cars:

Titusville Metro

Total: ↑ 10K to 11K
White: ↑ 7K to 7.6K
Black: ↑ 1.7K to 1.9K
Hispanic: ↑ 765 to 853

Food Insecurity Rate:

Brevard County

Total: ↓ 23% to 17%
Childhood Insecurity Rate: ↓ 16% to 12%

- Positives: According to data from Feeding America, throughout Brevard County, the overall food insecurity rate and childhood food insecurity rate has decreased from 2015-2019.
- Critical Areas: The number of households without cars has increased from 2010-2019.

¹ Labor Participation Rate = # in Labor Force/ Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population. Unemployment Rate = # Unemployed/ # in Labor Force

² Data is deemed reliable, not guaranteed.

Sources

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