Buffalo has 20th-worst gender gap in America, with men being paid 39% more than women

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The gender gap is alive and well.

New statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau show that men still earn more than women in every major metropolitan area across the country, including Buffalo. Click on the View Slideshow button below for a quick rundown of all 52 metros.
The new numbers come from the five-year version of the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2014 American Community Survey, which reported the median earnings for male and female workers. (The ACS was issued earlier this month.) Business First compared the two figures, calculating the size of the gender gap in each area.

Three quick explanations are in order:

• The bureau defines earnings as money received for work performed as an employee. That differs from income, which is a broader category encompassing earnings, dividends, public assistance, alimony and several other sources of money.

• A median is a midpoint. Half of all male or female workers in a given area earn more than the median for their gender, while half earn less.

• The statistics in the new study are limited to workers who were 25 or older in 2014, the latest year for which official figures are available. All 52 metros with populations of more than 1 million are included.

The smallest gender gap exists in Las Vegas, but it’s still a sizable number. The typical male worker has earnings of $36,768, compared to $30,698 for the corresponding female. That means the typical man in Las Vegas earns 19.8 percent more than his female counterpart.

The slideshow runs from the smallest to the largest gap. You’ll find Buffalo with the 20th-worst disparity, with local men being paid 39.1 percent more than local women, based on their respective medians.

Salt Lake City has the biggest gender gap. Men in that region hold a pay advantage of 56.2 percent.

You’ll see two other numbers on each slide. The Census Bureau provided median earnings for men and women at various levels of educational attainment, so Business First calculated those gaps, too.
Men in the Buffalo area who hold bachelor’s degrees earn 42.5 percent more than women at the same educational level. The gap is a bit smaller -- 34.7 percent -- for local employees who have advanced degrees, including master’s, doctoral and professional degrees.

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