LifeMode Group: Scholars and Patriots

College Towns

Households: 1,176,200
Average Household Size: 2.14
Median Age: 24.5
Median Household Income: $32,200

WHO ARE WE?
About half the residents of College Towns are enrolled in college, while the rest work for a college or the services that support it. Students have busy schedules, but make time between studying and part-time jobs for socializing and sports. Students that are new to managing their own finances tend to make impulse buys and splurge on the latest fashions. This digitally engaged group uses computers and cell phones for all aspects of life including shopping, school work, news, social media, and entertainment. College Towns are all about new experiences, and residents seek out variety and adventure in their lives.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
• These are nonfamily households with many students living alone or with roommates for the first time.
• This segment is a mix of densely developed student housing and dorms with local residences.
• Off-campus, low rent apartments comprise half of the housing stock.
• Over three-quarters of the households are renter occupied, with one in ten remaining vacant.
• One-third of homes are single family; mostly occupied by local residents who own their homes.
• This market is bike and pedestrian friendly.

SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS
• Their limited incomes result in thrifty purchases.
• They do not eat the healthiest foods, nor do they see a doctor regularly.
• They dress to impress with the latest fashions of the season.
• They prefer environmentally friendly products and vehicles that get good gas mileage.
• They’re heavily influenced by celebrity endorsements and trends in magazines.
• They feel anything that can be done online is easier than in person.
• They have liberal political views.
College Towns

AGE BY SEX (Esri data)
Median Age: 24.5 US: 38.2
- Indicates US

RACE AND ETHNICITY (Esri data)
The Diversity Index summarizes racial and ethnic diversity. The index shows the likelihood that two persons, chosen at random from the same area, belong to different race or ethnic groups. The index ranges from 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity).

Diversity Index: 56.3 US: 64.0
- Hispanic*
- Multiple
- Other
- Asian and Pac. Islander
- American Indian
- Black
- White

INCOME AND NET WORTH
Net worth measures total household assets (homes, vehicles, investments, etc.) less any debts, secured (e.g., mortgages) or unsecured (credit cards). Household income and net worth are estimated by Esri.

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD BUDGET INDEX
The index compares the average amount spent in this market’s household budgets for housing, food, apparel, etc., to the average amount spent by all US households. An index of 100 is average. An index of 120 shows that average spending by consumers in this market is 20 percent above the national average. Consumer expenditures are estimated by Esri.

OCCUPATION BY EARNINGS
The five occupations with the highest number of workers in the market are displayed by median earnings. Data from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.
MARKET PROFILE (Consumer preferences are estimated from data by GfK MRI)

- Own laptops/notebooks, portable MP3 players, and video game systems.
- Prefer to watch movies and TV programs online; but do watch some TV like MTV2, ESPNews, ESPN2, and Comedy Central.
- Use the Internet for social media connections, blogging, paying bills, downloading music, and searching for jobs.
- Have cell phones only (no landlines) and enjoy customizing them.
- Popular activities: backpacking, Pilates, and Frisbee.
- Go out to the movies and out for drinks.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Total population, average annual population change since Census 2010, and average density (population per square mile) are displayed for the market relative to the size and change among all Tapestry markets. Data estimated by Esri.

- Population: 900,000 to 11,000,000
- Population Growth (Annual %): -0.5% to 3.0%
- Population Density (Persons per sq. mile): 1000 to 25,000

ESRI INDEXES

Esri developed three indexes to display average household wealth, socioeconomic status, and housing affordability for the market relative to US standards.

- Wealth Index: 40
- Socioeconomic Status Index: 85
- Housing Affordability Index: 84

HOUSING

Median home value is displayed for markets that are primarily owner occupied; average rent is shown for renter-occupied markets. Tenure and home value are estimated by Esri. Housing type and average rent are from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey.

- Home Ownership: 24.6% Own, 75.4% Rent
- Typical Housing: Multi-Unit Rentals; Single Family
- Average Rent: $927
  - US Average: $1,038
SEGMENT DENSITY
This map illustrates the density and distribution of the College Towns Tapestry Segment by households.