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Local

Baltimore region getting more upscale, report finds

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BALTIMORE -

[Baltimore](#), a city whose image has been shaped by urban violence found in television shows such as "The Wire," and "The Corner," is becoming more affluent, a new report has found.

The latest "State of the Region" report from the [Greater Baltimore Committee](#) paints a picture of a Baltimore metropolitan area that is richer, more educated, increasingly fueled by health care and research, and anchored by a city that is no longer losing residents.

It is a region beset as much by the problems of growth - congestion and rising prices - as by drugs and crime.

"The region clearly works better than it did 10 years ago," said [Richard P. Clinch](#), an economist with the [University of Baltimore's Jacob France Institute](#) and co-author of the report. "I don't think we've reached the top of the mountain yet, but we're climbing. ... I think the turnaround in the city has really got a lot to do with how the region is doing."

The report is the fifth issued since 1998 by the GBC, which represents the region's elected officials.

The report compares the Baltimore region to metro areas nationwide, including [Atlanta](#); [Austin, Texas](#); [Boston](#); [Cleveland](#); [Dallas-Fort Worth](#); [Denver](#); [Indianapolis](#); [Minneapolis-St. Paul](#); [Philadelphia](#); [Pittsburgh](#); [Portland, Ore.](#); [Raleigh, N.C.](#); [Richmond, Va.](#); [San Diego](#); [St. Louis](#); [Seattle](#); and [Tampa, Fla.](#)

The Baltimore area ranked first in academic research-and-development spending with almost \$1.9 billion in fiscal 2005, ahead of Boston for a second time.

Per capita Personal income rose 6.3 percent from 2003 to 2005, second behind San Diego. And the area was third for the number of physicians with more than 500 for every 100,000 residents.

However, it was 18th out of 20 in traffic frustration, with the average Baltimore resident spending nearly 30 minutes to get to work.

[John McIlwain](#), a senior fellow with the [Urban Land Institute](#) said he expects the region to continue dealing with affordability and growth issues.

"Long-term trends are for more people moving in than housing will get built," McIlwain said. "That's going to put pressure on prices."

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