



LifeMode Group: Affluent Estates

# Boomburbs

1C

**Households:** 1,695,000

**Average Household Size:** 3.22

**Median Age:** 33.6

**Median Household Income:** \$105,000

## WHO ARE WE?

This is the new growth market, with a profile similar to the original: young professionals with families that have opted to trade up to the newest housing in the suburbs. The original *Boomburbs* neighborhoods began growing in the 1990s and continued through the peak of the housing boom. Most of those neighborhoods are fully developed now. This is an affluent market but with a higher proportion of mortgages. Rapid growth still distinguishes the *Boomburbs* neighborhoods, although the boom is more subdued now than it was 10 years ago. So is the housing market. Residents are well-educated professionals with a running start on prosperity.



## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Growth markets are in the suburban periphery of large metropolitan areas.
- Young families are married with children (Index 221); average household size is 3.22.
- Home ownership is 84% (Index 133), with the highest rate of mortgages, 78% (Index 173).
- Primarily single-family homes, in new neighborhoods, 72% built since 2000 (Index 521).
- Median home value is \$293,000 (Index 165).
- Lower housing vacancy rate at 5.3%.
- The cost of affordable new housing comes at the expense of one of the longest commutes to work, over 30 minutes average, including a disproportionate number (34.5%) commuting across county lines (Index 146).

## SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- Well educated young professionals, 52% are college graduates (Index 185).
- Unemployment is low at 5.2% (Index 60); high labor force participation at 72% (Index 115); most households have more than two workers (Index 123).
- Longer commute times from the suburban growth corridors (Index 121) have created more home workers (Index 154).
- They are well connected: own the latest devices and understand how to use them efficiently; biggest complaints—too many devices and too many intrusions on personal time.
- Financial planning is well under way for these professionals.

Note: The Index represents the ratio of the segment rate to the US rate multiplied by 100. Consumer preferences are estimated from data by GfK MRI.



LifeMode Group: Ethnic Enclaves

# Up and Coming Families

7A

**Households:** 2,562,000

**Average Household Size:** 3.10

**Median Age:** 30.7

**Median Household Income:** \$64,000

## WHO ARE WE?

*Up and Coming Families* is a market in transition—residents are younger and more mobile and ethnically diverse than the previous generation. They are ambitious, working hard to get ahead, and willing to take some risks to achieve their goals. The recession has impacted their financial well-being, but they are optimistic. Their homes are new; their families are young. And this is one of the fastest-growing markets in the country.



## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- New suburban periphery: new families in new housing subdivisions.
- Building began in the housing boom of the 2000s and continues in this fast-growing market.
- Single-family homes with a median value of \$174,000 and a lower vacancy rate.
- The price of affordable housing: longer commute times (Index 116).

## SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- Education: 66% have some college education or degree(s).
- Hard-working labor force with a participation rate of 71% (Index 114) and low unemployment at 7% (Index 81).
- Most households (63%) have 2 or more workers.
- Careful shoppers, aware of prices, willing to shop around for the best deals and open to influence by others' opinions.
- Seek the latest and best in technology.
- Young families still feathering the nest and establishing their style.

Note: The Index represents the ratio of the segment rate to the US rate multiplied by 100. Consumer preferences are estimated from data by GfK MRI.





## LifeMode Group: Family Landscapes

# Soccer Moms

4A

**Households:** 3,327,000

**Average Household Size:** 2.96

**Median Age:** 36.6

**Median Household Income:** \$84,000

### WHO ARE WE?

*Soccer Moms* is an affluent, family-oriented market with a country flavor. Residents are partial to new housing away from the bustle of the city but close enough to commute to professional job centers. Life in this suburban wilderness offsets the hectic pace of two working parents with growing children. They favor time-saving devices, like banking online or housekeeping services, and family-oriented pursuits.

### OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- *Soccer Moms* residents prefer the suburban periphery of metropolitan areas.
- Predominantly single family, homes are in newer neighborhoods, 36% built in the 1990s (Index 253), 31% built since 2000.
- Owner-occupied homes have high rate of mortgages at 74% (Index 163), and low rate vacancy at 5%.
- Median home value is \$226,000.
- Most households are married couples with children; average household size is 2.96.
- Most households have 2 or 3 vehicles; long travel time to work including a disproportionate number commuting from a different county (Index 133).

### SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- Education: 37.7% college graduates; more than 70% with some college education.
- Low unemployment at 5.9%; high labor force participation rate at 72%; 2 out of 3 households include 2+ workers (Index 124).
- Connected, with a host of wireless devices from iPods to tablets—anything that enables convenience, like banking, paying bills, or even shopping online.
- Well insured and invested in a range of funds, from savings accounts or bonds to stocks.
- Carry a higher level of debt, including first (Index 159) and second mortgages (Index 154) and auto loans (Index 151).



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LifeMode Group: Affluent Estates  
**Professional Pride**

1B

**Households:** 1,878,000

**Average Household Size:** 3.11

**Median Age:** 40.5

**Median Household Income:** \$127,000

## WHO ARE WE?

*Professional Pride* consumers are well-educated career professionals that have prospered through the Great Recession. To maintain their upscale suburban lifestyles, these goal oriented couples work, often commuting far and working long hours. However, their schedules are fine-tuned to meet the needs of their school age children. They are financially savvy; they invest wisely and benefit from interest and dividend income. So far, these established families have accumulated an average of 1.5 million dollars in net worth, and their annual household income runs at more than twice the US level. They take pride in their newer homes and spend valuable time and energy upgrading. Their homes are furnished with the latest in home trends, including finished basements equipped with home gyms and in-home theaters.

## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Typically owner occupied (Index 173), single-family homes are in newer neighborhoods: 59% of units were built in the last 20 years.
- Neighborhoods are primarily located in the suburban periphery of large metropolitan areas.
- Most households own two or three vehicles; long commutes are the norm.
- Homes are valued at more than twice the US median home value, although three out of four homeowners have mortgages to pay off.
- Families are mostly married couples (almost 80% of households), and more than half of these families have kids. Their average household size, 3.11, reflects the presence of children.

## SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- *Professional Pride* consumers are highly qualified in the science, technology, law, or finance fields; they've worked hard to build their professional reputation or their start-up businesses.
- These consumers are willing to risk their accumulated wealth in the stock market.
- They have a preferred financial institution, regularly read financial news, and use the Internet for banking transactions.
- These residents are goal oriented and strive for lifelong learning and learning.
- Life here is well organized; routine is a key ingredient to daily life.



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LifeMode Group: Family Landscapes  
**Middleburg**

4C

**Households:** 3,319,000

**Average Household Size:** 2.73

**Median Age:** 35.3

**Median Household Income:** \$55,000

### WHO ARE WE?

Middleburg neighborhoods transformed from the easy pace of country living to semirural subdivisions in the last decade, when the housing boom reached out. Residents are conservative, family-oriented consumers. Still more country than rock and roll, they are thrifty but willing to carry some debt and are already investing in their futures. They rely on their smartphones and mobile devices to stay in touch and pride themselves on their expertise. They prefer to buy American and travel in the US. This market is younger but growing in size and assets.

### OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Semirural locales within metropolitan areas.
- Neighborhoods changed rapidly in the previous decade with the addition of new single-family homes.
- Include a number of mobile homes (Index 152).
- Affordable housing, median value of \$158,000 (Index 89) with a low vacancy rate.
- Young couples, many with children; average household size is 2.73.

### SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- Education: 66% with a high school diploma or some college.
- Unemployment rate lower at 7.4% (Index 85).
- Labor force participation typical of a younger population at 66.7% (Index 106).
- Traditional values are the norm here—faith, country, and family.
- Prefer to buy American and for a good price.
- Comfortable with the latest in technology, for convenience (online banking or saving money on landlines) and entertainment.



LifeMode Group: Middle Ground

# Bright Young Professionals

8C

**Households:** 2,613,000

**Average Household Size:** 2.40

**Median Age:** 32.2

**Median Household Income:** \$50,000

## WHO ARE WE?

*Bright Young Professionals* is a large market, primarily located in urban outskirts of large metropolitan areas. These communities are home to young, educated, working professionals. One out of three householders is under the age of 35. Slightly more diverse couples dominate this market, with more renters than homeowners. More than two-fifths of the households live in single-family homes; over a third live in 5+ unit buildings. Labor force participation is high, generally white-collar work, with a mix of food service and part-time jobs (among the college students). Median household income, median home value, and average rent are close to the US values. Residents of this segment are physically active and up on the latest technology.



## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Approximately 56% of the households rent; 44% own their homes.
- Household type is primarily couples, married (or unmarried), with above average concentrations of both single-parent (Index 125) and single-person (Index 115) households.
- Multiunit buildings or row housing make up 55% of the housing stock (row housing (Index 182), buildings with 5–19 units (Index 277)); 44% built 1980–99.
- Average rent is slightly higher than the US (Index 102).
- Lower vacancy rate is at 8.9%.

## SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- Education completed: 36% with some college or an associate's degree, 30% with a bachelor's degree or higher. Education in progress is 10% (Index 127).
- Unemployment rate is lower at 7.1%, and labor force participation rate of 73% is higher than the US rate.
- These consumers are up on the latest technology.
- They get most of their information from the Internet.
- Concern about the environment, impacts their purchasing decisions.

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LifeMode Group: Senior Styles

# Retirement Communities

9E

**Households:** 1,451,000

**Average Household Size:** 1.86

**Median Age:** 52.0

**Median Household Income:** \$35,000

## WHO ARE WE?

*Retirement Communities* neighborhoods are evenly distributed across the country. They combine single-family homes and independent living with apartments, assisted living, and continuous care nursing facilities. Over half of the housing units are in multiunit structures, and the majority of residents have a lease. This group enjoys watching cable TV and stays up-to-date with newspapers and magazines. Residents take pride in fiscal responsibility and keep a close eye on their finances. Although income and net worth are well below national averages, residents enjoy going to the theater, golfing, and taking vacations. While some residents enjoy cooking, many have paid their dues in the kitchen and would rather dine out.

## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Much of the housing was built in the 1970s and 1980s—a mix of single-family homes and large multiunit structures that function at various levels of senior care.
- Small household size; many residents have outlived their partners and live alone.
- Over half of the homes are renter occupied.
- Average rent is slightly below the US average.
- One in five households has no vehicle.

## SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- Brand loyal, this segment will spend a little more for their favorite brands, but most likely they will have a coupon.
- Frugal, they pay close attention to finances.
- They prefer reading magazines over interacting with computers.
- They are health conscious and prefer name brand drugs.





LifeMode Group: Next Wave

# Fresh Ambitions

13D

**Households:** 775,000

**Average Household Size:** 3.13

**Median Age:** 28.0

**Median Household Income:** \$26,000

## WHO ARE WE?

These young families, many of whom are recent immigrants, focus their life and work around their children. *Fresh Ambitions* residents are not highly educated, but many have overcome the language barrier and earned a high school diploma. They work overtime in service, in skilled and unskilled occupations, and spend what little they can save on their children. Multigenerational families and close ties to their culture support many families living in poverty; income is often supplemented with public assistance and Social Security. Residents spend more than one-third of their income on rent, though they can only afford to live in older row houses or multiunit buildings. They budget wisely not only to make ends meet but also to save for a trip back home.

## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Resides in mostly row houses or 2-4 unit buildings; many were built before 1950, located in major urban cities.
- They predominantly rent; average gross rent is a little below the US average.
- Most households have at least one vehicle, and commuters drive alone to work. Walking to work or taking public transportation is common too.
- Half of the households have children of all ages and are comprised of more single-parent than married-couple families. There are more than three persons per household; the proportion of multigenerational families is twice that of the US.

## SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- One in four is foreign-born, supporting a large family on little income. *Fresh Ambitions* residents live on the edge of poverty but are an ambitious community. They will take on overtime work when they can.
- Unemployment is high for these recent immigrants.
- One in three has overcome the language barrier and earned a high school diploma.
- Price-conscious consumers, they budget for fashion, not branding. However, parents are happy to spoil their brand savvy children.
- These residents maintain close ties to their culture; they save money to visit family, but seek out discount fares over convenience.



Note: The Index represents the ratio of the segment rate to the US rate multiplied by 100. Consumer preferences are estimated from data by GK MRI.



## LifeMode Group: Midtown Singles

# Young and Restless

**Households:** 2,005,000

**Average Household Size:** 2.02

**Median Age:** 29.4

**Median Household Income:** \$36,000

### WHO ARE WE?

Gen Y comes of age: Well-educated young workers, some of whom are still completing their education, are employed in professional/technical occupations, as well as sales and office/administrative support roles. These residents are not established yet, but striving to get ahead and improve themselves. This market ranks in the top 5 for renters, movers, college enrollment, and labor force participation rate. Almost 1 in 5 residents move each year. Close to half of all householders are under the age of 35, the majority living alone or in shared nonfamily dwellings. Median household income is still below the US. Smartphones are a way of life, and they use the Internet extensively. *Young and Restless* consumers are diverse, favoring densely populated neighborhoods in large metropolitan areas; over 50% are located in the South (almost a fifth in Texas), with the rest chiefly in the West and Midwest.

### OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- One of the youngest markets: Half the householders under age 35; median age 29.4.
- Primarily single-person households (Index 163) with some shared households (Index 201).
- Highly mobile market, beginning careers and changing addresses frequently.
- Naturally, one of the top 5 renter markets (Index 237).
- Apartment rentals popular: 45% in 5-19 unit buildings (Index 507), 26% in 20+ unit buildings (Index 325).
- Majority of housing built in 1970 or later (83%).

### SOCIOECONOMIC TRAITS

- Education completed: 2 out of 3 have some college, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree or higher. Education in progress: almost 15% are still enrolled in college (Index 185).
- Labor force participation rate is exceptionally high at 75.4%; unemployment is low at 7.8%.
- These are careful shoppers, aware of prices, and demonstrate little brand loyalty.
- They like to be the first to try new products, but prefer to do research before buying the latest electronics.
- Most of their information comes from the Internet and TV, rather than traditional media.
- Carry their cell phone everywhere they go.

