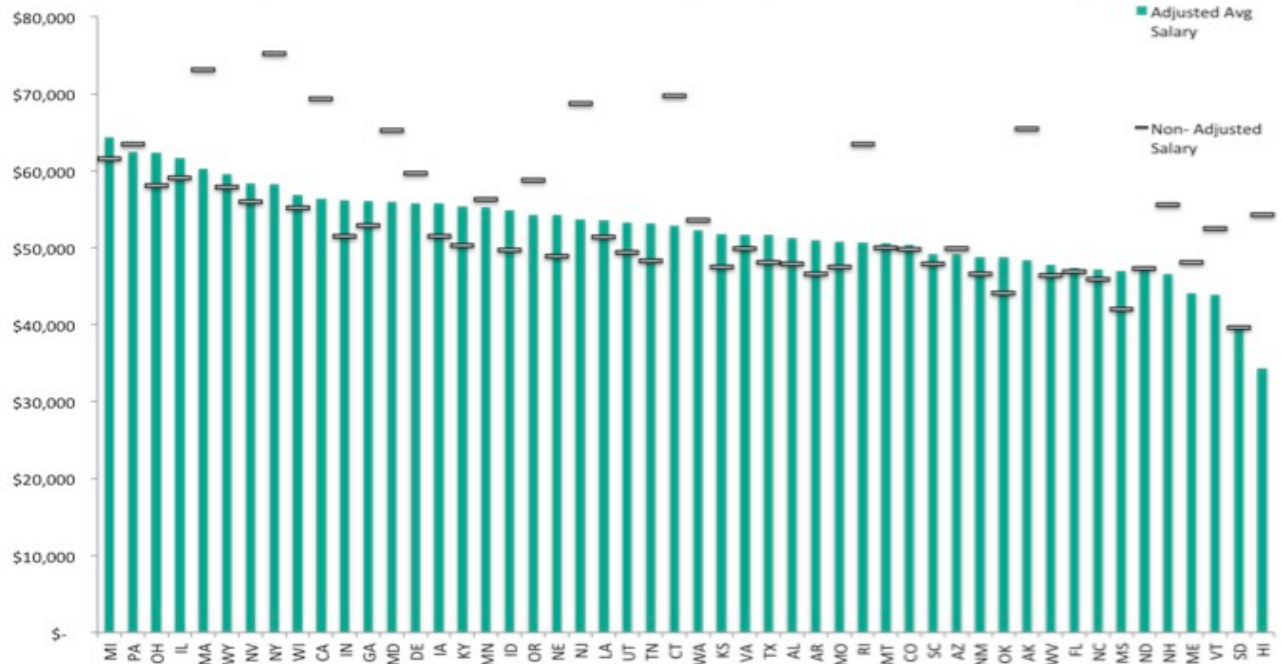


Average Public School Teacher Salary, Adjusted for Cost of Living



Sources: Salary data - NCES Data (2012-2013 school year)
 Cost of Living Data - Council for Community and Economic Research
 (accessed via Bankrate.com)



When you adjust average salaries to account for differences in cost of living, we find that, in real terms, teachers are paid most in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Our old top three states look less attractive to teach in, although New York and Massachusetts still make the top ten in the list.

Teachers are paid least in real terms in Hawaii, where an extremely high cost of living greatly reduces the buying power of teachers' salaries. Vermont and South Dakota round out the bottom three.

One important caveat to the cost of living data is that the scores are aggregated across the whole state, and do not reflect variations within the state. For example, the cost of living in Chicago is very different from Springfield, IL and teachers' pay should adjust accordingly. But if you were answering our hypothetical question above, this analysis should give you a place to start looking.