Baltimore in Depth

A Closer Look at the 2013 Baltimore Citizen Survey Results

City of Baltimore/Department of Finance/Bureau of the Budget and Management Research

The 2013 Citizen Survey asked 1,794 respondents a series of questions to gauge their satisfaction with the services offered by the City of Baltimore and the quality of life in the City. One of the questions asked respondents was **how likely they would be to move out of the City in the next 1 to 3 years**: 38 percent of respondents said they were likely to leave Baltimore in the near future, up by 1 percentage point from 2012 but the same as in 2009, the first year of the survey.

How Likely Are You to Move Out of Baltimore?

The percentages of respondents who said they were likely or very likely to leave Baltimore have remained relatively stable over the past five years. The 2013 percentages of respondents who are very likely, likely, not likely and not at all likely to leave are within 2 percentage points of the 2009 percentages for these categories.
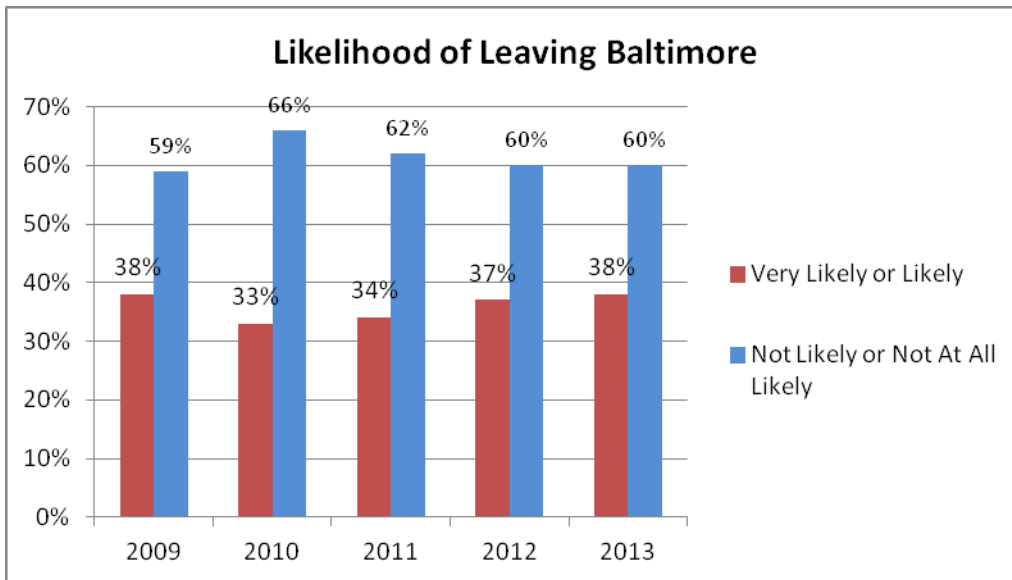

Chart 1: Likelihood of Leaving Baltimore

Likelihood of Leaving Baltimore	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Very Likely	19%	20%	20%	20%	19%
Likely	19%	13%	14%	17%	19%
Not Likely	33%	40%	30%	32%	32%
Not at all Likely	26%	26%	32%	28%	28%

Table 1: Trend of Likelihood of Leaving Baltimore

Demographics characteristics of those who said in 2013 they were more likely to leave Baltimore include:

- Younger respondents (particularly the youngest surveyed, ages 18 to 24)

Key Findings:

Demographic characteristics of those who were more likely to leave Baltimore:

- Females
- Aged 18 to 24 years
- Black
- Central and South district residents
- Income between $25,001 and $100,000
- Had at least some post-secondary education

Those who were likely or very likely to leave Baltimore were:

- More likely to be unsatisfied with City services
- More likely to rate downtown and their neighborhood in the daytime and nighttime as unsafe or very unsafe
- More likely to rate the City and their neighborhood cleanliness as poor and less likely to rate it as good

- Respondents living in the Central (zip code 21201) and South (zip codes 21223, 21230, 21225, 21226) Citizen Survey Districts
- Respondents with an annual income between $25,001 and $100,000
- Respondents with some college or post-secondary technical school, a college degree, or graduate or professional education

Demographics characteristics of those who said in 2013 they were less likely to leave Baltimore include:

- Older respondents (particularly the oldest surveyed, aged 65 or older)
- Respondents living in the Northwest (zip codes 21207. 21215 and 21209) and North (21211, 21210, 21212, 21218) Citizen Survey Districts
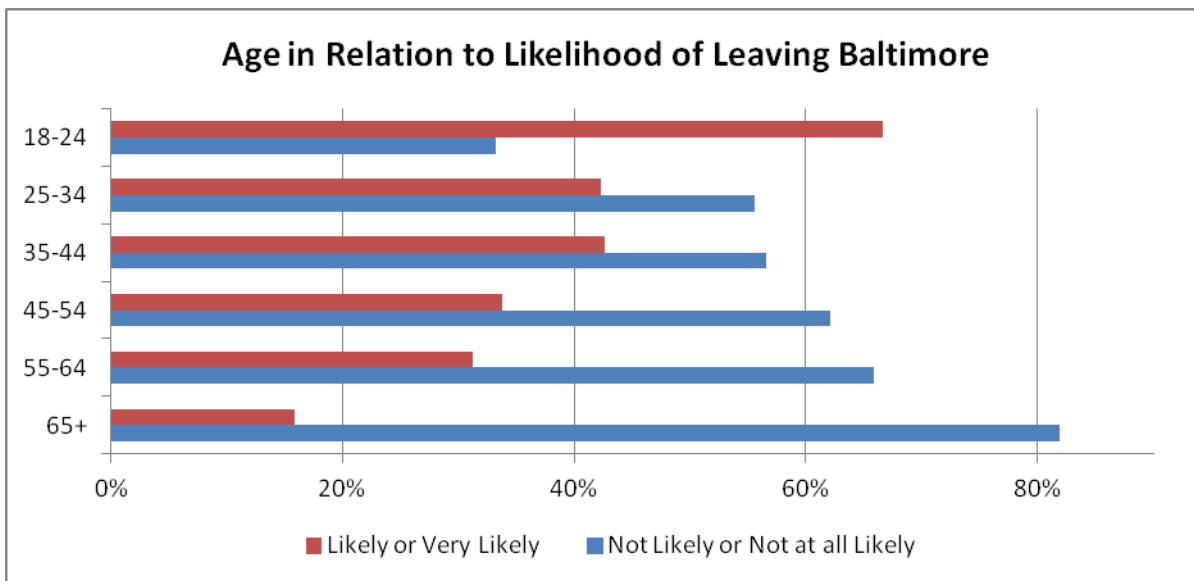- Respondents with an annual income of under $25,000 or over $100,000

Chart 2: Age in Relation to Expressed Likelihood of Moving From Baltimore in the Next Three Years (2013)
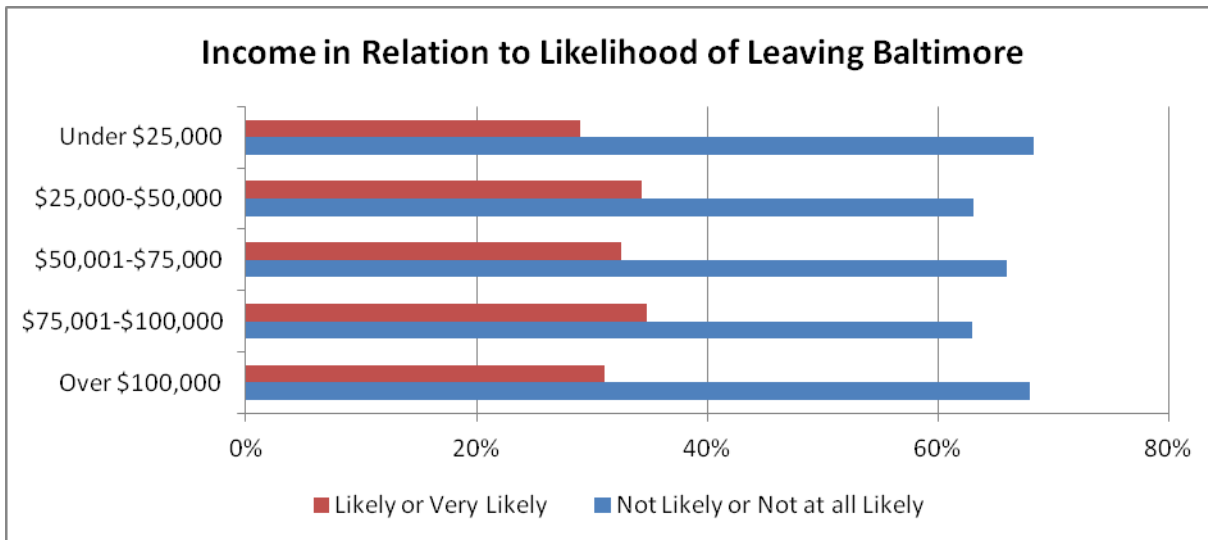

Chart 3: Income in Relation to Expressed Likelihood of Moving From Baltimore in the Next Three Years (2013)

As Charts 2 and 3 show, younger respondents were more likely than older ones to report they were likely or very likely to move out of Baltimore, as were respondents in the middle-income brackets compared to those with higher and lower incomes. The percentage of respondents who said they were likely to leave the City was lower with each advancing age group. About a third (34%) of respondents with incomes between $25,000 and $100,000 reported they were likely or very likely to leave.

Unsurprisingly, respondents who said they were likely to move out of the City were more critical of the city's safety , cleanliness, and overall city services . Those who said they were likely to leave were more apt to rate as unsafe or very unsafe their neighborhood and downtown during the daytime and the nighttime. Self-identified likely movers rated city cleanliness as poor 37% of the time compared with 27% of the time for self-identified likely stayers. Finally, higher percentages of respondents who said they planned to leave the City said they were unsatisfied or very unsatisfied with City services (32% and 18% respectively) compared with respondents who planned to stay (26% unsatisfied and 8% very unsatisfied).

Why Are You Likely to Leave?

Crime, pursuing another job, and high taxes were the three most frequently cited primary reasons for leaving Baltimore in 2013, as they were in the previous two years. The percentage of residents citing crime, however, dropped significantly between 2011 and 2012 and remained at the 2012 figure (14%) in 2013. The percentage of respondents citing the poor quality of public schools as the primary reason for leaving declined from 7% in 2011 to 4% in 2013.
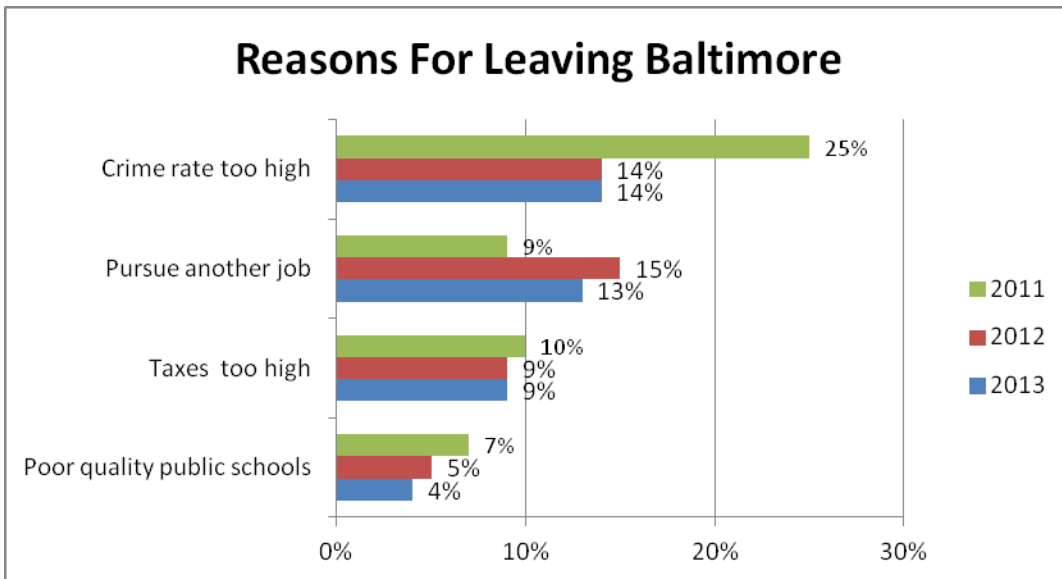
Reasons For Leaving Baltimore

	2011	2012	2013
Crime rate too high	25%	14%	14%
Pursue another job	9%	15%	13%
Taxes too high	10%	9%	9%
Poor quality public schools	7%	5%	4%

Chart 4: Expressed Reasons for Moving From Baltimore in the Next Three Years (2013)

Among respondents who were likely to leave Baltimore in the next three years, male respondents were more likely to say they were leaving because of either crime or taxes, while female respondents were most likely to say they were leaving because of crime.

Key Findings

Those who were more likely to say they were leaving Baltimore because of *high crime rates*:

- Lived in the Central, East and South Districts
- Had incomes under $25,000
- Rented rather than owned their homes

Those who were more likely to say they were leaving Baltimore because of *high taxes:*

- Were 45 to 60 years old
- Had incomes over $75,001
- Owned rather than rented their homes

Those who were more likely to say they were leaving Baltimore because of the *poor quality of public schools:*

- Had children under 18 at home
- Lived in the North or Southwest districts
- Had Incomes over $75,001

The expressed reasons for leaving Baltimore also varied with other demographic characteristics. Those under 45 were more likely than those over 45 to say their primary reason for leaving would be to pursue another job.

Area of residence made some difference. In six of the nine Citizen Survey Districts the top primary reason provided by residents for planning to leaving Baltimore was crime, which was the top reason for respondents in general. But respondents in the North and Southwest District (zip codes 21229, 21228 and 21227) Districts were most likely to give taxes as their primary reason. Respondents in the Southeast (zip codes 21231, 21224 and 21222) District were most likely to report they would leave to pursue a job. In the Northeast (zip codes 21206, 21213, 21214, 21234, 21236, 21237, 21239, 21251) and South districts, which had the highest percentages of those planning to leave, high crime was most frequently named as the top primary reason.

In terms of income, those who earned under $50,000 or between $75,001 and $100,000 were most likely to give crime as the primary reason for moving out of Baltimore, while those with incomes between $50,001 and $75,000 and those with incomes over $100,000 were most likely to provide high taxes as the primary reason. Among the five income groups, those with incomes over $100,000 were the most likely to say they were leaving because of the poor quality of public schools, although their top primary reasons were also taxes and crime.

Homeowners were more likely than renters to give high taxes as their primary reason for leaving Baltimore. Renters gave crime as their top primary reason.