



Raleigh/Wake County Rankings (as of 1.17.24)

2023

- #1 Best City for First-Time Homebuyers (Raleigh, NC)
ConsumerAffairs | December 2023
- #4 Best Town in the U.S. to Live (Raleigh, NC)
Money.com | December 2023
- #8 Best City in the U.S. for Young Black Professionals (Raleigh, NC)
Tuko News | December 2023
- #9 Best College City (Raleigh, NC)
WalletHub | December 2023
- #1 Safest Town in North Carolina (Fuquay-Varina, NC)
MoneyGeek | December 2023
- #6 Best City for Work-Life Balance (Raleigh, NC)
howtostartanllc.org | November 2023
- #14 Top U.S. City for International Business (Raleigh, NC)
The Financial Times | November 2023
- #1 Place to Start a Small Business (Raleigh, NC)
LendingTree | November 2023
- #5 Best City to go for Thanksgiving (Raleigh, NC)
WalletHub | November 2023
- #7 Top Tech Metro in the U.S. in 2023 (Raleigh-Cary, NC)
NC Tech Association | November 2023
- #1 Best City for Veterans to Live (Raleigh, NC)
WalletHub | November 2023
- #6 Most Educated City in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC)
Forbes | October 2023
- #7 US Metro for Technology Innovation (Raleigh, NC)
NCTech Association | October 2023
- #6 Top College in the Nation (Duke University)
WalletHub | October 2023
- #3 Best Place to Live in the U.S. (Raleigh-Durham, NC)
Jagran Josh | October 2023
- #4 Top Tech Metro in the Southern U.S. (Raleigh, NC)
CommercialCafe | October 2023
- #2 Best City to Drive in in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC)
WalletHub | October 2023
- #9 Most Neighborly City in 2023 (Raleigh, NC)
Neighbor.com | September 2023
- #7 City Where People are Thinking About Moving To (Raleigh, NC)
Coldwell Banker | September 2023
- #3 Best Job Market in the U.S. (Cary, NC)
SmartAdvisor | September 2023
- #5 Best Large Airport in North America (RDU International)
J.D. Power | September 2023
- #4 Best Public University in the Nation (UNC Chapel Hill)
U.S. News & World Report | September 2023
- #22 Best University in the Nation (UNC Chapel Hill)
U.S. News & World Report | September 2023
- #2 Top Real Estate Market for Homebuilding Prospects in 2023 (Raleigh-Durham, NC)
PwC US | October 2022
- #6 Top Real Estate Market to Watch in 2023 (Raleigh-Durham, NC)
PwC US | October 2022
- #4 Pro-Growth City in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC)
Pacific Research Institute | September 2023
- #9 Fastest Growing Metro in the U.S. (Raleigh-Durham, NC)
ZRIVO | September 2023
- #5 Best Real-Estate Market in 2023 in the U.S. (Cary, NC)
WalletHub | August 2023
- #2 U.S. City Building the Most Homes (Raleigh-Cary, NC)
Construction Coverage | August 2023
- #2 Best Place to Live in the Southeast (Cary, NC)
Livability | August 2023
- #9 Best City in the U.S for Hybrid Work (Raleigh, NC)
CommercialSearch | August 2023
- #21 Fastest Growing Place in the U.S. in 2023 (Raleigh-Durham, NC)
U.S. News & World Report | August 2023
- #2 Most Climate-Resilient City (Raleigh, NC)
Architectural Digest | August 2023
- Fastest Growing Airport in the U.S. (RDU; Raleigh, NC)
RDU Airport Authority | July 2023
- #2 City in the U.S. with the Safest Drivers (Cary, NC)
ConsumerAffairs | July 2023
- #12 Best Southern U.S. City (Raleigh, NC)
Southern Living | July 2023
- #1 Top City for Spacious Living (Raleigh, NC)
StorageCafe | July 2023
- #8 Most Educated City in the U.S. in 2023 (Raleigh-Cary, NC)
WalletHub | July 2023
- #5 Best City for Gen Zers (Raleigh, NC)
CommercialCafe | July 2023
- #19 Best Run City in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC)
WalletHub | July 2023
- #5 Best City for Renters to Live in 2023 (Raleigh, NC)
RentCafe | June 2023
- #6 Best City to Live in the U.S. (Cary, NC)
Livability | June 2023
- #3 Best Tasting Water in the World (Raleigh, NC)
American Water Works Association | June 2023
- #2 Best Place to Live in the South (Raleigh, NC)
U.S. News & World Report | June 2023
- #1 Best Large Metro for Homeownership (Raleigh, NC)
LendingTree | June 2023
- #11 Best Metro for Young Professionals in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC)
U.S. News | June 2023
- #9 Best City to Own a Pet (Raleigh, NC)
CoworkingCafe | June 2023

**Wake County
Economic Development**

800 South Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2202

☎ 919.664.7000



- #3 Best Performing City in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC) | Milken Institute May 2023
- #10 Best Large U.S. City to Start a Career in After College (Raleigh, NC) | CoworkingCafe May 2023
- #3 Best Place to Live in the United States (Raleigh, NC) U.S. News & World Report May 2023
- #7 Best Place for Millennials to Live (Raleigh, NC) | CommercialCafe May 2023
- #5 Best U.S. City for Highest-Paying Jobs (Raleigh, NC) Checkr | May 2023
- #10 Best City for College Graduates to Start a Career (Raleigh, NC) | CoworkingCafe May 2023
- #8 Fastest Growing U.S. Tech Hubs for IT Talent (Raleigh, NC) CIO | April 2023
- #10 Best City for Retirees (Raleigh, NC) SmartAsset | April 2023
- #2 Most Pet Friendly City in America (Raleigh, NC) Forbes Advisor | April 2023
- #5 Hottest Job Market in the Nation (Raleigh, NC) The Wall Street Journal | April 2023
- #10, #29, #72 Top Colleges in U.S. (Duke, UNC, NC State) U.S. News | March 2023
- #8 Most Affordable Place to Live in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC) Travel + Leisure | March 2023
- #8 Best Value City in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC) The Times | March 2023
- #4 Top U.S. Metro for African-American Women Employment (Raleigh, NC) CityLab | March 2023
- #2 Top U.S. City for Sleep Health (Raleigh, NC) U.S. News and World Report February 2023
- #12 Best City in the U.S. to Start an Airbnb (Raleigh, NC) FinanceBuzz | February 2023
- #3 Best City in the Nation for first-time homebuyers (Raleigh, NC) Bankrate | February 2023
- #2 Most Preferred Market for Lenders (Raleigh-Durham, NC) | CBRE February 2023
- #10 Most Preferred Market for Investors (Raleigh-Durham, NC) CBRE | February 2023
- #2 Best City to Retire in North Carolina (Raleigh, NC) U.S. News and World Report February 2023
- #7 Best Destination in the Nation to Live During Retirement (Raleigh, NC) Zumper | February 2023
- #1 Hottest Housing Market in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC) U.S. Housing Market Index February 2023
- #2 Best City to Live in America (Raleigh, NC) StudyFinds | February 2023
- #1 Hot Dog Capital of America (Raleigh, NC) National Hot Dog Sausage Council February 2023
- #1 Most Affordable Capital City in U.S. (Raleigh, NC) WalletHub | February 2023
- #2 Best City in the South to Buy a House (Raleigh, NC) CNBC | January 2023
- #4 Best City for Work-Life Balance (Raleigh, NC) CoworkingCafe | January 2023
- #1 Most Livable City in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC) Far & Wide | January 2023
- #3 Best City for STEM Job Growth (Raleigh, NC) November 2022
- #9 Best City in the U.S. for Foreign Investment (Raleigh, NC) Financial Times October 2022
- #4 Top City for Millennial Relocators (Raleigh, NC) SmartAsset | October 2022
- #1 Best City for Veteran's to Live (Raleigh, NC) WalletHub | October 2022
- #5 Best City for Families with Children (Raleigh, NC) STORAGECafe | October 2022
- #5 Best Large Airport in America (RDU International Airport) J.D. Power | September 2022
- #10, 29T, 29T, 72 Best National University (Duke, UNC, Wake Forest, NCSU) U.S. News & World Report | September 2022
- #5 Top Global Pharmaceutical Hub (Raleigh-Durham, NC) Hickey & Assoc. | August 2022
- #4 Top Global Biotechnology Hub (Raleigh-Durham, NC) Hickey & Assoc. | August 2022
- #1 Safest City in America (Cary, NC) GoodHire | August 2022
- #6 Best Real Estate Market in America 2022 (Cary, NC) WalletHub | August 2022
- #9, #28, #70 America's Top Colleges (Duke, UNC, NCSU) Forbes | August 2022
- #1 Best City to Start a Tech Career (Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC) GoBankingRates | August 2022
- #11 Hottest Zip Code in the U.S. for 2022 (Cary, NC - 27511) Realtor.com | August 2022 Aug-22
- #2 Safest & Most Affordable U.S. City for Teen Drivers (Raleigh, NC) The Zebra | August 2022
- #6 Top City for Highest School Enrollment Rate for Gen Zers (Aged 20 to 24) (Raleigh, NC) CommercialCafe | August 2022
- #5 Top City for Gen Z in America (Raleigh, NC) CommercialCafe | August 2022
- #1 Best City for Gamers in North America (Raleigh, NC) Time2Play | August 2022

2022

- #5 Best Place to Live for Families (Morrisville, NC) Fortune Well | December 2022
- #1 Best Place to Live in North Carolina (Morrisville, NC) Niche | December 2022
- #5 Most Diverse City in North Carolina (Morrisville, NC) HomeSnacks | December 2022
- #2 Most Affordable City in the Southeast (Raleigh, NC) Morningstar | December 2022
- #2 Fastest Growing Metro in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC) Inspection Support Network December 2022
- #2 Hottest Real Estate Market to Watch in 2023 (Raleigh, NC) National Association of Realtors December 2022
- #2 Top Innovative City in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC) Nexcess | November 2022

Wake County Economic Development

800 South Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2202

☎ 919.664.7000

For additional rankings,
please call 919.664.7066.

www.raleigh-wake.org



North Carolina Rankings (as of 1.17.24)

2023

- #2 Best State for a Remote Getaway (North Carolina) Window Gnome | December 2023
- #3 Best Charter School Enrollment Growth in the Nation (North Carolina) National Alliance for Public Charter Schools | December 2023
- #7 Top State for Business Startup Growth Venture Smarter | November 2023
- #6 Most Economically Free State in the U.S. Fraser Institute | November 2023
- #14 Best State for Educational Freedom The Heritage Foundation | November 2023
- #9 Top State in U.S. for Best Tax Climate Tax Foundation | October 2023
- #9 Best State for Bat Lovers Pest Gnome | October 2023
- #10 Top State for Small-Business Survival Capital on Tap | October 2023
- #6 Best State in the U.S. for Pensions GOBankingRates | October 2023
- #8 U.S. State with the Most Preserved Historic Homes Assurance IQ | October 2023
- #5 Most Charming State in the U.S. Oddspedia | September 2023
- #6 Top State for Tech Careers Venture Smarter | September 2023
- #6 Best State for Small Business Taxes in 2023 SimplifyLLC | August 2023
- #8 Biopharma Cluster in the U.S. Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News August 2023
- #1 State in America for Business in 2023 CNBC | July 2023
- #3 State with the Most HBCU's in the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics | July 2023
- #5 Top State to Get Married in BetCarolina | July 2023
- #1 State for Producing America's Top Workers in 2023 CNBC | July 2023
- #3 Best State for ChatGPT Jobs Acendence | June 2023
- #7 Best State Economy in the U.S. WalletHub | June 2023
- #9 Best State for Retired Veterans WalletHub | May 2023
- #4 Best State for Doing Business in 2023 Site Selection Magazine | May 2023
- #4 Best State for Retirees Scholaroo | May 2023
- #1 State for Economic Development Opportunities Site Selection Magazine | May 2023
- #8 Best State for Beer Lovers BetCarolina | April 2023
- #16 Most Innovative State in the U.S. WalletHub | April 2023
- #10 Top State for Grade 'A' Hospitals in the U.S. Ready or Not Health Study | March 2023
- #5 Best State for Small Businesses Lendio | March 2023
- #4 Top State Business Climate Site Selection Magazine | November 2022
- #9 Best State in the U.S. for Pet Healthcare Insurify | February 2023
- #4 State for Tech Occupations in the Nation North Carolina Technology Association | February 2023
- #6 Best State for Solar Energy Forbes | February 2023
- #3 Best State for Cheapest In-State College Tuition CNBC | February 2023
- #2 Best School District in the U.S. National Board for Professional Teachers January 2023
- #9 Best State for Women-led Startups Merchant Maverick | January 2023
- #8 Best State to Succeed in Business Harrington Group International October 2022
- #6 Top Destination for Wealthy Millennials SmartAsset | September 2022
- #7 Best State for Education U.S. News & World Report August 2022
- #2 Safest State During COVID-19 WalletHub | August 2022
- #1 Top State for Best Business Climate Business Facilities | August 2022
- #7 Top Biosciences Leader in America Business Facilities | August 2022
- #4 Top State for Tech Talent Pipeline Business Facilities | August 2022
- #7 Top State for Manufacturing (Output) Business Facilities | August 2022
- #9 Top State for Health Care Jobs Business Facilities | August 2022
- #6 Top State for Customized Training Business Facilities | August 2022
- #7 Top State for Food Processing Leader Business Facilities | August 2022
- #8 Top State for Semiconductors Business Facilities | August 2022
- #6 Top State for Recovery Leaders Business Facilities | August 2022
- #8 Top State for Offshore Wind Power (MW by 2030) Business Facilities | August 2022
- #4 Top State for Installed Solar Power Capacity Business Facilities | August 2022
- #2 Top State for FDI (Capital Investment) Business Facilities | August 2022
- #10 Top State for FDI (Projects) Business Facilities | August 2022
- #1 Top State for Small Business Growth Paychex | August 2022
- #5 Top State for Solar Job Growth IREC | July 2022
- #7 State with the Most Remote Job Openings CNBC | July 2022

2022

- #1 Best State to Start a Small Business November 2022

**Wake County
Economic Development**

800 South Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2202

☎ 919.664.7000