

Raleigh/Wake County Rankings (as of 5.10.24)



2024

- #8 Best U.S. City to Start a Business in in 2024 (Raleigh, NC)
USA Today | April 2024
- #8 Top U.S. Metro for MBA Students & Graduates (Raleigh, NC)
CoworkingCafe | April 2024
- #10 Top City for Millenials in 2024 (Raleigh, NC)
Hire a Helper | April 2024
- #12 Best City to Buy a Fixer-Upper (Raleigh, NC)
StorageCafe | April 2024
- #18 Top U.S City Most People Moved to (Raleigh-Durham, NC)
Yahoo Finance | April 2024
- #7 Best Small City to Start a Business (Morrisville, NC)
WalletHub | April 2024
- #7 Happiest City in the U.S. in 2024 (Raleigh, NC)
Smartasset | April 2024
- #5 Best City to Move to In North Carolina in 2024 (Cary, NC)
USA Today | April 2024
- #11 Happiest City in 2024 in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC)
SmartAsset | April 2024
- #10 Best State for Remote Workers (Raleigh, NC)
WalletHub | April 2024
- #4 Best City for Pet Owners in 2024 (Raleigh, NC)
Forbes | April 2024
- #30 Best Graduate School in 2024 (N.C. State University's College of Education)
U.S. News & World Report | April 2024
- #1 Best County to Live in North Carolina (Wake County, NC)
Stacker | April 2024
- #3 Best County to Live in America in 2024 (Wake County, NC)
Niche | April 2024
- #29, #60, #94 Top University Worldwide for Patents (Duke University, N.C. State University, UNC Chapel Hill)
NAI | April 2024
- #9 Metro to Start a STEM Business (Raleigh, NC)
CYTENA | April 2024
- #1 Best City for Corporate Workers in 2024 (Raleigh, NC)
Checkr | March 2024
- #2 Best City to Move to in 2024 (Raleigh, NC)
Forbes | March 2024
- #6 Most Tech-Savvy City in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC)
Cloudwards | March 2024
- #9 Most Improved Metro for EV Infrastructure (Raleigh-Durham, NC)
ISeeCars | March 2024
- #4 Best U.S. City to Get Your MBA (Raleigh, NC)
BusinessBecause | March 2024
- #1 Top Metro for Career Growth (Raleigh, NC)
moveBuddha | March 2024
- 18 & #21 Best Colleges for Future Leaders (Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill)
TIME | March 2024
- #9 Best City in the South in 2024 (Raleigh, NC) | Southern Living | March 2024
- #4 Very Large Metro in the U.S. for Overall Geographic Inclusion Index 10YR (Raleigh)
Brookings Institute | March 2024
- #2 Very Large Metro in the U.S. for Overall Growth Index 10YR (Raleigh)
Brookings Institute | March 2024
- #6 Very Large Metro in the U.S. for Overall Prosperity Index 10YR (Raleigh)
Brookings Institute | March 2024
- #2 Metro for Remote Work in the U.S. (Raleigh-Durham)
DesignRush | March 2024
- #7 Healthiest City in the U.S. (Raleigh)
SmartAsset | March 2024
- #16 Best Hospital in the U.S. (Duke University Hospital - Durham)
NewsWeek | February 2024
- #6 U.S. City for Tech Professionals (Raleigh)
Cloudwards | February 2024
- #2 U.S Metro for Women in Tech (Raleigh)
CoworkingCafe | February 2024
- #13 Best Place to Live for Quality of Life (Raleigh-Durham)
U.S. News & World Report | February 2024
- #3 Best State Capital to Live In (Raleigh)
WalletHub | February 2024
- #2 Hottest Real Estate Market in 2024 (Raleigh)
U.S. News & World Report | February 2024
- #1 Best City in the U.S for Renters (Cary)
USA Today | February 2024
- #2 Best Performing City in the U.S. (Raleigh)
Milken Institute | February 2024
- #1 City with the Most People Working From Home (Cary)
SmartAsset | January 2024
- #2 Best Place to Live in America (Raleigh)
StudyFinds | January 2024
- #1 City for a 'Fresh Start' (Raleigh)
This Old House | January 2024
- #14 Best City for STEM Jobs (Raleigh)
WalletHub | January 2024
- #3 U.S. City with the Fastest Job Growth (Raleigh)
Quartz | January 2024
- #3 Best Place to Live in the U.S. in 2023-2024 (Raleigh-Durham)
U.S. News & World Report | January 2024

2023

- #1 Top Large County in the U.S. for Remote Worker Share (Wake County, NC)
Lightcast | December 2023
- #12 Top Large County in the U.S. for Talent Attraction (Wake County, NC)
Lightcast | December 2023
- #10 Top Large County in the U.S. for Talent Competitiveness Effect (Wake County, NC)
Lightcast | December 2023
- #10 Top Metros in Per Capita Venture Capital Investment (\$4.3K) (Durham, NC)
Pitchbook | December 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
- #4 Fastest Growing Venture Capital Ecosystems in the World (2017-2023) (Raleigh, NC) Pitchbook | October 2023
- #8 Top Real Estate Market for Homebuilding Prospects in 2024 (Raleigh-Durham, NC) PwC US | October 2023
- #9 Top U.S. Real Estate Markets to Watch in 2024 (Raleigh-Durham, NC) PwC | October 2023
- #6 Top Metro by Life Science Space Currently Open (3Q 2023) (Raleigh-Durham, NC) PwC | October 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
- #9 Top Tech Talent Leader (Labor Pool 50K-125K) (Raleigh-Durham) Business Facilities | August 2023
- #8 Top Manufacturing Hub for Large MSAs (Raleigh-Durham) Business Facilities | August 2023
- #1 Top Performing Container Ports (Port of Wilmington) Business Facilities | August 2023
- #4 Top Millennial Magnets (Raleigh-Durham) Business Facilities | August 2023
- #6 Top Metro in Life Sciences Growth (Raleigh-Durham) Business Facilities | August 2023
- #3 Best Large Metro for Business Climate (Raleigh-Cary) Business Facilities | August 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
- #2 Top Global Startup Emerging Ecosystems (Research Triangle, NC) Startup Genome | 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
- #3 Best Performing City in the U.S. (Raleigh, NC) | Milken Institute May 2023

**Wake County
Economic Development**

800 South Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2202

☎ 919.664.7000

For additional rankings,
please call 919.664.7066.



North Carolina Rankings (as of 5.10.24)

2024

- #8 Best U.S. City to Start a Business in 2024 (Raleigh, NC) | USA Today April 2024
- #4 State with the Most Solar Capacity (North Carolina) Climate Control | April 2024
- #5 Best State for Renters in 2024 (North Carolina) Consumer Affairs | April 2024
- #7 Best State for Outdoor Lovers (North Carolina) StudyFinds | April 2024
- #25 Greenest State in the U.S. (North Carolina) WalletHub | April 2024
- #4 Top State for Future Economic Outlook (North Carolina) ALEC | April 2024
- #5 State with Best Access to Pet-Friendly Spaces (North Carolina) Forbes | April 2024
- #3 State with the Highest Population Increase since 2022 (North Carolina) Yahoo News | March 2024
- #16 Top U.S. State for AI Jobs (North Carolina) Yahoo Finance | March 2024
- #7 Sunniest State in the U.S. (North Carolina) Yahoo Finance | March 2024
- #14 Best State to Retire on a Budget in 2024 (North Carolina) Seniorly | March 2024
- #7 Top State for Women-Owned Businesses (North Carolina) Clarify Capital | March 2024
- #9 State with the Best Business Tax Environment AccountingToday | February 2024
- #1 State in the U.S. for Highest Quantity of National Board Certified Teachers | EDNC | February 2024
- #9 Most Popular State for Playing Lacrosse | StrawPoll | January 2024
- #8 State for Elderly Care Access SonderCare | January 2024
- #6 Best State to Drive in (2024) | WalletHub | January 2024
- #10 State with the Most Racial Progress in the U.S. WalletHub | January 2024

- #5 Best State to Start a Business in 2024 | Forbes Advisor January 2024
- #3 Top State People Moved to in 2023 | U-Haul International January 2024
- #3 Top US School Districts for # of National Board Certified Teachers (Wake County, NC) NBPT | January 2024

2023

- #5 Top State for Talent Attraction (North Carolina) Lightcast | December 2023
- #4 Top State for Talent Competitiveness Effect (North Carolina) Lightcast | December 2023
- #6 Top State for Migration (North Carolina) Lightcast | December 2023
- #7 Top State for Skilled Job Growth (North Carolina) Lightcast | December 2023
- #8 Top State for Job Growth (North Carolina) Lightcast | December 2023
- #2 Best State for a Remote Getaway Window Gnome | December 2023
- #3 Best Charter School Enrollment Growth in the Nation National Alliance for Public Charter Schools | December 2023
- #1 Lowest State & Local Tax Burden (TEBTR) Ernst & Young | 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
- #10 Top State for Speed of Project Permitting Area Development | November 2023
- #5 Top State for Favorable Regulatory Environment Area Development | November 2023
- #6 Top State for Site-Readiness Programs Area Development | November 2023

- #2 Top State for Corporate Tax Structure Area Development | November 2023
- #3 Top State for Cooperative & Responsive State Government Area Development | November 2023
- #5 Top State for Available Real Estate Area Development | November 2023
- #9 Top State for Logistics & Infrastructure Area Development | November 2023
- #5 Top State for Water Availability Area Development | November 2023
- #5 Top State for Energy Availability & Cost Area Development | November 2023
- #2 Top State for Competitive Labor Market Area Development | November 2023
- #8 Top State for Access to Capital & Funding Area Development | November 2023
- #6 Top State for Business Incentives Programs Area Development | November 2023
- #5 Top State for Overall Cost of Doing Business Area Development | November 2023
- #7 Top State for Workforce Training Programs Area Development | November 2023
- #4 Top State for Doing Business Area Development | 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
- #2 State with the Most Equitable School Districts (North Carolina) WalletHub | September 2023
- #5 Most Charming State in the U.S. Oddspedia | September 2023