

Data Dictionary and Sources

Economy

GDP (2024)

Current-dollar gross domestic product (GDP); the value of final goods and services produced within a given area in thousands of dollars.

[U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)

Five-Year GDP Growth (2019-2024)

Growth of real GDP in thousands of chained 2017 dollars.

[U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)

Number of Businesses (2023)

Number of establishments with paid employees.

[U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns](#)

Five-Year Growth in Number of Businesses (2018-2023)

Growth of business base (as defined above).

[U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns](#)

Five-Year Employment Growth (2020-2025)

Growth of all employees in all industries.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#)

Projected Five-Year Employment Growth (2027-2032)

Projected growth of all employees in all industries.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages via Lightcast](#)

Workforce

Population (2025)

Annual estimate of the resident population as of July 1, 2025.

[U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division](#)

Five-Year Population Growth (2020-2025)

Growth rate of the resident population between July 1, 2020, and July 1, 2025.

[U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division](#)

% of Population Foreign-Born (2024)

Percentage of the total population born in a country other than the United States.

[U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates \(S0501\)](#)

Annual Net Migration (2024-2025)

Annual change of in-migration and out-migration of domestic and international movers from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2025.

[U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division](#)

Median Age (2024)

The age that divides age distribution into two equal groups, half being older than this age, and half being younger. MSAs are ranked 1 to 30 from youngest median age to oldest.

[U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates \(S0101\)](#)

Labor Force (2024)

The annual average of the number of people aged 16 and older who are employed or looking for work.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#)

Five-Year Labor Force Growth (2019-2024)

Growth rate of the labor force (as defined above).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#)

Five-Year Employment Growth by Sector (2020-2025)

Growth of all employees in all industries.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#)

Advanced Manufacturing (2019-2024)

Growth of employees for manufacturing companies.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages via Lightcast](#)

Aviation/Aerospace/Defense (2019-2024)

Growth of employees for aviation, aerospace, and defense companies.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages via Lightcast](#)

Business Services (2019-2024)

Growth of employees for business services companies.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages via Lightcast](#)

Digital Technology (2019-2024)

Growth of employees for digital technology companies.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages via Lightcast](#)

Life Sciences (2019-2024)

Growth of employees for life sciences companies.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages via Lightcast](#)

Logistics & Distribution (2019-2024)

Growth of employees for logistics & distribution companies.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages via Lightcast](#)

Union Membership (2025)

Percentage of employed workers who are union members.

[Union Membership, Coverage, and Earnings from the CPS](#)

Enrolled Students Within 100 Miles (2023)

Students enrolled in a college or university or technical or vocational institution within 100 miles of an MSA's center.

[National Center for Education Statistics via Lightcast](#)

Annual Graduates Per 10,000 Residents (2024)

The number of degrees or certificates conferred for each year, per 10,000 residents. Includes all award levels.

[National Center for Education Statistics via Lightcast](#)

% of Population Age 25+ with Associate's Degree or Higher (2024)

Percentage of the population aged 25 and over with an associate's degree or higher.

[U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates \(S1501\)](#)

% of Population Age 25+ with Bachelor's Degree or Higher (2024)

Percentage of the population aged 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or higher.

[U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates \(S1501\)](#)

Business Climate

Annual Operating Cost for a Manufacturing Facility (2024)

Based on a hypothetical manufacturing project, reflective of the following inputs: 125,000 square foot constructed industrial manufacturing facility on 8.7 acres; utility usage of 1,000 kilowatt-quarters (KQ), 400,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity demand/usage, and 500,000 cubic feet (cf), 4 meters of water and wastewater usage, each; with \$17,250,000 in capital investment and a workforce of 300 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.

[MetroComp](#)

Annual Operating Cost for an Office Facility (2024)

Based on a hypothetical office project, reflective of the following inputs: 40,000 square foot lease of suburban Class A office space with \$1,000,000 in capital investment and a workforce of 200 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.

[MetroComp](#)

Average Asking Rate, Warehousing/Distribution Industrial Space (Q1 2026)

Average asking rents for warehousing & distribution industrial properties, per square foot.

[Cushman & Wakefield](#)

Average Asking Rate, Class A Office Space (Q1 2026)

Average asking rents for Class A office properties, per square foot.

[Cushman & Wakefield](#)

Construction Cost Index (January 2026, Volume 52, Number 1)

The percentage ratio based on changes in construction costs over time, including labor, materials, and equipment, where the higher the index number, the more expensive construction costs are. The index compares costs city to city, rather than at the MSA level.

[RS Means Construction Cost Index](#)

Average State Industrial Electricity Rate (2024)

Average price in cents per kilowatt-hour of electricity to industrial customers.

[U.S. Energy Information Administration](#)

Average State Commercial Electricity Rate (2024)

Average price in cents per kilowatt-hour of electricity to commercial customers.

[U.S. Energy Information Administration](#)

Hourly Median Wage by Occupation (2024)

Hourly median wage for all occupations.

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand (2024)

Hourly median wage for Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand (SOC Code 53-7062).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians (2024)

Hourly median wage for Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians (SOC Code 49-3011).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians (2024)

Hourly median wage for Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians (SOC Code 17-3023).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

Software Developers (2024)

Hourly median wage for Software Developers (SOC Code 15-1252).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

Computer User Support Specialists (2024)

Hourly median wage for Computer User Support Specialists (SOC Code 15-1232).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

General and Operations Managers (2024)

Hourly median wage for General and Operations Managers (SOC Code 11-1021).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

Customer Service Representatives (2024)

Hourly median wage for Customer Service Representatives (SOC Code 43-4051).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

Human Resources Specialists (2024)

Hourly median wage for Human Resources Specialists (SOC Code 13-1071).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

Registered Nurses (2024)

Hourly median wage for Registered Nurses (SOC Code 29-1141).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

Pharmacy Technicians (2024)

Hourly median wage for Pharmacy Technicians (SOC Code 29-2052).

[U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)

State Business Tax Climate Ranking (2026)

Rankings are based on five components of state tax codes: corporate taxes; individual income taxes; sales, use, and excise taxes; property and wealth taxes; and unemployment insurance taxes. For all 50 states, a rank of 1 is best, 50 is worst. Rankings do not average to the total. Rankings based on tax systems as of July 1, 2025.

[Tax Foundation](#)

Corporate Tax Rate (2026)

Top marginal state corporate income tax rate as of January 1, 2026.

[Tax Foundation](#)

Personal Income Tax Rate (2026)

Top marginal state individual income tax rate as of January 1, 2026.

[Tax Foundation](#)

Combined State & Local Sales Tax Rate (2026)

Combined state and average local sales tax rate as of January 1, 2026.

[Tax Foundation](#)

State Workers' Compensation Employer Insurance Costs Per \$100 of Payroll (2022)

Employer costs for workers' compensation per \$100 of payroll.

[National Academy of Social Insurance, Workers' Compensation: Benefits, Coverage, and Costs](#)

Unemployment Insurance Tax Rate (2025)

Average employer contributions as a percentage of total wages, by state (estimated).

[United States Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration](#)

Taxable Wage Base for Unemployment Insurance (2025)

Unemployment compensation taxable wage base, by state (estimated).

[United States Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration](#)

Average Annual Cost Paid by Employers for Health Premiums for Family Coverage (2024)

Average total family premium (in dollars) per enrolled employee at businesses that offer health insurance.

[Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Medical Expenditure Panel Survey](#)

Right to Work State (2023)

The phrase "right to work" refers to an employee's ability to work for an employer without joining a union or paying agency fees for representation.

[National Center for State Legislatures](#)

Infrastructure

International Airports Within 100 Miles

Airports within 100 miles (based on a straight line) of the center of an MSA.

[Federal Aviation Administration, National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems](#)

Number of Nonstop Domestic Destinations

The number of nonstop domestic destinations from airports within an MSA.

Orlando Economic Partnership Research

Number of Nonstop International Destinations

The number of nonstop international destinations from airports within an MSA.

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Deepwater Ports Within 100 Miles

Sea or river ports with a depth of 20 feet or more within 100 miles (based on a straight line) of the center of an MSA.

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Space Launch Ports Within 100 Miles

Federal Aviation Administration or federally licensed space ports within 100 miles (based on a straight line) of the center of an MSA.

[Federal Aviation Administration, Spaceports by State](#)

Quality of Life

Average Daily Temperature (°F) (2025)

Representative of the main city temperature from January to December, in degrees Fahrenheit.

[National Centers for Environmental Information, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

Cost of Living Index (U.S. = 100) (2025)

The Cost of Living Index measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, where the U.S. average = 100.

[The Council for Community and Economic Research, Cost of Living Index](#)

Median Home Price (Q1 2026)

The sales price of existing single-family homes that divides home price distribution into two equal groups, half costing more than the median amount, and half costing below that amount.

[National Association of REALTORS®, Metropolitan Median Area Prices and Affordability](#)

Monthly Rent for a Two-Bedroom Apartment (2025)

The monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment.

[The Council for Community and Economic Research, Cost of Living Index](#)

Average Tuition Cost, Two-Year Degree (Academic Year 2021-22)

Average undergraduate tuition and required fees for full-time, in-state students in public degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by state.

[National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics](#)

Average Tuition Cost, Four-Year Degree (Academic Year 2021-22)

Average undergraduate tuition and required fees for full-time, in-state students in public degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by state.

[National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics](#)

Annual Hours Lost in Congestion (2024)

The total congestion delay assigned specifically to peak-hour auto commuters.

[Texas A&M Transportation Institute, 2025 Urban Mobility Report](#)

MICHELIN Starred Restaurants (2025)

The number of restaurants in the MSA with one to three MICHELIN stars.

[MICHELIN Guide](#)

Number of Pro Sports Teams

The number of sports teams in an MSA belonging to men's and women's major professional baseball, basketball, football, hockey, soccer, and volleyball associations.

Orlando Economic Partnership Research

Notes:

1. In cases where multiple MSAs have the same value for a given data point, they are assigned the same rank. The next rank is then determined by the number of preceding values. For example, if two MSAs share the 4th rank, the following MSA would be ranked 6th rather than 5th.
2. If a data source does not provide information for a particular MSA, the value is recorded as "N/A." This indicates that the data is unavailable from the source, not that the MSA ranks lowest or is excluded for any other reason. Additionally, "N/A" may appear in cases where ranking is not applicable for a given metric.