Welcome home.
#1 IN THE U.S. for
JOB GROWTH IN 2015-2018
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

TOP 10 AMERICAN CITY of the FUTURE
3 years in a row
Foreign Direct Investment (fDi) Magazine

Best City for RECREATION
WalletHub

4th HAPPIEST PLACE to WORK IN U.S.
Forbes
We're so much more than a one company town.

Although primarily known for tourism, Orlando hasn’t been a one-industry town for quite some time. Before Disney was a major chapter in our story, Orlando’s early years involved the space race and the mission to get man on the moon. From sensors to simulation, Orlando is making moves on a number of fronts in future-forward industry sectors.
About Orlando

The Orlando region is known for its diversity, energy and welcoming culture. Orange County, the most populous county in the region with 1.4 million residents, is located in the center of the State of Florida and includes the City of Orlando and a dozen other incorporated municipalities. Warm winters, plenty of sunshine, miles of nearby beaches and world famous attractions make the Orlando region a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Orlando has been the nation’s leader in job growth, with a variety of industries and a diverse array of available jobs from entry level to established professional. The area’s major employers include local government, healthcare, business services and construction, just to name a few. Top reasons many people locate here include the:

• Top-ranked infrastructure
• Variety of real estate options
• Unbeatable quality of life

Moving to the Orlando region has several advantages. Florida has no personal income tax. This translates into what seems like an instant pay raise. The cost of living is also lower than many other large metropolitan areas. You’ll find that you get more for your money when it comes to buying or renting a home, putting gas in your car, purchasing groceries and paying for utility bills.

The weather is also very welcoming and allows for year-round activities. July is typically the warmest month with an average high of 94 degrees and a low of 75 degrees Fahrenheit. January is the coolest month with an average high of 68 degrees and low of 49 degrees Fahrenheit. Since Orlando is located in the center of the state, it is well insulated by land, avoiding the brunt of tropical systems and storm surge that usually impact coastal areas.

The Orlando area is richly diverse with many communities that contribute to the beauty and fun of the region. There’s a welcoming atmosphere where every resident feels valued and appreciated with opportunities to celebrate culture.

Finding a cause that’s close to your heart is also encouraged and there are hundreds of organizations looking for volunteers and individuals who want to make a difference. You’ll find Orlando is full of opportunities to engage and get plugged in with a wide variety of civic-minded groups and philanthropy.
There’s so much to do here. So many places to eat, so many places to entertain. Family that never came to visit you, will when you live in Orlando. That’s what made this place so great, it’s really brought my family together. I love Orlando and I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else.

— Angie Brown

Orlando is a very new and vibrant community. It’s a great place to be.

— Don Jernigan

The cost of living is insanely less than other places in the country. You also have the ability to raise a family and not have to spend as much. You can make things happen, you can be a part of the career you want to be a part of, you can raise a family, and you can afford to live and not just get by but thrive.

— Kunal Patel
Live Connected

The Orlando region is proving itself to be among the most progressive, forward-looking regions in the country, currently completing or planning investments of approximately $10 billion in transportation infrastructure, new venues and quality of life features.

Air
Orlando International Airport (MCO) historically services more than 41 million passengers a year and was the fifth largest origin and destination airport in the U.S. Together with Orlando Sanford International Airport (SFB), there were more than 175 nonstop destinations worldwide.

Rail
Orlando’s first commuter rail transit system, SunRail, stretches 32 miles from the north end of the Orlando region to south Orange County near the Orlando International Airport. The Virgin Train, which will connect Miami and Orlando, is currently under construction with plans to open for service in 2022.

Interstate/Roadways
Two of the state’s major highways, Interstate 4 (east-west) and the Florida Turnpike (north-south), intersect just outside Orlando. This connectivity puts Port Canaveral, Kennedy Space Center, and the Atlantic Ocean within a 45 minute-drive and the Port of Tampa on the Gulf of Mexico only an hour away. Other major roads include U.S. 441, 17/92, 27 and 192. Toll roads include State Road 528, 408, 417 and 429.
Getting Educated

The region is home to innovative charter schools, specialized magnet schools, highly competitive private schools, culturally-diverse parochial schools, a thriving network of technical and state colleges, two law schools, a medical school and America’s second largest university. Orlando is also home to the Florida Virtual School, which is the nation’s leader in online K-12 education. Public schools are generally elementary (pre-K through 5), middle (6-8), and high (9-12) schools. Several K-8 schools also operate in the region.

Orange County
Of the district's high schools, 17 have been named “Top of the Class” by the Washington Post.

Seminole County
High schools ranked in the top 4 percent by Newsweek based on the number of AP and IB tests taken. Three high schools – Lyman High School, Seminole High School and Crooms Academy of Information Technology – are featured as a "Best High School" by U.S. News & World Report.

Lake County
Lake County Schools are leading the way in new approaches to personalized learning methods.

Osceola County
Osceola County School for the Arts in Kissimmee has been named one of America’s top public high schools by Newsweek in conjunction with the Washington Post.

Colleges and Universities
The University of Central Florida (UCF) is the second largest university in the nation with 69,500 students and 210 degree programs offered from the main campus, hospitality campus, health sciences campus and its 10 regional locations. The DirectConnect to UCF program guarantees admission to UCF with an associate degree from one of its partner colleges, including Lake-Sumter State College, Seminole State College of Florida and Valencia College.

Rollins College is located less than four miles northeast of downtown Orlando in Winter Park. The Princeton Review ranked Rollins as one of the 50 “Best Value” private colleges and universities.

Full Sail University is a leader in entertainment and media industry career education. The award-winning institute offers a variety of degrees in subjects like animation, art, graphic design, film, marketing, web development, music, recording arts, sports and video games.
Feeling at Home

One reason people choose to live in Orlando is they find the perfect place, complimenting their personal lifestyle. From the urban setting in downtown Orlando with quaint Florida-style bungalows and tree-lined brick roads, to newly constructed suburban homes with big backyards, high-rise condos and golf course communities. The region’s housing options offer diversity, availability and affordability.

Orlando’s median household value for an existing single family home is $278,500, much more affordable than other comparable metro areas nationally.

Here’s a glimpse of neighborhood types within the Orlando region.

Downtown
Downtown Orlando is alive with fine dining, exciting nightlife, year-round outdoor activities, weekly farmer’s market, arts and culture, and abundant parks.

Established Neighborhoods
Established, single-family and multi-family neighborhoods with easy access to interstates and highways are found across the region. Communities with charming, friendly downtowns that include walking and biking trails invite residents to spend time enjoying a relaxing, friendly environment. And still other neighborhoods in the region, some with their mixture of small homes and other estate communities, are surrounded by lakes where residents can enjoy boating, fishing and swimming.

Planned Developments
Larger scale residential developments that include recreational amenities, commercial centers and community areas maintained by an association offer an attractive lifestyle option.
Live Affordably

You will find everything from groceries to utilities are more affordable than what you are accustomed to. Orlando’s cost of living index, at 91.8, is well below the national average.

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<th>Cost of Living Index</th>
<th>National Average</th>
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Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research

Live the Good Life

With over 4,000 square miles, the Orlando region offers irresistible lifestyle options for virtually everyone. One of the fastest-growing major metros in the country, Orlando boasts both high-rise luxury living and distinct neighborhoods, a state-of-the-art performing arts center, sophisticated dining and a sports arena that plays host to the NBA’s Orlando Magic in the downtown core — all with the sparkling backdrop of nightly fireworks from world-famous tourist attractions.

Dining

Orlando has a thriving culinary community, complete with celebrity-owned restaurants, top-rated cuisine and eateries for every taste. Whether it’s exotic, gourmet or comfort food, there is something for every dining distinction in Orlando. And, what’s more, we have the awards to prove it, including a high concentration of James Beard Award-Nominated/Affiliate Chefs/Restaurants.
Sports and Recreation

Orlando ranks as the best city in the U.S. for recreation according to WalletHub. The region has a multitude of sports and recreation options with more than 100 top-rated golf courses, miles and miles of walking and cycling trails and triathlon-certified training at the National Training Center, a sports performance and endurance facility where Olympic athletes train alongside triathlon competitors and athletes of all levels.

Orlando’s state-of-the-art facilities play host to the NBA’s Orlando Magic, MLS’ Orlando City Lions, NWSL’s Orlando Pride, ECHL’s Orlando Solar Bears and multiple college football bowl games all in the downtown core.

From the advanced ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex hosting both MLB spring training to the International Invictus Games, the only international adaptive sporting event for injured active duty and veteran service members, our unparalleled sports hub is also home to hundreds of annual sports competitions including the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Rodeo, Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo and Silver Spurs Rodeo.

Orlando also hosts a range of sporting events including the NFL’s Pro Bowl, Arnold Palmer Invitational and the Hero World Challenge. The RDV Sportsplex, Orlando Speed World, Daytona 500 and Bike Week bring residents and visitors together in high-end facilities. In addition, Orlando is the U.S. Tennis Association’s "new home for American tennis" with its brand new 100+ tennis court divisional headquarters and training facility located in Lake Nona. From indoor sky diving on Orlando’s International Drive, to scuba diving in Wekiva Springs, to “blueway” waterway trails on the lakes, there is something for everyone to be found in the Orlando region.
Attractions
Orlando is known around the world for theme parks and water parks including Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Orlando Resort, SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment and LEGOLAND Florida Resort as well as ESPN Wide World of Sports.

Arts and Culture
Ranked by Movoto Real Estate Blog as the second most creative city in America, Orlando’s innovation through our world-renowned theme parks has run over to the surrounding community, making this a haven for artists and performers. The entertainment options are endless:

- Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
- Orlando Ballet
- Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and Bach Festival
- Florida Film Festival
- Zora Neale Hurston Festival
- Orlando Fringe Festival
- Orlando Museum of Art
- Broadway Across America: Orlando
- Orlando’s Shakespeare Theater
- Orlando Repertory Theatre
- Mad Cow Theatre
- Morse Museum

Shopping
Orlando’s retail offerings are vast enough to fill 900 American football fields (or 676 FIFA football fields) and include two of the top 10 highest sales-generating shopping locations in the U.S. — the Mall at Millenia and the Orlando Premium Outlets. More shopping can be found along Winter Park’s upscale Park Avenue and Ivanhoe Row’s antique shops just north of downtown Orlando. The region’s top tourist attractions offer their own international presence to satisfy residents and visitors alike at Disney Springs and Universal CityWalk.
Live Healthy

The Orlando region offers extensive healthcare options with globally recognized programs in cardiology, cancer, women’s medicine, neurology, diabetes, orthopedics and rehabilitation. AdventHealth and Orlando Health, both headquartered less than two miles from downtown Orlando, are two of the nation’s largest healthcare systems.

AdventHealth

U.S. News & World Report recognized AdventHealth as one of “America’s Best Hospitals” for the past several years. A 2,247-bed acute-care medical facility, the hospital is a member of Adventist Health System. In addition, because AdventHealth performs more complex cardiac cases than any other facility in the country, MSNBC selected AdventHealth as the premier focus of their hour long special — "Heart Hospital." AdventHealth also operates Florida Flight 1, their emergency air-medical transport service.

Orlando Health

Orlando Health is a community-based and supported organization of facilities comprising of the Orlando Regional Medical Center, UF Health Cancer Center at Orlando Health, Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies, Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, Dr. P. Phillips Hospital, South Seminole Hospital, Health Central Hospital and South Lake Hospital.

Orlando Health is home to the region’s only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, designed to treat infants with serious conditions. Additionally, Orlando Health established the Heart Center at the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children.

Other Facilities

A state-of-the-art Veteran’s Hospital in Lake Nona, just east of the Orlando International Airport. And, Nemours Children’s Hospital further enhances the region’s philosophy of encouraging healthy lifestyles while ensuring quality healthcare.
Resources

Real Estate
Orlando Regional Realtor Association // orlandorealtors.org

Find Your Neighborhood
Sensarie Orlando // sensarie.com

Moving Services
Sorensen Moving & Storage of Orlando // sorensenmovingandstorage.com

Education
Lake County Schools // lake.k12.fl.us
Orange County Public Schools // ocps.net
School District of Osceola County // osceolaschools.net
Seminole County Public Schools // scps.k12.fl.us
Private School Review // privateschoolreview.com
Florida Department of Education // fl DOE.org
Central Florida Higher Education Alliance // cfhea.net
GreatSchools // greatschools.org
Catholic Diocese of Orlando Schools // orlandodiocese.org/schools

Community Government
City of Orlando // cityoforlando.net
Lake County // lakecountyfl.gov
Orange County // orangecountyfl.net
Osceola County // osceola.org
Seminole County // seminolecountyfl.gov

Career Opportunities
CareerSource Central Florida // careersourcecentralflorida.com
CareerSource Florida // careersourceflorida.com

Childcare
Florida Department of Children & Families // dcf sanswrite.state.fl.us/childcare/provider

Transportation
Orlando Florida DMV // dmvflorida.org/orlando-dmv.shtml
Central Florida Expressway Authority // cfxway.com

Volunteer
Hands on Orlando // handsonorlando.com
Orlando.
You don’t know the half of it.®