

2014's Best Cities to Start a Business



by [John S Kiernan](#)



Americans are born with an entrepreneurial streak. It's in our DNA. From Manifest Destiny and the Gold Rush to the Industrial Revolution and the Internet Age, intense periods of innovation have molded our economy and sparked important societal advancements.

Innovation is never easy, though. Hardship and necessity underpin much of our entrepreneurial progress, largely because the motivation to enter the unknown in the face of bleak odds simply is not in abundance when more comfortable avenues remain to be explored. Such dynamics have played out in recent years, as unemployment hit 10% at the Great Recession's nadir while the share of the labor force unemployed for more than 26 weeks rose to the highest point in more than 60 years, according to the Center on Budget & Policy Priorities.

Driven by a dearth of traditional job opportunities and a reenergized hesitancy to put one's fate in the hands of others, somewhere between [10 million](#) and [43 million](#) Americans are now working for themselves. There is always room in the market for new ideas, products, services and multi-million-dollar success stories...if you know where to look. In order to help aspiring entrepreneurs – from restaurant owners to high-tech movers and shakers – maximize their chances for long-term prosperity, WalletHub analyzed the relative start-up opportunities that exist in the 150 largest cities in the United States in terms of population.

We did so using 14 unique metrics, ranging from 5-year survival rate and the affordability of office space to the educational background of the local labor force. You can read more about the metrics and underlying data used to conduct this report as well as our ultimate findings below.

Rank	City	Rank	City	Rank	City
1	Jacksonville, FL	51	Bakersfield, CA	101	Overland Park, KS
2	Fayetteville, NC	52	St. Louis, MO	102	Peoria, AZ
3	Augusta, GA	53	Houston, TX	103	Fontana, CA
4	Jackson, MS	54	Nashville-Davidson, TN	104	Plano, TX

Rank	City	Rank	City	Rank	City
5	Memphis, TN	55	Reno, NV	105	Gilbert Town, AZ
6	New Orleans, LA	56	San Bernardino, CA	106	Chicago, IL
7	Tulsa, OK	57	Miami, FL	107	Riverside, CA
8	Columbus, GA	58	Buffalo, NY	108	Hialeah, FL
9	Cape Coral, FL	59	Indianapolis, IN	109	Des Moines, IA
10	Las Vegas, NV	60	Dallas, TX	110	Aurora, IL
11	El Paso, TX	61	St. Petersburg, FL	111	Santa Rosa, CA
12	Oklahoma City, OK	62	Modesto, CA	112	Anchorage, AK
13	Port St. Lucie, FL	63	Pembroke Pines, FL	113	Tempe, AZ
14	Amarillo, TX	64	Lexington-Fayette, KY	114	Madison, WI
15	Colorado Springs, CO	65	Lincoln, NE	115	Philadelphia, PA
16	Brownsville, TX	66	Chesapeake, VA	116	San Francisco, CA
17	Grand Rapids, MI	67	Henderson, NV	117	Irvine, CA
18	Shreveport, LA	68	Winston-Salem, NC	118	Minneapolis, MN
19	Corpus Christi, TX	69	Richmond, VA	119	San Diego, CA
20	Laredo, TX	70	Salt Lake City, UT	120	Pittsburgh, PA
21	Chattanooga, TN	71	San Antonio, TX	121	San Jose, CA
22	Mobile, AL	72	Moreno Valley, CA	122	Vancouver, WA
23	Montgomery, AL	73	Norfolk, VA	123	Oceanside, CA
24	Springfield, MO	74	Tucson, AZ	124	Honolulu, HI
25	Huntsville, AL	75	Albuquerque, NM	125	Oceanside, CA
26	Sioux Falls, SD	76	Raleigh, NC	126	New York, NY
27	Detroit, MI	77	Little Rock, AR	127	Yonkers, NY
28	Wichita, KS	78	Omaha, NE	128	Long Beach, CA
29	Kansas City, MO	79	Glendale, AZ	129	Worcester, MA
30	Columbus, OH	80	Cincinnati, OH	130	Chula Vista, CA
31	Birmingham, AL	81	Grand Prairie, TX	131	Oxnard, CA
32	Tampa, FL	82	Arlington, TX	132	Fremont, CA
33	Tallahassee, FL	83	Chandler, AZ	133	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
34	Lubbock, TX	84	Denver, CO	134	Washington, DC
35	Fort Worth, TX	85	Garland, TX	135	Los Angeles, CA
36	Louisville, KY	86	Fort Lauderdale, FL	136	St. Paul, MN
37	Orlando, FL	87	Baltimore, MD	137	Boston, MA
38	Fort Wayne, IN	88	Charlotte, NC	138	Portland, OR
39	Toledo, OH	89	Phoenix, AZ	139	Tacoma, WA
40	Atlanta, GA	90	Virginia Beach, VA	140	Huntington Beach, CA
41	Fresno, CA	91	Akron, OH	141	Ontario, CA

Rank	City	Rank	City	Rank	City
42	Stockton, CA	92	Mesa, AZ	142	Jersey City, NJ
43	Newport News, VA	93	Spokane, WA	143	Santa Clarita, CA
44	Aurora, CO	94	Irving, TX	144	Anaheim, CA
45	Baton Rouge, LA	95	Durham, NC	145	Seattle, WA
46	North Las Vegas, NV	96	Cleveland, OH	146	Santa Ana, CA
47	Greensboro, NC	97	Sacramento, CA	147	Garden Grove, CA
48	Rochester, NY	98	Milwaukee, WI	148	Glendale, CA
49	Knoxville, TN	99	Austin, TX	149	Providence, RI
50	Boise City, ID	100	Oakland, CA	150	Newark, NJ

For more details, go to:

<http://wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-to-start-a-business/2281/>

Cape Coral was ranked as the 2nd best mid-sized city for home buyers in America:

<http://www.movoto.com/blog/top-ten/mid-sized-cities-home-buyers/>