

2026's Best Places to Find a Job

As we leave 2025 behind, many people are looking for a fresh start - whether that means making small adjustments or pursuing a major life change. For a lot of individuals, landing a new or better job will be high on the list of resolutions.

The labor market stayed resilient in 2025, with unemployment relatively low. In fact, some employers even faced worker shortages, giving job seekers extra leverage when negotiating pay and benefits.

Of course, job prospects often depend heavily on where you live. To make the search easier, Wal-letHub analyzed over 180 U.S. cities using 31 key factors that shape the strength of local job markets - from job openings per applicant and employment growth to the average starting salary each month.

"It's important to look at more than just the number of jobs available or the unemployment rate when determining the best place to find employment. Quality matters just as much as quantity, from the average salaries and benefits to job security and overall satisfaction. There are plenty of secondary factors to take into account as well, from how easy a city makes commuting to jobs to whether it's a good place for raising a family or engaging in recreational activities outside of work."

Chip Lupo, Wallethub Analyst

Best Cities To Find A Job

City	Score
1. Scottsdale, AZ	66.71
2. Columbia, MD	66.57
3. Portland, ME	65.28
4. South Burlington, VT	64.65
5. Pittsburgh, PA	64.29
6. Orlando, FL	64.29
7. Plano, TX	62.71
8. Washington, DC	62.42
9. Austin, TX	62.37
10. Huntsville, AL	62.01
11. Charleston, SC	61.69
12. Atlanta, GA	61.58
13. Salt Lake City, UT	61.34
14. Chandler, AZ	61.32
15. Lewiston, ME	60.99
16. Bismarck, ND	60.92
17. Overland Park, KS	60.35
18. Irving, TX	60.25
19. Boston, MA	60.10
20. Charleston, WV	60.09
21. San Francisco, CA	59.83
22. Seattle, WA	59.81
23. Minneapolis, MN	59.75
24. Grand Prairie, TX	59.63
25. Richmond, VA	59.41
88. Aurora, IL	53.82
91. Chicago, IL	53.49
158. Cape Coral, FL	47.44
159. Akron, OH	47.33
160. Indianapolis, IN	47.20

161. Vancouver, WA	47.16
162. Oxnard, CA	47.12
163. Modesto, CA	47.11
164. Brownsville, TX	47.00
165. Winston-Salem, NC	46.45
166. Newark, NJ	46.34
167. North Las Vegas, NV	46.17
168. Bakersfield, CA	45.93
169. Port St. Lucie, FL	45.83
170. Fort Wayne, IN	45.82
171. Baton Rouge, LA	45.49
172. San Bernardino, CA	45.40
173. Huntington, WV	45.15
174. Toledo, OH	45.10
175. Fayetteville, NC	44.62
176. Columbus, GA	44.59
177. Augusta, GA	44.58
178. Las Cruces, NM	43.79
179. Shreveport, LA	43.26
180. Stockton, CA	43.24
181. Memphis, TN	42.59
182. Detroit, MI	39.46

Best vs. Worst

♦ Columbia, Maryland, has the highest median annual household income (adjusted by cost of living), which is 3.4 times higher than in Detroit, Michigan, the city with the lowest.

♦ San Jose, California, has the highest monthly average starting salary, which is 3.1 times higher than in Juneau, Alaska, the city with the lowest.

♦ Fremont, California, has the fewest part-time employees for every 100 full-time employees, which is 3.7 times fewer than in Burlington, Vermont, the city with the most.

♦ Fremont, California, has the lowest share of workers living in poverty, which is 9.7 times lower than in Huntington, West Virginia, the city with the highest.

Sheriff Wayne Strawn Announces Scholarship Opportunity For Marshall County Students

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association announces that it will be awarding over \$58,000.00 in college scholarships throughout the State of Illinois to students wishing to pursue higher education during the 2026-2027 academic year. The scholarships are to be applied to tuition, books and fees only. The student must be enrolled full-time at a certified institution of higher learning within the State of Illinois. Online learning is also acceptable.

Sheriff Wayne Strawn II, Marshall County, will be awarding one scholarship in the amount of \$500.00.

There will be no restriction on any applicant by reason of race, age, creed, color, sex or national origin. The only limitations are as follows:

- Applicants must be permanent Illinois residents
- Students must be enrolled as a full-time student during the 2026-2027 school year (excluding summer session).

Applications are now available at your local Sheriff's office or on the ISA Website <https://www.ilsheriff.org/youth-2/>. Students must complete the application; answer the essay question and return all documentation to the Sheriff's office in their permanent county of residence by March 13, 2026 (must be postmarked by this date).

A directory of the Sheriff's offices is available on the ISA website at <https://www.ilsheriff.org/sheriffs-directory/>. For more information, please contact your local Sheriff's office, Illinois Sheriffs' Association, high school advising center or college financial aid office.

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LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Marshall - Lacon, ILLINOIS

U.S. Bank Trust National Association not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust Plaintiff

vs.
 Austin Brone; Illinois Housing Development Authority; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendant
 25 FC 8
 CALENDAR

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on February 4, 2026, at the hour 10:15 a.m., Hasselberg Grebe Snodgrass Urban & Wentworth, 310 Fifth Street, Lacon, IL 61540, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT EIGHT (8) IN BLOCK FORTY-ONE (41) IN THE ORIGINAL TOWN, NOW CITY OF LACON, MARSHALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

P.I.N. 04-36-105-005.

Commonly known as 318 S. Broad St., Lacon, IL 61540

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney,
 Potestivo & Associates P.C.,
 223 West Jackson Boulevard,
 Suite 610,
 Chicago, IL 60606
 (248) 853-4400 ext 1200. 320077
 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
 intercountyjudicialsales.com
 13279057
 Publish January 8, 15, 22, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS MARSHALL COUNTY IN RE THE ESTATE OF BLAKE EDWARD RUSSELL, Deceased.

NO. 2025PR000023

NOTICE OF CLAIM DATE

Notice is given of the death of BLAKE ERIC RUSSELL on September 6, 2025 and that an order was entered on December 17, 2025 appointing KERRI L. RUSSELL as Independent Executor. The Attorney for the estate is Michael T. Mahoney, 1011 N. Second Street, P. O. Box 295, Chillicothe, Illinois 61523.

Claims may be filed on or before June 17, 2026 or six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this Notice of Claim Date and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Marshall County, Marshall County Courthouse, 122 N. Main Street, Lacon, IL 61540 or with the Attorney for the Estate, or with the Administrator of the Estate.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-provider.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/F AQ/ gethelp.asp>.

Within ten (10) days after a claimant files its claim with the Court, the claimant must mail or deliver a copy of the claim to the representative and to her attorney of record and file with the Court a proof of mailing or delivery of said copies.

Dated: December 19, 2025

MICHAEL T. MAHONEY, LTD.
 1011 N. Second Street
 P. O. Box 295
 Chillicothe, Illinois 61523
 Telephone: (309) 274-5451
 Email:
 mahoney@mahoneyltd.com
 Publish January 1, 8, 15, 2025

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PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS FOR 2026

The following is a schedule of all regular meetings of the Washburn Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for 2026. All meetings begin at 6:30 PM and will be held at the Firehouse located at 207 East Walnut Street, Washburn, IL 61570:

- January 21, 2026
- February 18, 2026
- March 18, 2026
- April 15, 2026
- May 20, 2026
- June 17, 2026
- July 22, 2026
- August 19, 2026
- September 16, 2026
- October 21, 2026
- November 11, 2026
- December - No Meeting

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The bank will be closed in honor of Martin Luther King on January 19



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BRIDGETOWN EVENTS

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- ♦ Weddings (Indoor/Outdoor)
- ♦ Funeral Dinners
- ♦ Meetings
- ♦ Reunions
- ♦ Showers
- ♦ Parties
- ♦ Banquets



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