

Best Small Cities To Start A Business

Size matters when choosing a city in which to launch a startup. As many veteran entrepreneurs and failed startups understand well, bigger is not always better. A city with a smaller population can offer a greater chance of success, depending on an entrepreneur's personal preferences and the type of business they're starting. The best cities can even help new businesses survive economic shocks such as pandemics or inflation.

To determine the best small cities to start a business, WalletHub compared the business-friendliness of more than 1,300 small-sized cities. Our data set of 18 key metrics ranges from the growth rate of the number of small businesses to investor access and labor costs.

"The benefits of starting a business in a small city include lower overhead costs, stronger relationships with customers and the potential to become a big fish in a little pond. But there are drawbacks, too. Entrepreneurs who want to build a large professional network aren't likely to make as many connections in a town with fewer residents. Other restrictions might include limited industry options, a less diverse customer base, and difficulty attracting and keeping top talent."

Chip Lupo, WalletHub Analyst

Best Small Cities To Start A Business

City	Score
1. St. George, UT	64.62
2. Fort Myers, FL	62.33
3. Washington, UT	61.56
4. Bozeman, MT	60.2
5. Greenville, SC	60.08
6. Cedar City, UT	59.18
7. Boca Raton, FL	58.58
8. Cheyenne, WY	58.29
9. Ocala, FL	57.74
10. Dover, DE	57.7
11. South Bradenton, FL	57.57
12. Lake Worth Beach, FL	57.37
13. Post Falls, ID	57.18
14. Midvale, UT	57.05
15. Palm Beach Gardens, FL	57.04
16. Horizon West, FL	56.88
17. East Lake-Orient Pk., FL	56.85
18. Salisbury, NC	56.66
19. Springville, UT	56.61
20. Rapid City, SD	56.46
21. Herriman, UT	56.46
22. Winter Park, FL	56.45
23. Bend, OR	56.43
24. Morrisville, NC	56.39
25. Mableton, GA	56.36

Worst Small Cities To Start A Business

1308. Westfield, NJ	35.16
1309. Pleasanton, CA	35.13
1310. Ridgewood, NJ	34.95
1311. Pittsburg, CA	34.91
1312. Belmont, MA	34.86
1313. Potomac, MD	34.7
1314. Burlingame, CA	34.68
1315. Arlington, MA	34.39
1316. Oakley, CA	34.35
1317. Long Beach, NY	34.33
1318. Pleasant Hill, CA	34.11
1319. Lafayette, CA	34.06
1320. Rancho Palos Verdes, CA	34.03
1321. Hollister, CA	33.62
1322. Gilroy, CA	33.34
1323. San Bruno, CA	33.2
1324. Maple Valley, WA	33.03
1325. San Carlos, CA	32.92
1326. Los Gatos, CA	32.89
1327. Brentwood, CA	32.5
1328. Martinez, CA	32.48
1329. Morgan Hill, CA	32.29
1330. Belmont, CA	31.7
1331. Saratoga, CA	31.26
1332. Castro Valley, CA	31.15
1333. Danville, CA	31.15
1334. Pacifica, CA	30.18

Key Stats

♦ Bozeman, Montana, has the highest number of startups per 100,000 residents, which is 8.7 times higher than in Austin, Minnesota, the city with the lowest.

♦ Wellesley, Massachusetts, has the highest share of the population with at least a bachelor's degree, which is 14.8 times higher than in Immokalee, Florida, the city with the lowest.

♦ Kentwood, Michigan, has the most affordable office spaces, which is 6.8 times lower than in Mountain View, California, the

city with the least affordable.

♦ Isla Vista, California, has the lowest labor costs (median annual income), which is 9.6 times lower than in Los Altos, California,

among the cities with the highest.

♦ West Odessa, Texas, has the longest work week, which is 1.8 times longer than in Isla Vista, California, the city with the shortest.

Henry Presbyterian Church Welcomes Brent Vernon And Sam To Share Music And Stories



The Henry Presbyterian Church is inviting Brent Vernon and Sam to share heartfelt music and storytelling on Friday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. Sam, his ventriloquist puppet, will join him with Bible stories, music and adventures.

Brent's music blends hopeful melodies with deep spiritual truth, resonating with audiences in churches, schools, and many other

venues.

Sam brings joy and shares life lessons to children and adults alike. Brent writes children's books and is also a song writer.

Come and join the event, laugh, and hear a message of love. Bring the family for a night of entertainment and laughter. A love offering will be taken. The church is handicap assessable.

Pritzker Order Bars State Employees From Using Prediction Markets

by Maggie Dougherty, Capital News Illinois
Gov. JB Pritzker signed an executive order Tuesday barring state employees from using insider information to place bets on prediction markets like Polymarket and Kalshi.

The apps, which allow users to bet on real world events like the outcome of Illinois' gubernatorial race or whether the Bears will leave the state by the end of the year have been a source of ire for Pritzker in the state's tug of war with the Trump administration for regulatory authority.

Though Illinois law already prohibits current and former state employees from using confidential information obtained through their positions for personal gain, the governor's office said the new order strengthens those protections in response to "emerging risks" posed by the markets amid a rollback in federal oversight.

"Prediction markets have rapidly grown into a space where people can bet on real-world events without any oversight, including events people can influence," Pritzker said in a statement accompanying the order. "While the

Trump administration continues to be riddled with stories of appointees looking to make a profit, Illinois is stepping up to ensure those who are serving the public not their own personal financial gain."

The statement pointed to profitable bets placed before the announcement of U.S. military actions, suggesting that they may have been informed by insider information. Examples include "highly accurate" bets placed ahead of U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran and a wager favoring the removal of then-Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro hours before the U.S. operation was publicly announced.

President Donald Trump, his family and business associates have been widely criticized for making millions, sometimes hundreds of millions, for making bets in the unregulated prediction markets shortly before Trump announcements.

The order, which takes effect immediately, also prohibits state employees from sharing insider information to help others make bets on prediction markets. The order applies to all employees, officers, appointees and board members of state agencies.

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Midland High School Greenhouse

2026 Spring Sale: Plants available on-site the following dates

Thursdays & Fridays (8:00 am – 4:00 pm)

April 30, May 1, 7, 8, 14, 15

Saturdays (8:00 am – 12:00 pm)

May 2nd and 9th

•Contact: dblunier@midland-7.net or (309) 361-1122

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Baskets
Ivy Geranium, Begonia, Fuschia, Petunia Waves,

Annuals
Petunia, Dusty Miller, Coleus, Portulaca, Salvia, Impatiens, Gerbera Daisy, Geraniums, Vinca Vine, Gerbera Daisy, Marigold, Spikes, and more...

Vegetable Plants
Tomato, Pepper, Red & Green Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Eggplant, Slicing & Pickling Cucumber, Melons, and Herbs