

2026's Best & Worst Places To Rent In America

Roughly 46 million American households have opted to rent rather than buy their homes because of convenience, cost or availability. But renting isn't always a cheaper or better alternative to owning a property.

The right road to take depends on a variety of factors, including an individual's or family's financial means and how well the local real-estate market is doing. Like home prices, rental rates can vary significantly by region, state or city. In some cases, renting will prove to be more cost-effective and a better overall value than owning.

To determine where renters can get the most bang for their buck, WalletHub compared more than 180 rental markets based on 21 key measures of rental attractiveness and quality of life. Our data set ranges from the difference between rental rates and mortgage payments to rental affordability, the cost of living and job availability.

In the best cities for renters, rent

can cost you as little as around 15% of your income. You'll also have access to robust laws that protect renters, such as limiting deposits to only a month or two of rent. Our study also considers quality-of-life factors such as a city's traffic congestion, job market or recreation options to make sure you can get a good living experience, not just inexpensive housing."

Chip Lupo, WalletHub Analyst

Best Places to Rent

City	Score
1. Scottsdale, AZ	69.00
2. Gilbert, AZ	67.63
3. Chandler, AZ	67.20
4. Overland Park, KS	66.94
5. Columbia, MD	65.80
6. Peoria, AZ	65.25
7. Bismarck, ND	63.60
8. Huntsville, AL	63.10
9. Sioux Falls, SD	62.33
10. Amarillo, TX	60.18
11. Nashua, NH	59.81
12. Plano, TX	59.78
13. Austin, TX	59.28
14. Lincoln, NE	59.08
15. Casper, WY	58.84

16. Mesa, AZ	58.62
17. Glendale, AZ	58.48
18. South Burlington, VT	58.38
19. Phoenix, AZ	58.28
20. Irvine, CA	57.37
21. Charleston, SC	57.32
22. Cheyenne, WY	56.96
23. Manchester, NH	56.86
24. El Paso, TX	56.86
25. Tempe, AZ	56.58
56. Aurora, IL	52.79
73. Chicago, IL	50.08

Worst Places To Rent

158. Boston, MA	42.78
159. Knoxville, TN	42.61
160. Vancouver, WA	42.20
161. Pearl City, HI	42.03
162. Fort Lauderdale, FL	41.63
163. Dover, DE	41.60
164. Milwaukee, WI	41.54
165. Nashville, TN	41.33
166. Baton Rouge, LA	40.89
167. Hialeah, FL	40.00
168. Missoula, MT	39.96
169. Oakland, CA	38.74
170. Toledo, OH	38.66
171. Philadelphia, PA	38.59
172. Tacoma, WA	38.21
173. Shreveport, LA	38.08
174. Huntington, WV	38.02
175. Augusta, GA	38.00
176. New Orleans, LA	36.51
177. Newark, NJ	36.08
178. Akron, OH	34.38
179. Memphis, TN	32.97
180. Jackson, MS	32.79
181. Cleveland, OH	32.02
182. Detroit, MI	29.95

Best vs. Worst

♦ Bismarck, North Dakota, has the highest rental affordability, with the lowest median annual gross rent divided by median annual household income at 15.29 percent. This is 2.4 times lower than in Hialeah, Florida, the city with the lowest at 36.46 percent.

♦ Charleston, West Virginia has the highest rental vacancy rate, which is 8.5 times higher than in Nashua, New Hampshire, the city among the lowest.

♦ Newark, New Jersey, has the highest share of renter-occupied housing units, which is 4.7 times higher than in Port St. Lucie, Florida, the city with the lowest.

♦ Brownsville, Texas, has the lowest cost-of-living index, which is 2.4 times lower than in Honolulu and New York, New York, the cities with the highest.

♦ Warwick, Rhode Island, has the fewest violent crimes (per 1,000 residents), which is 31.7 times fewer than in Memphis, Tennessee, the city with the most.



LaRose: 209 W. Walnut Street

Welcome home to this well-maintained 2-bedroom, 1-bath ranch in the quiet community of LaRose! This charming home offers comfortable main-level living along with several major updates already completed, including a new roof in 2026, A/C in 2020, and furnace in 2010. A Generac generator adds extra peace of mind year-round. Outside, you'll find an impressive 42 x 24 detached garage/workshop - perfect for hobbyists, storage, projects, or additional workspace. The garage roof is approximately 12 years old. Enjoy small-town living with plenty of room to spread out both inside and out! The dining room can be converted to a bedroom if a buyer chooses. **\$124,900**

Aubrey - 309-219-1124

Jared - 309-256-4374, Designated Managing Broker

PETS OF THE WEEK

For more information call The A.R.K. 477 State Route 26, Lacon, at 309-246-4275, or email us at arkanimalshelter@yahoo.com.



Jenna

Jenna is a very sweet one-year old girl who weighs about 34 pounds. She has the cutest scruffy, chocolate coat. She is very joyful when meeting new people, but she calms down quickly when greeted calmly. She already knows Sit and will make eye contact with you for treats. She'll be a wonderfully trainable and fun companion for some lucky person or family. She is already spayed, micro-chipped and current on all her shots.



Slate

Little bitty Slate is only three months old and he'll be your very best friend from day one with you. He is very playful and loves balls to chase, but he also likes to snuggle and sleep on your lap. He loves attention and affection, and he came from a foster home with children. Slate is neutered, micro-chipped and current on all his shots.

MIDLAND CUSD #7
NOW HIRING
BUS DRIVERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
COLETTE HOLOCKER @ CHOLOCKER@MIDLAND-7.NET
OR JOHN HANSEN @ JHANSEN@MIDLAND-7.NET

TRAINING PROVIDED!!

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a licensed driver over 21
- Have a good driving record
- Pass a physical examination including drug and TB test
- Pass an Illinois specific and FBI criminal background check

HIRING ROUTE, ACTIVITY, AND SUBSTITUTE DRIVERS

- Route pay starting @ \$24.35/hr
- Activity/Sports pay \$15.76/hr
- We are looking to hire for 2 full time bus routes, as well as subbing and after school sports & activities.

Golf'n For Veterans
Timber Ridge Golf Course
Route 17, Lacon Illinois
August 1st 2026
Pre-Register \$65 per person
Tee off at 8am sharp
100% of proceeds go to Midwest
Shelter For Homeless Veterans

Payment can be cash, check,
Venmo @Denise-Wilcox-11. Cash App \$DeniseWilcox3

Get in on Skins for \$20 per person

Question contact Denise
(815)252-6742

18 Holes
4 per team
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