



# Greater Wichita Partnership

## PRINTED WEBSITE REPORT

### DATA INSIGHT: POINTS OF PRIDE

The Greater Wichita region is a region on the rise, regularly appearing at the top of national rankings across a wide range of industry and quality of life indicators. The following are a few of the region's accolades and areas of recognition.

## Business and Industry Success

### Top 10 Tier 2 Metros by Total Projects

Organizations and businesses are investing in their cities to position them for success. ([Site Selection 2024](#))

### #4 in Manufacturing Jobs as Percent of all Jobs

of the 100 largest U.S. metro areas (based on Lightcast data, 2021)

### #1 in Percentage of "Very High-Tech" Manufacturing Jobs

of the 100 largest U.S. metro areas (based on Lightcast data, 2021)

### #1 for Growth of Jobs

Over the last 10 years; 2009-2019 (Brookings, 2020)

### #1 Best U.S. City for 5G Coverage

Based on each city's area that is covered by the three top U.S. carrier's 5G networks ([WhistleOut 2020](#))

### Top 10 in Growth of Business Productivity

Over the last 10 years; 2009-2019 (Brookings 2020)

### Named one of the Best-Ran Cities in the U.S.

Based on financial stability, education, healthy, safety, economy, infrastructure and pollution ([WalletHub 2023](#))

### #3 Engineering Hub in the U.S.

([Engineering Daily 2017](#))

### Top 20 City to Be Your Own Boss

based on percentage of self-employed, incomes, living costs, tax environment (Entrepreneur 2017)

### Top 10 for Having an Equitable Economy

(Brookings 2020)

[Download the Full List of Accolades](#)

## High Quality of Life

### #2 City With the Lowest Cost of Living

Based on rent prices, utility costs, gas prices and internet rates in the 75 most populous US cities. ([Move.org 2020](#))

### 1st Most Affordable U.S. City for Single Renters

Based on median non-family household income, "studio" unit rent and population county from the U.S. Census. ([RentHop 2023](#))

### Top 3 Most Affordable U.S. Cities for Working Adults



Using data from the American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau. ([Site Selection Magazine 2024](#))

### **Wichita is the 4th Best City to Move to in 2024**

Based on housing costs, cost of living, crime rates, air quality, quality of education, median income, employment rates, weather, entertainment establishments, average commute time and net migration to the city. ([Forbes 2024](#))

### **Wichita Ranks 17th for U.S. Metros Using the Most Active Forms of Transportation**

Based on a study of nearly 850 million people from 794 cities across the world, the data compares who commutes by private car, public transportation or active travel (i.e, walking, cycling or both). ([Complexity Science Hub](#); "The ABC of mobility", by R. Prieto-Curiel and J.p. Ospina, *Environment International*, Elsevier Ltd., March 2024)

### **Top 10 Cities For Pet Owners**

Based on data across 13 key metrics, to include dog veterinary cost, cat veterinary cost, veterinary access and pet-friendly spaces, Wichita ranks 5th in Forbes' top 10 cities in America for pet owners. ([Forbes 2024](#))

### **#3 Most Affordable Cities to Live In**

The ranking used data from sources including the U.S. Census Bureau, the FBI and the U.S. Department of Labor. Four areas were considered: Quality of Life, Value, Desirability, and Job Market. ([U.S. News and World Report](#))

### **Top 10 Cities to Retire in U.S.**

Wichita's housing, grocery and transportation costs are significantly lower than the national average, making it one of the best cities to retire rich. ([GoBankingRates 2025](#))

## **State of Kansas Rankings**

### **#1 for Regulatory Freedom**

Based on data from the Freedom in 50 States study ([Cato Institute July 2021](#))

### **#4 Business-Friendly Regulatory Environment in the U.S.**

(Pacific Research Institute 2019)

### **Top 10 Best Place to Make a Living**

(Money Rates 2017)

### **1 of only 8 Constitutional Right to Work States**

(National Right to Work)

### **#3 Best Place to Move to for Work**

([OnlineU 2022](#))

**Download the full list of our region's accolades**

## **Insights**

Key information for site selectors and businesses:

- Wichita State University **ranks first in private industry-financed aero R&D** expenditures with more than \$25 million. [Learn more about the groundbreaking research and development investments and progress in the region.](#)

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- Kansas ranks **17th best in livability** based on 43 quality-of-life factors (CQ Press, 2018). [To discover more about what life is like in the Greater Wichita region, read more here.](#)
- Dive deep into [helpful regional data and resources](#) on this site with downloadable demographics and detailed employment and operational costs.



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The Greater Wichita Partnership is ready to work to meet your growth goals and find the tools best suited to your situation.

[Contact Andrew](#)