



Greater Wichita
Partnership

Data Insight: POINTS OF PRIDE

The greater Wichita region continues to gain national recognition for its economic strengths, industry leadership and quality of life. Here are a few of the rankings and accolades that showcase what sets our region apart.

Business & Industry Success

#1 U.S. Metro for Aerospace & Defense Investment

#1 Aerospace & Defense Metro in the West North Central Region

#7 in the U.S. for Aerospace & Defense Location Quality

One of Four Leading Centers for Aircraft Manufacturing & Aerospace Production

The Air Capital of the World has a competitive advantage built on manufacturing speed, supplier strength, workforce talent and production readiness. *Global Location Strategies 2026*

Top 100 Metros for STEM Jobs

Based on professional opportunities, STEM-friendliness and quality of place. *WalletHub 2026*

Fastest Commute of Top 100 Largest U.S. Cities

About 25 million Americans report spending 90 minutes or more per day getting to and from the office. In Wichita, commuters spend between 15 to 20 minutes in the car. *Business Journals 2025*

Top 10 Tier 2 Metros by Total Projects

Organizations and businesses are investing in their cities to position them for success. *Site Selections 2024*

Named One of the Best-Ran Cities in the U.S.

Based on financial stability, education, healthy, safety, economy, infrastructure and pollution. *WalletHub 2023*

#4 in Manufacturing Jobs as Percent of all Jobs

of the 100 largest U.S. metro areas. *Lightcast 2021*

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

of the 100 largest U.S. metro areas. *Lightcast 2021*

#12 U.S. Advanced Industry Hotspot

for R&D and STEM-worker intensive industries powering regional and national economic success. *Lightcast 2020*

#1 for Growth of Jobs

Over the last 10 years; 2009-2019. *Brookings 2020*

High Quality of Life

Top 20 Best Large U.S. Cities for Gen Z

Based on data from across nine metrics, scoring out of 100. Categories include: community, economic, affordability, education, fun and green. *CommercialCafe 2026*

Top 10 Least Stressed Cities in the U.S.

Metrics included unemployment, commute times, income, housing affordability, childcare costs, separation and divorce rates, healthcare access, and crime rates. *Elevate Data 2026*

Top 100 Best Places to Live in the U.S. — Two Years Running

Based on more than 100 data points across eight categories measuring a city's economy, housing, amenities, transportation, environment, safety, education and health. *Livability 2025 & 2026*

#6 Hotspot for Gen Z Homeowners

Out of 97 metro areas, Wichita is in the top 10 metros where more than one-quarter of Gen Zers own a home. *RentCafe 2026*

Top 10 Best Zoos in the U.S.

The Sedgwick County Zoo ranks among the best zoos in the country. *USA Today 2026*

#17 U.S. Cities for Work-Life Balance

Out of 100. Metrics included walk and bike index, housing cost as percentage of income, hours worked per week, labor force participation index, and commute and travel times. *Elevate Data 2026*

Top 10 U.S. Cities Where Your Salary Goes the Furthest

Ranked among cities that offer the highest adjusted post-tax salary, effectively making a \$100,000 income feel like over \$80,000 at national-average prices. *Consumer Affairs 2026*

#5 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 2025*

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

Using data from the American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau, Wichita ranks in the top three of the most affordable housing markets for workers in the U.S. *Site Selection 2024*

#4 Best City To Move To

Based on housing costs, employment rate, monthly family income, average sunny days per year, crime rate, and more, Wichita ranked among the top 5 cities in the U.S. to move to.

Forbes 2024

#1 Lowest Rent Among Large U.S. Cities

Based on average monthly rent across 100 of the largest U.S. cities.

SmartAsset Study 2025



State of Kansas

#3 for Business Friendliness

Based on each state's lawsuit and liability climates, regulatory regimes, overall bureaucracy, and length and efficiency of each states' permitting processes. *CNBC 2026*

#4 for Unemployment Insurance Tax Competitiveness

Based on a competitive unemployment insurance tax system that helps support a favorable cost environment for employers. *Tax Foundation 2026*

#6 Lowest Cost of Living in the U.S.

Based on the cost of everyday expenses and overall affordability. *CNBC 2026*

#1 Lowest Occupational Licensing Burden

Kansas reduces barriers to workforce participation and entrepreneurship. *Archbridge Institute 2025*

#3 Most Affordable State for Housing

Based on home prices, housing costs relative to income and housing availability. *ConsumerAffairs, 2025*

#1 for Rental Affordability

Based on the share of household income renters spend on housing. *ConsumerAffairs, 2025*

Constitutional Right-to-Work State

Kansas' right-to-work protections are established in the state constitution. *Kansas Constitution, Article 15, Section 12*

#1 for Regulatory Freedom

Based on data from the Freedom in 50 States study. *Cato Institute July 2023*

#3 Best Place to Move to for Work

Based on job openings, available workers, advertised salaries and cost of living. *OnlineU 2022*

Learn More about the Region

Connect with the Greater Wichita Partnership to explore the region's strengths and opportunities for your business to grow.



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