

BROWARD in the Rankings

- **Best yachting town in the United States:** Fort Lauderdale's waterways are lined with yachts of all types, a major reason why the city is known as the Venice of America. (Source: Yachting Magazine— 2011)
- **3rd strongest "buyer's market" in the country:** The City of Weston is home to the third strongest "buyer's market" in the United States (Source: Open House in September 2016)
- **Hottest single-family home market in the United States:** Broward County ranked as the No. 1 single-family home market in the United States in the 3Q of 2016 because of its strong population and employment growth (Source: Ten-X in November 2016)
- **Best place to retire in the Southeast:** Hollywood's affordability, lifestyle, beach, architecture and more make the Broward city the best place to retire in the Southeast (Source: Money Magazine — 2016)
- **2nd happiest city in the U.S. for young professionals:** Fort Lauderdale is the second happiest city for young professionals (trailing only Redmond, Wash.) based on a study of growth opportunities, compensation, benefits, work-life balance, etc. (Source: Career Bliss— 2011)
- **America's favorite gay resort town:** Greater Fort Lauderdale is the nation's most inclusive and welcoming region with tourist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ) community (Source: Gay.com — 2011)
- **Top Cruising Port:** Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale was selected as the "World's Top Cruise Port in 2010 and 2013 (Source: Seatrade Insider).
- **8th best city to live in the United States:** A planned community with strong public schools and many employment options, Weston in Broward County ranked as the eighth-best place to live in the nation (Source: Money Magazine — 2016)
- **5th most walkable neighborhood in Florida:** Downtown Fort Lauderdale is the fifth most walkable neighborhood in Florida. The Fort Lauderdale neighborhoods of Colee Hammock (8th) and Flagler Heights (9th) also ranked in the top-10. (Source: Redfin in September 2016)
- **2nd hottest retail real estate market in the United States:** Fort Lauderdale ranked behind Austin, Texas for the hottest retail market in the country, posting a four-year rent increase of 17.4 percent (Source: Ten X in October 2016)
- **5th greenest mid-sized city in the United States:** Fort Lauderdale ranked as the fifth greenest city mid-sized city in the nation because of its public parks, recycling centers, environmentally conscious commuters and walkable locations. (Source: MyLife.com in June 2014)
- **20th fastest-growing city in America:** The Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach market had a 1.38 percent population growth rate increase in 2015 and its job growth (3.32 percent) and median pay (\$60,400) are above the national average. (Source: Forbes — March 2016)
- **4th best city for starting a business in America:** The Miami-Fort Lauderdale market is the fourth-best place to start a business (Source: Biz2Credit — May 2016)
- **8th-best investable U.S. housing market:** The Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach market is a leading place to invest in real estate. Fort Lauderdale's average home price (\$258,577), population growth from 2011-2014 (4.5 percent) and annual jobs growth (3.2 percent) fueled the high ranking. (Source: Forbes — January 2016)
- **10th-best market for real estate investing:** Fort Lauderdale's population growth, job growth and low unemployment helped its ranking. (Source: HomeVestors and Local Market Monitor — December 2015)
- **21st best U.S. city to find a job:** Fort Lauderdale ranked No. 21 among the best American cities to find a job. Broward's Pembroke Pines also made the list. (Source: WalletHub —April 2016)
- **2nd-best U.S. market for entrepreneurs/startups:** The Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach market had the second-largest rate of new entrepreneurs (0.52 percent) in the United States. The market had 247.6 startups per 100,000 residents. (Source: Kauffman Foundation — June 2015)
- **7th-best downtown in the United States:** Downtown Fort Lauderdale boasts one of America's top downtowns, according to Livability.com. The website cited Fort Lauderdale's superior ratio of jobs to residents. (Source: Liveability.com — March 2014)
- **4th-best city for Hispanic entrepreneurs:** Pembroke Pines is one of the best places in the country for Hispanic entrepreneurs (Source: WalletHub —April 2016)
- **12th-busiest container port in the United States:** Port Everglades is the leading container port in Florida and is ranked as the 12th busiest container port in the nation.
- **10th-best city for starting a business:** Deerfield Beach is one of the best places to start a small business in the United States. The city also ranked first among the top 10 for number of startup businesses per capita (Source: WalletHub — April 2016)
- **20th-best beach in the United States:** Las Olas Beach in Fort Lauderdale ranked as the 20th-best beach in America, according to TripAdvisor. (Source: TripAdvisor —2016)
- **2nd-best Florida city on the rise:** Parkland's employment growth, income growth and population rise helped it earn the recognition from NerdWallet. Broward's Pembroke Pines (No. 8) and Coconut Creek (No. 9) were also ranked in the top-10. (Source: NerdWallet — July 2014)

TOP BROWARD FACTS

■ **Fast-growing population**

Broward County's population grew by 8.5 percent over the last five years and now boasts about 1.9 million residents, according to statistics released by the U.S. Census Bureau in March 2016.

■ **One of the top cruise ports in the world**

10 cruise lines sailed 39 ships from Port Everglades in Broward County in 2015. The ships carry more than 3.7 million cruise passengers each year.

■ **Growing jobs market**

Broward County added 27,300 jobs in March 2016, a 3 percent increase from last year. The largest number of jobs — 6,500 — were added in trade, transportation and utilities, which includes retail jobs. Broward's unemployment sits at 4.4 percent, the lowest level since before the recession.

■ **Top market for international buyers**

Broward County is part of the nation's strongest real estate market for foreign buyers. International home buyers accounted for 36 percent or \$6.1 billion of total sales volume in South Florida in 2015.

■ **Beautiful, Clean Beaches**

Broward County has 23 miles of Atlantic Ocean coastline. Of Broward's eight municipal beaches, five (Ft. Lauderdale, Hollywood, Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach & Lauderdale-by-the-Sea) are Blue Wave Certified by the Clean Beach Coalition.

■ **One of America's top tourist destinations**

About 14 million people a year visit Greater Fort Lauderdale spending \$11.4 billion in the local economy.

■ **Yachting Capital of the World**

With more than 300 miles of inland waterways and 50,000 registered yachts, Fort Lauderdale is often dubbed "the Yachting Capital of the World."

■ **Multicultural, multilingual population**

About 31.8 percent of Broward County's 1.89 million residents are foreign born. The national percentage is 13.7 percent. More than 181 different languages are spoken by Broward County Public Schools students.

■ **Quality schools**

Broward County Public Schools is the sixth largest public school system in the United States and the second largest in the state of Florida: 265,000 students in 238 schools. Looking for higher education? The University of Miami, Florida International, Florida Atlantic, Broward College, Nova Southeastern all have campuses in or near Broward.

■ **Parks & recreation**

Broward has nearly 50 regional parks and nature centers, neighborhood parks, and natural areas at various stages of development, for a total of almost 6,500 acres. About 7.8 million people visit Broward parks per year.

■ **World-class art and entertainment**

Broward County boasts eight major cultural institutions, including the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood.

