

Madison, Alabama

Background

Madison is located just south of the Tennessee border, and adjacent to and just west of the Huntsville metropolitan area, convenient to the region's many business, education, and cultural resources.

Madison is one of the fastest-growing cities in Alabama. It is a prosperous community, boasting Alabama's most highly educated workforce. The town has labored to preserve its small-town atmosphere, with a responsive and proactive city government, a low crime rate, and excellent schools. Huntsville/Madison County Airport, which was an Intermodal Center and is now designated a Port of Entry for international travelers, is just next door.

The first known settler in what was to become the city of Madison was John Cartwright, in 1818, who arrived when the site was still largely wild and part of the newly acquired Mississippi Territory. He received a land grant from the federal government for a plot first known as Madison Station. After Cartwright sold his property to the Palmer family, the little settlement was referred to for some time simply as the "the Palmer place." The arrival of rail travel was important in Madison's history, and the Norfolk Southern Railway still runs through town.

The community began to take its modern shape in 1856, as a stop on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad line, and in 1858, one of the residents, Judge Clemons, planned out a town in lots along the rail line measuring 66 feet by 198 feet. On one of these lots a house was built for T. J. Clay, the town's first station manager, and soon new residents were moving in to take advantage of the fertile surrounding farmland and the convenience of nearby transport. This rail-centered row of houses developed into the town's first commercial district and became Main Street. Mill operator J. J. Akers, blacksmith S. D. Doolittle, and the merchants Walter and Thomas Hopkins and James Bibb were among "Madison Station's" more prominent businessmen.

During the Civil War, of course, further development was curtailed. Many local men fought during the conflict, and a significant battle, "the Affair at Madison Station," was fought at Madison on May 17, 1864. Federal troops fought successfully to control the rail line, which was strategically important in transporting men and supplies to Georgia. Casualties on the Confederate side were 18 killed and 55 wounded, while the Union suffered one death and three wounded. Sixty-six prisoners were taken by the Union Army. With the close of hostilities, development began anew, and 1869 the merchant James Bibb and others moved to incorporate the town, to be known henceforth as Madison, in honor of the nation's fourth president.

The city, which came close to doubling in population between 1990 and 2000, has in the recent past constructed a new library, fire station, recreation center, and invested in necessary road and drainage projects. One new high school and two elementary schools have also been established.

Nearby institutions of higher learning include Alabama A&M University, Oakwood College, and the University of Alabama at Huntsville.

Madison has a temperate climate. Summers are characterized by warm and humid weather, with rather frequent thunderstorms. Winters are usually cool, but vary considerably from year to year. Cold air masses from the northwest dominate during the winter, but at times air flowing north from the Gulf of Mexico brings warmer temperatures. Spring comes early and brings changeable weather, with rainstorms. Fall is usually clear, dry, and pleasant.

Rankings

General Rankings

- Huntsville* was ranked #211 out of 375 metro areas in *Cities Ranked & Rated*. Criteria: cost of living; climate; crime; transportation; economy and jobs; education; arts and culture; health and healthcare; leisure; quality of life. *Cities Ranked & Rated, 2nd Edition, 2007*
- Huntsville* was ranked #97 out of 379 metro areas in *Places Rated Almanac*. Criteria: health care; education; recreation; transportation; ambience; climate; crime; housing costs; jobs. *Places Rated Almanac, 7th Edition, 2007*
- The Huntsville* metro area was selected one of America's "Best Cities" by *Kiplinger Personal Finance*. Criteria: stable employment; income growth; cost of living; percentage of workforce in the creative class (scientists, engineers, educators, writers, artists, entertainers, etc.). *Kiplinger Personal Finance, "Best Cities 2009: It's All About Jobs," July 2009*
- *Expansion Management* rated 362 metro areas to find out which offer the best middle class lifestyle for manufacturing and service companies. The Huntsville* metro area was selected as a "5-Star Quality of Life Metro" (a distinction the magazine awards to the top 20 percent of metro areas studied). The annual "Quality of Life Quotient" measures dozens of indicators across nine major categories and compares them among 362 metropolitan statistical areas in the United States. The categories are: affordable housing; good public schools; low crime levels; adult education level; standard of living; traffic and commuting; continuing education opportunities; commercial air access; labor market. *Expansion Management, June 2007*
- Madison was selected as one of "America's Best Small Towns" by *Money* magazine. The city ranked #49 out of 100. This year's list focused on cities with populations of 8,500 to 50,000. Criteria includes: strong economy; great schools; affordable homes; low crime. *CNNMoney.com, "Best Places to Live in America 2009," August 2009*

Business/Finance Rankings

- The Huntsville* metro area was identified as one of the markets with the best expected performance in home prices over the next 12 months. *Local Market Monitor, "Second Quarter Home Price Forecast for Smallest US Markets," June 3, 2010*
- The Huntsville* metro area was identified as one of the 10 best cities for job growth in 2010 by *USAToday* based on data from *Moody's Economy.com*. The metro area was ranked #2. Criteria: one-year forecast change in jobs from the 4th quarter 2009 to the 4th quarter 2010. *USAToday, "Jobs May Rebound in 2010," April 7, 2010*
- A.G. Edwards ranked America's 500 top-performing communities based on their residents' personal savings and investing behavior. The Huntsville* metro area ranked #354 with an index score of 98.33 (national average = 100.00). A dozen statistical factors were measured including: participation in retirement savings plans; personal debt levels; and home ownership. *A.G. Edwards, "2007 Nest Egg Index", September 12, 2007*
- The nation's largest metro areas were analyzed in terms of the percentage of households entering some stage of foreclosure in 2009. The Huntsville* metro area ranked #151 out of 203 (#1 = highest foreclosure rate). *RealtyTrac, 2009 U.S. Foreclosure Market Report™*
- The Huntsville* metro area was selected one of America's "Top 50 Business Opportunity Metros" by *Expansion Management* in their 5th annual Mayor's Challenge ranking of metro areas that have achieved solid ratings across the board in numerous *EM* studies during the past 12 months. The area ranked #15. Criteria: public schools; quality of life; college educated workers; logistics infrastructure; healthcare costs; taxes and government spending; reputation among site consultants. *Expansion Management, August 2007*
- The Huntsville* metro area was selected as one of "America's 50 Hottest Cities" for business relocations and expansions. Criteria: industry's most prominent site selection consultants were asked to list their top city choices for relocating and expanding manufacturing companies, taking into consideration such factors as the business climate, work force quality, operating costs, incentive programs, and the ease of working with local political and economic development officials. *Expansion Management, January-February 2007*

- The Huntsville* metro area appeared on the Milken Institute “2008 Best Performing Cities” index. Rank: #5 out of 200 large metro areas. Criteria: job growth; wage and salary growth; high-tech output growth. *Milken Institute, “2008 Best Performing Cities”*
- The Huntsville* metro area was selected as one of the best cities for entrepreneurs in America by *Inc. Magazine*. Criteria: job-growth data for 335 metro areas was analyzed for: recent growth trend (the current and prior year’s employment growth rates, with the current year emphasized); mid-term growth (the average annual 2002-2007 growth rate); long-term trend (the sum of the 2002-2007 and 1996-2001 employment growth rates multiplied by the ratio of the 1996-2001 growth rate over the 2002-2007 growth rate); current year growth. The Huntsville* metro area ranked #5 among mid-sized metro areas and #32 overall. *Inc. Magazine, “The Best Cities for Doing Business,” July 2008*
- *Forbes* ranked the 200 most populous metro areas in the U.S. in terms of the “Best Places for Business and Careers.” The Huntsville* metro area was ranked #8. Criteria: 12 metrics including costs (business and living), job growth (past and projected), income growth, educational attainment, projected economic growth, crime, cultural and recreational opportunities, net migration patterns, percentage of subprime mortgages handed out over a three-year period, and the number of highly ranked four-year colleges. *Forbes, “Best Places for Business and Careers,” April 14, 2010*

Children/Family Rankings

- The Huntsville* metro area was selected as one of the “Best Cities for Relocating Families” by Worldwide ERC and Primacy Relocation. The 2008 study looked at nearly 50 factors important to relocating families including: recent job growth; nearby top-ranked colleges; in-state tuition for four-year public colleges; population growth since 2000; pediatricians per 100,000 population; and a Green Living index. *Worldwide ERC and Primacy Relocation, “2008 Best Cities for Relocating Families”*

Health/Environment Rankings

- The Huntsville* metro area appeared in the 2010 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. The index, based on interviews with more than 353,000 Americans during 2009, asked individuals to assess their jobs, finances, physical health, emotional state of mind and communities. The metro area ranked #40 out of 162. Criteria: life evaluation; emotional health; work environment; physical health; healthy behaviors; basic access (basic needs optimal for a healthy life, such as access to food and medicine, having health insurance and feeling safe while walking at night). *Gallup-Healthways, “Well-Being Index 2010”*
- The Huntsville* metro area appeared in *Country Home*’s “2008 Best Green Places” report. The area ranked #361 out of 379. Criteria: official energy policies; green power; green buildings; availability of fresh, locally grown food. *Country Home, “2008 Best Green Places”*

Safety Rankings

- The National Insurance Crime Bureau ranked 361 metro areas in the U.S. in terms of per capita rates of vehicle theft. The Huntsville* metro area ranked #127 (#1 = highest rate). Criteria: number of vehicle theft offenses per 100,000 inhabitants. *National Insurance Crime Bureau, “NICB Vehicle Theft Study,” April 13, 2009*

Sports/Recreation Rankings

- *Golf Digest* ranked 330 metro areas in the U.S. in terms of golf. The Huntsville* metro area was ranked #177. Criteria: access to golf; weather; value of golf; and quality of golf. *Golf Digest, “Metro Golf Rankings,” August 2005*

**Madison is located within the Huntsville, AL Metropolitan Statistical Area.*

Business Environment

CITY FINANCES

City Government Finances

Component	2006-2007 (\$000)	2006-2007 (\$ per capita)
Total Revenues	32,886	893
Total Expenditures	40,798	1,108
Debt Outstanding	103,867	2,821
Cash and Securities ¹	10,271	279

Note: (1) Cash and security holdings of a government at the close of its fiscal year, including those of its dependent agencies, utilities, and liquor stores.

Source: U.S Census Bureau, State & Local Government Finances 2006-2007

City Government Revenue by Source

Source	2006-2007 (\$000)	2006-2007 (\$ per capita)
General Revenue		
From Federal Government	235	6
From State Government	1,606	44
From Local Governments	66	2
Taxes		
Property	5,267	143
Sales and Gross Receipts	13,554	368
Personal Income	0	0
Corporate Income	0	0
Motor Vehicle License	0	0
Other Taxes	4,017	109
Current Charges	1,021	28
Liquor Store	0	0
Utility	0	0
Employee Retirement	0	0

Source: U.S Census Bureau, State & Local Government Finances 2006-2007

City Government Expenditures by Function

Function	2006-2007 (\$000)	2006-2007 (\$ per capita)	2006-2007 (%)
General Direct Expenditures			
Air Transportation	0	0	0.0
Corrections	0	0	0.0
Education	0	0	0.0
Employment Security Administration	0	0	0.0
Financial Administration	870	24	2.1
Fire Protection	3,638	99	8.9
General Public Buildings	0	0	0.0
Governmental Administration, Other	4,559	124	11.2
Health	0	0	0.0
Highways	15,545	422	38.1
Hospitals	0	0	0.0
Housing and Community Development	0	0	0.0
Interest on General Debt	5,080	138	12.5
Judicial and Legal	1,095	30	2.7
Libraries	443	12	1.1
Parking	0	0	0.0
Parks and Recreation	1,969	53	4.8
Police Protection	4,676	127	11.5
Public Welfare	0	0	0.0
Sewerage	0	0	0.0
Solid Waste Management	0	0	0.0
Veterans' Services	0	0	0.0
Liquor Store	0	0	0.0
Utility	0	0	0.0
Employee Retirement	0	0	0.0

Source: U.S Census Bureau, State & Local Government Finances 2006-2007

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Growth

Area	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Estimate	2015 Projection	Population Growth (%)	
					1990-2000	2000-2015
City	16,813	29,329	41,434	46,513	74.4	58.6
MSA ¹	293,047	342,376	407,220	437,840	16.8	27.9
U.S.	248,709,873	281,421,906	309,038,974	321,675,005	13.2	14.3

Note: (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: Claritas, Inc.

Number of Households and Average Household Size

Area	2010 Estimate	2010 Average Household Size
City	15,586	2.65
MSA ¹	162,099	2.45
U.S.	116,136,617	2.59

Note: (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: Claritas, Inc.

Race and Ethnicity

Area	White Alone ² (%)	Black Alone ² (%)	Asian Alone ² (%)	Other Race Alone ² (%)	Hispanic ³ (%)
City	75.8	15.8	4.4	4.0	3.6
MSA ¹	72.2	22.1	1.9	3.8	3.3
U.S.	72.3	12.4	4.4	10.9	15.8

Note: Figures are 2010 estimates; (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

(2) Alone is defined as not being in combination with one or more other races; (3) May be of any race.

Source: Claritas, Inc.

Ancestry

Area	German	Irish	English	American	Italian	Polish	French	Scottish
City	16.7	14.7	12.9	9.5	3.5	2.2	2.1	2.8
MSA ¹	10.5	11.3	11.6	14.2	2.2	1.2	2.0	2.4
U.S.	16.8	12.0	9.3	6.4	5.9	3.3	3.2	2.0

Note: The top eight ancestries in the U.S. are shown. Figures are percentages and include multiple ancestry (e.g. if a person reported being Irish and Italian, they were included in both columns); (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Foreign-Born Population

Area	Percent of Population Born in								
	Any Foreign Country	Mexico	Asia	Europe	Caribbean	South America	Central America ²	Africa	Canada
City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MSA ¹	4.7	1.1	1.6	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2
U.S.	12.5	3.8	3.4	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.3

Note: (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Excludes Mexico.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Marriage Status

Area	Never Married	Now Married ²	Separated	Widowed	Divorced
City	24.3	60.9	1.7	4.0	9.1
MSA ¹	26.5	53.2	2.2	6.0	12.1
U.S.	30.8	50.2	2.2	6.3	10.6

Note: Figures are percentages and cover the population 15 years of age and older;

(1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Excludes separated

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Age Distribution and Median Age

Area	Percent of Population								Median Age
	Under Age 5	Age 5 to 17	Age 18 to 34	Age 35 to 49	Age 50 to 64	Age 65 to 79	80 Years and Over		
City	6.2	22.3	18.2	26.9	19.1	6.1	1.2	37.7	
MSA ¹	6.3	17.9	22.4	23.1	18.0	9.5	2.7	37.5	
U.S.	6.9	17.6	23.2	21.9	17.8	9.0	3.6	36.7	

Note: (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Male/Female Ratio

Area	Males	Females	Males per 100 Females
City	20,343	21,091	96.5
MSA ¹	200,275	206,945	96.8
U.S.	152,401,520	156,637,454	97.3

Note: Figures are 2010 estimates; (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: Claritas, Inc.

Religion

Area	Catholic	Southern Baptist	United Methodist	ELCA ¹	LDS ²	Presbyterian Church USA	Jewish Est.	Muslim Est.
County	5.8	22.4	7.7	0.7	0.8	1.6	0.3	0.4
U.S.	22.0	7.1	3.7	1.8	1.5	1.1	2.2	0.6

Note: Figures are the number of adherents as a percentage of the total population; Adherents are defined as all members, including full members, their children and the estimated number of other participants who are not considered members (e.g. the baptized, those not confirmed, those regularly attending services, etc.);

(1) Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; (2) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Source: Reprinted with permission from Religious Congregations and Membership in the United States 2000 (Nashville, Glenmary Research Center, 2002) Copyright Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies. All rights reserved.

ECONOMY**Gross Metropolitan Product**

Area	2006	2007	2008	2009	2009 Rank ²
MSA ¹	17.2	18.1	19.3	19.6	99

Note: Figures are in billions of dollars; (1) Huntsville, AL Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Rank ranges from 1 to 363

Source: The U.S. Conference of Mayors, "Pace of Economic Recovery: GMP and Jobs," January 2010

Economic Growth

Area	2006-2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)	Rank ²
MSA ¹	4.8	0.7	2.8	16
U.S.	1.3	-2.5	2.2	-

Note: Figures are real Gross Metropolitan Product growth rates and represent annual average percent change; (1) Huntsville, AL Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Rank ranges from 1 to 363

Source: The U.S. Conference of Mayors, "Pace of Economic Recovery: GMP and Jobs," January 2010

INCOME**Per Capita/Median/Average Income**

Area	Per Capita (\$)	Median Household (\$)	Average Household (\$)
City	34,497	77,281	91,607
MSA ¹	27,794	53,544	69,313
U.S.	27,034	52,795	71,071

Note: Figures are 2010 estimates; (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: Claritas, Inc.

Household Income Distribution

Area	Percent of Households Earning							
	Under \$15,000	\$15,000 -24,999	\$25,000 -34,999	\$35,000 -49,999	\$50,000 -74,999	\$75,000 -99,000	\$100,000 -149,999	\$150,000 and up
City	6.9	5.2	7.1	11.7	17.6	16.2	22.0	13.3
MSA ¹	12.0	10.2	10.5	14.6	19.1	13.0	13.5	7.1
U.S.	12.1	10.2	10.6	15.0	19.5	12.5	12.1	8.0

Note: Figures are 2010 estimates; (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: Claritas, Inc.

Poverty Rates by Age

Area	All Ages	Under 18 Years Old	18 to 64 Years Old	65 Years and Over
City	4.6	1.8	2.6	0.2
MSA ¹	11.8	4.1	6.9	0.9
U.S.	13.2	4.5	7.4	1.2

Note: Figures are percent of population with income during the previous 12 months below poverty level and only include population for whom poverty status is determined; (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Personal Bankruptcy Filing Rate

Area	2006	2007	2008	2009
Madison County	3.15	3.59	4.39	4.97
U.S.	1.98	2.70	3.50	4.56

Note: Numbers are per 1,000 population and include Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 filings

Source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Regional Economic Conditions (RECON), July 12, 2010

EMPLOYMENT**Labor Force and Employment**

Area	Civilian Labor Force			Workers Employed		
	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	% Chg.	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	% Chg.
City	22,295	21,519	-3.5	21,450	20,314	-5.3
MSA ¹	204,155	199,272	-2.4	193,380	183,126	-5.3
U.S.	154,349,000	152,693,000	-1.1	143,350,000	137,953,000	-3.8

Note: Data is not seasonally adjusted and covers workers 16 years of age and older;

(1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://stats.bls.gov>

Unemployment Rate

Area	2009											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
City	4.5	4.9	5.1	4.4	4.9	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	5.6
MSA ¹	6.4	6.9	7.1	6.4	7.3	8.3	8.4	8.1	7.9	7.9	7.8	8.1
U.S.	8.5	8.9	9.0	8.6	9.1	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.7

Note: Data is not seasonally adjusted and covers workers 16 years of age and older; All figures are percentages;

(1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://stats.bls.gov>

Projected Unemployment Rate

Area	2007 (%)	2009 (%)	2011 (%)	2013 (%)
MSA ¹	2.9	8.8	7.8	6.0

Note: (1) Huntsville, AL Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: The U.S. Conference of Mayors, "Pace of Economic Recovery: GMP and Jobs," January 2010

Employment by Occupation

Occupation Classification	City (%)	MSA ¹ (%)	U.S. (%)
Sales and Office	22.1	24.3	25.6
Professional and Related	38.3	26.7	20.6
Service	10.3	13.4	16.8
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	5.9	12.9	12.7
Management, Business, and Financial	20.7	14.1	14.0
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance	2.7	8.2	9.6
Farming, Forestry, and Fishing	0.0	0.4	0.7

Note: Figures cover employed civilians 16 years of age and older;

(1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Employment by Industry

Sector	MSA ¹		U.S.
	Number of Employees	Percent of Total	Percent of Total
Government	46,600	22.3	17.5
Education and Health Services	17,000	8.1	15.0
Professional and Business Services	47,800	22.9	12.7
Retail Trade	22,500	10.8	11.4
Leisure and Hospitality	17,400	8.3	9.7
Manufacturing	27,100	13.0	8.9
Financial Activities	6,200	3.0	5.9
Construction	n/a	n/a	4.3
Wholesale Trade	5,500	2.6	4.3
Other Services	7,400	3.5	4.1
Transportation and Utilities	2,700	1.3	3.7
Information	2,000	1.0	2.1
Mining and Logging	n/a	n/a	0.5

Note: Figures cover non-farm employment as of December 2009 and are not seasonally adjusted;

(1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included; n/a not available

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://stats.bls.gov>

Occupations with Greatest Projected Employment Growth: 2006 - 2016

Occupation ¹	2006 Employment	2016 Projected Employment	Numeric Employment Change	Percent Employment Change
Retail salespersons	62,340	76,190	13,850	22.2
Registered nurses	40,320	51,850	11,530	28.6
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	46,230	57,130	10,900	23.6
Team assemblers	34,390	43,620	9,230	26.8
Office clerks, general	41,770	48,650	6,880	16.5
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	33,260	39,960	6,700	20.1
Waiters and waitresses	28,900	35,370	6,470	22.4
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	41,030	47,240	6,210	15.1
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	31,730	37,770	6,040	19.0
Customer service representatives	22,790	28,770	5,980	26.2

Note: Projections cover Alabama; (1) Sorted by numeric employment change

Source: www.projectionscentral.com, State Occupational Projections, 2006-2016 Long-Term Projections

Fastest Growing Occupations: 2006 - 2016

Occupation ¹	2006 Employment	2016 Projected Employment	Numeric Employment Change	Percent Employment Change
Rail car repairers	260	440	180	69.2
Refractory materials repairers, except brickmasons	110	170	60	54.5
Network systems and data communications analysts	2,770	4,230	1,460	52.7
Veterinary technologists and technicians	940	1,430	490	52.1
Home health aides	9,590	14,210	4,620	48.2
Medical assistants	5,230	7,750	2,520	48.2
Computer software engineers, applications	3,670	5,420	1,750	47.7
Court reporters	240	350	110	45.8
Physician assistants	550	780	230	41.8
Physical therapist assistants	1,220	1,720	500	41.0

Note: Projections cover Alabama; (1) Sorted by percent employment change and excludes occupations with numeric employment change less than 10

Source: www.projectionscentral.com, State Occupational Projections, 2006-2016 Long-Term Projections

Average Wages

Occupation	\$/Hr.	Occupation	\$/Hr.
Accountants and Auditors	31.87	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	9.09
Automotive Mechanics	17.06	Maintenance and Repair Workers	16.86
Bookkeepers	14.25	Marketing Managers	50.18
Carpenters	14.36	Nuclear Medicine Technologists	29.80
Cashiers	8.14	Nurses, Licensed Practical	16.58
Clerks, General Office	10.79	Nurses, Registered	28.25
Clerks, Receptionists/Information	10.99	Nursing Aides/Orderlies/Attendants	9.69
Clerks, Shipping/Receiving	13.25	Packers and Packers, Hand	10.43
Computer Programmers	35.81	Physical Therapists	40.91
Computer Support Specialists	20.78	Postal Service Mail Carriers	23.46
Computer Systems Analysts	36.17	Real Estate Brokers	26.82
Cooks, Restaurant	10.63	Retail Salespersons	10.66
Dentists	n/a	Sales Reps., Exc. Tech./Scientific	22.84
Electrical Engineers	42.30	Sales Reps., Tech./Scientific	36.31
Electricians	18.36	Secretaries, Exc. Legal/Med./Exec.	15.05
Financial Managers	53.12	Security Guards	12.85
First-Line Supervisors/Mgrs., Sales	17.80	Surgeons	n/a
Food Preparation Workers	8.24	Teacher Assistants	8.80
General and Operations Managers	50.47	Teachers, Elementary School	24.10
Hairdressers/Cosmetologists	11.90	Teachers, Secondary School	21.10
Internists	n/a	Telemarketers	10.72
Janitors and Cleaners	9.95	Truck Drivers, Heavy/Tractor-Trailer	16.10
Landscaping/Groundskeeping Workers	11.54	Truck Drivers, Light/Delivery Svcs.	13.91
Lawyers	60.29	Waiters and Waitresses	8.97

Note: Wage data covers the Huntsville, AL - see Appendix B for areas included. Hourly wages for elementary/secondary school teachers and teacher assistants were calculated by the editors from annual wage data assuming a 40 hour work week; n/a not available.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2009 Metro Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates

**RESIDENTIAL
REAL ESTATE****Building Permits**

Area	Single-Family			Multi-Family			Total		
	2008	2009	Pct. Chg.	2008	2009	Pct. Chg.	2008	2009	Pct. Chg.
City	227	268	18.1	0	360	-	227	628	176.7
U.S.	575,600	441,100	-23.4	329,800	141,900	-57.0	905,400	583,000	-35.6

Note: figures represent new, privately-owned housing units authorized (unadjusted data); All permit data are based on estimates with imputation; U.S. figures are based on the new 20,000-place series.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Manufacturing, Mining, and Construction Statistics, Permits by County or Place

Homeownership Rate

Area	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)	2008 (%)	2009 (%)
MSA ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
U.S.	68.9	68.8	68.1	67.8	67.4

Note: (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing Vacancies and Homeownership Annual Statistics: 2009

Housing Vacancy Rates

Area	Gross Vacancy Rate ² (%)			Rental Vacancy Rate ³ (%)			Homeowner Vacancy Rate ⁴ (%)		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
MSA ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
U.S.	13.8	14.4	14.5	9.7	10.0	10.6	2.7	2.8	2.6

Note: (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included; (2) The percentage of the total housing inventory that is vacant; (3) The percentage of rental inventory that is vacant for rent; (4) The percentage of homeowner inventory that is vacant for sale; n/a not available

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing Vacancies and Homeownership Annual Statistics: 2009

State Corporate Income Tax Rates

State	Tax Rate (%)	Tax Brackets (\$)	Num. of Brackets	Financial Institution Tax Rate (%) ^a	Federal Income Tax Ded.
Alabama	6.5	Flat rate	1	6.5	Yes

Note: Tax rates as of January 1, 2010

Source: Federation of Tax Administrators, "State Corporate Income Tax Rates, 2010"

State Individual Income Tax Rates

State	Tax Rates (%)	Tax Brackets (\$)	Num. of Brackets	Personal Exempt. (\$) ¹		Fed. Inc. Tax Ded.
				Single	Dependents	
Alabama	2.0 - 5.0	500 (b) - 3,000 (b)	3	1,500	300	Yes

Note: Tax rates as of January 1, 2010; Local- and county-level taxes are not included; n/a not applicable;

(1) Married joint filers generally receive double the single exemption; (b) For joint returns, the taxes are twice the tax imposed on half the income.

Source: Federation of Tax Administrators, "State Individual Income Tax Rates, 2010"

Various State and Local Tax Rates

State	State and Local Sales and Use (%)	State Sales and Use (%)	Gasoline ^{1,2} (\$/gal.)	Cigarette (\$/pack)	Spirits (\$/gal.)	Wine (\$/gal.)	Beer (\$/gal.)
Alabama	9.0	4.0	0.209	0.425	18.78 (k)	1.7 (m)	1.05 (o)

Note: Tax rates as of February 1, 2010 except gasoline (see note 2); (1) In addition to the 18.4 cpg Federal gasoline tax; (2) The American Petroleum Institute has developed a methodology for determining the average tax rate on a gallon of fuel. Rates may include any of the following: excise taxes, environmental fees, storage tank fees, other fees or taxes, general sales tax, and local taxes. In states where gasoline is subject to the general sales tax, or where the fuel tax is based on the average sale price, the average rate determined by API is sensitive to changes in the price of gasoline. States that fully or partially apply general sales taxes to gasoline: CA, CO, GA, IL, IN, MI, NY. Rates shown are as of January 4, 2010; (k) States where the government controls sales. In control states, products are subject to ad valorem mark-up and excise taxes. The excise tax rate is calculated using methodology developed by the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States; (m) Includes a local rate of \$0.26 per gallon statewide; (o) Includes a local rate of \$0.52 per gallon statewide.

Source: Tax Foundation, 2010 Facts & Figures: How Does Your State Compare?

State-Local Tax Burdens

Area	Rate (%)	Rank ¹	Per Capita Taxes Paid to Home State (\$)	Total State and Local Per Capita Taxes Paid (\$)	Per Capita Income (\$)
Alabama	8.6	38	1,977	3,144	36,372
U.S. Average	9.7	-	2,924	4,283	44,254

Note: Figures cover 2008; (1) Rank ranges from 1 to 51 where 1 is highest tax burden

Source: Tax Foundation, State-Local Tax Burdens, All States, 2008

State Business Tax Climate Index Rankings

State	Overall Rank	Corporate Tax Index Rank	Individual Income Tax Index Rank	Sales Tax Index Rank	Unemployment Insurance Tax Index Rank	Property Tax Index Rank
Alabama	19	23	17	25	16	17

Note: The index is a measure of how each state's tax laws affect economic performance. The lower the rank, the more favorable a state's tax system is for business. All ranks are for fiscal years. States without a given tax are given a ranking of 1.

Source: Tax Foundation, Tax Foundation Background Paper, No. 59, "2010 State Business Tax Climate Index"

TRANSPORTATION**Means of Transportation to Work**

Area	Car/Truck/Van		Public Transportation			Bicycle	Walked	Other Means	Worked at Home
	Drove Alone	Car-pooled	Bus	Subway	Railroad				
City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MSA ¹	84.8	10.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2	1.0	2.2
U.S.	75.8	10.6	2.7	1.6	0.5	0.5	2.8	1.3	4.0

Note: Figures are percentages and cover workers 16 years of age and older;

(1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Travel Time to Work

Area	Less Than 15 Minutes	15 to 29 Minutes	30 to 44 Minutes	45 to 59 Minutes	60 to 89 Minutes	90 Minutes or More
City	28.7	53.8	14.1	1.5	1.4	0.5
MSA ¹	28.1	44.4	20.1	5.0	1.3	1.0
U.S.	28.7	36.0	19.6	7.5	5.6	2.5

Note: Figures are percentages and include workers 16 years old and over; (1) Metropolitan Statistical Area - see Appendix A for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Travel Time Index

Area	1982	1997	2006	2007
Urban Area ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average ²	1.10	1.23	1.29	1.29

Note: Travel Time Index - The ratio of travel time in the peak period to the travel time at free-flow conditions. A value of 1.30 indicates a 20-minute free-flow trip takes 26 minutes in the peak. Free-flow speeds (60 mph on freeways and 35 mph on principal arterials) are used as the comparison threshold; (1) Covers the Huntsville urban area;

(2) average of 90 urban areas

Source: Texas Transportation Institute, The 2009 Urban Mobility Report, July 2009