

## Orlando Economic Highlights

- Orlando is one of the top metro areas in the country for population growth. Between 2016 and 2017, the Orlando metro area population increased by 56,498 residents, which equals 155 residents per day. *Orlando Business Journal, March 2018.*
- Metro Orlando rents were up 8% in March 2018 from a year earlier, the third biggest jump among the nation's top markets. *Orlando Sentinel, April 24, 2018.*
- Orlando leads the state and nation in job growth. In January 2017, Orlando held the number one spot as the fastest growing job market in the country with an employment base of at least one million jobs. Orlando's year-over-year job growth of 4.6 percent outpaced competitive southern metros including Dallas, Atlanta and Austin. *U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 2017.*
- Orlando leads U.S. for apartment rent growth, growing 5.7% in a 12 month period. *Orlando Sentinel, December 22, 2017.*
- *Thrillist* names Orlando as one of 8 America Cities Making Big Improvements in 2018 citing Creative village and the UCF/Valencia Downtown Campus. *February 14, 2018.*
- *Forbes Magazine* Ranks Orlando No. 4 in List of Fastest Growing Cities based on population, wage, employment and economic growth. *February 2018.*
- Orlando was named the No. 1 city in America to invest in housing for 2018, according to a list by *Forbes Magazine.* *February 2018.*
- Realtor.com ranked Orlando as No. 3 Best City For Millennials in 2017. *March 2017.*

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## Orlando Character and Cultural Highlights

- *Inc. Magazine* says "People are Leaving Silicon Valley and Orlando Might be the Next Hot Spot." *February 2018.*
- *The New York Times* says "Orlando is a checkerboard of intriguing neighborhoods filled with historic bungalows, interesting galleries and cafes catering to the Creative Class." *36 Hours in Orlando, February 1, 2018.*
- *The Princeton Review* ranks UCF's graduate Video Game Design School #3 in North America. *March 2018.*
- Thrillist calls Orlando "one of America's most surprisingly dynamic places." *April 2017.*
- Orlando was named one of the "Ten Best Wine Travel Destinations" in 2015 by *Wine Enthusiast* and three local Orlando restaurants were James Beard Award semifinalists in 2016. *Orlando Weekly, February 2016.*
- *The New York Times* highlighted Orlando's "surprising food scene" as a reason to choose Orlando as one of the "52 Places to Go in 2015." *January 2015.*
- *WalletHub* also named Orlando as the "best city for recreation," best "foodie city" and "most pet-friendly city" in 2016. *July 2016.*
- *The Chicago Tribune* says "Orlando Offers Dining Thrills," and has a burgeoning multicultural culinary scene. *April 2018.*
- UCF's computer programming team places 10th in international competition with more than 50,000 students "besting teams from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California-Berkeley and Harvard." *Orlando Sentinel, April 2018.*

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