

# Houston Rankings

**#1 Lowest Cost of Living**  
Among 24 Metropolitan Areas with Populations of More Than 2 Million  
Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index 2006

**#1 Most Affordable Housing**  
Among 24 Metropolitan Areas with Populations of More Than 2 Million  
Source: ACCRA Cost of Housing Index 2006

**#1 Job Growth**  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - March 2007

**#1 Fastest Growing Companies**  
Source: Fortune - September 18, 2006

**#1 Largest Immigrant Communities in the U.S.**  
Source: Center for an Urban Future - April 10, 2007

**#2 Most Popular City with Movers**  
Source: U-Haul National Migration Trend Report - 2006

**#2 Best Business Climate in the Nation**  
Source: Site Selection - March 2007

**#2 Most Logistics-Friendly Metros**  
Source: Expansion Management & Logistics Today - Logistics Quotient

**#2 Best Hospitals for Cancer Care:**  
M. D. Anderson-Texas Medical Center  
Source: U.S. News and World Report - July 2005

**#2 Top Logistics Metros for Waterborne Commerce**  
Source: Expansion Management

**#3 U.S. Metros for Business and Careers**  
Source: *Forbes* - May 2006

**#3 Fortune 500 Headquarters**  
(ranked by Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area)  
Source: *Fortune* - April 5, 2006

**#3 Number of Foreign Consulates (83)**  
Source: *Houston International Protocol Alliance*

**#3 Total County Population**  
Source: *U.S. Bureau of the Census* - March 22, 2007

**#3 Overall Financial Performance of Local Charities**  
Source: *Charity Navigator* - June 2006

**#3 Total Number of "Insourced" Jobs**  
Source: *Organization for International Investment* - September 2006

**#3 Top 10 Underrated U.S. Cities**  
Source: *MSNBC.Com* - April 2007

**#3 Most Hispanic-Owned Businesses in the U.S.**  
Source: *Center for an Urban Future: A World of Opportunity* - April 2007

**#3 Retail Investment**  
Source: *Weaver Davis & Jacob Realty Group* as reported in *Business Wire*

**#4 Top 10 Cities for African Americans**  
Source: *Black Enterprise* - May 2007

**#4 Total City Population**  
Source: *U.S. Bureau of the Census* - October 2006

**#5 Best Business Opportunity Metro**  
Source: *Expansion Management* - August 2006

**#5 Top 10 Best Value Private Colleges**  
Rice University  
Source: *The Princeton Review* - 2007 Edition

**#6 Best Values: National Universities**  
Rice University  
Source: *U.S. News & World Report* - America's Best Colleges 2006

**#6 Most Asian-Owned Businesses in U.S.**  
Source: *Center for an Urban Future: A World of Opportunity* - April 2007

**#7 Top 10 Metros for New & Expanded Facilities**  
Source: *Site Selection* - March 2007

**#8 Fastest Growing Metro Area for Women-Owned Businesses**  
Source: *Center for Women's Business Research* - 2004

**#8 Best Places to Live**  
Source: *Places Rated Almanac 2000* - Current Edition

**#8 Largest Central Business Districts**  
Source: *Demographia* - June 2006

**#9 Off-the-Radar Tech Hub**  
Source: *eWEEK* - June 2006

**Top 10 Cities for Green Technology Innovation**  
Source: *SustainLane* - March 2007

**Top 10 Specialty Hospitals in World**  
Rehabilitation, Cancer Centers, Heart Surgery, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Pediatrics and

## Houston Among Lowest Risk Markets

PMI Mortgage Insurance Company has calculated risk scores for the listed housing markets, which predict the chance of decreasing home values in the near future. The Houston housing market ranks among the lowest risk markets compared to cities nationwide. The risk scores are used for determining mortgage insurance rates.

Metropolitan statistical area	*Risk score	Annual house price appreciation		
		1st qtr 2007 (in %)	1st qtr 2006 (in %)	% change
Pittsburgh	64	2.66	5.22	-2.57
Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	74	4.02	3.43	0.59
Dallas-Plano-Irving, Texas	75	3.66	3.8	-0.14
<b>Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, Texas</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>5.93</b>	<b>5.52</b>	<b>0.41</b>
Indianapolis-Carmel, Ind.	84	2.31	3.07	-0.76
Columbus, Ohio	93	0.97	3.61	-2.63
Cincinnati-Middletown, Ohio-Ken.-Ind.	97	2.27	3.99	-1.72
San Antonio, Texas	102	10.53	9.31	1.22
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, Ohio	121	-0.31	2.29	-2.6
Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, N.C.-S.C.	125	8.47	6.06	2.41
Austin-Round Rock, Texas	136	10.94	7.63	3.32
Kansas City, Mo.-Kan.	136	2.51	4.71	-2.2
Denver-Aurora, Colo.	156	1.09	3.12	-2.03
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.	175	5.07	10.66	-5.59
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin, Tenn.	177	8.32	9.02	-0.69
St. Louis, Mo.-Ill.	182	4.22	7.17	-2.95
Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, Wis.	189	3.42	7.83	-4.41
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga.	212	4.02	4.85	-0.83

Philadelphia	237	5.63	13.72	-8.08
Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn, Mich.	284	-2.98	1.2	-4.18
Newark-Union, N.J.-Pa.	314	3.63	13.65	-10.02
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minn.-Wisc.	322	1.69	6.59	-4.9
New York-White Plains-Wayne, N.Y.-N.J.	322	3.93	16.07	-12.15
Cambridge-Newton-Framingham, Mass.	336	-0.5	4.41	-4.9
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, Wash.	343	12.56	18.62	-6.06
Edison, N.J.	362	2.21	14.97	-12.76
Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, Ore.-Wash.	389	11	21.46	-10.46
Jacksonville, Fla.	394	7.46	21.95	-14.49
Providence-New Bedford-Fall River, R.I.-Mass.	397	0.85	9.13	-8.27
Baltimore-Towson, Md.	400	6.64	19.94	-13.3
San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City, Calif.	411	1.32	14.83	-13.51
Nassau-Suffolk, N.Y.	445	2.25	12.91	-10.66
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Va.-N.C.	476	7.88	22.01	-14.14
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, Calif.	491	2.28	17.56	-15.28
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va.	500	3.65	21.67	-18.03
Boston-Quincy, Mass.	501	-1.32	5.45	-6.76
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla.	506	5.11	26.74	-21.64
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall, Fla.	524	11.44	28.7	-17.26
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach, Fla.	542	2.68	29.38	-26.7
San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, Calif.	555	-1.92	8.2	-10.12
Sacramento-Arden-Arcade-Roseville, Calif.	560	-4.41	12.98	-17.39
Orlando-Kissimmee, Fla.	563	7.94	32.52	-24.59
Oakland-Fremont-Hayward, Calif.	572	-0.9	18.63	-19.53
Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine, Calif.	577	0.85	19.85	-19.01
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, Calif.	586	4.82	23.57	-18.76
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach, Fla.	607	-2.16	28.12	-30.28
Las Vegas-Paradise, Nev.	614	1.69	16.08	-14.39
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, Ariz.	646	4.52	37.33	-32.81

**NOTES:** \*For the first quarter 2007; \*\*Scores show risk of home values falling in 2009 in all U.S. metropolitan statistical areas and divisions. Risk index scores are whole numbers. By moving the decimal one point to the left, they are expressed as the % chance of dropping prices. For example, Riverside has a risk score of 652 --- a 65.2% chance home values will fall in two years. Also shown:

appreciation in first quarters of 2006 and 2007. Source: PMI Mortgage Insurance Co.

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