

FACT SHEET

Welcome to Huntsville

Known as the "Rocket City", Huntsville is driven by innovation, and is a great place to live and work. Opportunities here are plentiful, the schools are nationally recognized, and the Tennessee Valley is a beautiful place to call home.

Cost of Living

- **Pay Structure-** MDA employees in Huntsville have the similar pay grade structure as employees in Washington, D.C. Although the locality pay in D.C. is higher, it's offset by Huntsville's lower cost of living.
- **Cost of Living Index-** Ranked 92.2, Huntsville is 7.8% more affordable than the national average.
- **Housing-** The median cost of a home in Huntsville is 8% below the national average at \$169,900. Compare that to the average home in Washington, D.C. which costs \$537,400!
- **Rent-** 18.5% cheaper than the national average as well at \$773 a month.
- **Fuel costs-** Typically 20 to 40 cents less per gallon than the national average.

Local Attractions

- **Monte Sano State Park-** A beautiful Appalachian park with well-maintained hiking trails and lookout areas.
- **Lake Guntersville-** Alabama's largest lake and world-famous bass fishing destination is less than an hour from Huntsville, and is a beautiful place to spend your free time. Aside from the great fishing, there is a sailboat club and two lakeside restaurants that offer a fine dining experience.
- **U.S. Space and Rocket Center-** With guests from all over the world you have the opportunity to see rockets, shuttles, and other aerospace exhibits.
- **Bridge Street Town Centre-** One of Huntsville's most popular attractions, featuring over 80 shops and restaurants with up-scale dining and a 14 screen movie theater.
- **Campus No. 805-** Featuring many local craft breweries and restaurants, a locally famous night-life hotspot.
- **Von Braun Center-** A huge multi-purpose event center that hosts everything from concerts and plays to the local hockey team, the Huntsville Havoc.

Local Events

- **Panoply Arts Festival-** A local favorite featuring live music from over 100 musicians. Along with many local artists, the festival also has a number of local craft brewers.
- **MWR Oktoberfest-** A popular local event featuring German beverages and cuisine, carnival rides, live music, and games.
- **Santa's Village-** A popular local winter event where you check out the live reindeer and see Santa Claus.
- **Crush Wine & Food Festival-** Featuring a wine competition and local music during the fall, this elegant festival is becoming a local favorite.

Schools

- **Elementary Schools and Middle Schools-** Heritage Elementary is one of the top-rated schools in the state. 73% of their students scored at or above proficiency levels in reading. 85% scored at or above proficiency levels in math.
- **High Schools-** The area's top three High Schools (James Clemens H.S., Bob Jones H.S., and New Century Technology Demo H.S.) all received top ratings (96 out of 100 or better) from U.S. News and World Report. 63% of students take AP classes/exams. James Clemens and Bob Jones boast an average ACT score of 27.
- **Colleges/Universities-** There are many 4-year universities in Huntsville, including the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) and Alabama A&M University. Calhoun Community College is a local two-year institution.

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