



# State of Care<sup>SM</sup> Child Care Rankings

*A ranking of the availability, affordability,  
and quality of child care in every metro  
area and state in America.*

Computed by



### **About Care.com**

Founded in 2006, Care.com is the largest and fastest growing service used by families to find high-quality caregivers, providing a trusted place to easily connect, share caregiving experiences and get advice. The company addresses the unique lifecycle of care needs that each family goes through—child care, special needs care, tutoring and lessons, in-home senior care, pet care, housekeeping and more. The service helps families find and select the best care possible based on detailed profiles, background checks and references for hundreds of thousands of mom-reviewed providers who seek to share their services. Through its Care.com for Recruiters service, Care.com also enables companies to find high-quality caregiving employees.

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## Table of Contents

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<b>Introduction and Methodology</b>	4
<b>Major Metro Area Child Care Rankings</b>	
Top 5	6
Bottom 5	7
Top 10	8
Bottom 10	8
<b>Resources</b>	9
<b>Appendix</b>	
Major Metro Area Rankings	11
Minor Metro Area Rankings	13
State Rankings	21

## Introduction

Welcome to the Local State of Care Index, a ranking of the availability, affordability, and quality of child care in every metro area and state in America.

## Methodology

Several criteria are used to compute the ranking.

### Availability Criteria:

- Care.com child care providers per child under 10
- Care.com Child Care Center Directory child care centers per child under 10
- Number of Child Care Workers reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics per child under 10

### Affordability Criteria:

- Care.com Babysitter Pay Calculator base pay as percentage of median household income
- Child care worker annual mean wage reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as percentage of median household income

### Quality Criteria:

- Care.com child care providers' average number of years of experience
- Percentage of Care.com child care providers with first aid certification
- Percentage of Care.com child care providers with CPR certification
- State standards for family child care homes
- State standards for state sex offender registries
- Percentage of child care centers with accreditation (Included in state level rankings only)
- Percentage of family child care homes with accreditation (Included in state level rankings only)

# Major Metro Area Child Care Rankings

## the **Top 5** Cities in America for Child Care

### 1. **Boston, MA**

Availability Rank: 1 • Affordability Rank: 31 • Quality Rank: 12

Boston ranks first for availability and boasts a high ratio of child care providers to children, a high ratio of child care centers to children, and child care providers with a high average number of years of experience. The city also benefits from Massachusetts' strict standards for family daycares.

### 2. **Seattle, WA**

Availability Rank: 24 • Affordability Rank: 22 • Quality Rank: 1

Seattle ranks first for quality. It has a high percentage of child care providers with first aid and CPR certification, and the city benefits from Washington state's strict standards for family daycares and for the state sex offender registry.

### 3. **Denver, CO**

Availability Rank: 12 • Affordability Rank: 17 • Quality Rank: 3

Denver has a high ratio of child care providers to children and a high percentage of child care providers with first aid and CPR certification. Child care is more affordable in Denver than in Boston or Seattle.

### 4. **Rochester, NY**

Availability Ranking: 20 • Affordability Rank: 11 • Quality Rank: 9

Rochester has child care providers with a high average number of years of experience.

### 5. **West Palm Beach/Boca Raton, FL**

Availability Ranking: 15 • Affordability Rank: 37 • Quality Rank: 2

This metro area ranks second for quality. It has child care providers with a high average number of years of experience, and the city benefits from Florida's strict standards for family daycares.

## the **Bottom 5** Cities in America for Child Care

Out of the cities we surveyed for this report, these are the worst ranking cities for child care in America. All five cities have expensive child care relative to the cities' median income.

### **1. New Orleans, LA**

*Availability Rank: 57 • Affordability Rank: 57 • Quality Rank: 52*

Weighing in as the worst city in America for Child Care, New Orleans ranks last in our survey for availability and affordability.

### **2. New York, NY**

*Availability Rank: 6 • Affordability Rank: 56 • Quality Rank: 54*

While New York City ranks high for child care availability, it ranks very low for affordability and quality of caregivers.

### **3. Miami, FL**

*Availability Rank: 32 • Affordability Rank: 55 • Quality Rank: 35*

Even though Miami ranks average for child care availability, it is our third worst city for child care affordability.

### **4. Los Angeles/Long Beach, CA**

*Availability Ranking: 55 • Affordability Rank: 54 • Quality Rank: 31*

LA and Long Beach rank pretty low across the board, and they are about average when it comes to child care quality.

### **5. Pittsburgh, PA**

*Availability Ranking: 23 • Affordability Rank: 51 • Quality Rank: 55*

Despite ranking above average for child care availability, Pittsburgh weighs in as our fifth worst city in America for child care due to low affordability and poor quality.

### Top 10 Major Metro Areas

Metro	State	Overall Rank	Availability Rank	Affordability Rank	Quality Rank
Boston, MA-NH	MA	1	1	31	12
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett	WA	2	24	22	1
Denver	CO	3	12	17	3
Rochester	NY	4	20	11	9
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton	FL	5	15	37	2
Phoenix-Mesa	AZ	6	30	20	5
Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill	NC	7	16	12	13
San Jose	CA	8	37	1	36
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC	NC	9	18	28	8
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI	WI	10	11	2	43

### Bottom 10 Major Metro Areas

Metro	State	Overall Rank	Availability Rank	Affordability Rank	Quality Rank
Louisville, KY-IN	KY	48	41	41	46
Memphis, TN-AR-MS	TN	49	51	36	47
Newark	NJ	50	28	14	57
Philadelphia, PA-NJ	NJ	51	22	34	56
Riverside-San Bernardino	CA	52	50	49	38
Pittsburgh	PA	53	23	51	55
Los Angeles-Long Beach	CA	54	55	54	31
Miami	FL	55	32	55	35
New York	NY	56	6	56	54
New Orleans	LA	57	57	57	52

See appendix for complete metro area and state rankings.



## Resources

Care.com's Babysitter Pay Calculator - <http://www.care.com/child-care-babysitter-pay-calculator-p1140.html>

Care.com's Child Care Center Directory - <http://www.care.com/day-care-directory-find-p1080.html>

Care.com's Child Care Provider Search - <http://www.care.com/child-care-p1004.html>

NACCRRRA's Annual Report on Child Care Capacity - [http://www.naccrra.org/randd/docs/2008\\_Child\\_Care\\_Capacity.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/randd/docs/2008_Child_Care_Capacity.pdf)

NACCRRRA's Ranking of State Standards of Small Family Child Care Homes - [http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/publications/854-0000\\_Lvng%20Children%20%20Chance\\_rev\\_031510.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/publications/854-0000_Lvng%20Children%20%20Chance_rev_031510.pdf)

TopTenReviews.com's Sex Offender Registry Review - <http://sex-offender-registry-review.toptenreviews.com/>

US Bureau of Labor Statistics - <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos170.htm>

US Census - <http://www.census.gov/>

# Appendix

## Major Metro Area Rankings

Metro	State	Overall Rank	Availability Rank	Affordability Rank	Quality Rank
Boston, MA-NH	MA	1	1	31	12
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett	WA	2	24	22	1
Denver	CO	3	12	17	3
Rochester	NY	4	20	11	9
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton	FL	5	15	37	2
Phoenix-Mesa	AZ	6	30	20	5
Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill	NC	7	16	12	13
San Jose	CA	8	37	1	36
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC	NC	9	18	28	8
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI	WI	10	11	2	43
Chicago	IL	11	33	10	17
Orlando	FL	12	8	45	10
Washington, DC-MD-VA-WV	DC	13	31	5	34
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	FL	14	4	52	4
Jacksonville	NC	15	26	27	19
Atlanta	GA	16	2	6	53
Indianapolis	IN	17	21	13	25
Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA	OR	18	42	25	11
Kansas City, MO-KS	MO	19	13	15	30
Austin-San Marcos	TX	20	7	16	37
St. Louis, MO-IL	IL	21	47	23	15
Baltimore	MD	22	34	32	14
Dallas	TX	23	19	8	39
Nashville	TN	24	9	21	40
Nassau-Suffolk	NY	25	46	3	44
Oakland	CA	26	53	9	23
Hartford	CT	27	3	26	49
Sacramento	CA	28	14	33	29
Fort Worth-Arlington	TX	29	44	18	27

Detroit	MI	30	39	7	48
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	KY	31	25	30	32
Milwaukee-Waukesha	WI	32	17	38	28
Greensboro--Winston-Salem--High Point	NC	33	40	40	18
Springfield	MA	34	10	48	20
San Francisco	CA	35	29	35	26
Providence-Fall River-Warwick, RI-MA	MA	36	5	53	16
Columbus	OH	37	27	29	41
Salt Lake City-Ogden	UT	38	54	4	51
Las Vegas, NV-AZ	AZ	39	56	44	7
San Diego	CA	40	36	43	22
Fort Lauderdale	FL	41	48	50	6
Houston	TX	42	52	19	45
Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC	VA	43	35	24	50
Oklahoma City	OK	44	38	47	21
Buffalo-Niagara Falls	NY	45	49	46	24
Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria	OH	46	43	42	33
San Antonio	TX	47	45	39	42
Louisville, KY-IN	KY	48	41	41	46
Memphis, TN-AR-MS	TN	49	51	36	47
Newark	NJ	50	28	14	57
Philadelphia, PA-NJ	NJ	51	22	34	56
Riverside-San Bernardino	CA	52	50	49	38
Pittsburgh	PA	53	23	51	55
Los Angeles-Long Beach	CA	54	55	54	31
Miami	FL	55	32	55	35
New York	NY	56	6	56	54
New Orleans	LA	57	57	57	52

## Minor Metro Area Rankings

Metro	State	Overall Rank	Availability Rank	Affordability Rank	Quality Rank
Hamilton-Middletown	OH	1	2	1	173
Bloomington-Normal	IL	2	43	12	17
Stamford-Norwalk	CT	3	5	2	206
Fort Collins-Loveland	CO	4	54	21	18
Dubuque	IA	5	123	29	2
Boulder-Longmont	CO	6	50	15	29
Olympia	WA	7	84	48	5
Iowa City	IA	8	4	76	78
Green Bay	WI	9	51	6	73
Nashua	NH	10	67	7	57
Barnstable-Yarmouth	MA	11	12	176	7
Fort Walton Beach	FL	12	23	66	26
Colorado Springs	CO	13	53	17	50
Fargo-Moorhead, ND-MN	MN	14	6	70	81
Lincoln	NE	15	13	23	147
Burlington	VT	16	10	101	53
Pittsfield	MA	17	1	229	55
Ann Arbor	MI	18	45	8	114
Appleton-Oshkosh-Neenah	WI	19	122	4	79
Tacoma	WA	20	150	80	1
Richland-Kennewick-Pasco	WA	21	168	35	9
Punta Gorda	FL	22	18	180	12
Bremerton	WA	23	132	81	3
Wilmington	NC	24	22	104	27
Wilmington-Newark, DE-MD	DE	25	135	31	22
Worcester, MA-CT	MA	26	7	146	48
Naples	FL	27	119	57	15
Sarasota-Bradenton	FL	28	46	137	8
Boise City	ID	29	42	16	108
Cedar Rapids	IA	30	72	13	71
Corvallis	OR	31	3	147	115

Melbourne-Titusville-Palm Bay	FL	32	25	157	20
Manchester	NH	33	69	38	61
Cheyenne	WY	34	179	59	10
Brockton	MA	35	34	84	51
Spokane	WA	36	71	121	11
Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-ME	NH	37	29	67	74
Danbury	CT	38	31	3	212
Sioux Falls	SD	39	38	25	136
Madison	WI	40	65	28	84
Peoria-Pekin	IL	41	124	58	25
Bellingham	WA	42	101	140	6
New London-Norwich, CT-RI	RI	43	20	78	110
Fort Pierce-Port St. Lucie	FL	44	24	195	13
Bismarck	ND	45	117	77	21
Lawrence, MA-NH	MA	46	75	53	56
Kokomo	IN	47	195	14	52
Ventura	CA	48	177	11	64
Omaha, NE-IA	IA	49	68	26	125
Des Moines	IA	50	58	32	124
Grand Junction	CO	51	94	106	24
Greenville	NC	52	15	183	59
Fort Myers-Cape Coral	FL	53	44	163	23
Hagerstown	MD	54	103	151	14
Waterloo-Cedar Falls	IA	55	49	44	121
Tallahassee	FL	56	39	150	47
Anchorage	AK	57	169	19	80
Portland	ME	58	26	107	94
Clarksville-Hopkinsville, TN-KY	TN	59	16	92	150
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	IA	60	144	55	54
Rockford	IL	61	196	30	60
Honolulu	HI	62	191	10	85
Santa Rosa	CA	63	120	85	40
Fort Wayne	IN	64	143	9	129
Fitchburg-Leominster	MA	65	33	209	19

Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland	MI	66	113	22	140
Kalamazoo-Battle Creek	MI	67	78	40	122
Pensacola	FL	68	109	127	28
Huntsville	AL	69	180	37	70
South Bend	IN	70	176	20	107
Reno	NV	71	80	39	138
Santa Cruz-Watsonville	CA	72	154	60	62
St. Cloud	MN	73	127	42	103
New Bedford	MA	74	11	230	41
Wausau	WI	75	202	5	155
Albany-Schenectady-Troy	NY	76	55	116	77
Tucson	AZ	77	115	144	32
Topeka	KS	78	181	33	99
Grand Forks, ND-MN	MN	79	140	124	39
Pocatello	ID	80	160	45	88
Tulsa	OK	81	170	111	31
Kenosha	WI	82	35	83	162
Racine	WI	83	200	24	118
Lawrence	KS	84	17	97	201
Muncie	IN	85	37	135	119
Dover	DE	86	130	185	16
Daytona Beach	FL	87	41	200	38
Sheboygan	WI	88	235	18	96
Lansing-East Lansing	MI	89	90	27	192
Bridgeport	CT	90	9	113	207
Fayetteville	NC	91	79	119	83
Newburgh, NY-PA	NY	92	47	102	143
Richmond-Petersburg	VA	93	91	34	191
Vallejo-Fairfield-Napa	CA	94	165	61	93
San Luis Obispo-Atascadero-Paso Robles	CA	95	70	152	72
New Haven-Meriden	CT	96	30	118	168
Glens Falls	NY	97	59	202	37
Akron	OH	98	74	65	160
Panama City	FL	99	105	142	65

Eugene-Springfield	OR	100	85	143	76
La Crosse, WI-MN	WI	101	136	68	131
Kankakee	IL	102	212	125	34
Birmingham	AL	103	98	114	101
Salinas	CA	104	206	73	68
Montgomery	AL	105	125	129	75
Elmira	NY	106	155	155	42
Billings	MT	107	99	88	132
Victoria	TX	108	193	56	120
Medford-Ashland	OR	109	203	148	30
Missoula	MT	110	21	190	123
Saginaw-Bay City-Midland	MI	111	194	52	128
Gary	IN	112	146	63	146
Wichita	KS	113	164	43	157
Syracuse	NY	114	142	95	116
Asheville	NC	115	64	220	33
Auburn-Opelika	AL	116	8	236	92
Lima	OH	117	236	36	126
Killeen-Temple	TX	118	126	87	139
Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Lompoc	CA	119	102	132	105
Lakeland-Winter Haven	FL	120	100	208	36
Rapid City	SD	121	121	64	176
Champaign-Urbana	IL	122	149	184	43
Yakima	WA	123	237	206	4
Evansville-Henderson, IN-KY	KY	124	145	49	183
St. Joseph	MO	125	77	90	167
Waterbury	CT	126	36	131	188
Tuscaloosa	AL	127	73	175	87
Lexington	KY	128	86	103	159
Flint	MI	129	167	47	174
Sioux City, IA-NE	IA	130	215	74	100
Lynchburg	VA	131	116	72	181
Augusta-Aiken, GA-SC	SC	132	108	46	205
Binghamton	NY	133	83	182	86



Columbia	SC	134	48	62	227
Salem	OR	135	216	86	106
Elkhart-Goshen	IN	136	217	41	175
Bloomington	IN	137	19	214	166
Roanoke	VA	138	141	71	184
San Angelo	TX	139	153	100	144
Toledo	OH	140	137	75	185
Lawton	OK	141	172	186	49
Dothan	AL	142	114	173	104
Canton-Massillon	OH	143	110	98	182
Dayton-Springfield	OH	144	147	50	203
Knoxville	TN	145	129	105	161
Wichita Falls	TX	146	189	126	102
Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir	NC	147	174	169	67
Provo-Orem	UT	148	175	51	195
Ocala	FL	149	61	238	35
Great Falls	MT	150	89	167	134
Redding	CA	151	32	216	133
Savannah	GA	152	56	79	222
Eau Claire	WI	153	131	89	186
Duluth-Superior, MN-WI	WI	154	166	115	137
Rocky Mount	NC	155	204	188	46
Jackson	TN	156	230	94	113
Abilene	TX	157	81	162	156
Mobile	AL	158	188	156	89
Bangor	ME	159	28	207	171
Decatur	AL	160	243	91	111
Benton Harbor	MI	161	232	54	179
Gainesville	FL	162	40	243	45
Charleston-North Charleston	SC	163	57	134	204
Bryan-College Station	TX	164	27	212	178
Owensboro	KY	165	66	117	209
Joplin	MO	166	201	130	130
Tyler	TX	167	183	141	141

Utica-Rome	NY	168	162	205	66
Terre Haute	IN	169	112	154	177
Charleston	WV	170	207	109	151
Parkersburg-Marietta, WV-OH	WV	171	192	110	169
Casper	WY	172	62	239	63
Lubbock	TX	173	88	189	149
Sherman-Denison	TX	174	156	122	187
Myrtle Beach	SC	175	97	145	197
Yuma	AZ	176	111	217	90
Stockton-Lodi	CA	177	151	158	154
Amarillo	TX	178	209	133	142
Erie	PA	179	190	99	198
Mansfield	OH	180	218	178	98
Charlottesville	VA	181	60	159	213
Modesto	CA	182	182	171	145
Albuquerque	NM	183	133	136	202
Flagstaff, AZ-UT	UT	184	152	192	135
Steubenville-Weirton, OH-WV	WV	185	214	218	58
Chattanooga, TN-GA	GA	186	138	108	215
Lewiston-Auburn	ME	187	106	237	69
Little Rock-North Little Rock	AR	188	128	96	226
Corpus Christi	TX	189	223	179	112
Lafayette	IN	190	205	153	158
York	PA	191	118	93	229
Anniston	AL	192	198	198	97
Goldsboro	NC	193	161	197	127
Youngstown-Warren	OH	194	173	160	170
Macon	GA	195	134	120	220
Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle	PA	196	139	82	234
Pueblo	CO	197	241	224	44
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	PA	198	52	128	243
Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers	AR	199	82	149	228
Athens	GA	200	14	222	235
Monroe	LA	201	163	168	190

Columbus, GA-AL	GA	202	95	161	224
Santa Fe	NM	203	224	174	153
Wheeling, WV-OH	WV	204	221	213	91
Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol, TN-VA	VA	205	185	165	196
Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson	SC	206	107	138	231
Baton Rouge	LA	207	199	166	193
Gadsden	AL	208	219	221	95
Lancaster	PA	209	187	69	244
Longview-Marshall	TX	210	227	177	172
Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula	MS	211	157	123	233
Cumberland, MD-WV	MD	212	238	228	82
Reading	PA	213	184	112	237
Bakersfield	CA	214	222	210	148
Fresno	CA	215	226	193	165
Chico-Paradise	CA	216	96	244	109
Shreveport-Bossier City	LA	217	231	196	163
Texarkana, TX-Texarkana	AR	218	233	139	210
Beaumont-Port Arthur	TX	219	245	170	189
Odessa-Midland	TX	220	225	181	199
Williamsport	PA	221	76	194	238
Fort Smith, AR-OK	AR	222	210	172	211
State College	PA	223	92	164	246
Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton	NJ	224	87	219	225
Yuba City	CA	225	148	241	180
Visalia-Tulare-Porterville	CA	226	244	235	117
Albany	GA	227	159	234	194
Sumter	SC	228	63	223	242
Hattiesburg	MS	229	93	225	232
Florence	SC	230	197	211	216
Johnstown	PA	231	208	201	219
Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH	WV	232	158	227	214
El Paso	TX	233	220	203	208
Waco	TX	234	178	231	200
Altoona	PA	235	211	187	230

Scranton--Wilkes-Barre--Hazleton	PA	236	104	226	239
Merced	CA	237	228	242	152
Lake Charles	LA	238	240	204	218
Jonesboro	AR	239	171	215	241
Houma	LA	240	239	191	236
Pine Bluff	AR	241	229	199	240
Alexandria	LA	242	213	233	221
Las Cruces	NM	243	186	232	245
Laredo	TX	244	247	246	164
Danville	VA	245	234	240	247
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	TX	246	246	245	217
Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito	TX	247	242	247	223

## State Rankings

- **Massachusetts** takes first place overall and ranks first for both availability and quality. The state ranks 28th for affordability. Massachusetts boasts a high ratio of child care providers to children, a high ratio of child care centers to children, child care providers with a high average number of years of experience, strict state standards for family daycares, and a high percentage of accredited daycare centers.
- **Connecticut** takes second place in the rankings. Like Massachusetts, Connecticut has a high ratio of child care providers to children, a high ratio of child care centers to children, strict state standards for family daycares, and a high percentage of accredited daycare centers. Child care in Connecticut ranks tenth for affordability.
- **New Hampshire** finishes third with a high ratio of child care providers to children, a high ratio of child care centers to children, and child care providers with a high average number of years of experience. The state ranks ninth for affordability.
- **Utah**, although not in the top 10 for overall rank, ranks first for affordability.
- The bottom spots go to **West Virginia, Louisiana, and Mississippi**. All three states have a low ratio of child care providers to children as well as expensive child care relative to the states' median income.

State	Overall Rank	Availability Rank	Affordability Rank	Quality Rank
Massachusetts	1	1	28	1
Connecticut	2	4	10	37
New Hampshire	3	8	9	10
Colorado	4	10	16	9
Minnesota	5	12	2	24
Hawaii	6	44	3	4
Maryland	7	31	4	14
Georgia	8	7	13	35
Delaware	9	37	14	8
Nebraska	10	13	7	34
North Dakota	11	6	26	16
Washington	12	22	23	3
Arizona	13	18	25	5
Vermont	14	3	45	2
Illinois	15	33	17	12
Michigan	16	26	11	33

Virginia	17	23	8	39
Indiana	18	36	15	15
Utah	19	43	1	46
Kansas	20	34	12	31
Iowa	21	21	20	23
Idaho	22	24	19	29
Florida	23	9	37	7
New jersey	24	25	6	48
Alaska	25	50	5	28
Wisconsin	26	32	24	22
North Carolina	27	14	29	18
Wyoming	28	20	34	6
SouthDakota	29	19	22	38
Nevada	30	45	18	25
Missouri	31	28	30	20
Texas	32	39	21	40
Rhodelsland	33	5	44	19
California	34	41	27	27
Oregon	35	40	32	17
Ohio	36	35	31	32
DC	37	2	51	11
Tennessee	38	27	33	36
Maine	39	11	47	13
South Carolina	40	15	35	50
Pennsylvania	41	16	36	49
Alabama	42	38	38	26
New York	43	17	41	43
Kentucky	44	29	39	41
Oklahoma	45	42	40	21
Montana	46	30	46	30
New Mexico	47	47	43	42
Arkansas	48	48	42	45
WestVirginia	49	46	50	44
Louisiana	50	51	48	47
Mississippi	51	49	49	51