



# 2016

## REPORT CARD



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# 27th LIVE

**Anchorage ranks 27th.** This is an increase of 10 places from last year due to lower cost of living on some housing and other essentials, increase in health care coverage and the share of homes affordable for those making a median income. This is counterbalanced by poorer rankings on property and violent crime, which are trending upward.

	2017	Change from 2016	Source
2 BR, 1 bath, 900 sq. ft. apartment rental cost*	24	+6	Council for Community & Economic Research
Diversity index	30	-8	U.S. Census Bureau
Cost of living composite index*	37	+3	Council for Community & Economic Research
Share of homes affordable for median income households*	8	+12	National Association of Home Builders
% of population reporting health as "good" or better*	11	--	Center for Disease Control & Prevention
% of respondents with any type of health care coverage	21	+8	Center for Disease Control & Prevention
Average school district ranking	10	--	k12niche.com & greatschools.org
Property crimes per 1,000 residents, 3-year avg. annual change (2013-2015)	48	-5	Federal Bureau of Investigations
Violent crimes per 1,000 residents, 3-year avg. annual change (2013-2015)	49	-20	Federal Bureau of Investigations



The Live. Work. Play. Community Safety Area of Focus is dedicated to identifying causes of public safety concerns in the community and addressing them through education and collective action. Anchorage Cares is an educational campaign to discourage residents from giving money directly to panhandlers, which can lead to increased traffic collisions and property crime. This

group instead encourages residents to donate directly to local homeless agencies. Through signage, media interviews, and a new website ([www.anchoragecares.org](http://www.anchoragecares.org)), Anchorage Cares has helped shine a spotlight on the behavioral changes required to reduce panhandling and help those in need get the support that will make real change in their lives.

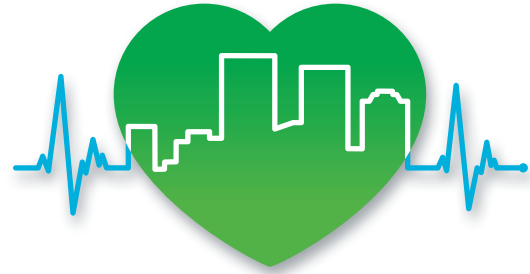
\*Data sets marked with asterisks were updated in 2016. All other data sets are from 2015 or earlier.

15th

WORK

**Anchorage ranks 15th.** This is down 13 places from last year. Average wages and income have dropped some, while unemployment as well as mean commute times have increased.

In 2016, Live.Work.Play’s Workplace Well-Being Area of Focus launched its inaugural employer survey of wellness programs. The mission of WWB is to measure current workplace practices and encourage improvement of healthy cultures and wellness programs throughout the Anchorage business community. Nine businesses that took the survey received the “Workplace Well-Being Employer Recognition Award” for raising the bar in employee health and wellness. These companies promote workplace cultures that focus on the physical, mental and emotional well-being of all their employees.



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WELL-BEING**  
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	2017	Change from 2016	Source
Mean travel time to work	14	-8	U.S. Census Bureau
% of population 25 & older who are high school graduates or higher	5	-2	U.S. Census Bureau
Median Household Income*	1	+2	U.S. Census Bureau
Taxes as a % of income (for a family of 3 with \$50,000 earnings annually)*	2	--	DC Office of CFO
% of Population 25 and older with a bachelor’s degree or higher	28	-2	U.S. Census Bureau
% of population above poverty level	1	+3	U.S. Census Bureau
Per capita personal income*	4	-1	U.S. Census Bureau
Average new hire earnings	8	--	U.S. Census Bureau
Average monthly earnings	13	-1	U.S. Census Bureau
Unemployment rate*	27	-4	U.S. Department of Labor Statistics
% of commuters that use public transportation to get to work	42	--	U.S. Census Bureau
Net job flows	34	-1	U.S. Census Bureau

# 12th PLAY

**Anchorage ranks 12th**, which is an increase of one place since last year. Anchorage continues to outrank the other cities in our research when it comes to recreational opportunities (restaurants, parks and museums per capita), and saw a substantial recent increase in library visits per resident.

	2017	Change from 2016	Source
Full-service restaurants per 100,000 residents	22	--	U.S. Census Bureau
Arts-related businesses per 1,000 city residents	13	--	ArtsIndex
Library visits per capita	25	+19	Institute of Museum & Library Services
Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents	1	--	The Trust for Public Land
Number of playgrounds per 10,000 residents	9	--	The Trust for Public Land
% of respondents who exercise frequently	1	--	Gallup
% of respondents who are not obese	42	+2	Gallup
Museums, historical sites & similar per 100,000 residents	7	--	ArtsIndex
Arts-related jobs per 1,000 city residents	30	-1	ArtsIndex
Performing arts establishments per 100,000 residents	27	-2	ArtsIndex



In partnership with the Anchorage Park Foundation and members of the trail-using community, the Live.Work.Play.Trails Initiative generated a proposed new wayfinding and signage plan to install throughout the Anchorage trails system in 2017. A public process that generated hundreds of comments helped to create a design for new signs and maps, made with durable, sustainable, graffiti-resistant materials. Eighty new installations will go up on the trails throughout 2017 and 2018. Business and individuals are invited to sponsor a sign or a map for the next five years to leave a legacy of support for one of our most treasured local resources.