

Tuscaloosa County's Population and Talent Growth Gains National Attention Topping Smart Asset and 24/7 Wall St Lists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tuscaloosa, Ala. – Tuscaloosa County is receiving high ranks in population and workforce growth and its growing tech and innovation environment. The [county ranked fourth in population growth in Alabama](#) according to recent census numbers, with a projection of substantial year-over-year growth.

Tuscaloosa County's population in 2020 had grown to 227,036, which is up 16.6% from the last Census in 2010 and far exceeds the statewide average of 5.1%. With an established, diverse economic base and flowing talent funnel, Tuscaloosa County is poised for even more significant growth and innovation in emerging knowledge-based industries and continued success in advanced manufacturing.

Supporting the substantial growth in Tuscaloosa County is the City of Northport. The community saw its population grow by 33% during the last ten years. Northport has shown its commitment to improving the quality of life of Northport residents by promoting economic growth and vitality through intentional development in the community.

“The unprecedented growth that Northport has experienced demonstrates that opportunities are available within the community as people seek to find their “true north.” Expanding population allows for new growth in business and industry to provide additional services, experiences, and employment. A new comprehensive plan is slated to capture Northport’s ideas of retaining the charm of a small town while providing amenities that can be enjoyed by our citizens and visitors alike,” said City of Northport Administrator Glenda Webb.

“The rankings by 24/7 Wall St. and Smart Asset prove Tuscaloosa County is a prime location for advanced manufacturing and knowledge-based jobs,” said Tuscaloosa County Probate Judge and County Commission Chairman Rob Robertson. “With the 2020 Census showing Tuscaloosa County grew by over 16% in the last decade, we are uniquely positioned to support the current and future workforce demands,” stated Judge Robertson.

Smart Asset named Tuscaloosa the “#1 Southern Metro Area” in their [Best Places to Work in Manufacturing list](#), with 21.43% of the workforce employed in manufacturing. The people of Tuscaloosa County have proven their ability to power advanced manufacturing companies successfully and will continue leveraging those capabilities to attract and accelerate growth moving forward.

Data from the [Milken Institute](#) identified Tuscaloosa among the top best small high-tech cities in America. 24/7 Wall St. then reviewed the data and ranked municipalities and metro areas according to their high-tech GDP concentration and the number of high-tech industries they’re home to, as well as the presence of scientific research and development service landing Tuscaloosa the top spot on the list of Best [Small High-Tech Cities](#)

“The City of Tuscaloosa’s standard of excellence is to be the most accountable, innovative, and effectively managed city in the United States. As the City grows, we actively strive to remain a great place to live, work and play. The recent studies that place Tuscaloosa in the top three places to work in manufacturing and name Tuscaloosa the best small high-tech City in the United States are a testament to this work. I am proud of the long-standing relationships that we have created and maintained with manufacturing-based employers like Mercedes, Nucor, Hunt Refining, GAF, and BF Goodrich. I’m also thrilled with the progress we’ve made recruiting new and innovative technology-centric companies like SWJ Technologies, who opened their North American headquarters in Tuscaloosa in 2021,” said Mayor of Tuscaloosa, Walt Maddox.

Tuscaloosa’s higher education institutions, including The University of Alabama, Stillman College, Shelton State Community College, play an integral role in research and talent development in computer science, cybersecurity, software engineering, and many more technology-related fields. This commitment to furthering knowledge-based industry growth is reflected in a partnership between The University of Alabama, Alabama Power Company, and Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc. The partnership powers the formation of the Alabama Mobility and Power Center, a world-class research and development hub designed to meet the needs of the booming electric vehicle market.

“The University of Alabama is proud to partner with Stillman College and Shelton State to fulfill our collective missions to innovate and provide a ready and qualified workforce to support industries that are vital to Tuscaloosa County and the State of Alabama,” said Dr. Russell Mumper, vice president for research and economic development at The University of Alabama.

The region was also recently selected as a finalist for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge DRIVE project. The submission for Phase II is due in mid-March for [The University of Alabama | U.S. Economic Development Administration \(eda.gov\)](#). The Build Back Better Regional Challenge provides transformative investments – up to \$100 million per grantee – to develop and strengthen regional industry clusters across the country while embracing economic equity, creating good-paying jobs and enhancing U.S. competitiveness globally.

“I am proud to report not only the growing 2020 census numbers but the overall industrial and business growth, economic health, and general livability in Tuscaloosa County. While the 2020s have presented their fair share of challenges, we are fortunate that Tuscaloosa County continues

accelerating opportunity despite the obstacles. It's a privilege to collaborate and work alongside many of our partners within the county. We want to shine a light on their contribution to achieving economic growth in Tuscaloosa County. With a strong talent pipeline, excellent workforce training resources, and the presence of three institutions of higher learning, Tuscaloosa County checks all the boxes for future growth and ongoing success," said Danielle Winningham, Executive Director of the Tuscaloosa County Economic Development Authority.

About TCEDA

The Tuscaloosa County Economic Development Authority is the economic development agency for all jurisdictions within Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. It is a one-stop source for accessing all site location data, including available sites and buildings, financing, employee training, incentives, and quality of life.

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