

Charlotte, North Carolina

According to the most recent statistics from the US Census Bureau, North Carolina is one of the top ten places people are migrating to, and Charlotte is one of the fastest growing cities in the US. People are moving to Charlotte and surrounding areas from all over the United States. The following is my completely subjective top ten list of why people are coming here.

#10 People:

My clients doing their house hunting almost always ask me the same question, "Why are the people here so nice?" There is no question that people are very welcoming here. However, one thing I was surprised to find after moving to Lake Norman last year (about 20 minutes north of Charlotte) was that most people here are from somewhere else ! Not only other US states, but also from Canada, England, Europe, and beyond. It is very cosmopolitan here and because there are so many transplants in the area, you'll never feel like an outsider as people are eager to make friends and learn about each others culture and traditions.

#9 Lifestyle:

Whether you're looking for more to do or an opportunity to slow down and take it easy, you'll find it here in Charlotte and surrounding counties. There is a growing number of retirees moving to this area and other small towns. They come here to be near family, enjoy the lakes, golf courses, fine arts and more. They also appreciate the **low taxes**, affordable real estate, mild climate, and moderate cost of living. Many comment that they're just tired of shoveling snow, or that they don't want year round heat and humidity. The ability to enjoy a multitude of outdoor activities year round in a variety of different environments (think beaches in the east, mountains in the west) is also a huge plus.

#8 Moderate Cost of Living:

Overall, the Charlotte area is very affordable. The median income is inline with the remainder of the United States while smaller surrounding cities are higher than the US average. Charlotte and most surrounding towns have very affordable housing and come in at average pricing when compared to the remainder of the US.

#7 Following Family:

What I find is once someone moves here, they like it so much they want to move the remainder of their family here. Parents are following their grown kids. Brothers and sisters are following their siblings. I've worked with several members of the same family.

#6 Schools:

North Carolina continues to set and achieve higher goals each year. That evidence is strongest in Mecklenburg county, where the average SAT scores exceeds the state and national average. Not only will you find great public schools, charter, magnet, and private schools are widely available.

#5 Universities:

You'll find some of the top universities in the Charlotte area which is what brings many families here. There are 33 colleges within 50 miles of Charlotte, including highly accredited technical and art institutes. In the heart of Charlotte you'll find the prestigious University of North Carolina. Not far away, there is Davidson College on the shores of Lake Norman, in 2016 ranked the third best college in North Carolina by "BestColleges.com".

#4 Affordable Real Estate:

Average real estate prices in the United States range from the high \$100k's to low \$400k. Charlotte Real Estate is at the mid point of an average of \$267k - \$327k.

#3 Mild Climate:

North Carolina offers enjoyable weather year round with four distinctive seasons. Just when you're ready for a change-you get a change. You'll enjoy the beautiful colors of fall in the blue ridge mountains and throughout North Carolina as the trees begin to change to shades of red, orange, yellow and brown. Excitement is in the air as school and football crank up the fall season. The sun still shines in the winter and if we're lucky, we'll receive a snow fall or two to enjoy, but don't worry no shoveling required ! What a great time to travel to the mountains to cut a fresh Christmas tree for your home. Spring bounces in with magnificent shades of pinks, yellows, lilacs, and pale green. Summer won't be outdone with its glorious sunshine, long days and more relaxed schedules. Residents cherish the time at the pool or spent with friends and family at BBQ's. Just when you're ready for a break, the seasons begin again.

#2 Low Taxes:

I work with a lot of people relocating to the Charlotte real estate market from the east coast. One of the main reasons I'm told is because they're looking for lower property tax rates. Generally speaking you'll find taxes rates based on the county rate and if inside the Charlotte city limits, there will be a city tax.

#1 Employment:

North Carolina claimed the top spot in Site Selection magazine's listing of the most competitive states for economic development in 2015. The magazine also ranked North Carolina as the second best business climate in North America., second to Georgia. 291 of Fortune's top 500 companies have placed one of more facilities in the region. Charlotte maintains a strong pro business outlook and enjoys a balanced vibrant economy that includes multinational to micro businesses. Charlotte Douglas International airport is a convenient gateway offering more than 700 flights daily and is less than 25 minutes from most Charlotte business parks.

So, what are you waiting for? Check out the Charlotte and Lake Norman real estate markets.