



## Georgia Is the Best State to Change Careers In

*Top States Also Include New Hampshire, Utah, and Vermont*

**Oct. 14, 2021 (Seattle, WA)** - According to a new study from BestColleges.com, Georgia is the best state to change careers in. All 50 states were examined and ranked on the basis of median income (weighted 25%), cost of living (weighted 25%), job growth (weighted 15%), unemployment (weighted 15%), gender pay gap (weighted 10%), well-being (weighted 5%), and COVID-19 vaccination rate (weighted 5%).

For the full report, visit:

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/best-and-worst-states-to-change-career/>

Top 5 Best States to Change Your Career	
1	Georgia
2	New Hampshire
3	Utah
4	Vermont
5	Minnesota

Georgia fell below average on median income (29/50) and well-being (32/50), and possessed a low COVID-19 vaccination rate (42/50) as of September. However, Georgia's relatively low cost of living ranks sixth in the nation, and its favorable ranks for job growth (15/50) and unemployment rate (9/50) earned the Peach State the number one spot for those looking to change their career in a new state.

New Hampshire takes the number two spot with a high median income (8/50) and a low unemployment rate (5/50), plus the state boasts the tenth best COVID-19 vaccination rate in America.

Utah's unemployment rate is one of the lowest in the country, ranking second, and the state boasts impressive job growth (10/50). Career switchers might consider Utah, given its third-place spot on the list. However, the state ranked last for gender pay gap (50/50).

Vermont does well for itself at number four, with impressive ranks for job growth (2/50), unemployment (5/10), and earnings gap (2/50), but its overall score is affected by a high cost of living (41/50). Minnesota's above-average rankings in every category earn the state fifth place, rounding out the top five.

"With the Great Resignation upon us, many may be looking to relocate on top of changing careers," said Jessica Bryant, education analyst for BestColleges.com. "Those who find themselves making these important decisions should prioritize the factors they find most important in a location. This will make it easier to choose the place that's right for them. Other priorities that may be relevant to an individual include a location's politics, education, crime and weather."

As for the worst states, Louisiana's median income (47/50), job growth (43/50) and unemployment (39/50) ranks earn it last place. West Virginia earns 49th place, with its median income ranking being one of the worst in the country (49/50) and the state's COVID-19 vaccination rate ranking last (50/50).

## **Ranking Methodology**

BestColleges used an array of public and private datasets related to employment and relocation to create a ranking for those looking to change careers. The study examined five categories (weightings in parentheses): median income (25%), cost of living (25%), job growth (15%), unemployment (15%), gender pay gap (10%), well-being (5%), vaccination rate (5%).

Median income data and median earnings data used to assess gender pay gap were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey. Cost of living was determined by the Council for Community and Economic Research's Cost of Living Index for the second quarter of 2021.

Job growth and unemployment data was collected from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and represents figures as of August 2021.

For well-being, BestColleges used Sharecare's 2020 Community Well-Being Index that was released in May 2021. The index measures physical, financial, and social well-being as well as access to food, housing, economic security, and healthcare.

Lastly, vaccination data was collected from the Mayo Clinic and illustrates the percentage of fully vaccinated individuals by state as of September 2021.

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