

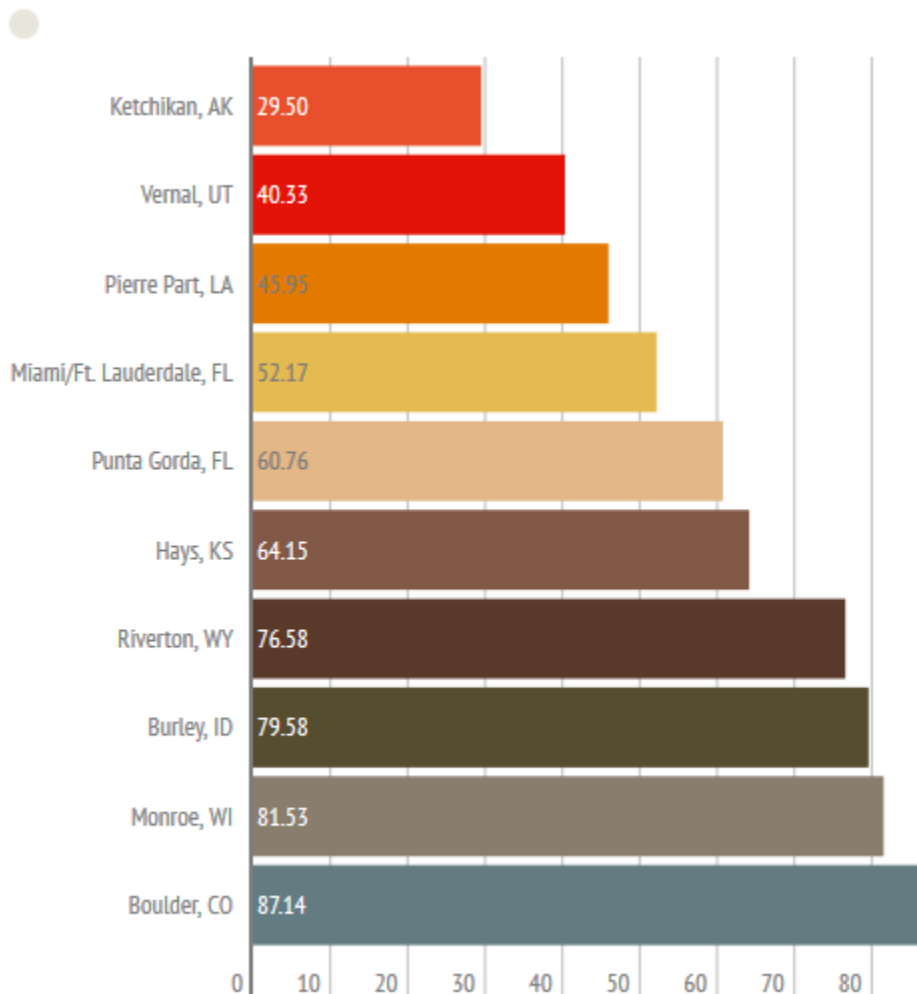
# The 10 Best Places to Open a Small Business

[Katherine Wood](#) December 15, 2014

After 6 long years, the economy is recovering. In November, the [National Federation of Independent Businesses](#) reported that its Small Business Optimism Index increased 2.0 points to 98.1, the highest since before the recession in February 2007. As things are looking up, we thought it would be a good time to look at the places where small business is thriving. Using U.S. Census data, we ranked the 10 best places (towns and cities) in America for small businesses. These are the places with positive small business hiring trends, positive small establishment numbers growth, and with high concentrations of fellow small businesses.

#6 - In Hays, the largest city in northwest Kansas and the home of Fort Hays State University, education and healthcare are the two major industries. Hays achieved 4th on our list for small business job growth, with a 10% increase in employees year over year. With 76.8% of the population over 16 years in the labor force, that job growth is incredibly important. The cost of living is low, and small businesses keep growing to their full potential.

If you're thinking of starting a small business in the New Year, these are the best places to look for success. Read on; our top 10 might surprise you.



For the complete story - [America's 10 Best Places to Open a Small Business](#)