

Travel & Tourism

## Phoenix one of leading nationwide relocation hotspots, study shows




Phoenix is growing a trendy hotspot for people deciding where to move, including retirees.

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The Valley remains one of the hottest relocation destinations in the U.S. according to a recent report studying moving patterns.

In a [report released in May](#) by PODS Enterprises, LLC, a moving and storage company, Phoenix ranked No. 7 nationally among cities with the highest number of move-ins. The study measures moving trends and data from cities across the U.S., but only ranks the top 20 highest move-in and move-out locations.

The Valley recorded one of the biggest jumps from the year-earlier report, moving up 11 spots from No. 18 in 2023. This year's report was dominated by cities across the Sun Belt region, considering the weather is always a big draw for people deciding where to move, and Phoenix's ranking reflects that.

Another reason for the city's high ranking is the popularity among retirees. According to the report, most people moving to Phoenix were over 65 years old, closely followed by people between 55-64.

Aside from new residents, companies are also eyeing Phoenix as a city to relocate their businesses. The PODS study referenced Iron Mountain's report of the top cities to move businesses, which identified Phoenix as a popular city and Arizona as a popular state for company relocations.

The Iron Mountain report noted that businesses are choosing the Valley as a landing spot because of Sky Harbor International Airport and the region's highway infrastructure, plus the quality of life the area has to offer. Additionally, the expanding economy across technology, health care, manufacturing, and renewable energy sectors, as well as the business-friendly environment were also highlighted as reasons for businesses moving to Phoenix.

For the second straight year, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Wilmington, North Carolina topped the rankings as the most popular area for relocation. In general, the Carolinas were by far the two most popular states to move to, with six cities in the top 20. Here's a look at the rankings:

1. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina/Wilmington, North Carolina (No. 1 in 2023)
2. Ocala, Florida (No. 4)
3. Houston (No. 5)
4. Greenville-Spartanburg, South Carolina (No. 10)
5. Charlotte, North Carolina (No. 16)
6. Raleigh, North Carolina (No. 20)
7. Phoenix (No. 18)
8. Knoxville, Tennessee (No. 7)
9. Jacksonville, Florida (No. 8)
10. Asheville, North Carolina (No. 17)

"Last year, we noted the Carolinas were worth watching, and this year, they've not only taken the trophy as the number one spot for new moves but also broken a record," said Rich Schwartz, senior vice president of corporate operations at PODS, in a statement.

"On the flip side, we're continuing to see a throughline where expensive metro areas are prompting Americans to flock to cities and states where the cost of living is lower, and the lifestyle is more balanced."

### **Phoenix suburbs see population increases**

The Valley's popularity as a moving destination could also be due to the rising interest in cities surrounding Phoenix, where lifestyle is more balanced, rather than Phoenix itself. While Phoenix continues to grow as a move-in destination, it is the surrounding cities that are seeing the most growth.

Maricopa County saw the fourth highest raw-numbers population increase in the U.S. in 2023, according to new U.S. Census Bureau data [released in March](#), while Pinal County south of Phoenix saw the nation's seventh-highest level of net domestic migration.

In the latest U-Haul Growth Index report [measuring destinations of one-way trips in 2023](#), Arizona, U-Haul's home state, ranked No. 8 in the nation among state destinations. The company also releases a city report, and Surprise ranked No. 18, and has placed in the top 25 every year since 2020.

U-Haul mentioned Surprise's location near downtown Phoenix but away from the urban sprawl as to why it is growing in popularity as a destination.

Lining up with the PODS study, Mesa [has the largest influx of retirees in the nation](#) according to a recent SmartAsset analysis.