

Cost of Living Guide

Moving to Metro Atlanta: What You Can Expect

Relocating to a new city is about more than finding the right home—it's about understanding your new lifestyle and budget. One of the reasons so many individuals and families choose Metro Atlanta is the opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life while often getting more value for their money than in many other major U.S. cities.

At **Atlanta Home Sold LLC**, we help our clients understand not only the real estate market, but also what everyday life in Metro Atlanta looks like. This guide walks you through the key cost-of-living factors to consider as you plan your move.

Housing

Housing is often the largest monthly expense, and one of Metro Atlanta's biggest advantages is the remarkable variety of options available at nearly every price point. Whether you're a first-time buyer, a growing family, or someone looking for a luxury retreat, the metro area delivers options that simply can't be matched in many comparable cities.

Compared to major metropolitan areas such as New York, California, Chicago, Boston, Seattle, and Washington D.C., buyers in Metro Atlanta frequently discover they can purchase larger homes with more outdoor space—often at a significantly lower price point. That purchasing power makes a real difference in everyday quality of life.



Urban Condos

Walkable neighborhoods with easy access to dining, entertainment, and city life.



Suburban Family Homes

Spacious homes in safe, school-friendly communities throughout the suburbs.



Luxury Properties

Upscale neighborhoods featuring custom builds, pools, and premium amenities.



Homes with Acreage

Properties with land, privacy, and room to grow—just outside the city core.

Property Taxes

Georgia property taxes are generally moderate compared to many other states, which is good news for buyers looking to manage their total monthly housing cost. Understanding how property taxes are calculated in Metro Atlanta is an important step in budgeting accurately for your new home.

Your annual property tax is determined by a combination of factors specific to your home's location and assessed value. One of the most valuable benefits available to Georgia homeowners is the **Homestead Exemption**, which can significantly reduce the taxable value of your primary residence—saving you money every year you own and occupy the home.

What Affects Your Tax Bill?

- County and city jurisdiction
- Local school district millage rate
- Assessed property value
- Homestead Exemption eligibility

Our Promise to You

We'll help you estimate property taxes **before** making an offer so there are no surprises at closing or when your first tax bill arrives. Knowing the full picture helps you make a confident, informed decision.

Property tax rates vary meaningfully from county to county across Metro Atlanta, so having local expertise on your side makes a real difference.

Utilities

Utility costs in Metro Atlanta vary depending on the size, age, and energy efficiency of your home. The good news is that many newer construction homes and recently renovated properties are built with energy-efficient features that can meaningfully reduce your monthly bills. Understanding typical utility expenses helps you build a realistic monthly budget from day one.

Georgia's climate means you'll likely run air conditioning through the warm months and heat during winter, so electricity and natural gas are typically the largest utility line items. Water, sewer, trash, and internet round out your monthly essentials. Many neighborhoods also offer bundled services or competitive provider options.

Electricity

Powers your home's HVAC, appliances, and lighting. Georgia Power is the primary provider for most of the metro area.

Natural Gas

Used for heating, water heaters, and stoves in many homes. Georgia has a deregulated gas market with multiple provider choices.

Water & Sewer

Managed at the county or municipal level. Costs vary by location and household usage.

Internet & Cable

Multiple providers serve Metro Atlanta, including fiber options in many communities, offering competitive pricing.

-  Newer homes are often significantly more energy-efficient, helping keep monthly utility expenses lower over time.

Transportation

Metro Atlanta is known for its extensive highway system, which connects a vast and diverse region of communities, suburbs, and urban centers. Understanding the transportation landscape is essential for anyone relocating to the area—especially if you'll be commuting to work regularly. Where you choose to live relative to your workplace can have a significant impact on your daily experience and overall quality of life.

Depending on where you choose to live and work, commute times can vary significantly. We actively help our relocation clients consider commute patterns alongside housing preferences, ensuring the home you love is also a home that fits your daily routine. Traffic in Metro Atlanta is a real consideration, and local knowledge matters.

Major Commuter Routes

- I-75 — North/South corridor
- I-85 — Northeast/Southwest corridor
- I-20 — East/West corridor
- I-285 — The Perimeter (loop)
- GA-400 — North Atlanta/Alpharetta
- Highway 78 — Gwinnett/Stone Mountain
- Highway 316 — Athens corridor

World-Class Airport Access

Atlanta is home to **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport**, consistently ranked among the busiest and most connected airports in the world. For frequent travelers—whether for business or leisure—this is a major quality-of-life advantage that residents genuinely appreciate.

MARTA, Atlanta's rail and bus system, also provides public transit options connecting key areas of the city and airport to surrounding communities.

Grocery Costs

Metro Atlanta offers grocery options for nearly every budget and lifestyle preference. Whether you're a bargain hunter, an organic enthusiast, or somewhere in between, you'll find plenty of stores to meet your needs. The region's robust retail landscape means you're rarely far from a great grocery store, no matter which neighborhood you call home.

Beyond traditional grocery chains, Metro Atlanta has a thriving farmers market scene, with weekend markets operating throughout the metro area offering locally grown produce, artisan goods, and seasonal ingredients. These markets are a wonderful way to connect with your local community while supporting regional farmers and small businesses.

Value-Focused

- Aldi
- Lidl
- Costco
- Sam's Club

Everyday Favorites

- Publix
- Kroger

Specialty & Natural

- Trader Joe's
- Whole Foods
- Sprouts Farmers Market

Local & Seasonal

Farmers markets are popular throughout the metro area, offering fresh, locally sourced produce and artisan goods year-round.

Healthcare

Access to high-quality healthcare is a top priority for many families and individuals making a relocation decision. Metro Atlanta delivers on this front in a meaningful way, offering residents access to some of the most respected healthcare systems in the Southeast—and the nation. Whether you're seeking routine care, specialized treatment, or world-class pediatric services, Atlanta has you covered.

The concentration of major health systems in Metro Atlanta means residents typically have short distances to travel for specialist care, advanced diagnostics, and surgical services. This depth of medical resources is a significant quality-of-life advantage, particularly for families with children or individuals managing chronic conditions.

Emory Healthcare

A nationally recognized academic medical center affiliated with Emory University, known for cutting-edge research and specialized care.

Piedmont Healthcare

A large regional system with multiple hospital campuses across Metro Atlanta offering comprehensive medical and surgical services.

Children's Health care of Atlanta

One of the top pediatric health systems in the country, providing specialized care for children and adolescents across multiple campuses.

Northside & Wellstar

Northside Hospital and Wellstar Health System round out a robust network of community hospitals and specialty centers throughout the region.

Education

For families relocating to Metro Atlanta, education is often one of the most important factors in choosing the right neighborhood. The good news is that the region offers a wide range of educational options—from strong public school systems to highly regarded private institutions—giving families the flexibility to find the right fit for their children.

Metro Atlanta's public school landscape varies meaningfully from county to county and district to district, which is why working with a knowledgeable local agent is so valuable. We help families identify neighborhoods that align with their specific educational priorities.

K–12 Options



Public Schools

County-based systems with varied ratings and strong programs across many districts.



Charter & Magnet Schools

Specialized programs offering curricula in STEM, arts, language immersion, and more.



Private & International Schools

A wide variety of independent schools serving diverse educational philosophies and backgrounds.

Higher Education

- **Georgia Tech** — Top-ranked engineering and technology university
- **Emory University** — Nationally ranked research university
- **Georgia State University** — Major urban research institution
- **University of Georgia** — Flagship state university in nearby Athens
- **Kennesaw State University** — Growing suburban campus with broad programs

Recreation & Lifestyle

One of the most compelling reasons to call Metro Atlanta home is the extraordinary range of recreational and lifestyle opportunities available to residents. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, a sports fan, a foodie, or an arts lover, the region offers an abundance of ways to enjoy your time outside of work. Life in Atlanta is vibrant, diverse, and genuinely fun.

Beyond the city itself, Metro Atlanta's location in North Georgia provides easy access to some of the Southeast's most beautiful natural destinations. Weekend trips to the Blue Ridge Mountains, lazy days on Lake Lanier, escapes to Lake Oconee, or drives to the Georgia coast are all well within reach—making Atlanta a fantastic home base for those who love to explore.



Outdoor Living

Parks, hiking trails, golf courses, lakes, and year-round outdoor activities in and around the city.



Professional Sports

Atlanta Braves, Falcons, Hawks, Atlanta United, and Atlanta Dream—world-class sports at every season.



Arts & Culture

Museums, theaters, live music venues, film festivals, and a thriving cultural calendar throughout the year.



Food & Shopping

An acclaimed restaurant scene, diverse culinary traditions, and shopping destinations for every taste and budget.

North Georgia Mountains

Blue Ridge hiking and mountain towns

Lake Lanier

Boating, swimming, and waterfront recreation

Lake Oconee

Upscale lakeside resorts and golf

Georgia Coast

Savannah, Tybee Island, and the Golden Isles

Is Metro Atlanta Right for You?

People relocate to Metro Atlanta for a remarkable variety of reasons—and what they almost universally find is a region that welcomes newcomers warmly and rewards the decision to put down roots here. The combination of economic opportunity, lifestyle diversity, housing value, and geographic appeal makes Atlanta one of the most compelling relocation destinations in the country.

No matter what brings you to Georgia, finding the right community is just as important as finding the right home. Metro Atlanta is made up of dozens of distinct cities, towns, and neighborhoods—each with its own character, school systems, commute profile, and lifestyle vibe. That's exactly why working with an experienced local guide makes all the difference.



Career Opportunities

A thriving business hub with Fortune 500 companies and a growing tech sector.



Affordable Housing

More space and value compared to other major U.S. metropolitan areas.



Family & Community

Great schools, safe neighborhoods, and a strong sense of community throughout the metro.



Retirement & Weather

A mild four-season climate that's ideal for an active, comfortable retirement lifestyle.



Airport Access

Hartsfield-Jackson provides unmatched domestic and international connectivity.



Diverse Communities

A welcoming, multicultural region with vibrant neighborhoods for every background.

How Atlanta Home Sold LLC Can Help

Relocating can feel overwhelming—but you don't have to navigate it alone. Atlanta Home Sold LLC is committed to making your transition to Metro Atlanta as smooth, informed, and stress-free as possible. From your very first question to the moment you receive your keys, we provide personalized, expert guidance tailored to your unique situation and priorities.

Our relocation clients benefit from a comprehensive, end-to-end approach that goes well beyond simply finding a home. We take the time to understand your lifestyle, your commute needs, your family's priorities, and your financial goals—then we match you with communities and properties that truly fit. Local expertise isn't just what we offer; it's what sets us apart.

Home Buying Assistance

Full-service buyer representation from search through closing, with expert negotiation on your behalf.

Neighborhood Guidance

Personalized neighborhood recommendations based on your lifestyle, commute, schools, and community preferences.

Virtual Home Tours

Can't visit in person yet? We offer virtual tours so you can explore homes remotely before making decisions.

Full Relocation Coordination

We connect you with trusted lenders, inspectors, attorneys, and contractors—your full local support network.

Our goal is simple: To help you make a confident move and feel at home in Metro Atlanta.

Ready to Make Your Move?

Whether you're relocating from another state or another country, **Atlanta Home Sold LLC** is here to help every step of the way. We understand that moving is one of the most significant decisions you'll make, and we're honored to be your trusted guide through every stage of the process. Reach out today—we'd love to learn about your goals and help you find your perfect place in Metro Atlanta.

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