FOOD TRUCK NATION

TOP 20 CITIES

The Food Truck Nation index ranks, rates, and records regulatory burdens for opening and operating a food truck in 20 American cities.

The project utilizes available information published by cities and counties to create an index that compares regulatory requirements, restrictions, and financial obligations. In so doing, it provides useful information and national benchmarking for public and private sector leaders to understand and improve their local business environments.

The rankings of each city in the Food Truck Nation index are based on the average scores of all three components of our index: obtaining permits and licenses, complying with restrictions, and operating a food truck. Each of these components in turn consists of the simple average (amongst all the cities in the Index) of procedures, trips to city government agencies, and fees paid to city government agencies.

foodtrucknation.us

1. **PORTLAND** is the best city for food trucks in America by our measure.
2. **DENVER** scored the second-best results of the cities measured in this index.
3. **ORLANDO** is the only city in our Food Truck Nation Index to score in the top five on all measures.
4. **PHILADELPHIA** shows brotherly love toward its food trucks.
5. **INDIANAPOLIS** is seen by our index and food truck owners as one of the friendliest cities in America in which to do business.
6. **HOUSTON** scored well in every category, placing sixth overall in our index.
7. **AUSTIN** cuts the average number of steps and trips to regulatory bodies as well as keeps a lid on fees via its one-stop permitting shop.
8. **LOS ANGELES** has a rapidly growing food truck market that is quickly becoming a fixture of local culture.
9. **NEW YORK CITY** ranked ninth overall in our index, but there is a greater story beneath the surface.
10. **NASHVILLE** placed tenth on our index with its middle-of-the-road food truck regulations.
11. **RALEIGH** scores above average in terms of food truck regulations.
12. **ST LOUIS** and its regulatory environment for food trucks ranks near the middle of the cities we studied.
13. **CHICAGO** and its food truck scene appears to be stalling out due to onerous regulations.
14. **PHOENIX** layers on a number of restrictions for food trucks, but with few exceptions these rules are not unusual or costly.
15. **COLUMBUS** and its middle-of-the-road approach to regulations appears to be working for the city's food trucks.
16. **MINNEAPOLIS** is ranked by our measure as one of the five most difficult cities for food trucks to do business.
17. **SEATTLE** has some of the strictest standards in the country for food trucks.
18. **SAN FRANCISCO** ranks among the five most difficult cities for food trucks.
19. **WASHINGTON DC** is the second most difficult city to do business in, according to our index.
20. **BOSTON** and its regulatory environment was the most difficult for food trucks to navigate of the 20 cities studied.