

Huntsville

I. Introducing Huntsville

City Population:	193,079 ¹
Poverty Rate:	18.2% ²
Unemployment Rate:	2.9% ³
Job Growth Rate:	0.54% ⁴
Total City Debt:	\$12,540,958.74 for Madison County ⁵
Debt per capita:	\$64.95 ⁶
Living Wage:	\$10.40 for 1 adult, \$21.67 for 1 adult and 1 child, \$27.46 for 1 adult and 2 children ⁷
Minimum Wage:	\$7.25 ⁸
Median Household Income:	\$49,060 in 2014 ⁹
Cost of Living:	\$21,642 for 1 adult, \$45,063 for 1 adult and 1 child and \$57,118 for 1 adult and 2 children ¹⁰
Rent vs. Own:	31.10% rent ¹¹
Rent Assistance:	Resources for rent assistance
Senior Living:	Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center
Drug Abuse:	Huntsville and Stevenson Recovery Centers
Alcoholic Help:	Alcohol Rehab Centers in Huntsville, Alabama
Housing Resources:	Huntsville Housing Authority
Homeless Shelters:	Homeless shelter directory
Financial Assistance:	Madison County Assistance Programs
Veterans Assistance:	Huntsville Veterans Affairs

II. Payday Loans in Huntsville

Legal Status:	Legal
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¹ Huntsville, Alabama https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huntsville,_Alabama

² Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/huntsvillecityalabama/AGE295216>

³ Bureau of Labor Statistics https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.al_huntsville_msa.htm

⁴ Sperling's Best Places <http://www.bestplaces.net/economy/city/alabama/huntsville>

⁵ INDEBTEDNESS OF MADISON COUNTY <http://madisoncountyal.gov/home/showdocument?id=1057>

⁶ <http://madisoncountyal.gov/home/showdocument?id=1057>

⁷ Living Wage Calculator <http://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/26620>

⁸ <http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/01073>

⁹ <http://bigpicturehuntsville.com/plan/demographics/>

¹⁰ <http://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/26620>

¹¹ <http://www.deptofnumbers.com/rent/alabama/huntsville/>

Payday Transactions:	2 million payday loans in 2015 - each borrower taking out 8 loans each ¹²
Payday Fee per \$100:	\$17.50 ¹³
% of Customers Refinancing:	66% ¹⁴
Average Loan Size:	\$326 - average fee of \$56 ¹⁵
Maximum loan amount and interest rate	\$500 and 456% ¹⁶
Maximum annual interest rate:	456% ¹⁷
City Specific Regulations:	747 licensed payday lenders in 2016 - down from 1,100 in 2015 ¹⁸ Maximum limit of \$500 ¹⁹
Consumer Example:	Stephen Stetson, a policy analyst at Alabama Arise, said the repeat usage suggests that people are using the loans to pay recurring expenses and not just for emergencies. "These loans are marketed for emergency use only. If somebody is taking out that many in a year, it means they are using them to pay the bills," Stetson said. ²⁰
Notable News Stories:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alabama's toxic lending problem: Who cares? http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/05/alabamas_toxic_lending_problem.html ● Alabamians used payday loans two million times in 2015 http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/alabamians_use_payday_loans_tw.html ● Payday lending stores in Alabama: Facts and Issues http://www.lwval.org/payday-lending/payday-lending-facts-&-issues.pdf ● With 239,000 Alabamians using payday loans, Alabama Sen. Arthur Orr wants industry reform
Political Connections	"Payday lenders gave more than \$475,000 to lawmakers during the last election season, including top

¹² http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/alabamians_use_payday_loans_tw.html

¹³ <http://www.lwval.org/payday-lending/payday-lending-facts-&-issues.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.lwval.org/payday-lending/payday-lending-facts-&-issues.pdf>

¹⁵ http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/alabamians_use_payday_loans_tw.html

¹⁶ http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/05/alabamas_toxic_lending_problem.html

¹⁷ http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/05/alabamas_toxic_lending_problem.html

¹⁸ http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/alabamians_use_payday_loans_tw.html

¹⁹ http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/alabamians_use_payday_loans_tw.html

²⁰ http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/alabamians_use_payday_loans_tw.html

	<p>legislative leaders and members of key legislative committees.”²¹</p> <p>Here are a few highlights from the results: two-thirds of Alabamians support banning payday loans outright; 65% of Alabamians support a 36% APR cap on payday loans; 63% of Alabamians support banning high cost installment loans.</p> <p>Lobbying efforts by lenders in 2002 resulted in the modification of the Alabama Small Loan Act that provided an alternative rate schedule increasing allowable loans to approximately 190% APR (Act 1959-374 Sect. 5-8-15, Alternative rate schedule, subsection (m)). In 2003, the Legislature passed the Deferred Presentment Act, carving out additional exceptions for small loans and setting the current APR at 456% (Act 2003-359)²²</p>
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III. Title Loans in Huntsville

Legal Status:	Legal
Auto-Title Loan Transactions in Alabama	\$357 million ²³ or 152,544 ²⁴ in 672 title loan stores
Fee per \$100:	25% per month
% of Customers Refinancing:	n/a
Average Loan Size:	More than \$1,000 ²⁵
Repossession Rate:	1 in 5 nationally ²⁶
Total car title loan fees	300% APR
Repossessions (transactions per repossession):	n/a
City Specific Regulations:	Currently, title loans are governed by the Pawnshop Act, which allows 300 percent annual interest rates ²⁷
Consumer Example:	
Notable facts	According to a 2006 report from the Consumer Federation of America, Alabama

²¹ http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/05/alabamas_toxic_lending_problem.html

²² <http://www.lwval.org/payday-lending/payday-lending-facts-&-issues.pdf>

²³ <http://blog.credit.com/2016/05/1-in-5-auto-title-loan-borrowers-have-their-vehicle-seized-144700/>

²⁴ <http://www.responsiblelending.org/state-of-lending/reports/7-Car-Title-Loans.pdf>

²⁵ <https://www.sapling.com/6820766/alabama-laws-title-loans>

²⁶ <http://blog.credit.com/2016/05/1-in-5-auto-title-loan-borrowers-have-their-vehicle-seized-144700/>

²⁷ http://blog.al.com/birmingham-news-commentary/2012/09/viewpoints_alabama_leads_natio.html

	and Georgia are the only states in which a lender can keep the entire proceeds from the resale of a vehicle repossessed after a loan default. If a borrower defaults on payment of a \$1,500 loan on a \$6,000 car, for example, the lending agency can repossess the car, resell it and legally keep the whole sum from the sale. ²⁸
Notable News Stories:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VIEWPOINTS: Alabama leads nation in car-title loan outlets

IV. A Fight Against Payday and Title Loans in Huntsville, AL

Foundations for Help:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntsville Community Development • Catholic Center of Concern - Madison • Huntsville Assistance Program
Legal Assistance:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCVLP • Legal Services Alabama
Notable News Stories on Helping Consumers:	With 239,000 Alabamians using payday loans, Alabama Sen. Arthur Orr wants industry reform

Regulator:	State of Alabama State Banking Department ATTN: Consumer Lending P.O. Box 4600 Montgomery, AL 36103-4600 Consumer.Lending@banking.alabama.gov (334)242-3452

References:

- **Alabama's toxic lending problem: Who cares?**
http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/05/alabamas_toxic_lending_problem.html
- Alabamians used payday loans two million times in 2015
http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/alabamians_use_payday_loans_tw.html

²⁸ http://blog.al.com/birmingham-news-commentary/2012/09/viewpoints_alabama_leads_natio.html

- Payday lending stores in Alabama: Facts and Issues <http://www.lwval.org/payday-lending/payday-lending-facts-&-issues.pdf>
- [VIEWPOINTS: Alabama leads nation in car-title loan outlets](#)