Raleigh-Cary, NC — #2 of 10: Real Estate Establishments

Raleigh-Cary leads NC in real estate establishments

Based on 2022 Census data · ALEX Intelligence 2026

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THE DATA

2,277

Real Estate Establishments (2022)

Raleigh-Cary ranks #2 of 15 North Carolina metros on real estate establishments.

This figure reflects a concentrated ecosystem of property management, brokerage, and development firms anchored in the Research Triangle's innovation economy. With real estate activity deeply tied to tech employment, university expansion, and infrastructure investment, the region's institutional density is unmatched in the state.



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 531 (Real estate) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-28-triangle-istand-531-msa

01

Market dominance through institutional depth

Raleigh-Cary’s second-place standing isn’t about volume alone—it’s about the quality and specialization of its real estate sector. The concentration of firms focused on institutional, mixed-use, and adaptive reuse projects signals a maturing market where capital is deployed strategically, not just reactively. This depth enables long-term resilience amid cyclical shifts.

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02

The innovation engine drives real estate demand

The real estate establishment count correlates directly with Research Triangle Park's sustained growth in high-skill employment. Firms in biotech, AI, and advanced manufacturing require specialized spaces and tenant services, which in turn demand a sophisticated real estate infrastructure. This feedback loop creates a self-reinforcing ecosystem that few other regions in North Carolina can replicate.

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