

METHODOLOGY

America's Best Employers **2026**



America's Best Employers honors organizations that build dynamic, supportive, and engaging workplaces

Ranking's cornerstones



Methodology

America's Best Employers are identified via an independent survey of over 217,000 U.S. employees working for companies that employ at least 1,000 people within the U.S.

The survey uses several online access panels to provide a representative sample of the American workforce. Each respondent indicates the firm or institution they work for through an open-ended question with an autofill option. The survey includes companies from all industry sectors with more than 1,000 employees in the U.S. On average, it takes participants 5–8 minutes to complete. To create the evaluated sample, the survey is conducted periodically over the course of three years, generating more than 3.5 million employer evaluations.

Considering data from a three-year period allows for a robust differentiation between organizations that consistently perform well and those that may only have a single strong year.

The final score is based on two types of evaluations: personal (given by employees themselves) and public (given by friends, family members of employees, or members of the public who work in the same industry). Personal evaluations carry significantly more weight than public ones.

The final results appear as two sublists: one for "M" size organizations (1,000 to 5,000 employees) and one for "L" size organizations (more than 5,000 employees).



Executive Summary

- **Title of ranking:** America's Best Employers 2026
- **Media partner:** Forbes
- **Edition:** 11th
- **Number of awardees:** 1200
- **Methodology:** Survey
- **Criteria used for determining rank:** Online survey assessing various evaluations of company performance. Companies were scored across multiple dimensions, with the highest scores determining the final ranking.

America's Best Employers follows the same approach as other employers projects

Data-based results



The evaluation is based on data collected through online panels, with **over 217,000 employees** across various employers participating

Data collection through online access panels



Online Access Panel

An online access panel is a sample group set up by a survey company and available for custom-built surveys. People register and agree to take part in online surveys.



> 217,000 Participants

- ✓ **Full-Time** (> 35 hours per week)
- ✓ **Part-Time** (< 35 hours per week)
- ✗ **Unemployed**
- ✗ **Self-employed**
- ✗ **Company size** < 1,000 employees



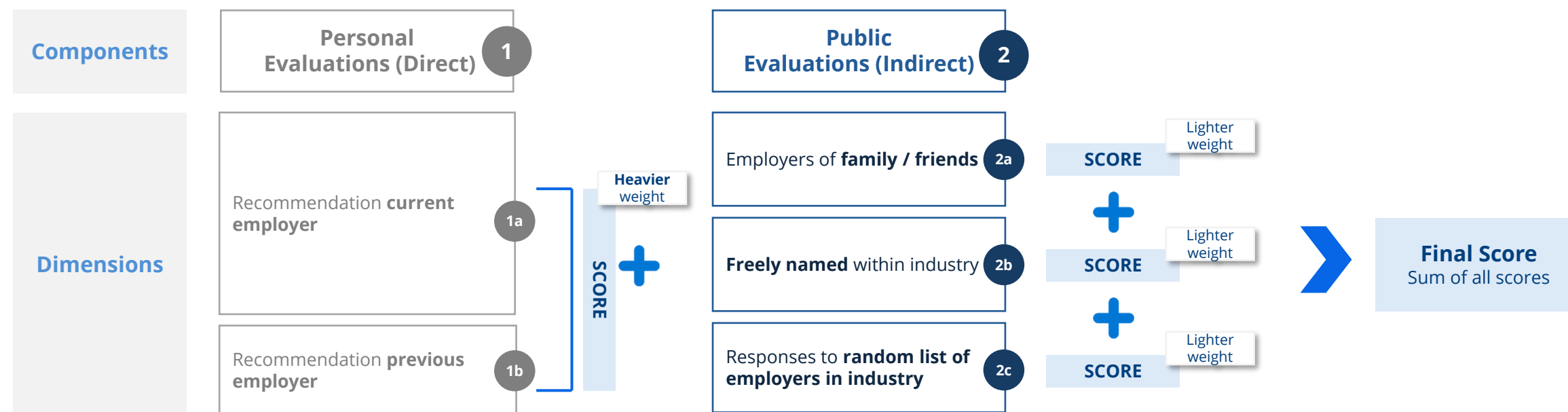
Survey Periods

February – June*, September – November*
Over a 3 year period

The survey utilizes an **online access panel** to gather a representative sample of **over 217,000 employees**—both part-time and full-time—from **U.S. companies and institutions with at least 1,000 employees** over the past three years.

The scoring model is founded on two key components: Personal Evaluations and Public Evaluations

Scoring Model



Data from the **previous three years is considered**, with a **heavier weight put on more recent data**. The results of these elements have been combined to calculate a final score for the U.S. employers captured in our sample

Overview of "Personal Driver" Prompts give an indication of employee preferences

Prompts categorized into six dimensions, shown below

Atmosphere & Development

- Good performance at work is recognized and praised
- The management is loyal to the employees
- There is a climate of fairness and trust
- I am given the necessary information I need to do my work
- My employer encourages me to take initiative and develop new ideas
- There are career advancement opportunities
- Colleagues work well together
- My direct supervisor makes his/her decisions clear

Salary / Wage

- My company pays fair wages/salaries
- Wages/salaries paid are in line with responsibilities
- The medical insurance, paid holidays/vacation/sick days, and retirement plan offered by my employer are competitive with comparable jobs in my industry

Image

- The company enjoys a good image
- I am proud of the product/service that my company produces/offers

Culture

- There is a climate of fairness and trust
- My employer respects individuals and values their differences
- My employer encourages me to take initiative and develop new ideas

Working Conditions

- I can organize my own work
- I am satisfied with my working hours

Workplace

- Working equipment is state of the art
- Work stations are safe and ergonomic

Industries

Each employer is grouped by industry: those in bold represent primary focus



Manufacturing and Heavy Industry

- Aerospace & Defense
- Automotive (Automotive and Suppliers)
- Construction, Chemicals, Raw Materials
- Engineering, Manufacturing



Consumer Goods and Retail

- Clothing, Shoes, Sports Equipment
- Food, Soft Beverages, Alcohol & Tobacco
- Packaged Goods
- Retail & Wholesale



Healthcare and Biotechnology

- Drugs & Biotechnology
- Health Care Equipment & Services
- Healthcare & Social Services



Technology and Telecommunication

- Telecommunications Services, Cable Supplier
- IT Software & Services
- Semiconductors, Electronics, Electrical Engineering



Finance and Professional Services

- Banking & Financial Services
- Business Services & Supplies
- Professional Services
- Insurance



Media, Advertising, and Leisure

- Media & Advertising
- Restaurants
- Travel & Leisure



Others

- Utilities
- Transportation and Logistics
- Education
- Government Services