

OKLAHOMA CITY



A City on The Rise

Introduction

15 years into the new millennium, the OKC continues to grow and thrive as a world-class city. Oklahoma City has persevered through economic downturns and a recent depression, showing repeatedly the strength and character first displayed to the nation in an unthinkable act of terrorism. As always, our citizens have stood to meet the challenges, to build a better future for our beloved city.

The citizens - Oklahoma Cityans as they're called - have repeatedly proven their resolve and commitment to a community deeply rooted in values like honor and courage. That spirit and attitude has been reflected in the business growth across OKC in the past 15 years.

Companies large and small have relocated to the area, while historic industries like energy and agriculture have continued to expand. Technology and the mobile age has even meant entirely new industries have sprouted up, connecting this great city to tomorrow's economic engine as well.

According to economists and city leaders, the future looks bright of the people of Oklahoma City as sectors like real estate, technology and retail development continue to expand. The region itself has, in fact, been blessed with a steadiness and economic foundation not seen in the majority of U.S. markets.



Moving Forward

In 2009, Forbes Magazine observed that while no city is recession-proof, Oklahoma City was about as close as it got. Anchored in industries not as easily manipulated by economic realities of the day, the report concluded the capitol city of Oklahoma was one of the most steady and sturdy independent engines existing in 21st Century America.

As the nation slowly bounced back from its latest recession, many economists again marveled at the ongoing staying power demonstrated by OKC. Through the worst housing market collapse in decades, OKC maintained the country's second-lowest foreclosure rate as well as the eighth-lowest unemployment figures.



Oklahoma
Museum of Art

Moving Forward

This “rock of reliability,” as one observer put it, has drawn countless families and companies into the area, as well as some very sizable corporations. In July 2015, Boeing broke ground on a new 290,000-square-foot facility to compliment their existing campus, adding over 800 employees in the process. Devon Tower, the nation’s 43rd-highest skyscraper opened in 2012 as part of the city’s Core to Shore redevelopment project. In every district, the city continues to grow.

With a population of 1.3-million residents and a gross metro product of \$67.7-billion, OKC is home to major energy and technology players, as well as one of the world’s largest livestock markets. It’s a beautiful community that historically been buttressed by strong industry and forward-thinking leadership.



Bricktown District

Success Stories from the OKC

Oklahoma City features a thriving downtown environment brimming with activity and commerce. Following the progressive MAPS Program (Metropolitan Area Projects) begun over 20 years ago, the center city region has been brought to life with a string of successful additions.

- Bricktown District – From sidewalk cafes along a mile-long riverwalk complete with boat rides, the bustling Bricktown District (formerly OKC's warehouse district) also houses the Civic Center Music Hall plus the 15,000-seat Cox Convention Center. The Cox Center is home to OKC's NBA development team, Oklahoma City Blue. Other features include diverse restaurants, museums and a 14-auditorium cineplex.

- Oklahoma City Bricktown Ballpark – Our state-of-the-art ballpark is home to our own triple-A baseball team, the Oklahoma City Red Hawks. With seating to accommodate over 15,000, the ballpark also doubles as an entertainment venue.

- Trolley Transit System – Connecting visitors and local residents to the attractions and center city, the trolley is a motorbus system that adds a touch of old-world style to the heart of downtown.

- Chesapeake Energy Arena – With seating for 20,000 attendees, this \$87.7-million venue has hosted everyone from the Rolling Stones to native son Toby Keith. It's also home to our NBA team, the Oklahoma Thunder.

- Library/Learning Center – Here the people of OKC have invested \$21.5-million to develop a venue devoted to education, with diverse learning programs aimed at improving reading and math skills, addressing adult illiteracy and improving overall student performance.

- The Oklahoma River – Formerly known locally as the North Canadian River, the citizens of OKC has rechristened it as their own. Recent improvements to the surrounding business district includes parks and bike paths, restaurants and shopping plus water taxis.

Other New OKC Attractions

- Oklahoma City Museum of Art – This privately-funded \$14-million addition was built to blend with the surrounding art deco architecture. Housed inside are a broad collection of works from varying artistic styles, cultures and periods.
- Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum – Following the senseless 1995 attack on the Murrah Federal Building, the citizens of OKC banded together to construct a peaceful memorial to honor the victims. The space has been internationally lauded for its tasteful and reflective design.
- Oklahoma Western Heritage Center and Museum – Formerly known as 'The Cowboy Museum' this attraction celebrates the rugged history of America's Wild West, from early pioneering to the dawn of the 20th Century.
- Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden – Sitting on 119 beautiful acres and housing nearly 2000 animals, the OKC Zoo offers an America's safari adventure with such majestic creatures as lions, elephants, tigers and snow leopards. Not to mention the gorillas, bears, alligators and sea lions.



Cowboy Hall
of Fame

The Word is Out!

Natives to our local region have long recognized the greater Oklahoma City area as a beautiful and unique landscape with a rich history and a vibrant future. In recent years, a number of other sources have added to the chorus praising the area's diversity, innovation and style. As such, the OKC has ranked highly on a number of impressive lists.

- Expansion and Relocation Since Expansion Management Magazine named OKC to two consecutive "Hottest Cities" list, an even greater surge of corporate and business relocations has occurred. These range from massive expansions like Boeing to new retail outlets like West Elm, Cabelas and Top Golf.
- Medical & Emergency Technology In healthcare, Oklahoma City stands as one of the nation's premier service communities, including being ranked #1 nationally in Pediatric Care at Oklahoma University Medical Center. The city's joint healthcare providers were ranked 3rd in the nation by Popular Science Magazine's rating of best medical and emergency technology.



The Word is Out!

Cost of Living According to Sperling's Best Places, OKC ranks below the national average on groceries, healthcare, utilities and transportation. Housing costs are nearly a quarter below the national average, with overall costs ranked at roughly ten percent below the national average. This reflects repeated surveys by The American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) finding unusually low cost of living averages dating back to 2004.

- **Home Appreciation** In 2015 the state of Oklahoma ranked 15th in the nation for home price appreciation. In OKC, one study found that the median price of a single-family home jumped 17.5% in one 18-month period, more than doubling the national average.

- **Economic Freedom** The state and Oklahoma City have regularly been recognized for higher economic freedom among consumers, employers and employees. Since the Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy first released their U.S. Economic Freedom Index, which ranked the state 6th in the nation, the OKC area has continued to be a bastion of opportunity and expansion. The institute gauged 143 variables ranging from income redistribution, right-to-work standings, wage laws and tax rates.

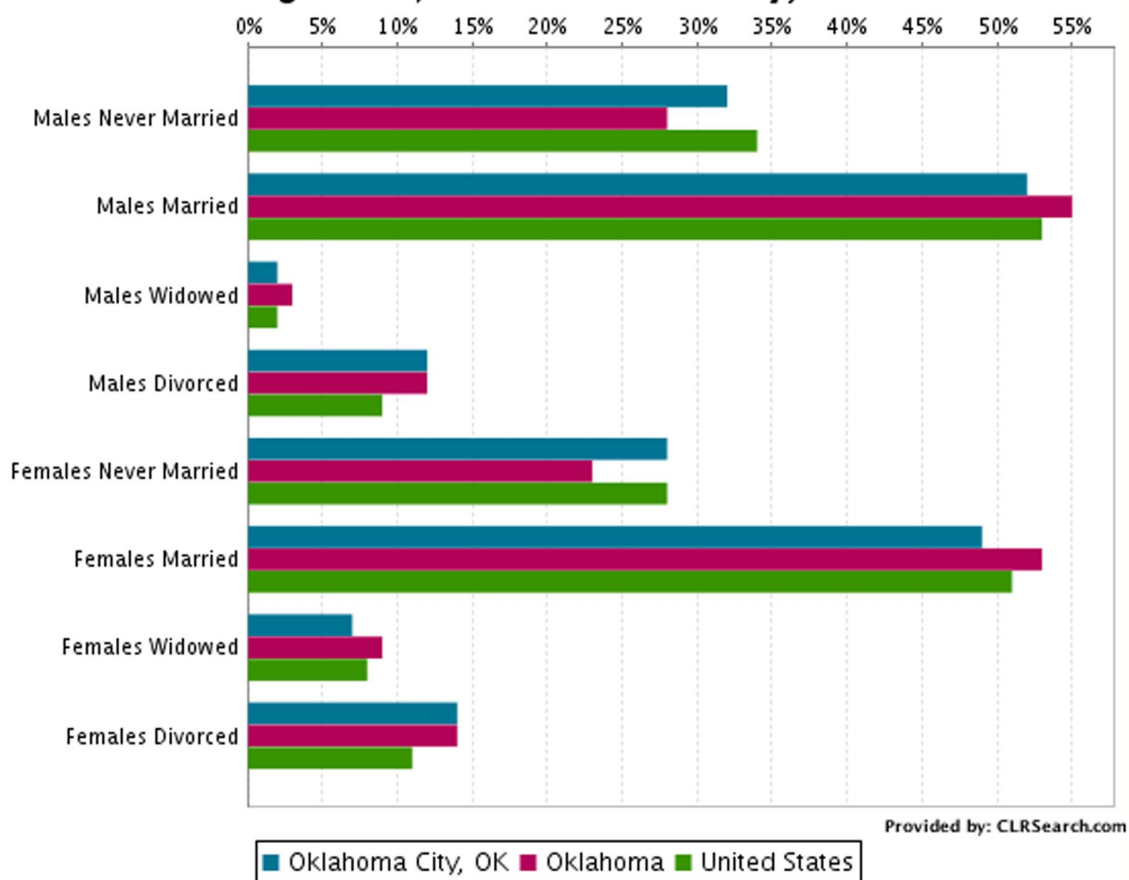


Our Demographics

As of 2014 OKC was estimated to have a population of over 620,000 residents, with a total of 1.4 million for the greater OKC area. The median age is 34, and the median household income \$48,557. For families that jumps to \$62,527. 43% of the 230,000 households consist of married couples, with nearly a third having children under 18.

As industries have continued to expand throughout OKC since the early 1990s, the population has seen a significant jump that continues to this day. As such, OKC has become the largest community in the Great Plains, with more residents than any city in Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma or the Dakotas.

2012 Population Statistics by Marital Status (Population Age 15+) for Oklahoma City, OK



Employment in OKC

One thing that helps keep the OKC economy so reliable are the large facilities and companies that call our region home. The greater OKC area hosts the state's executive and legislative branches, as well as federal properties including Tinker Air Force Base and the FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center.

Other sizable area employers include a General Motors assembly plant, a Hertz Car Rental national reservations center, Hobby Lobby and world headquarters for Sonic restaurants.

46,9	State of Oklahoma	
26	Tinker Air Force Base	
11,902	University of Oklahoma	
8,706	U.S. Postal Service	
5,9	Public Schools	
6,5	FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center	
6,002	INTEGRIS Health	
5,1	Hobby Lobby	
5	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center	
4,6	City of OKC	
4,3	Mercy Health Center	
3,4	OGE Energy Corporation	
3,2	Chesapeake Energy	
3,2	Devon Energy	
3	SSM Health Care of Oklahoma	
2,9	Univ. of Central Oklahoma	
2,8	Norman Regional Hospital	
2,6	OU Medical Center	
2,4	AT&T	
2,1	Oklahoma City Community College	
2	Sonic	
1,8	Boeing	
1,7	Dell	
1,7	Hertz Corporation	
1,55	UPS	
1,5	Great Plains Bottling Company	
1,4	Cox Communications	
1,3	Farmers Insurance Group	
1,1	Bank of Oklahoma	

Table 1.
Major
Employers in
the Greater
Oklahoma City

Employment in OKC

Roughly a quarter of all jobs in OKC are in the health services and education fields. Another significant share comes from energy development through corporations like Devon, OGE and Chesapeake Energy.

Continual expansion in and around OKC have boosted job number and reduced unemployment, including aeronautical growth at Lear, Lockheed-Martin and Boeing. Communications and technology giants like AT&T, Dell and Cox Communications each employ thousands in our region.



What Is Planned for Our Future?

Even greater changes are on the horizon for OKC, including the planned 2017 opening of a modern streetcar system connecting downtown to Bricktown, the entertainment district and Midtown. Additional expansion beyond Phase 1 routes is already on the drawing board.

A \$70-million expansion has been announced for Will Rogers World Airport in OKC, adding a new concourse, an expanded terminal and improved security procedures. Six added gates will bring the total to 26.

21c Museum Hotels is redeveloping the historic Fred Jones Building. Opening in 2016, the four-story building was built by the Ford Motor Company as an assembly plant, and was designed by Henry Ford himself. The \$51-million project will include 134 rooms, a restaurant and bar, and a contemporary art museum.



21c Museum Hotel,
Indianapolis

Midtown Renaissance is renovating 1100 and 1101 Broadway for retail and office space. The combined 80,000-sq.-ft. facility will honor the building's history and aesthetic design with a planned restaurant and bar adjacent to the lobby.

What Is Planned for Our Future?

And these are just a sampling of the many multi-million dollar projects currently underway in the OKC.

"Whether it's a retailer or a business of another kind, I think they're coming because they see an opportunity to make money and be a part of a thriving and vibrant place... Our market is growing well above the national average, and our labor force is growing about four times the national average."

- Kurt Foreman, OKC Chamber of Commerce



George Rafferty, Kurt Foreman,
Paul Charlton and Joanne Leng
MBE

OKC: Ideal for families and business

Known to many as “the Big Friendly”, Oklahoma City delivers a unique combination of good people, strong industries and a healthy dose of Americana. It’s a diverse and peaceful community that straddles the line between something out of Norman Rockwell’s imagination and yet a world-class city at the same time.

Forbes Magazine has referred to OKC as the most affordable city in America, a seemingly “recession-proof” safe haven for families, business owners and investors alike. In times of economic downturn where restaurant owners in Chicago might worry about their reservations dipping, here business owners are considerably more insulated from such strife.



OKC: Ideal for families and business

That protection actually extends beyond the bottom line. As many longtime residents have observed, it impacts the stress levels across the city as a whole. There's less anxiousness in the real estate market, less worry among construction firms and generally even less stress on the streets. It's even reflected in our schools, where Oklahoma Cityans have long remarked that our younger citizens benefit from a more stable overall community.

From world-renowned steakhouses like Cattleman's, to the 17-acre downtown botanical gardens, to our beloved NBA team The Thunder, there's something for everyone to enjoy. It's a region rich with history and strong heritage. It's a place we're proud to call home.



For further info...

The official website for the City of Oklahoma City offers history and statistics on our area's past and future.

www.okc.gov.

The OKC Chamber of Commerce works hard to connect local businesses in a joint effort to improve the city and grow the area's economy.

www.okcchamber.com.

Greater Oklahoma City is a partnership of companies and individuals devoted to building a better tomorrow for the OKC

www.greateroklahomacity.com

