

Local Companies Add 3,200 Jobs

Since the beginning of 2011, Greater Oklahoma City has seen impressive economic growth through business expansion, recruitment and relocation. In the first six months of the year, the region saw nearly 3,200 Chamber assisted jobs added to the economy. These jobs were added across all industry sectors in companies both large and small. Examples of companies who have recently added jobs in the region include Long Wave, Inc.; American Prepared Foods, LLC; United Engines, LLC; and LSB Industries, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

“We are constantly working with our companies to better understand the issues they’re facing. In the past six months, we’ve seen a rapid change in their concerns,” said Robin Roberts Krieger, executive vice president for economic development. “Thanks to low unemployment rates, we are seeing concerns with the availability of skilled workers, which is an issue we faced prior to the

recession. We also hear from firms that are considering expansion, but the uncertain status of the federal budget and the potential for changes in the tax code are leading to extreme cautiousness when it comes to adding permanent staff.”

While companies are remaining cautious when it comes to increasing personnel, many are making investments in infrastructure and equipment in order to create more efficiency and productivity.

As the economy continues to recover from the national recession, the Chamber’s staff will work with companies to identify issues and solutions in order to facilitate growth in the region.

For more information, look for the Chamber’s annual Business Retention and Expansion report in early fall.

TRDC Benefits Volunteers, Companies



TRDC Co-Chairs Dick Tanenbaum, Gardner Tanenbaum Holdings, and Rhonda Hooper, Jordan Associates, announce a new campaign total to TRDC volunteers.

The 2011 Total Resource Development Campaign (TRDC) is drawing to a close. Since April, more than 100 TRDC volunteers have worked with members of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber to find opportunities to market their businesses to more than 5,000 member companies through a variety of Chamber events and publications.

While TRDC exists to benefit Chamber members, the volunteers certainly see rewards for their months of hard work. Lunch ‘n’ Learns allow volunteers to discover more about the Chamber’s work and how local companies can

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LEADERSHIP NOTES

You may have noticed a few more retail options springing up in Oklahoma City these days: Whole Foods. Anthropologie. Sunflower Farmers Market. Over the past few years, new retail has arrived – or staked out a spot – in Oklahoma City’s expanding market. And it’s not hard to understand why.

Oklahoma City shoppers annually spend 21 percent more per person on apparel, shoes and accessories than the average national consumer. And while cities like Chicago, Boston and Denver saw the rate of job growth decrease from 2000-2010, OKC enjoyed a 4.45 percent upswing. All of these things combine to make us a prime spot for national retailers.

Research shows that Oklahoma City residents have a higher than average disposable income, and they are willing to drive to stores that interest them, even if it means going a few miles out of the way. The downside of this willingness is that we consistently lose retail dollars to nearby metropolitan areas when OKC stores don’t fit consumer needs. It’s important to keep those dollars in our local economy, which is why the Chamber works so hard to continually attract retail and fill in those gaps.

In early August, OKC’s retail sector will have the great addition of The Outlet Shoppes at Oklahoma City. Located at the intersection of I-40 and Council, the 65-acre center will have a wide variety of well-known designer outlets, including Nike, Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH, Coach, Banana Republic, and Carters. It will be the only outlet center in the state, and is expecting six million visitors a year. This will not only be a great amenity to our residents, but it is also a testament to the magnitude of retail that our residents can support.

In addition to some of the bigger name retailers, we also have a great selection of local retailers. Homegrown stores such as Hobby Lobby not only put Oklahoma City on the map, but they support our economy in a big way. Anytime you shop at a local business, \$73 of every \$100 remains in our local economy. As we watch our retail sector grow, it is important not to forget our locally-owned businesses.

From the Outlet Shoppes to Classen Curve, Bricktown to Western Avenue, OKC is emerging – and retailers are paying attention. When it comes to retail, it appears that Oklahoma City has arrived.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams
Chamber CEO & President



Roy H. Williams
President & CEO

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CONTENTS

5 Bioscience Innovation

6 Upcoming Events

9 New Outlet Shoppes

10 Member Upgrades

11 2011 TRDC

15 Economic Indicators

Delivering Your News

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OUHSC Opens Cancer Center

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) is at the epicenter of Oklahoma City's thriving bioscience district.

Opening this year on the OUHSC campus is the seven-story, \$120 million cancer research treatment facility recently named the Peggy and Charles Stephenson Oklahoma Cancer Center. The center, under the guidance of Director Robert Mannel, MD, will provide patient-centered, comprehensive care. Its mission is to extend the lives of cancer patients, and it will serve as a statewide resource for patients, researchers, health professionals and the community. The center is working toward its National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation, which signifies the highest level of cancer research and care in the nation.



Peggy and Charles Stephenson join University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren at the dedication of the new facility.

Nationally-recognized cancer physicians and researchers are employed at the center, working in areas including breast and gynecological cancers, pediatric cancers, and lung, colorectal, bladder and prostate cancer. They will bring clinical and research expertise, grant funding, and the experience necessary to launch innovative clinical trials to test the latest drugs and therapies. The center has an active clinical trials program, and when cancer patients choose to become part of the program, they're among the first humans in the world to receive early-stage treatment.

OUHSC receives more than \$100 million in funding annually, \$50 million of which is awarded by the National Institutes for Health. This level of investment helps ensure Oklahoma's future as an international center for biotechnical achievement.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

State of the Schools: August 18



Education reform is a priority in Oklahoma and across the nation. Hear about critical reforms, both in the legislature and in the classroom, and achieved cost savings. Also learn how our efforts to improve pre-K

through 20 education compare to other states and communities. Guests will also learn about the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's education initiatives.

Featured speakers will be Janet Barresi, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Karl Springer, Superintendent of Oklahoma City Public Schools.

In coordination with the event, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and American Fidelity Foundation are sponsoring a one-day downtown school supply drive to benefit the Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools. Guests attending the luncheon are encouraged to bring school supplies to the event or drop them off at downtown collection boxes.

Collection boxes will be placed in the following locations:

- Leadership Square, 211 N. Robinson Ave.
- First National Center, 120 N. Robinson Ave.
- Cotter Ranch Tower (Chase Tower), 100 N. Broadway Ave.

Individual tickets are \$50 for Chamber members with advance reservations and \$75 for non-members. Corporate tables seating 10 can be purchased for \$1,000.

Annual Board Of Directors Election

Nominees for the Board of Directors will be posted in the Chamber lobby August 26 – September 1, 2011. Following the 5-day posting period, ballots will be prepared and mailed to the Chamber membership in mid-September.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 16

Sunset Reception

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Location: Kamp's 1910 Café N. 1, LLC, 10 NE 10th St.

Cost: Admission is free. RSVP not required.

August 18

State of the Schools

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Cox Convention Center, One Myriad Gardens

Cost: \$50 for members with advance reservations; \$75 for non-members

September 13

Member Orientation

Time: 8:30 - 10 a.m.

Location: Chamber offices, 123 Park Ave.

Cost: Admission is free. RSVP to Christine Soileau at csoileau@okcchamber.com or 297-8961.

September 13

Sunset Reception

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Location: Gold Dome, LLC
1112 NW 23rd St

Cost: Admission is free. RSVP not required.

September 22

Metro 50

Time: 6 - 9 p.m.

Location: Cox Convention Center,
1 Myriad Gardens

Cost: Individual tickets \$100, Corporate tables \$1,000

September 27

Chairman's Event

Time: 7:30 - 9 a.m.

Location: Oklahoma Christian University,
2501 E. Memorial Rd.

Cost: \$35 for members; \$40 for non-members

Register securely online for Chamber events at www.okcchamber.com/events or e-mail register@okcchamber.com with questions.

twitter.com/okcchamber
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Metro 50: September 22

Celebrate Oklahoma City's 50 fastest growing companies at the 16th annual Metro 50 gala. This prestigious banquet will take place at the Cox Convention Center on Thursday, Sept. 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. A video will feature the top three companies with the most economic growth in the past two years.

Guests will enjoy dinner, as well as a chance to celebrate with local business leaders who are providing an economic boost to greater Oklahoma City. Mayor Mick Cornett will unveil the official Metro 50 ranking by recognizing each company, beginning with number 50 and finishing with number one. Visit www.okcchamber.com/metro50 for an alphabetical list of this year's winners.

Corporate tables seating 10 are available for \$1,000. Individual tickets are \$100. Sponsors include: Bank of Oklahoma, Cox Business, Ernst & Young LLP, Express Employment Professionals, Hartzog Conger Cason & Neville, The Journal Record Publishing Company, OGE Energy Corp., and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.



Chairman's Breakfast: September 27

Join Chamber Chairman Carl Edwards and Congressman James Lankford at the Chairman's Breakfast Tuesday, September 27 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Oklahoma Christian University, 2501 E. Memorial Rd., as they share insights into current initiatives and important information affecting the business community. Congressman Lankford will address federal legislative issues facing the state. Individual tickets are \$35 for Chamber members with advance reservations, and \$40 for non-members. Corporate tables seating eight are available for \$500.



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Oklahoma City Welcomes New Shopping Destination



The Outlet Shoppes at Oklahoma City, the largest retail facility to open in the U.S. this year, opened on August 5.

Oklahoma City's newest shopping destination, The Outlet Shoppes at Oklahoma City, opened with much anticipation this month. The 348,000 square-foot facility opened at 100 percent capacity, a rarity in outlet center openings. It is the only outlet center in the state.

“The Outlet Shoppes at Oklahoma City will be more than just an outlet shopping center – it will be a destination,” said Mike Carrier, president of the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau. **“We’re excited to see the impact of the outlet center on area hotels and other Oklahoma City attractions as shoppers travel from around the region to experience the new outlet center and spend time and money in our city.”**

It is the largest retail facility to open in the United

States this year. Built in a shopper-friendly racetrack design, the center has covered tensile structure walkways to maximize comfort and convenience for patrons. The center features a large food court, children's play area, center court stage and other amenities to encourage shoppers to fully enjoy the different retail and entertainment choices.

Located at the intersection of Interstate 40 and Council Road, more than 112,000 cars pass by the site daily. The center is expected to draw more than six million visitors per year from a three-state area and travelers on Interstates 35, 40 and 44.

“We are excited about this group of retailers and believe that this strong group of retailers will help draw shoppers from a large area throughout Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas,” said Gary J. Skoien, Chief Executive Officer of Horizon Group Properties.

More than 1,000 new retail jobs have been created and more are expected to be filled before the start of the holiday season. The center will generate more than \$100 million in annual sales providing at least \$4 million of new local sales tax revenue for Oklahoma City.

For more information, go to www.theoutletshoppesatoklahomacity.com.

THE OUTLET SHOPPES AT OKLAHOMA CITY

Aeropostale	Christopher & Banks	Gap Outlet	Kay Jewelers	Oakley Vault	Spritz
Auntie Anne's	City Bites	Gold Toe	Kitchen Collection	Orange Leaf Yogurt	Sunglass Hut
Banana Republic	Clarks/Bostonian	Guess?	Lane Bryant	OshKosh B'Gosh	Talbots
Bass	Claire's	Gymboree	Le Creuset	Perfumania	Tommy Hilfiger
BCBGMAXAZRIA	Coach	Haggar	Le Gourmet Chef	Perry Ellis	Ultra Diamonds
Bella Pizza	Cole Hahn	Hanes Brands	Levi's	Polo Ralph Lauren	Under Armour
Bon Worth	Converse	Izod	Lids	Primo's	Uniform Outlet
Bose	Corningware	J. Crew Factory	Lucca Fashions	RackRoom Shoes	US Polo Assn.
Book Warehouse	Dazzle Nails and Spa	Johnston & Murphy	Maidenform	Reebok/Rockport	Van Heusen
Brooks Brothers	Disney Store Outlet	Jones New York	Maurices	Rue 21	Vans Outlet
Carter's Childrenswear	DKNY	Jos. A. Bank	Michael Kors	Saks Avenue Off Fifth	Wilson's Leather
Cao Praya	Dress Barn	Journeys	Naturalizer	Skechers	Yankee Candle
Chico's	Easy Spirit	Justice	Nike	Smashburger	Zumiez
Children's Place	Famous Footwear/ Factory Brand Shoes	Kasper	Nine West	Soma Intimates	

MEMBERS SHOW SUPPORT FOR CHAMBER

The following member companies increased their investment between April - June 2011, demonstrating strong support of the Chamber's efforts to drive the city's economy to make this the best place to live, work, play and visit.

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www.ou.edu

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www.armstronglogisticscompany.com

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For more information on increasing your investment and helping the Chamber move Oklahoma City forward, contact the Membership Division at 297-8949.

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TRDC Benefits Volunteers, Companies

Continued from Page 1

“TRDC gives you the opportunity to meet people that otherwise you might not have a chance to meet. The campaign helps companies become more knowledgeable about the Chamber and its community involvement. Volunteering for TRDC will give your company great exposure.” – Barbara Anne DeBolt, Holiday Inn – Quail Springs



TRDC volunteers gather at a Reward Session to celebrate the progress made.

benefit from Chamber marketing opportunities. Reward sessions were held weekly throughout the campaign to recognize and motivate volunteers.

On Aug. 11, these hard-working volunteers will gather together once more to celebrate the end of the campaign with the TRDC victory event. Check out the September issue of The POINT! for the grand total from this year's campaign.

For more information about participating in the 2012 Campaign, contact Lisa Boevers at lboevers@okcchamber.com or 297-8948.

“The Chamber is the engine that is taking our city to the next level and TRDC is its fuel. Jump on the train and grow your business.” – Katie Price, Bank of Oklahoma

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GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to the following Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings & Groundbreakings!

All Chamber members are welcome to attend Grand Openings.

To view more photos, see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit www.okcchamber.com/grandopenings.



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ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Metro Overall Performance & Strength



- Strongest 20 Metro Areas
- Second-Strongest 20 Metro Areas
- Middle 20 Metro Areas
- Second-Weakest 20 Metro Areas
- Weakest 20 Metro Areas

OKC IN TOP 20 FOR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

OKC continues to be in the top 20 performing metro economies since the recession began based upon unemployment, job creation, GMP growth, and housing prices.

In all 100 metros, house prices in Quarter One were lower than at any time since their previous peak.

OKC was one of only 20 metros with four quarters of consecutive job growth.

Source: MetroMonitor, Brookings Institution, 1st Qtr 2011

Select City Comparison – Top 100 Metro Ranking

Measure	Oklahoma City		Albuquerque		Kansas City		Omaha		San Antonio	
	Change	Rank	Change	Rank	Change	Rank	Change	Rank	Change	Rank
One quarter change in employment (Q4 2010 to Q1 2011)	0.3%	49	0.0%	80	0.0%	74	0.0%	79	0.5%	31
GMP change from peak to Q1 2011	6.0%	4	3.6%	21	0.2%	54	3.2%	29	3.3%	26
% change in Housing Price from peak to Q1 2011	-8.6%	7	-19.4%	50	-17.3%	39	-13.3%	30	-8.5%	6

For comprehensive Economic Indicator and Regional Data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators or contact Eric Long, Research Economist– (405)297-8976; elong@okcchamber.com

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- 5 Bioscience Innovation
- 6 Upcoming Events
- 9 New Outlet Shoppes
- 10 Member Upgrades
- 11 2011 TRDC
- 15 Economic Indicators

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