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G R E A T E R
O K L A H O M A C I T Y
C H A M B E R

OKLAHOMA CITY BACKGROUND

Oklahoma City History

Born at the sound of a gunshot, Oklahoma City was settled by a historic land run involving 10,000 homesteaders on April 22, 1889. Located equidistant from both coasts, Oklahoma City has long been hailed as Mid-America's International Connection. The convergence of I-35, I-40 and I-44, as well as the development of Tinker Air Force Base, made Oklahoma City into a major interchange on the interstate highway system – with 130-plus miles of federal interstate and state highways. And with the central location of the nation's major highway arteries, Oklahoma City became a principal distribution center within the state and the southwest region. Efficient transportation has been the cornerstone in the overall planning of Oklahoma City. As a result, getting to any part of the city (621 square miles!) takes about 20 minutes or less.

City Development: Metropolitan Area Projects

During the 1970s and '80s, Oklahoma witnessed a decline in the inner city as residents were choosing to live in the suburbs. For that reason, Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS) was passed in 1993. Through this initiative, Oklahoma City has succeeded in developing and renovating a series of nine public projects in the downtown core. These included renovations to the Convention Center, Civic Center Music Hall and Oklahoma City Fairgrounds, development of the Bricktown Ballpark, Bricktown Canal, Ford Center, Library, Spirit Trolley System and the Oklahoma River and recreational facilities.

After the success of the original MAPS program, Oklahoma City residents were ready to take the city's transformation a step further. In November 2001, voters passed a combination sales tax and bond initiative known as MAPS (Metropolitan Area Projects) for Kids. This temporary sales tax was collected for seven years, with 70 percent disbursed to the Oklahoma City School District and 30 percent to the suburban school districts. Every school building in Oklahoma City's school district was renovated or replaced as part of MAPS for Kids. In addition to construction projects, the program also includes major transportation and technology upgrades.

In late 2009, Oklahoma City leadership brought another comprehensive city improvement package to voters with a list of eight new projects. With a projected cost of \$777 million, Oklahoma City voters agreed and voted "yes" to the extension of an existing one-cent sales tax to fund these projects. Known as MAPS 3, this program will build a new 70-acre downtown park, new convention center, downtown modern transit, more than 50 miles of biking and walking trails, improvements to the Oklahoma River and State Fairgrounds and several senior health and wellness centers. More importantly, MAPS 3 will continue to position Oklahoma City as a hub for sports, recreation, learning, cultural and convention facilities. The tax began on April 1, 2010, and will be collected for seven years and nine months.

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Oklahoma City Tidbits:

- Most populous city in the State of Oklahoma.
- Nation's 42nd largest metropolitan area, with nearly 1.3 million residents.
- In land area, it is the third largest in the nation.
- The Greater Oklahoma City area includes 10 counties.
- The capitol building at 23rd and Lincoln is the only capitol in the nation with a working oil well on its grounds.
- Tinker Air Force Base is the second largest military air depot in the nation.
- The world's first installed parking meter was in Oklahoma City, on July 16, 1935.
- In addition to being the Aviation Capital, it is also the Energy Capital, with industry leaders such as Devon Energy, Chesapeake Energy, Continental Resources and SandRidge Energy.

Oklahoma City Government

Current Mayor Mick Cornett, first elected in 2004, has focused on two key priorities: education and jobs. Cornett's leadership in the implementation of MAPS for Kids has led the way in renovating the school infrastructure in the inner city. Additionally, Cornett has been instrumental in the city's continuation of an economic renaissance with employment expansion, acquisition of the NBA franchise and infrastructure development. Most recently, Cornett led and passed the campaign for MAPS 3, which will fund seven new major civic projects.

Greater Oklahoma City Education

School name	Enrollment
University of Oklahoma	30,987
Oklahoma State University	28,590
Oklahoma City Community College	20,454
University of Central Oklahoma	20,083
Rose State College	9,826
Oklahoma Christian University	2,927
Oklahoma City University	3,511
Total Enrollment <i>(All 18 colleges/universities in area)</i>	148,409

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Oklahoma City Top Employers

Company Name	Total Employees	Sector
State of Oklahoma	45,600	Government
Tinker Air Force Base	24,000	Military
University of Oklahoma - Norman	12,700	Higher Education
FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center	7,000	Aerospace
INTEGRIS Health *	6,000	Health Care
Hobby Lobby Stores Inc	5,100	Wholesale and Retail
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center	5,000	Higher Education
City of Oklahoma City	4,700	Government
Mercy Hospital *	4,500	Health Care
OGE Energy Corp	3,400	Utility
OU Medical Center	3,200	Health Care
SSM Health Care of Oklahoma, Inc.	3,000	Health Care
University of Central Oklahoma	3,000	Higher Education
Norman Regional Hospital	2,950	Health Care
The Boeing Company	2,600	Aerospace
Devon Energy Corp	2,500	Oil and Gas
Chesapeake Energy Corp	2,500	Oil and Gas
Sonic Corp	2,460	Wholesale and Retail
AT&T	2,400	Telecommunications
Oklahoma City Community College	2,100	Higher Education
LSB Industries, Inc	1,950	Manufacturing
Dell	1,800	Sales & Business Services
UPS	1,800	Transportation
Hertz Corporation	1,700	Rental Services
American Fidelity	1,650	Finance/Insurance
Cox Communications	1,400	Telecommunications
Great Plains Coca-Cola Bottling Company	1,300	Beverage Distribution
Farmers Insurance Group	1,300	Customer Service
Midfirst Bank	1,150	Finance
Bank of Oklahoma	1,100	Finance
Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores	1,100	Retail

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Oklahoma City Hotels

Location	Number of Hotels	Number of Rooms
Central Downtown	16	2,393
Northeast	23	1,319
Northwest	50	4,920
Southeast	24	1,593
Southwest / Airport	65	6,102
Oklahoma City Total	178	16,397

Oklahoma City Transportation

- Metro Transit, a division of the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA), offers more than 25 interconnecting routes, including two Express routes with convenient service and the flexibility of numerous stops throughout the Oklahoma City metro area. Local patrons will enjoy the versatility of the operating schedule, which generally offers service from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- The Oklahoma City bus systems cover 465 miles of the metropolitan area, including the Edmond area. This transit service provides a convenient Monday-Saturday operating schedule.
- Downtown Discovery, a division of the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA), travels throughout the downtown area to popular destinations such as the Bricktown Entertainment District, Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum and the Oklahoma City Boathouse District. Downtown Discovery is free to the public.

Demographics and economic profile:

Population

	2010	2015	2020
City	579,999	616,374	657,461
County	718,633	768,781	809,463
MSA	1,252,987	1,332,413	1,424,364

Employment

Area	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
County	327,102	4.7% (Month of Aug. 2016)
MSA	565,554	4.5% (Month of Aug. 2016)

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Oklahoma City Quick Facts

Date Founded	1889
Date Incorporated	1907
Population	587,086
Land Area	621
Elevation	1,285 ft. above sea level
Average Annual Rainfall	32.03 inches per year
Average Annual Precipitation	33.36 inches per year
Average January Temperature	47 degrees Fahrenheit (high) 25 degrees Fahrenheit (low)
Average July Temperature	93 degrees Fahrenheit (high) 71 degrees Fahrenheit (low)
Average Sunshine Days	More than 300 days per year
Major Industries	Oil and gas, aviation, health care and tourism

Famous People from Oklahoma City

Lou Antonio	Actor: <i>Cool Hand Luke, CSI, Gunsmoke</i>
Megan Mullally	Actress: <i>Will & Grace, Risky Business</i>
Johnny Bench	Baseball
Bobby Murcer	Baseball
Joe Carter	Baseball
Paul and Thomas Braniff	Aviation Pioneers
Charlie Christian	Jazz Musician
Color Me Badd	R&B Vocal Quartet
The Flaming Lips	Rock Band
Walter Cronkite	Journalist
Ralph Ellison	Author
Sam Bradford	NFL Athlete
Blake Griffin	NBA Athlete
Olivia Munn	Actress: <i>Magic Mike, I Don't Know How She Does It</i>
Vince Gill	Singer, Songwriter
James Marsden	Actor: <i>The Notebook, 27 Dresses, X-Men</i>
Wes Welker	NFL Athlete
Shannon Lucid	Astronaut