

KNOXVILLE AREA STATISTICS

*The Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) refers to Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, and Union counties.

CIVIC

Churches 460

Golf Courses

Public - MSA* 33
 Public - Knox County 13
 Country Clubs 5

Government

City of Knoxville:
 Mayor; 9 Council members (4-year terms)
 Knox County:
 County Mayor; Board of 19 Commissioners
 (4-year terms)

Historic Districts 25

Hospital Systems (Knox County)

General Use 8
 Children's Hospital 1
 Beds, approximate number 2,589

Libraries

Knox County Public Library
 Size of Collection 1,011,163
 Branches 19

Newspapers - circulation

The Knoxville News-Sentinel
 Daily 117,339
 Sunday 148,107
 Weeklies, Biweeklies, and Monthlies
 Total Number 12

Park Area (approximate public acreage)

Knox County 5,881

Radio and Television

Radio Stations 20
 Television Stations 9

Theaters

Movie Screens 102
 Performance Theaters 11
 Dinner Theaters 1

DEMOGRAPHICS

Building Permits - 2007 (city/county)

Total Number 4,296
 Total Value \$911,858,039

Dwelling Units (city/county)

2000 Census 171,439
 2007 estimate 196,836

Education

College Graduates
 (percent of population) 31
 College/University Enrollment 2007-08
 University of Tennessee 26,000
 Pellissippi State Technical
 Community College 7,600
 Schools
 Public 86
 Private/Parochial 46
 Business/Vocational 20

Housing - 2007 Median Sales Price

Knox County \$156,400
 U.S. \$217,800
 Apartment Rent \$564

Population - (2000 Census)

City of Knoxville 173,890
 (2006) 182,337
 Knox County (including city) 382,032
 (2007) 423,874
 MSA* 616,079
 (2007) 681,525
 Knox County Median Age 38

ECONOMY

Businesses - 2007

Knox County 10,929
 MSA* 15,657

Cost of Living

(U.S. Average = 100) 86.0

Earnings - 2007 MSA*

Average All Industries
 Per Hour \$17.45
 Per Week \$698
 Average Annual Pay \$36,296

Employment - 2007 MSA*

Annual Average 342,630
 Labor Force 356,830
 Unemployment 4.0%

Hotel/Motel Rooms - 2007

Number 8,234
 Average Room Rate \$80
 Occupancy Rate 56.6%

Industrial Properties - 2007

Number of Buildings 605
 Total Square Feet (in millions) 32.1
 Vacancy Rate 11.1%

Manufacturing Establishments- 2007

Knox County 493
 MSA* 812

Office Properties - 2007

Buildings 556
 Total sq. ft. (in millions) 20.8
 Vacancy Rate 12.6%
 Average Rent (sq ft) \$14.78

Retail Establishments - 2007

Knox County 1,689
 MSA* 2,422

Retail Sales (thousands) - 2006

Knox County \$8,910,315
 Sales Per Capita \$21,021

Service Establishments - 2007

Knox County 5,098
 MSA* 7,135

Shopping Centers - 2006

Number 169
 Total sq. ft. (in millions) 15.6
 Vacancy Rate 6.5%

Wholesale Establishments - 2007

Knox County 922
 MSA* 1,251

TRANSPORTATION

Airlines

Allegiant Air, American Eagle, Continental
 Express, Delta, Delta Connection, Northwest
 AirLink, United Express, USAirways Express
 Daily flights 144

Air Services

Cargo services 5
 Freight (tons) 2007 50,940

Air Passengers

..... 1,821,581

Bus Terminals

Greyhound/Trailways 1

Railroad Lines

CSX/Seaboard, Norfolk Southern 2
 Miles of Lines 170

Water Transportation - 2007

Port of Knoxville (tons) 591,210
 Barges Per Year 276

KNOXVILLE AREA

KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY
 METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
 Suite 403 City County Building
 400 Main Street
 Knoxville, Tennessee 37902
 865-215-2500
 www.knoxmpc.org

Facts & Figures
 2008



LOCATION AND CLIMATE

Founded in 1791 where the French Broad and Holston Rivers meet to form the Tennessee River, Knoxville is the largest city in East Tennessee, ranking third statewide with a metropolitan population of 689,695. It is located in a broad valley between the Cumberland Mountains to the northwest and the Great Smoky Mountains to the southeast. These two ranges afford an attractive natural setting and provide a moderate, four-season climate, with average monthly temperatures ranging from 38 degrees in January to 78 degrees in July. The City of Knoxville comprises 103.7 square miles of the 526-square mile total for Knox County. Downtown Knoxville is 936 feet above sea level.

LIVABILITY

Knoxville continually receives high honors for quality of life. As published in the 2007 Best Cities for Relocating Families, Knoxville is the best medium sized metropolitan area in the nation. Rankings are based on cost of living, housing cost, crime rate, education, climate, arts/culture, and diversity. Salary.com placed Knoxville third among all markets in the U.S. when it comes to good wages and low cost of living. According to the 2007 American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) Cost of Living (COL) Index, which measures the relative price levels for consumer goods and services in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas whose chambers agree to participate, Knoxville was the eighth least expensive urban area in the country with a COL Index of 86.0. With the average of all participating cities equaling 100.0, this further solidifies Knoxville among the leading markets for low cost of living.

EDUCATION

Knox County operates 86 public schools, including 48 (primary, elementary or intermediate), 14 middle, and 13 high schools, two vocational schools, and several special/adult education centers. Included in the total are five magnet schools offering enhanced arts and science curriculum. Total enrollment in 2007 was 52,915. The system employs 3,401 teachers, with an average classroom ratio of one teacher for every 15 students. In addition to public education, there are 46 private and parochial schools offering elementary and secondary instruction in Knox County.

Post-secondary education is available at 10 public and private four-year institutions in Knox County and the surrounding area. In 2008, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with an average enrollment of 26,000 students, was placed in the top 30 percent of national public universities ranking 45th among 164 public institutions by U.S. News and World Report. Four community colleges offer two-year, associate degree programs, and several vocational and technical institutions also serve the area.

ARTS AND CULTURE

The Knoxville Symphony, the Knoxville Opera Company, and the Tennessee Children’s Dance Ensemble are among the many exceptional arts organizations in the city. Choral groups, dance companies, and 11 performance theatres, including the renovated Tennessee and Bijou Theaters, also promote the arts. Live entertainment includes touring Broadway productions, ice shows, concerts, and circuses. The Knoxville Museum of Art and the Emporium Center for Arts and Culture feature changing exhibits throughout the year, while the area’s libraries, historic sites, and museums, such as the Museum of Appalachia and the Beck Cultural Center, celebrate Knoxville’s heritage.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Knox County has over 5,881 acres of park and recreation space, including 27 recreation centers, six senior citizen centers, the newly opened Knoxville Skatepark, 13 golf courses open to the public, and more than 60 miles of greenway and walking trails. Knoxville’s Zoological Gardens and Ijams Nature Center attract visitors both young and old. Nearby is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the country’s most visited, with over nine million guests in 2007. Visitors enjoy the natural beauty and leisure activities that can be found there and at the numerous other state parks, lakes, and resorts which dot the area.

For sports fans, Knoxville has much to offer. Nationally-ranked University of Tennessee varsity teams draw thousands of enthusiasts to football, basketball, and many other NCAA events each year. The Tennessee Smokies provide AA minor league baseball in neighboring Sevier County, while the Knoxville Ice Bears bring minor league hockey to local fans. The city is also home to the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame.

Special seasonal events include the Dogwood Arts Festival and Rossini Festival in the spring, Sundown in the City concerts during summer months, Boomsday in the fall, and December’s celebration Christmas in the City. Knoxville supports an active tourism and convention trade with a 500,000-square foot convention center located downtown at World’s Fair Park. Other local facilities are a large civic coliseum/auditorium, two exhibition halls, and a 25,000-seat arena. Nestled downtown, Knoxville’s listener supported radio station WDVX hosts a live radio broadcast weekdays called “The Blue Plate Special” where nationally known artists (Bela Fleck, Del McCoury, and Ricky Skaggs among them) and local greats perform for free. The radio station has been featured in The Boston Globe and Southern Living Magazine to national television on PBS and ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

The Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership has over 2,100 members who participate in economic development, general commerce, and community affairs. About 150 civic groups and 270 neighborhood associations are active in the city and county. United Way and Community Shares support many youth, family, and social service programs, and organizations such as the Community Action Committee and Child and Family Tennessee also offer local assistance. More than 460 churches, serving many faiths and denominations, meet the religious needs of the community.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Knoxville placed tenth and remained among one of the best cities in the country to do business according to the 2008 Forbes magazine rankings of the top 10 metros for business and careers. This recognition as one of the top metros is characteristic of a diverse market. Commerce and industry vary from the media success of Scripps Television Networks (HGTV, DIY, Food Network, GAC, and Fine Living), to Sysco Corporation’s (largest food service marketer and distributor in North America) regional warehouse and distribution center. In addition, many other local companies are recognized as national and global leaders, including Clayton Homes, Brunswick Corporation, Goody’s Family Clothing, Bush Brothers, Pilot Corporation, and Ruby Tuesday.

Knox County has 11 business parks and a Technology Corridor to meet a wide range of corporate facility needs. In 2007, over 780 new jobs were created in Knox County and over \$80 million in new business investment. Across the metro area, new investment totaled \$447 million and netted 2,555 jobs.

Four regional malls and 169 shopping centers and factory outlets comprise the retail landscape of the Knoxville area. Overall retail sales in Knox County increased 8.6 percent from 2005 to 2006 with over \$8.9 billion, while the Knoxville MSA increased 7.4 percent and grossed over \$12.0 billion.

INCOME

In 2006, Knox County’s per capita personal income was seventh highest in the state at \$33,963, a 3.5 percent increase from 2005. State and national increases were 3.9 percent, or \$32,172, and 6.5 percent, or \$36,714, respectively, during the same period. The annual growth rate of per capita income in Knox County over the past 10 years averaged 3.8 percent. Earnings of persons employed in Knox County increased 5.7 percent between 2005 and 2006.

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

The 2007 civilian labor force (full and part-time, non-farm wage and salary employees, and self-employed persons) in the Knoxville MSA was 356,830, with an average unemployment rate of 4.3 percent. Knox County reported a total labor force of 225,760 and 3.7 percent unemployment. Local rates were lower than the statewide average of 5.0 percent and the national level of 4.8 percent.

A diversified economy is credited for the stability of local employment and wages. Employment by industry (excluding self-employed) for the Knoxville MSA in 2007:

INDUSTRY	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Government	53,600	15.8
Retail Trade	46,800	13.8
Educational, Health Services	41,500	12.2
Professional, Business Services	39,700	11.7
Manufacturing	38,700	11.4
<i>Durable goods</i>	28,800	8.5
<i>Nondurable goods</i>	9,900	2.9
Leisure and Hospitality	35,400	10.4
Natural Resources, Mining, Construction	18,900	5.6
Financial Activities	17,500	5.1
Wholesale Trade	16,100	4.7
Other Services	14,200	4.2
Transportation, Utilities	11,500	3.4
Information	6,000	1.8
TOTAL	339,900	

Source: Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

TAXES

Under Tennessee Constitutional law, residential property is assessed at 25% of appraised value, and commercial/industrial property is assessed at 40%. The current property tax rate for Knox County residents is \$2.69 per \$100 assessed value. The assessment in the City of Knoxville is \$5.50 per \$100. City residents pay both property taxes.

The state sales tax is 6% on food and food ingredients and 7% on all other tangible personal property. The local rate, applicable countywide, is 2.25%, bringing the total sales tax in Knox County to 8.25-9.25%. About 72% of the local portion goes to the Knox County School system, the remainder dedicated to the general funds of the city and county.

There is no personal income tax in Tennessee, but the state does levy a tax of 6% on stock dividends and bond interest over \$1,250 for single-filers. Called the Hall Income Tax, it applies to both individuals and partnerships.

All businesses in Knox County must have an operating license. Establishments within the City of Knoxville must have both a city and county license. Business taxes are calculated on gross receipts and are assessed within one of four classes. Assessments range from 1/40 of 1% to 3/16 of 1%, depending on type of business. Many professional services and manufacturers are exempt from local business taxes but are responsible for the state’s Professional Privilege Tax or Franchise and Excise Taxes. More information can be obtained from the business tax offices of the city at 865-215-2083 and the county at 865-215-2392. State tax information is available from the Department of Revenue, 615-253-0600.

TRANSPORTATION

An extensive transportation network connects Knoxville to the U.S. marketplace. Forty percent of the nation’s population is within 600 miles of Knoxville via I-40, I-75, and I-81 which meet in the metro area. The city is directly linked to the Great Lakes by the Interconnected Inland Water System and to the Gulf of Mexico by the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Barge shipping is facilitated by three local river terminals. Also serving the area are 125 truck lines, two railroads, and eight airlines. Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) provides around 28 public bus routes, operating 80 vehicles and carrying around 3.2 million passengers a year in the city. In 2004, KAT garnered the prestigious American Public Transportation Association’s Outstanding Achievement Award and is scheduled to break ground in 2008 on its new downtown Knoxville Station Transit Center. It will have state-of-the-art customer amenities and serve as the major transportation hub for metropolitan Knoxville.

COMMUNICATIONS

Knoxville businesses and residents have access to leading-edge communications technology. Downtown and other local sites are served by BellSouth’s high capacity fiber optic network. Comcast, Knology, and Charter offer digital cable and high speed Internet access. Knoxville is 52nd in the country on Intel’s list of cities with greatest wireless accessibility, offering 72 Wi-Fi locations. The advanced communications network has attracted the telemarketing divisions of 29 large corporations to Knoxville.

UTILITIES

In 2008, Knoxville was selected as one of 12 Solar American Cities designated by the U.S. Department of Energy, receiving \$200,000 to help make solar technology cost-competitive with conventional electricity sources. The Knoxville Utilities Board (KUB) provides natural gas, water, and wastewater services and distributes electric power generated by the Tennessee Valley Authority throughout much of Knox County. Beyond KUB’s service area, residents receive electricity from two local power companies, and water is supplied by six utility districts, five of which also provide wastewater treatment service.