

Knoxville Area Facts & Figures 2015

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. The City of Knoxville comprises 104 square miles of the 526-square mile total for Knox County. The Knoxville metropolitan statistical area consists of nine counties: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Grainger, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Roane, and Union. Its metropolitan area population total of 857,585 ranks third statewide.

Knoxville 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 normal daytime temperatures of 48 degrees in January and 88 degrees in July. Downtown Knoxville is 936 feet above sea level.



LIVABILITY

Quality of life in Knoxville receives high marks. In 2015, Forbes magazine listed Knoxville as the second most affordable city in America, based on housing prices, living costs, and the consumer price index. The American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) also ranked Knoxville as one of the more affordable southeast urban areas, with a cost-of-living index of 87.4 in 2014, the average of participating cities equaling 100.0.

EDUCATION

Knox County Schools operates 50 elementary, 14 middle, and 16 high schools and 10 non-traditional/adult education centers. Included are five magnet schools offering enhanced arts and science curriculum and a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academy. In 2014, total public school enrollment was 59,232, and the system employed 3,589 teachers, for an average classroom ratio of one teacher for every 16 students. There are an additional 50 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. Largest among them, The University of Tennessee, had a fall 2014 enrollment of 27,410 students. According to U.S. News and World Report, UT ranked 50th among the nation's best public universities in 2014. Three community colleges offer two-year, associate degree programs, and several vocational and technical institutions also serve the area.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Population - 2014 Census Population Estimates

City of Knoxville.....	184,281
Knox County (including city).....	448,644
MSA*.....	857,585
Knox County Median Age.....	37

Education

Bachelor's Degree or Higher (percent of population).....	34
College/University Enrollment - Fall 2014	
University of Tennessee.....	27,410
Pellissippi State Community College.....	10,247
Schools	
Public.....	90
Private/Parochial.....	50
Business/Vocational.....	20

Dwelling Units - 2014 city/county

Total Number.....	198,917
-------------------	---------

Building Permits - 2014 city/county

Total Number.....	2,502
Total Value (thousands).....	\$633,130

Housing - 2015 Median Sales Price

Knox County.....	\$149,200
U.S.....	\$205,200
Rent - 2013.....	\$769

* Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) refers to Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Grainger, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Roane and Union counties.



ARTS AND CULTURE

Knoxville Symphony, Knoxville Opera Company, and Dogwood Arts are among the many exceptional arts organizations in the city. Choral groups, dance companies, and numerous performance venues, including the Tennessee and Bijou Theaters, promote local and regional talent. Live entertainment includes touring Broadway



productions, ice shows, concerts, and circuses. Local radio station WDVX hosts a live radio broadcast weekdays downtown called “The Blue Plate Special” where nationally known artists and area performers appear free of charge.

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 East Tennessee History Center, McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture, Museum of Appalachia, and Beck Cultural Center, celebrate regional heritage. Special seasonal events include the Dogwood Arts Festival and Rossini Festival in the spring, Boomsday in the fall, and December’s Christmas in the City.

C I V I C

Charitable Organizations 1,000+

Places of Worship 850±

Golf Courses

Public - MSA* 26
 Public - Knox County 10
 Country Clubs 5

Government

City of Knoxville:
 Mayor; 9 Council members (4-year terms)
 Knox County:
 Mayor; 11 Commissioners (4-year terms)

Hospital Systems (Knox County)

General Use 9
 Children’s Hospital 1
 Licensed Beds 2,390

Libraries

Knox County Public Library
 Size of Collection 1,328,129
 Circulating Branches 18

Newspaper

The Knoxville News-Sentinel
 Daily Circulation 71,578
 Sunday Circulation 97,300

Park Area - approximate public acreage

Knox County 6,225

Radio and Television

Radio Stations 21
 Television Stations 6

Theaters

Movie Screens 93
 Performance Theaters 9
 Dinner Theaters 1

* Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) refers to Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Grainger, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Roane and Union counties.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Knox County has over 6,200 acres of park and recreation space, including 25 recreation centers, seven senior citizen centers, three skateparks, 10 public golf courses, and 157 miles of greenway and walking trails. Just three miles from downtown is 1,000 forested acres and 40 miles of multi-use trails known as Knoxville Urban Wilderness. Ijams Nature Center and



Knoxville’s Zoological Gardens attract visitors both young and old. Nearby is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the country’s most visited, with over 10 million guests in 2014. Visitors enjoy the natural beauty and leisure activities that can be found there and at the many other state parks, lakes, and resorts which dot the area.

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

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 UT’s 22,000-seat Thompson Boling Arena.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

The Knoxville Chamber has over 2,000 members who participate in economic development, general commerce, and community affairs. 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 250 neighborhood associations and many civic groups are active throughout the city and county, and 850 places of worship serve the area’s faithful.



E C O N O M Y

Cost of Living - 2014

MSA*	87.4
U.S. Average	100.0

Earnings - 2014

Average All Industries - MSA*	
Per Hour	\$23
Per Week	\$921
Average Annual Pay	\$47,892

Employment - MSA* 2015

Labor Force	411,660
Unemployment	4.9%

Business Establishments - 2014

Knox County	11,397
MSA*	18,140

Service Establishments - 2014

Knox County	5,830
MSA*	8,707

Retail Establishments - 2014

Knox County	1,629
MSA*	2,716

Retail Sales (thousands) - 2014

Knox County	\$8,815,294
Sales Per Capita	\$19,648

Shopping Centers - 2012

Number	201
Total Square Feet (millions)	17.6
Vacancy Rate	12.9%

Wholesale Establishments - 2014

Knox County	971
MSA*	1,294

Manufacturing Establishments - 2014

Knox County	401
MSA*	780

Office Properties - 2014

Number of Buildings	609
Total Square Feet (millions)	21.7
Vacancy Rate	15.5%
Average Rent (per sq. ft.)	\$14.97

Industrial Properties - 2014

Number of Buildings	614
Total Square Feet (millions)	32.9
Vacancy Rate	16.4%

* Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) refers to Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Grainger, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Roane and Union counties.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

In 2015, The Brookings Institution ranked the Knoxville metro area as the 48th best-performing in the country based on its showing in job growth, unemployment, output (gross product), and house prices. Among metro areas in Tennessee, Knoxville was second only to Nashville (7th best nationally).

Economic diversity characterizes Knoxville's landscape of commerce and industry, with companies like media giant Scripps Networks Interactive (HGTV, Food, Travel, DIY, Cooking, and GAC) and Sysco Corporation (largest food service marketer and distributor in North America) calling the area home. Also here are national and global leaders Clayton Homes, Brunswick Corporation, Keurig Green Mountain, Bush Brothers, Pilot Flying J, and Ruby Tuesday.

The area is host to Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the largest U.S. Department of Energy science and energy research facility, employing 4,400 scientists and engineers in 100 disciplines, with an annual operating budget of \$1.4 billion.

Knox County has seven business parks and a Technology Corridor to meet a wide range of corporate facility needs, and the area is promoted by Knoxville-Oak Ridge Innovation Valley, an economic development partnership for regional business growth. Four regional malls and over 200 shopping centers and factory outlets comprise the retail core of Knox County.



LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

In April 2015, the Knoxville metro area's civilian labor force (full and part-time, non-farm, wage and salary employees and self-employed persons) totaled 411,660 workers. Average unemployment rate was 4.9 percent, a decline from 5.5 percent

in April 2014. Knox County reported a total 231,280 workers and 4.3 percent unemployment in April 2015, an improvement from last year's rate of 4.8 percent.

KNOXVILLE MSA* EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY 2014 (excluding self-employed)

Industry	Employment	Percent
GOODS PRODUCING	52,326	15.2
Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing/Hunting	1,284	0.4
Construction	16,679	4.6
Manufacturing	37,110	10.2
Natural Resources/Mining	253	0.1
SERVICE PROVIDING	308,885	84.8
Accommodation/Food Services	35,661	9.8
Administrative/Support/Waste Management	29,778	8.2
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation	4,609	1.3
Educational Services	34,875	9.6
Finance/Insurance	13,614	3.7
Health Care/Social Assistance	51,133	14.0
Information	6,542	1.8
Management of Companies/Enterprises	5,064	1.4
Other Services (excludes Public Administration)	10,472	2.9
Professional/Scientific/Technical Services	23,843	6.5
Public Administration	10,144	2.8
Real Estate/Rental/Leasing	4,305	1.2
Retail Trade	47,071	12.9
Transportation/Warehousing	12,457	3.4
Utilities	2,484	0.7
Wholesale Trade	16,833	4.6
TOTAL	364,211	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD, Quarterly Workforce Indicator Explorer, 3Q 2014



TRANSPORTATION

Airlines 6

Allegiant Air, American Eagle, Delta,
Frontier, United, USAirways

Daily flights..... over 140 per day

Air Passengers 1,738,133

Air Services - 2014

Cargo services 2

Freight (tons) 36,112

Bus Terminals

Greyhound/Trailways/Megabus..... 2

Railroad Lines

CSX/Seaboard, Norfolk Southern 2

Miles of Lines 170

Water Transportation - 2014

East Tennessee Locks (tons)..... 4,661,400

** Knoxville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) refers to Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Grainger, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Roane and Union counties.*

INCOME

In 2013, Knox County's per capita personal income (PCPI) was eighth highest in the state at \$41,533. For the MSA, PCPI was \$38,506, while state PCPI was \$39,558. Knox County's 2003 to 2013 compound annual growth rate in PCPI was 2.9 percent.

TAXES

Residential property in Tennessee is assessed at 25 percent of appraised value, and commercial/industrial property is assessed at 40 percent. The current property tax rate for Knox County residents is \$2.32 per \$100 assessed value. The assessment in the City of Knoxville is \$2.72 per \$100. City residents pay both property taxes.

The state sales tax rate is 5.5 percent on food and food ingredients and seven percent on all other tangible personal property. The local rate, applicable countywide, is 2.25 percent, bringing the total sales tax rate in Knox County to 9.25 percent. About 60 percent of the local portion goes to Knox County Schools, the remainder dedicated to the general funds of the city and county.

There is no personal income tax in Tennessee, but the state levies a tax of six percent on stock dividends and bond interest.



TRANSPORTATION

An extensive transportation network connects Knoxville to the U.S. marketplace. Nearly half of the nation's population is within an eight to 10 hour drive of Knoxville via I-40, I-75, and I-81, which meet in the heart of the metro area. Also serving the area are 125 truck lines, two railroads, and six airlines that fly out of Knoxville's McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS). Knoxville 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. Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) runs 24 public bus routes, carrying 3.5 million passengers a year in the city. KAT's downtown Knoxville Station Transit Center serves as the intermodal public transportation hub for metropolitan Knoxville.

COMMUNICATIONS

Knoxville businesses and residents have access to leading-edge communications technology. Major cellular phone service providers are investing considerable resources in the area's 4G LTE networks. Comcast, WOW, Charter, TDS, and AT&T U-verse offer digital cable and high-speed Internet access. The advanced communications network has helped attract the telemarketing divisions of several large corporations to Knoxville.

UTILITIES

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 seven utility districts, six of which also provide wastewater treatment service.

KNOXVILLE KNOX COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

City County Building, Suite 403
400 Main Street
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902
865-215-2500
www.knoxmpc.org