KNOXVILLE AREA
Facts & Figures 2019

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. Its corporate limits comprise 104 of the 526-square mile total for Knox County. Knoxville is the urban heart of the metropolitan area, which consists of nine counties – Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Grainger, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Roane, and Union. Knoxville is located in a valley between the Cumberland and Great Smoky Mountains. This location offers a moderate, four-season climate, with normal daytime temperatures of 88 degrees in July and 48 degrees in January. Downtown Knoxville is 936 feet above sea level.

LIVABILITY
Knoxville ranks among the nation’s best places to live, raise a family, and own a business. In 2019, it was ranked 14th “Least Expensive City” by Yahoo Finance and, in 2018, 49th “Best Bike Cities in America” by Bicycling magazine.

COST OF LIVING (2019)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Metropolitan Area</th>
<th>83.2</th>
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<td>U.S. Average</td>
<td>100</td>
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**ARTS AND CULTURE**

**ORGANIZATIONS:** Knoxville Symphony, Knoxville Opera Company, Dogwood Arts, the Arts & Culture Alliance, and the Joy of Music School, are a few of many in the area.

**VENUES:** Tennessee and Bijou Theaters, Clayton Center for the Arts, Clarence Brown Theatre, the Mill & Mine, and WDVX radio station are among the most visited entertainment venues in the City.

**MUSEUMS AND CENTERS:** Knoxville Museum of Art, Emporium Center for Arts and Culture, East Tennessee History Center, McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture, Museum of Appalachia, and Beck Cultural Exchange Center showcase art and regional heritage. Muse Knoxville is an experiential children’s science museum. Neighboring Gatlinburg is home to the renowned Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.
EVENTS: Hundreds of special events take place each year. Some of the most well-known and well-attended include Big Ears Music Festival, Mardi Growl, Dogwood Arts, Children’s Festival of Reading, Covenant Health Marathon, Kuumba Festival, Concerts on the Square, Rossini Festival, Holistic Festival, Brewers Jam, Tour de Lights, and Christmas in the City.

RADIO AND TELEVISION
Radio Stations.................................51
Television stations............................18

THEATERS
Knox County
Knox County
Movie theaters/screens.....................11/102
Live performance theaters.................13

NEWSPAPERS
Knox County:
Knoxville News Sentinel, Farragut Press, Knoxville Focus, Shopper News, Compass (online only)

Region:
Oak Ridger (Anderson County), Daily Times (Blount County), News-Herald (Loudon County), Mountain Press (Sevier County), Union News Leader (Union County)
RECREATION AND TOURISM
Knoxville has an international reputation as an outdoor adventure destination. Just three miles from downtown is Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness with 50 miles of multi-use trails. Concord, I.C. King, and Sharp’s Ridge Veterans Memorial parks provide 24 more miles of trails, and Loyston Point in neighboring Anderson County adds another 12.

Other adventures can be found at Ijams Nature Center and Navitat Treetop Adventure Park, Outdoor Knoxville, Seven Islands State Birding Park, and House Mountain State Natural Area. Zoo Knoxville, a family favorite, celebrated record-breaking attendance in 2018 with more than 500,000 visitors. The region is also home to the country’s most visited national park, the Great Smoky Mountains, which had a record year in 2018 with more than 11.4 million guests.

SPORTS: Residents are proud of The University of Tennessee’s NCAA Division 1 football, basketball, and other teams. Tennessee Smokies, the AA affiliate of the Chicago Cubs in neighboring Sevier County, Knoxville Ice Bears minor league hockey, and the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame all have devoted fans.

TOURISM: A 500,000-square foot convention center, large civic coliseum and auditorium, and UT’s 22,000-seat Thompson Boling Arena draw visitors to the area.
EDUCATION
Included in Knox County’s public schools are several magnet, STEM, and International Baccalaureate programs.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION:
Four two-year colleges and 10 four-year universities are located in Knox County and surrounding area. The University of Tennessee was ranked 52nd among the nation’s top public schools in 2019 by U.S. News and World Report.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS
The Knoxville Chamber has more than 2,200 members. United Way, Community Shares, and Community Action Committee support many youth, family, and social service programs. More than 250 neighborhood associations and many civic groups are active throughout the city and county.
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Denso Manufacturing, Discovery Communications, Jewelry Television, Regal Entertainment Group, The Dollywood Company, Pilot Flying J, Clayton Homes, and Bush Brothers all call the Knoxville area home. The area also hosts Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the largest U.S. Department of Energy research facility and site of the world’s fastest supercomputer, employing 4,750 with an annual operating budget of $1.4 billion.

Knox County has eight business parks and a Technology Corridor, and the area is marketed by the Development Corporation of Knox County and Knoxville-Oak Ridge Innovation Valley Inc., a regional economic development partnership.

LIBRARIES (2019)
Knox County Public Library System
- Main library and branches: 18
- Special Collections: Knox County Archives & Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection

HOSPITALS (2019)
Knox County
- General: 8
- Children’s: 1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
City of Knoxville
- Mayor and 9 council members (4-year terms)

Knox County
- Mayor and 11 commissioners (4-year terms)

EARNINGS (2018)
Knox County
- Weekly (all industries average): $955

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2017)
- Knox County: $55,266
- Metro Area: $51,848
- U.S.: $60,336

EMPLOYMENT (2019)
Knox County
- Labor Force: 251,703

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (2019)
- Knox County: 3.6%
- Metro Area: 3.9%
- Tennessee: 4.0%
- U.S.: 3.8%
Note: Due to disclosure requirements, the sum of the individual category counts will not match the All Industries total.
ESTABLISHMENTS (2018)

### Knox County

**Manufacturing**
- Total: 916
  - Knox County: 496
  - Metro Area: 420

**Wholesale**
- Total: 1,562
  - Knox County: 1,127
  - Metro Area: 435

**Retail**
- Total: 3,031
  - Knox County: 1,801
  - Metro Area: 1,230

**Service**
- Total: 12,959
  - Knox County: 8,673
  - Metro Area: 4,286

### Retail Sales (2018)

**Total Sales**
- Knox County: $10,181,607,924
- Metro Area: $8,679,023,100

**Sales Per Capita**
- Knox County: $21,882
- Metro Area: $19,467

### Taxes

**Residential Property**
- 25% of appraised value
- Taxes are levied on each $100 of assessed value

**Commercial/Industrial Property**
- 40% of appraised value

**Knox County Tax Rate**
- $2.12 per $100 assessment

**Knoxville Tax Rate**
(Knoxville property owners pay both city and county taxes.)
- $2.4638 per $100 assessment

**State Sales Tax Rate**
- 4% on food
- 7% on all other tangible personal property

**Local Sales Tax Rate**
(applicable countywide)
- 2.25%

**Total Sales Tax Rate in Knox County**
- 9.25%
TRANSPORTATION

Nearly half of the nation’s population is within a day’s drive of Knoxville via six Interstate Highways which transect the area.

HIGHWAY (2018)

Interstates
40, 75, 81, 140, 275, and 640

Average Daily Trips
(I-40/75 in Knox County)
212,690

Trucking Companies
250
Five airlines fly to 21 non-stop destinations out of Knoxville’s McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS), located 12 miles from downtown.

Also serving the area are three rail systems and a barge shipping network, the latter directly linked to the Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico.
Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) operates the city’s public transit system with a fleet of full-sized buses, neighborhood service buses, and paratransit vans.

**BUS (2019)**

**Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) Routes and Stops**
- 23 routes/1,160 stops

**KAT Passengers and Vehicles**
- 2.8 million passengers/94 vehicles

**Long-distance**
- Greyhound, Trailways
COMMUNICATIONS
AT&T, Charter/Spectrum, Comcast/Xfinity, Mediacom, TDS, and WOW offer cable, high-speed Internet, and telephone service.

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.