KNOXVILLE AREA
Facts & Figures 2020

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 eight-county metropolitan area, which consists of Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Roane, and Union counties. 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. This year, U.S. News and World Report named Knoxville the 46th best place to live in the country and ranked it 13th among best places to retire. Last year, Knoxville was ranked 14th least expensive city by Yahoo Finance, and it consistently receives national recognition for world class amenities, like urban outdoors and cycling friendliness.

COST OF LIVING (2019)

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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Area</td>
<td>83.1</td>
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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 located 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 live 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 with multiple locations. 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, Movies on the Square, Rossini Festival, Hola Festival, Brewers Jam, Tour de Lights, and Fantasy of Trees.

RADIO AND TELEVISION
Radio Stations.....................................50
Television stations................................19

THEATERS
Knox County
Movie theaters/screens...............12/103
Live performance theaters..............11

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, comprising 1,000 acres with 50 miles of multi-use trails. Baker Creek Bike Park was recently completed as the first step in creating a new gateway that will serve as an entrance to the Urban Wilderness. Concord, I.C. King, and Sharps Ridge Memorial parks provide 24 additional miles of trails.

Other adventures can be found at Ijams Nature Center, Outdoor Knoxville, Seven Islands State Birding Park, and House Mountain State Natural Area. Zoo Knoxville, a family favorite, began working on a new 2.5-acre reptile and amphibian habitat this year. The region is also home to the country’s most visited national park, the Great Smoky Mountains. The park had a record year in 2019 with more than 12.5 million guests, an increase of more than 1 million over the previous year.

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 thousands of visitors to the area each year to attend concerts, conferences, and other special events.
EDUCATION
Included among Knox County’s 86 public schools are several magnet, STEM, and International Baccalaureate programs. Knox County is also home to one of three Tennessee School for the Deaf campuses, serving students from toddlers through age 22 in both residential and day programs.

KNOX COUNTY ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOLS
Demographics (2019-20)
Public schools...............................86
Enrollment.................................59,224
Teachers...................................4,389

Metrics (2017-18)
Per pupil expenditures..............$9,555
Graduation rate.........................89.8%
Average ACT (composite).........21.4

Private schools..........................35

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION:
Ten four-year universities and four two-year colleges are located in Knox County and surrounding area. The University of Tennessee was ranked 44th among the nation’s top public schools in 2020 by U.S. News and World Report, improving eight spots over last year.

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.

36.7%
Knox County population with bachelor’s degree or higher
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
City of Knoxville
Mayor and 9 council members
(4-year terms)
Knox County
Mayor and 11 commissioners
(4-year terms)

LIBRARIES (2020)
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................................................7
Children’s.............................................1

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 4,400 with an annual operating budget of $1.65 billion.

Knox County has eight active business parks, two under development, 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.
KNOX COUNTY EMPLOYMENT (2019)

INDUSTRIES
- Education and Health Services
- Professional and Business Services
- Retail Trade
- Leisure and Hospitality
- Financial Activities
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Wholesale Trade
- Other Services
- Public Administration
- Information
- Transportation and Utilities
- Natural Resources and Mining

Note: Due to disclosure requirements, the sum of the individual category counts will not match the All Industries total.

EARNINGS (2019)
- Knox County Weekly (all industries average)..$1,024

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2018)
- Knox County 55,632
- Metro Area 53,523
- U.S. 61,937

EMPLOYMENT (2019)
- Knox County Labor Force 246,227
- Metro Area 423,236

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (2019)
- Knox County 2.9%
- Metro Area 3.2%
- Tennessee 3.4%
- U.S. 3.7%
ESTABLISHMENTS (2020)

Knox County  Metro Area

All Industries

20,446  13,157

Wholesale

1,437  1,085

Retail

2,806  1,697

Manufacturing

876  500

Service

12,521  8,443

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%

RETAIL SALES (2019)

Knox County

Total Sales
$10,654,775,134

Sales Per Capita
$22,655
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 (2019)
Interstates
40, 75, 81, 140, 275, and 640

Average Daily Trips
(I-40/75 in Knox County)
215,220

Trucking Companies
250

KNOX COUNTY COMMUTING PATTERNS
Five airlines fly to 25 non-stop destinations out of Knoxville’s McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS), located 12 miles from downtown. With more than 2.5 million passengers, 2019 was the airport’s busiest year in its 82-year history.

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.

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<th><strong>AIR (2019-20)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Airlines</td>
<td>Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier, United</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Flights and Non-stop Destinations</td>
<td>123 flights/25 destinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passengers (annual)</td>
<td>2,572,822</td>
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<td>Cargo Services and Freight</td>
<td>2 services/85,354,236 tons</td>
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<td>Systems (Knox County)</td>
<td>CSX, Norfolk Southern, KXHR-Gulf &amp; Ohio</td>
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<td>Miles of Lines (Knox County)</td>
<td>270</td>
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<th><strong>WATER (2019)</strong></th>
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<td>Cargo through Fort Loudoun Lock</td>
<td>324,500 tons</td>
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TRANSIT
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/1,150 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.