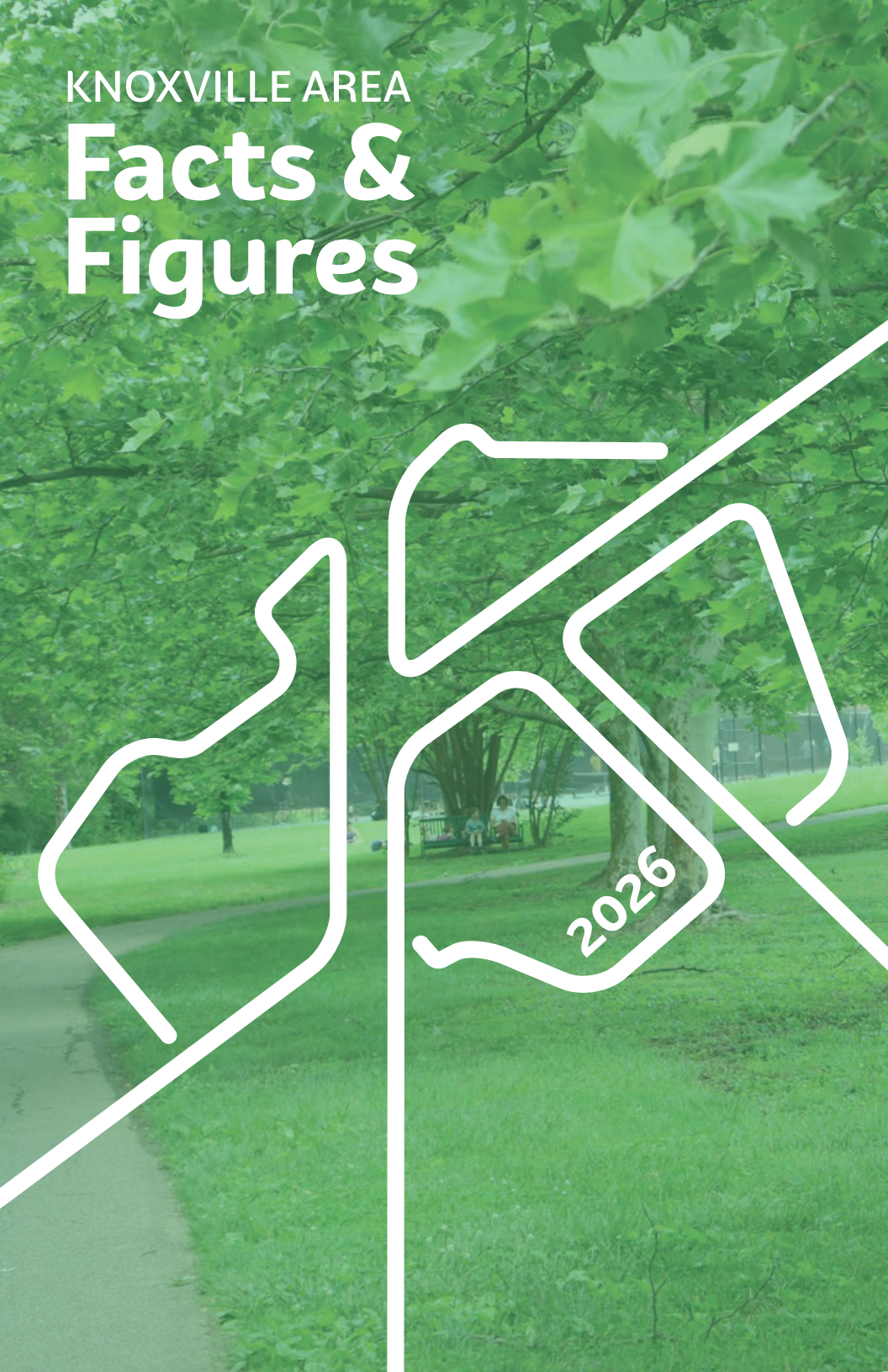
KNOXVILLE AREA

Facts & Figures



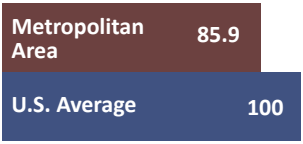
LOCATION AND CLIMATE

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 situated in a valley between the Cumberland Plateau and Great Smoky Mountains, offering a moderate, four-season climate, with average high temperatures of 88 degrees in July and 48 degrees in January. Downtown Knoxville is 936 feet above sea level.

LIVABILITY

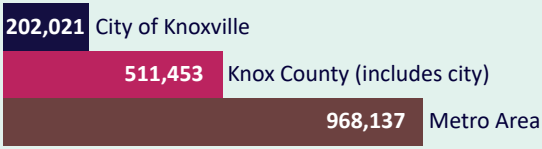
Knoxville consistently ranks among the nation's best places to live, visit, raise a family, and own a business. Based on a combination of professional opportunities and high quality of living, Knoxville was ranked 8th best city to start a career in the U.S. in a 2026 study by WalletHub. In addition, USA Today recognized the Knoxville Arts District as one of the 10 best in the country.

COST OF LIVING (2025)

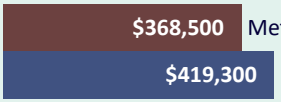


POPULATION AND HOUSING

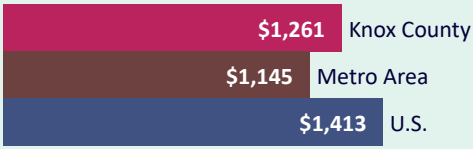
POPULATION (2025)



MEDIAN SALES PRICE OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES (2025)



MEDIAN MONTHLY RENT (2024)



RESIDENTIAL UNITS (2025)

Knox County.....232,546

- New units added.....5,822
- Value of new construction.....$1.361 billion

ARTS AND CULTURE

ORGANIZATIONS: Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, Knoxville Jazz Orchestra, Knoxville Opera Company, the Tennessee Valley Players, Dogwood Arts, and the Arts & Culture Alliance are a few of many located in the area.

VENUES: Tennessee and Bijou Theatres, Clayton Center for the Arts, Knoxville Civic Coliseum, Clarence Brown Theatre, the Mill & Mine, and WDVX radio station are among the most visited live entertainment venues in the area.

MUSEUMS AND CENTERS: Knoxville offers a variety of cultural centers focused on the arts and regional history, such as the Knoxville Museum of Art, Emporium Center for Arts and Culture, East Tennessee History Center, McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture, Museum of Appalachia, Museum of Infinite Outcomes, and Beck Cultural Exchange Center. Muse Knoxville is an experiential children's science museum and provides outreach programs in schools across the region.

EVENTS: Hundreds of special events take place each year. Some of the most well-known and well-attended include Big Ears Music Festival, Dogwood Arts Festival, Knoxville Marathon, Greek Fest, HoLa Festival, Kuumba Festival, SoKno Pride, Tour de Lights, Film Fest Knox, Mardi Growl Dog Parade, and the Tennessee Valley Fair. The Children's Festival of Reading was awarded the 2026 Kaleidoscope Award for the best children's event by the Southeastern Festivals and Events Association. In addition to these special events, Knoxville hosts a variety of beloved regular events that draw locals and visitors alike. These include Market Square Farmer's Market, Jazz on the Square, First Friday Artwalk, and Old City Market.

RADIO AND TELEVISION (2025)

Radio stations.....53
Television stations.....16

THEATERS (2026)

Movie theaters....5 theaters; 44 screens
Live performance theaters.....8

NEWS OUTLETS (2025)

Knox County: Knoxville News Sentinel, Farragut Press, Knoxville Focus, Shopper News, Compass (online only), Knoxville Daily Sun (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 over 60 miles of multi-use trails and 1,000 acres of recreation space. In 2026, the City of Knoxville completed construction of a new Urban Wilderness Gateway Park, offering additional amenities to the eight miles of unpaved hiking and biking trails at Baker Creek Preserve. In addition to exploring greenways and trails, Knoxville residents and visitors enjoy local blueways – the Tennessee River and its tributaries are popular destinations for boaters, kayakers, paddleboarders, and fishing enthusiasts. In fact, Knoxville hosted the 2026 Bass Master Classic, the "Super Bowl of bass fishing." Other adventures can be found at Ijams Nature Center, Outdoor Knoxville, Seven Islands State Birding Park, and House Mountain State Natural Area.

The region is also home to the country's most visited national park, the Great Smoky Mountains, which had 11.5 million visits in 2025. In 2026, Dollywood, in nearby Pigeon Forge, was recognized as TripAdvisor's #2 theme park in the U.S.

PARKS AND RECREATION (2026)

Knoxville and Knox County

Park acreage	6,483
Greenways/hiking/biking trails (miles)	235
Recreation/community centers	16
Senior centers	9
Skate parks	5
Dog parks	16
Public golf courses	6
Bike parks	1

SPORTS: Residents are proud of The University of Tennessee's NCAA Division 1 football, basketball, baseball, and other teams. Knoxville is also home to several popular professional teams. In 2025, Knoxville celebrated the grand opening of a new multi-use stadium downtown which hosts home games for the Knoxville Smokies, a double-A affiliate of the Chicago Cubs, and One Knoxville SC, the city's professional soccer team, who won the USL League One championship in its inaugural year at the stadium. The Knoxville Ice Bears minor league hockey team also enjoys devoted fans, and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame continues to draw visitors from across the country. In 2027, the city will debut its new professional softball team, the Knoxville Miracle.

KNOX COUNTY ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOLS

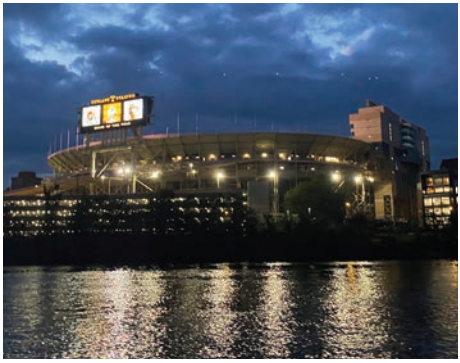
Demographics (2023-24)

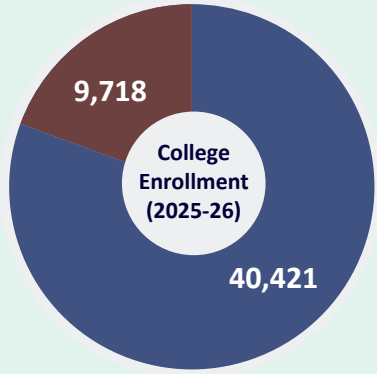
Public Schools.....93
Enrollment.....58,329
Teachers.....3,798
Student / educator ratio.....15.3

Metrics

Per pupil expenditures.....$13,950
Graduation rate.....93.0%
Average ACT (composite).....20.1

Private schools.....42





The University of Tennessee
Pellissippi State Community College

42.4%
Knox County population with bachelor's degree or higher

EDUCATION

Among Knox County's public schools are several magnet, STEM, and International Baccalaureate programs. Knox County is also home to Tennessee School for the Deaf, serving toddlers through age 22 in both residential and day 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 is ranked 49th among the nation's top public schools by U.S. News and World Report, and Pellissippi State is the largest community college in Tennessee.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

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.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

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

LIBRARIES

Knox County Public Library System (2026)
Main library and branches.....18
Special collections: Knox County Archives & Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection

HOSPITALS

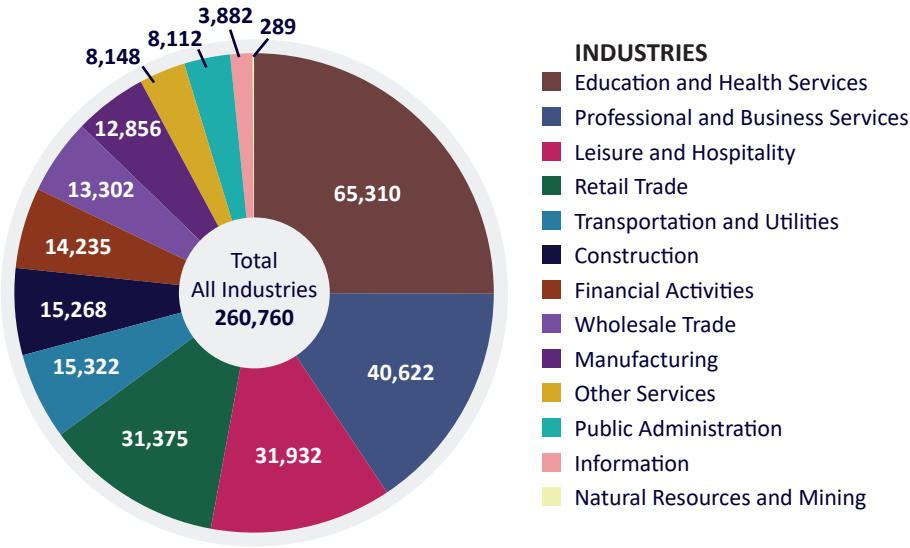
Knox County (2026)

General.....5	Beds.....1,943
Children's.....1	Beds.....152

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Jewelry Television, Regal Entertainment Group, The Dollywood Company, Pilot Flying J, Clayton Homes, Ruby Tuesday, Brunswick Boat Group, and Bush Brothers call the Knoxville area home. The area also hosts Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the site of the largest U.S. Department of Energy research facility, employing over 7,000 people with an annual operating budget of $2.6 billion. Knox County has five business parks and a Technology Corridor, and the area is marketed by the Knoxville Chamber, which has more than 1,200 investors.

KNOX COUNTY EMPLOYMENT (Q3 2025)



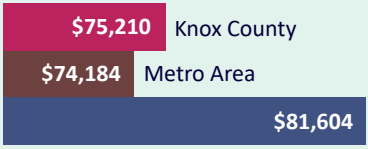
Note: Due to disclosure requirements, the sum of the individual category counts will not match the All Industries total. Industries are labeled in clockwise order.

EARNINGS

Knox County (Q3 2025)

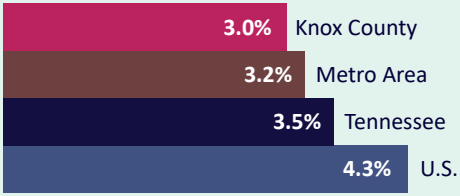
Weekly (all industries average).....$1,261

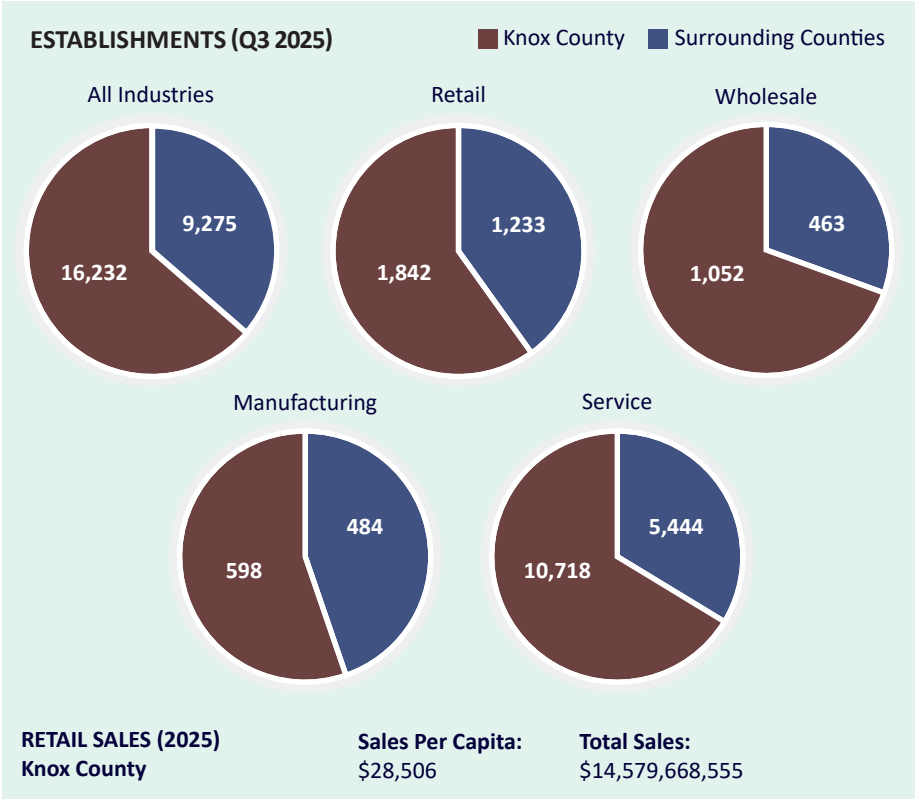
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2024)



LABOR FORCE (2025)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (2025)





TAXES

Residential Property

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

Commercial/Industrial Property

- 40% of appraised value

Personal Property

- 30% of appraised value

Knox County Tax Rate

- $1.55 per $100 assessment

Knoxville Tax Rate

(Knoxville property owners pay both city and county taxes.)

- $2.16 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

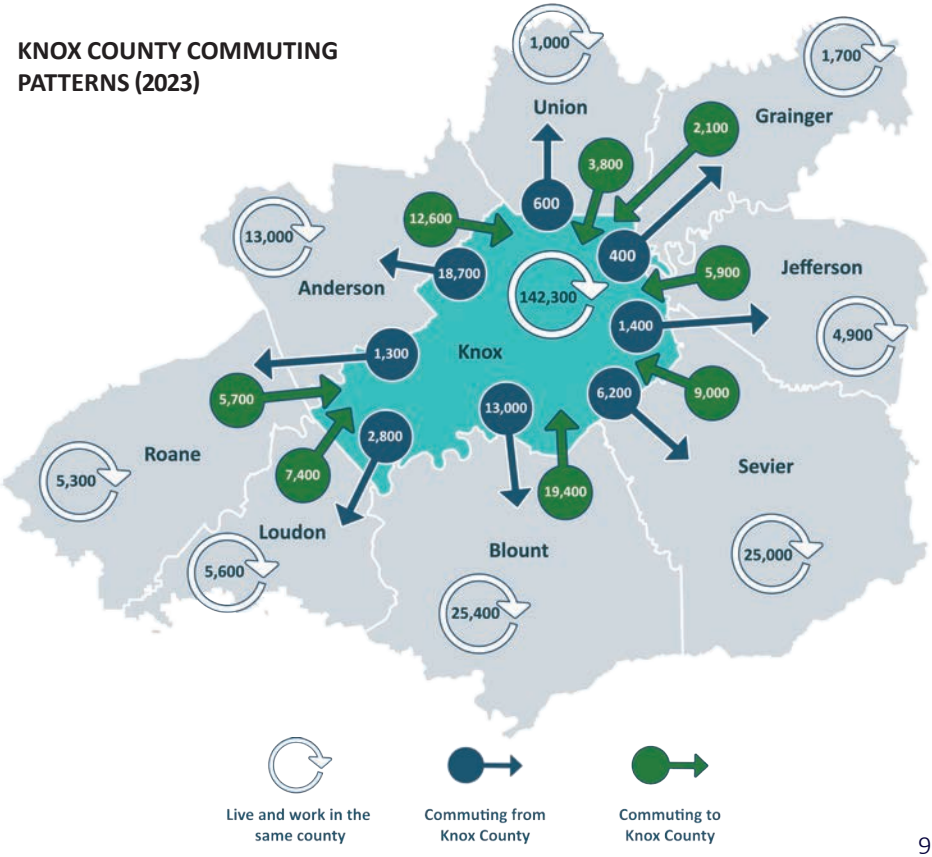
- 9.25%

TRANSPORTATION

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

HIGHWAY (2025)	Average Daily Trips	Trucking Companies
Interstates 40, 75, 81, 140, 275, and 640	(I-40/75 in Knox County) 187,191	300+

KNOX COUNTY COMMUTING PATTERNS (2023)



AIR (2026)
Airlines
Allegiant, American, Avelo, Delta, Southwest, United

Daily Flights and Non-stop Destinations
114 flights/33 destinations

Passengers (annual)
3,554,233

Cargo Services and Freight
2 services/31,137 tons

McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) was the fastest-growing major U.S. airport in 2024, based on passenger traffic. Located only 15 miles from downtown, the airport offers non-stop flights to 33 destinations.

RAIL (2026)
Systems (Knox County)
CSX, Norfolk Southern, KXHR, KXCG

Miles of Lines (Knox County)
168

WATER (2025)
Cargo through Fort Loudoun Lock
237,560 tons

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 (2025)
Knoxville Area Transit
20 routes/717 stops

KAT Passengers and Vehicles
2.7 million passengers/73 vehicles
(18 electric buses, 28 hybrids)

Long-distance
Greyhound

COMMUNICATIONS

AT&T, Spectrum, Comcast/Xfinity, Mediacom, TDS, and WOW offer cable, high-speed Internet, and telephone service. Knoxville Utilities Board offers gig-speed fiber internet for homes and businesses.

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.

Planning
KNOXVILLE | KNOX COUNTY

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