

OKLAHOMA CITY NEWS 2008/2009

January 10, 2008

Forbes Magazine

Forbes placed Oklahoma City at **No. 19 on its 2008 Best Cities for Jobs list out of the top 100 metropolitan areas**. The study considered median income, unemployment, income growth, cost of living and job growth.

January 24, 2008

America's Promise Alliance

Oklahoma City, a community that was hit with the largest terrorist act on American soil prior to 9/11—the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in 1995- is once again named as a **Top 100 Best Community for Young People for the second year in a row**—and rightfully so. The community has overcome a pattern of decline and neglect, and boasts an impressive 96.8% graduation rate for high school seniors. Nearly 750 participants from more than 300 communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico entered this year's competition.

January 27, 2008

Miami Herald

Spruced-up Oklahoma City's downtown buzzes with arts and culture, while its southern stockyards evoke a ranching heritage. For years, cross-country drivers pulling into Oklahoma City ("OKC") found a flat, sprawling, dead-quiet city with three crisscrossing interstates begging to take you elsewhere. But that was then. Now **OKC is strutting about a stunning makeover**.

February 29, 2008

Austin Business Journal

Oklahoma City ranks **4th out of the 50 largest metro areas in a review of the least stressful cities in America**. The study, released by Bizjournals, examined air quality, sunshine, crime, unemployment and commute time, among other factors, to rate the cities.

March 2008

Forbes Magazine

Oklahoma City is the **7th cleanest city in the U.S.**, citing water quality, cleanliness and air pollution. The list was determined by measuring rankings for air pollution and ozone levels among all 49 U.S. metro areas with populations exceeding 1 million, using data from the American Lung Association.

March 10, 2008

Bizjournals

Oklahoma City has been ranked the **No. 1 most affordable housing market** of the 50 largest metropolitan areas, according to a recent study. The ranking was based on the median owner-occupied monthly mortgage & property tax payment as a percentage of monthly median income.

April 2008

Executive Travel Magazine

Oklahoma City is luring sports teams, building river and canal systems, and hosting Olympic qualifying events. [One will] find world-class museums, exquisite dining, luxury hotel accommodations, and a thriving nightlife.

April 28, 2008

Forbes.com

Oklahoma City placed **4th on the Forbes.com list for Best Cities for Commuters**. Forbes.com looked at the 75 largest metro areas in the U.S. and evaluated them based on traffic delays, travel times and how efficiently commuters use the existing infrastructure. "The Sooner State capital has a road system well suited to its small population of commuters (547,255), as 48% of workers get to their jobs in fewer than 20 minutes."

April 29, 2008

Forbes Magazine

Oklahoma City has been named the **No. 1 most recession-proof city** out of the top 50 metropolitan areas in the U.S., according to Forbes.com. The rankings were based on median home prices, job and housing figures.

May 20, 2008

NBC's The Today Show

Oklahoma City is ranked **#28 of the 100 Best Places to Raise a Family** list announced by the Today Show. The list considered a variety of issues including crime rates, school quality, healthcare, the arts, housing costs, average commute times and divorce rates when ranking these cities.

July 2008

Salary.com

A survey of 69 U.S. cities ranks Oklahoma City the **9th best place to build personal wealth**. The 2008 Salary Value Index released by Salary.com primarily compares the relationship between the cost of living and pay in cities with populations of at least 250,000. The survey also considered diversity of industry, education level, proximity to post-secondary institutions, and percentage of the population below the poverty level and median travel time to work.

August 8, 2008

New York Times

This revitalized metropolis does seem to have a constant wind that comes sweepin' down the plain, but **the windfalls from its booming economy have brought enough new grand urban projects, gleaming museums and sophistication** so that one suspects the only folks tempted to yell "Ayipioeeay" are visitors.

August 8, 2008

The Journal Record

Personal income for the Oklahoma City metropolitan area continued to outpace the nation in 2007, according to estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The bureau surveyed 363 metropolitan areas for its report. In the Oklahoma City area, **personal income totaled more than \$44 billion in 2007, a growth of 6.4 percent or 92nd in the nation**.

August 27, 2008

The Oklahoman

According to the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight Home Price Index, **Oklahoma ranked 1st in the nation in home value appreciation** for the second quarter of 2008. The National Association of Realtors reports that **Oklahoma City is among only 35 metro areas in the nation that showed gains** in median home prices in the second quarter 2008. Oklahoma City's home values ranked 17th highest in the nation with an increase of 4.68 percent.

September 2008

National Geographic Adventure Magazine

Oklahoma City is listed as **"One of the 50 Best Places to Live + Play Now: The Next Great Adventure Towns"**.

September 2008

Business Facilities Magazine

Innovation in economic development marketing is what keeps MSAs from losing jobs and businesses. It takes something really special to keep an area growing in a sluggish economy. [Oklahoma City] is a region that is doing just that. What could be more innovative than taking the steps necessary to create a whole new industry in your city? That's exactly what Oklahoma City did a little over a decade ago; now the city is reaping the benefits in a big way with **an industry-hospitality-that is now one of its fastest growing sectors in job creation**.

September 13, 2008

The Oklahoman

Oklahoma City is ranked **50th among the country's 200 largest metro areas for creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth**. The Milken Institute/Greenstreet Real Estate Partners Best Performing Cities 2008 Index looks at where wages and salaries are rising and where there is growth in technology sectors. Oklahoma City is up from the 108th spot last year.

September 9, 2008

The Dallas Morning News

After visiting this immaculate city of a half-million people, I have not one, but eight good reasons (one for each letter of its name) to visit this city with a big heart.

- Over-the-top hospitality and graciousness
- Kindness and compassion
- Largest collection in the world of noted artist Dale Chihuly's blown-glass sculptures
- Arts abound in Oklahoma City
- History and heritage of the city appear at every turn
- Outdoor and indoor adventures
- Museums galore and Myriad Botanical Gardens, a living-plant museum
- Architecture, rich in art deco and contemporary styles, and public art enhance the city

October 8, 2008

The Oklahoman

Oklahoma City is ranked as the **79th best sports city** by The Sporting News.

October 22, 2008

USA Today

The state's unemployment rate dropped again in September, continuing a positive trend that started this summer, the Employment Securities Commission reported Tuesday. OESC economist Lynn Gray said. "In the face of a national jobless rate that has skyrocketed this year, it shows **Oklahoma remains in growth mode.**" The Oklahoma City metro area added 7,000 jobs during the month. Year over year growth saw an employment increase of 0.7 percent, Gray said, "that puts us as the **tenth fastest growing state in the country.**"

November 19, 2008

The Journal Record

Despite a national economy in recession, Oklahoma should experience solid growth in personal income, retail sales and home prices next year, Oklahoma State University economist Mark Snead said earlier this month.

November 24, 2008

CNN

Oklahoma City is listed as **one of the "Top 30 Best Cities to Find a Job"**. Oklahoma City is the largest city on the list.

November 28, 2008

Bizjournals

A study of the top 100 metros shows Oklahoma City ranks as the **25th best growth center in the nation.** Factors considered were growth in 5-yr population, 15-year private sector employment, 5-year per capita income, and 5-year gross net product.

December 23, 2008

The Journal Record

Oklahoma is **No. 19 on the list of the nation's fastest-growing states.** Oklahoma's population climbed 0.9 percent from July 2007 to July 2008, according the Census Bureau. Oklahoma's population grew by 34,238, bringing the state's total population to 3,642,361, the nation's 28th-most-populous state. It has grown 5.6 percent since 2000, when it had 3,450,640 residents. Economists believe Oklahoma will outpace the nation in job growth in the next two years, a factor that could further stimulate population growth.

January 6, 2009

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Of the 100 top most populated U.S. metros, the Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area was ranked **7th in total job growth in 2008 with more than 8,100 jobs added.**

January 7, 2009

Forbes

Oklahoma City is listed among Forbes' **25 Strongest Housing Markets.**

January 12, 2009

USA Today

Overall, the U.S. office vacancy rate increased to 11.7% in the second quarter of 2008, according to CoStar, a Bethesda, Md.-based firm. That's the third quarterly increase in a row, and the highest vacancy rate since 2005. Detroit had the second-worst performance behind Phoenix, with a 17.2% vacancy rate. Oklahoma City, by contrast, had **some of the lowest office vacancy numbers, with an 8.3% vacancy rate.**

February 4, 2009

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

National figures for December 2008 reflect that in metropolitan areas with populations larger than 1 million, Oklahoma City, at 4.6%, has **the lowest unemployment rate in the nation.**

February 20, 2009

The Oklahoman

Moody's Investors Service, the credit rating agency, listed Oklahoma City **among the top five U.S. commercial property markets during the fourth quarter of 2008.** The Moody's report considered office, apartment and hospitality properties. Oklahoma City tied for second with San Francisco, according to Pacific Business News in Honolulu, which scored 72 and ranked fourth. Pittsburgh topped the list with a score of 77. Los Angeles was fifth with a score of 68.