

Oklahoma City gets high ranks in new surveys

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“Metro Trends,” a survey of the nation's 100 largest metropolitan areas, gave Oklahoma City an “A” grade for its ongoing economic performance and ranked it No. 1 for economic security (Tulsa also finished high, at No. 4).

Meanwhile, a survey released by www.marketwatch.com ranked Oklahoma City sixth of 102 cities with the best business conditions.

“It is a reflection of what we've seen the last couple of years in the economy and how different Oklahoma City and the metro have been from the rest of the country,” said chamber President Roy Williams. “Our unemployment continues to be among the lowest, our housing market has held up better than almost anyone else, and our cost of living continues to be extremely competitive.”

Margery Turner, author of the Metro Trends rank, noted she had previously concluded that the country's most prosperous metros, including New York City and San Francisco, are good places for most people to live but that workers with limited education and skills would find the cities hard to afford.

“I also pointed to the Oklahoma City region, with its low unemployment and low housing costs, as a pretty good place to live and that made me want to learn a little more about Greater Oklahoma City,” Turner wrote. She said what she discovered was that Oklahoma City's “diverse economy” held up well in the Great Recession.

“It didn't fall victim to the housing boom and bust (2000 to 2007), so rents and house prices today are remarkably affordable and few homeowners are facing foreclosure,” Turner said.

Williams said he was most intrigued by data Turner presented showing the city's serious

mortgage delinquency at 6.6 percent — a performance she gave an “A” when compared to other cities. She also gave an “A” for the city's unemployment rate, which she noted is 5.5 percent.

“Oklahoma City stands out from the other metro standings — grads, retirees, entrepreneurs — we continue to hang on to those kinds of qualities,” Williams said. “This latest survey further amplifies that.”



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