

Be productive virtually anywhere with AT&T. All-for-Less starting at \$99.99 a month or less. Wireless, High Speed Internet, Landline, Access to over 20,000 AT&T Wi-Fi Hotspots. Make your business Stretch. Find out how.

Enter quotes Search Small Business

Small Business

TIP: Want to write off the cost of meals while you're traveling? Here's a rundown on what to deduct, and how.

CNNMoney.com > Small Business > Best Places to Launch

BEST PLACES TO LAUNCH

The best metro areas for small business startups

2009

-
-
-
-
-

Oklahoma City, OK

1 of 50

MSA: Oklahoma City, OK

Best places ranking: #1 among large metro areas

Population: 1,206,142

Stable and affordable, Oklahoma City is a haven for entrepreneurial risk takers. It boasts the second lowest foreclosure rate among large U.S. metro areas, along with the second lowest median rent. Through the Great Recession this former Dust Bowl capital has been spared many hardships, with a diverse local economy spread across medical research, energy, education and government.



COURTESY: GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Oklahoma City also benefits from a high concentration of deep-pocketed local investors, many of them veterans of the oil and gas industry, who are willing to take a gamble on companies that might spend 10 years bringing a new product to fruition. And the city itself has been a powerful friend to life-science startups, funding the 1996 construction of the Presbyterian Health Foundation Research Park. The complex -- 700,000 square feet of space in seven buildings on a 27-acre site -- has attracted an influx of innovative biomedical firms.

Oklahoma City has its drawbacks. Among the most tornado-prone cities in America, it has the dubious distinction of getting hit in 1999 by the worst twister on record, with winds topping 320 miles per hour. And forget about entertaining your visiting clients with top-notch sporting events: Oklahoma City has only one professional franchise, the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder, which had its first season in 2008 and finished 26th in the league. -Alec Foege

Launch Toolbox: Resources for getting started in Oklahoma City, OK



LEARN
Local startup resources

- [Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation](#)
- [Presbyterian Health Foundation Research Park](#)
- [I2E](#)
- [Oklahoma Small Business Development Center](#)



BORROW
Local smallbiz lenders

- [Bancfirst Corporation](#)
- [Arvest Bank Group](#)
- [Midland Financial Co](#)
- [American Heritage Holdings](#)
- [Jpmorgan Chase & Co.](#)

[See all local lenders](#)

Oklahoma City Business Statistics

Business Climate	City stats	Best Places average
Employer establishments with 1-49 employees (2007)	31,139	27,126.98

Why I Launched Here

MEN'S WARDROBE SALE SAVE 30-50% >PLUS, EXTRA 20% OFF clothing & accessories with your savings pass EXTRA 15% OFF shoes >IT GETS EVEN BETTER! GET A \$20 SAVINGS CERTIFICATE for every \$100 you spend in-store PRINT SAVINGS PASS

Video



A rocket town blasts off

For entrepreneurs shooting for the moon, Huntsville, Alabama, is a thriving launch spot. [Watch](#)

Find your launch spot

Do you prefer a place that is: Small Medium Large

The factors that matter most to me are:

- Affordable wages
- Few foreclosures
- Educated workers
- Low housing costs
- Low crime
- High local incomes
- A growing economy
- Population growth
- Growing small business population

Is your city great for entrepreneurs?

iReport Tell us why: Low taxes? Talented workers? An active small business community? Send us your photos and videos, and you could be featured in our upcoming coverage of reader-picked Best Places to Launch. [More](#)

jobs by

Small business growth rate (2004-2007)	5.7%	5.92%
State business tax climate ranking (out of 50 states)	18	N/A
Percentage of population with bachelor's degree (ages 25-34)	28.2%	33.48%
Violent crime (rate per 100,000 inhabitants, 2007)	517	393.34
Property crime (rate per 100,000 inhabitants, 2007)	4,314.4	3158.51


Demand	City stats	Best Places average
Population growth (2003-2008)	6.6%	7.84%
Per-capita income (2007)	\$38,834	\$36,545.24
Per-capita income growth (2002-2007)	37.9%	27.66%
GDP (in millions) (2006)	\$50,409	59,299.44
GDP growth (2001-2006)	40%	38.97%

Costs	City stats	Best Places average
Average hourly wage (2008)	\$17.73	\$18.35
Housing foreclosure rate (first half of 2009, 1 per every X housing units)	305	1,070.14
Median rent (2009, for a 2-bedroom housing unit)	\$728	\$778.80
Housing price-to-income (HPI) ratio (first quarter of 2009)	1.2%	1.70%
Long-term HPI ratio (20-year average, 1984-2004)	1.4%	1.65%
HPI deviation from long-term average	-15.2%	1.47%


All statistics are for the full Metropolitan Statistical Area. For a complete list of data sources, see "How we picked the Best Places."

From the November 2009 issue


What do you think of Oklahoma City?




Add a comment...



Connect with Facebook

Log in to Facebook to post your comment

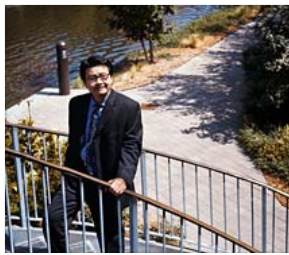
 **Derek Murumbi Anampio** 7:44 am
Great opportunity.

 Facebook User Oct 15
Thanks, CNN! We think that Oklahoma City and surrounding metro is a great place to live and work. We agree with Robert that the investment that OKC decided to make in itself to transform the downtown core started activity and excitement that just continues to build.

Thanks for the link to our Oklahoma Small Business Development Center site. It has been our privilege to help central Oklahoma businesses for many years. Even in these darker times, we have still been able to help our clients start and create jobs.

 **Susan Breidenbach** Oct 14
Wish it weren't so flat and geographically boring. I need a horizon with mountains!

 **Robert Gilbert** Oct 14



"Before I moved to Oklahoma City from San Francisco 20 years ago, I had the cowboys-and-Indians stereotype in the back of my mind. Then when I got here, I was very pleasantly surprised." - Craig Shimasaki

Best Places Winners



Show: All 50 | Top Large Places | Top Midsize | Top Small

Find a Job

simply hired

Looking for a new position in the area? Browse opportunities in popular fields or search all openings.

Key Industries

- Accounting jobs
- Engineering jobs
- Finance jobs

Key Occupations

- Management jobs
- Marketing jobs
- Sales jobs

How we picked the Best Places

This year we partnered with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to find the 50 most business-friendly communities in America.

With help from Robert Fairlie, an economist and leading scholar of entrepreneurship at the University of California, Santa Cruz, we developed a methodology and sifted through such data on factors such as per capita income, hourly wages, workforce quality, crime rates, taxes and foreclosures. [More](#)

Comments? E-mail the editors

Data partners

KAUFFMAN

The Foundation of Entrepreneurship


This package was produced in partnership with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.



Foreclosure data provided by RealtyTrac.



Housing price-to-income data provided by Moody's Economy.com.

Be productive virtually anywhere with AT&T. All-for-Less starting at **\$99.99** a month or less. Wireless, High Speed Internet, Landline, Access to over 20,000 AT&T Wi-Fi Hotspots. Make your business **Stretch**.  Find out how

[News](#) | [Markets](#) | [Technology](#) | [Personal Finance](#) | [Fortune Magazine](#) | [CNN.com](#)

2009 **6**

E*TRADE E*TRADE Securities LLC

-  Risk Analyzer
-  Portfolio Analyzer
-  Free Web Seminars

START WITH 100 FREE TRADES 

Best Places Winners



Show: All 50 | [Top Large Places](#) | [Top Midsize](#) | [Top Small](#)

Top 25 Lists

- [Small business growth](#)
- [College-educated workers](#)
- [Low crime](#)
- [High income](#)
- [Economic growth](#)
- [Low wages](#)
- [Affordable rents](#)
- [Fewest foreclosures](#)

Find your launch spot

Do you prefer a place that is: Small Medium Large

The factors that matter most to me are:

- Affordable wages
- Few foreclosures
- Educated workers
- Low housing costs
- Low crime
- High local incomes
- A growing economy
- Population growth
- Growing small business population

Submit

Video



A rocket town blasts off

For entrepreneurs shooting for the moon, Huntsville, Alabama, is a thriving launch spot. **Watch**

Find a Job

jobs by **simply hired**

Looking for a new position in the area? Browse opportunities in popular fields or search all openings.

Key Industries

- [Accounting jobs](#)
- [Engineering jobs](#)
- [Finance jobs](#)

Key Occupations

- [Management jobs](#)
- [Marketing jobs](#)
- [Sales jobs](#)

Sponsored Links

Hiring : (Work At Home)

Job Requires: Basic Computer Skills Your Own Home Computer. Weekly Pay [www.Web-NewsDaily.com](#)

2550% Penny Stock Gains?

Our last pick exploded 2550% - Join our newsletter for free picks! [www.ThePennyStockExpert.com](#)

2009 New Car Blowout Sale

Dealers are going out of business, all vehicles are on sale now! [Autos.Reply.com/NewCarClearance](#)

[Buy a link here](#)