

= Oklahoma =

Oklahoma / ˈoʊkləˈhoʊm/ (Cherokee : Asgaya gigageyi / ʔʔʔʔ ʔʔʔʔ ; or transliterated from English as ʔʔʔʔʔ (òʔàlàhoma) , Pawnee : Uukuhúwa , Cayuga : Gahnawiyoʔgeh) is a state located in the South Central United States . Oklahoma is the 20th most extensive and the 28th most populous of the 50 United States . The state 's name is derived from the Choctaw words okla and humma , meaning " red people " . It is also known informally by its nickname , The Sooner State , in reference to the non @-@ Native settlers who staked their claims on the choicest pieces of land before the official opening date , and the Indian Appropriations Act of 1889 , which opened the door for white settlement in America 's Indian Territory . The name was settled upon statehood , Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory were merged and Indian was dropped from the name . On November 16 , 1907 , Oklahoma became the 46th state to enter the union . Its residents are known as Oklahomans , or informally " Okies " , and its capital and largest city is Oklahoma City .

A major producer of natural gas , oil , and agricultural products , Oklahoma relies on an economic base of aviation , energy , telecommunications , and biotechnology . In 2007 , it had one of the fastest @-@ growing economies in the United States , ranking among the top states in per capita income growth and gross domestic product growth . Oklahoma City and Tulsa serve as Oklahoma 's primary economic anchors , with nearly two @-@ thirds of Oklahomans living within their metropolitan statistical areas .

With small mountain ranges , prairie , mesas , and eastern forests , most of Oklahoma lies in the Great Plains , Cross Timbers and the U.S. Interior Highlands ? a region especially prone to severe weather . In addition to having a prevalence of English , German , Scottish , Scotch @-@ Irish , and Native American ancestry , more than 25 Native American languages are spoken in Oklahoma , second only to California .

Oklahoma is located on a confluence of three major American cultural regions and historically served as a route for cattle drives , a destination for southern settlers , and a government @-@ sanctioned territory for Native Americans .

= = Etymology = =

The name Oklahoma comes from the Choctaw phrase okla humma , literally meaning red people . Choctaw Chief Allen Wright suggested the name in 1866 during treaty negotiations with the federal government regarding the use of Indian Territory , in which he envisioned an all @-@ Indian state controlled by the United States Superintendent of Indian Affairs . Equivalent to the English word Indian , okla humma was a phrase in the Choctaw language used to describe Native American people as a whole . Oklahoma later became the de facto name for Oklahoma Territory , and it was officially approved in 1890 , two years after the area was opened to white settlers .

= = Geography = =

Oklahoma is the 20th largest state in the United States , covering an area of 69 @, @ 898 square miles (181 @, @ 035 km2) , with 68 @, @ 667 square miles (177847 km2) of land and 1 @, @ 281 square miles (3 @, @ 188 km2) of water . It is one of six states on the Frontier Strip and lies partly in the Great Plains near the geographical center of the 48 contiguous states . It is bounded on the east by Arkansas and Missouri , on the north by Kansas , on the northwest by Colorado , on the far west by New Mexico , and on the south and near @-@ west by Texas .

The western edge of the Oklahoma panhandle is out of alignment with its Texas border . The Oklahoma / New Mexico border is actually 2 @. @ 1 to 2 @. @ 2 miles east of the Texas line . The border between Texas and New Mexico was set first as a result of a survey by Spain in 1819 . It was then set along the 103rd Meridian . In the 1890s , when Oklahoma was formally surveyed using more accurate surveying equipment and techniques , it was discovered that the Texas line was not set along the 103rd Meridian . Surveying techniques were not as accurate in 1819 , and the actual 103rd Meridian was approximately 2 @. @ 2 miles to the east . It was much easier to leave the

mistake as it was than for Texas to cede land to New Mexico to correct the original surveying error . The placement of the Oklahoma / New Mexico border represents the true 103rd Meridian .

Cimarron County in Oklahoma 's panhandle is the only county in the United States that touches four other states : New Mexico , Texas , Colorado and Kansas .

= = = Topography = = =

Oklahoma is between the Great Plains and the Ozark Plateau in the Gulf of Mexico watershed , generally sloping from the high plains of its western boundary to the low wetlands of its southeastern boundary . Its highest and lowest points follow this trend , with its highest peak , Black Mesa , at 4 @, @ 973 feet (1 @, @ 516 m) above sea level , situated near its far northwest corner in the Oklahoma Panhandle . The state 's lowest point is on the Little River near its far southeastern boundary near the town of Idabel , OK , which dips to 289 feet (88 m) above sea level .

Among the most geographically diverse states , Oklahoma is one of four to harbor more than 10 distinct ecological regions , with 11 in its borders ? more per square mile than in any other state . Its western and eastern halves , however , are marked by extreme differences in geographical diversity : Eastern Oklahoma touches eight ecological regions and its western half contains three . Although having fewer ecological regions Western Oklahoma contains many rare , relic species .

Oklahoma has four primary mountain ranges : the Ouachita Mountains , the Arbuckle Mountains , the Wichita Mountains , and the Ozark Mountains . Contained within the U.S. Interior Highlands region , the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains mark the only major mountainous region between the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachians . A portion of the Flint Hills stretches into north @-@ central Oklahoma , and near the state 's eastern border , Cavanal Hill is regarded by the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department as the world 's tallest hill ; at 1 @, @ 999 feet (609 m) , it fails their definition of a mountain by one foot .

The semi @-@ arid high plains in the state 's northwestern corner harbor few natural forests ; the region has a rolling to flat landscape with intermittent canyons and mesa ranges like the Glass Mountains . Partial plains interrupted by small , sky island mountain ranges like the Antelope Hills and the Wichita Mountains dot southwestern Oklahoma ; transitional prairie and oak savannahs cover the central portion of the state . The Ozark and Ouachita Mountains rise from west to east over the state 's eastern third , gradually increasing in elevation in an eastward direction .

More than 500 named creeks and rivers make up Oklahoma 's waterways , and with 200 lakes created by dams , it holds the highest number of artificial reservoirs in the nation . Most of the state lies in two primary drainage basins belonging to the Red and Arkansas rivers , though the Lee and Little rivers also contain significant drainage basins .

= = = Flora and fauna = = =

Forests cover 24 percent of Oklahoma and prairie grasslands composed of shortgrass , mixed @-@ grass , and tallgrass prairie , harbor expansive ecosystems in the state 's central and western portions , although cropland has largely replaced native grasses . Where rainfall is sparse in the western regions of the state , shortgrass prairie and shrublands are the most prominent ecosystems , though pinyon pines , red cedar (junipers) , and ponderosa pines grow near rivers and creek beds in the far western reaches of the panhandle . Southwestern Oklahoma contains many rare , disjunct species including sugar maple , bigtooth maple , nolina and southern live oak .

Marshlands , sabal minor , cypress forests and mixtures of shortleaf pine , loblolly pine and deciduous forests dominate the state 's southeastern quarter , while mixtures of largely post oak , elm , red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and pine forests cover northeastern Oklahoma .

The state holds populations of white @-@ tailed deer , mule deer , antelope , coyotes , mountain lions , bobcats , elk , and birds such as quail , doves , cardinals , bald eagles , red @-@ tailed hawks , and pheasants . In prairie ecosystems , American bison , greater prairie chickens , badgers , and armadillo are common , and some of the nation 's largest prairie dog towns inhabit shortgrass prairie in the state 's panhandle . The Cross Timbers , a region transitioning from prairie to

woodlands in Central Oklahoma , harbors 351 vertebrate species . The Ouachita Mountains are home to black bear , red fox , grey fox , and river otter populations , which coexist with a total of 328 vertebrate species in southeastern Oklahoma . Also , in southeastern Oklahoma lives the American alligator .

== Protected lands ==

Oklahoma has 50 state parks , six national parks or protected regions , two national protected forests or grasslands , and a network of wildlife preserves and conservation areas . Six percent of the state 's 10 million acres (40 @, @ 000 km²) of forest is public land , including the western portions of the Ouachita National Forest , the largest and oldest national forest in the Southern United States .

With 39 @, @ 000 acres (158 km²) , the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in north @-@ central Oklahoma is the largest protected area of tallgrass prairie in the world and is part of an ecosystem that encompasses only 10 percent of its former land area , once covering 14 states . In addition , the Black Kettle National Grassland covers 31 @, @ 300 acres (127 km²) of prairie in southwestern Oklahoma . The Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is the oldest and largest of nine national wildlife refuges in the state and was founded in 1901 , encompassing 59 @, @ 020 acres (238 @. @ 8 km²) .

Of Oklahoma 's federally protected park or recreational sites ; the Chickasaw National Recreation Area is the largest , with 9 @, @ 898 @. @ 63 acres (18 km²) . Other sites include the Santa Fe and Trail of Tears national historic trails , the Fort Smith and Washita Battlefield national historic sites , and the Oklahoma City National Memorial .

== Climate ==

Oklahoma is located in a humid subtropical region . Oklahoma lies in a transition zone between humid continental climate to the north , semi @-@ arid climate to the west , and humid subtropical climate in the central , south and eastern portions of the state . Most of the state lies in an area known as Tornado Alley characterized by frequent interaction between cold , dry air from Canada , warm to hot , dry air from Mexico and the Southwestern U.S. , and warm , moist air from the Gulf of Mexico . The interactions between these three contrasting air currents produces severe weather (severe thunderstorms , damaging thunderstorm winds , large hail and tornadoes) with a frequency virtually unseen anywhere else on planet Earth . An average 62 tornadoes strike the state per year ? one of the highest rates in the world .

Because of Oklahoma 's position between zones of differing prevailing temperature and winds , weather patterns within the state can vary widely over relatively short distances and can change drastically in a short time . As an example , on November 11 , 1911 , the temperature at Oklahoma City reached 83 ° F (28 ° C) in the afternoon (the record high for that date) , then an Arctic cold front of unprecedented intensity slammed across the state , causing the temperature to crash 66 degrees , down to 17 ° F (? 8 ° C) at midnight (the record low for that date) ; thus , both the record high and record low for November 11 were set on the same date . This type of phenomenon is also responsible for many of the tornadoes in the area , such as the 1912 Oklahoma tornado outbreak , when a warm front traveled along a stalled cold front , resulting in an average of about one tornado per hour over the course of a day .

The humid subtropical climate (Koppen Cfa) of central , southern and eastern Oklahoma is influenced heavily by southerly winds bringing moisture from the Gulf of Mexico . Traveling westward , the climate transitions progressively toward a semi @-@ arid zone (Koppen BSk) in the high plains of the Panhandle and other western areas from about Lawton westward , less frequently touched by southern moisture . Precipitation and temperatures decline from east to west accordingly , with areas in the southeast averaging an annual temperature of 62 ° F (17 ° C) and an annual rainfall of generally over 40 inches (1 @, @ 020 mm) and up to 56 inches (1 @, @ 420 mm) , while areas of the (higher @-@ elevation) panhandle average 58 ° F (14 ° C) , with an annual rainfall

under 17 inches (430 mm) .

Over almost all of Oklahoma , winter is the driest season . Average monthly precipitation increases dramatically in the spring to a peak in May , the wettest month over most of the state , with its frequent and not uncommonly severe thunderstorm activity . Early June can still be wet , but most years see a marked decrease in rainfall during June and early July . Mid @-@ summer (July and August) represents a secondary dry season over much of Oklahoma , with long stretches of hot weather with only sporadic thunderstorm activity not uncommon many years . Severe drought is common in the hottest summers , such as those of 1934 , 1954 , 1980 and 2011 , all of which featured weeks on end of virtual rainlessness and high temperatures well over 100 ° F (38 ° C) . Average precipitation rises again from September to mid @-@ October , representing a secondary wetter season , then declines from late October through December .

All of the state frequently experiences temperatures above 100 ° F (38 ° C) or below 0 ° F (? 18 ° C) , though below @-@ zero temperatures are rare in south @-@ central and southeastern Oklahoma . Snowfall ranges from an average of less than 4 inches (10 cm) in the south to just over 20 inches (51 cm) on the border of Colorado in the panhandle . The state is home to the Storm Prediction Center , the National Severe Storms Laboratory , and the Warning Decision Training Branch , all part of the National Weather Service and located in Norman . Oklahoma 's highest recorded temperature of 120 ° F (49 ° C) was recorded at Tipton on June 27 , 1994 and the lowest recorded temperature of ? 31 ° F (? 35 ° C) was recorded at Nowata on February 10 , 2011 .

= = History = =

Evidence exists that native peoples traveled through Oklahoma as early as the last ice age . Ancestors of the Wichita and Caddo lived in what is now Oklahoma . The Panhandle culture peoples were precontact residents of the panhandle region . The westernmost center of the Mississippian culture was Spiro Mounds , in what is now Spiro , Oklahoma , which flourished between AD 850 and 1450 . Spaniard Francisco Vásquez de Coronado traveled through the state in 1541 , but French explorers claimed the area in the 1700s and it remained under French rule until 1803 , when all the French territory west of the Mississippi River was purchased by the United States in the Louisiana Purchase .

The territory now known as Oklahoma was first a part of the Arkansas Territory from 1819 until 1828 .

During the 19th century , thousands of Native Americans were expelled from their ancestral homelands from across North America and transported to the area including and surrounding present @-@ day Oklahoma . The Choctaw was the first of the Five Civilized Tribes to be removed from the southeastern United States . The phrase " Trail of Tears " originated from a description of the removal of the Choctaw Nation in 1831 , although the term is usually used for the Cherokee removal .

A total of 17 @, @ 000 Cherokees and 2 @, @ 000 of their black slaves were deported . The area , already occupied by Osage and Quapaw tribes , was called for the Choctaw Nation until revised Native American and then later American policy redefined the boundaries to include other Native Americans . By 1890 , more than 30 Native American nations and tribes had been concentrated on land within Indian Territory or " Indian Country " .

All Five Civilized Tribes supported and signed treaties with the Confederate military during the American Civil War . The Cherokee Nation had an internal civil war . Slavery in Indian Territory was not abolished until 1866 .

In the period between 1866 and 1899 , cattle ranches in Texas strove to meet the demands for food in eastern cities and railroads in Kansas promised to deliver in a timely manner . Cattle trails and cattle ranches developed as cowboys either drove their product north or settled illegally in Indian Territory . In 1881 , four of five major cattle trails on the western frontier traveled through Indian Territory .

Increased presence of white settlers in Indian Territory prompted the United States Government to establish the Dawes Act in 1887 , which divided the lands of individual tribes into allotments for

individual families , encouraging farming and private land ownership among Native Americans but expropriating land to the federal government . In the process , railroad companies took nearly half of Indian @-@ held land within the territory for outside settlers and for purchase .

Major land runs , including the Land Run of 1889 , were held for settlers where certain territories were opened to settlement starting at a precise time . Usually land was open to settlers on a first come first served basis . Those who broke the rules by crossing the border into the territory before the official opening time were said to have been crossing the border sooner , leading to the term sooners , which eventually became the state 's official nickname .

Deliberations to make the territory into a state began near the end of the 19th century , when the Curtis Act continued the allotment of Indian tribal land .

= = = 20th and 21st centuries = = =

Attempts to create an all @-@ Indian state named Oklahoma and a later attempt to create an all @-@ Indian state named Sequoyah failed but the Sequoyah Statehood Convention of 1905 eventually laid the groundwork for the Oklahoma Statehood Convention , which took place two years later . On November 16 , 1907 , Oklahoma was established as the 46th state in the Union .

The new state became a focal point for the emerging oil industry , as discoveries of oil pools prompted towns to grow rapidly in population and wealth . Tulsa eventually became known as the " Oil Capital of the World " for most of the 20th century and oil investments fueled much of the state 's early economy . In 1927 , Oklahoman businessman Cyrus Avery , known as the " Father of Route 66 " , began the campaign to create U.S. Route 66 . Using a stretch of highway from Amarillo , Texas to Tulsa , Oklahoma to form the original portion of Highway 66 , Avery spearheaded the creation of the U.S. Highway 66 Association to oversee the planning of Route 66 , based in his hometown of Tulsa .

Oklahoma also has a rich African American history . There were many black towns that thrived in the early 20th century because of black settlers moving from neighboring states , especially Kansas . The politician Edward P. McCabe encouraged black settlers to come to what was then Indian Territory . He discussed with President Theodore Roosevelt the possibility of making Oklahoma a majority @-@ black state .

By the early 20th century , the Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa was one of the most prosperous African @-@ American communities in the United States . Jim Crow laws had established racial segregation since before the start of the 20th century , but the blacks had created a thriving area .

Social tensions were exacerbated by the revival of the Ku Klux Klan after 1915 . The Tulsa Race Riot broke out in 1921 , with whites attacking blacks . In one of the costliest episodes of racial violence in American history , sixteen hours of rioting resulted in 35 city blocks destroyed , \$ 1 @.@ 8 million in property damage , and a death toll estimated to be as high as 300 people . By the late 1920s , the Ku Klux Klan had declined to negligible influence within the state .

During the 1930s , parts of the state began suffering the consequences of poor farming practices , extended drought and high winds . Known as the Dust Bowl , areas of Kansas , Texas , New Mexico and northwestern Oklahoma were hampered by long periods of little rainfall and abnormally high temperatures , sending thousands of farmers into poverty and forcing them to relocate to more fertile areas of the western United States . Over a twenty @-@ year period ending in 1950 , the state saw its only historical decline in population , dropping 6 @.@ 9 percent as impoverished families migrated out of the state after the Dust Bowl .

Soil and water conservation projects markedly changed practices in the state and led to the construction of massive flood control systems and dams ; they built hundreds of reservoirs and man @-@ made lakes to supply water for domestic needs and agricultural irrigation . By the 1960s , Oklahoma had created more than 200 lakes , the most in the nation .

In 1995 , Oklahoma City was the site of one of the most destructive acts of domestic terrorism in American history . The Oklahoma City bombing of April 19 , 1995 , in which Timothy McVeigh detonated a large , crude explosive device outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building , killed 168 people , including 19 children . For his crime , McVeigh was executed by the federal government on

June 11 , 2001 . His accomplice , Terry Nichols , is serving life in prison without parole for helping plan the attack and prepare the explosive .

On May 31 , 2016 , several cities experienced record setting flooding .

= = Demographics = =

The United States Census Bureau estimates that the population of Oklahoma was 3 @, @ 911 @, @ 338 on July 1 , 2015 , a 4 @. @ 26 % increase since the 2010 United States Census .

At the 2010 Census , 68 @. @ 7 % of the population was non @-@ Hispanic White , down from 88 % in 1970 , 7 @. @ 3 % non @-@ Hispanic Black or African American , 8 @. @ 2 % non @-@ Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native , 1 @. @ 7 % non @-@ Hispanic Asian , 0 @. @ 1 % non @-@ Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander , 0 @. @ 1 % from some other race (non @-@ Hispanic) and 5 @. @ 1 % of two or more races (non @-@ Hispanic) . 8 @. @ 9 % of Oklahoma 's population was of Hispanic , Latino , or Spanish origin (they may be of any race) .

As of 2011 , 47 @. @ 3 % of Oklahoma 's population younger than age 1 were minorities , meaning that they had at least one parent who was not non @-@ Hispanic white .

As of 2008 Oklahoma had a population of 3 @, @ 642 @, @ 361 with an estimated 2005 ancestral makeup of 14 @. @ 5 % German , 13 @. @ 1 % American , 11 @. @ 8 % Irish , 9 @. @ 6 % English , 8 @. @ 1 % African American , and 11 @. @ 4 % Native American (including 7 @. @ 9 % Cherokee) though the percentage of people claiming American Indian as their only race was 8 @. @ 1 % . Most people from Oklahoma who self @-@ identify as having American ancestry are of overwhelmingly English ancestry with significant amounts of Scottish and Welsh inflection as well .

The state had the second @-@ highest number of Native Americans in 2002 , estimated at 395 @, @ 219 , as well as the second highest percentage among all states . As of 2006 , 4 @. @ 7 % of Oklahoma 's residents were foreign born , compared to 12 @. @ 4 % for the nation . The center of population of Oklahoma is located in Lincoln County near the town of Sparks .

The state 's 2006 per capita personal income ranked 37th at \$ 32 @, @ 210 , though it has the third fastest @-@ growing per capita income in the nation and ranks consistently among the lowest states in cost of living index . The Oklahoma City suburb Nichols Hills is first on Oklahoma locations by per capita income at \$ 73 @, @ 661 , though Tulsa County holds the highest average . In 2011 , 7 @. @ 0 % of Oklahomans were under the age of 5 , 24 @. @ 7 % under 18 , and 13 @. @ 7 % were 65 or older . Females made up 50 @. @ 5 % of the population .

= = = Language = = =

The English language has been official in the state of Oklahoma since 2010 . The variety of North American English spoken is called Oklahoma English , and this dialect is quite diverse with its uneven blending of features of North Midland , South Midland , and Southern dialects . In 2000 , 2 @, @ 977 @, @ 187 Oklahomans ? 92 @. @ 6 % of the resident population five years or older ? spoke only English at home , a decrease from 95 % in 1990 . 238 @, @ 732 Oklahoma residents reported speaking a language other than English in the 2000 census , about 7 @. @ 4 % of the total population of the state . Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language in the state , with 141 @, @ 060 speakers counted in 2000 . The most commonly spoken native North American language is Cherokee , with 10 @, @ 000 speakers living within the Cherokee Nation tribal jurisdiction area of eastern Oklahoma . Cherokee is an official language in the Cherokee Nation tribal jurisdiction area and in the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians .

German has 13 @, @ 444 speakers representing about 0 @. @ 4 % of the total state population , and Vietnamese is spoken by 11 @, @ 330 people , or about 0 @. @ 4 % of the population , many of whom live in the Asia District of Oklahoma City . Other languages include French with 8 @, @ 258 speakers (0 @. @ 3 %) , Chinese with 6 @, @ 413 (0 @. @ 2 %) , Korean with 3 @, @ 948 (0 @. @ 1 %) , Arabic with 3 @, @ 265 (0 @. @ 1 %) , other Asian languages with 3 @, @ 134 (0 @. @ 1 %) , Tagalog with 2 @, @ 888 (0 @. @ 1 %) , Japanese with 2 @, @ 546 (0 @. @ 1 %) , and African languages with 2 @, @ 546 (0 @. @ 1 %) . In addition to Cherokee , more than 25

Native American languages are spoken in Oklahoma , second only to California (though , it should be noted that only Cherokee exhibits language vitality at present) .

= = = Religion = = =

Oklahoma is part of a geographical region characterized by conservative and Evangelical Christianity known as the " Bible Belt " . Spanning the southern and eastern parts of the United States , the area is known for politically and socially conservative views , even though Oklahoma has more voters registered with the Democratic Party than with any other party . Tulsa , the state 's second largest city , home to Oral Roberts University , is sometimes called the " buckle of the Bible Belt " . According to the Pew Research Center , the majority of Oklahoma 's religious adherents are Christian , accounting for about 80 percent of the population . The percentage of Oklahomans affiliated with Catholicism is half of the national average , while the percentage affiliated with Evangelical Protestantism is more than twice the national average ? tied with Arkansas for the largest percentage of any state .

In 2010 , the state 's largest church memberships were in the Southern Baptist Convention (886 @, @ 394 members) , the United Methodist Church (282 @, @ 347) , the Roman Catholic Church (178 @, @ 430) , and the Assemblies of God (85 @, @ 926) . Other religions represented in the state include Buddhism , Hinduism , and Islam .

In 2000 , there were about 5 @, @ 000 Jews and 6 @, @ 000 Muslims , with 10 congregations to each group .

Oklahoma religious makeup :

Evangelical Protestant ? 53 %

Mainline Protestant ? 16 %

Roman Catholic ? 13 %

Other ? 6 %

Unaffiliated ? 12 %

= = Economy = =

Oklahoma is host to a diverse range of sectors including aviation , energy , transportation equipment , food processing , electronics , and telecommunications . Oklahoma is an important producer of natural gas , aircraft , and food . The state ranks third in the nation for production of natural gas , is the 27th @-@ most agriculturally productive state , and also ranks 5th in production of wheat . Four Fortune 500 companies and six Fortune 1000 companies are headquartered in Oklahoma , and it has been rated one of the most business @-@ friendly states in the nation , with the 7th @-@ lowest tax burden in 2007 .

In 2010 , Oklahoma City @-@ based Love 's Travel Stops & Country Stores ranked 18th on the Forbes list of largest private companies , Tulsa @-@ based QuikTrip ranked 37th , and Oklahoma City @-@ based Hobby Lobby ranked 198th in 2010 report . Oklahoma 's gross domestic product grew from \$ 131 @. @ 9 billion in 2006 to \$ 147 @. @ 5 billion in 2010 , a jump of 10 @. @ 6 percent . Oklahoma 's gross domestic product per capita was \$ 35 @, @ 480 in 2010 , which was ranked 40th among the states .

Though oil has historically dominated the state 's economy , a collapse in the energy industry during the 1980s led to the loss of nearly 90 @, @ 000 energy @-@ related jobs between 1980 and 2000 , severely damaging the local economy . Oil accounted for 35 billion dollars in Oklahoma 's economy in 2007 , and employment in the state 's oil industry was outpaced by five other industries in 2007 . As of September 2015 , the state 's unemployment rate is 4 @. @ 4 % .

= = = Industry = = =

In mid @-@ 2011 , Oklahoma had a civilian labor force of 1 @. @ 7 million and total non @-@ farm employment fluctuated around 1 @. @ 5 million . The government sector provides the most jobs ,

with 339 @, @ 300 in 2011 , followed by the transportation and utilities sector , providing 279 @, @ 500 jobs , and the sectors of education , business , and manufacturing , providing 207 @, @ 800 , 177 @, @ 400 , and 132 @, @ 700 jobs , respectively . Among the state 's largest industries , the aerospace sector generates \$ 11 billion annually .

Tulsa is home to the largest airline maintenance base in the world , which serves as the global maintenance and engineering headquarters for American Airlines . In total , aerospace accounts for more than 10 percent of Oklahoma 's industrial output , and it is one of the top 10 states in aerospace engine manufacturing . Because of its position in the center of the United States , Oklahoma is also among the top states for logistic centers , and a major contributor to weather @-@ related research .

The state is the top manufacturer of tires in North America and contains one of the fastest @-@ growing biotechnology industries in the nation . In 2005 , international exports from Oklahoma 's manufacturing industry totaled \$ 4 @. @ 3 billion , accounting for 3 @. @ 6 percent of its economic impact . Tire manufacturing , meat processing , oil and gas equipment manufacturing , and air conditioner manufacturing are the state 's largest manufacturing industries .

= = = Energy = = =

Oklahoma is the nation 's third @-@ largest producer of natural gas , fifth @-@ largest producer of crude oil , and has the second @-@ greatest number of active drilling rigs , and ranks fifth in crude oil reserves . While the state ranked eighth for installed wind energy capacity in 2011 , it is at the bottom of states in usage of renewable energy , with 94 percent of its electricity being generated by non @-@ renewable sources in 2009 , including 25 percent from coal and 46 percent from natural gas . Oklahoma has no nuclear power . Ranking 13th for total energy consumption per capita in 2009 , Oklahoma 's energy costs were 8th lowest in the nation .

As a whole , the oil energy industry contributes \$ 35 billion to Oklahoma 's gross domestic product , and employees of Oklahoma oil @-@ related companies earn an average of twice the state 's typical yearly income . In 2009 , the state had 83 @, @ 700 commercial oil wells churning 65 @. @ 374 million barrels (10 @, @ 393 @, @ 600 m3) of crude oil . Eight and a half percent of the nation 's natural gas supply is held in Oklahoma , with 1 @. @ 673 trillion cubic feet (47 @. @ 4 km3) being produced in 2009 .

According to Forbes magazine , Oklahoma City @-@ based Devon Energy Corporation , Chesapeake Energy Corporation , and SandRidge Energy Corporation are the largest private oil @-@ related companies in the nation , and all of Oklahoma 's Fortune 500 companies are energy @-@ related . Tulsa 's ONEOK and Williams Companies are the state 's largest and second @-@ largest companies respectively , also ranking as the nation 's second and third @-@ largest companies in the field of energy , according to Fortune magazine . The magazine also placed Devon Energy as the second @-@ largest company in the mining and crude oil @-@ producing industry in the nation , while Chesapeake Energy ranks seventh respectively in that sector and Oklahoma Gas & Electric ranks as the 25th @-@ largest gas and electric utility company .

Oklahoma Gas & Electric , commonly referred to as OG & E (NYSE : OGE) operates four base electric power plants in Oklahoma . Two of them are coal @-@ fired power plants : one in Muskogee , and the other in Redrock . Two are gas @-@ fired power plants : one in Harrah and the other in Konawa . OG & E was the first electric company in Oklahoma to generate electricity from wind farms in 2003 .

= = = Wind generation = = =

Source :

= = = Agriculture = = =

The 27th @-@ most agriculturally productive state , Oklahoma is fifth in cattle production and fifth in

production of wheat . Approximately 5 % 5 percent of American beef comes from Oklahoma , while the state produces 6 % 1 percent of American wheat , 4 % 2 percent of American pig products , and 2 % 2 percent of dairy products .

The state had 85 , 500 farms in 2012 , collectively producing \$ 4 . 3 billion in animal products and fewer than one billion dollars in crop output with more than \$ 6 . 1 billion added to the state 's gross domestic product . Poultry and swine are its second and third - largest agricultural industries .

= = Culture = =

Oklahoma is placed in the South by the United States Census Bureau , but lies fully or partially in the Midwest , Southwest , and southern cultural regions by varying definitions , and partially in the Upland South and Great Plains by definitions of abstract geographical - cultural regions . Oklahomans have a high rate of English , Scotch - Irish , German , and Native American ancestry , with 25 different native languages spoken .

Because many Native Americans were forced to move to Oklahoma when White settlement in North America increased , Oklahoma has much linguistic diversity . Mary Linn , an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Oklahoma and the associate curator of Native American languages at the Sam Noble Museum , notes that Oklahoma also has high levels of language endangerment .

Six governments have claimed the area now known as Oklahoma at different times , and 67 Native American tribes are represented in Oklahoma , including 39 federally recognized tribes , who are headquartered and have tribal jurisdictional areas in the state . Western ranchers , Native American tribes , southern settlers , and eastern oil barons have shaped the state 's cultural predisposition , and its largest cities have been named among the most underrated cultural destinations in the United States .

Residents of Oklahoma are associated with traits of southern hospitality ? the 2006 Catalogue for Philanthropy (with data from 2004) ranks Oklahomans 7th in the nation for overall generosity . The state has also been associated with a negative cultural stereotype first popularized by John Steinbeck 's novel *The Grapes of Wrath* , which described the plight of uneducated , poverty - stricken Dust Bowl - era farmers deemed " Okies " . However , the term is often used in a positive manner by Oklahomans .

= = = Arts and theater = = =

In the state 's largest urban areas , pockets of jazz culture flourish , and Native American , Mexican American , and Asian American communities produce music and art of their respective cultures . The Oklahoma Mozart Festival in Bartlesville is one of the largest classical music festivals on the southern plains , and Oklahoma City 's Festival of the Arts has been named one of the top fine arts festivals in the nation .

The state has a rich history in ballet with five Native American ballerinas attaining worldwide fame . These were Yvonne Chouteau , sisters Marjorie and Maria Tallchief , Rosella Hightower and Moscelyne Larkin , known collectively as the Five Moons . The New York Times rates the Tulsa Ballet as one of the top ballet companies in the United States . The Oklahoma City Ballet and University of Oklahoma 's dance program were formed by ballerina Yvonne Chouteau and husband Miguel Terekhov . The University program was founded in 1962 and was the first fully accredited program of its kind in the United States .

In Sand Springs , an outdoor amphitheater called " Discoveryland ! " is the official performance headquarters for the musical *Oklahoma !* Ridge Bond , native of McAlester , Oklahoma , starred in the Broadway and International touring productions of *Oklahoma !* , playing the role of " Curly McClain " in more than 2 , 600 performances . In 1953 he was featured along with the *Oklahoma !* cast on a CBS Omnibus television broadcast . Bond was instrumental in the title song becoming the Oklahoma state song and is also featured on the U.S. postage stamp commemorating

the musical 's 50th anniversary . Historically , the state has produced musical styles such as The Tulsa Sound and western swing , which was popularized at Cain 's Ballroom in Tulsa . The building , known as the " Carnegie Hall of Western Swing " , served as the performance headquarters of Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys during the 1930s . Stillwater is known as the epicenter of Red Dirt music , the best @-@ known proponent of which is the late Bob Childers .

Prominent theatre companies in Oklahoma include , in the capital city , Oklahoma City Theatre Company , Carpenter Square Theatre , Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park , and CityRep . CityRep is a professional company affording equity points to those performers and technical theatre professionals . In Tulsa , Oklahoma 's oldest resident professional company is American Theatre Company , and Theatre Tulsa is the oldest community theatre company west of the Mississippi . Other companies in Tulsa include Heller Theatre and Tulsa Spotlight Theater . The cities of Norman , Lawton , and Stillwater , among others , also host well @-@ reviewed community theatre companies .

Oklahoma is in the nation 's middle percentile in per capita spending on the arts , ranking 17th , and contains more than 300 museums . The Philbrook Museum of Tulsa is considered one of the top 50 fine art museums in the United States , and the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman , one of the largest university @-@ based art and history museums in the country , documents the natural history of the region . The collections of Thomas Gilcrease are housed in the Gilcrease Museum of Tulsa , which also holds the world 's largest , most comprehensive collection of art and artifacts of the American West .

The Egyptian art collection at the Mabey @-@ Gerrer Museum of Art in Shawnee is considered to be the finest Egyptian collection between Chicago and Los Angeles . The Oklahoma City Museum of Art contains the most comprehensive collection of glass sculptures by artist Dale Chihuly in the world , and Oklahoma City 's National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum documents the heritage of the American Western frontier . With remnants of the Holocaust and artifacts relevant to Judaism , the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art of Tulsa preserves the largest collection of Jewish art in the Southwest United States .

= = = Festivals and events = = =

Oklahoma 's centennial celebration was named the top event in the United States for 2007 by the American Bus Association , and consisted of multiple celebrations saving with the 100th anniversary of statehood on November 16 , 2007 . Annual ethnic festivals and events take place throughout the state such as Native American powwows and ceremonial events , and include festivals (as examples) in Scottish , Irish , German , Italian , Vietnamese , Chinese , Czech , Jewish , Arab , Mexican and African @-@ American communities depicting cultural heritage or traditions .

During a 10 @-@ day run in Oklahoma City , the State Fair of Oklahoma attracts roughly one million people along with the annual Festival of the Arts . Large national pow @-@ wows , various Latin and Asian heritage festivals , and cultural festivals such as the Juneteenth celebrations are held in Oklahoma City each year . The Tulsa State Fair attracts over one million people during its 10 @-@ day run , and the city 's Mayfest festival entertained more than 375 @,@ 000 people in four days during 2007 . In 2006 , Tulsa 's Oktoberfest was named one of the top 10 in the world by USA Today and one of the top German food festivals in the nation by Bon Appetit magazine .

Norman plays host to the Norman Music Festival , a festival that highlights native Oklahoma bands and musicians . Norman is also host to the Medieval Fair of Norman , which has been held annually since 1976 and was Oklahoma 's first medieval fair . The Fair was held first on the south oval of the University of Oklahoma campus and in the third year moved to the Duck Pond in Norman until the Fair became too big and moved to Reaves Park in 2003 . The Medieval Fair of Norman is Oklahoma 's " largest weekend event and the third largest event in Oklahoma , and was selected by Events Media Network as one of the top 100 events in the nation " .

= = Education = =

With an educational system made up of public school districts and independent private institutions , Oklahoma had 638 @, @ 817 students enrolled in 1 @, @ 845 public primary , secondary , and vocational schools in 533 school districts as of 2008 . Oklahoma has the highest enrollment of Native American students in the nation with 126 @, @ 078 students in the 2009 @-@ 10 school year . Ranked near the bottom of states in expenditures per student , Oklahoma spent \$ 7 @, @ 755 for each student in 2008 , 47th in the nation , though its growth of total education expenditures between 1992 and 2002 ranked 22nd .

The state is among the best in pre @-@ kindergarten education , and the National Institute for Early Education Research rated it first in the United States with regard to standards , quality , and access to pre @-@ kindergarten education in 2004 , calling it a model for early childhood schooling . High school dropout rate decreased from 3 @. @ 1 to 2 @. @ 5 percent between 2007 and 2008 with Oklahoma ranked among 18 other states with 3 percent or less dropout rate . In 2004 , the state ranked 36th in the nation for the relative number of adults with high school diplomas , though at 85 @. @ 2 percent , it had the highest rate among southern states .

Oklahoma State University , the University of Oklahoma , the University of Central Oklahoma , and Northeastern State University are the largest public institutions of higher education in Oklahoma , operating through one primary campus and satellite campuses throughout the state . The two state universities , along with Oklahoma City University and the University of Tulsa , rank among the country 's best in undergraduate business programs .

Oklahoma City University School of Law , University of Oklahoma College of Law , and University of Tulsa College of Law are the state 's only ABA accredited institutions . Both University of Oklahoma and University of Tulsa are Tier 1 institutions , with the University of Oklahoma ranked 68th and the University of Tulsa ranked 86th in the nation .

Oklahoma holds eleven public regional universities , including Northeastern State University , the second @-@ oldest institution of higher education west of the Mississippi River , also containing the only College of Optometry in Oklahoma and the largest enrollment of Native American students in the nation by percentage and amount . Langston University is Oklahoma 's only historically black college . Six of the state 's universities were placed in the Princeton Review 's list of best 122 regional colleges in 2007 , and three made the list of top colleges for best value . The state has 55 post @-@ secondary technical institutions operated by Oklahoma 's CareerTech program for training in specific fields of industry or trade .

In the 2007 ? 2008 school year , there were 181 @, @ 973 undergraduate students , 20 @, @ 014 graduate students , and 4 @, @ 395 first @-@ professional degree students enrolled in Oklahoma colleges . Of these students , 18 @, @ 892 received a bachelor 's degree , 5 @, @ 386 received a master 's degree , and 462 received a first professional degree . This means the state of Oklahoma produces an average of 38 @, @ 278 degree @-@ holders per completions component (i.e. July 1 , 2007 ? June 30 , 2008) . National average is 68 @, @ 322 total degrees awarded per completions component .

= = = Non @-@ English Education = = =

The Cherokee Nation instigated a 10 @-@ year language preservation plan that involved growing new fluent speakers of the Cherokee language from childhood on up through school immersion programs as well as a collaborative community effort to continue to use the language at home . This plan was part of an ambitious goal that in 50 years , 80 % or more of the Cherokee people will be fluent in the language . The Cherokee Preservation Foundation has invested \$ 3 million into opening schools , training teachers , and developing curricula for language education , as well as initiating community gatherings where the language can be actively used . There is a Cherokee language immersion school in Tahlequah , Oklahoma that educates students from pre @-@ school through eighth grade . Graduates are fluent speakers of the language . Several universities offer Cherokee as a second language , including the University of Oklahoma and Northeastern State University .

= = Sports = =

Oklahoma has teams in basketball , football , arena football , baseball , soccer , hockey , and wrestling located in Oklahoma City , Tulsa , Enid , Norman , and Lawton . The Oklahoma City Thunder of the National Basketball Association (NBA) is the state 's only major league sports franchise . The state had a team in the Women 's National Basketball Association , the Tulsa Shock , from 2010 through 2015 , but the team relocated to Dallas ? Fort Worth after that season and became the Dallas Wings . Oklahoma supports teams in several minor leagues , including Minor League Baseball at the AAA and AA levels (Oklahoma City Dodgers and Tulsa Drillers , respectively) , hockey 's ECHL with the Tulsa Oilers , and a number of indoor football leagues . In the last @-@ named sport , the state 's most notable team was the Tulsa Talons , which played in the Arena Football League until 2012 , when the team was moved to San Antonio . The Oklahoma Defenders replaced the Talons as Tulsa 's only professional arena football team , playing the CPIFL . The Oklahoma City Blue , of the NBA Development League , relocated to Oklahoma City from Tulsa in 2014 , where they were formerly known as the Tulsa 66ers . Tulsa is the base for the Tulsa Revolution , which plays in the American Indoor Soccer League . Enid and Lawton host professional basketball teams in the USBL and the CBA .

The NBA 's New Orleans Hornets became the first major league sports franchise based in Oklahoma when the team was forced to relocate to Oklahoma City 's Ford Center , now known as Chesapeake Energy Arena , for two seasons following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 . In July 2008 , the Seattle SuperSonics , a franchise owned by the Professional Basketball Club LLC , a group of Oklahoma City businessmen led by Clay Bennett , relocated to Oklahoma City and announced that play would begin at the Ford Center as the Oklahoma City Thunder for the 2008 ? 09 season , becoming the state 's first permanent major league franchise .

Collegiate athletics are a popular draw in the state . The state has four schools that compete at the highest level of college sports , NCAA Division I. The most prominent are the state 's two members of the Big 12 Conference , one of the so @-@ called Power Five conferences of the top tier of college football , Division I FBS . The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University average well over 50 @,@ 000 fans attending their football games , and Oklahoma 's football program ranked 12th in attendance among American colleges in 2010 , with an average of 84 @,@ 738 people attending its home games . The two universities meet several times each year in rivalry matches known as the Bedlam Series , which are some of the greatest sporting draws to the state . Sports Illustrated magazine rates Oklahoma and Oklahoma State among the top colleges for athletics in the nation . Two private institutions in Tulsa , the University of Tulsa and Oral Roberts University ; are also Division I members . Tulsa competes in FBS football and other sports in the American Athletic Conference , while Oral Roberts , which does not sponsor football , is a member of The Summit League . In addition , 12 of the state 's smaller colleges and universities compete in NCAA Division II as members of four different conferences , and eight other Oklahoma institutions participate in the NAIA , mostly within the Sooner Athletic Conference .

Regular LPGA tournaments are held at Cedar Ridge Country Club in Tulsa , and major championships for the PGA or LPGA have been played at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa , Oak Tree Country Club in Oklahoma City , and Cedar Ridge Country Club in Tulsa . Rated one of the top golf courses in the nation , Southern Hills has hosted four PGA Championships , including one in 2007 , and three U.S. Opens , the most recent in 2001 . Rodeos are popular throughout the state , and Guymon , in the state 's panhandle , hosts one of the largest in the nation .

= = = Current teams = = =

= = Health = =

Oklahoma was the 21st @-@ largest recipient of medical funding from the federal government in 2005 , with health @-@ related federal expenditures in the state totaling \$ 75 @,@ 801 @,@ 364 ; immunizations , bioterrorism preparedness , and health education were the top three most funded

medical items . Instances of major diseases are near the national average in Oklahoma , and the state ranks at or slightly above the rest of the country in percentage of people with asthma , diabetes , cancer , and hypertension .

In 2000 , Oklahoma ranked 45th in physicians per capita and slightly below the national average in nurses per capita , but was slightly over the national average in hospital beds per 100 @,@ 000 people and above the national average in net growth of health services over a 12 @-@ year period . One of the worst states for percentage of insured people , nearly 25 percent of Oklahomans between the age of 18 and 64 did not have health insurance in 2005 , the fifth @-@ highest rate in the nation .

Oklahomans are in the upper half of Americans in terms of obesity prevalence , and the state is the 5th most obese in the nation , with 30 @.@ 3 percent of its population at or near obesity . Oklahoma ranked last among the 50 states in a 2007 study by the Commonwealth Fund on health care performance .

The OU Medical Center , Oklahoma 's largest collection of hospitals , is the only hospital in the state designated a Level I trauma center by the American College of Surgeons . OU Medical Center is located on the grounds of the Oklahoma Health Center in Oklahoma City , the state 's largest concentration of medical research facilities .

The Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Southwestern Regional Medical Center in Tulsa is one of four such regional facilities nationwide , offering cancer treatment to the entire southwestern United States , and is one of the largest cancer treatment hospitals in the country . The largest osteopathic teaching facility in the nation , Oklahoma State University Medical Center at Tulsa , also rates as one of the largest facilities in the field of neuroscience .

= = Media = =

Oklahoma City and Tulsa are the 45th and 61st @-@ largest media markets in the United States as ranked by Nielsen Media Research . The state 's third @-@ largest media market , Lawton @-@ Wichita Falls , Texas , is ranked 149th nationally by the agency . Broadcast television in Oklahoma began in 1949 when KFOR @-@ TV (then WKY @-@ TV) in Oklahoma City and KOTV @-@ TV in Tulsa began broadcasting a few months apart . Currently , all major American broadcast networks have affiliated television stations in the state .

The state has two primary newspapers . The Oklahoman , based in Oklahoma City , is the largest newspaper in the state and 54th @-@ largest in the nation by circulation , with a weekday readership of 138 @,@ 493 and a Sunday readership of 202 @,@ 690 . The Tulsa World , the second most widely circulated newspaper in Oklahoma and 79th in the nation , holds a Sunday circulation of 132 @,@ 969 and a weekday readership of 93 @,@ 558 . Oklahoma 's first newspaper was established in 1844 , called the Cherokee Advocate , and was written in both Cherokee and English . In 2006 , there were more than 220 newspapers located in the state , including 177 with weekly publications and 48 with daily publications .

The state 's first radio station , WKY in Oklahoma City , signed on in 1920 , followed by KRFU in Bristow , which later on moved to Tulsa and became KVOO in 1927 . In 2006 , there were more than 500 radio stations in Oklahoma broadcasting with various local or nationally owned networks . Five universities in Oklahoma operate non @-@ commercial , public radio stations / networks .

Oklahoma has a few ethnic @-@ oriented TV stations broadcasting in Spanish , Asian languages and sometimes have Native American programming . TBN , a Christian religious television network has a studio in Tulsa , and built their first entirely TBN @-@ owned affiliate in Oklahoma City in 1980 .

= = Transportation = =

Transportation in Oklahoma is generated by an anchor system of Interstate Highways , intercity rail lines , airports , inland ports , and mass transit networks . Situated along an integral point in the United States Interstate network , Oklahoma contains three interstate highways and four auxiliary

Interstate Highways . In Oklahoma City , Interstate 35 intersects with Interstate 44 and Interstate 40 , forming one of the most important intersections along the United States highway system .

More than 12 @, @ 000 miles (19 @, @ 000 km) of roads make up the state 's major highway skeleton , including state @-@ operated highways , ten turnpikes or major toll roads , and the longest drivable stretch of Route 66 in the nation . In 2008 , Interstate 44 in Oklahoma City was Oklahoma 's busiest highway , with a daily traffic volume of 123 @, @ 300 cars . In 2010 , the state had the nation 's third highest number of bridges classified as structurally deficient , with nearly 5 @, @ 212 bridges in disrepair , including 235 National Highway System Bridges .

Oklahoma 's largest commercial airport is Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City , averaging a yearly passenger count of more than 3 @. @ 5 million (1 @. @ 7 million boardings) in 2010 . Tulsa International Airport , the state 's second largest commercial airport , served more than 1 @. @ 3 million boardings in 2010 . Between the two , six airlines operate in Oklahoma . In terms of traffic , R. L. Jones Jr . (Riverside) Airport in Tulsa is the state 's busiest airport , with 335 @, @ 826 takeoffs and landings in 2008 . In total , Oklahoma has over 150 public @-@ use airports .

Oklahoma is connected to the nation 's rail network via Amtrak 's Heartland Flyer , its only regional passenger rail line . It currently stretches from Oklahoma City to Fort Worth , Texas , though lawmakers began seeking funding in early 2007 to connect the Heartland Flyer to Tulsa .

Two inland ports on rivers serve Oklahoma : the Port of Muskogee and the Tulsa Port of Catoosa . The only port handling international cargo in the state , the Tulsa Port of Catoosa is the most inland ocean @-@ going port in the nation and ships over two million tons of cargo each year . Both ports are located on the McClellan @-@ Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System , which connects barge traffic from Tulsa and Muskogee to the Mississippi River via the Verdigris and Arkansas rivers , contributing to one of the busiest waterways in the world .

= = Law and government = =

Oklahoma is a constitutional republic with a government modeled after the Federal Government of the United States , with executive , legislative , and judicial branches . The state has 77 counties with jurisdiction over most local government functions within each respective domain , five congressional districts , and a voting base with a plurality in the Democratic Party . State officials are elected by plurality voting in the state of Oklahoma .

Oklahoma is one of 32 states with capital punishment as a legal sentence , and the state has had (between 1976 through mid @-@ 2011) the highest per capita execution rate in the US .

= = = State government = = =

The Legislature of Oklahoma consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives . As the lawmaking branch of the state government , it is responsible for raising and distributing the money necessary to run the government . The Senate has 48 members serving four @-@ year terms , while the House has 101 members with two @-@ year terms . The state has a term limit for its legislature that restricts any one person to a total of twelve cumulative years service between both legislative branches .

Oklahoma 's judicial branch consists of the Oklahoma Supreme Court , the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals , and 77 District Courts that each serves one county . The Oklahoma judiciary also contains two independent courts : a Court of Impeachment and the Oklahoma Court on the Judiciary . Oklahoma has two courts of last resort : the state Supreme Court hears civil cases , and the state Court of Criminal Appeals hears criminal cases (this split system exists only in Oklahoma and neighboring Texas) . Judges of those two courts , as well as the Court of Civil Appeals are appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the state Judicial Nominating Commission , and are subject to a non @-@ partisan retention vote on a six @-@ year rotating schedule .

The executive branch consists of the Governor , their staff , and other elected officials . The principal head of government , the Governor is the chief executive of the Oklahoma executive branch , serving as the ex officio Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief of the Oklahoma National Guard

when not called into Federal use and reserving the power to veto bills passed through the Legislature . The responsibilities of the Executive branch include submitting the budget , ensuring that state laws are enforced , and ensuring peace within the state is preserved .

= = = Local government = = =

The state is divided into 77 counties that govern locally , each headed by a three @-@ member council of elected commissioners , a tax assessor , clerk , court clerk , treasurer , and sheriff . While each municipality operates as a separate and independent local government with executive , legislative and judicial power , county governments maintain jurisdiction over both incorporated cities and non @-@ incorporated areas within their boundaries , but have executive power but no legislative or judicial power . Both county and municipal governments collect taxes , employ a separate police force , hold elections , and operate emergency response services within their jurisdiction . Other local government units include school districts , technology center districts , community college districts , rural fire departments , rural water districts , and other special use districts .

Thirty @-@ nine Native American tribal governments are based in Oklahoma , each holding limited powers within designated areas . While Indian reservations typical in most of the United States are not present in Oklahoma , tribal governments hold land granted during the Indian Territory era , but with limited jurisdiction and no control over state governing bodies such as municipalities and counties . Tribal governments are recognized by the United States as quasi @-@ sovereign entities with executive , judicial , and legislative powers over tribal members and functions , but are subject to the authority of the United States Congress to revoke or withhold certain powers . The tribal governments are required to submit a constitution and any subsequent amendments to the United States Congress for approval .

Oklahoma has 11 substate districts including the two large Councils of Governments , INCOG in Tulsa (Indian Nations Council of Governments) and ACOG (Association of Central Oklahoma Governments) . For a complete list visit the Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils .

= = = National politics = = =

Oklahoma has been politically conservative for much of its history , especially recently . During the first half century of statehood , it was considered a Democratic stronghold , being carried by the Republican Party in only two presidential elections (1920 and 1928) . During this time , it was also carried by every winning Democratic candidate up to Harry Truman . However , Oklahoma Democrats were generally considered to be more conservative than Democrats in other states .

After the 1948 election , the state turned firmly Republican . Although registered Republicans were a minority in the state until 2015 , starting in 1952 , Oklahoma has been carried by Republican presidential candidates in all but one election (1964) . This is not to say that every election has been a landslide for Republicans : Jimmy Carter lost the state by less than 1 @.@ 5 % in 1976 , while Michael Dukakis and Bill Clinton both won 40 % or more of the state 's popular vote in 1988 and 1996 respectively . Al Gore in 2000 , though , was the last Democrat to even win any counties in the state . Oklahoma was the only state where Barack Obama failed to carry any of its counties in both 2008 and 2012 .

Generally , Republicans are strongest in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and their suburbs , as well as the Panhandle . Democrats are strongest in the eastern part of the state and Little Dixie , as well as the most heavily African American parts of Oklahoma City and Tulsa . With a population of 8 @.@ 6 % Native American in the state , it is also worth noting that most Native American precincts vote Democratic in margins exceeded only by African Americans .

Following the 2000 census , the Oklahoma delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives was reduced from six to five representatives , each serving one congressional district . For the 112th Congress (2011 ? 2013) , there were no changes in party strength , and the delegation included four Republicans and one Democrat . In the 112th Congress , Oklahoma 's U.S. senators were

Republicans Jim Inhofe and Tom Coburn , and its U.S. Representatives were John Sullivan (R @-@ OK @-@ 1) , Dan Boren (D @-@ OK @-@ 2) , Frank D. Lucas (R @-@ OK @-@ 3) , Tom Cole (R @-@ OK @-@ 4) , and James Lankford (R @-@ OK @-@ 5) .

In 2012 , Dan Boren (D @-@ OK @-@ 2) retired from Congress , therefore making the seat vacant . This district , which covers most of Little Dixie , is the Democrats ' best region of the state , and has been represented by a Democrat for a dozen years . Republican Markwayne Mullin won the election , making the state 's congressional delegation entirely Republican .

= = = Military = = =

= = Cities and towns = =

= = = Major cities = = =

Oklahoma had 598 incorporated places in 2010 , including four cities over 100 @,@ 000 in population and 43 over 10 @,@ 000 . Two of the fifty largest cities in the United States are located in Oklahoma , Oklahoma City and Tulsa , and 65 percent of Oklahomans live within their metropolitan areas , or spheres of economic and social influence defined by the United States Census Bureau as a metropolitan statistical area . Oklahoma City , the state 's capital and largest city , had the largest metropolitan area in the state in 2010 , with 1 @,@ 252 @,@ 987 people , and the metropolitan area of Tulsa had 937 @,@ 478 residents . Between 2000 and 2010 , the cities that led the state in population growth were Blanchard (172 @.@ 4 %) , Elgin (78 @.@ 2 %) , Jenks (77 @.@ 0 %) , Piedmont (56 @.@ 7 %) , Bixby (56 @.@ 6 %) , and Owasso (56 @.@ 3 %) .

In descending order of population , Oklahoma 's largest cities in 2010 were : Oklahoma City (579 @,@ 999 , + 14 @.@ 6 %) , Tulsa (391 @,@ 906 , ? 0 @.@ 3 %) , Norman (110 @,@ 925 , + 15 @.@ 9 %) , Broken Arrow (98 @,@ 850 , + 32 @.@ 0 %) , Lawton (96 @,@ 867 , + 4 @.@ 4 %) , Edmond (81 @,@ 405 , + 19 @.@ 2 %) , Moore (55 @,@ 081 , + 33 @.@ 9 %) , Midwest City (54 @,@ 371 , + 0 @.@ 5 %) , Enid (49 @,@ 379 , + 5 @.@ 0 %) , and Stillwater (45 @,@ 688 , + 17 @.@ 0 %) . Of the state 's ten largest cities , three are outside the metropolitan areas of Oklahoma City and Tulsa , and only Lawton has a metropolitan statistical area of its own as designated by the United States Census Bureau , though the metropolitan statistical area of Fort Smith , Arkansas extends into the state .

Under Oklahoma law , municipalities are divided into two categories : cities , defined as having more than 1 @,@ 000 residents , and towns , with under 1 @,@ 000 residents . Both have legislative , judicial , and public power within their boundaries , but cities can choose between a mayor @-@ council , council @-@ manager , or strong mayor form of government , while towns operate through an elected officer system .

= = State symbols = =

State law codifies Oklahoma 's state emblems and honorary positions ; the Oklahoma Senate or House of Representatives may adopt resolutions designating others for special events and to benefit organizations . Currently the State Senate is waiting to vote on a change to the state 's motto . The House passed HCR 1024 , which will change the state motto from " Labor Omnia Vincit " to " Oklahoma @-@ In God We Trust ! " The author of the resolution stated that a constituent researched the Oklahoma Constitution and found no " official " vote regarding " Labor Omnia Vincit " , therefore opening the door for an entirely new motto .

State symbols :

State cartoon : Gusty Created by Don Woods , Oklahoma 's first professional meteorologist , used on KTUL @-@ TV from 1954 @-@ 1989 .

State bird : Scissor @-@ tailed flycatcher

State tree : Eastern redbud

State mammal : American bison

State beverage : Milk

State fruit : Strawberry

State vegetable : Watermelon

State game bird : Wild turkey

State fish : Sand bass

State floral emblem : Mistletoe

State flower : Oklahoma rose

State wildflower : Indian blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)

State grass : Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

State fossil : *Saurophaganax maximus*

State rock : Rose rock

State insect : Honeybee

State soil : Port Silt Loam

State reptile : Collared lizard

State amphibian : Bullfrog

State meal : Fried okra , squash , cornbread , barbecue pork , biscuits , sausage and gravy , grits , corn , strawberries , chicken fried steak , pecan pie , and black @-@ eyed peas .

State folk dance : Square dance

State percussive instrument : Drum

State waltz : " Oklahoma Wind "

State butterfly : Black swallowtail

State song : " Oklahoma ! "

State language : English ; Cherokee and other Native American languages

State gospel song : " Swing Low , Sweet Chariot "

State rock song : " Do You Realize ? ? " by The Flaming Lips