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**Cincinnati** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell)) is a city in the [U.S. state](/wiki/U.S._state) of [Ohio](/wiki/Ohio) that serves as [county seat](/wiki/County_seat) of [Hamilton County](/wiki/Hamilton_County,_Ohio).[[1]](#cite_note-1) Settled in 1788, the city is located on the north side of the confluence of the [Licking](/wiki/Licking_River_(Kentucky)) with the [Ohio River](/wiki/Ohio_River). The latter forms the border between the states of Ohio and [Kentucky](/wiki/Kentucky).[[2]](#cite_note-2) Cincinnati is the third-largest city in Ohio and the 65th-largest city in the United States with a population of 298,165 people (2014), making it the 28th-largest [Metropolitan Statistical Area](/wiki/Metropolitan_Statistical_Area) (MSA) in the United States and the largest centered in Ohio. The city is also part of the larger Cincinnati–Middletown–Wilmington [Combined Statistical Area](/wiki/Combined_Statistical_Area) (CSA), which had a population of 2,172,191 in the 2010 census.[[3]](#cite_note-3) In the early 19th century, Cincinnati was an American [boomtown](/wiki/Boomtown) in the heart of the country; it rivaled the larger coastal cities in size and wealth. Throughout much of the 19th century, it was listed among the top 10 U.S. cities by population, surpassed only by [New Orleans](/wiki/New_Orleans) and the older, established settlements of the Eastern Seaboard; at one point holding the position of [sixth-largest city](/wiki/Largest_cities_in_the_United_States_by_population_by_decade#1840) for a period spanning consecutive census reports from 1840 until 1860. It was by far the largest city in the west. Because it is the first major American city founded after the [American Revolution](/wiki/American_Revolution) as well as the first major inland city in the country, Cincinnati is sometimes thought of as the first purely "American" city.[[4]](#cite_note-4) Cincinnati developed with less European immigration or influence than eastern cities attracted in the same period; however, it received a significant number of German immigrants, who founded many of the city's cultural institutions. By the end of the 19th century, with the shift from steamboats to railroads drawing off freight shipping, trade patterns had altered and Cincinnati's growth slowed considerably. The city was surpassed in population by other inland cities, particularly Chicago, which developed based on commodity exploitation and the railroads, and [St. Louis](/wiki/St._Louis), for decades after the Civil War the gateway to westward migration.

Cincinnati is home to two major sports teams, the [Cincinnati Reds](/wiki/Cincinnati_Reds), the oldest franchise in [Major League Baseball](/wiki/Major_League_Baseball), and the [Cincinnati Bengals](/wiki/Cincinnati_Bengals) of the [National Football League](/wiki/National_Football_League). The [University of Cincinnati](/wiki/University_of_Cincinnati), founded in 1819, is one of the 50 largest in the United States.[[5]](#cite_note-5) Cincinnati is known for its historic architecture. In the late 1800s, Cincinnati was commonly referred to as "Paris of America", due mainly to such ambitious architectural projects as the [Music Hall](/wiki/Music_Hall_(Cincinnati)), [Cincinnatian Hotel](/wiki/Palace_Hotel_(Cincinnati,_Ohio)), and [Shillito Department Store](/wiki/John_Shillito_Company).[[6]](#cite_note-6)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[thumb|left|300px|Cincinnati in 1812 with a population of 2,000](/wiki/File:Cincinnati_I.jpg)[[7]](#cite_note-7) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Cincinnati was founded by European Americans in 1788 when Mathias Denman, [Colonel Robert Patterson](/wiki/Colonel_Robert_Patterson) and [Israel Ludlow](/wiki/Israel_Ludlow) landed at the spot on the north bank of the Ohio River opposite the mouth of the [Licking River](/wiki/Licking_River_(Kentucky)) and decided to settle there. The original surveyor, [John Filson](/wiki/John_Filson), named it "Losantiville".[[8]](#cite_note-8) In 1790, [Arthur St. Clair](/wiki/Arthur_St._Clair), the governor of the [Northwest Territory](/wiki/Northwest_Territory), changed the name of the settlement to "Cincinnati" in honor of the [Society of the Cincinnati](/wiki/Society_of_the_Cincinnati), made up of Revolutionary War veterans, of which he was a member.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Ethnic Germans were among the early settlers, migrating from Pennsylvania and the backcountry of Virginia and Tennessee. General [David Ziegler](/wiki/David_Ziegler) succeeded General St. Clair in command at Fort Washington. After the conclusion of the Northwest Indian Wars and removal of Native Americans to the west, he was elected as the mayor of Cincinnati in 1802.[[10]](#cite_note-10) The introduction of steamboats on the [Ohio River](/wiki/Ohio_River) in 1811 opened up its trade to more rapid shipping, and the city established commercial ties with [St. Louis, Missouri](/wiki/St._Louis,_Missouri) and especially [New Orleans](/wiki/New_Orleans) downriver. Cincinnati was incorporated as a city in 1819. Exporting pork products and hay, it became a center of pork processing in the region. From 1810 to 1830 its population nearly tripled, from 9,642 to 24,831.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Completion of the [Miami and Erie Canal](/wiki/Miami_and_Erie_Canal) in 1827 to [Middletown, Ohio](/wiki/Middletown,_Ohio) further stimulated businesses, and employers struggled to hire enough people to fill positions. The city had a labor shortage until large waves of immigration by Irish and Germans in the late 1840s. The city grew rapidly over the next two decades, reaching 115,000 persons by 1850.[[9]](#cite_note-9) [thumb|300px|Cincinnati in 1841 with the Miami and Erie Canal in the foreground.](/wiki/File:Cincinnati-in-1841.jpg)

Construction on the Miami and Erie Canal began on July 21, 1825, when it was called the Miami Canal, related to its origin at the [Great Miami River](/wiki/Great_Miami_River). The first section of the canal was opened for business in 1827.[[12]](#cite_note-12) In 1827, the canal connected Cincinnati to nearby [Middletown](/wiki/Middletown,_Ohio); by 1840, it had reached [Toledo](/wiki/Toledo,_Ohio). During this period of rapid expansion and prominence, residents of Cincinnati began referring to the city as the "Queen City".

Cincinnati depended on trade with the slave states south of the [Ohio River](/wiki/Ohio_River), at a time when thousands of blacks were settling in the free state of Ohio, most from Kentucky and Virginia and some of them fugitives seeking freedom in the North. Many came to find work in Cincinnati. In the antebellum years, the majority of native-born whites in the city came from northern states, primarily Pennsylvania. In 1841 26 percent of whites were from the South and 57 percent from the eastern states, primarily Pennsylvania.[[13]](#cite_note-13) They retained their cultural support for slavery. This led to tensions between pro-slavery residents and those in favor of [abolitionism](/wiki/Abolitionism) and lifting restrictions on [free people of color](/wiki/Free_people_of_color), as codified in the "Black Code" of 1804.<ref name=Aaron1992/>

The volatile social conditions produced white-led [riots against blacks occurred in 1829](/wiki/Cincinnati_riots_of_1829), when many blacks lost their homes and property. As Irish immigrants entered the city in the late 1840s, they competed with blacks at the lower levels of the economy. White-led riots against blacks occurred [in 1836](/wiki/Cincinnati_Riots_of_1836), when an abolitionist press was twice destroyed; and in 1842.<ref name=Aaron1992>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> More than one thousand blacks abandoned the city after the 1829 riots. Blacks in Philadelphia and other major cities raised money to help the refugees recover from the destruction. By 1842 blacks had become better established in the city; they defended their persons and property in the riot, and worked politically as well.[[14]](#cite_note-14) After the steamboats, railroads were the first major form of commercial transportation to come to Cincinnati. In 1836, the Little Miami Railroad was chartered.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Construction began soon after, to connect Cincinnati with the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad, and provide access to the ports of the [Sandusky Bay](/wiki/Sandusky_Bay) on [Lake Erie](/wiki/Lake_Erie).[[12]](#cite_note-12) [thumb|300px|Cincinnati in 1862, a lithograph in](/wiki/File:Cincinnati-civilwar.jpg) [*Harper's Weekly*](/wiki/Harper's_Weekly). [thumb|300px|The](/wiki/File:Tyler-davis-fountain-1906.jpg) [Tyler Davidson Fountain](/wiki/Tyler_Davidson_Fountain), a symbol of Cincinnati, was dedicated in 1871. In 1859, Cincinnati laid out six streetcar lines; the cars were [pulled by horses](/wiki/Horsecar) and the lines made it easier for people to get around the city.[[15]](#cite_note-15) By 1872, Cincinnatians could travel on the streetcars within the city and transfer to rail cars for travel to the hill communities. The Cincinnati Inclined Plane Company began transporting people to the top of Mount Auburn that year.[[12]](#cite_note-12) In 1880, the city government completed the [Cincinnati Southern Railway](/wiki/Cincinnati,_New_Orleans_and_Texas_Pacific_Railway) to [Chattanooga, Tennessee](/wiki/Chattanooga,_Tennessee). It is the only municipality-owned interstate railway in the United States.

In 1884, outrage over a [manslaughter](/wiki/Manslaughter) verdict in what many observers thought was a clear case of murder triggered the [Courthouse riots](/wiki/Cincinnati_riots_of_1884), one of the most destructive riots in American history. Over the course of three days, 56 people were killed and over 300 were injured.[Template:Sfn](/wiki/Template:Sfn) The riots ended the regime of political bosses [John Roll McLean](/wiki/John_Roll_McLean) and [Thomas C. Campbell](/wiki/Thomas_C._Campbell) in Cincinnati. In 1889, the [Cincinnati streetcar system](/wiki/Streetcars_in_Cincinnati) began converting its horsecar lines to [electric streetcars](/wiki/Tram).[[16]](#cite_note-16) An early rejuvenation of downtown began in the 1920s and continued into the next decade with the construction of [Union Terminal](/wiki/Cincinnati_Museum_Center_at_Union_Terminal), the post office, and the large [Cincinnati and Suburban Telephone Company Building](/wiki/Cincinnati_and_Suburban_Telephone_Company_Building). Cincinnati weathered the [Great Depression](/wiki/Great_Depression) better than most American cities of its size, largely because of a resurgence in river trade, which was less expensive than transporting goods by rail. [The flood of 1937](/wiki/Ohio_River_flood_of_1937) was one of the worst in the nation's history and destroyed many areas along the Ohio Valley. Afterward the city built protective flood walls.

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|upright|right|Cincinnati is in the bluegrass region of](/wiki/File:Geographic_regions_ohio.svg) [Ohio](/wiki/Ohio).

A major city of the Ohio Valley, Cincinnati is situated on the north bank of the [Ohio River](/wiki/Ohio_River) in Hamilton County, which is the extreme southwestern county of the state of Ohio. It is midway by river between the cities of [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania](/wiki/Pittsburgh,_Pennsylvania) and [Cairo, Illinois](/wiki/Cairo,_Illinois). The city lies opposite the mouth of the [Licking River](/wiki/Licking_River_(Kentucky)), an important factor in its being sited where it is.[[17]](#cite_note-17) Cincinnati's [core metro area](/wiki/Greater_Cincinnati) spans parts of southern Ohio and northern Kentucky. According to the [United States Census Bureau](/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau), the city has a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), of which [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) is land and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) is water.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The city spreads over a number of hills, bluffs, and low ridges overlooking the Ohio River in the [Bluegrass region](/wiki/Bluegrass_region) of the country.[[19]](#cite_note-19) Cincinnati is geographically located within the [Midwest](/wiki/Midwest) and is on the far northern periphery of the [Upland South](/wiki/Upland_South). Two-thirds of the American population live within a one-day drive of the city.[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22) Unusually, Cincinnati has 3 smaller municipalities within its borders: [Norwood](/wiki/Norwood,_Ohio), [Elmwood Place](/wiki/Elmwood_Place,_Ohio), and [Saint Bernard](/wiki/Saint_Bernard,_Ohio). Norwood is a significant business and industrial city, while Elmwood Place and Saint Bernard are small, primarily residential, villages.

This topography is often used for physical activity. The [Steps of Cincinnati](/wiki/Steps_of_Cincinnati) carry pedestrians up and down the many hills in the city. In addition to practical use linking hillside neighborhoods, the 400 stairways provide visitors scenic views of the Cincinnati area.[[23]](#cite_note-23)

### Cityscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [right|thumb|300px|Macy's Jazz Festival held in Fountain Square.](/wiki/File:Fountain_Square.jpg)

[Downtown Cincinnati](/wiki/Downtown_Cincinnati) is focused around [Fountain Square](/wiki/Fountain_Square,_Cincinnati), a public square and event location.

Cincinnati is home to numerous structures that are noteworthy due to their architectural characteristics or historic associations, including the [Carew Tower](/wiki/Carew_Tower), the Scripps Center, the [Ingalls Building](/wiki/Ingalls_Building), [Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal](/wiki/Cincinnati_Museum_Center_at_Union_Terminal), and the [Isaac M. Wise Temple](/wiki/Isaac_M._Wise_Temple).[[24]](#cite_note-24) [thumb|300px|The PNC Tower, with the Carew Tower in the background.](/wiki/File:PNC_Tower.jpg)

The city is undergoing significant changes due to [new development](/wiki/The_cityscape_of_Cincinnati,_Ohio#New_development_projects) and private investment. This includes construction of the long-stalled [Banks project](/wiki/The_Banks), which will include apartments, retail, restaurants, and offices and will stretch from [Great American Ball Park](/wiki/Great_American_Ball_Park) to [Paul Brown Stadium](/wiki/Paul_Brown_Stadium). Phase 1A is already complete and 100 percent occupied as of early 2013. Smale Riverfront Park is being developed along with The Banks and is Cincinnati's newest park. Fountain Square was renovated in 2006.[[25]](#cite_note-25)