Business Relocation & Expansion Guide
Oklahoma

Population: 4,019,800
Area: 181,195 km²
GDP: $215B

OKLAHOMA OFFERS A STABLE AND PRO-BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

OKLAHOMA IS CENTRALLY LOCATED

OKLAHOMA HAS AN INVITING QUALITY OF LIFE AND LOW OPERATING COSTS

OKLAHOMA IS A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT-TO-WORK STATE

#2
Lowest Cost of Doing Business
CNBC America’s Best States for Business, 2022

#4
Lowest Corporate Tax Rate in the U.S
State Business Tax Climate Index
Tax Foundation, 2023

17%
Lower Energy Costs Than the National Average
Energy Information Administration
In the U.S., it doesn’t get any more central than Oklahoma.

- **20** states accessible by inland ports
- **133** public-use airports
- **2** int'l airports
- **3,850+** miles of rail lines
- **12,000+** miles of highway
- **99** million people within 500-miles

Equidistant from New York, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Toronto
The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is the central economic development agency for the state of Oklahoma. It is our mission to create an environment that promotes an increase in jobs, investment and economic prosperity to the state. Through dynamic partnerships and innovative collaborations with companies, universities, not-for-profit organizations, and government leaders, we are building a business environment that supports business growth and shared community prosperity.

The Oklahoma team is ready to provide you with the expert and confidential guidance you need to get your company up and running. Expanding or relocating your business to a new market demands speed and flexibility. We have worked with hundreds of corporate selection teams and site location consultants on a diverse blend of projects. Your specialist will provide knowledgeable information and advice to make sure your company succeeds in Oklahoma.
Overview of Services

One-Stop Professional Assistance
Your partnership with Oklahoma begins with the assignment of a project manager. The manager will be your primary point of contact and provide single-source coordination with the Governor, key state agencies and local communities.

State & Local Partnerships
Each of Oklahoma’s communities is unique and has various services to offer your business. Our program can directly connect you with regional and community economic development organizations. Services include utilities, environmental, tax and finance, and workforce and training.

Permit Assistance
Your project manager will work closely with state and local agencies to ensure rapid permitting for your project.

Groundbreaking & Ribbon Cutting
Once everything is in place and you’re ready to break ground or open your doors for business, the Oklahoma team can help you plan your groundbreaking, ribbon cutting or company announcement.

Financial Resources
Your project manager will be a resource for finding available state and local financial resources.

Incentive & Tax Abatements
Your project manager will identify all state and local incentives and tax credits applicable to your project.

The Next Phase
Our assistance with your business does not stop once you’ve started your operation. Your project manager will connect you with our Business Retention & Expansion team to ensure that you continue to receive assistance in a variety of areas.

Site Visits
From major metropolitan areas to smaller cities, your project manager will help you narrow in on the right place for your business. They will schedule confidential site and community visits based on your exact requirements.

Workforce Analysis
Your project manager will provide you with comprehensive labor market analysis, demographics, comparative wage data, initial employee identification and screening to help you understand Oklahoma’s workforce. They can also connect you with educational institutions and other resources that will help ensure that you always have access to the trained workforce your business needs.

Training Assistance
Oklahoma has an extensive, nationally acclaimed CareerTech network. The Oklahoma team can help qualifying companies coordinate start-up training at no cost as well as long-term training through our state’s CareerTech network.

OKcommerce.gov – 5
Key Industry Sectors

Oklahoma’s pro-business environment makes our state a great place to do business. The following key industries have a strong presence in our state or show a high-growth potential.

1,100+ Aerospace Entities including manufacturers, MRO, research and development, military and others

Aerospace and Defense

Oklahoma is the MRO Capitol of the World. It is home to two of the world’s largest aircraft MRO centers and more than 1,100 aerospace entities. Oklahoma’s central location and outstanding flying weather make it an ideal hub for all aerospace activities.

Top 5 state

#1 rye production
#4 wheat production
#4 beef production
#5 canola production

Agribusiness

Global research centers and new technologies are keeping this ingrained industry pushing forward. Oklahoma is home to a vast array of companies ranging from paper and packaging manufacturing to beverage production and fertilizer manufacturing.

40% lower wages for automotive-related professions

Automotive

Access to large parcels of land and a diverse renewable energy portfolio make Oklahoma ideally situated to meet the needs of OEMs and auto parts manufacturers.

180k+ employed in bioscience and 41% growth in life science program studies since 2010

Bioscience

Oklahoma’s biotech companies and public institutes are pioneering research and development in areas such as advanced materials, surfactants development, microscopy, drug-development and healthcare advances.
Energy

Oklahoma has been at the forefront of energy exploration and technology for more than 100 years. Today the state's "all of the above" energy policy combines its traditional energy prowess with an abundance of renewable resources to support growing energy needs. Oklahoma generates 45% more energy than it consumes. Companies operating in the state can utilize 100% renewable power for their energy needs.

Manufacturing

From food processing and aerospace to pipe and plastics, thousands of manufacturing companies have found success operating here. Connex Oklahoma is a supply chain database that helps manufacturers find alternate suppliers, view their supply chain visually, avoid supply chain risks and find local suppliers.

Transportation and Logistics

Oklahoma is at the center of it all, which offers a logistical advantage both in terms of location and access to multimodal transportation options. The state’s unique inland port position allows companies to move millions of tons of bulk freight by barge, decreasing costs and environmental impact. A central location and vast multi-modal transportation system mean companies can improve the bottom line in sustainable ways.
In Oklahoma, we epitomize hard work as a way of life. Representatives from higher education, career training and school districts partner with leaders from key industry sectors and civic organizations to create the framework that is moving Oklahoma’s workforce model to a top 10 status. Having a talented, easily accessible workforce is a key component to the success of any business. We have the tools, resources and business-friendly policies in place to help your business hire a qualified workforce – and sustain it.

There is no question that finding ready-to-work employees is one of the most significant barriers to corporate growth and expansion. We want to make your business a success in Oklahoma and that starts with navigating our workforce system. Oklahoma Works Together is a localized system designed to analyze workforce needs, accelerate custom training solutions and deliver skilled, trained employees.

Through regional Centers for Workforce Excellence, companies work with a single point of contact to understand workforce needs, develop training programs and identify a pipeline of talent. Our team works alongside companies as they ramp up, get started and as their operations continue into the future.
Higher Education & Career Training

Our higher education institutions and career training programs create a pipeline of talent so companies can hire a qualified workforce.

Higher Education

Higher education institutions provide Oklahoma companies skilled workers and industry innovation. With 25 colleges and universities offering diverse degree programs, these institutions are training the next generation of Oklahoma's workforce. Our institutions work directly with companies to shape degree programs to meet today's challenges and ensure that students are ready to enter the workforce.

Oklahoma CareerTech

Oklahoma CareerTech has the ability to respond quickly to industry needs, developing skilled workers through specialized training programs and facilities located across the state.

Training for Industry Program

A program of Oklahoma CareerTech, the Training for Industry Program (TIP) provides low- to no-cost training for many industry sectors. Whether the company is new to Oklahoma or an expansion, TIP offers services including: training needs assessment and a customized training program; training provided on-site or alternate locations; training delivered through local CareerTech centers throughout Oklahoma; reimbursement of training costs and more.
Incentives

Oklahoma is globally recognized for its outstanding incentive programs and pro-business environment.

▷ Quality Jobs Program
Cash payments of up to 5% of new payrolls for up to 10 years
- $2.5 million annual payroll within 3 years of start date
- Create new full-time positions
- Pay new Oklahoma employees average wages above the state index wage

▷ Small Employer Quality Jobs Program
Cash payments of up to 5% of new payrolls for up to 7 years
- Qualifying small employer (500 employees or less)
- Create new full-time positions
- Pay new Oklahoma employees average wages above the state index wage

▷ 21st Century Quality Jobs
Cash payments of up to 10% of new payrolls for up to 10 years
Create 10 new full-time positions within 3 years
- Pay average wage of at least $120,071 annually (wage threshold can be lower if 300% of the average county wage)
- Requires 50% out-of-state sales

▷ Investment/New Jobs Tax Credit Package
Provides growing manufacturers with a substantial tax credit based on either an investment in depreciable property or on the addition of full-time-equivalent employees engaged in manufacturing, processing or aircraft maintenance.
- Choice of tax credit based on investment or new employees
- 5-year state tax credit on the greater of 1% per year of investment in new depreciable property or $500 per new job
- Credit doubles to 2% or $1,000 per employee in Enterprise Zones or for investments of $40 million

▷ Business Expansion Incentive Program
Annual cash payments
- Helps existing companies expand in Oklahoma
- Targets major capital investments in depreciable items like equipment and buildings
- Qualifying companies may choose between direct cash payments or payments that service private bonds
Engineer Workforce Tax Credit for Aerospace and Automotive

**Employer Benefits**

**New engineer graduates**
- 50% tax credit for reimbursed tuition costs for first 4 years of employment

**Hire Oklahoma graduates**
- Up to 10% of wages paid during first 5 years of employment (Maximum of $12,500 per employee annually)

**Hire non-OK graduates**
- Up to 5% of wages paid during first 5 years of employment (Maximum of $12,500 per employee annually)

**Employee Benefits**

Engineers currently employed in aerospace or automotive industry are eligible to receive individual tax credit up to $5,000 per year for 5 years.

Cybersecurity Software Workforce Tax Credit

**Employee Benefits**

Cybersecurity software employees who have received a degree from an accredited institution can receive a tax credit up to $2,200 annually, or $1,800 annually for qualifying employees who are awarded a certificate from a technology center. The credit can be claimed for up to seven years.

Five-Year Ad Valorem Exemption

**Employer Benefits**

A qualifying company can be exempt for 5 years from ad valorem taxes upon completion of new or expanded facilities. This incentive is available for manufacturing, research and development, warehouse and distribution, and certain computer/data processing services, refineries or aircraft repair companies.

Federal Opportunity Zones

**Employee Benefits**

Created by Congress in the Investing in Opportunity Act, Federal Opportunity Zones allow investors and companies to defer and/or reduce federal capital gains taxes by investing in a qualifying Opportunity Zone/Fund. To increase the benefit to investors, Oklahoma utilizes Priority Enterprise Zones (PEZs) to attract capital to the state's Opportunity Zones.

American Indian Lands Tax Credit

Because of the state's unique Native American heritage, two-thirds of Oklahoma locations qualify for special federal tax treatment. Businesses locating or expanding in these areas can claim accelerated federal depreciation on their buildings, resulting in tax savings of up to 40%. Additionally, businesses in qualifying areas that hire Native Americans or their spouses living in the area can claim federal tax credits of up to $4,000 per qualifying employee.

Oklahoma's Inland Ports

Oklahoma is home to one of the largest, most inland, ice-free ports in the U.S. From these ports, companies will have access to 20 U.S. states and the Gulf of Mexico.

- **Port Muskogee** is a 450-acre industrial park located at the confluence of the Arkansas, Verdigris and Grand Rivers. As many as 14 industries depend on access through the port, accounting for capital investments of more than $2 billion.

- **Tulsa Port of Catoosa** is a multi-modal shipping complex and industrial park. Located at the head of navigation for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System in Northeast Oklahoma, it is one of the largest, most inland river ports in the U.S.

- **Tulsa Port of Inola** is a 2,500-acre industrial park located east of Tulsa, Okla. As part of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System in Northeast Oklahoma, the port is home to Italian-based paper manufacturer Sofidel and its 1.8-million square foot factory.

- **20 states accessible** and the Gulf of Mexico via one of the largest, most inland, ice-free ports in the U.S.

- **94% of U.S. population can be reached overnight** by roads from these ports.
Multi-national companies operating in Oklahoma employ more than 61,400 Oklahomans. Major sources of foreign investment in the state include Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, France, Switzerland, Ireland, Australia, Sweden, Mexico, Belgium and Italy.

### Top Foreign Investments in Oklahoma

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Business Establishments in Oklahoma</th>
<th>Employment in Oklahoma</th>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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Source: Wiser Trade
Life in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA HAS MORE THAN 300 MUSEUMS TO ENJOY ACROSS THE STATE

OKC’S THUNDER IS ONE OF THE NBA’S MOST EXCITING AND SUCCESSFUL TEAMS

55,646 MILES OF SHORELINE MORE THAN THE ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS COMBINED

OKLAHOMA OFFERS THE MOST DIVERSE TERRAIN PER MILE IN U.S, 10+ ECOLOGICAL REGIONS
Oklahoma Has Everything

Oklahoma is home to a wide variety of entertainment and excitement, and our list of things to do just keeps growing. There’s much to celebrate in Oklahoma. Many are surprised by our diversity and modernity, and still more people are pleased to learn about the ample opportunities we offer newcomers. Here, you can live life to the fullest.

**Arts + Entertainment**

Oklahoma City and Tulsa’s arts and entertainment scenes continue to flourish. Find districts brimming with nationally-acclaimed local eateries, artisan shops, festivals, live music, art and history across the state.

**Great Outdoors**

Mile for mile, Oklahoma offers the nation’s most diverse terrain. It’s one of only four states with more than 10 ecoregions. Whether you’re looking for an activity that will get your adrenaline pumping or simply seeking a quiet escape into nature, you’ll find it here.

**Family Life**

Family is a big part of the Oklahoma life. Safe communities, great schools and affordable housing make our state a smart place to raise a family. Combine those amenities with family-friendly activities, beautiful parks and thriving entertainment districts, and you’ve got a truly great place to raise children.

**Cost of Living**

Oklahoma’s low cost of living means you can have more for less here: a larger home, more vacation dollars, more nights out-on-the-town and a more profitable investment portfolio. Dollars go further here.