



# Top 10 of Top 10s

## Economics, Volunteering or Simply Living: In 2008, Oklahoma Cities Are Praised Nationally.

Everyone loves making it onto lists – especially when they're recognized for making great strides. Oklahoma cities are topping national lists for being some of the best places to live, raise families and do business. Here are a few of our favorites from 2008:

Tulsa



Norman



Broken Arrow



Oklahoma City

- 1** *Site Selection Magazine* has chosen Tulsa as the ninth “Top Metro Area” of 2008.  
“Tulsa is the trifecta for all site-location consultants in the nation,” says Mike Neal, president and CEO of the Tulsa Metro Chamber. “Tulsa has a central location, a well-educated and skilled workforce, and a low cost of doing business.”
- 2** *Southern Business & Development Magazine* named Ardmore, Okla., the No. 8 “Best Small Market in the United States.”  
Midway between Dallas and Oklahoma City, with its location and easy access to transportation channels, Ardmore is ideally suited to serve the South Central U.S. markets. With many distribution centers such as Best Buy, Circuit City, Dollar General, Dot Foods, Meadowbrook Meats, Michelin and others, Ardmore has become a major shipping and distribution hub.
- 3** Oklahoma City came in at No. 9 on the Salary.com listing of the “Best Places to Build Personal Wealth.”  
A survey by pay experts at Salary.com evaluated 69 cities with more than 250,000 people. The survey, based on census data and Salary.com analysis, focused on local salaries, the cost of living and unemployment. Secondary factors, such as diversity of the local economy, residents’ education, percentage of population below poverty level and commute time were also measured.
- 4** Tulsa is No. 5 on the Relocateamerica.com listing of the “2008 Best Places to Live.”  
The second-largest city in the state, Tulsa boasts of low unemployment, with an economy based on telecommunications, manufacturing, aerospace, transportation and energy. It is also home to a number of cultural and arts organizations, including four museums, and several universities.
- 5** The Corporation for National and Community Service has awarded Tulsa with the No. 8 ranking on its list of the “Most Volunteering Cities.”  
Tulsa has an average annual volunteer rate of 33.6 percent, with 229,000 volunteers serving 35.3 million hours per year. This equals an estimated annual economic contribution of \$690 million.
- 6** MSN Real Estate ranks Tulsa as No. 9 on its “2008 Best Real Estate Bargain Markets.”  
According to the survey, “It’s a good city to raise a family, with appealing and affordable suburbs to the east, northeast and south of the city.”
- 7** *Money Magazine* lists Norman, Okla., as No. 6 on its “2008 Best Places to Live” list.  
People flock to Norman from around the world to study and teach at the University of Oklahoma and then to stay and raise a family. As a major source of entertainment, it’s home to football and world-class arts, as well as affordable housing.
- 8** Broken Arrow, Okla., finished in the Top 10 of *Family Circle Magazine*’s “2008 Best Places for Families” list.  
Though its population has nearly doubled since 1990, this Tulsa suburb hasn’t experienced many growing pains. Homes are still a bargain, and the streets are safe thanks to a team effort by local police and neighborhood watch groups. It’s a place where kids hang out at swimming pools and tennis courts, everyone waves hello and rush hour is gridlock free.
- 9** Oklahoma City was named the No. 1 most recession-proof city in America by *Forbes Magazine*.  
Writer Joshua Zumbrun says this about our capital city: “With falling unemployment, one of the country’s strongest housing markets and solid growth in agriculture, energy and manufacturing, it looks best positioned among the nation’s largest metropolitan areas to ride out the current crisis.” While Oklahoma will not be immune from the nationwide recession, our diverse economy will likely ensure our state will fare better than many over the next year.
- 10** Oklahoma City was named the fourth best city for commuters by *Forbes Magazine*.  
According to the magazine, “48 percent of workers get to their jobs in fewer than 20 minutes.”