

Columbus, Ohio

Coordinates: 39.962245, -83.000647﻿ / ﻿

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Columbus is the capital and the largest city of the American state of Ohio. Named for explorer Christopher Columbus, the city was founded in 1812 at the confluence of the Scioto and Olentangy rivers, and assumed the functions of state capital in 1816. The city has a diverse economy based on education, insurance, healthcare, and technology. Acknowledged by *Money Magazine* as the 8th best large city in the U.S. to inhabit, it is also recognized as an emerging global city.^{[3][4]} Residents of Columbus are usually referred to as *Columbusites*.^[5]

In 2006 Columbus was ranked as the United States 15th largest city, with 733,203 residents, and is the country's 32nd largest metropolitan area. Located near the geographic center of the state, Columbus is the county seat of Franklin County, although parts of the city also extend into Delaware and Fairfield counties.

The name *Columbus* is often used to refer to the Columbus Metropolitan Area, which includes many other municipalities. According to the US Census, the metropolitan area has a population of 1,725,570, while the Combined Statistical Area (which also includes Marion and Chillicothe) has 1,953,575 people.

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Columbus, Ohio



Flag



Seal

Nickname: The Arch City, The Discovery City



Location in the state of Ohio, USA

Coordinates: 39°59′00″N 82°59′00″W﻿ / ﻿

Country	United States
State	Ohio
Counties	Franklin, Delaware, and Fairfield

Government	
 - Mayor	Michael B. Coleman (D)

Area	
 - City	212.6 sq mi (550.5 km ²)
 - Land	210.3 sq mi (544.6 km ²)
 - Water	2.3 sq mi (5.9 km ²)
Elevation	902 ft (275 m)

Population (2006) ^[1] ^[2]	
 - City	733,203
 - Density	3,383.6/sq mi (1,306.4/km ²)
 - Metro	1,725,570

- 10 External links

Time zone	EST (UTC-5)
- Summer (DST)	EDT (UTC-4)
Area code(s)	614

Website: <http://www.columbus.gov/>

History

Evidence of ancient mound-building societies abounds in the region near the confluence of the Scioto and Olentangy rivers. Mound Street, located in downtown Columbus, was so named because of its proximity to a large Native American burial mound.^[6] Numerous other earthworks were found throughout the area, including a surviving edifice on McKinley Avenue.^[7] Those ancient civilizations had long since faded into history when European explorers began moving into the region south of Lake Erie. Rather than an empty frontier, however, they encountered people of the Miami, Delaware, Wyandot, Shawnee, and Mingo nations. These tribes resisted expansion by the fledgling United States, resulting in years of bitter conflict. A decisive battle at Fallen Timbers resulted in the Treaty of Greenville, which finally opened the way for new settlements. By 1797, a young surveyor from Virginia named Lucas Sullivant had founded a permanent settlement on the west bank of the forks of the Scioto River. An admirer of Benjamin Franklin, Sullivant chose to name his new frontier village "Franklinton."^[8] Although the location was desirable in its proximity to navigable rivers, Sullivant was initially foiled when in 1798, a large flood wiped out the newly formed settlement.^[9] He persevered, and the village was rebuilt.

19th century

After achieving statehood in 1803, political infighting among Ohio's more prominent leaders resulted in the state capital moving from Chillicothe to Zanesville and back again. The state legislature eventually decided that a new capital city, located in the center of the state, was a necessary compromise. Several of Ohio's small towns and villages petitioned the legislature for the honor of becoming the state capital, but ultimately a coalition of land speculators, with Sullivant's support, made the most attractive offer to the Ohio General Assembly. Named in honor of Christopher Columbus, the capital city was founded on February 14, 1812, on the "High Banks opposite Franklinton at the Forks of the Scioto known as Wolf's Ridge."^[10] At the time, this area was a dense forestland, used only as a hunting ground.^[11]

The Borough of Columbus [*sic*] was officially established on February 10, 1816.^[12] Nine people were elected to fill the various positions of Mayor, Treasurer, and others. Although the recent War of 1812 had brought prosperity to the area, the subsequent recession and conflicting claims to the land threatened the success of the new town. Early conditions were abysmal, with frequent bouts of fevers and an outbreak of Cholera in 1833.^[13]

The National Road reached Columbus from Baltimore in 1831, which complemented the city's new link to the Ohio and Erie Canal and facilitated a population boom.^[14] A wave of immigrants from Europe resulted in the establishment of two ethnic enclaves on the outskirts of the city. A significant Irish population settled in the north along Naghten Street (presently Nationwide Boulevard), while the Germans took advantage of the cheap land to the south, creating a community that came to be known as *Das Alte Südende* (The Old South End). Columbus' German population is responsible for constructing numerous breweries, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Capital University, and for instituting the first kindergarten in the United States.^[15]

With a population of 3500, Columbus was officially chartered as a city on March 3, 1834. The legislature carried out a special act on that day, which granted legislative authority to the city council and judicial authority to the mayor. Elections were held in April of that year, with voters choosing one John Brooks as the first mayor.^[16]

In 1850 the Columbus and Xenia Railroad became the first railroad to enter the city, followed by the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Railroad in 1851. The two railroads built a joint Union Station on the east side of High Street just north of Naughten (then called North Public Lane). Rail traffic into Columbus increased--by 1875 Columbus was served by eight railroads, and a new, more elaborate station was built.^[17]



Old City Hall, completed in 1872 and burned in 1921

On January 7, 1857, the Ohio Statehouse finally opened to the public after eighteen years of construction.^[18] During the Civil War, Columbus was the home of Camp Chase, a major base for the Union Army that housed 26,000 troops and held up to 9,000 Confederate prisoners of war. Over 2,000 Confederate soldiers remain buried at the site, making it one of the largest Confederate cemeteries in the North.^[19] By virtue of the Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act, the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College was founded in 1870 on the former estate of William and Hannah Neil.^[20]



The Great Southern Hotel, completed in 1897

By the end of the 19th century, Columbus saw the rise of several major manufacturing businesses. The city became known as the "Buggy Capital of the World," thanks to the presence of some two dozen buggy factories, notably the Columbus Buggy Company, which was founded in 1875 by C.D. Firestone. The Columbus Consolidated Brewing Company also rose to prominence during this time, and it may have achieved even greater success were it not for the influence of the Anti-Saloon League, based in neighboring Westerville.^[21] In the steel industry, a forward-thinking man named Samuel P. Bush presided over the Buckeye Steel Castings Company. Columbus was also a popular location for the organization of labor. In 1886, Samuel Gompers founded the American Federation of Labor in Druid's Hall on S. Fourth Street, and in 1890 the United Mine Workers of America was founded at old City Hall.^[22]

20th century to the present

Columbus earned its nickname "The Arch City" because of the dozens of metal (formerly wooden) arches that spanned High Street at the turn of the twentieth century. The arches illuminated the thoroughfare and eventually became the means by which electric power was provided to the new streetcars. The arches were torn down and replaced with cluster lights in 1914, but were reconstructed in the Short North district in 2002 for their unique historical interest.^[23]



Street arches returned to the Short North in late 2002

On March 25, 1913, a catastrophic flood devastated the neighborhood of Franklinton, leaving over ninety people dead and thousands of West Side residents homeless. To prevent future flooding, the Army Corps of Engineers recommended widening the Scioto River through downtown, constructing new bridges, and building a retaining wall along its banks. With the strength of the post-WWI economy, a construction boom occurred in the 1920s, resulting in a new Civic Center, the Ohio Theatre, the American Insurance Union Citadel, and, to the north, a massive new Ohio Stadium.^[24] Although the American Professional Football Association was founded in Canton in 1920, its head offices moved to Columbus in 1921 and remained in the city until 1941. In 1922, the association's name was changed to the National Football League.^[25]

The effects of the Great Depression were somewhat less severe in Columbus, as the city's diversified economy helped it fare marginally better than its Rust Belt neighbors. World War II brought a tremendous number of new jobs to the city, and with it another population surge. This time, the majority of new arrivals were migrants from the "extraordinarily depressed rural areas" of Appalachia, who would soon account for more than a third of Columbus' rising population.^[26] In 1948, the Town and Country Shopping Center opened in suburban Whitehall, and it is now regarded as one of the first modern shopping centers in the United States.^[27] Along with the construction of the interstate highway, it signaled the arrival of rapid suburban development in central Ohio. In order to protect the city's tax base from this suburbanization, Columbus adopted a policy of linking sewer and water hookups to annexation to the city.^[28] By the early 1990s, Columbus had grown to become Ohio's largest city in both land area and in population.

Efforts to revitalize Downtown Columbus have met with mixed results in recent decades. In the 1970s old landmarks such as Union Station and the Neil House Hotel were razed to construct high-rise offices and retail space such as the Huntington Center.^[29] Newer suburban developments at Tuttle Crossing, Easton, and Polaris have inhibited much of the anticipated downtown growth. Still, with the addition of the Arena District as well as hundreds of downtown residential units, significant revitalization efforts are likely to continue in the downtown area.

Geography

Topography

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 550.5 km² (212.6 mi²). 544.6 km² (210.3 mi²) of it is land and 5.9 km² (2.3 mi²) of it (1.07%) is water. Unlike many other major US cities in the Midwest, Columbus continues to expand its reach by way of extensions and annexations, making it one of the fastest growing large cities in the nation, in terms of both geography and population, and probably the fastest in the Midwest. Unlike Cleveland and Cincinnati, the central cities in Ohio's two largest metropolitan areas, Columbus is ringed by relatively few suburbs; since the 1950s it has made annexation a condition for providing water and sewer service, to which it holds regional rights throughout a large portion of Central Ohio. This policy is credited with preserving Columbus' tax base in the face of the U.S.'s suburbanization and has contributed to its continued economic expansion, much like other cities pursuing similar policies such as San Antonio, Texas, of which is similarly lacking in surrounding incorporated suburbs.



Skyline of Columbus, viewed from North Bank Park

The confluence of the Scioto and Olentangy rivers occurs just west of downtown Columbus. Several smaller tributaries course through the Columbus metro area, including Alum Creek, Big Walnut Creek, and Darby Creek. Columbus is considered to have relatively flat topography thanks to a large glacier that covered most of Ohio during the Wisconsin Ice Age. However, there are sizable differences in elevation through the area, with the high point of Franklin County being 1130ft (345m) above Sea level near New Albany, and the low point being 680ft (207m) where the Scioto River leaves the county near Lockbourne. Numerous ravine areas near the rivers and creeks also help give some variety to the landscape. Deciduous trees are common, including maple, oak, hickory, walnut, poplar, cottonwood, and of course, buckeye.

Climate

Weather averages for Columbus^[30]

The region is dominated by a humid continental climate (Köppen climate classification *Dfa*), characterized by hot, muggy summers and cold, dry winters. The highest temperature ever recorded in Columbus was 106°F (41°C), which occurred twice during the Dust Bowl drought of the 1930s - once on July 21, 1934, and again two years later, on July 14, 1936. The coldest was -22°F (-30°C), occurring January 19, 1994.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Avg high (°F)	36	39	50	62	73	82	85	84	77	65	51	40	62
Avg high (°C)	2	4	10	17	23	28	29	29	25	18	11	4	17
Avg low (°F)	20	22	31	40	50	59	64	62	54	43	34	25	42
Avg low (°C)	-7	-6	-1	4	10	15	18	17	12	6	1	-4	6
Rainfall (in)	2.8	2.3	3.1	3.4	3.8	3.9	4.6	3.3	2.7	2.1	3.0	2.7	37.8
Rainfall (cm)	7.1	5.8	7.9	8.6	9.7	9.9	11.7	8.4	6.9	5.4	7.7	6.9	96.0
Snowfall (in)	8.1	6.2	4.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.3	5.5	27.6
Snowfall (cm)	20.6	15.7	11.4	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	5.8	14.0	70.1

Columbus is subject to Severe weather typical to the Midwestern United States. Tornadoes are possible from the spring to the fall, the most recent of which occurred on October 11, 2006 and caused F2 damage.^[31] Floods, blizzards, and severe thunderstorms can also occur from time to time.

Cityscape

See also: Neighborhoods in Columbus, Ohio, Columbus Metropolitan Area, Downtown Columbus, and List of skyscrapers in Columbus, Ohio

Columbus also has a number of distinctive neighborhoods within the metro area. The Short North, situated just north of downtown, is rich with art galleries, dining, pubs, and specialty shops. A number of large, ornate Victorian homes are located nearby, and together they comprise Victorian Village. To the south, German Village is known for its quaint 19th century brick cottages, and it holds the distinction as the largest privately funded historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. These three neighborhoods have all undergone gentrification on a large scale. Franklinton, sometimes known as "the Bottoms", is the neighborhood immediately west of downtown. It gets its colorful nickname due to the fact that much of the land lies

below the level of the Scioto and Olentangy rivers, and a floodwall is required to contain the rivers and protect the area from devastating floods. Just to the west of Franklinton is a group of smaller neighborhoods commonly referred to as "The Hilltop."

There is also the Heritage Districts which include the Driving Park, Livingston Park and Old Oaks areas on the near east side of the city which is home to a part of the city's large black population.

The University area is populated by a high concentration of students during the school year (approximately 50,000) and features many old homes which have been converted to apartments for student use. The stretch of High Street that runs through the campus area caters to the student body with its abundance of bars, sandwich shops, music stores, and bookstores. Located between OSU and Worthington is Clintonville, where a mix of middle class homes can be found alongside beautiful old stone and brick-faced houses nestled among rolling hills. Further west of downtown, San Margherita is a community formed by Italian immigrants who arrived at the turn of the 20th century.

Transportation

The city's street plan originates downtown and extends into the old-growth neighborhoods, following a grid pattern with the intersection of High Street (running north-south) and Broad Street (running east-west) at its center. North-South streets run twelve degrees west of due North, parallel to High Street; the Avenues (vis. Fifth Avenue, Sixth Avenue, Seventh Avenue, etc.) run east-west, perpendicular to High and parallel to Broad.^[32] The address system begins its numbering at the intersection of Broad and High, with numbers increasing in magnitude with distance from Broad or High. For example, 251 W 5th Ave. is approximately two and a half city-blocks west of High Street on Fifth Avenue, which intersects High Street roughly five city-blocks north of the intersection of Broad and High. As a counter example, 251 E 5th Ave. is approximately two and a half city-blocks east of High, five city-blocks north of the intersection of Broad and High. Buildings along north-south streets are numbered in a similar manner: the building number indicates the approximate distance from Broad Street in city-blocks, the prefixes 'N' and 'S' indicate whether that distance is to be measured to the north or south of Broad Street and the street number itself indicates how far the street is from the center of the city at the intersection of Broad and High.

This numbering system breaks down outside the original, old-growth areas—particularly in the suburbs and peripheral settlements annexed during the 20th century. Some streets and avenues break the mold. For example, while all of the numbered avenues run east-west, perpendicular to High Street, many named, non-numbered avenues run north-south, parallel to High. The same is true of many named streets: while the numbered streets in the city run north-south, perpendicular to Broad Street, many named, non-numbered streets run east-west, parallel to High Street.

A short list of other major, local roads in Columbus could include Main Street, Morse Road, Dublin-Granville Road (SR-161), Cleveland Avenue/Westerville Road (SR-3), Olentangy River Road, Riverside Drive, Sunbury Road, Fifth Avenue and Livingston Avenue.

Columbus is bisected by two major Interstate Highways, Interstate 70 running east-west, and Interstate 71 running north to roughly southwest. The two Interstates combine downtown for about 1.5 miles (2.4 km) in an area locally known as "The Split", which is a major traffic congestion point within Columbus, especially during rush hour. U.S. Highway 40, aka National Road, runs east-west through Columbus, comprising Main Street to the east of downtown and Broad Street to the west. It is also widely recognized as the nation's first highway. U.S. Highway 23 runs roughly north-south, while U.S. Highway 33 runs northwest-to-southeast. The Interstate 270 Outerbelt encircles the vast majority of the city, while the newly redesigned Innerbelt consists of the Interstate 670 spur on the north side (which continues to the east past the Airport and to the west where it merges with I-70), State Route 315 on the west side, the I-70/71 split on the south side, and I-71 on the east. Due to its central location within Ohio and abundance of outbound roadways, nearly all of the state's destinations are within a 2-hour drive of Columbus.



the eastern junction of I-70 and I-71 as they split apart leaving Columbus.

Columbus used to have a major train station downtown called Union Station, most notably as a stop along Amtrak's National Limited train service until 1977. The station itself was razed in 1979^[33], and the Greater Columbus Convention Center now stands in its place. The station was also a stop along the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Railroad and the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad. Columbus is now the second largest metropolitan area in the U.S. (after Phoenix) without passenger rail service^[34], however studies are underway towards reintroducing passenger rail service to Columbus via

the Ohio Hub project.

Columbus maintains a widespread municipal bus service called the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA). The City is served by Port Columbus International Airport, Rickenbacker International Airport, Don Scott Airport (run by The Ohio State University), and Bolton Field Airport.

A modern streetcar system has been proposed for the downtown and surrounding areas.^[35] The most favored route would run along High Street, from the Brewery District to the Short North. It is not clear where funding for such a system would come from, and no firm construction plans have been promulgated.

Demographics

As of the census^{GR2} of 2000, there were 711,470 people, 301,534 households, and 165,240 families residing in the city. The population density was 1,306.4/km² (3,383.6/mi²). There were 327,175 housing units at an average density of 600.8/km² (1,556.0/mi²). The racial makeup of the city was 67.93% White, 24.47% Black or African American, 0.29% Native American, 3.44% Asian, 0.05% Pacific Islander, 1.17% from other races, and 2.65% from two or more races. 2.46% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race.

There were 301,534 households out of which 28.0% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 36.1% were married couples living together, 14.5% had a female householder with no husband present, and 45.2% were non-families. 34.1% of all households were made up of individuals and 7.0% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.30 and the average family size was 3.01.

The age distribution is 24.2% under the age of 18, 14.0% from 18 to 24, 35.1% from 25 to 44, 17.9% from 45 to 64, and 8.9% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 31 years. For every 100 females there were 94.6 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 91.9 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$37,897, and the median income for a family was \$47,391. Males had a median income of \$35,138 versus \$28,705 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$20,450. About 10.8% of families and 14.8% of the population were below the poverty line, including 18.7% of those under age 18 and 10.9% of those age 65 or over.

The Columbus metropolitan area has experienced several waves of immigration in the 20th century, including groups from Vietnam, Russia, Somalia, and ongoing immigration from Mexico and other Latin American countries.^[37] Many other countries of origin are represented as well, with much of this related to the international draw of The Ohio State University. As is the case in much of America, there is less assimilation going on than compartmentalization, with large monoethnic neighborhoods developing. This influx is putting pressure on all of the social services institutions, notably the public schools and the public health system.^[38]

Due to its demographics, which include a mix of races and a wide range of incomes, as well as urban, suburban, and nearby rural areas, Columbus has been considered to be a "typical" American city, and has been used as a test market for new products by retail and restaurant chains.^[39] However, newer studies suggest that Columbus may no longer accurately mirror the U.S. population as a whole.^[40]

Economy

See also: List of Largest Central Ohio Employers

Year	Population	% Change	Rank
1840	6,048	N/A	70
1850	17,882	195.7	37
1860	18,554	3.8	49
1870	31,274	68.6	42
1880	51,647	65.1	33
1890	88,150	70.7	30
1900	125,560	42.4	28
1910	181,511	44.6	29
1920	237,031	30.6	28
1930	290,564	22.6	28
1940	306,087	5.3	26
1950	375,901	22.8	28
1960	471,316	25.4	28
1970	539,677	14.5	21
1980	564,871	4.7	19
1990	632,910	12.0	16
2000	711,470	12.4	15
2006	733,203	N/A	15

Columbus has a generally strong and diverse economy, ranking in the top 10 overall in the United States, and the best in Ohio, according to Policom Corp.^[41] As Columbus is the state capital, there is a large government presence in the city. Including city, county, state, and federal employers, government jobs provide the largest single source of employment within Columbus.

With approximately 100,000 college students in the Metropolitan Area, there are a large number of people employed within higher education institutions. Large organizations include The Ohio State University, Franklin University and Columbus State Community College, as well as numerous other smaller colleges and schools.

Columbus is home to no fewer than five insurance companies. Nationwide Insurance makes its home downtown in a large, multi-building complex that dominates the northern end of the downtown area. Other companies based in the city include Motorists Insurance, Grange Insurance, Safe Auto Insurance, and State Auto Insurance. Huntington Bancshares Inc. has its headquarters in the downtown area. Bank One was headquartered in Columbus until 1998, and J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., which acquired Bank One in 2004, continues to maintain a major presence in Columbus, with a large mortgage servicing unit in the city. Serving the business-only niche, Commerce National Bank is headquartered in Columbus.

Chemical Abstracts Service is located just north of the OSU campus. The Battelle Memorial Institute, a major research and development facility, is located just to the south of said campus. These two institutions make the city one of the world's leading centers for scientific information distribution. McGraw-Hill has large offices within Columbus as well.

Many technology companies either call Columbus home or have significant operations in the area. The Internet Service Provider CompuServe still has its roots in Columbus, although it has been owned by AOL since 1998. Sterling Commerce, a B2B software company, has its headquarters on the Northwest side. Mettler Toledo, a manufacturer of precision scales and scientific equipment is based in the area known as Polaris. Microsoft also has an office at Polaris. There is a strong push toward gaining more research and technology companies in the city. The multi-jurisdictional 315 Research + Technology Corridor (<http://www.315corridor.com/>) was set up in 2006 to promote the area nationally and internationally, in hopes of achieving something similar to Research Triangle Park in North Carolina.

Limited Brands (formerly known as The Limited, Inc.) is located on the east side of the city and is the parent company of the retail stores The Limited, Express, Victoria's Secret, and Bath & Body Works, among others. Limited Too is also based in the area. The Abercrombie Brands are also located in Columbus in the suburb of New Albany. Abercrombie Brands is parent company of Hollister Co. Abercrombie and Fitch Abercrombie Kids and Ruehl 925. Retail Ventures is headquartered in the capital city. They operate stores under the DSW, Filene's Basement, and Value City banners.

Four fast food chains are based in Columbus: Charley's Grilled Subs, Steak Escape, Wendy's and White Castle. Wendy's operated their first store downtown as both a museum and a restaurant until March 2007 when the establishment was closed due to low revenue. Cameron Mitchell Restaurants, Bob Evans Restaurants, Max & Erma's, Damon's Grill, and Donatos Pizza are also based in the city.

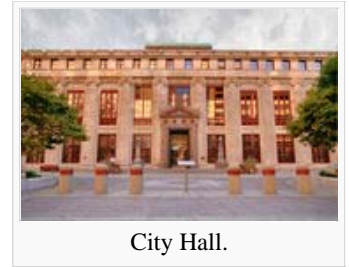
Worthington Industries, a large steel-processing company, is primarily located on the north side near Worthington. Historically, Port Columbus International Airport was once home to a North American Aviation factory (later North American/Rockwell). Aircraft built in Columbus include the North American F-86 Sabre, A-5 Vigilante, OV-10 Bronco, T-2 Buckeye (named after the state tree, and Ohio State University's mascot), and components for the B-1 bomber, as well as numerous missiles and guidance systems.^[42] Budweiser has a major brewery located on the north side, while Hexion Specialty Chemicals (formerly part of Borden, Inc.) is located downtown. The Ross Products Division of Abbott Laboratories, makers of Ensure nutritional drink and Similac infant formula, is headquartered in Columbus, with over 7,000 employees. UPS has a large distribution center on the west side of the city.

Columbus is also home to Skybus Airlines. The start-up company began flying in May of 2007. Skybus was modeled after the European carrier Ryanair and many former Ryanair employees now work for Skybus. Skybus is able to offer extremely cheap fares by charging extra for amenities such as in-flight snacks and beverages, checked baggage, pillows, blankets, priority boarding, and other luxuries that typical airlines offer for free. Skybus also utilizes secondary airports for many of its destinations to lower costs. Skybus is currently flying from Columbus to 8 destinations in the US. In July that number will expand to 11 and Skybus hopes to begin international flights to Cancun, Mexico and Nassau, Bahamas by October of 2007.

Law and government

See also: List of Mayors of Columbus, Ohio

The government is administered by a mayor and a unicameral council elected every two years, the mayor appointing the director of safety and the director of public service. The people elect the treasurer, auditor, municipal court clerk, municipal court judges and city attorney. A charter commission, elected in 1913, submitted, in May, 1914, a new charter offering a modified Federal form, with a number of progressive features, such as nonpartisan ballot, preferential voting, recall of elected officials, the referendum, and a small council elected at large. The charter was adopted, effective January 1, 1916. The current mayor of Columbus is Michael B. Coleman.



City Hall.

Crime

The City of Columbus is policed by a Municipal Police Department, the Columbus Division of Police. According to Morgan Quitno, in 2006 Columbus was the 9th most dangerous out of 32 cities with a population of 500,000 or more^[43], though it has never been ranked among top 25 overall. This ranking is based on crime statistics compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as weighted by Morgan Quitno's methodology^[44]. According to FBI statistics for 2005, Columbus had 102 reported murders and 6,111 total reported violent crimes of all types.^{[45][46]}

Mayor Michael Coleman is a member of the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition^[47], a bi-partisan group with a stated goal of "making the public safer by getting illegal guns off the streets." The Coalition is co-chaired by Boston, Massachusetts Mayor Thomas Menino and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Education

Colleges and universities

Columbus is the home of two public colleges: The Ohio State University, the largest college campus in the United States and Columbus State Community College. Private institutions located in Columbus include the Columbus College of Art and Design, DeVry University, Ohio Institute of Health Careers, and Franklin University, as well as the religious schools Mount Carmel College of Nursing, Ohio Dominican University, Pontifical College Josephinum, and Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Two major suburban schools also have an influence on Columbus' educational landscape: Bexley's Capital University and Westerville's Otterbein College.



West Stands of Ohio Stadium

Primary and secondary schools

Columbus Public Schools (CPS) is the second largest district in Ohio, with 63,000 pupils. CPS operates 150 elementary, middle, and high schools, including a number of alternative schools. The suburbs operate their own districts as well, typically serving students in one or more townships, with districts sometimes crossing municipal boundaries. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Columbus also operates numerous parochial elementary and high schools. The second largest school district in the area is South-Western City Schools, which encompasses southwestern Franklin County. There are three large secular private schools in the area.

Some sources claim that the first kindergarten in the United States was established here by Louisa Frankenberg, a former student of Friedrich Froebel.^[48] Frankenberg immigrated to the city in 1838. In addition, Indianola Junior High School became the nation's first middle school in 1909, helping to bridge the difficult transition from elementary to high school at a time when only 48% of students continued their education after the 9th grade.

Libraries

The Columbus Metropolitan Library has been serving residents of Central Ohio since 1873. With a collection of 3 million items, the system has 22 locations throughout the area. This library is one of the most-used library systems in the country and is

consistently among the top-ranked large city libraries according to "Hennen's American Public Library Ratings" .^{[49][50]}

Culture

See also: List of people associated with Columbus, Ohio

Landmarks

Columbus is home to several notable buildings, including the Greek-Revival State Capitol, the art-deco Ohio Judicial Center and the Peter Eisenman-designed Wexner Center and Greater Columbus Convention Center. Other buildings of interest include the Rhodes State Office Tower, LeVeque Tower, and One Nationwide Plaza.

The Ohio Statehouse construction began in 1839 on a 10-acre (40,000-m²) plot of land donated by four prominent Columbus landowners. This plot formed Capitol Square, which was not part of the original layout of the city. Built of Columbus limestone from the Marble Cliff Quarry Co., the Statehouse stands on foundations 18 feet (5 m) deep, laid by prison labor gangs rumored to have been comprised largely of masons jailed for minor infractions.^[51] The Statehouse features a central recessed porch with a colonnade of a forthright and primitive Greek Doric mode. A broad and low central pediment supports the windowed astylar drum under an invisibly low saucer dome that lights the interior rotunda. Unlike many U.S. state capitol buildings, the Ohio State Capitol owes little to the architecture of the national Capitol. During the long course of the Statehouse's 22 years of construction, seven architects were employed. Relations between the legislature and the architects were not always cordial: Nathan B. Kelly, who introduced heating and an ingenious system of natural forced ventilation, was dismissed because the commissioners found his designs too lavish for the original intentions of the committee. The Statehouse was opened to the legislature and the public in 1857 and finally completed in 1861. It is located at the intersection of Broad and High Streets in downtown Columbus.



The Ohio Statehouse

Founded in 1975, The Jefferson Center for Learning and the Arts is a campus of nonprofit organizations and a center for research, publications, and seminars on nonprofit leadership and governance. Located at the eastern edge of downtown Columbus, Ohio, The Jefferson Center has restored eleven turn-of-the-century homes, including the childhood residence of James Thurber. These locations are used for nonprofits in human services, education and the arts. The center recently obtained a twelfth property to renovate.^[52]

A to-scale replica of the Santa Maria is found on the Scioto Riverfront. It was installed in 1992 to commemorate the 500-year anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus' namesake.

Within the Driving Park heritage district lies the original home of Eddie Rickenbacker the famous WWI fighter pilot ace. Current reconstruction of the home is underway.

Established in 1848, Green Lawn Cemetery is one of the largest cemeteries in the Midwestern United States.

Museums

The Columbus Museum of Art opened in 1931, and has a collection focusing on European and American art up to early modernism. On the campus of The Ohio State University, one can find The Wexner Center for the Arts, a contemporary art gallery and research facility. Also on campus is the Ohio State University Athletics Hall of Fame, located in the Jerome Schottenstein Center (home of the OSU basketball and men's ice hockey teams), as well as the Jack Nicklaus museum next door.



Columbus Museum of Art

Located in Franklin Park, one finds Franklin Park Conservatory, a botanical garden which opened in 1895. Renovated in 1992, it was home to the horticultural festival AmeriFlora '92. In 2004, it was loaned a large collection of Dale Chihuly glass sculpture, which was subsequently purchased and is now a permanent collection.

COSI, (formerly the Center of Science and Industry), is a large science museum. The present building, the former Central High School, was completed in November 1999, opposite downtown on the west bank of the Scioto River.

The Ohio Historical Society is headquartered in Columbus, with its flagship museum, the 250,000-square-foot (23,000-m²) Ohio Historical Center, located 4 miles (6 km) north of downtown. Along with the museum is Ohio Village, a replica of a village around the time of the American Civil War.

Parks and outdoor attractions

The Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District includes Inniswood Metro Gardens, a collection of public gardens; Highbanks Metro Park; Battelle-Darby Creek Metro Park; as well as many others. The Big Darby Creek in the southwestern part of town is considered to be especially significant for its beauty and ecological diversity^[53]. Clintonville is home to Whetstone Park, which includes the Park of Roses, a beautiful 13 acre rose garden. The Chadwick Arboretum is located on the OSU campus, and features a large and varied collection of plants. Downtown, the famous painting Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte is represented in topiary at Columbus's Old Deaf School Park. Also near downtown, a new Metro Park on the Whittier Peninsula is scheduled to open in 2008. The park will include a large Audubon nature center focused on the excellent bird watching that the area is known for.^[54]



Big Darby Creek

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium is world renowned for its collections that include lowland gorillas, manatees, Siberian tigers, cheetahs, and kangaroos. Its director emeritus, Jack Hanna, frequently appears on national television, including on The Tonight Show and The Late Show with David Letterman. Also in the zoo complex is the Zoombezi Bay water park and amusement park, which is currently under construction and scheduled to open in May 2008.

Named a "Great Garden City" by *Organic Gardening* magazine (June/July 2006 issue), there are over 60 community gardens, as well as many farmers markets featuring local foods.

Performing arts

Columbus is the home of many renowned performing arts institutions, including Opera Columbus, BalletMet, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCo), Shadowbox Cabaret and the Columbus Jazz Orchestra. Throughout the summer, the Actors' Theatre offers free performances of Shakespearean plays in an open-air amphitheatre located in German Village. The Columbus Gay Men's Chorus is also a vibrant part of the arts community, and showcases the city's diversity.



Palace Theatre

There are numerous large concert venues in Columbus, including arenas such as Nationwide Arena, Value City Arena, and Germain Amphitheatre. The Lifestyle Communities Pavilion (the LC for short) (formerly the PromoWest Pavilion), Veterans Memorial auditorium, and the Newport Music Hall, round out the city's music performance spaces. Recently, funding has been allocated to renovate the Lincoln Theatre, which was formerly a center for Black culture in Columbus.^{[55][56]} Not far from the Lincoln Theatre is the King Arts Complex, which hosts various cultural events. The city also has a number of theatres downtown, including the historic Palace Theatre, the Ohio Theatre, the Southern Theatre, and the Riffe Center which houses The Capitol Theatre as well as two studio theatres. Much of the growth in entertainment capacity in Columbus has been recent. The construction of the Crew Stadium, Nationwide Arena, Value City Arena, the Greater Columbus Convention Center, and the Lifestyle Communities Pavilion are all projects completed since 1990.

Sports

Columbus is home to The Ohio State Buckeyes college football team. The team is a member of the NCAA's Big Ten Conference, and plays home games at Ohio Stadium. The OSU-Michigan football game is the final game of the regular season and is played in November each year, alternating between Columbus and Ann Arbor, Michigan. ESPN has recognized the OSU-Michigan rivalry as the greatest rivalry in all of sports.^[57] Moreover, "Buckeye fever" permeates Columbus culture year-round and forms a major part of Columbus's cultural identity. During the winter months, the Buckeyes basketball team is also a major sporting attraction.



Nationwide Arena

Columbus has professional sports teams in hockey, soccer, arena football, and minor league baseball. The Columbus Blue Jackets of the National Hockey League and Columbus Destroyers of the Arena Football League both play at Nationwide Arena. The Columbus Crew of Major League Soccer play at their own stadium, Columbus Crew Stadium, which was the first Soccer-specific stadium built in the United States. The Columbus Clippers, Triple A affiliate of the Washington Nationals (formerly a long-time affiliate of the New York Yankees through 2006), currently host their games at Cooper Stadium but are beginning construction on a new ballpark in the Arena District named Huntington Park, currently scheduled to open in April, 2009. From 1985 to 1988, Columbus hosted major league auto racing, with the IMSA *Columbus Ford Dealers 500*.



Sold out crowd to see Columbus's NHL team

Columbus hosts the annual Arnold Classic fitness expo and competition in late February. Hosted by Arnold Schwarzenegger , the event has grown to eight Olympic sports and 12,000 athletes competing in 20 world-class events. The annual All American Quarter Horse Congress, the largest single breed horse show in the world, is held at the Ohio Expo Center each October.

Fairs and festivals

Annual festivities in Columbus include the Ohio State Fair—one of the largest state fairs in the country— as well as the Columbus Arts Festival and the Jazz and Ribs Festival, both of which occur on the downtown riverfront. ComFest (<http://www.comfest.com>) (short for "Community Festival") is an immense three-day gathering in Goodale Park (just north of downtown Columbus and adjacent to the Short North) with art vendors and live musicians on multiple stages, hundreds of local social and political organizations, body painting and beer. Coinciding with the weekend of ComFest is the large Gay Pride Parade, reflective of the sizeable gay population in Columbus. Around the Fourth of July, Columbus hosts Red, White, and Boom, the largest fireworks display in the Midwest on the Scioto riverfront downtown to crowds of over 500,000 people, as well as the popular Doo Dah Parade, a nonsensical satire of ordinary parades. Each June, the Park of Roses in Clintonville holds its annual "Rose Festival" featuring 13 acres of blooming roses. The Origins International Game Expo is held around the first week of July. Marcon, one of the oldest and largest Science Fiction conventions in the country, is held over the Memorial Day weekend downtown. The Short North is host to the monthly "Gallery Hop", which attracts hundreds to the neighborhood's art galleries (which all open their doors to the public until late at night) and street musicians. At the end of September, German Village throws an annual Oktoberfest celebration that features authentic German food, beer, music, and crafts. The Hilltop Bean Dinner is an annual event held on Columbus' West Side that celebrates the city's Civil War heritage near the historic Camp Chase Cemetery. Festival Latino is held in June and celebrates Latino culture with music, food and activities. This free event is held downtown and draws over 300,000. The Jazz and Rib Fest is a free downtown event held each July featuring jazz artists and rib vendors from around the country. During Memorial Day Weekend, Columbus also holds the popular Asian Festival in Franklin Park. Hundreds of restaurants, vendors, and companies open up booths, traditional music and martial arts are performed, and cultural exhibits are set up. In recent years, attendees have numbered over 100,000. Also in June is the historic Juneteenth Celebration in Franklin Park. It commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas. The holiday originated in Galveston, Texas; for more than a century, the state of Texas was the primary home of Juneteenth celebrations. The weekend celebration draws out many community activists, organizations and families in the Franklin Park area.

Columbus also hosts many conventions in the Greater Columbus Convention Center, a pastel-colored deconstructivist building on the north edge of downtown that resembles jumbled blocks, or a train yard from overhead. The convention center was designed by famed architect Peter Eisenman, who also designed the aforementioned Wexner Center. Completed in 1993, the convention center now is 1.7 million square feet.

Media

Columbus's sole remaining daily newspaper is the *Columbus Dispatch*; its erstwhile main competitor, the *Columbus Citizen-Journal*, ceased publication on December 31, 1985. There are also a number of weekly newspapers, including neighborhood/suburb specific papers such as Suburban News Publications which serves 23 suburbs and Columbus; The Daily Reporter, central Ohio's only daily business and legal newspaper; *ThisWeek*; and "alternative" arts/culture/politics-oriented papers such as *The Other Paper* and *aLIVE* (formerly the independent Columbus Alive, and now owned by the Columbus Dispatch). *C-BUS Magazine*, *C Magazine*, and *Columbus Monthly* are the city's magazines.


The city's business community is also served by Columbus Business First, a weekly business publication that is part of the Charlotte-based American City Business Journals, which have business papers in cities across the U.S.

Among Columbus's radio stations are WTVN (610) and WBNS (1460), both among the oldest AM stations in the country; WOSU (820 AM) and WOSU-FM (89.7 FM), operated by The Ohio State University; WCBE (90.5 FM), a National Public Radio affiliate run by the Columbus Board of Education; WLVQ (96.3 FM), a long-running classic-rock station; WWCD (101.1 FM), Columbus's locally-owned alternative rock station; WUFM (88.7 FM) "Radio U", WBZX (99.7 FM) "The Blitz", a modern rock station, WNCI (97.9 FM), WJZA (103.5 and 104.3 FM) a local smooth jazz radio station, WCKX (107.5 FM) an Urban, hip hop and R&B station.

Columbus's television stations include WCMH 4 (NBC), WSYX 6 (ABC), WBNS 10 (CBS), WTTE 28 (Fox), WOSU 34 (PBS), Columbus Sports Network, WSFJ 51 (a Christian-oriented station), and WWHO 53 (The CW). Columbus was also the birthplace of the Pinwheel Network in 1979. The channel then turned into the world-famous Nickelodeon cable network in 1981 and now is the global force in children's television.

Sister cities

Columbus has seven sister cities, as designated by Sister Cities International. Columbus established its first Sister City relationship in 1955 with Genoa, Italy. To commemorate this relationship, Columbus received as a gift from the people of Genoa a bronze statue of Christopher Columbus. The statue, sculpted by artist Edoardo Alfieri, overlooks Broad Street in front of Columbus City Hall.^[58]

-  - **Dresden**, Germany
-  - **Genoa**, Italy
-  - **Hefei**, the People's Republic of China
-  - **Herzliya**, Israel
-  - **Odense**, Denmark
-  - **Seville**, Spain
-  - **Tainan City**, Taiwan (ROC)^[59]

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External links

- Official city website (<http://ci.columbus.oh.us/>)
- Experience Columbus (<http://www.experiencecolumbus.com/>)
- Maps and aerial photos for 39.962245, -83.000647
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- Columbus History through Postcards (<http://www.tallgeorge.com/columbus.php>)

- Columbus Online Guide (<http://www.columbus-guide.com/>)

Columbus, Ohio

General: Airport Authority | Climate | Diocese of Columbus | Downtown | Hospitals | Mayor | Metroparks | Metro Columbus | Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods: Arena District | Brewery District | Clintonville | Downtown | Driving Park | German Village | Harrison West | Hilltop | Italian Village | Short North | Ohio State University Area | Olde Towne East | Olentangy | Victorian Village | Westgate

Media: The Columbus Dispatch | WCMH 4 | WSYX 6 | WBNS 10 | WTTE 28 | WOSU 34 | WSFJ 51 | WWHO 53 | Buckeye TV | Ohio News Network

Transportation: Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) | Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway | Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Railroad | Columbus and Xenia Railroad | Columbus Union Station

Airports: Bolton Field Airport | Don Scott Airport | Port Columbus International Airport | Rickenbacker International Airport

Attractions: Columbus Metropolitan Library | Columbus Museum of Art | Columbus Zoo | COSI | Franklin Park Conservatory | Greater Columbus Convention Center | Jerome Schottenstein Center | LeVeque Tower | Lincoln Theatre | Marble Cliff Quarry Co. | Nationwide Arena | Newport Music Hall | Ohio Stadium | Ohio State Capitol Ohio Theatre | One Nationwide Plaza | Palace Theatre | Rhodes State Office Tower | Wexner Center for the Arts

Shopping Malls: Columbus City Center | Easton Town Center | The Mall at Tuttle Crossing | Polaris Fashion Place

Colleges & universities: Capital University | Columbus College of Art and Design | Columbus State Community College Devry University | Franklin University | Ohio Dominican University | Otterbein College | Pontifical College Josephinum | The Ohio State University | Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Counties

Delaware | Fairfield | Franklin

Suburbs

Amlin | Bexley | Brice | Blacklick | Canal Winchester | Delaware | Dublin | Gahanna | Grandview Heights | Grove City | Groveport | Harrisburg | Hilliard | Lewis Center | Lockbourne | Marble Cliff | Marysville | Minerva | New Albany | New Rome | Obetz | Pataskala | Pickerington | Powell | Reynoldsburg | Riverlea | Shawnee Hills | Urbancrest | Unionville Center | Upper Arlington | Valleyview | Westerville | Whitehall | Worthington

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