

Location Overview

Columbus, Ohio

The City of Columbus, the 15th largest city in the U.S., is the heart of the seven-county Greater Columbus region. A dazzling array of cultural, entertainment, and sports opportunities is close at hand.

Columbus residents enjoy outstanding dining and entertainment venues, exciting downtown festivals, and an abundance of cultural offerings at the city's many fine museums and theaters. Live arts fans can take in anything from the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, and Ballet Met, to local and national jazz, rock, and country concerts. Educational opportunities are plentiful, thanks to the presence of The Ohio State University – the second-largest college campus in the U.S. – and 18 other institutions of higher education in the area. Leading companies in insurance, banking, and technology also call Columbus home.

Because of all these amenities, Columbus has bucked the trend of decline that has plagued most large cities in the Northeastern and Midwestern U.S., growing an enviable 12.4 percent in population during the 1990s. But despite its size, Columbus is easy to get around: more than half of commuters travel fewer than ten minutes to work. Because of its size, Columbus offers housing of every type, at every price level. But wherever you go in Columbus, you will find an easy, friendly Midwestern style that turns strangers into neighbors.

Olde Towne East

Olde Towne East is a neighborhood located in the historical Near East Side of Columbus, Ohio. It is one of Columbus' oldest neighborhoods. Nestled between Downtown, Bexley, Old Oaks Historic District and Driving Park. The area has over 1,000 homes, some as old as the 1830s, and more than 50 architectural styles. These homes were built by many of the famous individuals of Columbus, many of whom shaped Columbus. Revitalization is now underway and these structures are being restored to the grand homes they once were.

At the beginning of this century, people chose to live in Olde Towne East for social status. Today, the residents choose to live there for the unique styling of the houses and their appreciation for the diverse community. Olde Towne East is a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood in a grid layout. The Columbus Metropolitan Library, The Columbus Museum of Art, Franklin University, Capitol University Law School, and Columbus College of Art and Design, all within a 15 minute walk. The entire downtown of Columbus is easily accessible by bicycle or public bus. City, county, state and federal government agencies, including the Capitol Buildings of the State of Ohio, several regional and national banks, insurance companies, and major corporate headquarters are all accessible without the use of an automobile. There is convenient access to all other areas of the city by the freeway and bus systems that converge downtown. Beginning as the home of the city's elite and currently home to a diverse urban community, Olde Towne East has seen many changes.

State of the Region by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

The central Ohio region is growing and adding jobs. Delaware, Fairfield, Union and Pickaway counties were reported among the fastest growing counties in the state in 2006. According to the US Census, the central Ohio region was the only growing region in the state of Ohio, and projections by the Ohio Department of Development predict an additional 440,000 people for the region by 2030.

Central Ohio is being recognized on a national scale as a budding star for technology, logistics and research. Major employers are distributed throughout the region. Honda is in Marysville, aeronautical turbine industries are in Knox County, State Farm Insurance is in Licking, intermodal yards are in Pickaway and Marion, and ethanol plants are being developed in



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Location Overview (Continued)

State of the Region by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (Continued)

Marion and Fayette. Downtown Columbus is experiencing a renaissance with new housing, a potential streetcar, and a new courthouse and baseball park. Expansion of US 33 is creating regional connections to Marysville and Lancaster, and expanding SR 161 is connecting Newark to New Albany.

The central Ohio location is perfect for reaching much of the national market in less than a day, and, with 24 universities and 117,000 university students, a skilled workforce is close at hand. A stable economy well diversified among financial, government, healthcare, logistic, and insurance sectors combined with affordable costs of living and recreational opportunities make central Ohio competitive. The agricultural base is finding diversity by addressing energy production as well as food production.

Franklin County, Ohio

Franklin County, at the heart of the Columbus region, is home to more than one million of the region's 1.7 million residents. Most of the area's largest cities, including Columbus, are located in Franklin County. Franklin County offers a metropolitan lifestyle with many of the area's major educational, shopping, dining, and cultural attractions. Columbus, a thriving city of more than 728,000, is the capital of the State of Ohio, the largest city in the state in both population and area, and the 15th largest in the nation. As the state capital, Columbus serves the needs of the state's 11.5 million residents. In addition to government, other major industries in the county (in terms of employment and payroll) include business services, retail trade, financial services, and healthcare.

Research is a major focus in Franklin County. The county is home to the main campus of The Ohio State University, a world-renowned center for primary research and a major employment center. Also headquartered in Columbus are Battelle, the world's largest private contract research and development organization; Chemical Abstracts Service, the world's foremost clearinghouse for chemical research; and Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a nonprofit library computer service and research organization furthering access to the world's information and reducing information costs. The Ohio State University Hospitals and Children's Hospital are both centers for primary medical research and clinical trials.

Major Highways:

- I-70 (east-west through Columbus to Indianapolis and Pittsburgh)
- I-71 (north-south through Columbus to Cleveland and Cincinnati)
- I-270 (outer belt encircling Columbus)
- I-670 (freeway connecting the airport and downtown)
- U.S. 23 (north-south through Columbus to Detroit and southern Ohio)

Air:

- Port Columbus International Airport, passenger service
- Rickenbacker International Airport, cargo service
- General aviation services available at Port Columbus and Rickenbacker
- Two other general aviation airports: Bolton Field and The Ohio State University Airport

Rail:

- CSX, Norfolk Southern, Chesapeake and Ohio
- Two intermodal yards

