

Every day, more and more domestic and international companies are discovering the real Oklahoma. And in the process, they encounter so much more than they ever imagined.

They discover the state's diverse, natural beauty. The vibrant pace of our cities. The welcoming hospitality of our homes. And the resourcefulness and creativity of our people.

From a skilled workforce and strategic geographic location, to affordable lifestyle and aggressive incentive programs, Oklahoma is a state that understands business and the entrepreneurial spirit.

Oklahoma is a state of industrial diversity. Its climate has made it ideal for agriculture, its mineral wealth in oil and gas is legendary, and now the state is becoming a leader in such growth industries of the future as aerospace, weather research, and bio- and nanotechnology.

Oklahoma's manufacturing base is solid, built on the unbeatable work ethic of its people and the pro-business policies of its government. Thanks to Oklahoma's central U.S. location in the heart of the NAFTA corridor, the state is ideally positioned to serve as the logistics base of choice for many firms.

More companies are choosing Oklahoma everyday. Why? Because it makes good business sense. In a 2006 report published by Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Oklahoma was among America's Top 15 Pro-Business States overall and third in the nation for its economic development services. The study identified 25 factors -- all controlled by state government -- including taxation, human resources, infrastructure, and economic incentive programs that can positively impact business and job development.

With substantially lower costs of doing business than nearly every other geographic area of the country, generous business incentives, a highly rated workforce and a Right to Work policy, Oklahoma offers what industry needs.

One of the best reasons to select Oklahoma for your relocation or business expansion is its low cost of doing business. Consider these facts:

- Oklahoma [labor costs](#) run well below the national average.
- Oklahoma offers abundant local access to reliable and affordable energy sources.
- Oklahoma has one of the lowest per capita [tax rates](#) in the nation.
- Oklahoma has an overall total cost of business that ranks fifth lowest in the United States.

The Oklahoma Fast Forward Advantage

Relocating or expanding your business to a new site demands speed and flexibility. Let the Oklahoma Fast Forward Team help you find the best site, reap the full benefits of the state's business incentive offerings, recruit a highly skilled and trained workforce, and ensure that your project completes on time and well within budget.

Through the Oklahoma Fast Forward Team, Commerce provides customized relocation and expansion services as well as acts as a liaison between your company and the Oklahoma Tax Commission, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, utility companies, and training and community economic development specialists—just to name a few. From initial site identification to project start-up and beyond, Commerce reduces the red tape, which means your project will complete on time and well within budget.

Oklahoma's customized business location assistance includes:

- **Site and building identification**—Commerce maintains an extensive, up-to-date database of hundreds of available sites and facilities statewide, available in GIS format. Start by visiting the [Buildings and Sites](#) page where you'll be directed to the database. Oklahoma's exclusive [Site Ready certified sites](#) program offers assurances these properties are ready for your next project.
- **Labor analysis**—The Fast Forward Team provides comprehensive labor market research and wage data information.
- **Workforce recruiting, screening, assessment and hiring**—A special team assigned to your company helps screen and identify a start-up workforce.
- **Training assistance**—Customized training is provided at no cost to qualifying companies. Ongoing employee and management training can also be provided by the Oklahoma's nationally recognized *CareerTech*, just one of the few Commerce partners providing services and resources to relocating or expanding businesses.
- **Licensing and permitting**—The Fast Forward Team provides a detailed list and background on all necessary licenses and permits required of your company and its suppliers. Commerce also offers guidance in processing these licenses or permits before the deadlines. For example, Commerce in coordination with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), can ensure rapid DEQ permitting for your company and suppliers.
- **Tax incentives and abatements**—provides a confidential analysis of all state and local incentives and abatements applicable to your company's relocation or expansion project.
- **Supplier support**—the support and technical assistance provided to your company extends to your suppliers, and when appropriate, your key business partners.

For more information about these services and the variety of resources available, contact the [Oklahoma Fast Forward Team](#) today at 800-588-5959.