

East Tennessee

Automotive Manufacturing

The Knoxville region of East Tennessee has a strong automotive sector with an excellent location, skilled and experienced workforce, access to automotive and advanced materials research, and a favorable business climate.

Workforce

- Flexible, growing regional workforce of 550,000 (*TN Dept of Labor, June 2008*)
- Manufacturing workforce of 56,000 at labor costs 8% below the U.S. average (*TN Dept of Labor 2008*)
- Right-to-work state
- Customized workforce training
- Strong automotive sector of over 50 manufacturers and 12,500 employees

Accessibility

- Within close proximity of Volkswagen, Toyota, Mercedes and BMW assembly plants
- Located at the juncture of three major interstates, I-40, I-75, and I-81
- Rail service by Norfolk Southern, CSX
- Barge service on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway System
- Regional airport offering more than 120 flights daily to 19 major U.S. destinations
- US Customs Port of Entry and Foreign Trade Zone designation

Technology

- Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) with 16 user facilities
- World's premier laboratory in advanced materials
- National Transportation Research Center (NTRC)
- Collaborative research agreements available at ORNL and the University of Tennessee

Competitive Business Climate

- State taxes ranking among the nation's lowest (*The Tax Foundation, 2009*)
- No state property tax
- Pro-business environment
- Electric rates 26% below the U.S. industrial average (*TVA*)
- Building costs 21% below the national average (*RSMMeans Construction Index 2008*)
- Competitive lease rates

Quality of Life

- Cost of living 10% below the national average (*ACCRA 2008 Annual Average Data*)
- No state personal income tax
- Housing costs 23% below the national average (*ACCRA 2008 Annual Average Data*)
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park

