

Knox County's Population Center 2010

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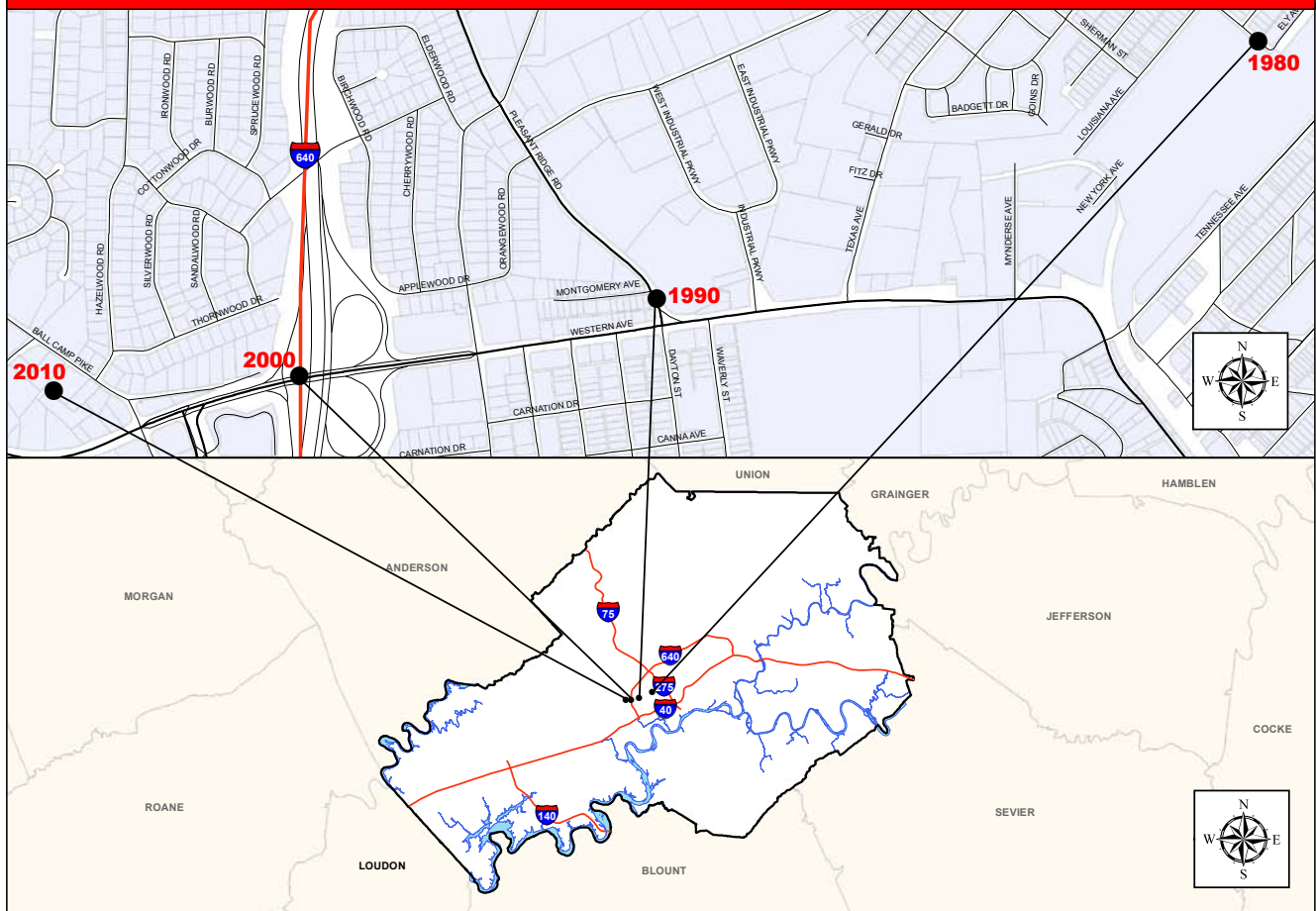
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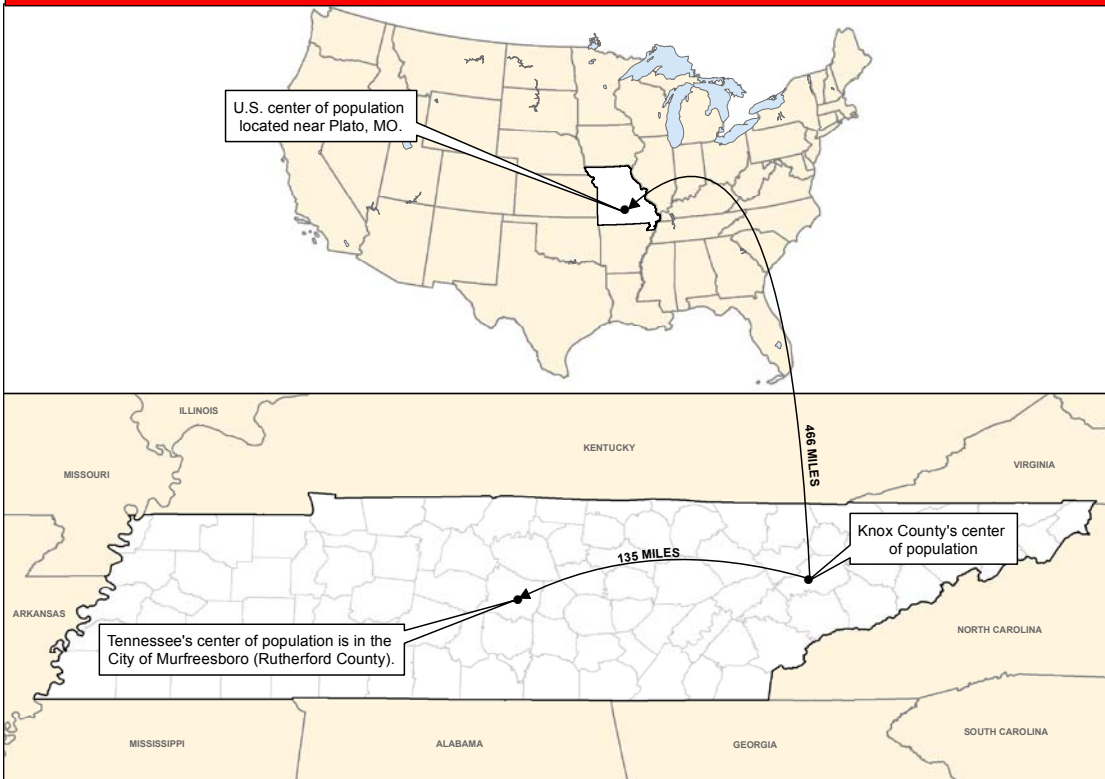
Every 10 years, with the release of its Census of Population and Housing, the U.S. Census Bureau reports an interesting piece of information—the mean geographic center of population. The Census Bureau defines the population center as the point at which an imaginary map of a selected area would balance perfectly if all residents weighed the same and were put on the map where they live.

With the latest release of decennial census data in 2010, Knox County's population, totaling more than 432,000, found its center at the corner of Ball Camp Pike and Hazelwood Road.

KNOX COUNTY CENTER OF POPULATION 1980, 1990, 2000, & 2010

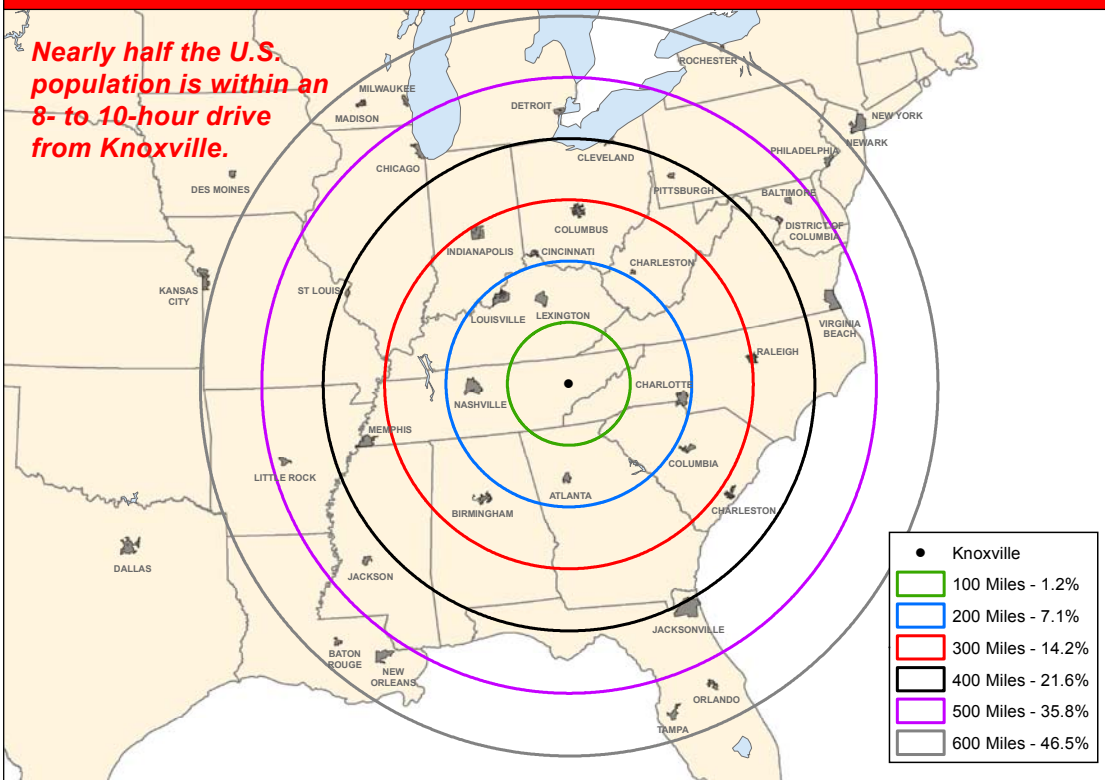


NATIONAL AND STATE CENTERS OF POPULATION 2010



whole, it reflects the centuries-long movement of people from original settlements in the Northeast in pursuit of new opportunities from the Midwest to the West Coast, and all points in between.

PERCENT OF U.S. POPULATION WITHIN SELECTED DISTANCE FROM KNOXVILLE



The first U.S. census, conducted in 1790, found the center of population in Kent County, Maryland. Counts over the past several decades saw the center moving west across the U.S., and, as of 2010, it landed in central Missouri near the village of Plato, about 175 miles southwest of St. Louis. Measuring the center of population is a simple and colorful device to show general migration and settlement choices of people over time. For the U.S. as a

Decades of Local Population Movement

Much like the historical westward migration seen nationally, Knox County's center of population also followed a westerly shift over the past several decades. Back in 1980, the local population center landed near the intersection of Stonewall Street and Ely Avenue in the Lonsdale community. In 1990 it moved further west to the 3400 block of Pleasant Ridge Road, and by 2000, the migration trend had continued as the center was found in the vicinity of Western Avenue at I-640.

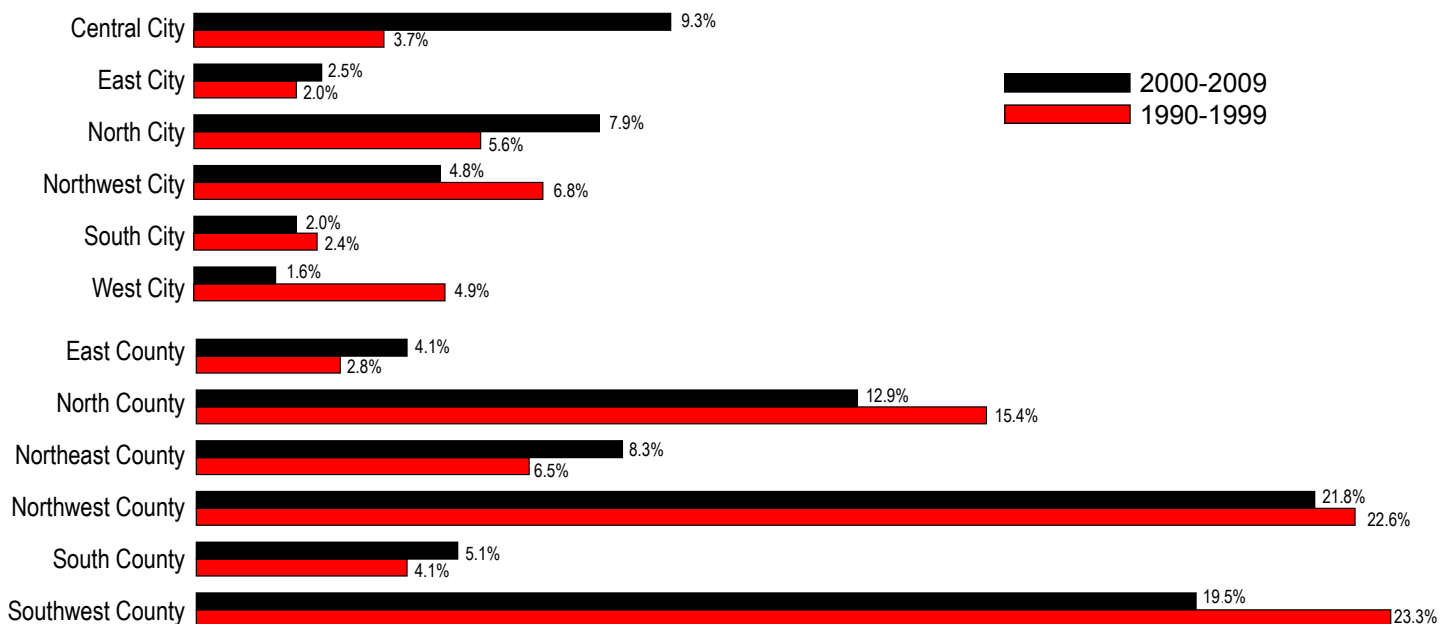
Slowdown in Westward Shift

A noticeable trend took place in Knox County's migratory center though. Despite the continual westward drift, a decline has been occurring in the straight-line distances from each decennial center. The migration from the 1980 to the 1990 population center was nearly a full mile, but from 1990 to 2000 that distance shrunk to just half a mile, and between 2000 and 2010, the shift slowed further to about a third of a mile.

So what do we attribute the slowing westward migration to? Over the past few decades, the Northwest and Southwest County sectors led all other sectors across Knox County in residential and non-residential development. However, the share of new investment that these two sectors captured has steadily fallen: from 45.9 percent during the 1990s, to 41.3 percent between 2000 and 2009.

And while the share of west-side development declined, substantial new construction and reinvestment occurred in downtown Knoxville and throughout the Central City sector. Building permits rose from a 3.7 percent share during the 1990s, to a nearly 10 percent share in the past 10 years. At the same time, other areas of Knox County, such as the North City Sector and the Northeast, East, and South County sectors, also saw growing shares of new development, contributing to a slowdown of the local population's westerly movement.

Distribution of Knox County Residential & Non-Residential Building Permits by Sector, 1990-2009



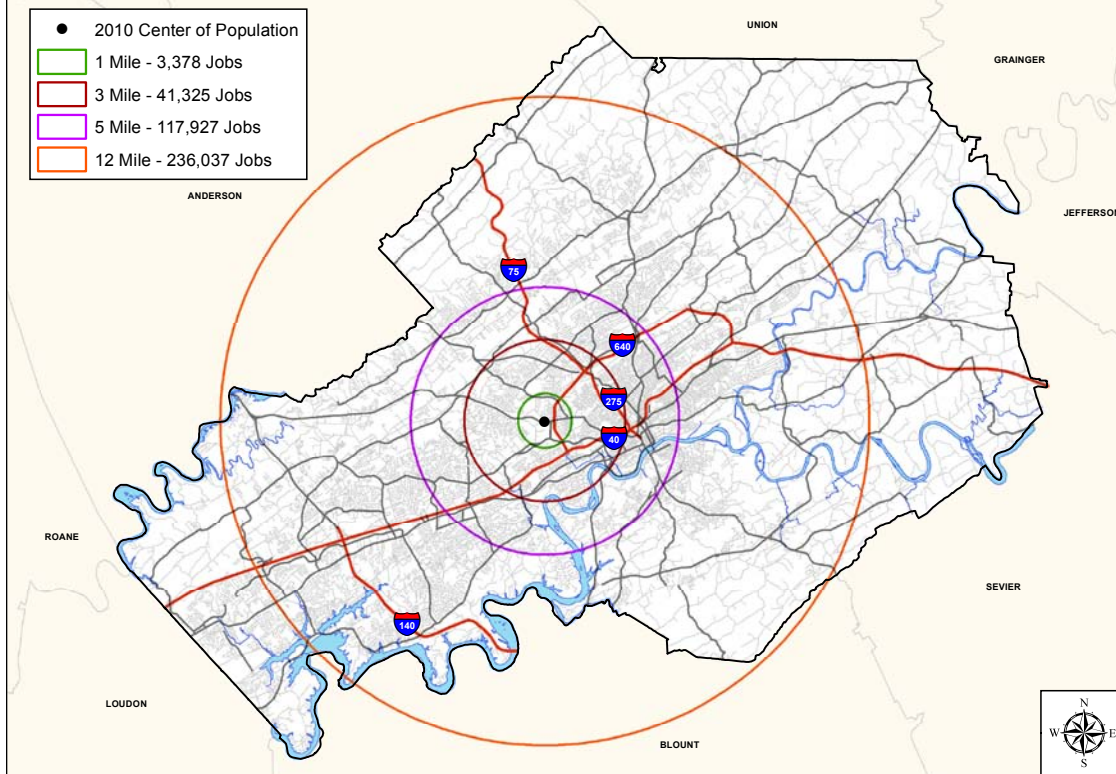
Access Considerations

We often hear local folks estimate that Knoxville's population center is in the Cedar Bluff area. That might seem like a reasonable guess, based on the amount of new home construction in west Knox County over the past 30 years, but it simply is not correct.

Knowing the most central location of the county's population is a useful piece of information, especially when considering fair access to community services, like the county's main library, or courthouse, or health department, and major local destinations, like downtown employment centers or The University of Tennessee campus.

Do those locations still make sense in terms of accessibility to a majority of Knox County residents? All of those stops are 2 to 4 miles from the county's population center. Cedar Bluff is more than 10 miles away.

JOBS NEAR THE CENTER OF POPULATION



Do People Live Close to Where They Work?

Speaking of employment centers, how accessible are local jobs to the county's working population?

Within a one-mile radius of Knox County's center of population are 3,378 jobs. The largest employer in that circle is Knoxville Utilities Board (700 employees) on Middlebrook Pike. In a three-mile radius around the population center, there are more than 41,000 jobs. Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center, located on Clinch Ave, is the largest employer with about 1,900 workers.

A circle drawn five miles from the population center captures 118,000 jobs, with The University of Tennessee Medical Center (3,800 employees) the largest employer. And, at 12 miles out, corresponding with the national average work commute distance, there are 236,000 jobs. The largest employer in that added coverage area is Parkwest Medical Center, with 2,000 workers.

While the geographic center of population has some novelty value, it also inspires us to think about local settlement history and economic development patterns. We look forward to the Census Bureau's 2020 edition of the measured center—any guesses? (We're going with the 640 Plaza on Western Avenue. Stay tuned.)

TOP EMPLOYERS NEAR THE KNOX COUNTY CENTER OF POPULATION, 2010

Radius (Miles)	Employer	Address	Number of Employees	Classification
1	Knoxville Utilities Board	4507 Middlebrook Pk	700	Electric Power Generation and Other
1	Knoxville Knox County Head Start	2400 Piedmont St	195	Individual & Family Services
1	Custom Food Division Processed Foods	3600 Pleasant Ridge Rd	170	Frozen Specialty Food Manufacturing
1	Rock-Tenn	1906 Third Creek Rd	162	Folding Paperboard Box Manufacturing
1	Cole Vision	4716 Middle Creek Ln	150	Optical Goods Store
3	Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center	1901 Clinch Ave	1,900	General Medical & Surgical Hospital
3	East Tennessee Children's Hospital	2018 W Clinch Ave	1,834	Children's Hospital
3	Broadway Electric Service	1800 N Central St	611	Electrical Contractors
3	ARC Automotive	1729 Midpark Rd	610	Motor Vehicles & Car Bodies
3	ShoffnerKalthoff Mechanical Electric Services	3600 Papermill Dr	503	Mechanical & Electrical Contractors
5	University of Tennessee Medical Center	1520 Cherokee Trl	3,802	University Medical & Research Hospital
5	Physicians Regional Medical Center	900 E Oak Hill Ave	2,500	General Medical & Surgical Hospital
5	University of Tennessee	2621 Morgan Cir	1,730	College, University, Professional School
5	Knox County Government	400 W Main St	1,400	County Government
5	Tennessee Valley Authority	400 W Summit Hill Dr	1,200	Distribution, Electric Power
12	Parkwest Medical Center	9352 Parkwest Blvd	2,000	General Medical & Surgical Hospital
12	Elavon	7300 Chapman Hwy	1,200	Business & Credit Card Services
12	ALCOA	2300 N Wright Rd	1,200	Aluminum Manufacturing
12	Scripps Networks Interactive	9721 Sherrill Blvd	1,000	Cable & Media Services
12	Follett Higher Education Group	10915 Hardin Valley Rd	858	Junior College

Source: Dun & Bradstreet, 2010.