

Kansas City is the largest city in the U.S. state of **Missouri**. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the city had an estimated population of 508,090 in 2020, making it the 36th most-populous city in the United States. It is the central city of the Kansas City, Missouri combined statistical area (CSA), which, with a population of 2,530,241 residents straddling the Missouri-Kansas state line (1,456,831 (57.58%) in Missouri and 1,073,410 (42.42%) in Kansas), constitutes the 27th largest CSA in the United States. In homage to the local Kansa Native Americans, Kansas City was initially settled in the 1680s by French fur traders as a bustling marketplace known at the time by its frenchified appellation “*Chez les Canses*,”



transliterated into English as “Home of the Kansa Indians” at the convergence of the Missouri and Kansas rivers, or “Kawsmouth.” Well over a century later, the Chouteau family (who would then go on to found St. Louis in 1764) established an influential presence in the area spearheaded by François Chouteau in 1821 (the same year in which the State of Missouri was admitted into the Union). However, pace of growth would not accelerate until 1838, when John Calvin McCoy metamorphosed the settlement into a Missouri River port near its confluence with the Kansas River coming in from the west. On June 1, 1850, the Town of Kansas was incorporated by Jackson County, Missouri, followed by incorporation as the City of Kansas by the State of Missouri on March 28, 1853. Shortly thereafter came the establishment of the Kansas Territory on May 30, 1854. Confusion between the two ensued and the name “Kansas City” was assigned to distinguish the two soon thereafter.

Sitting on Missouri’s western boundary, with Downtown near the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas rivers, the modern city encompasses some 319.03 square miles, making it the 23rd largest city by total area in the United States. Most of the city lies within Jackson County, but portions spill into Clay, Cass, and Platte counties. Along with Independence (123,011), one of its major suburbs, Kansas City serves as one of the two county seats for Jackson County, Missouri, which is the second most-populous county in the State of Missouri (behind St. Louis County, Missouri). Named for President Andrew Jackson and organized in 1826, Jackson County, Missouri, of which the City of Kansas City serves as the center of government, figures prominently in the history of the Latter Day Saint movement, with founder Joseph Smith proclaiming Jackson County to be the “latter-day New Jerusalem.” Among Kansas City, Missouri’s other major suburbs include the Missouri cities of Blue Springs (58,063), Liberty (32,100), and Lee’s Summit (101,108), and the Kansas cities of Overland Park (197,238), Olathe (141,290), and Kansas City, Kansas (156,607).

In allusion to one of Kansas City’s most well-known nicknames, 34th U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower once declared in his 1953 Inaugural Address, “For this truth must be clear before us: whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the Heart of America.” Further nicknamed “KC,” “KCMO,” “The City of Fountains,” and “The Paris of the Plains,” the City of Kansas City, Missouri, whose municipal government is the largest in Missouri as well as one of the largest in the entire nation and among one of only ten U.S. regional office cities for the U.S. government, is composed of several neighborhoods, which include the River Market District and Zona Rosa in the north, the historic 18th and Vine Jazz District, which is internationally recognized as one of the cradles of jazz music, in the east, and the Spanish-style upscale shopping and dining district of the Country Club Plaza in the south, which was the first regional shopping center in the world to accommodate shoppers arriving by automobile. Developed in stages between 1906 and 1950, the Country Club District of Kansas City, Missouri is the largest contiguous planned community built by a single developer in the United States. Moreover, the Interstate system serves the Kansas City, Missouri metropolitan area better than any other city in America, as Kansas City is home to far more freeway lane miles per capita than any other large metropolitan area in the United States.

Kansas City is also known for its long history and tradition of its distinctive style of jazz music and culture (and was the only city in the United States or Canada to be touted a “City of Music” by UNESCO in 2017), its signature-style world-renowned barbecue and cuisine (and is home to the American Royal BBQ Contest—the largest in the world), the origin of Hallmark Cards, Russell Stover Chocolates, Inc., and AMC Theatres, the regional headquarters of the Federal Reserve Bank, its City Beautiful Movement parks and boulevards (which are the most in the world outside of Paris, France), having the most fountains of any municipality in the world outside of Rome, Italy, its craft breweries, the avant-garde Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the award-winning National World War I Museum, constituting the birthplace of six-time Grammy Award-winning and three-time Academy Award-winning composer, Burt Bacharach, as well as the hometown of internationally-renowned, twenty-six-time Academy Award-winning animator, Walt Disney, and its Big Four major league sports teams, which include the Kansas City Chiefs of the National Football League (NFL) and the Kansas City Royals of Major League Baseball (MLB), who both compete at the state-of-the-art Harry S. Truman Sports Complex, whose namesake was a University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) alumnus, the 33rd President of the United States, and who is consistently ranked among the nation’s finest heads of state in U.S. history. According to the Globalization and World Cities Research Network (GaWC) in 2020, Kansas City, Missouri is considered a *de jure* Gamma World City.