Knox County, Tennessee — #1 of 7: Commercial Builders

Knox County leads TN in commercial builders

Source: ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

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Commercial Builders (2022)

Knox County leads Tennessee in nonresidential construction activity among all counties in the Knoxville metro.

With 77 commercial builders operating in 2022, Knox County is the epicenter of nonresidential construction in East Tennessee. This reflects a sustained build-out of office, retail, and mixed-use infrastructure, signaling confidence in long-term urban demand. The concentration of activity suggests that Knox County is not just a residential market but a growing regional hub for business and commercial development.

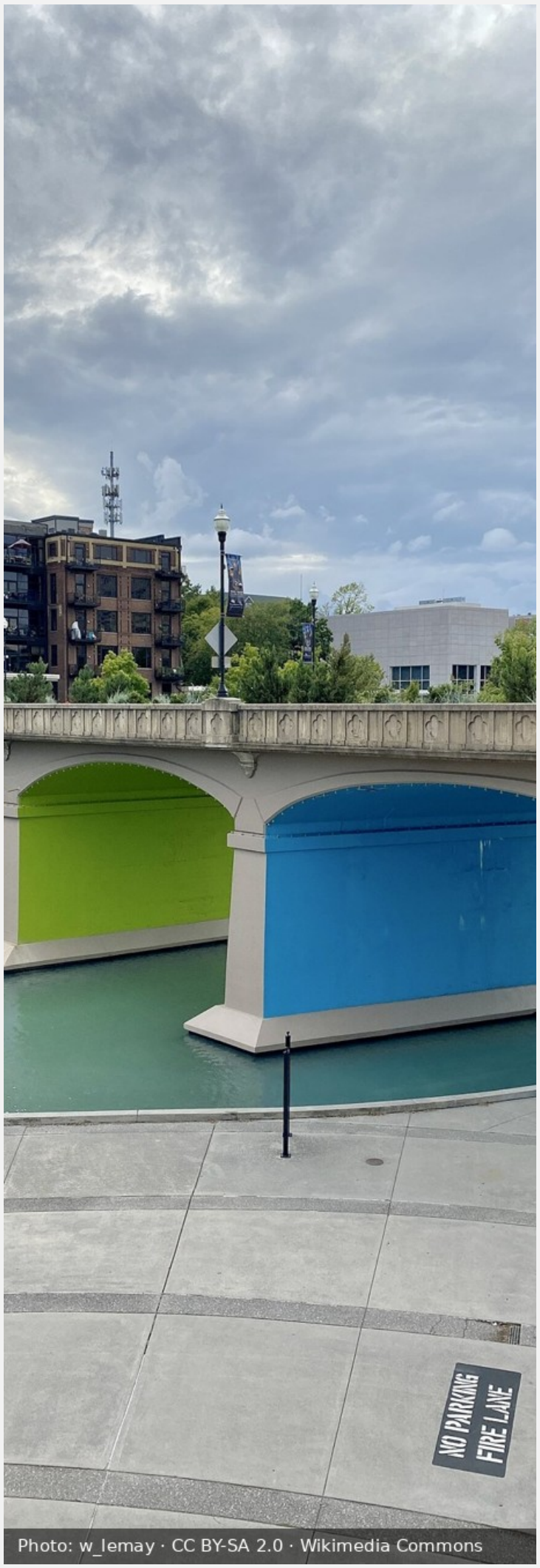


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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 2362 (Nonresidential building construction) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-16-knoxville-ind-2362-county

01

Construction leads growth, not just housing

The dominance of commercial builders in Knox County reveals a structural shift: East Tennessee's economy is being reshaped by infrastructure investment, not just housing. This is not a housing bubble — it's a diversification of the local economy toward commercial resilience. The 77 builders represent a broad base of enterprise activity, from logistics to healthcare to tech-enabled services, all anchored in physical space.

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02

The builder count tells the real story

While home prices are rising and inventory is tight, the true driver of market strength lies in commercial construction. The 77 builders in Knox County — more than double the next county — indicate that the region is attracting new business formation and long-term capital deployment. This is not a speculative cycle; it's a foundational shift in the economic fabric of East Tennessee.

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