

CREDIT OPINION

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City of Oklahoma City, OK

Update to credit analysis

Summary

The credit profile of Oklahoma City, OK (Aaa stable) benefits from several strengths including a diverse and stable economy and well managed financial operations with strong fund balance and liquidity ratios. Resident income and property wealth (measured by full value per capita) are below the national Aaa medians. Leverage metrics are slightly elevated relative to the Aaa median but will remain manageable given fast payout and moderate future debt plans.

Credit strengths

- » Large, regionally important economy anchored by governmental employment with a sizeable tax base
- » High level of financial reserves and history of conservative budgeting; experienced management team
- » Moderate pension liability; city's charter mandates city contribution at 100% of actuarial requirements

Credit challenges

- » Below median resident income and full value per capita
- » High dependence on economically sensitive sales and use taxes
- » Revenue raising flexibility is restricted by requirement of voter approval

Rating outlook

The stable outlook reflects the expectation that the city will maintain a satisfactory level of reserves over the long term. Management's continued ability to navigate weak economic or financial cycles while maintaining a strong financial position is key to maintaining the rating and outlook. The stable outlook also reflects the stabilizing economic influence of the various governmental employers within the city that will help to offset fluctuations in the private sector.

Factors that could lead to an upgrade

» Not applicable

Factors that could lead to a downgrade

» Weakened liquidity ratio to below 100%

- » Decline in economic activity that drives loss in sales tax revenue
- » Increase in long-term liabilities or fixed costs ratios to above 350% and 15%, respectively
- » Unwillingness or inability to budget for debt service on the outstanding annual appropriation debt, if necessary

This publication does not announce a credit rating action. For any credit ratings referenced in this publication, please see the issuer/deal page on https://ratings.moodys.com for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

Key indicators

Exhibit 1
Oklahoma City (City of) OK

	2020	2021	2022	2023	Aaa Medians
Economy	,				
Resident income ratio (%)	93.6%	93.2%	N/A	N/A	173.0%
Full Value (\$000)	\$55,687,785	\$58,682,807	\$60,542,375	\$65,280,622	\$8,668,233
Population	649,821	673,183	681,088	N/A	35,992
Full value per capita (\$)	\$85,697	\$87,172	\$88,891	N/A	\$225,444
Annual Growth in Real GDP	-4.1%	0.9%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Financial Performance				•	
Revenue (\$000)	\$1,034,836	\$1,075,221	\$1,111,299	\$1,233,258	\$101,177
Available fund balance (\$000)	\$558,373	\$568,586	\$681,048	\$712,562	\$58,570
Net unrestricted cash (\$000)	\$1,481,960	\$1,535,872	\$1,593,929	\$1,749,835	\$82,803
Available fund balance ratio (%)	54.0%	52.9%	61.3%	57.8%	61.7%
Liquidity ratio (%)	143.2%	142.8%	143.4%	141.9%	88.4%
Leverage			•	·	
Debt (\$000)	\$1,096,062	\$1,158,890	\$1,226,428	\$1,292,780	\$71,733
Adjusted net pension liabilities (\$000)	\$1,390,246	\$2,008,064	\$1,509,353	\$1,285,045	\$120,941
Adjusted net OPEB liabilities (\$000)	\$473,430	\$508,281	\$471,952	\$335,619	\$14,374
Other long-term liabilities (\$000)	\$145,727	\$140,982	\$144,086	\$147,136	\$3,750
Long-term liabilities ratio (%)	300.1%	354.9%	301.6%	248.2%	263.2%
Fixed costs	<u> </u>			<u>'</u>	
Implied debt service (\$000)	\$72,977	\$78,492	\$81,284	\$85,653	\$4,989
Pension tread water contribution (\$000)	\$51,394	\$61,698	\$26,770	N/A	\$3,389
OPEB contributions (\$000)	\$14,557	\$13,314	\$13,307	\$13,306	\$523
Implied cost of other long-term liabilities (\$000)	\$11,165	\$10,436	\$9,888	\$10,063	\$245
Fixed-costs ratio (%)	14.5%	15.2%	11.8%	11.0%	11.6%

The real GDP annual growth metric cited above is for the Oklahoma City, OK Metropolitan Statistical Area [issuer specific] Metropolitan Statistical Area. For definitions of the metrics in the table above please refer to the <u>US Cities and Counties Methodology</u> or see the Glossary in the Appendix below. Metrics represented as N/A indicate the data were not available at the time of publication. The medians come from our most recently published <u>US Cities and Counties Median Report</u>.

Sources: US Census Bureau, Oklahoma City (City of) OK's financial statements and Moody's Investors Service, US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Profile

The City of Oklahoma City is the state's capital and the largest city within the state. The city serves as an economic hub for the area, with energy, government/defense, and healthcare as the main sources of employment. The current population is about 690,000. The city provides services such as public safety, fire protection, parks and recreation, infrastructure, water and sewer service, airport facilities, and refuse collection.

Detailed credit considerations

Economy: exposure to oil/gas offset by significant government presence

The local economy has proven resilient in previous economic shocks and will continue to be a positive factor for the foreseeable future. Oklahoma City is the largest city in the state with a large and growing population of nearly 700,000 residents and also serves as the state capital. The local economy is a regional service center and is anchored largely by government, defense and energy employers. Education and healthcare are also key contributors. The stabilizing influence of the defense and government employment base is an important offset for the volatility inherent in the energy sector due to commodity price fluctuations. The largest single employer within the city is Tinker Air Force Base, a key maintenance and logistics base for the military. Combined, federal/military, state government, and local government employ roughly half of the local labor force. The tax base is not concentrated; the 10 largest taxpayers account for a low 6% of fiscal 2023 assessed value. Several new economic development projects will contribute to continued tax base growth which has averaged over 5% over the past five year.

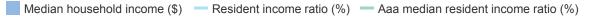
The city's real GDP (based on the Oklahoma City MSA) has been growing for the past several years though the rate of growth has been slower than that of the US; the city's five year economic growth ratio is -1.9% (though 2021). We do not expect the city's real

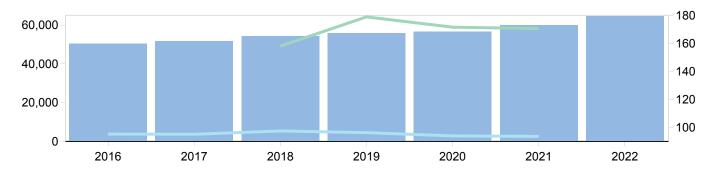
GDP growth to outpace that of the nation any time soon, but nevertheless the city's economy should continue to grow given modest population gains and the strength of the various employment sectors.

The city's full valuer per capita is well below the national Aaa median, but the city has some tax-exempt property. Full value per capita has been increasing every year, driven by tax base growth that has averaged 5.1% annually over the past five years. Median household income adjusted for regional price parity has been stable but remains below median and is impacted by the sizeable institutional presence. The city is quite affordable with a median home value at 70% of the nation. The unemployment rate is on par with the state and slightly below the US.

Exhibit 2

Resident Income





Source: Moody's Investors Service

Financial operations: strong and stable reserves despite reliance on sales tax

The city's financial performance is a strength of its credit profile and we expect reserves will be maintained or increased over the next several years. Because of the city's experienced and prudent management team and conservative budgeting, the city has proven adept at maintaining its financial reserves despite the volatile nature of Oklahoma's energy based economy and the COVID-19 pandemic. As of fiscal 2023 audited results (ending June 30), the available fund balance and liquidity ratios were unchanged from the previous year at 59% and 142%, respectively. The fund balance ratio is in line with the Aaa national median and the liquidity ratio is stronger. The ratios include fund balances and cash and investments (excluding restricted) across all governmental and business-type activities funds. We note that the city has significant fund balance classified as restricted but is available for things like capital projects and debt service.

Sales tax is the city's largest revenue source at 48% of governmental revenue as of fiscal 2023. Use tax, which is assessed on online sales, accounts for 10%. Oklahoma sales tax is broad, levied on essentially all purchases inclusive of groceries and medical supplies. This, as well as the collection of tax on online sales, is a positive factor. However these taxes are more economically sensitive than other revenue streams, such as property taxes.

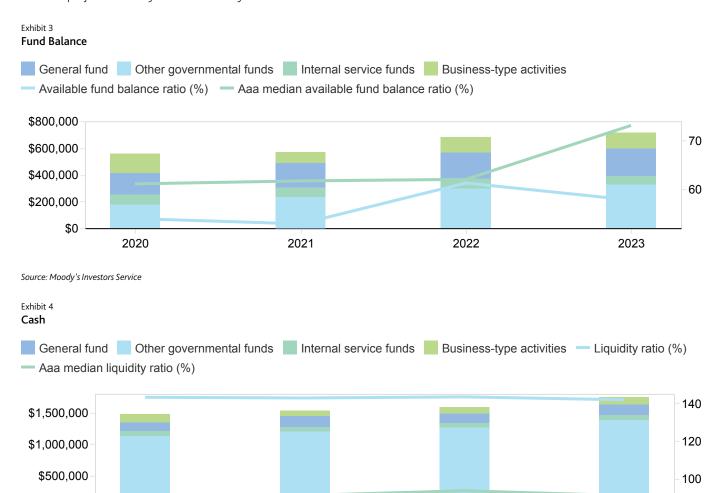
The city reports that fiscal 2024 is trending favorably due in part to expenditure savings from vacancies as well as sales taxes that are ahead of budget by 1.3% and use taxes that are up 0.6%. The city should end the year with an addition to general fund balance. The general fund policy is to maintain a fund balance equal to 17-22% of the subsequent year's expenses; as of fiscal 2023 year-end, the city was ahead of the policy at 25%.

As the city begins to develop its fiscal 2025 budget, it will take its usual conservative approach and expects to budget for around a 2% increase in sales taxes and a 7% increase in use taxes. The fiscal 2025 budget will be balanced.

Oklahoma City Public Property Authority hotel tax revenue bonds

The city has several series of bonds issued by the Oklahoma City Public Property Authority that are backed by 10/11ths of a 5.5% hotel occupancy tax levied citywide. Following declines in fiscal 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic, pledged revenue increased 50% in

2022 and another 10% in 2023. Fiscal 2023 revenue provided a solid 1.7x coverage over maximum annual debt service, which is in line with our projections last year when the city sold new bonds.



Source: Moody's Investors Service

\$0

Leverage: elevated but manageable leverage profile

2020

The long-term liabilities ratio will remain elevated for the rating category given future debt plans, though the debt will remain manageable given the descending debt service schedule, growing tax base, and ability to access additional property tax receipts to service bond holders. The long-term liabilities ratio was 248% in fiscal 2023, which is slightly below the national Aaa median. The Moody's adjusted fixed costs ratio was 11%. The leverage ratios include debt and the Moody's adjusted net pension and OPEB liabilities; most of the city's leverage is coming from pension and debt. The city has \$226.6 million in remaining voter authorization to issue general obligation debt pursuant to a 2017 bond election. City officials anticipate issuing debt annually (between \$90 and \$150 million) until the authorization is exhausted. In addition, the city will issue debt within the next few years for a new arena for the Oklahoma City Thunder professional basketball team. Voters recently approved a one cent sales tax effective from April 1, 2028 to March 31, 2034. The city is evaluating various debt options so details are not available at this time.

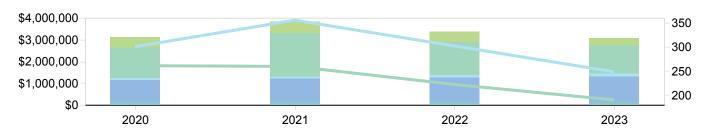
2022

2021

2023







Source: Moody's Investors Service

Legal security

The city issues general obligation debt secured by an unlimited ad valorem tax, limited ad valorem tax debt, as well as various appropriation backed obligations supported by nonessential revenue streams. The general obligation unlimited tax bonds are payable from an ad valorem tax levied, without limitation as to rate or amount, on all taxable property within the city. The lack of distinction between the city's Aaa GOULT and GOLT ratings reflect sizeable headroom under the tax rate limitation allowing sufficient capacity to service bond holders. The current tax rate for the GOLT bonds is \$1.21 per \$1,000 of assessed value (as defined under Oklahoma law), well under the \$5 state limitation.

Debt structure

Principal payment is fast with about 67% repaid in 10 years and final maturity is in 2043. The city is a frequent issuer of debt, however, and will continue to layer in additional debt as amortization occurs.

Debt-related derivatives

The city is not party to any interest rate swaps or other derivative agreements.

Pensions and OPEB

The city participates in four retirement systems. There are two single employee plans including The Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking System (COTPA) Employee Retirement Trust, and Oklahoma City Employee Retirement System. There are also two multiemployer cost sharing plans including the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System, and Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System. The city has a strong history of meeting its annually required contribution in both the municipal and parking employee plans. Contributions in the public safety plan are based on statutory requirements. Combined, the city's retirement plans account for a Moody's adjusted net pension liability (ANPL) of \$1.3 billion. This represents 104% of revenue, which is a moderate liability.

The city provides other post-employment benefits (OPEB) in the form of medical benefits to employees. The city has made some changes to the benefit including increasing the eligibility age, and or service retirement. Additionally, all employees hired on or after January 1, 2017 are not eligible for subsidies from the city for retiree health care coverage. Contributions into the plan are currently made on a pay as you go basis. The Moody's adjusted liability is equal to 27% of revenue.

ESG considerations

Oklahoma City's CIS-2 indicates that ESG considerations are not material to the current rating. The city has exposure to carbon transition risk, low exposure to social risks and a very strong governance profile

Environmental

The city's environmental issuer profile score is E-3. The city has exposure to carbon transition with an economy centered on oil and gas. Exposure to all other environmental risks including physical climate risks, water management, natural capital and waste and pollution is low.

Social

The city's social issuer profile score is S-2. The city has low exposure across all categories including demographics, labor and income, education, housing, health and safety, and access to basic services.

Governance

The city's governance issuer profile score is G-1. Positive policy credibility and effectiveness is demonstrated by solid budget management evidenced in budget outcomes that are significantly favorable compared to expectations. The city's commitment to transparency and disclosure is also evident in periodic reporting of key financial and capital updates. The city also produces long range financial forecasts and capital planning that encompass population projections to guide a forward planning view for its resources.

Rating methodology and scorecard factors

The US Cities and Counties Rating Methodology includes a scorecard, which summarizes the rating factors generally most important to city and county credit profiles. Because the scorecard is a summary, and may not include every consideration in the credit analysis for a specific issuer, a scorecard-indicated outcome may or may not map closely to the actual rating assigned. The assigned rating of Aaa also takes into consideration the institutional presence of Tinker Air Force Base, which s the largest single employer in the city. Further, the city has fund balance classified as restricted in the audit (and therefore not included in the available fund balance ratio) but is spendable for essential purposes such as capital outlay and debt service.

Exhibit 6
Oklahoma City (City of) OK

	Measure	Weight	Score
Economy			
Resident income ratio	93.2%	10.0%	А
Full value per capita	95,848	10.0%	А
Economic growth metric	-1.9%	10.0%	А
Financial Performance			
Available fund balance ratio	57.8%	20.0%	Aaa
Liquidity ratio	141.9%	10.0%	Aaa
Institutional Framework			
Institutional Framework	A	10.0%	Α
Leverage			
Long-term liabilities ratio	248.2%	20.0%	Α
Fixed-costs ratio	11.0%	10.0%	Aa
Notching factors			
No notchings applied			
Scorecard-Indicated Outcome			Aa3
Assigned Rating			Aaa

The Economic Growth metric cited above compares the five-year CAGR of real GDP for Oklahoma City, OK Metropolitan Statistical Area [issuer specific] Metropolitan Statistical Area to the five-year CAGR of real GDP for the US

Sources: US Census Bureau, Oklahoma City (City of) OK's financial statements and Moody's Investors Service

U.S. PUBLIC FINANCE MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE

Appendix

Exhibit 7

Key Indicators Glossary

-	Definition	Typical Source*
Economy		
Resident income ratio	Median Household Income (MHI) for the city or county, adjusted for Regional Price Parity (RPP), as a % of the US MHI	MHI: US Census Bureau - American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates RPP: US Bureau of Economic Analysis
Full value	Estimated market value of taxable property in the city or county	State repositories; audited financial statements; continuing disclosures
Population	Population of the city or county	US Census Bureau - American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
Full value per capita	Full value / population	,
Economic growth metric	Five year CAGR of real GDP for Metropolitan Statistical Area or county minus the five-year CAGR of real GDP for the US	Real GDP: US Bureau of Economic Analysis
Financial performance		
Revenue	Sum of revenue from total governmental funds, operating and non- operating revenue from total business-type activities, and non- operating revenue from internal services funds, excluding transfers and one-time revenue, e.g., bond proceeds or capital contributions	Audited financial statements
Available fund balance	Sum of all fund balances that are classified as unassigned, assigned or committed in the total governmental funds, plus unrestricted current assets minus current liabilities from the city's or county's business-type activities and internal services funds	
Net unrestricted cash	Sum of unrestricted cash in governmental activities, business type activities and internal services fund, net of short-term debt	Audited financial statements
Available fund balance ratio	Available fund balance (including net current assets from business- type activities and internal services funds) / Revenue	
Liquidity ratio	Net unrestricted cash / Revenue	
Leverage		
Debt	Outstanding long-term bonds and all other forms of long-term debt across the governmental and business-type activities, including debt of another entity for which it has provided a guarantee disclosed in its financial statements	
Adjusted net pension liabilities (ANPL)	Total primary government's pension liabilities adjusted by Moody's to standardize the discount rate used to compute the present value of accrued benefits	
Adjusted net OPEB liabilities (ANOL)	Total primary government's net other post-employment benefit (OPEB) liabilities adjusted by Moody's to standardize the discount rate used to compute the present value of accrued benefits	Audited financial statements; Moody's Investors Service
Other long-term liabilities (OLTL)	Miscellaneous long-term liabilities reported under the governmental and business-type activities entries	Audited financial statements
Long-term liabilities ratio	Debt + ANPL + ANOL + OLTL / Revenue	
Fixed costs		
Implied debt service	Annual cost to amortize city or county's long-term debt over 20 years with level payments	Audited financial statements; official statements; Moody's Investors Service
Pension tread water contribution	Pension contribution necessary to prevent reported unfunded pension liabilities from growing, year over year, in nominal dollars, if all actuarial assumptions are met	
OPEB contribution	City or county's actual contribution in a given period	Audited financial statements
Implied cost of OLTL	Annual cost to amortize city or county's other long-term liabilities over 20 years with level payments	Audited financial statements; Moody's Investors Service
Fixed-costs ratio	Implied debt service + Pension tread water + OPEB contributions + Implied cost of OLTL / Revenue	

^{*}Note: If typical data source is not available then alternative sources or proxy data may be considered. For more detailed definitions of the metrics listed above please refer to the US City and Counties Methodology . Source: Moody's Investors Service

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