

City of Ottawa Business Profile

In 1994 Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. broke ground on a regional distribution center located 3 miles east of Ottawa. Approximately 1,200 workers are employed at the 205-acre facility. The City of Ottawa and Franklin County played no small part in attracting the project to the area. The City secured a 1.2 million dollar loan from the State of Kansas, which was used to extend a 12-inch water main to the project site. In cooperation with the City to secure this major employer, Franklin County also secured a low interest loan to make improvements to Nevada Terrace Road.

In 2001 American Eagle Outfitters announced it was locating a major distribution center in Ottawa's Industrial Park. This facility is currently operating with approximately 100 employees. They anticipate employing up to 200.

Through valiant efforts made by members of the Chamber of Commerce and the downtown business community, Ottawa was designated a Kansas Main Street City for the years 2000-2005. The City Commission actively supports this effort. One member of the Commission sits on the Main Street Board of Directors. In addition, the Commission has committed financial support of \$30,000 per year.

The City works closely with local retailers. The Sears store recently relocated as a strong anchor in the downtown area. In addition to providing a low interest economic development loan, the City also participates in a tax increment-financing plan known as the Neighborhood Revitalization Act. This act helps retain valuable retail businesses and should provide potential development opportunities in the future.

Major Employers

Employer	Nature of Business	Number of Employees
Wal-Mart Distribution	Distribution	1200
Wal-Mart Store	Retail	380
Ransom Hospital	Medical/Surgical	350
USD 290	Education	320
Ottawa Truck	Semi-tractors	280
Havens Steel	Structural	180
Franklin County	Government	160
COF Training Services	Assembly	119
American Eagle Outfitter	Distribution	115
Ottawa University	Education	100
Laich Industries	Plastic Products	80
Fashion Inc	Mfg, Canopies	70
Midwest Cabinets	Cabinets	60
Neosho Community College	Education	55