

**OFFICIAL OPERATING BUDGET  
FISCAL YEAR 2008**

**APPENDIX C**

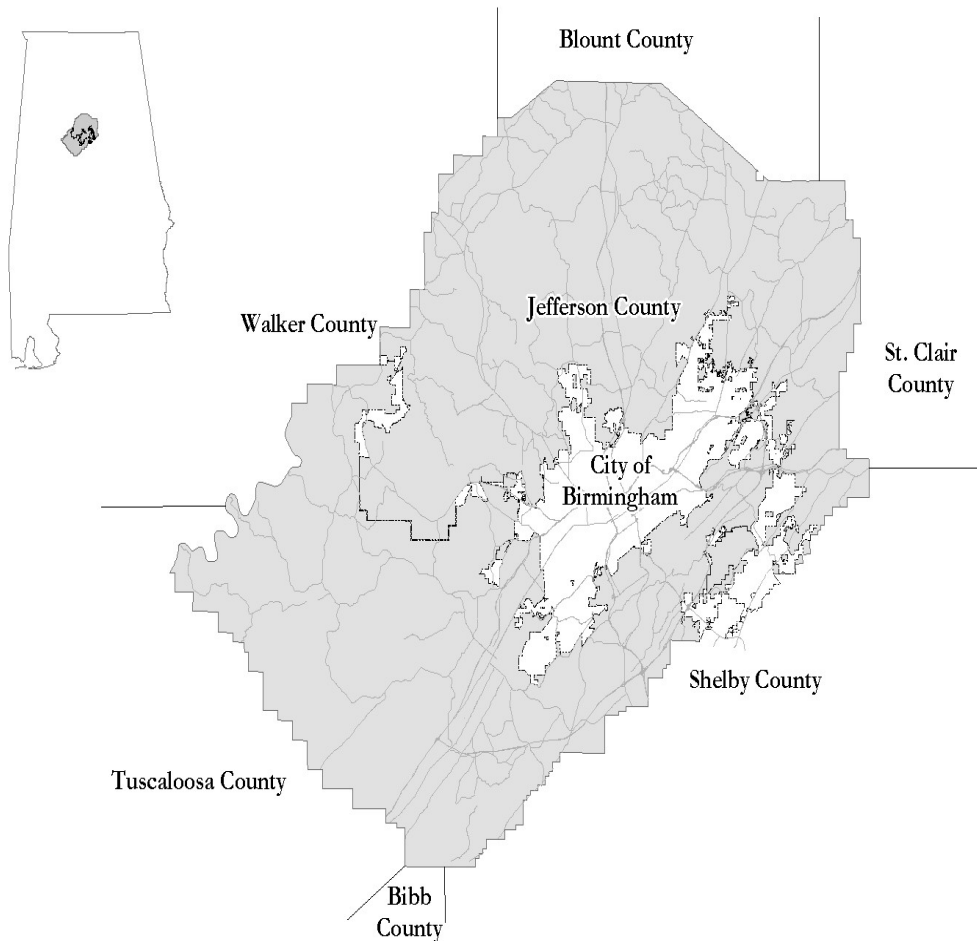
**INFORMATION ON BIRMINGHAM**

This section contains statistics and points of interest about the City of Birmingham and the surrounding metropolitan area.

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## THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

The City of Birmingham, Alabama, is a municipal corporation under the laws of the State of Alabama. Birmingham is the largest city in the state with a population currently estimated at 242,820 and a total area of approximately 163 square miles. As shown on the map below, Birmingham is located in Jefferson and Shelby counties in north central Alabama.



*City of Birmingham, Alabama*

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## FACTS ABOUT BIRMINGHAM AND METROPOLITAN AREA

- Ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in population among the 25 largest southeastern metropolitan areas.
- Represents 23.7 percent of Alabama's population.
- Ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in population among the nation's 362 metropolitan areas.
- Represents 26.8 percent of Alabama's retail sales.

AREA: 5,332 square miles—MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area)—Jefferson, Bibb, St. Clair, Shelby, Walker, Chilton and Blount Counties.

ALTITUDES: Average – 620 ft.  
Range – 538 ft. – 1,200 ft.

LATITUDE: 33° 38' N

LONGITUDE 86° 50' W

CLIMATE: Average temperature – 61.8°  
Average annual rainfall – 54.84”  
Average annual snowfall – 1.40”

EDUCATION: Enrollment at Area Colleges and Universities:  
University of Alabama at Birmingham – 16,572  
University of Montevallo – 2,999  
Samford University – 4,507  
Birmingham-Southern College – 1,411  
Southeastern Bible College – 232  
Miles College – 1,716  
Jefferson State Community College – 7,173  
Lawson State Community College - 3,371  
Virginia College at Birmingham – 2,407

GOVERNMENT: Birmingham, the county seat, is one of 33 separately incorporated municipalities in Jefferson County. The City has a mayor/council form of government with a general fund annual budget of approximately \$328.6 million for fiscal year 2008.

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METROPOLITAN POPULATION: 1,052,238

BIRMINGHAM POPULATION: 242,820

CULTURAL DENSITY (Birmingham): African-American: 73.5 percent  
White: 24.1 percent  
Other: 2.4 percent

MEDIAN 2001 HOUSEHOLD EFFECTIVE BUYING INCOME (Birmingham): \$31,851

2001 PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME (MSA): \$30,602

LARGEST EMPLOYERS: University of Alabama at Birmingham  
AT&T Telecommunications, Inc.  
Regions Bank  
American Cast Iron Pipe Company  
City of Birmingham  
Birmingham Board of Education  
University of Alabama Health Service Foundation  
Compass Bank  
U.S. Government  
The Children's Hospital

LARGEST TAXPAYERS: Alabama Power Company  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Alabama Gas Corporation  
American Cast Iron Pipe Company  
AT&T Telecommunications, Inc.  
Belk, Inc.  
Regions Bank  
Wal-Mart  
Birmingham Water works and Sewer Board  
Lowe's, Inc.

BOND RATING: Standard & Poor's: AA  
Moody's: Aa3  
Fitch: AA-

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### EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (NON-AGRICULTURAL)

PERCENT OF JOBS BY SECTOR:

- Finance, Insurance & Real Estate: 30.2 percent
- Wholesale and Retail Trade: 24.0 percent
- Government: 13.2 percent
- Manufacturing: 10.3 percent
- Health Care: 9.1 percent
- Mining & Construction: 6.8 percent
- Transportation & Public Utilities: 6.4 percent

### RESTAURANTS:

There are more than 500 restaurants in the Birmingham area. This number includes full service restaurants, cafeterias, fast food outlets and hotel and motel establishments.

### CHURCHES:

The Birmingham metropolitan area has over 1,300 churches, and church membership is held by approximately 60 percent of the population.

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## POINTS OF INTEREST

Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame—Located in the historic Carver Theater for the Performing Arts, the museum honors great jazz artists with ties to the state of Alabama. While furnishing educational information, the museum is also a place for entertainment.

Alabama Sports Hall of Fame—The Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Complex houses this museum which showcases Alabama's rich heritage in athletics.

Alabama State Fairgrounds—The Fairgrounds features a Fun Center that operates year round offering rides and attractions for all ages.

Arlington Antebellum Home and Gardens—This Greek Revival style house built in the 1850's is known as the official hospitality center for the City of Birmingham.

Birmingham Botanical Gardens—Featuring waterfalls, statuary and flora from throughout the world, the Botanical Gardens is a popular place for weddings or for an afternoon stroll.

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute—A state-of-the-art facility housing exhibits that depict historical events from post World War I racial separation to present day racial progress. More than a museum, the Institute promotes on-going research and discourse on human rights issues through its archival and educational programs and services.

Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center--A massive sports, entertainment and convention/exhibition complex, the Civic Center is located in the heart of downtown Birmingham.

Birmingham Museum of Art—One of the finest museums in the south and the largest municipal museum in the southeast, the Birmingham Museum of Art has permanent exhibits of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century American paintings, the Kress Collection of Italian Renaissance Art and many pre-Columbian objects.

Birmingham Race Course—A simulcast horse racing and dog racing facility, situated on 350 acres in the eastern area of Birmingham, is served by three interstates—I-59, I-459, and I-20.

Birmingham Zoo—The Zoo exhibits a variety of animals, birds and reptiles in a series of attractive and educational displays.

Cobb Lane—A quaint, rambling cluster of shops and restaurants in two historic connecting houses is located in the Five Points South section of the City.

Finley Avenue Farmers Market—Produce from area farmers can be purchased in this open air market.

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Five Points South—Restaurants, bars and specialty shops surround this newly restored area on Birmingham's South side that has emerged as a nucleus for dining, entertainment and shopping.

Legion Field--The scene of several of the state's major collegiate and high school football clashes, Legion Field seats approximately 72,000. Legion Field was also the site of the 1996 Summer Olympic Soccer trials.

McWane Center—Children are welcomed to a hands-on museum which encourages them to feel and discover the wonders of science.

Meyer Planetarium—The 900 seat planetarium features a simulated look at celestial bodies and other aspects of outer space. Located on the campus of Birmingham-Southern College, Meyer Planetarium offers a regular schedule of public showings.

Oak Mountain State Park—Located 15 mile south of Birmingham, this is the largest of Alabama's State Parks encompassing 9,940 acres of lush, green valley filled with pine ridges.

Rickwood Field—Opened on August 18, 1910, Rickwood Field is the oldest baseball stadium in America. Rickwood served as home field for both the Birmingham Barons, now the AA farm club for the Chicago White Sox, and the Birmingham Black Barons of the old Negro American League. With help from the City of Birmingham and other contributors, the restored stadium now stands as a monument to baseball greats such as Ty Cobb and Willie Mays who played here.

Ruffner Mountain Nature Center—Ruffner Mountain, the last undeveloped remnant of the Red Mountain Ridge, is the site of the Nature Center. Visitors are invited to hike along one of the many nature trails and to tour the Center which is open daily.

Sloss Furnaces National Historical Landmark—Located on the eastern edge of the downtown business district, the Sloss Furnaces have been a dominant feature of Birmingham's skyline for over a century. The only one of its kind in the world, the museum offers furnace tours (led by trained guides, many of whom are retired blast furnace workers) and media presentations which examine Birmingham's industrial heritage.

Southern Museum of Flight-East of downtown and north of the Birmingham International Airport this unique museum houses full-scale airplanes, memorabilia from World War II, a library of aviation and Delta Airlines first airplane.

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Vulcan-Vulcan Park has featured the largest cast iron sculpture in the world and has been one of the City's largest tourist attractions. Visitors enjoy the formal gardens, beautiful water fountains and meticulously landscaped grounds with space for mountainside picnics, weddings and receptions. In 1997, Vulcan was named "Birmingham's Must See Spot for Visitors" by a readers' poll of the Birmingham News. Although the park closed in March 1999 due to structural deterioration, the Vulcan Statue has been refurbished largely due to fund raising efforts spearheaded by the Chamber of Commerce. The park reopened to the public during the first quarter of 2004.