



Cotton

Cotton County is composed of land belonging at one time to Quapaws, Choctaws and Chickasaws, the Comanche Reservation, and the Big Pasture. Part of it was created from the southern portion of Comanche County, and was formed as a result of a vote of its residents on August 22, 1912, after statehood.

Agriculture has long been important to the economic base of the county. Principal crops include wheat and cotton. Livestock is also considered significant. Oil and gas production, begun in 1917, rose to nearly 800 producing wells by 1952, when it ranked ninth in the state in oil production. Walters, the county seat, is the home of the Cotton County Electric Cooperative, the largest rural electric cooperative in Oklahoma.

Annual events held in Walters include the Walters Round-Up Club Rodeo in July, the Cotton County Free Fair in September, and the Gallery on the Green Art Show in May. Sultan Park, north of Walters, is a recreational area and is the site of Comanche Indian powwows.

For additional county information, call the county clerk's office at 580/875-3026.

Districts

County Officials

Cong. 4	Court Clerk	Lana Spake (D)	Temple
St. Sen. 31	Clerk	Linda Thompson (D)	Walters
St. Rep. 50,51	Sheriff	Paul Jeffrey (D)	Hastings
D.A. 5	Treasurer	Geneva Hawkins (D)	Walters
Ct. of Appeals 4	Assessor	Shelly Shert (D)	Walters
Ct. of Crim. Appeals... 5	Election Brd. Sec.	Leta Coats (D)	Randlett
Supreme Ct. Jud. 9	Dist. 1 Comm.	Buddy Hilbert (D)	Walters
S.W. Jud. Adm. 5 (Div. I)	Dist. 2 Comm.	Chris Lipscomb (D)	Temple
	Dist. 3 Comm.	Elmer Beisch (D)	Randlett

Property Valuations

	2003-2004 Assessment	2004-2005 Assessment	Increase or Decrease
Real Estate and Improvement	\$20,880,704	\$20,978,323	\$97,619
Personal Subject to Tax	\$2,442,801	\$2,328,914	(\$113,887)
Total Locally Assessed	\$23,323,505	\$23,307,237	(\$16,268)
Homestead Exemptions Allowed	\$1,663,997	\$1,609,884	(\$54,113)
Net Assessed Locally	\$21,659,508	\$21,697,353	\$37,845
Public Service Assessment	\$5,586,037	\$5,664,592	\$78,555
Net Assessed Valuation	\$27,245,545	\$27,361,945	\$116,400

County Seat—Walters (Pop. 2,614) 2003 Estimate

Area (Land & Water)—641.94 square miles

Per Capita Income (2003)—\$23,164 (Ranks 27th of 77 counties)

Population Stats (2000)—Fem.—3,331, Male—3,283 • **Ethnicity**—Wh.—5,475; Bl.—188; Am. Ind.—450; As.—8; Other—4; Pacific Is.—0; Two or more races—168; Hisp.—321

Births (2003)—77 • **Deaths** (2003)—81

Unemployment Rate (2003)—4.9%

Labor Force (2003)—2,330

Number of Establishments (2002)—88

Number of Manufacturers (2002)—3

Public Assistance Payments (FY2004)—\$106,311
TANF—\$29,821 • Supplements—Aged—\$25,355; Blind—\$0; Disabled—\$51,085

Vehicle Registration (2004)—Automobiles—3,684; Farm Trucks—949; Comm. Trucks, Tractors, Trailers—153; Motor Homes and Travel Trailers—200; Motorcycles—107; Manufactured Homes—1; Tax Exempt Licenses—65; Boats—419

Crime Incidents (2003)—Murder—1; Rape—0; Robbery—0; Fel. Assault—5; Breaking and Entering—19; Larceny—40; Motor Vehicle Theft—5; Arson—1 • Total Crime Index—70; Crime Rate per 1,000—10.77

Farms (2002)—488 • **Land in Farms** (2002)—334,328

County Population

1907 (Okla. Terr.)	.....	N/A
1910	.....	N/A
1920	.....	16,679
1930	.....	15,442
1940	.....	12,884
1950	.....	10,180
1960	.....	8,031
1970	.....	6,832
1980	.....	7,338
1990	.....	6,651
2000	.....	6,614
2004 Estimate	.....	6,514

Recreation Area—Great Plains Major Lakes—Ellsworth, Elmer Thomas, Lawtonka

Major Stream Systems—Cache and Beaver creeks, Washita River and North Fork of the Red River

Museums and Historic Sites—Eagle Park Old West Ghost Town, Cache; U.S. Army Field Artillery and Fort Sill Museum, Museum of the Great Plains, Lewis Museum, and Mattie Beal Home, Lawton

Minerals—oil & gas, crushed stone, and gypsum

