Oklahoma Unemployment Claims Report

Mass Layoff Statistics Program - Second Quarter 2012

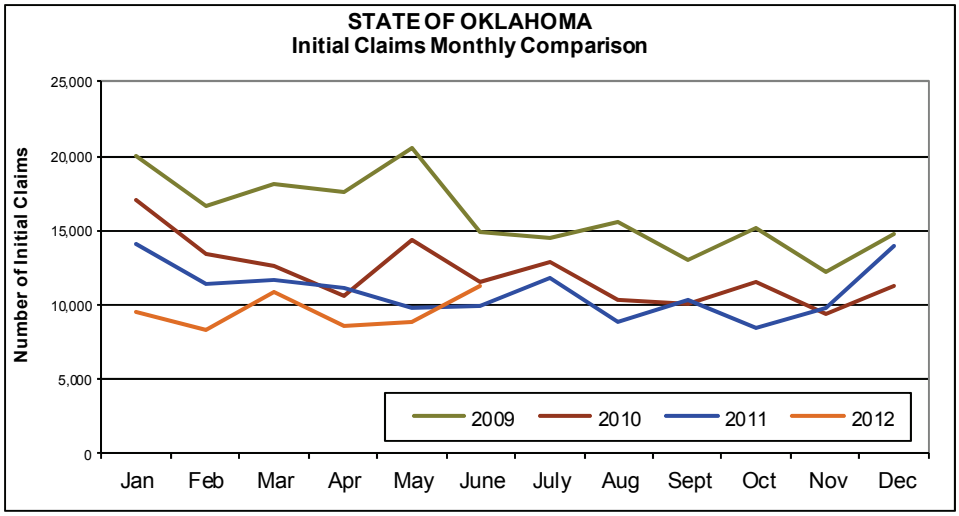
Oklahoma Employment Security Commission 2401 N Lincoln Blvd Oklahoma City OK 73152

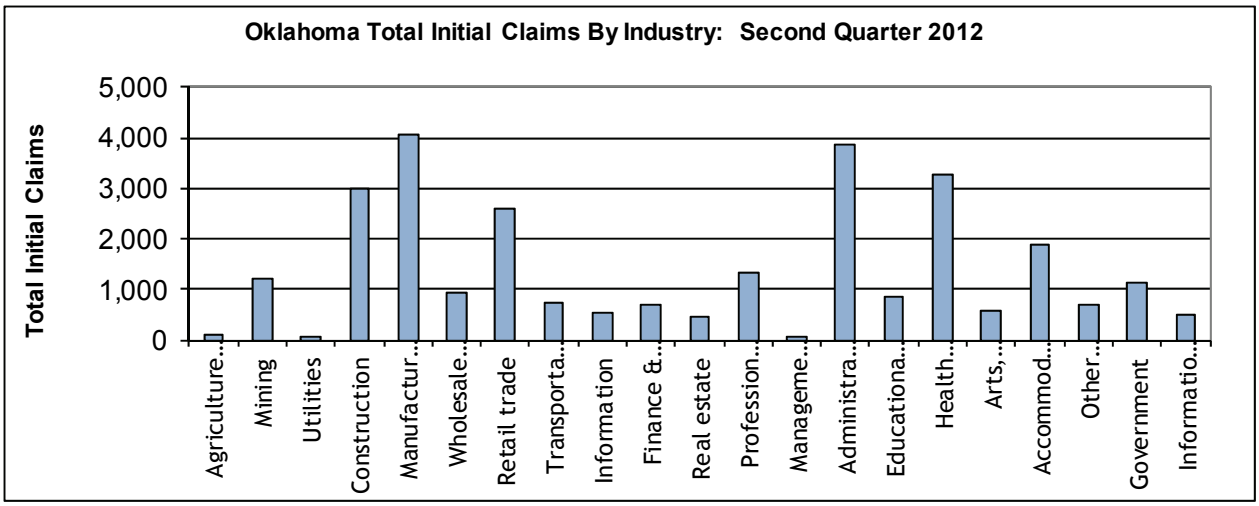
www.OESC.ok.gov MLS@oesc.state.ok.us For more information contact Rebecca Enns 405-557-5471

Initial Claims Activity - Second Quarter 2012

An initial claim is the initial application for unemployment insurance benefits. Tracking initial claims can be helpful in determining layoff and general employment trends within a labor market. In Oklahoma, 28,620 total initial claims were filed during second quarter 2012.

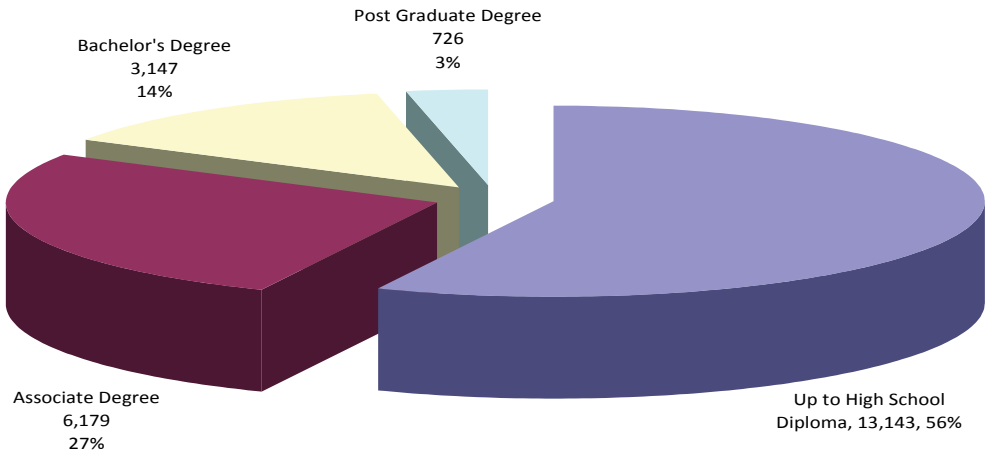
Total initial claims for second quarter 2012 in Oklahoma increased from April to June. The number of total initial claims filed was 8,574 in April, 8,805 in May, and 11,241 in June. Second quarter 2012's claims are lower than 2009 and 2010 claims. The number of initial claims from March to April 2012 decreased from 10,782 to 8,574 respectively. Hopefully, the number of claims will decrease for third quarter 2012 and continue to be lower than 2009 and 2010. (*Source: Oklahoma's Mass Layoff Statistics Program)*





The above chart shows total initial claims filed by industry for the second quarter of 2012. The Manufacturing sector has the most initial claims with 4,049 claims. The Administrative and Waste Services sector, with 3,875 claims, has the second highest number of initial claims. The third highest number of initial claims is found in Health Care and Social Assistance with 3,256 claims. The number of initial claims by industry are represented in the bar graph above. *(Source: Oklahoma's Mass Layoff Statistics Program)*

Oklahoma Continued Claims by Educational Attainment - 2011



The above chart displays the monthly average level of educational attainment for UI claimants during the year 2011. Among all UI claimants, 56 percent acquired a high school diploma or less. Conversely those earning a bachelors degree accounted for only 14 percent of claims filed. These numbers, though, are not controlled for population. The Bureau of Labor Statistic's *2010 Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment* does estimate unemployment rates by educational attainment that are controlled for population. The estimated unemployment rate for those with less than a high school diploma is 12 percent versus 3.1 percent for those with a college degree. Combining these numbers bolsters the argument that those with higher levels of educational attainment are better able to weather economic downturns. *(Source: Oklahoma's Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program and The Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

Oklahoma's Mass Layoff Events

	2012		2011	
Quarter	**Mass Layoff Events**	**Associated Initial Claims**	**Mass Layoff Events**	**Associated Initial Claims**
1st Quarter	14	1,455	25	2,430
2nd Quarter	13	1,784	21	1,775
3rd Quarter			11	1,687
4th Quarter			24	3,019

A **Mass Layoff Event** occurs when an establishment has at least 50 initial claims for unemployment insurance filed against it during a five week period. The second quarter of 2012 had eight fewer events than did the same quarter the previous year. Additionally, the second quarter of 2012, though slight, saw a decrease in the number of events from first quarter 2012.

Though the Second quarter of 2012 did have fewer events it also, unfortunately, had more associated claims than the previous quarter and the same quarter for the prior year. A trend we hope reverses itself. *(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Mass Layoff Statistics Program)*

www.OESC.ok.gov MLS@oesc.state.ok.us For more information contact Rebecca Enns 405-557-5471