



Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) is a **100% federally funded** state agency that is dedicated to providing quality service and assistance to Oklahoma businesses and job seekers.

Our mission is to enhance Oklahoma's economy by

- Matching jobs and workers to increase efficiency of local labor markets.
- Providing unemployment compensation to support unemployed workers and their communities.
- Preparing a skilled workforce with enhanced skills to meet local labor market needs.
- Gathering, analyzing and disseminating information about the labor force to improve local economic decisions.



*Richard McPherson,
Executive Director*

Unemployment insurance (UI) is one of the important services that OESC offers. UI provides basic needs for Oklahomans who lose their jobs, benefits businesses where it's spent, and bolsters Oklahoma's economy. Maintaining this important economic engine depends on a strong UI trust fund.

The UI trust fund is supported by contributions from businesses. Payments vary from year to year as the UI trust fund conditional factor changes. The conditional factor sets the range of employer contributions, the maximum UI benefit, and the taxable wage base. It's calculated each year by comparing total UI benefits paid over the past five years with the UI trust fund balance. This ratio decides the new conditional factor for the coming year.

In 2015, we'll drop to no conditional factor thanks to continued improvement in the state economy. Contribution rates for most employers will be the lowest allowed under state law and the maximum UI benefit will increase. This ability to adapt to whatever the economy throws at us is what makes Oklahoma's UI funding system so effective.

OESC takes the protection of the UI trust fund very seriously. Because the fund is the sole source of UI payments, it's in the best interests of the agency, employers and the state to make sure adequate funding is always available to provide temporary help to those who need it.

I encourage you to contact me with any questions at (405) 557-7201 or Richard.McPherson@oesc.state.ok.us.

Richard McPherson, OESC Executive Director

Workforce System by the Numbers - January 1 through June 30, 2014

\$120,432,989	-	Total unemployment insurance benefits infused into local economies
\$306.93	-	Average weekly Oklahoma unemployment insurance benefit
48,642	-	Unemployment insurance claims filed
149,457	-	Employer UI tax contribution reports processed
92,627	-	Job seekers served
37,141	-	Customers entering employment
44,054	-	New job openings listed on Oklahoma JobLink
13,290,650	-	Monthly average number of Oklahoma JobLink website hits
79,743,900	-	Total number of Oklahoma JobLink website hits