

# Oklahoma Employment Security Commission



Richard McPherson, Executive Director

Mary Fallin, Governor

## Representing Employers

Douglas R. Major, Ed. D., Commissioner  
Gayle Harris, Commissioner

## Representing the Public

Rev. W. B. Parker, Chairman

## Representing Employees

Rev. Mike Wester, Commissioner  
Susan Stoll, Commissioner

## Data users:

Beginning with the preliminary estimates for March 2011, responsibility for the production of Oklahoma's non-farm employment estimates has transitioned from the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Despite this change, OESC will continue to disseminate and analyze Oklahoma's non-farm employment estimates.

BLS will be utilizing newly modified procedures in the production of Oklahoma's estimates which rely less on local knowledge of our economy and more on statistical methodology. BLS expects that the new estimation procedures may result in more month-to-month variability in the estimates. These new procedures and the accompanying increase in variability may also impact our labor force and unemployment estimates.

Please direct any questions about the new procedures and methodology to Lynn Gray at (405) 557-7221.

Thank you.

Lynn Gray, Director of Economic Research & Analysis  
Oklahoma Employment Security Commission



# Economic Research & Analysis

...Bringing Oklahoma's Labor Market to Life!

FOR RELEASE: April 19, 2011

## OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT REPORT - March 2011

### Oklahoma's unemployment rate improves in March

Oklahoma's **seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** fell to 6.1 percent in March 2011, down by 0.4 percentage points over the month. The national unemployment also dropped for the month, reaching 8.8 percent. For the year, the state's **seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** was down by 1.2 percentage points.

MARCH 2011	Unemp. rate*	Labor force*	Employment*	Unemployment*
Oklahoma	6.1%	1,737,330	1,631,580	105,760
United States	8.8%	153,406,000	139,864,000	13,542,000

\* data adjusted for seasonal factors

OKLAHOMA	Unemp. rate*	Labor force*	Employment*	Unemployment*
Mar '11	6.1%	1,737,330	1,631,580	105,760
Feb '11	6.5%	1,741,720	1,628,230	113,490
Jan '11	6.6%	1,744,560	1,628,980	115,580
Dec '10	6.8%	1,749,410	1,630,210	119,200
Nov '10	6.9%	1,749,600	1,629,680	119,920
Oct '10	6.9%	1,749,340	1,629,350	120,000
Mar '10	7.3%	1,761,360	1,633,520	127,840

\* data adjusted for seasonal factors

For the third consecutive month, Oklahoma's statewide **seasonally adjusted unemployment** contracted in March 2011. **Seasonally adjusted employment** rose over the month. For the March-to-March period, statewide **seasonally adjusted unemployment** fell by 22,080 persons.

MARCH 2011	Monthly change*		Annual change*	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Labor force	-4,390	-0.3%	-24,030	-1.4%
Employment	3,340	0.2%	-1,940	-0.1%
Unemployment	-7,730	-6.8%	-22,080	-17.3%

\* data adjusted for seasonal factors

This publication is produced by the Economic Research & Analysis (ER&A) division of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission as a no cost service. All information contained within this document is available free of charge on the OESC website ([www.ok.gov/oesc\\_web/Services/Find\\_Labor\\_Market\\_Statistics/index.html](http://www.ok.gov/oesc_web/Services/Find_Labor_Market_Statistics/index.html)) and through labor market information (LMI) publications developed by the ER&A division. **All statistics are preliminary and have been adjusted for seasonal factors.** Beginning in January 2010, seasonally adjusted LAUS estimates are calculated using a new methodology designed to reduce estimation volatility. More information on this change can be found at [www.bls.gov/lau/lssaqa.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lau/lssaqa.htm). All data is collected under strict guidelines provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. **Although a large amount of data has been presented, this in no way suggests that all data has been included. Due to space restrictions, only relevant industries and sectors are included.** Unless otherwise noted, data is rounded to the nearest 10.

# Statewide employment expands in March

Oklahoma's seasonally adjusted **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT** added 13,200 jobs over the month in March 2011. Seasonally adjusted **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT** for the United States rose by 216,000 jobs from February to March. Compared to March 2010, state **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT** grew by 18,600 jobs (+1.2 percent).

- In March 2011, large job gains were recorded in a number of supersectors, including **Construction** (+3,600 jobs), **Leisure & Hospitality** (+3,500 jobs), **Other Services** (+1,600 jobs), and **Educational & Health Services** (+1,400 jobs).
- Seven of Oklahoma's 10 statewide supersectors reported over-the-year gains in March, led by **Manufacturing** (+8,300 jobs).
- The largest over-the-year loss for March 2011 came from **Government** (-8,400 jobs).

	NUMBER OF JOBS*			CHANGE*			
	Mar '11	Feb '11	Mar '10	Feb '11 to Mar '11		Mar '10 to Mar '11	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>1,539,200</b>	<b>1,526,000</b>	<b>1,520,600</b>	<b>13,200</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>46,300</b>	<b>45,200</b>	<b>41,500</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>11.6%</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>68,300</b>	<b>64,700</b>	<b>65,700</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>129,700</b>	<b>128,800</b>	<b>121,400</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>275,400</b>	<b>275,400</b>	<b>276,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
Wholesale Trade	55,200	55,200	54,700	0	0.0%	500	0.9%
Retail Trade	167,700	168,600	168,200	-900	-0.5%	-500	-0.3%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	52,500	51,600	53,200	900	1.7%	-700	-1.3%
<b>Information</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>81,000</b>	<b>80,300</b>	<b>80,200</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	22,200	21,600	21,600	600	2.8%	600	2.8%
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>170,400</b>	<b>166,700</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	58,600	59,300	62,500	-700	-1.2%	-3,900	-6.2%
Administrative & Support and Waste Management & Remediation Svcs.	98,300	95,600	89,200	2,700	2.8%	9,100	10.2%
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>206,600</b>	<b>205,200</b>	<b>203,500</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Educational Services	20,300	20,000	20,100	300	1.5%	200	1.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	186,300	185,200	183,400	1,100	0.6%	2,900	1.6%
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>142,300</b>	<b>138,800</b>	<b>137,800</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	14,400	14,200	14,200	200	1.4%	200	1.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	127,900	124,600	123,600	3,300	2.6%	4,300	3.5%
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>60,600</b>	<b>59,000</b>	<b>60,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>333,500</b>	<b>333,600</b>	<b>341,900</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-8,400</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>
Federal Government	50,100	49,900	50,400	200	0.4%	-300	-0.6%
State Government	83,500	83,300	83,800	200	0.2%	-300	-0.4%
Local Government	199,900	200,400	207,700	-500	-0.2%	-7,800	-3.8%

\* data adjusted for seasonal factors

**Jobs Pct. Jobs Pct.**