Statewide Long-Term Employment Projections

Long-term industry and occupational employment projections are developed on a two-year schedule. The U.S. Employment and Training Administration (ETA) funds all state projections. State analysts have been provided with guidelines, training and technical support for producing projections. The Projections Suite developed by the Utah Department of Employment Security is used to produce industry and occupational projections.

Industry Employment Projections

Oklahoma industry employment projections are developed using the methodology, software tools, and guidelines developed by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership.

Linear regression and shift-share analysis techniques have been employed as the primary methods of analysis. Projections for some industries are made at the three-digit or four-digit level under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Historical employment data are from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Agriculture and non-covered employment data are from the American Community Survey and the Current Employment Statistics program, respectively. Employment for self-employed and unpaid family workers is produced from the projection matrix system based on the Occupational Employment Statistics survey and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey.

Employment is rounded to the nearest ten. Percent changes are based on un-rounded data.

Goods-producing industries include Agriculture, Mining, Construction, and Manufacturing. Services-providing industries include Transportation and Warehousing; Wholesale trade; Retail trade; Information, Finance and Insurance; Real Estate and Rental and Leasing; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Management of Companies and Enterprises; Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services; Educational Services; Health Care and Social Assistance; Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; Other Services; and Government.

Occupational Employment Projections

The occupational projections reflect the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification system. There are more than 700 detailed occupations. Current employment refers to the estimated annual employment by occupation for all industries based on 2010 data. Projected employment refers to the expected annual employment by occupation based on projections made for all detailed industries in Oklahoma for 2020. Average annual openings are job openings resulting from growth in an occupation and replacement needs in that occupation.

Employment is rounded to the nearest ten. Percentage changes are based on un-rounded data and reflect the percent growth or decline in an occupation over the ten-year period based on un-rounded data.

Measures of Education and Training

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides information about education and training requirements for hundreds of occupations. BLS uses a system to assign categories for entry-level education, related work experience, and typical on-the-job training to each occupation for which BLS publishes projections data. The assignments allow occupations to be grouped to create estimates of the education and training needs for the labor force as a whole and estimates of the outlook for occupations with various types of education and training needs. This classification system replaces the earlier 11-category education and training system used for the 2008–2018 projections. In addition, educational attainment data for each occupation are presented to show the level of education achieved by workers who are employed in the occupations.

Category system

BLS assigns occupations to a designation within three categories: typical entry-level education, related work experience, and typical on-the-job training. (Detailed definitions [PDF] for the categories are available online).The categories and assignments within each are as follows:

Typical entry level education—represents the typical education level needed to enter an occupation. The assignments for this category are the following:

- Doctoral or professional degree
- Master's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Associate's degree
- Postsecondary non-degree award
- Some college, no degree
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Less than high school

Work experience in a related occupation—indicates if work experience in a related occupation is commonly considered necessary by employers for entry into the occupation, or is a commonly accepted substitute for formal types of training. The assignments for this category are the following:

- More than 5 years
- 1-5 years
- Less than 1 year
- None

Typical on-the-job training—indicates the typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency in the occupation. The assignments for this category are the following:

- Internship/residency
- Apprenticeship
- Long-term on-the-job training: more than 1 year
- Moderate-term on the job training: 1-12 months
- Short-term on-the-job training: 1 month or less
- None

The former 11-category system

BLS previously used a system that assigned occupations to a single category, which described the "most significant source" of education or training. This prior system combined different

dimensions of education, training, and work experience in a related occupation into 11 categories; and BLS analysts could choose only one for each occupation. BLS chose to revamp this system, as the combination of different dimensions of education, related work experience, and on-the-job training in one category did not provide a complete picture of the path needed for many occupations.

For example, for some occupations, both postsecondary education and on-the-job training are important; but in the previous system, these were two distinct and mutually exclusive assignments. Other examples are occupations for which education and work experience in a related occupation are both important factors for entry.

In addition, the previous system did not include any assignment for education below the postsecondary level. In the new system, this problem is eliminated; the entry-level education categories include “high school” and “less than high school.”

Limitations

Forecasting the future is not an exact science. Projections result from careful analysis of available data. However, they are not reflection of what might happen under different conditions. International, national and local events can have significant impacts on Oklahoma’s economy. Moreover, the projection model does not take into account factors such as immigration, occupational supply, business relocation, emergence of new occupations or industrial and scientific development.

Please do not use these projections as your sole source of information.