

Employment Projections for the Workforce Investment Areas for 2010 to 2020

Employment projections for the nine Workforce Investment Areas in Oklahoma are now available online. These projections were made for the 2010-to-2020 period based on data from 2010 and previous years. The information is intended to help planners, educators and vocational counselors in developing job-training programs. It is also intended to help current and future job seekers in their career planning. It should be noted, however, that the projections are not intended to be precise point estimates of employment for each industry or occupation. Other aspects to consider in choosing a career and planning an educational path include wages, job satisfaction, general unemployment patterns, method of obtaining the required education or training, and working conditions.

National employment projections played an important role in the assessment for the statewide outlook, and subsequently, in assessing the sub-state areas. State and local area projections are also partially dependent on the national outlook for specific industries. Because future trends are always subject to uncertainty, the employment outlook will continue to be produced every other year.

Industry employment projections for the Workforce Investment Areas were developed based on statewide projections. They reflect the 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Historical data are from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW). Shift-share analysis techniques were employed as the primary methods of analysis. The OESC economists reviewed the projections and adjustments were made based on their comments as well as on the statewide industry employment projections.

Staffing patterns (the distribution of occupations by industry) for the Workforce Investment Areas taken from Oklahoma Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) are used to calculate the WIA occupational projections. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides self-employed and unpaid family worker ratios, change factors, replacement rates, and education and training requirements as well as guidelines, training and technical support for producing projections.

Data have not been included if they do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards, or if occupations have an estimated employment level of less than 25 people.

Employment estimates and number of openings have been rounded to the nearest ten (10).

Wage data is from the Occupational Employment Statistics program for the state, not individual WIAs. For individual WIA wage information, please go to:

http://www.ok.gov/oesc_web/Services/Find_Labor_Market_Statistics/OES/

Total Openings include both openings due to growth and openings due to replacement needs. An occupation may experience negative growth in some industries, which will affect the employment level for that occupation in the future. However, the positive growth experienced in other industries will create job openings. Therefore, in a particular occupation, Total Openings are equal to growth plus replacements, unless the growth is negative. In this case, Total Openings are equal to replacements only.

Limitations of the data include the following:

- a) The data are not intended to predict future economic occurrences; they approximate long-term trends in the labor market.
- b) Occupational openings for a particular year may differ substantially from those shown in the report if the economy is in a recovery or recessionary period.
- c) Total openings reflect employment demand as a function of growth and replacement, not including turnover or geographic mobility.

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."

Contact information

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Workforce Investment Areas**Component Counties**

Northwest	Alfalfa	Beaver	Blaine	Cimarron
	Dewey	Ellis	Garfield	Grant
	Harper	Kay	Kingfisher	Major
	Noble	Payne	Texas	Woods
	Woodward			
East Central	Hughes	Lincoln	Okfuskee	Pottawatomie
	Seminole			
Tulsa	Creek	Osage	Pawnee	Tulsa
Northeast	Craig	Delaware	Mayes	Nowata
	Ottawa	Rogers	Washington	
Southwest	Beckham	Custer	Greer	Harmon
	Jackson	Kiowa	Roger Mills	Washita
South Central	Caddo	Comanche	Cotton	Grady
	Jefferson	McClain	Stephens	Tillman
Southern	Atoka	Bryan	Carter	Choctaw
	Coal	Garvin	Johnston	Love
	Marshall	McCurtain	Murray	Pittsburg
	Pontotoc	Pushmataha		
Eastern	Adair	Cherokee	Haskell	Latimer
	Le Flore	McIntosh	Muskogee	Okmulgee
	Sequoyah	Wagoner		
Central	Canadian	Cleveland	Logan	Oklahoma