

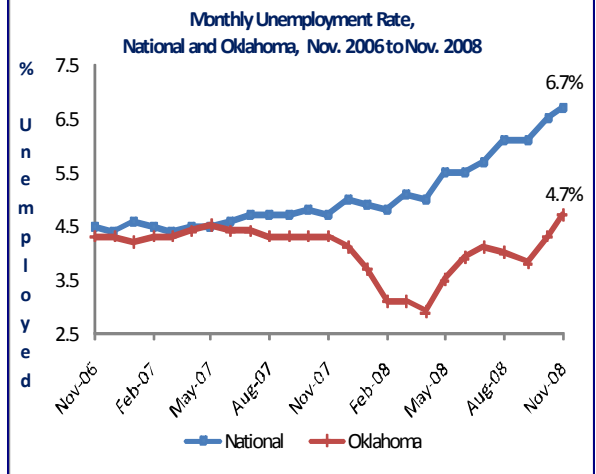
NUMBERS YOU NEED:

Key Oklahoma Economic and Budget Trends: January 2009

1. EMPLOYMENT

Oklahoma's employment situation worsened considerably for the second straight month in November. Since September, the number of unemployed has increased by 25 percent, from 66,000 to 82,400. The unemployment rate has jumped from 3.8 percent to 4.7 percent. An average of 3,185 people filed initial claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits each week in November, a 92 percent jump from September.

Oklahoma	Nov-07	Oct-08	Nov-08	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Total Non-Farm Employment (in 000s)	1,735	1,770	1,771	1.0	36.2
Unemployed (in 000s)	74.2	76.8	82.4	5.6	8.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	4.3	4.7	0.4	0.4
Initial UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	1,654	2,419	3,185	766	1,531
Continuing UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	12,902	17,290	19,438	2,148	6,536



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.toc.htm>; <http://www.economagic.com/>; Department of Labor: <http://ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims.asp>. Employment and unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted.

2. INFLATION

Led by declining energy prices, the Consumer Price Index fell by 1.7 percent in November, the steepest drop in prices since the government began keeping track in 1947. Food prices rose modestly in November (+0.2 percent) and were up 5.9 percent for the year. For the first eleven months of 2008, the all-items index rose by an annualized rate of 0.7 percent after increasing 4.1 percent in all of 2007.

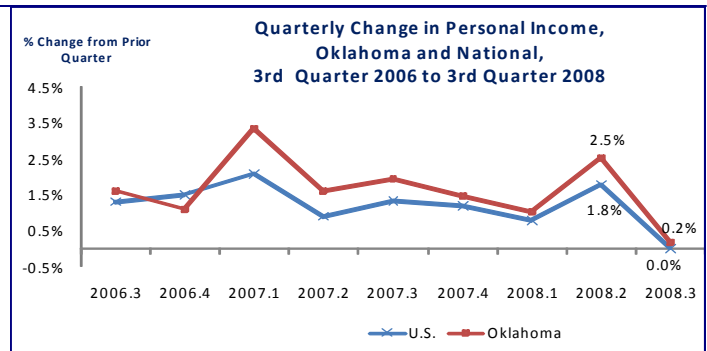
Inflation (CPI - All Urban Consumers)	% Change from Prior Month				12-month % Change
	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	
All items	-0.1	0.0	-1.0	-1.7	1.1
Food and beverages	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.2	5.9
Housing	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	2.7
Apparel	0.5	-0.1	-1.0	0.3	0.0
Transportation	-1.5	-0.6	-5.4	-9.8	-8.9
Medical care	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	2.7
Recreation	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	2.0
Education and communication	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	3.6
Other goods and services	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	3.8
Energy	-3.1	-1.9	-8.6	-17.0	-13.3
All items less food and energy	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0	2.0

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.toc.htm>

3. ECONOMIC GROWTH

Economic growth in Oklahoma slowed sharply in the third quarter of 2008, with state personal income rising by a meager 0.2 percent compared to the prior quarter. Nationally, personal income remained unchanged in the 3rd quarter, the worst performance since the first quarter of 1994. Over the past 12 months, Oklahoma's economy has grown by 6.0 percent, still significantly above the national rate of 3.7 percent.

Source: <http://www.bea.gov/region/sqpi/default.cfm?sqttable=SQ1>



4. WORK SUPPORTS AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

Oklahoma's key safety net programs showed indications of modestly growing demand in September. The number of Oklahomans receiving Food Stamps rose for a sixth consecutive month and has now increased by 3.8 percent since March 2008. September also saw slight increases in participation in the SoonerCare health insurance program (+0.3 percent) and the TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) cash assistance program (+2.2 percent) compared to August.

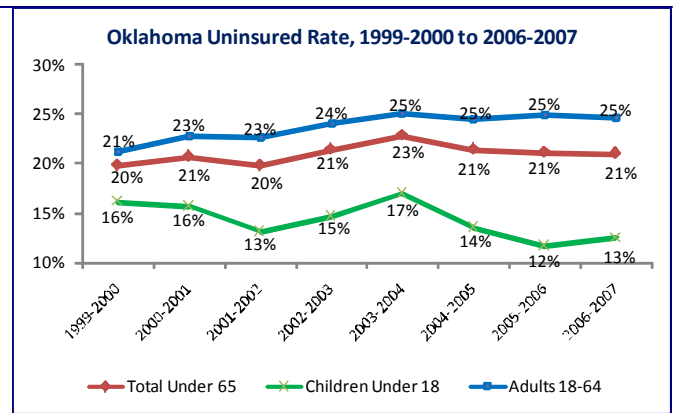
PROGRAM	Sep-07	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Monthly Change	Monthly Percent Change	Annual Change	Annual Percent change
Child Care subsidies - Persons Participating	40,659	38,651	40,720	38,554	(2,166)	-5.3%	(2,105)	-5.2%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps) - Cases	175,477	176,960	179,106	180,270	1,164	0.6%	4,793	2.7%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps) - Persons Participating	417,763	417,551	423,444	426,114	2,670	0.6%	8,351	2.0%
SoonerCare (Medicaid) - Persons Participating	613,188	601,173	606,078	608,035	1,957	0.3%	(5,153)	-0.8%
TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) - Cases	9,324	8,364	8,515	8,636	121	1.4%	(688)	-7.4%
TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) - Persons Participating	20,466	17,836	18,221	18,616	395	2.2%	(1,850)	-9.0%
WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Nutrition Program	124,383	126,255	127,553	129,227	1,674	1.3%	4,844	3.9%
School Lunch Program - Children Participating	436,126	unavailable	397,405	438,631	41,226	10.4%	2,505	0.6%
School Breakfast Program - Children Participating	202,177	unavailable	179,564	205,724	26,160	14.6%	3,547	1.8%

Source: Oklahoma Department of Human Services (data shared with author); USDA Food and Nutrition Service: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/Overview.htm>

5. HEALTH INSURANCE

There were 641,000 Oklahomans under the age of 65 without health insurance coverage in 2006-07, which is more than one out of every five non-elderly persons (21.0 percent). Oklahoma's uninsured rate is four percentage points higher than the national average (17.1 percent). Uninsured rates for non-elderly adults are nearly double those of children. Since 1999-2000, there has been a steep drop in the percentage of non-elderly Oklahomans covered by private health insurance, largely offset by an increase in coverage in public health insurance programs.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/hlthins/historic/index.html>
See also: *Oklahoma's Uninsured* <http://okpolicy.org/files/OKUninsured2007.pdf>



6. STATE REVENUES

Oklahoma revenue collections remain strong through the first six months of FY '09, with General Revenue (GR) coming in \$224.7 million, or 7.9 percent, higher than in FY '08. Increased gross production taxes from natural gas and oil are responsible for most of the increase in GR collections, while personal income tax collections remain largely flat compared to last year and off 5 percent from two years ago. Through December, GR collections are \$189.5 million, or 6.6 percent, above the certified estimate, making the prospect of shortfalls and budget cuts in the current budget year highly unlikely. However, the initial certified estimate for next year (FY '10) projects \$309 million less revenue than was appropriated in FY '09.

Monthly General Revenue Collections (Amounts in \$ Millions)	Dec '07 (FY '08)	Nov '08 (FY '09)	Dec '08 (FY '09)	Monthly Change, FY '09 vs FY '08	FY '07 YTD (Jul - Dec)	FY '08 YTD (Jul - Dec)	FY '09 - YTD (July - Dec)	Change, FY '08 - FY '09 YTD (Jul - Dec)
Personal Income Tax	225.3	166.7	211.9	(13.4)	1172.7	1102.3	1109.9	7.6
Corporate Income Tax	35.9	8.6	35.7	(0.2)	156.9	120.1	131.3	11.2
Gross Production Tax	56.5	63.3	98.7	42.2	267.1	329.5	523.5	194.0
Sales Tax	143.8	149.7	148.9	5.1	763.4	822.1	871.0	48.9
Motor Vehicles Tax	12.3	11.2	9.2	(3.1)	124.3	125.9	94.5	(31.4)
Other Sources	55.9	56.0	62.9	7.0	348.6	343.9	338.4	(5.5)
Total General Revenue	529.7	455.5	567.3	37.6	2832.9	2843.9	3068.6	224.7

Source: Oklahoma State Treasurer <http://www.ok.gov/treasurer/Newsroom/index.html>

Contact: David Blatt, Director of Policy, dblatt@okpolicy.org; 918-382-3228

Oklahoma Policy Institute conducts objective analysis of state policy issues in order to better position Oklahoma to become a more prosperous, better educated, healthier and increasingly equitable state. Visit www.okpolicy.org for information and analysis.