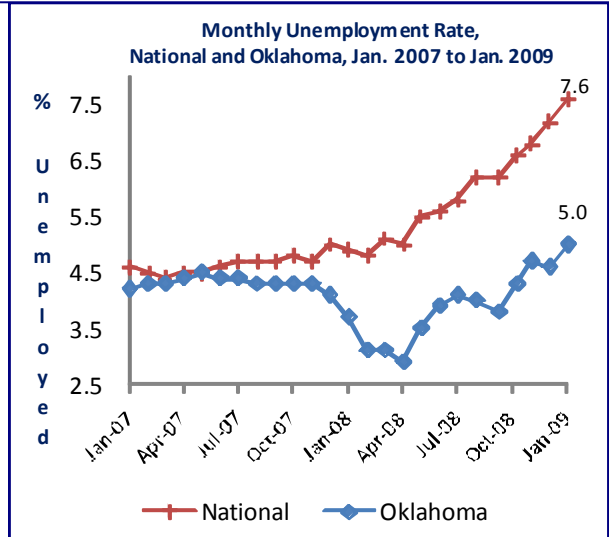


NUMBERS YOU NEED: Key Oklahoma Economic and Budget Trends: March 2009

1. EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment in Oklahoma continued its steadily upward climb in January, reaching a seasonally-adjusted rate of 5.0 percent. This was up from December's revised rate of 4.6 percent but remains considerably below January's national unemployment rate of 7.6 percent. Oklahoma's state rate was the seventh lowest in the nation. The average weekly number of new applicants for Unemployment Insurance benefits was up 149 percent in January compared to September 2008.

Oklahoma	Jan-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Total Non-Farm Employment (in 000s)	1,733.3	1,767.8	1,759.8	(8.0)	26.5
Unemployed (in 000s)	57.3	80.6	87.7	7.1	30.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.3	4.6	5.0	0.4	1.7
Initial UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	2,078	4,500	4,881	381	2,803
Continuing UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	14,931	24,620	31,422	6,802	16,491



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

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the South region rose by a modest 0.4 percent in January, reversing three straight months of declining prices. However, for the most recent twelve month period, the region's CPI saw a slight 0.1 percent decline. Energy and transportation costs rose in January as oil and gas prices showed modest rebounds from previous lows.

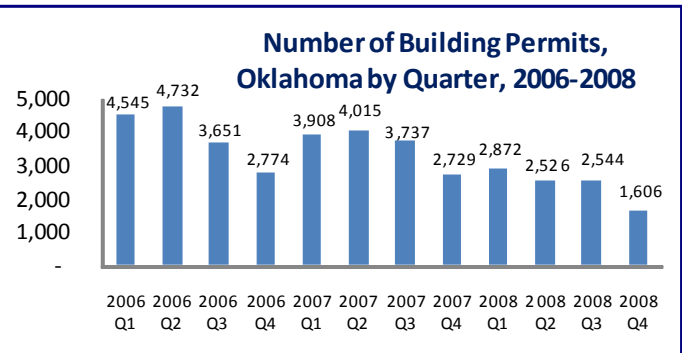
Inflation (CPI - All Urban Consumers, South Region)	% Change from Prior Month				12-month % Change
	Jan-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	
All items	0.5	-2.2	-1.0	0.4	-0.1
Food and beverages	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.4	5.3
Housing	0.6	-0.3	-0.1	0.5	3.2
Apparel	-2.0	-0.3	-3.1	-1.6	-2.3
Transportation	0.9	-11.5	-5.3	1.0	-14.8
Medical care	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.4	2.3
Recreation	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	1.5
Education and communication	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.3
Other goods and services	0.2	0.3	-0.2	0.1	2.9
Energy	1.3	-18.9	-8.9	1.2	-19.9
All items less food and energy	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	1.7

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

3. BUILDING PERMITS

One measure of the state's slumping economy during the final quarter of 2008 can be seen in the steep drop in building permits, a leading economic indicator used to track the housing industry. The U.S. Census Bureau reported a 44 percent drop in building permits issued in Oklahoma in the last quarter of 2008 compared to 2007, with the three month total representing the lowest level of activity since at least 1995.

Source: http://economagic.com/em-cgj/data.exe/cenc40/tb2u1_ok



4. WORK SUPPORTS AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

With the economic downturn hitting Oklahoma, many of the state's key safety net programs showed further indications of growing demand in December. The number of Oklahomans participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (formerly Food Stamps) rose for the ninth consecutive month and was up 6.5 percent for the year. Participation in the SoonerCare health insurance program and TANF cash assistance caseloads also grew modestly in December. The number of children receiving subsidized child care through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services fell by 2.3 percent in December, perhaps reflecting fewer work opportunities for low-income parents.

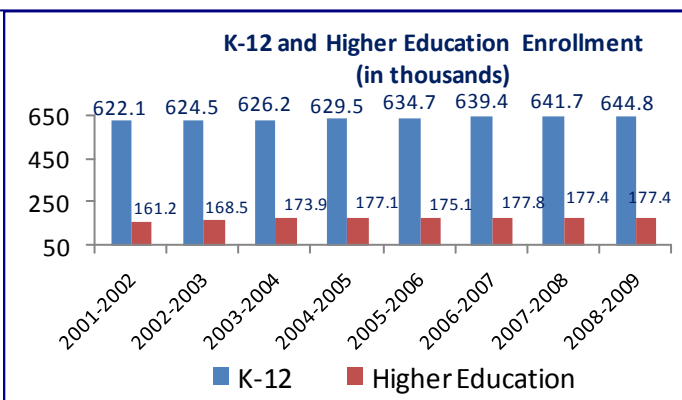
PROGRAM	Dec-07	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Monthly Change	Monthly Percent Change	Annual Change	Annual Percent change
Child Care subsidies - Persons Participating	38,989	38,554	39,192	38,303	(889)	-2.3%	(686)	-1.8%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps) - Persons Participating	415,026	432,642	435,564	442,140	6,576	1.5%	27,114	6.5%
SoonerCare (Medicaid) - Persons Participating	608,033	611,298	613,285	615,013	1,728	0.3%	6,980	1.1%
TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) - Persons Participating	20,163	19,170	19,218	19,604	386	2.0%	(559)	-2.8%
WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Nutrition Program	117,677	129,316	127,095	125,637	(1,458)	-1.1%	7,960	6.8%
School Lunch Program - Children Participating	426,265	448,234	449,515	446,205	(3,310)	-0.7%	19,940	4.7%
School Breakfast Program - Children Participating	194,254	213,073	218,421	206,407	(12,014)	-5.5%	12,153	6.3%

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

5. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Oklahoma's public school enrollment reached 644,777 for the 2008-09 school year. Enrollment has grown modestly every year this decade, with a cumulative growth of 3.6 percent since 2001. In 1994 there were 604,155 children enrolled in grades K-12. There were 177,385 students enrolled in public colleges and universities in the fall of 2008. The state's higher education system saw a sharp enrollment spurt between 2001-02 and 2003-04, but enrollment in recent years has leveled off.

Sources: <http://www.nces.ed.gov/ccd/bat/output.asp>; Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education (data shared with author). Higher Ed data is fall head count.



6. STATE REVENUES

After starting FY '09 with six months of stronger than expected revenue collections, the past two months have seen a sharp and alarming reversal of fortunes. General Revenues (GR) in February came in \$65.0 million, or 21.6 percent, below last year's amount and \$103.9 million, or 30.4 percent, below the estimate. January's collections were \$45.5 million below the prior year and \$50.8 million below the estimate. Collections from every major tax were down in February, with gross production and personal income taxes suffering the steepest drop. For the year, GR remains \$47.3 million, or 1.3 percent, above the certified estimate. Since the state appropriates only 95 percent of the certified estimate, there is still a cushion of over \$300 million before the state would face an official revenue shortfall triggering cuts to the current year budget.

Monthly General Revenue Collections (Amounts in \$ Millions)	Prior Year Feb. 08 (FY '08)	Prior Month Jan '08 (FY '09)	Feb. 09 (FY '09)	Monthly Change, FY '09 vs FY '08	FY '07 YTD (Jul - Feb)	FY '08 YTD (Jul - Feb)	FY '09 - YTD (July - Feb)	Change, FY '08 - FY '09 YTD (Jul - Feb)
Personal Income Tax	38.9	221.6	7.9	(31.0)	1,447.0	1,391.1	1,339.4	-51.7
Corporate Income Tax	1.8	23.2	0	(1.8)	186.3	131.2	154.5	23.3
Gross Production Tax	65.2	35.2	40.5	(24.7)	384.1	445.9	599.2	153.3
Sales Tax	128.3	148.0	125.3	(3.0)	1,012.1	1,087.9	1,144.3	56.4
Motor Vehicles Tax	22.2	9.7	17	(5.2)	162.1	170.6	121.2	-49.4
Other Sources	46.8	55.1	47.2	0.4	483.0	458.3	453.1	-5.2
Total General Revenue	303.3	492.8	237.9	(65.4)	3,714.5	3,685.1	3,811.7	126.6

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

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