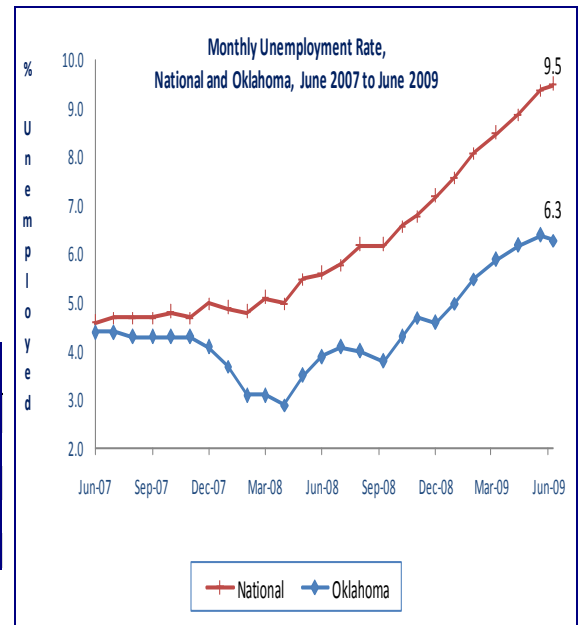


### NUMBERS YOU NEED:

## Key Oklahoma Economic and Budget Trends: August 2009

### 1. EMPLOYMENT

June showed a pause in Oklahoma's worsening employment trends. Compared to May, more people were employed, fewer were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was lower, though the differences were slight. The number of new unemployment claims fell by 465 in June, but continuing unemployment claims were 1,520 higher. Oklahoma's 6.3 percent unemployment remains well below the national rate of 9.5 percent. While Oklahoma's performance is better than most states and the pause is welcome, the jobs picture remains worse than anytime since 2003.



Oklahoma	Jun-09	May-09	Jun-08	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Total Non-Farm Employment (in 000s)	1,560.0	1,560.0	1,590.0	-	(30.0)
Unemployed (in 000s)	112.1	112.6	66.7	(0.5)	45.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.3%	6.4%	3.8%	-0.1%	2.5%
Initial UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	4,072	4,537	1,994	(465)	2,078
Continuing UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	46,892	45,372	15,543	1,520	31,349

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>.

### 2. INFLATION

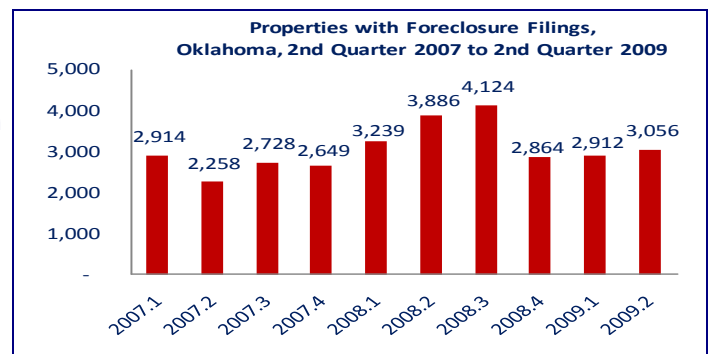
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the South region rose in June. Inflation climbed 1.0 percent after several months of modest 0.3 percent gains. Oil and gas prices led the way, with transportation costs up 4.7 percent and energy up 9.6 percent, from May. However, costs in both these categories remained well below their levels of 12 months ago. The cost of food and beverages fell for a fourth straight month in June, but is still higher than a year ago.

Inflation (CPI - All Urban Consumers, South Region)	% Change from Prior Month			12-month % Change
	Jun-09	May-09	Jun-08	
All Items	1.0	0.3	1.1	-1.4
Food and beverages	-0.1	-0.1	0.8	2.3
Housing	0.7	0.0	1.2	0.9
Apparel	-1.0	-1.6	-2.5	1.6
Transportation	4.7	2.4	2.8	-14.7
Medical care	0.1	0.0	0.1	2.5
Recreation	0.1	-0.2	-0.4	2.3
Education and communication	0.0	0.2	0.5	2.7
Other goods and services	0.2	-0.1	0.3	7.9
Energy	9.6	3.7	6.8	-24.5
All items less food and energy	0.2	0.0	0.2	2.0

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index: for the South: <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/atlanta/cpiso.txt>

### 3. FORECLOSURES

Foreclosure filings increased modestly for the second straight quarter. From April to June, Oklahoma saw 3,056 foreclosures, 144 more than the first quarter, but still 830 fewer than the same quarter one year earlier. Foreclosures continued to be well below 2008's levels. The Tulsa metropolitan area accounted for nearly half of Oklahoma foreclosures, with 2,835, for the first half of 2009. The Tulsa area ranked 100th of all metro areas in foreclosures for that period, while the Oklahoma City area ranked 164th. One in 289 Oklahoma housing units has received a foreclosure notice in 2009.



Source: <http://www.realtytrac.com>

#### 4. WORK SUPPORTS AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

The impact of the economic downturn continues to be seen in increasing participation in work support and safety net programs. The number of Oklahomans receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps) rose for the fourteenth consecutive month in May, reaching an all-time high of 474,971 persons. Similarly, enrollment in the SoonerCare health insurance program increased by 0.9 percent in May and was up by 5.2 percent compared to one year prior. Temporary Assistance to Needy Family participation fell slightly from April to May, but remained 6.0 percent higher than one year ago. School meal participation fell with the end of the school year in May, but remained higher than in 2008.

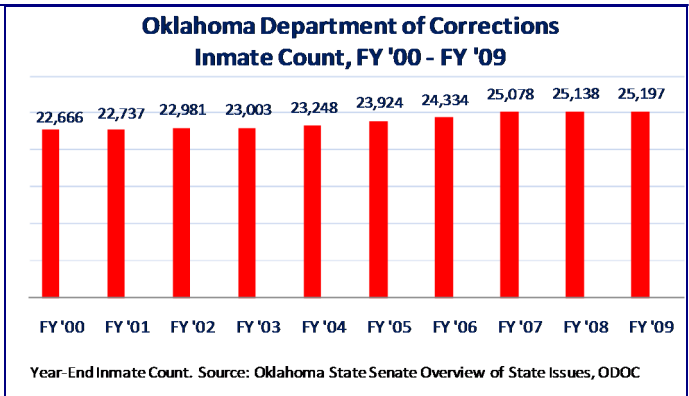
PROGRAM	May-09	Apr-09	Mar-09	Monthly Change (Apr - May 09)	Monthly Percent Change	May-08	Annual Change	Annual Percent change
Child Care subsidies - Persons Participating	39,644	39,058	39,672	586	1.5%	40,329	(685)	-1.7%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps) - Persons Participating	474,971	463,426	450,057	11,545	2.4%	411,789	63,182	15.3%
SoonerCare (Medicaid) - Persons Participating	640,350	634,789	628,726	5,561	0.9%	608,810	31,540	5.2%
TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) - Persons Participating	19,702	19,392	18,772	310	1.6%	18,588	1,114	6.0%
WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Nutrition Program	129,369	129,320	127,360	49	0.0%	123,085	6,284	5.1%
School Lunch Program - Children Participating	401,916	431,433	442,430	(29,517)	-7.3%	388,714	13,202	3.4%
School Breakfast Program - Children Participating	198,339	209,745	206,742	(11,406)	-5.8%	188,519	9,820	5.2%

Source: Oklahoma Department of Human Services: <http://www.okdhs.org/library/stats/sb/> USDA Food and Nutrition Service: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/>

#### 5. PRISON POPULATION

Oklahoma's prison population has stabilized after steady growth through much of the decade. The FY '09 year-end inmate count of 25,197 was only 119 more than two years earlier. The 2009 count was, however, 11 percent higher than in 2000 and more than double the inmate count of 20 years ago. In 2007, the most recent year available, Oklahoma imprisoned 665 people per 100,000 population, compared to the national average of 506. Oklahoma's female incarceration rate that year was more than twice the national average and highest in the nation.

Source: Oklahoma Department of Corrections, U.S. Department of Justice: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/p07.pdf>



#### 6. STATE REVENUES

The new state fiscal year began in July in the same discouraging fashion that the previous year's ended. July's General Revenue (GR) collections were \$120.3 million, or 26.3 percent, below last year's, with gross production taxes and individual income taxes showing the steepest drops. July collections came in \$74.4 million, or 18.1 percent, below the estimate certified by the Board of Equalization, which formed the basis for current year appropriations. As a result of the shortfall, Treasurer Scott Meacham announced an immediate 5 percent cut to each state agency's September allocation proportionate to its share of General Revenue. The Treasurer, Governor and legislative leaders will be meeting to explore their options for the coming months, which could "include use of the Rainy Day Fund, tapping additional federal stimulus money and other responses".

Monthly General Revenue Collections (Amounts in \$ Millions)	July 09 (FY '10)	Prior Year July 08 (FY '09)	Prior Month June 09 (FY '09)	Monthly Change, FY '10 vs FY '09	FY '10 - YTD (July)	FY '09 YTD (July)	FY '08 YTD (July)	YTD Change, FY '09 vs FY '08
Personal Income Tax	131.7	154.8	186	(23.1)	131.7	154.8	153.1	-23.1
Corporate Income Tax	0.8	3.8	34.6	(3.0)	0.8	3.8	2.9	-3.0
Gross Production Tax	22.2	90	13	(67.8)	22.2	90.0	56.6	-67.8
Sales Tax	129.4	141.6	129.4	(12.2)	129.4	141.6	131.6	-12.2
Motor Vehicles Tax	10.9	19.6	14.5	(8.7)	10.9	19.6	19.4	-8.7
Other Sources	41.8	47.3	63.7	(5.5)	41.8	47.3	47.7	-5.5
<b>Total General Revenue</b>	<b>336.8</b>	<b>457.1</b>	<b>441.2</b>	<b>(120.3)</b>	<b>336.8</b>	<b>457.1</b>	<b>411.3</b>	<b>-120.3</b>

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

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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](http://www.okpolicy.org) for information and analysis.