

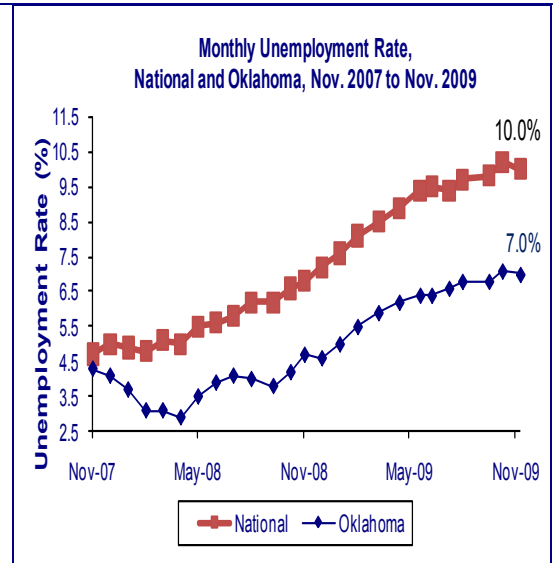
NUMBERS YOU NEED:

Key Oklahoma Economic and Budget Trends: January 2010

1. EMPLOYMENT

Oklahoma's unemployment rate dipped to 7.0 percent in November from 7.1 percent in October. The state's unemployment rate remains 3 percentage points below the national average and 12th lowest in the nation. The number of employed and unemployed both fell in November, suggesting that some workers have opted to exit the labor force. The number of Oklahomans filing initial claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits rose for just the second time in eight months in November to a weekly average of 3,866, a number 21 percent higher than one year ago.

Oklahoma	Nov-09	Oct-09	Nov-08	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Total Non-Farm Employment (in 000s)	1,549.9	1,555.9	1,599.8	(6.0)	(49.9)
Unemployed (in 000s)	122.5	127.4	76.3	(4.9)	46.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.8%	7.1%	4.3%	-0.3%	2.5%
Initial UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	3,866	3,667	3,184	199	682
Continuing UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	40,270	42,140	19,438	(1,870)	20,832



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 overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the South region edged up by 0.2 percent in November. Energy and transportation prices saw the largest gains compared to October, while clothing, recreation, and housing prices declined. Compared to one year ago, prices in the South were 2.0 percent higher, with energy and transportation costs now significantly above their lows of the fall of 2008. This was the first 12-month increase in the region's CPI since February 2009.

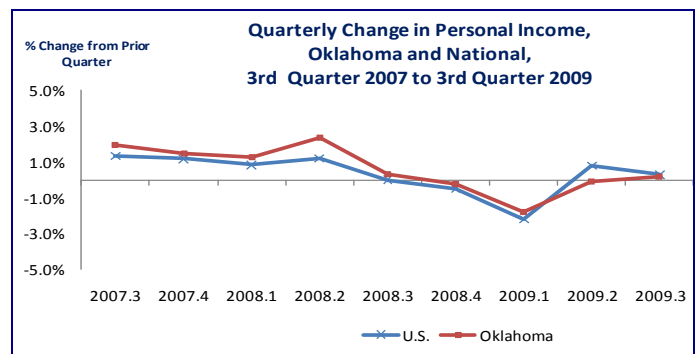
Inflation (CPI - All Urban Consumers, South Region)	% Change from Prior Month			12-month % Change
	Nov-09	Oct-09	Nov-08	
All Items	0.2	0.2	-2.2	2.0
Food and beverages	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.3
Housing	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4
Apparel	-1.3	1.2	-0.3	0.2
Transportation	2.4	1.4	-11.5	9.7
Medical care	0.7	0.2	0.3	3.3
Recreation	-0.8	-0.7	-0.1	-0.6
Education and communication	-0.2	0.3	0.1	2.4
Other goods and services	0.3	0.4	0.3	9.8
Energy	2.8	-1.1	-18.9	7.1
All items less food and energy	-0.1	0.4	-0.1	1.9

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

3. ECONOMIC GROWTH

Oklahoma's personal income grew by a very modest 0.2 percent in the 3rd quarter of 2009, following three straight quarters of decline. However, state personal income remains 2.5 percent below its level of twelve months ago. Oklahoma's growth rate was slightly below the national average (0.3 percent) for the quarter and ranked 32nd in the nation. Alaska and New Jersey saw the strongest growth, while Louisiana and South Dakota suffered the sharpest declines.

Source: <http://www.bea.gov/regional/sqpi>



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 nineteenth consecutive month in October, reaching an all-time high of 546,988 persons. Enrollment is 26.4 percent higher than one year prior. Participation in Medicaid also continues to grow but at a slower pace than for food assistance. The number of recipients of cash assistance payments through the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program remains low, at 23,167, but is 21.3 percent higher than a year ago. The number of children receiving subsidized child care is down slightly from one year ago, perhaps reflecting fewer parents of young children in the workforce.

PROGRAM	Oct-10	Sep-09	Aug-09	Monthly Change (Sept-Oct 09)	Monthly Percent Change	Oct-09	Annual Change	Annual Percent change
Child Care subsidies - Persons Participating	38,853	38,294	40,206	559	1.5%	39,259	(406)	-1.0%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps) - Persons Participating	546,988	535,860	524,536	11,128	2.1%	432,642	114,346	26.4%
SoonerCare (Medicaid) - Persons Participating	671,700	666,042	659,944	5,658	0.8%	611,298	60,402	9.9%
TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) - Persons Participating	23,167	22,573	21,732	594	2.6%	19,100	4,067	21.3%
WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Nutrition Program	137,391	138,394	136,931	(1,003)	-0.7%	129,392	7,999	6.2%
School Lunch Program - Children Participating	444,992	437,296	395,872	7,696	1.8%	444,702	290	0.1%
School Breakfast Program - Children Participating	213,039	211,031	175,351	2,008	1.0%	210,585	2,454	1.2%

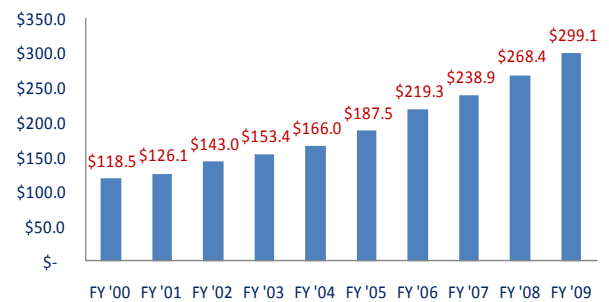
Source: Oklahoma Department of Human Services: <http://www.okdhs.org/library/stats/sb/> USDA Food and Nutrition Service: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/>

5. CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services collected just under \$300 million in child support in FY '09. Collections have nearly doubled over the past six years and have nearly tripled since 1999. Child support is aimed at ensuring the financial and medical well-being of children and keeping taxpayers from bearing the cost of supporting Oklahoma's children. The Department uses financial institution data matches, new hire reporting, and lottery and tax refund intercepts to reach delinquent parents and enforce child support obligations.

Source: OKDHS Annual Bulletins <http://www.okdhs.org/library/rpts/default.htm>

OKDHS Annual Child Support Enforcement Collections, in \$ Millions, FY '00 - FY '09



6. STATE REVENUES

Revenue collections marking the end of the first half of FY '10 brought continued painful news. December's General Revenue collections were \$165.0 million, or 29.1 percent, below last year. All major taxes except motor vehicle taxes remained significantly down compared to one year ago. The one glimmer of improvement came from gross production taxes, which rose to their highest level since April. For the year, revenues remained 28.6 percent below FY '09. November collections came in \$178.6 million, or 30.7 percent below the certified estimate. For the year, the shortfall in GR collections has reached \$756.1 million. For the second straight month, Treasurer Meacham announced cuts to agency allocations for January of 10 per cent, following four consecutive months of 5 percent cuts. To limit the size of monthly cuts, the state has borrowed \$233.8 million this year, an amount which will have to be repaid by year's end, most likely from balance in the Rainy Day Fund.

Monthly General Revenue Collections (Amounts in \$ Millions)	Dec '10 (FY '10)	Prior Year Dec '08 (FY '10)	Monthly Change, FY '10 vs FY '09	FY '10 YTD (July - Dec)	FY '09 YTD (July- Dec)	FY '08 YTD (July- Dec)	YTD Change, FY '10 vs FY '09
Personal Income Tax	\$ 154.2	\$ 211.9	\$ (57.7)	\$ 882.2	\$ 1,109.9	\$ 1,102.3	\$ (227.7)
Corporate Income Tax	\$ 18.0	\$ 35.7	\$ (17.7)	\$ 74.9	\$ 131.3	\$ 120.1	\$ (56.4)
Gross Production Tax	\$ 30.2	\$ 98.7	\$ (68.5)	\$ 123.9	\$ 523.5	\$ 329.5	\$ (399.6)
Sales Tax	\$ 135.8	\$ 148.9	\$ (13.1)	\$ 755.3	\$ 871.0	\$ 822.1	\$ (115.7)
Motor Vehicles Tax	\$ 11.0	\$ 9.2	\$ 1.8	\$ 68.5	\$ 94.5	\$ 125.9	\$ (26.0)
Other Sources	\$ 53.1	\$ 62.9	\$ (9.8)	\$ 294.4	\$ 350.8	\$ 343.9	\$ (56.4)
Total General Revenue	\$ 402.3	\$ 567.3	\$ (165.0)	\$ 2,199.2	\$ 3,081.0	\$ 2,843.9	\$ (881.8)

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

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For a complete archive of Numbers You Need, go to: <http://okpolicy.org/files/numbersyouneed12-09.pdf>