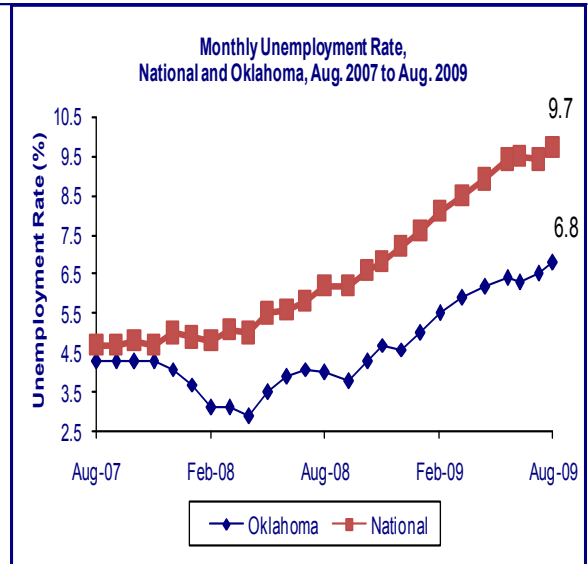


### NUMBERS YOU NEED:

## Key Oklahoma Economic and Budget Trends: October 2009

### 1. EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment continued to worsen nationally and in Oklahoma in August, with unemployed rates rising to 9.7 and 6.8 percent, respectively. The state's unemployment rate reached its highest level since January 1988. Compared to one year ago, there has been a 75 percent jump in the number of unemployed Oklahomans. The average weekly number of new Unemployment Insurance claims exceeded 4,000 for the ninth straight month. Continuing UI claims, however, declined slightly.



Oklahoma	Aug-09	Jul-09	Aug-08	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Total Non-Farm Employment (in 000s)	1,554.1	1,564.2	1,596.9	(10.1)	(42.8)
Unemployed (in 000s)	117.6	115.9	67.1	1.7	50.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.8%	6.5%	3.9%	0.3%	2.9%
Initial UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	4,069	4,046	1,945	23	2,124
Continuing UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	46,467	47,591	17,287	(1,124)	29,180

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

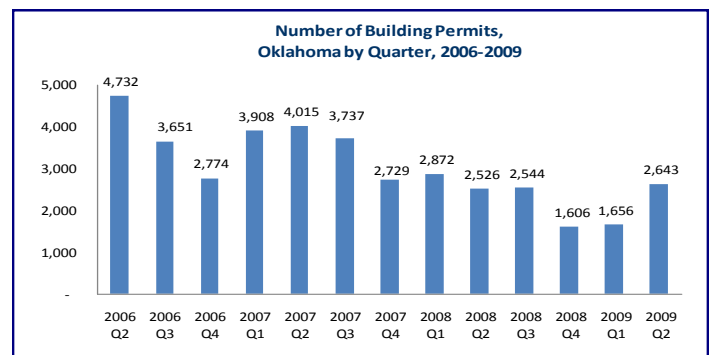
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the South region was essentially flat in August, rising a modest 0.1 percent. Energy and transportation costs both rebounded but remain considerably lower than the levels of a year ago. Without food and energy prices, were down 0.1 percent in August, reflecting continued weak demand for most goods and services.

Inflation (CPI - All Urban Consumers, South Region)	% Change from Prior Month			12-month % Change
	Aug-09	Jul-09	Aug-08	
All Items	0.1	-0.3	-0.4	-1.6
Food and beverages	0.2	-0.1	0.6	0.9
Housing	-0.3	-0.3	0.0	-0.3
Apparel	-0.1	-2.9	0.6	0.1
Transportation	0.6	-0.6	-3.3	-12.1
Medical care	0.3	0.0	0.2	2.6
Recreation	-0.2	0.2	0.9	1.0
Education and communication	1.0	0.3	0.9	2.4
Other goods and services	0.1	1.6	0.2	10.0
Energy	1.0	-1.9	-4.9	-22.8
All items less food and energy	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	1.6

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

### 3. BUILDING PERMITS

Building permit activity, a key indicator of housing activity, rebounded significantly in the second quarter of 2009. Permits were up approximately 60 percent (1,000 permits) over the two previous quarters. However, there were 1,372 (34 percent) fewer permits than the second quarter of 2007. This quarter's results could suggest the real estate market is rebounding, though it has a long way to go before reaching pre-downturn levels.



[http://economagic.com/em-cgi/data.exe/cenc40/tb2u1\\_ok](http://economagic.com/em-cgi/data.exe/cenc40/tb2u1_ok)

#### 4. WORK SUPPORTS AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

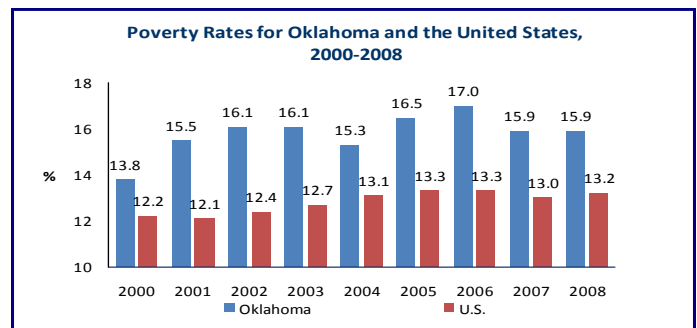
The impact of the economic downturn continues to be seen in increasing participation in work support and safety net programs. The number of Oklahomans receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps) rose for the fifteenth consecutive month in July, reaching an all-time high of 509,627 persons. Similarly, enrollment in the SoonerCare health insurance program increased by 1.1 percent in July and was up by 8.4 percent compared to one year prior. Temporary Assistance to Needy Family participation grew by 4.3 percent from June to July and, is now 18.5 percent higher than one year ago. Child Care subsidies continued to fall slightly, likely as a result of fewer low-income families being able to find work.

PROGRAM	Jul-09	Jun-09	May-09	Monthly Change (June - July 09)	Monthly Percent Change	Jul-08	Annual Change	Annual Percent Change
Child Care subsidies - Persons Participating	38,385	38,889	39,644	(504)	-1.3%	38,651	(266)	-0.7%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps) - Persons Participating	509,627	491,914	474,971	17,713	3.6%	417,551	92,076	22.1%
SoonerCare (Medicaid) - Persons Participating	651,777	644,905	640,350	6,872	1.1%	601,173	50,604	8.4%
TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) - Persons Participating	21,137	20,266	19,702	871	4.3%	17,836	3,301	18.5%
WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Nutrition Program	134,432	131,359	129,369	3,073	2.3%	126,261	8,171	6.5%
School Lunch Program - Children Participating	n/a	n/a	401,916	-	-	n/a	-	-
School Breakfast Program - Children Participating	n/a	n/a	198,339	-	-	n/a	-	-

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. POVERTY

The American Community Survey released by the Census Bureau in September indicated little change in poverty rates in 2008, either nationally, or in Oklahoma. For the second straight year, 15.9 percent of Oklahomans lived at or below the poverty level, which was \$21,200 for a family of four. Oklahoma's poverty rate remained considerably higher than the 13.2 percent national rate. While the economic downturn may have been responsible for the slight increase in the national poverty rate in 2008, Oklahoma's comparatively strong economic performance left the state's poverty rate unchanged.



Source: American Community Survey, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty.html>

#### 6. STATE REVENUES

Revenue collections continued to perform dismally in the third month of the FY '10 fiscal year. September's General Revenue (GR) collections were \$186.8 million, or 30.1 percent, below last year. Gross production taxes and individual and corporate income taxes showed the steepest drops. August collections came in \$178.7 million, or 29.2 percent, below the estimate certified by the Board of Equalization, which formed the basis for current year appropriations. Collections for the full quarter were 29.5 percent below the prior year and 26.0 percent below the estimate. As a result of the shortfall, Treasurer Scott Meacham announced a third consecutive 5 percent cut to each state agency's monthly allocation from the GR fund. The Treasurer and Governor "are continuing their dialogue with legislative leaders to ensure the ongoing provision of essential state services".

Monthly General Revenue Collections (Amounts in \$ Millions)	Sep '09 (FY '10)	Prior Year Sept '08 (FY '09)	Monthly Change, FY '10 vs FY '09	FY '10 - YTD (July - Sept)	FY '09 YTD (July- Sept)	FY '08 YTD (July- Sept)	YTD Change, FY '10 vs FY '09
Personal Income Tax	\$ 198.5	\$ 232.6	\$ (34.1)	\$ 450.4	\$ 539.8	\$ 550.1	\$ (89.4)
Corporate Income Tax	\$ 36.5	\$ 70.7	\$ (34.2)	\$ 37.3	\$ 78.1	\$ 71.7	\$ (40.8)
Gross Production Tax	\$ 16.8	\$ 98.8	\$ (82.0)	\$ 59.8	\$ 285.4	\$ 177.4	\$ (225.6)
Sales Tax	\$ 121.8	\$ 142.8	\$ (21.0)	\$ 378.7	\$ 437.3	\$ 423.5	\$ (58.6)
Motor Vehicles Tax	\$ 16.2	\$ 19.2	\$ (3.0)	\$ 34.9	\$ 56.8	\$ 68.7	\$ (21.9)
Other Sources	\$ 44.0	\$ 56.5	\$ (12.5)	\$ 144.8	\$ 170.4	\$ 174.8	\$ (25.6)
<b>Total General Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 433.8</b>	<b>\$ 620.6</b>	<b>\$ (186.8)</b>	<b>\$ 1,105.9</b>	<b>\$ 1,567.8</b>	<b>\$ 1,466.2</b>	<b>\$ (461.9)</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.