

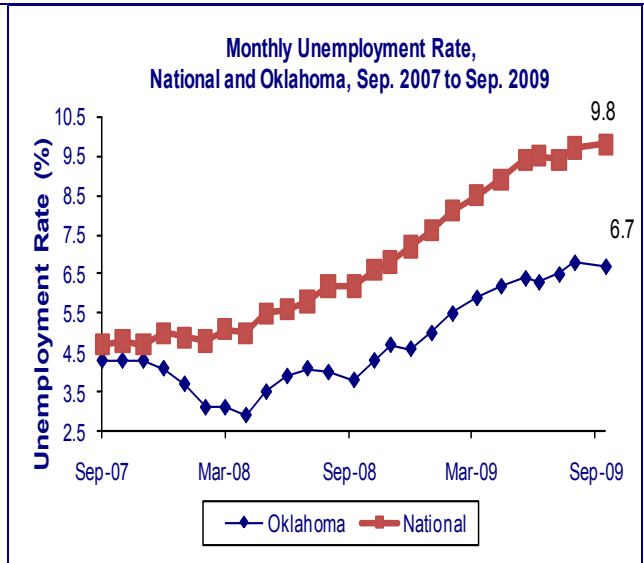
NUMBERS YOU NEED:

Key Oklahoma Economic and Budget Trends: November 2009

1. EMPLOYMENT

There was relatively good news in the state's job reports for September. The unemployment rate dipped slightly to 6.7 percent, even as the number of Oklahomans with jobs fell by an additional 9,200. The number of Oklahomans filing initial claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits fell for the fifth time in six months in September to a weekly average of 3,749, reaching a level 25 percent below March's peak of 4,970. Ongoing UI claims also fell in September for the second straight month.

Oklahoma	Sep-09	Aug-09	Sep-08	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Total Non-Farm Employment (in 000s)	1,544.9	1,554.1	1,596.2	(9.2)	(51.3)
Unemployed (in 000s)	119.4	117.6	70.0	1.8	49.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.7%	6.8%	4.0%	-0.1%	2.7%
Initial UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	3,749	4,069	1,894	(320)	1,855
Continuing UI Claims (Weekly Avg.)	44,524	46,467	16,891	(1,943)	27,633



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

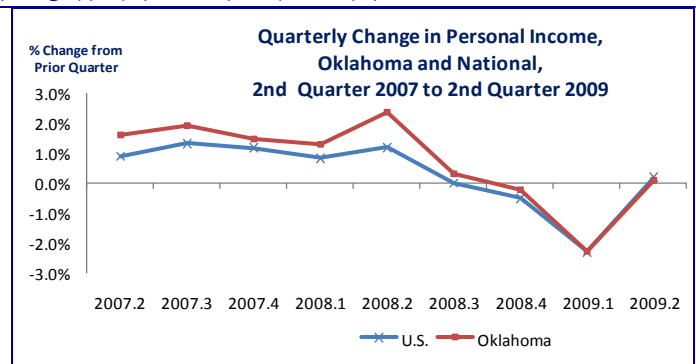
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the South region was unchanged overall in September, as food, housing, energy, and transportation all showed slight declines compared to August. Compared to one year ago, prices in the South were 1.8 percent lower, with the steepest drops occurring in energy (-23.9 percent) and transportation (-12.6 percent). This was the seventh consecutive 12-month decrease in overall prices.

Inflation (CPI - All Urban Consumers, South Region)	% Change from Prior Month			12-month % Change
	Sep-09	Aug-09	Sep-08	
All Items	0.0	0.1	0.1	-1.8
Food and beverages	-0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2
Housing	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	-0.4
Apparel	4.4	-0.1	2.9	1.6
Transportation	-1.0	0.6	-0.4	-12.6
Medical care	0.3	0.3	0.0	2.9
Recreation	0.1	-0.2	0.2	0.9
Education and communication	0.6	1.0	0.6	2.4
Other goods and services	0.3	0.1	0.7	9.6
Energy	-2.1	1.0	-0.7	-23.9
All items less food and energy	0.2	-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. ECONOMIC GROWTH

Oklahoma's personal income grew by a very modest 0.1 percent in the 2nd quarter of 2009, rebounding from a disastrous first quarter which saw state personal income fall by 2.3 percent. Oklahoma's 2nd quarter growth rate was virtually identical to the nation's as a whole (0.2 percent). Oklahoma ranked 35th among the states in growth this past quarter. North Dakota and West Virginia saw the strongest growth, while Wyoming and Nevada witnessed the sharpest declines.



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

4. WORK SUPPORTS AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

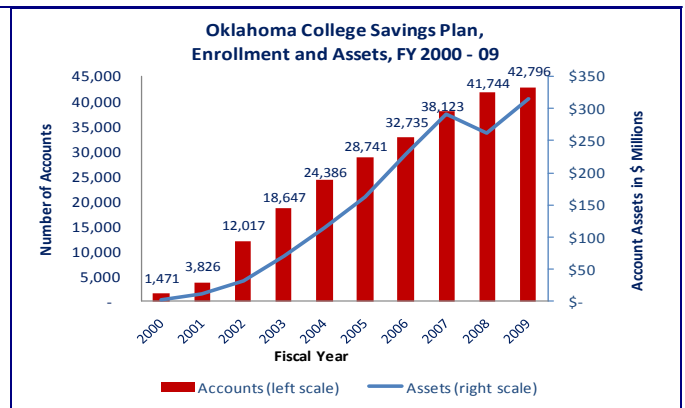
The impact of the economic downturn continues to be seen in increasing participation in work support and safety net programs. The number of Oklahomans receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps) rose for the seventeenth consecutive month in August, reaching an all-time high of 524,536 persons. Similarly, enrollment in the SoonerCare health insurance program increased by 2.3 percent in August to 659,944 and was up by 8.9 percent compared to a year ago. By comparison, the number of recipients of cash assistance payments through the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program remains low, at 21,732, but is 19.3 percent higher than a year ago. With the start of the school year, participation in the child care subsidy program also jumped in August, while remaining slightly down from one year ago.

PROGRAM	Aug-09	Jul-09	Jun-09	Monthly Change (Aug - July 09)	Monthly Percent Change	Aug-08	Annual Change	Annual Percent change
Child Care subsidies - Persons Participating	40,206	38,385	38,889	1,317	3.4%	40,720	(514)	-1.3%
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps) - Persons Participating	524,536	509,627	491,914	32,622	6.4%	423,444	101,092	23.9%
SoonerCare (Medicaid) - Persons Participating	659,944	651,777	644,905	15,039	2.3%	606,078	53,866	8.9%
TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) - Persons Participating	21,732	21,137	20,266	1,466	6.9%	18,221	3,511	19.3%
WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Nutrition Program	137,317	134,479	131,359	5,958	4.4%	127,553	9,764	7.7%
School Lunch Program - Children Participating	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	n/a	-	-
School Breakfast Program - Children Participating	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	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. COLLEGE SAVINGS

The Oklahoma College Savings Plan (OCSP), also known as the state's 529 Program, helps make higher education affordable for students and families by affording a tax-privileged savings vehicle that can be used for a wide range of educational expenses. There are now over 42,000 OCSP accountholders, a number that has more than doubled since 2003. This includes 1,360 accountholders in a national demonstration project known as OKSEED, which is exploring ways to improve savings among lower-income households. Despite stock market reversals, total assets in OCSP accounts reached \$316 million in FY'09.



Source: Information provided by the Oklahoma Treasurer's Office

6. STATE REVENUES

Revenue collections continued to perform poorly in October but showed a slight improvement compared to the first three months of the fiscal year. October's General Revenue (GR) collections were \$115.9 million, or 23.7 percent, below last year. Gross production taxes and individual income taxes showed the steepest drops, while corporate tax collections grew. For the year, revenues remained 28.1 percent below last year. October collections fell \$83.3 million, or 18.2 percent, below the estimate certified by the Board of Equalization, which formed the basis for current year appropriations. For the year, GR is 24.2 percent below the estimate. Treasurer Scott Meacham announced a fourth consecutive 5 percent cut to each state agency's monthly allocation from the GR fund and transferred balances from cash funds to make up the remaining shortfall. The Treasurer noted that "those transferred funds will have to be repaid, most likely from Rainy Day Funds, by the end of the fiscal year."

Monthly General Revenue Collections (Amounts in \$ Millions)	Oct '09 (FY '10)	Prior Year Oct '08 (FY'09)	Monthly Change, FY '10 vs FY '09	FY '10 YTD (July - Oct)	FY '09 YTD (July- Oct)	FY '08 YTD (July- Oct)	YTD Change, FY '10 vs FY '09
Personal Income Tax	\$ 140.2	\$ 191.5	\$ (51.3)	\$ 590.6	\$ 731.3	\$ 723.2	\$ (140.7)
Corporate Income Tax	\$ 19.6	\$ 8.9	\$ 10.7	\$ 56.9	\$ 87.0	\$ 84.2	\$ (30.1)
Gross Production Tax	\$ 23.6	\$ 76.1	\$ (52.5)	\$ 83.4	\$ 361.5	\$ 226.5	\$ (278.1)
Sales Tax	\$ 117.6	\$ 135.1	\$ (17.5)	\$ 496.3	\$ 572.4	\$ 547.2	\$ (76.1)
Motor Vehicles Tax	\$ 11.0	\$ 17.3	\$ (6.3)	\$ 45.9	\$ 74.1	\$ 92.8	\$ (28.2)
Other Sources	\$ 62.5	\$ 61.5	\$ 1.0	\$ 207.3	\$ 231.9	\$ 236.5	\$ (24.6)
Total General Revenue	\$ 374.5	\$ 490.4	\$ (115.9)	\$ 1,480.4	\$ 2,058.2	\$ 1,910.4	\$ (577.8)

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

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