

Economic Research & Analysis

...Bringing Oklahoma's Labor Market to Life!

FOR RELEASE: May 2, 2007

Almost three-quarters of Oklahoma counties report unemployment rate improvement in March

In March 2007, Oklahoma's state unemployment rate improved slightly to 4.3 percent. Most of Oklahoma's 77 counties mirrored this pattern, with nearly 75 percent seeing rate drops over the month. **Coal County** reported the state's highest county rate in March, while **Woodward County** held on to the lowest rate for the month.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES*

MARCH 2007	Area	Unemp. Rate	Monthly change	Annual change
RATE	Statewide	4.3%	₽ 0.1%	û 0.1%
Highest county	Coal County	6.7%	⇧ 0.2%	no change
Lowest county	Woodward Co.	2.7%	₽ 0.1%	₽ 0.2%
Biggest % gain	Tillman Co.	5.8%	҈ 0.4%	
Biggest % loss	Sequoyah Co.	6.0%	₽ 0.7%	

^{*}non-seasonally adjusted

State unemployment rate down slightly in March

Oklahoma's **non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** dropped by one-tenth of a percent to 4.3 percent in March 2007. The state **non-seasonally adjusted labor force** and **employment** both reported growth over the month, while **unemployment** contracted. This follows the typical pattern seen each year during the February-to-March period.

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT*

	MARCH 2007				UNEMPLOYMENT RATE				
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Mar '07	Feb '07	Jan '07	Mar '06		
Oklahoma	1,732,180	1,658,050	74,140	4.3%	4.4%	4.4%	4.2%		
United States	152,236,000	145,323,000	6,913,000	4.5%	4.9%	5.0%	4.8%		
Region									
Arkansas	1,380,230	1,310,370	69,860	5.1%	5.8%	5.8%	5.4%		
Kansas	1,468,920	1,406,360	62,560	4.3%	4.7%	4.6%	4.6%		
Louisiana	1,999,640	1,923,910	75,740	3.8%	3.7%	4.4%	3.7%		
Missouri	3,051,620	2,900,260	151,360	5.0%	5.7%	5.1%	4.9%		
New Mexico	930,960	897,070	33,890	3.6%	3.7%	3.9%	4.3%		
Texas	11,526,820	11,038,580	488,240	4.2%	4.7%	4.7%	5.1%		

^{*}non-seasonally adjusted

Coal County reclaims state's highest county rate in March

After slipping to second place in February, **Coal County** once again claimed the state's highest unemployment rate in March at 6.7 percent. **Hughes County** held the month's second highest county rate of 6.4 percent. **Atoka and McCurtain counties** tied at 6.2 percent for the third highest county rate in March. Aside from **Coal County**, these areas all recorded unemployment rate drops over the month.

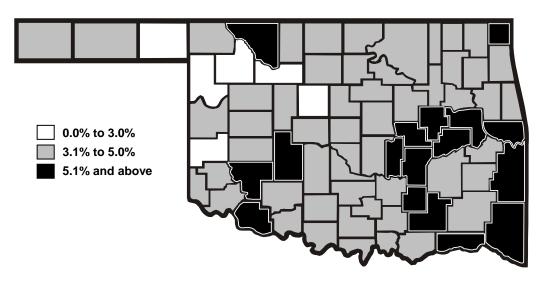
	MARCH 2007			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE				
	Labor Force Employment Un		Unemployment	Mar '07	Feb '07	Jan '07	Mar '06	
Coal County	2,430	2,260	160	6.7%	6.5%	7.7%	6.7%	
Hughes County	4,980	4,660	320	6.4%	6.5%	6.6%	6.5%	
Atoka County	5,800	5,440	360	6.2%	6.4%	6.6%	4.9%	
McCurtain County	13,900	13,030	870	6.2%	6.4%	6.7%	6.5%	

Woodward County claims state's lowest county rate again

In March, **Woodward County** reported the state's lowest county unemployment rate at 2.7 percent. **Beaver County** and **Beckham County** tied for Oklahoma's second lowest rate of 2.8 percent. **Ellis County** claimed the month's third lowest county rate of 2.9 percent. Rates for all of these counties dropped during the February-to-March period.

	MARCH 2007	MARCH 2007				UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Mar '07	Feb '07	Jan '07	Mar '06		
Woodward County	11,660	11,340	320	2.7%	2.8%	2.8%	2.9%		
Beaver County	2,930	2,850	80	2.8%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1%		
Beckham County	10,370	10,080	290	2.8%	2.9%	2.9%	3.1%		
Ellis County	2,200	2,140	60	2.9%	3.0%	2.7%	3.1%		

DISTRIBUTION of UNEMPLOYMENT RATES by COUNTY Preliminary Data for March 2007



LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for OKLAHOMA County rankings

		MARCH 2007	7		UNEMP	<u>E</u>		
		Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '07	Feb '07	Jan '07	Mar '06
1.	Coal County	2,430	2,260	160	6.7%	6.5%	7.7%	6.7%
2.	Hughes County	4,980	4,660	320	6.4%	6.5%	6.6%	6.5%
3.	Atoka County	5,800	5,440	360	6.2%	6.4%	6.6%	4.9%
4.	McCurtain County	13,900	13,030	870	6.2%	6.4%	6.7%	6.5%
5.	Seminole County	10,210	9,580	630	6.1%	6.0%	6.2%	6.0%
6.	Muskogee County	28,840	27,110	1,730	6.0%	6.2%	6.5%	5.2%
7.	Sequoyah County	18,590	17,480	1,110	6.0%	6.7%	5.9%	5.3%
8.	McIntosh County	8,270	7,780	490	5.9%	6.0%	6.2%	5.3%
9.	Tillman County	3,460	3,260	200	5.8%	5.4%	5.0%	4.7%
10.	Woods County	4,080	3,840	240	5.8%	6.1%	6.3%	6.2%
11.	Caddo County	11,470	10,830	640	5.6%	5.6%	5.7%	5.7%
12.	Okfuskee County	4,320	4,080	240	5.5%	5.6%	5.7%	5.9%
13.	Choctaw County	6,860	6,490	370	5.4%	5.7%	6.2%	5.4%
14.	Okmulgee County	16,940	16,040	900	5.3%	5.7%	5.6%	5.6%
15.	LeFlore County	21,870	20,730	1,150	5.2%	5.8%	5.3%	4.7%
16.	Kiowa County	3,740	3,550	190	5.1%	5.4%	5.5%	4.7%
17.	Ottawa County	16,660	15,810	850	5.1%	5.4%	5.4%	4.7%
18.	Craig County	6,780	6,440	340	5.0%	5.2%	5.3%	4.3%
19.	Greer County	2,010	1,910	100	5.0%	5.3%	5.6%	5.5%
20.	Jefferson County	2,370	2,250	120	5.0%	5.4%	5.2%	4.5%
	Latimer County	4,040	3,840	200	5.0%	5.1%	5.4%	5.3%
	Adair County	10,810	10,280	530	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%	4.7%
	Kay County	21,640	20,570	1,070	4.9%	5.1%	5.4%	5.4%
	Cherokee County	21,340	20,330	1,020	4.8%	4.8%	4.7%	4.3%
25.	Delaware County	17,200	16,380	830	4.8%	5.2%	5.2%	4.8%
	Alfalfa County	2,260	2,150	110	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%	4.6%
	Haskell County	5,370	5,120	250	4.7%	5.2%	4.9%	4.4%
	Mayes County	17,580	16,750	830	4.7%	4.8%	4.9%	4.4%
	Nowata County	4,680	4,460	220	4.7%	5.0%	5.5%	4.9%
	Pawnee County	7,920	7,550	380	4.7%	4.7%	5.0%	4.4%
	Pottawatomie County	31,520	30,050	1,470	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	4.9%
	Pushmataha County	5,520	5,260	260	4.7%	4.5%	4.7%	4.5%
	Johnston County	4,870	4,640	220	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%
	Oklahoma County	337,650	322,280	15,370	4.6%	4.6%	4.4%	4.5%
	Blaine County	4,840	4,620	220	4.5%	4.7%	4.5%	4.5%
	Comanche County	45,680	43,610	2,070	4.5%	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%
	Grady County	23,770	22,700	1,070	4.5%	4.8%	4.9%	4.6%
	Creek County	32,210	30,800	1,410	4.4%	4.6%	4.4%	4.4%
39.	Marshall County	6,310	6,030	280	4.4%	4.6%	4.5%	4.5%

	MARCH 2007	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '07	Feb '07	Jan '07	Ma '0
40. Osage County	21,040	20,140	900	4.3%	4.3%	4.4%	4.3
41. Pittsburg County	21,650	20,720	930	4.3%	4.5%	4.6%	4.4
42. Lincoln County	14,880	14,260	620	4.2%	4.2%	4.3%	4.2
43. Grant County	2,310	2,220	90	4.0%	4.1%	4.3%	3.9
44. McClain County	14,920	14,320	600	4.0%	4.2%	4.2%	3.9
45. Wagoner County	32,550	31,260	1,290	4.0%	4.2%	4.0%	3.8
16. Canadian County	52,050	50,000	2,050	3.9%	4.0%	4.0%	3.6
47. Cimarron County	1,260	1,210	50	3.9%	4.5%	4.4%	3.4
48. Payne County	33,550	32,250	1,300	3.9%	4.0%	3.8%	3.4
49. Rogers County	40,540	38,960	1,590	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7
50. Tulsa County	298,210	286,570	11,640	3.9%	4.0%	3.9%	3.9
51. Carter County	24,200	23,280	920	3.8%	3.8%	4.1%	4.1
52. Jackson County	12,340	11,870	470	3.8%	3.9%	3.8%	3.5
53. Logan County	18,390	17,690	700	3.8%	4.0%	4.0%	3.7
54. Noble County	5,760	5,540	220	3.8%	4.0%	4.1%	3.8
55. Stephens County	21,020	20,220	800	3.8%	4.0%	3.9%	3.7
56. Cleveland County	119,840	115,390	4,440	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%	3.7
57. Garvin County	13,510	13,010	500	3.7%	3.8%	4.0%	4.1
58. Harmon County	1,500	1,440	60	3.7%	3.8%	3.8%	3.7
59. Pontotoc County	20,270	19,520	750	3.7%	3.6%	4.6%	4.0
60. Washington County	25,160	24,220	940	3.7%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7
61. Dewey County	2,390	2,300	90	3.6%	3.7%	4.2%	3.5
62. Texas County	8,810	8,500	310	3.6%	3.7%	3.8%	3.5
63. Bryan County	20,220	19,510	720	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%	3.7
64. Love County	4,870	4,700	170	3.5%	3.5%	3.3%	3.8
65. Washita County	5,670	5,480	200	3.5%	3.4%	3.5%	3.6
66. Custer County	13,430	12,970	460	3.4%	3.5%	3.3%	3.2
67. Harper County	1,810	1,740	60	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	3.3
68. Roger Mills County	1,700	1,640	60	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%	2.9
69. Cotton County	3,380	3,270	110	3.3%	3.7%	3.9%	3.4
70. Garfield County	29,240	28,300	940	3.2%	3.3%	3.2%	3.3
71. Murray County	7,920	7,680	240	3.1%	3.1%	3.3%	3.5
72. Kingfisher County	7,960	7,730	240	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0
73. Major County	3,890	3,770	120	3.0%	3.2%	3.0%	3.2
74. Ellis County	2,200	2,140	60	2.9%	3.0%	2.7%	3.1
75. Beaver County	2,930	2,850	80	2.8%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1
76. Beckham County	10,370	10,080	290	2.8%	2.9%	2.9%	3.1
77. Woodward County	11,660	11,340	320	2.7%	2.8%	2.8%	2.9

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for OKLAHOMA By county

	MARCH 200	7	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE				
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '07	Feb '07	Jan '07	Ma '00
Adair County	10,810	10,280	530	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%	4.7
Alfalfa County	2,260	2,150	110	4.7%	4.9%	5.0%	4.6
Atoka County	5,800	5,440	360	6.2%	6.4%	6.6%	4.9
Beaver County	2,930	2,850	80	2.8%	3.0%	2.9%	3.1
Beckham County	10,370	10,080	290	2.8%	2.9%	2.9%	3.1
Blaine County	4,840	4,620	220	4.5%	4.7%	4.5%	4.5
Bryan County	20,220	19,510	720	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%	3.7
Caddo County	11,470	10,830	640	5.6%	5.6%	5.7%	5.7
Canadian County	52,050	50,000	2,050	3.9%	4.0%	4.0%	3.6
Carter County	24,200	23,280	920	3.8%	3.8%	4.1%	4.1
Cherokee County	21,340	20,330	1,020	4.8%	4.8%	4.7%	4.3
Choctaw County	6,860	6,490	370	5.4%	5.7%	6.2%	5.4
Cimarron County	1,260	1,210	50	3.9%	4.5%	4.4%	3.4
Cleveland County	119,840	115,390	4,440	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%	3.7
Coal County	2,430	2,260	160	6.7%	6.5%	7.7%	6.7
Comanche County	45,680	43,610	2,070	4.5%	4.6%	4.6%	4.3
Cotton County	3,380	3,270	110	3.3%	3.7%	3.9%	3.4
Craig County	6,780	6,440	340	5.0%	5.2%	5.3%	4.3
Creek County	32,210	30,800	1,410	4.4%	4.6%	4.4%	4.4
Custer County	13,430	12,970	460	3.4%	3.5%	3.3%	3.2
Delaware County	17,200	16,380	830	4.8%	5.2%	5.2%	4.8
Dewey County	2,390	2,300	90	3.6%	3.7%	4.2%	3.5
Ellis County	2,200	2,140	60	2.9%	3.0%	2.7%	3.1
Garfield County	29,240	28,300	940	3.2%	3.3%	3.2%	3.3
Garvin County	13,510	13,010	500	3.7%	3.8%	4.0%	4.1
Grady County	23,770	22,700	1,070	4.5%	4.8%	4.9%	4.6
Grant County	2,310	2,220	90	4.0%	4.1%	4.3%	3.9
Greer County	2,010	1,910	100	5.0%	5.3%	5.6%	5.5
Harmon County	1,500	1,440	60	3.7%	3.8%	3.8%	3.79
Harper County	1,810	1,740	60	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	3.3
Haskell County	5,370	5,120	250	4.7%	5.2%	4.9%	4.4
Hughes County	4,980	4,660	320	6.4%	6.5%	6.6%	6.5
Jackson County	12,340	11,870	470	3.8%	3.9%	3.8%	3.5
Jefferson County	2,370	2,250	120	5.0%	5.4%	5.2%	4.5
Johnston County	4,870	4,640	220	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%	4.6
Kay County	21,640	20,570	1,070	4.9%	5.1%	5.4%	5.4
Kingfisher County	7,960	7,730	240	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0
Kiowa County	3,740	3,550	190	5.1%	5.4%	5.5%	4.79
Latimer County	4,040	3,840	200	5.0%	5.1%	5.4%	5.39

	MARCH 2007	•		UNEMP			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '07	Feb '07	Jan '07	Mar '06
LeFlore County	21,870	20,730	1,150	5.2%	5.8%	5.3%	4.7%
Lincoln County	14,880	14,260	620	4.2%	4.2%	4.3%	4.2%
Logan County	18,390	17,690	700	3.8%	4.0%	4.0%	3.7%
Love County	4,870	4,700	170	3.5%	3.5%	3.3%	3.8%
Major County	3,890	3,770	120	3.0%	3.2%	3.0%	3.2%
Marshall County	6,310	6,030	280	4.4%	4.6%	4.5%	4.5%
Mayes County	17,580	16,750	830	4.7%	4.8%	4.9%	4.4%
McClain County	14,920	14,320	600	4.0%	4.2%	4.2%	3.9%
McCurtain County	13,900	13,030	870	6.2%	6.4%	6.7%	6.5%
McIntosh County	8,270	7,780	490	5.9%	6.0%	6.2%	5.3%
Murray County	7,920	7,680	240	3.1%	3.1%	3.3%	3.5%
Muskogee County	28,840	27,110	1,730	6.0%	6.2%	6.5%	5.2%
Noble County	5,760	5,540	220	3.8%	4.0%	4.1%	3.8%
Nowata County	4,680	4,460	220	4.7%	5.0%	5.5%	4.9%
Okfuskee County	4,320	4,080	240	5.5%	5.6%	5.7%	5.9%
Oklahoma County	337,650	322,280	15,370	4.6%	4.6%	4.4%	4.5%
Okmulgee County	16,940	16,040	900	5.3%	5.7%	5.6%	5.6%
Osage County	21,040	20,140	900	4.3%	4.3%	4.4%	4.3%
Ottawa County	16,660	15,810	850	5.1%	5.4%	5.4%	4.7%
Pawnee County	7,920	7,550	380	4.7%	4.7%	5.0%	4.4%
Payne County	33,550	32,250	1,300	3.9%	4.0%	3.8%	3.4%
Pittsburg County	21,650	20,720	930	4.3%	4.5%	4.6%	4.4%
Pontotoc County	20,270	19,520	750	3.7%	3.6%	4.6%	4.0%
Pottawatomie County	31,520	30,050	1,470	4.7%	4.7%	4.7%	4.9%
Pushmataha County	5,520	5,260	260	4.7%	4.5%	4.7%	4.5%
Roger Mills County	1,700	1,640	60	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%	2.9%
Rogers County	40,540	38,960	1,590	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%
Seminole County	10,210	9,580	630	6.1%	6.0%	6.2%	6.0%
Sequoyah County	18,590	17,480	1,110	6.0%	6.7%	5.9%	5.3%
Stephens County	21,020	20,220	800	3.8%	4.0%	3.9%	3.7%
Texas County	8,810	8,500	310	3.6%	3.7%	3.8%	3.5%
Tillman County	3,460	3,260	200	5.8%	5.4%	5.0%	4.7%
Tulsa County	298,210	286,570	11,640	3.9%	4.0%	3.9%	3.9%
Wagoner County	32,550	31,260	1,290	4.0%	4.2%	4.0%	3.8%
Washington County	25,160	24,220	940	3.7%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%
Washita County	5,670	5,480	200	3.5%	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%
Woods County	4,080	3,840	240	5.8%	6.1%	6.3%	6.2%
Woodward County	11,660	11,340	320	2.7%	2.8%	2.8%	2.9%

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for OKLAHOMA Workforce Investments Areas (WIAs) & Local Labor Markets (LLMs)

	MARCH 200	7		UNEMP	E		
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '07	Feb '07	Jan '07	Mar '06
Oklahoma	1,732,180	1,658,050	74,140	4.3%	4.4%	4.4%	4.2%
Central WIA	408,090	389,960	18,120	4.4%	4.5%	4.4%	4.3%
Cleveland County WIA	119,840	115,390	4,440	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%	3.7%
East Central WIA	65,910	62,630	3,280	5.0%	5.0%	5.1%	5.1%
Holdenville LLM	9,300	8,740	560	6.0%	6.1%	6.2%	6.2%
Shawnee LLM	56,610	53,890	2,720	4.8%	4.8%	4.9%	4.9%
Eastern WIA	137,350	130,270	7,080	5.2%	5.4%	5.3%	4.8%
Muskogee LLM	69,660	66,140	3,510	5.0%	5.2%	5.3%	4.6%
Okmulgee LLM	16,940	16,040	900	5.3%	5.7%	5.6%	5.6%
Tahlequah-Sallisaw LLM	50,750	48,090	2,660	5.2%	5.5%	5.2%	4.7%
North Central WIA	111,460	107,160	4,300	3.9%	4.0%	3.9%	3.8%
Enid LLM	50,500	48,790	1,710	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%	3.5%
Ponca City LLM	27,400	26,120	1,290	4.7%	4.9%	5.2%	5.1%
Stillwater LLM	33,550	32,250	1,300	3.9%	4.0%	3.8%	3.4%
Northeast WIA	128,600	123,010	5,590	4.3%	4.5%	4.5%	4.2%
Bartlesville LLM	29,830	28,670	1,160	3.9%	4.0%	4.1%	3.9%
Claremore-Pryor LLM	75,330	72,080	3,240	4.3%	4.4%	4.4%	4.1%
Miami-Vinita LLM	23,440	22,250	1,190	5.1%	5.3%	5.4%	4.6%
Northwest WIA	35,140	33,930	1,210	3.4%	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%
Guymon LLM	13,010	12,560	450	3.4%	3.6%	3.7%	3.4%
Woodward LLM	22,140	21,370	770	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%	3.7%
South Central WIA	126,060	120,440	5,620	4.5%	4.6%	4.6%	4.4%
Chickasha LLM	50,160	47,840	2,310	4.6%	4.8%	4.9%	4.7%
Duncan LLM	23,390	22,460	920	3.9%	4.1%	4.0%	3.8%
Lawton LLM	52,520	50,140	2,380	4.5%	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%
Southeast WIA	79,210	75,190	4,020	5.1%	5.4%	5.4%	5.0%
Broken Bow-Idabel- Antlers-Hugo LLM	26,280	24,790	1,500	5.7%	5.8%	6.2%	5.8%
McAlester LLM	25,690	24,560	1,130	4.4%	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%
Poteau LLM	27,240	25,850	1,400	5.1%	5.7%	5.2%	4.6%
Southern WIA	110,390	106,070	4,320	3.9%	4.0%	4.3%	4.1%
Ada LLM	33,780	32,530	1,250	3.7%	3.7%	4.4%	4.0%
Ardmore LLM	36,990	35,650	1,340	3.6%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%
Durant LLM	39,620	37,890	1,740	4.4%	4.5%	4.6%	4.3%
Southwest WIA	50,760	48,940	1,820	3.6%	3.7%	3.6%	3.5%
Altus LLM	19,580	18,770	820	4.2%	4.3%	4.3%	3.9%
Elk City-Weatherford- Clinton LLM	31,180	30,170	1,010	3.2%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%
Tulsa WIA	359,390	345,060	14,330	4.0%	4.1%	4.0%	4.0%

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for OKLAHOMA Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)

	MARCH 2007	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '07	Feb '07	Jan '07	Mar '06
Oklahoma	1,732,180	1,658,050	74,140	4.3%	4.4%	4.4%	4.2%
Oklahoma City MSA	581,500	556,640	24,860	4.3%	4.3%	4.2%	4.2%
Tulsa MSA	449,420	431,310	18,110	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%
Lawton MSA	45,680	43,610	2,070	4.5%	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%