

Employment Projections for the Workforce Investment Areas for 2004 to 2014

Employment projections for the 12 Workforce Investment Areas in Oklahoma are now available online. These projections were made for the 2004-to-2014 period based on data from 2004 and previous years. The information is intended to help planners, educators and vocational counselors in developing job-training programs. It is also intended to help current and future job seekers in their career planning. It should be noted, however, that the projections are not intended to be precise point estimates of employment for each industry or occupation. Other aspects to consider in choosing a career and planning an educational path include wages, job satisfaction, general unemployment patterns, method of obtaining the required education or training, and working conditions.

National employment projections played an important role in the assessment for the statewide outlook, and subsequently, in assessing the sub-state areas. State and local area projections are also partially dependent on the national outlook for specific industries. Because future trends are always subject to uncertainty, the employment outlook will continue to be produced every other year.

Industry employment projections for the Workforce Investment Areas were developed based on statewide projections. They reflect the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Historical data are from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW). Shift-share and trend analysis techniques were employed as the primary methods of analysis. The OESC economists reviewed the projections and adjustments were made based on their comments as well as on the statewide industry employment projections.

Staffing patterns (the distribution of occupations by industry) for the Workforce Investment Areas taken from Oklahoma Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) are used to calculate the WIA occupational projections. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides self-employed and unpaid family worker ratios, change factors, replacement rates, and education and training requirements as well as guidelines, training and technical supports for producing projections.

Data have not been included if they do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards, or if occupations have an estimated employment level of less than 15 people.

Employment estimates and number of openings have been rounded to the nearest ten (10).

Total Openings include both openings due to growth and openings due to replacement needs. An occupation may experience negative growth in some industries, which will affect the employment level for that occupation in the future. However, the positive growth experienced in other industries will create job openings. Therefore, in a particular occupation, Total Openings are equal to growth plus replacements, unless the growth is negative. In this case, Total Openings are equal to replacements only.

Limitations of the data include the following:

- a) The data are not intended to predict future economic occurrences; they approximate long-term trends in the labor market.
- b) Occupational openings for a particular year may differ substantially from those shown in the report if the economy is in a recovery or recessionary period.
- c) Total openings reflect employment demand as a function of growth and replacement, not including turnover or geographic mobility.

Please direct questions regarding the methodology to:

Dr. Jesse Fuchs at Jesse.Fuchs@oesc.state.ok.us;

Phone (405) 557 – 5345

Or Shirley (Huifen) Zhang at Shirley.zhang@oesc.state.ok.us

Phone (405) 557 - 7172

Fax (405) 525-0139

E-mail: lmi@oesc.state.ok.us

Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

Economic Research and Analysis Division

P.O. Box 52003

Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2003

Workforce Investment Areas	Component Counties					
Northwest	Cimarron Dewey	Beaver Ellis	Texas Harper	Woods	Woodward	
North Central	Alfalfa Kay Payne	Blaine Noble	Garfield	Grant	Kingfisher	Major
Tulsa	Creek	Osage	Pawnee	Tulsa		
Northeast	Nowata Craig Delaware	Washington Ottawa Mayes	Rogers			
Southwest	Beckham Greer	Custer Harmon	Roger Mills Jackson	Washita Kiowa		
South Central	Jefferson Caddo Comanche	Stephens Grady Cotton	McClain Tillman			
Southern	Garvin Carter Atoka	Pontotoc Love Bryan	Murray Coal	Johnson	Marshall	
Southeast	Latimer Choctaw Haskell	Pittsburg McCurtain Le Flore	Pushmataha			
Central	Canadian	Logan	Oklahoma			
East Central	Lincoln Hughes	Pottawatomie Okfuskee	Seminole			
Cleveland	Cleveland					
Eastern	Okmulgee McIntosh Adair	Muskogee Cherokee	Wagoner Sequoyah			