Statewide Long-Term Employment Projections

Long-term industry and occupational employment projections are developed on a two-year schedule. The U.S. Employment and Training Administration (ETA) funds all state projections. State analysts have been provided with guidelines, training and technical support for producing projections. The Projections Suite developed by the Utah Department of Employment Security is used to produce industry and occupational projections.

Industry Employment Projections

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment projections are developed based on America's Labor Market Information System (ALMIS) methodology and software. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' national employment time series and projections are used as indicators for the 2014 state projections. Historical data for Oklahoma is from Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) and the Current Employment Statistics (CES).

Linear regression and shift-share analysis techniques have been employed as the primary methods of analysis. Projections for some industries are made at the three-digit level, whereas that for others at four-digit level under North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) at the state level.

Agriculture and non-covered employment data used in the industry projections are from American Community Survey and Current Employment Statistics (CES) respectively. Employment for self-employed and unpaid family workers is produced from the projection matrix system based on Oklahoma OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) survey and BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics) Current Population Survey. The estimates of the number of self-employed in the base year are larger this projections round than they were in previous rounds because the file supplied by the Bureau of Labor Statistics now includes estimates of all self-employed jobs (jobs held by people primarily self-employed plus jobs held by people secondarily self-employed).

Employment is rounded to the nearest ten. Percent changes are based on un-rounded data.

Goods Producing Industries include Agriculture, Mining, Construction and Manufacturing. Service Producing Industries include Transportation and Warehousing; Wholesale; Retail; Information; Finance and Insurance; Real Estate and Rental and Leasing; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Management of Companies and Enterprises; Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services; Educational Services; Health Care and Social Assistance; Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; Services and Government.

Note of Thanks

Special thanks go to the following economists who, upon our request, reviewed and responded to our employment projections for major industry sectors:

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Occupational Employment Projections

The occupational projections reflect the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification system. There are more than 700 detailed occupations. Current employment refers to the estimated annual employment by occupation for all industries based on 2004 data. Projected employment refers to the expected annual employment by occupation based on projections made for all detailed industries in Oklahoma. Average annual openings are job openings resulting from growth in an occupation and replacement needs in that occupation.

Employment is rounded to the nearest ten. Percentage changes are based on un-rounded data and reflect the percent growth or decline in an occupation over the ten-year period based on un-rounded data.

Education and training attainment refers to the minimum general education or training requirements for each occupation. These requirements may change based on the career ladder for each occupation.

Limitations:

Forecasting the future is not an exact science. Projections result from careful analysis of available data. However, they are not reflection of what might happen under different conditions. International, national and local events can have significant impacts on Oklahoma's economy. Moreover, the projection model does not take into account factors such as immigration, occupational supply, business relocation, emergence of new occupations or industrial and scientific development.

Please do not use these projections as your sole source of information.