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OKLAHOMA

Labor Market Information

Income & Employment in Oklahoma by County Structure

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Introduction:

Geographic and demographic factors play important determining roles in the economic development of an area. Factors such as natural resources, transportation facilities, proximity to markets, population and job density are some of the basic building blocks which in large part explain why some areas prosper and why others either stagnate or decline.

A basic tool used by economists to study how these factors effect economic development is the use of county structure measures. Using these groupings, counties can be sorted into groups which describe some of their basic features. For the purposes of this article I will use a simplified form of the Rural-Urban Continuum Codes developed by the Economic Research Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture[i]. This format breaks the 77 counties of our state into three groups: Metro, Rural but Metro Adjacent & Rural Non-Metro Adjacent (these groupings will be referred to as metro, rural adj., and rural non-adj. throughout this article.) This type of breakdown should help measure the response of economic development to the factors of remoteness (relative to major markets) and agglomeration (the density of

(Continued on the next page)

Economic Indicators

Oklahoma	Aug '99	Jul '99	Aug '98
Labor Force	1,661,200	1,683,400	1,630,900
Employment	1,610,400	1,626,500	1,557,890
Unemployment	50,800	56,900	73,010
Rate	3.1%	3.4%	4.3%

MSA Unemp	Aug '99	Jul '99	Aug '98
Oklahoma City	2.3%	2.6%	3.5%
Tulsa	3.0%	3.2%	3.2%

Manufacturing	Aug '99	Jul '99	Aug '98
Avg. Weekly Wages	$522.03	$512.78	$520.00
Avg. Hourly Wages	$12.64	$12.63	$12.50
Avg. Hours Worked	41.3	40.6	41.6

Consumer Price Index (CPI)		% Change	
	Aug '99	Month	Year
US	167.1	0.2%	2.3%

Local Office Statistics	Aug '99	Aug '98
Total Benefits Paid	$11,978,291	$9,261,141
Average Benefit Amount	$206.05	$186.69
Job Openings Received (YTD)	18,933	18,570
App. Regist. for Work (YTD)	108,504	104,259
# of Individuals Placed (YTD)	7,076	7,180
Applicant Opening Ratio (YTD)	5.7	5.6

Employers (4th Qtr 1998)	# of Employer Units	Total Employment
Statewide	87,247	1,424,792
OKC MSA	27,801	509,746
Tulsa MSA	20,804	386,471

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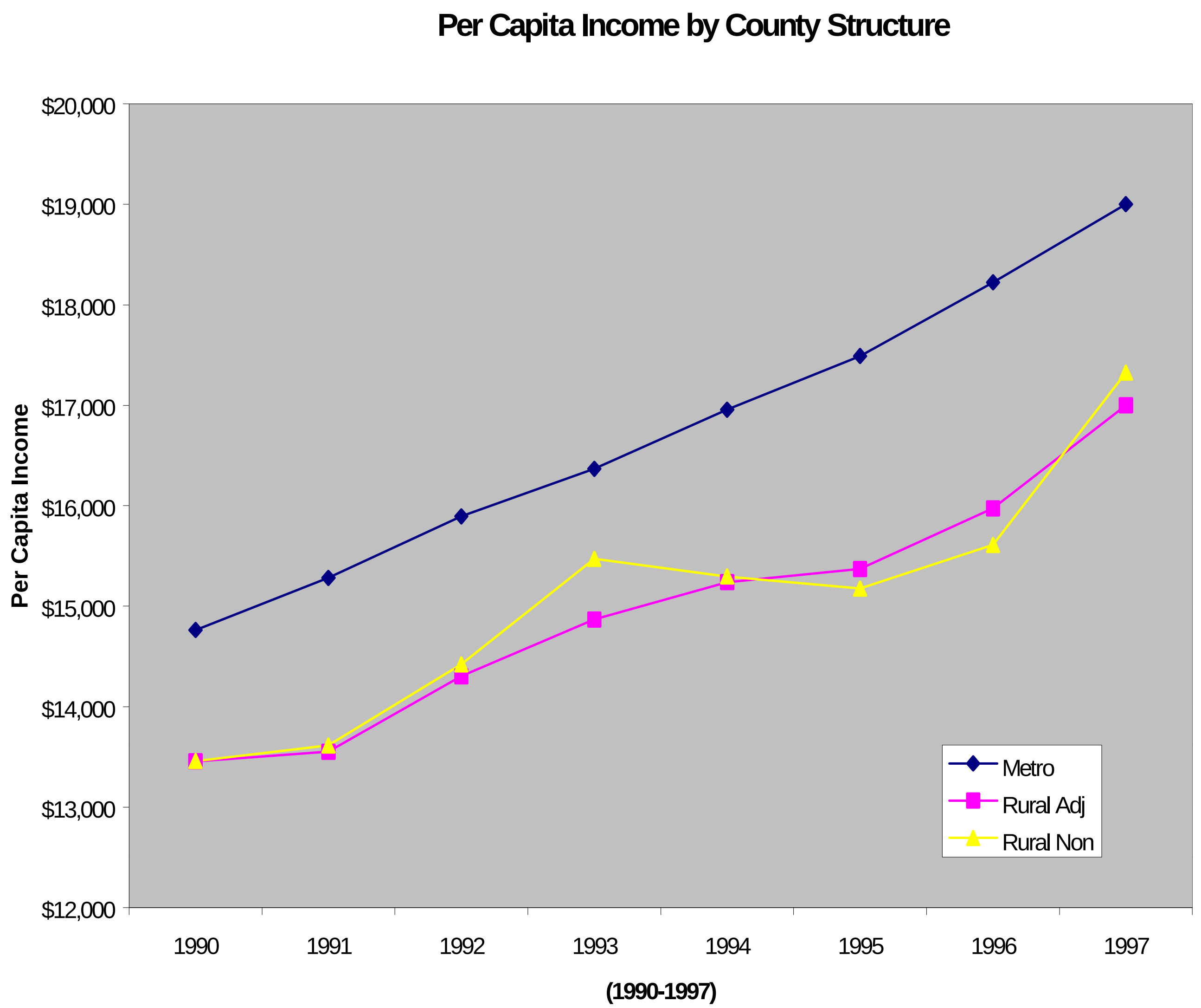
INCOME & EMPLOYMENT IN OKLAHOMA BY COUNTY STRUCTURE (Continued)

firms and jobs). A county is considered to be metro if it falls into one of the defined Metropolitan Statistical Areas. A county is considered rural adjacent if it is both physically adjacent to a metro county and if at least two percent of the employed labor force commute into the metro area. If a rural county does not meet both of these tests it is considered a rural non-adj. (examples include Kay and McCurtain counties). Rural non-adj. counties are then those which are not physically adjacent to the metro and those counties which fail the 2% commuting test. Under these criteria fourteen Oklahoma counties are metro, thirty-two are rural adj. and 31 are rural non-adj..



INCOME & EMPLOYMENT IN OKLAHOMA BY COUNTY STRUCTURE (Continued)

Question, data, & analysis:

Does county structure influence income and employment here in Oklahoma? First let us compare the average per capita personal income for each of our county structures over the past decade. Using non-inflation adjusted numbers the chart above compares the three county structures.

This graph (see the previous page) clearly shows that metro income levels have remained higher than rural income levels over the entire period under consideration. The metro counties not only started and ended the period with the highest income levels they actually outpaced both of the rural county structures in percentage growth as well.

In the other broad measure of economic development, employment growth, we also find the metro counties with a decided advantage over their rural counterparts. Over the years from 1990 to 1998 employment in the metro areas increased by an average of almost 1.4% a year. The rural county groups grew but at a much slower rate of just over 0.4% a year for each of them. Additional analysis shows that even within the metro groups themselves there is also a tendency for the larger and more densely populated counties to outdistance the smaller counties in both job and especially income growth.

It should be noted here that although in general the rural counties fared poorly in comparison to the metro counties there exist large variances within the rural county groups themselves which need to be taken into account. In terms of employment growth over half of the rural counties (those which had actual employment growth) had growth just slightly under that experienced by the job gaining metro counties. The rural counties, which had real income growth over the period, had over twice the gain in real income that the similar group of metro counties enjoyed. Thus a very heterogeneous picture presents itself of the rural counties. Some are doing quite well in terms of economic growth, while others have been experiencing very difficult times. It is our hope to do a more extensive study into the particulars of this observance in the near future[ii].

These findings showing the increasing economic advantage of metro areas over rural areas is bleak news not just for our rural population but for every Oklahoman. Oklahoma is less metro than the nation as a whole and the evidence presented above shows that in general less metropolitan counties have lower income per capita and lower growth rates in income and employment. It is common knowledge that Oklahoma has a lower per capita income than that enjoyed by the nation as a whole, but what is not generally recognized is that much of this income deficit is caused by our more rural county structure[iii]. This is an economic disadvantage which does not lend itself to easy or effective public policy solutions. What then can public policy do? According to Dr. Cynthia Rogers, assistant professor of economics at the University of Oklahoma, the only [effective] role of public policy is to remove artificial barriers to sound growth and development. Dr. Rogers cites the need for policy to promote both fiscal responsibility and high quality education at all levels if Oklahoma is to address effectively the disadvantages we face due to our overall county structure[iv].

Conclusion:

In conclusion it is found that there are significant historical differences in the personal income levels of Oklahoma's counties. In general the metro counties have had a higher income level than that of the rural counties and this income gap seems to be growing over time. It is also evident that the metro counties are also growing their employment base at a faster rate than their rural counterparts. County structure does influence both income and employment here in Oklahoma.

Additionally, these trends when coupled along with Oklahoma's county structure put our state in a disadvantaged position. Lower per capita income along with lower growth rates in both income and employment are factors that can result in a weakened position from which to compete economically. On the positive side there is every reason to believe that at least to some extent these weaknesses caused by our county structure can be countered by wise investments in human capital and basic public goods. The challenge for current and future Oklahoma policy makers is to maximize the funds available for these tasks and to then invest them prudently.

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[i] The author wishes to thank Mr. Calvin Beale, Economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for his helpful comments regarding the Rural-Urban Continuum Codes. Additional information about these codes can be found at the following web site: http://www.econ.ag.gov/briefing/rural/codes/rucc.htm

[ii] Although not referenced in this article the author wishes to recommend a 1996 paper published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City for those seeking more information about this topic. The Changing Economy of the Rural Heartland by Mark Drabenstott & Tim R. Smith of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. http://www.kc.frb.org/publicat/heartlnd/hrtdrabe.pdf

[iii] See online presentation titled "Per Capita Income in Oklahoma: A County Level Analysis" by Dr. Cynthia Rogers and Justin Dossey of the Department of Economics at the University of Oklahoma. http://faculty-staff.ou.edu/R/Cynthia.Rogers-1/OKPCPI/

[iv] The author wishes to thank Dr. Cynthia Rogers, Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Oklahoma, for her helpful comments concerning both her previous research in this field and on public policy options.

State of Oklahoma

Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate Aug '99	Unemployment Rate Jul '99	Unemployment Rate Aug '98
1,661,200	1,610,400	50,800	3.1%	3.4%	4.3%

SEASONAL EDUCATION GAINS APPEAR

Total Nonfarm employment in Oklahoma rose 0.3% in August, gaining approximately 5,100 jobs for the month. A total of 31,100 jobs have been created since this time last year. The **Goods Producing** industries increased 0.1% (+200 jobs), while the **Service Producing** industries grew 0.4% (+4,900 jobs) in August.

MINING displayed meager, yet positive growth in August. This upward movement follows little change in July. While this industry continues to be 5.6% below its August 1998 level, it has not declined since April 1999.

CONSTRUCTION declined for the second month in a row, while still retaining a positive over-the-year growth of 2.3%.

MANUFACTURING, as a whole, posted only shallow growth for the month. This augmentation can be found in **Durable Goods**, which gained 100 jobs. **Durable Goods** employment gains could be found in **Stone, Clay & Glass**, **General Industrial Machinery**, **Electronic Equipment** and **Motor Vehicles**. **Rubber and Plastic** manufacturing was the only **Nondurable** sector to show growth for the month. This increase was offset by several small declines in other areas of **Nondurable Goods**.

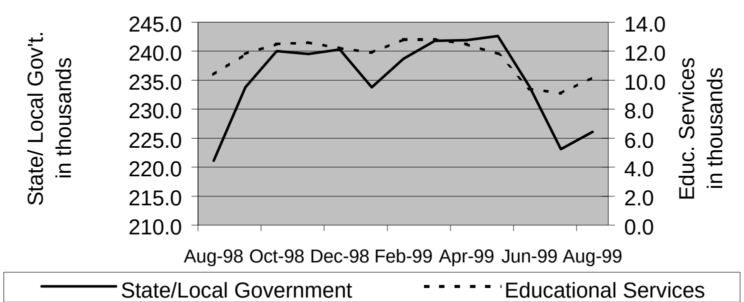
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES, as a whole, flattened out this month following several months of employment build up. **Communications** was the only increasing sector of this industry, posting gains for the past two months as well. Both **Trucking & Warehousing** and **Air Transportation** declined slightly for the month. **Electric, Gas, & Sanitary** and **Pipelines** (excluding natural gas) remained constant in August.

TRADE increased 0.7% for the month with gains posted in **Retail Trade**, while **Wholesale Trade** remained constant. **Eating and Drinking Places** is responsible for the majority of the increase in **Retail Trade**. **Apparel & Accessory Stores** and **Miscellaneous Stores** also contributed to this employment gain. **General Merchandise Stores**, **Food Stores**, **Automotive Dealers** and **Furniture Stores**, all remained constant in August. **Building Materials** and **Garden Supply Stores** declined for the month.

FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE, as a whole, held constant in August. This leveling off follows a four-month upward trend. **Depository Institutions** and **Insurance Carriers** remained constant for the month, but are up for the year 1.6% and 7.8% respectively.

SERVICES reported a rather unsubstantial employment growth for the month, after declining in July. **Educational** and **Social Services** carried this increase with only minor help from **Personal Services**. Declines showed up in **Hotels & Other Lodging**, **Business Services**, **Health Services**, and **Engineering & Management Services**. **Motion Pictures** reported no movement in August.

Effect of the School Year on Employment



GOVERNMENT as a whole, increased for the month. Large gains were displayed in **State** and **Local Government** due to normal seasonal expectations of schools being back in session. **Federal Government** diminished slightly in August.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Industry	Avg Weekly Hours Aug 1999	Avg Weekly Hours Jul 1999	Avg Weekly Hours Aug 1998	Avg Hourly Earnings Aug 1999	Avg Hourly Earnings Jul 1999	Avg Hourly Earnings Aug 1998
Manufacturing	41.3	40.6	41.6	12.64	12.63	12.50
Durable Goods	42.5	40.7	43.2	12.83	13.00	12.62
Non-Durable Goods	39.2	40.2	38.7	12.26	11.92	12.25

Statewide NonFarm Payroll Employment

INDUSTRY	Number Aug 1999	Number Jul 1999	Number Aug 1998
TOTAL NONFARM	1,470,600	1,465,500	1,439,500
GOODS PRODUCING	273,900	273,700	274,000
MINING	30,200	30,000	32,000
Oil & Gas Extraction	28,000	27,800	29,800
CONSTRUCTION	56,900	57,000	55,600
MANUFACTURING	186,800	186,700	186,400
DURABLE GOODS	119,800	119,700	119,500
Lumber & Wood Products	4,600	4,600	4,400
Stone, Clay, Glass	9,200	9,100	9,100
Primary Metal Industries	4,900	4,900	5,000
Fabricated Metal	23,900	23,900	23,500
Fabr Struct Metal Products	12,100	12,100	11,900
Industrial Machinery	33,700	33,800	34,400
Construct & Related	10,500	10,600	11,100
Oil & Gas Field	5,300	5,300	6,000
General Industrial	6,600	6,500	6,500
Electronic Equipment	12,200	12,100	11,900
Transportation Equipment	20,500	20,500	20,200
Motor Vehicles	10,900	10,800	11,000
Aircraft & Parts	7,200	7,200	6,700
Instruments & Related	4,500	4,500	4,800
NONDURABLE GOODS	67,000	67,000	66,900
Food & Kindred Products	20,000	20,100	19,700
Textile Mill, Apparel	6,100	6,100	6,900
Paper & Allied	5,000	5,100	5,100
Printing & Publishing	12,500	12,500	11,900
Newspapers, Periodic	5,500	5,500	5,100
Petroleum & Coal Products	4,400	4,500	4,600
Rubber & Misc Plastic	14,800	14,600	14,400
Tires & Inner Tubes	6,600	6,600	6,500
SERVICE PRODUCING	1,196,700	1,191,800	1,165,500
TRANSPORT & PUB UTILS	85,000	85,000	83,100
Transportation	51,700	51,900	50,300
Trucking & Warehouse	25,000	25,100	24,600
Transportation By Air	19,400	19,500	18,700
Pipelines, Exc Natural Gas	900	900	900

INDUSTRY	Number Aug 1999	Number Jul 1999	Number Aug 1998
Communications & Utilities	33,300	33,100	32,800
Communications	20,300	20,100	19,700
Electric, Gas, Sanitary	13,000	13,000	13,100
TRADE	340,400	338,600	333,300
WHOLESALE TRADE	70,200	70,200	69,000
Wholesale - Durables	38,400	38,700	37,800
Wholesale -Nondurable	31,800	31,500	31,200
RETAIL TRADE	270,200	268,400	264,300
Building Materials, Garden Supl	10,900	11,100	10,800
General Merchandise	37,000	37,000	36,100
Food Stores	38,300	38,300	38,600
Automotive Dealers	32,700	32,700	32,600
Apparel & Accessory	11,000	10,700	10,900
Furn, Homefurn, Equipment	12,600	12,600	11,800
Eating & Drinking	97,200	96,100	94,400
Miscellaneous Retail	30,500	29,900	29,100
FINANCE,INS.,REAL EST.	76,700	76,700	74,000
Depository Institutions	24,900	24,900	24,500
Insurance Carriers	18,000	18,000	16,700
SERVICES	423,600	423,400	409,500
Hotels & Other Lodging	10,800	10,900	10,500
Personal Services	14,500	14,300	13,900
Business Services	101,900	102,300	97,000
Motion Pictures	4,500	4,500	3,800
Health Services	121,600	122,200	122,900
Hospitals	43,400	43,700	44,600
Educational Services	10,200	9,100	10,400
Social Services	30,800	29,900	29,300
Engineering & Management	27,900	28,000	26,700
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	271,000	268,100	265,600
Total Federal Government	44,900	45,000	44,500
Total State & Local	226,100	223,100	221,100
Total State Government	73,400	72,200	72,700
Total Local Government	152,700	150,900	148,400

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

INDUSTRY	Aug 1999	Jul 1999	Aug 1998
Total Nonfarm	1,480,500	1,474,000	1,447,000
Goods Producing	272,200	272,200	272,400
Mining	30,000	29,900	31,700
Construction	55,600	56,000	54,400
Manufacturing	186,600	186,300	186,300
Durable Goods	No	data	available
Nondurable Goods	66,800	66,600	66,800

INDUSTRY	Aug 1999	Jul 1999	Aug 1998
Service Producing	1,208,300	1,201,800	1,174,600
Transport & Pub Utils	84,400	84,200	82,900
Trade	339,100	337,900	331,800
Wholesale	70,200	70,000	69,000
Retail	268,900	267,900	262,800
Finance, Ins., Real Est.	76,300	76,200	73,600
Services	422,100	421,300	406,900
Total Government	286,400	282,200	279,400

Oklahoma City Metropolitan Statistical Area

Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate Aug '99	Unemployment Rate Jul '99	Unemployment Rate Aug '98
545,960	533,180	12,770	2.3%	2.6%	3.5%

GOVERNMENT REBOUNDS FROM SEASONAL LOW

- **Total NonAgricultural** employment in the Oklahoma City MSA increased by 2,500 jobs (0.5%) in August. Thus far in 1999, the labor market has risen 2.0%.
- **Mining** continues to hold steady at 6,700 jobs for the month. Employment for the year has diminished 5.6%.
- **Manufacturing** maintained 54,700 jobs in August. Employment is slightly behind the previous year by 0.2%.
- **Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities** improved 0.4% for the month and 2.1% for the year.
- The **Retail** sector has increased by 900 jobs, allowing the **Trade** industry to increase its employment level by 0.7% above the previous month. The year has exhibited considerable gain of 2.3%
- **Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate** employed 31,000 in August. Compared to the previous year, employment in this industry has climbed 3.0%.
- **Services** held steady at 162,400 jobs this month. For the year, this industry has increased by 6,100 jobs (3.9%).
- **Total Government** recuperated from its seasonal deficit by 1.6% over the previous month. This industry employed 95,900 individuals in 1999, (+200) over the employment level in 1998.

INDUSTRY	Number Aug '99	Number Jul '99	Number Aug '98
Total Nonfarm	520,000	517,500	509,700
Goods Producing	81,700	81,700	81,900
Mining	6,700	6,700	7,100
Construction	20,300	20,300	20,000
Manufacturing	54,700	54,700	54,800
Durable Goods	37,700	37,700	37,900
Prim, Fabr Metal Prod	6,100	6,100	5,900
Fabricated Metal	5,300	5,300	5,200
Mach & Electric Equip	17,300	17,200	17,200
Industrial Machinery	11,000	11,000	11,200
Electronic Equipment	6,300	6,200	6,000
Transportation Equip.	8,300	8,300	8,600
Nondurable Goods	17,000	17,000	16,900
Food & Kindred Prod.	4,200	4,200	4,200
Printing & Publishing	4,700	4,700	4,700
Service Producing	438,300	435,800	427,800
Transport & Pub Utils	24,800	24,700	24,300
Transportation	15,500	15,500	15,000
Communications & Utils	9,300	9,200	9,300
Trade	124,100	123,200	121,300
Wholesale Trade	26,100	26,100	25,500
Retail Trade	98,000	97,100	95,800
General Merchandise	11,600	11,500	10,700
Food Stores	11,300	11,300	11,100
Finance,Ins.,Real Est.	31,100	31,100	30,200
Deposit & Nondeposit	12,200	12,200	11,200
Insurance Carriers	7,700	7,700	7,700
Services	162,400	162,400	156,300
Health Services	44,700	44,800	45,200
Hospitals	17,900	18,000	18,300
Educational Services	5,100	5,000	5,400
Total Government	95,900	94,400	95,700
Total Federal Govt.	25,600	25,600	25,600
Total State & Local	70,300	68,800	70,100
Total State Government	32,700	31,900	33,900
Total Local Government	37,600	36,900	36,200

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Industry	Avg Weekly Hours Aug 1999	Avg Weekly Hours Jul 1999	Avg Weekly Hours Aug 1998	Avg Hourly Earnings Aug 1999	Avg Hourly Earnings Jul 1999	Avg Hourly Earnings Aug 1998
Manufacturing	42.0	41.1	44.2	14.64	14.31	13.25
Durable Goods	43.1	42.1	45.7	15.01	14.90	13.42
Non-Durable Goods	39.4	38.6	40.4	13.69	12.81	12.76

Tulsa Metropolitan Statistical Area

Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate Aug '99	Jul '99	Aug '98
437,350	424,210	13,150	3.0%	3.2%	3.2%

RETAIL TRADE REPORTS EMPLOYMENT GAINS

- **Total Nonfarm** employment in the Tulsa MSA increased 0.2%, to 406,900, for the month of August. This figure is up 3.5% or 13,700 jobs for the year.
- Although **Mining** remained constant over the month at 7,800, the industry has diminished by 1.3% (100 jobs) over the year.
- **Construction and F.I.R.E**. exhibited no changes in August, holding steady at 17,500 and 22,800. Compared to 1998, employment in each industry has grown by 4.2% and 6.0% respectively.
- **Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities** has remained flat over the last 3 months at 34,800. Annually, employment in this industry has grown by 4.8% or 1,600 jobs.
- **Manufacturing** slipped 0.2% over the month, reporting an employment level of 58,100. This decline was concentrated in Durable Goods, while Non-Durable Goods held steady.
- The **Trade** industry reported a growth of 0.4%, increasing to 94,900 in August. **Retail Trade** accounted for this growth, while the **Wholesale Trade** sector remained constant.
- **Services** reported a slight gain in August, rising to 130,000. This growth was concentrated in **Educational Services**, while **Health Services** slipped slightly. Over the year, employment in this industry has grown 4.1% or 5,100 jobs.
- **Total Government** grew slightly to 41,000 jobs in August. **Federal Government** held steady at 5,200, while **State Government** slipped slightly to 6,300. **Local Government** accounted for the growth, reporting an employment level of 29,500. This growth is a normal seasonal trend, which is attributed to the beginning of a new school year.

INDUSTRY	Number Aug '99	Jul '99	Aug '98
Total Nonfarm	406,900	406,200	393,200
Goods Producing	83,400	83,500	82,700
Mining	7,800	7,800	7,900
Construction	17,500	17,500	16,800
Manufacturing	58,100	58,200	58,000
Durable Goods	45,600	45,700	45,200
Stone, Clay, Glass	3,300	3,300	3,400
Prim, Fabr Metal Prod	15,700	15,700	15,500
Primary Metal Ind.	2,500	2,500	2,500
Fabricated Metal	13,200	13,200	13,000
Fabr Struct Metal Pr	7,800	7,900	7,700
Mach & Electric Equip	14,500	14,600	14,600
Industrial Machinery	11,400	11,500	11,400
Construct & Related	2,900	2,900	3,100
Electronic Equipment	3,100	3,100	3,200
Transportation Equip.	6,500	6,500	6,100
Nondurable Goods	12,500	12,500	12,800
Printing & Publishing	3,300	3,300	3,200
Petroleum & Coal Prod	2,700	2,700	2,700
Service Producing	323,500	322,700	310,500
Transport & Pub Utils	34,800	34,800	33,200
Transportation	21,100	21,100	20,300
Communications & Utils	13,700	13,700	12,900
Trade	94,900	94,500	91,500
Wholesale Trade	23,000	23,000	22,600
Retail Trade	71,900	71,500	68,900
General Merchandise	9,900	9,800	9,400
Finance,Ins.,Real Est.	22,800	22,800	21,500
Dep-Nondep,Sec. Commd	8,800	8,800	8,100
Services	130,000	129,700	124,900
Health Services	35,300	35,400	34,900
Hospitals	14,900	14,900	15,300
Educational Services	4,800	4,600	4,500
Total Government	41,000	40,900	39,400
Total Federal Govt.	5,200	5,200	4,900
Total State & Local	35,800	35,700	34,500
Total State Government	6,300	6,500	6,100
Total Local Government	29,500	29,200	28,400

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Industry	Avg Weekly Hours Aug 1999	Jul 1999	Aug 1998	Avg Hourly Earnings Aug 1999	Jul 1999	Aug 1998
Manufacturing	43.6	41.2	42.7	12.85	13.46	13.14
Durable Goods	43.6	41.1	43.3	12.68	13.39	13.06
Non-Durable Goods	43.9	41.7	40.5	13.52	13.74	13.44

Lawton Metropolitan Statistical Area

MSA'S SOLE JOB GROWTH FOR THE MONTH IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Total Nonfarm** employment in the Lawton MSA decreased by 100 to 38,800 in August, exhibiting a slight decline of 0.3%. Although this figure is down slightly for the month, the current employment level is up 1.6%, about 600 jobs over the year. **Service Producing** industries saw no change in August, while **Goods Producing** industries lost 100 jobs, declining 1.8%.

- **Mining** and **Manufacturing** continued to hold steady for the month and the year.

- **Construction** displayed a decrease in August, declining by 6.3% to 1,500. But the industry has grown 7.1%, approximately 100 jobs over the year.

INDUSTRY	Number		
	Aug '99	Jul '99	Aug '98
Total Nonfarm	38,800	38,900	38,200
Goods Producing	5,400	5,500	5,300
Mining	100	100	100
Construction	1,500	1,600	1,400
Manufacturing	3,800	3,800	3,800
Durable Goods	400	400	400
Nondurable Goods	3,400	3,400	3,400
Service Producing	33,400	33,400	32,900
Transportation & Public Utilities	1,600	1,700	1,700
Trade	9,300	9,300	9,100
Wholesale Trade	900	900	900
Retail Trade	8,400	8,400	8,200
Finance, Insur., & Real Estate	1,900	1,900	1,800
Services	8,600	8,600	8,500
Total Government	12,000	11,900	11,800
Total Federal Government	3,900	3,900	3,900
Total State & Local	8,100	8,000	7,900
Total State Government	1,400	1,500	1,300
Total Local Government	6,700	6,500	6,600

- Jobs in **T.P.U.** declined by 100 to 1,600, down 5.9% both for the month and the year.

- Although **Trade**, **F.I.R.E.** and **Services** remained steady for the month, the employment levels have risen 2.2%, 5.6% and 1.2% respectively over last year.

- **Total Government** reported an increase of 100 jobs, mainly at the local level. **Local Government** saw a gain of 200 jobs, while **State Government** decreased by 100. **Total Federal Government** remained unchanged.

Enid Metropolitan Statistical Area

ENID EXPERIENCES AN INCREASE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Total Nonfarm** employment in the Enid Metropolitan Statistical Area held steady at 24,600 for the month of August. The current employment level is up 0.8% (200 jobs) for the year.

- **T.P.U.** remained constant at 2,300 for both the month and year.

- **Wholesale and Retail Trade** increased to 6,400 in August. This increase was due to the addition of 100 jobs in the **Retail** sector. The current employment level is up 3.2% for the year.

- **F.I.R.E.** and **Manufacturing** reported no change over the month, both have increased by 100 over the year.

INDUSTRY	Number		
	Aug '99	Jul '99	Aug '98
Total Nonfarm	24,600	24,600	24,400
Goods Producing	4,000	4,000	4,100
Mining	700	700	800
Construction	900	900	1,000
Manufacturing	2,400	2,400	2,300
Durable Goods	900	900	900
Nondurable Goods	1,500	1,500	1,400
Service Producing	20,600	20,600	20,300
Transpor & Public Utilities	2,300	2,300	2,300
Trade	6,400	6,300	6,200
Wholesale Trade	1,500	1,500	1,400
Retail Trade	4,900	4,800	4,800
Finance, Insur., & Real Est	1,200	1,200	1,100
Services	6,800	7,100	6,900
Total Government	3,900	3,700	3,800
Total Federal Govt.	400	400	400
Total State & Local	3,500	3,300	3,400
Total State Government	1,200	1,200	1,200
Total Local Government	2,300	2,100	2,200

- **Construction** and **Mining** have maintained the same employment level as the previous month. Compared to 1998, both industries have diminished by 100 jobs.

- Employment in the **Services** industry decreased 4.2% over the month and 1.4% over the year.

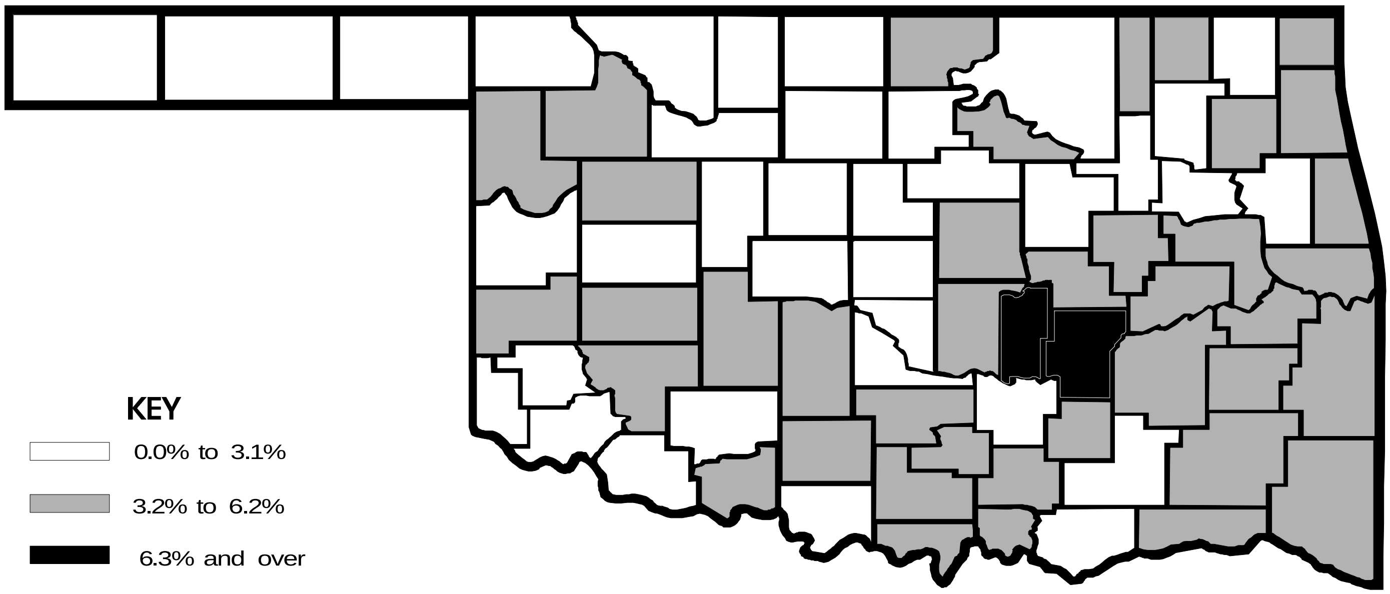
- **Total Government** has taken a 5.4 % increase for the month. The **Federal Government** remained stable, while **Local Government** employed 200 additional persons. Overall, the industry has increased 2.6 percent for the year.

Labor Force Statistics

Area	Employ	Unemp	Unemployment Rate		
			Aug '99	Jul '99	Aug '98
U.S.	134,264,000	5,826,000	4.2%	4.5%	4.5%
Oklahoma	1,610,400	50,800	3.1%	3.4%	4.3%
ADAIR	8,770	450	4.9%	5.3%	7.5%
ALFALFA	2,280	20	0.8%	1.1%	2.7%
ATOKA	4,810	130	2.7%	4.1%	4.0%
BEAVER	2,780	70	2.5%	2.0%	3.5%
BECKHAM	9,540	350	3.6%	4.0%	3.9%
BLAINE	4,620	140	2.9%	3.5%	3.2%
BRYAN	15,610	310	1.9%	2.2%	3.2%
CADDO	12,060	440	3.5%	4.3%	6.3%
CANADIAN	45,320	790	1.7%	1.9%	2.7%
CARTER	19,890	850	4.1%	4.6%	7.1%
CHEROKEE	16,770	530	3.1%	3.3%	4.7%
CHOCTAW	4,880	270	5.2%	6.0%	12.0%
CIMARRON	1,700	30	1.9%	2.3%	3.2%
CLEVELAND	108,560	2,190	2.0%	2.3%	3.0%
COAL	2,280	100	4.0%	4.7%	9.8%
COMANCHE	40,780	1,300	3.1%	3.4%	4.8%
COTTON	2,240	100	4.1%	4.5%	5.3%
CRAIG	6,880	150	2.1%	1.9%	2.6%
CREEK	33,710	1,090	3.1%	3.5%	3.6%
CUSTER	12,060	320	2.6%	3.4%	4.2%
DELAWARE	16,300	550	3.3%	2.9%	4.7%
DEWEY	2,000	80	3.9%	3.3%	4.2%
ELLIS	1,520	60	3.8%	4.6%	4.9%
GARFIELD	27,230	720	2.6%	2.8%	3.7%
GARVIN	10,910	570	5.0%	5.2%	7.3%
GRADY	19,710	770	3.8%	4.4%	5.5%
GRANT	2,310	40	1.6%	2.4%	2.8%
GREER	2,600	60	2.1%	2.4%	5.3%
HARMON	1,290	30	2.4%	3.2%	4.4%
HARPER	1,650	30	2.0%	3.2%	3.2%
HASKELL	4,380	250	5.5%	7.1%	11.1%
HUGHES	4,830	340	6.6%	7.0%	8.0%
JACKSON	12,570	400	3.1%	3.1%	4.7%
JEFFERSON	3,170	90	2.7%	3.4%	5.0%
JOHNSTON	4,440	160	3.5%	3.5%	6.3%
KAY	21,380	1,170	5.2%	7.6%	7.7%
KINGFISHER	6,830	160	2.3%	2.3%	3.0%

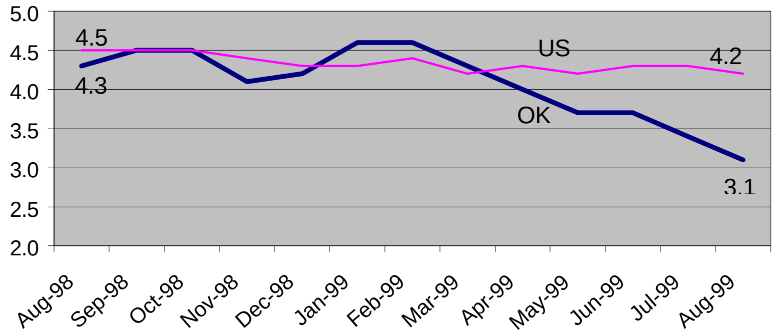
Area	Employ	Unemp	Unemployment Rate		
			Aug '99	Jul '99	Aug '98
KIOWA	4,320	150	3.4%	3.2%	5.5%
LATIMER	4,170	280	6.2%	8.5%	14.0%
LEFLORE	18,340	950	4.9%	5.6%	8.0%
LINCOLN	13,400	570	4.0%	4.5%	4.5%
LOGAN	14,420	310	2.1%	2.4%	4.2%
LOVE	3,810	130	3.2%	2.8%	5.4%
McCLAIN	12,750	290	2.2%	2.4%	3.2%
McCURTAIN	13,790	850	5.8%	7.2%	7.9%
McINTOSH	7,340	440	5.6%	5.4%	8.8%
MAJOR	4,060	110	2.7%	2.7%	3.1%
MARSHALL	4,960	200	3.8%	4.0%	7.1%
MAYES	14,520	580	3.8%	3.8%	4.8%
MURRAY	5,320	290	5.1%	5.3%	6.4%
MUSKOGEE	30,150	1,170	3.7%	3.9%	6.8%
NOBLE	5,690	120	2.1%	2.1%	3.2%
NOWATA	3,490	160	4.4%	4.9%	6.6%
OKFUSKEE	4,000	160	3.9%	4.8%	6.5%
OKLAHOMA	324,310	8,240	2.5%	2.8%	3.6%
OKMULGEE	13,340	850	6.0%	5.8%	9.5%
OSAGE	20,750	650	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%
OTTAWA	12,240	490	3.8%	4.1%	6.8%
PAWNEE	5,940	270	4.3%	4.8%	5.3%
PAYNE	34,970	370	1.0%	1.2%	1.9%
PITTSBURG	16,660	900	5.1%	5.2%	7.4%
PONTOTOC	16,040	480	2.9%	3.3%	5.0%
POTTAWATOMIE	27,840	960	3.3%	3.5%	5.3%
PUSHMATAHA	4,910	230	4.6%	4.8%	6.8%
ROGER MILLS	2,000	60	2.8%	3.0%	4.9%
ROGERS	35,560	1,080	2.9%	3.0%	3.2%
SEMINOLE	9,490	650	6.4%	6.6%	10.3%
SEQUOYAH	16,220	750	4.4%	5.0%	7.4%
STEPHENS	17,670	830	4.5%	5.4%	5.0%
TEXAS	14,030	250	1.7%	2.1%	2.9%
TILLMAN	3,620	120	3.1%	3.7%	4.8%
TULSA	304,980	9,570	3.0%	3.3%	3.2%
WAGONER	29,210	750	2.5%	2.7%	3.1%
WASHINGTON	18,250	760	4.0%	3.9%	3.2%
WASHITA	4,890	170	3.3%	3.8%	4.0%
WOODS	4,330	70	1.5%	1.4%	3.3%
WOODWARD	10,030	460	4.4%	4.5%	4.3%

Distribution of Unemployment Rates
Preliminary Data for August 1999



Ranking and Unemployment Rates

Oklahoma and US Unemployment Rate



Note: *Unemployment rate are not seasonally adjusted*

Ranking		
	U.S.	**OK**
Seasonally Adjusted	**27**	**18**
Not Seasonally Adjusted	**31**	**16**

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