



Economic Research & Analysis

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EMPLOYEE BENEFIT SURVEY REVEALS WEALTH OF INFORMATION ABOUT STATE BUSINESSES

OKLAHOMA CITY – What benefits should I offer my employees? Do other similarly sized businesses provide dental insurance? How many firms in my industry offer a paid holiday for President's Day? These questions and many more are answered in the **2005 Oklahoma Benefit Survey**. Developed by the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, the publication compiles and presents information about benefits provided by state employers.

The information contained within the **2005 Oklahoma Benefit Survey** will be useful to a variety of groups, including business and government officials, employers, workers, job seekers, the underemployed, educators, and economic development professionals. Some of the topics addressed are holidays, personal leave, vacation, sick leave, other paid leave, medical/ health/dental, retirement, education benefits, and benefit cost.

Extensive statewide benefit surveys have been few in number across the nation. Most existing benefit surveys are limited in scope to local surveys sampling a small number of firms and asking relatively few questions. The **2005 Oklahoma Benefit Survey** addresses the pressing need for a more extensive benefit survey by taking advantage of OESC's unique and comprehensive list of state employers maintained by the state's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program.

"Other states have undertaken benefit surveys, but none has tackled anything this in-depth," says Lynn Gray, OESC Managing Economist. "By expanding on what has worked for other states and focusing on local needs and challenges, we now have a tool that can answer many questions we couldn't touch before."

The agency's Economic Research & Analysis division conducted the 45-question survey during the months of August, September and October 2003. More than 3,300 Oklahoma businesses received the eight-page questionnaire, and over 2,000 employers responded. Businesses in the sample were selected by a procedure that stratifies firms by geography (Oklahoma City area, Tulsa area and greater Oklahoma), size (small, medium and large) and industry (10 different industrial classifications).

To access this useful tool, please visit our website at www.oesc.state.ok.us/lmi. The link to the **2005 Oklahoma Benefit Survey** is located next to the unemployment rate map.

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