



# Economic Research & Analysis

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## STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 4.0 PERCENT IN DECEMBER, AS ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT GROWTH CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

- Oklahoma's seasonally adjusted unemployment was essentially unchanged from November to December, while the non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up from 3.9 percent to 4.0 percent.
- At 71,688 persons, Oklahoma's seasonally adjusted unemployment reached its lowest level since October 2001. This is a significant decline since January 2005, when unemployment was at nearly 80,000 people.
- Oklahoma is beginning to register robust annual growth rates for total employment that match those recorded during the highs of 1997 and 1998.

| Month          | Non-seasonally Adjusted |                  |               |              | Seasonally Adjusted |                  |               |              |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
|                | Labor Force             | Employment       | Unemployment  | Unemp. Rate  | Labor Force         | Employment       | Unemployment  | Unemp. Rate  |
| Jan '05        | 1,707,042               | 1,617,838        | 89,204        | 5.23%        | 1,720,273           | 1,640,430        | 79,843        | 4.64%        |
| Feb '05        | 1,709,994               | 1,627,707        | 82,287        | 4.81%        | 1,723,722           | 1,649,926        | 73,796        | 4.28%        |
| Mar '05        | 1,711,783               | 1,632,984        | 78,799        | 4.60%        | 1,720,072           | 1,644,055        | 76,017        | 4.42%        |
| Apr '05        | 1,718,678               | 1,647,256        | 71,422        | 4.16%        | 1,725,450           | 1,648,184        | 77,266        | 4.48%        |
| May '05        | 1,722,583               | 1,644,991        | 77,592        | 4.50%        | 1,722,874           | 1,644,737        | 78,137        | 4.54%        |
| Jun '05        | 1,745,592               | 1,666,315        | 79,277        | 4.54%        | 1,721,865           | 1,647,076        | 74,789        | 4.34%        |
| Jul '05        | 1,742,658               | 1,669,477        | 73,181        | 4.20%        | 1,723,563           | 1,648,334        | 75,229        | 4.36%        |
| Aug '05        | 1,736,340               | 1,663,507        | 72,833        | 4.19%        | 1,736,837           | 1,660,886        | 75,951        | 4.37%        |
| Sep '05        | 1,731,840               | 1,658,474        | 73,366        | 4.24%        | 1,738,098           | 1,661,258        | 76,840        | 4.42%        |
| Oct '05        | 1,741,055               | 1,669,025        | 72,030        | 4.14%        | 1,737,022           | 1,662,040        | 74,982        | 4.32%        |
| Nov '05        | 1,746,439               | 1,677,786        | 68,653        | 3.93%        | 1,737,593           | 1,665,703        | 71,890        | 4.14%        |
| <b>Dec '05</b> | <b>1,734,596</b>        | <b>1,665,182</b> | <b>69,414</b> | <b>4.00%</b> | <b>1,738,621</b>    | <b>1,666,933</b> | <b>71,688</b> | <b>4.12%</b> |

| December 2005       |           | Non-seasonally Adjusted |            |              | Seasonally Adjusted |            |              |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|--------------|
|                     |           | Labor Force             | Employment | Unemployment | Labor Force         | Employment | Unemployment |
|                     |           | 1,707,042               | 1,617,838  | 89,204       | 1,720,273           | 1,640,430  | 79,843       |
| <b>CHANGE</b>       | Monthly # | -11,843                 | -12,604    | 761          | 1,028               | 1,230      | -202         |
|                     | Monthly % | -0.7%                   | -0.8%      | 1.1%         | 0.1%                | 0.1%       | -0.3%        |
|                     | Annual #  | 21,812                  | 28,548     | -6,736       | 27,325              | 31,944     | -4,619       |
|                     | Annual %  | 1.3%                    | 1.7%       | -8.8%        | 1.6%                | 2.0%       | -6.1%        |
| Participation rate* |           | 64.3%                   | 61.7%      | --           | 64.4%               | 61.8%      | --           |

\* Participation rate represents the ratio of Labor Force or Employment compared to the general population of Oklahoma.