

Economic Research & Analysis

...Bringing Oklahoma's Labor Market to Life!

FOR RELEASE: October 2, 2007

All Oklahoma county unemployment rates drop in August

In August, Oklahoma's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by seven-tenths to 4.2 percent. **McCurtain County** again recorded the state's highest county rate, while **Beckham** and **Ellis** counties shared the lowest. All of Oklahoma's 77 counties reported over-the-month unemployment rate decreases, with **Coal County** providing the largest percent loss for the month.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES*

AUGUST 2007	Area	Unemp. Rate	Monthly change	Annual change
RATE	Statewide	4.2%	↓ 0.7%	↑ 0.2%
Highest county	McCurtain Co.	7.4%	↓ 1.3%	↑ 1.1%
Lowest county	Beckham Co.	2.7%	↓ 0.6%	↑ 0.1%
	Ellis County	2.7%	↓ 0.8%	↑ 0.1%
Biggest % gain	All county unemployment rates decreased in August 2007.			
Biggest % loss	Coal County	6.6%	↓ 2.0%	--

*non-seasonally adjusted

State unemployment rate slides to 4.2 percent for August

Oklahoma's **non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** dropped by seven-tenths of a percent to 4.2 percent in August. All of the state's 77 counties followed suit, and no county reported a rate drop of less than 0.3 percent for the month. Among the regional states, only Texas matched Oklahoma's over-the-month unemployment rate improvement. The movement follows the trend seen for the United States as a whole.

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT*

	AUGUST 2007			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Aug '07	Jul '07	Jun '07	Aug '06
Oklahoma	1,727,250	1,654,590	72,660	4.2%	4.9%	4.7%	4.0%
United States	152,891,000	145,794,000	7,097,000	4.6%	4.6%	4.5%	4.7%
Region							
Arkansas	1,372,800	1,300,550	72,250	5.3%	5.9%	5.3%	5.2%
Kansas	1,476,740	1,413,170	63,560	4.3%	4.9%	4.8%	4.8%
Louisiana	1,991,800	1,910,390	81,410	4.1%	4.4%	4.9%	4.1%
Missouri	3,053,790	2,896,300	157,490	5.2%	5.0%	5.2%	5.0%
New Mexico	943,230	907,690	35,540	3.8%	4.2%	3.8%	4.1%
Texas	11,491,790	11,016,260	475,530	4.1%	4.8%	4.6%	5.0%

*non-seasonally adjusted

Counties with highest rates hold positions in August

In August, the Oklahoma counties with the three highest county unemployment rates were unchanged over the month. **McCurtain County** retained the top spot at 7.4 percent. **Coal County** was runner-up at 6.6 percent, and **Hughes County** was third at 6.5 percent. All of these rates dropped during the July-to-August period.

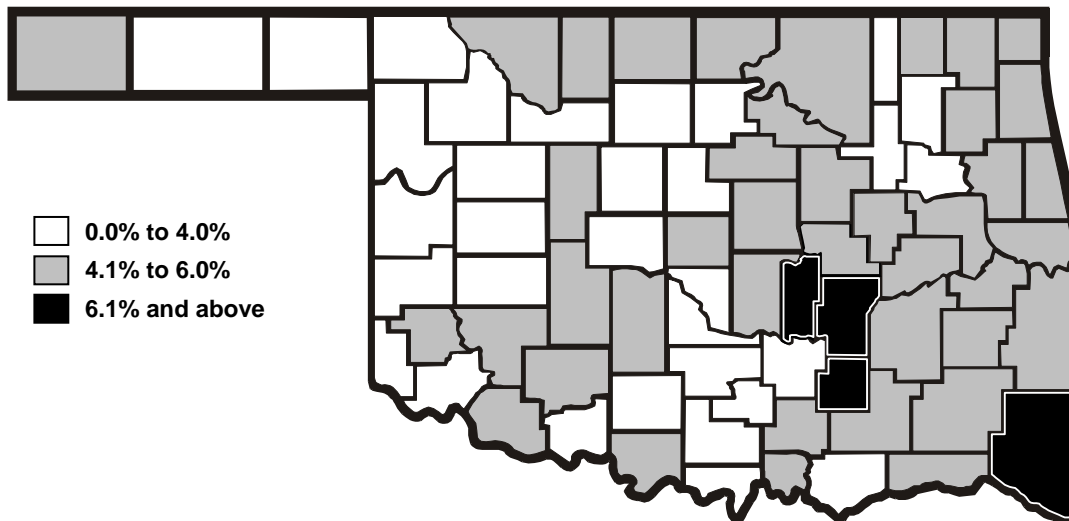
	AUGUST 2007			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Aug '07	Jul '07	Jun '07	Aug '06
McCurtain County	13,010	12,050	960	7.4%	8.7%	7.8%	6.3%
Coal County	2,250	2,100	150	6.6%	8.6%	7.3%	5.4%
Hughes County	4,680	4,380	300	6.5%	8.4%	7.0%	6.3%

Beckham, Ellis counties share lowest county rate in August

Beckham County and **Ellis County** tied for lowest county unemployment rate at 2.7 percent in August. **Woodward County** was right behind at 2.8 percent. **Beaver, Kingfisher** and **Murray counties** shared the third lowest county unemployment rate of 3.0 percent in August.

	AUGUST 2007			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Aug '07	Jul '07	Jun '07	Aug '06
Beckham County	10,490	10,210	290	2.7%	3.3%	3.1%	2.6%
Ellis County	2,130	2,070	60	2.7%	3.5%	3.2%	2.6%
Woodward County	11,670	11,340	330	2.8%	3.4%	3.3%	2.6%
Beaver County	2,780	2,700	80	3.0%	3.4%	3.3%	2.7%
Kingfisher County	7,850	7,620	230	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%	2.7%
Murray County	8,160	7,920	250	3.0%	3.4%	3.2%	2.9%

DISTRIBUTION of UNEMPLOYMENT RATES by COUNTY Preliminary data for August 2007



LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for OKLAHOMA
County rankings

	AUGUST 2007			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Aug '07	Jul '07	Jun '07	Aug '06
1. McCurtain County	13,010	12,050	960	7.4%	8.7%	7.8%	6.3%
2. Coal County	2,250	2,100	150	6.6%	8.6%	7.3%	5.4%
3. Hughes County	4,680	4,380	300	6.5%	8.4%	7.0%	6.3%
4. Seminole County	9,950	9,330	610	6.1%	7.2%	6.4%	5.8%
5. McIntosh County	8,010	7,530	480	6.0%	7.2%	6.5%	5.1%
6. Latimer County	3,830	3,600	230	5.9%	6.8%	6.4%	5.3%
7. LeFlore County	22,200	20,890	1,320	5.9%	7.1%	5.7%	4.7%
8. Jefferson County	2,270	2,140	130	5.8%	6.5%	5.8%	4.6%
9. Muskogee County	28,540	26,870	1,670	5.8%	6.8%	6.6%	5.2%
10. Okfuskee County	4,130	3,890	240	5.8%	7.4%	6.7%	5.9%
11. Choctaw County	6,670	6,300	370	5.6%	6.3%	5.8%	4.9%
12. Sequoyah County	18,670	17,620	1,050	5.6%	6.7%	6.0%	5.0%
13. Alfalfa County	1,900	1,800	110	5.5%	6.0%	5.1%	4.7%
14. Atoka County	5,600	5,290	310	5.5%	6.7%	6.6%	4.6%
15. Caddo County	10,780	10,180	600	5.5%	7.3%	6.6%	5.7%
16. Greer County	1,900	1,800	110	5.5%	6.4%	5.7%	4.9%
17. Ottawa County	16,350	15,460	900	5.5%	6.2%	5.5%	5.2%
18. Craig County	6,590	6,240	350	5.4%	5.9%	5.5%	4.4%
19. Kiowa County	3,500	3,310	190	5.4%	5.8%	5.6%	4.9%
20. Nowata County	4,660	4,410	250	5.3%	6.6%	6.1%	4.8%
21. Pushmataha County	5,530	5,230	300	5.3%	6.2%	5.2%	4.2%
22. Okmulgee County	17,130	16,240	890	5.2%	5.9%	5.9%	5.3%
23. Woods County	3,550	3,370	180	5.1%	6.5%	6.7%	5.2%
24. Delaware County	17,350	16,480	870	5.0%	5.7%	5.5%	4.5%
25. Marshall County	6,190	5,880	310	4.9%	5.7%	4.9%	4.2%
26. Adair County	10,930	10,400	520	4.8%	5.7%	5.9%	4.4%
27. Blaine County	4,570	4,350	220	4.8%	5.6%	5.3%	4.4%
28. Johnston County	4,710	4,490	230	4.8%	5.7%	5.5%	4.4%
29. Tillman County	3,220	3,070	150	4.8%	6.4%	6.0%	4.6%
30. Cherokee County	20,750	19,760	980	4.7%	5.5%	5.2%	4.5%
31. Mayes County	17,300	16,480	810	4.7%	5.7%	5.1%	4.3%
32. Kay County	21,060	20,090	980	4.6%	5.3%	5.2%	4.9%
33. Cimarron County	1,080	1,030	50	4.5%	5.2%	4.4%	3.3%
34. Haskell County	5,150	4,920	230	4.5%	5.4%	5.0%	4.2%
35. Pottawatomie County	31,020	29,620	1,400	4.5%	5.3%	5.0%	4.7%
36. Comanche County	44,950	43,010	1,950	4.3%	5.1%	5.0%	4.1%
37. Creek County	32,600	31,190	1,410	4.3%	5.0%	4.8%	4.0%
38. Oklahoma County	340,530	325,790	14,740	4.3%	5.0%	4.8%	4.1%
39. Grady County	23,950	22,950	1,000	4.2%	4.9%	4.9%	5.2%

	AUGUST 2007			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Aug '07	Jul '07	Jun '07	Aug '06
40. Lincoln County	15,040	14,420	630	4.2%	4.8%	4.5%	4.2%
41. Pawnee County	7,980	7,640	340	4.2%	5.0%	5.0%	3.8%
42. Payne County	31,150	29,850	1,300	4.2%	4.9%	4.9%	5.3%
43. Pittsburg County	21,450	20,560	900	4.2%	4.9%	4.6%	4.2%
44. Grant County	2,140	2,050	90	4.1%	4.4%	4.4%	3.8%
45. Osage County	21,260	20,390	870	4.1%	4.6%	4.7%	4.0%
46. Washington County	25,690	24,660	1,030	4.0%	4.3%	4.1%	3.4%
47. Stephens County	21,210	20,390	820	3.9%	4.6%	4.3%	3.4%
48. Tulsa County	301,880	290,140	11,740	3.9%	4.4%	4.3%	3.7%
49. Garvin County	13,090	12,600	490	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%	3.6%
50. Jackson County	12,020	11,570	460	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%	3.4%
51. Logan County	18,580	17,880	700	3.8%	4.4%	4.4%	3.8%
52. Noble County	5,500	5,290	210	3.8%	4.2%	4.1%	3.7%
53. Rogers County	41,010	39,440	1,570	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%	3.6%
54. Bryan County	19,870	19,130	740	3.7%	4.1%	3.9%	3.7%
55. Carter County	24,060	23,170	890	3.7%	4.3%	4.0%	3.7%
56. Wagoner County	32,870	31,650	1,220	3.7%	4.4%	4.3%	3.5%
57. Canadian County	52,450	50,540	1,910	3.6%	4.3%	4.3%	3.3%
58. Cleveland County	120,970	116,650	4,320	3.6%	4.2%	4.2%	3.4%
59. Cotton County	3,250	3,130	120	3.6%	4.0%	3.6%	3.4%
60. Texas County	8,270	7,970	300	3.6%	4.3%	4.1%	3.3%
61. Custer County	12,660	12,220	440	3.5%	4.3%	4.2%	3.1%
62. McClain County	15,000	14,470	530	3.5%	4.4%	4.2%	3.5%
63. Washita County	5,390	5,210	190	3.5%	4.3%	3.9%	3.2%
64. Dewey County	2,280	2,210	80	3.4%	4.0%	3.6%	3.0%
65. Pontotoc County	20,210	19,520	690	3.4%	4.9%	3.9%	3.6%
66. Garfield County	28,620	27,690	930	3.3%	3.8%	3.5%	3.1%
67. Love County	4,840	4,680	160	3.3%	4.0%	3.9%	3.7%
68. Roger Mills County	1,590	1,540	50	3.3%	4.1%	3.7%	2.7%
69. Harmon County	1,390	1,350	50	3.2%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%
70. Harper County	1,730	1,680	50	3.1%	3.7%	3.7%	2.8%
71. Major County	3,680	3,570	110	3.1%	3.5%	3.4%	2.7%
72. Beaver County	2,780	2,700	80	3.0%	3.4%	3.3%	2.7%
73. Kingfisher County	7,850	7,620	230	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%	2.7%
74. Murray County	8,160	7,920	250	3.0%	3.4%	3.2%	2.9%
75. Woodward County	11,670	11,340	330	2.8%	3.4%	3.3%	2.6%
76. Beckham County	10,490	10,210	290	2.7%	3.3%	3.1%	2.6%
77. Ellis County	2,130	2,070	60	2.7%	3.5%	3.2%	2.6%

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for OKLAHOMA
By county

	AUGUST 2007			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Aug '07	Jul '07	Jun '07	Aug '06
Adair County	10,930	10,400	520	4.8%	5.7%	5.9%	4.4%
Alfalfa County	1,900	1,800	110	5.5%	6.0%	5.1%	4.7%
Atoka County	5,600	5,290	310	5.5%	6.7%	6.6%	4.6%
Beaver County	2,780	2,700	80	3.0%	3.4%	3.3%	2.7%
Beckham County	10,490	10,210	290	2.7%	3.3%	3.1%	2.6%
Blaine County	4,570	4,350	220	4.8%	5.6%	5.3%	4.4%
Bryan County	19,870	19,130	740	3.7%	4.1%	3.9%	3.7%
Caddo County	10,780	10,180	600	5.5%	7.3%	6.6%	5.7%
Canadian County	52,450	50,540	1,910	3.6%	4.3%	4.3%	3.3%
Carter County	24,060	23,170	890	3.7%	4.3%	4.0%	3.7%
Cherokee County	20,750	19,760	980	4.7%	5.5%	5.2%	4.5%
Choctaw County	6,670	6,300	370	5.6%	6.3%	5.8%	4.9%
Cimarron County	1,080	1,030	50	4.5%	5.2%	4.4%	3.3%
Cleveland County	120,970	116,650	4,320	3.6%	4.2%	4.2%	3.4%
Coal County	2,250	2,100	150	6.6%	8.6%	7.3%	5.4%
Comanche County	44,950	43,010	1,950	4.3%	5.1%	5.0%	4.1%
Cotton County	3,250	3,130	120	3.6%	4.0%	3.6%	3.4%
Craig County	6,590	6,240	350	5.4%	5.9%	5.5%	4.4%
Creek County	32,600	31,190	1,410	4.3%	5.0%	4.8%	4.0%
Custer County	12,660	12,220	440	3.5%	4.3%	4.2%	3.1%
Delaware County	17,350	16,480	870	5.0%	5.7%	5.5%	4.5%
Dewey County	2,280	2,210	80	3.4%	4.0%	3.6%	3.0%
Ellis County	2,130	2,070	60	2.7%	3.5%	3.2%	2.6%
Garfield County	28,620	27,690	930	3.3%	3.8%	3.5%	3.1%
Garvin County	13,090	12,600	490	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%	3.6%
Grady County	23,950	22,950	1,000	4.2%	4.9%	4.9%	5.2%
Grant County	2,140	2,050	90	4.1%	4.4%	4.4%	3.8%
Greer County	1,900	1,800	110	5.5%	6.4%	5.7%	4.9%
Harmon County	1,390	1,350	50	3.2%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%
Harper County	1,730	1,680	50	3.1%	3.7%	3.7%	2.8%
Haskell County	5,150	4,920	230	4.5%	5.4%	5.0%	4.2%
Hughes County	4,680	4,380	300	6.5%	8.4%	7.0%	6.3%
Jackson County	12,020	11,570	460	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%	3.4%
Jefferson County	2,270	2,140	130	5.8%	6.5%	5.8%	4.6%
Johnston County	4,710	4,490	230	4.8%	5.7%	5.5%	4.4%
Kay County	21,060	20,090	980	4.6%	5.3%	5.2%	4.9%
Kingfisher County	7,850	7,620	230	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%	2.7%
Kiowa County	3,500	3,310	190	5.4%	5.8%	5.6%	4.9%
Latimer County	3,830	3,600	230	5.9%	6.8%	6.4%	5.3%

	AUGUST 2007			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Aug '07	Jul '07	Jun '07	Aug '06
LeFlore County	22,200	20,890	1,320	5.9%	7.1%	5.7%	4.7%
Lincoln County	15,040	14,420	630	4.2%	4.8%	4.5%	4.2%
Logan County	18,580	17,880	700	3.8%	4.4%	4.4%	3.8%
Love County	4,840	4,680	160	3.3%	4.0%	3.9%	3.7%
Major County	3,680	3,570	110	3.1%	3.5%	3.4%	2.7%
Marshall County	6,190	5,880	310	4.9%	5.7%	4.9%	4.2%
Mayes County	17,300	16,480	810	4.7%	5.7%	5.1%	4.3%
McClain County	15,000	14,470	530	3.5%	4.4%	4.2%	3.5%
McCurtain County	13,010	12,050	960	7.4%	8.7%	7.8%	6.3%
McIntosh County	8,010	7,530	480	6.0%	7.2%	6.5%	5.1%
Murray County	8,160	7,920	250	3.0%	3.4%	3.2%	2.9%
Muskogee County	28,540	26,870	1,670	5.8%	6.8%	6.6%	5.2%
Noble County	5,500	5,290	210	3.8%	4.2%	4.1%	3.7%
Nowata County	4,660	4,410	250	5.3%	6.6%	6.1%	4.8%
Okfuskee County	4,130	3,890	240	5.8%	7.4%	6.7%	5.9%
Oklahoma County	340,530	325,790	14,740	4.3%	5.0%	4.8%	4.1%
Okmulgee County	17,130	16,240	890	5.2%	5.9%	5.9%	5.3%
Osage County	21,260	20,390	870	4.1%	4.6%	4.7%	4.0%
Ottawa County	16,350	15,460	900	5.5%	6.2%	5.5%	5.2%
Pawnee County	7,980	7,640	340	4.2%	5.0%	5.0%	3.8%
Payne County	31,150	29,850	1,300	4.2%	4.9%	4.9%	5.3%
Pittsburg County	21,450	20,560	900	4.2%	4.9%	4.6%	4.2%
Pontotoc County	20,210	19,520	690	3.4%	4.9%	3.9%	3.6%
Pottawatomie County	31,020	29,620	1,400	4.5%	5.3%	5.0%	4.7%
Pushmataha County	5,530	5,230	300	5.3%	6.2%	5.2%	4.2%
Roger Mills County	1,590	1,540	50	3.3%	4.1%	3.7%	2.7%
Rogers County	41,010	39,440	1,570	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%	3.6%
Seminole County	9,950	9,330	610	6.1%	7.2%	6.4%	5.8%
Sequoyah County	18,670	17,620	1,050	5.6%	6.7%	6.0%	5.0%
Stephens County	21,210	20,390	820	3.9%	4.6%	4.3%	3.4%
Texas County	8,270	7,970	300	3.6%	4.3%	4.1%	3.3%
Tillman County	3,220	3,070	150	4.8%	6.4%	6.0%	4.6%
Tulsa County	301,880	290,140	11,740	3.9%	4.4%	4.3%	3.7%
Wagoner County	32,870	31,650	1,220	3.7%	4.4%	4.3%	3.5%
Washington County	25,690	24,660	1,030	4.0%	4.3%	4.1%	3.4%
Washita County	5,390	5,210	190	3.5%	4.3%	3.9%	3.2%
Woods County	3,550	3,370	180	5.1%	6.5%	6.7%	5.2%
Woodward County	11,670	11,340	330	2.8%	3.4%	3.3%	2.6%

**LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for OKLAHOMA
Workforce Investments Areas (WIAs) & Local Labor Markets (LLMs)**

	AUGUST 2007			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Aug '07	Jul '07	Jun '07	Aug '06
Oklahoma	1,727,250	1,654,590	72,660	4.2%	4.9%	4.7%	4.0%
Central WIA	411,550	394,210	17,340	4.2%	4.8%	4.7%	4.0%
Cleveland County WIA	120,970	116,650	4,320	3.6%	4.2%	4.2%	3.4%
East Central WIA	64,820	61,640	3,180	4.9%	5.8%	5.4%	5.0%
Holdenville LLM	8,810	8,270	540	6.2%	7.9%	6.9%	6.1%
Shawnee LLM	56,010	53,370	2,640	4.7%	5.5%	5.2%	4.8%
Eastern WIA	136,880	130,060	6,820	5.0%	5.8%	5.6%	4.6%
Muskogee LLM	69,410	66,040	3,370	4.9%	5.7%	5.5%	4.4%
Okmulgee LLM	17,130	16,240	890	5.2%	5.9%	5.9%	5.3%
Tahlequah-Sallisaw LLM	50,340	47,780	2,560	5.1%	6.0%	5.6%	4.7%
North Central WIA	106,470	102,300	4,180	3.9%	4.5%	4.4%	4.2%
Enid LLM	48,760	47,080	1,690	3.5%	4.0%	3.8%	3.2%
Ponca City LLM	26,560	25,380	1,190	4.5%	5.1%	5.0%	4.6%
Stillwater LLM	31,150	29,850	1,300	4.2%	4.9%	4.9%	5.3%
Northeast WIA	128,960	123,180	5,780	4.5%	5.1%	4.8%	4.1%
Bartlesville LLM	30,350	29,080	1,280	4.2%	4.6%	4.4%	3.6%
Claremore-Pryor LLM	75,660	72,410	3,250	4.3%	5.0%	4.8%	4.0%
Miami-Vinita LLM	22,940	21,690	1,250	5.5%	6.1%	5.5%	5.0%
Northwest WIA	33,490	32,360	1,130	3.4%	4.1%	3.9%	3.2%
Guymon LLM	12,120	11,690	430	3.5%	4.2%	3.9%	3.2%
Woodward LLM	21,360	20,660	700	3.3%	4.0%	3.9%	3.1%
South Central WIA	124,630	119,340	5,300	4.2%	5.1%	4.9%	4.3%
Chickasha LLM	49,720	47,600	2,120	4.3%	5.3%	5.1%	4.8%
Duncan LLM	23,490	22,530	960	4.1%	4.8%	4.5%	3.5%
Lawton LLM	51,420	49,210	2,220	4.3%	5.1%	5.0%	4.1%
Southeast WIA	77,850	73,550	4,300	5.5%	6.5%	5.7%	4.8%
Broken Bow-Idabel-Antlers-Hugo LLM	25,210	23,580	1,630	6.5%	7.6%	6.7%	5.5%
McAlester LLM	25,280	24,160	1,120	4.4%	5.2%	4.9%	4.3%
Poteau LLM	27,350	25,810	1,550	5.7%	6.7%	5.6%	4.6%
Southern WIA	108,970	104,770	4,200	3.9%	4.7%	4.3%	3.7%
Ada LLM	33,290	32,110	1,180	3.6%	4.7%	4.1%	3.6%
Ardmore LLM	37,060	35,760	1,300	3.5%	4.1%	3.8%	3.5%
Durant LLM	38,620	36,890	1,730	4.5%	5.2%	4.9%	4.1%
Southwest WIA	48,950	47,190	1,770	3.6%	4.3%	4.1%	3.3%
Altus LLM	18,820	18,020	790	4.2%	4.9%	4.6%	3.9%
Elk City-Weatherford-Clinton LLM	30,140	29,170	970	3.2%	3.9%	3.7%	2.9%
Tulsa WIA	363,710	349,360	14,350	3.9%	4.5%	4.4%	3.8%

**LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for OKLAHOMA
Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)**

	AUGUST 2007			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Aug '07	Jul '07	Jun '07	Aug '06
Oklahoma	1,727,250	1,654,590	72,660	4.2%	4.9%	4.7%	4.0%
Oklahoma City MSA	586,510	562,690	23,820	4.1%	4.7%	4.6%	3.9%
Tulsa MSA	454,720	436,690	18,030	4.0%	4.5%	4.4%	3.8%
Lawton MSA	44,950	43,010	1,950	4.3%	5.1%	5.0%	4.1%