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CORRECTIONS TO METRO AREA LABOR FORCE LEVELS ANNOUNCED *Bureau of Labor Statistics Catches Error, Now Making Corrections to State Data*

OKLAHOMA CITY – Today the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission was informed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that an error has been discovered in one of the inputs for the substate estimation process for the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. This error affects previously published estimated levels in **labor force** for all metropolitan areas for the months of **January and February 2005** as well as the **March 2005 LAUS statistics** released on April 28, 2005.

The size of the labor force error will vary up to 3 percent. Levels of unemployment were NOT affected by the error, and there is little or no effect on unemployment rates. Non-farm industrial employment statistics are not impacted by this error, nor are the LAUS data for census regions, divisions, states, and substate modeled areas.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is in the process of correcting the error as well as reviewing other employment inputs to the substate estimation process. BLS intends to issue revised January, February and March 2005 data at the same time as revised metropolitan area historical data from 2000 through 2004. The historical data was originally scheduled for release on April 28, but the error has pushed the release date back to the first part of June 2005.

For more information, please contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics LAUS program at (202) 691-6392.

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AFFECTED BY ERROR	NOT AFFECTED BY ERROR
Metropolitan labor force levels (Jan '05)	Unemployment levels
Metropolitan labor force levels (Feb '05)	Unemployment rates (little or no effect)
Labor force figures (Mar '05)	Non-farm industrial employment statistics