



Economic Research & Analysis

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OKLAHOMA STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO 4.1 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY

- February's **statewide non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** dropped to 4.1 percent after reaching 4.4 percent in January. The December-to-January unemployment rate spike and the subsequent January-to-February drop follow a pattern seen each year.
- February 2006 was the fifth consecutive month that Oklahoma's **seasonally adjusted unemployment** fell while **seasonally adjusted employment** grew. Since August 2005, **unemployment** has fallen by more than 14,000 people, while **employment** added just over 18,000 persons.
- Compared to February 2005, both **non-seasonally adjusted** and **seasonally adjusted unemployment** have been reduced significantly. **Non-seasonally adjusted unemployment** dropped more than 16,000 persons (-18.5 percent) over the year. **Seasonally adjusted unemployment** also shrank, shedding over 11,000 persons (-15.2 percent) during the February-to-February period.

February 2006		Non-seasonally Adjusted				Seasonally Adjusted			
		Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	Unemp. Rate
		1,739,826	1,668,661	71,165	4.1%	1,754,172	1,690,413	63,759	3.6%
CHANGE	Monthly #	908	6,678	-5,770	--	597	5,155	-4,558	--
	Monthly %	0.1%	0.4%	-7.5%	--	0.0%	0.3%	-6.7%	--
	Annual #	24,281	40,467	-16,186	--	26,389	37,804	-11,415	--
	Annual %	1.4%	2.5%	-18.5%	--	1.5%	2.3%	-15.2%	--
Participation rate*		63.8%	61.2%	--	--	64.4%	62.0%	--	--

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

Due to federal benchmarking of data, the labor force, employment, unemployment and unemployment rate for each of the past 12 months were not available at the time of release. Non-benchmarked monthly data for the past year has been omitted to avoid confusion with the upcoming revised data. The benchmarked data is tentatively scheduled for release on April 21, 2006.