



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oklahomans Now Eligible for Emergency Unemployment Compensation

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (July 2, 2008) - Jobless workers in Oklahoma who have exhausted their state unemployment benefits can now apply for an extra 13 weeks of emergency unemployment compensation. This unemployment benefit extension will run through March 2009 and follows on the heels of May's 0.5 percent jump in the national unemployment rate, the rate's largest one-month increase since 1986.

To be eligible for emergency unemployment compensation, an individual must have exhausted all rights to state unemployment benefits on or after May 1, 2007.

Jobless workers who qualify can receive up to 13 extra weeks of unemployment benefits. An individual's weekly emergency unemployment compensation payment will be the same amount that the person received each week in state unemployment benefits on their prior claim.

Beginning Monday, July 7, emergency unemployment compensation claims can be filed through the Unemployment Insurance Service Centers by calling 525-1500 in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area or (800) 555-1554 outside the OKC calling area. UI Service Center hours will be expanded through July 24 to accommodate the filing of these claims. The extended hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

About OESC - The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission is Oklahoma's state workforce agency. OESC provides unemployment compensation to support unemployed workers and their communities; matches jobs and workers to benefit local labor markets; refers workers to training opportunities; and gathers, analyzes and distributes information about the labor force to improve local economic decisions.

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