



Economic Research & Analysis

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

FOR RELEASE: April 29, 2008

Unemployment rates down in all Oklahoma counties again in March

Oklahoma's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 3.2 percent in March 2008. **McCurtain County** reported the state's highest county rate, and **Beaver County** claimed Oklahoma's lowest county rate. Unemployment rates were down in all 77 of Oklahoma's counties, with **Sequoyah County** reporting the largest over-the-month rate drop.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES*

MARCH 2008	Area	Unemp. rate	Monthly change	Annual change
RATE	Statewide	3.2%	↓ 0.3%	↓ 1.1%
Highest county	McCurtain Co.	5.3%	↓ 0.6%	↓ 1.3%
Lowest county	Beaver Co.	1.8%	↓ 0.3%	↓ 0.9%
Biggest % gain	None (all county rates down over month)			
Biggest % loss	Sequoyah Co.	4.9%	↓ 1.2%	--

*non-seasonally adjusted

State unemployment, unemployment rate drop in March

Oklahoma's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percent in March 2008 to 3.2 percent. Statewide non-seasonally adjusted labor force and employment expanded over the month, as non-seasonally adjusted unemployment dropped by nearly 7.0 percent. Since March 2007, statewide non-seasonally adjusted unemployment has dropped by more than 25.0 percent.

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT*

	MARCH 2008			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Mar '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Mar '07
Oklahoma	1,713,280	1,657,770	55,520	3.2%	3.5%	4.2%	4.3%
United States	153,135,000	145,108,000	8,027,000	5.2%	5.2%	5.4%	4.5%
Region							
Arkansas	1,364,490	1,296,190	68,300	5.0%	5.7%	6.4%	5.2%
Kansas	1,482,570	1,417,830	64,740	4.4%	4.0%	4.3%	4.0%
Louisiana	2,001,510	1,915,060	86,450	4.3%	3.5%	4.6%	3.5%
Missouri	3,014,890	2,832,380	182,510	6.1%	6.0%	6.0%	4.8%
New Mexico	943,640	908,860	34,780	3.7%	3.5%	3.2%	3.5%
Texas	11,590,570	11,101,670	488,890	4.2%	4.3%	4.6%	4.2%

*non-seasonally adjusted

McCurtain County provides state's highest county rate in March

McCurtain County reported Oklahoma's highest county unemployment rate (5.3 percent) in March 2008. **Hughes County** claimed the state's second highest county rate, and **Sequoyah County** held the third highest rate for the month.

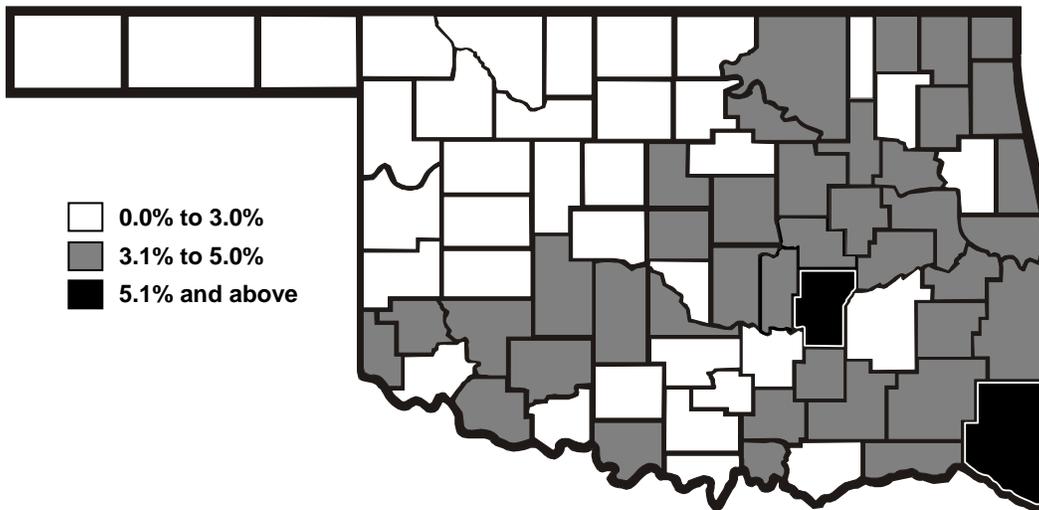
	MARCH 2008			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Mar '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Mar '07
McCurtain County	13,960	13,210	740	5.3%	5.9%	7.7%	6.6%
Hughes County	4,690	4,460	240	5.0%	5.3%	6.6%	6.5%
Sequoyah County	18,100	17,220	880	4.9%	6.1%	7.1%	6.2%

Beaver County claims March's lowest county rate

Beaver County's unemployment rate of 1.8 percent was the state's lowest rate in March. **Beckham County** provided Oklahoma's second lowest county rate for the month. **Roger Mills and Woodward counties** tied for March's third lowest rate.

	MARCH 2008			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Mar '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Mar '07
Beaver County	3,150	3,100	60	1.8%	2.1%	2.4%	2.7%
Beckham County	11,820	11,590	230	1.9%	2.1%	2.5%	2.6%
Roger Mills County	1,890	1,850	40	2.0%	2.3%	2.6%	2.8%
Woodward County	12,330	12,080	250	2.0%	2.1%	2.8%	2.8%

DISTRIBUTION of UNEMPLOYMENT RATES by COUNTY Preliminary data for March 2008



LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for OKLAHOMA
County rankings

	MARCH 2008			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Mar '07
1. McCurtain County	13,960	13,210	740	5.3%	5.9%	7.7%	6.6%
2. Hughes County	4,690	4,460	240	5.0%	5.3%	6.6%	6.5%
3. Sequoyah County	18,100	17,220	880	4.9%	6.1%	7.1%	6.2%
4. Okmulgee County	16,030	15,300	740	4.6%	4.9%	5.9%	5.7%
5. Adair County	11,120	10,640	490	4.4%	4.5%	5.6%	4.9%
6. Choctaw County	6,840	6,530	300	4.4%	4.9%	6.2%	5.5%
7. Coal County	2,480	2,380	110	4.3%	4.5%	5.3%	6.6%
8. LeFlore County	21,310	20,400	910	4.3%	5.2%	5.7%	5.2%
9. Pushmataha County	4,950	4,740	210	4.3%	4.8%	5.8%	4.9%
10. Latimer County	4,230	4,060	180	4.2%	4.6%	5.6%	4.9%
11. Muskogee County	29,340	28,120	1,220	4.2%	4.6%	5.7%	6.2%
12. Ottawa County	16,800	16,100	700	4.2%	4.5%	5.2%	5.5%
13. Seminole County	10,570	10,120	450	4.2%	4.6%	5.5%	5.9%
14. McIntosh County	8,400	8,050	350	4.1%	4.5%	5.6%	6.1%
15. Atoka County	5,890	5,660	230	4.0%	4.3%	5.1%	6.3%
16. Tillman County	3,420	3,290	130	3.8%	4.2%	4.9%	5.4%
17. Caddo County	11,990	11,550	440	3.7%	4.0%	4.9%	5.3%
18. Delaware County	18,410	17,740	680	3.7%	4.1%	5.0%	4.8%
19. Greer County	1,970	1,900	70	3.7%	4.1%	4.8%	5.0%
20. Nowata County	4,870	4,680	180	3.7%	4.1%	5.1%	4.5%
21. Johnston County	5,100	4,920	180	3.6%	3.7%	4.8%	4.4%
22. Kiowa County	3,900	3,760	140	3.6%	3.9%	4.5%	5.0%
23. Pawnee County	7,470	7,200	270	3.6%	3.8%	4.6%	4.7%
24. Craig County	7,440	7,190	260	3.5%	4.0%	4.7%	4.8%
25. Creek County	30,700	29,610	1,090	3.5%	3.8%	4.5%	4.6%
26. Jefferson County	2,350	2,260	80	3.5%	3.9%	5.0%	5.2%
27. Mayes County	18,270	17,630	640	3.5%	3.8%	4.6%	4.6%
28. Okfuskee County	4,620	4,460	160	3.5%	3.9%	4.6%	5.2%
29. Osage County	19,990	19,290	700	3.5%	3.8%	4.8%	4.2%
30. Grady County	22,780	22,000	780	3.4%	3.6%	4.3%	4.9%
31. Harmon County	1,270	1,220	40	3.4%	3.6%	3.8%	4.0%
32. Oklahoma County	319,430	308,450	10,980	3.4%	3.7%	4.5%	4.7%
33. Comanche County	45,120	43,640	1,480	3.3%	3.5%	4.2%	4.5%
34. Haskell County	5,670	5,480	190	3.3%	3.6%	4.5%	4.8%
35. Lincoln County	14,120	13,660	470	3.3%	3.5%	4.4%	4.3%
36. Marshall County	6,290	6,080	210	3.3%	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%
37. Pottawatomie County	32,910	31,840	1,070	3.3%	3.5%	4.4%	4.5%
38. Logan County	17,350	16,800	550	3.2%	3.4%	4.2%	4.1%
39. Tulsa County	285,570	276,470	9,100	3.2%	3.4%	4.1%	4.0%

	MARCH 2008			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Mar '07
40. Wagoner County	31,860	30,850	1,010	3.2%	3.4%	4.0%	4.1%
41. McClain County	14,450	13,990	450	3.1%	3.3%	4.0%	4.3%
42. Blaine County	4,970	4,830	150	3.0%	3.3%	4.1%	4.5%
43. Canadian County	50,180	48,650	1,530	3.0%	3.1%	3.8%	4.0%
44. Cherokee County	23,430	22,720	710	3.0%	3.5%	4.2%	4.6%
45. Cleveland County	114,550	111,160	3,390	3.0%	3.2%	3.8%	3.8%
46. Kay County	23,050	22,350	700	3.0%	3.4%	4.2%	4.8%
47. Rogers County	39,180	37,980	1,190	3.0%	3.3%	3.9%	3.9%
48. Alfalfa County	2,360	2,300	70	2.9%	3.0%	4.0%	4.6%
49. Cimarron County	1,260	1,220	40	2.9%	3.1%	3.7%	4.2%
50. Stephens County	21,510	20,880	630	2.9%	3.2%	3.9%	3.9%
51. Bryan County	21,040	20,460	580	2.8%	3.0%	3.6%	3.5%
52. Carter County	25,670	24,950	720	2.8%	3.0%	3.6%	3.7%
53. Payne County	37,890	36,830	1,070	2.8%	3.0%	3.4%	3.6%
54. Pittsburg County	23,120	22,460	660	2.8%	3.1%	3.9%	4.4%
55. Jackson County	12,550	12,210	340	2.7%	2.9%	3.5%	3.8%
56. Garvin County	14,690	14,320	380	2.6%	2.8%	3.4%	3.5%
57. Love County	5,160	5,020	140	2.6%	2.8%	3.5%	3.4%
58. Washington County	26,840	26,130	710	2.6%	2.8%	3.4%	3.6%
59. Noble County	5,930	5,780	150	2.5%	2.8%	3.5%	3.7%
60. Pontotoc County	20,410	19,910	500	2.5%	2.7%	3.2%	3.6%
61. Custer County	14,210	13,870	340	2.4%	2.5%	3.0%	3.4%
62. Texas County	9,380	9,150	230	2.4%	2.6%	3.1%	3.5%
63. Washita County	5,990	5,850	140	2.4%	2.6%	3.1%	3.1%
64. Major County	4,060	3,970	90	2.3%	2.5%	2.9%	3.1%
65. Murray County	8,340	8,150	190	2.3%	2.5%	3.2%	3.1%
66. Woods County	4,380	4,280	100	2.3%	2.5%	3.3%	7.3%
67. Dewey County	2,500	2,440	60	2.2%	2.4%	3.1%	3.4%
68. Garfield County	30,090	29,410	670	2.2%	2.4%	2.9%	3.1%
69. Grant County	2,560	2,500	60	2.2%	2.5%	2.9%	3.6%
70. Harper County	1,890	1,850	40	2.2%	2.3%	2.8%	3.6%
71. Cotton County	4,100	4,010	90	2.1%	2.4%	3.0%	3.3%
72. Ellis County	2,410	2,360	50	2.1%	2.2%	2.9%	2.8%
73. Kingfisher County	8,400	8,220	180	2.1%	2.4%	2.7%	2.8%
74. Roger Mills County	1,890	1,850	40	2.0%	2.3%	2.6%	2.8%
75. Woodward County	12,330	12,080	250	2.0%	2.1%	2.8%	2.8%
76. Beckham County	11,820	11,590	230	1.9%	2.1%	2.5%	2.6%
77. Beaver County	3,150	3,100	60	1.8%	2.1%	2.4%	2.7%

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for OKLAHOMA
By county

	MARCH 2008			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Mar '07
Adair County	11,120	10,640	490	4.4%	4.5%	5.6%	4.9%
Alfalfa County	2,360	2,300	70	2.9%	3.0%	4.0%	4.6%
Atoka County	5,890	5,660	230	4.0%	4.3%	5.1%	6.3%
Beaver County	3,150	3,100	60	1.8%	2.1%	2.4%	2.7%
Beckham County	11,820	11,590	230	1.9%	2.1%	2.5%	2.6%
Blaine County	4,970	4,830	150	3.0%	3.3%	4.1%	4.5%
Bryan County	21,040	20,460	580	2.8%	3.0%	3.6%	3.5%
Caddo County	11,990	11,550	440	3.7%	4.0%	4.9%	5.3%
Canadian County	50,180	48,650	1,530	3.0%	3.1%	3.8%	4.0%
Carter County	25,670	24,950	720	2.8%	3.0%	3.6%	3.7%
Cherokee County	23,430	22,720	710	3.0%	3.5%	4.2%	4.6%
Choctaw County	6,840	6,530	300	4.4%	4.9%	6.2%	5.5%
Cimarron County	1,260	1,220	40	2.9%	3.1%	3.7%	4.2%
Cleveland County	114,550	111,160	3,390	3.0%	3.2%	3.8%	3.8%
Coal County	2,480	2,380	110	4.3%	4.5%	5.3%	6.6%
Comanche County	45,120	43,640	1,480	3.3%	3.5%	4.2%	4.5%
Cotton County	4,100	4,010	90	2.1%	2.4%	3.0%	3.3%
Craig County	7,440	7,190	260	3.5%	4.0%	4.7%	4.8%
Creek County	30,700	29,610	1,090	3.5%	3.8%	4.5%	4.6%
Custer County	14,210	13,870	340	2.4%	2.5%	3.0%	3.4%
Delaware County	18,410	17,740	680	3.7%	4.1%	5.0%	4.8%
Dewey County	2,500	2,440	60	2.2%	2.4%	3.1%	3.4%
Ellis County	2,410	2,360	50	2.1%	2.2%	2.9%	2.8%
Garfield County	30,090	29,410	670	2.2%	2.4%	2.9%	3.1%
Garvin County	14,690	14,320	380	2.6%	2.8%	3.4%	3.5%
Grady County	22,780	22,000	780	3.4%	3.6%	4.3%	4.9%
Grant County	2,560	2,500	60	2.2%	2.5%	2.9%	3.6%
Greer County	1,970	1,900	70	3.7%	4.1%	4.8%	5.0%
Harmon County	1,270	1,220	40	3.4%	3.6%	3.8%	4.0%
Harper County	1,890	1,850	40	2.2%	2.3%	2.8%	3.6%
Haskell County	5,670	5,480	190	3.3%	3.6%	4.5%	4.8%
Hughes County	4,690	4,460	240	5.0%	5.3%	6.6%	6.5%
Jackson County	12,550	12,210	340	2.7%	2.9%	3.5%	3.8%
Jefferson County	2,350	2,260	80	3.5%	3.9%	5.0%	5.2%
Johnston County	5,100	4,920	180	3.6%	3.7%	4.8%	4.4%
Kay County	23,050	22,350	700	3.0%	3.4%	4.2%	4.8%
Kingfisher County	8,400	8,220	180	2.1%	2.4%	2.7%	2.8%
Kiowa County	3,900	3,760	140	3.6%	3.9%	4.5%	5.0%
Latimer County	4,230	4,060	180	4.2%	4.6%	5.6%	4.9%

	MARCH 2008			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Mar '07
LeFlore County	21,310	20,400	910	4.3%	5.2%	5.7%	5.2%
Lincoln County	14,120	13,660	470	3.3%	3.5%	4.4%	4.3%
Logan County	17,350	16,800	550	3.2%	3.4%	4.2%	4.1%
Love County	5,160	5,020	140	2.6%	2.8%	3.5%	3.4%
Major County	4,060	3,970	90	2.3%	2.5%	2.9%	3.1%
Marshall County	6,290	6,080	210	3.3%	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%
Mayes County	18,270	17,630	640	3.5%	3.8%	4.6%	4.6%
McClain County	14,450	13,990	450	3.1%	3.3%	4.0%	4.3%
McCurain County	13,960	13,210	740	5.3%	5.9%	7.7%	6.6%
McIntosh County	8,400	8,050	350	4.1%	4.5%	5.6%	6.1%
Murray County	8,340	8,150	190	2.3%	2.5%	3.2%	3.1%
Muskogee County	29,340	28,120	1,220	4.2%	4.6%	5.7%	6.2%
Noble County	5,930	5,780	150	2.5%	2.8%	3.5%	3.7%
Nowata County	4,870	4,680	180	3.7%	4.1%	5.1%	4.5%
Okfuskee County	4,620	4,460	160	3.5%	3.9%	4.6%	5.2%
Oklahoma County	319,430	308,450	10,980	3.4%	3.7%	4.5%	4.7%
Okmulgee County	16,030	15,300	740	4.6%	4.9%	5.9%	5.7%
Osage County	19,990	19,290	700	3.5%	3.8%	4.8%	4.2%
Ottawa County	16,800	16,100	700	4.2%	4.5%	5.2%	5.5%
Pawnee County	7,470	7,200	270	3.6%	3.8%	4.6%	4.7%
Payne County	37,890	36,830	1,070	2.8%	3.0%	3.4%	3.6%
Pittsburg County	23,120	22,460	660	2.8%	3.1%	3.9%	4.4%
Pontotoc County	20,410	19,910	500	2.5%	2.7%	3.2%	3.6%
Pottawatomie County	32,910	31,840	1,070	3.3%	3.5%	4.4%	4.5%
Pushmataha County	4,950	4,740	210	4.3%	4.8%	5.8%	4.9%
Roger Mills County	1,890	1,850	40	2.0%	2.3%	2.6%	2.8%
Rogers County	39,180	37,980	1,190	3.0%	3.3%	3.9%	3.9%
Seminole County	10,570	10,120	450	4.2%	4.6%	5.5%	5.9%
Sequoyah County	18,100	17,220	880	4.9%	6.1%	7.1%	6.2%
Stephens County	21,510	20,880	630	2.9%	3.2%	3.9%	3.9%
Texas County	9,380	9,150	230	2.4%	2.6%	3.1%	3.5%
Tillman County	3,420	3,290	130	3.8%	4.2%	4.9%	5.4%
Tulsa County	285,570	276,470	9,100	3.2%	3.4%	4.1%	4.0%
Wagoner County	31,860	30,850	1,010	3.2%	3.4%	4.0%	4.1%
Washington County	26,840	26,130	710	2.6%	2.8%	3.4%	3.6%
Washita County	5,990	5,850	140	2.4%	2.6%	3.1%	3.1%
Woods County	4,380	4,280	100	2.3%	2.5%	3.3%	7.3%
Woodward County	12,330	12,080	250	2.0%	2.1%	2.8%	2.8%

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

	MARCH 2008			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Mar '07
OKLAHOMA	1,713,280	1,657,770	55,520	3.2%	3.5%	4.2%	4.3%
Central WIA	386,950	373,890	13,060	3.4%	3.6%	4.4%	4.5%
Oklahoma City LLM	386,950	373,890	13,060	3.4%	3.6%	4.4%	4.5%
Cleveland County WIA	114,550	111,160	3,390	3.0%	3.2%	3.8%	3.8%
Norman LLM	114,550	111,160	3,390	3.0%	3.2%	3.8%	3.8%
East Central WIA	66,910	64,530	2,380	3.6%	3.8%	4.7%	4.8%
Holdenville LLM	9,310	8,910	400	4.3%	4.6%	5.6%	5.9%
Shawnee LLM	57,600	55,610	1,990	3.4%	3.7%	4.6%	4.7%
Eastern WIA	138,280	132,890	5,390	3.9%	4.3%	5.3%	5.3%
Muskogee LLM	69,590	67,010	2,580	3.7%	4.0%	4.9%	5.2%
Okmulgee LLM	16,030	15,300	740	4.6%	4.9%	5.9%	5.7%
Tahlequah-Sallisaw LLM	52,650	50,580	2,070	3.9%	4.6%	5.5%	5.2%
North Central WIA	119,310	116,180	3,130	2.6%	2.8%	3.4%	3.7%
Enid LLM	52,440	51,220	1,210	2.3%	2.5%	3.0%	3.3%
Ponca City LLM	28,980	28,130	850	2.9%	3.3%	4.0%	4.6%
Stillwater LLM	37,890	36,830	1,070	2.8%	3.0%	3.4%	3.6%
Northeast WIA	131,800	127,450	4,350	3.3%	3.6%	4.3%	4.3%
Bartlesville LLM	31,700	30,810	890	2.8%	3.0%	3.7%	3.7%
Claremore-Pryor LLM	75,860	73,350	2,500	3.3%	3.6%	4.3%	4.3%
Miami-Vinita LLM	24,240	23,280	960	3.9%	4.3%	5.1%	5.3%
Northwest WIA	37,300	36,490	810	2.2%	2.4%	3.0%	3.7%
Guymon LLM	13,790	13,470	320	2.3%	2.6%	3.0%	3.4%
Woodward LLM	23,510	23,010	500	2.1%	2.2%	2.9%	3.9%
South Central WIA	125,710	121,630	4,080	3.2%	3.5%	4.2%	4.5%
Chickasha LLM	49,210	47,540	1,670	3.4%	3.6%	4.3%	4.8%
Duncan LLM	23,860	23,150	710	3.0%	3.2%	4.0%	4.0%
Lawton LLM	52,640	50,950	1,690	3.2%	3.5%	4.2%	4.4%
Southeast WIA	80,090	76,900	3,190	4.0%	4.5%	5.5%	5.2%
Broken Bow-Idabel- Antlers-Hugo LLM	25,750	24,490	1,260	4.9%	5.4%	7.0%	6.0%
McAlester LLM	27,350	26,520	830	3.0%	3.3%	4.2%	4.5%
Poteau LLM	26,990	25,890	1,100	4.1%	4.8%	5.5%	5.1%
Southern WIA	115,080	111,830	3,250	2.8%	3.0%	3.7%	3.8%
Ada LLM	35,110	34,230	880	2.5%	2.7%	3.3%	3.6%
Ardmore LLM	39,170	38,120	1,050	2.7%	2.9%	3.5%	3.6%
Durant LLM	40,810	39,490	1,310	3.2%	3.5%	4.2%	4.3%
Southwest WIA	53,600	52,260	1,340	2.5%	2.7%	3.2%	3.5%
Altus LLM	19,690	19,090	590	3.0%	3.2%	3.8%	4.2%
Elk City-Weatherford- Clinton LLM	33,910	33,170	750	2.2%	2.4%	2.8%	3.1%
Tulsa WIA	343,720	332,570	11,160	3.2%	3.5%	4.2%	4.0%
Tulsa LLM	343,720	332,570	11,160	3.2%	3.5%	4.2%	4.0%

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

	MARCH 2008			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Mar '08	Feb '08	Jan '08	Mar '07
OKLAHOMA	1,713,280	1,657,770	55,520	3.2%	3.5%	4.2%	4.3%
Oklahoma City MSA	552,850	534,710	18,140	3.3%	3.5%	4.3%	4.4%
Tulsa MSA	430,790	416,690	14,100	3.3%	3.5%	4.2%	4.1%
Lawton MSA	45,120	43,640	1,480	3.3%	3.5%	4.2%	4.5%