



# Economic Research & Analysis

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## OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT REPORT - March 2009

### Oklahoma's unemployment rate continues to climb in March

Oklahoma's **seasonally adjusted unemployment rate** increased to 5.9 percent in March 2009. This rate was 2.6 percentage points higher than the rate reported for March 2008. The national unemployment rate rose to 8.5 percent in March, an expansion of 0.4 percentage points for the month.

MARCH 2009*	Unemp. rate	Labor force	Employment	Unemployment
Oklahoma	5.9%	1,762,000	1,658,290	103,710
United States	8.5%	154,048,000	140,887,000	13,161,000

\* data adjusted for seasonal factors

OKLAHOMA*	Unemp. rate	Labor force	Employment	Unemployment
Mar '09	5.9%	1,762,000	1,658,290	103,710
Feb '09	5.5%	1,757,710	1,661,080	96,640
Jan '09	5.0%	1,760,690	1,672,160	88,530
Dec '08	4.6%	1,767,780	1,687,200	80,580
Nov '08	4.4%	1,763,970	1,686,330	77,650
Oct '08	4.2%	1,760,010	1,685,450	74,560
Mar '08	3.3%	1,735,230	1,678,300	56,930

\* data adjusted for seasonal factors

In March 2009, Oklahoma's statewide **seasonally adjusted labor force** and **unemployment** both expanded over the month, while **seasonally adjusted employment** contracted by 0.2 percent. Compared to March 2008, statewide **seasonally adjusted unemployment** increased by 82.2 percent, or 46,780 persons.

MARCH 2009	Monthly change		Annual change	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Labor force	4,280	0.2%	26,770	1.5%
Employment	-2,790	-0.2%	-20,010	-1.2%
Unemployment	7,070	7.3%	46,780	82.2%

\* data adjusted for seasonal factors

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# Monthly, annual declines reported for seasonally adjusted statewide employment in March

Seasonally adjusted Oklahoma **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT** shed 9,700 jobs (-0.6 percent) over the month in March 2009. For the same period, seasonally adjusted national **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT** dropped by 663,000 jobs (-0.5 percent). For the March-to-March period, state **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT** decreased by 18,100 jobs, led again by annual losses in **Manufacturing**.

- **Professional & Business Services** reported the largest monthly loss (-2,900 jobs) of any statewide supersector in March.
- With an addition of 2,300 jobs, **Trade, Transportation & Utilities** was one of only two supersectors to gain jobs in March. The **Retail Trade** sector drove the monthly expansion.
- For the March-to-March period, **Manufacturing** posted the largest drop with a loss of 12,600 jobs.
- **Professional & Business Services** also posted a large job loss for the year (-8,000 jobs).
- Three supersectors (**Educational & Health Services**, **Leisure & Hospitality**, and **Government**) reported over-the-year additions in March 2009.

	NUMBER OF JOBS*			CHANGE*			
	Mar '09	Feb '09	Mar '08	Feb '09 to Mar '09		Mar '08 to Mar '09	
<b>TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>1,574,700</b>	<b>1,584,400</b>	<b>1,592,800</b>	<b>-9,700</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>-18,100</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>47,200</b>	<b>48,800</b>	<b>50,500</b>	<b>-1,600</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>	<b>-3,300</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>73,400</b>	<b>75,500</b>	<b>74,500</b>	<b>-2,100</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>	<b>-1,100</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>139,300</b>	<b>141,200</b>	<b>151,900</b>	<b>-1,900</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>-12,600</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Util.</b>	<b>289,300</b>	<b>287,900</b>	<b>290,300</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
Wholesale Trade	60,200	60,900	59,500	-700	-1.1%	700	1.2%
Retail Trade	173,700	171,400	174,500	2,300	1.3%	-800	-0.5%
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>81,600</b>	<b>81,500</b>	<b>83,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>-1,400</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	23,400	23,500	23,600	-100	-0.4%	-200	-0.8%
<b>Professional &amp; Business Svcs.</b>	<b>178,000</b>	<b>180,900</b>	<b>186,000</b>	<b>-2,900</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>	<b>-8,000</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>
Administrative & Support and Waste Management & Remediation Services	100,300	103,400	106,500	-3,100	-3.0%	-6,200	-5.8%
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>199,200</b>	<b>199,800</b>	<b>197,700</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
Educational Services	19,300	19,300	19,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	179,900	180,500	178,400	-600	-0.3%	1,500	0.8%
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>146,600</b>	<b>148,000</b>	<b>142,500</b>	<b>-1,400</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	19,300	19,800	18,000	-500	-2.5%	1,300	7.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	127,300	128,200	124,500	-900	-0.7%	2,800	2.2%
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>62,700</b>	<b>62,800</b>	<b>63,500</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>-800</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>328,000</b>	<b>329,200</b>	<b>324,500</b>	<b>-1,200</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Federal Government	46,100	46,300	45,100	-200	-0.4%	1,000	2.2%
State Government	83,800	84,300	84,300	-500	-0.6%	-500	-0.6%
Local Government	198,100	198,600	195,100	-500	-0.3%	3,000	1.5%

\* data adjusted for seasonal factors

**Jobs Pct. Jobs Pct.**