

# Oklahoma Employment Report

## Joint Economic Committee

Senator Mike Lee, Chairman

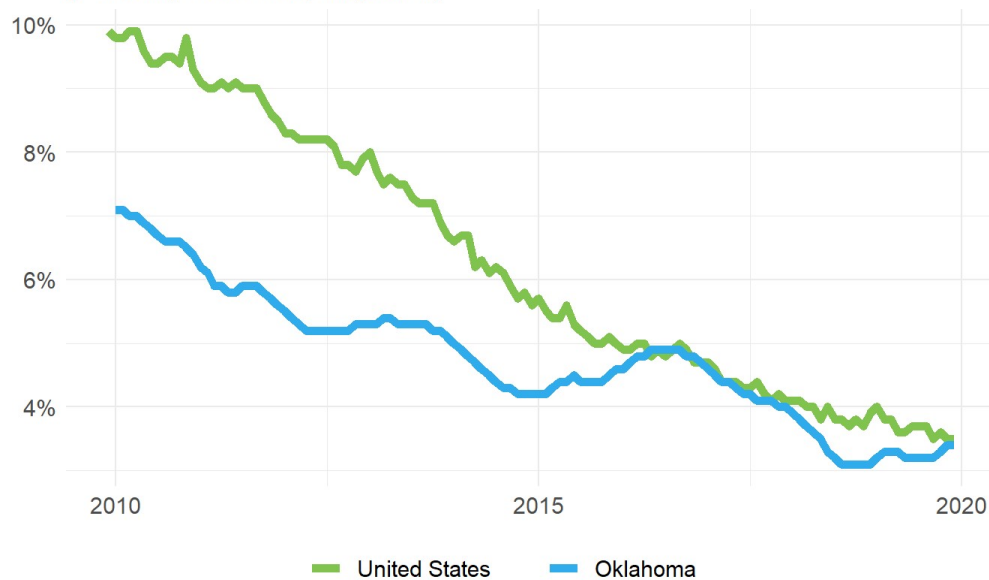
January 24, 2020

### Summary

- **Oklahoma lost 1,300 net payroll jobs and the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.4 percent in December**, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data released at 10:00am on January 24, 2020.
- **Over the past twelve months, Oklahoma lost 4,800 payroll jobs** and the unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point from 3.1 percent.
- **In December, Oklahoma's private sector lost 1,300 net private payroll jobs** and over the past twelve months it lost 5,200 private payroll jobs in the establishment survey.
- In the household survey, the number of **unemployed rose by 348 on net in December**, and over the past year employment rose by 3,422.
- Oklahoma's **labor force participation rate fell to 60.9 percent** in December from 61.1. Since last year, the labor force participation rate remained unchanged.
- The national unemployment rate **remained unchanged in December**. State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release March 16, 2020. The national employment situation report for January will be released February 07, 2020.

### Oklahoma and U.S. Unemployment Rates

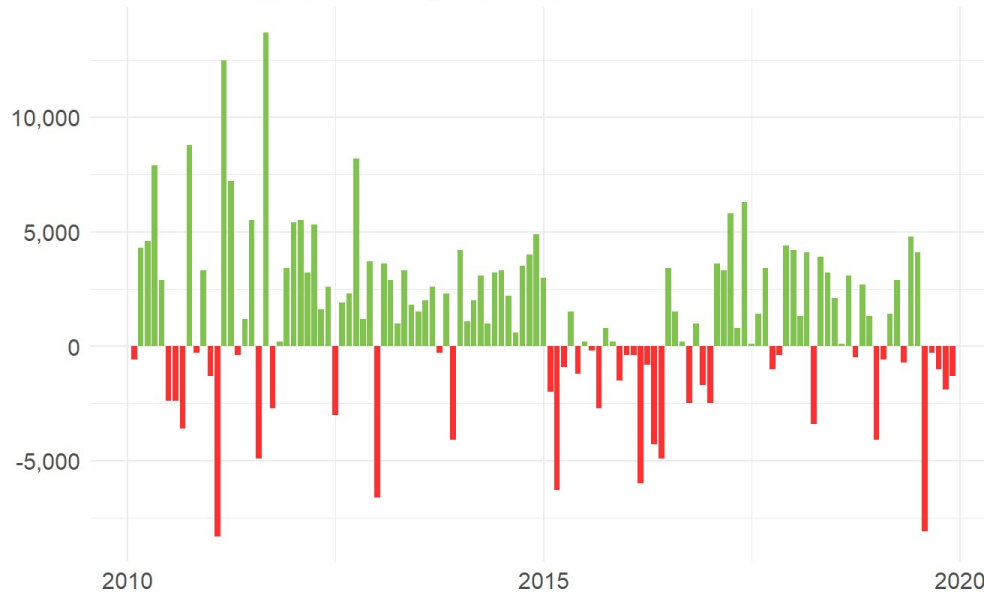
(Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Oklahoma Payroll Employment

## Oklahoma Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Monthly Change (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

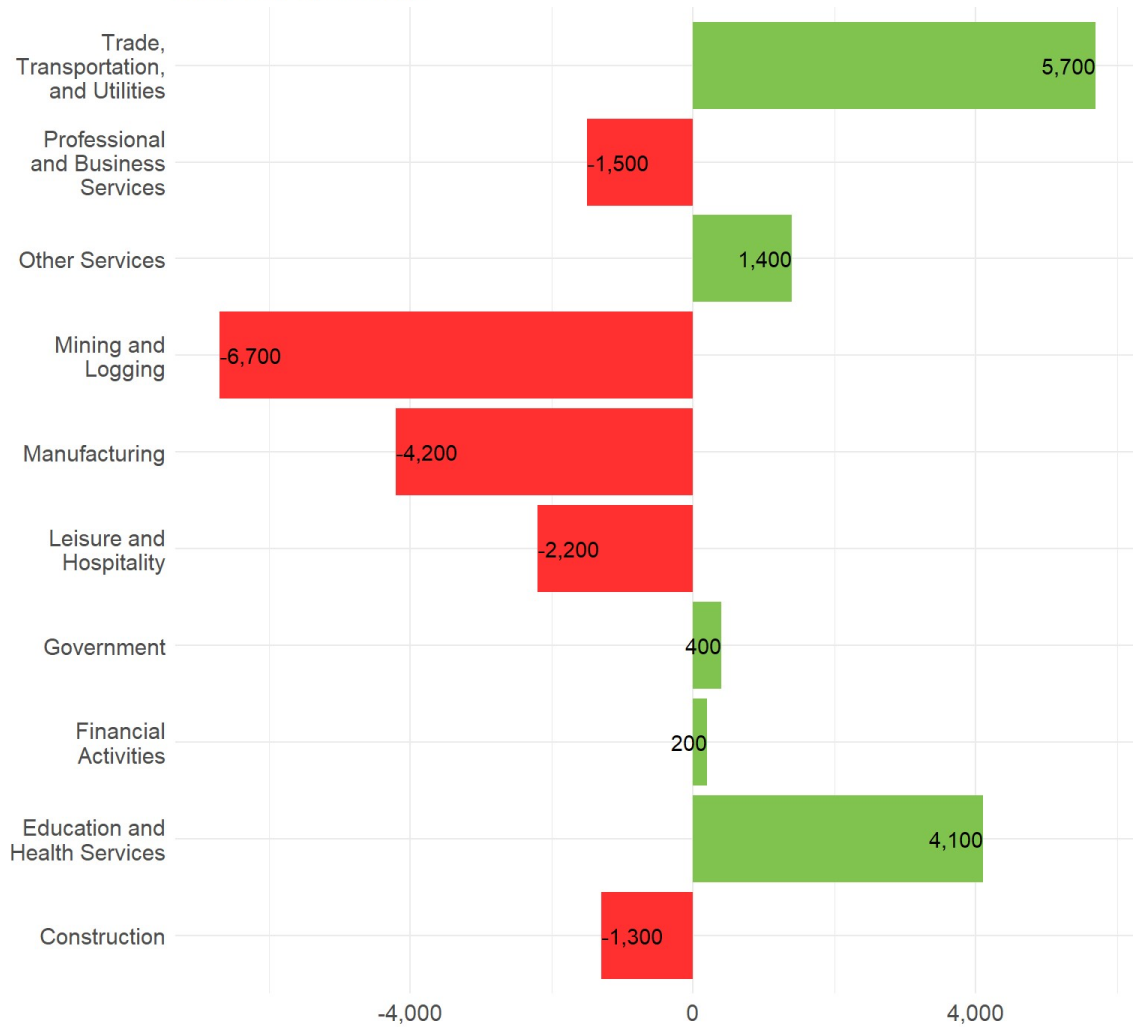
Oklahoma lost 1,300 net payroll jobs, or -0.1 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, Oklahoma lost 1,900 jobs. Over the past twelve months, Oklahoma lost 4,800 payroll jobs, or -0.3 percent. Oklahoma nonfarm payroll employment had increased in 4 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, nonfarm payrolls rose by 145,000 in December, or rose by 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending with December, nonfarm payrolls rose by 2,108,000 jobs, or 1.4 percent. Oklahoma is tied for 48th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During December, Oklahoma's private-sector lost 1,300 jobs, or approximately -0.1 percent. The private-sector in Oklahoma lost 3,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Oklahoma lost 5,200, or -0.4 percent. Oklahoma private-sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs rose by 139,000 jobs in December, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the national payroll rose by 1,947,000 jobs in the private sector, or rose by 1.5 percent. Oklahoma ranks 49th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for a percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

## Change in Oklahoma Payroll Employment by Sector over Past 12 Months



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, seasonally adjusted

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were Education and Health Services (800) and Leisure and Hospitality (700). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional and Business Services (-1,500) and Mining and Logging (-1,700).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (5,700) and Education and Health Services (4,100). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-4,200) and Mining and Logging (-6,700).

## Oklahoma Labor Force Statistics

### *Labor Force Participation*

The labor force participation rate in Oklahoma fell to 60.9 percent in December from 61.1 percent in the prior month. At a labor force participation rate of 60.9 percent, Oklahoma is tied for 40th in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Oklahoma remained unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Oklahoma was 63.3 percent in March 2010. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Oklahoma occurred in July 1986 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.9 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 60.5 percent, last occurring in May 2019. The series low for the labor force participation rate in Oklahoma last occurred in November 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 58.7 percent.

The national labor force participation rate remained steady at 63.2 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.2 percentage point from a year earlier. The all-time high for the national labor force participation rate was 67.3 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national labor force participation rate was 65.2 percent in April 2010. The recent 10-year low occurred in September

2015 at a level of 62.4 percent. The series low for the national labor force participation rate was 58.1 percent in December 1954.

### Employment-to-Population Ratio

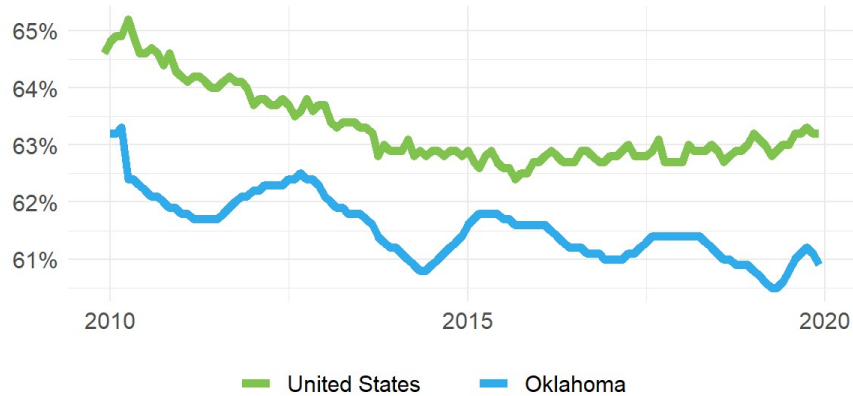
The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Oklahoma civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, in December fell to 58.8 from 59 percent in the prior month. At 58.8 percent, Oklahoma ranks 41st among state employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Oklahoma fell by -0.2 percentage point from a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Oklahoma was 59.2 percent last occurring in October 2019. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Oklahoma last occurred in April 2001 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.5 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 57.9 percent last occurring in December 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio in Oklahoma last occurred in June 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 55.3 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio remained steady at 61 percent in December. That rate rose by 0.4 percentage point from a year earlier.

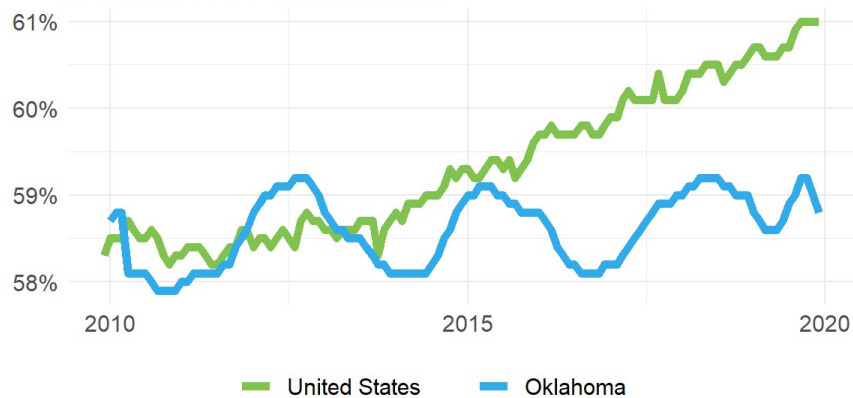
The all-time high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the national employment-to-population ratio was 61 percent in December 2019. The recent 10-year low occurred in July 2011 at a level of 58.2 percent. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.9 percent in October 1949.

### Oklahoma and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Oklahoma and U.S. Employment-to-Population Ratios (Percent, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics