



United States Congress

Joint Economic Committee

EST. 1946

Republicans

Representative David Schweikert, *Chairman*



Oklahoma Employment Update



August 2025 | Released September 19, 2025

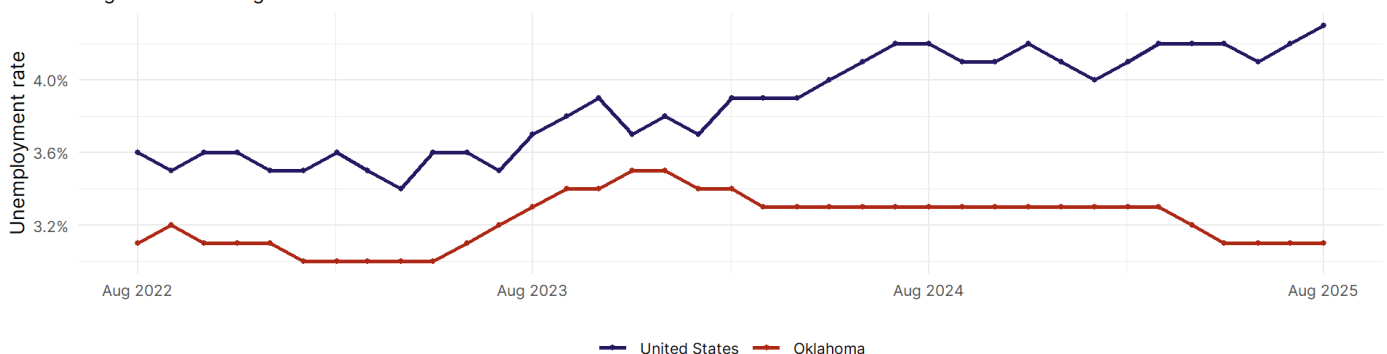
United States Employment Snapshot

- In August, among the 50 states and the District of Columbia **unemployment fell in 13, rose in 12, and remained unchanged in 26.**
- The highest unemployment rate was 6 percent in **District of Columbia**, and the lowest was 1.9 percent in **South Dakota**. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 4.3 percent.
- In August, **payroll jobs rose in 32 states and fell in 18.** The largest payroll job percent increase was 0.5 percent in **Utah**. The largest payroll job percent decline was 0.7 percent in **District of Columbia**.

Oklahoma Employment Snapshot

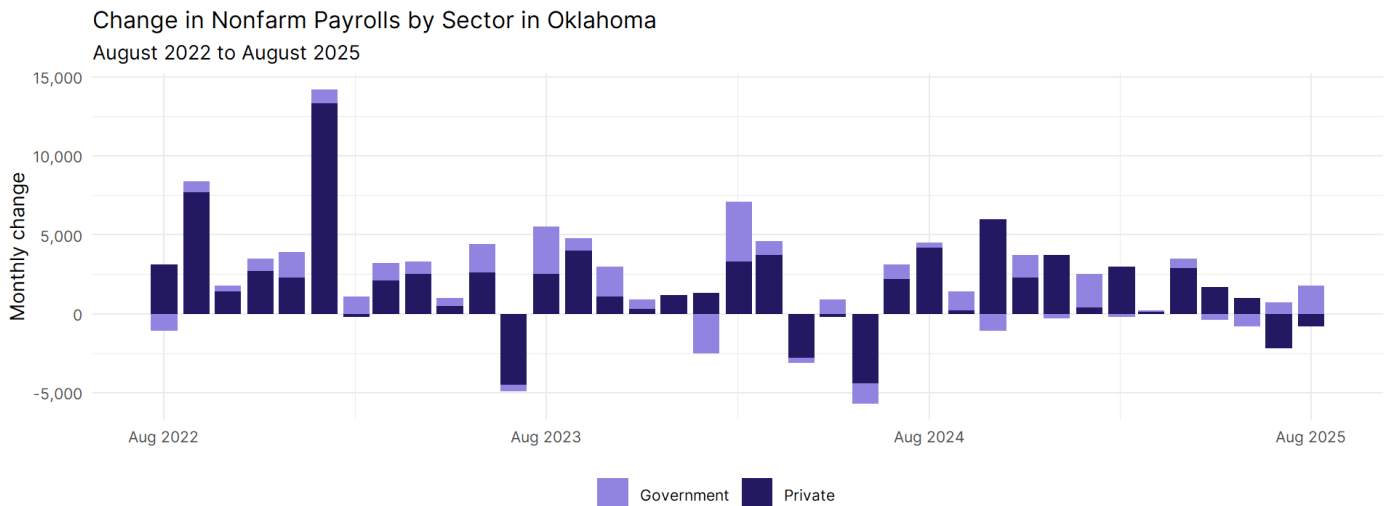
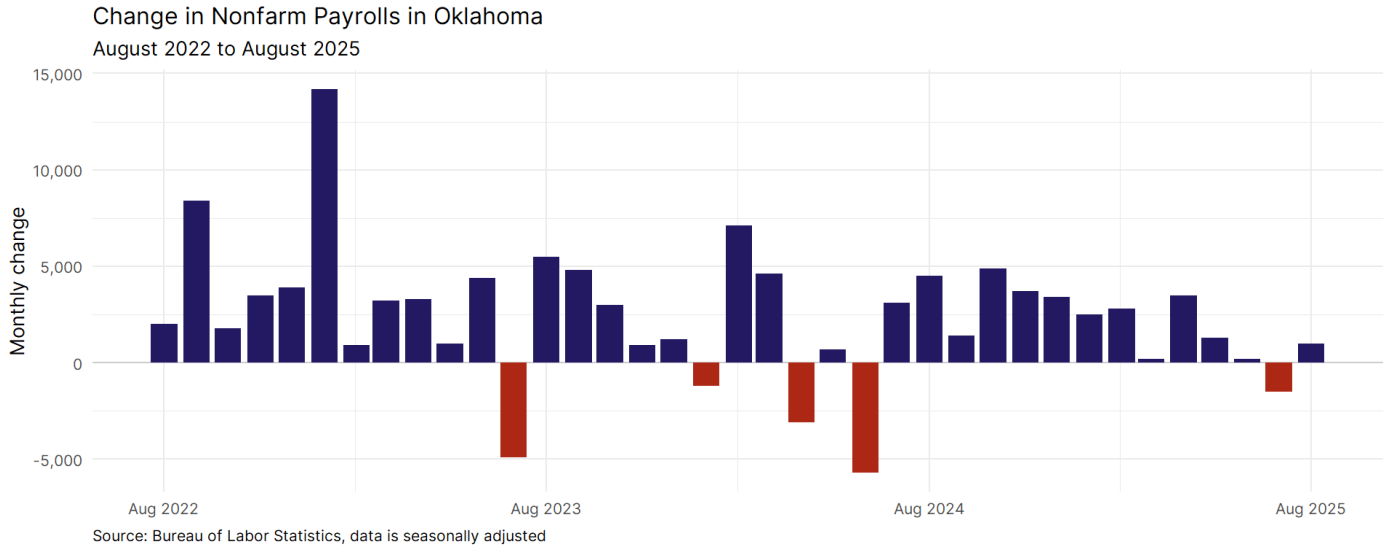
- In August, **Oklahoma added 1,000 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.1 percent**. In the prior month, Oklahoma lost 1,500 net payroll jobs.
- Over the past 12 months, **Oklahoma added 23,400 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points from 3.3 percent**.
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 22,000 in August, or 0 percent**. Oklahoma **is tied for 13th** in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- In August, **Oklahoma's private sector lost 800 net private payroll jobs**, and over the past 12 months it added 18,300 private payroll jobs. In the prior month, Oklahoma lost 2,200 net private payroll jobs.
- In August, employment in Oklahoma **rose by 3,498**, and over the past 12 months it rose by 22,125.
- **Oklahoma's labor force participation rate rose to 62.8 percent** in August from 62.7 percent and **is tied for 26th** in the nation. In the past 12 months, the labor force participation rate has risen by 0.1 percentage points.

Unemployment Rate in Oklahoma
August 2022 to August 2025



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

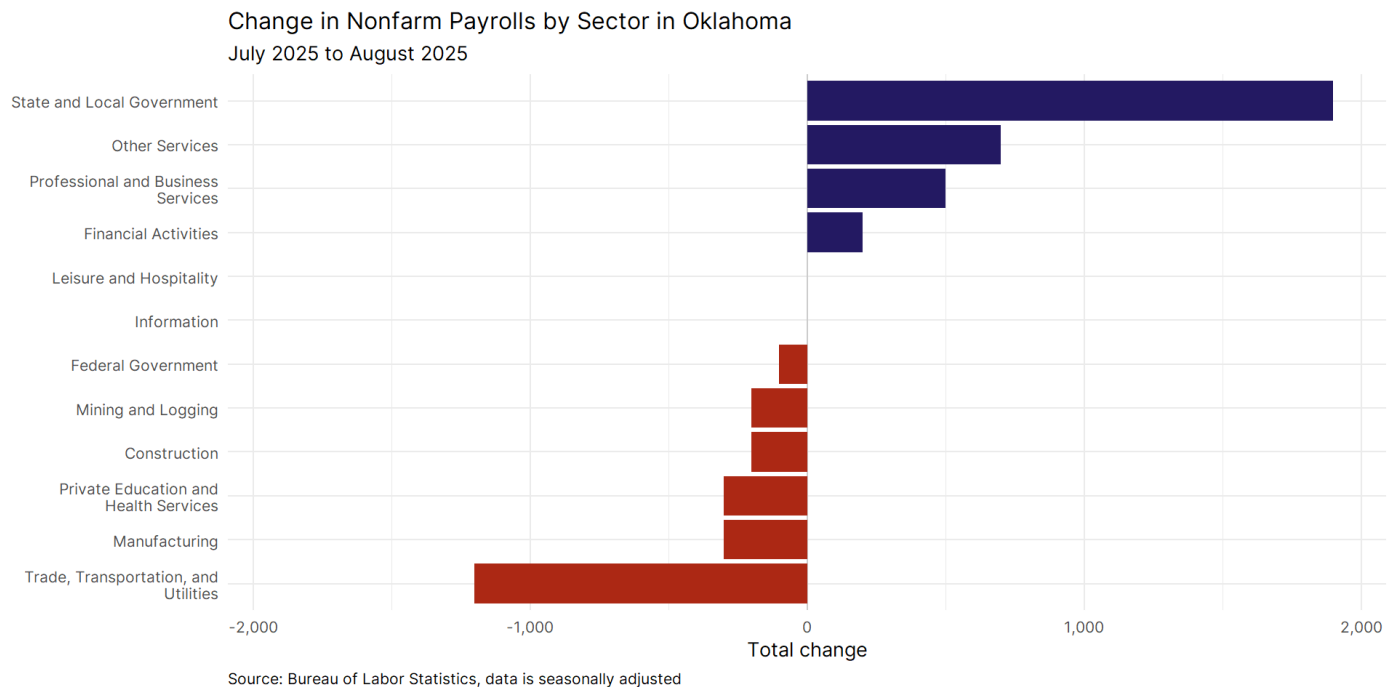
Oklahoma Payroll employment



- **Oklahoma added 1,000 net payroll jobs, or 0.1 percent**, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, Oklahoma lost 1,500 jobs. Oklahoma nonfarm payroll employment has increased in **11 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 22,000 in August, or 0 percent**. Oklahoma is tied for 13th in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- **Oklahoma lost 800 private sector jobs, or -0.1 percent**, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, Oklahoma lost 2,200 jobs. Oklahoma private sector payroll employment has increased in **10 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, private sector payroll jobs **rose by 38,000 jobs in August, or 0 percent**. Oklahoma is tied for 14th in the nation for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

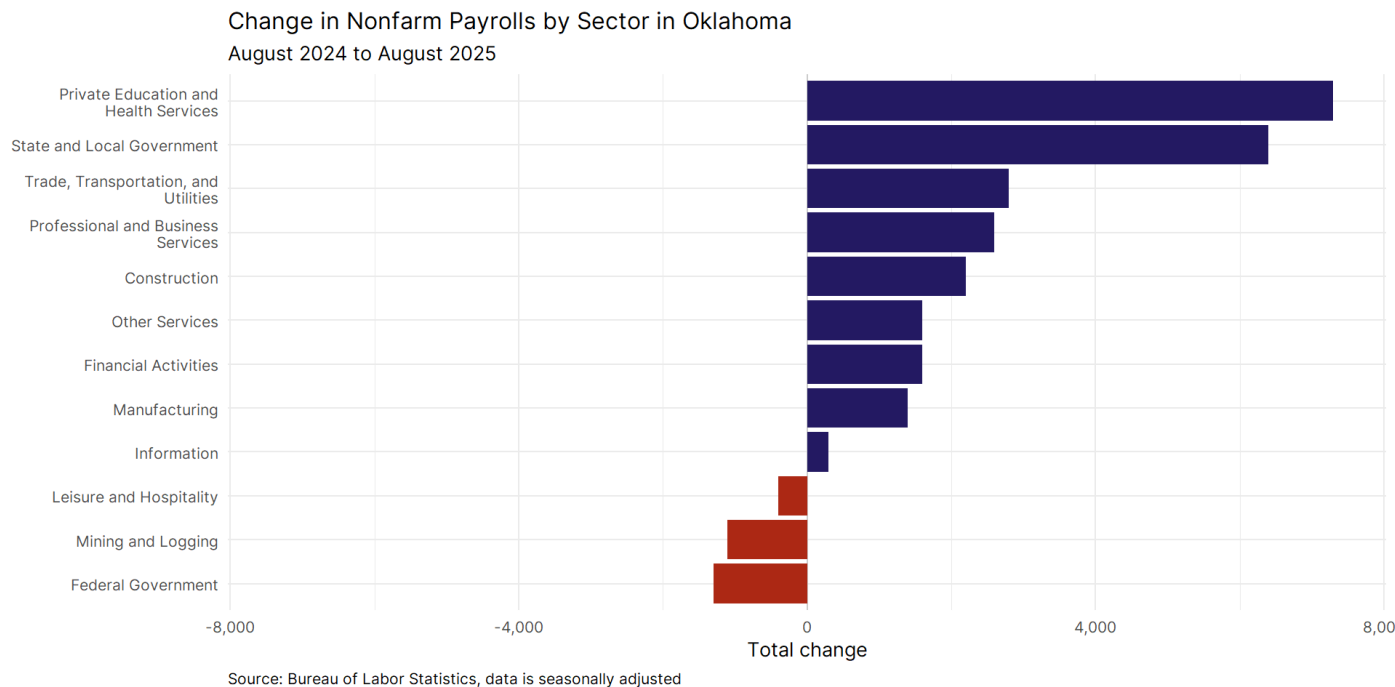
From July 2025 to August 2025:

- The best performing sectors were **State and Local Government** (+1,900) and **Other Services** (+700).
- The worst performing sectors were **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** (-1,200) and **Private Education and Health Services** (-300).



From August 2024 to August 2025:

- The best performing sectors were **Private Education and Health Services** (+7,300) and **State and Local Government** (+6,400).
- The worst performing sectors were **Federal Government** (-1,300) and **Mining and Logging** (-1,100).



Oklahoma Labor force

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 labor force participation rate in **Oklahoma rose to 62.8 percent in August from 62.7 percent in the prior month.**
- **Oklahoma is tied for 26th** in the nation.
- The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Oklahoma was **63 percent** occurring in December 2023, and the 10-year low was **59.7 percent** in April 2020.
- The national labor force participation rate **rose by 0.1 percentage points to 62.3 percent** in August.

