

Employment Projections for the Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Nonmetropolitan Areas for 2016 to 2026

Employment projections for the three Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) and four Nonmetropolitan Areas in Oklahoma are now available online. These projections were made for the 2016 to 2026 period based on data from 2016 and previous years. The information is intended to help planners, educators and vocational counselors in developing job-training programs. It is also intended to help current and future job seekers in their career planning. It should be noted, however, that the projections are not intended to be precise point estimates of employment for each industry or occupation. Other aspects to consider in choosing a career and planning an educational path include wages, job satisfaction, general unemployment patterns, method of obtaining the required education or training, and working conditions.

National employment projections played an important role in the assessment for the statewide outlook, and subsequently, in assessing MSA and the Nonmetropolitan Areas. State and local area projections are also partially dependent on the national outlook for specific industries. Because future trends are always subject to uncertainty, the employment outlook will continue to be produced every other year.

Industry employment projections for the MSA and Nonmetropolitan Areas were developed based on the statewide projections. They reflect the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Historical data are from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW). Regression, shift-share and time series analysis techniques have been employed as the primary methods of analysis. The OESC economists reviewed the projections and adjustments were made based on their comments as well as on the statewide industry employment projections.

Staffing patterns (the distribution of occupations by industry) for the MSA and Nonmetropolitan Areas taken from Oklahoma Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program are used to calculate the MSA and Nonmetropolitan Areas occupational projections. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides self-employed and unpaid family worker ratios, change factors, separation rates, and education and training requirements as well as guidelines, training and technical support for producing projections.

Data have not been included if they do not meet BLS or state agency disclosure standards, or if occupations have an estimated employment level of less than 25 jobs.

Employment estimates and number of openings have been rounded to the nearest ten. Percentage changes are calculated based on un-rounded data.

Wage data are from the Occupational Employment Statistics program and cover non-farm wage and salary workers. They do not cover the self-employed, owners and partners in unincorporated firms, or household workers. For individual MSA and Nonmetropolitan Area wage information, please go to: https://www.ok.gov/oesc/Labor_Market/Occupational_Employment_Statistics/index.html

Total Openings include both openings due to growth and openings due to [occupational separations](#). An occupation may experience negative growth in some industries, which will affect the employment level for that occupation in the future. However, the positive growth experienced in other industries will create job openings. Therefore, in a particular occupation, Total Openings are equal to growth plus separations, unless the growth is negative. In this case, Total Openings are equal to separations only.

Limitations of the data include the following:

- a) The data are not intended to predict future economic occurrences; they approximate long-term trends in the labor market.
- b) Occupational openings for a particular year may differ substantially from those shown in the report if the economy is in a recovery or recessionary period.
- c) Total openings reflect employment demand as a function of growth and replacement, not including turnover or geographic mobility.

Measures of Education and Training

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides information about education and training requirements for hundreds of occupations. BLS uses a system to assign categories for entry-level education, related work experience, and typical on-the-job training to each occupation for which BLS publishes projections data. The assignments allow occupations to be grouped to create estimates of the education and training needs for the labor force as a whole and estimates of the outlook for occupations with various types of education and training needs.

Category system

BLS assigns occupations to a designation within three categories: typical entry-level education, related work experience, and typical on-the-job training. ([Detailed definitions](#) for the categories are available online). The categories and assignments within each are as follows:

Typical entry level education—represents the typical education level needed to enter an occupation. The assignments for this category are the following:

- Doctoral or professional degree
- Master's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Associate's degree
- Postsecondary non-degree award
- Some college, no degree
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Less than high school

Work experience in a related occupation—indicates if work experience in a related occupation is commonly considered necessary by employers for entry into the occupation, or is a commonly accepted substitute for formal types of training. The assignments for this category are the following:

- More than 5 years
- 1-5 years
- Less than 1 year
- None

Typical on-the-job training—indicates the typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency in the occupation. The assignments for this category are the following:

- Internship/residency
- Apprenticeship
- Long-term on-the-job training: more than 1 year
- Moderate-term on the job training: 1-12 months
- Short-term on-the-job training: 1 month or less
- None

Contact information

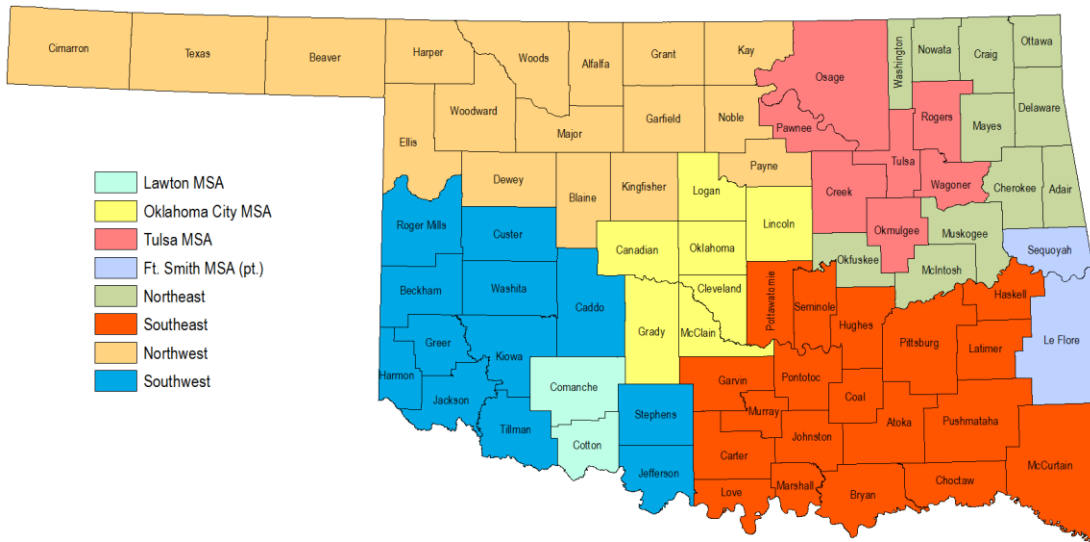
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Oklahoma Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Nonmetropolitan Areas



SOURCE: Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, 2016

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)	Component Counties			
Oklahoma City MSA	Canadian	Cleveland	Grady	Lincoln
	Logan	McClain	Oklahoma	
Tulsa MSA	Creek	Okmulgee	Osage	Pawnee
	Rogers	Tulsa	Wagoner	
Lawton MSA	Comanche	Cotton		
Fort Smith MSA (Part, not published)	Le Flore	Sequoyah		
Nonmetropolitan Areas	Component Counties			
Northeast	Adair	Cherokee	Craig	Delaware
	Mayes	McIntosh	Muskogee	Nowata
	Okfuskee	Ottawa	Washington	
Northwest	Alfalfa	Beaver	Blaine	Cimarron
	Dewey	Ellis	Garfield	Grant
	Harper	Kay	Kingfisher	Major
	Noble	Payne	Texas	Woods
	Woodward			
Southwest	Beckham	Caddo	Custer	Greer
	Harmon	Jackson	Jefferson	Kiowa
	Roger Mills	Stephens	Tillman	Washita
Southeast	Atoka	Bryan	Carter	Choctaw
	Coal	Garvin	Haskell	Hughes
	Johnston	Latimer	Love	McCurtain
	Marshall	Murray	Pittsburg	Pontotoc
	Pottawatomie	Pushmataha	Seminole	