

July 22, 2024

State Work Permits & Visas Task Force

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OKLAHOMA
Employment Security Commission





Agenda

- OESC State Presence
- OESC Foreign Labor Certification Program
 - Overview, Roles and Responsibilities
 - Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker program resources
- Hispanic Labor Market Data
- Task Force Challenges
- Task Force Goals and Recommendations

OESC Foreign Labor Certification Program

- **Overview**

- OESC administers the Foreign Labor Certification program, which is designed to assure that the admission of foreign workers into the United States on a temporary basis will not adversely affect the job opportunities, wages, and working conditions of U.S. workers.
- This program is also designed to assist employers in filling jobs that are traditionally difficult to fill.

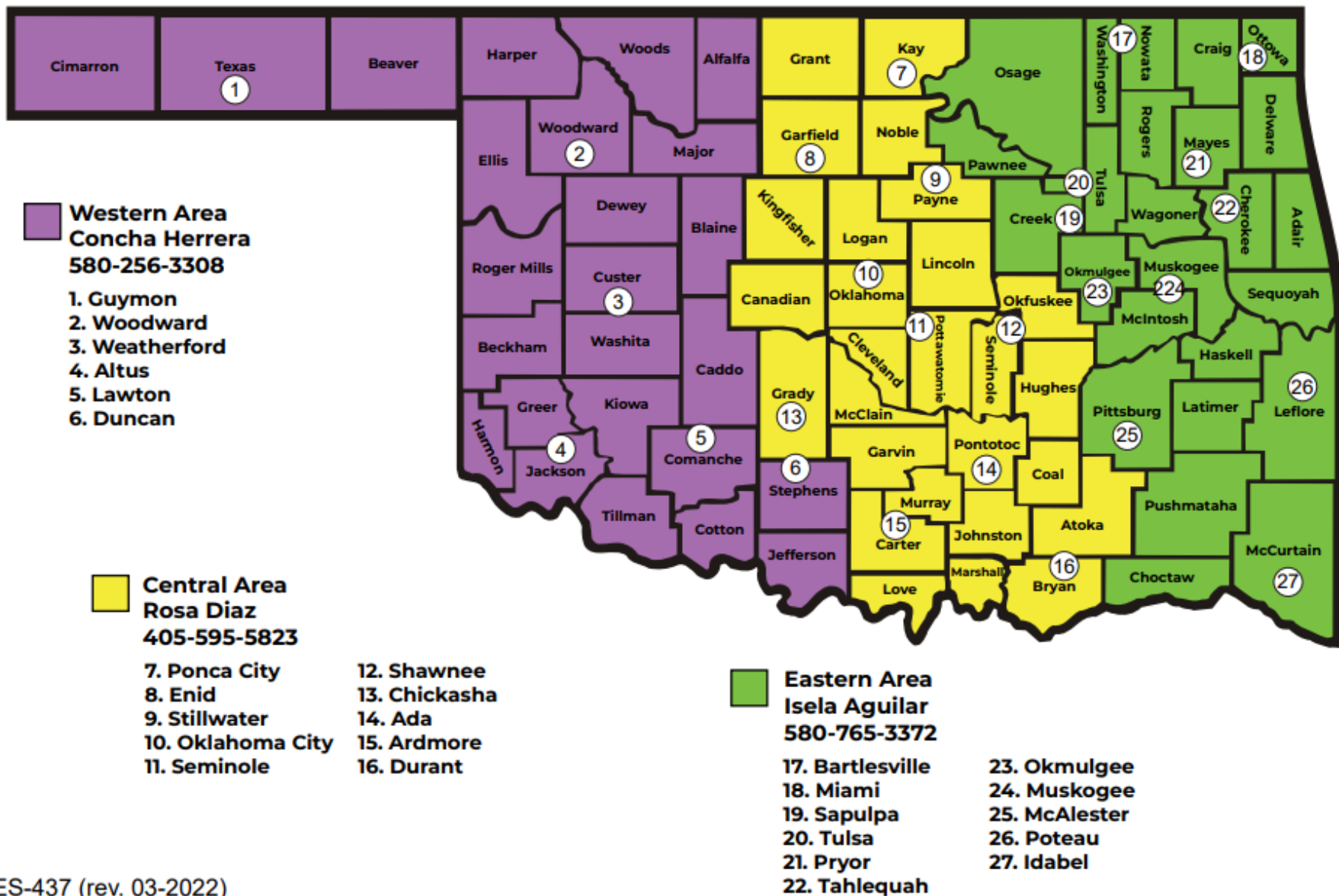
OESC Foreign Labor Certification Program

- **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Monitoring the delivery of services and protections afforded by Job Service regulations
- Outreach and oversight for the Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker (MSFW) and foreign labor certification programs
 - Outreach across the state includes cultivating relationships with farm owners, government agencies, and community organizations to provide services to the Agricultural Outreach Group that meets quarterly to discuss events and available services
 - Oversight includes processing applications for the H-2A and H-2B programs, orders for housing inspections, and recruitment inside local offices
 - H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers 122 Applications (Jan 1 – July 9, 2024)
 - H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural 126 Applications (Jan 1 – July 9, 2024)

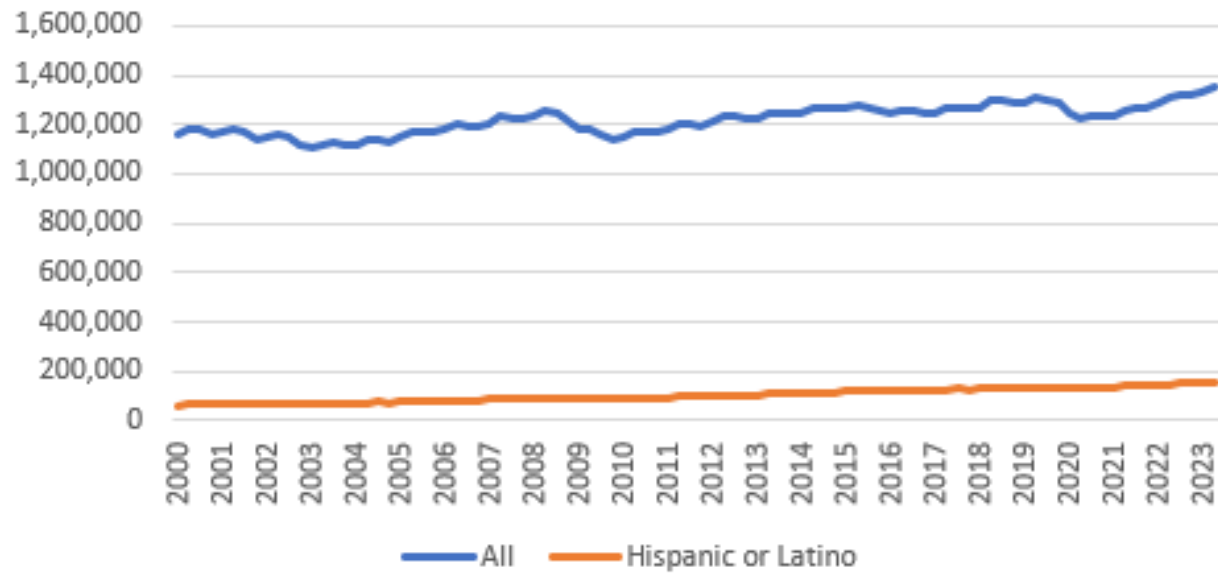
Migrant Seasonal Farm Worker Program Resources

- OESC operates 27 local offices across the state, providing services to individuals and employers in those local communities.

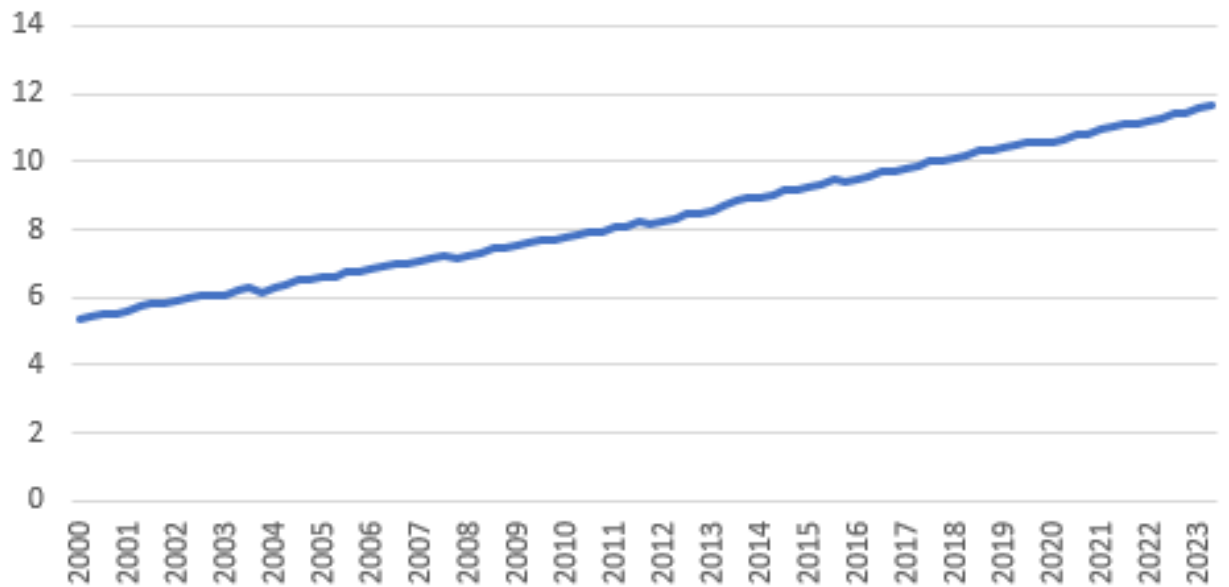


Hispanic Labor Market Data

Oklahoma Employment Census LEHD



Hispanic or Latino Employment Share (%) Census LEHD



Hispanic Employment – July 2024

The Latino Contribution in the state of Oklahoma

- **30%** of the Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction industry was made up of the Hispanic or Latino population.
- Hispanic or Latino population had **over 26%** share of the Other Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction industry.
- Hispanic or Latino population also contributed to **over 22%** share of the Foundation, Structure and Building Exteriors Contractors industry.

Task Force Challenges

- Visa categories
- Family reunification rights
- Language and skills training programs need to be funded
- Access to legal resources for immigrants
- No incentives for companies to hire and retain immigrants, particularly in high-demand sectors



Goal:

There should be a state-level work permit program that can provide a legal pathway for undocumented immigrants to work and live legally in Oklahoma.

Task Force Recommendations

- A person that can prove continuous residency in Oklahoma for a specific number of years.
- A person that can prove that he/she has been paying taxes either to the state of Oklahoma or other states.
- A person that can prove that he/she doesn't depend on welfare to live in this country (unless this person has been living in this country for several years without being able to get a legal residency).
- A person that has a clean criminal record.
- A person that can show proof of employment or community ties.
- Verification of study, learning new skills or learning English.

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Thank you

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