


## Jobless rate falls across state as Oklahoma City continues to lead nation's large cities

The jobless rate fell in 76 of Oklahoma's 77 counties last month, while Oklahoma City again had the lowest unemployment rate among the nation's largest cities.

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The jobless rate fell in all but one of Oklahoma's 77 counties last month, while Oklahoma City again had the lowest unemployment rate among the nation's largest cities.

The 5 percent unemployment rate in Oklahoma City was lowest among metropolitan areas of 1 million or more, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Wednesday.

That's down significantly from July's 5.7 percent unemployment rate in Oklahoma City, which also was the best rate among large cities.

Unemployment rates were lower in August than a year earlier in more than two-thirds of the 372 metropolitan areas tracked by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The rate rose in 84 areas, and was unchanged in 26 areas.

The Tulsa metro area had an unemployment rate of 6 percent in August, down from 6.4 percent the previous month, the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission said. Lawton's rate of 5.5 percent improved from 6.1 percent in July, the commission said.

### Sequoyah County saw rise

Among Oklahoma's counties, the jobless rate rose only Sequoyah County, which had the highest rate of any county at 9.3 percent, according to preliminary numbers from the state Employment Security Commission.

Sequoyah County's rate in July was 9.1 percent, according to the commission's revised numbers.

The highest levels of unemployment in Oklahoma are in the southeast, with LeFlore, Latimer, and McCurtain counties all registering rates near 9 percent.

The lowest unemployment in the northwest sector of the state, with Roger Mills (2.1 percent), Ellis (2.4 percent) and Harper (2.6 percent) counties leading the way.

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