

## Oklahoma City Among Top 20 Strongest Metros in the Nation For Tenth Consecutive Quarter

### OKC fares well in all areas of latest Brookings' MetroMonitor report

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by Jill Harrison

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., Oct. 3, 2011 - For the tenth quarter in a row, Oklahoma City was listed as one of the Top 20 Strongest Metros among America's 100 largest metropolitan areas, according to The Brookings Institute MetroMonitor report. Oklahoma City has been in the Top 20 in this report since the recession began.

While the majority of the cities evaluated saw high unemployment rates, rising foreclosures and other negative economic indicators, Oklahoma City saw a positive trend in nearly all areas.

"Oklahoma City is consistently faring well economically, especially considering that much of the nation is still feeling the effects of the recession," said Eric Long, research economist, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. "We are on an upwards trend, and I anticipate more employment gains in the future."

The report looked at the second quarter of 2011 and outlined how the 100 largest metropolitan areas ranked on a combination of four economic indicators: percent job change from the peak quarter to the second quarter of 2011, change in the unemployment rate from June 2008 to June 2011, percent change in economic output (gross metropolitan product) from the peak quarter to the second quarter of 2011, and percent change in an index of house prices from the peak quarter to the second quarter of 2011.

Oklahoma City is one of only 15 metropolitan areas to gain jobs in all of the last four quarters. Accomplishments in employment growth include:

- Gained back more than half the jobs lost between employment peak and post-recession employment low (one of only 16 cities)
- Manufacturing job growth of 5 percent or more during 12-month period (one of only 6 cities)
- One of lowest unemployment rates in the nation
- One of the greatest declines in unemployment over the year

Other cities in the Top 20 Strongest Metros include Boston, Dallas, Houston and Washington, DC. To read the full report, [Brookings](#) ([http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2011/0622\\_metro\\_monitor.aspx?p=1](http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2011/0622_metro_monitor.aspx?p=1))

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