

Oklahoma jobless rate holds steady at 6.1 percent

Oklahoma jobs: State's jobless rate steady at 6.1 percent.

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Oklahoma's unemployment rate held steady in November at 6.1 percent, both the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Oklahoma Employment Security Commission reported Tuesday.

Oklahoma was one of four states that registered no rate change for the month, while 43 states and the District of Columbia recorded lower rates and three states posted increases, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Oklahoma's jobless rate was 6.9 percent in November 2010.

"I would characterize it as a good report. We had a large employment increase on the household survey," said Lynn Gray, the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission's chief economist.

The state's labor force and number of unemployed both showed increases.

Of the two surveys, the smaller household survey showed that total employment, which includes self-employed and farm jobs, rose by 7,320 over the month in Oklahoma.

"We're seeing good employment growth in the state," Gray said.

A larger survey taken among business establishments, however, showed that Oklahoma's nonfarm employment dropped by 800 jobs over the month.

Even so, the state's nonfarm total of 1,569,600, represented an over-the-year gain of 43,000 jobs, or 2.8 percent, which was the third-highest percentage increase in nonfarm jobs among states nationwide, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The state was topped only by North Dakota and Wyoming, which posted over-the-year percentage gains in nonfarm employment of 4.5 percent and 3 percent, respectively.



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