

Report: Oklahoma lost fewer manufacturing jobs than U.S. average last year

By - 9/8/2008

Manufacturer's News Inc. said today its state by state industry report indicates Oklahoma's industrial employment dropped a half a percentage point from July 2007 to July 2008 which is less than the national average.

The Evanston, Ill. publication produced the 2009 Oklahoma Manufacturers Register which reported the state lost 1,228 industrial jobs. During the same time period, the U.S. lost 2.6 percent of its manufacturing jobs.

"While most other states have been losing manufacturing jobs to technology, automation and outsourcing, Oklahoma's stronghold in the oil and gas sectors, as well as increased exports, have helped the state retain industrial facilities," Tom Dubin, Manufacturer's News Inc. president, said in a statement.

Manufacturers' News reports Oklahoma is home to 6,137 manufacturers employing 214,195 workers.

According to earlier MNI studies, Kansas' industrial employment grew 1.5 percent and New Mexico's grew by 1.6 percent. Texas' manufacturing employment posted no significant change, while jobs in Missouri and Arkansas each dropped three percent.

According to the industrial directory, employment in Oklahoma's major sectors posted an increase over the year.

- Industrial machinery and equipment manufacturing is Oklahoma's largest industrial sector, accounting for 34,597 jobs, and grew 1.5 percent over the past 12 months.
 - The oil & gas extraction sector accounts for 27,158 industrial jobs, up 18 percent over the year.
 - Fabricated metal manufacturing represents 24,911 of Oklahoma's industrial jobs and grew 4 percent over the year.
 - Rubber and plastics manufacturing was up 1.2 percent over the past 12 months, and currently represents 12,764 of Oklahoma's industrial jobs.
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