

State's job growth moves to eighth in nation, report says

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Oklahoma made strides in certain areas of its economy, according to one annual report.

On Thursday, Oklahoma 21st Century, a nonprofit research foundation affiliate of the State Chamber of Oklahoma, delivered the 2009 Accountability for a Competitive Economy Book to state leaders.

The annual report provides a baseline of how Oklahoma ranks in comparison with other states in more than 30 areas. According to the report, Oklahoma's non-agricultural job growth moved from 29th to eighth among the states.

The state also improved in percentage of job growth, moving from 31st to eighth with the addition of 21,300 jobs. It progressed from 41st to 23rd in total venture capital investment, and 24th in per capita venture capital investment.

"We plan to not only look for areas in which we can improve our rankings, but also celebrate areas in which we have made progress," said Randle Lee, director of special projects with the State Chamber of Oklahoma, in a written statement. "Our state's achievements, especially in job growth and venture capital investment, are noteworthy in an ailing economy."

Oklahoma 21st Century, governed by a board of directors from companies throughout the state, is currently led by Dan Gilliam, manager of community relations for ConocoPhillips.

The foundation has been reporting on Oklahoma's issues and economic development climate since 1982.