

# Oklahoma In Brief

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# General Facts

**Organized as a Territory** • May 2, 1890.

**Admitted to the Union** • November 16, 1907, as the forty-sixth state.

**State Name** • Oklahoma means “Land of the Red People” in the Choctaw language.

**Population** • 3,396,794 (Resident Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2003 estimate) – 3,145,585 (1990). Oklahoma has the second largest American Indian population of any state, with California ranking first. Many of the more than 273,230 American Indians living in Oklahoma today are descendants of the original sixty-seven tribes inhabiting Indian Territory. According to the Census 2003 estimate, in Oklahoma 76.1 percent of the population is white (compared with 83 percent in 1998). Also, the 2003 estimate indicates 8 percent American Indian (272,312); 7.6 percent African American (257,140); and approximately 1.6 percent Asian (55,520). Additionally, 191,993 people of Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race) live in Oklahoma, representing 5.7 percent of the population.

## Major Cities (2003 U.S. Census Est.)

Oklahoma City	523,303	Midwest City	54,662
Tulsa	387,807	Enid	46,436
Norman	99,197	Moore	44,987
Lawton	91,730	Stillwater	41,320
Broken Arrow	83,607	Muskogee	38,635
Edmond	71,643		

Source—U.S. Census Bureau at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

**Area** • There are 68,679 square miles of land and 1,224 square miles of water; a total of 69,903 square miles, divided into seventy-seven counties. Besides Minnesota, Oklahoma is larger than any other state east of it, and except for Washington and Hawaii, is smaller than any state to the north, west, and south.

**Elevation** • The highest point in Oklahoma is in the extreme northwest on Black Mesa in Cimarron County (4,973 ft.); the lowest point is located in the extreme southeast, east of Idabel in McCurtain County (287 ft.)

**Location** • Bordered by Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas. Closer to the equator than to the North Pole.

**Latitude** • 33° 39'–37° N. **Longitude** • 94° 29'–103° W.

**Time Zones** • Oklahoma is on Central Standard Time from the last Sunday in October until the first Sunday in April. The rest of the year, Daylight Savings Time is in effect. The only exception is the city of Kenton in the far western tip of the Panhandle which is on Mountain Standard Time, one hour earlier all year. Time moves forward one hour in spring and back one hour in fall.

**Driving Information** • Oklahoma is crossed by three major interstate highways— I-35, I-40, and I-44. Additionally, US-412 extends from the state’s eastern border with Arkansas near Siloam Springs, west through the Panhandle to the border with New Mexico. The speed limit on turnpikes is 75 mph, or 120 kph; on interstate highways, 70 mph, or 112 kph; and on other highways, 65 mph, or 104 kph or 55 mph, 88 kph.



**Air Service** • The Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City, and Tulsa International Airport are served by major and regional domestic airlines. The Lawton-Fort Sill Regional Airport is served by American Eagle and Delta Airlines. Also, Fort Smith, Arkansas; Wichita, Kansas; and Dallas, Texas, are served by major airlines.

**Rail Service** • Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer offers daily service between Oklahoma City, Norman, Purcell, Pauls Valley, Ardmore, and Fort Worth, where travelers may connect to other Amtrak routes. Call 800/USA-RAIL.

**Bus Service** • Contact the public transit branch of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation at 405/521-2584 for bus schedule information. Greyhound and Jefferson bus lines operate within the state. Greyhound can be reached at 800/231-2222; Jefferson at 888/864-2832.

## Constitution and Government

Oklahoma’s present constitution, dating from 1907, provides for amendment by initiative petition and legislative referendum. As of January 1, 2003, one hundred seventy-four amendments have been adopted. The legislature consists of a Senate of forty-eight members, elected for four-year terms; and a House of Representatives with 101 members, elected for two-year terms. The governor and lieutenant governor are elected for four-year terms. The governor can only be elected for two terms in succession. Electors are all citizens eighteen years or older, with the usual qualifications, i.e., resident of Oklahoma. There are restrictions on convicted felons running for office. The state is represented in the U.S. Congress by two senators elected to six-year terms, and five representatives elected for two-year terms.

Source—Secretary of State, State Election Board

# 2005–2006 Official Holidays in Oklahoma

25 O.S. 1991, sec. 82.1 (as amended)

Holiday	Definition	2005	2006
New Year's Day	1st of January	Dec 31	Jan 2
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	3rd Monday in January	Jan 17	Jan 16
President's Day	3rd Monday in February	Feb 21	Feb 20
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May	May 30	May 29
Independence Day	4th of July	July 4	July 4
Labor Day	1st Monday in September	Sep 5	Sep 4
Veteran's Day	(Usually) 11th of November	Nov 11	Nov 10
Thanksgiving Holiday*	4th Thursday in Nov. & day after	Nov 24/25	Nov 23/24
Christmas Holiday**	25th of December	Dec 26	Dec 25

\*HB 2480, April 23, 1996, designated the day after Thanksgiving an official holiday.

\*\* HB 2607. November 1, 1998, designated the Monday before Christmas if Christmas is on a Tuesday, the Friday after Christmas if Christmas is on a Thursday as an official holiday; and such other days as may be designated by the President of the U.S. or the Governor of Oklahoma.

## Additional Holidays (Optional Closing)

25 O.S. 1991, sec.82.2 (as amended)

Vietnam Veterans Day	3rd Thursday of March
Youth Day	3rd Sunday in March
Jefferson Day	13th of April
Oklahoma City Bombing Remembrance Day	19th of April
Oklahoma Day	22nd of April
Senior Citizens' Week	Beginning 1st Sunday in May
Senior Citizens' Day	Wednesday of Senior Citizens' Week
Mother's Day	2nd Sunday in May
Jim Thorpe Day	22nd of May
Purple Heart Week	Last week of May
Juneteenth National Freedom Day	3rd Saturday in June
Indian Day	1st Saturday after full moon in September
Grandparents' Week	Beginning 2nd Sunday in September
Cherokee Strip Day	16th of September
Oklahoma Historical Day	10th of October
Will Rogers Day	4th of November
Native American Day	3rd Monday in November
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	7th of December
Citizenship Recognition Day	On such day as may be fixed by the governor and each day in which the state election is held throughout the State of Oklahoma; and such other days as may be designated by the President of the United States or the Governor of the State of Oklahoma.

# Natural Environment

## Climate

Bright and sunny. The northwestern part of the state is cooler and drier than the southeast. Rainfall varies from fifteen inches in the Panhandle to more than fifty inches in the southeast. Temperatures may dip below zero in the winter and soar above one hundred degrees in the summer. As a whole, 2002 registered an average temperature of 59.3 degrees, slightly below the normal of 59.6. Statewide-averaged precipitation was also very unremarkable compared to history. The official total for the state came in at 36.06 inches, some 0.63 inches below the normal annual rainfall. Snowfalls usually do not remain on the ground more than a few days, ranging from two inches a year in the southeast to thirty inches in the western Panhandle. The growing season ranges from 175 days in the Panhandle to more than 200 days in the south central part of the state.

Source—Oklahoma Climatological Survey, [www.ocs.ou.edu](http://www.ocs.ou.edu)

## Forests

A variety of soils, climate and topography creates a rich diversity in Oklahoma's forest land. In the southeast, high rainfall and mountainous terrain support an expanse of pine and oak. In the northeast, Ozark hardwoods predominate. Through central Oklahoma, post oak and blackjack oak of the Cross Timbers mix with tallgrass prairies, pastures, and cropland. Along streams, cypress swamps in the southeast coastal plain change to bottomland hardwoods, including cottonwood and willow, into the Panhandle.

In the southwest, oak shinnery and mesquite spreading onto rangeland offer a different "agroforest" environment. Eastern red cedar is spreading rapidly in some areas. Considered a pest as it spreads into rangeland and forest land, it is also becoming the basis for a new forest products industry. Through the northwest and Panhandle, limited rainfall isolates trees to water courses. In the far reaches of Cimarron County, pinyon pine, juniper, and even a remnant stand of ponderosa pine are reminiscent of the Rocky Mountains.

The economic impact of forestry statewide is estimated at more than \$1.5 billion. In eastern Oklahoma, forestry accounts for 18 percent of manufacturing employment, and 12 percent of the value of shipments. When supporting industries are included, forestry accounts for 30 percent of the region's manufacturing employment. Timber is fifth in value of all agricultural commodities in Oklahoma.

Source—Oklahoma Department of Agriculture; Food and Forestry, [www.oda.state.ok.us](http://www.oda.state.ok.us)

## Geography

Oklahoma, one of the Great Plains states, is slightly south of the geographic center of the U.S. Most of the state is a great, rolling plain, sloping gently from northwest to southeast. Highest elevation is 4,973 feet above sea level at Black Mesa in the northwestern corner of the Panhandle; lowest, 287 feet, is near Idabel in the extreme southeast. Approximately one-fourth of the state's total area is forested, principally the region bordering Missouri and Arkansas. Although part of the Great Plains, Oklahoma has four mountain ranges: the Ouachita in the southeast, the Ozark Plateau in the northeast, the Arbuckle in the south central part of the state, and the Wichita in the southwest. Geographic center of the state is eight miles north of Oklahoma City.

Source—Office of State Geographer

## Grasslands

Grass areas are abundant within Oklahoma's boundaries and are used for grazing. The grasses in the western sections are primarily short and mixed. Tall grasses are found in the northern and eastern sections of the state. Oklahoma's National Grasslands— Black Kettle District, Roger Mills County; and Rita Bianca District, Cimarron County— have been a part of the U.S. Forest Service since the 1950s. The Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service) originally administered the program designed to demonstrate good, sound principles in grassland agriculture.

Source—Atlas of Oklahoma (Wikle, Ed.); Office of State Geographer

## Minerals

Oklahoma's enormous mineral reserve can be divided into three types of mineral products: mineral fuels, metals, and non-metals. Mineral fuels are materials that can be burned, such as petroleum (crude oil and natural gas), and coal. These account for more than 90 percent of Oklahoma's annual mineral output. Metals are substances that can be melted and molded into any shape desired and are usually hard and heat resistant. There presently are no metals mined in Oklahoma. Zinc and lead are the principal metals previously mined in Oklahoma, but copper, manganese, iron, and uranium also were produced. A non-metal (industrial mineral) is any rock, mineral or other select naturally occurring or synthetic material of economic value often used in combination with other materials, such as sand and stone used in concrete. The principal industrial minerals produced in Oklahoma include crushed stone, portland cement, construction sand and gravel, industrial sand and gravel, iodine, and gypsum. Other Oklahoma non-metals include tripoli, feldspar, helium, common clay, granite, salt, volcanic ash, and lime.

Source—Oklahoma Geological Survey, [www.ou.edu/special/ogs-pttc/](http://www.ou.edu/special/ogs-pttc/)

## Vegetation

The natural vegetation of Oklahoma can be divided into three large categories: grasslands, savannahs and woodlands, and forests. Grasslands of various kinds are found in all parts of the state, but they are the dominant natural vegetation in the drier and more elevated western regions.

The savannah and woodlands types of vegetation are found in all parts of the state, with the exception of the Ouachita Mountains and the Ozark Plateau. Large forest areas are located in eastern Oklahoma where rainfall is sufficient for good tree growth and the local topography is too rough for agricultural use other than grazing.

Source—Atlas of Oklahoma (Wikle, Ed.); Office of State Geographer

## Recreation

Oklahoma has fifty state parks and resorts, and numerous wildlife refuges and recreation areas, offering a wealth of outdoor adventure, including fishing, camping, mountain biking, horseback riding, rappelling, scuba diving, and golf. Tourist attractions include elements from a rich cowboy heritage; American Indian history; and unspoiled, diverse natural beauty. The fabled "Main Street of America," Route 66, crosses Oklahoma for more than 392 miles.

The Tourism and Recreation Department produces brochures and Internet sites ([www.otrd.state.ok.us](http://www.otrd.state.ok.us)) to help travelers learn about Oklahoma. Call 405/521-2413, or write the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, 120 N Robinson, Sixth Floor, Oklahoma City 73102.

Source—Tourism and Recreation Department, [www.otrd.state.ok.us/](http://www.otrd.state.ok.us/)

## Water

In Oklahoma, there are approximately 500 named rivers and creeks, many of them short and intermittent during much of the year. Oklahoma's terrain is dominated by two major river basins: northern Oklahoma and much of the central part of the state is in the drainage basin of the Arkansas River; the remainder of the state is in the drainage basin of the Red River. Except for the rivers flowing from the Ozark Plateau or the Ouachita Mountains, the streams in Oklahoma flow in a general eastward direction. Water leaves the state through four watercourses (the Red, Arkansas and Little rivers and Lee Creek), flowing into Arkansas. The Scenic Rivers of Oklahoma have such exceptional beauty and recreational value that six of them have been officially designated as scenic rivers, and are protected by the state legislature. One scenic river is in the Red River System—the upper part of Mountain Fork which flows into Broken Bow Lake in the Ouachita Mountains. The other five scenic rivers are in the Arkansas River System, in the Ozark Plateau, and include parts of the Illinois River and parts of Flint, Baron Fork, Lee, and Little Lee creeks.

Oklahoma has more man-made lakes than any other state, with more than one million surface acres of water and 2,000 more miles of shoreline than the Atlantic and Gulf coasts combined. All of the large lakes in Oklahoma are man-made. They were developed—most of the 60 major reservoirs constructed by the federal government—to control flooding and for conservation purposes, navigation, recreation, power, and municipal water supplies. The state has lakes ranging from 890 acres to 105,000 acres (Lake Eufaula). Other large lakes are: Texoma, Grand Lake O' the Cherokees, Fort Gibson, Oologah, Kerr, Pine Creek, Broken Bow, Keystone, and Tenkiller. The state's largest groundwater basin, the Ogallala Aquifer in western Oklahoma, contains 86.6 million acre-feet of supply—enough to cover the entire state two feet deep.

Source—Atlas of Oklahoma (Wikle, Ed.); Office of State Geographer; Okla. Water Resources Board, [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us); Oklahoma Geological Survey, [www.ou.edu/special/ogs-pttc/](http://www.ou.edu/special/ogs-pttc/)

## Wildlife

Once the hunting and trading ground of many Indian tribes, Oklahoma boasts five big game species, including white-tailed deer and wild turkeys in all seventy-seven counties. Mule deer inhabit the northwestern quarter of the state, and pronghorn antelope populations in the Panhandle have expanded to allow a special hunt for that species. Elk are present in the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge and have been introduced in the eastern part of the state. Among smaller upland game, the bobwhite quail still reigns supreme. Pheasant populations in the Panhandle remain stable and provide quality hunting opportunities. Scaled quail, squirrels and rabbits are other fall favorites for hunters, along with migratory birds such as doves, ducks, and geese. Among native sport fish, the largemouth bass, small-mouth and spotted bass, channel, blue and flathead catfish, white bass, crappie, and sunfish are popular. Hybrid stripers and saugeye have provided a fishing boom in some parts of the state, along with walleye and striped bass. Rainbow trout can be caught from eight designated trout fishing areas, and brown trout in the lower Illinois River and lower Mountain Fork trout areas.

Source—Department of Wildlife Conservation, [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com)

# Economic Environment

## Property Valuation

Locally Assessed	2003–04	2004–05	Increase/Decrease
Real Estate & Improvements	\$12,549,436,170	\$13,460,231,403	\$910,795,233
Personal Subject to Tax	3,206,666,225	3,353,214,005	146,547,780
Total Locally Assessed	15,756,102,395	16,813,445,408	1,057,343,013
Homestead Exemptions			
Allowed	771,497,832	809,707,007	38,209,175
Net Assessed Locally	14,984,604,563	16,003,738,401	1,019,133,838
Public Service Assessments	2,474,452,800	2,482,220,237	7,767,437
Net Assessed Valuation	\$17,459,057,363	\$18,485,958,638	\$1,026,901,275
Locally Assessed	2001–02	2002–03	Increase/Decrease
Real Estate & Improvements	\$11,361,472,322	\$11,926,285,730	\$564,813,408
Personal Subject to Tax	2,891,280,090	3,080,877,220	189,597,130
Total Locally Assessed	14,252,752,412	15,007,162,950	754,410,538
Homestead Exemptions			
Allowed	763,324,300	772,927,310	9,603,010
Net Assessed Locally	13,489,428,112	14,234,235,640	744,807,528
Public Service Assessments	2,301,375,464	2,505,673,949	204,298,485
Net Assessed Valuation	\$15,790,803,576	\$16,739,909,589	\$949,106,013

Source—State Board of Equalization

## State Budget

### Year ending June 30, 2004

Total Revenue: \$13,712,040,481 • Total Expenditures: \$13,928,682,839.

Source—Office of State Finance

(Figures exclude 700 Fund revenues and expenditures, which encompasses primarily higher education and career technology centers.)

### Year Ending December 31, 2004

Gross General Obligation Debt: \$319,555,000 • Gross Contractual Obligation Debt: \$563,241,000 • Gross Public Lease Purchase Obligation: \$205,722,000 • Gross Lease Purchase Debt Privately Placed: \$20,091,000 • Total Gross Tax-Supported Debt: \$1,108,609,000 • Total Reductions to Gross Tax-Supported Debt: \$138,403,000 • Total Net Tax-Supported Debt: \$970,206,000.

Source—State Bond Advisor, 2004 Annual Report [www.state.ok.us/~ok-bonds](http://www.state.ok.us/~ok-bonds); For notes about the debt information in the preceding paragraph, see [www.ok-bonds.state.ok.us/AnnRpt04.pdf](http://www.ok-bonds.state.ok.us/AnnRpt04.pdf)



## Agriculture

Chief agricultural products are beef cattle, hogs, poultry, sheep, milk, wheat, hay, sorghum and other grains, peanuts, and cotton. According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, Oklahoma ranks fourth in the United States in the production of all wheat for grain, sorghum for grain, and cattle and calf production.

The number of farms in Oklahoma decreased to 83,3000 in 2002, down from 84,028 in 1997. Land in farms in 2002 fell to 33,661,826 acres, down 1 percent from 34,069,201 acres in 1997. The average farm size fell slightly in 2002 to 404 acres, down from 405 acres in 1997.

Market value of production rose 5 percent in 2002 at \$4,456,404,000, up from \$4,253,753,000 in 1997. Crop sales accounted for \$819,078,000 of the total value in 2002, while livestock sales accounted for \$3,637,326,000. The market value of production average per farm was \$53,498 in 2002, up 6 percent from \$50,623 in 1997. Government payments increased 11 percent to \$149,942,000 in 2002, up from the 1997 figure of \$135,546,000. The average per farm government payments was \$6,166 in 2002, down slightly from \$6,196 in 1997.

Topographically and geographically, Oklahoma's agriculture is diverse, ranging from the semi-arid high plains of the Panhandle with its heavy concentration of cattle feedlots and ranches, hog farms, and large-scale crop farms, to the flat, heavily irrigated southwest section devoted primarily to cotton, wheat, peanuts, and some cattle. Then there are the wheat and cattle farms of western and northern Oklahoma; the cross-timbered central sections where the emphasis is on dairying and diversified farming of crops such as peanuts and hay; the wetter eastern pastures and timbers; and the pine-rich southeastern section where timber, cattle, and poultry predominate.

Sources—Agricultural Statistics Division, Okla. Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, [www.oda.state.ok.us](http://www.oda.state.ok.us); 2002 Census of Agriculture

## Commerce

According to the Oklahoma State University *2005 Economic Outlook*, the economic recovery is fully underway in Oklahoma as job formation finally arrived during the third quarter of 2003. Job losses in the recent slowdown totaled approximately 75,000, or 5.1 percent of total non-farm wage and salary payroll employment statewide, more than double the 2.1 percent job loss at the national level. The greatest proportionate losses occurred in the Tulsa metropolitan area as the region lost 32,000 jobs, or 7.8 percent of the area workforce. The Oklahoma City metropolitan area enjoyed the best relative performance but nevertheless shed 22,500 jobs, or 4.1 percent of area payrolls.

At the national level, manufacturing employment contracted more than 14 percent during the slowdown, accounting for nine out of ten jobs lost. The state's manufacturing sector suffered a similar fate, shedding nearly 40,000 jobs for a 22 percent decline since early 2001. The remaining job losses across the state have been broad based with most major industry sectors except the natural resources and mining sector, the

health services sector, and the interest-rate-sensitive finance and insurance sector posting job losses during the slowdown.

The bottom in employment for both Oklahoma and the nation coincided closely. Through approximately one year of recovery, job formation in Oklahoma has exceeded the rebound at the national level. Beginning in the third quarter of 2003, state non-farm wage and salary payrolls expanded 1.7 percent versus 1.3 percent for the nation. Total wage and salary employment for the state, however, remains more than 50,000 jobs below the 2001 peak in hiring. The Oklahoma City metro area has recovered approximately 40 percent of lost jobs, while Tulsa has managed to replace only one of six jobs lost in the downturn.

Source—*2005 Economic Outlook*, Oklahoma State University,  
College of Business Administration, [www.economy.okstate.edu/outlook/2005](http://www.economy.okstate.edu/outlook/2005)

## Industry

The top five industries responsible for fueling the majority of Oklahoma's 1990–2000 employment growth of 293.6 thousand jobs (and its 254.8 thousand jobs increase over the broader period of 1990–2003) were lower-paying sectors on average. This top five list for the periods of 1990–2000 and 1990–2003 were: administrative support, and waste management; health care and social assistance; retail trade; accommodations and food services; and state and local government. These five industries contributed 66.9 percent of the employment increase during the 1990s and 75.7 percent during the broader 13-year period. In 2003 these industries ranged in wages nationally from \$15,261 to \$35,873. In contrast, the 2003 United States average wage for all industries was \$38,664. Additionally, these five growth leaders for Oklahoma composed 53.47 percent of Oklahoma's total non-farm employment in 2003. Yet, these same five industries represent only 50.52 percent of the 2003 national nonfarm employment total. However, the top five high-wage industries nationally in 2003 were: management; natural resources and mining, utilities; finance and insurance; and professional, scientific, and technical services. These five industries compose only 11.63 percent of Oklahoma's 2003 nonfarm employment total.

Source—*2005 Economic Outlook*, Oklahoma State University,  
College of Business Administration, [www.economy.okstate.edu/outlook/2005](http://www.economy.okstate.edu/outlook/2005)

## Petroleum and Natural Gas

Oklahoma's petroleum industry began more than one hundred years ago with the discovery of oil in Indian Territory by the No. 1 Nellie Johnstone in 1897. While crude oil remains an important commodity for Oklahoma's economy, natural gas has the potential to be a major contributor to the state's future. However, that role is far from being assured. The significant price fluctuations that affect Oklahoma operators are indicative of the problem. More than one-half of the natural gas produced in Oklahoma is from operators who produce small volumes. Individually, these operators do not produce sufficient volumes to compete for the larger sales contracts that commonly provide for fixed volumes of delivery throughout the year. In addition, most of the

natural gas produced in the state is marketed to other states. Unlike Louisiana, that consumes more natural gas than the state produces, and Texas, that consumes more than three-fourths of its production, Oklahoma exports approximately two-thirds.

Source—Oklahoma Geological Survey, [www.ou.edu/special/ogs-pttc/](http://www.ou.edu/special/ogs-pttc/)

## Poverty

The national average of people in poverty in 2003 was 12.7 percent, an increase of 1.4 percent from the 11.3 percent rate in 2000. The estimate for Oklahomans living below the poverty level in 2003 was 16.1 percent. The number of Oklahoma families living below the poverty level was 112,451, with children under the age of eighteen accounting for 90,664 and families with children under five year of age at 16,970. In families with no husband present, 53,133 live below poverty level, with 48,762 of families with children under 18 in that category. Some 10,468 families with children under the age of five in female-only households live below the poverty level. Poverty rates from surrounding states include Arkansas, 16.0; Colorado, 9.8; Kansas, 10.8; Louisiana, 20.3; Mississippi, 19.9; Missouri, 11.7; New Mexico, 18.6; and Texas, 16.3.

Source—U.S. Census

## Taxes

Income tax on personal income ranges from .05 percent on the first \$2,000 of taxable income to seven percent for more than \$21,000 if married filing jointly and head of household. (The rate is .05 percent on the first 1,000 to seven percent over \$10,000 if single or married filing separately.) The top tax rate for Method 1 on the Oklahoma Tax Form is 7 percent. The personal exemption is \$1,000 per exemption. The corporate tax rate is six percent.

Only county governments with the local millage rates to meet local budgets levy real estate and tangible property taxes. County assessors must assess property at a single rate between 11 and 14 percent of fair cash value. There is a general homestead exemption of \$1,000.

Sales and use tax in Oklahoma is 4.5 percent. Many cities levy an additional tax of one percent to four percent. In addition counties have the authority to levy a county sales tax not to exceed two percent. Counties can now levy a county use tax as well. Items not subject to sales tax are motor vehicles, mobile homes, travel trailers, gasoline, prescription drugs, water service, and others.

Source—Oklahoma Tax Commission , [www.oktax.state.ok.us](http://www.oktax.state.ok.us)

## Transportation

As of 2005, a total of 112,724 miles of public roads existed across Oklahoma. Of those, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for 12,280 miles of non-toll highways and 671 miles of non-toll interstates roads. In addition, ODOT maintains 6,728 bridges on the highway system. Three major interstates make-up the

highest traveled routes in the state. They are I-35, I-40, and I-44. The state also has ten toll roads, equaling 606 miles.

Other mileages across the state include 85,234 miles of county roads; 14,313 miles of city roads, and 284 miles of park roads. There are twenty railway companies across the state using a total of 3,718 miles of track. Of those, the state owns 866 miles.

As of 2005, there were 123 publicly owned airports. Of those 123, 116 are in the state airport system that receive both state and federal grants. In addition, there are 326 privately-owned landing sites, sixteen of those are for public use. There is also one privately-owned/public use seaplane base.

Source—Department of Transportation , [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us): Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, [www.state.ok.us/aeronautics/index.php](http://www.state.ok.us/aeronautics/index.php)

## Workforce

As of December 2004, the Oklahoma's civilian labor force was 1,711,296, with 1,634,989 employed and 76,707 unemployed. Oklahoma's unemployment rate dropped to 4.5 percent, down from 5.3 percent in December 2003. Management, professional, and related occupations continued to be the highest employer in 2003 with 478,220, followed by sales and office occupations at 402,884. Service occupations accounted for 238,048 employed, while production and transportation listed 225,144 positions, and construction positions totaling 158,853. Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations employed 8,283 individuals.

Oklahoma households with less than \$10,000 annual income in 2003 totaled 160,627; \$10,000 to \$14,999 was 102,842; from \$15,000 to \$24,999 was 218,062; from \$25,000 to \$34,999 was 186,974; from \$35,000 to \$49,999 was 233,119; from \$50,000 to \$74,999 was 229,445; from \$75,000 to \$99,999 was 106,667; from \$100,000 to \$149,000 was 72,558; from \$150,000 to \$199,999 was 16,733; and from \$200,000 or more was 14,349. The median household income was \$35,129 in 2003 as reported by the U.S Census Bureau.

Source—U.S. Census and the U.S. Department of Labor