

## February Monthly Report and Observations

### 2021 Military Active-Duty Personnel, Civilians by State

Oklahoma has 21,435 active duty military, 13,171 reserves, and 25,594 military civilians.

Tables with active duty, reserve and civilian military by service and by state.

[https://www.governing.com/now/2021-military-active-duty-personnel-civilians-by-state?utm\\_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20GOV%20-%20Daily&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmi=202501865&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8a8tdNyCncBjFmtnRfws01rPelD7xzSN\\_y027o7hPOjOcsv8lrjFEXlIPkqgEhf5PwwCec34\\_drSBmhQRaoGMTFyJK2Q&utm\\_content=202501865&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.governing.com/now/2021-military-active-duty-personnel-civilians-by-state?utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20GOV%20-%20Daily&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=202501865&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8a8tdNyCncBjFmtnRfws01rPelD7xzSN_y027o7hPOjOcsv8lrjFEXlIPkqgEhf5PwwCec34_drSBmhQRaoGMTFyJK2Q&utm_content=202501865&utm_source=hs_email)

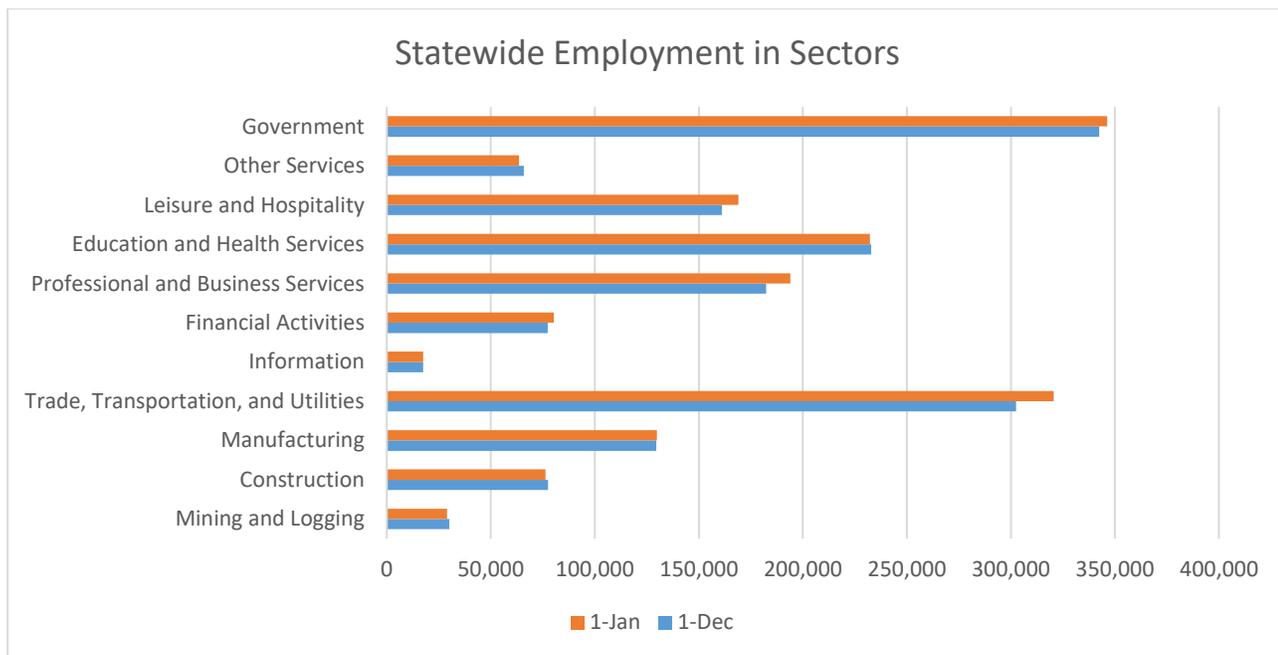
### January Labor Force/Unemployment Statistics

Region	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Labor Force Participation Rate
Oklahoma	2.7%	1,850,630	1,801,047	49,583	60.1%
United State	4.0%	163,687,000	157,174,000	6,513,000	62.3%

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics and Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

### Points to Remember About Unemployment and Employment Data

There are various types of unemployment and employment data. The data can be seasonally adjusted or not seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted is data that is adjusted to take out short term fluctuations for seasonal jobs like florists hiring for Mother’s Day. Another difference is the initial numbers reported may be updated/corrected later. The last thing to keep in mind is the rounding method may be different.



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics and Oklahoma Employment Security Commission

### Right To Repair Bills

Bipartisan Right to Repair is advancing in congress. This could change some employment, potentially a small decrease in employees at major automobile dealer repair garages, but a larger increase in employment at independent repair garages and parts stores. The legislation would also make it easier to get electronics, like cell phones, repaired, potentially increasing the employment in that sector.

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### New Hotels Cause Old Hotels Closures

With the new hotels recently opened or opening in the larger communities, we should think about employees transitioning out of jobs at old hotels that may be closing or downgrading.

### Need for Electricians

Potential long term need for more electricians to upgrade wiring in residences, install chargers in residences, and to install public chargers to handle electric vehicles. The average residence does not have the electrical service necessary to handle rapid chargers.

### Jobs at Risk of Automation

By: [Janice Francis-Smith](#) The Journal Record January 31, 2022

Oklahoma City ranked 19th on a list of U.S. cities with the highest number of jobs at risk of automation. Commodity.com found that 42.1% of jobs in the Oklahoma City metro area – an estimated 180,940 jobs – are at high risk for automation in the near future. Another 19.8% of jobs are at medium risk, and 38.1% of jobs are deemed low risk for automation.

“In the last few years, it has become more common to order food from a kiosk, see machines cleaning airport floors, and talk to a chatbot instead of a customer service agent,” reads the report. “The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of these technologies as well as others, many of which can be used to perform tasks that humans used to do. Machines do not call out sick or spread disease and can replace workers to aid in social distancing.”

Delaware-based commodity trading guide publisher Commodity.com created the list by correlating data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics with an Oxford University study that calculated which occupations are most likely to become automated in the near future. The analysis also cited a study from the Brookings Institution, which found that increased automation does not necessarily eliminate certain jobs and may result in better wages for jobs that cannot be performed by a machine.

The analysis found that the percentage of jobs at risk for automation in Oklahoma is only slightly higher than the national average of 41.9%.

Oklahoma City had a smaller percentage of jobs at risk for automation than Dallas/Fort Worth, which ranked 13th on the list with 42.8%.

<https://journalrecord.com/2022/01/31/thousands-of-okc-jobs-at-risk-of-automation/>

### \$400M Veteran Education Pandemic Program Goes Largely Unused

Congress created the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program last year as part of the American Rescue Plan. The program, known as VRRAP, offers education and training for veterans who became unemployed during the pandemic and have already used their GI Bill entitlement.

Congress allocated \$386 million to the Department of Veterans Affairs to run the program. It has the capacity to train up to 17,250 veterans for high-demand jobs, including positions in the technology, engineering and health care industries. Since it began accepting students nine months ago, about 4,000 students have enrolled. Fewer than 700 have graduated from the program, and nearly 100 veterans have been employed into the field for which they received training.

[https://www.governing.com/community/400m-veteran-education-pandemic-program-goes-largely-unused?utm\\_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20GOV%20-%20Daily&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsmt=202979345&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-](https://www.governing.com/community/400m-veteran-education-pandemic-program-goes-largely-unused?utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20GOV%20-%20Daily&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=202979345&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-)

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### Oklahoma Average Hourly Wage

The Oklahoma private sector average hourly wage (12-month average) in January grew to \$25.49 up from \$25.33 the prior month and \$24.90 a year ago.

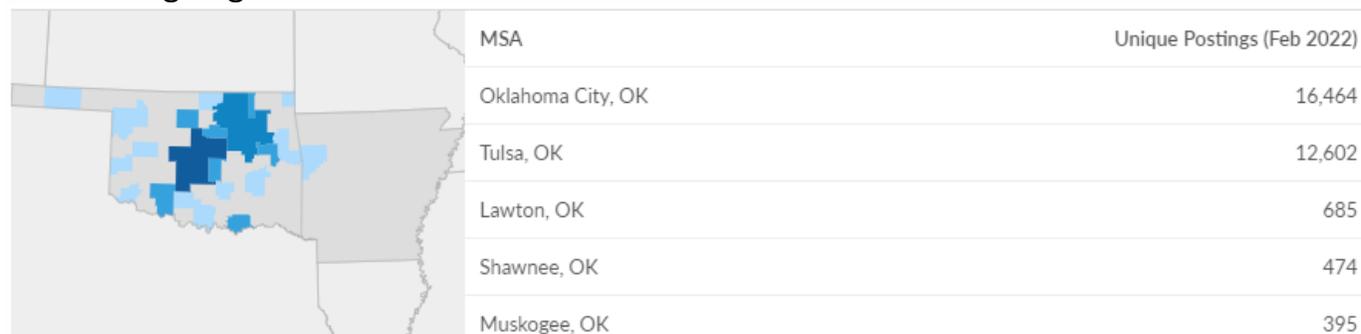
### A Boeing 747 burns one ton of fuel while taxiing. This electric towing system could help

Known as the Aircraft Towing System (ATS), the concept promises fuel savings and fewer carbon emissions while planes are on the ground. It works something like this: After the plane lands, the pilot drives the aircraft's nosewheel (the landing wheel at the front of the plane) onto a tow dolly, where it's secured in place.

ATS is the brainchild of Polish businessman Stan Malicki, who, in 2015, partnered with Vince Howie, then-director of aerospace and defense with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The company is now based in Oklahoma, where Tinker Air Force Base and American Airlines's maintenance stations are located.

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90716645/a-boeing-747-burns-one-ton-of-fuel-while-taxiing-this-electric-towing-system-could-help>

### Job Posting Regional Breakdown



Source: EMSI – economicmodeling.com-2021.1

### How Will Russian – Ukraine War Affect Oklahoma

How will the war and sanctions affect Oklahoma?

- Short term increase in oil and gas prices resulting in higher local profits for oil companies.
- Possible medium term increase in oil and gas prices will eventually result in more drilling. (Currently investors are not willing to fund major increases in drilling)
- Unknown effect on commercial airline international flights with Oklahoma operations (American Airlines, Southwest, and Alaska).
- Probable medium and long term increase in military aviation spending by NATO countries affecting Oklahoma (Tinker, Altus, Kratos, Boeing, etc.).
- The **large** increase in wheat prices will help Oklahoma wheat producers, while the increase in fuel prices will hurt wheat producers. (Russia is the world's largest exporter of wheat and a major exporter of oil)
- Short term higher fuel prices affecting transportation and all farmers.
- Higher fuel prices increasing the interest in working from home.
- Higher fertilizer prices affecting farmers.
- Overall increase in inflation.

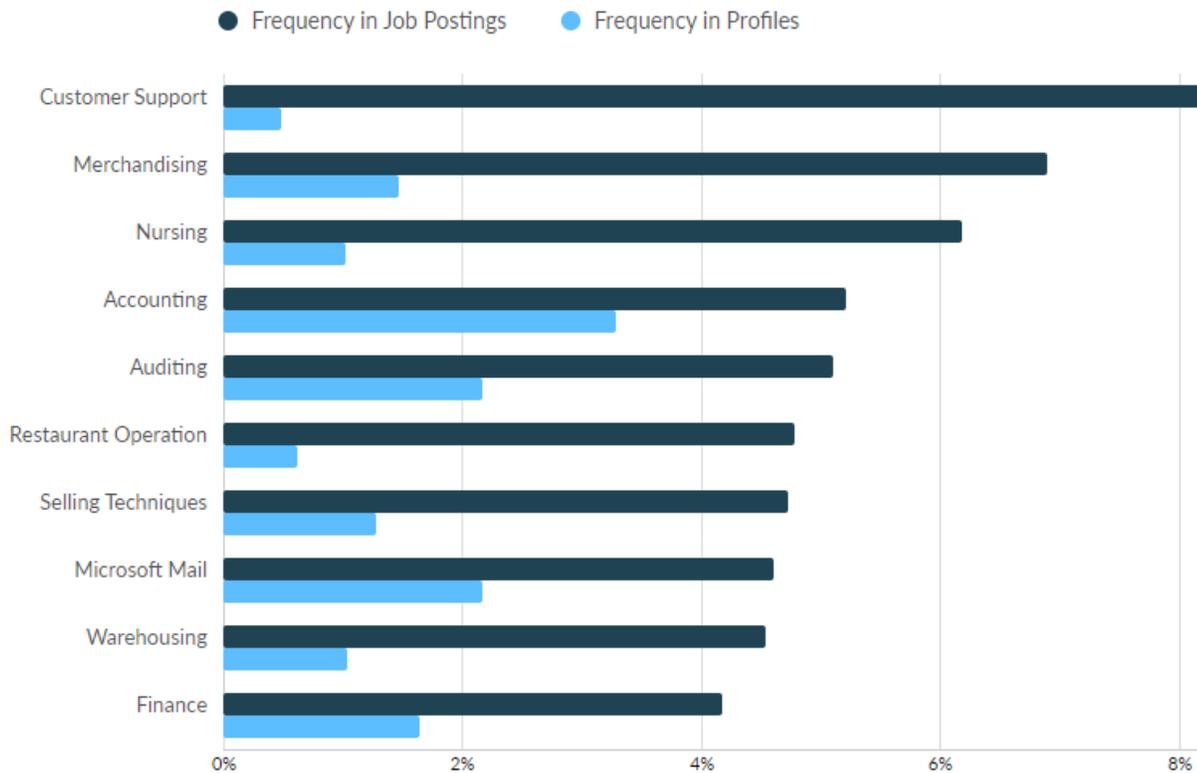
### Do you have a large layoff approaching?

Bill Hancock at Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development can coordinate help!

Bill.hancock@okcommerce.gov

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## Top Hard Skills in February Job Postings



Source: EMSI – economicmodeling.com-2021.1

**WOULD YOUR ORGANIZATION ANSWER YES TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS?**



**Are you having difficulty attracting and retaining talent?**



**Are you having difficulty developing existing talent?**



**Are you challenged by a workforce nearing retirement?**



**Are you challenged by workforce skill gaps?**



**If you answered yes to any or all: Registered Apprenticeship may be the solution for your organization!**



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