

April Monthly Report and Observations

As Cyber Threats Grow, Nearly 600,000 Jobs Still Vacant

About one million people work in cybersecurity in the U.S., but there are nearly 600,000 unfilled positions, data from CyberSeek shows. Of those, 560,000 are in the private sector. In the last 12 months, job openings have increased 29 percent, more than double the rate of growth between 2018 and 2019, according to Gartner TalentNeuron, which tracks labor market trends.

[Governing.com](#)

WalMart Raises Pay for Truck Drivers

New York (CNN Business)Walmart is raising pay for long-haul truck drivers, a taxing job that is increasingly difficult for companies to fill.

Walmart (WMT), one of the few retail chains that runs its own trucking fleet, said it's raising the average starting salary for first-year drivers from around \$88,000 to a range of \$95,000 to \$110,000.

Walmart needs drivers to deliver goods to stores and e-commerce warehouses, as well as meet growing demand for customers' online orders. Walmart added more than 4,500 drivers last year, a record hiring spree for the company, which employs around 12,000 truck drivers.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/07/business/walmart-truck-driver-pay/index.html>

Average Hourly Wage (12-month average) Private Sector in March, the private sector average hourly wage grew to \$25.73, up from \$25.60 the prior month and \$24.86 a year ago.

March Labor Force/Unemployment Statistics

Region	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Labor Force Participation Rate
Oklahoma	2.7%	1,862,120	1,812,716	49,404	60.4%
United State	3.6%	164,409,000	158,458,000	5,952,000	62.2%

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

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 40 YEARS, US DOL PROPOSES RULEMAKING FOR DAVIS-BACON ACT

The U.S. Department of Labor announced the publication of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking as it considers updating the regulations that implement the Davis-Bacon Act and Davis-Bacon and Related Acts to reflect better the needs of workers in the construction industry and planned federal construction investments. The proposed rulemaking by the department's Wage and Hour Division represents the most comprehensive review of the Davis-Bacon Act regulations in 40 years. The proposal seeks to speed up prevailing wage updates, creating several efficiencies in the current system and ensuring prevailing wage rates keep up with actual wages. Over time, this would mean higher wages for workers.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20220311>

Health Care Construction and Expansion in OKC

Integrus Health has broken ground on a \$200 million heart and intensive care expansion at Integrus Baptist Medical Center that will be completed in 2024.

Mercy Hospital has a \$98 million Love Family Women's Center addition that will be completed in the fall of 2023.

[Health Care Construction](#)

JC Penney (Simon Property Group) has made an offer for Kohl's. If the purchase goes through as expected, I would expect that large changes would affect neighboring states, Texas and Kansas, but should not greatly affect Oklahoma. Neither company has distribution, fulfillment, or back offices in Oklahoma.

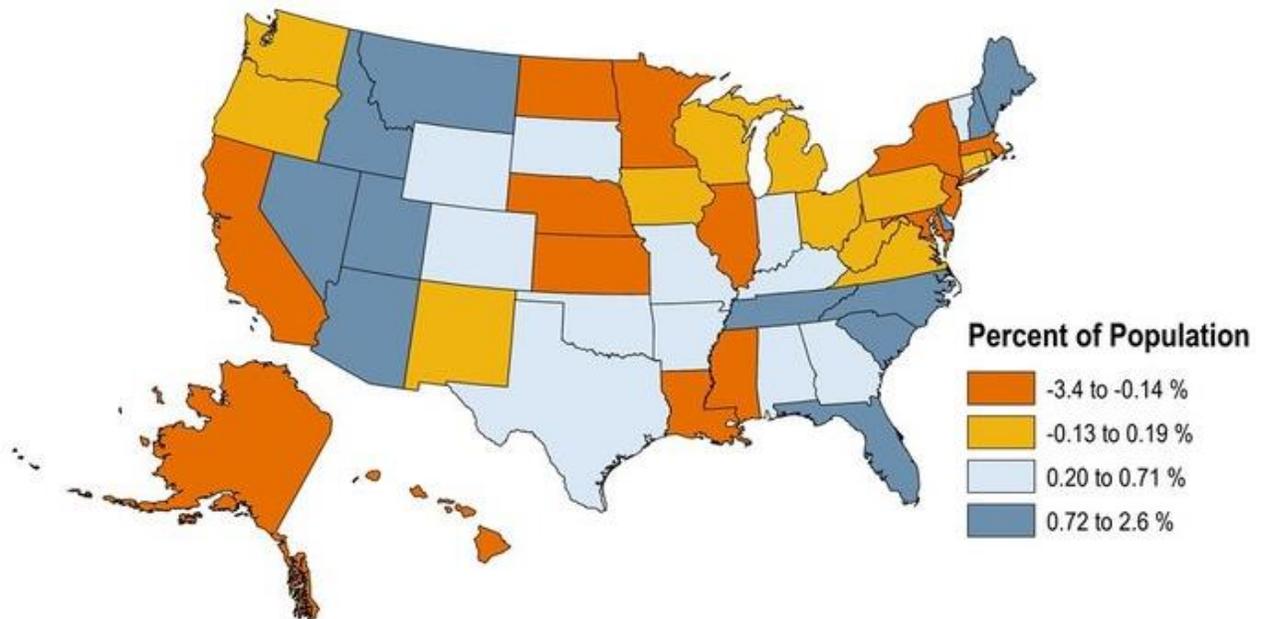
Oklahoma's Population during COVID-19: Early Deaths, New Residents and an End of the Brain Drain.

The major components of Oklahoma's 2020-21 population growth reveal two standout trends. For the first time in its history, more people died in Oklahoma than were born, a pandemic reality seen in many other states. Second, more people moved into Oklahoma from other states than any time in recent decades, reversing a recent trend of outmigration—especially of college graduates—and more than offsetting the state's decline in natural population growth.

Based on CCP/Equifax data, during the pandemic calendar years of 2020 and 2021, Oklahoma gained more residents than it lost from 33 states (Map 3). In particular, people from California and Texas moved into Oklahoma at historic rates during 2020 and 2021: Oklahoma netted nearly 8,500 Californians and 7,300 Texans. By comparison, Oklahoma netted 1,500 and 1,100 new residents from Colorado and Arizona, respectively. Additionally, the increase in net domestic migration to Oklahoma intensified in the second half of 2021, a period not covered by the 2021 Census data.

https://www.kansascityfed.org/oklahomacity/oklahoma-economist/oklahomas-population-during-covid-19-early-deaths-new-residents-and-an-end-of-the-brain-drain/?fbclid=IwAR2uxzX-At_7MKuR-PkoPHc9KiZbsdsSizlgupOT1fAs8wT3Kp4mA4bQKw0

Map 2: Change in Net Domestic Migration, 2020-2021



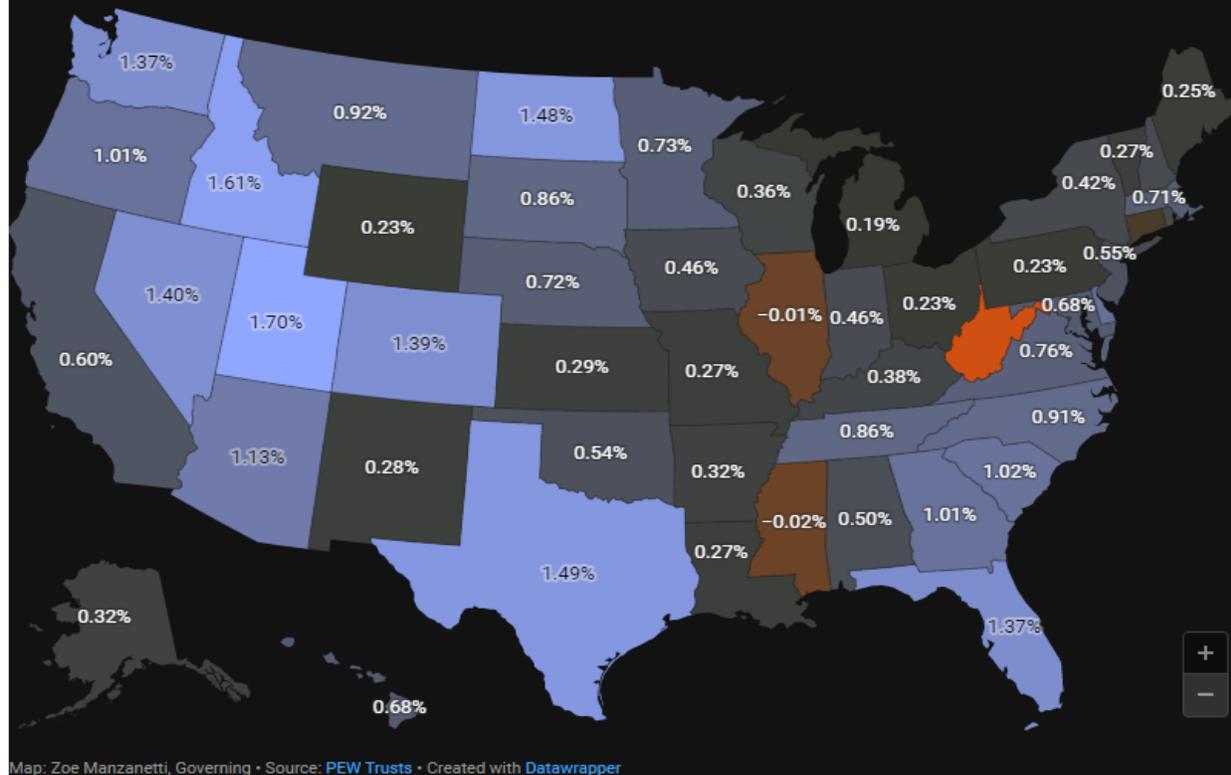
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

State Population Growth Varied Widely Over Past Decade

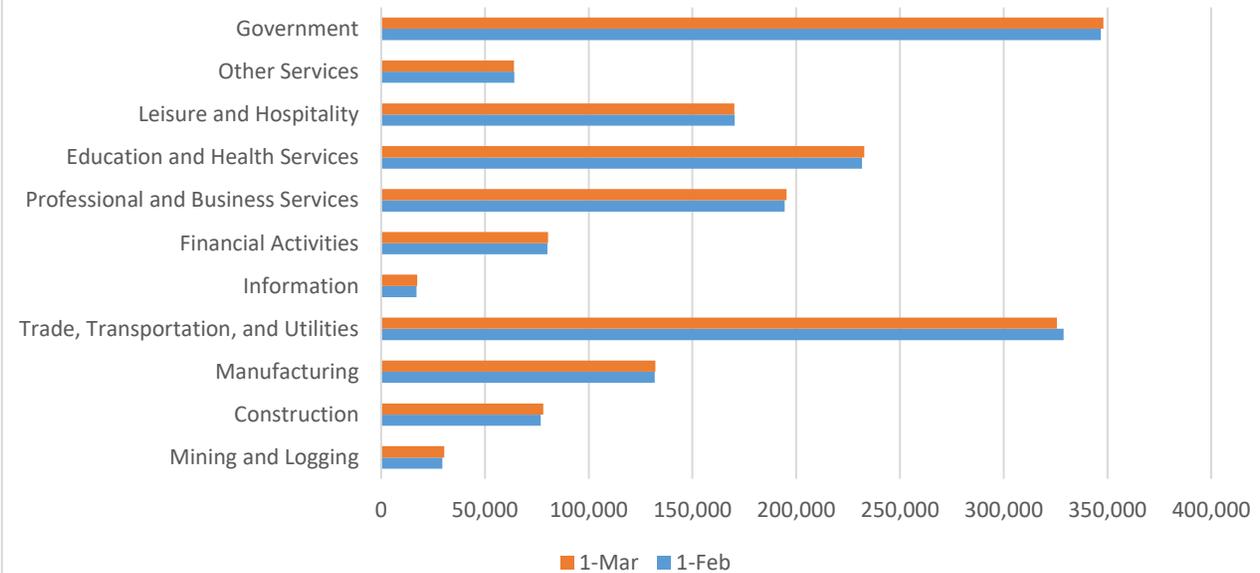
Population growth rate, 2010 - 2020

50-State Median: 0.55%

-0.32% 1.7%



Statewide Employment in Sectors



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

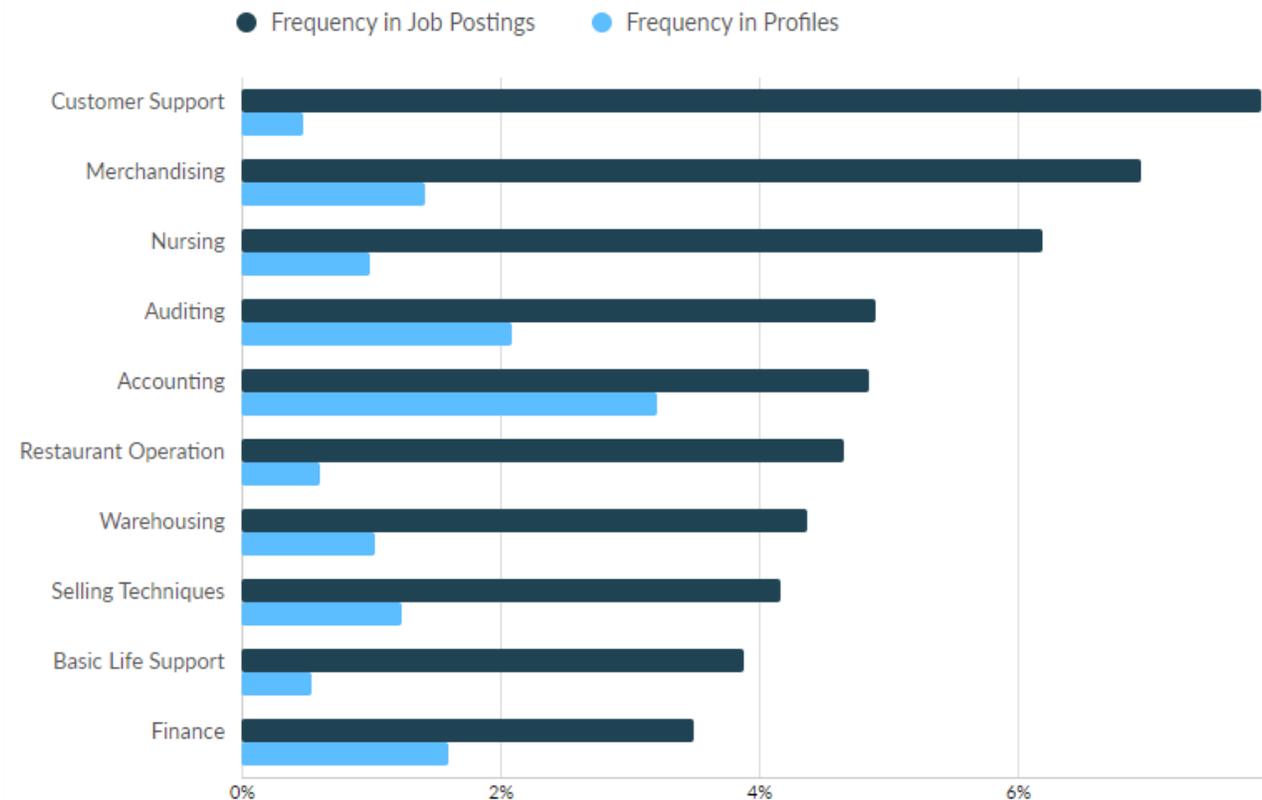
Put your kids to work: An Oklahoma City summer camp focusing on construction opening soon

Space is available for the five-day day camp, which will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 23-27 at the Engineering Technology Center at Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City. Lunch and snacks provided. The deadline to enroll is May 5.

<https://www.oklahoman.com/story/business/2022/04/26/okc-summer-camp-draw-kids-construction-jobs-osu-okc/7443484001/>

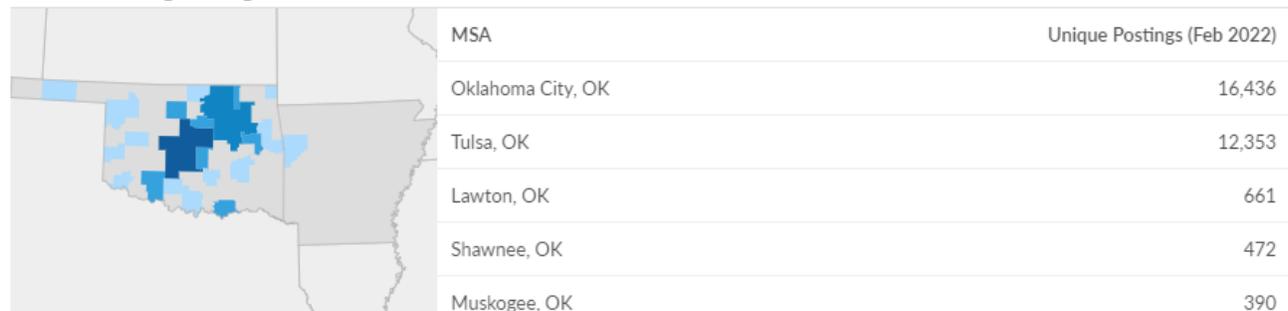
<https://www.constructmyfutureok.org/>

Top Specialized Skills in Job Posting



Source: EMSI – economicmodeling.com-2021.1

Job Postings Regional Breakdown



Source: EMSI – economicmodeling.com-2021.1

