

FAR EASTERN OKLAHOMA 2009 LABOR FORCE

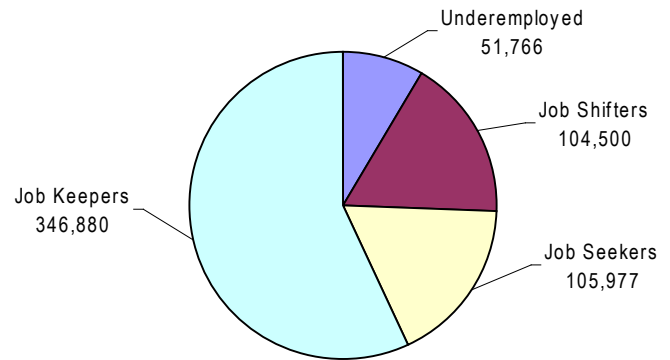
August 2009

An Analysis Conducted Among Adult Residents Living in Adair, Cherokee, Creek, Haskell, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, and Wagoner Counties

Availability of Labor

This study has identified 138,204 workers who are currently available for *other* work. The categories of Job Shifters and the Underemployed (described in the full study) are included in this estimate. Some workers are both Job Shifters and Underemployed, so the total number of workers in both categories is somewhat less than their sum. Additionally, there are those adults who are not working but want to work (Job Seekers), and those workers who are not underemployed and have not looked for work in the past three months (Job Keepers), which can be included in the pool of potential workers. These two groups total another 452,857 potential workers for a grand total of approximately 591,061 adults who are either in the labor force or want to be in it.

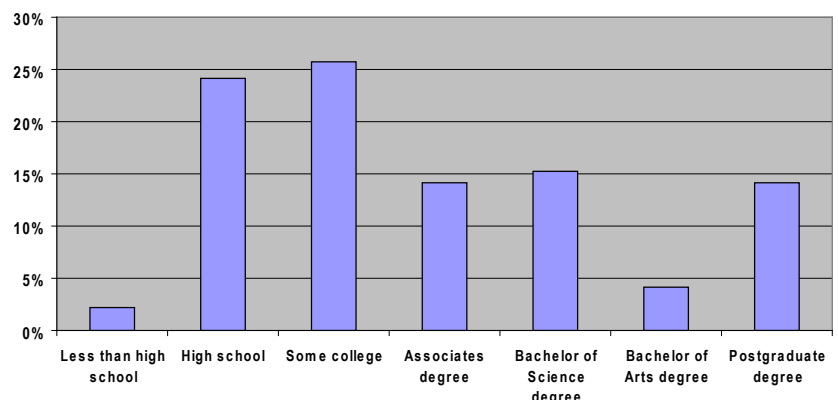
**Figure 2: Availability of Labor
(Number of Persons)**



Education

The percentage of workers in the Far Eastern Oklahoma area with at least a Bachelor's degree is about one-third (33.7%) of the current work force (Table 2) and an additional 39.9% have some college or an associate degree. Thus, nearly three-fourths (73.6%) of workers have had at least some college.

**Figure 3: Highest Level of Education Among Working Adults
in the Far Eastern Oklahoma Labor Force Area**



**Table 2: Highest Level of Education Among
Working Adults
in the Far Eastern Oklahoma Labor Force Area**

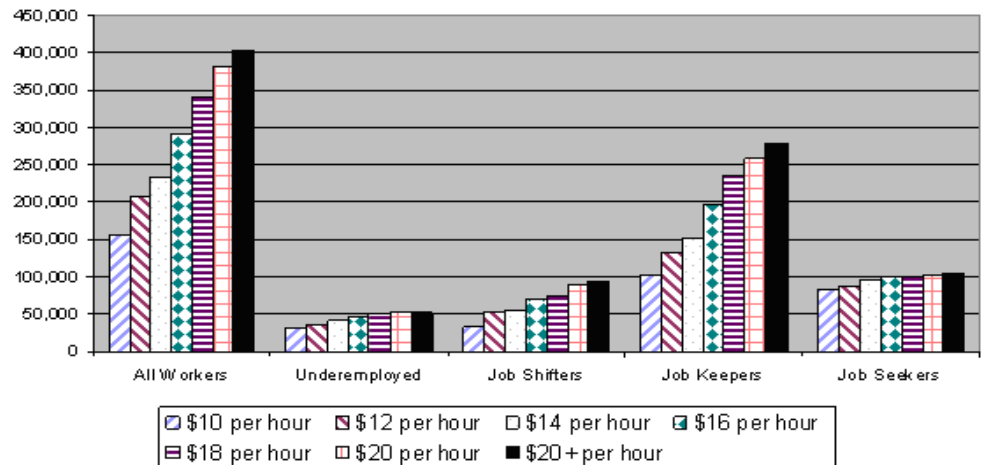
Level of Education	Percent Adult Workers
Less than high school	2.2
High school	24.2
Some college	25.7
Associates degree	14.2
Bachelor of Science degree	15.3
Bachelor of Arts degree	4.2
Postgraduate degree	14.2
Bachelors degree or higher	33.7

Wage Rates

As the wage rate increases, so does the number of people who are willing to work at that rate. Figure 6 reflects how many people in each of the *worker* categories are willing to take a position that includes a standard package of benefits at various pay levels. Although Job Keepers by definition are those workers who are not interested in changing jobs,

about 80.3% (or roughly 278,501 Job Keepers) find a job making more than \$20 per hour plus benefits to be either “attractive” or “very attractive.” Not surprisingly, the percentage is even higher among Job Shifters—88.6% thought such a job was attractive—as did 100% of the Underemployed.

Figure 6: Number of Persons Willing to Work by Attractiveness of Wage Rate

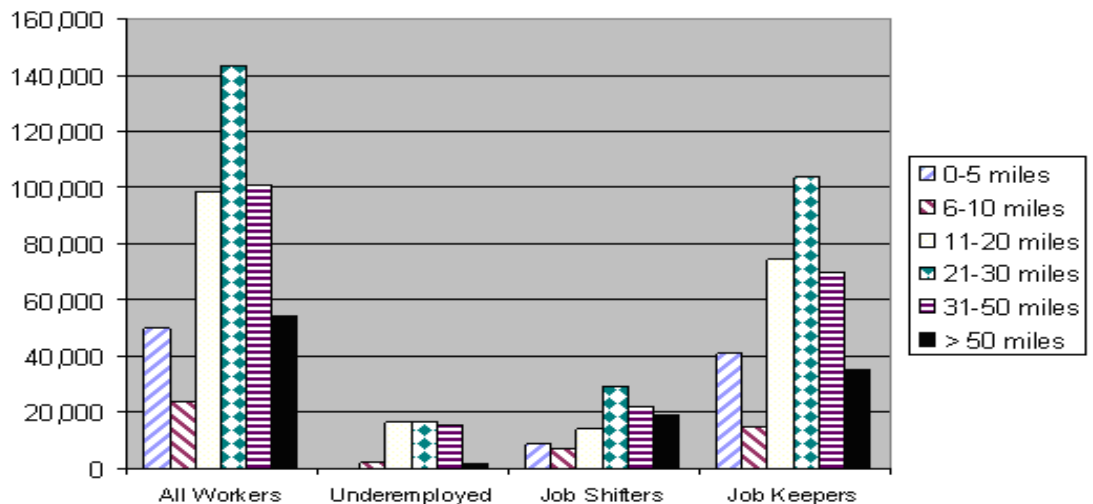


Commuting Patterns

What is interesting about the commuting patterns of workers in the far eastern Oklahoma labor force is that while a majority of workers (51.1%) currently commute 10 miles or less to work, nearly two-thirds (61.8%) indicated a willingness to commute 21 miles or more to work. It is also notable that 16.2% of Job Keepers

said they would not commute more than 10 miles to work compared to only 4.3% of the Underemployed and 14.5% of Job Shifters. Further, Job Shifters (67.1%) were the most likely to indicate a willingness to commute more than 20 miles to work compared to 64.4% of the Underemployed and 60.0% of Job Keepers. These results are presented in Figure 10 above.

Figure 10: Distance Willing to Commute by Number of People



Conclusions

- 138,204 residents of the far eastern Oklahoma labor force are either Underemployed or Job Shifters—or both—and are readily available for work.
- The United States Department of Labor designates a person as being unemployed if they are not currently working, but have been actively seeking work. According to this definition, 8.1%, (or about 67,332 people) in the far eastern Oklahoma labor force area are currently unemployed.
- About one-third (33.7%) of the current work force holds at least a Bachelor’s degree and an additional 39.9% have some college or hold an associate degree. Thus, nearly three-fourths (73.6%) of workers have had at least some college.
- About 154,814 workers expressed a willingness to work for at least \$10 per hour, which is nearly one-third (32.0%) of all workers in the study area. A total of 403,520 workers (or about 83.4%) thought a job making more than \$20 per hour was either “attractive” or “very attractive.”
- A total of 188,196 workers (about 38.9%) are willing to change jobs for a pay raise of 15% or less.
- Nearly two-thirds (61.8%) of workers—or about 298,985—indicated a willingness to commute 21 miles or more to work.

*To view the full study or for more information, visit
www.okcommerce.gov/laborstudies or contact Terry Watson at
1.800.879.6552.*