U.S. and Oklahoma Economic Outlook

Sooner Rotary Club
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*The views expressed herein are those of the presenter only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City or the Federal Reserve System.
5 primary responsibility areas:
- Monetary policy
- Financial system stability
- Bank supervision & regulation
- Payment system safety & efficiency
- Consumer protection & community development

3 primary entities:
- Board of Governors: 7 members appointed by U.S. President
- Federal Reserve Banks: 12 total; semi-independent
- Federal Open Market Committee: 19 members; 12 voting
The Oklahoma City Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

www.kansascityfed.org/oklahomacity

- **Functions and purposes ~ 50 staff**
  - Research on U.S. and Oklahoma economies; energy sector and business survey focus
  - Examinations of Oklahoma financial institutions (~45 banks, ~175 holding cos.)
  - Risk analysis and IT development for bank exams; exam assistance for other Fed offices
  - Community development and economic education programming for low/moderate income groups and students

- **2024 OKC Branch Board of Directors**
  - **Dana Weber (chair),** Chair & CEO, Webco Industries, Sand Springs
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  - **Brady Sidwell,** Principal, Sidwell Enterprises, Enid
Overview

• U.S. economic growth has slowed but remains solid in early 2024, and unemployment is near 50-year lows

• Inflation remains too high, despite coming down from 2022 peaks

• The Fed has raised the overnight interest rate to over 5%

• Oklahoma’s economy also continues to grow, and unemployment is low

• Oklahoma’s population growth has outpaced the nation in recent years, driven by strong domestic in-migration, including to rural areas
U.S. GDP growth slowed in Q1, and employment growth eased in April
U.S. unemployment remains historically low and is projected to remain low in coming years.

**U.S. Unemployment Rate**

Current (Apr. 2024): 3.9%

Note: Data and FOMC projections are for year-end.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, FOMC
Although inflation has come down from 2022 peaks and is expected to fall further, it remains above longer-run levels.

Note: Data and FOMC projections are for year-end.

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, FOMC
CPI inflation ticked down to 3.4% in April, as goods prices fell but energy and services prices rose and shelter remains elevated.

*Goods excluding Food; Services excluding Energy.

Note: Relative Importance as Share of CPI shown in parenthesis.

Sources: BLS/Haver Analytics
Wage growth is a key factor keeping services inflation high, and has come down moderately from recent highs.

Wage Growth

Note: Employment Cost Index data are interpolated between quarters.

Sources: BLS/Haver Analytics
The Fed held the federal funds rate steady again in May, after raising future projections somewhat in March.

Federal Funds Rate
Year-End Target

Current Target: 5.25% - 5.5%
FOMC Projections

Note: Data and FOMC projections are for year-end.

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, FOMC
The Fed also continues to reduce its balance sheet of high-quality securities, but diminished the planned pace in May.
Job openings still exceed unemployed workers, but have returned to near pre-pandemic levels

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Labor force participation still lags, mostly due to older workers, while immigration rebounded last year after several low years.

Source: BLS, Census Bureau/Haver Analytics
Jobs in Oklahoma have continued to grow in 2024, while unemployment remains very low.
Most OK sectors added jobs over the past year but the pace of job growth has slowed, driven by less energy, transportation, and professional services activity.
Oklahoma home sales and price growth have slowed over the past 2 years with higher rates, and supply has increased slightly from very low levels.
Oklahoma farm income grew and office vacancy rates fell in Q1 in contrast with neighboring states.

Sources: FRBKC Ag Credit Survey, Wall Street Journal/Haver Analytics
Oil and gas drilling has fallen in Oklahoma as oil prices remain high while natural gas prices have sunk this year.

Source: Baker Hughes, EIA/Haver Analytics, FRBKC Surveys
Oklahoma’s population grew again in 2023, primarily due to elevated domestic migration, but also with increases in other components.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Almost all the migration to OK was from the western U.S., especially CA and TX, and the state had “brain gain” for the first time in a decade.

Sources: FRBNY CCP/Equifax, ACS 1-year estimates/IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org, authors’ calculations.
Since 2020, many non-metropolitan areas of Oklahoma and nearby states experienced net inflows of new residents for the first time in two decades.
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