Recession and Recovery in the U.S. and Oklahoma



Megan Williams

Associate Economist, Oklahoma City Branch Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Purposes and Structure of the Federal Reserve System

Overall purposes of the Fed are to promote:

- Low and stable inflation
- Maximum sustainable employment
- National financial stability (in conjunction with others)

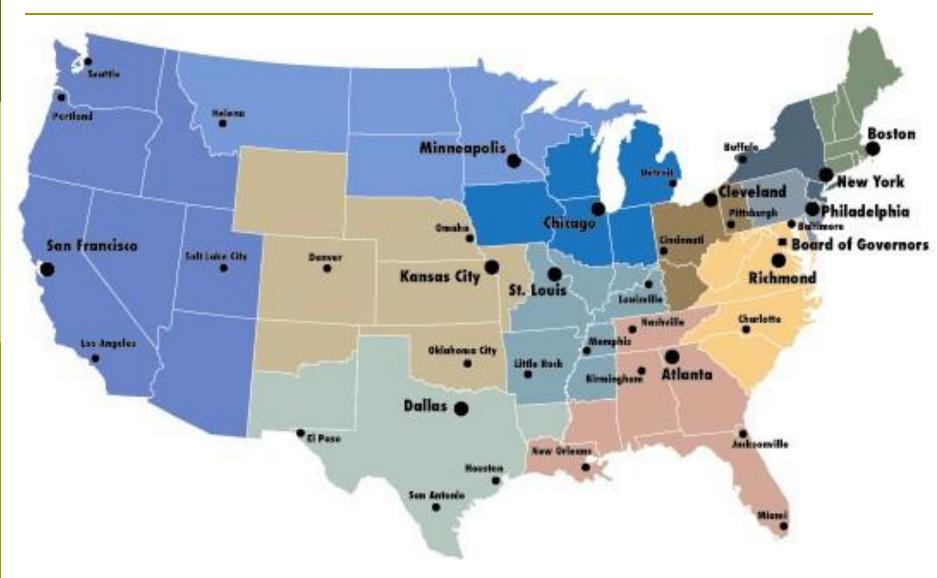
The primary functional areas of the Fed are:

- <u>Monetary policy</u> typically the most well-known role to the public
- <u>Bank regulation</u> of bank holding companies, state Fed member banks
- <u>Payments systems</u> cash; electronic; bank for federal government

The Federal Reserve System consists of:

- <u>Board of Governors</u>: 7 members who are appointed by the U.S. President and confirmed by the Senate to serve 14-year terms.
- Federal Reserve Banks: 12 Banks, each serving a unique district.
- <u>Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC)</u>: Consists of 12 voting members and 19 total members; sets national monetary policy

Federal Reserve Districts and Office Locations

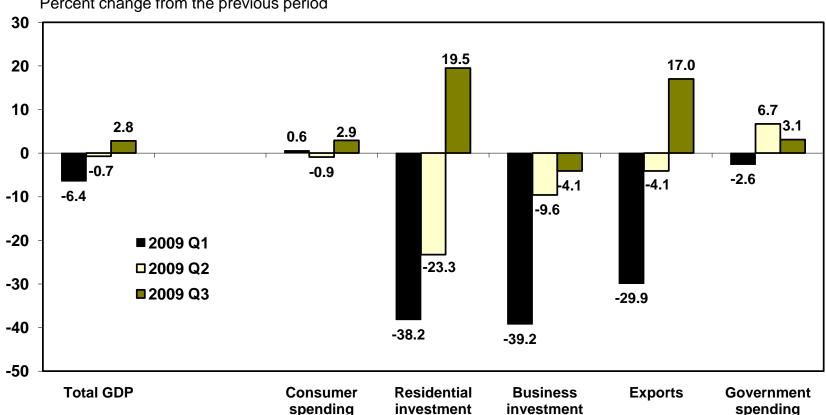


The U.S. Economy

- The U.S. economy is growing again, with help from monetary and fiscal stimulus
- But the strength of recovery is likely to be modest, due to a number of factors
- With modest growth, inflation is expected to remain tame in the near term

Third quarter GDP growth was quite positive, but was boosted by government stimulus

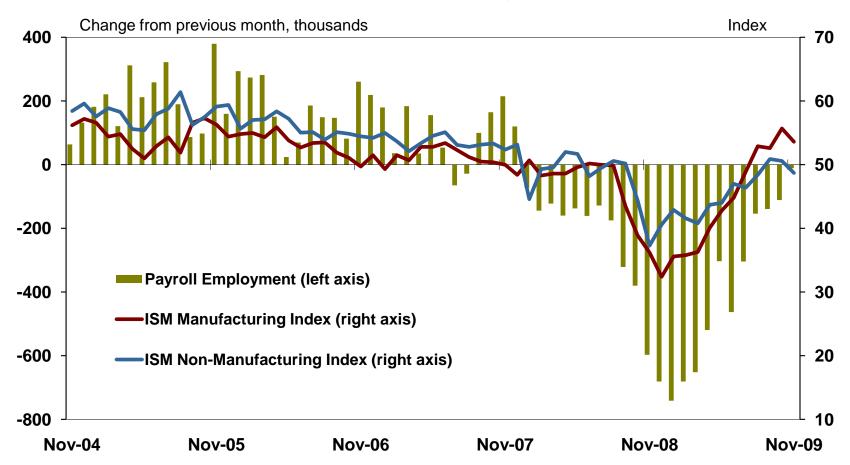
Growth in Components of GDP



Percent change from the previous period

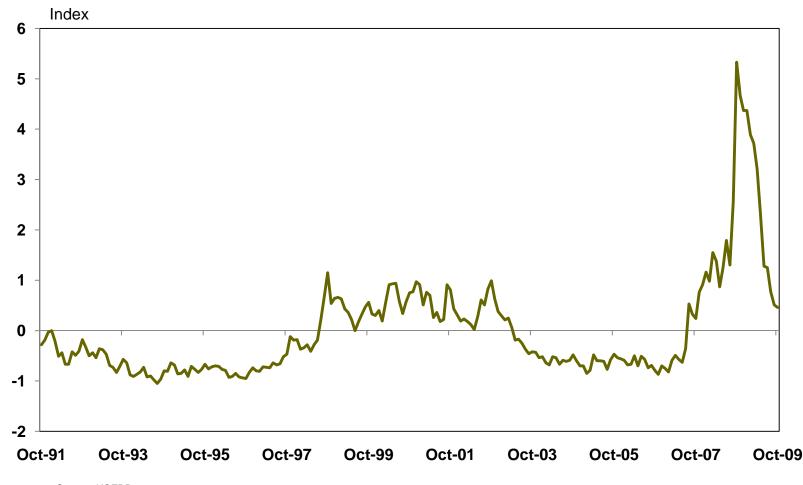
Early reads on the fourth quarter show moderate growth but continued job losses

National Business Indexes and Payroll Employment



Credit market conditions have improved but remain somewhat stressed

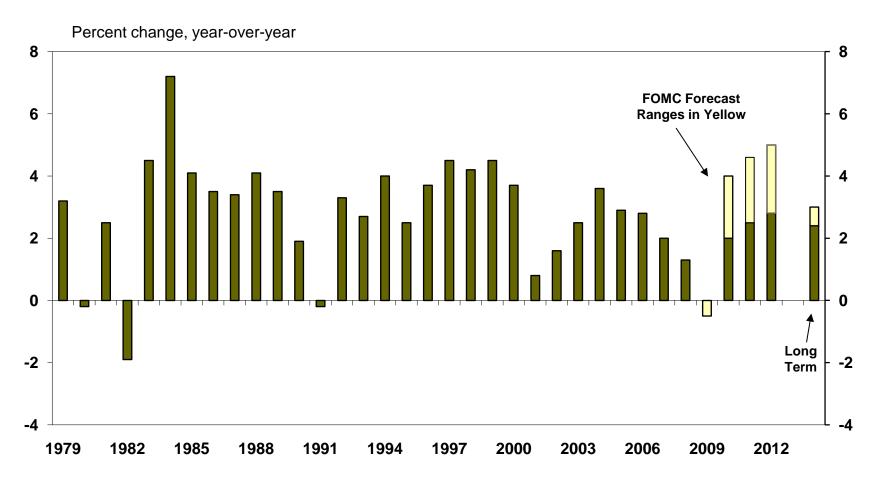
Kansas City Financial Stress Index



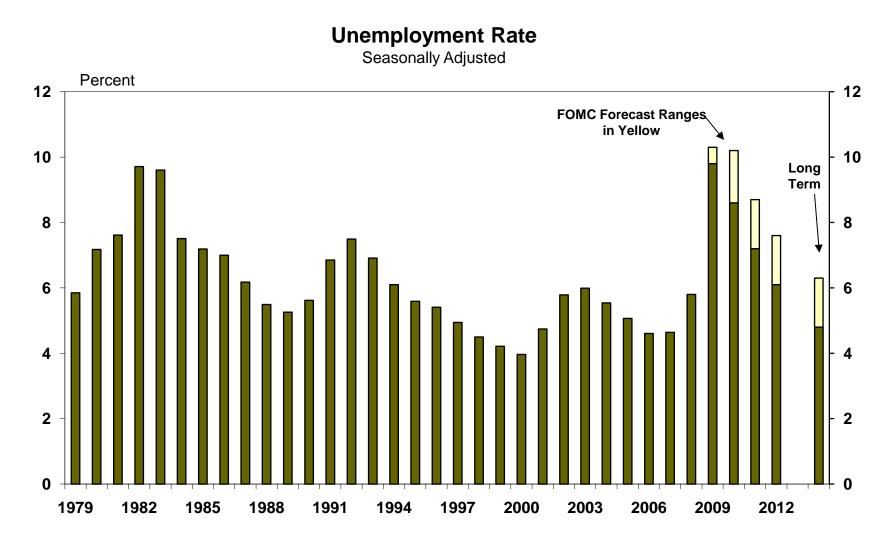
Source: KCFRB

Heading forward, policy makers generally expect a gradual recovery

Gross Domestic Product

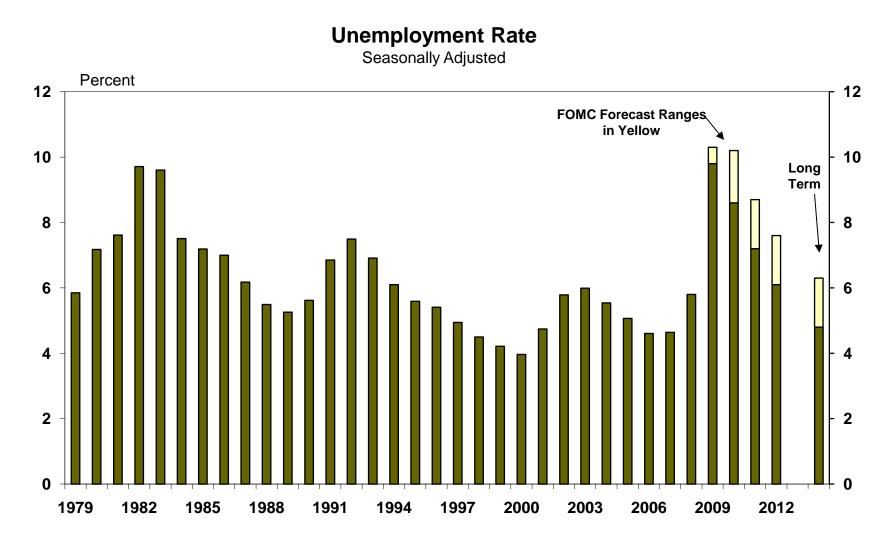


But unemployment is expected to remain high for some time



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, FOMC

But unemployment is expected to remain high for some time



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, FOMC

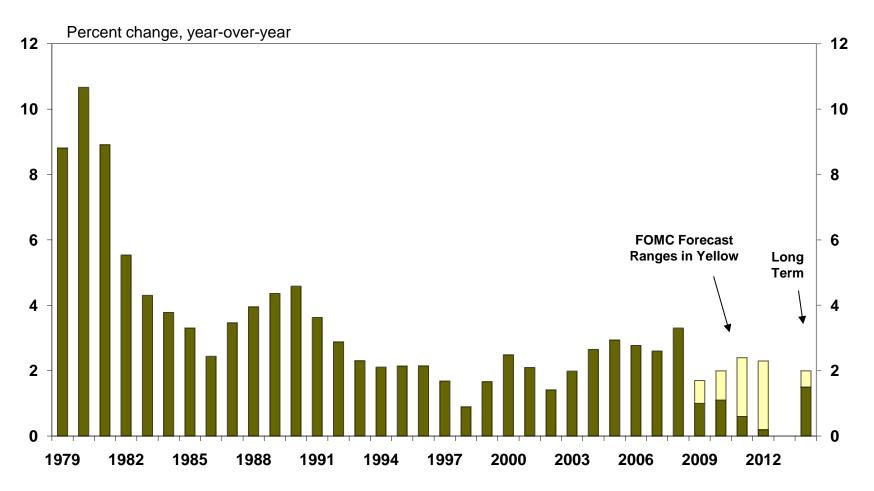
A list of reasons why U.S. recovery speed could be modest

D Some credit markets remain strained

- Consumers focus on repairing balance sheets and rebuilding wealth rather than spending
- Foreclosures and excess inventories continue to weigh on housing
- Problems in commercial real estate and general uncertainty restrain capital spending and hiring

With modest growth, inflation is expected to remain fairly moderate in coming years

PCE Inflation Index



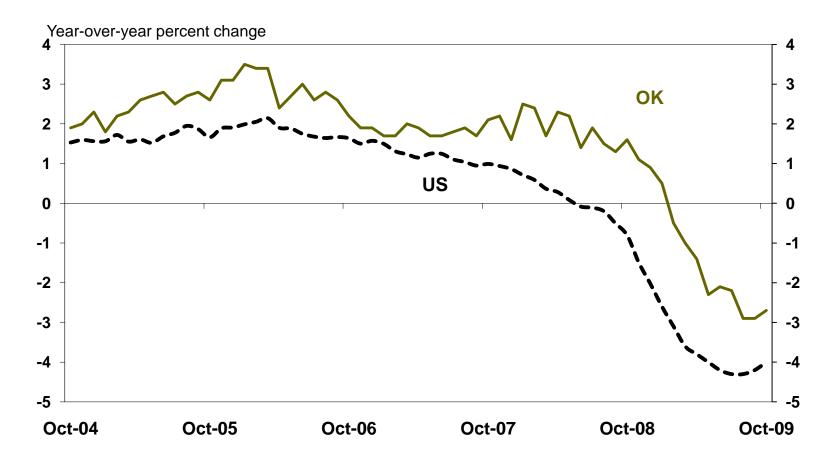
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, FOMC

The Oklahoma Economy

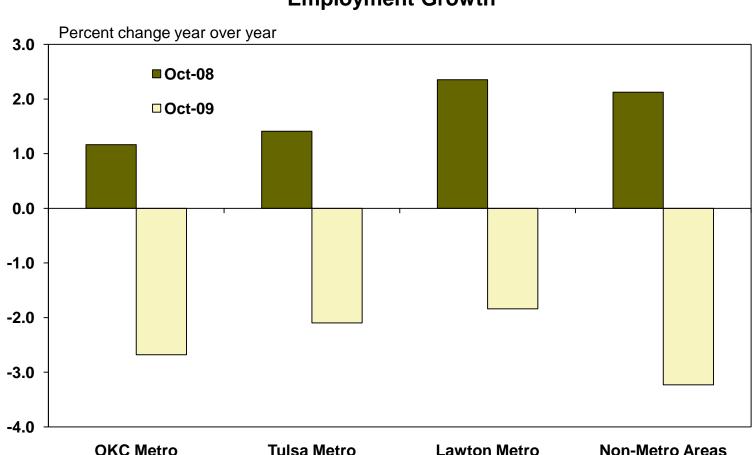
- As usual in recessions, Oklahoma entered this recession later than the nation
- Some mixed signs of stabilization have appeared, and fiscal stimulus is kicking in
- But several risks remain in the state, especially the future path of energy prices

Oklahoma has shed jobs rapidly in 2009 but perhaps a bottom has been reached

Nonfarm Payroll Employment Growth



The decline in jobs has been sharpest in non-metro areas of the state

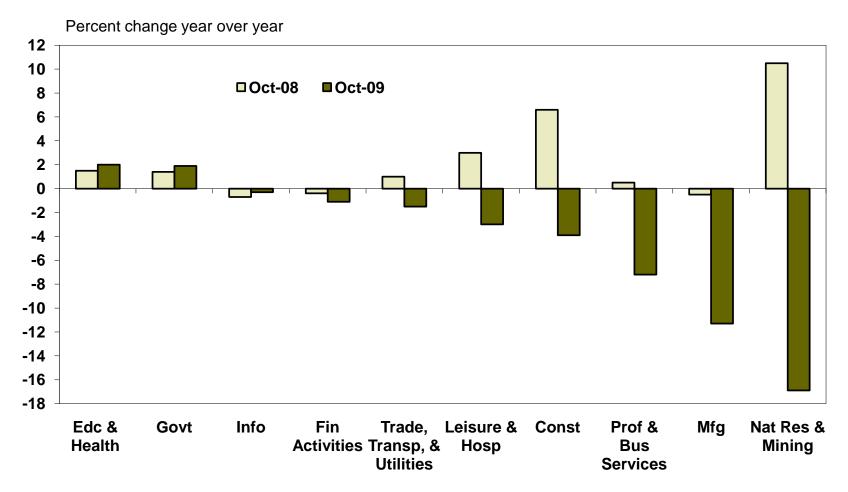


Employment Growth

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Jobs are down markedly from a year ago in many of the state's industries

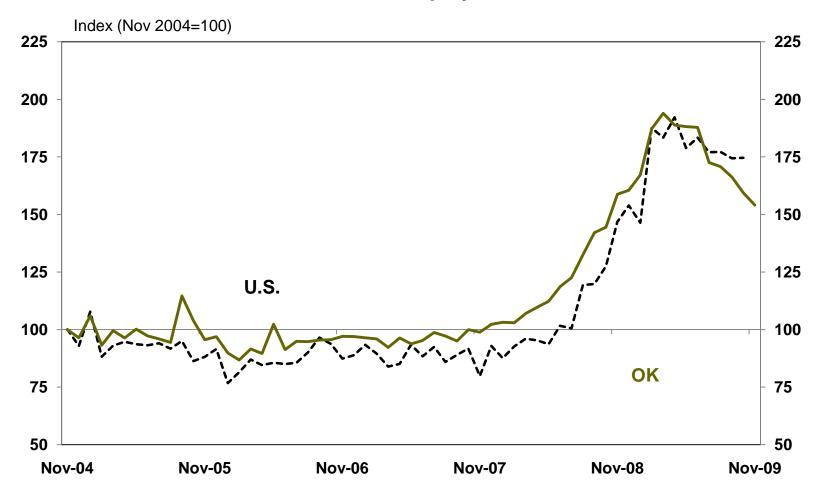
Oklahoma Employment Growth by Industry



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

New jobless claims are still high in Oklahoma, but have come down slightly in recent months

Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Labor market conditions remain much better than in the nation

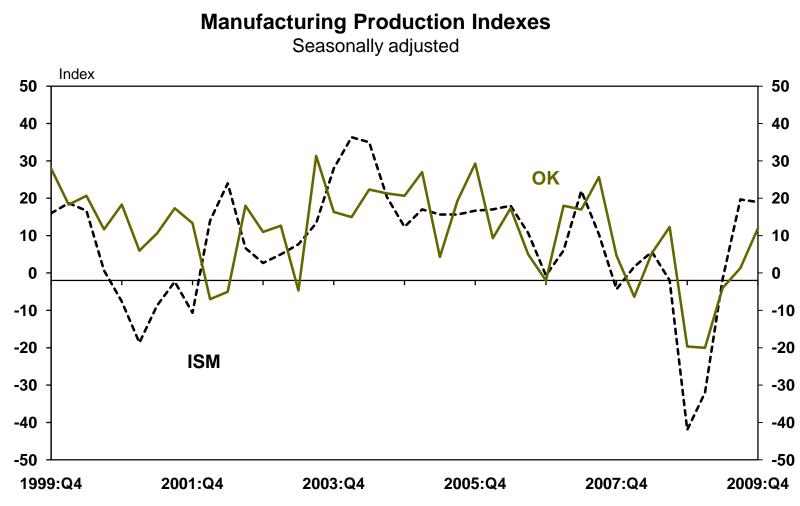


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Oklahoma home prices have held up relatively well and appear to have stabilized



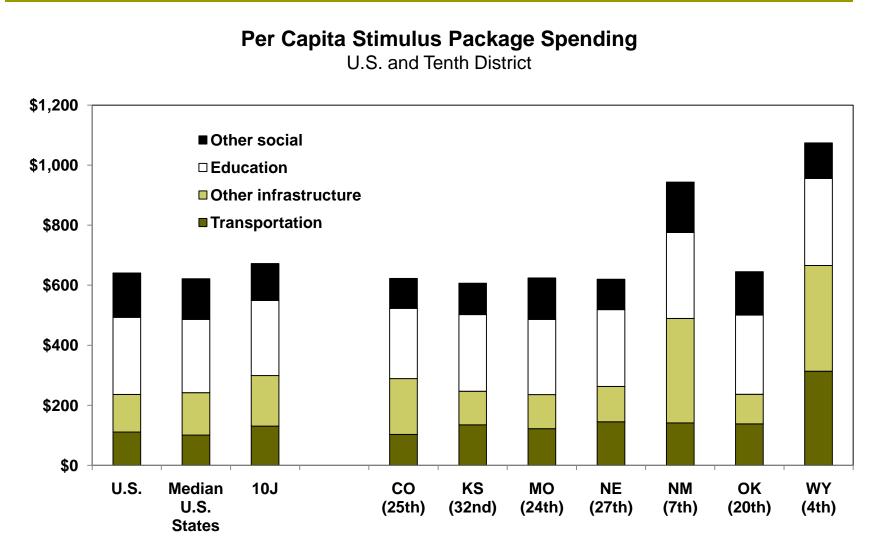
Manufacturing indexes for the state also show some improvement recently



Note - 4th Quarter is October & November

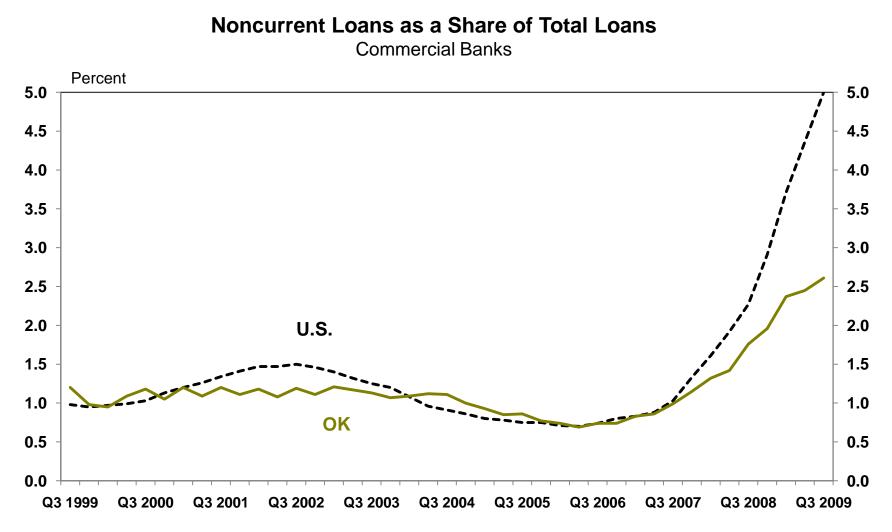
Source: ISM, FRBKC Manufacturing Survey

And Oklahoma is receiving about as much fiscal stimulus as the nation



Source: Wall Street Journal, July 1, 2009

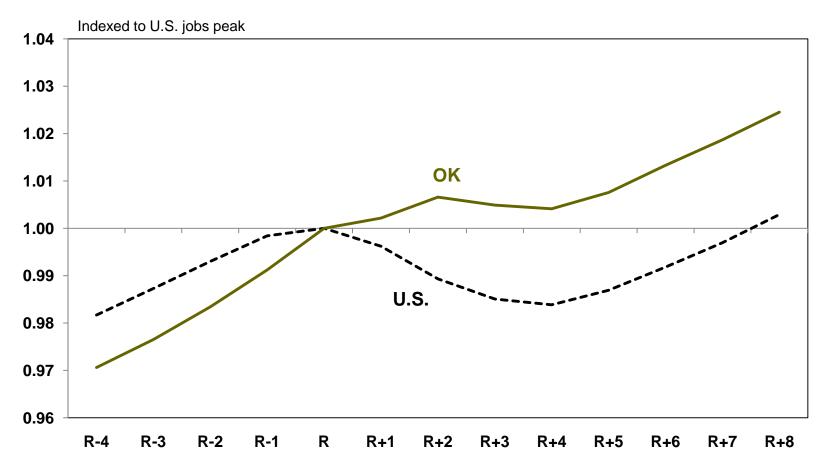
Past due loans are rising at Oklahoma banks, but less than in the nation



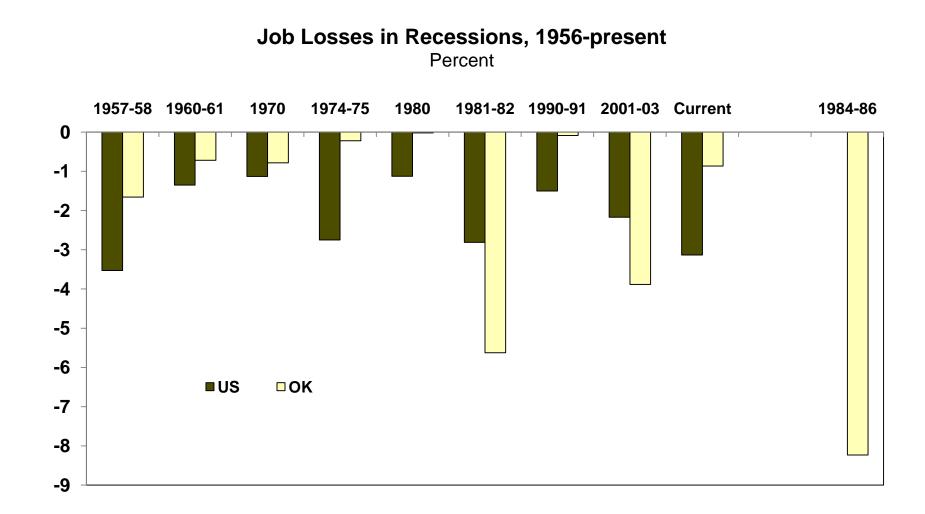
So far, Oklahoma's performance in this recession is consistent with history

Average Recession Path, 1956-2006

Employment level 4 quarters before and 8 quarters after U.S. jobs peak

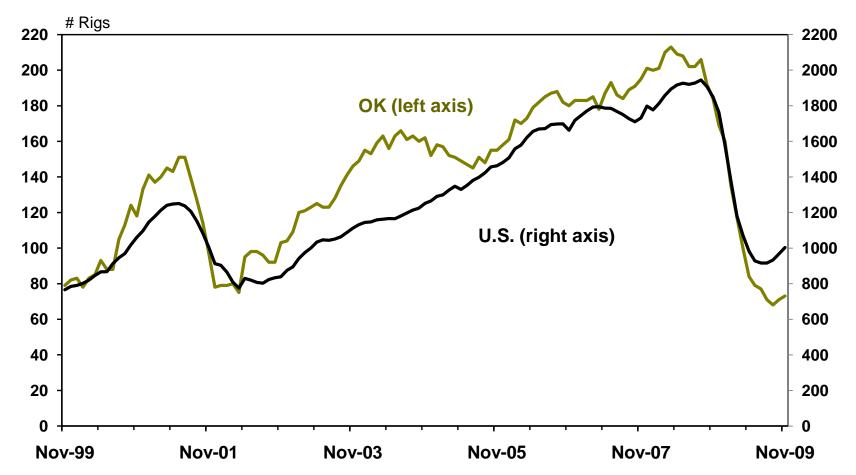


With their shorter duration, Oklahoma's job losses in U.S. recessions are usually smaller



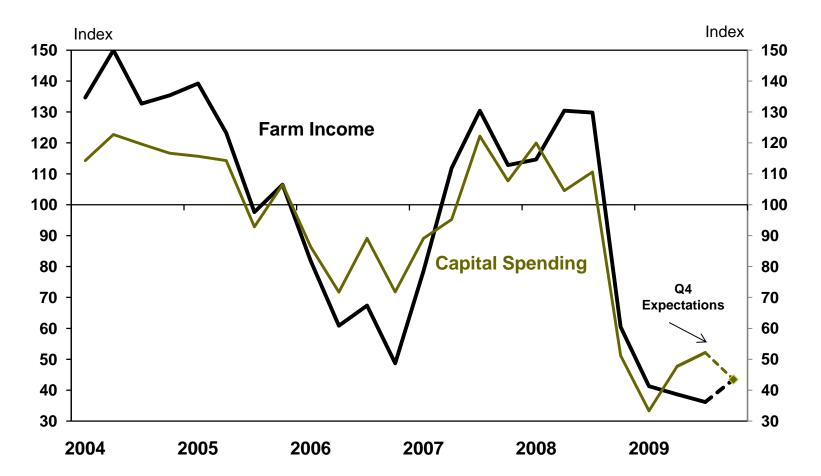
The rig count appears to have bottomed following a steep fall

Rig Count



Agricultural conditions in the state remain rather weak, but also may have bottomed

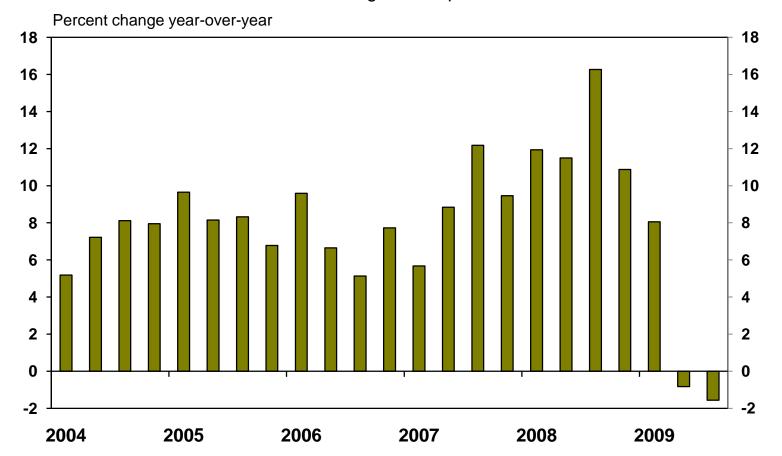
Oklahoma Agricultural Conditions



Farmland values in the state have flattened recently after rising rapidly in recent years

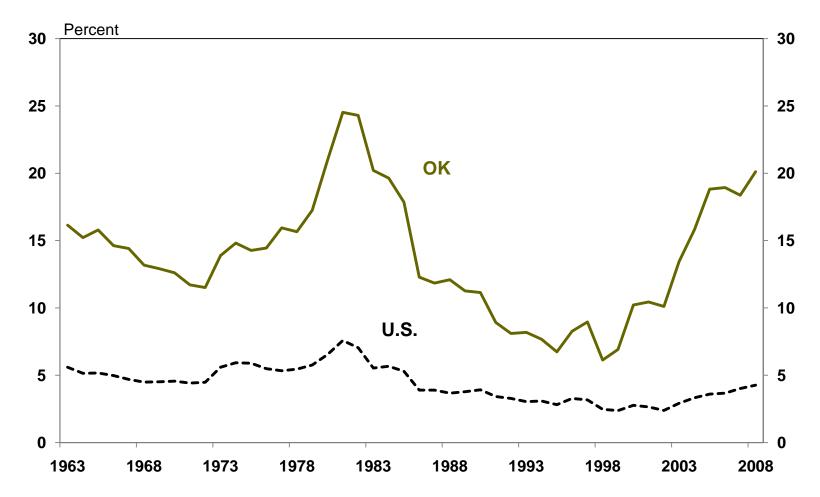


Non-Irrigated Cropland

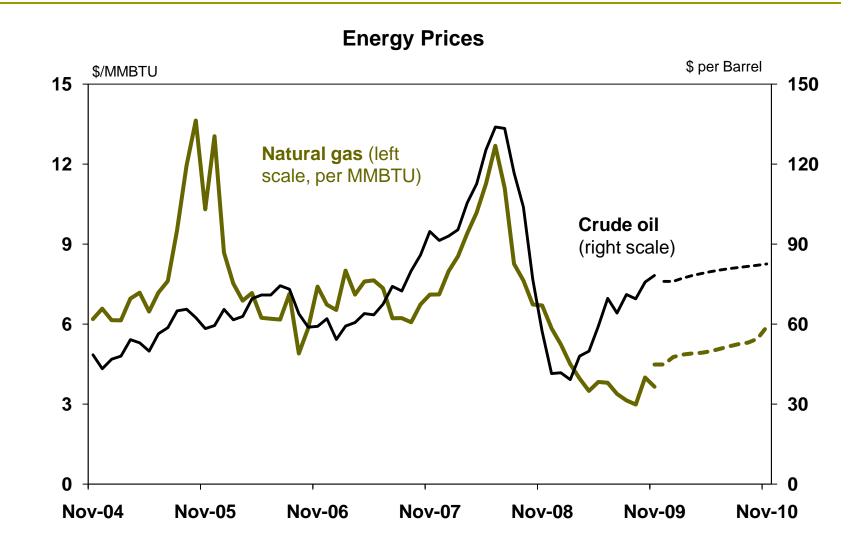


But in the past five years, Oklahoma's economy has become much less diversified

Energy and Agriculture's Share of GDP, 1963-2008



Energy prices remain the primary risk relative to the nation



Summary

The U.S. economy appears to have stabilized, but recovery is expected to be modest

Oklahoma also shows some stabilizing signs, and fiscal stimulus is kicking in

 Still, a number of risks to growth remain, especially the future path of energy prices