# The Economic Outlook for the U.S. and Oklahoma



#### **Chad Wilkerson**

Vice President, Economist, and Oklahoma City Branch Executive
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

www.kansascityfed.org



### Overview of the Federal Reserve System

- The "Fed" consists of three main entities:
  - Board of Governors: 7 members appointed by U.S. President
  - Federal Reserve Banks: 12 total; semi-independent by design
  - <u>Federal Open Market Committee</u>: 19 members; 12 voting
- As with most central banks, the Fed's primary responsibilities fall within four general areas:
  - <u>Lender of last resort</u> provide liquidity in times of crisis
  - Monetary policy promote full employment and low inflation
  - Bank regulation ensure safety and soundness of banks
  - <u>Financial services</u> bank for banks, bank for federal govt.



### Federal Reserve Districts and Office Locations





### The Oklahoma City Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

#### History, staff, and functions

- Branch office opened in 1920; currently have about 35 staff
- Functions include economic research, bank examinations, public outreach

#### 2011 branch board of directors

- Steve Agee (chairman), Interim Dean of OCU Business School, OKC
- Bill Anoatubby, Governor, Chickasaw Nation, Ada
- Jim Dunn, Chairman, Mill Creek Lumber and Supply Co., Tulsa
- Jacque Fiegel, Senior EVP and COO, Coppermark Bank, OKC
- Rose Washington Rentie, Executive Director, TEDC Creative Capital, Tulsa
- Doug Tippens, President and CEO, Bank of Commerce, Yukon
- K. Vasudevan, Chairman, Service and Technology Corp., Bartlesville



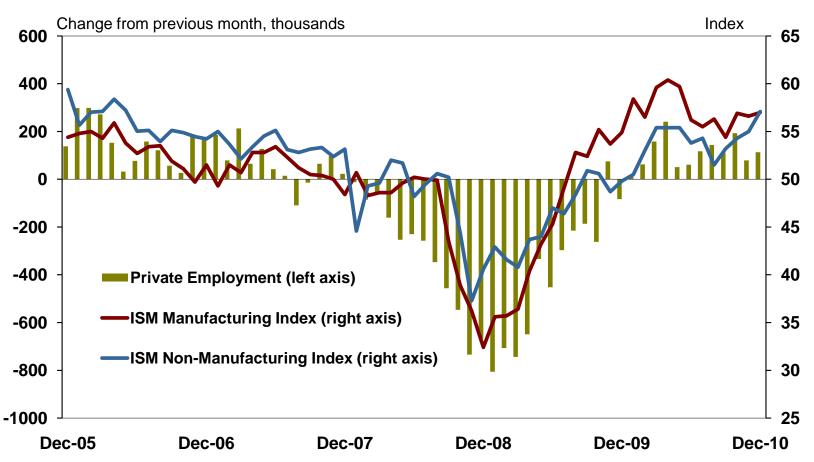
#### The U.S. Economic Outlook

- The pace of U.S. recovery has picked up recently but remains moderate
- Inflation remains low and is forecast to stay contained heading forward
- As always, there are several risks to the near- and long-term outlooks



## U.S. economic activity picked up in December, but job growth remains modest

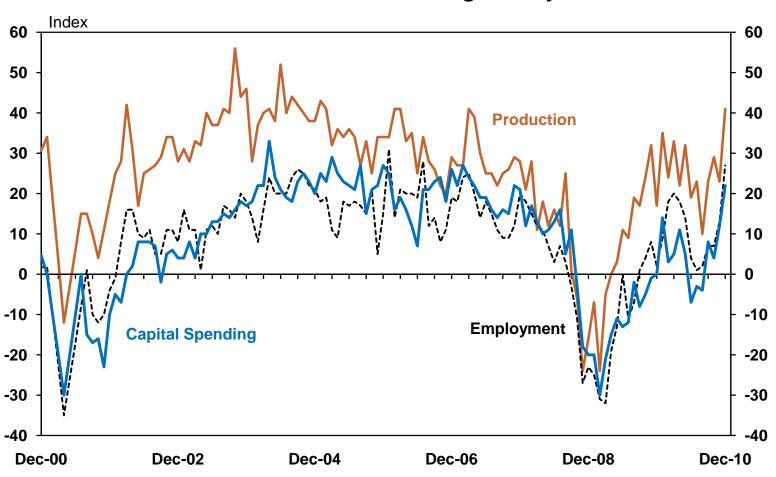
#### **U.S. Private Payroll Employment and Business Indexes**





## Our regional factory survey shows a recent increase in business expectations

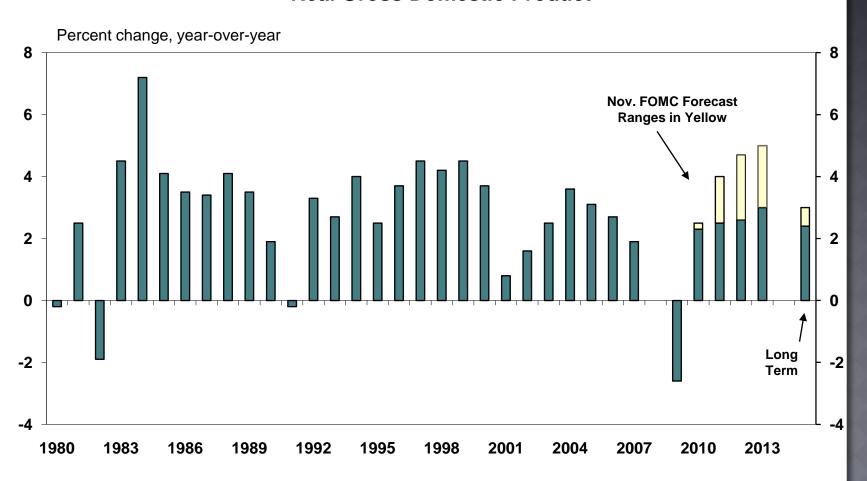
#### Six-month-ahead Expectations for Tenth District Manufacturing Activity





## Fed policymakers expect continued moderate U.S. GDP recovery

#### **Real Gross Domestic Product**

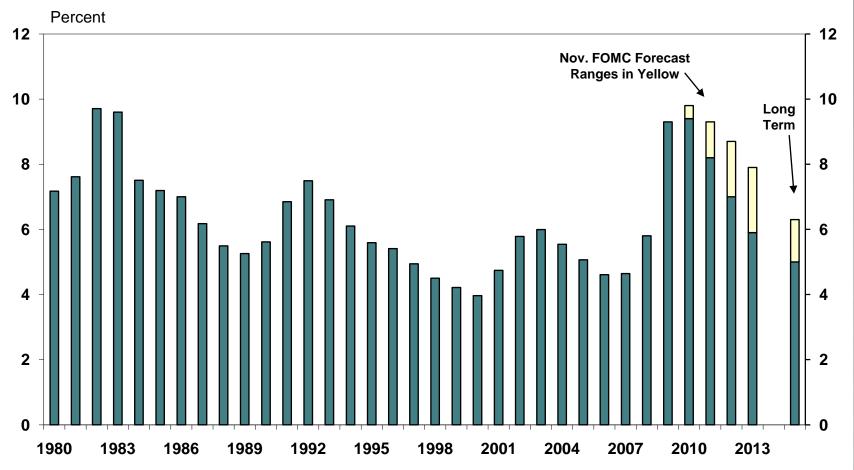




### But with U.S. unemployment remaining relatively high for some time

#### **Unemployment Rate**

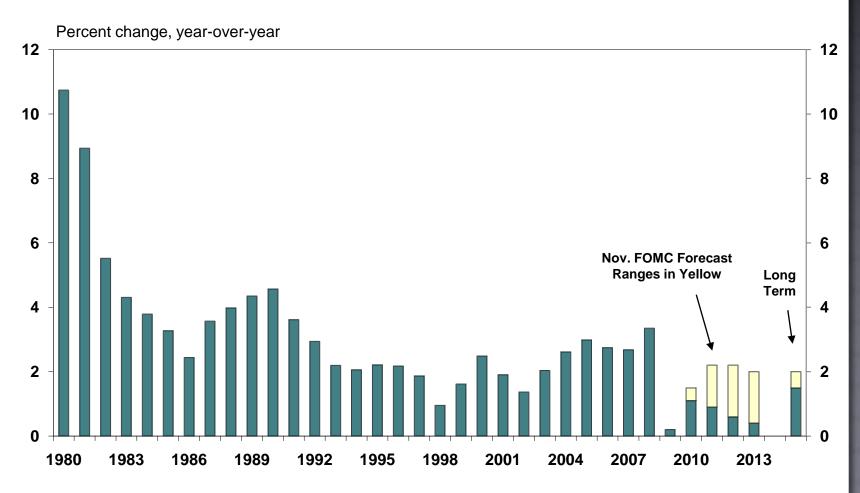
Seasonally Adjusted





## Inflation is expected to remain tame in the near term, but will require careful oversight

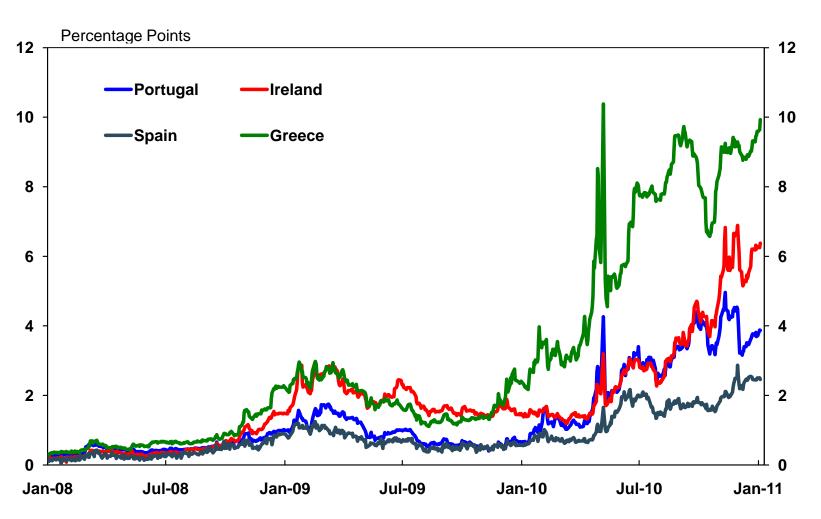
#### **PCE Inflation Index**





# Europe's sovereign debt problem has flared up again, presenting risks

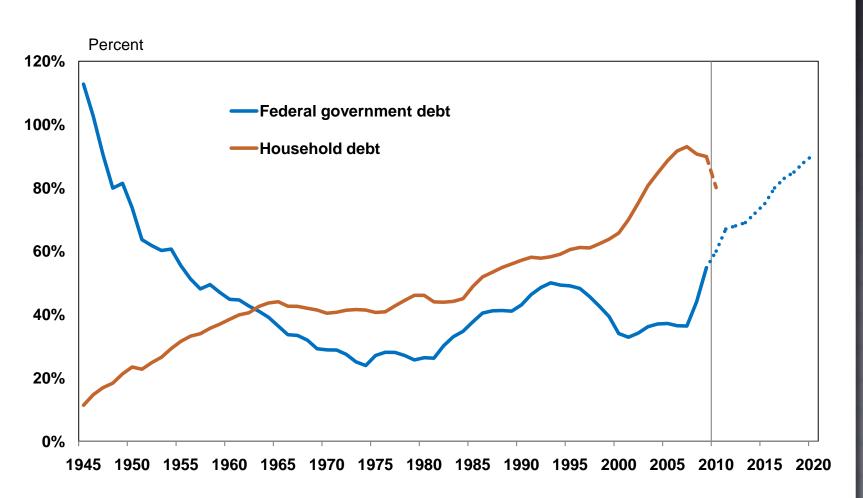
#### **Spreads to German Bunds (10-yr)**





### U.S. consumer debt could constrain growth and federal debt is a longer-term concern

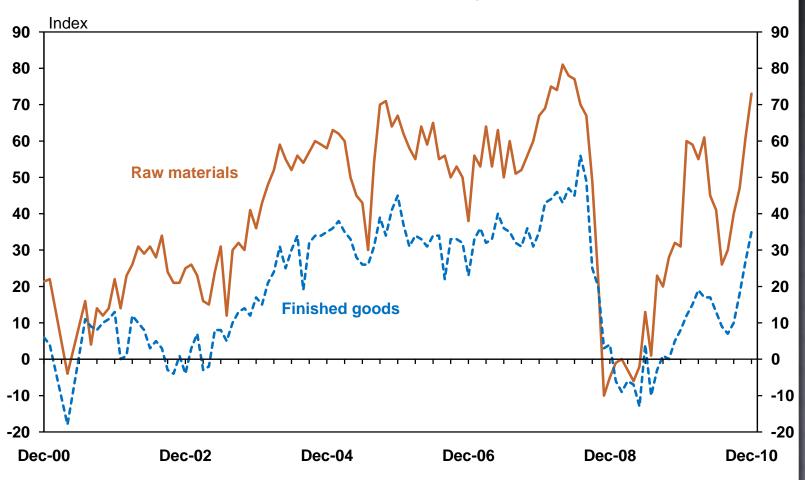
U.S. Debt as a Share of GDP





# Our regional survey shows a surge in the share of factories expecting higher prices

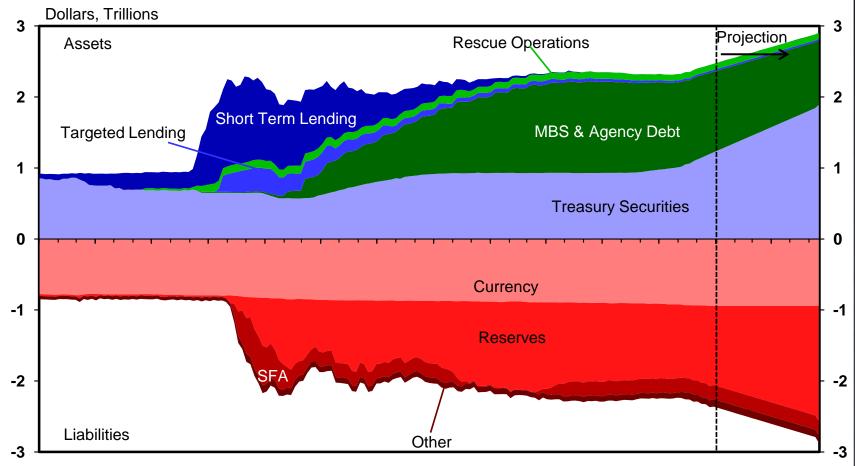
### **Six-month-ahead Expectations for Tenth District Manufacturing Prices**





### And the Fed's balance sheet is expanding further, following recent FOMC decisions

#### **Federal Reserve Balance Sheet**



Jan-08 Apr-08 Jul-08 Oct-08 Jan-09 Apr-09 Jul-09 Oct-09 Jan-10 Apr-10 Jul-10 Oct-10 Jan-11 Apr-11



#### The Oklahoma Economic Outlook

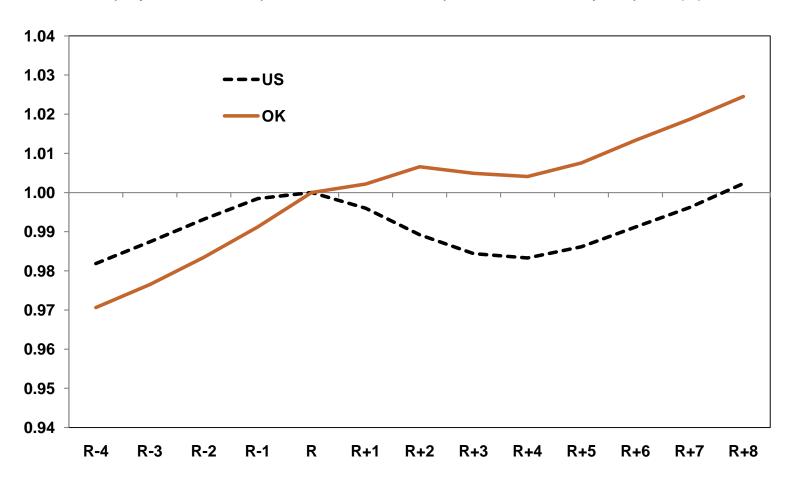
- Oklahoma's recession and early recovery are similar to the usual historical pattern
- ☐ The state is now outpacing the nation, led by oil and gas but also some other sectors
- Banking and real estate conditions remain much better than in the nation



### Oklahoma typically enters recessions late but exits around the same time as the nation

#### Average Recession and Recovery Path, 1956-2006

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

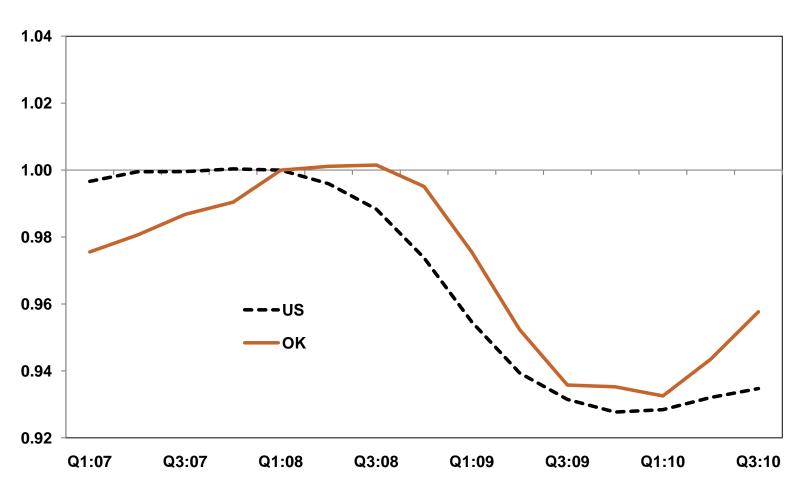




## The current episode, while worse, has largely followed the historical pattern

#### **Current Recession and Recovery Path**

Employment level 4 quarters before and 10 quarters after U.S. jobs peak

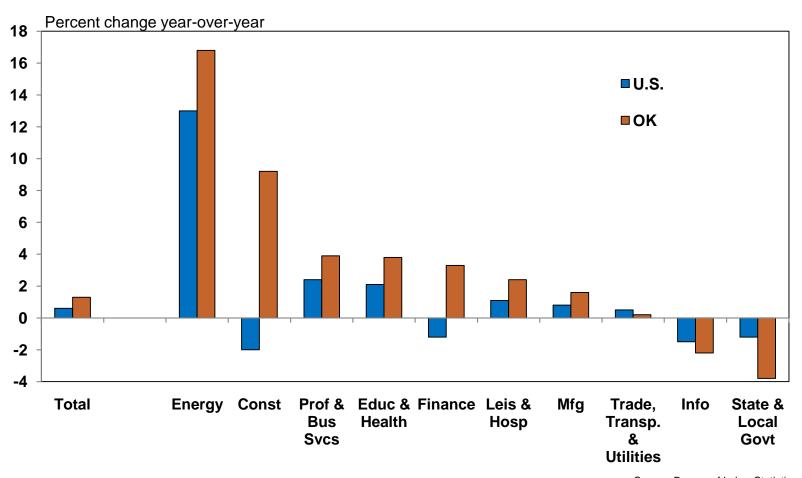




## Recent state job growth has been led by energy, but other sectors are growing

#### **Employment Growth**

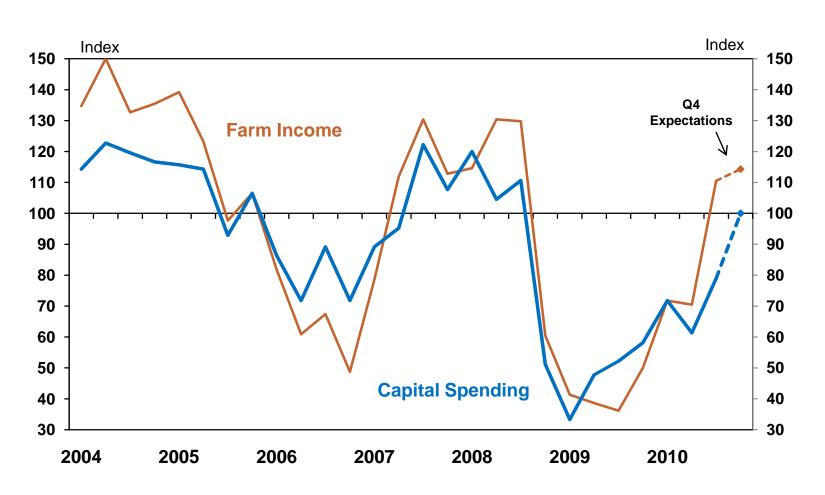
November 2010





### Agricultural conditions in the state have also improved after bottoming in 2009

#### **Oklahoma Agricultural Conditions**

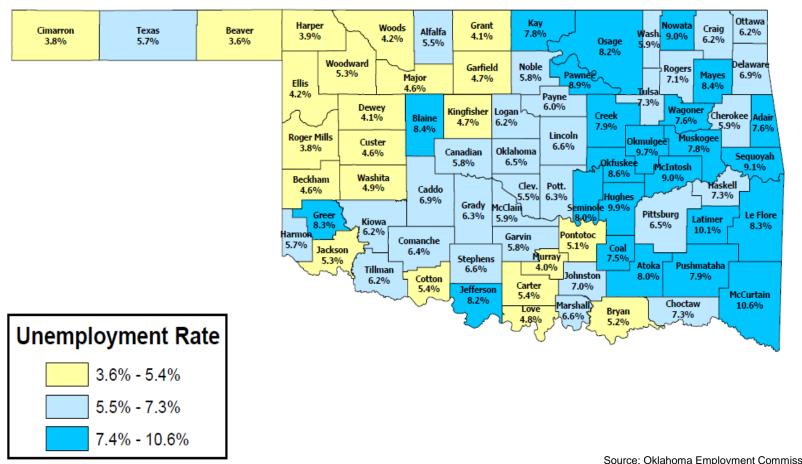




### With Oklahoma's shorter recession, unemployment remains relatively low

#### **Unemployment Rate by County**

November 2010

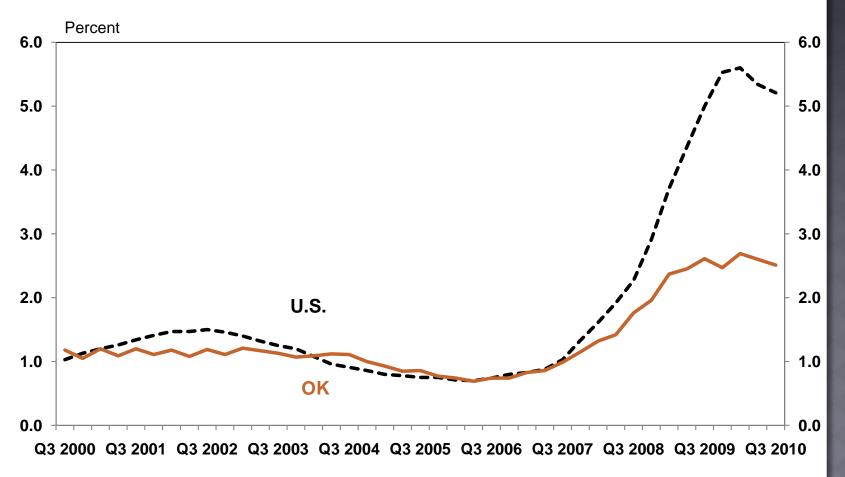




### And Oklahoma banks remain in much better shape than in the nation as a whole

#### Noncurrent Loans as a Share of Total Loans

**Commercial Banks** 

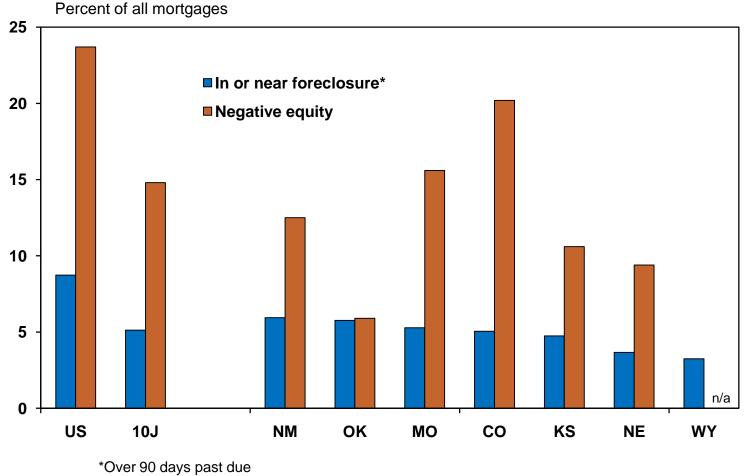




## The state is at risk of further foreclosures, though much less so than the nation

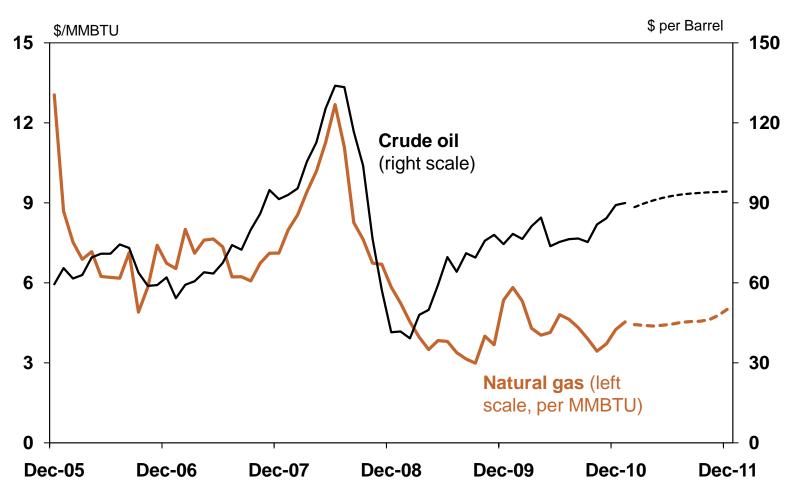
#### **Foreclosures and Negative Equity Mortgages**

U.S. and Tenth Federal Reserve District, Q3 2010



## Energy prices are always a risk but have shown positive signs lately

#### **Energy Prices**





### **Summary**

 □ The U.S. economy is recovering and expected to continue to grow moderately, with low inflation

 Oklahoma's economy is also recovering and remains in much better shape than the nation

