Growing North Central Oklahoma

NODA's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2025-2030

Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
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NODA's CEDS for 2025-2030

Prepared for the Economic Development Administration

Developed by the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Economic Development District (NODA EDD)

December 2025

This document was prepared under a financial assistance award (EDA23AUS3020016) from the U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration

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Glossary

CEDS	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
EDA	Economic Development Administration
EDD	Economic Development District
NERDE	National Economic Resilience Data Explorer
NODA	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
NORTPO	Northern Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization
ODOC	Oklahoma Department of Commerce
ODOT	Oklahoma Department of Transportation
OEDA	Oklahoma Economic Development Authority
SWOT	Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NORTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ADOPTING GROWING NORTH CENTRAL OKLAHOMA, NODA'S 2025-2030 COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

WHEREAS, the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA) is required to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as a requirement of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Development Planning and Technical Assistance Program, and

WHEREAS, this document serves as the economic development strategy for the NODA Economic Development District (EDD) and its membership.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the NODA:

That *Growing North Central Oklahoma, NODA's 2025-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy* is hereby officially adopted as the economic development strategy of the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority Economic Development District, as the strategy, plan and guide for economic development.

ADOPTED this 18th day of December, 2025, by the Board of Trustees of the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority.

Toby Walker, Chair

ATTEST:

Marci Hyde

Marci Hyde, Secretary

1. Executive Summary

Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA) has developed this Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to serve as the foundational guide for coordinating economic development activities throughout our eight-county region. It is designed to help stakeholders form partnerships to leverage existing resources to help revitalize communities throughout the NODA region.

The CEDS is required by the US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the NODA Economic Development District (EDD). Economic development planning is not only a cornerstone of the EDA programs but serves as a way to engage community leaders, involve the private sector, and establish a stage for regional collaboration.

What is a CEDS?

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a locally driven, regionally focused plan that guides regional growth and resilience over a five-year period. It serves as a framework for collaboration among cities, towns, counties, state and federal agencies, businesses, and community organizations to strengthen regional prosperity.

The CEDS is both a process and a product. The process brings together entrepreneurs, local governments, educational institutions, and private industries to identify strategies that build capacity and foster economic resilience. The product – this document – serves as a roadmap for the region's future and is required by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for funding applications.

Developed through input from stakeholders and citizens across the region, the CEDS emphasizes partnership, data-driven planning, and adaptability. Its flexible design ensures communities can respond to changing economic conditions and seize new opportunities.

Contents of the CEDS

The CEDS is organized into nine distinct sections:

1. **Executive Summary**: This introductory section summarizes the key points of the CEDS.

How to Use the CEDS

Inform: The plan will be used to engage elected officials and business leaders to help amplify the vision and provide support through actions.
Invest: The strategy will be used to leverage greater investment in regional priorities by providing data and rationales that can be used to obtain grants to fund implementation and align federal and states' legislative agendas to cooperatively solicit funding.
Collaborate: The work will engage organizations and departments within agencies and jurisdictions to break down silos and leverage resources to the greatest extent possible to elevate one another's work.

2. **NODA Overview**: Here, we discuss NODA, as well as the geography and climate that influence our citizens, businesses, and industries, ultimately shaping our economy.
3. **Economic Background**: This section provides an analysis of the economic conditions within NODA's Economic Development District (EDD).
4. **SWOT Analysis**: We present our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) identified through consultations with stakeholders across our eight counties.
5. **Strategic Direction**: In section five, we articulate our vision, goals, and objectives for the region's economic development.
6. **Performance Measures**: This section outlines the metrics we will use to assess our progress and success.
7. **Economic Resilience**: Here, we address strategies for fostering resilience in our local economy.
8. **Conclusion**: We present concluding statement about the CEDS.
9. **Appendix**: The final section includes numerous tables and charts referenced throughout the CEDS, providing additional data and context.

This CEDS serves as a foundational document that builds upon the excellent work already underway in our region. By fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors, we aim to propel our collective efforts forward. As we implement this plan, it will undergo revisions and refinements to better align with the evolving economic development goals and aspirations of our region, both now and in the future.

Stakeholder Engagement and Survey Insights

To ensure this strategy reflects the priorities of our communities, NODA conducted a regional stakeholder survey during the planning process. The survey gathered input from local governments, businesses, and residents across the eight-county district. Respondents identified key strengths such as strong volunteer networks and quality schools, while highlighting challenges including aging infrastructure and workforce outmigration. These insights informed the SWOT analysis and strategic goals outlined in this CEDS. A detailed summary of survey results is provided in Appendix B.

Regional Alignment

This CEDS is informed by many relevant planning documents across sectors. These include but are not limited to: Northwest Forward 2045: Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (2024); State of Oklahoma Emergency Operations Plan (2019); Northwest Water Action Plan updates (2025); various county hazard mitigation plans, and Internet for All: Five Year Action Plan for Oklahoma (2023-2028).

2. Introduction

Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA) is a Council of Governments (COG) and serves eight counties in north central Oklahoma – Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Major and Noble. The NODA Economic Development District (EDD) serves the same eight counties and has developed this Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) with input from participants within each of the counties served.

A CEDS is the result of a local planning process designed to guide the economic growth of an area. The CEDS process provides the capacity building foundation to help create jobs, foster more stable and diversified economies, and improve living conditions. The strategy provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of individuals, organizations, local governments, and private industries concerned with economic development.

Geography

The NODA district covers approximately 7,400 square miles in north-central Oklahoma, bordered by Kansas to the north. Its drainage pattern flows from northwest to southeast and includes notable lakes such as Great Salt Plains Lake in Alfalfa County, Canton Lake in Blaine County, and Kaw Lake in Kay County. While major rivers—the Arkansas, North Canadian, South Canadian, and Cimarron—cross the region, none are navigable. However, Canton and Kaw Lakes provide essential water resources for several communities, and groundwater aquifers associated with these rivers serve as the primary water source for most of the district.

Distinctive geographic features include the Gloss Mountains, a series of gypsum-capped buttes in western Major County, and the Great Salt Plains, a vast natural salt flat in Alfalfa

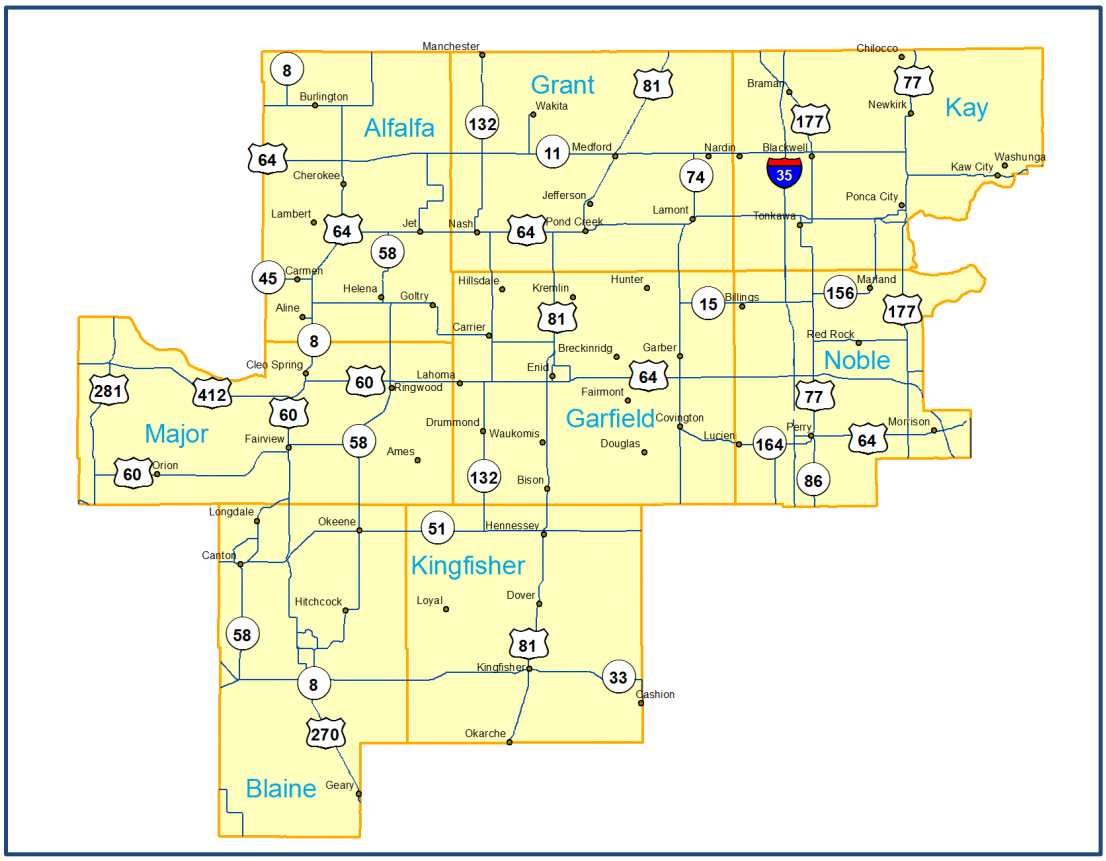
County formed by the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River. These landmarks not only define the region's landscape but also create opportunities for tourism development, attracting visitors for hiking, birdwatching, and unique outdoor recreation experiences.

Agriculture remains the backbone of the local economy, supported by rolling prairies and highly productive soils. Wheat and cattle dominate production, while the region's open terrain and wind conditions make it ideal for renewable energy projects, including wind generation and biofuel production. These energy initiatives diversify the economy and provide long-term growth potential.

Oklahoma—and especially the NODA district—offers affordable real estate and a lower cost of living compared to other states, reducing business expenses and improving workforce affordability while enhancing residents' quality of life.

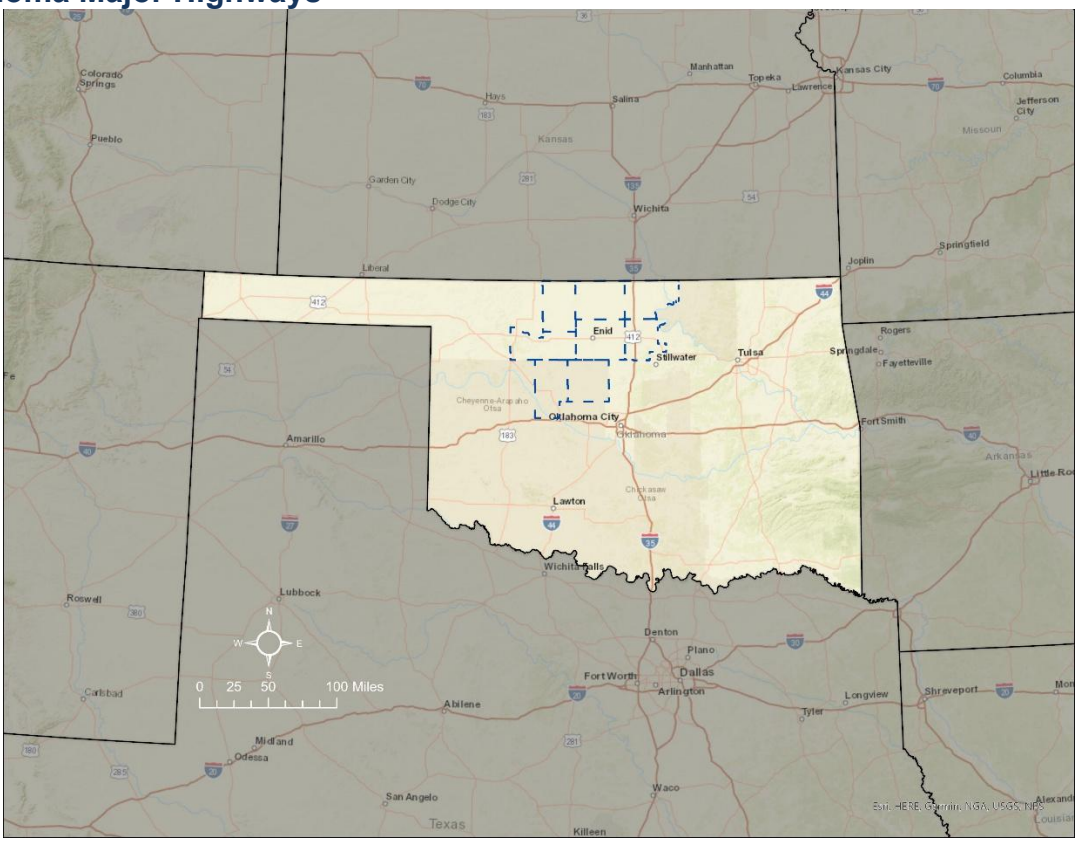
Transportation infrastructure strengthens economic prospects. Interstate 35 (I-35) runs north–south along the eastern edge of the district, connecting communities such as Billings, Braman, Blackwell, Perry, and Tonkawa. Enid and Ponca City, the district's largest urban centers, are linked to I-35 by four-lane highways. Leveraging this corridor as part of the NAFTA trade route remains a priority for regional economic development.

NODA District



Oklahoma serves as a key crossroads of America, with an extensive network of highways and interstates providing seamless coast-to-coast connectivity through the nation's heartland.

Oklahoma Major Highways



Climate

The NODA region experiences a humid subtropical climate, characterized by hot summers and cool winters. Average monthly temperatures (°Fahrenheit) range from the low 30s in January to the low 80s in July. Summer highs near 100°F are common, while winter lows can occasionally drop to near zero. Annual precipitation averages about 33 inches in the eastern counties and 29 inches in the west, with rainfall patterns varying significantly from year to year. Most precipitation occurs during spring and early summer thunderstorms, with additional rainfall in the fall. This variability in rainfall can influence agricultural productivity and water resource planning across the region.

The climate supports a strong agricultural base, particularly wheat and cattle production, but erratic rainfall and periodic droughts pose challenges for crop yields and livestock operations. Farmers often rely on water conservation strategies and/or irrigation to mitigate these risks. Extreme weather events such as thunderstorms and flooding can damage roads, bridges, and water systems, increasing maintenance costs for local governments. Additionally, prolonged heat waves and severe storms require resilient infrastructure planning to protect communities and ensure continuity of economic activity.

3. Background of NODA EDD Economy

Historically, the NODA region's economy has relied heavily on agriculture, oil and gas production, and government services. Since the mid-1970s, however, the area has experienced long-term employment declines in production agriculture and related industries, contributing to economic deterioration in many rural communities. Traditional agricultural processing facilities have also downsized or relocated, leaving much of the region focused primarily on commodity production.

Recent growth in food processing clusters is helping reverse this trend, creating new jobs and investment opportunities—particularly in the Enid and Ponca City areas.

The oil and gas sector has historically provided some of the highest-quality jobs in the region, but its "boom-and-bust" cycles have created instability. While Vance Air Force Base in Enid and its associated contracting services remain among the largest employers, the region's dependence on government-related employment poses risks amid ongoing trends toward downsizing. In response, the energy sector is gradually shifting toward renewable sources such as wind generation, which offer more stable employment and long-term sustainability compared to traditional oil and gas operations.

Population

Unless otherwise noted, the following statistics are from the National Economic Resilience Data Explorer (NERDE) October 2025 area fact sheets, which derives its data from the US Census Bureau.

Table 3.1: 2023 Population By Age

2023 Population Estimates By Age								
County	Total Population	Ages 0-4 (Preschool)	Ages 5-17 (School Age)	Ages 18-24 (College Age)	Ages 25-44 (Young Adult)	Ages 45-64 (Older Adult)	Age 65 & older (Older)	Median Age
Alfalfa	5,685	244	843	256	1,589	1,618	1,135	44.4
Blaine	8,603	490	1,601	507	2,037	2,283	1,685	41.6
Garfield	62,322	4,251	11,965	5,704	16,571	10,243	10,363	35.7
Grant	4,137	244	722	299	923	1,016	933	42.9
Kay	43,731	2,746	8,155	3,845	10,432	10,169	8,384	38.3
Kingfisher	15,288	938	3,154	1,319	3,768	3,517	2,592	38.5
Major	7,656	452	1,502	496	1,697	1,895	1,614	42
Noble	10,909	591	1,931	842	2,453	2,735	2,357	41.7
NODA EDD	158,331	9,956	29,873	13,268	39,470	33,476	29,063	40.6
Oklahoma	4,095,393	241,245	722,102	404,802	1,097,003	938,160	692,081	37.4

The US Census Bureau's 2023 estimates show NODA's population at 158,331 residents, which is a decrease of about 2% since 2016. Of those, 39% live in Garfield County, which is central to the NODA district and the largest county by population. The other major population area is Kay County with about 27.6% of the NODA area's population. These two counties are the most urban within the NODA area, but all NODA counties have a significant rural population. Eighty-two percent of the total number of incorporated cities or towns within the NODA district have a population of less than 1,500. Alfalfa and Grant Counties are 100% rural according to the census bureau.

Minority Populations

Minorities (Black, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Hispanic or Latino) account for almost 27% of the population in the region. Racial composition among the counties in the region is demonstrated in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: 2023 Population by Race

2023 Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic/Latino Origin									
County	**Total**	**White Alone**	**Black Alone**	**American Indian or Alaska Native Alone**	**Asian Alone**	**Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander Alone**	**Two or More Race Groups**	**Hispanic or Latino**	**Non-Hispanic or Latino**
Alfalfa	**5,685**	**4,625**	**182**	**164**	**17**	**6**	**350**	**332**	**5,353**
% of total		81.35%	3.20%	2.88%	0.30%	0.11%	6.16%	5.84%	94.16%
Blaine	**8,603**	**6,117**	**352**	**517**	**0**	**0**	**605**	**1,012**	**7,591**
% of total		71.10%	4.09%	6.01%	0.00%	0.00%	7.03%	11.76%	88.24%
Garfield	**62,322**	**44,145**	**1,176**	**859**	**780**	**2,433**	**3,686**	**9,234**	**53,088**
% of total		70.83%	1.89%	1.38%	1.25%	3.90%	5.91%	14.82%	85.18%
Grant	**4,137**	**3,560**	**85**	**97**	**8**	**0**	**189**	**191**	**3,946**
% of total		86.05%	2.05%	2.34%	0.19%	0.00%	4.57%	4.62%	95.38%
Kay	**43,731**	**31,195**	**868**	**3,422**	**234**	**20**	**4,011**	**3,833**	**39,898**
% of total		71.33%	1.98%	7.83%	0.54%	0.05%	9.17%	8.76%	91.24%
Kingfisher	**15,288**	**11,197**	**174**	**395**	**84**	**25**	**667**	**2,746**	**12,542**
% of total		73.24%	1.14%	2.58%	0.55%	0.16%	4.36%	17.96%	82.04%
Major	**7,656**	**6,308**	**2**	**58**	**35**	**0**	**424**	**808**	**6,848**
% of total		82.39%	0.03%	0.76%	0.46%	0.00%	5.54%	10.55%	89.45%
Noble	**10,909**	**8,693**	**133**	**611**	**7**	**3**	**969**	**475**	**10,434**
% of total		79.69%	1.22%	5.60%	0.06%	0.03%	8.88%	4.35%	95.65%
NODA EDD	**158,331**	**115,840**	**2,972**	**6,123**	**1,165**	**2,487**	**10,901**	**18,631**	**139,700**
% of total		73.16%	1.88%	3.87%	0.74%	1.57%	6.88%	11.77%	88.23%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Age and Gender

The population of NODA's eight counties is aging due to the aging baby boom population and the growth of the retirement age population. The lack of family wage jobs also increases the proportionate number of aging populations because younger age groups have had to seek employment elsewhere to raise their families. The populations in the region are aging faster than the rest of the state.

Table 3.3: 5-Year Estimate Population by Age and Gender

Population by Age and Gender										
	Alfalfa	Blaine	Garfield	Grant	Kay	Kingfisher	Major	Noble	NODA EDD	Oklahoma
Total	4,685	8,603	62,322	4,137	43,731	15,288	7,656	1,909	158,331	4,095,393
Male:	3,592	4,530	31,274	2,088	21,868	7,616	3,828	5,407	80,203	2,040,182
19 years and under	633	1,187	9,028	515	6,239	2,195	1,158	1,386	22,341	557,224
20 to 64 years	2,354	2,582	17,562	1,116	11,851	4,156	1,943	2,919	44,483	1,170,583
65 and over	605	761	4,684	457	3,778	1,265	727	1,102	13,379	312,375
Female:	2,093	4,073	31,048	2,049	21,863	7,672	3,828	5,502	78,128	2,055,211
19 years and under	503	1,019	8,932	530	5,873	2,186	978	1,371	21,392	523,832
20 to 64 years	1,060	2,130	16,437	1,043	11,384	4,159	1,963	2,876	41,052	1,151,673
65 and over	530	924	5,679	476	4,606	1,327	887	1,255	15,684	379,706
2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables (SO101 Aged & Sex)										

Population Trends

Based off data in Table 3.1, removing Enid and Ponca City populations, the average size of NODA's remaining communities is 1,362. However, 47 of NODA's 61 communities have a population of 1,000 or fewer, and 36 of those have a population of less than 500 residents.

The long term out migration trend has left the NODA region with a much higher median age and a much higher percentage of the population 65 years of age and older than the State of Oklahoma and the United States.

Table 3.1 is from the US Census Bureau with estimates for 2023 population by age in each of NODA's eight counties, NODA region total, and State of Oklahoma. The median age for the State of Oklahoma is 36.2 years, the NODA estimate is 40 years, and the NODA counties have a median age range of 35.8 to 43.4 years. The percent of NODA's regional population over 65 years has increased to 18.4%, compared to 15.5% for Oklahoma (also an increase). Almost 23% of Grant County's population is over 65 and Major County is over 21%. The retirement age and near retirement age are staying in the

area while the younger working-age population is leaving in search of employment, or better-quality employment. This trend is also relatively more pronounced for the more rural NODA counties of Grant and Major. Younger people are also moving out of the area in search of more variety of activities, entertainment, events, etc.

Table 3.4: Historic Populations for NODA Region

Historical Population by County										
Census Year	**Alfalfa**	**Blaine**	**Garfield**	**Grant**	**Kay**	**Kingfisher**	**Major**	**Noble**	**NODA**	**Oklahoma**
1910	18,138	17,960	33,050	18,670	26,999	18,825	15,248	14,945	163,835	1,657,155
1920	16,253	15,875	37,500	16,072	34,907	15,671	12,426	13,560	162,264	2,028,283
1930	15,228	20,452	45,588	14,150	50,186	15,960	12,206	15,139	188,909	2,396,040
1940	14,129	18,543	45,484	13,128	47,084	15,617	11,946	14,826	180,757	2,336,434
1950	10,699	15,049	52,820	10,461	48,892	12,860	10,279	12,156	173,216	2,233,351
1960	8,445	12,077	52,975	8,140	51,042	10,635	7,808	10,376	161,498	2,328,284
1970	7,224	11,794	55,365	7,117	48,791	12,857	7,529	10,043	160,720	2,559,229
1980	7,077	13,443	62,820	6,518	49,852	14,187	8,772	11,573	174,242	3,025,290
1990	6,416	11,470	56,735	5,684	48,056	13,212	8,055	11,045	160,673	3,145,585
2000	6,105	11,976	57,813	5,144	48,080	13,926	7,545	11,411	162,000	3,450,654
2010	5,642	11,943	60,580	4,527	46,562	15,034	7,527	11,561	163,376	3,751,351
2020	5,594	9,244	59,065	4,267	42,780	15,089	7,421	11,138	154,598	3,949,342

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population shifts in the NODA region have varied significantly over the past five decades.

Table 3.5: Population Change by Decade

NODA Area Population Change for Selected Time Periods					
Area	**1970 – 1980**	**1980 – 1990**	**1990 – 2000**	**2000 – 2010**	**2010 – 2020**
Alfalfa	-2.03%	-9.34%	-4.85%	-7.58%	-0.85%
Blaine	13.98%	-12.67%	4.41%	-.28%	-22.60%
Garfield	11.50%	-9.69%	1.90%	4.79%	-2.50%
Grant	-9.92%	-12.72%	-9.58%	-11.99%	-6.09%
Kay	2.17%	-3.60%	0.05%	-3.16%	-8.84%
Kingfisher	10.34%	-6.87%	5.40%	7.96%	0.36%
Major	16.51%	-8.17%	-6.33%	-.24%	-3.85%
Noble	15.23%	-4.56%	3.31%	1.31%	-3.80%
NODA	7.68%	-7.63%	0.82%	.85%	-5.68%
Oklahoma	18.21%	3.97%	9.70%	8.71%	5.01%

Source: Calculated from data in previous table

The 1970s saw moderate growth overall, except in Alfalfa and Grant counties, which continued to decline. A brief oil boom in the early 1980s spurred rapid growth, but the subsequent bust caused severe outmigration, with all counties losing population—about 8% region-wide compared to a 4% gain statewide.

The 1990s were relatively stable, with less than 1% growth overall and modest gains in Blaine, Garfield, Kingfisher, and Noble counties. Alfalfa, Grant, and Major continued to decline. From 2010 to 2020, only Kingfisher grew slightly, while the region as a whole fell by 5.68%, contrasting sharply with Oklahoma's 5.01% increase.

Population Projections

Table 3.6 shows the most recently available population projection released by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Note there is projected to be slight growth in Alfalfa, Grant, and Major Counties, but no growth in Blaine, Kay, and Noble Counties. Most growth is forecasted for the area bounding upon the Oklahoma City MSA in Kingfisher County, and the slightly urban Garfield County.

Table 3.6: Census Population and Projections

	Census			Projections			
County	**2000**	**2010**	**2020**	**2025**	**2030**	**2035**	**2040**
Alfalfa	6,105	5,642	5,699	5,862	6,047	6,224	6,537
Blaine	11,976	11,943	9,244	8,752	8,137	7,406	6,695
Garfield	57,813	60,580	62,846	62,012	63,096	63,690	64,905
Grant	5,144	4,527	4,169	4,294	4,387	4,474	4,598
Kay	48,080	46,562	43,700	42,573	41,769	40,581	39,681
Kingfisher	13,926	15,034	15,184	16,130	16,619	16,902	17,619
Major	7,545	7,527	7,782	7,788	8,153	8,520	9,051
Noble	11,411	11,561	10,924	11,006	10,929	10,720	10,578
NODA	162,000	163,376	159,548	158,417	159,137	158,517	159,664
Oklahoma	3,452,654	3,923,561	3,959,353	4,005,315	4,094,815	4,149,670	4,235,079

Economic Indicators

The eight counties in the NODA district are rich in natural resources with an economy that historically is centered on agriculture and oil and gas production. Factors affecting the economy include commodity prices for both agricultural crops and oil and gas, so they change quickly, often, and can increase or decrease greatly within a short period of time. This can add to the instability of income for many of the residents.

Economic forecasts predict that regional growth will continue to lag behind the urban areas of the state, suggesting the need to continue to invest in projects and activities that

will lead to economic diversification, job growth, improved infrastructure, and improved quality of life for residents as the CEDS board has done in the past.

Additional economic-related facts on each NODA county were retrieved from the National Economic Resilience Data Explorer, aka NERDE. The Area Fact Sheets can be found in Appendix C.

Labor Force

Labor force and work force are synonymous with each other and is the number of people who are either employed or employable. Generally, the beginning age for a labor force is 14 years of age, although the US Census Bureau uses age 16 years and older as the bases of figuring labor force and unemployment data.

Table 3.7: Labor Force and Unemployment for 2023

County	Labor Force - Not Seasonally Adjusted	Employed Labor Force - Not Seasonally Adjusted	Unemployed Labor Force - Not Seasonally Adjusted	Unemployment Rate
Alfalfa	2,145	2,052	93	4.3
Blaine	3,322	3,074	248	7.5
Garfield	29,410	28,190	1,220	4.1
Grant	1,804	1,731	73	4.0
Kay	19,966	18,790	1,176	5.9
Kingfisher	7,553	7,409	144	1.9
Major	3,474	3,409	65	1.9
Noble	4,884	4,771	113	2.3
NODA EDD	72,554	69,422	3,132	4.3
Oklahoma	1,925,085	1,808,400	93,199	4.9

Source: 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates

According to Table 3.8, Blaine County had the highest unemployment rate (7.5%) in the NODA region, and Kingfisher and Major Counties had the lowest (1.9%). The Oklahoma state-wide unemployment rate was 4.9%.

Previously in the NODA CEDS, minority and female owned business statistics had been available by county, for all NAICS codes through the US Census' Survey of Business Owners conducted every 5 years. The program was discontinued with the 2012 data and replaced with the Annual Business Survey. Table 3.9 is derived from the most recent data.

Table 3.8 Minority-, Female-, and Veteran-Owned Businesses

Minority-, Female-, and Veteran-Owned Business Statistics All NAICS Codes								
	Alfalfa	Blaine	Garfield	Grant	Kay	Kingfisher	Major	Noble
Minority-Owned								
Number of firms (with or without paid employees)	30	120	1850	30	840	390	70	120
Female-Owned								
Number of firms (with or without paid employees)	240	440	3,380	220	2,160	900	430	490
Veteran-Owned								
Number of firms (with or without paid employees)	n/a	40	520	n/a	230	60	40	40

Source: Annual Business Survey of the US Census Bureau

Table 3.9 Employed Civilian Worker by Classification

Class of Worker for Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Older										
Subject	**Alfalfa**	**Blaine**	**Garfield**	**Grant**	**Kay**	**Kingfisher**	**Major**	**Noble**	**NODA EDD**	**Oklahoma**
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	2,052	3,074	28,340	1,731	18,889	7,413	3,409	4,811	69,719	1,808,400
Employee of private company workers	1,067	1,820	18,761	1,148	12,410	4,515	2,110	3,098	44,929	1,171,843
Self-Employed in own incorporated business workers	62	92	850	45	642	371	164	82	2,308	68,719
Private not-for-profit wage and salary workers	86	138	2,154	53	1,020	311	112	284	4,258	126,588
Local, State and federal Workers	492	707	4,733	312	3,589	1,305	566	1,097	12,801	316,470
Self-Employed in own not incorporated business workers and unpaid family workers	339	307	1,842	144	1,209	904	460	250	5,455	124,780

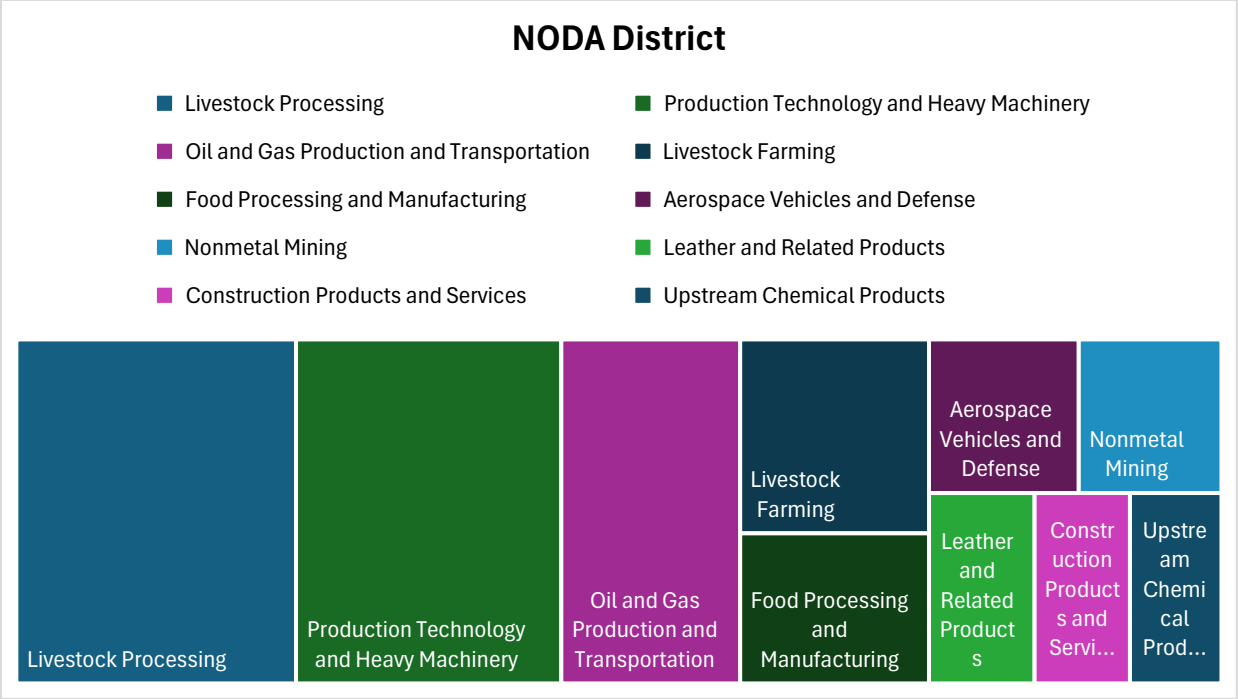
Industry Clusters

The layout of the economic realm is characterized by “clusters,” a geographic concentration of interrelated companies, organizations, and/or institutions within a specific field that is present within a region or area. Clusters increase a company's productivity and operational efficiency with local assets and like firms, institutions, and infrastructure around it (i.e. a supplier or purchaser is located nearby thus reducing transportation expenses and wait times). Clusters can stimulate innovation and facilitate new business formation.

In 2024, the aerospace industry skyrocketed to the number two industry in Oklahoma, showing no signs of slowing down. The NODA region is working to capitalize on this industry as well.

The top ten industry clusters identified for the NODA region include: Livestock Processing; Production Technology and Heavy Machinery; Oil and Gas Production and Transportation; Livestock Farming; Food Processing and Manufacturing; Aerospace Vehicles and Defense; Nonmetal Mining; Leather and Related Products; Construction Products and Services; and Upstream Chemical Products. While Renewables did not make the Top 10 list pulled from our analysis, Renewables have a very strong presence in our region.

2025 Top Ten Industry Clusters



Industrial Parks/Areas

Industrial space availability is no longer a major constraint for new or expanding businesses in the NODA region. While not all sites are immediately development-ready,

significant progress has been achieved through Oklahoma Department of Commerce's Site Ready certification, which ensures properties are free from regulatory and logistical obstacles. These certified sites reduce risk and accelerate project timelines, making the region more attractive for investment. Current listings are maintained by ODOC at LocateOK.com.

The cities in the NODA area with industrial sites (by county) include:

- Alfalfa County – Cherokee
- Blaine County – Okeene and Watonga
- Garfield County – Enid (2)
- Grant County – Medford and Pond Creek
- Kay County – Blackwell, Ponca City, and Tonkawa
- Kingfisher County – Kingfisher
- Major County – Fairview
- Noble County – Perry

Some of these communities have buildings available. Improvement of the quality of available industrial space is now more important than availability.

In addition, Blackwell has a transload facility, constructed with a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The building is currently being utilized by Deriva Energy for their wind farms. Rail access locations are becoming more requested across Oklahoma.

Agriculture

Production agriculture, particularly grains and livestock, is of great importance to the NODA economy and especially the more rural counties. The long-term downward trend of traditional agriculture production to support population and families indicates changes are needed. Further diversification of agricultural products, the expansion of agricultural processing and sustainable development projects (making new products with agricultural raw materials or current agricultural by-products) could have a great impact on the economy of NODA and particularly rural NODA. Food processing, especially meat, is continuing to grow and is a major employment sector. Food processing clusters create new jobs and investment opportunities for residents.

The federal government's lapse on the current farm bill is causing issues for most farmers and ranchers across the country, and especially in the NODA district. They are facing difficulties from high (and continuing to rise) input costs, recent drought conditions which lowered their crop production, low market prices (especially in crop production), and tariff and trade issues. Producers are desperate for market prices to return to levels that will at least cover their costs of production which have exploded over the last several years.

Aviation and Aerospace

An important part of the Oklahoma economy, aviation and aerospace research and development have been ongoing in Oklahoma for decades, and more recently with a particular focus on unmanned systems.

EDA Grant

In Fairview, a grant application was submitted to EDA to build a facility for the manufacturing of high-performance kit-built planes designed for backcountry flying. This project will create 45 new, quality jobs, including bringing 25 jobs back from Mexico, and benefitting residents and other communities within a 45-mile radius of Fairview.

Regional airports constitute a vital part of the airport industry and are considered essential transport nodes, since they connect people, products, and services via point-to-point routes, and provide accessibility to the most remote areas in rural Oklahoma. They also contribute to the development of the local communities, the enhancement of social cohesion, as well as enabling tourism development, leading to economic growth.

Oklahoma State University (OSU), just east of the NODA region, is home to the Unmanned Systems Research Institute (USRI) which accesses expertise across the university, combining cutting edge product development with academic knowledge and resources to create unique solutions to critical problems. USRI was the first in the U.S. to receive approval from the FAA to fly an unmanned fixed-wing aircraft swarm within national airspace. The nation's first graduate (MS and PhD) degree programs in unmanned aerial systems engineering are also at OSU.

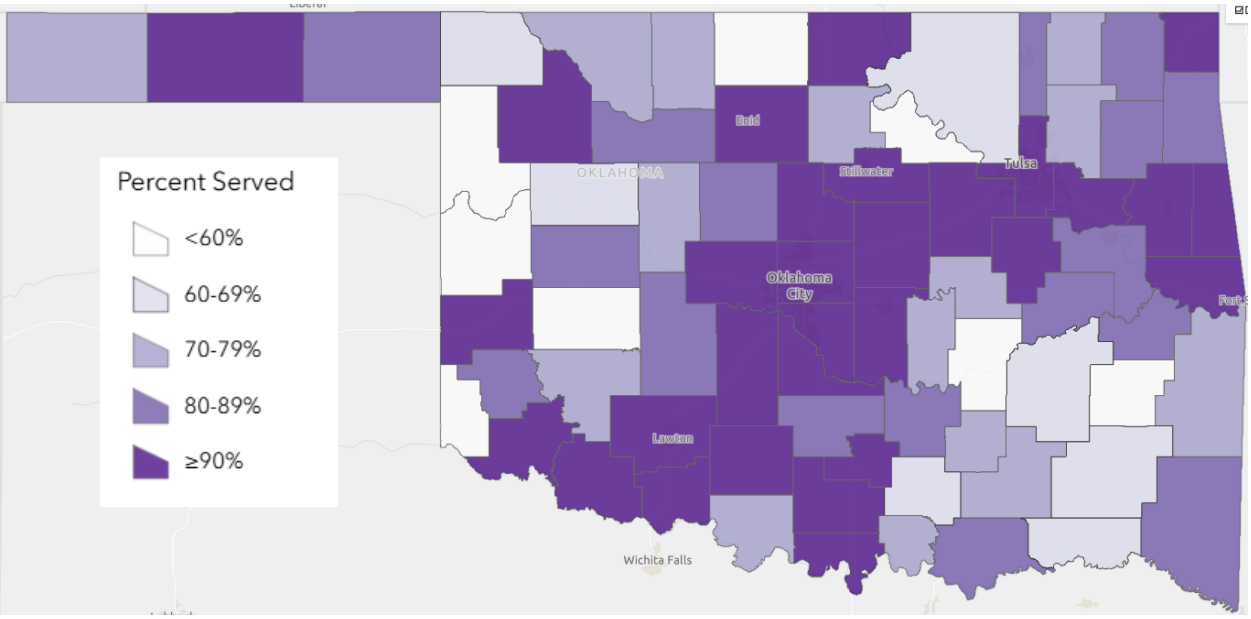
The Oklahoma City metropolitan area is a major national hub for the aerospace industry and located just south of the NODA region. Due to its close proximity, attracting aerospace businesses to our region can provide better land values and more open spaces for manufacturing and/or testing of their products.

Broadband

The expansion of broadband services is a consensus regional priority that supports economic development and digital connectivity in less urbanized areas. The Oklahoma Broadband Office is currently overseeing BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment) implementation, a $797.4M project administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the US Department of Commerce to expand high-speed internet access.

The Challenge Phase of the BEAD plan culminated in October 2024, and Eligible Determination Locations were finalized in January 2025. A current snapshot of digital adoption status regionally is shown below, using the FCC metric of 25 megabits per second (Mbps).

Oklahoma Broadband Adoption, May 2025



While universal broadband access is a key component of a digitally equitable society, it is only the beginning. It is inequitable if good internet service is offered in an area but at cost-prohibitive price, or if suitable devices for getting online or the skills to use the internet to meet basic needs are lacking. The strategies for digital equity must also address preparing all citizens to thrive online, as the internet becomes a key — if not the principal — medium for all kinds of interactions among citizens, their employers, educators, the government, and access to much of their shopping and entertainment options.

Education, Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship

Within NODA EDD there are 39 public school systems and 13 private schools, all providing levels of education ranging from elementary to college preparatory courses. Public technology centers, a part of the Oklahoma CareerTech system, provides hands-on learning and skill development for a wide range of employment options including health care, automotive, culinary arts, fire and EMS, construction, cosmetology, robotics and electronics, IT, business entrepreneurship, graphic arts, etc. These centers also work with local business and industry leaders to develop needed skills courses that benefit employees, and employers by strengthening the skills of their employees.

NODA EDD Technology Centers

School Name	County	City
Autry Technology Center	Garfield	Enid
Pioneer Technology Center	Kay	Ponca City
Chisholm Trail Technology Center	Blaine and Kingfisher County	Omega
Northwest Technology Center	Major	Fairview

In addition to these facilities, the NODA area has state higher education facilities at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa and Enid; a branch campus of Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Enid, and University Center at Ponca City. In addition, with improved broadband and high-speed internet access, there is greater access to all colleges and universities through online courses.

The regional CareerTechs and higher education institutions are working on apprenticeship programs and dual enrollment pipelines to strengthen our workforce.

In 2023, the Innovation Foundation at Oklahoma State University (OSU) received a $650,000 five-year EDA University Center grant. This funding is actively helping innovators and companies in fields like energy, aerospace, agriculture, and health research access commercial grants, including: Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants, state-level Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) grants, and other commercial funding opportunities.

City Central, Ponca City

In June 2017 Ponca City Development Authority (PCDA), a division of the City of Ponca City, Okla., received a $1.275 million grant from EDA to renovate a former bank building into Class A office space, complete with co-working space, a renovated conference center, and renovated restrooms.

City Central, located in downtown Ponca City, is multi-tenant office building with a thriving co-working space with strong entrepreneurial programs and participation.

City Central went from 30% occupancy at the beginning of renovation to 100% within two years of completion and continues today at 100%.

Business incubator programs give early-stage companies access to mentorship, investors, and other support to help them become established. Several are within NODA's region, with some as a part of the CareerTech system and others based in local economic development organizations such as Major County Economic Development Corporation in Fairview and the Ponca City Development Authority in Ponca City.

Shared kitchens is another opportunity for entrepreneurs to "test the waters" of producing and selling food products on a small scale, allowing them to determine if they have a quality product at a competitive price that appeals to a larger customer base without having to purchase the necessary equipment and/or facility during the initial stage of manufacturing. Some of NODA's economic development partners are actively working on establishing shared kitchens.

Energy

The oil and gas sector has historically provided some of the highest-quality jobs in the region, but its “boom-and-bust” cycles create instability. The energy sector is gradually shifting toward renewable sources such as wind generation, which offer more stable employment and long-term sustainability compared to traditional oil and gas operations.

Healthcare

While there are nine hospitals within NODA’s region, much of the region has healthcare deserts where access to primary and specialized care is limited. This can affect overall quality of life and make it harder to attract talent from outside the region.

Accessible and affordable transportation to medical appointments is a real issue for many lower income and older residents. In FFY25 (10/1/24 through 9/30/25) Cherokee Strip Transit (CST) provided 18,480 medical rides, nearly 40% of their total FFY25 rides. CST is just one of four transit providers in NODA’s region. Now in its third year, NODA operates the Northwest Mobility Management program which helps coordinate rides for mobility-challenged residents.

FRMC Therapy Center

In 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Fairview Regional Medical Center had a problem: their outpatients couldn’t access the physical therapy department because its only entrance was through the hospital, which was shut down due to the pandemic. Working with the City of Fairview, MCEDC, and NODA, they received a grant from EDA for the construction of a stand-alone therapy facility costing over $1.5 million. Through this grant, the hospital exceeded their estimated new jobs creation and expanded their therapy programs to provide services not available outside of the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas.

Housing

Although low in comparison to other regions nationally, housing affordability is a significant issue, with many residents spending a sizable portion of their income on housing, limiting their financial flexibility. When a household spends more than 30% of its income on housing costs such as rent and utilities, this is a cost burden and makes it difficult for them to provide other necessities for themselves and their families. Proactively addressing housing is key to maintaining the region’s attractiveness as a low cost-of-living destination.

The region, and the state overall, is currently experiencing a sharp rise in the cost of property insurance, which threatens overall housing affordability for many, especially those with lower incomes.

Tourism & Recreation

The NODA area is home to Roman Nose State Park and Lodge and Canton Lake, both located in Blaine County, as well as the Gloss Mountains State Park in Major County.

Agri-tourism is a growing industry in Oklahoma and involves creating a tourist destination around an agricultural location, such farms, ranches, wineries, specialized farms, etc. This can allow family farms and ranches to be able to continue to operate while supplementing their income.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many urban residents are interested in where their food comes from, and also want to enjoy the natural outdoors. There are unique geographic, ecological and historical areas for people to explore and learn in NODA's region. The Oklahoma Dept. of Tourism (TravelOK.com) promotes these various opportunities from agritourism to zoos.

Transportation

Transportation planning in Oklahoma typically was limited to urban areas. Rural or regional transportation planning is evolving into an opportunity to consider both the short- and long-term transportation needs for locations outside of urban areas. NORTPO has developed a plan that considers growth and development patterns in the region. Critically important complements to these growth areas are the locations that may generate significant demands on the transportation system. Such "activity generators" include business and industrial sites, governmental, schools, universities, tourism, and recreation centers. Counties in the NORTPO region are working to seek new economic growth and diversification while striving to preserve their natural, historic, and cultural resources.

NORTPO

NODA created the Northern Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NORTPO) with the aim to be the leader in regional transportation planning in Northwest Oklahoma, providing opportunities to focus and address key regional transportation needs for safety, infrastructure, and future economic growth and development. NORTPO includes all the NODA and OEDA counties.

A key crossroads of America, Oklahoma's extensive network of highways and interstates provides seamless coast-to-coast connectivity through the nation's heartland. The highways system is strategic for moving crops, livestock, raw materials, and finished goods efficiently to, from, and within the state. It is also key for people to be able to get to and from work, school, home, and recreational activities. Adequate funding to maintain state and county roads and bridges are crucial for the economy of our communities.

NODA's region has eleven regional airports, with each county having at least one. Small regional airports have several specificities and face several challenges. In these airports, intense fluctuations can be observed both in daily and monthly volumes, and weaker infrastructure is more susceptible to damages especially from larger aircraft.

Two Class I railroads serve the area, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific (UP). Shipments include grain, chemicals, agricultural products, and other freight. The area is served by three Class III lines, known as short line railroads, AT&L Railroad, Land Rush Rail, and Grainbelt Corporation. These three lines provide service to areas within the region and State of Oklahoma. These rail lines provide access to east-west and north-south gateways for freight and raw materials transportation. Portions of the Class III line track can only support limited movement at low speeds (less than 10 mph) and less than optimal weights. While this type of rail service is sufficient to meet modest shipping needs of existing agricultural customers, it hampers any opportunity to bring new, large-scale business to the area.

CRISI Grant

In 2025, due to damage that caused portions of the track to be unusable, Land Rush Rail will apply for a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant.

The project involves the replacement of ties and surfacing work along key segments of Land Rush Rail, promising significant improvements in safety, efficiency, and capacity which are essential for north central Oklahoma's economic and infrastructural health.

The proposed upgrades will reduce the likelihood of derailments and enhance operational safety standards. By elevating the track classification to Class I, the project will enable increased operational speeds, thus improving overall efficiency and reliability of rail services in the region. These improvements are not only vital for the safety of our communities but also for the economic prosperity of our state, facilitating faster and more reliable transport of goods and bolstering our local and regional economy. Investing in our rail infrastructure is critical to our national interests, promoting economic development, and ensuring the safety of our transportation systems.

While not located in NODA's boundaries, the Tulsa Port of Catoosa is vital to NODA's region for river freight navigation, especially the movement of grain shipments destined for foreign markets. Located at the head of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) in northeast Oklahoma, the 2,000-acre the Port is designated a foreign trade zone. It is MKARNS's largest port, and the largest, most inland port on the 25,000-mile Gulf Intercoastal Waterway. The Port is considered an ice-free port, which allows for year-round operation and is one of the farthest inland, ice-free ports in the United States. MKARNS provides access to domestic and worldwide markets for agricultural and industrial products.

Water

Water is always a concern for Oklahoma and especially north central Oklahoma. From helping our crops grow to the health and wellbeing of our citizens, having good, clean, reliable water sources allow for prosperity throughout the NODA region and beyond.

Most of NODA's district is dependent upon groundwater basins for their water. Kay and Noble Counties obtain much of their water from surface sources located on the eastern boundary of the NODA area. The City of Enid is completing a major water pipeline project which takes surface water from Kaw Lake Reservoir in Kay County to Enid in Garfield County. This water will be treated and combined with their groundwater reserves, increasing water availability to Enid residents and many rural communities who rely on Enid for their water supply. This forward-thinking project will enhance business opportunities in Garfield County for years to come.

According to the Northwest Water Action Team's 2025 strategic planning meeting, northwest Oklahoma communities are facing increasing challenges related to water infrastructure, water quality, regulations, and funding. To build resilient and sustainable water and wastewater systems, coordination across local, state, and federal agencies, coupled with informed policy decisions and community engagement, is essential. Their top three challenges are: regulatory complexity and permitting bottlenecks, aging and insufficient rural water infrastructure, and water quality concerns and emerging contaminants.

Some funding sources available from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) include Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF), Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF), and Financial Assistance Program (FAP). The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has land and water conservation programs to help offset costs for rural projects. While these programs are available to our small communities, they are often highly competitive causing our small communities to compete against large cities with more local matching funds to score higher and win the awards.

4. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)

In developing this CEDS, an analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) was conducted for the NODA region. The SWOT represents a combination of findings from data analysis and stakeholder feedback, which was gathered from both CEDS committees, members of the public, and other stakeholders.

When looking at the eight-county region of NODA, some communities' strengths are other communities' weaknesses, and some communities' opportunities are threats for other communities.

Strengths

- **Transportation:** Strong highway network (I-35, US-77, US-412, US-60, US-281), convenient Cimarron Turnpike and I-40 access, local airports, and access to Port of Catoosa for river freight navigation.
- **Utilities & Infrastructure:** Active water system upgrades; competitive energy costs; strong oil and gas, and growing wind resources.
- **Economic Assets:** Industrial parks, incubators, strong manufacturing culture, available land for housing, and business-friendly environment for data centers.
- **Community & Workforce:** Skilled labor base, CareerTech and higher-ed access, strong volunteer culture, and active Chambers of Commerce/Main Street networks.
- **Healthcare:** Local hospitals and clinics, pharmacies, and county health services.
- **Tribal Partnerships:** Five federally recognized tribes are within NODA's district.
- **Other:** Tourism potential (Gloss Mountain, Canton Lake, Roman Nose State Park, Land Run heritage), film-friendly locations, and philanthropic support.

Weaknesses

- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Limited sidewalks, ADA/bike links, aging water and wastewater mains, and insufficient rail service.
- **Energy & Data Centers:** Limited backup power and capacity for large loads; uncertainty in green energy interconnections.
- **Housing & Workforce:** Thin inventory of new homes and rentals; aging workforce; youth outmigration; gaps in IT/healthcare skills.
- **Healthcare:** Limited specialty care and clinician recruitment challenges.
- **Tourism & Film:** Lodging gaps, fragmented branding, and lack of formal film certification.

Opportunities

- **Transportation & Aviation:** Airport hangar expansions, truck-route upgrades, and leveraging local airports for economic growth. Heartland Flyer passenger rail expansion into Kansas.
- **Water & Wastewater Infrastructure:** Hydraulic planning, reclaimed wastewater for industrial use, regionalization.
- **Energy & Sustainability:** Microgrids, solar expansion, green site branding, and workforce training in energy technology.
- **Economic Development:** Site-readiness certification, incubators, housing partnerships, and revitalizing downtown storefronts.
- **Workforce & Education:** Apprenticeships, relocation incentives, sector academies, and dual enrollment pipelines. Microbusiness support.
- **Housing:** Housing action plan and development partnerships.
- **Rail:** Freight rail is essential to local, regional, and national supply chain efforts.
- **Tourism & Film:** Event bundling, trail activation, Film-Friendly certification, and cultural tourism with tribal partners.

Threats

- **Economic & Infrastructure Risks:** Inflation in construction and road materials; rising insurance costs; aging grid; commodity price volatility.
- **Water & Energy:** Drought, aquifer depletion, and rapid industrial load growth stressing utilities.
- **Healthcare:** Rural hospital financial pressures, mental health challenges, and increasing insurance costs.
- **Housing & Workforce:** Construction cost inflation, outmigration, and childcare barriers.
- **Tourism & Film:** Weather-dependent visitation and policy shifts affecting incentives.


STRENGTHS
• Highway connectivity
• Industrial parks, incubators
• Skilled labor base
• Local hospitals and clinics
WEAKNESSES
• Infrastructure gaps
• Aging workforce
• Housing shortages
• Limited specialty care
OPPORTUNITIES
• Airport expansions
• Solar projects
• Housing development
• Youth retention
THREATS
• Inflation
• Aging grid
• Construction costs
• Insurance costs

5. Strategic Direction and Action Plan

NODA's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is designed to adapt as our region grows and changes. We regularly review and update our goals and priorities to keep pace with the local needs and respond to broader trends at the regional, national, and global levels.

Our CEDS aligns with the Economic Development Administration's investment priorities to strengthen local economic assets, foster business success, and promote regional prosperity and resilience. These priorities can vary some due to changing federal administrations. The current administration's focus is critical infrastructure, workforce support, innovation and entrepreneurship, economic recovery and resilience, and manufacturing expansion.

By integrating these priorities into our goals and action plans, NODA ensures that local projects are competitive for federal funding and contribute to long-term regional prosperity.

Goals

The Overall Goal of the NODA EDD is to develop a more diversified, sustainable regional economy by increasing employment and the quality of employment, and improving the general quality of life in the region for all our residents by maximizing the use of available resources including federal, state and local resources to achieve this goal.

Or, as directly stated by a NODA board member: The goal is to create a sustainable, inclusive economy where residents can live, work, and thrive.

Strategic Goals

1. Enhance Infrastructure and Utilities
2. Expand Economic Development
3. Increase Housing Availability
4. Improve Healthcare Access

Action Plan by Goal

1. Enhance Infrastructure & Utilities

- **Short-Term (0–2 years):**
    - Increase local readiness for new and expanding businesses. This includes quality water, good water delivery systems, efficient wastewater systems, substantial electrical and gas services, and good streets and sidewalks to meet the needs of the entire community.
    - Maintain infrastructure planning and technical assistance programs to local government entities such as Capital Improvements Planning (CIP).

- Support and advocate for rural development and funding, especially infrastructure, utilizing REAP and CDBG grant funds, USDA funds, EDA funds, and other available resources.
- Prioritize sidewalk and ADA/bike link projects to improve accessibility. ODOT's TAP grant, as well as REAP and CDBG grant programs.

- **Medium-Term (3–5 years):**
  - Work with Northwest Oklahoma Alliance's Water Team on hydraulic planning for water and wastewater upgrades.
  - Secure funding for airport hangar expansions and truck-route upgrades.

2. Expand Economic Development

- **Short-Term:**
  - Work with communities to attain ODOC's site certification for development readiness and certified incubators for microbusinesses.
  - Promote agriculture diversification, diverse value-added product development, and agri-tourism.
  - Address the rising cost of property insurance by supporting a policy change to becoming a "prior approval" state, meaning that the Insurance Commissioner must approve the rates before they can take effect.

- **Medium-Term:**
  - Promote film-friendly certification through Oklahoma's Film + Music Office.
  - Revitalize downtown storefronts.
  - Assist with the development of local and regional sustainable development, including Brownfields redevelopment.

3. Increase Housing Availability

- **Short-Term:**
  - Encourage energy-efficient, weather and climate-resistant housing for all income levels. Energy-efficient structures built to withstand weather and climate challenges help build economic resilience in the case of natural disasters. They use less energy, which lowers housing costs and helps the environment.
  - Collaborate with the public and nonprofit sectors to expand access to housing rehabilitation services.

- **Medium-Term:**
  - Proactively work with public-private partnerships to develop a Housing Action Plan to increase housing supply and lower housing costs.

4. Improve Healthcare Access

- **Short-Term:**
  - Partner with regional health systems to recruit clinicians and expand telehealth.
  - Continue and expand Northwest Mobility Management, a program that coordinates transportation and mobility resources for seniors, low-income families and individuals with disabilities to have better access to medical care.
  - Promote transit programs within the NODA district so people are aware of the transportation that is available for medical rides.

- **Medium-Term:**
  - Develop incentives for specialty care providers and mental health services.
  - Secure additional funding for transit agencies to be able to provide more access to medical care.

6. Performance Measures

To implement the region's development strategy, the efforts of NODA must be directed toward many individual activities and/or projects simultaneously. Understanding the potential and constraints of the region's economy is critical to successful economic development. To this end, the gathering and analysis of information, progress points, and success factors is an ongoing task. NODA's staff maintain direct contact with the various agencies and organizations that collect and disseminate information about economic trends, demographics, agriculture, environmental issues, and community interests.

NODA is, and always has been, concerned with all aspects of community and economic development. New employment opportunities are essential to the health and well-being of our communities, and adequate infrastructure for residential and business needs go hand in hand with this philosophy. The limited resources of the NODA EDD will be used in the efforts that will provide the most benefit possible for the people of north central Oklahoma. At least annually NODA provides data to the EDA regarding successful projects that have created new employment opportunities, leveraged private and public sector financing, and fulfilled a need in the region for economic stability and diversification.

The proposals identified within this CEDS will be measured for progress through these actions. These steps towards success will be reviewed by the NODA Board of Directors, CEDS Committee, and our industry and community partners. The NODA board meets monthly to monitor the progress of our initiatives and operations. The business leaders, educators, and agency personnel engaged in the specific implementation of the strategies will also be reviewing progress benchmarks as the proposals move forward.

Based upon the SWOT, needs, and goals of the NODA communities and counties, the CEDS committees determined these are the top performance measures for the NODA region.

NODA Region Performance Measures	
Economic Indicator	**Key Performance Indicator**
Number of jobs created or retained	Net new jobs created per year
Number of new businesses	Number of new business licenses issued
Existing businesses retained/expanded	Business retention rate (%)
New housing development	Number of new housing units built
Growth in sales tax	Year-over-year sales tax revenue growth (%)
Growth in property value/tax	Average property value increase (%)
Labor force participation rate	Percentage of working-age population employed or seeking work

7. Economic Resilience

No one wants to talk about the potential for disaster but, for the sustainability of an economy, community, and people, preparedness could mean the difference between weathering the storm and losing everything.

The biggest threat to the sustainability of the NODA region's economy is natural disasters. The bigger players affecting NODA are tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding, wildfires, winter storms, earthquakes, severe heat, and drought. Dealing with these weather events is not unusual for residents, and most are prepared for the initial incident, but the long-term effects on companies, industries, and employees can be overwhelming.

Hazard mitigation plans have been developed for NODA's eight counties but a true focus on the economic resilience of the business industry has not been fully developed. This is a project NODA EDD can take on to aid and assist businesses, cities, towns, and counties in the task of "getting back to normal" after a disaster. For many entities, this is the new normal, but community preparedness should focus not only on rebuilding, but on rebuilding stronger than before the incident.

Key threats to our economic resilience include loss of a major employer and declines in critical industries. Diversifying the regional employment base and workforce remains an ongoing priority.

Table 7.1 NODA EDD Occupational Employment for 2024

Geography Name	Description	Occupation Cluster Employment
NODA EDD	Food Preparation and Service	4,911
NODA EDD	Attendants and General Services	4,118
NODA EDD	Managers and First-line Supervisors	3,828
NODA EDD	Sales, Agents, Brokers and Customer Relations, Support	3,500
NODA EDD	Primary, Secondary and Vocational Education, Remediation and Social Services	3,253
NODA EDD	Mechanics and Repair Technicians	2,999
NODA EDD	Transportation, Logistics and Dispatch, Support	2,979
NODA EDD	Financial, Legal and Inspection Services, Support	2,874
NODA EDD	Health Care: Therapists, Technicians and Aides	2,680
NODA EDD	Administration and Office Support	2,627
NODA EDD	Transportation Equipment Operators	2,423
NODA EDD	Managerial, Sales, Marketing and Human Resources	2,246

NODA EDD	Facility, Plant and Large Equipment Operators and Technicians	2,189
NODA EDD	Production, General	2,120
NODA EDD	Health Care: Nurses and Specialized Care Delivery	1,453
NODA EDD	Engineering, Architecture and Related Disciplines	1,249
NODA EDD	Production Operators and Tenders	1,166
NODA EDD	Machinists and Skilled Operators and Tenders	1,028
NODA EDD	Finance, Legal, and Real Estate	1,001
NODA EDD	Information Management and Computing	959
NODA EDD	Construction Trades	923
NODA EDD	Personal Services	818
NODA EDD	STEM and Applied Science Technicians	585
NODA EDD	Safety, Security and Emergency	545
NODA EDD	Health Care: Therapy, Counseling and Rehabilitation	449
NODA EDD	Health Care: Medical Practitioners and Scientists	443
NODA EDD	Mathematics, Statistics, Data Analysis and Accounting	394
NODA EDD	Media, Web Development and Programming	344
NODA EDD	Postsecondary Education and Knowledge Creation	324
NODA EDD	Arts, Entertainment and Broadcasting Specialists and Management	252
NODA EDD	Natural Sciences and Environmental Management	133
NODA EDD	Transportation, Logistics and Planning	133
NODA EDD	Artisans, Craftsman, Designers, including Performance	115
NODA EDD	Health Care: Life and Medical Scientists	96

The NODA region is mostly centrally located between Wichita, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa could allow for an increase in hotel occupancy, especially along the I-35 corridor. If that occurs, retail development along it could also expand.

With a multitude of freight trains passing through Perry daily (on both north/south and east/west tracks) and disrupting traffic flow east of town on Highway 64 and south of town on Highway 86, their community leaders feel a railroad overpass would help them to be able to expand their community and attract more businesses. Although this is a major financial undertaking, there are grants available through USDOT to pay for part of the project.

8. Conclusion

The Northern Oklahoma Development Authority's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for 2025-2030 provides a clear roadmap for fostering sustainable growth, resilience, and prosperity across our eight-county region. This plan reflects the voices of local stakeholders, data-driven analysis, and a commitment to collaboration among public, private, and nonprofit partners. By focusing on infrastructure improvements, economic diversification, workforce development, housing, and healthcare access, NODA aims to address current challenges while positioning the region to seize emerging opportunities in sections such as aerospace, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing.

The strategy emphasizes adaptability to changing economic conditions and prioritizes projects that strengthen community assets, enhance quality of life, and create inclusive pathways for success. Implementation will require continued engagement, transparent performance measurement, and leveraging federal, state, and local resources to maximize impact. Through these efforts, NODA reaffirms its mission to build a resilient economy where residents can live, work, and thrive – today and for generations to come.

Appendix A

CEDS Committee Members

Marci Hyde	Alfalfa Co. Cities & Towns
Garret Johnson	Alfalfa County
Kelly Fanning	Alfalfa Co. Conservation District
Bill Seitter	Blaine County Cities and Towns
Brandon Schultz	Blaine County
Ashley Humphrey	City of Enid
Chris Henderson	City of Ponca City
Howard Powell	Garfield County Cities and Towns
Otie Maly	Garfield County
Duane Thompson	Grant County Cities and Towns
Max Hess	Grant County
Noel Clonts	Kay County Cities and Towns
Jason Shanks	Kay County
Geoff Covalt	Kingfisher County Cities and Towns
Jeff Moss	Kingfisher County
Philip Schrahl	Major County Cities and Towns
Travis Darr	Major County
Brett Shaw	Noble County Cities and Towns
Gary May	Noble County
Ray “Toby” Walker	At Large
Catherine Lantz	At Large/Female
Vacant	At Large/Tribal

CEDS Working Committee Members

Charlene Flanery	Blackwell Economic Development/Industrial Authority
Hannah Prairie Chief	Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
Marcie Mack	Enid Regional Development Alliance
Tiffany Rowen	City of Hennessey
JaNae Barnard	Major County Economic Development Corporation
Jamie Beasley	Oklahoma Department of Commerce
Melanie McGuire	City of Perry Economic Development
Lori Henderson	Ponca City Development Authority
Kevin Ditmore	Tonkawa Development Authority
Matt Gard	Wheatland Resource Conservation & Development

Key Staff

Vicki Eggers	Economic Development Director
Isaac Smallwood	Grant Administrator
Susmita Som	GIS Planner
Michelle Emmerson	Finance Director
Jonathon Cross	Executive Director

Appendix B

Summary of NODA CEDS Survey conducted Fall 2025

General Info

Survey included 21 questions and received 25 responses within 3 weeks.

Main Topics: Community projects, strengths, challenges, desired changes, demographics.

Community Representation

- Garfield County & Enid (4 combined)
- Fairview/Major County (4 combined)
- Perry/Noble County (3 combined)
- Blackwell/Kay County (5 combined)
- El Reno/Canadian County (3 combined)
- Watonga/Blaine County (1)

Roles

- Citizen: 6
- Civic Leader: 6
- Public/Municipal Employee: 5
- Business Owner: 3
- Public/Municipal Official: 3
- Advocate: 2

Key Themes

Strengths: Community spirit, strong leadership, collaboration, location, schools.

Challenges: Lack of housing, funding issues, workforce shortages, aging infrastructure.

Planned Projects: Housing development, downtown revitalization, infrastructure upgrades, industrial parks.

Desired Changes: More housing, better jobs, improved infrastructure, more shopping/entertainment.

Demographics

Age Groups:

- 36–45: 6
- 46–55: 6
- 26–35: 3
- 56–65: 2
- 66–75: 2
- 76–85: 2

Education Levels:

- Bachelor's: 13
- Master's: 5
- Doctoral: 2
- Others: Trade certification, High school, Some college, Associate's

This shows strong interest in **housing**, **economic development**, and **quality of life improvements**, with **community pride** as a major strength but **funding and housing shortages** as recurring challenges.

Appendix C

NERDE

Area Fact Sheet

Alfalfa County, OK

10/13/2025

EDD Info	
Region	Austin
Name	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Website	https://nodanet.org/

About Alfalfa County, Oklahoma

Alfalfa County, Oklahoma has a population of 5,685, of which 89.1% have health insurance, 14.00% live in poverty , and 2.68% are unemployed .

EDCI Category Percentiles

Human Capital	Financial	Infrastructure	Industry	Institutions & Partnerships
Percentile: **0.64**	Percentile: **0.88**	Percentile: **0.43**	Percentile: **0.09**	Percentile: **0.84**
Capacity: **Elevated**	Capacity: **Elevated**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Limited**	Capacity: **Elevated**

Economic Distress Indicators

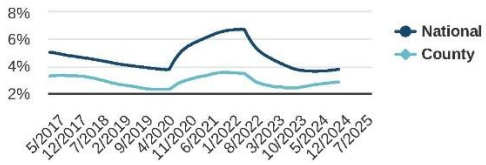
24-Month Unemployment	Current Unemployment	Per Capita Income (Census)	Per Capita Income (BEA)
2.68%	2.30%	$29,173	$44,782

Demographics

Category	Total	Percent	Compared to National
Age			
Population 65 or Over	1135	19.96%	-3.12%
Population Under 18	1087	19.12%	3.04%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	164	2.88%	-2.35%
Asian	17	0.30%	5.45%
Black or African-American	182	3.20%	8.83%
Hispanic or Latino	332	5.84%	13.15%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6	0.11%	0.06%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	5353	94.16%	-13.15%
Other	9	0.16%	0.34%
Two or More Races	350	6.16%	-2.29%
White	4625	81.35%	-23.18%
Sex			
Female	2093	36.82%	13.68%
Male	3592	63.18%	-13.68%
Education			
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	468	8.23%	-4.17%
Associate's Degree	963	16.94%	-3.60%
Bachelor's Degree	587	10.33%	4.29%
Graduate Professional	312	5.49%	3.95%
High School Graduate	1543	27.14%	-9.14%
Less than 9th Grade	147	2.59%	0.64%
Some College	963	16.94%	-3.60%

Workforce & Industry

24-Month Unemployment



Top 5 Industries by GDP

Industry	GDP (Thousands)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$270,902
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$78,426
Government and government enterprises	$48,016
Real estate and rental and leasing	$17,532
Wholesale trade	$14,553

Top 5 Industries by Number of Jobs

Industry	Jobs
Farm employment	695
Government and government enterprises	574
Retail trade	184
Wholesale trade	152
Finance and insurance	150

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Area Fact Sheet

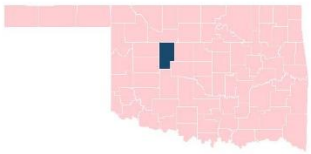
Blaine County, OK

10/13/2025

EDD Info	
Region	Austin
Name	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Website	https://nodanet.org/

About Blaine County, Oklahoma

Blaine County, Oklahoma has a population of 8,603, of which 88.8% have health insurance, 15.30% live in poverty , and 3.20% are unemployed .



EDCI Category Percentiles

Human Capital	Financial	Infrastructure	Industry	Institutions & Partnerships
Percentile: **0.20**	Percentile: **0.73**	Percentile: **0.53**	Percentile: **0.13**	Percentile: **0.84**
Capacity: **Limited**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Limited**	Capacity: **Elevated**

Economic Distress Indicators

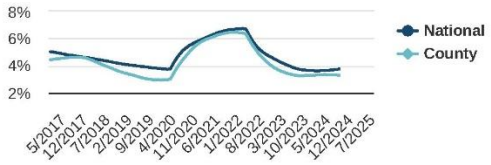
24-Month Unemployment	Current Unemployment	Per Capita Income (Census)	Per Capita Income (BEA)
3.20%	3.00%	$30,319	$52,642

Demographics

Category	Total	Percent	Compared to National
Age			
Population 65 or Over	1685	19.59%	-2.75%
Population Under 18	2091	24.31%	-2.15%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	517	6.01%	-5.48%
Asian		0.00%	5.75%
Black or African-American	352	4.09%	7.94%
Hispanic or Latino	1012	11.76%	7.23%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		0.00%	0.17%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	7591	88.24%	-7.23%
Other		0.00%	0.50%
Two or More Races	605	7.03%	-3.16%
White	6117	71.10%	-12.93%
Sex			
Female	4073	47.34%	3.16%
Male	4530	52.66%	-3.16%
Education			
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	564	6.56%	-2.50%
Associate's Degree	1467	17.05%	-3.71%
Bachelor's Degree	847	9.85%	4.77%
Graduate Professional	233	2.71%	6.73%
High School Graduate	2196	25.53%	-7.53%
Less than 9th Grade	357	4.15%	-0.92%
Some College	1467	17.05%	-3.71%

Workforce & Industry

24-Month Unemployment



Top 5 Industries by GDP

Industry	GDP (Thousands)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$1,540,687
Government and government enterprises	$63,335
Real estate and rental and leasing	$60,113
Durable goods manufacturing	$42,031
Nondurable goods manufacturing	$36,435

Top 5 Industries by Number of Jobs

Industry	Jobs
Farm employment	816
Government and government enterprises	791
Manufacturing	587
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	523
Retail trade	453

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Area Fact Sheet

Garfield County, OK

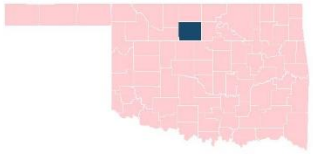
10/13/2025

EDD Info

Region	Austin
Name	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Website	https://nodanet.org/

About Garfield County, Oklahoma

Garfield County, Oklahoma has a population of 62,322, of which 86.4% have health insurance, 12.70% live in poverty , and 3.17% are unemployed .



EDCI Category Percentiles

Human Capital	Financial	Infrastructure	Industry	Institutions & Partnerships
Percentile: **0.32**	Percentile: **0.44**	Percentile: **0.72**	Percentile: **0.59**	Percentile: **0.52**
Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Limited**	Capacity: **Elevated**	Capacity: **Elevated**	Capacity: **Limited**

Economic Distress Indicators

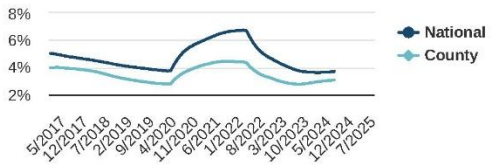
24-Month Unemployment	Current Unemployment	Per Capita Income (Census)	Per Capita Income (BEA)
3.17%	2.90%	$33,818	$49,362

Demographics

Category	Total	Percent	Compared to National
Age			
Population 65 or Over	10363	16.63%	0.21%
Population Under 18	16216	26.02%	-3.86%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	859	1.38%	-0.85%
Asian	780	1.25%	4.50%
Black or African-American	1176	1.89%	10.14%
Hispanic or Latino	9234	14.82%	4.17%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2433	3.90%	-3.73%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	53088	85.18%	-4.17%
Other	9	0.01%	0.49%
Two or More Races	3686	5.91%	-2.04%
White	44145	70.83%	-12.66%
Sex			
Female	31048	49.82%	0.68%
Male	31274	50.18%	-0.68%
Education			
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	3533	5.67%	-1.61%
Associate's Degree	8164	13.10%	0.24%
Bachelor's Degree	6251	10.03%	4.59%
Graduate Professional	2758	4.43%	5.01%
High School Graduate	14852	23.83%	-5.83%
Less than 9th Grade	1507	2.42%	0.81%
Some College	8164	13.10%	0.24%

Workforce & Industry

24-Month Unemployment



Top 5 Industries by GDP

Industry	GDP (Thousands)
Government and government enterprises	$542,711
Nondurable goods manufacturing	$512,492
Real estate and rental and leasing	$432,827
Health care and social assistance	$270,869
Retail trade	$259,784

Top 5 Industries by Number of Jobs

Industry	Jobs
Government and government enterprises	5,184
Retail trade	3,928
Health care and social assistance	3,787
Manufacturing	2,491
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	2,422

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Area Fact Sheet

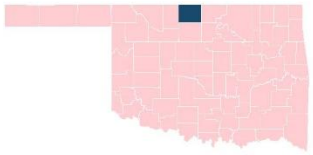
Grant County, OK

10/13/2025

EDD Info	
Region	Austin
Name	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Website	https://nodanet.org/

About Grant County, Oklahoma

Grant County, Oklahoma has a population of 4,137, of which 88.6% have health insurance, 13.50% live in poverty , and 2.63% are unemployed .



EDCI Category Percentiles

Human Capital	Financial	Infrastructure	Industry	Institutions & Partnerships
Percentile: **0.44**	Percentile: **0.91**	Percentile: **0.40**	Percentile: **0.19**	Percentile: **0.73**
Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Elevated**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Moderate**

Economic Distress Indicators

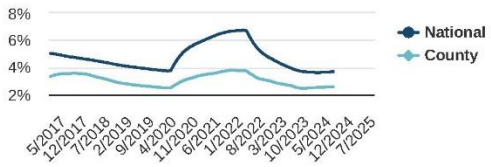
24-Month Unemployment	Current Unemployment	Per Capita Income (Census)	Per Capita Income (BEA)
2.63%	2.60%	$33,181	$56,929

Demographics

Category	Total	Percent	Compared to National
Age			
Population 65 or Over	933	22.55%	-5.71%
Population Under 18	966	23.35%	-1.19%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	97	2.34%	-1.81%
Asian	8	0.19%	5.56%
Black or African-American	85	2.05%	9.98%
Hispanic or Latino	191	4.62%	14.37%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		0.00%	0.17%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	3946	95.38%	-14.37%
Other	7	0.17%	0.33%
Two or More Races	189	4.57%	-0.70%
White	3560	86.05%	-27.88%
Sex			
Female	2049	49.53%	0.97%
Male	2088	50.47%	-0.97%
Education			
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	141	3.41%	0.65%
Associate's Degree	514	12.42%	0.92%
Bachelor's Degree	478	11.55%	3.07%
Graduate Professional	175	4.23%	5.21%
High School Graduate	1157	27.97%	-9.97%
Less than 9th Grade	113	2.73%	0.50%
Some College	514	12.42%	0.92%

Workforce & Industry

24-Month Unemployment



Top 5 Industries by GDP

Industry	GDP (Thousands)
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$81,475
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$64,377
Utilities	$53,214
Transportation and warehousing	$46,646
Wholesale trade	$28,074

Top 5 Industries by Number of Jobs

Industry	Jobs
Farm employment	765
Government and government enterprises	362
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	306
Construction	163
Other services (except government and government enterprises)	137

NERDE

Area Fact Sheet

Kay County, OK

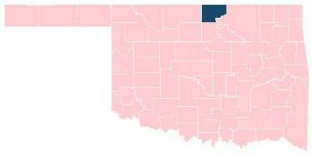
10/13/2025

EDD Info

Region	Austin
Name	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Website	https://nodanet.org/

About Kay County, Oklahoma

Kay County, Oklahoma has a population of 43,731, of which 87.3% have health insurance, 15.50% live in poverty , and 3.49% are unemployed .



EDCI Category Percentiles

Human Capital	Financial	Infrastructure	Industry	Institutions & Partnerships
Percentile: **0.27**	Percentile: **0.40**	Percentile: **0.63**	Percentile: **0.47**	Percentile: **0.81**
Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Limited**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Elevated**	Capacity: **Moderate**

Economic Distress Indicators

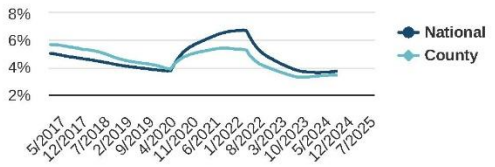
24-Month Unemployment	Current Unemployment	Per Capita Income (Census)	Per Capita Income (BEA)
3.49%	3.40%	$31,190	$48,259

Demographics

Category	Total	Percent	Compared to National
Age			
Population 65 or Over	8384	19.17%	-2.33%
Population Under 18	10901	24.93%	-2.77%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3422	7.83%	-7.30%
Asian	234	0.54%	5.21%
Black or African-American	868	1.98%	10.05%
Hispanic or Latino	3833	8.76%	10.23%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	20	0.05%	0.12%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	39898	91.24%	-10.23%
Other	148	0.34%	0.16%
Two or More Races	4011	9.17%	-5.30%
White	31195	71.33%	-13.16%
Sex			
Female	21863	49.99%	0.51%
Male	21868	50.01%	-0.51%
Education			
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	2180	4.99%	-0.93%
Associate's Degree	7100	16.24%	-2.90%
Bachelor's Degree	3746	8.57%	6.05%
Graduate Professional	1623	3.71%	5.73%
High School Graduate	10254	23.45%	-5.45%
Less than 9th Grade	565	1.29%	1.94%
Some College	7100	16.24%	-2.90%

Workforce & Industry

24-Month Unemployment



Top 5 Industries by GDP

Industry	GDP (Thousands)
Government and government enterprises	$343,563
Real estate and rental and leasing	$253,718
Retail trade	$209,306
Durable goods manufacturing	$169,976
Utilities	$151,416

Top 5 Industries by Number of Jobs

Industry	Jobs
Government and government enterprises	4,464
Retail trade	2,607
Manufacturing	2,345
Health care and social assistance	2,205
Accommodation and food services	1,763

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Area Fact Sheet

Kingfisher County, OK

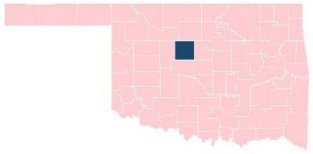
10/13/2025

EDD Info

Region	Austin
Name	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Website	https://nodanet.org/

About Kingfisher County, Oklahoma

Kingfisher County, Oklahoma has a population of 15,288, of which 86.3% have health insurance, 11.70% live in poverty , and 2.43% are unemployed .



EDCI Category Percentiles

Human Capital	Financial	Infrastructure	Industry	Institutions & Partnerships
Percentile: **0.53**	Percentile: **0.74**	Percentile: **0.25**	Percentile: **0.30**	Percentile: **0.68**
Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Limited**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Moderate**

Economic Distress Indicators

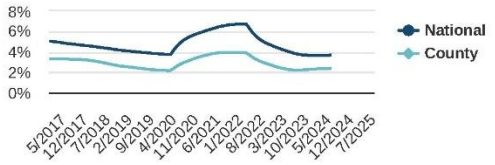
24-Month Unemployment	Current Unemployment	Per Capita Income (Census)	Per Capita Income (BEA)
2.43%	2.40%	$37,251	$71,339

Demographics

Category	Total	Percent	Compared to National
Age			
Population 65 or Over	2592	16.95%	-0.11%
Population Under 18	4092	26.77%	-4.61%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	395	2.58%	-2.05%
Asian	84	0.55%	5.20%
Black or African-American	174	1.14%	10.89%
Hispanic or Latino	2746	17.96%	1.03%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	25	0.16%	0.01%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	12542	82.04%	-1.03%
Other		0.00%	0.50%
Two or More Races	667	4.36%	-0.49%
White	11197	73.24%	-15.07%
Sex			
Female	7672	50.18%	0.32%
Male	7616	49.82%	-0.32%
Education			
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	522	3.41%	0.65%
Associate's Degree	1965	12.85%	0.49%
Bachelor's Degree	1611	10.54%	4.08%
Graduate Professional	643	4.21%	5.23%
High School Graduate	4139	27.07%	-9.07%
Less than 9th Grade	449	2.94%	0.29%
Some College	1965	12.85%	0.49%

Workforce & Industry

24-Month Unemployment



Top 5 Industries by GDP

Industry	GDP (Thousands)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$2,194,325
Utilities	$101,660
Wholesale trade	$94,176
Retail trade	$92,921
Government and government enterprises	$92,114

Top 5 Industries by Number of Jobs

Industry	Jobs
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	1,697
Farm employment	1,113
Government and government enterprises	1,104
Retail trade	981
Manufacturing	799

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EDA

NERDE

Area Fact Sheet

Major County, OK

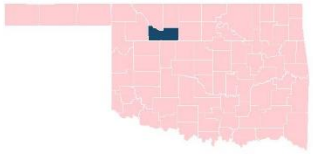
10/13/2025

EDD Info

Region	Austin
Name	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Website	https://nodanet.org/

About Major County, Oklahoma

Major County, Oklahoma has a population of 7,656, of which 89.2% have health insurance, 11.40% live in poverty , and 2.88% are unemployed .



EDCI Category Percentiles

Human Capital	Financial	Infrastructure	Industry	Institutions & Partnerships
Percentile: **0.77**	Percentile: **0.58**	Percentile: **0.33**	Percentile: **0.31**	Percentile: **0.49**
Capacity: **Elevated**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Limited**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Limited**

Economic Distress Indicators

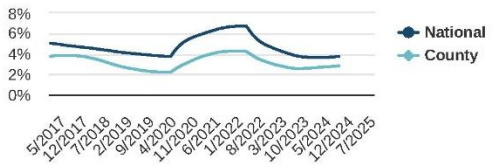
24-Month Unemployment	Current Unemployment	Per Capita Income (Census)	Per Capita Income (BEA)
2.88%	2.70%	$34,641	$47,856

Demographics

Category	Total	Percent	Compared to National
Age			
Population 65 or Over	1614	21.08%	-4.24%
Population Under 18	1954	25.52%	-3.36%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	58	0.76%	-0.23%
Asian	35	0.46%	5.29%
Black or African-American	2	0.03%	12.00%
Hispanic or Latino	808	10.55%	8.44%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		0.00%	0.17%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	6848	89.45%	-8.44%
Other	21	0.27%	0.23%
Two or More Races	424	5.54%	-1.67%
White	6308	82.39%	-24.22%
Sex			
Female	3828	50.00%	0.50%
Male	3828	50.00%	-0.50%
Education			
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	280	3.66%	0.40%
Associate's Degree	1127	14.72%	-1.38%
Bachelor's Degree	694	9.06%	5.56%
Graduate Professional	241	3.15%	6.29%
High School Graduate	2216	28.94%	-10.94%
Less than 9th Grade	234	3.06%	0.17%
Some College	1127	14.72%	-1.38%

Workforce & Industry

24-Month Unemployment



Top 5 Industries by GDP

Industry	GDP (Thousands)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	$356,559
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$58,409
Utilities	$48,943
Government and government enterprises	$30,715
Real estate and rental and leasing	$27,251

Top 5 Industries by Number of Jobs

Industry	Jobs
Farm employment	997
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	679
Government and government enterprises	409
Retail trade	393
Health care and social assistance	321

Argonne NATIONAL LABORATORY

EDA

Area Fact Sheet

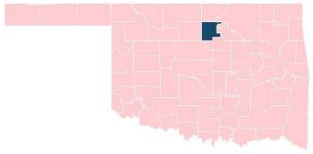
Noble County, OK

10/13/2025

EDD Info	
Region	Austin
Name	Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
Website	https://nodanet.org/

About Noble County, Oklahoma

Noble County, Oklahoma has a population of 10,909, of which 92.5% have health insurance, 11.50% live in poverty , and 2.66% are unemployed .



EDCI Category Percentiles

Human Capital	Financial	Infrastructure	Industry	Institutions & Partnerships
Percentile: **0.81**	Percentile: **0.43**	Percentile: **0.61**	Percentile: **0.18**	Percentile: **0.85**
Capacity: **Elevated**	Capacity: **Limited**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Moderate**	Capacity: **Elevated**

Economic Distress Indicators

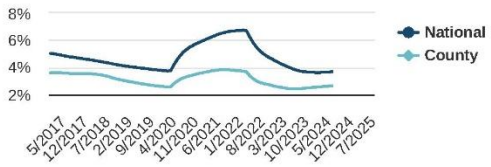
24-Month Unemployment	Current Unemployment	Per Capita Income (Census)	Per Capita Income (BEA)
2.66%	2.80%	$33,482	$50,683

Demographics

Category	Total	Percent	Compared to National
Age			
Population 65 or Over	2357	21.61%	-4.77%
Population Under 18	2522	23.12%	-0.96%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	611	5.60%	-5.07%
Asian	7	0.06%	5.69%
Black or African-American	133	1.22%	10.81%
Hispanic or Latino	475	4.35%	14.64%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3	0.03%	0.14%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	10434	95.65%	-14.64%
Other	18	0.17%	0.33%
Two or More Races	969	8.88%	-5.01%
White	8693	79.69%	-21.52%
Sex			
Female	5502	50.44%	0.06%
Male	5407	49.56%	-0.06%
Education			
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	422	3.87%	0.19%
Associate's Degree	1853	16.99%	-3.65%
Bachelor's Degree	1066	9.77%	4.85%
Graduate Professional	464	4.25%	5.19%
High School Graduate	2660	24.38%	-6.38%
Less than 9th Grade	251	2.30%	0.93%
Some College	1853	16.99%	-3.65%

Workforce & Industry

24-Month Unemployment



Top 5 Industries by GDP

Industry	GDP (Thousands)
Durable goods manufacturing	$203,001
Utilities	$119,886
Government and government enterprises	$99,151
Real estate and rental and leasing	$50,536
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	$34,448

Top 5 Industries by Number of Jobs

Industry	Jobs
Government and government enterprises	1,196
Farm employment	821
Retail trade	407
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	340
Construction	306

Appendix D

Social & Economic Profile for NODA Economic Development District, 2021

Includes: Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Major, and Noble Counties

Population by Age, 2021	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S.	Pct. of Total
Total	159,401	100%	329,725,481	100%
Preschool (0 to 4)	10,134	6.4%	19,423,121	5.9%
School Age (5 to 17)	29,730	18.7%	54,810,954	16.6%
College Age (18 to 24)	13,609	8.5%	30,339,089	9.2%
Young Adult (25 to 44)	39,110	24.5%	87,802,825	26.6%
Adult (45 to 64)	38,692	24.3%	84,460,871	25.6%
Older Adult (65 plus)	28,126	17.6%	52,888,621	16.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2021	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S.	Pct. of Total
Total	159,401	100%	329,725,481	100%
American Ind. or Alaskan Native Alone	7,638	4.8%	2,722,661	0.8%
Asian Alone	1,336	0.8%	18,782,924	5.7%
Black Alone	2,991	1.9%	41,393,012	12.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pac. Isl. Alone	2,639	1.7%	615,557	0.2%
White Alone	126,809	79.6%	224,789,109	68.2%
Two or More Race Groups	12,805	8.0%	23,039,422	7.0%
Hispanic or Latino				
Total Hispanic or Latino	17,651	11.1%	60,806,969	18.4%
Mexican	15,847	9.9%	36,983,682	11.2%
Cuban	42	0.0%	2,369,179	0.7%
Puerto Rican	192	0.1%	5,857,466	1.8%
Other	1,570	1.0%	15,596,642	4.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

Educational Attainment, 2021	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S.	Pct. of Total
Total Population 25 and Older	105,928	100%	225,152,317	100%
Less Than 9th Grade	4,349	4.1%	10,793,507	4.8%
9th to 12th, No Diploma	8,231	7.8%	14,256,849	6.3%
High School Graduate (incl. equiv.)	38,532	36.4%	59,636,386	26.5%
Some College, No Degree	23,075	21.8%	45,042,031	20.0%
Associate Degree	9,635	9.1%	19,614,710	8.7%
Bachelor's Degree	15,355	14.5%	46,354,331	20.6%
Graduate or Professional Degree	6,751	6.4%	29,454,503	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

Households, 2021	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S. Households	Pct. of Total
Total Households	60,554	100%	124,010,992	100%
Family Households	39,445	65.1%	80,755,759	65.1%
Married with Children	10,595	17.5%	23,012,380	18.6%
Married without Children	19,446	32.1%	36,318,805	29.3%
Single Parents	5,451	9.0%	10,688,085	8.6%
Other	3,953	6.5%	10,736,489	8.7%
Non-family Households	21,109	34.9%	43,255,233	34.9%
Living Alone	18,062	29.8%	34,797,246	28.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

Housing units, 2021	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S. Units	Pct. of Total
Total Housing Units	73,363	100%	139,647,020	100%
Owner Occupied	42,262	57.6%	80,152,161	57.4%
Renter Occupied	18,292	24.9%	43,858,831	31.4%
Vacant For Seasonal or Recreational Use	12,809	17.5%	15,636,028	11.2%
1-Unit (Attached or Detached)	50,634	69.0%	85,500,259	61.2%
2 - 9 Units	3,279	4.5%	15,023,370	10.8%
10 - 19 Units	750	1.0%	5,245,962	3.8%
20 or more Units	1,192	1.6%	11,585,248	8.3%
Built prior to 1940	12,572	17.1%	17,104,646	12.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

Commuting to Work, 2021	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S.	Pct. of Total
Workers 16 years and over	69,040	100%	155,284,955	100%
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	55,774	80.8%	113,724,271	73.2%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	7,886	11.4%	13,340,838	8.6%
Public transportation (including taxicab)	81	0.1%	6,472,373	4.2%
Walked	993	1.4%	3,849,557	2.5%
Other means	1,561	2.3%	2,836,232	1.8%
Worked at home	2,745	4.0%	15,061,684	9.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates

Resident Occupations, 2021	Value	Pct. of Total	U.S.	Pct. of Total
Employed civilian pop. 16 years and over	69,284	100%	157,510,982	100%
Management, professional, and related	21,003	30.3%	63,469,480	40.3%
Service	12,193	17.6%	26,826,595	17.0%
Sales and office	13,546	19.6%	32,862,044	20.9%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	932	1.3%	975,220	0.6%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	9,158	13.2%	12,744,051	8.1%
Production, transportation, and material moving	12,452	18.0%	20,633,592	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, latest 5-Year Estimates