

OKC One of Few Cities to See Growth



Only 13 of the 100 largest labor markets have regained jobs lost during the recession. Preliminary data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on private-sector employment in 2011 was measured against data from 2006 – the last full year before the recession began. Of the 13, Oklahoma City ranks No. 11.

“We have known for some time that Greater Oklahoma City fared better during the national recession than many other large metro areas across the country,” said Carl Edwards, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Chairman, Price Edwards & Company. “The fact that we are among only 13 metros to have regained jobs lost during that five-year span shows that our efforts to improve the business climate and increase our economic development efforts is paying dividends.”

Data specific to 2011 has Oklahoma City ranked among the top cities in terms of private-sector job gains for the year with an increase from 436,100 to 448,100, a one-year increase of 12,000 jobs. This increase of 2.75 percent ranks Oklahoma City at No. 7 in percentage gain for 2011. The cities showing the most private-sector jobs gained during 2011 included Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and New York City. *Continued on Page 9*

River to Host 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials

Last month, USA Canoe/Kayak announced that the Oklahoma River will be the site for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials for Flatwater Sprint, April 20-21. USA Canoe/Kayak will also hold its National Team Trials for the 2012 ICF World Cup and ICF ParaCanoe World Championships during the event.

This is the second time the Oklahoma River has hosted the Sprint Olympic Trials. In 2008, the U.S. Olympic Trials for Flatwater Sprint were held in Oklahoma City, as were the 2008 and 2010 USA Canoe/Kayak Sprint National Championships. USA Canoe/Kayak announced the relocation of its headquarters to Oklahoma City in December 2011.



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Leadership Notes

List Shows Strength of Companies, Local Economy

Last month, three Greater Oklahoma City companies were honored by *Fortune* magazine as some of the “100 Best Companies to Work For” in the U.S. Not only did these companies make this impressive list, but they were included in the top 50. The companies representing our city include Chesapeake Energy Corporation at No. 18; Devon Energy Corporation at No. 28; and American Fidelity Assurance Company at No. 47.

The fact that three Greater Oklahoma City companies have been on this list multiple times is impressive. Our state represents just 1.2 percent of our nation’s total population. And Oklahoma City represents even less – not even 0.2 percent of the population of the U.S. Even still, companies from our region make up 3 percent of the total list.

These companies deserve recognition for their accomplishments and the role they play in our community, both through the creation of thousands of jobs and the amount to which they give back through donations of both time and money. But I also want to draw attention to this list for what it means for our business community.

The presence of these companies in Greater Oklahoma City reflects positively on both our overall image and the strength of our business community and economic climate. While I cannot say that these companies might not have achieved this level of success had they been located in a different city or state, I can say that they have chosen to be located in Greater Oklahoma City and have seen incredible success here. Without a strong and diverse economy and business-friendly climate, this would not have been possible. The Chamber is proud to have these companies among our membership and we will continue our work to strengthen the business community to help these companies and the thousands of others in our region see continued success.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams
Chamber CEO & President



Roy H. Williams
President & CEO

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Oklahoma River to Host 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials

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“The Oklahoma River is an ideal location for us to host these events as we select our top athletes for 2012 and identify talent as we look toward 2016,” said USA Canoe/Kayak CEO Joe Jacobi. “We’re also excited to offer metro area youth the opportunity to actually kayak with some of these top athletes in the nation as part of the event.”

The weekend will include opportunities for community participation as OKC RIVERSPORT hosts a free Paddle Now! youth event for kids ages 8 to 16 on Saturday, April 21. Youth will have the opportunity to get into a sprint kayak with a top U.S. athlete and go for a short paddle on the Oklahoma River. The competition and Paddle Now! youth event will be free and open to the public.

“It’s truly a once in a lifetime opportunity,” Jacobi said. “I know a lot of moms and dads will be wishing they had the chance to experience the sport like this. The real beauty is that the kids don’t have to have any previous kayaking experience to do it. The athletes will make sure they have a great time.”

MAPS 3 Project to be Unveiled

The MAPS 3 funds are being used to make a number of improvements to the Oklahoma River. During the 200-meter event, the first of three state-of-the-art starting systems to be funded by MAPS 3 will be unveiled. These starting gates will be identical to the ones used at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The pneumatic gates hold the boats in place and then drop with the starter’s gun, ensuring a fair start and a higher standard of racing. The gates are another key benefit to making the Oklahoma River the only place in the country where athletes can train with the system they will encounter in international competition.

Oklahoma City Athletes to Participate

Several of the athletes competing in the Olympic Trials currently train in Oklahoma City including Maggie Hogan, Kaitlyn McElroy and Jen Burke. Others expected to challenge top athletes for Olympic positions include two-time Olympian, Carrie Johnson, and 2011 Pan Am Games Bronze Medalist, Ryan Dolan.



Next month, the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials for Flatwater Sprint will be held on the Oklahoma River, giving spectators the opportunity to watch world-class athletes in action.

“As home to the OKC National High Performance Center for both rowing and canoe/kayak, it will be exciting for us to watch the athletes who live and train in OKC race here to qualify for Team USA,” said OKC Boathouse Foundation Executive Director Mike Knopp. “Over the past two years, these athletes have really become a part of Oklahoma City, so we want to give everyone the chance to come down to the river and cheer them on as they race for a shot at their Olympic dreams.”

USA Canoe/Kayak is a non-profit membership organization based in Oklahoma City, promoting canoe and kayak racing in the United States. A member of the United States Olympic Committee, USA Canoe/Kayak is the national governing body for the Olympic sports of Flatwater Sprint and Whitewater Slalom and the official U.S. federation of the International Canoe Federation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Immigration Forum: March 29

Learn about the economic impact of immigration at a breakfast on March 29 from 7:30 until 9 a.m. at Oklahoma Christian University, 2501 E. Memorial Road. Richard T. Herman, author of "Immigration, Inc.," and a panel of local business leaders will discuss the positive impact of immigration on the national and local economy. The cost to attend this event is \$30 for Chamber members and \$35 for nonmembers. Register online at www.okcchamber.com/events or contact register@okcchamber.com.

Sunset Reception: March 27



On Tuesday, March 27, from 4 to 6 p.m., the 809 Sports Grill will open its doors for a Sunset Reception. These events give members of the business community optimum opportunities for networking while also enjoying food and drinks at a local business. RSVP for this event is not required and admission is free. For more information, contact register@okcchamber.com.

Member Orientation: March 13

The Chamber offers its members a variety of services and resources, as well as key opportunities for networking throughout the business community. Join other Chamber members at the Member Orientation, March 13, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the Chamber offices, 123 Park Avenue. During this event you'll learn how the Chamber is impacting Greater Oklahoma City and how to maximize your membership through a variety of programs and resources. There is no cost to attend this event. Register by contacting Christine Soileau at 297-8961 or csoileau@okcchamber.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 7

Breaking Through Luncheon

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens

Cost: \$35 for members; \$40 for non-members.

March 13

Member Orientation

Time: 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Chamber offices, 123 Park Ave.

Cost: This event is free to attend. Register by contacting Christine Soileau at 297-8961 or csoileau@okcchamber.com.

March 27

Sunset Reception

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Location: 809 Sports Grill, 2809 NW Expressway

Cost: Admission is free. No need to RSVP.

March 29

Immigration Forum

Time: 7:30 - 9 a.m.

Location: Oklahoma Christian University, 2501 E Memorial Road

Cost: \$30 for members; \$35 for non-members.

April 3

SchmoozaPalooza Trade Show

Time: 4 - 7 p.m.

Location: State Fair Park, Travel & Transportation Building, 3200 Stagecoach

Cost: Tickets are \$10 per person and include one drink ticket. Single booths are available for \$300.

April 10

Sunset Reception

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Location: Paseo Arts Association, 2920 Paseo Drive

Cost: Admission is free. No need to RSVP.

April 10

Member Orientation

Time: 8:30 - 10 a.m.

Location: Chamber offices, 123 Park Ave.

Cost: This event is free to attend. Register by contacting Christine Soileau at 297-8961 or csoileau@okcchamber.com.

Register securely online for Chamber events at www.okcchamber.com/events or e-mail register@okcchamber.com with questions.

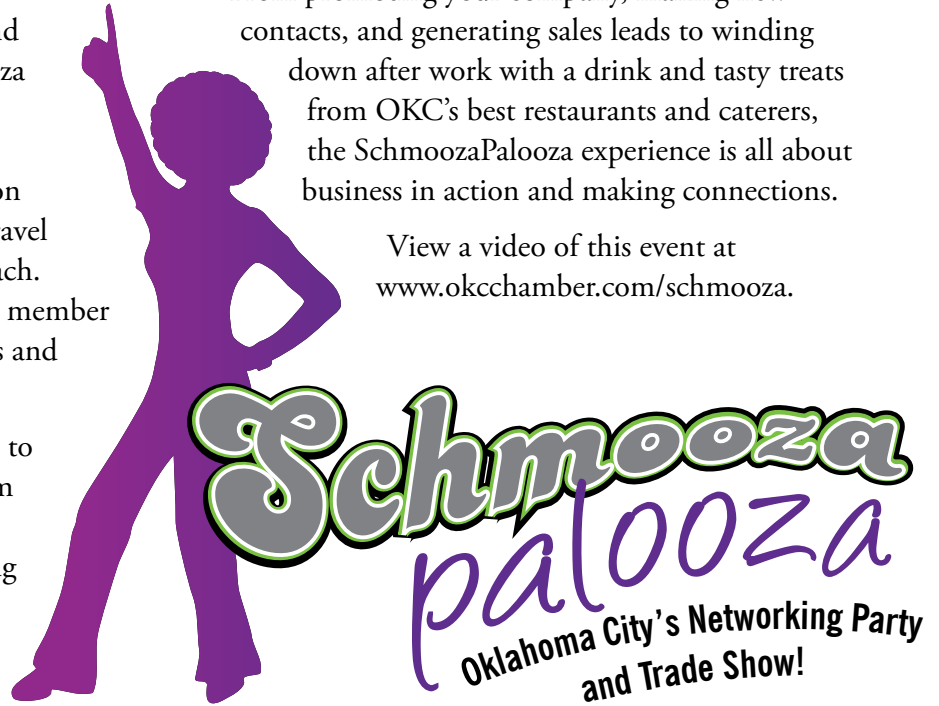
SchmoozaPalooza: April 3

It's that time of year – when the best of the best come together for some schmoozing and paloozing at the Chamber's SchmoozaPalooza Trade Show. Join more than 1,000 other Greater Oklahoma City business leaders at the most popular trade show in the region on Tuesday, April 3, at State Fair Park in the Travel and Transportation building, 3200 Stagecoach. From 4 to 7 p.m., more than 100 Chamber member companies will be promoting their products and services.

Bring your friends, coworkers and clients to preview the latest products and services from Chamber member exhibitors in a fun and casual networking environment. The evening will include live 70s music, networking activities, food tastings and door prizes.

From promoting your company, making new contacts, and generating sales leads to winding down after work with a drink and tasty treats from OKC's best restaurants and caterers, the SchmoozaPalooza experience is all about business in action and making connections.

View a video of this event at www.okcchamber.com/schmooza.



Increase Your Connection With the Chamber



The interactive footer at the bottom of OKCChamber.com gives members and the public the opportunity to access the Chamber's affiliate sites and connect through social media.

Now it is easier to connect with the Chamber through the interactive footer at the bottom of OKCChamber.com. Here you'll find links to the Chamber's affiliate sites:

- **VisitOKC.com** – Information for visitors and meeting planners
- **GreaterOklahomaCity.com** – Information and resources for Economic Development
- **ABetterLifeOKC.com** – Relocation Resources and access to "The Better Life," a blog for new residents

- **GreaterGrads.com** – Online job and internship resource for students and employers
- **GreaterOKC.tv** – Online channel featuring videos and content about OKC
- **GrowInOKC.com** – Resources for entrepreneurs

You can also find contact information and driving directions to the Chamber, as well as a window highlighting the Chamber's social media outlets. For more information and videos regarding how to use this and other new features, visit www.okcchamber.com/howto.

Make Your Voice Heard Through PAC

GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY

CHAMBER PAC

If you watch the news, read the newspaper or check social media sites, it's hard to miss that 2012 is an election year. And while the presidential election is significant, a number of important state offices will also be on the ballot on Nov. 6.

The work done at the state capitol by our elected officials has a definite impact on the business community. We have seen significant progress in a number of business-friendly priorities at the capitol over the past few years. Recent lawsuit reform, workers' compensation reform, education reform and other issues have helped make Oklahoma a more business-friendly state and have positioned Greater Oklahoma City to continue its current positive momentum.

To strengthen the voice of the business community, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber established the Greater OKC Chamber Political Action Committee (Greater OKC Chamber PAC). This fund is the only one in Central Oklahoma that aggressively pursues the election and re-election of candidates who take a stand for Greater Oklahoma City's key business issues. Individuals who support the PAC help us have a stronger voice in the halls of government and ensure a stronger economic climate and brighter future for our business community. Together, we work to elect business-friendly legislators, ensuring that our positive momentum continues.

For more information or to contribute to the PAC, visit www.okcchamber.com/pac or contact Mark VanLandingham, vice president, government relations, at 297-8925 or mvanlandingham@okcchamber.com.

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Continued from Page 1

Of the private sector jobs gained, Oklahoma City saw significant increases in major retail and manufacturing employment. Oklahoma City was ranked No. 3 in the number of retail jobs gained from 2010 to 2011, with an estimated increase of 2,200 or 3.68 percent. The city's one-year increase of 1,600 manufacturing jobs (5.2 percent) earned the rank of No. 10 among the largest metro areas.

The data for 2011 also showed positive progress for much of the U.S. While only 13 metros have returned to their pre-recession numbers, 87 added private-sector jobs during 2011.

To view these stories and other Oklahoma City accolades, visit www.okcchamber.com/accolades.

Oklahoma City

2010/2011 Raw Job Increase: 12,000

2010/2011 Rank: 7

5-year Rank: 11

5-year Raw Job Increase: 1,500

New Orleans

2010/2011 Raw Job Increase: 8,700

2010/2011 Rank: 21

5-year Rank: 2

5-year Raw Job Increase: 39,400

Austin

2010/2011 Raw Job Increase: 13,200

2010/2011 Rank: 16

5-year Rank: 3

5-year Raw Job Increase: 37,900

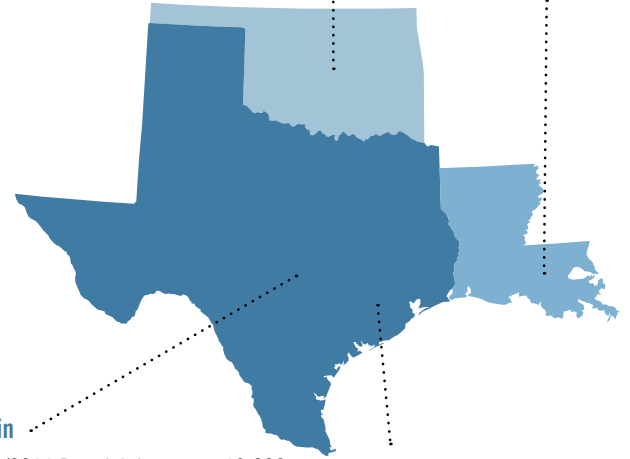
Houston

2010/2011 Raw Job Increase: 63,400

2010/2011 Rank: 1

5-year Rank: 1

5-year Raw Job Increase: 109,700



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National Sports Forum Brings Big League Teams to a Big League City



At the end of January, more than 700 sports business professionals arrived in Oklahoma City for the 2012 National Sports Forum (NSF), hosted by the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) and the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Oklahoma City is experiencing impressive growth in the sports industry. Through the forum, the CVB was able to increase exposure for both the city and the industry.

“NSF allowed us to bring industry leaders here and show them how, in just a few short years, Oklahoma City has truly transformed into a big league city,” said Sue Hollenbeck, assistant director of sports business development for the CVB. “We were very excited to have speakers such as Michael Waltrip (Michael Waltrip Racing), Alex Martins (CEO, Orlando Magic) and Burke Magnus (senior VP, College Sports Programming for ESPN) in our city. As we continue to grow this industry, it is important for us to increase our exposure and strengthen our relationships with individuals and organizations in this area. These forums also give us the opportunity to strengthen partnerships with our local sports organizations in order to better promote and sell Oklahoma City as a sports destination.”

Focusing primarily on marketing, ticket sales and sponsorships, NSF attendees experienced three days of educational seminars and general sessions led by guest speakers who are leaders within their market segment of the sports industry.

Bringing NSF to Oklahoma City would not have been possible without the Oklahoma City Thunder. Host cities of the conference must be home to a professional sports franchise in order to be considered.

“We have great partners in the Oklahoma City Thunder and our other local sports organizations,” said Hollenbeck. “Forums such as this also give us the opportunity to strengthen our partnerships with our local

What People Tweeted About NSF

-  **“Brett Brecheisen @bbrech** Feb 3
Oklahoma City knows how to host an event. #NSF2012 was absolutely incredible and I highly recommend OKC to anyone!”
-  **“Ohio U Sports Ad @OhioUSportsAd** Feb 2
Thank you to everyone at the #NSF2012! We had a fantastic experience in OKC.”
-  **“richcalabrese @richcalabrese** Feb 1
Back in the office after a great #NSF2012. Thanks for the hospitality @VisitOKC!”
-  **“Melissa Sims @melrosedesigns** Feb 1
Headed back to Houston...but I had a great time here in OKC for the #NSF2012.”
-  **“Matt Schaeperkoetter @mattschae** Jan 31
Oklahoma City getting some good pub @ this year’s #NSF2012. All seem to be enjoying OK!”

sports organizations in order to better promote and sell Oklahoma City as a sports destination. The relationships we have with our local partners are essential to growing Oklahoma City a premier sports market. Hosting such an outstanding event would not have been possible without the entire Thunder organization, the Oklahoma City RedHawks and the Oklahoma City Barons.”

The comments received from attendees and conference planners proved that Oklahoma City made a positive impression.

“From the moment we first started working with the OKC Convention & Visitors Bureau in 2009 and all the way through to our event’s conclusion in early February, we had a true first-class experience the entire way,” said Ron Seaver, president of the National Sports Forum. “What an amazing sports community Oklahoma City is with great people . . . and boy do you love your sports teams!”

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17301 S. Sunnyslane Road
Norman, OK 73071-7917
www.vaneatonreadymix.com

Van Eaton Ready Mix, Inc.
Concrete Products
Manager 844-2900
2547 E. Waterloo Road
Edmond, OK 73034
www.vaneatonreadymix.com

Vintage Hardwood Floor Co., LLC
Flooring Contractors
Mrs. Rhonda Silva 745-9200
9505 S.W. 32nd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73179
www.vintagehardwoodfloorcompany.com

Travis W. Watkins, PC
Attorneys / Lawyers
Mr. Travis W. Watkins..... 607-1192
6402 N. Santa Fe Ave., Suite B
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
www.taxhelpok.com

YMCA - Rockwell Plaza
Child Care Services
Fitness Centers & Training
Social Service Organizations
Youth Organizations & Centers
Mr. Ryan M. Ellis..... 621-5858
8300 Glade Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
www.ymcaokc.org

LeRoy E. Young, D.O., Inc.
Physicians & Surgeons
LeRoy Young, D.O. 235-6200
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P.O. Box 60129
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GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to the following Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings & Groundbreakings!

All Chamber members are welcome to attend Grand Openings.

To view more photos, see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit www.okcchamber.com/grandopenings.



Alexander & Strunk, Inc. / Beale Professional Services
3000 N.W. 149th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73134



Crotts Lohrey & Associates, PLLC
301 N.W. 61st St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73116



Dave and Buster's
5501 N. May Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112



Ideal Feet of Oklahoma City
5623 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112



Nothing Bundt Cakes
2520 W. Memorial Rd., Suite D
Oklahoma City, OK 73134



YMCA - Rockwell Plaza
8300 Glade Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

BEST REGIONAL HOSPITALS

U.S. News & World Report

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
RECOGNIZED IN 5 SPECIALTIES
2011-2012

OU Medical Center

OU Medical Center The #1 Hospital In OKC

**Cancer | Gynecology | Nephrology | Urology
Ear, Nose and Throat**

Nothing is more important than your family's health, and when you are sick or injured, our dedicated team of professionals is committed to providing you high-quality care.

As the only academic health care facility in Oklahoma City, OU Medical Center offers comprehensive, multi-disciplinary health care backed by the very latest in cutting-edge research and technology.

That's one of the reasons we were ranked the number one hospital in Oklahoma City by *U.S. News*, with recognition for high performance in cancer, gynecology, urology, nephrology and ear, nose and throat.

We are honored by the national recognition, but the greatest honor is serving our patients.

To find out why we're #1 in Oklahoma City, visit www.oumedicine.com/usnews

HCA Health Services of Oklahoma, Inc. (d.b.a. OU MEDICAL CENTER) is not part of, nor operated by, the University of Oklahoma.

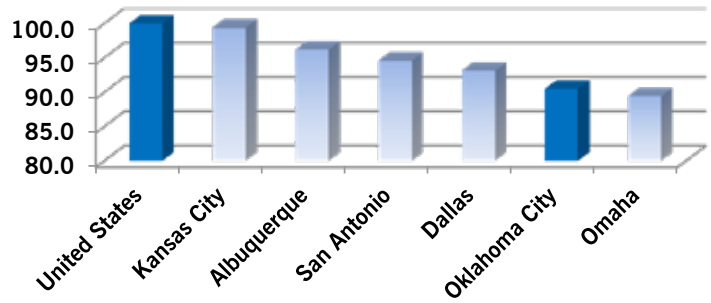
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Oklahoma City Cost of Living Index 9.5% Below the Nation for 2011

Focus on Cost of Living

If you are earning \$50,000 in Oklahoma City, you would have to earn a salary of \$75,912 in Boston to maintain your current standard of living (after-tax dollars).

Check out the Cost of Living Calculator at www.okcchamber.com — Moving to Oklahoma City — to compare other cities.



Where You Live Matters! - 2011 Annual Average Price Report – ACCRA - www.coli.org

	Apartment Rent	Ground Coffee 12 oz.	Total Energy Bill	Doctor Visit	Gasoline \$/Gal	Men's Haircut	Movie Ticket
Oklahoma City	\$703	\$4.13	\$124.18	\$95.61	\$3.31	\$11.97	\$8.32
Albuquerque	\$727	\$4.83	\$180.42	\$92.97	\$3.33	\$11.99	\$10.22
Dallas	\$738	\$4.87	\$182.89	\$100.25	\$3.45	\$15.97	\$9.22
Kansas City	\$738	\$4.05	\$167.74	\$84.43	\$3.38	\$14.80	\$9.60
Omaha	\$676	\$4.42	\$146.44	\$110.40	\$3.51	\$14.46	\$8.98
San Antonio	\$993	\$3.51	\$131.17	\$84.47	\$3.35	\$13.83	\$9.09
All City Avg.	\$763	\$4.30	\$155.47	\$94.69	\$3.39	\$13.71	\$9.24

For comprehensive Economic Indicator and Regional Data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators or contact Eric Long, Research Economist— (405)297-8976; elong@okcchamber.com

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HEALTHY WOMAN
A DEACONESS HOSPITAL RESOURCE

Fourth Anniversary Event

Thursday, April 12, 2012

5:00 — Health Fair & Women's Expo
6:00 — Dinner & Keynote Speaker:
Colette Carlson "The Truth About Balance"

Oklahoma City Marriott
3233 N.W. Expressway • Oklahoma City

Tickets may be purchased for \$20.00

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 604-4444 or visit deaconessokc.com/healthywoman

Deaconess Hospital is directly or indirectly owned by a partnership that proudly includes physician owners, including certain members of the hospital's medical staff.

LOOK INSIDE!

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- 15 Economic Indicators



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Chesapeake Energy Corporation is the second-largest producer of natural gas, a Top 15 producer of oil and natural gas liquids and the most active driller of new wells in America. Natural gas is an abundant source of energy, with enough domestic supply to power our nation for the next century and beyond. We're putting it to use today by converting our fleets to clean-burning natural gas vehicles (NGVs) and encouraging companies and municipalities nationwide to do the same. With America's transportation sector consuming one out of every three barrels of imported oil, natural gas is an affordable homegrown solution right when we need it most. We're Fueling America's Future® and asking you to join us on the road to energy independence.

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