

Spotlight on the Market

[State's job market continues to mend, latest data shows](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - August 31, 2017

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma continues to show improvement on the jobs front, the latest data from the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission show. Fewer people in the job market combined with fewer numbers of estimated unemployed workers resulted in better unemployment percentages for Oklahoma's biggest cities in July, compared to a year ago.

[Ginnie Graham: Tulsa known as a 'magical' place for early education research](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - August 27, 2017

Tulsa's national reputation for offering innovative early childhood education programs has attracted another long-term study to see what exactly makes these classrooms so effective. Researchers from Georgetown and Harvard universities are partnering with the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa's Early Childhood Education Institute to take the next step in understanding why pre-K programs work.

[Philbrook to build full-scale log cabin, announces ambitious exhibits](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - August 25, 2017

The Philbrook Museum of Art announced Thursday an ambitious series of upcoming exhibits and programs, which will include the construction of full-scale log cabin as a permanent structure on the museum grounds. The log cabin is the work of Minnesota artist Karl Unnasch, and will be constructed near the museum's Teaching Edible Garden. The cabin, which will measure 20 feet by 30 feet, will be built of wood reclaimed from a cabin built in Wisconsin in the 1880s.

[Tulsa American Job Center moves to downtown location](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - August 24, 2017

A workforce advocacy office has shifted downtown in a move designed to bolster its effectiveness. Officials on Thursday celebrated the opening of the Tulsa American Job Center in the Executive Center Building, 201 W. Fifth St. Formerly known as the Eastgate One-Stop Center, the office relocated about a month ago from the Eastgate Metroplex, 14002 E. 21st St., its home for about eight years, said Shelley Cadamy, executive director of Workforce Tulsa.

[Federal grant will significantly accelerate city's plan to hire more firefighters](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - August 23, 2017

A federal grant announced Wednesday will dramatically accelerate the city's plan to hire dozens of firefighters who were to be funded in the first three years of Vision Tulsa. City officials announced Wednesday that 60 firefighters can be hired with a \$9.5 million Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response — or SAFER — grant administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Department of Homeland Security.

[Spartan College partners with Envoy Air to create pipeline to jobs for pilots](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - August 22, 2017

Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology announced Tuesday in Tulsa its partnership with Envoy Air Inc. to recruit and train pilots who will be eligible for hire at Envoy upon degree and training completion. The Envoy Cadet Program is designed to help flight school student pilots make a smooth transition from the classroom to the cockpit. Envoy was formerly American Eagle Airlines.

[Blue Dome District to get 'night-sky friendly' street lights](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - August 16, 2017

An extensive project to replace and add street lights along 16 blocks in the downtown Blue Dome District will start this week, city officials say. On Friday, construction crews will begin removing the acorn-style street lamps that have become the downtown standard and replace them with LED fixtures. The city of Tulsa contracted with Crossland Heavy Contractors to perform the \$1.09 million project, which is funded by the Blue Dome Tax Increment Financing District. TIF districts use sales tax generated in a specific area to construct improvement projects.

Research Wizard Tulsa Market Brief

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Home construction booms in July

Tulsa World (OK) - August 16, 2017

Area home construction in July jumped 24 percent over the same month a year ago, data shows. Housing starts for the month were 279 compared to 212 logged last year, according to the permit tracking service New Orders Weekly. The year-to-date numbers are 1,832, an increase of 13.2 percent to this point a year ago. That number represents the largest monthly total since December (2,702).

Kravis Discovery Center reopens at Gilcrease

Tulsa World (OK) - August 14, 2017

Kravis Discovery Center at Gilcrease Museum, located on the museum's lower level, underwent an extensive renovation earlier this year to create a more interactive, immersive experience in which visitors could explore Gilcrease's collection of art and artifacts from the indigenous people of the Americas. The major new feature is the Interactive Discovery Trail designed by TEQ4, a United Kingdom-based firm that specializes in immersive attractions and interactive experiences for museums, science centers and theme parks around the world.

Suburban expansion: New year, new elementary schools for BA, Jenks and Union districts

Tulsa World (OK) - August 12, 2017

Three Tulsa-area suburban school districts will be ushering students into brand new elementary schools as they begin the 2017-18 academic year. Bond funds approved by voters in local elections are powering facility expansions to accommodate enrollment growth in the Broken Arrow, Jenks and Union school districts.

36 Degrees North to add office space in nearby building in Brady Arts District

Tulsa World (OK) - August 11, 2017

Tulsa's "Basecamp for Entrepreneurs," 36 Degrees North, is adding a sister space that will nearly double its existing square footage. By November, newly named Camp II is expected to move into a 9,000-square-foot ground floor at 300 E. Mathew B. Brady St., said Dustin Curzon, executive director of 36 Degrees North, which is housed in a 11,000-square-foot-space at 36 E. Cameron St. Camp II will include 12 furnished offices, two conference rooms, a kitchen and a 36 Degrees North team member onsite during business hours.

Cox Business Center receives award

Tulsa World (OK) - August 10, 2017

Cox Business Center, Tulsa's SMG-managed convention center, was awarded the 2017 Venue Excellence Award by the International Arena Venue Management Association and was presented with the award at the 92nd annual VenueConnect conference in Nashville this week.

Nonprofit sector acting as a catalyst for continued development

Tulsa World (OK) - August 5, 2017

The Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation unveiled some ambitious plans for Route 66 recently: Mother Road Market. While the project will be another piece of development in a part of the city that has been historically underdeveloped — Route 66 — its intent is to give the area some local retail flavor. The renovation of the foundation's headquarters will include Andolini's Pizzeria as an anchor tenant but will also include space for 17 curated shops, which will give graduates of food incubator Kitchen 66 a place to grow.

\$18 million mixed-use development planned for Broken Arrow's Rose District

Tulsa World (OK) - August 2, 2017

Tulsa-based Cowen Construction, working through Milestone Capital LLC, announced plans to build a roughly \$18 million mixed-use facility at the site of a former church building that was razed by the city last year. The largest private development in Rose District history, the project features a four-story building that will encompass residential, retail and office space. The 120,000-square-foot development will include 31,660 square feet of space for retail and offices on the first floor and at least 90 residential units on floors two through four. The project also will feature dedicated parking.

Expansions, Openings, Relocations, Acquisitions

New construction progressing at Crossing Oaks Shopping Center

Tulsa World (OK) - August 31, 2017

A new department store under construction in the revamped Crossing Oaks Shopping Center is preparing for an autumn opening. Ross Dress for Less, 7120 S. Memorial Drive, has scheduled a grand opening for Oct. 7, according to the company's website. The store replaces an older location in the same shopping center. An Aspen Dental office is being built just east of the new Ross, and a WinCo Foods store, the first in Tulsa, is set to be completed in the shopping center in the fall of 2018.

Pink House in Claremore will take over the Belvidere Mansion

Tulsa World (OK) - August 31, 2017

Two well-known Claremore locations will go through some big changes in the next few weeks. The Pink House, 210 W. Fourth St., will move into the historic Belvidere Mansion later this month, according to the restaurant's Facebook Page. The Belvidere Restaurant & Tea Room, 121 N. Chickasaw Ave., also posted on Facebook that it will close after lunch Sept. 9. The Rogers County Historical Society owns the Belvidere Mansion and will maintain the Belvidere Mansion and Gift Shop during regular business hours and the third-floor ballroom that is available for banquet and party rentals. RCHS will also continue to sponsor fundraising events at the historic home.

Tulsa airport raises glass to local brewer, other new restaurant and retail options

Tulsa World (OK) - August 30, 2017

When Dead Armadillo Brewing Co. founder Tony Peck was offered the opportunity to burnish his local brand at Tulsa International Airport, he seized it. "It's awesome," he said Wednesday inside the Dead Armadillo Tarmac Taproom, a bar-restaurant that is operated by Creative Food Group on Concourse A. The Tarmac Taproom was among the new Concourse A restaurants and stores that were celebrated at Wednesday's grand opening. It will feature a food menu, seven varieties of Tulsa-based Dead Armadillo beers, a full liquor bar and many local, national and international premium beers.

QuikTrip planning new location at 15th and Lewis

Tulsa World (OK) - August 30, 2017

QuikTrip is planning a new location at the intersection of 15th Street and Lewis Avenue. The Tulsa-based convenience store chain confirmed that it purchased the property on the southeast corner of the intersection, which currently is a Bill & Ruth's sandwich shop. QT spokesman Mike Thornbrugh said the plan is to also purchase the Duffy's restaurant property next door and then build a QuikTrip Generation 3 store.

Arvest Bank announces acquisition of Bear State Bank

Tulsa World (OK) - August 27, 2017

Arvest Bank announced it entered into an agreement to acquire Bear State Financial, which has 42 branches in Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. The acquisition, expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2017 or first quarter of 2018 pending customary regulatory approvals and subject to approval by Bear State shareholders, is an all-cash transaction valued at approximately \$391 million. As of June 30, Bear State had total assets of \$2.24 billion and total deposits of \$1.7 billion in 34 communities.

Table Talk: Burn Co. Barbecue to open Saturday at Jenks Riverwalk

Tulsa World (OK) - August 25, 2017

Burn Co. Barbecue will open its second **location** Saturday for lunch and dinner at the Jenks Riverwalk, according to owner Adam Myers. The new 5,500-square-foot restaurant, featuring 17 Hasty-Bake grills, will open at 10:30 a.m. for lunch service and go 5:30-8 p.m. for dinner Saturday and Sunday. It will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

Expansion of Tulsa International Airport parking garage adds 500 spaces

Tulsa World (OK) - August 25, 2017

Motorists traveling to and from the Tulsa International Airport are doing so easier nowadays. The airport recently completed a \$30 million parking garage expansion that has added 500 new parking spaces.

Tulsa-based IT services company Hostek makes mark on Inc. 5000 list

Tulsa World (OK) - August 16, 2017

Hostek, an information technology services firm founded in 1998, is ranked the 4,132nd-fastest-growing private company in the nation in a list released Wednesday by Inc. 5000. A total of 28 Oklahoma companies and 10 Tulsa-area firms earned the distinction, topped by Oklahoma LED (157th), Casino Cash Trac (247th) and Consumer Affairs (562nd). Hostek, which performs server management and website and application hosting, posted 2016 revenue of \$4.8 million and grew 66 percent over the three-year period examined by Inc. 5000.

Ventilation systems manufacturer to bring 75 jobs to Tulsa

Tulsa World (OK) - August 15, 2017

Greenheck Group, a Wisconsin-based manufacturer, plans to build a manufacturing facility in northeast Tulsa, initially bringing 75 jobs by the summer of 2018 and setting the stage for more, it announced Tuesday. In a Tulsa Regional Chamber news release, the company said it plans to break ground later this year and credited the area's workforce as the reason for the Tulsa expansion. The company plans to build two facilities — one for its brand of commercial kitchen ventilation systems and another for its tempered air products line — with the commercial kitchen facility coming first.

As north Tulsa store nears opening, Supermercados Morelos plans another east Tulsa location

Tulsa World (OK) - August 9, 2017

Local grocery store chain Supermercados Morelos is planning another store in east Tulsa, a sign of the city's shifting demographics. As the company prepares to open its north Tulsa location sometime in September, work is beginning on another store, this one at 31st Street and 129th East Avenue, a Warehouse Market location that closed this spring. Supermercados Morelos will lease the location, which is one of several Warehouse Markets that have closed this year as that local chain has sought to trim costs and compete in a price war.

Tulsa-based Oak Ridge buys western Wyoming assets for \$740 million

Tulsa World (OK) - August 3, 2017

A 2-year-old Tulsa energy company has made its first acquisition and plans to hire up to 100 people. Oak Ridge Natural Resources, through its subsidiary Pinedale Energy Partners, announced its \$740 million purchase of all assets in the Pinedale Field in western Wyoming held by Denver-based QEP Resources. The transaction is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close by Sept. 30.

FedEx Ground facility opens today in Broken Arrow

Tulsa World (OK) - August 3, 2017

BROKEN ARROW — A new 255,000-square-foot FedEx Ground facility capable of processing 10,000 packages per hour opens Friday at 1214 E. Houston St., a company representative said. It is a spinoff from a 145,000-square-foot FedEx

Ground center that will remain in operation at 12615 E. Apache St., a facility senior manager said. The Broken Arrow facility will house 90-95 employees, and six contracted service providers will account for about an additional 90 workers, the senior manager said.

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Comparative Unemployment Rates

Period	County %	MSA %	State %	U.S. %
2017 July	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.6
2016 July	4.9	5.2	5.1	5.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Rates are not seasonally adjusted.