

#### Monthly Manufacturing Update – January 2011

While Oklahoma's seasonally adjusted Nonfarm Employment shed 3,000 jobs over the month of November, Manufacturing employment gained 500 jobs raising the total number of jobs to 124,800 compared to 122,800 at the end of November 2009. Oklahoma's overall unemployment rate was 6.9% at the end of November compared to the U.S. rate of 9.8%.

Manufacturing in Oklahoma appears to be slowly recovering from the major downturn; however the slowness of a jobs recovery mirrors the U.S. manufacturing sector. Forced to cut costs during the recession, employers across the country are looking for ways to avoid hiring, taking advantage of automation and accelerating the use of computers and technology, cites Semuels of the L.A. Times on 12/17. The National Association of Manufacturers, NAM, calls for the new Congress to address the issue of creating tax policies that will bring America into alignment with our major manufacturing competitors and alleviate the uncertainty that pervades our business community.

NAM awards Congressmen who consistently supported the manufacturing community during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, by maintaining a voting record of 70% or higher, a NAM Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence. It is heartening to see that all of Oklahoma's congressional delegation received this award.

The NAM is the leading manufacturing association, representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Its mission is to be the voice of all manufacturing in the United States and inform policymakers about manufacturing's vital role in the U.S. economy. The Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce is the states representative of this important organization. You can learn more about NAM at its website, [www.NAM.org](http://www.NAM.org), where you can also read the NAM's free report "Manufacturing Strategy for Jobs and a Competitive America". The Strategy provides a roadmap for making manufacturing in America more competitive, more productive and the creator of even more high-paying jobs.

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