



401 SW Topeka Boulevard  
Topeka, KS 66603-3182

Karin Brownlee, Secretary

phone: (785) 296-0901  
fax: (785) 296-0179  
communications@dol.ks.gov  
www.dol.ks.gov

Sam Brownback, Governor

## News Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL  
12:01 a.m., March 30, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Cassie Sparks, Public Information Officer  
785-296-0901  
[Cassie.Sparks@dol.ks.gov](mailto:Cassie.Sparks@dol.ks.gov)

### Kansas Labor Market Shows Steady Numbers

TOPEKA, Kan. – The February 2012 Labor Report showed numbers in line with the January report, including continued increases in nonfarm jobs and a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate that remained constant.

Kansas gained 18,300 nonfarm jobs since February 2011, a 1.4 percent increase. The private sector gained 21,300 jobs, showing a continued decline in government jobs since February 2011. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2012 was 6.1 percent. This is a decrease from 6.9 percent unemployment in February 2011 and the same as January 2012.

“The February report did not indicate significant change in the Kansas labor market over the month,” Tyler Tenbrink, Labor Economist, said. “The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained steady at 6.1 percent.”

Eight of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported job gains during the past year. The professional and business services industry has gained 11,900 jobs since February 2011, an 8.2 percent increase.

“Looking at the February numbers alone would indicate a lukewarm labor market. The over-the-year gains from February 2011 to February 2012 indicate healthy growth, which we hope continues as the year progresses,” Karin Brownlee, Kansas Secretary of Labor, said.

Six of the 11 major industries also showed job gains over the month. The manufacturing industry continues to see improvements in the number of jobs and in the hours worked per employee. Both of these are good signs for the Kansas economy. The gain shown in government jobs since January was because of seasonal increases, including university student workers returning after the winter break.

Initial unemployment benefit claims for February decreased over the month, but increased compared to February 2011. Continued claims decreased from January and when compared to this time last year.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Kansas was 6.6 percent, down from 7.2 percent one year ago and up from 6.4 percent in January.

The March 2012 Labor Report will be released on April 20, 2012. For more information, visit [www.dol.ks.gov](http://www.dol.ks.gov). Follow KansasDOL on Twitter and Facebook.

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