Communications Division 401 SW Topeka Boulevard Topeka, KS 66603-3182



Phone: (785) 296-0901 Fax: (785) 296-0753 Communications@dol.ks.gov www.dol.ks.gov

Lana Gordon, Secretary Sam Brownback, Governor

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Barbara Hersh: 785-296-0901

Barbara.hersh@dol.ks.gov

## Indicators Forecast Positive Employment Growth in Kansas *Private Sector Jobs Increased by More Than 10,000*

**TOPEKA, Kan.** – The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) reports the labor market posted a healthy increase in jobs over the month. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs grew by 8,700. This is in line with the Kansas Index of Leading Indicators (KILI) which continues to forecast positive employment growth in Kansas.

Not seasonally adjusted data showed an addition of 10,300 private sector jobs from April to May and a gain of 14,400 jobs from May 2012 to May 2013. The manufacturing industry has seen consistent increases in the number of hours worked by production workers which has been above 40 hours per week for several months. This typically is followed by increases in employment, as seen in this month's report.

"In May, Kansas recorded substantial growth in jobs and a reduction in continued unemployment insurance claims. Growth was led by the private sector, with the largest non-seasonal increases in Leisure and Hospitality, Professional and Business Services, and Manufacturing jobs," said Efua Afful, Labor Economist.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 5.3 percent to 5.8 percent (mostly due to seasonal changes) while the smooth seasonally adjusted rate saw a slight increase from 5.6 percent to 5.7 percent. Much of the increase in the unemployment rate was due to employees affiliated with colleges, universities and Unified School Districts which closed for summer break. Examples of these are workers in occupations such as food service, custodial services and transportation.

"Over the past two months there has been an increase in the seasonally adjusted labor force numbers. The increase in the labor force suggests that Kansans have confidence in the ability of the economy to provide employment opportunities," said Lana Gordon, Secretary of Labor.

The June Labor Report will be released on July 18, 2013.

Audio clips of the May Labor Market Report Fact Sheet by Sue Henke, Communications, and quotes by Lana Gordon, Secretary of Labor, and Efua Afful, Labor Economist, are available online courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.

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