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## **Kansas feeling the impact of nation's economic woes**

*Secretary Jim Garner gives State of Labor address,  
focusing on Kansas job market*

Kansas is now seeing the impact of the nation's economic struggles, Secretary of Labor Jim Garner said in his annual State of Labor address. Despite significant job growth in 2007, Kansas is now experiencing a slowdown in job creation and expects its unemployment rolls to grow this year and next.

Secretary Garner highlighted the state of the Kansas economy in his annual address this morning at the State Capitol.

"Although the Kansas labor market performed very well during 2007, we are starting to feel the impact of the national economic situation, seeing slower job growth in Kansas over the past few months," he stated.

The most visible sign that Kansas is feeling the economic pinch is the number of Kansans applying for and receiving additional benefits through the 2008 Extended Unemployment Compensation program. "Since August 7, the agency has paid out more than \$1,145,000 in extended unemployment benefits, and we anticipate processing up to 40,000 claims under this program by the time it ends on March 29, 2009," Garner said.

Today, the Kansas Department of Labor released its 2008 Kansas Economic Report, which details the current and future estimated employment growth and unemployment rates. The report also lists the top industries contributing to our gross domestic product, provides details on Kansas' global business, and compares Kansas housing market to the country as a whole.

In 2007, Kansas experienced robust employment growth, adding 25,200 jobs. That was a growth rate of 1.9 percent, the strongest rate since 1998. In 2007, U.S. nonfarm employment grew by 1.1 percent, making it the first year since 2001 that Kansas outpaced the national growth rate. The unemployment rate in 2007 was 4.1 percent, slightly below the 2006 rate of 4.3 percent. However, the unemployment rate is projected to slightly increase this year.

More information from this year's State of Labor address and the 2008 Economic Report is available online at [www.dol.ks.gov](http://www.dol.ks.gov).

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