

## **Kansas job vacancy rate improves over the year** *KDOL survey finds more than 32,000 job openings in 2nd quarter 2010*

TOPEKA —There are more job vacancies in Kansas this year than last year, according to the 2010 Job Vacancy Survey released today by the Kansas Department of Labor. The survey, completed by employers during the second quarter of 2010, found there were an estimated 32,091 job vacancies statewide. This represents a 24.5 percent increase in vacancies from 2009. In fact, every local area in Kansas, with the exception of Local Area V (Southeast Kansas), experienced increases in job vacancies from 2009 to 2010.

The 2010 statewide job vacancy rate was 2.3 percent, up from 1.9 percent in 2009. This indicates there were 2.3 open jobs for every 100 positions, both filled and vacant. The highest job vacancy rate in the state, 2.9 percent, was found in Local Area IV (South Central Kansas).

At the time the survey was taken, Kansas averaged 96,428 unemployed workers, resulting in an average of three unemployed individuals for every job vacancy reported. This is an improvement from the 2009 statistic of four unemployed workers for every job vacancy.

"This change in the job vacancy rate is a move in the right direction and reflects the improvements we are seeing in the Kansas labor market as a whole," said Jim Garner, Kansas Secretary of Labor. "Nevertheless, we need to see continued job growth and openings for recovery in the labor market. Meanwhile, the valuable information in this survey can help Kansans searching for work, as well as those trying to choose a career path. It is also a helpful tool for focusing our workforce development efforts."

Not only does the 2010 Job Vacancy Survey identify the types of jobs that are available in Kansas, it also provides the education requirements and the expected salary for those jobs. Some of the other findings of the survey include:

- The education and health services, and the trade, transportation and utilities industries reported the most job vacancies for the fourth consecutive year, accounting for more than 52 percent of all vacancies in 2010.
- Among the top ten most vacant occupations requiring a bachelor's degree were elementary, middle, and secondary school teachers, as well as registered nurses—illustrating the statewide demand for education and healthcare jobs.
- Wages consistently increase with the level of education required; the statewide average minimum wage offered in Kansas ranged from \$9.03 for those occupations requiring no education, to \$35.62 for occupations requiring an advanced degree. Additionally, occupations requiring a bachelor's degree paid an average minimum wage that was more than twice as high as those requiring a high school diploma or GED.
- The largest portion of job vacancies in Kansas required a high school diploma or GED, followed by those requiring no education. These vacancies are in occupations that traditionally have constant openings, such as food servers and cashiers.

- Occupations requiring a bachelor's or advanced degree accounted for approximately 13 percent of the vacancies.

For more information, see the [2010 Kansas Job Vacancy Survey](#)

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