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## **Kansas Wage Survey 2006 Released**

TOPEKA — Most workers want to get the best wages possible and most businesses want to offer reasonable wages that will help them attract and keep qualified employees. The just-released 2006 edition of the Kansas Wage Survey helps workers and businesses answer their wage-related questions. The Kansas Department of Labor surveyed some 5,000 Kansas employers in the past year to develop updated information on average wages in Kansas.

"The Kansas Wage Survey is a valuable resource that can help businesses and workers," said Jim Garner, Secretary of Labor. "Companies can determine the right salary for a job opening and workers can find out what they should expect to make in their area of the state."

Information in the 2006 survey can be important to a person considering an in-state move who wants to find the potential salary ranges for their occupation across the state. It also can benefit companies expanding in a particular area or doing employee recruitment because they can learn competitive salaries for workers in specific occupations.

The survey provides current wage information on more than 600 occupations for Kansas and six in-state areas. For example, the 2006 survey found that registered nurses (RNs) in Kansas have an average wage of \$22.59 per hour. In last year's survey, the average wage for RNs was \$21.44 per hour, amounting to an increase of 5 percent over the year. Drivers of heavy trucks and tractor-trailers have an average wage of \$16.53 per hour in the new survey, compared to \$15.52 per hour in the 2005 survey, a 6 percent increase over the year. Current Kansas statistics, as well as past surveys, can be found online at [www.dol.ks.gov](http://www.dol.ks.gov).

Wages vary from region to region in Kansas. For example, the survey found that RNs have an average wage of \$25.60 per hour in the Kansas City MSA; \$22.70 per hour in Lawrence; \$23.57 per hour in Topeka, \$20.71 per hour in Wichita and an average of \$20.36 in the balance of the state.

In another occupational area, truck drivers of heavy trucks and tractor-trailers have an average wage of \$18.83 per hour in Kansas City; \$15.18 per hour in Lawrence; \$15.39 per hour in Topeka, \$15.83 per hour in Wichita and \$15.24 per hour in the Doniphan County MSA, with an average of \$14.99 in the balance of the state.

Data for the Kansas Wage Survey is collected in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wage estimates are provided according to their occupational definition. The publication includes definitions of the various occupations used in compiling the data.

Approximately 5,000 employers subject to Kansas Unemployment Insurance Law are contacted for the survey each year, half contacted in May and half in November. A full

three-year sample of nearly 15,000 employers allows production of estimates at fine levels of geographic, industrial and occupational detail. The information from the 2006 edition of the Kansas Wage Survey is available on the KDOL website at [www.dol.ks.gov](http://www.dol.ks.gov).

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