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**Contact: Inayat Noormohmad
(785) 296-5070**

December 2011 Labor Report

Highlights

- According to December 2011 estimates, Kansas gained 12,400 nonfarm jobs over the year, a 0.9 percent increase. Kansas gained 12,000 private sector jobs since December 2010.
- Over the month, Kansas lost 6,000 nonfarm jobs, a 0.4 percent decrease. Kansas lost 5,600 private sector jobs over the month mostly due to seasonal changes.
- The December 2011 unemployment rate in Kansas was 5.9 percent, down from 6.0 percent in November 2011 and down from 6.4 percent a year ago.
- The December 2011 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3 percent, down from 6.5 percent in November 2011 and down from 6.8 percent in December 2010.

Learn about the difference between seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted numbers [here](#).

- Six of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported over-the-year job gains. These gains were primarily in the following areas:
 - Professional and business services gained 8,200 jobs, a 5.7 percent increase. These gains were in administrative and support services, waste management and remediation services.
 - Manufacturing gained 6,000 jobs, a 3.8 percent increase. A majority of these gains were in durable goods manufacturing.
 - Education and health services gained 4,700 jobs, a 2.6 percent increase. These gains were mostly in healthcare and social assistance.
- Five of the 11 major industries reported statewide over-the-year job losses. These losses were greatest in the following areas:
 - Financial activities lost 3,500 jobs, a 5.0 percent decrease. In this industry, job losses were greatest in finance and insurance.
 - Trade, transportation and utilities lost 2,900 jobs, a 1.1 percent decrease, with the losses primarily in retail trade.
 - Information lost 2,500 jobs, an 8.3 percent decline. These losses were spread throughout the sector.
- Three of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported over-the-month job gains. These gains were in the following areas:
 - Trade, transportation and utilities gained 900 jobs, a 0.4 percent increase. These jobs were in retail trade and transportation, warehousing and utilities.
 - Information gained 500 jobs over the month, a 1.8 percent increase.
 - Manufacturing gained 300 jobs, a 0.2 percent increase. The increases were in durable goods manufacturing.

- Seven of the 11 major industries reported statewide over-the-month job losses. These were greatest in:
 - Construction lost 2,300 jobs, a 4.1 percent decline. Losses were mostly in heavy and civil engineering construction.
 - Professional and business services lost 2,000 jobs, a 1.3 percent decline. These losses were in administrative and support services, waste management and remediation services.
 - Leisure and hospitality lost 1,600 jobs, a 1.4 percent decrease. Losses were mostly in accommodation and food services.
- There were 23,985 initial claims for unemployment benefits in December 2011, up from 18,283 initial claims in November 2011 and down from 27,889 in December 2010. There were 188,082 continued claims in December 2011, up from 182,778 in November 2011 and down from 229,788 in December 2010. These numbers include Regular, Extended Benefit (EB) and Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) claims. EB and EUC benefits are federally funded into March 2012.

The January 2012 Labor Report will be released on March 13, 2012.

Quotes

Karin Brownlee, Kansas Secretary of Labor

“The continued steady decline in the Kansas unemployment rate is positive news, as is the over-the-year private sector job growth. As we start a new year, we would all hope for these trends to accelerate at a faster pace.”

Tyler Tenbrink, KDOL Labor Economist

“Employment levels were pushed up in December partly by favorable weather conditions which allowed construction activity to remain elevated through the end of the year, and partly by an increase in federal government hiring. This helped offset lackluster increases in retail trade during the holiday season.”

Current Conditions December 2011

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate	5.9%
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate	6.3%
<i>Learn the difference between the rates here.</i>	
Initial Claims (all programs)	23,985
Non-Farm Jobs	1,342,500

Civilian Labor Force
CPI-Midwest
(change since December 2010)

1,502,614
2.8%

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