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Kansas Labor Market Remains Steady

TOPEKA, Kan. – The April 2012 Labor Report showed monthly employment gains due to seasonal changes, continued improvement since 2011 and a decrease in initial unemployment benefit claims.

Private sector employment grew by 13,900 jobs since March 2012, a 1.3 percent increase. These gains were caused by seasonal changes, showing a pause in the overall improvement of the labor market. Since April 2011 Kansas has gained 10,800 private sector jobs, a 1 percent increase.

Initial unemployment claims decreased from 17,997 in March 2012 to 14,701 claims in April. This shows that Kansas employers are shedding fewer jobs.

“We should be pleased that Kansas continues to experience job growth. This overall picture of measured, steady gains is acceptable at this time,” Karin Brownlee, Kansas Secretary of Labor, said.

The unemployment rate was 5.8 percent, a decline from 6.6 percent in March and from 6.3 percent in April 2011. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Kansas was 6.1 percent, down from 6.7 percent in April 2011 and from 6.2 percent one month ago.

Nine of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported job gains since March 2012 mostly because of seasonal changes. Professional and business services increased by 3,300 jobs, a 2.2 percent gain in the past month. Government was the only major industry that reported job losses during this time.

“The pace of job creation in Kansas has slowed in the past three months. April added only 100 seasonally adjusted jobs over the month. This sluggish growth is reflective of what is happening in the national economy as gross domestic product growth has slowed creating an environment that is not favorable for steady job growth,” Tyler Tenbrink, Labor Economist, said.

Continued unemployment benefit claims increased slightly from 199,138 claims one year ago to 199,393 in April 2012. This is also an increase from 185,502 continued claims in March 2012.

The May 2012 Labor Report will be released on June 15, 2012. For more information, visit www.dol.ks.gov. Follow KansasDOL on Twitter and Facebook.

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