

Lana Gordon, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Barbara Hersh

785-296-0901

Barbara.Hersh@dol.ks.gov

January 2015 Jobs Report and Final 2014 Labor Market Data

TOPEKA, Kan. – The Kansas Department of Labor’s Division of Labor Market Information Services (LMIS) released today benchmarked 2014 data along with the January 2015 Labor Report.

These revisions affect previous job reports and are particularly noteworthy because of their scope. Final 2014 estimates showed marked increases from previously released estimates.

“The rate of private sector job growth in Kansas accelerated in 2014 to 1.9 percent. This is the fastest rate of job growth since 2007. Prior to 2007, the state had not experienced this rate of job growth since 1998,” said Lana Gordon, Secretary of Labor.

“The Kansas labor market ended 2014 on a positive note. Final job numbers released today show the state gained 20,800 annual private sector jobs from 2013 to 2014, which is 1.9 percent growth. The annual unemployment rate improved from an average 5.3 percent for 2013 to 4.5 percent for last year,” said Tyler Tenbrink, Senior Labor Economist.

In addition to 2014 revisions, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has also revised job estimates going back to 2010 due to new data available from the Census Bureau. New Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) boundaries are also being implemented. Examples of the old and new maps are available at: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=494>

LMIS, in conjunction with BLS, produces monthly estimates of jobs on employers’ payrolls, the number of Kansans working and unemployment rates for the State, MSAs and counties. These estimates come from a variety of surveys conducted by BLS and the Census Bureau. Each March, the previous year’s estimates are benchmarked and revised against actual counts of employers’ tax reports and other data.

For more information about benchmarking and the sources of data, contact LMIS at laborstats@dol.ks.gov.

January 2015 Report

The state’s January seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, unchanged from December and down from 4.7 percent in January 2014.

Seasonally adjusted figures show Kansas gained 17,100 private sector jobs since last January, or 1.5 percent. Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 17,300 jobs, a 1.3 percent increase since January 2014. After upward revisions of December 2014 numbers, Kansas lost 1,500 seasonally adjusted private sector jobs in January, or 0.1 percent. The state declined by 2,600 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs, a 0.2 percent decrease since last month.

“New data show additional improvement over 2014’s preliminary labor market estimates. Key indicators such as the State’s unemployment rate, the number of Kansans working, and private sector job growth all showed substantial progress over the year. Plus, January’s increase in workers’ earnings show the State is poised for continued growth in 2015,” said Justin McFarland, Director of Labor Market Information Services.

Not seasonally adjusted figures show Kansas gained 19,300 private sector jobs since last year, or 1.7 percent. Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 19,000 jobs, a 1.4 percent increase since January 2014. Kansas lost 24,100 private sector jobs in January, or 2.1 percent, because of seasonal factors. The state declined by 33,400 total nonfarm jobs, a 2.4 percent decrease since last month.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January was 4.6 percent, up from 3.8 percent in December and down from 5.2 percent one year ago.

There were 17,894 initial claims for unemployment benefits in January 2015, down from 18,577 in December and up from 15,709 in January 2014. There were 103,232 continued claims in January, up from 97,398 the previous month and down from 108,341 in January 2014. These numbers include all available programs.

Kansas labor market information for January is available [here](#).

Data provided is preliminary and subject to monthly revisions and annual benchmarks by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on procedures for producing Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) estimates is available on the BLS website [here](#) and procedures for producing jobs estimates through the Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates is available on the BLS website [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE: The February 2015 Labor Report will be released on Friday, March 20.

Audio clips of the Labor Market Report quotes by Lana Gordon, Secretary of Labor, Justin McFarland, Director, Labor Market Information Services and Tyler Tenbrink, Senior Labor Economist, are available online courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.

###

KDOL serves Kansas workers and businesses by providing fair and efficient administration of state labor laws.

Follow the Kansas Department of Labor:

