

Lana Gordon, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Jobs Report August 2015**

**TOPEKA, Kan.** – The state’s August seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.6 percent, unchanged from July and increased from 4.3 percent in August 2014.

Seasonally adjusted figures show Kansas gained 4,400 private sector jobs since last year, or 0.4 percent. Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 1,000 jobs, or 0.1 percent, since August 2014. Since last month, Kansas declined by 2,000 seasonally adjusted private sector jobs, or 0.2 percent. The state lost 3,000 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs, or 0.2 percent since July 2015.

Not seasonally adjusted figures show Kansas gained 6,300 private sector jobs since last year, or 0.5 percent. Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 3,000 jobs, a 0.2 percent increase since August 2014. Since July, private sector jobs decreased by 5,200, or 0.4 percent. The state lost 4,000 total nonfarm jobs over the month, or 0.3 percent.

“A survey of Kansans shows that the number of people in the labor force declined over the summer months, leaving many employers with positions to fill. This has led to an increase in hours worked by existing employees in order to perform the work needed,” Tyler Tenbrink, the Kansas Department of Labor’s Senior Labor Economist said.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August was 4.5 percent, down from 5 percent in July and down from 4.7 percent one year ago.

There were 11,237 initial claims for unemployment benefits in August 2015, down from 11,553 in July and up from 9,953 in August 2014. There were 74,176 continued claims in August, up from 67,149 the previous month and up from 62,606 in August 2014.

“Kansas workers continue to earn more money as private sector wages grew by 3.6% compared to this time last year. Plus, an annual increase in job openings of 5.3% shows opportunities exist for job seekers to participate in the Kansas economy,” Kansas Secretary of Labor, Lana Gordon said.

Additionally, the 2015 Job Vacancy Survey, an annual survey of employers’ job openings, has been completed by the Kansas Department of Labor. Since last year, job vacancies in Kansas have increased by 2,383 to 47,269. The 2015 Job Vacancy Survey is available on the Kansas Labor Information Center website, [here](#).

Kansas labor market information for August 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](#). Procedures for producing Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates are available on the BLS website [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE: The September 2015 Labor Report will be released on Friday, October 16.

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*Audio clips of the Labor Market Report quote by Secretary of Labor, Lana Gordon and Tyler Tenbrink, Senior Labor Economist are available online courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.*

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*The Kansas Department of Labor assists in the prevention of economic insecurity through unemployment insurance and workers compensation, by providing a fair and efficient venue to exercise employer and employee rights, and by helping employers promote a safe work environment for their employees. This facilitates compliance with labor laws while enabling advancement of the economic well-being of the citizens of Kansas.*

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