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Labor Market Report March 2016

TOPEKA, Kan. –The state’s March seasonally adjusted [unemployment rate](#) was 3.9 percent. This was down from 4.0 percent in February and from 4.3 percent in March 2015.

“The Kansas unemployment picture remains positive,” said Kansas Secretary of Labor, Lana Gordon. “This month, the rate dropped to 3.9 percent, and there are 22,774 more Kansans working compared to last year.”

The preliminary seasonally adjusted job estimates from the Kansas Department of Labor and Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 2,500 from February. Since last month, Kansas [private sector jobs](#) increased by 1,900. The largest private sector over the month job increase was in Trade, Transportation and Utilities.

Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) remained unchanged over the year. Kansas gained 800 private sector jobs since March 2015.

Kansas [not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs](#) decreased by 1,600, a 0.1 percent decrease since March 2015. Not seasonally adjusted figures show Kansas lost 1,700 private sector jobs since last year, or 0.2 percent. The state gained 9,300 total not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs over the month, or 0.7 percent. Since February, not seasonally adjusted private sector jobs increased by 7,200, or 0.6 percent.

Private sector average weekly hours decreased by 1.1 hours, or 3.2 percent, since last March, to a total of 33.5 hours.

“Employers in Kansas scheduled fewer hours for their existing workers in March when compared to last year. Employers make short term adjustments to schedules based on the demand for the goods and services they produce,” said Tyler Tenbrink, Senior Labor Economist, Kansas Department of Labor. “In the long-term, employers adjust hours based on factors such as cost of labor, benefits, and labor productivity.”

The Bureau of Labor Statistics revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm job estimates for February upward by 400 jobs, from 1,395,900 to 1,396,300. Seasonally adjusted

private sector jobs were revised upwards by 300 jobs, from 1,140,300 to 1,140,600.

Seasonally adjusted estimates for March show that the State's labor force declined by 486 to 1,512,718. Of those in the labor force, 1,452,997 Kansans were employed and 59,721 were unemployed. This month's net change in the labor force was attributable to 270 more Kansans counted as employed and 756 fewer unemployed.

Over the year, the labor force expanded by 18,948 persons, with an increase of 22,774 in employment and a decrease of 3,826 in unemployment.

The [labor force participation rate](#) was 68.3 percent, unchanged from February and up from 67.8 percent last March.

Information on procedures for producing Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), e.g., labor force, estimates is available on the BLS website [here](#). Procedures for producing Current Employment Statistics (CES), e.g., nonfarm jobs, estimates are available on the BLS website [here](#).

For more information on the unemployment insurance program including tax and claims data please refer to the [KDOL Unemployment Insurance Weekly Review](#).

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

The April 2016 Labor Report will be released on Friday, May 20.

Audio clips of the Labor Market Report quotes 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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