FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 16, 2016

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Labor Market Report
November 2016

TOPEKA, Kan. – The November seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent. This was down from 4.4 percent in October and up from 4.0 percent in November 2015.

The preliminary seasonally adjusted job estimates from the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate Kansas nonfarm jobs decreased by 2,800 from October. Since last month, Kansas private sector jobs decreased by 3,200. The largest private sector over the month job decrease was in Trade, Transportation and Utilities.

Over the year, Kansas lost 3,900 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs. Kansas lost 4,500 private sector jobs since November 2015.

“Employers in the Retail Trade industry continued to add jobs in November, but at a slower rate than expected,” said Emilie Doerksen, Labor Economist, Kansas Department of Labor. “This contributed to a seasonally adjusted decrease in private sector jobs over the month.”

Kansas not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs decreased by 3,900, a 0.3 percent decrease since November 2015. Kansas lost 4,500 private sector jobs since last year, or 0.4 percent. The state lost 600 total not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs over the month. Since October, private sector jobs decreased by 2,100, or 0.2 percent.

The BLS revised the seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm job estimates for October upwards by 900. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were revised upward by 1,300 jobs, from 1,140,200 to 1,141,500.

Seasonally adjusted estimates for November show that the state’s labor force increased by 853 to 1,484,165. Of those in the labor force, 1,420,158 Kansans were employed and 64,007 were unemployed. This month’s net change in the labor force was attributable to 2,193 more Kansans counted as employed and 1,340 fewer unemployed.

Over the year, the labor force decreased by 21,805 persons, with a decrease of 25,221 in employment and an increase of 3,416 in unemployment.
The labor force participation rate was 66.7 percent, unchanged from October and down from 68.1 percent last November.

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 November is available here.

The December 2016 Labor Report will be released on Friday, Jan. 20.

Audio clip of the Labor Market Report quote by Emilie Doerksen, Labor Economist is available online, courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.

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