

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Barbara Hersh

785-296-0901

Barbara.Hersh@dol.ks.gov

Jobs Report December 2015

TOPEKA, Kan. – The state’s December seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.9 percent, unchanged from November and decreased from 4.2 percent in December 2014.

Seasonally adjusted figures show Kansas gained 9,400 private sector jobs since last year, or 0.8 percent. Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 6,900, or 0.5 percent, since December 2014. Since last month, Kansas gained 1,800 seasonally adjusted private sector jobs, or 0.2 percent. The state gained 2,000 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs since November 2015, or 0.1 percent.

“This month, nearly 9,000 people joined the labor force and found jobs,” said Kansas Secretary of Labor, Lana Gordon. “As employers continue to demand Kansas labor, the State has set another record for most number of Kansans working and the unemployment rate matches levels from 2001.”

Not seasonally adjusted figures show Kansas gained 9,300 private sector jobs since last year, or 0.8 percent. Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 6,800, a 0.5 percent increase since December 2014. Since November, private sector jobs decreased by 1,600, or 0.1 percent. The state lost 3,600 total nonfarm jobs over the month, or 0.3 percent.

“Significant growth in health care and social assistance jobs and continued growth in construction contributed to an overall gain of 1,800 private sector jobs for Kansas in December,” said Emilie Doerksen, Labor Economist, Kansas Department of Labor. “This over the month growth occurred despite a decrease in the trade, transportation and utilities industries that resulted from lower than expected retail trade hiring.”

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in December was 3.6 percent, up from 3.5 percent in November and down from 3.8 percent one year ago.

There were 16,979 initial claims for unemployment benefits in December 2015, up from 13,344 in November and down from 18,577 in December 2014. There were 66,444 continued claims in December, up from 63,370 the previous month and down from 97,398 in December 2014.

Employers in Kansas filed 4,240 workers compensation accident reports in December 2015, down from 4,383 in November, and down from 4,267 in December 2014. There were 52,124 workers compensation accident reports filed in 2015, down from 54,988 in 2014.

Kansas labor market information for December 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 January 2016 Labor Report will be released on Friday, March 4.

Audio clips of the Labor Market Report quotes by Secretary of Labor, Lana Gordon and Emilie Doerksen, Labor Economist are available online, courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.

###

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.

Follow the Kansas Department of Labor:

