

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2016

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Labor Market Report January 2016

TOPEKA, Kan. –The state's January seasonally adjusted [unemployment rate](#) was 4.0 percent. This was unchanged from December and decreased from 4.3 percent in January 2015.

The preliminary [seasonally adjusted job estimates](#) from the Kansas Department of Labor and Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate Kansas nonfarm jobs decreased by 4,000 from December. Since last month, Kansas [private sector jobs](#) decreased by 3,700. The largest private sector over the month job loss was in Construction.

Over the year Kansas added 1,400 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs. Kansas gained 2,800 private sector jobs since January 2015.

"Kansas continues its steady path of low unemployment," said Kansas Secretary of Labor, Lana Gordon. "This month, the rate remains at 4.0%, and there are 5,700 fewer people receiving benefits compared to last year."

Kansas [not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs](#) increased by 800, a 0.1 percent increase since January 2015. Not seasonally adjusted figures show Kansas gained 2,700 private sector jobs since last year, or 0.2 percent. The state lost 37,600 total nonfarm jobs over the month, or 2.7 percent. Since December, private sector jobs decreased by 27,900, or 2.4 percent. Large over the month decreases in jobs are typical in January.

"Average annual estimates for 2015 have been released along with the monthly numbers for January. Kansas gained 9,000 private sector jobs from 2014 to 2015, a growth rate of 0.8 percent," said Tyler Tenbrink, Senior Labor Economist, Kansas Department of Labor. "Job gains were highest in the Healthcare and Social Assistance industry as well as Food Service and Retail Trade. The Kansas City Kansas Metro area gained the most jobs with 7,100 added from 2014 to 2015."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics revised preliminary job estimates for December that originally indicated Kansas gained 2,000 seasonally adjusted jobs over the month. BLS revised

estimates for December show the state gained 3,000 jobs.

The seasonally adjusted January estimates show 60,841 Kansans were unemployed and 1,450,475 were employed, for a total labor force of 1,511,316. The unemployment rate was 4.0 percent. The January labor force increased by 3,931 from 1,507,385 in December, as 3,745 more Kansans were employed and 186 more Kansans were unemployed over the month. The [labor force participation rate](#), the share of working age population employed and unemployed, was 68.2 percent. The labor force was 16,693 above the 1,494,623 January 2015 estimate, with 19,610 more Kansans employed and 2,917 fewer Kansans unemployed.

Annual labor force revisions, for 2015 data and prior, could change until finalized by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. 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](#).

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

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

PLEASE NOTE: The February 2016 Labor Report will be released on Friday, March 18.

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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