

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Labor Market Report December 2016

**TOPEKA, Kan.** –The December [seasonally adjusted unemployment rate](#) was 4.2 percent. This was down from 4.3 percent in November and up from 4.0 percent in December 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 500 from November. Since last month, Kansas [private sector jobs](#) decreased by 1,100. The largest private sector over the month job decrease was in Education and Health Services.

Over the year, Kansas lost 9,300 [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#). Kansas lost 9,400 private sector jobs since December 2015.

Kansas [not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs](#) decreased by 9,500, a 0.7 percent decrease since December 2015. Kansas lost 9,700 private sector jobs since last year, or 0.8 percent. The state lost 6,300 total not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs over the month. Since November, private sector jobs decreased by 4,900, or 0.4 percent.

“Rounding out the year preliminary estimates show fewer jobs in the state than one year ago,” said Tyler Tenbrink, Senior Labor Economist, Kansas Department of Labor. “Estimates of the size of the labor force improved in December but remain lower than one year ago.”

The BLS revised the seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm job estimates for November down by 1,900 jobs from 1,394,800 to 1,392,900. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were revised down by 800 jobs, from 1,138,300 to 1,137,500.

Seasonally adjusted estimates for December show that the state’s labor force increased by 1,145 to 1,484,858. Of those in the labor force, 1,422,113 Kansans were employed and 62,745 were unemployed. This month’s net change in the labor force was attributable to 2,242 more Kansans counted as employed and 1,097 fewer unemployed.

Over the year, the labor force decreased by 22,527 persons, with a decrease of 24,617 in employment and an increase of 2,090 in unemployment.

The [labor force participation rate](#) was 66.7 percent, up from 66.6 in November and down from 68.1 percent last December.

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 December is available [here](#).

The January 2017 Labor Report will be released on Friday, Mar. 10.

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*Audio clip of the Labor Market Report quote by Tyler Tenbrink, Senior Labor Economist is available online, courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.*

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