

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2020

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**Labor Market Report
March 2020**

IMPORTANT NOTE: *This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for March 2020. Data collected for this report references the week including March 12th, prior to a statewide Stay Home order for the State of Kansas in response to COVID-19 that went into effect on March 30th. The estimates in this report only reflect some of the initial economic impacts of COVID-19. Additional resources for affected workers and employers may be found at the Kansas Department of Labor's website: www.dol.ks.gov and www.GetKansasBenefits.gov.*

TOPEKA, Kan. – Preliminary estimates reported by the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show a [seasonally adjusted unemployment rate](#) of 3.1 percent in March. This was unchanged from 3.1 percent in February and a decrease from 3.2 percent in March 2019.

“The March job estimates for Kansas are starting to show the initial effects of COVID-19 on the Kansas labor market with total nonfarm jobs declining from last month. The largest losses were in the leisure and hospitality sector which includes restaurants and drinking establishments. It is important to note that these estimates reflect labor market activity during the pay period including the 12th of March, prior to the statewide stay at home order,” said Secretary Delia García. “We are directing all Kansans to utilize our website www.dol.ks.gov for more information.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs decreased by 5,900 from February. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, decreased by 6,000 from the previous month, while government increased by 100 jobs.

“The March estimates, released today, show some early signs of the impact of COVID-19 on the Kansas labor market. The payroll survey data estimates a job loss of 5,900 jobs from last month,” said Senior Labor Economist, Tyler Tenbrink. “In contrast, the survey of households shows little change over the month. The reference week for the household survey is the week including the 12th of the month, however the increase in unemployment insurance claims took place the week following the reference week.”

Since March 2019, Kansas gained 9,700 [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#). This change is due to 7,700 additional private sector jobs and 2,000 additional government jobs.

BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for February down by 400 jobs, from 1,434,700 to 1,434,300. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were revised down by 500 jobs, from 1,174,500 to 1,174,000.

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

The April 2020 Labor Report will be released on Friday, May 22.

[Technical Notes](#)

Audio clips of the Labor Market Report quotes by Secretary of Labor, Delia Garcia and Senior Labor Economist, Tyler Tenbrink are available online, courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.

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