

401 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66603-3182



Phone: (785) 438-8185
Fax: (785) 296-0753
Email: gerald.grasso@ks.gov
dol.ks.gov

Ryan C. Wright, Acting Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

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Contact: Jerry Grasso
Communications Director
(785) 438-8185
gerald.grasso@ks.gov

Labor Market Report September 2020

IMPORTANT NOTE: *This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for September 2020. Data collected for this report references the week including September 12th. Reopening decisions were transferred to local officials on May 26, 2020. Counties following the 'Ad Astra Plan to Reopen Kansas' moved to Phase 3 on June 8, 2020, with recommendations to remain in Phase 3 issued on July 6, 2020. 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 Labor Market Information Services (LMIS) division of the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show a [seasonally adjusted unemployment rate](#) of 5.9 percent in September. This was a decrease from 6.9 percent in August and an increase from 3.1 percent in September 2019.

“The Kansas unemployment rate fell to 5.9 percent in September,” said Acting Secretary Ryan Wright. “However it is important to note that similar to national trends, the number of individuals participating in the labor force has also declined.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs decreased by 7,200 from August. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, decreased by 900 from the previous month, while government decreased by 6,300.

“The widespread job growth seen in Kansas throughout the summer slowed in September, with losses in both the private sector and government jobs,” said Labor Economist Emilie Doerksen. “The majority of the over-the-month decrease in jobs can be attributed to government which added fewer jobs than the typical pattern for September, resulting in a seasonally adjusted decline.”

Since September 2019, Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have declined by 63,000. This change is due to a decrease of 49,700 private sector jobs and 13,300 government jobs.

BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for August upward by 2,500 jobs, from 1,365,100 to 1,367,600. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were revised upward by 2,100 jobs, from 1,111,900 to 1,114,000.

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

The October 2020 Labor Report will be released on Friday, November 20.

[Technical Notes](#)

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

Since March 15, KDOL has paid out more than 2.8 million weekly claims totaling over \$2.1 billion between regular unemployment and the federal pandemic programs. For more information, or to apply for unemployment benefits, go to www.GetKansasBenefits.gov.

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