

401 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66603-3182



Phone: (785) 296-0901
Fax: (785) 296-0753
KDOL.Communications@ks.gov
dol.ks.gov

Brett Flachsbarth, Acting Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jerry Grasso

Communications Director

785-296-0901

KDOL.Communications@ks.gov



Labor Market Report December 2020

IMPORTANT NOTE: *This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for December 2020. Data collected for this report references the week including December 12th. 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 3.8 percent in December. This was a decrease from 5.1 percent in November and an increase from 3.1 percent in December 2019.

“The unemployment rate fell in December, but remains significantly higher than the pre-pandemic rate,” said Acting Secretary Brett Flachsbarth. “The federal unemployment benefit programs that initially expired on December 26th were extended and the Kansas Department of Labor is currently evaluating guidelines from the United States Department of Labor and working to implement these CARES Act extensions and bring much-needed relief to eligible claimants.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 2,300 from November. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, increased by 4,500 from the previous month, while government decreased by 2,200.

“The private sector added 4,500 jobs in December. Multiple industries contributed to this growth, with the largest gains in the retail trade industry,” said Labor Economist Emilie Doerksen. “Some of these gains were offset by a decline in the accommodation and food services industry, which has been significantly impacted by the pandemic.”

Since December 2019, Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have declined by 60,200. This change is due to a decrease of 45,100 private sector jobs and 15,100 government jobs.

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BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for November upward by 500 jobs, from 1,365,000 to 1,365,500. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were revised upward by 1,100 jobs, from 1,117,100 to 1,118,200.

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

The January 2021 Labor Report will be released on Friday, March 5.

[Technical Notes](#)

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

Since March 15, KDOL has paid out over four million weekly claims totaling over \$2.6 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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