



Kansas Department of Labor

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



The Kansas Department of Labor Mission:

KDOL assists in the prevention of economic insecurity through unemployment insurance and workers compensation, by providing a fair and efficient venue to exercise employer and employee rights, and by helping employers promote a safe work environment for their employees. This facilitates compliance with labor laws while enabling advancement of the economic well-being of the citizens of Kansas.



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Under the direction of Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D. the Kansas Department of Labor is responsible for the administration and enforcement of state laws related to employment. Our Department continues to respond to the needs of Kansas' workforce and industry, making Kansas a great place to live, work and do business.



Message from the Secretary

The work we do at the Kansas Department of Labor has such an impact on people in a time of crisis – from losing a job and having to apply for unemployment benefits, to being injured while at work and needing workers compensation. The arduous work and patience of our employees to assist customers enabled us to meet and exceed our goal of making customer service our top priority.

The unemployment rate for Kansas is 3.3 percent. This rate is the lowest since December 1999 when it was also 3.3 percent. Some of the other highlights of the recent year, which are covered in greater detail in this report, include:

- KDOL is the first state agency to hire an individual through the Hiring Our Heroes Corporate Fellowship Program (CFP) at Ft. Leavenworth. **Sergeant (E-5) Peter Brady** was hired as the Industrial Safety and Health (ISH) Division Director. The Corporate Fellowship program allows military personnel and their spouses to intern while they are still on active duty with the intent to be hired by that organization at the end of the internship. This was the second year of the program at the northeast Kansas military facility.
- The UI Fraud/Special investigations unit recovered and returned to the UI Trust Fund more than \$3M in 2018.
- The Employment Standards Unit collected \$657,500 and returned this to Kansas employees who did not receive their wages.
- Workers compensation fraud and abuse unit received and investigated 378 referrals. Fifty-two fraud and abuse administrative cases were prosecuted, collecting more than \$222,469 in fraud and abuse fines and restitution.
- Our Safety and Health consultants conducted 530 safety and health visits at Kansas businesses during the year. These visits identified 4,305 hazards in a variety of industries.
- Workers Compensation launched the Online System for Claims Administration Research/Regulation (OSCAR). This was created to reduce paper waste, expedite workflows, and improve transparency.

This annual report is a brief summary of the programs and services delivered by KDOL in 2018. I hope you find the information in this report valuable. Additional information about the agency can be found on our website at www.dol.ks.gov

Lana Gordon, Secretary of Labor 2018

Department Overview

KDOL is comprised of five divisions:

Legal Services

Representing the agency and all subordinate units and divisions of the agency in state and federal court and in administrative hearings. The legal division provides legal advice, counsel and representation to the Secretary, directors and other managers and employees of the Department of Labor.

Employment Security

Administering the unemployment insurance program, processing benefit claims and collecting unemployment taxes.

Labor Market Information Services

Compiling data and performing research on the labor market, workforce and industries in Kansas.

Industrial Safety and Health

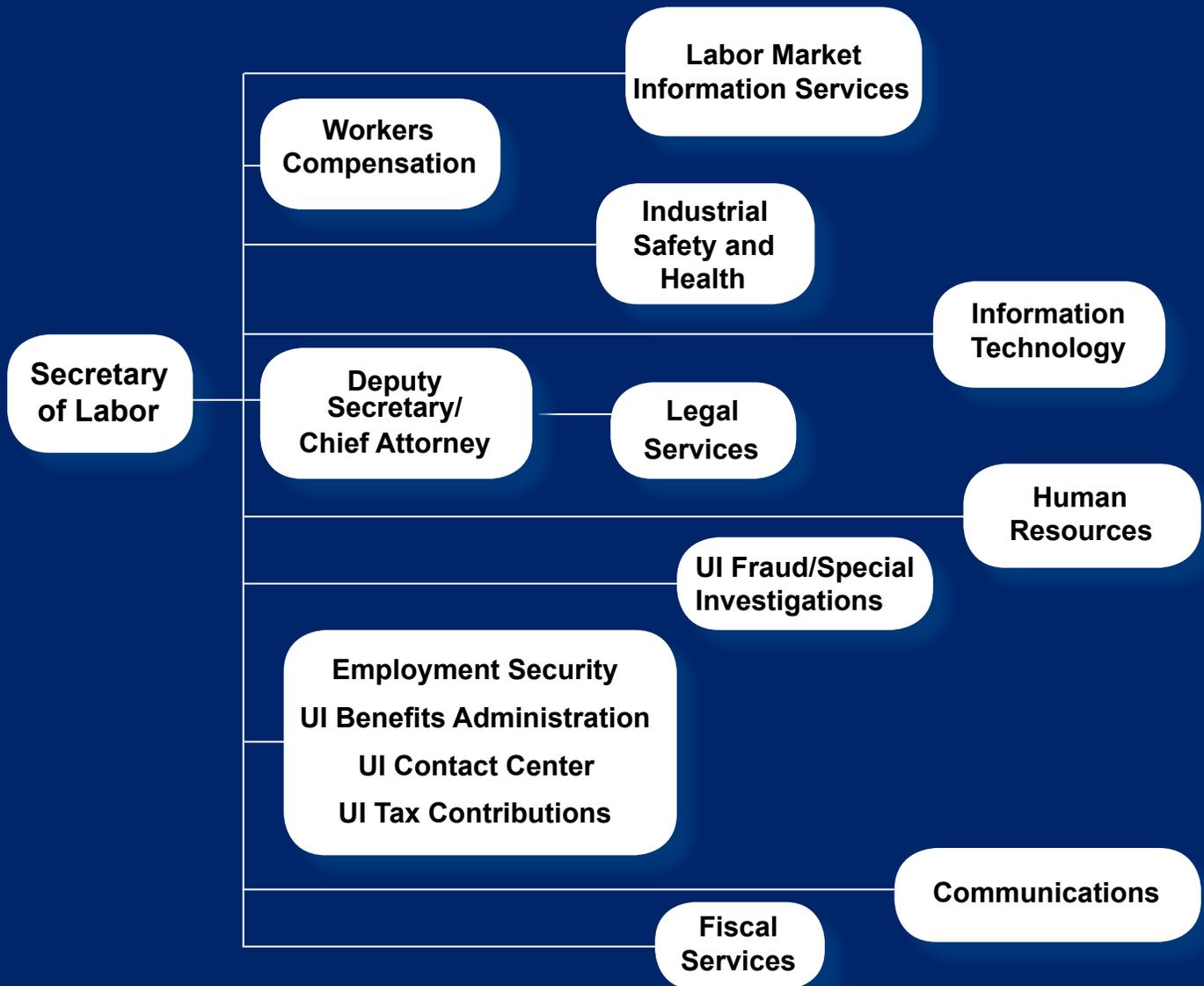
Offering free workplace safety consultations for private employers and overseeing job safety for public employees.

Workers Compensation

Overseeing the state's workers compensation system.



Organizational Structure



Kansas Department of Labor is composed of 378 employees. KDOL has eight remote office locations throughout Kansas: Garden City, Great Bend, Hays, Independence, Manhattan, Lenexa, Salina and Wichita.

Legal Services



The KDOL legal division represents the agency and all subordinate units and divisions of the agency in state and federal court and in administrative hearings. The legal division provides legal advice, counsel and representation to the Secretary, directors, and other managers and employees of the Department of Labor.

KDOL attorneys have expertise on:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Civil collections and enforcement
- Civil litigation, including matters arising under the Kansas Judicial Review Act (KJRA), and defense of the agency in state and federal court
- Civil Rights Laws
- Contract formation and enforcement
- Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)
- Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
- Governmental ethics
- Industrial Safety and Health Laws
- Kansas Amusement Ride Act
- Kansas Civil Service Act
- Kansas Child Labor Law
- Kansas Employment Security Law
- Kansas Minimum Wage and Maximum Hours Law
- Kansas Open Records Act (KORA)
- Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA)
- Kansas Wage Payment Act
- Kansas Workers Compensation Act
- Miscellaneous general counsel legal expertise
- Professional Negotiations Act (PNA)
- Public Employer-Employee Relations Act (PEERA)
- Social Security Act (SSA)
- Subpoena enforcement
- Various Kansas Administrative Regulations

The KDOL legal division also represents the State of Kansas Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) and the Kansas Employment Security Board of Review, and defends their administrative decisions when such decisions are appealed under the Kansas Judicial Review Act.

Employment Standards

The unit administers the Kansas Wage Payment Act and other labor laws. Its primary focus is to ensure employees recover unpaid wages. In 2018, KDOL received 775 new claims for unpaid wages, with 738 served. The remainder were closed prior to service, referred to the proper agency or sent back for additional information. A total of 600 claims were fully processed and closed by investigation or order at year's end. A total of \$657,500 was collected and returned to Kansas employees during the year.

Asset Recovery

The Asset Recovery Unit focuses on preserving the UI Trust Fund by aggressively combating fraud and actively recovering overpayment benefits. So far in 2018, through the end of October, we have brought in \$14,616,948.58

These collections fall into four categories:

1. **Voluntary cash payments** – cash, credit card and check payments recovered directly from claimants.
2. **UI Benefit Offsets** – funds collected by withholding UI benefits to satisfy outstanding UI overpayments.
3. **State Tax Setoffs** – funds collected by the Kansas Department of Administration on behalf of KDOL.
4. **United States Treasury Offset Program (TOP)** - funds collected by KDOL from federal tax refund or other federal payments to be applied to overpayment obligations.

UI Fraud/Special Investigations

During the past year KDOL's Fraud/Special Investigations Unit has partnered via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Social Security Administration (SSA) Cooperative Disability Investigations Unit (CDIU) in Kansas City, MO. The CDIU conducts criminal, civil, and administrative investigations in the state of Kansas, to obtain evidence of material fact sufficient to resolve questions of fraud in the SSA disability programs. This partnership allows the Kansas CDIU to provide support to 105 counties in Kansas.

The objective of this MOU is to form a day-to-day working relationship with SSA and KDOL in an attempt to cast a much wider net over the ever changing/growing fraud attempts by those who chose to live outside the laws that govern residents of Kansas.

Another important partnership was developed with the Kansas Department of Revenue Division of Taxation. This partnership is opening the door to investigate individuals who are reporting both federal and state income tax with an Individual Tax Identification Number working under a Social Security number of another person, who at times are deceased. This cooperative agreement has opened the door to ID Theft investigations and other potential criminal activity.

In 2016 the Fraud unit developed a direct working relationship with the Social Security Administration (SSA) by becoming a participant with Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General (OIG) - CDI. This partnership allows for criminal, civil and administrative investigations in the state of Kansas related to disability fraud. This direct working relationship allows for a seamless transfer of information from one agency to another. Fraud also developed a more direct working relationship with USDOL OIG's office. This relationship will allow for an expanded working relationship involving upper level fraud cases.

Cooperation was developed with the Department of Revenue Division of Taxation to investigate situations of ID Theft related to state of Kansas tax returns.

In pursuit of unemployment benefit fraud and misclassified workers within the state of Kansas, the Fraud unit continually submits cases to district and federal court for review and filing of charges.

The Special Investigations Unit initiated investigations into 127 cases, involving approximately \$708,000 in fraudulently obtained unemployment benefits. These cases also included investigations into claims of identity theft, misclassified workers, forged documents, etc.

UI Fraud Unit

During the past year the fraud unit was assigned approximately 6,829 cases with an associated amount of more than \$3M in fraudulent overpayments. Several of the above mentioned overpayments were referred to the Special Investigations Unit for follow up and consideration of criminal prosecution. In addition to the fraudulent overpayments fraud unit investigators discovered approximately \$907,338.00 in non-fraud overpayments. These were investigated by the fraud unit investigators. Once the overpayment is established they are referred for possible collection.



KDOL Fraud unit distributes the *Help Us Erase Fraud* brochure to the workforce centers and local libraries across Kansas.



Stop the Drain campaign emphasized the penalties for fraud such as five-year ban on filing unemployment, possible felony and 100% success rate prosecuting offenders.

Employment Security



The stated public policy behind the Employment Security Law is to prevent economic insecurity – and the related dangers to the health and welfare of the citizens of the state of Kansas – brought about by involuntary unemployment. See K.S.A 44-702

Brett Flachsbarth
UI DIRECTOR

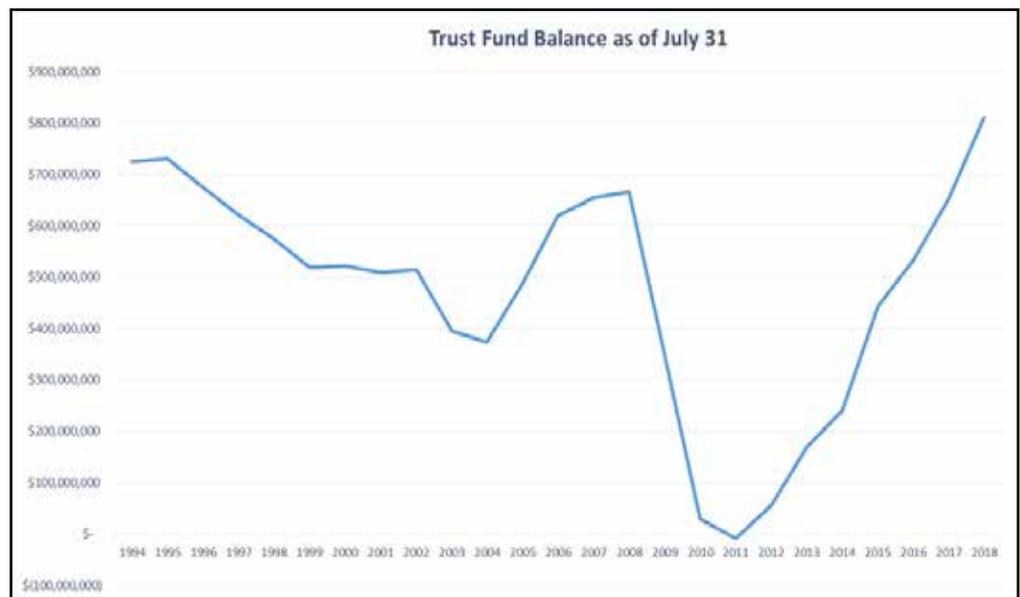


This policy is accomplished in large part by the compulsory setting aside of financial reserves to be used for the benefit of persons unemployed. The reserves distributed as benefits are funded entirely by contributions assessed against Kansas employers. Further, these funds are maintained in the Kansas Employment Security Trust Fund in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

The framework of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program is both state and federal. The program is administered by state employees under state law. But federal laws – the Social Security Act and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act – set forth broad coverage provisions, some benefit provisions and numerous administrative requirements. Further, the federal government provides administrative funding, ensures conformity and compliance with federal law and monitors state performance.

Kansas UI Trust Fund

The growth and health of the Kansas economy continues to be reflected in the improving solvency of the UI Trust Fund. At the end of November 2018, the Trust Fund balance was \$825,319,678. The chart to the right shows changes in the Trust Fund balance since 1994.



Kansas Unemployment Contact Center

At the end of November 2018, there were 81,886 initial claims filed. Approximately \$134,218,721 million was paid in benefits through November 2018.

In terms of paying benefits, the federal government establishes a key performance metric of first-payment promptness. Nationwide, states have continued to struggle to meet this metric. Kansas met and exceeded federal first-payment promptness standards for every month in 2018.

Unemployment Tax Administration

There are currently 75,635 Kansas employers reporting employee wages under the provisions of the Employment Security Law. UI tax staff completed 37,472 assignments for year 2018 (Jan - Nov.), including audits, investigations, collections and reports. Approximately 90.9 percent of all employers file online saving time, labor and paper costs.

There were 913 employer audits conducted, with approximately \$347,513,764.12 in pre-audit wages. The audits detected a difference of \$12,644,962.12 in wages.

The efforts of UI tax staff also uncovered 2,573 misclassified workers from 405 employers. The corrected classification of these workers created an additional \$22,346,362.06 in reportable wages. The potential amount to be returned to the Trust Fund from these wages is \$491,303.10. This amount does not include assessed penalties and interest.

UI tax staff were timely concerning its legal obligation to inform Kansas employers of their contribution rate for the upcoming year by November 30. See K.S.A. 44-710b(a). Experience rating notices for 2019 were mailed November 2018.

Unemployment Appeals

Similar to the Contact Center, the Office of UI Appeals must comply with federal government performance standards concerning the timeliness of its ability to hold hearings and issue appropriate decisions. Under Federal standards, at least 60 percent of appeal decisions must be issued within 30 days of the appeal being filed. UI Appeals staff continued to exceed this metric throughout 2018.

Labor Market Information Services (LMIS)



LMIS provides timely, relevant labor market and economic data to many users, including the executive and legislative branches, economists, academia and the public. LMIS produces a wide range of products that are available free of charge at [KLIC.dol.ks.gov](https://kllic.dol.ks.gov).

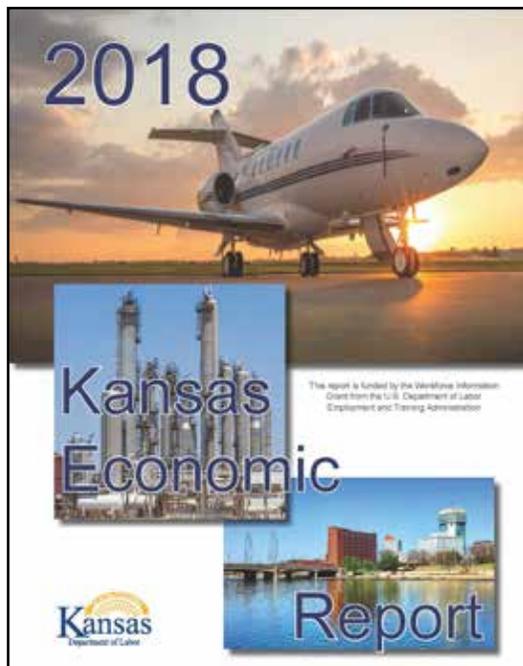
Justin McFarland
LMIS Director and
Deputy General
Counsel



Economic Report

LMIS released the 2018 Economic Report in October. The Economic Report provides details related to the state's economic condition in 2016 including job growth, employment gains, unemployment rates, the state's global business position and an economist's note. The report, including charts and tables, gives the reader insight into recent happenings in the Kansas economy. It is the most comprehensive annual report published about the Kansas labor market. *The Economic Report* can be found [here](#).

The Labor Market Information Services is a One-Stop Shop for Labor Market Data



One-Stop Shop for Labor Market Data

Labor Market Information Services (LMIS) is your one-stop shop for labor market data including:

- economic indicators
- current and future job openings
- wages
- workforce demographics
- employment
- employment statistics
- and much more

Find finished reports and create customized reports using the Kansas Labor Information Center (KLIC) site.
<https://kllic.dol.ks.gov>

Send questions and requests for data to LMIS at:
laborstats@dol.ks.gov

Labor Market Information Services
(785) 296-5000

K.LMIS-P 444 (Rev. 2-16)

Job Vacancy Survey

The Kansas Job Vacancy Survey provides an assessment of labor demand in the state and each of the five local areas based on a survey of Kansas employers. It gives valuable information regarding the specific occupations that are in demand as well as numerous details pertaining to such openings. These details include the duration of vacancies, the permanent/temporary and full-time/part-time status of vacancies and the educational requirements, average wage offers and benefits associated with an area's job openings.

The 2018 Job Vacancy Survey was released in August, reporting 49,640 job vacancies in Kansas during the second quarter of 2018. This is a 1.5 percent increase in the number of openings from the previous year. At the time of the survey, there were 3.5 vacancies for every 100 jobs. The report can be found at <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=703>

Kansas Wage Survey

The Kansas Wage Survey produces employment and wage estimates for more than 700 occupations. The report includes estimates of the number of jobs in certain occupations, and estimates of the wages paid to them. Estimates are available for the state, its metro areas and designated non-metro areas including all Kansas counties. This survey is the most requested and used product from LMIS.

The 2018 Wage Survey reported the average hourly wage in Kansas increased 1.4 percent to \$21.43. The average annual wage in the state is \$44,570.

The report can be found at here. <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=733>

Kansas Career Posters

The Kansas career posters outline different career paths that high school students might be considering. The posters for high-demand industries guide students to occupations that they can obtain immediately after high school, along with future careers that they can work towards with additional education or work experience. High-demand occupations have larger than average combined current and projected demand from employers in the state.

The posters are made available for download online. They have been promoted and shared with educators, policy makers, economic development groups and others across Kansas. The statistical information is updated regularly. The posters can be found at <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=501>.

High Demand Occupations

The list of high demand occupations in Kansas combines the number of projected job openings with the number of current job openings to rank occupations by demand from Kansas employers. Occupations are ranked by the number of job openings at the current time, in the next two years and in the next ten years. The job vacancy survey, short-term projections program and long-term projections program are all used to compile the list of high demand occupations. This list is widely used by groups such as the Kansas Legislature, the Department of Commerce and the Board of Regents in crafting policies and programs related to workforce development. The Kansas High Demand Occupations report can be found at <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=403>. (Chart on next page)

High Demand Occupations

Statewide 2017

Overview
High Demand by Wage Group
Top 25 High Demand Occupations
High Demand by Education
High Demand by High Skills
Additional Resources

What are High Demand Occupations?

High Demand occupations are occupations which have larger than average combined current and projected (short-term and long-term) demand in the state.

Among High Demand Occupations are:

50	Production Occupations
43	Office and Administrative Support Occupations
31	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations
29	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations
28	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations
27	Construction and Extraction Occupations

The median annual wage of all High Demand Occupations is \$40,318*.

Top High Demand Occupations requiring postsecondary training/education:

- Registered Nurses
- Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
- Nursing Assistants
- Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education
- Teacher Assistants

*Wages based on median annual occupational wages from the 2017 Kansas Wage Survey. Omits unclassifiable occupational wages.

Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics

[High Demand Home](#)
[Methodology](#)
[EJC Home](#)

Tomorrow's High-Demand High-Wage Careers



TOP 26 for '26

HIGH-DEMAND HIGH-WAGE CAREERS



KLIC.dol.ks.gov

TOP 26 for '26

Tomorrow's High-Demand High-Wage Careers

Job Outlook Through 2026

High School Diploma or equivalent, 5 years experience or less

- Aircraft structure, surfaces, rigging and systems assemblers
- Electricians
- First-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers
- First-line supervisors of production and operating workers
- First-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers
- Industrial machinery mechanics
- Sales representatives, services, all others
- Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing

Bachelor's degree

- Accountants and Auditors
- Business operations specialist, all other
- Chief executives
- Elementary School Teachers
- Financial Managers
- General and Operations Managers
- Loan officers
- Management analysts
- Managers, all other
- Market research analysts and marketing specialists
- Medical and health services managers
- Personal Financial Advisors
- Registered Nurses
- Sales managers
- Secondary School Teachers
- Software Developers, System Software
- Software Developers, Applications
- Training and development specialists

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Program

This program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), conduct the annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) and Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) to provide data on the work related injuries, illnesses and fatalities in Kansas. The SOII unit provides statistics on work-related injuries and illnesses in Kansas. Data from the SOII estimates annual counts and incident rates of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses of Kansas employers. Case circumstances and workers characteristics for cases that involve days away from work are included in the data. Data is collected from over 3,500 Kansas employers each year. The CFOI unit collects data from multiple sources for every fatal work-related injury recorded.

Collaborations

Kansas LMIS continues working with the Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas State Department of Education on the Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) Grant. The Kansas State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) built linkages between education and labor data and workforce systems for program evaluation. WDQI expands the SLDS to connect workforce systems to education, including adult basic programs. The links will enable agencies to create indicators and/or analyze data relationships to support enhanced reporting and/or training capacity. Not only will this avoid duplication in collection and reporting where possible, it will help evaluate performance of federally and state supported job training and education programs to make policy adjustments for continuous program improvements. The creation of a collaborative web-based dashboard will include information on Kansas program providers, high demand data and training programs. Consumers will have real-time information with easily accessible information including, but not limited to, demand occupations, earnings information, current job vacancies, training providers for credentials, estimated costs per training and related statistical information by local area.

Kansas Career Navigator

The Kansas Career Navigator is an intuitive dashboard intended to aid in the selection of education and training programs, access workforce training providers, analyze performance information and labor market information. Additionally, by navigating this site a user has access to high-demand, high-wage occupation opportunities by county or local area selection.

The Occupation and College program shows the top 10 high-demand, high-wage occupations in the user's local area. Users can learn more about wages, job openings, education and work experience expectations, provider listings, forecasted vacancies and much more.

The High School Career program shows High School Career and Technical Education pathways and the corresponding college programs in the user's local area connecting to Kansas careers. Users can begin the journey for a career by discovering high school, college courses and opportunities available to gain knowledge and experience in high-demand occupations. For more information go to <https://kscaarenav.gov/>



Industrial Safety & Health Division



The Industrial Safety and Health division identifies safety and health hazards to better the Kansas workforce, by offering a free consultation service to private industries, public entities and state agencies.

Peter Brady
Industrial Safety
& Health Director



This service is helping to prevent on-the-job injuries and illnesses through safety and health management system evaluations, employer and employee training, on-site hazard identification

KDOL is the first state agency to hire an individual through the Hiring Our Heroes Corporate Fellowship Program (CFP) at Ft. Leavenworth. **Sergeant (E-5) Peter Brady** was hired as the Industrial Safety and Health (ISH) Division Director. The Corporate Fellowship program allows military personnel and their spouses to intern while they are still on active duty with the intent to be hired by that organization at the end of the internship. This was the second year of the program at the northeast Kansas military facility.



Peter Brady, Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D. and Colonel Marne Suttan, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Leavenworth presenting Peter with his graduation certificate from the Corporate Fellowship program.

<p>223 On-Site Consultations Conducted</p>
<p>4,607 Hazards Identified</p>
<p>2 Fatalities Investigated</p>





KDOL Consultant instructing local roofers on safety procedures. ISH staff has been working with construction companies qualifying them for the SHARP program

OSHA Consultation Program

This program has a Cooperative Agreement with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The nine Safety and Health Consultants assigned in the OSHA grant conducted 379 safety and health visits. These visits identified 609 hazards in a variety of industries. OSHA has placed an emphasis on construction, oil and gas, silica, trenching, grain handling, and manufacturing facilities with amputation hazards. The focus of this program continues to be small companies with less than 250 employees on-site that are considered a high hazard industry.

The OSHA Consultation program has several Safety and Health consultants that are qualified to instruct OSHA 10 courses for both construction and general industry. In 2018 we were able to conduct outreach and training activities throughout the State. Four OSHA 10 hour courses were conducted resulting in the training of over 50 personnel. We continue our outreach providing the opportunity for employers to discuss concerns and ask questions pertaining to OSHA consultation services.



KDOL conducted safety consultations at USD 376 in Sterling and USD 208 in Wakeeney.

Public Sector Program

The division is also responsible for investigating safety and health issues with public entities, including; cities, counties, school districts and community colleges. During State Fiscal Year 2018, four Safety and Health Consultants assigned to this unit conducted 223 inspections. These inspections identified 4,607 hazards and involved 33,302 employees.

State Workplace Health and Safety Program

The division has assisted KDHE with the State Workplace Health and Safety Program, created under K.S.A 44-575 (f). During State Fiscal Year 2018, the division conducted 65 ergonomic assessments at 80 locations with 1,385 recommendations; and 102 safety and health inspections, assisting 6,237 employees. Additionally, our safety and health consultants have identified and help correct 718 hazards.

Accident Prevention Program

For 20 years, as a prerequisite for authority to provide workers compensation insurance coverage, Kansas insurance companies and group-funded plans, have been required to provide accident prevention programs upon request of the covered employer. KDOL is charged with inspecting these programs. The division completed over 450 audits during State Fiscal Year 2018.

Amusement Ride Safety Program

Amended in 2018 by Senate Bill 310. The program conducts audits and evaluates documentation of amusement ride operations per the Kansas Amusement Ride Act, K.S.A. 44-1601, et seq. Throughout 2018 the Amusement Ride Safety Unit has brought on its first three staff members: a Unit Coordinator, an Amusement Ride Auditor and an Administrative Assistant. Thus far the Amusement Ride Unit has conducted audits of 49 amusement ride entities and permitted and registered over 200 entities across the state.

Annual Safety and Health Conference

The 69th Annual Safety and Health Conference was held Oct. 2 – 5, in Wichita with 189 attendees and 40 exhibitors. The conference covers a variety of topics for the diverse array of industries in attendance. Feedback from those in attendance said: “It gets better every year”. This year Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D. joined us to kick off the first day of the conference.



Peter Brady, Lana Gordon and Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D. at conference.



Tim Boswell with Westar Energy (Evergy) - with his Hot Electrical Trailer Demonstration.



Interactive panel discussing and answering questions regarding current safety issues in the field.

Safety and Health Award for Public Employers (SHAPE)

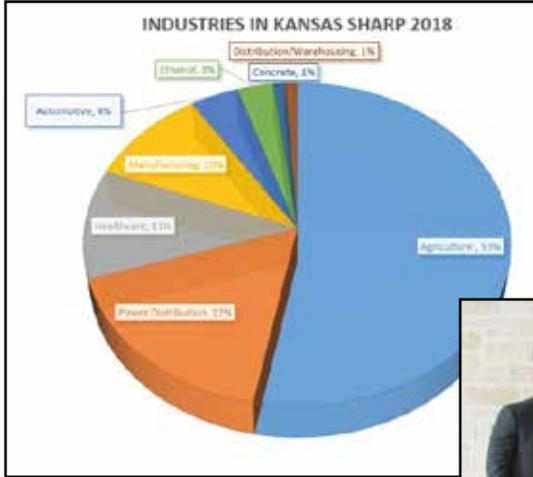
The Safety and Health Award for Public Employers (SHAPE) program, recognized public sector and state workplace entities, such as state and local governments, state universities and unified school districts. Implemented in 2014, these entities are awarded for providing an exemplary safety and health program for their employees. Kansas State Polytechnic Campus in Salina, KS received the SHAPE award in 2018. KDOL’s safety consultants continuously seek out public sector and state workplace entities that qualify for the award.



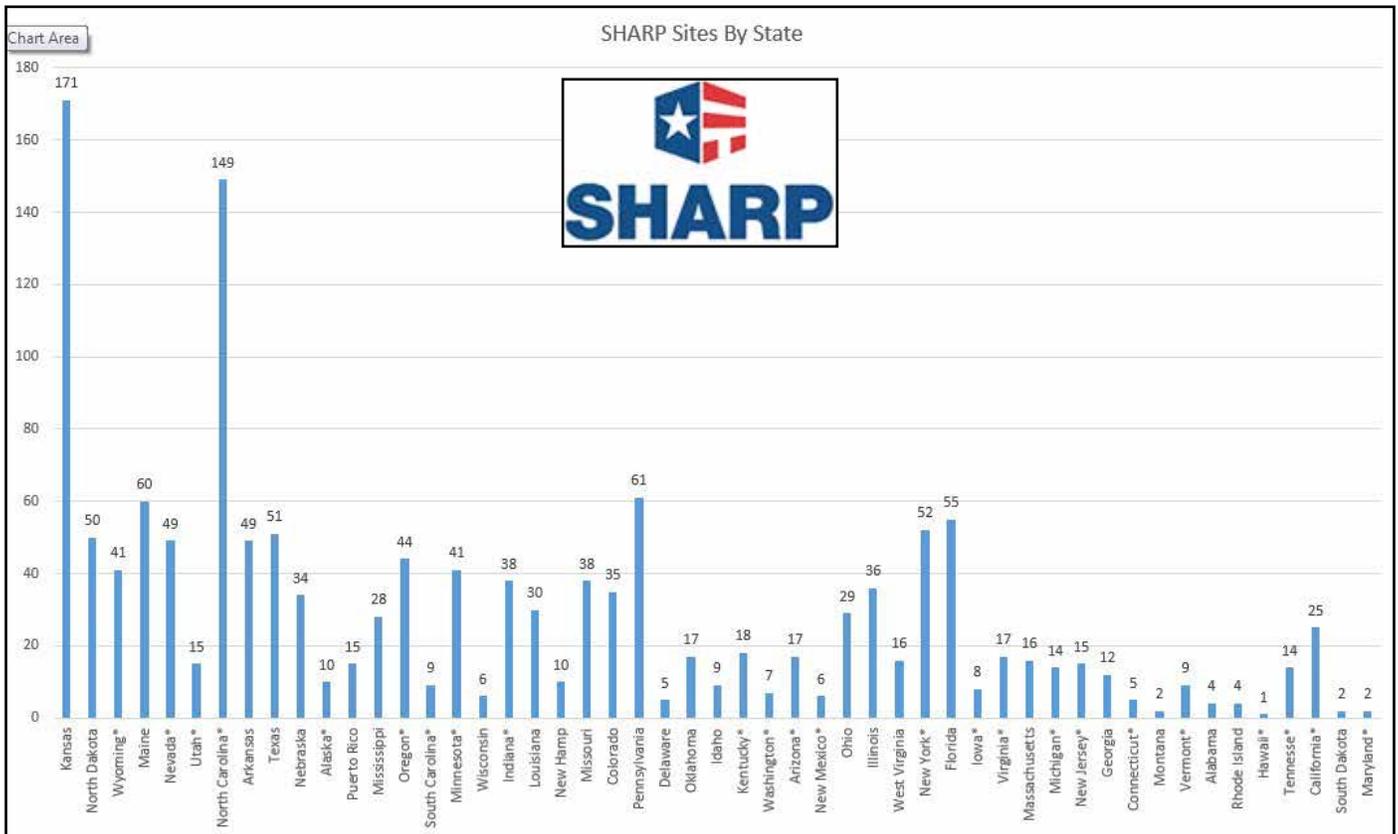
K-State Polytechnic Receives SHAPE Recognition

Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP)

The Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) continues to grow in Kansas with 171 active sites and one pre-SHARP site. Kansas continues to have the greatest number of SHARP sites in the nation and the highest percentage of SHARP sites per workplace establishment in states under both state and federal OSHA jurisdiction. The Kansas consultation program has the most SHARP sites and our continual communication and partnership with this group greatly increases the safety culture in the state of Kansas.



Latest SHARP member was Community Healthcare Systems, Westmoreland Clinic on Aug. 24, 2018.



Workers Compensation Division



The Workers Compensation Division administers programs that provide services to all stakeholders including workers who were injured on the job. Work Comp makes sure injured workers receive benefits they are entitled to under the Kansas Workers Compensation Law.

Larry Karns
Work Comp
Director



Online System for Claims Administration Research/Regulation (OSCAR)

Workers Compensation launched the paperless system called the Online System for Claims Administration Research/Regulation (OSCAR). This is a digital system created to reduce paper waste, expedite workflows, and improve transparency.



Initial OSCAR planning team.



Call center for OSCAR assistance.

Fraud and Abuse

Workers compensation fraud and abuse unit received and investigated 378 referrals. Fifty-two fraud and abuse administrative cases were prosecuted, collecting more than \$222,469 in fraud and abuse fines and restitution.

Ombudsman/Claims

The Workers Compensation Division assisted injured workers, insurance agents, attorneys, employers and health care providers with questions about the Workers Compensation Law.

Staff provided educational presentations to a total of 475 individuals including attorneys and representatives from employers, insurance carriers and health care providers.

Mediation

Work Comp mediation is a means of resolving disputes in an informal and non-adversarial atmosphere. The issues that can be mediated are not restricted to medical or temporary total disability benefits. The parties to a dispute use a neutral third party to facilitate discussion. The mediator's job is to assist the parties in identifying the issues in dispute and establishing common goals. The mediator has no decision-making authority or interest in the outcome of the dispute. The key to mediation is self-determination or allowing the parties to work through their dispute and create their own agreements.

Annual Workers Compensation Seminar

The Annual Workers Compensation Seminar hosted more than 478 attendees and 122 exhibitors and sponsors at the annual 2018 Workers Compensation Seminar held in Overland Park. The seminar focused on the changes resulting from amendments to the Kansas Workers Compensation Act, recent court decisions and the OSCAR system.



Panel presentation for OSCAR at seminar

Judicial Section

The Judicial Section has 10 administrative law judges throughout the state whose primary function is to conduct timely hearings in contested workers compensation claims, and render orders based on the facts presented, as applied to the Workers Compensation Act. For an initial determination of benefits, preliminary hearings are set on a priority basis, and preliminary decisions are issued within five days of the hearing. A list of the workers compensation administrative law judges and their contact information is available [here](#)

Workers Compensation Board

The Workers Compensation Board was established in 1993 to decide appeals of orders and awards from the workers compensation administrative law judges. Hoping to obtain more uniform decisions throughout the state, the Legislature created the Board to replace the state's district court judges in the appeal process.

Current Board Members

- Tom Arnhold
- John Carpinelli (chair)
- Gary Korte
- Gary Terrill
- Seth Valerius

Fiscal Year 2018 Actual Expenditures

	Actual Expenditures	Percent
	\$207,194,235	100.00%
State General Fund:		
General Administration	\$9,396	
Legal Services	\$118,634	
Employment Standards	\$177,978	
Public Employees Relations Board	\$30	
Amusement Ride Safety	\$267,399	
Total SGF	\$573,437	0.28%
Fee Funded Programs:		
Wage Claims Assignment Fund	\$614	
Workers Compensation	\$15,469,116	
Total Fee Funds	\$15,469,730	7.47%
Federal Funded Programs:		
Unemployment Insurance	\$20,582,011	
Wagner Peyser (LMI One-Stop)	\$370,504	
SSA Disability	\$169,776	
Snap Emp. & Training Pilot	\$54,287	
OSHA	\$713,061	
Investments for Econ. Adjust.	\$118,292	
Labor Force Statistics (BLS)	\$798,759	
OSH/CFOI	\$87,142	
Workforce Data Quality Initiative	\$47,942	
Total Federal	\$22,941,774	11.07%
Unemployment Insurance Benefits:	\$164,008,611	79.16%
Other Funds		
Penalty & Interest Funds	\$1,611,946	0.78%
Federal Indirect Offset Fund	\$45,441	0.02%
Indirect Cost Fund	\$1,555,176	0.75%
Amusement Ride Safety Fund	\$30,266	0.01%
Human Resources Special Projects Fund	\$195,826	0.09%
Special Wage Payment Clearing Trust Fund	\$12,917	0.01%
KDOL Off Budget (MOUs)	\$749,111	0.36%



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