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Amber Shultz, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 24, 2023

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**Labor Market Report  
February 2023**

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for February 2023, which are produced using data from two monthly surveys. Data for nonfarm job estimates is collected through a survey of employers while the main input for labor force estimates is a survey of households. Data collected for this report references the week including February 12.*

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 2.9% in February. This is unchanged from 2.9% in January and an increase from 2.4% in February 2022.

Seasonally adjusted job estimates for Kansas indicate total nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 1,500 from January. Total nonfarm includes private sector and government employers. [Private sector jobs](#) increased by 1,400 over the month, while government decreased by 2,900.

“Kansas average nominal hourly earnings in the private sector rose 3.1% over the year in February,” said Labor Economist Nathan Kessler. “However, while showing signs of improvement, inflationary pressures continue to weigh on wages with real hourly earnings declining 2.4% over the year.”

Since February 2022 Kansas’ [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have increased by 41,300. This change is due to an increase of 38,000 private sector jobs and an increase of 3,300 government jobs.

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

The March 2023 Labor Report will be released on Friday, April 21.

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Technical Notes: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=760>

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*The Kansas unemployment rate is based on data collected through the Current Population Survey (CPS) and estimates produced by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. The LAUS data is produced in cooperation with the BLS, which means that the same methodology is used for all states (<https://www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.htm>). Data for the number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits is based on administrative data from claimants filing unemployment insurance claims with KDOL. These two measures offer distinct but related measures of trends in joblessness.*

*Audio clip of the Labor Market Report quote by Labor Economist, Nathan Kessler, is available online, courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.*

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