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Labor Market Report
February 2021

IMPORTANT NOTE: This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for February 2021. Data collected for this report references the week including February 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 3.2 percent in February. This was a decrease from 3.4 percent in January and is unchanged from 3.2 percent in February 2020.

“The rate of recovery accelerated in February for the leisure and hospitality industry, with Kansas employers adding 3,900 jobs,” said Acting Secretary Amber Shultz. “This growth was offset by losses in other industries. Construction saw the largest decline over-the-month falling by 3,100, which is likely the result of severe winter weather impacting the state during the reference week.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs decreased by 5,200 from January. Private sector jobs, a subset of total nonfarm jobs, decreased by 4,200 from the previous month, while government decreased by 1,000.

“Kansas continues to see recovery with continued decline in the unemployment rate at 3.2 percent for February,” said Labor Economist Todd Rilinger. “However, the alternative measures of labor underutilization show that Kansas still has a ways to go. Broader measures of unemployment, including discouraged workers and individuals working part time for economic reasons, remain elevated compared to pre-pandemic levels.”

Since February 2020, Kansas seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs have declined by 70,500. This change is due to a decrease of 56,500 private sector jobs and 14,000 government jobs.
BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for January downward by 1,200 jobs, from 1,364,700 to 1,363,500. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were also revised downward by 1,200 jobs, from 1,117,600 to 1,116,400.

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

The March 2021 Labor Report will be released on Friday, April 16.


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 Bureau of Labor Statistics, which means that the same methodology is used for all states ([https://www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.htm](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 the Kansas Department of Labor. These two measures offer distinct but related measures of trends in joblessness.

Audio clips of the Labor Market Report quotes by Acting Secretary of Labor, Amber Shultz and Labor Economist, Todd Rilinger are available online, courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.

Since March 15, KDOL has paid out over 4.2 million weekly claims totaling over $2.8 billion between regular unemployment and the federal pandemic programs. For more information, or to apply for unemployment benefits, go to [www.GetKansasBenefits.gov](http://www.GetKansasBenefits.gov).

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