

401 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66603-3182



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

Amber Shultz, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 21, 2021

Contact: Jerry Grasso  
Communications Director  
[KDOL.Communications@ks.gov](mailto:KDOL.Communications@ks.gov)



**Labor Market Report  
April 2021**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for April 2021. Data collected for this report references the week including April 12<sup>th</sup>. Additional resources for affected workers and employers may be found at the Kansas Department of Labor’s website: [www.dol.ks.gov](http://www.dol.ks.gov) and [www.GetKansasBenefits.gov](http://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 3.5 percent in April. This was a decrease from 3.7 percent in March and a decrease from 12.6 percent in April 2020.

“We’ve seen significant improvement in the unemployment rate throughout the past year, from a historic high of 12.6 percent in April 2020, down to 3.5 percent just twelve months later,” said Secretary Amber Shultz. “Great progress is being made as we are approaching pre-pandemic unemployment rates.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs decreased by 1,400 from March. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, decreased by 1,300 from the previous month, while government decreased by 100.

“Over the past year Kansas has recovered more than 64 percent of the 158,000 jobs lost in March and April of 2020,” said Labor Economist Todd Rilinger. “The leisure and hospitality industry, which saw the largest losses last year, added 500 jobs in April 2021. This brings the total jobs recovered for the industry to more than 73 percent.”

Since April 2020, Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have increased by 101,600. This change is due to an increase of 103,800 private sector jobs and a decrease of 2,200 government jobs.

BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for March upward by 800 jobs, from 1,373,000 to 1,373,800. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were also revised upward by 600 jobs, from 1,126,200 to 1,126,800.

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

The May 2021 Labor Report will be released on Friday, June 18.

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Technical Notes: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=760>

*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>). 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 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 4.5 million weekly claims totaling over \$2.9 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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