

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

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Contact: Becky Shaffer
Communications Manager
KDOL.Communications@ks.gov



**Labor Market Report
May 2021**

IMPORTANT NOTE: This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for May 2021. Data collected for this report references the week including May 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 3.5 percent in May. This was unchanged from 3.5 percent in April and a decrease from 9.0 percent in May 2020.

“Kansas maintained a relatively low unemployment rate, at 3.5 percent in May,” said Secretary Amber Shultz. “The state has seen significant improvement over the past year as community spread of COVID-19 has declined and the number of Kansans employed has increased.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs decreased by 1,500 from April. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, decreased by 2,000 from the previous month, while government increased by 500.

“As economic recovery continues in Kansas, we can see employment levels in multiple industries approach pre-pandemic levels,” said Labor Economist Todd Rilinger. “Five of the eleven major sectors have seen a recovery of over 70 percent of jobs lost due to the pandemic.”

Since May 2020, Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have increased by 68,300. This change is due to an increase of 64,800 private sector jobs and 3,500 government jobs.

BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for April downward by 900 jobs, from 1,372,400 to 1,371,500. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were also revised downward by 1,100 jobs, from 1,125,500 to 1,124,400.

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

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The June 2021 Labor Report will be released on Friday, July 16.

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 4.6 million weekly claims totaling over \$3 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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