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Amber Shultz, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Labor Market Report  
October 2021**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for October 2021. Data collected for this report references the week including October 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 3.9 percent in October. This was unchanged from 3.9 percent in September and a decrease from 4.7 percent in October 2020.

“The Kansas unemployment rate remains steady at 3.9 percent. Additionally, for the fifth consecutive month Kansas nonfarm jobs estimates have increased,” said Secretary Amber Shultz. “October estimates indicate that the hardest hit industry during the pandemic, leisure and hospitality, has recovered nearly 82 percent of jobs since April 2020.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 1,100 from September. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, increased by 2,500 from the previous month, while government decreased by 1,400.

“October job estimates for the private sector indicate a continuing upward trend for Kansas, with 2,500 jobs added over-the-month,” said Labor Economist Emilie Doerksen. “Current estimates are only 2.5 percent below pre-pandemic levels. Private sector job estimates for the U.S. are also 2.5 percent below February 2020 levels.”

Since October 2020, Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have increased by 30,900. This change is due to an increase of 28,800 private sector jobs and 2,100 government jobs.

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BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for September upward by 600 jobs, from 1,387,000 to 1,387,600. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were also revised upward by 2,100 jobs, from 1,134,500 to 1,136,600.

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

The November 2021 Labor Report will be released on Friday, December 17.

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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, Emilie Doerksen are available online, courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.*

Since March 15, 2020 KDOL has paid out over 5.1 million weekly claims totaling over \$3.3 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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