



# Kansas Economic Update

April 15, 2016

## Summary

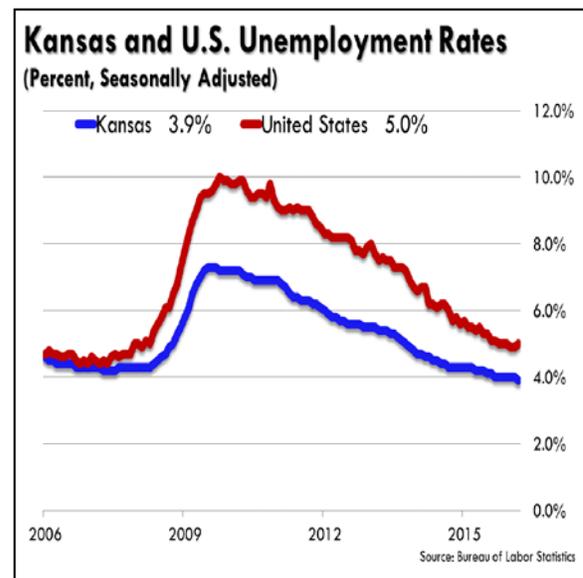
Nonfarm payroll employment in Kansas increased by 2,500 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 3.9 percent in March according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Kansas Unemployment Rate

During March, the unemployment rate in Kansas declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 756 in March to 59,721, while the labor force fell by 486 to 1,512,718. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 12 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Kansas. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Kansas stood at 4.3 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in Kansas was 7.3 percent in September 2009. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in Kansas. The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in Kansas was 3.9 percent in March 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in Kansas occurred in August 1978 when the unemployment rate reached 2.9 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 5.0 percent in March. March's unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Kansas Payroll Employment

Kansas nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,500 jobs, or 0.18 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 1,500. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Kansas was unchanged. Kansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

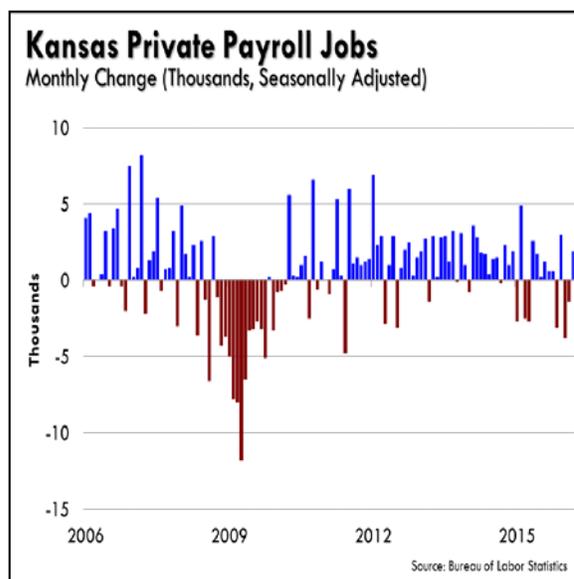
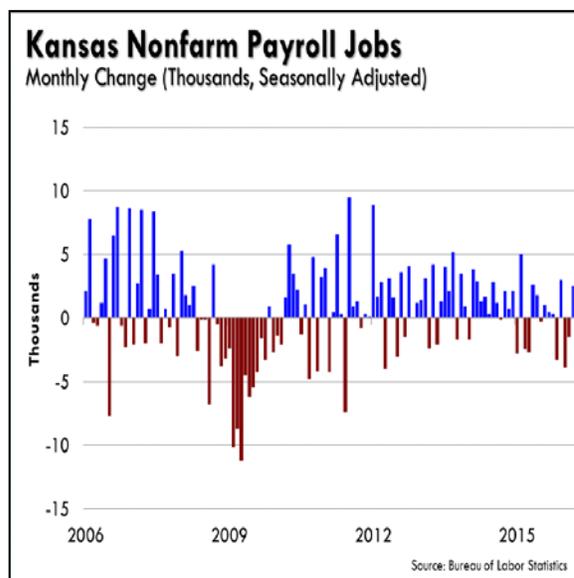
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 215,000 jobs in March, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2016 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,802,000 jobs, or 1.99 percent. Kansas ranks 45th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Kansas private sector payrolls increased by 1,900, or 0.17 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 1,400 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Kansas increased by 800, or 0.07 percent. Kansas private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 195,000 jobs in 1.99, or 0.16 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,681,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.25 percent.

Kansas ranks 45th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, total government payroll employment in Kansas increased by 600, or 0.23 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.19 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 300, or 0.17 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 800, or 0.31 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.19 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 3,100, or 1.82 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,500) and Professional & Business Services (+2,300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-1,500) and Financial Activities (-800).

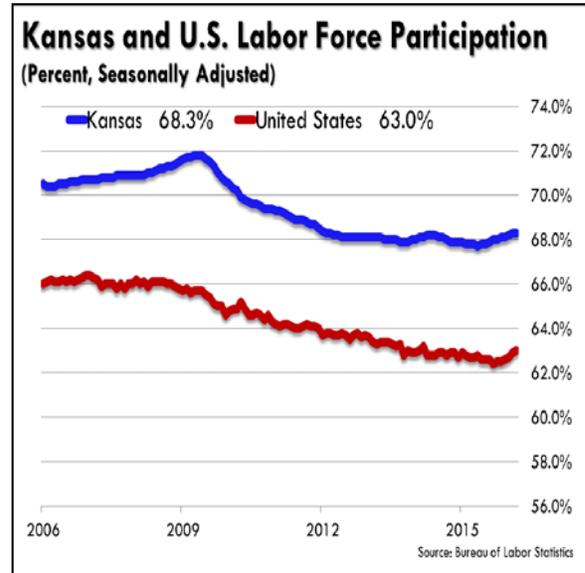
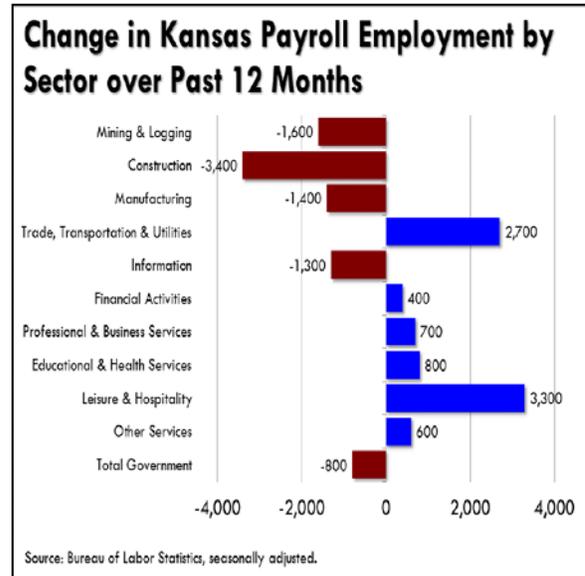
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+3,300) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,700). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Construction (-3,400) and Mining & Logging (-1,600).

#### Other Kansas Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Kansas was unchanged at 68.3 percent in March. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 8 have a higher labor force participation rate than Kansas. The labor force participation rate in Kansas is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10 year high for the labor force participation rate in Kansas was 71.8 percent in June 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Kansas occurred in December 1998 when the labor force participation rate hit 72.2 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 67.7 percent in May 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in February 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.6 percent.

The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 63.0 percent in March, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Kansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 65.6 percent in March. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 8 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Kansas. The employment-to-population ratio in Kansas is 0.7 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Kansas was 67.9 percent in July 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Kansas occurred in February 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 69.7 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.2 percent in July 2012. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.8 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.9 percent in March. That rate was 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 20, 2016. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 6, 2016.

