



# Kansas Economic Update

June 19, 2015

## Summary

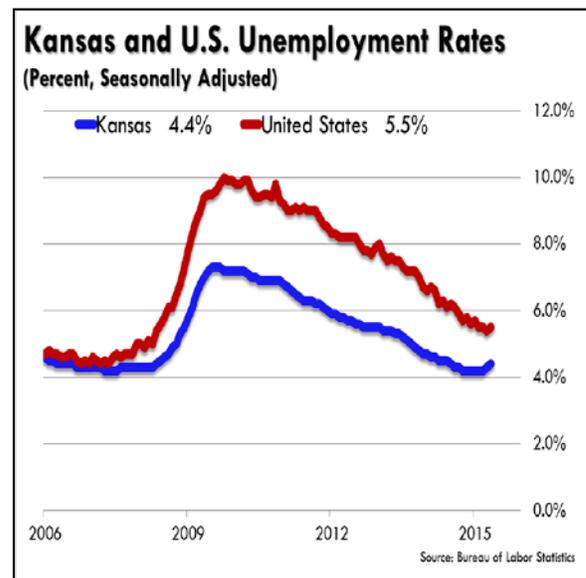
Nonfarm payroll employment in Kansas declined by 3,800 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 4.4 percent in May according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Kansas Unemployment Rate

During May, the unemployment rate in Kansas increased by 0.1 percentage point to 4.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 1,787 in May to 65,804, while the labor force fell by 4,582 to 1,496,956. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 15 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Kansas. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Kansas stood at 4.5 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 4.2 percent in March 2015. 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 was inched up to 5.5 percent in May. May's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.3 percent. The ten year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The ten year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Kansas Payroll Employment

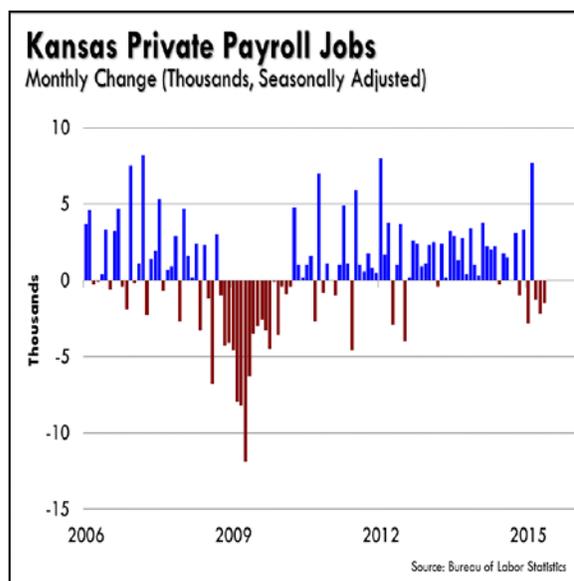
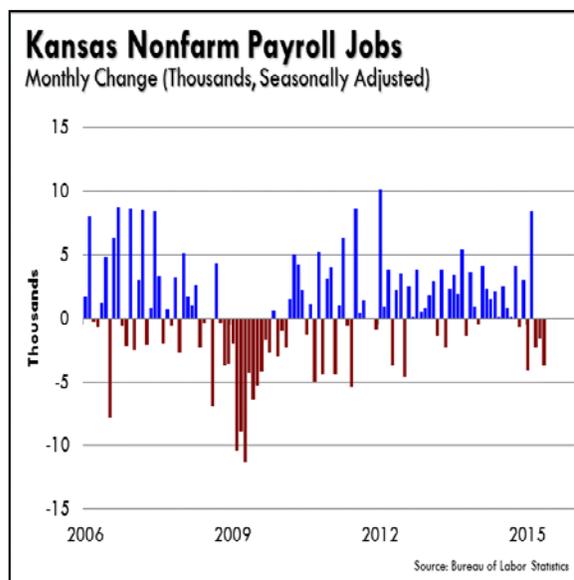
Kansas nonfarm payrolls declined by 3,800 jobs, or 0.27 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during May. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 1,600. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Kansas increased by 6,500, or 0.47 percent. Kansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 280,000 jobs in May, or 0.20 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in May 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 3,058,000 jobs, or 2.21 percent. Kansas ranks 49th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During May, Kansas private sector payrolls declined by 1,500, or 0.13 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 2,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Kansas increased by 8,300, or 0.73 percent. Kansas private sector payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 262,000 in May, or 0.22 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,958,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.53 percent. Kansas ranks 47th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During May, total government payroll employment in Kansas declined by 2,300, or 0.90 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.38 percent, while local government payroll employment was unchanged.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 1,800, or 0.70 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 700, or 1.34 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 700, or 0.41 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during May were Manufacturing (+2,600), Financial Activities (+500), and Information (+500). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Total Government (-2,300) and Leisure & Hospitality (-1,700).

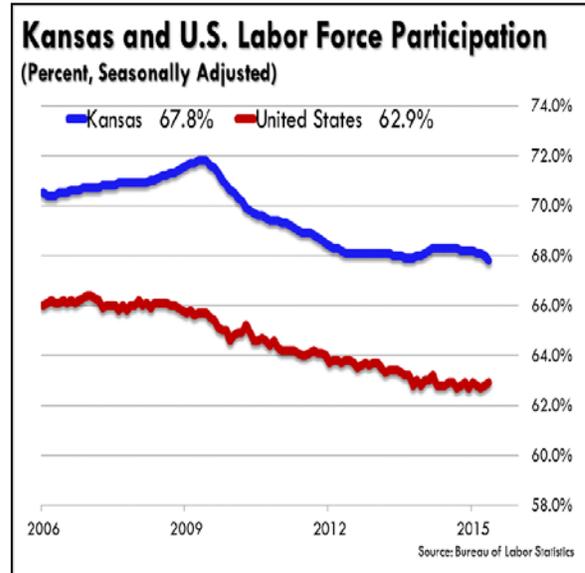
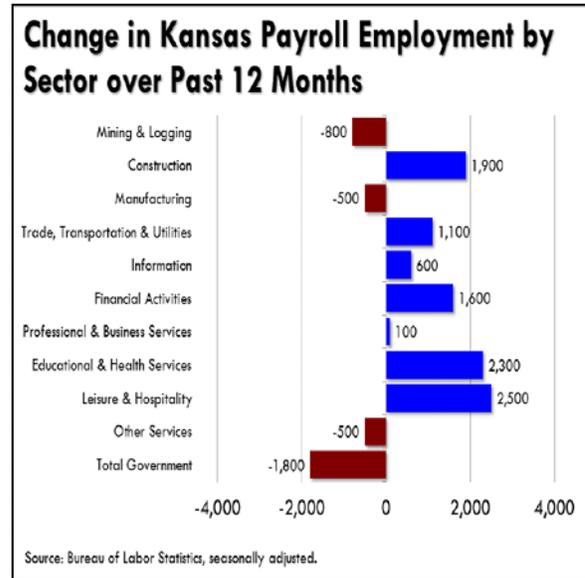
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+2,500) and Educational & Health Services (+2,300). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Total Government (-1,800) and Mining & Logging (-800).

#### Other Kansas Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Kansas declined to 67.8 percent in May from 68.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 10 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 67.8 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 62.9 percent in May. That rate is 0.1 percentage point higher than a year earlier.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Kansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 64.8 percent in May from 65.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Kansas. The employment-to-population ratio in Kansas is 0.5 percentage point lower 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 ticked up to 59.4 percent in May. At 59.4 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio has finally risen back to the level it was at when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in May 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 posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for May is scheduled for release on Tuesday, July 21. The national employment situation report for June is scheduled for release on Thursday, July 2. The national employment report is being released on Thursday instead of Friday due to the Independence Day holiday.

