



# Kansas Economic Update

October 20, 2015

## Summary

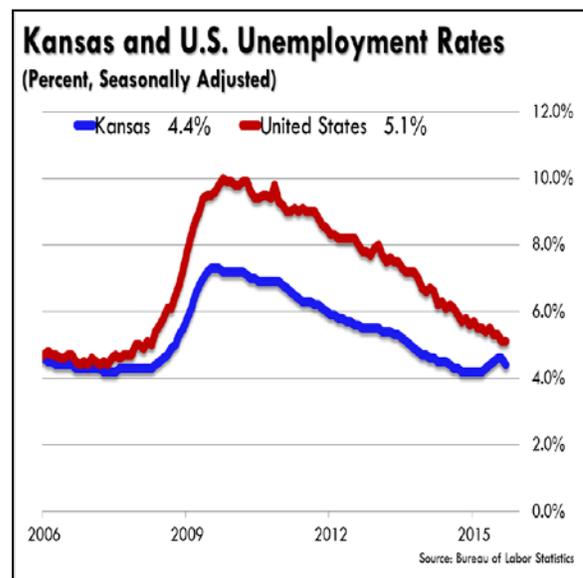
Nonfarm payroll employment in Kansas increased by 4,900 jobs and the unemployment rate fell to 4.4 percent in September according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Kansas Unemployment Rate

During September, the unemployment rate in Kansas declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 2,740 in September to 64,630, while the labor force grew by 5,364 to 1,481,367. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 16 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 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 unchanged at 5.1 percent in September. September's unemployment rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than a year earlier. 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

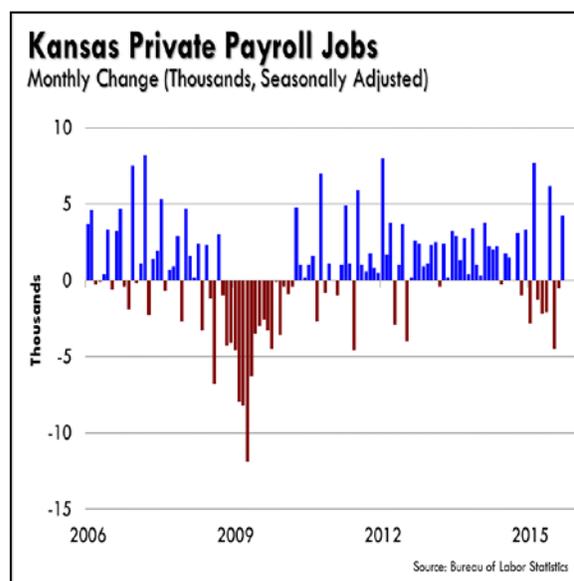
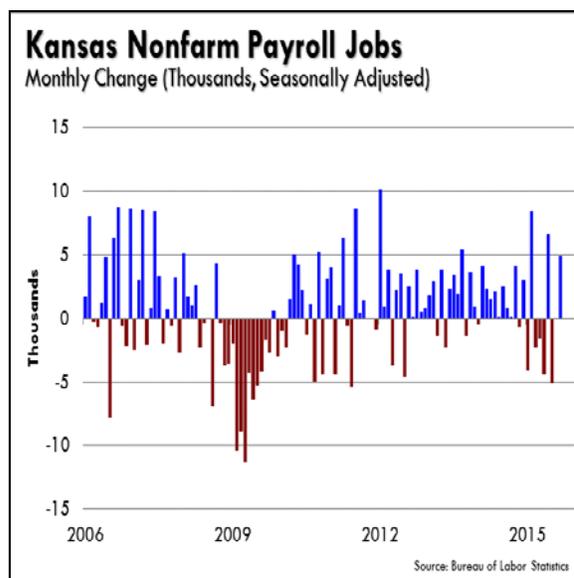
Kansas nonfarm payrolls increased by 4,900 jobs, or 0.35 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during September. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 100. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Kansas increased by 8,700, or 0.62 percent. Kansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 142,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in September 2015 nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,752,000 jobs, or 1.97 percent. Kansas ranks 41st among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, Kansas private sector payrolls increased by 4,200, or 0.37 percent. Private sector payrolls declined by 500 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in Kansas increased by 10,100, or 0.89 percent. Kansas private sector payroll employment has increased in 5 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 118,000 jobs in September, or 0.10 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,603,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.21 percent. Kansas ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During September, total government payroll employment in Kansas increased by 700, or 0.27 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 500, or 0.95 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 700, or 0.41 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment declined by 1,400, or 0.55 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 500, or 0.95 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 3,500, or 2.06 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during September were Professional & Business Services (+3,600) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+2,100). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Manufacturing (-2,500) and Educational & Health Services (-1,200).

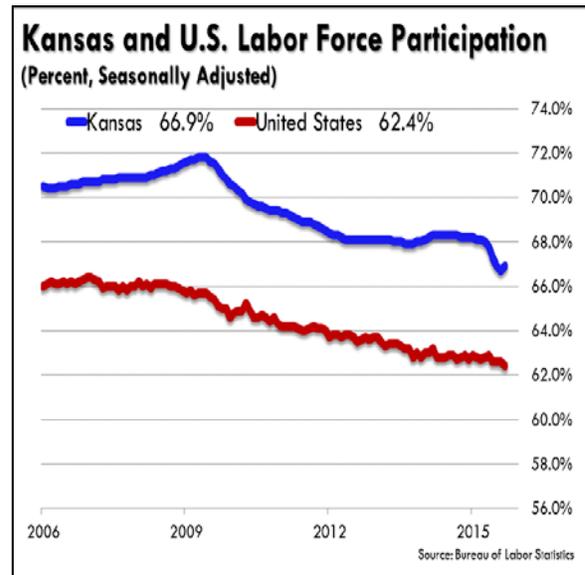
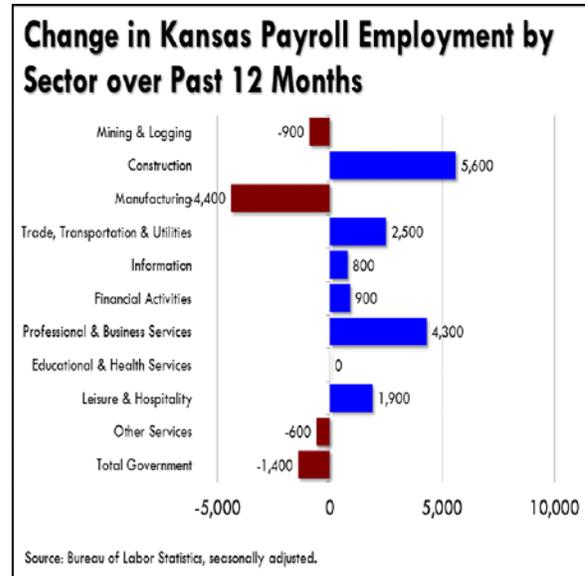
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (+5,600) and Professional & Business Services (+4,300). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Manufacturing (-4,400) and Total Government (-1,400).

#### Other Kansas Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Kansas rose to 66.9 percent in September from 66.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 12 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 66.7 percent in August 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 declined by 0.2 percentage point to 62.4 percent in September. That rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.4 percent, the labor force participation rate is at its lowest level since September 1977.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Kansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 64.0 percent in September from 63.7 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 11 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Kansas. The employment-to-population ratio in Kansas is 1.3 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 63.7 percent in August 2015. 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 declined by 0.2 percentage point to 59.2 percent in September. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The employment-to-population ratio stood at 59.4 percent when the recession ended in June 2009 and at 62.7 percent when it began in December 2007. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent 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 posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

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

