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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Labor Market Report August 2020

IMPORTANT NOTE: This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for August 2020. Data collected for this report references the week including August 12th. Reopening decisions were transferred to local officials on May 26, 2020. Counties following the 'Ad Astra Plan to Reopen Kansas' moved to Phase 3 on June 8, 2020, with recommendations to remain in Phase 3 issued on July 6, 2020. 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 6.9 percent in August. This was a decrease from 7.2 percent in July and an increase from 3.1 percent in August 2019.

“Data for August demonstrates continued progress in Kansas with the unemployment rate and job growth moving in the right direction,” said Acting Secretary Ryan Wright. “While we have seen continued improvement, KDOL remains committed to serving our claimants’ needs during this time as more than 96,000 individuals received unemployment insurance benefits in August.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 9,300 from July. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, increased by 5,500 from the previous month, while government increased by 3,800.

“In August, Kansas employers added jobs for the fourth consecutive month,” said Labor Economist Emilie Doerksen. “Since April, total nonfarm jobs have increased by 74,900, representing a recovery of 52.0 percent of jobs lost during March and April.”

Since August 2019, Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have declined by 61,400. This change is due to a decrease of 53,800 private sector jobs and 7,600 government jobs.

BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for July upward by 800 jobs, from 1,355,000 to 1,355,800. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were revised downward by 900 jobs, from 1,107,300 to 1,106,400.

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

The September 2020 Labor Report will be released on Friday, October 16.

[Technical Notes](#)

Audio clips of the Labor Market Report quotes by Acting Secretary of Labor, Ryan Wright and Labor Economist, Emilie Doerksen are available online, courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.

Since March 15, KDOL has paid out more than two million weekly claims totaling over \$1.9 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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