

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Labor Market Report
May 2020**

IMPORTANT NOTE: *This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for May 2020. Data collected for this report references the week including May 12th. All counties remained in Phase One of the Ad Astra Plan to Reopen Kansas from May 4 – 17, 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 10.0 percent in May. This was a decrease from 11.9 percent in April and an increase from 3.1 percent in May 2019.

“During Governor Kelly’s response to stop the spread of COVID-19, preliminary estimates show Kansas took a step in the right direction in May,” said Secretary Delía García. “The unemployment rate in Kansas fell nearly two percentage points from 11.9 percent in April to 10.0 percent in May and the state gained over 24,000 jobs compared to last month. This follows historic job losses seen across the nation in March and April due to COVID-19.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 24,200 from April. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, increased by 29,500 from the previous month, while government decreased by 5,300 jobs.

“Preliminary May estimates released today show Kansas gained back 17 percent of the jobs lost in March and April due to efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19,” said Senior Labor Economist, Tyler Tenbrink. “The reference period for the payroll survey was the pay period including the 12th of May, during this time Kansas was in Phase One of Governor Kelly’s reopening plan.”

Since May 2019, Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have declined by 110,100. This change is due to a decrease of 94,900 private sector jobs and 15,200 government jobs.

BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for April down by 2,300 jobs, from 1,292,500 to 1,290,200. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were revised down by 2,700 jobs, from 1,040,500 to 1,037,800.

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

The June 2020 Labor Report will be released on Friday, July 17.

[Technical Notes](#)

Audio clips of the Labor Market Report quotes by Secretary of Labor, Delia Garcia and Senior Labor Economist, Tyler Tenbrink are available online, courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.

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