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Ryan C. Wright, Acting Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Labor Market Report October 2020

IMPORTANT NOTE: *This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for October 2020. Data collected for this report references the week including October 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 5.3 percent in October. This was a decrease from 5.9 percent in September and an increase from 3.1 percent in October 2019.

“The October report shows that Kansas has continued to make an economic recovery during the pandemic,” said Acting Secretary Ryan Wright. “We have seen an increase in the number of jobs and those employed in the labor force, along with another drop in the unemployment rate which decreased to 5.3 percent in October.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 7,200 from September. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, increased by 5,900 from the previous month, while government increased by 1,300.

“October estimates show Kansas added jobs over-the-month and the state has now recovered 54.6 percent of nonfarm jobs lost in March and April,” said Labor Economist Emilie Doerksen. “The professional and business services and leisure and hospitality industries saw the largest increases in October, with each industry adding more than 2,500 jobs.”

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Since October 2019, Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have declined by 53,000. This change is due to a decrease of 41,300 private sector jobs and 11,700 government jobs.

BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for September upward by 1,300 jobs, from 1,360,400 to 1,361,700. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were revised upward by 1,500 jobs, from 1,113,100 to 1,114,600.

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

The November 2020 Labor Report will be released on Friday, December 18.

[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 3.1 million weekly claims totaling over \$2.3 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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