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Amber Shultz, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Labor Market Report
August 2021**

IMPORTANT NOTE: This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for August 2021. Data collected for this report references the week including August 12th. 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 3.8 percent in August. This was unchanged from 3.8 percent in July and a decrease from 6.2 percent in August 2020.

“August estimates indicate little change in the labor force since July, resulting in no change to the unemployment rate at 3.8 percent,” said Secretary Amber Shultz. “The private sector added jobs for the third consecutive month. Most of the gains in August were due to continued economic recovery in manufacturing and leisure and hospitality.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs decreased by 1,300 from July. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, increased by 2,900 from the previous month, while government decreased by 4,200.

“Private sector employers in Kansas added 2,900 jobs in August,” said Labor Economist Emilie Doerksen. “With this additional growth, current estimates are only 3.1 percent below pre-pandemic levels. For comparison, U.S. job estimates for August are 3.5 percent lower than February 2020 estimates.”

Since August 2020, Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have increased by 22,500. This change is due to an increase of 27,600 private sector jobs and a decrease of 5,100 government jobs.

BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for July upward by 200 jobs, from 1,382,200 to 1,382,400. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were revised downward by 900 jobs, from 1,130,700 to 1,129,800.

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

The September 2021 Labor Report will be released on Friday, October 22.

Technical Notes: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=760>

The Kansas unemployment rate is based on data collected through the Current Population Survey (CPS) and estimates produced by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. The LAUS data is produced in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which means that the same methodology is used for all states (<https://www.bls.gov/lau/launthd.htm>). Data for the number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits is based on administrative data from claimants filing unemployment insurance claims with the Kansas Department of Labor. These two measures offer distinct but related measures of trends in joblessness.

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

Since March 15, KDOL has paid out over 4.9 million weekly claims totaling over \$3.2 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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