

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





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Mission Statement

The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) assists in the prevention of economic insecurity through unemployment insurance and workers compensation, by providing a fair and efficient venue to exercise employer and employee rights, and by helping employers promote a safe work environment for their employees. This facilitates compliance with labor laws while enabling advancement of the economic well-being of the citizens of Kansas.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

While the past couple of years has been marked by the ongoing recovery from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 will be remembered as the year the agency made progress on the strategic plan focusing on Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP), employee engagement and modernization towards the state's antiquated unemployment insurance system.

In April, after a competitive open bid process, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was selected as the vendor to modernize the current mainframe system which was launched in the 1970s. The agency quickly began work on what will be a multi-year initiative that will transform KDOL's business processes and core technology systems. The agency created a team dedicated to working with TCS and representatives from other agencies, smoothing the transition to a new system. The two-year process is designed to have the new system in place by mid-summer of 2024, and as of now, the modernization remains on track. Significant progress has been made, yet there is still a lot of work to do. When completed, the new system will reshape the way KDOL will do business for Kansas employees and employers by considering business needs and technology solutions from an agency-wide perspective.



The Kansas 2022 unemployment rate remained quite low, beginning the year at 3.3% and dropping to 2.9% in December. There was strong job growth during the year with a total of 37,900 jobs added in the private sector and an increase of 4,400 government jobs. KDOL Labor Economists reported that the manufacturing sector and the education and health services sector saw "robust growth" by adding 15,900 jobs in 2022.

For the first time in three years, the Industrial Safety and Health (ISH) Division held its annual Safety and Health Conference in person instead of a virtual gathering. It was also the first time the event was held in Manhattan. The conference featured a variety of safety and health training for more than 160 emergency personnel, employers and safety professionals. ISH continues to promote programs statewide designed to assist Kansas workers avoid on-the-job injuries and provide a safe working environment.

KDOL's Workers Compensation Division is charged with making sure employees injured at work, employers, health care providers and insurance carriers get timely, impartial, and fair claim resolution. The 48th annual Workers Compensation Seminar was held virtually with 250 participants, 234 of whom received continuing education credits. In 2022, the Work Comp Fraud and Abuse Unit investigated more than 450 referrals. Prosecution of 64 cases resulted in more than \$260,700 in fines, penalties, and restitution.

The Communications Division assisted employers across the state in 2022. Introducing employers to KDOL was previously done entirely by mail. A new digital process was developed to assist employers with everything they need to know, along with other helpful resources provided by the agency. In addition, businesses across the state were re-introduced to the Shared Work program, which allows businesses to reduce the total number of hours employees work, instead of laying off a percentage of the workforce. Employees can claim partial unemployment benefits and employers continue to keep their most valued employees. A new website was created for this program as well as a comprehensive toolkit guiding employers through the process. A total of 53 new employers were onboarded to the Shared Work program in 2022 because of this renewed effort.

Thank you,

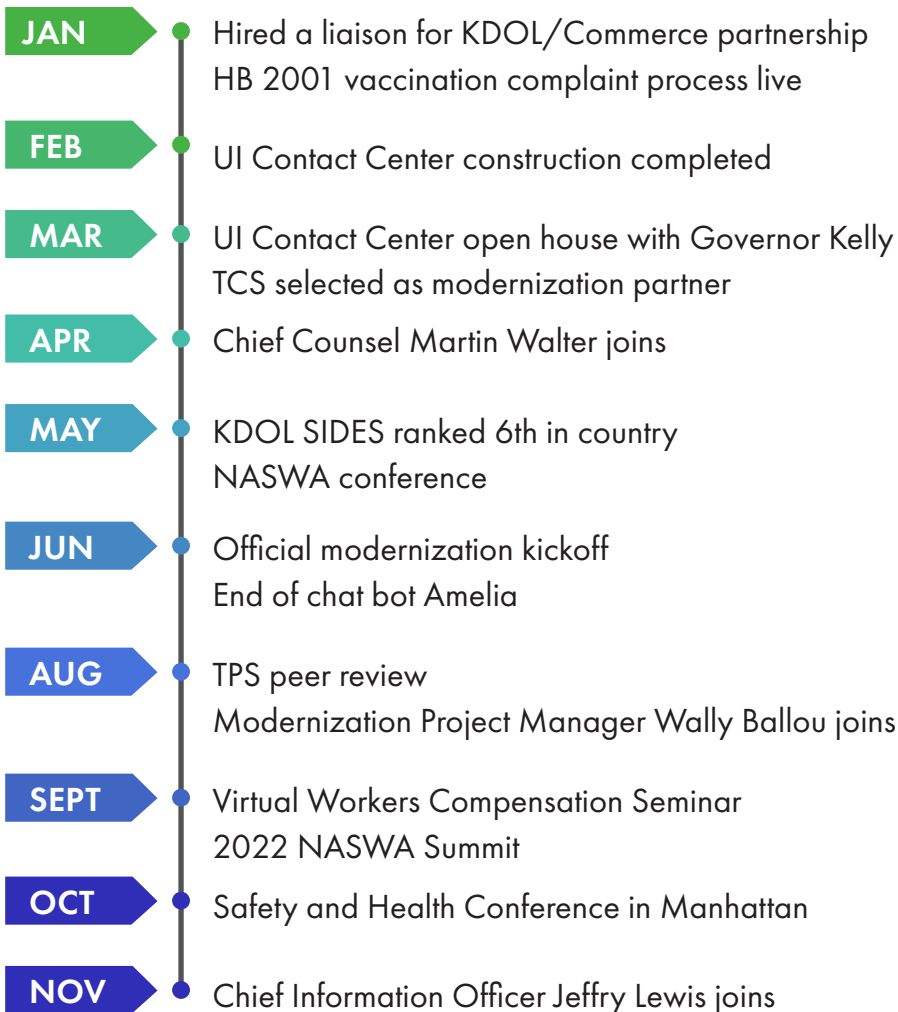
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber Shultz".

Secretary Amber Shultz

KDOL LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Senate Bill No. 300

Kansas Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act

Law effective July 1, 2022

Substitute for SB 300 by Committee on Judiciary - Amending the Kansas racketeer influenced and corrupt organization act to add a person who has engaged in identity theft or identity fraud to the definition of "covered person" and add identity theft and identity fraud to the definition of "racketeering activity."

House Bill 2703

Kansas Targeted Employment Act

Law effective July 1, 2022

Changing law relating to employment including employment security law provisions regarding the employment security fund status and employer contribution rates and the definition of employment to conform with federal law, making revisions to the department of labor's my reemployment plan program and enacting the Kansas targeted employment act to facilitate employment of persons with developmental disabilities through a tax credit incentive for employers.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

	Actual Expenditures	Percent
	\$478,509,222	100%
State General Fund (SGF):		
General Administration	\$719,915	
Legal Services	\$305,223	
Employment Standards	\$245,908	
Public Employees Relations Board	\$0	
Amusement Ride Safety	\$268,973	
Total SGF	\$1,540,019	0.30%
Fee Funded Programs:		
Wage Claims Assignment Fund	\$74	
Workers Compensation	\$11,688,830	
Total Fee Funds	\$11,688,904	2.47%
Federal Funded Programs:		
Unemployment Insurance	\$50,543,255	
Wagner Peyser (LMI One-Stop)	\$375,250	
OSHA	\$678,905	
Labor Force Statistics (BLS)	\$707,505	
OSH/CFOI	\$72,154	
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$11,000,000	
ARPA State Relief	\$9,601,567	
Lost Wages Assurance Payments	\$ 228,250	
Total Federal Funds	\$73,206,886	15.30%
Unemployment Insurance Benefits	\$383,749,995	80.20%
Other Funds:		
Penalty & Interest Funds	\$4,745,633	0.99%
Indirect Cost Fund	\$3,088,831	0.65%
Amusement Ride Safety Fund	\$18,785	0%
Human Resources Special Projects Fund	\$57,474	0.01%
Special Wage Payment Clearing Trust Fund	\$15,789	0%
KDOL Off Budget (MOUs)	\$396,906	0.08%
Total Other Funds	\$8,323,418	1.73%

2022 REVIEW



Modernization Update

1. Signed contract with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
2. Initiation and planning stage kicked off in June
3. Performed gap analysis, which is comparing current tools and technology against the desired state
4. Kicked off the design stage towards the end of the year

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology division delivers technology services and solutions that help further KDOL's mission of providing customer service to Kansans. This year, the division has maximized personnel, technology, and infrastructure to transform organizational processes, which has elevated functional operations and improved agency outcomes.

Software\Hardware Management Improvements

The IT Division has vast array of software and hardware they support daily across the agency. Acquiring new programs that help improve their ability to track these installed programs and hardware was done this past year. New remote support software for connecting into agency machines was rolled out as well. These improvements are increasing the team's ability to provide support to the agency and increase the security of agency resources by making sure that patches of all applications are applied and up to date.

COOP Exercise

This past December, all departments within KDOL participated in a Continuity of Operations Planning exercise. Leading up to the event each of these departments looked over and updated their plans of action that are needed to perform their essential functions during the event of an emergency. These initiatives will reduce and mitigate the disruptions to the services that they provide the agency and state. Tabletop exercises were completed during the event as well.

Staff Augmentation

Staffing issues within IT were present during the early parts of last year. Hiring efforts of staff were focused in on multiple positions. Staff numbers were increasing as the year was drawing to a close. The momentum of that effort is expected to carry on into the next year and increase the divisions level of support for the agency.

Unemployment Insurance Modernization

TCS continues to modernize the Unemployment Insurance system. Efforts to analyze and identify the gaps between matching up their program to meet the needs of the agency and migrate agency data are currently underway. Development on the program to replace current operations within programs like the mainframe are being developed in modern environments that are cloud-based to increase scalability and services to all unemployment claimants.

2022 REVIEW



326

OSHA Safety and Health Visits

1,135

OSHA Hazards Identified



272

Public Sector Inspections

598

Accident Prevention Program Audits



1,470

Amusement Ride Permits Issued

124

Audits of amusement ride entities

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY & HEALTH

The Industrial Safety and Health (ISH) division is responsible for identifying safety hazards and helping private businesses and public sector entities eliminate unsafe practices. The division promotes programs throughout the state designed to help Kansas workers avoid on-the-job injuries and provide a safe working environment.

Annual Safety and Health Conference

The division presents an annual conference which provides emergency personnel, employers, and safety professionals up-to-date safety and health training. Topics include the latest in regulations, changes in laws and upcoming rules. Additionally, the conference features highly anticipated exhibitors that display the latest in safety and health equipment and technology. The conference was attended by **163** people in Manhattan, KS.

OSHA Consultation Program

The OSHA Consultation Program is administered under a cooperative agreement with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The eight Safety and Health Consultants assigned in the OSHA grant conducted **326** safety and health visits. These visits identified **1,135** hazards in a variety of industries. OSHA has placed an emphasis on construction, oil and gas, silica, trenching, grain handling and manufacturing facilities with amputation hazards. The focus of this program continues to be companies with less than 250 employees on-site that are considered a high hazard industry. We continue our outreach providing the opportunity for employers to discuss concerns and ask questions pertaining to OSHA consultation services.

Public Sector Program

The division is responsible for investigating safety and health issues pertaining to public sector entities, including: cities, counties, school districts and community colleges. During calendar year 2022, five safety and health consultants assigned to this unit conducted **272** inspections. These inspections identified **3,400** hazards and involved **32,073** employees.

State Workplace Health and Safety Program

The division has assisted the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) with the State Workplace Health and Safety Program, created under K.S.A 44-575 (f). During calendar year 2022, the division conducted **29** ergonomic assessments at **29** locations with **268** recommendations, assisting **113** employees; and **64** safety and health inspections, assisting **3,347** employees. Additionally, our safety and health consultants have identified and assisted in abating **398** hazards.

Amusement Ride Permitting Program

The program conducts audits and evaluates documentation of amusement ride operations per the Kansas Amusement Ride Act, K.S.A. 44-1601, et seq. In 2019 the amusement ride unit launched the Amusement Ride Permitting Program (ARPP). This program allows amusement ride owners and operators to submit all their information and paperwork electronically and renew permits much quicker. This streamlining of our services has been highly beneficial to both KDOL staff and the stakeholders we work with. In 2022 the Amusement Ride Unit conducted audits of **124** amusement ride entities, registered **164** entities (19 new ones) and issued **1,470** amusement ride permits.

Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program

The Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) remains strong in Kansas with **142** active sites. Kansas continues to have the greatest number of SHARP sites in the nation and the highest percentage of SHARP sites per workplace establishment in the United States under both state and federal OSHA jurisdiction. In 2022 one new site was added to SHARP: Exline, Inc. June 8, 2022.

Accident Prevention Program

For 20 years, as a prerequisite for authority to provide workers compensation insurance coverage, Kansas insurance companies and group-funded plans have been required to provide accident prevention programs upon request of the covered employer. KDOL is charged with inspecting these programs. The division completed **598** audits of these programs during 2022.

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SERVICES

The Labor Market Information Services (LMIS) division provides timely, relevant labor market and economic data to many users, including the executive and legislative branches, economists, academia and the public. LMIS produces a wide range of products that are available free of charge to view or download at www.klic.dol.ks.gov. KDOL also maintains a public Tableau page of visualizations at <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/kdol#!>.

Monthly Labor Report

Each month, KDOL releases the Kansas labor report, which includes data on jobs and the labor force. The report also includes employment, unemployment and unemployment rate data at the city, county, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and statewide levels. Also included is the jobs data for the MSA and statewide.

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Program

This program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), conducts the Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) and Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) to provide data on the work related injuries, illnesses and fatalities in Kansas. Data from the SOII estimates annual counts and incident rates of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses of Kansas employers. Case circumstances and workers characteristics for cases that involve days away from work are included in the data. Data is collected from over 3,500 Kansas employers each year.

Kansas Wage Survey

The Kansas Wage Survey produces employment and wage estimates for more than 700 occupations. Estimates are available for the state, its metro areas and designated non-metro areas, including all Kansas counties. This survey is the most requested and used product from LMIS. The 2022 Kansas Wage Survey reported the average hourly wage in Kansas is \$23.88. The average annual wage in the state is \$49,680.

High Demand Occupations

The list of high-demand occupations in Kansas combines the number of projected job openings with the number of current job openings to rank occupations by demand from Kansas employers. Occupations are ranked by the number of job openings at the current time, in the next two years and in the next 10 years. The job vacancy survey, short-term projections program and long-term projections program are all used to compile the list of high-demand occupations. This list is widely used by groups such as the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Board of Regents in crafting policies and programs related to workforce development.

Throughout the year, LMIS fulfills many special data requests. These can be from a variety of individuals, including individual business owners, economic development groups, other government agencies, media and schools. The data requested covers a wide variety of sources, such as BLS data, Census data, projections and high demand data, unemployment data and job vacancy data. LMIS continues to achieve a fast response rate and a high level of customer satisfaction. Requests may be submitted via email at KDOL.LaborStats@ks.gov. In 2022, LMIS received a total of **440** data requests.

2022 REVIEW



711
NEW WAGE CLAIMS

\$604,025
RETURNED TO KANSAS
EMPLOYEES



856
REGULAR UI APPEALS

490
PUA APPEALS

14,035
REPORTED IDENTITY THEFT

LEGAL SERVICES

The Legal division provides legal counsel to the agency and represents KDOL at all levels of state district and appellate courts, as well as all levels of federal district and appellate courts and administrative agencies. KDOL attorneys have expertise in a wide variety of areas of law.

Employment Standards Unit

The Employment Standards Unit of the legal division is responsible for receiving and processing claims filed by employees against their employers for unlawfully withholding wages owed, in violation of the Kansas Wage Payment Act. The agency received **711** new wage claims in 2022 compared to 544 in 2021. A total of **\$604,025.53** was collected and returned to Kansas employees in 2022.

Asset Recovery

The Bankruptcy Unit of the Legal Division filed **24** adversary proceedings in federal bankruptcy courts in 2022, **18** of which resulted in a total of **\$83,790.70** being declared non-dischargeable and **six** of which remain pending. (Below is a breakdown of the \$83,790.70 figure.) This debt represents fraudulently obtained UI benefits. The Legal Division is committed to recovering these debts, including taking active measures to ensure debtors do not attempt to escape their fraud debt through bankruptcy.

A total number of **72** Proof of Claims were filed in 2022, totaling **\$492,567.43**. Trustee payments from 2022 Proof of Claims filed in 2022 totaled **\$2,158.49**.

\$76,790.70 Awarded
\$1,400.00 Awarded – CARES Act
\$5,600.00 Awarded – Court Costs
<hr/>
\$83,790.70 Total Awarded

Public Employee Relations Board

The Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) is a five-member appointed board that makes determinations as to the appropriate bargaining unit, conducts representation elections, and adjudicates charges of prohibited practices under the Public Employer-Employee Relations Act (PEERA). In 2022, there were five impasses and five prohibited practice charges and 1 appeal to PERB. In 2021, there were five impasses and 10 prohibited practice charges.

Professional Negotiations Act

The Professional Negotiations Act (PNA) governs negotiations of the terms and conditions of professional service between school districts and professional employees of school districts, such as teachers. In 2022, there were three impasses and one prohibited practice charge. There were four unit representation elections conducted in 2022. In 2021, there were six impasses, three unit representation elections, and no prohibited practice charges.

Employment Security Board of Review

This Board is a three-member appointed board that reviews higher appeals of claims for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. In 2021, the board also began reviewing higher appeals of claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits as provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. KDOL attorneys defended 75 cases, an increase from 43 cases in 2021, involving regular UI benefits and seven cases involving PUA benefits in district court. Two cases are active in the Kansas Court of Appeals. The Employment Security Board of Review reviewed **856** appeals of claims for regular unemployment insurance benefits and **490** appeals addressing **1,426** PUA claims.

Special Investigations Unit

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) investigates various types of criminal fraudulent activity and prepares cases for prosecution. Since the pandemic, the focus is on overpayment investigations, fraudulent benefit filings, and the violation of Kansas Unemployment Insurance Laws. Reports of Fraudulent Filings are first reviewed by the KDOL Fraud-Integrity Unit. Once they determine fraudulent payments, the case is referred to the SIU for criminal investigation and possible prosecution. SIU conducts interviews, gathers records and evidence, and then presents the cases to local district attorneys. Successful prosecution normally results in orders of restitution for the recovery of illegally gained KDOL funds.

During the Covid 19 Pandemic and the ensuing years following, the direction of inbound fraud has changed, therefore the SIU has redirected their approach to these criminal matters as well. Unfortunately, many Kansans have had their identity compromised by fraudsters who illegally obtained, stole, or even purchased personal identification information from sources outside of KDOL. Fraudsters used this identification information to file false unemployment claims with KDOL. In each case, because this information was fraudulently used, The Kansas Department of Labor also became a victim of this attempted theft. To combat this fraud and assure claims were being paid out to the correct claimants, KDOL implemented numerous technological measures to validate legitimate claimants and filter out fraudulent claims. These investigations of ID Theft result in legitimate claims being processed, fraudulent payments being stopped and an overall closure for the citizens victimized by the theft.

During 2020 and 2021, well over **240,000** cases of suspected Identity Theft were reported to KDOL. Because of the implementation of KDOL's fraud-proofing measures, this number has decreased. In 2022, there were **14,035** reported cases of Identity Theft through the KDOL On-Line Fraud Portal. KDOL also continues to receive reports from employers, through the mail, and notifications through the call center. It is important to note that these numbers reflect

Identity Theft reports only, which are defined as using personal information to defraud another person to receive any benefit. This is just one of many of the types of cases the Special Investigations Unit addresses.

2022 REVIEW



TOTAL PAYMENTS IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2022

\$5,918,652

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

\$8,280,866

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Assistance (PEUC)

\$19,373,207

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

\$56,688

Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The framework of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program is both state and federal. The program is administered by state employees under state law. Federal laws, the Social Security Act and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act set forth broad coverage and benefit provisions and numerous administrative requirements. Further, the federal government provides administrative funding, ensuring conformity and compliance with federal law and monitors state performance. The Kansas Employment Security Law both encourages employers to provide more stable employment and allows for financial reserves to be set aside for the sole purpose of being used by individuals who are unemployed.

Integrity Unit

KDOL is enhancing its fraud detection capabilities with various systems. These new systems will provide more efficient management of investigation cases, identify multiple areas of potential fraud in a single dashboard, and real-time analytics on the data associated with each case. With the integration of this new technology, the Integrity Unit improves its ability to prevent and detect fraudulent schemes.

Tax Unit

During the period of August 22-25, 2022, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Employment and Training Administration, conducted a Tax Performance System (TPS) Peer Review of the Kansas Unemployment Insurance Tax Performance System on-site at the Lenexa, KS, UI Tax Office. The purpose of the Federal TPS team review is to confirm the integrity of states' TPS Annual Report; evaluate whether the tax program is in compliance with federal requirements; assess whether the quality of the tax program is sufficient to meet performance goals; provide objective information on the quality of existing revenue operations, and identify any technical assistance needs. The TPS program is a part of USDOL's UI Performs, a comprehensive performance system in which the states and federal government work together as partners to strengthen the UI system. One of the primary goals of the system is to achieve continuous improvement of overall performance quality. USDOL expressed their appreciation to Kansas staff for their assistance during the review and for providing the necessary details on various components of the program. Kansas was recognized during the review for their courteous, professional, knowledgeable and extremely well-prepared documentation for this review.

Modernization

The KDOL modernization initiative is a two-year project focused on aligning and supporting vs. transforming the agency's business processes and core technology systems. Computer systems supporting receipt of unemployment insurance taxes, payment of unemployment insurance benefits and delivery of employment services will be replaced. Further, business processes will be converted to take advantage of opportunities and benefits available through new system capabilities. In June, KDOL began the six-month process of gap analysis for both benefits and tax workstreams. It is anticipated that the full project will be completed by the summer of 2024.

HB2703 - Kansas Targeted Employment Act

The bill changed some aspects of the "My Reemployment Plan" program, including:

- Expanded the definition of employment in security law to include services performed in the employ of any state or political subdivision of state, rather than only in Kansas
- Increased the amount of time for claimants to respond, from seven to 14 days
- Changed the claimant referral process from three consecutive weeks of benefits to claimants claiming three or more weeks of benefits in their current benefit year, taking effect on July 1, 2022

In addition, the bill made the program mandatory for all claimants EXCEPT for:

1. Claimants in the shared work program, trade adjustment assistance and trade readjustment assistance program
2. Claimants on temporary layoff with a return-to-work date BUT ONLY during the first eight consecutive weeks of benefits
3. Claimants currently employed
4. Claimants that are current reemployment services and eligibility assessment participants
5. Claimants who are active members of a placement union, or
6. Claimants engaged in a training program

The bill also included the direction that if a second transfer of up to \$250MM is not made to the Employment Security Trust Fund by July 15, 2022, as provided in K.S.A. 75-5745, then contributing employers will pay at the standard rate schedule 7 under Fund Control Table B for the 2023 calendar year. However, it was determined the new credit rate schedules (8-13) would apply based on the health of the unemployment insurance trust fund.

The amount credited to the state of Kansas account in the Federal Unemployment Security Trust Fund as of July 31, 2022, was \$995,713,153. In accordance with relevant provisions of the Kansas Employment Security Law, the Kansas account in the Federal Employment Security Trust Fund is solvent based on the recommended minimum solvency standard. This indicates that the amount credited is considered adequate to pay benefits through the state fiscal year 2023 if the state enters an economic downturn similar to the magnitude of the Great Recession or the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, Kansas employers will pay reduced contributions in 2023 due to the solvency adjustment of a credit schedule per K.S.A. 44-710a.

UI Staff

The agency rolled out a new progression pay plan for UI Call Center customer service representatives and adjudicators. A new entry rate for certain job classifications was established starting May 29, 2022, with rate increases at the three, six, nine and 18-month mark. The program is used to provide a structured process for movement within the pay ranges attached to call center staff.

UI Benefit Payments

Beginning July 1, 2022, the maximum weekly benefit is \$560 and the minimum is \$140. In 2022, the maximum total benefit weeks were 16.

Federal Pandemic Programs

With the ending of the Federal Pandemic Programs, which were available through benefit week ending Sept. 4, 2021, KDOL continued in 2022 to process any outstanding determinations, appeals and fraud investigations to ensure outstanding benefits are paid.

2022 REVIEW



26,627

OSCAR Requests from
External Parties



50,000

Legal Filings in OSCAR



14,100

WC Hearings
created in OSCAR



143

Appeals Filed



456

WC Fraud and Abuse
referrals Received &
Investigated

WORKERS COMPENSATION

The Workers Compensation Division is responsible for the administration of the Kansas Workers Compensation laws and rules. Our goal is to ensure employees injured at work, employers, health care providers and insurance carriers receive timely, impartial and fair claim resolution.

Annual Workers Compensation Seminar

The division presents an annual seminar that provides attorneys, and other stakeholders practicing in the field, the opportunity to get current information on workers compensation and to earn continuing legal education credits. In addition, the seminar provides continuing medical education credits for nurses practicing in the area and credits for certified case managers. Topics included legislative and case law updates, occupational medicine, and ethics training, as well as other medical and computation classes that qualified participants for mandatory educational credits. The virtual seminar was attended by **250** people and **234** attendees received continuing education credits.

Judicial Section

Workers Compensation has 10 administrative law judges throughout the state whose primary function is to conduct timely hearings in contested workers compensation claims and render orders based on the facts presented, as applied to the Workers Compensation Act. For an initial determination of benefits, preliminary hearings are set on a priority basis, and preliminary hearing decisions are issued within five days of the hearing being closed. A list of the workers compensation law judges and their contact information is available at www.dol.ks.gov/wc/mediation-and-judicial-services.

Online System for Claims Administration Research/Regulation

Launched in November 2018, the Online System for Claims Administration Research/Regulation (OSCAR) is the Workers Compensation Division's information system. Almost all division operations are processed through this digital system. A large majority of digital filings in OSCAR are by attorneys for docketing workers compensation cases and requesting hearings before the division administrative law judges. Other external users of the system include legal assistants, court reporters, insurers, employers and workers compensation claimants. The division processes all records requests, elections, fraud investigations, self-insurance permits, compliance actions and assessments through OSCAR as well.

Last year, the WC Fraud & Abuse Unit received and investigated **456** referrals. There were **64** fraud and abuse administrative cases, including settlements, which were prosecuted, resulting in more than **\$260,700** in fines, penalties and restitution.

There were 6,216 registered external OSCAR users. There were **26,627** total requests of OSCAR records. The overwhelming majority of these requests relate to an offer of employment (21,832) while the rest are regarding workers seeking benefits (4,771) and requests of personal records housed in the OSCAR system (34).

In 2022, there were almost **50,000** legal filings made in OSCAR. In addition, there were **19,707** exhibits and transcripts uploaded to OSCAR for hearings. Requests for workers compensation benefits (3,584), requests for hearings (5,171), and entries of appearance by lawyers needing formal access to a case (5,367) constituted the majority of legal filings. There were **143** appeals filed.

In 2022, there were over **14,100** hearings created in OSCAR. Settlement hearings (3,120), preliminary hearings (3,885), prehearing settlement conferences (2,588) and regular hearings (962) made up the majority of hearing activity.

Workers Compensation Board

The Workers Compensation Appeals Board was established in 1993 to decide appeals of orders and awards from the workers compensation administrative law judges. Hoping to obtain more uniform decisions throughout the state, the Kansas Legislature created the Board to replace the state's district court judges in the appeal process.

Current Board Members:

- Will Belden
- John Carpinelli
- Chris Clements
- Rebecca Sanders (Chair)
- Seth Valerius

2022 REVIEW



14

Press Releases

175

Projects

(Internal and External)



457

Social Media * Posts

* Social Media includes Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn

38,292

Engagements

(Likes, Reactions, Comments, Shares and Link Clicks)

630

New Followers

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications division keeps employers, claimants, media, and the public informed about the activities of the agency through media such as news releases, website updates, marketing, and social media posts. The division also supports internal communications for KDOL staff.

In 2022, the Communications division achieved impressive growth in quantity and quality of content as the process of modernizing the agency began. The team's efforts in producing timely digital and print content helped showcase the good work of the agency in areas including the programs and services the agency offers to the public and employers.

KDOL envisions more communication growth in the coming years to help connect Kansans and communities with the resources they need, while also highlighting the good work being done in the state's effort to support more businesses and civilians statewide.

Modernize Onboarding with Kansas Employers

One area we focused on with modernizing is the onboarding process and material for Kansas employers. For many years this process was done completely by mail. The Communications team produced a digital onboarding process that includes an email, video and toolkit that is a step-by-step guide to take employers through everything they need to know, along with helpful resources KDOL provides. KDOL successfully served roughly 82,000 employers throughout Kansas.

Shared Work

In July of 1988, Kansas implemented Shared Work which allows employers to reduce the total number of hours that employees work, rather than laying off a percentage the workforce to cut costs. Employees can then claim partial unemployment benefits for the number of hours their workweek was reduced, and employers continue to keep their most valued employees. The word needed to get out about this smart alternative to layoffs, especially as businesses were trying to recover from the pandemic. A designated website was created for this program along with a comprehensive toolkit to guide employers through the process. A specific team was created to manage communication with employers across Kansas. The team successfully onboarded 53 new employers to the Shared Work program in 2022.

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