Kansas
Department of Labor

2023 KANSAS ECONOMIC REPORT

Labor Market Information Services

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Note: Due to revisions and benchmarking processes, some data may have been updated since last year's Economic Report was published. The data included in the 2023 Economic Report is current as of September 18, 2023. For more information on data found in this report, see Sources on page 165.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

I am pleased to present this year's Kansas Economic Report that I believe shows the diversity of Kansas' economy and the opportunities we have in our state. The Labor Market Information Services (LMIS) division produces this report providing a detailed look into the Kansas economy.

Our state has always valued hard work and that is shown through one of the hardest working labor forces in the country. In 2022 Kansas had 1,504,932 people participating in the labor force, with a participation rate of 66.4%; this is well above the U.S. rate of 62.2%. Kansas also recorded an unemployment rate of 2.7%, its lowest annual unemployment rate since records began in 1976.

Kansas is also home to many businesses – small and large – that continue to grow and create jobs. Kansas employers indicated continued hiring with a 2.8% increase in total nonfarm jobs over the year, largely driven by growth in the private sector. There were 1,167,300 private sector jobs in Kansas in 2022; this was the highest number of private sector jobs recorded for Kansas since records began in 1990. There are many employment opportunities in the state. Advertised jobs data indicate that on average there were 48,020 job openings per month in 2022, a 23.4% increase from 2021.

I encourage you to take a look at the many different economic factors discussed in this report and remember to take all of them into consideration when making an assessment of our state's economy. Thank you for your efforts to strengthen the Kansas economy and make our state the best place to work and live.

Amber Shultz
Secretary of Labor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Economic recovery in Kansas continued in 2022 with the majority of economic indicators reaching or exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Kansas' labor force grew to 1,504,932 in 2022, while the labor force participation rate held steady at 66.4%. Future labor force growth continues to be a concern for Kansas, as the average annual population growth rate for the past 10 years is just 0.2%; the over the year change from 2021 was a slight decline of less than a tenth of a percent. The population of prime age workers, 25-54 year-olds, saw a small increase of 831 individuals, or 0.1%, in 2022. The issue of most concern is the population under 25, which has continued to decline, decreasing by 5,573 people, or 0.6%, over the year. In 2022 Kansas' unemployment rate dropped to 2.7%; this was a decrease of 0.6 percentage points over the year and 0.6 percentage points below the pre-pandemic rate of 3.3% recorded in 2019. The 2022 rate is the lowest annual unemployment rate since records began in 1976.

Kansas saw a 2.8% increase in total nonfarm jobs over the year, growing by 38,800 jobs to 1,418,600. Job gains were experienced across 10 of the 11 major sectors in 2022, with the largest gains being in professional and business services, manufacturing, and leisure and hospitality. The only major sector to record a loss was financial activities, declining by 500 jobs, or 0.7%, over the year.

With economic conditions continuing to improve and the expiration of the pandemic-era programs PEUC and PUA in 2021, claims for unemployment insurance declined significantly in 2022. The total number of continued claims filed for unemployment insurance dropped from 856,289 in 2021 to only 163,129 in 2022, a decrease of 80.9%.

Real wages declined over the year while nominal personal income grew in Kansas. Real average weekly wages, which have been adjusted for inflation, decreased from $1,109 in 2021 to $1,081 in 2022. This represents a decline of 2.5% in real average weekly wages for Kansas. Nominal per capita personal income, which has not been adjusted for inflation, grew by 2.2% in Kansas.

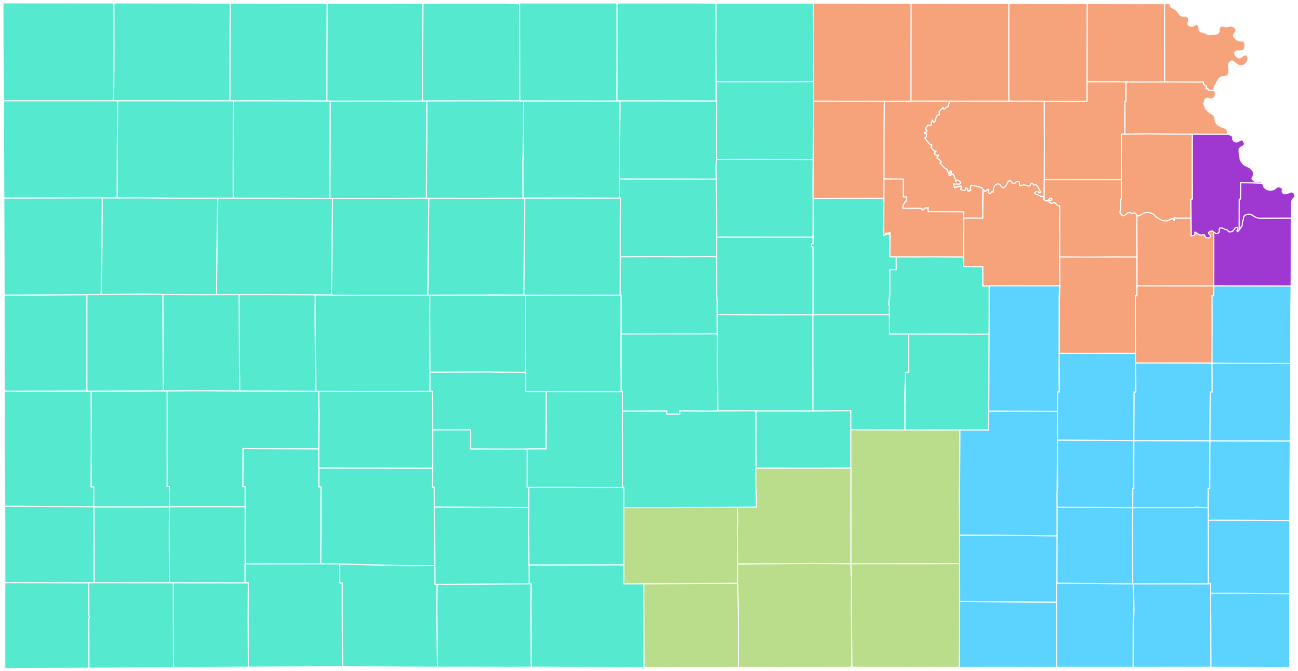
Real gross domestic product grew by 1.6% during 2022. Kansas recorded larger gains than the Plains Region but smaller gains than the U.S., which experienced growth of 0.8% and 2.1% respectively. Kansas export sales continued to increase in 2022, growing by 11.6%. Processed foods remained the top exporting industry, accounting for 22.9% of Kansas exports, and recording over $3.2 billion in sales. Civilian aircraft, engines and parts continues to be the top export product category, accounting for 16.8% of export sales and totaling over $2.3 billion. Mexico and Canada continue to be Kansas' top trading partners, collectively totaling nearly $5.8 billion and accounting for 41.3% of Kansas export sales.

Table 1
2022 Kansas Overview

	2022 Value	Change From 2021	Percent Change From 2021
Population	2,937,150	-772	0.0%
Labor Force	1,504,932	4,255	0.3%
Unemployment Rate	2.7%	-0.6	NA
Nonfarm Jobs	1,418,600	38,800	2.8%
Continued Claims*	163,129	-693,160	-80.9%
Real Average Weekly Wage	$1,081	-$28	-2.5%
Per Capita Personal Income	$60,152	$1,295	2.2%
Real Gross Domestic Product	$164,939,300,000	$2,648,400,000	1.6%
Export Sales	$13,999,318,307	$1,452,405,752	11.6%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, International Trade Administration, and the U.S. Census Bureau
**Claim counts for 2021 include PEUC and PUA, these programs were not in operation during 2022*

STATEWIDE



POPULATION
2,937,150

LABOR FORCE
1,504,932

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
2.7%

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE
$41,870

POPULATION

Population is an important statistic to review for economic purposes for two reasons, both of which benefit businesses. A growing population leads to a larger market for businesses and may lead to more jobs as demand for goods and services increase. A growing population also potentially increases the size and quality of the labor force which provides more labor supply for businesses to fill jobs.

The 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates will become the official estimates for the 2010-2020 decade and are currently scheduled to become available in Fall 2024. They are produced by modifying the Vintage 2020 estimates to account for differences between these estimates and the results of the 2020 Census. The result is a consistent time series from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census. Due to the delay in finalizing the 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020.

Total Population

Table 1 shows a historical perspective of the Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S. populations since 2011. The Plains Region is the region containing Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota as defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. This also corresponds to the U.S. Census Bureau's West North Central Division. The Kansas population was estimated at 2,937,150 in 2022. This represents a loss of 772 people. According to Census Bureau estimates, there were approximately 34,968 people born in Kansas during 2022, and there were approximately 32,960 deaths. Net migration in and out of Kansas indicated a population loss of 1,925 people.

Since 2011, Kansas' population has only increased 2.4%, amounting to average annual growth of 0.2%. Over this same time period, the Plains Region recorded population growth of 5.1%, while the U.S. recorded population growth of 7.0%.

Table 1
Total Population
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2011 - 2022

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Kansas	2,869,225	2,885,257	2,893,212	2,900,475	2,909,011	2,910,844
Plains Region	20,641,455	20,750,502	20,870,034	20,982,957	21,083,066	21,175,140
U.S.	311,556,874	313,830,990	315,993,715	318,301,008	320,635,163	322,941,311
	2017	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Kansas	2,908,718	2,911,359	2,913,314	2,937,919	2,937,922	2,937,150
Plains Region	21,266,925	21,350,241	21,426,573	21,622,299	21,654,557	21,689,816
U.S.	324,985,539	326,687,501	328,239,523	331,511,512	332,031,554	333,287,557

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

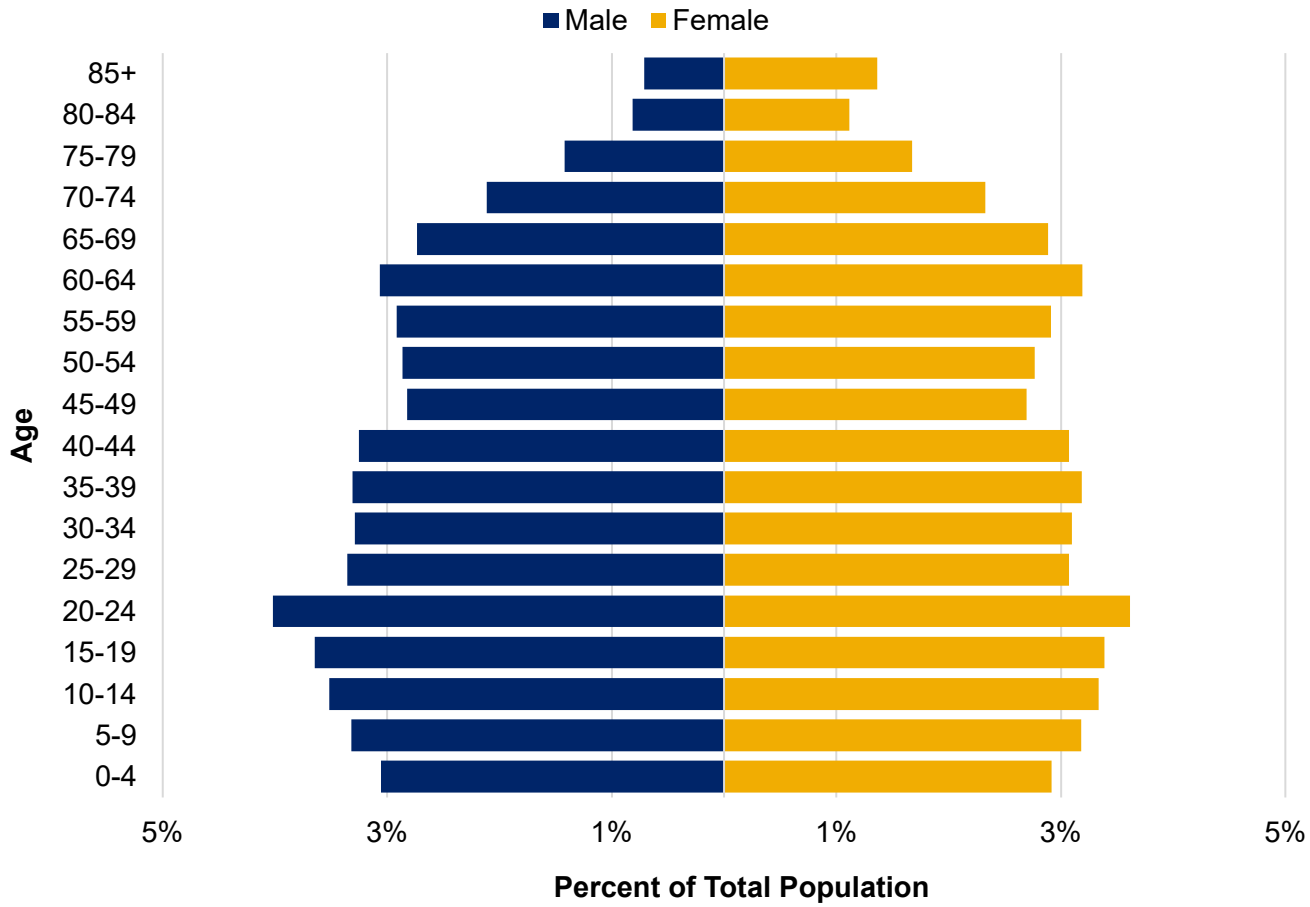
Population by Age

Chart 1 displays the Kansas population by age group and gender in what is called a population pyramid. It is known as a pyramid because population by age group generally decreases with age, creating a pyramid shape. However, the pyramid for Kansas shows that there are two major peaks in the population, one centering on the 20-24 year-old age group, representing older members of Generation Z, and one centering on the 60-64 year-old age group, representing younger members of the baby boomer generation. The 20-24 year-old age group makes up the largest population in Kansas, accounting for 7.6% of the total population. The median age for Kansas was 37.5 years old in 2022.

For economic purposes, the two main age groups studied are the 16 and over population and the 25-54 population. The 16 and over population includes everyone who is eligible to be in the labor force, while 25-54 year-olds are considered prime age workers. The 16 and over population in Kansas increased by 4,617, or 0.2%, to 2,327,802 in 2022. The 25-54 year-old population also increased in 2022, growing by 831, or 0.1%, to 1,080,047.

Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy as the population under 25 decreased by 5,573, or 0.6%. Declines were seen in all age groups under 20 years old. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, grew by 0.6%, or 1,337 people from 2021 to 2022.

Chart 1
Population by Age
Kansas
2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

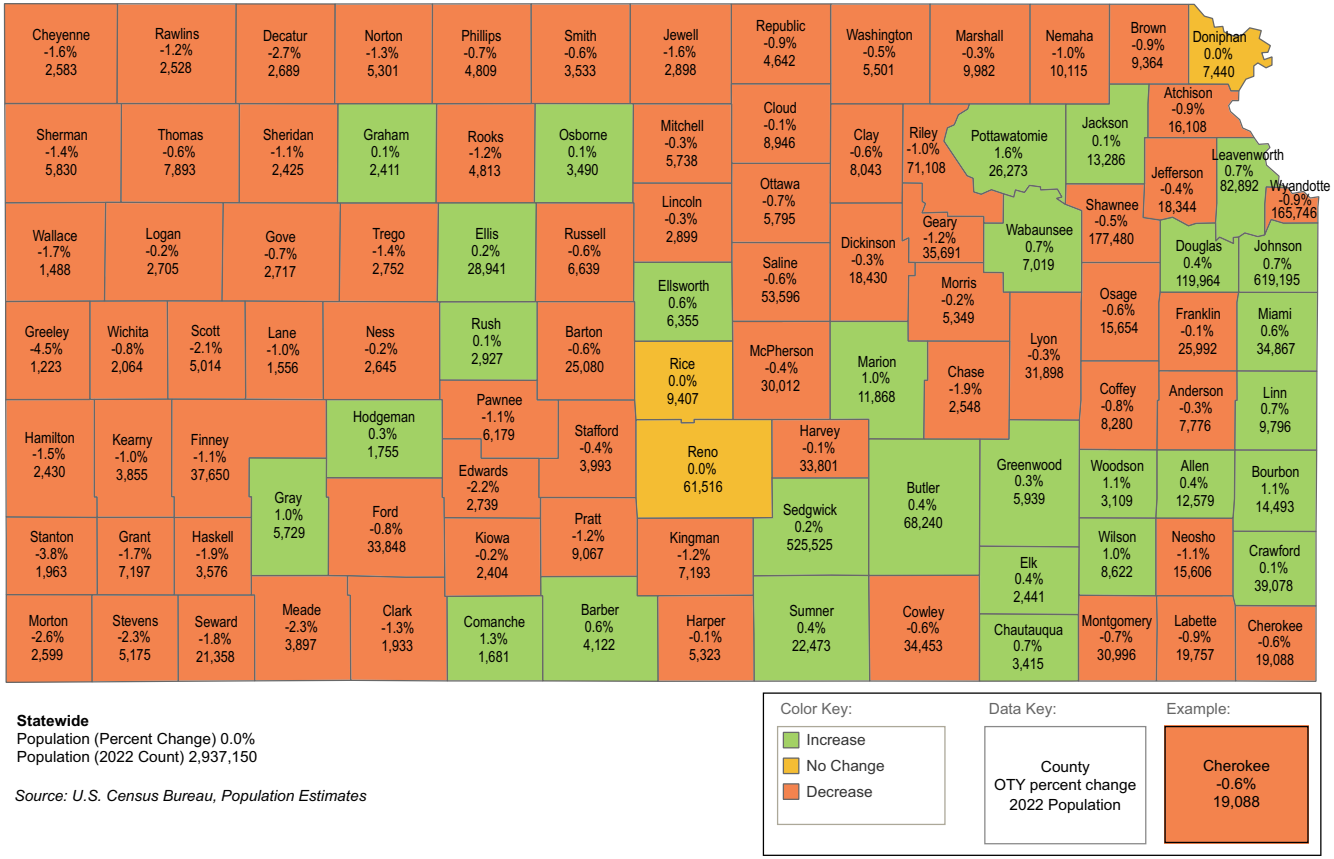
Population by County

Map 1 shows the over the year percent change and population estimate for each county in Kansas. Three counties saw no change in their population from 2021 to 2022, while 73 counties saw a decrease and 29 counties saw an increase in their population.

Greeley, Stanton, and Decatur counties saw the largest percent decrease in their population, declining 4.5%, 3.8%, and 2.7% respectively. Wyandotte County experienced the largest numeric decline, with its population decreasing by 1,544 people, or 0.9% to 165,746. Shawnee County experienced the second largest numeric decline with a loss of 887 people, or 0.5%, recording a population of 177,480 in 2022.

Pottawatomie County had the largest percent increase in population, growing 1.6%, or 413 people, to 26,273. The following counties saw an increase of at least 1.0% from 2021 to 2022: Comanche, Bourbon, Woodson, Gray, Wilson, and Marion. Johnson County experienced the largest numeric increase in its population, growing by 4,347 people, or 0.7%, to 619,195 people over the year. This was followed by Sedgwick County which recorded a population of 525,525 in 2022, growing by 1,044 people, or 0.2%.

Map 1 - Population



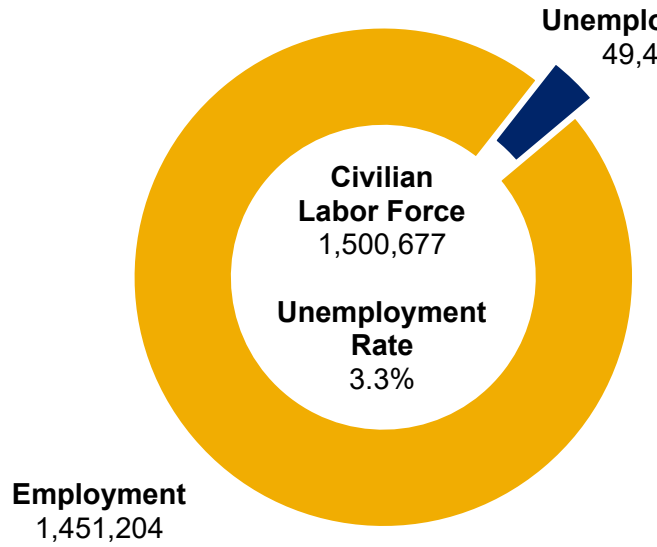
Statewide
Population (Percent Change) 0.0%
Population (2022 Count) 2,937,150

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

LABOR FORCE

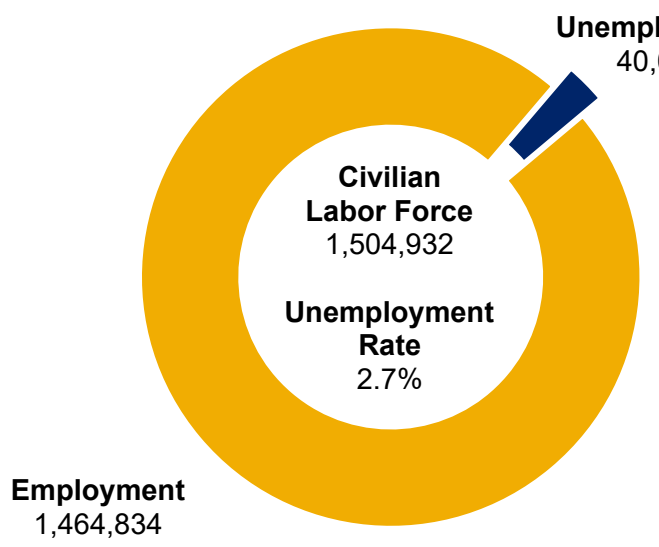
Charts 2 and 3 provide a snapshot of the labor force in Kansas during 2021 and 2022. There were 1,504,932 people in the Kansas labor force in 2022, an increase of 0.3% from 2021. The number of people working increased by 13,630, or 0.9%, to 1,464,834 in 2022. This level of employment surpasses pre-pandemic levels and is the highest number of Kansans working since records began in 1976. The number of unemployed people in Kansas decreased by 9,375, or 18.9%, to 40,098 in 2022. The only years in which Kansas saw fewer unemployed people were 1978 and 1979. Lastly, the unemployment rate dropped 0.6 percentage points to 2.7% in 2022.

Chart 2
Labor Force Statistics
Kansas
2021



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Chart 3
Labor Force Statistics
Kansas
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Labor Force and Unemployment Rate https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=418

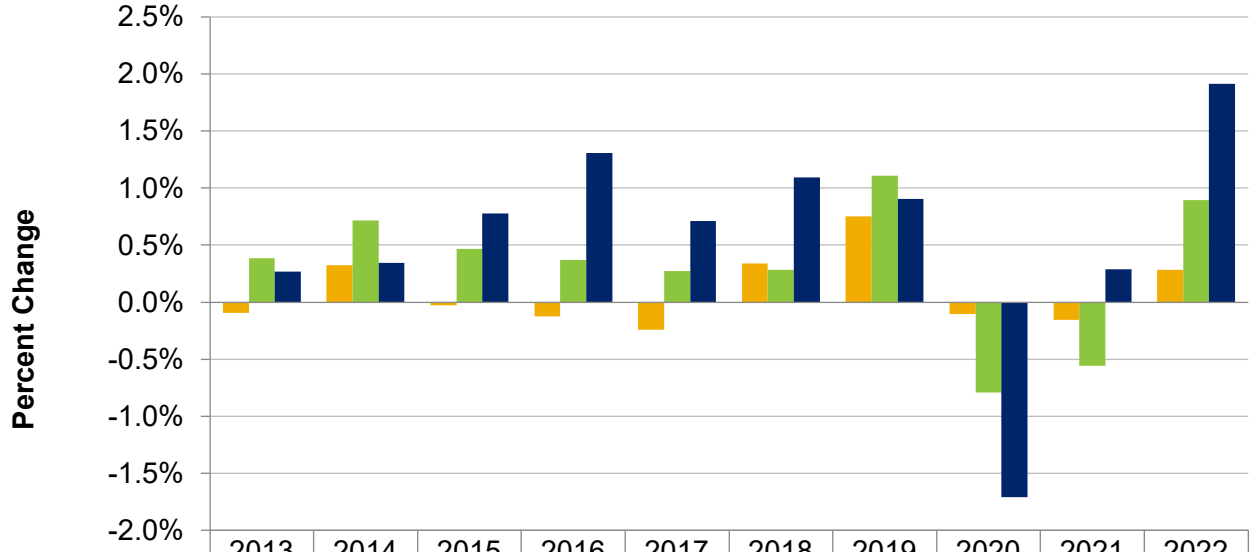
The civilian labor force is a measure of the number of people 16 years and older that are available for work. This includes individuals who are employed as well as those who are unemployed but actively seeking work. A growing labor force is favorable as it increases the number of workers available for employers and shows there is increasing confidence of finding a job in a given area.

Civilian Labor Force

Chart 4 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. Kansas saw little growth in its labor force over the year, increasing by 0.3%, or 4,255 people, to 1,504,932 in 2022. The Plains Region recorded labor force growth of 0.9% while the U.S. experienced growth of 1.9%.

When compared to the Plains Region and the U.S., growth in the Kansas labor force has fallen behind. The Kansas labor force has only increased by 1.0% since 2013, with labor force growth in most years during this period lagging behind gains in the Plains Region and U.S. During that same time, the Plains Region experienced labor force growth of 2.8%, while the U.S. saw growth of 5.7%.

Chart 4
Percent Change in Labor Force
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	-0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.7%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%
Plains Region	0.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	1.1%	-0.8%	-0.6%	0.9%
U.S.	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%	1.3%	0.7%	1.1%	0.9%	-1.7%	0.3%	1.9%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Population Survey

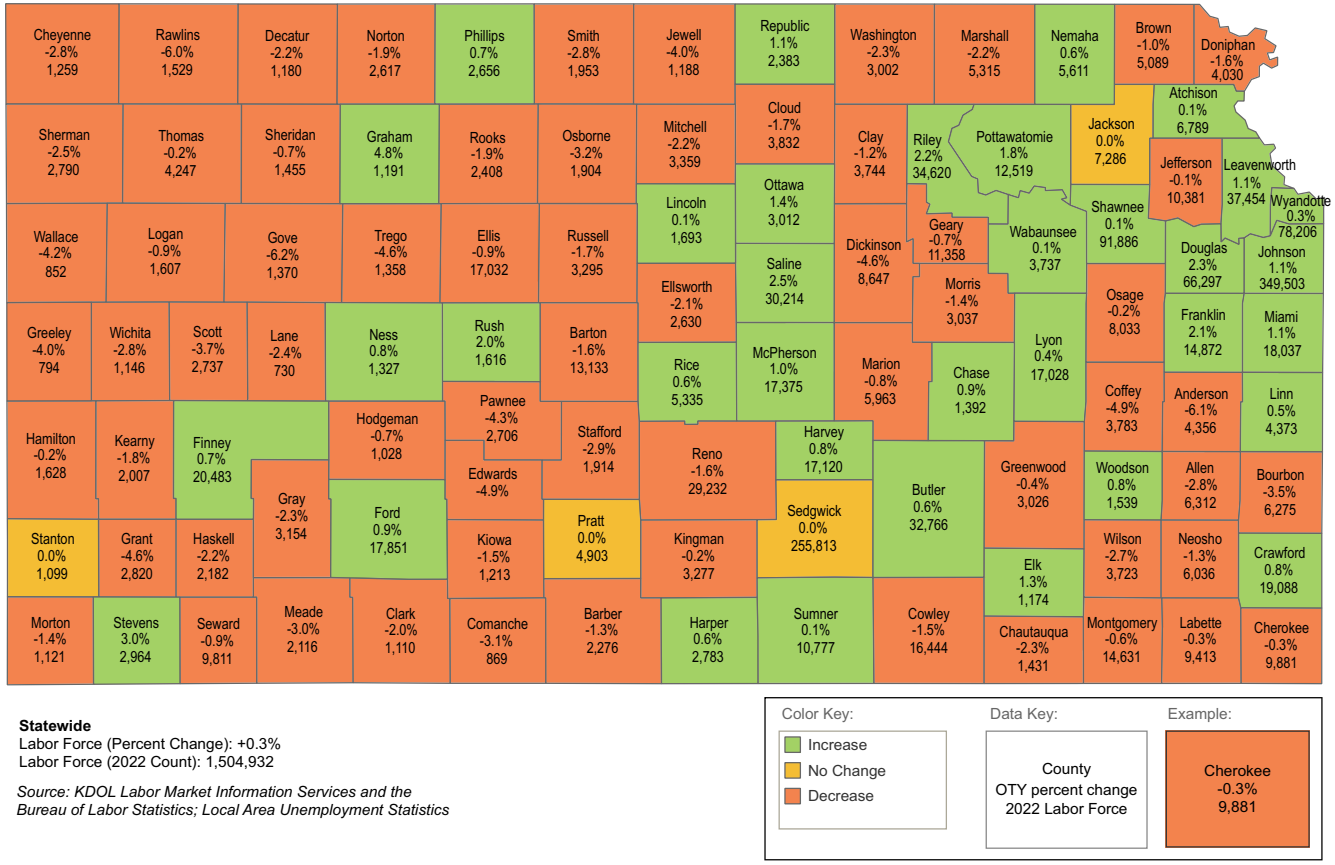
Where to find it (U.S.): Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey www.bls.gov/cps/
Where to find it (Kansas): Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) www.bls.gov/lau/

Map 2 shows the over the year percent change and civilian labor force estimates for each county in Kansas. Four counties saw no change in their labor force from 2021 to 2022, while 66 counties saw a decrease and 35 counties saw an increase in their labor force.

Rawlins, Anderson, and Gove counties saw the largest percent decrease in their labor force, declining 6.0%, 6.1%, and 6.2% respectively. Reno County experienced the largest numeric decline, with its labor force decreasing by 489 people, or 1.6%, to 29,232. Dickinson County experienced the second largest numeric decline with a loss of 419 people, or 4.6%, recording a labor force of 8,647 in 2022.

Graham County had the largest percent increase in labor force, growing 4.8%, or 55 people, to 1,191. This was followed by Stevens County which increased its labor force by 3.0%, or 87 people, to 2,964 in 2022. Additionally, Saline, Douglas, Riley, Franklin, and Rush counties all increased their labor force by at least 2.0% over the year. Johnson County experienced the largest numeric increase in its labor force, growing by 3,750 people, or 1.1%, to 349,503 people over the year. This was followed by Douglas County which recorded a labor force of 66,297 in 2022, growing by 1,499 people, or 2.3%.

Map 2 - Labor Force



Statewide
Labor Force (Percent Change): +0.3%
Labor Force (2022 Count): 1,504,932

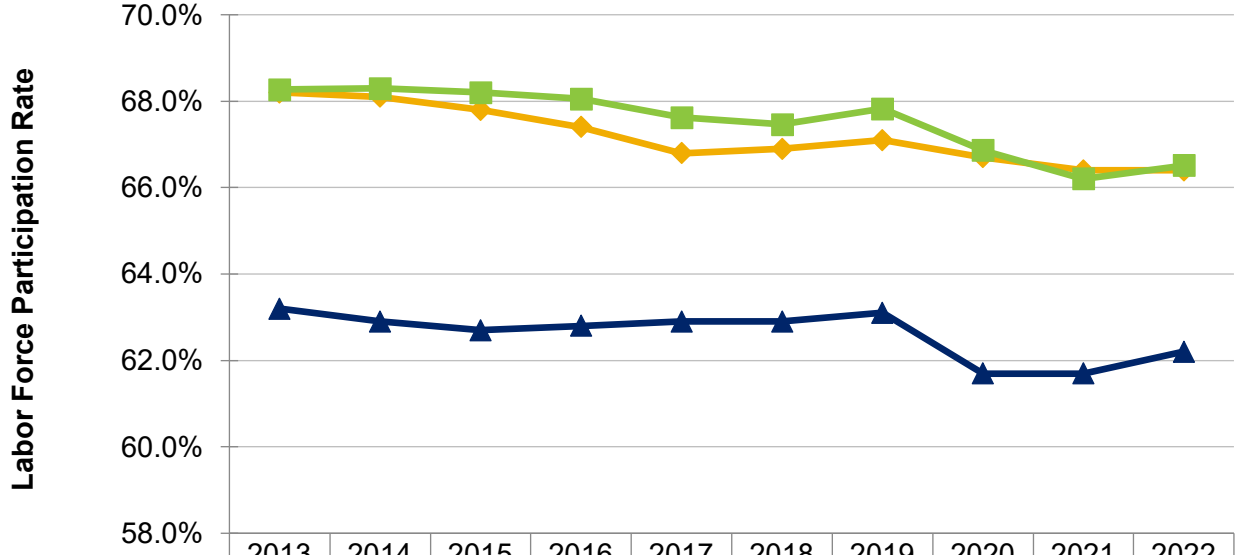
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of all individuals 16 years old or older, non-institutionalized and civilian, who participate in the labor force.

Labor Force Participation Rate

As shown in Chart 5, Kansas has experienced an overall declining trend in its labor force participation rate since 2013, recording only small increases of 0.1 percentage point in 2018, and 0.2 percentage points in 2019. The labor force participation rate was unchanged from 2021 at 66.4% in Kansas. This is the third lowest labor force participation rate on record. The only years in which labor force participation rates were lower were 1976 and 1977; during these years Kansas recorded rates of 65.3% and 66.3%, respectively. Despite this being one of the lowest rates on record, Kansas is in line with the Plains Region and remains well above the national rate of 62.2%.

Chart 5
Labor Force Participation Rate
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	68.2%	68.1%	67.8%	67.4%	66.8%	66.9%	67.1%	66.7%	66.4%	66.4%
Plains Region	68.3%	68.3%	68.2%	68.1%	67.6%	67.5%	67.8%	66.9%	66.2%	66.5%
U.S.	63.2%	62.9%	62.7%	62.8%	62.9%	62.9%	63.1%	61.7%	61.7%	62.2%

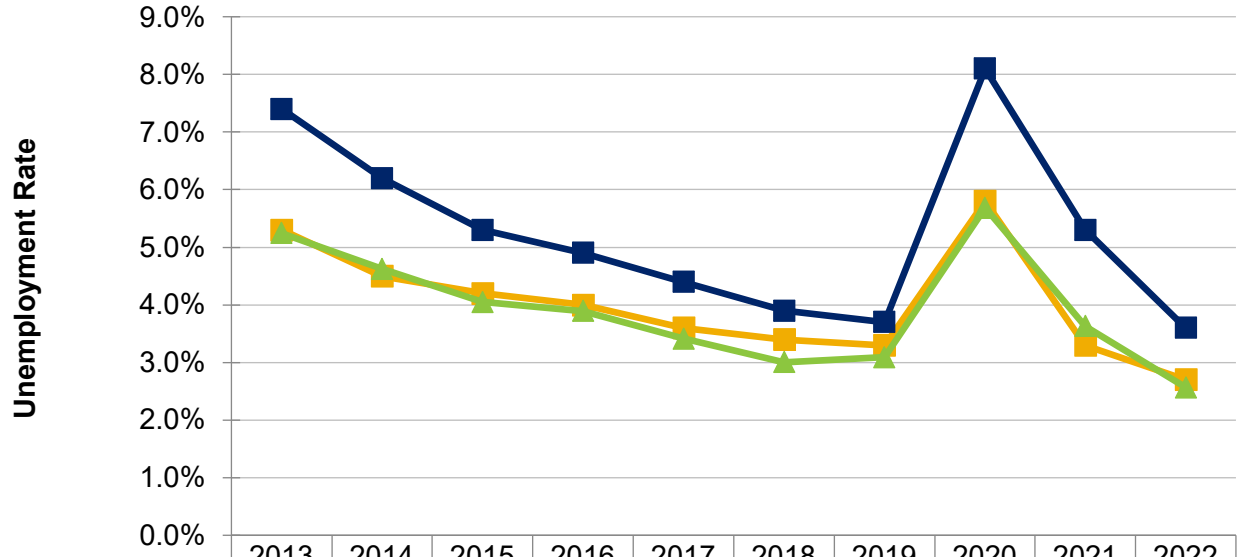
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Population Survey

The unemployment rate is a frequently cited economic statistic because it shows how many people want a job and cannot find one. The unemployment rate shows the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed and currently looking for a job. Typically, if the rate is high, there are many people who want a job but are having difficulty finding one due to a lack of demand for employees.

Unemployment Rate

As indicated in Chart 6, the U.S. has experienced significant recovery since 2020, returning to pre-pandemic levels with a historically low unemployment rate of 3.6% in 2022. The last time the U.S. saw unemployment rates this low was in 1968. The Plains Region and Kansas have also seen significant improvement since 2020, with unemployment rates dropping well below pre-pandemic levels. The Plains Region achieved its lowest unemployment rate on record at 2.6% in 2022, decreasing 1.0 percentage point over the year. Kansas saw a decrease of 0.6 percentage points in its unemployment rate, dropping from 3.3% in 2021 to 2.7% in 2022. The 2022 rate is 1.9 percentage points lower than the historical average annual unemployment rate of 4.6%; it is also the lowest unemployment rate on record for Kansas since records began in 1976.

Chart 6
Unemployment Rate
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	5.3%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	3.6%	3.4%	3.3%	5.8%	3.3%	2.7%
Plains Region	5.2%	4.6%	4.1%	3.9%	3.4%	3.0%	3.1%	5.7%	3.6%	2.6%
U.S.	7.4%	6.2%	5.3%	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	8.1%	5.3%	3.6%

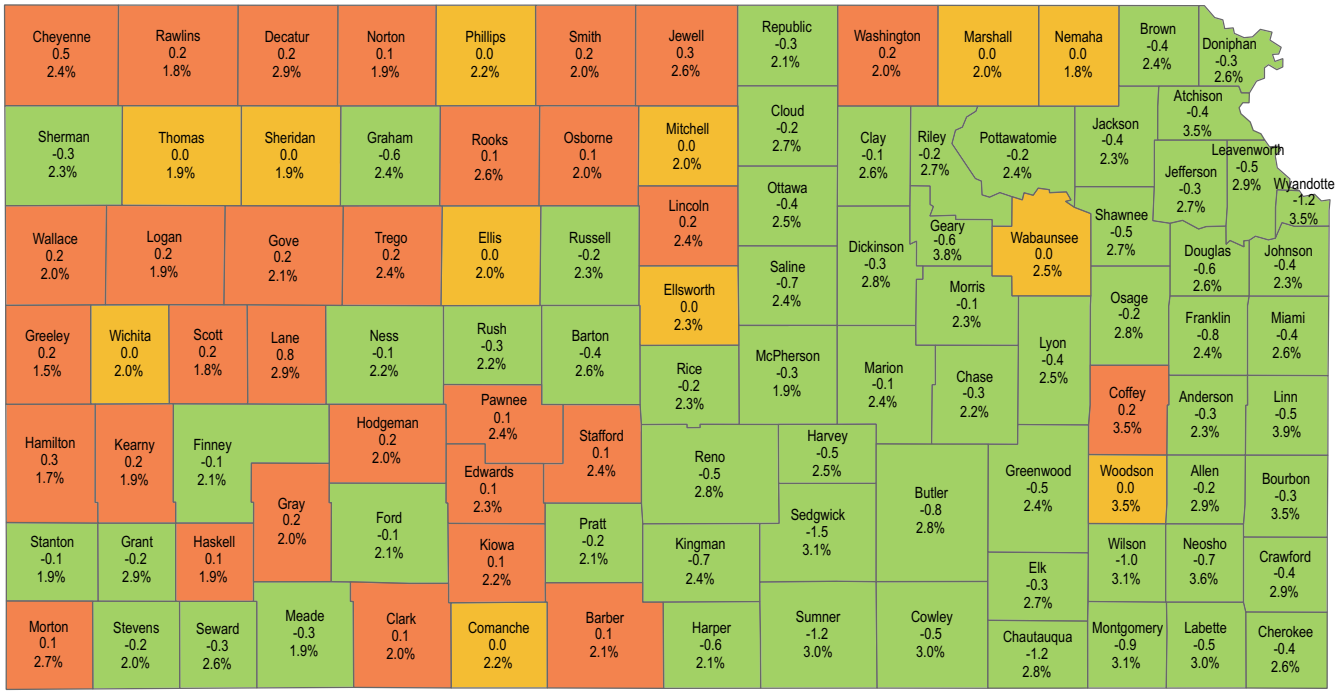
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Population Survey

Map 3 shows the change in unemployment rate and the unemployment rate for each county in Kansas. Twelve counties in Kansas saw no change in their unemployment rate, while 63 experienced a decrease and 30 experienced an increase in 2022. Twenty-five counties in Kansas recorded an unemployment rate above the statewide average in 2022, with Linn County recording the highest rate of 3.9%. Seventy-four counties in Kansas recorded an unemployment rate below the statewide average in 2022, with Greeley County recording the lowest rate of 1.5%.

Lane County recorded the largest increase over the year, increasing 0.8 percentage points from 2.1% to 2.9%, which is still only slightly higher than the statewide average of 2.7%. Cheyenne County saw the second largest increase, growing by 0.5 percentage points from 1.9% to 2.4%. Even with this increase, Cheyenne County's unemployment rate is still 0.3 percentage points lower than the statewide average.

Sedgwick County recorded the largest decrease, declining by 1.5 percentage points from 4.6% to 3.1% in 2022. Even with this decrease, Sedgwick County's unemployment rate is still higher than the statewide average of 2.7%. Three counties decreased their unemployment rate by 1.2 percentage points: Chautauqua, Sumner, and Wyandotte. Wilson County experienced a decrease of 1.0 percentage point.

Map 3 - Unemployment Rate



Statewide
Unemployment Rate (Percentage Point Change): -0.6
Unemployment Rate (2022 Rate): 2.7%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Local Area Unemployment Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

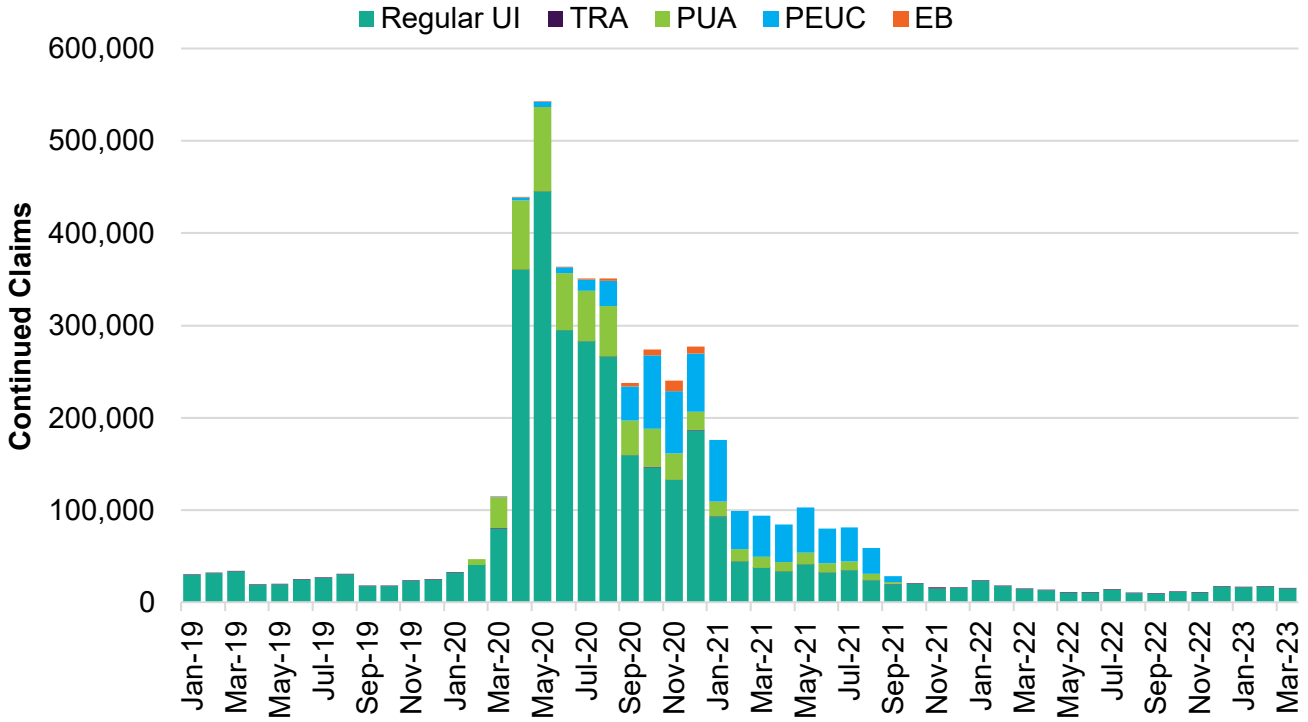
The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Kansans. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment; therefore, continued claims do not equal claims paid.

Monthly Continued Claim Totals

Chart 7 displays monthly continued claims totals by program for Kansas. Note that PUA and PEUC were pandemic era programs only in operation during 2020 and 2021. The EB program is triggered on by extended periods of high unemployment and was also in operation during 2020.

The number of continued claims was relatively low prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with Kansas averaging 24,728 continued claims per month in 2019. Continued claims spiked to an average of 272,364 per month in 2020, but declined in 2021 to a monthly average of 71,357. In 2022 the monthly average of continued claims dropped to 13,594. There was a small seasonal increase in December 2022 that continued into 2023; however, continued claims totals for the first quarter of 2023 remain much lower than the pre-pandemic levels experienced in 2019.

Chart 7
Continued Claims Totals
Jan 2019 - Mar 2023
Kansas



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Continued Claims by Industry

Table 2 displays the total number of continued claims by industry sector in Kansas for years 2019 through 2022. Note that PUA claims are excluded from these totals. In 2022 claims by industry sector returned to more typical patterns with construction and manufacturing recording the highest number of continued claims for the year. Construction recorded 31,191 continued claims in 2022; this was a decrease of 36,542, or 54.0%, from 2021. Meanwhile, manufacturing recorded 24,828 continued claims in 2022; this was a decrease of 86.0% from 2021, and a decrease of 96.2% when compared to 2020 continued claims totals. Administrative and waste services recorded the third highest total with 19,181 continued claims filed in 2022, decreasing by 55,543, or 74.3%, over the year.

In Kansas, arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; and educational services were some of the hardest hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic. These industries experienced the largest percent increase in claims from 2019 to 2020. Impacts of the pandemic were temporary, as these industries saw sharp declines in 2021, which continued into 2022 with claims totals dropping below pre-pandemic levels.

Table 2
Continued Claims Filed by Year and Industry Sector
Kansas

Industry Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022
Construction	53,207	146,242	67,733	31,191
Manufacturing	58,709	654,302	177,548	24,828
Administrative and Waste Services	32,731	215,782	74,724	19,181
Health Care and Social Assistance	26,560	273,835	72,988	14,939
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	16,351	110,466	40,820	11,109
Retail Trade	22,750	261,633	65,995	9,873
Accommodation and Food Services	16,564	389,540	72,194	8,787
Finance and Insurance	8,838	44,778	18,404	7,739
Transportation and Warehousing	11,817	108,009	29,525	6,899
Wholesale Trade	11,508	87,768	27,963	6,097
Public Administration	8,673	55,341	17,441	4,501
Other Services	5,169	101,688	21,199	3,617
Information	4,796	39,362	12,250	3,469
Educational Services	5,636	123,380	20,835	3,170
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	4,488	40,109	13,406	2,771
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,203	62,936	9,068	1,183
Utilities	393	4,314	1,728	962
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	3,810	20,071	5,034	791
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	1,250	5,920	2,063	658
Management of Companies	1,000	6,748	1,717	644

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics
Note: PUA data are excluded from these totals

NONFARM JOBS

The change in nonfarm jobs is one of the most current indicators of the economy's health. Job growth indicates increased demand for businesses' products and services. This puts money in the hands of those previously unemployed, further increasing the demand for consumer goods and services. Additional jobs also lead to increased output, signifying economic growth.

Total Nonfarm Jobs

Table 3 displays annual nonfarm job totals for Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. In 2022 Kansas recorded 1,418,600 total nonfarm jobs, of which 1,167,300 were private sector jobs. Total nonfarm jobs increased by 38,800 jobs, or 2.8%, over the year. This was due to an increase of 38,300 private sector jobs and an increase of 500 government sector jobs. Nationally, nonfarm jobs increased by 6.3 million, or 4.3%, to 152.6 million. In the Plains Region, nonfarm jobs increased by 273,800, or 2.6%.

Table 3
Nonfarm Jobs
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2011 - 2022

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Kansas	1,340,500	1,358,100	1,372,600	1,391,500	1,400,800	1,404,600
Plains Region	9,945,200	10,102,400	10,242,000	10,383,400	10,521,700	10,609,900
U.S.	131,914,000	134,157,000	136,363,000	138,939,000	141,824,000	144,335,000
	2017	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**
Kansas	1,404,200	1,415,700	1,423,800	1,358,900	1,379,800	1,418,600
Plains Region	10,680,200	10,753,400	10,817,500	10,256,000	10,482,400	10,756,200
U.S.	146,607,000	148,908,000	150,904,000	142,186,000	146,285,000	152,575,000

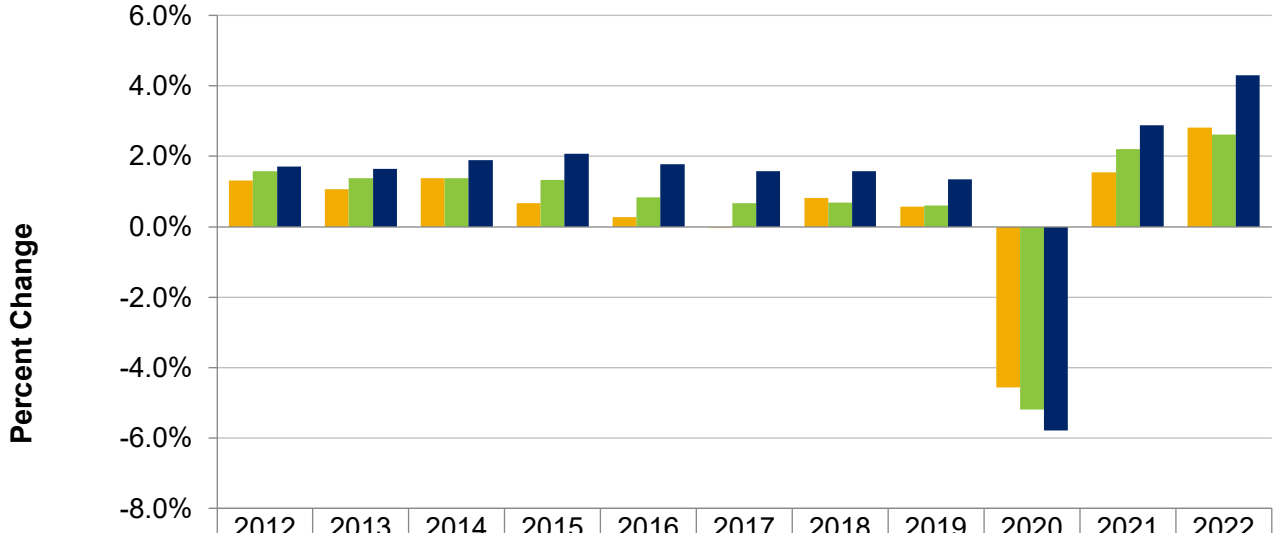
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Where to find it (U.S.): Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES) www.bls.gov/ces/
Where to find it (Kansas): Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES) www.bls.gov/sae/

Change in Nonfarm Jobs

Chart 8 shows the annual percent change in nonfarm jobs for Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. Apart from 2020, the Plains Region and U.S. have experienced positive job growth from 2012 through 2022. Kansas saw positive job growth each year with the exception of a slight decline in 2017 and declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Seasonally adjusted monthly estimates indicate that Kansas reached pre-pandemic levels by October 2022.

Chart 8
Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2012 - 2022



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	1.3%	1.1%	1.4%	0.7%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%	0.6%	-4.6%	1.5%	2.8%
Plains Region	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	-5.2%	2.2%	2.6%
U.S.	1.7%	1.6%	1.9%	2.1%	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.3%	-5.8%	2.9%	4.3%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Jobs by Industry

Job growth was experienced in 10 of the 11 industry supersectors in Kansas during 2022, as shown in Table 4. The supersector that added the most jobs over the year was professional and business services with a gain of 10,400 jobs, or 6.1%; approximately half of these gains were recorded in professional, scientific, and technical services, which increased by 5,100 jobs, or 7.0%. Leisure and hospitality recorded job gains of 8,200, or 6.8%, in 2022. The majority of this growth can be attributed to the accommodation and food services sector, which saw an increase of 6,600 jobs, or 6.3%. Manufacturing saw an increase of 8,200 jobs, or 5.1%, in 2022. These gains were primarily due to an increase of 6,400 jobs in durable goods manufacturing, an increase of 7.0%. Information saw the highest percent increase at 7.7%, gaining 1,300 jobs over the year.

The only supersector to experience job loss in 2022 was financial activities, which saw a small decline of 500 jobs, or 0.7%, over the year.

Table 4
Kansas Nonfarm Jobs by Industry
2021 & 2022

Industry	2021	2022	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	1,379,800	1,418,600	38,800	2.8%
Total Private	1,129,000	1,167,300	38,300	3.4%
Mining and Logging	5,900	6,200	300	5.1%
Construction	63,900	64,800	900	1.4%
Manufacturing	161,200	169,400	8,200	5.1%
Durable Goods	91,900	98,300	6,400	7.0%
Non-Durable Goods	69,300	71,100	1,800	2.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	267,300	272,700	5,400	2.0%
Wholesale Trade	55,800	58,200	2,400	4.3%
Retail Trade	139,300	139,700	400	0.3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	72,200	74,900	2,700	3.7%
Information	16,900	18,200	1,300	7.7%
Financial Activities	76,300	75,800	-500	-0.7%
Finance and Insurance	61,300	60,600	-700	-1.1%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	15,000	15,300	300	2.0%
Professional and Business Services	171,200	181,600	10,400	6.1%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	72,400	77,500	5,100	7.0%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	21,000	22,500	1,500	7.1%
Administrative and Waste Services	77,900	81,600	3,700	4.7%
Private Education and Health Services	197,700	200,000	2,300	1.2%
Private Educational Services	17,000	15,900	-1,100	-6.5%
Health Care and Social Assistance	180,700	184,100	3,400	1.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	120,300	128,500	8,200	6.8%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	15,100	16,600	1,500	9.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	105,300	111,900	6,600	6.3%
Other Services	48,300	50,000	1,700	3.5%
Government	250,800	251,300	500	0.2%
Federal Government	25,700	25,700	0	0.0%
State Government	48,800	48,400	-400	-0.8%
State Government Educational Services	23,800	23,900	100	0.4%
State Government Excluding Education	24,900	24,400	-500	-2.0%
Local Government	176,400	177,200	800	0.5%
Local Government Educational Services	103,600	104,700	1,100	1.1%
Local Government Excluding Education	72,800	72,500	-300	-0.4%

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Every summer KDOL's Labor Market Information Services division releases the results from the Kansas Wage Survey conducted by the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Data from the OEWS program is current as of May 2022 and contains employment and wage data for hundreds of occupations in Kansas. Data is also available for Kansas' metropolitan areas, local workforce areas, and counties. This is one of KDOL's most used data sets. Employers use this data as a guide to set their wages and salaries, while workers use this data to learn the typical wages for their occupations and to explore the earnings potential of other occupations.

Wages

As shown in Table 5, the median wage in Kansas as of May 2022 was $41,870. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of $98,420. The five highest paying occupations in this group include architectural and engineering managers, natural sciences managers, sales managers, computer and information systems managers, and chief executives. Each of these occupations recorded a median wage over $131,000. Architectural and engineering managers was the highest paid management occupation with a median annual wage of $142,280.

The computer and mathematical occupational group had the second highest median annual wage of $81,500. The top paying occupations in this group include computer and information research scientists, actuaries, database administrators, software developers, and information security analysts. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $96,000. Computer and information research scientists was the highest paid computer and mathematical occupation with a median annual wage of $109,600.

Table 5
Wages, Employment, and Location Quotients (LQ) by Major Occupational Group
Kansas
May 2022

Occupational Group	Median Annual Wage	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Total, All Occupations	**$41,870**	**1,380,420**	**1.00**
Management Occupations	$98,420	70,980	0.77
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	$65,080	84,200	0.93
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	$81,500	40,260	0.86
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	$78,810	23,530	1.02
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	$60,970	11,440	0.93
Community and Social Service Occupations	$45,160	18,530	0.86
Legal Occupations	$72,930	8,290	0.73
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	$47,650	88,650	1.12
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	$44,540	16,680	0.87
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	$64,570	87,640	1.04
Healthcare Support Occupations	$29,800	62,380	0.98
Protective Service Occupations	$42,230	27,090	0.84
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	$26,660	112,870	0.97
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	$30,060	39,550	0.98
Personal Care and Service Occupations	$26,530	27,530	1.04
Sales and Related Occupations	$32,850	121,370	0.99
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	$37,680	178,820	1.03
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	$35,170	3,660	0.85
Construction and Extraction Occupations	$47,780	57,160	1.01
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	$48,770	59,210	1.09
Production Occupations	$40,310	109,790	1.35
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	$38,490	130,790	1.03

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

The occupational group with the third highest median annual wage was the architecture and engineering occupational group, with a median annual wage of $78,810. The top paying occupations in this group include health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers and inspectors; materials engineers; aerospace engineers; petroleum engineers; and electronics engineers, except computer. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $97,000. Health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers and inspectors, was the highest paid architecture and engineering occupation with a median annual wage of $105,090.

The occupational groups with the lowest median annual wage were personal care and service occupations and food preparation and serving related occupations. Both of these occupational groups recorded a median annual wage below $27,000.

Table 6 shows the top 10 detailed occupations by employment. While these are the most common occupations in the state, only three of these occupations have a median wage above the statewide median wage of $41,870: registered nurses, general and operations managers, and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Employment

Table 6 indicates that total employment for all occupations in Kansas was 1,380,420 as of May 2022. The office and administrative support occupational group recorded the largest employment, 178,820, or 13.0% of total employment in Kansas. Two occupations in this group fell into the top 10 occupations by employment for Kansas: customer service representatives with employment of 32,920, and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive with employment of 27,720.

The occupational group with the second largest employment was the transportation and material moving occupational group with employment of 130,790, or 9.5% of total employment. Two occupations from this group ranked in the top 10 occupations by employment: stockers and order fillers with employment of 28,430, and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers with employment of 22,970.

The sales and related occupational group had the third largest employment of 121,370, or 8.8% of total employment. Two occupations from this group fell into the top 10 occupations by employment: cashiers with employment of 33,720, and retail salespersons with employment of 30,800.

Table 6
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment
Kansas
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Median Annual Wage
Total, All Occupations	**1,380,420**	**$41,870**
Fast Food and Counter Workers	34,720	↓ $23,240
Cashiers	33,720	↓ $24,600
Customer Service Representatives	32,920	↓ $35,460
Retail Salespersons	30,800	↓ $28,500
Registered Nurses	30,520	↑ $66,460
Stockers and Order Fillers	28,430	↓ $31,200
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	27,720	↓ $36,470
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	25,940	↓ $25,000
General and Operations Managers	24,550	↑ $81,070
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	22,970	↑ $48,160

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)
Arrows indicate whether an occupational wage is above or below the median wage for all occupations

The most common occupation in Kansas was fast food and counter workers with an estimated employment of 34,720, or 2.5% of total employment in Kansas.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics
https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=841

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the state has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the state has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.

Employment Location Quotients

In Kansas the occupational group with the highest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in 2022 was production occupations. This occupational group includes the most concentrated occupation in Kansas relative to the U.S.: aircraft structure, surfaces, rigging, and systems assemblers, which recorded an employment concentration 19.20 times higher than the U.S. Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers, which are also part of the production occupational group, recorded an employment concentration 4.38 times that of the U.S.

Educational instruction and library occupations recorded the second highest location quotient of 1.12; however, no detailed occupations from this group made it into the top 10 occupations by location quotient.

The occupational group with the third highest location quotient of 1.09 was installation, maintenance, and repair. This occupational group includes the occupations ranked third and ninth in the top 10 occupations by location quotient: wind turbine service technicians recorded an employment concentration 5.99 times higher than the U.S., while farm equipment mechanics and service technicians recorded an employment concentration 4.10 times higher than the U.S.

Table 7
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment Location Quotient (LQ)
Kansas
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers	5,760	19.20
Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians	710	7.80
Wind Turbine Service Technicians	550	5.99
Rock Splitters, Quarry	210	5.75
Animal Scientists	130	5.53
Recreational Therapists	670	4.51
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	5,460	4.38
Conveyor Operators and Tenders	1,100	4.24
Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	1,350	4.10
Embalmers	150	4.07

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

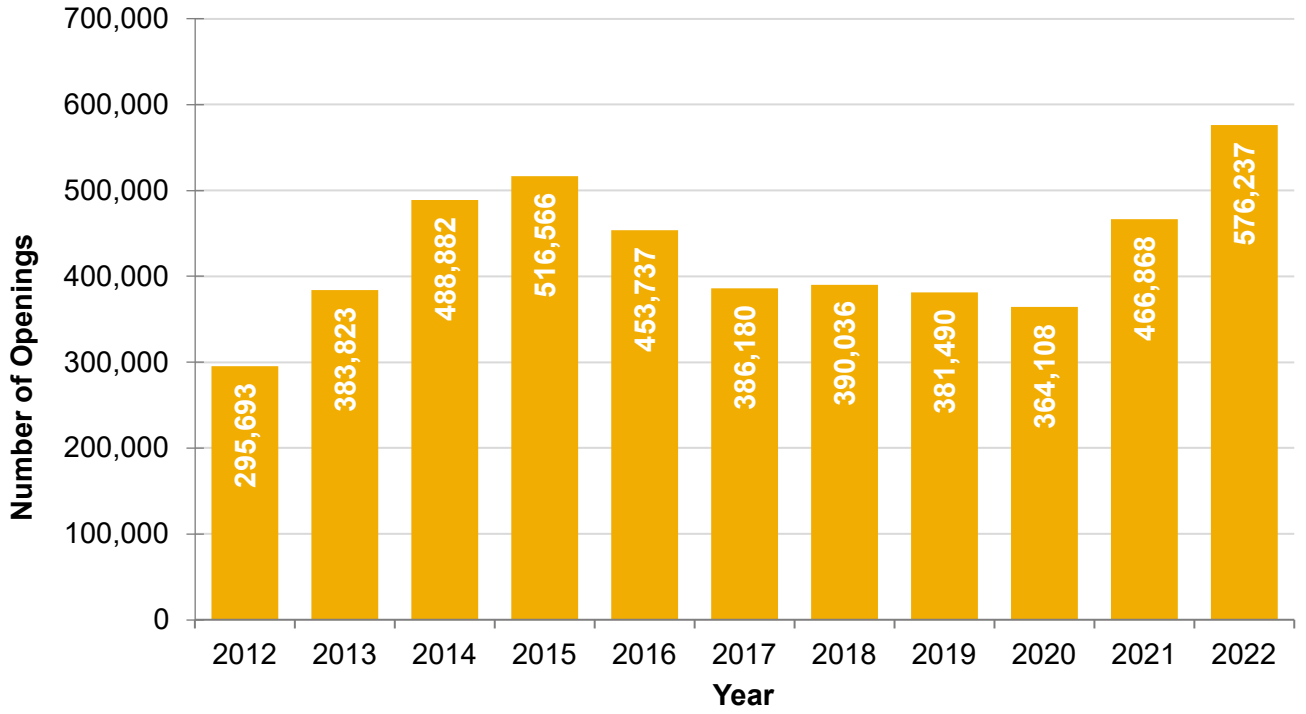
ADVERTISED JOBS

Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Advertised jobs data are sourced from Geographic Solutions, Inc. The information is collected from employer corporate sites, hospitals, non-profits, local and federal government agencies, schools and universities, recruiter sites, newspapers, volunteer sites, and other public, private, and state job boards. It is important to note that roughly 30% of advertised jobs do not have enough information to classify them with an industry or occupational code. These data are included in total advertised jobs, but excluded from industry and occupational totals.

Annual Job Openings

Chart 9 shows that Kansas saw a steady increase in job openings from 2012 through 2015, followed by an overall declining trend from 2015 through 2020. However, there was a sharp increase in job openings from 2020 to 2022 of 58.3%, or 212,129 job openings. Kansas recorded 576,237 job openings in 2022; this is the highest number of job openings reported for the state, with records beginning in 2008.

Chart 9
Advertised Job Openings
Kansas
2012 - 2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

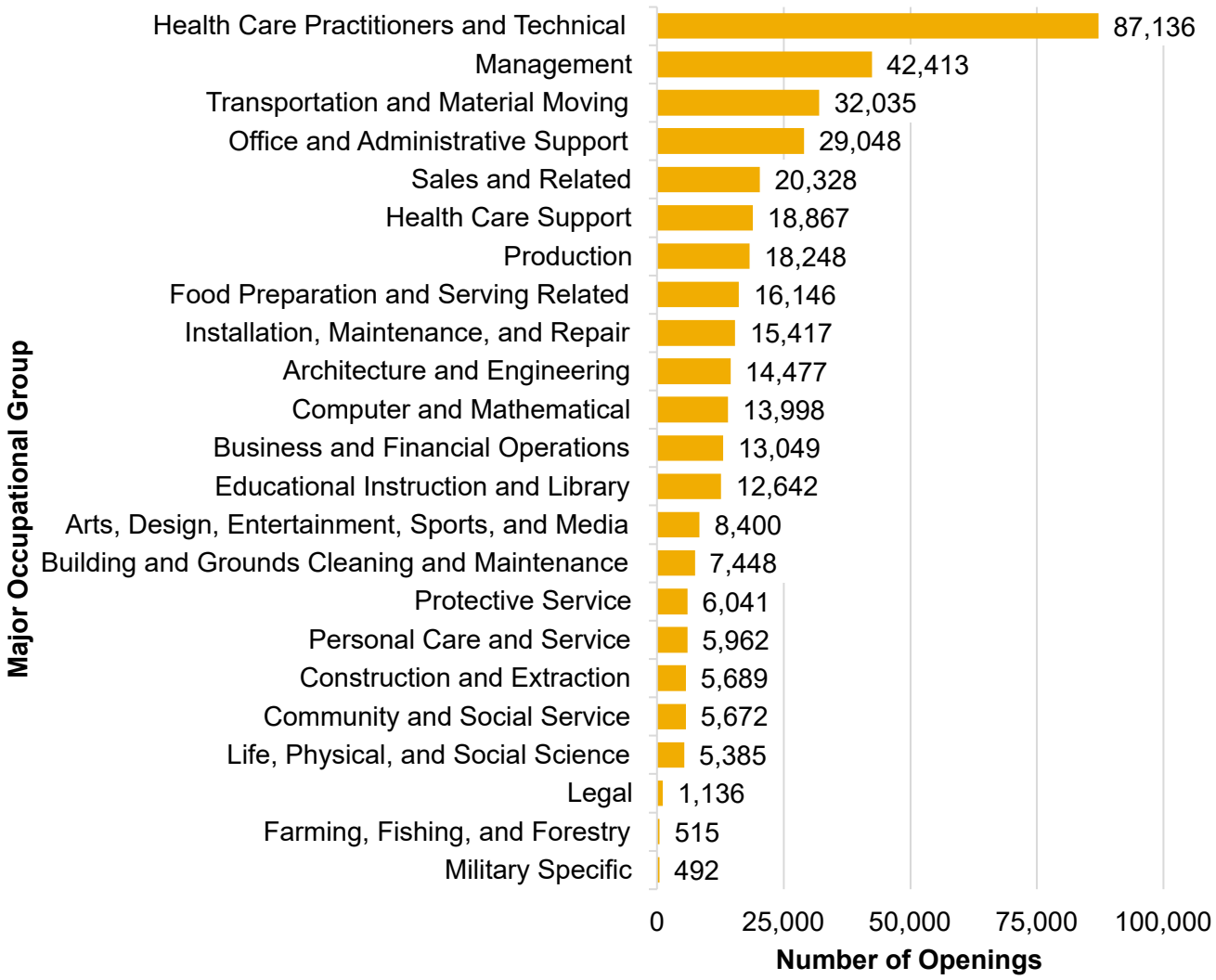
Check out our dashboard here: https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/GSIPub/documentview.aspx?docid=885

Job Openings by Occupation

As shown in Chart 10, the health care practitioners and technical occupational group had the most job openings by far in Kansas, with 87,136 job openings advertised in 2022. The management occupational group had 42,413 job openings, while the transportation and material moving occupational group had 32,035. Two additional occupational groups had over 20,000 job openings in 2022. The office and administrative support occupational group recorded 29,048 job openings, while the sales and related occupational group recorded 20,328. Eight additional occupational groups had over 10,000 job openings in 2022: health care support; production; food preparation and serving related; installation, maintenance, and repair; architecture and engineering; computer and mathematical; business and financial operations; and educational instruction and library.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation in Kansas, with 43,559 job openings. This was followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers with 9,457 job openings, and nursing assistants with 8,001. Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses recorded 7,451 job openings in 2022, while customer service representatives recorded 7,393.

Chart 10
Advertised Job Openings by Major Occupational Group
Kansas
2022

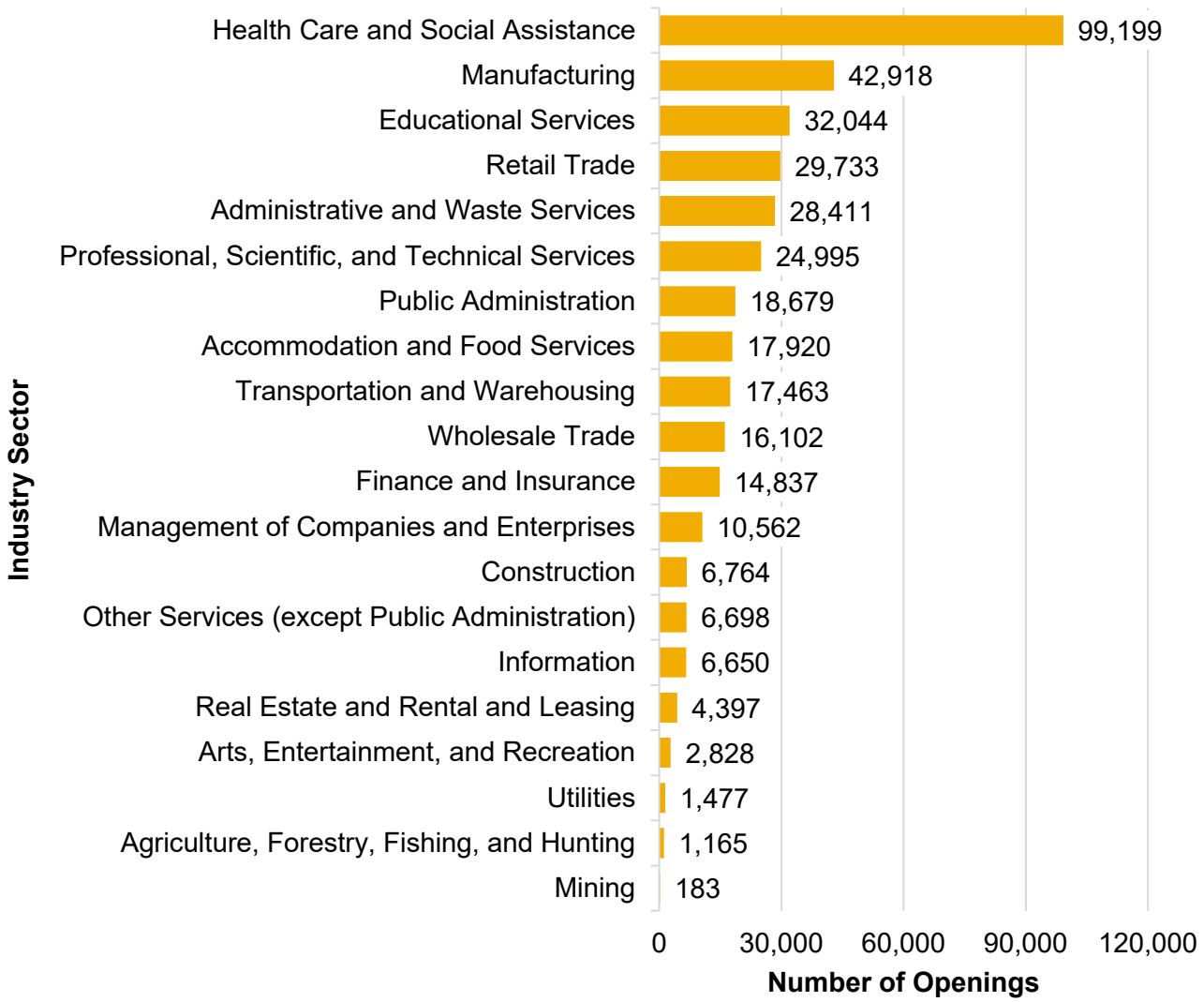


Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

Job Openings by Industry

Chart 11 displays advertised job openings by industry sector for Kansas. The health care and social assistance sector recorded the most job openings by far in 2022, with 99,199 job openings. Hospitals accounted for 52,688 job openings, while ambulatory health care services accounted for 22,892, and nursing and residential care facilities accounted for 16,269. The manufacturing sector recorded 42,918 job openings with the computer and electronic product manufacturing subsector accounting for 10,396. The chemical manufacturing and transportation equipment manufacturing subsectors each accounted for more than 6,000 job openings, while the food manufacturing subsector accounted for 5,946. Educational services recorded the third highest number of job openings in 2022, with 32,044. The retail trade sector recorded 29,733 job openings; 5,321 of these job openings were in the building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers subsector. Additionally, the motor vehicle and parts dealers, food and beverage stores, and health and personal care stores subsectors each accounted for at least 4,000 job openings. The administrative and waste services sector recorded 28,411 job openings, with the vast majority falling into the administrative and support services subsector. Professional, scientific, and technical services also recorded more than 20,000 job openings in 2022.

Chart 11
Advertised Job Openings by Industry Sector
Kansas
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS

Every two years each of the 50 states complete long-term projections in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). The base year used in these projections is 2020 and the projection year is 2030. Statewide projections are released in even numbered years, while regional projections are released during odd numbered years. Long-term projections play an important role for students and others making career choices. Information about future trends in job growth and demand for labor is vital to making these life decisions. For the long-term projections program, it is assumed that the Kansas labor market will be in full employment in the projected year. This means the labor market will be in equilibrium and labor supply will meet labor demand, so the projections are forecasting structural changes in the economy rather than predicting changes in the business cycle.

Industry Projections

Kansas total jobs across all industries are expected to grow by 100,058 to 1,536,570 jobs in 2030, an increase of 7.0% over the 10-year period. This averages out to 10,006 jobs per year, or 0.7% average annual growth.

Table 8 shows long-term projections for the top 10 industry sectors by numerical change from the base year 2020 to the projected year 2030. The goods producing sector, which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining; construction; and manufacturing, is projected to increase by 1,289 jobs per year, an average annual growth rate of 0.5%. The remaining industry sectors fall under the service providing sector, which is projected to have a positive average annual growth rate of 0.8%, adding 8,871 jobs annually.

Table 8
Top 10 Industry Sectors by Numerical Job Change
Kansas
2020 - 2030

Industry Sector	Job Numbers		Job Changes		
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Annual Avg. Growth %
Total, All Industries	**1,436,512**	**1,536,570**	**100,058**	**7.0%**	**0.7%**
Health Care and Social Assistance	203,265	219,570	16,305	8.0%	0.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	98,142	113,781	15,639	15.9%	1.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	61,507	73,535	12,028	19.6%	1.8%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	72,800	84,395	11,595	15.9%	1.5%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	72,974	82,955	9,981	13.7%	1.3%
Manufacturing	159,411	168,165	8,754	5.5%	0.5%
Educational Services	132,684	139,445	6,761	5.1%	0.5%
Other Services (except Government)	47,666	52,629	4,963	10.4%	1.0%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	13,779	17,633	3,854	28.0%	2.5%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	22,909	25,605	2,696	11.8%	1.1%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections

The health care and social assistance industry sector is projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the 10-year period, adding 16,305 jobs. This major industry sector consists of four underlying subsectors: ambulatory health care services, hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities, and social assistance. Of these subsectors, the fastest rate of growth is projected to be in ambulatory health care services, growing 1.0% annually. Of the major industry sectors, arts, entertainment, and recreation is projected to grow at the fastest rate, 2.5% annually. This industry sector saw significant declines in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The projected growth rate for arts, entertainment, and recreation represents a return to typical employment levels for this industry sector.

Occupational Projections

Table 9 shows the top 10 major occupational groups projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the projection period. The food preparation and serving related occupational group is projected to gain 15,498 jobs during the 10-year period with an average annual growth rate of 1.3%, the fastest projected growth rate of any occupational group in Kansas. The food preparation and serving related occupational group is made up of 17 detailed occupations; of these, fast food and counter workers is expected to add the most jobs by 2030, gaining 5,682 jobs over the 10-year period. This is followed by cooks, restaurant which is expected to grow by 2,753 jobs.

Table 9
Top 10 Occupational Groups by Numerical Job Change
Kansas
2020 - 2030

Occupational Group	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**1,436,512**	**1,536,570**	**100,058**	**7.0%**	**0.7%**	**1,717,949**
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	109,428	124,926	15,498	14.2%	1.3%	224,986
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	125,189	137,289	12,100	9.7%	0.9%	175,271
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	89,486	98,086	8,600	9.6%	0.9%	60,772
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	86,710	94,620	7,910	9.1%	0.9%	84,980
Management Occupations	80,238	87,635	7,397	9.2%	0.9%	73,695
Health Care Support Occupations	64,578	70,805	6,227	9.6%	0.9%	87,967
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	90,117	95,645	5,528	6.1%	0.6%	86,628
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	44,884	50,390	5,506	12.3%	1.2%	67,130
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	62,272	66,357	4,085	6.6%	0.6%	64,596
Production Occupations	108,825	112,909	4,084	3.8%	0.4%	124,720

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Employment Outlook https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468

Projections by Educational Requirement

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) assigns the level of education typically needed to enter each detailed occupation. Each occupation falls under one of eight education levels. As shown in Table 10, the largest increase in jobs is projected to be in those occupations typically requiring no formal educational credential; these occupations are expected to grow by 30,160 jobs over the projection period. The educational categories projected to grow the fastest are master's degree and associate degree; these are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.1% and 1.0% respectively.

Occupational classification by years of work experience typically needed to enter the occupation is also available. This can be more than five years, less than five years, or none. A third classification is available that organizes occupations by typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency. This can be long-term on-the-job training (more than one year), moderate-term on-the-job training (one month to one year), short-term on-the-job training (less than one month), internship/residency, or none. This information is available on the KDOL, LMIS website, www.klic.dol.ks.gov.

Table 10
Projections by Educational Requirement
Kansas
2020 - 2030

Education	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**1,436,512**	**1,536,570**	**100,058**	**7.0%**	**0.7%**	**1,717,949**
No formal educational credential	318,449	348,609	30,160	9.5%	0.9%	533,737
Bachelor's degree	317,078	345,703	28,625	9.0%	0.9%	287,089
High school diploma or equivalent	570,228	594,398	24,170	4.2%	0.4%	663,943
Postsecondary non-degree award	102,503	110,033	7,530	7.3%	0.7%	116,620
Master's degree	24,788	27,519	2,731	11.0%	1.1%	22,461
Associate degree	26,641	29,355	2,714	10.2%	1.0%	27,650
Doctoral or professional degree	30,847	33,307	2,460	8.0%	0.8%	20,155
Some college, no degree	45,978	47,646	1,668	3.6%	0.4%	46,294

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The High Demand Occupation Lists are intended to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation. Occupations are scored based on three measures of labor demand: current job openings, projected job openings over the next two years, and projected job openings over the next 10 years. Each of these scores are added together to get a total demand score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

High Demand Occupations

Table 11 displays the top high demand occupations for Kansas. These 12 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2024 and 2030. Overall, there are 226 occupations on the high demand list in Kansas. Eight of the top 12 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require less than one year of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. The median wages of these eight occupations are all below the statewide median wage of $41,870, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of occupational growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Table 11
Top High Demand Occupations
Kansas
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	$81,070	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	$66,460	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$48,160	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	$37,710	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	$35,530	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Customer Service Representatives	$35,460	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Assistants	$31,880	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Stockers and Order Fillers	$31,200	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	$29,120	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Cooks, Restaurant	$28,600	No formal educational credential	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	$28,500	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	$23,240	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

LMIS also identifies high demand occupations that pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the statewide median wage.

High Demand High Wage Occupations

In Kansas there are 126 high demand high wage occupations; Table 12 lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, nine of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree or moderate-term on-the-job training. Also noteworthy is that three high demand high wage occupations also had the maximum demand score of 30: general and operations managers, registered nurses, and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Table 12
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
Kansas
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	$81,070	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	$66,460	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$48,160	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Accountants and Auditors	$70,170	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	$44,570	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers	$91,741	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	$64,250	High school diploma or equivalent	None
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	$58,250	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	$53,170	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	$50,850	Bachelor's degree	None
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	$49,250	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Management Analysts	$76,390	Bachelor's degree	None
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	$61,720	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	$58,060	Bachelor's degree	None
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	$47,960	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, High Demand Occupations https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403

WAGES AND PERSONAL INCOME

Inflation is an important consideration in wage analysis, as it can erode consumer purchasing power. For this reason, real wages, which are adjusted for inflation, provide a better estimate of economic health.

Wages

Wages and salaries accounted for 49.2% of total personal income in Kansas in 2022. Table 13 lists the real average weekly wages for Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. in 2022 dollars as well as the over the year percent change.

Average weekly wages increased sharply in 2020 due to the fact that lower wage workers experienced higher levels of job loss, while many higher wage workers could transfer to remote work. As lower wage workers returned to their jobs in 2021, average wage growth returned to typical levels. However, real wages continued to decline in 2022 as inflation remained elevated. The real average weekly wage in Kansas decreased over the year by $28, or 2.5%, to $1,081 in 2022. The Plains Region saw a slightly larger decline in real average weekly wages decreasing by $34, or 2.8%, to $1,174. Meanwhile, the U.S. real average weekly wage decreased by $58, or 4.1%, to $1,346. Since 2012, the Plains Region has recorded the highest growth in real wages, increasing by 13.0%. The U.S. has seen growth of 11.4%, while real wage growth in Kansas has fallen behind, increasing only 9.9% over the same time period.

Table 13
Real Average Weekly Wages and Over the Year Percent Change
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2012 - 2022

Year	Kansas		Plains Region		U.S.	
	Real AWW	OTY % Change	Real AWW	OTY % Change	Real AWW	OTY % Change
2012	$983	-	$1,039	-	$1,208	-
2013	$980	-0.4%	$1,041	0.2%	$1,203	-0.4%
2014	$992	1.3%	$1,059	1.7%	$1,221	1.5%
2015	$1,025	3.4%	$1,098	3.8%	$1,257	2.9%
2016	$1,023	-0.3%	$1,102	0.4%	$1,257	0.0%
2017	$1,029	0.6%	$1,116	1.3%	$1,272	1.1%
2018	$1,042	1.3%	$1,132	1.4%	$1,283	0.9%
2019	$1,059	1.6%	$1,148	1.4%	$1,304	1.6%
2020	$1,123	6.1%	$1,218	6.1%	$1,392	6.8%
2021	$1,109	-1.3%	$1,208	-0.8%	$1,404	0.9%
2022	$1,081	-2.5%	$1,174	-2.8%	$1,346	-4.1%

Note: Wages in 2022 dollars
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages and Consumer Price Index

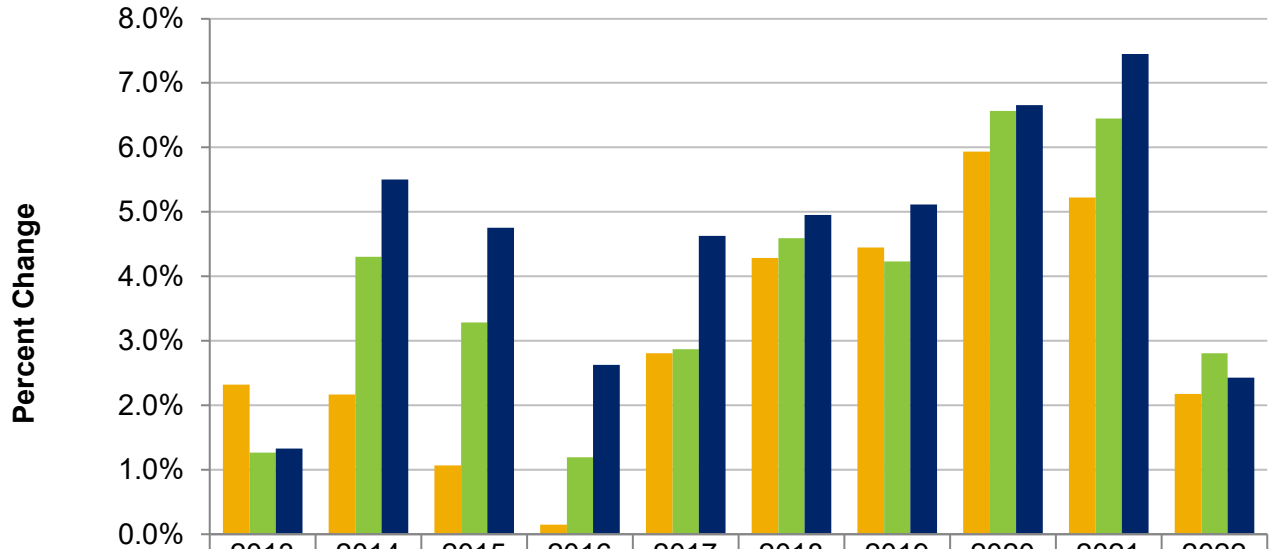
Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program www.bls.gov/cew/

Personal income is an important measure of economic health and well-being. Personal income includes earnings; dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments, which primarily consist of government payments to individuals and nonprofit institutions.

Personal Income

Chart 12 displays personal income growth in Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. since 2013, while Chart 13 shows the breakdown of personal income for Kansas in 2022. In 2022 Kansas' total personal income increased 2.2% to $176.7 billion. Plains Region personal income grew 2.8% to $1.3 trillion, while U.S. personal income increased 2.4% to $21.8 trillion. The majority of the increase in personal income was due to a gain of $7.9 billion in net earnings by place of residence, a growth rate of 7.4% over the year. Additionally, income from dividends, interest, and rent increased $1.0 billion, or 3.2%, over the year. Personal current transfer receipts decreased $5.1 billion, or 14.7%, over the year in Kansas.

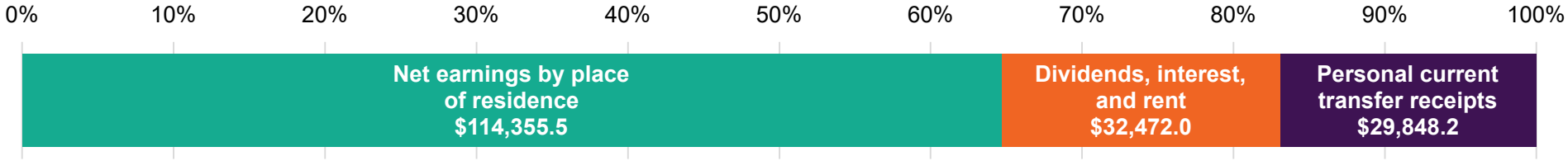
Chart 12
Percent Change in Nominal Personal Income
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	2.3%	2.2%	1.1%	0.1%	2.8%	4.3%	4.4%	5.9%	5.2%	2.2%
Plains Region	1.3%	4.3%	3.3%	1.2%	2.9%	4.6%	4.2%	6.6%	6.5%	2.8%
U.S.	1.3%	5.5%	4.8%	2.6%	4.6%	5.0%	5.1%	6.7%	7.5%	2.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, SAINC4 Personal income and employment by major component

Chart 13
Breakdown of Personal Income
Kansas
2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, SAINC4 Personal income and employment by major component
Data in Millions

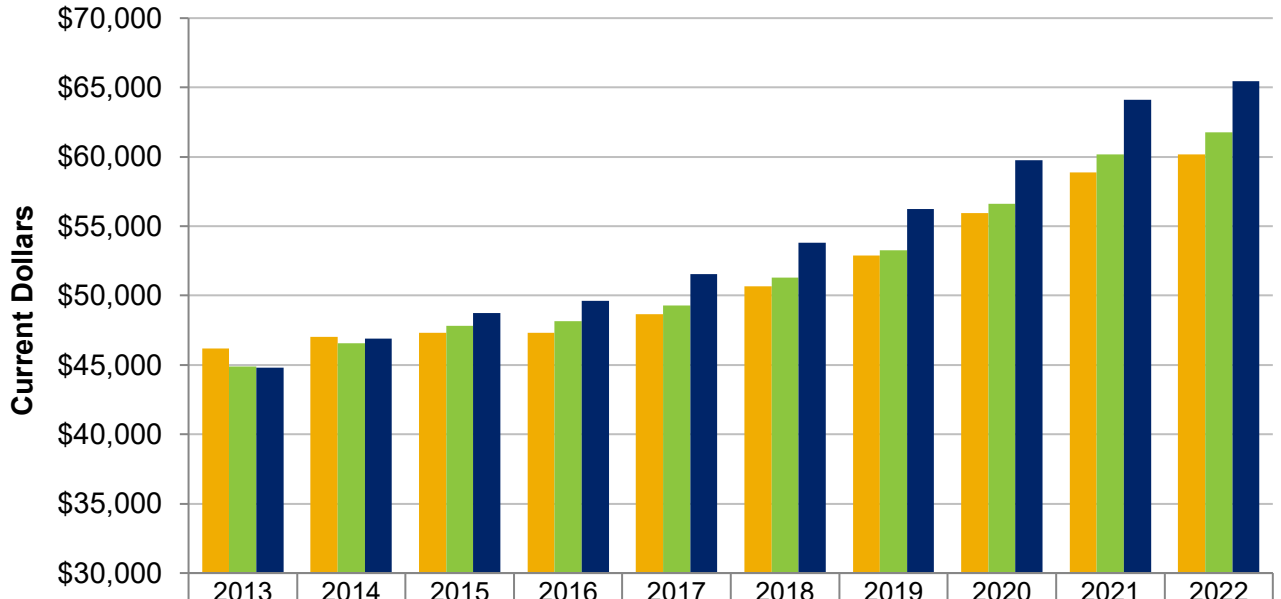
Per capita personal income shows the average share of personal income for each individual in an area. Per capita personal income is calculated by dividing total personal income by the population for an area. It measures the wealth of the population and provides a common measure for evaluating and comparing counties, states, or areas.

Per Capita Personal Income

Chart 14 illustrates the per capita personal income in Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. These estimates are in current dollars and have not been adjusted for inflation. In 2022 Kansas recorded a per capita personal income of $60,152, while the U.S. recorded a per capita personal income of $65,423. The Plains Region recorded a per capita personal income similar to Kansas' of $61,755. From 2021 to 2022 Kansas' per capita personal income increased 2.2%, while the U.S. recorded an increase of only 2.0%. The Plains Region recorded the highest over the year increase in per capita personal income of 2.6%. Since 2013 per capita personal income in Kansas increased 30.3%; this was slower than the U.S. and the Plains Region which have grown 46.0% and 37.5%, respectively, over the same time period.

In 2013 per capita personal income in Kansas exceeded that of the U.S., with Kansas per capita personal income being 103.1% of U.S. per capita personal income. In 2015 U.S. per capita personal income surpassed Kansas per capita personal income; the gap between Kansas and U.S. per capita personal income has since continued to widen. In 2022 Kansas' per capita personal income was just 91.9% of U.S. per capita personal income.

Chart 14
Per Capita Personal Income
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	$46,174	$47,013	$47,332	$47,326	$48,651	$50,663	$52,876	$55,935	$58,857	$60,152
Plains Region	$44,905	$46,549	$47,815	$48,141	$49,272	$51,311	$53,266	$56,604	$60,167	$61,755
U.S.	$44,798	$46,887	$48,725	$49,613	$51,550	$53,786	$56,250	$59,763	$64,117	$65,423

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, SAINC4 Personal income and employment by major component

Where to find it: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal Income www.bea.gov/data/income-saving

EDUCATION

Educational attainment is important in economic analysis because it influences human capital development, labor market outcomes, income inequality, economic mobility, innovation, and public finance. Policies and investments aimed at improving educational attainment can yield substantial economic benefits for individuals, societies, and the state as a whole.

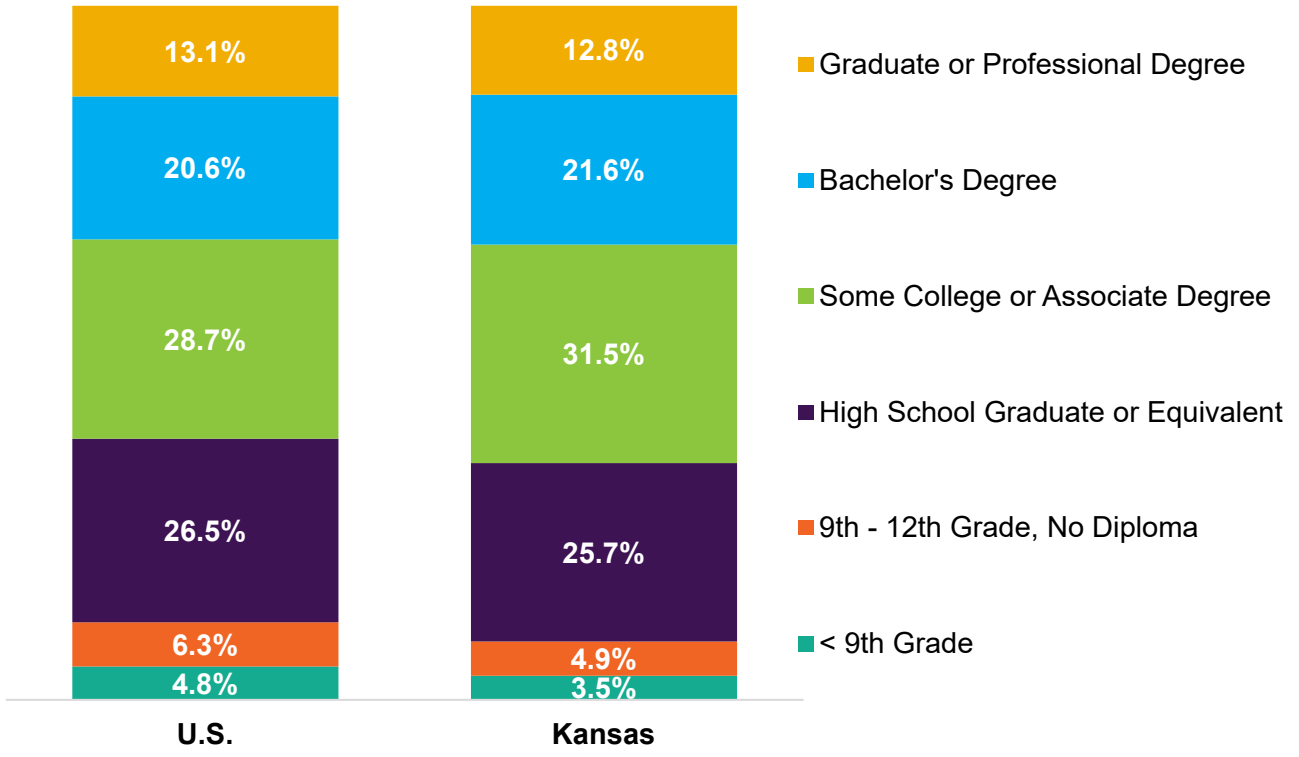
Educational Attainment

Chart 15 indicates that educational attainment in Kansas is just above the national average. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates, 91.6% of Kansans have at least a high school diploma or equivalent; this is 2.7 percentage points higher than the national rate of 88.9%. Additionally, it is estimated that 34.4% of Kansans have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 33.7% nationally.

When compared to the 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates, the percentage of Kansans reporting an educational attainment of at least a high school diploma or equivalent increased by 1.3 percentage points, while the percentage of Kansans reporting a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 2.8 percentage points.

The most commonly reported educational attainment level in Kansas was some college or associate degree at 31.5%; this was followed by high school graduate or equivalent at 25.7%, and bachelor's degree at 21.6%.

Chart 15
Educational Attainment for the Population 25 and Over
U.S. & Kansas
2021



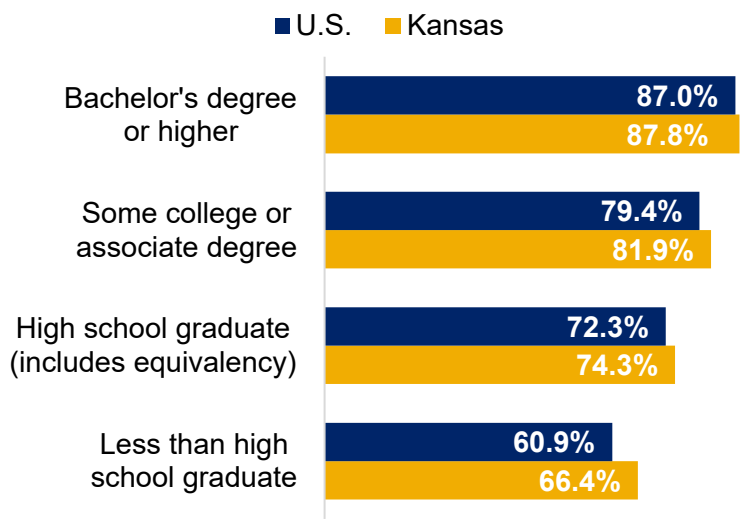
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Labor Force Statistics by Educational Attainment

Charts 16 and 17 indicate that as educational attainment level increases, labor force participation increases, while unemployment rates decline. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 ACS 5-year Estimates, Kansas had a labor force participation rate of 80.9% for the civilian population ages 25-64; this was 2.6 percentage points higher than the U.S., which had a labor force participation rate of 78.3%. Kansans without a high school diploma or equivalent had the lowest labor force participation rate at 66.4%, while Kansans with a bachelor's degree or higher had the highest labor force participation rate at 87.8%. Kansas had higher labor force participation across all levels of educational attainment when compared to the U.S.

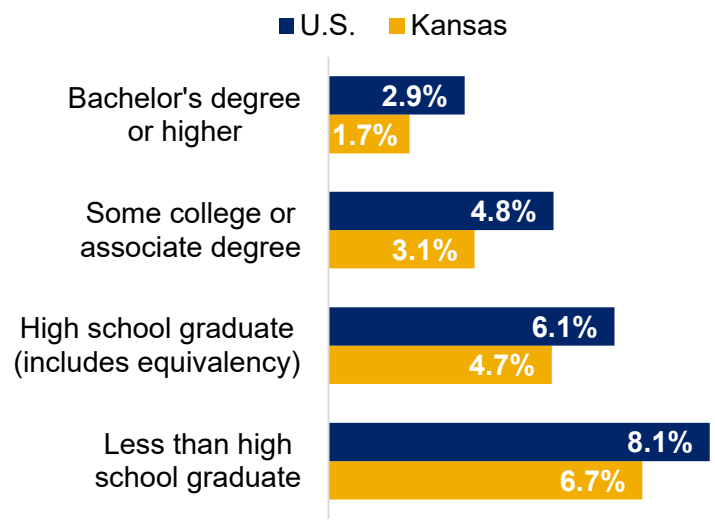
In Kansas, ACS estimates indicate that the unemployment rate for the civilian population ages 25-64 was 3.2% in 2021; this was 1.4 percentage points lower than the U.S. rate of 4.6%. Kansans with educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 1.7%, while Kansans with less than a high school diploma or equivalent had the highest unemployment rate at 6.7%. Kansas achieved lower unemployment rates across all levels of educational attainment when compared to the U.S.

Chart 16
Labor Force Participation Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S. and Kansas
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

Chart 17
Unemployment Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S. and Kansas
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html

High School Graduation Rates

According to the Kansas State Department of Education, 89.3% of all students graduated from high school in 2022, an increase of 1.8 percentage points from 2018. Female students had a graduation rate of 91.4%, while males had a graduation rate of 87.3%. When accounting for race and ethnicity, female students attained higher graduation rates than their male peers, with the exception of American Indian Alaskan Native students. Asian females recorded the highest graduation rate of any group in 2022, at 95.9%. Homeless students recorded the lowest graduation rate of any group in 2022, at 71.5%; however, this was a 3.0 percentage point increase from 2018.

Table 14
High School Graduation Rates
2018 & 2022 4-year Cohorts
Kansas

Cohort Type		Graduation Rate 2018	Graduation Rate 2022	Change 2018-2022
Total	**All**	87.5%	89.3%	1.8
	Male	85.2%	87.3%	2.1
	Female	89.9%	91.4%	1.5
American Indian Alaskan Native	**Male**	75.6%	89.5%	13.9
	Female	81.3%	86.9%	5.6
Asian	**Male**	90.2%	93.7%	3.5
	Female	95.7%	95.9%	0.2
Black	**Male**	75.3%	77.9%	2.6
	Female	84.2%	86.1%	1.9
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	**Male**	77.8%	77.8%	0.0
	Female	75.0%	79.5%	4.5
White	**Male**	88.3%	89.8%	1.5
	Female	91.6%	92.6%	1.0
Multi-racial	**Male**	84.9%	85.7%	0.8
	Female	86.7%	89.9%	3.2
Hispanic	**Male**	77.4%	81.9%	4.5
	Female	86.3%	89.2%	2.9
Free Lunch	**Male**	74.3%	76.1%	1.8
	Female	81.9%	84.5%	2.6
Reduced-price Lunch	**Male**	86.9%	87.4%	0.5
	Female	92.2%	90.4%	-1.8
Special Education	**Male**	78.1%	81.4%	3.3
	Female	82.1%	85.6%	3.5
LEP	**All**	80.6%	84.4%	3.8
Migrant	**All**	79.3%	85.1%	5.8
Homeless	**All**	68.5%	71.5%	3.0

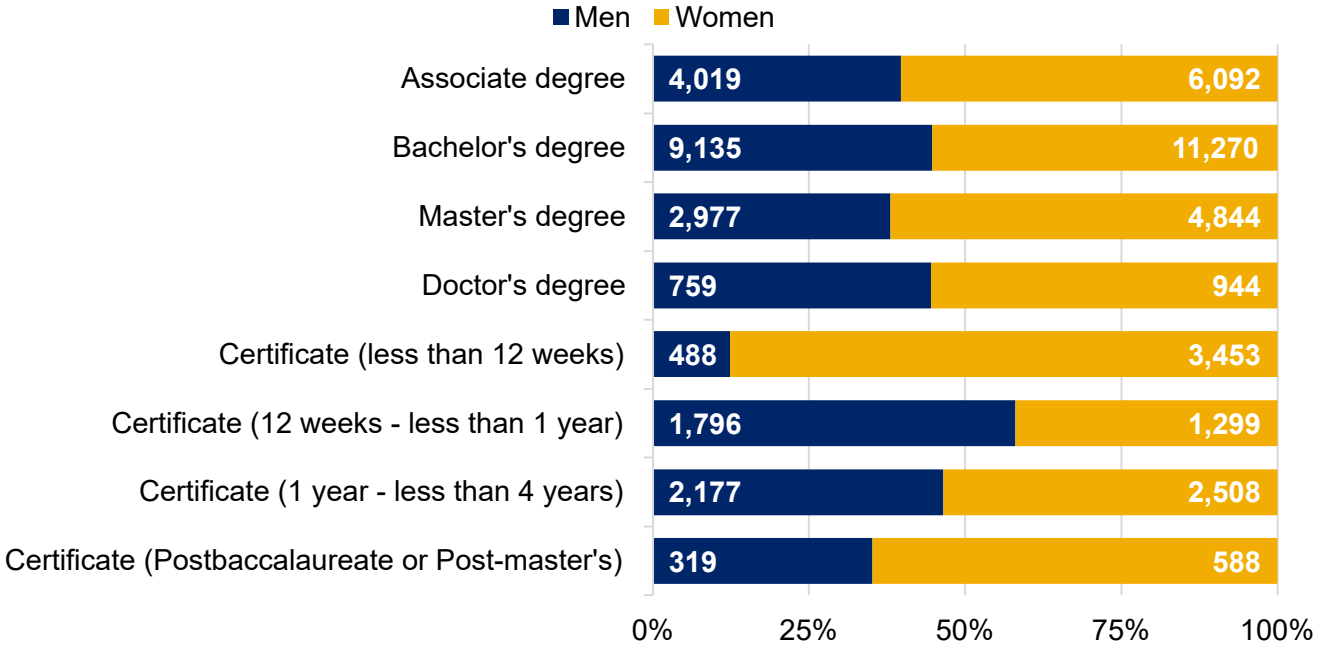
Source: Kansas State Department of Education, KSDE Data Central, Kansas K-12 Reports
Data from all schools, including public, private, and state run institutions

Where to find it: Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas K-12 Reports https://datacentral.ksde.org/default.aspx

Post-Secondary Graduate Demographics

According to the U.S. Department of Education, 52,668 degrees and certificates were awarded in Kansas during the 2020-2021 academic year. Of these, 58.9% were awarded to women, while 41.1% were awarded to men. The largest gap in completions by gender was for certificates of less than 12 weeks. Men were awarded 488, or 12.4%, of these certificates, while women were awarded 3,453, or 87.6%. The only category in which men received more degrees or certificates, was the certificate of 12 weeks to less than 1 year category. Men were awarded 1,796, or 58.0%, of these certificates, while women were awarded 1,299, or 42.0%.

Chart 18
Students Receiving a Degree or Certificate by Gender
2020-2021
Kansas



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

Where to find it: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System
https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/summarytables

Table 15 shows that the most common degree awarded in Kansas during the 2020-2021 academic year was a bachelor's degree, which accounted for 51.0% of all degrees awarded. Associate degrees were the second most common and accounted for 25.3% of all degrees awarded. The most common certificate awarded was a certificate of 1 year to less than 4 years, which accounted for 37.1% of all certificates awarded. Of all students who received a degree or certification during the 2020-2021 academic year, 64.7% identified as white; this was followed by Hispanic or Latino with 10.3%. Of all degrees and certificates awarded, 6.6% were issued to nonresident alien students, while Black or African American students were issued 6.5%.

Table 15
Number of Students Receiving a Degree by Award Level
2020-2021
Kansas

Demographic	Degree				Certificate			
	Associate	Bachelor's	Master's	Doctor's	< 12 weeks	12 weeks to < 1 year	1 year to < 4 years	Post BA or Post MA
All Students	10,111	20,405	7,821	1,703	3,941	3,095	4,685	907
American Indian or Alaska Native	188	209	76	11	38	32	59	1
Asian	257	582	237	76	101	48	90	30
Black or African American	960	1,024	444	52	182	338	379	50
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	30	30	9	0	8	4	7	0
White	6,201	13,322	5,455	1,122	2,505	1,899	2,993	593
Two or More Races	393	726	237	44	192	129	200	27
Hispanic or Latino	1,316	1,716	442	95	721	365	748	43
Race / Ethnicity Unknown	444	633	392	64	164	248	136	59
Nonresident Alien	322	2,163	529	239	30	32	73	104

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

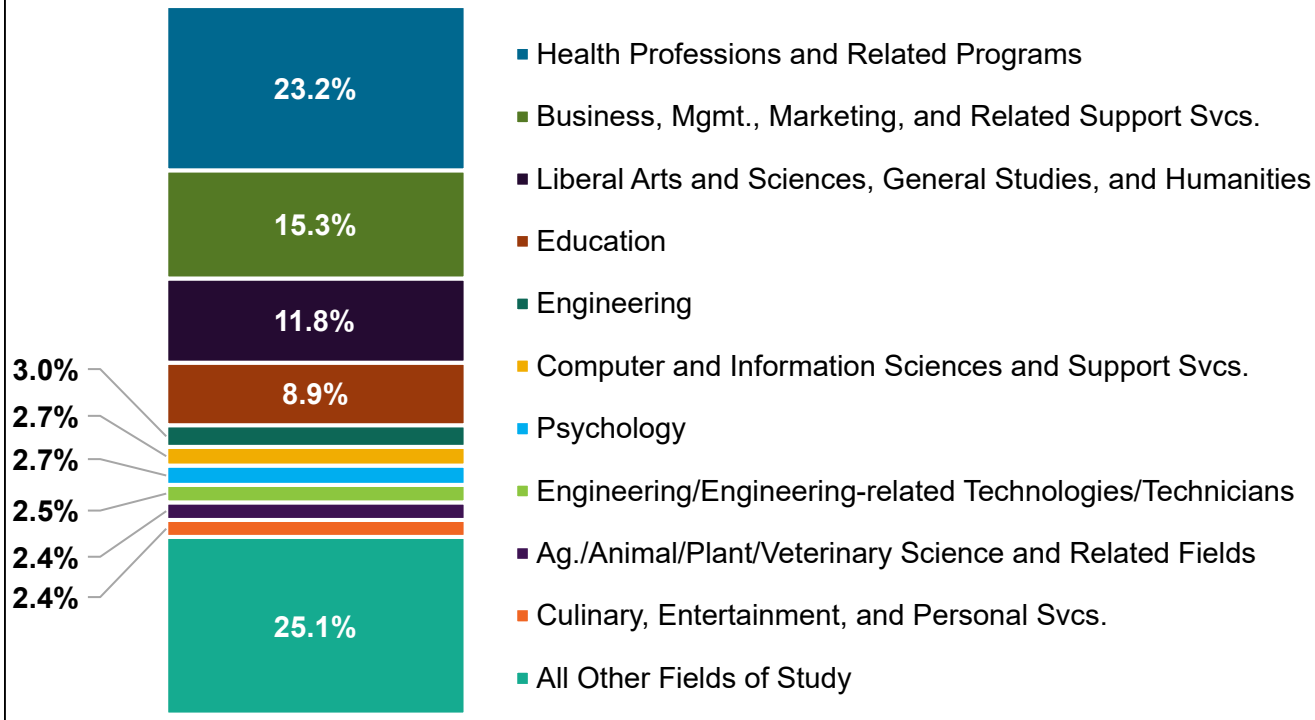
Degrees Issued by Field of Study

Chart 19 indicates that the most common field of study in Kansas was health professions and related programs, accounting for 23.2% of all degrees or certificates issued during the 2020-2021 academic year. Business, management, marketing, and related support services was the second most common field of study, accounting for 15.3%, while the third most common field of study was liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities, accounting for 11.8%.

When accounting for gender, the most common field of study for women was health professions and related programs; these degrees and certificates accounted for 32.8%. The second most common field of study for women was liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities, which accounted for 12.1% of degrees issued to women.

Men were most commonly issued degrees in the business, management, marketing, and related support field of study; these degrees accounted for 20.2%. The second most common field of study for men was liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities, which accounted for 11.4% of degrees issued to men.

Chart 19
Degrees/Certificates Issued by Field of Study
2020-2021
Kansas



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

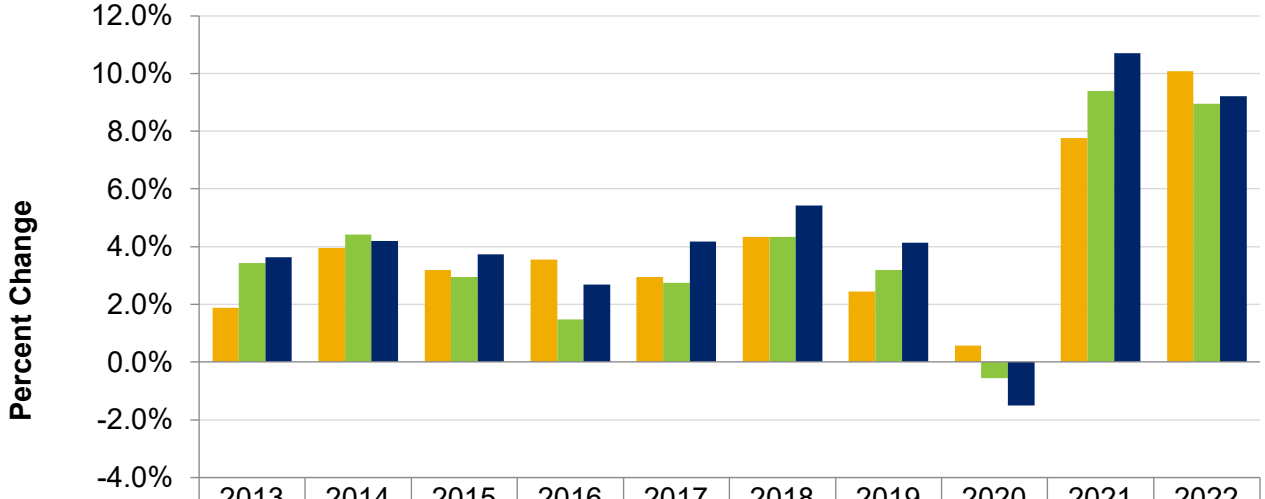
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measures the total economic output of an area. It is commonly used as one of the primary measures of economic performance and health of an area. There are two types of GDP discussed in this report: nominal GDP, which is measured in current dollars, and real GDP, which is adjusted for inflation. Real GDP allows better year-to-year comparisons by removing the influence inflation has on nominal GDP. In this report, real GDP is fixed to 2012 dollars.

Nominal GDP

As displayed in Chart 20, Kansas' nominal GDP increased by 10.1% to nearly $210.7 billion in 2022. The Plains Region's nominal GDP increased at a lower rate than Kansas, growing by 9.0% to $1.6 trillion. U.S. nominal GDP grew at a rate similar to the Plains Region, increasing 9.2% to $25.5 trillion in 2022.

Chart 20
Percent Change in Nominal GDP
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	1.9%	3.9%	3.2%	3.5%	2.9%	4.3%	2.4%	0.6%	7.8%	10.1%
Plains Region	3.4%	4.4%	3.0%	1.5%	2.7%	4.3%	3.2%	-0.6%	9.4%	9.0%
U.S.	3.6%	4.2%	3.7%	2.7%	4.2%	5.4%	4.1%	-1.5%	10.7%	9.2%

Note: GDP in Kansas excludes the compensation of federal civilian and military personnel stationed abroad and government consumption of fixed capital for military structures located abroad and for military equipment, except office equipment. GDP in the U.S. includes these items.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, SAGDP2N Gross domestic product (GDP) by state

Where to find it: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) https://www.bea.gov/data/gdp

Nominal GDP by Industry Supersector

In Kansas growth in nominal GDP was reported in all 11 supersectors from 2021 to 2022, as shown in Table 16. Natural resources and mining recorded the largest percent change in GDP, increasing $3.5 billion, or 46.5%. Much of this growth is due to an increase of 46.7%, or $2.8 billion, in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting sector. The mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sector experienced an increase of 45.6%, or $685.1 million. Manufacturing recorded the highest numerical increase and the second highest percent growth in 2022, increasing by $4.7 billion, or 16.5%. Durable goods manufacturing accounted for $1.9 billion of this increase, while nondurable goods accounted for $2.8 billion. Professional and business services recorded growth of 15.9% over the year, increasing $3.2 billion. Management of companies and enterprises accounted for much of this growth, increasing $1.2 billion, or 33.6%, while professional, scientific, and technical services accounted for $974.8 million and administrative and waste services accounted for $951.7 million. Leisure and hospitality recorded growth of 13.5%, increasing $745.7 million over the year. Much of the growth in this major industry is attributed to accommodation and food services which increased 13.9%, or $659.7 million. Trade, transportation, and utilities grew 11.5%, or $4.0 billion, in 2022, with wholesale trade contributing $1.4 billion, retail trade accounting for $1.2 billion, and transportation and warehousing accounting for $996.1 million of this increase.

Table 16
Nominal GDP by Industry Supersector
Kansas
2021 - 2022

Industry	2021	2022	Percent Change
Natural Resources and Mining	$7,462.8	$10,932.1	46.5%
Manufacturing	$28,675.4	$33,408.4	16.5%
Professional and Business Services	$19,964.0	$23,130.2	15.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	$5,522.7	$6,268.4	13.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	$35,299.3	$39,343.3	11.5%
Other Services	$4,180.6	$4,601.4	10.1%
Information	$7,730.0	$8,476.7	9.7%
Education and Health Services	$15,556.5	$16,412.1	5.5%
Construction	$7,247.2	$7,511.5	3.6%
Government	$23,638.7	$24,379.2	3.1%
Financial Activities	$36,103.3	$36,207.2	0.3%

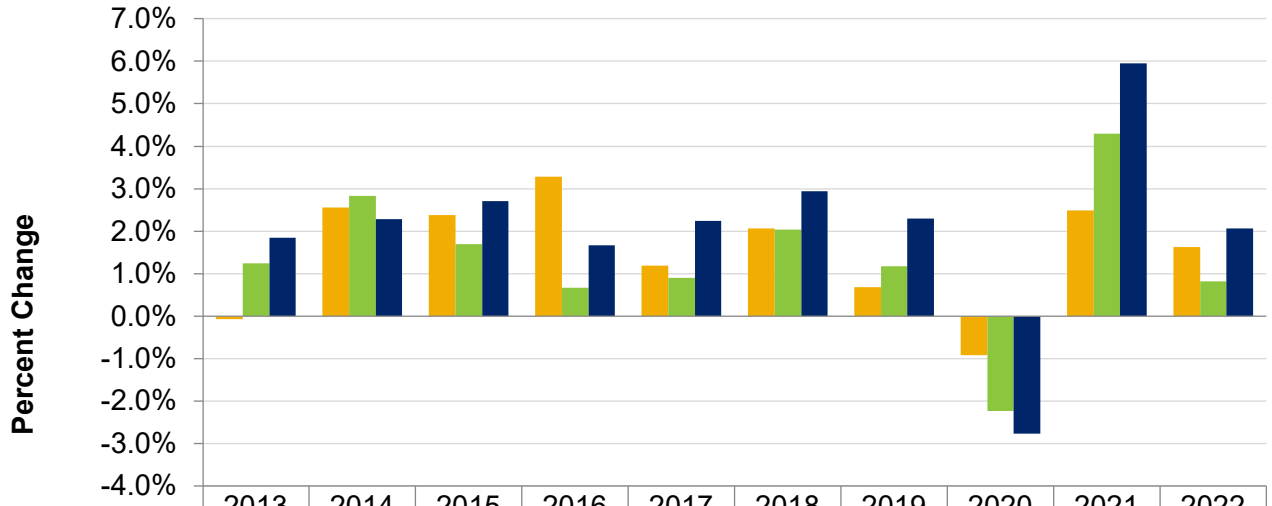
Note: Data in millions
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, SAGDP2N Gross domestic product (GDP) by state

Where to find it: International Trade Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce), Exports by Industry & Country https://www.trade.gov/state-trade-data

Change in Real GDP

According to estimates from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, real GDP in Kansas increased by 1.6% in 2022 to $164.9 billion. Chart 21 displays the percent change in Kansas, the Plains Region, and U.S. real GDP since 2013. The Plains Region saw a smaller increase in GDP than Kansas over the year, with real GDP increasing only 0.8% to $1.2 trillion. The U.S. experienced a larger increase in real GDP, growing 2.1% to $20.0 trillion over the year. Since 2013, Kansas GDP has increased 16.4%, while the Plains Region GDP has increased 12.7%. The U.S. however, has increased its real GDP 20.9% over the same time period.

Chart 21
Percent Change in Real GDP
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	-0.1%	2.6%	2.4%	3.3%	1.2%	2.1%	0.7%	-0.9%	2.5%	1.6%
Plains Region	1.2%	2.8%	1.7%	0.7%	0.9%	2.0%	1.2%	-2.2%	4.3%	0.8%
U.S.	1.8%	2.3%	2.7%	1.7%	2.2%	2.9%	2.3%	-2.8%	5.9%	2.1%

Note: Real GDP is in chained 2012 dollars. GDP in Kansas excludes the compensation of federal civilian and military personnel stationed abroad and government consumption of fixed capital for military structures located abroad and for military equipment, except office equipment. GDP in the U.S. includes these items.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, SAGDP9N Real GDP by state

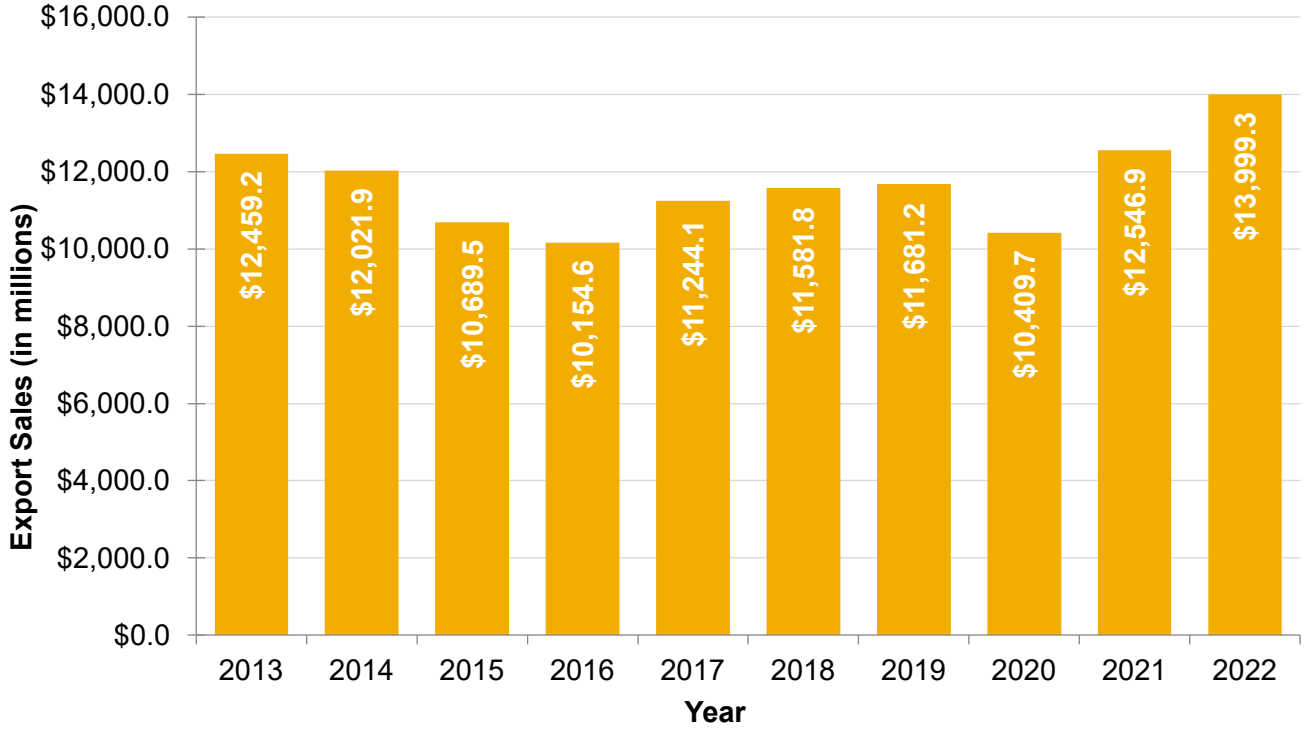
EXPORTS

Exports data show how competitive Kansas is in the global economy. When the global economy is in good shape, demand for products in which Kansas has a competitive advantage rises. The value of the U.S. dollar compared to other currencies also influences exports. If the U.S. dollar increases in value, then demand for exports may go down while the opposite is true when the value of the U.S. dollar decreases. The International Monetary Fund provides estimates for the real effective exchange rate, which indicates from 2021 to 2022 the value of the U.S. dollar increased from 115.62 to 126.57.

Total Exports

In 2022 Kansas export sales reached a new high of nearly $14.0 billion, as seen in Chart 22. This represents an 11.6% increase in export sales over the year, or $1.5 billion.

Chart 22
Export Sales
Kansas
2013 - 2022



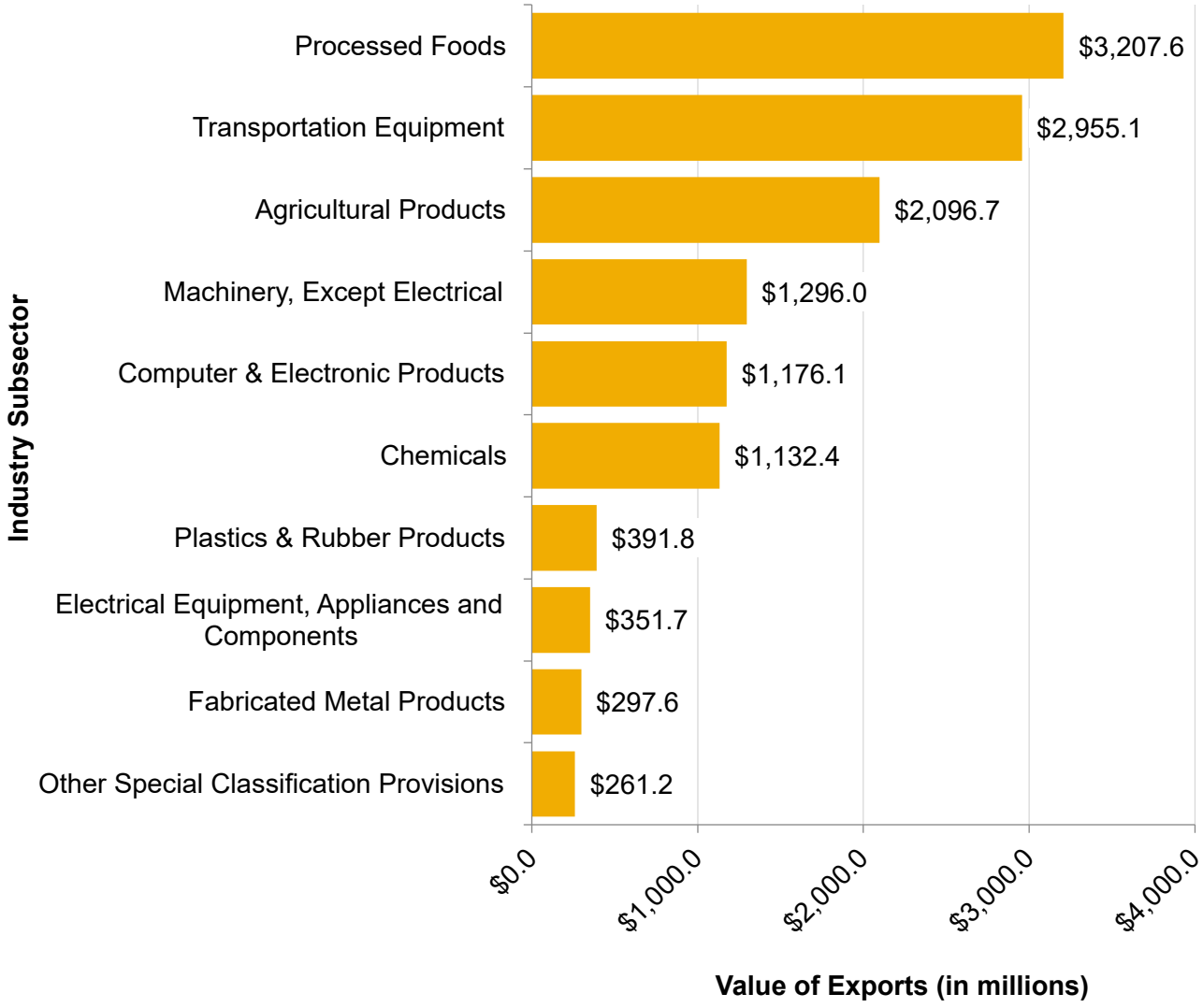
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration

Where to find it: International Trade Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce), Exports by Industry & Country https://www.trade.gov/state-trade-data

Exports by Industry

Chart 23 displays the top exporting industry subsectors in Kansas. The top exporting industry subsector in Kansas during 2022 was processed foods, totaling $3.2 billion. Animal slaughtering and processing accounted for $2.4 billion, or 75.2%, of processed foods exports in 2022. The transportation equipment industry subsector experienced the largest increase over the year, growing by $554.3 million, or 23.1%, to nearly $3.0 billion. Aerospace products and parts accounted for the majority of transportation equipment exports in 2022, recording $2.5 billion in sales. Agricultural products recorded nearly $2.1 billion in export sales; this was a slight decrease of $26.9 million, or 1.3%, from 2021. The following industry subsectors recorded export sales of at least $1.0 billion in 2022: machinery, except electrical; computer and electronic products; and chemicals.

Chart 23
Top Exporting Industry Subsectors
Kansas
2022

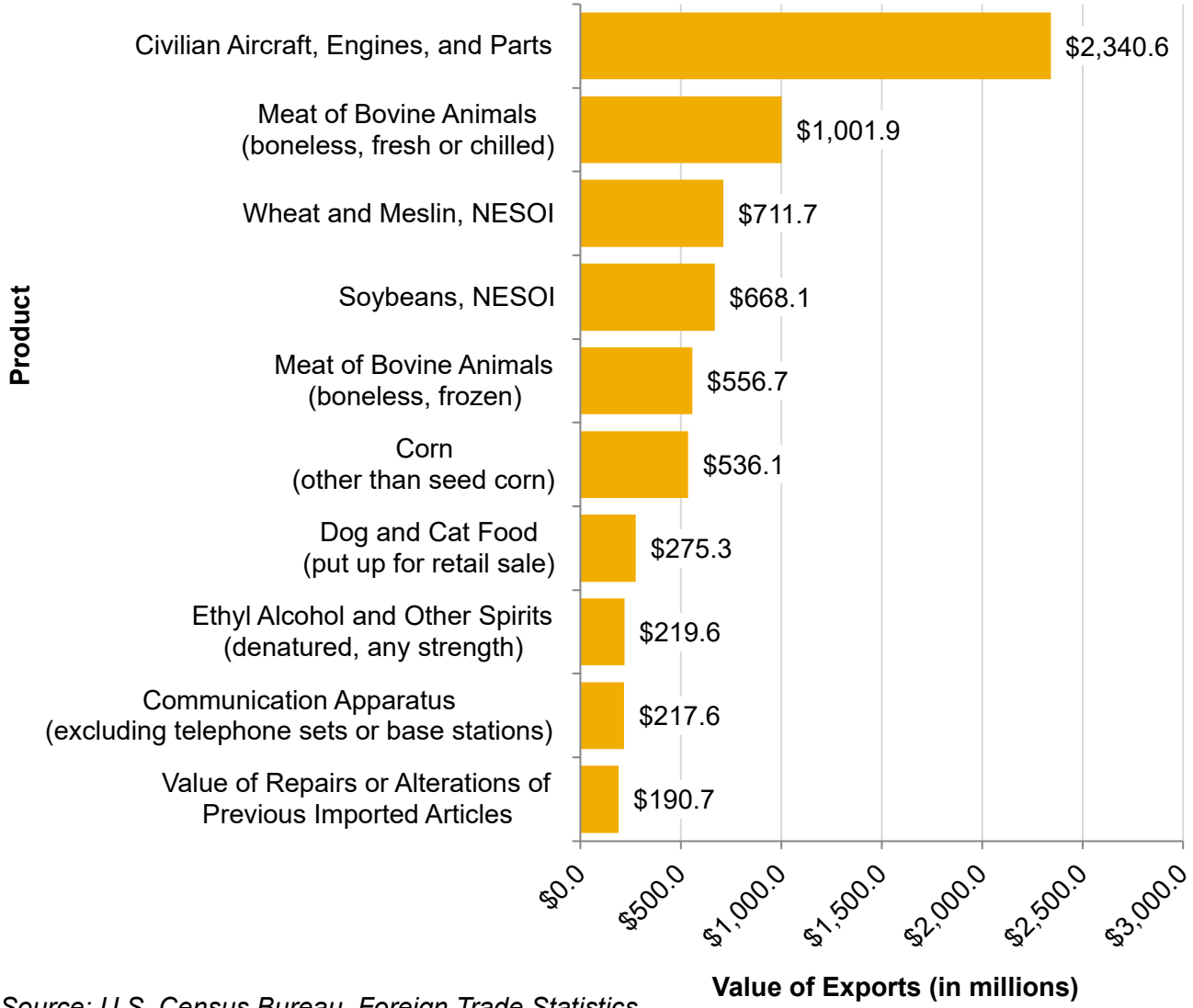


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration

Exports by Product

As displayed in Chart 24, civilian aircraft, engines, and parts were the top exported products from Kansas in 2022, accounting for 16.8% of all Kansas exports and recording export sales of $2.3 billion. This was an increase of 11.9%, or $248.9 million, over the year. Export sales of meat of bovine animals grew by $5.0 million, or 0.3%, to approximately $1.6 billion, with fresh or chilled boneless meat accounting for approximately $1.0 billion. Exports of wheat and meslin increased 42.2% over the year, totaling $711.7 million in export sales, while soybeans increased by 10.0%, recording $668.1 million in export sales.

Chart 24
Top Exported Products
Kansas
2022



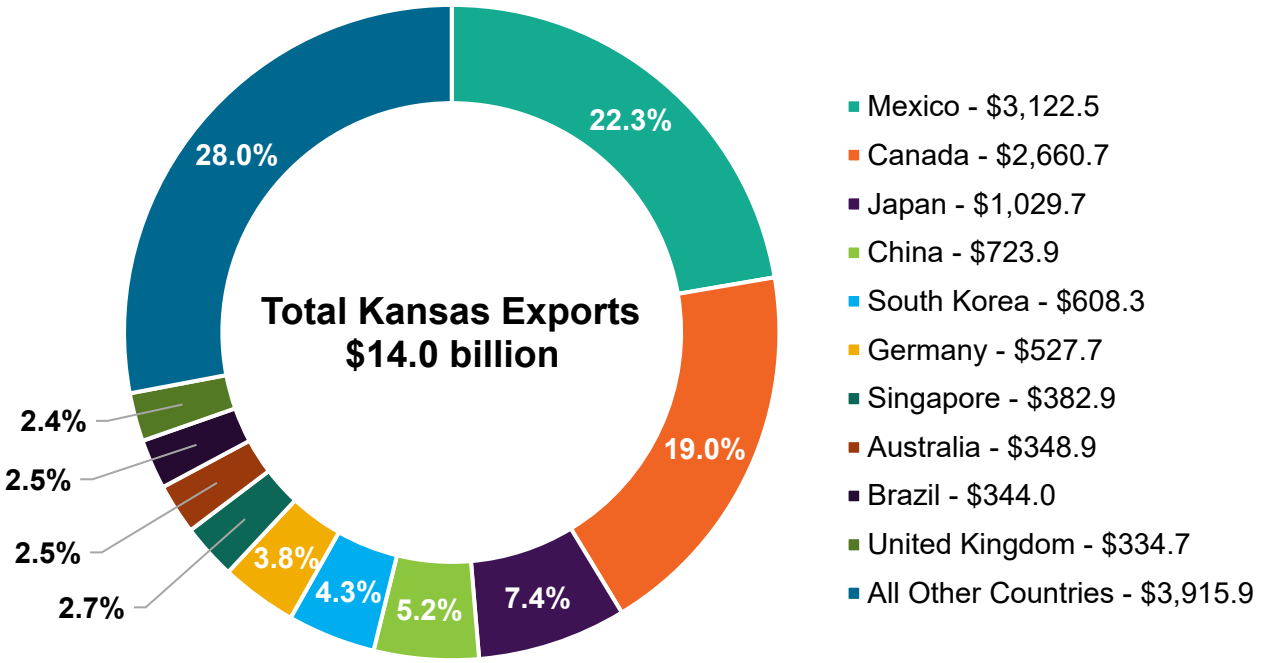
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics
NESOI - Not Elsewhere Specified or Included

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Exports by Product https://usatrade.census.gov/

Exports by Country

Chart 25 shows the amount of goods and services imported from Kansas by countries around the world. Mexico remained the state's largest trading partner in 2022, importing approximately $3.1 billion in goods and services. This reflects an increase of $363.2 million, or 13.2%, from 2021. Agricultural products accounted for 49.4% of export sales to Mexico in 2022, followed by processed foods which accounted for 19.8% of export sales. Canada imported the second largest amount of Kansas products in 2022, totaling nearly $2.7 billion. Export sales to Canada increased from 2021 by $608.1 million, or 29.6%. The industry subsectors with the highest export sales to Canada were transportation equipment manufacturing; machinery, except electrical; and processed foods. These three industry subsectors accounted for just over half of Kansas' export sales to Canada. Japan was the third largest importer of Kansas products in 2022, with $1.0 billion in export sales; however, this was a decrease of $41.8 million, or 3.9%, over the year. The majority of Japan's imports were processed foods, totaling $766.7 million, and making up 74.5% of Kansas export sales to Japan. In 2021 China imported more than $1.1 billion in Kansas products; however, in 2022 Kansas exports to China fell by 35.6% to just over $0.7 billion. The majority of China's imports were processed foods and agricultural products, which totaled $274.3 million and $175.8 million respectively in 2022.

Chart 25
Exports by Country
Kansas
2022

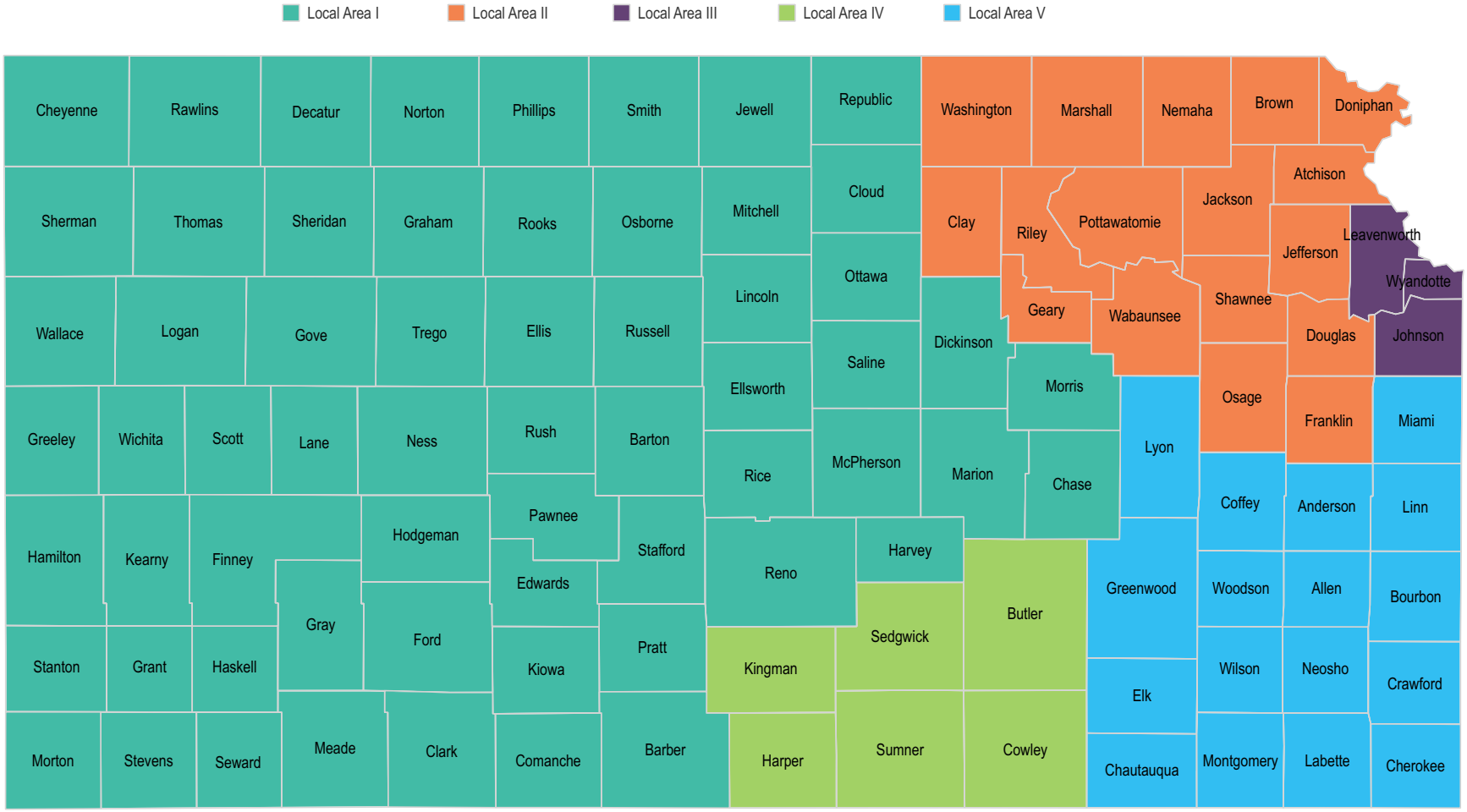


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration
Data in millions

Where to find it: International Trade Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce), Exports by Industry & Country https://www.trade.gov/state-trade-data

LOCAL AREA DATA NOTES

To administer workforce development programs more efficiently in the state of Kansas, the state is divided into five local workforce areas. The map below displays the five local areas. This report will detail the economic conditions of each of the local areas.



While statewide job estimates come from nonfarm job totals as provided by the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, job totals for the local areas come from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. The CES estimates are produced monthly based on a survey of employers. The QCEW program is a count of all jobs subject to state and federal unemployment insurance. The process for collecting QCEW data is more time consuming because it is a census of all covered employers in the state, but this data collection process also allows for publication at more detailed geographic levels including counties and local areas. The QCEW program is also used as a benchmark during the annual revision process for the CES program. Table 1 shows the labor force statistics for each local area and Table 2 displays the jobs statistics.

Table 1
Local Workforce Investment Area Labor Force Statistics
2022

Local Workforce Investment Area	Civilian Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate	
	Total CLF 2022	Change from 2021	% Change from 2021	Total Emp. 2022	Change from 2021	% Change from 2021	Total Unemp. 2022	Change from 2021	% Change from 2021	Rate 2022	Change from 2021
Local Area I: Western Kansas	293,245	-1,689	-0.6%	286,472	-1,025	-0.4%	6,773	-664	-8.9%	2.3%	-0.2
Local Area II: Northeast Kansas	294,569	2,408	0.8%	286,721	3,545	1.3%	7,848	-1,137	-12.7%	2.7%	-0.4
Local Area III: Kansas City Area	465,163	4,436	1.0%	453,318	7,045	1.6%	11,845	-2,609	-18.1%	2.5%	-0.6
Local Area IV: South Central Kansas	321,860	-103	0.0%	311,997	4,224	1.4%	9,863	-4,327	-30.5%	3.1%	-1.3
Local Area V: Southeast Kansas	130,106	-797	-0.6%	126,331	-160	-0.1%	3,775	-637	-14.4%	2.9%	-0.5

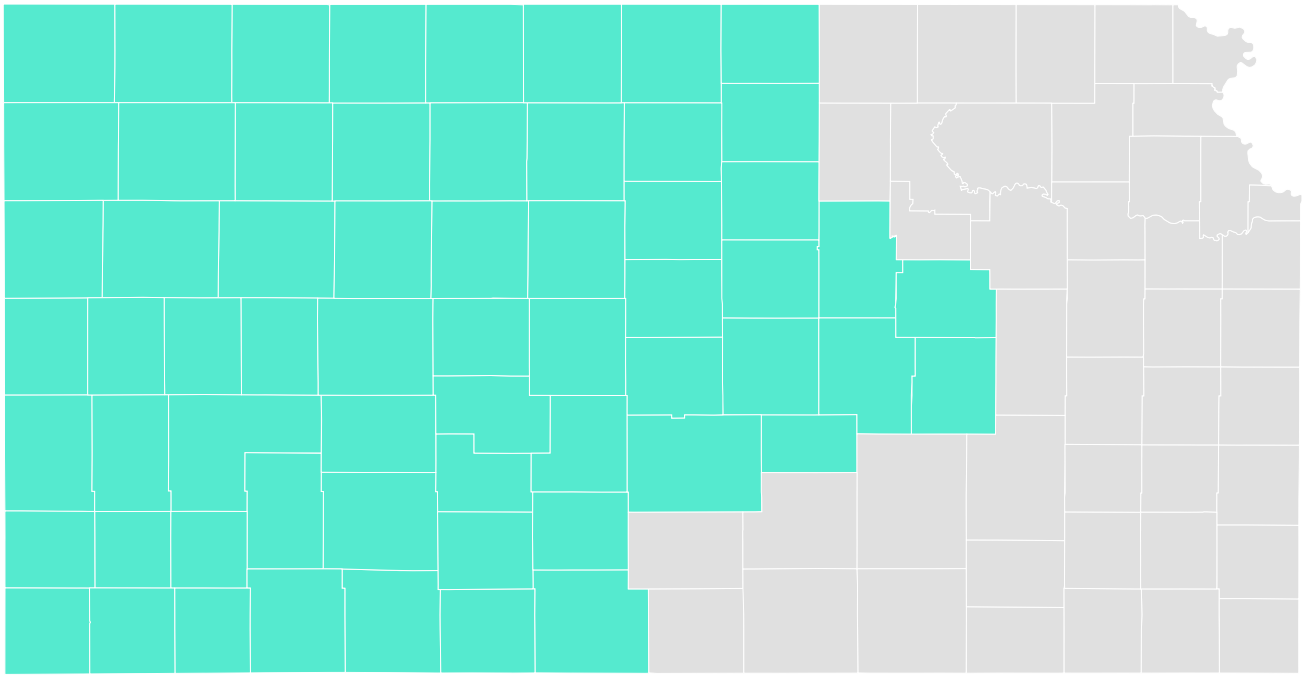
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Table 2
Local Workforce Investment Area Employment & Wage Statistics
2022

Local Workforce Investment Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage		
	All Industries	Private Sector	Government	All Industries	Private Sector	Government
Local Area I: Western Kansas	250,284	195,712	54,572	$896	$935	$758
Local Area II: Northeast Kansas	246,939	186,654	60,285	$954	$942	$993
Local Area III: Kansas City Area	470,728	416,959	53,769	$1,287	$1,308	$1,129
Local Area IV: South Central Kansas	298,121	255,094	43,027	$1,050	$1,063	$976
Local Area V: Southeast Kansas	101,493	75,739	25,755	$853	$885	$758

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

LOCAL AREA I



POPULATION
561,006

LABOR FORCE
293,245

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
2.3%

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE
$38,214

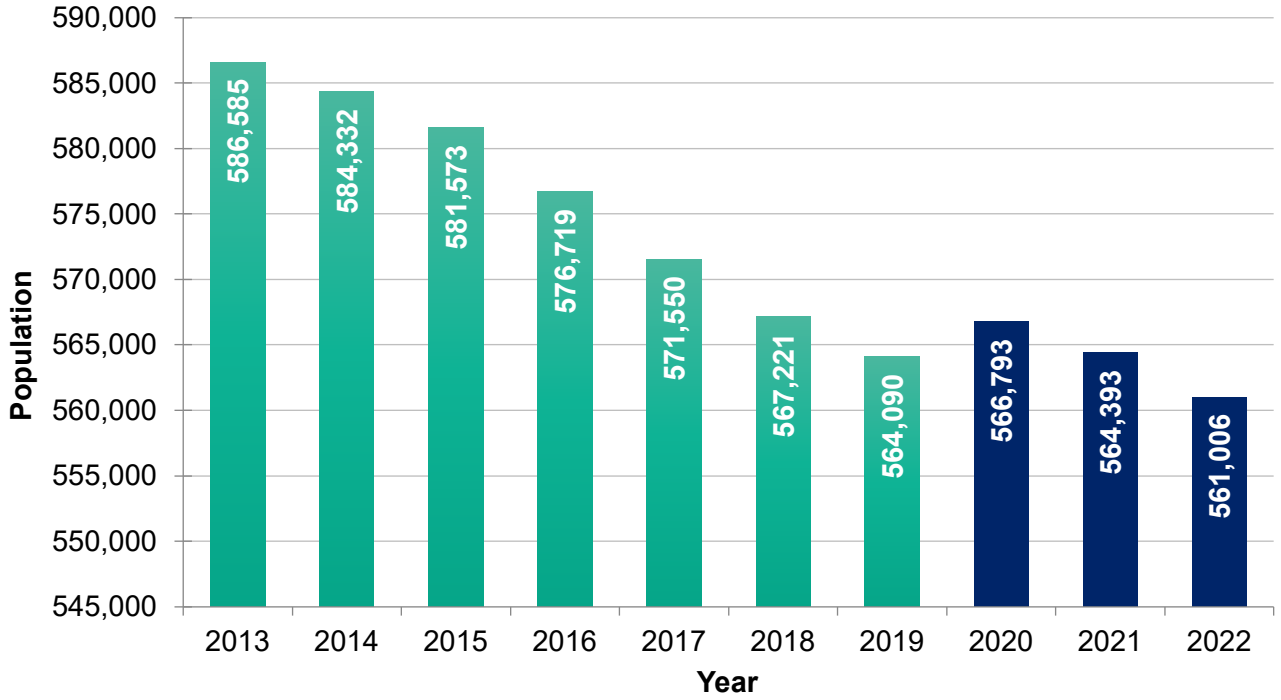
POPULATION

Population is an important statistic to review for economic purposes for two reasons, both of which benefit businesses. A growing population leads to a larger market for businesses and may lead to more jobs as demand for goods and services increase. A growing population also potentially increases the size and quality of the labor force which provides more labor supply for businesses to fill jobs.

Total Population

Local Area I consists of 62 counties in western and north central Kansas. The largest cities in this region are Salina, Hutchinson, Garden City, Dodge City, and Hays. Chart 1 displays the population of Local Area I from 2013 to 2022. The Local Area I population was estimated to be 561,006 in 2022. This represents a loss from 2021 of 3,387 people, or 0.6%. The Local Area I population has seen a declining trend throughout this period, losing 25,579 people since 2013, a decline of 4.4%.

Chart 1
Population Estimates
Local Area I
2013 - 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates
Due to the Census' delay in finalizing the 2010-2020 Intercensal Population Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

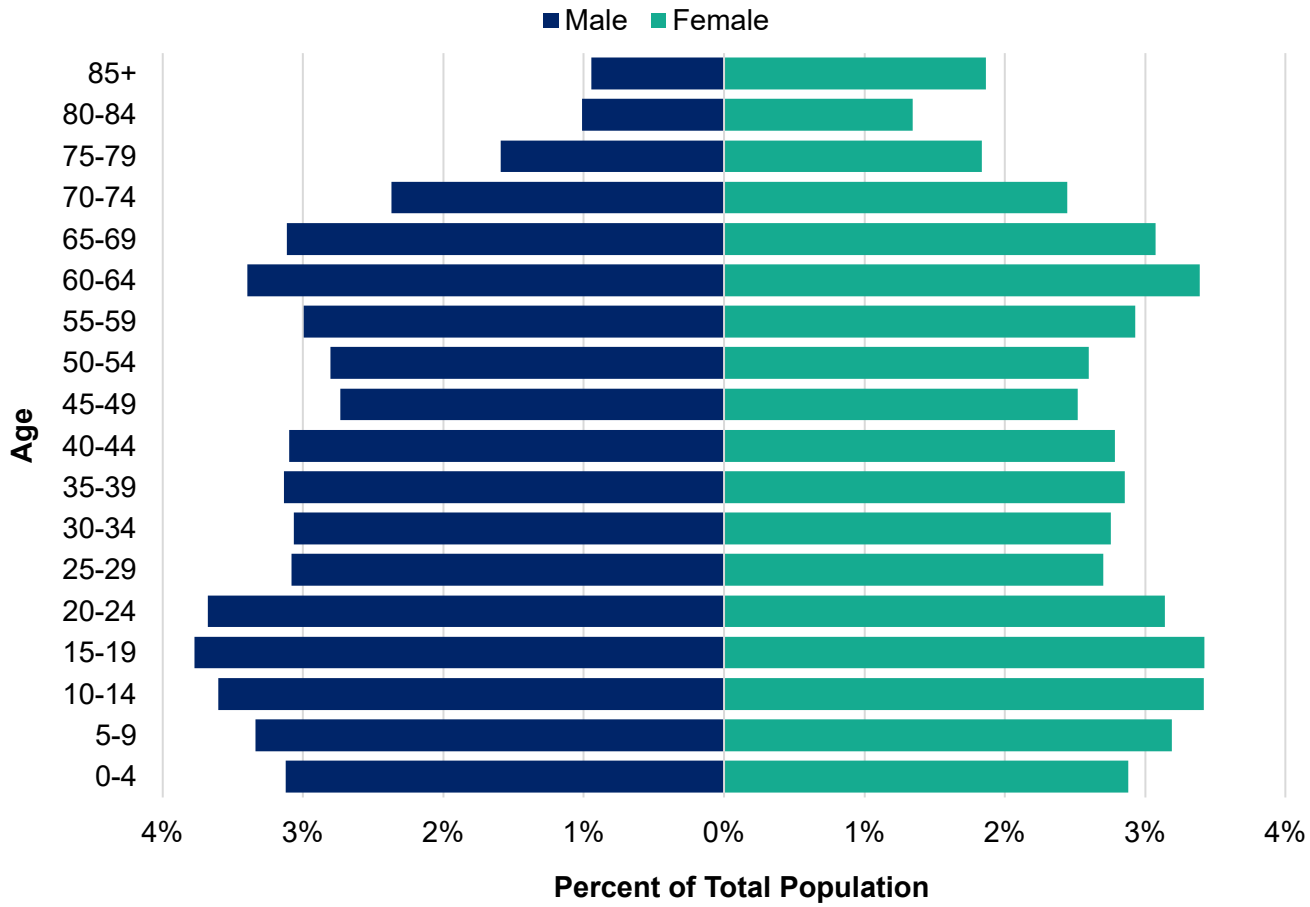
Population by Age

Chart 2 displays the Local Area I population by age group and gender in what is called a population pyramid. It is known as a pyramid because population by age group generally decreases with age, creating a pyramid shape. However, the pyramid for Local Area I shows that there are two major peaks in the population, one centering on the 15-19 year-old age group, representing members of Generation Z, and the other centering on the 60-64 year-old age group, representing younger members of the baby boomer generation. The 15-19 year-old age group has the largest population in Local Area I, making up 7.2% of the total population; this was followed by the 10-14 year-old age group, which accounted for 7.0% of the Local Area I population.

For economic purposes, the two main age groups studied are the 16 and over population and the 25-54 population. The 16 and over population includes everyone who is eligible to be in the labor force, while 25-54 year-olds are considered prime age workers. The 16 and over population in Local Area I decreased by 1,981 people, or 0.4%, to 443,143 in 2022. The 25-54 year-old population also declined in 2022, decreasing by 783 people, or 0.4%, to 191,501.

Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy as the population under 25 decreased by 1,575, or 0.8%. Declines were seen in all age groups under 20 years old. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, increased slightly by 38 people, or 0.1%, to 38,254 from 2021 to 2022.

Chart 2
Population by Age
Local Area I
2022

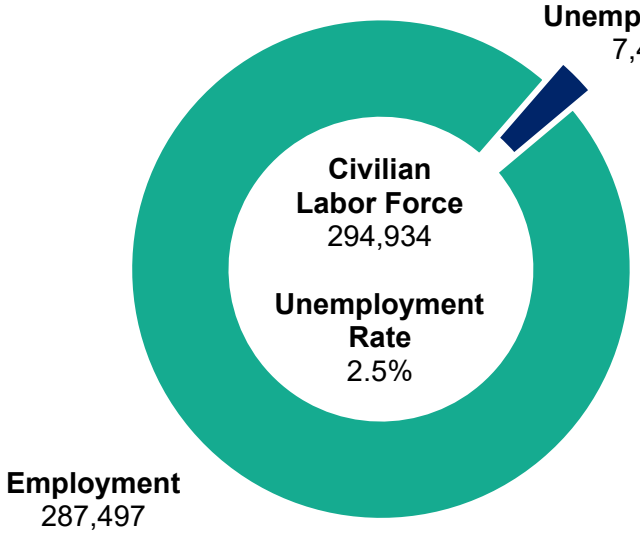


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

LABOR FORCE

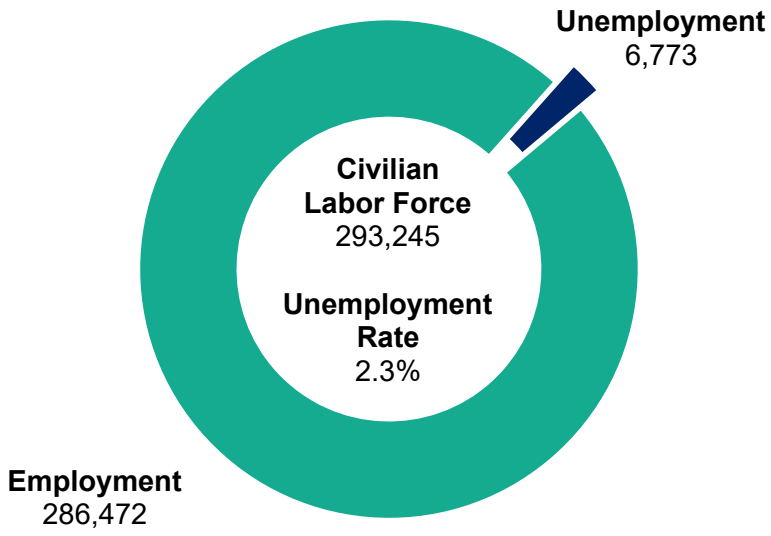
Charts 3 and 4 provide a snapshot of the labor force in Local Area I during 2021 and 2022. There were 293,245 people in the Local Area I labor force in 2022, a decrease of 0.6% from 2021. This is the lowest number of participants in the labor force that Local Area I has seen since records began in 1990. The number of people working decreased by 1,025, or 0.4%, to 286,472, while the number of unemployed people in Local Area I decreased by 664, or 8.9%, to 6,773 in 2022. This is the lowest number of unemployed people on record for Local Area I. Lastly, the unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percentage points to 2.3% in 2022.

Chart 3
Labor Force Statistics
Local Area I
2021



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Chart 4
Labor Force Statistics
Local Area I
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

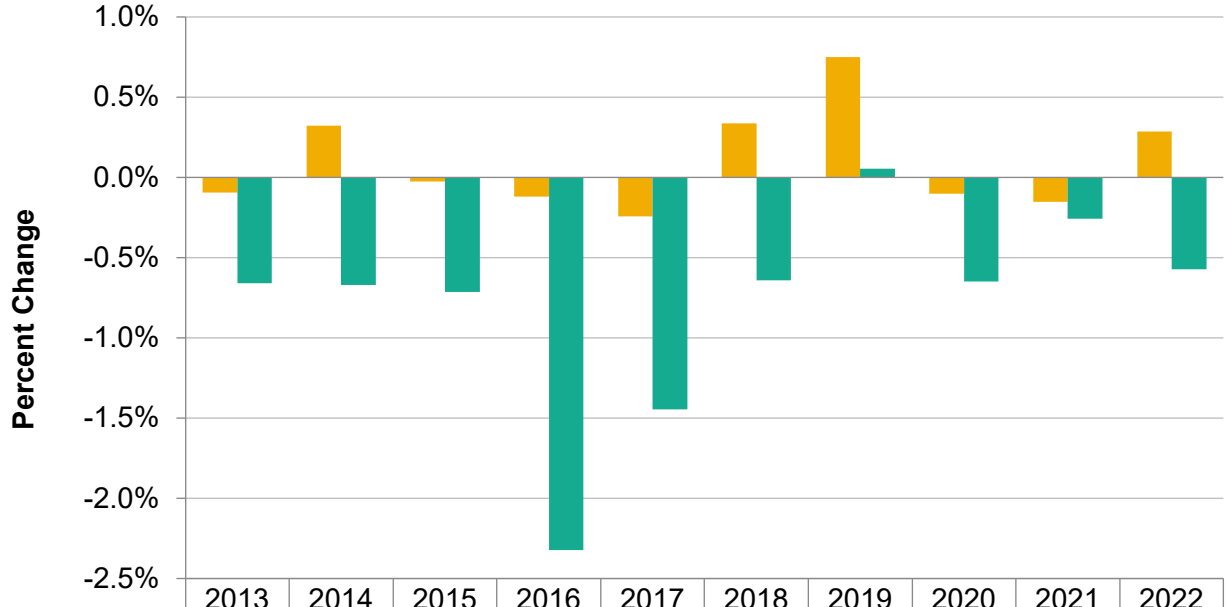
Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Labor Force and Unemployment Rate https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=418

The civilian labor force is a measure of the number of people 16 years and older that are available for work. This includes individuals who are employed as well as those who are unemployed but actively seeking work. A growing labor force is favorable as it increases the number of workers available for employers and shows there is increasing confidence of finding a job in a given area.

Civilian Labor Force

Chart 5 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Local Area I and Kansas. The Local Area I labor force has decreased nine out of the past 10 years, experiencing only a small 0.1% increase in 2019 during that time. The Local Area I labor force peaked in 2009 with 329,253 people. Since that time, the labor force has declined by 36,008 people, or 10.9%.

Chart 5
Percent Change in Labor Force
Kansas and Local Area I
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	-0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.7%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%
Local Area I	-0.7%	-0.7%	-0.7%	-2.3%	-1.4%	-0.6%	0.1%	-0.6%	-0.3%	-0.6%

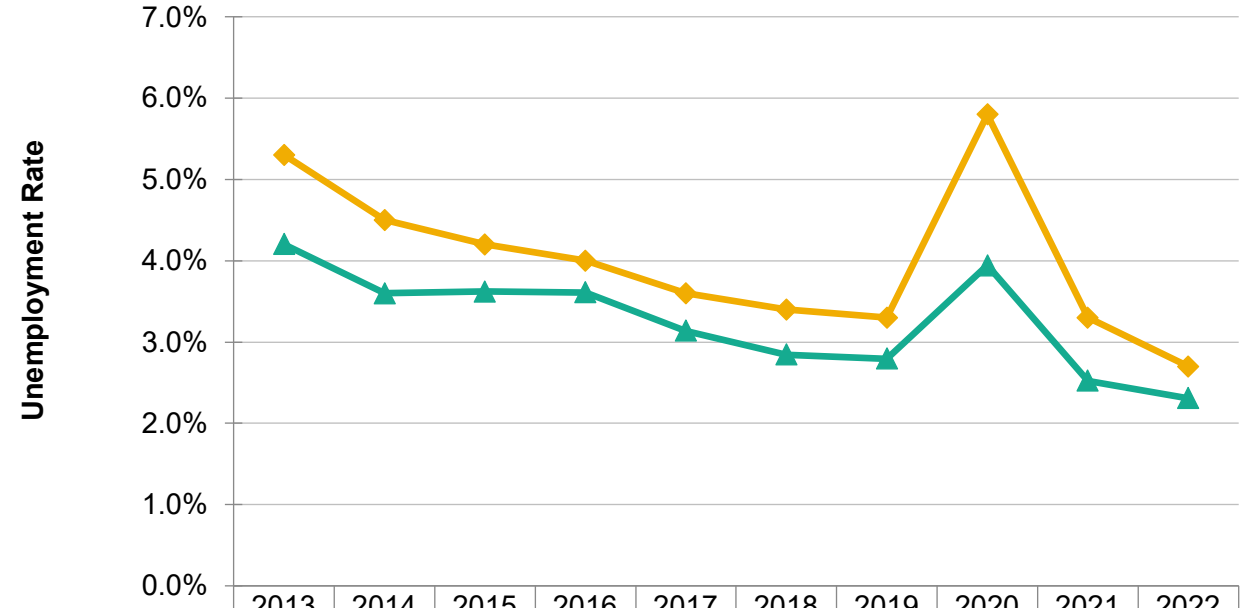
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate is a frequently cited economic statistic because it shows how many people want a job and cannot find one. The unemployment rate shows the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed and currently looking for a job. Typically, if the rate is high, there are many people who want a job but are having difficulty finding one due to a lack of demand for employees.

Unemployment Rate

As shown in Chart 6, the Local Area I unemployment rate dipped below pre-pandemic levels in 2021 and continued to decline to 2.3% in 2022. This rate is 0.4 percentage points lower than the statewide rate. The 2022 rate is 1.3 percentage points lower than the historical annual average of 3.6%; it is also the lowest unemployment rate on record for Local Area I, with records beginning in 1990.

Chart 6
Unemployment Rate
Kansas and Local Area I
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	5.3%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	3.6%	3.4%	3.3%	5.8%	3.3%	2.7%
Local Area I	4.2%	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%	3.1%	2.8%	2.8%	3.9%	2.5%	2.3%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

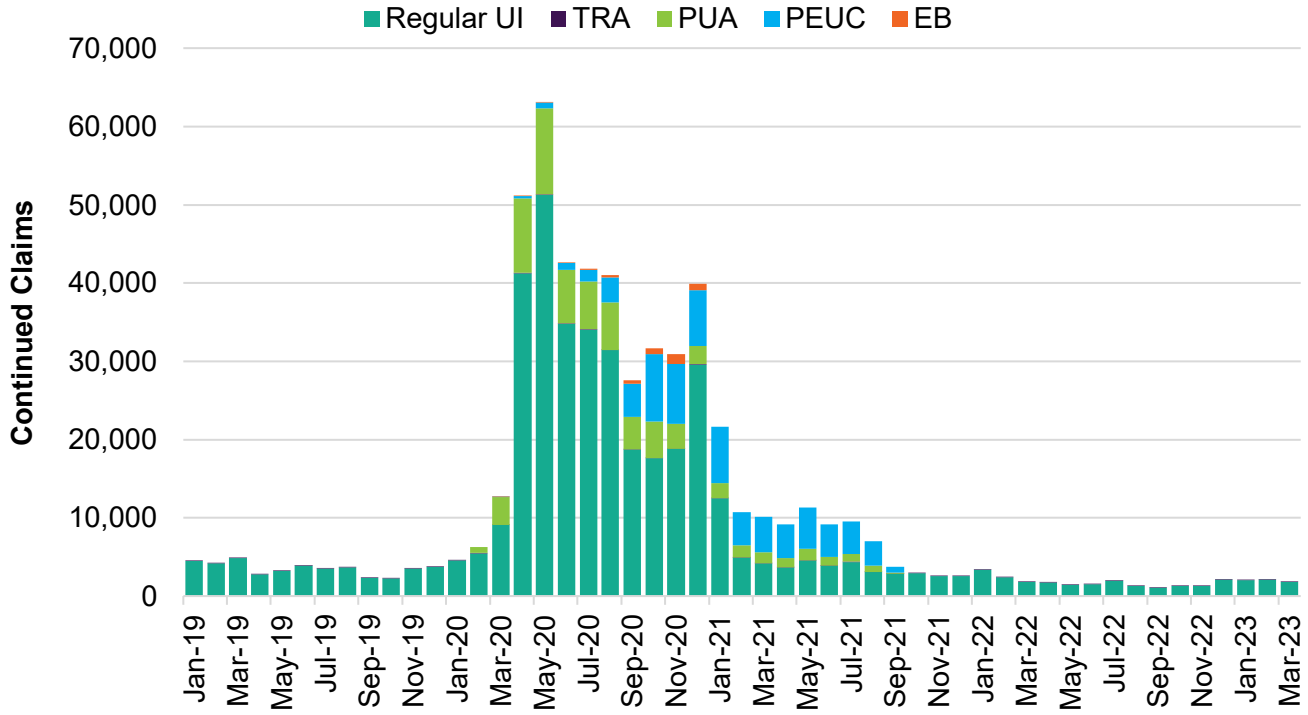
The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Kansans. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment; therefore, continued claims do not equal claims paid.

Monthly Continued Claim Totals

Chart 7 displays monthly continued claims totals by program for Local Area I. Note that PUA and PEUC were pandemic era programs only in operation during 2020 and 2021. The EB program is triggered on by extended periods of high unemployment and was also in operation during 2020.

The number of continued claims was relatively low prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with Local Area I averaging 3,591 continued claims per month in 2019. Continued claims spiked to an average of 32,773 per month in 2020, but declined in 2021 to a monthly average of 8,356. In 2022 the monthly average of continued claims dropped to 1,789. There was a small seasonal increase in December 2022 that continued into 2023; however, continued claims totals for the first quarter of 2023 remain much lower than the pre-pandemic levels experienced in 2019.

Chart 7
Continued Claims Totals
Jan 2019 - Mar 2023
Local Area I



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Continued Claims by Industry

Table 1 displays the total number of continued claims by industry sector in Local Area I for years 2019 through 2022. Note that PUA claims are excluded from these totals. In 2022 claims by industry sector returned to typical patterns with manufacturing, construction, and health care and social assistance recording the highest number of continued claims for the year. Manufacturing recorded 4,290 continued claims in 2022; this was a decrease of 77.2% from 2021, and a decrease of 93.7% when compared to 2020 continued claims totals. Meanwhile, construction recorded 3,447 continued claims in 2022; this was a decrease of 4,469, or 56.5%, from 2021. Health care and social assistance recorded the third highest total with 2,531 continued claims filed in 2022, decreasing by 8,268, or 76.6%, over the year.

In Local Area I accommodation and food services; educational services; and arts, entertainment, and recreation were some of the hardest hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic. These industries experienced the largest percent increase in claims from 2019 to 2020. Impacts of the pandemic were temporary, as these industries saw sharp declines in 2021, which continued into 2022 with claims totals dropping below pre-pandemic levels.

Table 1
Continued Claims Filed by Year and Industry Sector
Local Area I

Industry Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022
Manufacturing	10,001	68,057	18,787	4,290
Construction	6,099	18,046	7,916	3,447
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,278	42,128	10,799	2,531
Accommodation and Food Services	3,374	52,215	9,278	2,031
Retail Trade	3,894	33,458	9,125	1,465
Administrative and Waste Services	3,082	17,989	5,941	1,345
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,093	10,016	3,607	865
Wholesale Trade	2,193	11,534	3,190	776
Public Administration	1,396	10,663	2,761	733
Utilities	116	1,140	870	724
Transportation and Warehousing	1,255	9,174	2,911	657
Educational Services	1,045	16,145	2,767	499
Finance and Insurance	717	4,609	1,748	392
Other Services	714	10,707	2,302	381
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	748	3,144	1,059	349
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,813	12,700	2,482	319
Information	361	2,661	608	259
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	405	3,826	1,212	189
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	352	5,312	842	158
Management of Companies	83	204	105	16

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics
Note: PUA data are excluded from these totals

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Industry data provide a detailed understanding of the composition of the local economy. This data highlights which industries account for the largest share of employment in the region as well as the industries with the highest wages. Understanding the industry composition of the local economy can provide insight into overall employment trends and can help guide decisions related to investment, resource allocation, and policy formulation.

Location quotients describe the concentration of an industry in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an industry is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that industry than the U.S.

Employment

In 2022 Local Area I recorded a monthly average of 250,284 total jobs; of these, 195,712, or 78.2%, were private sector jobs. The private industry sector that recorded the most jobs for Local Area I was manufacturing, which accounted for 40,223 jobs. This was followed by health care and social assistance with 30,463 jobs, and retail trade with 26,902 jobs. Government accounted for 54,572, or 21.8% of jobs in Local Area I, with the majority of these jobs being recorded at the local level. There were 46,564 local government jobs in 2022, more than any private industry sector in Local Area I.

Wages

The average weekly wage for all industries in Local Area I was $896 in 2022; this was $184 lower than the statewide average of $1,080. The private sector recorded an average weekly wage of $935, while government recorded an average of $758. Utilities recorded the highest average weekly wage at $1,892, followed by management of companies and enterprises with an average weekly wage of $1,558. Nine additional private industry sectors in Local Area I recorded an average weekly wage higher than the private sector average: finance and insurance; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; manufacturing; wholesale trade; transportation and warehousing; information; professional, scientific, and technical services; construction; and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.

Location Quotients

Local Area I private industry sectors with the highest employment concentrations relative to the U.S. include: agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; and utilities. Each of these industry sectors recorded a location quotient of at least 2.29. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting recorded the highest location quotient in Local Area I, with an employment concentration 4.63 times higher than that of the U.S. Local Area I also had a high concentration of local government employment, with an employment concentration 2.01 times higher than the employment concentration for the U.S. The private industry sectors with the lowest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in Local Area I were professional, scientific, and technical services; real estate and rental and leasing; and private educational services; each recorded a location quotient of 0.41 or less.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program https://www.bls.gov/cew/

Table 2 Industry Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients (LQ) Local Area I 2022			
Industry Sector	**Employment**	**Average Weekly Wage**	**Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.**
Total, All Industries	**250,284**	**$896**	**1.00**
Total Private	**195,712**	**$935**	**0.91**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	9,719	$970	4.63
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	3,796	$1,261	4.09
Utilities	2,115	$1,892	2.29
Construction	9,713	$1,054	0.75
Manufacturing	40,223	$1,223	1.89
Wholesale Trade	10,789	$1,212	1.08
Retail Trade	26,902	$579	1.04
Transportation and Warehousing	7,154	$1,121	0.67
Information	2,457	$1,078	0.48
Finance and Insurance	7,238	$1,281	0.69
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,372	$769	0.35
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	6,097	$1,058	0.35
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2,284	$1,558	0.55
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	7,381	$780	0.46
Educational Services	2,034	$615	0.41
Health Care and Social Assistance	30,463	$922	0.90
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,141	$397	0.56
Accommodation and Food Services	18,796	$330	0.84
Other Services (except Public Administration)	5,037	$700	0.69
Total Government	**54,572**	**$758**	**1.54**
Local	46,564	$709	2.01
State	5,725	$1,000	0.76
Federal	2,284	$1,148	0.48
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)			

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Every summer KDOL's Labor Market Information Services division releases the results from the Kansas Wage Survey conducted by the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Data from the OEWS program is current as of May 2022 and contains employment and wage data for hundreds of occupations in Kansas. Data is also available for Kansas' metropolitan areas, local workforce areas, and counties. This is one of KDOL's most used data sets. Employers use this data as a guide to set their wages and salaries, while workers use this data to learn the typical wages for their occupations and to explore the earnings potential of other occupations.

Wages

As shown in Table 3, the median wage in Local Area I as of May 2022 was $38,214. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of $82,729. The five highest paying occupations in this group include natural sciences managers, architectural and engineering managers, sales managers, financial managers, and purchasing managers. Each of these occupations recorded a median wage over $111,000. Natural sciences managers was the highest paid management occupation with a median annual wage of $131,503.

The architecture and engineering occupational group had the second highest median annual wage of $69,019. The top paying occupations in this group include environmental engineers, petroleum engineers, electrical engineers, industrial engineers, and civil engineers. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $79,000. Environmental engineers was the highest paid architecture and engineering occupation with a median annual wage of $115,031.

Table 3
Wages, Employment, and Location Quotients (LQ) by Major Occupational Group
Local Area I
May 2022

Occupational Group	Median Annual Wage	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Total, All Occupations	**$38,214**	**243,030**	**1.00**
Management Occupations	$82,729	11,350	0.70
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	$59,639	9,410	0.59
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	$64,229	2,870	0.35
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	$69,019	2,420	0.59
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	$54,090	2,050	0.95
Community and Social Service Occupations	$40,175	3,400	0.89
Legal Occupations	$61,506	890	0.45
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	$46,184	18,630	1.33
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	$36,403	2,790	0.82
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	$61,061	15,270	1.03
Healthcare Support Occupations	$29,102	11,480	1.03
Protective Service Occupations	$39,853	5,380	0.95
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	$25,136	20,050	0.97
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	$28,725	8,580	1.21
Personal Care and Service Occupations	$23,919	3,960	0.85
Sales and Related Occupations	$28,655	21,680	1.00
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	$35,563	29,580	0.96
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	$35,142	1,550	2.04
Construction and Extraction Occupations	$44,874	11,140	1.12
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	$45,924	12,640	1.32
Production Occupations	$39,904	25,580	1.78
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	$37,698	22,310	1.00

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

The occupational group with the third highest median annual wage was the computer and mathematical occupational group, with a median annual wage of $64,229. The top paying occupations in this group include software developers; computer occupations, all other; information security analysts; computer programmers; and database administrators. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $70,000. Software developers was the highest paid computer and mathematical occupation with a median annual wage of $93,412.

The occupational groups with the lowest median annual wage were personal care and service occupations and food preparation and serving related occupations. Each of these occupational groups recorded a median annual wage below $26,000.

Table 4 shows the top 10 detailed occupations by employment. While these are the most common occupations in Local Area I, only three have a median wage above the Local Area I median wage of $38,214: registered nurses, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, and general and operations managers.

Employment

Table 4 indicates that total employment for all occupations in Local Area I was 243,030 as of May 2022. The office and administrative support occupational group recorded the largest employment, 29,580, or 12.2% of total employment in Local Area I. This group includes the second most common occupation in Local Area I, secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive, which recorded employment of 5,940.

The production occupational group had the second largest employment of 25,580, or 10.5% of total employment. The occupation with the largest employment in this group was meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers, which recorded employment of 4,200.

The transportation and material moving occupational group had the third largest employment of 22,310, or 9.2% of total employment. The seventh most common occupation in Local Area I, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, belongs to this occupational group, recording employment of 4,950.

The most common occupation in Local Area I was cashiers, which recorded employment of 7,650, or 3.1% of total employment in Local Area I.

Table 4
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment
Local Area I
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Median Annual Wage
Total, All Occupations	**243,030**	**$38,214**
Cashiers	7,650	↓ $23,173
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	5,940	↓ $34,360
Fast Food and Counter Workers	5,760	↓ $22,684
Registered Nurses	5,590	↑ $62,988
Retail Salespersons	5,320	↓ $27,912
Nursing Assistants	5,160	↓ $29,929
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,950	↑ $44,161
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	4,610	↓ $26,443
General and Operations Managers	4,270	↑ $75,875
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	4,240	↓ $29,212

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)
Arrows indicate whether an occupational wage is above or below the median wage for all occupations

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics
https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=841

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.

Location Quotients

In Local Area I the occupational group with the highest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in 2022 was farming, fishing, and forestry occupations with a location quotient of 2.04. Two occupations from this group ranked in the top 10 occupations by location quotient: farmworkers, farm, ranch, and aquacultural animals with a location quotient of 8.85, and agricultural equipment operators with a location quotient of 8.23.

Production occupations recorded the second highest location quotient of 1.78. This occupational group includes the most concentrated occupation in Local Area I relative to the U.S.: meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers with a location quotient of 19.15. Cooling and freezing equipment operators and tenders, another production occupation, also ranked in the top 10 occupations by location quotient, with an employment concentration 8.53 times that of the U.S.

Educational instruction and library occupations recorded the third highest location quotient of 1.33; however, no detailed occupations from this group made it into the top 10 by location quotient.

Table 5
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment Location Quotient (LQ)
Local Area I
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	4,200	19.15
Derrick Operators, Oil and Gas	290	16.12
Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	900	15.52
Conveyor Operators and Tenders	660	14.46
Wind Turbine Service Technicians	230	14.24
Wellhead Pumpers	230	9.62
Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals	480	8.85
Cooling and Freezing Equipment Operators and Tenders	90	8.53
Agricultural Equipment Operators	390	8.23
Recreational Therapists	210	8.03
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)		

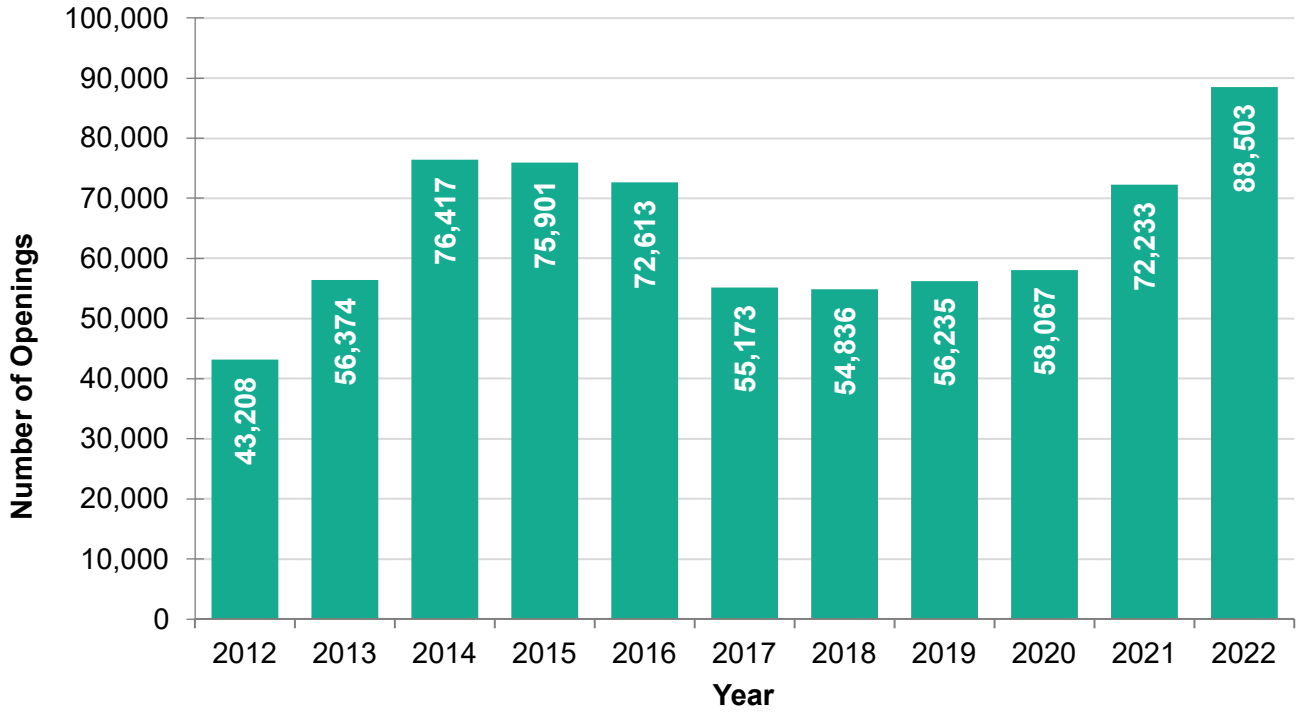
ADVERTISED JOBS

Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Advertised jobs data are sourced from Geographic Solutions, Inc. The information is collected from employer corporate sites, hospitals, non-profits, local and federal government agencies, schools and universities, recruiter sites, newspapers, volunteer sites, and other public, private, and state job boards. It is important to note that roughly 30% of advertised jobs do not have enough information to classify them with an industry or occupational code. These data are included in total advertised jobs, but excluded from industry and occupational totals.

Annual Job Openings

Chart 8 shows that Local Area I experienced a steep increase in job openings from 2012 through 2014, followed by a declining trend from 2014 through 2018. This decline was followed by small increases of 1,399 job openings in 2019 and 1,832 job openings in 2020. However, Local Area I job openings increased sharply by 30,436, or 52.4%, from 2020 through 2022. Local Area I recorded 88,503 job openings in 2022; this is the highest number of job openings reported for the region, with records beginning in 2008.

Chart 8
Advertised Job Openings
Local Area I
2012 - 2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

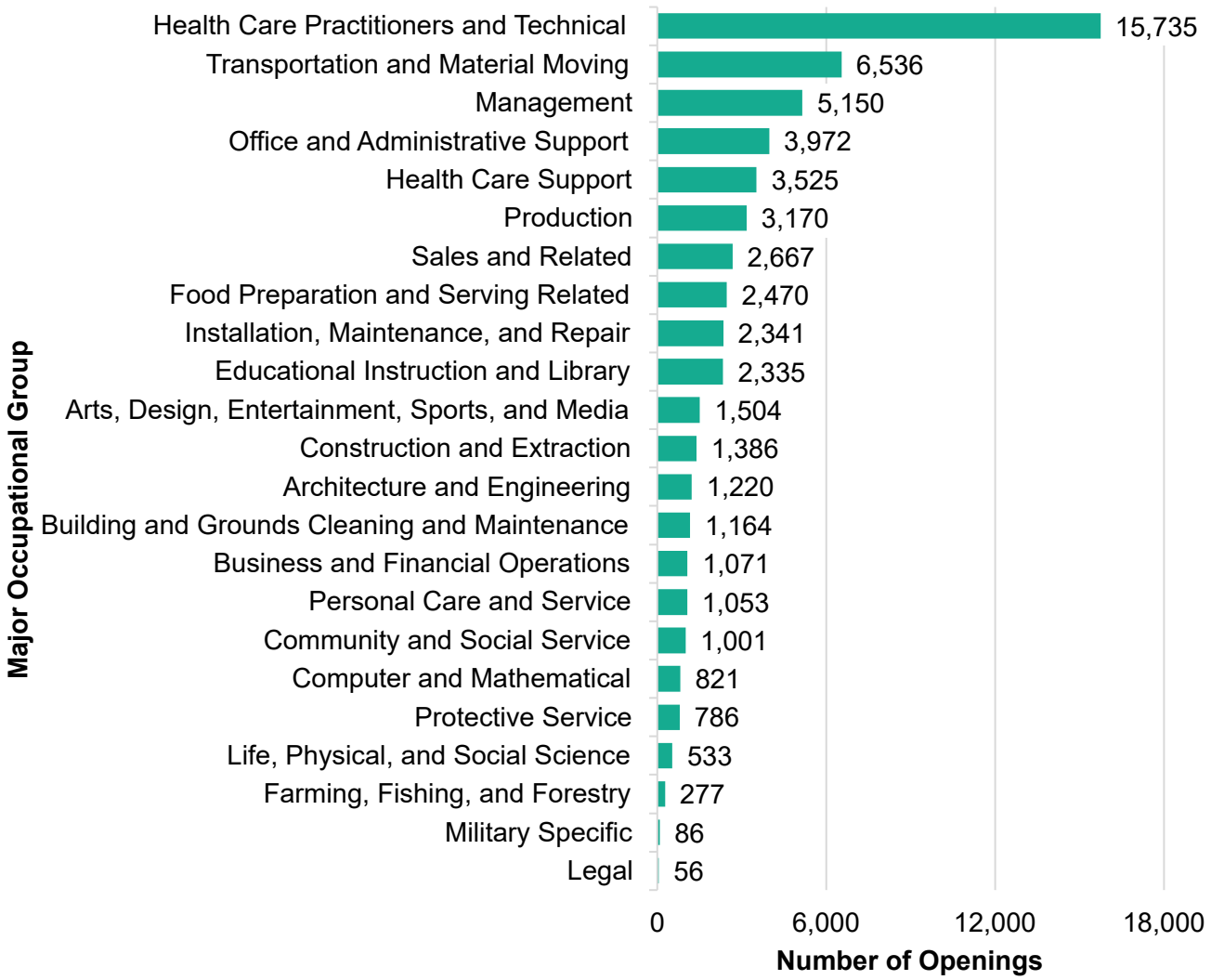
Check out our dashboard here: https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/GSIPub/documentview.aspx?docid=885

Job Openings by Occupation

As shown in Chart 9, the health care practitioners and technical occupational group had the most job openings by far in Local Area I, with 15,735 job openings advertised in 2022. The transportation and material moving occupational group recorded 6,536 job openings, while the management occupational group recorded 5,150. Three additional occupational groups had over 3,000 job openings in 2022: office and administrative support, health care support, and production. Four more occupational groups had over 2,000 job openings in 2022: sales and related; food preparation and serving related; installation, maintenance, and repair; and educational instruction and library.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation in Local Area I, with 7,589 job openings. This was followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers with 2,372 job openings, and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses with 1,681 job openings. Two additional occupations recorded over 1,000 openings in 2022; nursing assistants with 1,530 job openings, and customer service representatives with 1,050.

Chart 9
Advertised Job Openings by Major Occupational Group
Local Area I
2022

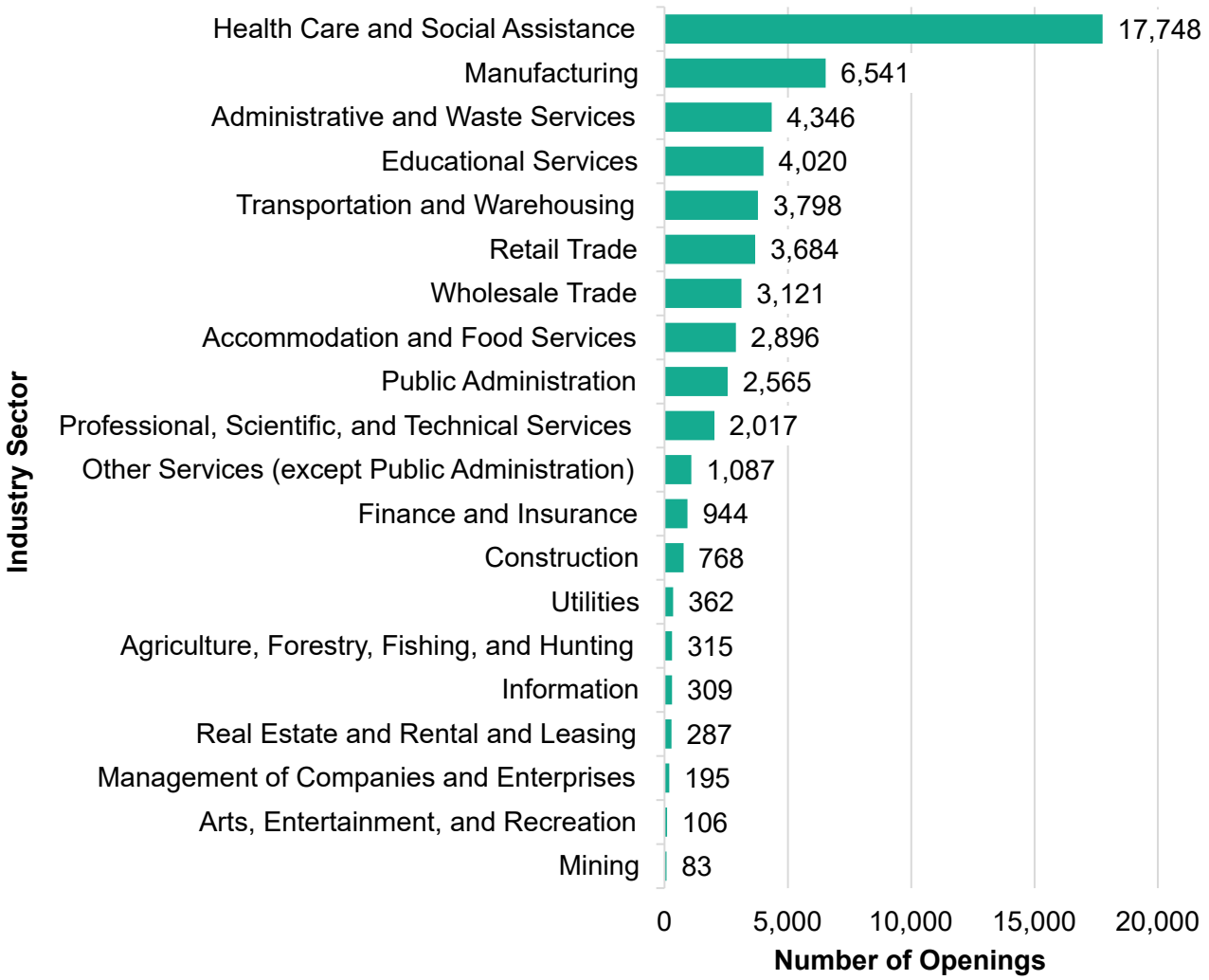


Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

Job Openings by Industry

Chart 10 displays advertised job openings by industry sector for Local Area I. The health care and social assistance sector recorded the most job openings by far in 2022, with 17,748 job openings. Hospitals accounted for 8,404 job openings in the health care and social assistance sector, while ambulatory health care services accounted for 3,693, and nursing and residential care facilities accounted for 3,584. The manufacturing sector recorded 6,541 job openings. Chemical manufacturing accounted for 2,077 job openings in the manufacturing sector, while food manufacturing accounted for 1,432, and machinery manufacturing accounted for 1,266. Administrative and waste services recorded the third highest number of job openings in 2022, with 4,346; the vast majority of these were in the administrative and support services subsector. Educational services recorded 4,020 job openings, while the transportation and warehousing, retail trade, and wholesale trade sectors each recorded over 3,000 openings in 2022.

Chart 10
Advertised Job Openings by Industry Sector
Local Area I
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS

Every two years each of the 50 states complete long-term projections in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). The base year used in these projections is 2020 and the projection year is 2030. Statewide projections are released in even numbered years, while regional projections are released during odd numbered years. Long-term projections play an important role for students and others making career choices. Information about future trends in job growth and demand for labor is vital to making these life decisions. For the long-term projections program, it is assumed that the Kansas labor market will be in full employment in the projected year. This means the labor market will be in equilibrium and labor supply will meet labor demand, so the projections are forecasting structural changes in the economy rather than predicting changes in the business cycle.

Industry Projections

Local Area I total jobs across all industries are expected to grow by 11,685 to 266,977 jobs in 2030, an increase of 4.6% over the 10-year period. This averages out to 1,169 jobs per year, or 0.4% average annual growth.

Table 6 shows long-term projections for the top 10 industry sectors by numerical change from the base year 2020 to the projected year 2030. The goods producing sector, which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining; construction; and manufacturing, is projected to increase by 253 jobs per year, an average annual growth rate of 0.4%. The remaining industry sectors fall under the service providing sector, which is projected to have a positive average annual growth rate of 0.5%, adding 931 jobs annually.

Table 6
Top 10 Industry Sectors by Numerical Job Change
North Central, Northwest, and Southwest Projection Regions Combined
2020 - 2030

Industry Sector	Job Numbers		Job Changes		
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Annual Avg. Growth %
Total, All Industries	**255,292**	**266,977**	**11,685**	**4.6%**	**0.4%**
Accommodation and Food Services	16,243	18,391	2,148	13.2%	1.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	34,686	36,703	2,017	5.8%	0.6%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	6,914	8,525	1,611	23.3%	2.1%
Educational Services	26,484	27,807	1,323	5.0%	0.5%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	9,744	11,003	1,259	12.9%	1.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	7,278	8,307	1,029	14.1%	1.3%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	5,852	6,781	929	15.9%	1.5%
Manufacturing	34,705	35,588	883	2.5%	0.3%
Other Services (except Government)	8,233	8,695	462	5.6%	0.5%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,855	2,172	317	17.1%	1.6%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: These three regions combined differ from Local Area I since they exclude Chase and Harvey counties.

The accommodation and food services industry sector is projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the 10-year period, adding an additional 2,148 jobs. This industry sector consists of two underlying subsectors: accommodation, including hotels and motels and food services and drinking places. Food services and drinking places is the larger of these subsectors and is expected to gain 189 jobs annually, a growth rate of 1.3%. Accommodation, including hotels and motels is expected to grow at a rate of 1.2% and gain 26 jobs annually. Of the industry sectors, administrative and support and waste management and remediation services is projected to grow at the fastest rate, 2.1% annually.

Occupational Projections

Table 7 shows the top 10 major occupational groups projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the projection period. The food preparation and serving related occupational group is projected to gain 2,312 jobs during the 10-year period with an average annual growth rate of 1.2%, the fastest of any occupational group in Local Area I. The food preparation and serving related occupational group is made up of 17 detailed occupations; of these, fast food and counter workers is expected to add the most jobs by 2030, gaining 863 jobs over the 10-year period. This is followed by waiters and waitresses which is expected to grow by 251 jobs.

Table 7
Top 10 Occupational Groups by Numerical Job Change
North Central, Northwest, and Southwest Projection Regions Combined
2020 - 2030

Occupational Group	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**255,292**	**266,977**	**11,685**	**4.6%**	**0.4%**	**304,060**
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	18,679	20,991	2,312	12.4%	1.2%	37,671
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	23,415	24,766	1,351	5.8%	0.6%	30,666
Management Occupations	16,520	17,761	1,241	7.5%	0.7%	15,684
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	10,129	11,162	1,033	10.2%	1.0%	14,853
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	17,968	18,978	1,010	5.6%	0.5%	17,052
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	14,004	14,996	992	7.1%	0.7%	9,260
Health Care Support Occupations	11,870	12,767	897	7.6%	0.7%	15,735
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	10,503	11,266	763	7.3%	0.7%	10,000
Construction and Extraction Occupations	11,148	11,699	551	4.9%	0.5%	11,984
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	13,050	13,515	465	3.6%	0.4%	12,928

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: These three regions combined differ from Local Area I since they exclude Chase and Harvey counties.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Employment Outlook https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468

Projections by Educational Requirement

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) assigns the level of education typically needed to enter each detailed occupation. Each occupation falls under one of eight education levels. As shown in Table 8, the largest increase in jobs is projected to be in those occupations typically requiring no formal educational credential; these occupations are expected to grow by 4,378 jobs over the projection period. The educational categories projected to grow the fastest are master's degree and doctoral or professional degree; these are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 0.9% and 0.8% respectively.

Occupational classification by years of work experience typically needed to enter the occupation is also available. This can be more than five years, less than five years, or none. A third classification is available that organizes occupations by typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency. This can be long-term on-the-job training (more than one year), moderate-term on-the-job training (one month to one year), short-term on-the-job training (less than one month), internship/residency, or none. This information is available on the KDOL, LMIS website, www.klic.dol.ks.gov.

Table 8
Projections by Educational Requirement
North Central, Northwest, and Southwest Projection Regions Combined
2020 - 2030

Education	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**255,292**	**266,977**	**11,685**	**4.6%**	**0.4%**	**304,060**
No formal educational credential	69,021	73,399	4,378	6.3%	0.6%	110,930
Bachelor's degree	42,977	45,703	2,726	6.3%	0.6%	37,685
High school diploma or equivalent	101,164	103,687	2,523	2.5%	0.2%	112,702
Postsecondary non-degree award	21,670	22,667	997	4.6%	0.5%	23,823
Master's degree	4,135	4,510	375	9.1%	0.9%	3,827
Doctoral or professional degree	3,643	3,928	285	7.8%	0.8%	2,392
Associate degree	3,728	3,989	261	7.0%	0.7%	3,716
Some college, no degree	8,954	9,094	140	1.6%	0.2%	8,985

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: These three regions combined differ from Local Area I since they exclude Chase and Harvey counties.

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The High Demand Occupation Lists are intended to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation. Occupations are scored based on three measures of labor demand: current job openings, projected job openings over the next two years, and projected job openings over the next 10 years. Each of these scores are added together to get a total demand score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

High Demand Occupations

Table 9 displays the top high demand occupations for Local Area I. These 12 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2024 and 2030. Overall, there are 226 occupations on the high demand list in Local Area I. Nine of the top 12 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require one month or less of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. Only one of these nine occupations had a median wage above the Local Area I median wage of $38,214, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of occupational growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Table 9
Top High Demand Occupations
North Central, Northwest, and Southwest Projection Regions Combined
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$44,161	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	$38,286	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	$31,369	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Assistants	$29,929	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Stockers and Order Fillers	$29,557	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	$29,212	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	$27,912	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	$26,443	Some college, no degree	None
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	$24,897	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	$24,246	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	$23,173	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	$22,684	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations
Note: These three regions combined differ from Local Area I since they exclude Chase and Harvey counties.

LMIS also identifies high demand occupations that pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the Local Area I median wage.

High Demand High Wage Occupations

In Local Area I there are 128 high demand high wage occupations; Table 10 lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, nine of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree or moderate-term on-the-job training. Also noteworthy is that two high demand high wage occupations also had the maximum demand score of 30: heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers and laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand.

Table 10
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
North Central, Northwest, and Southwest Projection Regions Combined
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$44,161	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	$38,286	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
General and Operations Managers	$75,875	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	$62,988	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	$39,954	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	$47,251	Bachelor's degree	None
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	$46,361	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	$39,052	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Accountants and Auditors	$63,843	Bachelor's degree	None
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	$48,475	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	$62,462	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	$49,111	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Coaches and Scouts	$38,484	Bachelor's degree	None
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	$47,704	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Insurance Sales Agents	$43,982	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations
Note: These three regions combined differ from Local Area I since they exclude Chase and Harvey counties.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, High Demand Occupations https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403

EDUCATION

Educational attainment is important in economic analysis because it influences human capital development, labor market outcomes, income inequality, economic mobility, innovation, and public finance. Policies and investments aimed at improving educational attainment can yield substantial economic benefits for individuals, societies, and the state as a whole.

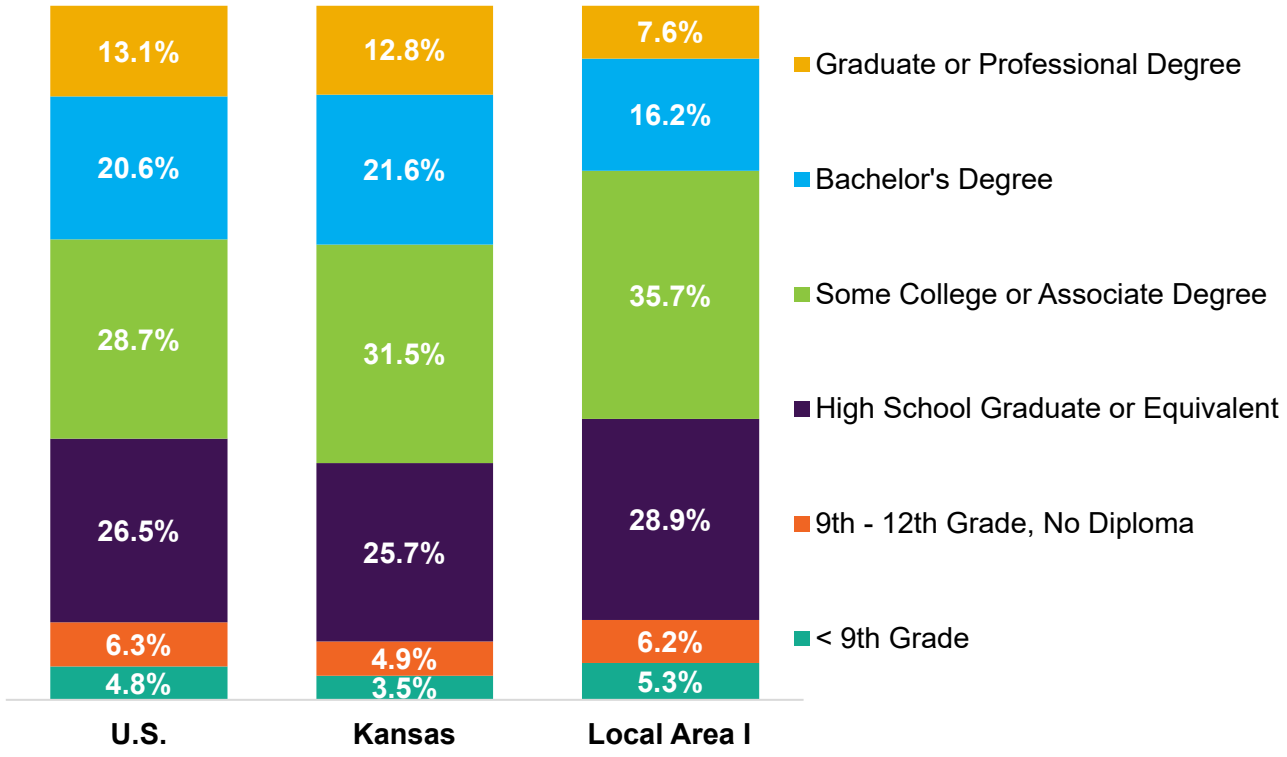
Educational Attainment

Chart 11 indicates that educational attainment in Local Area I is lower than the statewide and national average. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates, 88.5% of Local Area I residents have at least a high school diploma or equivalent; this is 0.4 percentage points lower than the national rate of 88.9% and 3.1 percentage points lower than the statewide rate of 91.6%. It is estimated that 23.8% of Local Area I residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 33.7% nationally and 34.4% statewide.

When compared to the 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates, the percentage of Local Area I residents reporting an educational attainment of at least a high school diploma or equivalent increased by 1.9 percentage points, while the percentage of Local Area I residents reporting a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 2.0 percentage points.

The most commonly reported educational attainment level in Local Area I was some college or associate degree at 35.7%; this was followed by high school graduate or equivalent at 28.9%, and bachelor's degree at 16.2%.

Chart 11
Educational Attainment for the Population 25 and Over
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area I
2021



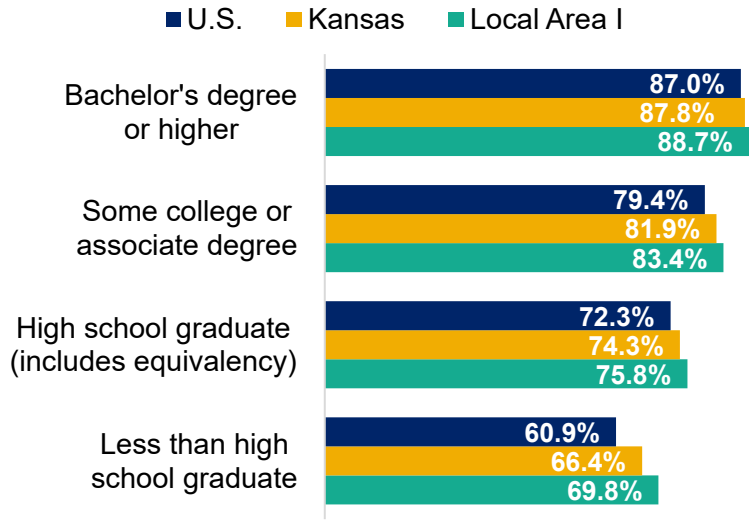
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Labor Force Statistics by Educational Attainment

Charts 12 and 13 indicate that as educational attainment level increases, labor force participation increases, while unemployment rates decline. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 ACS 5-year Estimates, Local Area I had a labor force participation rate of 81.0% for the civilian population ages 25-64; this was 2.7 percentage points higher than the U.S., which had a labor force participation rate of 78.3%, and 0.1 percentage point higher than the statewide rate of 80.9%. Local Area I residents without a high school diploma or equivalent had the lowest labor force participation rate at 69.8%, while Local Area I residents with a bachelor's degree or higher had the highest labor force participation rate at 88.7%. Local Area I had higher labor force participation across all levels of educational attainment when compared to the U.S. and Kansas.

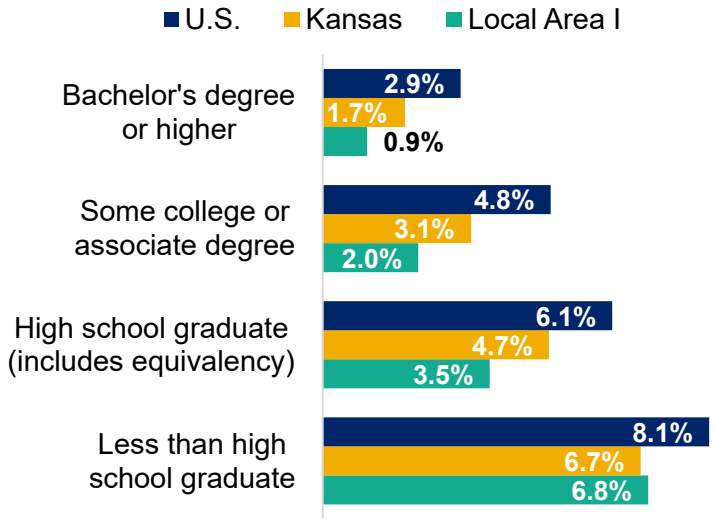
In Local Area I ACS estimates indicate that the unemployment rate for the civilian population ages 25-64 was 2.6% in 2021; this was 2.0 percentage points lower than the U.S. rate of 4.6%, and 0.6 percentage points below the statewide rate of 3.2%. Local Area I residents with educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 0.9%, while Local Area I residents with less than a high school diploma or equivalent had the highest unemployment rate at 6.8%. Local Area I achieved lower unemployment rates across all levels of educational attainment when compared to the U.S. The only level at which Local Area I had a higher rate than the state was less than high school graduate.

Chart 12
Labor Force Participation Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area I
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

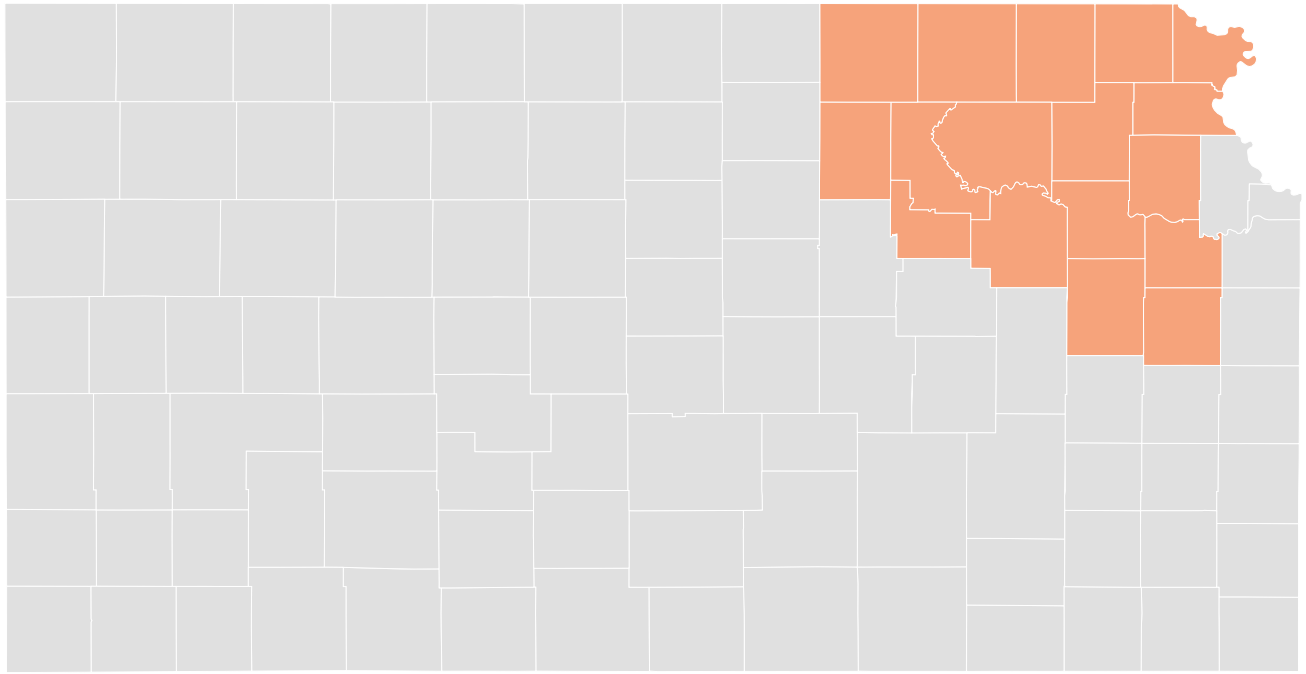
Chart 13
Unemployment Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area I
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html

LOCAL AREA II



POPULATION
577,364

LABOR FORCE
294,569

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
2.7%

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE
$39,693

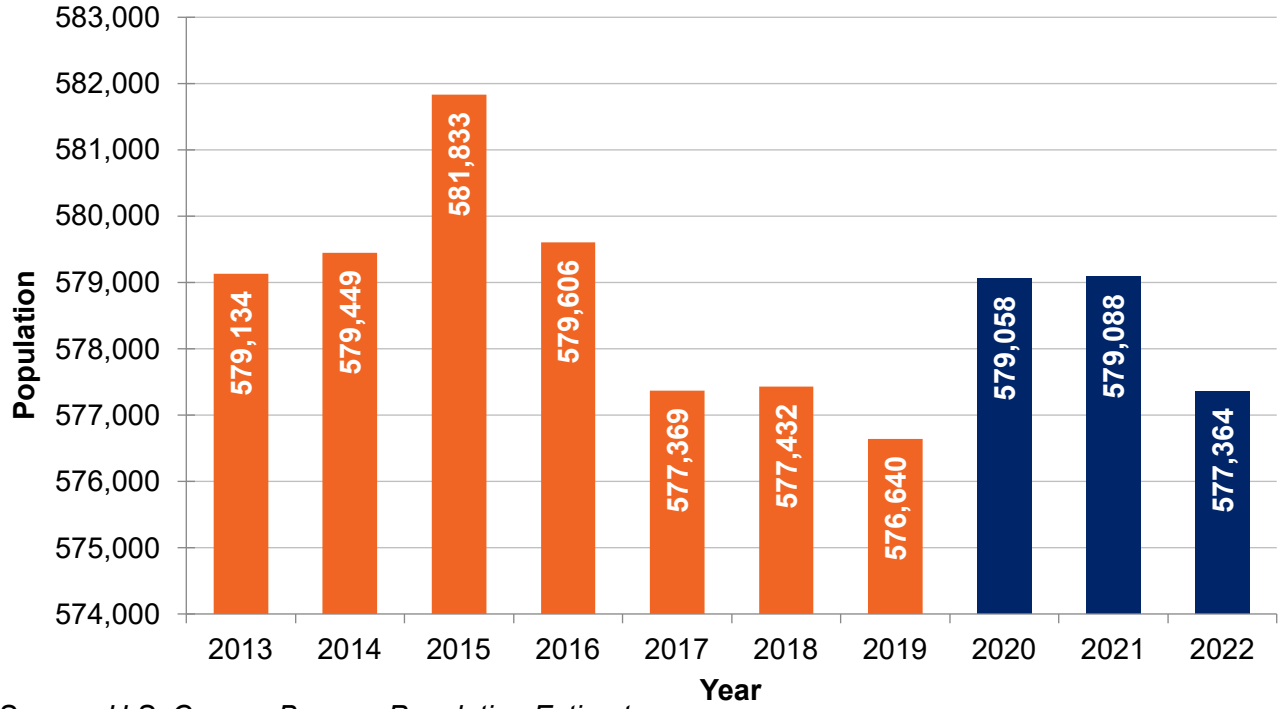
POPULATION

Population is an important statistic to review for economic purposes for two reasons, both of which benefit businesses. A growing population leads to a larger market for businesses and may lead to more jobs as demand for goods and services increase. A growing population also potentially increases the size and quality of the labor force which provides more labor supply for businesses to fill jobs.

Total Population

Local Area II consists of 17 counties in northeast Kansas. The largest cities in this region are Topeka, Lawrence, Manhattan, and Junction City. Chart 1 displays the population of Local Area II from 2013 to 2022. The Local Area II population was estimated to be 577,364 in 2022. This represents a loss from 2021 of 1,724 people, or 0.3%. Since 2013, Local Area II has seen a slight decrease in its population, declining by 1,770 people, or 0.3%, during that time.

Chart 1
Population Estimates
Local Area II
2013 - 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates
Due to the Census' delay in finalizing the 2010-2020 Intercensal Population Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

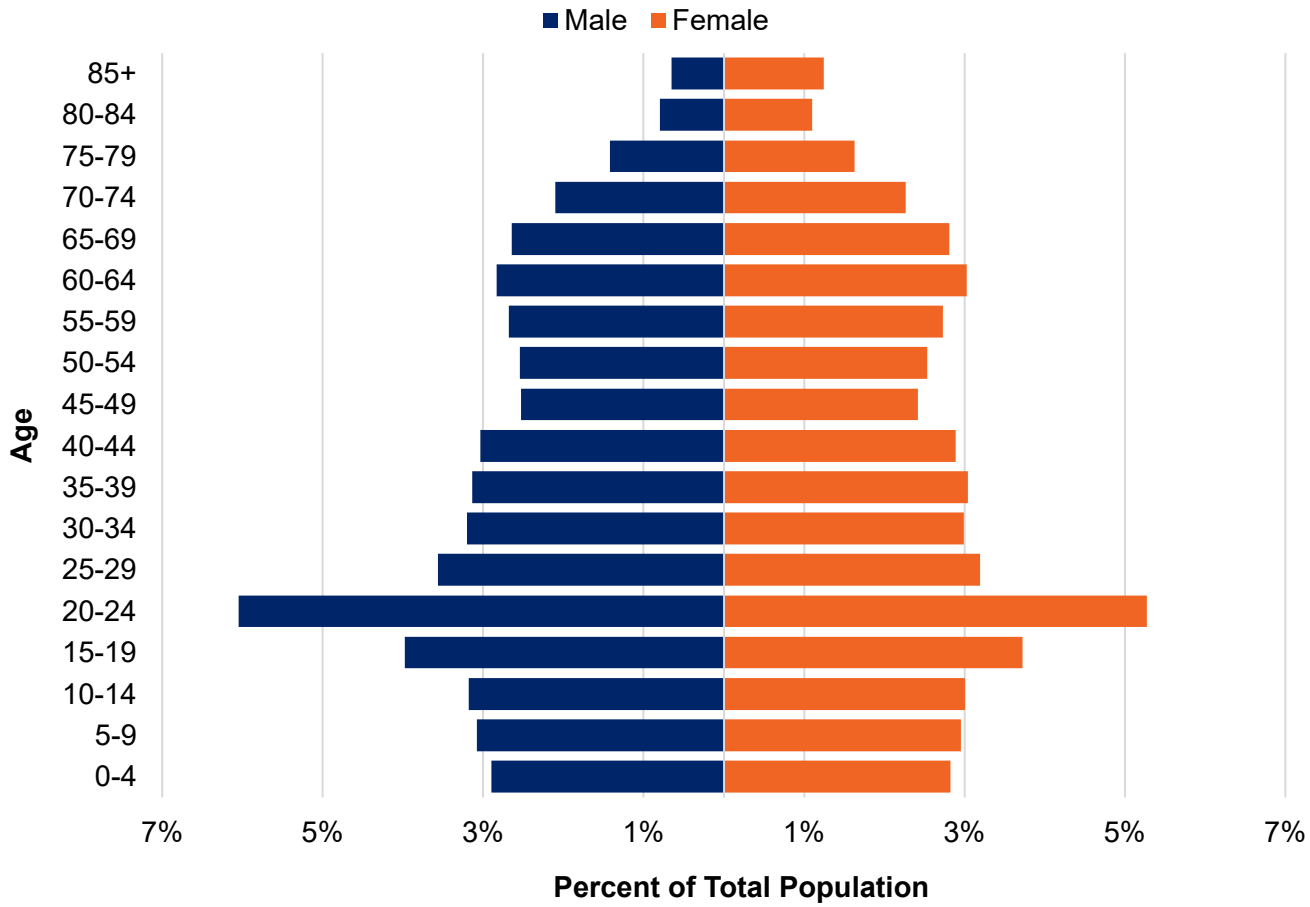
Population by Age

Chart 2 displays the Local Area II population by age group and gender. The population pyramid for Local Area II shows that there is a major peak in the population centered on the 20-24 year-old age group, which likely reflects the fact that the two largest universities in the state are located in this local area. There is a smaller peak centered on the 60-64 year-old age group, representing younger members of the baby boomer generation. The 20-24 year-old age group is by far the largest age group in Local Area II, representing 11.3% of the total population.

For economic purposes, the two main age groups studied are the 16 and over population and the 25-54 population. The 16 and over population includes everyone who is eligible to be in the labor force, while 25-54 year-olds are considered prime age workers. The 16 and over population in Local Area II decreased by 544 people, or 0.1%, to 466,352 in 2022. The 25-54 year-old population also declined in 2022, decreasing by 727 people, or 0.4%, to 202,530.

Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy since the population under 25 decreased by 1,608, or 0.7%. Declines were seen in all age groups under 20 years old. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, recorded a slight increase of 0.1%, or 68 people over the year.

Chart 2
Population by Age
Local Area II
2022

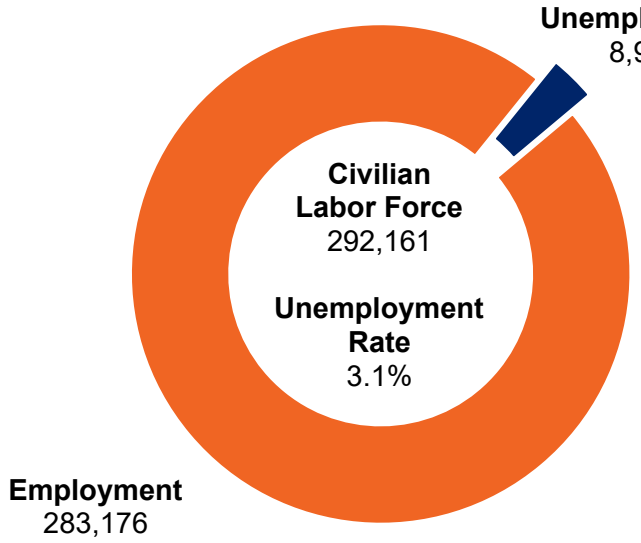


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

LABOR FORCE

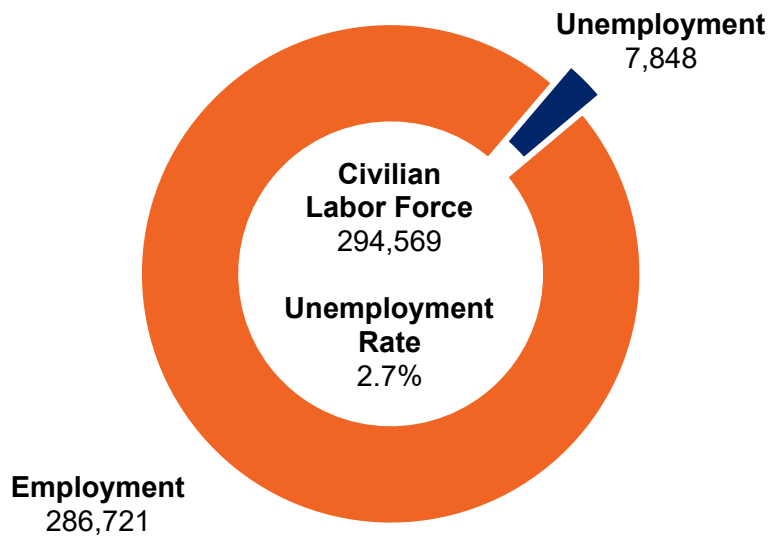
Charts 3 and 4 provide a snapshot of the labor force in Local Area II during 2021 and 2022. There were 294,569 people in the Local Area II labor force in 2022, an increase of 0.8% from 2021. The number of people working increased by 3,545, or 1.3%, to 286,721, while the number of unemployed people in Local Area II decreased by 1,137, or 12.7%, to 7,848 in 2022. This is the highest number of employed people as well as the lowest number of unemployed people on record for Local Area II since records began in 1990. Lastly, the unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage points to 2.7% in 2022.

Chart 3
Labor Force Statistics
Local Area II
2021



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Chart 4
Labor Force Statistics
Local Area II
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

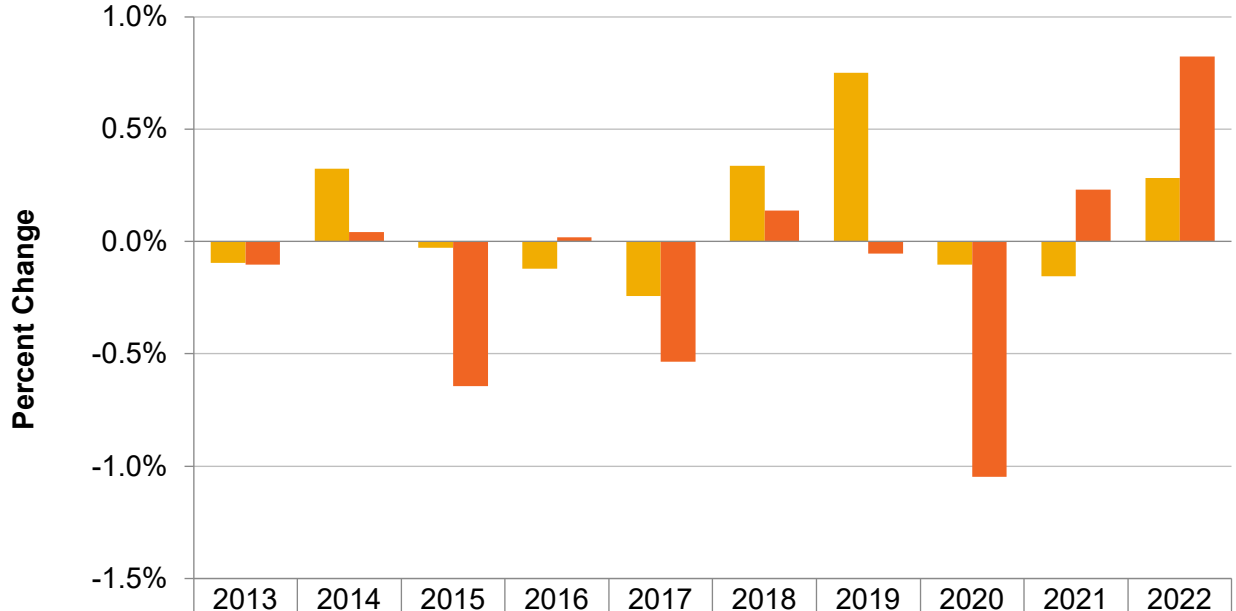
Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Labor Force and Unemployment Rate https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=418

The civilian labor force is a measure of the number of people 16 years and older that are available for work. This includes individuals who are employed as well as those who are unemployed but actively seeking work. A growing labor force is favorable as it increases the number of workers available for employers and shows there is increasing confidence of finding a job in a given area.

Civilian Labor Force

Chart 5 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Local Area II and Kansas. Local Area II had seen an overall declining trend in its labor force from 2013 through 2020. After significant declines in 2020, the labor force increased in 2021 and 2022 as Local Area II returned to pre-pandemic labor force levels. Since 2013 the labor force in Local Area II has decreased by 3,090, or 1.0%, to 294,569.

Chart 5
Percent Change in Labor Force
Kansas and Local Area II
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	-0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.7%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%
Local Area II	-0.1%	0.0%	-0.6%	0.0%	-0.5%	0.1%	-0.1%	-1.0%	0.2%	0.8%

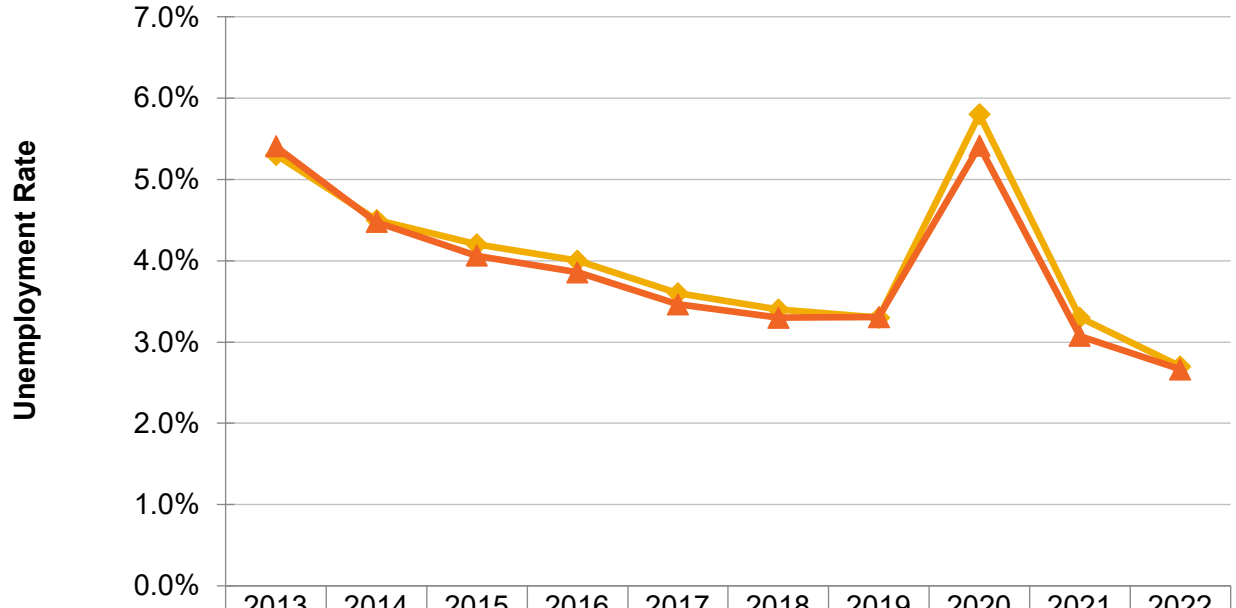
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate is a frequently cited economic statistic because it shows how many people want a job and cannot find one. The unemployment rate shows the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed and currently looking for a job. Typically, if the rate is high, there are many people who want a job but are having difficulty finding one due to a lack of demand for employees.

Unemployment Rate

As shown in Chart 6, the Local Area II unemployment rate dipped below pre-pandemic levels in 2021 and continued to decline to 2.7% in 2022. The 2022 rate is 1.9 percentage points lower than the historical annual average of 4.6%. This rate is in line with the statewide rate and the lowest unemployment rate on record for Local Area II, with records beginning in 1990.

Chart 6
Unemployment Rate
Kansas and Local Area II
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	5.3%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	3.6%	3.4%	3.3%	5.8%	3.3%	2.7%
Local Area II	5.4%	4.5%	4.1%	3.9%	3.5%	3.3%	3.3%	5.4%	3.1%	2.7%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

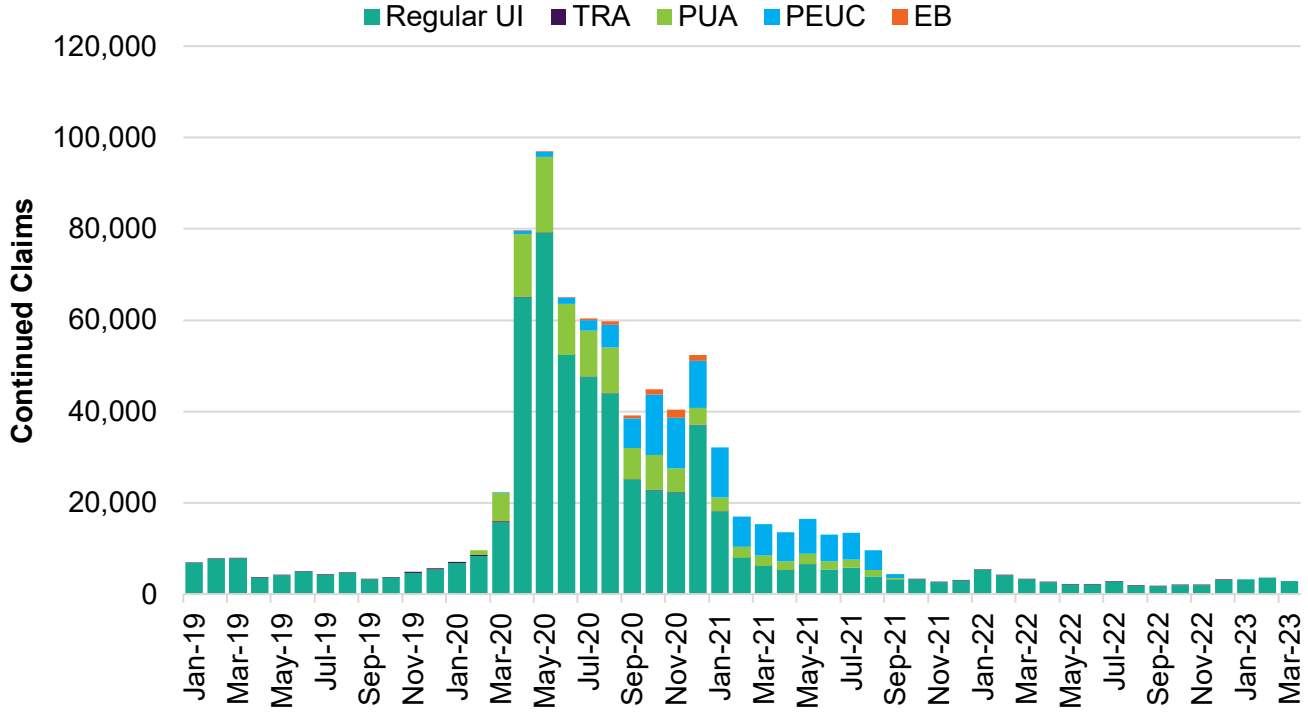
The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Kansans. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment; therefore, continued claims do not equal claims paid.

Monthly Continued Claim Totals

Chart 7 displays monthly continued claims totals by program for Local Area II. Note that PUA and PEUC were pandemic era programs only in operation during 2020 and 2021. The EB program is triggered on by extended periods of high unemployment and was also in operation during 2020.

The number of continued claims was relatively low prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with Local Area II averaging 5,128 continued claims per month in 2019. Continued claims spiked to an average of 48,095 per month in 2020, but declined in 2021 to a monthly average of 11,980. In 2022 the monthly average of continued claims dropped to 2,710. There was a small seasonal increase in December 2022 that continued into 2023; however, continued claims totals for the first quarter of 2023 remain much lower than the pre-pandemic levels experienced in 2019.

Chart 7
Continued Claims Totals
Jan 2019 - Mar 2023
Local Area II



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Continued Claims by Industry

Table 1 displays the total number of continued claims by industry sector in Local Area II for years 2019 through 2022. Note that PUA claims are excluded from these totals. Continued claims began to return to typical patterns in 2022, as construction topped the list with 8,955 continued claims; this was a decrease of 8,612, or 49.0%, from 2021. Administrative and waste services recorded the second highest count of continued claims with 3,446, a decrease of 8,423, or 71.0%, over the year. Health care and social assistance had the third highest continued claims total, with 2,909 claims in 2022, a decrease of 10,081, or 77.6%, from 2021. The share of manufacturing claims was much lower in 2022 than in 2019; manufacturing accounted for 16.5% of claims in 2019, but only accounted for 8.4% of claims in 2022.

In Local Area II accommodation and food services; arts, entertainment, and recreation; and other services were some of the hardest hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic. These industries experienced the largest percent increase in claims from 2019 to 2020. Impacts of the pandemic were temporary, as these industries saw sharp declines in 2021, which continued into 2022 with claims totals dropping below pre-pandemic levels.

Table 1
Continued Claims Filed by Year and Industry Sector
Local Area II

Industry Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022
Construction	15,193	34,937	17,567	8,955
Administrative and Waste Services	5,841	34,189	11,869	3,446
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,350	54,977	12,990	2,909
Manufacturing	10,168	64,676	13,235	2,743
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,854	18,688	7,902	1,941
Retail Trade	4,508	51,129	12,356	1,922
Accommodation and Food Services	3,686	91,352	16,591	1,775
Public Administration	2,939	13,905	5,182	1,693
Transportation and Warehousing	2,342	16,866	4,941	1,234
Finance and Insurance	1,252	7,026	2,338	1,109
Information	631	8,283	2,048	879
Educational Services	1,436	29,052	5,511	873
Other Services	1,029	22,913	4,231	838
Wholesale Trade	1,470	12,049	2,662	838
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,032	9,501	2,695	572
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	377	8,934	1,322	257
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,027	1,741	724	207
Management of Companies	136	869	268	158
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	179	1,046	332	78
Utilities	57	1,139	236	64

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics
Note: PUA data are excluded from these totals

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Industry data provide a detailed understanding of the composition of the local economy. This data highlights which industries account for the largest share of employment in the region as well as the industries with the highest wages. Understanding the industry composition of the local economy can provide insight into overall employment trends and can help guide decisions related to investment, resource allocation, and policy formulation.

Location quotients describe the concentration of an industry in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an industry is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that industry than the U.S.

Employment

In 2022 Local Area II recorded a monthly average of 246,939 total jobs; of these, 186,654, or 75.6%, were private sector jobs. The private industry sector that recorded the most jobs for Local Area II was health care and social assistance, which accounted for 32,359 jobs. This was followed by retail trade with 25,099 jobs, and manufacturing with 22,707 jobs. Government accounted for 60,285, or 24.4% of jobs in Local Area II, with the majority of these jobs being recorded at the local level. There were 34,667 local government jobs in 2022, more than any private industry sector in Local Area II.

Wages

The average weekly wage for all industries in Local Area II was $954 in 2022; this was $126 lower than the statewide average of $1,080. The private sector recorded an average weekly wage of $942, while government recorded an average weekly wage of $993. Management of companies and enterprises recorded the highest average weekly wage at $2,376, followed by utilities with an average weekly wage of $1,936. Nine additional private industry sectors in Local Area II recorded an average weekly wage higher than the private sector average: finance and insurance; wholesale trade; professional, scientific, and technical services; manufacturing; information; construction; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; transportation and warehousing; and health care and social assistance.

Location Quotients

Local Area II private industry sectors with the highest employment concentrations relative to the U.S. include utilities, other services (except public administration), and manufacturing. Each of these industry sectors recorded a location quotient of at least 1.08. Utilities recorded the highest location quotient in Local Area II, with an employment concentration 1.27 times higher than that of the U.S. Local Area II also had a high concentration of state government employment, with an employment concentration 2.43 times higher than the employment concentration for the U.S. The private industry sectors with the lowest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in Local Area II were information; management of companies and enterprises; and arts, entertainment, and recreation; each recorded a location quotient of 0.56 or less.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program https://www.bls.gov/cew/

Table 2 Industry Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients (LQ) Local Area II 2022			
Industry Sector	**Employment**	**Average Weekly Wage**	**Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.**
Total, All Industries	**246,939**	**$954**	**1.00**
Total Private	**186,654**	**$942**	**0.88**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,551	$779	0.75
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	570	$1,144	0.62
Utilities	1,154	$1,936	1.27
Construction	11,410	$1,157	0.90
Manufacturing	22,707	$1,200	1.08
Wholesale Trade	6,691	$1,407	0.68
Retail Trade	25,099	$582	0.99
Transportation and Warehousing	9,370	$987	0.89
Information	2,279	$1,182	0.45
Finance and Insurance	9,798	$1,475	0.95
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,610	$798	0.68
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	12,524	$1,311	0.72
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2,195	$2,376	0.53
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	10,789	$753	0.69
Educational Services	3,002	$730	0.61
Health Care and Social Assistance	32,359	$956	0.97
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2,137	$355	0.56
Accommodation and Food Services	22,234	$364	1.01
Other Services (except Public Administration)	8,178	$862	1.13
Total Government	**60,285**	**$993**	**1.72**
Local	34,667	$818	1.52
State	18,164	$1,166	2.43
Federal	7,454	$1,386	1.58
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)			

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Every summer KDOL's Labor Market Information Services division releases the results from the Kansas Wage Survey conducted by the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Data from the OEWS program is current as of May 2022 and contains employment and wage data for hundreds of occupations in Kansas. Data is also available for Kansas' metropolitan areas, local workforce areas, and counties. This is one of KDOL's most used data sets. Employers use this data as a guide to set their wages and salaries, while workers use this data to learn the typical wages for their occupations and to explore the earnings potential of other occupations.

Wages

As shown in Table 3, the median wage in Local Area II as of May 2022 was $39,693. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of $85,092. The five highest paying occupations in this group include natural sciences managers, sales managers, financial managers, architectural and engineering managers, and purchasing managers. Each of these occupations recorded a median wage over $121,000. Natural sciences managers was the highest paid management occupation with a median annual wage of $133,806.

The occupational group with the second highest median annual wage was the computer and mathematical occupational group, with a median annual wage of $74,166. The top paying occupations in this group include database architects, actuaries, software developers, information security analysts, and data scientists. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $90,000. Database architects was the highest paid computer and mathematical occupation with a median annual wage of $128,286.

Table 3
Wages, Employment, and Location Quotients (LQ) by Major Occupational Group
Local Area II
May 2022

Occupational Group	Median Annual Wage	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Total, All Occupations	**$39,693**	**247,350**	**1.00**
Management Occupations	$85,092	12,950	0.79
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	$61,248	14,670	0.91
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	$74,166	6,360	0.76
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	$70,013	2,840	0.68
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	$57,129	2,670	1.21
Community and Social Service Occupations	$44,614	4,310	1.11
Legal Occupations	$69,472	1,720	0.85
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	$48,470	18,740	1.32
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	$45,554	3,430	0.99
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	$64,912	14,990	0.99
Healthcare Support Occupations	$29,941	11,400	1.00
Protective Service Occupations	$44,796	5,320	0.93
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	$25,997	22,630	1.08
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	$29,147	7,550	1.05
Personal Care and Service Occupations	$25,801	5,610	1.18
Sales and Related Occupations	$29,446	20,020	0.91
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	$36,465	33,560	1.07
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	$35,469	640	0.83
Construction and Extraction Occupations	$46,835	10,090	0.99
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	$47,559	10,270	1.05
Production Occupations	$39,113	16,180	1.11
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	$37,185	21,410	0.94

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

The architecture and engineering occupational group had the third highest median annual wage of $70,013. The top paying occupations in this group include chemical engineers; electrical engineers; computer hardware engineers; electronics engineers, except computer; and industrial engineers. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $81,000. Chemical engineers was the highest paid architecture and engineering occupation with a median annual wage of $94,756.

The occupational groups with the lowest median annual wage were personal care and service occupations and food preparation and serving related occupations. These occupational groups recorded a median annual wage below $26,000.

Table 4 shows the top 10 detailed occupations by employment. While these are the most common occupations in Local Area II, only two have a median wage above the Local Area II median wage of $39,693: registered nurses and general and operations managers.

Employment

Table 4 indicates that total employment for all occupations in Local Area II was 247,350 as of May 2022. The office and administrative support occupational group recorded the largest employment, 33,560, or 13.6% of total employment in Local Area II. This group includes the third and fourth most common occupations in Local Area II: customer service representatives, which recorded employment of 6,090, and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive, which recorded employment of 5,400.

The occupational group with the second largest employment was food preparation and serving related occupations with employment of 22,630, or 9.1% of total employment. The most common occupation in Local Area II belongs to this occupational group: fast food and counter workers, which recorded employment of 7,110.

The transportation and material moving occupational group had the third largest employment of 21,410, or 8.7% of total employment. The fifth most common occupation in Local Area II, stockers and order fillers, belongs to this occupational group, recording employment of 5,220.

Table 4
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment
Local Area II
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Median Annual Wage
Total, All Occupations	**247,350**	**$39,693**
Fast Food and Counter Workers	7,110	↓ $22,658
Cashiers	6,600	↓ $23,812
Customer Service Representatives	6,090	↓ $31,697
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	5,400	↓ $36,106
Stockers and Order Fillers	5,220	↓ $30,493
Retail Salespersons	5,200	↓ $28,324
Registered Nurses	5,090	↑ $64,912
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	4,750	↓ $24,919
General and Operations Managers	4,610	↑ $75,922
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	3,770	↓ $28,305

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)
Arrows indicate whether an occupational wage is above or below the median wage for all occupations

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics
https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=841

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.

Location Quotients

In Local Area II the occupational group with the highest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in 2022 was educational instruction and library occupations, recording a location quotient of 1.32. Three occupations from this group ranked in the top 10 occupations by location quotient: area, ethnic, and cultural studies teachers, postsecondary; social work teachers, postsecondary; and library science teachers, postsecondary.

Life, physical, and social science occupations recorded the second highest location quotient of 1.21. Two occupations from this group made it into the top 10 by location quotient: agricultural technicians ranked third with a location quotient of 5.46, while animal scientists ranked sixth with a location quotient of 4.75.

The occupational group with the third highest location quotient of 1.18 was personal care and service occupations; however, no detailed occupations from this group made it into the top 10 by location quotient.

In Local Area II the occupation with the highest location quotient relative to the U.S. was umpires, referees, and other sports officials, with an employment concentration 9.87 times that of the U.S. Print binding and finishing workers recorded the second highest location quotient of 7.20.

Table 5
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment Location Quotient (LQ)
Local Area II
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Umpires, Referees, and Other Sports Officials	210	9.87
Print Binding and Finishing Workers	470	7.20
Agricultural Technicians	120	5.46
Area, Ethnic, and Cultural Studies Teachers, Postsecondary	80	5.12
Social Work Teachers, Postsecondary	100	4.96
Animal Scientists	20	4.75
Furniture Finishers	110	4.39
Library Science Teachers, Postsecondary	30	4.14
Recreational Therapists	110	4.13
Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	240	4.07

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

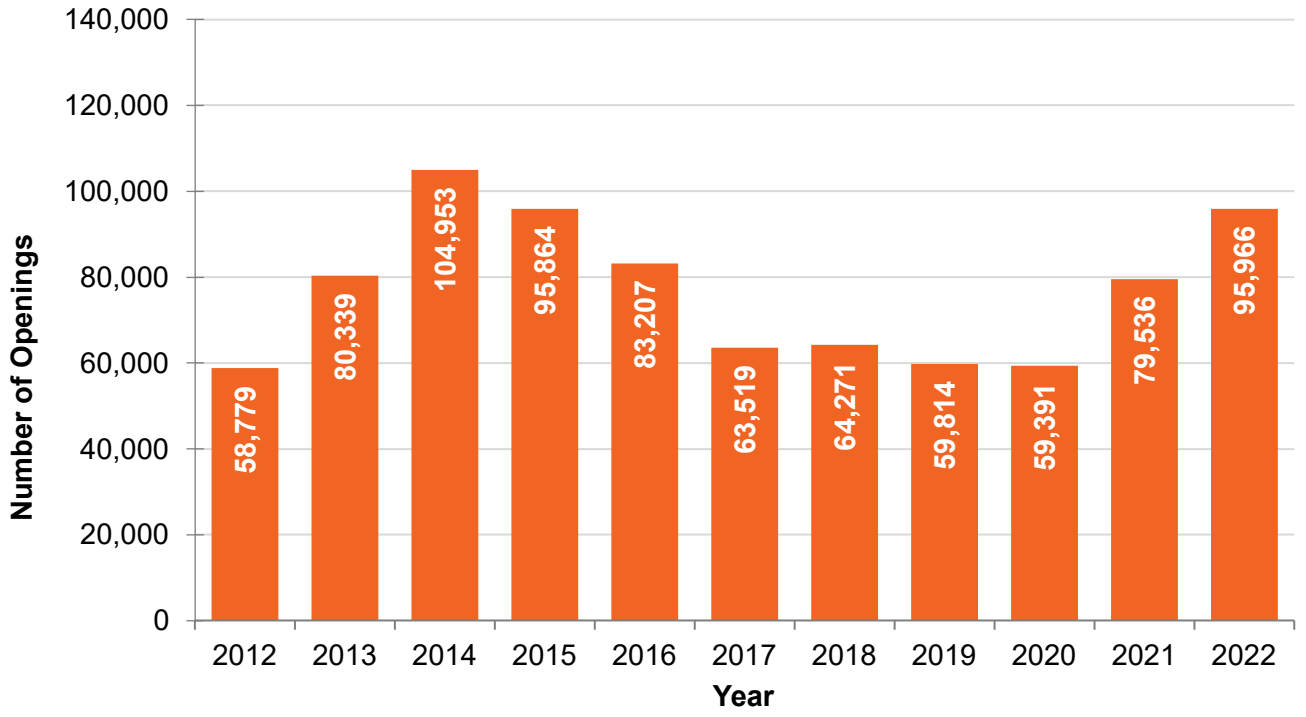
ADVERTISED JOBS

Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Advertised jobs data are sourced from Geographic Solutions, Inc. The information is collected from employer corporate sites, hospitals, non-profits, local and federal government agencies, schools and universities, recruiter sites, newspapers, volunteer sites, and other public, private, and state job boards. It is important to note that roughly 30% of advertised jobs do not have enough information to classify them with an industry or occupational code. These data are included in total advertised jobs, but excluded from industry and occupational totals.

Annual Job Openings

Chart 8 shows that Local Area II experienced a sharp increase in job openings from 2012 through 2014, followed by an overall declining trend from 2014 through 2020. This decline was followed by steep increases in 2021 and 2022, with Local Area II job openings increasing by 36,575, or 61.6%, during that time. Local Area II recorded 95,966 job openings in 2022; this is the second highest number of job openings reported for the region, with records beginning in 2008.

Chart 8
Advertised Job Openings
Local Area II
2012 - 2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

Check out our dashboard here: https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/GSIPub/documentview.aspx?docid=885

Job Openings by Occupation

As shown in Chart 9, the health care practitioners and technical occupational group had the most job openings by far in Local Area II, with 13,766 job openings advertised in 2022. This was followed by the management occupational group with 7,049 job openings. Two additional occupational groups recorded over 5,000 openings in 2022: transportation and material moving and office and administrative support. The health care support, sales and related, food preparation and serving related, and educational instruction and library occupational groups each recorded over 3,000 job openings in 2022.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation in Local Area II, with 5,982 job openings. This was followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers with 1,922 job openings, and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses with 1,559 job openings. Three additional occupations recorded over 1,000 job openings in 2022: nursing assistants, executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants, and customer service representatives.

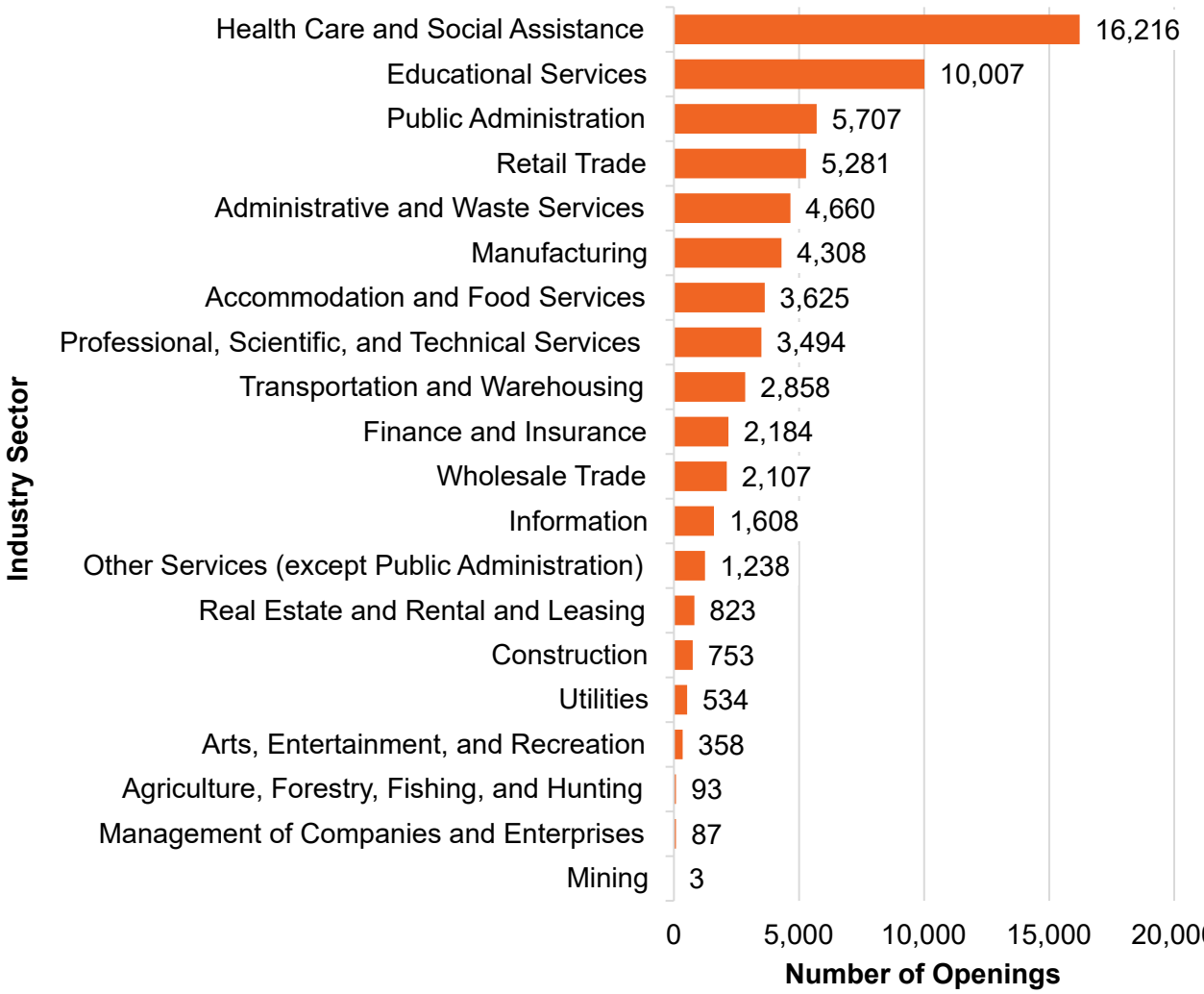
Chart 9
Advertised Job Openings by Major Occupational Group
Local Area II
2022

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

Job Openings by Industry

Chart 10 displays advertised job openings by industry sector for Local Area II. The health care and social assistance sector recorded the most job openings by far in 2022, with 16,216 job openings. Hospitals accounted for 9,082 job openings in the health care and social assistance sector, while nursing and residential care facilities accounted for 3,351, and ambulatory health care services accounted for 2,981. Educational services had the second highest number of job openings with 10,007. Public administration recorded 5,707 job openings, with the vast majority falling into the executive, legislative, and other general government support subsector. Retail trade recorded 5,281 job openings; food and beverage stores accounted for 1,007 of these, while motor vehicle and parts dealers accounted for 962, and building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers accounted for 759. The administrative and waste services and manufacturing sectors each accounted for more than 4,000 jobs in 2022.

Chart 10
Advertised Job Openings by Industry Sector
Local Area II
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS

Every two years each of the 50 states complete long-term projections in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). The base year used in these projections is 2020 and the projection year is 2030. Statewide projections are released in even numbered years, while regional projections are released during odd numbered years. Long-term projections play an important role for students and others making career choices. Information about future trends in job growth and demand for labor is vital to making these life decisions. For the long-term projections program, it is assumed that the Kansas labor market will be in full employment in the projected year. This means the labor market will be in equilibrium and labor supply will meet labor demand, so the projections are forecasting structural changes in the economy rather than predicting changes in the business cycle.

Industry Projections

Local Area II total jobs across all industries are expected to grow by 19,147 to 278,022 jobs in 2030, an increase of 7.4% over the 10-year period. This averages out to 1,915 jobs per year, or 0.7% average annual growth.

Table 6 shows long-term projections for the top 10 industry sectors by numerical change from the base year 2020 to the projected year 2030. The goods producing sector, which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining; construction; and manufacturing, is projected to increase by 186 jobs per year, an average annual growth rate of 0.5%. The remaining industry sectors fall under the service providing sector, which is projected to have a positive average annual growth rate of 0.8%, adding 1,748 jobs annually.

Table 6
Top 10 Industry Sectors by Numerical Job Change
Northeast Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Industry Sector	Job Numbers		Job Changes		
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Annual Avg. Growth %
Total, All Industries	**258,875**	**278,022**	**19,147**	**7.4%**	**0.7%**
Accommodation and Food Services	19,332	23,430	4,098	21.2%	1.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	9,320	12,162	2,842	30.5%	2.7%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	12,338	14,560	2,222	18.0%	1.7%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	9,981	12,000	2,019	20.2%	1.9%
Educational Services	31,826	33,359	1,533	4.8%	0.5%
Health Care and Social Assistance	37,833	39,347	1,514	4.0%	0.4%
Other Services (except Government)	10,589	12,014	1,425	13.5%	1.3%
Manufacturing	21,315	22,611	1,296	6.1%	0.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,996	2,527	531	26.6%	2.4%
Finance and Insurance	10,371	10,835	464	4.5%	0.4%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The Northeast Projection Region is comprised of the same counties which make up Local Area II.

The accommodation and food services industry sector is projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the 10-year period, adding an additional 4,098 jobs. This industry sector consists of two underlying subsectors: accommodation, including hotels and motels and food services and drinking places. Food services and drinking places is the larger of these subsectors and is expected to gain 348 jobs annually, a growth rate of 1.9%. Accommodation, including hotels and motels is expected to grow at a faster rate of 2.4%, but only add 62 jobs annually. Of the industry sectors, transportation and warehousing is projected to grow at the fastest rate, 2.7% annually.

Occupational Projections

Table 7 shows the top 10 major occupational groups projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the projection period. The food preparation and serving related occupational group is projected to gain 3,878 jobs during the 10-year period with an average annual growth rate of 1.7%, the fastest of any occupational group in Local Area II. The food preparation and serving related occupational group is made up of 17 detailed occupations; of these, fast food and counter workers is expected to add the most jobs by 2030, gaining 1,389 jobs over the 10-year period. This is followed by cooks, restaurant, which is expected to grow by 680 jobs over the 10-year period.

Table 7
Top 10 Occupational Groups by Numerical Job Change
Northeast Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Occupational Group	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**258,875**	**278,022**	**19,147**	**7.4%**	**0.7%**	**312,827**
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	21,523	25,401	3,878	18.0%	1.7%	45,738
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	20,501	23,445	2,944	14.4%	1.4%	30,270
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	14,370	15,842	1,472	10.2%	1.0%	14,353
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	9,432	10,719	1,287	13.7%	1.3%	14,317
Management Occupations	14,006	15,251	1,245	8.9%	0.9%	12,729
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	19,232	20,406	1,174	6.1%	0.6%	18,482
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	16,400	17,442	1,042	6.4%	0.6%	10,617
Production Occupations	15,309	16,134	825	5.4%	0.5%	17,937
Health Care Support Occupations	12,581	13,361	780	6.2%	0.6%	16,455
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	6,960	7,668	708	10.2%	1.0%	5,803

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The Northeast Projection Region is comprised of the same counties which make up Local Area II.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Employment Outlook https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468

Projections by Educational Requirement

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) assigns the level of education typically needed to enter each detailed occupation. Each occupation falls under one of eight education levels. As shown in Table 8, the largest increase in jobs is projected to be in those occupations typically requiring no formal educational credential; these occupations are expected to grow by 7,121 jobs over the projection period. The educational categories projected to grow the fastest are no formal educational credential and bachelor's degree; these are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.2% and 0.8% respectively.

Occupational classification by years of work experience typically needed to enter the occupation is also available. This can be more than five years, less than five years, or none. A third classification is available that organizes occupations by typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency. This can be long-term on-the-job training (more than one year), moderate-term on-the-job training (one month to one year), short-term on-the-job training (less than one month), internship/residency, or none. This information is available on the KDOL, LMIS website, www.klic.dol.ks.gov.

Table 8
Projections by Educational Requirement
Northeast Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Education	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**258,875**	**278,022**	**19,147**	**7.4%**	**0.7%**	**312,827**
No formal educational credential	58,410	65,531	7,121	12.2%	1.2%	101,155
Bachelor's degree	55,086	59,929	4,843	8.8%	0.8%	49,800
High school diploma or equivalent	99,195	103,349	4,154	4.2%	0.4%	115,588
Postsecondary non-degree award	19,075	20,309	1,234	6.5%	0.6%	21,441
Doctoral or professional degree	7,603	8,200	597	7.9%	0.8%	5,729
Master's degree	6,117	6,596	479	7.8%	0.8%	5,506
Associate degree	5,180	5,623	443	8.6%	0.8%	5,417
Some college, no degree	8,209	8,485	276	3.4%	0.3%	8,191

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The Northeast Projection Region is comprised of the same counties which make up Local Area II.

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The High Demand Occupation Lists are intended to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation. Occupations are scored based on three measures of labor demand: current job openings, projected job openings over the next two years, and projected job openings over the next 10 years. Each of these scores are added together to get a total demand score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

High Demand Occupations

Table 9 displays the top high demand occupations for Local Area II. These 15 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2024 and 2030. Overall, there are 223 occupations on the high demand list in Local Area II. Ten of the top 15 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require less than one year of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. The median wages of these 10 occupations are all below the Local Area II median wage of $39,693, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages.

Table 9
Top High Demand Occupations
Northeast Projection Region
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	$75,922	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	$64,912	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$46,231	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	$37,718	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	$34,795	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Customer Service Representatives	$31,697	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Assistants	$31,372	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Stockers and Order Fillers	$30,493	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	$28,324	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	$28,305	Some college, no degree	None
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	$28,293	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Cooks, Restaurant	$27,854	No formal educational credential	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	$24,919	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	$23,812	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	$22,658	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations
Note: The Northeast Projection Region is comprised of the same counties which make up Local Area II.

There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of occupational growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

LMIS also identifies high demand occupations that pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the Local Area II median wage.

High Demand High Wage Occupations

In Local Area II there are 128 high demand high wage occupations; Table 10 lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, seven of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree or moderate-term on-the-job training. Also noteworthy is that three high demand high wage occupations also had the maximum demand score of 30: general and operations managers, registered nurses, and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Table 10
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
Northeast Projection Region
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	$75,922	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	$64,912	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$46,231	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Accountants and Auditors	$61,755	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	$42,249	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers	$77,462	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	$52,021	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	$48,833	Bachelor's degree	None
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	$42,235	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	$47,698	High school diploma or equivalent	None
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	$65,985	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Management Analysts	$59,696	Bachelor's degree	None
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	$48,909	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	$47,197	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	$65,399	High school diploma or equivalent	None

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations
Note: The Northeast Projection Region is comprised of the same counties which make up Local Area II.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, High Demand Occupations https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403

EDUCATION

Educational attainment is important in economic analysis because it influences human capital development, labor market outcomes, income inequality, economic mobility, innovation, and public finance. Policies and investments aimed at improving educational attainment can yield substantial economic benefits for individuals, societies, and the state as a whole.

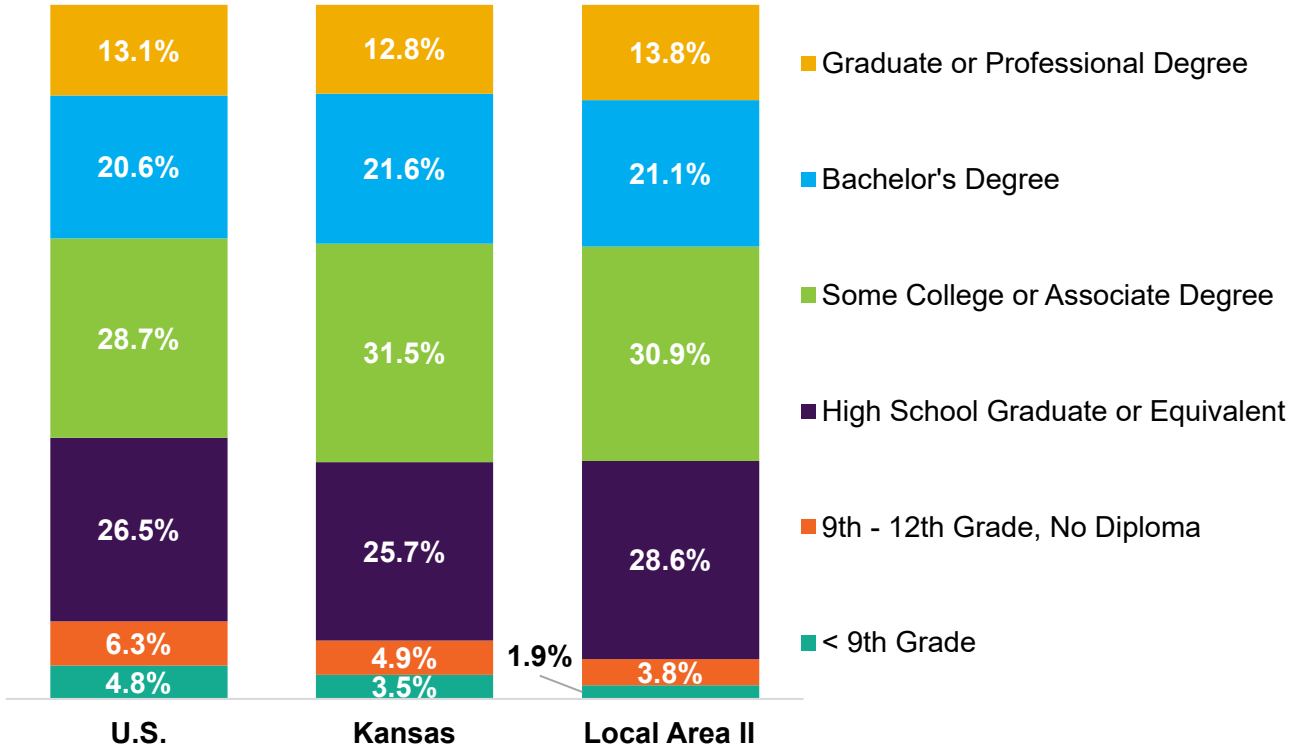
Educational Attainment

Chart 11 indicates that educational attainment in Local Area II is well above the statewide and national average. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates, 94.3% of Local Area II residents have at least a high school diploma or equivalent; this is 5.4 percentage points higher than the national rate of 88.9% and 2.7 percentage points higher than the statewide rate of 91.6%. It is estimated that 34.9% of Local Area II residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 33.7% nationally and 34.4% statewide.

When compared to the 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates, the percentage of Local Area II residents reporting an educational attainment of at least a high school diploma or equivalent increased by 1.4 percentage points, while the percentage of Local Area II residents reporting a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 2.9 percentage points.

The most commonly reported educational attainment level in Local Area II was some college or associate degree at 30.9%; this was followed by high school graduate or equivalent at 28.6%, and bachelor's degree at 21.1%.

Chart 11
Educational Attainment for the Population 25 and Over
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area II
2021



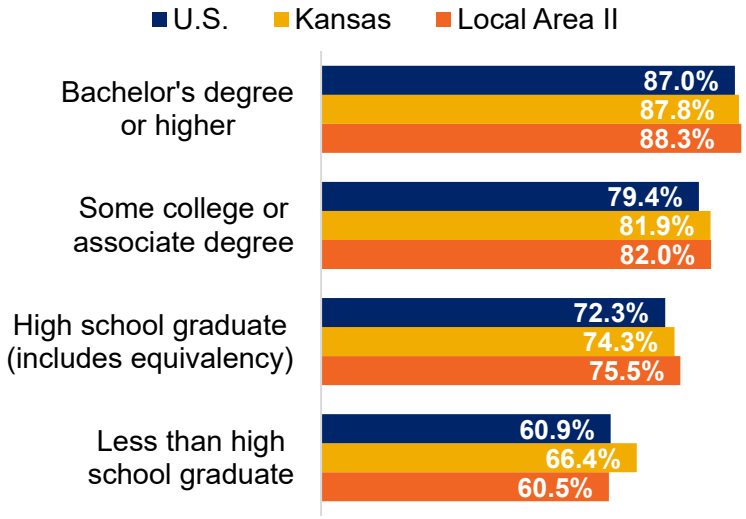
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Labor Force Statistics by Educational Attainment

Charts 12 and 13 indicate that as educational attainment level increases, labor force participation increases, while unemployment rates decline. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 ACS 5-year Estimates, Local Area II had a labor force participation rate of 81.4% for the civilian population ages 25-64; this was 3.1 percentage points higher than the U.S., which had a labor force participation rate of 78.3%, and 0.5 percentage points higher than the statewide rate of 80.9%. Local Area II residents without a high school diploma or equivalent had the lowest labor force participation rate at 60.5%, while Local Area II residents with a bachelor's degree or higher had the highest labor force participation rate at 88.3%. The only level in which Local Area II had a lower labor force participation rate than the state and U.S. was less than high school graduate.

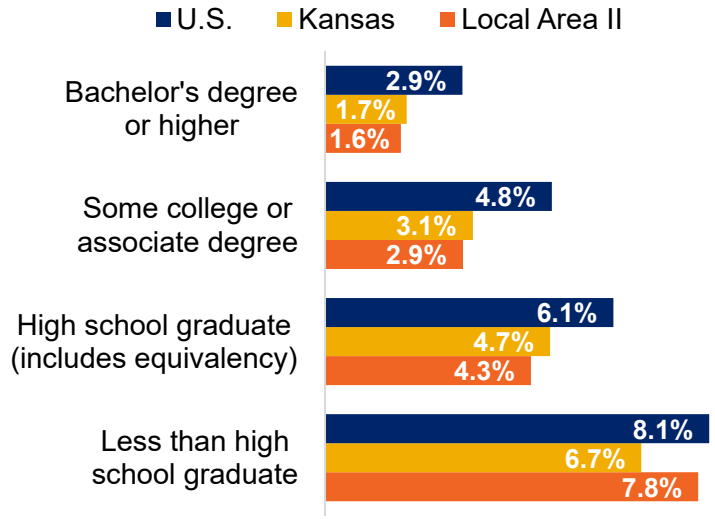
In Local Area II ACS estimates indicate that the unemployment rate for the civilian population ages 25-64 was 2.9% in 2021; this was 1.7 percentage points lower than the U.S. rate of 4.6%, and 0.3 percentage points below the statewide rate of 3.2%. Local Area II residents with educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 1.6%, while Local Area II residents with less than a high school diploma or equivalent had the highest unemployment rate at 7.8%. Local Area II achieved lower unemployment rates across all levels of educational attainment when compared to the U.S. The only level at which Local Area II had a higher rate than the state was less than high school graduate.

Chart 12
Labor Force Participation Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area II
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

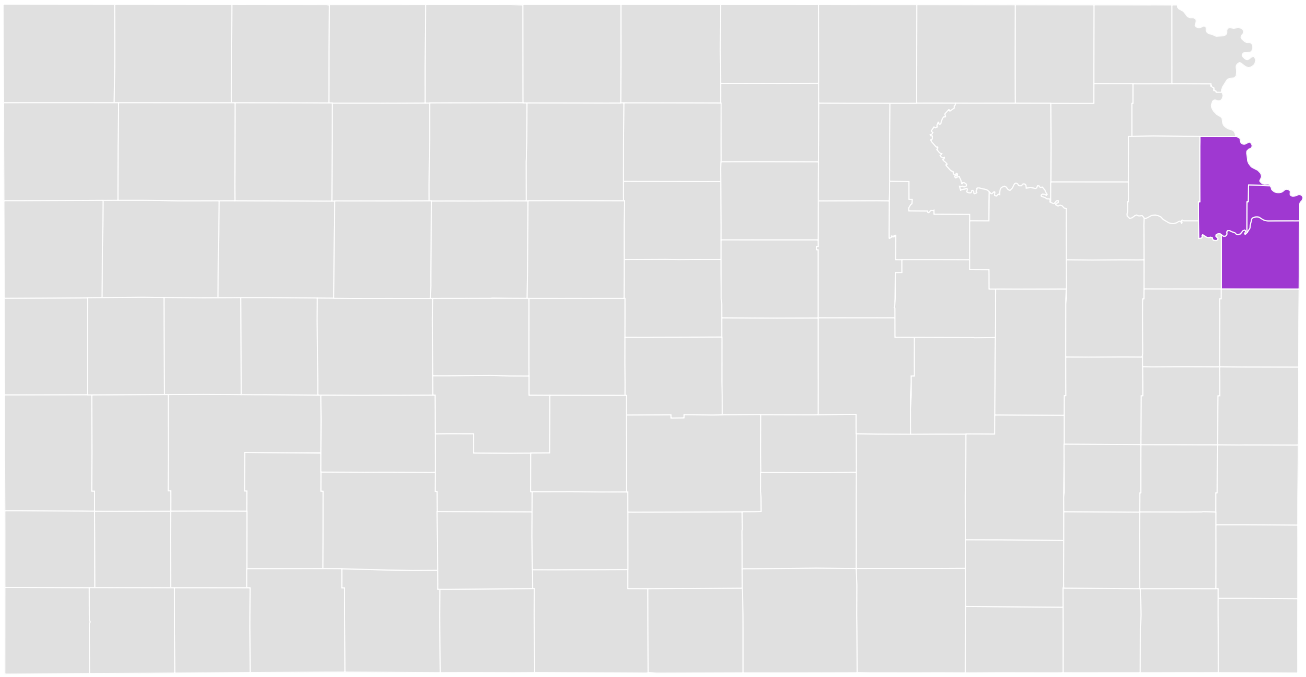
Chart 13
Unemployment Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area II
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html

LOCAL AREA III



POPULATION
867,833

LABOR FORCE
465,163

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
2.5%

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE
$47,172

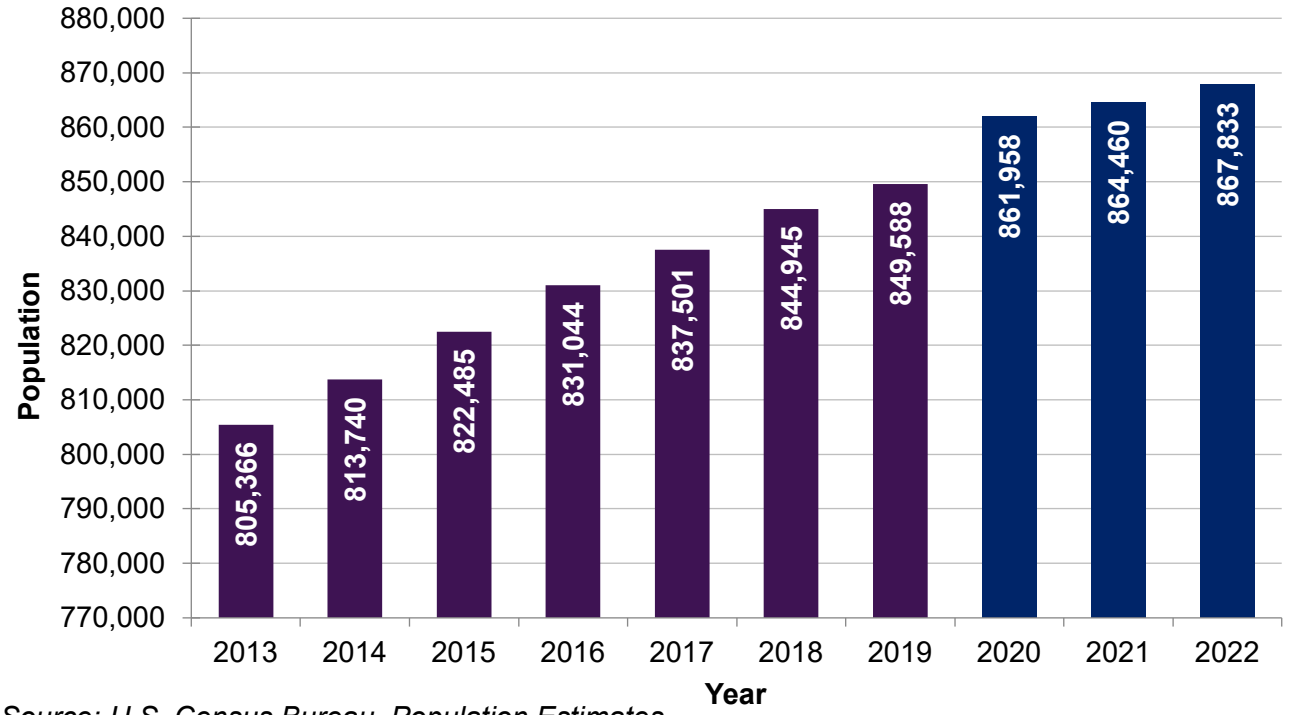
POPULATION

Population is an important statistic to review for economic purposes for two reasons, both of which benefit businesses. A growing population leads to a larger market for businesses and may lead to more jobs as demand for goods and services increase. A growing population also potentially increases the size and quality of the labor force which provides more labor supply for businesses to fill jobs.

Total Population

Local Area III contains the three largest counties on the Kansas side of the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area: Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte counties. The largest cities in this region are Overland Park, Kansas City, Olathe, Shawnee, and Lenexa. Chart 1 displays the population of Local Area III from 2013 to 2022. The Local Area III population was estimated to be 867,833 in 2022. This represents an increase of 3,373, or 0.4%. The population of Local Area III has grown by 62,467 since 2013, or 7.8%.

Chart 1
Population Estimates
Local Area III
2013 - 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates
Due to the Census' delay in finalizing the 2010-2020 Intercensal Population Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

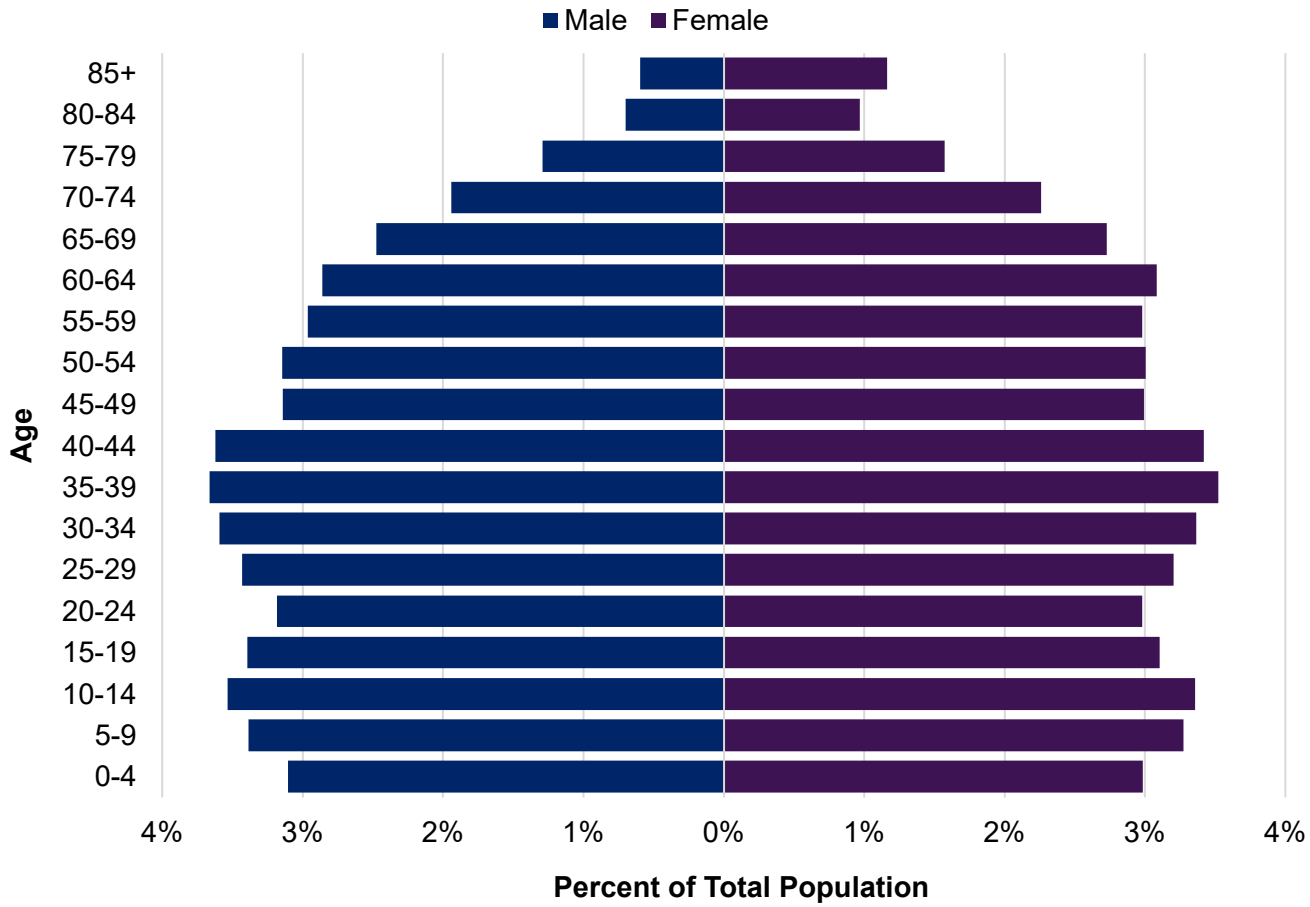
Population by Age

Chart 2 displays the Local Area III population by age group and gender. There are two peaks in population, one centering on 35-39 year-olds, representing the older members of the millennial generation, and one centered on the 10-14 year-old age group, most likely representing the children of the other population peak. The 35-39 year-old age group is the largest in Local Area III, representing 7.2% of the population. This group was closely followed by the 40-44 and 30-34 year-old age groups, who each represent 7.0% of the population in Local Area III.

For economic purposes, the two main age groups studied are the 16 and over population and the 25-54 population. The 16 and over population includes everyone who is eligible to be in the labor force, while 25-54 year-olds are considered prime age workers. The 16 and over population in Local Area III increased by 4,709 people, or 0.7%, to 684,854 in 2022. The 25-54 year-old population also rose in 2022, increasing by 1,198 people, or 0.3%, to 348,039.

Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy since the population under 25 decreased by 1,280, or 0.5%. Declines were seen in all age groups under 20 years old. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, recorded an increase of 0.8%, or 448 people over the year.

Chart 2
Population by Age
Local Area III
2022

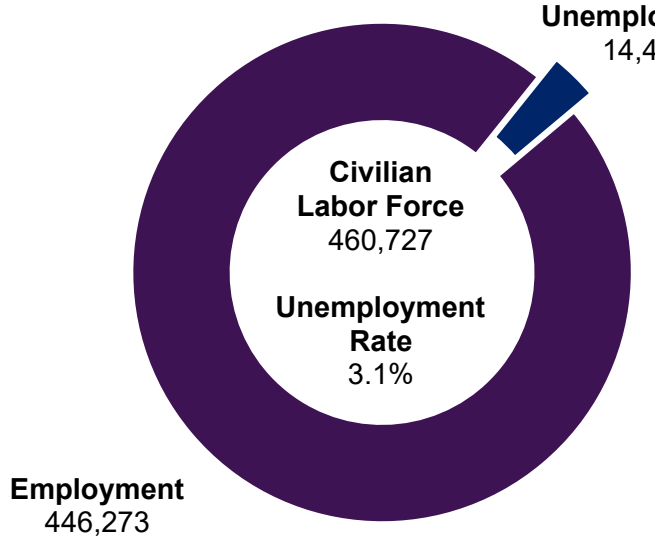


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

LABOR FORCE

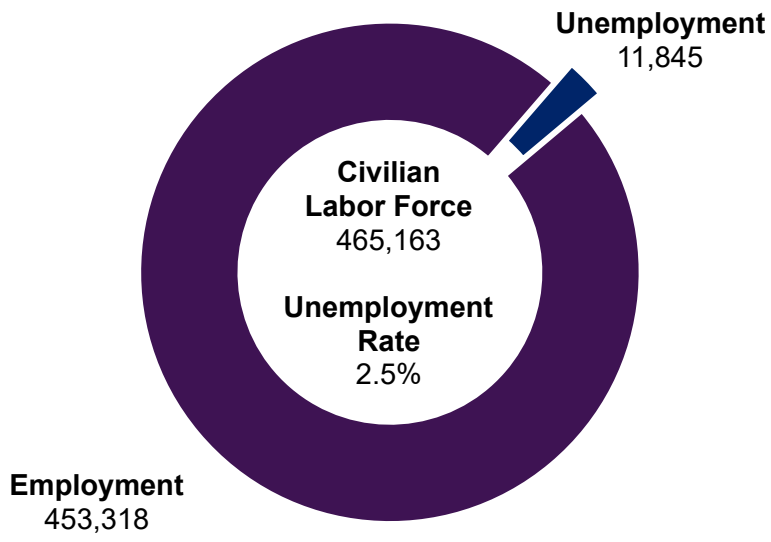
Charts 3 and 4 provide a snapshot of the labor force in Local Area III during 2021 and 2022. There were 465,163 people in the Local Area III labor force in 2022, an increase of 1.0% from 2021. The number of people working increased by 7,045, or 1.6%, to 453,318 in 2022, while the number of unemployed people in Local Area III decreased by 2,609, or 18.1%, to 11,845 in 2022. This is the highest number of employed residents as well as the second lowest number of unemployed residents on record for Local Area III since records began in 1990. Lastly, the unemployment rate dropped 0.6 percentage points to 2.5% in 2022.

Chart 3
Labor Force Statistics
Local Area III
2021



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Chart 4
Labor Force Statistics
Local Area III
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

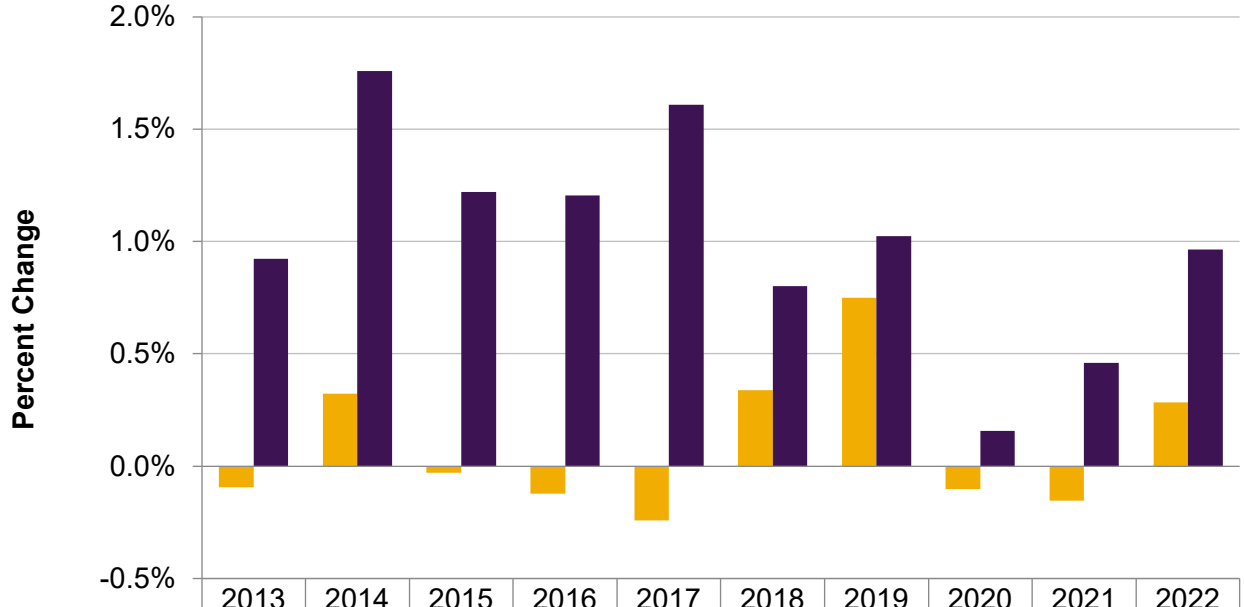
Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Labor Force and Unemployment Rate https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=418

The civilian labor force is a measure of the number of people 16 years and older that are available for work. This includes individuals who are employed as well as those who are unemployed but actively seeking work. A growing labor force is favorable as it increases the number of workers available for employers and shows there is increasing confidence of finding a job in a given area.

Civilian Labor Force

Chart 5 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Local Area III and Kansas. The labor force in Local Area III has increased every year since 2013, even in 2020 when labor markets were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2013 the labor force has increased by 40,628, or 9.6%.

Chart 5
Percent Change in Labor Force
Kansas and Local Area III
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	-0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.7%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%
Local Area III	0.9%	1.8%	1.2%	1.2%	1.6%	0.8%	1.0%	0.2%	0.5%	1.0%

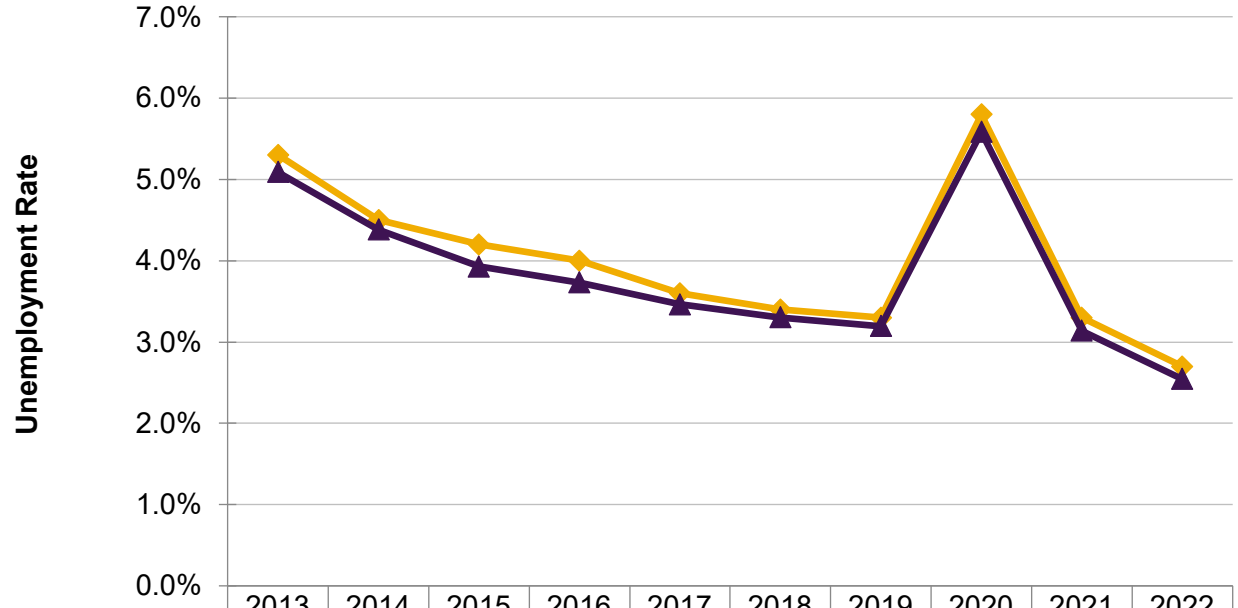
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate is a frequently cited economic statistic because it shows how many people want a job and cannot find one. The unemployment rate shows the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed and currently looking for a job. Typically, if the rate is high, there are many people who want a job but are having difficulty finding one due to a lack of demand for employees.

Unemployment Rate

As shown in Chart 6, the Local Area III unemployment rate dipped below pre-pandemic levels in 2021 and continued to decline to 2.5% in 2022. This rate is 0.2 percentage points lower than the statewide rate and 2.1 percentage points lower than the historical annual average of 4.6%. The 2022 rate is also the lowest unemployment rate on record for Local Area III, with records beginning in 1990.

Chart 6
Unemployment Rate
Kansas and Local Area III
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	5.3%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	3.6%	3.4%	3.3%	5.8%	3.3%	2.7%
Local Area III	5.1%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	3.5%	3.3%	3.2%	5.6%	3.1%	2.5%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

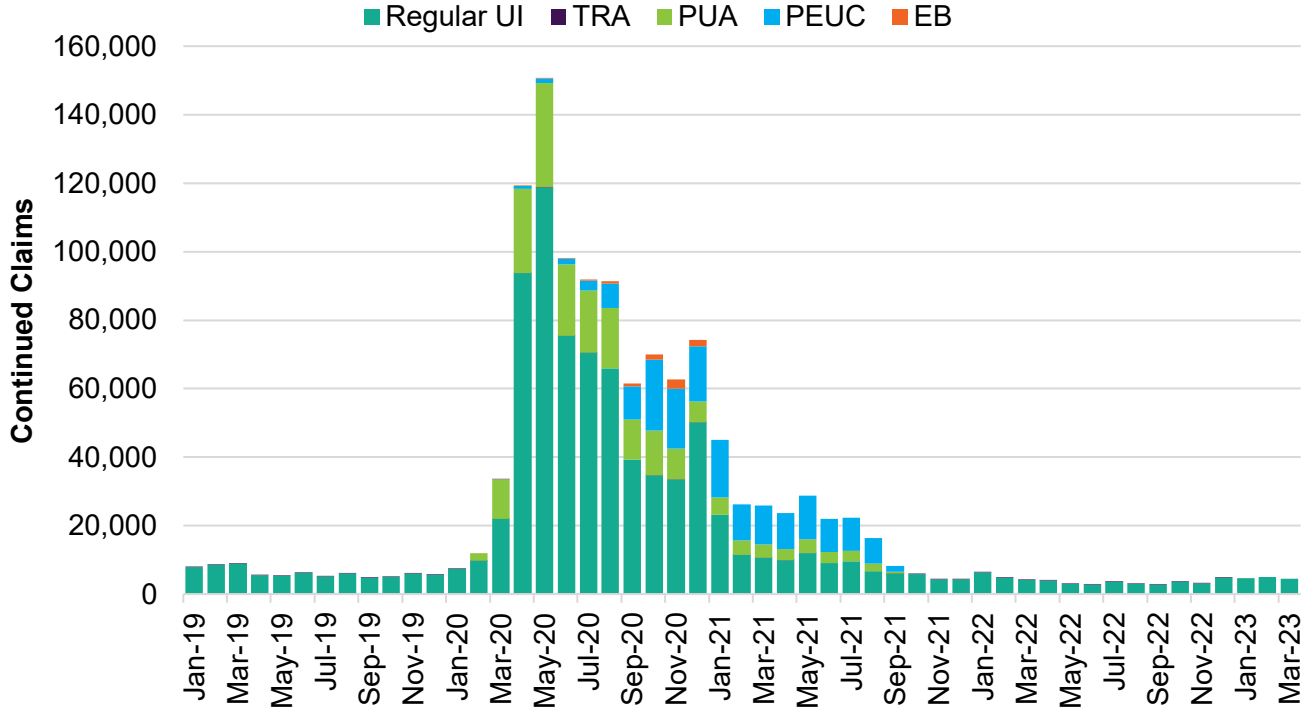
The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Kansans. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment; therefore, continued claims do not equal claims paid.

Monthly Continued Claim Totals

Chart 7 displays monthly continued claims totals by program for Local Area III. Note that PUA and PEUC were pandemic era programs only in operation during 2020 and 2021. The EB program is triggered on by extended periods of high unemployment and was also in operation during 2020.

The number of continued claims was relatively low prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with Local Area III averaging 6,254 continued claims per month in 2019. Continued claims spiked to an average of 72,703 per month in 2020, but declined in 2021 to a monthly average of 19,395. In 2022 the monthly average of continued claims dropped to 3,819. There was a small seasonal increase in December 2022 that continued into 2023; however, continued claims totals for the first quarter of 2023 remain much lower than the pre-pandemic levels experienced in 2019.

Chart 7
Continued Claims Totals
Jan 2019 - Mar 2023
Local Area III



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Continued Claims by Industry

Table 1 displays the total number of continued claims by industry sector in Local Area III for years 2019 through 2022. Note that PUA claims are excluded from these totals. In 2022 claims by industry sector returned to typical patterns with construction; administrative and waste services; and professional, scientific, and technical services recording the highest number of continued claims for the year. Construction recorded 7,963 continued claims in 2022; this was a decrease of 8,040, or 50.2%, from 2021. Meanwhile, administrative and waste services recorded 6,453 continued claims in 2022; this was a decrease of 71.7% from 2021 and a decrease of 90.3% when compared to 2020 claims totals. Professional, scientific, and technical services recorded the third highest total with 5,008 continued claims filed in 2022, decreasing by 11,089, or 68.9%, over the year.

In Local Area III arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; and other services were some of the hardest hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic. These industries experienced the largest percent increase in claims from 2019 to 2020. Impacts of the pandemic were temporary, as these industries saw sharp declines in 2021, which continued into 2022 with claims totals dropping below pre-pandemic levels.

Table 1
Continued Claims Filed by Year and Industry Sector
Local Area III

Industry Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022
Construction	12,572	35,537	16,003	7,963
Administrative and Waste Services	11,172	66,588	22,807	6,453
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	7,578	47,542	16,097	5,008
Finance and Insurance	4,375	18,640	7,989	4,268
Health Care and Social Assistance	6,132	79,615	19,202	3,514
Manufacturing	5,916	57,332	30,444	3,301
Wholesale Trade	4,550	32,817	10,734	2,793
Retail Trade	5,616	87,478	19,344	2,684
Transportation and Warehousing	3,988	41,714	10,048	2,395
Accommodation and Food Services	3,286	103,852	17,453	1,557
Information	2,344	16,821	6,052	1,437
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,738	13,122	5,215	1,050
Other Services	1,197	31,717	6,024	1,029
Public Administration	1,702	14,901	3,466	803
Educational Services	1,341	27,940	4,782	706
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	657	23,365	3,237	345
Management of Companies	551	3,826	892	257
Utilities	66	631	172	76
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	53	359	217	54
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	153	410	216	53

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics
Note: PUA data are excluded from these totals

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Industry data provide a detailed understanding of the composition of the local economy. This data highlights which industries account for the largest share of employment in the region as well as the industries with the highest wages. Understanding the industry composition of the local economy can provide insight into overall employment trends and can help guide decisions related to investment, resource allocation, and policy formulation.

Location quotients describe the concentration of an industry in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an industry is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that industry than the U.S.

Employment

In 2022 Local Area III recorded a monthly average of 470,728 total jobs; of these, 416,959, or 88.6%, were private sector jobs. The private industry sector that recorded the most jobs for Local Area III was health care and social assistance, which accounted for 66,186 jobs. This was followed by retail trade with 45,675 jobs, and professional, scientific, and technical services with 40,116 jobs. Government accounted for 53,769, or 11.4% of jobs in Local Area III, with the majority of these jobs being recorded at the local level. There were 39,618 local government jobs in Local Area III during 2022.

Wages

The average weekly wage for all industries in Local Area III was $1,287 in 2022, this was $207 higher than the statewide average of $1,080. The private sector recorded an average weekly wage of $1,308, while government recorded an average weekly wage of $1,129. Management of companies and enterprises recorded the highest average weekly wage at $2,759, followed by information with an average weekly wage of $2,177. Seven additional private industry sectors in Local Area III recorded an average weekly wage higher than the private sector average: utilities; finance and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; wholesale trade; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; manufacturing; and construction.

Location Quotients

Local Area III private industry sectors with the highest employment concentrations relative to the U.S. include transportation and warehousing, management of companies and enterprises, and wholesale trade. Each of these industry sectors recorded a location quotient of at least 1.36. Transportation and warehousing recorded the highest location quotient in Local Area III, with an employment concentration 1.70 times higher than that of the U.S. Local Area III had a lower concentration of government employment relative to the U.S., recording a location quotient of 0.80. The private industry sectors with the lowest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in Local Area III were agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; and utilities; each recorded a location quotient of 0.38 or less.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program https://www.bls.gov/cew/

Table 2 Industry Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients (LQ) Local Area III 2022			
Industry Sector	**Employment**	**Average Weekly Wage**	**Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.**
Total, All Industries	**470,728**	**$1,287**	**1.00**
Total Private	**416,959**	**$1,308**	**1.03**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	191	$680	0.05
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	316	$1,661	0.18
Utilities	655	$2,112	0.38
Construction	22,164	$1,425	0.92
Manufacturing	34,303	$1,480	0.86
Wholesale Trade	25,416	$1,856	1.36
Retail Trade	45,675	$730	0.94
Transportation and Warehousing	34,177	$1,025	1.70
Information	7,655	$2,177	0.80
Finance and Insurance	25,799	$2,086	1.31
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6,608	$1,227	0.90
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	40,116	$1,910	1.21
Management of Companies and Enterprises	11,801	$2,759	1.50
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	38,654	$1,049	1.29
Educational Services	4,163	$772	0.44
Health Care and Social Assistance	66,186	$1,254	1.04
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6,452	$562	0.89
Accommodation and Food Services	35,122	$482	0.83
Other Services (except Public Administration)	11,508	$890	0.83
Total Government	**53,769**	**$1,129**	**0.80**
Local	39,618	$996	0.91
State	5,904	$1,145	0.41
Federal	8,247	$1,754	0.92
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)			

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Every summer KDOL's Labor Market Information Services division releases the results from the Kansas Wage Survey conducted by the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Data from the OEWS program is current as of May 2022 and contains employment and wage data for hundreds of occupations in Kansas. Data is also available for Kansas' metropolitan areas, local workforce areas, and counties. This is one of KDOL's most used data sets. Employers use this data as a guide to set their wages and salaries, while workers use this data to learn the typical wages for their occupations and to explore the earnings potential of other occupations.

Wages

As shown in Table 3, the median wage in Local Area III as of May 2022 was $47,172. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of $114,670. The five highest paying occupations in this group include chief executives, financial managers, architectural and engineering managers, computer and information systems managers, and sales managers. Each of these occupations recorded a median wage over $142,000. Chief executives was the highest paid management occupation with a median annual wage of $197,040.

The occupational group with the second highest median annual wage was the computer and mathematical occupational group, with a median annual wage of $86,694. The top paying occupations in this group include database architects, computer and information research scientists, database administrators, data scientists, and actuaries. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $109,000. Database architects was the highest paid computer and mathematical occupation with a median annual wage of $213,807.

Table 3
Wages, Employment, and Location Quotients (LQ) by Major Occupational Group
Local Area III
May 2022

Occupational Group	Median Annual Wage	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Total, All Occupations	**$47,172**	**470,700**	**1.00**
Management Occupations	$114,670	26,600	0.85
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	$73,731	37,280	1.21
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	$86,694	22,190	1.39
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	$79,644	9,430	1.19
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	$64,436	4,160	0.99
Community and Social Service Occupations	$50,063	4,810	0.65
Legal Occupations	$79,636	3,290	0.85
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	$48,727	23,350	0.86
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	$49,653	5,730	0.87
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	$74,979	33,370	1.16
Healthcare Support Occupations	$35,127	17,960	0.83
Protective Service Occupations	$46,859	8,610	0.79
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	$28,734	35,810	0.90
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	$34,823	11,520	0.84
Personal Care and Service Occupations	$28,316	10,050	1.11
Sales and Related Occupations	$39,436	44,620	1.06
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	$39,985	63,570	1.07
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	$34,399	740	0.50
Construction and Extraction Occupations	$51,064	16,860	0.87
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	$50,353	16,040	0.87
Production Occupations	$40,666	23,760	0.85
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	$40,905	50,950	1.18

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

The architecture and engineering occupational group had the third highest median annual wage of $79,644. The top paying occupations in this group include health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers and inspectors; electronics engineers, except computer; environmental engineers; aerospace engineers; and chemical engineers. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $97,000. Health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers and inspectors was the highest paid architecture and engineering occupation with a median annual wage of $118,512.

The occupational groups with the lowest median annual wage were personal care and service occupations and food preparation and serving related occupations. These occupational groups recorded a median annual wage below $29,000.

Table 4 shows the top 10 detailed occupations by employment. While these are the most common occupations in Local Area III, only three have a median wage above the Local Area III median wage of $47,172: registered nurses, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, and general and operations managers.

Employment

Table 4 indicates that total employment for all occupations in Local Area III was 470,700 as of May 2022. The office and administrative support occupational group recorded the largest employment, 63,570, or 13.5% of total employment in Local Area III. This group includes the most common and ninth most common occupations in Local Area III: customer service representatives, which recorded employment of 13,580, and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive, which recorded employment of 8,360.

The transportation and material moving occupational group had the second largest employment of 50,950, or 10.8% of total employment. Three occupations from this group ranked in the top 10 occupations by employment for Local Area III: stockers and order fillers; laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand; and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. Each of these occupations recorded employment over 9,000.

The sales and related occupational group had the third largest employment of 44,620, or 9.5% of total employment. The third and eighth most common occupations in Local Area III belong to this occupational group: retail salespersons with employment of 11,260, and cashiers with employment of 9,010.

Table 4
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment
Local Area III
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Median Annual Wage
Total, All Occupations	**470,700**	**$47,172**
Customer Service Representatives	13,580	↓ $36,939
Registered Nurses	11,630	↑ $76,802
Retail Salespersons	11,260	↓ $30,466
Stockers and Order Fillers	10,890	↓ $34,505
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	10,820	↓ $38,283
Fast Food and Counter Workers	10,220	↓ $26,957
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	9,420	↑ $54,969
Cashiers	9,010	↓ $27,262
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	8,360	↓ $38,638
General and Operations Managers	8,010	↑ $98,650

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)
Arrows indicate whether an occupational wage is above or below the median wage for all occupations

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics
https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=841

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.

Location Quotients

In Local Area III the occupational group with the highest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in 2022 was computer and mathematical occupations, recording a location quotient of 1.39. One occupation from this group ranked in the top 10 occupations by location quotient for Local Area III: actuaries, with a location quotient of 2.89.

Business and financial operations occupations recorded the second highest location quotient of 1.21. However, no detailed occupations from this group ranked in the top 10 occupations by location quotient.

The occupational group with the third highest location quotient of 1.19 was architecture and engineering occupations. One occupation from this group ranked in the top 10 by location quotient: civil engineering technologists and technicians, with a location quotient of 2.92.

In Local Area III the occupation with the highest location quotient relative to the U.S. was animal scientists, with an employment concentration 6.23 times that of the U.S. Electronic equipment installer and repairers, motor vehicles recorded the second highest location quotient of 5.32.

Table 5
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment Location Quotient (LQ)
Local Area III
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Animal Scientists	50	6.23
Electronic Equipment Installers and Repairers, Motor Vehicles	160	5.32
Air Traffic Controllers	330	4.88
Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars	410	3.63
Athletes and Sports Competitors	120	3.16
Traffic Technicians	70	3.01
Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians	580	2.92
Actuaries	230	2.89
Millwrights	370	2.84
Office Machine Operators, Except Computer	270	2.79

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

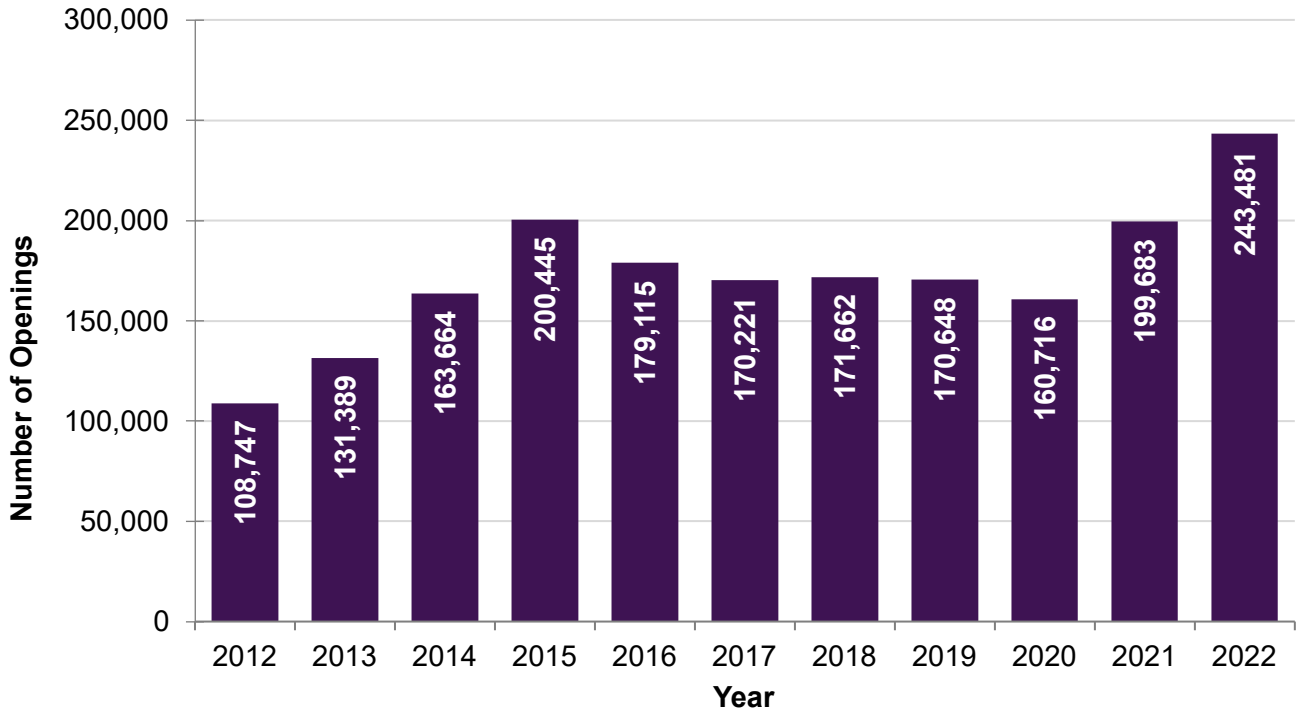
ADVERTISED JOBS

Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Advertised jobs data are sourced from Geographic Solutions, Inc. The information is collected from employer corporate sites, hospitals, non-profits, local and federal government agencies, schools and universities, recruiter sites, newspapers, volunteer sites, and other public, private, and state job boards. It is important to note that roughly 30% of advertised jobs do not have enough information to classify them with an industry or occupational code. These data are included in total advertised jobs, but excluded from industry and occupational totals.

Annual Job Openings

Chart 8 shows that Local Area III experienced a steady increase in job openings from 2012 through 2015, followed by a slow overall declining trend from 2015 through 2020. This decline was followed by steep increases in 2021 and 2022, with Local Area III job openings increasing by 82,765, or 51.5%, during that time. Local Area III recorded 243,481 job openings in 2022; this is the highest number of job openings reported for the region, with records beginning in 2008.

Chart 8
Advertised Job Openings
Local Area III
2012 - 2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

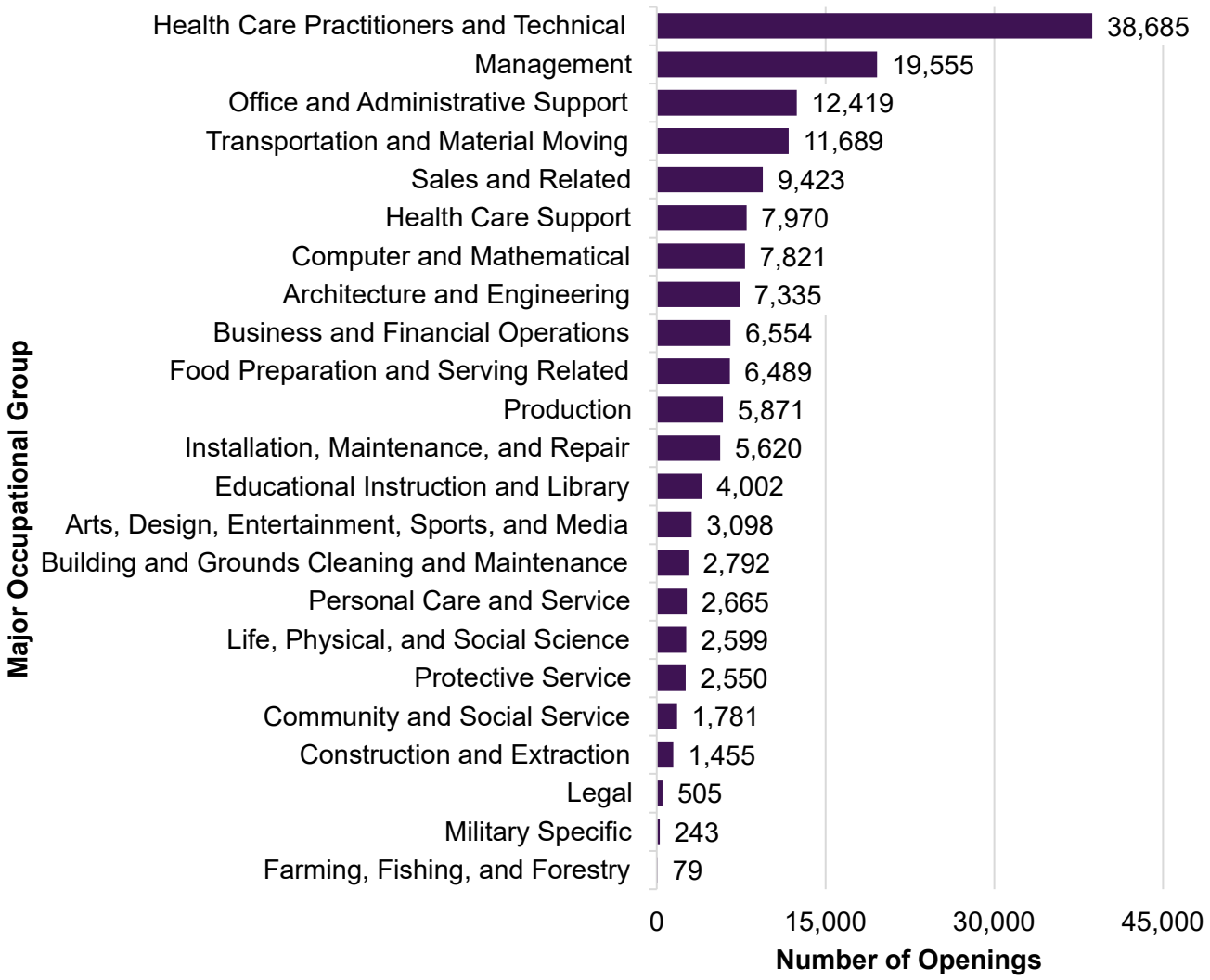
Check out our dashboard here: https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/GSIPub/documentview.aspx?docid=885

Job Openings by Occupation

As shown in Chart 9, the health care practitioners and technical occupational group had the most job openings by far in Local Area III, with 38,685 job openings advertised in 2022. This was followed by the management occupational group with 19,555 job openings, the office and administrative support occupational group with 12,419 job openings, and the transportation and material moving occupational group with 11,689 job openings. The sales and related occupational group had the fifth highest total job openings with 9,423. Three additional occupational groups had over 7,000 job openings in 2022: health care support, computer and mathematical, and architecture and engineering.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation in Local Area III with 20,186 job openings. This was followed by customer service representatives with 3,148 job openings, and nursing assistants with 3,114 job openings. Three additional occupations recorded over 2,000 openings in 2022: licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, and retail salespersons.

Chart 9
Advertised Job Openings by Major Occupational Group
Local Area III
2022

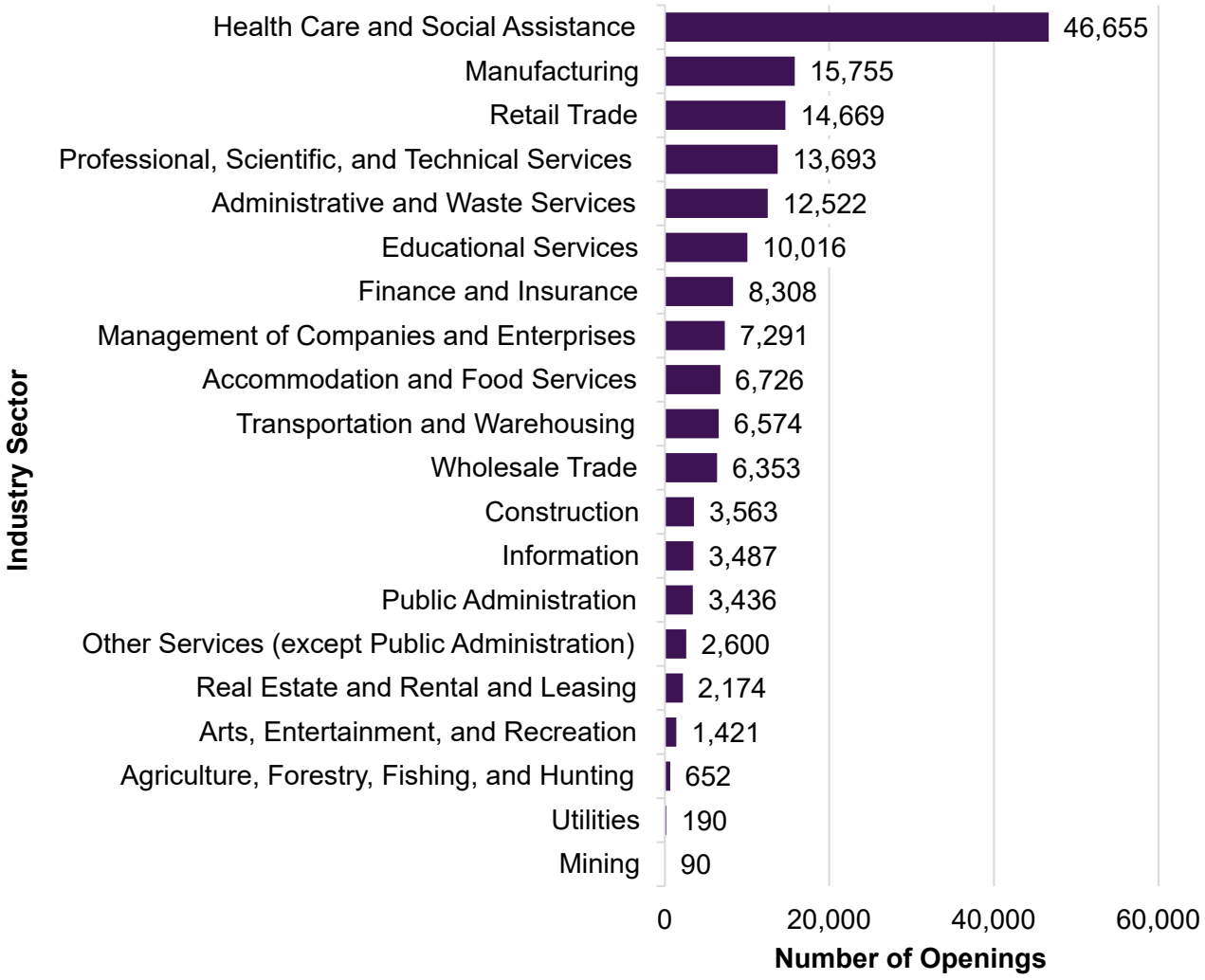


Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

Job Openings by Industry

Chart 10 displays advertised job openings by industry sector for Local Area III. The health care and social assistance sector recorded the most job openings by far in 2022, with 46,655 job openings. The majority of these job openings were in hospitals, which accounted for 28,784, while ambulatory health care services accounted for 9,922. Manufacturing had the second highest number of job openings with 15,755. Computer and electronic product manufacturing accounted for 7,325 of these job openings, while each of the following manufacturing subsectors accounted for at least 1,000 job openings: food, chemical, machinery, and beverage and tobacco products. Retail trade recorded 14,669 job openings in 2022, with each of the following subsectors accounting for at least 2,000 job openings: building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers, motor vehicle and parts dealers, health and personal care stores, and food and beverage stores. The following industry sectors each accounted for at least 10,000 job openings in 2022: professional, scientific, and technical services; administrative and waste services; and educational services.

Chart 10
Advertised Job Openings by Industry Sector
Local Area III
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS

Every two years each of the 50 states complete long-term projections in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). The base year used in these projections is 2020 and the projection year is 2030. Statewide projections are released in even numbered years, while regional projections are released during odd numbered years. Long-term projections play an important role for students and others making career choices. Information about future trends in job growth and demand for labor is vital to making these life decisions. For the long-term projections program, it is assumed that the Kansas labor market will be in full employment in the projected year. This means the labor market will be in equilibrium and labor supply will meet labor demand, so the projections are forecasting structural changes in the economy rather than predicting changes in the business cycle.

Industry Projections

Local Area III total jobs across all industries are expected to grow by 41,110 to 539,865 jobs in 2030, an increase of 8.2% over the 10-year period. This averages out to 4,111 jobs per year, or 0.8% average annual growth.

Table 6 shows long-term projections for the top 10 industry sectors by numerical change from the base year 2020 to the projected year 2030. The goods producing sector, which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining; construction; and manufacturing, is projected to increase by 56 jobs per year, an average annual growth rate of 0.1%. The remaining industry sectors fall under the service providing sector, which is projected to have a positive average annual growth rate of 1.0%, adding 4,131 jobs annually.

Table 6
Top 10 Industry Sectors by Numerical Job Change
Kansas City Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Industry Sector	Job Numbers		Job Changes		
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Annual Avg. Growth %
Total, All Industries	**498,755**	**539,865**	**41,110**	**8.2%**	**0.8%**
Health Care and Social Assistance	70,262	80,405	10,143	14.4%	1.4%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	33,980	39,854	5,874	17.3%	1.6%
Transportation and Warehousing	33,123	38,325	5,202	15.7%	1.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	30,659	35,673	5,014	16.4%	1.5%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	40,642	44,785	4,143	10.2%	1.0%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5,016	6,852	1,836	36.6%	3.2%
Other Services (except Government)	15,863	17,678	1,815	11.4%	1.1%
Educational Services	32,172	33,971	1,799	5.6%	0.5%
Government	24,086	25,698	1,612	6.7%	0.6%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	12,929	14,480	1,551	12.0%	1.1%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The Kansas City Projection Region differs from Local Area III since it also includes Miami County.

The health care and social assistance industry sector is projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the 10-year period, adding an additional 10,143 jobs. This industry sector consists of four underlying subsectors: ambulatory health care services, hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities, and social assistance. Of these four subsectors, hospitals is projected to gain the most jobs, 398 annually; meanwhile, social assistance is expected to grow the fastest, with an average annual growth rate of 1.8%. Of the industry sectors, arts, entertainment, and recreation is projected to grow at the fastest rate, 3.2% annually.

Occupational Projections

Table 7 shows the top 10 major occupational groups projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the projection period. The transportation and material moving occupational group is projected to gain 5,110 jobs during the 10-year period with an average annual growth rate of 1.0%. The transportation and material moving occupational group is made up of 47 detailed occupations; of these, laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand is expected to add the most jobs by 2030, gaining 1,529 jobs over the 10-year period. This is followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers which is expected to grow by 634 jobs. The major occupational groups expected to grow the fastest are building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations and health care support occupations; both are expected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.6%.

Table 7
Top 10 Occupational Groups by Numerical Job Change
Kansas City Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Occupational Group	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**498,755**	**539,865**	**41,110**	**8.2%**	**0.8%**	**594,753**
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	49,656	54,766	5,110	10.3%	1.0%	70,637
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	34,403	39,458	5,055	14.7%	1.4%	70,801
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	32,994	37,680	4,686	14.2%	1.3%	24,054
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	40,871	44,299	3,428	8.4%	0.8%	39,504
Management Occupations	30,347	33,523	3,176	10.5%	1.0%	27,879
Health Care Support Occupations	18,088	21,189	3,101	17.1%	1.6%	26,857
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	13,793	16,161	2,368	17.2%	1.6%	21,681
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	24,957	27,012	2,055	8.2%	0.8%	20,165
Personal Care and Service Occupations	12,762	14,767	2,005	15.7%	1.5%	21,591
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	25,005	26,974	1,969	7.9%	0.8%	24,806

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The Kansas City Projection Region differs from Local Area III since it also includes Miami County.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Employment Outlook https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468

Projections by Educational Requirement

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) assigns the level of education typically needed to enter each detailed occupation. Each occupation falls under one of eight education levels. As shown in Table 8, the largest increase in jobs is projected to be in those occupations typically requiring a bachelor's degree; these occupations are expected to grow by 12,891 jobs over the projection period. The educational category projected to grow the fastest is master's degree, at an average annual rate of 1.4%, followed by occupations typically requiring an associate degree or no formal educational credential; both projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.1%.

Occupational classification by years of work experience typically needed to enter the occupation is also available. This can be more than five years, less than five years, or none. A third classification is available that organizes occupations by typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency. This can be long-term on-the-job training (more than one year), moderate-term on-the-job training (one month to one year), short-term on-the-job training (less than one month), internship/residency, or none. This information is available on the KDOL, LMIS website, www.klic.dol.ks.gov.

Table 8
Projections by Educational Requirement
Kansas City Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Education	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**498,755**	**539,865**	**41,110**	**8.2%**	**0.8%**	**594,753**
Bachelor's degree	135,599	148,490	12,891	9.5%	0.9%	123,142
No formal educational credential	100,560	112,070	11,510	11.4%	1.1%	171,158
High school diploma or equivalent	187,165	196,564	9,399	5.0%	0.5%	223,203
Postsecondary non-degree award	32,023	35,147	3,124	9.8%	0.9%	37,729
Master's degree	8,014	9,236	1,222	15.2%	1.4%	7,360
Doctoral or professional degree	11,352	12,491	1,139	10.0%	1.0%	7,289
Associate degree	9,417	10,538	1,121	11.9%	1.1%	9,938
Some college, no degree	14,625	15,329	704	4.8%	0.5%	14,934

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The Kansas City Projection Region differs from Local Area III since it also includes Miami County.

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The High Demand Occupation Lists are intended to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation. Occupations are scored based on three measures of labor demand: current job openings, projected job openings over the next two years, and projected job openings over the next 10 years. Each of these scores are added together to get a total demand score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

High Demand Occupations

Table 9 displays the top high demand occupations for Local Area III. These 10 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2024 and 2030. Overall, there are 220 occupations on the high demand list in Local Area III. Six of the top 10 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require one month or less of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. The median wages of these six occupations are all below the Local Area III median wage of $47,172, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of occupational growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Table 9
Top High Demand Occupations
Kansas City Projection Region
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	$98,491	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	$76,802	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$54,969	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	$38,283	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	$36,939	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Assistants	$36,435	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Stockers and Order Fillers	$34,482	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	$31,070	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	$30,501	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	$26,959	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations
Note: The Kansas City Projection Region differs from Local Area III since it also includes Miami County.

LMIS also identifies high demand occupations that pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the Local Area III median wage.

High Demand High Wage Occupations

In Local Area III there are 120 high demand high wage occupations; Table 10 lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, 11 of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree or moderate-term on-the-job training. Also noteworthy is that three high demand high wage occupations also had the maximum demand score of 30: general and operations managers, registered nurses, and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Table 10
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
Kansas City Projection Region
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	$98,491	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	$76,802	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$54,969	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Accountants and Auditors	$77,685	Bachelor's degree	None
Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers	$97,030	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	$48,178	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	$63,302	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	$62,719	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	$62,400	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	$60,892	Bachelor's degree	None
Sales Managers	$142,378	Bachelor's degree	None
Medical and Health Services Managers	$101,380	Bachelor's degree	None
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	$62,954	Bachelor's degree	None
Human Resources Specialists	$61,498	Bachelor's degree	None
Computer User Support Specialists	$51,924	Some college, no degree	Moderate-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations
Note: The Kansas City Projection Region differs from Local Area III since it also includes Miami County.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, High Demand Occupations https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403

EDUCATION

Educational attainment is important in economic analysis because it influences human capital development, labor market outcomes, income inequality, economic mobility, innovation, and public finance. Policies and investments aimed at improving educational attainment can yield substantial economic benefits for individuals, societies, and the state as a whole.

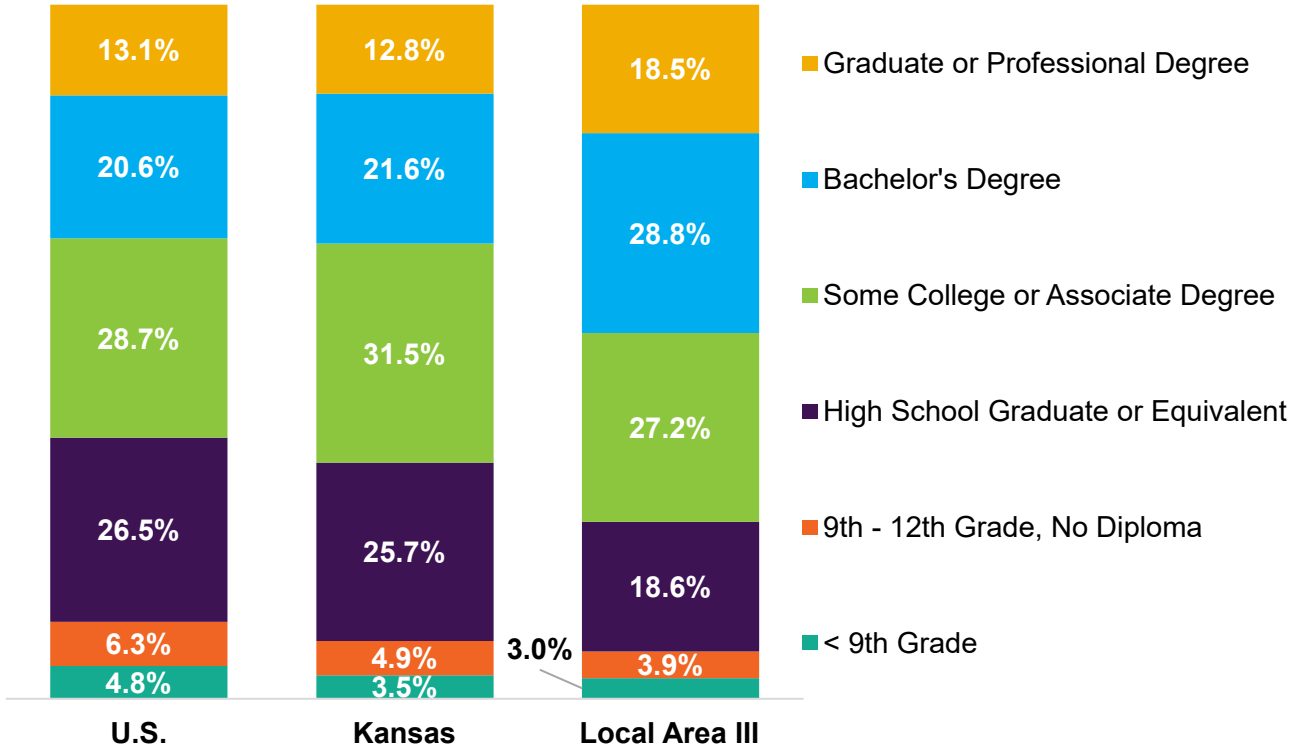
Educational Attainment

Chart 11 indicates that educational attainment in Local Area III is well above the statewide and national average. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates, 93.1% of Local Area III residents have at least a high school diploma or equivalent; this is 4.2 percentage points higher than the national rate of 88.9% and 1.5 percentage points higher than the statewide rate of 91.6%. It is estimated that 47.3% of Local Area III residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 33.7% nationally and 34.4% statewide.

When compared to the 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates, the percentage of Local Area III residents reporting an educational attainment of at least a high school diploma or equivalent increased by 1.1 percentage points, while the percentage of Local Area III residents reporting a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 3.1 percentage points.

The most commonly reported educational attainment level in Local Area III was bachelor's degree at 28.8%; this was followed by some college or associate degree at 27.2%. High school graduate or equivalent and graduate or professional degree accounted for 18.6% and 18.5%, respectively.

Chart 11
Educational Attainment for the Population 25 and Over
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area III
2021



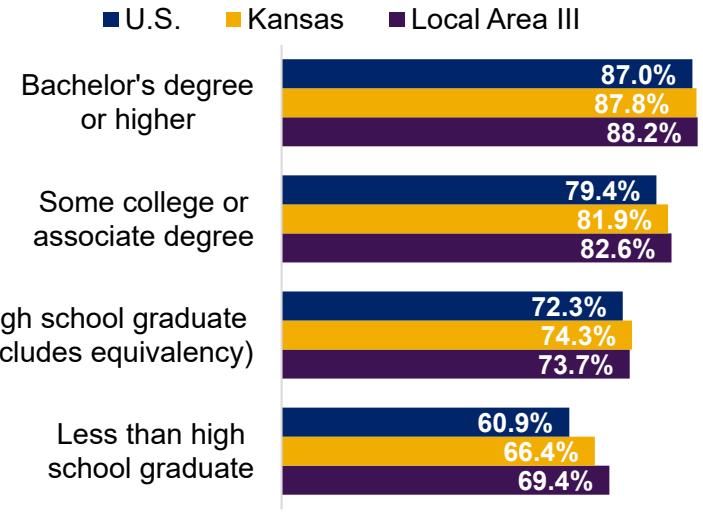
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Labor Force Statistics by Educational Attainment

Charts 12 and 13 indicate that as educational attainment level increases, labor force participation increases, while unemployment rates decline. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 ACS 5-year Estimates, Local Area III had a labor force participation rate of 82.9% for the civilian population ages 25-64; this was 4.6 percentage points higher than the U.S., which had a labor force participation rate of 78.3%, and 2.0 percentage points higher than the statewide rate of 80.9%. Local Area III residents without a high school diploma or equivalent had the lowest labor force participation rate at 69.4%, while Local Area III residents with a bachelor's degree or higher had the highest labor force participation rate at 88.2%. Local Area III had higher labor force participation across all levels of educational attainment when compared to the U.S. The only level in which Local Area III had a lower rate than the state was high school graduate or equivalent.

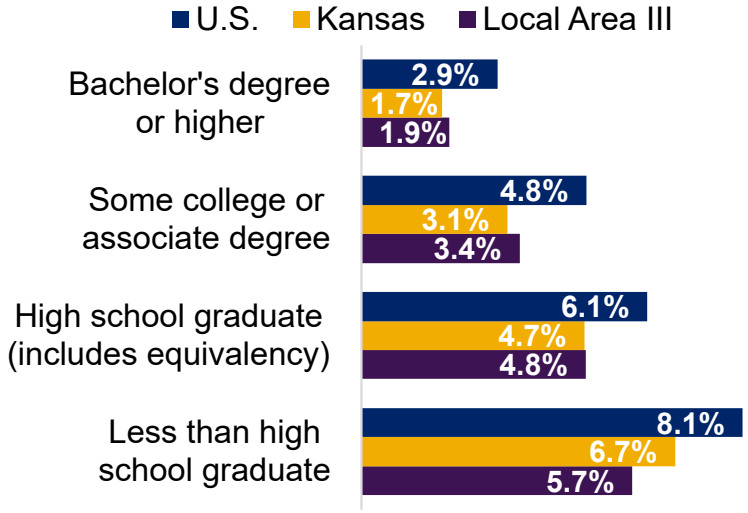
In Local Area III ACS estimates indicate that the unemployment rate for the civilian population ages 25-64 was 2.9% in 2021; this was 1.7 percentage points lower than the U.S. rate of 4.6%, and 0.3 percentage points below the statewide rate of 3.2%. Local Area III residents with educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 1.9%, while Local Area III residents with less than a high school diploma or equivalent had the highest unemployment rate at 5.7%. Local Area III achieved lower unemployment rates across all levels of educational attainment when compared to the U.S. However, when compared to the state, Local Area III experienced slightly higher unemployment rates across all levels of education except for less than high school graduate.

Chart 12
Labor Force Participation Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area III
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

Chart 13
Unemployment Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area III
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html

LOCAL AREA IV

POPULATION
663,207

LABOR FORCE
321,860

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
3.1%

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE
$40,986

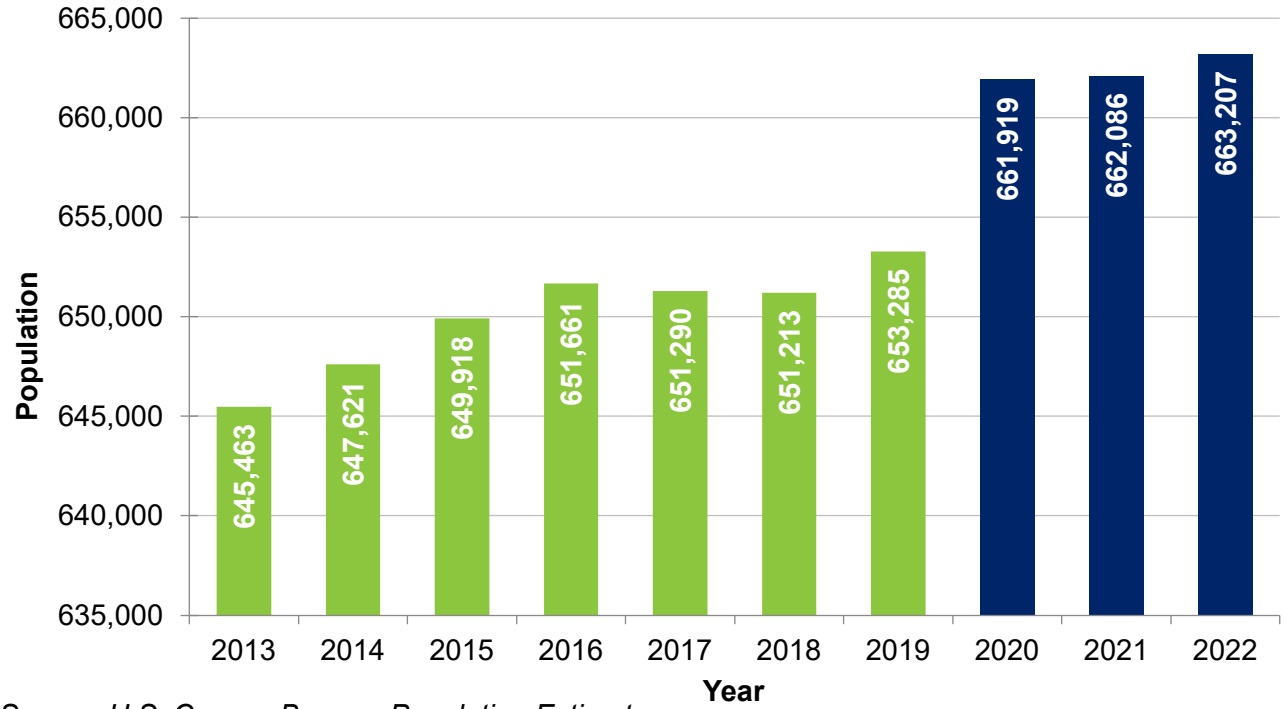
POPULATION

Population is an important statistic to review for economic purposes for two reasons, both of which benefit businesses. A growing population leads to a larger market for businesses and may lead to more jobs as demand for goods and services increase. A growing population also potentially increases the size and quality of the labor force which provides more labor supply for businesses to fill jobs.

Total Population

Local Area IV contains six counties in south central Kansas and contains most of the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area. Wichita, the largest city in Kansas, is the primary urban area in this local area. There are six other cities in Local Area IV with at least 10,000 residents. Four are located within the Wichita metro area: Derby, Andover, El Dorado, and Haysville; and two are in Cowley County: Winfield and Arkansas City. Chart 1 displays the population of Local Area IV from 2013 to 2022. The Local Area IV population was estimated to be 663,207 in 2022. This represents an increase of 1,121, or 0.2%. The population of Local Area IV has grown by 17,744 since 2013, or 2.7%.

Chart 1
Population Estimates
Local Area IV
2013 - 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates
Due to the Census' delay in finalizing the 2010-2020 Intercensal Population Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

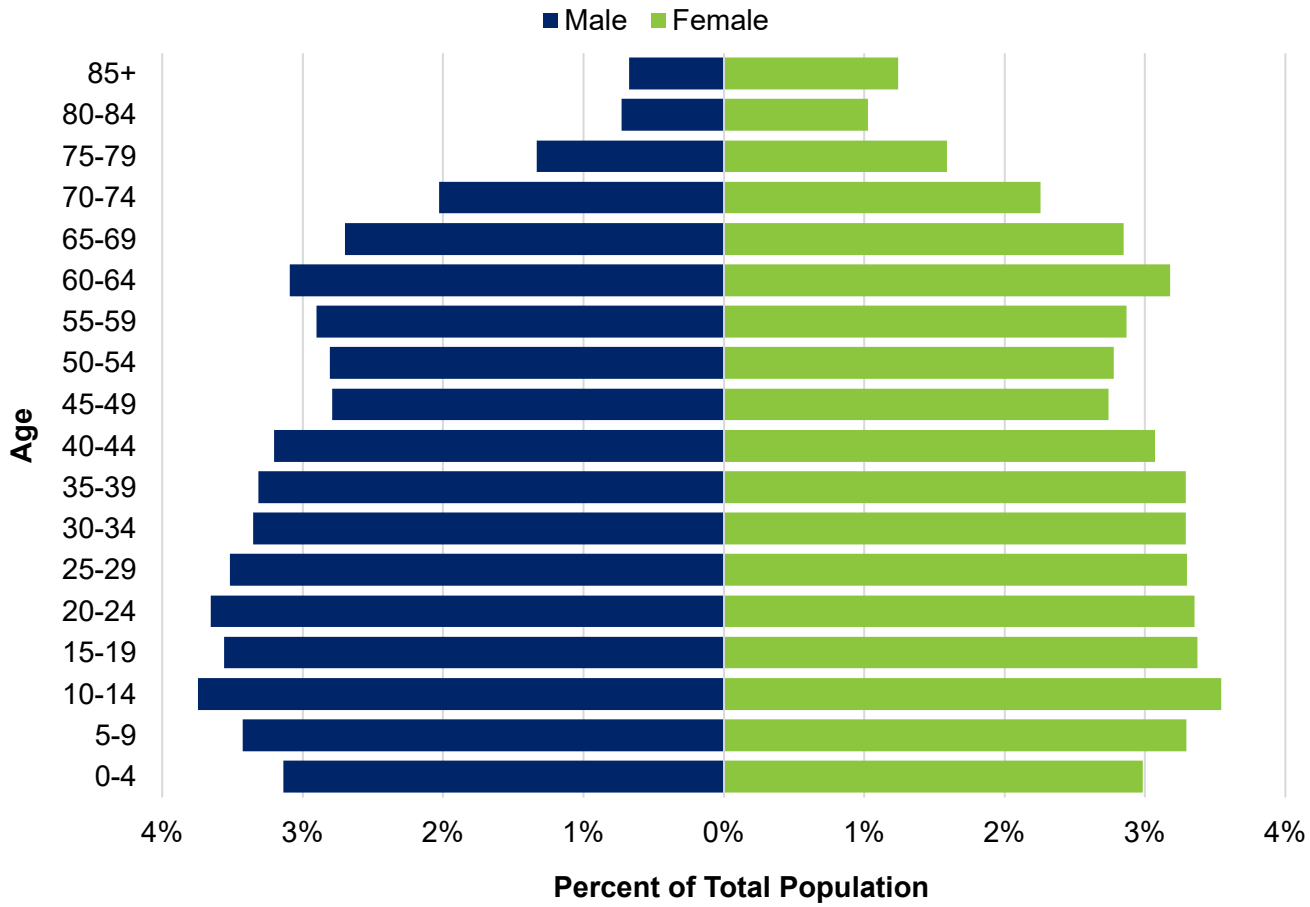
Population by Age

Chart 2 displays the Local Area IV population by age group and gender. The population pyramid for Local Area IV is the most pyramid-like of the local areas with a few exceptions. There are two peaks in population, with the larger centered on the 10-14 year-old age group, and a smaller peak centered on the 60-64 year-old age group. The largest age group in this local area is 10-14 year-olds, representing 7.3% of the population. This was followed by the 20-24 year-old age group, accounting for 7.0% of the Local Area IV population.

For economic purposes, the two main age groups studied are the 16 and over population and the 25-54 population. The 16 and over population includes everyone who is eligible to be in the labor force, while 25-54 year-olds are considered prime age workers. The 16 and over population in Local Area IV increased by 2,316 people, or 0.4%, to 519,766 in 2022. The 25-54 year-old population also rose in 2022, increasing by 1,078 people, or 0.4%, to 248,399 in 2022.

Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy since the population under 25 decreased by 900, or 0.4%. Declines were seen in all age groups under 20. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, recorded an increase of 1.4%, or 620 people over the year.

Chart 2
Population by Age
Local Area IV
2022

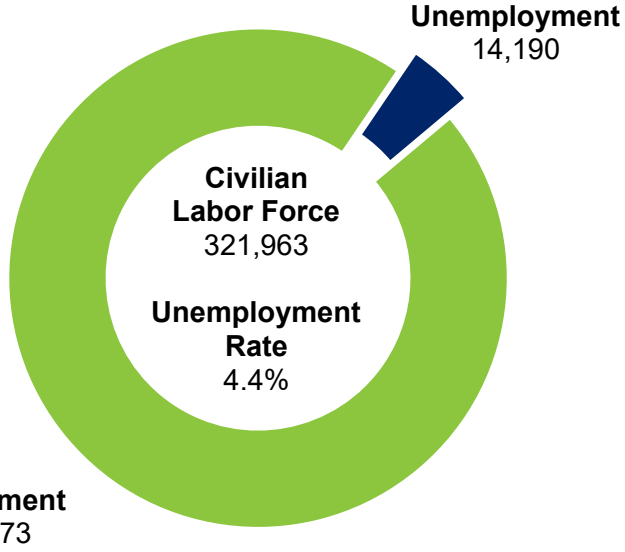


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

LABOR FORCE

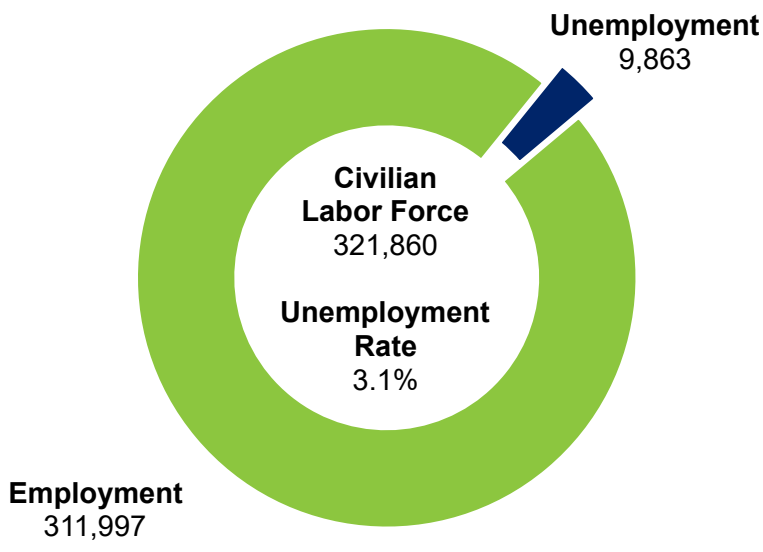
Charts 3 and 4 provide a snapshot of the labor force in Local Area IV during 2021 and 2022. There were 321,860 people in the Local Area IV labor force in 2022, a slight decrease of 103 people, or 0.0%, from 2021. The number of people working increased by 4,224, or 1.4%, to 311,997 in 2022, while the number of unemployed people in Local Area IV decreased by 4,327, or 30.5%, to 9,863 in 2022. This is the highest number of employed residents as well as the lowest number of unemployed residents on record for Local Area IV. Lastly, the unemployment rate dropped 1.3 percentage points to 3.1% in 2022.

Chart 3
Labor Force Statistics
Local Area IV
2021



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Chart 4
Labor Force Statistics
Local Area IV
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

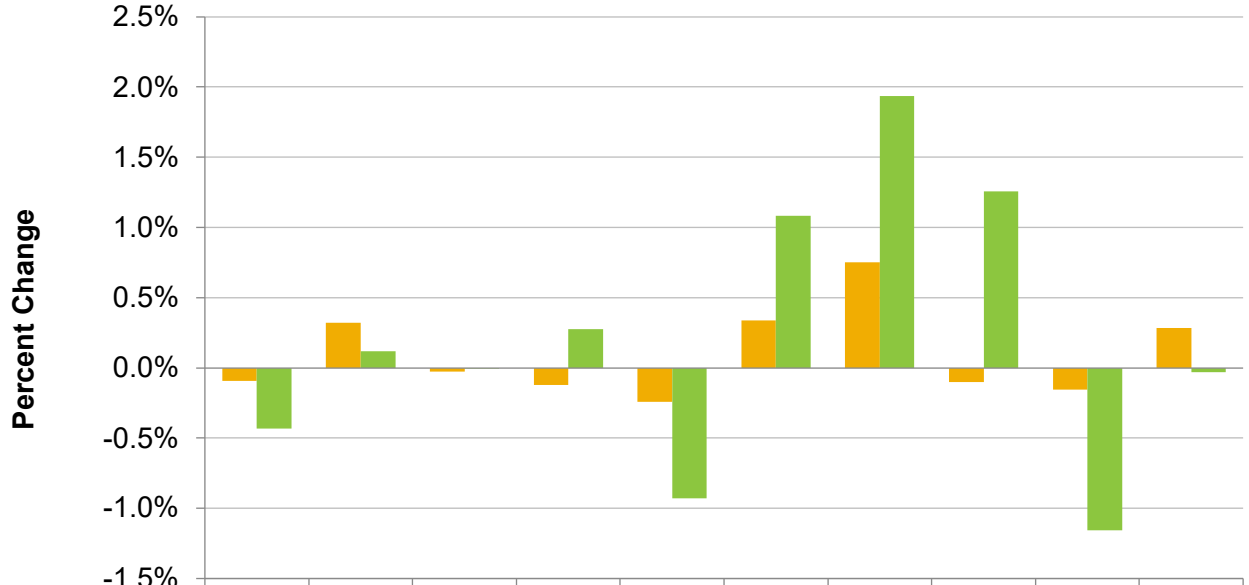
Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Labor Force and Unemployment Rate https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=418

The civilian labor force is a measure of the number of people 16 years and older that are available for work. This includes individuals who are employed as well as those who are unemployed but actively seeking work. A growing labor force is favorable as it increases the number of workers available for employers and shows there is increasing confidence of finding a job in a given area.

Civilian Labor Force

Chart 5 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Local Area IV and Kansas. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the labor force in Local Area IV experienced growth from 2018 through 2020. This was followed by a decline of 1.2% in 2021, and a very slight decline of 0.0% in 2022. Overall, the labor force in Local Area IV has increased by 7,932, or 2.5%, since 2013.

Chart 5
Percent Change in Labor Force
Kansas and Local Area IV
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	-0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.7%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%
Local Area IV	-0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	-0.9%	1.1%	1.9%	1.3%	-1.2%	0.0%

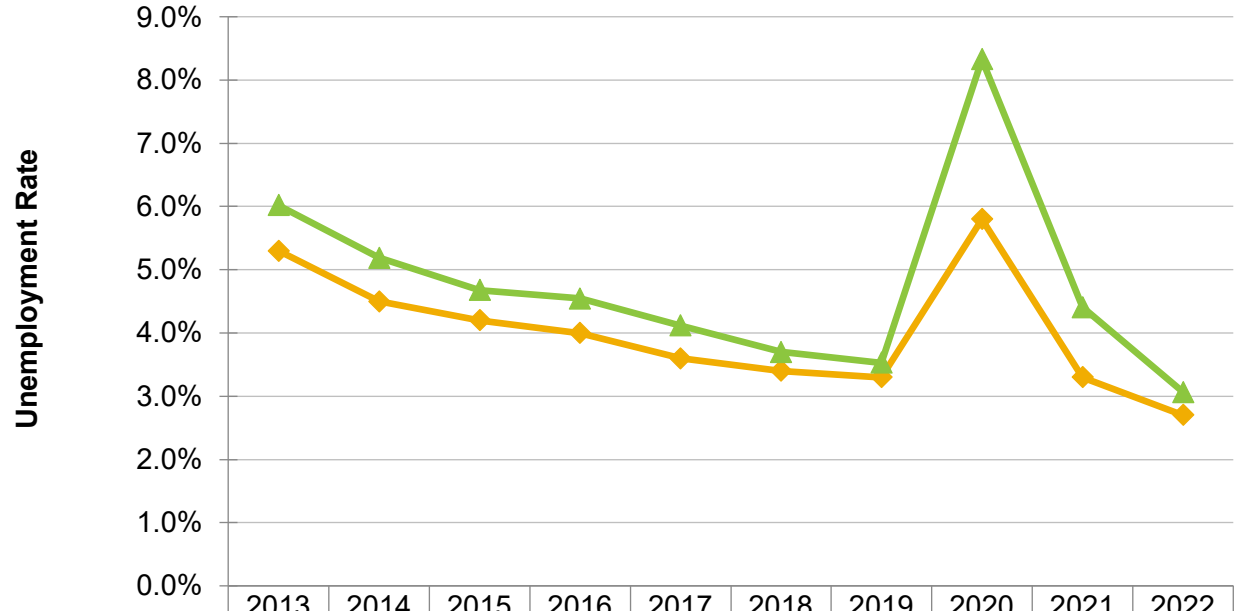
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate is a frequently cited economic statistic because it shows how many people want a job and cannot find one. The unemployment rate shows the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed and currently looking for a job. Typically, if the rate is high, there are many people who want a job but are having difficulty finding one due to a lack of demand for employees.

Unemployment Rate

As shown in Chart 6, the Local Area IV unemployment rate experienced a significant decline of 3.9 percentage points to 4.4% in 2021 and continued to decline to 3.1% in 2022. This rate is 0.4 percentage points higher than the statewide rate and 2.0 percentage points lower than the historical annual average of 5.1%. The 2022 rate is also the lowest unemployment rate on record for Local Area IV, with records beginning in 1990.

Chart 6
Unemployment Rate
Kansas and Local Area IV
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	5.3%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	3.6%	3.4%	3.3%	5.8%	3.3%	2.7%
Local Area IV	6.0%	5.2%	4.7%	4.5%	4.1%	3.7%	3.5%	8.3%	4.4%	3.1%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

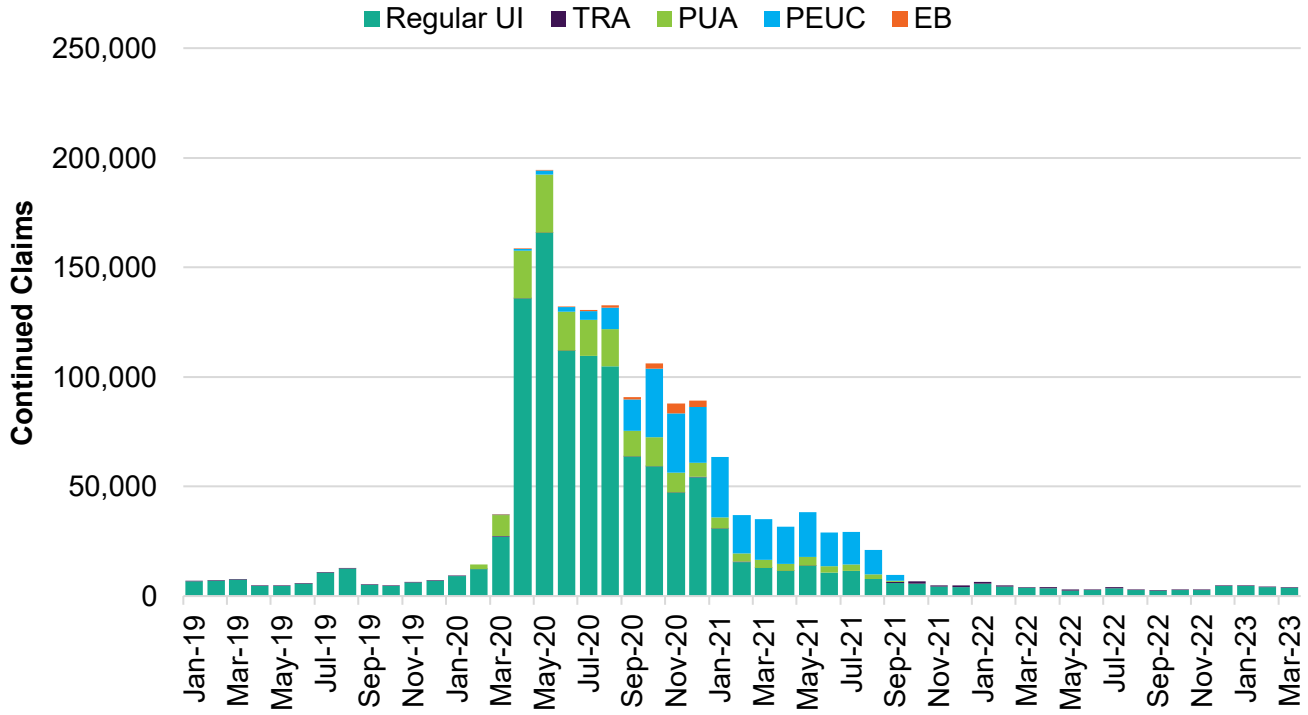
The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Kansans. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment; therefore, continued claims do not equal claims paid.

Monthly Continued Claim Totals

Chart 7 displays monthly continued claims totals by program for Local Area IV. Note that PUA and PEUC were pandemic era programs only in operation during 2020 and 2021. The EB program is triggered on by extended periods of high unemployment and was also in operation during 2020.

The number of continued claims was relatively low prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with Local Area IV averaging 6,886 continued claims per month in 2019. Continued claims spiked to an average of 98,588 per month in 2020, but declined in 2021 to a monthly average of 25,851. In 2022 the monthly average of continued claims dropped to 3,792. There was a small seasonal increase in December 2022 that continued into 2023; however, continued claims totals for the first quarter of 2023 remain much lower than the pre-pandemic levels experienced in 2019.

Chart 7
Continued Claims Totals
Jan 2019 - Mar 2023
Local Area IV



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Continued Claims by Industry

Table 1 displays the total number of continued claims by industry sector in Local Area IV for years 2019 through 2022. Note that PUA claims are excluded from these totals. In 2022 claims by industry sector returned to typical patterns with manufacturing, administrative and waste services, and construction recording the highest number of continued claims for the year. Manufacturing recorded 9,710 continued claims in 2022; this was a decrease of 88,448, or 90.1%, from 2021. Meanwhile, administrative and waste services recorded 6,678 continued claims in 2022; this was a decrease of 22,834, or 77.4%, over the year. Construction decreased by 11,760, or 63.8%, to 6,674 continued claims in 2022.

In Local Area IV arts, entertainment, and recreation; educational services; and accommodation and food services were some of the hardest hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic. These industries experienced the largest percent increase in claims from 2019 to 2020. Impacts of the pandemic were temporary, as these industries saw sharp declines in 2021, which continued into 2022 with claims totals dropping below pre-pandemic levels.

Table 1
Continued Claims Filed by Year and Industry Sector
Local Area IV

Industry Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022
Manufacturing	24,043	401,355	98,158	9,710
Administrative and Waste Services	9,910	84,089	29,512	6,678
Construction	11,478	41,254	18,434	6,674
Health Care and Social Assistance	6,443	72,805	21,598	4,176
Retail Trade	6,297	74,348	20,764	2,903
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	3,897	28,859	11,191	2,678
Accommodation and Food Services	4,262	119,344	24,334	2,309
Transportation and Warehousing	3,216	33,682	8,869	2,035
Finance and Insurance	2,051	11,773	5,474	1,538
Wholesale Trade	2,610	25,724	9,183	1,288
Other Services	1,836	30,932	7,229	979
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,065	11,730	3,644	835
Public Administration	1,683	11,555	4,429	829
Educational Services	1,254	41,638	6,431	783
Information	1,140	9,240	2,919	743
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	649	23,798	3,296	341
Management of Companies	213	1,649	398	168
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	191	812	220	122
Utilities	100	904	322	82
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	245	2,770	902	69

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics
Note: PUA data are excluded from these totals

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Industry data provide a detailed understanding of the composition of the local economy. This data highlights which industries account for the largest share of employment in the region as well as the industries with the highest wages. Understanding the industry composition of the local economy can provide insight into overall employment trends and can help guide decisions related to investment, resource allocation, and policy formulation.

Location quotients describe the concentration of an industry in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an industry is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that industry than the U.S.

Employment

In 2022 Local Area IV recorded a monthly average of 298,121 total jobs; of these, 255,094, or 85.6%, were private sector jobs. The private industry sector that recorded the most jobs for Local Area IV was manufacturing, which accounted for 51,302 jobs. This was followed by health care and social assistance with 39,452 jobs, and retail trade with 31,427 jobs. Government accounted for 43,027, or 14.4% of jobs in Local Area IV, with the majority of these jobs being recorded at the local level. There were 32,364 local government jobs in Local Area IV during 2022.

Wages

The average weekly wage for all industries in Local Area IV was $1,050 in 2022; this was $30 lower than the statewide average of $1,080. The private sector recorded an average weekly wage of $1,063, while government recorded an average weekly wage of $976. Management of companies and enterprises recorded the highest average weekly wage at $3,046, followed by utilities with an average weekly wage of $2,004. Seven additional private industry sectors in Local Area IV recorded an average weekly wage higher than the private sector average: mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; professional, scientific, and technical services; wholesale trade; manufacturing; finance and insurance; information; and construction.

Location Quotients

Local Area IV private industry sectors with the highest employment concentrations relative to the U.S. include manufacturing; arts, entertainment, and recreation; and construction. Each of these industry sectors recorded a location quotient of at least 1.05. Manufacturing recorded the highest location quotient in Local Area IV, with an employment concentration 2.02 times higher than that of the U.S. Local Area IV also had a higher concentration of local government employment relative to the U.S., recording an employment concentration 1.17 times that of the U.S. The private industry sectors with the lowest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in Local Area IV were agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; utilities; and professional, scientific, and technical services; each recorded a location quotient of 0.61 or less.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program https://www.bls.gov/cew/

Table 2 Industry Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients (LQ) Local Area IV 2022			
Industry Sector	**Employment**	**Average Weekly Wage**	**Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.**
Total, All Industries	**298,121**	**$1,050**	**1.00**
Total Private	**255,094**	**$1,063**	**1.00**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	480	$876	0.19
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	741	$1,575	0.67
Utilities	656	$2,004	0.60
Construction	16,139	$1,125	1.05
Manufacturing	51,302	$1,428	2.02
Wholesale Trade	9,381	$1,450	0.79
Retail Trade	31,427	$667	1.02
Transportation and Warehousing	10,735	$971	0.84
Information	3,824	$1,288	0.63
Finance and Insurance	8,078	$1,379	0.65
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	3,876	$919	0.83
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	12,863	$1,479	0.61
Management of Companies and Enterprises	4,449	$3,046	0.89
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	18,371	$986	0.97
Educational Services	3,687	$844	0.62
Health Care and Social Assistance	39,452	$1,004	0.98
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4,942	$443	1.08
Accommodation and Food Services	27,513	$389	1.03
Other Services (except Public Administration)	7,179	$817	0.82
Total Government	**43,027**	**$976**	**1.02**
Local	32,364	$881	1.17
State	5,529	$1,078	0.61
Federal	5,134	$1,462	0.90
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)			

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Every summer KDOL's Labor Market Information Services division releases the results from the Kansas Wage Survey conducted by the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Data from the OEWS program is current as of May 2022 and contains employment and wage data for hundreds of occupations in Kansas. Data is also available for Kansas' metropolitan areas, local workforce areas, and counties. This is one of KDOL's most used data sets. Employers use this data as a guide to set their wages and salaries, while workers use this data to learn the typical wages for their occupations and to explore the earnings potential of other occupations.

Wages

As shown in Table 3, the median wage in Local Area IV as of May 2022 was $40,986. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of $96,778. The five highest paying occupations in this group include chief executives, architectural and engineering managers, computer and information systems managers, sales managers, and financial managers. Each of these occupations recorded a median wage over $130,000. Chief executives was the highest paid management occupation with a median annual wage of $143,192.

The architecture and engineering occupational group had the second highest median annual wage of $80,859. The top paying occupations in this group include health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers and inspectors; aerospace engineers; environmental engineers; petroleum engineers; and computer hardware engineers. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $95,000. Health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers and inspectors was the highest paid architecture and engineering occupation with a median annual wage of $106,662.

Table 3
Wages, Employment, and Location Quotients (LQ) by Major Occupational Group
Local Area IV
May 2022

Occupational Group	Median Annual Wage	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Total, All Occupations	**$40,986**	**298,210**	**1.00**
Management Occupations	$96,778	14,020	0.71
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	$64,815	15,960	0.82
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	$79,157	6,770	0.67
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	$80,859	7,560	1.51
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	$62,162	1,630	0.62
Community and Social Service Occupations	$43,992	4,220	0.90
Legal Occupations	$66,983	1,790	0.73
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	$48,411	18,870	1.10
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	$44,282	3,400	0.82
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	$62,999	17,850	0.98
Healthcare Support Occupations	$29,554	13,470	0.98
Protective Service Occupations	$41,527	5,320	0.77
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	$26,498	26,790	1.06
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	$28,983	8,260	0.95
Personal Care and Service Occupations	$25,910	6,330	1.11
Sales and Related Occupations	$29,870	25,590	0.96
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	$37,083	38,010	1.01
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	$34,991	410	0.44
Construction and Extraction Occupations	$47,173	13,690	1.12
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	$50,622	14,500	1.23
Production Occupations	$46,815	30,210	1.71
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	$35,787	23,540	0.86

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

The occupational group with the third highest median annual wage was the computer and mathematical occupational group, with a median annual wage of $79,157. The top paying occupations in this group include database architects, information security analysts, software developers, database administrators, and computer network architects. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $89,000. Database architects was the highest paid computer and mathematical occupation with a median annual wage of $185,289.

The occupational groups with the lowest median annual wage were personal care and service occupations and food preparation and serving related occupations. These occupational groups recorded a median annual wage below $27,000.

Table 4 shows the top 10 detailed occupations by employment. While these are the most common occupations in Local Area IV, the only occupation with a median wage above the Local Area IV median wage of $40,986 was registered nurses.

Employment

Table 4 indicates that total employment for all occupations in Local Area IV was 298,210 as of May 2022. The office and administrative support occupational group recorded the largest employment, 38,010, or 12.7% of total employment in Local Area IV. This group includes the third and eighth most common occupations in Local Area IV: customer service representatives, which recorded employment of 7,560, and secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive, which recorded employment of 5,490.

The production occupational group had the second largest employment of 30,210, or 10.1% of total employment. One occupation from this group ranked in the top 10 occupations by employment for Local Area IV: aircraft structure, surfaces, rigging, and systems assemblers, which recorded employment of 5,390.

The food preparation and serving related occupational group had the third largest employment of 26,790, or 9.0% of total employment. The most common occupation in Local Area IV belongs to this occupational group: fast food and counter workers with employment of 8,900.

Table 4
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment
Local Area IV
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Median Annual Wage
Total, All Occupations	**298,210**	**$40,986**
Fast Food and Counter Workers	8,900	↓ $22,259
Cashiers	7,610	↓ $24,939
Customer Service Representatives	7,560	↓ $34,443
Retail Salespersons	7,010	↓ $28,252
Stockers and Order Fillers	6,220	↓ $30,613
Registered Nurses	6,090	↑ $63,288
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	5,890	↓ $23,883
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	5,490	↓ $36,018
Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers	5,390	*
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	4,660	↓ $29,083

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)
Arrows indicate whether an occupational wage is above or below the median wage for all occupations
** Wage not available*

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics
https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=841

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.

Location Quotients

In Local Area IV the occupational group with the highest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in 2022 was production occupations, recording a location quotient of 1.71. Seven occupations from this group ranked in the top 10 occupations by location quotient for Local Area IV: aircraft structure, surfaces, rigging, and systems assemblers; adhesive bonding machine operators and tenders; computer numerically controlled tool programmers; petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers; tool grinders, filers, and sharpeners; forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic; and extruding and forming machine setters, operators, and tenders, synthetic and glass fibers. Aircraft structure, surfaces, rigging, and systems assemblers had the highest location quotient for Local Area IV with an employment concentration 83.17 times that of the U.S.

Architecture and engineering occupations recorded the second highest location quotient of 1.51. One occupation from this group ranked in the top 10 by location quotient: aerospace engineers with a location quotient of 13.69.

The occupational group with the third highest location quotient of 1.23 was installation, maintenance, and repair occupations. One occupation from this group ranked in the top 10 by location quotient: aircraft mechanics and service technicians with a location quotient of 5.25.

Table 5
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment Location Quotient (LQ)
Local Area IV
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers	5,390	83.17
Aerospace Engineers	1,700	13.69
Adhesive Bonding Machine Operators and Tenders	200	8.76
Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers	370	6.53
Petroleum Pump System Operators, Refinery Operators, and Gaugers	380	6.01
Tool Grinders, Filers, and Sharpeners	60	5.59
Forging Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	120	5.59
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	1,420	5.25
Atmospheric and Space Scientists	100	5.01
Extruding and Forming Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Synthetic and Glass Fibers	120	4.12

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

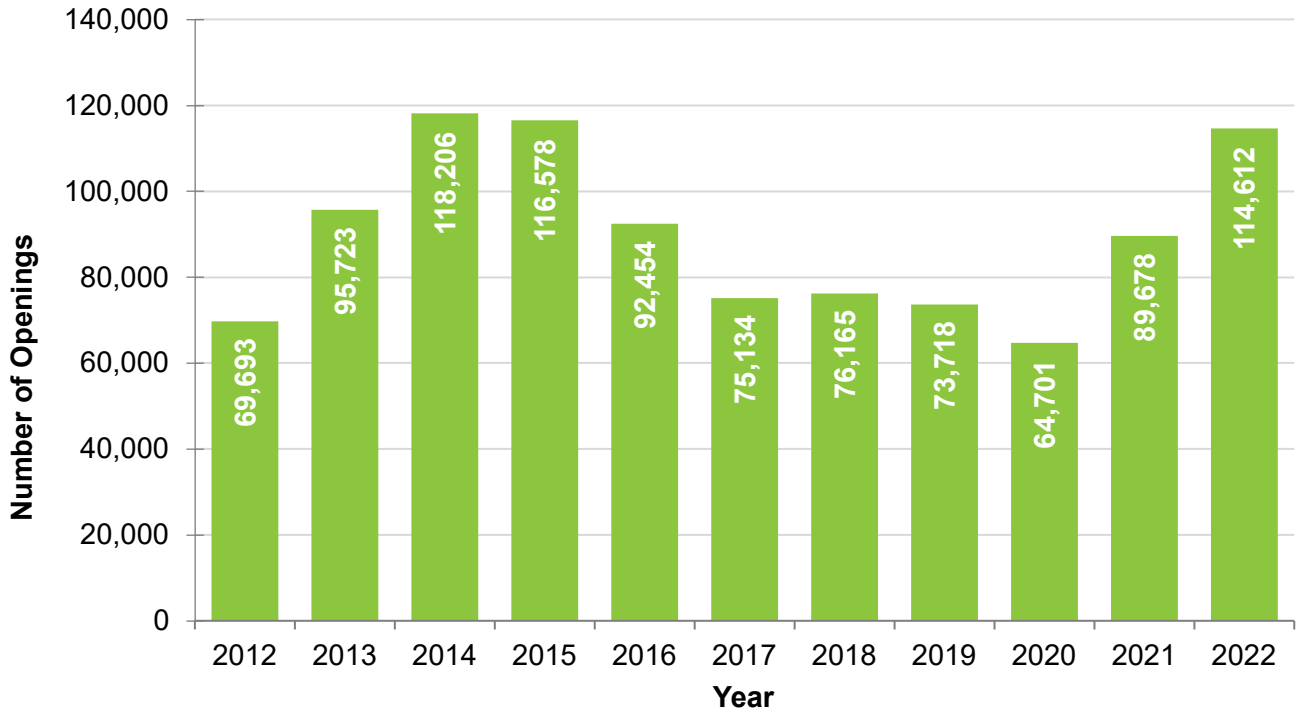
ADVERTISED JOBS

Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Advertised jobs data are sourced from Geographic Solutions, Inc. The information is collected from employer corporate sites, hospitals, non-profits, local and federal government agencies, schools and universities, recruiter sites, newspapers, volunteer sites, and other public, private, and state job boards. It is important to note that roughly 30% of advertised jobs do not have enough information to classify them with an industry or occupational code. These data are included in total advertised jobs, but excluded from industry and occupational totals.

Annual Job Openings

Chart 8 shows that Local Area IV experienced a sharp increase in job openings from 2012 through 2014, followed by an overall declining trend from 2014 through 2020. This decline was followed by steep increases in 2021 and 2022, with Local Area IV job openings increasing by 49,911, or 77.1%, during that time. Local Area IV recorded 114,612 job openings in 2022; this is the third highest number of job openings reported for the region, with records beginning in 2008.

Chart 8
Advertised Job Openings
Local Area IV
2012 - 2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

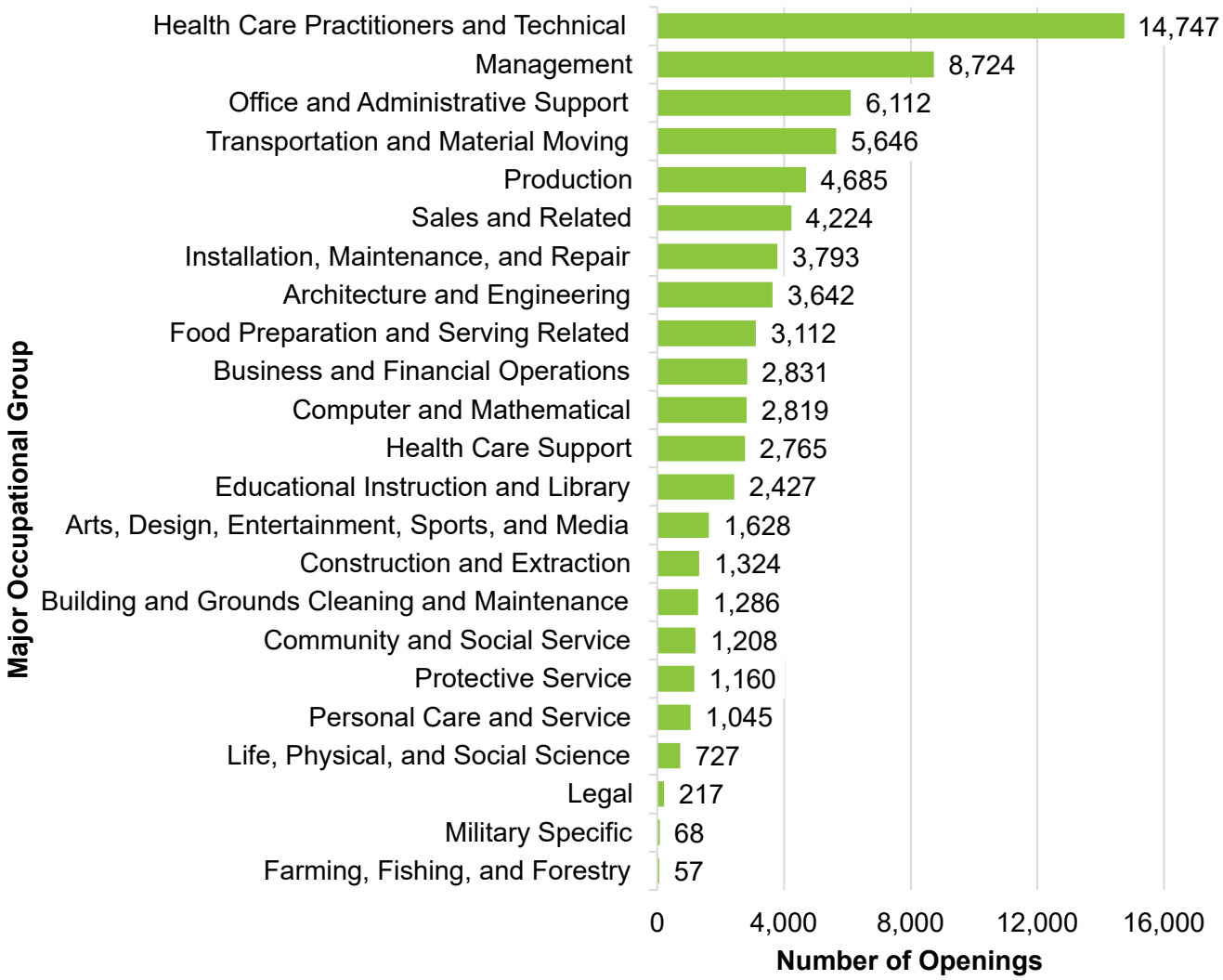
Check out our dashboard here: https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/GSIPub/documentview.aspx?docid=885

Job Openings by Occupation

As shown in Chart 9, the health care practitioners and technical occupational group had the most job openings by far in Local Area IV, with 14,747 job openings advertised in 2022. This was followed by the management occupational group with 8,724 job openings, the office and administrative support occupational group with 6,112, and the transportation and material moving occupational group with 5,646. Two additional occupational groups had over 4,000 job openings in 2022: production and sales and related. The installation, maintenance, and repair; architecture and engineering; and food preparation and serving related occupational groups each recorded over 3,000 job openings in 2022.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation in Local Area IV, with 8,127 job openings. This was followed by customer service representatives with 1,639 job openings, and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers with 1,362. Three additional occupations recorded over 1,000 openings in 2022; nursing assistants, licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, and retail salespersons.

Chart 9
Advertised Job Openings by Major Occupational Group
Local Area IV
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

Job Openings by Industry

Chart 10 displays advertised job openings by industry sector for Local Area IV. Two industry sectors dominated the list of job openings in 2022; manufacturing with 13,773 job openings and health care and social assistance with 12,753. In the manufacturing sector, transportation equipment manufacturing accounted for 5,130 job openings, while chemical manufacturing accounted for 2,652, and computer and electronic product manufacturing accounted for 2,572. The majority of the job openings in the health care and social assistance sector fell into the ambulatory health care services subsector, which accounted for 4,328 job openings, while hospitals accounted for 4,059 job openings. The educational services sector came in third with 6,577 job openings, while each of the following industry sectors accounted for at least 5,000 job openings: public administration, administrative and waste services, and retail trade.

Chart 10
Advertised Job Openings by Industry Sector
Local Area IV
2022

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS

Every two years each of the 50 states complete long-term projections in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). The base year used in these projections is 2020 and the projection year is 2030. Statewide projections are released in even numbered years, while regional projections are released during odd numbered years. Long-term projections play an important role for students and others making career choices. Information about future trends in job growth and demand for labor is vital to making these life decisions. For the long-term projections program, it is assumed that the Kansas labor market will be in full employment in the projected year. This means the labor market will be in equilibrium and labor supply will meet labor demand, so the projections are forecasting structural changes in the economy rather than predicting changes in the business cycle.

Industry Projections

Local Area IV total jobs across all industries are expected to grow by 23,486 to 347,854 jobs in 2030, an increase of 7.2% over the 10-year period. This averages out to 2,349 jobs per year, or 0.7% average annual growth.

Table 6 shows long-term projections for the top 10 industry sectors by numerical change from the base year 2020 to the projected year 2030. The goods producing sector, which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining; construction; and manufacturing, is projected to increase by 664 jobs per year, an average annual growth rate of 0.9%. The remaining industry sectors fall under the service providing sector, which is projected to have a positive average annual growth rate of 0.7%, adding 1,722 jobs annually.

Table 6
Top 10 Industry Sectors by Numerical Job Change
South Central Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Industry Sector	Job Numbers		Job Changes		
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Annual Avg. Growth %
Total, All Industries	**324,368**	**347,854**	**23,486**	**7.2%**	**0.7%**
Manufacturing	50,840	56,838	5,998	11.8%	1.1%
Accommodation and Food Services	25,373	29,150	3,777	14.9%	1.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	9,304	11,975	2,671	28.7%	2.6%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	12,534	14,788	2,254	18.0%	1.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	45,772	47,934	2,162	4.7%	0.5%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	18,850	20,286	1,436	7.6%	0.7%
Educational Services	29,557	30,949	1,392	4.7%	0.5%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4,591	5,711	1,120	24.4%	2.2%
Other Services (except Government)	10,538	11,540	1,002	9.5%	0.9%
Construction	16,970	17,612	642	3.8%	0.4%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The South Central Projection Region differs from Local Area IV since it includes Harvey County.

The manufacturing industry sector is projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the 10-year period, adding 5,998 jobs. This industry sector consists of 21 underlying subsectors. Of these 21 subsectors, transportation equipment manufacturing is projected to gain the most jobs, 431 annually; while computer and electronic product manufacturing is expected to grow the fastest, with an average annual growth rate of 3.6%. Of the industry sectors, transportation and warehousing is projected to grow at the fastest rate, 2.6% annually.

Occupational Projections

Table 7 shows the top 10 major occupational groups projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the projection period. The food preparation and serving related occupational group is projected to gain the most jobs during the 10-year period, growing by 3,777, with an average annual growth rate of 1.3%. The food preparation and serving related occupational group is made up of 17 detailed occupations; of these, fast food and counter workers is expected to add the most jobs by 2030, gaining 1,569 jobs over the 10-year period. This is followed by waiters and waitresses, which is expected to grow by 579 jobs. The occupational group expected to grow the fastest is the architecture and engineering occupational group, with an average annual growth rate of 2.0%.

Table 7
Top 10 Occupational Groups by Numerical Job Change
South Central Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Occupational Group	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**324,368**	**347,854**	**23,486**	**7.2%**	**0.7%**	**389,479**
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	26,549	30,326	3,777	14.2%	1.3%	55,292
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	23,660	25,859	2,199	9.3%	0.9%	33,092
Production Occupations	33,258	35,410	2,152	6.5%	0.6%	39,292
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	17,810	19,813	2,003	11.3%	1.1%	18,094
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	20,629	22,192	1,563	7.6%	0.7%	13,335
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	15,453	16,975	1,522	9.9%	0.9%	16,469
Management Occupations	14,826	16,230	1,404	9.5%	0.9%	13,392
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	6,339	7,731	1,392	22.0%	2.0%	6,134
Personal Care and Service Occupations	8,220	9,284	1,064	12.9%	1.2%	13,394
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	19,790	20,810	1,020	5.2%	0.5%	18,602

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The South Central Projection Region differs from Local Area IV since it includes Harvey County.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Employment Outlook https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468

Projections by Educational Requirement

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) assigns the level of education typically needed to enter each detailed occupation. Each occupation falls under one of eight education levels. As shown in Table 8, the largest increase in jobs is projected to be in those occupations typically requiring a bachelor's degree; these occupations are expected to grow by 6,837 jobs over the projection period. The educational categories projected to grow the fastest are associate degree and bachelor's degree; these are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.2% and 1.0% respectively.

Occupational classification by years of work experience typically needed to enter the occupation is also available. This can be more than five years, less than five years, or none. A third classification is available that organizes occupations by typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency. This can be long-term on-the-job training (more than one year), moderate-term on-the-job training (one month to one year), short-term on-the-job training (less than one month), internship/residency, or none. This information is available on the KDOL, LMIS website, www.klic.dol.ks.gov.

Table 8
Projections by Educational Requirement
South Central Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Education	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**324,368**	**347,854**	**23,486**	**7.2%**	**0.7%**	**389,479**
Bachelor's degree	66,559	73,396	6,837	10.3%	1.0%	61,260
High school diploma or equivalent	137,986	144,713	6,727	4.9%	0.5%	161,605
No formal educational credential	67,655	73,674	6,019	8.9%	0.9%	114,388
Postsecondary non-degree award	23,507	25,294	1,787	7.6%	0.7%	26,593
Associate degree	6,736	7,568	832	12.4%	1.2%	7,058
Master's degree	4,948	5,412	464	9.4%	0.9%	4,287
Doctoral or professional degree	6,086	6,519	433	7.1%	0.7%	3,429
Some college, no degree	10,891	11,278	387	3.6%	0.3%	10,859

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The South Central Projection Region differs from Local Area IV since it includes Harvey County.

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The High Demand Occupation Lists are intended to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation. Occupations are scored based on three measures of labor demand: current job openings, projected job openings over the next two years, and projected job openings over the next 10 years. Each of these scores are added together to get a total demand score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

High Demand Occupations

Table 9 displays the top high demand occupations for Local Area IV. These eight occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2024 and 2030. Overall, there are 219 occupations on the high demand list in Local Area IV. Seven of the top eight occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require one month or less of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. The median wages of these seven occupations are all below the Local Area IV median wage of $40,986, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of occupational growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Table 9
Top High Demand Occupations
South Central Projection Region
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	$34,613	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Customer Service Representatives	$34,443	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Assistants	$31,201	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Stockers and Order Fillers	$30,697	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	$28,252	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	$28,101	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Waiters and Waitresses	$27,848	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	$22,272	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations
Note: The South Central Projection Region differs from Local Area IV since it includes Harvey County.

LMIS also identifies high demand occupations that pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the Local Area IV median wage.

High Demand High Wage Occupations

In Local Area IV there are 129 high demand high wage occupations; Table 10 lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, nine of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree, moderate-term, or long-term on-the-job training. Although none of the high demand high wage occupations in Local Area IV had the maximum demand score of 30, four did have a score of 29: general and operations managers; registered nurses; inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers; and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Table 10
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
South Central Projection Region
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	$82,750	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	$62,887	Bachelor's degree	None
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	$59,431	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$47,334	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Accountants and Auditors	$67,786	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	$44,290	High school diploma or equivalent	None
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	$63,631	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers	$61,462	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	$56,511	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	$51,742	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	$51,095	Bachelor's degree	None
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	$48,802	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Machinists	$46,687	High school diploma or equivalent	Long-term on-the-job training
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	$70,304	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	$55,448	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations
Note: The South Central Projection Region differs from Local Area IV since it includes Harvey County.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, High Demand Occupations https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403

EDUCATION

Educational attainment is important in economic analysis because it influences human capital development, labor market outcomes, income inequality, economic mobility, innovation, and public finance. Policies and investments aimed at improving educational attainment can yield substantial economic benefits for individuals, societies, and the state as a whole.

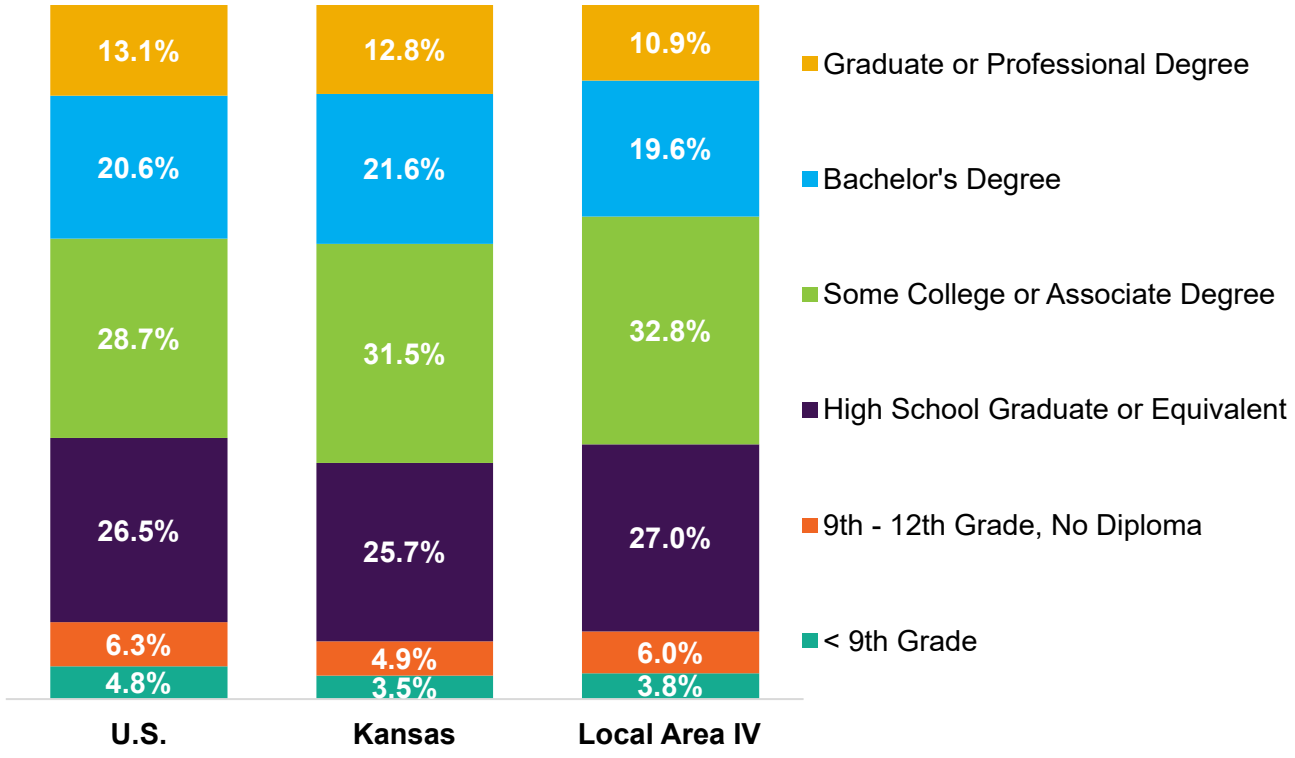
Educational Attainment

Chart 11 indicates that educational attainment in Local Area IV is below the statewide average but higher than the national average. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates, 90.3% of Local Area IV residents have at least a high school diploma or equivalent; this is 1.4 percentage points higher than the national rate of 88.9% and 1.3 percentage points lower than the statewide rate of 91.6%. It is estimated that 30.5% of Local Area IV residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 33.7% nationally and 34.4% statewide.

When compared to the 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates, the percentage of Local Area IV residents reporting an educational attainment of at least a high school diploma or equivalent increased by 0.8 percentage points, while the percentage of Local Area IV residents reporting a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 1.8 percentage points.

The most commonly reported educational attainment level in Local Area IV was some college or associate degree at 32.8%; this was followed by high school graduate or equivalent at 27.0%, and bachelor's degree at 19.6%.

Chart 11
Educational Attainment for the Population 25 and Over
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area IV
2021



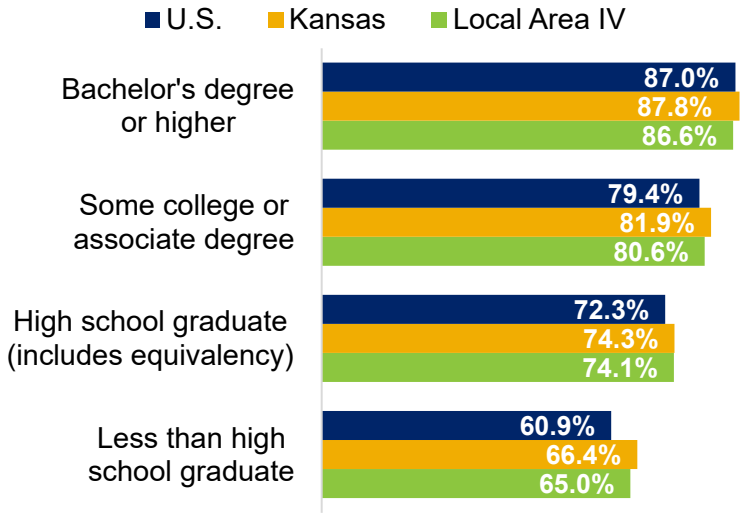
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Labor Force Statistics by Educational Attainment

Charts 12 and 13 indicate that as educational attainment level increases, labor force participation increases, while unemployment rates decline. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 ACS 5-year Estimates, Local Area IV had a labor force participation rate of 79.2% for the civilian population ages 25-64; this was 0.9 percentage points higher than the U.S., which had a labor force participation rate of 78.3%, and 1.7 percentage points lower than the statewide rate of 80.9%. Local Area IV residents without a high school diploma or equivalent had the lowest labor force participation rate at 65.0%, while Local Area IV residents with a bachelor's degree or higher had the highest labor force participation rate at 86.6%. Local Area IV had higher labor force participation across all levels of educational attainment when compared to the U.S. except for residents with a bachelor's degree or higher. When compared to the state, Local Area IV labor force participation rates were slightly lower across all levels of education.

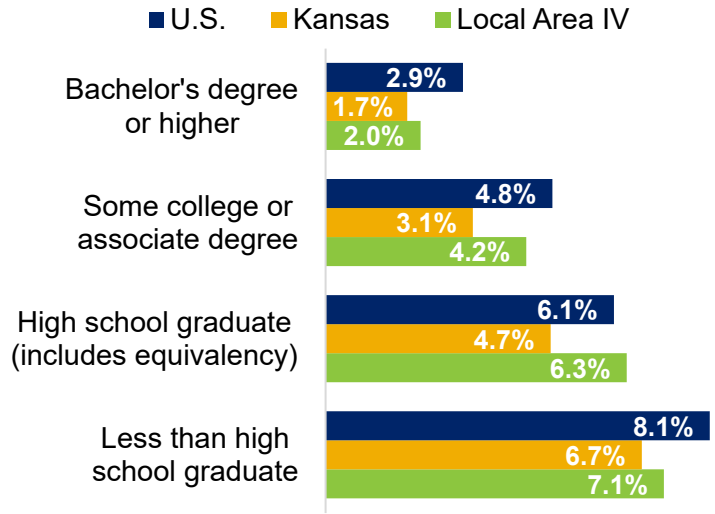
In Local Area IV ACS estimates indicate that the unemployment rate for the civilian population ages 25-64 was 4.2% in 2021; this was 0.4 percentage points lower than the U.S. rate of 4.6%, and 1.0 percentage point above the statewide rate of 3.2%. Local Area IV residents with educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.0%, while Local Area IV residents with less than a high school diploma or equivalent had the highest unemployment rate at 7.1%. When compared to the U.S., Local Area IV achieved lower unemployment rates across all levels of educational attainment except for high school graduate or equivalent. When compared to the state, Local Area IV experienced higher unemployment rates across all levels of education.

Chart 12
Labor Force Participation Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area IV
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

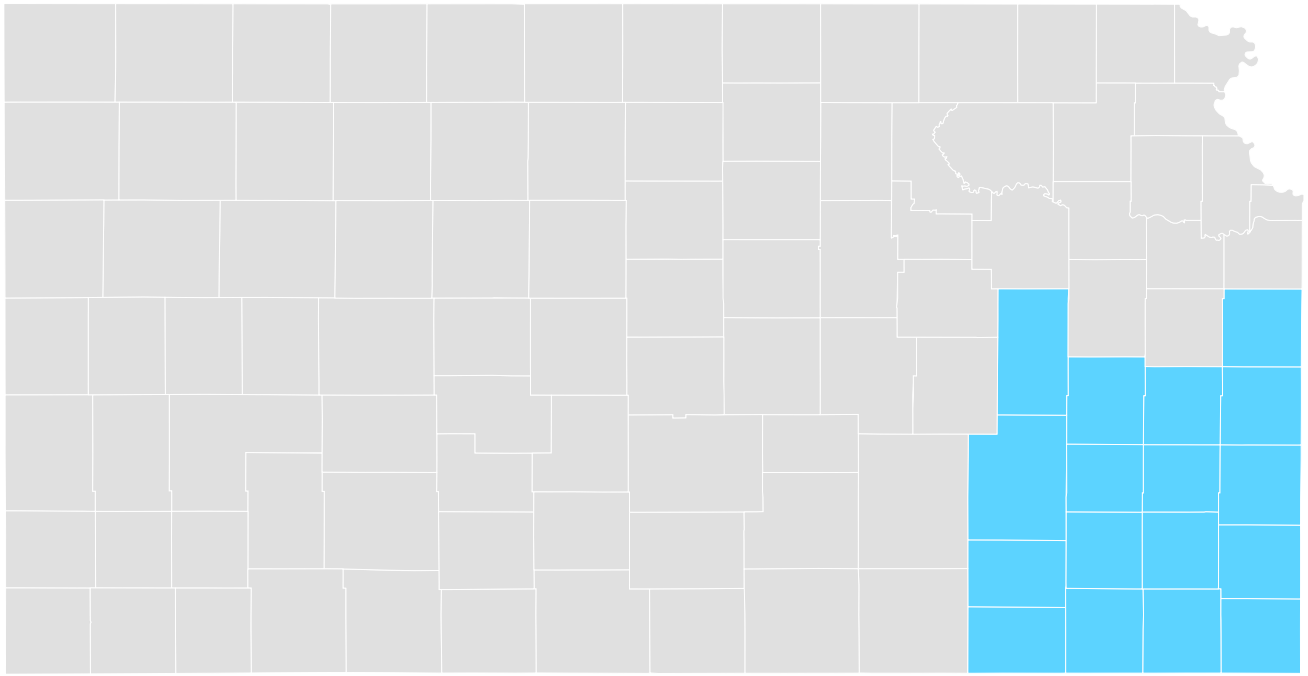
Chart 13
Unemployment Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area IV
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html

LOCAL AREA V



POPULATION
267,740

LABOR FORCE
130,106

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
2.9%

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE
$37,318

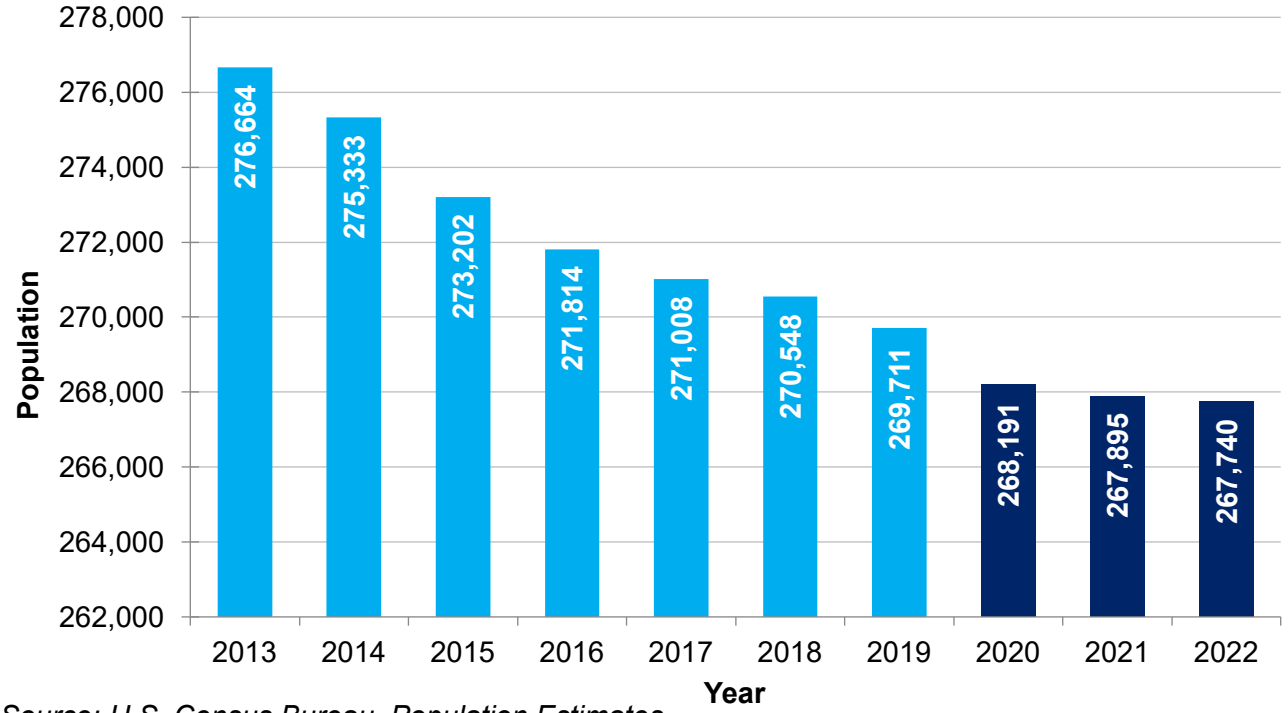
POPULATION

Population is an important statistic to review for economic purposes for two reasons, both of which benefit businesses. A growing population leads to a larger market for businesses and may lead to more jobs as demand for goods and services increase. A growing population also potentially increases the size and quality of the labor force which provides more labor supply for businesses to fill jobs.

Total Population

Local Area V consists of 17 counties in southeast Kansas. The two largest cities in this region are Emporia and Pittsburg. Chart 1 displays the population of Local Area V from 2013 to 2022. The Local Area V population was estimated to be 267,740 in 2022. This represents a loss of 155 people, or 0.1%, over the year. The Local Area V population has seen a declining trend throughout this period, losing 8,924 people since 2013, or 3.2% of its population during that time.

Chart 1
Population Estimates
Local Area V
2013 - 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates
Due to the Census' delay in finalizing the 2010-2020 Intercensal Population Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

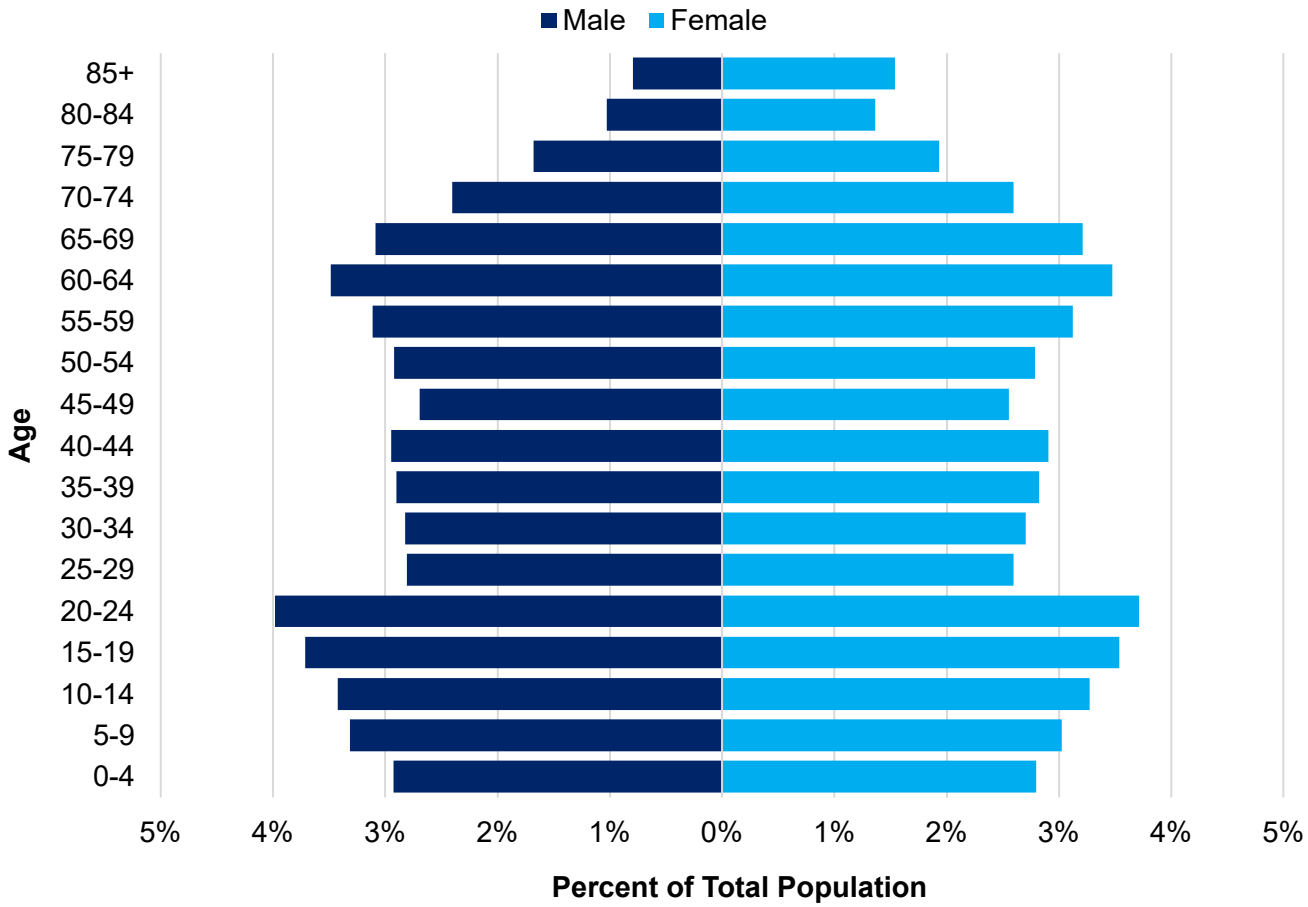
Population by Age

Chart 2 displays the Local Area V population by age group and gender. The population pyramid for Local Area V shows that there are two major peaks in the population, one centered on the 20-24 year-old age group, and one centered on the 60-64 year-old age group, with a trough in the middle. The younger peak represents older members of Generation Z, while the older peak represents the younger members of the baby boomer generation. The 20-24 year-old age group makes up the largest share of the Local Area V population, accounting for 7.7% of the population. This was followed by the 15-19 year-old age group, which accounted for 7.2% of the population, and the 60-64 year-old age group, which accounted for 7.0% of the population.

For economic purposes, the two main age groups studied are the 16 and over population and the 25-54 population. The 16 and over population includes everyone who is eligible to be in the labor force, while 25-54 year-olds are considered prime age workers. The 16 and over population in Local Area V increased by 117 people, or 0.1%, to 213,687 in 2022. The 25-54 year-old population also rose slightly in 2022, increasing by 65 people, or 0.1%, to 89,578.

Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy since the population under 25 decreased by 210, or 0.2%. Declines were seen in all age groups under 20 years old. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, recorded an increase of 0.8%, or 163 people over the year.

Chart 2
Population by Age
Local Area V
2022

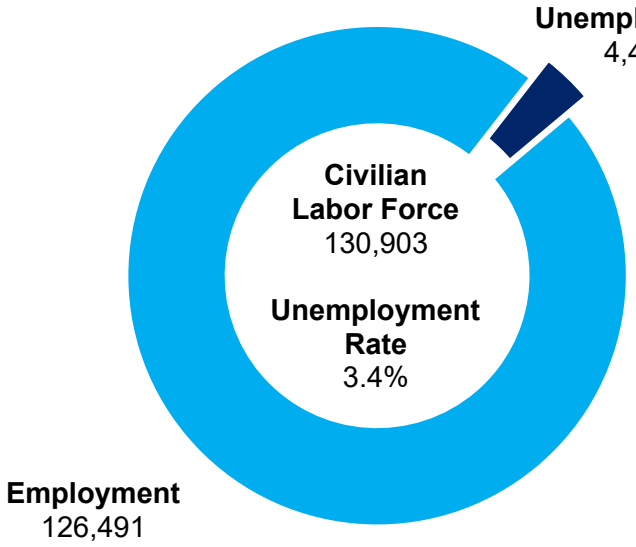


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

LABOR FORCE

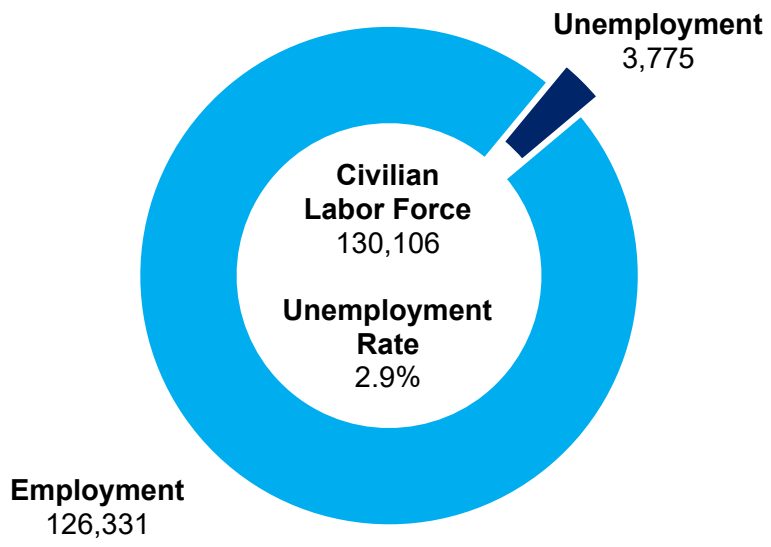
Charts 3 and 4 provide a snapshot of the labor force in Local Area V during 2021 and 2022. There were 130,106 people in the Local Area V labor force in 2022, a decrease of 797 people, or 0.6%, from 2021. The number of people working decreased by 160, or 0.1%, to 126,331 in 2022. The number of unemployed people in Local Area V decreased by 637, or 14.4%, to 3,775 in 2022. This is the lowest number of unemployed residents on record for Local Area V. Lastly, the unemployment rate dropped 0.5 percentage points to 2.9% in 2022.

Chart 3
Labor Force Statistics
Local Area V
2021



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Chart 4
Labor Force Statistics
Local Area V
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

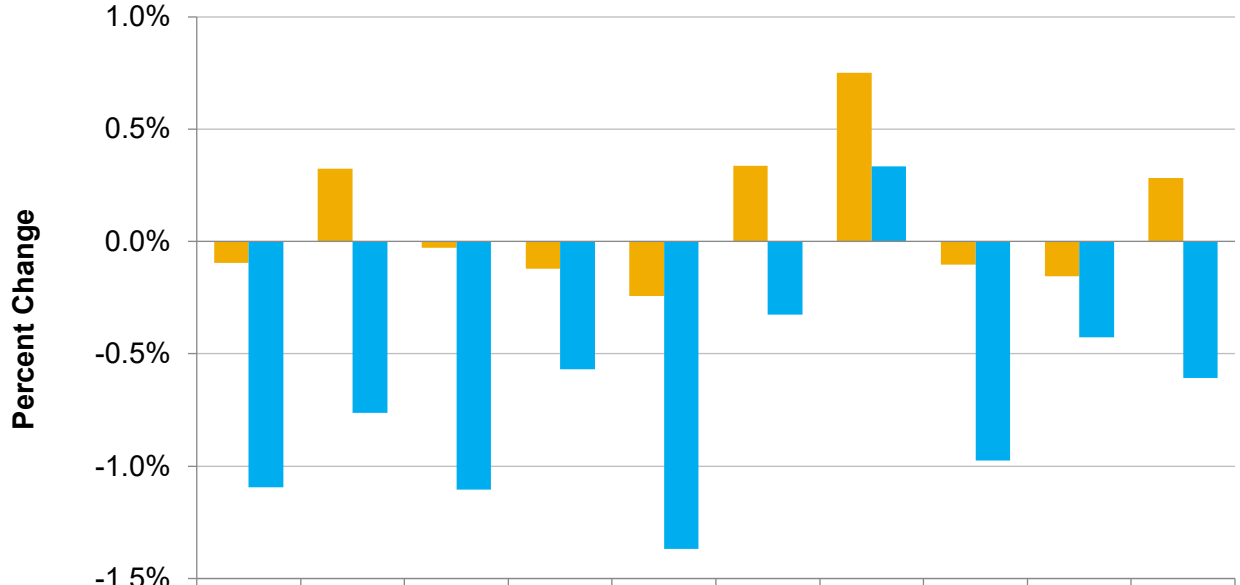
Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Labor Force and Unemployment Rate https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=418

The civilian labor force is a measure of the number of people 16 years and older that are available for work. This includes individuals who are employed as well as those who are unemployed but actively seeking work. A growing labor force is favorable as it increases the number of workers available for employers and shows there is increasing confidence of finding a job in a given area.

Civilian Labor Force

Chart 5 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Local Area V and Kansas. The Local Area V labor force has declined every year since 2013, except for a slight increase of 0.3% in 2019. Overall, the Local Area V labor force has declined by 7,814 people, or 5.7%, since 2013.

Chart 5
Percent Change in Labor Force
Kansas and Local Area V
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	-0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%	0.7%	-0.1%	-0.2%	0.3%
Local Area V	-1.1%	-0.8%	-1.1%	-0.6%	-1.4%	-0.3%	0.3%	-1.0%	-0.4%	-0.6%

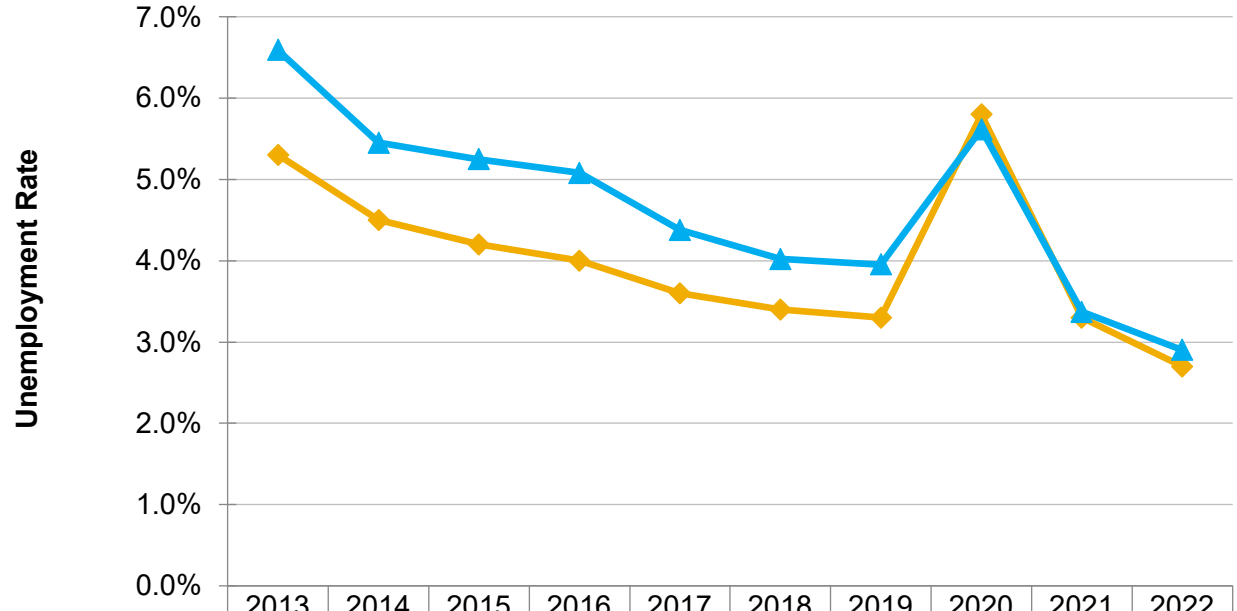
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate is a frequently cited economic statistic because it shows how many people want a job and cannot find one. The unemployment rate shows the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed and currently looking for a job. Typically, if the rate is high, there are many people who want a job but are having difficulty finding one due to a lack of demand for employees.

Unemployment Rate

As shown in Chart 6, the Local Area V unemployment rate dipped below pre-pandemic levels in 2021 and continued to decline to 2.9% in 2022. This rate is 0.2 percentage points higher than the statewide rate and 2.6 percentage points lower than the historical annual average of 5.5%. The 2022 rate is also the lowest unemployment rate on record for Local Area V, with records beginning in 1990.

Chart 6
Unemployment Rate
Kansas and Local Area V
2013 - 2022



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kansas	5.3%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	3.6%	3.4%	3.3%	5.8%	3.3%	2.7%
Local Area V	6.6%	5.5%	5.2%	5.1%	4.4%	4.0%	4.0%	5.6%	3.4%	2.9%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

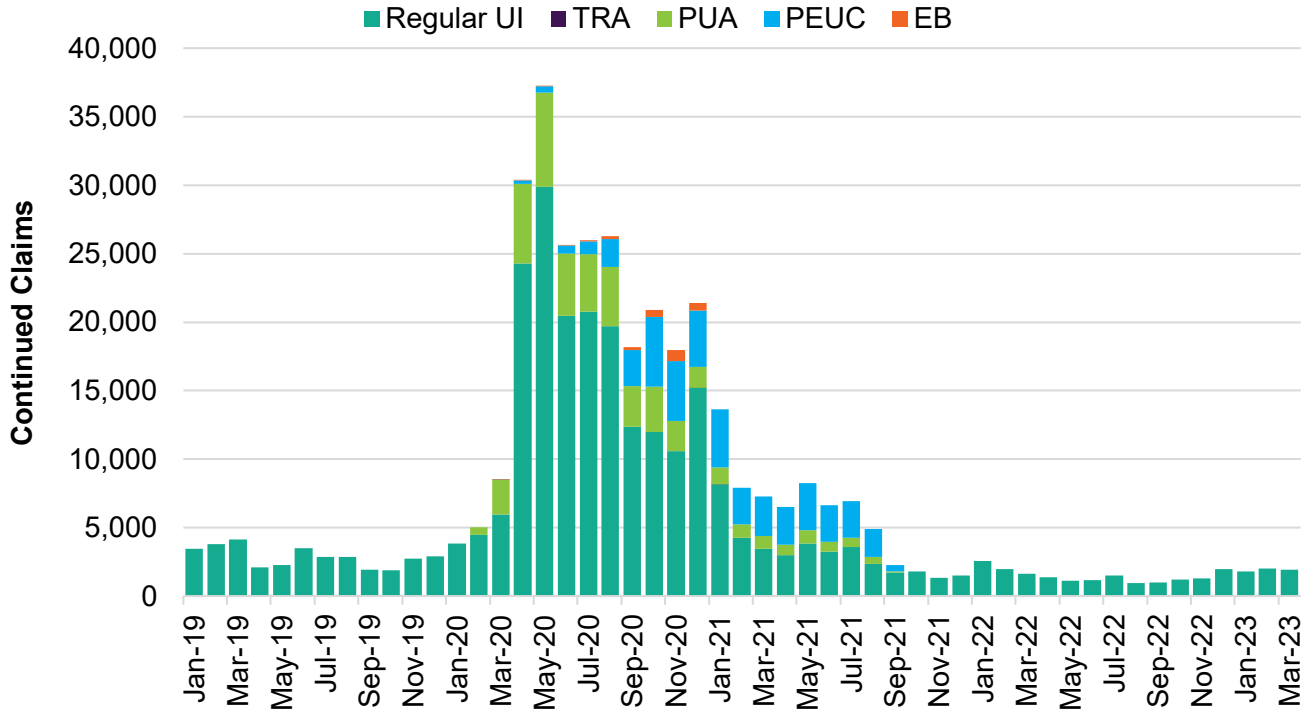
The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Kansans. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment; therefore, continued claims do not equal claims paid.

Monthly Continued Claim Totals

Chart 7 displays monthly continued claims totals by program for Local Area V. Note that PUA and PEUC were pandemic era programs only in operation during 2020 and 2021. The EB program is triggered on by extended periods of high unemployment and was also in operation during 2020.

The number of continued claims was relatively low prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with Local Area V averaging 2,862 continued claims per month in 2019. Continued claims spiked to an average of 20,101 per month in 2020, but declined in 2021 to a monthly average of 5,747. In 2022 the monthly average of continued claims dropped to 1,476. There was a small seasonal increase in December 2022 that continued into 2023; however, continued claims totals for the first quarter of 2023 remain much lower than the pre-pandemic levels experienced in 2019.

Chart 7
Continued Claims Totals
Jan 2019 - Mar 2023
Local Area V



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Continued Claims by Industry

Table 1 displays the total number of continued claims by industry sector in Local Area V for years 2019 through 2022. Note that PUA claims are excluded from these totals. In 2022 claims by industry sector returned to typical patterns with manufacturing, construction, and health care and social assistance recording the highest number of continued claims for the year. Manufacturing recorded 4,764 continued claims in 2022; this was a decrease of 12,143, or 71.8%, from 2021. Meanwhile, construction recorded 4,116 continued claims in 2022; this was a decrease of 3,655, or 47.0%, over the year. Health care and social assistance recorded the third highest total of continued claims in 2022, decreasing by 6,533, or 78.4%, to 1,801.

In Local Area V educational services, other services, and accommodation and food services were some of the hardest hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic. These industries experienced the largest percent increases in claims from 2019 to 2020. Impacts of the pandemic were temporary, as these industries saw sharp declines in 2021, which continued into 2022 with claims totals dropping below pre-pandemic levels.

Table 1
Continued Claims Filed by Year and Industry Sector
Local Area V

Industry Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022
Manufacturing	8,566	62,763	16,907	4,764
Construction	7,865	16,443	7,771	4,116
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,345	24,141	8,334	1,801
Administrative and Waste Services	2,726	12,815	4,552	1,247
Accommodation and Food Services	1,933	22,480	4,505	1,111
Retail Trade	2,434	15,089	4,381	899
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	927	5,349	2,002	617
Transportation and Warehousing	1,005	6,502	2,684	562
Public Administration	952	4,300	1,603	443
Finance and Insurance	443	2,718	855	432
Wholesale Trade	685	5,599	2,167	402
Other Services	393	5,395	1,413	390
Educational Services	560	8,598	1,342	309
Information	320	2,357	623	151
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	572	2,450	710	143
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	248	1,902	640	125
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	168	1,527	371	82
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	79	559	235	55
Management of Companies	17	200	54	45
Utilities	54	500	128	16

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Unemployment Insurance Statistics
Note: PUA data are excluded from these totals

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Industry data provide a detailed understanding of the composition of the local economy. This data highlights which industries account for the largest share of employment in the region as well as the industries with the highest wages. Understanding the industry composition of the local economy can provide insight into overall employment trends and can help guide decisions related to investment, resource allocation, and policy formulation.

Location quotients describe the concentration of an industry in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an industry is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that industry than the U.S.

Employment

In 2022 Local Area V recorded a monthly average of 101,493 total jobs; of these, 75,739, or 74.6%, were private sector jobs. The private industry sector that recorded the most jobs for Local Area V was manufacturing, which accounted for 20,292 jobs. This was followed by health care and social assistance with 12,468 jobs, and retail trade with 10,691 jobs. Government accounted for 25,755, or 25.4% of jobs in Local Area V, with the majority of these jobs being recorded at the local level. There were 21,306 local government jobs in 2022, more than any private industry sector in Local Area V.

Wages

The average weekly wage for all industries in Local Area V was $853 in 2022; this was $227 lower than the statewide average of $1,080. The private sector recorded an average weekly wage of $885, while government recorded an average weekly wage of $758. Utilities recorded the highest average weekly wage at $2,403, followed by management of companies and enterprises with an average weekly wage of $1,990. Nine additional private industry sectors in Local Area V recorded an average weekly wage higher than the private sector average: professional, scientific, and technical services; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; transportation and warehousing; wholesale trade; manufacturing; construction; finance and insurance; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; and information.

Location Quotients

Local Area V private industry sectors with the highest employment concentrations relative to the U.S. include utilities; manufacturing; and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction. Each of these industry sectors recorded a location quotient of at least 2.03. Utilities recorded the highest location quotient in Local Area V, with an employment concentration 3.68 times higher than that of the U.S. Local Area V also had a higher concentration of local government employment relative to the U.S., recording an employment concentration 2.27 times that of the U.S. The private industry sectors with the lowest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in Local Area V were private educational services; management of companies and enterprises; and professional, scientific, and technical services; each recorded a location quotient of 0.27 or less.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program https://www.bls.gov/cew/

Table 2 Industry Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients (LQ) Local Area V 2022			
Industry Sector	**Employment**	**Average Weekly Wage**	**Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.**
Total, All Industries	**101,493**	**$853**	**1.00**
Total Private	**75,739**	**$885**	**0.87**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	791	$762	0.93
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	763	$1,161	2.03
Utilities	1,381	$2,403	3.68
Construction	4,194	$1,073	0.80
Manufacturing	20,292	$1,085	2.35
Wholesale Trade	3,073	$1,132	0.76
Retail Trade	10,691	$562	1.02
Transportation and Warehousing	2,244	$1,152	0.52
Information	940	$956	0.46
Finance and Insurance	2,431	$1,020	0.57
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	700	$742	0.44
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,949	$1,171	0.27
Management of Companies and Enterprises	367	$1,990	0.22
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	3,398	$957	0.53
Educational Services	170	$591	0.08
Health Care and Social Assistance	12,468	$775	0.91
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	665	$427	0.43
Accommodation and Food Services	7,452	$298	0.82
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,772	$676	0.60
Total Government	**25,755**	**$758**	**1.79**
Local	21,306	$708	2.27
State	3,571	$978	1.16
Federal	877	$1,083	0.45
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)			

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Every summer KDOL's Labor Market Information Services division releases the results from the Kansas Wage Survey conducted by the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Data from the OEWS program is current as of May 2022 and contains employment and wage data for hundreds of occupations in Kansas. Data is also available for Kansas' metropolitan areas, local workforce areas, and counties. This is one of KDOL's most used data sets. Employers use this data as a guide to set their wages and salaries, while workers use this data to learn the typical wages for their occupations and to explore the earnings potential of other occupations.

Wages

As shown in Table 3, the median wage in Local Area V as of May 2022 was $37,318. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of $83,702. The five highest paying occupations in this group include architectural and engineering managers, training and development managers, sales managers, financial managers, and chief executives. Each of these occupations recorded a median wage over $108,000. Architectural and engineering managers was the highest paid management occupation with a median annual wage of $137,535.

The architecture and engineering occupational group had the second highest median annual wage of $77,510. The top paying occupations in this group include petroleum engineers; chemical engineers; electronics engineers, except computer; environmental engineers; and industrial engineers. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $83,000. Petroleum engineers was the highest paid architecture and engineering occupation with a median annual wage of $125,709.

Table 3
Wages, Employment, and Location Quotients (LQ) by Major Occupational Group
Local Area V
May 2022

Occupational Group	Median Annual Wage	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Total, All Occupations	**$37,318**	**101,850**	**1.00**
Management Occupations	$83,702	4,750	0.70
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	$59,781	3,830	0.57
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	$61,658	1,200	0.35
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	$77,510	1,310	0.77
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	$62,584	580	0.64
Community and Social Service Occupations	$39,828	1,620	1.02
Legal Occupations	$61,506	340	0.41
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	$47,141	8,980	1.53
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	$37,550	1,080	0.76
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	$59,661	5,850	0.94
Healthcare Support Occupations	$27,294	5,850	1.25
Protective Service Occupations	$39,853	2,240	0.95
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	$24,960	8,140	0.94
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	$28,678	3,020	1.02
Personal Care and Service Occupations	$24,836	1,550	0.79
Sales and Related Occupations	$28,075	7,950	0.88
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	$35,880	11,690	0.91
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	$34,945	270	0.85
Construction and Extraction Occupations	$46,266	4,640	1.11
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	$46,632	4,820	1.20
Production Occupations	$37,986	13,460	2.24
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	$35,461	8,680	0.93

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

The occupational group with the third highest median annual wage was the life, physical, and social science occupational group, with a median annual wage of $62,584. The top paying occupations in this group include clinical and counseling psychologists, chemical technicians, food scientists and technologists, occupational health and safety specialists, and school psychologists. Each of these occupations had a median annual wage over $64,000. Clinical and counseling psychologists was the highest paid life, physical, and social science occupation with a median annual wage of $80,206.

The occupational groups with the lowest median annual wage were personal care and service occupations and food preparation and serving related occupations. These occupational groups recorded a median annual wage below $25,000.

Table 4 shows the top 10 detailed occupations by employment. While these are the most common occupations in Local Area V, only two have a median wage above the Local Area V median wage of $37,318: registered nurses and general and operations managers.

Employment

Table 4 indicates that total employment for all occupations in Local Area V was 101,850 as of May 2022. The production occupational group recorded the largest employment, 13,460, or 13.2% of total employment in Local Area V. This group includes the tenth most common occupation in Local Area V; miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators, which recorded employment of 1,740.

The office and administrative support occupational group had the second largest employment of 11,690, or 11.5% of total employment. One occupation from this group ranked in the top 10 occupations by employment for Local Area V: secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive ranked fifth with employment of 2,370.

The educational instruction and library occupational group had the third largest employment of 8,980, or 8.8% of total employment. The fourth most common occupation in Local Area V belongs to this group; teaching assistants, except postsecondary, with an employment of 2,510.

The three most common occupations in Local Area V as of May 2022 were: home health and personal care aides, cashiers, and fast food and counter workers with employment of 3,180, 3,020, and 2,620, respectively.

Table 4
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment
Local Area V
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Median Annual Wage
Total, All Occupations	**101,850**	**$37,318**
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	3,180	↓ $23,581
Cashiers	3,020	↓ $23,068
Fast Food and Counter Workers	2,620	↓ $22,494
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	2,510	↓ $23,206
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	2,370	↓ $33,057
Registered Nurses	2,040	↑ $63,101
Stockers and Order Fillers	1,970	↓ $29,776
Retail Salespersons	1,890	↓ $28,000
General and Operations Managers	1,750	↑ $74,575
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	1,740	↓ $36,756

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)
Arrows indicate whether an occupational wage is above or below the median wage for all occupations

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics
https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=841

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.

Location Quotients

In Local Area V the occupational group with the highest employment concentration relative to the U.S. in 2022 was production occupations, recording a location quotient of 2.24. Six occupations from this group ranked in the top 10 occupations by location quotient for Local Area V: prepress technicians and workers; furnace, kiln, oven, drier, and kettle operators and tenders; extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders; cutting and slicing machine setters, operators, and tenders; metal-refining furnace operators and tenders; and power plant operators. Prepress technicians and workers had the highest location quotient for production occupations in Local Area V, with an employment concentration 13.23 times that of the U.S.

Educational instruction and library occupations recorded the second highest location quotient of 1.53, while healthcare support occupations recorded the third highest location quotient of 1.25 for Local Area V. However, no detailed occupations from these groups made it into the top 10 by location quotient.

The occupations with the highest location quotients in Local Area V as of May 2022 were rock splitters, quarry with an employment concentration 18.57 times that of the U.S., and wind turbine service technicians with an employment concentration 16.25 times that of the U.S.

Table 5
Top 10 Detailed Occupations by Employment Location Quotient (LQ)
Local Area V
May 2022

Occupations	Employment	Empl. LQ Relative to U.S.
Rock Splitters, Quarry	50	18.57
Wind Turbine Service Technicians	110	16.25
Prepress Technicians and Workers	230	13.23
Furnace, Kiln, Oven, Drier, and Kettle Operators and Tenders	110	10.63
Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	320	7.91
Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	280	7.51
Recreational Therapists	80	7.30
Metal-Refining Furnace Operators and Tenders	90	6.76
Power Plant Operators	140	6.43
Wellhead Pumpers	60	5.99
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)		

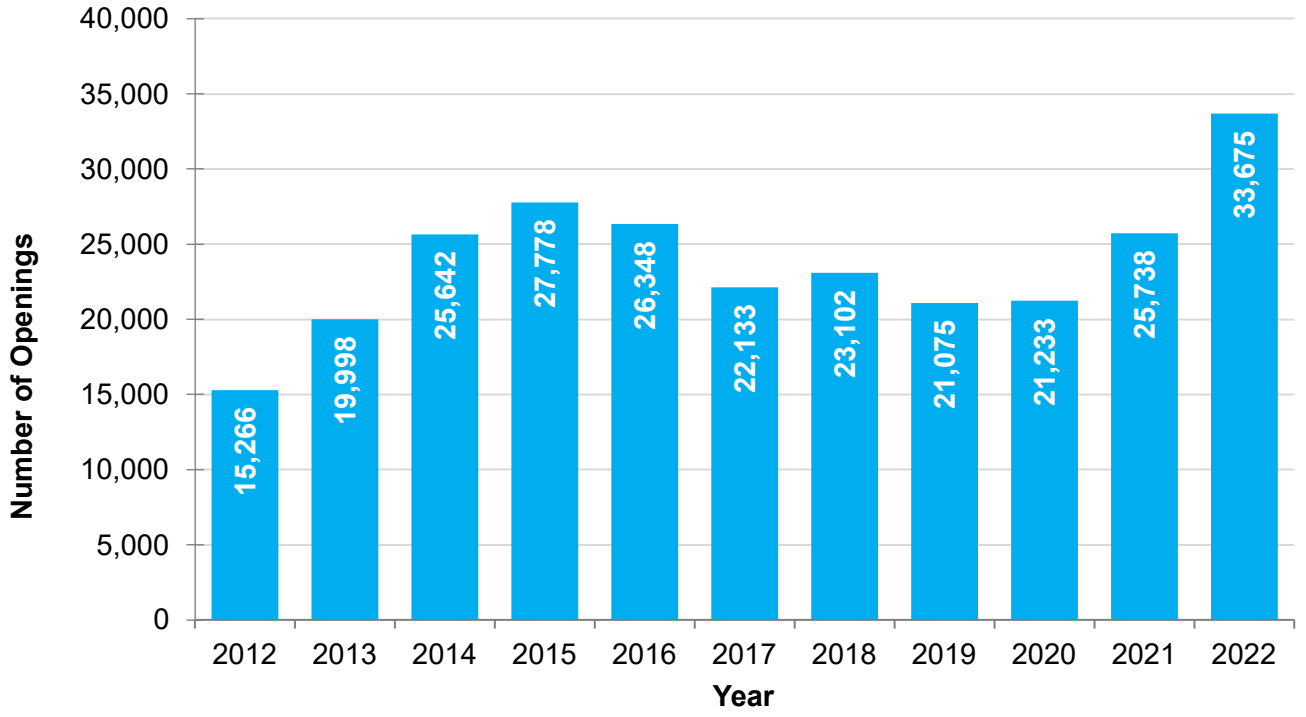
ADVERTISED JOBS

Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Advertised jobs data are sourced from Geographic Solutions, Inc. The information is collected from employer corporate sites, hospitals, non-profits, local and federal government agencies, schools and universities, recruiter sites, newspapers, volunteer sites, and other public, private, and state job boards. It is important to note that roughly 30% of advertised jobs do not have enough information to classify them with an industry or occupational code. These data are included in total advertised jobs, but excluded from industry and occupational totals.

Annual Job Openings

Chart 8 shows that Local Area V experienced a steady increase in job openings from 2012 through 2015, followed by an overall declining trend from 2015 through 2019. This decline was followed by a slight increase of 158 job openings in 2020, and steep increases in 2021 and 2022, totaling 12,442 job openings, or 58.6%. Local Area V recorded 33,675 job openings in 2022; this is the highest number of job openings reported for the region, with records beginning in 2008.

Chart 8
Advertised Job Openings
Local Area V
2012 - 2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

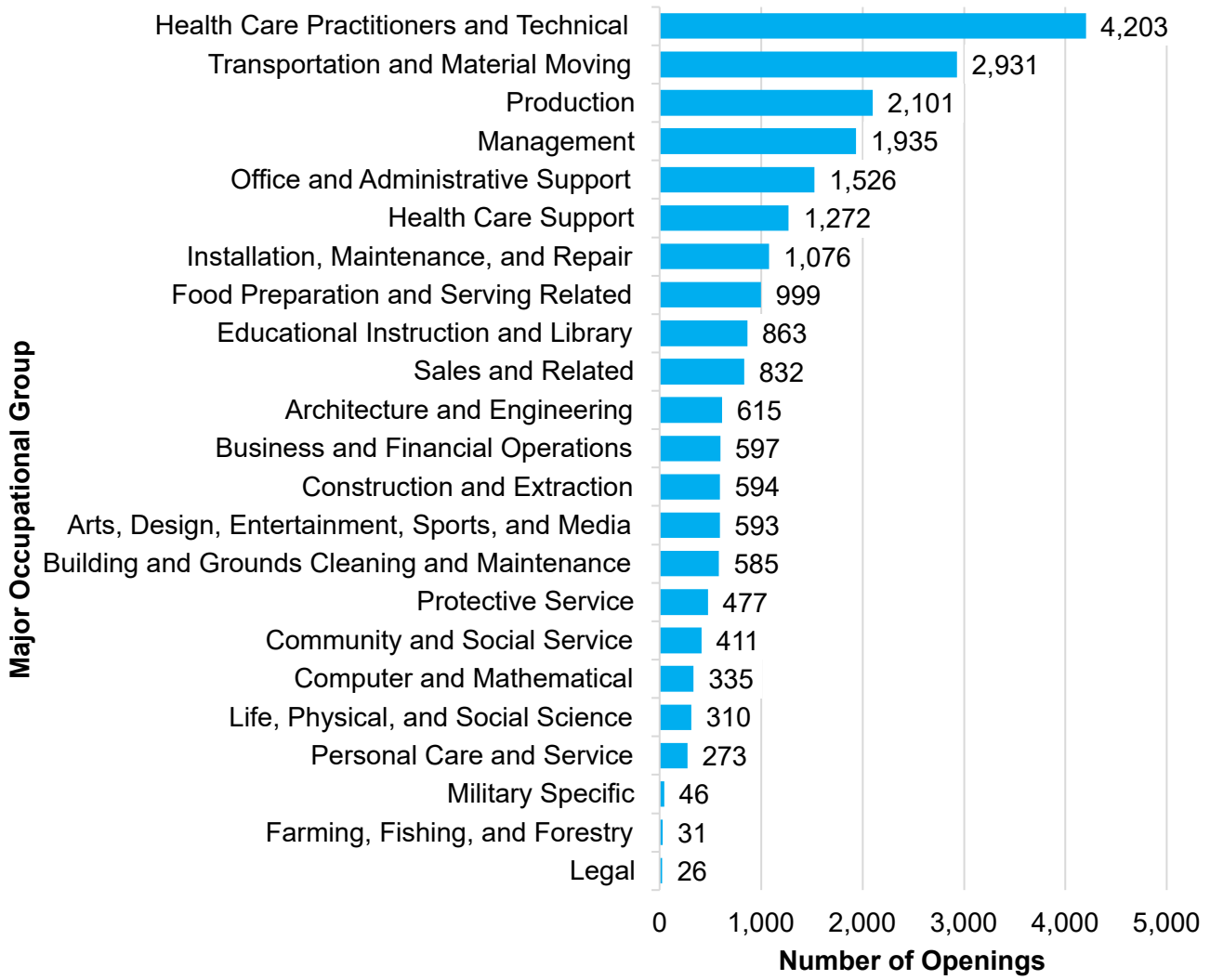
Check out our dashboard here: https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/GSIPub/documentview.aspx?docid=885

Job Openings by Occupation

As shown in Chart 9, the health care practitioners and technical occupational group had the most job openings by far in Local Area V, with 4,203 job openings advertised in 2022. This was followed by the transportation and material moving occupational group which recorded 2,931 job openings, and the production occupational group with 2,101 job openings. Four additional occupational groups recorded over 1,000 openings in 2022: management; office and administrative support; health care support; and installation, maintenance, and repair.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation in Local Area V, with 1,675 job openings. This was followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers with 1,106 job openings. Two additional occupations recorded over 500 job openings: production workers, all other and nursing assistants. Customer service representatives and physical therapists each recorded over 400 job openings in 2022.

Chart 9
Advertised Job Openings by Major Occupational Group
Local Area V
2022

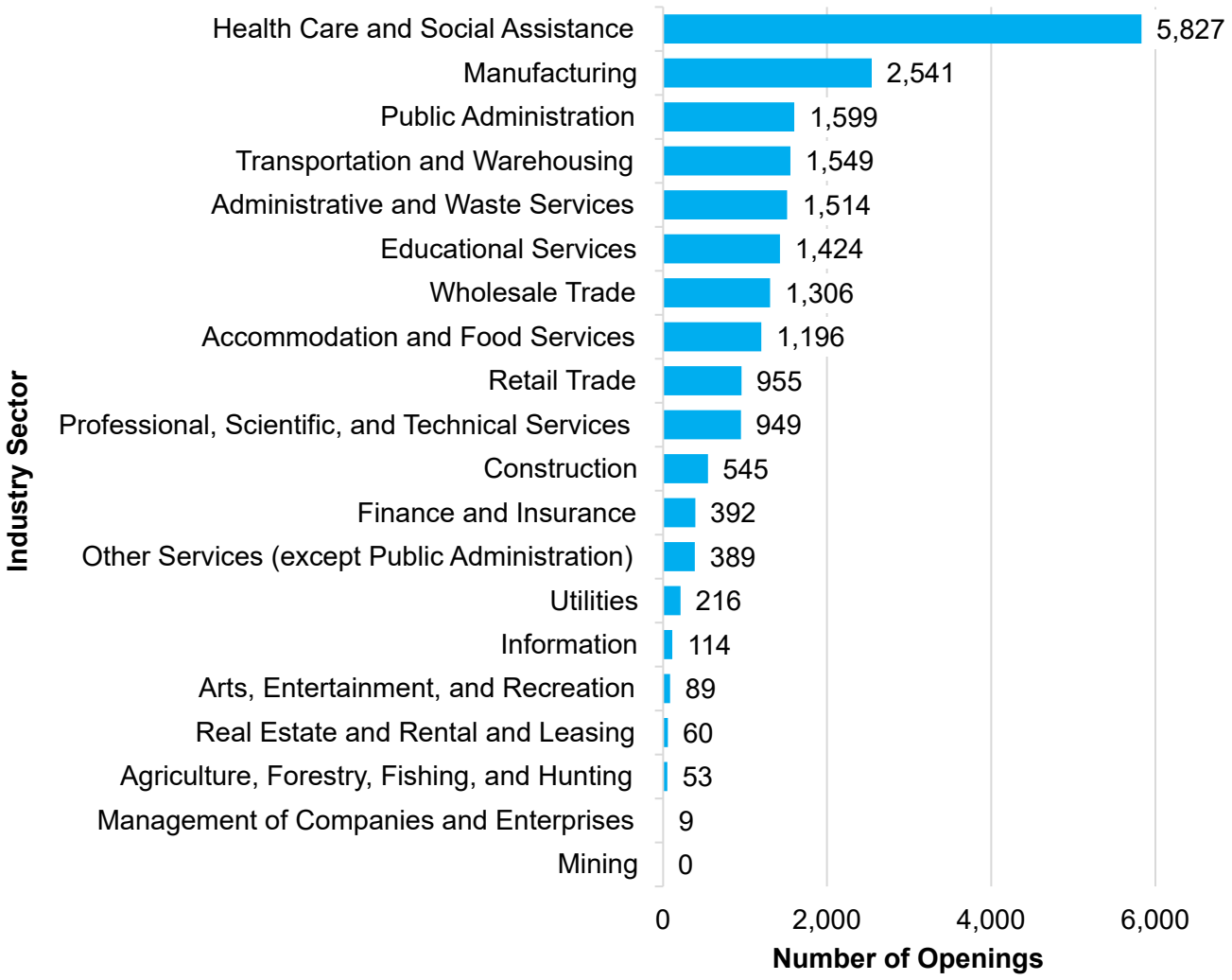


Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

Job Openings by Industry

Chart 10 displays advertised job openings by industry sector for Local Area V. The health care and social assistance sector recorded the most job openings by far in 2022, with 5,827 job openings. Hospitals accounted for 2,359 job openings in the health care and social assistance sector, while ambulatory health care services accounted for 1,968 job openings, and nursing and residential care facilities accounted for 1,079. The manufacturing sector recorded the second highest number of job openings, with 2,541. Food manufacturing accounted for 870 job openings in the manufacturing sector, while transportation equipment manufacturing accounted for 600 job openings. Public administration accounted for 1,599 job openings; the overwhelming majority of these were in the executive, legislative, and other general government support subsector. Transportation and warehousing and administrative and waste services also accounted for at least 1,500 job openings in 2022, while the educational services, wholesale trade, and accommodation and food services industry sectors accounted for at least 1,000 job openings.

Chart 10
Advertised Job Openings by Industry Sector
Local Area V
2022



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services; Online Job Advertisements Compiled by Geographic Solutions, Inc.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS

Every two years each of the 50 states complete long-term projections in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). The base year used in these projections is 2020 and the projection year is 2030. Statewide projections are released in even numbered years, while regional projections are released during odd numbered years. Long-term projections play an important role for students and others making career choices. Information about future trends in job growth and demand for labor is vital to making these life decisions. For the long-term projections program, it is assumed that the Kansas labor market will be in full employment in the projected year. This means the labor market will be in equilibrium and labor supply will meet labor demand, so the projections are forecasting structural changes in the economy rather than predicting changes in the business cycle.

Industry Projections

Local Area V total jobs across all industries are expected to grow by 4,680 to 104,132 jobs in 2030, an increase of 4.7% over the 10-year period. This averages out to 468 jobs per year, or 0.5% average annual growth.

Table 6 shows long-term projections for the top 10 industry sectors by numerical change from the base year 2020 to the projected year 2030. The goods producing sector, which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining; construction; and manufacturing, is projected to increase by 130 jobs per year, an average annual growth rate of 0.5%. The remaining industry sectors fall under the service providing sector, which is projected to have a positive average annual growth rate of 0.5%, adding 339 jobs annually.

Table 6
Top 10 Industry Sectors by Numerical Job Change
Southeast Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Industry Sector	Job Numbers		Job Changes		
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Annual Avg. Growth %
Total, All Industries	**99,452**	**104,132**	**4,680**	**4.7%**	**0.5%**
Manufacturing	18,528	19,680	1,152	6.2%	0.6%
Educational Services	12,643	13,360	717	5.7%	0.6%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	3,075	3,731	656	21.3%	2.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	6,535	7,137	602	9.2%	0.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	14,711	15,182	471	3.2%	0.3%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,609	2,042	433	26.9%	2.4%
Government	8,467	8,805	338	4.0%	0.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	2,484	2,767	283	11.4%	1.1%
Other Services (except Government)	2,442	2,702	260	10.7%	1.0%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	523	575	52	9.9%	1.0%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The Southeast Projection Region differs from Local Area V since it includes Chase County and excludes Miami County.

The manufacturing industry sector is projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the 10-year period, adding 1,152 jobs. This industry sector consists of 21 underlying subsectors. Of these 21 subsectors, transportation equipment manufacturing is projected to gain the most jobs, 59 annually; while computer and electronic product manufacturing is expected to grow the fastest, with an average annual growth rate of 3.7%. Of the industry sectors, professional, scientific, and technical services is projected to grow at the fastest rate, 2.4% annually.

Occupational Projections

Table 7 shows the top 10 major occupational groups projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the projection period. The food preparation and serving related occupational group is projected to gain the most jobs during the 10-year period, growing by 677, with an average annual growth rate of 0.8%. The food preparation and serving related occupational group is made up of 17 detailed occupations; of these, fast food and counter workers is expected to add the most jobs by 2030, gaining 296 jobs over the 10-year period. This is followed by waiters and waitresses, which is expected to grow by 163 jobs. The occupational group expected to grow the fastest is the legal occupational group, with an average annual growth rate of 1.1%.

Table 7
Top 10 Occupational Groups by Numerical Job Change
Southeast Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Occupational Group	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**99,452**	**104,132**	**4,680**	**4.7%**	**0.5%**	**117,161**
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	7,809	8,486	677	8.7%	0.8%	15,105
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	8,366	8,968	602	7.2%	0.7%	11,047
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	7,880	8,374	494	6.3%	0.6%	7,594
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	5,143	5,589	446	8.7%	0.8%	3,492
Production Occupations	12,770	13,168	398	3.1%	0.3%	14,409
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	4,749	5,070	321	6.8%	0.7%	4,914
Management Occupations	4,459	4,766	307	6.9%	0.7%	3,911
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	2,807	3,058	251	8.9%	0.9%	4,042
Health Care Support Occupations	6,189	6,433	244	3.9%	0.4%	7,907
Construction and Extraction Occupations	5,154	5,367	213	4.1%	0.4%	5,462

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The Southeast Projection Region differs from Local Area V since it includes Chase County and excludes Miami County.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, Employment Outlook https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468

Projections by Educational Requirement

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) assigns the level of education typically needed to enter each detailed occupation. Each occupation falls under one of eight education levels. As shown in Table 8, the largest increase in jobs is projected to be in those occupations typically requiring a high school diploma or equivalent; these occupations are expected to grow by 1,549 jobs over the projection period. The educational categories projected to grow the fastest are master's degree and doctoral or professional degree; these are both projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.0%.

Occupational classification by years of work experience typically needed to enter the occupation is also available. This can be more than five years, less than five years, or none. A third classification is available that organizes occupations by typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency. This can be long-term on-the-job training (more than one year), moderate-term on-the-job training (one month to one year), short-term on-the-job training (less than one month), internship/residency, or none. This information is available on the KDOL, LMIS website, www.klic.dol.ks.gov.

Table 8
Projections by Educational Requirement
Southeast Projection Region
2020 - 2030

Education	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Avg. Annual Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	**99,452**	**104,132**	**4,680**	**4.7%**	**0.5%**	**117,161**
High school diploma or equivalent	46,530	48,079	1,549	3.3%	0.3%	53,088
No formal educational credential	22,104	23,402	1,298	5.9%	0.6%	35,315
Bachelor's degree	16,072	17,106	1,034	6.4%	0.6%	14,192
Doctoral or professional degree	1,989	2,193	204	10.3%	1.0%	1,470
Postsecondary non-degree award	5,929	6,115	186	3.1%	0.3%	6,329
Master's degree	1,710	1,889	179	10.5%	1.0%	1,575
Associate degree	1,631	1,755	124	7.6%	0.7%	1,702
Some college, no degree	3,487	3,593	106	3.0%	0.3%	3,490

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Note: The Southeast Projection Region differs from Local Area V since it includes Chase County and excludes Miami County.

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The High Demand Occupation Lists are intended to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation. Occupations are scored based on three measures of labor demand: current job openings, projected job openings over the next two years, and projected job openings over the next 10 years. Each of these scores are added together to get a total demand score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

High Demand Occupations

Table 9 displays the top high demand occupations for Local Area V. These 11 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2024 and 2030. Overall, there are 210 occupations on the high demand list in Local Area V. Eight of the top 11 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require one month or less of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. The median wages of these eight occupations are all below the Local Area V median wage of $37,318, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of occupational growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Table 9
Top High Demand Occupations
Southeast Projection Region
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$44,388	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	$34,457	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	$33,973	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Stockers and Order Fillers	$29,733	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Assistants	$29,208	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	$28,498	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	$27,912	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	$23,581	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	$23,096	Some college, no degree	None
Cashiers	$22,966	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	$22,306	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations
Note: The Southeast Projection Region differs from Local Area V since it includes Chase County and excludes Miami County.

LMIS also identifies high demand occupations that pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the Local Area V median wage.

High Demand High Wage Occupations

In Local Area V there are 116 high demand high wage occupations; Table 10 lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, nine of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree or moderate-term on-the-job training. Also noteworthy is that one high demand high wage occupation also had the maximum demand score of 30: heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Table 10
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
Southeast Projection Region
2023

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$44,388	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
General and Operations Managers	$74,050	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	$63,707	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Registered Nurses	$62,688	Bachelor's degree	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	$48,467	Bachelor's degree	None
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	$45,218	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	$41,434	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	$38,088	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Accountants and Auditors	$62,850	Bachelor's degree	None
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	$49,176	Bachelor's degree	None
Construction Laborers	$39,681	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	$45,642	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Coaches and Scouts	$37,461	Bachelor's degree	None
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	$49,185	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Shipping, Receiving, and Inventory Clerks	$37,194	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations
Note: The Southeast Projection Region differs from Local Area V since it includes Chase County and excludes Miami County.

Where to find it: Kansas Labor Information Center, High Demand Occupations https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403

EDUCATION

Educational attainment is important in economic analysis because it influences human capital development, labor market outcomes, income inequality, economic mobility, innovation, and public finance. Policies and investments aimed at improving educational attainment can yield substantial economic benefits for individuals, societies, and the state as a whole.

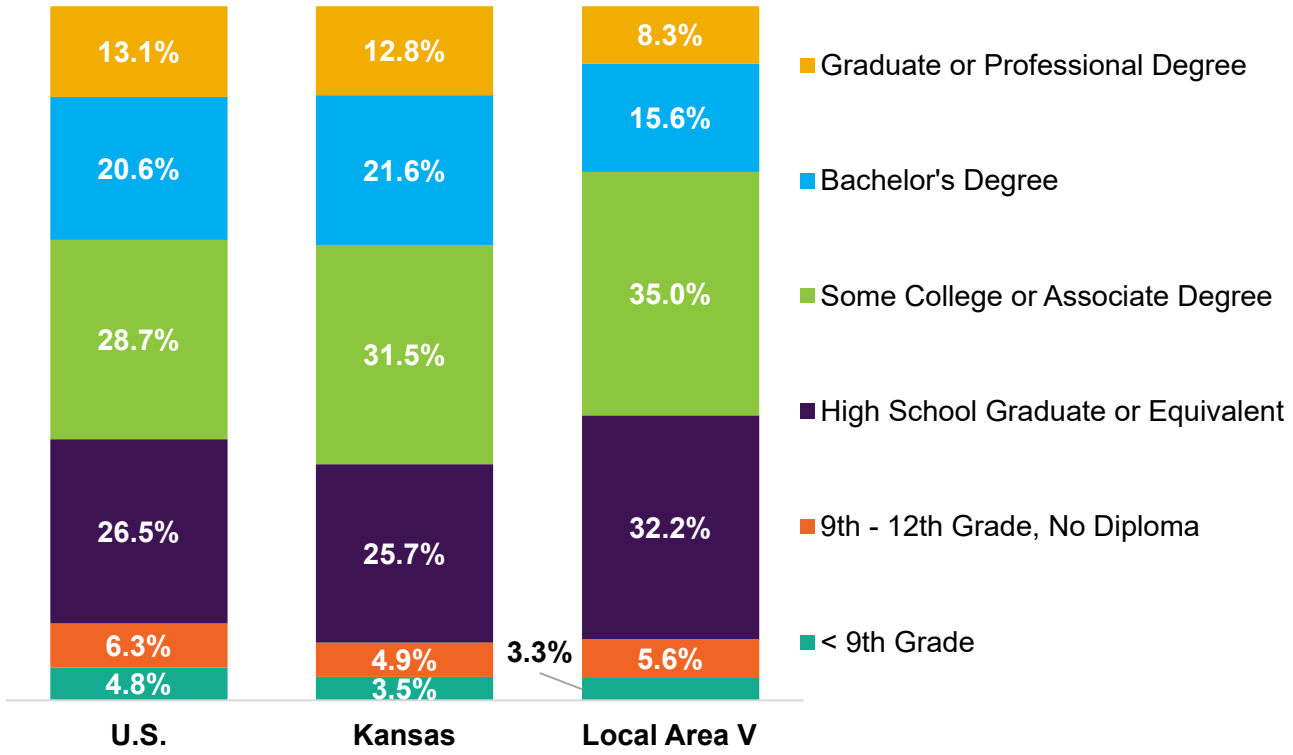
Educational Attainment

Chart 11 indicates that educational attainment in Local Area V is below the statewide average but higher than the national average. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year Estimates, 91.2% of Local Area V residents have at least a high school diploma or equivalent; this is 2.3 percentage points higher than the national rate of 88.9% and 0.4 percentage points lower than the statewide rate of 91.6%. It is estimated that 23.9% of Local Area V residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 33.7% nationally and 34.4% statewide.

When compared to the 2012-2016 ACS 5-year estimates, the percentage of Local Area V residents reporting an educational attainment of at least a high school diploma or equivalent increased by 1.2 percentage points, while the percentage of Local Area V residents reporting a bachelor's degree or higher increased by 2.6 percentage points.

The most commonly reported educational attainment level in Local Area V was some college or associate degree at 35.0%; this was followed by high school graduate or equivalent at 32.2%, and bachelor's degree at 15.6%.

Chart 11
Educational Attainment for the Population 25 and Over
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area V
2021



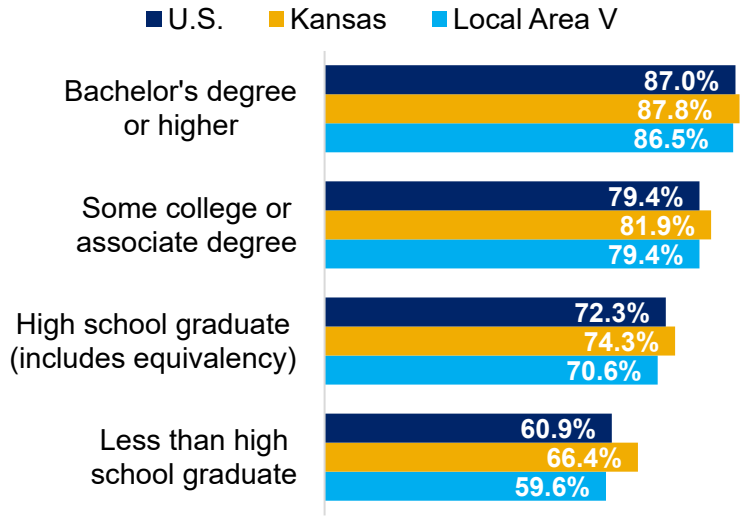
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Labor Force Statistics by Educational Attainment

Charts 12 and 13 indicate that as educational attainment level increases, labor force participation increases, while unemployment rates decline. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017-2021 ACS 5-year Estimates, Local Area V had a labor force participation rate of 76.8% for the civilian population ages 25-64; this was 1.5 percentage points lower than the U.S., which had a labor force participation rate of 78.3%, and 4.1 percentage points lower than the statewide rate of 80.9%. Local Area V residents without a high school diploma or equivalent had the lowest labor force participation rate at 59.6%, while Local Area V residents with a bachelor's degree or higher had the highest labor force participation rate at 86.5%. Local Area V had equivalent or lower labor force participation across all levels of educational attainment when compared to the U.S. and the state.

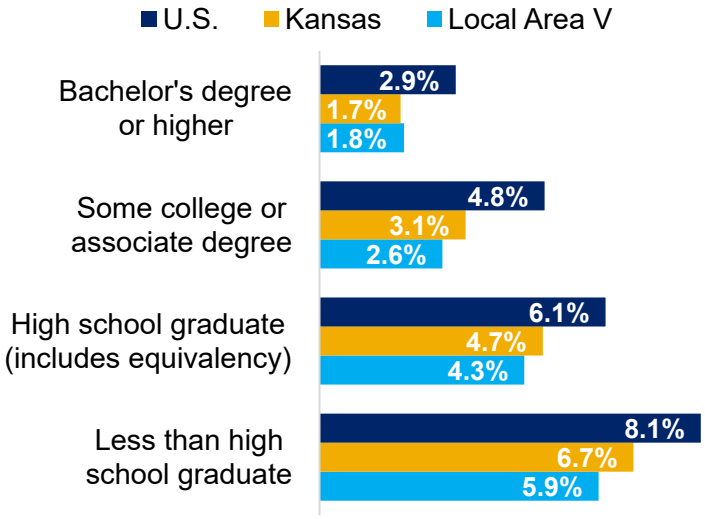
In Local Area V ACS estimates indicate that the unemployment rate for the civilian population ages 25-64 was 3.1% in 2021; this was 1.5 percentage points lower than the U.S. rate of 4.6%, and 0.1 percentage point below the statewide rate of 3.2%. Local Area V residents with educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 1.8%, while Local Area V residents with less than a high school diploma or equivalent had the highest unemployment rate at 5.9%. Local Area V achieved lower unemployment rates across all levels of educational attainment when compared to the U.S. The only level at which Local Area V had a higher rate than the state was bachelor's degree or higher.

Chart 12
Labor Force Participation Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area V
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

Chart 13
Unemployment Rate
by Educational Attainment
U.S., Kansas, and Local Area V
2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-year Estimates
Note: Data is for the civilian population ages 25-64

Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data.html

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