



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Center for Economic Development  
and Business Research

# 2015 Kansas Employment Forecast

## May 2015

Nationally, real GDP remained relatively flat with 0.2 percent growth in the first quarter of 2015, after growing 2.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014. Personal consumption and private investment were the strongest components of GDP growth in the first quarter, while government expenditures and exports decreased. Employment increased by 2.1 percent nationally in the last twelve months, while Kansas employment increased by 1.1 percent and employment in the Wichita metropolitan area grew by 0.1 percent.

### Kansas Employment Forecast

In 2015, Kansas total nonfarm employment is expected to increase by 18,533 jobs, which implies the employment growth rate is anticipated to be 1.3 percent.

| <b>Kansas Employment by Industry Summary*</b> |                  |                  |                  |                           |                             |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
|   | 2013 (a)         | 2014 (a)         | 2015 (f)         | 2014-2015<br>Level Change | 2014-2015<br>Percent Change |
| <b>Total Nonfarm</b>                          | <b>1,372,084</b> | <b>1,392,555</b> | <b>1,411,088</b> | <b>18,533</b>             | <b>1.3%</b>                 |
| <b>Production Sectors</b>                     | <b>227,937</b>   | <b>232,659</b>   | <b>234,015</b>   | <b>1,355</b>              | <b>0.6%</b>                 |
| <b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>  | <b>259,777</b>   | <b>263,745</b>   | <b>267,753</b>   | <b>4,008</b>              | <b>1.5%</b>                 |
| <b>Service Sectors</b>                        | <b>627,252</b>   | <b>639,384</b>   | <b>652,511</b>   | <b>13,127</b>             | <b>2.1%</b>                 |
| <b>Government</b>                             | <b>257,118</b>   | <b>256,767</b>   | <b>256,810</b>   | <b>43</b>                 | <b>0.0%</b>                 |

\*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections.  
(a) actual (f) forecasted

- The production sectors are forecast to expand 0.6 percent in Kansas, adding 1,355 jobs in 2015. They gained 4,722 jobs in 2014, experiencing 1 percent growth.
- The trade, transportation and utilities sector is expected to grow 1.5 percent, adding over 4,000 new jobs. This job growth is relatively evenly split across the wholesale trade, retail trade, and transportation and utilities sectors, with each anticipated adding approximately 1,300 new jobs.
- The service sectors are projected to have the most growth in 2015, adding 13,127 new jobs while growing 2.1 percent. The professional and business services sector and leisure and hospitality sectors are forecast to lead service sector growth, with each adding over 4,000 new

jobs. The education and health services sector is also expected to grow robustly, adding over 2,400 new jobs, as is the financial activities sector, which is projected to add over 1,600 jobs.

- The government sector is projected to remain flat, adding 43 new jobs in 2015. The federal and state government sectors are forecast to decline slightly in employment, while the local government sector is anticipated experience a small amount of growth statewide.

The Center for Economic Development and Business Research can provide detailed industry, wage, retail, and other customized forecasts upon requests. Contact Jeremy Hill at 316-213-3673 for costs and availability.