



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Center for Economic Development  
and Business Research

# 2015 Wichita 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.

### Wichita Employment Forecast

In 2015, Wichita total nonfarm employment is expected to increase by 2,472 jobs, which implies the employment growth rate is anticipated to be 0.8 percent.

<b>Wichita MSA Employment by Industry Summary*</b>					
	2013 (a)	2014 (a)	2015 (f)	2014-2015 Level Change	2014-2015 Percent Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>289,871</b>	<b>292,408</b>	<b>294,880</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Production Sectors</b>	<b>68,412</b>	<b>68,566</b>	<b>69,089</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>50,949</b>	<b>51,488</b>	<b>51,674</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>Service Sectors</b>	<b>129,352</b>	<b>132,225</b>	<b>134,383</b>	<b>2,158</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>41,158</b>	<b>40,129</b>	<b>39,734</b>	<b>-395</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>
*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections.					
(a) actual (f) forecasted					

- The production sectors are expected to add over 500 jobs in 2015, for a 0.8 percent growth rate. Most of this growth is anticipated to be generated by the natural resources and construction sector, with 516 new jobs, while the manufacturing sectors are predicted to remain relatively constant.
- The trade, transportation and utilities sector is predicted to add over 180 new jobs in 2015. The majority of these are anticipated to be in the transportation and utilities sector, with 135 new jobs. The wholesale trade sector is forecast to add 84 new jobs, while the retail trade sector is expected to decline by 33 jobs.

- The service sectors are forecast to grow by 1.6 percent in 2015, making them the fastest growing portion of the Wichita economy. The education and health services sector is predicted to be the fastest growing service sector, adding over 1,000 jobs in 2015. The professional and business services sector and the leisure and hospitality sector are anticipated to be the other key growth sectors in services, each adding over 500 jobs.
- The government sector declined by over 1,000 jobs in 2014, and it is expected to decline by 395 jobs in 2015.

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.