



**WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**W. FRANK BARTON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

*Center for Economic Development
and Business Research*

2016 Wichita Employment Forecast

October 2015

Nationally, real GDP expanded briskly with 3.9 percent growth in the second quarter of 2015, after growing 0.6 percent in the first quarter of 2015. Most of this growth was due to growing personal consumption expenditures, with investment experiencing the second largest growth. Net exports and government spending also contributed to the increase in real GDP, as both had moderately positive growth. Employment increased by 2.1 percent nationally in the last twelve months, while Kansas employment increased by 0.9 percent and employment in the Wichita metropolitan area grew by 1 percent.

Wichita Employment Forecast

In 2016, Wichita total nonfarm employment is expected to increase by 3,360 jobs, which implies the employment growth rate is anticipated to be 1.1 percent.

Wichita MSA Employment by Industry Summary*					
	2014 (a)	2015 (e)	2016 (f)	2015-2016 Level Change	2015-2016 Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	292,432	293,501	296,861	3,360	1.1%
Production Sectors	68,568	69,056	69,531	475	0.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	51,488	51,372	51,807	435	0.8%
Service Sectors	132,248	134,098	136,507	2,409	1.8%
Government	40,129	38,975	39,016	41	0.1%
*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections. (a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted					

- The production sectors are expected to add over 400 jobs in 2016, for a 0.7 percent growth rate. The natural resources and construction sector is forecast to grow at 1.5 percent, adding over 240 jobs, while the manufacturing sector is forecast to grow at 0.4 percent, adding over 220 jobs.
- The trade, transportation and utilities sector is forecasting to add over 400 jobs in 2016, with the majority of these in the retail trade sector. The transportation and utilities subsector is also forecast to have strong growth, adding 144 for 1.5 percent growth.
- The service sectors are forecast to be the fastest growing portion of the Wichita area economy, with 1.8 percent growth. The professional and business services sector is forecast to have the strongest growth, expanding 2.6 percent in 2016. The education and health services sector is also anticipated to have strong growth, adding over 1,100 jobs for 2.4 percent growth.
- In 2015, government employment declined by over 1,000 jobs, and, in 2016, government employment is forecast to increase by 41 jobs.

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.