



Demographic Profile of Wichita Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries Q4 2014

The Bureau of Labor Statistics defines an unemployed person as one 16 years and older having no employment and having made specific efforts to find employment in the past four weeks. By this definition, there was an average of 14,085 unemployed people in the Wichita metropolitan area in the fourth quarter of 2014, approximately 65 percent of whom collected unemployment insurance benefits.¹ In the fourth quarter of 2014 there were approximately 9,093 people, age 16 and over, who collected unemployment insurance benefits. That is an increase of approximately 13 percent from the third quarter.

Educational attainment is a leading indicator of unemployment. The higher the level of education, the less likely a person will be unemployed. In the Wichita area 32.4 percent of the labor force, age 25 to 64, have no more education than a high school diploma. Of those receiving unemployment benefits, 61.8 percent have no more education than a high school diploma.

Wichita MSA Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries						
25-64 years old						
	Q3 2014		Q4 2014		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than high school	672	9.8%	1,199	15.5%	527	78.4%
GED or high school	3,171	46.0%	3,591	46.3%	420	13.2%
Some college	2,006	29.1%	1,991	25.7%	(15)	-0.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	920	13.4%	763	9.8%	(157)	-17.1%
Not Reported	118	1.7%	212	2.7%	94	79.7%
Total	6,887	100.0%	7,756	100.0%	869	12.6%

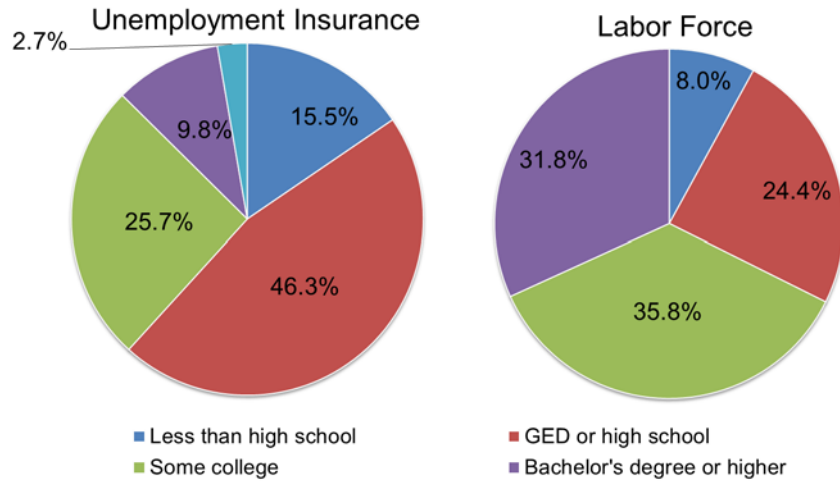
Source: Kansas Department of Labor

Between the third and fourth quarters of 2014, the increase in the number of unemployment beneficiaries can be fully attributed to those with no more education than a high school diploma. There were decreases in the number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries with at least some college education.

¹ The Kansas Department of Labor provided detailed unemployment beneficiary demographic data for first quarter 2014 at the county level, which was aggregated to the Wichita MSA.

Educational Attainment

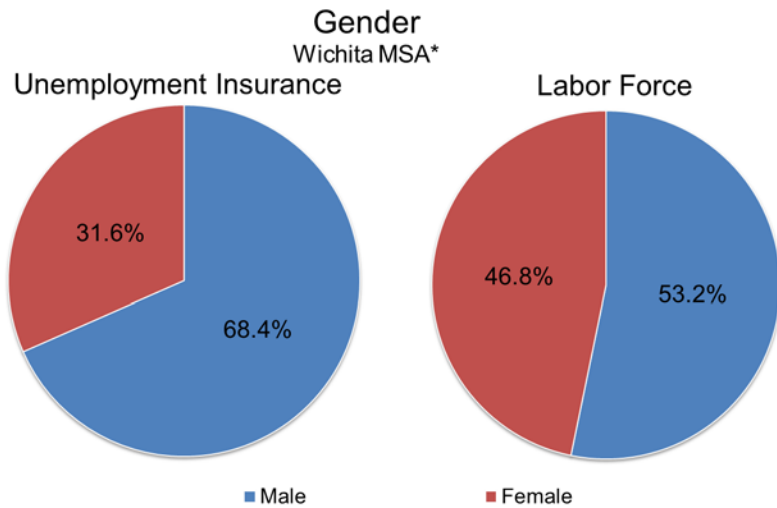
Wichita MSA*



Source: Kansas Department of Labor, U.S. Census Bureau, *Persons 25-64 years old

Gender

In the fourth quarter, a person in the Wichita area receiving unemployment insurance benefits is 2.2 times more likely to be male as female. This is up from 1.5 times more likely to be a male than a female in the third quarter. This can be attributed to a seasonal increase in the number of males receiving benefits as the result of seasonal construction employment.



Source: Kansas Department of Labor, U.S. Census Bureau, *Persons 16 years and over

Wichita MSA Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries by Gender and Education 16 Years and over						
Female	Q3 2014		Q4 2014		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than high school	382	4.8%	368	4.0%	(14)	-3.7%
GED or high school	1,394	17.4%	1,187	13.1%	(207)	-14.8%
Some college	971	12.1%	886	9.7%	(85)	-8.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	474	5.9%	361	4.0%	(113)	-23.8%
Not Reported	35	0.4%	72	0.8%	37	105.7%
Total	3,256	40.6%	2,874	31.6%	(382)	-11.7%
Male	Q3 2014		Q4 2014		Change	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than high school	439	5.5%	1,041	11.4%	602	137.1%
GED or high school	2,369	29.5%	3,103	34.1%	734	31.0%
Some college	1,346	16.8%	1,411	15.5%	65	4.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	513	6.4%	472	5.2%	(41)	-8.0%
Not Reported	104	1.3%	192	2.1%	88	84.6%
Total	4,771	59.4%	6,219	68.4%	1,448	30.4%

Source: Kansas Department of Labor

Age

The age distribution of people receiving unemployment benefits shifted somewhat younger between the third and fourth quarters of 2014. There are marginally fewer people 45 and over receiving unemployment benefits, 39.3 percent, down from 42.7 percent in the third quarter.

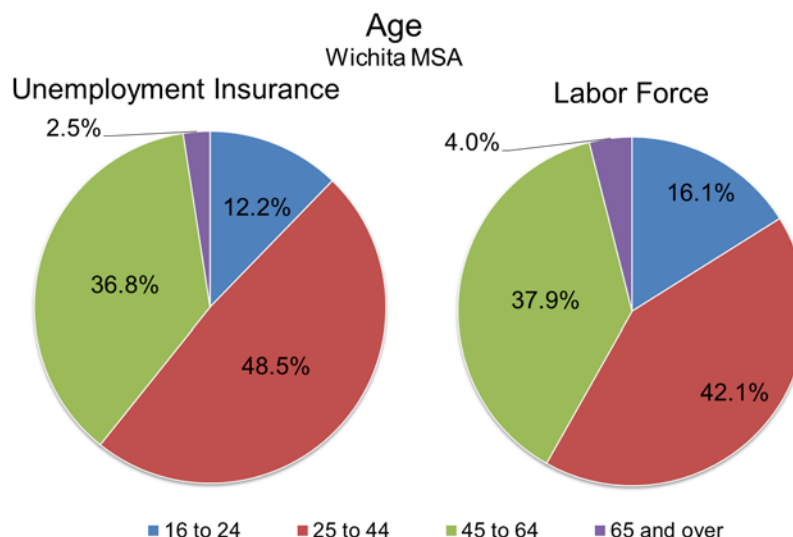
As would be expected, the majority of people receiving unemployment benefits are in the working age population between 25 and 64 years old. Younger working adults, between 25 and 44 years old, are more likely to be receiving unemployment benefits than older working adults, between 45 and 64 years old, at 48.5 percent and 36.8 percent, respectively. ²

² It should be noted that it is possible a significant portion of the unemployed not receiving benefits would be younger adults. The Census Bureau estimates the unemployment rate for 16 to 19 year olds in the Wichita area to be 22.9 percent, and 12.4 percent for 20 to 24 year olds. American Community Survey 2008-2012 5-year estimates

Wichita MSA Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries by Age and Education 16 years and over					
	16 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Total
Less than high school	2.0%	7.4%	5.7%	0.3%	15.5%
GED or high school	6.7%	22.1%	17.4%	1.0%	47.2%
Some college	2.8%	13.8%	8.1%	0.6%	25.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.3%	3.9%	4.5%	0.5%	9.2%
Not Reported	0.5%	1.2%	1.1%	0.1%	2.9%
Total	12.2%	48.5%	36.8%	2.5%	100.0%

Source: Kansas Department of Labor Totals may not sum due to rounding.

However, age is not a strong indicator of who is likely to be a beneficiary of unemployment insurance in the Wichita labor force. The age distribution of people receiving unemployment insurance closely resembles the age distribution in the labor force. For all age groups, the number of people receiving unemployment benefits decreases with higher levels of educational attainment.



Source: Kansas Department of Labor, U.S. Census Bureau

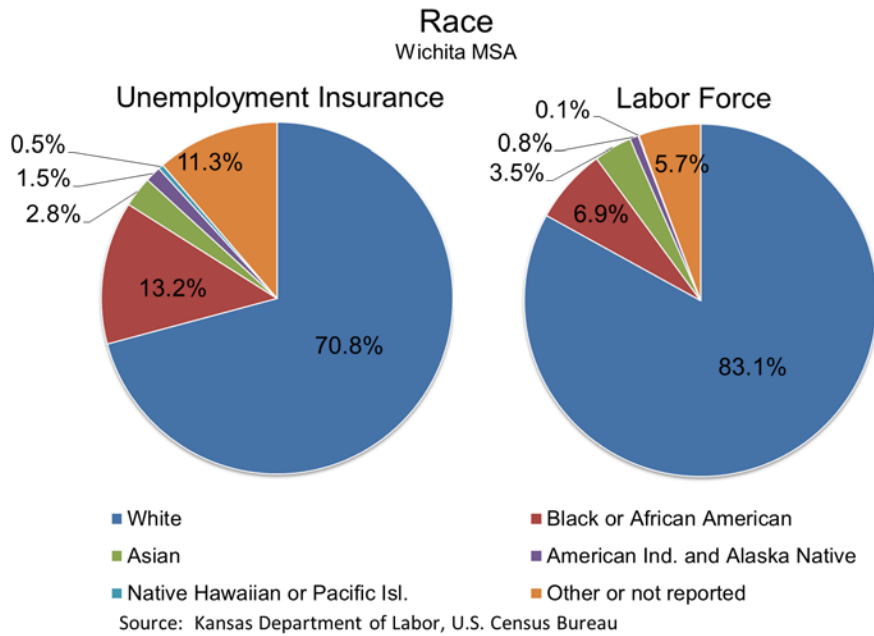
Race

A person receiving unemployment benefits in the Wichita area is 2.4 times more likely to be white than of a minority race. However, there is a disproportionately higher level of minority workers receiving unemployment benefits when compared to the labor force in the Wichita area. Minority workers account for 17.0 percent of the labor force and 29.2 percent of unemployment insurance beneficiaries. For all races, the number of people receiving unemployment benefits decreases with higher levels of

educational attainment. Between the third and fourth quarters there was little change in the racial mix of persons receiving unemployment insurance.

Wichita MSA Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries by Race and Education 16 years and over							
	White	Black or African American	Asian	American Ind. and Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Isl.	Not Reported	Total
Less than high school	8.3%	1.6%	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%	4.7%	15.5%
GED or high school	34.6%	6.4%	0.9%	0.7%	0.2%	4.3%	47.2%
Some college	19.2%	3.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%	1.5%	25.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher	7.2%	1.0%	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.5%	9.2%
Not Reported	1.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	2.9%
Total	70.8%	13.2%	2.8%	1.5%	0.5%	11.3%	100.0%

Source: Kansas Department of Labor



CEDBR has this unemployment insurance data available for all Kansas counties and zip codes.

For additional information you may contact us at:

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