



2019 Wichita Employment Forecast

May 2019

Total nonfarm employment in the Wichita metropolitan area¹ increased by approximately 3,500 workers in 2018, creating 1.2 percent growth in local workforce. This expansion was the fastest single-year growth in the area since 2008, a sharp turnaround from the modest employment contraction of 2017. Wichita's unemployment rate declined for the eighth consecutive year to 3.7 percent in 2018, the area's lowest annual unemployment rate since 1999.

Wichita's employment expansion is forecast to continue in 2019 with 0.9 percent employment growth, adding more than 2,700 new jobs to the metropolitan area.

- After employment declines in both 2016 and 2017, Wichita's production sectors' employment increased at their fastest rate since 2008 in 2018. Manufacturing employment increased by 1,800 jobs, with increases in both the durable goods and nondurable goods subsectors. Construction and mining employment grew by 2.5 percent in 2018, adding 400 jobs. With continued investment from local firms, expected, the manufacturing sector is projected to add an additional 1,000 new jobs in 2019. With continued positive signs in the local housing market, the construction sector is forecast to add more than 200 new jobs in 2019.
- Wichita's trade, transportation and utilities sector employment declined in 2017 and 2018, contracting by approximately 2,000 jobs. The retail trade sector experienced the bulk of the job losses with 1,100 jobs lost in that period. The transportation sector was the only trade and transportation subsector to gain jobs in 2018, growing 2.1 percent. Overall, the trade, transportation and utilities sector is projected to decline by 0.6 percent in 2019, which is forecast to contract by approximately 300 jobs, due in part to inflation-adjusted retail sales for the area expected to remain relatively flat.
- After increasing by 1,100 jobs in 2018, Wichita's service sectors are projected to add more than 1,300 new jobs in 2019. The leisure and hospitality sector is forecast to have the fastest growth at 1.8 percent, continuing the sector's trend of growing fastest than the area's average for each of the last eight years. The professional and business services sector and education and health care sector are expected to provide much of the rest of service sector job growth in 2019,

¹ The Wichita metropolitan consists of Sedgwick, Butler, Harvey, Kingman, and Sumner counties.
CEDBR, Wichita State University, Campus Box #121, 1845 Fairmount St., Wichita, KS 67260-0121
Telephone: (316) 978-3225 Fax: (316) 978-3950 www.cedbr.org

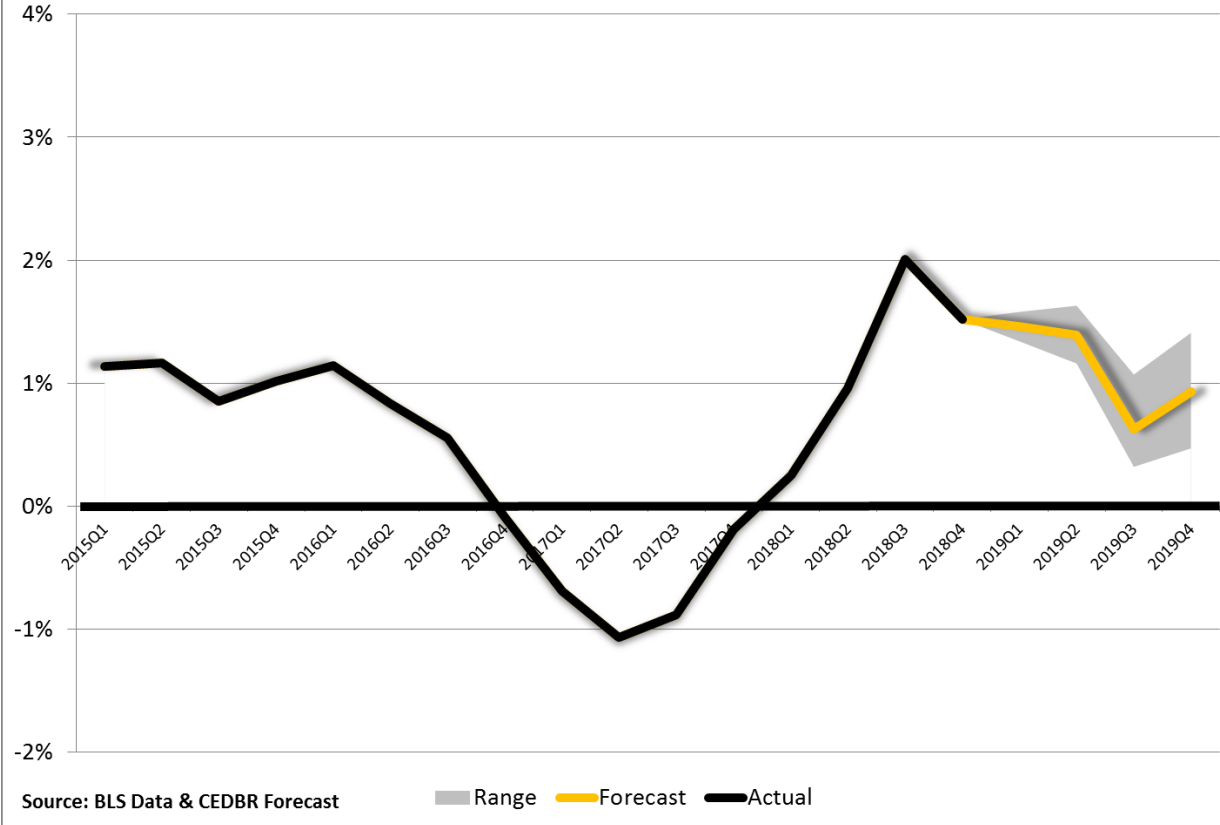
collectively adding almost 700 new jobs to the local economy. The information sector is the only service sector projected to experience an employment decline in 2019, contracting by less than one percent.

- Wichita's governmental sector is projected to add more than 400 jobs, with employment growing 1.1 percent. Employment is forecast to grow at the federal, state, and local levels, with the largest increase at the local level.

Nationally, real GDP grew 2.9 percent in 2018, with the fastest growth in private investment, which grew 5.9 percent, and personal goods consumption, which grew 3.7 percent. National employment increased by 1.7 percent in 2018, following 1.6 percent growth in 2017.

Wichita Employment by Industry Summary*					
	2017 (a)	2018 (e)	2019 (f)	2018-2019 Level Change	2018-2019 Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	295,132	298,626	301,367	2,742	0.9%
Production Sectors	67,932	70,201	71,467	1,266	1.8%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	51,301	50,571	50,262	-309	-0.6%
Service Sectors	135,121	136,210	137,520	1,310	1.0%
Government	40,778	41,643	42,118	474	1.1%
*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections. (a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics data & Wichita State University CEDBR forecast					

Wichita Total Nonfarm Employment Growth



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