

## 2022 Topeka Employment Forecast

In 2021, unemployment in Topeka fell dramatically, from an estimated 6.07% down to 3.73%. Indicative of continuing labor market adaptation and recovery from the ongoing novel Coronavirus pandemic, these trends are expected to continue throughout 2022 and 2023, halving the number of Topekans left unemployed in 2020. There remains a degree of uncertainty as mutations of the virus, such as the Omicron variant, continue to place strain on the population, workforce, and economy through surges in infection rates. Still, this strain is dampened by the now robust access to and availability of vaccines and treatments, and the outlook appears increasingly optimistic. Vaccination rates in Kansas have mostly plateaued for both full and partial vaccinations. Other international issues such as the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine and the associated concern over the trade of commodities such as petrochemical products, food, etc. are expected to impact the Kansas economy through increased demand for those same goods.

Topeka				
Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2020(a)	120,449	113,559	6,890	6.07%
2021(e)	121,030	116,675	4,355	3.73%
2022(f)	120,787	117,206	3,581	3.05%
2023(f)	120,790	117,515	3,275	2.79%
(a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted				
Source: CEDBR, BLS - LAUS				

Personal income grew 2.54% in 2021, and growth is forecasted to continue throughout 2022, 2023, and 2024. This same trend is observed in personal income per-capita, which saw 2.16% growth in 2021, with higher rates forecasted for coming years. It is expected to exceed \$52,000 in 2022.

Topeka, Kansas (Metropolitan Statistical Area)				
Year	Personal Income (\$Thousands)	Personal Income Growth	Per-Capita Personal Income	Per-Capita Income Growth
2021	\$ 11,950,997.26	2.54%	\$ 51,569.02	2.16%
2022	\$ 12,248,469.97	2.49%	\$ 52,655.03	2.11%
2023	\$ 12,545,942.68	2.43%	\$ 53,732.96	2.05%
2024	\$ 12,843,415.39	2.37%	\$ 54,802.89	1.99%
Source, CEDBR, BLS - LAUS				

By sectors, employment growth is expected to be felt unevenly. Trade occupation employment in Topeka contracted considerably, by 11.5% in 2021, but it is expected to grow in 2022 by 2.5%. The service sector, the largest component of Topeka's labor market, grew by 1.2% in 2021, a gain of 675 jobs, and is expected to grow up through 2023, with a net addition of 1,206 jobs since 2020.

The most significant component of job growth in the service sector comes from leisure and hospitality occupations, which have rebounded dramatically in 2021 (7.0% growth from 2020) alongside increasing vaccine availability and an ever-adapting labor force and job market. Concurrent with the recovery and expansion of leisure and hospitality, retail sales similarly bounced back in 2021, growing 8.8% relative to

2020, and are forecasted to continue growing even after adjusting for inflation. As a result, average monthly retail sales in 2022 and 2023 are both expected to exceed \$125 million.

Inflation-Adjusted Taxable Retail Sales Growth				
Kansas			Topeka MSA	
Year	Sales(\$Billions)*	Growth Rate	Sales(\$Billions)*	Growth Rate
2019(a)	1.527	-	0.109	-
2020(a)	1.525	-0.1%	0.112	2.3%
2021(e)	1.694	11.1%	0.122	8.8%
2022(f)	1.788	5.5%	0.127	4.1%
2023(f)	1.794	0.3%	0.127	0.4%

\* Annual values, in billions are derived from monthly observations and projections. \*\* Retail sales figures are given in 1982-relative dollars.  
(a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted  
Source: CEDBR, BLS - KSDOR

Production sector employment grew by 825 jobs in 2021. The sector is expected to grow in 2022 and then contract slightly by 0.2% in 2023. The government sector lost 300 jobs in 2021 and is expected to rebound in 2022 by 1.4%.

Topeka Employment by Industry*							
	2020 (a)	2021 (e)	2022 (f)	2023 (f)	2021	2022	2023
<b>Production</b>	<b>22,092</b>	<b>22,917</b>	<b>23,347</b>	<b>23,291</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
Nat. Resources, Mining & Cons.	5,375	5,525	5,528	5,566	2.8%	0.0%	0.7%
Durables	7,942	8,108	8,246	8,322	2.1%	1.7%	0.9%
Non-Durables	16,717	17,392	17,820	17,725	4.0%	2.5%	-0.5%
<b>Trade</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>-11.5%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>
<b>Services</b>	<b>56,117</b>	<b>56,792</b>	<b>57,163</b>	<b>57,323</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Information	6,975	6,850	6,782	6,744	-1.8%	-1.0%	-0.6%
Financial Activities	6,075	6,008	6,035	6,046	-1.1%	0.4%	0.2%
Professional & Business Services	12,408	12,967	13,060	13,097	4.5%	0.7%	0.3%
Education & Health Services	18,792	18,583	18,822	18,979	-1.1%	1.3%	0.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	7,367	7,883	7,951	7,943	7.0%	0.9%	-0.1%
Other	4,500	4,500	4,513	4,514	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
<b>Government</b>	<b>26,200</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>26,255</b>	<b>26,296</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,425</b>	<b>106,508</b>	<b>107,688</b>	<b>107,831</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>

\*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections.

(a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted

Source: CEDBR, BLS - CES