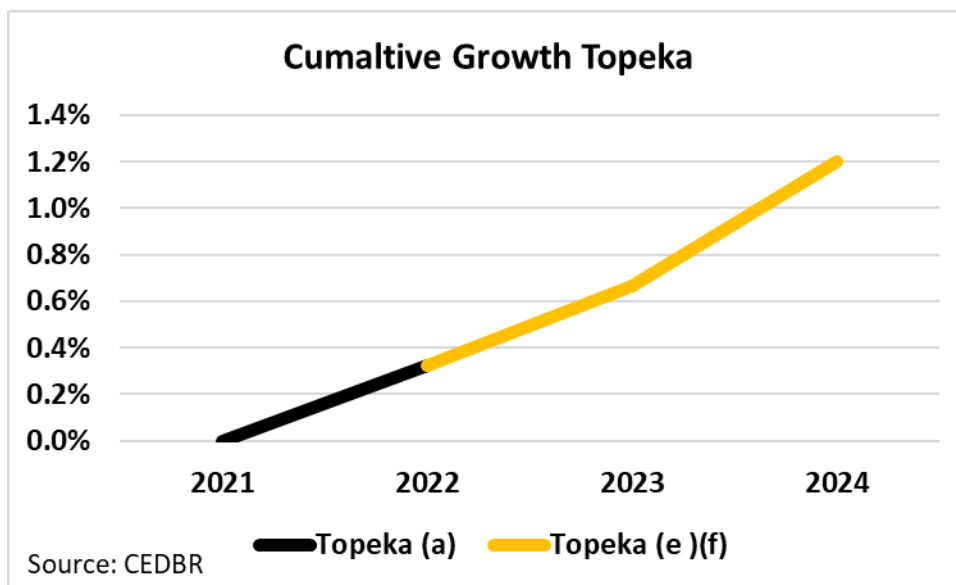


2023 Topeka Employment Forecast

The Topeka metropolitan area's¹ employment grew by 1,317 employees in 2021, an expansion of 1.2%. Unfortunately, Topeka did not experience the same employment growth seen across the nation or in Kansas in the first half of 2022. The market declined by 0.2%, accounting for a loss of 175 jobs. Most of that loss was within the first quarter, as the Topeka market had month-over-month growth through August 2022.

Although there are broad concerns within the national and global markets, the spillover effect from the more optimistic outlooks of manufacturing, agriculture, and energy will likely help bolster the Topeka Market in 2023. As a result, the employment outlook is for 0.3% growth next year and an acceleration of 0.5% in 2024.



The majority of growth within the production sector is expected to be within durable goods manufacturing, with an increase of 0.4%. The non-durables manufacturing sector, which has been expanding, is expected to cool off due to weakening demand and inflation. The natural resources, mining, and construction sector is expected to flat slightly in 2023, as home price appreciation and consumer sentiment will weigh on the construction sector.

Employment in the trade, transportation, and utilities is projected to decline by 0.5%, a loss of 87 jobs in 2023. Retail trade will likely make up most of that loss, which is due to changing consumer behavior and weakening purchasing power due to inflation. Transportation and utilities are forecast to slow down because of the broader economic conditions.

The service sectors are expected to account for almost all of the growth in 2023, adding just under 323 jobs. The driver for the increase stems from the shift from latent growth in financial and health services

¹ The Topeka metropolitan area consists of Jackson, Jefferson, Osage, Shawnee, and Wabaunsee counties.

and the changing consumer behaviors. Leisure & hospitality account for the later shift, as consumers are spending less on retail and dining out more. The information sector, which is an agglomeration of news, data hosting, telecommunication, and publishing industries, is expected to decline by 0.6%, accounting for a loss of 5 jobs.

Topeka Employment by Industry*							
	2021 (a)	2022 (e)	2023 (f)	2024 (f)	2022	2023	2024
Production	13,633	13,751	13,716	13,891	0.9%	-0.3%	1.3%
Nat. Resources, Mining & Cons.	5,525	5,459	5,471	5,496	-1.2%	0.2%	0.5%
Durables	1,825	1,945	1,953	2,012	6.6%	0.4%	3.0%
Non-Durables	6,283	6,347	6,292	6,383	1.0%	-0.9%	1.5%
Trade	17,392	17,468	17,381	17,361	0.4%	-0.5%	-0.1%
Services	51,683	52,266	52,590	53,043	1.1%	0.6%	0.9%
Information	900	901	896	880	0.1%	-0.6%	-1.7%
Financial Activities	6,850	6,667	6,688	6,750	-2.7%	0.3%	0.9%
Professional & Business Service	12,967	13,401	13,527	13,729	3.4%	0.9%	1.5%
Education & Health Services	18,583	18,543	18,688	18,859	-0.2%	0.8%	0.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	7,883	8,112	8,116	8,112	2.9%	0.1%	-0.1%
Other	4,500	4,642	4,674	4,713	3.2%	0.7%	0.8%
Government	25,900	25,476	25,643	25,619	-1.6%	0.7%	-0.1%
Total	108,608	108,961	109,329	109,913	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%

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

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

Source: CEDBR, BLS - CES

The labor market conditions for households remain robust, as employers continued to add jobs in 2023, and is anticipated to expand by 0.3% in 2024. The growth will put further pressure on the market and will likely decrease unemployment over the next two years.

Topeka Labor Market					
	2020 (a)	2021 (a)	2022 (e)	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
Rate	5.8%	3.1%	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%
Unemployment	6,550	3,660	3,739	3,644	3,757
Employment	113,625	116,856	117,369	117,735	118,052
Labor Force	120,175	120,515	121,108	121,379	121,809

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

Source: CEDBR, BLS - LAUS