

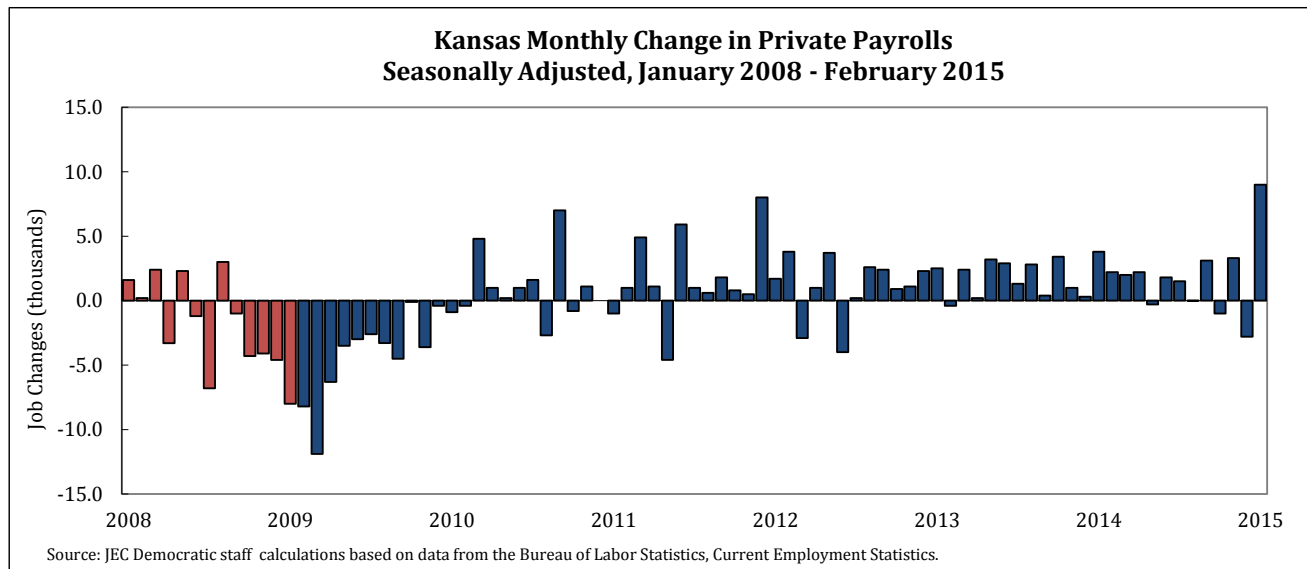


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: KANSAS

Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through February 2015

JOBS

- In February, private-sector employment in Kansas grew by 9,000 jobs. Over the past year, the Kansas private sector has added 21,000 jobs. This compares with an increase of 21,300 jobs over the 12 months ending in February 2014.
- Kansas private-sector employers have added 90,400 jobs (an increase of 8.5 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Kansas, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: professional and business services (30,000 jobs), trade, transportation and utilities (16,100 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (14,800 jobs).
- The Kansas sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: mining and logging (24.4 percent), professional and business services (21.0 percent) and construction (19.7 percent).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Kansas was 4.2 percent in February 2015, holding constant from January. The rate is down 0.4 percentage point from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 7.3 percent in September 2009.
- 63,000 Kansas residents were unemployed during February 2015, down from a recent high of 111,300 in August 2009. There are now 1,700 fewer people unemployed in Kansas than when the recession began.
- In Kansas, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 11,537 during February, down 0.8 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 11.6 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

EXPORTS

- In Kansas, exports totaled \$813 million in January and \$11.2 billion over the past year, down 6.2 percent from the 12 months ending in January 2014 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Kansas exports over the past 12 months are up 9.5 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

HOUSING

- Home prices in Kansas increased by 4.1 percent from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 10.8 percent since their recent low in the first quarter of 2011 and are now 2.4 percent above their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Kansas totaled 7,370 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2015, a decrease of 6.8 percent from January.
- Within the Midwest census region, which includes Kansas, sales of new single-family homes totaled 54,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2015, a decrease of 12.9 percent from January. Sales of existing single-family homes remained steady at 1,010,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from January to February 2015.

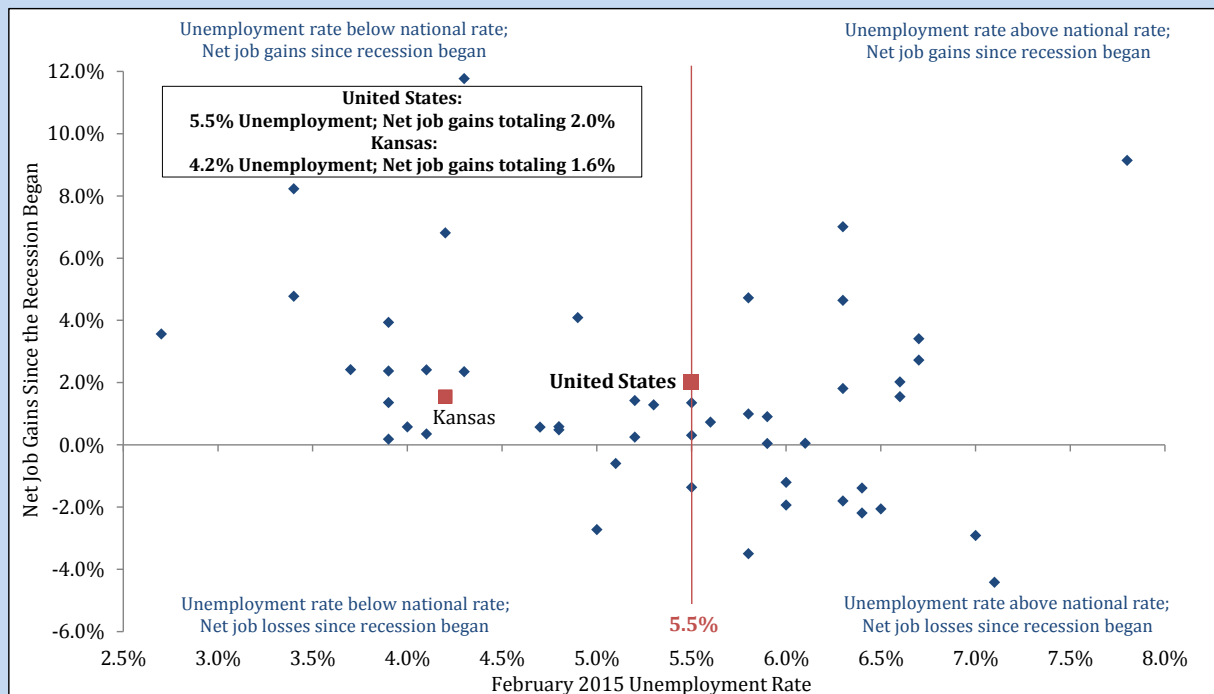
* For Kansas-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Kansas office: <http://www.dol.ks.gov/lmis/Default.aspx>

How Does Kansas Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Kansas to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Kansas, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.9% and net job gains totaling 30.2% since the start of the recession.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Kansas	United States
Unemployment Rate	February 2015	4.2%	5.5%
	February 2014	4.6%	6.7%
	February 2013	5.4%	7.7%
	February 2012	5.9%	8.3%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2014	10.2%	8.9%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	6.8%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	12.2%	7.2%
Median Household Income (2013 \$)	2013	\$ 51,485	\$ 51,939
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	\$ 54,485	\$ 56,436
Poverty Rate	2013	13.2%	14.5%
	(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	11.7%	12.5%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2013	12.3%	14.5%
	(American Community Survey)		