



WICHITA STATE  
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# 2013 Wichita Employment Forecast

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Nationally, the real GDP growth estimates for the fourth quarter of 2012 were the lowest since the first quarter of 2011, at 0.4 percent. This slower rate of economic activity was driven by significant decreases in government expenditures between the third and fourth quarters of 2012, a trend that is expected to continue into 2013. Additionally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has continued to correct and revise existing labor data. Nationally, and in the state of Kansas, employment grew at a modest 1.7 and 1.4 percent, respectively, in 2012. Wichita metropolitan area employment grew at a slower rate of 1.0 percent in 2012. The first two months of 2013 have shown employment growth at the national, state and local level of between 0.6 and 0.8 percent.

## Wichita Employment Forecast

Although robust growth is not on the horizon, Wichita's forecast for 2013 does indicate slight to moderate employment growth across all major sectors.

<b>Wichita MSA Employment by Industry Summary*</b>					
	2011 (a)	2012 (a)	2013 (f)	2012-2013 Level Change	2012-2013 Percent Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>282,908</b>	<b>285,567</b>	<b>289,761</b>	<b>4,194</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>Production Sectors</b>	<b>66,317</b>	<b>67,350</b>	<b>68,224</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>49,483</b>	<b>49,742</b>	<b>50,134</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Service Sectors</b>	<b>126,317</b>	<b>127,858</b>	<b>130,453</b>	<b>2,595</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>40,792</b>	<b>40,617</b>	<b>40,950</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>0.8%</b>

\*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections.  
(a) actual (f) forecasted

- Combined, production sector employment is expected to increase 1.3 percent in the Wichita area. Much of this growth can be attributed to continued increases in natural resources, mining and construction. Manufacturing employment is expected to grow at a rate of less than 1.0 percent through the remainder of the year.
- Growth in transportation and utilities employment will be strong through 2013, adding approximately 225 jobs. Retail trade is projected to grow at a rate of 1.0 percent. However, wholesale trade employment is expected to decrease by 1.4 percent.
- Service sector employment will show strong growth through 2013, increasing at a rate of 2.0 percent. The majority of this growth will be in professional and business services, which is anticipated to add more than 1,400 jobs in 2013. Information services will continue to contract at a rate of 2.1 percent. Financial activities, education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and other services will experience mild growth through the remainder of the year, adding a total of approximately 1,200 jobs.
- Federal, state and local government employment in the Wichita area is expected to increase by approximately 333 jobs in 2013. This sector is expected to be turbulent as government budget shortfalls are rectified. Without knowing actual budget cuts, this forecast is tentative.