

Manufacturing

After years of growth, manufacturing employment in Kansas has been slow to recover from the 2008 recession. Employment dropped to 167,057 from 187,151 in 2008, representing a 10.7 percent decline. Employment decreased another 4.4 percent in 2010. Since recovery started in 2011, employment has moderately fluctuated.

Manufacturing employment in the state's two largest metropolitan areas has also been slow to recover from the recession. Manufacturing employment in the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) declined by 9,208 between 2008 and 2009 and started to recover in 2012. Manufacturing employment in the Kansas City, KS-MO MSA decreased by 1,181 in 2011, and continued its downward trajectory until 2013. Between 2008 and 2013, Kansas City, KS-MO MSA's employment decreased 12.2 percent.

Transportation equipment manufacturing and food manufacturing are large employers in the state. Kansas transportation manufacturing employment has followed a similar trend to overall Kansas manufacturing employment. After years of continued growth in this sector, employment started to decline in 2009; but, recovery begun in 2012. Kansas food manufacturing employment, on the other hand, remained stable over the last decade.

Construction

Kansas construction was slightly impacted by the recession in 2008, when industry employment declined only one percent. The following year, the recession had a larger impact on industry employment with a 10.9 percent drop from the 2008 level. The construction employment level continued to decrease until 2011, going from 65,211 in 2008 to 52,888 in 2011. Nonetheless, industry employment started to recover in 2012.

Construction employment in the state of Kansas' two largest cities has been similar to the state as a whole. Construction in the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was lightly impacted by the recession in 2008 as employment level declined to 15,732 from 15,733 in 2007. Construction employment in the Wichita MSA decreased 16.3 percent between 2008 and 2011, but began to grow continuously since 2012. Kansas City, KS-MO MSA construction employment experienced a downward trend in employment between 2007 and 2011. Employment declined 30.3 percent during that time period. Since 2012, construction employment in the Kansas City, KS-MO MSA has been growing.

Over two-thirds of the Kansas construction workforce works in the specialty trade contractors sector. This sector experienced a decline in employment from 2008, reaching a low level of 33,581 in 2011. Nonetheless, employment has continuously grown since 2012.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale trade employment in Kansas has moderately fluctuated in the last ten years. In fact, between 2005 and 2015, employment in the industry grew 1.2 percent going from 59,590 in 2005 to 60,283 in 2015. Similarly, durable and non-durable goods wholesale trade employment has experienced little variation in the last decade.

Wholesale trade employment in the state of Kansas' two largest cities has been similar to the state as a whole. During the recessionary period, wholesale trade employment in the Wichita MSA dropped 0.5 percent. Employment kept declining after the recession ended, with the employment level going from 10,953 in 2009 to 9,422 in 2015. Kansas City, KS-MO MSA wholesale trade employment also experienced a decline during the 2007-2009 recession, decreasing by 4.7 percent. The employment level varied slightly in the years that followed, ranging from 45,706 to 46,807.