

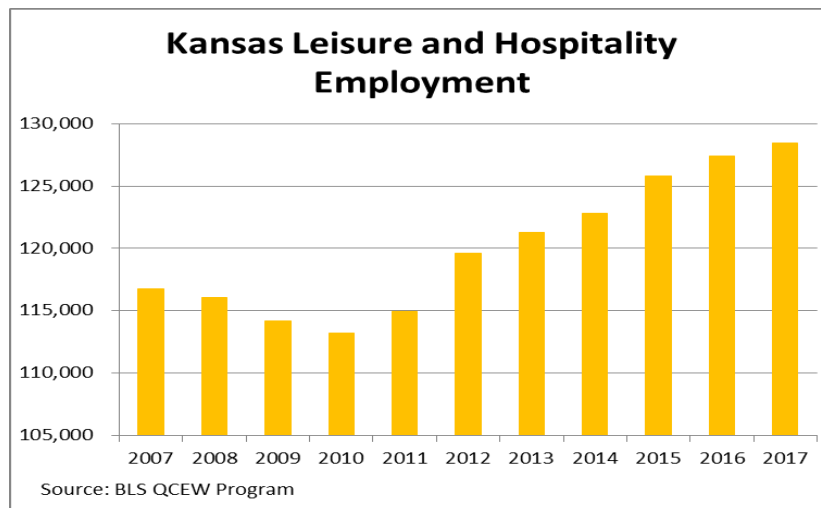
Kansas Leisure and Hospitality News and Developments

Employment and Wages

Leisure and hospitality has been a consistent growth sector in the state of Kansas since 2010, with more than 15,000 jobs added. In 2017, employment in the sector grew by 0.8 percent, adding more than 1,000 new jobs. Over 78 percent of leisure and hospitality jobs in Kansas worked at food service and drinking establishments, while approximately 9 percent worked in the accommodation industry, with the remainder working at art, entertainment and recreation facilities.

The Kansas City, KS, portion of the Kansas City metropolitan area employed 32.1 percent of all leisure and hospitality workers in the state, while the Wichita area employed 25.4 percent, both of which were smaller than those areas share of total employment within the state. Topeka and Lawrence collectively accounted for 12.8 percent of leisure and hospitality employment in the state.

Leisure and hospitality tends to be a sector with relatively low wages, both in Kansas and nationally. Inflation-adjusted wages in Kansas for the sector declined 0.7 percent in 2017 to an average weekly wage of \$356 per week. Taxable retail sales for accommodation and food service establishments also declined 0.9 percent, after adjusting for inflation.



Leisure and Hospitality News

- Warren Theatres, which operates four movie theaters in the Wichita area, was purchased by Regal Entertainment Group in May 2017. In December 2017, Regal Entertainment Group was subsequently purchased by Cineworld Group for \$3.6 billion. With the acquisition, Cineworld owns more than 9,500 screens the U.S. and Europe.
- The \$19 million Mary R Koch Arts Center opened in Wichita in January 2018. The center features nine studios for art classes and workshops, a 5,000 square foot art gallery, a sculpture garden, and outdoor art studios.
- With several new openings in 2017 and 2018, 36 craft breweries are operating throughout Kansas, more than double the number in operation in 2011. Kansas ranks 35th nationally in the number of breweries per capita.
- The \$28.6 million Cyrus Hotel in downtown Topeka is expected to open December 2018, two years after ground was broken for construction. The eight-story hotel will have 106 beds and a restaurant.

