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2014 Kansas Employment Forecast

September 2013

The national unemployment rate fell from a peak of 10 percent in 2009 to a post-recession low of 7.3 percent in August 2013. Total national employment has grown by 1.6 percent from the second quarter of 2012 to the second quarter of 2013. The recovery has continued slowly but steadily; the nation's gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the second quarter of 2013. This continues the economy's trend of slow, but positive, economic and employment growth that it has been sustained since the recovery began.

The Kansas unemployment rate has risen from 5.8 percent in August 2012 to 5.9 percent August 2013. This is consistent with the general Kansas trend of a relatively flat unemployment rate since the start of 2012. The unemployment rate reached its post-recession low of 5.5 percent in November 2012, and has increased slightly since then. Since August 2012 overall non-farm Kansas employment grew by 1 percent, which was slower than the growth in the Kansas labor force, leading to the increase in the unemployment rate. While the recession did not hit Kansas as hard as the United States as a whole, Kansas is now growing slower than the national average.

As of this writing, Kansas employment is expected to grow by 1.1 percent in 2013, with much of the growth occurring in the third and fourth quarters. For 2014, total nonfarm employment growth in Kansas is projected to be 1.4 percent, a gain of more than 19,000 jobs.

- The largest job growth is expected to be in the service sectors, with professional and business services adding 4,837 jobs and education and health services adding 4,254 jobs. Other service sectors are projected to grow between 0.5 and 2.5 percent.
- The production sectors are forecasted to grow at 2.1 percent in 2014. Half of the growth will come from natural resources, mining and construction, which is projected to be the fastest growing sector in Kansas next year, growing at 3.8 percent.

- The trade, transportation & utilities sector is expected to grow at 0.6 percent. Retail trade and wholesale trade are projected to grow at 0.6 and 0.8 percent, respectively
- No sectors are projected to reduce employment in 2014, but government employment will lag behind overall job growth, with government employment expanding by only 0.2 percent in 2014.

Kansas Employment by Industry Summary*					
	2012 (a)	2013 (e)	2014 (f)	2013-2014 Level Change	2013-2014 Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	1,357,823	1,372,251	1,391,393	19,141	1.4%
Production Sectors	228,060	230,679	235,634	4,956	2.1%
Natural Resources, Mining & Cons.	64,993	64,842	67,320	2,478	3.8%
Manufacturing	163,067	165,836	168,314	2,478	1.5%
Durable Goods	99,910	101,356	102,978	1,622	1.6%
Nondurable Goods	63,156	64,480	65,336	856	1.3%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	257,164	258,007	259,492	1,485	0.6%
Wholesale Trade	59,025	59,855	60,334	480	0.8%
Retail Trade	142,349	142,272	143,100	828	0.6%
Transportation & Utilities	55,789	55,880	56,057	177	0.3%
Service Sectors	613,615	626,248	638,450	12,202	1.9%
Information	28,317	29,326	29,530	204	0.7%
Financial Activities	74,594	77,057	78,672	1,614	2.1%
Professional & Business Services	153,246	160,182	165,018	4,837	3.0%
Education & Health Services	186,141	187,338	191,592	4,254	2.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	119,687	120,777	121,824	1,047	0.9%
Other Services	51,630	51,568	51,814	246	0.5%
Government	258,985	257,318	257,817	499	0.2%
*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections. (a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted					