

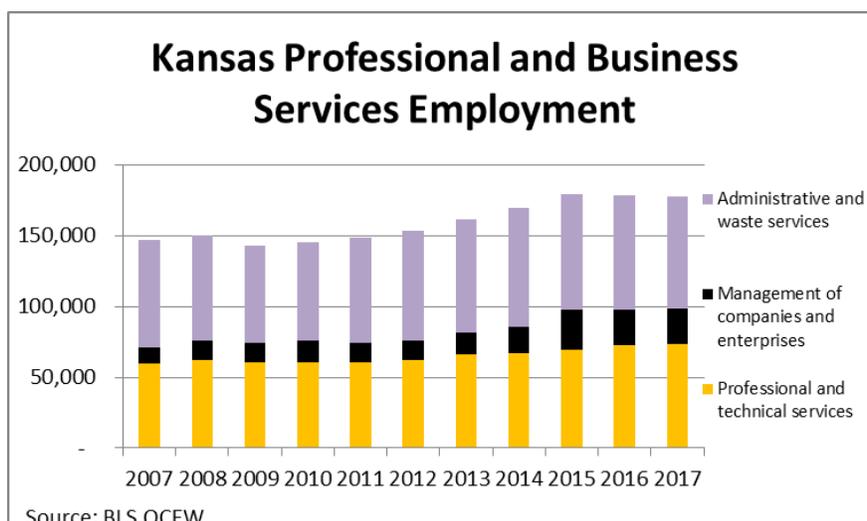
Kansas Professional and Business Services Industry News and Developments

Employment and Wages

After six consecutive years of job gains from 2009 to 2015, Kansas professional and business services lost 1,600 jobs from 2015 to 2017, a 0.9 percent decline. Growth in the sector from 2009 to 2015 had primarily been driven by increases in the management of companies subsector and the professional and technical services subsector, which each added more than 10,000 jobs in that time. Within the professional and technical services subsector, the computer systems design and related services subsector led growth from 2009 to 2017, growing eight consecutive years with more than 8,000 new jobs.

Professional and business service employment slowed throughout most major Kansas metropolitan areas in 2017. Only the Kansas City, Kansas, metropolitan area, with 1.2 percent growth, experienced positive growth in the sector from 2016 to 2017. From 2010 to 2017, Topeka, Wichita, and Kansas City, Kansas, all expanded employment in their professional and business services sector by at least ten percent.

The average weekly wage in Kansas' professional and business services sector in 2017 was \$1,136, more than 30 percent higher than the overall average Kansas weekly wage. The highest wages were in the management of companies subsector, with a weekly wage of \$1,935, and the computer systems design service subsector, with a weekly wage of \$1,623.



Industry News

- Cargill Protein Division's new \$70 million headquarters building in Wichita is expected to be completed in October 2018. Built on the site of the former Wichita Eagle building, the 190,000-square-foot facility will have the capacity for 950 employees when completed.
- Stinson Leonard Street LLC, a Kansas City-based law firm with offices in Wichita, announced a merger with St. Louis-based Senniger Powers LLC in August 2018. The merger will add an additional 28 attorneys to Stinson Leonard Street with a specialty in intellectual property law.
- The Wichita law firm Biggs Paul LLC added a location in Lawrence in June 2018. The location is the law firm's second, which the firm hopes will better enable it to serve clients in the northeast of the state.
- Malone, Finkle, Eckhardt & Collins, an Overland Park-based engineering company, announced a merger in April 2018 with RTM Engineering Consultants, which is based in the Chicago area. Malone, Finkle, Eckhardt & Collins had grown quickly in recent years, increasing revenue more than 25 percent in the past three years.

