



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Center for Economic Development  
and Business Research

# 2015 Kansas Employment Forecast

October 2015

Nationally, real GDP grew at a robust rate of 4.6 percent in the second quarter of 2014, following a contraction of 2.1 percent in the first quarter. Strong growth in personal consumption expenditures and private investment were the key contributors to this growth. Net exports shrunk in the second quarter, while government consumption increased slightly. Employment increased by 1.9 percent nationally in the last twelve months, while Kansas employment increased by 1 percent.

## Kansas Employment Forecast

In 2015, Kansas total nonfarm employment is expected to increase by 23,239 jobs, which implies the employment growth rate is anticipated to be 1.7 percent.

Kansas Employment by Industry Summary*					
	2013 (a)	2014 (e)	2015 (f)	2014-2015 Level Change	2014-2015 Percent Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>1,372,841</b>	<b>1,385,790</b>	<b>1,409,028</b>	<b>23,239</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>Production Sectors</b>	<b>229,886</b>	<b>231,362</b>	<b>236,283</b>	<b>4,920</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>260,374</b>	<b>261,876</b>	<b>263,643</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>Service Sectors</b>	<b>625,341</b>	<b>635,830</b>	<b>652,101</b>	<b>16,271</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>257,240</b>	<b>256,721</b>	<b>257,001</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections. (a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted					

- The production sectors are expected to grow by 2.1 percent in Kansas, adding almost 5,000 jobs. Much of this growth is anticipated to be in the natural resources and construction sector, which is forecast to add 3,351 jobs and grow at a 4.7 percent rate. Durable goods manufacturing is projected to grow 1.2 percent, while nondurable goods manufacturing is expected to grow 0.6 percent.
- The trade, transportation and utilities sector is projected to add 1,768 jobs, with a growth rate of 2.1 percent. The retail trade sector is anticipated to grow 0.6 percent, and both the wholesale trade sector and transportation and utilities sector are forecast to grow 0.8 percent.

CEDBR, Wichita State University, Campus Box #121, 1845 Fairmount St., Wichita, KS 67260-0121

Telephone: (316) 978-3225 Fax: (316) 978-3950 www.cedbr.org

- The service sectors in Kansas are forecast to be the major growth sectors in 2015, growing at a rate of 2.6 percent. The fastest growing service sectors are projected to be professional and business services and education and health services, which are forecast to add 6,036 and 4,980 jobs, respectively. The other services sector is also expected to grow at a 2.4 percent growth rate.
- The government sector is projected to grow 0.1 percent, adding 279 jobs in 2015. The federal and state government sectors are forecast to decline in employment, while the local government sector is anticipated to add more than 800 jobs statewide.