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Amber Shultz, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Labor Market Report
March 2021**

IMPORTANT NOTE: This release includes nonfarm jobs and labor force estimates for March 2021. Data collected for this report references the week including March 12th. Additional resources for affected workers and employers may be found at the Kansas Department of Labor's website: www.dol.ks.gov and www.GetKansasBenefits.gov.

TOPEKA, Kan. – Preliminary estimates reported by the Labor Market Information Services (LMIS) division of the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show a [seasonally adjusted unemployment rate](#) of 3.7 percent in March. This was a decrease from 3.8 percent in February and an increase from 3.2 percent in March 2020.

“Kansas has shown significant recovery, adding over 12,000 jobs in March, with eight of the major sectors contributing to that growth,” said Secretary Amber Shultz. “The unemployment rate also remained relatively low at 3.7 percent.”

Seasonally adjusted job estimates indicate total Kansas nonfarm jobs increased by 12,800 from February. [Private sector jobs](#), a subset of total nonfarm jobs, increased by 12,400 from the previous month, while government increased by 400.

“Kansas job growth accelerated in March,” said Labor Economist Emilie Doerksen. “Growth was widespread with five of the major sectors adding more than 1,000 jobs each. The largest gains were in construction as the industry rebounded following weather related declines in February.”

Since March 2020, Kansas [seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs](#) have declined by 48,900. This change is due to a decrease of 35,700 private sector jobs and 13,200 government jobs.

BLS revised seasonally adjusted preliminary total nonfarm jobs estimates for February upward by 1,900 jobs, from 1,358,300 to 1,360,200. Seasonally adjusted private sector jobs were also revised upward by 1,600 jobs, from 1,112,200 to 1,113,800.

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Complete Kansas labor market information for March is available [here](#).

The April 2021 Labor Report will be released on Friday, May 21.

Technical Notes: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=760>

The Kansas unemployment rate is based on data collected through the Current Population Survey (CPS) and estimates produced by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. The LAUS data is produced in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which means that the same methodology is used for all states (<https://www.bls.gov/lau/laumthd.htm>). Data for the number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits is based on administrative data from claimants filing unemployment insurance claims with the Kansas Department of Labor. These two measures offer distinct but related measures of trends in joblessness.

Audio clips of the Labor Market Report quotes by Secretary of Labor, Amber Shultz and Labor Economist, Emilie Doerksen are available online, courtesy of the Kansas Department of Labor.

Since March 15, KDOL has paid out over 4.3 million weekly claims totaling over \$2.9 billion between regular unemployment and the federal pandemic programs. For more information, or to apply for unemployment benefits, go to www.GetKansasBenefits.gov.

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