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OVERVIEW

In 2026, if trends persist, Kansas is poised to experience a very predictable economy: stable but slow population and employment growth, moderate real production growth, and personal income growth exceeding the rate of employment and inflation. However, there are a lot of unknowns and challenges facing the state, ranging from federal policies (such as taxes, immigration enforcement, and tariffs) to environmental changes (such as extreme weather events).

For the 2026 forecast, we are providing three scenarios and our predicted likelihoods of occurrence given the strength of the signals that are guiding the path.



SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

This forecast utilizes population estimate data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, employment statistics from the U.S. Bureau for Labor Statistics, and gross domestic product and income data from U.S. Bureau for Economic Analysis. This includes preliminary estimates data that may be subject to revision. We also provide CEDBR's 2022-2072 Population Forecast and map.

The center utilizes a variety of quantitative and qualitative forecasting methods, including supplementing analysis with local-area knowledge of trends and feedback from stakeholders across the state.

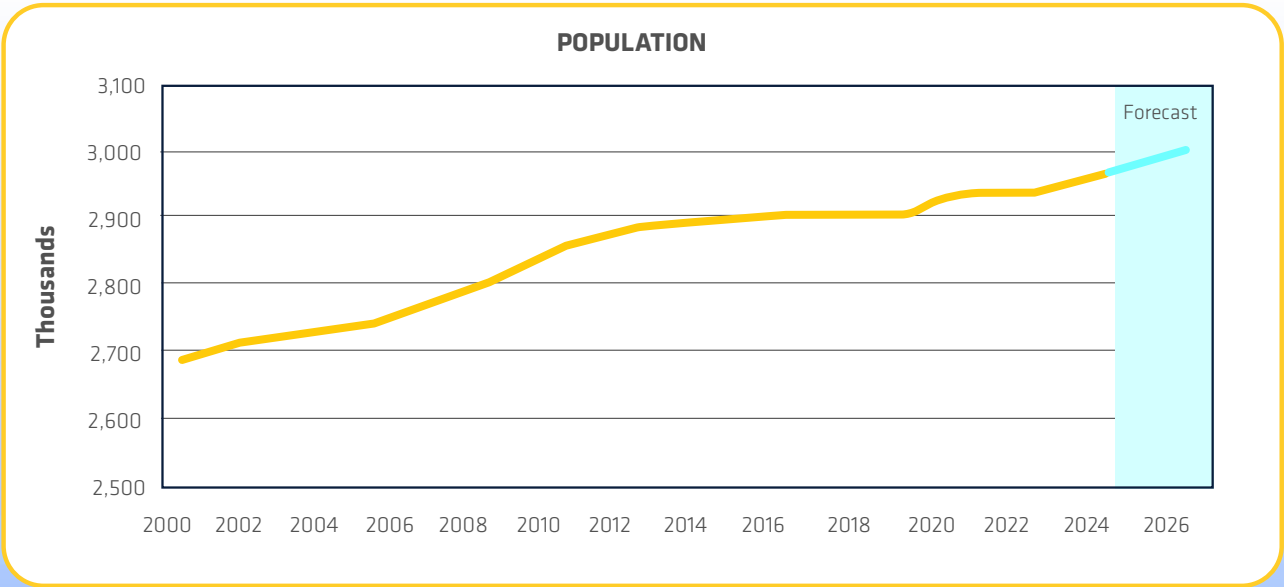
DISCLAIMERS

This forecast is for informational purposes only and is only valid as of the date that it was created. Forecast quality depends on the reliability of the underlying data. The center utilizes the most reliable data sources available for this analysis. Additionally, economic conditions are impacted by multitudes of factors that cannot be perfectly predicted or captured in forecasting models. The forecasts in this booklet were developed during a period of strong uncertainty regarding future economic conditions.

POPULATION FORECAST

Over the last ten years, the Kansas economy has seen slow, but steady growth in population, real output, and employment. Total population has increased by about 92,000 people (about 3%) since 2015 and is showing signals of an increasing rate of population from 2021-2023.

STATUS QUO	GROW	SLOW
Steady but slow population increases, typically in the largest cities. Population in rural communities continues to decline.	Increasing rate of flow into the state (likely due to employment availability, cost of living or extreme weather in other states)	Declining rate of flow into the state (likely due to immigration reform, tight labor markets, low relative pay, or location preferences).
HIGH likelihood	LOW (short-term) MODERATE (long-term) likelihood	MODERATE likelihood



EMPLOYMENT

Total employment growth in the state has slightly outpaced population at 3.9% from 2015 – 2024. Leading industries in employment growth over this ten-year span are mining/logging/construction, private education and healthcare, non-durable goods manufacturing, and “other” services. Employment is declining rapidly in information services but relatively stable in the other industries. Generally, across the state, there is a sense that there are more jobs available than people to take them, leading to a “tight” labor market as firms compete for the scarce workers.

In 2026, we expect employment to remain steady with only slight growth (0.3%) as firms adjust to new international trade regulations, automate processes, and find efficiency gains. The total gains are likely to be seen in trade/transportation/utilities or the private education and health sectors. The largest declines are likely to occur in the government and financial services sectors.

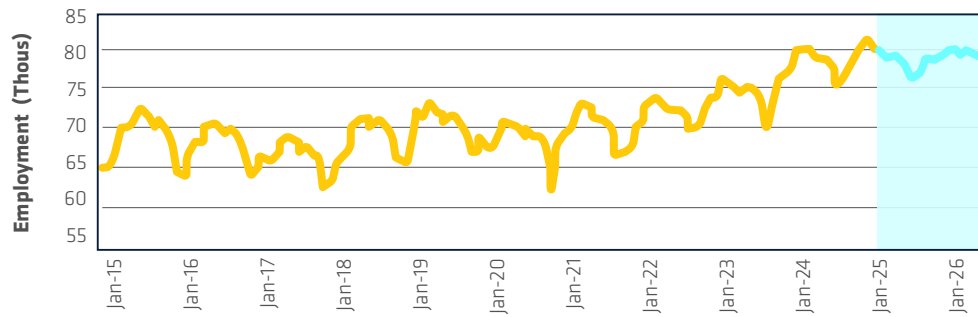
STATUS QUO	GROW	SLOW
Slow movement toward automation, continued tight labor market, no new labor-intensive business development	New developments in labor-intensive industries like healthcare and education, increases in the population (likely due to cost of living or extreme weather in other states)	Labor-intensive businesses leave or automate faster than expected or population declines (likely due to low relative pay or location preferences).
HIGH likelihood	MODERATE likelihood	LOW likelihood

Average Monthly Employment by Industry

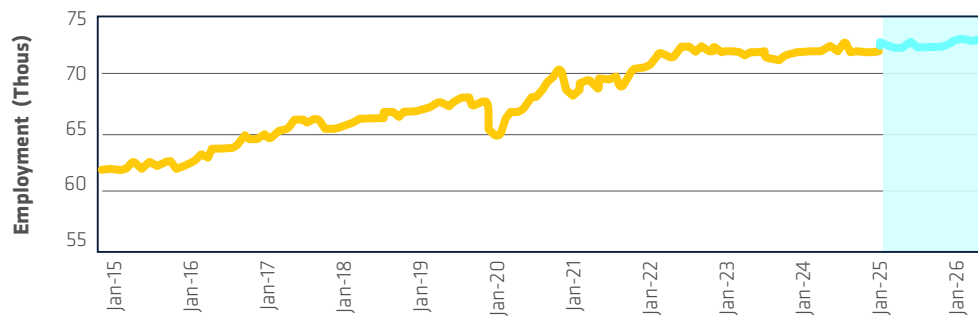
		FORECAST					FORECAST	
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026	
Mining, Logging, and Construction	77,283	78,796	78,822	1,512	26	2.0%	0.0%	
Durable Goods Manufacturing	102,725	102,220	103,132	-505	912	-0.5%	0.9%	
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	71,758	72,230	72,709	471	480	0.7%	0.7%	
Services								
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	274,983	277,426	279,014	2,443	1,587	0.9%	0.6%	
Information Services	17,542	17,062	16,989	-479	-74	-2.7%	-0.4%	
Financial Activities Services	78,017	80,101	79,820	2,085	-282	2.7%	-0.4%	
Professional and Business Services	174,033	173,552	173,537	-481	-15	-0.3%	0.0%	
Private Educ and Health Services	213,175	216,533	217,617	3,358	1,084	1.6%	0.5%	
Leisure and Hospitality	133,542	130,429	130,517	-3,113	89	-2.3%	0.1%	
Other Services	55,208	55,423	56,032	215	609	0.4%	1.1%	
Government	257,675	258,980	258,079	1,305	-900	0.5%	-0.3%	
All Employment	1,455,942	1,462,637	1,467,275	6,696	4,638	0.5%	0.3%	
Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)								
(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR								



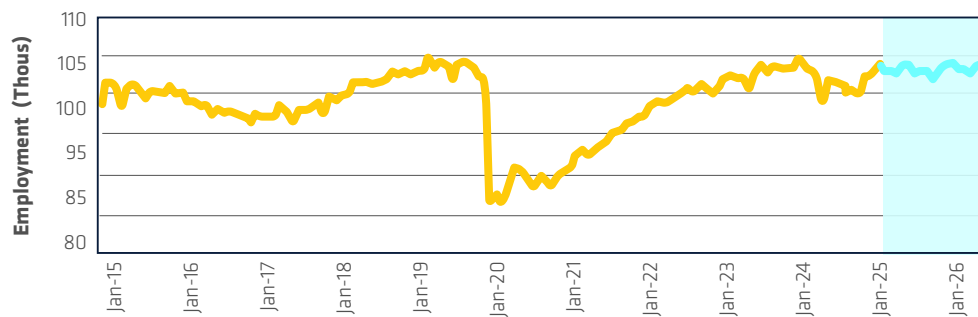
MINING, LOGGING, AND CONSTRUCTION



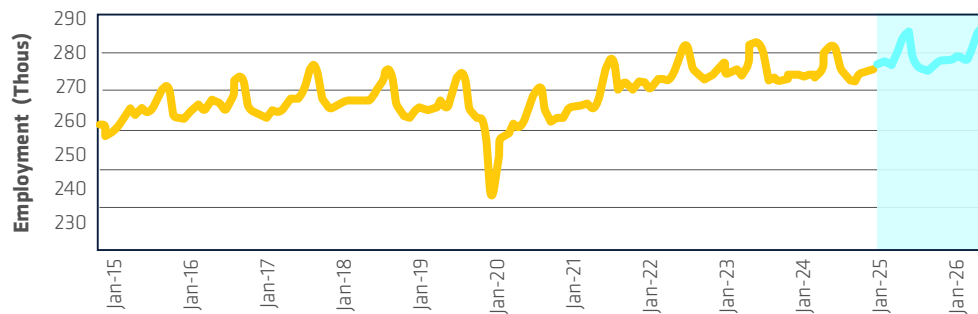
NON-DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURING



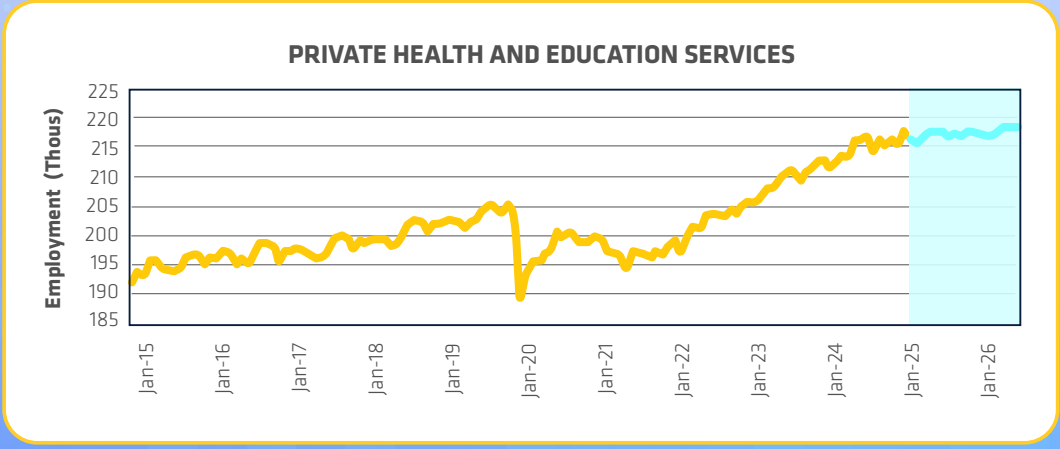
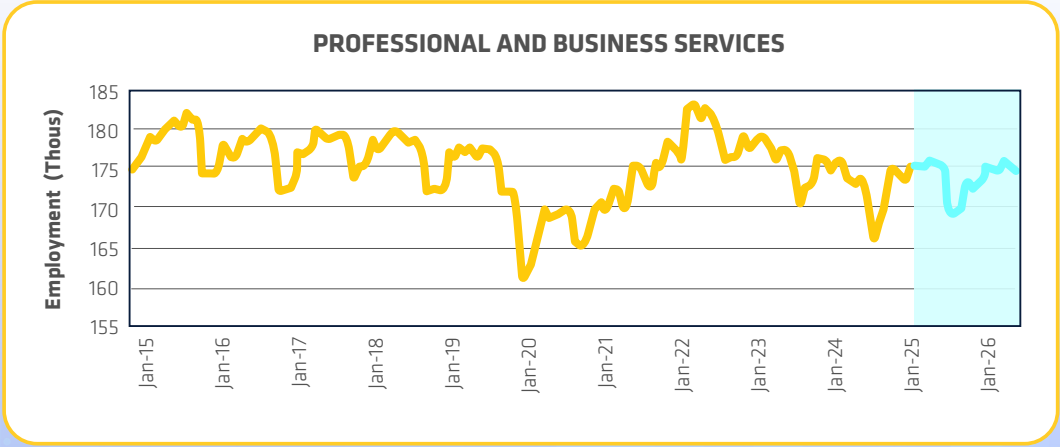
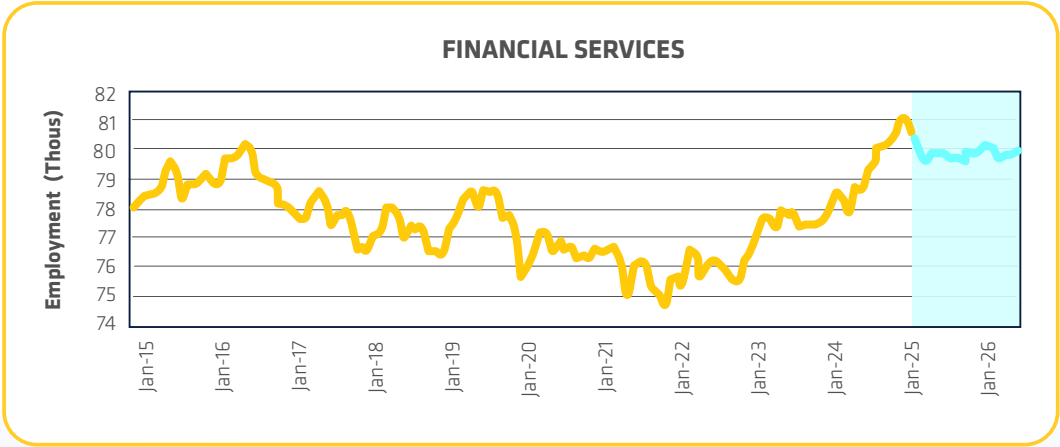
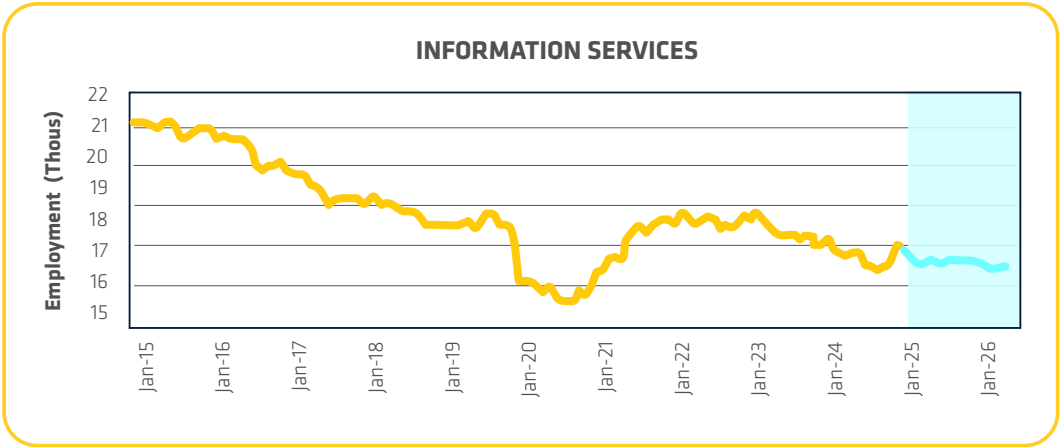
NON-DURABLE GOODS MANUFACTURING



TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES

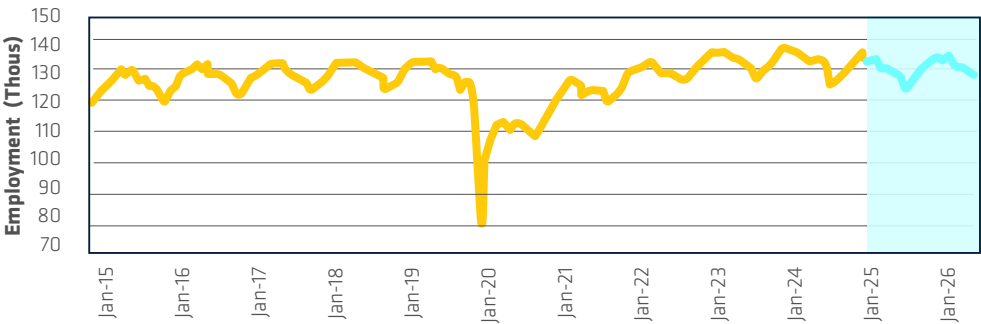


Employment (continued)

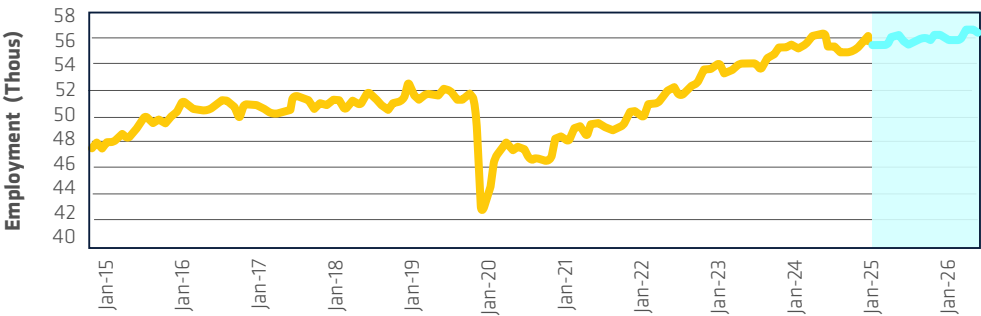




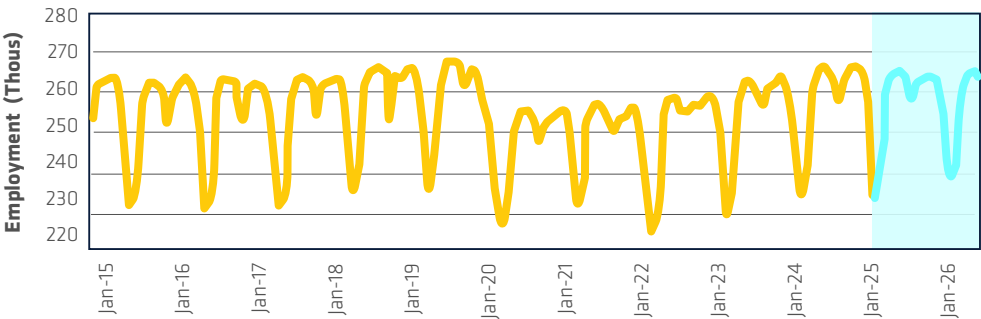
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY



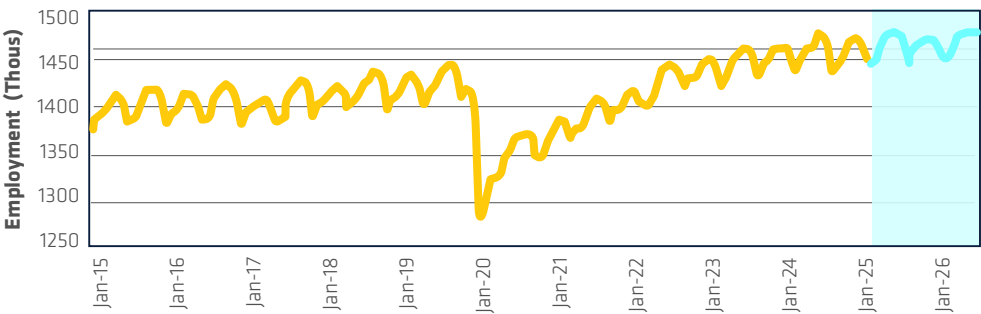
OTHER SERVICES



GOVERNMENT



EMPLOYMENT



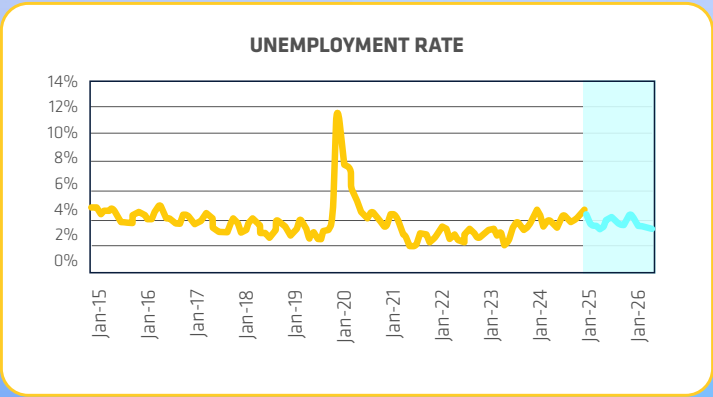
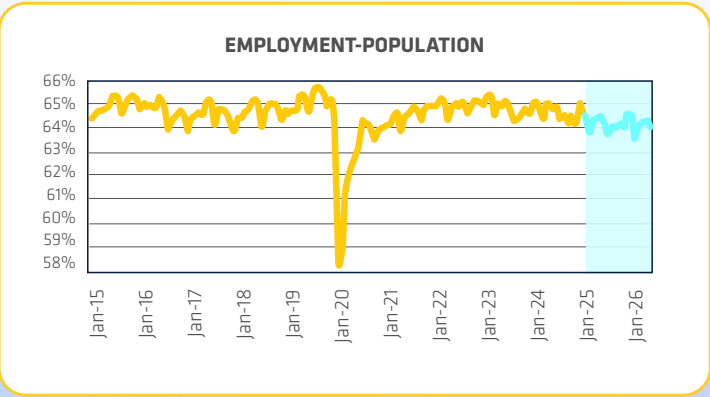
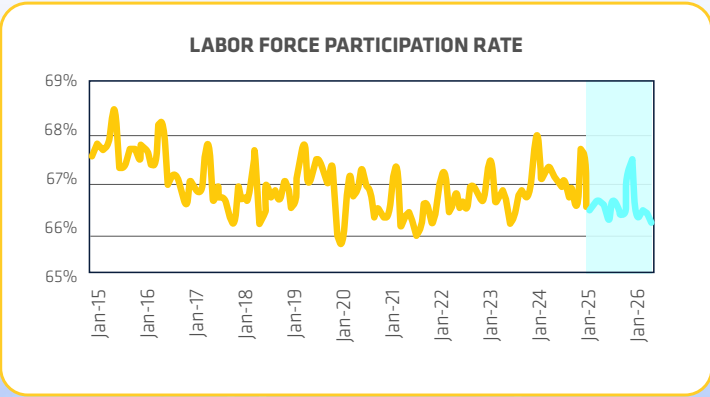
LABOR MARKET DYNAMICS FORECAST

The labor force includes both those that are currently employed for pay (“employment”) and those that are actively searching for work but not currently employed for pay (“unemployed”). Over the last several decades, we have seen a slow but steady decline in the fraction of the eligible population that is currently in the labor force (the “labor force participation rate”) and a fairly steady ratio of employment-to-population. While there are many pressures at play here, a large factor that has decreased the labor force participation rate is the retirement of the “baby-boomer” generation. The fraction of the labor force that is unemployed has been at a low 3-4% since the end of the pandemic but in the last year has started to increase somewhat, suggesting the labor market is loosening a bit.

STATUS QUO	GROW	SLOW
Slow decline in labor force participation rate continues. Unemployment is low and steady.	Labor force participation rate increases Unemployment at typical levels.	Labor force participation stays low or decreases, unemployment rate increases (likely due to structural changes related to automation and immigration laws).
LOW-MODERATE likelihood	LOW likelihood	MODERATE-HIGH likelihood

	FORECAST			FORECAST			
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
Labor Force Participation Rate	67.1%	66.5%	66.3%	-0.6%	-0.2%	-0.9%	-0.9%
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.4%	3.3%	0.1%	-0.1%	2.4%	2.3%
Employment-to-Population	64.9%	64.2%	64.1%	-0.7%	-0.1%	-1.0%	-1.0%

Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)
(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR



OUTPUT FORECAST

Real

Real output, as measured as the value of total goods and services produced within the state during the year adjusted for inflation, has a strong growth trend in the state since 2015. Over this time, real output in quarter 4 increased by 16.3%. Leading the pack on this growth is output in non-durable goods manufacturing, information services, and management companies. We anticipate real GDP to continue growing into 2026 at a rate of 1.4% (Q4/Q4).

GDP

STATUS QUO	GROW	SLOW
Steady rate of growth of new and existing businesses, steady rates of automation.	Large investments into tech-related, low-labor businesses (such as data centers), increased rates of automation and technical transformation. Positive impact of tariffs on local industries.	Slowed output due to increasing costs to produce goods and services (possibly related to tariffs), closure of some existing businesses that cannot compete well in current economic environment.
LOW likelihood	LOW (short-term) MODERATE (long-term) likelihood	MODERATE-HIGH likelihood

Real Gross Domestic Product (Q4 Millions of 2017 Dollars)

INDUSTRY	FORECAST			FORECAST			
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
All industry total	\$742,884	\$746,249	\$756,879	\$3,365	\$10,630	0.5%	1.4%
Private industries	\$655,004	\$658,725	\$669,549	\$3,721	\$10,824	0.6%	1.6%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	\$19,032	\$18,579	\$20,995	-\$452	\$2,416	-2.4%	13.0%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	\$4,095	\$3,983	\$3,877	-\$112	-\$106	-2.7%	-2.7%
Utilities	\$10,389	\$10,558	\$10,354	\$169	-\$204	1.6%	-1.9%
Construction	\$26,268	\$26,268	\$26,044	\$0	-\$224	0.0%	-0.9%
Manufacturing	\$105,973	\$108,208	\$109,750	\$2,235	\$1,542	2.1%	1.4%
Durable goods manufacturing	\$49,968	\$49,950	\$49,731	-\$18	-\$219	0.0%	-0.4%
Nondurable goods manufacturing	\$55,922	\$58,234	\$60,016	\$2,311	\$1,782	4.1%	3.1%
Wholesale trade	\$40,177	\$40,007	\$39,636	-\$169	-\$372	-0.4%	-0.9%
Retail trade	\$47,450	\$45,812	\$45,408	-\$1,639	-\$403	-3.5%	-0.9%
Transportation and warehousing	\$26,818	\$27,290	\$27,459	\$471	\$169	1.8%	0.6%
Information	\$50,836	\$51,548	\$54,351	\$712	\$2,803	1.4%	5.4%
Finance and insurance	\$38,281	\$36,952	\$36,457	-\$1,329	-\$495	-3.5%	-1.3%
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$104,621	\$107,352	\$110,004	\$2,731	\$2,652	2.6%	2.5%
Professional, scientific, and technical services	\$49,116	\$49,850	\$51,147	\$734	\$1,297	1.5%	2.6%
Management of companies and enterprises	\$18,355	\$18,911	\$19,726	\$556	\$815	3.0%	4.3%
Administrative/ support / waste management / remediation services	\$23,230	\$23,630	\$24,319	\$400	\$689	1.7%	2.9%
Educational services	\$4,242	\$4,021	\$3,933	-\$221	-\$88	-5.2%	-2.2%
Health care and social assistance	\$59,763	\$60,397	\$61,521	\$634	\$1,124	1.1%	1.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$3,694	\$3,438	\$3,404	-\$256	-\$34	-6.9%	-1.0%
Accommodation and food services	\$15,885	\$15,482	\$15,327	-\$403	-\$154	-2.5%	-1.0%
Other services (except government and government enterprises)	\$14,344	\$14,496	\$14,637	\$152	\$141	1.1%	1.0%
Government and government enterprises	\$87,956	\$87,635	\$87,462	-\$320	-\$173	-0.4%	-0.2%
Federal civilian	\$11,746	\$11,961	\$12,071	\$216	\$110	1.8%	0.9%
Military	\$10,636	\$10,554	\$10,394	-\$82	-\$160	-0.8%	-1.5%
State and local	\$65,597	\$65,140	\$65,016	-\$456	-\$125	-0.7%	-0.2%

Source: CEDBR, Bureau for Economic Analysis

(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR

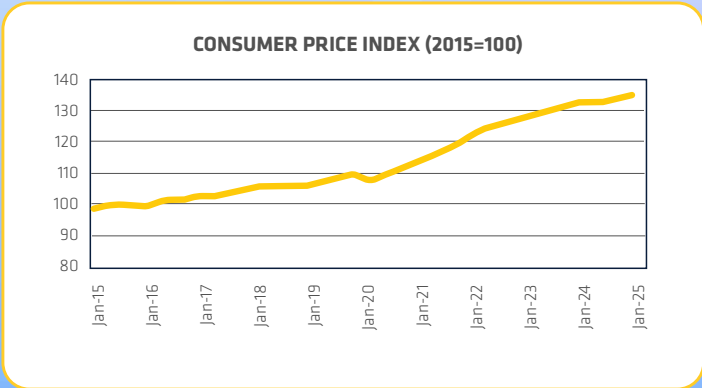
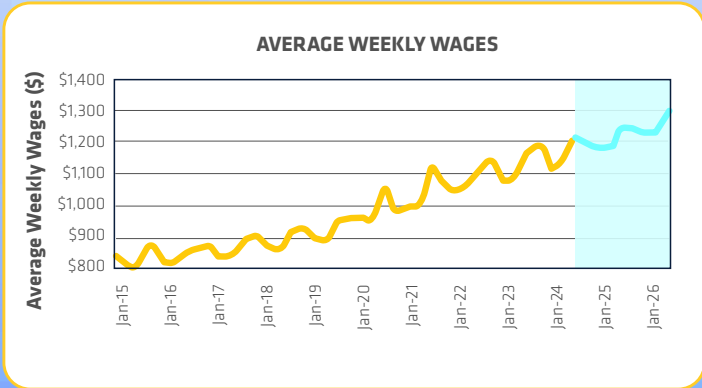
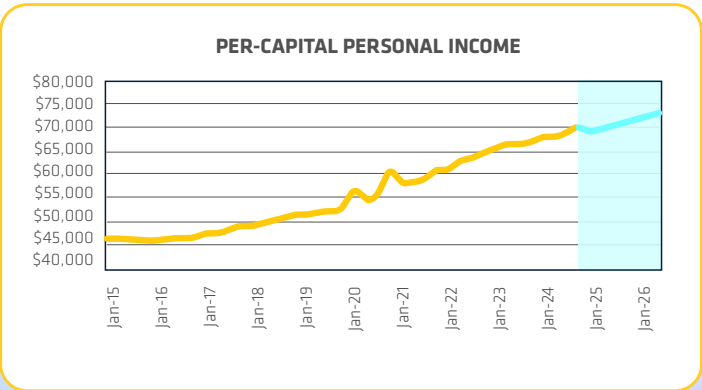
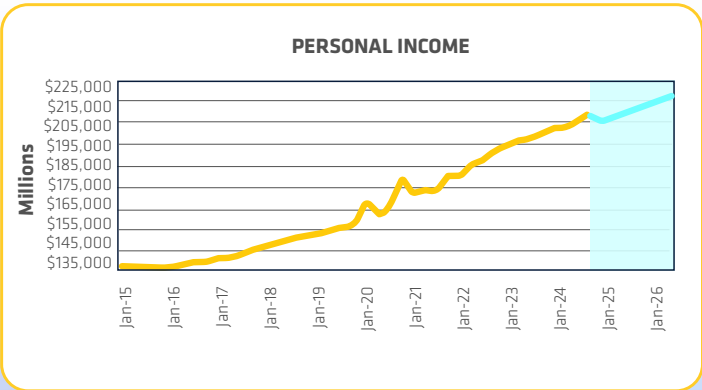
PERSONAL INCOME FORECAST

Nominal personal income (not inflation adjusted) has been increasing considerably from 2015 to 2024 in the state at both the overall and per capita levels. Since 2015, personal income has increased by 50.5% and per capita personal income has increased by 48.0%. The average weekly wage for salary and wage earners increased by 36%. This rate exceeds the rate of inflation over this time (33.1%) suggesting improvements in overall real incomes for Kansas residents.

STATUS QUO	GROW	SLOW
Employers continue to adjust wages to keep and attract labor, rate of wage increases slightly above rate of inflation as market continues to adjust.	New high-pay employers locate in Kansas at higher rates, increases in skill of population.	In response to tariffs, low-skill manufacturing reshores in Kansas, new or existing population is recruited to work in these jobs.
HIGH likelihood	LOW (short-term) MODERATE (long-term) likelihood	VERY LOW likelihood

	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2022-2023	% Change 2023-2024
Personal Income (millions \$)	\$204,663	\$209,293	\$217,157	\$4,631	\$7,863	2.3%	3.8%
Per Capita Income	\$68,791	\$70,666	\$73,253	\$1,875	\$2,587	2.7%	3.7%
Average Weekly Wage	\$1,218	\$1,251	\$1,299	\$33	\$47	2.7%	3.8%

Source: CEDBR, Bureau for Economic Analysis
(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR



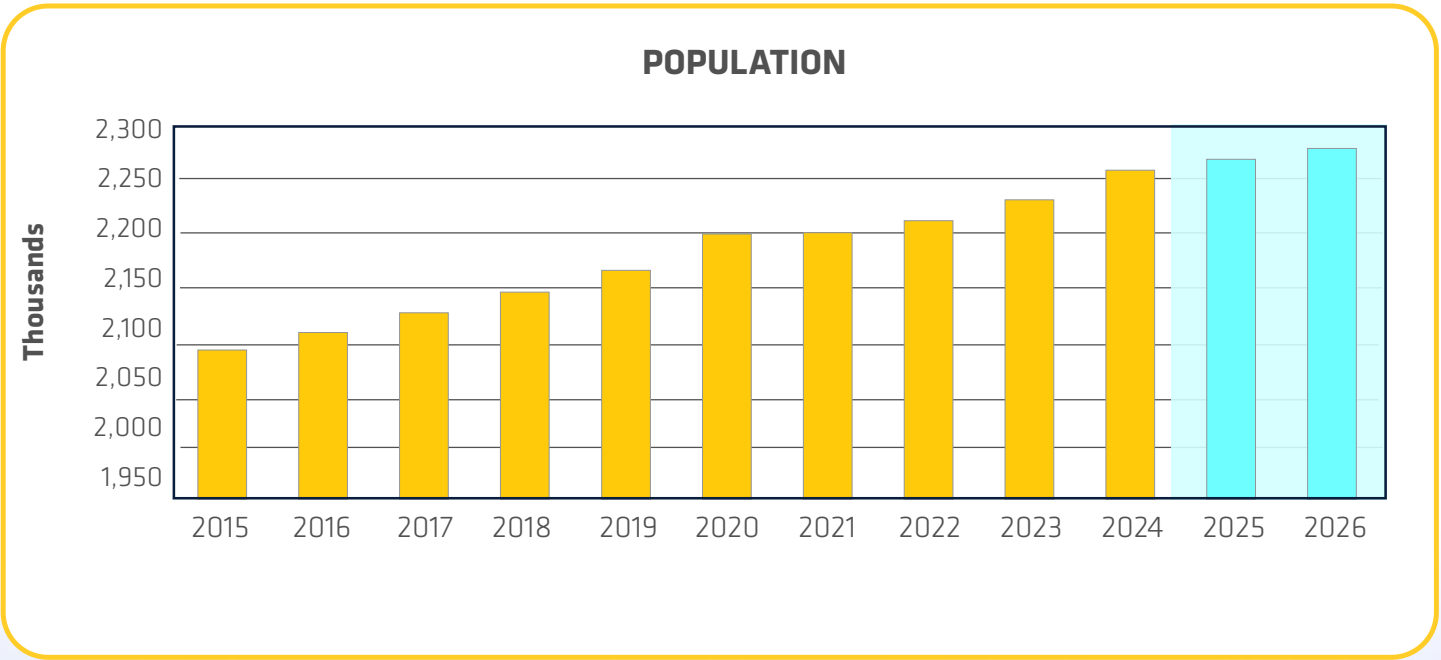
REGIONAL FORECASTS

Kansas City, KS-MO



Population Forecast

The population of Kansas City is predicted to grow at a rate of 0.7% (about 16,919 new residents) in 2026.



Labor Force Forecast

The labor force of Kansas City is predicted to grow at the same rate as population at 0.7% (about 11,439 new workers) in 2026. Our forecasts have unemployment estimated to stay low at 3.7-3.8%; however, given changes at the federal level (including immigration and trade reform) we anticipate these unemployment estimates to be an understatement for 2026 in all regions across the state.

	FORECAST			FORECAST			
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
Labor Force Participation Rate	1,200,090	1,208,391	1,219,830	8,301	11,439	0.7%	0.7%
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.8%	3.7%	0.2%	-0.1%	6.0%	5.7%
Source: CEDBR, Bureau for Labor Statistics							
(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR							

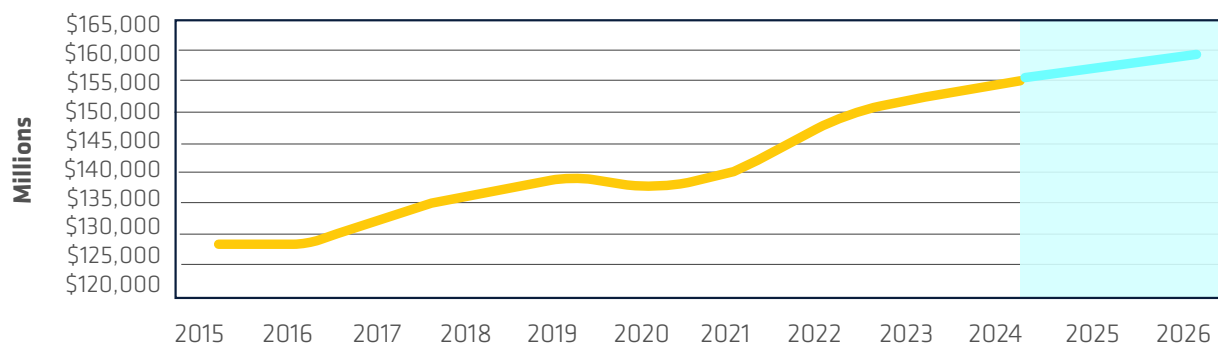
Kansas City, KS-MO (continued)

Real Output and Personal Income Forecast

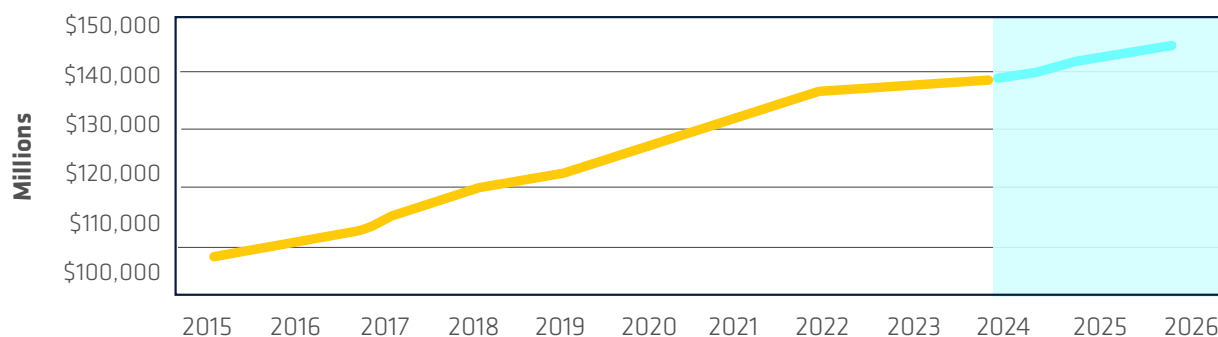
Real gross domestic product and personal income metropolitan areas have official estimates up to 2023. Given that Kansas City's real output and personal income closely follow the state trends, we anticipate that it did similar in 2024 (about half the growth rate of the previous year, approximately 1.3% and 0.4%, respectively). We anticipate this slow growth into 2025 and 2026 with real GDP growing at a rate of 0.9-1.4% and personal income growing somewhat faster at 1.5-2.2%.

	2023	2024	FORECAST	
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Real GDP (millions of 2017 \$)	152,822	154,854	157,068	158,474
Real GDP Q4/Q4 Growth Rate	2.7%	1.3%	1.4%	0.9%
Personal Income (millions of current \$)	138,381	138,918	142,025	144,153
Personal Income Q4/Q4 Growth Rate	0.8%	0.4%	2.2%	1.5%

REAL GDP



PERSONAL INCOME



Kansas City, KS-MO (continued)



Industry Employment Trends

INDUSTRY	Long Term Employment Growth 2015-2024		Share of 2024 Employment	
Mining, Logging, and Construction	36.4%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	5.4%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	17.3%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	5.0%
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	14.7%	Slower than State Average	<div></div>	2.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	13.0%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	20.1%
Information Services	-16.8%	Slower than State Average	<div></div>	1.5%
Financial Activities Services	0.0%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	6.8%
Professional and Business Services	2.3%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	16.1%
Private Educ and Health Services	17.7%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	15.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	11.7%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	10.1%
Other Services	1.0%	Slower than State Average	<div></div>	3.6%
Government	5.0%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	13.3%
All Employment	9.8%	Faster than State Average		100.0%

Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)

(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR

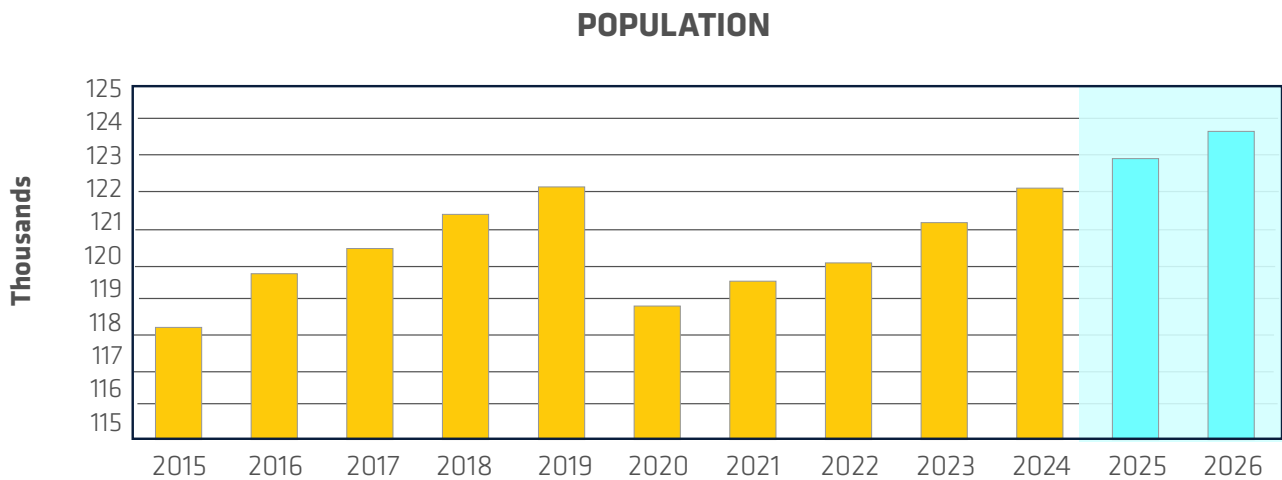
INDUSTRY	FORECAST				FORECAST		
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
Mining, Logging, and Construction	61,867	65,446	63,446	1,697	1,882	2.7%	3.0%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	57,367	56,636	57,019	-731	383	-1.3%	0.7%
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	32,667	33,028	33,134	361	106	1.1%	0.3%
Services							
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	231,008	229,856	231,804	-1,152	1,948	-0.5%	0.8%
Information Services	17,142	16,327	16,200	-815	-127	-4.8%	-0.8%
Financial Activities Services	78,083	79,677	79,581	1,593	-95	2.0%	-0.1%
Professional and Business Services	185,083	180,372	180,728	-4,712	357	-2.5%	0.2%
Private Educ and Health Services	174,733	180,141	179,998	5,408	-143	3.1%	-0.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	116,067	114,265	117,374	-1,802	3,109	-1.6%	2.7%
Other Services	41,883	42,575	43,036	691	461	1.7%	1.1%
Government	152,825	155,860	162,180	3,035	6,320	2.0%	4.1%
All Employment	1,148,725	1,148,574	1,150,378	-151	1,804	0.0%	0.2%

Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)

(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR

Population Forecast

The population of Lawrence is predicted to grow at a rate of 0.7% (about 858 new residents) in 2026.



Labor Force Forecast

The labor force of Lawrence is predicted to grow faster than the rate of population at 1.3% (about 359 new workers) in 2026. Our forecasts have unemployment estimated to stay low at 3.4%; however, given changes at the federal level (including immigration and trade reform) we anticipate these unemployment estimates to be an understatement for 2026 in all regions across the state.

	FORECAST			FORECAST			
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
Labor Force Participation Rate	71,318	72,293	72,652	975	359	1.4%	1.3%
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.4%	3.4%	0.1%	0.0%	2.7%	2.6%
Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)							
(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR							

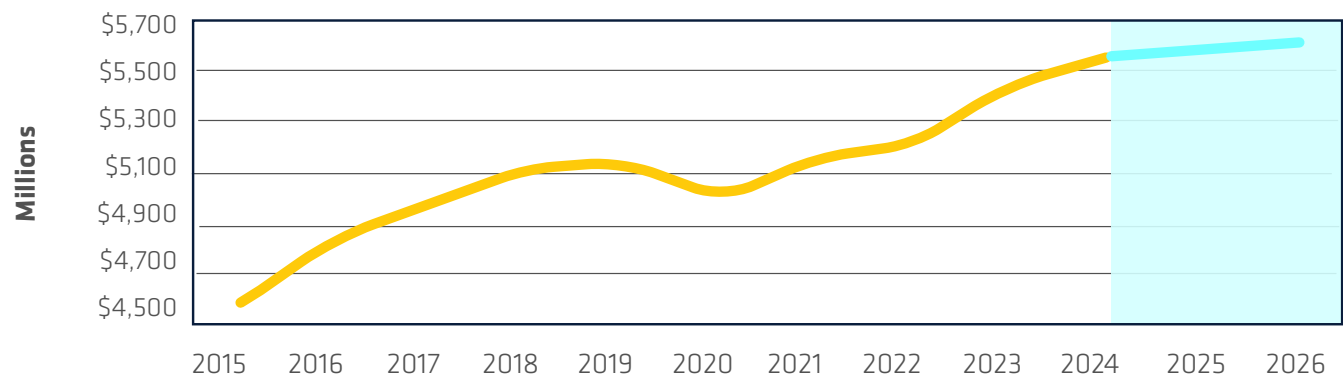


Real Output and Personal Income Forecast

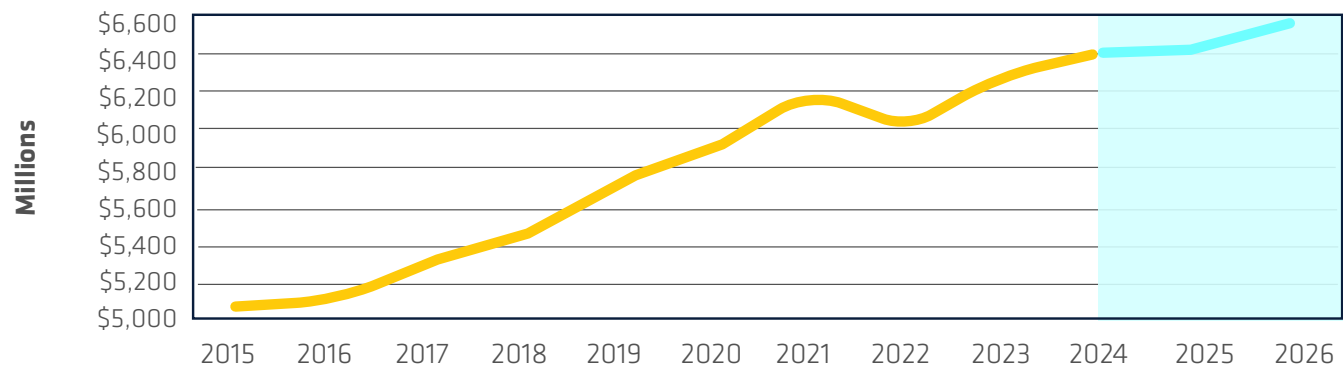
Real gross domestic product and personal income metropolitan areas have official estimates up to 2023. Given that Lawrence's real output and personal income closely follow the state trends, we anticipate that it did similar in 2024 (about half the growth rate of the previous year, approximately 1.9% and 2.0%, respectively). We anticipate this slow growth into 2025 and 2026 with real GDP growing at a rate of 0.6-0.7% and personal income at a rate of 0.7-1.4%.

	2023	2024	FORECASTED	
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Real GDP (millions of 2017 \$)	5,438	5,539	5,575	5,616
Real GDP Q4/Q4 Growth Rate	3.7%	1.9%	0.6%	0.7%
Personal Income (millions of current \$)	6,264	6,286	6,434	6,523
Personal Income Q4/Q4 Growth Rate	3.9%	2.0%	0.7%	1.4%

REAL GDP



PERSONAL INCOME



Lawrence (continued)

Metro Area Industry Employment Trends

INDUSTRY	Long Term Employment Growth 2015-2024		Share of 2024 Employment
Mining, Logging, and Construction			
Durable Goods Manufacturing			
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing			
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-2.8%	Slower than State Average	14.1%
Information Services			
Financial Activities Services			
Professional and Business Services	-7.5%	Slower than State Average	9.2%
Private Educ and Health Services	6.4%	Faster than State Average	11.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	12.9%	Faster than State Average	14.3%
Other Services			
Government	-0.5%	Slower than State Average	28.5%
All Employment	4.1%	Faster than State Average	100.0%

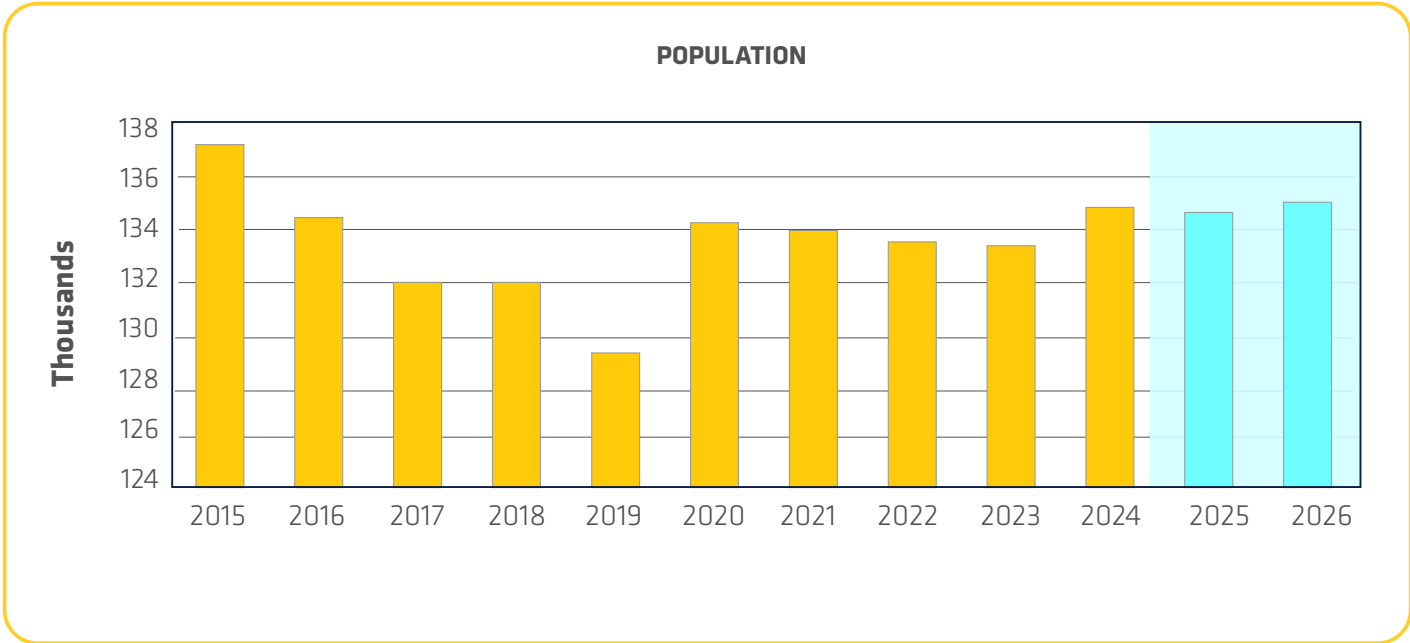
INDUSTRY	FORECAST				FORECAST		
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
Mining, Logging, and Construction	(d)	(d)	(d)				
Durable Goods Manufacturing	(d)	(d)	(d)				
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	(d)	(d)	(d)				
Services							
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	7,708	7,736	7,834	27	98	0.4%	1.3%
Information Services	(d)	(d)	(d)				
Financial Activities Services							
Professional and Business Services	5,025	5,103	5,097	78	-6	1.6%	-0.1%
Private Educ and Health Services	6,067	6,152	6,200	85	48	1.4%	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	7,792	7,697	8,028	-94	330	-1.6%	4.3%
Other Services	(d)	(d)	(d)				
Government	15,533	15,501	15,564	-33	64	-.02%	0.4%
All Employment	54,492	55,253	56,192	761	939	1.4%	1.7%

Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)

(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR (d) Data unavailable for this geographic level

Population Forecast

The population of Manhattan is predicted to grow at a rate of 0.2% (about 292 new residents) in 2026.



Labor Force Forecast

The labor force of Manhattan is predicted to grow faster than the rate of population at 1.4% (about 242 new workers) in 2026. Our forecasts have unemployment estimated to stay low at 3.5%; however, given changes at the federal level (including immigration and trade reform) we anticipate these unemployment estimates to be an understatement for 2026 in all regions across the state.

	FORECAST			FORECAST			
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
Labor Force Participation Rate	64,247	65,132	65,374	885	242	1.4%	1.4%
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.5%	3.5%	0.2%	0.0%	4.8%	4.6%
Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)							
(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR							

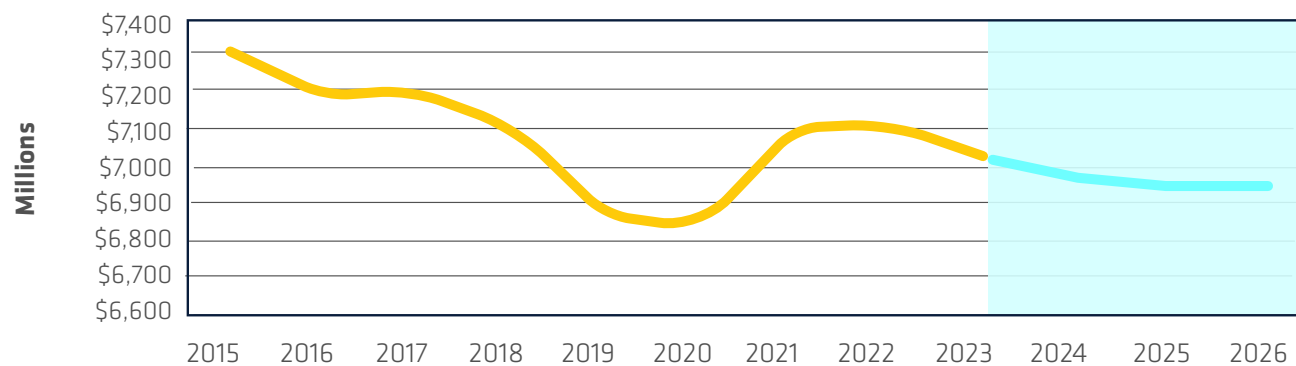
Manhattan (continued)

Real Output and Personal Income Forecast

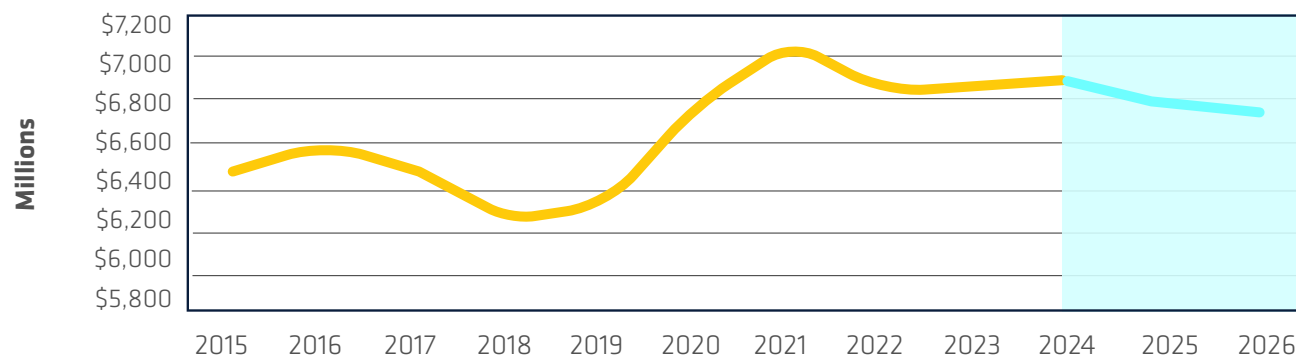
Real gross domestic product and personal income metropolitan areas have official estimates up to 2023. Given that Manhattan's real output and personal income closely follow the state trends, we anticipate that it did similar in 2024 (about half the growth rate of the previous year, approximately -0.7% and 0.2%, respectively). We anticipate this decline into 2025 and 2026 with real GDP declining at a rate of (-0.1%)-(-0.3%) and personal income at a rate of (-0.7%)-(-1.2%).

		FORECASTED			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Real GDP (millions of 2017 \$)	7,021	6,975	6,951	6,947	
Real GDP Y/Y Growth Rate	-1.3%	-0.7%	-0.3%	-0.1%	
Personal Income (millions of current \$)	6,878	6,890	6,804	6,759	
Personal Income Y/Y Growth Rate	0.4%	0.2%	1.2%	-0.7%	

REAL GDP



PERSONAL INCOME





Metro Area Industry Employment Trends

Long-Term Employment Growth in Industries and Share of Employment in Manhattan

INDUSTRY	Long Term Employment Growth 2015-2024		Share of 2024 Employment
Mining, Logging, and Construction	13.5%	Faster than State Average	5.3%
Durable Goods Manufacturing			0.0%
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing			0.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-1.1%	Slower than State Average	15.9%
Information Services	-51.0%	Slower than State Average	0.7%
Financial Activities Services	5.2%	Faster than State Average	4.5%
Professional and Business Services	23.7%	Faster than State Average	8.8%
Private Educ and Health Services	8.6%	Slower than State Average	11.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	-2.4%	Slower than State Average	11.1%
Other Services	13.5%	Slower than State Average	4.5%
Government	-7.3%	Slower than State Average	31.6%
All Employment	-0.1%	Slower than State Average	100.0%

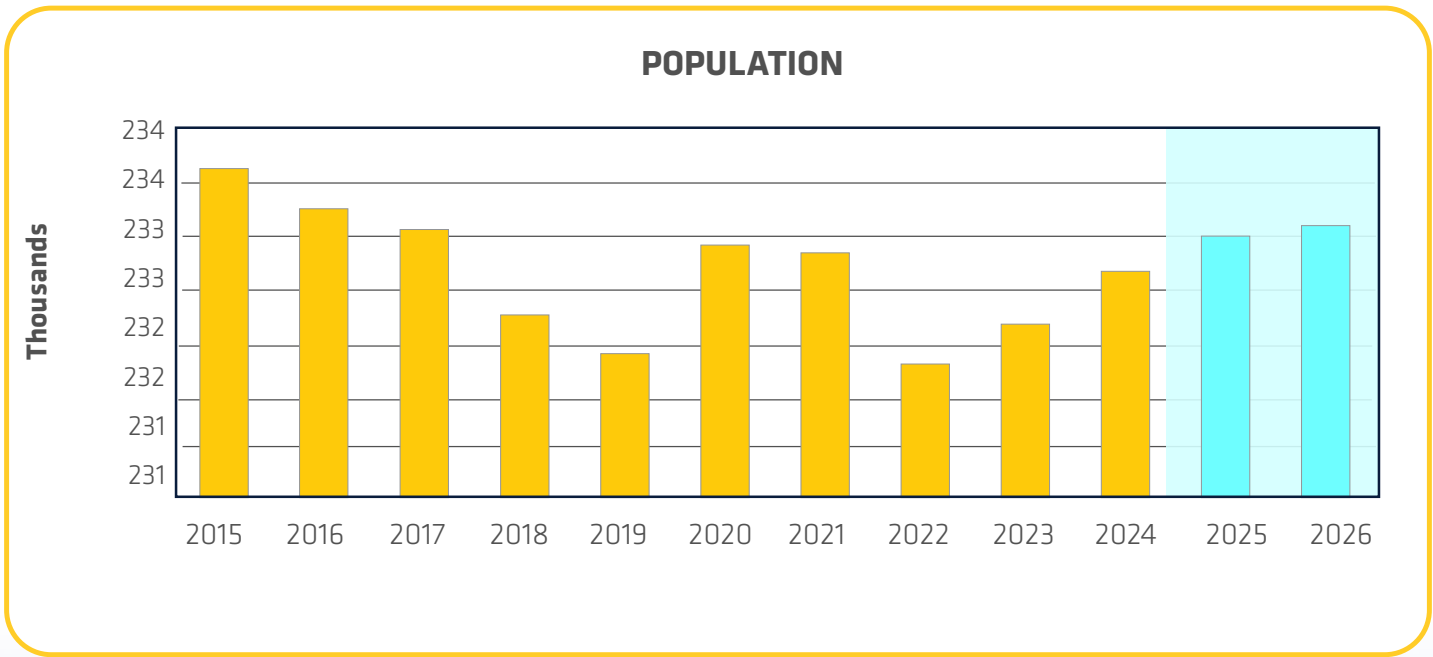
INDUSTRY	FORECAST				FORECAST		
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
Mining, Logging, and Construction	2,933	3,143	3,186	209	44	7.1%	1.4%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	(d)	(d)	(d)				
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	(d)	(d)	(d)				
Services							
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	8,817	8,903	9,011	113	81	1.3%	0.9%
Information Services	400	398	393	-2	-4	-0.6%	-1.0%
Financial Activities Services	2,525	2,593	2,594	68	1	2.7%	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	4,867	4,899	5,020	33	120	0.7%	2.5%
Private Educ and Health Services	6,192	6,369	6,611	177	242	2.9%	3.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	6,158	5,897	5,940	-261	43	-4.2%	0.7%
Other Services	2,517	2,635	2,649	119	14	4.7%	0.5%
Government	15,533	15,501	15,564	-33	64	-0.2%	0.4%
All Employment	55,517	56,113	56,812	597	699	1.1%	1.2%

Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)

(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR (d) Data unavailable for this geographic level

Population Forecast

The population of Topeka is predicted to grow at a rate of 0.2% (about 437 new residents) in 2026.



Labor Force Forecast

The labor force of Manhattan is predicted to grow faster than the rate of population at 0.5% (about 142 new workers) in 2026. Our forecasts have unemployment estimated to stay low at 3.7%; however, given changes at the federal level (including immigration and trade reform) we anticipate these unemployment estimates to be an understatement for 2026 in all regions across the state.

	FORECAST			FORECAST			
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
Labor Force Participation Rate	119,055	119,596	119,738	541	142	0.5%	0.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.3%	-0.3%

Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)
(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR

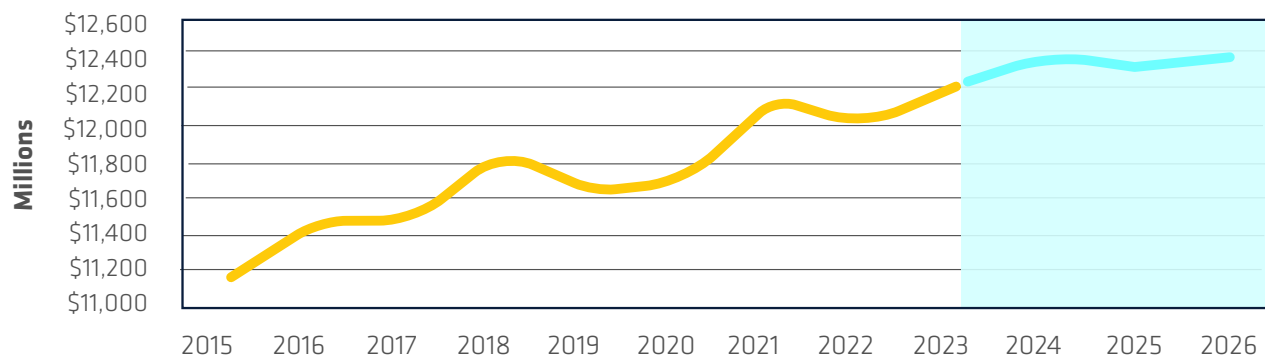


Real Output and Personal Income Forecast

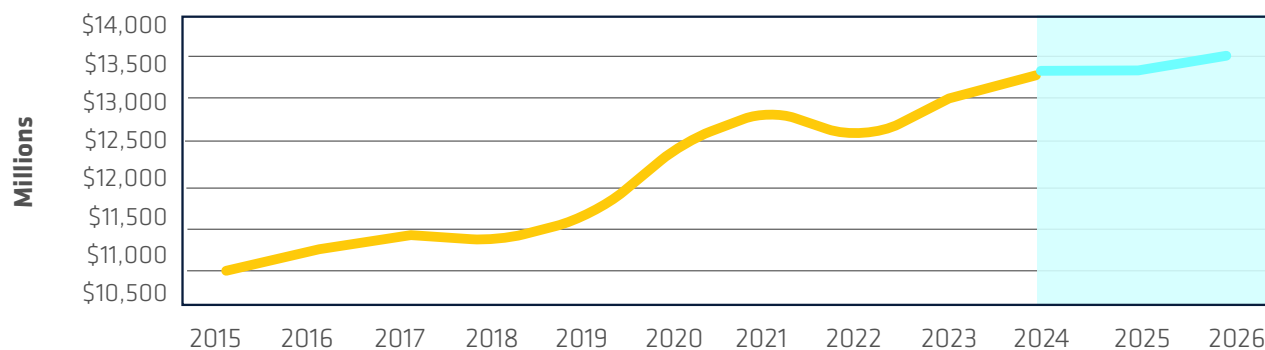
Real gross domestic product and personal income metropolitan areas have official estimates up to 2023. Given that Topeka's real output and personal income closely follow the state trends, we anticipate that it did similar in 2024 (about half the growth rate of the previous year, approximately 1.1% and 2.2%, respectively). We anticipate slow to no growth in real GDP in 2025-2026 for the region and personal income growth that is somewhat slower than inflation.

		FORECASTED		
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Real GDP (millions of 2017 \$)	12,249	12,383	12,349	12,387
Real GDP Y/Y Growth Rate	2.2%	1.1%	-0.3%	0.3%
Personal Income (millions of current \$)	13,005	13,285	13,348	13,523
Personal Income Y/Y Growth Rate	4.3%	2.2	0.5%	1.3%

REAL GDP



PERSONAL INCOME



Topeka (continued)

Metro Area Industry Employment Trends

Long-Term Employment Growth in Industries and Share of Employment in Topeka

INDUSTRY	Long Term Employment Growth 2015-2024		Share of 2024 Employment	
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6.1%	Slower than State Average	<div></div>	5.3%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	20.9%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	2.0%
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	28.4%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	6.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-0.4%	Slower than State Average	<div></div>	15.4%
Information Services	-29.7%	Slower than State Average	<div></div>	0.9%
Financial Activities Services	-7.7%	Slower than State Average	<div></div>	6.3%
Professional and Business Services	-2.7%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	11.4%
Private Educ and Health Services	9.8%	Faster than State Average	<div></div>	17.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	2.8%	Slower than State Average	<div></div>	7.7%
Other Services	9.9%	Slower than State Average	<div></div>	4.3%
Government	-0.7%	Slower than State Average	<div></div>	23.3%
All Employment	2.8%	Slower than State Average		100.0%

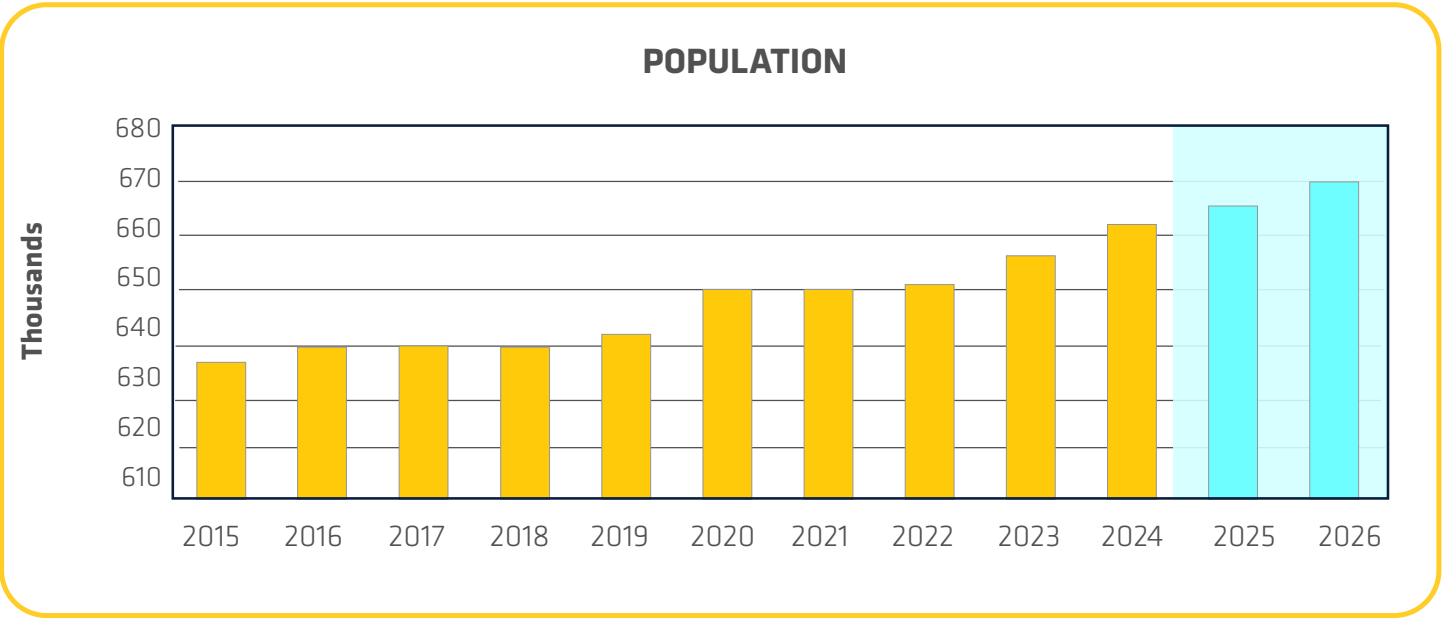
INDUSTRY	2024 (a)	FORECAST			FORECAST		
		2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
Mining, Logging, and Construction	6,100	6,145	6,071	45	-74	0.7%	-1.2%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	2,267	2,287	2,293	21	5	0.9%	0.2%
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	6,925	6,751	6,727	-174	-24	-2.5%	-0.3%
Services							
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	17,617	17,474	17,434	-143	-40	-0.8%	-0.2%
Information Services	1,025	975	975	-50	0	-4.9%	0.0%
Financial Activities Services	7,250	7,292	7,293	42	1	0.6%	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	13,008	13,235	13,043	226	-192	1.7%	-1.5%
Private Educ and Health Services	19,892	20,083	20,174	192	91	1.0%	0.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	8,875	8,580	8,676	-295	96	-3.3%	1.1%
Other Services	4,900	4,785	4,784	-155	-1	-2.3%	0.0%
Government	26,733	27,202	27,144	468	-58	1.8%	-0.2%
All Employment	114,592	114,714	115,244	122	530	0.1%	0.5%

Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)
(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR (d) Data unavailable for this geographic level



Population Forecast

The population of Wichita is predicted to grow at a rate of 0.6% (about 4,299 new residents) in 2026.



Labor Force Forecast

The labor force of Wichita is predicted to grow at a slower rate than population at 0.1% (about 1,965 new workers) in 2026. Our forecasts have unemployment estimated to stay low at 3.9-4.0%; however, given changes at the federal level (including immigration and trade reform) we anticipate these unemployment estimates to be an understatement for 2026 in all regions across the state.

	FORECAST			FORECAST			
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025	% Change 2025-2026
Labor Force Participation Rate	337,091	337,506	339,471	415	1,965	0.1%	0.1%
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.0%	3.9%	0.1%	-0.1%	2.3%	2.3%

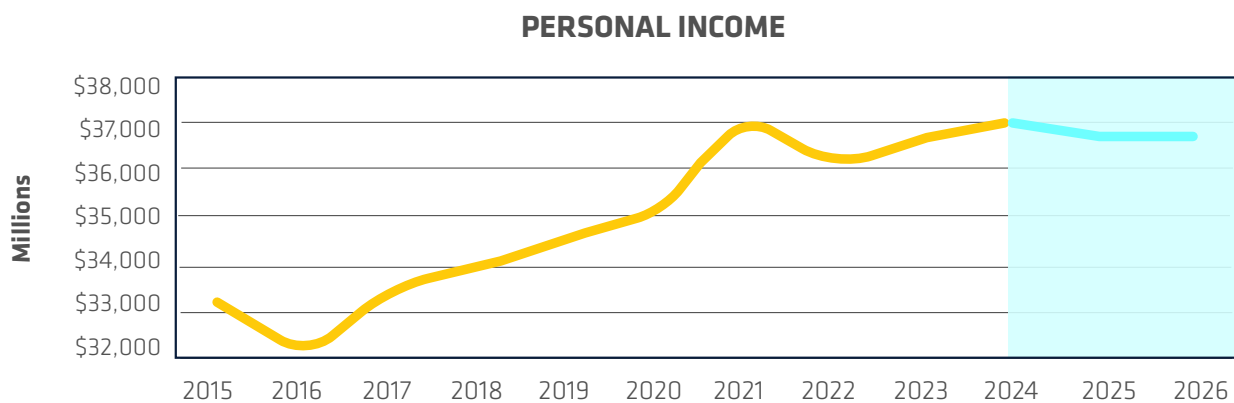
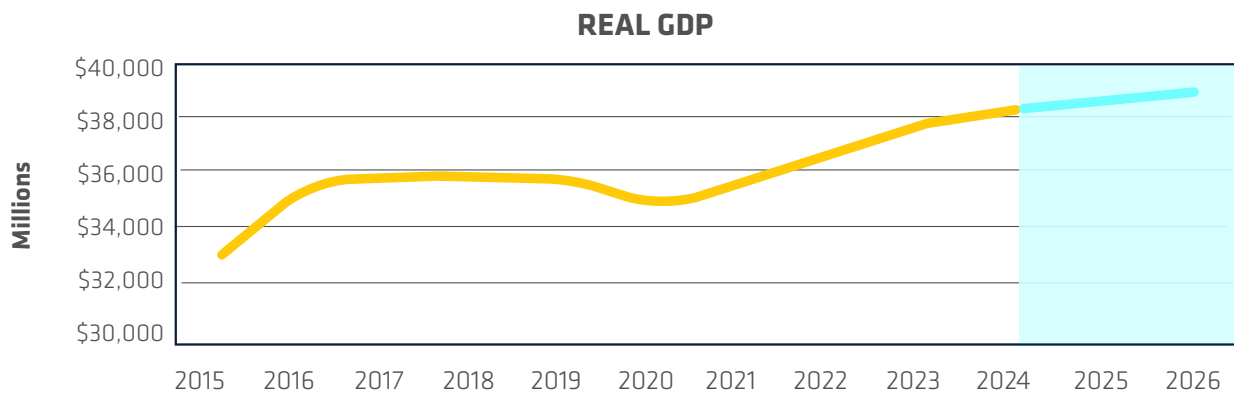
Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)
(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR

Wichita (continued)

Real Output and Personal Income Forecast

Real gross domestic product and personal income metropolitan areas have official estimates up to 2023. Given that Wichita's real output and personal income closely follow the state trends, we anticipate that it did similar in 2024 (about half the growth rate of the previous year, approximately 1.4% and 0.8%, respectively). We anticipate this slow growth into 2025 and 2026 with real GDP growing at a rate of 0.7-0.9% and personal income growing at a rate of 0.6-1.0%.

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Real GDP (millions of 2017 \$)	37,745	38,274	38,634	38,912
Real GDP Y/Y Growth Rate	2.8%	1.4%	0.9%	0.7%
Personal Income (millions of current \$)	36,638	36,919	37,123	37,501
Personal Income Y/Y Growth Rate	1.5%	0.8%	0.6%	1.0%





Metro Area Industry Employment Trends

Long-Term Employment Growth in Industries and Share of Employment in Wichita

INDUSTRY	Long Term Employment Growth 2015-2024		Share of 2024 Employment
Mining, Logging, and Construction	10.8%	Slower than State Average	5.5%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	-0.1%	Slower than State Average	13.5%
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	30.5%	Faster than State Average	2.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	3.4%	Slower than State Average	16.7%
Information Services	-21.5%	Slower than State Average	1.2%
Financial Activities Services	11.1%	Faster than State Average	3.9%
Professional and Business Services	2.8%	Faster than State Average	11.4%
Private Educ and Health Services	10.5%	Faster than State Average	14.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	6.0%	Slower than State Average	10.4%
Other Services	32.8%	Faster than State Average	3.8%
Government	8.6%	Faster than State Average	13.5%
All Employment	6.0%	Faster than State Average	100.0%

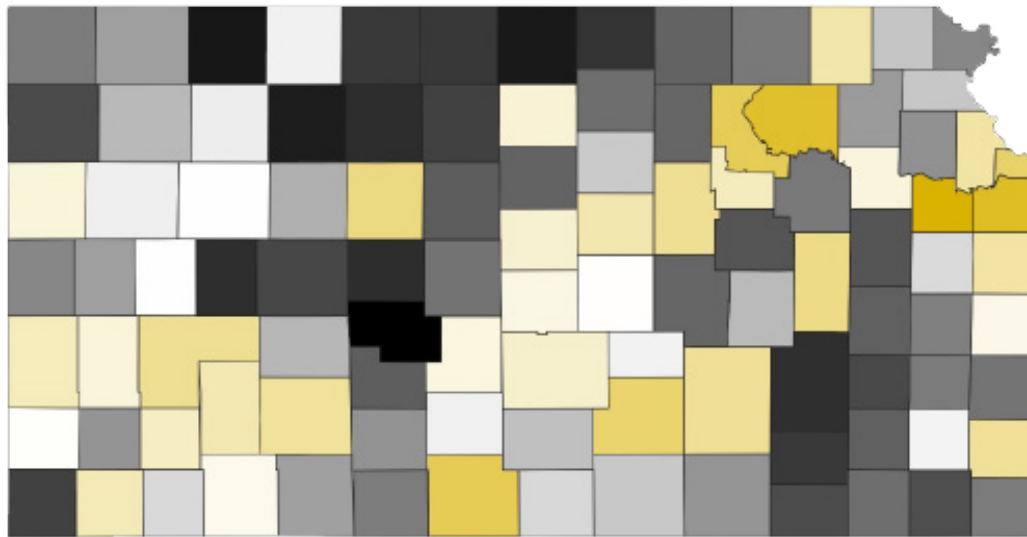
INDUSTRY	FORECAST				FORECAST	
	2024 (a)	2025 (b)	2026 (c)	Change 2024-2025	Change 2025-2026	% Change 2024-2025
Mining, Logging, and Construction	17,733	17,931	18,169	198	237	1.1%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	43,642	43,672	43,822	30	150	0.1%
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	8,625	8,616	8,644	-9	27	-0.1%
Services						
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	53,892	54,318	54,249	427	-70	0.8%
Information Services	3,508	3,424	3,405	-84	-19	-2.4%
Financial Activities Services	12,642	12,969	13,053	327	84	2.6%
Professional and Business Services	35,033	34,677	34,957	-356	280	-1.0%
Private Educ and Health Services	48,517	49,855	49,855	1,338	0	2.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	33,142	32,308	33,130	-834	822	-2.5%
Other Services	12,742	12,455	12,403	-287	-52	-2.3%
Government	243,275	43,403	42,982	128	-421	0.3%
All Employment	321,742	322,464	323,242	722	778	0.2%

Source: CEDBR, Bureau of Labor Statistics- Current Employment Statistics January 2014- July 2025 (Preliminary)

(a) actual (b) Estimated values, a combination of actual and forecasted values (c) Forecasted values by CEDBR (d) Data unavailable for this geographic level

POPULATION FORECAST

2022-2072 CEDBR Population Forecast



-50% 50%

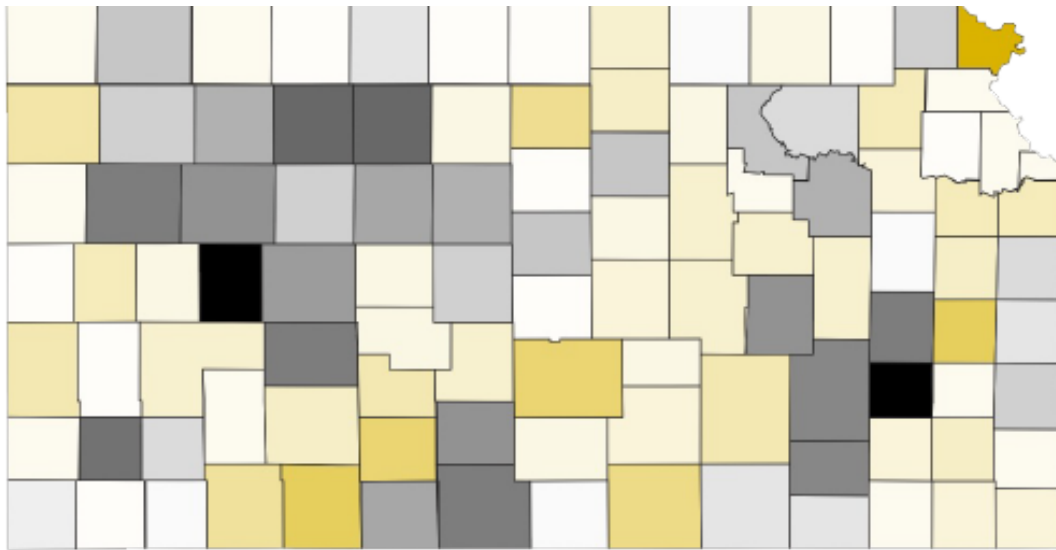
County	Pop Change %	County	Pop Change %	County	Pop Change %	County	Pop Change %
Allen	-27.7%	Finney	18.5%	Logan	-5.2%	Rooks	-42.7%
Anderson	-26.7%	Ford	17.0%	Lyon	20.7%	Rush	-42.7%
Atchison	-13.1%	Franklin	-9.4%	Marion	-31.7%	Russell	-33.4%
Barber	30.4%	Geary	10.2%	Marshall	-28.0%	Saline	13.0%
Barton	-29.1%	Gove	-2.4%	McPherson	-1.9%	Scott	-2.4%
Bourbon	-29.1%	Graham	-45.7%	Meade	1.2%	Sedgwick	25.8%
Brown	-13.4%	Grant	-22.8%	Miami	15.3%	Seward	-9.6%
Butler	17.7%	Gray	12.6%	Mitchell	5.8%	Shawnee	4.5%
Chase	-15.6%	Greeley	-25.3%	Montgomery	-30.1%	Sheridan	-5.7%
Chautauqua	-36.6%	Greenwood	-42.2%	Morris	-34.9%	Sherman	-36.9%
Cherokee	-27.7%	Hamilton	10.9%	Morton	-38.8%	Smith	-40.5%
Cheyenne	-27.4%	Harper	-9.8%	Nemaha	13.9%	Stafford	3.7%
Clark	-20.5%	Harvey	-4.7%	Neosho	-4.6%	Stanton	-1.3%
Clay	-31.7%	Haskell	9.2%	Ness	-37.6%	Stevens	11.3%
Cloud	-30.2%	Hodgeman	-16.1%	Norton	-5.0%	Sumner	-12.8%
Coffey	-32.9%	Jackson	-21.4%	Osage	-35.0%	Thomas	-15.8%
Comanche	-27.2%	Jefferson	-23.4%	Osborne	-38.9%	Trego	-17.5%
Cowley	-22.6%	Jewell	-46.5%	Ottawa	-12.4%	Wabaunsee	-28.1%
Crawford	17.7%	Johnson	40.0%	Pawnee	-51.3%	Wallace	4.9%
Decatur	-47.0%	Kearny	4.8%	Phillips	-40.4%	Washington	-32.2%
Dickinson	18.1%	Kingman	-14.4%	Pottawatomie	38.1%	Wichita	-20.7%
Doniphan	-25.4%	Kiowa	-23.1%	Pratt	-5.1%	Wilson	-32.9%
Douglas	46.8%	Labette	-36.3%	Rawlins	-20.7%	Woodson	-37.3%
Edwards	-33.1%	Lane	-42.5%	Reno	7.6%	Wyandotte	26.8%
Elk	-40.4%	Leavenworth	15.1%	Republic	-41.6%		
Ellis	21.9%	Lincoln	-32.3%	Rice	2.8%		
Ellsworth	6.7%	Linn	2.0%	Riley	29.8%		



Explore the Population Forecast Dashboard on our NEW Data Portal

CURRENT INDEX

Current Index – December 2024



County	Index	Y/Y Change	Y/5Y Change	County	Index	Y/Y Change	Y/5Y Change	County	Index	Y/Y Change	Y/5Y Change	County	Index	Y/Y Change	Y/5Y Change
Allen County	105	-2.1%	0.5%	Finney County	108	-1.6%	4.8%	Logan County	91	-3.4%	4.4%	Rooks County	89	-2.1%	4.5%
Anderson County	119	-1.2%	10.4%	Ford County	109	-2.4%	5.5%	Lyon County	108	-4.1%	2.6%	Rush County	106	-0.1%	2.5%
Atchison County	105	-2.4%	1.5%	Franklin County	109	-3.7%	5.2%	Marion County	108	-0.8%	1.9%	Russell County	96	-2.4%	2.1%
Barber County	91	-4.7%	-0.8%	Geary County	105	-2.1%	1.7%	Marshall County	106	-4.4%	-1.2%	Saline County	106	-3.7%	2.3%
Barton County	99	-1.8%	-2.2%	Gove County	93	-5.6%	-8.2%	McPherson County	107	-4.8%	1.0%	Scott County	106	-2.6%	2.7%
Bourbon County	99	-2.4%	-0.2%	Graham County	89	-4.6%	3.9%	Meade County	113	0.2%	6.1%	Sedgwick County	107	-2.6%	0.2%
Brown County	99	-1.7%	-7.0%	Grant County	90	-3.8%	-4.2%	Miami County	100	-1.2%	1.0%	Seward County	103	-1.3%	3.3%
Butler County	111	-4.2%	2.9%	Gray County	105	1.0%	2.0%	Mitchell County	114	-0.6%	6.4%	Shawnee County	107	-3.0%	4.1%
Chase County	93	1.6%	-12.2%	Greeley County	104	-3.3%	0.3%	Montgomery County	105	-4.1%	1.7%	Sheridan County	96	-2.0%	4.5%
Chautauqua County	101	-2.2%	-0.9%	Greenwood County	92	3.9%	-4.7%	Morris County	108	-3.0%	2.5%	Sherman County	112	-2.1%	1.7%
Cherokee County	107	-2.4%	0.6%	Hamilton County	111	-2.1%	1.5%	Morton County	102	-1.6%	4.2%	Smith County	104	-1.8%	0.2%
Cheyenne County	105	-2.6%	1.0%	Harper County	103	-1.4%	3.6%	Nemaha County	104	-1.8%	0.1%	Stafford County	108	-3.9%	4.5%
Clark County	119	2.1%	12.1%	Harvey County	106	-4.3%	1.6%	Neosho County	109	-6.0%	11.6%	Stanton County	105	-3.0%	0.3%
Clay County	106	-3.0%	0.9%	Haskell County	100	2.2%	2.7%	Ness County	94	-3.3%	2.7%	Stevens County	104	-3.0%	2.2%
Cloud County	109	-1.4%	2.9%	Hodgeman County	91	-0.6%	6.4%	Norton County	104	-2.7%	-1.6%	Sumner County	115	-1.7%	3.4%
Coffey County	91	-5.7%	-4.6%	Jackson County	110	-3.1%	4.4%	Osage County	103	-1.0%	1.8%	Thomas County	99	-3.1%	-3.5%
Comanche County	95	-4.0%	2.2%	Jefferson County	104	-0.1%	5.6%	Osborne County	106	-15.5%	4.1%	Trego County	99	-3.4%	2.9%
Cowley County	101	-4.1%	-1.3%	Jewell County	104	-2.3%	0.9%	Ottawa County	98	-8.5%	-7.8%	Wabaunsee County	96	-4.7%	-4.6%
Crawford County	105	-5.0%	0.5%	Johnson County	110	-2.9%	3.7%	Pawnee County	106	-1.5%	1.1%	Wallace County	105	-4.1%	1.9%
Decatur County	105	-0.1%	0.5%	Kearny County	104	-1.1%	3.3%	Phillips County	101	-1.5%	-1.8%	Washington County	103	-7.1%	1.0%
Dickinson County	108	1.8%	3.3%	Kingman County	106	-2.3%	3.7%	Pottawatomie County	100	-2.5%	-1.6%	Wichita County	110	-2.2%	1.9%
Doniphan County	128	1.6%	13.2%	Kiowa County	117	5.5%	16.6%	Pratt County	93	-1.3%	3.6%	Wilson County	107	-2.1%	-7.6%
Douglas County	110	-2.1%	3.4%	Labette County	107	1.0%	1.8%	Rawlins County	98	-2.3%	0.4%	Woodson County	79	-8.0%	-7.7%
Edwards County	111	3.5%	4.8%	Lane County	79	-1.7%	0.2%	Reno County	117	-2.7%	6.3%	Wyandotte County	105	-5.7%	-3.0%
Elk County	92	-0.6%	5.0%	Leavenworth County	105	-4.6%	-1.2%	Republic County	108	-0.6%	2.7%				
Ellis County	95	-4.8%	1.1%	Lincoln County	104	-2.1%	4.8%	Rice County	104	-2.2%	5.5%				
Ellsworth County			-2.4%	Linn County			0.1%	Riley County			-0.4%				

Explore the Current Index Dashboard on our NEW Data Portal



		2023	2024	2025	2026
KANSAS Statewide	REAL GDP (MILLIONS 2017 \$)	\$735,182	\$742,884	\$746,249	\$756,879
	PERCENT CHANGE	3.6%	1.0%	0.5%	1.4%
	EMPLOYMENT CHANGE	4,033	3,483	6,696	4,638
	PERCENT CHANGE	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%
	PERSONAL INCOME (MILLIONS CURRENT \$)	\$197,196	\$204,663	\$209,293	\$217,157
	PERCENT CHANGE	5.3%	3.8%	2.3%	3.8%
	AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE	\$1,087	\$1,218		
	PERCENT CHANGE	-3.4%	12.1%		
KANSAS CITY Area (KS & MO)	REAL GDP (millions 2017 \$)	\$152,822	\$154,854	\$156,523	\$157,341
	PERCENT CHANGE	2.7%	1.3%	1.1%	0.6%
	EMPLOYMENT CHANGE	24,350	14,267	-151	1,804
	PERCENT CHANGE	2.2%	1.3%	0.0%	0.2%
	PERSONAL INCOME (MILLIONS CURRENT \$)	\$138,381	\$138,918	\$140,632	\$143,918
	PERCENT CHANGE	0.8%	0.4%	1.2%	2.4%
	AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE	\$1,340	\$1,387		
	PERCENT CHANGE	4.0%	3.5%		
LAWRENCE MSA	REAL GDP (MILLIONS 2017 \$)	\$5,438	\$5,539	\$5,570	\$5,588
	PERCENT CHANGE	3.7%	1.9%	0.5%	0.3%
	EMPLOYMENT CHANGE	1,750	783	761	939
	PERCENT CHANGE	3.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.7%
	PERSONAL INCOME (MILLIONS CURRENT \$)	\$6,264	\$6,386	\$6,388	\$6,510
	PERCENT CHANGE	3.9%	2.0%	0.0%	2.0%
	AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE	\$1,011	\$1,082		
	PERCENT CHANGE	4.8%	7.0%		
MANHATTAN MSA	REAL GDP (MILLIONS 2017 \$)	\$7,021	\$6,975	\$6,919	\$6,926
	PERCENT CHANGE	-1.3%	-0.7%	-0.8%	0.1%
	EMPLOYMENT CHANGE	900	608	597	699
	PERCENT CHANGE	1.7%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
	PERSONAL INCOME (MILLIONS CURRENT \$)	\$6,878	\$6,890	\$6,924	\$6,970
	PERCENT CHANGE	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	0.7%
	AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE	\$987	\$1,022		
	PERCENT CHANGE	4.0%	3.5%		
TOPEKA Area	REAL GDP (MILLIONS 2017 \$)	\$12,249	\$12,383	\$12,467	\$12,501
	PERCENT CHANGE	2.2%	1.1%	0.7%	0.3%
	EMPLOYMENT CHANGE	2,392	467	122	530
	PERCENT CHANGE	2.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.5%
	PERSONAL INCOME (MILLIONS CURRENT \$)	\$13,005	\$13,285	\$13,191	\$13,401
	PERCENT CHANGE	4.3%	2.2%	-0.7%	1.6%
	AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE	\$1,098	\$1,162		
	PERCENT CHANGE	5.7%	5.8%		
WICHITA Area	REAL GDP (MILLIONS 2017 \$)	\$37,745	\$38,274	\$38,076	\$38,173
	PERCENT CHANGE	2.8%	1.4%	-0.5%	0.3%
	EMPLOYMENT CHANGE	8,750	4,017	722	778
	PERCENT CHANGE	2.8%	1.3%	0.2%	0.2%
	PERSONAL INCOME (MILLIONS CURRENT \$)	\$36,638	\$36,919	\$37,118	\$37,566
	PERCENT CHANGE	1.5%	0.8%	0.5%	1.2%
	AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE	\$1,163	\$1,209		
	PERCENT CHANGE	3.3%	4.0%		

Explore the County Highlights Dashboard on our NEW Data Portal



ABOUT CEDBR



Empowerment through Insight

Since 1968, the Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR) has served the Wichita area and beyond as a premier resource for economic forecasting, impact analysis, and business data. We strive to empower businesses, developers, and change-makers with the data and insights needed to drive meaningful and sustainable economic growth.

Meet Your CEDBR Staff



Bekah Selby
Director
bekah.shelby@wichita.edu
Office: (316) 978-3290



Craig Compton
Research Economist
craig.compton@wichita.edu
Office: (316) 978-5341



ANDREA WILSON
Manager, Marketing and Communications
andrea.wilson@wichita.edu
Office: (316) 978-3225



Brooke Hiemstra
Graphic Designer
Cell: (918) 440-0179

Samip Thakuri
Graduate Assistant

Tejaswini Sai Atluri
Graduate Assistant

Matthew Vickers
Student Assistant

Connect with CEDBR on LinkedIn



Explore current and past issues
of the Kansas and Regional
Economic Forecast at
<https://cedbr.org/data-portal/>



OUR ADVISORY BOARD

Wichita Area Outlook Team (WAOT)

The purpose of the Wichita Area Outlook Team is to provide a forum for collecting, exchanging, and reporting business and industry information. The information, content, and presentation is designed to improve planning, forecasting, and business effectiveness of members and their constituents. The primary focus of the team is identifying events and trends affecting the Wichita metropolitan area economy.



TROY ANDERSON
Assistant City Manager
City of Wichita



RICHARD BASORE
Retired
Agriculture



WALTER BERRY
CEO
Berry Companies, Inc.



CHRIS BLASDEL
Vice President Material Sales
Cornejo & Sons, LLC



LAUREN CLARY
Community Affairs Manager
Kansas Gas Service



KEVIN DREILING
President
J.P. Weigand & Sons, Inc.



AMANDA DUNCAN
Vice President
Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, Inc.



JEFF FLUHR
President
Greater Wichita Partnership



DAVID GARTNER
Head of Engineering Single Aisle Projects
Airbus Americas Engineering, Inc.



LARISA GENIN
Dean
Wichita State University



CHRIS GOEBEL
CEO
Star Lumber & Supply Co., Inc.



KURT GRIER
Executive Vice President
Martin K. Eby Construction Co., Inc.



STACY HALL
Vice President, Finance
Spirit AeroSystems, Inc.



STEVE HEWITT
CEO
Kansas Turnpike Authority



SARAH HOEFGEN
Executive Director
El Dorado, Inc.



JEFF JAMISON
President
IMA, Inc.



SANDRA JESSOP
SVP Engineering & Operations
airxcel



TOM JOHNSON
In-House Council
The Martens Companies



ADDI LOWELL
Chief Financial Officer
USD 259 - Wichita Public Schools



TREENA MASON
SVP of Sales & Operations
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas



CHAD MCDANIEL
SVP Chief Credit Officer
Emprise Bank



LYNN PREHEIM
Partner
STINSON, LLP



JOHN ROLFE
President & CEO
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce



SHEILA RUMSEY
Chief Executive Officer
REALTORS of South Central Kansas



SUSIE SANTO
President & CEO
Visit Wichita



MARK SCHMELZLE
Senior Vice President
Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.



GARY SCHMITT
Managing Director, Government Affairs
INTRUST Bank, N.A.



DON SHERMAN
Executive, Community Affairs
Eversys



JACOB SIEGRIST
Chief Credit Officer
Fidelity Bank



JOHN TOOTHAKER
Partner & Senior Private Wealth Manager
Nox Numis



JEFFREY WEIFORD
Executive Vice President
GLMV Architecture



BRAD WHITE
Senior Vice President of Operations
Textron Aviation



VALERIE WISE
Air Service & Marketing Manager
Wichita Airport Authority



AJ WORTHINGTON
Managing Director
FORVIS



TYLER YORK
President & CEO
Wichita Area Builders Association

Kansas Economic Outlook Team (KEOT)



The Kansas Economic Outlook Team (KEOT) is comprised of distinguished leaders from various industries and communities across the state. Coming together on a quarterly basis, they engage in comprehensive discussions about the prevailing economic landscape and future projections that impact their respective localities. Each member is provided with community-specific data, fostering meaningful conversations about their individual sectors. The primary focus of the team is identifying events and trends that affect the local area economy.

ABIGAIL CRANDALL

*Regional Operations Manager
Kansas Department of Commerce*

FRIDAY OTUYA

*Community Engagement Specialist
Nextech*

LORI BOWER

*President
Bowercomm*

ALAN COBB

*President & CEO
Kansas Chamber of Commerce*

HALI BIELSER

*Director, Project Management Office
Midwest Energy, Inc.*

MARIA CONFIELD

*In-state Business Development Project Manager
Kansas Department of Commerce*

ANDREW MANLEY

*CFO
First Bank KS*

HEATHER PIERSON

*Office Manager
Kansas Department of Commerce*

MICHAEL PLANK

*Appraiser
Reno County*

BLAKE BENSON

*President & CEO
Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce*

JEANINE MCKENNA

*President & CEO
Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce*

MITCH ROBINSON

*Salina EDO
Salina Community Economic Development
Organization*

CRAIG VANWEY

*Manager, In-State Business Development Team
Kansas Department of Commerce*

JESSICA GOODALE

*Executive Director
Dickinson County Economic
Development Corporation*

NIKKI PFANNENSTIEL

*Manager Member Services
Sunflower Electric Power Corporation*

DARON R. HALL

*City Manager
City of Pittsburg*

JOANN KNIGHT

*Executive Director
Dodge City/Ford County Development
Corporation*

RENEE DUXLER

*President & CEO
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce*

DOUG WILLIAMS

*Executive Director
Grow Hays, Inc*

JONATHAN NORRIS

*Senior Economic Data Scientist
Patterson Family Foundation*

TIM ZIMMERMAN

*North Central Regional Project Manager
Kansas Department of Commerce*

ERNIE BEAUDET

*Northeast In-State Business Development
Project Manager/Employee
Kansas Department of Commerce*

LINETTE MILLER

*In-State Business Development
Kansas Department of Commerce*

TODD ALLISON

*President
Progressive Products, Inc.*



NOTES: _____