



2025 KANSAS ECONOMIC REPORT

Labor Market Information Division

Table of Contents

Message from the Secretary	2
Decennial Population Counts	3
Population by Age and Sex	4
Labor Force Estimates	5
Labor Force Participation and Unemployment Rates	6
Nonfarm Jobs	7
Nonfarm Jobs by Industry	8
Occupational Statistics Overview	9
Occupational Statistics (Top Occupations)	10
Long-term Industry Projections	11
Long-term Occupational Projections	12
Long-term Projections by Educational Attainment	13
Personal Income	14
Gross Domestic Product	15
Kansas Exports	16
Kansas Exports by Partner	17
Sources	18

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Note: Due to revisions and benchmarking processes, some data may have been updated since last year’s Economic Report was published. The data included in the 2025 Economic Report is current as of September 14, 2025.

Message from the Secretary

Kansas saw growth in its labor force in 2024, adding 21,386 individuals. This growth represents a modest 1.4% increase, bringing the total labor force to over 1.54 million. This is the highest labor force on record for the state since tracking began in 1976. The number of employed individuals also hit a record high, with 1.49 million Kansans working, reflecting the ongoing recovery and underscoring the resilience of the Kansas labor market.

Kansas faced an overall decline in labor force participation from 2009 to 2021; however, participation rates started to trend upward in 2022 with Kansas recording a labor force participation rate of 67.1% in 2024, an increase of 0.2 percentage points. Kansas remains above national and regional averages despite this being one of the lower rates in state history. Kansas' unemployment rate remained relatively low despite increasing 0.7 percentage points over the year to 3.6%. This rate is well below the state's historical average of 4.5%, and well below the U.S. rate of 4.0%. The future of Kansas' labor force presents challenges despite these positive indicators. The population under 25 declined by 1.7% from 2010 to 2020 after showing only minimal growth in the previous decade, suggesting potential issues with labor force replenishment in the years ahead.

Kansas' job market continued its strong rebound from the pandemic. By 2023, the state had surpassed pre-pandemic employment levels, and this growth continued in 2024 with Kansas recording over 1.45 million nonfarm jobs—a 0.9% increase over the previous year. Private sector employment led this growth with an increase of 9,200 jobs, complemented by 3,500 government sector jobs.

Looking ahead, health care and transportation occupations are projected to add the most jobs by 2032. Computer and mathematical occupations are also expected to see a high rate of growth, with the fastest growth expected for data scientists, information security analysts, and software developers.

On the global front, Kansas remained competitive in the export market, reaching a record of nearly \$14.5 billion in export sales. The transportation equipment, processed foods, and computer and electronic products sectors spearheaded growth, collectively accounting for 57.7% of all exports. Mexico continues to be the state's largest trading partner, importing 9.7% more than the previous year. Canada saw a slight increase of 0.2%, while Japan exports increased by 17.1%.

In summary, Kansas continues to show strength across multiple economic indicators, from low unemployment to resilient export activity. The state faces significant challenges in sustaining future labor force growth due to demographic trends, particularly among younger populations. As Kansas moves forward, careful attention will be needed to ensure its economic momentum is maintained amid shifting workforce dynamics and changing global trade conditions.



Amber Shultz
Secretary of Labor

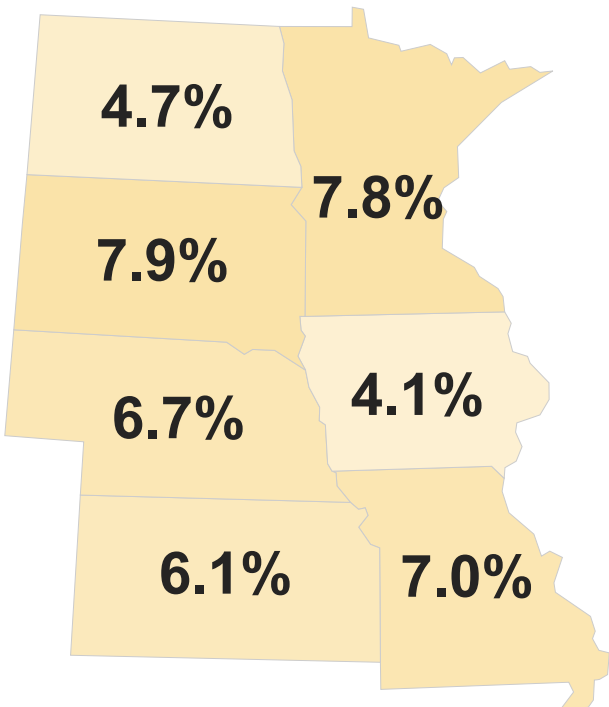
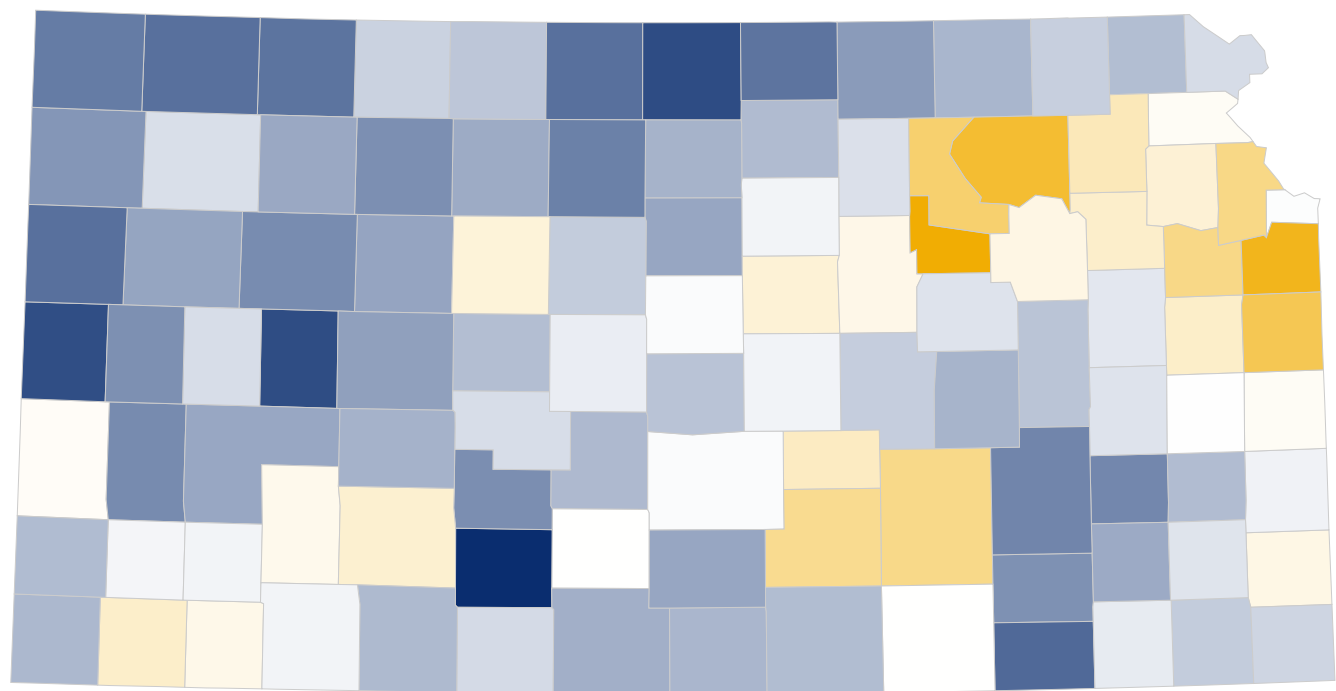


Decennial Population Counts

Geographic Area	2000 Population	2010 Population	2020 Population	2000-2010 Percent Change	2010-2020 Percent Change
United States	281,421,906	308,745,538	331,449,281	9.7%	7.4%
Plains Region	19,237,739	20,505,437	21,616,921	6.6%	5.4%
Kansas	2,688,418	2,853,118	2,937,880	6.1%	3.0%

Population is an important statistic to review for economic purposes for two reasons, both of which benefit businesses. A growing population leads to a larger market for businesses and may lead to more jobs as demand for goods and services increase. A growing population also potentially increases the size and quality of the labor force which provides more labor supply for businesses to fill jobs.

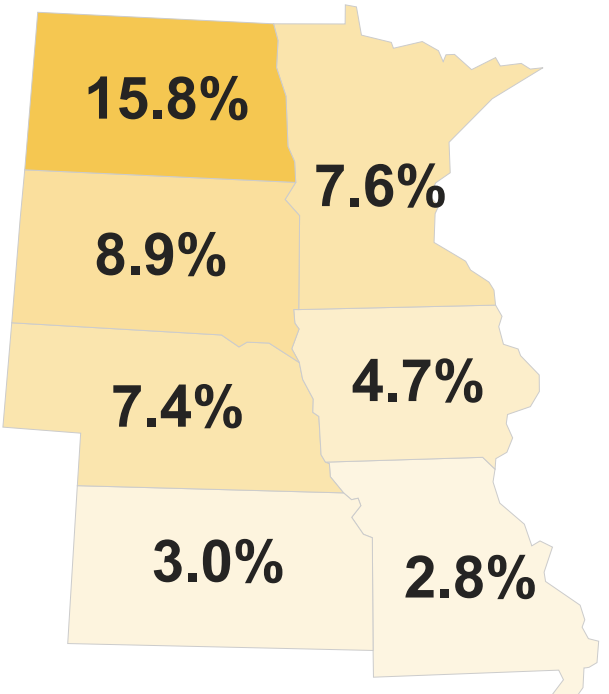
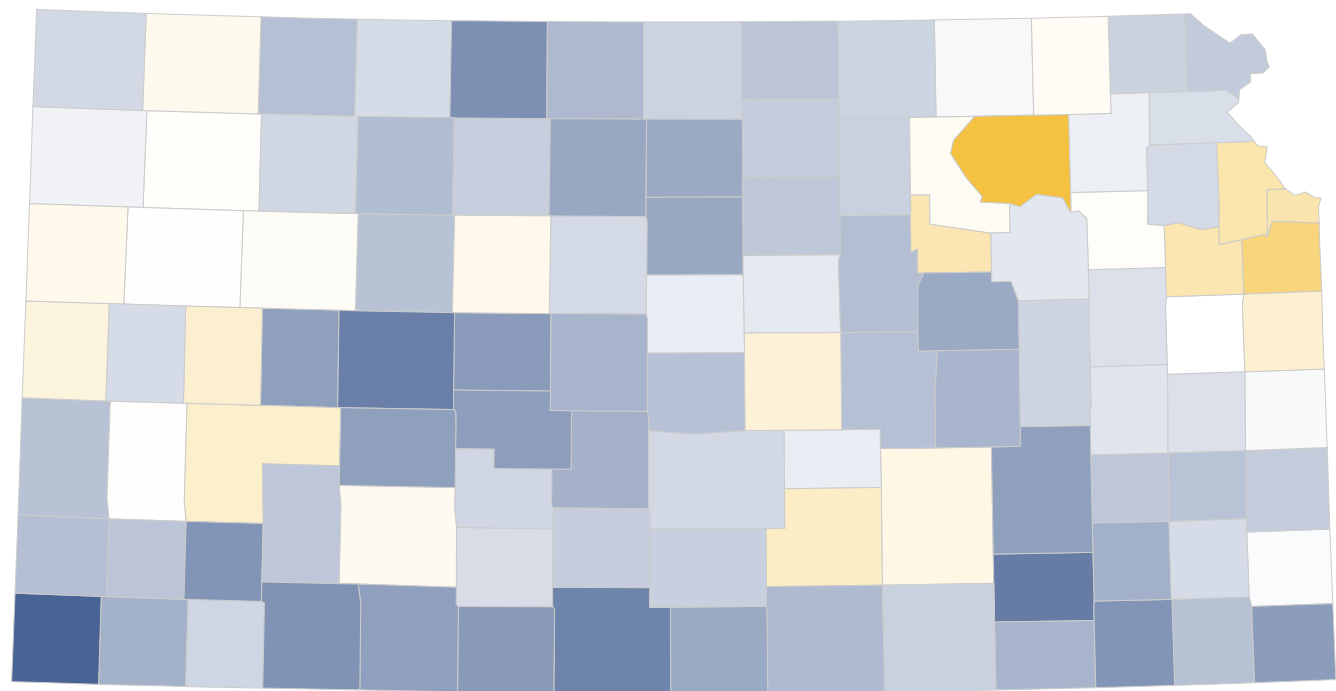
2000-2010 Population Change for Kansas Counties and Plains Region States



The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census every 10 years to count the number of individuals living in the United States. This analysis highlights population data from the 2000, 2010, and 2020 censuses, and includes data for the U.S., Plains Region, Kansas, and it's counties.

The Kansas population was 2,937,880 in 2020, which is an increase of 3.0% compared to 2010 population levels. While the Kansas population continued to grow in the last decade, the rate of growth has slowed significantly compared to 2000-2010 when the Kansas population increased by 6.1%. The U.S. and Plains Region experienced similar trends, with slower population growth from 2010-2020 than 2000-2010.

2010-2020 Population Change for Kansas Counties and Plains Region States



From 2010-2020, 77 counties experienced a decrease in population, while 28 experienced an increase. From 2010-2020, 80 counties experienced a decrease in population, while 25 saw an increase.



Population by Age and Sex

The population pyramid displays the population by age group and sex. It is known as a pyramid because population by age group generally decreases with age, creating a pyramid shape. However, the 2020 pyramid for Kansas shows that there are two major peaks in population: the largest centers on the 15-19 year-old age group, which makes up 7.2% of the population, while the second peak centers on the 55-59 and 60-64 year-old age groups, which make up 6.5% and 6.4% of the population respectively.

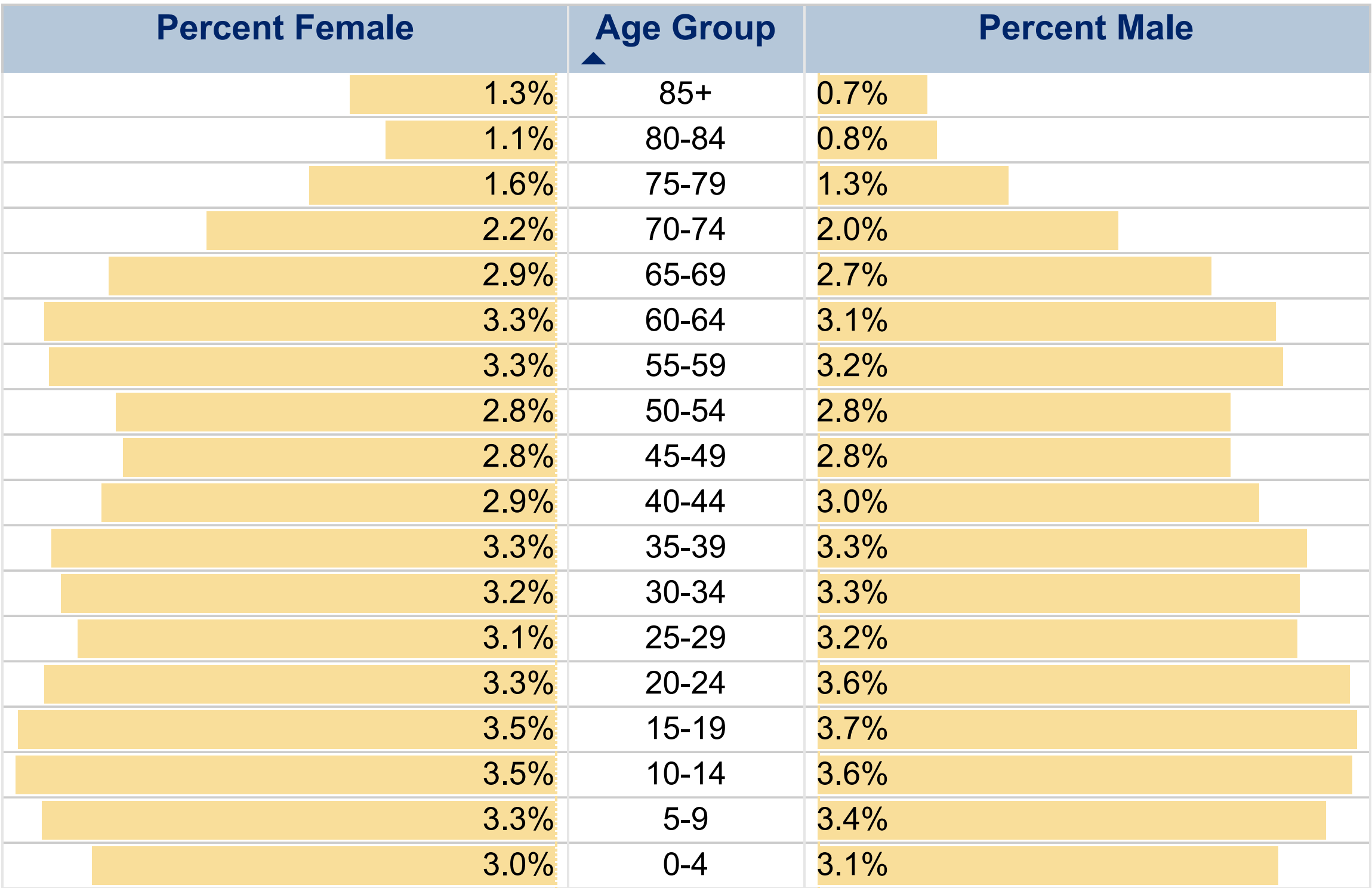
For economic purposes, the two main age groups studied are the 16 and over population and the 25-54 population. The 16 and over population includes everyone who is eligible to be in the labor force, while 25-54 year-olds are considered prime age workers. The 16 and over population in Kansas increased by 7.2% from 2000 to 2010; this was followed by slower growth from 2010 to 2020 of 4.7%. The 25-54 year-old population only increased by 0.7% from 2000 to 2010, followed by a decrease of 5.2% from 2010 to 2020.

Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy as the population under 25 increased by only 2.7% from 2000 to 2010 then declined by 1.7% from 2010 to 2020. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, grew by 7.5% from 2000 to 2010 but decreased by 0.7% from 2010 to 2020.

The median age for Kansas was 37.4 years old in 2020; this is 1.4 years older than the median age for 2010 (36.0), and 2.2 years older than the median age for 2000 (35.2).

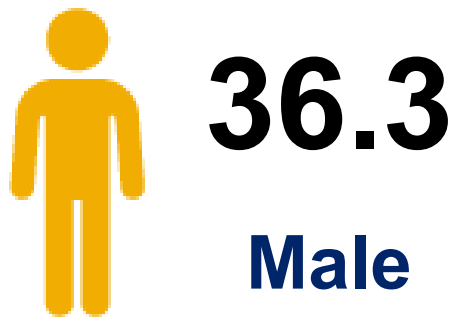
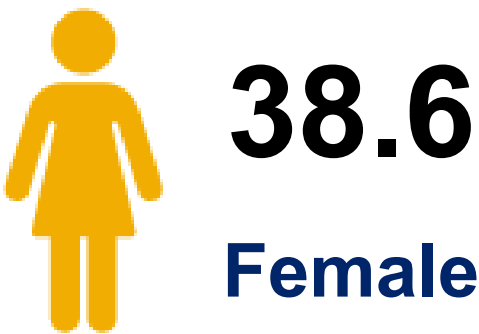
Smith County had the highest median age in 2020 at 52.1 years. Riley County had the lowest median age in 2020 at 25.3 years.

2020 Population Pyramid for Kansas



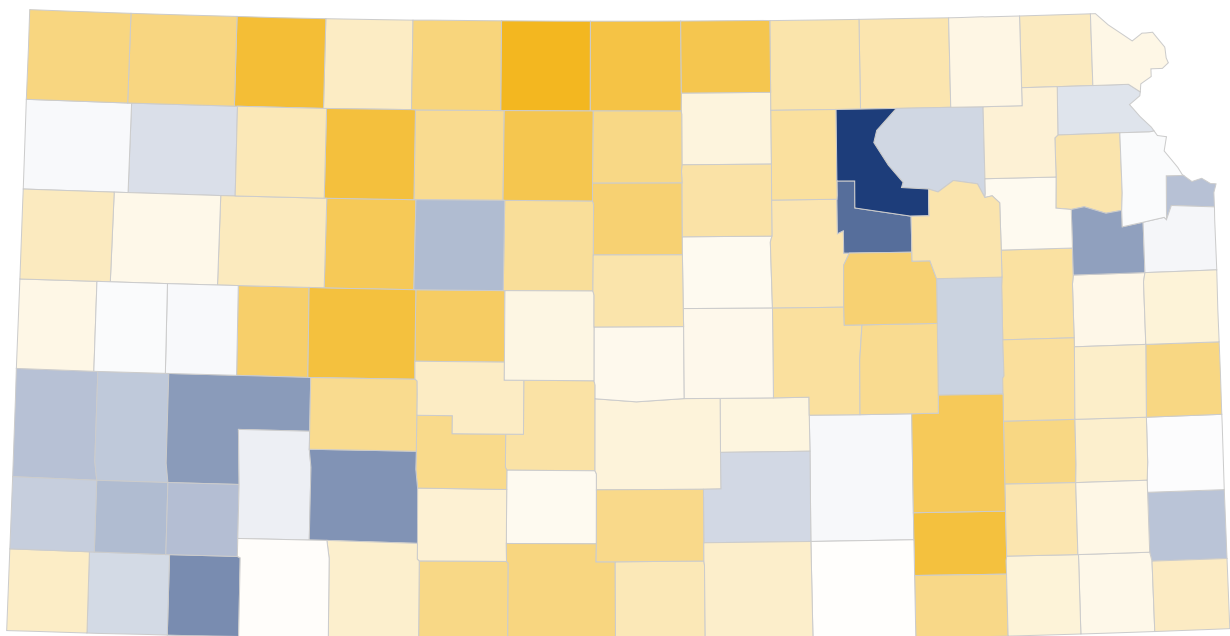
Age Group	2000 Population	2010 Population	2020 Population	2000-2010 % Change	2010-2020 % Change
16+	2,058,489	2,206,600	2,310,774	7.2%	4.7%
25-54	1,123,351	1,130,657	1,072,071	0.7%	-5.2%
<25	988,585	1,015,098	998,137	2.7%	-1.7%
20-24	190,167	204,454	202,972	7.5%	-0.7%

2020 Median Age (years) by Sex for Kansas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census of Population and Housing <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census.html>

2020 Median Age by County



Smith County
52.1
Highest Median Age (years)

Riley County
25.3
Lowest Median Age (years)

Labor Force Estimates

The civilian labor force is a measure of the number of people 16 years and older that are available for work. This includes individuals who are employed as well as those who are unemployed but actively seeking work. A growing labor force is favorable as it increases the number of workers available for employers and shows there is increasing confidence of finding a job in a given area.

Civilian Labor Force

Kansas saw a slight increase in its labor force over the year, increasing by 21,386 people, or 1.4%, to 1,545,790. This is the highest labor force estimate Kansas has seen since records began in 1976. The Plains Region labor force increased 0.9% while the U.S. increased by 0.6%.

Kansas labor force growth has typically lagged behind gains made in the Plains Region and the U.S. Since 2014 the Kansas labor force has increased by just 3.2%, while the Plains Region saw an increase of 3.7%, and the U.S. increased by 7.8%.

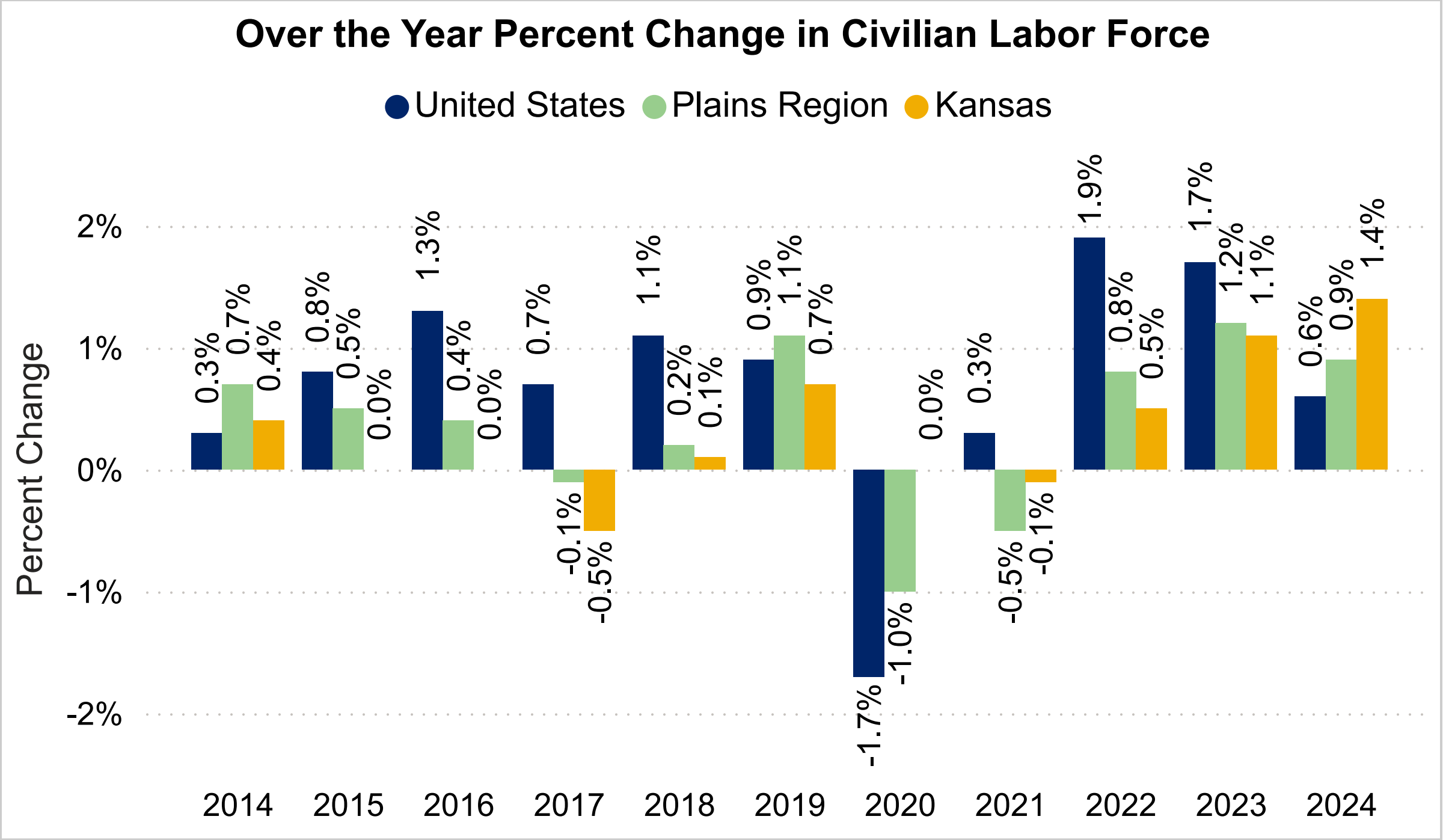
Employment and Unemployment

The number of people working increased by 9,974, or 0.7%, to 1,490,553. This is the highest number of Kansans working on record for the state. The number of people unemployed increased in 2024, by 26.0%, or 11,412 people, to 55,237.

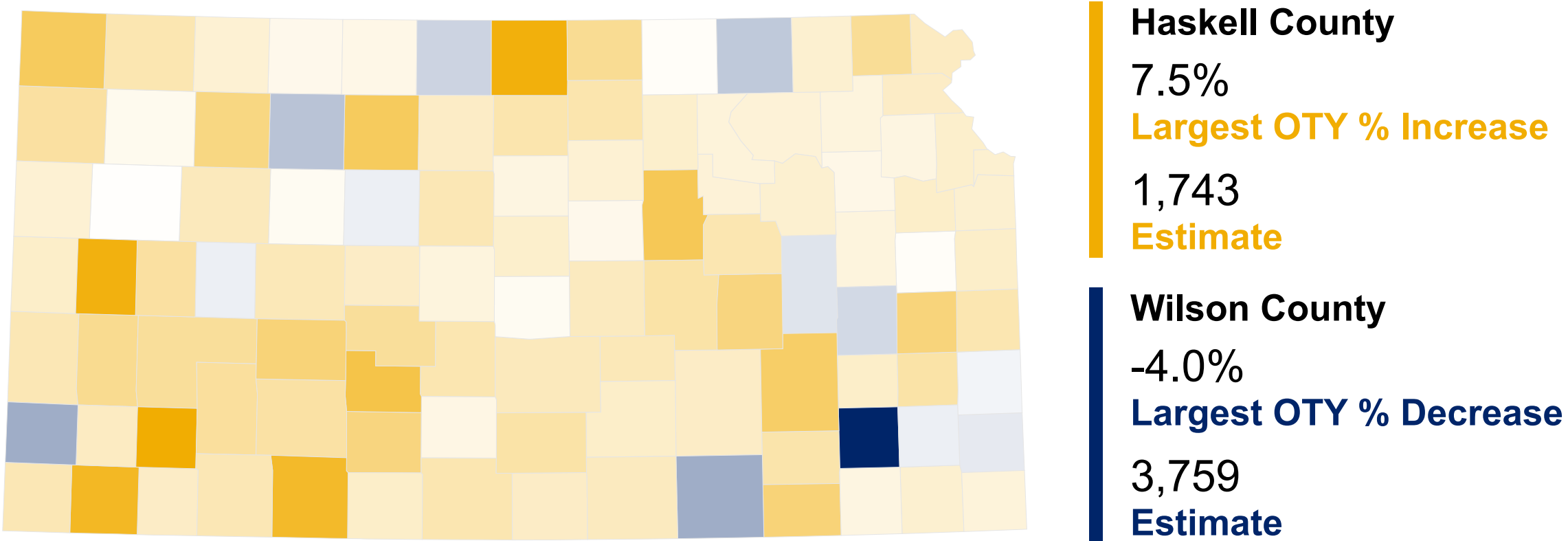
County Level Labor Force Estimates

Thirteen counties saw a decrease in their labor force in 2024. Wilson County saw the largest over the year percent decrease in labor force, declining 4.0%, followed by Cowley, Stanton, Graham, and Marshall counties.

Ninety two counties saw an increase in their labor force in 2024. Haskell County saw the largest over the year percent increase in labor force, growing by 7.5%, followed by Jewell, Wichita, Stevens, and Clark counties.



2024 Over the Year Percent Change in Civilian Labor Force by County



Source: KDOL, Labor Market Information Division and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) <https://www.bls.gov/lau/> and the Current Population Survey (CPS) <https://www.bls.gov/cps/>
Visit the LAUS homepage on KLIC: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=418>

Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of all individuals 16 years and older, non-institutionalized and civilian, who participate in the labor force. Kansas experienced an overall declining trend in its labor force participation rate from 2014 through 2021, declining from 68.1% to 66.6%. The rate increased slightly in 2022, and this trend has continued through 2024, with Kansas recording a labor force participation rate of 67.1%. Kansas's rate is slightly higher than the Plains Region rate of 66.6%, and remains well above the national rate of 62.6%.

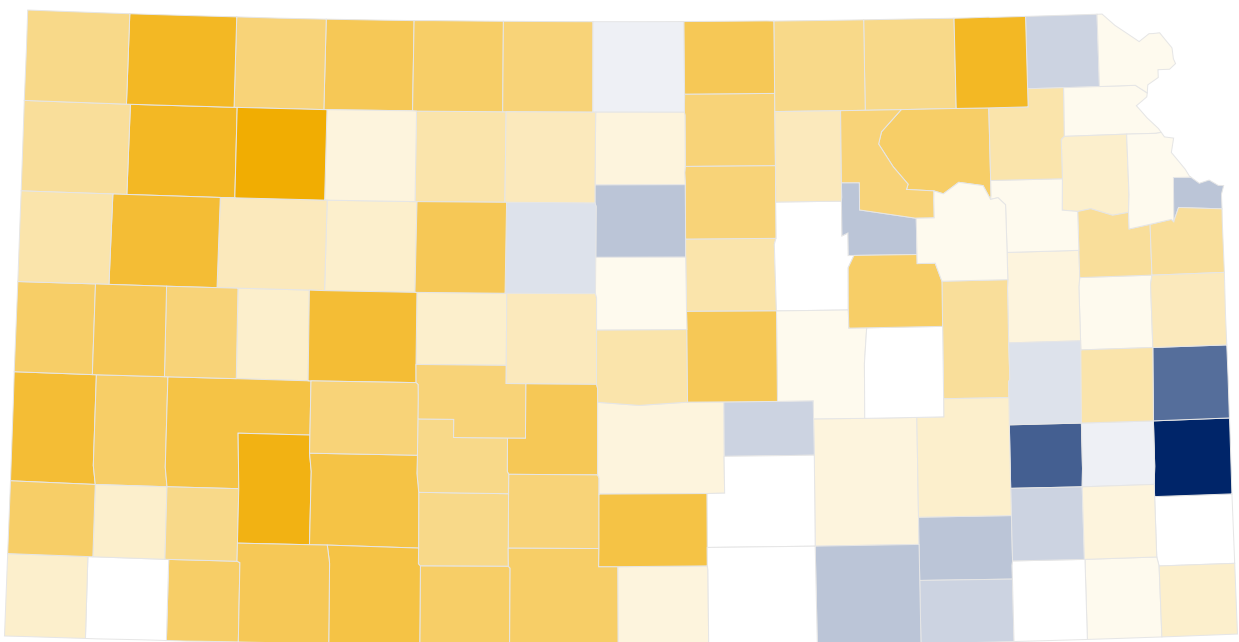
Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed individuals as a percent of the civilian labor force. Kansas' unemployment rate increased by 0.7 percentage points to 3.6% in 2024. The 2024 rate is 0.9 percentage points lower than the historical average annual unemployment rate of 4.5%. Despite this increase, the Kansas unemployment rate is higher than the Plains Region rate of 3.2% and lower than the U.S. rate of 4.0%.

County Level Unemployment Rates

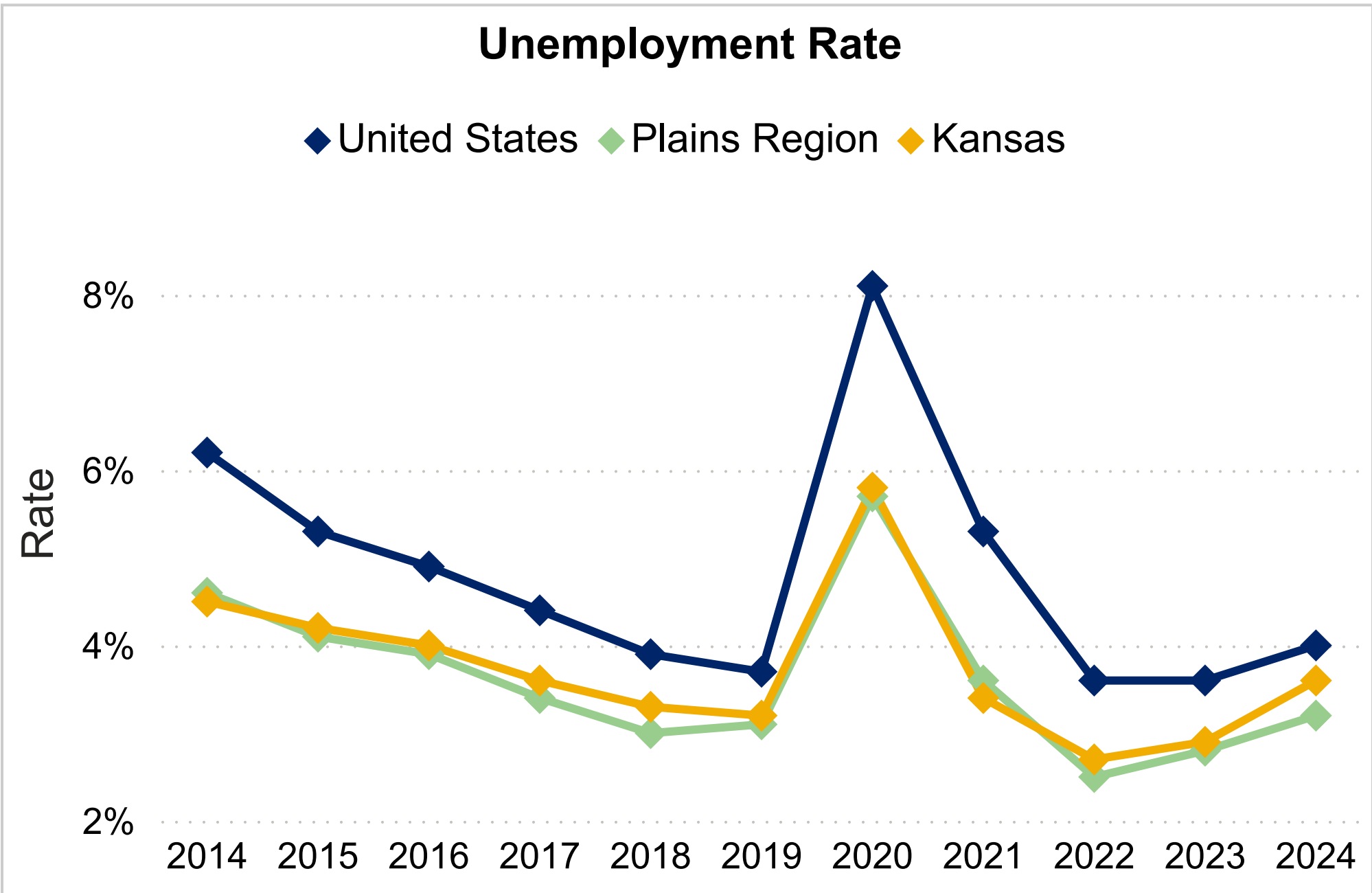
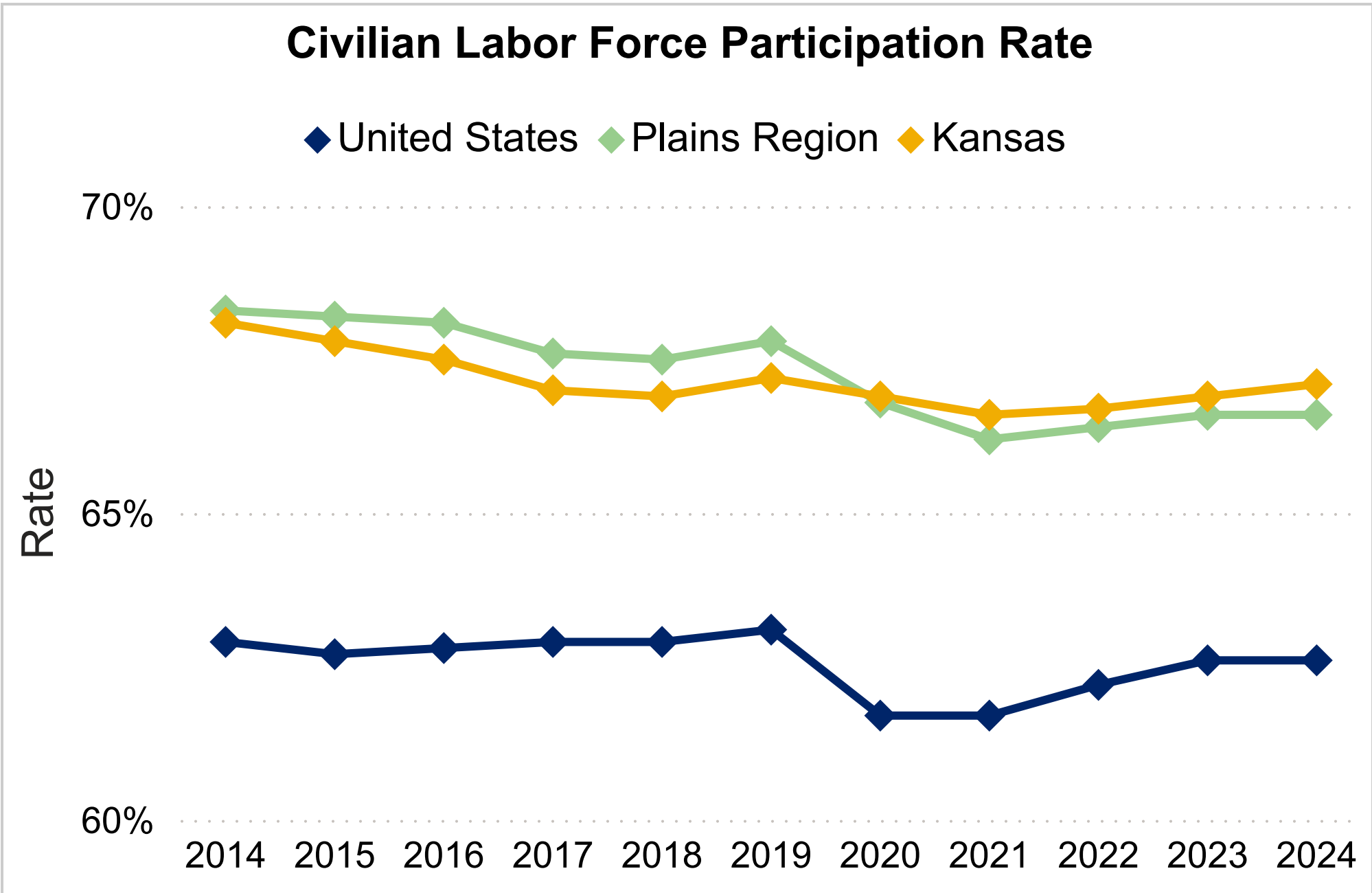
Unemployment rates at the county level in Kansas ranged from 2.4% to 5.4% in 2024. There were eight counties which recorded an unemployment rate of 3.6%, matching the statewide rate. Thirty-nine counties recorded unemployment rates above 3.6%, with Bourbon County recording the highest rate at 5.4%, followed by Woodson County at 5.0%, and Linn County at 4.9%. Fifty-eight counties recorded unemployment rates below 3.6%, with Sheridan County recording the lowest rate at 2.4%. This was followed by Gray County at 2.5% and Nemaha, Rawlins, and Thomas counties all recording unemployment rates of 2.6%.

2024 Unemployment Rate by County



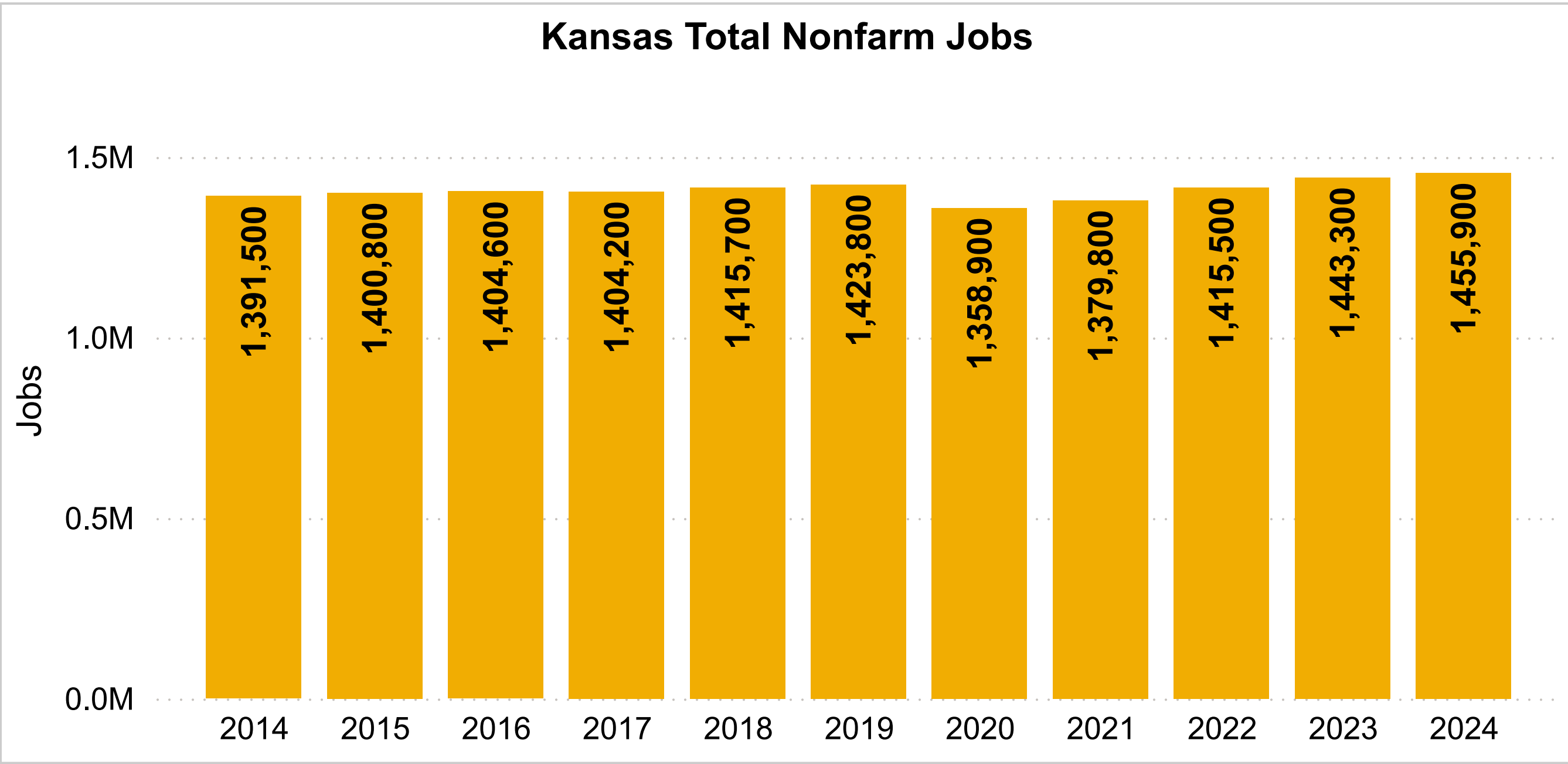
Bourbon County
5.4%
Highest County UR

Sheridan County
2.4%
Lowest County UR



Source: KDOL, Labor Market Information Division and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) <https://www.bls.gov/lau/> and the Current Population Survey (CPS) <https://www.bls.gov/cps/>
Visit the LAUS homepage on KLIC: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=418>

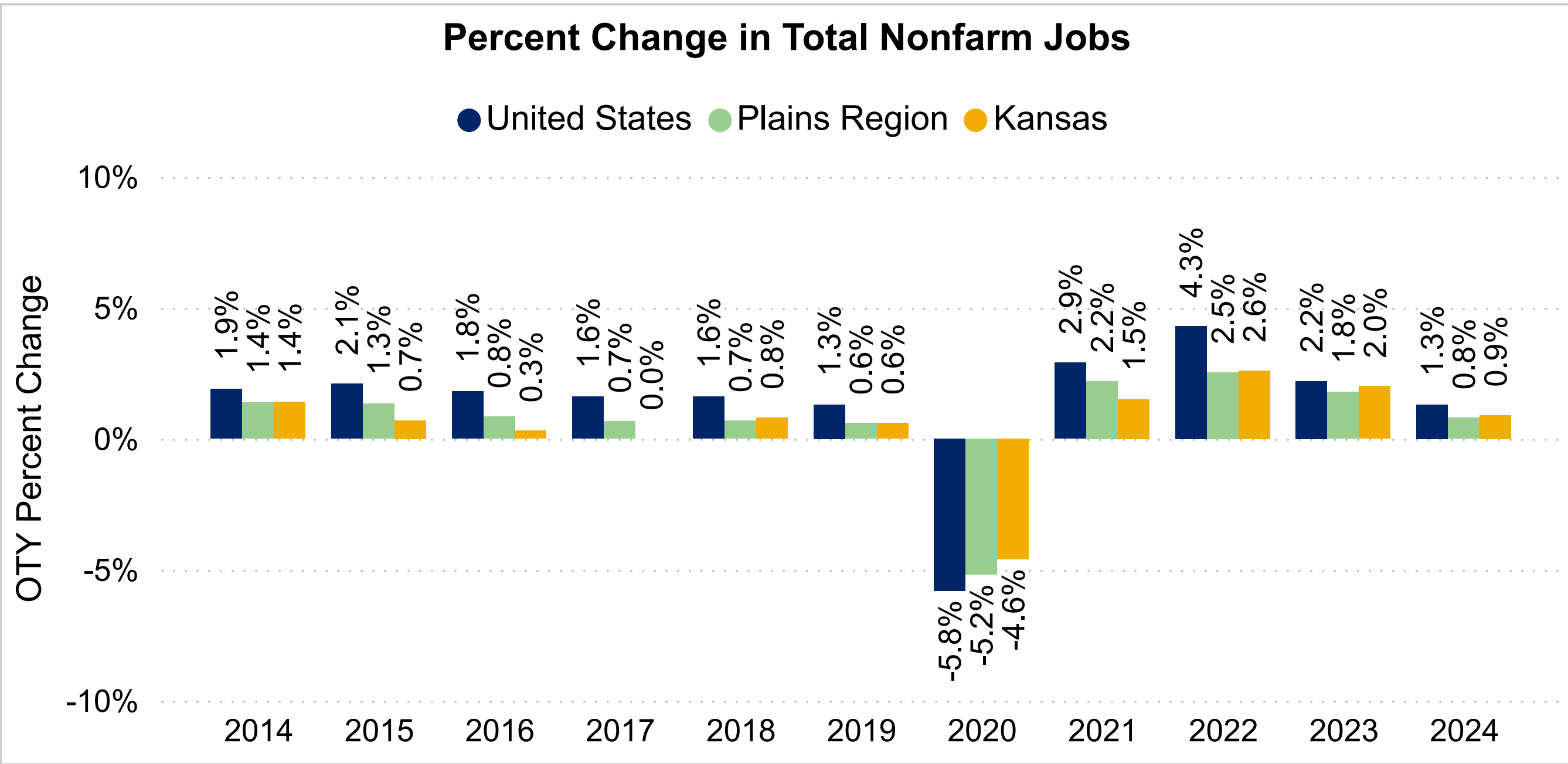
Nonfarm Jobs



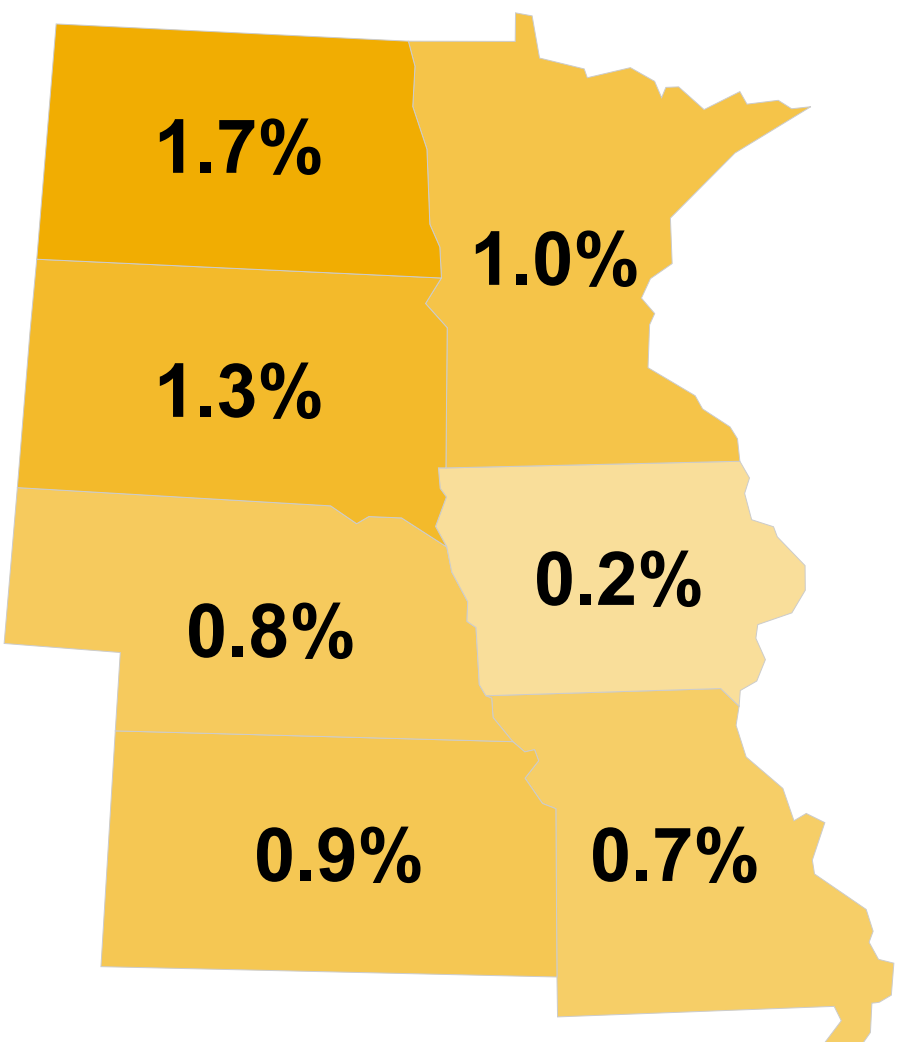
The change in nonfarm jobs is one of the most current indicators of the economy’s health. Job growth indicates increased demand for businesses’ products and services. This puts money in the hands of those previously unemployed, further increasing the demand for consumer goods and services. Additional jobs also lead to increased output, signifying economic growth.

Kansas total nonfarm jobs increased for the fourth year in a row, recording 1,455,900 jobs in 2024; of these, 1,198,300 were private sector jobs. Total nonfarm jobs increased by 12,600 jobs, or 0.9%, over the year. This was due to an increase of 9,200 private sector jobs and an increase of 3,500 government sector jobs. In the Plains Region nonfarm jobs increased by 87,200, or 0.8%. Nationally nonfarm jobs increased by 2.1 million, or 1.3%, to nearly 158.0 million.

Kansas and the Plains Region have have consistently lagged behind U.S. job growth. Since 2014 Kansas has gained a total of 64,400 jobs, growing by 4.6%, while the U.S. increased by 13.7% and the Plains Region increased by 6.2%.



2024 Over the Year Change in Total Nonfarm Jobs
Plains Region States



Source: KDOL, Labor Market Information Division and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Current Employment Statistics (CES) <https://www.bls.gov/ces/> and <https://www.bls.gov/sae/>
Visit the CES homepage on KLIC: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=421>

Nonfarm Jobs

2024 Kansas Nonfarm Jobs by Industry

Industry	Number of Jobs	OTY Change	Over the Year % Change
Total Nonfarm	1,455,900	12,600	0.9%
Total Private	1,198,300	9,200	0.8%
Mining and Logging	6,200	-100	-1.6%
Construction	71,100	3,200	4.7%
Manufacturing	174,500	1,000	0.6%
Durable Goods	102,700	1,100	1.1%
Non-Durable Goods	71,800	-200	-0.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	275,000	-900	-0.3%
Wholesale Trade	59,000	-100	-0.2%
Retail Trade	142,000	-700	-0.5%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	74,000	-100	-0.1%
Information	17,500	-600	-3.3%
Financial Activities	78,000	1,100	1.4%
Finance and Insurance	62,200	900	1.5%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	15,800	200	1.3%
Professional and Business Services	174,000	-3,400	-1.9%
Prof., Scientific, and Tech. Services	78,600	200	0.3%
Management of Companies	21,800	-800	-3.5%
Administrative and Waste Services	73,700	-2,700	-3.5%
Private Education and Health Services	213,200	6,300	3.0%
Private Educational Services	16,600	500	3.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	196,600	5,800	3.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	133,500	700	0.5%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	17,900	500	2.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	115,700	300	0.3%
Other Services	55,200	1,700	3.2%
Government	257,700	3,500	1.4%
Federal Government	26,900	300	1.1%
State Government	50,500	1,000	2.0%
State Government Educational Services	24,600	0	0.0%
State Government Excluding Education	25,800	900	3.6%
Local Government	180,300	2,100	1.2%
Local Government Educational Services	104,700	100	0.1%
Local Government Excluding Education	75,700	2,100	2.9%

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding

Goods Producing
251,800
Jobs
4,100
OTY Numeric Change
1.7%
OTY Percent Change

Service-Providing
1,204,200
Jobs
8,600
OTY Numeric Change
0.7%
OTY Percent Change

Job growth was experienced in seven of the 11 industry supersectors in Kansas during 2024. The supersector that added the most jobs over the year was private education and health services with a gain of 6,300 jobs, or 3.0%; most of these gains were recorded in health care and social assistance, which increased by 5,800 jobs, or 3.0%. Government increased by 3,500 jobs over the year, or 1.4%. Construction recorded gains of 3,200 jobs, or 4.7%. Manufacturing increased by 1,000 jobs, or 0.6%, in 2024. This increase was due to gains in durable goods of 1,100, while non-durable goods manufacturing decreased by 200 jobs.

Four supersectors experienced job losses in 2024. Professional and business services saw the largest declines, decreasing by 3,400 jobs, or 1.9%. This was primarily due to declines in administrative and waste services which declined by 2,700 jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities declined by 900 jobs over the year. The majority of these declines were in retail trade, which saw a loss of 700 jobs. Wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities each declined by 100 jobs.

Source: KDOL, Labor Market Information Division and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Current Employment Statistics (CES)
<https://www.bls.gov/sae/>
Visit the CES homepage on KLIC:
<https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=421>

Occupational Statistics

Every summer KDOL’s Labor Market Information division releases the results of the Kansas Wage Survey conducted by the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Data from the OEWS program is current as of May 2024 and contains employment and wage data for hundreds of occupations in Kansas. This is one of KDOL’s most used data sets. Employers can use this data as a guide to set their wages and salaries, while students or jobseekers can use this data to learn the typical wages for occupations and to explore the earnings potential of other occupations.

Wages
The median wage in Kansas as of May 2024 was \$46,850. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of \$104,390. This was followed by the computer and mathematical occupational group with a median annual wage of \$93,240, and the architecture and engineering occupational group, with a median annual wage of \$82,280.

The occupational groups with the lowest median annual wage were food preparation and serving related occupations and personal care and service occupations. Both of these occupational groups recorded a median annual wage below \$30,000.

Employment
The office and administrative support occupational group represents the largest share of employment at 166,990, or 11.7%, of all occupational employment in Kansas. Transportation and material moving occupations was the next largest occupational group with an employment estimate of 133,230, or 9.3% of all occupations in the state. Sales and related occupations was the third largest occupational group with an employment estimate of 123,780, or 8.6% of all occupations.

The smallest occupational groups in Kansas were farming, fishing, and forestry; legal; and life, physical, and social science, with each of these groups representing less than 1.0% of all occupations in the state.

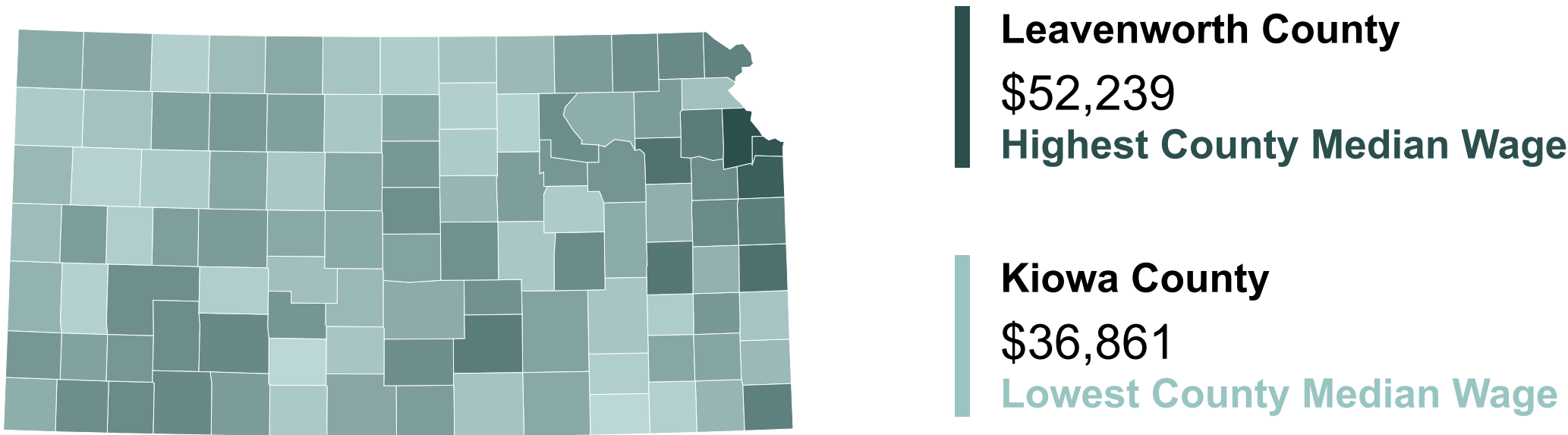
Source: KDOL, Labor Market Information Division and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Occupation Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)
<https://www.bls.gov/oes/>
Visit the Kansas Wage Survey homepage on KLIC:
<https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=841>

Kansas Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

1,431,180 Total Employment	\$46,850 Median Annual Wage, All Occupations
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Occupational Group	Employment	Median Annual Wage
Office and Administrative Support	166,990	\$42,300
Transportation and Material Moving	133,230	\$43,450
Sales and Related	123,780	\$35,280
Food Preparation and Serving Related	123,480	\$28,680
Production	117,610	\$47,030
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	95,000	\$75,120
Business and Financial Operations	92,550	\$74,920
Educational Instruction and Library	87,700	\$48,060
Management	76,210	\$104,390
Healthcare Support	65,090	\$35,510
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	63,680	\$56,680
Construction and Extraction	60,330	\$51,090
Computer and Mathematical	39,400	\$93,240
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	36,120	\$34,880
Protective Service	31,020	\$47,310
Personal Care and Service	30,750	\$29,590
Architecture and Engineering	25,810	\$82,280
Community and Social Service	21,330	\$50,430
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	17,420	\$46,590
Life, Physical, and Social Science	11,890	\$65,370
Legal	7,980	\$79,150
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	3,820	\$38,650

Median Wage by County



Occupational Statistics

Kansas

1,431,180

Total Employment

\$46,850

Median Annual Wage, All Occupations

The five most common occupations in Kansas were fast food and counter workers (45,420), cashiers (35,100), registered nurses (32,640), customer service representatives (32,250), and retail sales persons (30,390). Collectively, these occupations make up 12.3% of all Kansas employment. Of the top five detailed occupations by employment, registered nurses was the only detailed occupation with an annual median wage higher than the statewide annual median wage of \$46,850.

When looking broadly at the top 20 occupations by employment, seven occupations in the list had a median wage above the statewide median wage: software developers (\$106,660); general and operations managers (\$85,600); registered nurses (\$78,060); accountants and auditors (\$76,400); sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products (\$71,000); heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (\$56,940); and elementary school teachers, except special education (\$50,820).

Top Occupations by Employment for Kansas

Major Occupational Group	Occupational Title	Employment	Annual Median Wage
Food Preparation and Serving Related	Fast Food and Counter Workers	45,420	\$27,000 ↓
Sales and Related	Cashiers	35,100	\$27,580 ↓
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	Registered Nurses	32,640	\$78,060 ↑
Office and Administrative Support	Customer Service Representatives	32,250	\$38,330 ↓
Sales and Related	Retail Salespersons	30,390	\$31,670 ↓
Office and Administrative Support	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	28,500	\$39,000 ↓
Transportation and Material Moving	Stockers and Order Fillers	27,020	\$35,830 ↓
Management	General and Operations Managers	25,500	\$85,600 ↑
Healthcare Support	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	25,050	\$29,190 ↓
Transportation and Material Moving	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	24,580	\$39,960 ↓
Healthcare Support	Nursing Assistants	23,950	\$36,910 ↓
Transportation and Material Moving	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	23,250	\$56,940 ↑
Food Preparation and Serving Related	Waiters and Waitresses	20,290	\$31,560 ↓
Educational Instruction and Library	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	19,770	\$27,960 ↓
Office and Administrative Support	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	19,450	\$45,920 ↓
Computer and Mathematical	Software Developers	15,850	\$106,660 ↑
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	15,820	\$32,690 ↓
Educational Instruction and Library	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	14,200	\$50,820 ↑
Business and Financial Operations	Accountants and Auditors	14,030	\$76,400 ↑
Sales and Related	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	13,930	\$71,000 ↑

Note: Arrows in the Annual Median Wage column indicate if the wage is higher than the statewide median wage for all occupations.

Source: KDOL, Labor Market Information Division and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Occupation Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) <https://www.bls.gov/oes/>
Visit the Kansas Wage Survey homepage on KLIC: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=841>

Long-term Industry Projections

All Industries Kansas

Projections inform researchers and other interested parties about the future direction of the labor market and its implications for the economy. Projections also play an important role in making career choices. While general interest in certain careers may impact occupational choices, information about future trends in employment or demand for labor helps identify practical options to ensure future job security.

1,498,438
2022 Base
Employment

Kansas total jobs across all industries are expected to grow by 49,192 to 1,547,630 jobs in 2032, an increase of 3.3% over the 10-year period. This averages out to 4,919 jobs per year, or 0.3% average annual growth. The goods producing sector, which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining; construction; and manufacturing, is projected to increase by 1,015 jobs per year, an average annual growth rate of 0.4%. The remaining industry sectors fall under the service providing sector, which is projected to have a positive average annual growth rate of 0.3%, adding 3,851 jobs annually.

1,547,630
2032 Projected
Employment

The health care and social assistance industry sector is projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the 10-year period, adding 16,847 jobs. This major industry sector consists of four underlying subsectors: ambulatory health care services, hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities, and social assistance. Of these subsectors, the fastest rate of growth is projected to be in social assistance, growing 1.3% annually. Of the major industry sectors, health care and social assistance is also projected to grow at the fastest rate, 0.8% annually. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting and professional, scientific, and technical services are also projected to see average annual growth rates of 0.8% and add 1,005 and 5,860 jobs, respectively, by 2032.

Goods Producing

10,152

Numeric Change

4.0%

Percent Change

Services Providing

38,505

Numeric Change

3.3%

Percent Change

49,192
Numeric Change

Industry Sectors Expected to see the Highest Growth in Kansas from 2022 through 2032

Industry Title	2022 Base Employment	2032 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Growth Rate
Health Care and Social Assistance	205,810	222,657	16,847	8.2%	0.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	112,037	119,163	7,126	6.4%	0.6%
Manufacturing	169,481	176,213	6,732	4.0%	0.4%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	74,928	80,788	5,860	7.8%	0.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	69,273	72,533	3,260	4.7%	0.5%
Educational Services	133,478	136,650	3,172	2.4%	0.2%
Construction	65,070	67,858	2,788	4.3%	0.4%
Government	100,193	101,878	1,685	1.7%	0.2%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	80,780	82,341	1,561	1.9%	0.2%
Wholesale Trade	57,637	59,160	1,523	2.6%	0.3%

3.3%
Percent Change

0.3%
Average Annual
Growth Rate

Source: KDOL, Labor Market Information Division and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Visit the Employment Outlook homepage on KLIC: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468>

Long-term Occupational Projections

All Occupations
Kansas

1,498,438
2022 Base
Employment

1,547,630
2032 Projected
Employment

49,192
Numerical
Change

3.3%
Percent Change

0.3%
Average Annual
Growth Rate

1,720,055
Total Openings

The health care support occupational group is projected to gain 8,717 jobs during the 10-year period with an average annual growth rate of 1.3%, the fastest projected growth rate of any occupational group in Kansas. The health care support occupational group is made up of 17 detailed occupations; of these, home health and personal care aides is expected to add the most jobs over the 10-year period, gaining 5,856 jobs by 2032. This is followed by nursing assistants which is expected to grow by 1,347 jobs. The following occupational groups are also projected to gain at least 5,000 jobs by 2032: health care practitioners and technical, transportation and material moving, food preparation and serving related, and management.

Computer and mathematical is projected to be the second fastest growing occupational group from 2022 through 2032, growing at an average annual rate of 1.0% and adding 4,533 jobs over the 10-year period. Of the 21 detailed occupations in this group, data scientists is expected to grow the fastest, at an average annual rate of 3.0% and adding 108 jobs by 2032. The occupation in the computer and mathematical group expected to add the most jobs by 2032 is software developers; this occupation is expected to grow by 2,902 jobs over the 10-year period, with an average annual growth rate of 2.1%.

When comparing across all occupations in Kansas, home health and personal care aides is expected to add the most jobs over the 10-year period (5,856), followed by cooks, restaurant (3,047); software developers (2,902); fast food and counter workers (1,979); and stockers and order fillers (1,884).

Occupational Groups Expected to see the Highest Growth in Kansas from 2022 through 2032

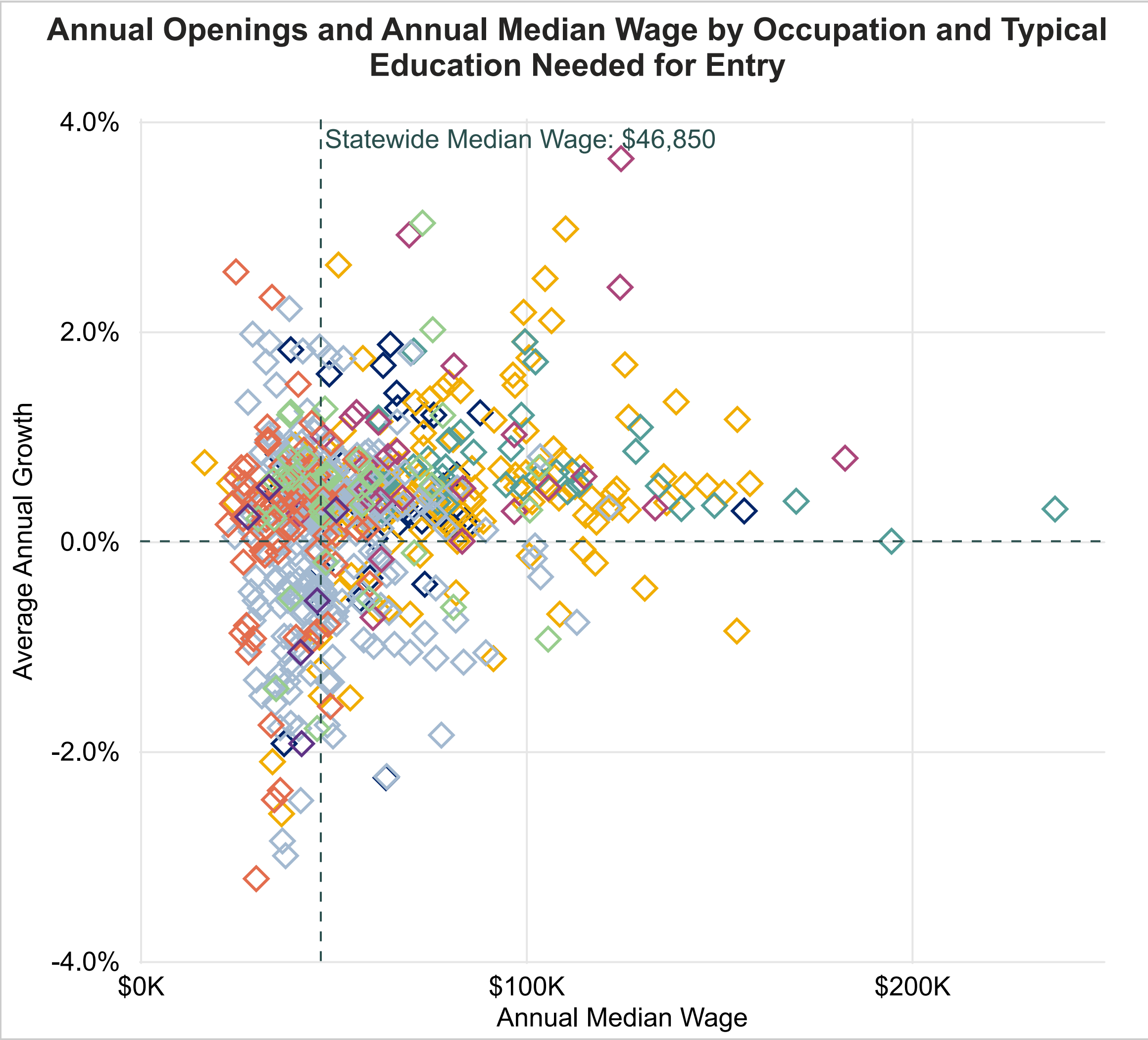
Occupational Title	2022 Base Employment	2032 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Growth Rate	Total Openings
Healthcare Support Occupations	65,384	74,101	8,717	13.3%	1.3%	108,739
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	93,584	101,104	7,520	8.0%	0.8%	61,649
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	136,596	143,188	6,592	4.8%	0.5%	181,257
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	116,055	122,505	6,450	5.6%	0.5%	233,319
Management Occupations	91,573	96,754	5,181	5.7%	0.6%	77,197
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	90,577	95,289	4,712	5.2%	0.5%	78,391
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	41,517	46,050	4,533	10.9%	1.0%	29,725
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	63,194	66,727	3,533	5.6%	0.5%	59,286
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	88,314	91,370	3,056	3.5%	0.3%	83,482
Construction and Extraction Occupations	68,067	70,935	2,868	4.2%	0.4%	61,280
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	24,709	26,571	1,862	7.5%	0.7%	18,346
Community and Social Service Occupations	19,950	21,642	1,692	8.5%	0.8%	19,393
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	46,041	47,584	1,543	3.4%	0.3%	63,967
Personal Care and Service Occupations	38,191	39,666	1,475	3.9%	0.4%	70,464
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	11,799	12,635	836	7.1%	0.7%	11,598

Source: KDOL, Labor Market Information Division and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Visit the Employment Outlook homepage on KLIC: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468>

Long-term Projections by Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) assigns the level of education typically needed to enter each detailed occupation. Each occupation falls under one of eight education levels. The largest increase in jobs is projected to be in those occupations typically requiring a bachelor's degree; these occupations are expected to grow by 20,577 jobs over the projection period. The educational categories projected to grow the fastest are master's degree and doctoral or professional degree; these are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.19% and 0.67% respectively.

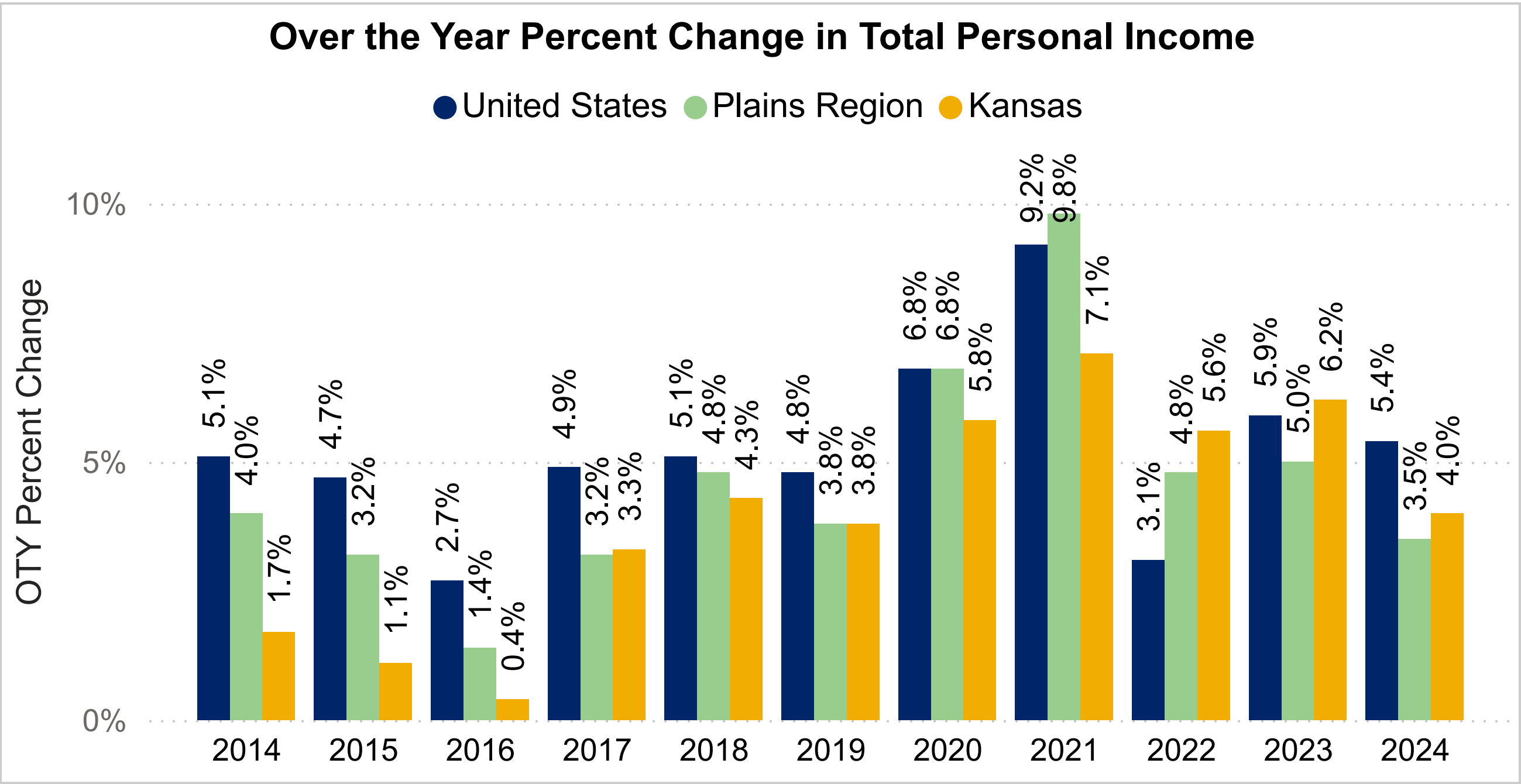
Occupational classification by years of work experience typically needed to enter the occupation is also available. This can be more than five years, less than five years, or none. A third classification is available that organizes occupations by typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency. This can be long-term on-the-job training (more than one year), moderate-term on-the-job training (one month to one year), short-term on-the-job training (less than one month), internship/residency, or none. Visit the Employment Outlook homepage on KLIC to find out more: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468>.



Master's degree	3,166 10 Year Numeric Change	1.19% Average Annual Growth	2,083 Average Annual Openings
Doctoral or professional degree	2,336 10 Year Numeric Change	0.67% Average Annual Growth	1,880 Average Annual Openings
Associate degree	1,719 10 Year Numeric Change	0.62% Average Annual Growth	2,562 Average Annual Openings
Bachelor's degree	20,577 10 Year Numeric Change	0.60% Average Annual Growth	26,851 Average Annual Openings
Postsecondary non-degree award	5,915 10 Year Numeric Change	0.55% Average Annual Growth	12,144 Average Annual Openings
No formal educational credential	7,567 10 Year Numeric Change	0.23% Average Annual Growth	52,943 Average Annual Openings
High school diploma or equivalent	8,438 10 Year Numeric Change	0.14% Average Annual Growth	68,146 Average Annual Openings
Some college, no degree	-526 10 Year Numeric Change	-0.11% Average Annual Growth	5,365 Average Annual Openings

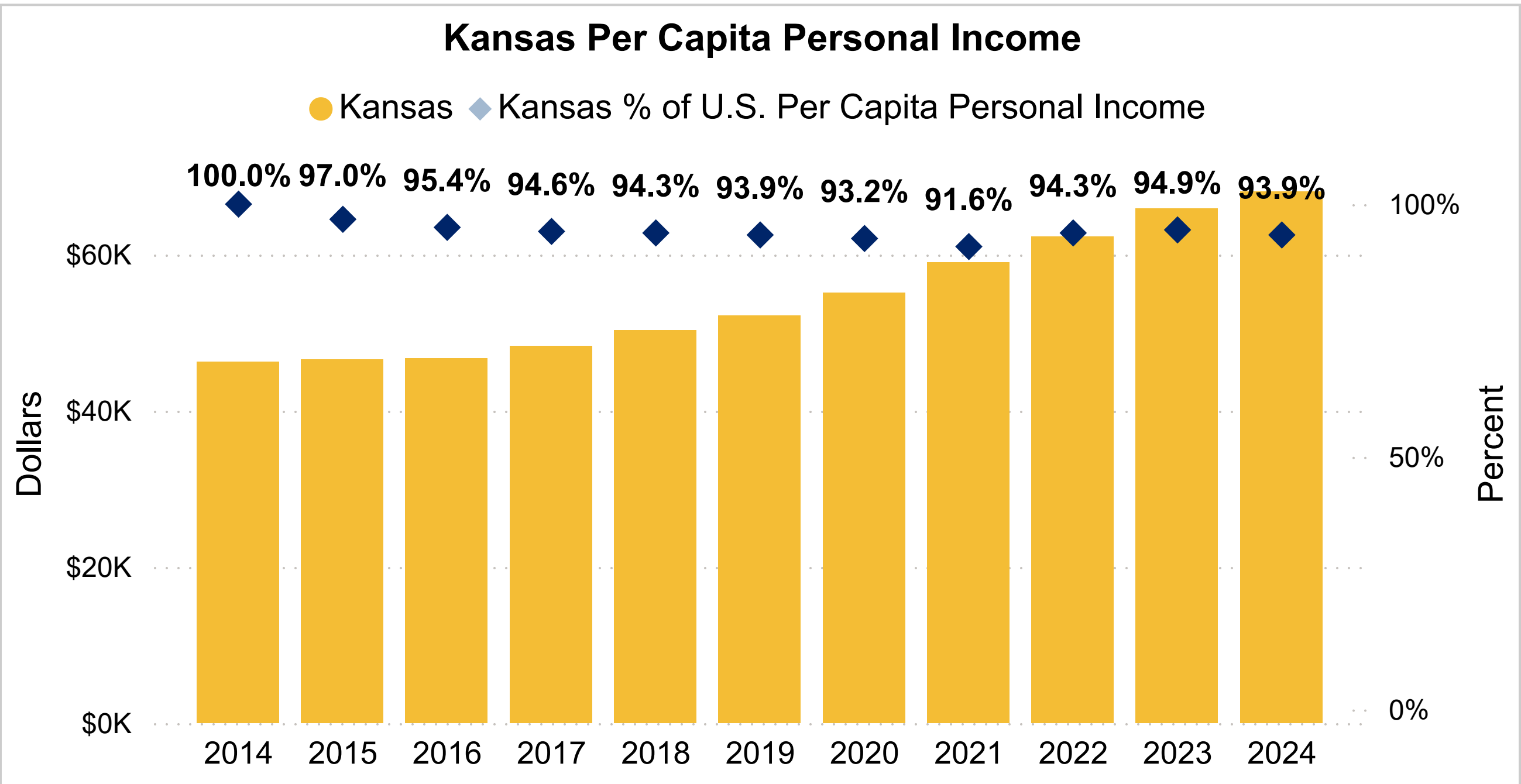
Source: KDOL, Labor Market Information Division and USDOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections
Visit the Employment Outlook homepage on KLIC: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468>

Personal Income



Personal income is an important measure of economic health and well-being. Personal income includes earnings; dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments, which primarily consist of government payments to individuals and nonprofit institutions. Per capita personal income shows the average share of personal income for each individual in an area. Per capita personal income is calculated by dividing total personal income by the population for an area. It measures the wealth of the population and provides a common measure for evaluating and comparing counties, states, or areas.

In 2024 Kansas' total personal income outpaced the Plains Region for the third year in a row, increasing 4.0% to \$202.1 billion. Plains Region personal income grew 3.5% to \$1.5 trillion, while U.S. personal income increased 5.4% to \$24.6 trillion. The majority of the increase in personal income was due to a gain of \$4.5 billion in net earnings by place of residence, a growth rate of 3.7% over the year. Additionally, income from dividends, interest, and rent increased \$1.4 billion, or 3.7%, over the year. Personal current transfer receipts increased \$1.7 billion, or 5.2%, over the year in Kansas.

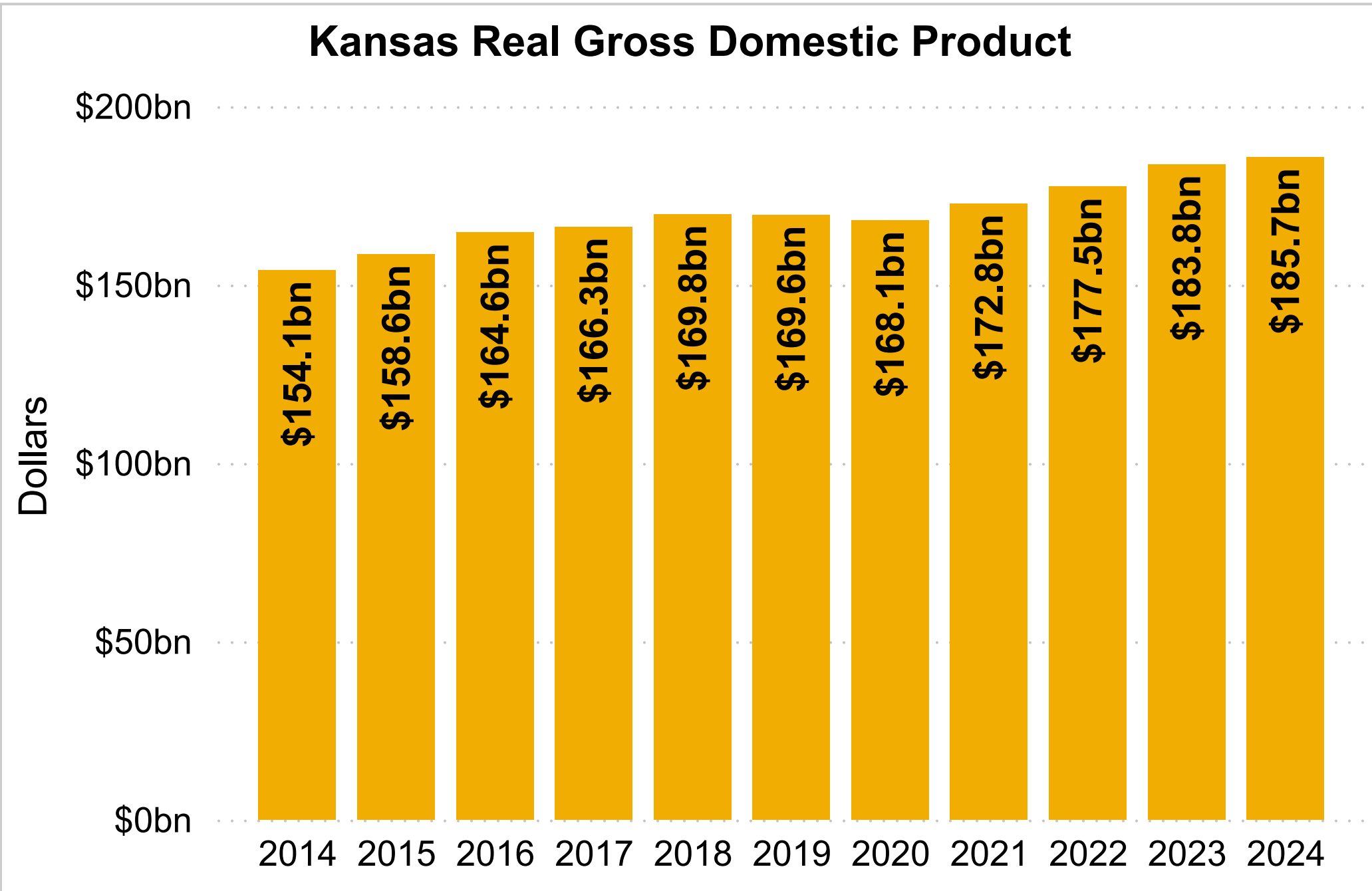


In 2024 Kansas recorded a per capita personal income of \$68,038, increasing 3.3% from 2023. The Plains Region and U.S. recorded per capita personal incomes of \$68,966 and \$72,425, respectively. Since 2014 per capita personal income in Kansas has increased by 47.0%; this is much slower than the Plains Region and U.S., whose per capita personal incomes have grown 50.2% and 56.5%, respectively, over the same time period.

In 2014 per capita personal income in Kansas was equal to that of the U.S.; however, in 2015 U.S. per capita personal income surpassed Kansas per capita personal income. The gap between Kansas and U.S. per capita personal income continued to widen until 2022, when Kansas' per capita personal income increased from 91.6% to 94.3% of U.S. per capita personal income. Kansas experienced another increase in 2023 to 94.9%, but dropped again in 2024 by 1.0 percentage point to 93.9%.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "SAINC1 Annual personal income summary" and "SAINC4 Personal income and employment by major component" <https://www.bea.gov/itable/regional-gdp-personal-income>

Gross Domestic Product



Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measures the total economic output of an area. It is commonly used as one of the primary measures of economic performance and health of an area. Real GDP, which is adjusted for inflation, allows better year-to-year comparisons by removing the influence inflation has on nominal GDP. In this report, real GDP is fixed to 2017 dollars.

Real GDP in Kansas increased by 1.0% in 2024 to \$185.7 billion. The Plains Region also saw a 1.0% increase in GDP over the year, increasing to \$1.4 trillion. The U.S. saw an increase of 2.8% in real GDP, growing to \$23.3 trillion over the year. Since 2014 Kansas GDP has increased 20.5%, while Plains Region GDP has increased 16.7%. The U.S. however, has increased its real GDP 27.6% over the same time period.

In Kansas growth in real GDP was reported in eight of the 11 supersectors from 2023 to 2024. Trade, transportation, and utilities recorded the largest numeric increase in 2024, increasing by \$1.0 billion, or 3.4%. Much of this growth is due to an increase of \$1.0 billion, or 9.3%, in the retail trade sector. Natural resources and mining declined by \$1.4 billion, or 20.3%, in 2024.

Kansas Real Gross Domestic Product by Industry

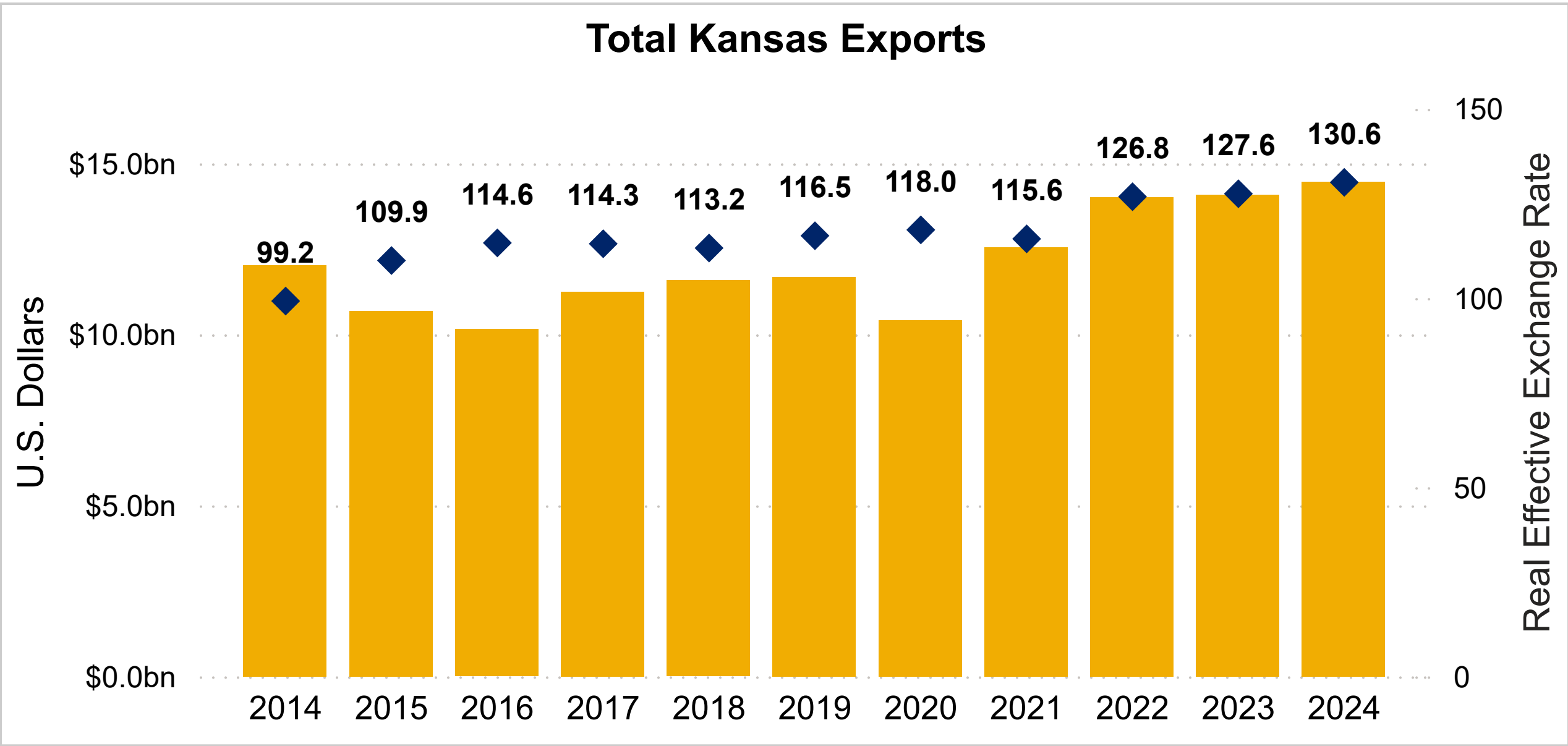
Data in millions of chained 2017 dollars

Industry	2023	2024	Over the Year Change	Over the Year Percent Change
All industry total	\$183,795.6	\$185,720.9	\$1,925.3	1.0%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing	\$35,053.3	\$35,693.9	\$640.6	1.8%
Trade, transportation, and utilities	\$30,146.7	\$31,167.7	\$1,021.0	3.4%
Manufacturing	\$26,337.3	\$26,493.2	\$155.9	0.6%
Professional and business services	\$22,231.4	\$22,652.0	\$420.6	1.9%
Government and government enterprises	\$21,779.4	\$21,988.9	\$209.5	1.0%
Educational services, health care, and social assistance	\$15,587.6	\$15,997.4	\$409.8	2.6%
Information	\$12,359.1	\$12,709.0	\$349.9	2.8%
Construction	\$6,169.5	\$6,566.9	\$397.4	6.4%
Natural resources and mining	\$7,285.2	\$5,803.0	(\$1,482.2)	-20.3%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services	\$5,025.0	\$4,885.2	(\$139.8)	-2.8%
Other services (except government and government enterprises)	\$3,607.0	\$3,586.0	(\$21.0)	-0.6%

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "SAGDP9 Real GDP by state" <https://www.bea.gov/itable/regional-gdp-personal-income>

Kansas Exports



Exports data show how competitive Kansas is in the global economy. When the global economy is in good shape, demand for products in which Kansas has a competitive advantage rises. The value of the U.S. dollar compared to other currencies also influences exports. If the U.S. dollar increases in value, then demand for exports may go down while the opposite is true when the value of the U.S. dollar decreases. The International Monetary Fund provides estimates for the real effective exchange rate, based on the consumer price index, which indicates from 2023 to 2024 the value of the U.S. dollar increased from 127.6 to 130.6.

Total Exports

After declining from 2014 through 2016, Kansas began to see growth in exports until the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when it saw declines of 10.9%. Since 2020 Kansas has experienced export growth of 38.9%. In 2024 Kansas export sales reached a new high of nearly \$14.5 billion; this represents a 2.7% increase in export sales over the year, or \$380.5 million.

Top 15 Kansas Exports by Industry Subsector in 2024

Industry Subsector	Exports (USD)	Percent of Total Exports
Transportation Equipment	\$3,436,145,924	23.8%
Processed Foods	\$3,303,530,771	22.8%
Computer & Electronic Products	\$1,597,962,361	11.1%
Agricultural Products	\$1,354,170,462	9.4%
Machinery, Except Electrical	\$1,203,235,172	8.3%
Chemicals	\$1,098,316,756	7.6%
Electrical Equipment, Appliances & Components	\$499,757,153	3.5%
Plastics & Rubber Products	\$377,139,758	2.6%
Fabricated Metal Products	\$363,752,190	2.5%
Primary Metal Manufactures	\$268,628,552	1.9%
Other Special Classification Provisions	\$192,231,827	1.3%
Petroleum & Coal Products	\$155,672,267	1.1%
Miscellaneous Manufactures	\$108,881,983	0.8%
Leather & Allied Products	\$105,980,910	0.7%
Waste And Scrap	\$74,887,826	0.5%

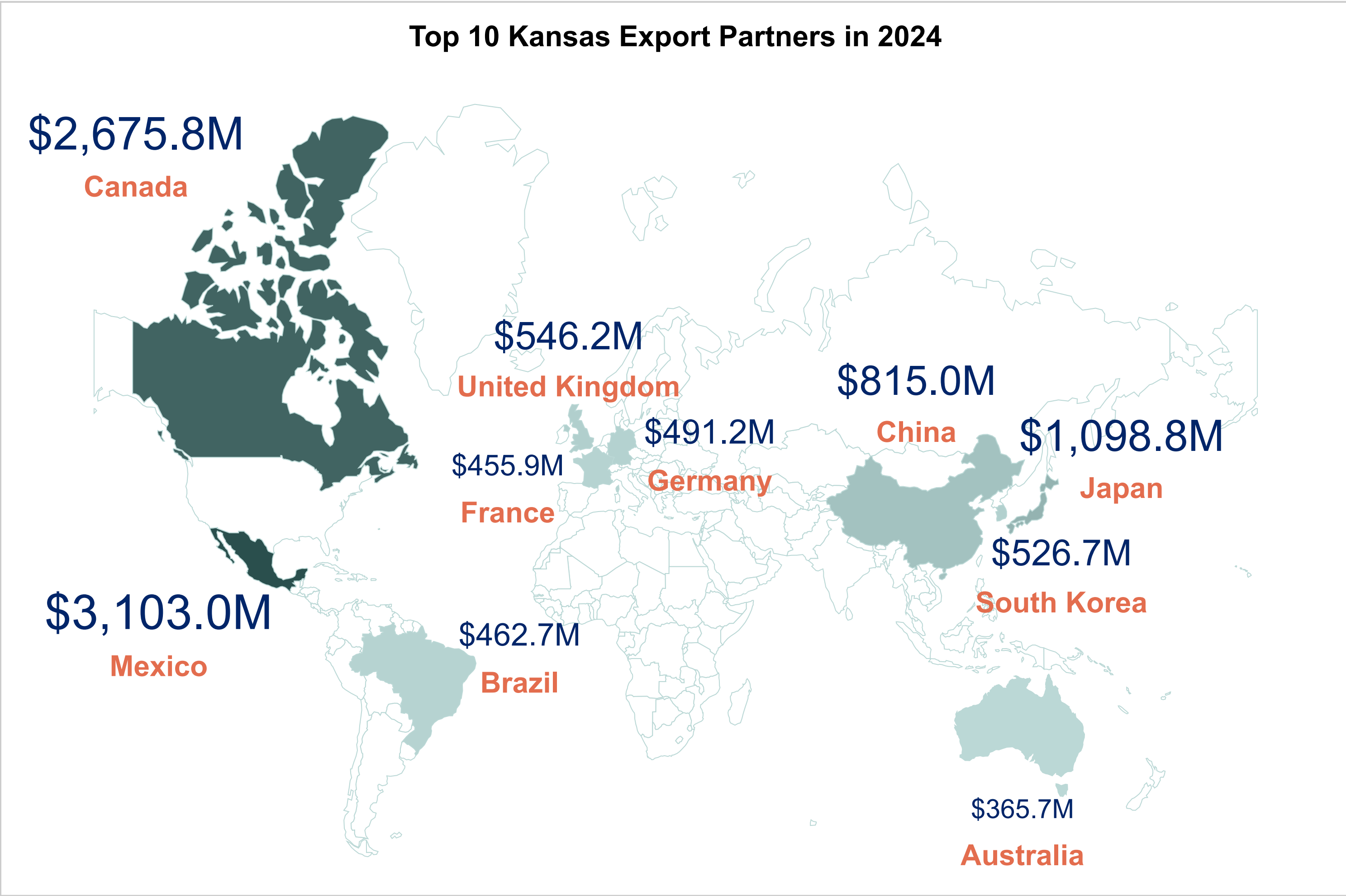
Exports by Industry

The top exporting industry subsector in Kansas during 2024 was transportation equipment, accounting for 23.8% of exports and totaling \$3.4 billion. The processed foods subsector accounted for \$3.3 billion in Kansas exports in 2024, or 22.8% of total Kansas exports. The following four industry subsectors recorded export sales of at least \$1.0 billion in 2024: computer and electronic products; agricultural products; machinery, except electrical; and chemicals. Collectively these top six exporting subsectors accounted for 83.0% of all Kansas exports in 2024.

Source: International Trade Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce), Exports by Industry <https://www.trade.gov/state-trade-data> and the International Monetary Fund, Real Effective Exchange Rates <https://data.imf.org/en/datasets/IMF.STA:EER>

Kansas Exports

Mexico remained the state’s largest trading partner in 2024, importing approximately \$3.1 billion in goods and services. Exports to Mexico increased over the year by \$275.6 million, or 9.7%. Agricultural products accounted for 31.7% of export sales to Mexico in 2024, followed by processed foods, which accounted for 27.5% of export sales to Mexico. Canada imported the second largest amount of Kansas products in 2024, totaling nearly \$2.7 billion. Export sales to Canada also increased from 2023 by \$6.3 million, or 0.2%. The industry subsectors with the highest export sales to Canada were transportation equipment; machinery, except electrical; and processed foods. These three industry subsectors accounted for 56.4% of Kansas’ export sales to Canada. Japan was the third largest importer of Kansas products in 2024, with \$1098.8 million in export sales; this was an increase of \$160.1 million, or 17.1%, over the year. The majority of Japan’s imports were processed foods, totaling \$720.2 million, and making up 65.6% of Kansas export sales to Japan.



Top 3 Kansas Export Partners and Top Exporting Industry

Mexico

Agricultural Products

\$982,157,242
Exports (USD)

31.7%
% of Mexico's Total Exports

72.5%
% of Total KS Agriculture Exports

Canada

Transportation Equipment

\$701,438,195
Exports (USD)

26.2%
% of Canada's Total Exports

20.4%
% of Total KS Transport. Equip. Exports

Japan

Processed Foods

\$720,234,203
Exports (USD)

65.6%
% of Japan's Total Exports

21.8%
% of Total KS Processed Food Exports

Source: International Trade Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce), Exports by Industry
<https://www.trade.gov/state-trade-data>

Sources

Bureau of Economic Analysis (U.S. Department of Commerce)

Home Page: <https://www.bea.gov/>

GDP & Personal Income (U.S. & Kansas): <https://www.bea.gov/itable/regional-gdp-personal-income>

Bureau of Labor Statistics (U.S. Department of Labor)

Home Page: <https://www.bls.gov/>

Consumer Price Index: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>

Current Employment Statistics (U.S. Nonfarm Jobs): <https://www.bls.gov/ces/>

Current Employment Statistics (State/MSA Nonfarm Jobs): <https://www.bls.gov/sae/>

Labor Force Statistics (U.S.): <https://www.bls.gov/cps/>

Local Area Unemployment Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/lau/>

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics: <https://www.bls.gov/oes/>

International Trade Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce)

Home Page: <https://www.trade.gov/>

Exports by Industry & Country: <https://www.trade.gov/state-trade-data>

International Monetary Fund

Home Page: <https://www.imf.org/en/Home>

Exchange Rate: <https://data.imf.org/en/datasets/IMF.STA:EER>

Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Division

Home Page: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx>

Kansas Wage Survey: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=841>

Long-Term Projections: <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=468>

U.S. Census Bureau

Home Page: <https://www.census.gov/>

Decennial Census of Population and Housing: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census.html>