

The background of the entire page is a faded, aerial photograph of the Kansas State Capitol building in Topeka, Kansas. The building's prominent dome and classical architectural details are visible. Surrounding the capitol are various modern and older city buildings, creating a dense urban skyline. The overall tone is light and professional.

2022 KANSAS ECONOMIC REPORT

Labor Market Information Services

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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 2021 Economic Report is current as of August 10, 2022. For more information on data found in this report, see Sources on page 133.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

The economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 continued throughout 2021 in Kansas. Economic indicators showed definite improvement throughout the year and that trend has continued into 2022, with some even exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

The Kansas unemployment rate fell to 3.2% in 2021, the second lowest annual unemployment rate since 1979. The 2021 rate is also significantly lower than the historical annual average of 4.6%. Monthly unemployment rate estimates for 2022 to this point are even lower, checking in at less than 3.0% for several months. In addition, the number of continued claims filed each week for unemployment insurance improved significantly, with claim totals now below pre-pandemic levels. Kansas employers also indicated continued hiring with a 1.1% increase in total nonfarm jobs over the year. Job gains were experienced in five of the 11 major sectors, led by leisure and hospitality which showed an 8.6% increase, or 9,500 jobs.

While there is improvement, there are challenges ahead, and Kansans have always been resilient in the face of adversity. Kansas' labor force grew to 1,495,665 people in 2021 and those hard-working individuals across the state remain the backbone of the Kansas economy.



Amber Shultz
Secretary of Labor



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges as labor markets in Kansas and around the world were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Effects of the pandemic persisted in 2021, but the economic recovery that began in 2020 with the easing of restrictions continued in 2021 as vaccines were made widely available. Economic indicators in Kansas have shown much improvement throughout 2021 and that trend has continued so far into 2022, with some reaching or exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

Kansas' labor force grew to 1,495,665 in 2021, while the labor force participation rate dropped slightly to 66.3% over the year. There is concern for future labor force growth, as the average annual population growth rate since 2010 is 0.2%, and the over the year change was even lower for 2021 at 0.0%. The population of prime age workers, 25-54 year-olds, has consistently declined in recent years but saw a small increase of 774 individuals, or 0.1%, in 2021. Most concerning though, is that the population groups under 25 continue to show declines, decreasing by 7,063 people, or 0.7%, in 2021.

In 2021 Kansas' unemployment rate was in line with pre-pandemic levels at 3.2%, which is the second lowest annual unemployment rate since 1979. This was a decrease of 2.5 percentage points over the year and just 0.1 percentage points above the pre-pandemic rate of 3.1% recorded in 2019.

Kansas saw a 1.1% increase in total nonfarm jobs over the year, growing by 14,700 jobs to 1,373,300. Job gains were experienced across five of the 11 major sectors in 2021: leisure and hospitality; trade, transportation, and utilities; manufacturing; professional and business services; and construction. Losses were recorded in five major sectors: financial activities, education and health services, government, other services, and mining and logging. Job estimates for the information sector showed no change over the year.

The number of continued claims filed each week for unemployment insurance improved significantly over the year. After the ending of the pandemic programs PEUC and PUA in September, claims totals dropped below pre-pandemic levels averaging roughly 5,700 claims filed per week for the remainder of 2021.

Real wages declined while nominal personal income grew over the year in Kansas. Real average weekly wages, which have been adjusted for inflation, decreased from \$1,040 in 2020 to \$1,027 in 2021. This represents a decline of 1.3% in real average weekly wages for Kansas. In contrast, the U.S. recorded growth of 0.9% in real average weekly wages over the year. Nominal per capita personal income, which has not been adjusted for inflation, grew by 6.6% in Kansas.

Real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3.8% in 2021 after experiencing a drop in 2020 due to the pandemic. Kansas recorded smaller gains than the Plains Region and the U.S. which experienced growth of 5.0% and 5.7% respectively. After experiencing declines in 2020, Kansas export sales increased by 20.5% in 2021. Processed foods remained the top exporting industry, accounting for 23.7% of Kansas exports, and recording nearly \$3.0 billion in sales. Civilian aircraft, engines and parts continues to be the top export product category with sales of \$2.1 billion and accounting for 16.4% of sales. Mexico and Canada continue to be Kansas' top trading partners with each accounting for more than \$2.0 billion in exports.

**Table 1
Kansas Overview
2021**

	2021 Value	Change From 2020	Percent Change From 2020
Population	2,934,582	-1,298	0.0%
Labor Force	1,495,665	1,959	0.1%
Unemployment Rate	3.2	-2.5	NA
Nonfarm Jobs	1,373,300	14,700	1.1%
Continued Claims*	648,258	-1,586,124	-71.0%
Real Average Weekly Wage	\$1,027	-\$13	-1.3%
Per Capita Personal Income	\$59,324	\$3,647	6.6%
Real Gross Domestic Product	\$162,734,000,000	\$5,963,900,000	3.8%
Export Sales	\$12,540,570,549	\$2,135,254,654	20.5%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, International Trade Administration, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Claim counts include PEUC, EB, and PUA*

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

POPULATION

The 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates will become the official estimates for the 2010-2020 decade and are currently scheduled to be released in 2023. They are produced by modifying the Vintage 2020 estimates to account for differences between the postcensal estimates and the results of the 2020 Census. The result is a consistent time series from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census. Due to the delay in finalizing the 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020.

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.

Table 2 shows a historical perspective of the Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S. populations since 2010. The Plains Region is the region containing Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota as defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. This also corresponds to the U.S. Census Bureau's West North Central census division. The Kansas population was estimated at 2,934,582 in 2021. This represents a loss of 1,298 people. According to Census Bureau estimates, there were approximately 33,670 people born in Kansas during 2021, while there were approximately 31,407 deaths and net migration in and out of Kansas showed a population loss of approximately 3,886 people. Since 2010, the Kansas population has grown by 2.7%. Average annual growth over this time period was just 0.2%, and the over the year change was even lower for 2021 at 0.0%.

The U.S. population is also growing at historically low levels, recording 0.1% growth to 331.9 million in 2021. The Plains Region population also grew by 0.1% in 2021 to 21.6 million.

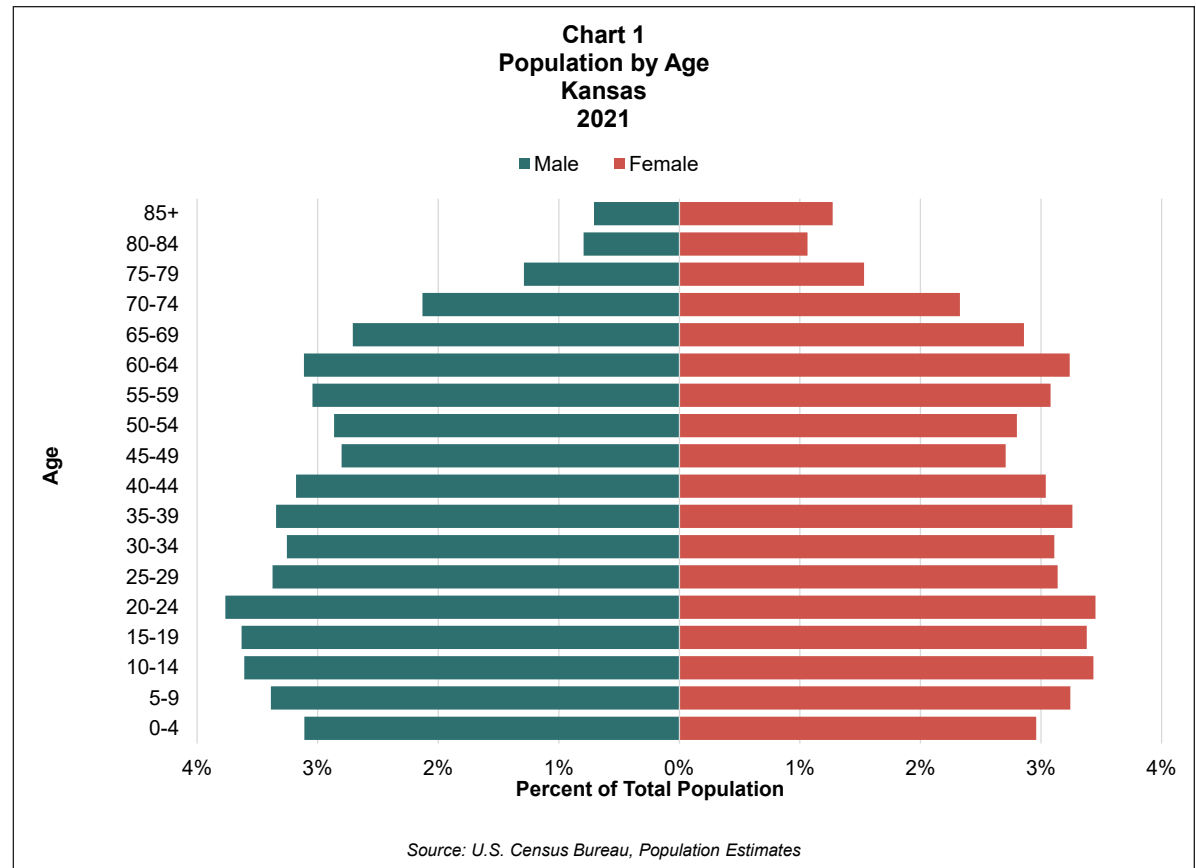
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Kansas	2,858,190	2,869,225	2,885,257	2,893,212	2,900,475	2,909,011
Plains Region	20,536,160	20,641,455	20,750,502	20,870,034	20,982,957	21,083,066
U.S.	309,321,666	311,556,874	313,830,990	315,993,715	318,301,008	320,635,163
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kansas	2,910,844	2,908,718	2,911,359	2,913,314	2,935,880	2,934,582
Plains Region	21,175,140	21,266,925	21,350,241	21,426,573	21,613,711	21,637,254
U.S.	322,941,311	324,985,539	326,687,501	328,239,523	331,501,080	331,893,745

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

Chart 1 displays the Kansas population by age group and gender in what is called a population pyramid. It is known as a pyramid because population by age group generally decreases with age, creating a pyramid shape. However, the pyramid for Kansas shows that there are two major peaks in the population, one centering on the 20-24 year-old age group primarily representing younger members of the millennial generation and the 60-64 year-old age group representing the younger members of the baby boomer generation. The 20-24 year-old age group has the largest population in Kansas making up 7.2% of the total population. The median age for Kansas was 37.4 years old in 2021.

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 for Kansas in 2021 was 2,313,640, an increase of 6,884, or 0.3%. The 25-54 year-old population was 1,082,006 in 2021, an increase of 774, or 0.1%.

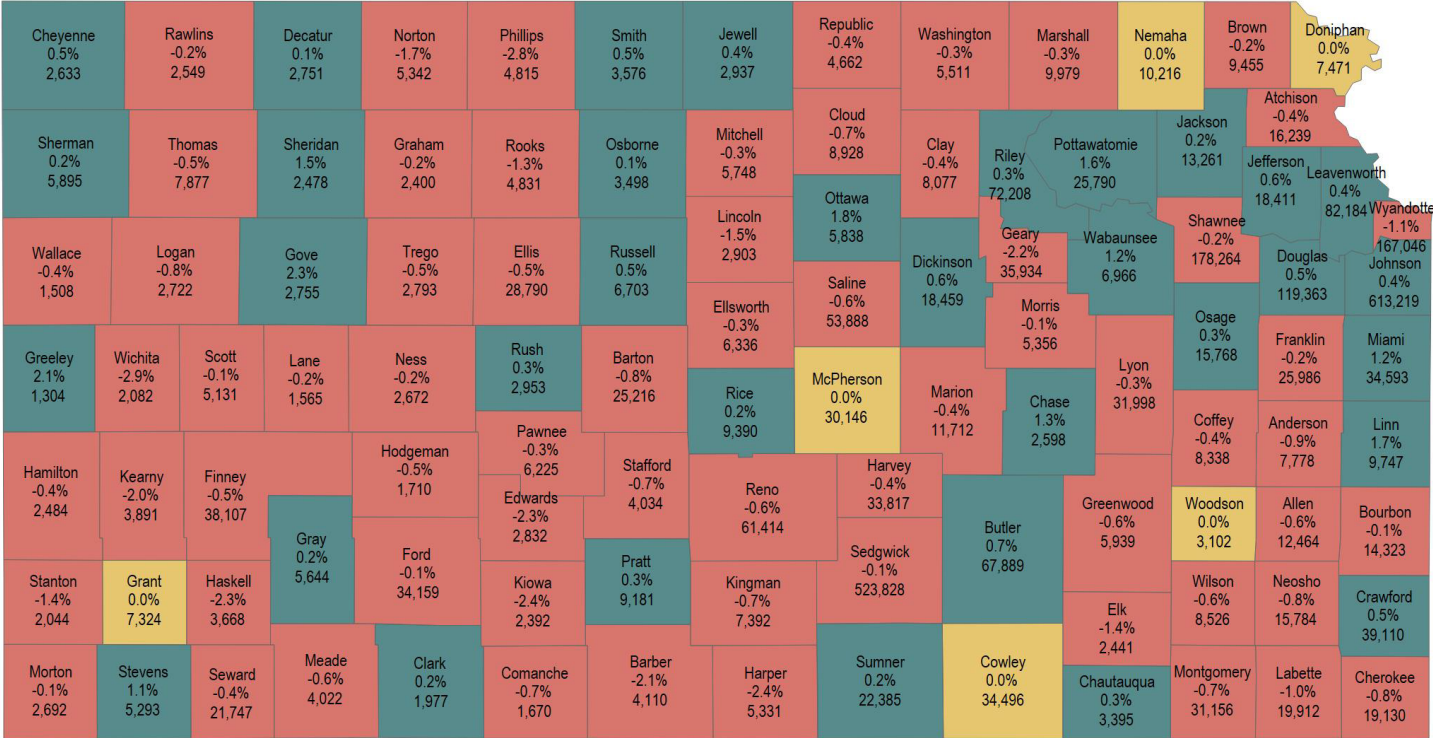
Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy as the population under 25 decreased by 7,063, or 0.7%. All declines in the population under 25 can be attributed to the 14 and under population. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, grew by 0.6%, or 1,227 people from 2020 to 2021.



Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

Map 1 shows that 65 counties experienced population declines from 2020 to 2021, while 34 saw population growth and six remained unchanged. Johnson County gained the most people over the year by far, increasing by 2,683 people, or 0.4%. This was followed by Douglas County and Butler County, which gained 549 and 488 people respectively. Wyandotte County experienced the largest loss, decreasing by 1,827 people, or 1.1% over the year, while Geary County lost 813 people, or 2.2%.

Map 1 - Population



Statewide
 Population (Percent Change) 0.0%
 Population (2021 Count) 2,934,582

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates

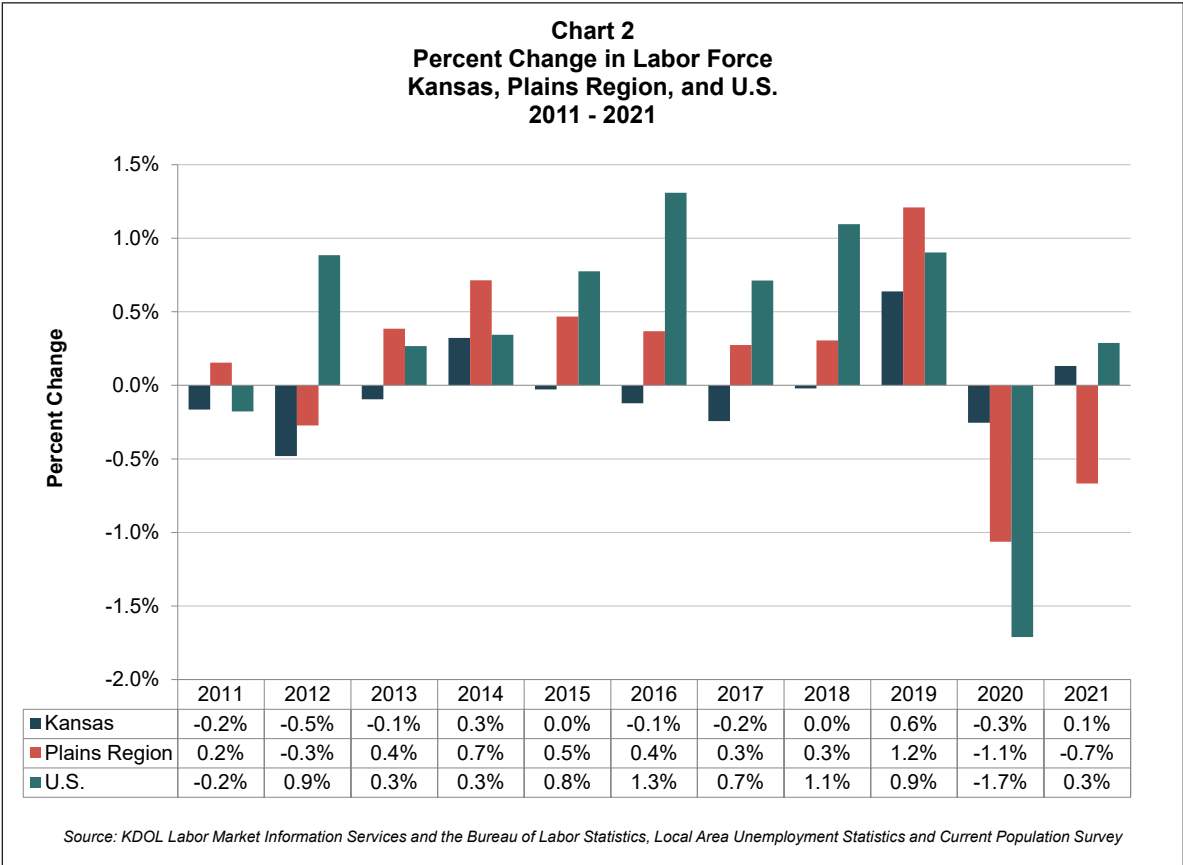
© 2022 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Color key:	Data key:	Example:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the year change Increase No Change Decrease 	County OTY percent change 2021 Population	Cherokee -0.8% 19,130

LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

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.

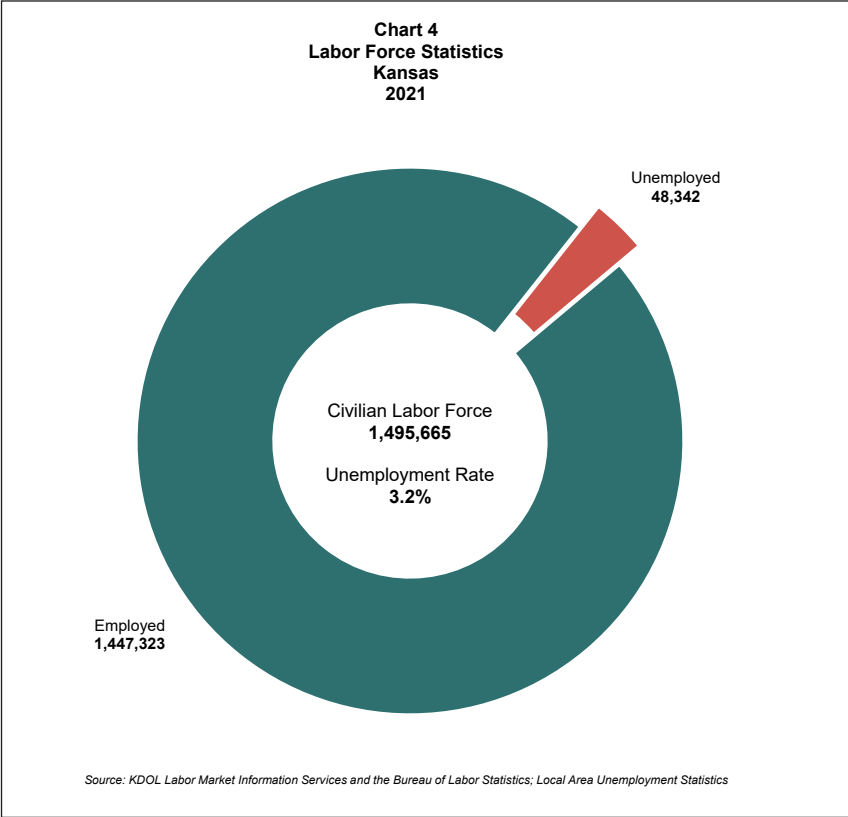
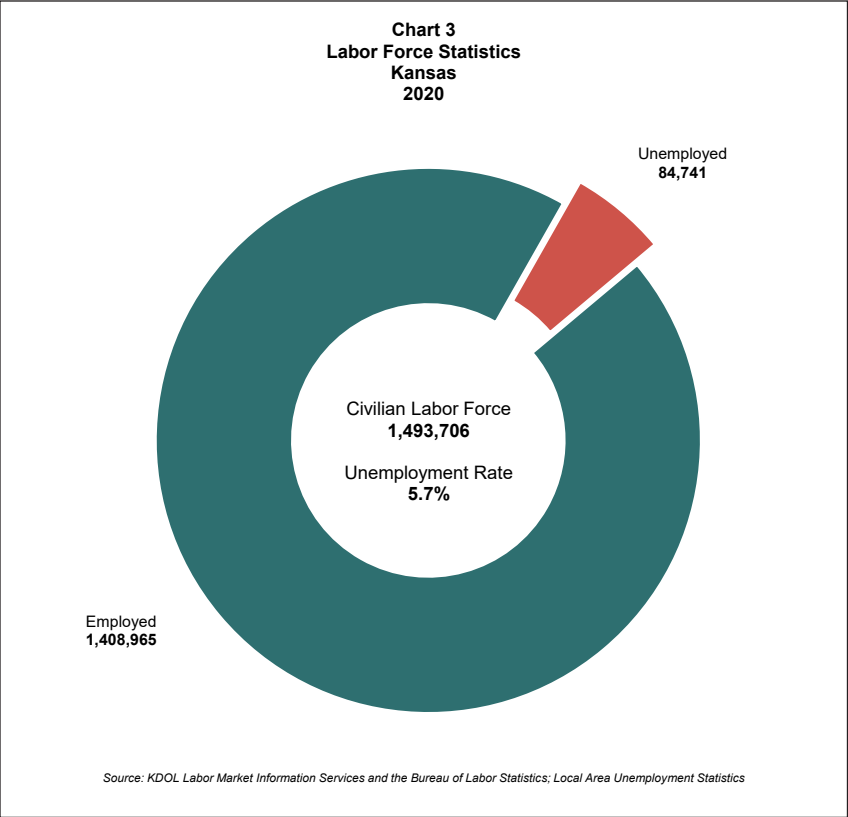
Chart 2 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. Following an eight-year expansion, the U.S. labor force declined by 1.7% in 2020, with most of those losses being attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. labor force increased 0.3% in 2021 to 161.2 million people. While this is a slight increase from 2020, it is still 2.3 million lower than the pre-pandemic high of 163.5 million people. The Plains Region labor force declined for the second year in a row, decreasing by 75,037 people, or 0.7%, to 11.2 million in 2021. Relative to the U.S. and Plains Region overall, labor force estimates in Kansas suffered fewer effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and estimates have nearly returned to the pre-pandemic highs of 2019.



Where to find it (U.S.): Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey www.bls.gov/cps/

Where to find it (Kansas): Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment (LAU) Statistics www.bls.gov/lau/

The improvement from 2020 to 2021 is clear when comparing *Chart 3* and *Chart 4*, as the unemployment rate dropped from 5.7% in 2020 to 3.2% in 2021. As indicated in *Chart 4*, there were 1,495,665 people in the Kansas labor force in 2021, a 0.1% increase from 2020. The number of people working increased by 38,358 to 1,447,323 in 2021; while this was a 2.7% increase from 2020, estimates have not quite returned to the pre-pandemic high of 1,450,705 experienced in 2019. The number of unemployed people in Kansas decreased by 36,399, or 43.0%, to 48,342 in 2021. Much of this decrease can be attributed to people returning to work as pandemic restrictions eased and vaccines became widely available; however, estimates are still slightly higher than the pre-pandemic low of 46,812 unemployed people.

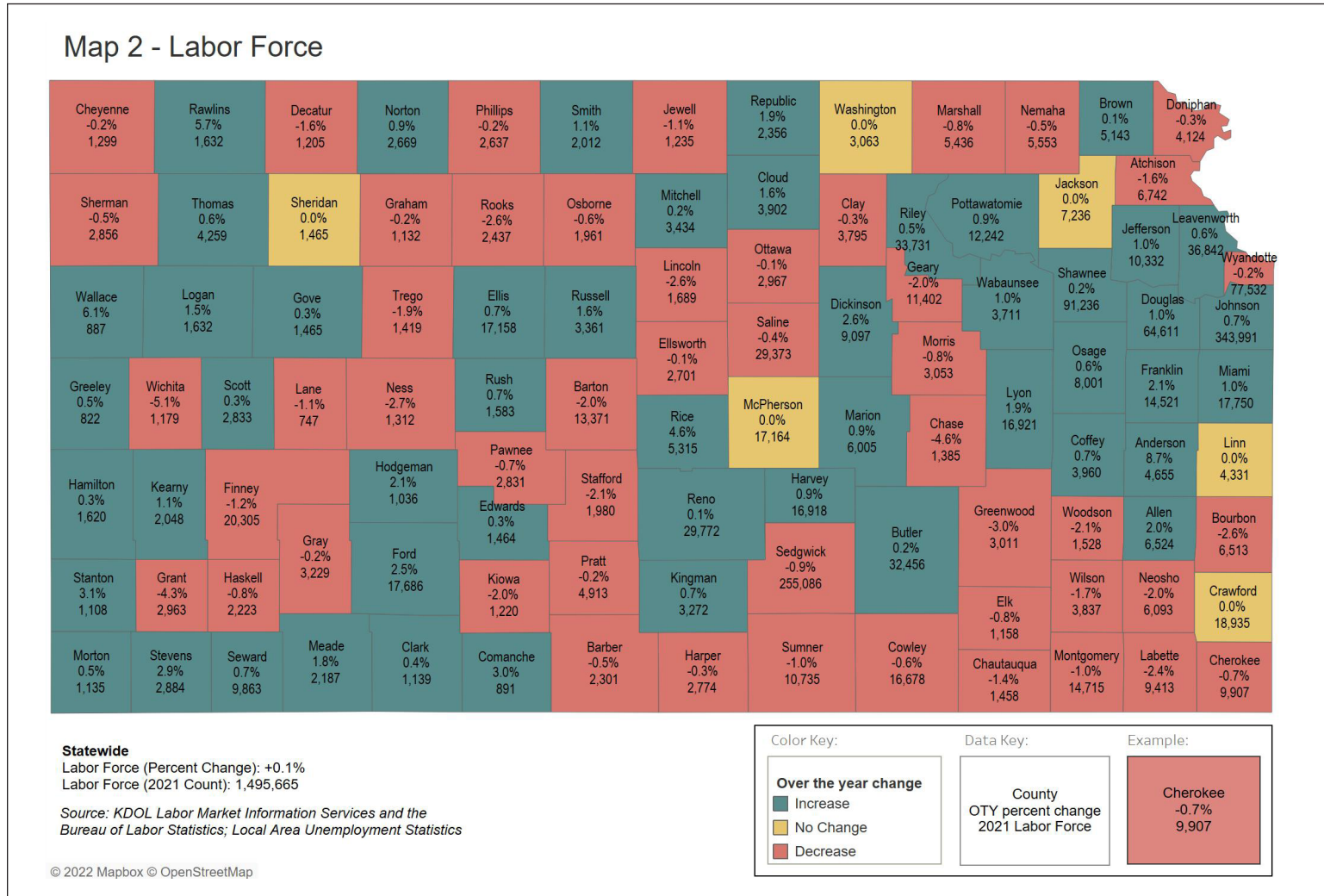


View our Tableau visualizations here: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/kdol#!/>

Map 2 shows the over the year percent change and civilian labor force estimates for each county in Kansas. Six counties saw no change in their labor force from 2020 to 2021, while 49 counties saw a decrease and 50 counties saw an increase in their labor force.

Wichita County saw the largest percent decrease in labor force, declining 5.1%, or 64 people, to 1,179; while Sedgwick County saw the largest numeric decline, with its labor force decreasing by 2,398 people, or 0.9% to 255,086.

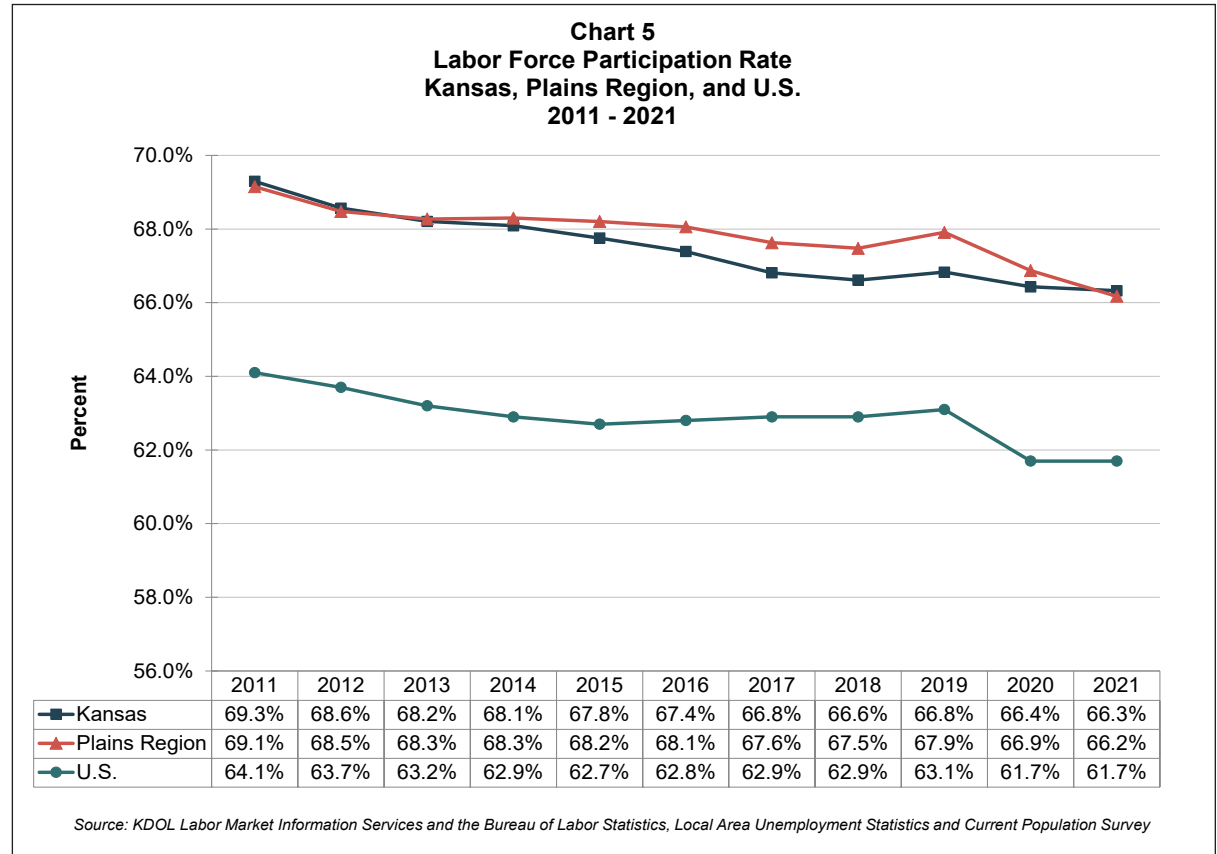
Anderson County had the largest percent increase in labor force, growing 8.7%, or 372 people, to 4,655; while Johnson County had the highest numeric increase, growing its labor force by 2,468 people, or 0.7%, to 343,991.



Labor Force Participation Rate

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of all individuals 16 years old or older, non-institutionalized and civilian, who participate in the labor force.

As shown in *Chart 5*, Kansas has seen a steady decline in its labor force participation rate since 2011, experiencing only one small increase in 2019. Kansas saw its second lowest participation rate on record in 2021, 66.3%, which is a tie with the year 1977. The only year in which Kansas saw a lower participation rate was 1976, when records began. At that time, the labor force participation rate was 65.3%. Despite this being one of the lowest rates on record, Kansas is in line with the Plains Region and remains well above the national rate. Kansas' labor force suffered fewer effects of the pandemic compared to the U.S. and Plains Region. The U.S. remained steady in 2021 at 61.7% after an initial decline of 1.4 percentage points in 2020. The Plains Region saw a decline of 1.0 percentage point in 2020 followed by another decline of 0.7 percentage points in 2021.



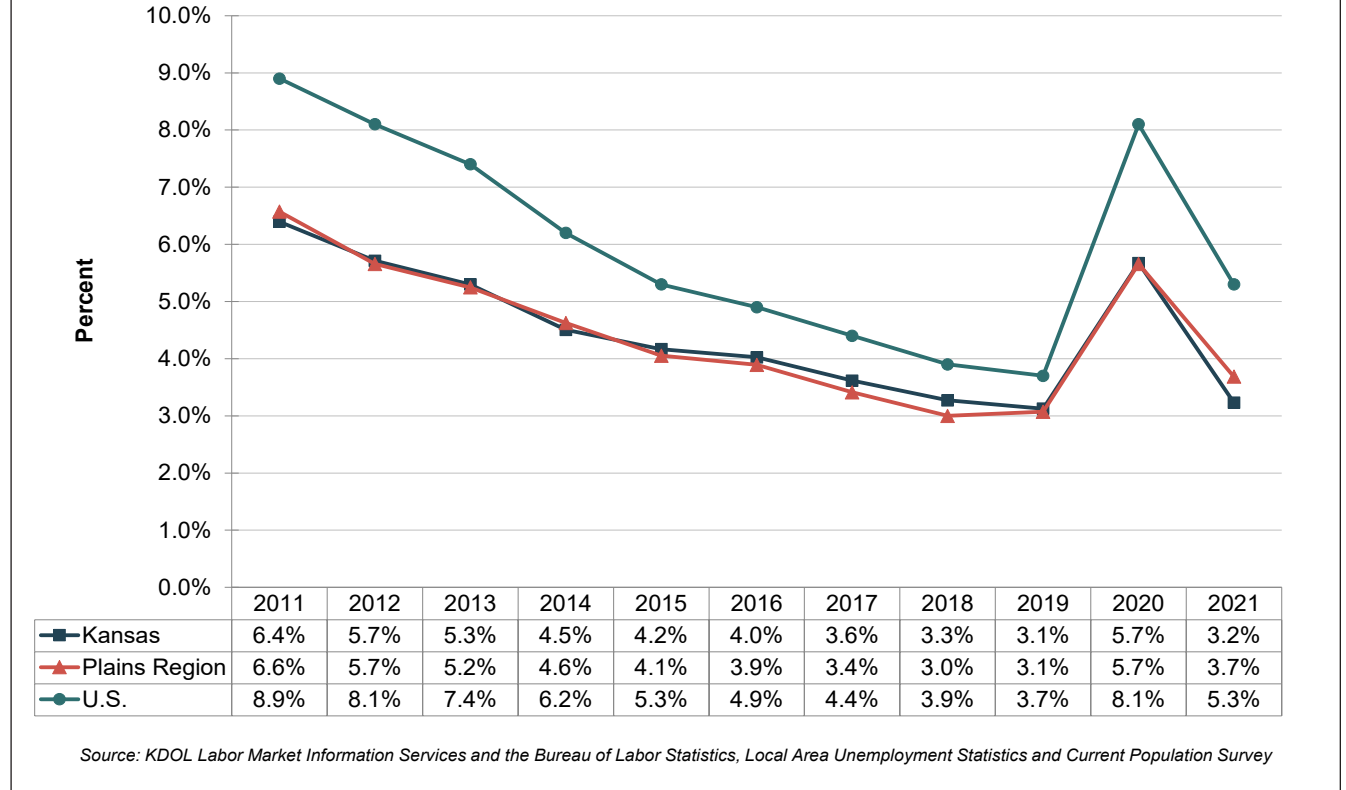
Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate is a frequently cited economic statistic because it shows how many people want a job and cannot find one. The unemployment rate shows the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed and currently looking for a job. Typically, if the rate is high, there are many people who want a job but are having difficulty finding one due to a lack of demand for employees.

Unemployment rates spiked across the nation in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. has seen significant recovery compared to 2020; however, it has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, remaining 1.6 percentage points higher than the low rate of 3.7% recorded in 2019. The Plains Region saw a decrease of 2.0 percentage points over the year, dropping from 5.7% in 2020 to 3.7% in 2021. Kansas experienced strong recovery from 2020 to 2021, decreasing 2.5 percentage points over the year to 3.2%.

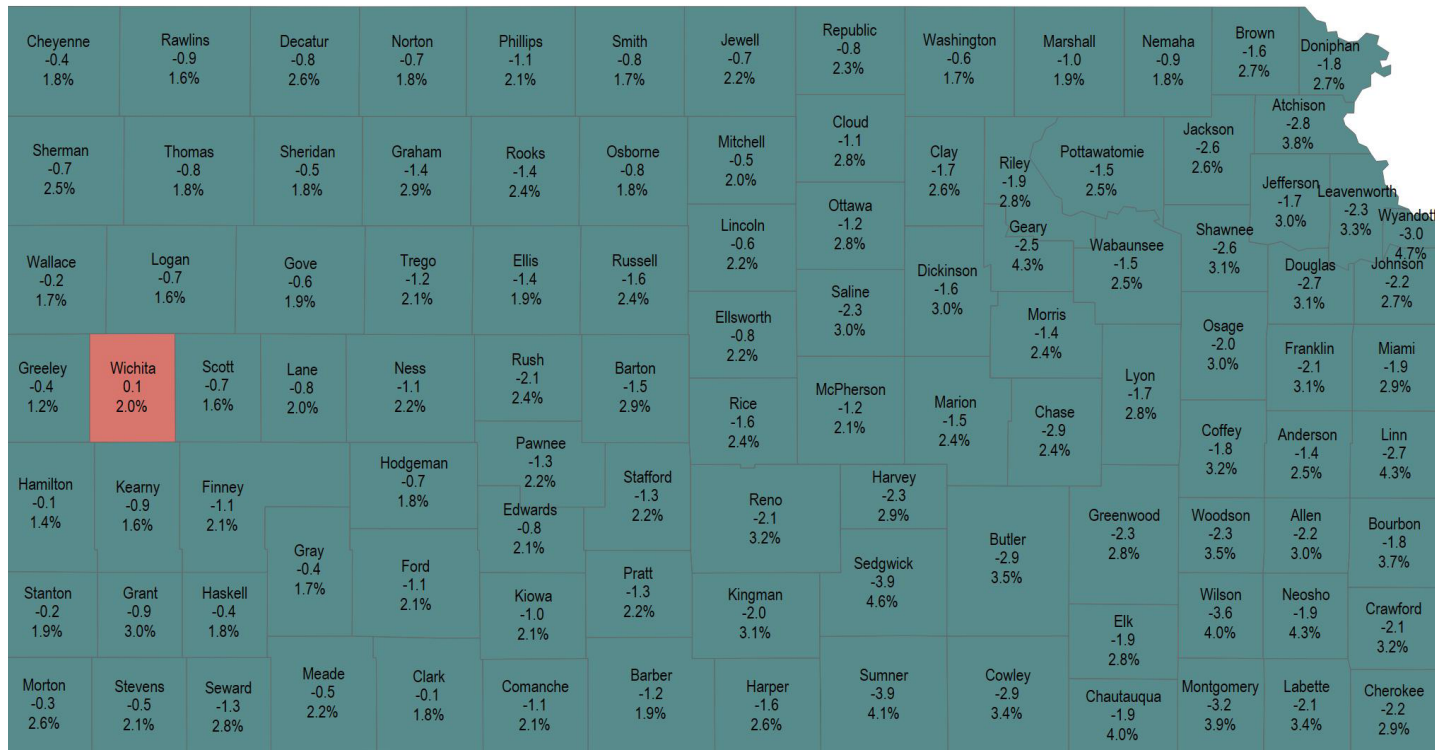
Of all 50 states in the U.S., Kansas recorded the fourth lowest unemployment rate in 2021, with only South Dakota, Utah, and Nebraska recording lower rates. This is Kansas' second lowest unemployment rate on record, with records beginning in 1976. The only years in which Kansas had a lower rate were 1978, 1979, and 2019, all tying with a rate of 3.1%, just 0.1 percentage points lower than the rate of 3.2% recorded in 2021. Kansas' historical average annual unemployment rate is 4.6%.

Chart 6
Annual Unemployment Rates
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2011 - 2021



Map 3 shows the change in unemployment rate and the unemployment rate for each county in Kansas. Wichita County was the only county in Kansas to see an increase in its unemployment rate over the year. Wichita County had one of the lowest unemployment rates in Kansas during 2020, recording a rate of 1.9%; even with the increase of 0.1 percentage points in 2021, Wichita County still maintains one of the lowest unemployment rates in Kansas at 2.0%. Eighty-six counties in Kansas recorded an unemployment rate lower than the statewide rate of 3.2% in 2021. Chautauqua, Wilson, Sumner, Geary, Linn, Neosho, Sedgwick, and Wyandotte counties all recorded unemployment rates of 4.0% or higher in 2021, with Wyandotte recording the highest rate of 4.7%. Sedgwick and Sumner counties had the largest decrease in their unemployment rates, both decreasing by 3.9 percentage points over the year to 4.6% and 4.1%, respectively.

Map 3 - Unemployment Rate



Statewide
 Unemployment Rate (Percentage Point Change): -2.5
 Unemployment Rate (2021 Rate): 3.2%
 Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Local Area Unemployment Statistics

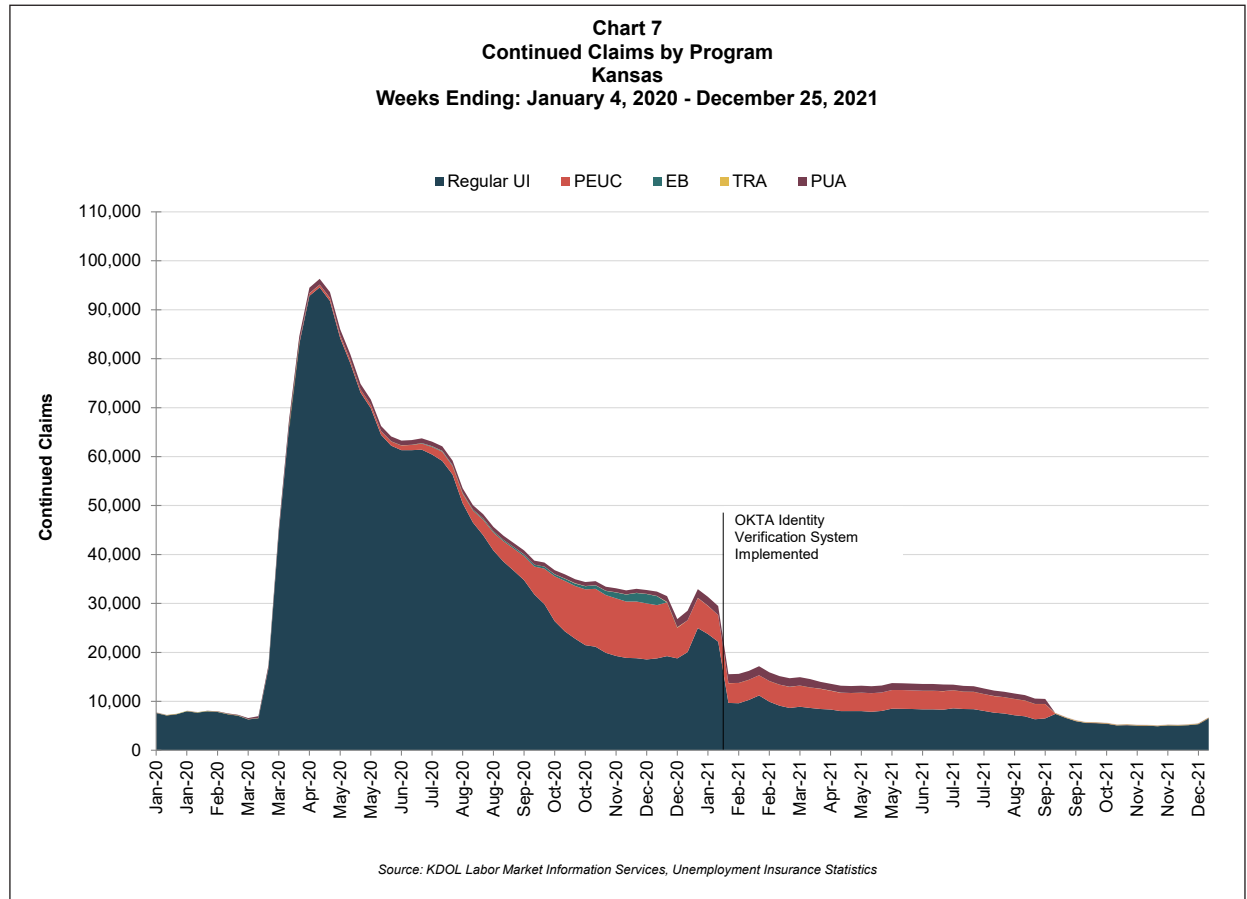
2022 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Color Key:	Data Key:	Example:
<p>Over the year change</p> <p>■ Increase</p> <p>■ Decrease</p>	<p>County</p> <p>OTY rate change</p> <p>2021 Unemployment Rate</p>	<p>Cherokee</p> <p>-2.2</p> <p>2.9%</p>

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS

The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Kansans with the KDOL. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts also exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment, therefore continued claims do not equal claims paid.

In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labor market, the United States Congress authorized new federal unemployment programs through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. These programs were extended through the Continued Assistance to Unemployed Workers Act (Continued Assistance Act) of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. These new programs provided extended benefits through the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. The charts included in this section of the report provide data for all unemployment programs available to claimants throughout 2020 and 2021, with the exception of the industry chart which excludes PUA data.



As shown in *Chart 7*, the number of individuals filing for benefits began to rise sharply during the week ending March 21, 2020, coming to a peak during the week ending April 25, 2020, with a total of 96,325 claims. The number of Kansans filing for benefits continued to trend downward throughout 2020; however, there was a slight increase in claims again in January 2021, followed by a sharp decline which can be attributed to the implementation of the OKTA identity verification system. The number of Kansans filing for benefits continued to decline slowly throughout 2021 and dropped below pre-pandemic levels in September when the federal PEUC and PUA programs ended.

Where to find it: Claims data comes from administrative UI tax data. Contact us for a customized report at KDOL.Laborstats@ks.gov

Chart 8 shows the percentage of claims filed by male and female claimants during 2021. Males typically account for a larger portion of continued claims in Kansas as two of the main industries in which workers are filing, construction and manufacturing, are generally male dominated. In 2020, nearly all industries were affected by the pandemic and that was reflected in the distribution of claims by gender, with females filing 49.0% of claims while males filed 51.0%. In 2021 the distribution of claims by gender returned to typical patterns with 45.3% of claims filed attributed to females and 54.7% attributed to males.

As shown in *Chart 9*, the majority of claimants filing continued claims are white, which can be attributed to the fact that 83.0% of the population in Kansas is white, according to the Census' 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Even though white is the largest category, these claimants only accounted for 70.9% of claims in 2021. Black individuals make up 5.7% of the Kansas population, but accounted for a higher proportion of claims, 12.5%. In 2021, 5.3% of claims came from American Indian or Alaskan Natives, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders who collectively make up 3.8% of the Kansas population.

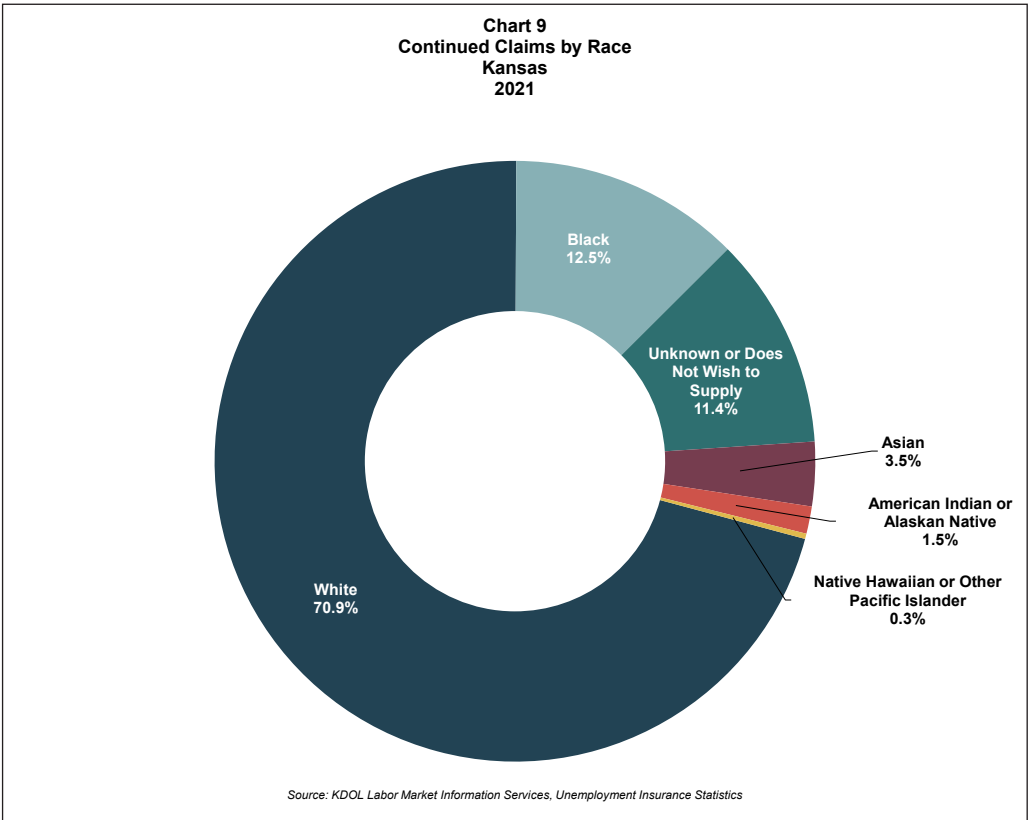
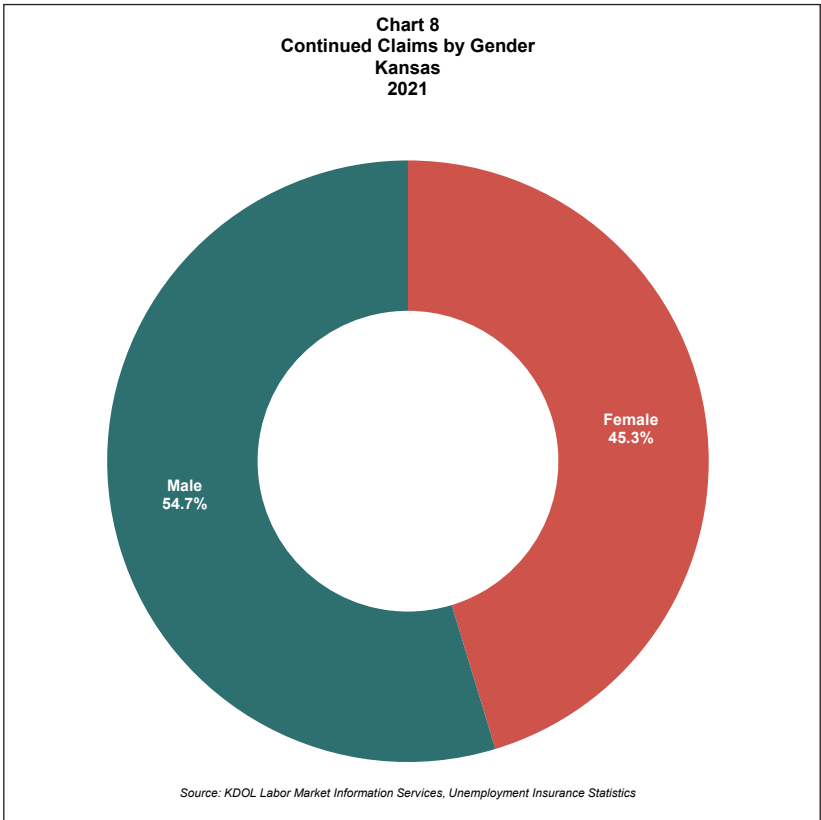


Chart 10 shows the percentage of claims filed by age group in 2021. The age groups of 16-24 and 25-34 saw the most improvement in percentage of claims filed over the year. In 2020, the 16-24 year-old age group accounted for 13.5% of total claims, but in 2021 this age group accounted for just 5.7% of total claims. The 25-34 year-old age group accounted for 23.3% of total claims in 2020, but decreased to 20.1% in 2021. These age groups likely saw higher percentages of claims during 2020 due to the fact that harder hit industries, such as accommodation and food services, typically have a younger workforce.

As shown in Chart 11, claimants with a high school diploma or GED had the largest share of claims in 2021, accounting for 42.1%. This was followed by claimants who completed some college or associate degree with 27.2% of claims. Claimants with a bachelor's degree or higher accounted for 16.9% of claims, while claimants with less than a high school education accounted for 11.3% of claimants in 2021. Individuals with a high school diploma or less than high school account for a higher proportion of overall claims than their percentage of the population, while individuals with some college or a postsecondary degree represent a smaller share of claimants than their percentage of the Kansas population.

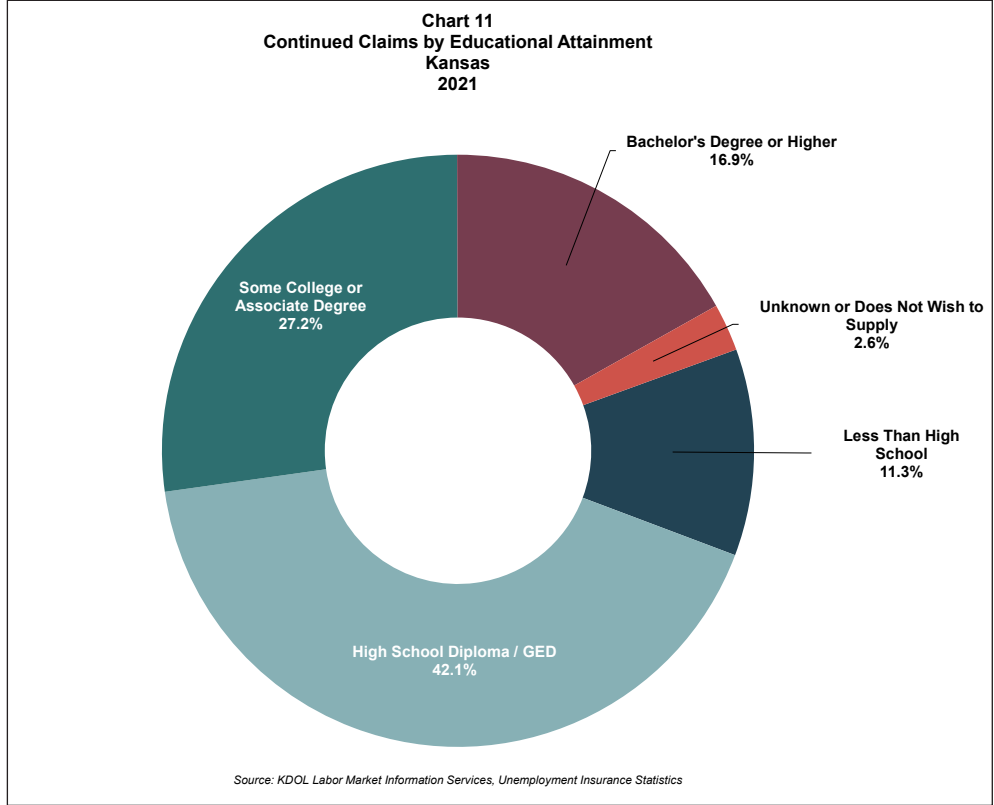
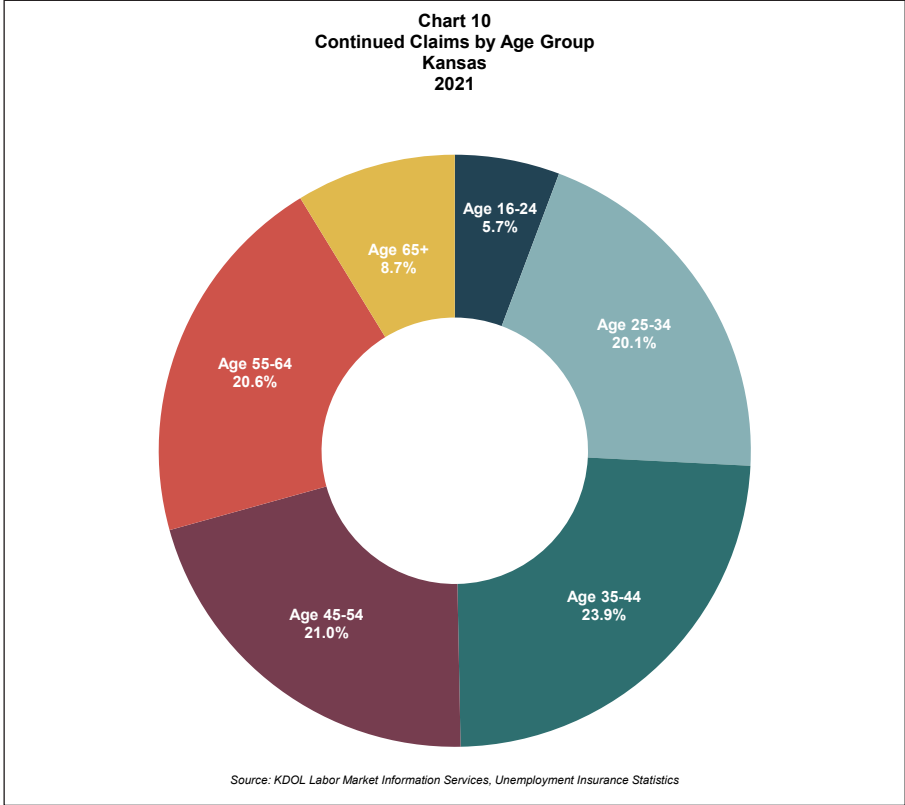
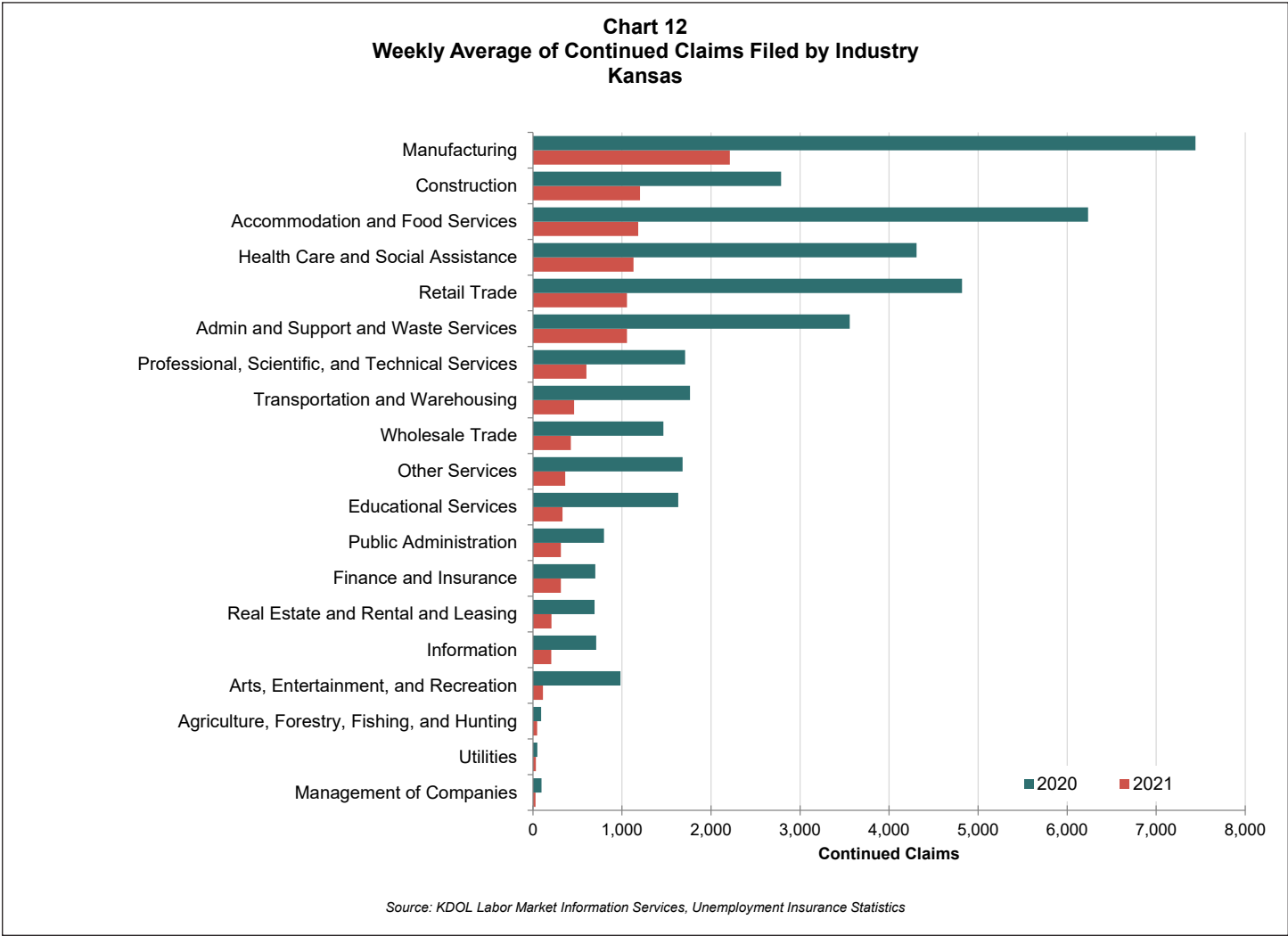


Chart 12 displays the average number of continued claims filed each week by industry. Manufacturing had the highest weekly average with 2,211 continued claims filed per week during 2021, a decrease of 70.3% from 2020. Construction had the second highest average with 1,202 claims filed per week, decreasing 56.9% over the year. Although accommodation and food services had one of the highest weekly claims averages in 2021, this industry saw some of the largest improvements from 2020. Over the year, average weekly claims in the accommodation and food service industry declined by 5,052 to 1,183, a decrease of 81.0%. Health care and social assistance and retail trade also saw significant improvement over the year. Health care and social assistance dropped from 4,309 average weekly claims to 1,129 in 2021, a decrease of 73.8%. The retail trade industry experienced a decline of 78.1%, decreasing from 4,818 to 1,057 in 2021.



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.

Table 3 displays annual nonfarm job totals, while Chart 13 shows the annual percent change in nonfarm jobs for Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. In 2021, Kansas recorded 1,373,300 total nonfarm jobs, of which 1,122,700 were private sector jobs. Total nonfarm jobs increased by 14,700 jobs, or 1.1%, over the year. This was due to an increase of 15,400 private sector jobs and a decrease of 700 government sector jobs. Nationally, nonfarm jobs increased by 3.9 million, or 2.8%, to 146.1 million. In the Plains Region nonfarm jobs increased by 200,600, or 2.0%. Apart from 2020, the Plains Region and U.S. have experienced positive job growth from 2011 through 2021. Kansas saw positive job growth each year except for a slight decline in 2017 and declines due to the pandemic in 2020. Preliminary estimates for June 2022 indicate there are 1,405,700 jobs in Kansas, which indicates continued recovery for the state even though estimates have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels.

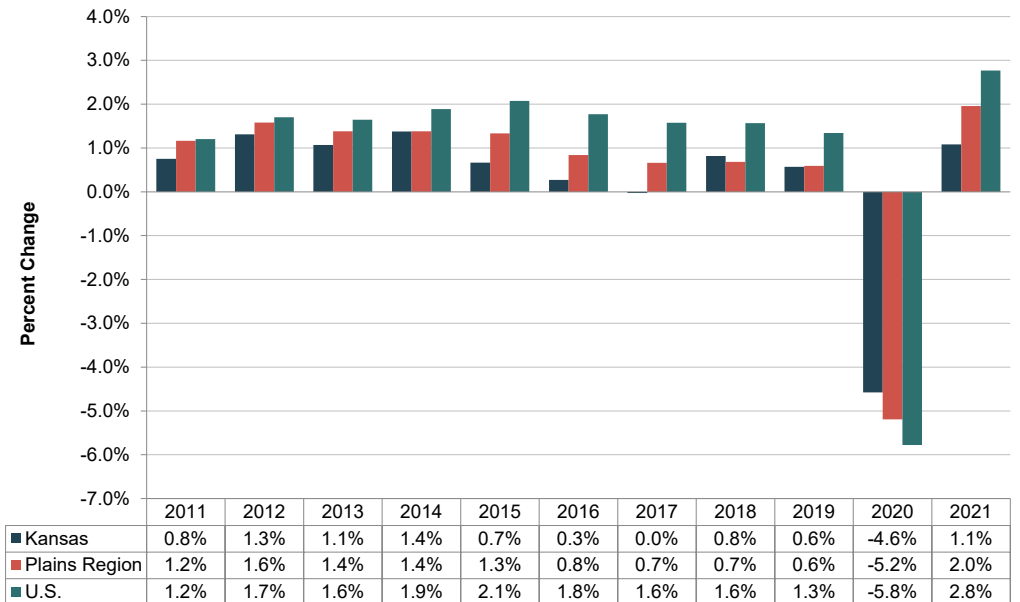
Table 3
Nonfarm Jobs
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2010 - 2021

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Kansas	1,330.5	1,340.5	1,358.1	1,372.6	1,391.5	1,400.8
Plains Region	9,830.8	9,945.2	10,102.4	10,242.0	10,383.4	10,521.7
U.S.	130,345.0	131,914.0	134,157.0	136,364.0	138,940.0	141,825.0
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kansas	1,404.6	1,404.2	1,415.7	1,423.8	1,358.6	1,373.3
Plains Region	10,609.9	10,680.2	10,753.4	10,817.3	10,255.8	10,456.4
U.S.	144,336.0	146,608.0	148,908.0	150,905.0	142,186.0	146,124.0
2022						
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Kansas	1,368.5	1,382.2	1,387.4	1,398.6	1,402.2	1,405.7
Plains Region	10,410.6	10,499.2	10,544.8	10,647.9	10,747.7	10,827.8
U.S.	147,505.0	149,143.0	149,905.0	150,957.0	151,748.0	152,692.0

Note: Data in thousands and not seasonally adjusted

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Chart 13
Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2011 - 2021



Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Job growth was experienced in five of the 11 major industries in Kansas during 2021, as seen in *Table 4*. Leisure and hospitality recorded the largest increase over the year, with a gain of 9,500 jobs, or 8.6%; most of these gains were recorded in accommodation and food services which increased by 7,700 jobs, or 7.9%. Trade, transportation, and utilities recorded the second largest job gain over the year, with an increase of 4,800 jobs, or 1.8%. These gains were split between the retail trade and transportation, warehousing, and utilities sectors. The wholesale trade sector, however, saw a small decline of 200 jobs, or 0.4%. Manufacturing and professional and business services also saw gains of 1,200 and 1,100 jobs respectively, while construction increased by 800 jobs, or 1.3% over the year.

Job declines were recorded in five of the 11 major industries in 2021. Financial activities saw the largest decline over the year, decreasing by 900 jobs, or 1.2%; most of these losses were experienced in the finance and insurance sector. Education and health services lost a total of 800 jobs or 0.4%. All losses in this industry can be attributed to the health care and social assistance sector. Government sector jobs also declined by 700 from 2020 to 2021, with losses at the federal and state level totaling 2,200 jobs. However, some of these losses were offset by a gain of 1,500 jobs at the local level. Smaller losses were reported in other services as well as mining and logging, which declined by 400 and 100 jobs, respectively.

	2020	2021	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	1,358,600	1,373,300	14,700	1.1%
Total Private Sector	1,107,300	1,122,700	15,400	1.4%
Mining and Logging	5,900	5,800	-100	-1.7%
Construction	63,300	64,100	800	1.3%
Manufacturing	159,200	160,400	1,200	0.8%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	92,200	91,600	-600	-0.7%
Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	67,000	68,800	1,800	2.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	260,100	264,900	4,800	1.8%
Wholesale Trade	55,800	55,600	-200	-0.4%
Retail Trade	136,600	139,400	2,800	2.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	67,700	69,900	2,200	3.2%
Information	16,800	16,800	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	76,700	75,800	-900	-1.2%
Finance and Insurance	61,500	60,700	-800	-1.3%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	15,200	15,100	-100	-0.7%
Professional and Business Services	168,600	169,700	1,100	0.7%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	73,000	72,200	-800	-1.1%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	22,700	21,100	-1,600	-7.0%
Administrative and Waste Services	72,900	76,400	3,500	4.8%
Education and Health Services	198,400	197,600	-800	-0.4%
Private Educational Services	17,400	17,600	200	1.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	181,000	180,000	-1,000	-0.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	110,600	120,100	9,500	8.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	13,200	15,000	1,800	13.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	97,500	105,200	7,700	7.9%
Other Services	47,700	47,300	-400	-0.8%
Government	251,300	250,600	-700	-0.3%
Federal Government	26,200	25,700	-500	-1.9%
State Government	50,700	49,000	-1,700	-3.4%
State Government Educational Services	25,400	23,900	-1,500	-5.9%
State Government Excluding Education	25,300	25,100	-200	-0.8%
Local Government	174,400	175,900	1,500	0.9%
Local Government Educational Services	102,600	103,000	400	0.4%
Local Government Excluding Education	71,800	72,900	1,100	1.5%

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding. Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

Where to find it (U.S.): Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES) www.bls.gov/ces/

Where to find it (Kansas): Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES) www.bls.gov/sae/

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Every summer, the KDOL's Labor Market Information Services division releases the results from the Kansas Wage Survey conducted by the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. OEWS data is current as of May of the previous year and contains employment and wage data for hundreds of occupations in Kansas. Data is also available for Kansas' metropolitan areas, local workforce areas, and counties. This is one of KDOL's most used data sets. Employers use this data as a guide to set their wages and salaries while workers use this data to learn the average wages for their occupations and to explore the earnings potential of other occupations.

Table 5 displays the employment, median annual wage, and employment location quotient for each occupational group in Kansas while Tables 6 and 7 show the top 20 detailed occupations by employment and median annual wage.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the state has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the state has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the U.S.

In Kansas, the occupational groups with the highest employment concentrations relative to the U.S. were production occupations; educational instruction and library occupations; and installation, maintenance, and repair occupations. Each of these occupational groups recorded a location quotient of 1.10 or higher. The production occupations group had the highest location quotient in Kansas, with an employment concentration 1.30 times higher than that of the U.S. The occupational groups in Kansas with the lowest employment concentration relative to the U.S. were computer and mathematical occupations and legal occupations, with location quotients of 0.79 and 0.63 respectively.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) www.bls.gov/oes/

Table 5
Occupational Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients
Kansas
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment	Median Annual Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to the U.S.
All Occupations	1,339,170	\$38,050	1.00
Management Occupations	67,810	\$94,600	0.80
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	78,140	\$62,420	0.91
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	35,100	\$77,750	0.79
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	23,760	\$77,310	1.03
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	11,740	\$60,500	0.97
Community and Social Service Occupations	19,990	\$45,150	0.94
Legal Occupations	7,020	\$62,960	0.63
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	86,930	\$47,350	1.12
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	15,190	\$39,100	0.88
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	86,380	\$60,820	1.03
Health Care Support Occupations	59,700	\$28,600	0.95
Protective Service Occupations	27,530	\$40,690	0.86
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	107,270	\$22,820	1.01
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	39,110	\$29,130	1.00
Personal Care and Service Occupations	26,050	\$24,040	1.07
Sales and Related Occupations	119,830	\$29,360	0.95
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	177,360	\$36,890	1.02
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	3,800	\$34,710	0.88
Construction and Extraction Occupations	57,500	\$46,450	1.03
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	58,220	\$47,230	1.10
Production Occupations	104,000	\$37,730	1.30
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	126,750	\$36,590	1.05

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

Employment

Table 5 shows that there were 177,360 jobs classified as office and administrative support occupations, the most of any occupational group. Three of the top 20 occupations by employment fell under this occupational group: customer service representatives; secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive; and bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks. Four other occupational groups had employment of at least 100,000. There were 126,750 jobs in the transportation and material moving occupational group in Kansas, with three occupations in this group making it into the top 20 occupations by employment: stockers and order fillers; heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers; and laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand. Sales and related occupations accounted for 119,830 jobs in Kansas, with cashiers being the most common occupation and retail salespersons being the fourth most common occupation. The food preparation and serving related group had an estimated 107,270 jobs, with fast food and counter workers being the third most common occupation in Kansas. Finally, there were 104,000 jobs in the production occupational group.

Occupational Title	Employment
Cashiers	32,660
Customer Service Representatives	32,610
Fast Food and Counter Workers	31,350
Retail Salespersons	30,020
Registered Nurses	28,980
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	27,750
Stockers and Order Fillers	24,000
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	23,450
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	22,690
General and Operations Managers	22,510
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	22,450
Nursing Assistants	21,750
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	19,240
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	18,950
Waiters and Waitresses	17,180
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	16,090
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	14,880
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	12,790
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	12,790
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	12,520

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

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Wages

According to the Kansas Wage Survey, the median annual wage in Kansas as of May 2021 was \$38,050. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of \$94,600. Two additional occupational groups recorded median annual wages over \$70,000: computer and mathematical occupations and architecture and engineering occupations; while four other occupational groups recorded median annual wages of at least \$60,000: legal occupations; business and financial operations occupations; health care practitioners and technical occupations; and life, physical, and social science occupations. It is notable that 10 of the top 20 highest paying occupations were in the health care practitioner and technical occupations group, while seven were in the management occupations group.

Table 7
Top 20 Occupations by Median Annual Wage
Kansas
May 2021

Occupational Title	Median Annual Wage
Family Medicine Physicians	\$196,040
Physicians, All Other	\$195,000
Physicists	\$193,110
Radiologists	\$170,020
Pediatricians, General	\$168,270
Dentists, General	\$165,550
Ophthalmologists, Except Pediatric	\$164,830
Nurse Anesthetists	\$154,640
Air Traffic Controllers	\$141,020
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$131,770
Chief Executives	\$129,880
Pharmacists	\$127,940
Sales Managers	\$127,690
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$127,140
Natural Sciences Managers	\$126,880
Financial Managers	\$126,630
Nuclear Engineers	\$124,710
Marketing Managers	\$124,170
Podiatrists	\$121,930
Medical Dosimetrists	\$121,010

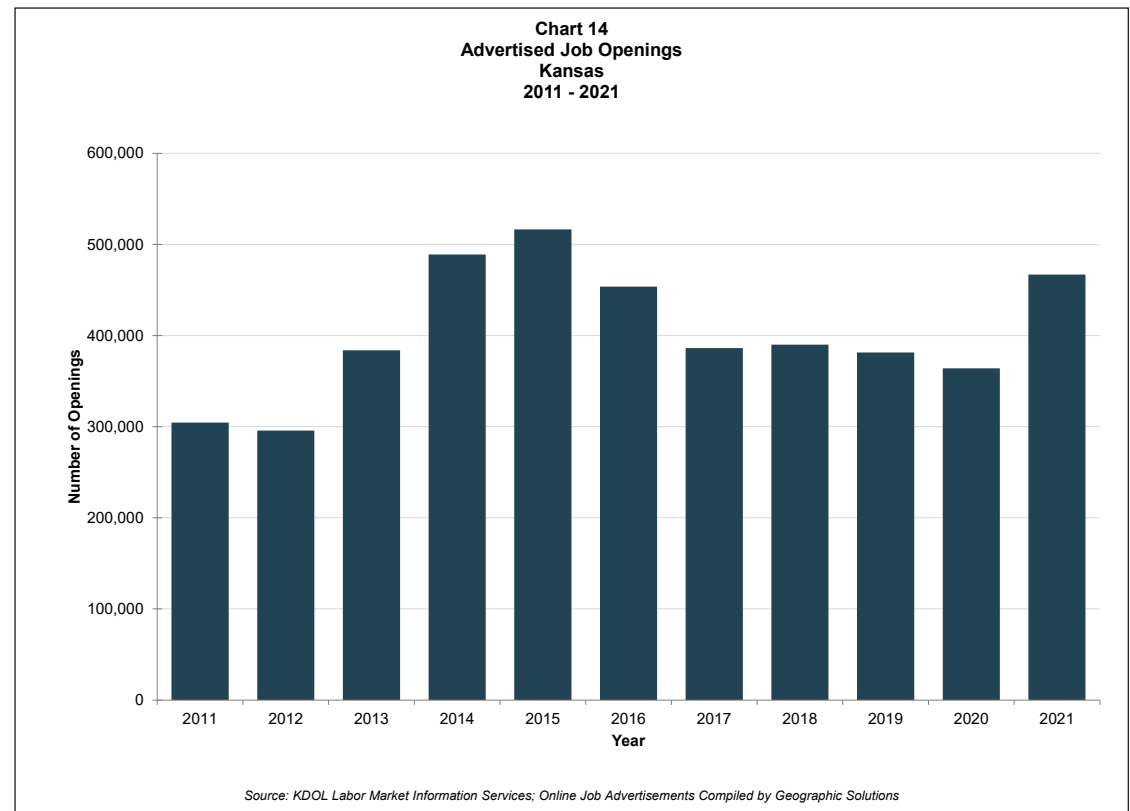
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

View our Tableau visualizations here: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/kdol#!/>

ADVERTISED JOBS

Advertised job openings can be used as a measure of labor demand. Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Approximately 30% of industry and 40% of occupational postings do not include a classification. Data used in this analysis may not be representative of a full sample. This analysis will focus on those openings with an industry or occupational classification.

Chart 14 shows that Kansas saw an overall declining trend in advertised job openings from 2015 through 2020. However, there was an increase in job openings from 2020 to 2021 of 28.2%, or 102,760 job openings, which is likely due to businesses reopening as pandemic restrictions were lifted and vaccines became more widely available.



Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Advertised Jobs Data compiled by Geographic Solutions www.klic.dol.ks.gov

As shown in *Chart 15*, the health care practitioners and technical occupations group had the most job openings by far, with 67,387 openings advertised in 2021. The management occupational group had 31,427 openings, while the office and administrative support occupational group had 23,356 openings, and the transportation and material moving occupational group had 21,416 openings. Seven additional occupational groups had over 10,000 openings in 2021: health care support; sales and related; production; computer and mathematical; food preparation and serving related; business and financial operations; and installation, maintenance, and repair.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation with 32,783 openings, followed by nursing assistants with 7,235 openings, and customer service representatives with 6,652 openings. Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses recorded 5,575 openings in 2021, while heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers recorded 4,016 openings.

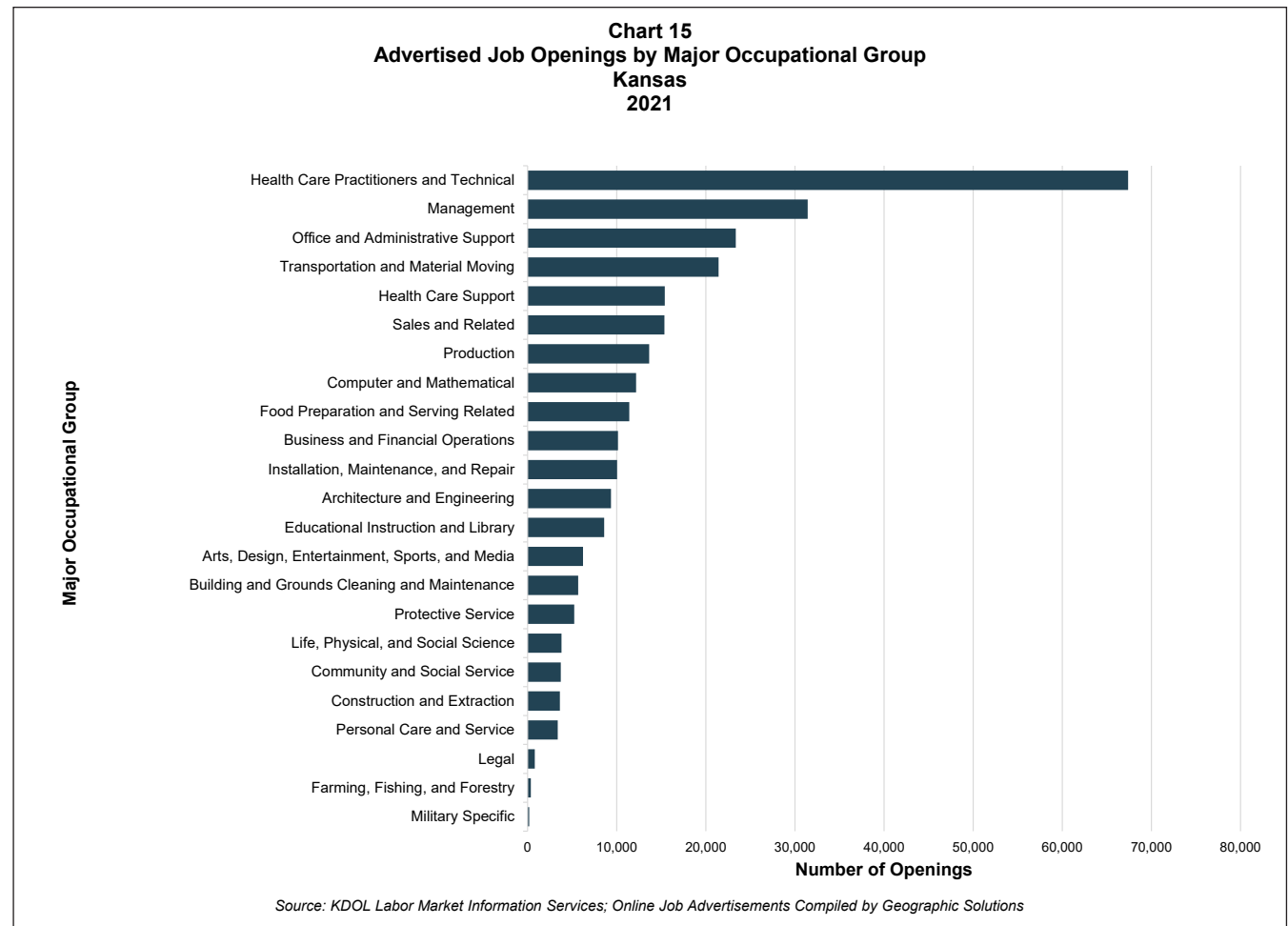
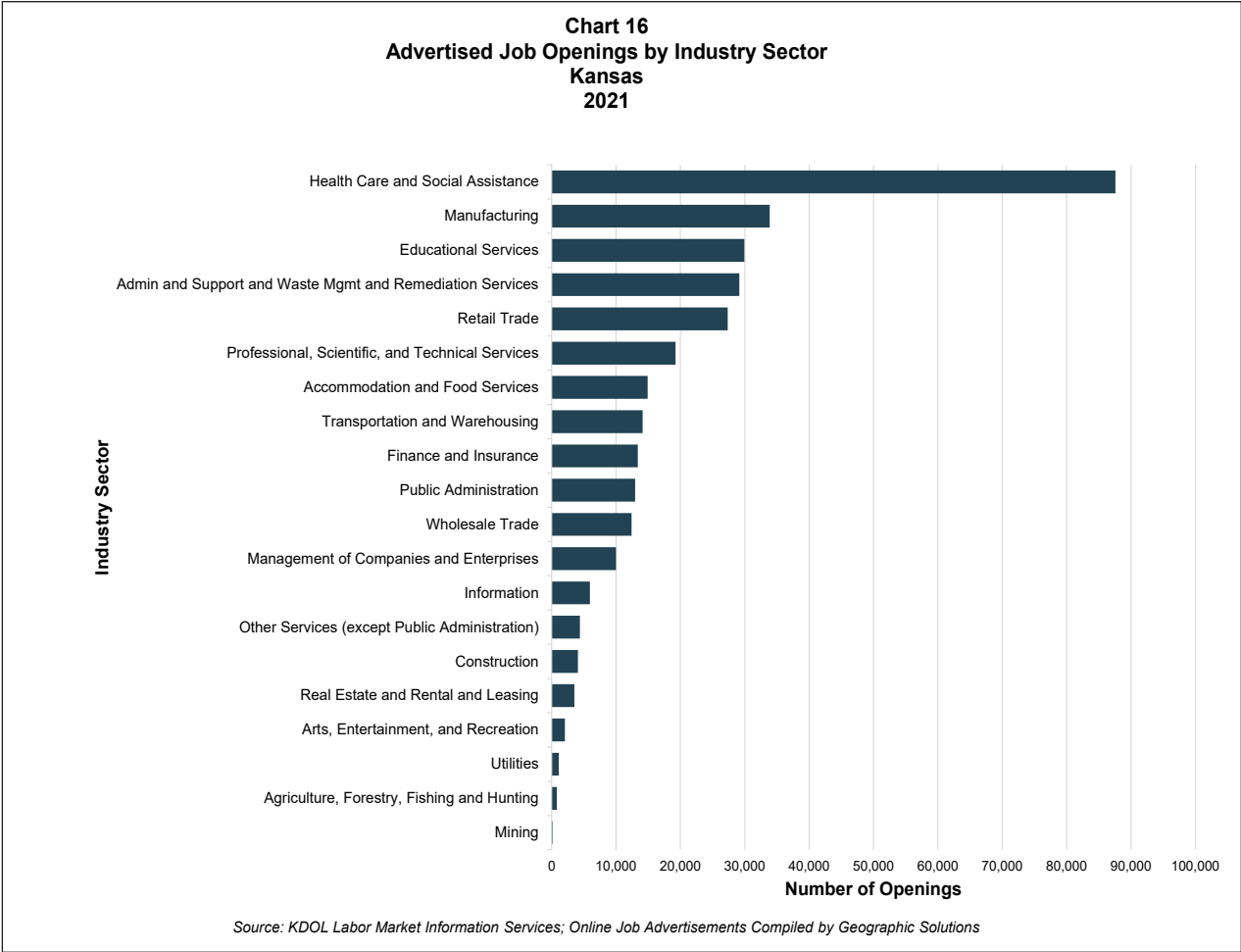


Chart 16 displays advertised job openings by industry sector. The health care and social assistance sector had the most openings by far in 2021, with 87,580 job openings. More than half of these openings were in hospitals, the remaining majority fell into ambulatory health care services and nursing and residential care facilities. The manufacturing sector recorded 33,877 job openings. The majority of these openings fell into computer and electronic product manufacturing, food manufacturing, and chemical manufacturing. The following industry sectors each had at least 27,000 job openings: educational services, administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, and retail trade.



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LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS

Every two years, each of the 50 states completes long-term projections in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor. The base year used in these projections is 2020 and the projection year is 2030. Statewide projections are released in even numbered years, while regional projections are published during odd numbered years. Long-term projections play an important role for students and others making career choices. Information about future trends in job growth and demand for labor is vital to making these life decisions. For the long-term projections program, it is assumed that the Kansas labor market will be in full employment in the projected year. This means the labor market will be in equilibrium and labor supply will meet labor demand, so the projections are forecasting structural changes in the economy rather than predicting changes in the business cycle.

Kansas total jobs in all industries are expected to grow by 99,395 to 1,535,907 jobs in 2030, an increase of 6.9% over the 10-year period. This averages out to 9,940 jobs per year, or 0.7% average annual growth.

Table 8 shows long-term projections for the top 10 industries by numerical change for the projected year 2030 from the base year 2020. The goods producing sector which includes construction, manufacturing, and natural resources and mining, is projected to increase by 1,151 jobs per year, an annual growth rate of 0.5%. The remaining industries fall under the service providing sector which is projected to have a positive average annual growth rate of 0.8%, adding 8,871 jobs annually.

The health care and social assistance industry is projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the 10-year period with an additional 16,305 jobs. This major industry consists of four underlying industries: ambulatory health care services, hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities, and social assistance. The fastest rate of growth of these underlying industries is projected to be in ambulatory health care services, gaining 1.0% annually. Of the major industries, arts, entertainment, and recreation is projected to grow at the fastest rate, 2.5% annually.

Table 8
Top 10 Industries by Numerical Job Change
Kansas
2020 - 2030

Industry	Job Numbers		Job Changes		
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Annual Avg. Growth %
Total, All Industries	1,436,512	1,535,907	99,395	6.9%	0.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	203,265	219,570	16,305	8.0%	0.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	98,142	113,781	15,639	15.9%	1.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	61,507	73,535	12,028	19.6%	1.8%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	72,800	84,395	11,595	15.9%	1.5%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	72,974	82,955	9,981	13.7%	1.3%
Manufacturing	159,411	166,788	7,377	4.6%	0.5%
Educational Services	132,684	139,445	6,761	5.1%	0.5%
Other Services (except Government)	47,666	52,629	4,963	10.4%	1.0%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	13,779	17,633	3,854	28.0%	2.5%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	22,909	25,605	2,696	11.8%	1.1%

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the U.S. DOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections

Table 9 shows the top 10 occupational groups projected to gain the largest number of jobs over the projection period. The food preparation and serving related occupation group is made up of 17 detailed occupations and is projected to gain 15,015 jobs during the 10-year period with an average annual growth rate of 1.3%. The food preparation and serving related occupations expected to add the most jobs by 2030 are restaurant cooks and fast food and counter workers, both are expected to add more than 350 jobs per year. The occupational group projected to grow at the fastest rate over the projection period is computer and mathematical occupations. This occupational group is projected to grow by 1.5% on average, annually.

Table 9
Top 10 Occupational Groups by Numerical Job Change
Kansas
2020 - 2030

Occupations	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Annual Avg. Growth %	
Total, All Occupations	1,436,512	1,535,907	99,395	6.9%	0.7%	1,715,730
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	109,428	124,443	15,015	13.7%	1.3%	223,631
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	125,188	139,540	14,352	11.5%	1.1%	179,070
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	89,485	97,872	8,387	9.4%	0.9%	60,547
Management Occupations	80,237	88,303	8,066	10.1%	1.0%	74,602
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	86,711	94,707	7,996	9.2%	0.9%	85,069
Health Care Support Occupations	64,578	72,053	7,475	11.6%	1.1%	89,946
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	43,011	50,047	7,036	16.4%	1.5%	39,493
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	90,116	95,941	5,825	6.5%	0.6%	87,087
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	62,274	66,687	4,413	7.1%	0.7%	65,068
Personal Care and Service Occupations	34,420	38,655	4,235	12.3%	1.2%	56,254

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the U.S. DOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections

Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Short and Long-term Projections <http://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=800>

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. As shown in *Table 10*, the largest increase in jobs is projected to be in those occupations typically needing a bachelor's degree, gaining 31,894 jobs over the projection period. The educational categories projected to grow the fastest are master's degree and bachelor's degree. These are projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.3% and 1.0% 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. This information is available on the KDOL, LMIS website, www.klic.dol.ks.gov.

Table 10 Projections by Educational Requirements Kansas 2020 - 2030						
Education	Job Numbers		Job Changes			Total Openings
	Base Year 2020	Projection Year 2030	Numerical	Percent	Annual Avg. Growth %	
Total	1,436,512	1,535,907	99,395	6.9%	0.7%	1,715,730
Bachelor's degree	317,077	348,971	31,894	10.1%	1.0%	291,734
No formal educational credential	318,449	346,561	28,112	8.8%	0.8%	529,524
High school diploma or equivalent	570,233	593,110	22,877	4.0%	0.4%	662,327
Postsecondary non-degree award	102,501	109,940	7,439	7.3%	0.7%	116,441
Master's degree	24,788	28,067	3,279	13.2%	1.3%	23,112
Associate degree	26,640	29,076	2,436	9.1%	0.9%	27,260
Doctoral or professional degree	30,847	32,930	2,083	6.8%	0.7%	19,637
Some college, no degree	45,977	47,252	1,275	2.8%	0.3%	45,695

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the U.S. DOL Employment & Training Administration, Employment Projections

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Projections www.bls.gov/emp/

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The list of these occupations is provided to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. High demand occupations have higher than average combined current and projected (short-term and long-term) demand in the state. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation.

Occupations are scored based on the following criteria:

1. Current number of openings as determined by the number of jobs advertised online during the 2nd quarter of the year
2. Projected number of openings in two years as indicated in the short-term projections program
3. Projected number of openings in 10 years as indicated in the long-term projections program

Each of these scores are added together to get a total score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

Table 11 displays the top high demand occupations for Kansas. These 13 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means that they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2023 and 2030. Overall, there are 230 occupations on the high demand list in Kansas.

Nine of the top 13 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require less than one year of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. The median wages of these nine occupations are all below the statewide median wage, \$38,050, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of industry growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Table 11
Top High Demand Occupations
Kansas
2022

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	\$77,500	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	\$61,790	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$47,980	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	\$35,100	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	\$34,150	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$33,730	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$29,280	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Assistants	\$29,060	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$28,690	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Cooks, Restaurant	\$27,930	No formal educational credential	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	\$27,560	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	\$23,210	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$22,070	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

KDOL also identifies high demand occupations that also pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the statewide median wage.

In Kansas, there are 135 high demand high wage occupations, *Table 12* lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, 10 of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree or moderate-term on-the-job training. Also noteworthy is that three occupations that had a maximum demand score of 30 also had high wages: general and operations managers, registered nurses, and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Table 12
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
Kansas
2022

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	\$77,500	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	\$61,790	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$47,980	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Accountants and Auditors	\$62,980	Bachelor's degree	None
Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers	\$91,741	Bachelor's degree	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$50,130	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$61,530	High school diploma or equivalent	None
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$58,670	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	\$50,000	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	\$47,720	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$46,660	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	\$45,850	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	\$42,940	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Management Analysts	\$76,710	Bachelor's degree	None
Human Resources Specialists	\$60,410	Bachelor's degree	None

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403>

WAGES & PERSONAL INCOME

Wages

Since inflation can erode consumer purchasing power, real wages, which are adjusted for inflation, provide a better estimate of economic health.

Wages and salaries accounted for 46.0% of total personal income in Kansas in 2021. *Table 13* lists the real average weekly wages for Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. in 2021 dollars, while *Chart 17* displays the over the year percent change in real average weekly wages.

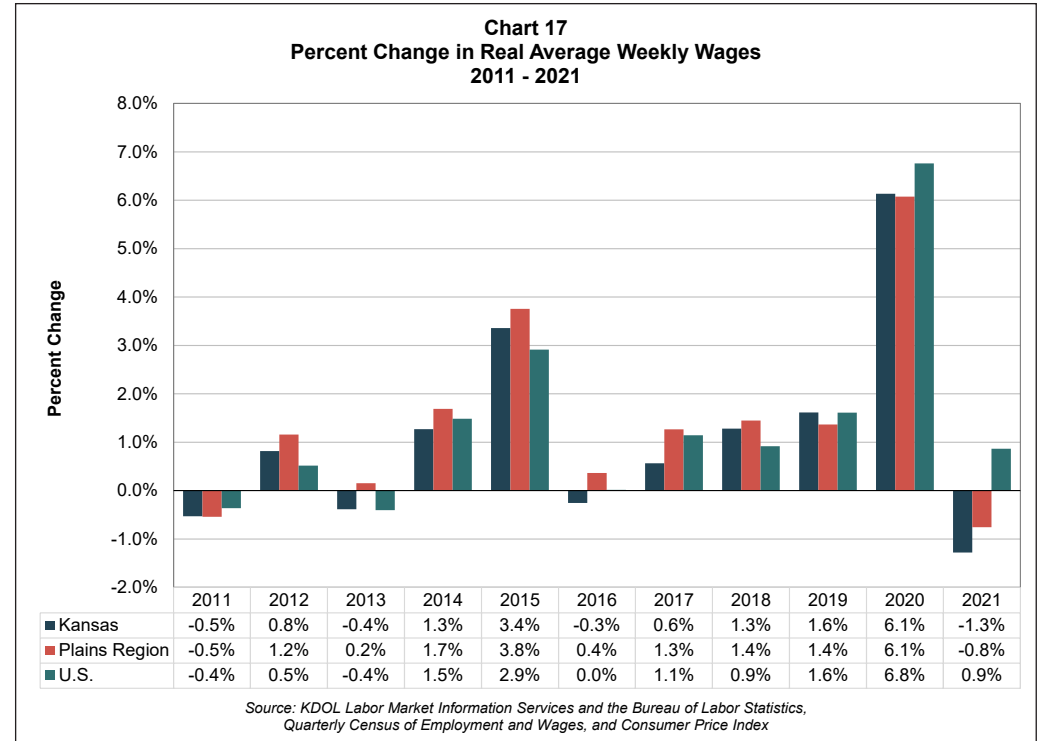
The real average weekly wage in Kansas decreased over the year by \$13, or 1.3%, to \$1,027 in 2021. Similarly, the Plains Region real average weekly wage decreased by \$9, or 0.8%, to \$1,119. However, it is important to note that wages were higher in 2020 due to the fact that lower wage workers experienced higher levels of job loss, while many higher wage workers could transfer to remote work. As lower wage workers returned to their jobs in 2021, average wage growth returned to normal levels. Despite higher inflation, the U.S. real average weekly wage increased by \$11, or 0.9%, to \$1,300. Since 2011, the Plains Region and the U.S. have experienced similar wage growth, with Plains Region real wages increasing 17.6% and U.S. real wages increasing 16.8%. Kansas has experienced slower wage growth than the Plains Region and the nation, increasing just 13.7% during the same time period.

Table 13
Real Average Weekly Wages
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2010 - 2021

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Kansas	\$908	\$903	\$911	\$907	\$919	\$950
Plains Region	\$957	\$951	\$962	\$964	\$980	\$1,017
U.S.	\$1,117	\$1,113	\$1,119	\$1,114	\$1,131	\$1,164
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kansas	\$947	\$952	\$965	\$980	\$1,040	\$1,027
Plains Region	\$1,021	\$1,034	\$1,049	\$1,063	\$1,128	\$1,119
U.S.	\$1,164	\$1,177	\$1,188	\$1,207	\$1,289	\$1,300

Note: Wages in 2021 dollars. Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages and Consumer Price Index

Chart 17
Percent Change in Real Average Weekly Wages
2011 - 2021



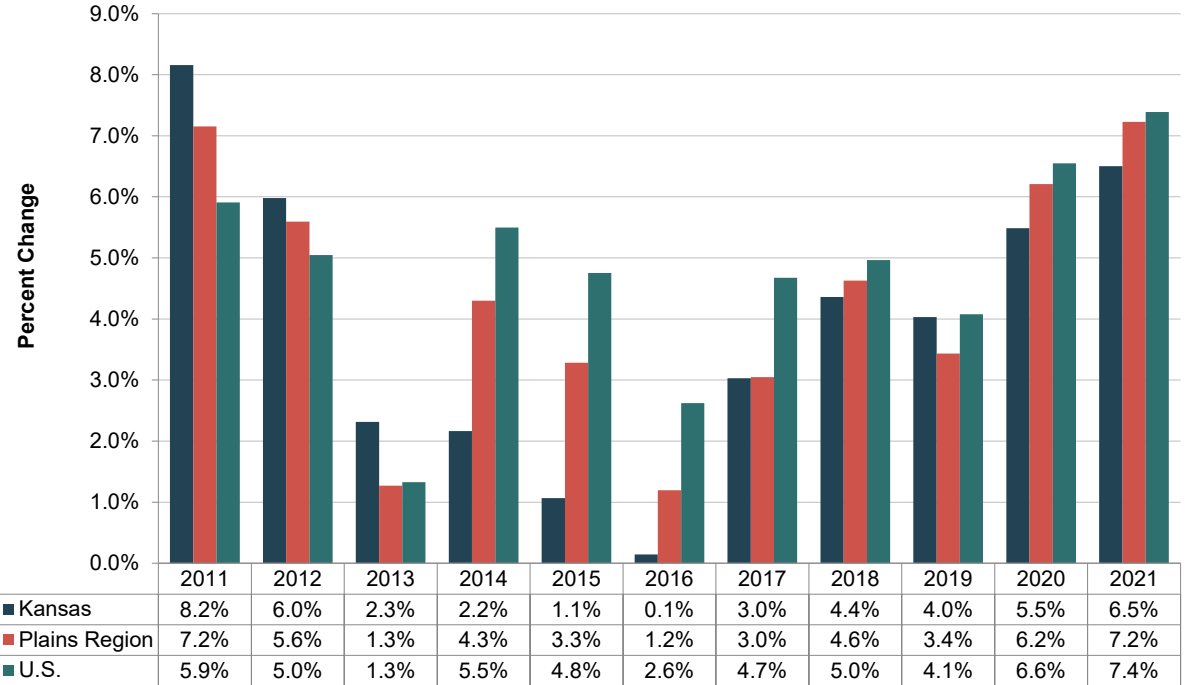
Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program www.bls.gov/cew/

Personal Income

Personal income is an important measure of economic health and well-being. Personal income includes earnings, property income, and transfer payments.

In 2021, Kansas' total personal income increased 6.5% to \$174.1 billion. Nationally, personal income increased 7.4% to \$21.1 trillion, while Plains Region personal income grew 7.2% to \$1.3 trillion. *Chart 18* displays personal income growth in Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. since 2011. In Kansas, approximately 73% of the increase in personal income was due to a gain of \$7.8 billion in net work earnings, an increase of 7.7% over the year. Personal current transfer receipts which increased \$2.7 billion, or 8.3% over the year, accounted for approximately 25% of the increase in personal income. Personal current transfer receipts primarily consist of government payments to individuals and nonprofit institutions, i.e. government benefit payments and grants, along with business liability payments and donations to nonprofit institutions. Income from dividends, interest, and rent increased \$157.8 million, or 0.5% over the year.

Chart 18
Percent Change in Nominal Personal Income
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2011 - 2021



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

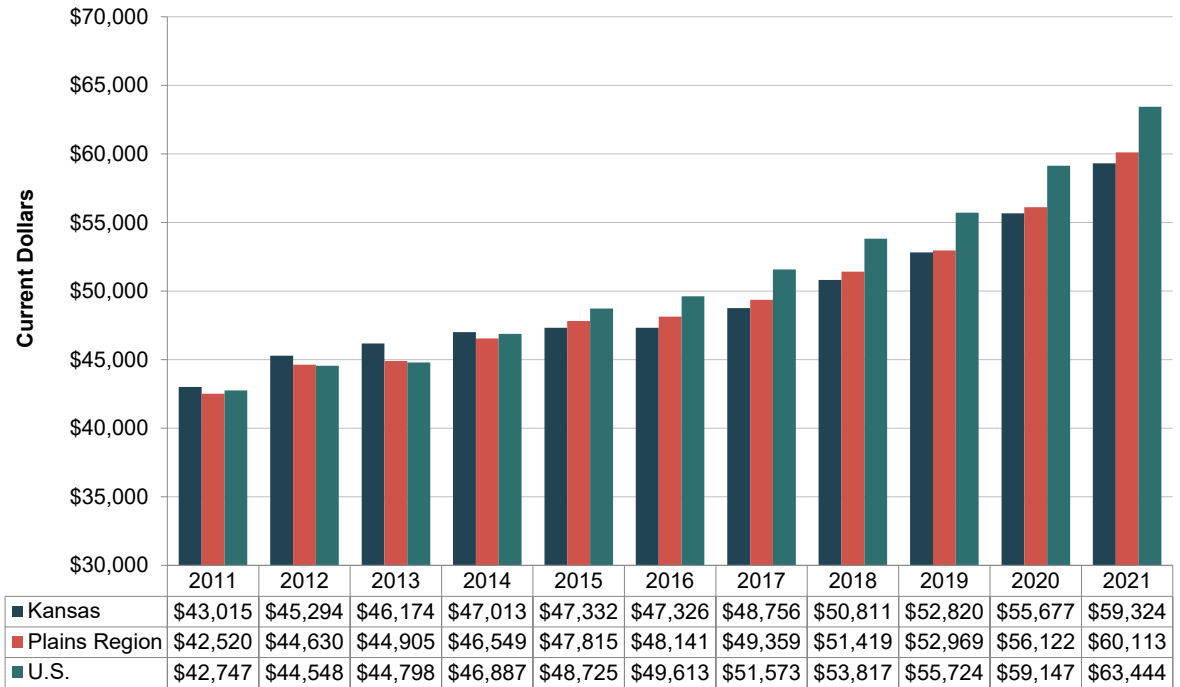
Where to find it (U.S.): Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal Income: https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/index_nipa.cfm

Where to find it (Kansas): Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal Income: https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/index_regional.cfm

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.

Chart 19 illustrates the per capita personal income in Kansas, the Plains Region, and the U.S. In 2021, Kansas recorded a per capita personal income of \$59,324 while the U.S. recorded a per capita personal income of \$63,444. Plains Region per capita personal income was similar to Kansas' at \$60,113. From 2020 to 2021, Kansas' per capita income increased 6.6%, while the nation's increased 7.3%. Similar to the U.S., the Plains Region recorded an increase of 7.1% in per capita personal income. Since 2011, personal income in Kansas increased 37.9%; this was slower than the U.S. and Plains Region which grew 48.4% and 41.4% respectively over the same time period.

Chart 19
Per Capita Personal Income
Kansas, Plains Region, and U.S.
2011 - 2021

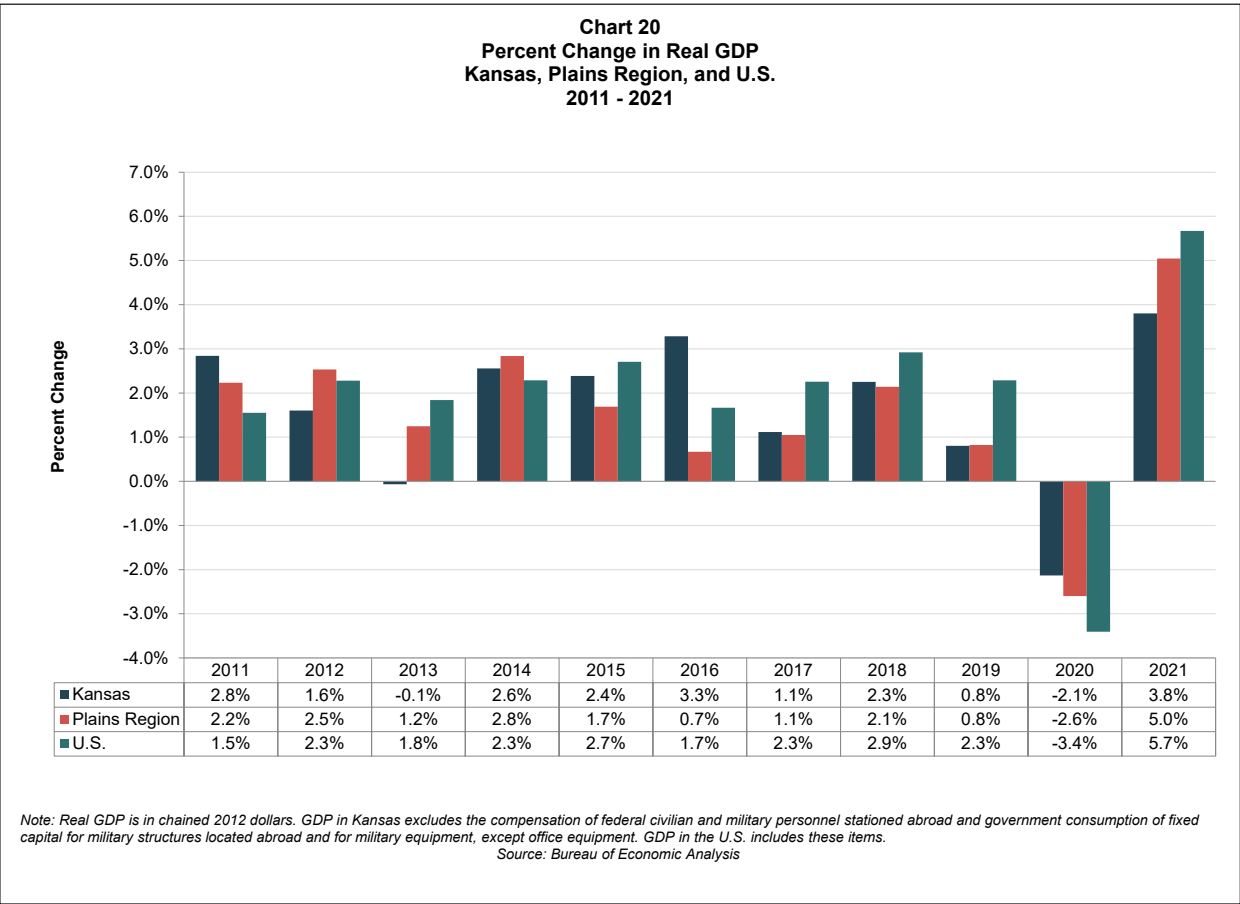


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

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. There are two types of GDP discussed in this report: nominal GDP, which is measured in current dollars, and real GDP, which is adjusted for inflation. Real GDP allows better year-to-year comparisons by removing the influence inflation has on nominal GDP. In this report, real GDP is fixed to 2012 dollars.

According to estimates from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, real GDP in Kansas increased by 3.8% in 2021 to \$162.7 billion. *Chart 20* displays the percent change in Kansas, the Plains Region, and U.S. real GDP since 2011. The Plains Region saw a larger increase in output than Kansas, with real GDP increasing 5.0% to \$1.2 trillion. The U.S. experienced an even larger increase in real GDP, growing 5.7% to \$19.4 trillion over the year. While the Plains Region and U.S. experienced faster growth than Kansas in 2021, it is important to note that Kansas saw a smaller decline in output in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic. Since 2011, Kansas and the Plains Region have experienced similar growth in real GDP, with Kansas increasing 16.6% and the Plains Region increasing 16.4%. The U.S., however, has increased its real GDP output 22.2% over the same time period.



Where to find it (U.S.): Bureau of Economic Analysis, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/index_nipa.cfm
Where to find it: Bureau of Economic Analysis Gross Domestic Product (GDP) https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/index_regional.cfm

As displayed in *Chart 21*, Kansas' nominal GDP increased by 9.8% to \$192.3 billion in 2021. The Plains Region's nominal GDP increased at a slightly higher rate than Kansas, growing by 10.9% to \$1.5 trillion. U.S. nominal GDP grew at a rate similar to Kansas, increasing 10.1% to \$23.0 trillion in 2021.

In Kansas, growth in nominal GDP was reported in all 11 major industries from 2020 to 2021, as shown in *Table 14*. Natural resources and mining recorded the highest GDP growth, both in numerical and percent growth, increasing \$5.3 billion, or 99.8%. Much of this growth is due to an increase of 102.8%, or \$4.5 billion, in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting sector. The mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sector experienced an increase of 85.6%, or \$790.1 million. Leisure and hospitality recorded growth of 23.2%, increasing \$989.7 million over the year. Much of the growth in this major industry is attributed to accommodation and food services which also increased 23.2%, or \$822.4 million. Manufacturing experienced growth of 10.5%, or \$2.7 billion, with nondurable goods manufacturing accounting for \$2.4 billion of this increase. Trade, transportation, and utilities grew 10.0%, or \$3.2 billion, in 2021, with retail trade accounting for \$1.3 billion, wholesale trade contributing \$1.0 billion, and transportation and warehousing accounting for \$801.0 million of this increase.

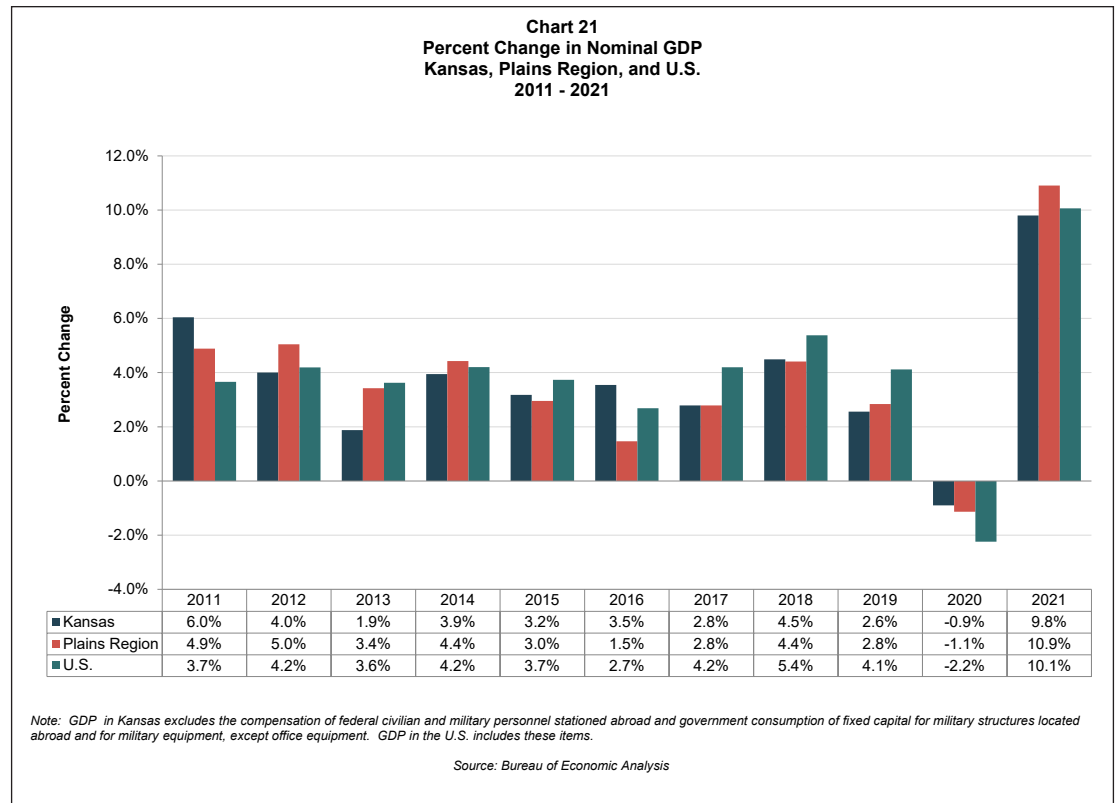


Table 14
Nominal GDP by Industry
Kansas
2020 & 2021

Industry	2020	2021	Percent Change
Natural Resources and Mining	\$5,279.9	\$10,547.6	99.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	\$4,269.8	\$5,259.5	23.2%
Manufacturing	\$26,179.6	\$28,921.7	10.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	\$31,881.8	\$35,058.8	10.0%
Other Services	\$3,776.1	\$4,064.7	7.6%
Financial Activities	\$36,732.4	\$39,167.2	6.6%
Education and Health Services	\$14,168.7	\$14,918.4	5.3%
Government	\$22,641.6	\$23,604.1	4.3%
Information	\$4,633.9	\$4,748.2	2.5%
Construction	\$6,938.0	\$7,104.6	2.4%
Professional and Business Services	\$18,640.0	\$18,908.7	1.4%

Note: Data is in millions. Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

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, which indicates from 2020 to 2021 the value of the U.S. dollar weakened, dropping from 117.82 to 115.38 over the year.

In 2021 Kansas export sales reached a new high of \$12.5 billion, as seen in *Chart 22*. This represents a 20.5% increase in export sales over the year, totaling \$2.1 billion.

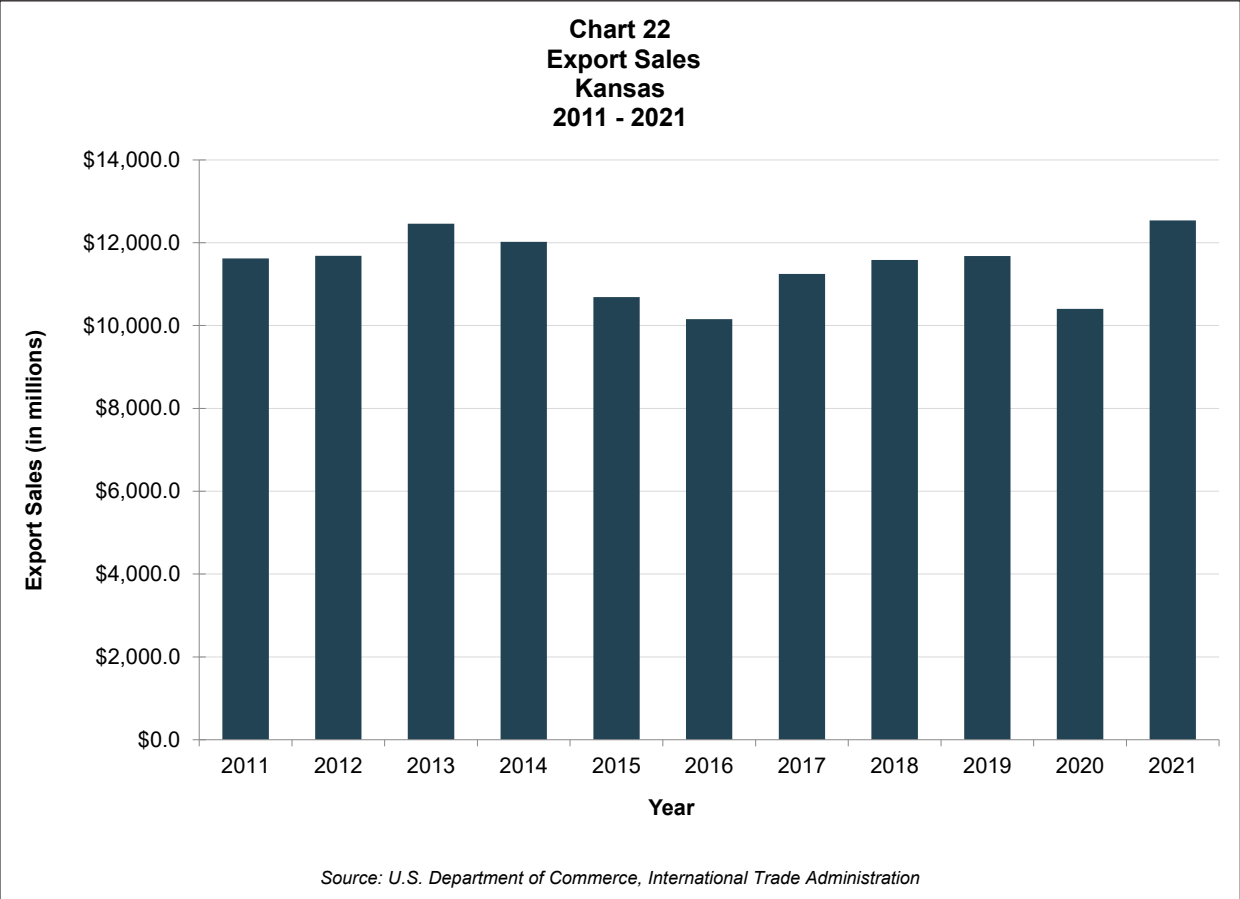
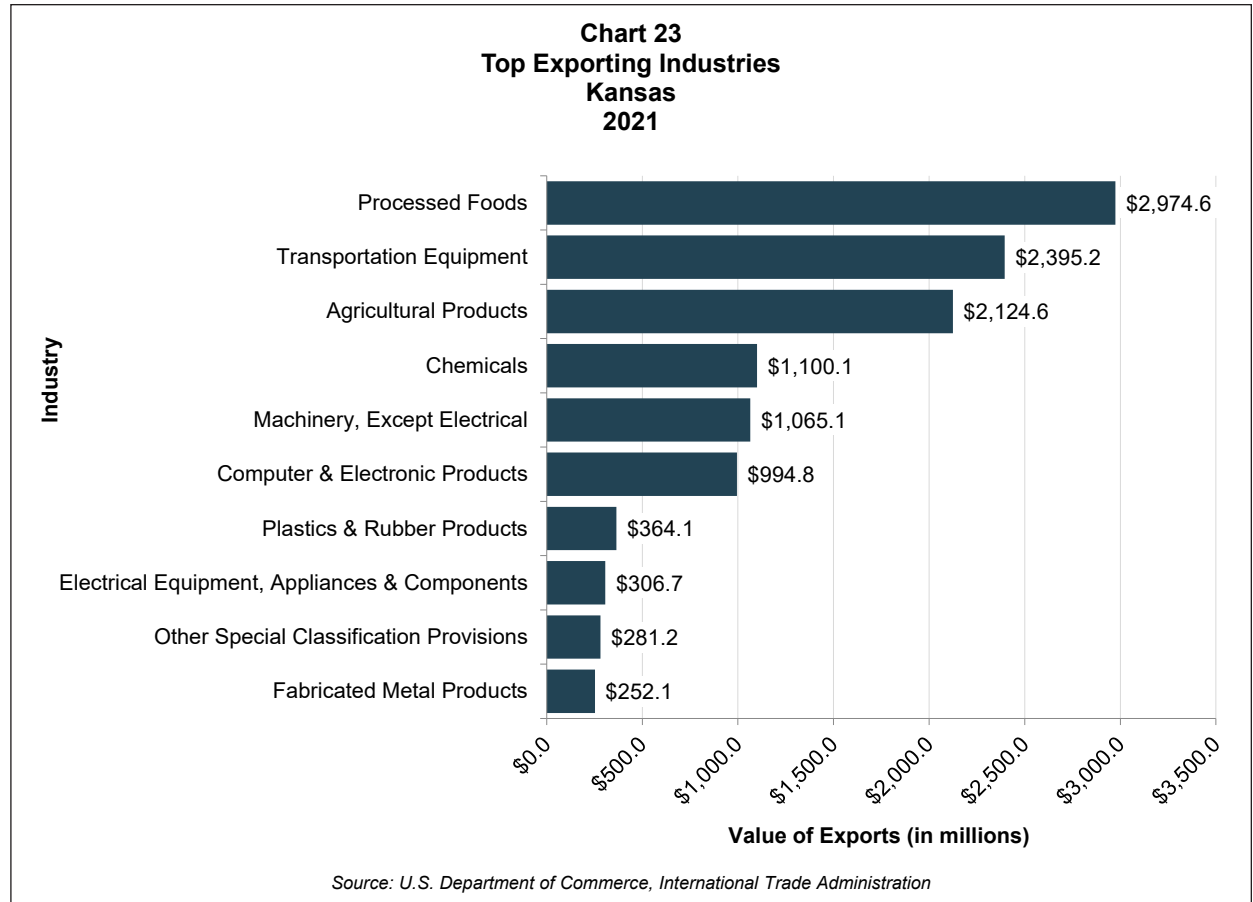
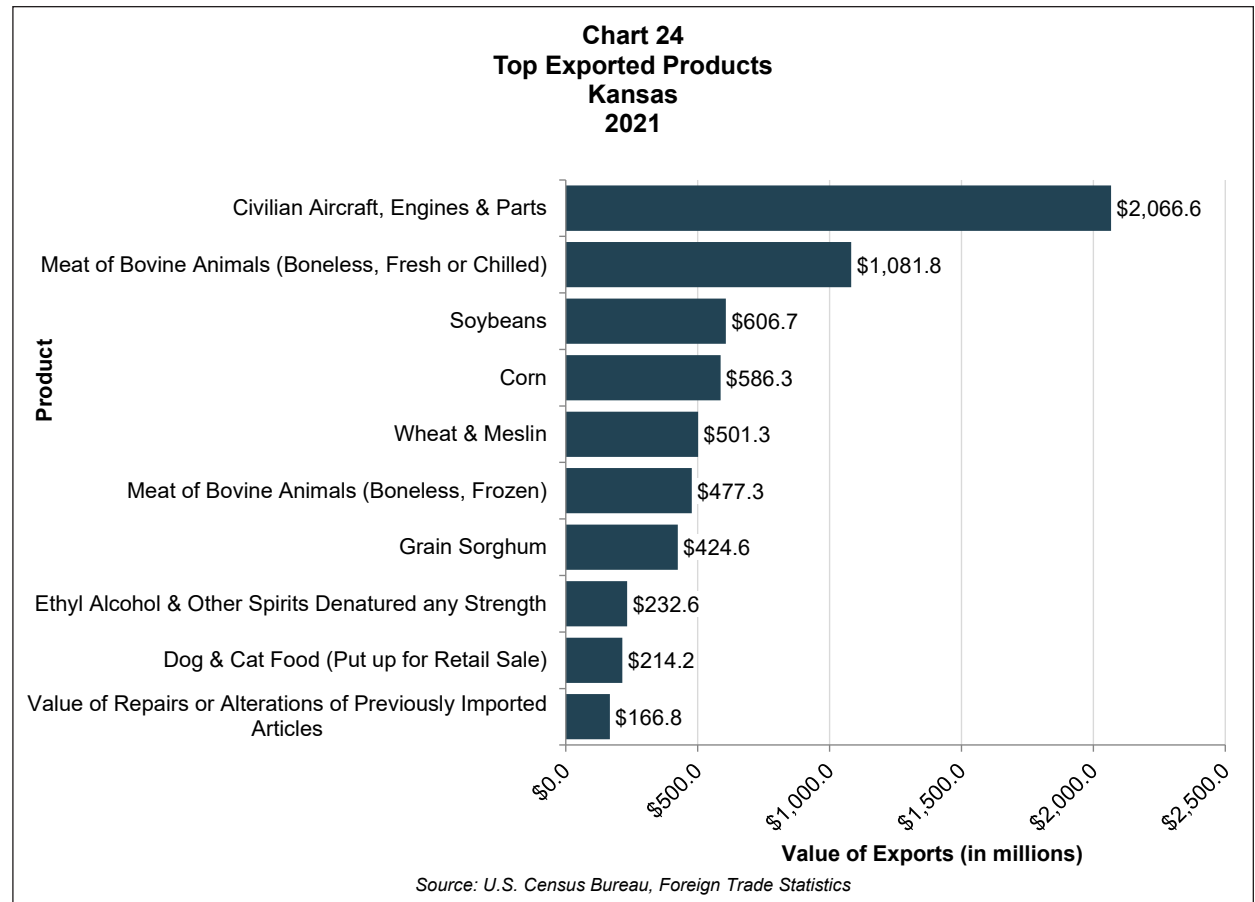


Chart 23 displays the top exporting industries in Kansas. The processed foods industry experienced the largest increase over the year, growing by \$613.4 million, or 26.0%, to nearly \$3.0 billion. Animal slaughtering and processing accounted for \$2.3 billion of these export sales in 2021. The transportation equipment manufacturing industry accounted for approximately \$2.4 billion of Kansas' exports, growing by \$318.5 million over the year, or 15.3%. Aerospace products and parts accounted for the majority of these exports in 2021, recording \$2.1 billion in sales. The agricultural products industry recorded \$2.1 billion in export sales, an increase of \$498.9 million, or 30.7% over the year, with nearly all these sales being in oilseeds and grains. The chemical manufacturing and machinery, except electrical manufacturing industries each recorded over \$1.0 billion in export sales during 2021.



Where to find it: International Trade Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce), Exports by Industry & Country www.trade.gov/state-trade-data

As seen in *Chart 24*, civilian aircraft, engines and parts were the top exported products from Kansas in 2021, accounting for 16.4% of all Kansas exports and recording export sales of nearly \$2.1 billion. This was an increase of 24.7%, or \$408.9 million over the year. Export sales of meat of bovine animals grew \$374.4 million, or 31.6%, to approximately \$1.6 billion, with fresh or chilled boneless meat accounting for approximately \$1.1 billion. Cereals, which include corn, wheat and meslin, and grain sorghum, accounted for \$1.5 billion in Kansas exports. This was an increase of \$528.1 million over the year, or 53.7%.



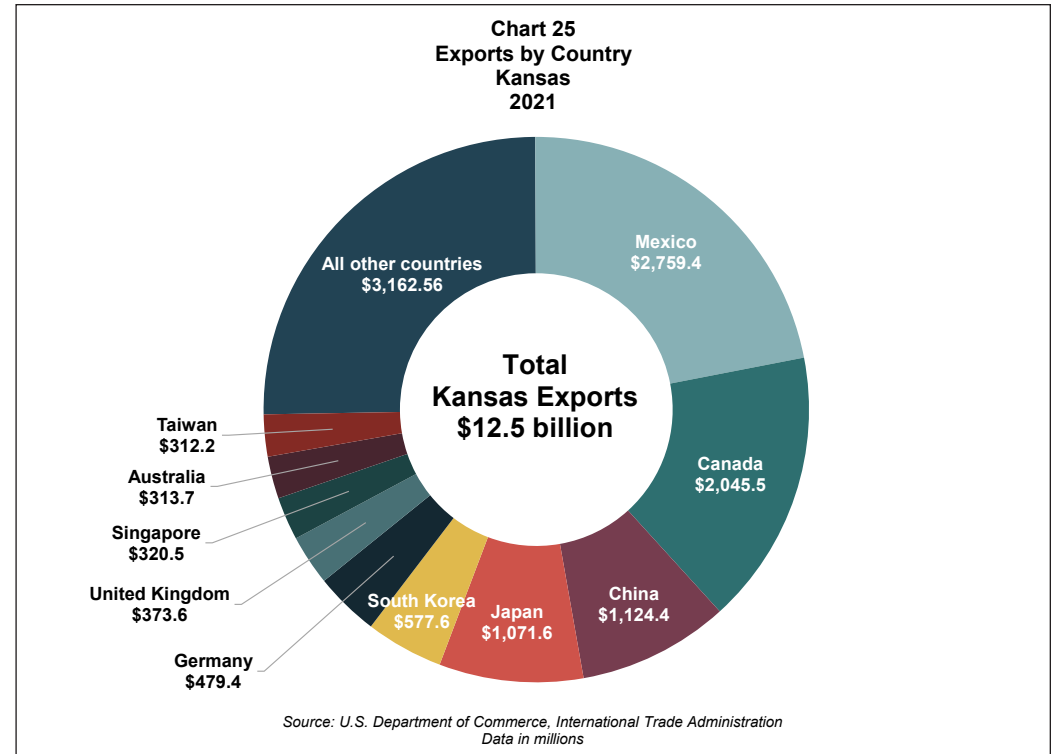
Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Exports by Product <https://usatrade.census.gov/>

Chart 25 shows the amount of goods and services imported from Kansas by countries around the world. Mexico remained the state's largest trading partner in 2021, importing approximately \$2.8 billion in goods and services. This reflects an increase of \$680.1 million, or 32.7%, from 2020. Agricultural products accounted for 50.1% of export sales to Mexico in 2021, followed by processed foods which accounted for 19.2% of export sales.

Canada imported the second largest amount of Kansas products in 2021, with approximately \$2.0 billion in sales. Export sales to Canada increased from 2020 by \$358.3 million, or 21.2%. The sectors with the highest export sales to Canada were transportation equipment manufacturing; machinery, except electrical; and processed foods. These three industries accounted for 48.6% of Kansas export sales to Canada.

China was the third largest importer of Kansas products in 2021, with \$1.1 billion in sales. This represents a \$402.1 million increase in exports to China, or 55.7%. Agricultural products made up \$472.6 million, or 42.0%, of the export sales to China, while processed foods accounted for 24.5% or \$275.9 million.

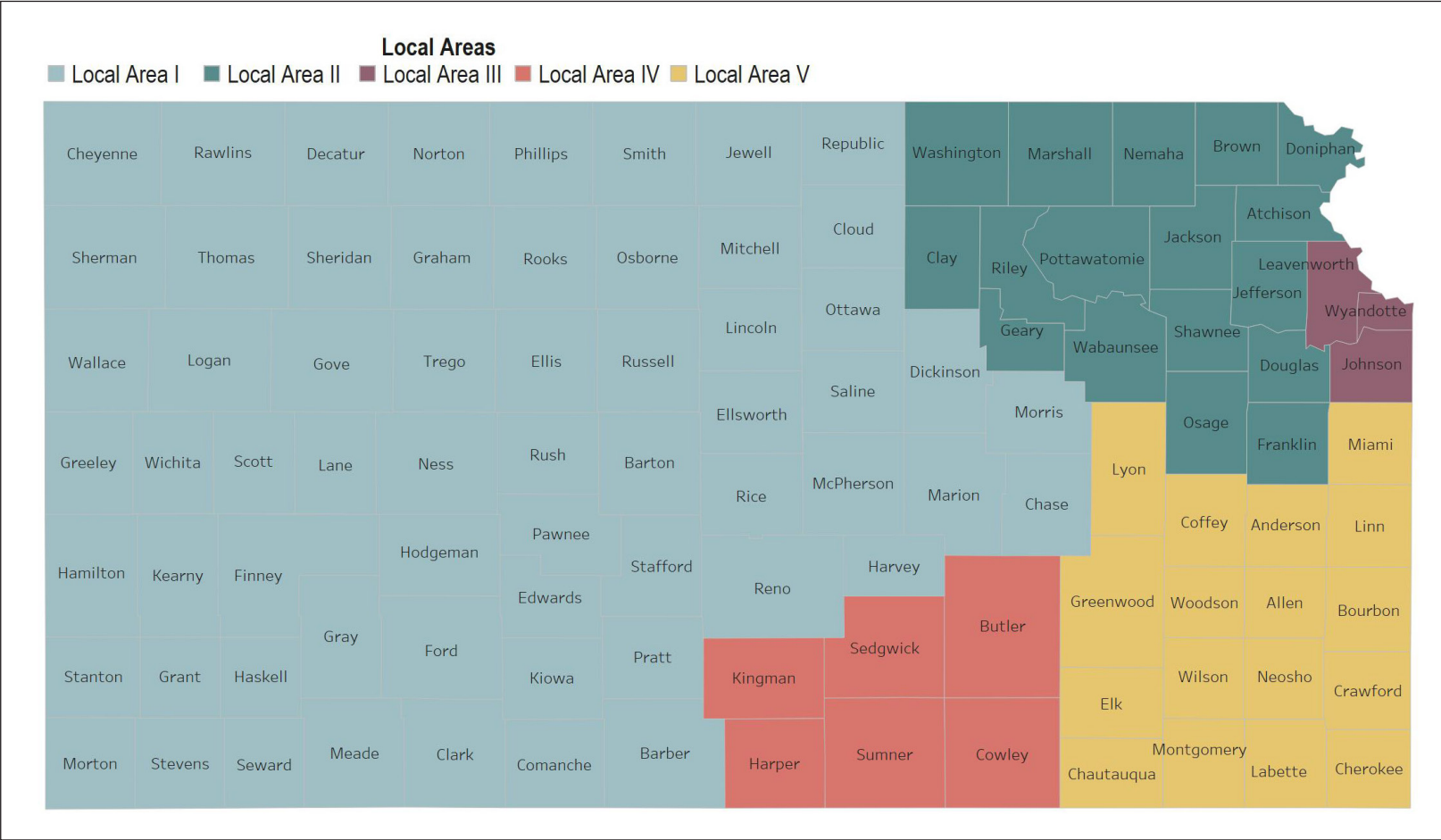
Japan also imported more than \$1.0 billion in Kansas products, increasing by 18.7%, or \$168.6 million over the year. The majority of Japan's imports are processed foods, which totaled \$815.6 million in 2021.



Where to find it: International Trade Administration (U.S. Department of Commerce), Exports by Industry & Country www.trade.gov/state-trade-data

LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS

To administer workforce development programs more efficiently in the state of Kansas, the state is divided into five local workforce areas. The map below displays the five local areas. This report will detail the economic conditions of each of the local areas.



Local Area Data Notes

While statewide job estimates come from nonfarm job totals as provided by the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, job totals for the local areas come from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. The CES estimates are produced monthly based on a survey of employers. The QCEW program is a count of all jobs subject to state and federal unemployment insurance. The process for collecting QCEW data is more time consuming because it is a census of all covered employers in the state, but this data collection process also allows for publication at more detailed geographic levels including counties and local areas. The QCEW program is also used as a benchmark during the annual revision process for the CES program. *Table 1* shows the labor force statistics for each local area and *Table 2* displays the jobs statistics.

Table 1
Local Workforce Investment Area Labor Force Statistics
2021

Local Workforce Investment Area	Civilian Labor Force			Employment			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate	
	Total CLF	Change from 2020	% Change from 2020	Total Emp.	Change from 2020	% Change from 2020	Total Unemp.	Change from 2020	% Change from 2020	Rate	Change from 2020
Local Area I Western Kansas	294,725	708	0.2%	287,520	4,782	1.7%	7,205	-4,074	-36.1%	2.4%	-1.4
Local Area II Northeast Kansas	290,879	1,158	0.4%	282,142	7,688	2.8%	8,737	-6,530	-42.8%	3.0%	-2.3
Local Area III Kansas City Area	458,365	2,550	0.6%	444,280	13,248	3.1%	14,085	-10,698	-43.2%	3.1%	-2.4
Local Area IV South Central Kansas	321,001	-2,512	-0.8%	306,978	9,741	3.3%	14,023	-12,253	-46.6%	4.4%	-3.8
Local Area V Southeast Kansas	130,709	57	0.0%	126,412	2,903	2.4%	4,297	-2,846	-39.8%	3.3%	-2.2

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Table 2
Local Workforce Investment Area Employment and wage Statistics
2021

Local Workforce Investment Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage		
	All Industries	Private Sector	Government	All Industries	Private Sector	Government
Local Area I Western Kansas	247,031	191,545	55,486	\$844	\$877	\$729
Local Area II Northeast Kansas	239,601	179,279	60,322	\$908	\$892	\$954
Local Area III Kansas City Area	454,521	401,085	53,436	\$1,239	\$1,262	\$1,071
Local Area IV South Central Kansas	289,291	247,246	42,045	\$984	\$991	\$944
Local Area V Southeast Kansas	100,192	74,596	25,595	\$804	\$830	\$729

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

LOCAL AREA I SUMMARY

POPULATION

The 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates will become the official estimates for the 2010-2020 decade and are currently scheduled to be released in 2023. They are produced by modifying the Vintage 2020 estimates to account for differences between the postcensal estimates and the results of the 2020 Census. The result is a consistent time series from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census. Due to the delay in finalizing the 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020.

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.

Local Area I consists of 62 counties in western and north central Kansas. The largest cities in this region are Salina, Hutchinson, Dodge City, Garden City, and Hays. *Chart 1* displays the population of Local Area I from 2011 to 2021. The Local Area I population was estimated to be 564,177 in 2021. This represents a loss from 2020 of 2,138 people, or 0.4%. The Local Area I population has seen a declining trend throughout this period, losing 23,885 people since 2011, or 4.1% of its population during that time.

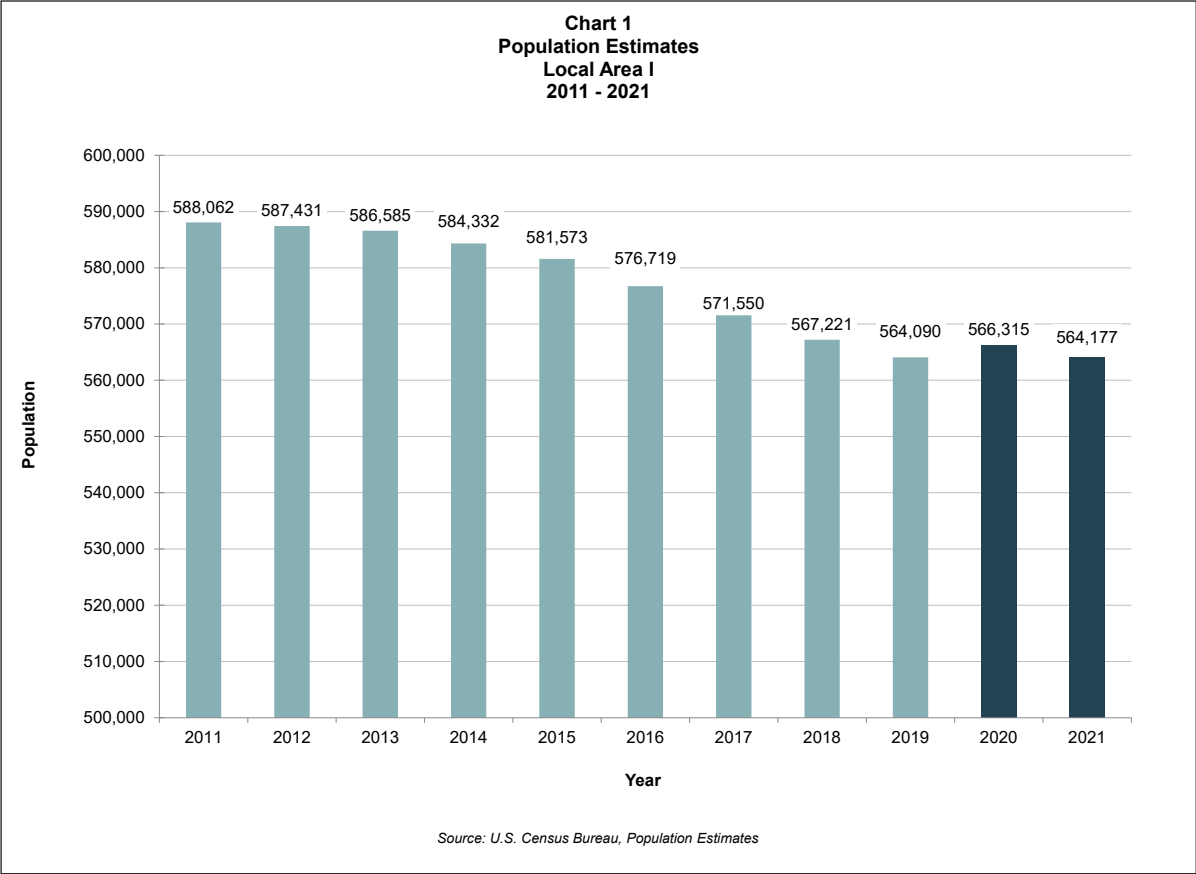
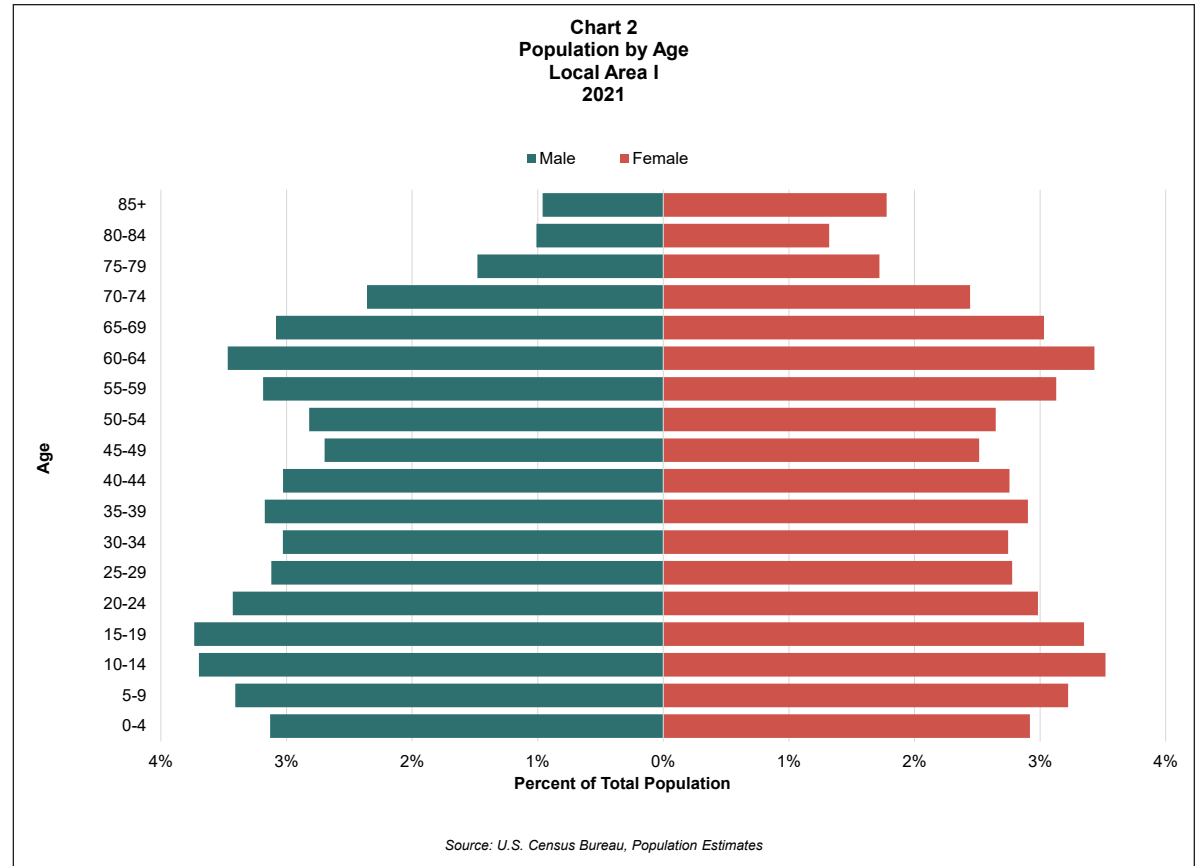


Chart 2 displays the Local Area I population by age group and gender. The population pyramid for Local Area I shows that there are two major peaks in the population, one centering on the 10-14 and 15-19 year-old age groups and one centering on the 60-64 year-old age group. The younger peak represents the older members of Generation Z, while the older peak represents the younger members of the baby boomer generation. The 10-14 year-old age group had the largest share of the Local Area I population, accounting for 7.2%. However, this group is very closely followed by the 15-19 year-old age group, which accounted for 7.1%, as well as the 60-64 year-old age group, which accounted for 6.9% of the population.

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 for Local Area I in 2021 was 443,756, a decrease of 524 over the year, or 0.1%. The 25-54 year-old population was 193,000 in 2021, a decrease of 276 over the year, or 0.1%.

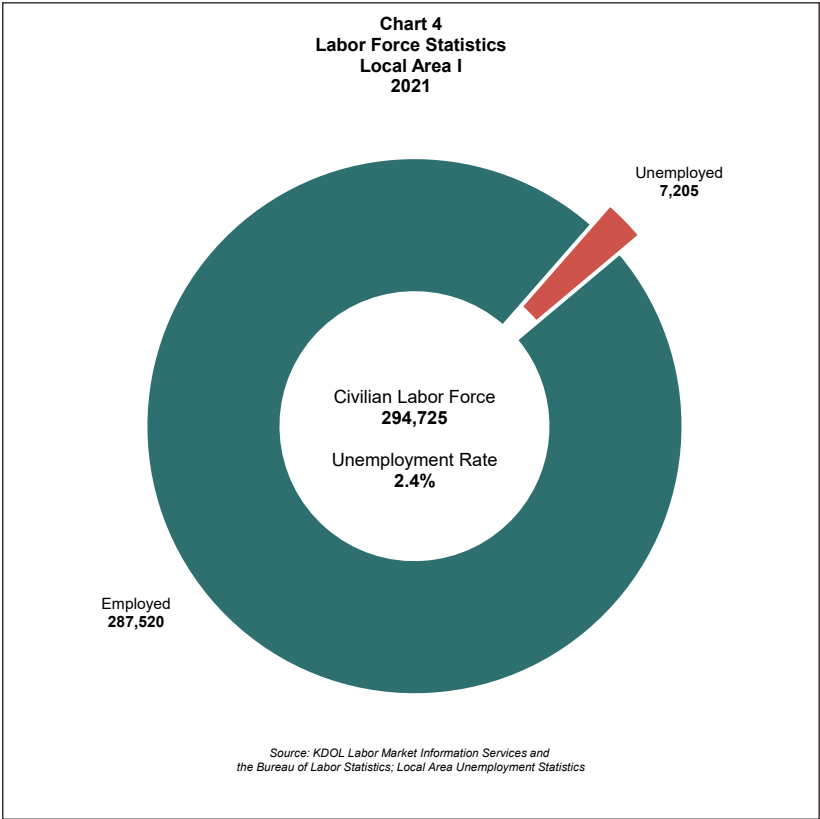
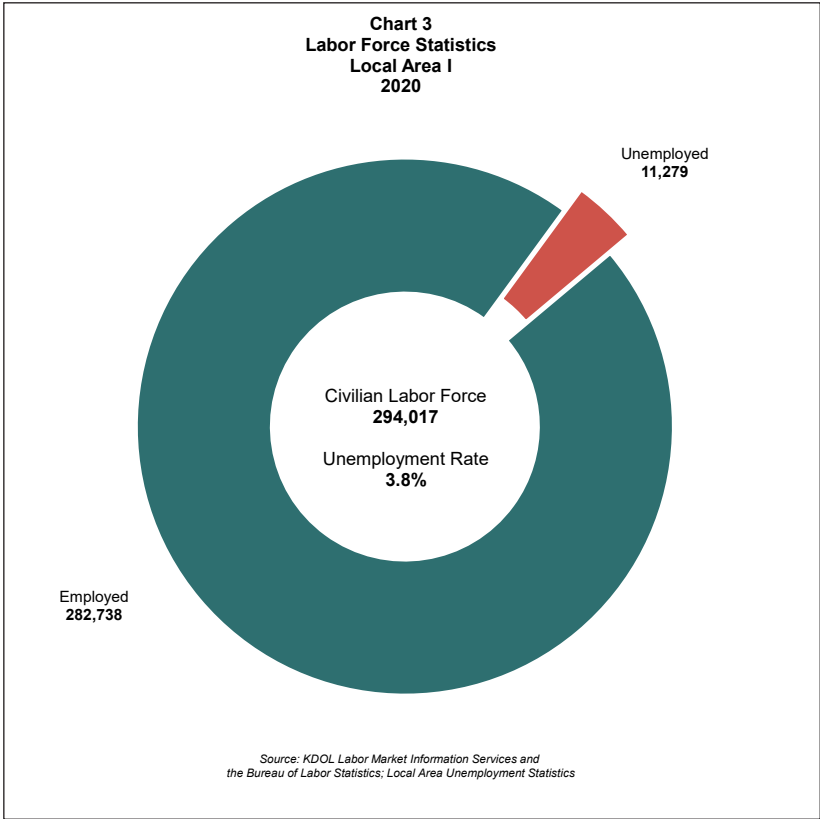
Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy since the population under 25 also decreased by 1,671, or 0.9%. Declines were seen in the 14 and under age groups while slight increases were seen in the 15-19 and 20-24 year-old age groups. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, recorded a slight increase of 0.1%, or 47 people over the year.



Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

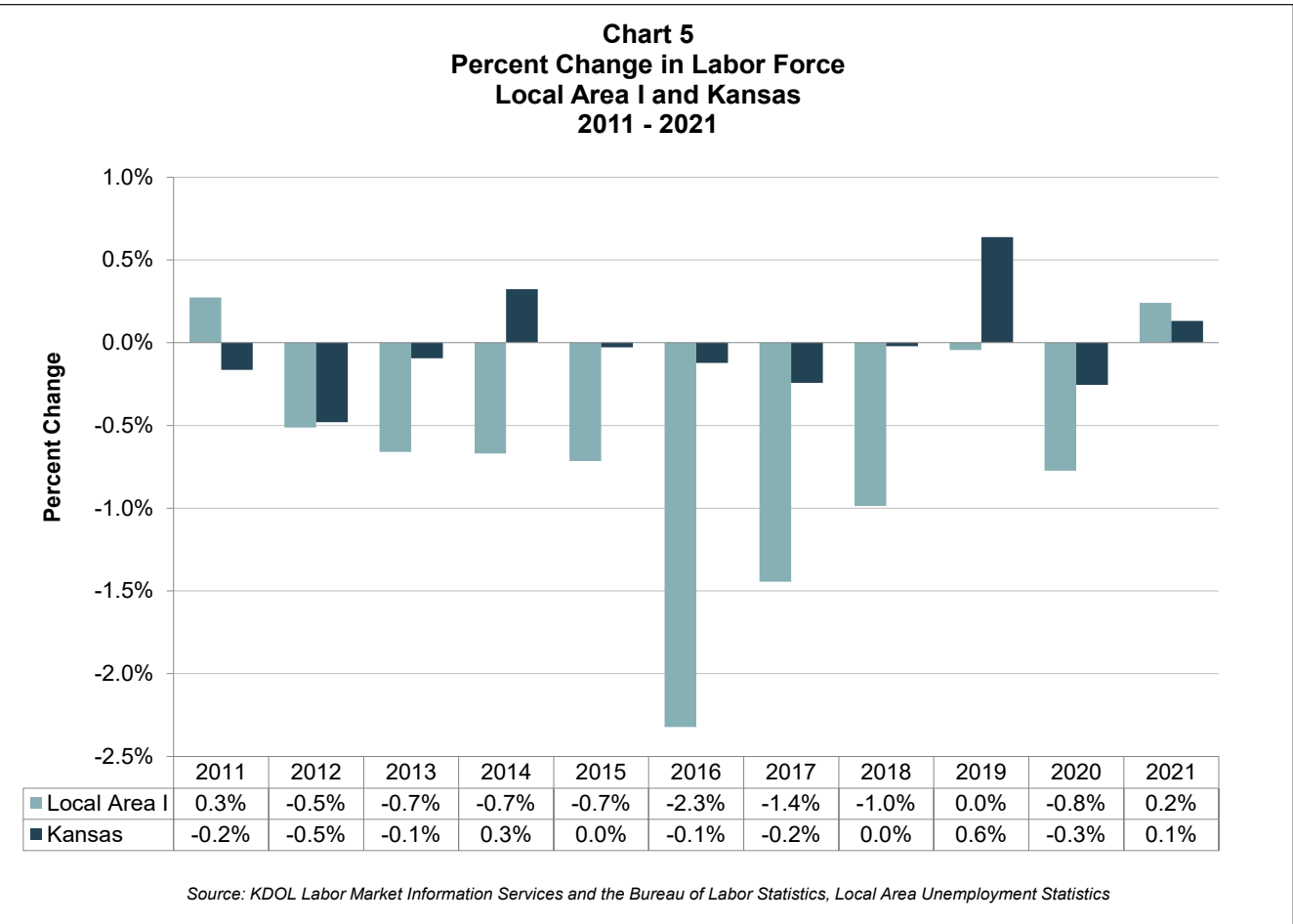
LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

The improvement from 2020 to 2021 is clear when comparing *Chart 3* and *Chart 4*, as the unemployment rate dropped from 3.8% in 2020 to 2.4% in 2021. *Chart 4* shows there were 294,725 people in the Local Area I labor force in 2021, which was an increase from 2020 of 0.2%, or 708 people. There were 287,520 Local Area I residents working in 2021, a 1.7% increase from 2020; however, this is still slightly lower than the pre-pandemic estimate of 288,407 in 2019. This is the third lowest number of employed people in Local Area I since records began in 1990. The number of unemployed people decreased by 4,074, or 36.1%, to 7,205 over the year. Much of this decrease can be attributed to people returning to work as pandemic restrictions eased and vaccines became widely available. This is also the lowest number of unemployed Local Area I residents since records began in 1990.



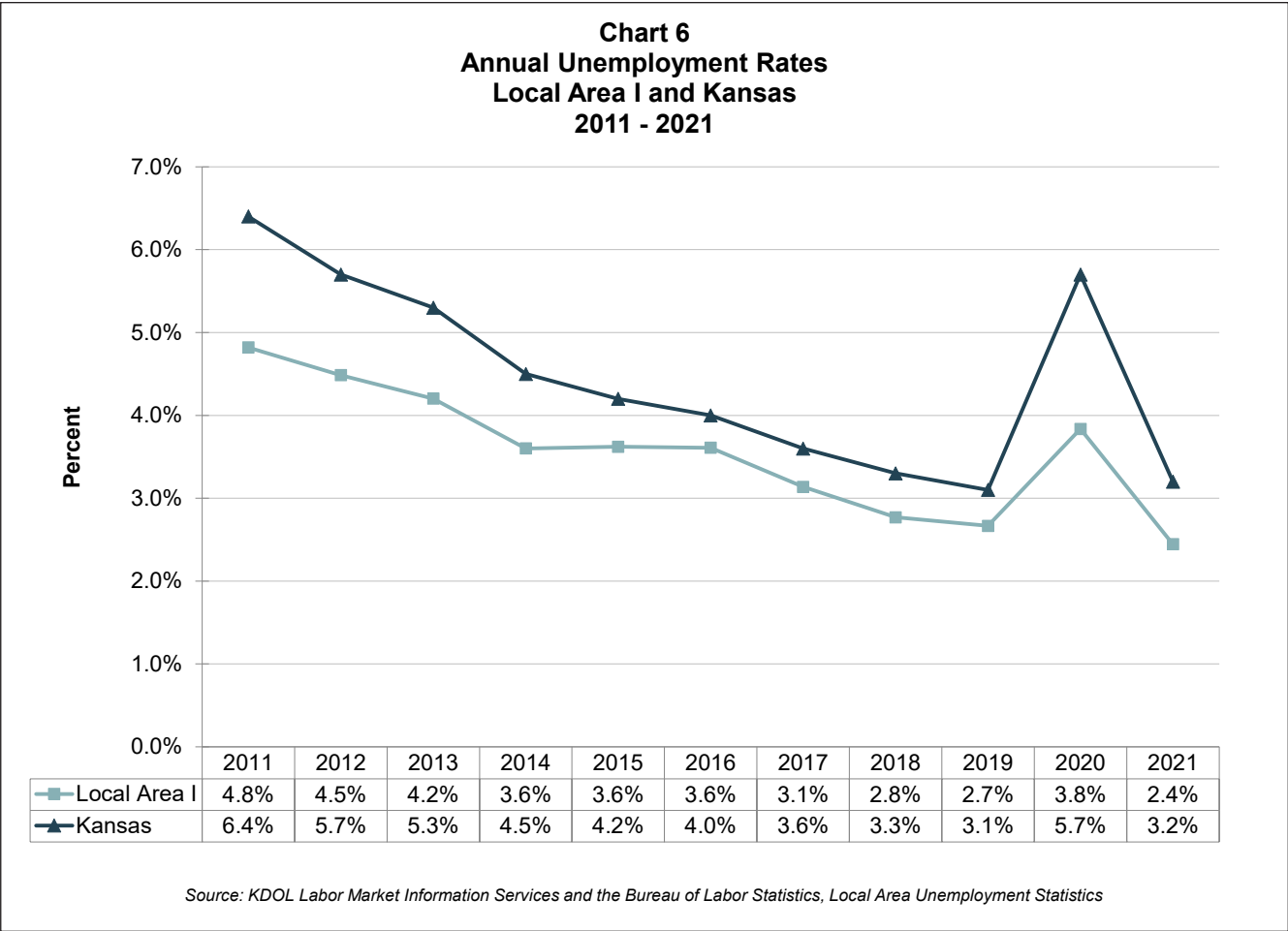
Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment (LAU) Statistics www.bls.gov/lau/

Chart 5 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Local Area I and Kansas. After decreasing for nine consecutive years, the Local Area I labor force increased by 0.2% in 2021. The Local Area I labor force peaked in 2009 with 329,253 people. Since that time the labor force has declined by 34,528 people, or 10.5%.



For a customized report, email KDOL.Laborstats@ks.gov

As shown in *Chart 6*, the Local Area I unemployment rate dipped below pre-pandemic levels in 2021, decreasing 1.4 percentage points over the year to 2.4%. The 2021 rate is 1.2 percentage points lower than the historical annual average of 3.6%, and the lowest unemployment rate on record for Local Area I, with records beginning in 1990.

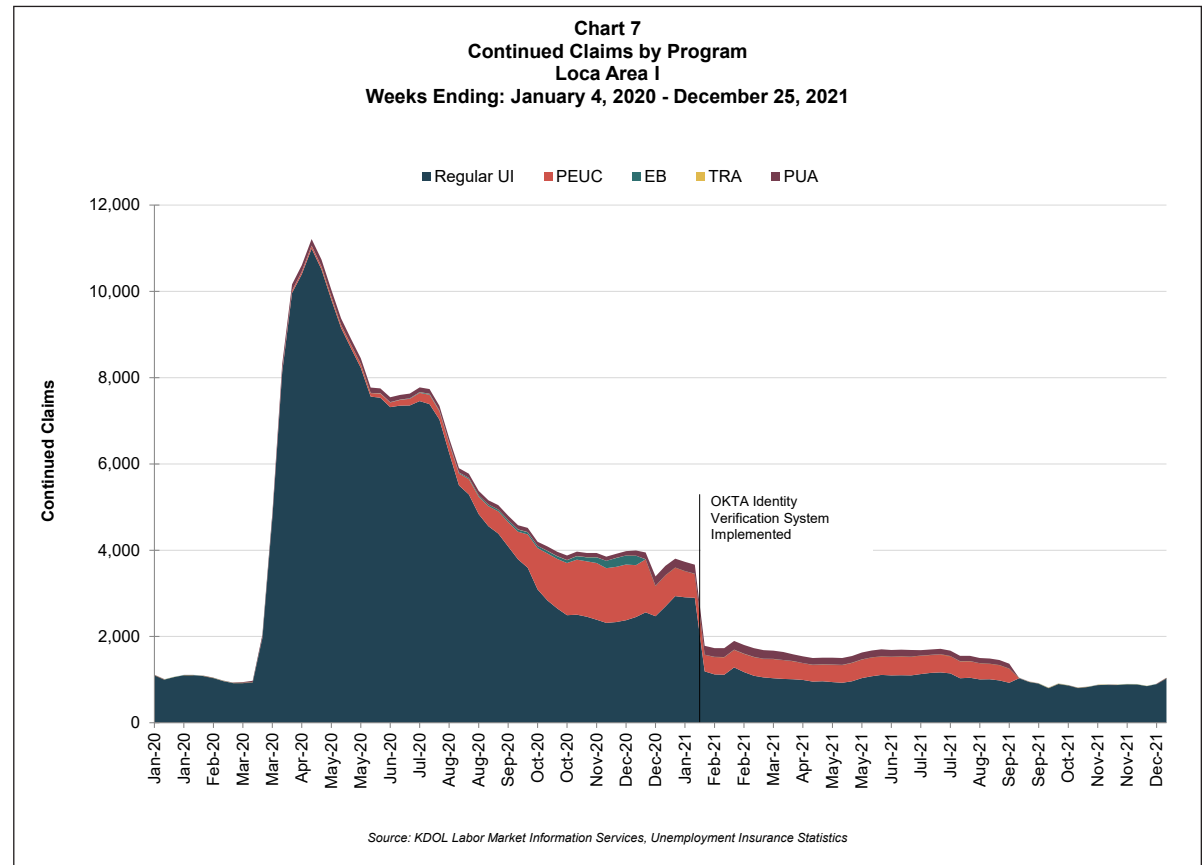


View our Tableau visualizations here: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/kdol#!/>

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS

The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Local Area I residents with the KDOL. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts also exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment, therefore continued claims do not equal claims paid.

In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labor market, the United States Congress authorized new federal unemployment programs through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. These programs were extended through the Continued Assistance to Unemployed Workers Act (Continued Assistance Act) of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. These new programs provided extended benefits through the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. The charts included in this section of the report provide data for all unemployment programs available to claimants throughout 2020 and 2021, with the exception of the industry chart which excludes PUA data.



As shown in *Chart 7*, the number of individuals filing for benefits began to rise sharply during the week ending March 21, 2020, coming to a peak during the week ending April 25, 2020, with a total of 11,214 claims. The number of Local Area I residents filing for benefits continued to trend downward throughout 2020; however, there was a slight increase in claims again in January 2021, followed by a sharp decline which can be attributed to the implementation of the OKTA identity verification system. The number of Local Area I residents filing for benefits fluctuated around 1,600 claims per week from February through September. When the federal PEUC and PUA programs ended in September, weekly claims totals dropped below pre-pandemic levels, averaging around 900 claims per week throughout the remainder of 2021.

Where to find it: Claims data comes from administrative UI tax data. Contact us for a customized report at KDOL.Laborstats@ks.gov

Chart 8 shows the percentage of claims filed by male and female claimants during 2021. Males typically account for a larger portion of continued claims in Kansas as two of the main industries in which workers are filing, construction and manufacturing, are generally male dominated. In 2020, nearly all industries were affected by the pandemic and that was reflected in the distribution of claims by gender in Local Area I, with females filing 50.1% of claims, while males filed 49.9%. In 2021 the distribution of claims by gender returned to typical patterns with 45.7% of claims filed attributed to females and 54.3% attributed to males.

As shown in Chart 9, the majority of claimants filing continued claims are white, which can be attributed to the fact that 89.0% of the population in Local Area I is white, according to the Census' 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Even though white is the largest category, these claimants only accounted for 80.7% of claims in 2021. Black individuals make up 1.9% of the Local Area I population, but accounted for a higher proportion of claims, 4.8%. In 2021, 2.3% of claims came from American Indian or Alaskan Natives, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders who collectively make up 1.7% of the Local Area I population.

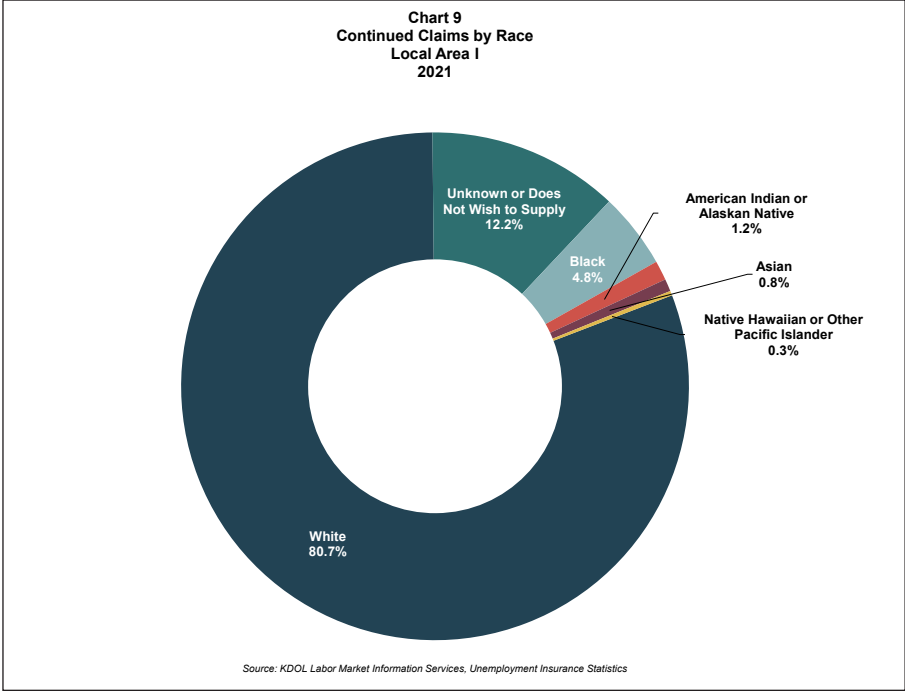
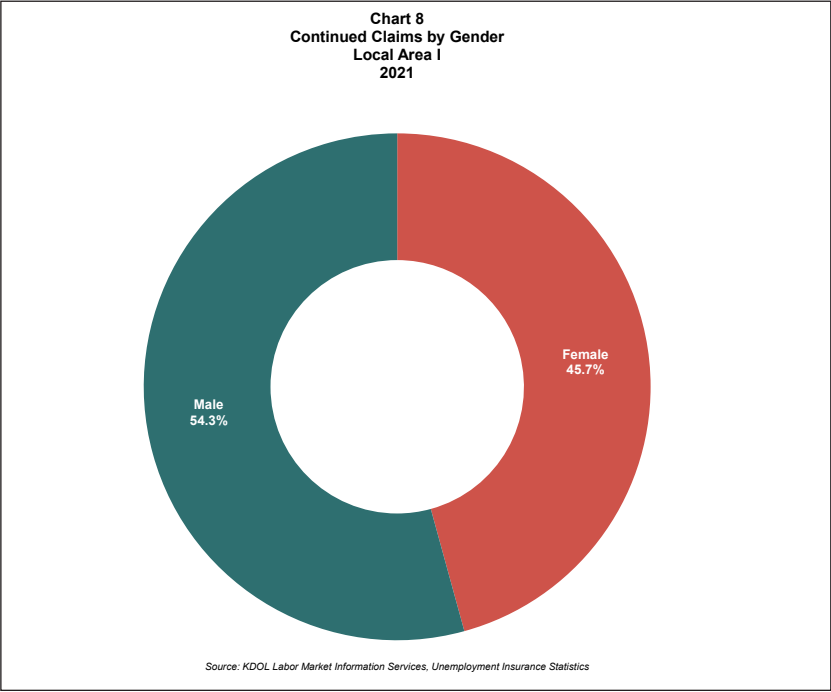


Chart 10 shows the percentage of claims filed by age group in 2021. The age groups of 16-24 and 25-34 saw improvement in percentage of claims filed over the year. In 2020, the 16-24 year-old age group accounted for 13.0% of total claims, but in 2021 this age group accounted for just 5.3% of total claims. The 25-34 year-old age group accounted for 22.5% of total claims in 2020, but decreased to 18.9% in 2021. These age groups likely saw higher percentages of claims during 2020 due to the fact that harder hit industries, such as accommodation and food services, typically have a younger workforce.

As shown in Chart 11, claimants with a high school diploma or GED had the largest share of claims in 2021, accounting for 44.9%. This was followed by claimants who completed some college or associate degree with 27.0% of claims. Claimants with a bachelor's degree or higher accounted for 11.8% of claims, while claimants with less than a high school education accounted for 14.6% of claims in 2021. Individuals with a high school diploma or less than high school account for a higher proportion of overall claims than their percentage of the population, while individuals with some college or a postsecondary degree represent a smaller share of claimants than their percentage of the Local Area I population.

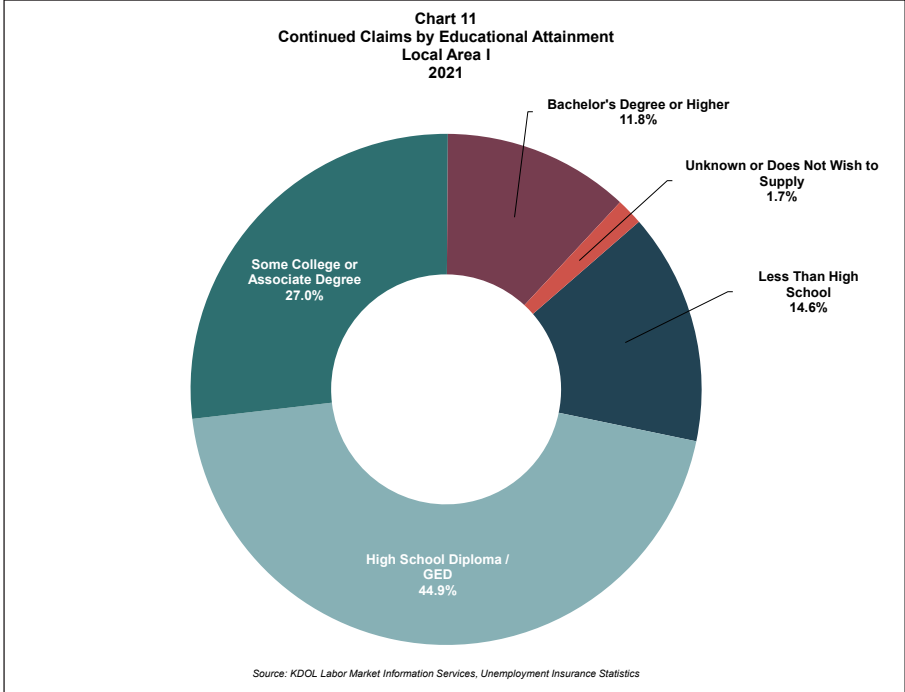
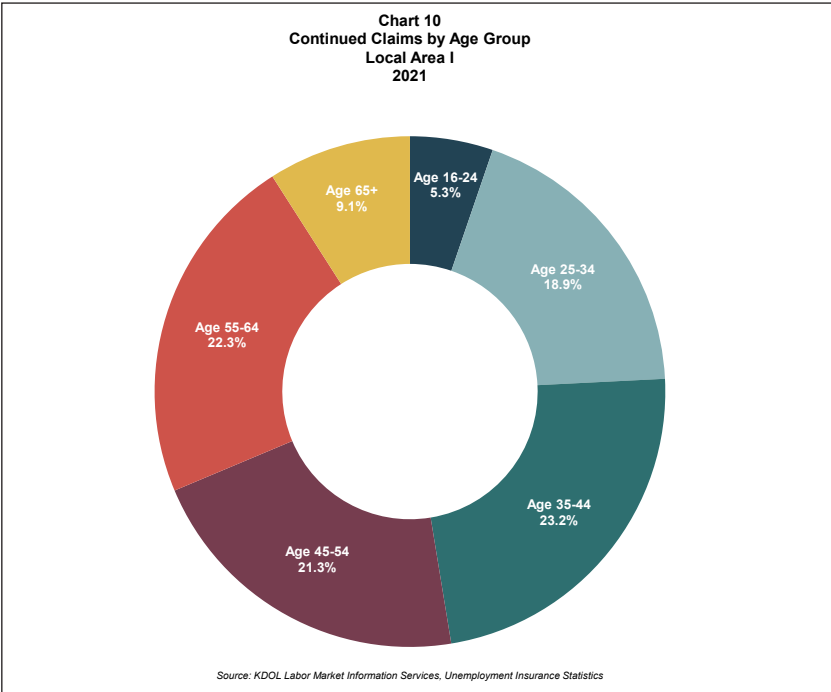
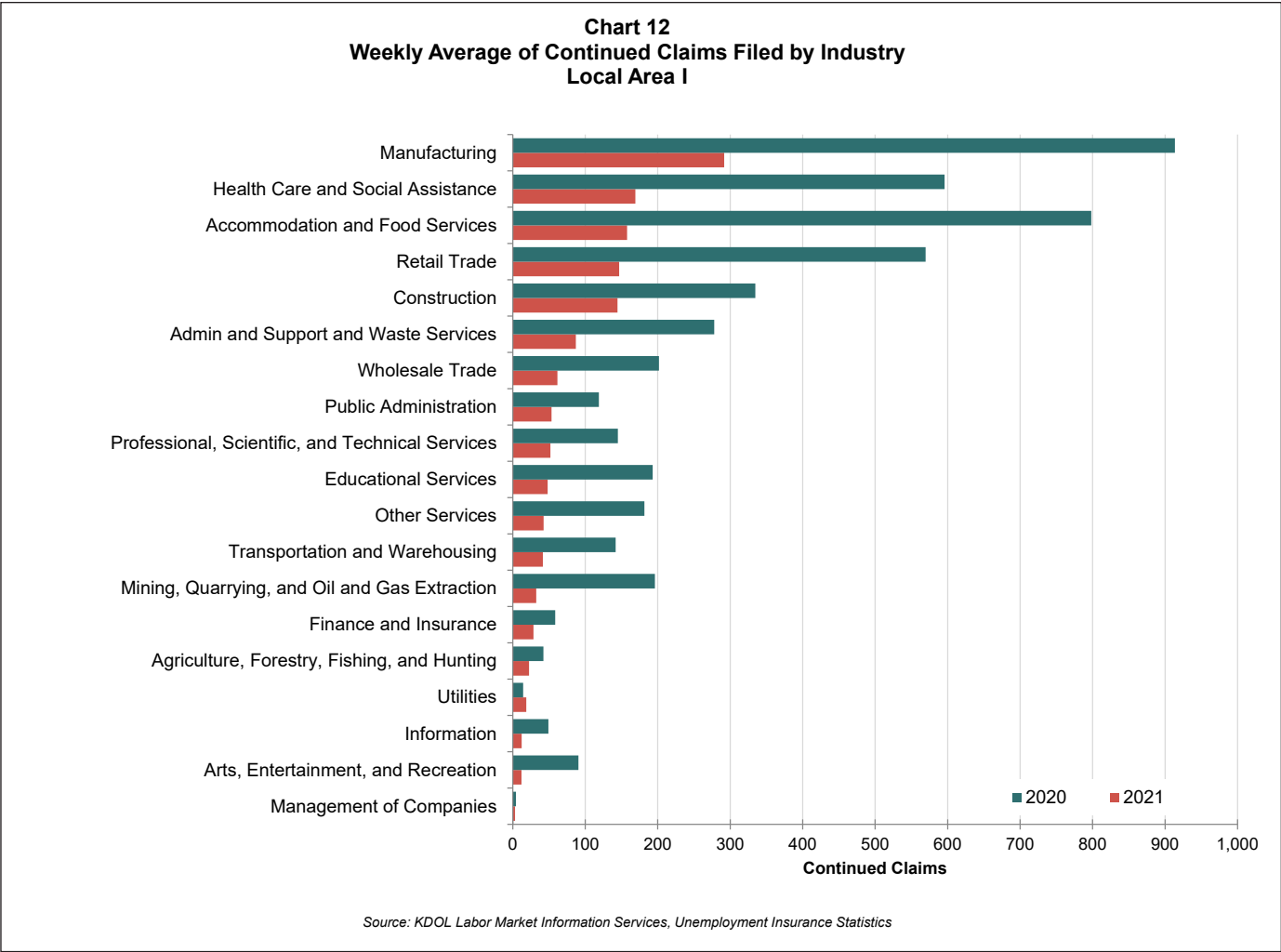


Chart 12 displays the average number of continued claims filed each week by industry. Manufacturing had the highest weekly average with 292 continued claims filed per week during 2021, a decrease of 68.1% from 2020. Health care and social assistance had the second highest average with 169 claims filed per week, decreasing 71.6% over the year. Although accommodation and food services had one of the highest weekly claims averages in 2021, this industry saw some of the largest improvements from 2020. Over the year, average weekly claims in this industry declined by 640 to 158, a decrease of 80.2%. Two additional industries decreased their weekly average of claims filed by more than 80% in 2021: mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction and arts, entertainment, and recreation.



INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Employment

In 2021, Local Area I recorded an average of 247,031 total jobs. Of these, 191,545, or 77.5%, were private sector jobs. The private sector industry that recorded the most jobs for Local Area I in 2021 was manufacturing, which accounted for 38,849 jobs. This was followed by health care and social assistance with 30,040 jobs and retail trade with 26,540 jobs. Government accounted for 55,486 or 22.5% of jobs in Local Area I in 2021, with the majority of these jobs being recorded at the local level. There were 47,174 local government jobs in Local Area I in 2021, more than any private sector industry in Local Area I.

Wages

The average weekly wage for all industries in Local Area I was \$844 in 2021, this was \$183 lower than the statewide average of \$1,027. The private sector recorded an average of \$877, while government recorded an average of \$729. Utilities recorded the highest average weekly wage, at \$1,781, followed by management of companies and enterprises with an average weekly wage of \$1,468. Six additional private sector industries in Local Area I recorded an average weekly wage over \$1,000: finance and insurance; manufacturing; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; wholesale trade; transportation and warehousing; and information.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an industry in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an industry is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the state; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that industry than the state.

In Local Area I, private sector industries with the highest employment concentrations relative to the state include agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; and utilities. Each of these industries recorded a location quotient higher than 2.0. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting had the highest location quotient in Local Area I, with an employment concentration 4.19 times higher than that of the state. Local Area I also has a high concentration of local government employment, with a concentration 1.49 times higher than the employment concentration for the state. The private sector industries with the lowest employment concentration relative to the state in Local Area I were administrative and waste services, real estate and rental and leasing, and professional and technical services, each recorded a location quotient of 0.51 or less.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program www.bls.gov/cew/

Sector	Employment	Average Weekly Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to Kansas
Total Covered	247,031	\$844	1.00
Total Private	191,545	\$877	0.94
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	9,739	\$911	4.19
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	3,504	\$1,131	3.26
Utilities	2,234	\$1,781	2.01
Construction	9,496	\$999	0.81
Manufacturing	38,849	\$1,158	1.32
Wholesale trade	10,534	\$1,122	1.03
Retail trade	26,540	\$550	1.04
Transportation and warehousing	6,965	\$1,053	0.62
Information	2,526	\$1,022	0.82
Finance and insurance	7,360	\$1,168	0.70
Real estate and rental and leasing	1,341	\$756	0.48
Professional and technical services	5,785	\$980	0.44
Management of companies and enterprises	2,341	\$1,468	0.60
Administrative and waste services	7,241	\$733	0.51
Educational services	1,858	\$579	0.74
Health care and social assistance	30,040	\$855	0.91
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,982	\$370	0.73
Accommodation and food services	18,369	\$308	0.96
Other services, except public administration	4,842	\$665	0.82
Total Government	55,486	\$729	1.27
Federal Government	2,337	\$1,105	0.50
State Government	5,975	\$907	0.84
Local Government	47,174	\$688	1.49

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Table 2 displays the employment, median annual wage, and employment location quotient for each occupational group in Local Area I, while Tables 3 and 4 show the top 20 detailed occupations by employment and median annual wage.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the state; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the state.

In Local Area I, the occupational groups with the highest employment concentrations relative to Kansas were farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; production occupations; building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations; educational instruction and library occupations; and installation, maintenance, and repair occupations. Each of these occupational groups recorded a location quotient of 1.19 or higher. Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations had the highest location quotient in Local Area I, with an employment concentration 2.27 times higher than that of the state. The occupational groups in Local Area I with the lowest employment concentration relative to the state were business and financial operations occupations, architecture and engineering occupations, legal occupations, and computer and mathematical occupations, each recorded a location quotient 0.64 or lower.

Table 2
Occupational Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients
Local Area I
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment	Median Annual Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to Kansas
All Occupations	238,980	\$36,995	1.00
Management Occupations	10,730	\$77,492	0.89
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	8,990	\$60,125	0.64
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	2,640	\$61,093	0.42
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	2,710	\$62,064	0.64
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	2,060	\$51,002	0.98
Community and Social Service Occupations	3,710	\$38,819	1.04
Legal Occupations	790	\$60,469	0.63
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	18,830	\$45,505	1.21
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	2,270	\$30,479	0.84
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	15,780	\$59,294	1.02
Health Care Support Occupations	11,160	\$28,423	1.05
Protective Service Occupations	5,290	\$39,568	1.08
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	19,750	\$22,689	1.03
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	8,540	\$28,397	1.22
Personal Care and Service Occupations	3,690	\$22,712	0.79
Sales and Related Occupations	21,400	\$27,747	1.00
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	29,540	\$35,360	0.93
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	1,540	\$36,011	2.27
Construction and Extraction Occupations	11,090	\$37,974	1.08
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	12,390	\$46,654	1.19
Production Occupations	23,940	\$37,763	1.29
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	22,140	\$36,814	0.98

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) www.bls.gov/oes/

Employment

Table 2 shows that there were 29,540 jobs classified as office and administrative support occupations, the most of any occupational group. Three of the top 20 occupations by employment fell under this occupational group: secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive; bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks; and customer service representatives. Three other occupational groups had employment of at least 20,000. There were 23,940 jobs in the production occupational group in Local Area I. Transportation and material moving occupations had an estimated 22,140 jobs in Local Area I, with three occupations in this group landing in the top 20 occupations by employment: heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers; laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand; and stockers and order fillers. The sales and related occupations group accounted for 21,400 jobs, with cashiers being the most common occupation and retail salespersons being the sixth most common occupation in Local Area I.

Table 3
Top 20 Occupations by Employment
Local Area I
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment
Cashiers	7,510
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	5,740
Fast Food and Counter Workers	5,670
Nursing Assistants	5,610
Registered Nurses	5,560
Retail Salespersons	5,130
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	5,030
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	4,510
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	4,480
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	4,250
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	4,240
General and Operations Managers	4,000
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	3,510
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	3,360
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	3,300
Stockers and Order Fillers	3,190
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	3,170
Customer Service Representatives	2,840
Waiters and Waitresses	2,810
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	2,750

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

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Wages

According to the Kansas Wage Survey, the median annual wage in Local Area I as of May 2021 was \$36,995. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of \$77,492. Four additional occupational groups recorded median annual wages over \$60,000: architecture and engineering occupations, computer and mathematical occupations, legal occupations, and business and financial operations occupations. It is notable that eight of the top 20 highest paying occupations were in the health care practitioner and technical occupations group, there were also eight occupations from the management occupations group.

Table 4
Top 20 Occupations by Median Annual Wage
Local Area I
May 2021

Occupational Title	Median Annual Wage
Radiologists	\$169,917
Pediatricians, General	\$167,303
Dentists, General	\$160,890
Nurse Anesthetists	\$133,975
Pharmacists	\$127,239
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$126,968
Purchasing Managers	\$124,949
Natural Sciences Managers	\$119,766
Chief Executives	\$119,482
Financial Managers	\$113,676
Sales Managers	\$110,682
Fundraising Managers	\$110,169
Optometrists	\$105,147
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$102,303
Power Distributors and Dispatchers	\$101,321
Physician Assistants	\$100,992
Atmospheric and Space Scientists	\$100,734
Petroleum Pump System Operators, Refinery Operators, and Gaugers	\$100,382
Actuaries	\$100,164
Nurse Practitioners	\$99,894

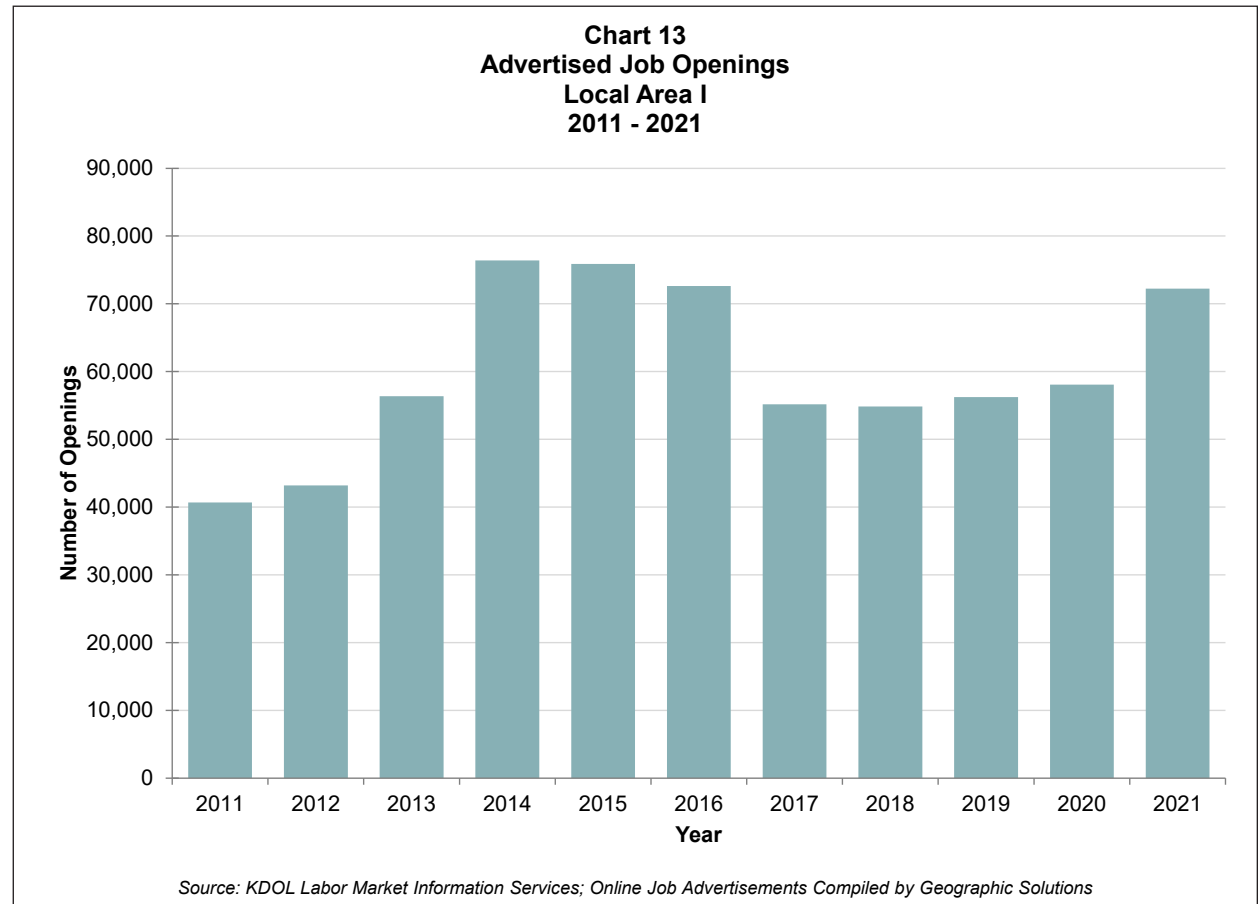
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

View our Tableau visualizations here: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/kdol#!/>

ADVERTISED JOBS

Advertised job openings can be used as a measure of labor demand. Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Approximately 30% of industry and 40% of occupational postings do not include a classification. Data used in this analysis may not be representative of a full sample. This analysis will focus on those openings with an industry or occupational classification.

Chart 13 shows that the annual number of advertised job openings increased slightly from 2017 through 2020 in Local Area I. However, there was a large increase in job openings from 2020 to 2021 of 24.4%, or 14,166 job openings, which is likely due to businesses reopening as pandemic restrictions were lifted and vaccines became more widely available.



Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Advertised Jobs Data compiled by Geographic Solutions: www.klic.dol.ks.gov

As shown in *Chart 14*, the health care practitioners and technical occupations group had the most job openings by far, with 13,291 openings advertised in 2021. The transportation and material moving occupational group had 3,792 openings, while the management occupational group had 3,701 openings. Four additional occupational groups had over 2,000 openings in 2021: health care support, office and administrative support, production, and sales and related.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation with 6,087 openings, followed by licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses with 1,440 openings, and nursing assistants with 1,382 openings. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers recorded 909 openings in 2021, while customer service representatives recorded 777 openings.

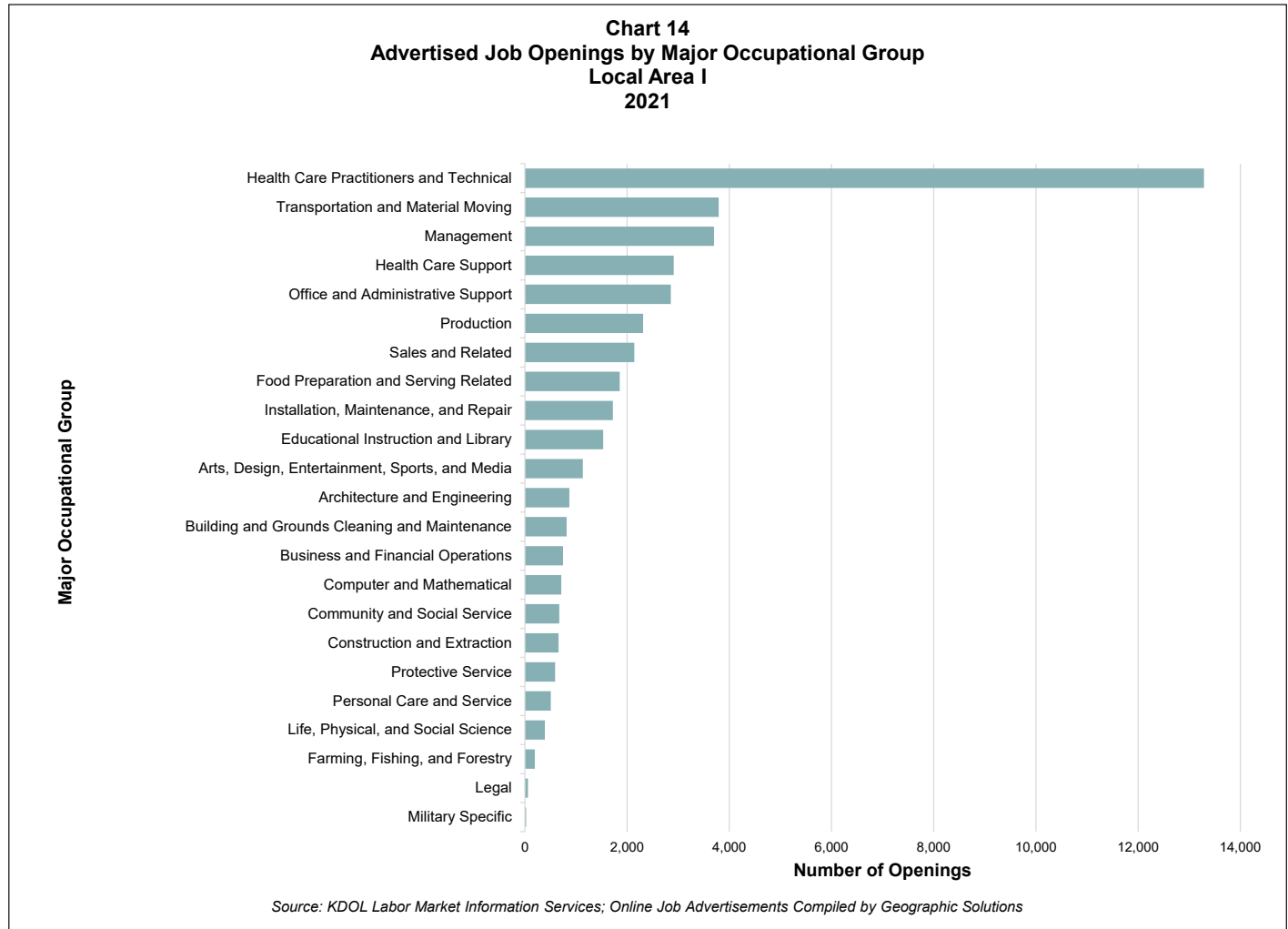
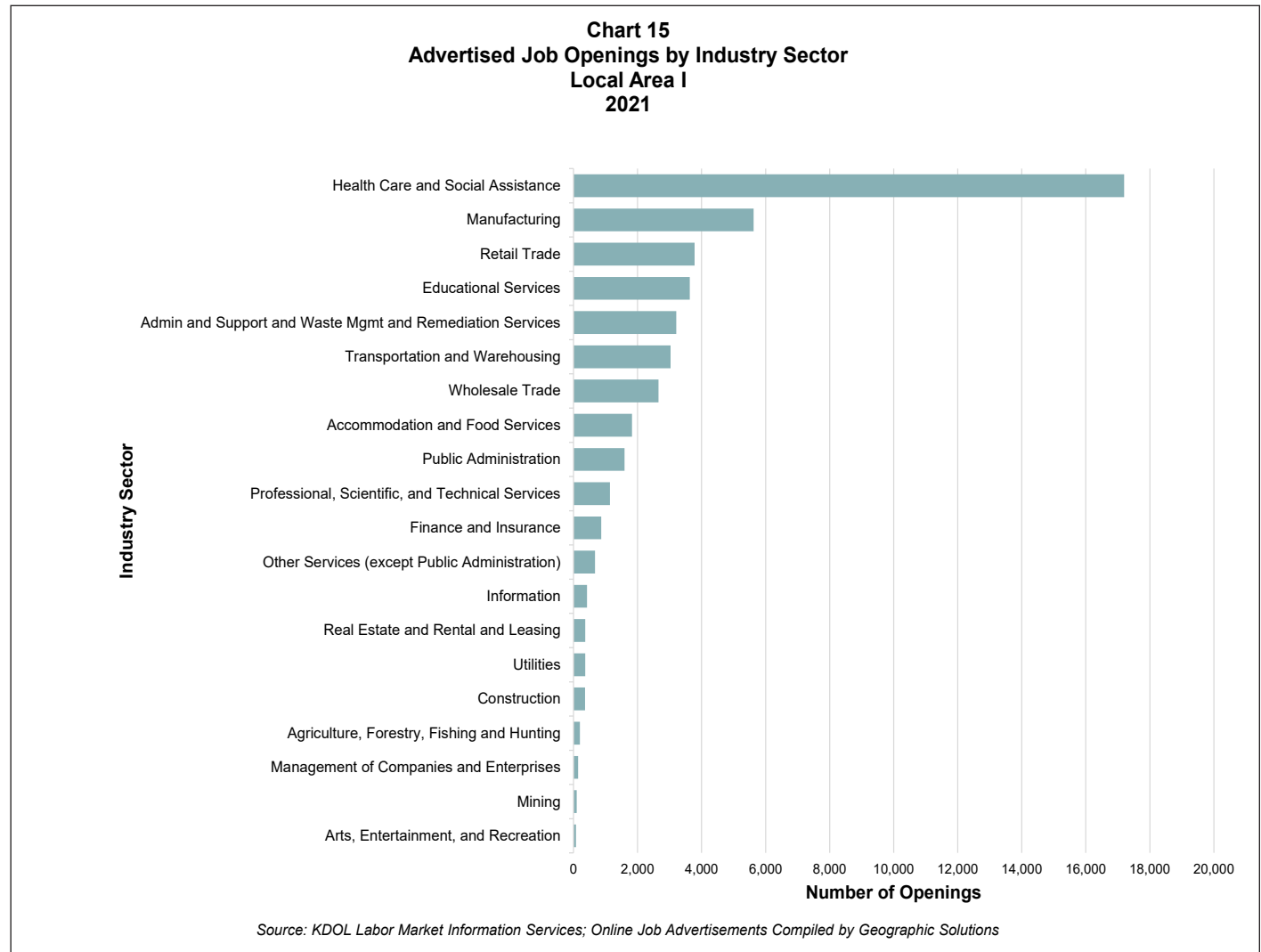


Chart 15 displays advertised job openings by industry sector. The health care and social assistance sector had the most openings by far in 2021, with 17,200 job openings. More than half of these openings were in hospitals, the remaining majority fell into nursing and residential care facilities and ambulatory health care services. The manufacturing sector had 5,627 job openings, the majority of which were in the chemical and food manufacturing subsectors. The following industry sectors each had at least 3,000 job openings: retail trade, educational services, administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, and transportation and warehousing.



HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The list of these occupations is provided to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. High demand occupations have higher than average combined current and projected (short-term and long-term) demand in the state. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation.

Occupations are scored based on the following criteria:

1. Current number of openings as determined by the number of jobs advertised online during the 2nd quarter of the year
2. Projected number of openings in two years as indicated in the short-term projections program
3. Projected number of openings in 10 years as indicated in the long-term projections program

Each of these scores are added together to get a total score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

Table 5 displays the top high demand occupations. These 13 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means that they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2023 and 2028. Overall, there are 216 occupations on the high demand list in Local Area I.

Nine of the top 13 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require less than one month of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. Eight out of nine of these occupations have an annual wage below the Local Area I median wage, \$36,995, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of industry growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Registered Nurses	\$60,596	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$42,076	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$37,910	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	\$29,799	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$28,893	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Assistants	\$28,826	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$27,974	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	\$25,341	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	\$23,864	Some college, no degree	None
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	\$23,310	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$22,913	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	\$22,286	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$22,218	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
<small>Note: Three projection regions are combined to produce the high demand list for Local Area I: North Central, Northwest, and Southwest. These regions differ from Local Area I since they exclude Chase and Harvey counties. Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations</small>			

KDOL also identifies high demand occupations that also pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the median wage for each respective area.

In Local Area I, there are 121 high demand high wage occupations, *Table 6* lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, eight of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree or moderate-term on-the-job training. Also noteworthy is that three occupations that had a maximum demand score of 30 also had high wages: registered nurses; heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers; and laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand.

Table 6 Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations Local Area I 2022			
Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Registered Nurses	\$60,596	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$42,076	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$37,910	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
General and Operations Managers	\$72,929	Bachelor's degree	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$47,717	Bachelor's degree	None
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	\$37,037	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$62,318	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Accountants and Auditors	\$61,574	Bachelor's degree	None
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	\$48,004	Bachelor's degree	None
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$45,315	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$37,142	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$48,765	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$46,159	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	\$38,010	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	\$45,370	High school diploma or equivalent	None

Note: Three projection regions are combined to produce the high demand list for Local Area I: North Central, Northwest, and Southwest. These regions differ from Local Area I since they exclude Chase and Harvey counties. Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403>

LOCAL AREA II SUMMARY

POPULATION

The 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates will become the official estimates for the 2010-2020 decade and are currently scheduled to be released in 2023. They are produced by modifying the Vintage 2020 estimates to account for differences between the postcensal estimates and the results of the 2020 Census. The result is a consistent time series from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census. Due to the delay in finalizing the 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020.

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.

Local Area II consists of 17 counties in northeast Kansas. The largest cities in this region are Topeka, Lawrence, Manhattan, and Junction City. *Chart 1* displays the population of Local Area II from 2011 to 2021. The Local Area II population was estimated to be 578,899 in 2021. This represents a gain from 2020 of 58 people, or 0.0%. Local Area II has seen little change in its population since 2012, declining by 1,231 people, or 0.2% during that time.

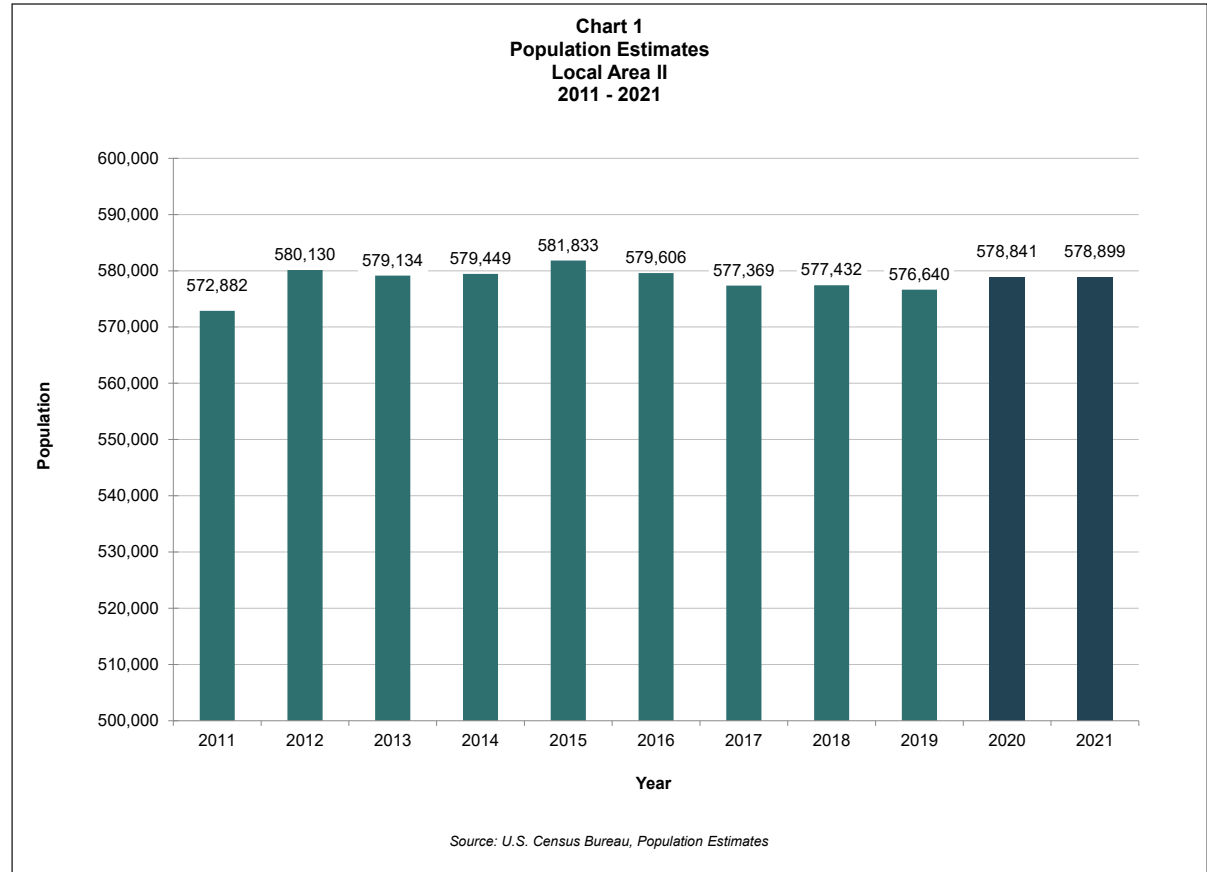
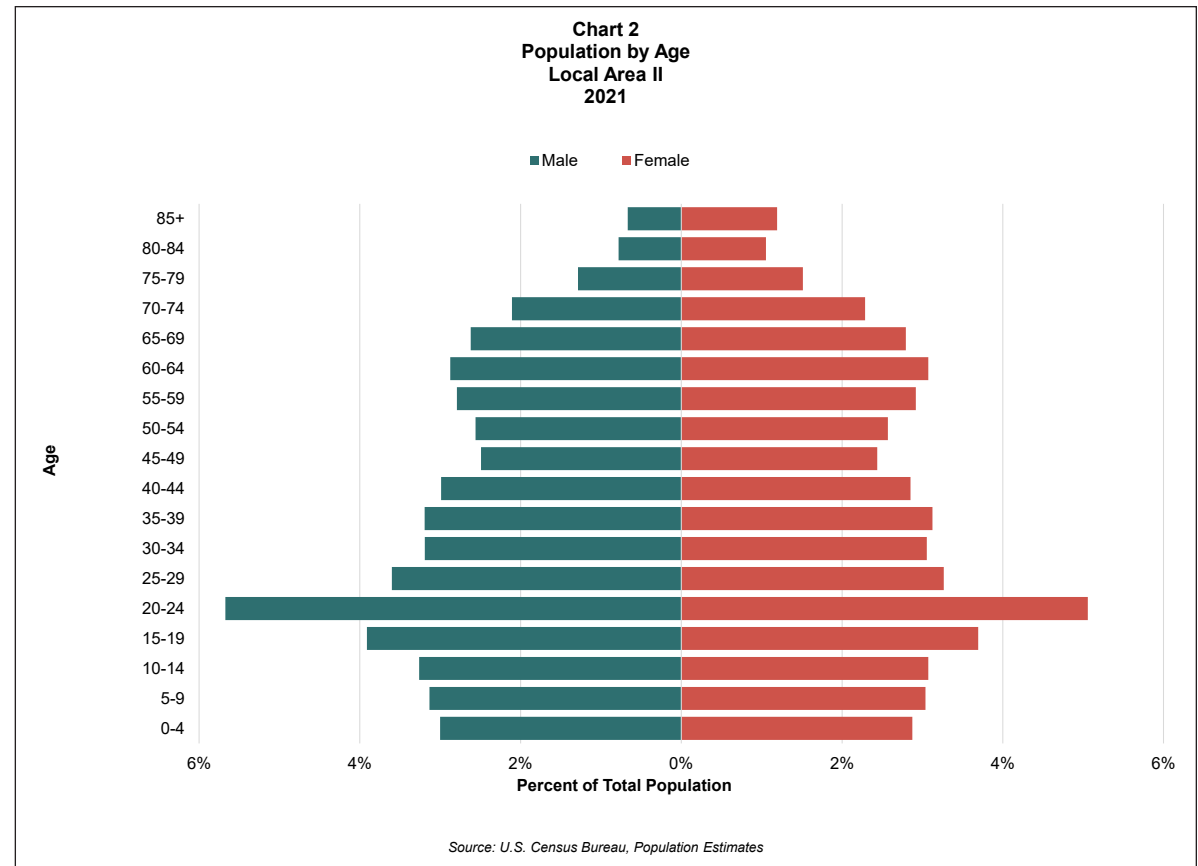


Chart 2 displays the Local Area II population by age group and gender. The population pyramid for Local Area II shows that there is a major peak in the population centered on the 20-24 year-old age group, which likely reflects the fact that the two largest universities in the state are located in this local area. There is a smaller peak centered on the 60-64 year-old age group, representing younger members of the baby boomer generation. The 20-24 year-old age group is by far the largest age group in Local Area II, representing 10.7% of the total population.

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 for Local Area II in 2021 was 465,178, an increase of 1,485 over the year, or 0.3%. The 25-54 year-old population was 204,519 in 2021, an increase of 144 over the year, or 0.1%.

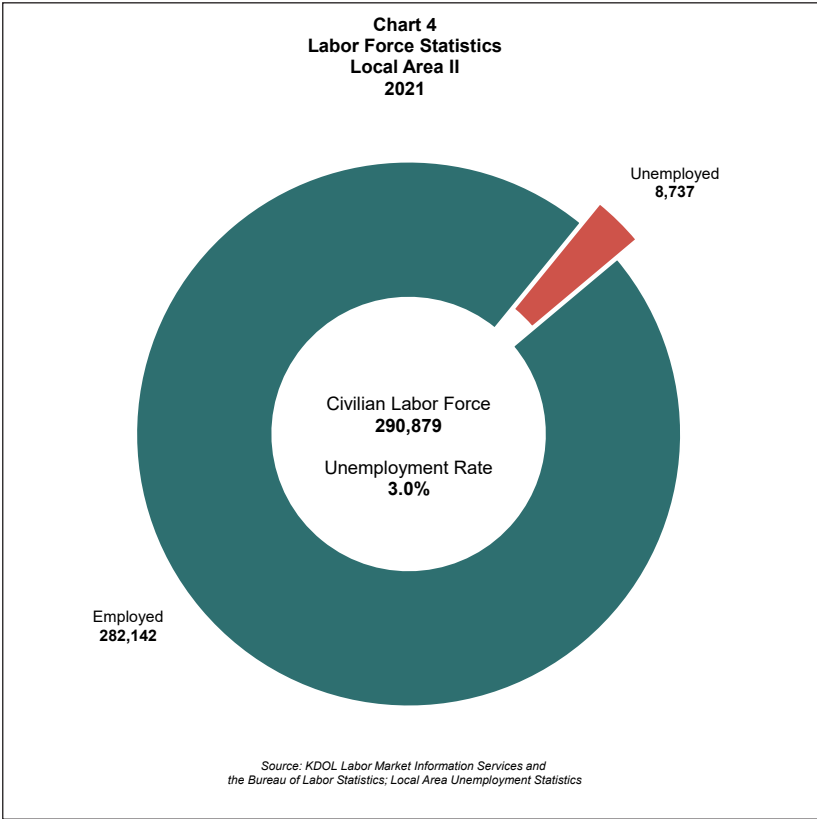
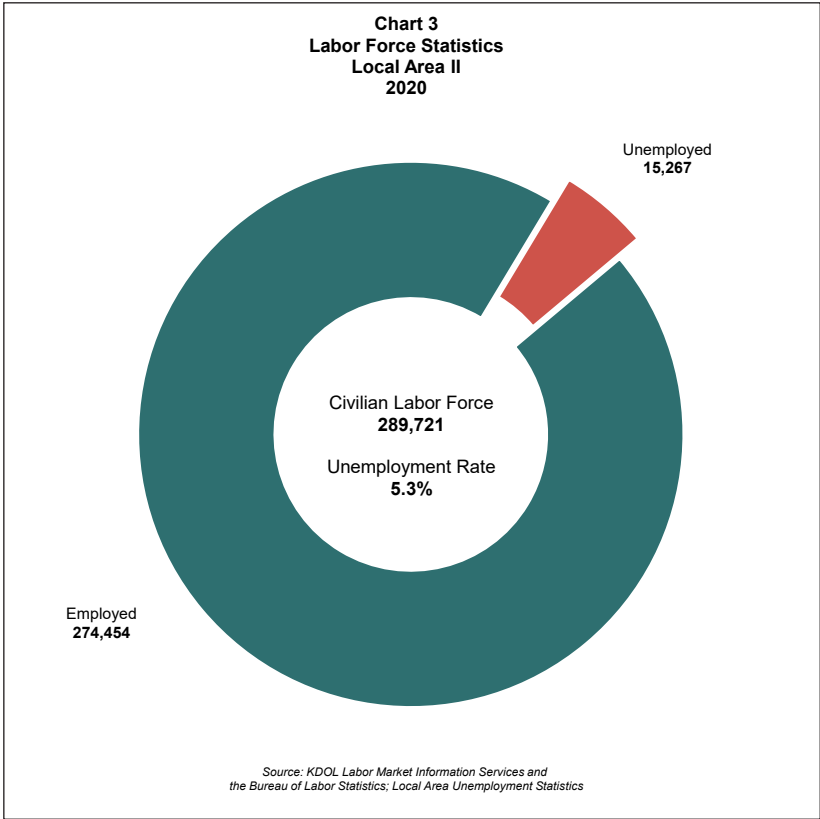
Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy since the population under 25 decreased by 1,269, or 0.6%. Declines were seen in the 14 and under age groups while slight increases were seen in the 15-19 and 20-24 year-old age groups. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, recorded a slight increase of 0.3%, or 198 people over the year.



Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

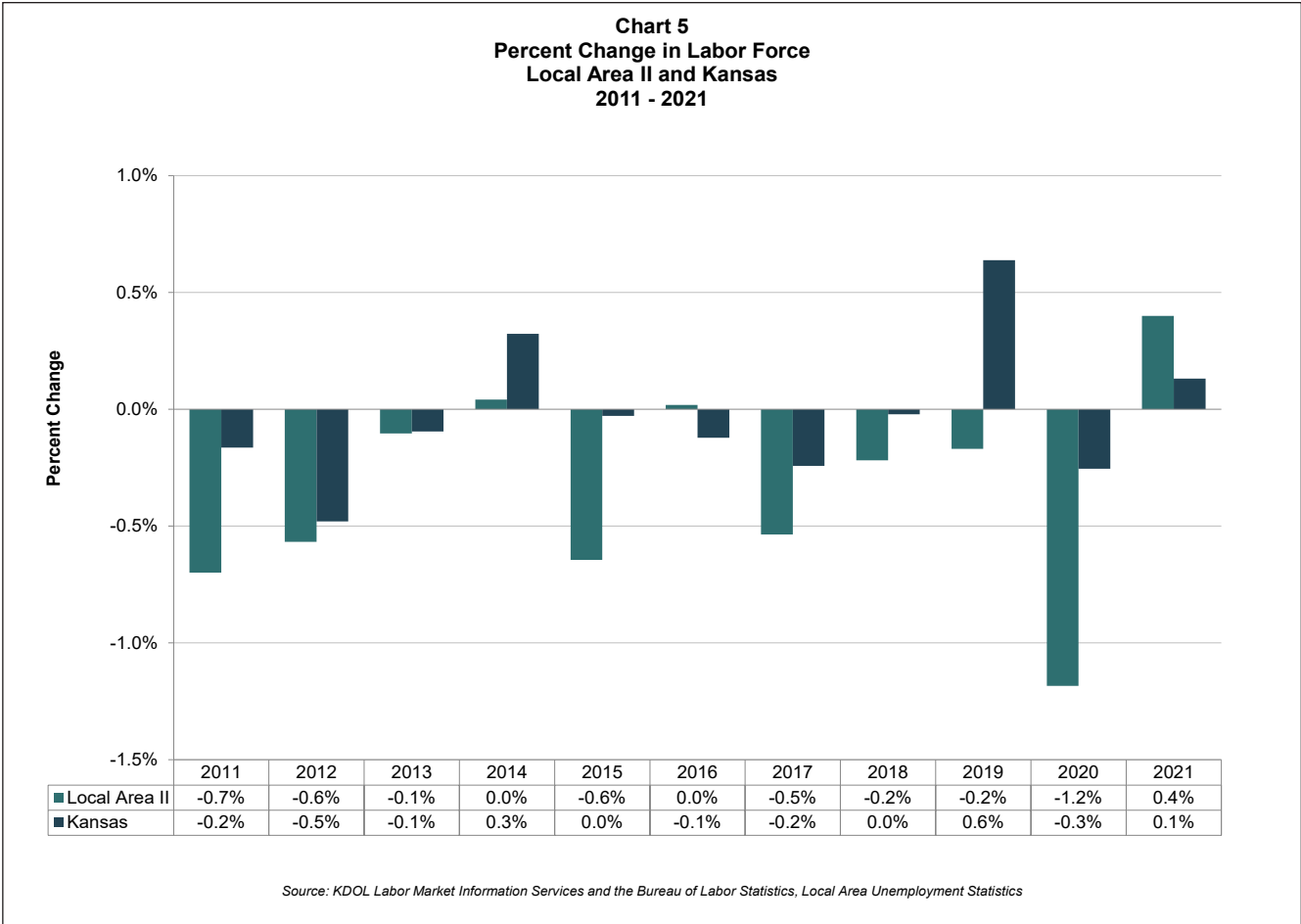
LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

The improvement from 2020 to 2021 is clear when comparing *Chart 3* and *Chart 4*, as the unemployment rate dropped from 5.3% in 2020 to 3.0% in 2021. *Chart 4* shows there were 290,879 people in the Local Area II labor force in 2021, which was an increase from 2020 of 0.4%, or 1,158 people. There were 282,142 Local Area II residents working in 2021, a 2.8% increase from 2020; however, this is still lower than the pre-pandemic estimate of 283,941 in 2019. With the exception of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020, employment levels in Local Area II have been relatively flat since 2007, averaging around 283,000 people annually. The number of unemployed people decreased by 6,530, or 42.8%, to 8,737 over the year. Much of this decrease can be attributed to people returning to work as pandemic restrictions eased and vaccines became widely available. This is also the lowest number of unemployed Local Area II residents since records began in 1990.



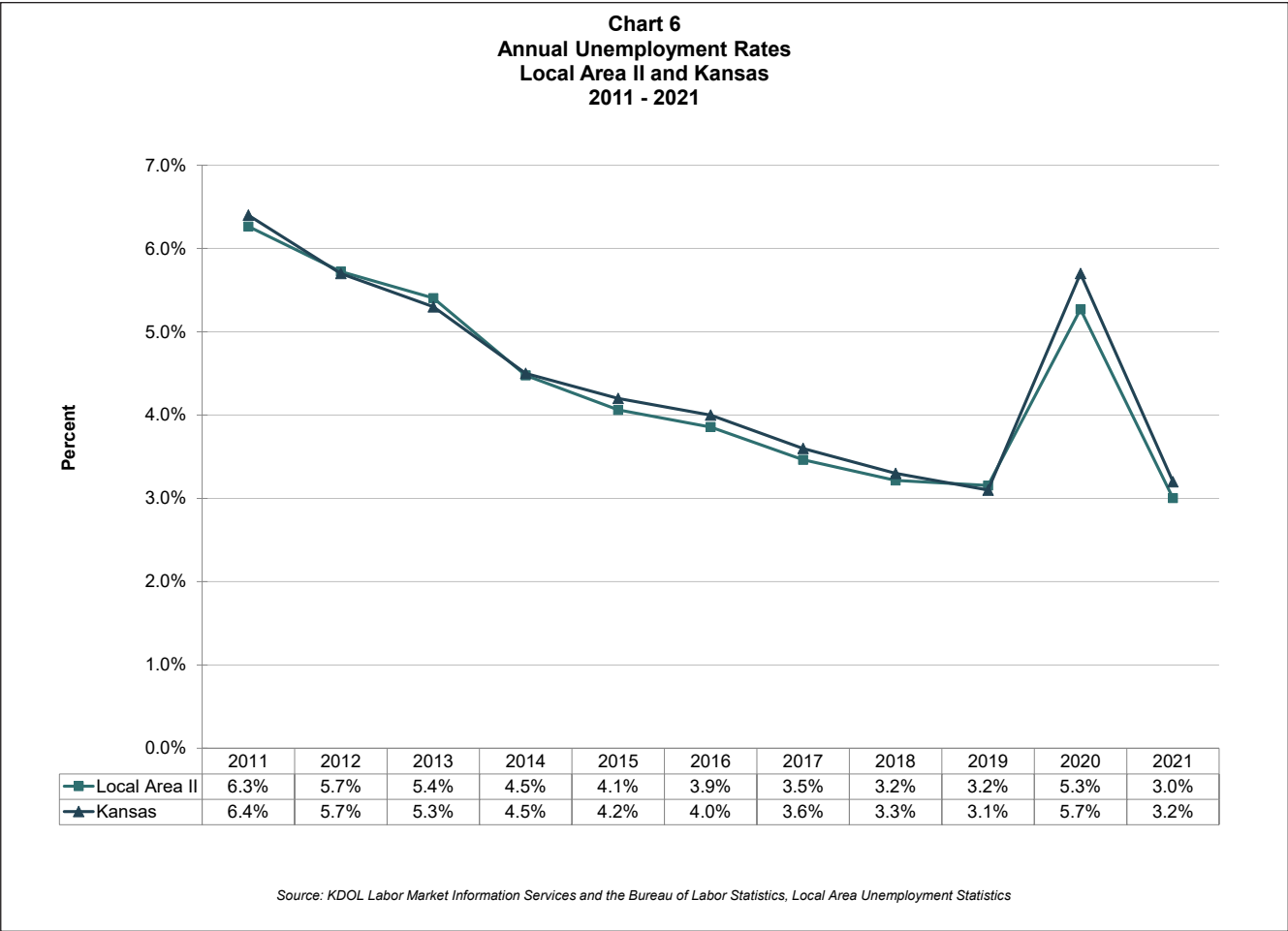
Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment (LAU) Statistics www.bls.gov/lau/

Chart 5 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Local Area II and Kansas. The Local Area II labor force has seen a gradual downward trend since 2009, decreasing by 11,541 people, or 3.8% during that time. While Local Area II did recover some of its labor force lost to the pandemic, it still has not reached 2019 levels. Labor force estimates for 2021 are roughly 2,300 lower than 2019 estimates.



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As shown in *Chart 6*, the Local Area II unemployment rate dipped below pre-pandemic levels in 2021, decreasing 2.3 percentage points over the year to 3.0%. The 2021 rate is 1.6 percentage points lower than the historical annual average of 4.6%, and the lowest unemployment rate on record for Local Area II, with records beginning in 1990.

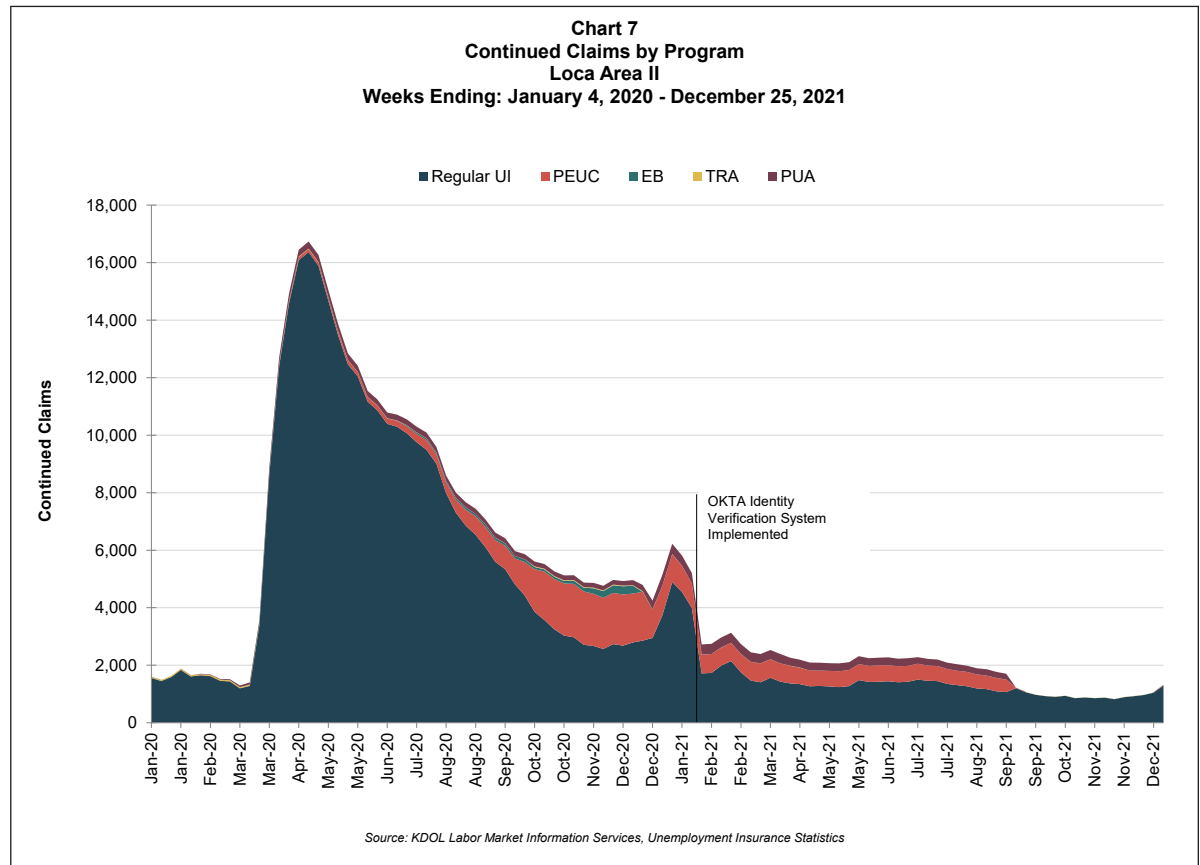


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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS

The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Local Area II residents with the KDOL. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts also exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment, therefore continued claims do not equal claims paid.

In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labor market, the United States Congress authorized new federal unemployment programs through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. These programs were extended through the Continued Assistance to Unemployed Workers Act (Continued Assistance Act) of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. These new programs provided extended benefits through the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. The charts included in this section of the report provide data for all unemployment programs available to claimants throughout 2020 and 2021, with the exception of the industry chart which excludes PUA data.



As shown in *Chart 7*, the number of individuals filing for benefits began to rise sharply during the week ending March 21, 2020, coming to a peak during the week ending April 25, 2020, with a total of 16,732 claims. The number of Local Area II residents filing for benefits continued to trend downward throughout 2020; however, there was a slight increase in claims again in January 2021, followed by a sharp decline which can be attributed to the implementation of the OKTA identity verification system. Local Area II claims totals continued on a slowly declining trend from late February through September. Eventually weekly claims totals dropped below pre-pandemic levels when the federal PEUC and PUA programs ended in September, averaging 970 claims per week throughout the remainder of 2021.

Where to find it: Claims data comes from administrative UI tax data. Contact us for a customized report at KDOL.Laborstats@ks.gov

Chart 8 shows the percentage of claims filed by male and female claimants during 2021. Males typically account for a larger portion of continued claims in Kansas as two of the main industries in which workers are filing, construction and manufacturing, are generally male dominated. In 2020, nearly all industries were affected by the pandemic and that was reflected in the distribution of claims by gender in Local Area II, with females filing 50.6% of claims, while males filed 49.4%. In 2021 the distribution of claims by gender returned to typical patterns with 45.3% of claims filed attributed to females and 54.7% attributed to males.

As shown in *Chart 9*, the majority of claimants filing continued claims are white, which can be attributed to the fact that 83.7% of the population in Local Area II is white, according to the Census' 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Even though white is the largest category, these claimants only accounted for 75.0% of claims in 2021. Black individuals make up 5.7% of the Local Area II population, but accounted for a higher proportion of claims, 10.4%. In 2021, 3.3% of claims came from American Indian or Alaskan Natives, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders who collectively make up 3.8% of the Local Area II population.

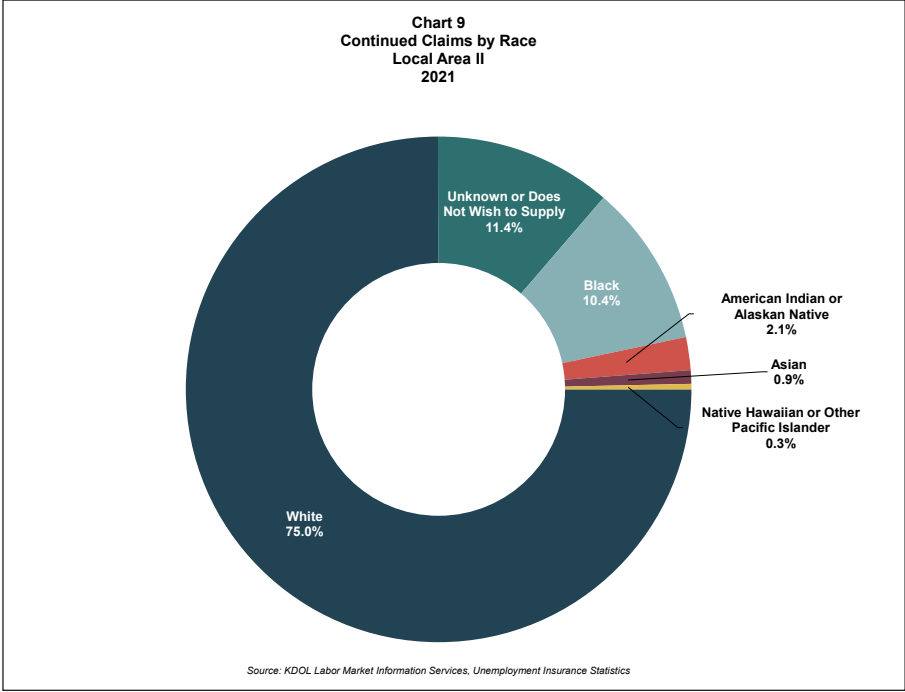
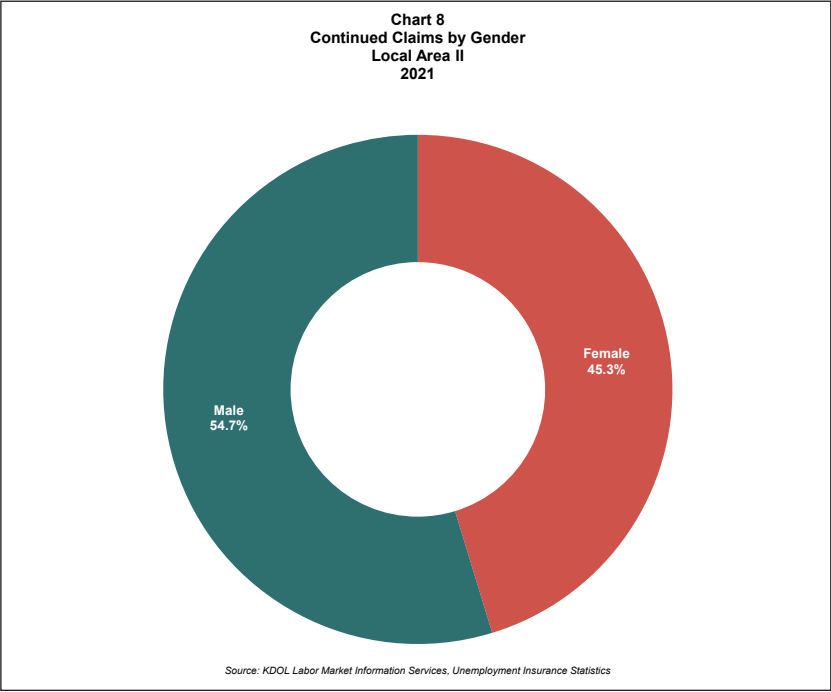


Chart 10 shows the percentage of claims filed by age group in 2021. The age groups of 16-24 and 25-34 saw improvement in percentage of claims filed over the year. In 2020, the 16-24 year-old age group accounted for 15.5% of total claims, but in 2021 this age group accounted for just 6.7% of total claims. The 25-34 year-old age group accounted for 24.8% of total claims in 2020, but decreased to 20.5% in 2021. These age groups likely saw higher percentages of claims during 2020 due to the fact that harder hit industries, such as accommodation and food services, typically have a younger workforce.

As shown in *Chart 11*, claimants with a high school diploma or GED had the largest share of claims in 2021, accounting for 43.4%. This was followed by claimants who completed some college or associate degree with 28.1% of claims. Claimants with a bachelor's degree or higher accounted for 17.1% of claims, while claimants with less than a high school education accounted for 10.2% of claims in 2021. Individuals with a high school diploma or less than high school account for a higher proportion of overall claims than their percentage of the population, while individuals with some college or a postsecondary degree represent a smaller share of claimants than their percentage of the Local Area II population.

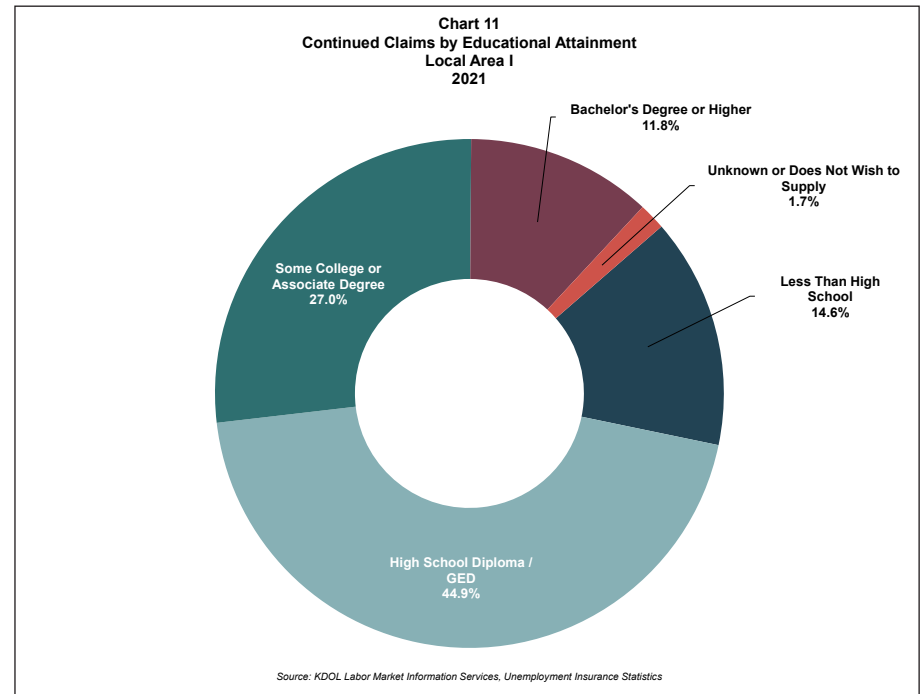
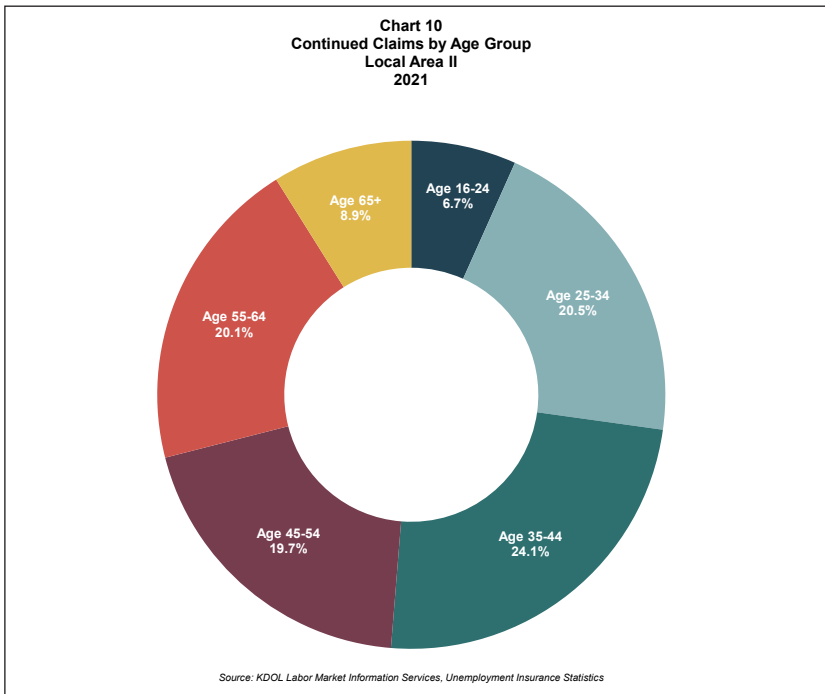
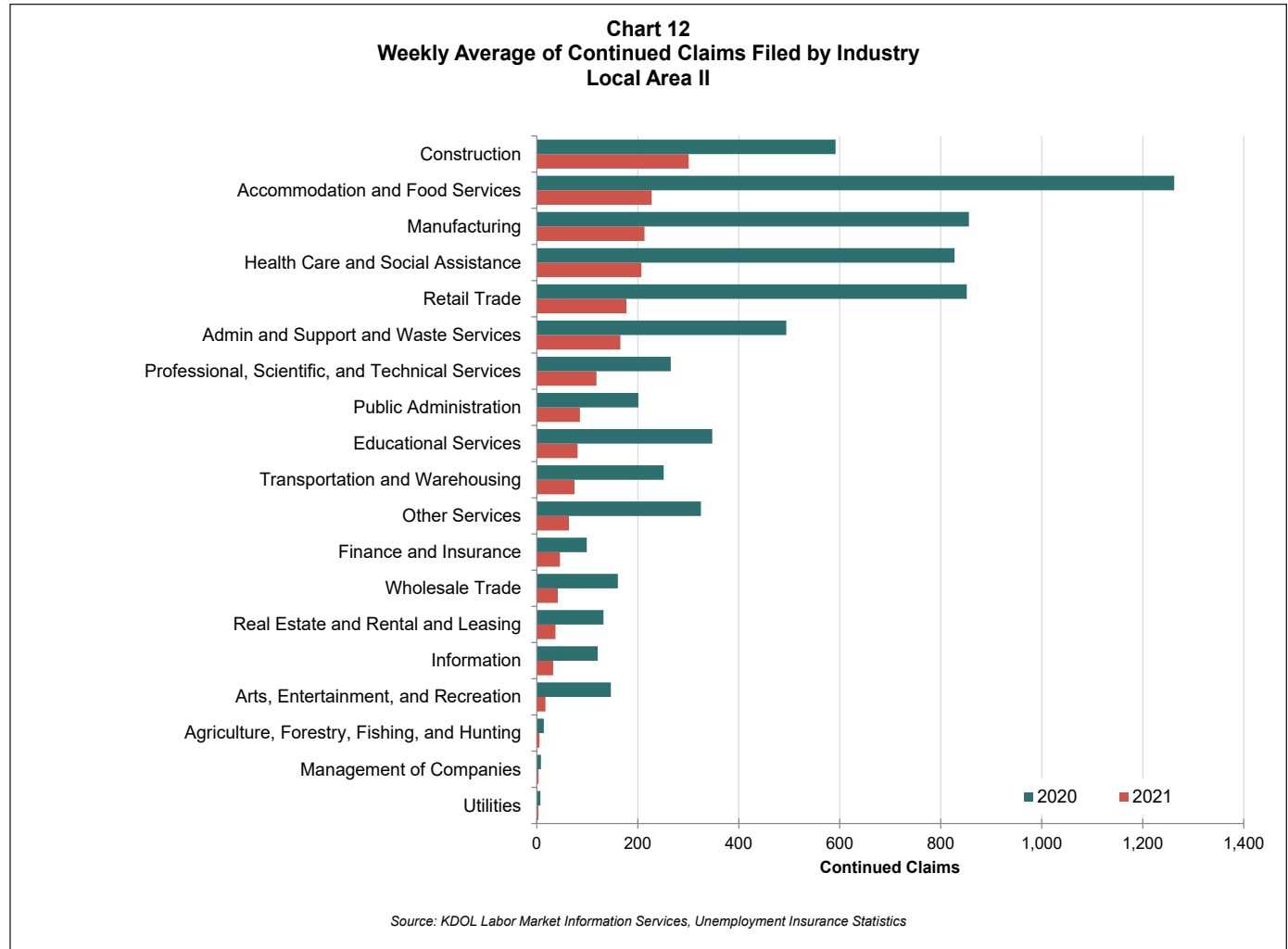


Chart 12 displays the average number of continued claims filed each week by industry. Construction had the highest weekly average with 301 continued claims filed per week during 2021, a decrease of 49.1% from 2020. Accommodation and food services saw a significant decrease in the number of claims filed weekly over the year, decreasing by 82.0% from 1,262 to 228 average claims filed per week. Manufacturing, health care and social assistance, and retail trade also saw notable improvement from 2020 to 2021. Manufacturing dropped by 75.1% to 213 average claims filed per week, while health care and social assistance dropped by 74.9% to 207 average claims filed per week, and retail trade dropped by 79.1% to 178 claims filed per week.



INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Employment

In 2021, Local Area II recorded an average of 239,601 total jobs. Of these, 179,279, or 74.8%, were private sector jobs. The private sector industry that recorded the most jobs for Local Area II in 2021 was health care and social assistance, which accounted for 31,579 jobs. This was followed by retail trade with 24,943 jobs and manufacturing with 21,612 jobs. Government accounted for 60,322 or 25.2% of jobs in Local Area II in 2021, with the majority of these jobs being recorded at the local level. There were 34,345 local government jobs in Local Area II in 2021, more than any private sector industry in Local Area II.

Wages

The average weekly wage for all industries in Local Area II was \$908 in 2021, this was \$119 lower than the statewide average of \$1,027. The private sector recorded an average of \$892, while government recorded an average of \$954. Management of companies and enterprises recorded the highest average weekly wage by far, at \$2,337, followed by utilities with an average weekly wage of \$1,899. Seven additional private sector industries in Local Area II recorded an average weekly wage over \$1,000: finance and insurance; wholesale trade; professional and technical services; manufacturing; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; information; and construction.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an industry in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an industry is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the state; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that industry than the state.

In Local Area II, private sector industries with the highest employment concentrations relative to the state include other services, except public administration and educational services. Each of these industries recorded a location quotient higher than 1.1. Other services had the highest location quotient in the private sector for Local Area II, with an employment concentration 1.36 times higher than that of the state. Local Area II also has a high concentration of state government employment, with a concentration 2.64 times higher than the employment concentration for the state. The private sector industries with the lowest employment concentration relative to the state in Local Area II were agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting; arts, entertainment, and recreation; wholesale trade; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; and management of companies and enterprises, each recorded a location quotient under 0.7.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program www.bls.gov/cew/

Sector	Employment	Average Weekly Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to Kansas
Total Covered	239,601	\$908	1.00
Total Private	179,279	\$892	0.91
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	1,562	\$741	0.69
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	643	\$1,103	0.62
Utilities	1,152	\$1,899	1.07
Construction	11,024	\$1,073	0.97
Manufacturing	21,612	\$1,142	0.76
Wholesale trade	6,289	\$1,361	0.64
Retail trade	24,943	\$556	1.01
Transportation and warehousing	8,629	\$928	0.79
Information	2,188	\$1,094	0.73
Finance and insurance	9,589	\$1,425	0.93
Real estate and rental and leasing	2,564	\$759	0.95
Professional and technical services	12,111	\$1,166	0.94
Management of companies and enterprises	2,061	\$2,337	0.54
Administrative and waste services	10,544	\$702	0.77
Educational services	2,850	\$712	1.17
Health care and social assistance	31,579	\$905	0.99
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,744	\$337	0.66
Accommodation and food services	20,401	\$345	1.09
Other services, except public administration	7,793	\$814	1.36
Total Government	60,322	\$954	1.43
Federal Government	7,629	\$1,322	1.68
State Government	18,347	\$1,112	2.64
Local Government	34,345	\$788	1.12

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Table 2 displays the employment, median annual wage, and employment location quotient for each occupational group in Local Area II, while Tables 3 and 4 show the top 20 detailed occupations by employment and median annual wage.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the state; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the state.

In Local Area II, the occupational groups with the highest employment concentrations relative to Kansas were life, physical, and social science occupations; legal occupations; community and social service occupations; and educational instruction and library occupations. Each of these occupational groups recorded a location quotient of 1.21 or higher. The life, physical, and social science occupations group had the highest location quotient in Local Area II, with an employment concentration 1.31 times higher than that of the state. The occupational group in Local Area II with the lowest employment concentration relative to the state was architecture and engineering occupations which had a location quotient of 0.69.

Table 2
Occupational Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients
Local Area II
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment	Median Annual Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to Kansas
All Occupations	237,650	\$37,653	1.00
Management Occupations	12,250	\$79,060	1.02
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	13,750	\$60,454	0.99
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	5,920	\$70,158	0.95
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	2,890	\$66,581	0.69
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	2,730	\$56,495	1.31
Community and Social Service Occupations	4,390	\$43,699	1.24
Legal Occupations	1,600	\$66,664	1.28
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	18,630	\$48,039	1.21
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	3,070	\$39,741	1.14
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	14,970	\$60,596	0.98
Health Care Support Occupations	10,920	\$28,566	1.03
Protective Service Occupations	5,370	\$44,806	1.10
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	20,940	\$22,467	1.10
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	7,550	\$28,344	1.09
Personal Care and Service Occupations	4,950	\$23,499	1.07
Sales and Related Occupations	19,520	\$28,344	0.92
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	32,390	\$36,363	1.03
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	620	\$35,868	0.92
Construction and Extraction Occupations	10,110	\$46,029	0.99
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	10,010	\$46,844	0.97
Production Occupations	15,010	\$37,265	0.81
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	20,060	\$35,786	0.89

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) www.bls.gov/oes/

Employment

Table 2 shows that there were 32,390 jobs classified as office and administrative support occupations, the most of any occupational group. Four of the top 20 occupations by employment fell under this occupational group: secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive; customer service representatives; bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks; and first-line supervisors of office and administrative support workers. Two other occupational groups had employment of at least 20,000. There were 20,940 jobs in the food preparation and serving related occupational group, with fast food and counter workers being the most common occupation in Local Area II. Transportation and material moving occupations accounted for 20,060 jobs in Local Area II, with three occupations in this group landing in the top 20 occupations by employment: stockers and order fillers; laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand; and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Table 3
Top 20 Occupations by Employment
Local Area II
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment
Fast Food and Counter Workers	6,420
Cashiers	6,280
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	5,500
Customer Service Representatives	5,160
Retail Salespersons	4,970
Registered Nurses	4,890
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	4,340
General and Operations Managers	4,190
Stockers and Order Fillers	4,170
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	3,920
Nursing Assistants	3,910
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	3,680
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	3,210
Waiters and Waitresses	3,120
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,020
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	2,920
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	2,670
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	2,590
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	2,270
Accountants and Auditors	2,210

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

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Wages

According to the Kansas Wage Survey, the median annual wage in Local Area II as of May 2021 was \$37,653. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of \$79,060, seven of the top 20 highest paid occupations fell into this group. Computer and mathematical occupations recorded a median annual wage of \$70,158, while four additional occupational groups recorded median annual wages over \$60,000: legal occupations, architecture and engineering occupations, health care practitioners and technical occupations, and business and financial operations occupations. It is notable that nine of the top 20 highest paying occupations were in the health care practitioner and technical occupations group.

Table 4
Top 20 Occupations by Median Annual Wage
Local Area II
May 2021

Occupational Title	Median Annual Wage
Ophthalmologists, Except Pediatric	\$195,820
Pediatricians, General	\$175,197
Radiologists	\$172,430
Dentists, General	\$164,249
Family Medicine Physicians	\$163,417
Nurse Anesthetists	\$148,328
Economics Teachers, Postsecondary	\$134,543
Natural Sciences Managers	\$127,985
Pharmacists	\$127,239
Chief Executives	\$123,760
Sales Managers	\$120,777
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$120,061
Financial Managers	\$119,893
Compensation and Benefits Managers	\$119,293
Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates	\$119,275
Nurse Midwives	\$118,789
Medical Dosimetrists	\$116,540
Chemical Engineers	\$115,999
Fundraising Managers	\$109,805
Power Distributors and Dispatchers	\$106,086

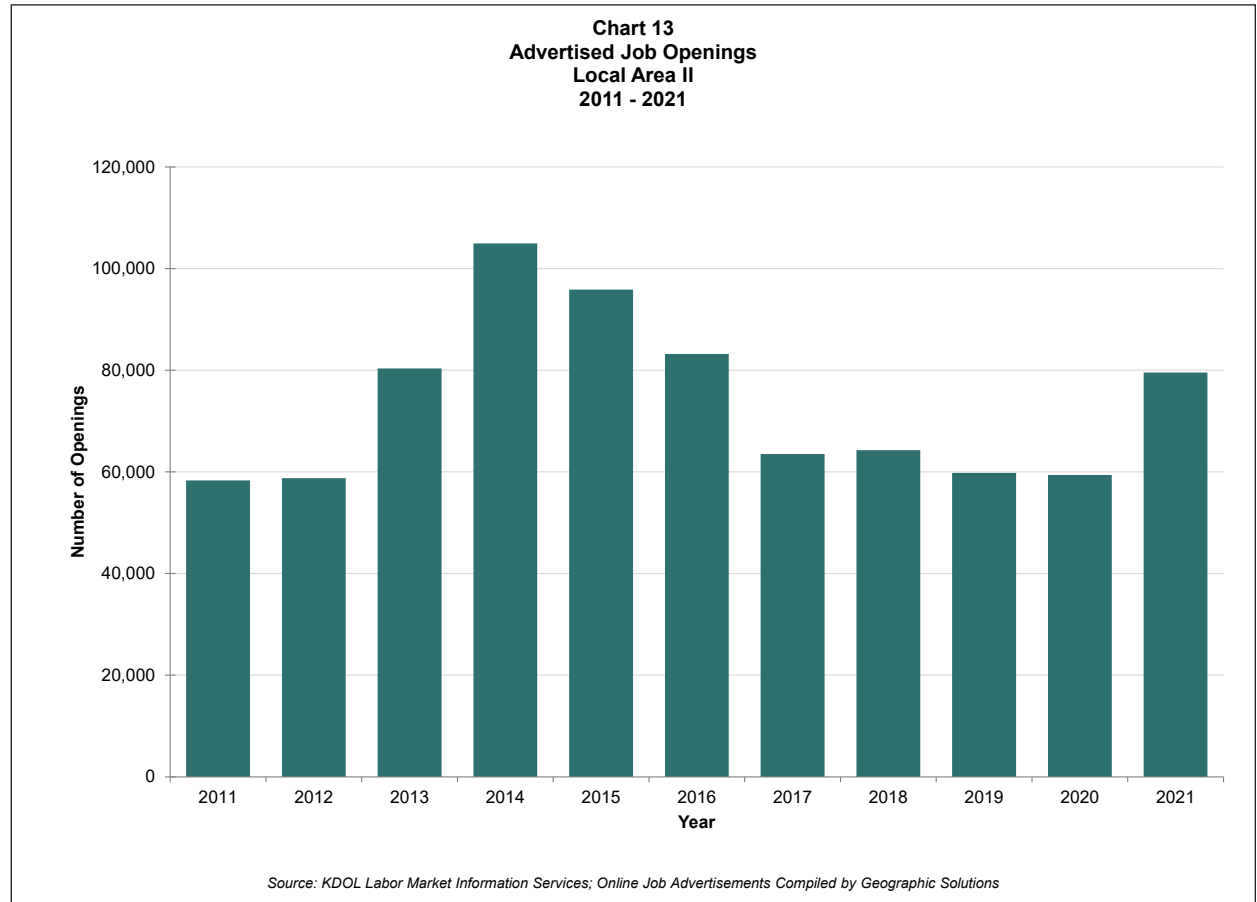
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

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ADVERTISED JOBS

Advertised job openings can be used as a measure of labor demand. Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Approximately 30% of industry and 40% of occupational postings do not include a classification. Data used in this analysis may not be representative of a full sample. This analysis will focus on those openings with an industry or occupational classification.

Chart 13 shows that Local Area II saw a declining trend in the annual number of advertised job openings from 2014 to 2020. However, there was a large increase in job openings from 2020 to 2021 of 33.9%, or 20,145 job openings, which is likely due to businesses reopening as pandemic restrictions were lifted and vaccines became more widely available.



Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Advertised Jobs Data compiled by Geographic Solutions www.klic.dol.ks.gov

As shown in *Chart 14*, the health care practitioners and technical occupations group had the most job openings by far, with 10,744 openings advertised in 2021. This was followed by the management occupational group with 5,084 job openings. Three occupational groups had over 3,000 openings in 2021: office and administrative support, transportation and material moving, and health care support.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation with 4,733 openings, followed by nursing assistants with 1,658 openings, and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses with 1,082 openings. Customer service representatives recorded 1,031 openings in 2021, while executive secretaries and executive administrative assistants recorded 843 openings.

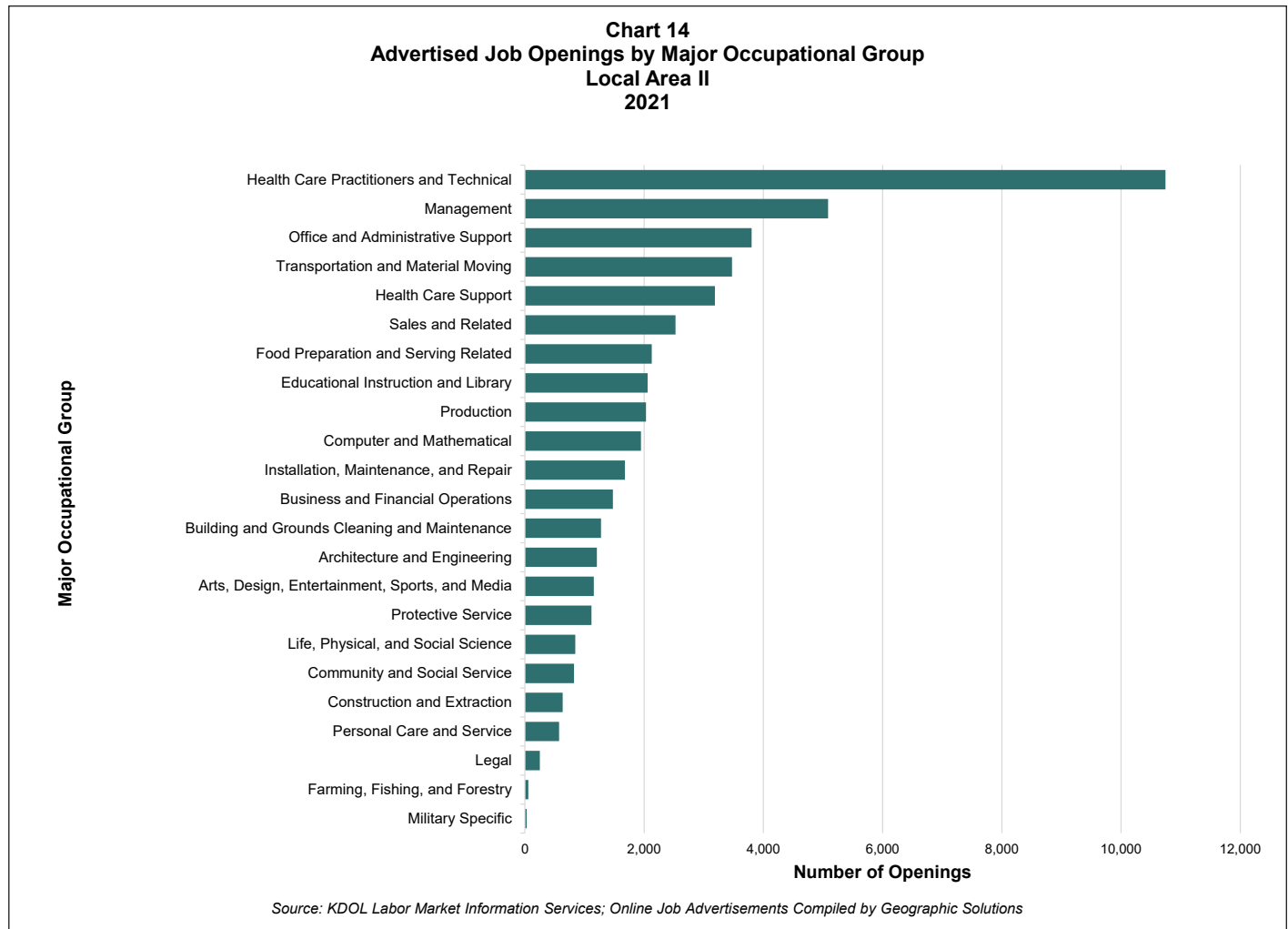
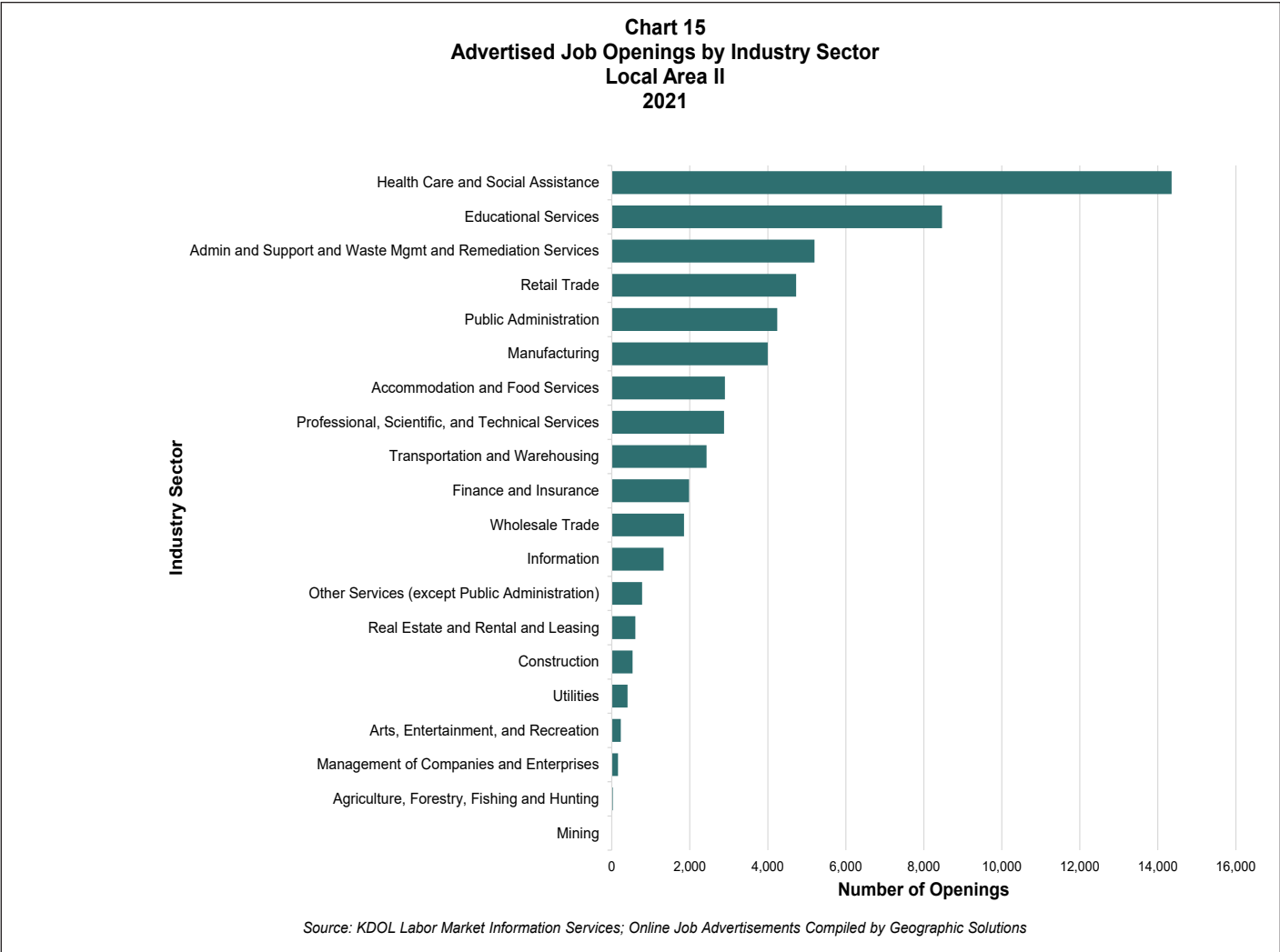


Chart 15 displays advertised job openings by industry sector. The health care and social assistance sector had the most openings by far in 2021, with 14,354 job openings. More than half of these openings were in hospitals, the remaining majority fell into nursing and residential care facilities and ambulatory health care services. The educational services sector recorded 8,465 job openings while the administrative and support and waste management and remediation services sector recorded 5,199 job openings. Retail trade and public administration each recorded over 4,000 job openings in 2021, while manufacturing recorded 3,999 job openings.



HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The list of these occupations is provided to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. High demand occupations have higher than average combined current and projected (short-term and long-term) demand in the state. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation.

Occupations are scored based on the following criteria:

1. Current number of openings as determined by the number of jobs advertised online during the 2nd quarter of the year
2. Projected number of openings in two years as indicated in the short-term projections program
3. Projected number of openings in 10 years as indicated in the long-term projections program

Each of these scores are added together to get a total score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

Table 5 displays the top high demand occupations. These 16 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means that they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2023 and 2028. Overall, there are 215 occupations on the high demand list in Local Area II.

Eleven of the top 16 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require less than one year of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. The median wages of these 11 occupations are all below the Local Area II median wage, \$37,653, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of industry growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	\$72,620	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	\$60,915	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$45,362	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	\$37,376	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$35,739	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	\$31,780	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Customer Service Representatives	\$30,210	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	\$28,865	Some college, no degree	None
Nursing Assistants	\$28,826	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$28,291	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$28,034	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	\$26,599	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Cooks, Restaurant	\$26,404	No formal educational credential	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	\$23,171	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	\$22,680	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$21,853	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

KDOL also identifies high demand occupations that also pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the median wage for each respective area.

In Local Area II, there are 123 high demand high wage occupations, *Table 6* lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, nine of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree or moderate-term on-the-job training. Also noteworthy is that three occupations that had a maximum demand score of 30 also had high wages: general and operations managers, registered nurses, and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Table 6
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
Local Area II
2022

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	\$72,620	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	\$60,915	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$45,362	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$48,640	Bachelor's degree	None
Accountants and Auditors	\$60,596	Bachelor's degree	None
Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers	\$77,462	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$49,435	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	\$38,282	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$46,654	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	\$46,311	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	\$45,614	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	\$48,640	Bachelor's degree	None
Project Management Specialists and Business Operations Specialists, All Other	\$62,180	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$60,750	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Human Resources Specialists	\$60,125	Bachelor's degree	None

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403>

LOCAL AREA III SUMMARY

POPULATION

The 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates will become the official estimates for the 2010-2020 decade and are currently scheduled to be released in 2023. They are produced by modifying the Vintage 2020 estimates to account for differences between the postcensal estimates and the results of the 2020 Census. The result is a consistent time series from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census. Due to the delay in finalizing the 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020.

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.

Local Area III contains the three largest counties on the Kansas side of the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area: Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte counties. The largest cities in this region are Overland Park, Kansas City, Olathe, Shawnee, and Lenexa. *Chart 1* displays the population of Local Area III from 2011 to 2021. The Local Area III population was estimated to be 862,449 in 2021. This represents an increase of 1,170 or 0.1%. The population of Local Area III has grown by 74,456 since 2011, or 9.4%.

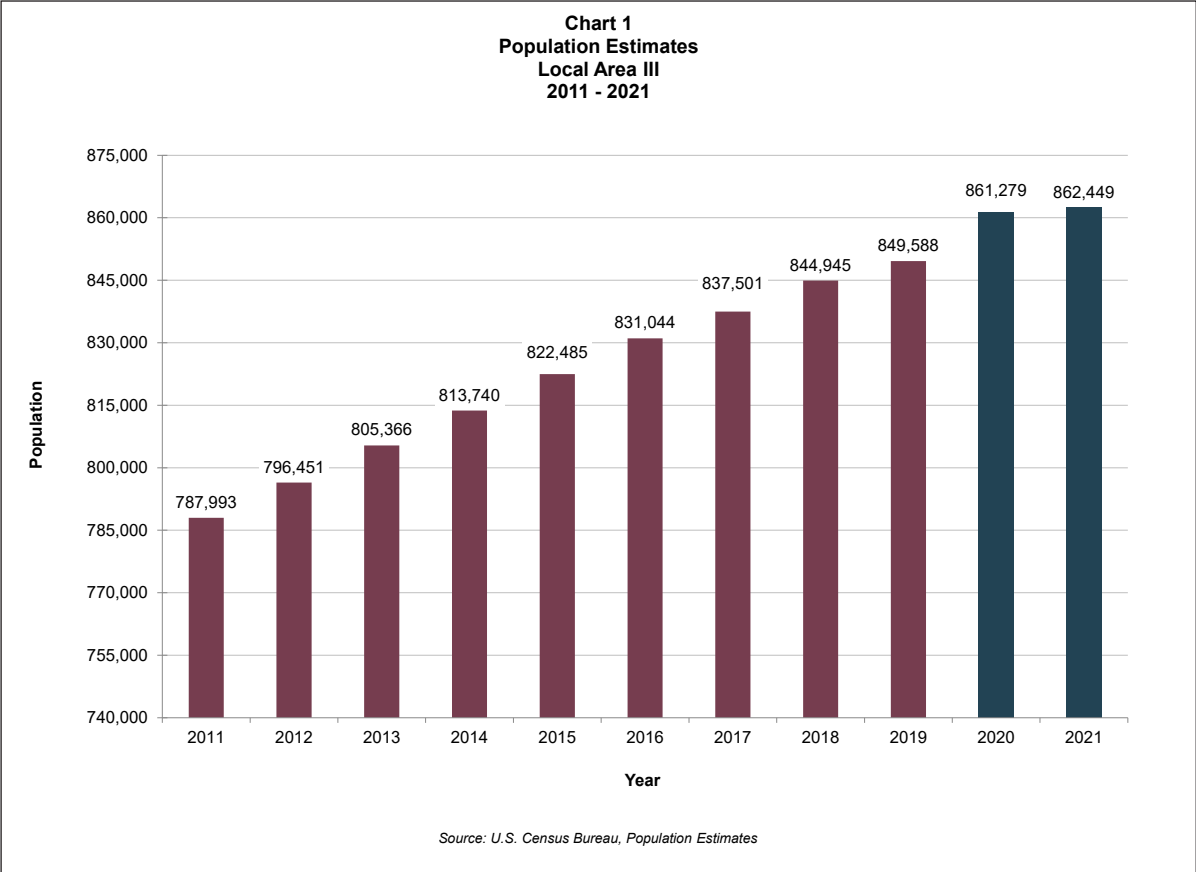
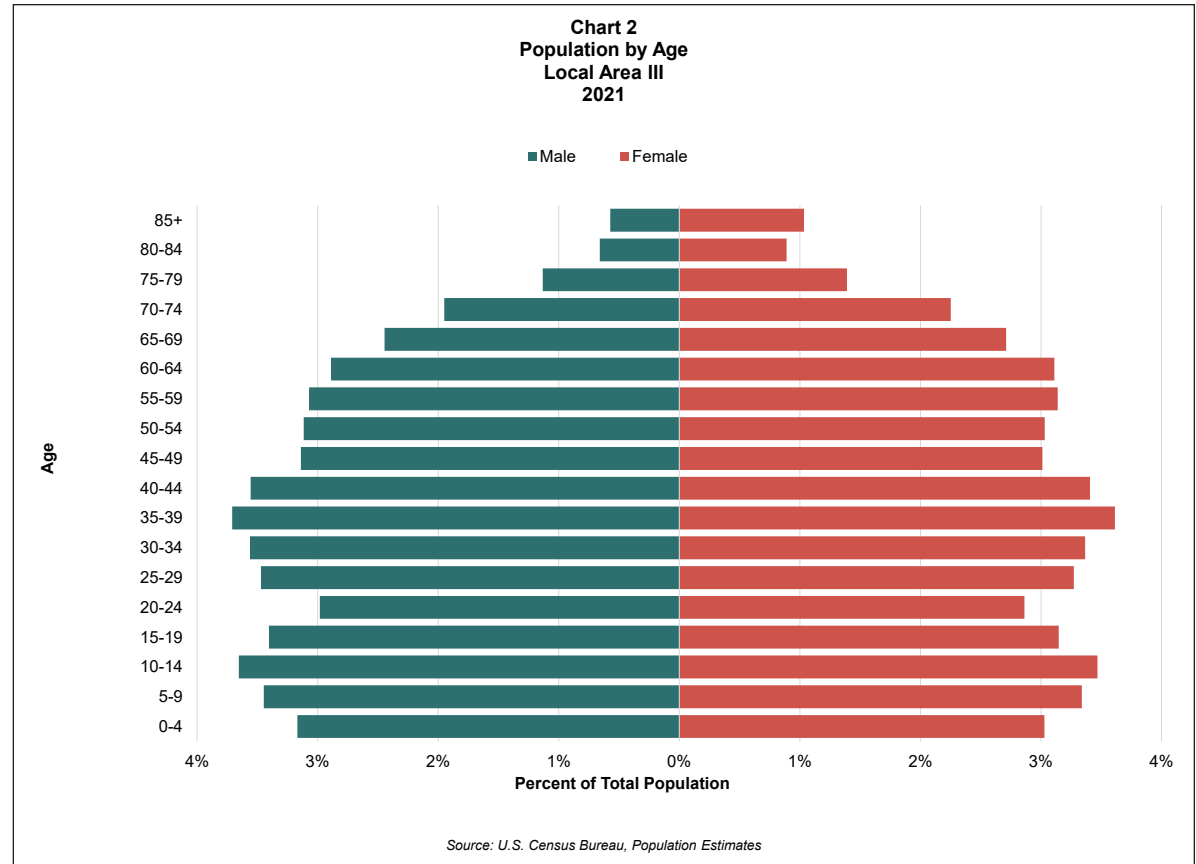


Chart 2 displays the Local Area III population by age group and gender. There are two major peaks in population, one centering on 35-39 year-olds, representing the older members of the millennial generation, and one centered on the 10-14 year-old age group, most likely representing the children of the other population peak. The 35-39 year-old age group is the largest in Local Area III, representing 7.3% of the population. This is followed by 10-14 year-olds and 40-44 year-olds who represent 7.1% and 7.0% 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 for Local Area III in 2021 was 676,554, an increase of 3,731 over the year, or 0.6%. The 25-54 year-old population was 347,147 in 2021, an increase of 428 over the year or 0.1%.

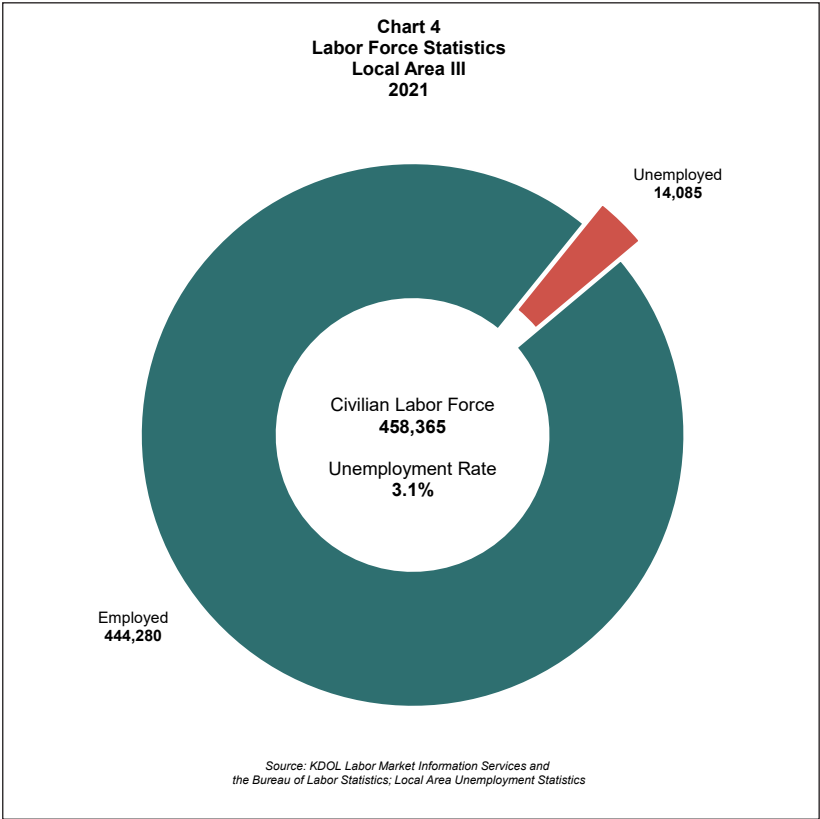
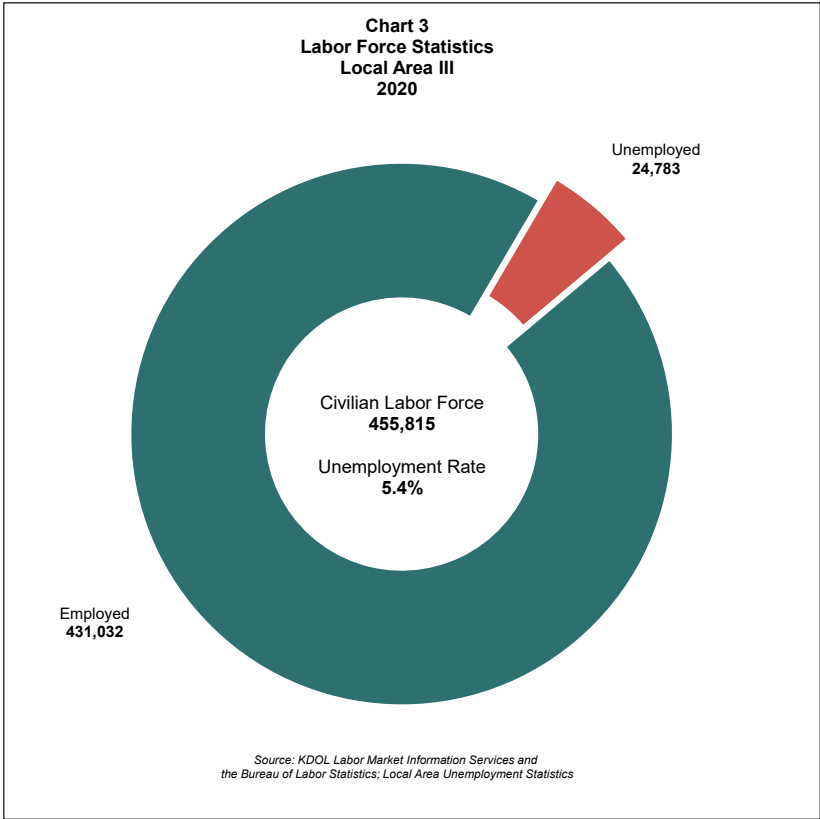
Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy since the population under 25 decreased by 2,084, or 0.7%. Declines were seen in the 14 and under age groups while slight increases were seen in the 15-19 and 20-24 year-old age groups. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, recorded an increase of 0.9%, or 435 people over the year.



Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

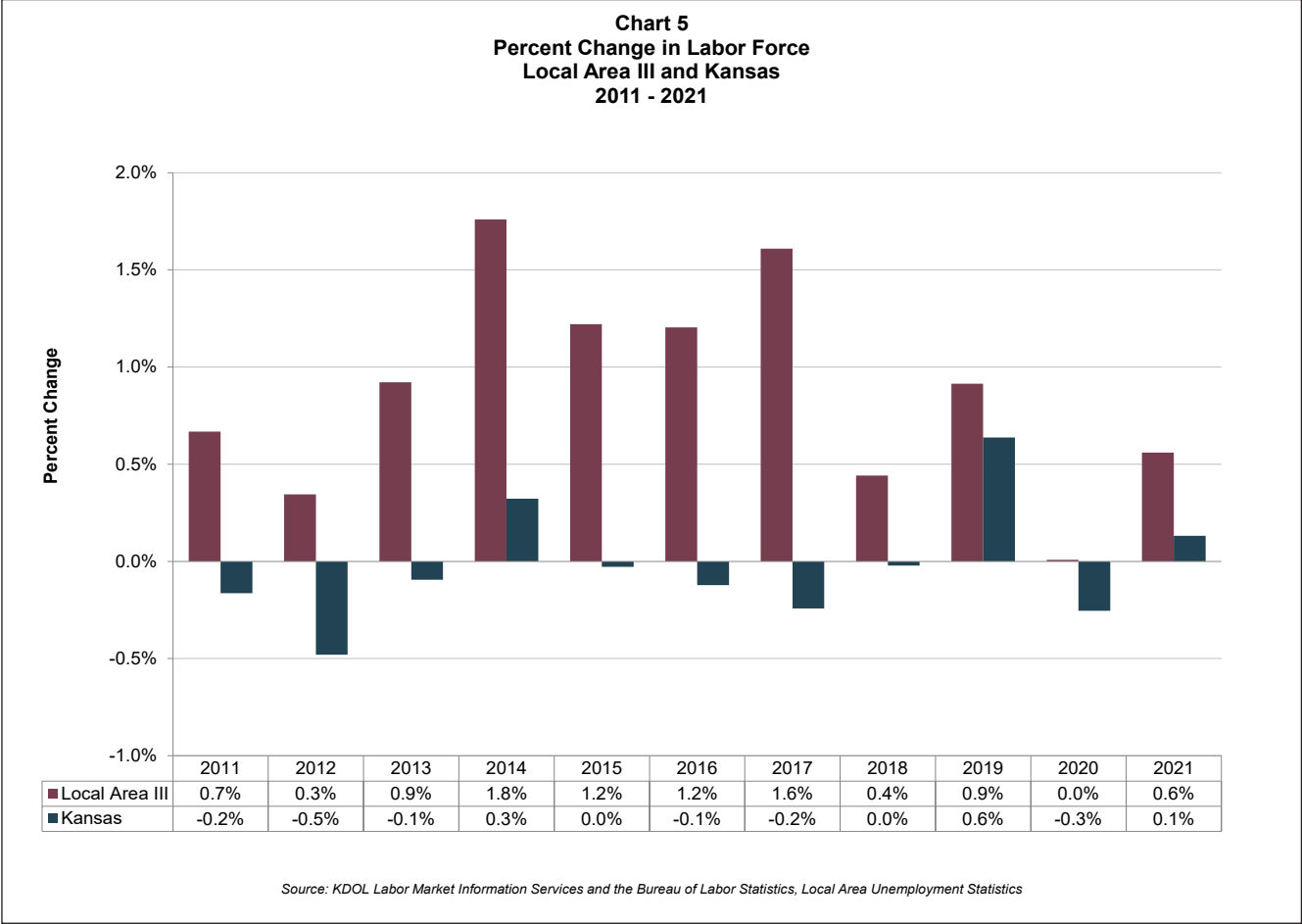
LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

The improvement from 2020 to 2021 is clear when comparing *Chart 3* and *Chart 4*, as the unemployment rate dropped from 5.4% in 2020 to 3.1% in 2021. *Chart 4* shows there were 458,365 people in the Local Area III labor force in 2021, which was an increase from 2020 of 0.6%, or 2,550 people. There were 444,280 Local Area III residents working in 2021, a 3.1% increase from 2020; and the highest number of people working since records began in 1990. Local Area III employment levels have increased on average 1.5% annually since 2009. The number of unemployed people decreased by 10,698, or 43.2%, to 14,085 over the year, much of this decrease can be attributed to people returning to work as pandemic restrictions eased and vaccines became widely available.



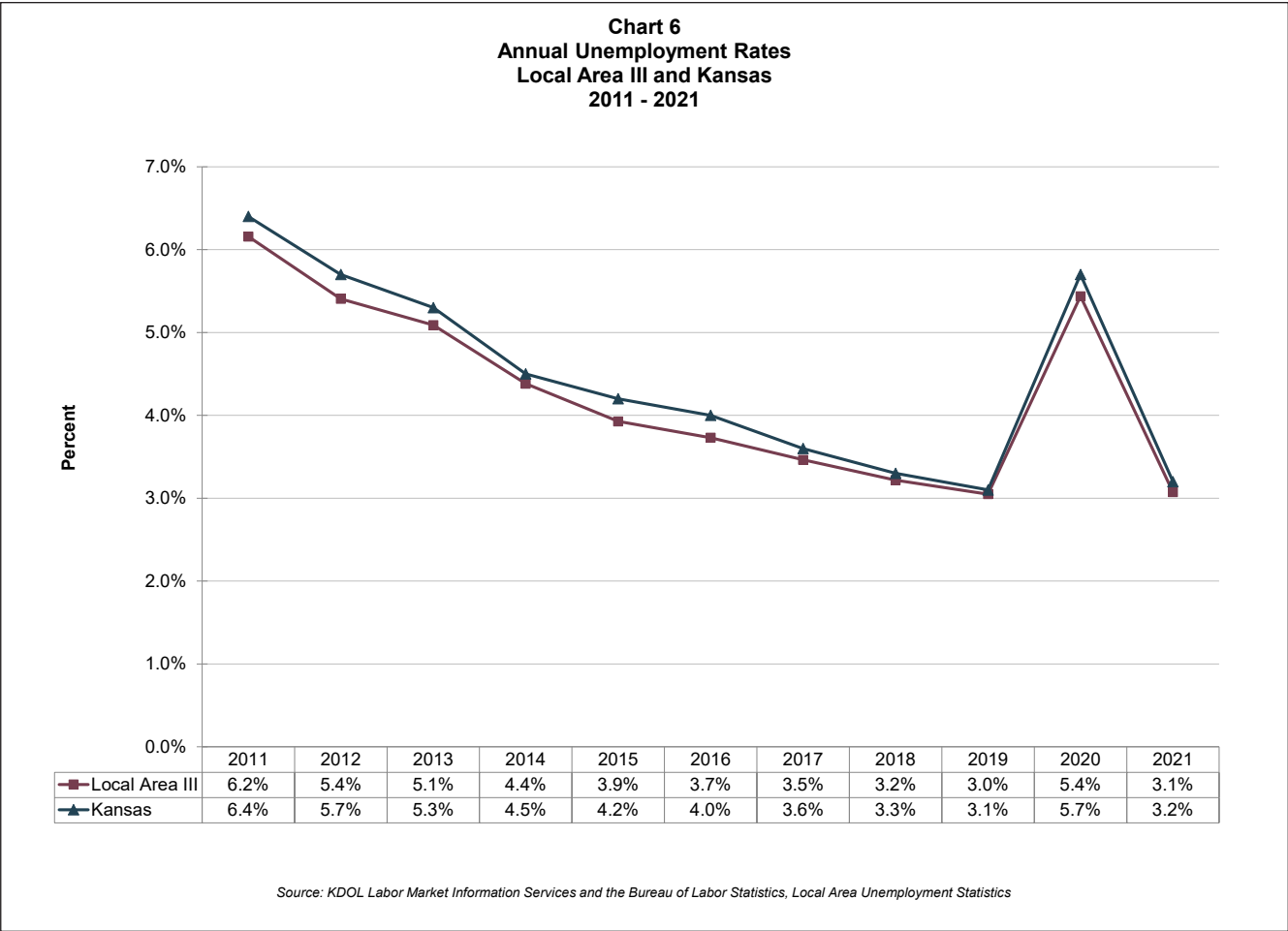
Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment (LAU) Statistics www.bls.gov/lau/

Chart 5 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Local Area III and Kansas. This is the twelfth consecutive year that the labor force has increased in Local Area III, growing by 56,896 people, or 14.2% during that time.



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As shown in *Chart 6*, the Local Area III unemployment rate nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2021, dropping from 5.4% in 2020, to 3.1% in 2021. The 2021 rate is 1.6 percentage points lower than the historical annual average of 4.7%, and the second lowest unemployment rate on record for Local Area III, with records beginning in 1990.

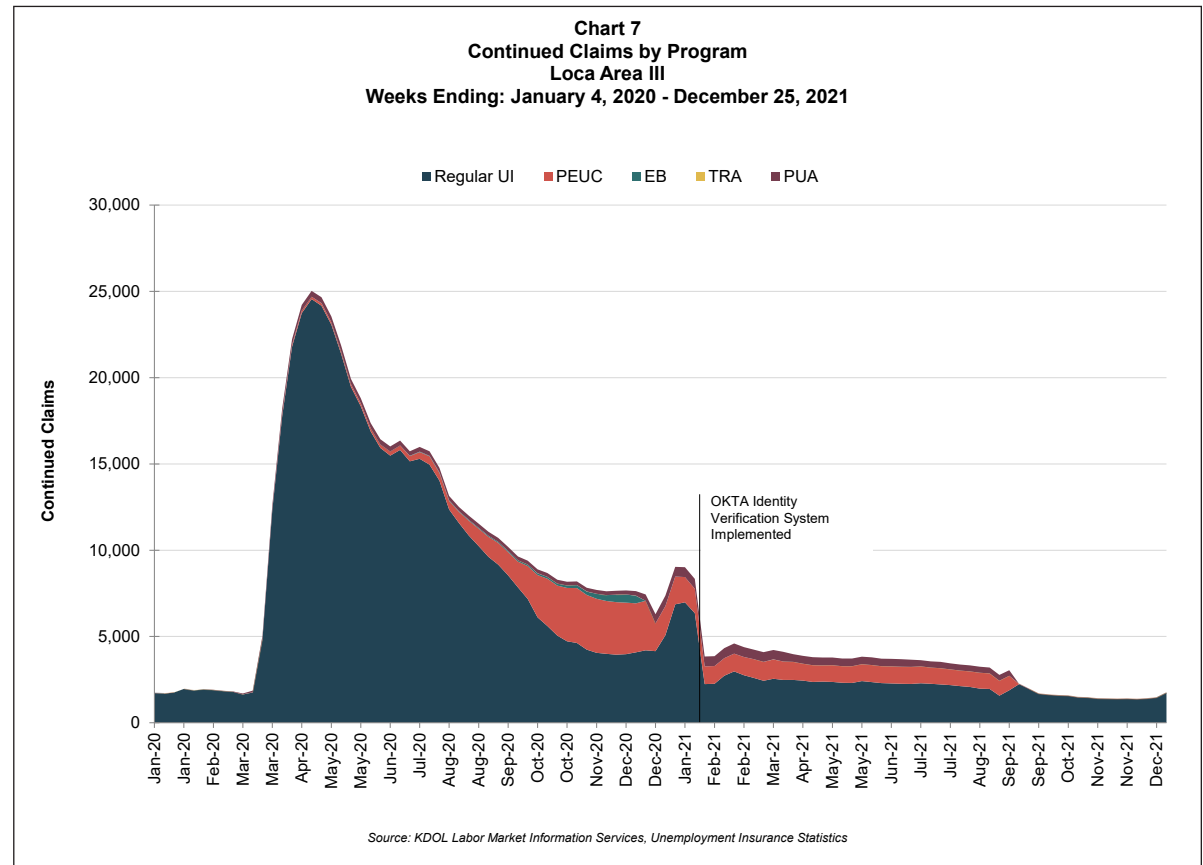


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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS

The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Local Area III residents with the KDOL. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts also exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment, therefore continued claims do not equal claims paid.

In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labor market, the United States Congress authorized new federal unemployment programs through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. These programs were extended through the Continued Assistance to Unemployed Workers Act (Continued Assistance Act) of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. These new programs provided extended benefits through the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. The charts included in this section of the report provide data for all unemployment programs available to claimants throughout 2020 and 2021, with the exception of the industry chart which excludes PUA data.



As shown in *Chart 7*, the number of individuals filing for benefits began to rise sharply during the week ending March 21, 2020, coming to a peak during the week ending April 25, 2020, with a total of 25,024 claims. The number of Local Area III residents filing for benefits continued to trend downward throughout 2020; however, there was a slight increase in claims again in January 2021, followed by a sharp decline which can be attributed to the implementation of the OKTA identity verification system. Local Area III claims totals continued on a slowly declining trend from February through September. Eventually weekly claims totals dropped below pre-pandemic levels when the federal PEUC and PUA programs ended in September, averaging fewer than 1,600 claims per week throughout the remainder of 2021.

Where to find it: Claims data comes from administrative UI tax data. Contact us for a customized report at KDOL.Laborstats@ks.gov

Chart 8 shows the percentage of claims filed by male and female claimants during 2021. Males typically account for a larger portion of continued claims in Kansas as two of the main industries in which workers are filing, construction and manufacturing, are generally male dominated. In 2020, nearly all industries were affected by the pandemic and that was reflected in the distribution of claims by gender in Local Area III, with females filing 55.6% of claims, while males filed 44.4%. In 2021 the distribution of claims by gender returned to typical patterns with 47.7% of claims filed attributed to females and 52.3% attributed to males.

As shown in Chart 9, the majority of claimants filing continued claims are white, which can be attributed to the fact that 78.7% of the population in Local Area III is white, according to the Census' 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Even though white is the largest category, these claimants only accounted for 66.6% of claims in 2021. Black individuals make up 8.4% of the Local Area III population, but accounted for a higher proportion of claims, 17.6%. In 2021, 3.5% of claims came from American Indian or Alaskan Natives, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders who collectively make up 5.2% of the Local Area III population.

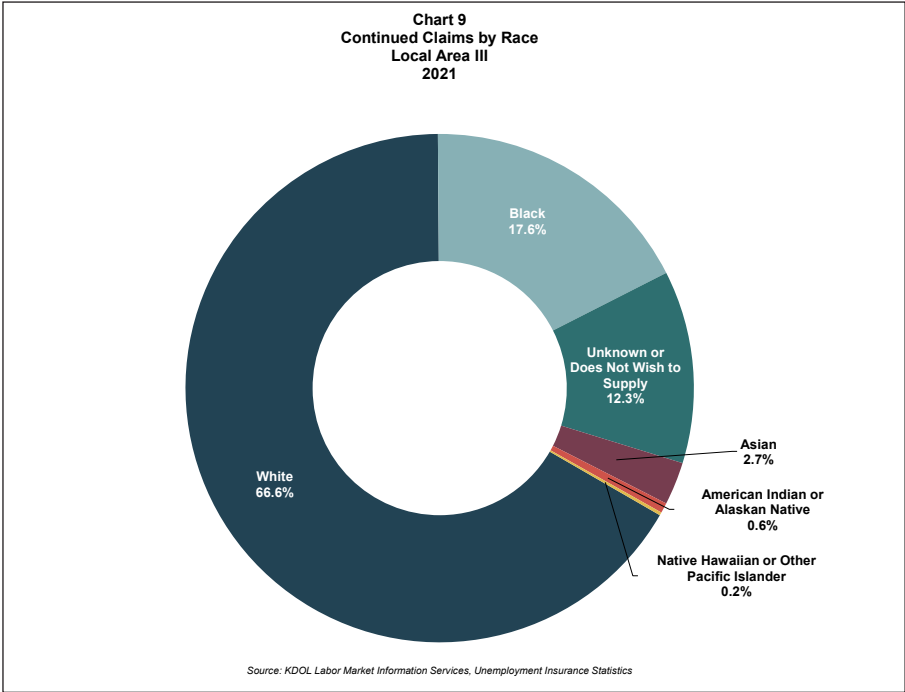
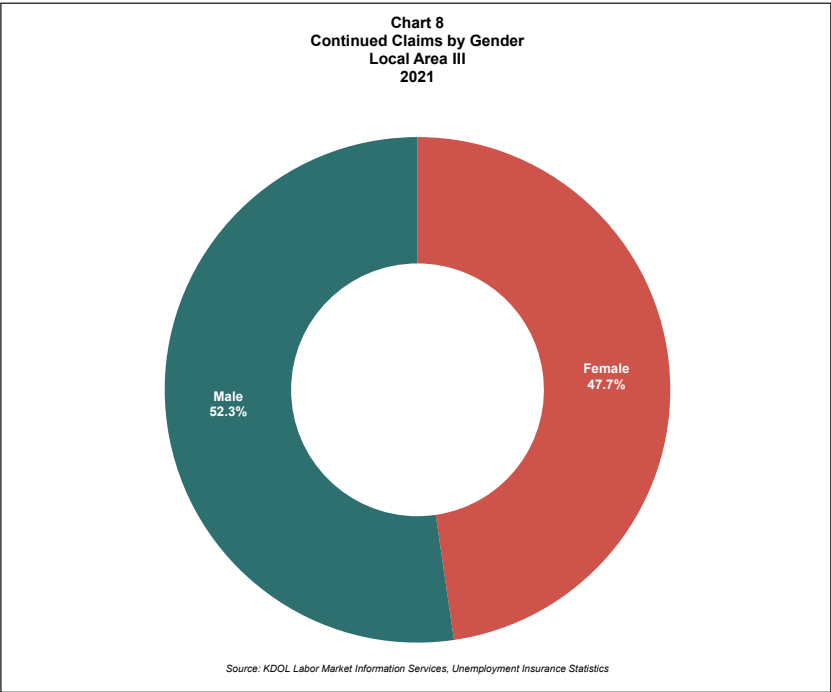


Chart 10 shows the percentage of claims filed by age group in 2021. The age groups of 16-24 and 25-34 saw improvement in percentage of claims filed over the year. In 2020, the 16-24 year-old age group accounted for 13.1% of total claims, but in 2021 this age group accounted for just 4.8% of total claims. The 25-34 year-old age group accounted for 22.4% of total claims in 2020, but decreased to 18.0% in 2021. These age groups likely saw higher percentages of claims during 2020 due to the fact that harder hit industries, such as accommodation and food services, typically have a younger workforce.

As shown in *Chart 11*, claimants with a high school diploma or GED had the largest share of claims in 2021, accounting for 36.6%. This was followed by claimants who completed some college or associate degree with 27.1% of claims. Claimants with a bachelor’s degree or higher accounted for 24.4% of claims, while claimants with less than a high school education accounted for 10.9% of claims in 2021. Individuals with a high school diploma or less than high school account for a higher proportion of overall claims than their percentage of the population, while individuals with some college or a postsecondary degree represent a smaller share of claimants than their percentage of the Local Area III population.

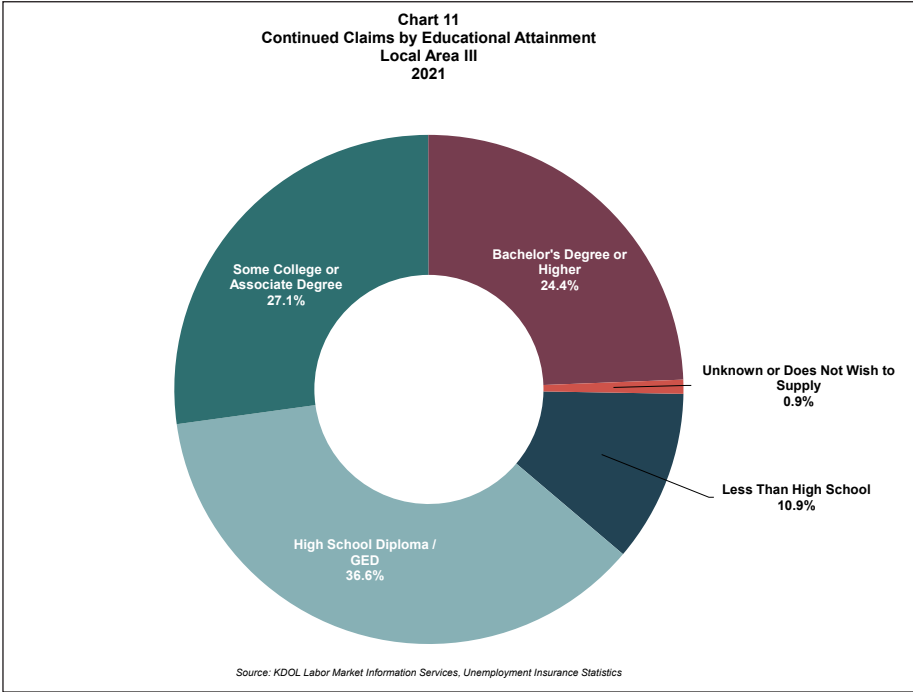
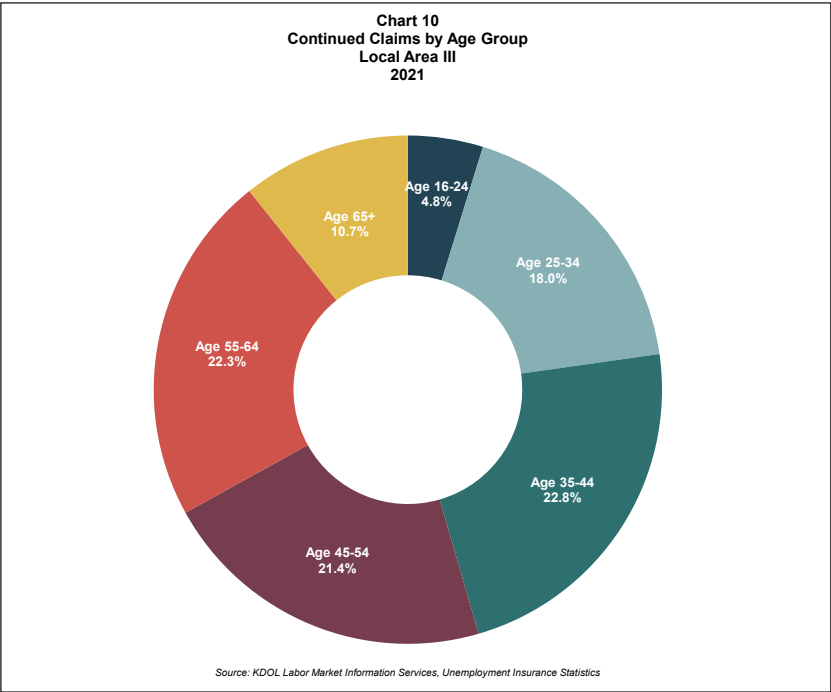
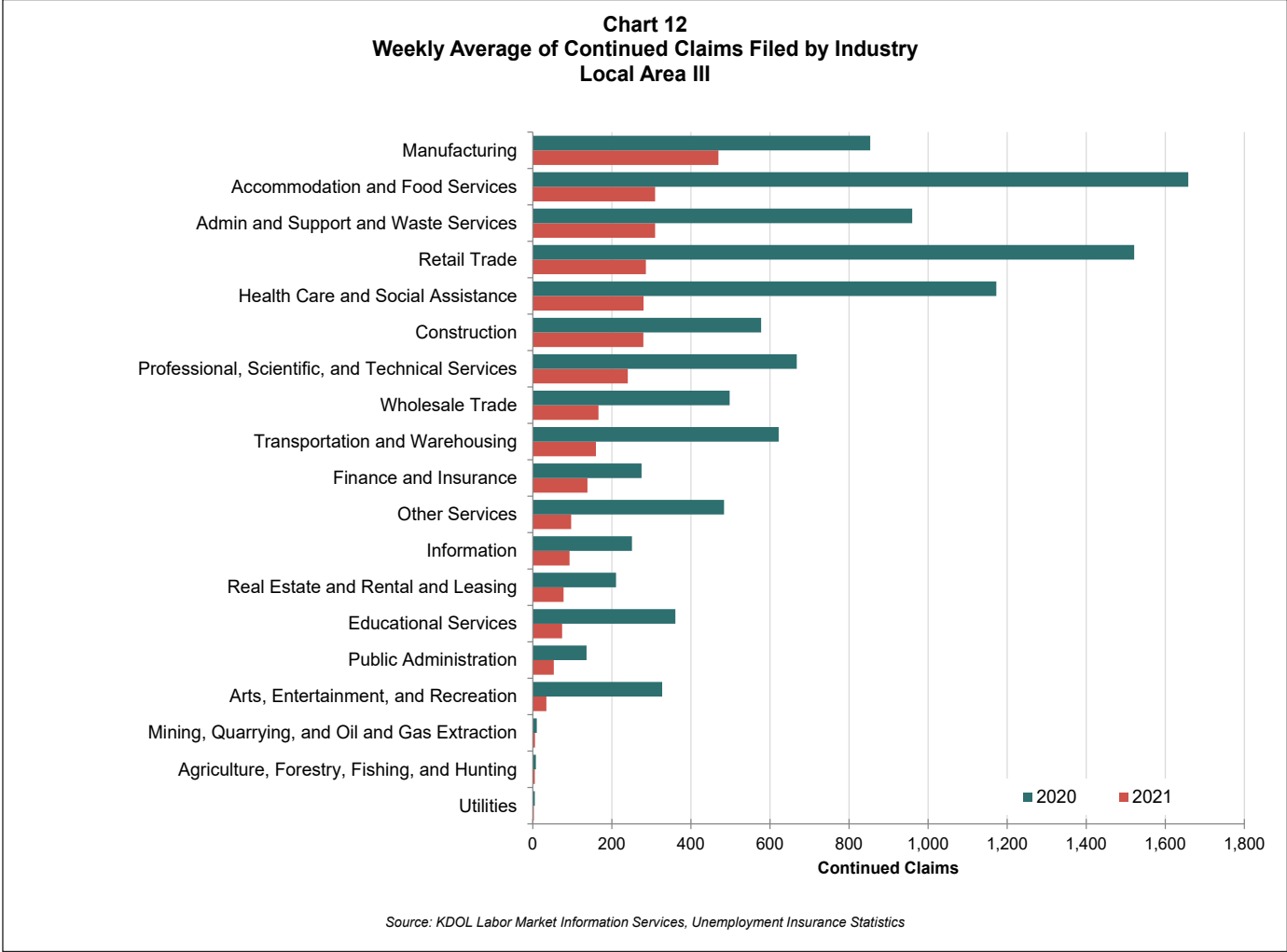


Chart 12 displays the average number of continued claims filed each week by industry. Manufacturing had the highest weekly average with 470 continued claims filed per week during 2021, a decrease of 45.0% from 2020. Accommodation and food services saw a significant decrease in the number of claims filed weekly over the year, decreasing by 81.3% from 1,658 to 310 average claims filed per week. Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services also averaged 310 claims filed per week, dropping 67.7% from 2020. Retail trade and health care and social assistance both averaged over 1,100 claims per week in 2020, but dropped to 286 and 280, respectively in 2021.



INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Employment

In 2021, Local Area III recorded an average of 454,521 total jobs. Of these, 401,085, or 88.2%, were private sector jobs. The private sector industry that recorded the most jobs for Local Area III in 2021 was health care and social assistance, which accounted for 63,410 jobs. This was followed by retail trade with 45,156 jobs and professional and technical services with 37,957 jobs. Government accounted for 53,436 or 11.8% of jobs in Local Area III in 2021, with the majority of these jobs being recorded at the local level. There were 39,490 local government jobs in Local Area III in 2021.

Wages

The average weekly wage for all industries in Local Area III was \$1,239 in 2021, this was \$212 higher than the statewide average of \$1,027. The private sector recorded an average of \$1,262, while government recorded an average of \$1,071. Management of companies and enterprises recorded the highest average weekly wage, at \$2,501, followed by utilities with an average weekly wage of \$2,206. Two additional private sector industries in Local Area III recorded an average weekly wage over \$2,000: finance and insurance and information; while three additional private sector industries recorded an average over \$1,500: professional and technical services; wholesale trade; and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an industry in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an industry is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the state; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that industry than the state.

In Local Area III, private sector industries with the highest employment concentrations relative to the state include transportation and warehousing, professional and technical services, management of companies and enterprises, finance and insurance, administrative and waste services, real estate and rental and leasing, and wholesale trade. Each of these industries recorded a location quotient of at least 1.3. Transportation and warehousing had the highest location quotient in the private sector for Local Area III, with an employment concentration 1.63 times higher than that of the state. Local Area III has a lower concentration of government employment, with just 0.67 times the concentration of statewide employment. The private sector industries with the lowest employment concentration relative to the state in Local Area III were manufacturing; utilities; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, which all recorded a location quotient of 0.63 or less.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program www.bls.gov/cew/

Table 1
Industry Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients
Local Area III
2021

Sector	Employment	Average Weekly Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to Kansas
Total Covered	454,521	\$1,239	1.00
Total Private	401,085	\$1,262	1.07
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	190	\$634	0.04
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	313	\$1,564	0.16
Utilities	602	\$2,206	0.29
Construction	21,337	\$1,360	0.99
Manufacturing	33,824	\$1,389	0.63
Wholesale trade	24,368	\$1,750	1.30
Retail trade	45,156	\$688	0.97
Transportation and warehousing	33,621	\$937	1.63
Information	6,722	\$2,034	1.18
Finance and insurance	27,909	\$2,164	1.43
Real estate and rental and leasing	6,761	\$1,155	1.32
Professional and technical services	37,957	\$1,866	1.56
Management of companies and enterprises	11,181	\$2,501	1.55
Administrative and waste services	34,939	\$1,021	1.34
Educational services	4,398	\$882	0.95
Health care and social assistance	63,410	\$1,199	1.04
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	5,295	\$556	1.05
Accommodation and food services	32,452	\$449	0.92
Other services, except public administration	10,650	\$860	0.98
Total Government	53,436	\$1,071	0.67
Federal Government	8,063	\$1,673	0.93
State Government	5,884	\$1,071	0.45
Local Government	39,490	\$948	0.68

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Table 2 displays the employment, median annual wage, and employment location quotient for each occupational group in Local Area III, while Tables 3 and 4 show the top 20 detailed occupations by employment and median annual wage.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the state; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the state.

In Local Area III, the occupational groups with the highest employment concentrations relative to Kansas were computer and mathematical occupations and business and financial operations occupations. Each of these occupational groups recorded a location quotient of 1.31 or higher. Computer and mathematical occupations had the highest location quotient in Local Area III, with an employment concentration 1.53 times higher than that of the state. The occupational group in Local Area III with the lowest employment concentration relative to the state was farming, fishing, and forestry occupations which had a location quotient of 0.66.

Table 2
Occupational Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients
Local Area III
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment	Median Annual Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to Kansas
All Occupations	450,860	\$46,228	1.00
Management Occupations	25,050	\$102,291	1.10
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	34,530	\$66,485	1.31
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	18,090	\$79,975	1.53
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	9,540	\$77,951	1.19
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	4,470	\$61,661	1.13
Community and Social Service Occupations	5,650	\$49,232	0.84
Legal Occupations	2,780	\$67,074	1.18
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	21,500	\$49,582	0.73
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	5,550	\$47,761	1.09
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	30,930	\$66,482	1.06
Health Care Support Occupations	16,390	\$29,993	0.82
Protective Service Occupations	8,940	\$46,596	0.96
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	33,130	\$23,963	0.92
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	11,480	\$30,576	0.87
Personal Care and Service Occupations	9,310	\$26,837	1.06
Sales and Related Occupations	43,080	\$36,300	1.07
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	63,460	\$37,728	1.06
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	850	\$33,722	0.66
Construction and Extraction Occupations	16,310	\$48,054	0.84
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	15,770	\$48,108	0.80
Production Occupations	24,370	\$37,741	0.70
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	49,660	\$37,712	1.16

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) www.bls.gov/oes/

Employment

Table 2 shows that there were 63,460 jobs classified as office and administrative support occupations, the most of any occupational group. Three of the top 20 occupations by employment fell under this occupational group: customer service representatives; secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive; and bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks. Customer service representatives was the top occupation in Local Area III. Two additional occupational groups had employment of at least 40,000. There were 49,660 jobs in the transportation and material moving occupational group, with laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand being the second most common occupation in Local Area III. Sales and related occupations accounted for 43,080 jobs in Local Area III. Four occupations in this group landed in the top 20 occupations by employment, including the third most common occupation, retail salespersons.

Table 3
Top 20 Occupations by Employment
Local Area III
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment
Customer Service Representatives	13,900
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	11,020
Retail Salespersons	10,680
Registered Nurses	10,550
Stockers and Order Fillers	9,720
Fast Food and Counter Workers	9,320
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	8,850
Cashiers	8,790
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	8,790
General and Operations Managers	7,870
Software Developers	6,260
Waiters and Waitresses	5,910
Nursing Assistants	5,830
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	5,830
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	5,650
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	5,630
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	5,550
Accountants and Auditors	4,980
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	4,970
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	4,360
<i>Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)</i>	

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Wages

According to the Kansas Wage Survey, the median annual wage in Local Area III as of May 2021 was \$46,228. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of \$102,291. Two other occupational groups recorded a median annual wage over \$70,000: computer and mathematical occupations and architecture and engineering occupations; while four additional occupational groups recorded median annual wages over \$60,000: legal occupations; business and financial operations occupations; health care practitioners and technical occupations; and life, physical, and social science occupations. It is notable that of the top 20 highest paying occupations, 12 came from the management occupations group and seven came from the health care practitioners and technical occupations group.

**Table 4
Top 20 Occupations by Median Annual Wage
Local Area III
May 2021**

Occupational Title	Median Annual Wage
Family Medicine Physicians	\$195,776
Physicists	\$192,392
Chief Executives	\$186,613
Dentists, General	\$178,499
Ophthalmologists, Except Pediatric	\$164,854
Nurse Anesthetists	\$157,997
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$151,754
Financial Managers	\$131,565
Marketing Managers	\$130,331
Pharmacists	\$129,955
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$129,320
Sales Managers	\$127,699
Medical Dosimetrists	\$127,697
Natural Sciences Managers	\$126,968
Compensation and Benefits Managers	\$126,457
Managers, All Other	\$126,012
Human Resources Managers	\$125,813
Optometrists	\$124,726
Purchasing Managers	\$124,321
Advertising and Promotions Managers	\$119,766

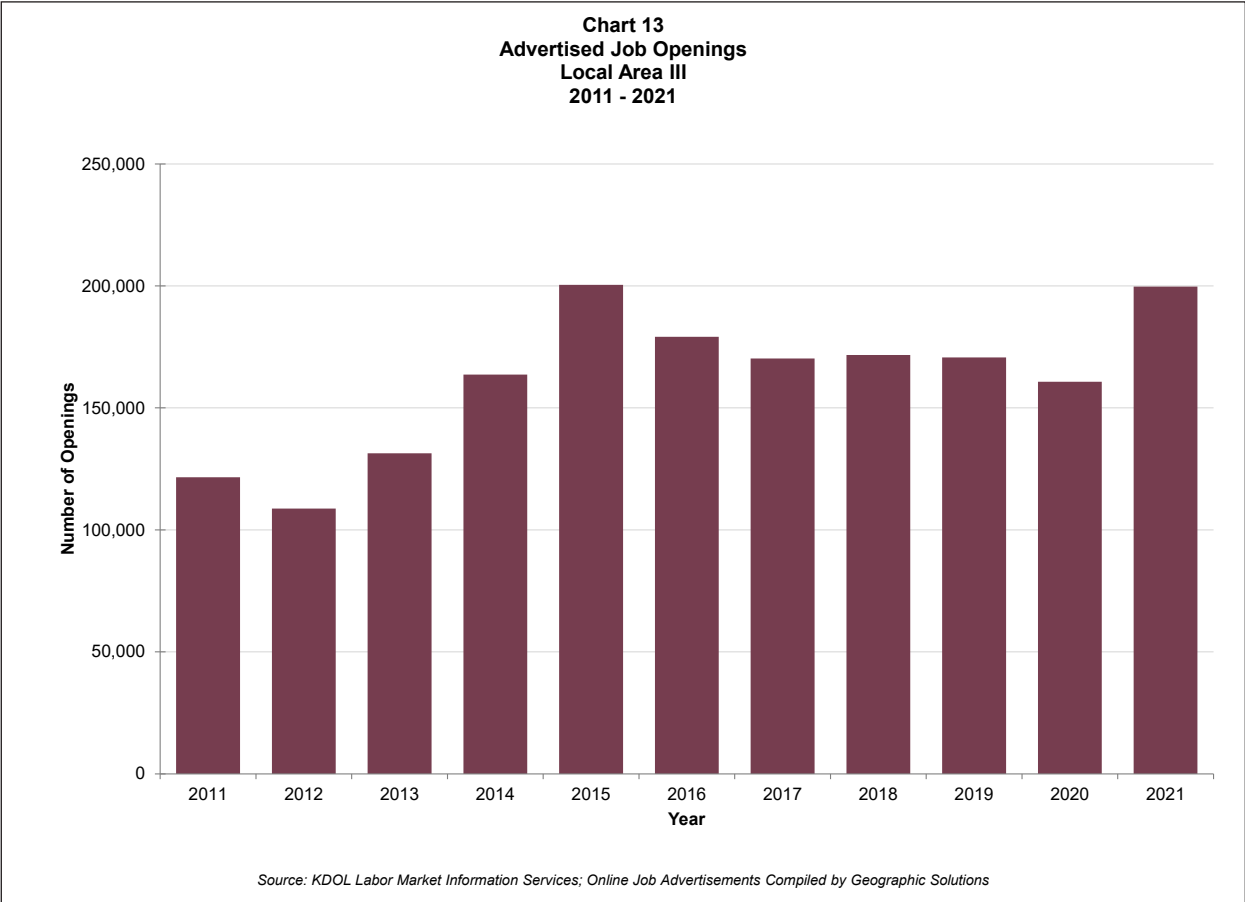
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

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ADVERTISED JOBS

Advertised job openings can be used as a measure of labor demand. Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Approximately 30% of industry and 40% of occupational postings do not include a classification. Data used in this analysis may not be representative of a full sample. This analysis will focus on those openings with an industry or occupational classification.

Chart 13 shows that Local Area III saw a declining trend in the annual number of advertised job openings from 2015 to 2020. However, there was a large increase in job openings from 2020 to 2021 of 24.2%, or 38,967 job openings, which is likely due to businesses reopening as pandemic restrictions were lifted and vaccines became more widely available.



Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Advertised Jobs Data compiled by Geographic Solutions www.klic.dol.ks.gov

As shown in *Chart 14*, the health care practitioners and technical occupations group had the most job openings by far, with 28,991 openings advertised in 2021. This was followed by the management occupational group with 14,757 job openings and the office and administrative support occupational group with 10,359 job openings. Three occupational groups had over 6,000 openings in 2021: transportation and material moving, computer and mathematical, and sales and related.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation with 14,767 openings, followed by customer service representatives with 3,088 openings, and nursing assistants with 2,307 openings. Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses recorded 1,980 openings in 2021, while security guards recorded 1,698 openings.

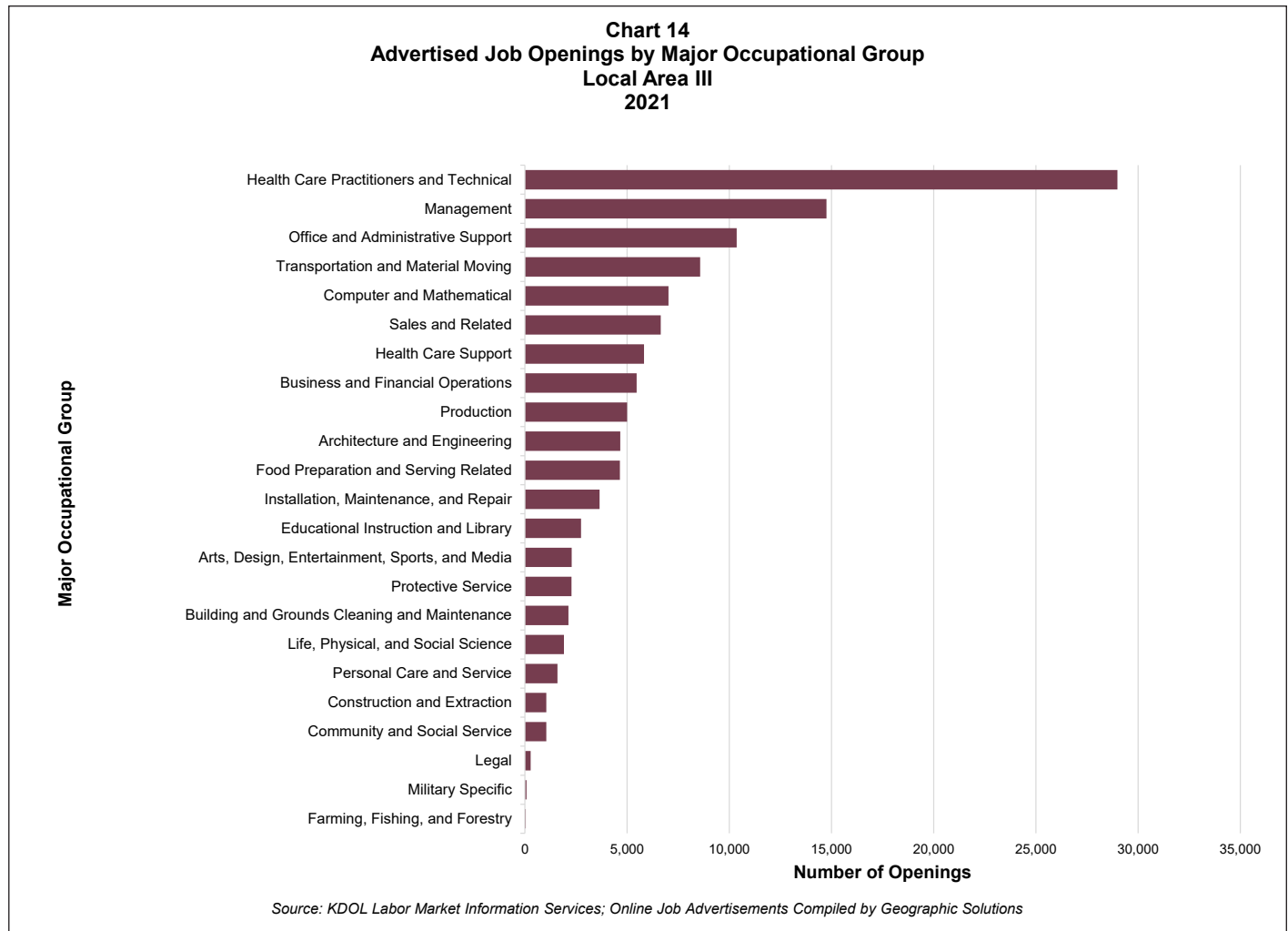
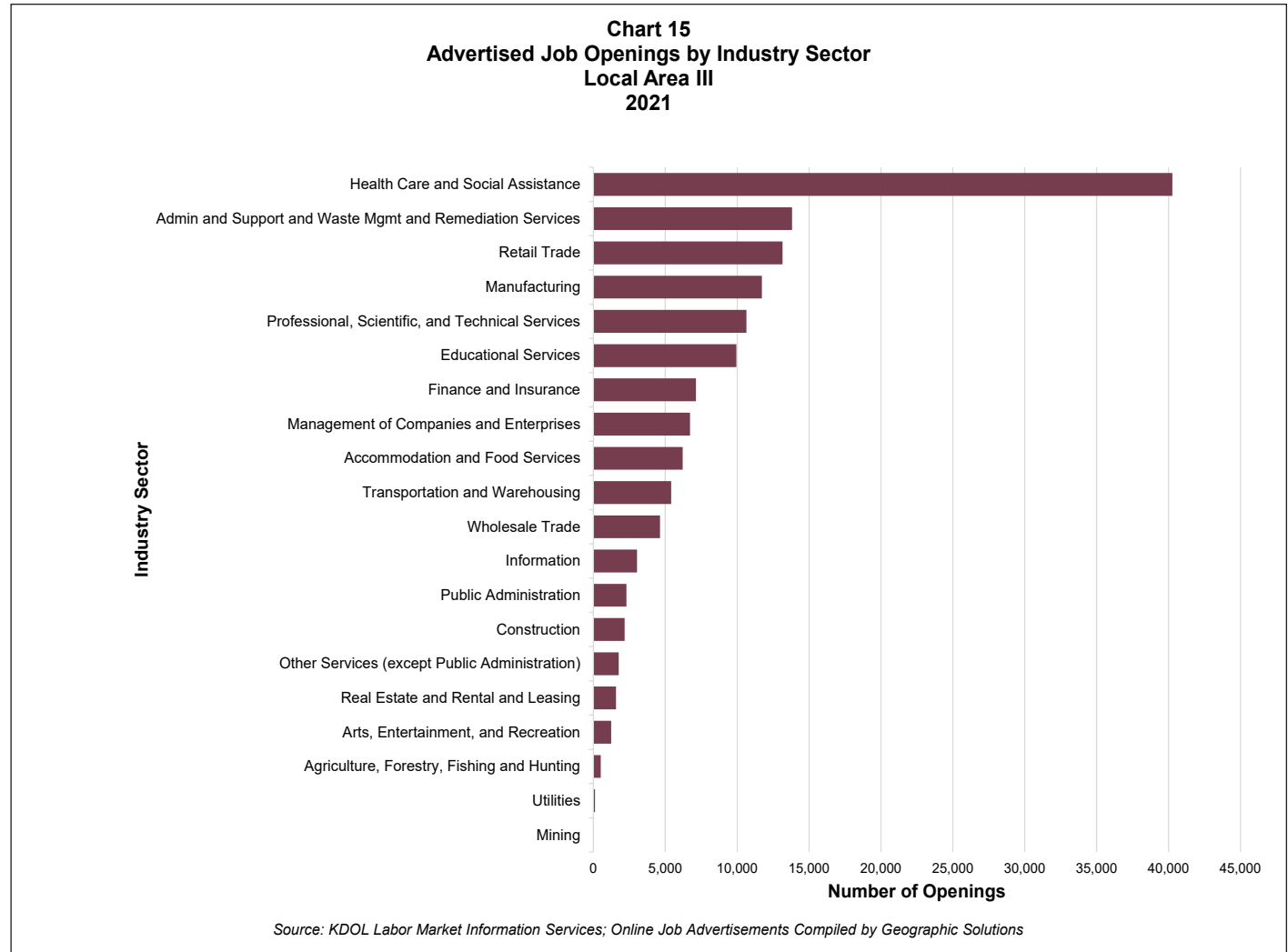


Chart 15 displays advertised job openings by industry sector. The health care and social assistance sector had the most openings by far in 2021, with 40,265 job openings. More than half of these openings were in hospitals, the remaining majority fell into ambulatory health care services and nursing and residential care facilities. Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services recorded 13,818 job openings, nearly all of these openings were in the administrative and support services subsector. Retail trade recorded 13,152 job openings with each of the following subsectors accounting for at least 2,000 openings: food and beverage stores, building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers, and motor vehicle and parts dealers. The manufacturing and professional, scientific, and technical services sectors each recorded over 10,000 job openings in 2021, while educational services recorded 9,942 job openings.



HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The list of these occupations is provided to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. High demand occupations have higher than average combined current and projected (short-term and long-term) demand in the state. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation.

Occupations are scored based on the following criteria:

1. Current number of openings as determined by the number of jobs advertised online during the 2nd quarter of the year
2. Projected number of openings in two years as indicated in the short-term projections program
3. Projected number of openings in 10 years as indicated in the long-term projections program

Each of these scores are added together to get a total score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

Table 5 displays the top high demand occupations. These 11 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means that they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2023 and 2028. Overall, there are 215 occupations on the high demand list in Local Area III.

Eight of the top 11 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require less than one month of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. The median wages of these eight occupations are all below the Local Area III median wage, \$46,228, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of industry growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Registered Nurses	\$75,365	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$58,265	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	\$36,657	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$33,772	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Assistants	\$31,018	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$30,527	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$29,982	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	\$28,565	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	\$24,125	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	\$24,096	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$23,285	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Note: High demand data for Local Area III comes from the Kansas City Projection Region which differs from Local Area III since it also includes Miami County. Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

KDOL also identifies high demand occupations that also pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the median wage for each respective area.

In Local Area III, there are 122 high demand high wage occupations, *Table 6* lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, 11 of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree or moderate-term on-the-job training. Also noteworthy is that two occupations that had a maximum demand score of 30 also had high wages: registered nurses and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Table 6
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
Local Area III
2022

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Registered Nurses	\$75,365	Bachelor's degree	None
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$58,265	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers	\$97,030	Bachelor's degree	None
General and Operations Managers	\$95,210	Bachelor's degree	None
Accountants and Auditors	\$71,669	Bachelor's degree	None
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	\$60,379	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Management Analysts	\$79,559	Bachelor's degree	None
Computer Systems Analysts	\$78,146	Bachelor's degree	None
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	\$63,399	Bachelor's degree	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$61,470	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$60,646	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Computer User Support Specialists	\$48,300	Some college, no degree	None
Project Management Specialists and Business Operations Specialists, All Other	\$78,461	Bachelor's degree	None
Human Resources Specialists	\$61,618	Bachelor's degree	None
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	\$55,136	High school diploma or equivalent	None

Note: High demand data for Local Area III comes from the Kansas City Projection Region which differs from Local Area III since it also includes Miami County. Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403>

LOCAL AREA IV SUMMARY

POPULATION

The 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates will become the official estimates for the 2010-2020 decade and are currently scheduled to be released in 2023. They are produced by modifying the Vintage 2020 estimates to account for differences between the postcensal estimates and the results of the 2020 Census. The result is a consistent time series from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census. Due to the delay in finalizing the 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020.

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.

Local Area IV contains six counties in south central Kansas and contains most of the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area. Wichita, the largest city in Kansas, is the primary urban area in this local area. There are six other cities in Local Area IV with at least 10,000 residents. Four are located within the Wichita metro area: Derby, Andover, El Dorado, and Haysville, and two are in Cowley County: Winfield and Arkansas City. *Chart 1* displays the population of Local Area IV from 2011 to 2021. Local Area IV saw modest growth from 2011 to 2020, growing at an average annual rate of 0.4%. However, Local Area IV saw little change from 2020 to 2021, declining by 63 people, or 0.0%.

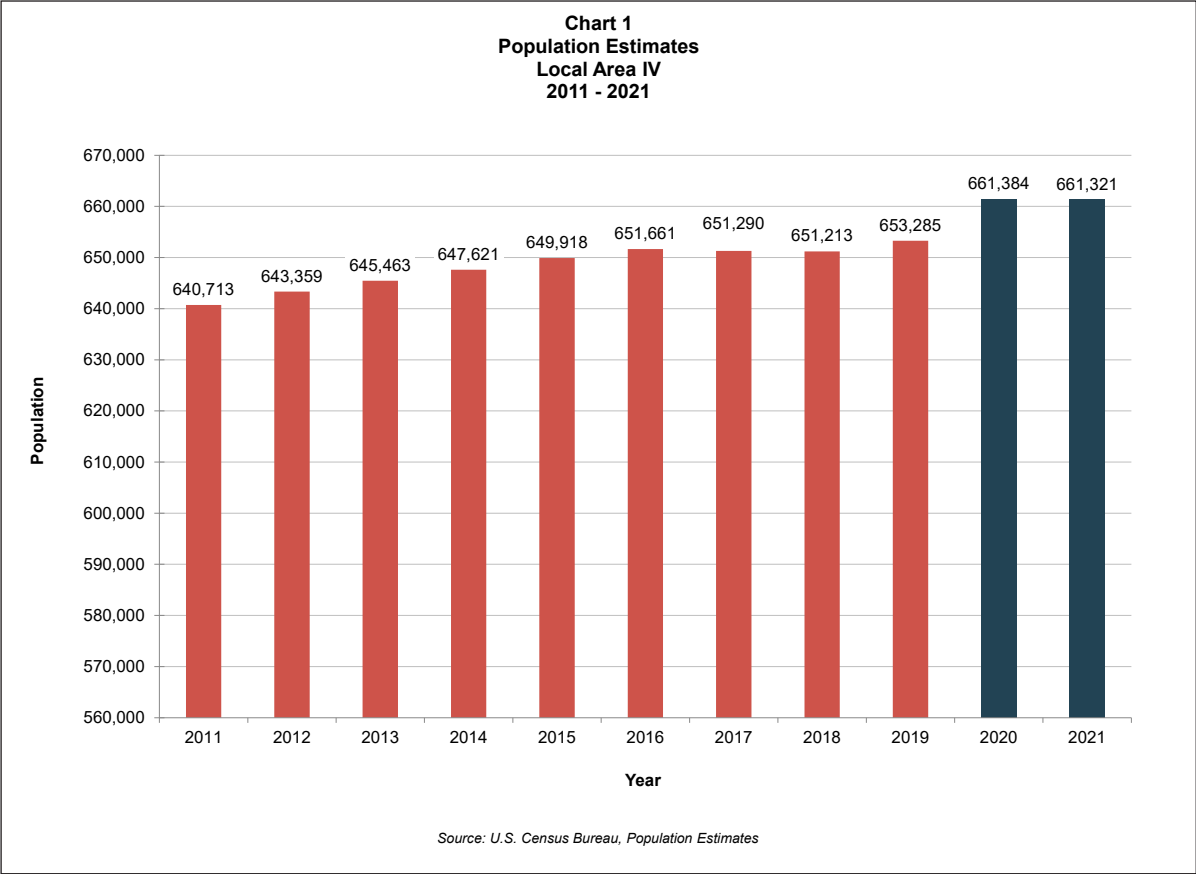
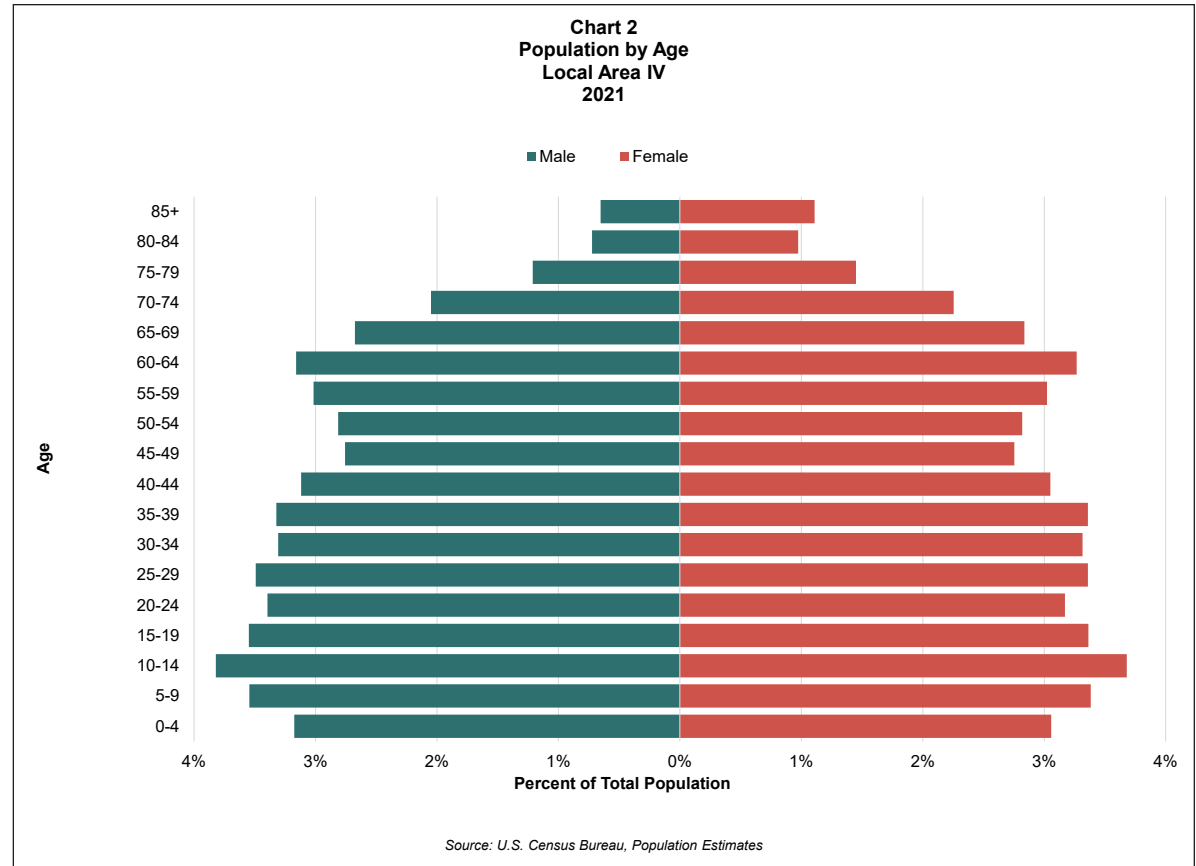


Chart 2 displays the Local Area IV population by age group and gender. The population pyramid for Local Area IV is the most pyramid-like of the local areas with a few exceptions. There are two peaks in population, with the larger centered on the 10-14 year-old age group, and a smaller peak centered on the 60-64 year-old age group. The largest age group in this local area is 10-14 year-olds, representing 7.5% of the population, followed by 5-9, 15-19, and 25-29 year-olds who each represent 6.9% of the population.

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 for Local Area IV in 2021 was 514,972, an increase of 1,939 over the year, or 0.4%. The 25-54 year-old population was 247,774 in 2021, an increase of 483 over the year, or 0.2%.

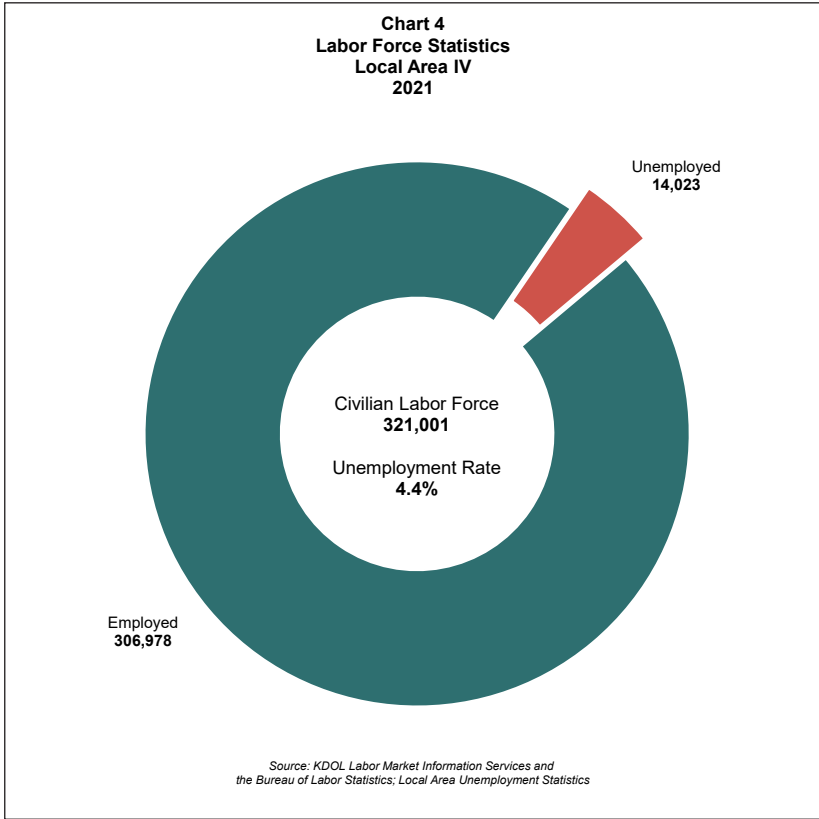
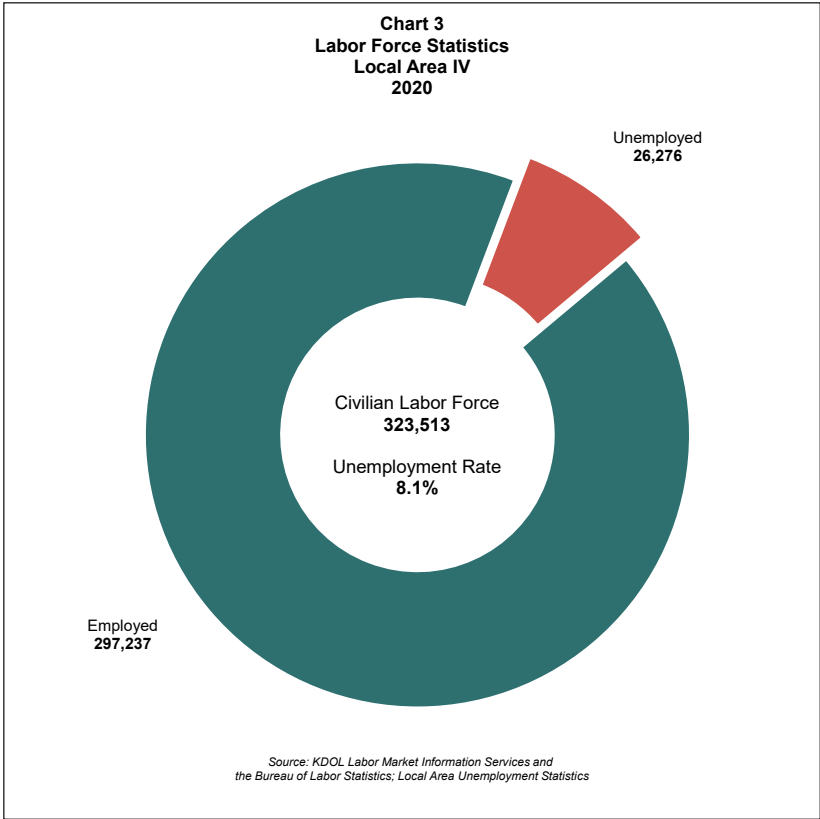
Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy since the population under 25 decreased by 1,565, or 0.7%. Declines were seen in the 19 and under age groups while the 20-24 year-old age group saw an increase. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, recorded an increase of 1.1%, or 477 people over the year.



Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

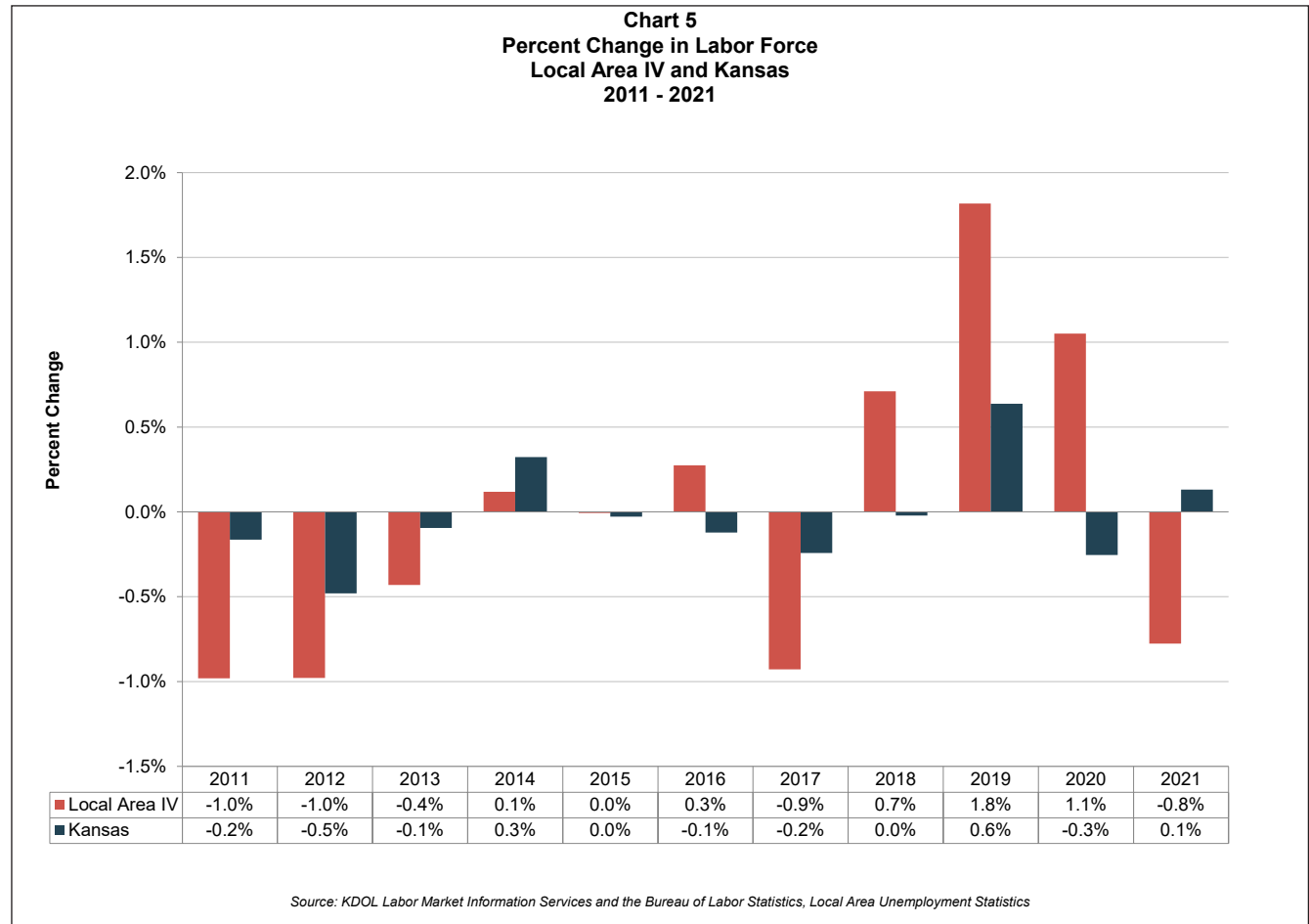
LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

The improvement from 2020 to 2021 is clear when comparing *Chart 3* and *Chart 4*, as the unemployment rate dropped from 8.1% in 2020 to 4.4% in 2021. *Chart 4* shows there were 321,001 people in the Local Area IV labor force in 2021, which was a decrease from 2020 of 0.8%, or 2,512 people. There were 306,978 Local Area IV residents working in 2021, a 3.3% increase from 2020; however, this is still roughly 2,400 lower than the pre-pandemic levels seen in 2019. The number of unemployed people decreased by 12,253, or 46.6%, to 14,023 over the year, much of this decrease can be attributed to people returning to work as pandemic restrictions eased and vaccines became widely available.



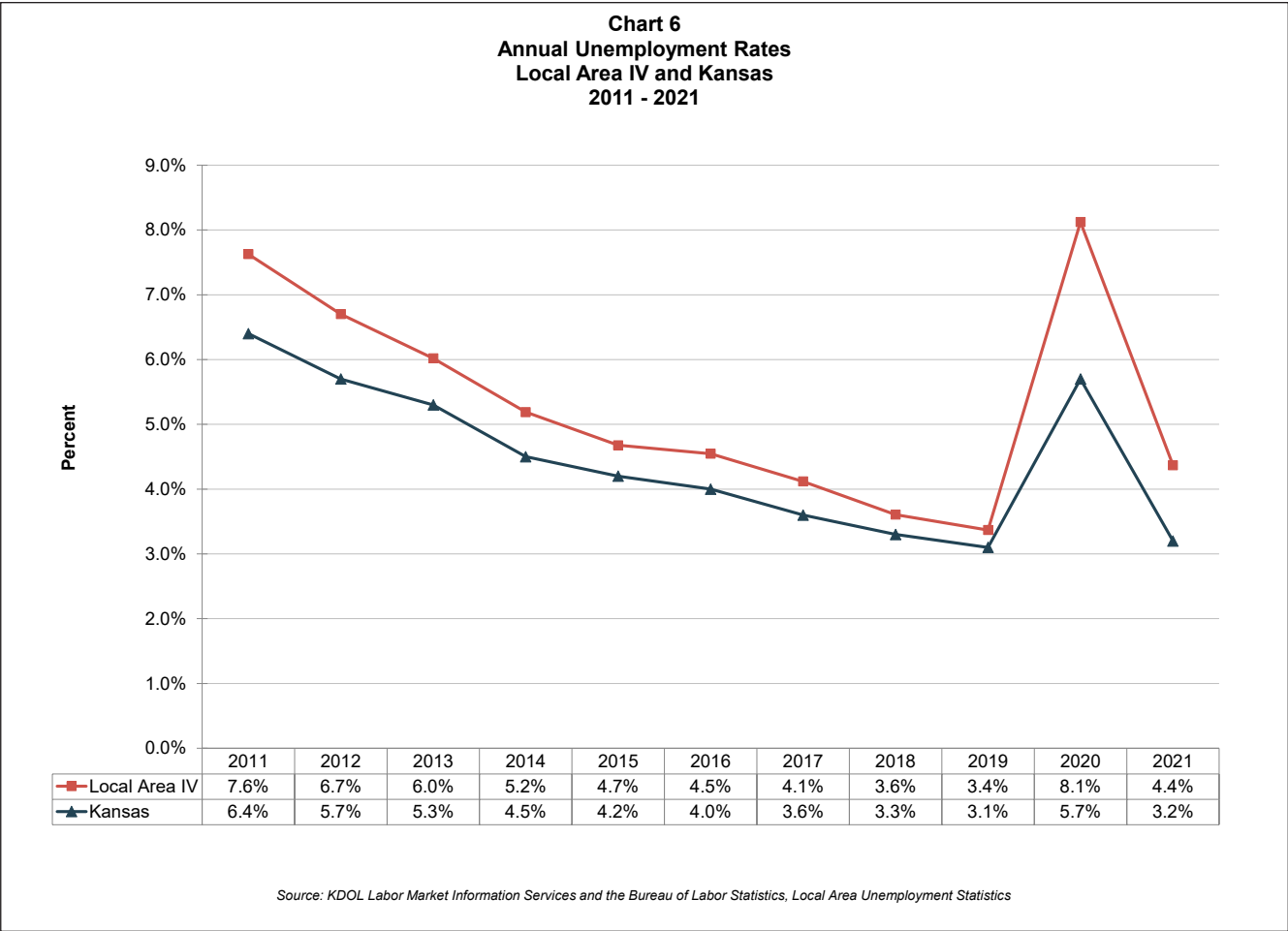
Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment (LAU) Statistics www.bls.gov/lau/

Chart 5 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Local Area IV and Kansas. After declining in 2017, the Local Area IV labor force began to expand again in 2018. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, this growth continued through 2020, before declining in 2021. The Local Area IV labor force declined by 2,512 people, or 0.8% over the year to 321,001. Despite this loss, Local Area IV estimates are still slightly higher than their pre-pandemic estimates.



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As shown in *Chart 6*, the Local Area IV unemployment rate dropped 3.7 percentage points from 8.1% in 2020 to 4.4% in 2021. This is still 1.0 percentage point higher than the pre-pandemic estimate of 3.4% in 2019. The 2021 rate is 0.8 percentage points lower than the historical annual average of 5.2% and 1.2 percentage points higher than the statewide average.

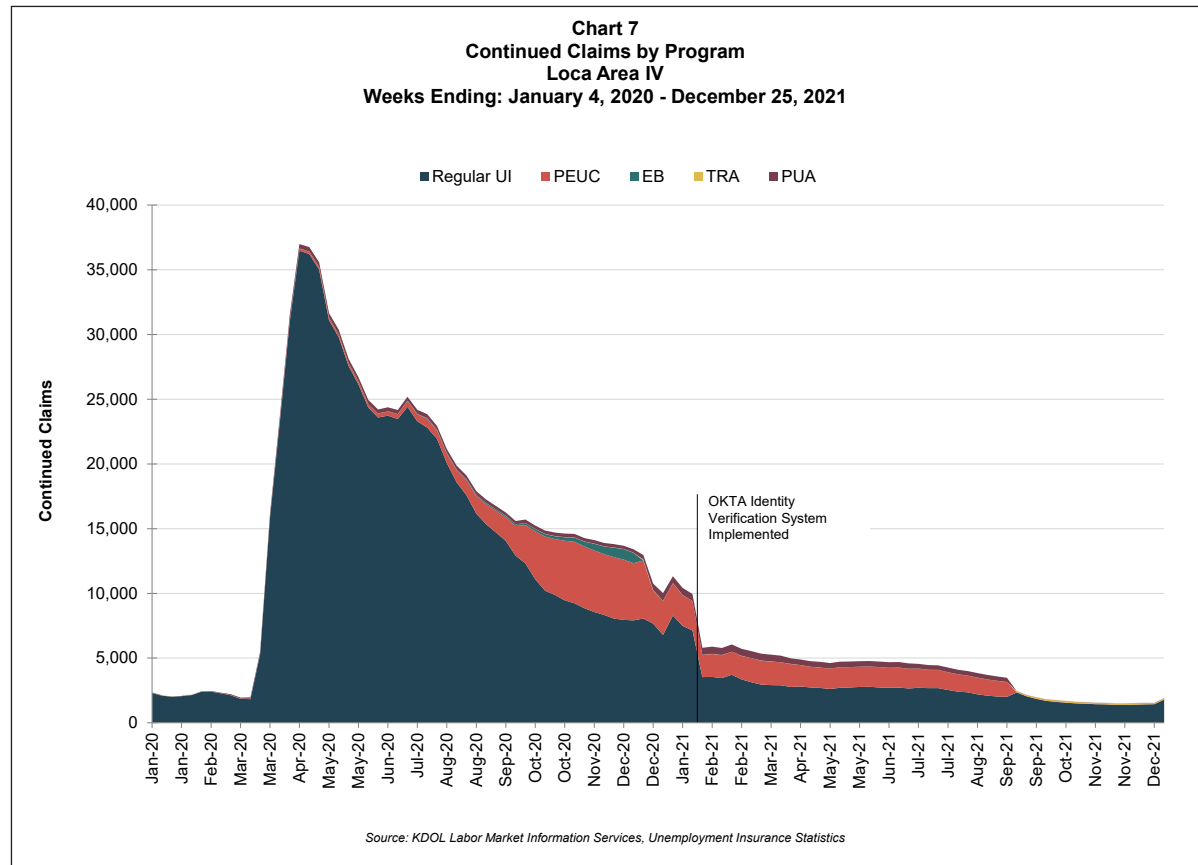


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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS

The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Local Area IV residents with the KDOL. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts also exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment, therefore continued claims do not equal claims paid.

In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labor market, the United States Congress authorized new federal unemployment programs through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. These programs were extended through the Continued Assistance to Unemployed Workers Act (Continued Assistance Act) of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. These new programs provided extended benefits through the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. The charts included in this section of the report provide data for all unemployment programs available to claimants throughout 2020 and 2021, with the exception of the industry chart which excludes PUA data.



As shown in *Chart 7*, the number of individuals filing for benefits began to rise sharply during the week ending March 21, 2020, coming to a peak during the week ending April 18, 2020, with a total of 36,992 claims. The number of Local Area IV residents filing for benefits continued to trend downward throughout 2020; however, there was a slight increase in claims again in January 2021, followed by a sharp decline which can be attributed to the implementation of the OKTA identity verification system. Local Area IV claims totals followed a slow declining trend from February through September. Eventually weekly claims totals dropped below pre-pandemic levels when the federal PEUC and PUA programs ended in September, averaging around 1,700 claims per week through the remainder of 2021.

Where to find it: Claims data comes from administrative UI tax data. Contact us for a customized report at KDOL.Laborstats@ks.gov

Chart 8 shows the percentage of claims filed by male and female claimants during 2021. Males typically account for a larger portion of continued claims in Kansas as two of the main industries in which workers are filing, construction and manufacturing, are generally male dominated. In 2021 43.7% of claims were attributed to females and 56.3% of claims were attributed to males in Local Area IV.

As shown in Chart 9, the majority of claimants filing continued claims are white, which can be attributed to the fact that 79.3% of the population in Local Area IV is white, according to the Census' 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Even though white is the largest category, these claimants only accounted for 64.9% of claims in 2021. Black individuals make up 7.1% of the Local Area IV population, but accounted for a higher proportion of claims, 14.3%. In 2021, 9.1% of claims came from American Indian or Alaskan Natives, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders who collectively make up 4.6% of the Local Area IV population.

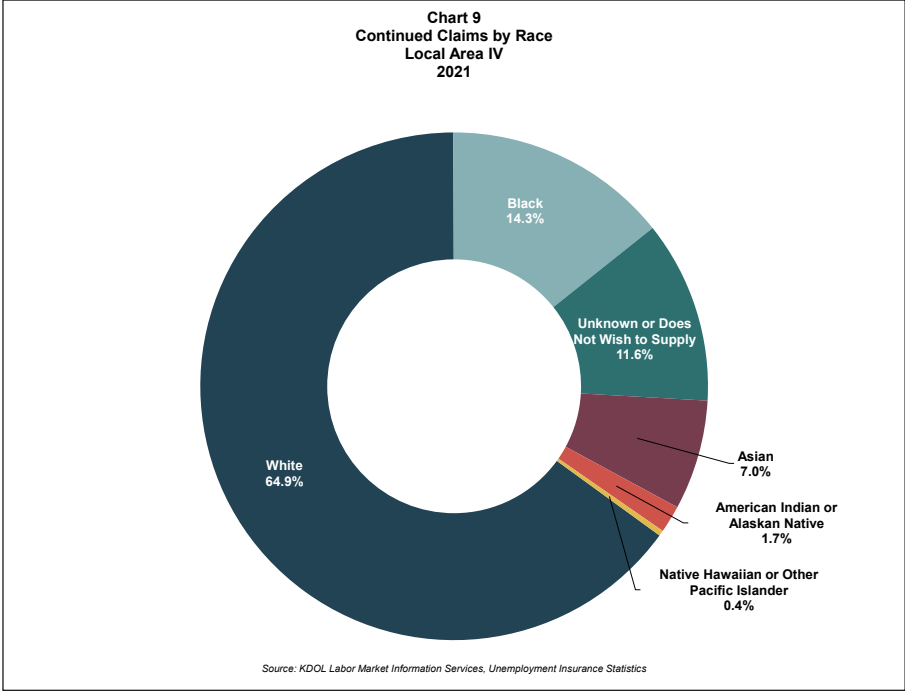
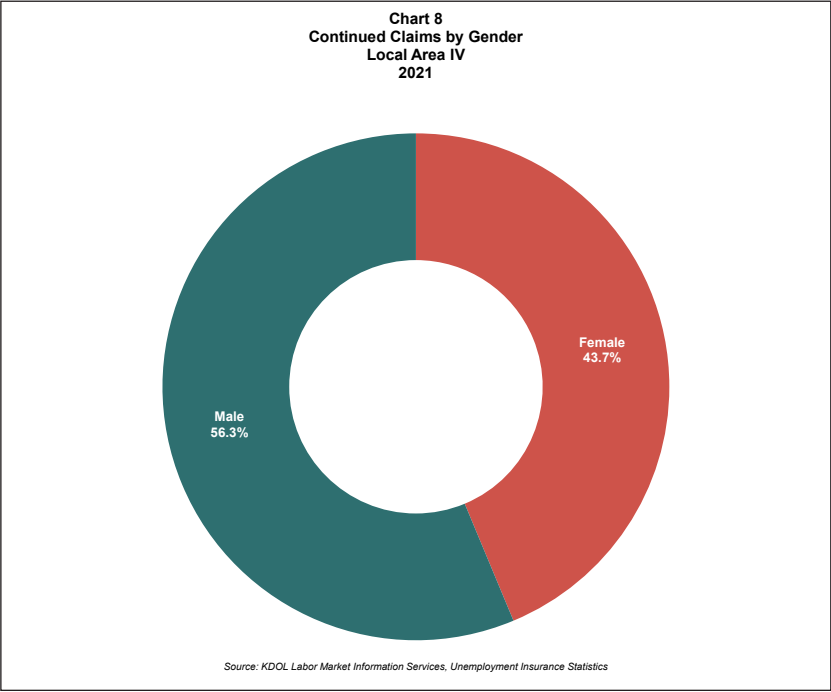


Chart 10 shows the percentage of claims filed by age group in 2021. The age groups of 16-24 and 25-34 saw improvement in percentage of claims filed over the year. In 2020, the 16-24 year-old age group accounted for 13.3% of total claims, but in 2021 this age group accounted for just 6.3% of total claims. The 25-34 year-old age group accounted for 23.8% of total claims in 2020, but decreased to 22.4% in 2021. These age groups likely saw higher percentages of claims during 2020 due to the fact that harder hit industries, such as accommodation and food services, typically have a younger workforce.

As shown in *Chart 11*, claimants with a high school diploma or GED had the largest share of claims in 2021, accounting for 43.2%. This was followed by claimants who completed some college or associate degree with 26.9% of claims. Claimants with a bachelor’s degree or higher accounted for 14.2% of claims, while claimants with less than a high school education accounted for 11.1% of claims in 2021. Individuals with a high school diploma or less than high school account for a higher proportion of overall claims than their percentage of the population, while individuals with some college or a postsecondary degree represent a smaller share of claimants than their percentage of the Local Area IV population.

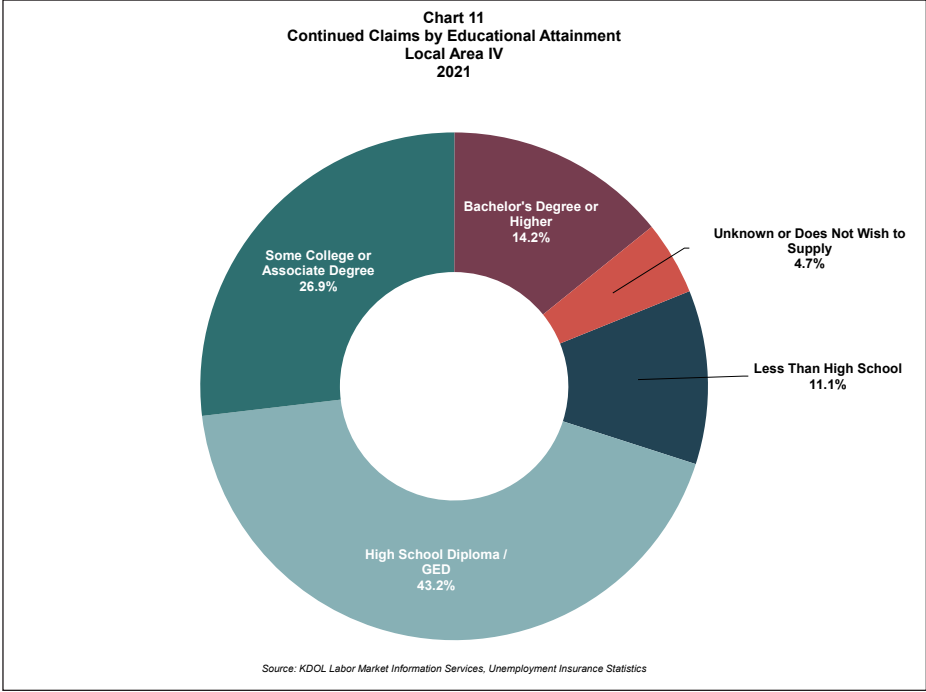
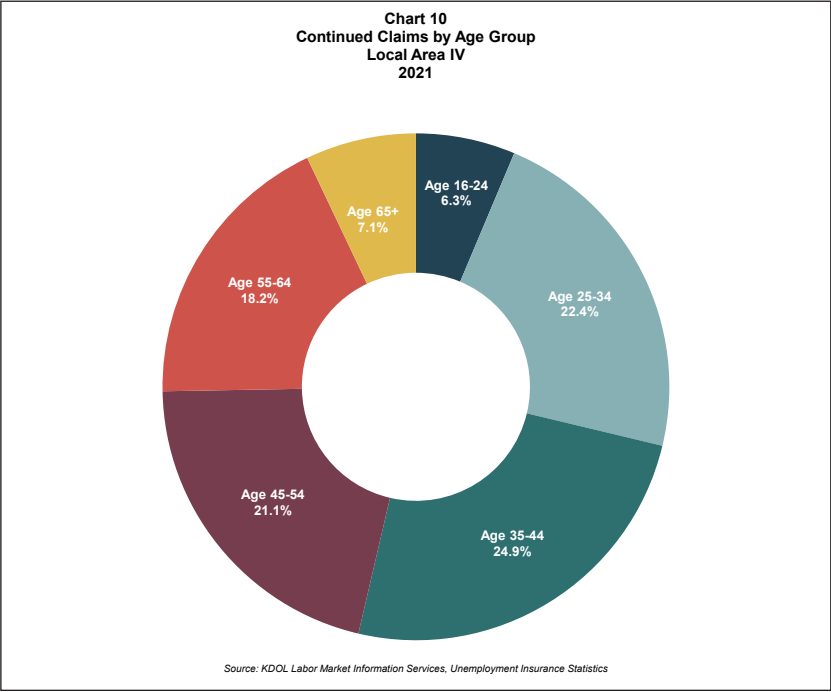
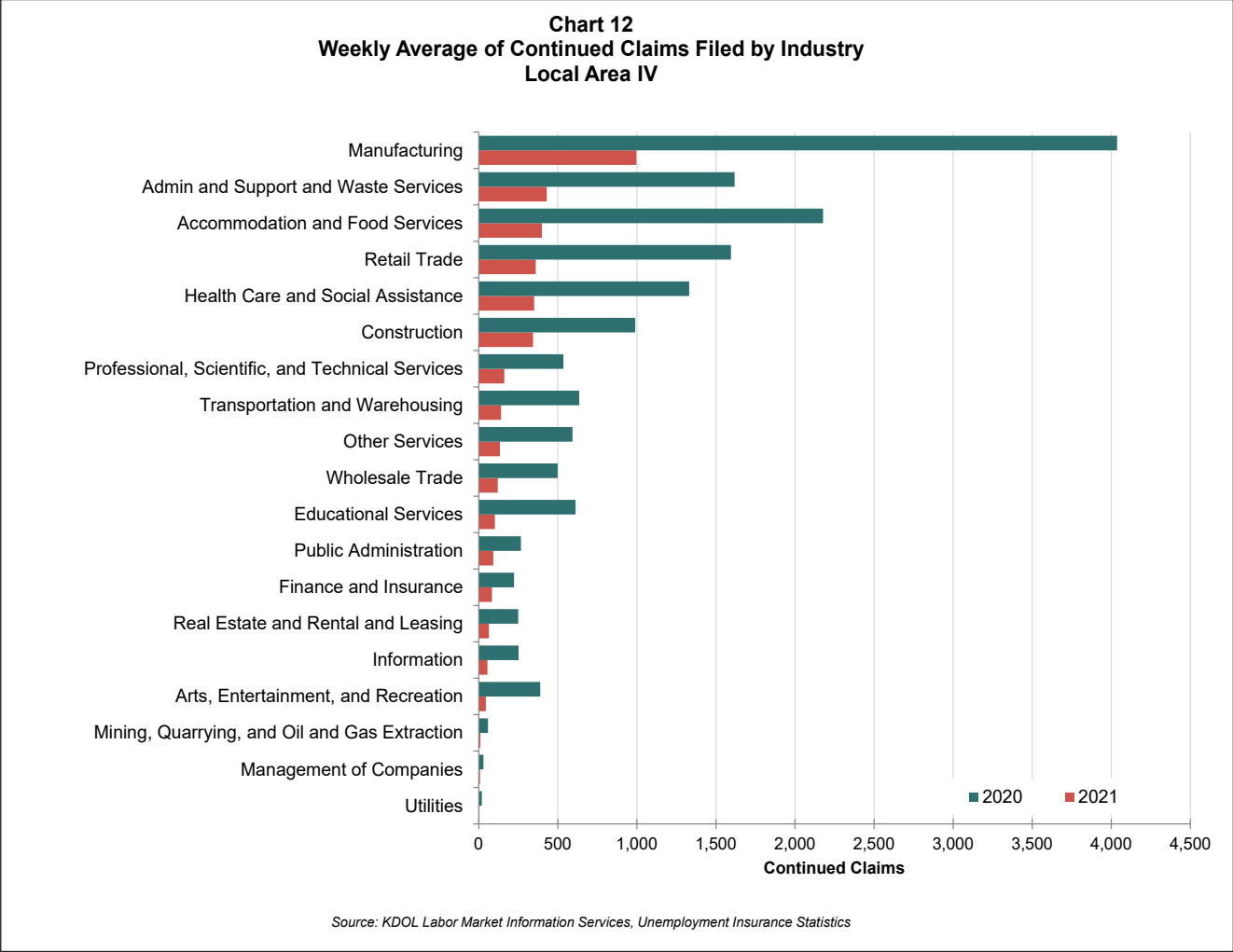


Chart 12 displays the average number of continued claims filed each week by industry. Manufacturing had the highest weekly average with 997 continued claims filed per week during 2021, a decrease of 3,039, or 75.3% from 2020. Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services averaged 430 claims filed per week, dropping 73.4% from 2020. Accommodation and food services saw a significant decrease in the number of claims filed weekly over the year, decreasing by 81.7% from 2,178 to 399 average claims filed per week. Retail trade and health care and social assistance both averaged over 1,300 claims per week in 2020, but dropped to 361 and 351, respectively in 2021.



INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Employment

In 2021, Local Area IV recorded an average of 289,291 total jobs. Of these, 247,246, or 85.5%, were private sector jobs. The private sector industry that recorded the most jobs for Local Area IV in 2021 was manufacturing, which accounted for 46,853 jobs. This was followed by health care and social assistance with 39,499 jobs and retail trade with 31,432 jobs. Government accounted for 42,045 or 14.5% of jobs in Local Area IV in 2021, with the majority of these jobs being recorded at the local level. There were 31,515 local government jobs in Local Area IV in 2021.

Wages

The average weekly wage for all industries in Local Area IV was \$984 in 2021, this was \$43 lower than the statewide average of \$1,027. The private sector recorded an average of \$991, while government recorded an average of \$944. Management of companies and enterprises recorded the highest average weekly wage by far, at \$2,742, followed by utilities with an average weekly wage of \$1,813. Seven additional private sector industries in Local Area IV recorded an average weekly wage over \$1,000: finance and insurance; professional and technical services; wholesale trade; manufacturing; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; information; and construction.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an industry in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an industry is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the state; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that industry than the state.

In Local Area IV, private sector industries with the highest employment concentrations relative to the state include arts, entertainment, and recreation; educational services; manufacturing; accommodation and food services; construction; and real estate and rental and leasing. Each of these industries recorded a location quotient of at least 1.17. Arts, entertainment, and recreation had the highest location quotient in the private sector for Local Area IV, with an employment concentration 1.72 times higher than that of the state. Local Area IV has a lower concentration of government employment, with just 0.82 times the concentration of statewide employment. The private sector industries with the lowest employment concentration relative to the state in Local Area IV were finance and insurance; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; utilities; and agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, which all recorded a location quotient of 0.64 or less.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program www.bls.gov/cew/

Table 1
Industry Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients
Local Area IV
2021

Sector	Employment	Average Weekly Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to Kansas
Total Covered	289,291	\$984	1.00
Total Private	247,246	\$991	1.04
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	458	\$914	0.17
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	700	\$1,318	0.56
Utilities	655	\$1,813	0.50
Construction	16,004	\$1,074	1.17
Manufacturing	46,853	\$1,342	1.36
Wholesale trade	8,796	\$1,349	0.74
Retail trade	31,432	\$633	1.06
Transportation and warehousing	9,542	\$937	0.73
Information	3,491	\$1,274	0.97
Finance and insurance	7,965	\$1,384	0.64
Real estate and rental and leasing	3,805	\$840	1.17
Professional and technical services	12,032	\$1,354	0.78
Management of companies and enterprises	4,594	\$2,742	1.00
Administrative and waste services	18,225	\$876	1.10
Educational services	4,126	\$777	1.40
Health care and social assistance	39,499	\$946	1.02
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	5,495	\$399	1.72
Accommodation and food services	26,441	\$379	1.17
Other services, except public administration	7,131	\$758	1.03
Total Government	42,045	\$944	0.82
Federal Government	5,161	\$1,399	0.94
State Government	5,368	\$1,014	0.64
Local Government	31,515	\$858	0.85

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Table 2 displays the employment, median annual wage, and employment location quotient for each occupational group in Local Area IV, while Tables 3 and 4 show the top 20 detailed occupations by employment and median annual wage.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the state; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the state.

In Local Area IV, the occupational groups with the highest employment concentrations relative to Kansas were architecture and engineering occupations and production occupations. Each of these occupational groups recorded a location quotient of 1.23 or higher. The architecture and engineering occupational group had the highest location quotient in Local Area IV, with an employment concentration 1.37 times higher than that of the state. The occupational groups in Local Area IV with the lowest employment concentration relative to the state were life, physical, and social science occupations and farming, fishing, and forestry occupations which had location quotients of 0.61 and 0.51 respectively.

Table 2
Occupational Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients
Local Area IV
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment	Median Annual Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to Kansas
All Occupations	285,900	\$37,796	1.00
Management Occupations	13,500	\$90,552	0.93
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	14,750	\$61,754	0.88
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	5,930	\$75,334	0.79
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	6,950	\$77,492	1.37
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	1,540	\$61,473	0.61
Community and Social Service Occupations	4,330	\$40,480	1.01
Legal Occupations	1,500	\$59,880	1.00
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	18,680	\$46,844	1.01
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	2,970	\$38,785	0.92
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	17,700	\$60,047	0.96
Health Care Support Occupations	13,310	\$28,576	1.04
Protective Service Occupations	5,550	\$40,518	0.94
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	25,190	\$22,227	1.10
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	7,630	\$28,457	0.91
Personal Care and Service Occupations	6,480	\$23,882	1.17
Sales and Related Occupations	25,390	\$28,709	0.99
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	37,110	\$36,435	0.98
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	410	\$29,429	0.51
Construction and Extraction Occupations	13,260	\$46,145	1.08
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	13,940	\$47,655	1.12
Production Occupations	27,290	\$42,224	1.23
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	22,480	\$31,262	0.83

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) www.bls.gov/oes/

Employment

Table 2 shows that there were 37,110 jobs classified as office and administrative support occupations, the most of any occupational group. Three of the top 20 occupations by employment fell under this occupational group: customer service representatives; secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive; and bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks. Four additional occupational groups had employment of at least 20,000. There were 27,290 jobs in the production occupational group. Sales and related occupations had an estimated 25,390 jobs in Local Area IV, with the third and fourth most common occupations by employment falling into this category, cashiers and retail salespersons. Food preparation and serving related occupations accounted for 25,190 jobs, with the most common occupation in Local Area IV falling into this category, fast food and counter workers. Finally, the transportation and material moving occupational group accounted for 22,480 jobs, with three occupations from this group falling into the top 20 occupations by employment.

Table 3
Top 20 Occupations by Employment
Local Area IV
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment
Fast Food and Counter Workers	7,700
Customer Service Representatives	7,370
Cashiers	7,060
Retail Salespersons	7,020
Registered Nurses	5,970
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	5,410
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	5,380
Stockers and Order Fillers	5,150
Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers	4,830
Nursing Assistants	4,490
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	4,470
General and Operations Managers	4,350
Waiters and Waitresses	4,080
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	4,020
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,930
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	3,460
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	3,390
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	2,860
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	2,720
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	2,690

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

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Wages

According to the Kansas Wage Survey, the median annual wage in Local Area IV as of May 2021 was \$37,796. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of \$90,552. Two additional occupational groups recorded a median annual wage over \$70,000: architecture and engineering occupations and computer and mathematical occupations; while three other occupational groups recorded median annual wages over \$60,000: business and financial operations occupations; life, physical, and social science occupations; and health care practitioners and technical occupations. It is notable that of the top 20 highest paying occupations, 10 came from the management occupations group and six came from the health care practitioners and technical occupations group.

Table 4
Top 20 Occupations by Median Annual Wage
Local Area IV
May 2021

Occupational Title	Median Annual Wage
Family Medicine Physicians	\$195,922
Pediatricians, General	\$163,406
Physicians, All Other	\$154,568
Nurse Anesthetists	\$140,881
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$134,450
Chief Executives	\$129,898
Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates	\$128,627
Pharmacists	\$127,930
Sales Managers	\$125,813
Commercial Pilots	\$125,637
Financial Managers	\$125,396
Lodging Managers	\$124,742
Airline Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers	\$122,907
Natural Sciences Managers	\$119,922
Compensation and Benefits Managers	\$119,293
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$119,034
Marketing Managers	\$117,437
Dentists, General	\$117,013
Managers, All Other	\$108,056
Petroleum Engineers	\$107,755

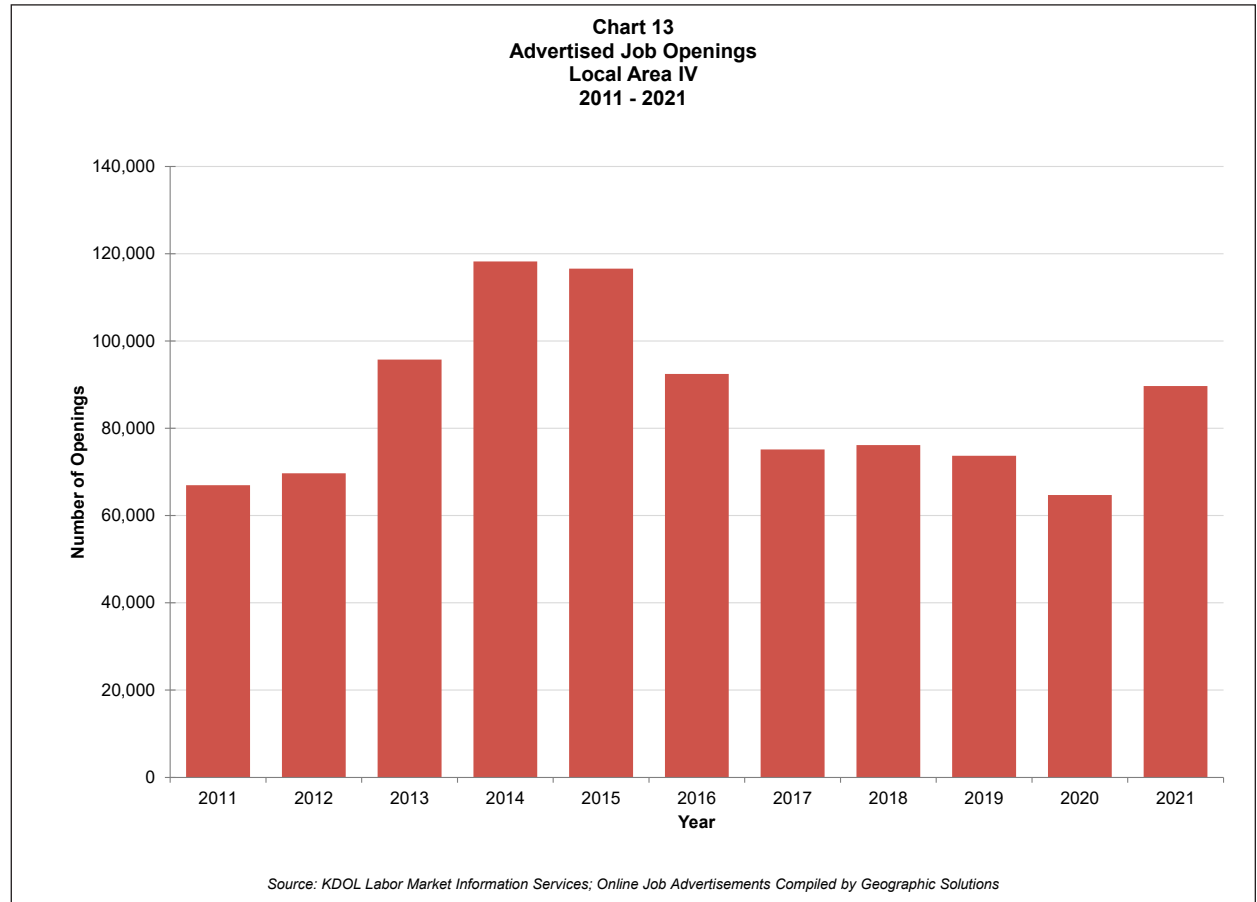
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

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ADVERTISED JOBS

Advertised job openings can be used as a measure of labor demand. Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Approximately 30% of industry and 40% of occupational postings do not include a classification. Data used in this analysis may not be representative of a full sample. This analysis will focus on those openings with an industry or occupational classification.

Chart 13 shows that Local Area IV saw a declining trend in the annual number of advertised job openings from 2014 to 2020. However, there was a large increase in job openings from 2020 to 2021 of 38.6%, or 24,977 job openings, which is likely due to businesses reopening as pandemic restrictions were lifted and vaccines became more widely available.



Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Advertised Jobs Data compiled by Geographic Solutions www.klic.dol.ks.gov

As shown in *Chart 14*, the health care practitioners and technical occupations group had the most job openings by far, with 10,749 openings advertised in 2021. This was followed by the management occupational group with 6,333 job openings and the office and administrative support occupational group with 5,291 job openings. The transportation and material moving occupational group recorded 4,037 openings while the sales and related and production occupational groups each recorded over 3,000 job openings in 2021.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation with 5,424 openings, followed by customer service representatives with 1,499 openings, and nursing assistants with 1,276 openings. Managers, all other, recorded 817 openings in 2021, while retail salespersons recorded 810 openings.

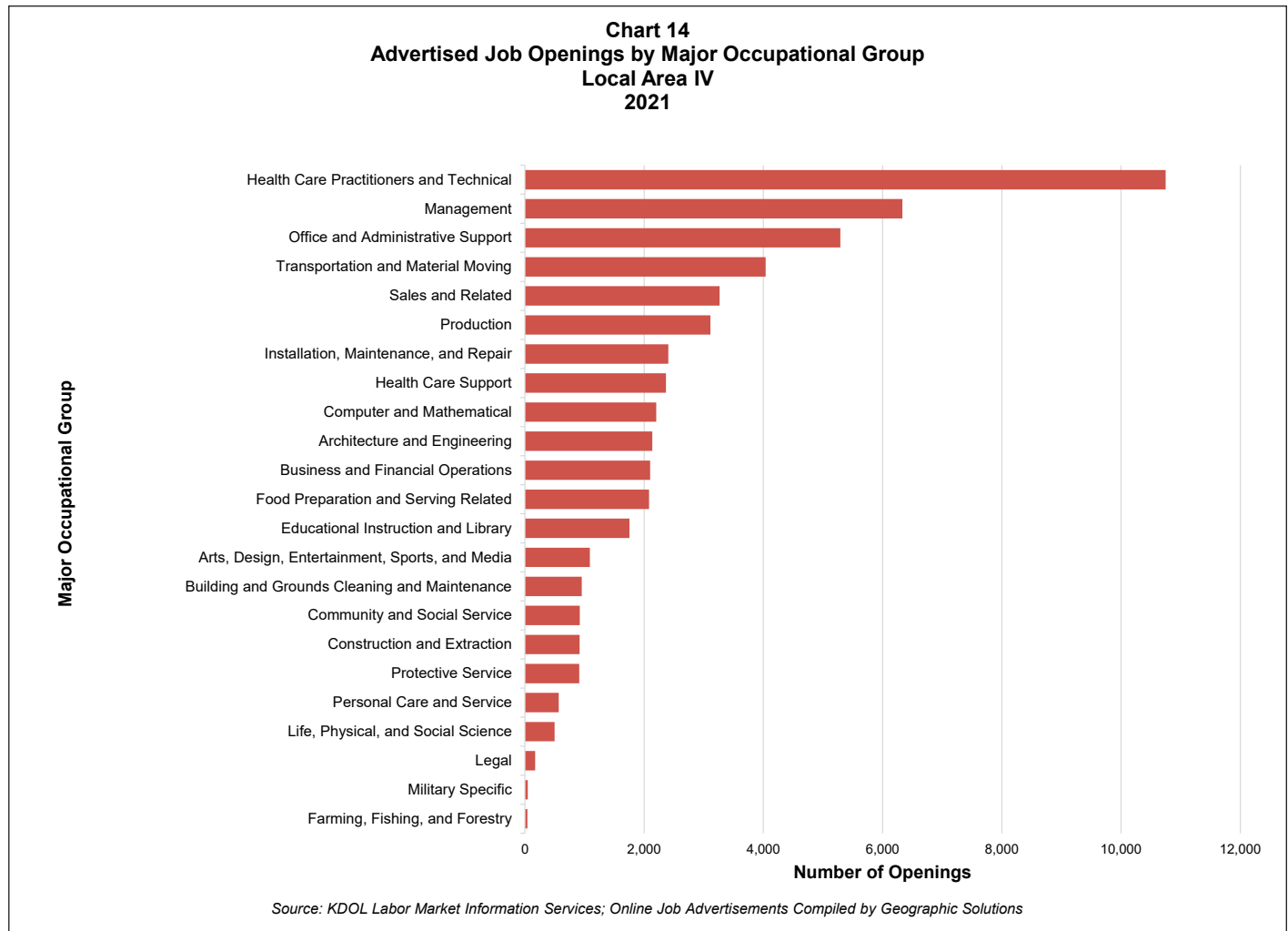
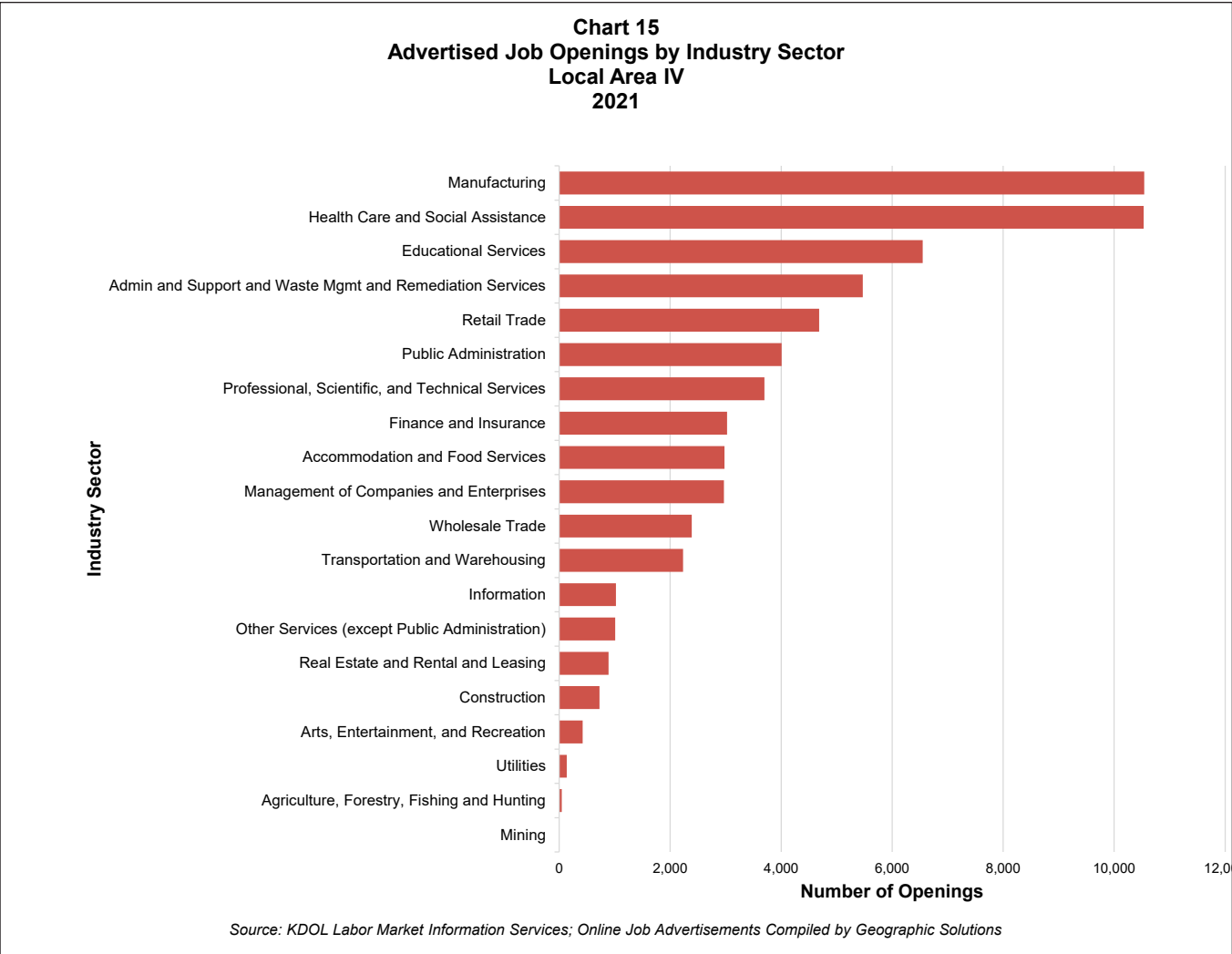


Chart 15 displays advertised job openings by industry sector. The manufacturing and health care and social assistance sectors had the most openings in 2021, each recording over 10,000 job openings. The majority of the manufacturing openings were in the following subsectors: transportation equipment manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, and computer and electronic product manufacturing. Hospitals, ambulatory health care services, and nursing and residential care facilities made up the majority of the health care and social assistance sector openings. The educational services sector recorded 6,551 job openings, while the administrative and support and waste management and remediation services sector recorded 5,470 job openings. The retail trade and public administration sectors each recorded over 4,000 job openings in 2021.



HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The list of these occupations is provided to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. High demand occupations have higher than average combined current and projected (short-term and long-term) demand in the state. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation.

Occupations are scored based on the following criteria:

1. Current number of openings as determined by the number of jobs advertised online during the 2nd quarter of the year
2. Projected number of openings in two years as indicated in the short-term projections program
3. Projected number of openings in 10 years as indicated in the long-term projections program

Each of these scores are added together to get a total score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

Table 5 displays the top high demand occupations. These 10 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means that they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2023 and 2028. Overall, there are 212 occupations on the high demand list in Local Area IV.

Eight of the top 10 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require less than one month of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. The median wages of these eight occupations are all below the Local Area IV median wage, \$37,796, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of industry growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Table 5
Top High Demand Occupations
Local Area IV
2022

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Customer Service Representatives	\$30,021	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$29,976	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	\$29,043	Some college, no degree	None
Nursing Assistants	\$28,960	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$28,515	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$28,131	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	\$26,770	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	\$22,746	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	\$22,502	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$21,434	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Note: High demand data for Local Area IV comes from the South Central Projection Region which differs from Local Area IV since it includes Harvey County. Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

KDOL also identifies high demand occupations that also pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the median wage for each respective area.

In Local Area IV, there are 124 high demand high wage occupations, *Table 6* lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, 11 of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree or moderate-term on-the-job training. None of the occupations in Local Area IV that had a maximum demand score of 30 meet the requirements to be considered high wage; however, four occupations with a demand score of 29 had high wages: general and operations managers; registered nurses; inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers; and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Table 6
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
Local Area IV
2022

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
General and Operations Managers	\$76,661	Bachelor's degree	None
Registered Nurses	\$60,915	Bachelor's degree	None
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	\$57,335	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$47,069	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Accountants and Auditors	\$62,765	Bachelor's degree	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$50,186	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$60,844	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	\$58,329	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$51,786	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$46,654	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers	\$83,151	Bachelor's degree	None
Buyers and Purchasing Agents	\$63,059	Bachelor's degree	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers	\$59,407	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	\$48,221	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Computer User Support Specialists	\$47,515	Some college, no degree	None

Note: High demand data for Local Area IV comes from the South Central Projection Region which differs from Local Area IV since it includes Harvey County. Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403>

LOCAL AREA V SUMMARY

POPULATION

The 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates will become the official estimates for the 2010-2020 decade and are currently scheduled to be released in 2023. They are produced by modifying the Vintage 2020 estimates to account for differences between the postcensal estimates and the results of the 2020 Census. The result is a consistent time series from the 2010 Census to the 2020 Census. Due to the delay in finalizing the 2010 to 2020 Intercensal Estimates, there is a break in the population estimates series between 2019 and 2020.

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.

Local Area V consists of 17 counties in southeast Kansas. The two largest cities in this region are Emporia and Pittsburg. *Chart 1* displays the population of Local Area V from 2011 to 2021. The Local Area V population was estimated to be 267,736 in 2021. This represents a loss of 325 people, or 0.1% over the year. The population of Local Area V has decreased every year of the time period displayed in *Chart 1*, with the Local Area V population declining by 11,839, or 4.2%, since 2011.

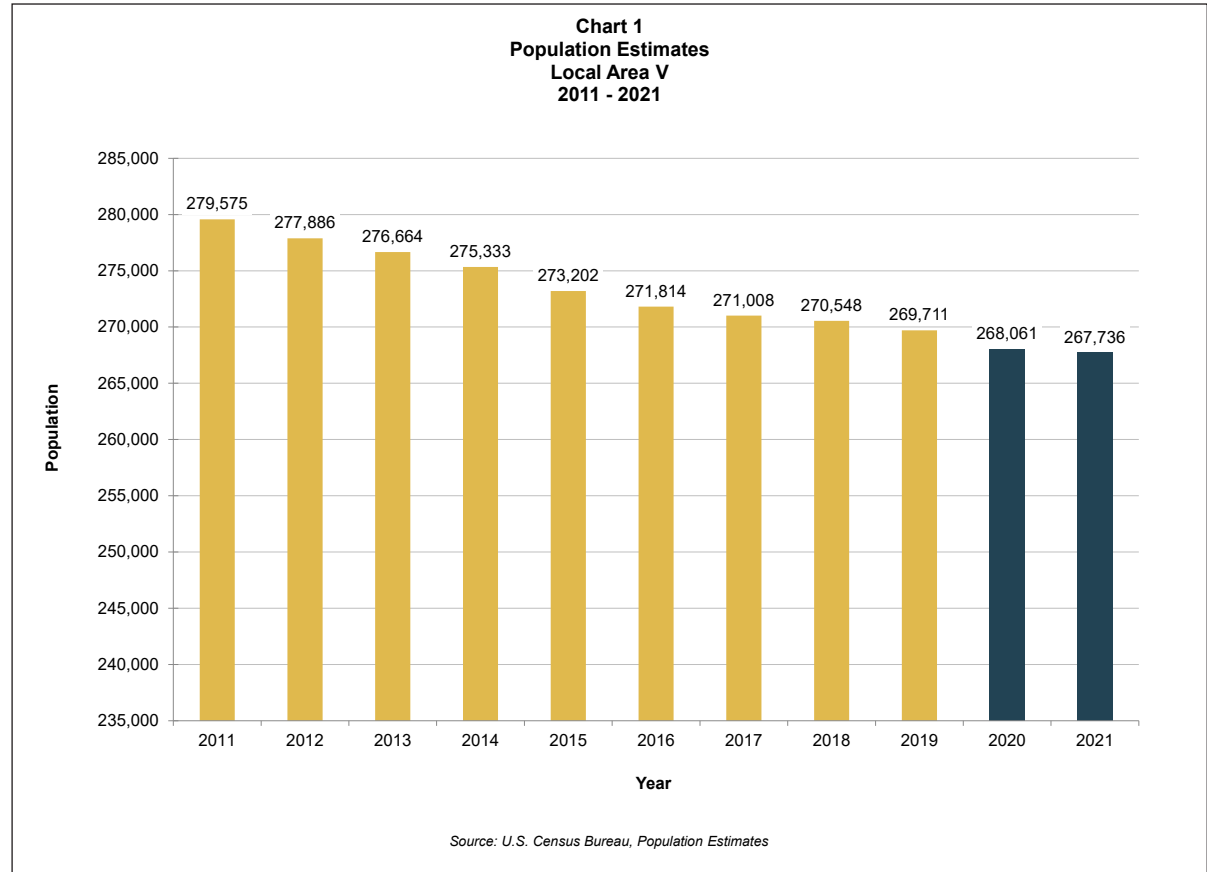
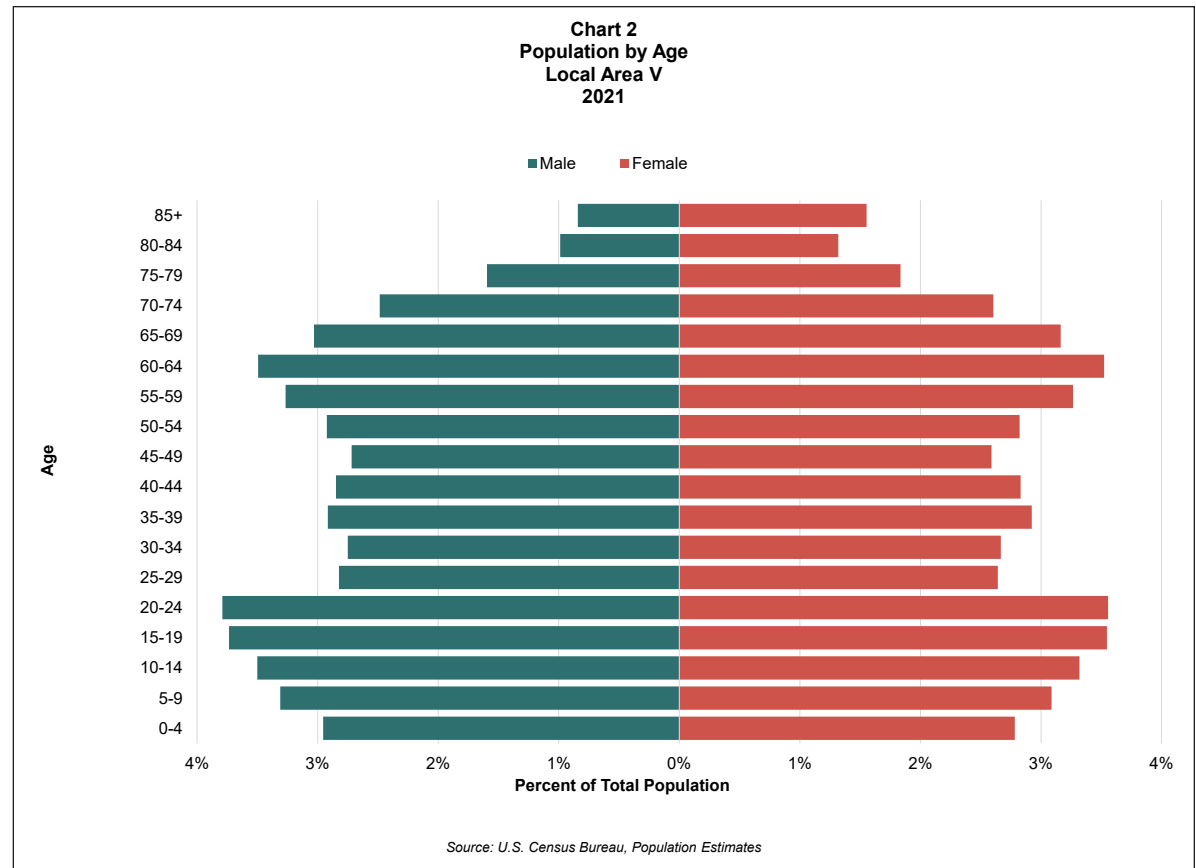


Chart 2 displays the Local Area V population by age group and gender. The population pyramid for Local Area V shows that there are two major peaks in the population, one centering on the 15-19 and 20-24 year-old age groups and one centering on the 60-64 year-old age group with a trough in the middle. The younger peak represents younger members of the millennial generation along with the oldest members of Generation Z, while the older peak represents the younger members of the baby boomer generation. The 15-19 and 20-24 year-old age groups make up the largest share of the Local Area V population, with each accounting for 7.3% of the population. This was followed by the 60-64 year-old age group which made up 7.0% of the population.

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 for Local Area V in 2021 was 213,180, an increase of 253 over the year, or 0.1%. The 25-54 year-old population was 89,566 in 2021, a slight decrease of five over the year, or 0.0%.

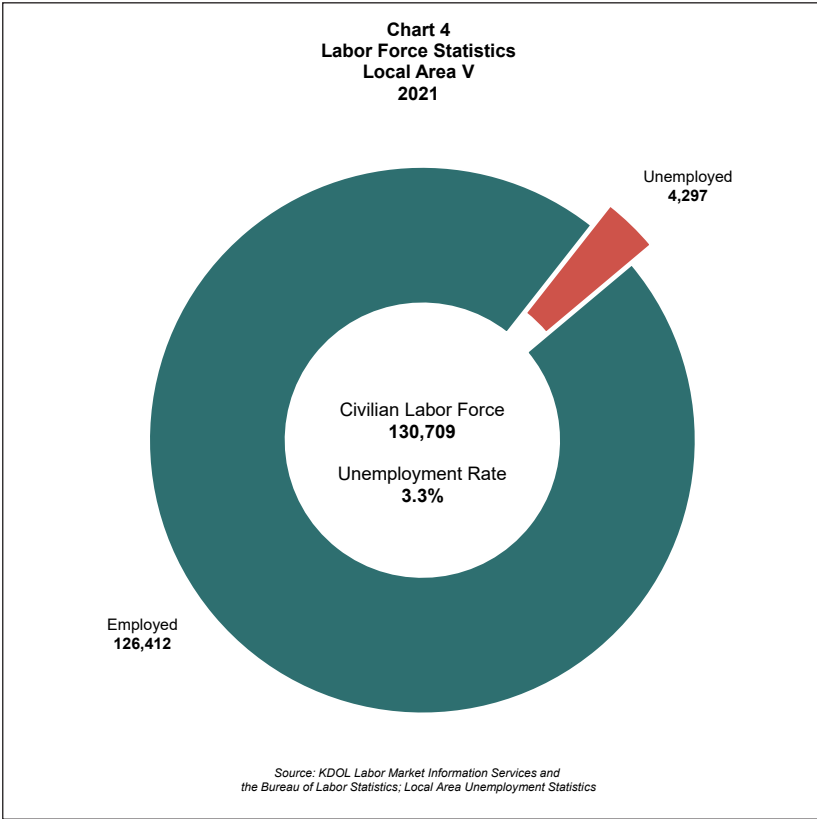
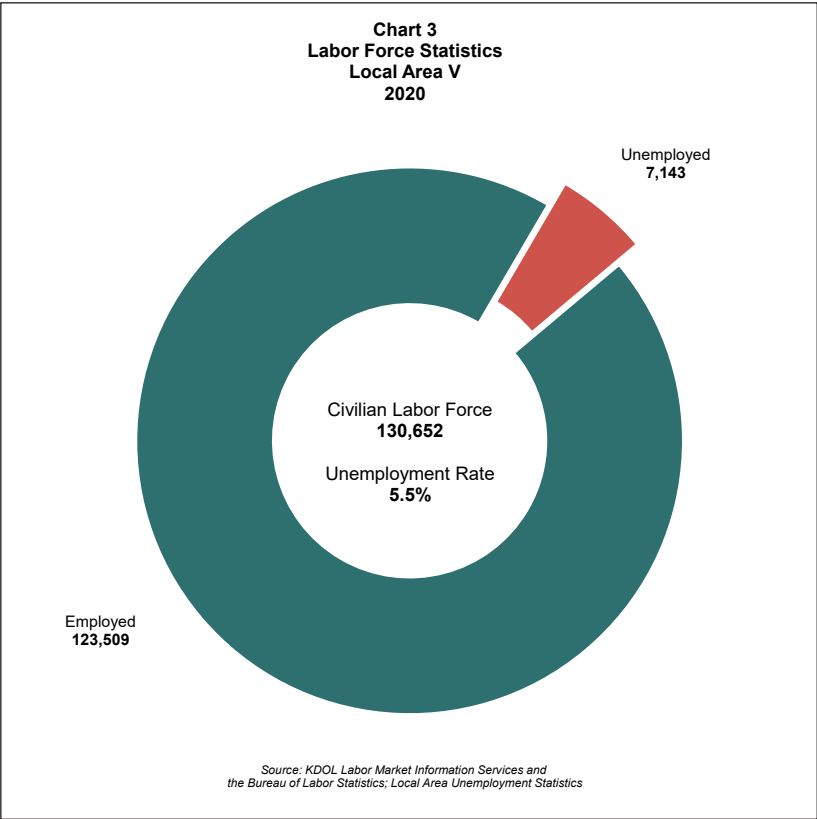
Future labor force growth may be in jeopardy since the population under 25 also decreased by 474, or 0.5%. Declines were seen in the 5 and under age group as well as the 10-14 year-old age group. The 20-24 year-old age group, which would include recent college graduates, recorded an increase of 0.4%, or 70 people over the year.



Where to find it: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Annual Resident Population www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html

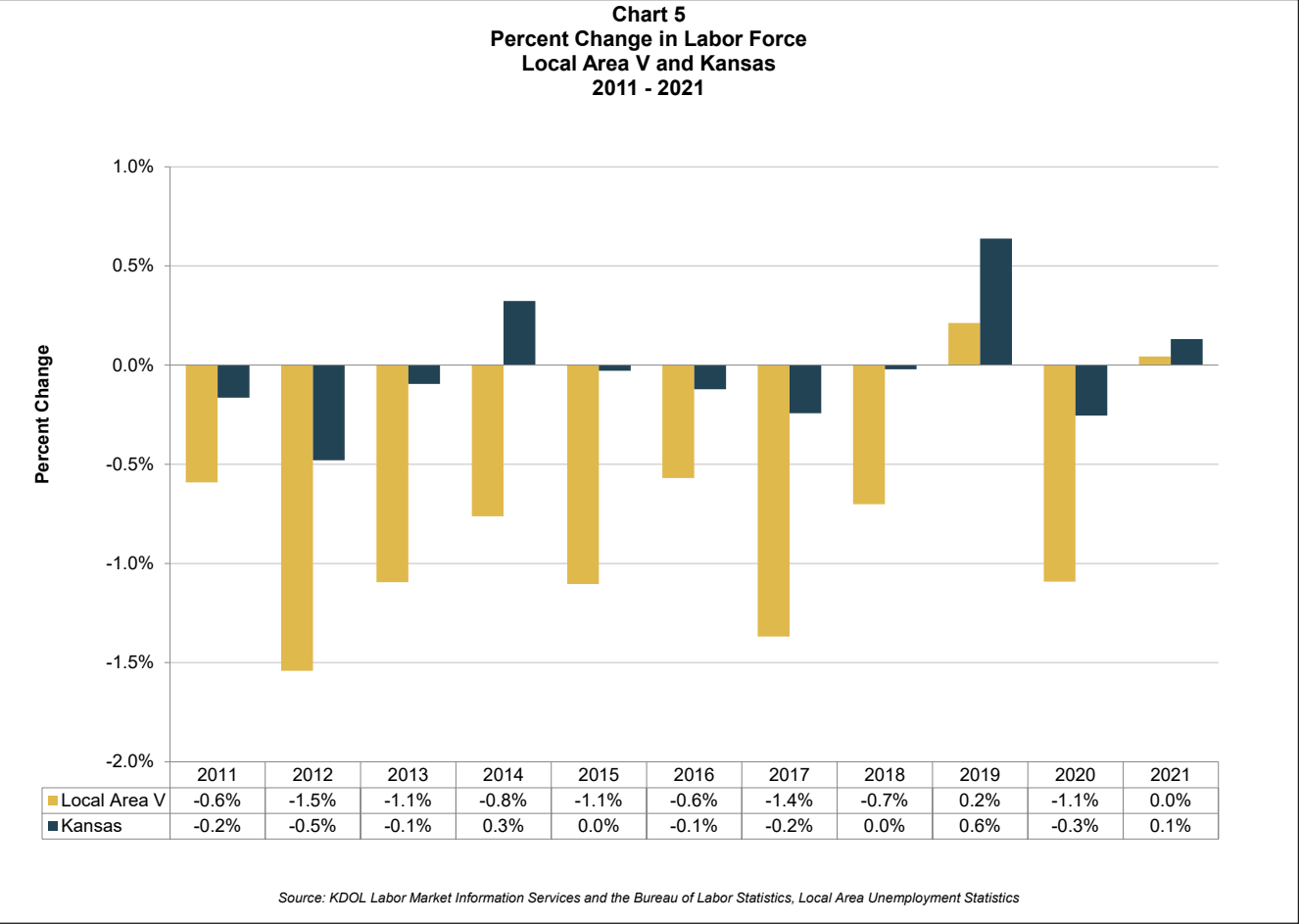
LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

The improvement from 2020 to 2021 is clear when comparing *Chart 3* and *Chart 4*, as the unemployment rate dropped from 5.5% in 2020 to 3.3% in 2021. *Chart 4* shows there were 130,709 people in the Local Area V labor force in 2021, which was an increase from 2020 of 0.0%, or 57 people. There were 126,412 Local Area V residents working in 2021, a 2.4% increase from 2020; however, this is still slightly lower than the pre-pandemic levels seen in 2019. The number of unemployed people decreased by 2,846, or 39.8%, to 4,297 over the year. Much of this decrease can be attributed to people returning to work as pandemic restrictions eased and vaccines became widely available. This is also the lowest number of unemployed Local Area V residents since records began in 1990.



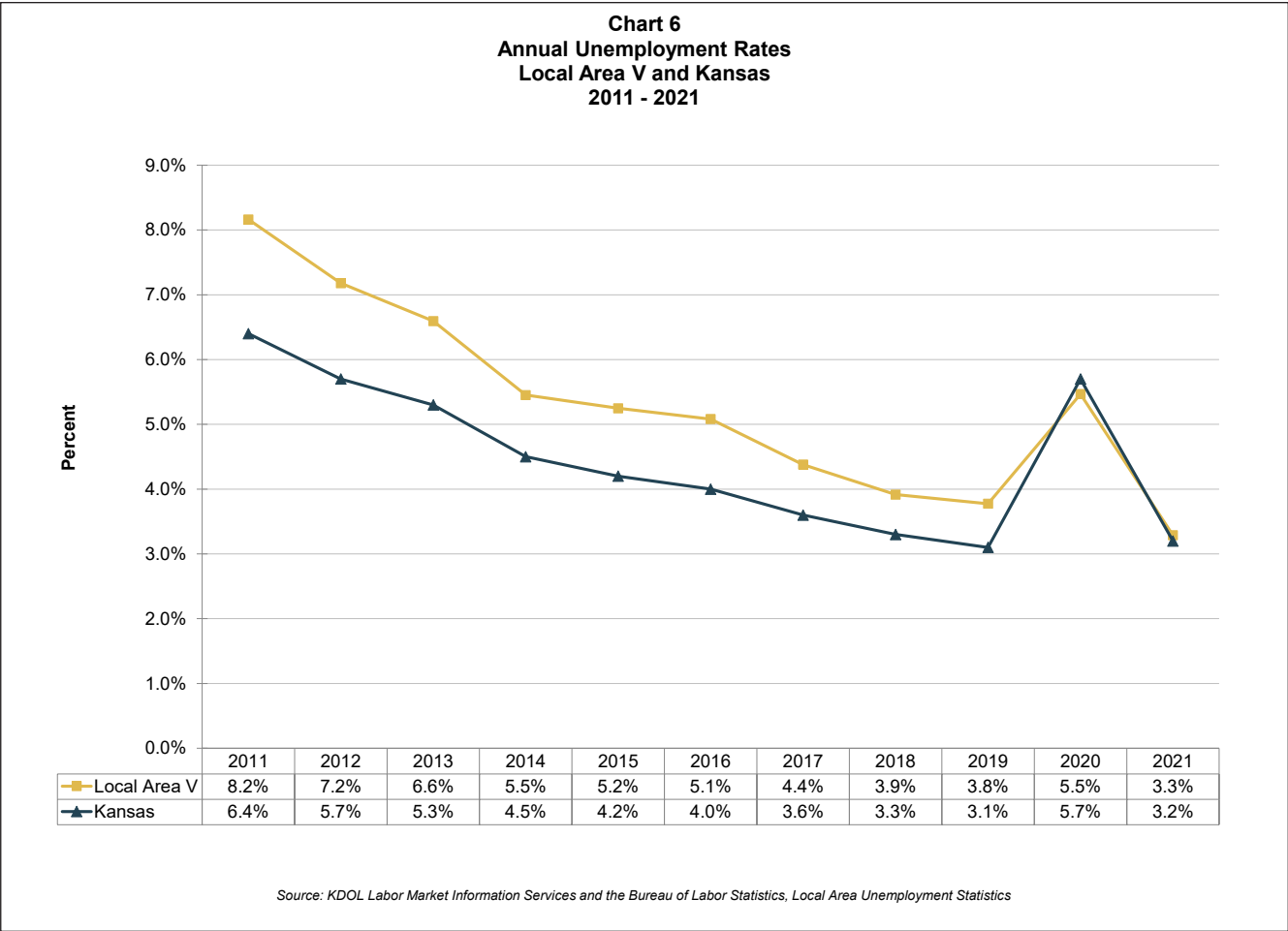
Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment (LAU) Statistics www.bls.gov/lau/

Chart 5 shows the percent change in the civilian labor force for Local Area V and Kansas. Local Area V saw little growth in its labor force in 2021, only increasing by 57 people, or 0.0%. Estimates for 2021 remain roughly 1,400 lower than pre-pandemic levels seen in 2019. The Local Area V labor force has seen a steady decline since 2009, decreasing by 19,476 people or 13.0% during that time.



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As shown in *Chart 6*, the Local Area V unemployment rate dropped 2.2 percentage points to 3.3% in 2021. This is 0.5 percentage point lower than the pre-pandemic estimate of 3.8% in 2019. Additionally, the 2021 rate is 2.2 percentage points lower than the historical annual average of 5.5%; it is also the lowest unemployment rate on record for Local Area V.

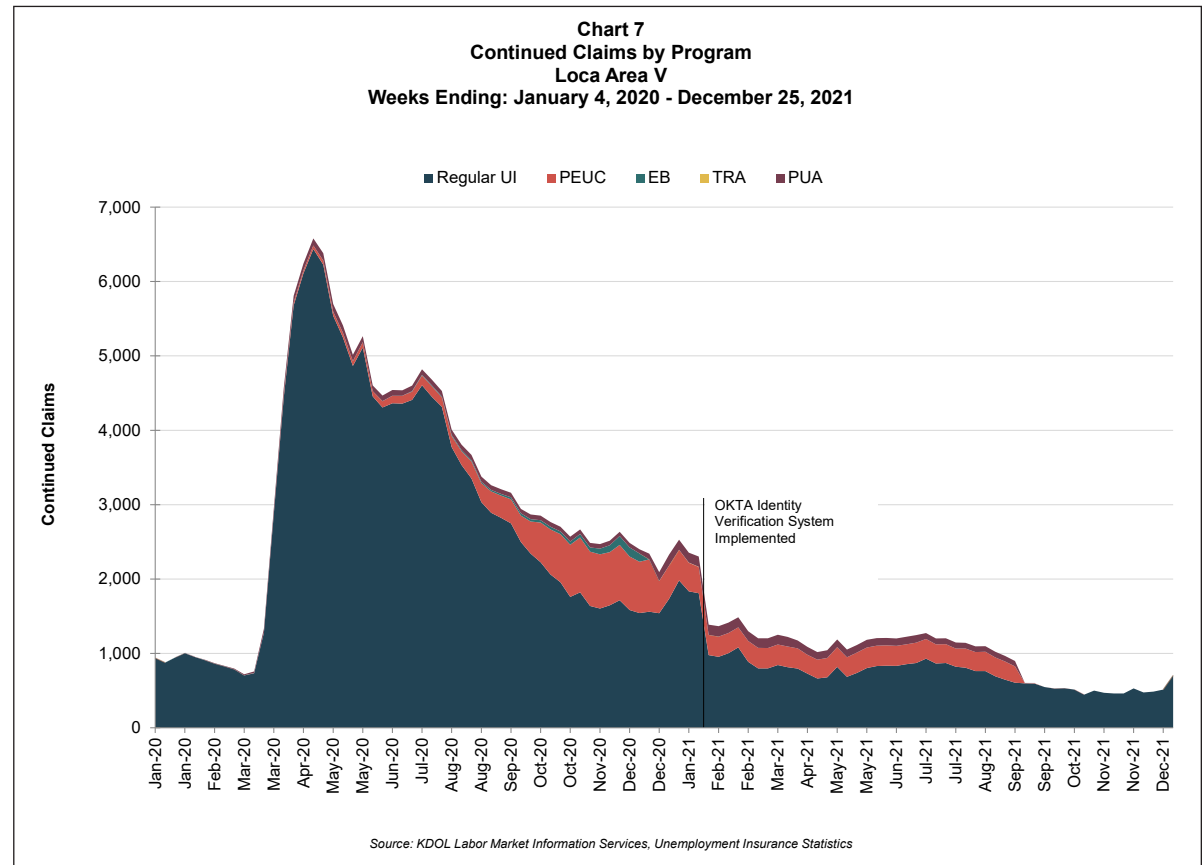


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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STATISTICS

The following analysis looks at continued claims filed by Local Area V residents with the KDOL. Claims in this analysis are reported by week claimed rather than the week they were processed; if a claimant files for multiple weeks at the same time, those will be counted in the week they were unemployed rather than when the claim was filed. The following charts also exclude all claimants with a temporary suspense on their unemployment account. A temporary suspense is applied whenever a claim needs more investigation before being approved for benefits. It is also important to note that not all claims will be eligible for payment, therefore continued claims do not equal claims paid.

In response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labor market, the United States Congress authorized new federal unemployment programs through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. These programs were extended through the Continued Assistance to Unemployed Workers Act (Continued Assistance Act) of 2020 and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. These new programs provided extended benefits through the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. The charts included in this section of the report provide data for all unemployment programs available to claimants throughout 2020 and 2021, with the exception of the industry chart which excludes PUA data.



As shown in *Chart 7*, the number of individuals filing for benefits began to rise sharply during the week ending March 21, 2020, coming to a peak during the week ending April 25, 2020, with a total of 6,579 claims. The number of Local Area V residents filing for benefits continued to trend downward throughout 2020; however, there was a slight increase in claims again in January 2021, followed by a sharp decline which can be attributed to the implementation of the OKTA identity verification system. Local Area V claims totals fluctuated around an average of 1,200 from February through September. Eventually weekly claims totals dropped below pre-pandemic levels when the federal PEUC and PUA programs ended in September, averaging around 520 claims per week through the remainder of 2021.

Where to find it: Claims data comes from administrative UI tax data. Contact us for a customized report at KDOL.Laborstats@ks.gov

Chart 8 shows the percentage of claims filed by male and female claimants during 2021. Males typically account for a larger portion of continued claims in Kansas as two of the main industries in which workers are filing, construction and manufacturing, are generally male dominated. In 2020, nearly all industries were affected by the pandemic and that was reflected in the distribution of claims by gender in Local Area V, with females filing 46.0% of claims, while males filed 54.0%. In 2021 the distribution of claims by gender returned to typical patterns with 43.5% of claims filed attributed to females and 56.5% attributed to males.

As shown in Chart 9, the majority of claimants filing continued claims are white, which can be attributed to the fact that 90.7% of the population in Local Area V is white, according to the Census' 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Even though white is the largest category, these claimants only accounted for 86.3% of claims in 2021. Black individuals make up 2.1% of the Local Area V population, but accounted for a higher proportion of claims, 3.6%. In 2021, 3.0% of claims came from American Indian or Alaskan Natives, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders who collectively make up 2.1% of the Local Area V population.

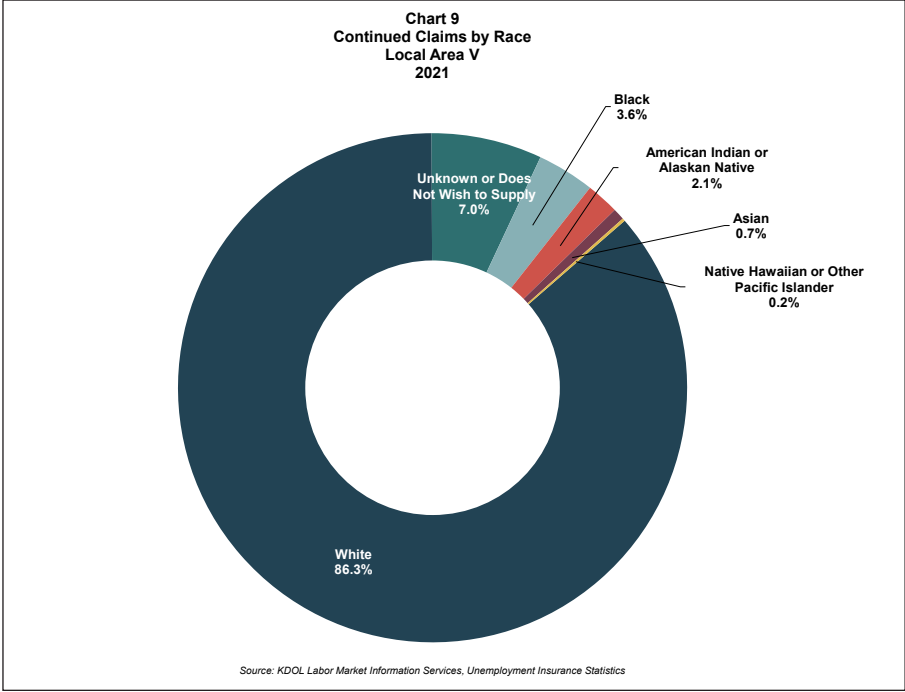
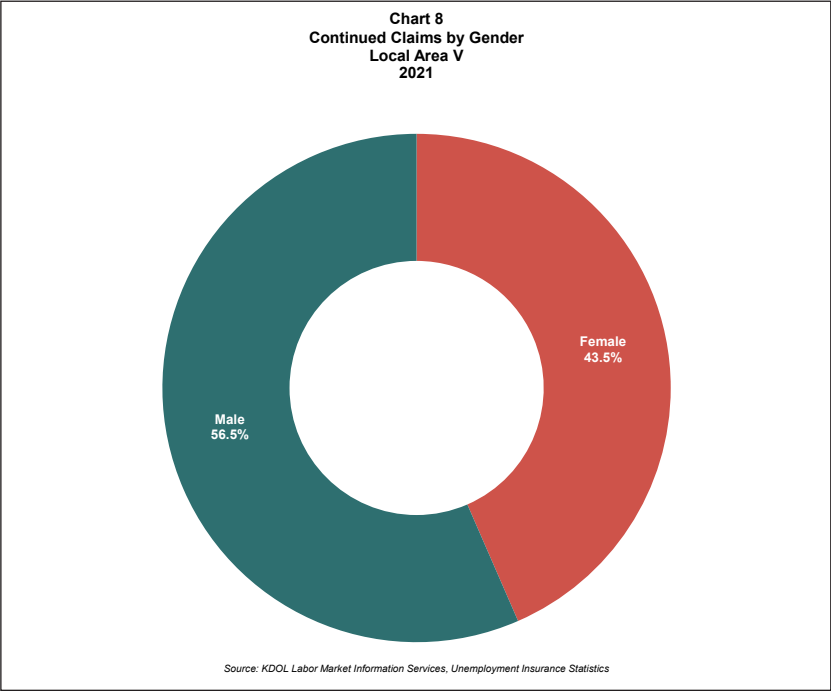


Chart 10 shows the percentage of claims filed by age group in 2021. The age groups of 16-24 and 25-34 saw improvement in percentage of claims filed over the year. In 2020, the 16-24 year-old age group accounted for 12.0% of total claims, but in 2021 this age group accounted for just 5.1% of total claims. The 25-34 year-old age group accounted for 22.0% of total claims in 2020, but decreased to 18.3% in 2021. These age groups likely saw higher percentages of claims during 2020 due to the fact that harder hit industries, such as accommodation and food services, typically have a younger workforce.

As shown in Chart 11, claimants with a high school diploma or GED had the largest share of claims in 2021, accounting for 48.3%. This was followed by claimants who completed some college or associate degree with 26.8% of claims. Claimants with a bachelor's degree or higher accounted for 10.7% of claims, while claimants with less than a high school education accounted for 10.4% of claims in 2021. Individuals with a high school diploma or less than high school account for a higher proportion of overall claims than their percentage of the population, while individuals with some college or a postsecondary degree represent a smaller share of claimants than their percentage of the Local Area V population.

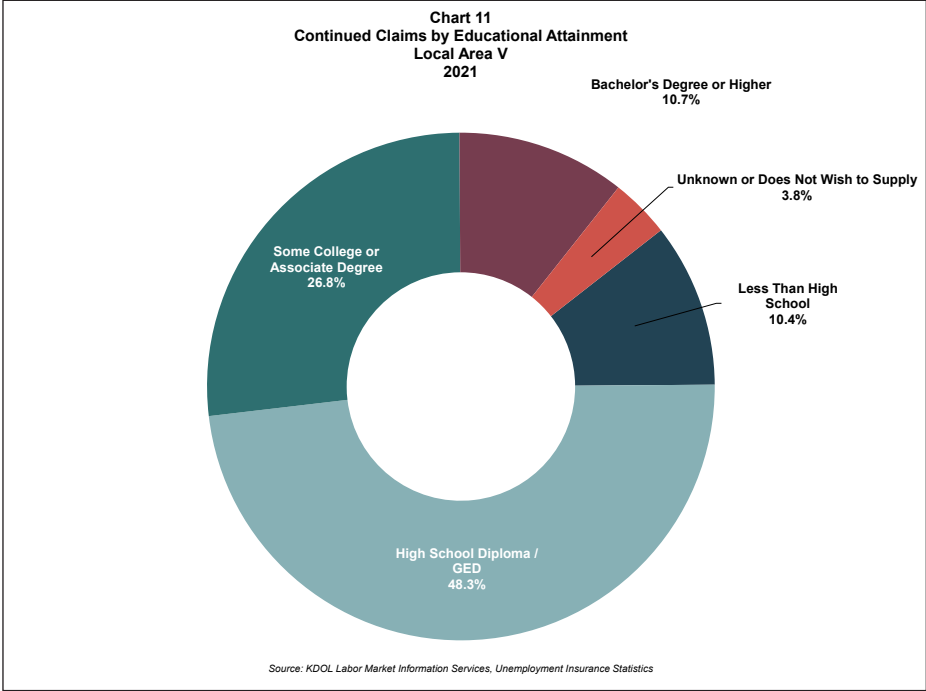
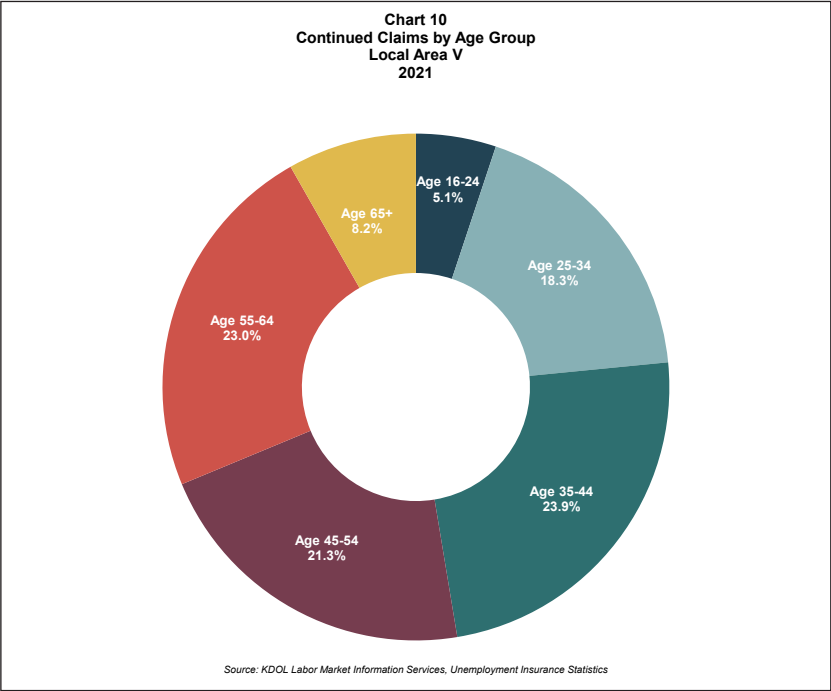
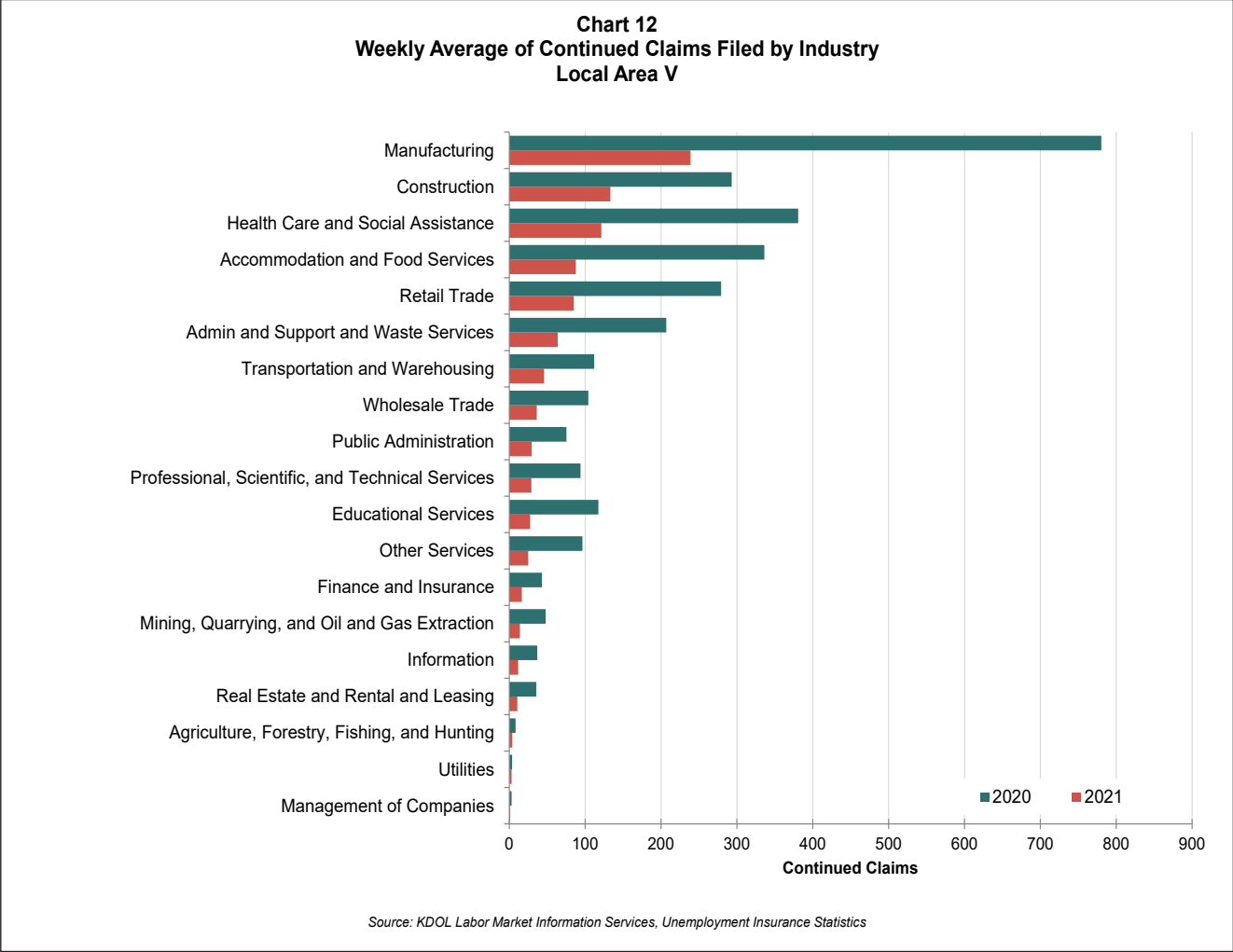


Chart 12 displays the average number of continued claims filed each week by industry. Manufacturing had the highest weekly average with 239 continued claims filed per week during 2021, a decrease of 541, or 69.4% from 2020. Construction and health care and social assistance both averaged over 100 claims per week in 2021, with 133 and 121 claims, respectively. Accommodation and food services saw notable improvement in 2021, with the average number of weekly claims decreasing by 73.9% to 88 claims per week.



INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Employment

In 2021, Local Area V recorded an average of 100,192 total jobs. Of these, 74,596, or 74.5%, were private sector jobs. The private sector industry that recorded the most jobs for Local Area V in 2021 was manufacturing, which accounted for 19,337 jobs. This was followed by health care and social assistance with 12,525 jobs and retail trade with 10,861 jobs. Government accounted for 25,595 or 25.5% of jobs in Local Area V in 2021, with the majority of these jobs being recorded at the local level. There were 21,086 local government jobs in Local Area V in 2021, more than any private sector industry in Local Area V.

Wages

The average weekly wage for all industries in Local Area V was \$804 in 2021, this was \$223 lower than the statewide average of \$1,027. The private sector recorded an average of \$830, while government recorded an average of \$729. Utilities recorded the highest average weekly wage by far, at \$2,344, followed by management of companies and enterprises with an average weekly wage of \$1,832. Four additional private sector industries in Local Area V recorded an average weekly wage over \$1,000: construction, transportation and warehousing, wholesale trade, and manufacturing.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an industry in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an industry is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the state; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that industry than the state.

In Local Area V, private sector industries with the highest employment concentrations relative to the state include utilities; mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction; and manufacturing. Each of these industries recorded a location quotient higher than 1.6. Utilities had the highest location quotient in Local Area V, with an employment concentration 3.2 times higher than that of the state. Local Area V also has a high concentration of local government employment, with a concentration 1.64 times higher than the employment concentration for the state. The private sector industries with the lowest employment concentration relative to the state in Local Area V were transportation and warehousing; arts, entertainment, and recreation; professional and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; and educational services, each recorded a location quotient under 0.5.

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program www.bls.gov/cew/

Table 1 Industry Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients Local Area V 2021			
Sector	Employment	Average Weekly Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to Kansas
Total Covered	100,192	\$804	1.00
Total Private	74,596	\$830	0.90
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	767	\$717	0.81
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	719	\$984	1.65
Utilities	1,441	\$2,344	3.20
Construction	4,541	\$1,084	0.96
Manufacturing	19,337	\$1,019	1.63
Wholesale trade	2,998	\$1,030	0.72
Retail trade	10,861	\$539	1.05
Transportation and warehousing	2,222	\$1,077	0.49
Information	907	\$933	0.72
Finance and insurance	2,404	\$969	0.56
Real estate and rental and leasing	673	\$615	0.60
Professional and technical services	1,694	\$992	0.32
Management of companies and enterprises	417	\$1,832	0.26
Administrative and waste services	3,476	\$835	0.61
Educational services	147	\$514	0.14
Health care and social assistance	12,525	\$724	0.94
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	411	\$286	0.37
Accommodation and food services	7,456	\$290	0.96
Other services, except public administration	1,602	\$620	0.67
Total Government	25,595	\$729	1.45
Federal Government	885	\$1,024	0.47
State Government	3,624	\$922	1.25
Local Government	21,086	\$683	1.64

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW

Table 2 displays the employment, median annual wage, and employment location quotient for each occupational group in Local Area V, while Tables 3 and 4 show the top 20 detailed occupations by employment and median annual wage.

Employment Location Quotients

Location quotients describe the concentration of an occupation in a geographic region in relation to another geographic region. For example, if the employment location quotient for an occupation is higher than 1.0, that indicates the local area has a higher concentration of employment in that occupation than the state; conversely, if the location quotient is lower than 1.0, the local area has a lower concentration of employment in that occupation than the state.

In Local Area V, the occupational groups with the highest employment concentrations relative to Kansas were production occupations, educational instruction and library occupations, community and social service occupations, and health care support occupations. Each of these occupational groups recorded a location quotient of 1.22 or higher. The production occupations group had the highest location quotient in Local Area V, with an employment concentration 1.58 times higher than that of the state. The occupational groups in Local Area V with the lowest employment concentration relative to the state were business and financial operations occupations, legal occupations, and computer and mathematical occupations, which had location quotients of 0.62, 0.60, and 0.38 respectively.

Table 2
Occupational Employment, Wages, and Location Quotients
Local Area V
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment	Median Annual Wage	Employment Location Quotient Relative to Kansas
All Occupations	99,080	\$36,435	1.00
Management Occupations	4,500	\$77,266	0.90
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	3,570	\$59,972	0.62
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	980	\$59,144	0.38
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	1,360	\$76,473	0.77
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	690	\$61,261	0.79
Community and Social Service Occupations	2,030	\$37,665	1.37
Legal Occupations	310	\$61,026	0.60
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	9,060	\$46,035	1.41
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	890	\$30,642	0.79
Health Care Practitioners and Technical Occupations	6,150	\$53,019	0.96
Health Care Support Occupations	5,400	\$23,785	1.22
Protective Service Occupations	2,120	\$39,554	1.04
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	7,910	\$22,526	1.00
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	2,880	\$28,344	1.00
Personal Care and Service Occupations	1,440	\$23,785	0.75
Sales and Related Occupations	8,360	\$26,944	0.94
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	11,690	\$35,686	0.89
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	280	\$29,247	1.00
Construction and Extraction Occupations	4,800	\$44,625	1.13
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	4,570	\$46,501	1.06
Production Occupations	12,130	\$36,755	1.58
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	7,970	\$30,821	0.85

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

Where to find it: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) www.bls.gov/oes/

Employment

Table 2 shows that there were 12,130 jobs classified as production occupations, the most of any occupational group. The office and administrative support occupations group came in second with 11,690 jobs. Three occupations from this group fell into the top 20 occupations by employment: secretaries and administrative assistants, except legal, medical, and executive; customer service representatives; and bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks. The educational instruction and library occupations group accounted for 9,060 jobs, with three of the top 20 occupations by employment falling into this group, including the third most common occupation in Local Area V, teaching assistants, except postsecondary.

Table 3
Top 20 Occupations by Employment
Local Area V
May 2021

Occupational Title	Employment
Cashiers	3,120
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	2,720
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	2,500
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	2,340
Fast Food and Counter Workers	2,330
Retail Salespersons	1,990
Registered Nurses	1,940
Nursing Assistants	1,750
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	1,610
General and Operations Managers	1,590
Stockers and Order Fillers	1,520
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	1,500
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,490
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	1,470
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	1,300
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	1,290
Customer Service Representatives	1,270
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	1,260
Waiters and Waitresses	1,120
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	1,120

Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

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Wages

According to the Kansas Wage Survey, the median annual wage in Local Area V as of May 2021 was \$36,435. The highest paying occupational group was management occupations, which recorded a median annual wage of \$77,266. Architecture and engineering occupations had the second highest median annual wage of \$76,473. Two additional occupational groups recorded a median annual wage over \$60,000: life, physical, and social science occupations and legal occupations. It is notable that of the top 20 highest paying occupations, 10 came from the management occupations group and six came from the health care practitioners and technical occupations group.

Table 4
Top 20 Occupations by Median Annual Wage
Local Area V
May 2021

Occupational Title	Median Annual Wage
Radiologists	\$169,917
Pediatricians, General	\$164,876
Dentists, General	\$160,890
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$135,002
Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates	\$128,627
Pharmacists	\$127,239
Chief Executives	\$121,230
Physician Assistants	\$120,724
Purchasing Managers	\$119,047
Sales Managers	\$110,683
Marketing Managers	\$109,498
Financial Managers	\$106,432
Sales Engineers	\$103,185
Chemical Engineers	\$102,035
Nurse Practitioners	\$101,076
Human Resources Managers	\$98,846
Training and Development Managers	\$98,845
Industrial Production Managers	\$98,503
Commercial Pilots	\$98,367
Administrative Services Managers	\$98,355

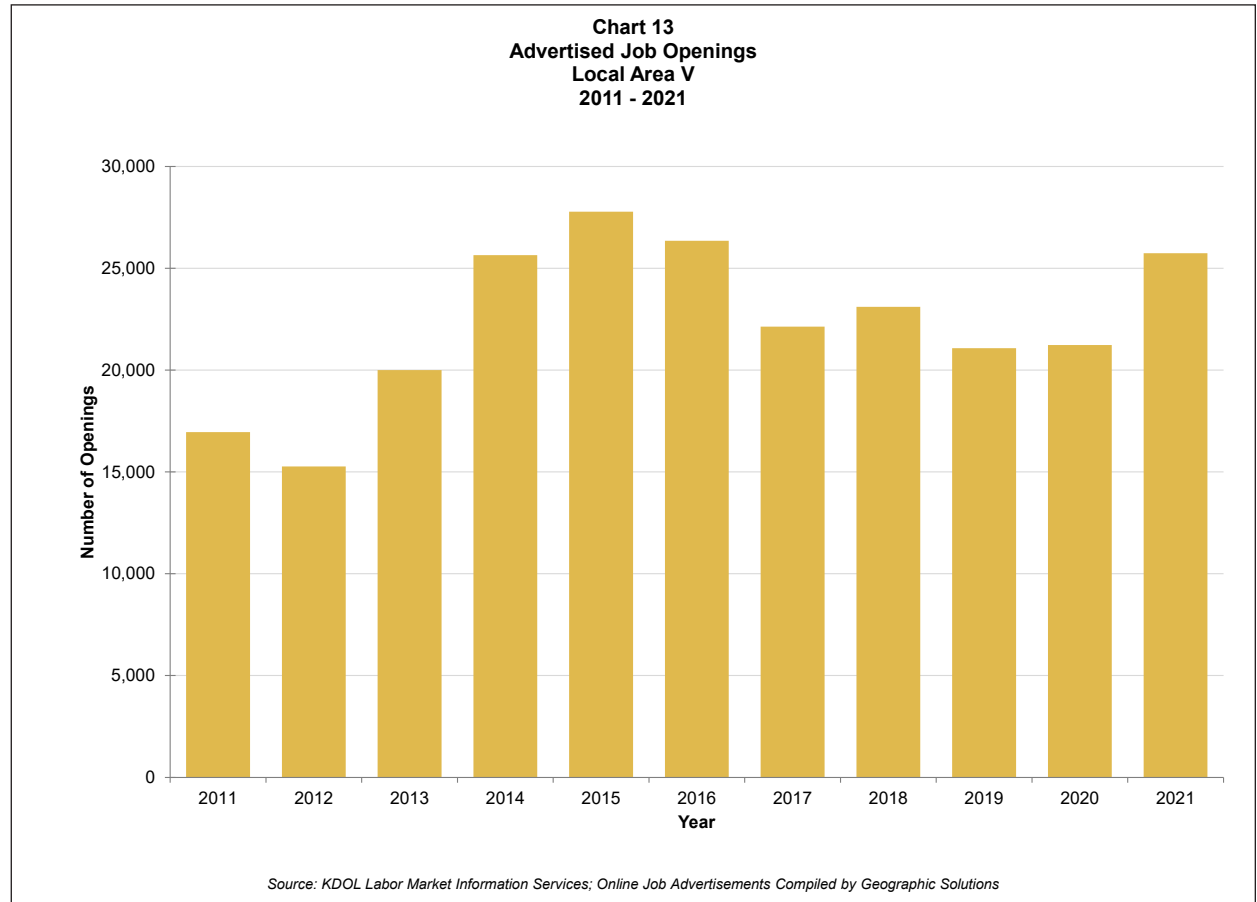
Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

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ADVERTISED JOBS

Advertised job openings can be used as a measure of labor demand. Reports of job openings by area, industry, and occupation can be a useful tool for identifying employment opportunities and assisting jobseekers with finding occupations that are currently in demand. Approximately 30% of industry and 40% of occupational postings do not include a classification. Data used in this analysis may not be representative of a full sample. This analysis will focus on those openings with an industry or occupational classification.

Chart 13 shows that Local Area V saw a declining trend in the annual number of advertised job openings from 2015 to 2020. However, there was a large increase in job openings from 2020 to 2021 of 21.2%, or 4,505 job openings, which is likely due to businesses reopening as pandemic restrictions were lifted and vaccines became more widely available.



Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, Advertised Jobs Data compiled by Geographic Solutions www.klic.dol.ks.gov

As shown in *Chart 14*, the health care practitioners and technical occupations group had the most job openings by far, with 3,612 openings advertised in 2021. This was followed by the management occupational group with 1,552 job openings and the transportation and material moving occupational group with 1,544 job openings. Three additional industries recorded over 1,000 job openings in 2021: production, health care support, and office and administrative support.

Registered nurses topped the list of job openings by occupation with 1,772 openings, followed by nursing assistants with 612 openings, and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers with 412 openings. Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses recorded 355 openings in 2021, while merchandise displayers and window trimmers recorded 339 openings.

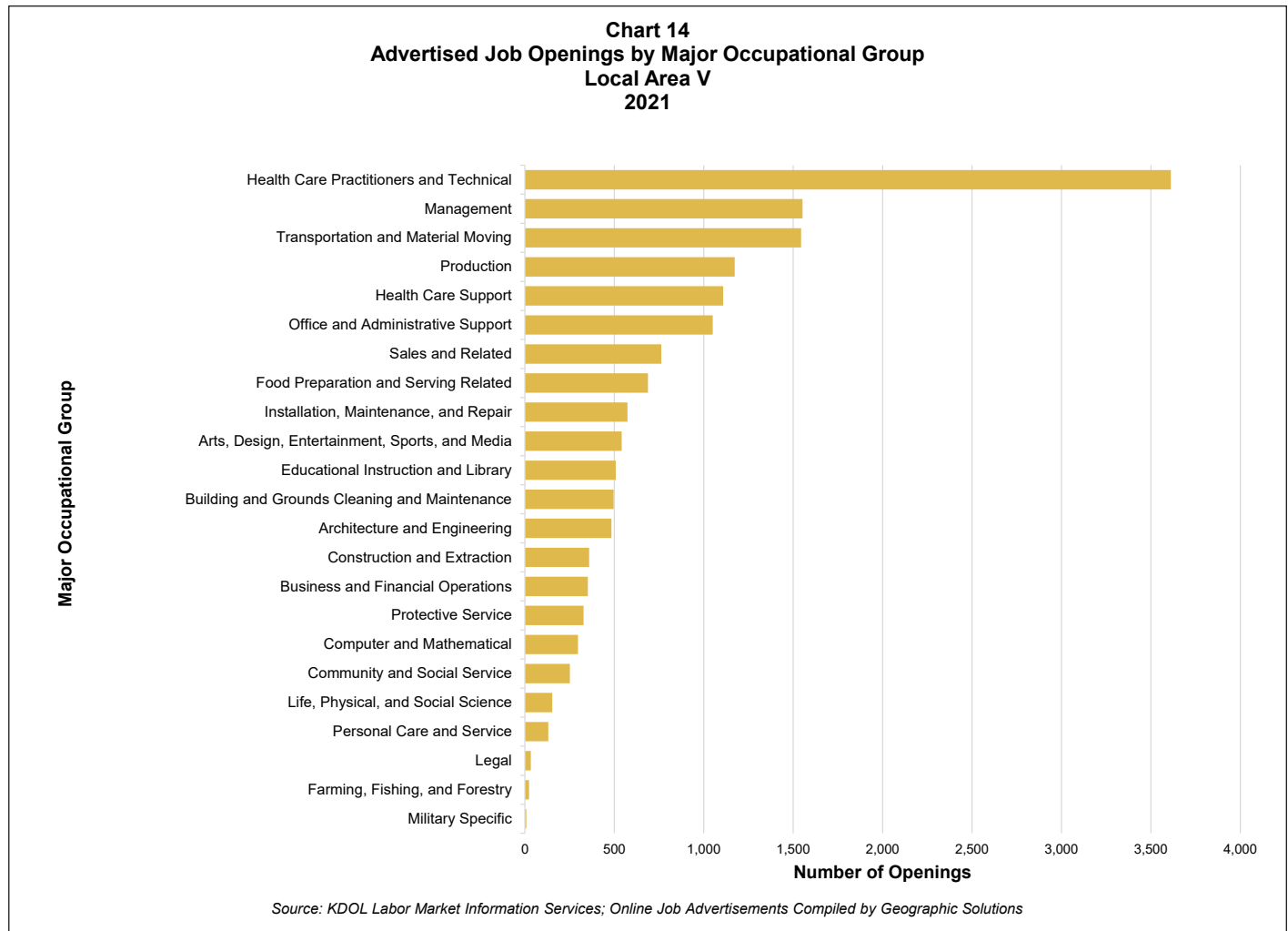
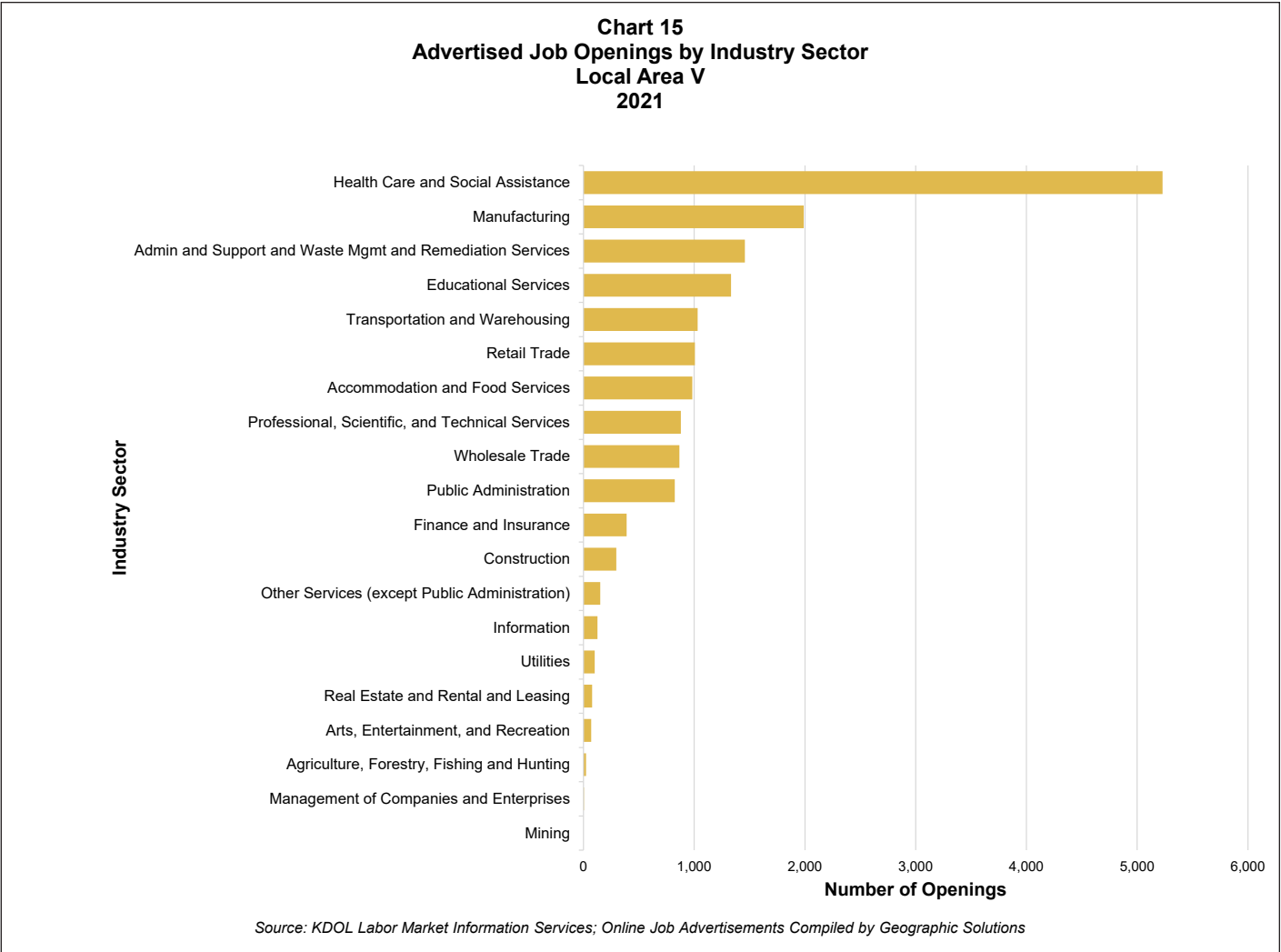


Chart 15 displays advertised job openings by industry sector. The health care and social assistance sector had the most openings by far in 2021, with 5,230 job openings. The majority of these openings were in hospitals, the remaining openings primarily fell into nursing and residential care facilities and ambulatory health care services. The manufacturing sector recorded 1,989 job openings; the majority of these openings were in the food manufacturing and transportation equipment manufacturing subsectors. Four additional industry sectors had over 1,000 job openings in 2021: administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, educational services, transportation and warehousing, and retail trade.



HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

High demand occupations are jobs expected to be in greatest demand by employers in Kansas. The list of these occupations is provided to assist students, educators, administrators, and others in making informed decisions regarding career paths. High demand occupations have higher than average combined current and projected (short-term and long-term) demand in the state. The high demand lists combine occupational projection data with education, training, and wage information to give a complete picture of each occupation.

Occupations are scored based on the following criteria:

1. Current number of openings as determined by the number of jobs advertised online during the 2nd quarter of the year
2. Projected number of openings in two years as indicated in the short-term projections program
3. Projected number of openings in 10 years as indicated in the long-term projections program

Each of these scores are added together to get a total score. A cumulative score of 30 indicates the highest demand occupations, while a score of zero shows an average or below average demand relative to all occupations.

Table 5 displays the top high demand occupations. These 11 occupations received the maximum score of 30, which means that they currently have the most openings and are projected to have the most openings through 2023 and 2028. Overall, there are 188 occupations on the high demand list in Local Area V.

Eight of the top 11 occupations require only a high school diploma or have no educational requirements and typically require less than one month of on-the-job training, which indicates they are attainable for workers with little to no education or training. The median wages of these eight occupations are all below the Local Area V median wage, \$36,435, as occupations requiring little training or education typically have lower wages. There is a high level of turnover in these occupations, which helps explain the high demand score. Many of the openings in these occupations are the result of people leaving the occupation to move to another, rather than the result of industry growth. Furthermore, many of the occupations with the highest transfer rate are those that require only a high school education or less and little or no training.

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$40,131	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	\$30,098	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$30,000	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Nursing Assistants	\$28,403	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$28,344	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$28,122	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Retail Salespersons	\$23,868	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	\$22,668	High school diploma or equivalent	Short-term on-the-job training
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	\$22,639	Some college, no degree	None
Cashiers	\$22,167	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training
Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$21,802	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Note: High demand data for Local area V comes from the Southeast Projection Region which differs from Local Area V since it includes Chase County and excludes Miami County. Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

KDOL also identifies high demand occupations that also pay high wages. This is a subset of the high demand occupations list in which the occupational median wage is higher than the median wage for each respective area.

In Local Area V, there are 104 high demand high wage occupations, *Table 6* lists the top 15. Unlike the main high demand occupations list, 11 of the top 15 occupations on the high demand high wage list either require a bachelor's degree, moderate-term on-the-job training, or an apprenticeship. Also noteworthy is that one occupation that had a maximum demand score of 30 also had high wages, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers; while five occupations with a demand score of 29 had high wages: general and operations managers; first-line supervisors of production and operating workers; elementary school teachers, except special education; welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers; and operating engineers and other construction equipment operators.

Table 6
Top 15 High Demand High Wage Occupations
Local Area V
2022

Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Education	On-the-Job Training
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$40,131	Postsecondary nondegree award	Short-term on-the-job training
General and Operations Managers	\$66,447	Bachelor's degree	None
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$60,844	High school diploma or equivalent	None
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$48,222	Bachelor's degree	None
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$44,818	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	\$37,143	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Registered Nurses	\$59,587	Bachelor's degree	None
Accountants and Auditors	\$61,076	Bachelor's degree	None
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	\$48,424	Bachelor's degree	None
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$36,543	Some college, no degree	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	\$37,374	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Electricians	\$56,844	High school diploma or equivalent	Apprenticeship
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$46,139	Postsecondary nondegree award	None
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	\$38,422	High school diploma or equivalent	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Construction Laborers	\$36,882	No formal educational credential	Short-term on-the-job training

Note: High demand data for Local Area V comes from the Southeast Projection Region which differs from Local Area V since it includes Chase County and excludes Miami County. Source: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations

Where to find it: KDOL Labor Market Information Services, High Demand Occupations <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=403>

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