



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Center for Economic Development  
and Business Research

# 2015 Wichita Employment Forecast

## January 2015

Nationally, real GDP grew at a robust rate of 3.9 percent in the third quarter of 2014, following strong 4.6 percent growth in the second quarter. Private and government investment were the strongest components of GDP growth in the third quarter. Net exports also grew robustly, and private consumption grew at a more measured pace. Employment increased by 1.5 percent nationally in the last twelve months, while Kansas employment increased by 1 percent and employment in the Wichita metropolitan area grew by 0.3 percent.

### Wichita Employment Forecast

In 2015, Wichita total nonfarm employment is expected to increase by 4,228 jobs, which implies the employment growth rate is anticipated to be 1.5 percent.

| <b>Wichita MSA Employment by Industry Summary*</b>   |                |                |                |                              |                                |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  | 2013 (a)       | 2014 (e)       | 2015 (f)       | 2014-2015<br>Level<br>Change | 2014-2015<br>Percent<br>Change |
| <b>Total Nonfarm</b>   | <b>288,808</b> | <b>290,139</b> | <b>294,367</b> | <b>4,228</b>                 | <b>1.5%</b>                    |
| <b>Production Sectors</b>  | <b>67,558</b>  | <b>66,195</b>  | <b>66,921</b>  | <b>726</b>                   | <b>1.1%</b>                    |
| <b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>   | <b>50,617</b>  | <b>51,399</b>  | <b>52,109</b>  | <b>710</b>                   | <b>1.4%</b>                    |
| <b>Service Sectors</b>   | <b>130,072</b> | <b>132,441</b> | <b>135,128</b> | <b>2,686</b>                 | <b>2.0%</b>                    |
| <b>Government</b>  | <b>40,562</b>  | <b>40,104</b>  | <b>40,210</b>  | <b>106</b>                   | <b>0.3%</b>                    |
| *Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections.<br>(a) actual (e) estimated (f) forecasted |                |                |                |                              |                                |

- The production sectors are predicted to add over 700 jobs in 2014, for a 1.1 percent growth rate. The natural resources and construction sector is projected to lead the growth, adding 643 of those jobs, while manufacturing is forecast to add 84 jobs, for 0.2 percent growth.
- The trade, transportation, and utilities sector is expected to grow by 710 jobs. The bulk of these jobs will be in the retail trade sector, which is projected to add 470 new jobs. The transportation and utilities sector is forecast to add 181 jobs, and the wholesale trade sector is projected to add 58 new jobs.

- The service sectors are projected to be the fastest growing segment of the Wichita economy, with 2 percent growth leading to 2,686 jobs added. The key growth sectors are anticipated to be the professional and business services sector and the education and health services sector, with each projected to add over 1,000 jobs.
- The government sector is expected to add approximately 100 new jobs, growing at 0.3 percent. This growth is projected to be driven by local government, while state and federal government employment is projected to be flat.

The Center for Economic Development and Business Research can provide detailed industry, wage, retail, and other customized forecasts upon request. Contact Jeremy Hill at (316) 213-3673 for costs and availability.