



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Center for Economic Development
and Business Research

2014 Wichita Employment Forecast

May 2014

Nationally, real GDP growth was 2.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013, which is moderately strong growth, though a slowdown from the previous quarter. Strong growth in personal consumption expenditures and net exports were the key contributors to this growth. Government purchases continued to decline in the fourth quarter, and may continue to do so throughout 2014. Employment increased by 1.7 percent nationally in 2013. In both Kansas and the Wichita metropolitan area, employment grew by 1.2 percent in 2013.

Wichita Employment Forecast

In 2014, Wichita total nonfarm employment is expected to increase by 3,565 jobs, which implies the employment growth rate is anticipated to be 1.2 percent.

Wichita MSA Employment by Industry Summary*					
	2012 (a)	2013 (a)	2014 (f)	2013-2014 Level Change	2013-2014 Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	285,511	288,814	292,380	3,565	1.2%
Production Sectors	67,390	67,557	67,125	-433	-0.6%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	49,945	50,618	51,211	593	1.2%
Service Sectors	127,463	130,073	133,078	3,006	2.3%
Government	40,713	40,567	40,966	399	1.0%
*Annual values are derived from average quarterly observations and projections. (a) actual (f) forecasted					

- The production sectors are forecast to experience net shrinkage in 2014 in Wichita, losing more than 400 jobs. The major job losses are expected to be in the durable goods sector, which is projected to have almost 1,200 fewer jobs in 2014 than 2013. Partially offsetting this, the mining and construction sector is forecast to add more than 700 jobs.
- The trade, transportation and utilities sector is expected to add 593 jobs. The bulk of these jobs are projected to be added in the retail trade sector, which is forecast to add 403 jobs. The transportation and utilities sector is forecast to add 123 jobs, while the wholesale trade sector is anticipated to lag behind slightly, adding only 67 jobs.

- The service sectors are projected to continue to be the fastest growing portion of the Wichita economy, adding more than 3,000 jobs and growing 2.3 percent. Professional and business services are projected to add approximately half those jobs, growing 4.8 percent. The information, leisure and hospitality, and education and health services are projected to grow between 1.4 and 2.1 percent. These sectors combined are forecast to add more than 1,400 jobs in 2014. The financial activities sector is the only service sector projected to lose jobs in 2014, with 17 jobs lost.
- The government sector is projected to grow 1 percent, adding 399 jobs. This growth is expected to primarily occur at the local government level, while federal and state government employment are forecast to decrease slightly.