



Center for Economic Development and Business Research

April 2010: Vol. 5, No. 4

### **Impact of Engineering Professionals Measured by CEDBR**

The Center for Economic Development and Business Research completed a study on the impact of engineering professionals in Kansas and the estimated impact of expanded training of engineers within Kansas universities. Kansas employed more than 16,250 engineers in 2008. For every engineering professional, there were an additional 1.7809 persons employed in Kansas. For every dollar paid to engineers in Kansas another \$1.09 was paid to other Kansas employees. The total fiscal impact of additional trained engineers is expected to be \$20.6 million over the 11-year analysis period.

To read the complete report, click [here](#).

For additional information pertaining to engineers, please consult the Engineers' Foundation of Kansas at <http://www.efkansan.org/>.

### **Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization Released**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average annual unemployment rate in Kansas in 2009 was 6.8 percent (6.7 percent revised). This estimate includes all jobless persons who are available to take a job and have actively sought work in the past four weeks. In addition to the official unemployment rate (known as measure U-3), the BLS produces five alternative measures.

Annual average 2009 alternative measures of labor underutilization data for states were released in February. One of the alternative measures, titled U-6, includes the official unemployment rate plus workers who are marginally attached, including discouraged workers and those employed only part time for economic reasons. This alternative measure totaled 11.5 percent in Kansas in 2009. When comparing the official unemployment rate with this alternative measure, one can see that the measurement of unemployment increases 4.7 percent. Putting this into context, there were approximately 1.5 million individuals in the Kansas labor force in 2009; the alternative measure for unemployment, U-6, indicates there were more than 72,000 underemployed or discouraged/marginally attached individuals in Kansas not being counted in the official unemployment rate.

For additional information, please click [here](#).

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## **Save the Date**

It's not too early to begin thinking about the 31st Annual Wichita Area Economic Outlook Conference. Mark your calendars for Oct. 7, 2010, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Century II Convention Hall.

Confirmed speakers for this event are Ken Simonson, chief economist of Associated General Contractors of America; Jeff Turner, president and CEO of Spirit AeroSystems; and Vincent Amanor-Boadu, associate professor of agribusiness economics and management at Kansas State University. Moderator for the conference will be Larry Hatteberg, anchor and reporter for KAKE TV 10.

## **Current Economic Outlook Brightens**

The WSU Current Conditions Index increased 1 percent in February. Four of the six seasonally adjusted Index indicators improved that month. Wichita's home sales increased 16.5 percent; the Wichita hotel occupancy rate increased 10.3 percent; the outbound volume of airfreight shipments at Mid-Continent Airport increased 11.3 percent; and the unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percent. The Index still has a lot of recovery to do to reach pre-recession levels, but February brought a flicker of hope to a situation that has been predominantly downhill since the end of 2007.

To read the February Current Conditions Index in its entirety, click [here](#).

## **Leading Indicators Point to Recovery**

Over the four months ending in February, the WSU Leading Economic Indicators Index experienced a net gain of 2.8 percent. This, coupled with the positive performance of the WSU Current Conditions Index in February, suggests that measurable year-end recovery of Wichita's economy is feasible. Seven of the nine Index indicators improved from January to February. The number of Kansas initial unemployment claims declined by more than 50 percent; the inflation-adjusted value of Wichita's residential building permits increased 40.2 percent; the aerospace stock index increased 13.6 percent; and the national inflation-adjusted value of new orders for aircraft and parts increased 8.1 percent.

To learn about the performance of the other Index indicators, click [here](#).

## **Current Economic Indicators**

Current monthly and quarterly economic indicators for the Wichita MSA, the state of Kansas and the United States are available [here](#).

## **Previous Issues of e-connection**

For previous issues click [here](#).

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