

## Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Releases August 2017 Unemployment Report

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 14, 2017) - Kentucky's seasonally adjusted preliminary August unemployment rate was 5.4 percent, according to the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS), an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. The unemployment rate for August 2017 was unchanged from the revised 5.4 percent reported for July 2017.

The preliminary August 2017 jobless rate was up 0.4 percentage points from the 5.0 percent rate recorded for the state in August 2016.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted jobless rate for August 2017 was 4.4 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. unemployment rate for August was up 0.1 percentage points from the 4.3 percent reported for July 2017.

Labor force statistics, including the unemployment rate, are based on estimates from the Current Population Survey of households. It is designed to measure trends rather than to count the actual number of people working. It includes jobs in agriculture and those classified as self-employed.

In August 2017, Kentucky's civilian labor force was 2,059,885, a decrease of 7,294 individuals compared to the previous month. Employment was down by 8,552 while the number of unemployed increased by 1,258.

Civilian labor force statistics include nonmilitary workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks.

In a separate federal survey of business establishments that excludes jobs in agriculture and people who are self-employed, Kentucky's seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 8,300 jobs in August 2017 compared to July 2017. Kentucky has added 30,500 jobs since August 2016, a 1.6 percent employment growth.

"Kentucky's unemployment rate is holding at relatively low levels and nonfarm payrolls continue to show good growth. The increase of 8,300 jobs in August was the largest increase shown so far this year. On average Kentucky has added approximately 2,000 jobs per month so far this year," said University of Kentucky's Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) Director Chris Bollinger, Ph.D.

Nonfarm data is provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics program. According to this survey, seven of Kentucky's 11 major nonfarm North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) job sectors experienced employment growth from the previous month. Three sectors declined from the previous month and one was unchanged.

Kentucky's professional and business services sector showed the largest employment gains, adding 3,400 jobs from July 2017 to August 2017. This represents an increase of 1.5 percent from July 2017. Within this sector, professional, scientific and technical services subsector increased by 1,200 jobs and the administrative, support and waste management subsector increased by 2,000 jobs.

The education and health services sector also added 3,400 jobs in August. Education services decreased slightly by 100 jobs in August.

Health care and social assistance added 3,500 jobs. This represents an increase of 1.4 percent from July 2017 and an increase of 2.1 percent since August 2016.

Construction added 2,400 jobs from July 2017 to August 2017. Since August 2016, construction employment has grown by 6,300 jobs.

"Kentucky's construction labor market has shown strong growth this year, increasing by 8.3 percent from a year ago," Bollinger said. "Construction has also increased nationally but by only 3.2 percent from a year ago."

Kentucky's manufacturing industry added 1,100 jobs from July 2017 to August 2017. This represents an increase of 0.4 percent for the month. Jobs in durable goods manufacturing increased by 1,400, or 0.9 percent, this month. Jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing decreased by 300.

The trade, transportation and utilities sector added 500 jobs from July 2017 to August 2017. This represents an increase of 0.1 percent since July 2017 and 1.5 percent since August 2016.

The financial activities sector gained 500 jobs in August 2017. Since August 2016, this sector has gained 2,300 jobs or 2.5 percent.

Other services sector gained 100 jobs in August 2017. This sector is up 2,200 jobs since August 2016. Other services includes repairs and maintenance, personal care services and religious organizations.

The government sector did not change from July 2017 to August 2017. State government employment increased by 500 jobs in August 2017. Federal employment decreased by 100 jobs and local employment decreased by 400 jobs in August 2017.

Employment in the mining and logging sector declined by 100 in August 2017. This sector has declined by 400 positions, or 4 percent, since August last year.

The information services sector decreased by 500 jobs from July 2017 to August 2017. This sector has grown by 4.4 percent since August 2016, adding 1,000 positions. The industries in this sector include traditional publishing as well as software publishing; motion pictures and broadcasting; and telecommunications.

Leisure and hospitality decreased by 2,500 jobs in August 2017. Within this sector, accommodation and food services lost 2,300 jobs and arts, entertainment and recreation decreased by 200 jobs.

"While the number of jobs in leisure and hospitality decreased last month, this sector has generally increased since the beginning of the year," Bollinger said.

Kentucky's statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are seasonally adjusted. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events, such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. However, because of the small sample size, county unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

## Beshear Proposes Changes to State Law Following Equifax Data Breach

Legislative changes needed to better protect Kentuckians affected by a data breach

FRANKFORT, KY. (Sept. 25, 2017) – Following the massive Equifax data breach, Attorney General Andy Beshear said his office is drafting legislation to strengthen protections for Kentuckians affected by a data breach.

Beshear said the issues surrounding the Equifax breach, which has affected nearly 143 million Americans, including nearly 40 percent of Kentucky families, show that Kentucky's data breach laws must be bolstered to better safeguard Kentucky families.

Under Beshear's proposed legislation, Kentuckians impacted by a data breach would gain access to a free credit freeze, three free credit reports each year from each of the major credit reporting agencies and five years of credit monitoring. Beshear said his proposal also requires all credit reports be encrypted, which would make it more difficult for hackers to steal personal and financial information.

"My job is to be Kentuckians' lawyer and that is why I am working to propose stronger state laws that would directly help those impacted by a breach," Beshear said. "Under my proposal, the victims of a data breach would never have to pay to freeze or monitor their credit – and those responsible would be required to step up and provide better protections for Kentucky families."

Beshear said earlier today Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey announced similar legislation in her state, and other states including Maine have already moved to strengthen consumer protections surrounding data breaches.

Last week, Beshear joined with other attorneys general to send Equifax a letter, which demanded Equifax stop using its own data breach as an opportunity to sell services to victims. The letter specifically requested the company disable fee-based credit monitoring services and reimburse customers for any fees they have paid to other credit reporting agencies for a credit freeze.

Beshear also recently issued a Scam Alert to help make Kentuckians aware of the Equifax data breach, and provided instructions on how to sign up for the free credit monitoring service and guidance on how to avoid and respond to identity theft.

Beshear wants Kentuckians to know that his office will continue to monitor the company's response and asks Kentuckians to take immediate steps to closely monitor their credit and report any suspicious credit activity to his office's Security Breach hotline, 855-813-6508.

## Traffic shift to occur on Interstate 75 in Rockcastle County Tomorrow

SOMERSET, Ky. (Sept. 25, 2017) – Construction is progressing on the widening of Interstate 75 in Rockcastle County and with that comes traffic shifts.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) advises motorists that starting tomorrow night, Sept. 26, south bound I-75 only traffic will be shifted from the current driving lanes onto the newly constructed lanes.

Crews will be switching traffic at approximately 7 p.m. EDT. Motorists are advised to pay close attention to signage and are reminded that speed limits are currently reduced along I-75 to 55 mph.

Motorists can access travel and traffic conditions at <http://goky.ky.gov> or contribute their own reports at [www.waze.com](http://www.waze.com)



### 2017 Festival of Hope

Saturday, October 7, 2017

Gray Hawk Park from 1:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

#### SCHEDULE

- 1:00 Cruise In / Car Show
- 2:00 Welcome / Opening Prayer – Rev. Carroll DeForest  
Presentation of Colors – JCHS JROTC  
National Anthem – Gracie Berry  
Survivors Celebration Walk
- 2:30 – 4:00 Team Competitions – Charlie Brown  
Hula Hoop Contest – Class 1 (1-14 yrs of age)  
Wheel Barrow Race & Tug Of War – Class 2 (15 yrs and up)  
Karaoke / Pantomime Contest (bring your own CD)  
Cake Walk, Face Painting and much more!!!  
Announcement of Winners for Booth decorations
- 4:00 – 4:45 The Gray Hawk Boys
- 4:45 Markey Cancer Center Presentation of check – Carla Repass
- 5:00 – 5:45 House of Refuge
- 6:00 – 6:45 Mercy's 3
- 7:00 – 7:45 New Junction
- 8:00 – 10:00 Candle Light Ceremony  
Reading of Names  
Prayer  
Traditional Candle Walk

Refreshments provided by the JCCF teams and Darrell Combs delicious BBQ Sandwiches!!!