

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** February Jobs Report Released**

Missouri Department of Economic Development sent this bulletin at 03/18/2020 07:09 PM CDT

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Unemployment rate remains level in February

Employment increased by 5,500 jobs in February and 12-month employment growth was substantially higher than the January 2020 figure. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.5 percent over the month.

To read more of February's jobs report, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Business Resources Available

Resources are available to assist businesses during the response to COVID-19.

Resources to Prevent Exposure for Workers

State and federal agencies have issued interim guidance for employers to help prevent the spread of the virus.

- [CDC Guidance](#) Plan, Prepare and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019
- [OSHA Guidance](#) Steps all employers can take to reduce workers' risk of exposure

SBA Disaster Assistance Loans

The State of Missouri is working with the U.S. Small Business Administration to make disaster loans for working capital available to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19. Once the state's request is approved, we will share more information on how to apply. Information about the program is available [here](#).

Unemployment Resources

The state's Shared Work program allows employers to divide the available work among a specified group of affected employees instead of laying off workers. These employees receive a portion of their unemployment benefits while working reduced hours. Information is available [here](#).

The Electronic Mass Claims Filing System is designed to assist employers and their employees during a temporary mass layoff. Employee information provided by the employer, allows the Division of Employment Security (DES) to file an initial or renewed unemployment claim on behalf of employees quickly and efficiently. Information is available [here](#).

Department of Economic Development Activates Business Outreach Efforts

In response to COVID-19, the Department of Economic Development is working with local economic developers to reach out and connect major employers across the state with vital resources that will help mitigate the economic effects of the virus.

The Department is also working closely with federal officials to ensure business assistance resources are made available in Missouri, including the Small Business Administration's disaster recovery loans.

Employers should stay informed of guidance issued by public health officials. Important sources of information include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

For questions, the DHSS COVID-19 Hotline is available at 877-435-8411.



Missouri Department
of Economic Development

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