

Unemployment Up in Area Northeast KS Counties

Unemployment was up in area northeast Kansas counties in February from the month before, but down from one year ago.

The Kansas Department of Labor released the February unemployment rates today (Friday).

Jefferson and Leavenworth Counties had the highest jobless rates in the area, both at 8.6 percent.

Nemaha County had the lowest at 3.8 percent.

Elsewhere, Atchison County's unemployment rate in February stood at 7.8 percent; Brown, 5.6 percent, Jackson, 7.5 percent; Marshall, 4.7 percent and Pottawatomie, 5.5 percent.

Statewide, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in February was 6.1 percent, unchanged from January, but down from 6.9 percent in February 2011.

The Department of Labor says Kansas gained 18,300 non-farm jobs since February 2011, a 1.4 percent increase. The private sector gained 21,300 jobs, showing a continued decline in government jobs since February 2011.

Eight of the 11 major industries in Kansas reported job gains during the past year.