

State releases Nov. unemployment rates

Unemployment rates fell in 107 Kentucky counties between November 2017 and November 2018, and stayed the same in four counties, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics, an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

For the first time since October 2000, Kentucky did not have any counties with an unemployment rate of 10 percent or above.

Woodford County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the Commonwealth at 2.5 percent. It was followed by Boone, Fayette, Oldham, Scott, Shelby and Spencer counties, 2.7 percent each; Campbell and Kenton counties, 2.8 percent each; and Anderson

and Todd counties, 2.9 percent each.

Magoffin County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate at 9.9 percent. It was followed by Carter County, 6.7 percent; Lewis County, 6.2 percent; Elliott County, 6.1 percent; Wolfe County, 6 percent; Casey and Harlan counties, 5.9 percent each; Breathitt and Clay counties, 5.7 percent each; and Jackson, Lawrence, Leslie and Owsley counties, 5.6 percent each.

Kentucky's county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. 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. The comparable, unadjusted unemployment rate for the state was 3.5 percent for November 2018, and 3.5 percent for the nation.

Kentucky's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was released last week and can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2CDxr6d>. In that release, Kentucky's statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are adjusted to observe statistical trends by removing seasonal influences such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. For more information regarding seasonal fluctuations, visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics at https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_htgm.htm#why.

Unemployment statistics are based on estimates and are compiled to measure trends rather than actually to count people working. Civilian labor force statistics include non-military workers and unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks. The data should only be compared to the same month in previous years.

Learn more about Kentucky labor market information at <https://kystats.ky.gov/KYLM>.

New Year brings in official doc. requests

The start of the new year typically means an increase in the number of requests for birth certificates and other official documents like marriage, divorce and death certificates. The Office of Vital Statistics, within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS), processes those requests and is warning Kentuckians about purchasing documents online and paying additional fees to a third-party vendor not approved by the state.

Kentuckians can securely obtain Kentucky birth certificates or other official documents by placing an order through the Office of Vital Statistics in Frankfort; or by placing an order with VitalChek, an approved partner: <https://www.vitalchek.com/>.

VitalChek's processing fee of \$9.50 will apply for the use of a credit/debit card. Each

birth certificate is \$10, and each marriage, divorce, death or stillbirth certificate is \$6.

CHFS officials say while obtaining official documents is easy, it is important to be aware of the appropriate resources.

"Many unofficial third-party websites are claiming they can place an order for a birth certificate or provide customers with a birth certificate application," said Kentucky State Registrar Christina Stewart. "While their services may result in a birth certificate, the customer will have provided personal identifying information such as their address, phone number, credit card number or bank account number to an unofficial party. In addition, these types of websites are likely to charge much higher fees."

Birth, death, marriage, and divorce certified certificates can

also be obtained by visiting the Office of Vital Statistics at 275 E. Main St. Visitors will need to complete and print the fillable birth certificate application form on the Vital Statistics website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dehp/vsb/Forms/VS-37%20BIRTH%20APP.pdf>

The completed form, along with payment, can be mailed to: Office of Vital Statistics, 275 East Main Street, 1E-A, Frankfort, KY 40621. Make checks or money orders payable to "Kentucky State Treasurer." A non-refundable fee of \$10 is required. Marriage, Divorce, Death and Stillbirth Certificates are \$6.00 for each certificate.

Certificates can also be processed by phone through VitalChek. Call VitalChek to order a certificate using a credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American

Express). For phone orders, VitalChek's processing fee is \$10.50. The VitalChek phone number is (800) 241-8322, choose option 1 to place an order.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state's human services and healthcare programs, including the Department for Medicaid Services, the Department for Community Based Services, the Department for Public Health, the Department for Aging and Independent Living and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full- and part-time employees located across the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.

Frost

From page 1B

"Congratulations to Frost-Arnett, one of our longtime, top corporate citizens, and to their employees, whose strong work ethic sealed the deal," McMahan said. "It's always exciting when an existing business chooses to reinvest in our community, creating new job opportunities. The economic impact is a welcome addition to our economy."

To encourage the investment and job growth in the community, the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) on Thursday preliminarily approved the company for tax incentives up to \$1.5 million through the Kentucky Business Investment program. The performance-based incentive allows a company to keep a portion of its investment over the agreement term through corporate in-

come tax credits and wage assessments by meeting job and investment targets.

In addition, Frost-Arnett can receive resources from the Kentucky Skills Network. Through the Kentucky Skills Network, companies can receive no-cost recruitment and job

placement services, reduced-cost customized training and job training incentives.

As of now, it remains unclear what plans are in store for Frost-Arnett's current facility.

For more information on Frost-Arnett, visit www.Frost-Arnett.com.

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