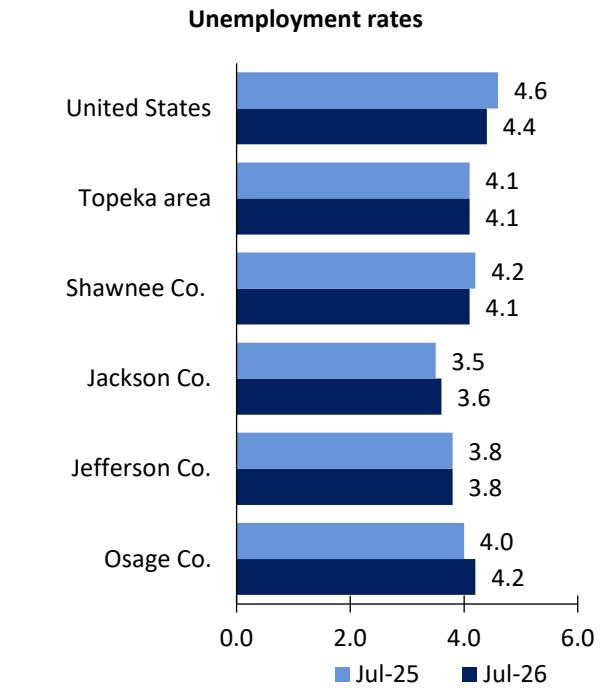
Topeka Area Economic Summary

Updated September 02, 2026

This summary presents a sampling of economic information for the area; supplemental data are provided for regions and the nation. Subjects include **unemployment, employment, wages, prices, spending,** and **benefits**. All data are not seasonally adjusted and some may be subject to revision. Area definitions may differ by subject. For more area summaries and geographic definitions, see https://www.bls.gov/regions/economic-summaries.htm.

Unemployment rates for the nation and selected areas

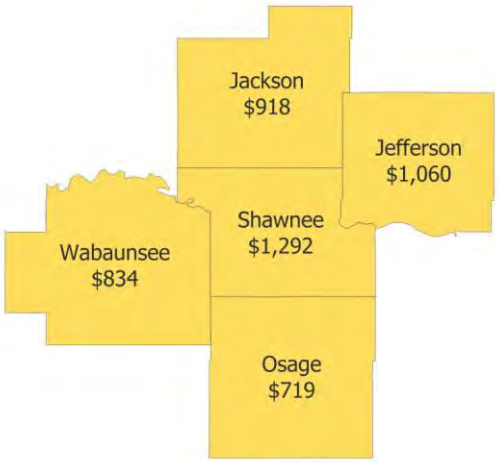


Source: U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

Average weekly wages for all industries by county

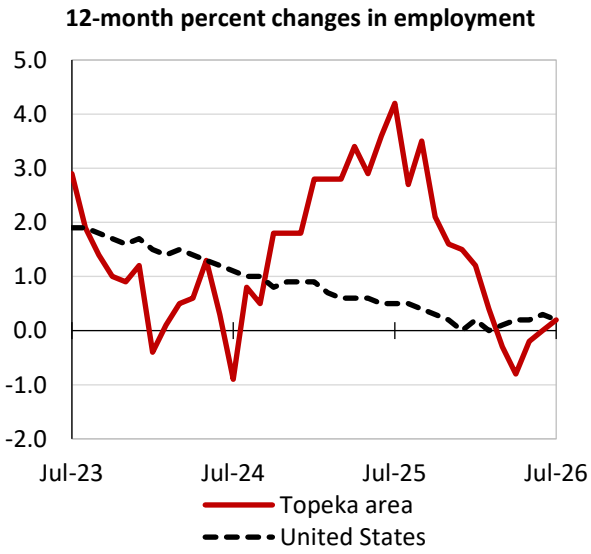
Topeka area, first quarter 2026

(U.S. = $1,654; Area = $1,250)



Source: U.S. BLS, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

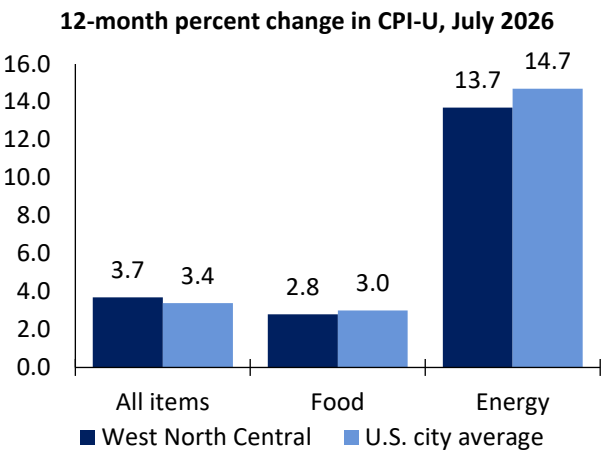
Employment on nonfarm payrolls and employment by major industry sector, over-the-year changes



Topeka area employment (number in thousands)	Jul. 2026	Change from Jul. 2025 to Jul. 2026	
		Number	Percent
Total nonfarm	119.1	0.2	0.2
Mining, logging, and construction	6.9	0.1	1.5
Manufacturing	9.0	-0.6	-6.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	17.5	-0.6	-3.3
Information	1.2	0.0	0.0
Financial activities	7.5	-0.1	-1.3
Professional and business services	14.6	0.2	1.4
Education and health services	21.0	0.4	1.9
Leisure and hospitality	9.9	0.5	5.3
Other services	4.9	-0.2	-3.9
Government	26.6	0.5	1.9

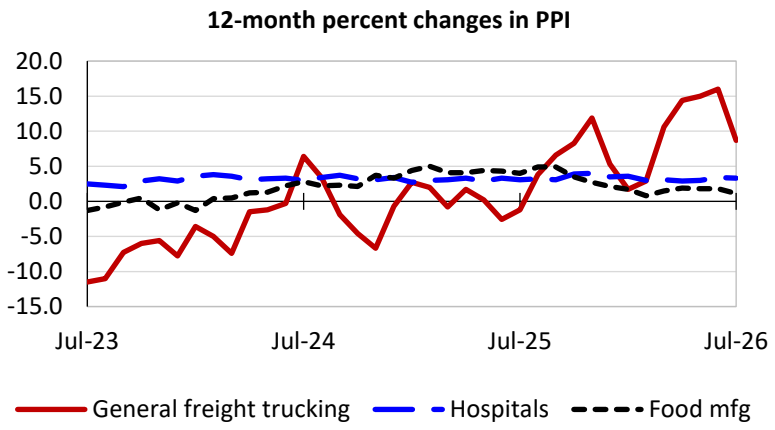
Source: U.S. BLS, Current Employment Statistics.

Prices paid by urban consumers for selected categories, over-the-year change



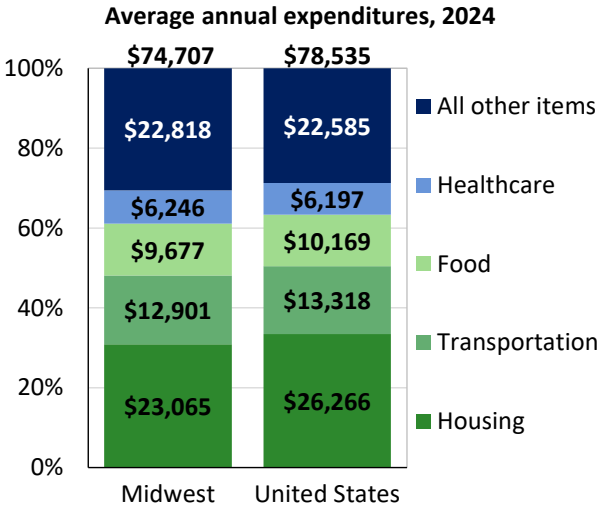
Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Price Index.

Selling prices received by producers for selected industries nationwide, over-the-year change



Source: U.S. BLS, Producer Price Index.

Average annual spending and percent distribution for selected categories



Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Average hourly wages for selected occupations, May 2025

Occupation	Topeka area	United States
All occupations	$29.62	$33.54
Management analysts	34.82	54.71
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	31.15	32.24
Food batchmakers	26.37	21.04
Nursing assistants	19.74	20.53
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	18.25	17.78
Substitute teachers, short-term	17.55	22.32

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics.

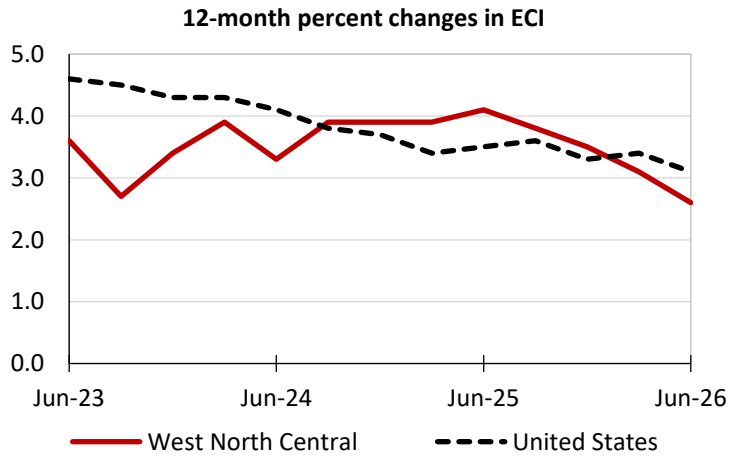
Employer costs per hour worked for wages and selected employee benefits by census division

Private industry, March 2026	West North Central	United States
Total compensation	$44.43	$46.60
Wages and salaries	31.02	32.60
Total benefits	13.41	14.01
Paid leave	3.18	3.54
Vacation	1.60	1.77
Supplemental pay	1.76	1.90
Insurance	3.83	3.62
Retirement and savings	1.43	1.57
Legally required benefits	3.22	3.38

Map of Census Regions and Divisions

Source: U.S. BLS, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation.

Changes in wages and salaries over-the-year



Source: U.S. BLS, Employment Cost Index.