

I-1 Addressing
Abandoned Property
Using Legal Tools

I-2 Administrative
Rule and Regulation
Legislative Oversight

I-3 Board of Indigents'
Defense Services

I-4 Election Security

I-5 Government
Transparency

I-6 Joint Committee on
Special Claims Against
the State

I-7 Kansas Open
Meetings Act

I-8 Kansas Open
Records Act

I-9 KPERS' Retirement
Plans and History

I-10 Post-election Audits

I-11 Senate
Confirmation Process

I-12 State Employee
Issues

I-13 Voter Registration
and Identification

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State and Local Government

I-12 State Employee Issues

Classified and Unclassified Employees

The state workforce is composed of classified and unclassified employees. Classified employees comprise nearly two-thirds of the state workforce, while unclassified employees comprise the remaining one-third. HB 2391 (2015) revised the Kansas Civil Service Act to direct all persons in newly hired positions, including any rehired employee and any current employee who voluntarily transfers, or is voluntarily promoted or demoted, into an unclassified position. If federal law requires a state agency to maintain personnel standards on a merit basis and that agency has converted classified positions to unclassified positions, the state agency must adopt a binding statement of agency policy to meet the federal requirements.

Classified employees are selected through a competitive process, while unclassified positions can be filled through direct appointment, with or without competition. While unclassified employees are essentially “at will” employees who serve at the discretion of their appointing authority, classified employees are covered by the “merit” or “civil service” system, which provides additional employment safeguards. These safeguards are as follows:

- All actions, including recruitment, hiring, classification, compensation, training, retention, promotion, discipline, and dismissal of state employees, shall be:
 - Based on merit principles and equal opportunity; and
 - Made without regard to race, national origin or ancestry, religion, political affiliation, or other nonmerit factors and shall not be based on sex, age, or disability except where those factors constitute a *bona fide* occupational qualification or where a disability prevents an individual from performing the essential functions of a position; and
- Employees are to be retained based on their ability to manage the duties of their position.

Characteristics of State Employees

In FY 2017, a profile of classified state employees reflected the following:

The “average” classified employee:	The “average” unclassified employee:
Is 46 years of age	Is 45 years of age
Has 14 years of service; and	Has 10 years of service; and
Earns \$37,643 per year	Earns \$48,391 per year
Source: SHARP (June 2017)—Includes classified and unclassified, benefit-eligible employees, including full- and part-time employees. Excludes Regents universities, legislators, student employees, classified temporary, and unclassified non-benefit-eligible temporary employees.	

State Employee Benefits

Among the benefits available to most state employees are medical, dental, and vision plans; long-term disability insurance; deferred compensation; and a cafeteria benefits plan, which allows employees to pay dependent care expenses and non-reimbursable health care expenses with pre-tax dollars. In addition, state employees accrue vacation and sick leave. The vacation leave accrual rate increases after 5, 10, and 15 years. In general, the State also provides 9 to 10 days of holiday leave for state employees.

Retirement Plans

Most state employees participate in the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs). Employees contribute 6.0 percent bi-weekly based on salary. The state contribution is set by law each year. In addition to the regular KPERs program, there are plans for certain law enforcement groups, correctional officers, judges and justices, and certain Regents unclassified employees. Contributions from both the employee and the State differ from plan to plan. (See [I-9 Kansas Public Employees Retirement System’s Retirement Plans and History](#) in this Briefing Book for more information.)

Compensation of State Employees

Kansas statutes direct the Director of Personnel Services, after consultation with the Director of the Budget and the Secretary of Administration, to prepare a pay plan for classified employees, which “shall contain a schedule of salary and wage ranges and steps.” The statutes also provide that this pay plan can be modified by provisions

in an appropriation bill or other act. When the Governor recommends step movement on the classified pay plan, a general salary increase, or both, funding equivalent to the percentage increase for classified employees generally is included in agency budgets to be distributed to unclassified employees on a merit basis.

The previous Kansas Civil Service Basic Pay Plan consisted of 34 pay grades, each with 13 steps. The difference between each step was approximately 2.5 percent, and the difference between each salary grade was approximately 5.0 percent. Employees typically are hired into a job at the minimum of the salary grade. Until recently, assuming satisfactory work performance, classified employees would receive an annual 2.5 percent step increase, along with any other general adjustment in salary approved by the Legislature. No classified step movement was recommended or approved from FY 2001 to FY 2006. In FY 2007, the Legislature approved a 2.5 percent step movement, effective September 10, 2006. There has been no further step movement since FY 2009.

New Classified Employee Pay Plans

The 2008 Legislature established five new pay plans for executive branch classified state employees and authorized multi-year salary increases for classified employees, beginning in FY 2009, who are identified in positions that are below market in salary.

The legislation authorized a four-year appropriation totaling \$68.0 million from all funds, including \$34.0 million from the State General Fund (SGF), for below-market pay adjustments (excluding the FY 2009 appropriation of \$16.0

million). Due to budgetary considerations, the appropriation for FY 2012 was eliminated, bringing the total appropriation to \$58.7 million. The State Finance Council approved an appropriation of \$11.4 million, including \$8.1 million from the SGF for FY 2013.

Finally, the legislation codified a compensation philosophy for state employees. The philosophy was crafted by the State Employee Pay Philosophy Task Force and endorsed by the State Employee Compensation Oversight Commission during the 2007 Interim. The pay philosophy includes:

- The goal of attracting and retaining quality employees with competitive compensation based on relevant labor markets;
- A base of principles of fairness and equity to be administered with sound fiscal discipline; and
- An understanding that longevity bonus payments shall not be considered as part of the base pay for classified employees.

The following table reflects classified step movement and base salary increases since FY 1997.

Fiscal Year	Salary Adjustment
1997	Step Movement: 2.5 percent Base Adjustment: None
1998	Step Movement: 2.5 percent Base Adjustment: 1.0 percent
1999	Step Movement: 2.5 percent Base Adjustment: 1.5 percent
2000	Step Movement: 2.5 percent Base Adjustment: 1.0 percent
2001	Step Movement: 2.5 percent Base Adjustment: None
2002	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: 3.0 percent, with 1.5 percent effective for full year and 1.5 percent effective for half a year
2003	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: None
2004	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: 1.5 percent effective for last 23 pay periods
2005	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: 3.0 percent
2006	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: 2.5 percent, with 1.25 percent effective for full year and 1.25 percent effective for half a year
2007	Step Movement: 2.5 percent, effective September 10, 2006 Base Adjustment: 1.5 percent
2008	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: 2.0 percent

Fiscal Year	Salary Adjustment
2009	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: 2.5 percent; Below Market Salary Adjustments
2010	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: None; Below Market Salary Adjustments
2011	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: None; Below Market Salary Adjustments
2012	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: None
2013	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: None
2014	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: None Employee Bonus: \$250 Bonus
2015	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: None
2016	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: None
2017	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: None
2018	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: 2.5 percent < 5 years; 5.0 percent > 5 years with no adjustment; 2.5 percent Judicial
2019	Step Movement: None Base Adjustment: 5.0 percent if not included in 2017 Legislative Pay Plan; 2.5 percent if included at 2.5 percent in 2017 Legislative Pay Plan; 5.0 percent uniformed corrections officers; 5.0 percent nonjudicial; 2.0 percent Judicial

FY 2019. The FY 2019 approved budget includes 40,103.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and represents an increase of 35.4 positions, or 0.1 percent, above the FY 2018 approved number.

The increase is largely attributable to adding 20.0 FTE positions in the Department for Children and Families to increase child welfare field staff, such as social workers; adding 55.0 FTE positions at Larned State Hospital for expansion of Sexual Predator Treatment Program Reintegration facilities; and adding 13.0 FTE positions in the Kansas Bureau of Investigation for Special Agent positions in the Field Investigations Division and

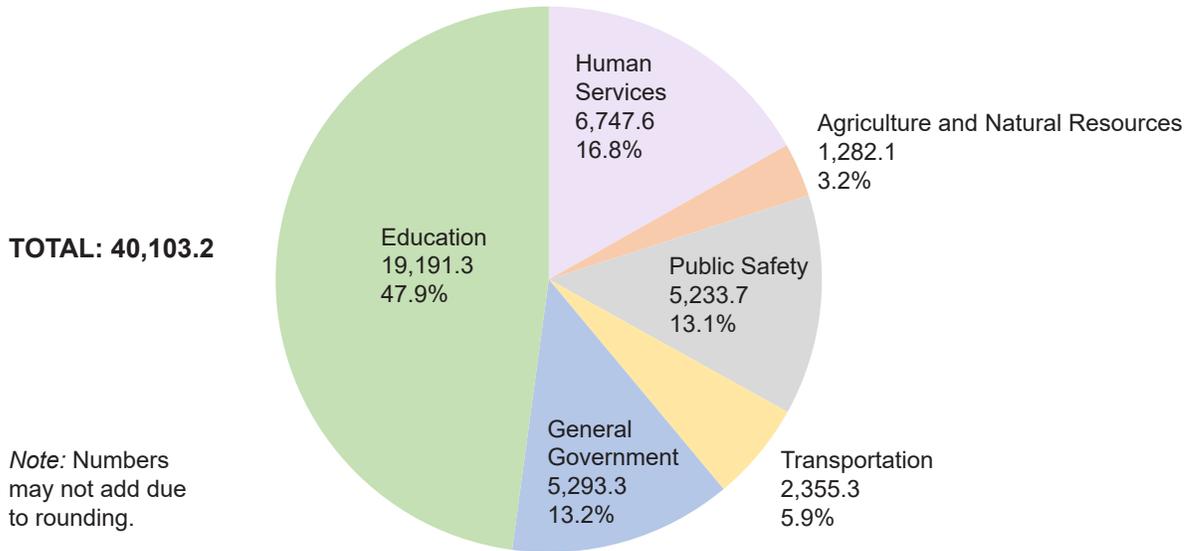
the Special Operations Division, including three agents for the Child Victim Unit.

FTE positions are permanent positions, either full time or part time, but mathematically equated to full time. For example, two half-time positions equal one full-time position.

Non-FTE unclassified permanent positions are essentially unclassified temporary positions that are considered “permanent” because they are authorized to participate in the state retirement system.

The following chart reflects approved FY 2019 FTE positions by function of government:

FY 2019 FTE Positions by Function of Government



Largest employers. The following table lists the ten largest state employers and their number of FTE positions.

Agency	FTE Positions
University of Kansas	5,346.9
Kansas State University	3,864.5
University of Kansas Medical Center	2,986.5
Children and Families, Department for	2,482.9
Transportation, Department of	2,355.3
Wichita State University	2,087.4
Judicial Branch	1,868.0
KSU-ESARP	1,106.2
Revenue, Department of	1,019.1
Larned State Hospital	998.5
* Source: 2018 IBARS Approved	

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