Kansas Economic Outlook
Center for Economic Development and Business Research
W. Frank Barton School of Business
Wichita State University
National employment declined 0.8 percent in 2010. Year-over-year average annual
employment grew a meager 0.4 percent in June 2011, and only modest gains are expected in
2012. Continued unemployment claims remain well above average, housing and mortgage
markets continue to falter and consumer confidence is waning. Yet, individual businesses boast
strong balance sheets and high profitability.
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 The mixed messages from national indicators
cause many to question whether the great recession has ended. Local indicators have been
equally confusing.
The Kansas unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in July 2011. This continues the general
decline in unemployment rates that began after reaching a peak of 8.2 percent in July 2009.
Much of the decline was due to a decrease in the number of active participants in the labor
force, not from gains in employment. As of this writing, Kansas employment is on track to
decrease 0.5 percent in 2011, after declining 1.5 percent in 2010.
Creighton University’s

The indicators, when taken together, point to a slower recovery than originally anticipated in

i http://www.economy.com/dismal/pro/article.asp?cid=224370

ii
 Creighton University’s Business Conditions Index

iii
 Federal Housing Finance Agency

iv
 Kansas Department of Revenue