



Do you know what the latest unemployment figures are for the state of Missouri? According to seasonally adjusted data recently released by the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Missouri's unemployment rate fell by three-tenths of a point in November 2015 to 4.7 percent, which is lower than the national average of 5 percent and the lowest state rate since April 2006.

This information and other economic data can be found on the website of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC), the research arm of the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

MERIC consists of two units: The Labor Market Information(LMI) unit and the Economic and Workforce Research(EWR) unit. Both units are funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The LMI unit is primarily responsible for data collection and data submission to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. They collect and verify industry and occupational wage data and unemployment data. LMI research analysts collect and process data from over 160,000 businesses in Missouri. Data is submitted to BLS and posted on the Bureau's website.

The EWR unit Analyzes LMI data and converts it into user friendly documents accessible to the public, produces short and long term employment projections, industry and occupational studies, target industry and occupational products, and analyzes economic indicators (i.e. GDP, Exports). In short, LMI collects and verifies all the raw data, and EWR helps makes sense of that raw data, and creates different products from it. These publications can be used by workforce professionals, education and training providers, economic developers and employers as they prepare the workforce for the future.

For more economic data and research, visit the MERIC website, "where numbers become knowledge."

For additional information about Missouri Division of Workforce Development services, contact a Missouri Job Center near you. Locations and additional information are available at jobs.mo.gov or 1-888-728-JOBS (5627).

Missouri Division of Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Missouri TTY users can call (800) 735-2966 or dial 7-1-1.

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