

Jobless rate increases to highest level in five years

Kentucky's annual unemployment rate rose to 5.5 percent in 2001, making it the highest jobless rate in five years, according to the Department of Employment Services.

Workplace relationships examined by professors

Two researchers at Morehead State University are exploring the behaviors that both help and hinder the relationships of people within a workplace.

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INAPS—Growth funds tend to invest in stocks of companies that have a potential for revenue or earnings increases.

1990 the sector has added 147,500 jobs. The government and education sector was second with an increase of 5,300 for a total of 310,400 jobs in 2001.

Within the health services category, health services recorded most of that growth with 6,200 more jobs in 2001.

Additional information is available by calling Dr. Hauff at (606) 783-2768 or Dr. Turner at (606) 783-2761.

North Dakota posted the lowest unemployment rate at 2.8 percent, while Washington, D.C. had the highest annual rate at 6.5 percent, followed closely by Washington state at 6.4 percent.

The U.S. unemployment rate jumped to 4.8 percent in 2001 from 4.4 percent in 2000, the highest national rate since 1997.

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The agriculture sector rose by 1,600 jobs in 2001 for a total of 26,500 in the sector. The sector has declined by 14,200 jobs since 1991.

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Finance industry added 600 jobs, while the real estate industry lost 300 jobs and the insurance category decreased by 100 jobs in 2001.

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Legislative perspective

by Rep. Carolyn Belecher

Only seven working days remain in the 2002 legislative session for the General Assembly to take action on formidable issues such as solid waste, merchant power plants, cell tower siting, balancing the budget and tax reform.

House Bill 174, the comprehensive solid waste plan, is pending a vote by the Senate after being amended and passed by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Two merchant power plant bills are before the General Assembly. House Bill 540 and Senate Bill 257 create a review board to examine each application for the construction of merchant power plants in the Commonwealth for their impact on the area where the plant will be built.

House Bill 598, the cell tower siting proposal, is the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, and House Bill 507, the budget, is in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and Revenue.

Last week, the House Committee on Appropriations and Revenue approved two tax reform measures. House Bill 864 imposes a tax of two-tenths of a cent a kilowatt-hour on electricity generated by merchant power plants in Kentucky.

Also last week, we passed House Bill 825. The bill would help subsidize tax relief for low-income families that is proposed in House Bill 825.

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local health departments to dispense unscheduled drugs from a list prepared by the Department of Public Health.

House Bill 133 permits the Revenue Cabinet to enter into an agreement with the Cabinet for Families and Children to collect delinquent child support as far as five years back.

House Bill 576 sets basic standards for animal shelters in the Commonwealth and establishes the definition of a vicious dog.

House Bill 854 is an attempt to rid the state of so-called "straight pipes" that dump sewage from houses directly into groundwater.

House Bill 211 passed the House without a dissenting vote. It would extend Medicaid coverage to women under 65 with breast and cervical cancer who are not eligible for Medicaid and cannot afford health insurance to pay for their treatment.

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