

Jackson Energy Gives Winter Heating Tips

With winter temperatures dropping into the single digits this week, staying warm is a priority. Here are some energy saving tips to help reduce your energy costs this winter:

- Set the thermostat at the lowest comfortable setting - the U.S. Department of Energy recommends 68 degrees. Every degree above 68 can add 3 to 5 percent to your heating costs. With colder temperatures outside, your heating units have to work harder to maintain the temperature within your home.
- Don't use electric space heaters as a primary source of heat. Electric space heaters are okay for warming an area quickly for a short period of time, but are inefficient when used for long periods of time. Most electric space heaters are rated at 1500 watts. Operating a 1500-watt space heater for 12 hours a day would add about \$55 to your monthly electric bill.
- Seal off fireplaces that are not in use. An open flue can be a major source of heat loss.
- Open window drapes on sunny days to let the sunlight warm your house. Close them at night to hold heat in.
- Change furnace or heat pump filters monthly so your furnace or heat pump is operating efficiently.
- Conduct an online energy audit of your home, find out where your energy dollars are going and get recommendations on how to save energy in your home. Click on the BillingInsights link on the Jackson Energy home page, www.jacksonenergy.com.

The audit uses your billing information. Complete the energy audit, and receive a free Phillips LED bulb.

- Jackson Energy's SmartHub app can also provide you with information on how winter temperatures are impacting your bill. You can check your daily usage and even pay your bill online. For more information, visit www.smarthubapp.com.

Kentucky Afield Outdoors:

Lake Cumberland Tailwater Offers Excellent Winter Fishing

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 21, 2017) – Consistency is a trait all anglers love in a body of water. Most lakes and rivers in Kentucky go through seasonal temperature swings that make fishing tough during the hottest and coldest months of the year.

The Cumberland River below Lake Cumberland fishes as consistently as any body of water in Kentucky. The water temperatures of the Cumberland River at Burkesville ranged from 55 degrees Dec. 11 to 53.5 degrees Dec. 14 to around 53 degrees Dec. 18.

“There is no reason not to do well in winter on the Cumberland tailwater as the water temperature is pretty controlled by Wolf Creek Dam,” said Ron Brooks, director of Fisheries for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. “The fall and winter are the best time of year for big trout. As long as it is not too cold to be outside, anglers should do well.”

Population sampling by fisheries biologists this past fall show the Cumberland River recovering nicely from the impact of reduced flows and high water temperatures of the 7-year drawdown to repair Wolf Creek Dam that concluded three years ago.

“Just a month or so ago, they captured and released two brown trout over 10 pounds in one night during annual population sampling,” Brooks said. “I Brooks likes winter fishing on Cumberland River because of the quality of daylight. “At this time of year, big trout move to the shallows and stay there to feed because the sun is not directly overhead like it is in summer,” he said. “The fish are a little less spooky.”

Releases from Wolf Creek Dam predicate the best areas of the river to fish. Anglers must check the generation schedule on the Nashville District webpage of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before planning a trip. On this chart under the “Wolf” column, the number 45 means one turbine of generation and 90 means two turbines of generation. Releases of more than two turbines means high and swift water for the upper river, making fishing nearly impossible.

Brooks fishes in the Bakerton and Crocus Creek area in fall and winter.

“With normal winter generation schedules, you can have either all morning or all afternoon to fish with good water in this stretch of the river,” he said. “Most anglers want to fish up by Wolf Creek Dam because they think that is where all of the fish are stocked, but this stretch isn't as impacted by releases as the upper river.”

This week, for example, most generation occurred in the morning and evening time, with light generation in the afternoon and no generation in the wee hours. Therefore, the Bakerton and Crocus Creek areas would offer the best fishing in the morning because they are 26 and 27 ½ miles downstream of the dam. It takes time for the slug of water from the releases to reach this stretch. The upper river from the dam down to the Rockhouse would fish best in the afternoon during light generation.

Cumberland River trout feed heavily when the water first rises from a dam release. This is prime time to catch numbers of trout, but wading anglers must soon move to the bank after the water begins to rise. It does not take long for a wading angler with a mind consumed by catching another trout to get into a hairy situation from high, swift and cold water.

Anglers have boat and bank access all along the Cumberland River, some with a fee. The “Find a Place to Fish” page on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at www.fw.ky.gov also provides driving instructions and links to Google maps for each access.

“The river is coming back to its glory days,” Brooks said. “I fished Rainbow Run recently and trout were surfacing everywhere. I caught great numbers and every now and then a nice trout. It was like the old days on Rainbow Run.”

Brooks likes beaded flies with a sinking line for better quality fish in fall and winter. Pheasant tail and Hare's Ear's nymphs with a gold bead-head in sizes 10 and 12 work well. He also likes fishing scuds as well as the Adams wet and Hendrickson wet flies.

“If the water is low and clear, I drop down to an 18 or 20 size fly,” Brooks said. “It is amazing how a big fish will eat such a small bug.”

Anglers using 4-pound test line on spinning gear can catch just as many as those using fly gear.

“I believe anglers throwing inline spinners catch more trout than fly anglers because they cover more water,” Brooks explained. “You don't have to be an expert to catch trout on the Cumberland. I saw a couple on a recent trip holding up a huge trout in a boat. They were not expert anglers, but they caught a huge fish just the same.”

Shake off the winter blues with a fat trout pulling your line.

Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Releases November 2017 Unemployment Report

FRANKFORT, Ky. (December 21, 2017) - Kentucky's seasonally adjusted preliminary November unemployment rate was 4.7 percent, according to the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS), an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. The unemployment rate for November 2017 was down from the revised 5.0 percent reported for October 2017.

The preliminary November 2017 jobless rate was down 0.2 percentage points from the 4.9 percent recorded for the state in November 2016.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted jobless rate for November 2017 was unchanged from the 4.1 percent reported for October 2017, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Labor force statistics, including the unemployment rate, are based on estimates from the Current Population Survey of households. It is designed to measure trends in the number of people working. It includes jobs in agriculture and individuals who are self-employed.

In November 2017, Kentucky's civilian labor force was 2,061,760, a decrease of 273 individuals compared to the previous month. The number of people employed was up by 5,447, while the number unemployed decreased by 5,720.

In a separate federal survey of business establishments that excludes jobs in agriculture and people who are self-employed, Kentucky's seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment increased by 4,200 jobs in November 2017 compared to October 2017. Kentucky added 25,600 jobs since November 2016, a 1.3 percent employment growth.

“November's unemployment rate is the lowest recorded since March 2001,” said University of Kentucky's Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) Director Chris Bollinger, Ph.D. “The decrease in the unemployment rate results partially from more individuals being employed this month and reflects the improvements in Kentucky's job market. However, the estimates also suggest there were fewer individuals in the labor force in November.”

Nonfarm data is provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics program. According to this survey, five of Kentucky's 11 major nonfarm North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) job sectors experienced employment growth from the previous month. Six sectors declined from the previous month.

Kentucky's manufacturing sector showed the largest gain with 3,300 more jobs from October 2017 to November 2017. This represents an increase of 1.3 percent. Most of the increase occurred in durable goods manufacturing, which added 2,800 jobs in November 2017. Non-durable goods manufacturing added 500 jobs in November. Since November 2016, the manufacturing sector has added 2,300 jobs or just under 1 percent.

“The manufacturing gains in November helps offset decreases that occurred in the sector earlier in the year,” said Bollinger.

Kentucky's leisure and hospitality sector increased by 2,100 jobs in November 2017, a 1.1 percent growth rate. Within this sector, accommodation and food services gained 1,300 jobs while arts, entertainment and recreation added 800 jobs. Since November 2016, the sector has added 3,200 positions.

The financial activities sector rose by 600 jobs in November 2017. Within this sector, the finance and insurance subsector increased by 400 jobs, and real estate, rental and leasing subsector increased by 200 jobs. Overall, the financial activities sector is up 200 jobs or 0.2 percent from last year.

Construction employment increased by 100 jobs from October 2017 to November 2017, a gain of 0.1 percent. From November 2016 to November 2017, construction employment was up by 4,000 jobs, or 5.2 percent.

Employment in the other services sector rose by 1,100 jobs in November 2017, up 3,600 from a year ago. This represents a growth rate of 1.6 percent from October 2017 to November 2017, and 5.5 percent from November 2016 to November 2017. Other services includes repairs and maintenance, personal care services and religious organizations.

Trade, transportation and utilities employment decreased by 1,400 jobs since October 2017. While employment in this sector decreased in November 2017, it is still up by 5,400 jobs since November 2016. This represents a growth rate of 1.4 percent. From October 2017 to November 2017, wholesale trade decreased by 400 jobs; retail trade fell by 200 jobs; and transportation, warehousing and utilities dropped by 800 jobs.

“Wholesale employment increased during the first four months of the year,” said Bollinger. “Since April wholesale employment has generally decreased.”

The professional and business sector lost 700 jobs from October 2017 to November 2017, but was up 6,100 positions since November 2016. This represents a 0.3 percent decrease for the month, and a 2.7 percent increase for the past 12 months. Within this sector, employment in administrative, support and waste management declined by 1,000 jobs from October 2017 to November 2017. Management of companies was down by 200 jobs. Professional, scientific and technical services employment was up 500 jobs from October 2017 to November 2017.

The government sector decreased by 500 jobs in November 2017. The federal government added 200 jobs in November, while state government employment decreased by 200 jobs, and local government fell by 500 jobs. Since November 2016, government employment is down by 2,200 jobs or 0.7 percent.

Education and health services sectors lost 200 jobs in November 2017. Within the sector, employment in health care and social assistance increased by 300 jobs, while educational services decreased by 500 jobs. Since last November, the sector has grown by 2,600 positions or 1 percent.

Employment in information services sector declined by 100 jobs from October 2017 to November 2017. This sector has grown by 900 jobs or 3.9 percent since November 2016. The industries in this sector include traditional publishing as well as software publishing; motion pictures and broadcasting; and telecommunications.

Employment in mining and logging decreased by 100 jobs in November 2017. This sector has declined by 500 positions or 5.1 percent since November last year.

Civilian labor force statistics include nonmilitary workers and unemployed Kentuckians who are actively seeking work. They do not include unemployed Kentuckians who have not looked for employment within the past four weeks.

Kentucky's statewide unemployment rate and employment levels are seasonally adjusted. Learn more about Kentucky's labor market information at kylmi.ky.gov/.