INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND BUSINESS RESEARCH TECHNICAL REPORT SERIES

STRATEGIC PLANNING DATA ANALYSIS

McPherson County

Kansas Center for Community Economic Development

Charles E. Krider, Co-Director

Institute for Public Policy and Business Research
The University of Kansas

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STRATEGIC PLANNING DATA ANALYSIS

McPherson County

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FOREWORD

The following report has been prepared to assist the people of McPherson County, Kansas in developing a community-based strategic plan. The purpose of this report is to provide data which will yield a better understanding of local issues and broader scale issues which impact upon the local economy. An early draft and key conclusions from this report was presented to the public by Henry Schwaller in the late spring of 1992. Since that time, much of the data in this final report has been updated to reflect newly available data; the principal conclusions are generally consistent with the draft report, although newer data has shown some shifts from previous trends. This report should be useful in monitoring and updating the progress of ongoing efforts to implement strategic planning in McPherson County.

The Kansas Center for Community Economic Development (KCCED) is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. KCCED is a joint university center between the Institute for Public Policy and Business Research at the University of Kansas and the Kansas Center for Rural Initiatives at Kansas State University. The statements, findings, and conclusions of this report are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Government, the State of Kansas, the University of Kansas, or any other individual or organization.

It is hoped that Strategic Planning Data Analysis: McPherson County will serve as a useful source of information. Further reproduction of the data presented in this report is permissible on condition that the source is cited. For those wishing to conduct a more indepth analysis of their county, additional information may be obtained by contacting the sources cited in this report. KCCED, through the Institute for Public Policy and Business Research at the University of Kansas and the Kansas Center for Rural Initiatives at Kansas State University, has access to additional data and can provide technical assistance, data analysis, and survey support.

Special thanks are extended to the staff at the Kansas Center for Community Economic Development and the Institute for Public Policy and Business Research (IPPBR) who helped make this report possible: Shakura Jackson, Mary Brohammer and Linda Bennett, IPPBR; and Doug LaTessa and Michael Keough, Research Assistants, IPPBR. Guidance for the report was provided by Dr. Charles Krider, Co-Director, KCCED/KU.

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Executive Summary

This report, commissioned for the McPherson County strategic planning project, surveys some of the more significant demographic and economic trends in McPherson County, Kansas, over the period from 1980 to the present time. Through contrast and comparison with nearby counties, relative strengths and weaknesses have been assessed.

McPherson is a county of about 27,000 people, situated in central Kansas. Its population is a mixture of small urban and rural. The county is connected with four major highways, including Interstate 135. The county's economy includes proportionally large manufacturing and mining sectors, retail and service sectors that remain to be more fully developed, and an agricultural sector that retains a significant role in the county's economy relative to the region and non-metropolitan areas. During the 1980s, McPherson County escaped many of the declines in population and economic base that occurred throughout Kansas' non-metropolitan counties. However, projections indicate that population growth will slow further and level off after the turn of the century, presenting both challenges and opportunities for continued economic development in McPherson County.

The People

The county's population level increased at a slower rate than previously during the past decade, after consistent growth through nearly every decade of this century. Net rates of outmigration in the 1980s were comparably favorable to those of comparative counties and were more than offset by the natural increase in population (births minus deaths). As stated above, population growth is expected to level off over the next two decades. The people of McPherson County are slightly older than the averages for comparative areas, Kansas and the U.S. Educational levels for persons aged 25 and over are generally lower for the county than for comparative counties or the state at large. Per capita incomes are higher in McPherson County than in non-metropolitan and several comparative counties, and have been characterized by stable growth from year to year.

The Economy

McPherson County's economy is diverse. A greater proportion of jobs are provided by the farming, mining, manufacturing, and service industries than for the state as a whole, while the wholesale, retail, and government sectors contribute less in terms of employment than the state average. Although growth occurred in the mining, retail, and government sectors, manufacturing and services accounted for over 90 percent of job growth since 1980. The greatest losses in employment from 1980 to 1990 occurred in the wholesale, transportation and public utilities, and farm sectors. Overall, McPherson County experienced net job growth of 7.2% (1,170 jobs) in the 1980s, which is less than the state average but considerably better than the 2.7% growth rate for non-metropolitan counties in the state. Since 1981, unemployment in McPherson County has been consistently lower than the averages for the

state, non-metropolitan counties, and all the comparative counties except for Johnson. A decline in the size of the labor force in the early 1980s has since stabilized in the range 14,400 and 14,800. McPherson County demonstrated a high rate of growth in labor income compared with other areas and matched the state and non-metropolitan areas in growth of average earnings per job over the last decade.

The retail base in McPherson County eroded in real terms by 18 percent from 1981 to 1991, although most of this decline occurred prior to 1986 and retail sales levels have since stabilized. The number of firms in the county increased by 15 percent over the decade, with most of the growth happening in the wholesale, service, and manufacturing sectors. Along with this growth, a trend toward smaller firm size was indicated. Farm output has remained stable in McPherson County, but the number of farms has decreased while acres harvested has not--indicating a trend toward fewer, larger farms. The county's property tax base has remained stable over the last two years.

Community Resources

Data on public school expenditures and enrollments indicate both strengths and challenges for McPherson County in the utilization of its educational resources. High school dropouts rates are low but growing. Access to cultural and recreational resources is comparable to that of other counties. Health care resources are not as accessible as in many of the comparative counties, with lower than average availability of hospital beds and physicians. The county compares favorably with other areas in terms of access to licensed adult care homes. However, it lags behind others in the availability of preschool and licensed day care facilities. Housing availability is better than in most comparative counties and for the state as a whole. Owner occupancy is high and housing costs are moderate. Other positive indicators of the county's quality of life include relatively low rates of crime, infant mortality, and poverty.

Challenges and Opportunities

As McPherson County residents prepare a strategic plan for the future of their communities, many challenges and opportunities present themselves. The global economic environment has become more challenging, with an increased emphasis on technology and training to keep the labor force flexible and competitive. The smaller, slightly older and somewhat less educated labor force in McPherson County will need to adapt and expand in order to meet the future requirements of present and prospective employers. A major challenge for McPherson County will be in determining how best to enrich its job market, by transforming some of its current jobs into higher-skilled, higher-paying jobs for the future. Tying into state and federal technology programs could present one such set of opportunities.

Amidst these and other challenges and opportunities facing their communities, McPherson County citizens must maintain a broad-based commitment to working in partnership with one another to plan the future of the county. This commitment, when combined with an ambitious and shared vision for the future, will be the necessary ingredient to turn dreams into reality.

Introduction

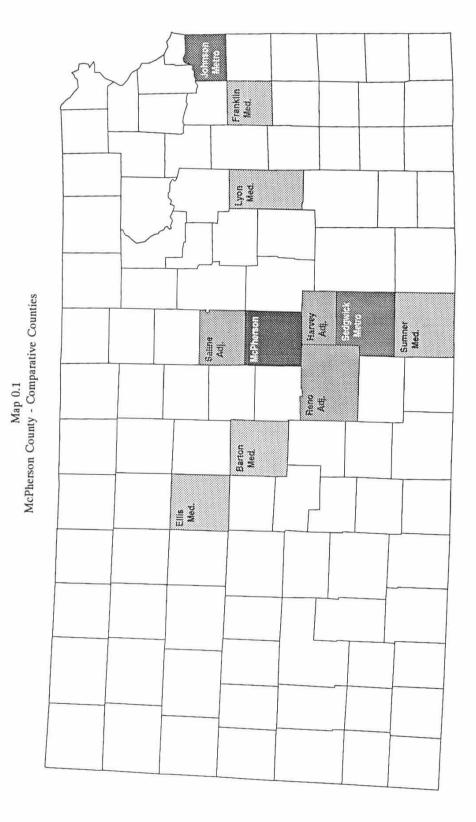
The use of data in strategic planning is important for a number of reasons. Data helps a community in "taking stock" and better understanding its current economic situation. Data also provides insight into the internal and external trends affecting the community. It also provides a standard for comparing local economic performance with other areas, such as the state or nation. Using data in preparing a community strategic plan can promote the long-run success of the planning effort and its eventual outcomes by:

- Testing Assumptions--Data can confirm or challenge pre-conceived ideas that a community has about its current situation.
- *Identifying Key Issues*--Local strengths and weaknesses relative to comparable communities can pinpoint specific issues which may need to be addressed.
- Building Consensus--By building a common understanding about concerns and trends affecting the community, the community can move toward common goals.
- Establishing the Direction the Process Should Take--Data can serve as a compass in the strategic planning process and can help in determining the next step.

Raw data by itself will not lead to an understanding of the community. Data must be analyzed, taking into account the intuition or common knowledge of the community about the overall trends. Data serves as the base for an analysis, leading to conclusions about what is happening in the community, relative to other regions over time and, what the impacts or consequences are. From this, the community can begin to develop its strategies.

In the following sections, data will first be presented and analyzed in overview fashion for regional and national trends. Following this, data will be reviewed at a more local scale in the following areas: population; education; employment, earnings and income; location and infrastructure; business environment; financial capital; and quality of life. A review of state technology performance and policies is also included.

Throughout the report, local-level materials will be presented relating McPherson County's economic performance through the past decade with the State of Kansas and the counties neighboring McPherson County. To facilitate comparisons, "Metro", "Adjacent", and "Medium" sized comparative counties have been designated. The metro comparative counties include Johnson and Sedgwick; adjacent comparative counties include Reno, Saline, and Harvey; medium comparative counties include Barton, Ellis, Franklin, Lyon, and Sumner. Aggregate totals for each group of comparative counties as well as non-metro values for the state are included in the data presented. The counties for which data is examined in this report are shown in Map 0.1.



Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research.

Section I: Global, Regional & National Trends

While development occurs at the local level, it is becoming increasingly subject to global forces. In the short run, global scale trends may appear too distant; however these trends can have profound impacts upon a community. For example, the worldwide shift from goods-producing economies toward more service-based economies, especially apparent during the early 1980s, created enormous adjustments in local labor forces. Similarly, technological change and the growth in foreign trade have created threats to some communities' well-being, while these have presented others with opportunities for expansion. Worldwide change, while presenting a new set of constraints about what can be done at the local level, has also generated opportunities. In an increasingly competitive global economy, successful communities are positioning themselves to build upon their internal strengths and are anticipating opportunities by preparing in advance rather than reacting in the face of change.

The range of global, national and regional factors which can affect the international competitiveness of a community is very broad. In the following section, some of these are isolated to provide a more complete context for the local level data which is presented in subsequent sections of this report:

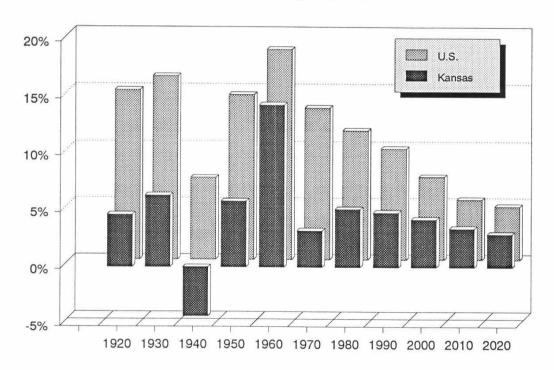
- Population growth rates and demographic change, evidenced in the age of the
 population and the distribution of urban and rural population demonstrate Kansas'
 recent and expected growth relative to the nation, with implications for the labor force;
- Educational attainment levels is an indicator of how well prepared the Kansas workforce is, while the age structure of the workforce foreshadows changes in the stability, flexibility and future training needs of the labor force;
- Employment projections by industry and occupation indicates where job growth is
 expected to occur, while changes in the average weekly earnings by industry illustrate
 the industries which have been growing in productivity nationwide over the decade;
- Job creation, by firm size shows which types of firms have contributed most to job
 growth; Employment and per capita income contrasts between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas further explain the changing fabric of the Kansas economy;
- The changing levels of exports, imports and foreign investment show how interdependent the U.S. and worldwide economies have become; and,
- The levels of state and local taxes per capita indicate the relative tax burden in Kansas, with implications for the level of competitiveness of Kansas firms and the overall standard of living for Kansas residents.

GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TRENDS: KEY FINDINGS

- Since 1970, Kansas has grown at about one-half the national growth rate. Only
 moderate growth is projected for Kansas in the future.
- Since the turn of the century, rural population in Kansas has increased in only two of the nine decades.
- Although the median age of the population in Kansas equals the national average, Kansas has relatively more young (0-14) and more old (65+) residents than the nation as a whole.
- Educational attainment levels in Kansas are high in comparison with neighboring states.
- Employment projections call for the greatest growth in the occupations requiring high levels of education or highly specific skills (technicians, professions) with the top three health-related occupations combining for nearly 11 percent of all job creation to 2005.
- Ninety-four percent of all job creation in Kansas since 1985 has occurred in the metropolitan areas.
- Industries showing the greatest increases in average weekly wages since 1983 have been: Services; Mining; Finance, Insurance and Real Estate; and Wholesale Trade.
- Per capita incomes in Kansas are higher than those of most neighboring states; however,
 Kansas has lost ground in relative terms since the early 1980s.
- Firms with more than 50 employees (4.2% of Kansas firms) generated nearly 60 percent of net new jobs in Kansas from 1980 to 1989.
- During the 1980s, Kansas enjoyed particularly strong output performance from the Transportation and Public Utilities industry, while Finance, insurance and real estate sectors despite strong growth, did not match national output shares.
- By the year 2020, the services industry is expected to account for nearly 27 percent of Kansas jobs, followed by the Government sector with 16.7 percent. Manufacturing is expected to continue to decline in relative importance.
- Since 1961, exports as a share of US GDP have tripled, while imports have more than doubled, each accounting for more than 11 percent of GDP.
- Levels of state and local taxation per capita in Kansas are 10 percent lower than
 national averages, with high rates of local taxation (ranked 19th in the nation) and low
 rates of state taxation (ranked 33rd.)

GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TRENDS: DATA ANALYSIS

Ten-Year Population Growth Rates Kansas and U.S., 1920-2020



Source: KCCED calculations on data from Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Vol. 1; Census of Population, 1960, Number of Inhabitants, Final Report; 1980 Census of Population, Vol. 1, Chapter A, Part 18; 1990 Decennial Census, mimeographed sheet.

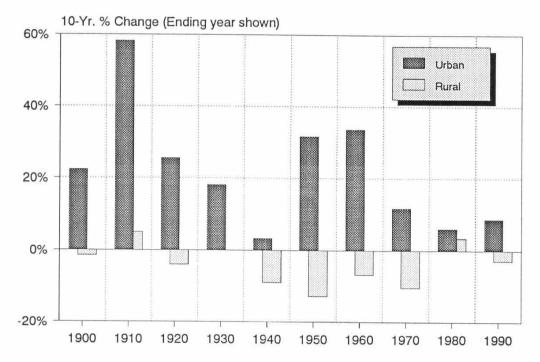
- Population growth rates in Kansas have consistently lagged those of the U.S. for every decade since the 1920s. Over the last 80 years, population in Kansas has grown at about one-third the U.S rate; since 1970, population growth has been about one-half the U.S. rate.
- In 1920, Kansas represented a 1.67 percent share of the nation's population; in 1990, Kansas accounted for 1 percent of U.S. population.
- Only moderate population growth is projected for Kansas in the future. Over the next
 thirty years, Kansas is projected to grow at only two-thirds the growth rate for the U.S.
 as a whole.

Table 1.1 10-Year Population Growth Rates Kansas and U.S., 1920-2020

Decade Ending Growth Rates (%)	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	<u>1970</u>	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Kansas U.S.	4.6% 14.9	6.3% 16.1	-4.3% 7.2	5.8% 14.5	14.3% 18.5	3.2% 13.4	5.1% 11.4	4.8% 9.8	4.2% 7.3	3.4% 5.3	2.9% 4.7
Kansas % Share of U.S. Population	1.67	1.53	1.36	1.26	1.21	1.10	1.04	1.00	.97	.95	.94

Source: KCCED calculations on data from Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Vol. 1; Census of Population, 1960, Number of Inhabitants, Final Report; 1980 Census of Population, Vol. 1, Chapter A, Part 18; 1990 Decennial Census, mimeographed sheet; Upmeier, Helga and Anthony Redwood, Kansas Population Projections 1985-2020, Institute for Public Policy and Business Research Report #158, January 1989.

Figure 1.2
Urban and Rural Population in Kansas
Decade Ending Rates of Change, 1900-1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, PC(1)-18A; 1980 Census of Population, PC80-1-A-18; Current Population Reports, Series P-26, No. 86-WNC-SC; No. 88-WNC-SC.

- Population growth in Kansas has been dominated by urban places. Since the turn of the century, rural population has increased in only two of the nine decades, during the 1930s and the 1980s.
- In recent decades, the urban to rural shift in population has become less pronounced. To some extent, this is due to the new roles for non-metropolitan counties as labor sources for urbanized counties. However, not all rural counties are able to assume this new role. Across the Midwestern states during the period 1982 to 1986, non-metropolitan counties which were adjacent to urban centers grew annually by 0.9 percent, while counties which were not adjacent to urbanized counties declined in population by 0.3 percent per year¹.

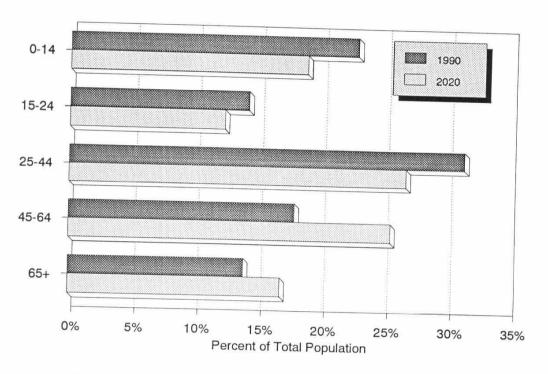
National Governors' Association, Economic Realities in Rural America: Recent Trends, Future Prospects, (Washington: National Governors' Association, 1988.)

Table 1.2 Urban and Rural Population in Kansas Decade Ending Rates of Change, 1900-1990

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1050	1060	1070		
Urban Rural		58.3%	25.5%	18.1%	1940 3.3%	31.7%	1960 33.7%	1970 11.7%	1980 6.1%	1990 8.7%
Kulai	-1.5	5.0 -4.0	0.0	-9.0	-12.9	-6.8	-10.4		-2.9	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population, PC(1)-18A; 1980 Census of Population, PC80-1-A-18; Current Population Reports, Series P-26, No. 86-WNC-SC; No. 88-WNC-SC; 1990 Census of Population, CPH-L-79, Population and Housing Units by Urban and Rural for Kansas.

Figure 1.3
Kansas Population by Age Group
1990 Actual, 2020 Projections



Source: Upmeier, Helga, and Anthony Redwood, Kansas Population Projections 1985-2020, Institute for Public Policy and Business Research Report #158, January 1989; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports: Population Estimates and Projections, Series p-25 No. 952, 1984; 1990 data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of the Population, Summary Tape File 1A, Characteristics of the Population.

- The median age of the Kansas population is the same as the U.S. median age, 32.9 years. However, Kansas has a greater share of population than the U.S. in the newborn to 24 year old cohorts and in the 65 and over age groups. This concentration of population at the extremes means that Kansas has a smaller share of its population in prime working years, and has a higher proportion of its population in age groups generally considered as 'dependent' upon other age groups for support.
- By the year 2020, the differences in age structure between Kansas and the U.S. are expected to narrow, with the Kansas median age becoming slightly younger than the U.S. figure. The population of both Kansas and the U.S. will become more evenly distributed across age groups, with relatively less emphasis on the Age 5 to 44 age groups than is presently the case due to the aging of 'baby boomers' and their children.

Table 1.3

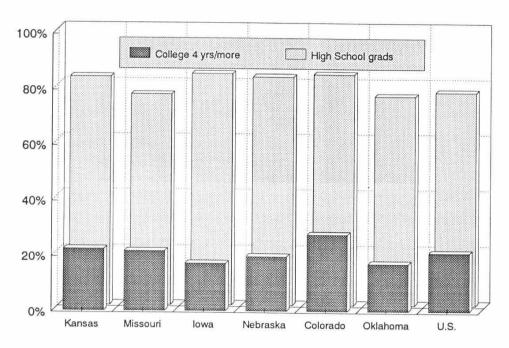
Age of the Population

Kansas and U.S., 1990 and 2020

	Perc	entage of Actual of	r Projected Popul	ation
Age Group	Kansas	Kansas	U.S.	U.S.
	1990	2020	1990	2020
0-5	7.6%	6.1%	7.4%	6.1%
5-14	15.2	12.7	14.2	
15-24	14.2	12.3	14.8	12.4
25-34	16.7	13.5		12.2
35-44	14.6	13.2	17.4	13.4
45-54	9.5		15.1	12.5
55-64	8.4	11.5	10.1	12.1
65-74		14.0	8.5	13.6
75+	7.5	10.1	7.3	10.0
	6.4	6.7	5.3	7.3
Median Age-yrs.	32.9	38.9	32.9	39.3

Source: Upmeier, Helga, and Anthony Redwood, Kansas Population Projections 1985-2020, Institute for Public Policy and Business Research Report #158, January 1989; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports: Population Estimates and Projections, Series p-25 No. 952, 1984; 1990 data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of the Population, Summary Tape File 1A, Characteristics of the Population.

Figure 1.4
Levels of Education, Persons Over 25
Kansas, Neighboring States and U.S.,1989



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Educational Attainment in the U.S., March 1991 and 1990.

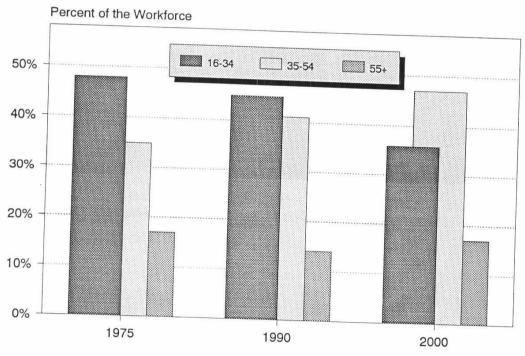
- The Kansas workforce is well educated relative to the national average, with 22.3 percent of adults age 25 or older having 4 or more years' college education. Of the neighboring states only Colorado has higher rates of educational attainment.
- While Iowa and Nebraska have slightly higher rates of high school completion, fewer of their high school graduates complete 4 years of college than do so in Kansas.

Table 1.4 Levels of Educational Attainment, Persons 25 or Older Kansas, Neighboring States and U.S., 1989

	Percentage of Adults Age 25 or Older			
	Completed High School	4 or More Years College		
Kansas	82.2%	22.3%		
Missouri	75.9	21.6		
Iowa	83.4	17.1		
Nebraska	82.2	19.7		
Colorado	83.3	27.7		
Oklahoma	75.4	17.1		
UNITED STATES	76.9	21.1		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Educational Attainment in the U.S., March 1991 and 1990.

Age Structure of the Workforce U.S., 1975, 1990 and 2000



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor, Monthly Labor Review, November 1991, pg. 36.

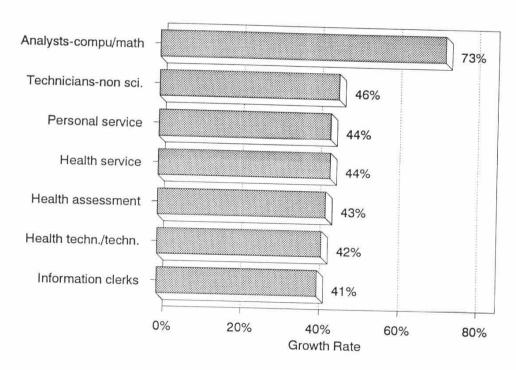
- The proportion of the U.S. workforce age 35-54, 35 percent of all workers in 1975, is expected to rise to 47 percent by the year 2005. This older, more experienced and more stable portion of the workforce will also be less flexible, less adaptable to change and less likely to relocate in response to career opportunities than those age 16 through 34.
- The youngest portion of the labor force, those age 16 to 34, will decline from 48 percent in 1975 to 36 percent of all workers in 2005. This reduced supply of new entrants to the workforce will mean there will be greater pressures on retraining older workers as new technologies are introduced.

Table 1.5 Age Structure of the Workforce, 1975, 1990 & 2005

Percentage Distribution	1975	1990	2005
Age 16-34	48%	45%	36%
Age 35-54	35	41	47
Age 55+	17	14	17

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor, Monthly Labor Review, November 1991, pg. 36.

Figure 1.6
Fastest Growing Occupational Sub-Groups
U.S., 1990-2005, Job Creation 400,000+



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review, Vol. 114, No. 1 (November 1991), pp.68-80.

- Employment projections to the year 2005 call for the greatest growth areas in occupations requiring high levels of education or highly specific skills. The two fastest growing occupational groups are technicians (37%) and professional specialties (32%)
- The high-growth occupations are dominated by sub-groups focusing upon personal and medical and information services. Health service, assessment and treating, and health technicians and technologists occupations combined account for nearly 11 percent of all job creation to the year 2005.

Table 1.6
Fastest Growing Occupational Subgroups, 1990-2005
Ranked by Net Job Creation

Group	New Jobs (000s)	Growth Rate
Managers & administrators	2,336	***
Food preparation & service	2,325	26%
Teachers, librarians, & counselors		30
Miscellaneous clerical & administrative support	1,593	28
Miscellaneous sales & related	1,349	19
Management support	1,222	23
Transportation/material moving and it is	1,079	30
Transportation/material moving machine/vehicle of Health assessment & treating		21
Personal service	999	43
Retail salespersons	972	44
retair salespeisons	887	24
Total, all groups	24,618	20

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review, Vol. 114, No. 1 (November 1991), pp.68-80.

Table 1.7
Fastest Growing Major Occupational Groups, 1990-2005
Ranked by Growth Rate

New Jobs (000s)	Growth Rate
1,550	37%
	32
The state of the s	29
	27
	24 20
	New Jobs (000s) 1,550 5,107 5,602 3,414 3,401 24,618

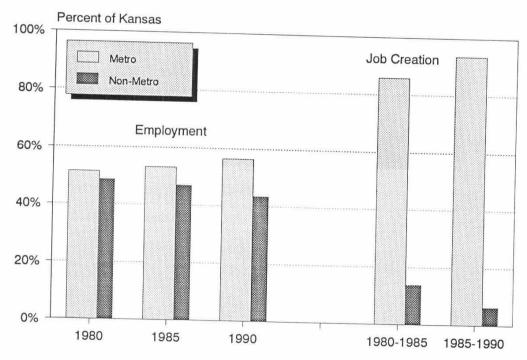
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review, Vol. 114, No. 1 (November 1991), pp.68-80.

Table 1.8
Fastest Growing Occupational Subgroups, 1990-2005
Ranked by Growth Rate

Group	New Jobs (000s)	Growth Rate
Computer, mathematical, & operations research analy Travel agents	sts 416	73%
	82	62
Technicians (except health, engineering & science) Personal service	475	46
Health service	972	44
	860	44
Health assessment & treating Social scientists	999	43
	96	43
Health technicians & technologists	763	42
Information clerks	584	41
Gardeners & groundskeepers (non-farm)	348	40
Securities & financial services sales	76	40
Total, all groups	24,618	20%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review, Vol. 114, No. 1 (November 1991), pp.68-80.

Figure 1.7
Employment and Job Creation Shares
Kansas Metro and Non-Metro Areas, 1980-90



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Information System*, Table CA25. Metropolitan Statistical Areas include: Kansas City, Kansas MSA (Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte Counties); Lawrence MSA (Douglas County); Topeka MSA (Shawnee County); and, Wichita MSA (Butler, Harvey and Sedgwick Counties).

- Employment in Kansas has become increasingly concentrated in urban areas. In 1980, metropolitan areas accounted for 51 percent of all employment; by 1990, this figure was 57 percent. Over the period 1985 to 1990, nearly 94 percent of all net new jobs were located in the metropolitan areas: 110,700 jobs were added in the nine metropolitan counties, while the remaining 96 counties shared only 7,400 net new jobs.
- The 1980-1990 job creation rate was 25.5 percent in metropolitan counties and only 2.7 percent in non-metropolitan counties.

1.14

Table 1.9
Employment in Kansas
Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Areas, 1980, 1985, 1990

	N	umber Employ	yed	Net Job	Creation
	1980	1985	1990	1980-85	1985-90
		(in	thousands)		
Metropolitan Areas	662.5	720.8	831.5	58.3	110.7
Non-Metropolitan Areas	624.3	633.7	641.1	9.4	7.4
State Totals	1,286.7	1,354.5	1,472.6	67.8	118.1

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA25. Metropolitan Statistical Areas include: Kansas City, Kansas MSA (Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte Counties); Lawrence MSA (Douglas County); Topeka MSA (Shawnee County); and, Wichita MSA (Butler, Harvey and Sedgwick Counties).

- The highest paying industries in the U.S. in 1991 were Mining, with average weekly wages of \$631, Construction (\$534) and Transportation and Public Utilities (\$512).
- The greatest rates of increases in wages over the period 1987-1991 occurred in the Services industry (+20.6%), followed by Mining (+18.7%), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (+17.9%) and Wholesale Trade (+17.9%).
- The Retail and Construction industries lost ground relative to other industry groups with respect to wage increases throughout the decade. Services and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate performed better than the all-industry average in both the early and late parts of the decade.

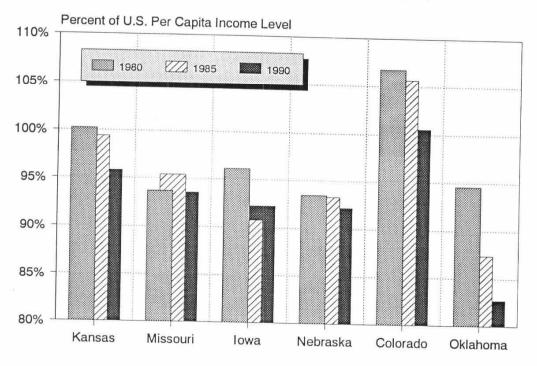
Table 1.10 Average Weekly Earnings by Industry U.S., 1983, 1987 and 1991

Industry	Ave	rage Weekly Earn	nings	Dercente	o Chama
	<u>1983</u>	1987	<u>1991</u>	1983-87	ge Change 1987-91
Mining	\$479.40	\$531.70	\$630.92		LIVERNIE ATTIL
Construction	442.97	480.44	1 15 2 15 71	10.9%	18.7%
Manufacturing	E-14-17-02-18	15 Nov. 1940. 19. Nov. 1940	533.78	8.5	11.1
	354.08	406.31	455.03	14.8	12.0
Transportation/Utilities	420.81	471.58	512.00	12.0	8.6
Wholesale	328.25	365.30	425.20	11.3	0.000.000
Retail	171.13	178.80	200.20		16.4
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	263.68			4.5	12.0
Services		316.37	373.04	20.0	17.9
Scivices	239.04	276.03	332.80	15.5	20.6
Total Private Sector	280.70	312.50	354.66	11.1	13.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor, Monthly Labor Review, February 1992 pg. 81.

Figure 1.8

Per Capita Personal Income Levels
Kansas & Neighboring States, 1980/85/90



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table SA2.

- Kansas per capita incomes, at \$17,896 in 1990, were higher than those of all of the surrounding states except Colorado. However, Kansas per capita incomes in 1990 were 4 percent lower than the U.S. average of \$18,685.
- Kansas lost ground relative to the state and most of the surrounding states with respect to per capita personal incomes from 1980 to 1990. Only Oklahoma and Colorado declined more than Kansas did during the decade in relation to the state percent of U.S. per capita incomes.

Table 1.11
Per Capita Personal Income Levels
Kansas, Neighboring States, and U.S., 1980, 1985 and 1990

	Pe	r Capita Income	Levels	Percent	of U.S. I	.evel
	1980	1985	1990	1980	1985	1990
Kansas	\$9,941	\$13,812	\$17,896	100.2%	99.4%	95.8%
Missouri	9,298	13,250	17,497	93.7	95.4	93.6
Iowa	9,537	12,619	17,249	96.1	90.8	92.3
Nebraska	9,274	12,967	17,221	93.5	93.3	92.2
Colorado	10,598	14,699	18,794	106.8	105.7	100.6
Oklahoma	9,393	12,139	15,444	94.6	87.4	82.7
Plains Region*	9,534	13,273	17,663	96.1	95.5	94.5
U.S.	9,919	13,896	18,685			1011 1112

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table SA2.

*Note: Plains Region includes the states of: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

• Per capita incomes in Kansas non-metropolitan areas (\$13,493) were 32 percent lower than those of metropolitan areas (\$19,740) in 1990. This represented a relative decline for non-metropolitan areas since 1980, from a differential of 19 percent.

Table 1.12
Per Capita Personal Income Levels
Kansas Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Counties, 1980-1990

	1980	1985	1990
Metropolitan	\$11,011	\$14,952	\$19,740
Non-Metropolitan	8,933	13,306	16,145
State of Kansas	9,941	13,930	18,104
U.S.	9,919	13,942	18,685

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

- The composition of income varies considerably between non-metropolitan counties and the state as a whole. Only 47 percent of personal income in non-metropolitan counties is attributable to employment, compared with a state-wide share of 58 percent.
- Property income, in the form of dividends, interest and rent is more important in non-metropolitan areas (20.3 vs. 18.4% in Kansas), as is Transfer payments (17.1% vs. 14.0%).

Table 1.13
Percentage of Personal Income, by Source, 1986-1990 Average
Non-metropolitan Counties and Kansas Totals

	Wages & Labor	<u>Farm</u>	Non-Farm	Property	Transfers
Non-metropolitan	46.7%	7.6%	9.1%	20.3%	17.1%
Kansas Totals	58.2	3.5	8.1	18.4	14.0

Source: Calculations by KU-IPPBR on data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5. Shares do not total 100% since adjustments for residence and social security premium payments are not included.

- Kansas is a small business state. Of businesses with employees (i.e., excluding selfemployed proprietors), over 88 percent of Kansas firms have 19 or fewer employees; fully 96 percent of Kansas firms employ fewer than 49 people.
- Net job creation in Kansas however, has been dominated by larger firms. Firms employing 50 or more (4.2% of Kansas firms) have accounted for nearly 60 percent of net new wage-earning jobs since 1980. This is a greater concentration of job creation than the U.S. average; these size firms accounted for 5 percent of U.S. firms and 54 percent of net new jobs in the U.S. over the same period.

Table 1.14

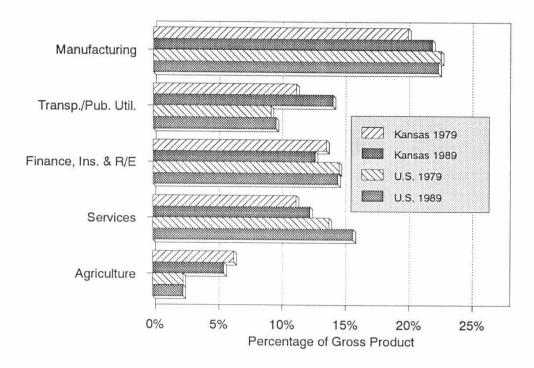
Net Job Creation by Size of Firm

Firms with Employees, Kansas and U.S. 1980-1989

Firm Size	Percent of I	Firms, 1989 Po	irms, 1989 Percent of Net Job Creation 1980-		
(# of Employees)	Kansas	U.S.	Kansas	U.S.	
1-9	76.1%	74.5%	12.7%	14.8%	
10-19	12.2	12.4	12.6	12.4	
20-49	7.7	8.1	14.8	18.4	
50-99	2.5	2.8	19.2	15.3	
100-249	1.3	1.6	24.7	20.3	
250+	0.4	0.6	15.9	18.8	

Source: Calculations by KU-IPPBR using data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, County Business Patterns

Gross Product Shares, Selected Industries
Kansas and U.S., 1979 and 1989



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Economic Review, Second Quarter, 1992.

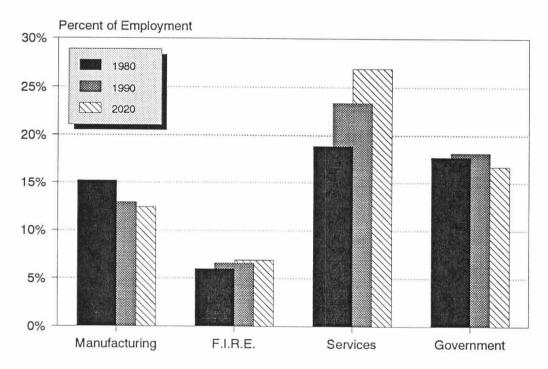
- Kansas' industrial performance relative to the U.S. during the 1980s has been mixed. Transportation and Public Utilities, a Kansas strength, grew rapidly during the 1980s, accounting for 14.2 percent of Kansas output in 1989, compared with the U.S. average of only 9.7 percent. Manufacturing, not one of Kansas' strong suits in 1979, grew to 22 percent of output by 1989, nearly equalling the U.S. average share (22.5%).
- Finance, insurance and real estate, relatively underdeveloped in Kansas in 1979 at 13.7 percent of output, declined further to 12.8 percent during the 1980s, while the industry maintained its share of output nationwide.
- Services grew in importance in Kansas to 12.4 percent of output, but continued to lag the U.S. average of 15.8 percent of output from this industry.
- Agriculture in Kansas accounted for 5.6 percent of output, more than double the nationwide share of output from this industry; agricultural output in 1989 in Kansas was down from 6.4 percent in 1979.

Table 1.15 Output Shares by Major Industry Category Kansas, and U.S., 1979 and 1989

	Percentage Sha	re of Total Gross	Product		
	Ka	nsas	U	.s.	
Industry Category	1979	1989	1979	1989	
Agriculture	6.4%	5.6%	2.4%	2.4%	
Mining	6.0	2.8	4.5	3.1	
Construction	5.2	3.2	5.3	4.3	
Manufacturing	20.1	22.0	22.7	22.5	
Fransportation	11.3	14.2	9.3	9.7	
Wholesale Trade	6.3	6.9	6.3	7.4	
Retail Trade	8.9	9.6	9.3	10.0	
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	13.7	12.8	14.7	14.6	
Services	11.3	12.4	13.9	15.8	
Government	10.8	10.5	11.7	10.1	

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Economic Review, Second Quarter, 1992.

Figure 1.10
Employment Shares, Selected Industries
Kansas, 1980, 1990 and 2020



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA25, Full and Part-Time Employees by Major Industry and BEA Regional Projections, June 1990.

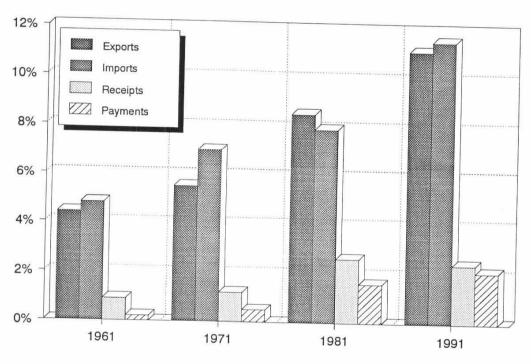
- The services industry is expected to continue to grow in importance in Kansas. By the year 2020, Services will account for nearly 27 percent of all jobs, compared with 23 percent in 1990 and 18.9 percent in 1980.
- Government employment, which increased in importance during the 1980s to 18 percent
 of Kansas employment, is expected to occupy a 16.7 percent share of all jobs in the
 year 2020.
- Manufacturing is projected to continue to decline in relative importance, from 1990's 12.9 percent share of employment to 12.4 percent in 2020.

Table 1.16 Employment Shares by Major Industry Category State of Kansas, 1980, 1990 and 2020

	Percer	tage Share of Total Emplo	yment
	1980	1990	2020
<u>Farm</u>	7.9%	5.7%	4.6%
Non-Farm Private Sector	74.7	76.1	78.7
Agricultural Services	0.5	0.7	1.1
Mining	2.1	1.8	1.7
Construction	5.1	4.6	4.2
Manufacturing	15.2	12.9	12.4
Transportation/Public Utilities	5.6	5.2	4.9
Wholesale	5.3	5.0	4.9
Retail	15.4	15.8	15.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	6.0	6.6	6.9
Services	18.9	23.4	26.9
Government	17.7	18.2	16.7

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table SA25, Full and Part-Time Employees by Major Industry and BEA Regional Projections, June 1990.

Exports, Imports and Foreign Investment Percentage Share of GDP, 1961-1991



Source: Economic Report of the President, February 1992, Tables B-1, B-2, B-100.

* Foreign investment data (only) shown as 1991 is 1990 data.

- The U.S. economy has become much more interdependent with the economies of other nations over the past thirty years. Since 1961, exports have increased from slightly over 4 percent of Gross Domestic Product to over 11 percent in 1991. Meanwhile, imports have increased from 4.8 percent to 11.5 percent of GDP.
- Direct investment abroad and domestic investment by foreign firms have also increased dramatically, further tying the U.S. economy with international economies. In 1990, payments on foreign investments in the U.S. accounted for ten times the share of GDP that they did in 1961, while receipts on U.S. assets invested aborad nearly tripled from 1961 levels.

Table 1.17
U.S. Exports and Imports and Foreign Investment Income
Percentage Share of U.S. Gross Domestic Product, 1961-1991

Exports of Goods & Services	1961	1971	1981	1991*
(Imports) of Goods & Services	4.4%	5.5%	8.5%	11.1%
	(4.8)	(7.0)	(7.9)	(11.5)
Receipts on U.S. Assets Abroad (Payments) on Foreign Assets in U.S.	.9	1.2	2.6	2.4
	(.2)	(0.5)	(1.6)	(2.1)

Source: Economic Report of the President, February 1992, Tables B-1, B-2, B-100.

- Levels of taxation in Kansas are generally consistent with those of the neighboring states. At \$2,461, state and local taxes per capita are about 8 percent lower than the national average.
- Kansas relies more heavily upon local taxation than most of the neighboring states. At \$1,468, local taxes per capita are more than twice the national average, ranking Kansas 19th in the nation.
- Levels of state taxes in Kansas are 14 percent lower than the national average, ranking Kansas 33rd in terms of per capita state level taxes. When taxation levels from state and local levels of governments are combined, Kansas ranked 29th in the nation.

Table 1.18
State and Local Taxes Per Capita
Kansas, Neighboring States and U.S., 1988-1989

		Level of Ta	xation and Na	tionwide Ranl	k	
200	State	Rank	Local	Rank	- Total	Rank
Kansas	\$993	33	\$1,468	19	\$2,461	29
Missouri	908	38	1,096	42	2,004	45
Iowa	1,112	22	1,431	27	2,543	25
Nebraska	900	42	1,647	10	2,547	24
Colorado	875	45	1,781	5	2,656	19
Oklahoma	1,027	29	1,149	40	2,176	100000
U.S.	1,147		648	40	2,659	40

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, State Government Finances in 1989; Governmental Finances in 1988-89; Calculations by the Institute for Public Policy and Business Research.

^{*} Foreign investment data (only) shown in 1991 column is 1990 data.

Section II: Population

Population size and economic activity are closely related. Changes in population size are directly linked to employment opportunities, wage differentials between regions, and a community's overall economic conditions and quality of life. Generally, areas of population growth are also areas of economic growth, whereas areas of population loss suffered previous economic decline and restructuring.

Communities with growing populations are generally regarded to be more able to adapt to a changing economic environment due to the opportunities presented by new residents as additional consumers, taxpayers and suppliers of labor. Without population growth, communities face problems of a tightening labor market, lack of new customers for businesses, a shrinking tax base, and an overall decline in economic activity.

The following section examines population levels, population change, migration, age composition and other population characteristics for McPherson County, the State of Kansas, and selected neighboring counties as comparatives. Population characteristics are regarded as indicators of a region's economic conditions and economic potential for the following reasons:

- The level of McPherson County's population relative to the state population reflects the county's overall level of competitiveness with respect to other regions within the state. A minimum population is necessary to sustain a basic level of public and private services and facilities.
- Past and projected population change is indicative of community economic trends and can be compared to other counties and the statewide and national averages.
- Migration is linked to job opportunities and demand as well as wage differentials between regions. Counties with low rates of job creation and low wages will face higher worker mobility due to a "push" factor (lack of opportunity) or a "pull" phenomenon by urban areas with higher wages, better job opportunities, and a perceived better quality of life. Other determinants of regional migration are age and education. Generally, there is a life cycle pattern to migration with the population aged 18 to 45 being the most mobile age group. The effect of education on migration is reflected by the movement of well-educated workers toward better job matches for themselves and their spouses and their attempts to raise their income levels by migrating to areas with employment opportunities.

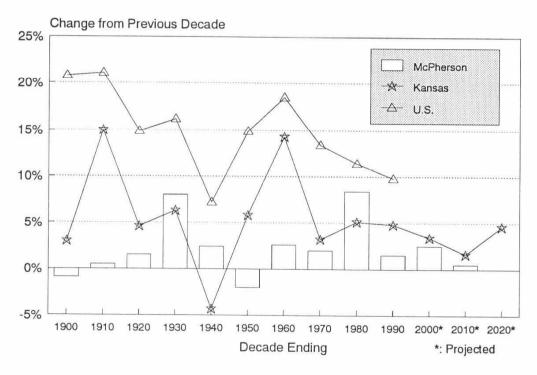
- The age composition of the population is relevant with respect to the labor supply. A youthful population supplies the labor market with new workers whereas an older population will eventually create constraints on labor markets and increasing demands for social security, health care programs, and public services and assistance. The aging of the population is a statewide and national phenomenon due to better health care and a decline in birth rates. However, aging of the population is more severe in rural America due to out-migration of the younger generation.
- The distribution of urban and rural population is studied to understand how concentrated or dispersed the population is. A more concentrated population tends to have a higher demand for all categories of services, which affects the sectoral pattern of economic development.
- The ethnic composition of the population shows the diversity of backgrounds of the
 population and the need to consider a wide range of viewpoints in developing
 appropriate plans for the community.

POPULATION: KEY FINDINGS

- McPherson County gained population in every decade since 1890 except those ending in 1900 and 1950, with the largest increase occurring between 1970 and 1980.
- For the period 1980 to 1990, McPherson County's rate of population increase (1.5%) declined from previous decades, but compared favorably with the group of counties selected as medium and adjacent comparatives (-1.1% and -1.1%, respectively).
- Between 1950 and 1990, the city of McPherson grew by 43 percent, roughly equalling the growth rate in Newton and doubling the growth rate of Great Bend.
- Population growth is projected to level off in McPherson County after 2000, with virtually no increase in population expected between the years 2000 and 2020.
- Movers out of McPherson County exceeded movers into the county by 975 during the 1980 to 1990 period. This accounted for a -3.6% change in population levels, which was more than offset by natural increase in population (births minus deaths). McPherson's net migration rate compared favorably with virtually all of the adjacent and medium sized comparative counties.
- In 1990, the urban-rural distribution of population in McPherson County was 57% urban and 43% rural.
- McPherson County's share of under-18 population is less than that of most adjacent counties, while its share of over-65 population is higher than any comparative county, at 17.4 percent. This compared with 13.8 percent for Kansas.
- The proportion of the working-age population is 56.5% in McPherson County compared to 59.5% for the state and 61.8% for the U.S. By the year 2020, 18.8 percent of McPherson's population will be over 65 years of age. More than one-third of the population will be outside the 18-65 age category normally considered to be the prime working age categories.
- The median age of the McPherson County population has increased from 31.8 years in 1980 to 34.7 in 1990, similar to trends experienced in comparative counties. McPherson County's median age is higher than the statewide and national average of 32.9 and is higher than nearly all of the comparative counties.
- McPherson County has a relatively small proportion of racial and ethnic minorities compared to the state and the U.S.

POPULATION: DATA ANALYSIS

Ten-year Population Growth Rates McPherson County, Kansas & U.S.



Source: Population Totals: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Vol. 1; Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants; 1980 Census of Population, PC80-1-A-18; 1990 Census of Population, STF1-A. Population Projections: Upmeier, Helga and Anthony Redwood, "Kansas Population Trends and Projections," Kansas Business Review, Vol. 12, No. 4, Summer 1989.

- Since 1950, McPherson County's population has grown by an average of 500 each decade.
- Population in McPherson County reached its peak in 1990 with 27,268 people. This
 represented a 27.3% increase since the beginning of the century.
- Except for the decade between 1940 and 1950, McPherson County has experienced population growth throughout this century. Although the rates of increase have been relatively small, they have been steady. The rate of increase peaked between 1970 and 1980 at 8.4%.

Table 2.1
Population Totals, Ten-Year Growth Rates and Ranking
Actual 1890-1990, Projection 1990-2020

		Population Totals	3	Ten-Year Growth Rates					
Year	McPherson County	Kansas	U.S. (millions)	McPherson County	Kansas	U.S.	County Rank		
1890	21,614	1,428,108	62.9				21		
1900	21,421	1,470,495	76.0	-0.9%	3.0%	20.8%	23		
1910	21,521	1,690,949	92.0	0.5	15.0	21.1	22		
1920	21,845	1,769,257	105.7	1.5	4.6	14.9	24		
1930	23,588	1,880,999	122.8	8.0	6.3	16.2	19		
1940	24,152	1,801,028	131.7	2.4	-4.3	7.2	18		
1950	23,670	1,905,299	151.3	-2.0	5.8	14.9	18		
1960	24,285	2,178,611	179.3	2.6	14.3	18.5	20		
1970	24,778	2,249,071	203.3	2.0	3.2	13.4	19		
1980	26,855	2,364,236	226.5	8.4	5.1	11.4	18		
1990	27,268	2,477,574	248.7	1.5	4.8	9.8	20		
2000*	27,946	2,562,890	N/A	2.5	3.4	N/A	19		
2010*	28,087	2,604,664	N/A	0.5	1.6	N/A	19		
2020*	28,091	2,723,689	N/A	0.0	4.6	N/A	21		

^{*}Projection.

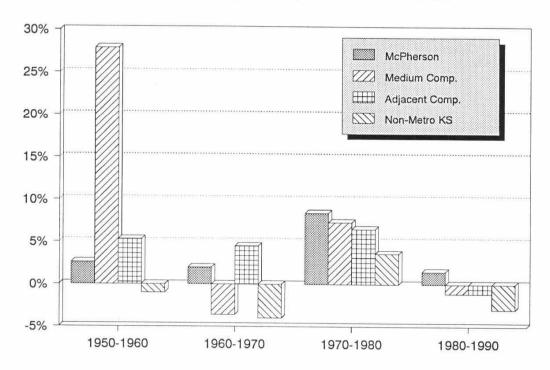
Source: Population Totals: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Vol. 1; Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants; 1980 Census of Population, PC80-1-A-18; 1990 Census of Population, STF1-A. Population Projections: State of Kansas, Office of the Budget, State Demographer, 1992.

- McPherson County gained population in every decade since 1890 except those ending in 1900 and 1950, with the largest increase occurring between 1970 and 1980.
- While McPherson County gained population for the last 70 years, the Kansas population also grew slowly but steadily during the same period of time. However, Kansas' rates of population growth were only half of the U.S. average.
- Population growth is projected to level off in McPherson County after 2000, with virtually no increase in population expected between the years 2000 and 2020.
- Population growth in Kansas is expected to moderate to rates about two-thirds of current growth rates.

Figure 2.2

Rate of Population Change, 1950-1990

McPherson, Comparative, Non-Metro Counties



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants, Final Report; 1980 Census of Population, PC80-1-A-18; 1990 Census of Population, STF1-A; State of Kansas, Division of the Budget, State Demographer, 1992.

- For the period 1980 to 1990, McPherson County's rate of population increase (1.5%) declined from previous decades, but compared favorably with the group of counties selected as medium and adjacent comparatives (-1.1% and -1.1%, respectively).
- While several of the adjacent comparative counties experienced population declines between 1980 and 1990, McPherson County's population grew by 1.5 percent.

Table 2.2
Population Totals
McPherson, Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1950-1990

	1950	1960	1970	_1980_	1990
McPherson	23,670	24,285	24,778	26,855	27,26
Johnson	62,783	143,792	220,073	270,269	355,05
Sedgwick	222,290	343,231	350,694	367,088	403,66
Metro Comparatives	285,073	487,023	570,767	637,357	758,71
Reno	54,058	59,055	60,765	64,938	62,38
Saline	33,409	54,715	46,592	48,905	49,30
Harvey	21,698	25,865	27,236	30,531	31,02
Medium Comparatives	109,165	139,635	134,593	144,374	142,71
Barton	29,909	32,368	30,663	31,343	29,38
Ellis	19,043	21,270	24,730	26,098	26,00
Franklin	19,928	19,548	20,007	22,062	21,99
Lyon	26,576	26,928	32,071	35,108	34,73
Sumner	23,646	25,316	23,553	24,928	25,84
Adjacent Comparatives	119,102	125,430	131,024	139,539	137,95
Kansas Non-Metro	1,200,649	1,188,091	1,139,717	1,180,204	1,144,64
Kansas	1,905,299	2,178,611	2,249,071	2,364,236	2,477,57
U.S. (millions)	151.3	179.3	203.3	226.5	248

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants, Final Report; 1980 Census of Population, PC80-1-A-18; 1990 Census of Population, STF1-A.

Table 2.3
Population Ten-Year Growth Rates
McPherson, Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1950-1990

		Area Population C	Change, 1950-1990	<u>)</u>
	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-199
McPherson	2.6%	2.0%	8.4%	1.5%
Johnson	129.0	53.0	22.8	31.4
Sedgwick	54.4	2.2	4.7	10.0
Metro Comparatives	70.8	17.2	11.7	19.0
Reno	9.2	2.9	6.9	-3.9
Saline	63.8	-14.8	5.0	0.8
Harvey	19.2	5.3	12.1	1.6
Medium Comparatives	27.9	-3.6	7.3	-1.1
Barton	8.2	-5.3	2.2	-6.3
Ellis	11.7	16.3	5.5	-0.3
Franklin	-1.9	2.3	10.3	-0.3
Lyon	1.3	19.1	9.5	-1.1
Sumner	7.1	-7.0	5.8	3.7
Adjacent Comparatives	5.3	4.5	6.5	-1.1
Kansas Non-Metro	-1.0	-4.0	3.6	-3.0
Kansas	14.3	3.2	5.1	4.8
U.S. (millions)	18.5	13.4	11.4	9.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants, Final Report; 1980 Census of Population, PC80-1-A-18; 1990 Census of Population, STF1-A.

Table 2.4

County Population Ranking in the State

McPherson, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, 1940, 1990, and 2020 (in thousands)

					2.	W SERVER PRO	(:)	
Rank		1940		1990			2020 (Projected)	 :
2	Sedgwick	Pop. 143.3	Ran	<u>k</u> Sedgwick	Pop. 403.7	Rank	Johnson	Pop
4	Reno Johnson	52.2 33.3	2	Johnson	355.1	2	Sedgwick	624 478
13	Saline	29.5	10	Reno Saline	62.4 49.3	10 11	Reno Saline	54 43
14 15	Lyon Sumner	26.4 26.2	14 16	Lyon Harvey	34.7	15	Lyon	3'
17 18	Barton McPherson	25.0	18	Barton	31.0 29.4	18 20	Harvey Sumner	29
22	Harvey	24.2 21.7	20 21	McPherson Ellis	27.3 26.0	21	McPherson	28
25 31	Franklin Ellis	20.9 17.5	22	Sumner	25.8	22 24	Ellis Barton	26 25
-		17.5	25	Franklin	22.0	26	Franklin	22

Source: University of Kansas, IPPBR, Kansas Statistical Abstract, 1989-90, "Population of Kansas Counties, 1890-1980; U.S. Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Vol. 1; Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants; 1980 Census of Population, Vol. 1, Chapter A, Part 18; 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Characteristics: Kansas, CPH-1-18; State of Kansas, Division of the Budget, State Demographer, 1992.

- Relative to its comparative counties, McPherson County has maintained its population ranking.
- By the year 2020, McPherson is expected to be 21st largest of the 105 Kansas counties, with a population of about 28,100.

Table 2.5

Population Levels, Selected Cities

McPherson, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, 1950-1990

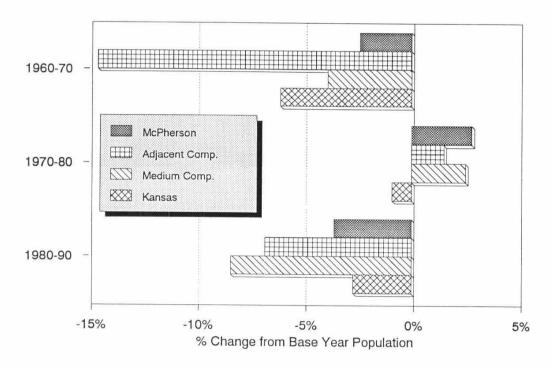
C':							Change
City	County	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1950-1990
McPherson	McPherson	8,689	9,996	10,851	11,753	12,422	43.0%
Lindsborg	McPherson	2,383	2,609	2,764	3,155	3,076	29.1
Moundridge	McPherson	942	1,214	1,271	1,453	1,531	62.5
Overland Park*	Johnson			77,934	81,784	111,790	43.4
Wichita	Sedgwick	168,279	254,698	276,554	279,272	304,011	80.7
Hutchinson	Reno	33,575	37,574	36,885	40,284	39,308	17.1
Salina	Saline	26,176	43,202	37,714	41,843	42,303	61.6
Newton	Harvey	11,590	14,877	15,439	16,332	16,700	44.1
Great Bend	Barton	12,665	16,670	16,133	16,608	15,427	21.8
Hays	Ellis	8,625	11,947	15,396	16,301	17,767	106.0
Emporia	Lyon	15,669	18,190	23,327	25,287	25,512	62.8
Ottawa	Franklin	10,081	10,673	11,036	11,016	10,667	5.8
Wellington	. Sumner	7,747	8,809	8,072	8,212	8,411	8.6

^{*}Overland Park City incorporated from parts of Mission, Oxford and Shawnee Townships. Percent growth is calculated for 1970-1990.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, Number of Inhabitants, 1960-PC(1)18A (Kansas); PC (80)-1-A18 (Kansas); 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, Kansas (CPH-1-18).

- Between 1950 and 1990, the city of McPherson grew by 43 percent, roughly equalling the growth rate in Newton and doubling the growth rate of Great Bend. Between 1980 and 1990, McPherson grew by 5.7%, while Newton increased 2.2%, and Great Bend declined by 7.2%. Hays showed particularly rapid growth, increasing by 9.0 percent.
- Lindsborg and Moundridge have grown by 29.1% and 62.5%, respectively since 1950.
 From 1980 to 1990, Lindsborg declined in population by 2.5%, while Moundridge grew by 5.5 percent.

Net Migration, 1960-1990 McPherson, Comparatives & Kansas



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Kansas Division of the Budget, mimeographed sheet, 1991.

- Out-migration accelerated for the period of 1980 to 1990 after a decade of population growth and in-migration. Between 1980 and 1990, McPherson County lost 3.6% of its 1980 population, while most comparative counties reported about twice as great a percentage loss. Due to natural increase (number of births minus number of deaths) this change was not evident in overall population levels for McPherson.
- The metropolitan comparative counties showed consistent gains in net migration.
 During the 1980s, in-migration alone accounted for a 7.5% increase in population in these counties.

Table 2.6 Net Migration, 1960-1990 McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	1	Net Migration		Percent of	of Base Year Po	pulation
	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-199
McPherson	-573	1,270	-975	-2.4%	2.8%	-3.6%
Johnson	49,946	29,117	54,783	34.7	13.2	20.3
Sedgwick	-44,085	-17,979	-7,228	-12.8	-5.3	-2.0
Metro Comp.	5,861	11,138	47,555	1.2	2.0	7.5
Reno	-3,375	1,114	-5,804	-5.7	-0.9	-8.9
Saline	-16,486	-959	-2,947	-30.1	-2.1	-6.0
Harvey	-498	1,894	-1,042	-1.9	2.6	-3.4
Adjacent Comp.	-20,359	2,049	-9,793	-14.6	1.5	-6.8
Barton	-5,148	-1,031	-4,369	-15.9	-3.4	-13.9
Ellis	73	1,106	-2,618	0.3	4.5	-10.0
Franklin	-200	1,467	-1,052	-1.0	7.3	-4.8
Lyon	3,027	650	-3,707	11.2	2.0	-10.6
Sumner	-2,607	1,060	-30	-10.3	4.5	-0.1
Medium Comp.	-4,855	3,252	-11,776	-3.9	2.5	-8.4
Kansas	-132,966	-20,344	-62,854	-6.1	-0.9	-2.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Kansas Division of the Budget, mimeographed sheet, 1991.

Table 2.7 Urban and Rural Population Distribution McPherson County and Kansas, 1930-1990

	McPh	nerson	Kan	sas
Year	<u>Urban</u>	_Rural_	Urban	Rural
1930	6,147	17,441	729,834	1,151,165
1940	7,194	16,958	753,941	1,047,087
1950	8,689	14,981	993,220	912,079
1960	12,605	11,680	1,328,741	849,870
1970	13,615	11,163	1,484,870	761,708
1980	14,908	11,947	1,575,899	787,780
1990	15,488	11,780	1,712,564	765,010

NOTE: 1930-1940 figures are based on the old urban definition while 1950-1990 are based on the current urban definition which now includes unincorporated urban areas.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population (PC(1)-18A); 1970 Census of the Population, General Population Characteristics (PC(1)-B18); 1980 Census of Population (PC80-1-B18); 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics: Kansas (CPH-1-18).

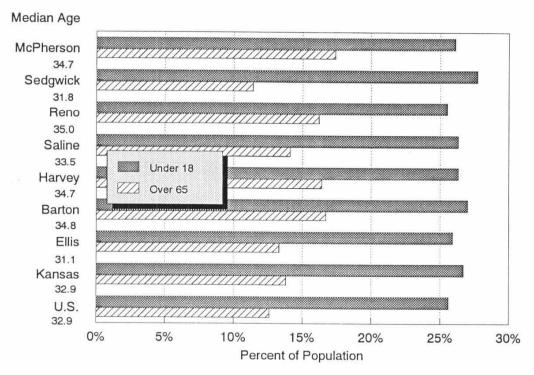
Table 2.8
Urban & Rural Population in McPherson County and Kansas, 1930-1990
Population Distribution and Growth Rates

	Urban-l	Rural Popula	tion Distribu	<u>ition</u>	Ur	ban & Rural	Growth Rat	tes
	McPh	erson	Kans	as	McPl	herson	Kan	ısas
Year	<u>Urban</u>	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1930	26.1%	73.9%	38.8%	61.2%				
1940	29.8	70.2	41.9	58.1	17.0%	-2.8%	3.4%	-9.1%
1950	36.7	63.3	52.1	47.9	20.8	-11.7	31.5	-12.8
1960	51.9	48.1	61.0	39.0	45.1	-22.0	33.9	-6.9
1970	54.9	45.1	66.0	34.0	8.0	-4.4	11.7	-10.0
1980	55.5	44.5	66.7	33.3	9.5	7.0	6.2	3.0
1990	56.8	43.2	69.1	30.9	3.9	-1.4	8.6	-2.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 Census of Population (PC(1)-18A); 1970 Census of the Population, General Population Characteristics (PC(1)-B18); 1980 Census of Population (PC80-1-B18); 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics: Kansas, CPH-1-18.

- In 1990, the urban-rural distribution of population in McPherson County was 57% urban and 43% rural.
- The proportion of the rural population in Kansas dropped from 61.2% to 30.9% between 1930 and 1990. The trend in McPherson County was similar, but not as pronounced.

Figure 2.4
1990 Population Under 18, Over 65
McPherson, Comparatives, Kansas and U.S.



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of the Population, Summary Tape File 1A, Characteristics of the Population.

- McPherson County's population differs from that of the state in that the working age population (18-65 years) is underrepresented compared to the over-65 population. In 1990, 56.5% of the population was in prime working age categories (18-65 years old), compared to 59.5% for the state. A low proportion of people in their prime working age with a high share of the dependent population (over 65 and under 18 years of age) is problematic with respect to shrinkage of the tax base.
- McPherson's share of population under-18 is less than that of most adjacent counties, while its over-65 population is the highest proportion of any comparative county, at 17.4 percent. This compared with 13.8 percent for Kansas
- The median age of the McPherson County population increased from 31.8 in 1980 to 34.7 in 1990, similar to trends experienced in comparative counties. McPherson County's median age (34.7 years) is higher than the statewide and national average (32.9) and was higher than that of all the comparatives except Reno and Harvey Counties.

Table 2.9
Age Composition
McPherson, Trade Area and Comparative Counties,
Kansas and U.S., 1990

	Pe	rcent of Populati	on
	Under 18	18-65	Over 65
McPherson	26.1%	56.5%	17.4%
Johnson	26.8	63.8	9.4
Sedgwick	27.7	60.9	11.4
Reno	25.5	58.8	16.2
Saline	26.3	59.6	14.1
Harvey	26.3	57.2	16.4
Barton	27.0	56.3	16.7
Ellis	25.9	60.1	13.3
Franklin	28.0	56.4	15.6
Lyon	26.8	61.0	12.3
Sumner	29.0	54.3	16.7
Kansas	26.7	59.5	13.8
U.S.	25.6	61.8	12.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of the Population, Summary Tape File 1A, Characteristics of the Population.

Table 2.10
Median Age of the Population, 1980 and 1990
McPherson, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S.

	Media	n Age	
	1980	1990	
McPherson	31.8	34.7	
Johnson	30.4	32.8	
Sedgwick	28.8	31.8	
Reno	30.7	35.0	
Saline	29.6	33.5	
Harvey	31.2	34.7	
Barton	30.9	34.8	
Ellis	25.7	31.1	
Franklin	32.4	33.3	
Lyon	26.3	29.1	
Sumner	33.8	34.9	
Kansas	30.1	32.9	
U.S.	30.0	32.9	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of the Population, Summary Tape File 1A, Characteristics of the Population.

Table 2.11
Population Shares by Age Group
McPherson County & Kansas, 1990-2020

	Actual Po	pulation	Projected	Shares of P	opulation	
Age Group	<u>1990</u>	Share	2000	2010	2020	
	McPherso	n County				
0-4	1,903	7.0%	6.3%	6.3%	5.8%	
5-14	4,227	15.5	13.5	12.1	12.2	
15-24	3,731	13.7	14.8	13.8	12.0	
25-34	3,902	14.3	11.9	13.2	13.3	
35-44	3,794	13.9	19.1	11.8	12.9	
45-54	2,550	9.4	14.7	14.7	11.4	
55-64	2,416	8.9	8.9	13.3	13.6	
65+	4,745	17.4	14.9	14.8	18.8	
Total	27,268	100.0				
	Actual Po	pulation	Projected	Shares of Pe	opulation	
Age Group	1990	Share	2000	2010	2020	
		State of K	Cansas			
0-4	188,390	7.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	
5-14	375,454	15.2	14.6	12.8	12.7	
15-24	352,263	14.2	14.5	14.0	12.3	
25-34	413,173	16.7	12.8	13.8	13.4	
35-44	361,326	14.6	16.5	12.1	13.2	
45-54	235,388	9.5	13.7	15.5	11.5	
55-64	209,009	8.4	8.5	1.3	16.8	
<u>65+</u>	342,571	13.8	12.7	13.0	16.8	
Total	2,477,574					

Source: Actual Population: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics: Kansas, CPH-1-18; Projected population shares from University of Kansas, Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, Kansas Population Projections, 1988.

By the year 2020, 18.8 percent of McPherson's population will be over 65 years of age.
 More than one-third of the population will be outside the 18-65 age category normally considered to be the prime working age categories.

Table 2.12
Ethnic Composition of the Population, 1980 and 1990
McPherson County and Kansas

		Populati	ion by Race		Perc	ent of Tot	al Popula	tion
	McPhers	on County	Kar	ısas	McPherso	n County	Kan	sas
White	26,373	26,663	2,168,221	2,231,986	98.2%	97.8%	91.8%	90.1%
Black	184	211	126,127	143,076	0.7	0.8	5.3	5.8
American Indian	69	108	15,373	21,965	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	111	125	15,078	31,750	0.4	0.5	0.6	1.3
Other Race	118	161	38,880	48,797	0.4	0.6	2.0	2.0
Hispanic (any race)	250	325	63,339	93,670	0.9	1.2	2.7	3.8
Total Population	26,855	27,268	2,363,679	2,477,574				

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 and 1990 Census of the Population, Summary Tape File 1A, Characteristics of the Population.

- McPherson County has a relatively small proportion of racial and ethnic minorities compared to the state and the U.S.
- The number of minorities increased in McPherson County between 1980 and 1990. The number of African Americans increased from 184 to 211, while the number of Hispanics increased from 250 to 325, and the number of Native Americans increased from 69 to 108.

Section III: Education

As present and future jobs begin to require higher skilled employees, the education of the local workforce becomes a high priority. The ideal local labor market, in terms of being attractive and conducive to business growth, has an ample supply of workers who have basic skills, advanced skills, and a strong work ethic. A higher concentration of lower skilled workers means that the community must rely on low skilled jobs with low wages in industries which are either mature or declining. This, in turn, means that unemployment may be a continual or cyclical problem as these firms go out of business due to competition or obsolescence.

Education refers not only to K-12 instruction, but higher education at universities and community colleges as well. Equally valuable are workers possessing a strong, adaptable technical education from an area vocational technical school (AVTS), community college or other technical institution. This section presents the following measures of education for McPherson County, comparative counties, and the state of Kansas:

- The highest level of completed education, ages 25 and over demonstrates the average length of education for county residents. Lower levels may be indicative of lower skilled, less adaptable workers, while higher levels may mean a better opportunity to create, attract, and retain high growth, highly productive businesses.
- The *full time enrollment figures* provide an indication of the number of students in grades K-12. These are the people currently in the educational system that will be the workers of tomorrow.
- The expenditure per pupil reflects the financial expenditure being used to finance one year's education to a student in the public education system. Traditionally, higher expenditures per pupil have reflected the district's willingness to invest in the education of their children. However, lower expenditures per pupil may indicate an efficient school system that can deliver quality education at lower costs. High expenditures per pupil may be indicative of districts with low enrollments and fixed overhead costs.
- The high school dropout rate indicates the relative completion rate of high school students. High dropout rates may be the result of difficult economic or social situations. The result of high dropout rates is a workforce which is not properly prepared to participate in today's workplace without additional education.
- The *pupil-teacher ratios* compare the number of pupils and instructors in grades K-12. Low ratios suggest there may be opportunities for individual problem-solving and learning; increases in this ratio may indicate growing budgetary pressures on school districts.

EDUCATION: KEY FINDINGS

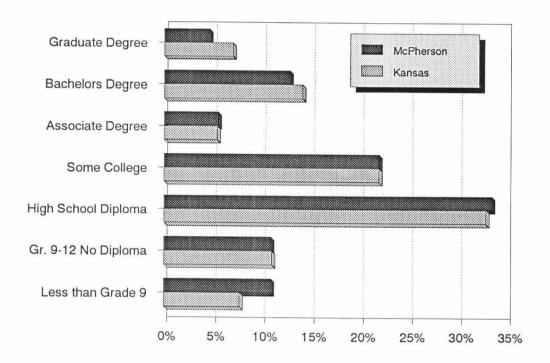
- The Kansas percentage of over-25 population completing either two- or four-year college programs was 26.5 percent, compared with McPherson's 22.9 percent.
- McPherson County had a smaller percentage of residents, ages 25 and over, who had completed college in 1990 (22.9%) than did six of the ten comparative counties.
- Persons with a grade 8 education or less in McPherson County represented 17.3 percent
 of the over-25 population in 1980 and 10.9 percent in 1990. This figure remained much
 higher than the Kansas rate, which fell from 7.7 percent in 1980 to 4.3 percent in 1990.
- Enrollments in McPherson County showed a significant increase of 11.5 percent for the period from 1986-87 to 1991-92.
- Weighted expenditures per pupil increased by 20.7 percent from 1986 to 1992 in McPherson County. Despite a relatively rapid increase in enrollments, per pupil expenditures increased more slowly in McPherson than in seven of the ten comparative counties.
- High school dropout rates for both McPherson County and the state have shown an upward trend since the 1984-85 academic year.
- With the exception of the 1989-90 academic year, McPherson County's dropout rates have been much lower than the state rate. Over the seven years from 1984-85 to 1990-91, McPherson County dropout rates were about 30 percent lower than the Kansas rate.
- McPherson County's pupil-teacher ratio was lower than the averages for the metropolitan, adjacent, and medium comparison counties in both 1989-90 and 1990-91.

EDUCATION: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 3.1

Highest Level of Education, 1990

Population Age 25+, McPherson & Kansas



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population, Summary Tape File 3A.

- The Kansas percentage of Over-25 population completing either two- or four-year college programs was 26.5 percent, compared with McPherson's 22.9 percent.
- McPherson County had a smaller percentage of residents, ages 25 and over, who had
 completed college in 1990 (22.9%) than did six of the ten comparative counties. Reno,
 Barton, Franklin and Lyon had lower completion rates. Four of the six counties with
 higher proportions of college educated populations have state universities within them.
- The proportion of McPherson County residents, ages 25 and older, with less than eight years of schooling (10.9%) is well above the state average (7.7%) and higher than nine of ten comparative counties.

Table 3.1
Highest Level of Completed Education, Population 25 Years and Older McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1990

		Colle	ge		High S	School	Elementary
	Graduate Degree	Bachelors Degree	Associate <u>Degree</u>	Some College	Diploma	No Diploma	Less Than 9 Years
McPherson	4.6%	12.8%	5.5%	21.9%	33.4%	10.9%	10.9%
Metro Comp.:							
Johnson	12.4	28.1	6.4	24.3	21.7	4.9	2.2
Sedgwick	6.8	15.4	4.8	23.5	32.0	12.0	5.6
Adjacent Comp).:						
Reno	4.5	10.5	7.3	23.4	31.9	14.4	8.2
Saline	6.0	11.6	6.1	21.9	36.8	11.1	6.4
Harvey	6.7	13.6	5.1	22.0	33.9	10.6	8.1
Medium Comp							
Barton	3.9	9.7	6.9	25.1	32.4	11.8	10.2
Ellis	6.6	16.8	4.5	21.9	30.8	7.6	11.8
Franklin	4.2	8.7	3.9	17.6	42.7	13.6	9.3
Lyon	8.1	13.3	4.3	21.0	35.2	10.3	7.9
Sumner	3.7	7.6	4.4	19.9	41.5	14.7	8.2
Kansas	7.0	14.1	5.4	21.9	32.8	11.0	7.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3a.

- Since 1980, educational attainment levels of the Over-25 population have risen dramatically. In 1980, 32.9 percent of the McPherson County population over the age of 25 had some college education; by 1990, this figure was 44.8 percent. Over the same period, the Kansas rates increased from 34.6 percent to 48.4 percent.
- Persons with a Grade 8 education or less in McPherson County represented 17.3 percent
 of the Over-25 population in 1980 and 10.9 percent in 1990. This figure remained much
 higher than the Kansas rate, which fell from 7.7 percent in 1980 to 4.3 percent in 1990.

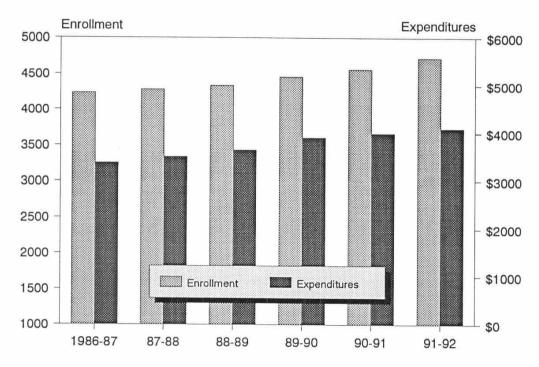
Table 3.2

Highest Level of Completed Education, Population 25 Years & Older McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980

	Coll	ege	High S	School	Eleme	ntary
	<u>4+</u>	1-3	<u>4</u>	1-3	8	<u><8</u>
McPherson	15.6%	17.3%	38.5%	11.3%	13.4%	3.9%
Johnson	33.3	23.2	32.3	6.4	3.1	1.7
Sedgwick	18.6	19.2	38.7	12.8	6.6	4.1
Metro Comp.*	25.0	20.9	36.0	10.0	5.1	3.0
Reno	13.2	19.7	38.5	13.8	9.8	5.0
Saline	15.6	18.3	42.5	11.1	8.8	3.7
Harvey	16.5	17.6	38.6	12.1	10.9	4.3
Adjacent Comp.*	14.7	18.8	39.8	12.5	9.7	4.5
Barton	12.4	17.9	40.5	11.8	12.7	4.7
Ellis	20.9	18.4	34.0	7.2	13.6	5.7
Franklin	11.7	11.3	42.1	15.8	13.2	5.9
Lyon	20.4	19.1	37.0	10.5	8.8	4.2
Sumner	8.9	14.9	44.5	15.7	11.2	4.8
Medium Comp.	14.9	16.6	39.7	12.1	11.7	5.0
Kansas	17.4	17.2	39.6	11.5	10.0	4.3

^{*} Weighted averages for the comparative county groups computed by IPPBR. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census, Vol. 1, Characteristics of the Population.

Figure 3.2
Enrollment and Expenditures Per Pupil
McPherson County, 1986-87 to 1991-92



Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Government Journal, January, 1987-1992.

- Enrollments in McPherson County showed a significant increase of 11.5 percent for the period from 1986-87 to 1991-92. While the increase in enrollment was less than the average increase for the metropolitan comparison counties (13.2 percent), it was greater than the average increases in enrollment for: adjacent comparison counties (1.8 percent); Medium-sized comparison counties (8.3 percent); and Kansas (7.2 percent).
- Weighted expenditures per pupil increased by 20.7 percent from 1986 to 1992 in McPherson County. Despite a relatively rapid increase in enrollments, per pupil expenditures increased more slowly in McPherson than in seven of the ten comparative counties. The increase in expenditures was slightly less than that of medium comparatives (21.9%) and well below that of the adjacent comparatives (27.3%) or the metropolitan comparatives (30.6%).

Table 3.3
Full-Time Enrollment, Public Schools
McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1986-1992

	1986-1987	1987-1988	1988-1989	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992
McPherson	4,235	4,280	4,335	4,458	4,567	4,724
Johnson	50,984	52,323	53,380	54,965	56,993	58,680
Sedgwick	60,045	61,857	62,704	63,664	65,326	67,191
Metro Comp.*	55,877	57,471	58,415	59,662	61,409	63,234
Reno	10,534	10,418	10,374	10,408	10,500	10,487
Saline	7,661	7,667	7,657	7,749	7,953	8,143
Harvey	5,160	5,163	5,323	5,372	5,408	5,501
Adjacent Comp.*	8,404	8,354	8,316	8,372	8,467	8,558
Barton	4,792	4,795	4,773	4,850	4,875	5,009
Ellis	4,009	4,022	4,060	4,138	4,177	4,192
Franklin	3,976	4,028	4,085	4,205	4,272	4,362
Lyon	5,519	5,634	5,674	5,773	5,926	6,090
Sumner	4,041	4,089	4,216	4,283	4,331	4,435
Medium Comp.*	4,551	4,600	4,646	4,734	4,823	4,931
Kansas	395,180	399,982	403,871	408,394	414,847	423,517

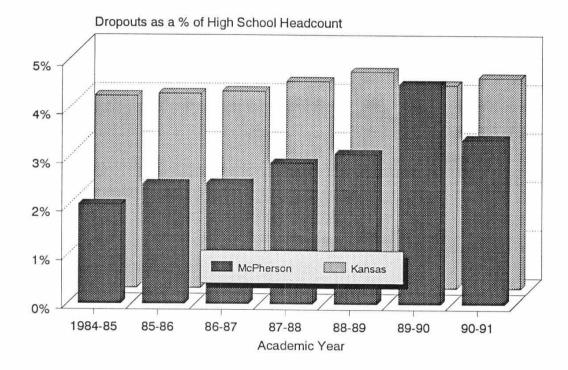
^{*} Weighted averages for the comparative county groups computed by IPPBR. Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Government Journal, January 1986-1992.

Table 3.4
Weighted Expenditure Per Pupil (Full-time equivalent)
McPherson and Comparative Counties, 1986-1992

	1986-1987	1987-1988	<u>1988-1989</u>	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992	% Change 1986-1992
McPherson	\$3,389	\$3,510	\$3,651	\$3,909	\$3,996	\$4,092	20.7%
Johnson	3,190	3,519	3,776	4,022	4,181	4,272	33.9
Sedgwick	2,978	3,087	3,267	3,485	3,614	3,789	27.2
Metro Comp.	3,076	3,286	3,501	3,732	3,875	4,016	30.6
Reno	3,073	3,225	3,363	3,572	3,668	3,844	26.8
Saline	2,802	2,954	3,137	3,360	3,443	3,619	29.2
Harvey	3,188	3,375	3,562	3,844	3,985	4,116	29.1
Adjacent Comp.	3,009	3,169	3,332	3,562	3,663	3,830	27.3
Barton	3,251	3,288	3,462	3,619	3,740	3,725	14.6
Ellis	2,891	3,017	3,203	3,456	3,743	3,947	36.5
Franklin	3,170	3,321	3,504	3,719	3,792	3,884	22.5
Lyon	2,940	3,049	3,191	3,375	3,413	3,485	18.5
Sumner	3,442	3,541	3,625	3,928	4,087	4,148	20.5
Medium Comp.	3,127	3,231	3,383	3,603	3,731	3,812	21.9

Note: Data shown are weighted averages for all school districts in the county, calculated by IPPBR. Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Government Journal, January 1987-1992.

Figure 3.3
High School Dropout Rates
McPherson and Kansas, 1984-1991



Source: Kansas State Board of Education, Kansas USD's High School Dropouts 1984-85 Through 1988-89 and 1986-87 Through 1990-91, January 1990, February 1992.

- High school dropout rates for both McPherson County and the state have shown an upward trend since the 1984-85 academic year.
- With the exception of the 1989-90 academic year, McPherson County's dropout rates have been much lower than the state rate. Over the seven years from 1984-85 to 1990-91, McPherson County dropout rates were about 30 percent lower than the Kansas rate.

Table 3.5
High School Dropout Rates
McPherson County and Kansas, 1984-85 to 1990-91

Academic Year	Headcount Grades 9-12	High School Dropouts	Drop Out Rate	Kansas Average Dropout Rate
1984-85	1,269	26	2.05%	3.96%
1985-86	1,259	31	2.46	4.01
1986-87	1,289	32	2.48	4.06
1987-88	1,273	37	2.91	4.26
1988-89	1,203	38	3.16	4.46
1989-90	1,190	54	4.54	4.19
1990-91	1,204	41	3.41	4.34
Seven-year weigh	ted			
average			2.98%	4.18%

Note: McPherson County data shown are weighted average for USD 400 Lindsborg, USD 418 McPherson, USD 419 Canta-Galva, USD 423 Moundridge, USD 448 Inman. The Kansas definition of a dropout is a pupil "who leaves a school for any reason, except death, before graduation or completion of a program of studies and without transferring to another school."

Source: Kansas State Board of Education, Kansas USD's High School Dropouts 1984-85 Through 1988-89 and 1986-87 Through 1990-91, January 1990, February 1992.

- McPherson County's pupil-teacher ratio showed a very slight increase from 1989-90 to 1990-91, but stayed consistent with the state average.
- McPherson County's pupil-teacher ratio was lower than the averages for the metropolitan, adjacent, and medium comparison counties in both 1989-90 and 1990-91.

Table 3.6
Pupil-Teacher Ratio, Public Schools
McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1989-90 and 1990-91

	1989-90	1990-91
McPherson	15.8	16.0
Johnson	16.8	16.9
Sedgwick	18.2	18.7
Metro Comp.	17.6	17.8
Reno	16.0	16.1
Saline	17.2	17.3
Harvey	16.4	16.5
Adjacent Comp.	16.5	16.6
Barton	15.8	15.9
Ellis	16.0	15.6
Franklin	15.8	15.9
Lyon	17.5	17.6
Sumner	15.7	15.7
Medium Comp.	16.2	16.2
Kansas	15.9	16.1

Source: Kansas State Board of Education, Pupil-Teacher Ratios of Unified School Districts, 1989-1990, April 1990; 1990-1991, March 1991.

Section IV: Employment, Earnings & Income

Employment levels are an important measure of a community's economic vitality. Unemployed laborers mean that the community's resources are not being fully utilized and that the locally generated flow of goods and services is less than it could be. This also represents a drain on tax revenues and a higher demand for social services.

Income and earnings are the sources of revenue for the community residents. There are five principal sources of income, including: (1) wages and salaries; (2) farm property; (3) non-farm property; (4) earnings from dividends, interest, and rental income; and (5) transfer payments, including social security payments and unemployment insurance. These sources of income describe the economic base of the community. Higher average wages and salaries may indicate a greater number of jobs in high growth, high performance businesses. Low wage growth may indicate a higher concentration of stable, declining industries. Sources of earnings, such as entitlements, may also demonstrate the strength of the community in generating its own income, as well as give some indication of the population's age (i.e., older people tend to depend more on investment and entitlement income). Declining or stable earnings over time may indicate a decrease in the standard of living for the community.

In the following section, employment levels are examined for McPherson County, its comparative counties, and the State of Kansas as a determinant of the level of economic activity. In order to have a better understanding of the employment picture, three key measures are compared simultaneously:

- the size of the labor force shows the number of people who are either working or willing to work. The size of the labor force is influenced not only by population but also by the perceptions of individuals that suitable job opportunities exist. Diverse, healthy economies tend to offer the widest variety of job opportunities and therefore attract a large number of jobseekers, which increases the size of the labor force;
- job creation rates (change in average annual employment) reflect the growth in employment levels and the range of employment opportunities;
- the level of unemployment reflects the amount of economic activity within an area and how well the local market is able to match the supply and demand for labor.

Income and earnings are also examined for McPherson County, the comparative counties, and Kansas using the following measures:

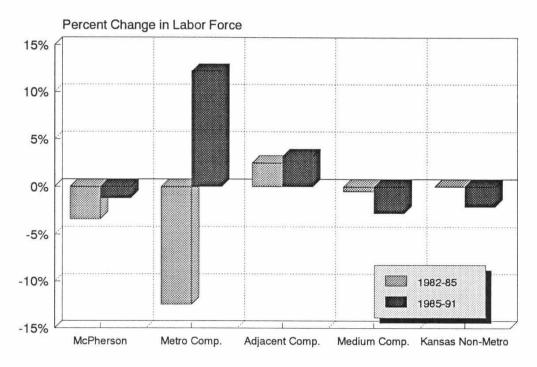
- levels of personal income are used as aggregate indicators of how much economic
 activity is taking place within a local economy. Except for inflationary effects, rising
 personal income levels normally means improvements in the community's well-being;
- per capita personal income indicates the relative wealth of the area compared to the state. As the productivity of business and industry increase, personal per capita income also rises. Decreasing or stable rates may be the result of mature or declining industry;
- sources of personal income show what the population relies on for support. Different
 sources may indicate relative strength of business growth and productivity, relative age
 (as in increase in Social Security and other entitlements), and where the money is coming from, in terms of in or out of county;
- average earnings per job, over time, demonstrates the strength of area firms in generating income for their employees. Lower rates are indicative of lower productivity and business performance.

EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & INCOME: KEY FINDINGS

- The McPherson County civilian labor force decreased 4.5 percent from 15,362 in 1982 to 14,671 in 1991.
- Most of the contraction in the size of the labor force occurred between 1985 and 1986, when nearly 1,100 left the work force. Since 1986, the size of McPherson's labor force has stabilized within the 14,400 and 14,800 range.
- From 1981 to 1990, nearly 1,200 new jobs were created in McPherson County, an increase of 7.2 percent. This was more than twice the rate of job creation of any comparison group except for the metro counties and was nearly triple the rate of job growth for non-metropolitan Kansas as a whole. Since 1987, however, McPherson's rate of job growth has been the poorest of any of the comparatives.
- Unemployment rates were very stable and were consistently low in McPherson throughout the period 1982-1991. Of the comparatives, only Johnson County has seen consistently lower unemployment rates in recent years.
- Per capita incomes in McPherson County were \$17,443 in 1990, 7.7 percent higher than
 for non-metropolitan Kansas as a whole. McPherson's pattern of income growth has
 been very stable from year to year, unlike several of the comparative counties.
- Entrepreneurship (farm and non-farm proprietorships) contributed nearly 17 percent of McPherson's total personal income during the 1986-1990 period, up from 13 percent in the early 1980s.
- Labor income levels grew more quickly in McPherson during the 1980s than in any of the medium or adjacent counties (+50%) and about one and a half times as fast as the Kansas non-metropolitan rate (+34%).
- Average earnings per job in McPherson in 1990 were \$18,822. This compared with \$18,128 in typical non-metropolitan counties, and \$21,008 for Kansas. McPherson was the only county among all of the comparatives to match the state and non-metro rates of earnings growth in both halves of the decade.

EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & INCOME: DATA ANALYSIS

Net Change in Civilian Labor Force McPherson & Comparatives, 1982-85, 1985-91



- The McPherson County civilian labor force decreased 4.5 percent from 15,362 in 1982 to 14,671 in 1991.
- Most of the contraction in the size of the labor force occurred between 1985 and 1986, when nearly 1,100 left the work force. Since 1986, the size of McPherson's labor force has stabilized within the 14,400 and 14,800 range.
- Similar patterns can be noted with respect to changes in the labor force for all of the
 comparatives except the adjacent comparatives, which had consistent growth in their
 labor forces. Metropolitan comparatives had larger decreases than McPherson in the
 early half of the decade, but enjoyed stronger growth in the latter half.

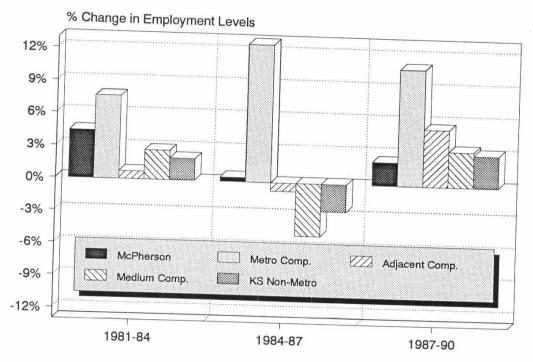
Table 4.1 Civilian Labor Force, 1982-1991 (Place of Residence) McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	1982	1983	1984	1985	<u>1986</u>	1987	1988	1989	1990	10
McPherson	15,362	15,977	15,782	14,846						
Johnson	133,406	132,951	136,468	175,274	176 042	100 000	5: 			14,6
Sedgwick	199,860		199,834				,		206,718	204,48
Metro Comp.	333,266	329,239	336,302	,,,,	, , , , , ,	,			215,887	
			550,502	375,067	375,710	400,442	412,332	418,475	422,605	
Reno	30,723	30,309	30,233	32,552	32,114	31,347	31.020	20.016		
Saline	26,195	26,453	26,558	26,506	26,311		31,029	30,916		31,12
Harvey	15,492	15,555	15,605	15,193	14,913	27,037	27,606	27,954	28,454	29,35
Adjacent Comp	. 72,410	72,317	72,396	74,251		16,171	16,142	15,924	16,090	16,15
Barton		****		74,201	73,338	74,555	74,777	74,794	75,775	76,63
Ellis	19,134	18,918	18,819	17,176	16,472	15,084	14,548	14,356	14.605	
	16,267	16,877	16,976	15,681	15,319	14,237	14,124	12 Page 17 15	14,605	14,57
Franklin	11,023	11,065	11,006	10,486	10,616	10,656	11,010	14,105	14,453	14,82
_yon	17,909	17,857	17,821	19,422	18,686	19,449	Annual Control of the	10,599	10,840	10,97
Sumner	10,400	10,345	10,067	11,567	11,319		19,453	19,589	19,833	20,45
Medium Comp.	74,733	75,062	74,689	74,332		11,415	11,450	11,434	11,560	11,39
Cansas		30-11 3 0-1100-10	1,002	14,552	72,412	70,841	70,585	70,083	71,291	72,22
lon-Metro	580,045	579,256	578,410	580,305	568,577	569,307	562,771	563,635	560.012	500 15
ansas				055		-05,507	502,771	303,033	569,912	568,15
n thousands)	1,186	1,186	1,197	1,235	1,224	1,267	1,277	1,285	1,300	1,29

Table 4.2 Net Change in Civilian Labor Force (Place of Residence) McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1982-1991

	2) 14 h compress	e countres, and Ka	11545, 1962-1991	
	Net Cha		Percent (Change
McPherson	<u>1982-1985</u>	1985-1991	1982-85	1985-91
	-516	-175	-3.4%	-1.2%
Johnson	41,868	20.212		
Sedgwick	-67	29,212	31.4	16.7
Metro Comparatives		16,508	-0.0	8.3
	41,801	45,720	12.5	12.2
Reno	1,829	4 400		
Saline	311	-1,430	6.0	-4.4
Harvey		2,850	1.2	10.8
Adjacent Comparatives	-299	966	-1.9	6.4
jaroni companatives	1,841	2,386	2.5	3.2
Barton	-1.958	101110-11		
Ellis		-2,597	-10.2	-15.1
Franklin	-586	-852	-3.6	-5.4
Lyon	-537	488	-4.9	4.7
Sumner	1,513	1,028	8.5	5.3
Medium Comparatives	1,167	-174	11.2	-1.5
riculum Comparatives	-401	-2,107	-0.5	-2.8
Kansas Non-Metro	260	12.150		
Cansas		-12,150	0.0	-2.1
	49	60	4.1	4.9

Job Creation Rates, 1981-1990 McPherson, Comparatives & KS Non-Metro



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA25.

- From 1981 to 1990, nearly 1,200 new jobs were created in McPherson County, an increase of 7.2 percent. This was more than twice the rate of job creation of any comparison group except for the metro counties and was nearly triple the rate of job growth for non-metropolitan Kansas as a whole.
- The early 1980s was the period of greatest job growth in McPherson County, when employment increased by 4.4 percent. From 1984 to 1987, only 70 new jobs were created. Between 1987 and 1990, 379 new jobs were added, for a growth rate of 2.2 percent.
- McPherson County performed better with respect to job growth than any of the comparatives (except the Metro counties) throughout the first two-thirds of the decade. Since 1987, however, McPherson's rate of job growth has been the poorest of any of the comparatives. On an individual county basis, only Barton and Sumner performed poorer with respect to job creation than McPherson did between 1987 and 1990.

Table 4.3

Average Annual Employment (Place of Work)

McPherson, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1981-1990

0				Para	tive Coun	ices, and	Kansas, 1	981-1990		
	<u>1981</u>	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	<u>1988</u>	1989	
McPherson	16,269	16,198	17,249	16,981	16,823	16,564	17,051	16,851		
Johnson	145,770	152,382	159,133	173 600	105 400	204 40=	2			
Sedgwick	235,289				185,482					242,8
Metro Comp.	381,059		383,863			Comment of the Principle of the Comment			,	269,2
	, , , , ,	011,104	202,003	409,874	424,139	443,236	462,078	479,755	495,976	
Reno	34,376	33,673	33,525	34,376	25.270	21.550				
Saline	28,941	28,126	28,662		,	34,558		34,154	34,409	34,9
Harvey	16,253	15,994	15,862	29,400	28,903	29,343	29,852	30,758	31,299	
Adjacent Comp	. 79,570	77,793	78,049	16,348	16,198	16,016	15,880	16,129	16,331	16,4
	,	11,195	70,049	80,124	80,379	79,917	79,484	81,041	82,039	83,66
Barton	20,797	20,683	20,204	20,941	20 541	10.502	12 20 20 20 E			
Ellis	15,795	16,164	16,909	17,127	20,541	18,583	18,030	17,898	17,965	18,23
Franklin	9,964	9,704	9,779	9,561	16,923	15,905	15,783	16,069	16,224	16,79
Lyon	18,435	18,584	18,667		9,740	9,838	9,897	10,080	9,970	10,16
Sumner	10,377	10,114	10,325	19,244	19,228	18,891	19,321	19,489	19,912	20,13
Medium Comp.	75,368	75,249	75,884	10,528	10,382	10,246	10,547	10,578	10,682	10,68
•	,,,,,,,	15,245	13,004	77,401	76,814	73,463	73,578	74,114	74,753	76,02
Kansas										
Non-Metro	626,198	622,383	627,842	638,940	633,684	617,443	622,122	629,707	633,677	641,07
Cansas						13900		,	022,077	041,07
in thousands)	1,293.1	1,282.3	1,294.4	1,341.2	1,354.4	1,361.5	1,390.0	1,421.2	1,455.9	1,472.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA25.

Table 4.4

Net Change and Percentage Change in Employment (Place of Work)

McPherson County, Trade Area, Comparatives and Kansas, 1980-1989

	1001 01	et Job Creation		Pe	rcent Chang	e
	<u>1981-84</u>	<u>1984-87</u>	<u>1987-90</u>	1981-84	1984-87	1987-90
McPherson	712	70	379	4.4%	0.4%	2.29
Johnson	27,920	39,475	20.720	40.4		
Sedgwick	895	12,729	29,729	19.2	22.7	14.0
Metro Comparatives	28,815		20,369	0.4	5.4	8.2
	20,015	52,204	50,098	7.6	12.7	10.8
Reno	0	624				
Saline	459	-624	1,201	0.0	-1.8	3.6
Harvey	95	452	2,427	1.6	1.5	8.1
Adjacent Comparatives		-468	551	0.6	-2.9	3.5
Jacom Comparatives	554	-640	4,179	0.7	-0.8	5.3
Barton	144	2011				
Ellis	1,332	-2,911	206	0.7	-13.9	1.1
Franklin	-403	-1,344	1,012	8.4	-7.9	6.4
Lyon		336	266	-4.0	3.5	2.7
Sumner	809	77	816	4.4	0.4	4.2
Medium Comparatives	151	19	142	1.5	0.2	1.4
Medium Comparatives	2,033	-3,823	2,442	2.7	-4.9	3.3
Kansas Non-Metro	12,742	16 919	10.057			
Cansas	48,087	-16,818	18,957	2.0	-2.6	3.0
2017 (1990)	40,087	48,512	82,884	3.7	3.6	6.0

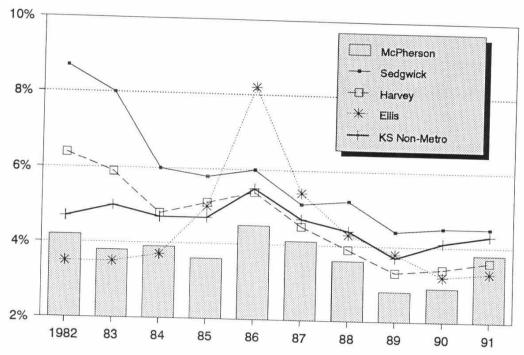
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA25.

Table 4.5
Ten-Year Change and Percentage Change in Employment (Place of Work)
McPherson County, Trade Area, Comparatives and Kansas, 1980-1990

		1300-1990
	Change in Employment Levels 1980-1990	Percent Change 1980-1990
McPherson	1,170	7.2%
Johnson	101,746	72.1
Sedgwick	36,511	15.7
Metro Comparatives	138,257	37.0
Reno	-60	-0.2
Saline	3,085	10.6
Harvey	-224	-1.3
Adjacent Comparatives	2,801	3.5
Barton	-1,560	-7.9
Ellis	1,591	10.5
Franklin	146	1.5
Lyon	1,758	9.6
Gumner	198	1.9
Medium Comparatives	2,133	2.9
Kansas Non-Metro	16,810	2.7
Kansas	185,822	14.4

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA25.

Unemployment Rates, 1982-1991
McPherson and Comparative Counties



- Unemployment rates were very stable and were consistently low in McPherson throughout the period 1982-1991. The average of the annual unemployment rates for this period was 3.7 percent in McPherson and 4.6 for non-metropolitan. The increase in jobs in McPherson County combined with the decrease of the civilian labor force to keep the unemployment rate low in McPherson County over this period.
- The unemployment rate peaked in 1986 at 4.5 percent but decreased to 3.8 percent in 1990.
- Of the comparatives, only Johnson County has seen consistently lower unemployment rates in recent years.

Table 4.6
Unemployment Rate, 1982-1991 (Place of Residence)
McPherson, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	<u>1987</u>	1988	1989	1990	<u>1991</u>
McPherson	4.2%	3.8%	3.9%	3.6%	4.5%	4.1%	3.6%	2.8%	2.9%	3.8%
Johnson	4.3	4.0	3.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.6	3.0	3.3
Sedgwick	8.7	8.0	6.0	5.8	6.0	5.1	5.2	4.4	4.5	4.5
Reno	7.6	7.7	6.4	6.0	8.5	6.4	5.3	4.5	4.6	5.1
Saline	7.2	6.4	6.3	6.7	6.1	5.6	5.1	4.2	4.2	4.0
Harvey	6.4	5.9	4.8	5.1	5.4	4.5	3.9	3.3	3.4	3.6
Barton	4.4	5.3	4.4	5.5	9.9	7.3	5.6	4.2	4.0	4.2
Ellis	3.5	3.5	3.7	5.0	8.2	5.4	4.3	3.8	3.2	3.3
Franklin	8.6	8.3	7.0	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.1	6.6	6.3	5.9
Lyon	5.6	5.5	5.0	5.2	6.1	4.4	4.9	4.2	4.5	3.9
Sumner	9.4	8.3	6.3	5.8	6.0	4.8	4.6	4.0	4.6	4.9
Kansas Non-Metro	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.7	5.5	4.7	4.4	3.7	4.1	4.3
Kansas	6.2	6.1	5.3	5.0	5.5	4.9	4.8	4.0	4.4	4.4

Table 4.7
Total Personal Income (Place of Residence) (in \$Millions)
McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1981-1990

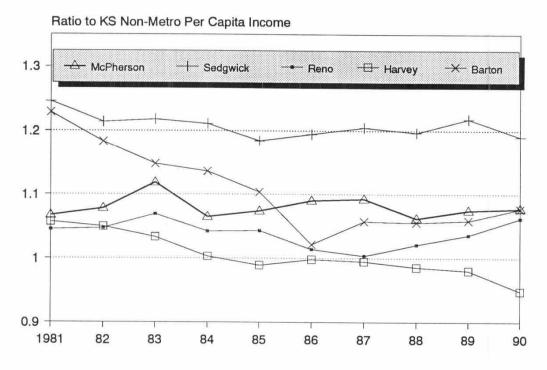
	<u>1981</u>	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	<u>1988</u>	1989	1990	
McPherson	296.2	320.4	342.6	354.2	378.6	399.1	406.4	414.8	439.9	475.2	
Johnson	4,212.6	4,550.7	4,882.9	5,353.7	5,973.0	6,512.9	7,178.5	7,930.3	8,612.3	9,355.4	
Sedgwick	4,725.9	4,969.3	5,064.7	5,479.2	5,738.2	6,082.0	6,337.4	6,766.1	7,311.7	7,800.0	
Metro Comp.	8,938.4	9,520.0	9,947.6	10,833.0					15,924.0	17,155.4	
Reno	689.1	734.0	761.1	795.3	844.9	861.5	863.5	918.9	973.5	1,071.0	
Saline	558.5	591.7	626.0	669.3	690.4	712.8	749.5	809.9	864.5	936.7	
Harvey	331.8	354.2	354.1	370.1	386.8	408.2	414.1	435.0	455.5	476.5	
Adj. Comp.	1,579.4	1,679.8	1,741.2	1,834.8	1,922.0	1,982.5	2,027.1	2,163.7	2,293.4	2,484.2	
Barton	401.4	423.7	420.5	449.6	462.5	439.1	446.4	459.7	474.0	509.6	
Ellis	273.1	295.9	313.4	335.9	347.7	343.6	346.8	364.3	398.6	435.4	
Franklin	218.4	231.7	236.6	253.1	262.9	275.4	278.2	292.1	309.7	317.8	
Lyon	364.0	383.9	392.5	414.6	419.1	437.4	452.7	474.9	510.7	520.5	
Sumner	267.2	292.1	295.0	318.1	331.9	356.6	359.4	381.7	408.4	428.3	
Med. Comp.	1,524.2	1,627.3	1,658.0	1,771.3	1,824.1	1,852.0	1,883.5	1,972.7	2,101.5	2,211.6	
KS Non-Metro (billions)	12.1	13.0	13.3	14.3	15.0	15.5	15.7	16.5	17.2	18.5	
Kansas (billions)	26.7	28.5	29.5	31.8	33.8	35.6	37.0	39.4	41.9	44.9	

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

• Using total personal income as a measure of the size of a local economy, McPherson's growth during the 1981-1990 period (+60%, unadjusted for inflation) overshadowed all of the medium comparatives (+45%) the adjacent counties (+57%) except Saline (+67%), and Kansas non-metropolitan growth (+53%). Over this period, personal income in metropolitan counties grew by 92 percent.

Figure 4.4

Per Capita Personal Income Levels
McPherson & Comparatives, 1981-1990



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

- Per capita incomes in McPherson County were \$17,443 in 1990, 7.7 percent higher than for non-metropolitan Kansas as a whole.
- Of the comparatives, only Johnson, Sedgwick and Saline had higher per capita incomes in 1990 than McPherson.
- Over the 1980-1990 period, Johnson (+88%), Ellis (+85%) Saline (+83%) and Reno (+82%) had more rapid increases in per capita incomes than McPherson (+77%).
- Relative to the non-metropolitan average, McPherson's pattern of income growth has been very stable from year to year, unlike several of the comparative counties.

Table 4.8

Per Capita Personal Income Levels

McPherson, Comparative Counties, Kansas and the U.S., 1981-1990

							0.5., 1961	1-1770		
	<u>1981</u>	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	
McPherson	10,846	11,706	12,341	12,664	13,560	14,395	14,725	15,107	16,074	17,443
Johnson	15,348	16,318	17,132	18,249	19,784	20,858	22,079	23,461	24,745	26,156
Sedgwick	12,660	13,176	13,431	14,402	14,954	15,779	16,241	17,031	18,223	19,276
Reno	10,629	11,377	11,803	12,401	13,169	13,395	13,529	14,527	15,500	17,197
Saline	11,398	12,042	12,618	13,373	13,905	14,515	15,166	16,398	17,509	19,002
Harvey	10,745	11,395	11,401	11,935	12,490	13,183	13,409	14,025	14,672	15,354
Barton	12,484	12,845	12,665	13,515	13,933	13,492	14,249	15,016	15,838	17,441
Ellis	10,204	10,754	11,314	12,037	12,441	12,458	12,930	13,729	15,184	16,788
Franklin	9,946	10,612	10,787	11,487	12,052	12,687	12,780	13,356	14,108	14,437
Lyon	10,176	10,480	10,661	10,981	11,583	12,487	12,883	13,578	14,650	15,000
Sumner	10,581	11,496	11,629	12,619	13,160	14,070	14,090	14,828	15,820	16,561
KS Non-Metro	10,166	10,857	11,032	11,897	12,626	13,206	13,478	14,226	14,962	16,190
Kansas	11,211	11,852	12,200	13,112	13,930	14,631	15,147	15,993	16,962	18,104
U.S.	10,949	11,480	12,098	13,114	13,942	14,654	15,494	16,598	17,731	18,691

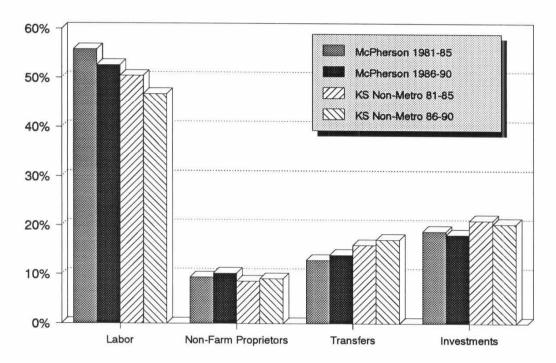
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

Table 4.9
Ten-Year Change in Per Capita Income
McPherson County, Trade Area, Comparatives, Kansas, and U.S., 1980-1990

-7	1980	1990	Net Change	Percent Change
McPherson	\$ 9,831	\$ 17,443	\$ 7,612	77.4%
Johnson	13,912	26,156	12,244	88.0
Sedgwick	11,331	19,276	7,945	70.1
Reno	9,446	17,197	7,751	82.1
Saline	10,404	19,002	8,598	82.6
Harvey	9,535	15,354	5,819	61.0
Barton	10,466	17,441	6,975	66.6
Ellis	9,058	16,788	7,730	85.3
Franklin	8,796	14,437	5,641	64.1
Lyon	8,926	15,000	6,074	68.1
Sumner	9,874	16,561	6,687	67.7
Kansas Non-Metro	8,867	16,190	7,323	82.6
Kansas	9,941	18,104	8,163	82.1
U.S.	9,919	18,691	8,772	88.4

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5

Share of Personal Income, By Source McPherson & KS Non-Metro, 1981-85, 1986-90



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

- Employment income, which accounted for 56 percent of McPherson's personal income in the early 1980s, accounted for 53 percent in the latter part of the decade. This was consistent with the pattern in most Kansas non-metropolitan counties.
- Entrepreneurship (farm and non-farm proprietorships) contributed nearly 17 percent of McPherson's total personal income during the 1986-1990 period, up from 13 percent in the early 1980s.
- McPherson County has a relatively low level of dependance upon transfer payments as a means of income. Of the comparative counties, only Johnson and Sedgwick among the comparatives had a lower share of 1986-90 personal income from transfer payments.

Table 4.10 Components of Personal Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income McPherson and Comparative Counties, Five Year Averages, 1981-85 and 1986-90

		Wages, Salaries			District 1		
County/Area	Years	and Other Labor Income	Propri Farm	etorships Non-Farm	Dividends, Interest, & Rent	Transfer	Other
Manu				Tion Talm	& Reni	Payments	Adjustmen
McPherson	1981-85	55.8%	4.1%	9.4%	18.8%	12.9%	100
	1986-90	52.6	6.4	10.2	18.1	14.0	-1.0% -1.5
Johnson	1981-85	50.0%	0.1%	6.6%	10.11		1.0
	1986-90	54.0	0.1		19.4%	7.3%	16.7%
			0.1	7.2	19.3	7.0	12.5
Sedgwick	1981-85	77.1%	0.2%	7.2%	15 201		
	1986-90	76.6	0.2	8.0	15.3%	12.0%	-11.8%
_			0.2	6.0	16.1	12.3	-13.3
Reno	1981-85	59.6%	3.1%	7.8%	20.4%	1120	View No. 10 Merch
	1986-90	55.8	3.5	8.5	21.9	14.2%	-5.1%
w				0.5	21.9	15.6	-5.3
Saline	1981-85	61.3%	0.5%	11.6%	18.7%	12.00	
	1986-90	58.4	0.6	13.6	19.5	13.9% 14.5	-6.1%
TT	LONG TO THE M				17.0	14.5	-6.6
Harvey	1981-85	54.9%	3.6%	7.4%	17.8%	15.3%	1.00
	1986-90	52.6	4.0	7.7	18.7	15.8	1.0% 1.1
D						15.6	1.1
Barton	1981-85	63.9%	1.7%	8.4%	20.1%	18.0%	-12.1%
	1986-90	53.1	4.9	9.5	22.4	22.4	-12.1%
Ellis	1001.01	SSSPear (echanic)					-12.3
EIIIS	1981-85	57.4%	2.5%	10.2%	19.7%	11.6%	-1.4%
	1986-90	49.7	4.0	11.2	21.3	15.5	-1.7
Franklin	1001.05						4
Tankiii	1981-85	38.3%	1.6%	8.0%	19.0%	18.1%	15.0%
	1986-90	38.5	2.6	8.6	18.0	17.3	15.0
Lyon	1981-85	65.201	4.004	22 20.00			
Буби	1986-90	65.3% 64.4	1.0%	6.1%	17.1%	13.7%	-3.2%
	1300-90	04.4	1.7	6.4	17.9	15.6	-6.0
Sumner	1981-85	29.8%	1 201		78.27		
	1986-90	29.8% 27.8	4.2% 4.5	6.8%	17.7%	17.2%	24.4%
	1700-70	21.0	4.5	7.2	16.1	17.4	27.0
KS Non-Metro	1981-85	50.4%	5.1%	9 601	21.00	(373-3193	
	1986-90	46.7	7.6	8.6%	21.0%	16.0%	-1.1%
	2,00,70	10.7	7.0	9.1	20.3	17.1	-0.8
Kansas	1981-85	59.4%	2.5%	7.5%	18.6%	12.00	4 = 22
	1986-90	58.2	3.5	8.1	18.6%	13.8%	-1.7%
			5.5	0.1	18.4	14.0	-2.0

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

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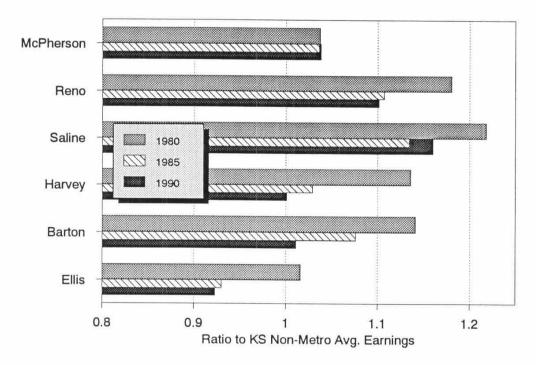
Table 4.11
Wages, Salaries and Other Labor Income (in \$ Millions)
McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1981-1990

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	1983	<u>1984</u>	1985	1986	<u>1987</u>	1988	<u>1989</u>	1990	Percent Change 1981-90
McPherson	168.7	177.3	198.2	197.1	203.3	205.3	213.3	218.2	233.2	252.8	49.9%
Johnson	1,993.5	2,189.8	2,419.8	2,767.5	3,103.6	3,498.2	3,898.0	4,300.3	4,649.8	5,028.0	152.2
Sedgwick Metro	3,746.1	3,791.9	3,841.3	4,238.8		4,712.3	4,947.0	5,213.1	,	5,926.5	58.2
Comp.	5,739.6	5,981.7	6,261.1	7,006.3	7,506.7	8,210.5	8,845.0	9,513.4	10,134.0	10,954.5	90.9
Reno	430.3	438.2	448.8	469.6	491.2	493.5	489.1	527.4	534.2	574.2	33.5
Saline	363.2	366.5	384.3	406.3	403.4	421.3	447.1	473.5	500.6	538.2	48.2
Harvey Adjacent	191.5	193.7	193.5	202.3	205.9	213.9	213.7	230.6	243.3	249.7	30.4
Comp.	985.0	998.5	1,026.5	1,078.2	1,100.6	1,128.7	1,149.9	1,231.6	1,278.1	1,362.0	38.3
Barton	266.4	275.4	268.0	286.2	283.5	248.8	236.7	241.5	247.8	261.4	-1.9
Ellis	159.2	173.6	182.8	193.4	190.1	177.1	174.2	182.9	191.4	212.5	33.4
Franklin	88.7	89.7	93.1	93.0	96.5	103.3	107.0	115.2	117.9	123.8	39.6
Lyon	241.7	253.8	253.0	267.7	272.2	282.7	299.4	306.5	325.7	329.9	36.5
Sumner Medium	88.0	85.0	87.4	92.3	94.8	97.0	102.5	106.3	114.7	118.1	34.2
Comp.	843.9	877.5	884.4	932.6	937.1	908.9	919.8	952.5	997.5	1,045.5	23.9
Kansas No	n-Metro										
(billions)	6.3	6.6	6.8	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.8	8.1	8.5	34.2
Kansas (billions)	16.1	16.8	17.5	19.0	19.8	20.8	21.8	23.1	24.2	25.8	59.8

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

• Labor income levels grew more quickly in McPherson during the 1980s than in any of the medium or adjacent counties (+50%) and about one and a half times as fast as the Kansas non-metropolitan rate (+34%).

Average Earnings per Job
McPherson and Comparatives, 1980-85-90



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Tables CA5 and CA25. KCCED calculations used Net Earnings by Place of Work divided by Total Employment.

- Average earnings per job in McPherson in 1990 were \$18,822. This compared with \$18,128 in typical non-metropolitan counties, and \$21,008 for Kansas.
- Several counties with high average earnings per job in 1980 were not able to maintain
 this position during the early 1980s. McPherson was the only county among all of the
 comparatives to match the state and non-metro rates of earnings growth in both halves
 of the decade.
- For the 1985-1990 period, only Johnson (+23.9%) and Saline (+22.9%) among the comparative counties had average earnings growth rates higher than McPherson's (+20.4%).

Section V: Geographic Location and Infrastructure

Some of a community's most important assets are specific to its location. Location-specific assets such as resource availability, climate and capital investment in infrastructure and public facilities, are immobile factors which contribute to a community's natural advantages or disadvantages. Significant changes in these factors tend to take place only over the long term; it is therefore essential that the community make the best use of its locational assets in the short and medium term.

In the following section, each of the following indicators are examined:

- land area and population density show how extensive the public infrastructure needs of
 the community are. Densely populated communities can usually deliver public services
 such as water and sewer systems more cost effectively;
- natural resources and percent of land in farms indicate the natural assets and the economic opportunities provided by the land;
- average annual precipitation indicates how favorable the land in the area is for agriculture and indicates how much demand can be placed upon local water supplies through settlement or manufacturing and processing;
- highway and rail transportation networks show how well connected the community is with external sources of supplies and customers for local firms;
- traffic counts help estimate the demands being made upon the existing infrastructure, and provides an indication of changing patterns in economic activity, as communities become more interdependent; and
- the accessibility of water and sewer systems indicate the levels of service available within a community.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: KEY FINDINGS

- McPherson is accessible to key major markets as it is roughly 60 miles from Wichita, roughly 200 miles from both Kansas City and Oklahoma City and less than 500 miles from Denver.
- McPherson's County's population density matches that of the state, at 30.3 persons per square mile.
- Of the comparative counties, only Barton and Sumner are more sparsely populated.
- McPherson County averages 29.2 inches of precipitation, comparable to the state average of 27 inches.
- Approximately 97 percent of McPherson's land is in farms, a figure typical for a county with its urban-rural mix.
- Natural resources in McPherson County include clay, oil, gas and timber. Most comparative counties have oil and gas deposits and some timberland.
- The county's strategic location is evidenced by its extensive public highway network and relatively large number of miles of Interstate and State highway.
- While the county has rail access to markets, it is not served by as many carriers as many of its peers. The Atchison-Topeka & Santa Fe serves McPherson County.
- The volume of traffic passing into or out of McPherson County increased dramatically during the 1980s, indicating the increasing interdepencies of McPherson County and its neighboring counties.
- Traffic between McPherson and Harvey Counties increased almost one and a half times as much as traffic entering Saline County. This indicates the stronger pull of McPherson into the Wichita area (via Harvey County) than into the east-west interstate connections via Salina.
- Traffic into and out of Reno County also grew rapidly (56%).
- In all categories, light commercial and passenger vehicle traffic grew more quickly than heavy commercial traffic.
- The percentage of permanent residences in McPherson connected to a public or private water or sewer system is relatively low.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: DATA ANALYSIS

- McPherson's County's population density matches that of the state, at 30.3 persons per square mile.
- Of the comparative counties, only Barton and Sumner are more sparsely populated. The
 adjacent comparatives are generally twice as densely populated, and the metro
 comparatives are many times more populated than McPherson.

Table 5.1 Land Area and Population Density, 1990 McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas

	Land Area (Square Miles)	Population Pe Square Mile
McPherson	900	30.3
Metro:		
Johnson	477	744.7
Sedgwick	1,000	403.6
Adjacent:		
Reno	1,254	49.7
Saline	720	68.5
Harvey	539	57.5
Medium:		
Barton	894	32.9
Ellis	900	28.9
Franklin	574	38.3
Lyon	851	40.8
Sumner	1,182	21.9
Kansas	81,823	30.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics: Kansas, CPH-1-18.

5.3

- The county experiences wide variations in temperature and precipitation. Temperatures in January range from an average low of 18 degrees to an average high of 39 degrees. July average low and high temperatures are, respectively, 68 and 94 degrees.
- McPherson County's average annual precipitation is 29.2 inches; this is less than that experienced by most eastern counties, nearly double that received by the state's far western counties but comparable to the statewide average, 27.0 inches.

Table 5.2
Thirty-Year (1951-80) Average Annual Precipitation
McPherson County, State Climatic Regions, and Kansas
(in inches)

McPherson	29.2
North West	19.9
West Central	19.6
South West	18.6
North Central	26.3
Central	27.7
South Central	26.3
North East	34.3
East Central	35.4
South East	36.5
Statewide	27.0

Source: Kansas Agricultural Statistics, Kansas Farm Facts, 1990.

- Approximately 97 percent of McPherson's land is in farms, a figure typical for a county with its urban-rural mix.
- Natural resources in McPherson County include clay, oil, gas and timber. Most comparative counties have oil and gas deposits and some timberland.

Table 5.3 Natural Resources and Percent of Land in Farms

		Construction of the second
	Percent of Land in Farms	Natural Resources
		Tratulal Resources
McPherson	97	CLA, OIL, GAS, TIM
Metro Comparatives		
Johnson	55	CDII SANI CDA OH GAS TOA
Sedgwick	83	CRU, SAN, GRA, OIL, GAS, TIM
	05	SAL, SAN, GRA, OIL, GAS, TIM
Adjacent Comparatives		
Reno	91	SAL SAN CRA OU GAS TIME
Saline	89	SAL, SAN, GRA, OIL, GAS, TIM
Harvey	93	CLA, SAN, GRA, OIL, TIM
·	93	SAN, GRA, GAS, OIL, TIM
Medium Comparatives		
Barton	99	SAN CRA CLA OH CAS
Ellis	99	SAN, GRA, CLA, OIL, GAS, TIM
Franklin	87	SAN, GRA, OIL, TIM
Lyon	90	CRU, CLA, OIL, GAS, TIM
Sumner		CRU, SAN, GRA, OIL, GAS, TIM
Cultifier	96	SAN, GRA, OIL, GAS, TIM

Key: CLA - Clay, Tim - Timber, CRU - Crushed Rock, SAN - Sand, GRA - Gravel, SAL - Salt.

Source: John Clements, Kansas Facts, (Dallas: Clements Research II, Inc., 1990).

- The county's strategic location is evidenced by its extensive public highway network and relatively large number of miles of Interstate and State highway.
- While the county has rail access to markets, it is not served by as many carriers as many of its peers. The Atchison-Topeka & Santa Fe serves McPherson County.

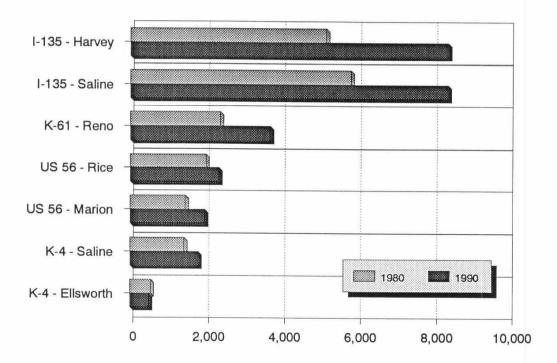
Table 5.4 Highway and Rail Freight Transportation

	Total Public Highway Miles	Interstate & State Miles	Rail Freight Carriers
McPherson	1,839	148	AT
Metro Comparatives			
Johnson	2,516	143	AT, BN, MP
Sedgwick	3,436	194	AT, BN, MP, OK
Adjacent Comparatives			
Reno	2,680	166	AT, BN, MP, SP
Saline	1,439	98	AT, MP, UP
Harvey	1,240	76	AT, BN, MP, OK
Medium Comparatives			
Barton	1,896	123	AT, MP
Ellis	1,506	68	MP
Franklin	1,215	93	AT, MP
Lyon	1,625	148	AT, MP
Sumner	2,343	210	AT, MP, OK

Key: AT - Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; BN - Burlington Northern; MP - Missouri Pacific; OK - Oklahoma Texas and Kansas; SP - Southern Pacific; and UP - Union Pacific.

Source: John Clements, Kansas Facts, (Dallas: Clements Research II, Inc., 1990).

Average Daily Traffic Volume
McPherson Points of Entry/Exit, 1980, 1990



Source: Kansas Department of Transportation, Traffic Flow Maps, 1980-1990.

- The volume of traffic passing into or out of McPherson County increased dramatically during the 1980s, indicating the increasing interdepencies of McPherson County and its neighboring counties.
- Leading the increase in traffic was the pattern of traffic connecting McPherson and Harvey County. Traffic between McPherson and Harvey Counties increased almost one and a half times as much as traffic between Saline and McPherson. This indicates the stronger pull of McPherson into the Wichita area (via Harvey County) than into the east-west interstate connections via Salina.
- Traffic into and out of Reno County also grew rapidly (56%).
- In all categories, light commercial and passenger vehicle traffic grew more quickly than heavy commercial traffic. Shopping, commuting to and from work, and the increased use of smaller commercial vehicles were possible contributing factors.

Table 5.5

Average Daily Traffic Volumes at Points of Entry/Exit

McPherson County, 1980-1990

Location/Traffic Type	1980	1990	%Change
Non-Interstate:			
K 4 - Ellsworth	550	505	-8.2%
US 56 - Rice	2,000	2,345	17.3
K 61 - Reno	2,380	3,700	55.5
US 56 - Marion	1,460	1,970	34.9
K 4 - Saline	1,425	1,800	26.3
Total Heavy Commercial	1,410	1,305	-7.4
Total Light Commercial/Passenger	6,455	9,015	39.7
Total - All Types	7,865	10,320	31.2
Interstate:			
I 135 - Saline	5,825	8,370	43.7
I 135 - Harvey	5,165	8,375	62.1
Total Heavy Commercial	3,380	3,898	15.3
Total Light Commercial/Passenger	7,610	12,847	68.8
Total - All Types	10,990	16,745	52.4

Source: Kansas Department of Transportation, Traffic Flow Maps, 1980-1990.

- The percentage of permanent residences in McPherson connected to a public or private water system is lower than in all but three comparison counties (Reno, Barton and Sumner).
- Similarly, the percentage of permanent residences connected to a sewer system is comparatively low.

Table 5.6
Access to Water and Sewer Systems
McPherson and Comparative Counties, 1990

	Percent of P	ermanent Residences with	
	Utility Syste	m Connections	
	Water	Sewer	
McPherson	82%	78%	
Metro Comparatives			
Johnson	99	94	
Sedgwick	91	91	
Adjacent Comparatives			
Reno	75	79	
Saline	95	90	
Harvey	87	84	
Medium Comparatives			
Barton	81	79	
Ellis	87	87	
Franklin	87	69	
Lyon	93	84	
Sumner	78	68	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3a.

Section VI: Business Environment

A community's business environment is affected by several things. Past decisions by investors, business managers, taxpayers and policy makers each contribute to shape a climate which is either promotes or inhibits the productivity of local businesses and therefore affects decisions about growth and expansion. Other contributing factors include the level of competition, the availability of suppliers and supporting industries, the cost of labor, and taxation and regulation within the community. Some types of establishments will thrive in an environment which other firms cannot operate in profitably. Among other things, studying the business environment can lead to a better understanding about which types of businesses are doing well and how business conditions and the performance of particular industries is changing over time.

This section reviews the following indicators:

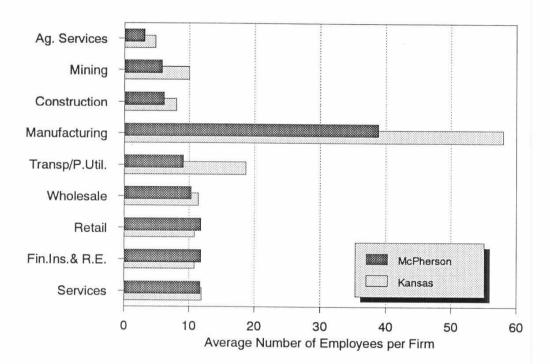
- distribution of firms, by number of employees and sector to determine what changes are taking place at the firm level in the local economy;
- average annual pay per employee by sector as an indicator of changing patterns in business productivity, reflected by increases or decreases in relative wages;
- distribution of employment by sector to assess how local sectoral performance compares
 with larger scale trends, and net job creation by industry, to determine which industries
 are growing most quickly at the local level;
- levels of taxable retail sales and annual growth rates of retail sales as indicators of
 retail sector performance and trends and the overall strength of the local consumer
 market;
- the number of farms, acres harvested, average farm size and the value of field crops and livestock and poultry to reflect the levels of farm activity and the changing character of farming; and,
- levels of assessment, bonded indebtedness and tax levies which reveal the capacity of the public sector to take on new public investments.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT: KEY FINDINGS

- The number of firms in McPherson increased from 731 in 1980 to 840 in 1990, with most of the increase coming from wholesale, service and manufacturing firms.
- Associated with the growth in number of firms was a trend toward smaller firms, particularly in the manufacturing and transportation sectors.
- Average annual pay per employee lagged the statewide average by almost 15% in 1990, a small improvement from the 17% differential in 1980.
- Average pay per employee in McPherson lagged state averages in every sector in 1990 except for wholesale and manufacturing, McPherson's highest paying sectors overall.
- More than 1,170 jobs were added in McPherson during the 1980s. The 7.2 percent net job creation rate was better than those of the adjacent and medium sized comparative counties. The Manufacturing (+521 jobs) and Service sectors (+539) combined accounted for 90% of all job creation in the county over this period.
- Wholesaling, Transportation and public utilities, and Farming each lost around 200 jobs in McPherson between 1980 and 1990.
- Sectors of McPherson's economy which accounted for a greater than usual share of 1990 employment were: Farming, Mining, Manufacturing, and Services; the Wholesale, Retail and Government sectors accounted for a smaller than average share of employment.
- Real levels of taxable retail sales (adjusted for inflation) declined by 18 percent in McPherson from 1981 to 1991. Most of this decline occurred prior to 1986; since then, real levels of taxable retail sales have remained more or less stable.
- The number of farms in McPherson declined, while the number of acres harvested and the value of output maintained stable levels, indicating a trend toward fewer, bigger farms.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT: DATA ANALYSIS

Average Size of Firms, by Sector McPherson County and Kansas, 1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, County Business Patterns, 1990.

- The number of firms in McPherson County increased from 731 in 1980 to 840 in 1990, a 15 percent increase. Over the same period, the number of firms statewide increased 19 percent.
- Nearly all of the increase in the number of business establishments in McPherson County during the 1980s came from three sectors: wholesale (+62%), services (+43%) and manufacturing (+35%).
- Associated with the growth in the number of firms was the trend toward smaller firms. Overall, the average number of employees per firm declined from 13.5 employees to 12.5 employees per firm. This pattern was evident in nearly all sectors, but was particularly the case in the manufacturing and transportation sectors. Only retail and finance, insurance and real estate tended toward larger firms instead of smaller firms.

- The size of McPherson County firms are very similar to those of the state as a whole.
 Three-quarters of all firms have fewer than ten employees while roughly 4 percent employ at least fifty staff.
- McPherson County, like the state as a whole, enjoyed increases in the number of firms in nearly every size category (firms with 10-19 employees declined by 5%). The increases were greatest among firms with 1-4 and 50+ employees (21% and 29%, respectively).

Table 6.1 Number of Private Non-Farm Firms by Sector and Number of Employees McPherson County, 1980 and 1990

			THE REAL PROPERTY.				
Sector / Industry		Total	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+
All Private Sectors	1990	840	487	160	91	64	38
	1980	731	403	146	96	57	29
Agricultural Services	1990	11	9	2	0	0	0
	1980	8	8	0	0	0	0
Mining	1990	31	18	8	3	2	0
	1980	32	14	7	5	2 5	1
Construction	1990	77	50	13	9	3	2
	1980	75	53	11	8	2	1
Manufacturing	1990	77	27	9	11	17	13
	1980	57	15	5	11	14	12
Transp. & Public Utilities	1990	44	24	10	8	1	1
	1980	27	14	8	4	1	0
Wholesale Trade	1990	51	21	15	9	5	1
	1980	60	27	12	14	7	0
Retail	1990	194	101	43	20	22	8
	1980	194	102	46	30	14	2
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	1990	58	32	11	8	5	2
	1980	62	33	13	9	5	2 2
Services	1990	267	177	48	23	8	11
	1980	188	111	42	15	9	11

 McPherson County had at least one firm with 50 or more employees in every sector except agricultural services and mining in 1990.

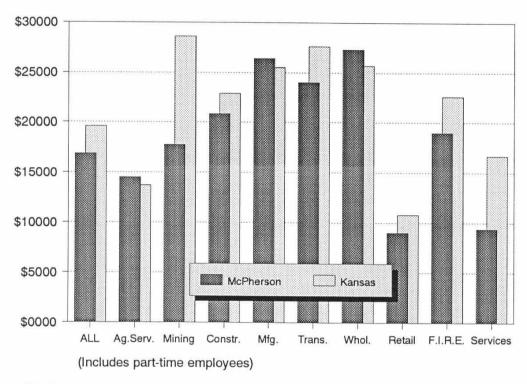
Table 6.2 Number of Private, Non-Farm Firms by Sector and Number of Employees Kansas, 1980 and 1990

			0 4114 1770				
Sector / Industry		Total	1-4	<u>5-9</u>	10-19	20-49	<u>5</u> 0+
All Private Sectors	1990	65,858	36,385	13,216	0.021	F 24.5	
	1980	55,021	30,569	11,129	8,031 6,696	5,316 4,376	2,910 2,251
Agricultural Services	1990	965	670	100			
*	1980	547	670 413	193 98	72	25	5
		7.13	415	70	26	9	1
Mining	1990	1,138	665	215	126	98	34
	1980	1,137	567	195	156	152	67
Construction	1990	5,676	3,554	1,100	543	337	1.40
	1980	5,149	3,271	934	494	308	142 142
Manufacturing	1990	3,367	1,084	560	5.40		
	1980	2,919	747	568 497	548 498	524	643
		-,	, , ,	727	490	523	624
Transp. & Public Utilities	1990	3,180	1,705	512	463	310	190
	1980	2,881	1,359	712	349	292	169
Vholesale Trade	1990	5,713	2,551	1,458	992	547	165
	1980	5,267	2,172	1,405	990	546	154
Retail	1990	16,845	7,686	4,148	2 557	1.704	
	1980	15,204	7,538	3,556	2,557 2,291	1,786 1,397	668 422
I			45.			1,00	722
inance, Ins. & Real Estate	1990	5,657	3,634	858	584	372	209
	1980	4,893	3,082	842	494	320	155
Services	1990	20,891	12,511	4,108	2,119	1,299	854
	1980	14,270	8,930	2,679	1,331	813	517

Table 6.3 Average Size of Private, Non-Farm Firms McPherson County and Kansas, 1980, 1990

Sector / Industry	McP.	herson	Ka	insas
	<u>1980</u>	1990	1980	1990
Private Sector	13.5	12.5	13.9	13.6
Agricultural Services	NA	3.1	4.0	4.8
Mining	10.2	5.8	15.3	10.0
Construction	7.6	6.1	8.0	8.0
Manufacturing	50.9	38.9	71.0	58.0
Fransp. & Public Utilities	7.1	9.1	17.9	18.7
Wholesale Trade	10.2	10.3	11.4	11.4
Retail	8.3	10.4	10.8	11.9
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	11.4	11.8	10.1	10.8
Services	15.8	11.7	10.9	11.9

Avg. Annual Pay Per Employee, by Sector McPherson and Kansas, 1990



- In 1990, the average annual pay per employee in McPherson County was \$16,900, less than the state average by 14.7 percent.
- During the 1980s, McPherson's position relative to statewide average annual pay improved. In 1980, McPherson's average pay was 17.5% less than the state average; in 1990, average pay was within 14.7 percent of state levels.
- Wholesale and manufacturing jobs pay the highest, on average, in McPherson County. In both of these sectors, average annual pay exceeds the state average. For nearly all other sectors, McPherson's average pay lags the state level.
- The services and mining sectors in McPherson have particularly low rates of pay relative to the state average, suggesting either higher than usual rates of part-time and seasonal employment, relatively low value-added levels, or low levels of productivity in these firms.

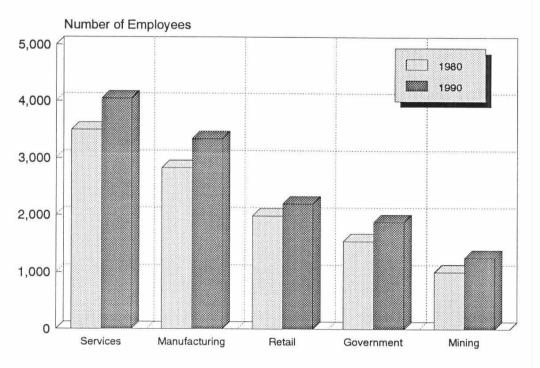
Table 6.4

Average Annual Pay Per Employee by Sector Private, Non-Farm Firms (in \$Thousands)

McPherson County and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

Sector / Industry	Mc	Pherson	Ka	nsas
	<u>1980</u>	1990	1980	1990
Private Sector Total	\$10.4	\$16.9	\$12.6	\$19.6
Agricultural Ser.	N/A	14.5	9.7	13.7
Mining	22.9	17.8	21.4	28.6
Construction	12.2	20.8	14.2	22.9
Manufacturing	14.9	26.4	15.4	25.5
Trans. & Pub. Util.	11.3	24.0	16.1	27.6
Wholesale Trade	12.8	27.3	15.7	25.7
Retail	5.9	9.0	7.4	10.8
F.I.R.E.	12.2	19.0	13.3	22.6
Services	6.8	9.4	9.8	16.7

Number of Jobs, Selected Sectors McPherson County, 1980 and 1990



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CA25, Full- and Part-Time Employees by Major Industry.

- Overall, 1,170 jobs were added to the McPherson County economy between 1980 and 1990, an increase of 7.2 percent.
- The biggest gains in number of jobs in McPherson came from Services (539 jobs), Manufacturing (521 jobs) and Government (339 jobs). Combined, these two sectors accounted for 90 percent of McPherson's net job creation over the 1980s.
- Sectors which lost employment were Wholesale (-216 jobs), Transportation and public utilities (-198), Farming (-181), Finance, insurance and real estate (-88) and Construction (-45 jobs).

Table 6.5
Distribution of Jobs, Net Change and Percent Change by Sector McPherson County, 1980-1990

Industry	1980	1990	Net Change	Percent Change	Industry Share of Net Change
Total	16,260	17,430	1,170	7.2%	100.0%
Farm	1,782	1,601	-181	-10.2	N.M.
Non-Farm	14,478	15,829	1,351	9.3	115.5
Ag. Services	91	119	28	30.8	2.4
Mining	1,008	1,262	254	25.2	21.7
Construction	890	845	-45	-5.1	N.M.
Manufacturing	2,827	3,348	521	18.4	44.5
Transportation/P.Util.	940	742	-198	-21.1	N.M.
Wholesale	618	402	-216	-35.0	N.M.
Retail	1,984	2,201	217	10.9	18.5
Finance, Ins. & R.E.	1,073	985	-88	-8.2	N.M.
Service	3,504	4,043	539	15.4	46.1
Government	1,543	1,882	339	22.0	29.0

Notes: Industry totals exceed 100% due to job declines in other sectors which lower the total net job creation. N.M. = Not meaningful.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CA25, Full- and Part-Time Employees by Major Industry.

- McPherson County's net job creation out-performed both the adjacent and medium comparative counties. On average over the decade, medium comparative counties gained 427 jobs each, adjacent counties gained 934, compared with McPherson's 1,170 net new jobs. Other than the metro comparatives, only Saline County did better than McPherson, adding 3,085 jobs.
- In terms of the rate of job growth, McPherson's 7.2 percent increase was twice that of the adjacent comparatives, while medium-sized comparatives' employment grew by 2.9 percent and non-metropolitan counties in Kansas experienced a job creation rate of 2.7 percent. Saline, Ellis and Lyon Counties each had job creation rates higher than McPherson's.
- Johnson and Sedgwick Counties combined accounted for nearly three-quarters of all job creation in the state between 1980 and 1990.

Table 6.6
Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

County	1000	1000	Net	Percent
County	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	Change	Change
McPherson	16,260	17,430	1,170	7.2%
Metro Comp.	373,919	512,176	138,257	37.0
Johnson	141,148	242,894	101,746	72.0
Sedgwick	232,771	269,282	36,511	15.7
Adjacent Comp.	80,682	83,663	2,801	3.5
Reno	35,013	34,953	-60	-0.2
Saline	29,194	32,279	3,085	10.6
Harvey	16,655	16,431	-224	-1.3
Medium Comp.	73,887	76,020	2,133	2.9
Barton	19,796	18,236	-1,560	-7.9
Ellis	15,204	16,795	1,591	10.5
Franklin	10,017	10,163	146	1.5
Lyon	18,379	20,137	1,758	9.6
Sumner	10,491	10,689	198	1.9
Non-Metro	624,269	641,079	16,810	2.7
Kansas	1,286,742	1,472,564	185,822	14.4

- During the decade farm employment fell in McPherson County by 181 jobs. The rate of job loss (-10%) was moderate compared to those of all of the comparatives, which typically declined by 15 percent or more.
- Despite losing jobs, the farm sector, at 9.2 percent of total employment, remained an
 important part of the McPherson County economy. Farming's share of overall
 employment in medium-sized comparatives averaged 7.7 percent, while in adjacent
 counties, the share was 4.4 percent.

Table 6.7
Farm Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

County	<u>1980</u>	Percent of 1980 Total	1990	Percent of 1990 Total	Net Change	Percent
McPherson	1,782	11.0	1,601	9.2	-181	-10.2%
Metro Comp.	3,340	0.9	2,753	0.5	-587	-17.6
Johnson	1,067	0.8	876	0.4	-191	-17.9
Sedgwick	2,273	1.0	1,877	0.7	-396	-17.4
Adjacent Comp.	4,375	5.4	3,705	4.4	-670	-15.3
Reno	2,216	6.3	1,866	5.3	-350	-15.8
Saline	1,035	3.5	872	2.7	-163	-15.7
Harvey	1,124	6.7	967	5.9	-157	-14.0
Medium Comp.	6,831	9.2	5,829	7.7	-1002	-14.7
Barton	1,484	7.5	1,148	6.3	-336	-22.6
Ellis	1,151	7.6	973	5.8	-178	-15.5
Franklin	1,258	12.6	1,171	11.5	-87	-6.9
Lyon	1,166	6.3	1,011	5.0	-155	-13.3
Sumner	1,772	16.9	1,526	14.3	-246	-13.9
Non-Metro	90,441	14.5	75,445	11.8	-14,996	-16.6
Kansas	102,162	7.9	84,411	5.7	-17,751	-17.4

- Mining employment (which includes oil extraction) in McPherson County increased by 254 jobs from 1980 to 1990. Only Sedgwick, Johnson and Ellis added more employment in this sector during the decade.
- The mining sector is a proportionately larger segment of the economy in McPherson County than in any of the comparative counties except Barton and Ellis. Mining accounted for 7.2 percent of McPherson County's jobs in 1990, almost as much as Farming (9.2%) or Government (10.2%).
- The two comparative counties which depend more heavily on mining than McPherson showed contrasting growth trends. In Barton County, Mining accounted for 11 percent of employment, with Mining employment suffering decline; in Ellis County, Mining (8.2% of jobs), enjoyed robust job growth similar to McPherson's.

Table 6.8
Mining Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980, 1990

County	<u>1980</u>	Percent of 1980 Total	1990	Percent of 1990 Total	Net Change	Percent Change
McPherson	1,008	6.2%	1,262	7.2%	254	25.2%
Metro Comp.	5,954	1.6	7,287	1.4	1,333	22.4
Johnson	524	0.4	771	0.3	247	47.1
Sedgwick	5,429	2.3	6,516	2.4	1,087	20.0
Adjacent Comp.	907	1.1	971	1.2	64	7.1
Reno	534	1.5	538	1.5	4	0.7
Saline	125	0.4	131	0.4	6	4.8
Harvey	248	1.5	302	1.8	54	21.8
Medium Comp.	4,670	6.3	4,130	5.4	-540	-11.6
Barton	2,940	14.9	2,005	11.0	-935	-31.8
Ellis	1,043	6.9	1,380	8.2	337	32.3
Franklin	205	2.0	282	2.8	77	37.6
Lyon	212	1.2	132	0.7	-80	-37.7
Sumner	270	2.6	331	3.1	61	22.6
Non-Metro	20,101	3.2	18,142	2.8	-1,959	-9.7
Kansas	28,009	2.2	27,057	1.8	-952	-3.4

- In sharp contrast to the experience of the comparison groups, non-metro Kansas and the state as a whole, manufacturing employment in McPherson County grew during the decade. The growth rate of manufacturing jobs in McPherson County (18.4%) nearly matched the Johnson County growth rate for manufacturing jobs (+22.6%).
- Manufacturing is a proportionately larger sector of the economy in McPherson County (19.2 percent of employment) than in all comparison counties except Sedgwick and Lyon (22.7 and 21.3 percent, respectively). In typical non-metropolitan Kansas Counties, manufacturing accounts for 11.3 percent of all jobs.

Table 6.9

Manufacturing Employment, Net Change and Percent Change McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1990

County	1980	Percent of 1980 Total	1990	Percent of 1990 Total	Net <u>Change</u>	Percen Change
McPherson	2,827	17.4	3,348	19.2	521	18.4%
Metro Comp.	80,501	21.5	81,769	16.0	-1,268	1.6
Johnson	16,929	12.0	20,751	8.5	3,822	22.6
Sedgwick	63,572	27.3	61,018	22.7	-2,554	-4.0
Adjacent Comp.	16,933	20.9	13,799	16.5	-3,134	-18.5
Reno	8,274	23.6	5,621	16.1	-2,653	-32.1
Saline	5,070	17.4	5,317	16.5	247	4.9
Harvey	3,589	21.5	2,861	17.4	-728	-20.3
Medium Comp.	10,816	14.6	9,359	12.3	-1,457	-13.5
Barton	2,111	10.7	1,862	10.2	-249	-11.8
Ellis	1,482	9.7	614	3.7	-868	-58.6
Franklin	1,886	18.8	1,460	14.4	-426	-22.6
Lyon	3,965	21.6	4,299	21.3	334	8.4
Sumner	1,372	13.1	1,124	10.5	-248	-18.1
Non-Metro	71,290	11.4	72,127	11.3	837	1.2
Kansas	195,121	15.2	189,585	12.9	-5,536	-2.8

- Wholesale employment in McPherson County decreased more sharply in McPherson County than in any comparative during the decade, declining by 35 percent.
- A total of 216 wholesale jobs were lost in McPherson County in the 1980s. Of the comparatives, only Barton lost more wholesaling jobs (408). Saline County appeared to gain most of these jobs, rising in wholesale employment by 427 jobs.
- In 1990, wholesaling accounted for 2.3 percent of McPherson's jobs. This was nearly
 half the share wholesaling normally contributes to typical non-metropolitan economies.

Table 6.10 Wholesale Employment, Net Change and Percent Change McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1990

County	1980	Percent of 1980 Total	1990	Percent of 1990 Total	Net Change	Percen Change
McPherson	618	3.8%	402	2.3%	-216	-35.0%
Metro Comp.	23,917	6.4	31,232	6.1	7 215	
Johnson	11,401	8.1	17,964	7.4	7,315	30.6
Sedgwick	12,516	5.4	13,268	4.9	6,563 752	57.6 6.0
Adjacent Comp.	4,331	5.4	4,334	5.2	3	
Reno	1,768	5.0	1,504	4.3	-264	0.1
Saline	1,983	6.8	2,410	7.5	427	-14.9
Harvey	580	3.5	420	2.6	-160	21.5 -27.6
Medium Comp.	3,622	4.9	3,138	4.1	-484	
Barton	1,543	7.8	1,135	6.2	-408	-13.4 -26.4
Ellis	601	4.0	661	3.9	60	
Franklin	624	6.2	409	4.0	-215	10.0
Lyon	528	2.9	686	3.4	158	-34.5
Sumner	326	3.1	247	2.3	-79	29.9 -24.2
Non-Metro	28,954	4.6	26,479	4.1	-2,475	-8.5
Kansas	68,485	5.3	73,311	5.0	4,826	7.0

- Retailing grew by 217 jobs, or 10.9 percent, in McPherson County during the decade.
 While this growth rate was well below the growth rate of the metropolitan centers, it was exceeded only by Ellis and Harvey among the remaining comparative counties.
- In 1980, the retail sector was under-developed, accounting for 12.2 percent of employment, well below the average share of employment retailing contributed in all of the comparatives. Despite moderate growth in the 1980s, retailing continued to account for a smaller share of jobs (12.6%) than was typical for medium sized comparatives (16.9%). Proximity to Wichita, Hutchinson, and Salina is no doubt a contributing factor.

Table 6.11 Retail Employment, Net Change and Percent Change McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1990

				constitution and an energy area		
County	<u>1980</u>	Percent of 1980 Total	1990	Percent of 1990 Total	Net Change	Percen Chang
McPherson	1,984	12.2%	2,201	12.6%	217	10.9%
Metro Comp.	65,104	17.4	88,863	17.4	23,759	
Johnson	29,726	21.1	45,824	18.9		36.5
Sedgwick	35,378	15.2	43,039	16.0	16,098 7,661	54.2 21.7
Adjacent Comp.	14,522	18.0	15,844	18.9	1,322	9.1
Reno	6,351	18.1	6,979	20.0	628	
Saline	5,841	20.0	6,221	19.3	380	9.9
Harvey	2,330	14.0	2,644	16.1	314	6.5 13.5
Medium Comp.	12,489	16.9	12,815	16.9	326	2.6
Barton	3,397	17.2	3,010	16.5	-387	
Ellis	2,840	18.7	3,350	19.9	510	-11.4
Franklin	1,536	15.3	1,587	15.6	51	18.0
Lyon	3,045	16.6	3,306	16.4	261	3.3
Sumner	1,671	15.9	1,562	14.6	-109	8.6 -6.5
Non-Metro	92,492	14.8	95,567	14.9	3,075	3.3
Kansas	198,491	15.4	232,990	15.8	34,499	17.4

- Service sector job creation in McPherson County was relatively weak during the 1980s. Although the number of jobs expanded by 539, the growth rate of 15.4 percent was exceeded by every comparative except Harvey and Barton.
- The service sector constituted 23.2 percent of McPherson County employment in 1990. This was a larger share than in every medium size comparative except Ellis, but less than any of the adjacent counties, which averaged a 26 percent share. The non-metropolitan average service sector share was 19.8 percent of employment in 1990.

Table 6.12 Service Employment, Net Change and Percent Change McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1990

				,,		
County	1980	Percent of 1980 Total	1990	Percent of 1990 Total	Net Change	Percer Chang
McPherson	3,504	21.5%	4,043	23.2%	539	15.4%
Metro Comp.	84,233	22.5	141,233	27.6		
Johnson	35,382	25.1	72,478	29.8	57,000	67.7
Sedgwick	48,851	21.0	68,755	25.5	37,096 19,904	104.8 40.7
Adjacent Comp.	17,773	22.0	21,869	26.1	4,096	
Reno	6,342	18.1	8,348	23.9	2,006	23.0
Saline	6,869	23.5	8,591	26.6		31.6
Harvey	4,562	27.4	4,930	30.0	1,722 368	25.1 8.1
Medium Comp.	13,324	18.0	16,099	21.2	2,775	
Barton	3,401	17.2	3,713	20.4	312	20.8
Ellis	3,359	22.1	4,383	26.1		9.2
Franklin	1,678	16.8	2,076	20.4	1,024	30.5
Lyon	3,237	17.6	3,784	18.8	398	23.7
Sumner	1,649	15.7	2,143	20.0	547 494	16.9 30.0
Non-Metro	103,538	16.6	126,648	19.8	23,110	22.3
Kansas	243,640	18.9	344,870	23.4	101,230	41.5

- The government sector of the economy in McPherson County is proportionately smaller than those of virtually all comparison groups and the counties that comprise them. Among the counties in the various comparison groups, only Johnson has a proportionately smaller government sector than McPherson County (9.9 and 10.8 percent, respectively). While the government sector accounts for roughly one of every ten jobs in McPherson County, comparable non-metro and statewide ratios are roughly one of every five.
- During the decade employment growth in McPherson County's government sector lagged the growth rates of the comparison groups. However, McPherson's growth rate was comparable to selected counties within the groups (e.g., Sedgwick, Saline, Harvey and Lyon) and exceeded the growth rates of non-metro Kansas and the state as a whole.

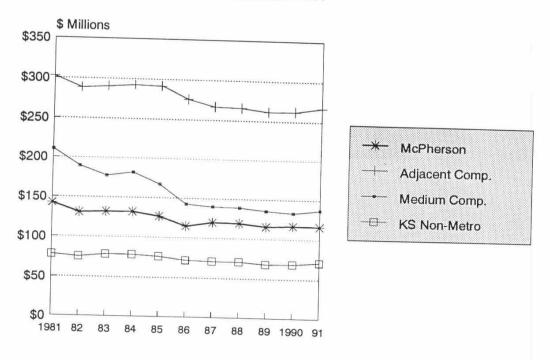
Table 6.13 Government Employment, Net Change and Percent Change McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1990

County	1090	Percent of	1000	Percent of	Net	Percen
	1980	1980 Total	1990	1990 Total	Change	Change
McPherson	1,543	9.5%	1,882	10.8%	339	22.0%
Metro Comp.	41,724	11.2	56,647	11.0	14,923	35.8
Johnson	14,525	10.3	23,944	9.9	9,419	64.8
Sedgwick	27,199	11.7	32,703	12.1	5,504	20.2
Adjacent Comp.	9,040	11.2	11,349	13.6	2,309	25.5
Reno	4,131	11.8	5,328	15.2	1,197	
Saline	3,306	11.3	4,071	12.6	765	29.0
Harvey	1,603	9.6	1,950	11.9	347	23.1 21.6
Medium Comp.	10,991	14.9	13,587	23.6	2,596	
Barton	1,954	9.9	2,597	14.2	643	23.6
Ellis	2,433	16.0	3,106	18.5	673	32.9
Franklin	1,492	14.9	1,714	16.9	222	27.7
Lyon	3,412	18.6	4,146	20.6	734	14.9
Sumner	1,700	16.2	2,024	18.9	324	21.5 19.1
Non-Metro	117,343	18.8	134,853	21.0	17,510	14.9
Kansas	227,929	17.7	267,723	18.2	39,794	17.5

Figure 6.5

Taxable Retail Sales Levels, 1981-1991

McPherson County, Avg. of Comparatives
In Real \$1982-1984



Source: Wichita State University, Center for Economic Development and Business Research.

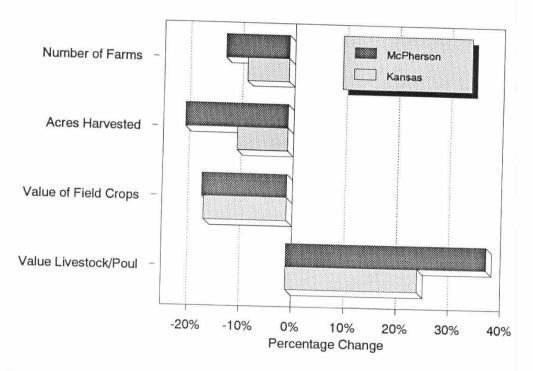
- Taxable retail sales (in real dollars) fell from in excess of \$140 million at the beginning
 of the decade to less than \$120 million at its end.
- During the decade, taxable retail sales (in real dollars) decreased 18 percent, much less than that of medium comparatives (-35%). Adjacent comparatives declined by 12 percent, while the non-metropolitan average decrease was 9 percent. By contrast, metropolitan comparative counties increased real taxable retail sales levels by 14 percent.
- For McPherson and for most of the comparative counties, the decline in retail sales levels was most severe in the early part of the 1980s. Since 1986, McPherson County has maintained more or less stable levels of retail sales.

Table 6.14
Real Taxable Retail Sales Levels (\$1982-84)
McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1981-1991

	1981	1982		122.1		
McPherson			1983	<u>1984</u>	1985	1986
	\$ 142.4	\$ 130.6	\$ 131.8	\$ 131.9	\$ 126.6	\$114.8
Metro. Comp. Johnson	4,649.4	4,589.4	4,969.8	4,969.8	5,093.6	5,152.
Sedgwick	1,800.4	1,864.4	2,021.0	2,112.3	2,250.3	2,396.2
	2,849.2	2,725.0	2,797.9	2,857.5	2,843.3	2,756.5
Adjacent Comp.	907.0	865.0	870.6	877.3	874.1	
Reno	403.1	381.7	380.6	387.4	401.5	825.3
Saline	376.1	356.9	360.1	356.9		366.1
Harvey	127.8	126.4	129.9	133.0	342.5 130.1	337.8
Medium Comp.	1,053.1	946.2	886.5			121.4
Barton	469.9	362.9	310.9	909.2	835.5	712.8
Ellis	213.6	222.5	231.5	320.0	285.0	209.8
Franklin	87.3	83.6	84.0	229.3	210.8	170.8
Lyon	200.1	199.5	203.5	82.3	83.9	82.7
Sumner	82.2	77.7	74.6	203.5	185.6	180.4
Non-Metro				74.0	70.2	69.1
	7,498	7,231	7,524	7,520	7,332	6,927
Kansas	14,822	14,396	15,019	15,216	15,150	14,745
	1987	<u>1988</u>	1989	1990	1991	% Chg.
McPherson	\$ 120.0	\$ 119.4	\$ 115.8	\$ 117.0	116.5	-18.2%
Metro. Comp.	5,223.8	5,301.0	5,341.7	5,180.6	5,303.0	14.1
Johnson	2,494.0	2,561.6	2,582.3	2,489.0	2,556.7	42.0
Sedgwick	2,729.8	2,739.4	2,759.4	2,691.6	2,746.3	-3.7
Adjacent Comp.	799.8	797.1	785.1	786.6	800.9	
Reno	343.4	340.3	336.4	336.1	339.1	-11.7
Saline	340.9	341.9	337.8	335.3	346.4	-15.9
Harvey	115.5	114.9	110.9	115.2	115.4	-7.9 -9.7
Medium Comp.	699.0	695.4	677.8	665.8		
Barton	197.3	196.6	188.8	188.2	685.6	-34.9
Ellis	174.7	178.1	175.2	171.8	194.4	-58.6
Franklin	84.7	84.5	83.0	80.6	181.1 83.7	-15.2
Lyon	176.3	171.7	167.9	167.2	167.0	-4.2
Sumner	66.0	64.5	62.9	58.0	59.4	-16.5 -27.7
Non-Metro	6,837	6,838	6,581	6,623	6,854	-8.6
Cansas	14,733	14,837	14,545	14,332	14,675	-1.0

Source: Wichita State University, Center for Economic Development and Business Research, Business and Economic Report, Vol. XXII, No. 2, Summer 1992.

Changes in Farm Production
McPherson County and Kansas, 1980-1990



Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, Kansas Statistical Abstract, various issues.

- The total value of farm output in McPherson County maintained a level of about \$37 million annually, despite a 15 percent decline in the value of field crops from the beginning to end of the decade. Compensating for the \$7 million per year reduction in production of field crops was a corresponding increase in the value of livestock and poultry.
- The number of farms in McPherson County decreased by 190 farms from 1980 to 1990, 1½ times the rate farms were taken out of production across the state (-12% vs. -8%). Of the comparatives, only Johnson County lost farms at a more rapid rate. (-16%).
- While the number of farms declined in McPherson, the number of acres harvested did
 not, indicating a trend toward fewer, bigger farms through consolidation. Overall, the
 number of acres harvested in Kansas declined 10 percent over the 1980s.

Table 6.15

Number of Farms and Acres Harvested

McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980-81 and 1989-90

				or and 1	707-70	
	1000	Number of Far	rms	Ac	res Harvested	(000s)
	1980-	1989-	Percent	1980-	1989-	Percer
	<u>1981</u>	1990	Change	1981	1990	
McPherson	1,560	1,370	-12.2%	362	361	Chang
Metro. Comp.	2,378	2,250	-5.4			-0.39
Johnson	785	660		460	490	6.5
Sedgwick	1,593	0.707=2.70	-15.9	80	78	-2.5
	1,393	1,590	-0.2	380	412	8.4
Adjacent Comp.	3,308	3,180	-3.9	906	802	
Reno	1,625	1,560	-4.0	447		-11.5
Saline	775	750	-3.2	214	411	-8.1
Harvey	908	870	-4.2	245	160 231	-25.2 -5.9
Medium Comp.	5,064	4,860	4.0			-3,9
Barton	1,053	940	-4.0	1,405	1,241	-11.7
Ellis	800		-10.7	330	267	-19.1
Franklin	3,340,440,440,0	800	0.0	173	123	-28.9
Lyon	1,120	980	-12.5	166	162	-2.4
	948	870	-8.2	190	166	-12.6
Sumner	1,143	1,270	-10.1	546	523	-4.2
Kansas	75,500	69,000	-8.0	21,931	19,823	-9.7

Note: Values shown as two year averages due to substantial inter-year variability in farm production (i.e., acres harvested). Number of farms varies much less from year to year but, to be consistent, is presented in the same format as acres harvested.

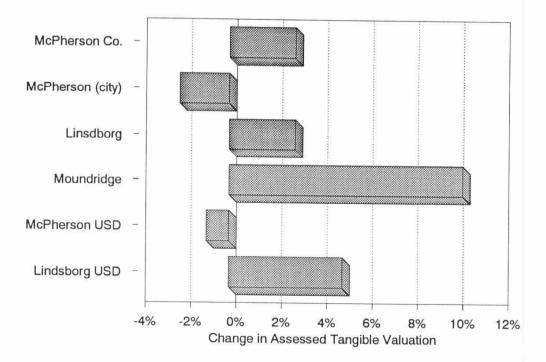
Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, Kansas Statistical Abstract, various issues.

Table 6.16 Value of Field Crops, Livestock and Poultry McPherson, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980-1981 and 1989-1990

	1980-	Field Crops	_		Livestock & Por	ıltry
	1981	1989- <u>1990</u>	Percent Change	1980- <u>1981</u>	1989- 1990	Percen Change
McPherson	\$ 47.3	\$ 40.4	-14.6%	\$ 26.3	\$ 35.3	34.2%
Metro Comp.	57.6	57.6	0.0	42.9	45.4	5.8
Johnson	12.1	11.5	-5.0	10.0	10.0	0.0
Sedgwick	45.5	46.1	1.3	32.9	35.4	7.6
Adjacent Comp.	108.9	87.8	-19.4	73.7	85.4	15.9
Reno	54.8	44.1	-19.5	32.8	45.6	39.0
Saline	25.0	18.0	-28.0	19.5	21.1	8.2
Harvey	29.1	25.7	-11.7	21.4	18.7	-12.6
Medium Comp. Barton Ellis Franklin Lyon Sumner Kansas	170.5	135.0	-20.8	121.6	151.5	24.6
	41.1	34.4	-16.3	32.9	45.5	38.3
	18.8	12.1	-35.6	19.3	24.1	24.9
	22.4	19.4	0.9	18.9	18.3	-3.2
	22.3	19.4	-13.0	33.6	36.8	9.5
	65.9	49.7	-24.6	16.9	26.8	58.6
	2,996.0	2,519.0	-15.9	2,229.9	2,790.2	25.1

Note: Values presented as two year averages due to high degree of variability in year-to-year production. Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, Kansas Statistical Abstract, various issues.

Change in Assessment Base, 1990-1992
McPherson Co. & Selected Components



Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Government Journal, January issues, 1988-1992.

- Assessed tangible valuation rose from \$152 million in McPherson County in 1990 to \$156 million in 1992, an increase of 3 percent. Comparative counties demonstrated a mixed pattern over this period.
- In percentage terms, assessment level growth among comparative cities was led by Moundridge, whose assessment levels grew by over 10 percent. For school districts, Canton-Galva led the group, with a 7½ percent increase.
- Relative to their counterparts, the county of McPherson's debt load (measured by
 percentage of assessed tangible valuation) was moderate in 1992, while the City of
 McPherson's was high.

Table 6.17
Levels of Assessed Tangible Valuation Levels & Bonded Indebtedness
McPherson and Comparative Counties, Cities and School Districts, 1990 and 1992

	Assess	sed Tangible V		Bonded	Indebtedness
C			Percent	1992 Total	% of Assessed
Counties	1990	<u>1992</u>	Change	(millions)	Tangible Valuation
McPherson	\$ 151.7	\$ 156.1	2.9%	\$ 5.9	3.8%
Johnson	2,430.5	2,724.7	12.1	138.1	5.1
Sedgwick	1,867.5	1,962.2	5.1	67.2	3.4
Reno	301.9	292.5	-3.1	4.0	1.4
Saline	217.7	223.4	2.6	0	0.0
Harvey	126.3	123.6	-2.2	4.4	3.5
Barton	161.9	150.9	-6.8	0	0.0
Ellis	141.0	149.6	6.1	0	0.0
Franklin	77.7	81.5	5.0	6.9	8.5
Lyon	125.6	125.8	0.2	2.8	2.2
Sumner	109.9	110.0	0.1	2.9	2.6
Cities					
McPherson	44.3	43.4	-2.2	21.0	48.5
Lindsborg	7.7	7.9	2.9	1.3	16.0
Moundridge	4.5	5.0	10.3	0.1	2.9
Inman	2.9	2.9	2.6	0.1	
Canton	2.0	1.9	-6.9	0.03	11.3
Galva	1.8	1.9	7.2	0.03	1.6
Marquette	1.1	1.0	-4.0	0.03	0.0
Windom	0.3	0.3	-2.3	0.06	2.5
Newton	48.4	50.1	3.5	6.9	18.5
Great Bend	63.5	54.1	-14.8	10.0	13.9
Salina	156.4	160.4	2.6	21.6	18.4
Hutchinson	145.3	137.5	-5.3	27.0	13.4
Hesston	14.7	14.5	-1.8		19.6
Buhler	3.8	3.8	-2.4	1.8 0.1	12.3 3.3
Cahaal District					5.5
School Districts	70.0				
McPherson	78.9	78.8	-0.1	3.4	4.3
Lindsborg	26.7	28.0	5.0	1.5	5.4
Canton-Galva	13.7	14.7	7.5	0	0.0
Moundridge	16.7	17.4	3.9	0.4	2.1
nman	13.9	13.9	-0.1	1.4	9.9
Newton	64.7	66.1	2.2	0.6	0.9
Buhler	55.5	54.6	-1.5	2.3	4.2
lesston	21.4	20.3	-5.4	2.0	9.9
outheast-Saline	29.8	30.5	2.5	1.7	5.6
airfield	23.4	24.5	4.3	0	0.0
edgwick	6.9	6.8	-1.9	0	0.0

Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Government Journal, January issues, 1988-1992.

• Relative to their counterparts the increases in tax levies has been moderate to slightly high in McPherson County, and low in McPherson's cities.

Table 6.18
City, County & School District Tax Levies in Mills
McPherson and Comparatives, 1990 and 1992

			Percent
Counties	1990 Levy	1992 Levy	Change
McPherson	27.603	32.049	16.1%
Johnson	14.946	16.328	9.2
Sedgwick	23.111	25.330	9.6
Reno	20.316	22.166	9.1
Saline	19.074	20.464	7.3
Harvey	30.550	31.230	2.2
Barton	15.685	19.727	25.8
Ellis	24.182	25.917	7.2
Franklin	36.890	44.399	20.4
Lyon	42.025	44.466	5.8
Sumner	33.606	36.972	10.0
Cities			
McPherson	44.817	46.844	4.5
Lindsborg	34.767	35.905	3.3
Moundridge	26.620	26.312	-1.2
Inman	32.651	42.380	29.8
Canton	31.117	31.081	-0.1
Galva	10.651	9.534	-10.5
Marquette	28.586	8.696	-69.6
Windom	49.603	36.131	-27.2
Newton	49.858	48.914	-1.9
Great Bend	40.071	49.205	22.8
Salina	30.015	29.828	-0.6
Hutchinson	29.528	40.838	38.3
Hesston	29.120	29.401	1.0
Buhler	47.544	46.921	-1.3
School Districts			
McPherson	69.32	86.42	24.7
Lindsborg	75.39	79.13	5.0
Canton-Galva	45.48	44.99	-1.1
Moundridge	72.00	75.41	4.7
Inman	53.42	69.04	29.2
Newton	80.37	87.92	9.4
Buhler	63.06	78.96	25.2
Hesston	65.49	85.77	31.0
Southeast-Saline	55.65	60.81	9.3
Fairfield	57.19	54.72	-4.3
Sedgwick	53.42	58.00	8.6

Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Government Journal, January issues, 1988-1992.

Section VII: Financial Capital

Businesses must have adequate access to capital in order to take advantage of special opportunities, such as developing new products, purchasing/refurbishing equipment, or undergoing expansion. Local financial institutions play a vital role in assisting business startups, expanding existing businesses, retaining businesses, or working with relocated firms.

It is critical for a community to have a sound financial base for business development. In particular, the profitability of local banks is especially important because they make the vast majority of business loans.

Because new and/or small businesses may have limited sources of funds, due to their riskier nature, the development of other sources of investment capital has been encouraged by the State of Kansas through tax credits and other assistance. As a result, Venture Capital Pools, Seed Capital Pools, and Certified Development Companies have been created statewide to serve the needs of these businesses.

The types of data presented in this section includes:

- the total number of banks and total assets of those banks, which show the level of banking resources in the community;
- The average return on assets is a measure of bank profitability, demonstrating the relative success of bank management in making profitable investments;
- the location of venture capital pools, seed capital pools, and certified development companies represent opportunities for local business to tap into alternative sources of financing;
- The location of venture/seed capital investments shows where pools have committed their funds, indicating how much of this type of activity has occurred in Barton County.

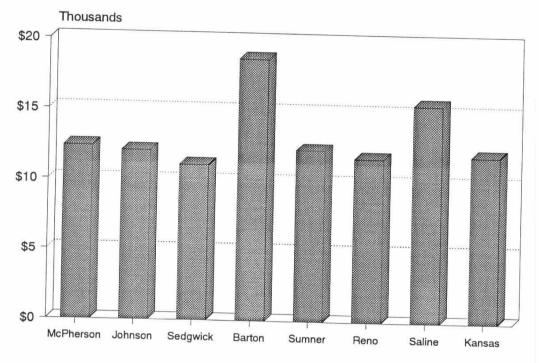
FINANCIAL CAPITAL: KEY FINDINGS

- Ten banks are headquartered within McPherson County, a high number in relation to the comparative counties.
- McPherson County banks tend to be smaller than those in comparative counties. Total
 assets in these banks totalled \$339 million in 1990, well below the totals in banks
 headquartered in Barton, Saline and Reno Counties.
- Only Barton and Saline County banks had higher levels of assets per capita than McPherson County headquartered banks. This suggests a greater presence of externally headquartered banks in the other counties, particularly Johnson and Sedgwick.
- McPherson County banks demonstrated very good profitability in 1990, with Return on Assets exceeded only by Saline County banks.
- Prior to 1990, McPherson County banks showed return on assets ratios below the state average in three of the four previous years.
- Certified Venture/Seed Capital Companies are located in four Kansas counties: Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, and Shawnee. However, their investments -- through calendar year 1990 -- were located in fifteen of the state's 105 counties, including McPherson.
- There are fifteen Certified Development Companies in Kansas which serve fourteen regions. McPherson County is served by the Small Business Development Association in McPherson County.

Figure 7.1

Bank Assets Per Capita, 1990

McPherson, Selected Comparatives & Kansas



Note: Data is for banks headquartered within the county and excludes branches headquartered in other counties. Source: Sheshunoff & Company, *Banks of Kansas, 1990* (Austin, Texas, 1991).

- Ten banks are headquartered within McPherson County, a relatively high in relation to the comparative counties.
- McPherson County banks tend to be smaller than those in comparative counties. Total
 assets in these banks totalled \$339 million in 1990, well below the totals in banks
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- McPherson County banks demonstrated very good profitability in 1990, with Return on Assets exceeded only by Saline County banks.
- Prior to 1990, McPherson County banks showed return on assets ratios below the state average in three of the four previous years.

Table 7.1
Total Number of Banks, Total Assets, and Average Return on Assets
McPherson, Comparison Counties, and Kansas Totals (1986-1990)

	Number of Bank	Rank	Assets		A	D		Y-
	Headquarters		Per Capita	1986	<u>1987</u>	Return 1988	1989	<u>1990</u>
		(\$ Millions)			-			
McPherson	10	339,187	12,439	.04	.63	.38	.79	.98
Johnson	33	4,302,341	12,117	.92	.80	.90	.53	.55
Sedgwick	23	4,481,667	11,103	.48	.97	1.08	.66	.70
Barton	7	548,660	18,673	13	.97	.89	.81	.94
Ellis	4	248,867	9,570	72	.28	.70	.70	.82
Franklin	6	207,679	9,443	.70	.67	.80	.77	.83
Lyon	9	295,398	8,505	.12	.58	.80	.77	.91
Sumner	11	316,732	12,257	.20	.68	.85	.92	.93
Reno	12	730,722	11,712	14	.39	.66	.59	.66
Saline	6	763,739	15,491	.93	1.81	1.25	.97	1.08
Harvey	8	290,215	9,353	.55	22	.73	.91	.94
Kansas	555	29,600,000	11,947	.57	.60	.82	.95	.80

Note: Data is for banks headquartered within the county and excludes branches headquartered in other counties. Source: Sheshunoff & Company, Banks of Kansas, 1990 (Austin, Texas, 1991).

- Certified Venture/Seed Capital Companies are located in four Kansas counties: Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, and Shawnee. However, their investments -- through calendar year 1990 -- were located in fifteen of the state's 105 counties.
- There are fifteen Certified Development Companies in Kansas which serve fourteen regions. McPherson County is served by the Small Business Development Association in McPherson County.

Table 7.3

Location of Venture Capital, Seed Capital, Certified Companies, and Venture/Seed Capital Investments

		Location of:			
	Venture	Seed		Venture/Seed Cap	
	Capital Co.1	Capital Pools ²	CDCs ³	Investments ⁴	
Barton					
Cherokee					
Crawford					
Dickinson				•	
Douglas					
Ford					
Graham			•		
Jefferson				•	
Johnson	8€			•	
Leavenworth			•		
Lyon			•		
McPherson				• 9	
Mitchell					
Neosho					
Reno					
Rice				*	
Riley					
Sedgwick					
Shawnee					
Wyandotte					

¹Certified Kansas Venture Capital Companies.

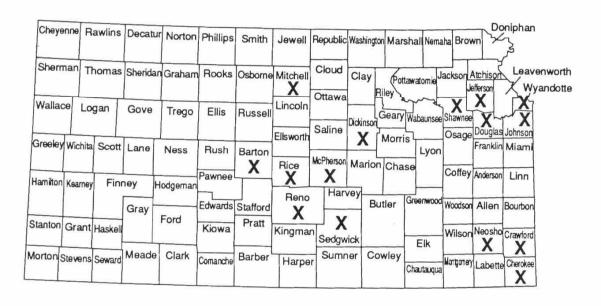
Source: Steve Kelly, Division of Existing Industry Development, Kansas Department of Commerce, 1992.

² Certified Kansas Local Seed Capital Pools.

³ Kansas Certified Development Companies.

⁴Includes those venture capital investments made through calendar year 1990.

Map 7.1 Location of Venture/Seed Capital Investments



Source: Kansas Department of Commerce, 1992.

Section VIII: Innovation & Technology

To compete in today's rapidly changing global economy, firms must keep pace with innovations in technology. Not keeping pace with the current technology can cause a once thriving firm to become inefficient and slow to respond to customer needs. The ability to keep current with changes in technology, and further, to be innovative and cause changes in technology, will enable firms to become more efficient, cut costs, and gain competitive advantages. Not only will firms that are innovative in the technology arena gain the advantages listed above, technological innovation will also lead to the improvement of current products, the creation of new products, and hence, the spawning of new industries.

Obviously, small and medium-sized firms often do not have the resources necessary to pursue such a path of technological innovation. Because of this, government entities, public/private cooperatives and educational institutions are offering their assistance to help these firms gain the competitive edge that comes through technological innovation.

The following section outlines the current status of technology and innovation in the state of Kansas. Measures are given that show the current state of the technological environment in Kansas and how it compares to the same environments in surrounding states. This is followed by a description of efforts that are being undertaken in Kansas to improve the state's technological resources.

The following measures are used to evaluate the technological resources of Kansas and surrounding states:

- The number of Ph.D. scientists and engineers in the workforce indicates the potential pool of innovators in the state. The larger this number the greater the opportunities for innovation. Even though not all scientists and engineers are innovators and vice-versa, the greater the technical capacity of the labor force, the greater the opportunities for innovative advances in technology.
- The number of science and engineering graduate students in a state gives an indication as to the level of science training in the state. Although this measure does not 'capture' how many of these students remain in the state after graduation, "the history of industrial innovation indicates that new businesses are spawned, more often than not, in the same place entrepreneurs received their degrees." (Corporation for Enterprise Development)

- The number of patents issued is an indication of the level of innovation in a state. However, caution should be used with this number because patents are often issued at the site of an organization's headquarters, not necessarily at the location where the innovation was developed.
- University research and development provides a measure of the research and development spending at universities in a state (excluding private universities). Such research has often led to associated business development.
- There is also a correlation between federal research and development and private business development. However, in states where much of the federal research is classified, there is less likelihood of transfer to the private sector.

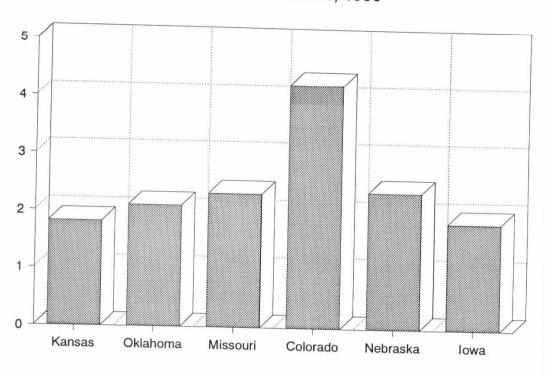
INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY: KEY FINDINGS

- Kansas ranks last in the comparison group of surrounding states and 44th in the nation in terms of the number of Ph.D. scientists and engineers per 1,000 workers.
- Kansas ranks second in the group of surrounding states and tenth in the nation in the number of science and engineering graduate students per 1 million population.
- Kansas ranks fifth in the group of six comparison states and 31st in the nation in the number of patents issued per 1 million population.
- Kansas ranks fifth in the group of six comparison states and 35th in the nation in university research and development at \$46.28 per capita.
- Among the six comparison states, Kansas ranks 4th in federal research and development at \$51.99 per capita, while it ranks 42nd in the nation.
- When the five measures listed above are combined into an index of technology resources, Kansas ranks last in the group of six comparison states and 41th in the nation.
- In an effort to develop its technology resources, Kansas has been a leader in state policy designed to develop technology and innovation.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY: DATA ANALYSIS

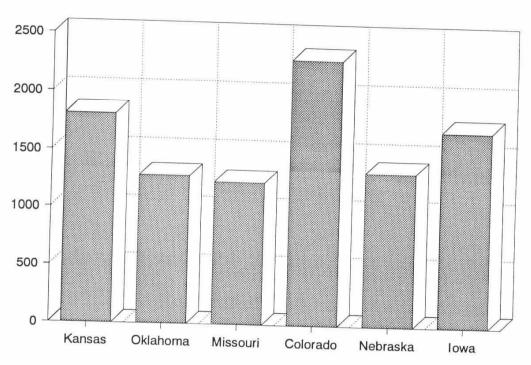
Figure 8.1

Scientists and Engineers Per 1,000 Workers, 1990



- While Kansas ranks last in the comparison group of surrounding states and 44th in the nation in the number of Ph.D. scientists and engineers per 1,000 workers, it ranks second in the group of surrounding states and tenth in the nation in the number of science and engineering graduate students per 1 million population.
- Conversely, Missouri ranks third in the comparison group of six states and 31st in the nation in the number of Ph.D. scientists and engineers per 1,000 workers. However, Missouri ranks last among the comparison group and 34th in the U.S. in the number of science and engineering graduate students per 1 million population. This could possibly be partially the result of Kansas graduates working in Missouri after graduation.

Science and Engineering Students
Per 1 Million Population, 1990



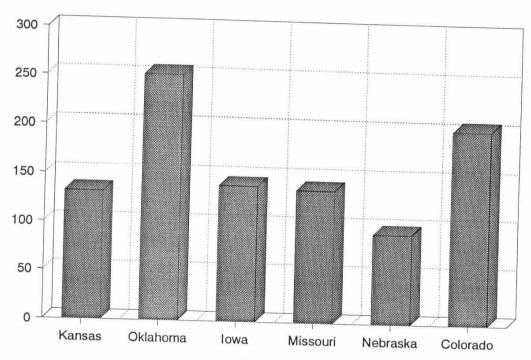
Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, The 1992 Development Report Card for the States.

Table 8.1 Science and Engineering Professionals and Students Kansas and Surrounding States, 1989/1990

	Ph.D. Scientists & E Per 1,000 Workers ¹	ngineers <u>Rank</u>	Science & Engineering Per 1 Million Populati	
Kansas	1.82*	44	1,808*	10
Oklahoma	4.24*	6	2,300*	2
Iowa	1.85*	43	1,709*	14
Missouri	2.33*	31	1,233*	34
Nebraska	2.38*	29	1,399*	26
Colorado	2.11*	38	1,281*	30

¹⁹⁸⁹ data; 21990 data. *Numbers are rounded.

Patents Issued Per 1 Million Population Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990



Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, The 1992 Development Report Card for the States.

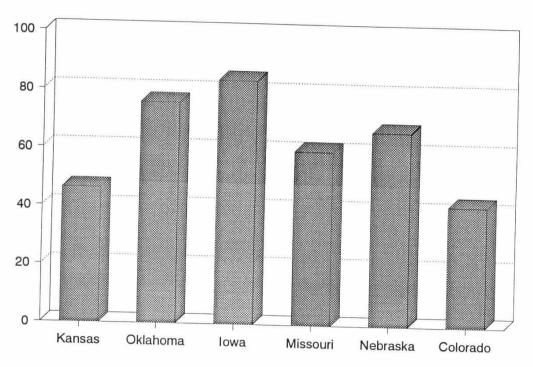
 Kansas ranks fifth in the group of comparison states and 31st in the nation in the number of patents issued per 1 million population.

Table 8.2
Patents Issued Per 1 Million Population¹
Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

	Number*	Rank	
Kansas	132	31	
Oklahoma	252	11	
Iowa	140	27	
Missouri	137	28	
Nebraska	93	38	
Colorado	201	19	

¹⁹⁹⁰ data; *Numbers are rounded.

University Research and Development Per Capita, 1990



Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, The 1992 Development Report Card for the States.

 Kansas ranks fifth in the group of six comparison states and 35th in the nation in university research and development at \$46.28 per capita.

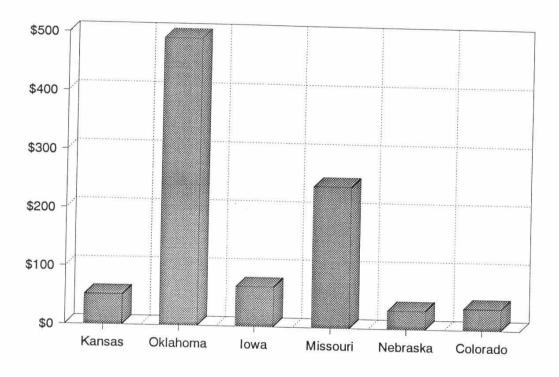
Table 8.3
University Research and Development Per Capita¹
Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

	<u>\$</u>	Rank	
Kansas	46.28	35	
Oklahoma	75.87	11	
Iowa	83.60	7	
Missouri	54.94	29	
Nebraska	66.76	18	
Colorado	41.53	39	

¹1990 data.

Figure 8.5

Federal Research & Development Spending Per Capita, 1990



Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, The 1992 Development Report Card for the States.

Among the six comparison states, Kansas ranks 4th last in federal research and development at \$51.99 per capita, while it ranks 42nd in the nation.

Table 8.4 Federal Research & Development Spending Per Capita¹ Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

	<u>\$</u>	Rank	
Kansas	51.99	42	
Oklahoma	491.18	4	
Iowa	68.76	34	
Missouri	242.70	12	
Nebraska	32.45	47	
Colorado	37.37	46	

¹1990 data.

When the five measures are combined into an index of technology resources, Kansas ranks
last in the group of six comparison states and 41st in the nation with a grade of "C".

Table 8.5
Technology Resources Subindex of
Development Capacity Report Card

	Rank	Grade
Kansas	41	С
Colorado	2	A
Iowa	28	C
Missouri	30	C
Nebraska	34	C
Oklahoma	38	D

Notes: Rank ranges from 1 to 50 (for the number of states), with 1 being the best and 50 the worst. The rank and grade are based on the data from the five categories in the previous tables.

Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, The 1992 Development Report Card For The States."

 In an effort to develop its technology resources, Kansas has been a leader in state policy designed to develop technology and innovation. Kansas tied for second (with Missouri and Oklahoma) among the six comparison group states in state policy for technology and innovation.

Table 8.6 State Policy Report Card, 1991 Technology & Innovation Subindex

	Rank	Grade
Kansas	7	A
Colorado	18	В
Iowa	1	A
Missouri	7	A
Nebraska	37	D
Oklahoma	7	A

Notes: Rank ranges from 1 to 50 (for the number of states), with 1 being the best and 50 the worst. The rank and grade are based on the data from the five categories in the previous table.

DESCRIPTION OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY EFFORTS

As mentioned above, Kansas has implemented policy aimed at developing the state's technology resources. The following is a description of efforts to increase the state's levels of technology and innovation.

Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC):

KTEC is a non-profit corporation that was created by the state of Kansas in 1987. KTEC's mission is "to create and maintain employment by fostering innovation, stimulating the commercialization of new technologies and promoting the creation, growth and expansion of Kansas enterprises."

KTEC is involved in several programs that help develop the state's technology and innovation. They include:

1) Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC)

In March 1991, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) awarded KTEC a \$12.9 million grant (over six years) to help establish MAMTC. MAMTC's purpose is to help small manufacturers become more competitive and productive. A goal of MAMTC is to bring advanced manufacturing technology to Kansas firms. MAMTC provides assistance in four main ways:

- i) Direct consultation-engineers visit companies, identify and resolve problems.
- ii) Training-customized and general seminars and workshops.
- iii) Networks-discuss problems, develop new relationships, tell MAMTC what is needed.
- iv) Demonstrations-give companies a chance to see equipment without having to purchase it.

MAMTC accomplishes its goals through its head office in Overland Park, and regional offices in Manhattan, Wichita, Pittsburg, Lenexa, and Great Bend.

2) Centers of Excellence

The Centers of Excellence are research centers, based at universities throughout Kansas, that are designed to cater to the technical needs of Kansas businesses. There are five Centers of Excellence, each with its own technology focus:

a) Advanced Manufacturing Institute (AMI). Located at Kansas State University, this Center works with Kansas companies to "enhance their manufacturing technology, develop new products, and increase productivity."

¹This and all subsequent quotes in this section taken from: Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation. (1991). 1991 Annual Report. Topeka.

- b) Center for Excellence in Computer Aided Systems Engineering (CECASE). Located at the University of Kansas, this Center conducts research into "methodologies for computer aided analysis and design of advanced engineering systems, and the development of (sic) prototype software products."
- c) Center for Technology Transfer (CTT). Located at Pittsburg State University, this Center's technical expertise and research programs help companies design, test, and develop prototypes, products and processing methods.

In addition, CTT works with the Institute for Economic Development at Pittsburg State University in order to provide clients with expertise in management methods, capital creation, and technology transfer.

d) Higuchi Biosciences Center (HBC). This center, located at the University of Kansas, includes the Center for Biomedical Research, the Center for Bioanalytical Research, the Center for Drug Delivery Research, and the Center for Molecular Engineering and Immunology.

The research foci of these Centers include the "three activities that are essential to the preclinical phase of drug therapy development-analysis, delivery, and formulation."

e) National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR). This Center at Wichita State University, caters to the research and technology needs of the aviation industry.

3) Applied Research Matching Fund

KTEC awards funds to private businesses and Kansas educational institutions for projects that "apply current scientific and technological knowledge and lead to new developments that can have a positive impact on the Kansas economy." Each application for funds is carefully screened by KTEC and a network of technical experts. If the application is accepted, KTEC will fund up to 40 percent of the project's costs.

4) Small Business Innovation Research Grants

Under this program, KTEC will provide matching funds up to a maximum of \$5,000 per proposal to small Kansas businesses to be used for preparation of proposals to federal agencies under the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Proposals that meet the federal requirements are eligible for up to \$500,000 in federal grants. Eligible firms may receive up to three grants from KTEC annually.

In addition, KTEC also offers a "support network for SBIR concept evaluation, identification of appropriate SBIR solicitation topics, federal agency contact, and technical assistance." The cost of using the network qualifies for SBIR matching funds.

5) Training Equipment Grants

In FY 1989 and 1991, KTEC matched funds with seven Kansas area vocational technical schools and community colleges in order to finance training equipment necessary to train Kansas workers at current levels of technology.

6) Kansas Agriculture Value-Added Processing Center (KVAC)

Associated with Kansas State University, the KVAC makes efforts to "enhance agricultural, economic and rural revitalization by promoting the growth of value-added processing facilities in Kansas."

7) Ad Astra Fund

In a limited partnership with a venture capital management firm, the state of Kansas and private industry combine funds to invest in "quality, high return investments in companies whose technology has a broad market appeal and a management team which is highly motivated, capable and dedicated to the creation of a successful business."

OTHER PROGRAMS

Kansas Industrial Training (KIT) and Kansas Industrial Retraining (KIR)

The Kansas Industrial Training program is offered through the Kansas Department of Commerce and is available to companies wanting to locate a new facility in Kansas or for existing companies wanting to expand their current Kansas workforce. The Kansas Industrial Retraining program is designed to assist restructuring Kansas companies whose employees may lose their jobs because of obsolete job skills and knowledge. Both programs are available to manufacturing, distribution, and regional or national service-related operations training 10 or more employees. Each company receiving KIT/KIR funds designs its own particular training program using its own supervisory staff, a vocational-technical school, a community college, consultants, or a mix of these to meet the company's specific training needs.

Therefore, if a firm desires to pursue new and advanced technologies, but does not have a local workforce capable of working with this technology, the KIT/KIR programs may be able to help.

Section IX: Quality of Life

Quality of Life represents those community characteristics which make it a pleasant and enjoyable place to live. Healthy, stable communities have a climate which encourages young people to stay in their community and one which attracts new residents.

Individual viewpoints on Quality of Life are based upon personal values and may differ from person to person. In general, a good Quality of Life is based on strengths in many areas, including low crime and poverty, a wide range of recreational activities, access to health and child care, and affordable housing.

In this section, the following measures are examined:

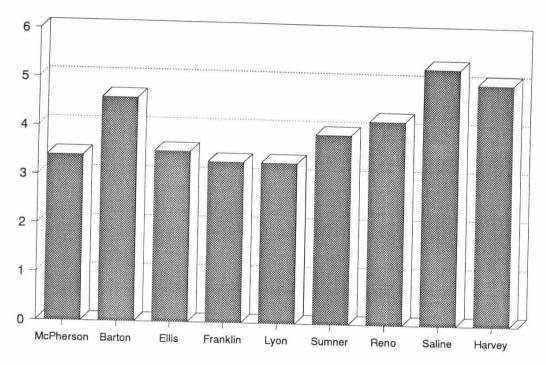
- overall indices take into account the number of volumes in public libraries (per capita), sites on the National Register of Historic Places, museums, local events, and state/ federal recreation areas;
- crime index offenses indicate social stability and level of public safety;
- hospital beds and physicians determine access to doctors and public medical infrastructure; infant deaths may pinpoint pockets of poverty or barriers to adequate health care; adult care homes' licensed beds demonstrate the local capacity to care for the elderly;
- day care and preschool facilities represent child care options for working families;
- percentage of population with poverty status reflects the distribution of income within a community;
- number of housing units and vacancy rates demonstrate the capacity of existing housing
 to accommodate population growth; vacancy tenure may indicate housing which could
 deteriorate or need substantial improvements over time; median housing costs represent
 value and affordability; and

QUALITY OF LIFE: KEY FINDINGS

- The overall quality of life in McPherson County -- measured in terms of the number of sites on the National Register of Historic Places, number of museums, and the number of state/federal recreation areas -- is comparable to that of the comparison counties. Only two indices, including number of public library volumes per capita and number of events, were relatively lower than those in other counties.
- Crime rates in McPherson County were profoundly less than the state average and were consistently lower than those of any comparative county.
- McPherson County's access to health care is not as attractive as several of the comparative counties. In 1990, there were 1,298 persons for every physician, compared with 607 statewide. Availability of hospital beds within the county is relatively low on a per-thousand population, and the utilization of hospital beds is about 10 percent higher than the state average.
- Infant mortality rates were lower than the state average throughout the 1980s, and was comparable or lower than that of medium sized comparative counties and the adjacent counties.
- McPherson County is relatively well off in terms of the number of adult care beds per
 population over 65. Its 1991 ratio of .13 beds for each person over 65 is higher than
 every comparative except Harvey (.15) and well above the state average (.08).
- McPherson County does not compare favorably with its comparative counties on Preschool and licensed day care facilities.
- While most of the comparative counties experienced increases in the proportion of population with poverty status, McPherson's rate declined during the decade to 7.1 percent, lowest rate of any comparative except Johnson, and was two-thirds the state rate.
- McPherson's housing availability was superior to that of the state as a whole and nearly every comparative county.
- Owner occupancy rates are relatively high in McPherson County. Sixty-eight percent of housing units in 1990 were owner-occupied, compared with 61 percent state-wide.
- In 1990, the median value of an owner-occupied home in McPherson County was \$47,900. This was 8 percent less than the statewide median value of \$52,200. Over the decade, the value of these homes grew by 25 percent in McPherson, a rate faster than six of the eleven comparatives. Rental costs were moderate in McPherson in 1990 relative to the state-wide median rents and those of the comparative counties.

QUALITY OF LIFE: DATA ANALYSIS

Public Library Volumes Per Capita McPherson and Comparative Counties



Source: John Clements, Flying the Colors: Kansas Facts, Dallas, Texas: Central Research II, Inc., 1990.

- The total number of public library volumes per capita in McPherson County was slightly below the average of the comparison counties. The number of volumes in McPherson (3.4 per capita) was greater than those in Johnson (1.8), Sedgwick (1.8), Franklin (2.3), and Lyon (3.3).
- McPherson County matched the average of its peers in terms of the number of sites on the National Register of Historic Places and number of museums, exceeded the average number of state/federal recreation areas, and had a significantly smaller number of events.

Table 9.1 Quality of Life: Overall Indices McPherson and Comparative Counties

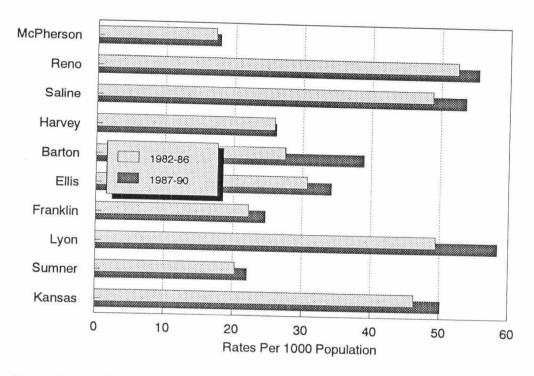
	Library Volumes Per Capita	Number of Sites on National Register of Historical Places	Number of Museums	Number of Events ¹	Number of State/Federal Recreational Area			
McPherson	3.4	9	5	14	4			
Johnson	1.8	5	4	24	_			
Sedgwick	1.8	29	14	34	2			
		22	14	58	1			
Reno	4.2	7	2	12	2.2			
Saline	5.3	8	2	12	3 ²			
Harvey	5.0	10	1	8	1			
			7	24	(***)			
Barton	4.6	3	2	4	2			
Ellis	3.5	6	4		2			
Franklin	2.3	11	1	15	***			
Lyon	3.3	11	1	20				
Sumner	3.9		2	22	2			
	3.9	6	4	15				

¹Includes festivals, antiques/flea markets, product expositions, holiday/religious events, arts and crafts shows, athletic events, etc.

Source: John Clements, Flying the Colors: Kansas Facts, Dallas, Texas: Central Research II, Inc., 1990.

²Includes wildlife refuges.

Crime Indices, 1982-86 and 1987-90 McPherson, Comparatives, and Kansas



Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Crime in Kansas 1988, 1989; State of Kansas, Uniform Crime Report, Crime in Kansas, 1980.

- Crime rates were lower in McPherson County than in any comparative county throughout the period 1982-1990. The overall index of crime offenses was about onethird the state rate throughout the decade, and half that of medium sized comparative counties.
- Violent crime and property crimes were similarly low in McPherson relative to the state and comparative counties.
- Property crimes showed a marginal increase in McPherson during the latter part of the decade, consistent with statewide trends.

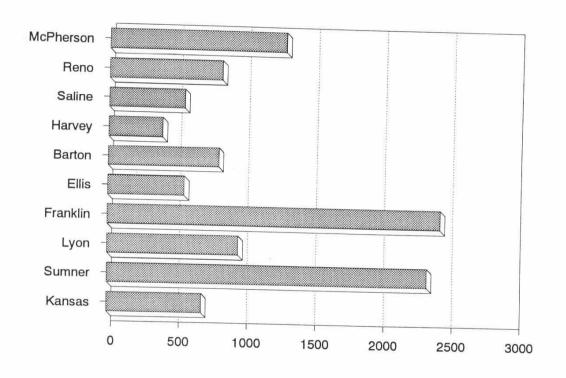
Table 9.2 Crime Indices: Rate per 1,000 Population, 4-year Averages McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1982-1986 and 1987-1990

		dex Offenses		Crime	Property	Crime
McPherson	1982-86 17.2	1987-1990	<u>1982-86</u>	1987-90	1982-86	1987-90
1.101 Helson	17.2	17.8	1.0	0.9	16.3	16.9
Johnson	43.0	45.0	2.4	2.7		
Sedgwick	69.7	74.3	2.4	2.7	40.5	42.3
8	03.7	74.3	4.8	5.9	64.9	68.4
Reno	52.4	55.4	2.8	16	40 =	
Saline	48.8	53.6		4.6	49.7	50.9
Harvey	25.9		1.6	2.1	47.2	51.5
	23.9	26.1	1.2	1.3	24.6	24.8
Barton	37.5	38.9	2.8	2.0		
Ellis	30.7	34.2		3.0	34.7	36.0
Franklin	22.3	24.7	1.2	0.9	29.6	33.3
Lyon	49.4		1.1	1.7	21.3	23.0
Sumner		58.4	2.0	3.7	46.7	54.8
Juniner	20.3	22.1	1.0	1.5	19.6	20.6
Kansas	46.3	50.1	3.5	4.0	43.9	46.0

Note: Crime Index Offenses are murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Crime in Kansas 1988, 1989; State of Kansas, Uniform Crime Report, Crime in Kansas, 1980.

Persons Per Physician, 1989 McPherson, Comparatives, and Kansas



Source: American Hospital Association, American Hospital Association Guide to the Health Care Field, 1981 Edition; 1989 Edition; Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Information Systems and Computing.

- McPherson County's access to health care is not as attractive as several of the comparative counties. In 1990, there were 1,298 persons for every physician, compared with 607 statewide. Only Franklin and Sumner counties experienced higher ratios.
- Hospital beds per thousand in McPherson was relatively low, with 3.8 beds per thousand (in 1989) compared with a statewide average of 6.0 (in 1990). Only Franklin, Reno and Johnson Counties had lower ratios.
- Hospital bed utilization rates were 10 percent higher than the state average, with 26.7 admissions per bed in 1990.

Table 9.3 Health Care Access Measures, 1989 and 1990 McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Total Hosp Beds	Total Population	Beds Per 1000	Beds from Rptg Hosp	Total Admits	AdmissionsPe Per BedPe	rsons r Physician
McPherson	104	27,268	3.8	104	2,777	26.7	1,298
Johnson	1,159	355,054	3.3	989	28,940	29.3	666
Sedgwick	2,106	403,662	5.2	2,026	72,816	35.9	485
Reno	142	62,389	2.3	142	6,746	47.5	832
Saline	382	49,301	7.7	356	10,134	28.5	560
Harvey	250	31,028	8.1	207	6,166	29.8	398
Barton	211	29,382	7.2	211	5,408	25.6	816
Ellis	236	26,004	9.1	116	2,659	22.9	565
Franklin	45	21,994	2.0	45	1,722	38.3	2,444
Lyon	173	34,732	5.0	173	4,367	25.2	965
Sumner	131	25,841	5.1	96	1,304	13.6	2,349
Kansas *			6.0			24.3	697

^{*} Statewide hospital bed and admission data is for 1990, while county data is for 1989.

Source: American Hospital Association, American Hospital Association Guide to the Health Care Field, 1981 Edition; 1989 Edition; Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Information Systems and Computing.

¹ Calculations based on 1990 population figures.

- The infant mortality rate in McPherson County was lower than the state average throughout the 1980s, and was comparable or lower than that of medium sized comparative counties and the adjacent counties.
- In the latter part of the decade, the rate of infant deaths rose significantly. Over the period 1987-1991, McPherson's infant mortality rate matched the state average.

Table 9.4

Number of Deaths, Infants Less Than 1 Year of Age, 1980 and 1987

McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Total Numb	er of Deaths	Percent of Y	ear's Births
	<u>1982-86</u>	1987-91	1982-86	1987-91
McPherson	3	15	0.1	0.9
Johnson	155	167	0.7	0.6
Sedgwick	376	395	1.0	1.1
Reno	50	44	1.0	1.1
Saline	33	29	0.8	0.8
Harvey	17	17	0.7	0.8
Barton	27	19	0.9	0.8
Ellis	25	10	1.0	0.6
Franklin	14	13	0.8	0.8
Lyon	34	17	1.1	0.6
Sumner	21	14	1.1	0.8
Kansas	1,913	1,689	1.0	0.9

Source: KCCED County Database, from Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Registration and Health Statistics, Annual Summary of Vital Statistics. IPPBR percentage calculations based on data from Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Information Systems and Computing.

- McPherson County is relatively well off in terms of the number of adult care beds per
 population over 65. Its 1991 ratio of .13 beds for each person over 65 is higher than
 every comparative except Harvey (.15) and well above the state average (.08).
- The number of adult care beds in McPherson County increased from 626 in 1983 to 628 in 1991. This represented an increase of 4 percent, the smallest of any comparative. Statewide, the number of adult care beds grew by 12 percent over this period. In Johnson County, the number of adult care beds nearly doubled over this time frame.

Table 9.5
Adult Care Homes: Licensed Beds
McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1983 and 1991

		nber of sed Beds	Number of Beds Per Population 65 and Older		
	1983	1991	1983 ¹	1991 ²	
McPherson	606	628	0.14	0.13	
Johnson	1,413	2,651	0.07	0.08	
Sedgwick	2,325	2,811	0.07	0.06	
Reno	634	856	0.07	0.08	
Saline	419	446	0.07	0.06	
Harvey	731	757	0.16	0.15	
Barton	374	384	0.09	0.08	
Ellis	263	290	0.10	0.08	
Franklin	277	284	0.08	0.08	
Lyon	253	420	0.06	0.10	
Sumner	483	474	0.11	0.11	
Kansas	25,584	28,731	0.08	0.08	

¹Calculations based upon 1980 population totals.

Source: KCCED County Database, from Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Information Systems and Computing.

²Calculations based upon 1990 population totals.

- The number of children (3-4 years old) per preschool was lower in McPherson County than any of the comparison counties or the state average. In fact, McPherson's figure of 96.9 was almost half of the state's number (191.0).
- The number of children (0-5 years old) per licensed day care center in McPherson County was the fifth lowest of the comparison counties.

Table 9.6
Access to Day Care and Preschool, 1989
McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

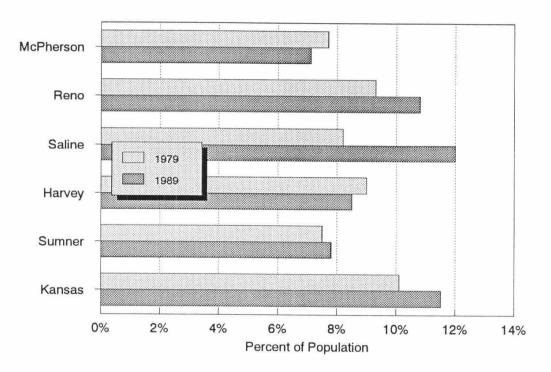
		of Licensed	Number of	of Preschools
	Total	Children Per Center ¹	Total	Children Per School ²
McPherson	35	67.6	8	96.9
Johnson	580	58.0	32	355.8
Sedgwick	295	139.9	40	344.0
Reno	107	48.7	10	181.0
Saline	150	29.5	14	109.1
Harvey	22	116.7	6	153.0
Barton	26	105.5	7	134.9
Ellis	26	83.3	4	200.5
Franklin	29	73.9	4	175.8
Lyon	54	60.5	7	159.6
Sumner	31	75.9	6	133.3
Kansas	3,177	71.7	404	191.0

¹Calculations based upon number of persons aged 0-5 according to 1990 population totals.

Source: Robert H. Poresky, Department of Human Development and Family Studies (Kansas State University), Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Adult and Child Care Facilities. Data collected by KCCED/IPPBR, KCRI/KSU.

²Calculations based upon number of persons aged 3-4 according to 1990 population totals.

Persons With Poverty Status, 1979 & 1989 McPherson, Selected Comparatives & Kansas



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population & Housing: General Social & Economic Characteristics, 1980; Summary Social, Economic & Housing Characteristics, 1990.

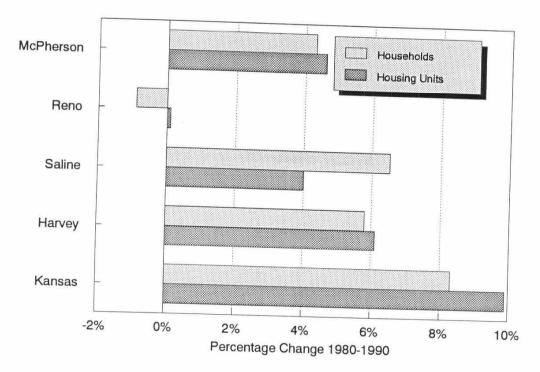
- The percentage of the population with poverty status in McPherson, relatively low in 1979 at 7.7 percent, declined during the decade to 7.1 percent. This was the lowest rate of any comparative, and was two-thirds the state rate.
- All of the comparative counties except Harvey experienced an increase in their poverty rates during the 1980s.

Table 9.7
Percent of Population with Poverty Status
McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1979 and 1989

County	1979 Persons	Percent of Pop.	1989 Persons	Percent of Pop.	Net Change	Percent Change
McPherson	1,916	7.7%	1,806	7.1%	-110	-5.7%
Johnson	9,726	3.6	12,667	3.6	2,941	30.2
Sedgwick	32,780	9.1	43,458	10.9	10,678	32.6
Reno	5,888	9.3	6,411	10.8	523	8.9
Saline	3,931	8.2	5,801	12.0	1,870	47.6
Harvey	2,602	9.0	2,486	8.5	-116	-4.5
Barton	2,596	8.4	3,392	11.8	796	30.7
Ellis	2,570	10.6	3,704	14.9	1,134	44.1
Franklin	2,125	10.0	2,540	11.8	415	19.5
Lyon	3,493	10.7	4,599	14.1	1,106	31.7
Bumner	1,834	7.5	1,984	7.8	150	8.2
Cansas	98,410	10.1	274,623	11.5	42,905	18.5

Note: Counties with high student populations (Ellis, Franklin) normally tend to show high poverty levels due to the prevalence of low-wage and seasonal employment of students and their restricted availability for work. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population & Housing: General Social & Economic Characteristics, 1980; Summary Social, Economic & Housing Characteristics, 1990, Summary Tape File 3.

Change in Households & Housing Units
McPherson, Selected Comparatives & Kansas



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of the Population, Summary File Tape 1A, Characteristics of the Population.

- Housing availability improved slightly in McPherson County during the 1980s. While
 the number of households increased by 4.3 percent, the number of housing units grew
 by 4.6 percent.
- With 1.17 housing units per household, McPherson's housing availability was superior to that of any comparative except Barton, which it matched. Statewide, there were 1.11 housing units per household.
- Household formation was slow in McPherson (4.3%) between 1980 and 1990, compared
 with statewide rates (8.3%). However, McPherson's household formation rate exceeded
 that of five of the ten comparative counties.

Table 9.8 Number of Housing Units, 1980 and 1990 McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Total H	ouseholds		mber of		Housing Units		Percent Change	
	1980	<u>1990</u>	1980	ing Units 1990	per Ho 1980	usehold 1990	House- holds	Housing Units	
McPherson	9,807	10,230	10,464	10,941	1.07	1.17	4.3%	4.6%	
Johnson Sedgwick	96,927 137,744	136,433 156,571	102,827 145,562	144,155 170,159	1.06 1.06	1.06 1.09	40.8 13.7	40.2 16.9	
Reno Saline Harvey	24,448 18,613 10,947	24,239 19,826 11,581	26,574 20,316 11,563	26,607 21,129 12,290	1.09 1.09 1.06	1.10 1.07 1.06	-0.9 6.5 5.8	0.1 4.0 6.1	
Barton Ellis Franklin Lyon Gumner	11,797 9,200 8,148 13,009 9,413	11,561 10,096 8,308 13,059 9,689	12,871 10,248 8,763 13,980 10,356	13,144 11,115 8,926 14,346 10,769	1.09 1.11 1.08 1.07 1.10	1.17 1.10 1.07 1.10 1.11	-3.5 9.7 2.0 0.4 2.9	3.8 8.5 1.9 2.6 4.0	
Cansas	872,239	944,726	950,151	1,044,112	1.09	1.11	8.3	9.9	

- Vacancy rates in McPherson were much lower than those in the comparison counties
 and the state in 1990, particularly for rental units. Only Harvey County among the
 comparatives had lower rental vacancy rates than McPherson.
- Owner occupied unit vacancies were also low in 1990 but were surpassed by those of Saline and Harvey.
- Owner occupancy rates are relatively high in McPherson County. Sixty-eight percent of
 housing units in 1990 were owner-occupied, compared with 61 percent state-wide.
 Only Sumner County had equivalent rates of owner occupied housing.

Table 9.9
Housing Occupancy and Tenure, 1990
McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Total Housing Units	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Vacant Total	Vacant		y Rates
M. DI				Total	Seasonal	Owned	Renta
McPherson	10,941	7,483	2,747	711	38	1.6	8.4
Johnson	144,155	94,661	41,722	7,722	303	2.1	0.5
Sedgwick	170,159	99,753	56,818	13,588	17/2/4/70.5	2.1	9.5
		3-1,	50,010	13,300	249	2.2	13.4
Reno	26,607	16,954	7,285	2,368	163	2.2	12.4
Saline	21,129	13,216	6,610	1,303	30	1.4	
Harvey	12,290	7,925	3,656	709	33		9.5
			2,020	703	33	1.5	6.8
Barton	13,144	8,357	3,204	1,583	37	3.0	16.8
Ellis	11,115	6,501	3,595	1,019	43	2.3	12.2
Franklin	8,926	6,037	2,271	618	43	2.7	27.2
Lyon	14,346	8,011	5,048	1,287	38		
Sumner	10,769	7,420	2,269	1,080		2.1	9.7
	,,	7,120	2,209	1,000	71	2.3	13.4
Kansas	1,044,112	641,762	302,964	99,386	7,336	2.3	11.1

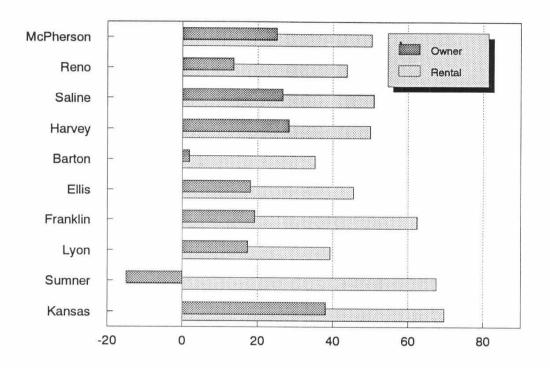
- The number of units vacant 6 or more months in McPherson County was relatively low when compared to the other counties and the state average. The percent of total vacancies which were vacant 6 or more months in McPherson County was 46.7 percent, and only two counties -- Johnson (20.5) and Sedgwick (33.8) -- were lower.
- Rental vacancies of 6 or more months were lower in three other counties, including Johnson, Sedgwick, and Lyon. Franklin was tied with McPherson County, both with rates of 27.3 percent. Comparing those for-sale units which have been vacant 6 or more months, McPherson (52.1%) lagged behind only two counties: Johnson (32.7) and Sedgwick (41.1).

Table 9.10 Housing Units Vacant 6 or More Months, 1990 McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Total V	acancies	Rentals	S Vacant	Units for Sale		
	Number	% Vacant	Number	% Vacant	Number	% Vacan	
McPherson	332	46.7%	63	27.3%	63	52.1%	
Johnson	1,585	20.5	485	12.2	639	32.7	
Sedgwick	4,595	33.8	1,795	23.5	881	41.1	
Reno	1,287	54.3	302	33.4	224	59.3	
Saline	496	72.5	54	47.4	77	75.5	
Harvey	355	50.1	90	36.3	67	56.3	
Barton	1,047	66.1	256	47.7	175	68.9	
Ellis	569	55.8	150	34.1	94	63.1	
Franklin	350	56.6	44	27.3	67	60.9	
Lyon	638	49.6	125	25.4	96	56.1	
Sumner	669	61.9	136	44.6	111	65.3	
Kansas	49,844	50.2	11,220	29.8	8,256	54.1	

Note: Percentages are equivalent to the percentage of units vacant 6 or more months within each classification (i.e. Total, Rentals, Units for Sale).

Change in Median Housing Costs 1980-90
McPherson and Selected Comparatives



- In 1990, the median value of an owner-occupied home in McPherson County was \$47,900. This was 8 percent less than the statewide median value of \$52,200.
- McPherson's median owner-occupied house value was fourth highest of the eleven comparative counties. Over the decade, the value of these homes grew by 25 percent in McPherson, a rate faster than six of the eleven comparatives.
- Rental costs were moderate in McPherson in 1990 relative to the state-wide median rents and those of the comparative counties.

Table 9.11 Median Housing Costs, 1980 and 1990 McPherson, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

		Occupied 1 Value		Occupied n Rent		Change
	1980	1990	1980	1990	Owner <u>Units</u>	Rental <u>Units</u>
McPherson	38,300	47,900	149	224	25.1	50.3
Johnson	65,200	91,500	275	438	40.3	59.3
Sedgwick	42,000	58,500	200	302	39.3	51.0
Reno	35,300	40,100	162	233	13.6	43.8
Saline	35,900	45,500	165	249	26.7	50.9
Harvey	36,700	47,100	154	231	28.3	50.0
Barton	37,000	37,700	156	211	1.9	35.3
Ellis	42,000	49,600	156	227	18.1	45.5
Franklin	31,600	37,700	133	216	19.3	62.4
Lyon	39,000	45,800	168	234	17.4	39.3
Sumner	30,000	25,500	120	201	-15.0	67.5
Kansas	37,800	52,200	168	285	38.1	69.6

Section X: Summary of Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats

Understanding the economic, social and demographic trends which have been occurring and are likely to occur is an important first step in developing a strategic plan for the future. Throughout this report, McPherson County's performance has been related to that of similar areas in order to provide a context for evaluating whether McPherson's performance has been relatively good or relatively poor. This section provides a brief summary of these comparisons, organized into strengths and weaknesses. This will help identify where action can or should be taken to either address a problem or to build upon an area of strength within the community. If present trends continue, changes in the world around McPherson County will present conditions which will either be favorable (opportunities) or unfavorable (threats) for McPherson County's wellbeing. It is from this context that priorities can be determined, and specific action proposals can be developed.

The following list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats is not intended to be exhaustive. It is intended merely as a beginning point, drawing upon some of the conclusions of this report, and should be supplemented with the conclusions of other reports, discussions, public meetings, surveys, and importantly, local common knowledge about community conditions.

STRENGTHS

- High school dropout rates generally lower than the state average
- Lower public school pupil-teacher ratio than comparative counties
- High rate of job creation from 1981-1990
- Persistently low rates of unemployment
- · Per capita income higher than average for non-metropolitan Kansas with continued growth
- Growth and level of average earnings per job comparable to non-metropolitan areas and state as a whole
- Low level of dependence on transfer payments
- Extensive public highway network and access to major federal and state highways
- Recent stability in taxable retail sales
- Net job growth rates higher than most comparative counties
- Job growth in service and manufacturing sectors
- Relatively high wages in wholesale and manufacturing sectors
- Sustained levels of farm output
- Assessed tangible property valuation remains steady
- Relatively high number of banks headquartered in the county
- Crime rates lower than average for comparative counties and state
- Relatively low infant mortality rates

- Greater access to adult care facilities than state and comparative counties
- Low levels of persons with poverty status

WEAKNESSES

- Lower educational levels than for several comparative counties and the state as a whole
- Slower increase in per-pupil educational expenditures than in several comparative counties
- Steady increase in high school dropout rates
- Less access to rail transportation than comparative counties
- · Lower level of access to water/sewer infrastructure than comparative counties
- Average annual pay per employee lagging behind state and comparative areas
- Relatively low rates of pay in services and mining sectors
- Bank assets tend to be smaller than in comparative counties
- Less access to health care than comparative counties

OPPORTUNITIES

- · Steady and moderate population growth
- · Recent stability in size of labor force
- Increased traffic flows through the county indicate increased interdependencies with neighboring counties
- Growing trend toward smaller firms may provide opportunities for expansion
- Housing supply is available and is growing, improving the ability to accommodate short term and immediate employment growth
- Kansas has developed numerous state technology and small business programs
- McPherson is one of fifteen counties receiving investments from certified venture/seed capital companies

THREATS

- Under 18 population is lower than adjacent counties; over 65 population is higher than in comparative counties and the state as a whole
- Shrinking proportion of the population of working age
- Shrinking labor force since 1980
- Slowdown in rate of job growth in recent years
- · Loss of jobs in all sectors except services, manufacturing and government
- Decline in real taxable retail sales since 1981
- Kansas has not performed well with respect to innovation and technology
- Preschool and licensed day care lag behind comparative counties