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Economic Trends Update: Atchison County

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Foreword

The Kansas Center for Community Economic Development (KCCED) is a joint center of the Policy Research Institute at the University of Kansas and the Kansas Center for Rural Initiatives at Kansas State University. Its purpose is to enhance economic development efforts by bringing university expertise to rural Kansas.

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Economic Trends Update: Atchison County

Introduction

The following report is an objective look at several key economic trends occurring in Atchison County over the last few decades. The Atchison County area is a community which has seen a slightly declining population in recent years, although the workforce has been growing. Specific data on those and other developments will hopefully prove valuable to Atchison County's community leaders.

This report looks at variables categorized under the following areas:

- population,
- employment,
- earnings and income,
- retail trade,
- agriculture, and
- education.

Throughout the report, Atchison County's performance is compared with the performance of the State of Kansas and other Comparative Counties.¹ It is by no means a comprehensive analysis of economic trends facing Atchison County but rather an overview of some key economic and demographic variables.

¹ "Comparative counties" or "Selected counties" used for comparison in this report are Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth and Nemaha.

POPULATION

In every community population size and economic activity are closely related. The size of population is directly related to employment opportunities within the area, wage differentials between regions, and a community's overall economic and social conditions. Growing communities are more likely to adapt successfully to a changing economic environment than areas with constant or decreasing population. New residents in a community mean 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. Generally, areas of population growth are also areas of economic growth, whereas areas of population loss suffered previous economic decline and restructuring.

Characteristics of the region's population are regarded as indicators of economic conditions and economic potential of this region. Past and projected population changes indicate economic trends in the community and can be compared to other counties, as well as the statewide and national averages.

Another characteristic of the economic potential of the region is migration of the population. 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 the lack of opportunity, or a "pull" phenomenon by urban areas with higher wages, better job opportunities, and a perceived better quality of life. Age and education also determine regional migration. Generally, the population aged 18 to 45 is 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 following section consists of population tables, figures, and maps, which together illustrate population totals, population growth rates, population by age groups, percent net migration, and population rankings.

Population: Key Findings

- The population of Atchison County has declined every decade since the 1930's. Between 1980 and 1990 Atchison County's population decreased by 8 percent, while the growth rate of Kansas was a positive 4.8 percent and that of the U.S. a positive 9.8 percent. In the decade of the 1990's Atchison's population slip was arrested somewhat, with total losses at -0.8 percent. This was the smallest population drop of any decade since 1930, indicating the trend may possibly be on track to a reversal, though it is too early to tell. (Table 1 and 2, Figure 1b)
- Most of the comparative counties have experienced population growth during the last three decades, compared to Atchison's steady declines. All of the counties saw

decreased population growth in the 1980's, but only one county lost a higher percent of its population than Atchison: Doniphan, which lost 12.2 percent. In the 1990's only Atchison and Brown counties saw population declines. On the other hand, Jefferson county's population grew 16 percent, Jackson nearly 10 percent, and Leavenworth nearly 7 percent. (Table 2 and Figure 1a)

- The largest age group segment in Atchison County is made up of people in the 25 to 44 year-old range, but the percent of the population in that range is declining slowly over time. About 26 percent of the Atchison County population was in the 25 to 44 range in 1990, but only 24.5 percent was in that range in 2000. The age group which saw the most growth was the 45 to 64 year-old range, which grew from 18.8 percent of the population in 1990 to 21.4 percent in 2000. This data illustrates the effect of the aging baby-boom generation. (Table 3 and 3a and Figure 2)
- Census race data from 2000 can not be directly compared to data from previous years, due to a change in reporting which now allows people to select more than one race. In 2000, 266 people in Atchison County indicated they belonged to more than one race. Therefore, the 2000 Census data figures for individual races would probably be slightly higher if the old categorization had been used. Nevertheless, the new data is still useful for indicating trends. (Tables 4 and 4a)
- The population of Atchison County has become slightly more racially diverse over time, with the population in the 'Others' group growing the most over the last two decades. This group includes Asians, Pacific Islanders and Native Americans. This group totaled 118 people in 1980, compared to 246 in 2000, an increase of 108 percent. (Tables 4 and 4a)
- Though their numbers have been decreasing over time, non-Hispanic whites still made up the majority of the county's population in 2000, at 90 percent of the total. Blacks made up 5.3 percent of the population in 2000, Hispanics 1.9 percent, and Asians, Pacific Islanders and Native Americans made up 1.5 percent. (Tables 4 and 4a)
- Each decade since the 1970s, Atchison County's net migration has been negative. Net migration is calculated as the change in population less the difference between births and deaths. A negative net migration indicates that more people have moved out of the county than have moved in. Between 1990 and 1999 Atchison County's net migration was slightly negative at -274 people, or about -1.6 percent of total population. That was the first decade when net migration was less than 1,000 people for Atchison. Net migration in Kansas from 1990 to 1999 was a positive 43,924. It is the first time since the 1970's that the state of Kansas had a positive net migration. (Table 5 and Map 3)
- Atchison County moved from being the 20th most populated county in Kansas in 1940 to being 29th in 1980, 30th in 1990, and 32nd in 2000. (Table 6)

- In 1990 the ten-year population growth rate in Atchison County was 60th compared to all other counties in the state. In other words, 59 other counties had populations which grew faster than Atchison's from 1980 to 1990 (Map 1.) Between 1990 and 2000 Atchison's -0.8 percent growth rate was ranked 53rd in the state. (Map 2)

Table 1
Population Totals, Growth Rates, Rank & Share
Atchison County and Kansas

<u>Year</u>	<u>Atchison County</u>		<u>Kansas</u>		<u>Atchison County Rank in State</u>	<u>Share (%)</u>
	<u>Population Total</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>Population Total</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>		
1890	26,758		1,428,108		12	1.9
1900	28,606	6.9	1,470,495	3.0	10	1.9
1910	28,107	-1.7	1,690,949	15.0	12	1.7
1920	23,411	-16.7	1,769,257	4.6	19	1.3
1930	23,945	2.3	1,880,999	6.3	18	1.3
1940	22,222	-7.2	1,801,028	-4.3	20	1.2
1950	21,496	-3.3	1,905,299	5.8	22	1.1
1960	20,898	-2.8	2,178,611	14.3	25	1.0
1970	19,165	-8.3	2,249,071	3.2	27	0.9
1980	18,397	-4.0	2,364,236	5.1	29	0.8
1990	16,908	-8.1	2,477,588	4.8	30	0.7
1991*	16,841	-0.4	2,495,209	0.7	30	0.7
1992*	16,858	0.1	2,526,042	1.2	31	0.7
1993*	16,961	0.6	2,547,605	0.9	31	0.7
1994*	16,812	-0.9	2,569,118	0.8	31	0.7
1995*	16,809	0.0	2,586,942	0.7	32	0.6
1996*	16,831	0.1	2,598,266	0.4	31	0.6
1997*	16,824	0.0	2,616,339	0.7	33	0.6
1998*	16,858	0.2	2,638,667	0.9	32	0.6
1999*	16,856	0.0	2,654,052	0.6	32	0.6
2000	16,774	-0.5	2,688,418	1.3	32	0.6

* Estimates

Source: 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" Floerchinger, Teresa D., "Kansas Population Projections 1990-2030," Kansas Division of the Budget, September 1992; Population Estimates, and Population Distribution Branches, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Calculations: PRI.

Table 2
Population Growth Rates
Atchison County, Comparative Counties, Kansas, and United States
1970-2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>	<u>1990-2000</u>
Atchison	-4.0	-8.1	-0.8
Brown	2.3	-6.9	-3.6
Doniphan	1.7	-12.2	1.4
Jackson	12.6	-1.0	9.8
Jefferson	27.3	4.6	15.9
Leavenworth	2.8	17.4	6.7
Nemaha	-5.2	-6.8	2.6
Kansas	5.1	4.8	8.5
United States	11.4	9.8	8.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "1980 Census of Population," PC90-1-A; "1990 Decennial Census"; "2000 Decennial Census." Calculations: PRI.

Figure 1a
Rates of Population Change
Atchison and Comparative Counties
1970-2000

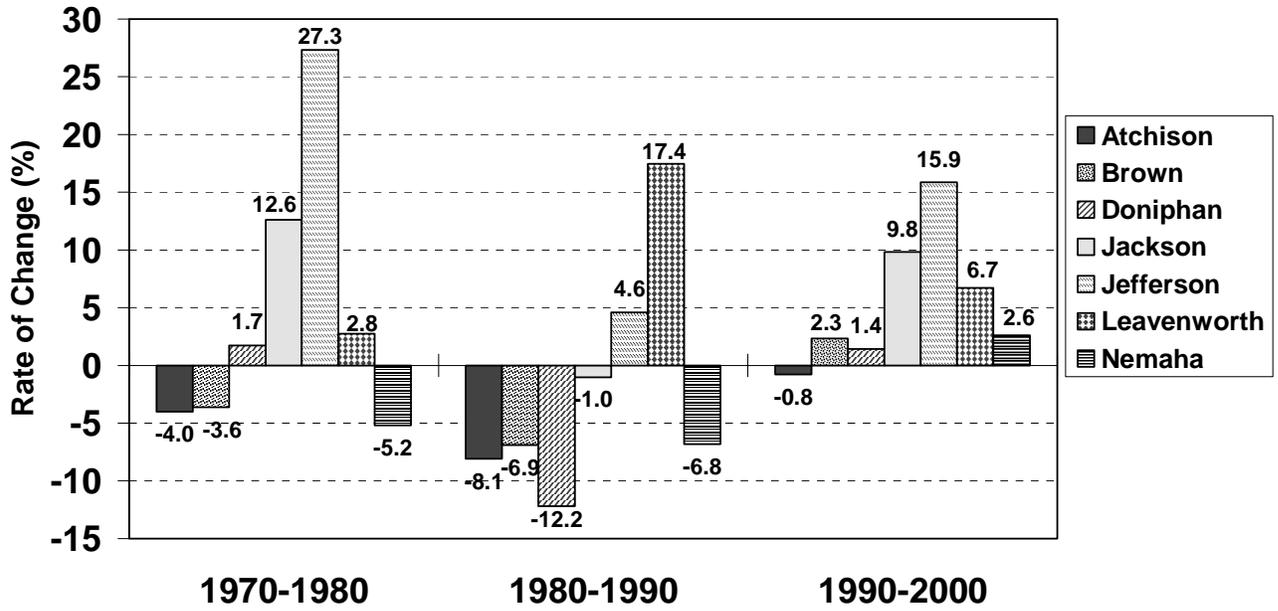


Figure 1b
Rates of Population Change
Atchison County, Kansas, and U.S.
1970-2000

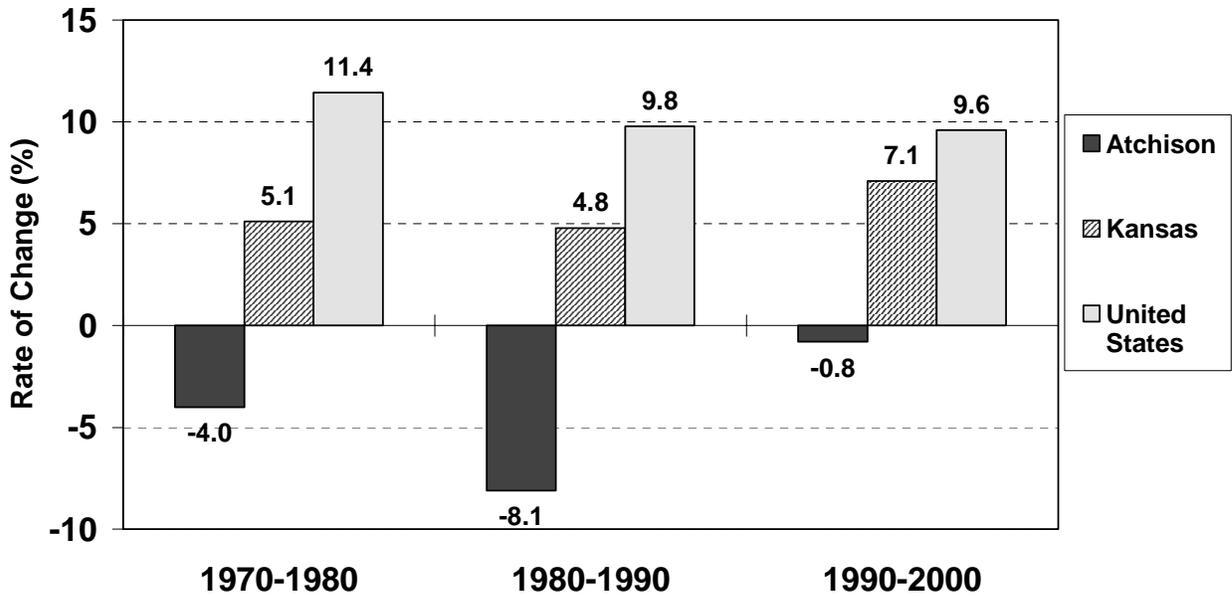


Table 3
Population by Selected Age Groups
Atchison County and Kansas
1990-2000

	Age:	<u>0-4</u>	<u>5-17</u>	<u>18-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65 and over</u>
Atchison	1990	1,193	3,491	1,773	4,415	3,182	2,854
	2000	1,068	3,405	1,890	4,104	3,584	2,723
Kansas	1990	189,988	472,267	255,195	776,430	443,877	342,863
	2000	188,708	524,285	275,592	769,204	574,400	356,229

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 3a
Population by Selected Age Groups as Percent of Total
Atchison County and Kansas
1990-2000

	Age:	<u>0-4</u>	<u>5-17</u>	<u>18-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65 and over</u>
Atchison	1990	7.1 %	20.6 %	10.5 %	26.1 %	18.8 %	16.9 %
	2000	6.4	20.3	11.3	24.5	21.4	16.2
Kansas	1990	7.7	19.1	10.3	31.3	17.9	13.8
	2000	7.0	19.5	10.3	28.6	21.4	13.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Figure 2
Population by Age Group as Percent of Total Population
Atchison County
1990-2000

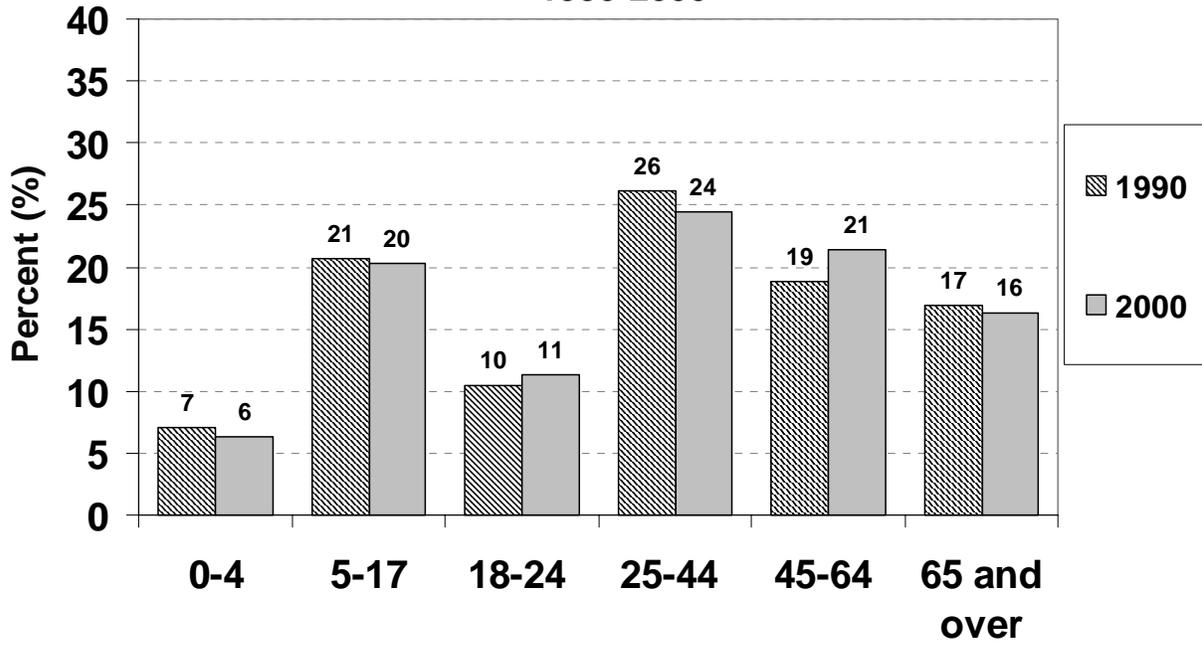


Table 4
Population by Hispanic Origin
Atchison County and Kansas
1980-2000

	Year	Total	White		Total Black	Total Hispanic	Others	2 or More Races
			Total	Hispanic				
Atchison	1980	18,397	16,999	n/a	n/a	1,143	278	118
	1990	16,908	15,598	149	15,393	957	370	215
	2000 *	16,774	15,369	199	15,170	893	327	246
Kansas	1980	2,364,236	2,168,221	n/a	n/a	126,127	63,339	69,331
	1990	2,477,588	2,233,897	40,016	2,193,881	143,076	93,670	102,512
	2000 *	2,688,418	2,313,944	79,947	2,233,997	154,198	188,252	163,780

* 2000 race data is not comparable to previous years due to changes in reporting. See text for more.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 4a
Population by Hispanic Origin as Percent of Total
Atchison County and Kansas
1980-2000

	Year	Total	White		Total Black	Total Hispanic	Others	2 or More Races
			Hispanic	Non-Hispanic				
Atchison	1980	92.4%	n/a	n/a	6.2%	1.5%	0.6%	
	1990	92.3	0.9	91.0	5.7	2.2	1.3	
	2000 *	91.6	1.2	90.4	5.3	1.9	1.5	1.6
Kansas	1980	91.7%	n/a	n/a	5.3%	2.7%	2.9%	
	1990	90.2	1.6	88.5	5.8	3.8	4.1	
	2000 *	86.1	3.0	83.1	5.7	7.0	6.1	2.1

* 2000 race data is not comparable to previous years due to changes in reporting. See text for more.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

**Table 5
Net Migration
1970-1999**

<u>Atchison County</u>							
<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Population Change</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Births - Deaths</u>	<u>Net *** Migration</u>	<u>% Net Migration</u>
1970*	19,165	-1,733	n/a	n/a	986	-2,719	-13.0
1980*	18,397	-768	n/a	n/a	576	-1,344	-7.0
1990*	16,908	-1,489	2,618	2,110	508	-1,997	-10.9
1999**	16,856	-52	1,972	1,750	222	-274	-1.6

<u>Kansas</u>							
<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Population Change</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Births - Deaths</u>	<u>Net *** Migration</u>	<u>% Net Migration</u>
1970*	2,249,071	70,460	409,189	219,067	190,122	-119,662	-5.5
1980*	2,364,236	115,165	355,861	218,713	137,148	-21,983	-1.0
1990*	2,477,588	113,352	397,215	220,466	176,749	-63,397	-2.7
1999**	2,654,052	176,464	348,226	215,686	132,540	43,924	1.8

n/a: not available
 * Decade ending
 ** Population estimate
 *** Net migration = Population change - (births-deaths)

Source: Population Totals: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Census of Population, 1970: Number of Inhabitants; 1980 Census of Population," Vol.1, Chapter A, Part 18; "1990 Census of Population and Housing;" Population Estimates U.S. Bureau of the Census. Calculations: PRI.

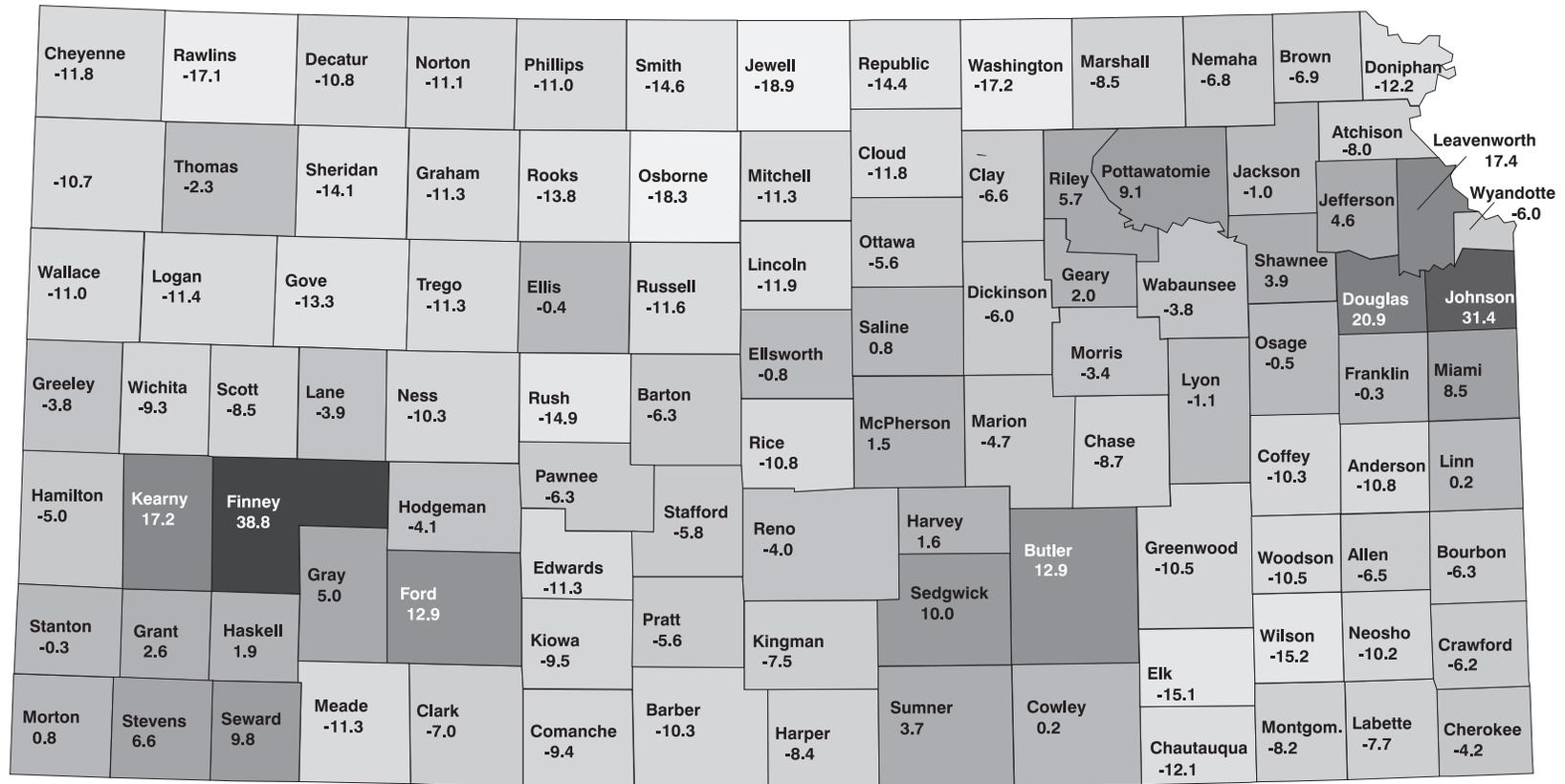
Table 6
Population of Top Ranking Kansas Counties
(Thousands)

Rk	1940	Pop.	Rk	1980	Pop.	Rk	1990	Pop.	Rk	2000	Pop.
1	Wyandotte	145	1	Sedgwick	367	1	Sedgwick	404	1	Sedgwick	453
2	Sedgwick	143	2	Johnson	270	2	Johnson	355	2	Johnson	451
3	Shawnee	91	3	Wyandotte	172	3	Wyandotte	162	3	Shawnee	170
4	Reno	52	4	Shawnee	155	4	Shawnee	161	4	Wyandotte	158
5	Montgomery	49	5	Douglas	68	5	Douglas	82	5	Douglas	100
6	Crawford	45	6	Reno	65	6	Riley	67	6	Leavenworth	69
7	Leavenworth	41	7	Riley	64	7	Leavenworth	64	7	Reno	65
8	Cowley	38	8	Leavenworth	55	8	Reno	62	8	Riley	63
9	Johnson	33	9	Saline	49	9	Butler	51	9	Butler	59
10	Butler	32	10	Butler	45	10	Saline	49	10	Saline	54
11	Labette	30	11	Montgomery	42	11	Montgomery	39	11	Finney	41
12	Cherokee	30	12	Crawford	38	12	Cowley	37	12	Crawford	38
13	Saline	30	13	Cowley	37	13	Crawford	36	13	Cowley	36
14	Lyon	26	14	Lyon	35	14	Lyon	35	14	Montgomery	36
15	Sumner	26	15	Barton	31	15	Finney	33	15	Lyon	36
16	Douglas	25	16	Harvey	31	16	Harvey	31	16	Harvey	33
17	Barton	25	17	Geary	30	17	Geary	30	17	Ford	32
18	McPherson	24	18	McPherson	27	18	Barton	29	18	McPherson	30
19	Dickinson	23	19	Ellis	26	19	Ford	27	19	Miami	28
20	Atchison	22	20	Labette	26	20	McPherson	27	20	Barton	28

* Population Projection

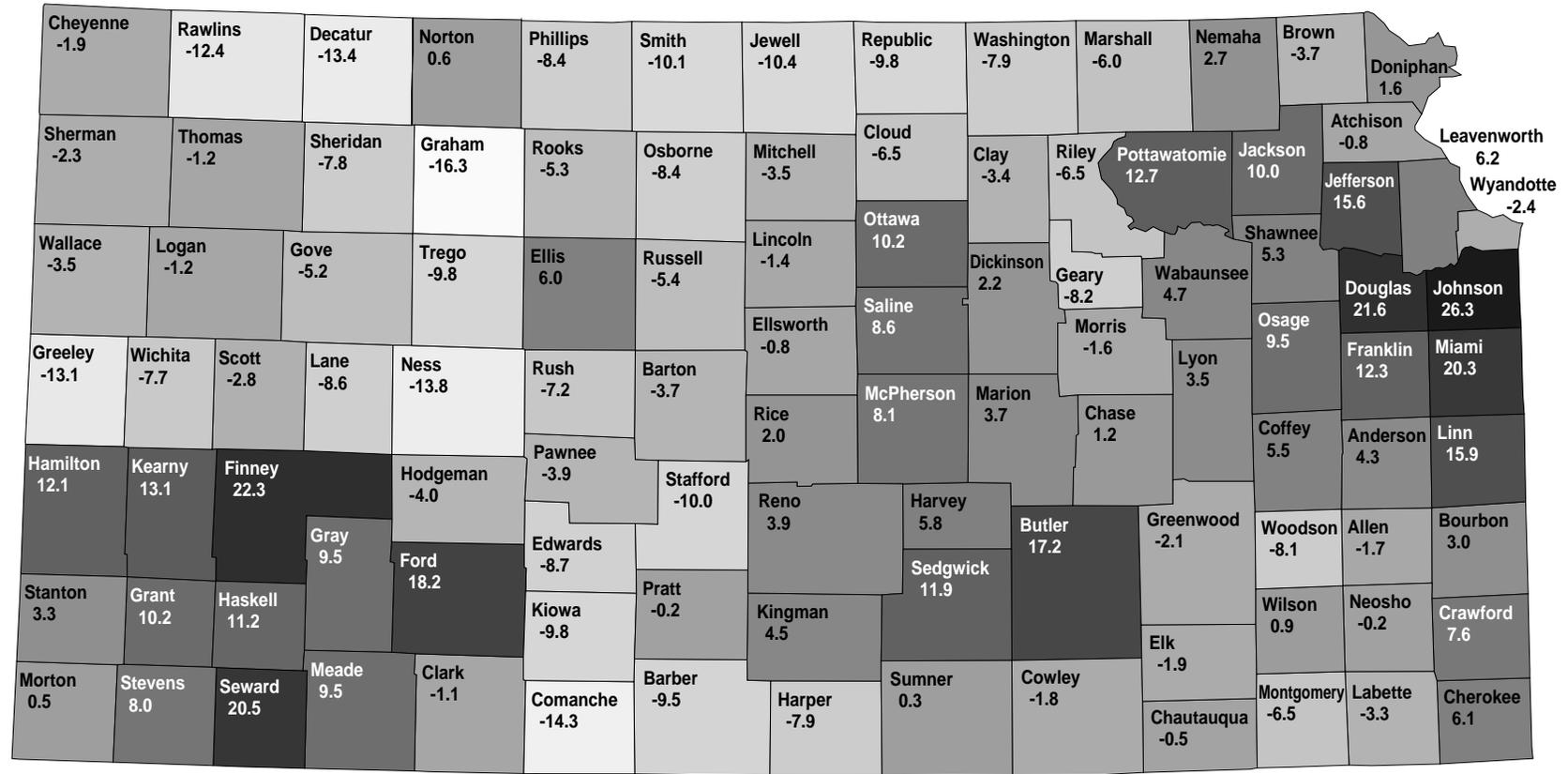
Source: University of Kansas, Policy Research Institute, "Kansas Statistical Abstract," 1992-1993, "Population of Kansas Counties, 1890-1980; U.S. Bureau of the Census, "1990 Census of Population and Housing." Floerchinger, Teresa D., "Kansas Population Projections, 1990-2030," Kansas Division of the Budget, September, 1992. Calculations: PRI.

Map 1 Percent Population Change: 1980 - 1990



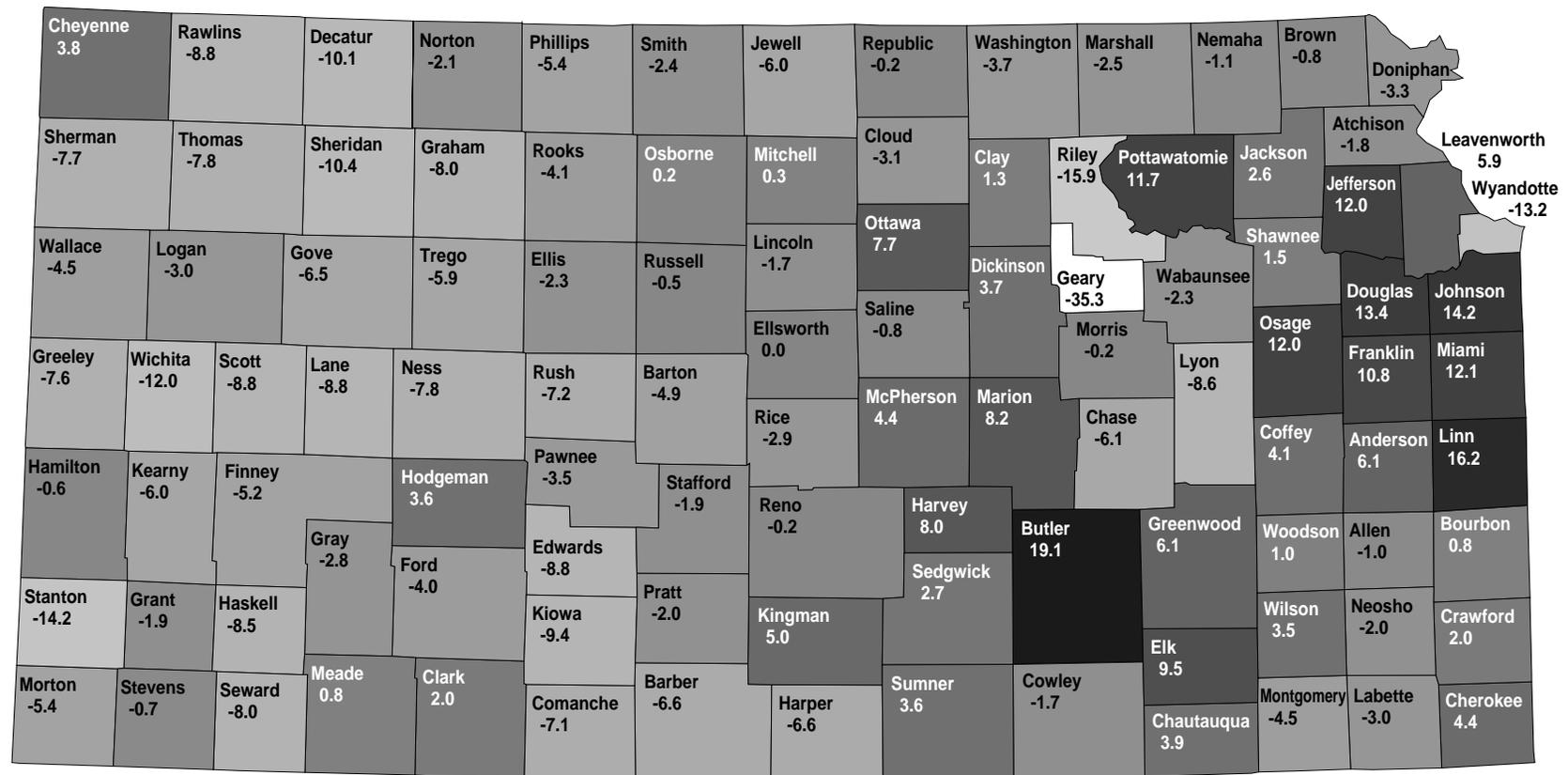
Source: Policy Research Institute, The University of Kansas: data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Map 2 Percent Population Change: 1990-2000



Source: Policy Research Institute, The University of Kansas: data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Map 3 Percent Net Migration: 1990 - 1999



Source: Policy Research Institute, The University of Kansas: data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

EMPLOYMENT

Economic vitality of every community is reflected in the employment situation. This section compares the key employment measurements such as labor force size, job creation rate, and unemployment in the Atchison County area with its comparative counties and the state of Kansas.

The number of people who are either working or willing to work determines the size of the labor force. This number is influenced not only by the size of population but also by the perceptions of individuals that suitable job opportunities exist within the community. Diverse healthy economies tend to offer the widest variety of job opportunities and thereby attract a large number of job seekers, which increases the size of the labor force.

The unemployment level 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.

Job creation rates (net change in average annual employment) reflect the growth in employment levels and the range of employment opportunities. As some jobs are lost in a community due to changing economic circumstances, they may be replaced by new jobs. Net job creation reflects the net gain or net loss in jobs over a given period of time.

Place of work data compared to the place of residence data provide the insight of the employment opportunities within the area.

The following data include tables, maps, and graphs on employment growth rates, number of firms by number of employees, percentage distribution of firms by number of employees, employment levels by industry, labor force participation, unemployment rates, and job growth.

Employment: Key Findings

- Between 1990 and 2000 the average annual employment in Atchison County (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis data by place of work) increased from 7,652 employees in 1990 to 8,540 in 2000. Most of the growth occurred in the second half of the decade, with a 1.7 percent growth from 1990 to 1995 and a 9.8 percent growth from 1995 to 2000 (Table 7). During the second period, the average annual employment growth in Atchison County was even higher than the state growth rate of 6.3 percent. (Table 7 and Figure 3)
- In the first half of the decade Atchison County's employment growth was one of the most sluggish among the comparative counties. From 1990 to 1995 Atchison's employment grew at a rate of 4.1 percent, compared to rates over 8 percent for Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, and Nemaha. However in the second half of the

decade only Brown and Jackson county's employment growth rates exceeded Atchison's 9.8 percent. (Table 7, Figures 3 and 3a)

- The number of firms located in Atchison County increased 6.2 percent between 1988 and 1998, compared to a 12.6 percent increase for the state of Kansas over the same time period. (Table 8)
- The percentage distribution patterns of firms by the number of employees are nearly identical in Atchison County and the entire state of Kansas (Table 8a). The majority of firms are small companies with less than 20 employees. Between 1988 and 1998 their number decreased from 90.2 to 86.5 percent in Atchison County and from 88.4 percent to 86.5 percent in the entire state of Kansas. The percentage of the medium-sized companies with up to one hundred employees increased from around 7 percent to 11.2 percent in Atchison County. Both Atchison County and the state of Kansas have a small percentage of companies with more than one hundred employees, but their share in the total number of firms has decreased somewhat in Atchison (Tables 8 and 8a). This data indicates the importance of small businesses to the local economy.
- Total industry-level employment for Atchison County grew from 8,877 in 1993 to 9,662 in 1998, which represents a growth rate of 8.8 percent, compared with 13.5 percent growth rate for the state of Kansas during the same period of time (Table 9).
- From 1993 to 1998, farm employment decreased by 4.2 percent in Atchison County and fell by 1 percent in Kansas. The Government sector had the largest numerical decrease in Atchison County, losing 36 jobs from 1993 to 1998. However, as a percent of total Government employment the decrease was only 2.7 percent. The sector with the largest percentage decrease was Transportation, which lost nearly the same amount of jobs as Government (34 in this case) but the decrease was 16 percent of the total number of Transportation jobs. (Table 9)
- Major categories that saw increased employment between 1993 and 1998 included the Retail Trade sector which gained 348 jobs over the five year period, and the Services sector which gained 261 jobs. The sector which had the largest percentage increase was the Construction sector, which saw employment go up nearly 42 percent, from 335 jobs in 1993 to 475 in 1998. (Table 9 and Figure 4).
- In 1998, Services was the largest employment category in Atchison County with a 25 percent share of total employment. The second largest category was Retail Trade which employed 17.8 percent of all workers, followed by Manufacturing at 17.4 percent and then Government at 13.4 percent. All other sectors employed less than ten percent each of the total. The sector which saw its share of employment increase the most since 1993 was the Retail Trade sector. (Table 9a)
- Recent wage and salary employment estimates based on the place of work data show that employment of all industries in Atchison County increase 4.5 percent from

1998 to 1999. Employment estimates for the state of Kansas show a 1.3 percent increase from 1998 to 1999 (Table 9b).

- Place of residence data for Atchison County indicates a 4.3 percent annual increase in employment between 1998 and 1999 (these figures are from the Kansas Department of Human Resources, and as the name suggests, are based on the place of residence of individuals rather than their place of work). At the same time the civilian labor force increased by only 2.7 percent, leading to a 25.9 percent decrease in unemployment. (Table 8b).
- Comparing place of residence data and place of work data can indicate commuting trends. Table 9b shows that the number of jobs (place of work data) in Atchison County in 1999 was 1,575 less than the number of people employed in Atchison County in 1999 (place of residence data.) This could indicate that 1,575 people, or 18 percent of the number of employed people in Atchison County, commuted to a job outside of the county.
- The unemployment rate in Atchison County decreased from a rather high 5.4 percent in 1998 to a more reasonable 3.9 percent in 1999. The 1999 unemployment rate in Atchison County was about the average of those in the comparative counties. (Table 9b and Map 5)
- In the state of Kansas total employment (place of residence data) increased by 2 percent between 1998 and 1999. A much smaller increase in the civilian labor force resulted in a 20.4 percent decrease in the number of unemployed (Table 9b)
- The labor force participation rate is the percentage of population aged 16 and over that is in the labor force. The labor force participation rate in 1990 for Atchison County was 61.3 percent (Map 4). While relatively decent compared to other counties in Kansas, the rate was still somewhat lower than Kansas' rate of 65.4 percent and the U.S. rate of 64.4 percent (1990 U.S. Census.)

Table 7
Employment Growth Rates
Atchison County, Comparative Counties, Kansas, and United States
Place of Residence Data
1990-2000

	Average Annual Employment			% Employment Growth	
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990-1995</u>	<u>1995-2000</u>
Atchison	7,652	7,780	8,540	1.7 %	9.8 %
Brown	4,876	4,721	5,602	-3.2	18.7
Doniphan	3,524	3,815	3,876	8.3	1.6
Jackson	5,330	5,919	9,790	11.1	65.4
Jefferson	7,746	9,271	8,547	19.7	-7.8
Leavenworth	24,260	25,787	28,172	6.3	9.2
Nemaha	5,022	5,479	5,396	9.1	-1.5
Kansas	1,219,000	1,278,500	1,359,000	4.9	6.3

Source: Kansas Department of Human Resources.

Figure 3
Employment Growth Rates
Atchison County and Kansas
1990-2000

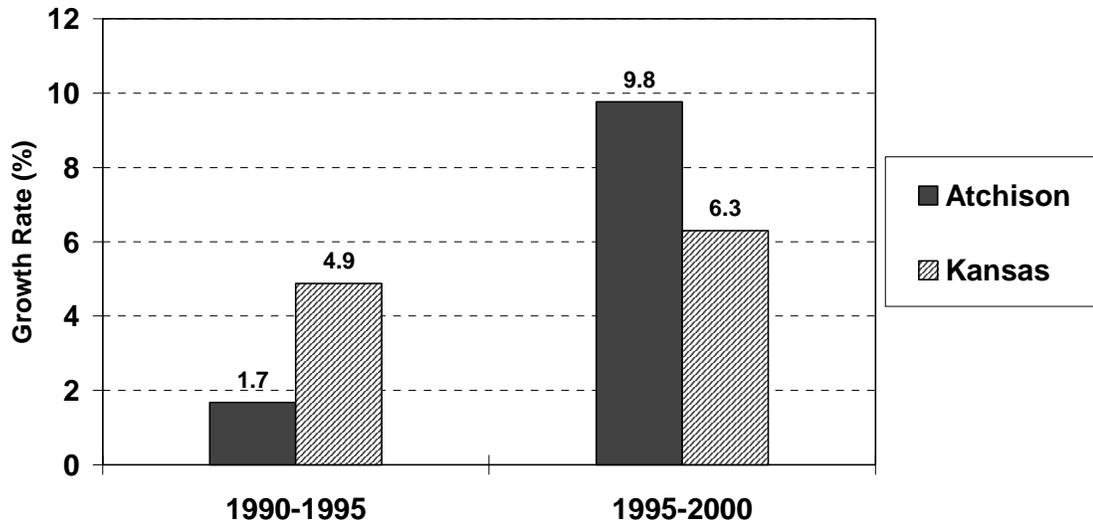


Figure 3a
Employment Growth Rates
Atchison and Comparative Counties
1990-2000

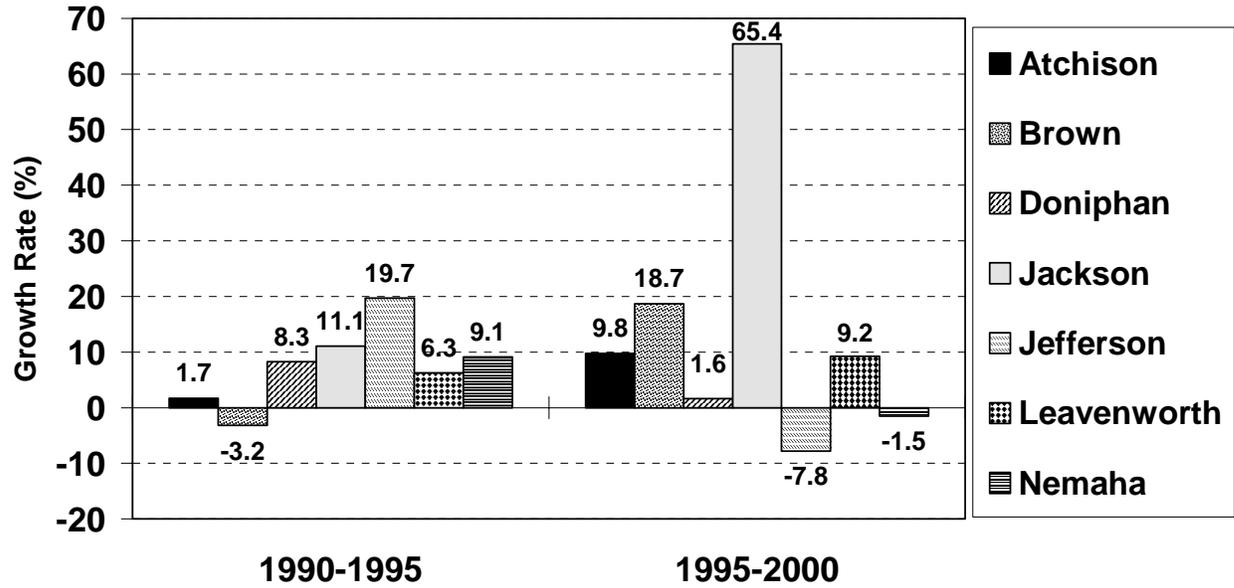


Table 8
Number of Firms, by Number of Employees
Atchison County and Kansas
1988-1998

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Atchison</u>			<u>Kansas</u>		
	<u>1988</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1 -- 19	333	339	1.8 %	58,081	64,030	10.2 %
20 -- 99	27	44	63.0	6,604	8,401	27.2
100 -- 499	8	8	0.0	958	1,441	50.4
500+	1	1	0.0	93	147	58.1
Total	369	392	6.2	65,736	74,019	12.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "County Business Patterns," 1988 and 1998; Policy Research Institute.

Table 8a
Percentage Distribution of Firms, by Number of Employees
Atchison County and Kansas
1988-1998

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Atchison</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>1988</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1998</u>
0 - 19	90.2 %	86.5 %	88.4 %	86.5 %
20 - 99	7.3	11.2	10.0	11.3
100 - 499	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.9
500+	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "County Business Patterns," 1988 and 1998; Policy Research Institute. Due to numbers being rounded up, percentages may not equal 100%.

Table 9
Employment Levels by Industry
Atchison County and Kansas
Place of Work Data
1993-1998

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Atchison</u>				<u>Kansas</u>			
	<u>1993</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Ag. Services	225	252	27	12.0 %	17,039	21,159	4,120	24.2 %
Mining	47	46	-1	-2.1	28,274	20,491	-7,783	-27.5
Construction	335	475	140	41.8	69,834	90,576	20,742	29.7
Manufacturing	1,596	1,677	81	5.1	187,914	219,402	31,488	16.8
Transportation	208	174	-34	-16.3	75,247	84,832	9,585	12.7
Wholesale Trade	443	472	29	6.5	74,037	82,421	8,384	11.3
Retail Trade	1,368	1,716	348	25.4	251,571	298,627	47,056	18.7
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	343	348	5	1.5	95,702	107,350	11,648	12.2
Services	2,151	2,412	261	12.1	387,242	467,121	79,879	20.6
Gov't. and Gov't. Services	1,332	1,296	-36	-2.7	268,035	270,802	2,767	1.0
Subtotal -- Non-Farm	8,048	8,868	820	10.2	1,454,895	1,662,781	207,886	14.3
Farm Employment	829	794	-35	-4.2	81,070	80,231	-839	-1.0
Total Employment	8,877	9,662	785	8.8	1,535,965	1,743,012	207,047	13.5

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (REIS).

Figure 4
Percent Change in Employment by Industry
1993-1998

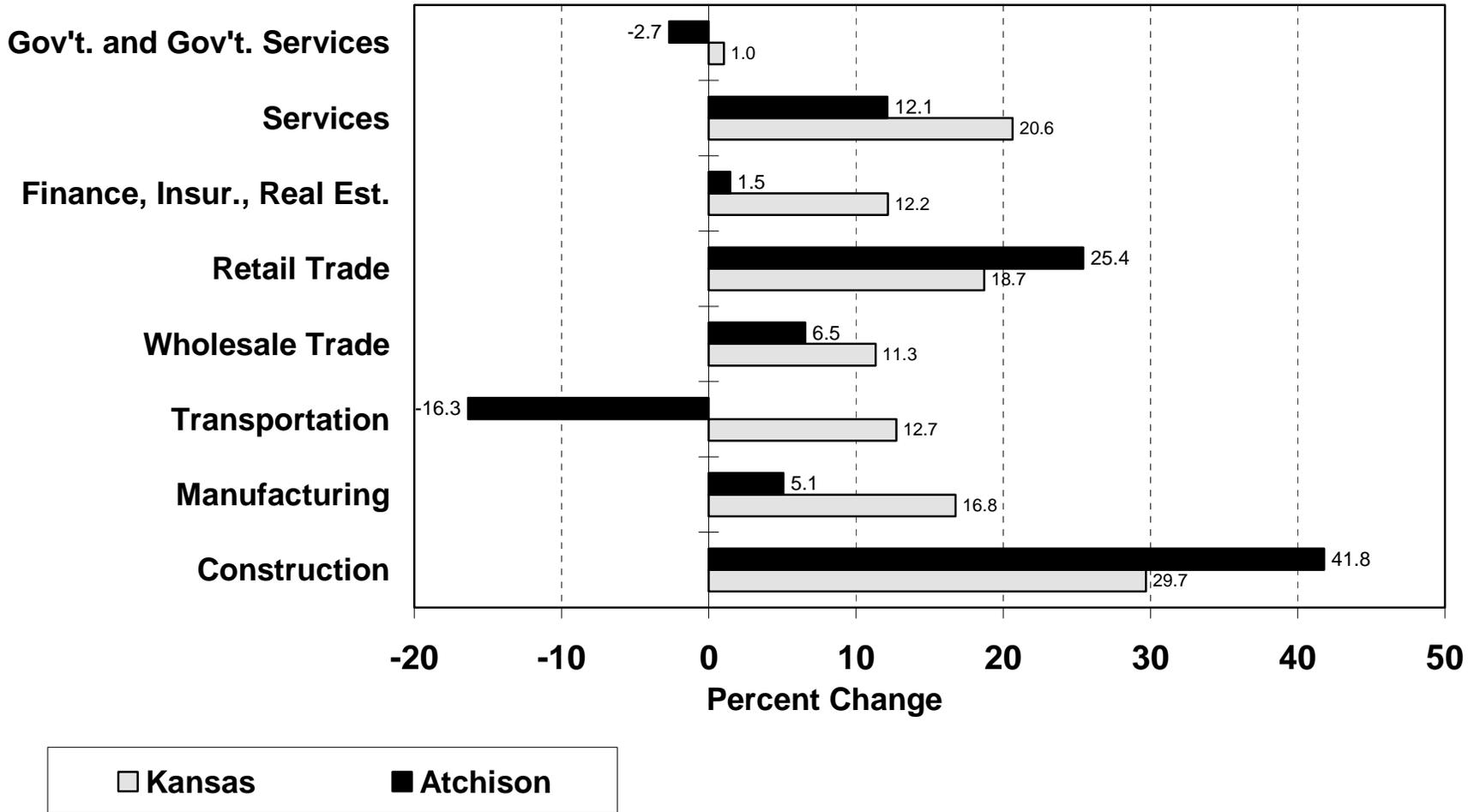


Table 9a
Employment Percent Share by Industry
Atchison County and Kansas
Place of Work Data
1993-1998

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Atchison</u>			<u>Kansas</u>		
	<u>1993</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>Change</u>
Ag. Services	2.5	2.6	0.1 %	1.1	1.2	0.1 %
Mining	0.5	0.5	-0.1	1.8	1.2	-0.7
Construction	3.8	4.9	1.1	4.5	5.2	0.6
Manufacturing	18.0	17.4	-0.6	12.2	12.6	0.4
Transportation	2.3	1.8	-0.5	4.9	4.9	0.0
Wholesale Trade	5.0	4.9	-0.1	4.8	4.7	-0.1
Retail Trade	15.4	17.8	2.3	16.4	17.1	0.8
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	3.9	3.6	-0.3	6.2	6.2	-0.1
Services	24.2	25.0	0.7	25.2	26.8	1.6
Gov't. and Gov't. Services	15.0	13.4	-1.6	17.5	15.5	-1.9
Subtotal -- Non-Farm	90.7	91.8	1.1	94.7	95.4	0.7
Farm Employment	9.3	8.2	-1.1	5.3	4.6	-0.7

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (REIS).

**Table 9b
Labor Market Summary
1998-1999**

	Atchison County			Kansas
	1998 Average	1999 Average	% Change 1998-99	% Change 1998-99
<u>Place of Residence Data</u>				
Civilian labor force	8,714	8,946	2.7	1.1
Employment	8,243	8,597	4.3	2.0
Unemployment	471	349	-25.9	-20.4
Unemployment rate	5.4	3.9	-27.8	-21.1
<u>Place of Work Data</u>				
<u>Wage and Salary Employment</u>				
All industries	6,717	7,022	4.5	1.3
Goods producing industries	2,107	2,186	3.7	0.2
Construction and mining	296	303	2.4	4.1
Manufacturing	1,641	1,707	4.0	-1.2
Service producing industries	4,606	4,832	4.9	1.6
Transportation & Public utilities	60	60	0.0	7.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade	1,738	1,887	8.6	0.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real estate	174	167	-4.0	1.1
Services	1,435	1,523	6.1	1.2
Government	1,199	1,195	-0.3	1.4

Source: Kansas Department of Human Resources, Labor Market Information Services. Developed in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

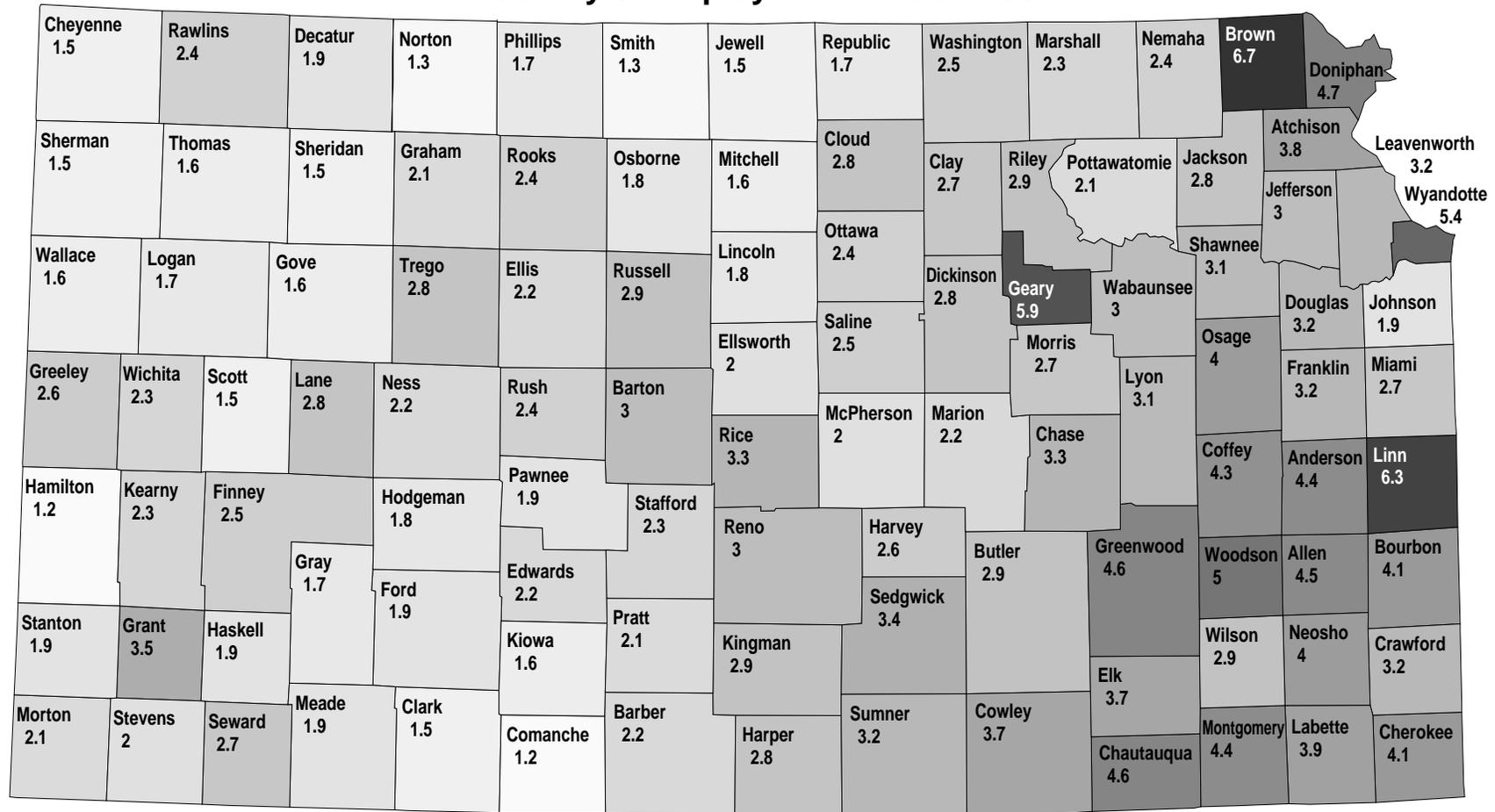
Map 4 Labor Force Participation: 1990



Source: 1990 U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Kansas: 65.4%

**Map 5
County Unemployment Rates: 1999**



Note: Employment data are based on an individual's place of residence.
 Source: Policy Research Institute, The University of Kansas, "Kansas Statistical Abstract, 2000" using data from Kansas Labor Force Estimates Annual Average, 1999. Kansas Department of Human Resources, Labor Market Information Services, developed in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Earnings and Income

The economic base of the community is determined by the income of the community's residents. Higher average wages may indicate a greater number of jobs in high growth, high performance businesses. Low wage growth may indicate a higher concentration of stable or declining industries.

This report looks at two major components of earnings and income: average wage per job and per capita personal income. Average wage per job reflects the productivity of local labor and the performance of local businesses. Per capita personal income indicates the relative wealth of the area compared to the state. As the productivity of business and industry increases, personal per capita income also rises.

Earnings and Income: Key Findings

- In 1998 the average wage per job in Atchison County was \$21,507. That was \$4,743 less than the average wage for the state of Kansas and \$9,972 less than the national average (Table 10, Figure 5).
- Atchison's average wage per job compared slightly better to the selected counties in 1998. It was higher than the average wage per job in Brown, Jackson, Jefferson and Nemaha counties, but lower than the wages in Doniphan and Leavenworth counties. At \$28,852, the average wage per job in Leavenworth county was by far the highest, exceeding even the state average. This is likely due to the high number of Army officers in Leavenworth. (Table 10 and Figure 5a)
- In the five year period between 1988 and 1993 the average wage per job in Atchison County increased 14.6 percent and between 1993 and 1998 it increased 18.1 percent. These increases were for the most part less than those seen in the comparative counties, though not by much. The respective average wage increases for the state were 18.1 and 19.9 percent. (Table 10)
- Per capita personal income in Atchison County in 1999 grew slower than the state's rate, and at \$19,780 was still behind the state's average of \$26,705 per year (Table 11). Historical data show that not only has per capita income in Atchison County always been lower than the state average, but the gap between the two has been steadily widening over time. (Figure 5b)
- Per capita personal income for Atchison County was lower in 1999 than all of the comparative counties. Nemaha County had the highest per capita income at \$24,612. (Map 6)

Table 10
Average Wage Per Job
Atchison County, Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S.
1988-1998

	<u>Average Wage per Job (Dollars)</u>			<u>% Growth</u>	
	<u>1988</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>88-93</u>	<u>93-98</u>
Atchison	15,892	18,205	21,507	14.6	18.1
Brown	13,461	15,897	19,078	18.1	20.0
Doniphan	15,085	18,520	22,912	22.8	23.7
Jackson	12,236	14,211	18,130	16.1	27.6
Jefferson	13,649	15,315	18,285	12.2	19.4
Leavenworth	20,808	25,645	28,852	23.2	12.5
Nemaha	13,466	15,548	19,269	15.5	23.9
Kansas	18,545	21,899	26,250	18.1	19.9
United States	21,527	25,888	31,299	20.3	20.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (1969-1998), Regional Economic Profile, Table CA30.

Figure 5
Average Wage Per Job
Atchison County, Kansas and United States
1988-1998

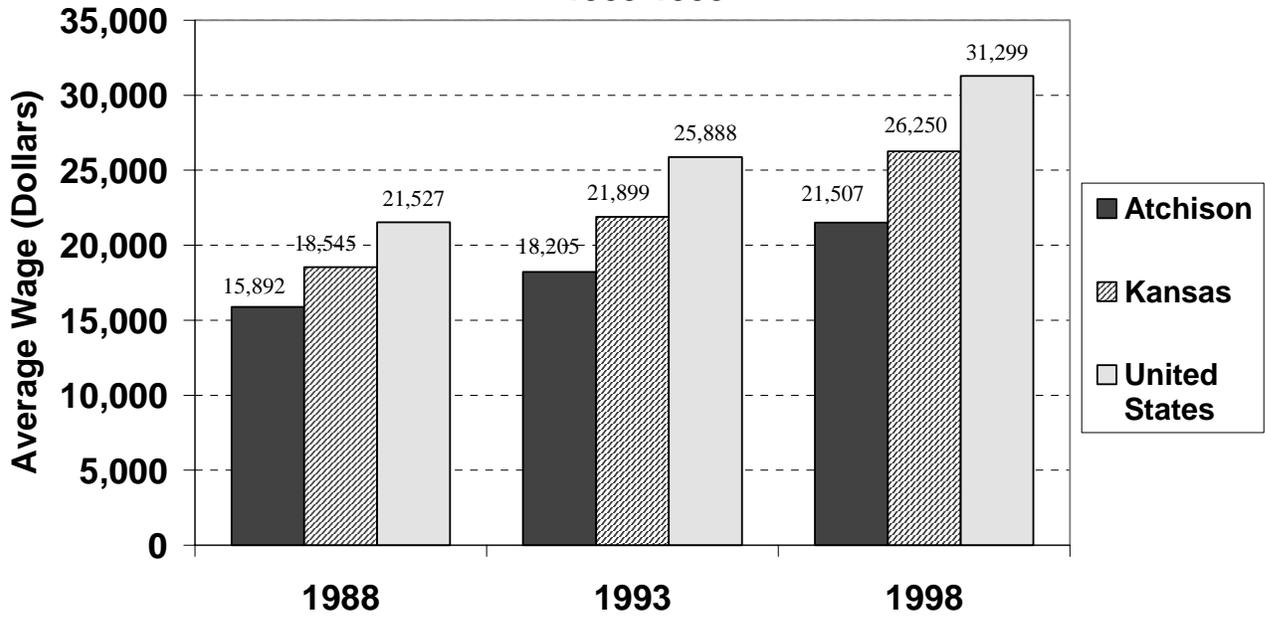


Figure 5a
Average Wage per Job
Atchison and Comparative Counties
1988-1998

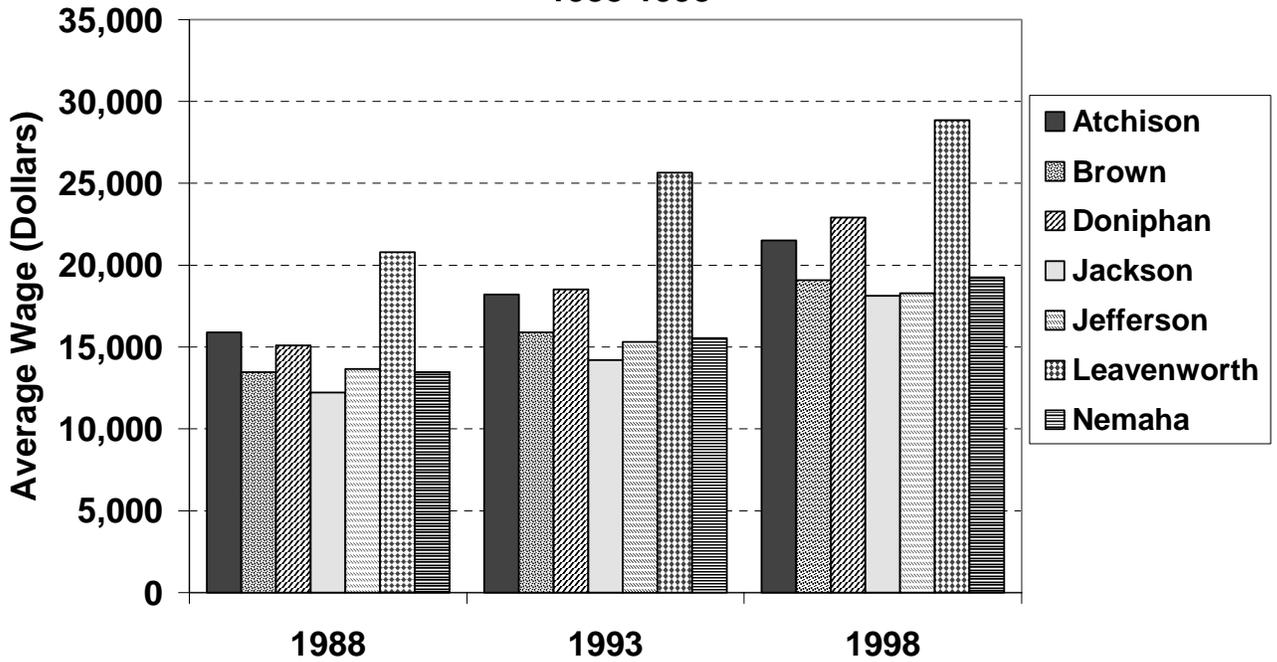
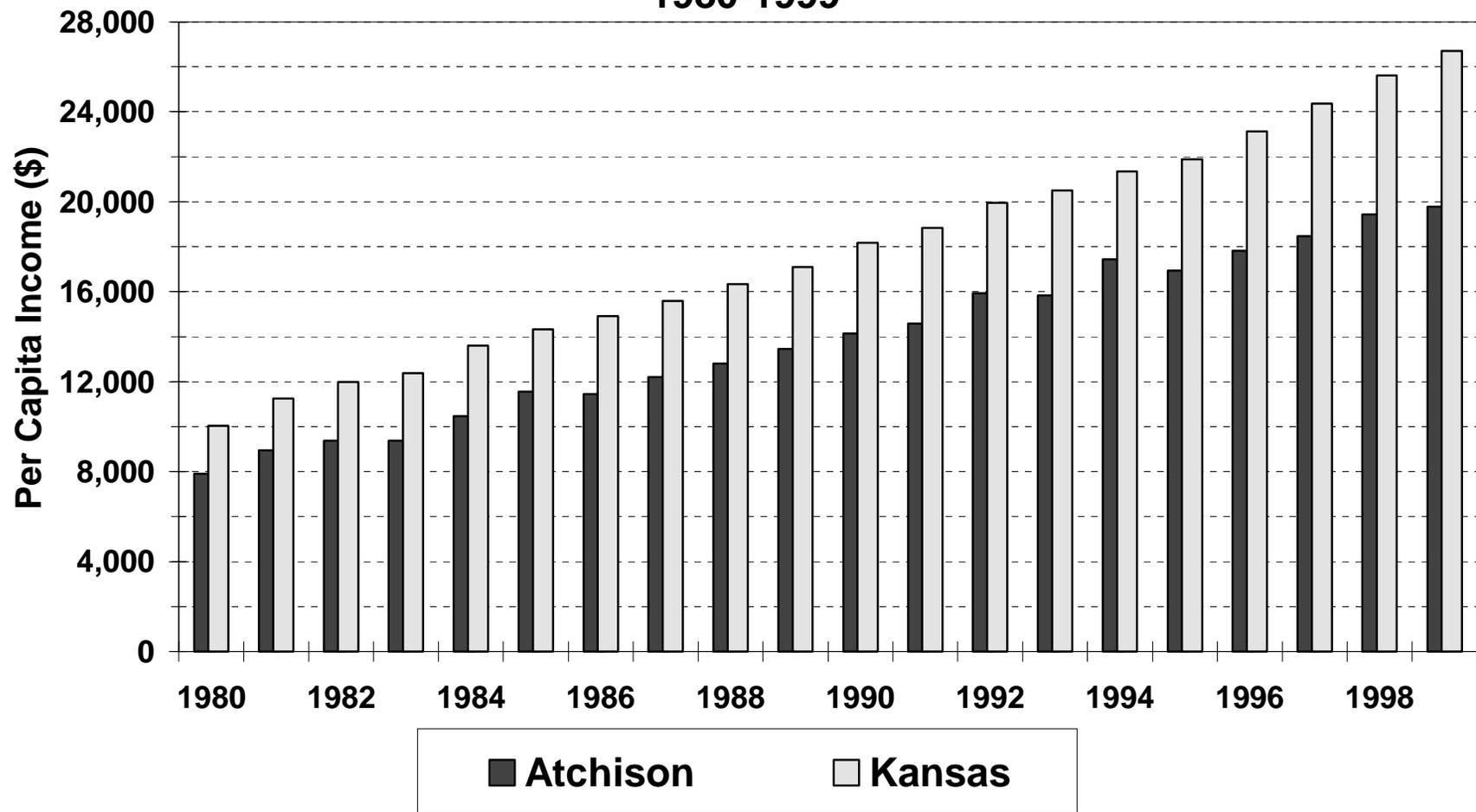


Table 11
Per Capita Personal Income
Atchison County and Kansas
1980-1999

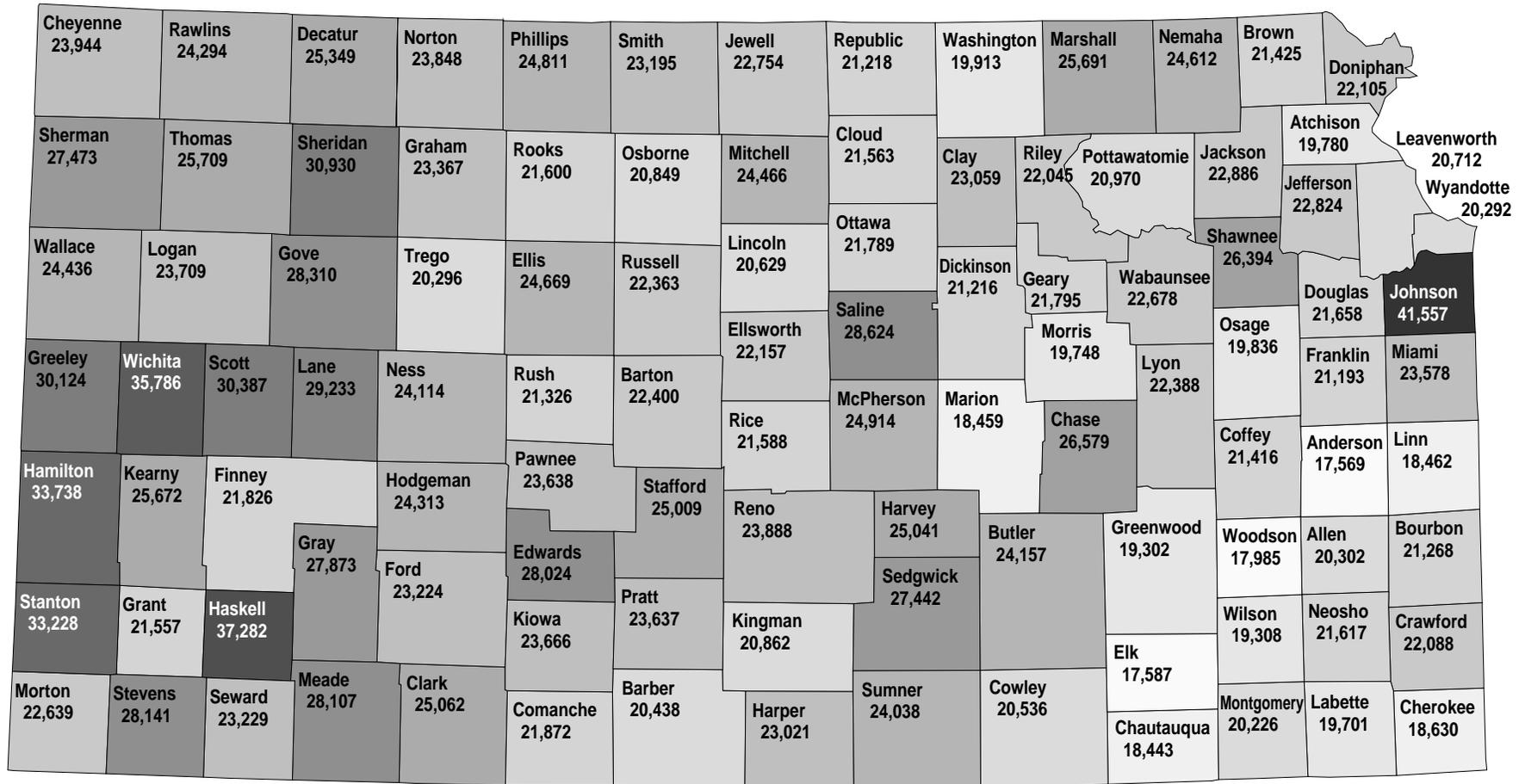
	<u>Income (\$)</u>		<u>Growth Rates</u>	
	<u>Atchison</u>	<u>Kansas</u>	<u>Atchison</u>	<u>Kansas</u>
1980	7,903	10,038		
1981	8,939	11,248	13.1 %	12.1 %
1982	9,371	11,989	4.8	6.6
1983	9,365	12,373	-0.1	3.2
1984	10,462	13,602	0.0	9.9
1985	11,560	14,330	10.5	5.4
1986	11,451	14,904	-0.9	4.0
1987	12,211	15,583	6.6	4.6
1988	12,809	16,331	4.9	4.8
1989	13,455	17,093	5.0	4.7
1990	14,140	18,182	5.1	6.4
1991	14,591	18,832	3.2	3.6
1992	15,938	19,955	9.2	6.0
1993	15,838	20,510	-0.6	2.8
1994	17,443	21,352	10.1	4.1
1995	16,945	21,889	-2.9	2.5
1996	17,821	23,121	5.2	5.6
1997	18,466	24,358	3.6	5.4
1998	19,440	25,606	5.3	5.1
1999	19,780	26,705	1.7	4.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (1969-1999), County Summary, Table CA13.

Figure 5b
Per Capita Personal Income
Atchison County and Kansas
1980-1999



Map 6 Per Capita Personal Income: 1999



Source: Policy Research Institute, The University of Kansas, using data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5, May 2000.

RETAIL

Retail trade is an important part of a community's business environment as well as source of revenues for the local governments. Retail trade is affected by a number of factors; for example, past decisions by investors, business managers, taxpayers, and policy makers contribute to a business climate which 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 in which other firms cannot operate profitably.

The following section contains a table and a figure, outlining the retail sales growth rates.

Retail: Key Findings

- Taxable retail sales in Atchison County stood at \$84.8 million dollars in 1999, the latest year for which data is available. For the most part retail sales grew during the decade, though the growth rates seem to have gone down in recent years. The growth rate from 1990 to 1999 for Atchison county was 19.6 percent, compared to 57 percent for the state. (Table 12)
- For most of the 1990's the taxable retail sales growth rates in Atchison County have been less than those seen statewide. Figure 6 illustrates this trend. (Table 12 and Figure 6)
- Atchison County's trade pull factor in 2000 was 0.55, which means it lost more retail activity to other counties than it was able to 'pull in'. All of the comparative counties had pull factors of less than one, meaning they too lost more retail trade than they gained. No doubt many residents of these counties travel to Johnson County or some Missouri counties to shop, making it difficult to retain much in the way of retail dollars. (Map 7)

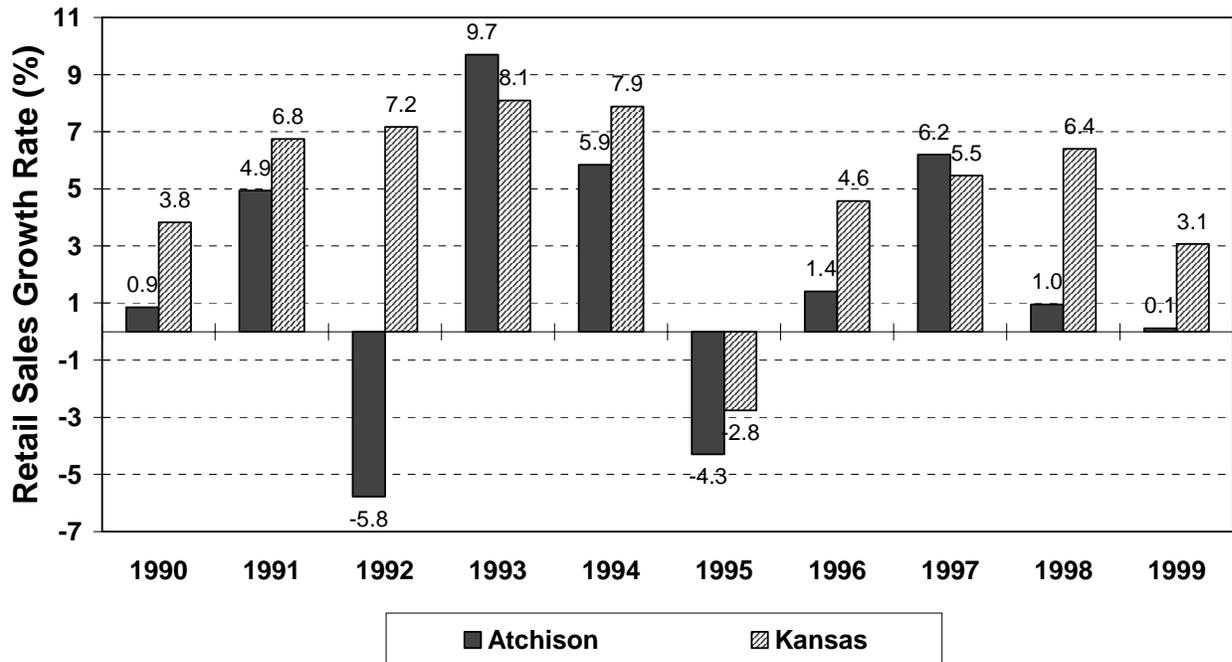
Table 12
Taxable Retail Sales and Growth Rates
Atchison County and Kansas
1989-1999

<u>Year</u>	<u>Atchison</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>Nominal Sales (\$Millions)</u>	<u>Growth Rate (%)</u>	<u>Nominal Sales (\$Millions)</u>	<u>Growth Rate (%)</u>
1989	70.3		18,034.4	
1990	70.9	0.9 %	18,723.3	3.8 %
1991	74.4	4.9	19,988.0	6.8
1992	70.1	-5.8	21,421.3	7.2
1993	76.9	9.7	23,154.4	8.1
1994	81.4	5.9	24,979.0	7.9
1995	77.9	-4.3	24,289.1	-2.8
1996	79.0	1.4	25,401.5	4.6
1997	83.9	6.2	26,788.9	5.5
1998	84.7	1.0	28,505.9	6.4
1999	84.8	0.1	29,380.6	3.1

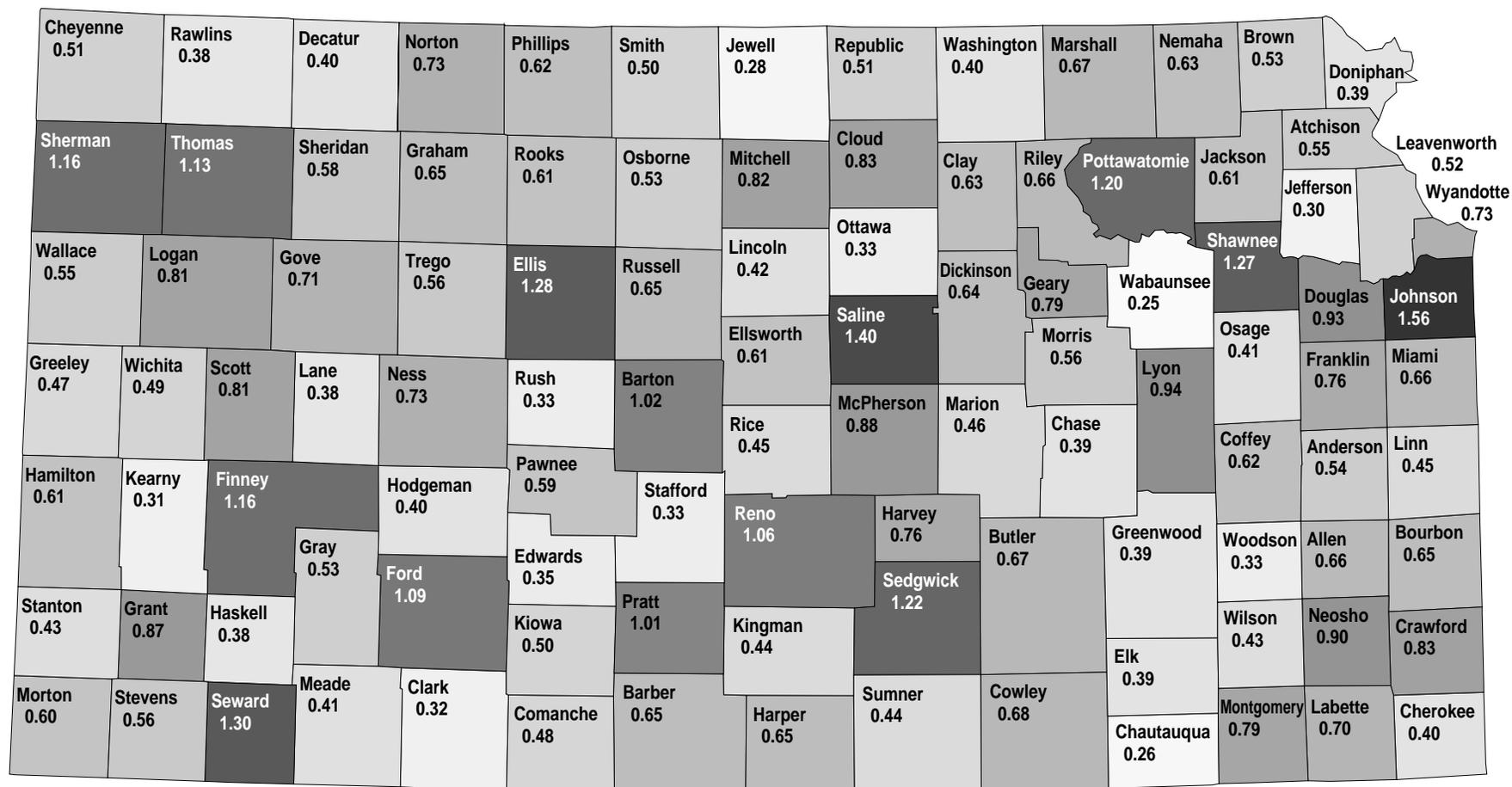
Note: Data from 1994 to 1999 are not comparable to 1987-1993 data.

Source: Kansas Department of Revenue, State Sales Tax Collections by County Classification. Calculations, 1987-1993, CEDBR, W. Frank Barton School of Business, Wichita State University; 1994-1999, PRI, University of Kansas.

Figure 6
Taxable Retail Sales Growth Rates
Atchison County and Kansas
1990-1999



Map 7 County Trade Pull Factors: 2000



Note: County Trade Pull Factor (CTPF) = County per capita sales tax collections divided by Kansas per capita sales tax collections. Population data used to compute per capita sales includes institutionalized population.

Source: "County Trade Pull Factors Annual Report for Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000," by David Darling and Sharon Combes, K-State Research and Extension, Department of Agricultural Economics.

AGRICULTURE

While the economic well-being of Atchison County is not currently too dependent on the strength of this industry sector, it is interesting to look at the level of activity in agriculture and examine how the character of this industry is changing in the county.

The agriculture section contains two tables on the total value of field crops and the total value of livestock and poultry.

Agriculture: Key Findings

- Nearly every comparative county as well as the state as a whole saw sharp declines in the value of field crops in 1997 and 1998. In Atchison County, after reaching a high of \$37 million in 1996, the value of field crops fell 18 percent in 1997 and another 17 percent in 1998, bringing the value down to \$25 million. That value was less than what it was for the county in 1995. The county with the highest valued crops in 1998 was Brown County at nearly \$55 million, followed by Nemaha County at almost \$50 million. (Table 13)
- The total value of livestock and poultry in Atchison County in 1998 was only \$11.5 million, a decrease of about 17 percent from 1995. During that time period only Doniphan County had a livestock value less than Atchison's. In 1998 Nemaha's livestock and poultry was valued at \$43.8 million, the highest of the comparative counties. (Table 14)

Table 13
Total Value of Field Crops
Atchison County, Comparative Counties, and Kansas
1995-1998

	Total Value of Crops (\$Millions)				Percent Change			
	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>95-96</u>	<u>96-97</u>	<u>97-98</u>	<u>95-98</u>
Atchison	26.0	37.0	30.3	25.2	42.3 %	-18.1 %	-16.9 %	-3.1 %
Brown	47.2	75.9	63.6	54.9	60.6	-16.1	-13.7	16.3
Doniphan	38.5	51.3	43.9	37.5	33.3	-14.5	-14.5	-2.6
Jackson	20.8	28.7	27.3	21.1	38.4	-5.1	-22.6	1.7
Jefferson	23.9	36.7	32.7	27.4	53.5	-11.1	-16.2	14.4
Leavenworth	17.5	21.4	22.3	15.5	22.5	4.1	-30.3	-11.2
Nemaha	41.5	59.2	53.0	41.9	42.5	-10.4	-21.0	0.9
Kansas	3,525.9	4,154.6	4,474.9	3,594.3	17.8	7.7	-19.7	1.9

Values do not include any government program payments.
Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding

Source: Kansas Agricultural Statistics, "Kansas Farm Facts"; Kansas County Profile Report, KCCED, The University of Kansas; Calculations: KCCED; National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2000

Table 14
Total Value of Livestock and Poultry
Atchison County, Comparative Counties, and Kansas
1995-1998

	Total Value of Livestock and Poultry (\$Millions)				Percent Change			
	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>95-96</u>	<u>96-97</u>	<u>97-98</u>	<u>95-98</u>
Atchison	13.9	12.4	11.9	11.5	-11.0 %	-3.6 %	-3.5 %	-17.2 %
Brown	18.9	17.6	14.9	12.5	-6.9	-15.1	-16.2	-33.8
Doniphan	8.6	7.3	7.2	7.1	-14.7	-2.3	-1.4	-17.8
Jackson	15.0	16.0	16.7	14.8	6.4	4.9	-11.6	-1.3
Jefferson	14.1	13.7	13.7	14.0	-2.8	-0.2	2.8	-0.3
Leavenworth	15.6	15.9	15.2	14.3	2.0	-4.3	-6.0	-8.2
Nemaha	45.0	47.8	49.3	43.8	6.1	3.1	-11.1	-2.7
Kansas	2,678.1	2,629.0	2,806.4	2,670.4	-1.8	6.8	-4.8	-0.3

Values do not include any government program payments.
Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding

Source: Kansas Agricultural Statistics, "Kansas Farm Facts"; Kansas County Profile Report, KCCED, The University of Kansas; Calculations: KCCED; National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2000

EDUCATION

The educational level of residents is likely to influence the well being of the whole community. Communities able to provide a higher skilled workforce are more likely to benefit from new developing industries. Residents who have a good educational background will be more employable and able to command higher salaries. Employers will benefit as well because they will most likely experience lower turnover and training costs. On the other hand, individuals with lower education levels have a harder time finding jobs that can supply a living wage and may be more likely to use social services.

Education: Key Findings

- Atchison County is the home of one institution of higher learning: Benedictine College. Even though it offers bachelor and graduate degrees, the percent of the population in Atchison county with either of those degrees is less than in the state as a whole. The difference is especially large for those holding bachelor's degrees. In 1990, the latest year for which data is available, a little over 14 percent of the Kansas population over the age of 25 held bachelor's degrees, compared to 7.3 percent in Atchison County. Six percent of the same population in Atchison held graduate degrees, and 4.5 percent held associate's degrees. (Table 15)
- In 1990, 68 percent of the over-25 population in Atchison County had no higher than a high school education, compared to 51.6 percent of the over-25 population in Kansas. (Table 15)
- Atchison County graduated roughly 150 high school students on average each year from 1990 to 1999. The number of high school drop-outs each of those years fluctuated from a low of 21 to a high of 78. (Table 16)
- High school drop-outs as a percent of graduates in Atchison County averaged about 26 percent a year from 1990 to 1998. The average rate for Kansas was 23.6 percent. However, the rate has been much more erratic in Atchison County than in the state. In 1996 Atchison's high school drop-outs were nearly 50 percent of the amount of graduates. The very next year that number was down to a very low 15 percent. (Table 16)

Table 15
Educational Attainment of Persons over 25
As a Percentage of the Population of Persons over 25
Atchison County and Kansas, 1990

	<u>Completed Less Than 9th Grade</u>	<u>9-12th Grade No Diploma</u>	<u>High School Diploma</u>	<u>Some College</u>	<u>Associate Degree</u>	<u>Bachelor's Degree</u>	<u>Graduate Degree</u>	<u>Pop. Over 25</u>
Atchison	1,112	1,238	4,762	1,476	465	763	626	10,446
Kansas	120,951	172,321	514,177	342,964	85,146	221,016	109,361	1,561,417

As a Percent of Population of Persons over 25:

Atchison	10.6%	11.9%	45.6%	14.1%	4.5%	7.3%	6.0%
Kansas	7.7%	11.0%	32.9%	22.0%	5.5%	14.2%	7.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990.

Table 16
High School Graduates and Drop-Outs
Atchison County and Kansas
1990-1999

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Atchison										
Grads	167	156	141	122	156	177	157	140	158	156
Drops	46	38	23	48	36	36	78	21	36	n/a
Kansas										
Grads	25,367	24,414	24,129	24,720	25,319	26,125	25,786	26,648	27,856	28,543
Drops	4,995	5,738	5,651	6,490	6,698	6,422	6,420	6,042	5,802	n/a
<i>High school drop-outs as percent of graduates</i>										
Atchison	27.5%	24.4%	16.3%	39.3%	23.1%	20.3%	49.7%	15.0%	22.8%	
Kansas	19.7%	23.5%	23.4%	26.3%	26.5%	24.6%	24.9%	22.7%	20.8%	

n/a: Data not available

Grads: High school graduates, year ending:

Drops: High school dropouts, year ending:

Source: Kansas State Department of Education

CONCLUSION

Economic data is an important tool of the community economic development process because it gives community members a better view of the current facts and trends in different areas of economic and demographic performance of the community. However, numbers alone are not enough. The data must be analyzed and interpreted, taking into account the intuition of those within the community as to what the trends really mean. In other words, economic data serve as the foundation for analysis which concludes: 1) what is happening in the community relative to other regions over time, and 2) what potential impacts or consequences can be inferred from the data. A simplified look at the previous data would conclude the following:

Population in Atchison County has been declining since the 1930's. The good news is that in the decade of the 1990's the decrease was only 0.8 percent. While it is too early to tell, population levels in Atchison County may be close to stabilizing. Furthermore, during the same decade (1990's) the employment level in Atchison County rose nearly 12 percent, and the number of firms in the county has also been growing. Increased employment opportunities will certainly assist the county in retaining and attracting new residents, and the data encouragingly indicates that such may have been the trend in recent years.

The adult population of Atchison County is relatively less educated than the state average. While the latest data available is from 1990, at that time Atchison County's over-25 population had far fewer associate's, bachelor's or graduate's degrees than the state as a whole, percentage-wise. This may partly explain why the average wage per job in Atchison County is considerably lower than the state average and is about the same level as wages in rural counties. It is also consistent with the fact that the two largest sectors in the Atchison County economy are Services and Retail Trade, both of which offer rather modest wages. Increased educational opportunities are always a good thing to foster, but may or may not help alter these findings over time. Atchison County has Benedictine College, but it appears the majority of its students leave the county after graduation.

Atchison County no doubt faces some tough challenges in the years to come as it attempts to halt population losses. No easy answers to the problem can be given here, but again, the recent trends in employment and the slowing out-migration are positive indications that a change in direction is possible.