

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
Kansas Center for Community Economic Development
Policy Research Institute
TECHNICAL REPORT SERIES

Economic Trends Report: Lyon County

Prepared by

Luke Middleton
Research Economist

November 2002

Report No. 63

Genna M. Hurd
Co-Director, KCCED

Steven Maynard-Moody
Director, Policy Research Institute

This report available on the web at: <http://www.ku.edu/pri/resrep/Mono.shtml>
For more county data, go to: <http://www.ku.edu/pri/ksdata/kcced/profiles>

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.

KCCED is funded by a grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, and conclusions of this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government, the University of Kansas, or any other individual or organization.

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Population	2
Table 1 Population Totals, Growth Rates, Rank & Share, Lyon County and Kansas	5
Table 2 Population Growth Rates (percent): 1970 - 2000	6
Figure 1a Rates of Population Change, Lyon and Comparative Counties 1970 – 2000	7
Figure 1b Rates of Population Change Lyon County, Kansas and U.S. 1970 – 2000	7
Table 3a Population by Age, Lyon County and Kansas, 1990-2000	8
Table 3b Population by Age as Percent of Total, Lyon County and Kansas, 1990-2000	8
Figure 2 Population by Age as Percent of Total Population, Lyon County, 1990-2000	9
Table 4a Population by Hispanic Origin, Lyon County and Kansas, 1980-2000	10
Table 4b Population by Hispanic Origin as Percent of Total, Lyon and Kansas.....	10
Table 5 Net Migration: 1970 - 1999	11
Table 6 Population of Top-ranking Kansas Counties	12
Map 1 Percent Population Change 1980 – 1990.....	13
Map 2 Percent Population Change 1990 – 2000.....	14
Map 3 Percent Net Migration 1990 - 1999.....	15
Employment	16
Table 7 Employment Growth Rates 1991 - 2001, Lyon, Comparative Counties, Kansas	19
Figure 3 Employment Growth Rates 1991 - 2001, Lyon and Comparative Counties.....	19
Table 8a Number of Firms, by Number of Employees 1989 - 1999	20
Table 8b Percentage Distribution of Firms, by Number of Employees 1989 - 1999	20
Table 9a Employment Levels by Industry 1995 - 2000.....	21
Figure 4a Percent Change in Employment by Selected Industries 1995 - 2000	22
Table 9b Employment Percent Share by Industry 1995 - 2000	23
Figure 4b Employment Percent Share by Industry 2000	24
Table 9c Labor Market Summary 1999 - 2000.....	25
Map 4 Labor Force Participation: 2000.....	26
Map 5 County Unemployment Rates: 2000.....	27
Earnings and Income	28
Table 10 Average Annual Wage per Job 1990 - 2000	29
Figure 5a Average Wage per Job: Lyon and Comparative Counties, 1990 - 2000.....	30
Figure 5b Average Wage per Job: Lyon County, Kansas and U.S. 1990 - 2000	30
Table 11 Per Capita Personal Income 1980 - 2000	31
Figure 6 Per Capita Personal Income 1980 - 2000	32
Map 6 Per Capita Personal Income: 2000.....	33
Retail.....	34
Table 12 Taxable Retail Sales and Growth Rates 1989 - 2001	35
Figure 7 Taxable Retail Sales Growth Rates 1990 - 2001	36
Map 7 County Trade Pull Factors, 2001	37
Agriculture.....	38
Table 13 Total Value of Field Crops, 1996-1999	39
Table 14 Total Value of Livestock and Poultry, 1996-1999	39
Education	40
Table 15 Educational Attainment of Persons over 25: 2000	41
Table 16 High School Graduates and Drop-Outs, Lyon County and Kansas, 1990-2000.....	42
Conclusion	43

Economic Trends Report: Lyon County

Introduction

The following report is an objective look at several key economic trends occurring in Lyon County over the last few decades. We look at variables categorized under the following areas:

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

Throughout the report, Lyon 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 Lyon County but rather an overview of some key economic and demographic variables.

¹ "Comparative counties" used for comparison in this report are Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Morris, Osage, and Wabaunsee.

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. 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 families 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

- Except for a small decline in the 1980's, the population of Lyon County has been increasing somewhat slowly since the end of WWII. The 2000 Decennial Census showed Lyon County's population to be at 35,560. (Table 1 and 2)
- Population in Lyon County grew 3.5 percent in the last decade, which ranked it in the middle of the comparative counties. Wabaunsee, Coffey and Osage counties grew more with decade rates of 4.3, 5.5, and 9.6 percent, respectively. Chase, Greenwood and Morris grew less, with the latter two actually experiencing population declines in the decade of the 1990's. (Table 2 and Figure 1a)

- The state of Kansas as a whole has seen steady population increases, with an 8.5 percent growth rate for the 1990's. The United State's population has also been growing rapidly. (Table 2 and Figure 1b)
- The largest age group segment in Lyon County in 2000 was made up of people in the 25 to 44 year-old range, though this amount was down slightly since 1990 (27.2 percent in 2000 compared to 30 in 1990). While 25 to 44 year olds may be the largest age segment, the only growing age segment was the 45-64 cohort, which added nearly two thousand members to its ranks in the decade of the 1990's. This indicates the effect of the aging baby-boomer population: Lyon County's population makeup is in general becoming older. The number of people in every other age group decreased or remained the same from 1990 to 2000. (Table 3a and 3b, Figure 2)
- Census race data from 2000 cannot 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, 775 people in Lyon 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 4a and 4b)
- The population of Lyon County has become markedly more racially diverse over time. Although whites still make up the vast majority of the population (83 percent in 2000), the percentage of the total occupied by whites has been decreasing (compare to nearly 93 percent in 1980). All of the other racial groups have seen numerical increases in the last several decades. The Hispanic population has grown the most, from 4.4 percent of the population in 1980 to nearly 17 percent in 2000 (and the percentage would likely be higher had the old Census classifications been used in 2000). (Tables 4a and 4b)
- For the last two decades net-migration in Lyon County has decreased, even though in the last decade total population grew. 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, after factoring-in the effect of births and deaths. Between 1990 and 1999 Lyon County's net migration stood at -1,006, a figure indicating that 2.9 percent of the total 1990 population moved out of the county within the next ten years. The reason a negative net migration is possible during the same time period when total population rose is because the birth rate offset both the number of people who died and moved away. While negative net migrations are not positive outcomes, it was encouraging to note the rate of out-migration decreased significantly from the decade of the 1980's to that of the 1990's. The state of Kansas had a positive net migration of 1.8 percent over the last decade, the first time in four the state's rate was positive. In terms of ranking, Lyon County's net migration rate was 93rd out of 105 counties in the state from 1990 to 1999. (Table 5 and Map 3)

- Lyon County moved from being the 14th most populated county in Kansas in 1940 to being 15th in 2000. (Table 6)
- In 1990 the ten-year population growth rate in Lyon County was 33rd in the state, while in 2000 it was 37th. (Map 1 and 2)

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

Year	Lyon		Kansas		Lyon County Rank in State	Share (%)
	Population Total	Growth Rate	Population Total	Growth Rate		
1890	23,196		1,428,108		16	1.6
1900	25,074	8.1	1,470,495	3.0	16	1.7
1910	24,927	-0.6	1,690,949	15.0	21	1.5
1920	26,154	4.9	1,769,257	4.6	21	1.5
1930	29,240	11.8	1,880,999	6.3	27	1.6
1940	26,424	-9.6	1,801,028	-4.3	29	1.5
1950	26,576	0.6	1,905,299	5.8	32	1.4
1960	26,928	1.3	2,178,611	14.3	34	1.2
1970	32,071	19.1	2,249,071	3.2	33	1.4
1980	35,108	9.5	2,364,236	5.1	36	1.5
1990	34,732	-1.1	2,477,588	4.8	36	1.4
1991*	34,748	0.0	2,495,209	0.7	36	1.4
1992*	34,950	0.6	2,526,042	1.2	36	1.4
1993*	35,472	1.5	2,547,605	0.9	36	1.4
1994*	35,465	0.0	2,569,118	0.8	36	1.4
1995*	35,672	0.6	2,586,942	0.7	36	1.4
1996*	35,632	-0.1	2,598,266	0.4	36	1.4
1997*	35,513	-0.3	2,616,339	0.7	36	1.4
1998*	35,524	0.0	2,638,667	0.9	36	1.3
1999*	35,773	0.7	2,654,052	0.6	36	1.3
2000	35,935	0.5	2,688,418	1.3	36	1.3
2001*	35,560	-1.0	2,694,641	0.2	38	1.3

* Estimates

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 2
Population Growth Rates
Lyon County, Surrounding Counties, Kansas, and U.S.
1970-2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>	<u>1990-2000</u>
Lyon	9.5	-1.1	3.5
Chase	-2.9	-8.7	0.3
Coffey	26.7	-10.3	5.5
Greenwood	-4.1	-10.5	-2.2
Morris	-0.2	-3.4	-1.5
Osage	14.7	-0.5	9.6
Wabaunsee	7.3	-3.8	4.3
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
Lyon and Surrounding Counties
1970-2000

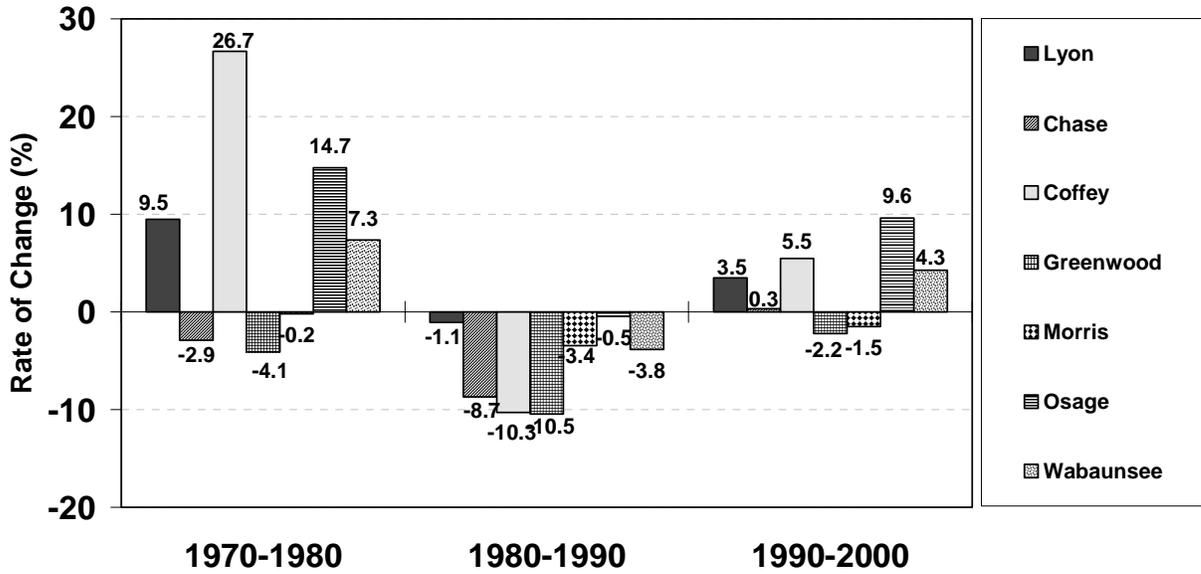
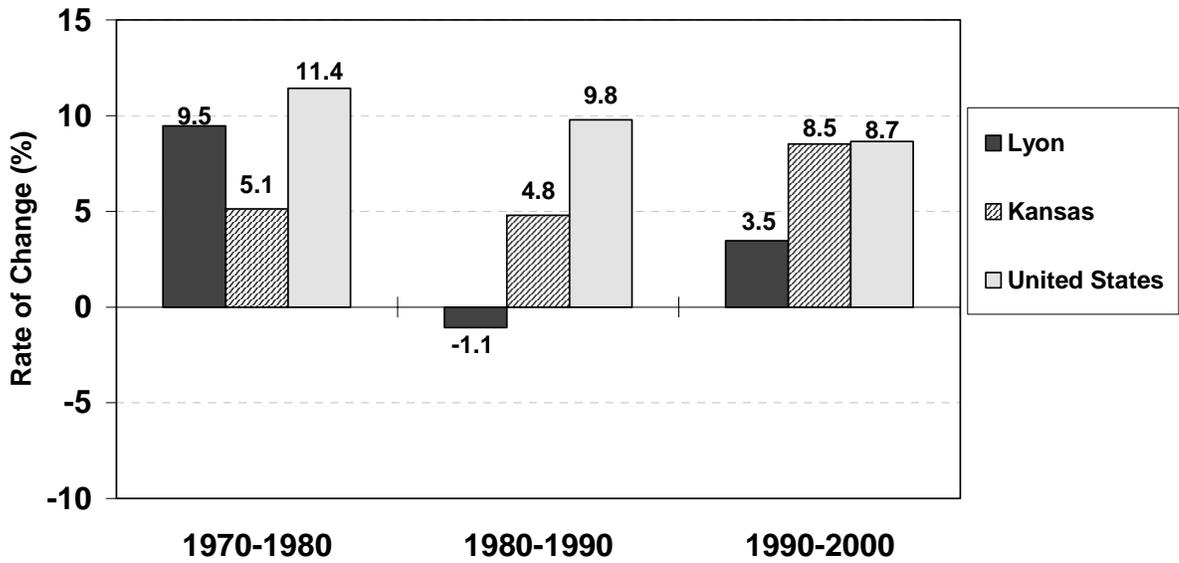


Figure 1b
Rates of Population Change
Lyon County, Kansas, and U.S.
1970-2000



**Table 3a
Population by Selected Age Groups
Lyon 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>
Lyon	1990	2,687	6,581	5,702	10,420	5,105	4,233
	2000	2,473	6,777	5,833	9,792	6,877	4,183
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 3b
Population by Selected Age Groups as Percent of Total
Lyon 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>
Lyon	1990	7.7 %	18.9 %	16.4 %	30.0 %	14.7 %	12.2 %
	2000	6.9	18.9	16.2	27.2	19.1	11.6
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
Lyon County
1990-2000

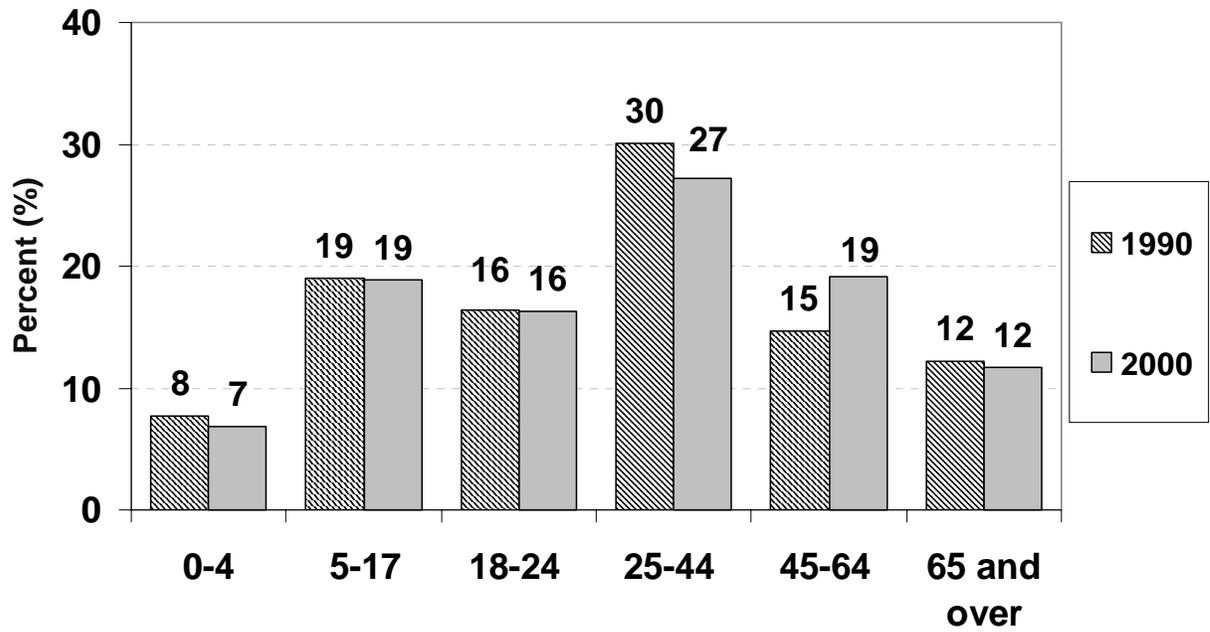


Table 4a
Population by Hispanic Origin
Lyon County and Kansas
1980-2000

	Year	Total	White		Total Black	Total Hispanic	Others	2 or More Races
			Total	Hispanic				
Lyon	1980	35,729	33,051	n/a	n/a	764	1,567	347
	1990	35,574	31,828	723	31,105	731	2,114	901
	2000 *	35,935	29,924	2,138	27,786	815	6,010	4,421
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

Note: Totals may not add up to population totals in previous tables, due to difference in revisions. See text for more.

* 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 4b
Population by Hispanic Origin as Percent of Total
Lyon County and Kansas
1980-2000

	Year	White		Total Black	Total Hispanic	Others	2 or More Races
		Total	Hispanic				
Lyon	1980	92.5%	n/a	n/a	2.1%	4.4%	1.0%
	1990	89.5	2.0	87.4	2.1	5.9	2.5
	2000 *	83.3	5.9	77.3	2.3	16.7	12.3
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

* 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**

Lyon County

<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*	32,071	5,143	n/a	n/a	2,116	3,027	11.2
1980*	35,108	3,037	n/a	n/a	2,387	650	2.0
1990*	34,732	-376	6,159	2,840	3,319	-3,695	-10.5
1999**	35,773	1,041	4,777	2,730	2,047	-1,006	-2.9

Kansas

<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)

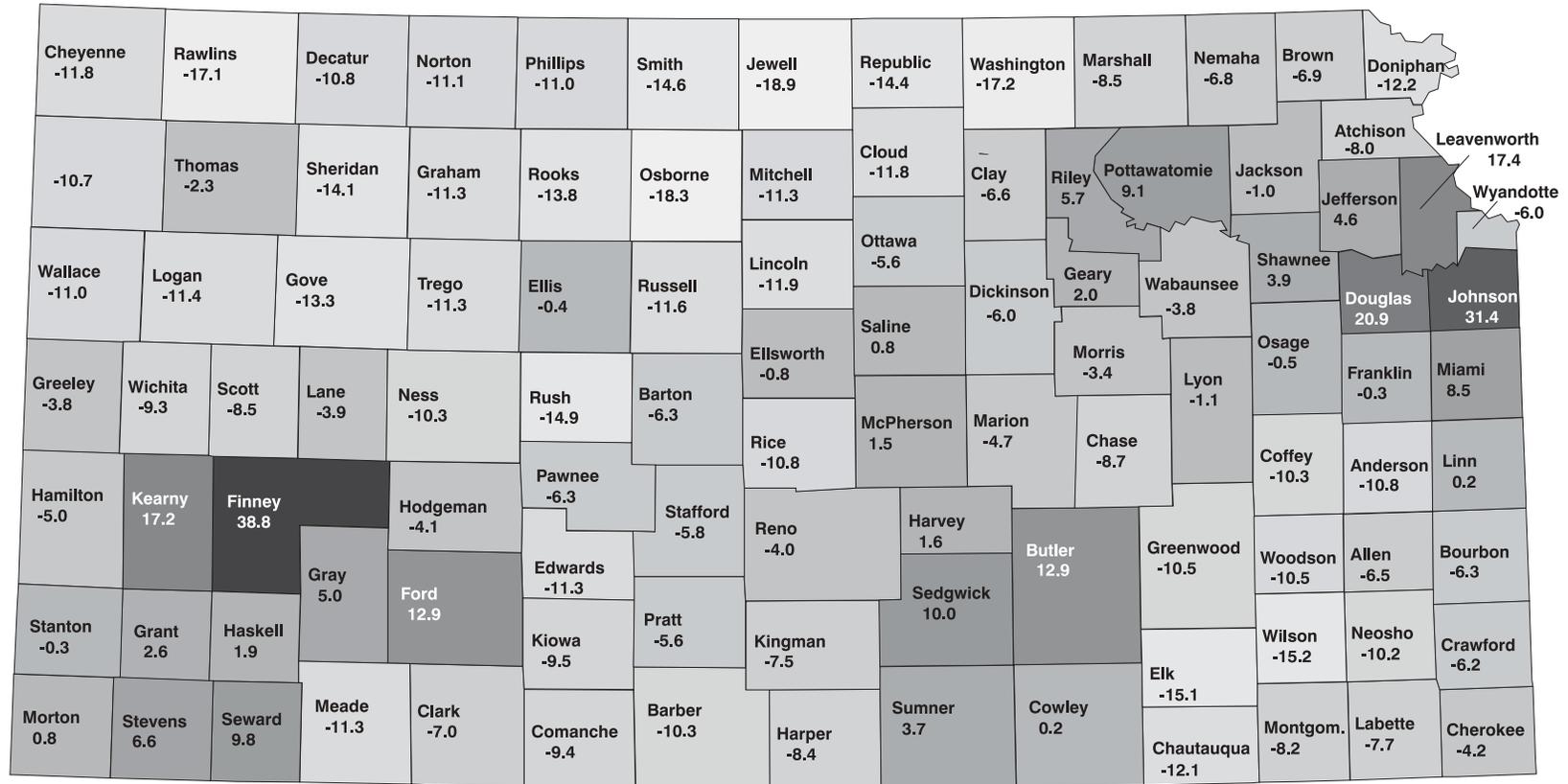
Source: Population Totals: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Census of Population, 1970: Number of Inhabitants; 1980 Census of Population," Vol.1, Chapter A, Part 18; "1990 Census of Population and Housing;" Population Estimates U.S. Bureau of the Census. Calculations: PRI.

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

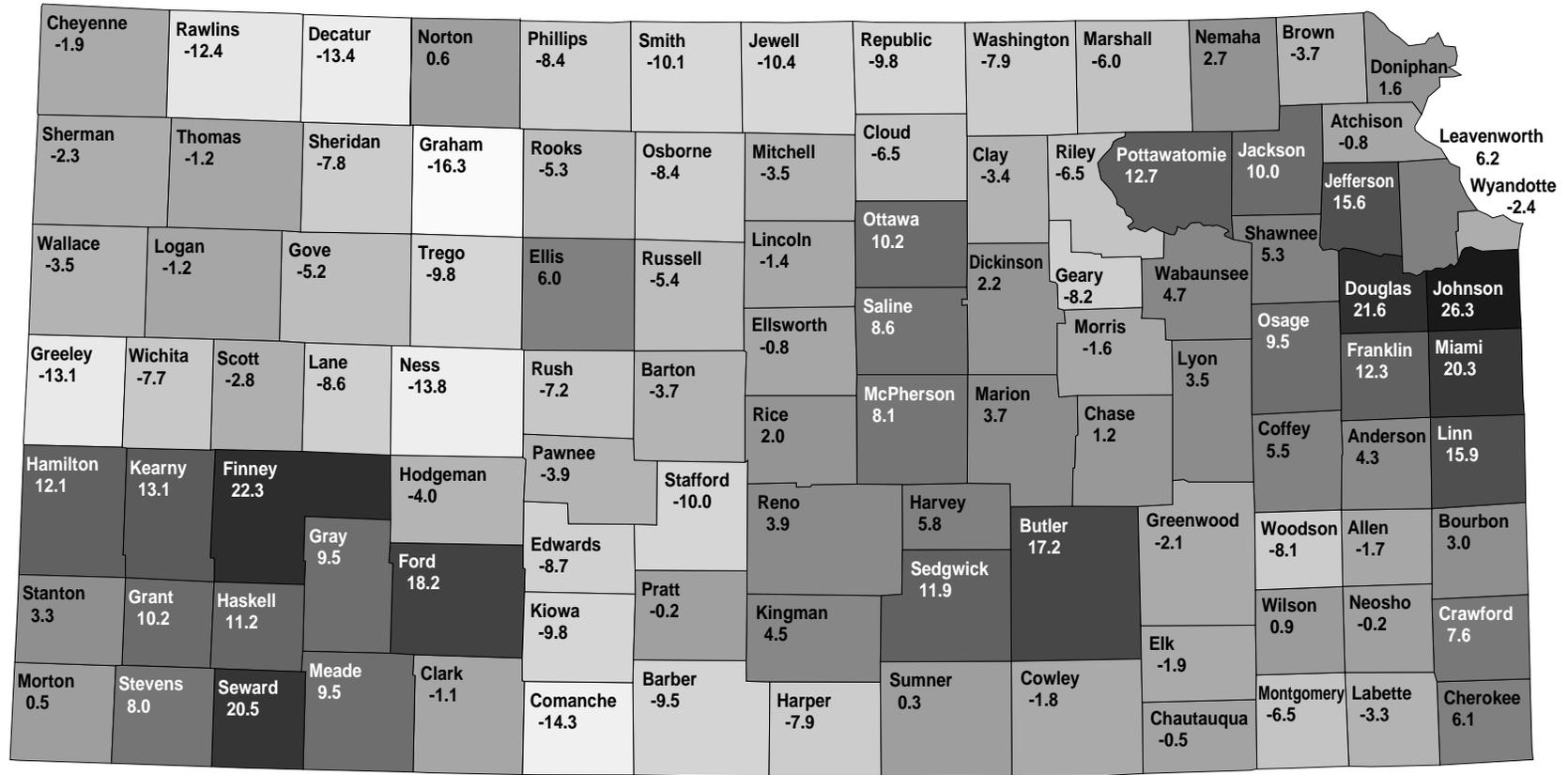
Source: University of Kansas, Policy Research Institute, "Kansas Statistical Abstract," 1992-1993, "Population of Kansas Counties, 1890-1980; U.S. Bureau of the Census, "1990 Census of Population and Housing." Floerchinger, Teresa D., "Kansas Population Projections, 1990-2030," Kansas Division of the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

Map 1 Percent Population Change: 1980 - 1990



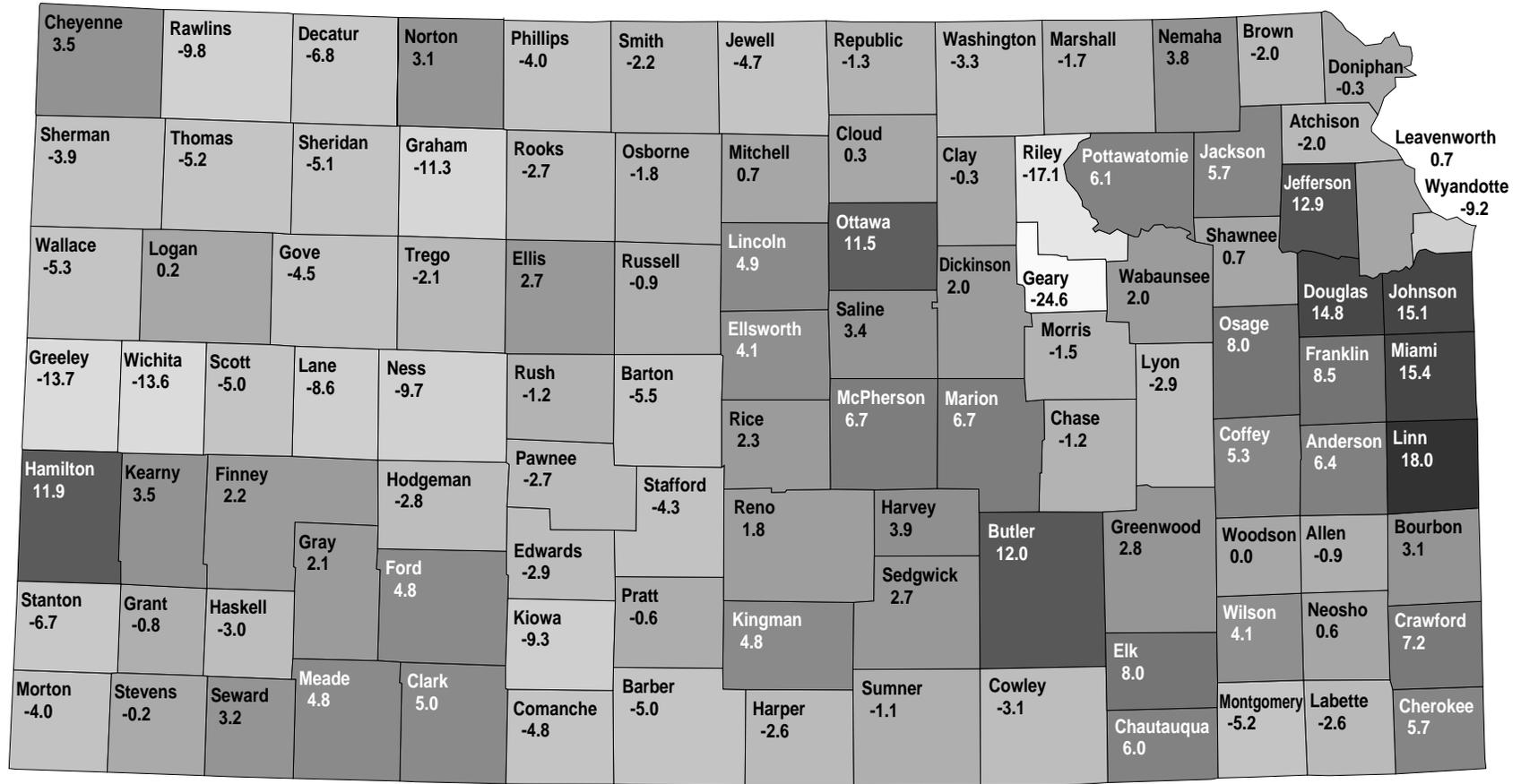
Source: Policy Research Institute, The University of Kansas: data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

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 Lyon 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 insight into 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 1991 and 2001 average annual employment in Lyon County increased from 17,817 employees to 18,256 in 2001. This was a 2.5 percent increase. (Table 7)
- Compared to the surrounding counties, Lyon's employment growth was much better than that seen in Chase, Coffey, and Greenwood counties. However, employment growth in Morris, Osage, and Wabaunsee counties was many times the rate in Lyon County. Employment in the state grew 8.9 percent from 1991 to 2001. (Table 7 and Figure 3)

- The total number of firms located in Lyon County increased nearly 11 percent from 1989 to 1999, compared to a 13.4 percent increase for the state of Kansas over the same time period. This was a net gain of 89 firms for the county. (Table 8a)
- The patterns of distribution of firms by the number of employees are quite similar in Lyon County to the state as a whole. The vast majority of firms in Lyon County are small companies with less than 20 employees (86 percent in 1999). Between 1989 and 1999 their numbers rose by 65 firms, to 790 total in 1999. The percentage of medium-sized companies (up to one hundred employees) increased 19 percent (18 firms) in the same time period, while the number of companies with up to 500 employees increased 67 percent (6 firms). (Tables 8a and 8b).
- Total industry-level employment for Lyon County rose 2.7 percent from 1995 to 2000, a net increase of 628 jobs in five years. This is compared to a 10.5 percent growth rate for the state of Kansas during the same period. (Table 9a)
- Employment in the Transportation sector, though only accounting for about 6 percent of total employment, grew the most from 1995 to 2000 both percentage-wise and in the actual number of new jobs added, 454 in all. That was an astounding increase of 51 percent. Retail Trade also grew considerably at close to 10 percent, an increase of 360 jobs. Finally, Manufacturing added 186 vital employment opportunities to the community from 1995 to 2000. (Tables 9a and 9b and Figures 4a and 4b)
- These employment gains were significantly offset by losses in other sectors, namely, the Services sector and Wholesale Trade. Services shed 204 positions in the five years from 1995 to 2000, Wholesale Trade 146 jobs, and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate lost 84 jobs. The loss in the Services sector is most troubling, since Services are vital to sustain a growing population. (Tables 9a and 9b and Figures 4a and 4b)
- Place of residence data for Lyon County showed the unemployment rate in 2000 to be 3.6 percent, a reasonable figure. This figure is from the Kansas Department of Human Resources, and as the name suggests, is based on the place of residence of individuals rather than their place of work. (Table 9c and Map 5)
- Comparing place of residence data and place of work data can sometimes indicate commuting trends. Table 9c shows that the number of jobs (place of work data) in Lyon County in 2000 was 1,250 less than the number of people employed in Lyon County (place of residence data). This could indicate that up to six percent of the number of people who live in Lyon county and are employed are actually employed in work outside the county. While Place of Work data does not include some types of businesses which Place of Residence data does, and therefore the actual number of commuters cannot be determined precisely from these numbers, the difference is great enough that in general it is reasonable to state more people commute out of Lyon County to work than commute in. (Table 9c)

- In the state of Kansas total employment (place of residence data) fell by 2.3 percent between 1999 and 2000. A smaller decrease in the civilian labor force resulted in a 21 percent increase in the number of unemployed statewide. (Table 9c)
- 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 2000 for Lyon County was 70.4 percent. This rate was 14th in a list of 105 counties. The rate for Kansas was 68.5 percent. (Map 4)

Table 7
Employment Growth Rates
Lyon County, Surrounding Counties, and Kansas
Place of Residence Data
1991-2001

	Average Annual Employment			% Employment Growth		
	1991	1996	2001	1991-1996	1996-2001	1991-2001
Lyon	17,817	18,557	18,256	4.2 %	-1.6 %	2.5 %
Chase	1,323	1,375	1,351	3.9	-1.7	2.1
Coffey	3,854	3,994	3,844	3.6	-3.8	-0.3
Greenwood	3,299	3,165	2,974	-4.1	-6.0	-9.9
Morris	2,779	2,964	2,942	6.7	-0.7	5.9
Osage	6,918	8,007	8,858	15.7	10.6	28.0
Wabaunsee	3,124	3,278	3,585	4.9	9.4	14.8
Kansas	1,214,000	1,288,000	1,322,000	6.1	2.6	8.9

Source for Kansas: Kansas Department of Human Resources, place of residence data.

Figure 3
Employment Growth Rates
Lyon and Surrounding Counties
1991-2001

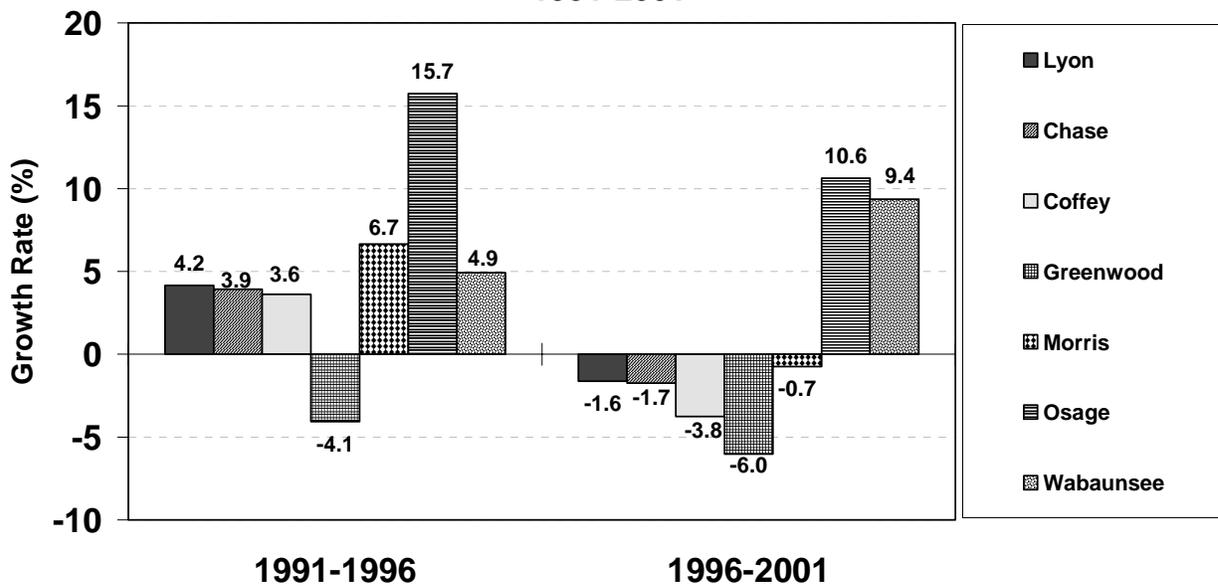


Table 8a
Number of Firms, by Number of Employees
Lyon County and Kansas
1989-1999

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Lyon</u>			<u>Kansas</u>		
	<u>1989</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1 -- 19	725	790	9.0 %	57,845	64,239	11.1 %
20 -- 99	94	112	19.1	6,713	8,564	27.6
100 -- 499	9	15	66.7	1,027	1,536	49.6
500+	2	2	0.0	107	147	37.4
Total	830	919	10.7	65,692	74,486	13.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "County Business Patterns," 1989 and 1999.

Table 8b
Percentage Distribution of Firms, by Number of Employees
Lyon County and Kansas
1989-1999

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Lyon</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>1989</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1999</u>
0 - 19	87.3 %	86.0 %	88.1 %	86.2 %
20 - 99	11.3	12.2	10.2	11.5
100 - 499	1.1	1.6	1.6	2.1
500+	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "County Business Patterns," 1989 and 1999. Due to numbers being rounded up, percentages may not equal 100%.

Table 9a
Employment Levels by Industry
Lyon County and Kansas
Place of Work Data
1995-2000

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Lyon</u>				<u>Kansas</u>			
	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Ag. Services	198	207	9	4.5 %	18,437	23,125	4,688	25.4 %
Mining	130	124	-6	-4.6	23,233	19,960	-3,273	-14.1
Construction	649	690	41	6.3	78,797	94,432	15,635	19.8
Manufacturing	5,046	5,232	186	3.7	197,257	214,292	17,035	8.6
Transportation	888	1,342	454	51.1	77,948	98,366	20,418	26.2
Wholesale Trade	834	688	-146	-17.5	78,641	82,453	3,812	4.8
Retail Trade	3,741	4,101	360	9.6	273,381	295,583	22,202	8.1
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	754	670	-84	-11.1	99,331	120,364	21,033	21.2
Services	4,872	4,668	-204	-4.2	413,880	478,875	64,995	15.7
Gov't. and Gov't. Services	4,817	4,875	58	1.2	273,545	277,760	4,215	1.5
Subtotal -- Non-Farm	21,929	22,597	668	3.0	1,534,450	1,705,210	170,760	11.1
Farm Employment	989	949	-40	-4.0	78,389	77,604	-785	-1.0
Total Employment	22,918	23,546	628	2.7	1,612,839	1,782,814	169,975	10.5

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (REIS), table CA25.

Figure 4a
Percent Change in Employment by Industry
1995-2000

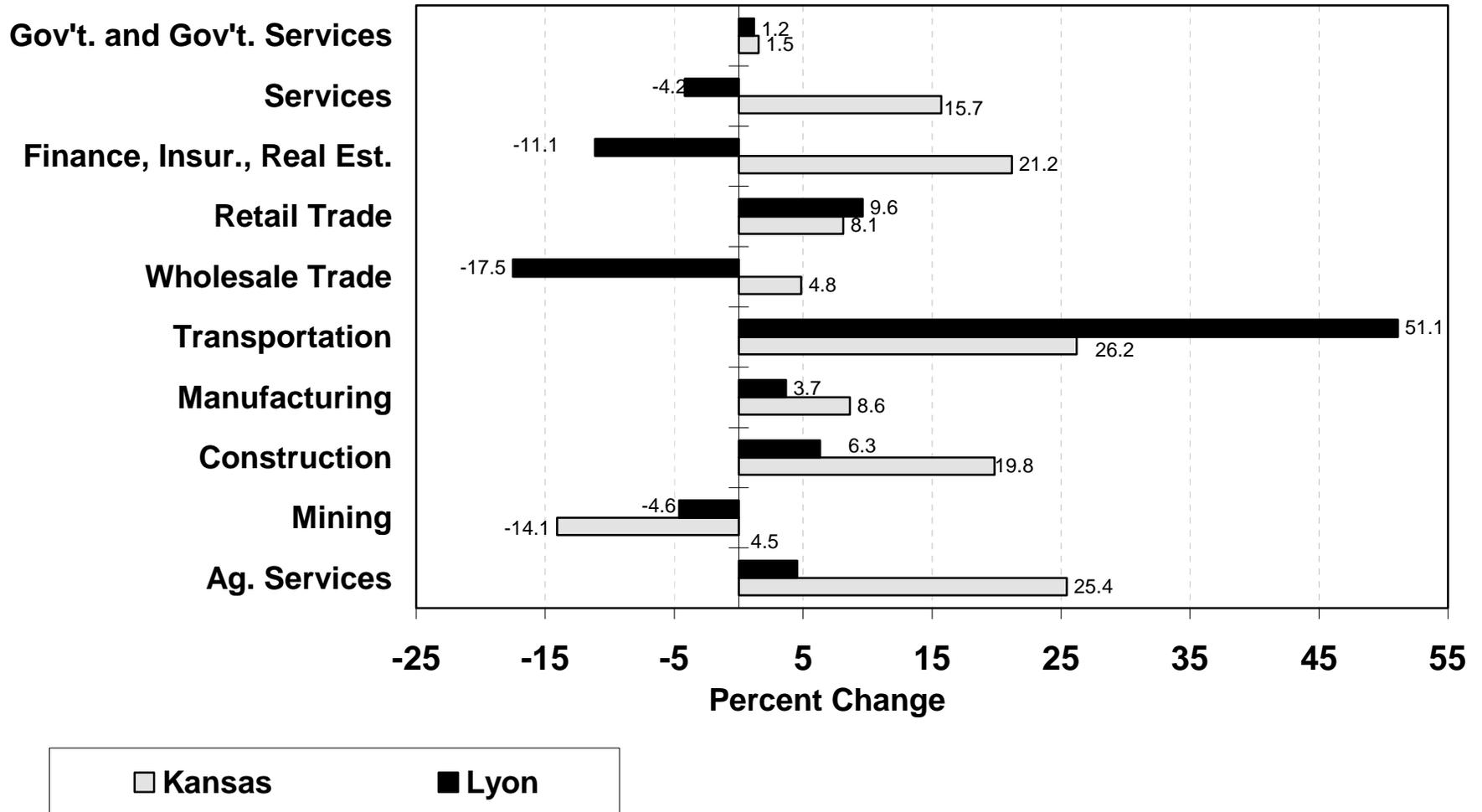
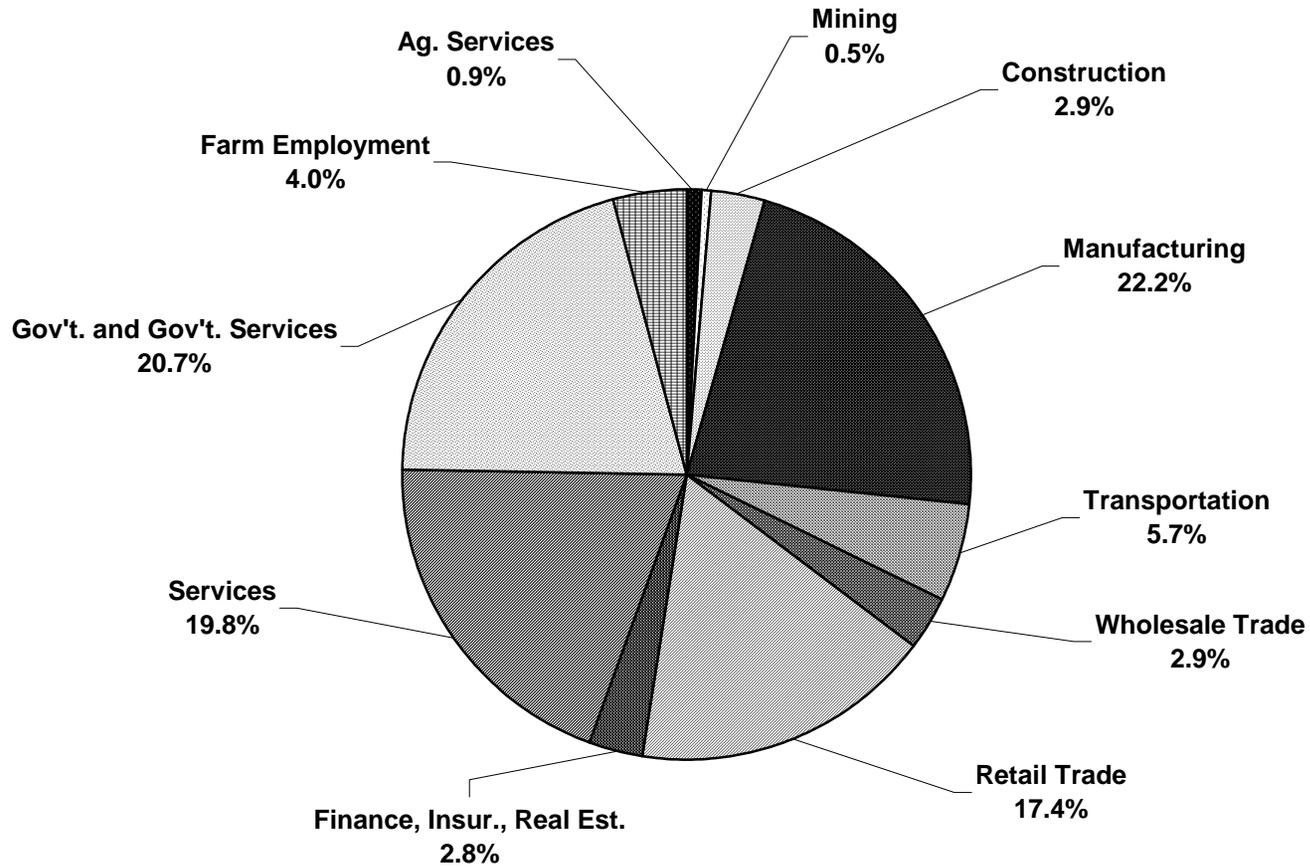


Table 9b
Employment Percent Share by Industry
Lyon County and Kansas
Place of Work Data
1995-2000

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Lyon</u>			<u>Kansas</u>		
	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>
Ag. Services	0.9	0.9	0.0 %	1.1	1.3	0.2 %
Mining	0.6	0.5	0.0	1.4	1.1	-0.3
Construction	2.8	2.9	0.1	4.9	5.3	0.4
Manufacturing	22.0	22.2	0.2	12.2	12.0	-0.2
Transportation	3.9	5.7	1.8	4.8	5.5	0.7
Wholesale Trade	3.6	2.9	-0.7	4.9	4.6	-0.3
Retail Trade	16.3	17.4	1.1	17.0	16.6	-0.4
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	3.3	2.8	-0.4	6.2	6.8	0.6
Services	21.3	19.8	-1.4	25.7	26.9	1.2
Gov't. and Gov't. Services	21.0	20.7	-0.3	17.0	15.6	-1.4
Subtotal -- Non-Farm	95.7	96.0	0.3	95.1	95.6	0.5
Farm Employment	4.3	4.0	-0.3	4.9	4.4	-0.5

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (REIS), table CA25.

**Figure 4b
Employment Percent Share by Industry
Lyon County
2000**

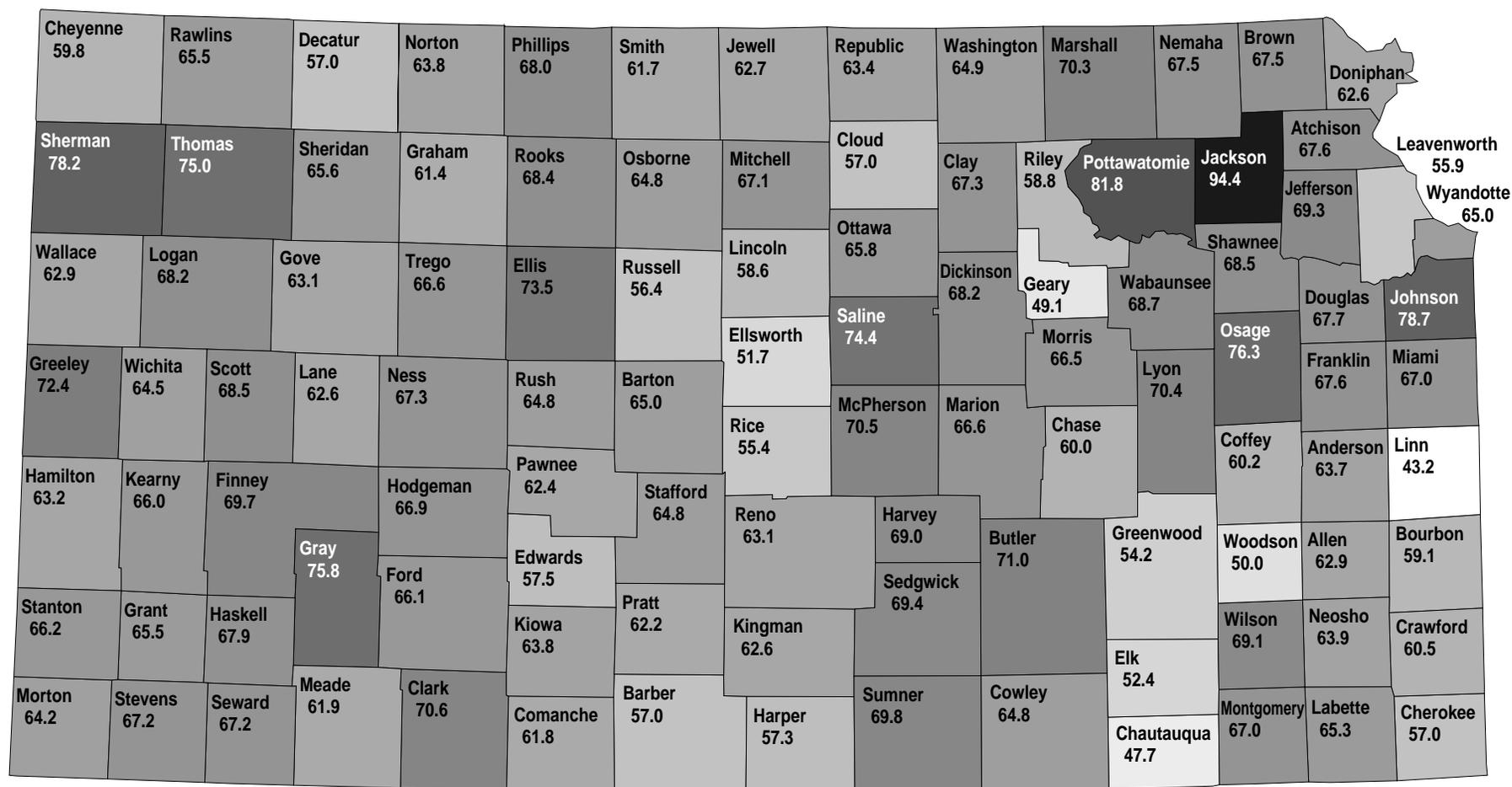


**Table 9c
Labor Market Summary
1990-2000**

	Lyon County			Kansas
	1999 Average	2000 Average	% Change 1990-00	% Change 1990-00
<u>Place of Residence Data</u>				
Civilian labor force	20,077	19,580	-2.5	-1.6
Employment	19,451	18,880	-2.9	-2.3
Unemployment	626	700	11.8	20.9
Unemployment rate	3.1	3.6	16.1	23.3
<u>Place of Work Data</u>				
All industries	17,643	17,630	-0.1	1.1
Goods producing industries	6,190	5,826	-5.9	0.4
Construction and mining	544	521	-4.2	2.0
Manufacturing	5,504	5,153	-6.4	-0.5
Service producing industries	11,450	11,799	3.0	1.3
Transportation & Public utilities	759	1,049	38.2	9.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade	3,903	3,902	0.0	-0.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real estate	426	418	-1.9	1.3
Services	2,753	2,817	2.3	1.1
Government	3,609	3,613	0.1	1.3

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

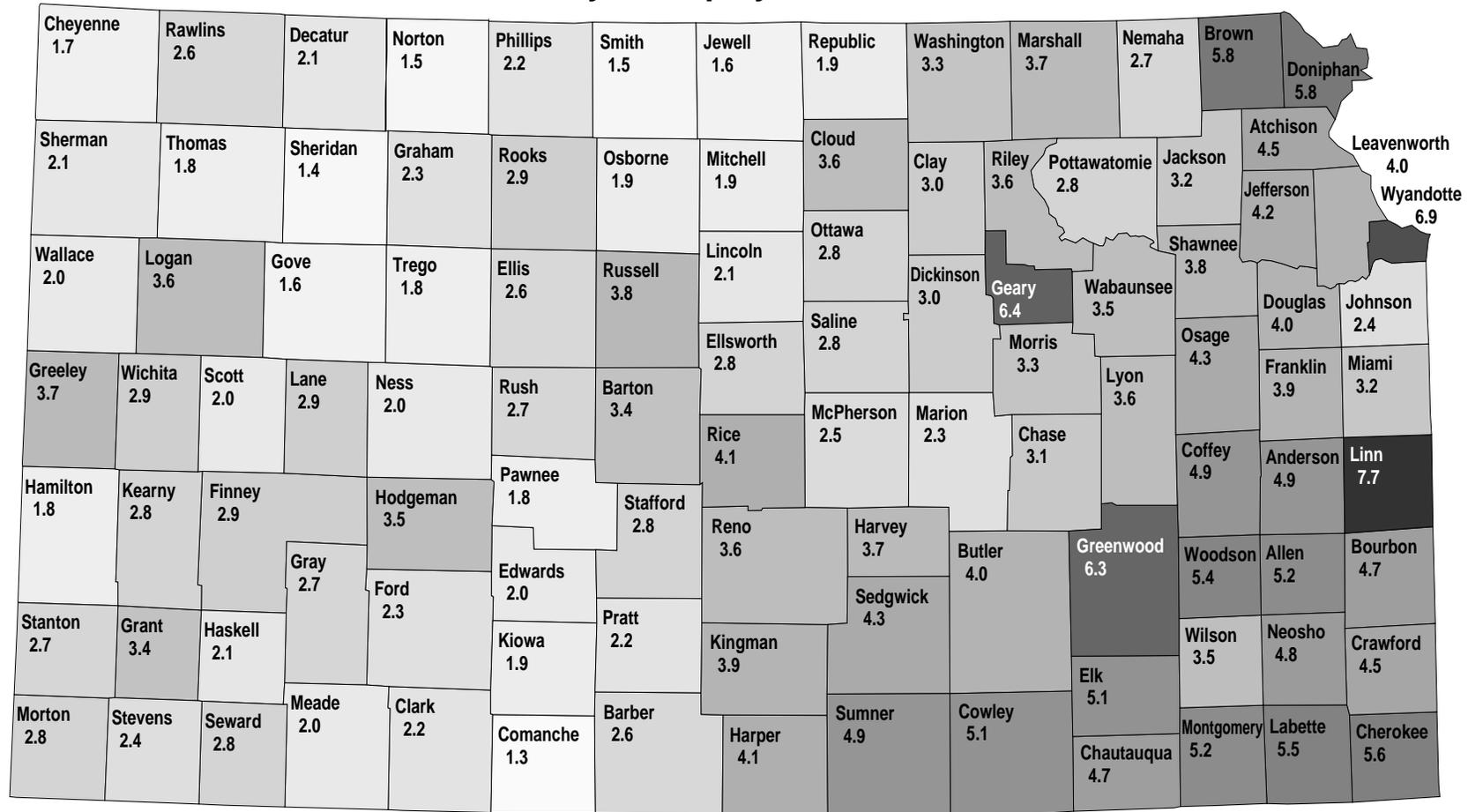
Map 4 Labor Force Participation: 2000



Source: 2000 U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Kansas: 68.5%

**Map 5
County Unemployment Rates: 2000**



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, 2000. 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, per capita personal income also rises.

Earnings and Income: Key Findings

- In 2000 the average wage per job in Lyon County was \$22,443. That was \$6,242 less than the average wage for the state of Kansas and \$12,209 less than the national average. (Table 10, Figure 5b)
- Lyon County's average wage per job compared quite well to the surrounding Kansas counties. Only Coffey County had a higher wage at 30,779, which bested even the state average. Average wage growth rates were also higher on average in Lyon County than the surrounding comparative counties. (Table 10, Figure 5a)
- Per capita personal income in Lyon County in 2000 grew slower than the state's rate, and at \$21,466 was \$5,908 behind the state's average of \$27,374 per year. Historical data show that in addition to always having a per capita income level lower than the state's, the gap between the two has widened considerably over time since 1980. (Table 11, Figure 6)
- In 2000 per capita personal income for Lyon County ranked 69th in a state with 105 counties. (Map 6)

Table 10
Average Annual Wage Per Job
Lyon County, Surrounding Counties, Kansas, and U.S.
1990-2000

	<u>Average Wage per Job (Nominal Dollars)</u>			<u>% Growth</u>	
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>90-95</u>	<u>95-00</u>
Lyon	17,194	18,618	22,443	8.3	20.5
Chase	12,035	14,083	16,854	17.0	19.7
Coffey	22,795	26,447	30,779	16.0	16.4
Greenwood	12,702	14,690	17,576	15.7	19.6
Morris	14,371	16,002	19,849	11.3	24.0
Osage	13,340	14,402	15,755	8.0	9.4
Wabaunsee	12,492	15,803	17,939	26.5	13.5
Kansas	19,790	23,216	28,685	17.3	23.6
United States	23,322	27,400	34,652	17.5	26.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (1969-2000), Regional Economic Profile, Table CA34.

Figure 5a
Average Wage per Job
Lyon and Surrounding Counties
1990-2000

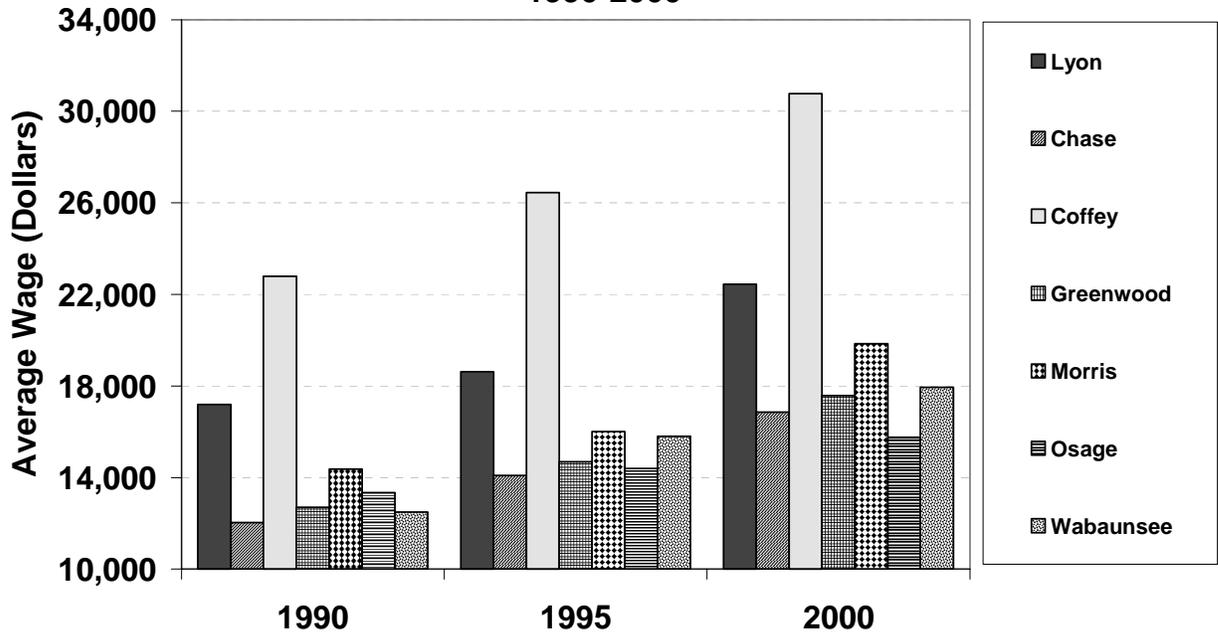


Figure 5b
Average Wage Per Job
Lyon County, Kansas and United States
1990-2000

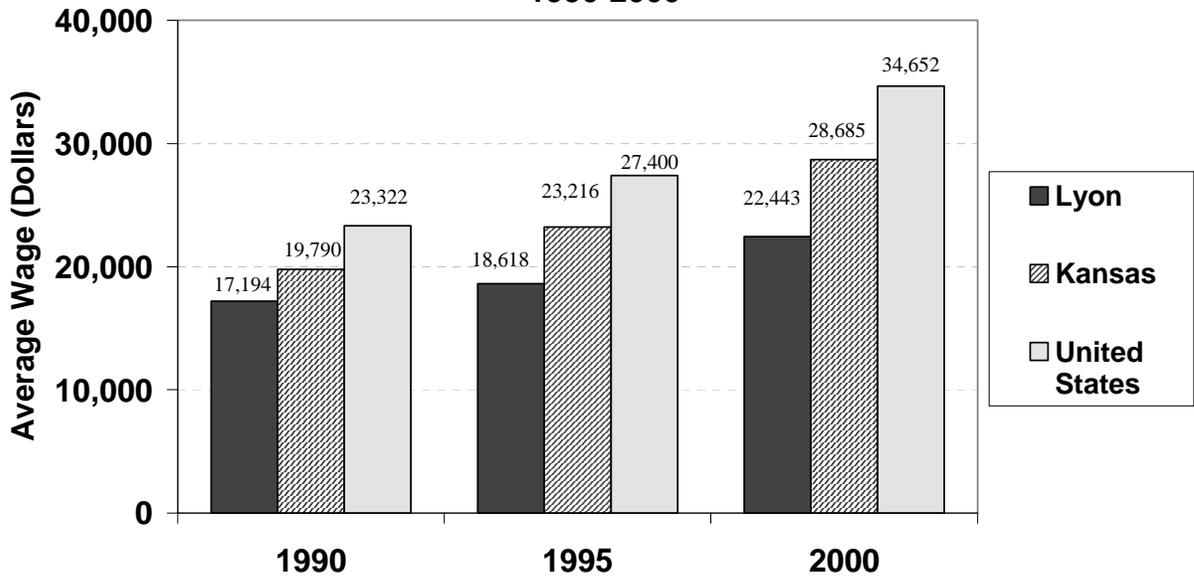
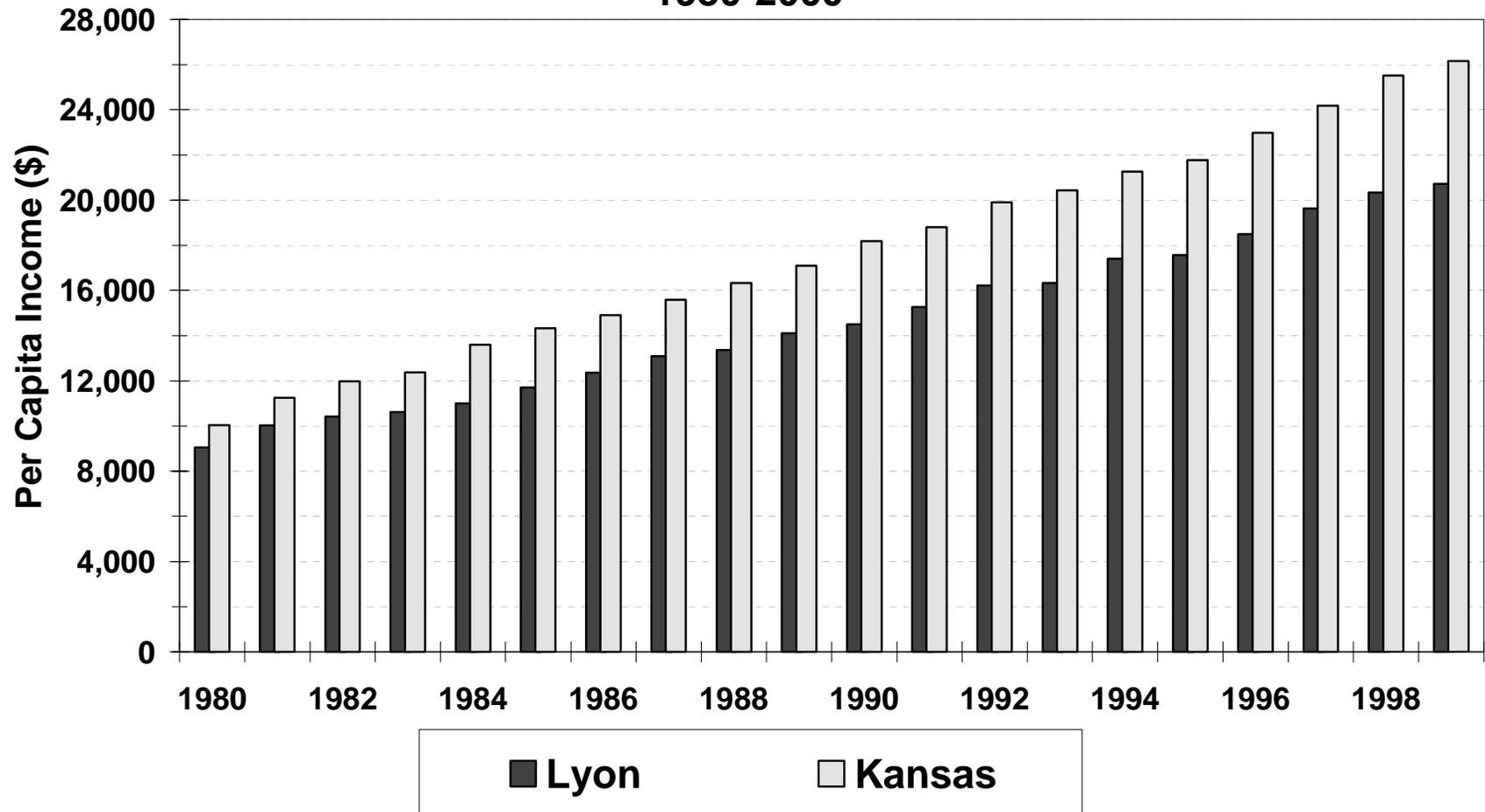


Table 11
Per Capita Personal Income
Lyon County and Kansas
1980-2000

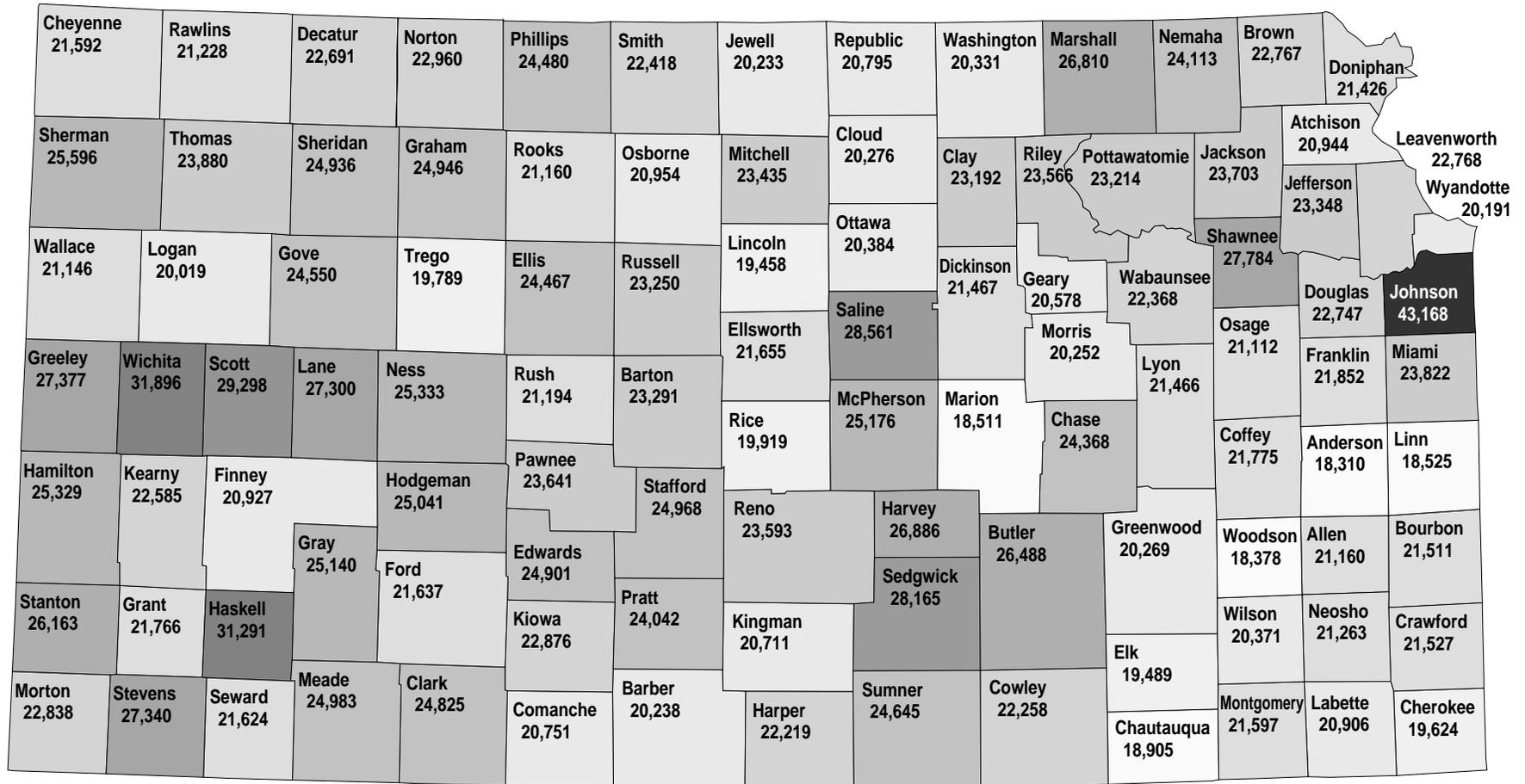
	Income (\$)		Growth Rates	
	Lyon	Kansas	Lyon	Kansas
1980	9,053	10,038		
1981	10,024	11,248	10.7 %	12.1 %
1982	10,413	11,989	3.9	6.6
1983	10,615	12,373	1.9	3.2
1984	10,994	13,602	0.0	9.9
1985	11,716	14,330	6.6	5.4
1986	12,363	14,904	5.5	4.0
1987	13,085	15,583	5.8	4.6
1988	13,358	16,331	2.1	4.8
1989	14,101	17,093	5.6	4.7
1990	14,501	18,177	2.8	6.3
1991	15,267	18,806	5.3	3.5
1992	16,219	19,905	6.2	5.8
1993	16,331	20,438	0.7	2.7
1994	17,405	21,258	6.6	4.0
1995	17,573	21,771	1.0	2.4
1996	18,502	22,977	5.3	5.5
1997	19,630	24,182	6.1	5.2
1998	20,337	25,519	3.6	5.5
1999	20,722	26,155	1.9	2.5
2000	21,466	27,374	3.6	4.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (1969-2000), County Summary, Table CA13.

Figure 6
Per Capita Personal Income
Lyon County and Kansas
1980-2000



Map 6 Per Capita Personal Income: 2000



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

RETAIL

Retail trade is an important part of a community's business environment as well as source of revenues for 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.

Retail: Key Findings

- Taxable retail sales figures for Lyon County and the state prior to 1994 are not comparable to numbers in 1994 and beyond, due to a change in source and method of calculation. This explains the unnaturally large jump in retail sales in Lyon County between 1993 and 1994.
- Taxable retail sales in Lyon County have grown slowly, but steadily, for the last decade, slowing only in recent years. This could well be a concomitant result of lowered Service sector employment. From 2000 to 2001 nominal taxable retail sales dropped 2.6 percent, the largest decrease since 1992. Growth for the decade (1991 to 2001) was nearly 57 percent, which compared favorably to 51 percent growth for the state as a whole. (Table 12, Figure 7)
- Lyon County's trade pull factor in 2001 was 0.91. A trade pull factor of less than one means the county lost more retail activity to other counties than it was able to 'pull in'. However, while less than one Lyon County's trade pull factor was still significantly higher than any of the surrounding counties. This indicates that people who do retail shopping outside of Lyon County are most likely travelling farther than adjacent counties, probably to larger metropolitan centers in Sedgwick or Kansas City/Topeka. (Map 7)

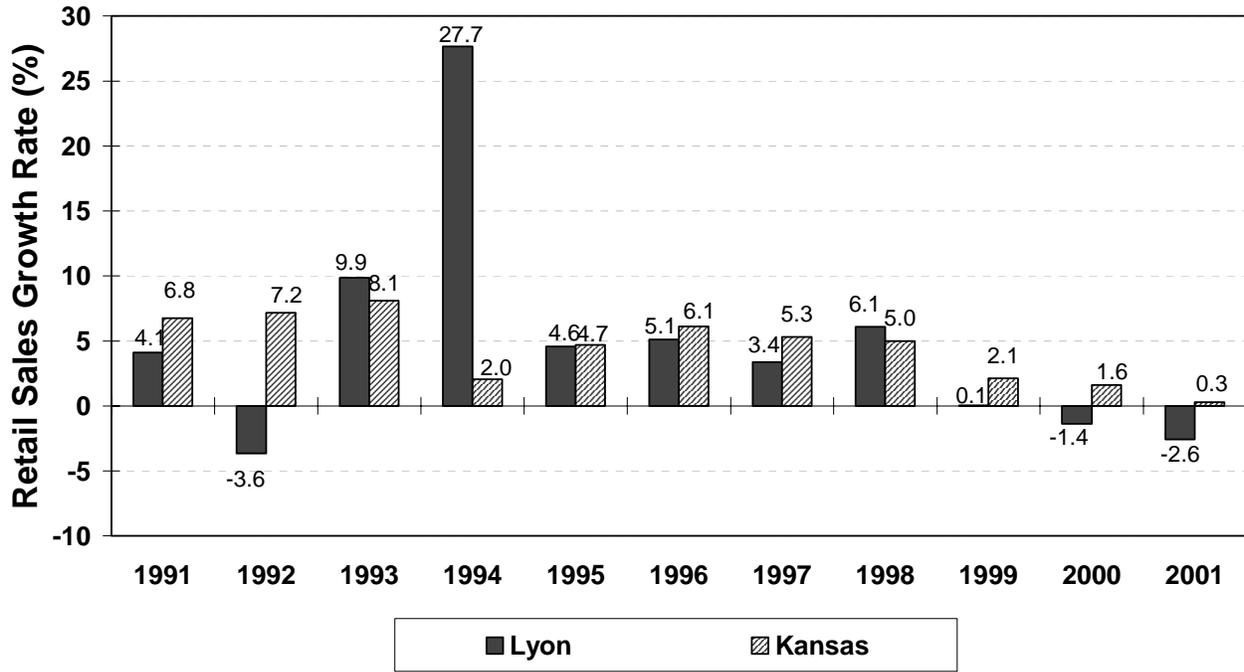
Table 12
Taxable Retail Sales and Growth Rates
Lyon County and Kansas
1989-2001

<u>Year</u>	<u>Lyon</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>Nominal Sales (\$Millions)</u>	<u>Growth Rate (%)</u>	<u>Nominal Sales (\$Millions)</u>	<u>Growth Rate (%)</u>
1989	208.2		18,034.4	
1990	218.5	4.9 %	18,723.3	3.8 %
1991	227.5	4.1	19,988.0	6.8
1992	219.2	-3.6	21,421.3	7.2
1993	240.8	9.9	23,154.4	8.1
1994	307.4	27.7	23,625.8	2.0
1995	321.5	4.6	24,735.9	4.7
1996	337.9	5.1	26,247.7	6.1
1997	349.3	3.4	27,640.5	5.3
1998	370.6	6.1	29,021.6	5.0
1999	370.8	0.1	29,641.9	2.1
2000	365.7	-1.4	30,119.0	1.6
2001	356.2	-2.6	30,202.2	0.3

Note: Data from 1994 to 2000 are not comparable to 1989-1993 data.

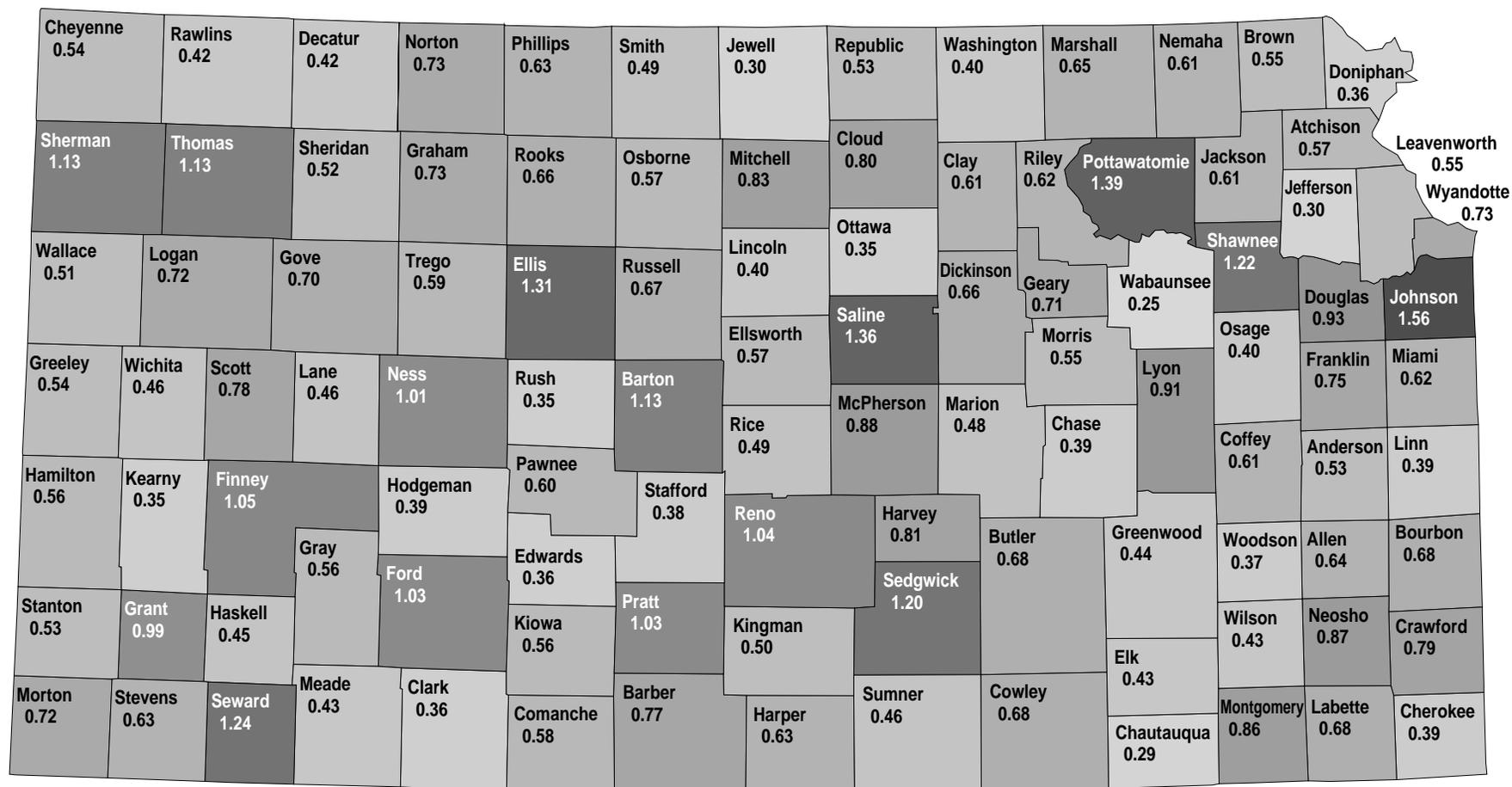
Source: Kansas Department of Revenue, State Sales Tax Collections by County Classification. Calculations, 1987-1993, CEDBR, W. Frank Barton School of Business, Wichita State University; 1994-2001, PRI, University of Kansas.

Figure 7
Taxable Retail Sales Growth Rates
Lyon County and Kansas
1991-2001



*Data from 1994-2001 are not comparable to 1989-1993 data.

Map 7 County Trade Pull Factors: 2001



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: "Time Series of County Trade Pull Factors 1980-2001," by David Darling and Liu Jia, K-State Research and Extension, Department of Agricultural Economics.

AGRICULTURE

The economic well-being of Lyon County has historically been tied to the agriculture/farming sectors. This section looks at the level of activity in agriculture and examines 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

- Without exception, every county as well as the state of Kansas saw sharp declines in the value of field crops between 1996 and 1999. In Lyon County the steepest drop occurred from 1997 to 1998, in which time the total value of field crops decreased nearly 10 million dollars in one year. This was the trend for many of the other comparative counties as well as the state of Kansas. From 1996 to 1999, total value of field crops in Lyon County decreased 43 percent. Among the comparative counties, Only Coffey and Osage experienced worse declines. (Table 13)
- The total value of livestock and poultry in Lyon County also suffered a hit from 1997 to 1998, which it largely recouped the next year. In 1999 the total value was the highest in Lyon County that it had been in four years, and since 1996 total growth stood at 2 percent even considering a 12 percent drop in one year. Morris, Osage and Wabaunsee counties all experienced declining livestock values for the years in question, while Chase, Coffey and Greenwood counties, as well as the state overall, were fortunate enough to undergo strong positive growth. (Table 14)

Table 13
Total Value of Field Crops
Lyon County, Comparative Counties, and Kansas
1996-1999

	Total Value of Crops (\$Millions)				Percent Change			
	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>96-97</u>	<u>97-98</u>	<u>98-99</u>	<u>96-99</u>
Lyon	34.9	32.1	23.4	19.9	-8.0 %	-27.0 %	-15.2 %	-43.1 %
Chase	11.8	10.3	9.1	7.5	-13.3	-10.9	-17.7	-36.4
Coffey	32.0	36.7	22.0	15.9	14.9	-40.1	-27.9	-50.3
Greenwood	14.3	12.4	11.2	11.3	-13.5	-9.9	1.3	-21.0
Morris	24.8	27.8	20.5	15.9	12.0	-26.2	-22.4	-35.9
Osage	38.8	37.2	25.5	17.9	-4.2	-31.4	-30.1	-54.1
Wabaunsee	21.6	23.9	16.5	14.5	10.8	-30.9	-12.6	-33.1
Kansas	4,154.6	4,474.9	3,594.3	3,118.2	7.7	-19.7	-13.2	-24.9

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
Lyon County, Comparative Counties, and Kansas
1996-1999

	Total Value of Livestock and Poultry (\$Millions)				Percent Change			
	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>96-97</u>	<u>97-98</u>	<u>98-99</u>	<u>96-99</u>
Lyon	37.8	38.2	33.5	38.6	1.0 %	-12.4 %	15.3 %	2.0 %
Chase	18.2	23.6	29.8	36.6	30.0	26.0	23.0	101.5
Coffey	9.6	12.1	10.9	11.6	26.2	-10.3	6.7	20.8
Greenwood	24.3	28.9	28.7	33.9	18.8	-0.7	18.1	39.3
Morris	19.2	21.8	15.3	17.7	13.7	-29.8	15.5	-7.7
Osage	11.5	10.8	11.0	11.0	-6.3	1.9	0.0	-4.6
Wabaunsee	16.9	16.4	16.7	15.6	-3.1	1.9	-6.6	-7.7
Kansas	2,629.0	2,806.4	2,670.4	2,849.1	6.7	-4.8	6.7	8.4

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

- Given the presence of Emporia State University in Lyon County, it is somewhat incongruous that in 2000 the percentage of county residents possessing Associate's or Bachelor's degrees in the county was less than the same rate for Kansas. However, the number of Graduate level degree-holders was the same percentage as across the entirety of Kansas. (Table 15)
- The percentage of Lyon County residents over the age of 25 who had achieved less than a high-school diploma was about 18 percent, compared to only 14 percent for the state. (Table 15)
- Lyon County graduated roughly 354 high school students on average each year from 1990 to 2000. The number of high school dropouts each of those years fluctuated from a low of 56 to a high of 123, with the average being about 93. (Table 16)
- High school dropouts as a percent of graduates in Lyon County averaged about 27 percent a year from 1990 to 2000, slightly higher than the average rate for Kansas of about 23 percent. (Table 16)

Table 15
Educational Attainment of Persons over 25
As a Percentage of the Population of Persons over 25
Lyon County and Kansas
2000

	<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>
Lyon	1,614	2,118	6,549	4,842	708	2,913	1,815	20,852
Kansas	88,124	149,675	507,612	417,722	99,096	290,271	148,707	1,699,833

As a Percent of Population of Persons over 25:

Lyon	7.7%	10.2%	31.4%	23.2%	3.4%	14.0%	8.7%
Kansas	5.2%	8.8%	29.9%	24.6%	5.8%	17.1%	8.7%

Note: Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000.

Table 16
High School Graduates and Drop-Outs
Lyon County and Kansas
1990-2000

	<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>	<u>2000</u>
Lyon											
Grads	328	293	310	309	364	376	356	355	378	428	395
Drops	56	94	123	78	76	118	102	106	100	100	70
Kansas											
Grads	25,367	24,414	24,129	24,720	25,319	26,125	25,786	26,648	27,856	28,543	29,102
Drops	4,995	5,738	5,651	6,490	6,698	6,422	6,420	6,042	5,802	5,802	4,974
<i>High school drop-outs as percent of graduates</i>											
Lyon	17.1%	32.1%	39.7%	25.2%	20.9%	31.4%	28.7%	29.9%	26.5%	23.4%	17.7%
Kansas	19.7%	23.5%	23.4%	26.3%	26.5%	24.6%	24.9%	22.7%	20.8%	20.3%	17.1%

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.

Lyon County's population has grown consistently, albeit slowly, for many decades. This indicates a good foundation on which to build economic development efforts, and statistics show that growing Kansas counties tend to remain in that course for the long run. While the population in Lyon County is growing older, as it is across the state and nation, still new births in the last decade were great enough to offset a significant out-migration trend.

Educational achievement levels are somewhat lower in Lyon County than across the state; still, over a quarter of the above-25 population holds some sort of college degree. The primary employer in Lyon County is Manufacturing, which accounts for over 22 percent of all jobs. That is a very strong sign as manufacturing is often considered the backbone of solid economic growth, and not a majority of Kansas counties can claim to have it dominate their employment scene. Explosive growth in the Transportation sector, as it would be for any, is a positive outcome for the county, and should be built upon. Furthermore, deliberate and substantial progress in the total number of firms in the county over the last decade is an encouraging indicator of future potential. However, the sharp decrease in Service sector jobs in the county is troubling: services provide the necessary quality-of-life factors which not only attract new residents but retain existing ones. Additionally, a robust Service economy draws external dollars into the local economy, but as was seen in the case of retail sales these have been decreasing along with Service employment. In order for population growth to continue, new service jobs will need to be created.

The average wage per job in Lyon county was higher than all but one of its surrounding counties, probably due to the high proportion of manufacturing jobs. Higher-than-average wages are a strong incentive for new in-migrants to consider locating.

For comparable rural counties, it would seem that Lyon possesses a stronger than average economic base upon which to stage future economic development efforts.