

STRATEGIC PLANNING DATA ANALYSIS

Sherman County

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FOREWORD

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

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

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

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	ES.1
Introduction	0.1
Section I: Global, Regional & National Trends	1.1
Section II: Population	2.1
Section III: Education	3.1
Section IV: Employment, Earnings and Income	4.1
Section V: Geographic Location & Infrastructure	5.1
Section VI: Business Environment	6.1
Section VII: Innovation & Technology	7.1
Section VII: Quality of Life	8.1
Section IX: Summary of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats	9.1

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1 10-Year Population Growth Rates,
Kansas and U.S., 1920-2020 1.4

Table 1.2 Urban and Rural Population in Kansas,
Decade Ending Rates of Change, 1900-1990 1.6

Table 1.3 Age of the Population, Kansas and U.S., 1990 and 2020 1.8

Table 1.4 Levels of Educational Attainment, Persons 25 or Older,
Kansas, Neighboring States and U.S., 1989 1.9

Table 1.5 Age Structure of the Workforce, 1975, 1990 and 2005 1.10

Table 1.6 Fastest Growing Occupational Subgroups, 1990-2005
Ranked by Net Job Creation 1.12

Table 1.7 Fastest Growing Major Occupational Groups, 1990-2005
Ranked by Growth Rate 1.12

Table 1.8 Fastest Growing Occupational Subgroups, 1990-2005
Ranked by Growth Rate 1.13

Table 1.9 Employment in Kansas, Metropolitan and
Non-Metropolitan Areas, 1980, 1985, 1990 1.15

Table 1.10 Average Weekly Earnings by Industry, U.S.,
1983, 1987 and 1991 1.16

Table 1.11 Per Capita Personal Income Levels,
Kansas, Neighboring States, and the U.S., 1980, 1985 and 1990 1.18

Table 1.12 Per Capita Personal Income Levels, Kansas Metropolitan
and Non-Metropolitan Counties, 1980-1990 1.18

Table 1.13 Percentage of Personal Income, by Source, 1986-1990 Average,
Non-Metropolitan Counties and Kansas Totals 1.19

Table 1.14 Net Job Creation by Size of Firm, Firms with Employees,
Kansas and U.S., 1980-1989 1.19

Table 1.15 Output Shares by Major Industry Category,
Kansas and U.S., 1979 and 1989 1.21

Table 1.16 Employment Shares by Major Industry Category,
State of Kansas, 1980, 1990 and 2020 1.23

Table 1.17	U.S. Exports and Imports and Foreign Investment Income, Percentage Share of U.S. Gross Domestic Product, 1961-1991	1.25
Table 1.18	State and Local Taxes Per Capita, Kansas, Neighboring States and U.S., 1988-1989.	1.25
Table 2.1	Population Totals, Ten-Year Growth Rates and Ranking, Actual 1890-1990, Projection 1990-2020	2.5
Table 2.2	Population Totals, Sherman, Trade Area, and Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1950-1990	2.7
Table 2.3	Population Ten-Year Growth Rates, Sherman, Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1950-1990	2.8
Table 2.4	County Population Ranking in the State, Sherman, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, 1940, 1990, and 2020	2.9
Table 2.5	Population Levels, Selected Cities, Sherman, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, 1950-1990	2.10
Table 2.6	Net Migration, 1960-1990, Sherman, Comparative Counties and Kansas	2.12
Table 2.7	Urban and Rural Population Distribution, Sherman County and Kansas, 1930-1990	2.13
Table 2.8	Urban and Rural Population in Sherman County and Kansas, 1930-1990, Population Distribution and Growth Rates	2.13
Table 2.9	Age Composition, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1990	2.15
Table 2.10	Median Age of the Population, 1980 and 1990, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S.	2.16
Table 2.11	Population Shares by Age Group, Sherman County and Kansas, 1990-2020	2.17
Table 3.1	Highest Level of Completed Education, Population 25 Years and Older, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparatives and Kansas, 1990	3.4
Table 3.2	Highest Level of Completed Education, Population 25 Years and Older, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980	3.5

Table 3.3	Full-Time Enrollment, Public Schools, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1986-1992	3.7
Table 3.4	Weighted Expenditure Per Pupil, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, 1986-1992	3.7
Table 3.5	High School Dropout Rates, Sherman County and Kansas, 1984-85 to 1990-91	3.9
Table 3.6	Pupil-Teacher Ratio, Public Schools, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1989-90 and 1990-91	3.10
Table 4.1	Civilian Labor Force, 1982-1991, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas	4.5
Table 4.2	Net Change in Civilian Labor Force, Sherman, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, 1982-1991	4.6
Table 4.3	Average Annual Employment, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1981-1990	4.8
Table 4.4	Net Change and Percent Change in Employment, Sherman County, Trade Area, Comparatives and Kansas, 1981-1990	4.9
Table 4.5	Ten-Year Change and Percentage Change in Employment, Sherman County, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1981-1990 ...	4.10
Table 4.6	Unemployment Rate, 1982-1991, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas	4.12
Table 4.7	Total Personal Income, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1981-1990	4.13
Table 4.8	Per Capita Personal Income Levels, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, Kansas and the U.S., 1981-1990	4.15
Table 4.9	Ten-Year Change in Per Capita Income, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparatives, Kansas and U.S., 1980-1990	4.16
Table 4.10	Components of Personal Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	4.18
Table 4.11	Average Wages and Salary Earnings Per Job by Place of Work, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1985, and 1990-1990	4.20
Table 5.1	Land Area and Population Density, 1990, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas	5.3

Table 5.2	Thirty-Year (1951-80) Average Annual Precipitation, Sherman County, State Climatic Regions, and Kansas	5.4
Table 5.3	Natural Resources and Percent of Land in Farms Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas	5.5
Table 5.4	Highway and Rail Freight Transportation Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas	5.6
Table 5.5	Average Daily Traffic Volumes at Points of Entry/Exit Sherman County, 1980-1990	5.8
Table 5.6	Access to Water and Sewer Systems, Sherman, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, 1990	5.9
Table 6.1	Number of Private Non-Farm Firms by Sector and Number of Employees, Sherman County, 1980 and 1990	6.4
Table 6.2	Number of Private, Non-Farm Firms by Sector and Number of Employees, Kansas, 1980 and 1990	6.5
Table 6.3	Average Size of Private, Non-Farm Firms, Sherman County and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	6.6
Table 6.4	Average Annual Pay Per Employee by Sector, Private, Non-Farm Firms, Sherman County and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	6.8
Table 6.5	Distribution of Jobs, Net Change and Percent Change by Sector, Sherman County, 1980-1990	6.10
Table 6.6	Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	6.11
Table 6.7	Farm Employment, Net Change and Percent Change, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	6.12
Table 6.8	Mining Employment, Net Change and Percent Change, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	6.13
Table 6.9	Manufacturing Employment, Net Change and Percent Change, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980-1990	6.14
Table 6.10	Wholesale Employment, Net Change and Percent Change, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	6.15
Table 6.11	Retail Employment, Net Change and Percent Change, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	6.16
Table 6.12	Service Employment, Net Change and Percent Change, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	6.17

Table 6.13	Government Employment, Net Change and Percent Change, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	6.18
Table 6.14	Real Taxable Retail Sales Levels, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1981-1991	6.20
Table 6.15	Number of Farms and Acres Harvested, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980-81 and 1989-90	6.22
Table 6.16	Value of Field Crops, Livestock and Poultry, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980-1981 and 1989-1990	6.23
Table 6.17	Levels of Assessed Tangible Valuation and Bonded Indebtedness, Sherman and Comparative Counties, Cities and School Districts, 1990 and 1992	6.25
Table 6.18	City, County and School District Tax Levies in Mills, Sherman and Comparatives, 1990 and 1992	6.26
Table 6.19	Total Number of Banks, Total Assets, and Bank Assets per Capita, Sherman, Comparatives and Kansas, 1990	6.28
Table 6.20	Location of Venture Capital, Seed Capital, Certified Companies, and Venture/Seed Capital Investments	6.30
Table 7.1	Science and Engineering Professionals and Students, Kansas and Surrounding States, 1989/1990	7.5
Table 7.2	Patents Issued Per 1 Million Population, Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990	7.6
Table 7.3	University Research and Development Per Capita, Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990	7.7
Table 7.4	Federal Research and Development Spending Per Capita, Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990	7.8
Table 7.5	Technology Resources Subindex of Development Capacity Report Card	7.9
Table 7.6	State Policy Report Card, 1991, Technology and Innovation Subindex	7.9
Table 8.1	Quality of Life: Overall Indices, Sherman and Comparative Counties	8.4
Table 8.2	Crime Indices: Rate per 1,000 Population, 4-Year Averages Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1982-1986 and 1987-1990	8.6

Table 8.3 Health Care Access Measures, 1989 and 1990,
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas 8.8

Table 8.4 Number of Deaths, Infants Less Than 1 Year of Age, 1982-86 and 1987-91
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas 8.9

Table 8.5 Adult Care Homes: Licensed Beds,
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1983 and 1991 8.10

Table 8.6 Access to Day Care and Preschool, 1989,
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas 8.11

Table 8.7 Number of Persons with Poverty Status,
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1979 and 1989 8.13

Table 8.8 Number of Housing Units, 1980 and 1990,
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas 8.15

Table 8.9 Housing Occupancy and Tenure, 1990
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas 8.16

Table 8.10 Housing Units Vacant 6 or More Months, 1990,
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas 8.17

Table 8.11 Median Housing Costs, 1980 and 1990,
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas 8.19

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1 10-Year Population Growth Rates, Kansas and U.S., 1920-2020 1.3

Figure 1.2 Urban and Rural Population in Kansas,
Decade Ending Rates of Change, 1900-1990 1.5

Figure 1.3 Kansas Population by Age Group, 1990 Actual, 2020 Projections 1.7

Figure 1.4 Levels of Education, Persons Over 25,
Kansas, Neighboring States and U.S., 1989 1.9

Figure 1.5 Age Structure of the Workforce, U.S., 1975, 1990 & 2000 1.10

Figure 1.6 Fastest Growing Occupational Sub-Groups
U.S., 1990-2005, Job Creation 400,000+ 1.11

Figure 1.7 Employment and Job Creation Shares,
Kansas Metro and Non-Metro Areas, 1980-90 1.14

Figure 1.8	Per Capita Personal Income Levels, Kansas and Neighboring States, 1980/85/90	1.17
Figure 1.9	Gross Product Shares, Selected Industries, Kansas and U.S., 1979 and 1989	1.20
Figure 1.10	Employment Shares, Selected Industries, Kansas, 1980, 1990 and 2020	1.22
Figure 1.11	Exports, Imports and Foreign Investment, Percentage Share of GDP, 1961-1991	1.24
Figure 2.1	Ten-Year Population Growth Rates, Sherman County, Kansas and U.S.	2.4
Figure 2.2	Rate of Population Change, 1950-1990, Sherman, Comparative, Non-Metro Counties	2.6
Figure 2.3	Net Migration, 1960-1990, Sherman, Trade Area, Comparatives and Kansas	2.11
Figure 2.4	1990 Population Under 18, Over 65 Sherman and Selected Comparatives.	2.14
Figure 3.1	Highest Level of Education, 1990 Population Age 25+, Sherman Co. and Kansas	3.3
Figure 3.2	Enrollment and Expenditures Per Pupil, Sherman County, 1986-87 to 1991-92	3.6
Figure 3.3	High School Dropout Rates, Sherman and Kansas, 1984-1991	3.8
Figure 4.1	Net Change in Civilian Labor Force, Sherman, Trade Area, and Kansas, 1982-91	4.4
Figure 4.2	Job Creation Rates, 1981-1990, Sherman, Trade Area and Comparatives	4.7
Figure 4.3	Unemployment Rates, 1982-1991, Sherman and Kansas Non-Metro	4.11
Figure 4.4	Per Capita Personal Income Levels, Sherman and Comparatives, 1980-1990	4.14
Figure 4.5	Share of Personal Income, By Source, Sherman and Kansas, 1980 and 1990	4.17
Figure 4.6	Average Earnings per Job, Sherman and Comparatives, 1980-85-90	4.19

Figure 5.1 Average Daily Traffic Volume, Sherman Co.
Points of Entry/Exit, 1980-90 5.7

Figure 6.1 Average Size of Firms, by Sector,
Sherman County and Kansas, 1990 6.3

Figure 6.2 Average Annual Pay Per Employee, by Sector
Sherman and Kansas, 1990 6.7

Figure 6.3 Number of Jobs, Selected Sectors,
Sherman County, 1980 and 1990 6.9

Figure 6.4 Taxable Retail Sales Levels, 1981-1991
Sherman County, Average of Comparatives 6.19

Figure 6.5 Changes in Farm Production, Sherman County
and Kansas, 1980-1990 6.21

Figure 6.6 Change in Assessment Base, 1990-1992,
Sherman County and Selected Components 6.24

Figure 6.7 Bank Assets Per Capita, 1990,
Sherman, Selected Comparatives and Kansas 6.27

Figure 7.1 Scientists and Engineers Per 1,000 Workers, 1990 7.4

Figure 7.2 Science and Engineering Students Per 1 Million Population, 1990 7.5

Figure 7.3 Patents Issued Per 1 Million Population,
Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990 7.6

Figure 7.4 University Research and Development Per Capita, 1990 7.7

Figure 7.5 Federal Research and Development,
Spending Per Capita, 1990 7.8

Figure 8.1 Public Library Volumes Per Capita,
Sherman and Kansas Comparatives 8.3

Figure 8.2 Crime Indices, 1982-86 and 1987-90,
Sherman, Comparatives and Kansas 8.5

Figure 8.3 Persons Per Physician, 1989, Sherman and Kansas Comparatives 8.7

Figure 8.4 Persons with Poverty Status, 1979 and 1989
Sherman and Selected Comparatives 8.12

Figure 8.5 Change in Households and Housing Units,
Sherman, Selected Comparatives and Kansas 8.14

Figure 8.6 Change in Median Housing Costs, 1980-90
Sherman and Selected Comparatives 8.18

LIST OF MAPS

Map 0.1 Sherman County - Comparative Counties 0.2

Map 6.1 Location of Venture/Seed Capital Investments 6.29

Executive Summary

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

Sherman is a county of about 6,900 people, situated at the Colorado border. Its population is a mixture of small urban and rural. The county is connected with three major highways, including Interstate 70. Sherman County's economy includes relatively well developed farm, retail, and wholesale sectors, and a growing service sector. Manufacturing accounts for a small proportion of the economic base, following job losses in the mid-1980s. The past decade's economic trends have indicated decline or stagnation in areas such as employment, retail sales, and personal income. During the 1980s, Sherman County's population continued to decline after having reached its peak in 1970. This decline is expected to continue at a slower rate over the next thirty years. Along with other trends outlined below, these conditions present Sherman County with considerable challenges that must be addressed constructively to ensure economic development now and in the future.

The People

Sherman County's population has decreased for the last two decades due to a high rate of migration out of the county. Net rates of out-migration in the 1980s were generally higher than those of comparative counties and significantly offset the natural increase in population (births minus deaths). The rate of population decline is expected to slow over the next three decades. The people of Sherman County are somewhat older than the averages for Kansas and the U.S., although similar in age to comparable counties. As a result, the county has a smaller than average percentage of people of working age, and this proportion is expected to decrease further. Despite a larger than average number of people with associate (two-year) degrees, educational levels for persons aged 25 and over are generally lower for Sherman County than for comparative counties or the state at large. Per capita incomes are somewhat higher in the county than in non-metropolitan and several comparative counties, and have been characterized by slightly higher growth than the average for non-metropolitan counties.

The Economy

Industrial sectors providing the highest percentages of jobs in Sherman County (and higher proportions than for non-metropolitan Kansas) are the farm, retail, service, and government sectors. Only the service sector has experienced significant growth in employment, while the farm and retail sectors declined by 30% and 13%, respectively. The number of jobs in all other major industrial sectors decreased, except for government, which held steady. Overall, total employment declined by 13% (624 jobs) in Sherman County from 1980 to 1990. This is a higher rate of loss than for any of the comparative counties.

Although farming is a declining sector in the county's economy, both in terms of employment and the value of output, there is a higher than average and growing reliance on farm income in Sherman County. Job losses have occurred despite stability in the number of business firms in the county. Since 1982, unemployment in Sherman County has been relatively low. This is partly due to a decline in the number of available workers. The civilian labor force shrank by 16% (649 workers) from 1982 to 1988 and by a much slower 1% (43 workers) through 1991, stabilizing at about 3,400 workers. Average wage and salary earnings per job and average pay per employee in Sherman County lag well behind that of the state at large, non-metropolitan areas, and several comparative counties.

The retail base in Sherman County eroded in real terms by 40% from 1981 to 1991. This trend is similar to that of comparable areas, but much greater than that for the state as a whole and non-metropolitan areas. The county's property tax base eroded by 5% (\$2.6 million) from 1990 to 1992, while levels of bonded indebtedness and tax levies are comparable to other areas. Per capita bank assets in Sherman County are near average for the state but lower than most comparative areas.

Community Resources

Although public school expenditures per pupil in Sherman County are increasing as enrollments stabilize, high school dropouts rates are higher than the state average. Pupil-teacher ratios are lower than the state average and decreasing, but higher than comparable areas. Access to cultural and recreational resources is comparable to that of other counties. The availability and accessibility of health care resources in Sherman County is good and shows continuing improvement. The county compares poorly with other areas in terms of access to licensed adult care homes. Access to licensed day care facilities is not as good in Sherman County as in several comparable counties. A larger percentage of the county's residents lived below the poverty line in 1989 than ten years earlier -- 16% compared with 10% in 1979. Housing availability declined marginally in Sherman County over the past decade, with the number of housing units falling faster than the number of households. Housing costs are lower than state averages but higher than for comparable counties. Crime rates were higher in Sherman County than in comparable areas during the 1980s, matching state averages, but had decreased by 1990.

Challenges and Opportunities

As Sherman County residents prepare a strategic plan for the future of their communities, many challenges and opportunities present themselves. The global economic environment has become more challenging, with an increased emphasis on technology and training to keep the labor force flexible and competitive. The smaller, older and less educated labor force in Sherman County will need to adapt and expand in order to meet the future requirements of present and prospective employers. A major challenge for Sherman County will be in determining how best to enrich its job market, by transforming some of its current jobs into higher-skilled, higher-paying jobs for the future. Tying into state and federal technology programs could present one such set of opportunities. Amidst these and other challenges and opportunities facing their communities, Sherman County citizens must maintain a broad-based commitment to working in partnership with one another to plan the future of the county. This commitment, when combined with an ambitious and shared vision for the future, will be the necessary ingredient to turn dreams into reality.

Introduction

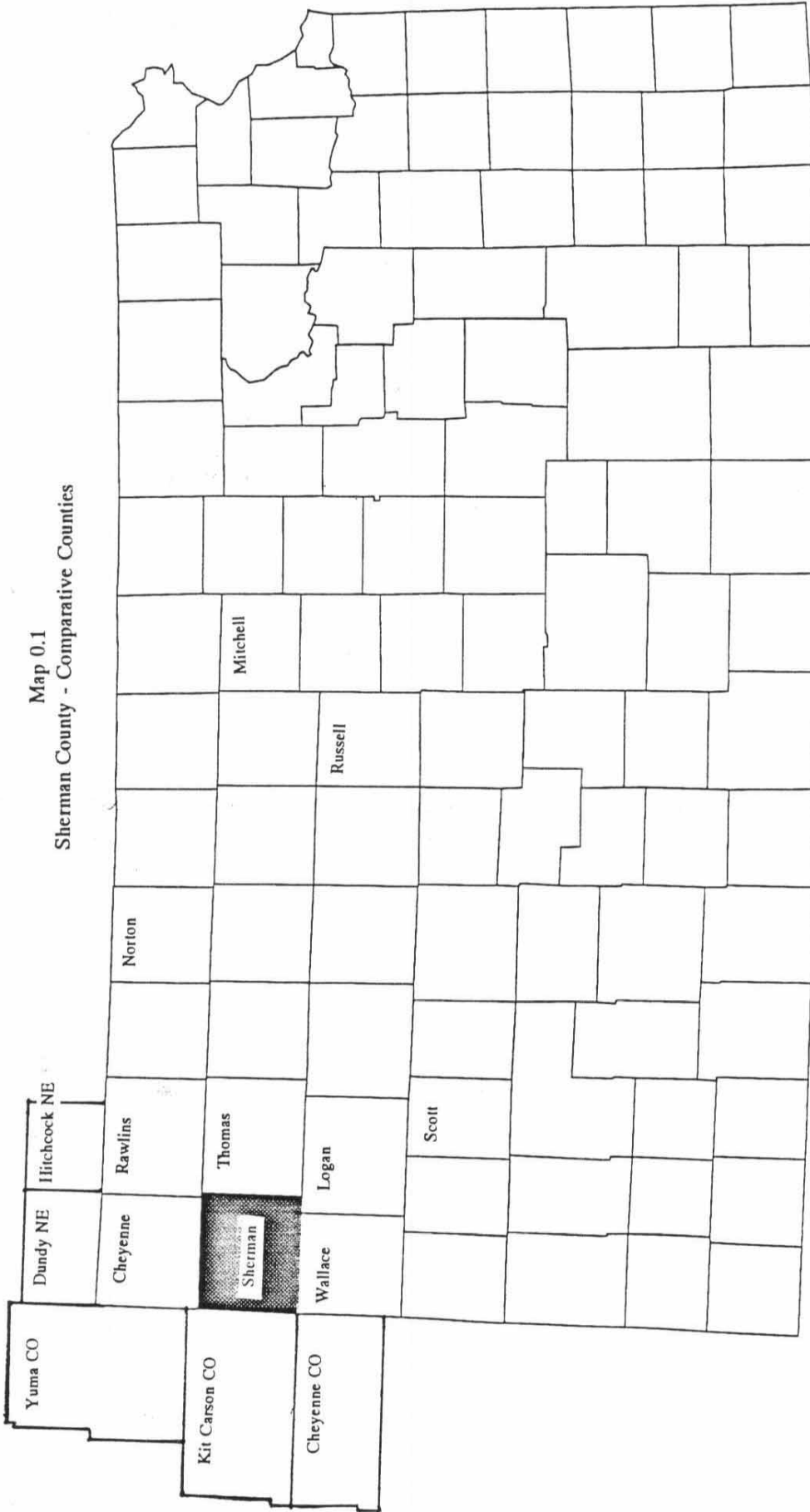
The use of data in strategic planning is important for a number of reasons. Data helps a community in "taking stock" and better understanding its current economic situation. Data also provides insight into the internal and external trends affecting the community. It also provides a standard for comparing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

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

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

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

Throughout the report, local-level materials will be presented relating Sherman County's economic performance through the past decade with the State of Kansas, the counties neighboring Sherman County, and those similar in size or economic structure. To facilitate comparisons, "Trade Area," "Kansas Trade Area," and "Comparative" counties have been designated. The "Kansas Trade Area" includes Wallace, Logan, Thomas, Rawlins, and Cheyenne counties; the "Trade Area" incorporates these counties plus Hitchcock and Dundy Counties in Nebraska, and Yuma, Kit Carson and Cheyenne in Colorado; "Comparatives" include Russell, Mitchell, Scott and Norton Counties. Aggregate totals for each group of comparative counties as well as non-metro values for the state are included in the data presented. The counties for which data is examined in this report are shown in Map 0.1.



Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research.

Section I: Global, Regional & National Trends

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

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

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

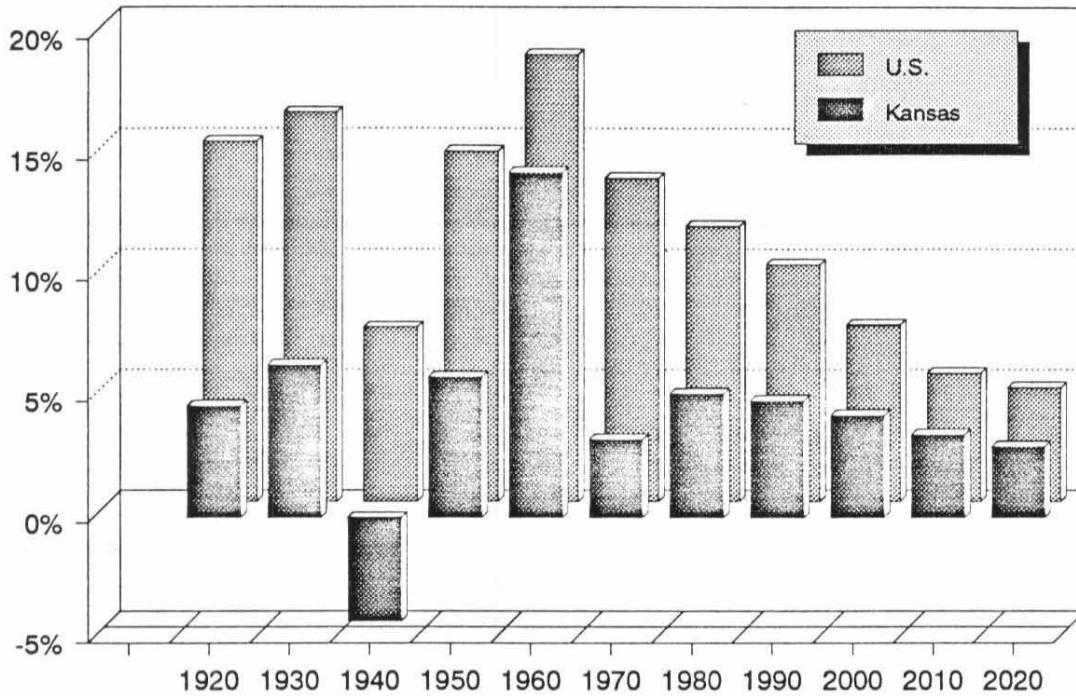
GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TRENDS: KEY FINDINGS

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

GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TRENDS: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 1.1

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



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

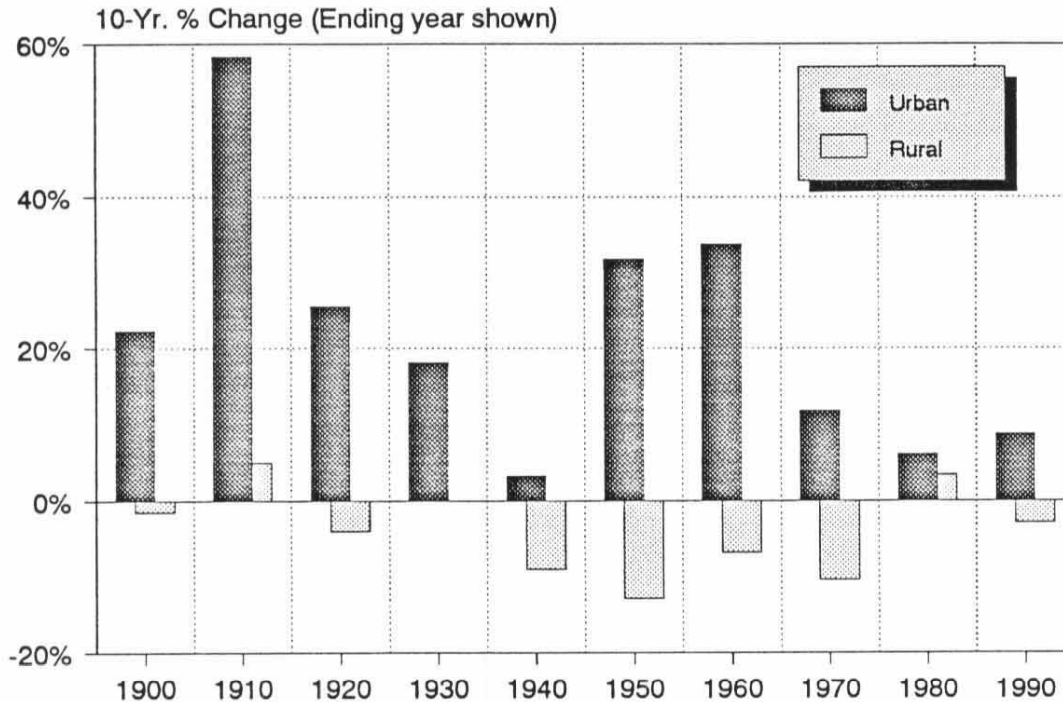
- Population growth rates in Kansas have consistently lagged those of the U.S. for every decade since the 1920s. Over the last 80 years, population in Kansas has grown at about one-third the U.S. rate; since 1970, population growth has been about one-half the U.S. rate.
- In 1920, Kansas represented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

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

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

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

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



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

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

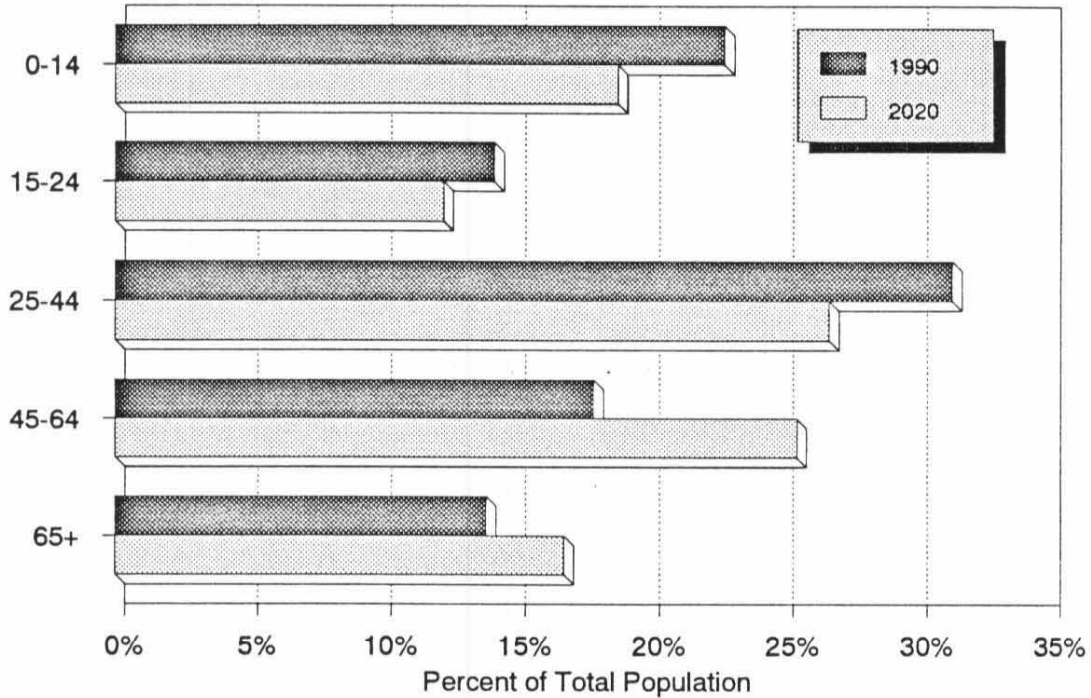
¹ National Governors' Association, *Economic Realities in Rural America: Recent Trends, Future Prospects*, (Washington: National Governors' Association, 1988.)

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

	<u>1900</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>
Urban	22.3%	58.3%	25.5%	18.1%	3.3%	31.7%	33.7%	11.7%	6.1%	8.7%
Rural	-1.5	5.0	-4.0	0.0	-9.0	-12.9	-6.8	-10.4	3.4	-2.9

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

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



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

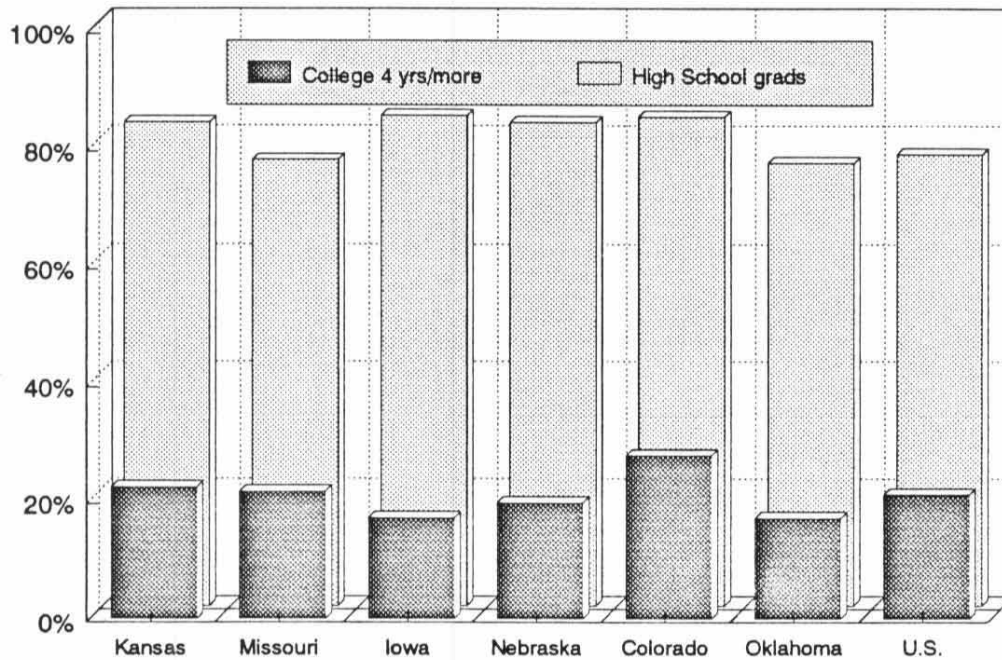
- The median age of the Kansas population is the same as the U.S. median age, 32.9 years. However, Kansas has a greater share of population than the U.S. in the newborn to 24 year old cohorts and in the 65 and over age groups. This concentration of population at the extremes means that Kansas has a smaller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

Table 1.3
 Age of the Population
 Kansas and U.S., 1990 and 2020

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

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

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



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

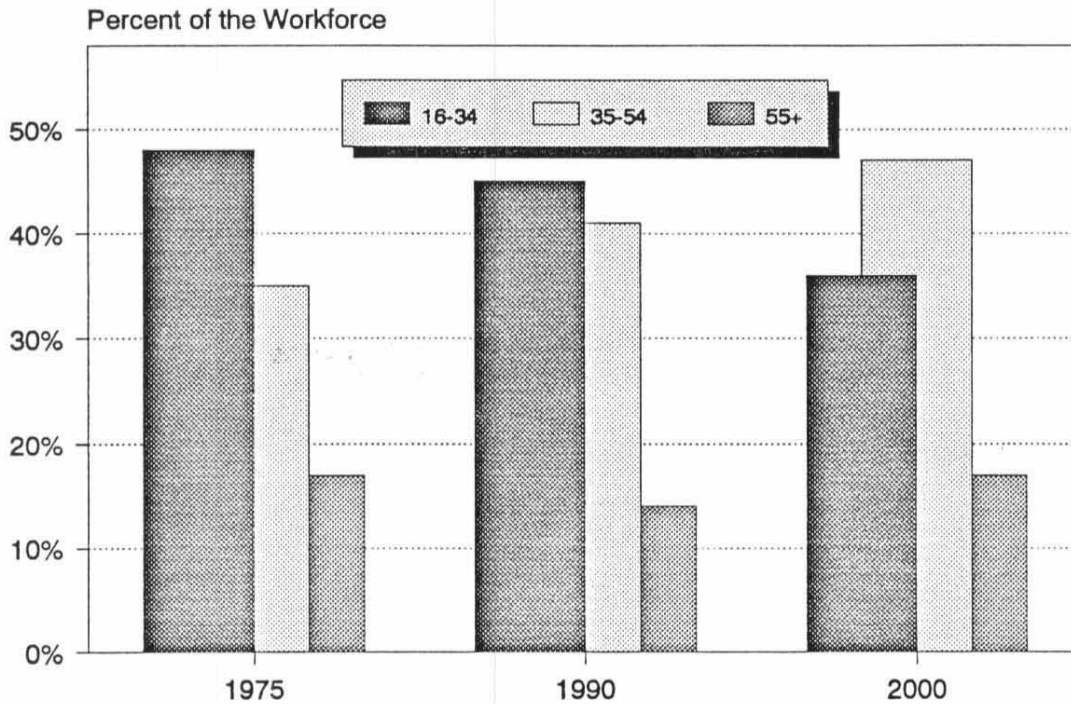
- The Kansas workforce is well educated relative to the national average, with 22.3 percent of adults age 25 or older having 4 or more years' college education. Of the neighboring states only Colorado has higher rates of educational attainment.
- While Iowa and Nebraska have slightly higher rates of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

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

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

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

Figure 1.5
Age Structure of the Workforce
 U.S., 1975, 1990 and 2000



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

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

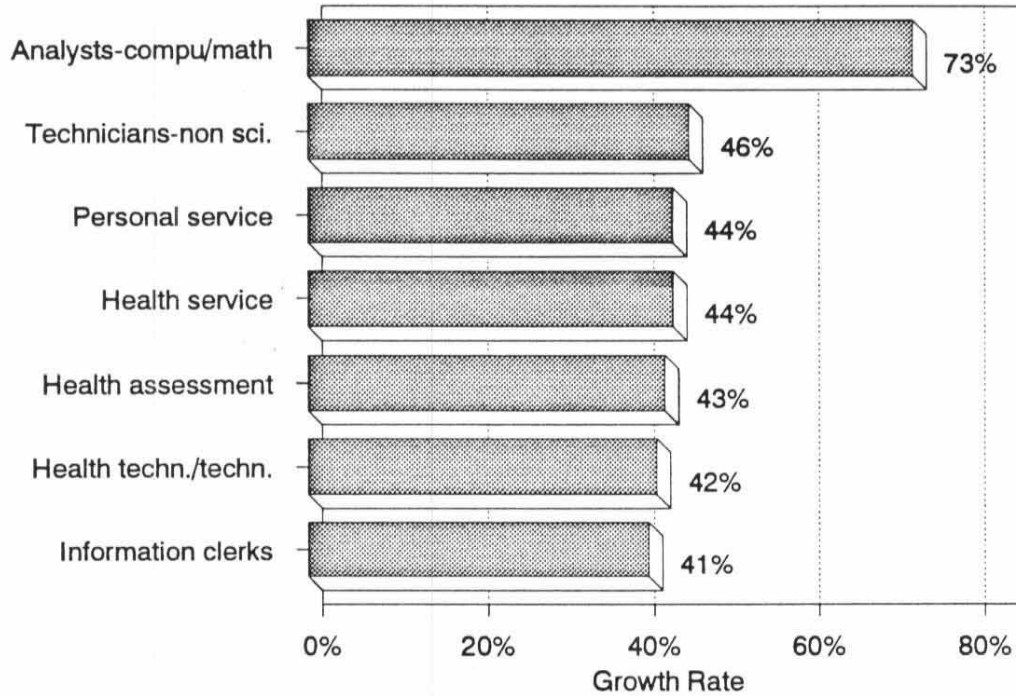
Table 1.5
 Age Structure of the Workforce, 1975, 1990 & 2005

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

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

Figure 1.6

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



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

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

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

<u>Group</u>	<u>New Jobs (000s)</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>
Managers & administrators	2,336	26%
Food preparation & service	2,325	30
Teachers, librarians, & counselors	1,593	28
Miscellaneous clerical & administrative support	1,349	19
Miscellaneous sales & related	1,222	23
Management support	1,079	30
Transportation/material moving machine/vehicle operators	1,013	21
Health assessment & treating	999	43
Personal service	972	44
Retail salespersons	887	24
Total, all groups	24,618	20

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

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

<u>Group</u>	<u>New Jobs (000s)</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>
Technicians & Related Support	1,550	37%
Professional Specialties	5,107	32
Service	5,602	29
Executive, Administrative & Managerial	3,414	27
Marketing & Sales	3,401	24
Total, all groups	24,618	20

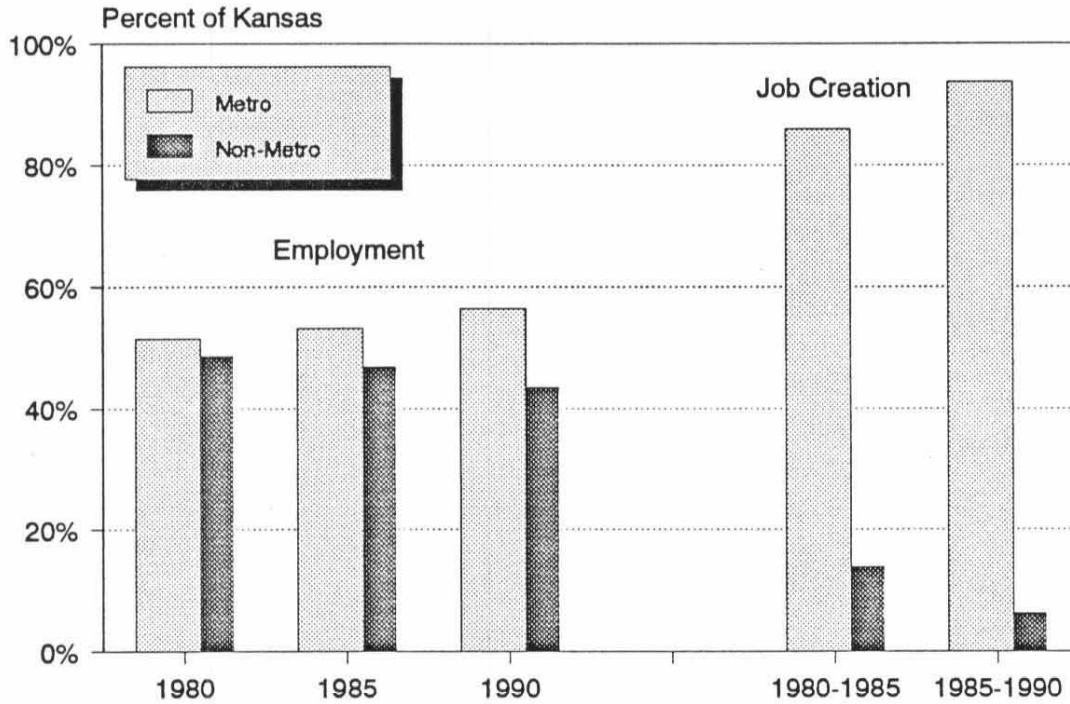
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Monthly Labor Review*, Vol. 114, No. 1 (November 1991), pp.68-80.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

	<u>Number Employed</u>			<u>Net Job Creation</u>	
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980-85</u>	<u>1985-90</u>
			(in thousands)		
Metropolitan Areas	662.5	720.8	831.5	58.3	110.7
Non-Metropolitan Areas	624.3	633.7	641.1	9.4	7.4
State Totals	1,286.7	1,354.5	1,472.6	67.8	118.1

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

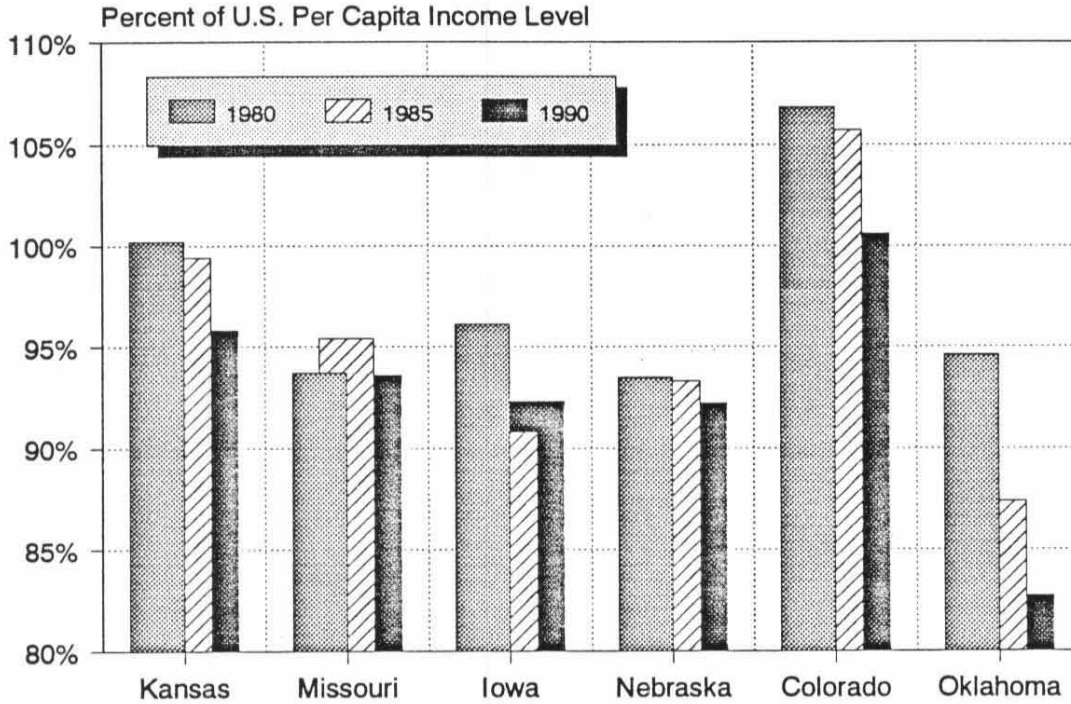
- The highest paying industries in the U.S. in 1991 were Mining, with average weekly wages of \$631, Construction (\$534) and Transportation and Public Utilities (\$512).
- The greatest rates of increases in wages over the period 1987-1991 occurred in the Services industry (+20.6%), followed by Mining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

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

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Percentage Change	
	1983	1987	1991	1983-87	1987-91
Mining	\$479.40	\$531.70	\$630.92	10.9%	18.7%
Construction	442.97	480.44	533.78	8.5	11.1
Manufacturing	354.08	406.31	455.03	14.8	12.0
Transportation/Utilities	420.81	471.58	512.00	12.0	8.6
Wholesale	328.25	365.30	425.20	11.3	16.4
Retail	171.13	178.80	200.20	4.5	12.0
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	263.68	316.37	373.04	20.0	17.9
Services	239.04	276.03	332.80	15.5	20.6
Total Private Sector	280.70	312.50	354.66	11.1	13.5

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

Figure 1.8
 Per Capita Personal Income Levels
 Kansas & Neighboring States, 1980/85/90



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

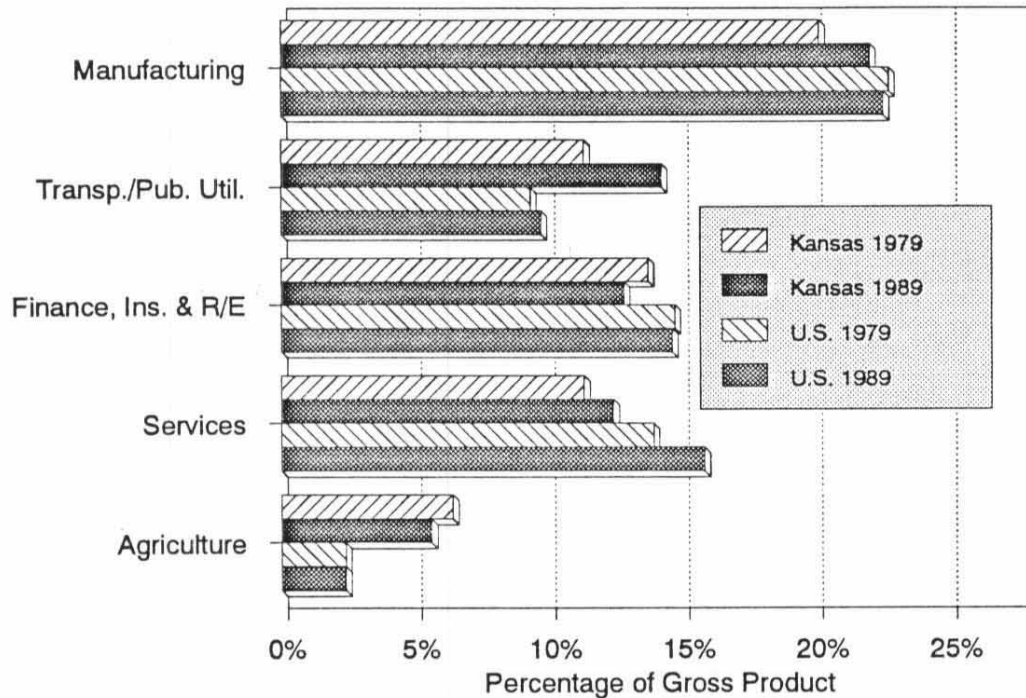
- Kansas is a small business state. Of businesses with employees (i.e., excluding self-employed proprietors), over 88 percent of Kansas firms have 19 or fewer employees; fully 96 percent of Kansas firms employ fewer than 49 people.
- Net job creation in Kansas however, has been dominated by larger firms.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

Table 1.14
 Net Job Creation by Size of Firm
 Firms with Employees, Kansas and U.S. 1980-1989

<u>Firm Size</u> <u>(# of Employees)</u>	<u>Percent of Firms, 1989</u>		<u>Percent of Net Job Creation 1980-89</u>	
	<u>Kansas</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Kansas</u>	<u>U.S.</u>
1-9	76.1%	74.5%	12.7%	14.8%
10-19	12.2	12.4	12.6	12.4
20-49	7.7	8.1	14.8	18.4
50-99	2.5	2.8	19.2	15.3
100-249	1.3	1.6	24.7	20.3
250+	0.4	0.6	15.9	18.8

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

Figure 1.9
Gross Product Shares, Selected Industries
 Kansas and U.S., 1979 and 1989



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

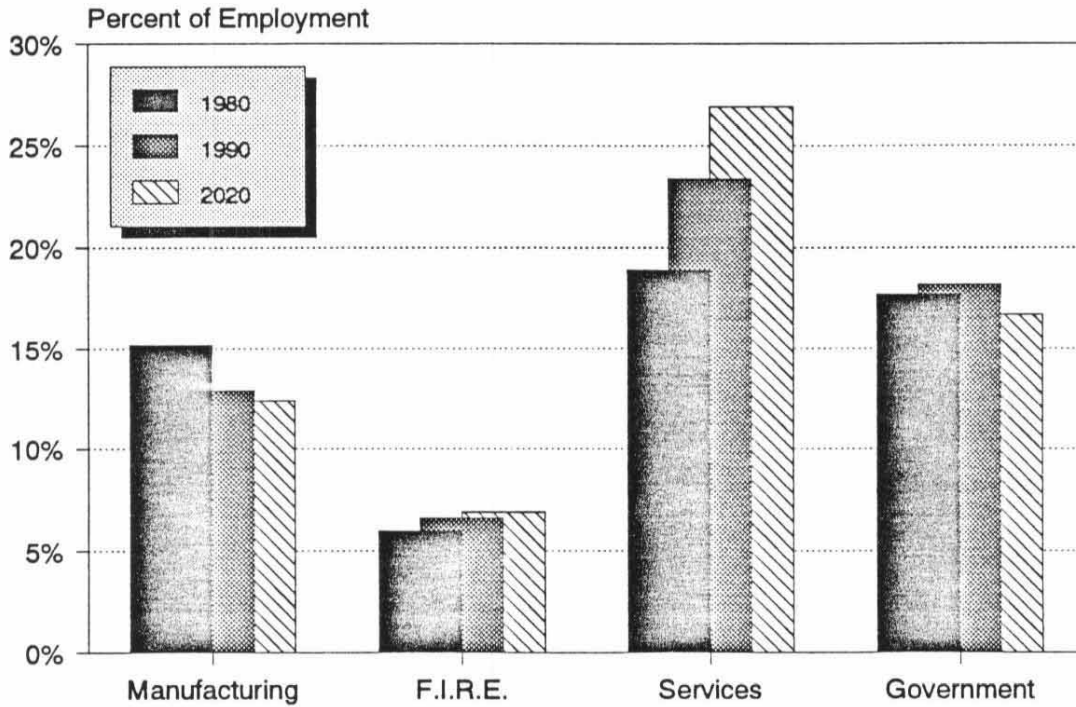
- Kansas' industrial performance relative to the U.S. during the 1980s has been mixed. Transportation and Public Utilities, a Kansas strength, grew rapidly during the 1980s, accounting for 14.2 percent of Kansas output in 1989, compared with the U.S. average of only 9.7 percent. Manufacturing, not one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

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

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

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

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



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

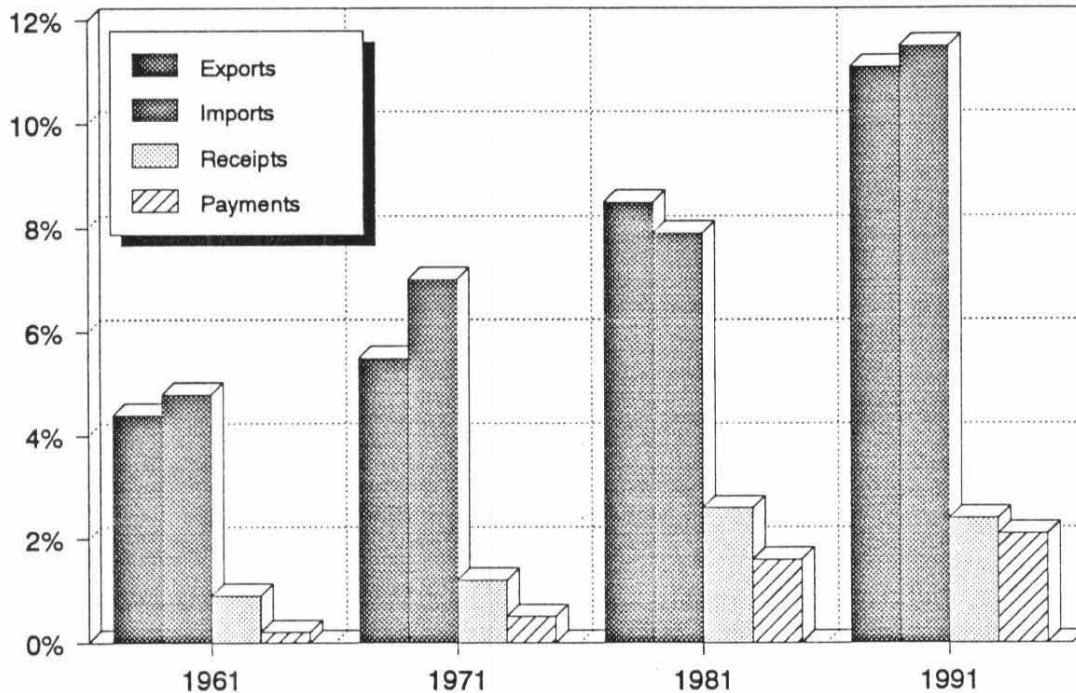
- The services industry is expected to continue to grow in importance in Kansas. By the year 2020, Services will account for nearly 27 percent of all jobs, compared with 23 percent in 1990 and 18.9 percent in 1980.
- Government employment, which increased in importance during the 1980s to 18 percent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

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

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

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

Figure 1.11
Exports, Imports and Foreign Investment
 Percentage Share of GDP, 1961-1991



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	<u>Level of Taxation and Nationwide Rank</u>					
	<u>State</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Kansas	\$993	33	\$1,468	19	\$2,461	29
Missouri	908	38	1,096	42	2,004	45
Iowa	1,112	22	1,431	27	2,543	25
Nebraska	900	42	1,647	10	2,547	24
Colorado	875	45	1,781	5	2,656	19
Oklahoma	1,027	29	1,149	40	2,176	40
U.S.	1,147		648		2,659	

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

Section II: Population

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

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

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

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

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

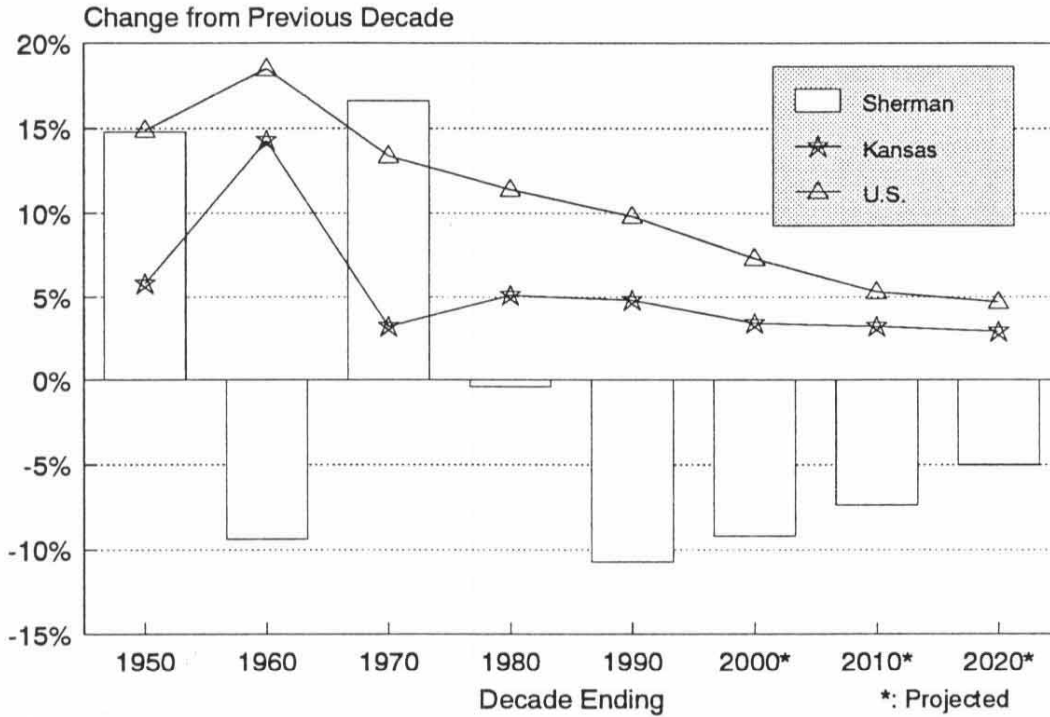
POPULATION: KEY FINDINGS

- Population in Sherman County reached its peak in 1970 with 7,792 people. The population decreased to 6,926 people in 1990, an 11% reduction since 1970.
- Since 1940, Sherman County has experienced only two decades of population rate increases.
- Population is expected to continue to decline in Sherman County, but less rapidly after the year 2000. By 2020, the population is projected to be 5,537, 20 percent less than current levels.
- In the past twenty years, the Trade Area has not lost population as rapidly as Sherman County has.
- Since 1970, there has been only slight movement of population between Goodland and the rural areas of the county.
- While the median age of the population in 1990 was 32.9 years in Kansas and the U.S., Sherman County's median age was slightly higher at 35.5 years. By the year 2020, over 21 percent of Sherman's population is expected to be over the age of 65. State-wide, this age group is projected to account for about 17 percent of population.
- Sherman County has a relatively small proportion of its population in the working age years (ages 15-64), 60.6 percent of the population (63.4% state-wide.) By the year 2020, working-age groups will account for only 57.6 percent of Sherman's population (67.2% state-wide). One effect will be the reduced availability of labor.

POPULATION: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 2.1

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



Source: Population Totals: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*, Vol. 1; *Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants*; *1980 Census of Population*, PC80-1-A-18; *1990 Census of Population*, STF1-A. Population Projections: State of Kansas, Office of the Budget, State Demographer, 1992. U.S. Projections from Upmeier, Helga and Anthony Redwood, "Kansas Population Trends and Projections," *Kansas Business Review*, Vol. 12, No. 4, Summer 1989.

- Population in Sherman County reached its peak in 1970 with 7,792 people. The population decreased to 6,926 people in 1990, an 11% reduction since 1970.
- Sherman County experienced strong population growth between 1900 and 1930, but since then the population has fluctuated. Since 1940, Sherman County has experienced only two decades of population rate increases.
- While Sherman's population has undergone both increases and decreases over the past 70 years, the Kansas population grew slowly but steadily during the same period of time. However, Kansas' rates of population growth were only half of the U.S. average.

- Population is expected to continue to decline in Sherman County over the next thirty years. Over the ten-year period ending 2000, population is expected to decline by 9.2 percent. After the year 2000, the rate of decline is expected to slow.

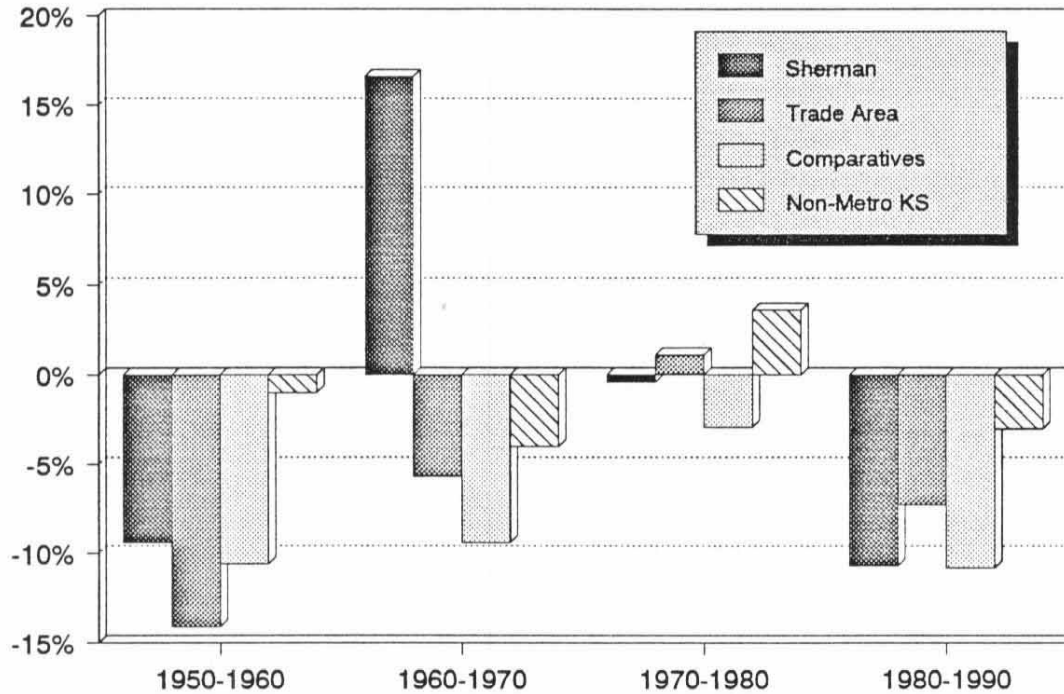
Table 2.1
 Population Totals, Ten-Year Growth Rates and Ranking
 Sherman County, Kansas and U.S.
 Actual 1890-1990, Projection 1990-2020

Year	Population Totals			Ten-Year Growth Rates			
	Sherman County	Kansas	U.S. (millions)	Sherman County	Kansas	U.S.	County Rank
1890	5,261	1,428,108	62.9				75
1900	3,341	1,470,495	76.0	-36.5%	3.0%	20.8%	82
1910	4,549	1,690,949	92.0	36.2	15.0	21.1	86
1920	5,592	1,769,257	105.7	22.9	4.6	14.9	83
1930	7,400	1,880,999	122.8	32.3	6.3	16.2	78
1940	6,421	1,801,028	131.7	-13.2	-4.3	7.2	79
1950	7,373	1,905,299	151.3	14.8	5.8	14.9	70
1960	6,682	2,178,611	179.3	-9.4	14.3	18.5	70
1970	7,792	2,249,071	203.3	16.6	3.2	13.4	57
1980	7,759	2,364,236	226.5	-0.4	5.1	11.4	58
1990	6,926	2,477,574	248.7	-10.7	4.8	9.8	59
2000*	6,293	2,562,890	268.0	-9.2	3.4	7.3	61
2010*	5,827	2,645,887	281.0	-7.4	3.2	5.3	62
2020*	5,537	2,723,689	294.2	-5.0	2.9	4.7	64

*Projection.

Source: Population Totals: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*, Vol. 1; *Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants*; *1980 Census of Population*, PC80-1-A-18; *1990 Census of Population*, STF1-A. Population Projections: State of Kansas, Office of the Budget, State Demographer, 1992. U.S. Projections from Upmeier, Helga and Anthony Redwood, "Kansas Population Trends and Projections," *Kansas Business Review*, Vol. 12, No. 4, Summer 1989.

Figure 2.2
 Rate of Population Change, 1950-1990
 Sherman, Comparative & Non-Metro Counties



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

- Since 1950, Sherman, its Trade Area and the Comparative counties have all experienced persistent declines in population levels. Among the 14 counties, only Thomas and Scott County's 1990 population was higher than their 1950 population levels.
- In the past twenty years, the Trade Area has not lost population as rapidly as Sherman County has, while the Comparative Counties' rate of decline has exceeded Sherman's.

Table 2.2
Population Totals
Sherman, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1950-1990

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
Sherman	7,373	6,682	7,792	7,759	6,926
Wallace	2,508	2,069	2,215	2,045	1,821
Logan	4,206	4,036	3,814	3,478	3,081
Thomas	7,572	7,358	7,501	8,451	8,258
Rawlins	5,728	5,279	4,393	4,105	3,404
Cheyenne	5,668	4,708	4,256	3,679	3,243
KS Trade Area	25,682	23,450	22,179	21,758	19,807
Hitchcock, NE	5,867	4,829	4,051	4,079	3,750
Dundy, NE	4,354	3,570	2,926	2,861	2,582
Yuma, CO	10,827	8,912	8,544	9,682	8,954
Kit Carson, CO	8,600	6,957	7,530	7,599	7,140
Cheyenne, CO	3,453	2,789	2,396	2,153	2,397
Non-KS Trade Area	33,101	27,057	25,447	26,374	24,823
Combined Trade Area	58,783	50,507	47,626	48,132	44,630
Russell	13,406	11,348	9,428	8,868	7,835
Mitchell	10,320	8,866	8,010	8,117	7,203
Scott	4,921	5,228	5,606	5,782	5,289
Norton	8,808	8,035	7,279	6,689	5,947
Comparatives	37,455	33,477	30,323	29,456	26,274
Kansas Non-Metro (millions)	1.20	1.19	1.14	1.18	1.14
Kansas (millions)	1.91	2.18	2.25	2.36	2.48
U.S. (millions)	151.3	179.3	203.3	226.5	248.7

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

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

	<u>Area Population Change, 1950-1990</u>			
	<u>1950-1960</u>	<u>1960-1970</u>	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>
Sherman	-9.4%	16.6%	-0.4%	-10.7%
Wallace	-17.5	7.1	-7.7	-11.0
Logan	-4.0	-5.5	-8.8	-11.4
Thomas	-2.8	1.9	12.7	-2.2
Rawlins	-7.8	-16.8	-6.6	-17.1
Cheyenne	-16.9	-9.6	-13.6	-11.9
KS Trade Area	-8.7	-5.4	-1.9	-9.0
Hitchcock, NE	-17.7	-16.1	0.7	-9.1
Dundy, NE	-18.0	-18.0	-2.2	-9.8
Yuma, CO	-17.7	-4.1	-13.3	-7.5
Kit Carson, CO	-19.1	8.2	0.9	-6.0
Cheyenne, CO	-19.2	-14.1	-10.1	11.3
Non-KS Trade Area	-18.3	-6.0	3.6	-5.9
Combined Trade Area	-14.1	-5.7	1.1	-7.3
Russell	-15.4	-17.0	-5.9	-11.6
Mitchell	-14.1	-9.7	1.3	-11.3
Scott	6.2	7.2	3.1	-8.5
Norton	-8.7	-9.4	-8.1	-11.1
Comparatives	-10.6	-9.4	-2.9	-10.8
Kansas Non-Metro (millions)	-1.0	-4.1	3.6	-3.0
Kansas	14.3	3.2	5.1	4.8
U.S. (millions)	18.5	13.4	11.4	9.8

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

- Between 1940 and 1990, Sherman County’s population rank within the state increased from 79 to 59, compared to a total of 105 Kansas counties.
- Based on a projected population of 5,500 in 2020, Sherman’s relative position in the state is expected to fall from 59th largest to 65th in the state.

Table 2.4
 County Population Ranking in the State, 1940, 1990 and 2020
 Sherman, Kansas Trade Area and Comparative Counties

		<u>1940</u>			<u>1990</u>			<u>2020 (Projected)</u>	
<u>Rank</u>		<u>Pop.</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Pop.</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Pop.</u>	
42	Russell	13.5	48	Thomas	8.3	45	Thomas	8.0	
55	Mitchell	11.3	52	Russell	7.8	60	Mitchell	5.9	
64	Norton	9.8	55	Mitchell	7.2	63	Russell	5.6	
76	Rawlins	6.6	59	Sherman	6.9	65	Sherman	5.5	
78	Thomas	6.4	66	Norton	5.9	72	Scott	4.5	
79	Sherman	6.4	71	Scott	5.3	73	Norton	4.5	
82	Cheyenne	6.2	90	Rawlins	3.4	87	Rawlins	2.7	
92	Scott	3.8	92	Cheyenne	3.2	94	Logan	2.5	
93	Logan	3.7	94	Logan	3.1	98	Cheyenne	2.3	
99	Wallace	2.2	104	Wallace	1.8	104	Wallace	1.8	

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*, PC80-1-A-18; *1990 Census of Population*, STF1-A; State of Kansas, Office of the Budget, State Demographer, 1992.

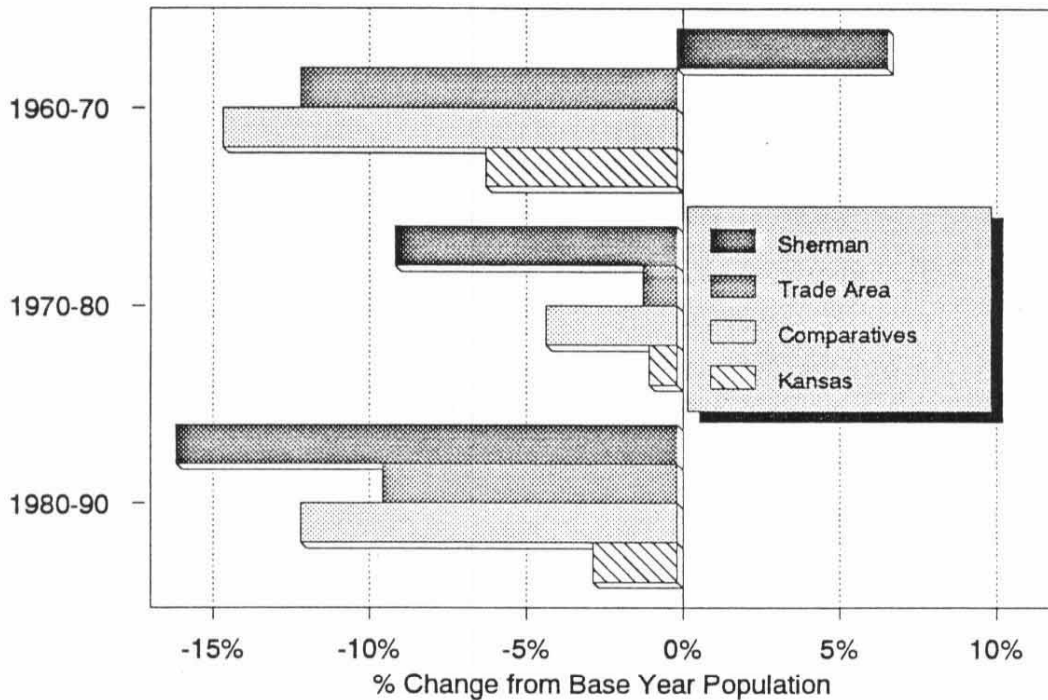
- Between 1950 and 1990, the city of Colby grew by 40%, while Goodland grew by 6% and Sharon Springs declined by 12%.
- The fastest growing cities over the last 40 years have been the Colorado cities of Yuma and Burlington, which grew by 43% and 31% respectively, and Colby, which grew by 40 percent.
- None of the Comparative cities and Trade Area cities experienced growth during the 1980s.

Table 2.5
Population Levels, Selected Cities
Sherman, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, 1950-1990

<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Growth 1950-1990</u>
Goodland	Sherman	4,690	6,682	5,510	5,708	4,983	6.2%
Sharon Springs	Wallace	994	966	1,012	982	872	-12.3
Oakley	Logan	1,915	2,190	2,327	2,343	1,987	3.8
Colby	Thomas	3,859	4,210	4,658	5,544	5,396	39.8
Atwood	Rawlins	1,613	1,906	1,658	1,665	1,388	-13.9
St. Francis	Cheyenne	1,892	1,594	1,725	1,610	1,495	-21.0
Culbertson	Hitchcock NE	770	803	801	767	795	3.2
Benkelman City	Dundy, NE	1,512	1,400	1,349	1,235	1,193	-21.1
Yuma	Yuma, CO	1,908	1,919	2,259	2,824	2,719	42.5
Burlington	Kit Carson, CO	2,247	2,090	2,828	3,107	2,941	30.9
Cheyenne Wells	Cheyenne, CO	1,054	1,020	982	950	1,128	7.0
Russell	Russell	6,483	6,113	5,371	5,427	4,781	-26.3
Beloit	Mitchell	4,085	3,837	4,121	4,367	4,066	-0.5
Scott City	Scott	3,204	3,555	4,001	4,154	3,785	18.1
Norton	Norton	3,060	3,345	3,627	3,400	3,017	-1.4

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

Figure 2.3
Net Migration, 1960-1990
 Sherman, Trade Area, Comparatives & Kansas



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

- Out-migration during the 1980s accounted for a loss of 1,224 people, 16 percent of Sherman’s 1980 population.
- The rate of outmigration from Sherman increased in the 1980s. For the last two decades, the rate at which people have moved out of Sherman County has exceeded this rate for the Trade Area counties as a whole, and has been higher than the Comparative counties’ rate and the Kansas non-metro rate.

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

	Net Migration			Percent of Base Year Population		
	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990
Sherman	448	-702	-1,224	6.7%	-9.0%	-16.0%
Wallace	-116	-349	-380	-5.6	-15.7	-18.6
Logan	-632	-509	-489	-15.7	-13.3	-14.1
Thomas	-606	322	-881	-8.2	-4.3	-10.4
Rawlins	-1,203	-352	-792	-22.8	-8.0	-19.3
Cheyenne	-535	-541	-438	-11.4	-12.7	-11.9
KS Trade Area	-3,092	-1,429	-2,980	-13.2	-6.4	-13.7
Hitchcock, NE	-922	-65	-329	-19.1	-1.6	-8.8
Dundy, NE	-693	28	-279	-19.4	0.1	-10.8
Yuma, CO	-639	1,138	-728	-7.2	11.8	-10.2
Kit Carson, CO	-129	69	-459	-1.9	0.1	-19.1
Cheyenne, CO	-577	-243	244	-6.2	-8.5	2.7
Non-KS Trade Area	-2,960	927	-1,551	-10.9	3.6	-5.9
Combined Trade Area	-6,052	-502	-4,531	-12.0	-1.1	-9.4
Russell	-2,435	-460	-1,074	-21.5	-4.9	-12.1
Mitchell	-1,116	86	-933	-12.6	1.1	-11.5
Scott	-300	-411	-884	-5.7	-7.3	-15.3
Norton	-999	-486	-640	-12.4	-6.7	-9.6
Comparatives	-4,850	-1,271	-3,531	-14.5	-4.2	-12.0
Kansas	-132,966	-20,334	-62,854	-6.1	-0.9	-2.7

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

- The proportion of the rural population in Kansas dropped from 61 percent to 31 percent between 1930 and 1990. The trend in Sherman County is similar. The share of persons living in urban areas in Sherman County has increased from 49 percent in 1930 to 72 percent in 1990.
- Since 1970, however, there has been only slight movement of population between Goodland and the rural areas of the county.

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

Year	Sherman		Kansas	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1930	3,626	3,774	729,834	1,151,165
1940	3,306	3,115	753,941	1,047,087
1950	4,690	2,683	993,220	912,079
1960	4,459	2,223	1,328,741	849,870
1970	5,510	2,282	1,484,870	761,708
1980	5,708	2,051	1,575,899	787,780
1990	4,983	1,943	1,712,564	765,010

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

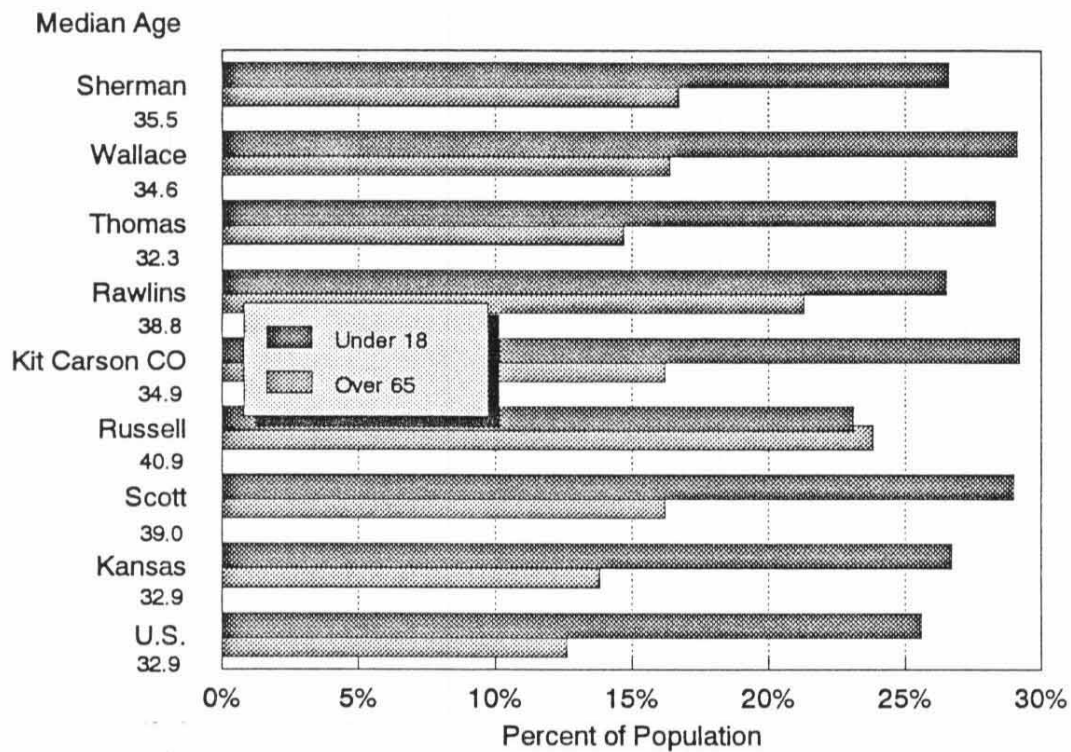
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1960 Census of Population (PC(1)-18A)*; *1970 Census of the Population, General Population Characteristics (PC(1)-B18)*; *1980 Census of Population (PC80-1-B18)*; *1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics: Kansas (CPH-1-18)*.

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

Year	Urban-Rural Population Distribution				Urban & Rural Growth Rates			
	Sherman		Kansas		Sherman		Kansas	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1930	49.0%	51.0%	38.8%	61.2%				
1940	51.5	48.5	41.9	58.1	-8.8%	-17.5%	3.3%	-9.0%
1950	63.6	36.4	52.1	47.9	41.9	-13.9	31.7	-12.9
1960	66.7	33.3	61.0	39.0	-4.9	-17.1	33.8	-6.8
1970	70.7	29.3	66.0	34.0	23.6	2.7	11.8	-10.4
1980	73.6	26.4	66.7	33.3	3.6	-10.1	6.1	3.4
1990	71.9	28.1	69.1	30.9	-12.7	-5.3	8.6	-2.9

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

Figure 2.4
 1990 Population Under 18, Over 65
 Sherman and Selected Comparatives



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

- While the median age of the population in 1990 was 32.9 years in Kansas and the U.S., Sherman County’s median age was slightly higher at 35.5 years.
- The age composition of Sherman County’s population differs from that of the state in that the working age population (18-65 years) is under-represented compared to the elderly population. In 1990, 57 percent of the population was in its prime working age, compared to 60 percent for the state. Population age 65 and over comprised nearly 17 percent of the total in Sherman County versus 14 percent in Kansas.
- The proportion of under-18 population in Sherman is very close to the state average, at 26.6 percent of population. Many of the Trade Area counties (9 of 14) have larger proportions of young people.

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

	<u>Percent of Population</u>		
	<u>Under 18</u>	<u>18-65</u>	<u>Over 65</u>
Sherman	26.6%	56.8%	16.7%
Wallace	29.1	54.5	16.4
Logan	26.5	53.4	20.1
Thomas	28.3	57.1	14.7
Rawlins	26.5	57.2	21.3
Cheyenne	24.1	51.8	24.1
Hitchcock, NE	28.9	49.6	21.4
Dundy, NE	24.9	52.0	23.1
Yuma, CO	28.9	54.3	16.8
Kit Carson, CO	29.2	54.9	16.2
Cheyenne, CO	31.5	52.8	15.7
Russell	23.1	53.1	23.8
Mitchell	26.7	51.4	21.9
Scott	29.0	54.9	16.2
Norton	22.3	55.3	22.4
Kansas	26.7	59.5	13.8
U.S.	25.6	61.8	12.6

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

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

	<u>Median Age (years)</u>	
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>
Sherman	30.8	35.5
Wallace	31.6	34.6
Logan	33.6	38.1
Thomas	27.9	32.3
Rawlins	35.6	38.8
Cheyenne	41.1	41.8
Hitchcock, NE	34.1	37.5
Dundy, NE	39.0	39.0
Yuma, CO	32.1	35.8
Kit Carson, CO	31.3	34.9
Cheyenne, CO	32.1	32.0
Russell	38.2	40.9
Mitchell	33.7	37.7
Scott	30.2	35.0
Norton	38.4	39.0
Kansas	30.1	32.9
U.S.	30.0	32.9

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

- By the year 2020, over 21 percent of Sherman’s population is expected to be over the age of 65. State-wide, this age group is projected to account for about 17 percent of population.
- Sherman County has a relatively small proportion of its population in the working age years (ages 15-64), 60.6 percent of the population (63.4% state-wide.) By the year 2020, working-age groups will account for only 57.6 percent of Sherman’s population (67.2% state-wide). One effect will be the reduced availability of labor.

Table 2.11
Population Shares by Age Group
 Sherman County and Kansas, 1990-2020

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>		<u>Projected Shares of Population</u>			
	<u>1990</u>	<u>Share</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	
<u>Sherman County</u>						
0-4	542	7.8%	6.8%	7.0%	7.0%	
5-14	1,030	14.9	13.6	12.9	13.9	
15-24	902	13.0	12.6	13.1	12.7	
25-34	938	13.5	11.2	11.2	12.5	
35-44	897	13.0	11.8	10.7	11.0	
45-54	751	10.8	12.8	11.9	10.3	
55-64	710	10.3	11.4	12.5	11.1	
65+	<u>1,156</u>	16.7	19.6	20.8	21.4	
Total	6,926	100.0				
<u>State of Kansas</u>						
<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Share</u>	<u>Projected Shares of Population</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>
0-4	188,390	7.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%	
5-14	375,454	15.2	14.6	12.8	12.7	
15-24	352,263	14.2	14.5	14.0	12.3	
25-34	413,173	16.7	12.8	13.8	13.4	
35-44	361,326	14.6	16.5	12.1	13.2	
45-54	235,388	9.5	13.7	15.5	11.5	
55-64	209,009	8.4	8.5	12.3	16.8	
<u>65+</u>	<u>342,571</u>	13.8	12.7	13.0	16.8	
Total	2,477,574	100.0				

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

Section III: Education

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

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

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

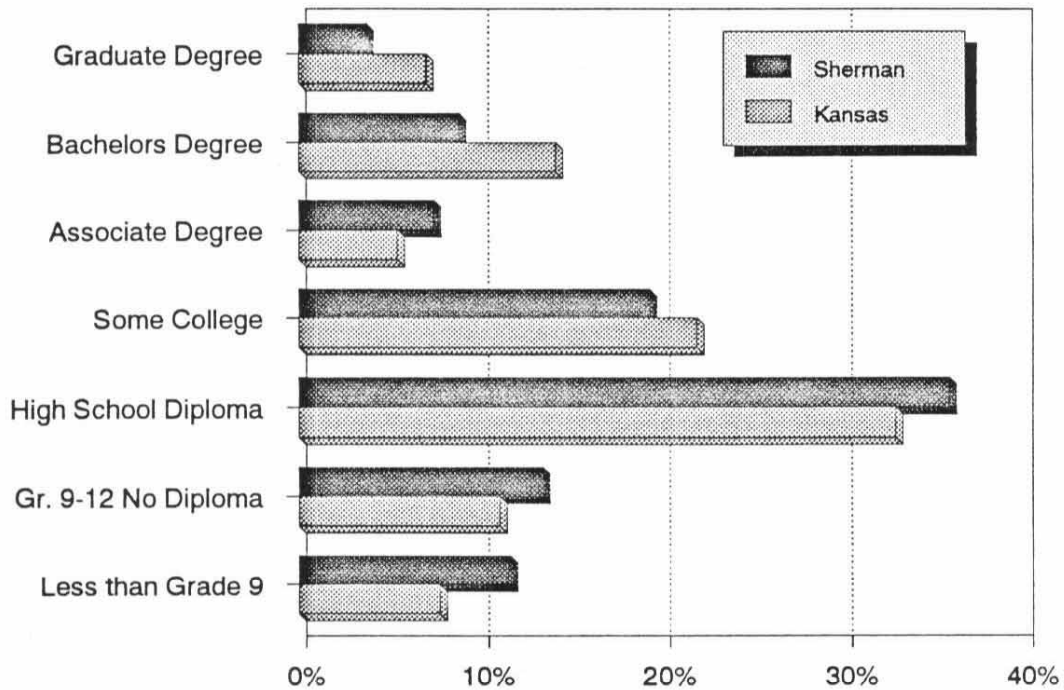
EDUCATION: KEY FINDINGS

- Sherman County's over-25 population is not as well educated as the state average, with nearly half the share of population with graduate and bachelors' degree educations in 1990; however, in the area of Associate degree educated population, Sherman has a one-third larger share than the state as a whole does.
- Relative to its trade area and comparative counties, Sherman's overall level of education is poor. With 39.2 percent of population over 25 having at least some college education, this figure was 8th of the 10 Kansas counties Sherman was compared with, and was well below the state average of 48.4 percent.
- Those with less than grade 9 educations accounted for 11.6 percent of Sherman's 1990 population over age 25, one and a half times the state average for this level of education.
- Enrollments in Sherman County have shown a slight decrease of 4.7 percent for the period from 1986-87 to 1991-92.
- Weighted expenditures per pupil have increased by 20.8 percent from 1986 to 1992 in Sherman County.
- While the high school dropout rate in Sherman County was lower than the state average in 1984-85, it has met or exceeded the state average every year since that time.
- With the exception of the 1984-85 through the 1986-87 academic years, Sherman County's dropout rates have been substantially higher than the state rate. Over the seven years from 1984-85 to 1990-91, Sherman County dropout rates averaged 5.05 percent while the state average for this period was 4.18 percent.
- Sherman County's pupil-teacher ratio showed a marked decrease from 1989-90 to 1990-91.
- Sherman County's pupil-teacher ratio was lower than the state average in both 1989-90 and 1990-91.

EDUCATION: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 3.1

Highest Level of Education, 1990 Population Age 25+, Sherman Co. & Kansas



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

- Sherman County’s over-25 population is not as well educated as the state average, with nearly half the share of population with graduate and bachelors’ degree educations in 1990. Those over age 25 with Associate degree educations accounted for 7.4 percent of Sherman’s over-25 population in 1990, compared with 5.4 percent state-wide, perhaps indicating an area of strength in technical skills training.
- Relative to its trade area and comparative counties, Sherman’s overall level of education is poor. With 39.2 percent of population over 25 having at least some college education, this figure was 8th of the 10 Kansas counties Sherman was compared with, and was well below the state average of 48.4 percent.
- Those with less than grade 9 educations accounted for 11.6 percent of Sherman’s 1990 population over age 25, one and a half times the state average for this level of education.

Table 3.1
 Highest Level of Completed Education, Population 25 Years and Older
 Sherman County, Trade Area, Comparatives and Kansas, 1990

	<u>Graduate Degree</u>	<u>Bachelors Degree</u>	<u>College Associate Degree</u>	<u>Some College</u>	<u>High School Diploma</u>	<u>No Diploma</u>	<u>Elementary Less Than 9 Years</u>
Sherman	3.7%	8.8%	7.4%	19.3%	35.8%	13.4%	11.6%
KS Trade Area:							
Wallace	1.9	10.5	11.5	19.3	34.5	13.8	8.5
Logan	3.6	12.4	7.4	18.2	36.7	10.8	10.9
Thomas	5.5	10.3	10.7	24.0	35.0	8.8	5.8
Rawlins	3.4	11.0	5.3	21.7	39.0	6.5	13.1
Cheyenne	2.6	10.6	5.4	19.2	36.2	9.0	16.8
CO Trade Area:							
Yuma	2.9	10.5	7.1	16.9	41.2	10.7	10.7
Kit Carson	5.5	10.3	7.3	14.7	35.8	13.3	13.1
Cheyenne	2.6	9.3	6.5	18.1	44.3	9.5	9.7
Comparatives:							
Russell	5.2	8.9	2.9	19.5	38.1	12.9	12.6
Mitchell	5.4	10.4	7.6	19.1	40.2	8.4	9.0
Scott	4.5	9.3	5.1	24.4	33.9	9.8	13.0
Norton	4.2	8.7	5.7	23.2	35.2	10.8	12.3
Kansas	7.0	14.1	5.4	21.9	32.8	11.0	7.7

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

- Since 1980, there have been dramatic improvements in the level of education in Sherman County and other areas. The proportion of over-25 population with at least some college education rose between 1980 to 1990 from 28 percent to 39 percent in Sherman County, and from 35 percent to 48 percent statewide. Sherman's performance relative to the state improved only marginally.
- The proportions of over-25 population with less than Grade 9 educations fell between 1980 and 1990 from 17 to 12 percent in Sherman County and from 14 to 8 percent state-wide. In this category, Sherman's performance did not keep pace with improvements state-wide.

Table 3.2
 Highest Level of Completed Education, Population 25 Years and Older
 Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980

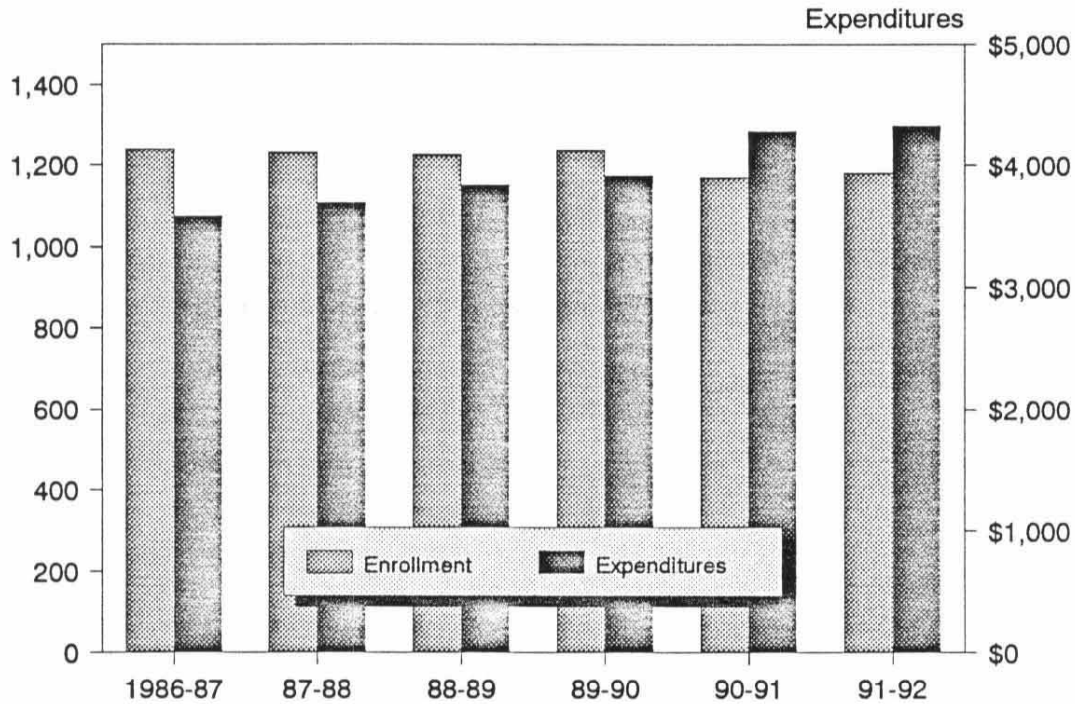
	College		High School		Elementary	
	4+	1-3	4	1-3	8	<8
Sherman	12.3%	15.7%	44.2%	11.0%	11.1%	5.7%
Wallace	11.9	18.5	40.8	12.2	12.7	3.9
Logan	10.4	17.2	41.2	11.1	15.1	5.0
Thomas	17.2	20.9	36.0	9.3	12.9	3.7
Rawlins	12.7	17.4	37.1	10.8	16.5	5.5
Cheyenne	11.3	12.5	39.5	11.0	19.3	6.4
KS Trade Area*	13.6	17.8	38.1	10.5	15.2	4.8
Hitchcock, NE	9.0	17.8	42.6	11.2	15.0	4.4
Dundy, NE	10.1	15.0	35.5	12.1	21.1	6.2
Yuma, CO	11.4	13.0	41.4	13.9	14.8	5.5
Kit Carson, CO	12.4	19.3	38.1	11.6	13.1	5.5
Cheyenne, CO	12.7	14.4	44.8	13.8	10.5	3.8
Non-KS Trade Area*	11.2	15.9	40.3	12.6	14.7	5.3
Combined Trade Area*	12.3	16.8	39.3	11.6	14.9	5.1
Russell	10.5	17.4	39.5	10.3	17.7	4.6
Mitchell	14.0	14.2	43.1	11.3	14.7	2.7
Scott	13.9	17.4	43.2	10.1	10.5	4.9
Norton	10.7	14.3	40.8	11.5	15.7	7.0
Comparatives*	12.1	15.8	41.5	10.8	15.1	4.7
Kansas	17.4	17.2	39.6	11.5	10.0	4.3

* Weighted averages for the comparative county groups computed by IPPBR.

Note: The data is from 1980; therefore many individuals in the count are now of retirement age and beyond. Additionally, people who are currently under the age of 37 would not be included in these figures.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census, Vol. 1, Characteristics of the Population.

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



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

- Enrollments in Sherman County have shown a slight decrease of 4.7 percent for the period from 1986-87 to 1991-92. This decrease is comparable to an average decrease in enrollments of 5.7 percent for the comparative counties. During the same time period, the Kansas trade area counties showed an average increase in enrollment of 3.6 percent, while the state as a whole showed an increase of 7.2 percent.
- Weighted expenditures per pupil have increased by 20.8 percent from 1986 to 1992 in Sherman County. This increase is smaller than the average increases for Kansas trade area counties (24.1 percent), and for the comparative counties (29.6 percent).

Table 3.3
Full-Time Enrollment, Public Schools
Sherman, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1986-1992

	<u>1986-1987</u>	<u>1987-1988</u>	<u>1988-1989</u>	<u>1989-1990</u>	<u>1990-1991</u>	<u>1991-1992</u>
Sherman	1,239	1,232	1,226	1,237	1,170	1,181
Wallace	431	431	418	387	396	397
Logan	584	584	593	583	602	655
Thomas	1,522	1,505	1,485	1,526	1,533	1,584
Rawlins	544	546	542	555	576	567
Cheyenne	660	645	649	629	647	651
KS Trade Area*	948	939	931	940	953	982
Russell	1,472	1,403	1,419	1,384	1,355	1,308
Mitchell	1,379	1,327	1,332	1,343	1,370	1,361
Scott	1,105	1,102	1,073	1,061	1,043	1,072
Norton	1,089	1,038	1,015	1,007	1,017	1,027
Comparatives*	1,282	1,236	1,231	1,219	1,216	1,209
Kansas	395,180	399,982	403,871	408,394	414,847	423,517

* Weighted averages for the comparative county groups computed by IPPBR.

Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, *Kansas Government Journal*, January 1986-1992.

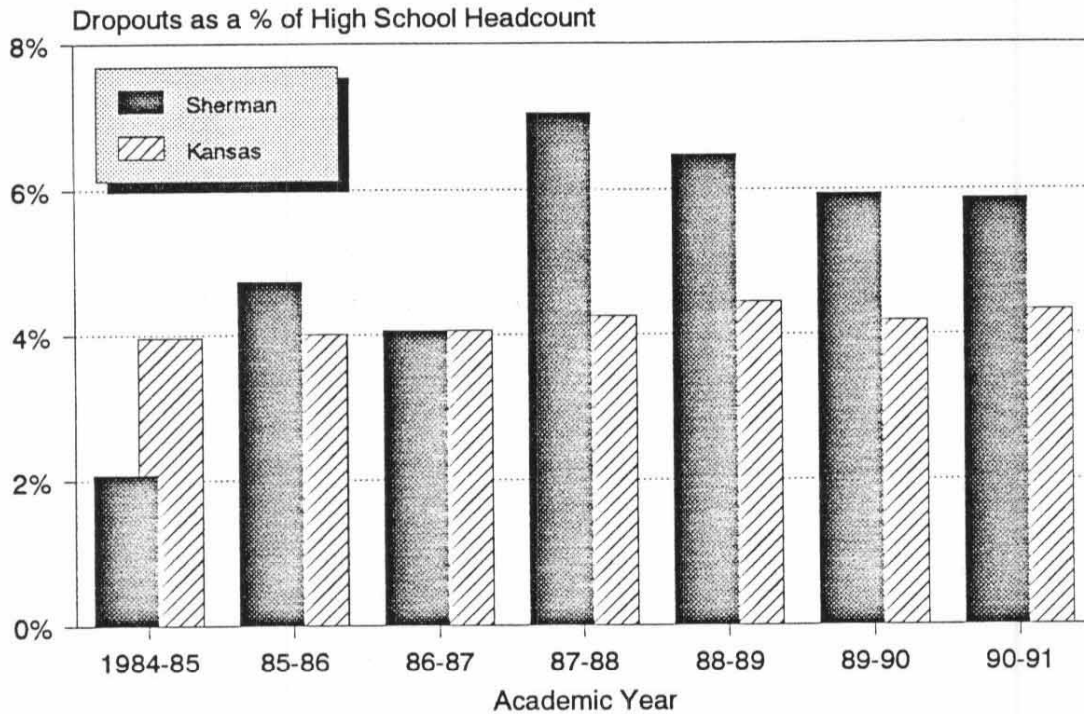
Table 3.4
Weighted Expenditure Per Pupil (Full-time equivalent)
Sherman, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, 1986-1992

	<u>1986-1987</u>	<u>1987-1988</u>	<u>1988-1989</u>	<u>1989-1990</u>	<u>1990-1991</u>	<u>1991-1992</u>	<u>% Change 1986-1992</u>
Sherman	\$3,582	\$3,693	\$3,840	\$3,914	\$4,283	\$4,326	20.8%
Wallace	3,798	3,936	4,300	5,063	5,243	5,404	42.3
Logan	4,602	4,821	4,915	5,390	5,471	5,401	17.4
Thomas	3,790	4,042	4,291	4,502	4,623	4,620	21.9
Rawlins	4,425	4,595	4,854	5,124	5,147	5,382	21.6
Cheyenne	4,394	4,637	4,929	5,324	5,292	5,547	26.2
KS Trade Area	4,119	4,338	4,585	4,944	5,025	5,111	24.1
Russell	4,099	4,458	4,593	4,938	5,148	5,405	31.9
Mitchell	3,751	4,059	4,282	4,510	4,585	4,804	28.1
Scott	3,536	3,663	3,971	4,244	4,453	4,533	28.2
Norton	4,263	4,616	4,984	5,244	5,391	5,530	29.7
Comparatives	3,917	4,210	4,458	4,737	4,897	5,078	29.6

Note: Data shown are weighted averages for all school districts in the county, calculated by IPPBR.

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

Figure 3.3
High School Dropout Rates
 Sherman Co. and Kansas, 1984-1991



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

- While the high school dropout rate in Sherman County was lower than the state average in 1984-85, it has met or exceeded the state average every year since that time.
- With the exception of the 1984-85 through the 1986-87 academic years, Sherman County's dropout rates have been substantially higher than the state rate. Over the seven years from 1984-85 to 1990-91, Sherman County dropout rates averaged 5.05 percent while the state average for this period was 4.18 percent.

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

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Headcount Grades 9-12</u>	<u>High School Dropouts</u>	<u>Drop Out Rate</u>	<u>Kansas Average Dropout Rate</u>
1984-85	433	9	2.08%	3.96%
1985-86	401	19	4.74	4.01
1986-87	394	16	4.06	4.06
1987-88	369	26	7.05	4.26
1988-89	355	23	6.48	4.46
1989-90	320	19	5.94	4.19
1990-91	341	20	5.87	4.34
Seven-year weighted average			5.05%	4.18%

Note: The Kansas definition of a dropout is a pupil "who leaves a school for any reason, except death, before graduation or completion of a program of studies and without transferring to another school."

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

- Sherman County's pupil-teacher ratio showed a marked decrease from 1989-90 to 1990-91.
- While higher than the trade area and comparative averages, Sherman County's pupil-teacher ratio was lower than the state average in both 1989-90 and 1990-91.

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

	<u>1989-90</u>	<u>1990-91</u>
Sherman	15.6	13.9
Wallace	10.4	10.6
Logan	10.2	11.0
Thomas	14.3	14.3
Rawlins	11.6	12.1
Cheyenne	11.0	11.8
KS Trade Area	12.2	12.6
Russell	11.9	11.7
Mitchell	13.6	14.1
Scott	13.0	12.7
Norton	11.4	11.7
Comparatives	12.5	12.6
Kansas	15.9	16.1

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

Section IV: Employment, Earnings & Income

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

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

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

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

Income and earnings are also examined for Sherman County, its trade area, the comparative counties, and Kansas using the following measures:

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

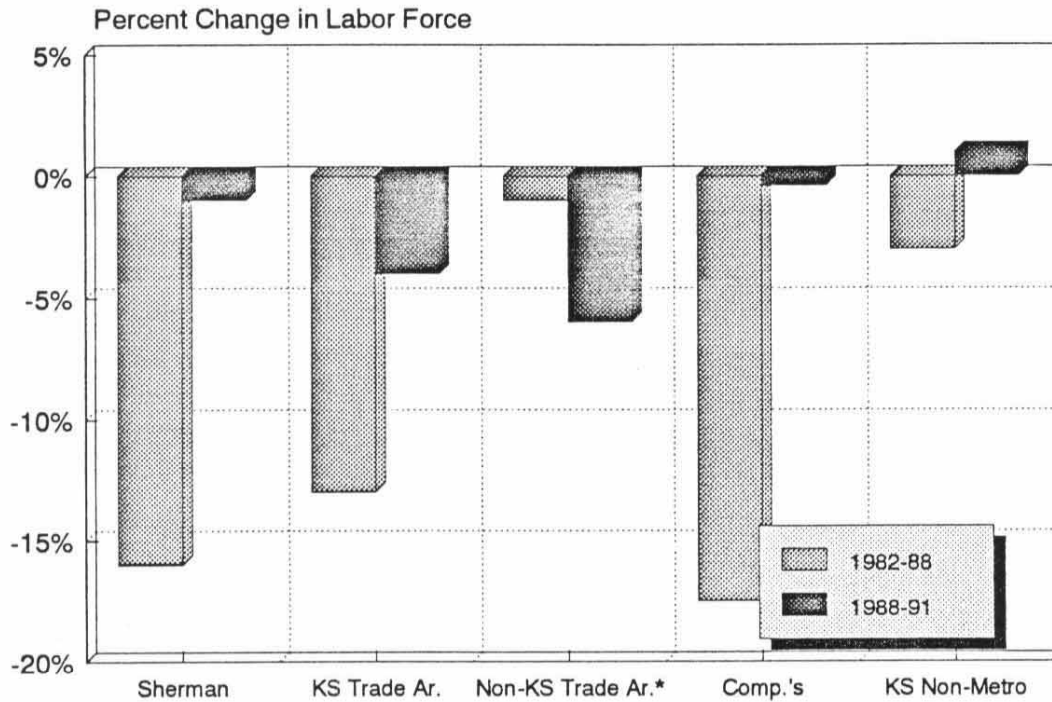
EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & INCOME: KEY FINDINGS

- The civilian labor force in Sherman County decreased from 4,070 in 1982 to a low of 3,320 in 1989. This trend was similar for all of Sherman's peer counties. Since 1989, however, the size of the Sherman County labor force has stabilized and rebounded, increasing by 50 from 1989 to 1991.
- Sherman County's unemployment rate during the 1980s was slightly lower than for the Kansas Non-Metropolitan counties and Kansas as a whole. The unemployment rate from 1982-1991 averaged 4.2 percent for Sherman County, 4.6 percent for the Kansas Non-Metropolitan counties and 5.1 percent for the state.
- Sherman County's unemployment rate from 1982-1991 ranged from 2.9 percent to 6.0 percent, while the state unemployment rate ranged from 4.0 percent to 6.2 percent. Although unemployment rates in Sherman County have been low relative to the state, it has consistently reported higher unemployment rates than many of the Trade Area and Comparative counties.
- Employment shocks were greatest during the mid-1980s in Sherman County. Between 1984 and 1986, nearly 400 jobs were lost. The closing of Great Western Sugar and the loss of the railroad were significant factors. From 1986 to 1990, employment levels declined, but by much smaller amounts, averaging about 30 jobs per year.
- Average wage and salary earnings per job in Sherman County in 1980 was \$13,600, well below the Kansas average of \$19,700.
- Sherman County's 1990 per capita income level, \$18,687, was 15 percent higher than the Kansas non-metropolitan level.
- Farm and farm proprietorships accounted for nearly 30 percent of Sherman's 1990 total personal income compared with 12 percent statewide. Labor income, 57 percent of income state-wide, contributed only 34 percent of Sherman's total personal income.

EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & INCOME: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 4.1

Net Change in Civilian Labor Force Sherman, Trade Area & Kansas 1982-91



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

- The Sherman County civilian labor force decreased 17 percent from 4,070 in 1982 to 3,378 in 1991.
- Most of the contraction in the size of Sherman's labor force occurred between the years 1983-84 and 1987-88. Since 1988, the labor force has remained stable with about 3,400 working or looking for work.
- While Sherman County lost a greater share of its available labor pool in the early 1980s than the Trade Area Counties did, its relative position since 1988 has been an area of strength.

Table 4.1
 Civilian Labor Force, 1982-1991 (Place of residence)
 Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
Sherman	4,070	4,007	3,880	3,889	3,733	3,658	3,421	3,321	3,407	3,378
Wallace	981	969	910	862	841	828	829	824	803	758
Logan	1,778	1,717	1,733	1,630	1,572	1,570	1,489	1,430	1,440	1,446
Thomas	4,848	4,916	4,962	4,561	4,333	4,299	4,214	4,466	4,380	4,303
Rawlins	1,834	1,868	1,845	1,924	1,944	1,943	1,956	1,889	1,742	1,659
Cheyenne	1,913	1,903	1,900	1,616	1,535	1,555	1,449	1,496	1,447	1,414
KS Trade Area	11,354	11,373	11,350	10,593	10,225	10,195	9,937	10,105	9,812	9,580
Hitchcock, NE	*	1,666	1,460	1,447	1,387	1,371	1,311	1,271	1,307	1,288
Dundy, NE	*	1,230	1,274	1,290	1,286	1,241	1,240	1,251	1,274	1,333
Yuma, CO	4,473	5,096	5,088	4,960	4,583	4,577	4,731	4,415	4,625	4,384
Kit Carson, CO	3,908	4,162	4,083	3,939	3,723	4,015	4,096	3,727	3,879	3,626
Cheyenne, CO	1,041	1,088	1,074	1,048	1,009	977	1,022	986	1,065	1,028
Russell	5,208	5,074	5,199	4,482	4,258	4,007	3,807	3,725	3,591	3,546
Mitchell	3,950	3,970	3,993	3,855	3,744	3,761	3,550	3,750	3,874	3,914
Scott	2,738	2,671	2,599	2,713	2,699	2,595	2,544	2,493	2,501	2,512
Norton	3,173	3,209	3,246	3,108	2,949	2,901	2,962	2,839	2,876	2,839
Comparatives	15,069	14,924	15,037	14,158	13,650	13,264	12,863	12,807	12,842	12,811
Kansas										
Non-Metro	580,045	579,256	578,410	580,305	568,577	569,307	562,771	563,635	569,912	568,155
Kansas (in thousands)	1,186	1,186	1,197	1,235	1,224	1,267	1,277	1,285	1,300	1,295

*Data for 1982 not available.

Source: Kansas Department of Human Resources, Labor Market Information Services, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Services.

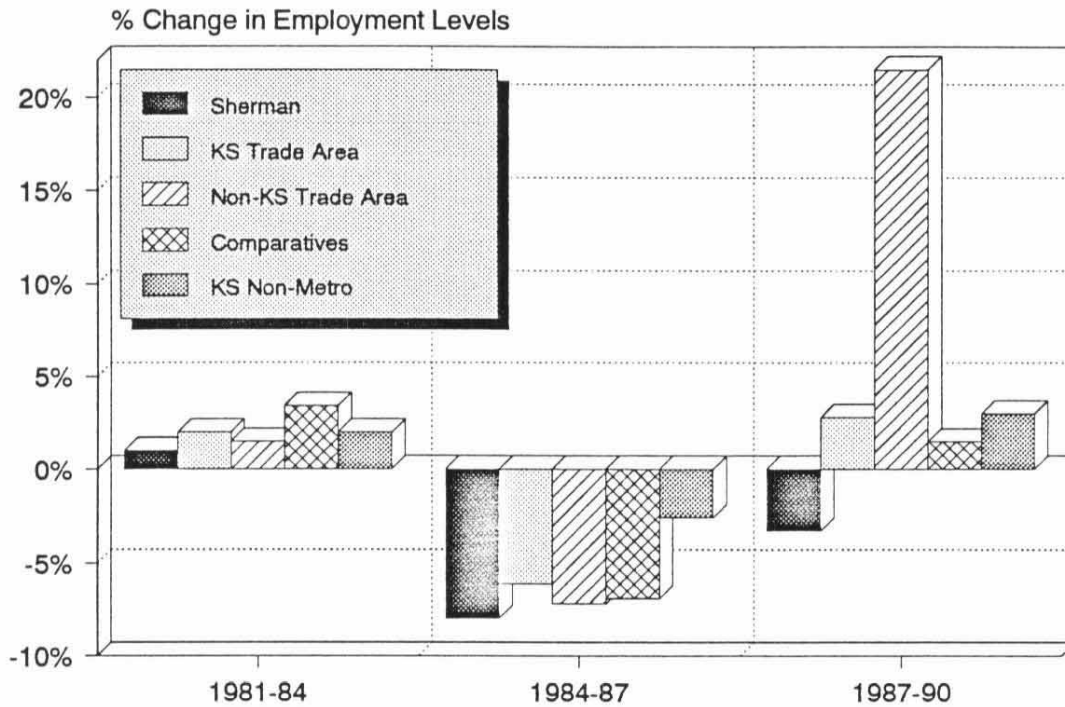
Table 4.2
 Net Change in Civilian Labor Force (Place of Residence)
 Sherman, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, 1982-1988 & 1988-1991

	Net Change		Percent Change	
	1982-1988	1988-1991	1982-88	1988-91
Sherman	-649	-43	-16%	-1%
Wallace	-152	-71	-15	-9
Logan	-289	-43	-20	1
Thomas	-634	89	-13	2
Rawlins	122	-297	7	-15
Cheyenne	-464	-35	-24	-2
KS Trade Area	-1,417	-357	-13	-4
Hitchcock, NE	-355*	23	-21	-2
Dundy, NE	10*	93	1	8
Yuma, CO	258	-347	6	-7
Kit Carson, CO	188	-470	5	-12
Cheyenne, CO	-19	6	-2	1
Non-KS Trade Area	-82*	-695	-1	-6
Russell	-1,401	-261	-27	-7
Mitchell	-400	-364	-10	10
Scott	-194	-32	-7	-1
Norton	-211	-123	-7	-4
Comparatives	-2,206	-52	-15	-78
Kansas Non-Metro	-17,274	5,384	-3	1
Kansas	91,000	18,000	8	1

*Data is for the period 1983-1988.

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

Figure 4.2
Job Creation Rates, 1981-1990
 Sherman, Trade Area & Comparatives



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

- Similar to trends for the labor force, the average annual employment in Sherman County has steadily declined since 1980. Between 1980 and 1990, 624 jobs (13% of employment) were lost from the Sherman County economy. No other comparison group suffered employment losses as severe as Sherman's.
- The mid-1980s was the period of greatest job losses in Sherman. Between 1984 and 1986, 389 jobs were lost. Every Trade Area and Comparative county lost employment during this period.
- Since 1987, the out-of-state Trade Area has experienced exceptional job growth, increasing in employment by over 21 percent.

Table 4.3
Average Annual Employment (Place of Work)
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1981-1990

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
Sherman	4,637	4,551	4,475	4,682	4,484	4,293	4,306	4,243	4,142	4,163
Wallace	1,190	1,158	1,158	1,167	1,099	1,083	1,078	1,124	1,109	1,106
Logan	2,077	2,000	2,029	2,055	1,995	1,923	1,892	1,926	1,889	1,940
Thomas	4,945	5,046	5,061	5,198	5,173	4,900	4,929	4,938	5,117	5,212
Rawlins	2,185	2,126	2,170	2,180	2,120	2,094	2,103	2,157	2,087	2,080
Cheyenne	2,084	2,117	2,142	2,141	2,054	1,996	1,962	1,969	1,951	1,962
KS Trade Area	12,481	12,447	12,560	12,741	12,441	11,996	11,964	12,114	12,153	12,300
Hitchcock, NE	1,902	1,842	1,584	1,389	1,357	1,302	1,285	1,691	1,676	1,696
Dundy, NE	1,451	1,439	1,187	1,242	1,257	1,253	1,214	1,405	1,412	1,414
Yuma, CO	4,327	4,276	4,882	4,919	4,785	4,364	4,388	5,159	5,200	5,177
Kit Carson, CO	3,679	3,760	4,048	3,958	3,808	3,551	3,828	4,458	4,385	4,448
Cheyenne, CO	992	1,005	1,063	1,034	1,014	947	934	1,333	1,362	1,414
Non-KS Trade Area	12,351	12,322	12,764	12,542	12,221	11,417	11,649	14,046	14,035	14,149
Russell	6,162	6,573	6,630	6,745	6,502	6,004	6,028	5,844	5,712	5,804
Mitchell	4,517	4,433	4,435	4,426	4,372	4,270	4,310	4,427	4,500	4,669
Scott	3,219	3,302	3,258	3,248	3,207	3,047	3,129	3,161	3,202	3,139
Norton	3,534	3,519	3,539	3,612	3,483	3,355	3,336	3,414	3,368	3,451
Comparatives	17,432	17,827	17,862	18,031	17,564	16,676	16,803	16,846	16,782	17,063
Kansas Non-Metro	626,198	622,383	627,842	638,940	633,684	617,443	622,122	629,707	633,677	641,079
Kansas (in thousands)	1,293.1	1,282.3	1,294.4	1,341.2	1,354.4	1,361.5	1,390.0	1,421.2	1,445.0	1,472.6

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

Table 4.4
 Net Change and Percentage Change in Employment (Place of Work)
 Sherman County, Trade Area, Comparatives and Kansas, 1981-1990

	Net Job Creation			Percent Change		
	1981-84	1984-87	1987-90	1981-84	1984-87	1987-90
Sherman	45	-376	-143	1.0%	-8.0%	-3.3%
Wallace	-23	-89	28	-2.0	-7.6	2.6
Logan	-22	-163	48	-1.1	-8.0	2.5
Thomas	253	-269	283	5.1	5.2	5.7
Rawlins	-5	-77	-23	-0.3	-3.5	-1.1
Cheyenne	57	-179	0	2.7	-8.4	0.0
Kansas Trade Area	260	-777	336	2.0	-6.1	2.8
Hitchcock, NE	-513	-104	411	-27.0	-7.5	32.0
Dundy, NE	-209	-28	200	-14.5	-2.3	16.5
Yuma, CO	592	-531	789	13.6	-10.8	18.0
Kit Carson, CO	279	-130	620	7.6	-3.3	16.2
Cheyenne, CO	42	-100	480	4.2	-9.7	51.4
Out-of-state Trade Area	191	-893	2,500	1.5	-7.2	21.5
Russell	583	-717	-224	9.5	-10.6	-3.8
Mitchell	-91	-116	359	-2.0	-2.6	8.3
Scott	29	-119	10	0.1	-3.7	0.3
Norton	78	-276	115	2.2	-7.6	3.4
Comparatives	599	-1,228	-260	3.4	-6.9	1.5
Kansas Non-Metro	12,742	-16,818	18,957	2.0	-2.6	3.0
Kansas	48,087	48,512	82,884	3.7	3.6	6.0

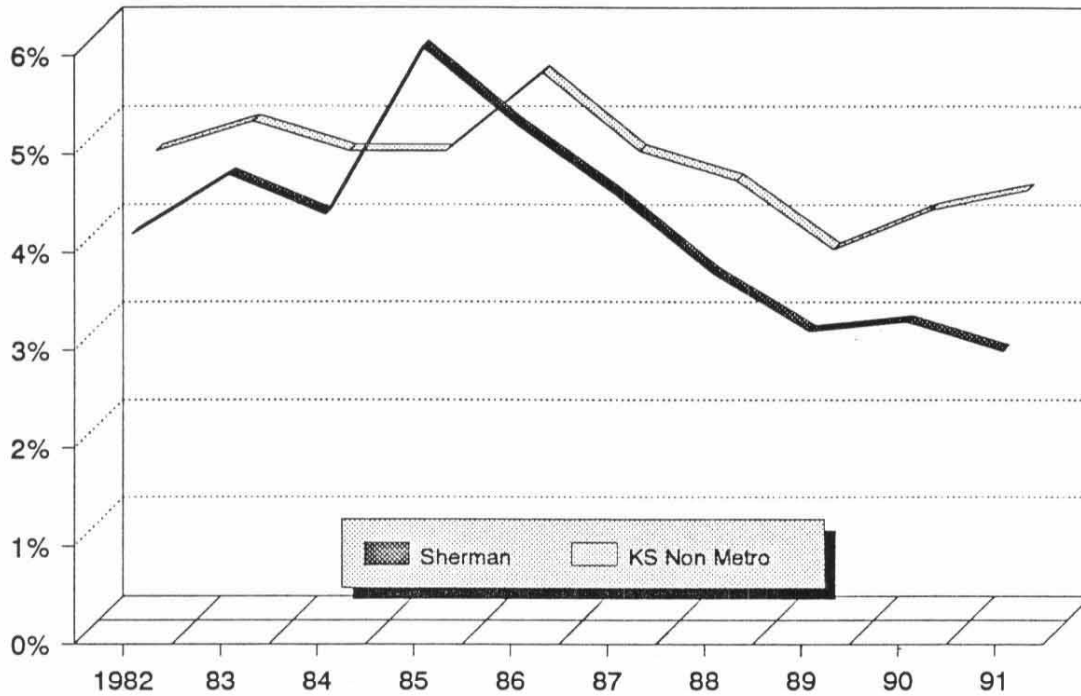
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Information System*, Table CA25.

Table 4.5
Ten-Year Change and Percentage Change in Employment (Place of Work)
Sherman County, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1981-90

	<u>Change in Employment 1980-1990</u>	<u>Percent Change 1980-1990</u>
Sherman	-624	-13.0%
Wallace	-118	-9.6
Logan	-219	-10.1
Thomas	195	3.9
Rawlins	-165	-7.3
Cheyenne	-183	-8.5
KS Trade Area	-490	-3.8
Out of State Trade Area	55	0.4
Hitchcock, NE	-223	-11.6
Dundy, NE	-45	-3.1
Yuma, CO	-17	-0.3
Kit Carson, CO	-214	5.1
Cheyenne, CO	126	9.8
Russell	-161	-2.7
Mitchell	-32	-0.7
Scott	-183	-5.5
Norton	-73	-2.1
Comparatives	-449	-2.6
Kansas Non-Metro	16,810	2.7
Kansas	185,822	14.4

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

Figure 4.3
 Unemployment Rates, 1982-1991
 Sherman and Kansas Non-Metro



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

- Unemployment rates have been favorable in Sherman County from 1982-1991, partly due to the decrease in available workers. Unemployment peaked in 1985 at 6 percent, but has steadily dropped since then to 2.9 percent in 1991.

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

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
Sherman	4.1%	4.7%	4.3%	6.0%	5.2%	4.5%	3.7%	3.1%	3.2%	2.9%
Wallace	3.6	4.2	4.3	5.0	5.1	5.7	3.7	3.9	4.4	4.2
Logan	3.1	4.0	4.0	4.7	5.2	4.2	3.8	2.9	3.0	3.2
Thomas	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7	3.8	3.7	3.1	2.5	2.9	2.4
Rawlins	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.1	2.7	3.0	2.9	3.2
Cheyenne	2.5	2.4	2.9	3.3	4.1	4.1	3.2	2.0	2.3	2.4
Hitchcock, NE	*	4.9	4.9	6.2	6.1	6.3	4.1	3.8	2.8	3.5
Dundy, NE	*	3.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.2	1.5	1.7	0.9	1.2
Yuma, CO	4.4	4.2	3.3	3.5	4.8	4.1	3.5	3.4	2.7	3.0
Kit Carson, CO	3.8	2.7	3.1	3.3	4.6	4.7	2.9	2.9	1.9	2.7
Cheyenne, CO	3.5	2.3	3.7	3.2	6.1	4.4	4.2	4.4	2.4	2.8
Russell	2.8	3.3	3.3	4.0	6.0	4.1	3.9	3.3	3.1	3.6
Mitchell	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.7	4.4	3.5	2.9	2.2	2.7	2.7
Scott	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.6	2.9	3.1	2.7
Norton	2.7	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.3	2.4
Kansas Non-Metro	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.7	5.5	4.7	4.4	3.7	4.1	4.3
Kansas	6.2	6.1	5.3	5.0	5.5	4.9	4.8	4.0	4.4	4.4

*1982 data not available.

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

- Using total personal income as a measure of the size of the local economy, Sherman's growth during the 1981-1990 period (+53%, adjusted for inflation) was comparable to the rate of growth for Kansas non-metropolitan counties (+53%). The Kansas Trade Area (+64%) and Comparative counties (+58%) grew more quickly than Sherman did over this period.

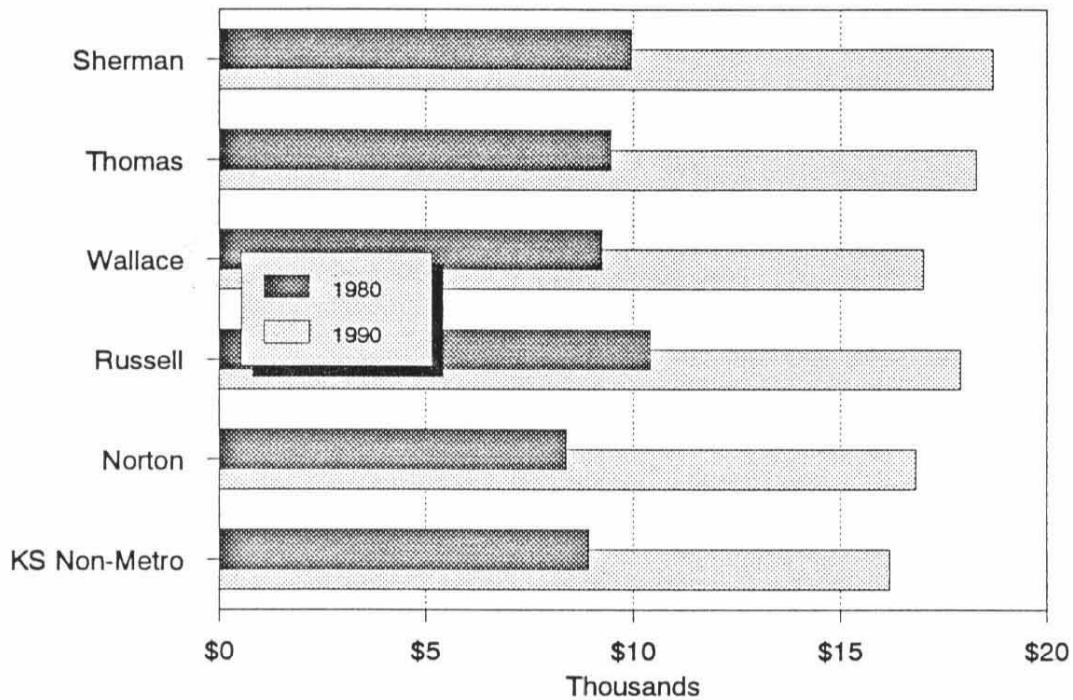
Table 4.7
Total Personal Income (Place of Residence) (in \$Millions)
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1981-1990

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Sherman	83.9	81.3	90.6	101.2	111.0	112.7	105.5	111.6	114.5	128.5
Wallace	23.5	25.2	26.3	27.2	30.0	31.7	29.1	30.3	31.0	30.9
Logan	35.9	40.3	47.2	48.9	48.5	45.5	45.9	42.6	51.0	49.9
Thomas	94.0	107.4	120.4	122.0	143.5	134.0	126.9	127.5	138.2	150.6
Rawlins	36.9	44.8	50.0	47.4	55.6	55.7	55.9	52.0	56.7	66.4
Cheyenne	29.0	38.8	41.7	42.9	51.7	58.3	57.3	55.0	54.0	61.5
KS Trade Area	219.3	256.5	285.6	288.4	329.3	325.2	315.1	307.4	330.9	359.3
Russell	110.7	129.5	129.9	132.0	134.6	131.6	129.1	128.2	129.1	139.4
Mitchell	69.9	82.4	87.0	88.7	90.9	99.7	103.5	102.6	102.8	125.8
Scott	59.1	66.0	66.1	74.6	83.7	88.9	94.9	89.6	99.8	121.4
Norton	69.5	77.0	80.8	83.5	82.6	85.9	85.2	87.3	88.5	99.8
Comparatives	309.2	354.9	363.8	378.8	391.8	406.1	412.7	407.7	418.2	486.4
Kansas Non-Metro (billions)	12.1	13.0	13.3	14.3	15.0	15.5	15.7	16.5	17.2	18.5
Kansas (billions)	26.7	28.5	29.5	31.8	33.8	35.6	37.0	39.4	41.9	44.9

*Out of state data not available.

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

Figure 4.4
 Per Capita Personal Income Levels
 Sherman & Comparatives, 1980-1990



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

- Per capita income in Sherman County was \$18,687 in 1990, 15 percent higher than for non-metropolitan Kansas as a whole.
- Only Scott, Rawlins and Cheyenne, of the counties Sherman was compared with, had higher per capita incomes in 1990.
- Growth in Sherman’s per capita income level was 88 percent over the 1980s, slightly better than the Kansas non-metro rate of 82 percent.

Table 4.8
Per Capita Personal Income Levels
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, Kansas and the U.S., 1981-1990

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
Sherman	\$10,975	\$10,679	\$11,788	\$13,240	\$14,714	\$15,456	\$14,569	\$15,835	\$16,306	\$18,687
Wallace	11,741	12,743	13,128	13,745	15,679	16,968	15,762	16,428	16,919	16,994
Logan	10,406	11,537	13,406	14,153	14,338	13,457	14,146	14,081	16,316	16,257
Thomas	11,002	12,339	13,485	13,795	16,330	15,475	14,992	15,334	16,599	18,276
Rawlins	9,053	10,841	12,227	12,213	14,750	14,912	15,512	15,317	16,374	19,605
Cheyenne	7,912	10,446	11,145	11,788	14,288	16,391	16,691	16,082	16,363	19,082
Russell	12,262	14,109	14,005	14,342	14,860	15,060	15,297	15,156	16,133	17,900
Mitchell	8,619	10,246	10,902	11,081	11,608	12,985	13,670	13,907	14,091	17,539
Scott	10,301	11,397	11,279	12,615	14,367	15,605	16,810	17,542	18,178	23,066
Norton	10,391	11,580	12,340	12,855	12,996	13,238	13,905	14,280	14,745	16,824
Kansas Non-Metro	10,166	10,857	11,032	11,897	12,626	13,206	13,478	14,226	14,962	16,190
Kansas	11,211	11,852	12,200	13,112	13,930	14,631	15,147	15,993	16,962	18,104
U.S.	10,949	11,480	12,098	13,114	13,942	14,654	15,494	16,598	17,731	18,691

*Out of state data not available.

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

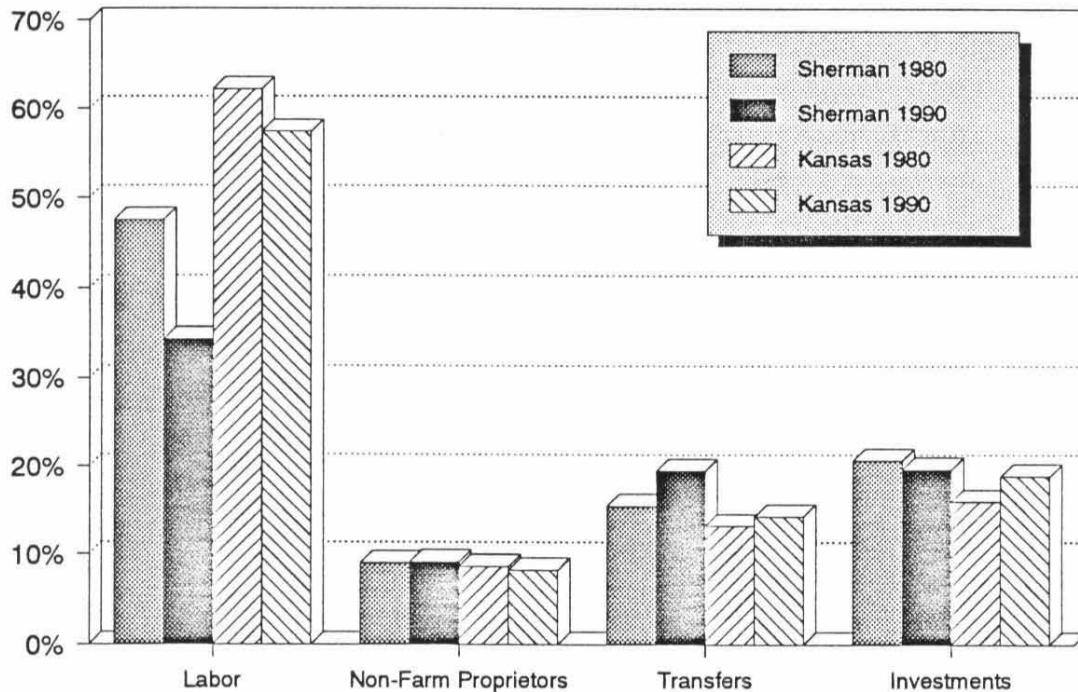
Table 4.9
 Ten-Year Change in Per Capita Income
 Sherman County, Kansas Trade Area, Comparatives, Kansas and U.S., 1980-1990

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Sherman	\$ 9,957	\$ 18,687	\$ 8,730	87.7%
Wallace	9,240	16,994	7,754	83.9
Logan	10,226	16,257	6,031	59.0
Thomas	9,459	18,276	8,817	93.2
Rawlins	8,067	19,605	11,538	143.0
Cheyenne	8,932	19,082	10,150	113.6
Russell	10,412	17,900	7,488	71.9
Mitchell	8,470	17,539	9,069	107.1
Scott	9,590	23,066	13,476	140.5
Norton	8,394	16,824	8,430	100.4
Kansas Non-Metro	8,933	16,190	7,323	82.6
Kansas	9,941	18,104	8,163	82.1
U.S.	9,919	18,691	8,772	88.4

Note: Out of state data not available.

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

Figure 4.5
 Share of Personal Income, By Source
 Sherman & Kansas, 1980 and 1990



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

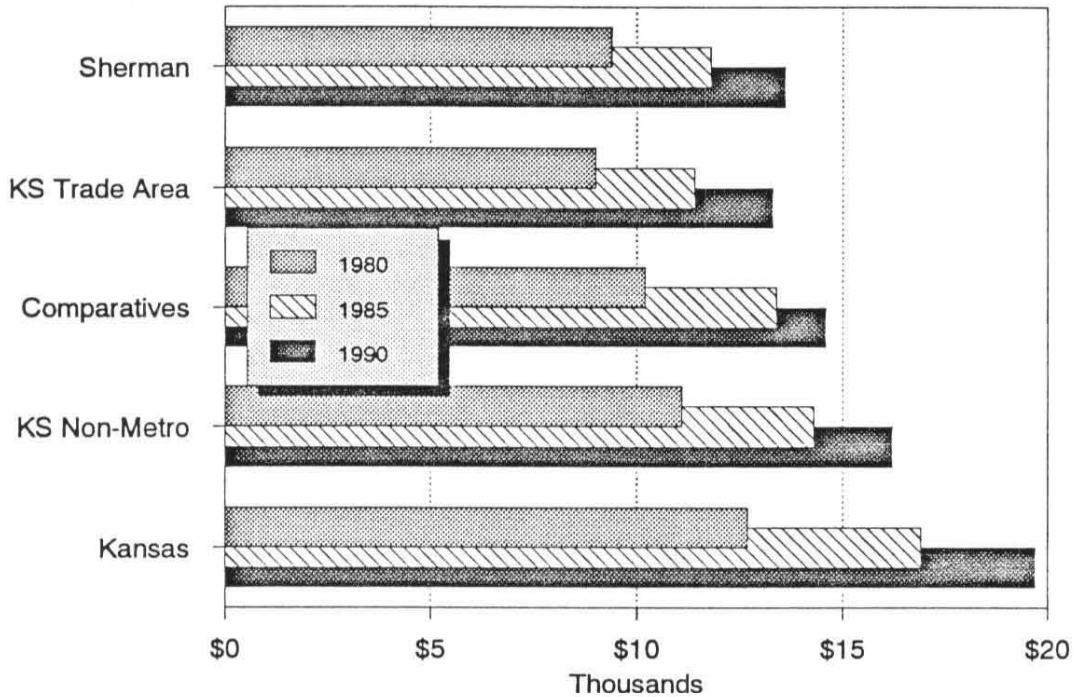
- Employment income, which accounted for 48 percent of Sherman’s personal income in 1980, declined in relative importance to account for only 34 percent of personal income in 1990. This was consistent with the pattern in most Kansas non-metropolitan counties.
- The share of income from wages, salary and other labor income in Sherman County (34% in 1990) was well below the Kansas average of 57 percent. However, several of the Trade Area counties received smaller contributions to income from employment sources, often in the 20 to 25 percent range.
- Strong performance in farm incomes in 1990 meant that farm and non-farm proprietorships accounted for nearly 30 percent of all income, up from 18 percent in 1980.

Table 4.10
Selected Components of Personal Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income
Sherman County, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

County/Area	Year	Wages, Salaries and Other	Proprietorships		Dividends, Interest, & Rent	Transfer
		Labor Income	Farm	Non-Farm	& Rent	Payments
Sherman	1980	47.5%	9.1%	9.0%	20.7%	15.5%
	1990	34.3	19.7	9.1	19.7	19.5
<u>Kansas Trade Area Counties</u>						
Wallace	1980	41.1	9.0	16.2	23.9	12.9
	1990	28.8	21.2	13.8	24.1	15.3
Logan	1980	40.4	15.6	11.3	24.0	12.7
	1990	36.5	11.1	11.5	26.5	18.6
Thomas	1980	49.6	9.8	11.5	20.6	11.4
	1990	38.9	23.0	8.8	18.5	13.8
Rawlins	1980	32.7	9.0	9.5	33.6	15.8
	1990	24.1	30.8	6.5	24.7	15.3
Cheyenne	1980	35.9	6.3	17.0	29.4	14.1
	1990	24.5	22.1	15.0	24.9	16.3
<u>Out of State Trade Area Counties</u>						
Hitchcock	1980	37.8	8.0	9.8	27.1	16.0
	1990	22.5	27.0	7.5	23.6	16.2
Dundy	1980	32.7	5.2	14.6	32.1	16.3
	1990	21.9	38.5	8.1	21.4	12.2
Yuma	1980	29.7	24.3	13.4	25.6	9.9
	1990	23.9	39.6	10.3	17.6	11.3
Kit Carson	1980	39.9	10.6	14.6	26.4	11.4
	1990	27.8	29.8	12.9	20.5	11.8
Cheyenne, CO	1980	35.4	24.4	8.4	23.0	13.0
	1990	22.5	50.8	9.2	14.6	8.0
<u>Comparative Counties</u>						
Russell	1980	52.8	2.9	12.2	24.7	14.3
	1990	40.2	7.5	11.0	29.0	19.1
Mitchell	1980	51.1	3.1	9.7	27.3	17.0
	1990	40.1	12.8	9.8	24.3	20.4
Scott	1980	47.8	7.9	14.2	23.0	10.8
	1990	29.1	30.1	9.9	20.3	12.7
Norton	1980	46.5	-2.9	12.8	26.6	19.9
	1990	39.7	11.1	10.0	23.9	19.2
<u>State Totals</u>						
Kansas	1980	62.2	0.7	8.6	16.0	13.2
	1990	57.4	3.3	8.2	18.9	14.3

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

Figure 4.6
 Avg. Wage/Salary Earnings per Job
 Sherman and Comparatives, 1980-85-90



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

- The average wage and salary earnings per job in Sherman in 1990 was \$13,600. This compared with \$19,700 statewide.
- Sherman County's average wage and salary earnings per job was less than those of the out-of-state Trade Area counties and well below that of the Comparative counties.

Table 4.11
Average Wage and Salary Earnings Per Job by Place of Work (in \$ Thousands)
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1985 and 1990

	Average Wage/Salary Earnings Per Job			Percent Change	
	1980	1985 (\$ thousands)	1990	1980-85	1985-90
Sherman	\$ 9.4	\$ 11.8	\$ 13.6	25.5%	15.3%
Wallace	9.7	11.7	13.3	20.6	13.7
Logan	9.1	12.1	13.9	33.0	14.9
Thomas	9.9	12.3	13.9	24.2	13.0
Rawlins	7.8	10.7	12.3	37.2	15.0
Cheyenne	8.6	10.3	12.2	19.8	18.4
KS Trade Area	9.0	11.4	13.3	26.7	16.7
Hitchcock, NE	10.7	13.8	14.5	29.0	5.1
Dundy, NE	9.0	12.0	14.7	33.3	22.5
Yuma, CO	8.8	11.4	13.1	29.5	14.9
Kit Carson, CO	9.4	12.1	13.3	28.7	9.9
Cheyenne, CO	9.1	12.9	16.1	41.8	24.8
Russell	11.2	14.6	14.7	30.4	0.7
Mitchell	9.7	12.5	14.1	28.9	12.8
Scott	10.0	13.2	14.7	32.0	11.4
Norton	9.8	13.1	15.2	33.7	16.0
Comparatives	10.2	13.4	14.6	31.4	9.0
KS Non-Metro	11.1	14.3	16.2	28.8	13.3
Kansas	12.7	16.9	19.7	33.1	16.6

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Information System, December 1990, Table CA35.

Section V: Geographic Location and Infrastructure

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

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

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

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: KEY FINDINGS

- Sherman is accessible to key major markets. It is roughly 200 miles from Denver, 325 miles from Wichita and 425 miles from Kansas City.
- Sherman County, like nearly all of its Trade Area and its comparative counties, is sparsely populated, at 6.6 persons per square mile, while the state average is 30 persons per square mile.
- With 1,056 square miles, Sherman is the fourteenth largest county in the state.
- Sherman County receives much less precipitation than the rest of the state. Over the past thirty years, precipitation has averaged 16.3 inches, 20 percent less than the Northwest regional average and 40 percent less than the state average.
- Approximately 96 percent of Sherman's land is in farms, a figure typical for a county with its urban-rural mix.
- Natural resources found in Sherman include sand, gravel, oil and gas. Many comparison counties also have oil and some combination of sand, gravel and timber.
- The county has 1,317 miles of public highways, of which 70 are Interstate and state. Its public highway network is more extensive than those found in most of the Trade Area counties.
- The volume of traffic passing into or out of Sherman County increased by 24 percent during the 1980s. Nearly all of this increase was due to the growing volume of traffic on I-70, particularly into or from Colorado.
- Heavy commercial traffic grew at three times the rate of other forms of traffic, rising by 53 percent over the decade.
- The percentage of permanent residences in Sherman connected to a public or private water system or sewer system is higher than in all of the Trade Area counties.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: DATA ANALYSIS

- Sherman County, like nearly all of its Trade Area and its comparative counties, is sparsely populated, at 6.6 persons per square mile, while the state average is 30 persons per square mile.
- With 1,056 square miles, Sherman is the fourteenth largest county in the state.

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

	<u>Land Area (Square Miles)</u>	<u>Population Per Square Mile</u>
Sherman	1,056	6.6
KS Trade Area:		
Wallace	914	2.0
Logan	1,073	2.9
Thomas	1,075	7.7
Rawlins	1,070	3.2
Cheyenne	1,020	3.2
Out of State Trade Area:		
Hitchcock, NE	710	5.3
Dundy, NE	920	2.8
Yuma, CO	2,366	3.8
Kit Carson, CO	2,161	3.3
Cheyenne, CO	1,782	1.3
Comparatives:		
Russell	885	8.9
Mitchell	700	10.3
Scott	718	7.4
Norton	878	6.8
Kansas	81,823	30.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics*.

- Sherman County receives much less precipitation than the rest of the state. Over the past thirty years, precipitation has averaged 16.3 inches, 20 percent less than the Northwest regional average and 40 percent less than the state average.

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

Sherman	16.3
North West	19.9
West Central	19.6
South West	18.6
North Central	26.3
Central	27.7
South Central	26.3
North East	34.3
East Central	35.4
South East	36.5
Statewide	27.0

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

- Approximately 96 percent of Sherman’s land is in farms, a figure typical for a county with its urban-rural mix.
- Natural resources found in Sherman include sand, gravel, oil and gas. Many comparison counties also have oil and some combination of sand, gravel and timber.

Table 5.3
 Natural Resources and Percent of Land in Farms
 Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas

	<u>Percent of Land in Farms</u>	<u>Natural Resources</u>
Sherman	96	SAN, GRA, OIL, TIM
Kansas Trade Area		
Wallace	92	OIL, TIM
Logan	91	COA, SAN, GRA, OIL, TIM
Rawlins	95	OIL, TIM
Cheyenne	96	SAN, GRA, OIL, TIM
Comparative Counties		
Russell	87	SAN, GRA, OIL, GAS, TIM
Mitchell	99	TIM
Scott	99	OIL, GAS, TIM
Norton	94	VOL, SAN, GRA, OIL, TIM

Key: TIM - Timber, SAN - Sand, GRA - Gravel, CLA - Clay, VOL - Volcanic Ash, COA - Coal.
 Source: John Clements, *Kansas Facts*, (Dallas: Clements Research II, Inc., 1990).

- Sherman is accessible to key major markets. It is roughly 200 miles from Denver, 325 miles from Wichita and 425 miles from Kansas City.
- The county has 1,317 miles of public highways, of which 70 are Interstate and state. Its public highway network is more extensive than those found in most of the Trade Area counties.
- The county has rail access to markets through one carrier, the Mid-States Port Authority.

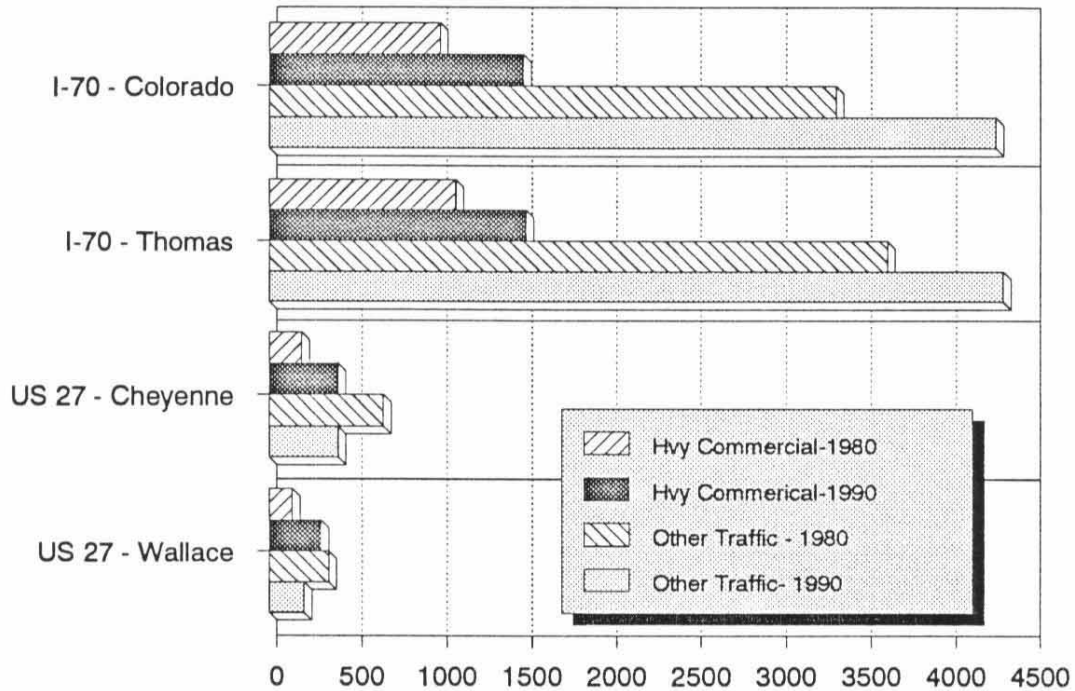
Table 5.4
 Highway and Rail Freight Transportation
 Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas

	Total Public Highway Miles	Interstate & State Miles	Rail Freight Carriers
Sherman	1,317	70	MS
Kansas Trade Area			
Wallace	701	63	UP
Logan	930	109	UP
Rawlins	1,318	79	BN
Cheyenne	1,284	86	BN
Comparative Counties			
Russell	1,437	103	MP
Mitchell	1,286	87	AT, MP, UP
Scott	911	73	AT, MP
Norton	1,384	122	BN, MS, MP

Key: AT - Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; BN - Burlington Northern; MP - Missouri Pacific; MS - Mid States Port Authority; and UP - Union Pacific.

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

Figure 5.1
Average Daily Traffic Volume
 Sherman Co. Points of Entry/Exit, 1980-90



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

- The volume of traffic passing into or out of Sherman County increased by 24 percent during the 1980s. Nearly all of this increase was due to the growing volume of traffic on I-70, particularly connections with Colorado.
- Heavy commercial traffic grew at three times the rate of other forms of traffic, rising by 53 percent over the decade.

Table 5.5
Average Daily Traffic Volumes at Points of Entry/Exit
Sherman County, 1980-1990

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>% Change</u>
I-70 @ Thomas Co. border			
Heavy commercial	1,095	1,510	38%
Light commercial & passenger	3,640	4,325	19
Total	4,735	5,835	23
I-70 @ Colorado border			
Heavy commercial	1,005	1,496	49
Light commercial & passenger	3,338	4,281	28
Total	4,343	5,777	33
U.S. 27 @ Cheyenne Co. border			
Heavy commercial	190	405	113
Light commercial & passenger	670	405	-40
Total	860	810	- 6
U.S. 27 @ Wallace Co. border			
Heavy commercial	135	305	116
Light commercial & passenger	350	205	-41
Total	485	510	5
Total - I-70 and US 27 traffic			
Heavy commercial	2,425	3,716	53
Light commercial & passenger	7,998	9,216	15
Total	10,423	12,932	24

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

- The percentage of permanent residences in Sherman connected to a public or private water system or sewer system is higher than in all of the Trade Area counties.

Table 5.6
Access to Water and Sewer Systems
Sherman, Trade Area and Comparative Counties, 1990

	<u>Percent of Permanent Residences with Utility System Connections</u>	
	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>
Sherman	80%	76%
Kansas Trade Area		
Wallace	67	49
Logan	74	74
Rawlins	57	56
Cheyenne	66	64
Colorado Trade Area		
Yuma	60	59
Kit Carson	69	67
Cheyenne	71	65
Comparative Counties		
Russell	93	81
Mitchell	92	77
Scott	74	73
Norton	73	70

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

Section VI: Business Environment

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

This section reviews the following indicators:

- *distribution of firms, by number of employees and sector* to determine what changes are taking place at the firm level in the local economy;
- *average annual pay per employee by sector* as an indicator of changing patterns in business productivity, reflected by increases or decreases in relative wages;
- *distribution of employment by sector* to assess how local sectoral performance compares with larger scale trends, and *net job creation by industry*, to determine which industries are growing at the local level;
- *levels of taxable retail sales and growth rates of retail sales* as indicators of retail sector performance and trends and the overall strength of the local consumer market;
- the *number of farms, acres harvested, average farm size* and the *value of field crops and livestock and poultry* to reflect the levels of farm activity and the changing character of farming;
- *levels of assessment, bonded indebtedness and tax levies* which reveal the capacity of the public sector to take on new public investments;
- the *total number of banks and bank assets per capita* of those banks, which show the level of banking resources in the community; and,
- the location and investment activities of *venture capital and seed capital pools*, and the location of *certified development companies* represent opportunities for local business to tap into alternative sources of financing.

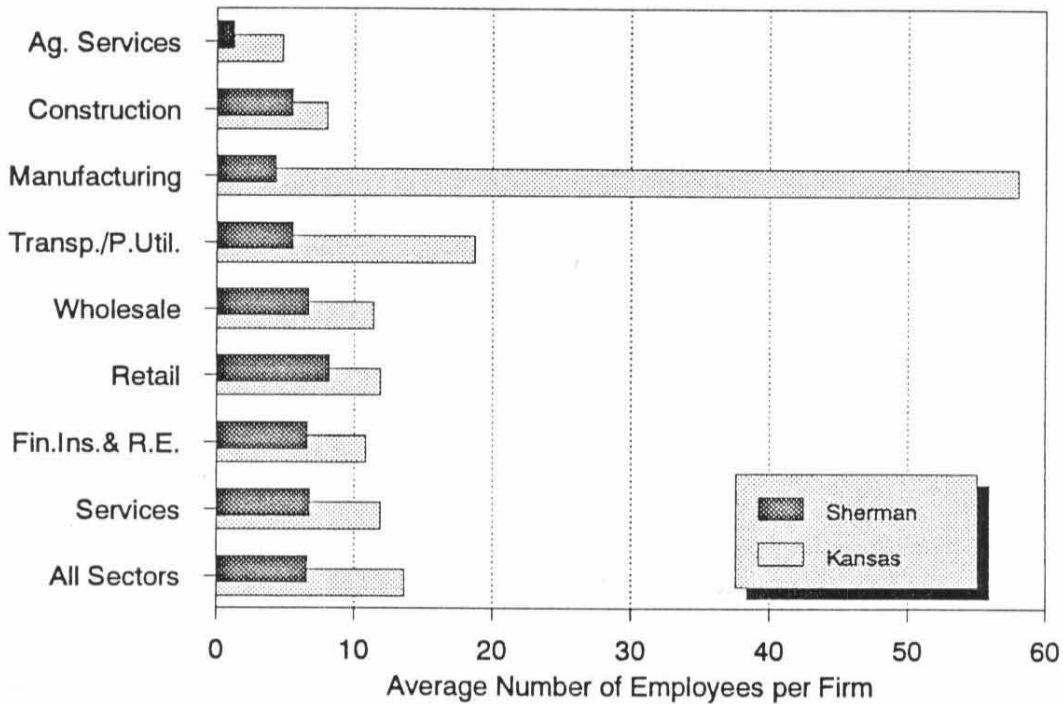
BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT: KEY FINDINGS

- The number of firms in Sherman County remained stable during the 1980s, with 260 firms in 1990. Growth in service sector firms compensated for a decrease in the number of construction firms.
- Overall, Sherman County firms employ half as many staff as the Kansas average.
- The average pay per job (\$12,800) is two-thirds the state average; this gap widened during the 1980s.
- A total of 624 net jobs were lost in Sherman County from 1980 to 1990. More than half of this decline was in farming (332 jobs), while the manufacturing (13) and retail sectors also declined. None of the comparison counties lost jobs at as great a rate as Sherman.
- Sectors which are relatively well-developed in Sherman County (in terms of their share of total employment) include the farming, retail and wholesale sectors. Manufacturing remains an underdeveloped sector.
- Taxable retail sales fell by 40 percent in Sherman County from 1981 to 1991. While retail employment dropped by 113 jobs in Sherman during the 1980s, its interstate neighbors, Kit Carson and Thomas Counties each grew by 100 or more retail jobs.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 6.1

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



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

- The number of Sherman County firms remained stable between 1980 and 1990; in 1990, there were 260 firms. Over the same period, the number of firms in Kansas increased by 19 percent.
- Only two sectors of the Sherman County economy experienced much change in the number of firms. The number of construction firms declined from 30 in 1980 to 16 in 1990; this was offset by growth in the number of service sector firms from 65 to 82 establishments.
- Firms in Sherman have, on average, 6.6 employees, half the statewide average.
- In 1989, Sherman had four firms with 50 or more employees, two of which were in the health care field.

- During the decade, average firm size (employees per firm) in Sherman fell from 7.2 to 6.6.

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

Sector / Industry		Total	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+
All Private Sectors	1990	260	155	60	27	14	4
	1980	255	151	52	34	15	3
Agricultural Services	1990	5	5	0	0	0	0
	1980	4	3	0	1	0	0
Construction	1990	16	12	3	0	1	0
	1980	30	20	8	1	0	1
Manufacturing	1990	4	2	1	1	0	0
	1980	6	3	0	1	1	1
Transp. & Public Utilities	1990	22	14	4	3	1	0
	1980	18	8	10	5	0	0
Wholesale Trade	1990	27	11	11	5	0	0
	1980	23	8	7	4	0	0
Retail	1990	79	37	23	10	8	1
	1980	82	41	18	16	7	0
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	1990	16	13	1	0	1	1
	1980	16	12	1	2	1	0
Services	1990	82	53	16	8	3	2
	1980	65	47	11	2	4	1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns*, 1980 and 1990.

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

<u>Sector / Industry</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>1-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-19</u>	<u>20-49</u>	<u>50+</u>
All Private Sectors	1990	65,858	36,385	13,216	8,031	5,316	2,910
	1980	55,021	30,569	11,129	6,696	4,376	2,251
Agricultural Services	1990	965	670	193	72	25	5
	1980	547	413	98	26	9	1
Mining	1990	1,138	665	215	126	98	34
	1980	1,137	567	195	156	152	67
Construction	1990	5,676	3,554	1,100	543	337	142
	1980	5,149	3,271	934	494	308	142
Manufacturing	1990	3,367	1,084	568	548	524	643
	1980	2,919	747	497	498	523	624
Transp. & Public Utilities	1990	3,180	1,705	512	463	310	190
	1980	2,881	1,359	712	349	292	169
Wholesale Trade	1990	5,713	2,551	1,458	992	547	165
	1980	5,267	2,172	1,405	990	546	154
Retail	1990	16,845	7,686	4,148	2,557	1,786	668
	1980	15,204	7,538	3,556	2,291	1,397	422
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	1990	5,657	3,634	858	584	372	209
	1980	4,893	3,082	842	494	320	155
Services	1990	20,891	12,511	4,108	2,119	1,299	854
	1980	14,270	8,930	2,679	1,331	813	517

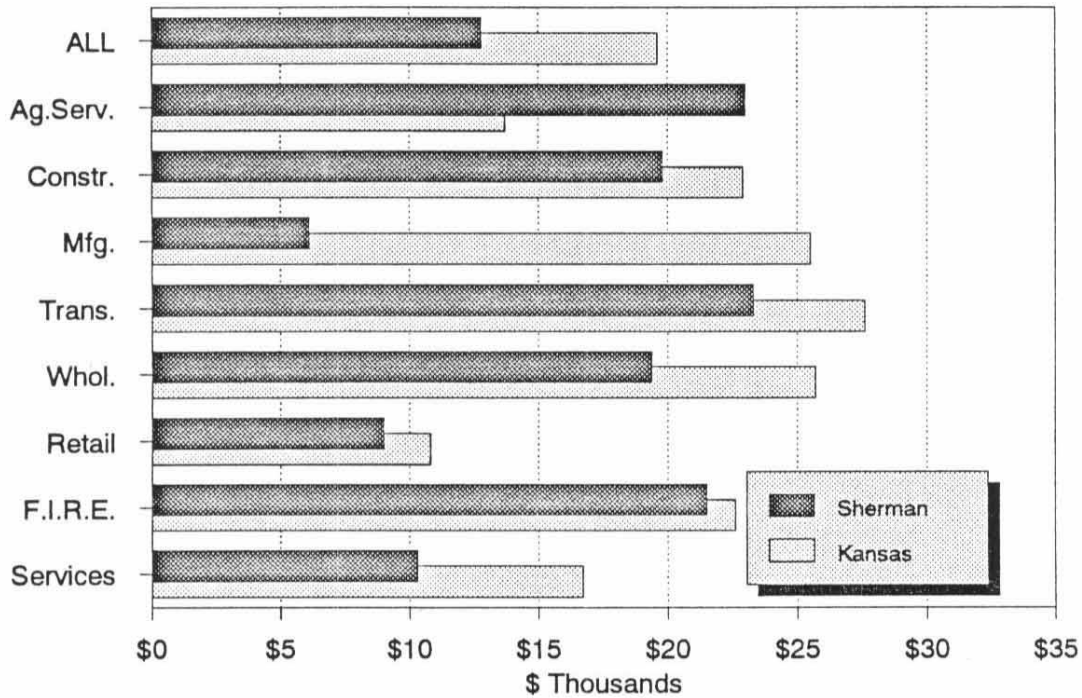
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns*, 1980 and 1990.

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

<u>Sector / Industry</u>	<u>Average Number of Employees per Firm</u>			
	<u>Sherman</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>
Private Sector	7.2	6.6	13.9	13.6
Agricultural Services	N/A	1.2	4.0	4.8
Mining	N/A	N/A	15.3	10.0
Construction	6.6	5.5	8.0	8.0
Manufacturing	15.8	4.3	71.0	58.0
Transp. & Public Utilities	9.3	5.5	17.9	18.7
Wholesale Trade	6.3	6.7	11.4	11.4
Retail	7.9	8.2	10.8	11.9
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	6.8	6.6	10.1	10.8
Services	6.6	6.8	10.9	11.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns*, 1980 and 1990.

Figure 6.2
Avg. Annual Pay Per Employee, by Sector
 Sherman and Kansas, 1990
 (Includes part-time employees)



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

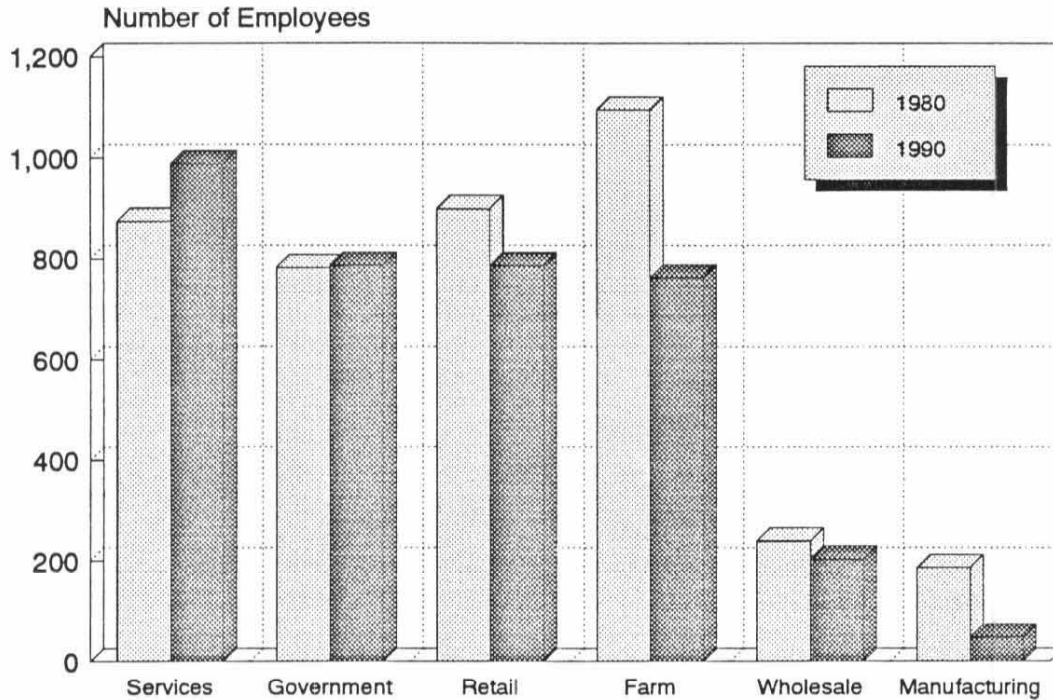
- Average annual pay per employee in Sherman lags the statewide value; the gap between Sherman and the state as a whole varies considerably across sectors.
- In 1990, average annual pay per employee in Sherman was \$12,800, about two-thirds the statewide average.
- The gap between Sherman and the state as a whole, in terms of average annual pay per employee, widened substantially during the decade. The gap grew from 77 percent of the state average pay to 65 percent in 1990.
- Transportation and public utilities, a small agricultural services sector, and wholesale trade jobs receive the highest average rates of pay in Sherman County. Only in the finance, insurance and real estate sectors were rates of pay in Sherman County within 15 percent or better than the state average.

Table 6.4
 Average Annual Pay Per Employee by Sector
 Private, Non-Farm Firms (in \$Thousands)
 Sherman County and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>Sector / Industry</u>	<u>Sherman</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>
Private Sector	\$9.8	\$12.8	\$12.6	\$19.6
Agricultural Services	N/A	23.0	9.7	13.7
Mining	N/A	N/A	21.4	28.6
Construction	9.4	19.8	14.2	22.9
Manufacturing	14.4	16.1	15.4	25.5
Transp. & Public Utilities	17.2	23.3	16.1	27.6
Wholesale Trade	13.4	19.4	15.7	25.7
Retail	8.6	9.0	7.4	10.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	12.7	21.5	13.3	22.6
Services	6.2	10.3	9.8	16.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns*, 1980 and 1990.

Figure 6.3
 Number of Jobs, Selected Sectors
 Sherman County, 1980 and 1990



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

- Overall, 624 jobs were lost from the Sherman County economy between 1980 and 1990, a decrease of 13 percent.
- Services added 114 jobs during the 1980s, while the government sector remained stable. The sectors with the biggest job losses were farming (332 jobs), manufacturing (137) and retail (137 jobs).
- Sherman experienced a net loss of 585 jobs during the decade; this rate of job loss is equivalent to a constant shrinkage rate of roughly 1.4 percent per year.
- Mining is an extremely small part of the Sherman economy; mining also plays a very small role in the economies of the Adjacent Comparative counties.

Table 6.5
Distribution of Jobs, Net Change and Percentage Change by Sector
Sherman County, 1980-1990

<u>Industry</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>Industry Share of Net Change</u>
Total	4,787	4,163	-624	-13.0%	100%
Farm	1,094	762	-332	-30.3	53
Non-Farm	3,693	3,401	-292	-8.0	47
Agricultural Services	42	52	10	23.8	NM
Mining	28	16	-12	-42.9	3
Construction	222	127	-95	-42.8	15
Manufacturing	186	49	-137	-73.7	22
Transportation/P.Utilities	226	210	-15	-7.1	2
Wholesale	239	203	-36	-15.1	6
Retail	899	786	-113	-12.6	18
Finance, Insur. & R.Estate	195	183	-12	-6.2	2
Service	874	988	114	13.0	NM
Government	782	787	5	0.6	NM

NM= Not meaningful.

Note: Since changes may be positive or negative, percentage shares do not sum to 100%.

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

- No Trade Area or comparative county experienced greater rates of net job loss during the 1980s than Sherman County did (-13 percent).
- Thomas County and Cheyenne, Colorado, were alone among the comparatives in experiencing job growth during the decade.

Table 6.6
Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Net</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Sherman	4,787	4,163	-624	-13.0%
Kansas Trade Area	12,790	12,300	-490	-3.8
Wallace	1,224	1,106	-118	-9.6
Logan	2,159	1,940	-219	-10.1
Thomas	5,017	5,212	195	3.9
Rawlins	2,245	2,080	-165	-7.3
Cheyenne	2,145	1,962	-183	-8.5
Out of State Trade Area	14,094	14,149	55	0.4
Hitchcock, NE	1,919	1,696	-223	-11.6
Dundy, NE	1,459	1,414	-45	-3.1
Yuma, CO	5,194	5,177	-17	-0.3
Kit Carson, CO	4,234	4,448	-214	5.1
Cheyenne, CO	1,288	1,414	126	9.8
Comparatives	17,512	17,063	-449	-2.6
Russell	5,965	5,804	-161	-2.7
Mitchell	4,701	4,669	-32	-0.7
Scott	3,322	3,139	-183	-5.5
Norton	3,524	3,451	-73	-2.1
Non-Metro	624,269	641,079	16,810	2.7
Kansas	1,286,742	1,472,564	185,822	14.4

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

- During the decade, farm employment fell in Sherman by 332 jobs, a 30 percent decline. This was a more severe decline than was experienced by any of the comparative counties.
- Despite the dramatic job losses, the farm sector remained an integral part of the Sherman economy; in 1990, nearly one of every five jobs was in this sector.

Table 6.7
Farm Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>Share of 1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Share of 1990 Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Sherman	1,094	22.9	762	18.3	-332	-30.3%
Kansas Trade Area	3,781	29.6	2,981	24.2	-800	-21.1
Wallace	474	38.7	377	34.1	-97	-20.5
Logan	572	26.5	421	21.7	-151	-26.4
Thomas	1,017	20.3	777	14.9	-240	-23.6
Rawlins	891	39.7	708	34.0	-183	-20.5
Cheyenne	827	38.6	698	35.6	-129	-15.6
Out of State Trade Area	4,685	33.2	4,119	29.1	-566	-12.1
Hitchcock, NE	649	33.8	488	28.8	-161	-24.8
Dundy, NE	618	42.4	444	31.4	-174	-28.2
Yuma, CO	1,681	32.4	1,590	30.7	-91	-5.4
Kit Carson, CO	1,243	29.4	1,158	26.0	-85	-6.8
Cheyenne, CO	494	38.4	439	31.0	-55	-11.1
Comparatives	3,477	19.9	2,690	15.8	-787	-22.6
Russell	842	14.1	724	12.5	-118	-14.0
Mitchell	975	20.7	730	15.6	-245	-25.1
Scott	981	29.5	692	22.0	-289	-29.5
Norton	679	19.3	544	15.8	-135	-19.9
Non-Metro	90,441	14.5	75,445	11.8	-14,996	-16.6
Kansas	102,162	7.9	84,411	5.7	-17,751	-17.4

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

- Mining, including oil extraction, accounted for less than one percent of employment in Sherman County in 1980 and 1990. Among the Trade Area and Comparative counties, mining was a significant sector only in Russell and Cheyenne, Colorado.

Table 6.8
Mining Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>Share of 1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Share of 1990 Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Sherman	28	0.6%	16	0.4%	-12	-42.9%
Kansas Trade Area	63	0.5	39	0.3	-24	-38.1
Wallace	--	--	--	--	--	--
Logan	44	2.0	22	1.1	-22	-50.0
Thomas	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rawlins	19	0.8	17	0.8	-2	-10.5
Cheyenne	--	--	--	--	--	--
Out of State Trade Area	154	1.1	256	1.8	102	66.2
Hitchcock, NE	67	3.5	41	2.4	-26	-38.8
Dundy, NE	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yuma, CO	63	1.2	58	1.1	-5	-7.9
Kit Carson, CO	--	--	50	1.1	--	--
Cheyenne, CO	24	1.9	107	7.6	83	345.8
Comparatives	1,331	7.6	1,451	8.5	120	9.0
Russell	1,276	21.4	1,403	24.2	127	10.0
Mitchell	--	--	11	0.2	--	--
Scott	27	0.8	13	0.4	-14	-51.9
Norton	28	0.8	24	0.7	-4	-14.3
Non-Metro	20,101	3.2	18,142	2.8	-1,959	-9.7
Kansas	28,009	2.2	27,057	1.8	-952	-3.4

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

- In 1990 (prior to the opening of the sunflower crushing plant in Goodland), manufacturing accounted for only 1 percent of Sherman's employment (49 jobs). This represented a dramatic decline from 1980 employment levels in this sector.
- Throughout the Trade Area, manufacturing is an under-developed sector, with every county dramatically below the non-metro average of 11 percent of employment in manufacturing.

Table 6.9
Manufacturing Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

County	1980	Share of 1980 Total	1990	Share of 1990 Total	Net Change	Percent Change
Sherman	186	3.9%	49	1.2%	-137	-73.7%
Kansas Trade Area	215	1.7	210	1.7	-5	-2.3
Wallace	--	--	--	--	--	--
Logan	18	0.8	21	1.1	3	16.7
Thomas	148	2.9	104	2.0	-44	-29.7
Rawlins	36	1.6	71	3.4	35	97.2
Cheyenne	13	0.6	14	0.7	1	7.7
Out of State Trade Area	366	2.6	268	1.9	-98	-26.8
Hitchcock, NE	220	11.5	37	2.2	-183	-83.2
Dundy, NE	--	--	0	0.0	--	--
Yuma, CO	57	1.1	117	2.3	60	105.3
Kit Carson, CO	89	2.1	114	2.6	25	28.1
Cheyenne, CO	--	--	--	--	--	--
Comparatives	871	5.0	917	5.4	-46	5.3
Russell	336	5.6	344	5.9	8	2.4
Mitchell	338	7.2	380	8.1	42	12.4
Scott	110	3.3	62	2.0	-48	-43.6
Norton	87	2.5	131	3.8	44	50.6
Non-Metro	71,290	11.4	72,127	11.3	837	-1.2
Kansas	195,121	15.2	189,585	12.9	-5,536	-2.8

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

- The wholesale sector accounts for about one in twenty Sherman jobs. During the decade, Sherman lost 36 jobs in this sector.
- Sherman's neighbor to the west, Kit Carson County, has a well-developed wholesale sector, with 366 jobs, for more than 8 percent of its employment.

Table 6.10
Wholesale Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

County	1980	Share of 1980 Total	1990	Share of 1990 Total	Net Change	Percent Change
Sherman	239	5.0%	203	4.9%	-36	-15.1%
Kansas Trade Area	816	6.4	747	6.1	-69	-8.5
Wallace	89*	7.3*	70	6.3	-19	-21.3
Logan	115	5.3	99	5.1	-16	-13.9
Thomas	324	6.5	342	6.6	18	5.6
Rawlins	126	5.6	85	4.1	-41	-32.5
Cheyenne	162	7.6	151	7.7	-11	-6.8
Out of State Trade Area	881	6.3	812	5.7	-69	-7.8
Hitchcock, NE	71	3.7	53**	3.1**	-18	-25.4
Dundy, NE	60	4.1	51	3.6	-9	-15.0
Yuma, CO	365	7.0	288	5.6	-77	-21.1
Kit Carson, CO	324*	7.7*	366	8.2	42	13.0
Cheyenne, CO	61*	4.7*	54	3.8	-7	-11.5
Comparatives	1,009	5.8	873	5.1	-136	-13.5
Russell	278	4.7	171	2.9	-107	-38.5
Mitchell	384	8.2	407	8.7	23	6.0
Scott	208	6.3	165	5.3	-43	-20.7
Norton	139	3.9	130	3.8	-9	-6.5
Non-Metro	28,954	4.6	26,479	4.1	-2,475	-8.5
Kansas	68,485	5.3	73,311	5.0	4,826	7.0

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

* U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1982 Census of Wholesale Trade*, included in trade area totals (BEA figures not available).

** U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1987 Census of Wholesale Trade*, included in trade area total (BEA figures not available).

- Sherman County's retail sector is a very important part of the local economy, with 19 percent of employment in this sector, despite losing 113 jobs over the 1980s.
- The opening of the outlet center at Colby helped Thomas County add 166 net new jobs over the decade, virtually the same number of jobs lost from Sherman County's retail sector. Kit Carson County in Colorado also grew its retail sector by 102 jobs over this period.

Table 6.11
Retail Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>Share of 1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Share of 1990 Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Sherman	899	18.8%	786	18.9%	-113	-12.6%
Kansas Trade Area	2,083	16.3	1,917	15.6	-166	-8.0
Wallace	154	12.6	109	9.9	-45	-29.2
Logan	494	22.9	334	17.2	-160	-32.4
Thomas	828	16.5	944	18.1	116	14.0
Rawlins	282	12.6	241	11.6	-41	-14.5
Cheyenne	325	15.2	289	14.7	-36	-11.1
Out of State Trade Area	2,094	14.9	2,071	14.6	-23	-1.1
Hitchcock, NE	221	11.5	235	13.9	14	6.3
Dundy, NE	175	12.0	186	13.2	11	6.3
Yuma, CO	899	17.3	756	14.6	-143	-15.9
Kit Carson, CO	624	14.7	726	16.3	102	16.3
Cheyenne, CO	175	13.6	168	11.9	-7	-4.0
Comparatives	2,460	14.0	2,190	12.8	-270	-11.0
Russell	759	12.7	731	12.6	-28	-3.7
Mitchell	700	14.9	616	13.2	-84	-12.0
Scott	464	14.0	370	11.8	-94	-20.3
Norton	537	15.2	473	13.7	-64	-11.9
Non-Metro	92,492	14.8	95,567	14.9	3,075	3.3
Kansas	198,491	15.4	232,990	15.8	34,499	17.4

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

- Of the fifteen counties examined, only Thomas and Mitchell had more service sector jobs than Sherman County's 988 jobs in 1990.
- With nearly one in every four jobs coming from services, no other county had such a well-developed service sector.

Table 6.12
Service Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>Share of 1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Share of 1990 Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Sherman	874	18.3%	988	23.7%	114	13.0%
Kansas Trade Area	1,686	13.2	2,065	16.8	379	22.5
Wallace	--	--	126	11.4	--	--
Logan	294	13.6	309	15.9	15	5.1
Thomas	771	15.4	1,030	19.8	259	33.6
Rawlins	296	13.2	259	12.5	-37	-12.5
Cheyenne	325	15.2	341	17.4	16	4.9
Out of State Trade Area	1,614	11.5	1,907	13.5	293	18.2
Hitchcock, NE	154	8.0	172	10.1	18	11.7
Dundy, NE	166	11.4	295	20.9	129	77.7
Yuma, CO	602	11.6	714	13.8	112	18.6
Kit Carson, CO	561	13.2	645	14.5	84	15.0
Cheyenne, CO	131	10.2	81	5.7	-50	-38.2
Comparatives	2,950	16.8	3,281	19.2	331	11.2
Russell	836	14.0	915	15.8	79	9.4
Mitchell	959	20.4	1,013	21.7	54	5.6
Scott	598	18.0	687	21.9	89	14.9
Norton	557	15.8	666	19.3	109	19.6
Non-Metro	103,538	16.6	126,648	19.8	23,110	22.3
Kansas	243,640	18.9	344,870	23.4	101,230	41.5

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

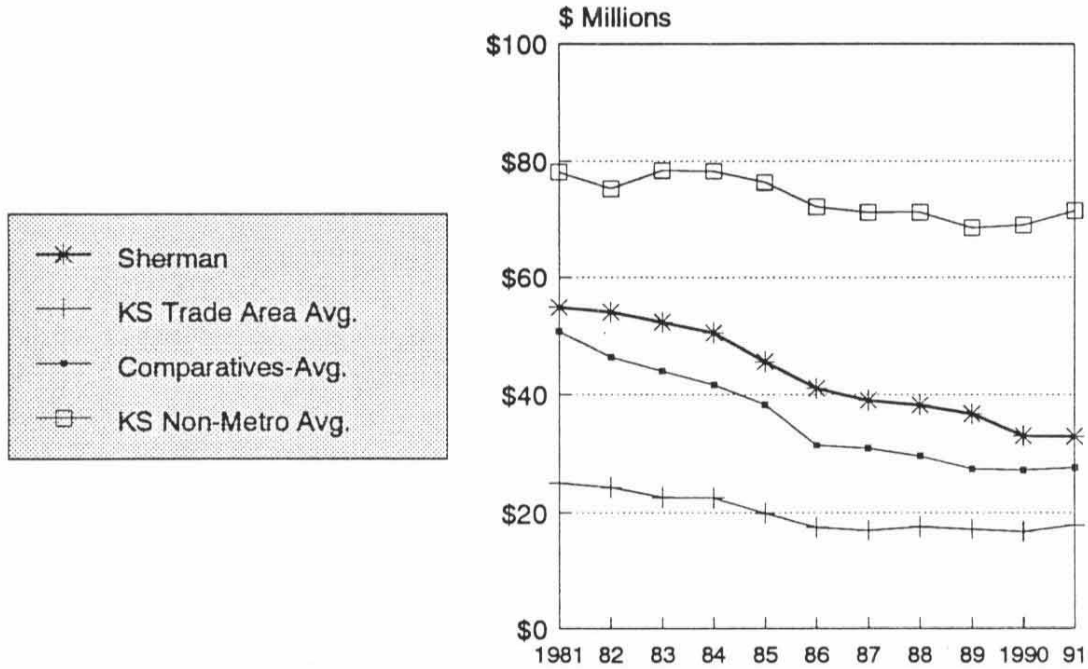
- The number of government jobs in Sherman remained stable in 1990, totalling 787. Most of the Trade Area and Comparative Counties experienced growth of 10 percent and more in government employment.
- The proportion of employment accounted for by government jobs, one in five, is on par with the proportions found in Kansas state-wide and in most of the Trade Area Counties.

Table 6.13
Government Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Sherman, Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>Share of 1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Share of 1990 Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Sherman	782	16.3%	787	18.9%	5	0.6%
Kansas Trade Area	2,210	17.3	2,548	20.7	338	15.3
Wallace	190	15.5	230	20.8	40	21.1
Logan	343	15.9	412	21.2	69	20.1
Thomas	1,044	20.8	1,132	21.7	88	8.4
Rawlins	365	16.3	479	23.0	114	31.2
Cheyenne	268	12.5	295	15.0	27	10.1
Out-of-State Trade Area	2,205	15.6	2,569	18.2	364	16.5
Hitchcock, NE	379	19.7	420	24.8	41	10.8
Dundy, NE	265	18.2	261	18.5	-4	-1.5
Yuma, CO	688	13.2	812	15.7	124	18.0
Kit Carson, CO	647	15.3	770	17.3	123	19.0
Cheyenne, CO	226	17.5	306	21.6	80	35.4
Comparatives	2,929	16.7	3,066	18.0	137	4.7
Russell	851	14.3	846	14.6	-5	-0.6
Mitchell	718	15.3	846	18.1	128	17.8
Scott	365	11.0	437	13.9	72	19.7
Norton	995	28.2	937	27.2	-58	-5.8
Non-Metro	117,343	18.8	134,853	21.0	17,510	14.9
Kansas	227,929	17.7	267,723	18.2	39,794	17.5

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

Figure 6.4
Taxable Retail Sales Levels, 1981-1991
 Sherman County, Avg. of Comparatives
 In Real \$1982-1984



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

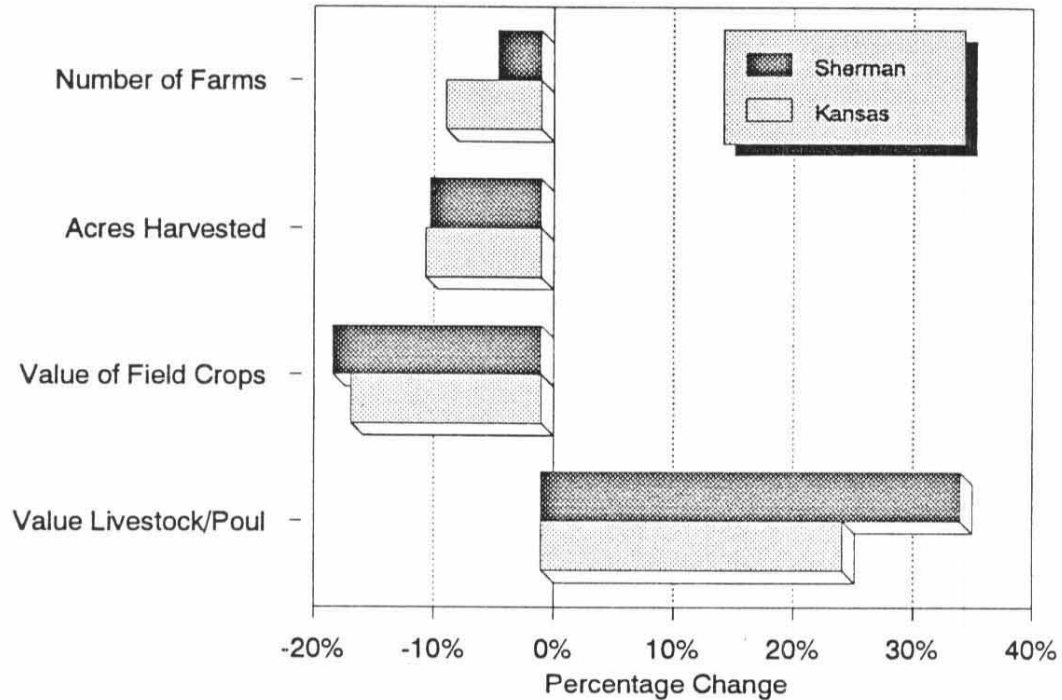
- Taxable retail sales (in real dollars) in Sherman fell from \$55 million at the beginning of the decade to \$32 million at its end.
- During the decade, taxable retail sales (in real dollars) in Sherman fell by 40 percent; compared with real declines of 29 percent in the Trade Area and 46 percent in Comparative Counties.
- Since 1987, retail sales have grown in real terms by 23 percent in Thomas County. None of the other counties examined has experienced similar growth.

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

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
Sherman	\$ 54.8	\$ 54.0	\$ 52.3	\$ 50.5	\$ 45.6	\$ 41.1
Kansas Trade Area	125.1	121.4	113.1	112.7	99.3	87.6
Wallace	7.7	7.0	6.7	6.5	5.6	5.3
Logan	21.6	21.1	21.1	20.1	19.2	16.5
Thomas	62.7	60.3	54.8	58.7	50.4	43.6
Rawlins	15.1	14.9	13.7	11.8	10.6	11.0
Cheyenne	18.0	18.1	16.8	15.6	13.5	11.2
Comparatives	202.9	185.5	176.0	166.7	153.0	125.8
Russell	97.0	83.3	71.5	65.0	59.2	41.6
Mitchell	43.9	43.4	43.3	41.7	38.8	35.5
Scott	33.0	32.2	31.7	31.5	29.5	25.9
Norton	29.0	26.6	29.5	28.5	25.5	22.8
Non-Metro	7,498.0	7,231.0	7,524.0	7,520.0	7,332.0	6,927.0
Kansas	14,822.0	14,396.0	15,019.0	15,216.0	15,150.0	14,745.0
	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>Pct.Chg.</u>
Sherman	\$ 39.0	\$ 38.2	\$ 36.7	\$ 33.0	\$ 32.9	-40.0%
KS Trade Area	85.2	87.8	86.1	84.1	89.3	-28.6
Wallace	4.8	5.6	4.9	5.1	5.2	-32.5
Logan	16.0	15.7	14.6	14.7	14.9	-31.0
Thomas	41.6	44.0	46.4	46.4	51.5	-17.9
Rawlins	11.6	11.3	9.6	7.9	7.3	-51.7
Cheyenne	11.2	11.2	10.6	10.0	10.4	-42.2
Comparatives	123.9	118.5	109.7	108.9	110.5	-45.5
Russell	39.0	37.1	34.0	33.3	33.5	-65.5
Mitchell	35.9	33.5	29.9	30.9	31.7	-27.8
Scott	27.3	25.4	24.3	23.5	23.7	-28.2
Norton	21.7	22.5	21.5	21.2	21.6	-25.5
Non-Metro	6,837.0	6,838.0	6,581.0	6,623.0	6,854.0	-8.6
Kansas	14,733.0	14,837.0	14,545.0	14,332.0	14,675.0	-1.0

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

Figure 6.5
Changes in Farm Production
 Sherman County and Kansas, 1980-1990



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

- The number of farms in Sherman decreased 4 percent between 1980 and 1990, from 550 farms to 530 farms. Overall, this rate of decline was less than that of most Comparative Counties.
- During the decade, the number of acres harvested in Sherman fell 9 percent. As a result, the average size of a Sherman farm also decreased.
- Total value of farm output in Sherman declined by 15 percent during the 1980s. Field crops fell from a level of \$50 million annually to \$42 million in 1989-90, while livestock and poultry increased from \$12 million to \$16 million.

Table 6.15
 Number of Farms and Acres Harvested
 Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980-81 and 1989-90

	Number of Farms			Acres Harvested (000s)		
	1980- 1981	1989- 1990	Percent Change	1980- 1981	1989- 1990	Percent Change
Sherman	550	530	-3.6%	300	272	-9.3%
Kansas Trade Area	2,531	2,390	-5.6	1,075	1,094	1.8
Wallace	325	330	1.5	166	169	1.8
Logan	418	390	-6.7	185	176	-4.9
Thomas	625	640	2.4	311	334	7.4
Rawlins	610	540	-11.5	200	212	6.0
Cheyenne	553	490	-11.4	213	203	-4.7
Comparatives	2,305	2,040	-11.5	810	708	-12.6
Russell	650	540	-16.9	182	129	-29.1
Mitchell	698	630	-9.7	244	194	-20.0
Scott	420	390	-7.1	215	215	0.0
Norton	537	480	-10.6	169	170	0.6
Kansas	75,500	69,000	-8.0	21,931	19,823	-9.7

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

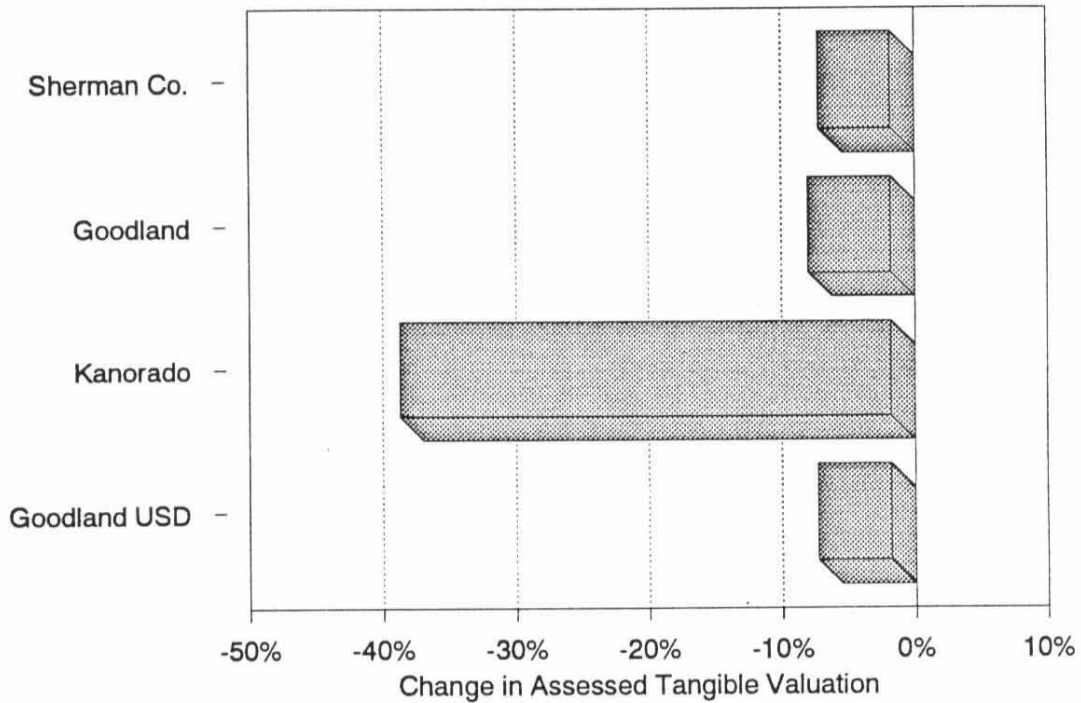
Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, *Kansas Statistical Abstract*, various issues.

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

	Field Crops			Livestock & Poultry		
	1980- 1981 (\$ millions)	1989- 1990 (\$ millions)	Percent Change	1980- 1981 (\$ millions)	1989- 1990 (\$ millions)	Percent Change
Sherman	\$ 49.9	\$ 41.2	-17.4%	\$ 11.7	\$ 15.8	35.0%
Kansas Trade Area	164.5	143.3	-12.9	65.4	67.8	3.7
Wallace	27.3	23.9	-12.3	6.5	7.8	20.0
Logan	21.9	19.0	-13.2	14.1	14.6	3.5
Thomas	53.6	46.5	-13.2	11.4	15.6	36.8
Rawlins	26.8	23.1	-13.8	24.4	14.1	-42.2
Cheyenne	34.9	30.8	-11.7	9.0	15.7	74.4
Comparatives	172.5	132.8	-23.0	118.1	184.0	55.8
Russell	21.0	12.0	-42.9	9.4	10.1	7.4
Mitchell	29.7	21.7	-26.9	16.9	29.5	74.6
Scott	34.4	31.6	-8.1	62.0	103.4	66.8
Norton	21.5	17.8	-17.2	12.9	14.2	10.1
Kansas	2,996.0	2,519.0	-15.9	2,229.9	2,790.2	25.1

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

Figure 6.6
 Change in Assessment Base, 1990-1992
 Sherman Co. & Selected Components



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

- Assessed tangible valuation decreased in Sherman from \$49.4 million in 1990 to \$46.8 million in 1992, a decrease of 5 percent. Trade Area and Comparative Counties showed a mixed pattern over this period.
- Russell County led all counties examined with assessment growth of nearly 8 percent from 1990 to 1992. No city or school district examined experienced assessment growth over this period.
- Sherman County's debt load (1.5 percent of valuation) was moderate in 1992, while Goodland's was slightly high at 10 percent of valuation.

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

	<u>Assessed Tangible Valuation</u> (millions of dollars)			<u>Bonded Indebtedness</u>	
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>1992 Total</u>	<u>% Tangible Valuation</u>
Sherman	\$ 49.4	\$ 46.8	-5.4%	\$ 690,000	1.5%
Wallace	24.8	21.4	-13.9	0	0.0
Logan	27.8	25.6	-7.9	195,000	0.8
Thomas	61.3	60.9	-0.7	83,200	0.1
Rawlins	30.5	29.7	-2.7	175,000	0.6
Cheyenne	29.9	28.3	-5.3	0	0.0
Russell	60.8	65.5	7.7	0	0.0
Mitchell	35.5	34.5	-2.8	1,155,000	3.3
Scott	40.9	42.0	2.7	53,820	0.1
Norton	27.0	27.7	2.5	5,250,000	19.0
Cities:					
Goodland	16.3	15.3	-6.2	1,510,000	9.9
Kanorado	0.9	0.6	-36.9	10,650	1.9
Atwood	4.3	3.9	-8.2	296,513	7.6
Colby	20.9	20.1	-3.6	11,259,000	55.9
Oakley	6.5	6.0	-7.7	50,000	0.8
St. Francis	18.4	3.9	-78.9	0	0.0
Sharon Springs	2.3	2.3	-0.5	6,000	0.3
Bird City	11.5	2.0	-82.2	40,000	2.0
Winona	0.8	0.7	-9.5	74,000	10.8
School Districts:					
Goodland	45.8	43.3	-5.5	0	0.0
Brewster	11.2	10.9	-2.5	140,000	1.3
Colby	40.3	39.3	-2.3	0	0.0
Oakley	25.3	25.2	-0.5	0	0.0
Wallace County	15.2	14.2	-6.7	0	0.0

Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, *Kansas Government Journal*, January issues, 1990-1992.

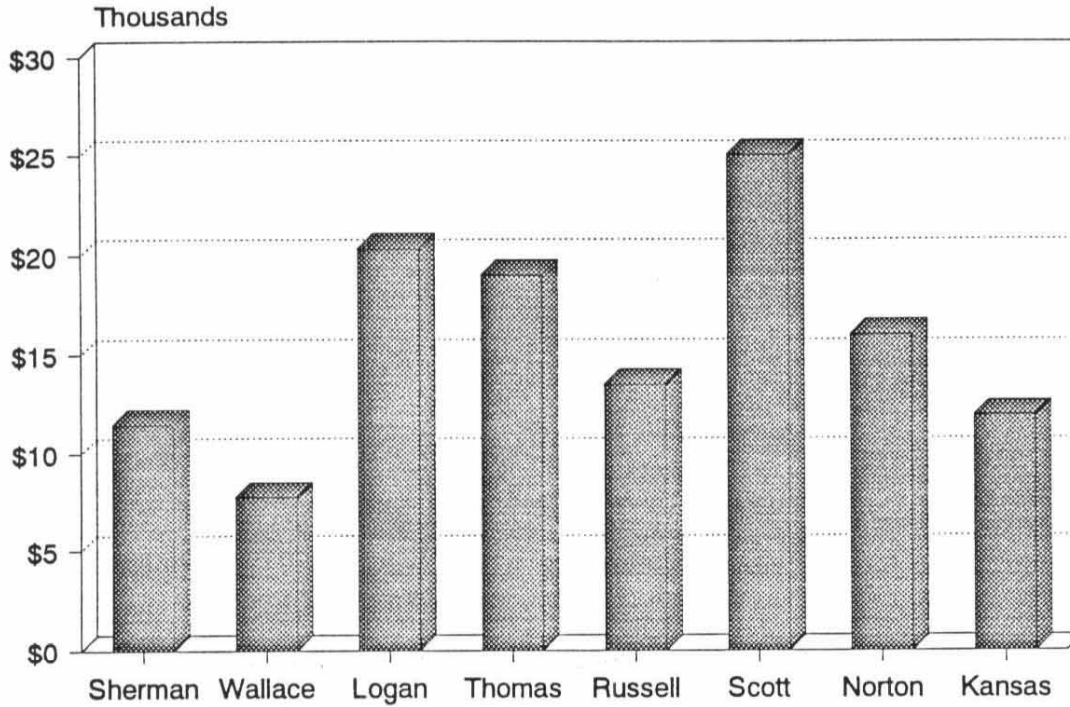
- The increase in tax levies for Sherman County was higher than most of the comparison counties between 1990 and 1992; however, the change in tax levies for Goodland and the Goodland School District were generally lower than most of the comparatives.

Table 6.18
 City, County and School District Tax Levies in Mills
 Sherman and Selected Comparatives, 1990 and 1992

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<u>Counties:</u>			
Sherman	35.590	46.014	29.3%
Wallace	28.536	38.726	35.7
Logan	27.243	33.682	23.6
Thomas	22.030	24.870	12.9
Rawlins	55.720	57.529	3.2
Cheyenne	32.820	36.680	11.8
Russell	30.948	29.061	-6.1
Mitchell	42.372	46.032	8.6
Scott	34.190	36.837	7.7
Norton	50.265	53.975	7.4
<u>Cities:</u>			
Goodland	35.640	29.854	-16.2
Kanorado	29.530	36.950	25.1
Atwood	18.320	17.815	-2.8
Colby	25.860	30.950	19.7
Oakley	40.289	39.630	-1.6
St. Francis	28.080	32.500	15.7
Sharon Springs	24.376	24.678	1.2
Bird City	21.090	17.310	-17.9
Winona	33.641	25.710	-23.6
<u>School Districts:</u>			
Goodland	53.99	59.96	11.1
Brewster	72.41	73.58	1.6
Colby	45.43	52.77	16.2
Oakley	58.80	68.47	16.4
Wallace County	49.89	64.74	29.8

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

Figure 6.7
Bank Assets Per Capita, 1990
 Sherman, Selected Comparatives & Kansas



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

- Sherman County has one bank headquartered within the county, fewer than any comparison counties except Wallace.
- The size of that bank matches the state average in terms of assets per capita, but is smaller than those in most of the comparison counties.

Table 6.19
 Total Number of Banks, Total Assets, and Bank Assets per Capita
 Sherman, Selected Comparatives, and Kansas, 1990

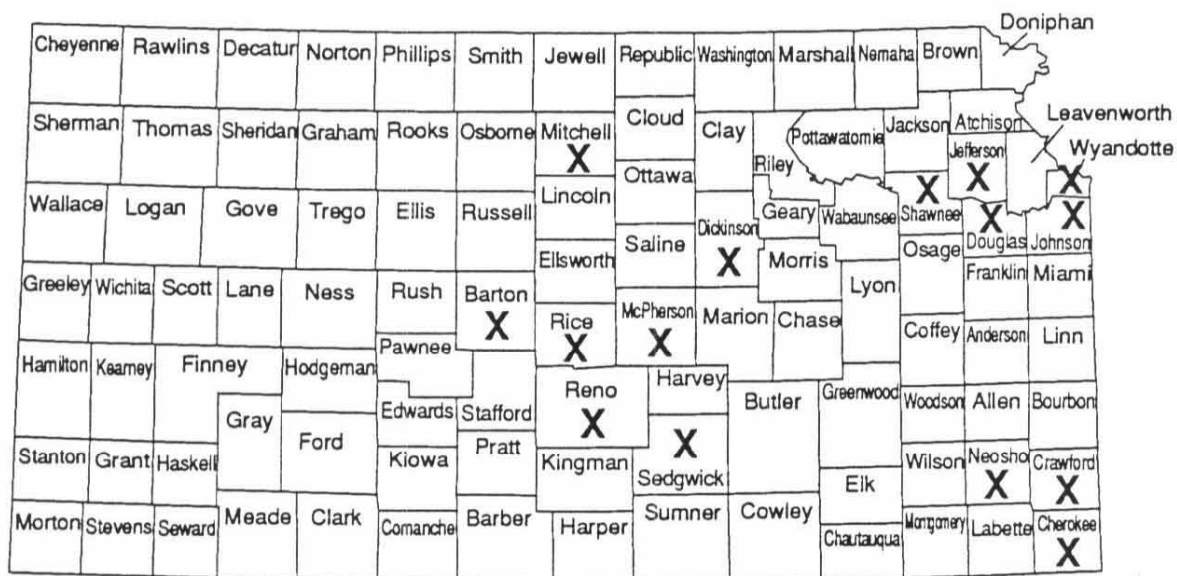
	<u>Number of Bank Headquarters</u>	<u>Bank Assets</u>	
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Capita</u>
		(\$ Millions)	
Sherman	1	79.6	11,493
Wallace	1	14.1	7,743
Logan	2	62.6	20,318
Thomas	3	156.9	19,000
Rawlins	2	48.5	14,248
Cheyenne	2	39.5	12,180
Russell	3	105.7	13,491
Mitchell	6	108.6	15,077
Scott	2	132.5	25,052
Norton	4	95.1	15,991
Kansas	555	29.6	11,947

Note: Data is for banks headquartered within the county and excludes branches headquartered in other counties.

Source: Sheshunoff & Company, *Banks of Kansas, 1990* (Austin, Texas, 1991).

- Certified Venture/Seed Capital Companies are located in four Kansas counties: Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, and Shawnee. However, their investments (through calendar year 1990) were located in fifteen of the state's 105 counties. None of these had been made west of Barton County.
- There are fifteen Certified Development Companies in Kansas. The nearest of these to Sherman is located in Graham County.

Map 6.1
Location of Venture/Seed Capital Investments



Source: Kansas Department of Commerce, 1992.

Table 6.20
 Location of Venture Capital, Seed Capital, Certified Companies,
 and Venture/Seed Capital Investments

	Location of:			
	<u>Venture Capital Co.¹</u>	<u>Seed Capital Pools²</u>	<u>CDCs³</u>	<u>Venture/Seed Cap. Investments⁴</u>
Barton				•
Cherokee				•
Crawford			•	•
Dickinson				•
Douglas	•		•	•
Ford			•	
Graham			•	
Jefferson				•
Johnson	•		•	•
Leavenworth			•	
Lyon			•	
McPherson			•	•
Mitchell			•	•
Neosho				•
Reno				•
Rice				•
Riley			•	
Sedgwick	•	•	•	•
Shawnee	•		•	•
Wyandotte			•	•

¹Certified Kansas Venture Capital Companies.

² Certified Kansas Local Seed Capital Pools.

³ Kansas Certified Development Companies.

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

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

Section VII: Innovation & Technology

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

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

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

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

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

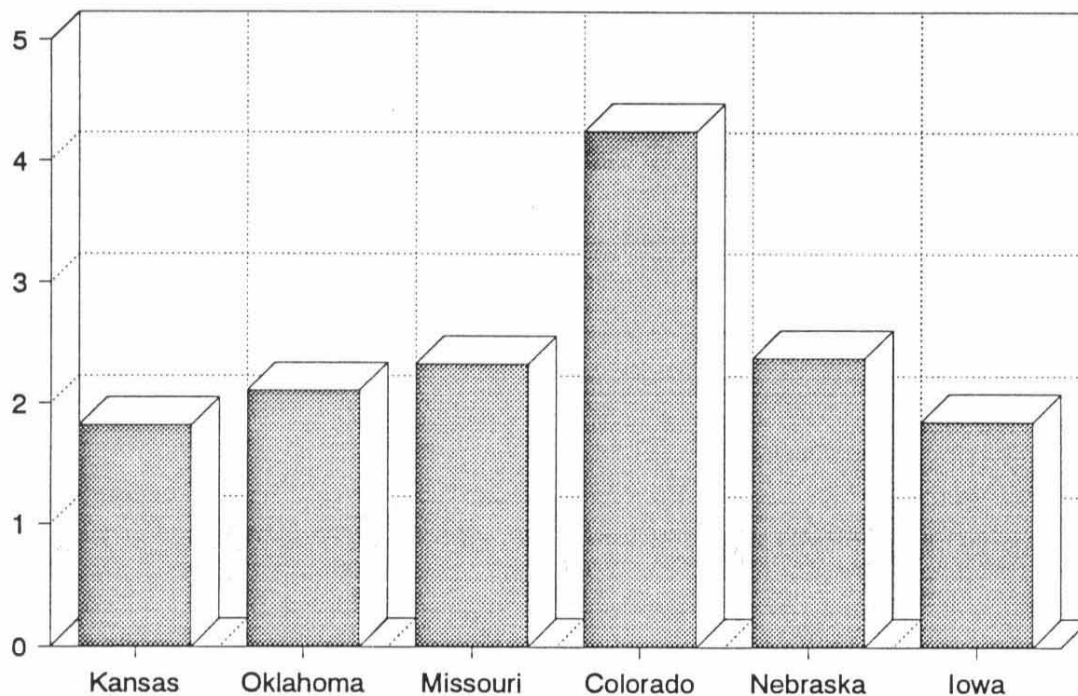
- *The number of patents issued* is an indication of the level of innovation in a state. However, caution should be used with this number because patents are often issued at the site of an organization's headquarters, not necessarily at the location where the innovation was developed.
- *University research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

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY: KEY FINDINGS

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

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY: DATA ANALYSIS

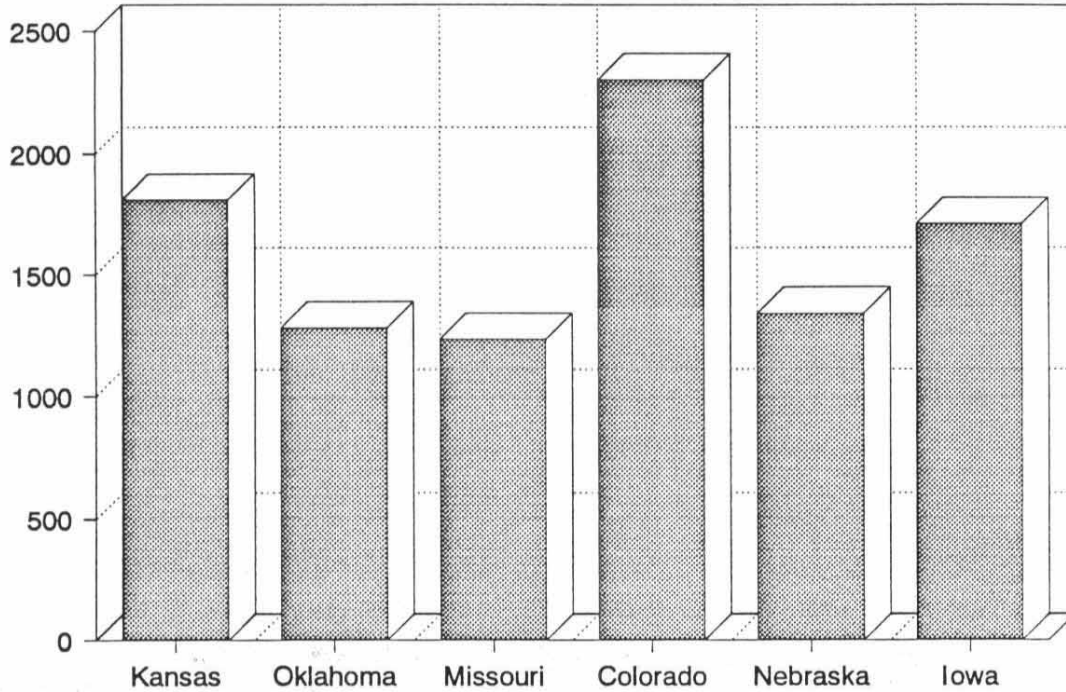
Figure 7.1

Scientists and Engineers
Per 1,000 Workers, 1990

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

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

Figure 7.2
**Science and Engineering Students
 Per 1 Million Population, 1990**



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

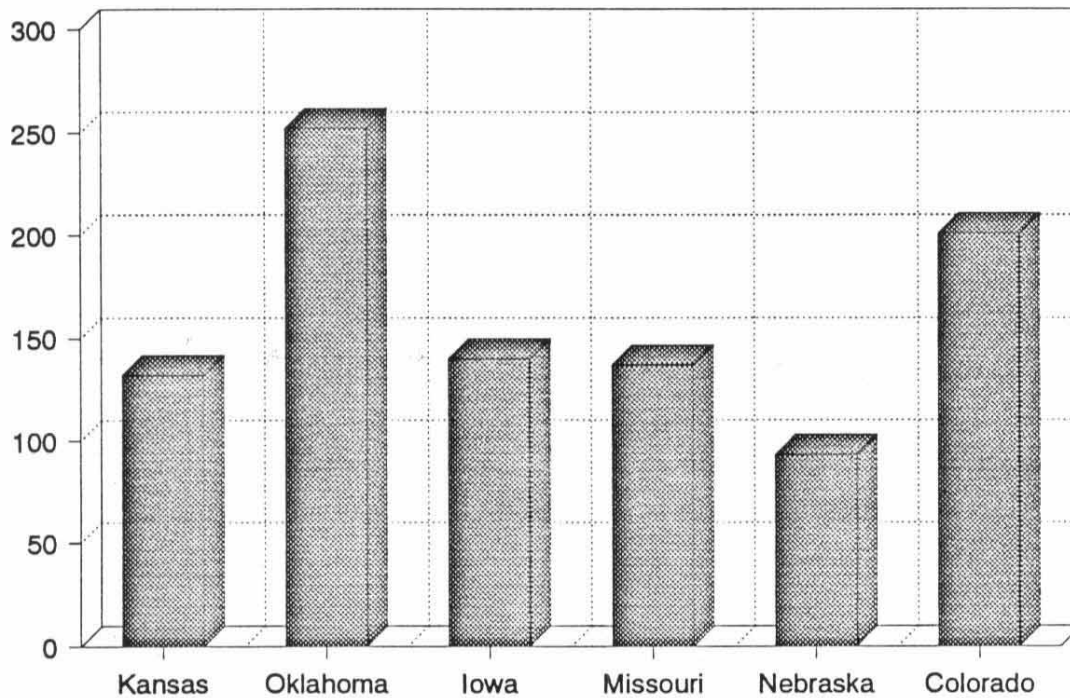
Table 7.1
**Science and Engineering Professionals and Students
 Kansas and Surrounding States, 1989/1990**

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

¹1989 data; ²1990 data. *Numbers are rounded.

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

Figure 7.3
 Patents Issued Per 1 Million Population
 Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990



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

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

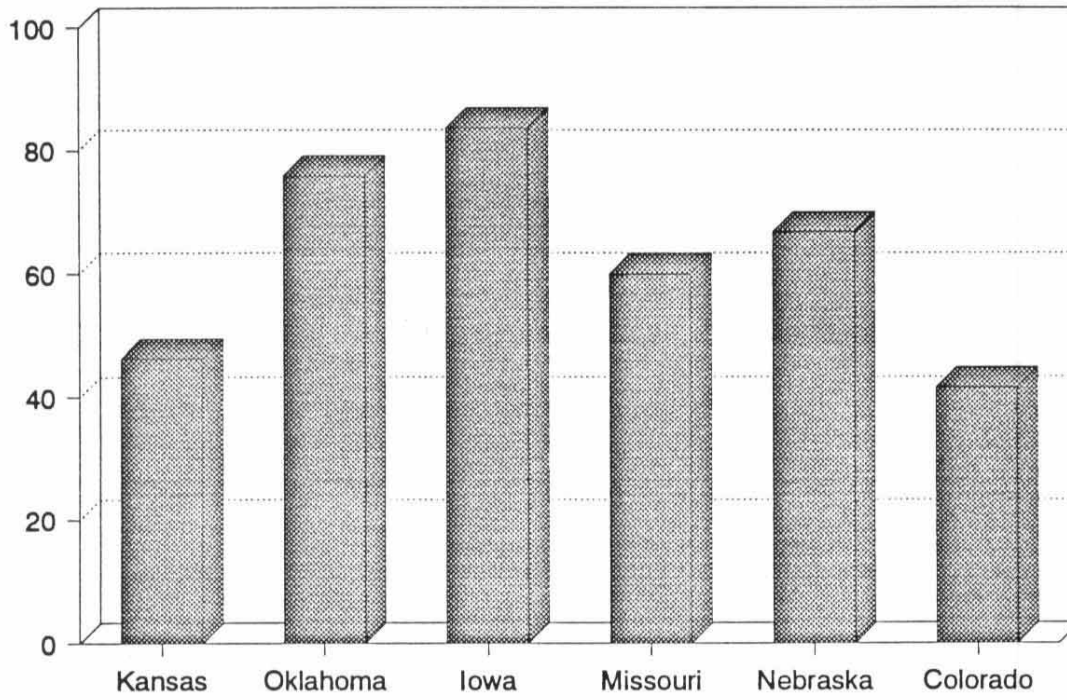
Table 7.2
 Patents Issued Per 1 Million Population¹
 Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

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

¹1990 data; *Numbers are rounded.

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

Figure 7.4
 University Research and Development
 Per Capita, 1990



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

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

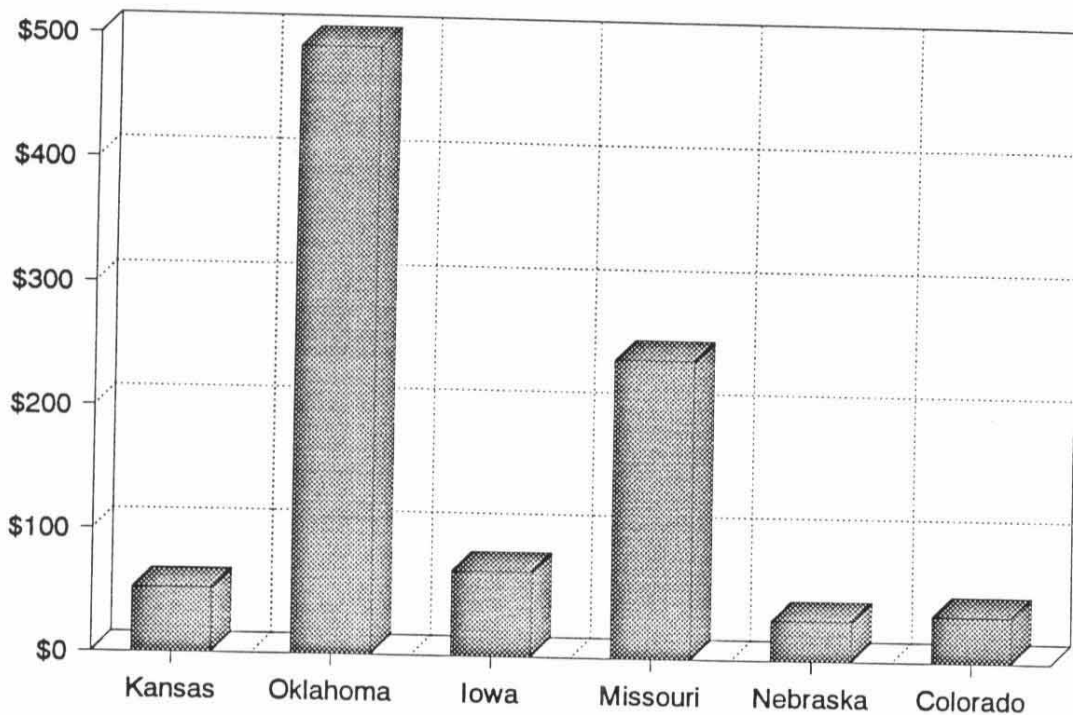
Table 7.3
 University Research and Development Per Capita¹
 Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

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

¹1990 data.

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

Figure 7.5
Federal Research & Development
 Spending Per Capita, 1990



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

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

Table 7.4
 Federal Research & Development Spending Per Capita¹
 Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

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

¹1990 data.

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

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

Table 7.5
Technology Resources Subindex of
Development Capacity Report Card

	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Kansas	41	C
Colorado	2	A
Iowa	28	C
Missouri	30	C
Nebraska	34	C
Oklahoma	38	D

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

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

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

Table 7.6
State Policy Report Card, 1991
Technology & Innovation Subindex

	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Kansas	7	A
Colorado	18	B
Iowa	1	A
Missouri	7	A
Nebraska	37	D
Oklahoma	7	A

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

Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, *The 1991 Development Report Card For The States.*"

DESCRIPTION OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY EFFORTS

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

Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC):

KTEC is a non-profit corporation that was created by the state of Kansas in 1987. KTEC's mission is "to create and maintain employment by fostering innovation, stimulating the commercialization of new technologies and promoting the creation, growth and expansion of Kansas enterprises."¹

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

1) Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC)

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

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

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

2) Centers of Excellence

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

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

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

- b) Center for Excellence in Computer Aided Systems Engineering (CECASE). Located at the University of Kansas, this Center conducts research into "methodologies for computer aided analysis and design of advanced engineering systems, and the development of (sic) prototype software products."
- c) Center for Technology Transfer (CTT). Located at Pittsburg State University, this Center's technical expertise and research programs help companies design, test, and develop prototypes, products and processing methods.
In addition, CTT works with the Institute for Economic Development at Pittsburg State University in order to provide clients with expertise in management methods, capital creation, and technology transfer.
- d) Higuchi Biosciences Center (HBC). This center, located at the University of Kansas, includes the Center for Biomedical Research, the Center for Bioanalytical Research, the Center for Drug Delivery Research, and the Center for Molecular Engineering and Immunology.
The research foci of these Centers include the "three activities that are essential to the preclinical phase of drug therapy development-analysis, delivery, and formulation."
- e) National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR). This Center at Wichita State University. caters to the research and technology needs of the aviation industry.

3) Applied Research Matching Fund

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

4) Small Business Innovation Research Grants

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

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

5) Training Equipment Grants

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

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

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

7) Ad Astra Fund

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

OTHER PROGRAMS

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

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

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

Section VIII: Quality of Life

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

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

In this section, the following measures are examined:

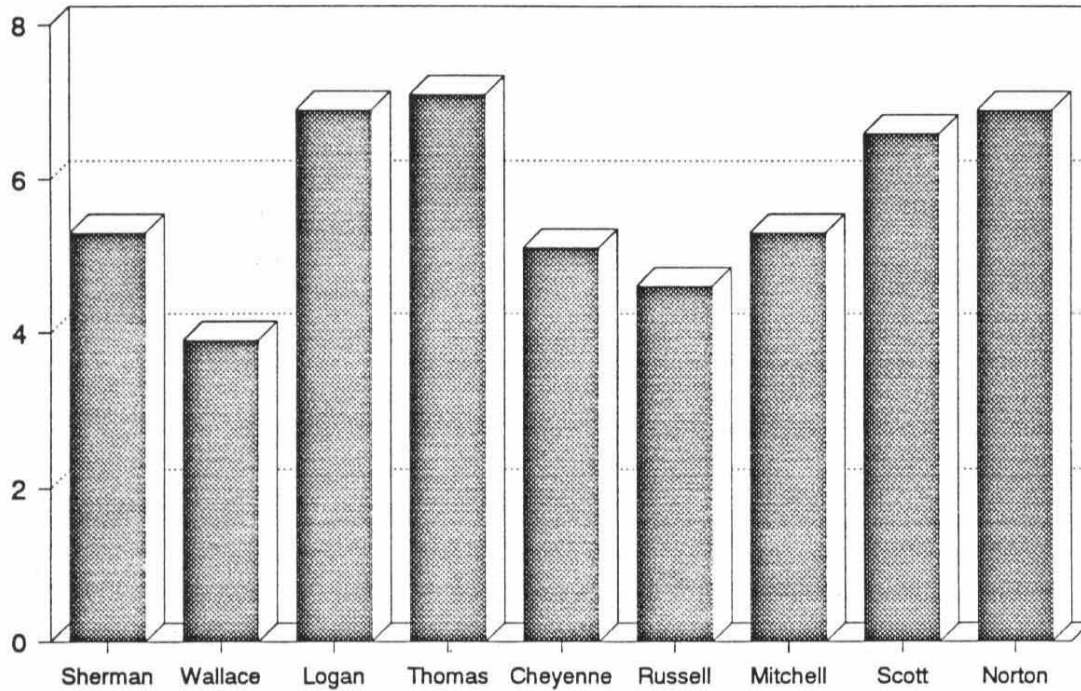
- *overall indices* take into account the number of volumes in public libraries (per capita), sites on the National Register of Historic Places, museums, local events, and state/federal recreation areas;
- *crime index offenses* indicate social stability and level of public safety;
- *hospital beds and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

QUALITY OF LIFE: KEY FINDINGS

- On overall indices, (library volumes per capita; number of sites on National Register of Historic Places; number of museums; number of events; & number of state/federal recreational programs), Sherman County generally meets or exceeds the average of its Trade Area and Comparative counties.
- Crime rates were higher in Sherman County than for any comparison county examined throughout the 1980s, matching the state average. However, during the latter part of the 1980s, Sherman's violent crime decreased by nearly 40 percent.
- Sherman County generally enjoys good access to health care facilities. Access to physicians was better than any of the comparison counties, but was still half the state average in 1990. Hospital bed access was almost 20 percent better than the state average, with admission rates per bed nearly 40 percent lower than the state rate in 1990.
- Sherman County has relatively few licensed adult care beds to serve its over-65 population. Its rate of 5 beds for every 100 persons over 65 in 1990 compared poorly with nearby counties and the state, which averaged 7 to 9 beds per 100.
- Licensed day care centers were less accessible in Sherman County than in most Trade Area counties, while the availability of pre-school facilities in Sherman was generally better than average.
- The proportion of its population with incomes below the poverty level increased dramatically in Sherman County during the 1980s. By 1989, more than 16 percent of the population had poverty status, compared with 11 percent statewide.
- Housing availability declined marginally in Sherman County during the 1980s, with a 3.5 percent decline in housing units outpacing a 3.1 percent decline in the number of households. Vacancy rates were lower than most of the Trade Area counties.
- In 1990, the median value of an owner-occupied home in Sherman was \$37,900, which was 28 percent lower than the Kansas average, but higher than that of nearly all of the Trade Area and Comparative counties.

QUALITY OF LIFE: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 8.1
Public Library Volumes Per Capita
 Sherman and Kansas Comparatives



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

- The number of public library volumes per capita in Sherman was generally on par with its Trade Area and the Comparative counties.
- Sherman County has more historical places on the national register than any of its Trade Area counties.

Table 8.1
Quality of Life: Overall Indices
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, and Comparative Counties

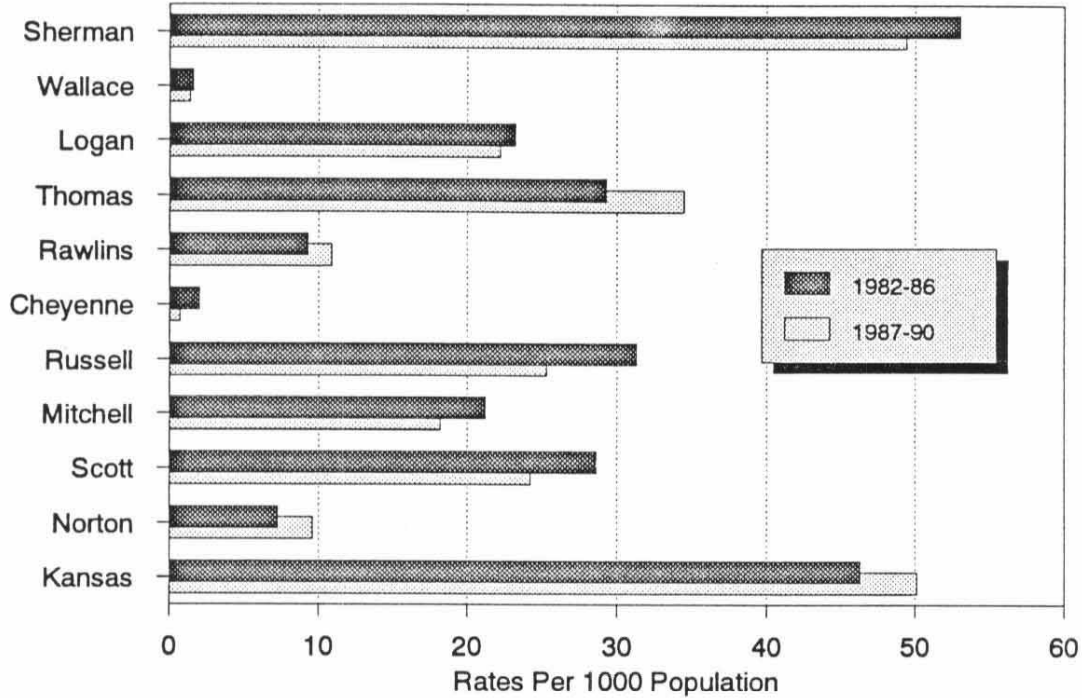
	<u>Library Volumes Per Capita</u>	<u>Number of Sites on National Register of Historical Places</u>	<u>Number of Museums</u>	<u>Number of Events¹</u>	<u>Number of State/Federal Recreational Areas</u>
Sherman	5.3	3	1	8	1
Wallace	3.9	2	1	5	--
Logan	6.9	1	3	15	1
Thomas	7.1 ²	1	1	23	--
Rawlins	0.9	--	1	4	--
Cheyenne	5.1	--	1	--	1
Russell	4.6	9	2	10	1
Mitchell	5.3	7	1	5	1
Scott	6.6	1	--	3	1
Norton	6.9	--	2	2	3

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

²Does not include all libraries in county.

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

Figure 8.2
 Crime Indices, 1982-86 and 1987-90
 Sherman, Kansas Comparatives and Kansas



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

- Crime rates were higher in Sherman County than in any Trade Area or Comparative County throughout the 1980s, generally matching the state average.
- From the early to latter part of the decade, crime rates dropped slightly in Sherman County.
- Violent crime decreased by 40 percent in Sherman County during the latter part of the 1980s.

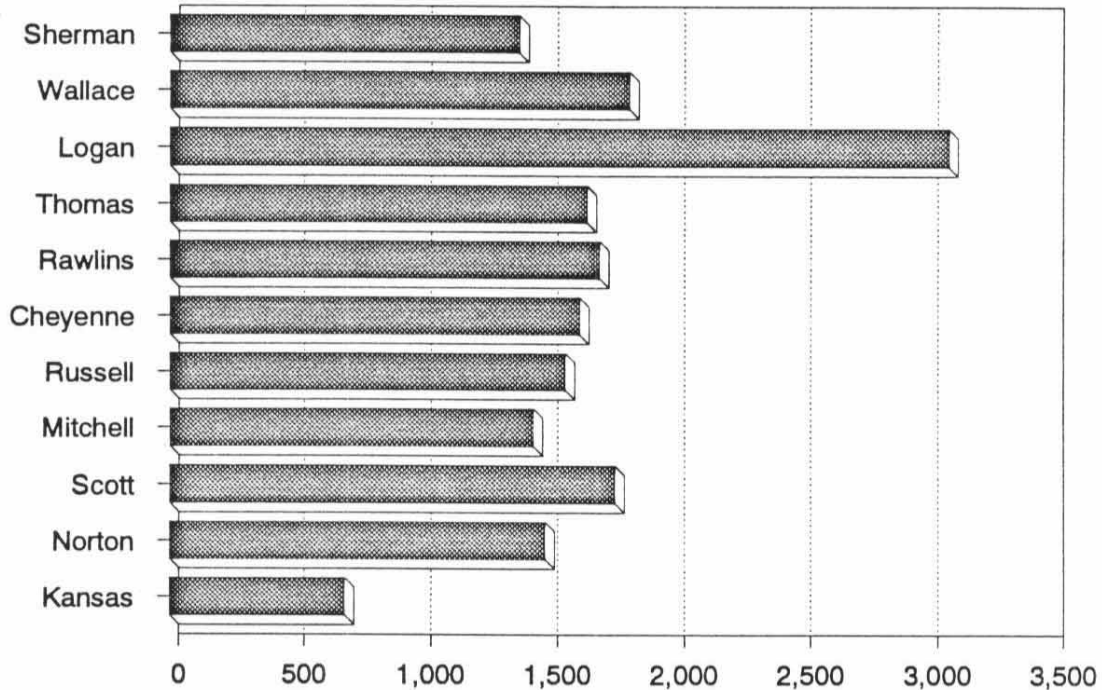
Table 8.2
 Crime Indices: Rate per 1,000 Population, 4-year Averages
 Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1982-1986 and 1987-1990

	Crime Index Offenses		Violent Crime		Property Crime	
	1982-86	1987-1990	1982-86	1987-90	1982-86	1987-90
Sherman	53.0	49.4	5.7	3.5	47.3	45.9
Wallace	1.6	1.4	0.1	0.0	1.5	1.4
Logan	23.2	22.2	0.5	0.8	22.6	21.4
Thomas	29.3	34.5	1.6	1.7	27.7	32.7
Rawlins	9.3	10.9	1.1	0.1	8.2	10.8
Cheyenne	2.0	0.7	0.2	0.2	1.8	0.5
Russell	31.3	25.3	2.1	1.6	29.2	23.7
Mitchell	21.2	18.2	1.8	1.3	19.4	16.9
Scott	28.6	24.2	1.7	1.7	26.8	22.5
Norton	7.3	9.6	0.5	1.0	6.8	8.6
Kansas	46.3	50.1	3.5	4.0	42.8	46.0

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

Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Kansas*; State of Kansas, *Uniform Crime Report, Crime in Kansas*.

Figure 8.3
 Persons Per Physician, 1990
 Sherman & Kansas Comparatives



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

- Sherman’s access to physicians (1,385 persons per physician) is better than any of the Trade Area or Comparative Counties, but still half the state average.
- The number of hospital beds in Sherman at 7.1 per thousand is better than any Trade Area or Comparative County except Norton County. Access to hospital beds in Sherman is 18 percent better than the state average, while utilization rates are 40 percent lower than the Kansas average.

Table 8.3
Health Care Access Measures, 1980 and 1990
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Number of Hospital Beds		Admissions Per Bed		Persons Per Physician	
	Per 1,000 Population		1980		1990	
	1980	1990 ¹	1980	1990	1980	1990
Sherman	7.3	7.1	9.3	14.8	1,552	1,385
Wallace	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,045	1,821
Logan	8.6	6.8	NA	16.2	1,739	3,081
Thomas	5.2	3.6	38.9	29.9	1,056	1,652
Rawlins	7.3	7.1	20.8	NA	4,105	1,702
Cheyenne	6.3	7.1	15.3	10.8	1,839	1,622
Russell	6.1	4.7	38.9	19.8	1,774	1,567
Mitchell	12.1	6.8	23.5	31.5	1,160	1,441
Scott	5.5	5.1	36.5	27.4	1,446	1,763
Norton ²	37.8	7.2	6.2	15.8	1,115	1,487
Kansas	7.5	6.0	23.1	24.3	794	697

Notes: ¹Logan (1980) and Rawlins (1990) data incomplete; ²Beds for KS state totals from 1989 data.

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

- The infant mortality rate in Sherman County during the early 1980s was well below the statewide average and less than that of any Comparative County with a hospital.
- In the latter part of the decade, infant mortality rates rose significantly. Over the period 1987-1991, Sherman's infant mortality rate nearly matched the state average.

Table 8.4
Number of Deaths, Infants Less Than 1 Year of Age, 1982-86 and 1987-91
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	<u>Total Number of Deaths</u>		<u>Percent of Total Births</u>	
	<u>1982-86</u>	<u>1987-91</u>	<u>1982-86</u>	<u>1987-91</u>
Sherman	2	4	0.3%	0.8%
Wallace	0	1	0.0	0.6
Logan	1	1	0.4	0.5
Thomas	4	1	0.5	0.2
Rawlins	2	2	0.7	0.9
Cheyenne	5	4	1.9	2.3
Russell	7	2	1.0	0.5
Mitchell	2	2	0.4	0.5
Scott	5	4	1.0	1.1
Norton	2	3	0.5	1.0
Kansas	1,913	1,689	1.0	0.9

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

- The total number of licensed beds in Sherman County adult care homes remained constant at sixty over the 1983 - 1991 period. This represented 5 beds for every 100 persons over the age of 65.
- In 1991, there were fewer licensed beds in Sherman County adult care homes relative to its over 65 population, than was the case for any Comparative County or Kansas as a whole.

Table 8.5
Adult Care Homes: Licensed Beds
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1983 and 1991

	Number of Licensed Beds		Number of Beds Per Population 65 and Older	
	1983	1991	1983 ¹	1991 ²
Sherman	60	60	0.06	0.05
Wallace	28	28	0.10	0.09
Logan	45	42	0.08	0.07
Thomas	116	112	0.11	0.09
Rawlins	48	50	0.06	0.07
Cheyenne	57	57	0.08	0.07
Russell	176	156	0.10	0.08
Mitchell	100	125	0.05	0.08
Scott	84	84	0.11	0.10
Norton	100	100	0.06	0.07
Kansas	25,584	28,161	0.08	0.08

¹Calculations based upon 1980 population totals.

²Calculations based upon 1990 population totals.

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

- Access to pre-school facilities was generally good in Sherman County in 1989. With one pre-school for every 220 children (aged 3-4), this was about the state average and better than every Comparative County except Russell and Scott.
- Day care facilities in Sherman County were generally more accessible than the statewide average, but not nearly as accessible as in the Trade Area or most of the Comparative Counties.

Table 8.6
 Access to Day Care and Preschool, 1989
 Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

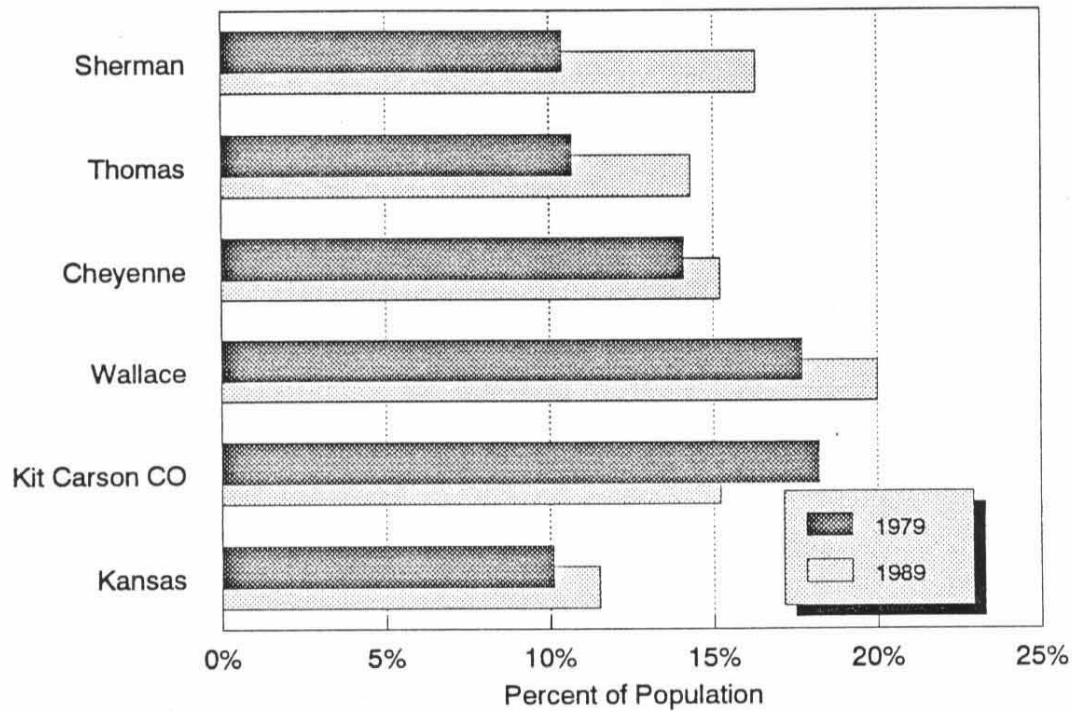
	Number of Licensed Day Care Centers		Number of Preschools	
	Total	Children Per Center ¹	Total	Children Per School ²
Sherman	11	58.7	1	220
Wallace	0	--	0	--
Logan	3	30.3	0	--
Thomas	19	13.5	1	756
Rawlins	6	14.0	1	256
Cheyenne	5	18.6	1	237
Russell	8	67.0	3	179
Mitchell	11	17.1	1	561
Scott	28	17.5	1	166
Norton	21	6.8	1	426
Kansas	3,177	71.7	404	191

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

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

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

Figure 8.4
Persons With Poverty Status, 1979 & 1989
 Sherman and Selected Comparatives



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

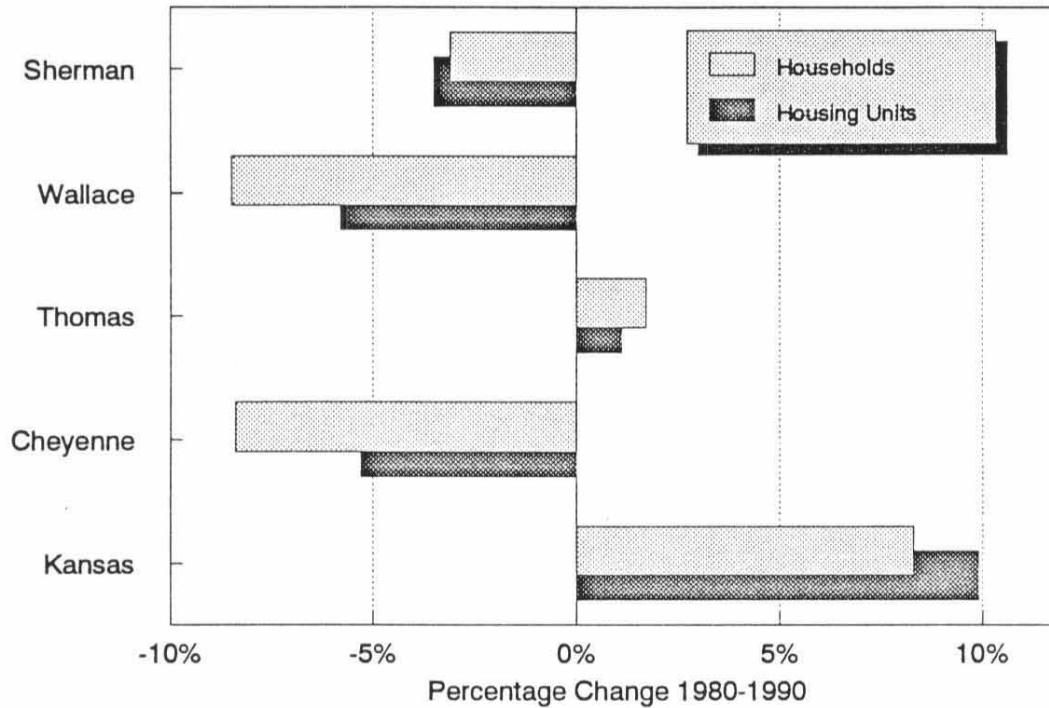
- The percentage of Sherman County residents with poverty status matched the state average in 1979, but had increased dramatically by 1989.
- In 1989, 16.3 percent of Sherman County residents had incomes below the poverty line, compared with 11.5 percent statewide. Only Wallace County had a higher poverty rate.

Table 8.7
 Number of Persons with Poverty Status, 1979 and 1989
 Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

<u>County</u>	<u>1979</u> <u>Persons</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>of Pop.</u>	<u>1989</u> <u>Persons</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>of Pop.</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Sherman	785	10.4%	1,102	16.3%	40.4%
Wallace	357	17.7	359	20.0	0.6
Logan	390	11.4	351	11.6	-10.0
Thomas	868	10.7	1,140	14.3	31.3
Rawlins	564	13.9	429	12.8	-23.9
Cheyenne	509	14.1	484	15.2	-4.9
Hitchcock, NE	619	15.5	585	16.0	-5.5
Dundy, NE	484	17.3	273	10.8	-43.6
Yuma, CO	1,694	17.8	1,171	13.3	-30.9
Kit Carson, CO	1,373	18.2	1,076	15.2	-21.6
Cheyenne, CO	383	17.9	273	11.6	-28.7
Russell	928	10.6	1,037	13.5	11.7
Mitchell	914	11.6	769	11.2	-15.9
Scott	606	10.7	471	9.1	-22.3
Norton	1,029	16.3	735	13.7	-28.6
Kansas	98,410	10.1	274,623	11.5	18.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population & Housing: *General Social & Economic Characteristics, 1980*; *Summary Social, Economic & Housing Characteristics, 1990*, Summary Tape File 3.

Figure 8.5
 Change in Households & Housing Units
 Sherman, Selected Comparatives & Kansas



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

- Housing availability decreased slightly in Sherman County during the 1980s while the number of household decreased by 3.1 percent; the number of housing units fell 3.5 percent.
- The decline in household formation in Sherman County was moderate relative to the decline in the Trade Area and in the Comparative Counties. Only Thomas County increased its number of households and its housing stock.

Table 8.8
 Number of Housing Units, 1980 and 1990
 Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	<u>Total Households</u>		<u>Number of Housing Units</u>		<u>Housing Units per Household</u>		<u>Percent Change</u>	
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>House-holds</u>	<u>Housing Units</u>
Sherman	2,861	2,773	3,292	3,177	1.15	1.1	-3.1%	-3.5%
Wallace	740	677	892	840	1.21	1.2	-8.5	-5.8
Logan	1,342	1,221	1,616	1,466	1.20	1.2	-9.0	-9.3
Thomas	3,072	3,124	3,496	3,534	1.14	1.1	1.7	1.1
Rawlins	1,573	1,391	1,826	1,744	1.16	1.3	-11.6	-4.5
Cheyenne	1,516	1,389	1,782	1,687	1.18	1.2	-8.4	-5.3
Russell	3,612	3,371	4,129	4,079	1.14	1.21	-6.7	-1.2
Mitchell	3,148	2,846	3,510	3,359	1.11	1.18	-9.6	-4.3
Scott	2,074	2,022	2,344	2,305	1.13	1.14	-2.5	-1.7
Norton	2,589	2,330	2,983	2,798	1.15	1.20	-10.0	-6.2
Kansas	872,239	944,726	950,151	1,044,112	1.09	1.11	8.3	9.9

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

- Vacancy rates for owned and rental homes were generally lower in Sherman County in 1990 than in the Trade Area or the Comparative Counties.
- The mix of owned and rented housing units in 1990 was consistent with state averages. About 60 percent of Sherman County homes were owner-occupied in 1990.

Table 8.9
Housing Occupancy and Tenure, 1990
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Total Housing Units	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Vacant Total	Vacant Seasonal	Vacancy Rates	
						Owned	Rental
Sherman	3,177	1,905	828	444	30	2.6%	19.0%
Wallace	840	501	176	163	16	2.6	13.6
Logan	1,466	936	285	245	21	3.6	20.1
Thomas	3,534	2,130	994	410	25	6.8	41.2
Rawlins	1,744	1,038	323	383	18	2.4	30.7
Cheyenne	1,687	1,050	339	298	2	3.3	13.3
Russell	4,079	2,556	815	708	53	4.7	17.1
Mitchell	3,359	2,105	741	513	57	2.4	24.2
Scott	2,305	1,495	527	283	36	2.8	12.5
Norton	2,798	1,745	585	468	36	3.3	13.8
Kansas	1,044,112	641,762	302,964	99,386	7,336	2.3	11.1

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

- The number of housing units which had been vacant six months or more in 1990 indicates that the majority of housing vacancies in Sherman County were long-term; only two comparison counties (Thomas and Scott) had a smaller percentage of such vacancies.
- In 1990, over 75 percent of the housing units that were for sale had been vacant six or more months. In contrast, approximately 55 percent of rental housing units had been empty for the same period.

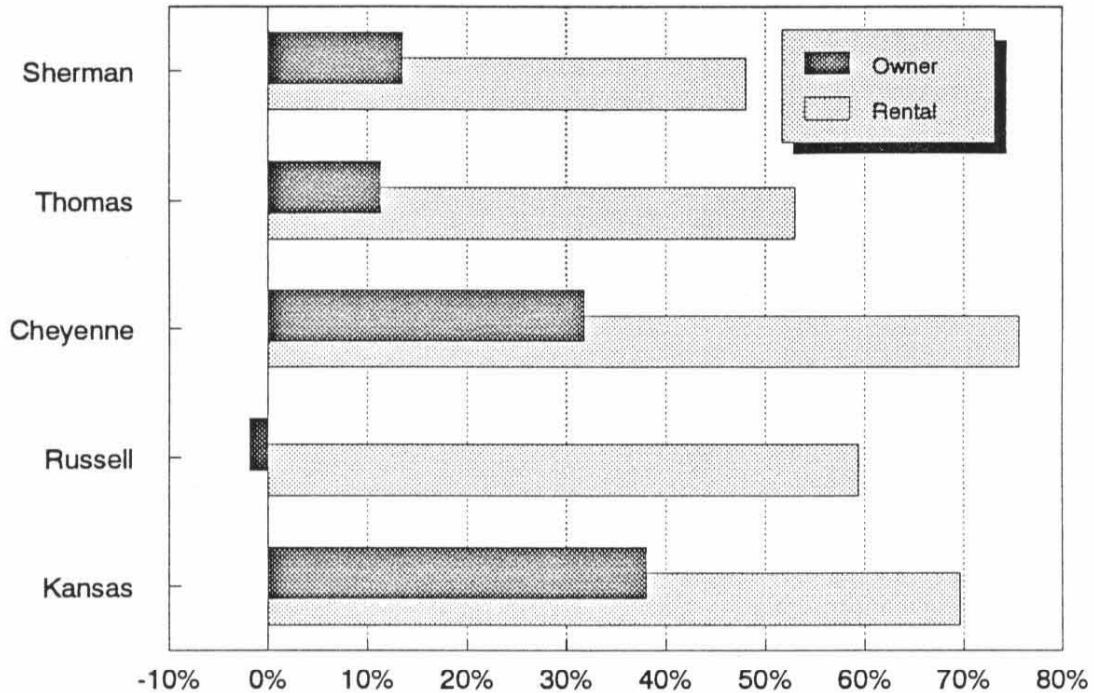
Table 8.10
Housing Units Vacant 6 or More Months, 1990
Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Total Vacancies		Rentals Vacant		Units for Sale	
	Number	% Vacant	Number	% Vacant	Number	% Vacant
Sherman	289	65.1%	86	54.8%	37	75.5%
Wallace	110	67.5	7	29.2	8	61.5
Logan	190	77.6	37	62.7	24	70.6
Thomas	224	54.6	48	33.3	35	63.6
Rawlins	315	82.2	67	67.7	20	80.0
Cheyenne	228	76.5	27	60.0	28	80.0
Russell	548	77.4	101	72.7	105	86.8
Mitchell	347	67.6	110	61.5	36	72.0
Scott	148	52.3	18	27.3	25	59.5
Norton	344	73.8	31	38.3	39	68.4
Kansas	49,844	50.2	11,220	29.8	8,256	54.1

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

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

Figure 8.6
 Change in Median Housing Costs 1980-90
 Sherman and Selected Comparatives



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

- In 1990 the median value of an owner-occupied home in Sherman County was \$37,900. This was 28 percent lower than the statewide average, but higher than any Trade Area and Comparative County except Thomas and Scott.
- The median rent in Sherman County in 1990 was \$197, slightly higher than for many Trade Area and Comparative Counties. However, Sherman’s median rents increased more slowly than during the 1980s than in any of the counties examined except Logan.

Table 8.11
 Median Housing Costs, 1980 and 1990
 Sherman, Kansas Trade Area, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied		Percent Change	
	Median Value		Median Rent		Owner	Rental
	1980	1990	1980	1990	Units	Units
Sherman	\$ 33,400	\$ 37,900	\$ 133	\$ 197	13.5%	48.1%
Wallace	30,400	28,400	77	157	-6.6	103.9
Logan	32,400	30,800	109	157	-4.9	44.0
Thomas	40,800	45,400	134	205	11.3	53.0
Rawlins	26,100	27,500	86	168	5.4	95.3
Cheyenne	24,200	31,900	82	144	31.8	75.6
Russell	28,500	28,000	106	169	-1.8	59.4
Mitchell	26,000	28,800	108	174	10.8	61.1
Scott	36,900	44,000	138	225	19.2	63.0
Norton	22,800	25,700	93	163	12.7	78.3
Kansas	37,800	52,200	168	285	38.1	69.6

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

Section IX: Summary of Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats

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

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

STRENGTHS

- Weighted public school expenditures per pupil increasing
- Per capita income higher than state average
- More extensive public highway network than adjacent counties
- Relatively good access to water and sewerage facilities
- Stability in number of business firms
- Services sector larger and growing faster than adjacent and comparative counties
- Well-developed wholesale, retail, and farm sectors (in terms of numbers employed)
- Good and improving access to health care resources
- Available housing remains moderately priced

WEAKNESSES

- Relatively low educational levels
- Higher than average high school dropout rate
- Pupil-teacher ratio higher than most comparative counties
- Average annual wage and salary earnings per job lag behind non-metropolitan areas and state as a whole
- Average annual pay per employee increasingly lags behind state
- Loss of jobs in all sectors except services, government, and agricultural services

- Manufacturing sector is underdeveloped
- Declining real taxable retail sales
- Decreasing value of farm output
- Bank assets per capita lower than in all but one comparative county
- Relatively poor access to adult care facilities
- Higher than average and increasing proportion of population living under the poverty level

OPPORTUNITIES

- Access to Interstate Highway 70 and a federal and state route, as well
- Previously shrinking labor force has recently stabilized in size
- Legalization of truck triples may enhance growth in transportation and warehousing sectors
- Emerging value-added agricultural opportunities (sunflower, ethanol, etc.)
- Kansas has developed numerous state technology and small business programs
- Bonded indebtedness of local governments generally decreasing

THREATS

- Declining population with expected continuing decline
- High rate of outmigration of population
- Aging population
- Overall decrease in employment
- Higher than average and growing reliance on farm income
- Eroding property tax base
- Kansas has not performed well with respect to innovation and technology
- Available housing barely keeping pace with number of households