

STRATEGIC PLANNING DATA ANALYSIS

Neosho and Wilson Counties

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FOREWORD

The following report has been prepared to assist the people of Neosho and Wilson Counties in Kansas to develop a community-based strategic plan. The purpose of this report is to provide data which will yield a better understanding of local and broader scale issues that have an impact upon the local economy. The material in this report was presented and discussed at public meetings in Fredonia on April 20, 1993 and Chanute on April 27, 1993. This report should be useful in identifying issues that could be addressed in the bi-county strategic plan.

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 jointly operated by 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: Neosho and Wilson Counties* will be 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, and Amy Bush-Enos, who provided word processing support; and to Dr. Charles Krider, Co-Director, KCCED/KU, for his guidance and advice.

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Executive Summary

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

About 27,000 people reside in the bi-county area--17,000 in Neosho County and 10,000 in Wilson. Only a little more than half are residents of the small towns in the area, leaving the two counties more rural in character than many others. Neosho and Wilson Counties are connected with three north-south U.S. highways (Routes 59, 75 and 169), one major east-west state highway (96), and four regional state highways. The counties' economies are heavily based on the declining farm sector, stable manufacturing and retail sectors, and growing service and government sectors. Manufacturing accounts for the largest proportion of the economic base, but the service and government sectors are growing more rapidly. Although overall employment and the number of firms have remained stable, the past decade's economic trends have indicated decline or stagnation in a number of areas. Levels and rates of growth of income and earnings continue to lag behind those of the state and non-metropolitan areas. Unemployment rates have remained relatively high and jobs have been lost in most sectors. During the 1980s, the population of Neosho and Wilson Counties continued to decline as part of a trend begun in the early part of the 20th century (despite growth during the 1970s). This decline is expected to continue at slower rates over the next thirty years. Along with other trends outlined below, these conditions present Neosho and Wilson Counties with considerable challenges that must be addressed constructively to ensure economic development now and in the future.

The People

The decline in population for Neosho and Wilson Counties over the last three decades is primarily due to a high rate of migration out of the bi-county area. Sharp increases in net rates of out-migration in the 1980s followed net in-migration in the 1970s and were greater than out-migration rates during the 1960s. This trend 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 Neosho and Wilson Counties are significantly older than the average ages for Kansas and the U.S., although similar in age to neighboring 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 and some college education, the proportion of college graduates among persons aged 25 and over is generally lower for the bi-county area than for non-metropolitan areas and the state at large. Per capita incomes are significantly lower in Neosho and Wilson Counties than in non-metropolitan areas and the state as a whole, but generally match those of neighboring counties. Growth in personal income during the 1980s lagged behind that of neighboring and non-metropolitan counties and the state as a whole.

The Economy

Industrial sectors providing the highest percentages of jobs in Neosho and Wilson Counties are the manufacturing, service, government, farm and retail sectors. Services and government are the only major sectors to have experienced significant growth in employment across the bi-county area during the 1980s (14% and 16% respectively), while all other major sectors declined, except for manufacturing and retail, which held steady (1% and 3% respectively). Overall, total employment for Neosho and Wilson Counties was virtually unchanged from 1980 to 1990 with a net increase of only 8 jobs. This trend is fairly typical of neighboring counties and non-metropolitan areas, though much lower than for the state as a whole. Although farming is a declining sector of the counties' economies, the area remains heavily dependent on farm income and employment. Job losses have occurred despite stability in the number of business firms in the bi-county area, although recent job creation in Neosho County has helped to compensate for those losses. Through the last decade, unemployment rates in Neosho and Wilson Counties have been relatively high despite a shrinking labor force. The civilian labor force shrank by 7%, which is a net decrease of 1,032 workers. Average wage and salary earnings per job and average pay per employee in the bi-county area lag behind those of the state at large, non-metropolitan areas, and neighboring counties.

The retail base in Neosho and Wilson Counties eroded in real terms by 44% from 1981 to 1991. This trend is generally much higher than that of neighboring counties, non-metropolitan areas, and the state as a whole. The counties' property tax base eroded by 2% (\$2 million) from 1990 to 1992, although neighboring counties did not fare considerably better. Per capita bank deposits in the bi-county area are near average for neighboring counties and the state and have grown at only a slightly lower rate since 1986.

Community Resources

Public school expenditures per pupil in Neosho and Wilson Counties are increasing as enrollments remain stable, and high school dropouts rates generally have been lower than the state average. Pupil-teacher ratios are lower than the averages for neighboring counties and for the state. The availability and accessibility of health care resources in the bi-county area is relatively poor and declining, as is access to adult care home facilities. A larger percentage of the bi-county area's families and seniors lived below the poverty line in 1989 than the average for the state, and the number increased by 40% from 1979 in Neosho County. Housing availability has improved in Neosho and Wilson Counties over the past decade, with the decline in the number of households occurring faster than the decrease in the number of housing units. Housing costs are lower than state averages but comparable to those of neighboring counties. Crime rates are lower in Neosho and Wilson Counties than in most neighboring counties and much lower than for the state as a whole.

Challenges and Opportunities

As Neosho and Wilson 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 somewhat less educated labor force in the bi-county area will need to adapt and expand in order to meet the future requirements of present and prospective employers. A major challenge for Neosho

and Wilson Counties will be in determining how best to enrich their job market, by transforming some of their 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, Neosho and Wilson County citizens must maintain a broad-based commitment to working in partnership with one another to plan the future of their communities. 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 help a community in "taking stock" and better understanding its current economic situation. Data provide insight into the internal and external trends affecting the community. Data also provide standards for comparing local economic performance with other areas, such as the state or nation. Using data in preparing a community strategic plan can promote the long-run success of the planning effort and its eventual outcomes by:

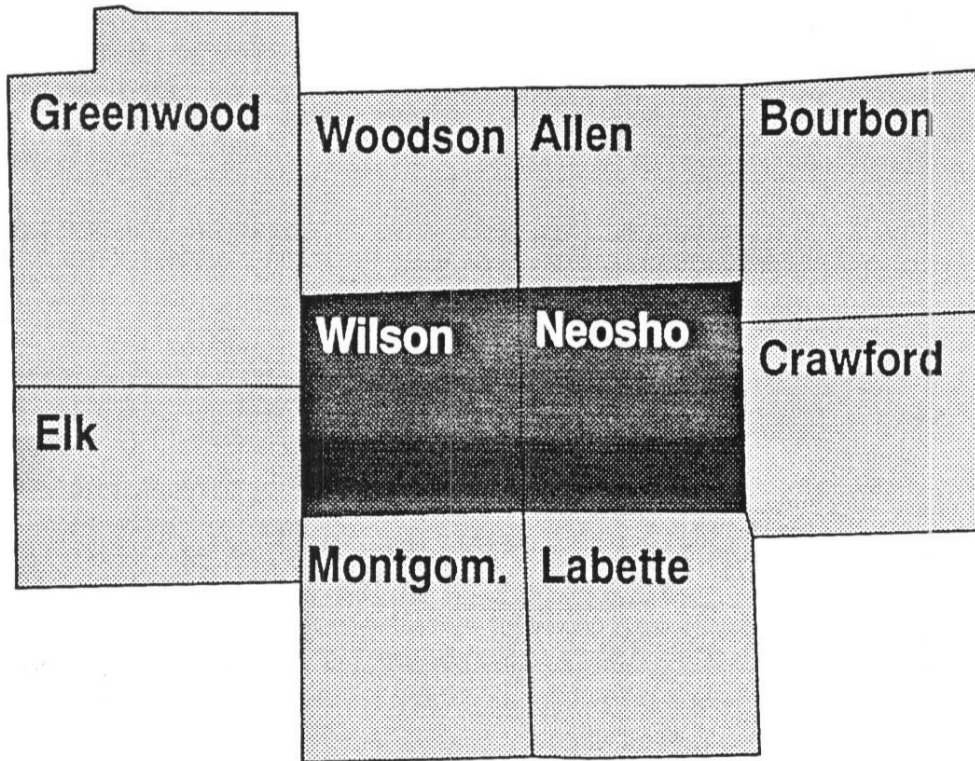
- *Testing Assumptions*--Data can confirm or challenge pre-conceived ideas that a community has about its current situation.
- *Identifying Key Issues*--Local strengths and weaknesses relative to comparable communities can pinpoint specific issues which may need to be addressed.
- *Building Consensus*--By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

Raw data alone 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 serve as the basis 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; business environment; 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 Neosho and Wilson Counties' economic performance through the past decade with the State of Kansas and the counties surrounding the bi-county area. Included in this comparison group are the counties of: Allen, Bourbon, Crawford, Labette, Montgomery, Elk, Greenwood, and Woodson. To facilitate comparisons, data are shown separately for each county, with aggregate totals shown as "Bi-county area" and "Neighboring Counties." Wherever possible, Kansas non-metropolitan data are also shown, as are Kansas totals. The counties for which data are examined in this report are shown in Map 0.1.

Map 0.1
Counties Examined in this Report



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.

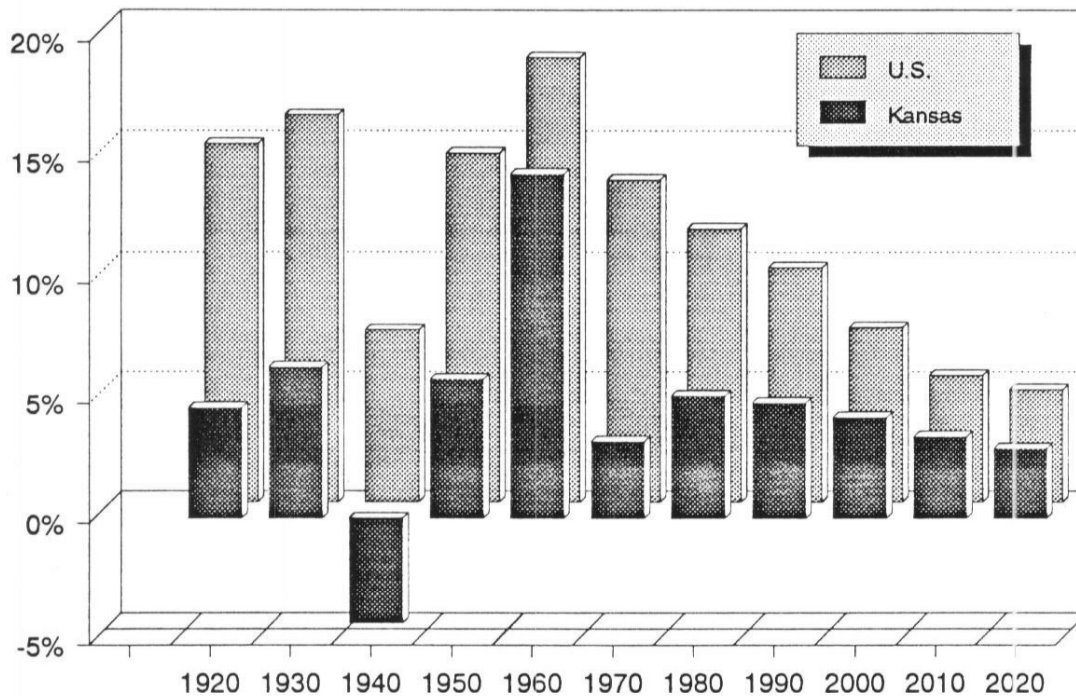
GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TRENDS: KEY FINDINGS

- 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 the Finance, Insurance and Real Estate sector, 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.

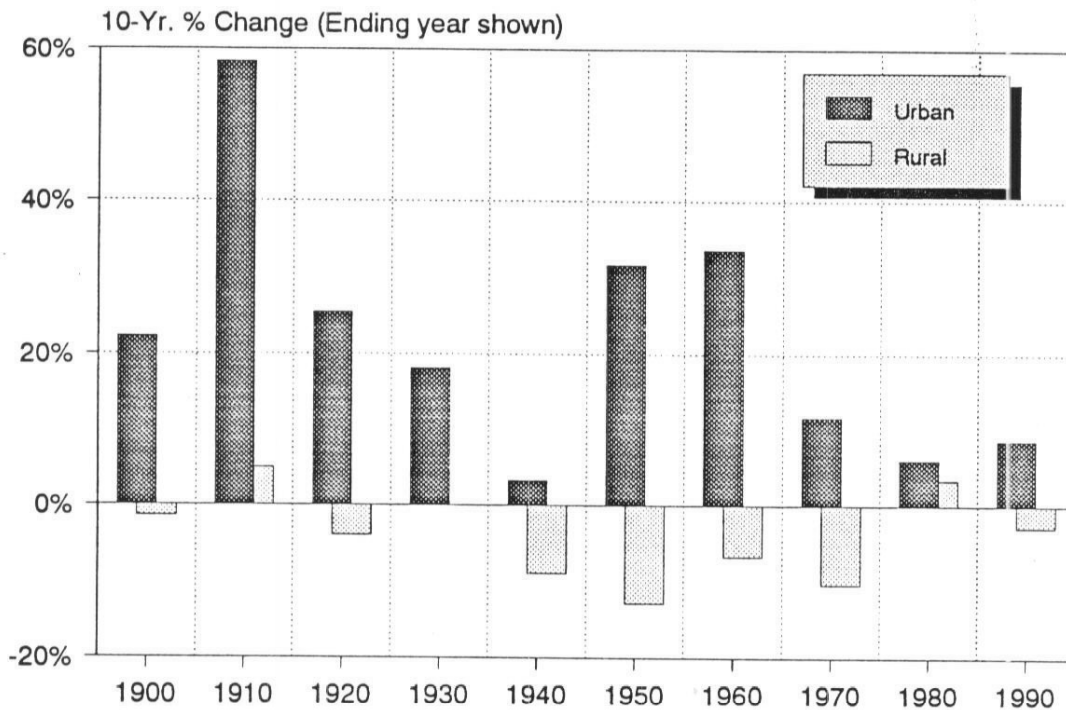
- Population growth rates in Kansas have consistently lagged behind those of the U.S. for every decade since the 1920s. Over the last 80 years, population in Kansas has grown at about one-third the U.S. rate; since 1970, population growth has been about one-half the U.S. rate.
- In 1920, Kansas represented 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; Upmeier, Helga and Anthony Redwood, *Kansas Population Projections 1985-2020*, Institute for Public Policy and Business Research Report #158, January 1989.

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



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

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

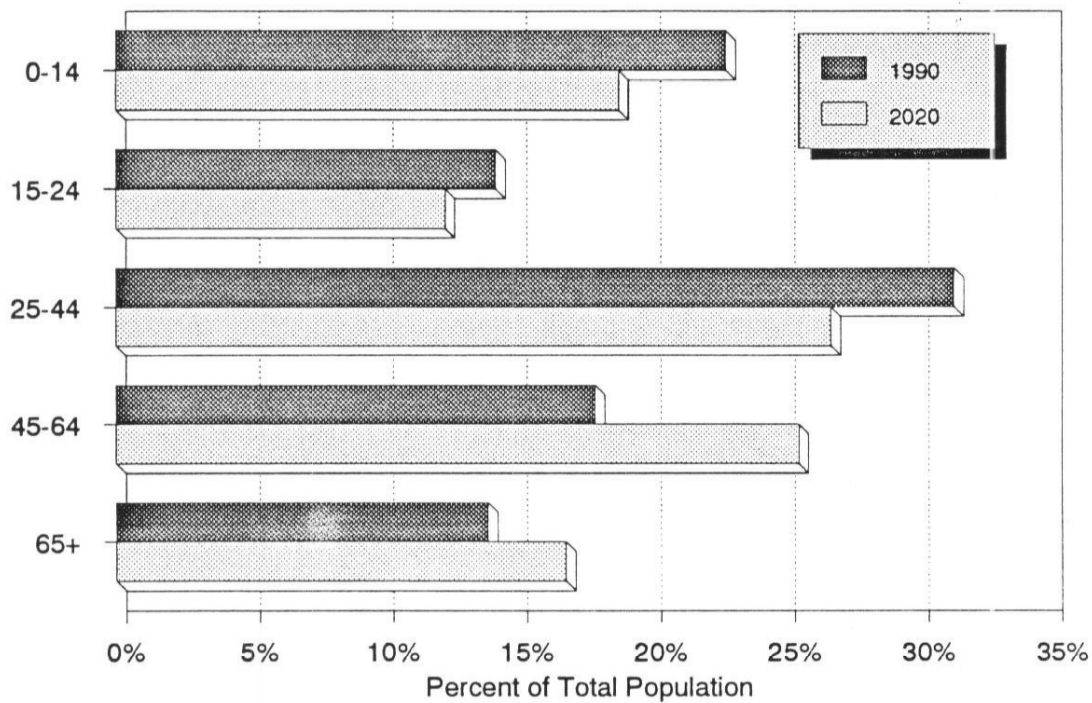
¹ National Governors' Association, *Economic Realities in Rural America: Recent Trends, Future Prospects*, (Washington: National Governors' Association, 1988.)

Table 1.2
Urban and Rural Population in Kansas
Rates of Change, Decades Ending 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*.

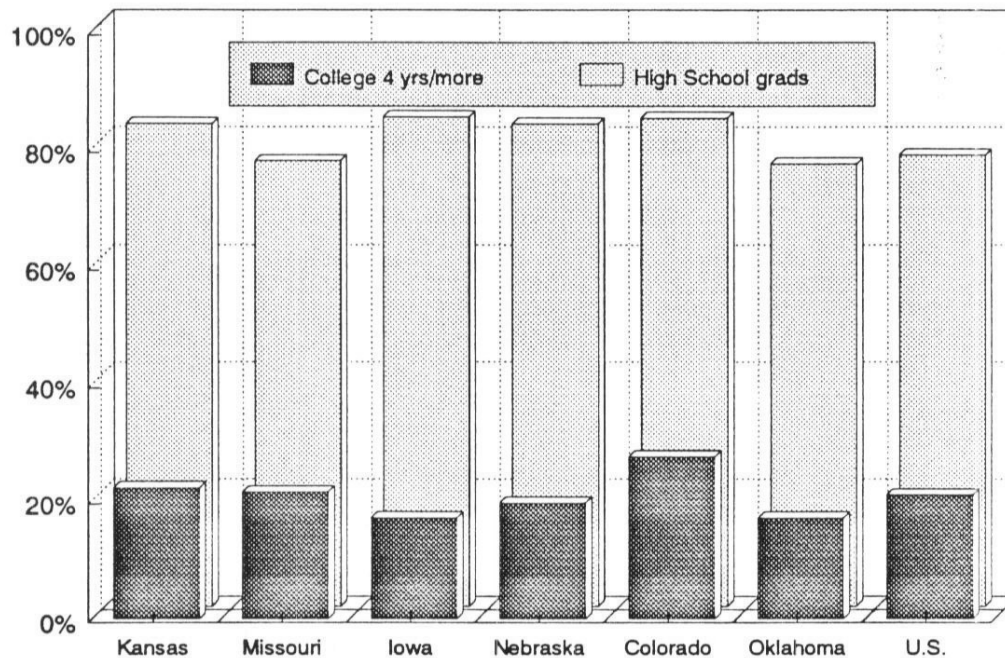
- The median age of the Kansas population is the same as the U.S. median age, 32.9 years. However, Kansas has a greater share of population than the U.S. in the newborn to 24 year old cohorts and in the 65 and over age groups. This concentration of population at the extremes means that Kansas has a smaller 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

<u>Age Group</u>	Percentage of Actual or Projected Population			
	<u>Kansas</u> <u>1990</u>	<u>Kansas</u> <u>2020</u>	<u>U.S.</u> <u>1990</u>	<u>U.S.</u> <u>2020</u>
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.

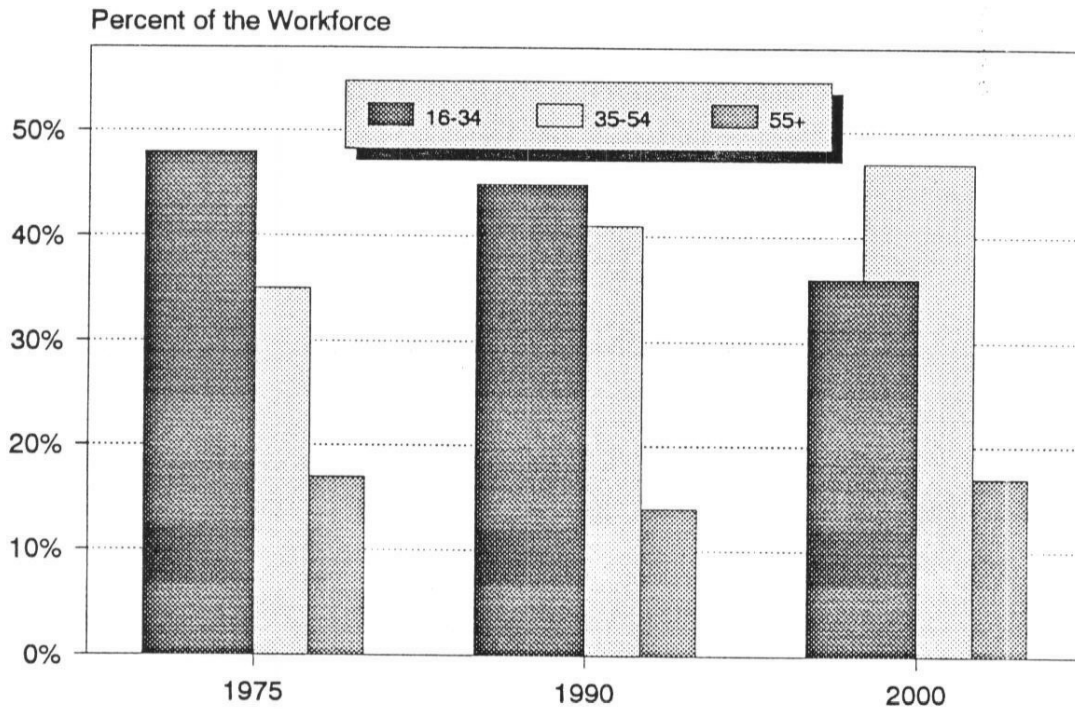
- The Kansas workforce is well educated relative to the national average, with 22.3 percent of adults age 25 or older having 4 or more years' college education. Of the neighboring states only Colorado has higher rates of educational attainment.
- While Iowa and Nebraska have slightly higher rates of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

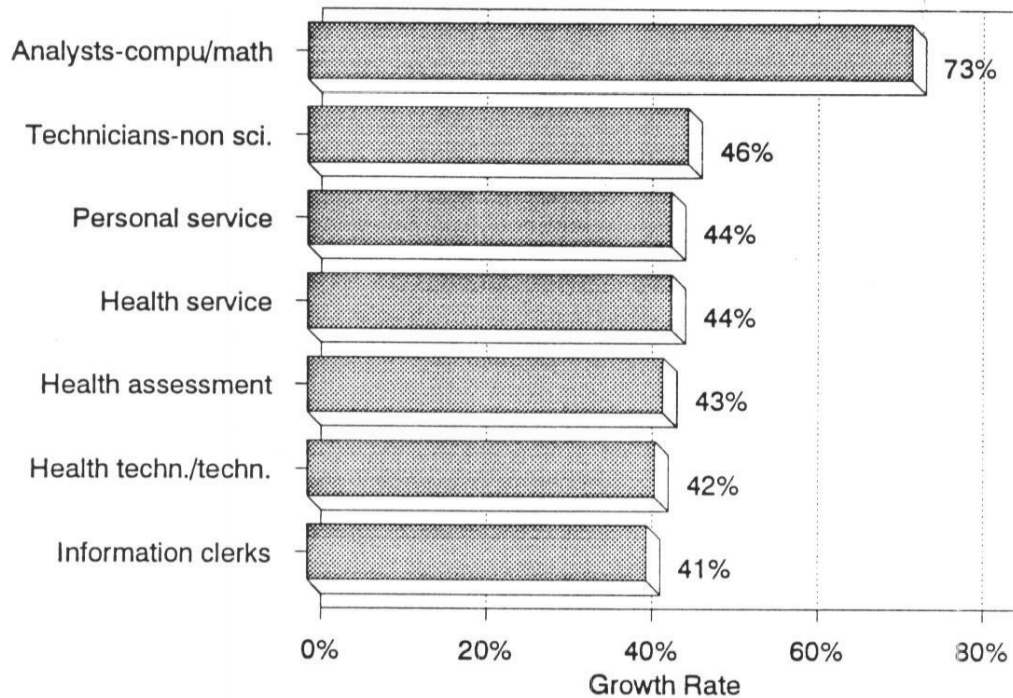
- The proportion of the U.S. workforce age 35-54, 35 percent of all workers in 1975, is expected to rise to 47 percent by the year 2005. This older, more experienced and more stable portion of the workforce will also be less flexible, less adaptable to change and less likely to relocate in response to 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

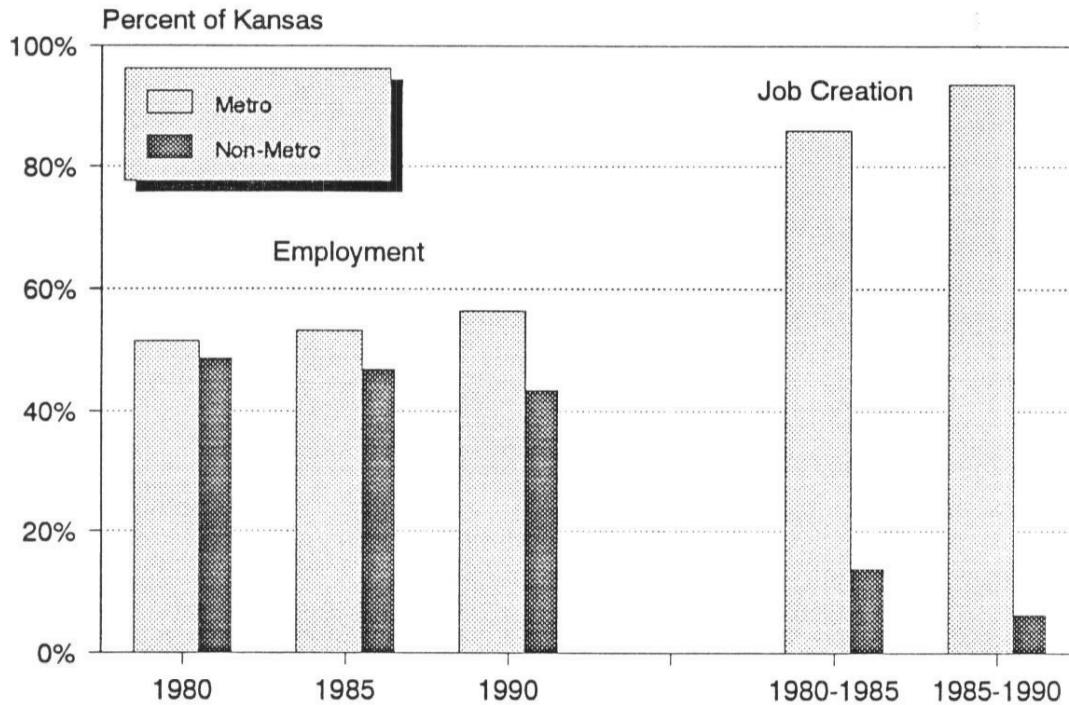
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Monthly Labor Review*, Vol. 114, No. 1 (November 1991), pp.68-80.

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).

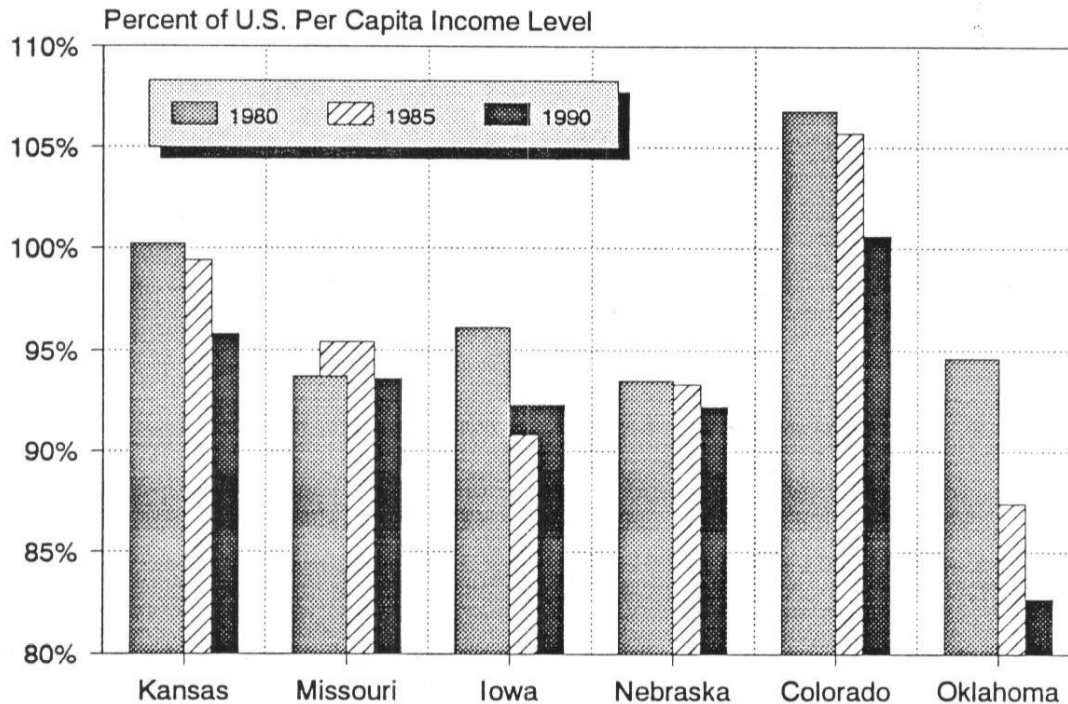
- The highest paying industries in the U.S. in 1991 were Mining, with average weekly wages of \$631, Construction (\$534) and Transportation and Public Utilities (\$512).
- The greatest rates of increases in wages over the period 1987-1991 occurred in the Services industry (+20.6%), followed by Mining (+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.

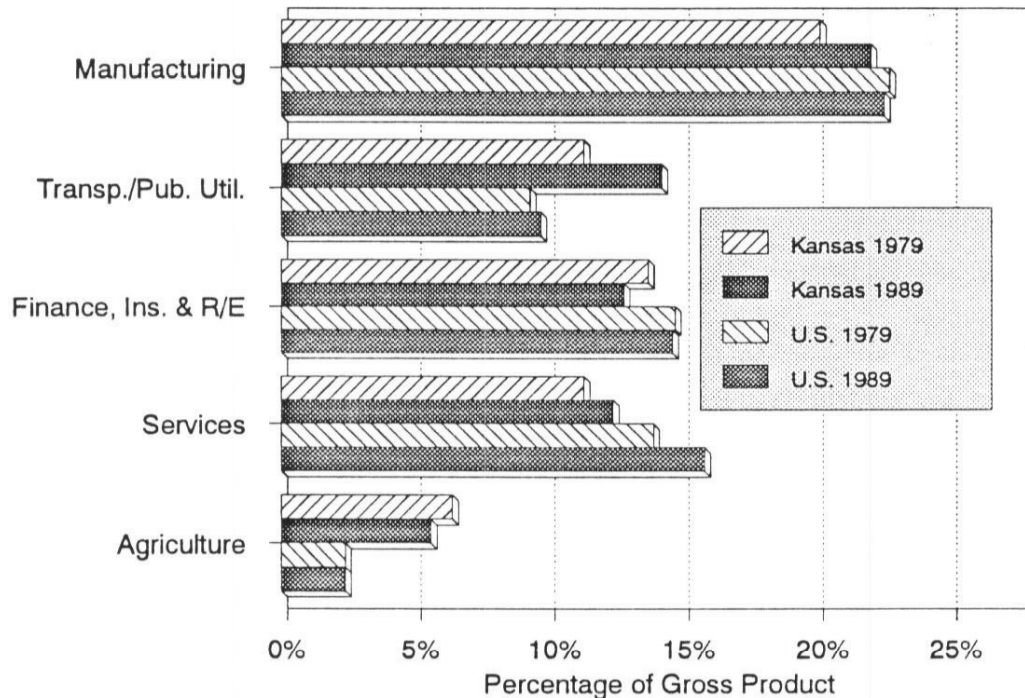
- Kansas is a small business state. Of businesses with employees (i.e., excluding self-employed proprietors), over 88 percent of Kansas firms have 19 or fewer employees; fully 96 percent of Kansas firms employ fewer than 49 people.
- Net job creation in Kansas however, has been dominated by larger firms. 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.

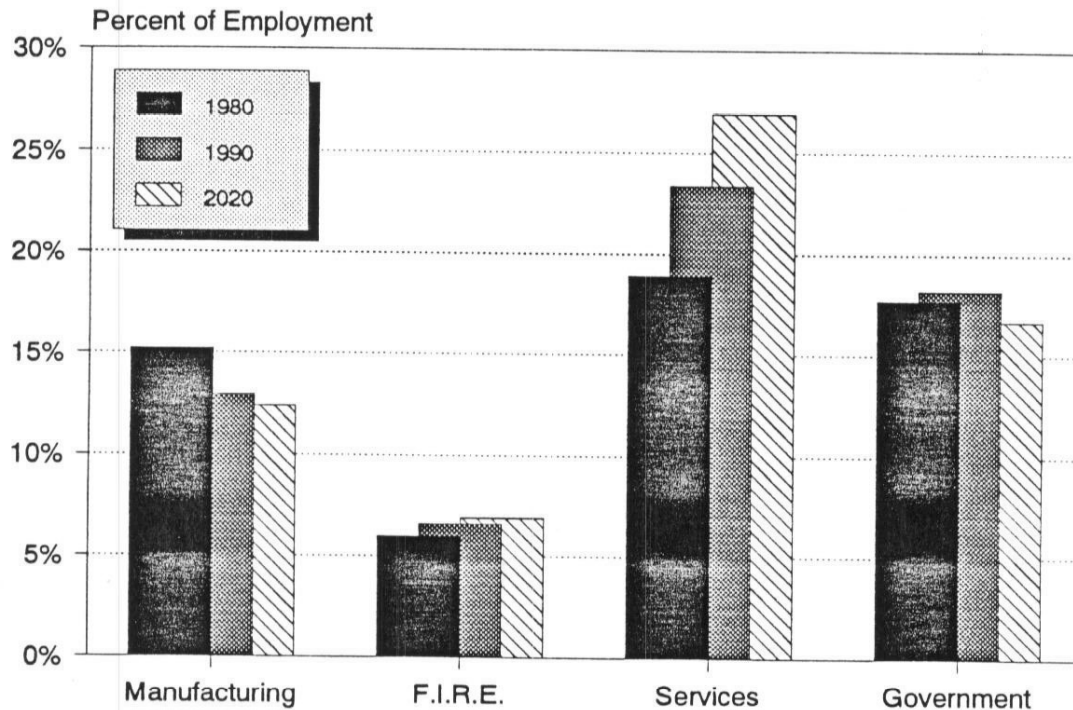
- Kansas' industrial performance relative to the U.S. during the 1980s has been mixed. Transportation and Public Utilities, a Kansas strength, grew rapidly during the 1980s, accounting for 14.2 percent of Kansas output in 1989, compared with the U.S. average of only 9.7 percent. Manufacturing, not one 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>	Percentage Share of Total Gross Product			
	<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.

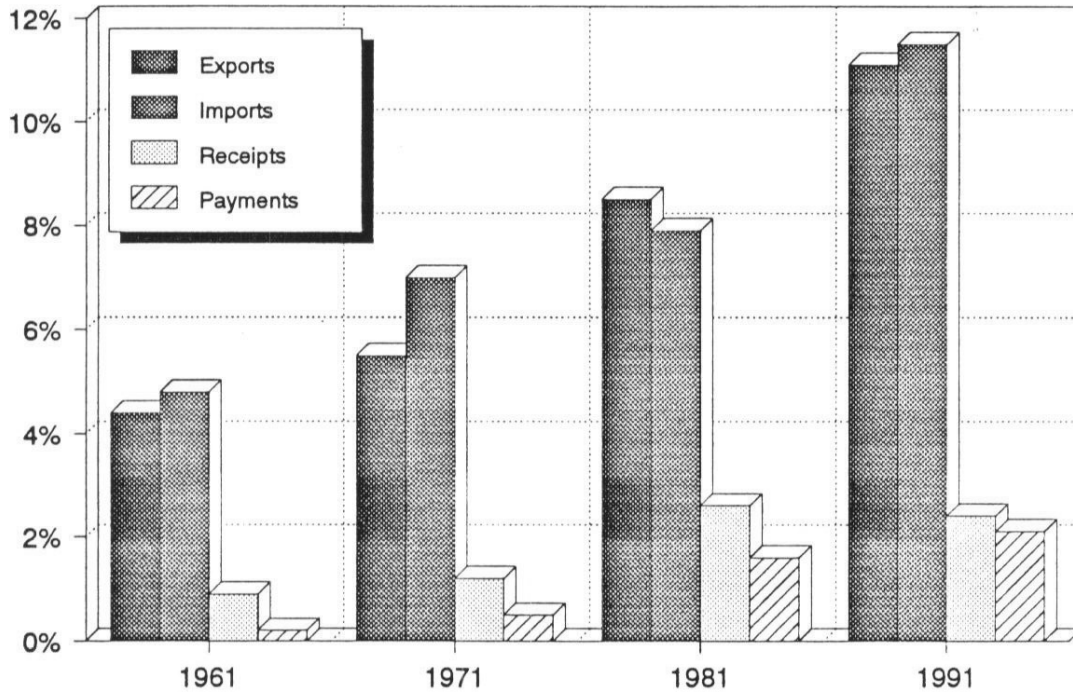
- The services industry is expected to continue to grow in importance in Kansas. By the year 2020, Services will account for nearly 27 percent of all jobs, compared with 23 percent in 1990 and 18.9 percent in 1980.
- Government employment, which increased in importance during the 1980s to 18 percent 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 characteristics for Neosho and Wilson Counties, neighboring counties as comparatives, and the state of Kansas. Population characteristics are regarded as indicators of a region's economic conditions and economic potential for the following reasons:

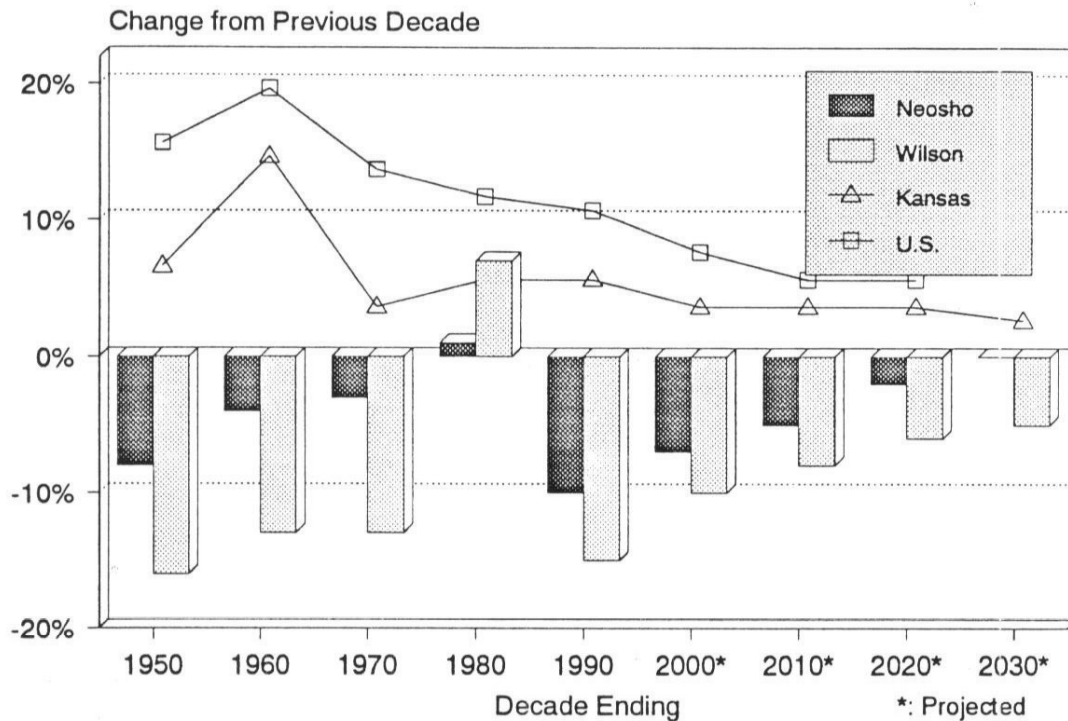
- *The level of Neosho and Wilson County's population* relative to the state population reflects the counties' overall level of competitiveness with respect to other regions within the state. A minimum population is necessary to sustain a basic level of public and private services and facilities;
- *Past 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, job opportunities, and a perceived better quality of life;
- *The age composition of the population* affects the quantity and flexibility of the labor supply and influences the level of demand for public social and health care services. 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; and,
- *The distribution of urban and rural population* affects the demand for all categories of services. A concentrated population normally has a higher demand for services, which affects the sectoral pattern of economic development.

POPULATION: KEY FINDINGS

- Population in the bi-county area peaked in 1920, and has declined consistently since that time except for the 1970s.
- Continued population decline is projected for the next thirty years, with no future declines as sharp as those of the 1980s.
- While all of the neighboring counties have lost population since 1950, Neosho and Wilson Counties' declines have been 50% greater than average.
- Of cities within the region, Chanute and Erie have performed well with respect to maintaining population levels. During the 1980s, Fredonia and Neodesha lost unusually large amounts of population.
- Neosho and Wilson Counties are considerably more rural in nature than the state average.
- The median age of the population in 1990 was 39.1 years in Wilson and 36.3 years in Neosho county, much higher than the state and national median of 32.9 years.
- Neosho and Wilson Counties have a relatively small proportion of their populations in the working age years (ages 15-64).

POPULATION: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 2.1

Ten-year Population Growth Rates
Neosho & Wilson Counties, Kansas & U.S.

Source: *Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants*; *1980 Census of Population, PC80-1-A-18*; *1990 Census of Population, STF1-A*. Kansas and county population projections: State of Kansas, Office of the Budget, State Demographer, 1992; U.S. population projections: University of Kansas, Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, *Kansas Population Projections*, 1988.

- Population in the bi-county area peaked in 1920 when Neosho had 24,000 people and Wilson's population was 21,157. Except for the 1970s, every decade since 1920 has been one of population decline. In 1990, Neosho County's population was 17,035 and Wilson County's was 10,289.
- The rate of population change in the bi-county area trended steadily toward population growth from 1950 to 1980. This trend was interrupted by steep population decline during the 1980-1990 period.
- Over the last 70 years, Kansas' rate of population growth has been half of the U.S. rate.

- Continued population decline is expected in Neosho and Wilson Counties over the next thirty years. Neosho's 1930 population is projected to be 14,600 while Wilson's population is estimated to be 7,700.
- Population declines in the bi-county area over the 1990s are expected to be about two-thirds as steep as was experienced in the 1980s.

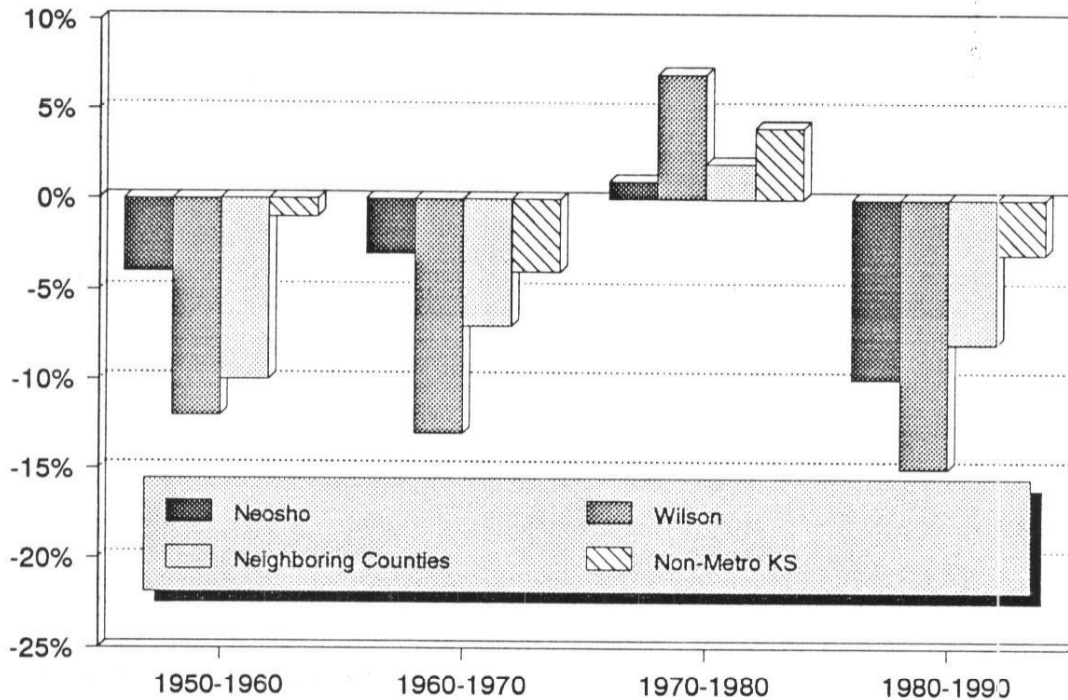
Table 2.1
Population Totals and Ten-Year Growth Rates
Neosho and Wilson Counties, Kansas and U.S.
Actual 1890-1990, Projection 2000-2030

Year	Population Totals			U.S.(M)	Ten-Year Growth Rates			
	Neosho	Wilson	Kansas		Neosho	Wilson	Kansas	U.S.
1890	18,561	15,286	1,428,108	62.9				
1900	19,254	15,621	1,470,495	76.0	4%	2%	3%	21%
1910	23,754	19,810	1,690,949	92.0	2	27	15	21
1920	24,000	21,157	1,769,257	105.7	1	7	5	15
1930	22,665	18,646	1,880,999	122.8	-6	-12	6	16
1940	22,210	17,723	1,801,028	131.7	-2	-5	-4	7
1950	20,348	14,815	1,905,299	151.3	-8	-16	6	15
1960	19,455	13,077	2,178,611	179.3	-4	-12	14	19
1970	18,812	11,317	2,249,071	203.3	-3	-13	3	13
1980	18,967	12,128	2,364,236	226.5	1	7	5	11
1990	17,035	10,289	2,477,574	248.7	-10	-15	5	10
Projections:								
2000	15,842	9,307	2,562,890	268.0	-7	-10	3	7
2010	15,014	8,571	2,645,887	281.0	-5	-8	3	5
2020	14,652	8,053	2,723,689	294.2	-2	-6	3	5
2030	14,646	7,674	2,780,613	NA	0	-5	2	NA

(M): in millions NA= Not available

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
Neosho, Wilson and Neighboring 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.

- Virtually every neighboring county experienced moderate growth in the 1970s, but persistent decline in each of the other decades since 1950. None of these counties maintained 1950 levels of population.
- Neosho and Wilson's population losses since 1950 are among the heaviest in the region, (-12%, compared with -8% for the neighboring counties). Only Elk, Woodson, and Greenwood Counties lost population at similar rates.

Table 2.2
Population Totals
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1950-1990

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>
Neosho	20,348	19,455	18,812	18,967	17,035
Wilson	14,815	13,077	11,317	12,128	10,289
Bi-County Total	35,163	32,532	30,129	31,095	27,324
Allen	18,187	16,369	15,043	15,654	14,638
Bourbon	19,153	16,090	15,215	15,969	14,966
Crawford	40,231	37,032	37,850	37,916	35,568
Labette	29,285	26,805	25,775	25,682	23,693
Montgomery	46,487	45,007	39,949	42,281	38,816
Elk	6,679	5,048	3,858	3,918	3,327
Greenwood	13,574	11,253	9,141	8,764	7,847
Woodson	6,711	5,423	4,789	4,600	4,116
Neighboring Counties	180,307	163,027	151,620	154,784	142,971
Kansas Non-Metro (M)	1.20	1.19	1.14	1.18	1.14
Kansas (M)	1.91	2.18	2.25	2.36	2.48
U.S. (M)	151.3	179.3	203.3	226.5	248.7

(M): In millions

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
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring 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>
Neosho	-4%	-3%	1%	-10%
Wilson	-12	-13	7	-15
Bi-County Total	-7	-7	3	-12
Allen	-10	-8	4	-7
Bourbon	-16	-5	5	-6
Crawford	-8	2	0	-6
Labette	-8	-4	0	-8
Montgomery	-3	-11	6	-8
Elk	-24	-24	2	-15
Greenwood	-17	-19	-4	-10
Woodson	-19	-12	-4	-11
Neighboring Counties	-10	-7	2	-8
Kansas Non-Metro (millions)	-1	-4	4	-3
Kansas	14	3	5	5
U.S. (millions)	19	13	11	10

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, Neosho County's population rank within the state decreased from 24 to 29, compared with all other 105 Kansas counties; Wilson's rank fell from 36 to 43.
- Based on projected populations in 2020, Neosho's relative position in the state is expected to fall from 29th largest to 32nd in the state, while Wilson's is expected to fall from 43rd to 45th in the state.

Table 2.4
County Population Ranking in the State, 1950, 1990 and 2030
Neosho, Wilson, and Neighboring Counties

<u>1950</u>		<u>1990</u>		<u>2030 (Projected)</u>				
<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pop.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pop.</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pop.</u>			
6	Montgomery	46.5	11	Montgomery	38.8	16	Crawford	33.9
8	Crawford	40.2	13	Crawford	35.6	17	Montgomery	31.8
15	Labette	29.3	23	Labette	23.7	26	Labette	22.8
24	Neosho	20.3	29	Neosho	17.0	32	Neosho	14.6
28	Bourbon	19.2	34	Bourbon	15.0	34	Bourbon	12.6
30	Allen	18.2	35	Allen	14.6	36	Allen	10.9
36	Wilson	14.8	43	Wilson	10.3	45	Wilson	7.7
39	Greenwood	13.6	51	Greenwood	7.8	60	Greenwood	5.7
74	Woodson	6.7	78	Woodson	4.1	78	Woodson	3.1
75	Elk	6.7	91	Elk	3.3	96	Elk	2.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1950*; *1990 Census of Population, STF1-A*; State of Kansas, Office of the Budget, State Demographer, 1992.

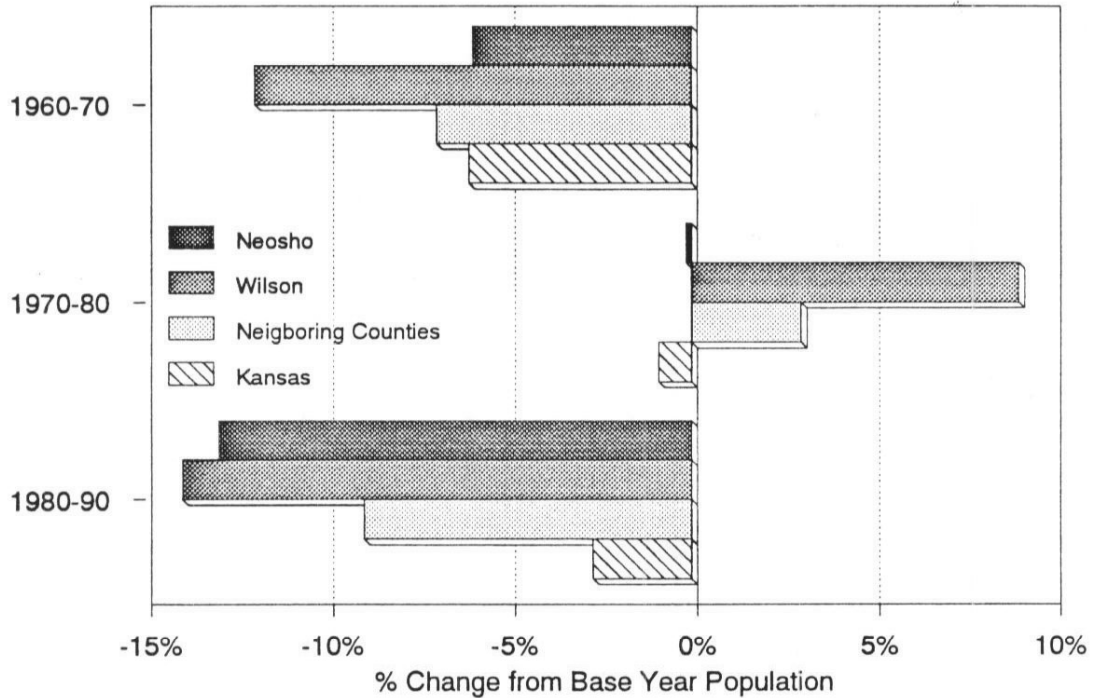
- Compared with other cities in the region, Chanute's 6 percent population decline and Erie's 2 percent decline since 1950 each represents strong performances; many other cities experienced declines of 20 percent and more.
- Of the principal cities in the area, only Girard has experienced net growth since 1950.

Table 2.5
Population Levels, Selected Cities
Neosho, Wilson, and Neighboring Counties, 1950-1990

City	County	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	Growth 1950-1990
Chanute	Neosho	10,109	10,849	10,341	10,506	9,488	-6%
Earlton	Neosho	141	104	102	79	69	-51
Erie	Neosho	1,296	1,309	1,414	1,415	1,276	-2
Galesburg	Neosho	189	128	146	181	160	-15
St. Paul	Neosho	783	675	804	746	687	-12
Stark	Neosho	157	96	124	143	79	-50
Thayer	Neosho	423	396	430	517	435	3
Altoona	Wilson	582	490	475	564	456	-22
Benedict	Wilson	176	128	91	111	16	-91
Coyville	Wilson	106	133	93	98	78	-26
Fredonia	Wilson	3,257	3,233	3,080	3,047	2,599	-20
Neodesha	Wilson	3,723	3,594	3,295	3,414	2,837	-24
New Albany	Wilson	152	104	59	78	60	-61
Iola	Allen	7,094	6,885	6,493	6,938	6,351	-10
Humboldt	Allen	2,308	2,285	2,249	2,230	2,178	-6
Fort Scott	Bourbon	10,335	9,410	8,967	8,893	8,362	-19
Girard	Crawford	2,426	2,350	2,591	2,888	2,794	15
Pittsburg	Crawford	19,341	18,678	20,171	18,770	17,775	-8
Cherryvale	Labette	2,952	2,783	2,609	2,769	2,464	-17
Parsons	Labette	14,750	13,929	13,015	12,898	11,924	-19
Independence	Montgomery	11,335	11,222	10,347	10,598	9,942	-12
Howard	Elk	1,149	1,017	918	965	815	-29
Eureka	Greenwood	3,958	4,055	3,576	3,425	2,974	-25
Yates Center	Woodson	2,178	2,080	1,967	1,998	1,815	-17

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
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Cos. & 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 from the bi-county area during the 1980s accounted for a loss of 4,132 people, 13 percent of the combined 1980 population. Neosho County had nearly 2,400 more people leave than move in; for Wilson County, this figure was 1,751.
- Overall patterns of net migration in the bi-county area have been generally consistent with those of neighboring counties; however, Wilson County experienced greater outmigration rates than usual in the 1960s and 1980s and greater in-migration rates during the 1920s.

Table 2.6
Net Migration, 1960-1990
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas

	<u>Net Migration</u>			<u>Percent of Base Year Population</u>		
	<u>1960-1970</u>	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>	<u>1960-1970</u>	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>
Neosho	-1,140	-30	-2,381	-6%	0%	-13%
Wilson	-1,612	988	-1,751	-12	9	-14
Bi-County Total	-2,752	958	-4,132	-8	3	-13
Allen	-1,407	655	-1,359	-9	4	-9
Bourbon	-775	1,016	-1,260	-5	7	-8
Crawford	774	502	-2,468	2	1	-7
Labette	-1,389	-199	-2,716	-5	-1	-11
Montgomery	-5,527	2,301	-4,684	-12	6	-11
Elk	-843	401	-392	-17	10	-10
Greenwood	-2,061	11	-642	-18	0	-7
Woodson	-452	95	-396	-8	2	-9
Neighboring Counties	-11,680	4,782	-13,917	-7	3	-9
Kansas	-132,966	-20,334	-62,854	-6	-1	-3

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

- Both Neosho and Wilson Counties are more rural in nature than the state average (31%). Neosho's population was 44 percent rural in 1990, while Wilson's was 47 percent rural.
- Population declines have been sharpest in the rural parts of the bi-county area, with Wilson County losing rural population more rapidly than Neosho.
- Declines in Fredonia's and Neodesha's population during the 1980s (-16% combined) were very sharp by comparison with all other rates of population change.

Table 2.7
Urban and Rural Population Distribution
Neosho and Wilson Counties and Kansas, 1950-1990

Year	Neosho		Wilson		Kansas	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1950	10,109	10,239	6,980	7,835	993,220	912,079
1960	10,849	8,606	6,827	6,250	1,328,741	849,870
1970	10,341	8,471	6,375	4,942	1,484,870	761,708
1980	10,506	8,461	6,461	5,667	1,575,899	787,780
1990	9,488	7,547	5,436	4,853	1,712,564	765,010

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)*.

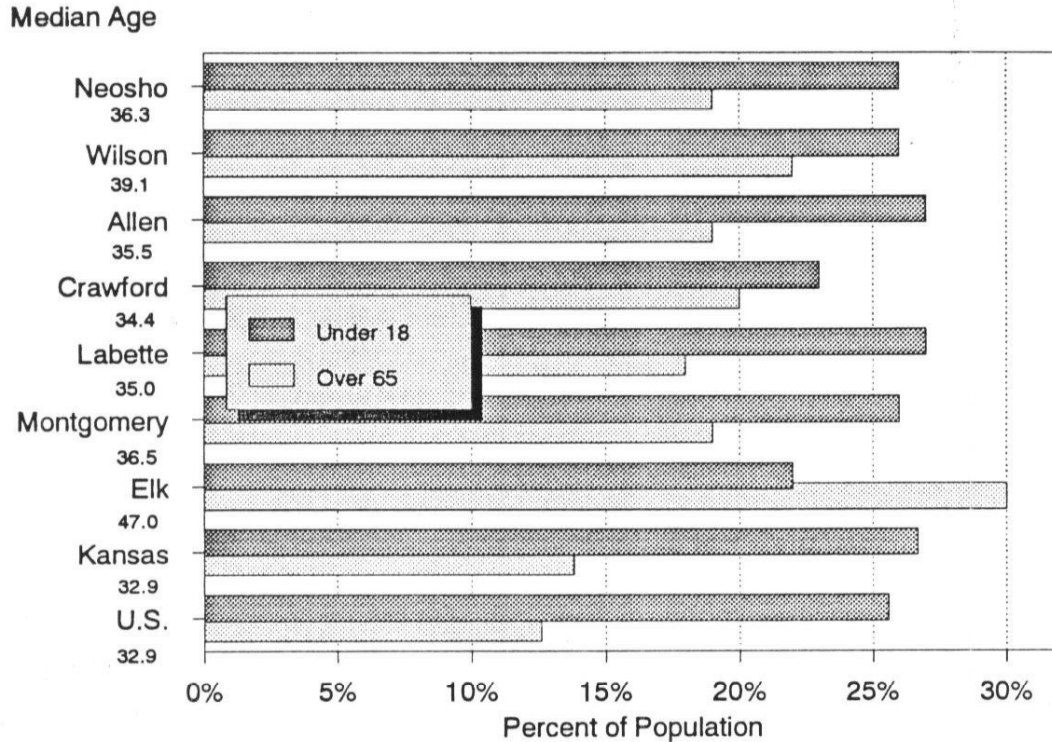
Table 2.8
Urban Share of Population and Urban/Rural Growth Rates
Neosho and Wilson Counties and Kansas, 1950-1990

Year	Urban Share of Population			Growth Rates - Urban			Growth Rates - Rural		
	Neosho	Wilson	Kansas	Neosho	Wilson	Kansas	Neosho	Wilson	Kansas
1950	50%	47%	52%	0%	1%	32%	-15%	-28%	-13%
1960	56	52	61	7	-2	34	-16	-20	-7
1970	55	57	66	-5	-7	12	-2	-21	-10
1980	55	53	67	2	1	6	0	15	3
1990	56	53	69	-10	-16	9	-11	-14	-3

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1950 Census of Population (Vol. I, Part 16)*; *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 Neosho, Wilson & Neighboring Counties



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

- The median age of the population in 1990 was 39.1 years in Wilson county and 36.3 years in Neosho, both considerably higher than the Kansas and U.S. medians, 32.9 years.
- While the share of population under age 18 in the bi-county area is similar to state and national averages, both counties have much larger shares of population over age 65. Only Elk, Greenwood, and Woodson counties have older populations.
- Only slightly more than half the population of each county is in the prime working age categories of 18 through 65 (55% in Neosho; 52% in Wilson; 69% in Kansas).

Table 2.9
Age Composition, 1990
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, Kansas and U.S.

	<u>Percent of Population</u>		
	<u>Under 18</u>	<u>18-65</u>	<u>Over 65</u>
Neosho	26%	55%	19%
Wilson	26	52	22
Allen	27	54	19
Bourbon	26	54	20
Crawford	23	57	20
Labette	27	55	18
Montgomery	26	55	19
Elk	22	48	30
Greenwood	24	51	25
Woodson	24	50	26
Kansas	27	60	14
U.S.	26	62	13

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
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, Kansas and U.S.

	<u>Median Age (years)</u>	
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>
Neosho	33.4	36.3
Wilson	35.7	39.1
Allen	33.1	35.5
Bourbon	35.4	36.8
Crawford	33.3	34.4
Labette	32.3	35.0
Montgomery	33.4	36.5
Elk	44.8	47.0
Greenwood	41.2	41.2
Woodson	41.1	41.4
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*.

- Projections of population by age category show a more even distribution of population than age categories in the year 2020. The share of bi-county area population over age 65 is expected to remain relatively constant, while statewide, sharp increases are projected. This difference reflects current and past differences between the net migration rates of the bi-county area and the state as a whole.

Table 2.11
Population Shares by Age Group
Neosho and Wilson Counties 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>Neosho County</u>					
0-4	1,192	7%	6%	6%	6%
5-14	2,572	15	14	13	13
15-24	2,026	12	14	13	13
25-34	2,425	14	12	13	13
35-44	2,220	13	14	12	13
45-54	1,685	10	13	14	11
55-64	1,683	10	10	12	13
65+	<u>3,232</u>	19	17	17	19
Total	17,035				
<u>Wilson County</u>					
0-4	679	7%	6%	6%	6%
5-14	1,516	13	13	12	12
15-24	1,090	11	13	12	12
25-34	1,266	12	12	13	12
35-44	1,344	13	13	12	13
45-54	1,050	10	14	13	12
55-64	1,079	10	10	13	13
65+	<u>2,265</u>	22	19	18	21
Total	10,289				
<u>State of Kansas</u>					
0-4	188,390	8%	7%	7%	7%
5-14	375,454	15	15	13	13
15-24	352,263	14	15	14	12
25-34	413,173	17	13	14	13
35-44	361,326	15	17	12	13
45-54	235,388	10	14	16	12
55-64	209,009	8	9	12	17
65+	<u>342,571</u>	14	13	13	17
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 Neosho and Wilson Counties, their neighboring counties, and the state of Kansas:

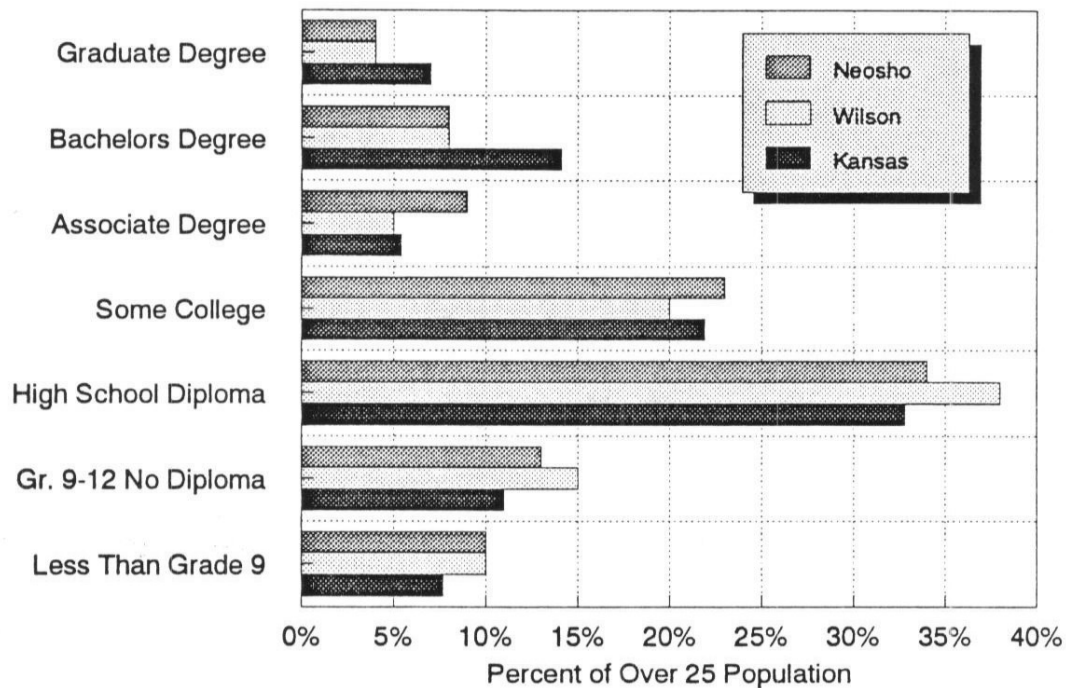
- *The highest level of completed education, ages 25 and over* demonstrates the average level of education for county residents. Lower levels may indicate lower skilled, less adaptable workers, while higher levels may mean a better opportunity to create, attract, and retain high growth, highly productive businesses.
- *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 for 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.
- *High school dropout rates* indicate the extent to which young students complete or fail to complete their high school educations. High dropout rates may be the result of difficult economic or social situations. One result of high dropout rates is a workforce which is not properly prepared to participate in today's workplace without additional education.
- *Pupil-teacher ratios* compare the number of pupils and instructors in grades K-12. Low ratios suggest there may be opportunities for individual problem-solving and learning; increases in this ratio may indicate growing budgetary pressures on school districts.

EDUCATION: KEY FINDINGS

- The bi-county area's over-25 population is not as well educated as most of the neighboring counties or the state average. Twelve percent of the over-24 population have bachelor's or advanced degrees, compared with 15 percent in non-metro areas and 21 percent statewide.
- The bi-county area has a slightly higher share of its population with associate degrees or some level of college education, relative to the Kansas and non-metro averages (29%, compared with 27%).
- Those with less than grade 9 educations accounted for 10 percent of the bi-county population over 25, consistent with non-metro average rates.
- Public school enrollments increased marginally in Neosho County and declined by 3 percent in Wilson County between the 1986-87 and 1991-92 school years. Enrollments in the neighboring counties increased by 1 percent over this period.
- Weighted expenditures per pupil increased by 30 percent over 6 years in Wilson County, higher than any of the neighboring counties. Neosho's 20 percent increase was typical of the increased levels of per-pupil expenditures in the neighboring counties.
- High school dropout rates over the past seven years have been below the state average in both counties. Neosho's rate has averaged 3.1 percent, despite a sharp upturn in the 1990-91 academic year. Wilson's rate has trended downward since the mid-1980s, averaging 3.7 percent, compared with the state rate of 4.2 percent.
- Pupil-teacher ratios are relatively low in Neosho and Wilson Counties.
- Wilson County's pupil-teacher ratio showed virtually no change between 1987-88 and 1991-92, while this ratio increased in virtually all of the neighboring counties increased by 5 to 10 percent.

EDUCATION: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 3.1
Highest Level of Education, 1990
 Population Age 25+
 Neosho, Wilson & Kansas



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

- The over-25 population in the bi-county area is not as well educated as the state average, and has slightly lower levels of education than the non-metropolitan Kansas average. Twelve percent of the bi-county area's over-25 population have bachelor's or graduate degrees, compared with 15 percent in the non-metro areas and 21 percent statewide. The shares of population with high school educations or less resemble those of the non-metro averages.
- The proportion of over-25 population with associate degrees or some college education (29%) is an area of potential strength for the bi-county area. The Kansas and non-metro averages are 27 percent. This may mean there has been slightly more emphasis in the area of technical skills training.
- Education levels in the bi-county area are lower than those in 5 of the 8 neighboring counties. Elk, Greenwood and Woodson Counties have less educated work forces.

Table 3.1
Highest Level of Completed Education, Population 25 Years and Older
Neosho and Wilson Counties, Neighboring Counties, and Kansas, 1990

	<u>Graduate Degree</u>	<u>College</u>		<u>Some College</u>	<u>High School</u>		<u>Elementary Less Than 9 Years</u>
		<u>Bachelors Degree</u>	<u>Associate Degree</u>		<u>Diploma</u>	<u>No Diploma</u>	
Neosho	4%	8%	9%	23%	34%	13%	10%
Wilson	4	8	5	20	38	15	10
Bi-County Total	4	8	7	22	36	14	10
Allen	4	8	7	20	35	14	12
Bourbon	6	9	7	19	34	12	14
Crawford	8	11	5	20	31	13	12
Labette	5	7	7	22	33	14	12
Montgomery	4	9	7	21	31	16	11
Elk	3	7	3	18	36	15	18
Greenwood	3	7	4	18	42	13	12
Woodson	2	7	4	18	39	14	15
Neighboring Counties	5	9	6	21	33	14	12
Kansas Non-Metro	5	10	6	21	36	12	10
Kansas	7	14	5	22	33	11	8

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 Neosho and Wilson Counties and in other areas. The proportion of over-25 population with at least some college education rose between 1980 to 1990 from 26 percent to 41 percent in the bi-county area, and from 34 percent to 48 percent statewide. Increases in the bi-county area's education levels were consistent with those of the neighboring counties and the state.

- The proportions of over-25 population with less than Grade 9 educations fell between 1980 and 1990 from 19 to 10 percent in the bi-county area and from 14 to 8 percent statewide. In this category, the bi-county area narrowed the gap between itself and the state average during the decade.

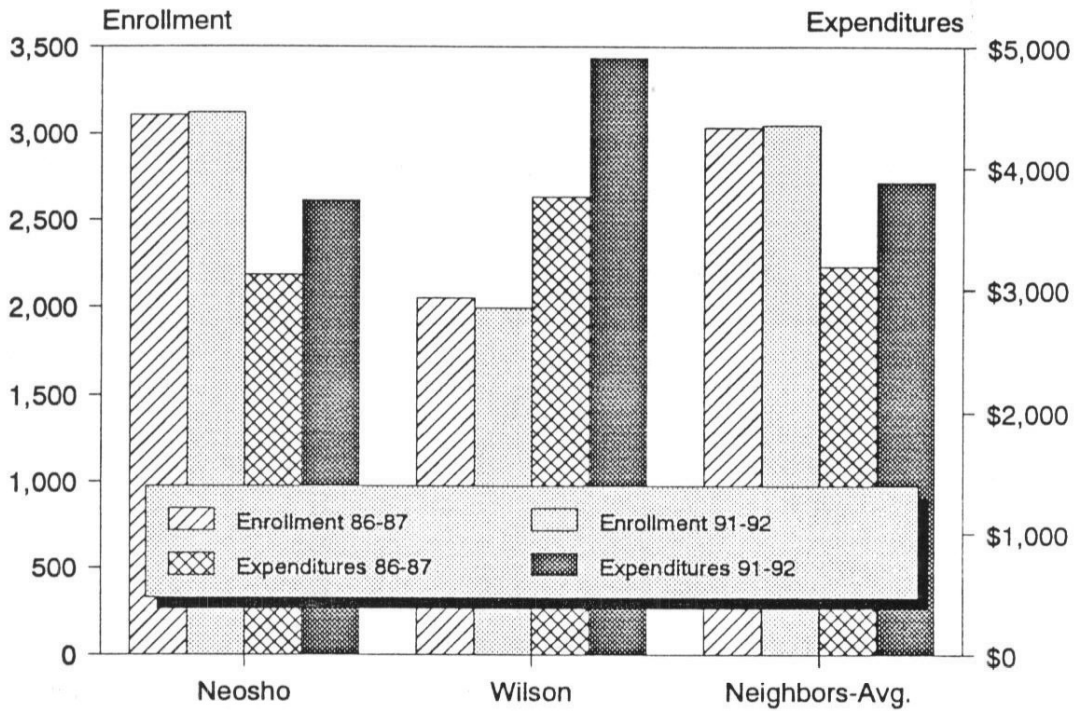
Table 3.2
Highest Level of Completed Education, Population 25 Years and Older
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980

	<u>College</u>		<u>High School</u>		<u>Elementary</u>
	<u>4+</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1-3</u>	<u><8</u>
Neosho	10%	17%	39%	15%	18%
Wilson	10	14	40	15	21
Bi-County Total	10	16	40	15	19
Allen	12	15	38	13	22
Bourbon	11	16	37	13	23
Crawford	16	15	35	13	22
Labette	10	16	39	15	19
Montgomery	11	18	36	16	20
Elk	7	13	41	15	24
Greenwood	9	14	44	13	20
Woodson	8	12	40	14	25
Neighboring Counties	12	16	37	14	21
Kansas Non-Metro	13	16	41	12	18
Kansas	17	17	39	12	15

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
 Neosho & Wilson Counties, 1986/87, 1991-92



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

- Public school enrollments increased marginally in Neosho County and declined by 3 percent in Wilson County between the 1986-87 and 1991-92 school years. Overall, the enrollments in the neighboring counties increased by 1 percent over this period, while statewide enrollments increased by 7 percent.
- Weighted expenditures per pupil increased by 20 percent in Neosho County and by 30 percent in Wilson County between 1986 to 1992. For the neighboring counties, this increase was 22 percent. None of the neighboring counties' increases over this period was as high as Wilson County's.

Table 3.3
Full-Time Enrollment, Public Schools
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, and Kansas, 1986-87 and 1991-92

	<u>1986-1987</u>	<u>1991-1992</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Neosho	3,107	3,122	1%
Wilson	2,052	1,994	-3
Bi-County Total	5,159	5,116	-1
Allen	2,660	2,787	5
Bourbon	2,517	2,567	2
Crawford	5,688	5,923	4
Labette	4,345	4,295	-1
Montgomery	6,689	6,379	-5
Elk	637	639	--
Greenwood	1,169	1,186	1
Woodson	564	620	10
Neighboring Counties	24,268	24,395	1
Kansas	395,180	423,517	7

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

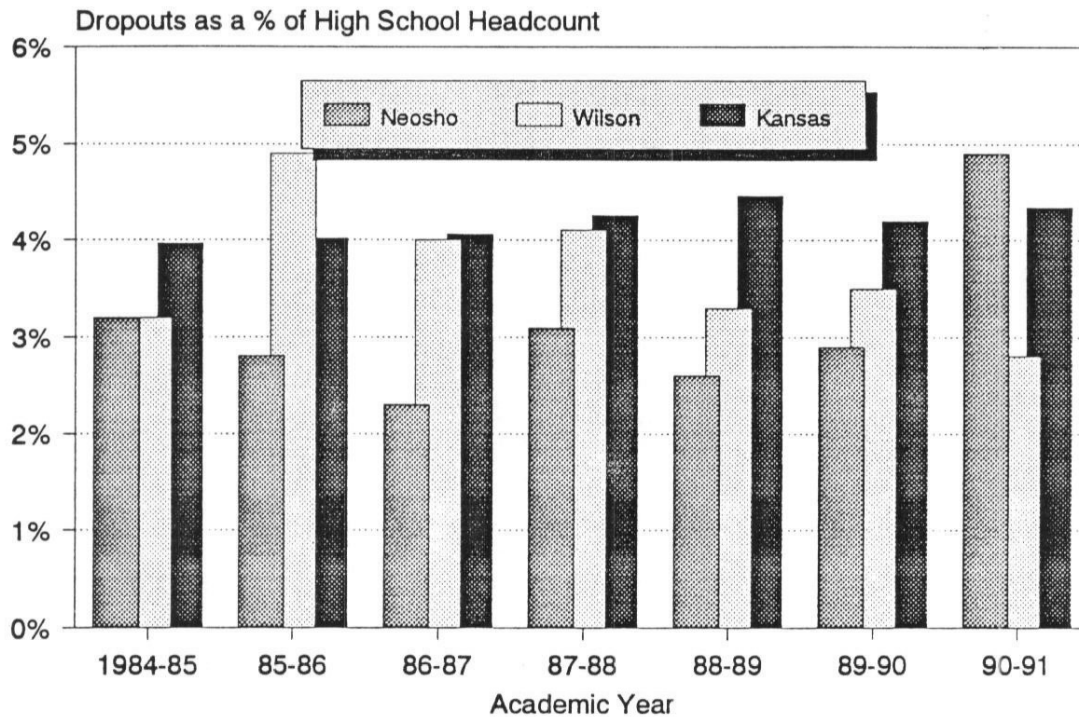
Table 3.4
Weighted Expenditure Per Pupil (Full-time equivalent)
Neosho, Wilson and Neighboring Counties, 1986-87 and 1991-92

	<u>1986-1987</u>	<u>1991-1992</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Neosho	\$ 3,120	\$ 3,733	20%
Wilson	3,768	4,911	30
Bi-County Total	3,377	4,193	24
Allen	3,167	3,837	21
Bourbon	2,893	3,450	19
Crawford	3,188	3,720	17
Labette	3,136	3,896	24
Montgomery	3,029	3,821	26
Elk	4,241	5,302	25
Greenwood	4,328	5,313	23
Woodson	3,375	3,867	15
Neighboring Counties	3,189	3,885	22

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

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

Figure 3.3
High School Dropout Rates
 Neosho, Wilson 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.

- Until the 1990-91 academic year, Neosho County's dropout high school dropout rate has been well below the state average. Over the past seven years, Neosho's dropout rate has averaged 3.1 percent, well below the state average of 4.2 percent.
- Wilson County's dropout rate since the 1984-85 academic year has averaged 3.7 percent, also below the state rate. Only once in a seven year period (1985-86) has Wilson's dropout rate been higher than the state rate. Since the mid-1980s, Wilson's dropout rate has trended steadily downward.

Table 3.5
High School Dropout Rates
Neosho and Wilson Counties and Kansas, 1984-85 to 1990-91

Academic Year	H.S. Enrollment		Dropouts		Rate		Kansas Average Dropout Rate
	Neosho	Wilson	Neosho	Wilson	Neosho	Wilson	
1984-85	998	624	32	20	3.2%	3.2%	4.0%
1985-86	966	591	27	29	2.8	4.9	4.0
1986-87	948	622	22	25	2.3	4.0	4.1
1987-88	882	609	27	25	3.1	4.1	4.3
1988-89	835	582	22	19	2.6	3.3	4.5
1989-90	786	598	23	21	2.9	3.5	4.2
1990-91	804	564	39	16	4.9	2.8	4.3
Seven-year weighted average					3.1%	3.7%	4.2%

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.

- Pupil-teacher ratios are relatively low in both Neosho and Wilson Counties.
- Wilson County's pupil-teacher ratio showed virtually no change between 1987-88 and 1991-92. This was uncharacteristic for the area, as pupil-teacher ratios in the neighboring counties typically increased by 5 to 10 percent. Neosho's pupil-teacher ratio increased by 6 percent.

Table 3.6
Pupil-Teacher Ratio, Public Schools
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, and Kansas, 1987-88 and 1991-92

	<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1991-92</u>
Neosho	14.5	15.4
Wilson	14.6	14.7
Bi-County Total	NA	15.1
Allen	15.2	16.2
Bourbon	16.2	16.9
Crawford	16.2	17.0
Labette	13.5	15.3
Montgomery	16.6	16.5
Elk	11.3	12.3
Greenwood	12.1	13.4
Woodson	13.8	14.8
Neighboring Counties	NA	16.0
Kansas	15.9	16.1

NA - Not available

Source: Kansas State Board of Education, *Pupil-Teacher Ratios of Unified School Districts, 1987-1988; 1991-1992*.

Section IV: Employment, Earnings & Income

Employment, earnings and income are three critical measures of economic activity at the local level. Unemployed workers 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 may represent a drain on tax revenues and a higher demand for social services. The level of earnings is significant as well. Higher average wage levels mean not only that each worker has money available to spend locally, but may indicate the presence of highly productive, rapidly growing businesses. Finally, income requires examination to learn the amount of contributions to the local economy are due to sources of income other than employment, and whether total levels of income generated within the community are appropriate for its population base.

This section examines the following indicators:

- 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;
- *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;
- *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. The relative importance of wage and salary employment, self-employment, investment income and transfer payments explain how well the community is able to support itself;
- *average wage and salary earnings per job*, over time, helps us understand better whether job growth is being accompanied by an improvement in the quality of jobs, as measured by the average wages paid. Lower wages are indicative of lower productivity and business performance.

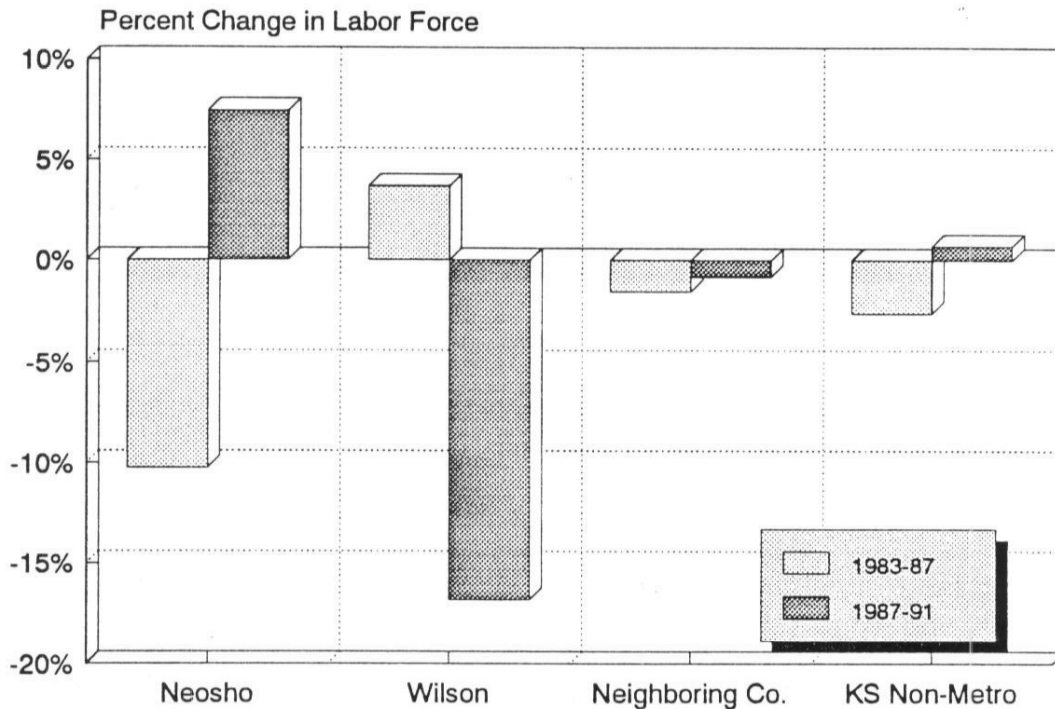
EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & INCOME: KEY FINDINGS

- Over the decade, the bi-county area lost twice as large a share of its labor pool than the neighboring counties did, and three times as large a share as the non-metro average. Since 1989, Neosho County's labor force has shown moderate growth, while Wilson County's labor force has declined.
- Total employment levels were virtually unchanged in the bi-county area over the decade, despite considerable fluctuation. Neosho had lost 1,500 jobs by 1987, and had regained 800 jobs by 1990; Wilson's employment peaked in 1986 with 5,500 employed, but by 1990, this had declined to 5,100 jobs.
- Unemployment rates have been consistently higher in the bi-county area and in the neighboring counties than the Kansas non-metro average.
- Recent improvements in Neosho's unemployment rates were principally due to job creation, while Wilson's rates were stabilized by workers leaving the workforce.
- Growth rates for the bi-county area's total personal income were 20 percent lower than that of the neighboring counties and 25 percent lower than the growth rate for the state as a whole.
- Per capita incomes in 1990 were \$15,633 in Neosho and \$14,369 in Wilson, below the Kansas non-metro level of \$16,190 and Kansas per capita income of \$18,104. The gap between local levels and national levels increased over the decade.
- Employment income accounted for a 47 percent share of total personal income in the bi-county area in 1990, less than in Neighboring Counties (51%) or the state (57%).
- Transfer payments became a relatively more important source of income in the bi-county area over the decade, increasing from an 18 percent share to a 23 percent share. This was consistent with trends in the Neighboring counties.
- Average wage and salary earnings per job in 1990 were \$15,683 in Neosho County and \$16,244 in Wilson County. These compared with \$16,316 in the Neighboring counties, and were about 20 percent lower than the state average earnings of \$19,722.
- Over the decade, the gap between local and statewide average earnings per job increased from 11 points to about 20 points, consistent with trends in the Neighboring Counties.

EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & INCOME: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 4.1

Net Change in Civilian Labor Force Neosho, Wilson, & Neighboring Counties



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

- The bi-county civilian labor force decreased 7 percent from 15,000 in 1982 to 13,900 in 1991. Each of Neosho and Wilson Counties had 500 fewer people in the labor force.
- Most of the contraction in the size of the bi-county labor force occurred between 1985 and 1989. Since 1989, the number in the labor force has stabilized with around 14,000 working or looking for work.
- Neosho and Wilson have demonstrated contrasting patterns of labor force growth. In the early 1980s, Wilson County flourished while Neosho County's labor force declined in size. Since 1989, Neosho County's labor force has shown moderate growth, while Wilson County's labor force has continued a gradual decline that began in 1987.
- Over the decade, the bi-county area lost twice as large a share of its labor pool than the neighboring counties did, and three times as large a share as the non-metro average.

Table 4.1
Civilian Labor Force, 1982-1991 (Place of residence)
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring 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>
	(in thousands)									
Neosho	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.0	8.6	8.8	8.7	9.0	9.3
Wilson	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.3	4.9	4.8	4.7
Bi-County Total	15.0	15.1	15.1	15.2	14.5	14.2	14.0	13.6	13.8	13.9
Allen	8.0	8.2	7.5	7.7	7.2	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.3	6.8
Bourbon	8.2	8.5	7.7	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.3	7.2	7.0	6.8
Crawford	16.6	16.9	16.7	17.2	16.9	17.2	17.4	17.5	18.0	18.1
Labette	9.8	9.8	12.0	12.8	12.7	13.0	13.4	13.0	12.5	12.8
Montgomery	21.2	19.6	17.4	17.7	17.6	17.9	18.1	18.2	18.6	18.0
Elk	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Greenwood	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.5
Woodson	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6
Neighboring	71.4	70.6	69.0	71.1	69.7	69.6	70.0	69.7	70.0	69.0
Non-Metro	580.8	579.3	560.9	580.3	568.6	564.2	565.8	563.6	569.9	568.2
Kansas	1,185	1,186	1,197	1,235	1,224	1,267	1,282	1,284	1,300	1,295

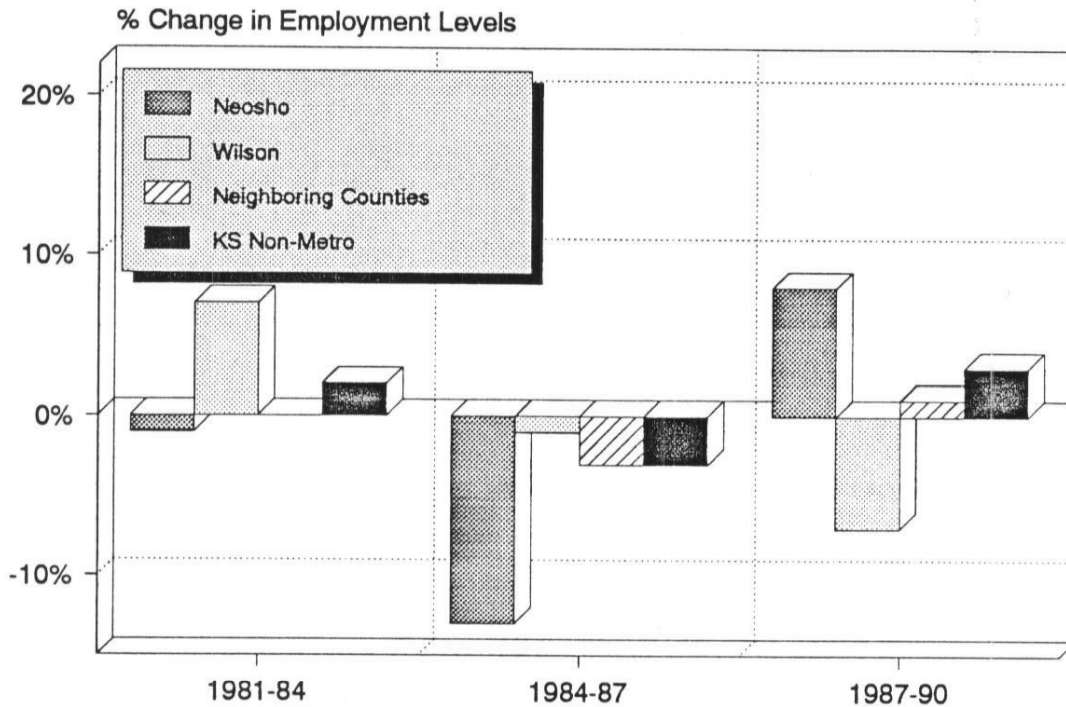
Source: Kansas Department of Human Resources, Labor Market Information Services, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

	<u>Percentage Change</u>		<u>Change 1982-1991</u>	
	<u>1983-87</u>	<u>1987-91</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Neosho	-10%	8%	-525	-5%
Wilson	4	-17	-507	-10
Bi-County Total	-2	-1	-1,032	-7
Allen	-16	-1	-1,138	-14
Bourbon	-11	-11	-1,412	-17
Crawford	2	5	1,489	9
Labette	33	-2	3,061	31
Montgomery	-8	--	-3,226	-15
Elk	-10	-5	-145	-9
Greenwood	-9	-6	-563	-14
Woodson	-16	-8	-403	-21
Neighboring Counties	-1	-1	-2,337	-3
Kansas Non-Metro	-3	1	-12,685	-2
Kansas	7	2	110,000	9

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
 Neosho, Wilson & Neighboring Counties



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

- Over the period 1980 to 1990, employment levels were virtually unchanged in the bi-county area. Within the decade, however there has been considerable fluctuation. Neosho peaked in 1981 with 10,800 jobs; by 1987, 1,500 of those jobs had been lost; 800 of these had been regained by 1990. In Wilson County, employment peaked in 1986 with 5,500 employed; this had declined to 5,100 by 1990.
- The mid-1980s was the period of greatest job losses in the bi-county area, in the Neighboring Counties and for Kansas non-metropolitan communities as a whole. Due to Neosho's heavy job losses in 1986, the impact on the bi-county area (employment declined by 9%) was much more severe than in the Neighboring Counties (-3%).
- Except for Bourbon County, most of the Neighboring Counties have experienced modest to robust job growth since 1987. Crawford County added nearly 1,600 jobs in a three-year period, while Montgomery County recovered 1,200 jobs which had been lost previously. Neosho County added 762 jobs, over this period, while Wilson lost 382.

Table 4.3
Average Annual Employment (Place of Work)
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring 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>
Neosho	10,810	10,469	10,456	10,754	10,269	9,385	9,314	9,734	9,895	10,076
Wilson	5,150	5,205	5,366	5,488	5,384	5,500	5,451	5,273	5,146	5,070
Bi-County Total	15,960	15,674	15,822	16,242	15,653	14,885	14,765	15,007	15,041	15,146
Allen	7,778	7,680	7,919	8,202	7,976	7,604	7,487	7,677	7,870	7,800
Bourbon	11,382	10,821	11,948	13,093	13,851	12,253	11,503	10,868	10,159	8,865
Crawford	16,801	16,633	16,720	16,978	16,906	17,048	17,279	17,968	18,354	18,848
Labette	12,564	12,636	12,630	12,921	13,068	13,100	13,433	13,978	13,801	13,607
Montgomery	23,334	21,227	19,681	20,344	19,821	19,818	20,287	20,758	21,161	21,518
Elk	1,765	1,863	1,980	1,945	1,915	1,791	1,801	1,815	1,801	1,801
Greenwood	4,314	4,243	4,290	4,351	4,185	4,009	4,040	4,088	4,153	4,079
Woodson	2,111	2,055	2,198	2,147	2,074	1,917	1,883	1,902	1,956	1,893
Neighboring Counties	80,049	77,158	77,366	79,981	79,796	77,540	77,713	79,054	79,255	78,411
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)
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1981-1990

	Net Job Creation			Percent Change		
	1981-84	1984-87	1987-90	1981-84	1984-87	1987-90
Neosho	-56	-1,440	762	-1%	-13%	8%
Wilson	338	-37	-381	7	-1	-7
Bi-County Total	282	-1,477	381	2	-9	3
Allen	424	-715	313	5	-9	4
Bourbon	1,711	-1,590	-2,638	15	-12	-23
Crawford	177	301	1,569	1	2	9
Labette	357	488	174	3	4	1
Montgomery	-2,990	-57	1,231	-13	--	6
Elk	180	-144	--	10	-7	--
Greenwood	37	-311	39	1	-7	1
Woodson	36	-264	10	2	-12	1
Neighboring Counties	-68	-2,268	698	--	-3	1
Kansas Non-Metro	12,742	-16,818	18,957	2	-3	3
Kansas	48,087	48,512	82,884	4	4	6

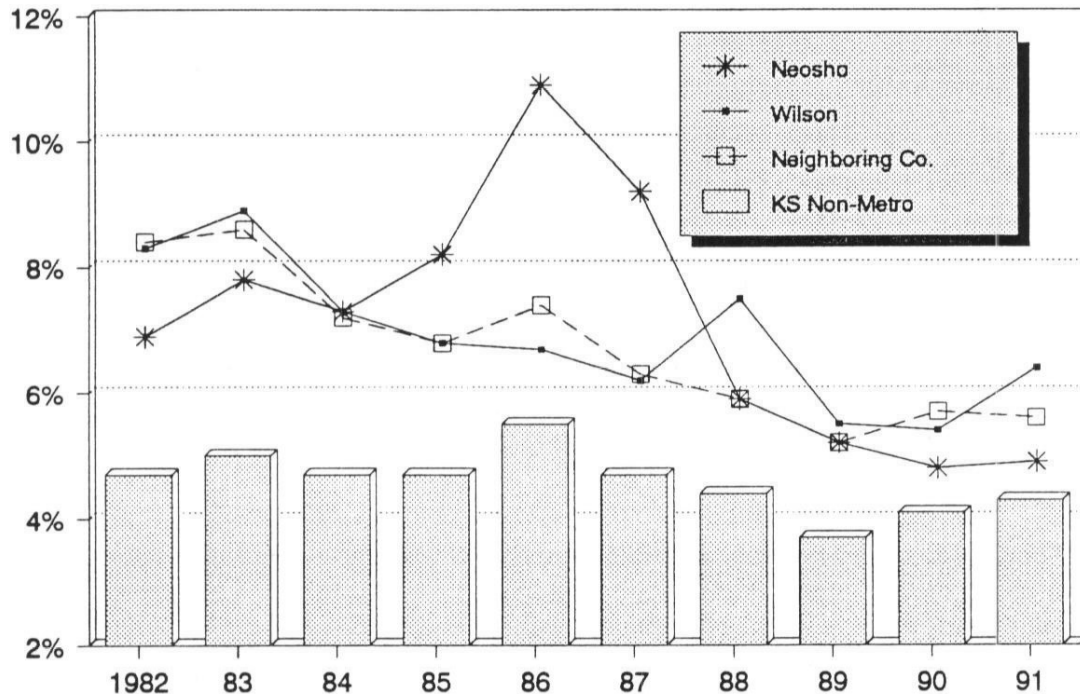
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Information System*, Table CA25.

Table 4.5
Ten-Year Change and Percentage Change in Employment (Place of Work)
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1981-90

	Change in Employment	Percent Change
	1980-1990	1980-1990
Neosho	71	0.7%
Wilson	-63	-1.2
Bi-County Total	8	--
Allen	-64	-1
Bourbon	-2,880	-25
Crawford	1,530	9
Labette	935	7
Montgomery	-1,105	-5
Elk	-2	--
Greenwood	-211	-5
Woodson	-167	-8
Neighboring Counties	-1,836	-2.3
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
 Neosho, Wilson & Neighboring Counties



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

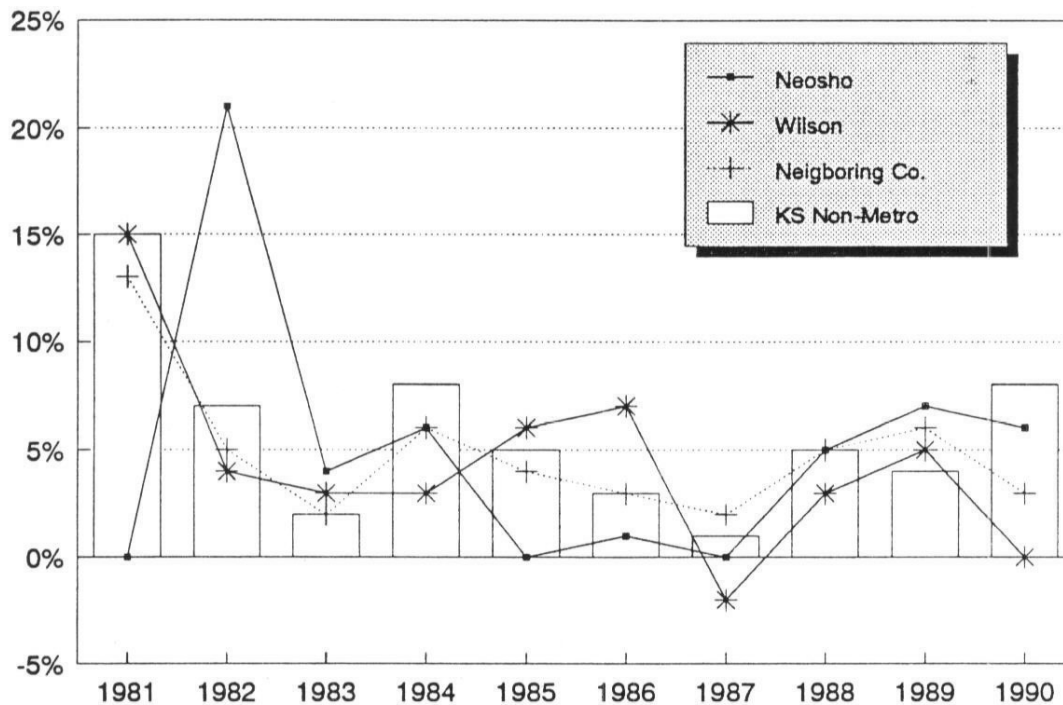
- Unemployment rates have been consistently higher in the bi-county area and in the neighboring counties than the Kansas non-metro average.
- Neosho County's unemployment rates were the highest in the area during the mid-1980s, peaking at 10.8 percent in 1986. While these rates have been generally higher than those of the Neighboring counties, since 1988, unemployment rates have either matched or bettered those of the Neighboring Counties.
- Wilson County's unemployment rates have trended continually downward since the early 1980s, except for upturns in 1988 and 1990.
- In the latter half of the 1980s, Neosho's unemployment rates improved principally due to job creation, while Wilson's unemployment rates were stabilized by workers withdrawing from the workforce. Between 1987 and 1990, Neosho added 800 jobs and 400 to its labor force; Wilson lost 400 jobs, with 800 leaving the workforce.

Table 4.6
Unemployment Rate, 1982-1991 (Place of Residence)
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring 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>
Neosho	6.8%	7.7%	7.2%	8.1%	10.8%	9.1%	5.8%	5.1%	4.7%	4.8%
Wilson	8.2	8.8	7.2	6.7	6.6	6.1	7.4	5.4	5.3	6.3
Bi-County Total	7.3	8.1	7.2	7.6	9.2	7.9	6.4	5.2	5.0	5.3
Allen	6.4	6.8	7.1	9.0	9.3	7.3	5.6	5.1	5.5	5.5
Bourbon	5.1	4.9	5.4	5.3	6.5	6.4	7.2	5.2	4.8	5.5
Crawford	7.5	7.2	7.6	6.5	6.7	5.9	5.6	4.7	5.3	4.9
Labette	9.1	9.5	6.5	6.1	6.9	6.0	4.9	5.9	6.3	5.5
Montgomery	11.4	12.4	8.5	7.5	7.7	6.3	6.3	5.1	5.9	6.2
Elk	6.7	7.7	5.5	5.1	7.0	5.5	5.2	4.5	4.4	5.1
Greenwood	5.0	6.0	5.5	5.6	7.2	5.7	5.1	4.5	5.2	4.9
Woodson	5.5	5.4	6.0	6.5	6.6	7.0	5.6	3.6	5.1	5.5
Neighboring Counties	8.3	8.5	7.1	6.7	7.3	6.2	5.8	5.1	5.6	5.5
Kansas Non-Metro	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.7	5.5	4.7	4.4	3.7	4.1	4.3
Kansas	6.3	6.1	5.2	5.0	5.4	4.9	4.8	4.0	4.4	4.4

Source: Kansas Department of Human Resources, Labor Market Information Services, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Services. Multiple county totals calculated by IPPBR.

Figure 4.4
Annual Growth in Total Personal Income
Neosho, Wilson and Neighboring Counties



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

- Using total personal income as a measure of total activity in the local economy, the bi-county area did not match the rate of growth of the neighboring counties or the state as a whole. Personal income levels (unadjusted for inflation) rose by 17 percent in the bi-county area from 1981 to 1990, while the Neighboring counties' income increased by 21 percent, and the Kansas non-metro average level increased by 23 percent.
- While personal income growth in Neosho County has been relatively strong since 1987, Wilson County's growth has not kept pace with either Neosho's or the neighboring counties.
- Crawford and Montgomery Counties have had the fastest growth rates since 1987, when income growth rates were lowest.

Table 4.7
Annual Growth Rates for Total Personal Income
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980-1990

	Growth from Previous Year's Level of Personal Income									
	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Neosho	--%	21%	4%	6%	--%	-1%	--%	5%	7%	6%
Wilson	15	4	3	3	6	7	-2	3	5	--
Bi-County Total	5	14	4	5	2	2	-1	4	6	4
Allen	12	6	4	6	5	1	3	3	9	-1
Bourbon	11	5	6	6	6	--	2	1	3	--
Crawford	14	4	5	6	10	2	2	7	7	5
Labette	12	10	4	6	7	4	3	7	3	3
Montgomery	12	1	-2	6	3	4	1	6	7	5
Elk	6	15	-5	11	2	7	-2	2	11	-2
Greenwood	14	3	--	7	-2	3	2	6	4	6
Woodson	30	2	-2	9	-2	7	-2	4	10	4
Neighboring Counties	13	5	2	6	4	3	2	5	6	3
KS Non-Metro	15	7	2	8	5	3	1	5	4	8
Kansas	13	7	4	8	6	5	4	6	6	7

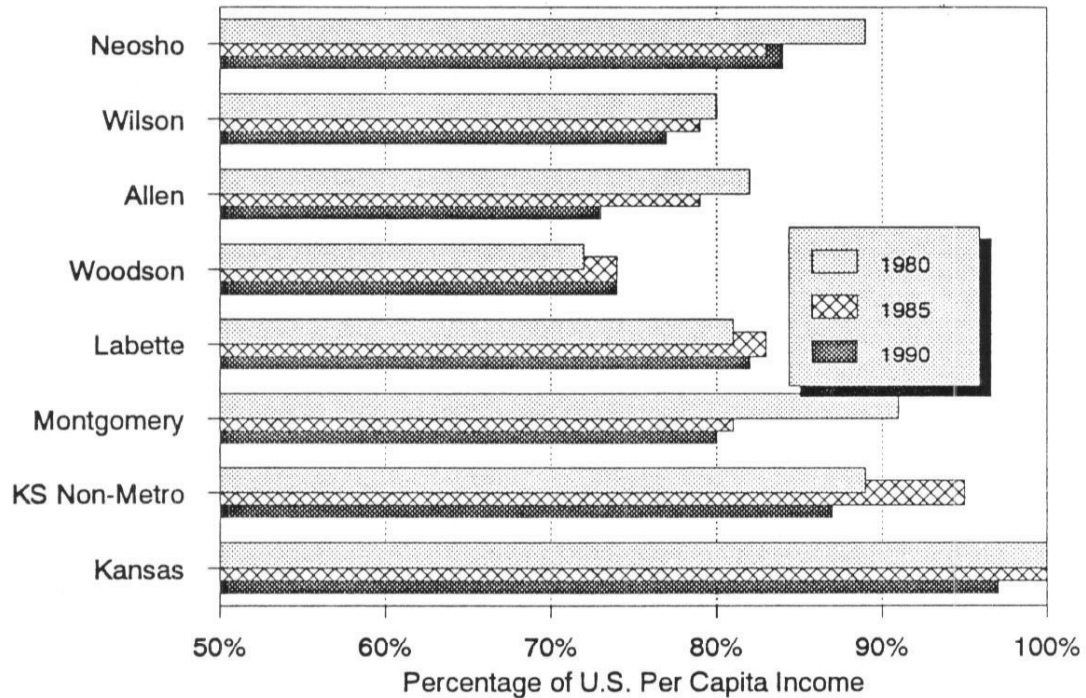
Source: Calculated from Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Information System*, Table CA5.

Table 4.8
Total Personal Income and Five-Year Growth Rates
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1985, 1990

	Total Personal Income (\$ millions)			Percentage Change	
	1980	1985	1990	1980-85	1985-90
Neosho	168	223	266	33%	19%
Wilson	96	130	147	35	13
Bi-County Total	264	353	412	34	17
Allen	127	174	199	37	14
Bourbon	148	205	220	39	7
Crawford	318	443	555	39	25
Labette	206	298	363	45	22
Montgomery	384	468	582	22	24
Elk	32	42	49	31	17
Greenwood	81	100	122	23	22
Woodson	33	46	57	39	24
Neighboring Counties	1,329	1,776	2,147	34	21
KS Non-Metro (billions)	10.5	15.0	18.5	43	23
Kansas (billions)	23.6	33.8	44.9	43	33

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

Figure 4.5
 Per Capita Personal Income Levels
 Neosho, Wilson & Selected Comparatives



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

- Per capita income in Neosho County in 1990 was \$15,633, 3 percent lower than the Kansas non-metro average and 16 percent lower than the national average.
- Wilson’s per capita income, \$14,369 in 1990, was 11 percent lower than the Kansas non-metro average and 23 percent lower than the national average.
- Both Neosho and Wilson lost ground relative to the national average in per capita incomes. For Neosho County, the gap between the two increased from an 11 percent differential to a gap of 16 percent. Wilson County’s per capita income, once 20 percent less than the national average, fell to a level 23 percent below the national average.
- Generally, the Neighboring counties did not improve their standing relative to the U.S. in per capita incomes. Only in Labette and Woodson Counties did per capita incomes grow faster than the U.S. rate over the decade.

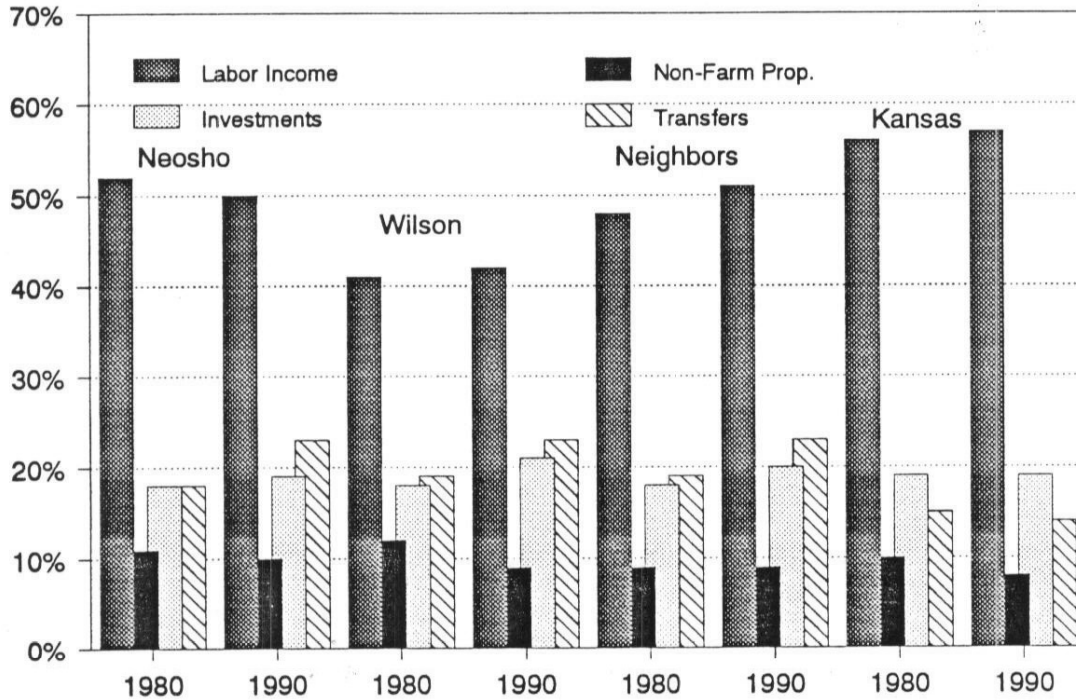
Table 4.9
 Ten-Year Change in Per Capita Income
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1980-1990

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Ratio to U.S. Average</u>		
				<u>1980</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>
Neosho	8,797	11,543	15,633	.89	.83	.84
Wilson	7,961	11,068	14,369	.80	.79	.77
Allen	8,106	10,947	13,624	.82	.79	.73
Bourbon	9,292	13,091	14,797	.94	.94	.79
Crawford	8,356	11,709	15,637	.84	.84	.84
Labette	8,001	11,641	15,370	.81	.83	.82
Montgomery	9,052	11,282	15,036	.91	.81	.80
Elk	8,134	11,342	14,736	.82	.81	.79
Greenwood	9,237	11,718	15,657	.93	.84	.84
Woodson	7,178	10,355	13,796	.72	.74	.74
Kansas Non-Metro	8,868	13,306	16,190	.89	.95	.87
Kansas	9,941	13,930	18,104	1.00	1.00	.97
U.S.	9,919	13,942	18,691			

Note: Out of state data not available.

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

Figure 4.6
Share of Personal Income, By Source
Neosho, Wilson, Neighbors & Kansas



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

- Employment income accounted for slightly less than half of total personal income in the bi-county area in 1990, 47 percent. This was a smaller share than the total for the Neighboring Counties (51%) or the state as a whole (57%).
- Transfer payments became a relatively more important source of income in the bi-county area over the decade, increasing from an 18 percent share to a 23 percent share. This was consistent with trends in the Neighboring counties.
- The contributions toward total personal income from non-farm proprietorships declined in the bi-county area from an 11 percent share of personal income to a 9 percent share. While state-wide, there was some relative decline in this source of income, this was not the case in the Neighboring counties. Entrepreneurship continued to be an important source of income in the smaller counties.

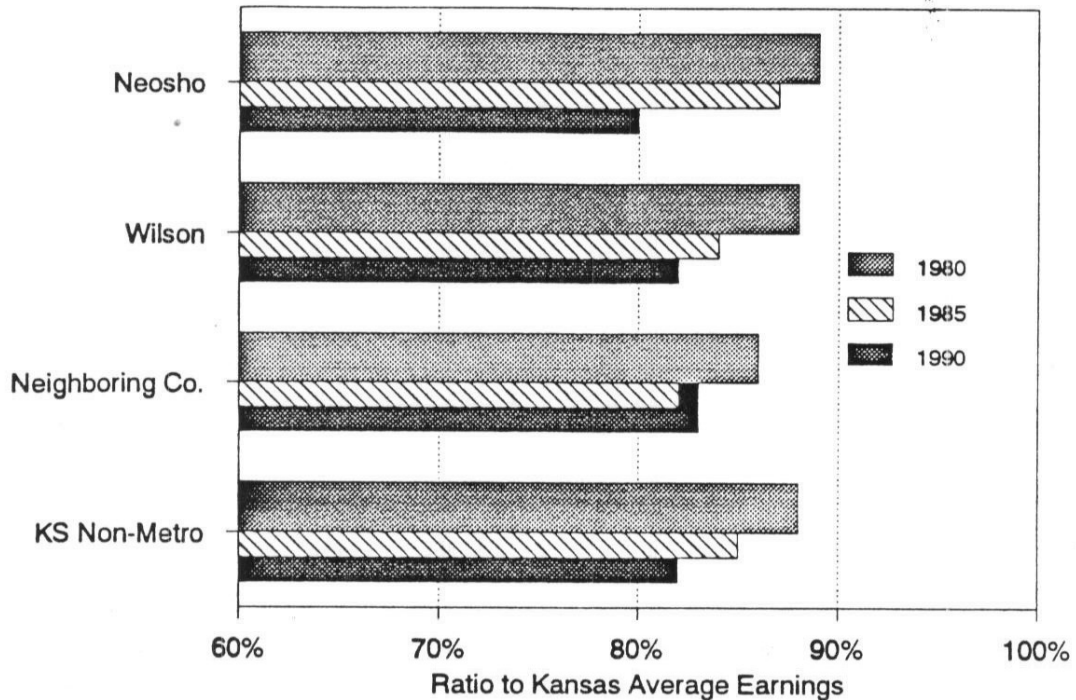
Table 4.10
Selected Components of Personal Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

County/Area	Wages, Salaries and Other		Proprietorships				Dividends, Interest, & Rent		Transfer Payments	
	Labor Income		Farm		Non-Farm		1980	1990	1980	1990
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990				
Neosho	52%	50%	NM%	2%	11%	10%	18%	19%	18%	23%
Wilson	41	42	3	4	12	9	18	21	19	23
Bi-County Total	48	47	1	2	11	9	18	19	18	23
Allen	50	51	2	3	11	10	19	20	19	22
Bourbon	61	51	NM	1	7	9	17	23	17	21
Crawford	48	49	NM	1	8	7	19	20	23	23
Labette	56	58	NM	3	8	7	17	16	22	23
Montgomery	60	59	0	1	9	8	16	19	17	22
Elk	22	22	1	3	15	16	26	24	20	26
Greenwood	29	27	5	8	17	15	21	23	18	24
Woodson	32	26	NM	7	14	11	24	27	22	25
Neighboring Counties	48	51	NM	2	9	9	18	20	19	23
Kansas	56	57	2	3	10	8	19	19	15	14

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Information System*, Tables CA5, CA30.

Notes: NM= Not meaningful. Figures do not total 100% due to BEA adjustments for place of residence and social security premium payments.

Figure 4.7
 Avg. Wage/Salary Earnings per Job
 Neosho, Wilson and Neighboring Counties



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 1990 were \$15,683 in Neosho County and \$16,244 in Wilson County. These compared with \$16,316 in the Neighboring counties, and were about 20 percent lower than the state average earnings of \$19,722.
- Over the decade, the gap between local and statewide average earnings per job increased from 11 points to about 20 points. This was consistent with trends in the Neighboring Counties.
- Although bi-county average wages increased by 41 percent (not accounting for inflation), statewide average wages increased by 56 percent during the ten-year span.
- Average earnings were highest in Montgomery (\$17,510) and Labette County (\$17,153) and lowest in Elk (\$11,855) and Greenwood County (\$12,178).

Table 4.11
Average Wage and Salary Earnings Per Job by Place of Work (in \$ Thousands)
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1985 and 1990

	Average Wage/Salary Earnings Per Job			Ratio to Kansas		
	1980	1985 (\$ thousands)	1990	1980	1985	1990
Neosho	11,304	14,689	15,683	.89	.87	.80
Wilson	11,114	14,194	16,244	.88	.84	.82
Bi-County Total	11,244	14,533	15,855	.89	.86	.80
Allen	10,717	13,426	15,418	.85	.79	.78
Bourbon	9,304	11,026	16,061	.73	.65	.81
Crawford	10,782	14,041	15,790	.85	.83	.80
Labette	11,375	15,539	17,153	.90	.92	.87
Montgomery	12,233	15,356	17,510	.96	.91	.89
Elk	8,370	10,127	11,855	.66	.60	.60
Greenwood	9,289	11,876	12,718	.73	.70	.64
Woodson	9,029	11,445	13,528	.71	.68	.69
Neighboring Counties	10,950	13,819	16,316	.86	.82	.83
KS Non-Metro	11,100	14,300	16,200	.88	.85	.82
Kansas	12,681	16,900	19,722	1.00	1.00	1.00

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Information System*, December 1990, Tables CA5, CA25.

Note: Includes wage and salary disbursement (only) divided by total employment. Does not include other forms of employment earnings (i.e. benefits, etc.).

Section V: 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 that either promotes or inhibits the productivity of local businesses and therefore affects decisions about growth and expansion. Other contributing factors include the level of competition, the availability of suppliers and supporting industries, the cost of labor, and taxation and regulation within the community. Some types of establishments will thrive in an environment in which other firms cannot operate profitably. Among other things, studying the business environment can lead to a better understanding of which types of businesses are doing well and how business conditions and the performance of particular industries are 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; and
- *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.

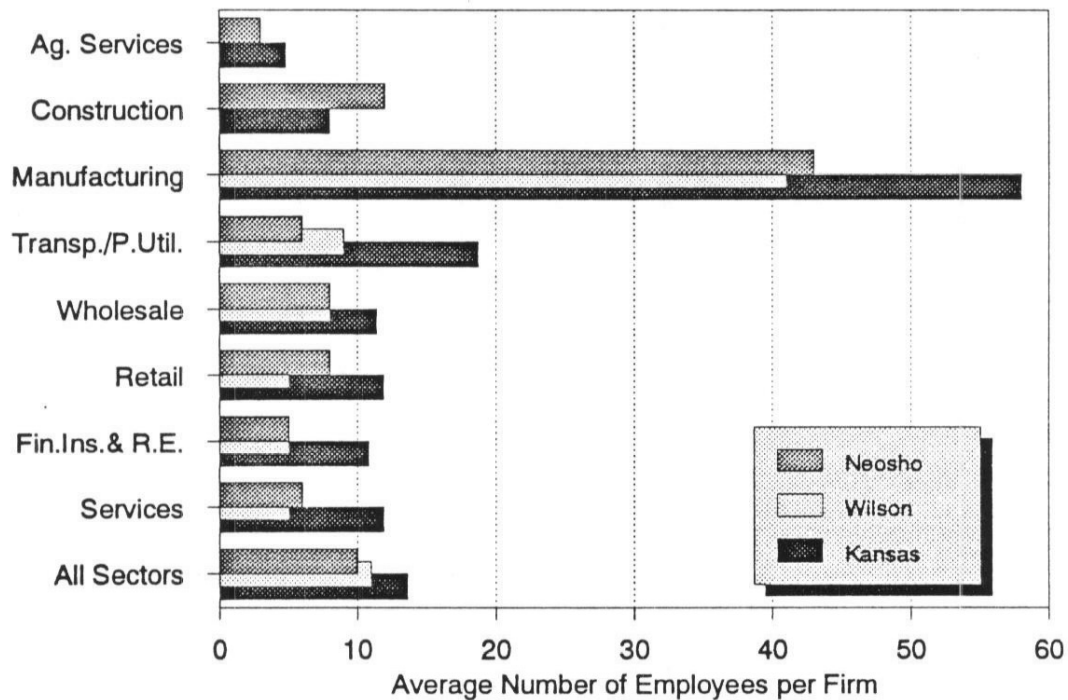
BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT: KEY FINDINGS

- The number of firms remained stable between 1980 and 1990 in Wilson County and declined by 3 percent in Neosho County. In 1990 there were 517 firms in Neosho County and 237 in Wilson County.
- Except for Neosho's construction sector, average firm size is smaller in the bi-county area than the state by an average factor of 20 percent. The most noticeable differences are in the manufacturing and transportation and public utilities sectors.
- Across all sectors, the average wages are lower in both Neosho and Wilson than the state-wide averages. Average wages are closest to the state averages in the retail and finance, insurance and real estate sectors, and in Wilson County's transportation and public utilities sector.
- Manufacturing is a relatively more important sector in the Neosho and Wilson County economies than it is statewide or in the non-metropolitan counties, accounting for over 20 percent of all employment.
- Relatively underdeveloped sectors of the bi-county economies include the service and government sectors, and Wilson county's retail sector.
- The farm economy, at 14 percent of Wilson's economy is much more important than the average for a non-metropolitan county.
- Overall, there was no significant change in the number of jobs in the bi-county area between 1980 and 1990. Neighboring counties and the bi-county area lagged Non-metro performance.
- Taxable retail sales (in real dollars) in the bi-county area fell from \$178 million at the beginning of the decade to \$99 million at its end, a decline of 44 percent. This was a much larger decline than that of the Neighboring counties (-26%) or of the Kansas non-metro average (-9%).

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 5.1

Average Size of Firms, by Sector Neosho, Wilson and Kansas, 1990



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

- The number of firms remained stable between 1980 and 1990 in Wilson County and declined by 3 percent in Neosho County. In 1990 there were 517 firms in Neosho County and 237 in Wilson County.
- In Neosho County, Wholesale, Retail and Mining each lost at least 10 firms during the 1980s, while the Construction sector grew by 11 firms and the Services sector grew by 31 firms.
- In Wilson County, Services gained 7 firms and Mining grew by 6 firms, while Construction declined by 10 firms. Other sectors of the Wilson economy remained stable in terms of the number of establishments.
- Except for Neosho's construction sector, average firm size is smaller in the bi-county area than the state by an average factor of 20 percent. The most noticeable differences are in the Manufacturing and Transportation and Public Utilities sectors.

Table 5.1
Number of Private, Non-Farm Firms by Sector and Number of Employees
Neosho County, 1980 and 1990

Sector/Industry	1980 Firms, by Size						1990 Firms, by Size					
	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+	Total	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+	Total
Agricultural Services	4	1	0	0	0	5	5	2	0	0	0	7
Mining	28	8	5	4	0	45	24	8	1	0	1	34
Construction	22	8	6	1	0	37	19	5	1	2	1	28
Manufacturing	12	2	9	9	11	43	14	3	10	9	13	49
Transp. & Public Util.	13	3	3	2	0	21	13	3	6	1	0	23
Wholesale Trade	26	15	8	2	0	51	18	12	6	4	0	40
Retail	79	26	24	11	1	141	64	31	19	10	1	125
Finance, Ins., R. Estate	35	3	6	2	0	46	31	4	5	2	0	42
Services	81	27	6	7	3	124	102	31	15	4	3	155
All Industries	316	95	67	38	15	531	304	99	63	32	19	517

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

Table 5.2
Number of Private, Non-Farm Firms by Sector and Number of Employees
Wilson County, 1980 and 1990

Sector/Industry	1980 Firms, by Size						1990 Firms, by Size					
	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+	Total	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+	Total
Agricultural Services	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2
Mining	7	2	0	0	0	9	10	4	1	0	0	15
Construction	20	3	0	1	0	24	7	4	1	1	1	14
Manufacturing	14	7	3	3	7	34	9	5	0	4	8	26
Transp. & Public Util.	6	2	2	0	0	10	8	0	2	0	1	11
Wholesale Trade	2	6	3	1	0	12	6	3	2	1	0	12
Retail	48	10	7	3	0	68	45	11	5	4	0	65
Finance, Ins., R. Estate	10	0	0	3	0	13	10	2	3	0	0	15
Services	46	8	0	2	3	59	46	15	3	2	0	66
All Industries	162	39	15	13	10	239	153	45	17	12	10	237

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

Table 5.3
Number of Private, Non-Farm Firms by Sector and Number of Employees
Kansas, 1980 and 1990

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

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

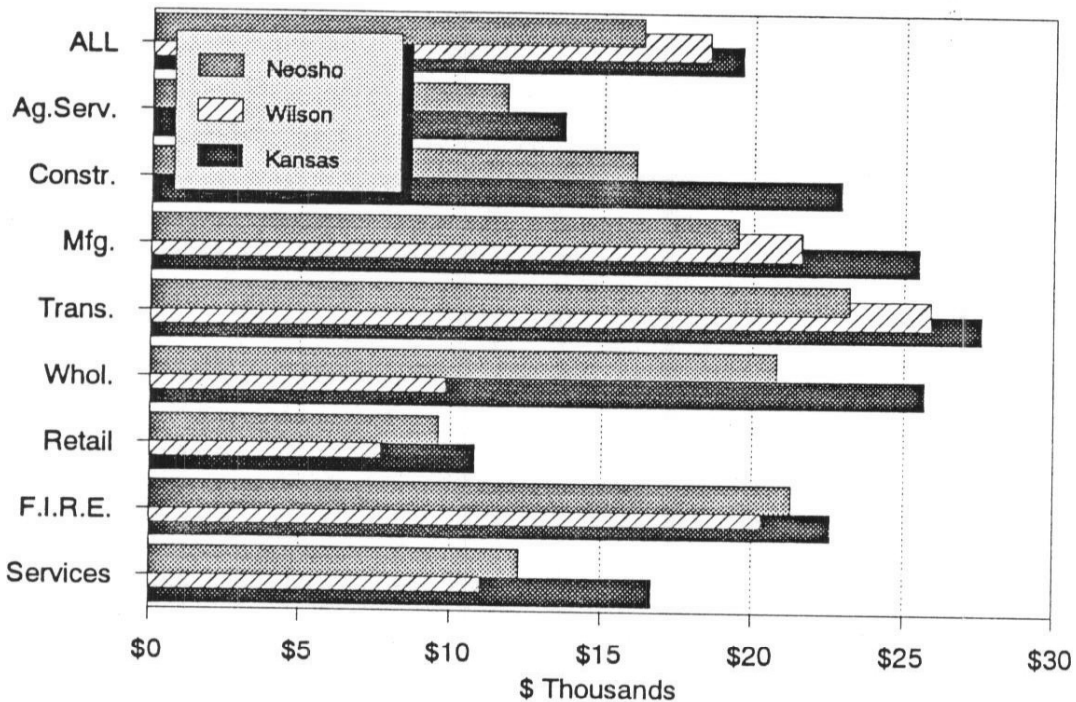
Table 5.4
Average Size of Private, Non-Farm Firms
Neosho and Wilson Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

Sector / Industry	Average Number of Employees per Firm					
	Neosho		Wilson		Kansas	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990
Agricultural Services	3	3	NR	NR	4.0	4.8
Mining	7	5	4	NR	15.3	10.0
Construction	7	12	4	NR	8.0	8.0
Manufacturing	47	43	34	41	71.0	58.0
Transp. & Public Utilities	10	6	6	9	17.9	18.7
Wholesale Trade	7	8	11	8	11.4	11.4
Retail	9	8	6	5	10.8	11.9
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	6	5	7	5	10.1	10.8
Services	7	6	7	5	10.9	11.9
Private Sector	10	10	10	11	13.9	13.6

NR - Not reported

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

Figure 5.2
 Avg. Annual Pay Per Employee, by Sector
 Neosho, Wilson and Kansas, 1990
 (Includes part-time employees)



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

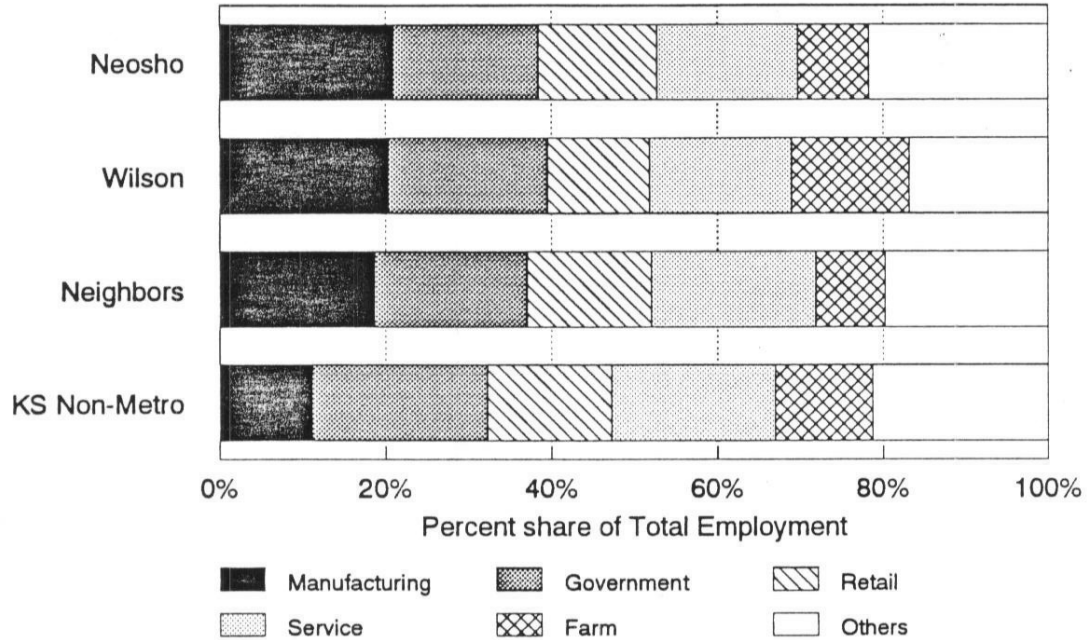
- Average annual pay per employee in the bi-county area lags the statewide value. Neosho averaged \$16,300 per employee in 1990, Wilson averaged \$18,500 and the state-wide average was \$19,600.
- The gap between Neosho County's average wage and the statewide average grew during the 1980s, from a 9 percent gap to a 17 percent gap in average wages. In Neosho County, this gap narrowed, from a 14 percent gap to a 6 percent difference in average wages. Since these data include part-time workers, such a change can be at least partly explained by changes in the full-time to part-time ratios of workers.
- Across all sectors, the average wages are lower in both Neosho and Wilson than the state-wide averages. Average wages are closest to the state averages in the retail and finance, insurance and real estate sectors, and in Wilson County's transportation and public utilities sector.

Table 5.5
Average Annual Pay Per Employee by Sector
Private, Non-Farm Firms (in \$Thousands)
Neosho and Wilson Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>Sector / Industry</u>	<u>Average Annual Pay per Employee (\$000)</u>					
	<u>Neosho</u>		<u>Wilson</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>
Agricultural Services	\$9.7	\$11.8	NR	NR	9.7	13.7
Mining	17.5	19.5	\$13.7	NR	21.4	28.6
Construction	20.6	16.1	14.8	NR	14.2	22.9
Manufacturing	13.4	19.5	13.0	\$21.6	15.4	25.5
Transp. & Public Utilities	14.6	23.2	15.9	25.9	16.1	27.6
Wholesale Trade	13.9	20.8	8.9	9.8	15.7	25.7
Retail	7.4	9.6	6.0	7.7	7.4	10.8
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	12.1	21.3	12.8	20.3	13.3	22.6
Services	6.2	12.3	7.7	11.1	9.8	16.7
Private Sector	11.5	16.3	10.8	18.5	12.6	19.6

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

Figure 5.3
Industry Share of 1990 Employment
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighbors, KS Non-Metro



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

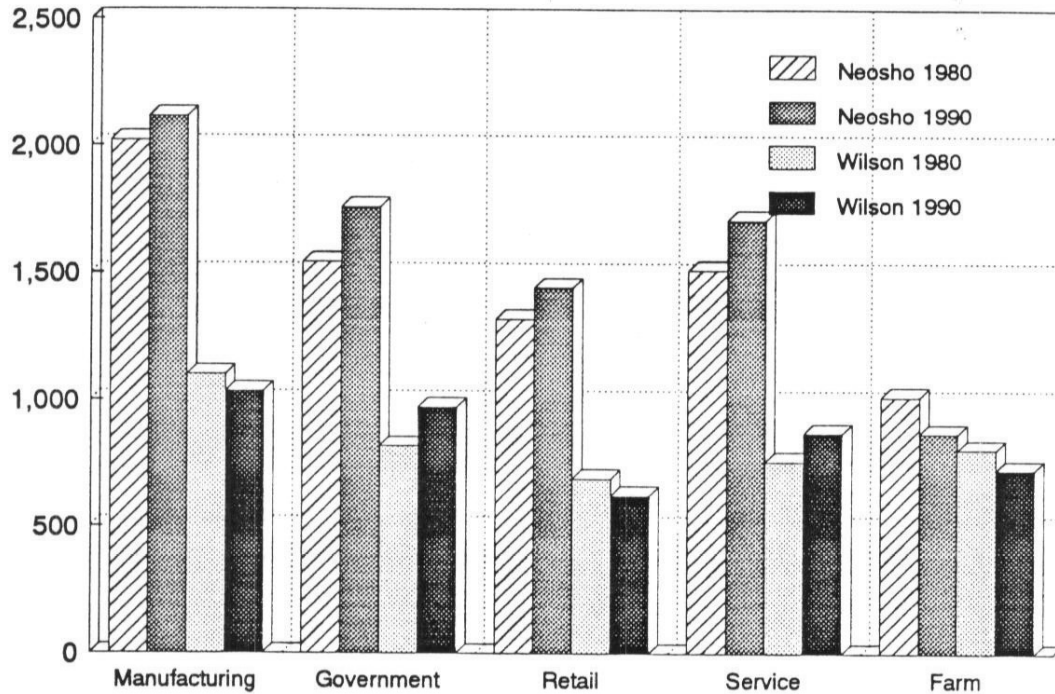
- Manufacturing is a relatively more important sector in the Neosho and Wilson County economies than it is statewide or in the non-metropolitan counties, accounting for over 20 percent of all employment.
- Relatively underdeveloped sectors of the bi-county economies include the service and government sectors, and Wilson county’s retail sector.
- The farm sector, accounting for 14 percent of Wilson County’s economy, is much more important than the average for a non-metropolitan county.

Table 5.6
Industry Share of Total Employment
Neosho and Wilson Counties, Kansas Non-Metro and State Totals, 1980 and 1990

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Neosho</u>		<u>Wilson</u>		<u>Non-Metro</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>
Farm	10%	9%	16%	14%	14%	12%	8%	6%
Non-Farm	90	91	84	86	86	88	92	94
Agricultural Services	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mining	6	4	2	3	3	3	2	2
Construction	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	5
Manufacturing	20	21	21	20	11	11	15	13
Transportation/P.Utilities	5	4	6	3	5	5	6	5
Wholesale	5	4	3	2	5	4	5	5
Retail	13	14	13	12	15	15	15	16
Finance, Insur. & R.Estate	5	4	4	4	5	5	6	7
Service	15	17	15	17	17	20	19	23
Government	15	17	16	17	19	21	18	18

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

Figure 5.4
 Number of Jobs, Selected Sectors
 Neosho and Wilson Counties, 1980, 1990



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

- Overall, there was no significant change in the number of jobs in the bi-county area between 1980 and 1990. Neosho added 71 jobs, and Wilson lost 63 jobs, each only a 1 percent change in levels of employment.
- Sectors with the biggest changes in employment levels included Neosho's Government sector (+214 jobs), and Service sector (+197) while its Mining sector lost 262 jobs. In Wilson County, net gainers were the Government sector, which added 156 jobs and Services, which grew by 115. The Transportation and Public Utilities sector lost 184 jobs.

Table 5.7
Distribution of Jobs, Net Change and Percentage Change by Sector
Neosho and Wilson Counties, 1980-1990

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Neosho County</u>			<u>Percent Change</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	
Total	10,005	10,076	71	1%
Farm	1,013	867	-146	-14
Non-Farm	8,992	9,209	217	2
Agricultural Services	113	124	11	10
Mining	621	359	-262	-42
Construction	452	501	49	11
Manufacturing	2,020	2,116	96	5
Transportation/P.Utilities	479	381	-98	-20
Wholesale	463	398	-65	-14
Retail	1,318	1,442	124	9
Finance, Insur. & R.Estate	472	423	-49	-10
Service	1,511	1,708	197	13
Government	1,543	1,757	214	14

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Wilson County</u>			<u>Percent Change</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	
Total	5,133	5,070	-63%	-1%
Farm	803	723	-80	-9
Non-Farm	4,330	4,347	17	--
Agricultural Services	37	45	8	22
Mining	105	156	51	49
Construction	186	180	-6	-3
Manufacturing	1,100	1,034	-66	-6
Transportation/P.Utilities	321	137	-184	-57
Wholesale	133	112	-21	-16
Retail	687	620	-67	-10
Finance, Insur. & R.Estate	190	221	31	16
Service	755	870	115	15
Government	816	972	156	19

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*.

- Crawford and Labette Counties were the only Neighboring counties to experience increases in employment levels over the 1980s. Bourbon County lost heavily, decreasing by 2,880 jobs or 25 percent.
- Neighboring counties and the bi-county area lagged Non-metro performance. Non-metro counties grew in employment by 3 percent from 1980 to 1990.

Table 5.9
Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Neosho	10,005	10,076	71	1%
Wilson	5,133	5,070	-63	-1
Bi-County Total	15,138	15,146	8	--
Allen	7,864	7,800	-64	--
Bourbon	11,745	8,865	-2,880	-25
Crawford	17,318	18,848	1,530	9
Labette	12,672	13,607	935	7
Montgomery	22,623	21,518	-1,105	-5
Elk	1,803	1,801	-2	--
Greenwood	4,290	4,079	-211	-5
Woodson	2,060	1,893	-167	-8
Neighboring Counties	80,375	78,411	-1,964	-2
Kansas Non-Metro	624,269	641,079	16,810	3
Kansas	1,286,742	1,472,564	185,822	14

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

Table 5.10
Farm Employment, Percent of Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>Percent of</u>		<u>Percent of</u>		<u>Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1990 Total</u>		
Neosho	1,013	10	867	9	-146	-14
Wilson	803	16	723	14	-80	-9
Bi-County Total	1,816	12	1,590	10	-226	-12
Allen	930	12	809	10	-121	-13
Bourbon	1,041	9	908	10	-133	-13
Crawford	1,081	6	937	5	-144	-13
Labette	1,305	10	1,123	8	-182	-14
Montgomery	1,217	5	1,085	5	-132	-11
Elk	556	31	517	29	-39	-7
Greenwood	880	21	741	18	-139	-16
Woodson	521	25	432	23	-89	-17
Neighboring Counties	7,531	9	6,552	8	-979	-13
Kansas Non-Metro	90,441	14	75,445	12	-14,996	-17
Kansas	102,162	8	84,411	6	-17,751	-17

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

Table 5.11
Mining Employment, Percent of Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

County	Percent of		Percent of		Net Change	Percent Change
	1980	1980 Total	1990	1990 Total		
Neosho	621	6	359	4	-262	-42
Wilson	105	2	156	3	51	49
Bi-County Total	726	5	515	3	-211	-29
Allen	411	5	NR	--	--	--
Bourbon	315	3	54	1	-261	-83
Crawford	254	1	253	1	-1	NM
Labette	98	1	11	NM	-87	-89
Montgomery	1,057	5	344	2	-713	-67
Elk	147	8	210	12	63	43
Greenwood	543	13	444	11	-99	-18
Woodson	251	12	256	14	5	2
Neighboring Counties*	2,665	3	1,572	2	-1,093	-41
Kansas Non-Metro	20,101	3	18,142	3	-1,959	-10
Kansas	28,009	2	27,057	2	-952	-3

*Excludes Allen County.

NR - Not reported

NM - Not meaningful

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

Table 5.12
 Manufacturing Employment, Percent of Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

County	Percent of		Percent of		Net Change	Percent Change
	1980	1980 Total	1990	1990 Total		
Neosho	2,020	20	2,116	21	96	5
Wilson	1,100	21	1,034	20	-66	-6
Bi-County Total	3,120	21	3,150	21	30	1
Allen	1,700	22	1,757	23	57	3
Bourbon	1,054	9	1,333	15	279	26
Crawford	2,740	16	2,934	16	194	7
Labette	2,609	21	3,314	24	705	27
Montgomery	5,866	26	5,139	24	-727	-12
Elk	18	1	NR	--	--	--
Greenwood	85	2	113	3	28	33
Woodson	95	5	86	5	-9	-9
Neighboring Counties*	14,149	18	14,676	9	527	4
Kansas Non-Metro	71,290	11	72,127	11	837	1
Kansas	195,121	15	189,585	13	-5,536	-3

*Excludes Elk County.

NR - Not reported

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

Table 5.13
 Transportation and Public Utilities Employment, Percent of Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>Percent of 1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Percent of 1990 Total</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Neosho	479	5	381	4	-98	-20
Wilson	321	6	137	3	-184	-57
Bi-County Total	800	5	518	3	-282	-35
Allen	308	4	147	2	-161	-52
Bourbon	3,307	28	343	4	-2,964	-90
Crawford	870	5	855	5	-15	-2
Labette	1,039	8	808	6	-231	-22
Montgomery	1,247	6	1,608	7	361	29
Elk	41	2	NR	--	--	--
Greenwood	174	4	114	3	-60	-34
Woodson	90	4	69	4	-21	-23
Neighboring Counties*	7,035	9	3,944	5	-3,091	-44
Kansas Non-Metro	34,210	5	28,804	5	5,406	-16
Kansas	73,170	6	76,305	5	3,135	4

*Excludes Elk County.

NR - Not reported

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

Table 5.14
Wholesale Employment, Percent of Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

County	Percent of		Percent of		Net Change	Percent Change
	1980	1980 Total	1990	1990 Total		
Neosho	463	5	398	4	-65	-14
Wilson	133	3	112	2	-21	-16
Bi-County Total	596	4	510	3	-86	-14
Allen	235	3	215	3	-20	-9
Bourbon	401	3	209	2	-192	-48
Crawford	707	4	791	4	84	12
Labette	420	3	401	3	19	5
Montgomery	591	3	663	3	72	12
Elk	56	3	41	2	-15	-27
Greenwood	133	3	98	2	-35	-26
Woodson	59	3	53	3	-6	-10
Neighboring Counties	2,602	3	2,471	3	-131	-5
Kansas Non-Metro	28,954	5	26,479	4	-2,475	-9
Kansas	68,485	5	73,311	5	4,826	7

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

Table 5.15
Retail Employment, Percent of Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>Percent of</u>		<u>Percent of</u>		<u>Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1990 Total</u>		
Neosho	1,318	13	1,442	14	124	9
Wilson	687	13	620	12	-67	-10
Bi-County Total	2,005	13	2,062	14	57	3
Allen	1,182	15	1,169	15	-13	-1
Bourbon	1,300	11	1,270	14	-30	-2
Crawford	2,908	17	3,063	16	155	5
Labette	1,625	13	1,852	14	227	14
Montgomery	3,828	17	3,476	16	-352	-9
Elk	228	13	174	10	-54	-24
Greenwood	635	15	491	12	-144	-22
Woodson	261	13	235	12	-26	-10
Neighboring Counties	11,967	15	11,730	15	-237	-2
Kansas Non-Metro	92,492	15	95,567	15	3,075	3
Kansas	198,491	15	232,990	16	34,499	17

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

Table 5.16
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate Employment; Percent of Total Employment; Net Change and Percent Change
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>Percent of</u>		<u>Percent of</u>		<u>Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1990 Total</u>		
Neosho	472	5	423	4	-49	-10
Wilson	190	4	221	4	31	16
Bi-County Total	662	4	644	4	-18	-3
Allen	275	3	339	4	64	23
Bourbon	1,334	11	796	9	-538	-40
Crawford	773	4	824	4	51	7
Labette	529	4	547	4	18	3
Montgomery	950	4	829	4	-121	-13
Elk	88	5	87	5	-1	-1
Greenwood	189	4	195	5	6	3
Woodson	100	5	113	6	13	13
Neighboring Counties	4,238	5	3,730	5	-508	-12
Kansas Non-Metro	28,888	5	31,037	5	2,149	7
Kansas	76,849	6	97,406	7	20,557	27

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

Table 5.17
 Service Employment, Percent of Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>Percent of</u>		<u>Percent of</u>		<u>Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1990 Total</u>		
Neosho	1,511	15	1,708	17	197	13
Wilson	755	15	870	17	115	15
Bi-County Total	2,266	15	2,578	17	312	14
Allen	1,130	14	1,374	18	244	22
Bourbon	1,648	14	2,304	26	656	40
Crawford	3,666	21	4,316	23	650	18
Labette	1,960	15	2,020	15	60	3
Montgomery	3,608	16	4,154	19	546	15
Elk	170	9	184	10	14	8
Greenwood	795	19	927	23	132	17
Woodson	284	14	254	13	-30	-11
Neighboring Counties	13,261	16	15,533	20	2,272	17
Kansas Non-Metro	103,538	17	126,648	20	23,110	22
Kansas	243,640	19	344,870	23	101,230	42

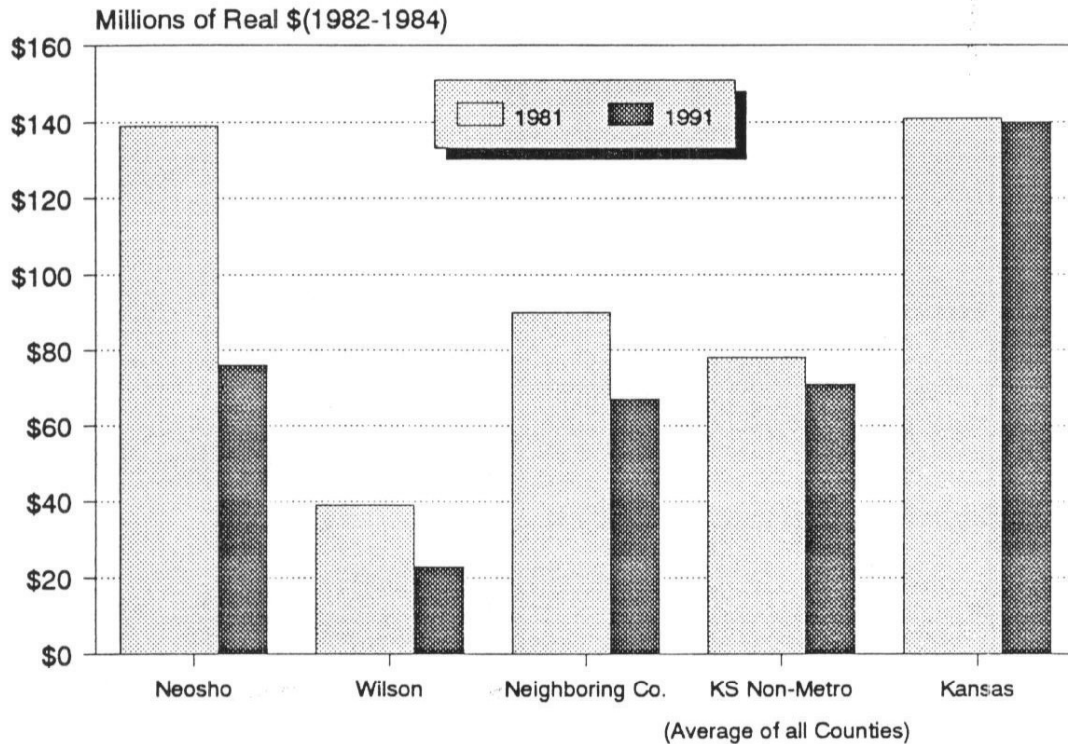
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CA25, *Full- and Part-Time Employees by Industry*.

Table 5.18
 Government Employment, Percent of Total Employment, Net Change and Percent Change
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

<u>County</u>	<u>Percent of</u>		<u>Percent of</u>		<u>Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
	<u>1980</u>	<u>1980 Total</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1990 Total</u>		
Neosho	1,543	15	1,757	17	214	14
Wilson	816	16	972	19	156	19
Bi-County Total	2,359	16	2,729	18	370	16
Allen	1,260	16	1,372	18	112	8
Bourbon	948	8	1,269	14	321	34
Crawford	3,423	20	4,034	21	611	18
Labette	2,460	19	3,052	22	592	24
Montgomery	2,960	13	3,260	15	300	10
Elk	366	20	450	25	84	23
Greenwood	570	13	641	16	71	12
Woodson	318	15	328	17	10	3
Neighboring Counties	12,305	15	14,406	18	2,101	17
Kansas Non-Metro	117,343	19	134,853	21	17,510	15
Kansas	227,929	18	267,723	18	39,794	17

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

Figure 5.5
 Real Taxable Retail Sales Levels
 Wilson, Neosho & Neighbors, 1981-91



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

- Taxable retail sales (in real dollars) in the bi-county area fell from \$178 million at the beginning of the decade to \$99 million at its end, a decline of 44 percent. This was a much larger decline than that of the Neighboring counties (-26%) or of the Kansas non-metro average (-9%).
- Levels of retail sales have stabilized in Neosho County since 1987. For three of the four most recent years for which data is available, retail sales (unadjusted for inflation) have increased modestly.
- Retail sales levels in Wilson County have continued to decline throughout most of the decade. Sales have increased in just 3 of the last 11 years, and decreased sharply (-10%) in 1991.
- All of the Neighboring Counties have experienced decreases in their real levels of retail sales, falling in total by 26 percent over the decade. Since 1989, there has been modest growth, principally centered in Allen and Crawford Counties.

Table 5.19
 Real Taxable Retail Sales Levels (\$1982-84)
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1981-1991

<u>County</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
	Millions of \$ Real (1982-84)		
Neosho	139	76	-45
Wilson	39	23	-41
Bi-County Total	178	99	-44
Allen	73	54	-26
Bourbon	71	54	-24
Crawford	165	146	-12
Labette	109	83	-24
Montgomery	237	166	-30
Elk	9	6	-39
Greenwood	41	21	-51
Woodson	16	7	-56
Neighboring Counties	721	537	-26
Kansas Non-Metro	7,498	6,854	-9
Kansas	14,822	14,675	-1

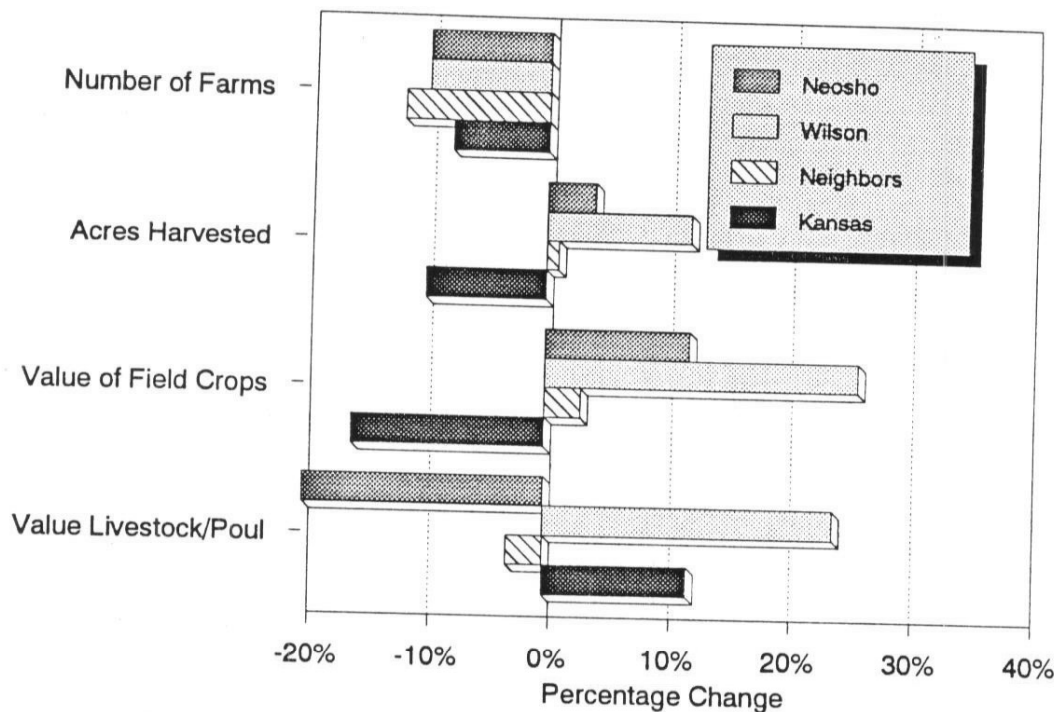
Source: Wichita State University, Center for Economic Development and Business Research.

Table 5.20
Taxable Retail Sales, Annual Growth Rates
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas 1981-1991

County	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Neosho	21%	-9%	-5%	-2%	-10%	-13%	--%	2%	2%	3%	-3%
Wilson	13	-1	-3	-4	4	-1	1	-2	--	-2	-10
Bi-County Total	19	-8	-4	-2	-5	-4	--	1	1	2	-2
Allen	9	-1	--	-1	-1	-9	-4	1	10	7	9
Bourbon	2	6	3	-1	4	-7	4	3	3	-8	6
Crawford	2	-1	6	2	4	-1	5	2	3	2	7
Labette	7	-1	5	--	2	-1	-1	1	2	1	4
Montgomery	12	-5	-3	--	-1	--	3	-3	4	4	4
Elk	14	-4	-11	23	-20	-15	3	-2	11	19	-4
Greenwood	4	-2	-3	-6	-7	-15	-1	--	3	8	2
Woodson	27	-7	3	-8	-15	-20	--	3	3	-3	5
Neighboring Counties	7	-2	2	--	1	-3	2	--	4	2	5
Kansas Non-Metro	-8	--	1	2	3	-1	3	3	3	4	7
Kansas	-2	3	8	6	3	-1	4	5	3	4	7

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

Figure 5.6
Changes in Farm Production
 Neosho, Wilson and Neighbors, 1980-1990



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

- The level of farm output in the bi-county area increase from \$70 million in 1980-81 to an average of \$77 million during the years 1989-90. All of this growth centered around increased field crop production, contrary to state-wide trends.
- The number of farms declined by 10 percent, while the number of acres harvested grew by 8 percent in the bi-county area, indicating a trend toward fewer and bigger farms.

Table 5.21
 Number of Farms and Acres Harvested
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties and Kansas, 1980-81 and 1989-90

	Number of Farms			Acres Harvested (000s)		
	1980	1990	Percent Change	1980-81	1989-90	Percent Change
Neosho	840	760	-10%	156	162	4%
Wilson	680	610	-10	160	179	12
Bi-County Total	1,520	1,370	-10	316	341	8
Allen	790	670	-15	165	176	6
Bourbon	935	850	-9	135	122	-10
Crawford	980	810	-17	175	202	15
Labette	1,125	980	-13	199	198	-1
Montgomery	1,020	980	-4	145	131	-10
Elk	465	410	-12	64	62	-3
Greenwood	675	600	-11	97	80	-18
Woodson	460	380	-17	103	120	16
Neighboring Counties	6,450	5,680	-12	1,083	1,091	1
Kansas Non-Metro	66,080	60,390	-9	20,430	18,355	-10
Kansas	75,000	69,000	-8	21,931	19,823	-10

Note: Values shown for acres harvested are two year averages due to substantial inter-year variability in farm production. Number of farms varies much less from year to year and therefore is shown as actual data for the year shown.

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

Table 5.22
 Value of Field Crops, Livestock and Poultry
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring 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
Neosho	17	19	12	21	17	-20
Wilson	17	22	26	15	19	24
Bi-County Total	34	41	21	36	36	--
Allen	19	20	3	14	14	-2
Bourbon	13	13	--	24	20	-18
Crawford	19	24	27	16	13	-19
Labette	24	20	-13	24	29	20
Montgomery	17	15	-5	15	16	7
Elk	5	6	10	12	13	9
Greenwood	10	10	1	26	27	4
Woodson	11	14	26	14	9	-36
Neighboring Counties	118	122	3	145	141	-3
Kansas Non-Metro	2,802	2,336	-17	2,063	2,605	26
Kansas	2,996	2,519	-16	2,230	2,789	12

Note: Values presented as two year averages due to high degree of variability in year-to-year production. Percentage change may not match data shown due to rounding.

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

Section VI: 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)

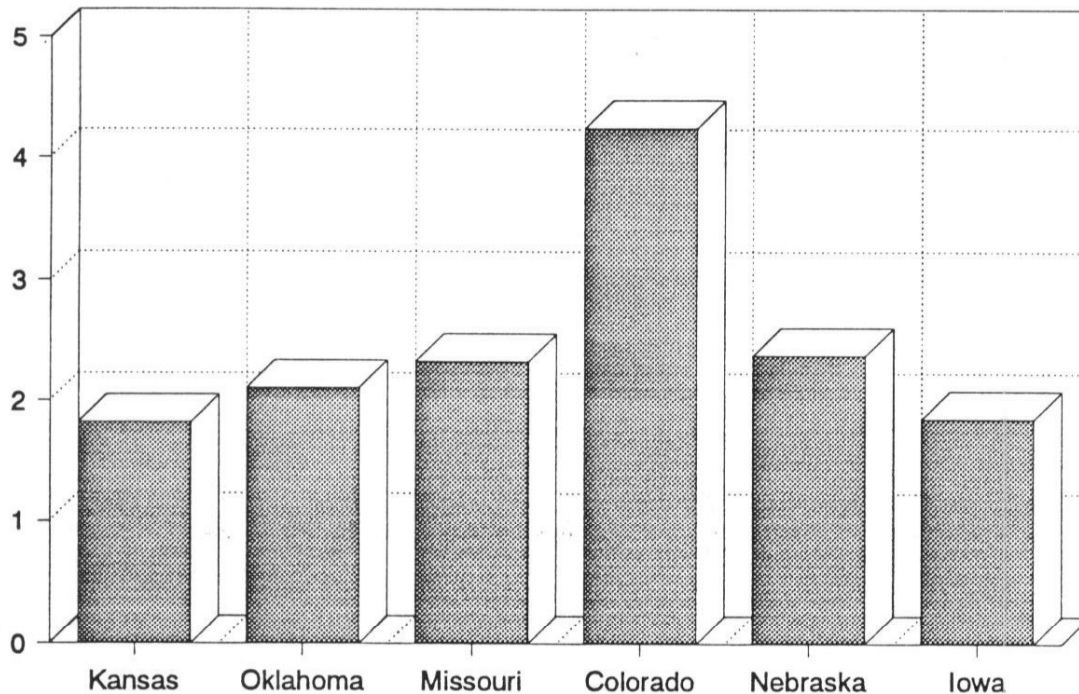
- *The number of patents issued* is an indication of the level of innovation in a state. However, caution should be used with this number because patents are often issued at the site of an organization's headquarters, not necessarily at the location where the innovation was developed.
- *University research 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

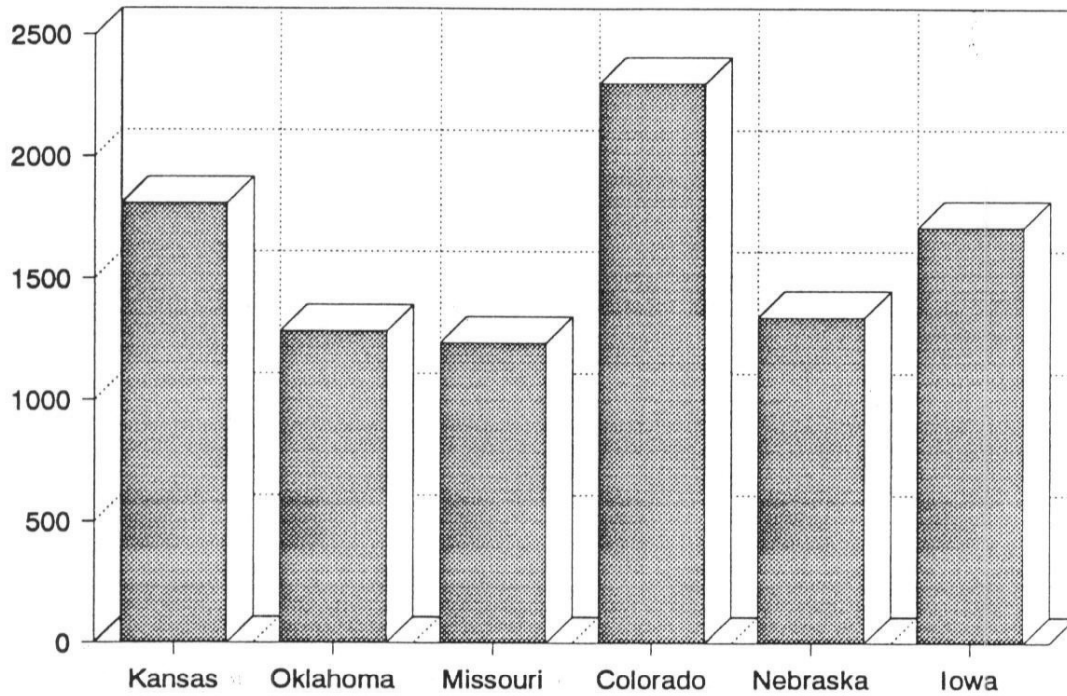
Figure 6.1

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 6.2
**Science and Engineering Students
 Per 1 Million Population, 1990**



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

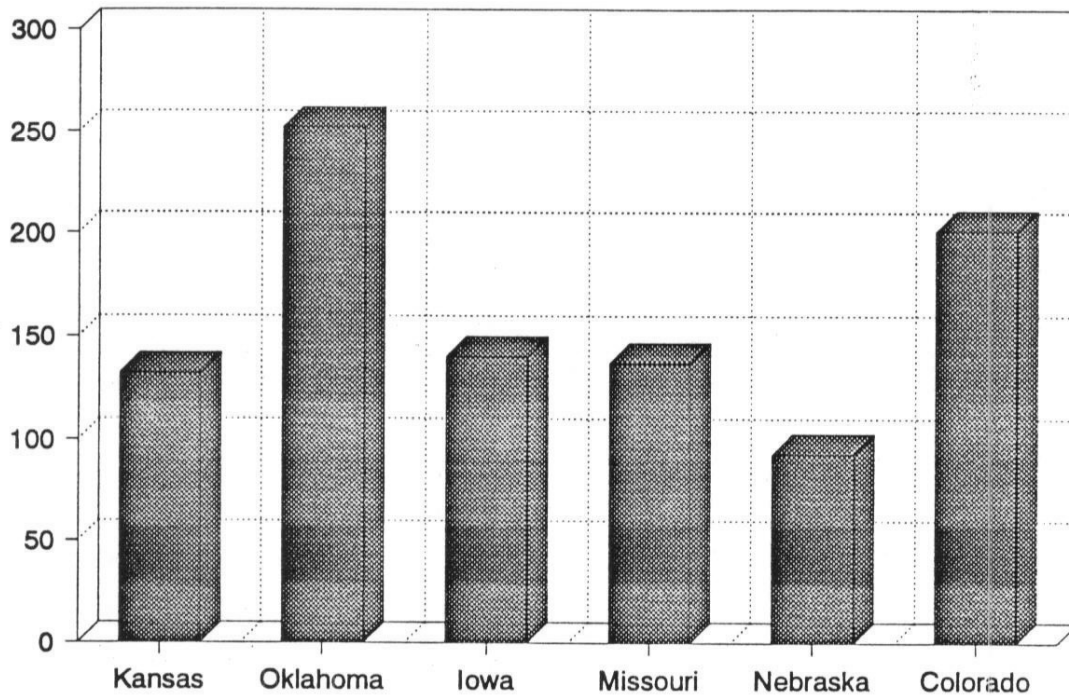
Table 6.1
**Science and Engineering Professionals and Students
 Kansas and Surrounding States, 1989/1990**

	Ph.D. Scientists & Engineers Per 1,000 Workers ¹	Rank	Science & Engineering Students Per 1 Million Population ²	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 6.3
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.

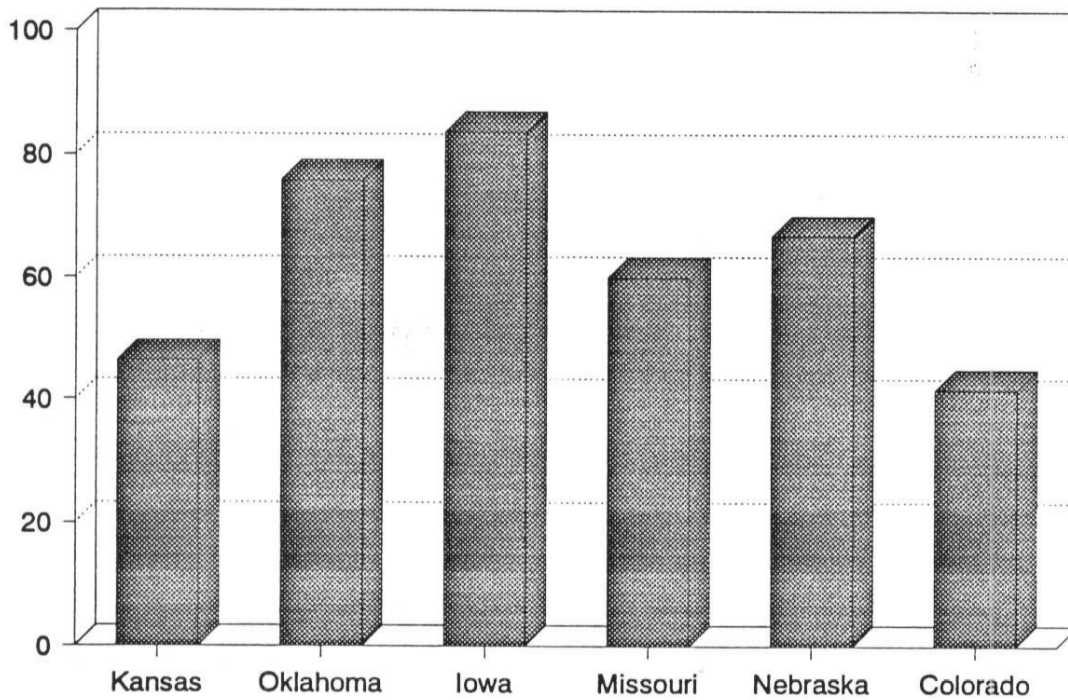
Table 6.2
Patents Issued Per 1 Million Population¹
 Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

	<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 6.4
 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.

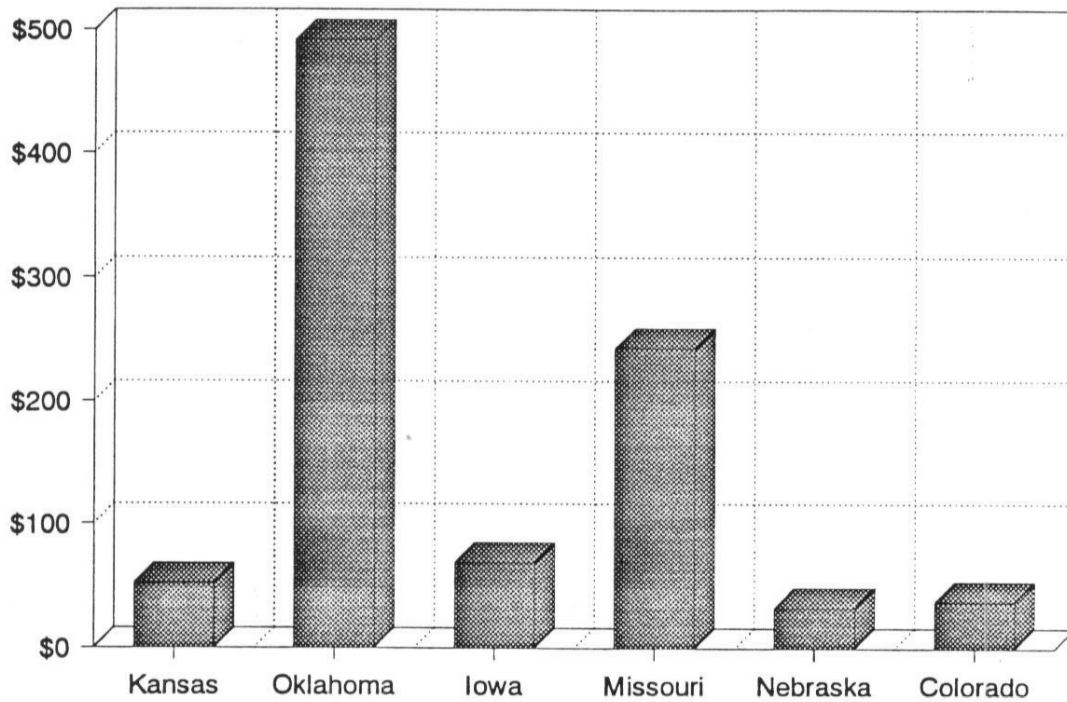
Table 6.3
 University Research and Development Per Capita¹
 Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

	\$	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 6.5
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 6.4
 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 6.5
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 6.6
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 VII: Quality of Life

Quality of Life represents those characteristics of a community that make it a pleasant and enjoyable place to live. Healthy, stable communities possess climates that encourage young people to stay in their home communities and that attract new residents.

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

In this section, the following measures are examined:

- *crime index offenses* indicate social stability and level of public safety;
- *hospital beds and physicians* determine access to doctors and public medical infrastructure; *adult care homes' licensed beds* demonstrate the local capacity to care for the elderly;
- *percentage of population with poverty status* indicates the distribution of income within a community; and,
- *number of housing units and households* demonstrates the capacity of existing housing to accommodate population growth; *median housing costs* represents value and affordability.

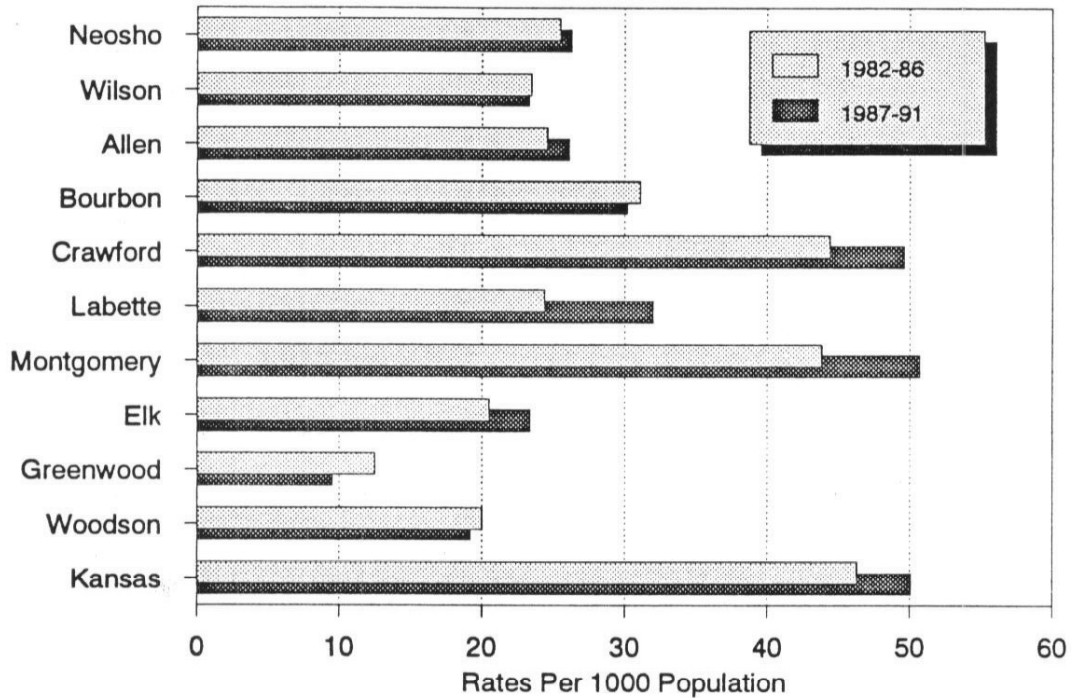
QUALITY OF LIFE: KEY FINDINGS

- Crime rates were lower in Neosho and Wilson County than for most of the Neighboring counties throughout the 1980s. In 1991, the overall crime index in the two counties was about half the state rate. While violent crime increased statewide by 15 percent from 1987 to 1991, it declined in both Neosho and Wilson Counties.
- Both counties have generally poorer access to doctors and to hospital beds than do most of the Neighboring counties and the state as a whole.
- The availability of licensed adult care beds to serve the over-65 population is on par with the state rate, but is not as good as in many of the Neighboring counties.
- More families and more seniors have incomes below the poverty thresholds in the bi-county area than do so statewide. In Neosho County, the number of families below the poverty line increased by 40 percent between 1979 and 1989.
- Housing availability has improved in the bi-county area over the past decade, due mostly to declines in the number of households outpacing declines in the number of housing units. In 1990, the bi-county area had 17 percent more housing units than households.
- Owner-occupied homes in the bi-county area are comparable or lower than those in most of the Neighboring Counties, and around half the median cost of homes statewide. Rents are comparable with those in the Neighboring Counties.

QUALITY OF LIFE: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 7.1

Crime Indices, 1982-86 and 1987-91 Neosho, Wilson & Neighboring Counties



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

- Crime rates were lower in Neosho and Wilson Counties than in most of the Neighboring Counties throughout the 1980s.
- In 1991, the overall crime index in the bi-county area was about half the state rate.
- While crime has increased in the larger neighboring counties (Crawford, Labette and Montgomery), the crime index has remained stable in Neosho and Wilson Counties.
- Violent crime increased by 15 percent statewide from the early 1980s to the more recent period (1987-91), but declined in both Neosho and Wilson Counties.

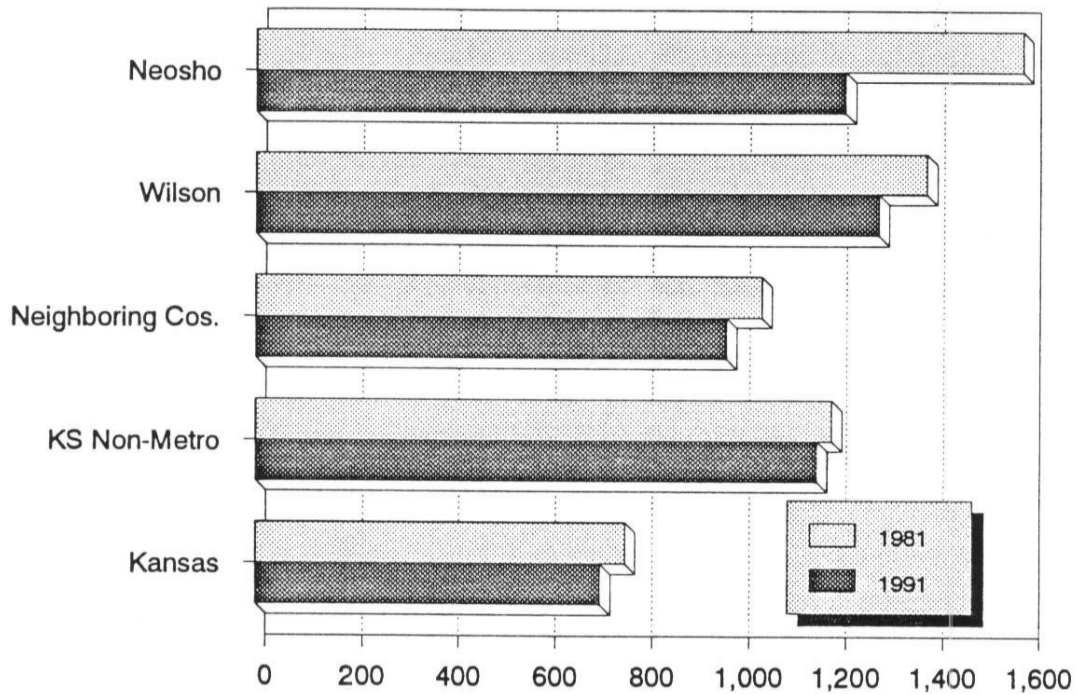
Table 7.1
 Crime Indices: Rate per 1,000 Population, 4-year Averages
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, and Kansas, 1982-1986 and 1987-1991

	<u>Crime Index Offenses</u>		<u>Violent Crime</u>		<u>Property Crime</u>	
	<u>1982-86</u>	<u>1987-1991</u>	<u>1982-86</u>	<u>1987-91</u>	<u>1982-86</u>	<u>1987-91</u>
Neosho	25.5	26.3	1.6	1.0	23.9	25.0
Wilson	23.5	23.3	1.4	1.3	21.5	21.6
Allen	24.6	26.1	0.9	1.5	23.7	24.4
Bourbon	31.1	30.2	1.2	2.2	29.4	27.8
Crawford	44.4	49.6	3.0	2.2	41.1	47.1
Labette	24.4	32.0	1.2	1.8	23.1	30.1
Montgomery	43.8	50.7	2.7	3.7	40.8	46.9
Elk	20.5	23.4	1.2	0.8	18.5	22.5
Greenwood	12.5	9.5	0.7	0.5	11.5	8.9
Woodson	20.0	19.2	0.8	0.7	18.5	18.1
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 7.2
 Persons Per Physician, 1981, 1991
 Neosho, Wilson & Neighboring Counties



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.

- The bi-county area does not enjoy the same access to physicians as do most of the Neighboring Counties. With one doctor for every 1,242 persons, only Allen, Elk, Greenwood and Woodson had poorer access to medical doctors in 1991.
- Neosho County showed much improvement in its access to physicians between 1981 (1,585 persons per physician) and 1991 (1,217 persons/M.D.), an improvement of 23 percent. For Kansas as a whole, this index improved by 7 percent.
- The number of hospital beds per thousand population, 5 in the bi-county area, is slightly below the state average of 6. With the exception of Labette, which has a state hospital, none of the Neighboring counties had significantly better access to hospital beds.

Table 7.2
Health Care Access Measures, 1980-81 and 1990-91
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, and Kansas

	Total Number of Hospital Beds		Number of Hospital Beds Per 1,000 Population		Persons Per Physician	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1981	1991
Neosho	97	60	5	4	1,585	1,217
Wilson	80	74	7	7	1,385	1,286
Bi-County Totals	177	134	6	5	1,481	1,242
Allen	71	50	5	3	1,150	1,464
Bourbon	162	91	10	6	676	651
Crawford	200	180	5	5	1,217	1,112
Labette ¹	531	442	21	19	861	740
Montgomery	257	131	6	3	1,035	924
Elk	0	0	0	0	4,054	*
Greenwood	46	46	5	6	1,413	1,569
Woodson	0	0	0	0	4,432	1,372
Neighboring	1,267	940	8	7	1,046	973
Kansas Non-Metro	9,038	6,765	8	6	1,190	1,160
Kansas	18,219	14,587	8	6	764	713

* No physicians in county.

¹ Includes state hospital at Parsons

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

- The total number of licensed beds in bi-county area adult care homes declined marginally during the 1983 - 1991 period. With 12 persons over age 65 for every licensed bed, the bi-county area matched the state average; however, all of the Neighboring counties had a better (lower) rate, with the exception of Montgomery County.
- Wilson County has the fewest licensed adult care beds in the area for its over-65 share of population, with one bed for every 14 persons in that age category.

Table 7.3
Adult Care Homes: Licensed Beds
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, and Kansas, 1983 and 1991

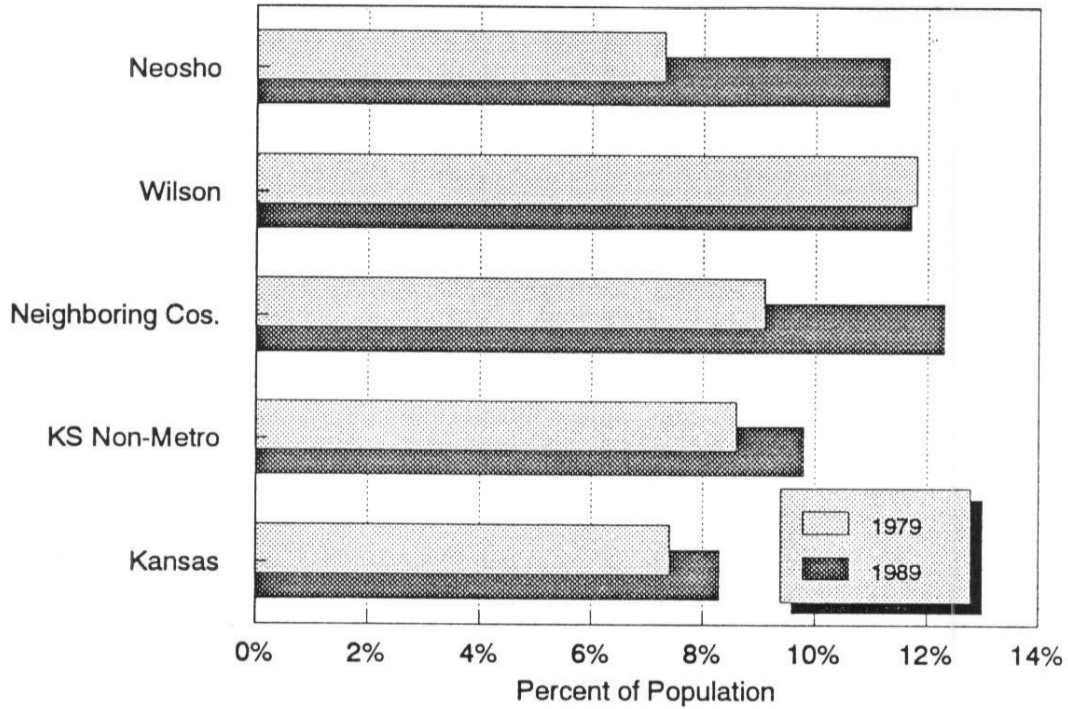
	Number of Licensed Beds		Population 65 and Older Per Licensed Bed	
	1983	1991	1983 ¹	1991 ²
Neosho	337	315	9	10
Wilson	164	160	14	14
Bi-County Total	501	475	11	12
Allen	363	293	7	9
Bourbon	286	266	11	11
Crawford	596	620	12	11
Labette	452	463	9	9
Montgomery	585	572	12	13
Elk	91	91	10	11
Greenwood	193	189	10	10
Woodson	100	104	10	10
Neighboring Counties	2,666	2,598	10	11
Kansas Non-Metro	16,546	17,226	11	11
Kansas	25,584	28,731	11	12

¹ Calculations based upon 1980 population totals.

² Calculations based upon 1990 population totals.

Source: KCCED County Database, from Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Research and Analysis.

Figure 7.3
Persons With Poverty Status, 1979 & 1989
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighbors & Kansas



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

- Poverty rates grew from 9.1 percent of bi-county area families in 1979 to 11.4 percent in 1989. However, the increase in the number of families with poverty status was smaller than those of the neighboring counties (24%) or for the state as a whole (18%).
- Poverty status increased sharply in Neosho county families (+41%) while declines were seen in the number of Wilson County families below the poverty line (-17%).

Table 7.4
 Number of Families with Poverty Status, 1979 and 1989
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, and Kansas

<u>County</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Neosho	386	7.3%	544	11.3%	40.9%
Wilson	413	11.8	342	11.7	-17.2
Bi-County Total	799	9.1	886	11.4	10.9
Allen	382	8.8	504	12.4	31.9
Bourbon	397	8.7	624	15.1	57.2
Crawford	989	9.9	1,185	12.8	19.8
Labette	647	9.3	696	10.8	7.6
Montgomery	952	8.0	1,296	11.9	36.1
Elk	139	12.2	138	14.2	-0.7
Greenwood	261	10.2	264	11.9	1.1
Woodson	121	9.2	102	8.9	-15.7
Neighboring Counties	3,888	9.1	4,809	12.3	23.7
Kansas Non-Metro	27,782	8.6	30,462	9.8	9.6
Kansas	47,088	7.4	55,341	8.3	17.5

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. Percentages calculated by IPPBR based on 1980 and 1990 population figures.

Note: 1989 poverty thresholds were \$12,674 for a family of five. (Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Poverty in the United States, 1989*.)

- More persons over 65 in the bi-county area live in poverty (14%) than the Kansas average (11%). However, this figure is slightly better than that of the Neighboring counties (15%).
- Neosho County's over-65 population is less likely to have incomes below the poverty line than are Wilson's over-65 citizens.

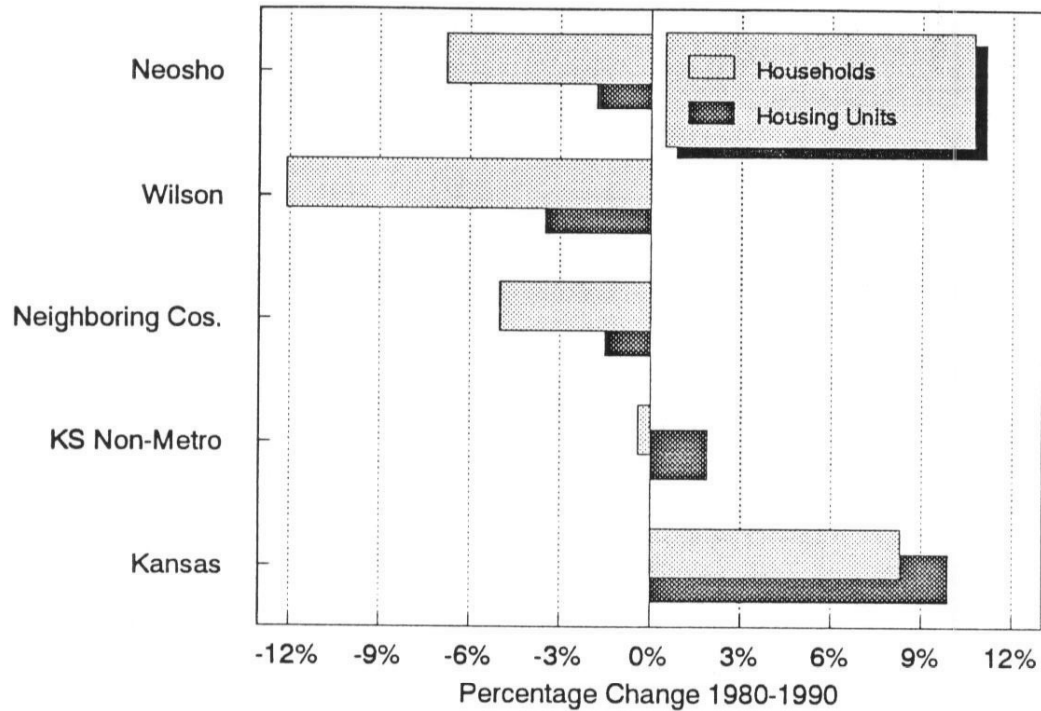
Table 7.5
Number of Persons Over Age 65 with Poverty Status, 1979 and 1989
Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, and Kansas

<u>County</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Neosho	425	13.9%	449	13.9%	5.6%
Wilson	424	18.4	345	15.2	-18.6
Bi-County Total	849	15.8	794	14.4	-6.5
Allen	458	17.5	383	13.8	-16.4
Bourbon	588	19.5	660	21.6	12.2
Crawford	1,250	18.1	1,097	15.7	-12.2
Labette	731	18.4	646	14.8	-11.6
Montgomery	1,068	15.2	1,058	14.1	-0.9
Elk	199	20.9	179	18.1	-10.1
Greenwood	327	16.6	230	11.6	-29.7
Woodson	153	15.7	112	10.3	-26.8
Neighboring Counties	4,774	17.4	4,365	15.2	-8.6
Kansas Non-Metro	27,597	14.7	24,834	12.9	-10.0
Kansas	40,322	14.2	38,303	11.2	-5.0

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. Percentages calculated by IPPBR based on 1980 and 1990 population figures.

Note: The 1989 poverty threshold for a person living alone was \$6,310. (Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Poverty in the United States, 1989*.)

Figure 7.4
 Households & Housing Units, 1980-1990
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighbors & Kansas



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

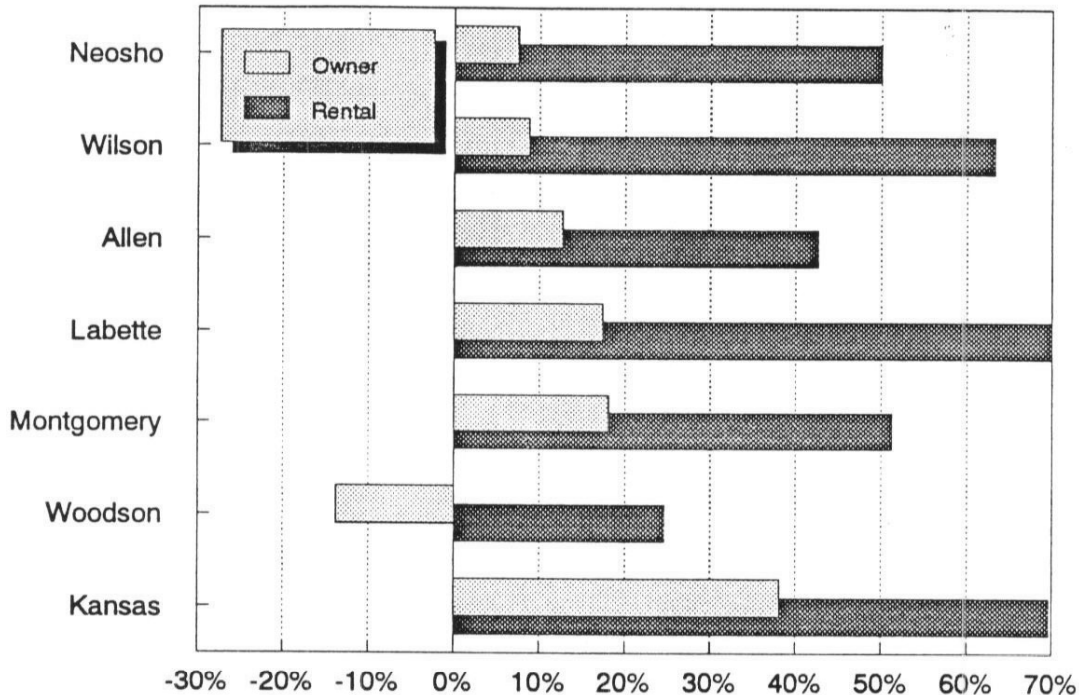
- While the number of housing units available in the bi-county area declined by 3 percent during the 1980s, the number of households declined by 9 percent. These rates were about 70 percent steeper than those of the Neighboring counties. Only Elk county had a decrease in the number of households as large as Wilson's 12 percent decline.
- Housing availability generally improved in the bi-county area, with 17 percent more housing units than households, up from a 9 percent differential in 1980.

Table 7.6
 Number of Housing Units, 1980 and 1990
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring 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-</u> <u>holds</u>	<u>Housing</u> <u>Units</u>
Neosho	7,241	6,748	7,868	7,726	1.09	1.14	-6.8	-1.8
Wilson	4,773	4,194	5,276	5,091	1.11	1.21	-12.1	-3.5
Bi-County Total	12,014	10,942	13,144	12,817	1.09	1.17	-8.9	-2.5
Allen	5,997	5,705	6,765	6,454	1.13	1.13	-4.9	-4.6
Bourbon	6,388	5,897	7,081	6,920	1.11	1.17	-7.7	-2.3
Crawford	15,212	14,606	16,743	16,526	1.10	1.13	-4.0	-1.3
Labette	9,702	9,377	10,595	10,641	1.09	1.13	-3.3	0.4
Montgomery	16,388	15,670	18,133	17,920	1.11	1.14	-4.4	-1.2
Elk	1,640	1,436	1,905	1,743	1.16	1.21	-12.4	-8.5
Greenwood	3,576	3,285	4,333	4,243	1.21	1.29	-8.1	-2.1
Woodson	1,832	1,699	2,108	2,199	1.15	1.29	-7.3	4.3
Neighboring Counties	60,735	57,675	67,663	66,646	1.11	1.16	-5.0	-1.5
Kansas Non-Metro	439,892	438,116	488,061	497,326	1.11	1.14	-0.4	1.9
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 Population and Housing, *Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, General Population Characteristics*; 1980 Census of Population, *General Population Characteristics*.

Figure 7.5
 Change in Median Housing Costs 1980-90
 Neosho, Wilson, Selected Neighbors



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 Neosho County was \$28,800. This was 45 percent lower than the statewide value, but comparable to that of most of the Neighboring Counties.
- In Wilson County in 1990, the median value of an owner-occupied home was \$23,500, 55 percent less than the statewide figure. Of the Neighboring Counties, only Elk, Greenwood and Woodson's homes were priced lower.
- Rent increases have moved generally in line with the trends in Neighboring Counties, and more slowly than the state average increase. Owner-occupied homes have risen in value much more slowly than those in Neighboring counties or the state as a whole.
- Median rent values in the bi-county area were similar to those of most of the Neighboring Counties in 1990.

Table 7.7
 Median Housing Costs, 1980 and 1990
 Neosho, Wilson, Neighboring Counties, and Kansas

	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied		Percent Change	
	Median Value		Median Rent		Owner	Rental
	1980	1990	1980	1990	Units	Units
Neosho	\$26,600	\$28,800	\$120	\$180	7.5%	50.0%
Wilson	21,600	23,500	98	160	8.8	63.3
Allen	24,500	27,600	122	174	12.7	42.6
Bourbon	26,300	29,800	112	179	13.3	59.8
Crawford	24,300	30,700	124	207	26.3	66.9
Labette	24,700	29,000	110	187	17.4	70.0
Montgomery	24,900	29,400	127	192	18.1	51.2
Elk	14,200	15,000	73	111	5.6	52.1
Greenwood	18,700	21,900	94	156	17.1	66.0
Woodson	21,800	18,800	114	142	-13.8	24.6
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*; 1980 Census of Population and Housing, from KCCED database.

Section VIII: 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, Neosho and Wilson Counties' 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 the bi-county area 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
- Pupil-teacher ratio lower than average for neighboring counties and the state
- Stability in overall levels of employment
- Recent replacement job growth in Neosho County
- Lower than average high school dropout rates
- Relative stability in number of business firms
- Growth in number of service firms in both counties
- Strong manufacturing sector
- Growth in employment in service and government sectors
- Crime rates remain well below the rate for Kansas and below rates for most Neighboring counties
- Higher than average availability of housing units
- Available housing remains very moderately priced

WEAKNESSES

- Relatively low levels of college graduates
- Total personal income growth 20 percent less than in the Neighboring counties
- Relatively high rates of unemployment
- Per capita income lagging behind state and non-metropolitan areas
- Average annual wage and salary earnings per job lag behind Neighboring counties and state as a whole
- Employment a lower proportion of total personal income than in Neighboring counties or state
- Average annual pay per employee lags behind that of the state as a whole
- Loss of jobs in most sectors
- Service and government sectors remain underdeveloped
- Retail sector underdeveloped in Wilson County
- Heavy reliance on farm sector
- Declining real taxable retail sales, although recently stable in Neosho County
- Declining access to hospital care
- Declining access to adult care facilities
- Proportion of families and elderly living under the poverty level higher than state or non-metropolitan averages

OPPORTUNITIES

- Relative stability in employment levels indicates a healthy manufacturing sector
- High levels of two-year college education attainment in the workforce could mean the work force has industry-specific skills which can be built upon
- Quality of life features can be promoted
- Kansas has developed numerous state technology and small business programs
- Close proximity to regional office of Mid America Manufacturing Technology Center in Pittsburg, and Center for Technology Transfer at Pittsburg State University
- Declining percentage of persons living under the poverty level in Wilson County

THREATS

- Declining population with expected continuing decline
- Population declines more rapid than the Neighboring counties
- High rate of outmigration of population
- Aging population
- Declining working age population
- Shrinking labor force
- Kansas has not performed well with respect to innovation and technology
- Growing percentage of persons living under the poverty level in Neosho County