

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

Economic Trends: Pratt County

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November 1996

Report No. 32

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Foreword

The following report was prepared for a presentation by Dr. Charles Krider to the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Krider is Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Business Research (IPPBR) and Co-Director of the Kansas Center for Community Economic Development (KCCED) at the University of Kansas.

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

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Economic Trends: Pratt County

Introduction

The use of data in economic development is important because it assists a community in “taking stock” and understanding its current situation across several different areas of economic and demographic performance. However, data alone do not lead to a well-founded understanding of the community. Data must be analyzed and interpreted, taking into account the intuition of those within the community about what the overall trends really mean. In other words, data serve as the foundation for an analysis which concludes: 1) what is happening in the community relative to other regions over time, and 2) what potential impacts or consequences can be inferred from the data.

This report looks at the following key demographic and economic variables:

- Population,
- Employment,
- Earnings and Income,
- Retail Trade,
- Agriculture, and
- Education.

Throughout the report, Pratt County’s performance is compared with the performance of the State of Kansas and Comparative Counties¹ and Surrounding Counties². It is by no means a comprehensive analysis of economic trends facing Pratt County but rather an overview of some key economic and demographic variables.

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. Communities with growing populations are generally regarded as being 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. Generally, areas of population growth are also areas of economic growth, whereas areas of population loss suffered previous economic decline and restructuring.

Population characteristics are regarded as indicators of a region’s economic conditions and economic potential. The level of Pratt County’s population relative to the state’s population

¹ “Comparative Counties” are Barton, Ford, Reno, Pawnee, and Kingman counties.

² “Surrounding Counties” are Edwards, Stafford, Reno, Kingman, Harper, Barber, Comanche, and Kiowa counties. “Selected Counties” include both the Comparative and the Surrounding Counties.

reflects the county's overall level of competitiveness with respect to other regions within the state. A minimum population is necessary to sustain a basic level of public and private services and facilities. Past and projected population change is indicative of community economic trends and can be compared to other counties and the statewide and national averages.

Migration is linked to job opportunities and demand as well as wage differentials between regions. Counties with low rates of job creation and low wages will face higher worker mobility due to a "push" factor (lack of opportunity) or a "pull" phenomenon by urban areas with higher wages, better job opportunities, and a perceived better quality of life. Other determinants of regional migration are age and education. Generally, there is a life-cycle pattern to migration with the population aged 18 to 45 being the most mobile age group. The effect of education on migration is reflected by the movement of well-educated workers toward better job matches for themselves and their spouses and their attempts to raise their income levels by migrating to areas with employment opportunities.

The following section consists of the population tables, figures, and maps which together illustrate population totals, rates of population change, population growth rates, population rankings, percent population change, and percent net migration.

Population: Key Findings

- Pratt County's population peaked in 1930 at 13,312 people. The decade from 1960 to 1970 showed the most severe population decline at seventeen percent since the thirteen percent decline of 1890 to 1900. The decade of greatest population growth for the county was the 1910's at 57 percent (Table 1). Population is projected to continue to decrease for every decade approaching the year 2020.³
- Pratt County experienced a 2.2 percent population increase during the 1970's followed by a population decline of 5.6 percent in the 1980's. Population estimates from 1990 to 1995 show a fairly stable population for the county, with a 0.1 percent decline estimated (Table 2).
- Pratt County's population growth during the 1970's lagged behind Kansas' and the U.S.'s. Kansas and the U.S. experienced positive growth during the 1980's while Pratt County's population declined. Most of the counties in the region also experienced the same lagging pattern of population growth to Kansas and the U.S. Ford County is the only county in the region with growth estimates from 1990 to 1995 greater than Kansas. None of the selected counties had growth estimates greater than the U.S. for the time period (Table 2 and Figure 1).

³ Floerchinger, Teresa D., "Kansas Population Projections 1990-2030," Kansas Division of the Budget, September 1992.

- Most of the counties in the south central portion of the state experienced declining populations in the 1980's. However, this area generally experienced less decline than the southeast and northern areas of Kansas (Map 1).
- During the 1980's, most of the counties in Kansas, particularly the rural counties, experienced a negative net migration. Pratt County experienced a negative 9.7 percent net migration from 1980 to 1990 (Map 2).

Table 1

Population Totals, Growth Rates, Rank & Share
 Actual 1890-1990 and Estimates 1991-1995

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pratt County</u>		<u>Kansas</u>		<u>Rank</u>	<u>Share (%)</u>
	<u>Population Total</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>Population Total</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>		
1890	8,118		1,427,096		67	0.57
1900	7,085	-12.72 %	1,470,495	3.04 %	70	0.48
1910	11,156	57.46	1,690,949	14.99	64	0.66
1920	12,909	15.71	1,769,257	4.63	54	0.73
1930	13,312	3.12	1,880,999	6.32	52	0.71
1940	12,348	-7.24	1,801,028	-4.25	48	0.69
1950	12,156	-1.55	1,905,299	5.79	44	0.64
1960	12,122	-0.28	2,178,611	14.34	41	0.56
1970	10,056	-17.04	2,249,071	3.23	44	0.45
1980	10,275	2.18	2,364,236	5.12	44	0.43
1990	9,702	-5.58	2,477,588	4.79	44	0.39
1991*	9,613	-0.92	2,491,407	0.56	44	0.39
1992*	9,631	0.19	2,514,839	0.94	44	0.38
1993*	9,563	-0.71	2,532,458	0.70	44	0.38
1994*	9,605	0.44	2,550,897	0.73	44	0.38
1995*	9,696	0.95	2,565,328	0.57	44	0.38

* Estimation

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," Vol.1, Chapter A, Part 18; "1990 Decennial Census," mimeographed sheet; Population Estimates, and Population Distribution Branches, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Calculations: IPPBR.

Table 2

Population Growth Rates (percent): 1970 - 1995
 Pratt County, Selected Counties, Kansas, and United States

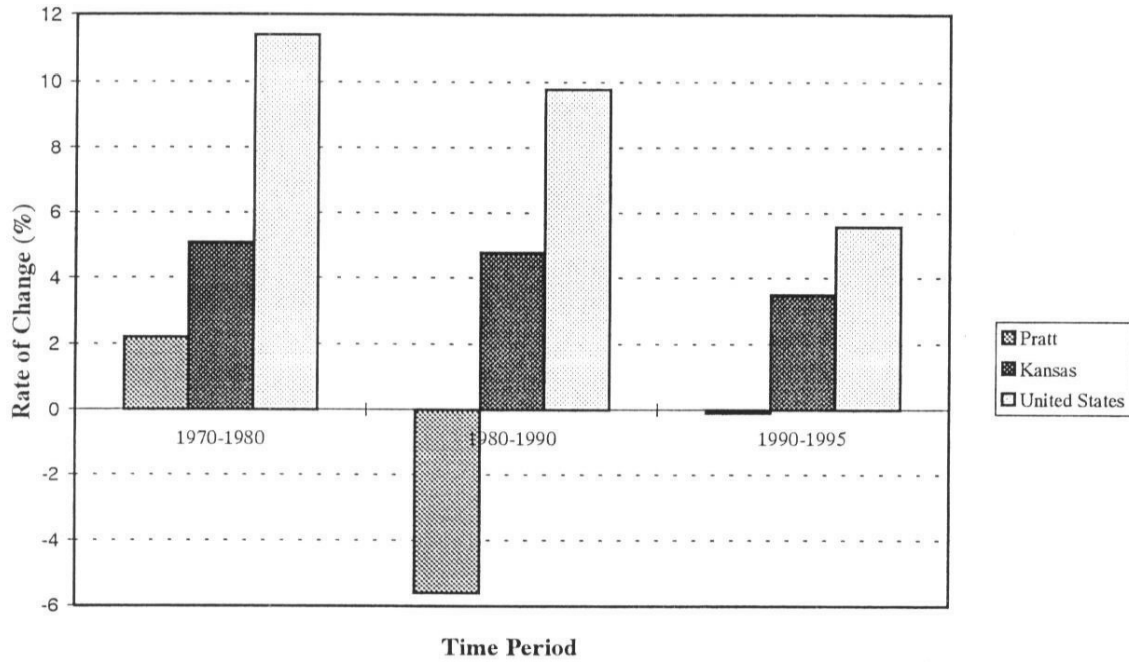
<u>Year</u>	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>	<u>1990-1995*</u>
Pratt	2.2%	-5.6%	-0.1%
Edwards	-6.8%	-11.3%	-5.9%
Stafford	-4.2%	-5.8%	-3.2%
Reno	6.9%	-4.0%	1.4%
Kingman	0.8%	-7.5%	3.3%
Harper	-1.2%	-8.4%	-6.6%
Barber	-6.7%	-10.3%	-4.6%
Comanche	-5.5%	-9.4%	-9.3%
Kiowa	-1.0%	-9.5%	-1.5%
Barton	2.2%	-6.3%	-2.6%
Ford	7.7%	12.9%	5.3%
Reno	6.9%	-4.0%	1.4%
Pawnee	-4.9%	-6.3%	0.8%
Kingman	0.8%	-7.5%	3.3%
Kansas	5.1%	4.8%	3.5%
United States	11.4%	9.8%	5.6%

* 1995 is estimated.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants," Final Report: "1980 Census of Population," PC90-1-A-18; "1990 Decennial Census." U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Kansas Center for Community Economic Development, "Profile for Pratt County, 1995." Calculations: IPPBR.

Figure 1

Rates of Population Change
Pratt County, Kansas, and U.S., 1970-1995



Note: The third period lasts five years, compared to the ten years of each of the first two periods.

Source: 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 Census of Population," STF1-A. Calculations: IPPBR.

Employment

Employment levels are an important measure of a community's economic vitality. The size of the labor force shows the number of people who are either working or willing to work. The size of the labor force is influenced not only by population but also by the perceptions of individuals that suitable job opportunities exist. Diverse, healthy economies tend to offer the widest variety of job opportunities and thereby attract a large number of job-seekers, which increases the size of the labor force. 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. Job creation rates (net change in average annual employment) reflect the growth in employment levels and the range of employment opportunities. As some jobs are lost in a community due to changing economic circumstances, they may be replaced by new jobs. Net job creation reflects the net gain or net loss in jobs over a given period of time.

The following tables, figures and maps are included in the employment section: employment growth rates, number of firms by number of employees, percentage distribution of firms by number of employees, employment levels by industry, labor force participation, unemployment rates, and job growth.

Employment: Key Findings

- From 1989 to 1994, Pratt County experienced a decline in employment of 2.0 percent. For the same time period, Kansas and the U.S. experienced an increase in employment of 8.6 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively (Table 3 and Figure 2).
- Pratt County's employment decline of 5.3 percent from 1989 to 1994 is the second highest decline for selected counties from that region. Ford County experienced the greatest employment growth at 12.6 percent. Pratt and surrounding counties, in general, underperformed the state and nation in average annual employment growth (Table 3).
- Average annual employment for Pratt County declined 4.7 percent from 1984 to 1989. The growth rate for Kansas during this same time period was 5.9 percent. The U.S.'s growth rate was 9.1 percent. All selected counties except Ford experienced employment rate declines 1984 to 1989 (Table 3, Figure 2).
- The total number of firms in Pratt County declined by 12.1 percent from 1984 to 1994, while the total number of firms in the state increased by 7.4 percent. The decline in number of firms occurred in firms with fewer than 20 employees. The number of firms employing more than 20 but fewer than 100 people grew at 25.9 percent while the comparable state rate was 25.7 percent. There also was growth in the number of firms of at least 100 but fewer than 500 employees (Table 4).
- The majority of firms in Pratt County, as in Kansas, are small firms employing fewer than 20 people (Table 5).

- Total employment for Pratt County declined by 6.6 percent in the years 1984 to 1994 compared to an increase of 15.0 percent for Kansas during the same time period. The greatest number of jobs were created in the government and government services sector, which saw an increase of 187 people employed from 1983 to 1993. Agricultural services and Transportation also experienced strong employment increases of 66 and 54, respectively (Table 6).
- For non-farm employment, the greatest number of jobs lost were in the Mining sector with a decrease of 449 employed and in the Construction sector with a decrease of 70 employed (Table 6).
- Farm employment for Pratt County decreased by 25.4 percent (or a loss of 212 people employed) from 1983 to 1993, which was comparable to the state's 25.9 percent decrease (Table 6).
- At 63.7 percent, Pratt County had one of the higher labor force participation rates in its region, indicating that employers may have difficulty with supplying workers when additional jobs are created (Map 3).
- The unemployment rate for Pratt County in 1995 was 3.4 percent, which is below the state's rate of 4.4 percent for 1995⁴ (Map 4).
- Based on an individual's place of residence date, Pratt County experienced a positive 0.3 percent job growth rate from 1989 to 1994 (Map 5). This means that more county residents were employed in 1994 than in 1989.⁵

⁴ Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, The University of Kansas, "Kansas Statistical Abstract, 1995," using data from Kansas Labor Force Estimates Annual Average 1995, Kansas Department of Human Resources, Labor Market Information Services.

⁵ This does not, however, necessarily indicate an increase in the number of jobs within the county. According to place of work data, employment for the county has declined. A reasonable interpretation is that county residents are commuting out of the county for employment.

Table 3

Employment Growth Rates: 1984 - 1994
Pratt County, Selected Counties, Kansas, and United States

	Average Annual Employment			% Employment Growth	
	<u>1984</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1994*</u>	<u>1984 to 1989</u>	<u>1989 to 1994*</u>
Pratt	6,598	6,286	6,160	-4.7 %	-2.0 %
Edwards	2,320	2,159	2,300	-6.9	6.5
Stafford	3,341	3,068	2,965	-8.2	-3.4
Reno	35,025	34,629	37,199	-1.1	7.4
Kingman	4,305	4,142	4,483	-3.8	8.2
Harper	4,363	4,074	4,015	-6.6	-1.4
Barber	4,764	3,870	3,904	-18.8	0.9
Comanche	1,561	1,409	1,386	-9.7	-1.6
Kiowa	2,337	2,063	2,153	-11.7	4.4
Barton	21,589	19,028	19,549	-11.9	2.7
Ford	16,149	16,839	18,965	4.3	12.6
Reno	35,025	34,629	37,199	-1.1	7.4
Pawnee	4,608	4,603	4,998	-0.1	8.6
Kingman	4,305	4,142	4,483	-3.8	8.2
Kansas	1,368,559	1,449,774	1,574,442	5.9	8.6
United States	113,544,000	123,869,000	131,056,000	9.1	5.8

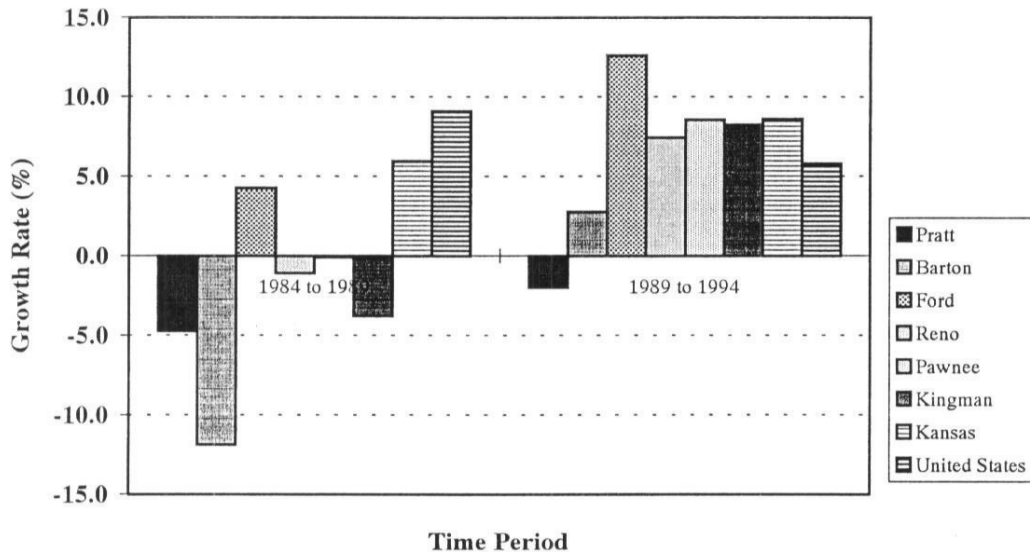
* Data for 1994 are not directly comparable with data from earlier years.

Note: Employment by place of work.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Kansas Center for Community Economic Development County Summaries, The University of Kansas.

Figure 2

Employment Growth Rates: 1984 - 1989 and 1989 - 1994
Finney County, Comparative Counties, Kansas, and U.S.



* Data for 1994 are not directly comparable with data from earlier years.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Kansas Center for Community Economic Development County Summaries, The University of Kansas

Table 4

Number of Firms, by Number of Employees: 1984 and 1994
Pratt County and Kansas

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Pratt</u>			<u>Kansas</u>		
	<u>1984</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1 -- 19	378	320	-15.3 %	58,092	60,903	4.8 %
20 -- 99	27	34	25.9	6,015	7,560	25.7
100 -- 499	1	3	200.0	820	1,230	50.0
500+	0	0	n/a	88	129	46.6
Total	406	357	-12.1%	65,015	69,822	7.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "County Business Patterns, 1994" Kansas Center for Community Economic Development Summary for Pratt County.

Table 5

Percentage Distribution of Firms, by Number of Employees: 1984 and 1994
Pratt County and Kansas

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Pratt</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>1984</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1994</u>
0 - 19	93.1 %	89.6 %	89.4 %	87.2 %
20 - 99	6.7	9.5	9.3	10.8
100 - 499	0.2	0.8	1.3	1.8
500+	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "County Business Patterns, 1994" Kansas Center for Community Economic Development Summary for Pratt County.

Table 6

Employment Levels by Industry: 1984 and 1994
Pratt County and Kansas

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Pratt</u>			<u>Kansas</u>		
	<u>1984</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Ag. Services	102	168	64.7 %	11,471	19,365	68.8 %
Mining	788	339	-57.0	46,729	26,706	-42.8
Construction	291	221	-24.1	65,739	74,953	14.0
Manufacturing	183	165	-9.8	182,149	194,204	6.6
Transportation	291	345	18.6	73,954	76,854	3.9
Wholesale Trade	362	385	6.4	70,790	75,305	6.4
Retail Trade	1,220	1,192	-2.3	213,424	263,054	23.3
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	335	308	-8.1	89,390	97,131	8.7
Services	1,233	1,269	2.9	286,801	391,367	36.5
Gov't. and Gov't. Services	959	1,146	19.5	224,563	277,137	23.4
Subtotal -- Non-Farm	5,764	5,538	-3.9	1,265,010	1,496,076	18.3
Farm Employment	834	622	-25.4	103,549	78,366	-24.3
Total Employment	6,598	6,160	-6.6	1,368,559	1,574,442	15.0

Note: Employment by place of work.

Source: The University of Kansas, Kansas Center for Community Economic Development, "Kansas County Profile for Pratt County" Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

Earnings and Income

Earnings and income are the sources of revenue for the community residents. Higher average wages may indicate a greater number of jobs in high growth, high performance businesses. Low wage growth may indicate a higher concentration of stable, declining industries. Per capita personal income indicates the relative wealth of the area compared to the state. As the productivity of business and industry increases, personal per capita income also rises. Decreasing or stable rates may be the result of mature or declining industry. The following section contains data on the average wage per job and per capita personal income.

Earnings and Income: Key Findings

- From 1980 to 1994, the average wage per job for Pratt County was consistently lower than the state's average. In 1994, Pratt County's average annual wage was \$18,334 compared to \$22,486 for Kansas (Table 7).
- In general, per capita personal income for Pratt County has lagged behind the statewide figures from 1980 to 1994. However, in 1988, Pratt County's per capita personal income was \$16,159 compared to \$15,748 for Kansas (Table 7 and Figure 3).
- Compared to other counties in the region and in Kansas, Pratt County's per capita personal income falls in the middle range (Map 6).

Table 7

Average Wage per Job: 1980 - 1994
Pratt County and Kansas
(dollars)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1994</u>
Pratt	11,481	14,920	16,510	18,334
Kansas	12,697	16,906	19,794	22,486

Source: The University of Kansas, Kansas Center for Community Economic Development, "Kansas County Profile for Pratt, 1995," Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

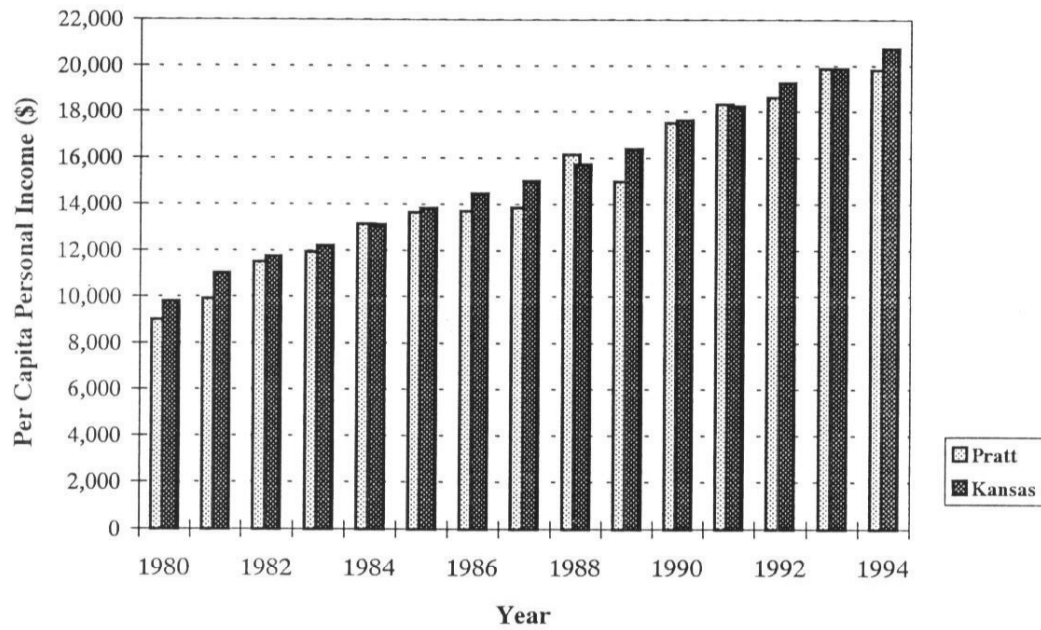
Table 8Per Capita Personal Income: 1980 - 1994
Pratt County and Kansas

	<u>Income (\$)</u>		<u>Growth Rates</u>	
	<u>Pratt</u>	<u>Kansas</u>	<u>Pratt</u>	<u>Kansas</u>
1980	9,018	9,829		
1981	9,926	11,034	10.1 %	12.3 %
1982	11,501	11,760	15.9	6.6
1983	11,935	12,192	3.8	3.7
1984	13,148	13,114	10.2	7.6
1985	13,652	13,847	3.8	5.6
1986	13,697	14,472	0.3	4.5
1987	13,876	15,017	1.3	3.8
1988	16,159	15,748	16.5	4.9
1989	14,989	16,399	-7.2	4.1
1990	17,530	17,642	17.0	7.6
1991	18,323	18,251	4.5	3.5
1992	18,632	19,261	1.7	5.5
1993	19,893	19,892	6.8	3.3
1994	19,836	20,760	-0.3	4.4

Source: The University of Kansas, Kansas Center for Community Economic Development, "Kansas County Profile for Pratt" Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

Figure 3

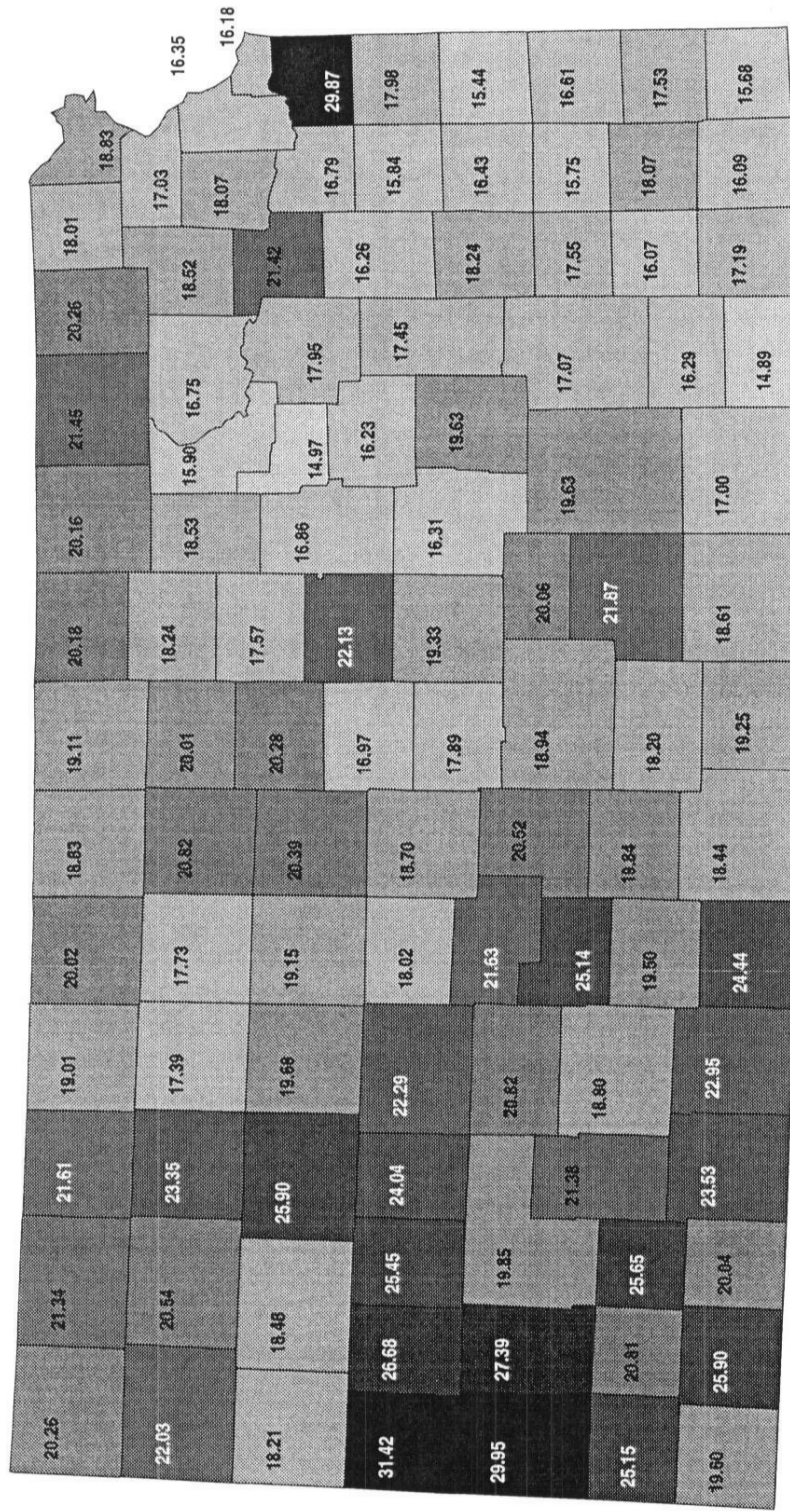
Per Capita Personal Income: 1980 - 1994
Pratt County and Kansas



Source: The University of Kansas, Kansas Center for Community Economic Development, "Kansas County Profile for Pratt, 1995," Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

Map 6

Per Capita Personal Income: 1994



Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, The University of Kansas, "Kansas Statistical Abstract 1995"; using data from The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

Retail

Retail trade is part of a community's business environment, which is affected by several things. Past decisions by investors, business managers, taxpayers and policy makers each contribute to share a climate which either promotes or inhibits the productivity of local businesses and therefore affects decisions about growth and expansion. Other contribution factors include the level of competition, the availability of suppliers and supporting industries, the cost of labor, and taxation and regulation within the community. Some types of establishments will thrive in an environment in which other firms cannot operate profitably.

The level of taxable retail sales is an indicator of retail sector performance and the overall strength of the local consumer market. The County Trade Pull Factor (CTPF) accounts for the relative retail trade performance of each county in terms of the average retail trade activities of Kansas.⁶ CTPF is calculated by dividing the county's per capita sales by Kansas' per capita sales. A CTPF value of less than 1.00 indicates that the county is losing customers due to "out-shopping" by residents. A CTPF of more than 1.00 would indicate that the county is attracting retail customers.

The following section contains a table a figure, outlining the retail sales growth rates, and a map illustrating County Trade Pull Factors.

Retail: Key Findings

- Retail sales vary from year to year; however, in general, Pratt County experienced steady improvement in retail sales growth after losses from 1985 to 1987. Sales did dip from 1991 to 1992, but were followed and preceded by good growth. Retail sales growth rates for Kansas in the same time period 1984 to 1994 have been positive all years, except 1985 to 1987 (Table 9).
- The County Trade Pull Factor for Pratt County for 1995 was 1.1, which would indicate that the county is attracting retail customers from adjacent counties. The pull factors for adjacent Reno County is also 1.1, indicating the same trade-pull influence. The other surrounding counties, however, all appear to be losing retail sales to "out-shopping" (Map 7).

⁶ Chatura Ariyaratne and David Darling, "County Retail Trade Activity and Changes from 1990 through 1994," *Kansas Business Review*, Vol. 18, No. 3, Spring 1995.

Table 9

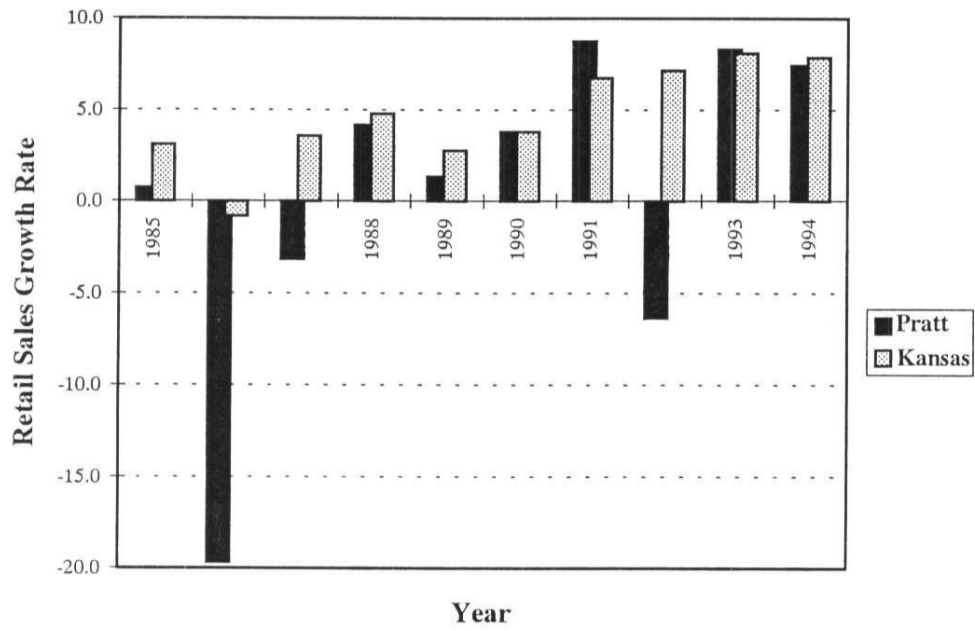
Retail Sales and Growth Rates: 1984 - 1994
Pratt County and Kansas
(\$ Millions)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pratt</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>Nominal Sales</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>Nominal Sales</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>
1984	82.6		15,806.8	
1985	83.2	0.7 %	16,299.1	3.1 %
1986	66.8	-19.7	16,165.9	-0.8
1987	64.7	-3.1	16,746.0	3.6
1988	67.4	4.2	17,548.0	4.8
1989	68.3	1.3	18,034.4	2.8
1990	70.9	3.8	18,723.3	3.8
1991	77.1	8.7	19,988.0	6.8
1992	72.2	-6.4	21,421.3	7.2
1993	78.2	8.3	23,154.4	8.1
1994	84.0	7.4	24,979.0	7.9

Source: CEDBR Data Base, Center for Economic Development and Business Research, W. Frank Barton School of Business, Wichita state University, Kansas County Profile, KCCED/IPPBR, The University of Kansas.
Calculations: IPPBR. 1994 figures IPPBR calculations from the Kansas Department of Revenue State Sales Tax Collection by County classification.

Figure 4

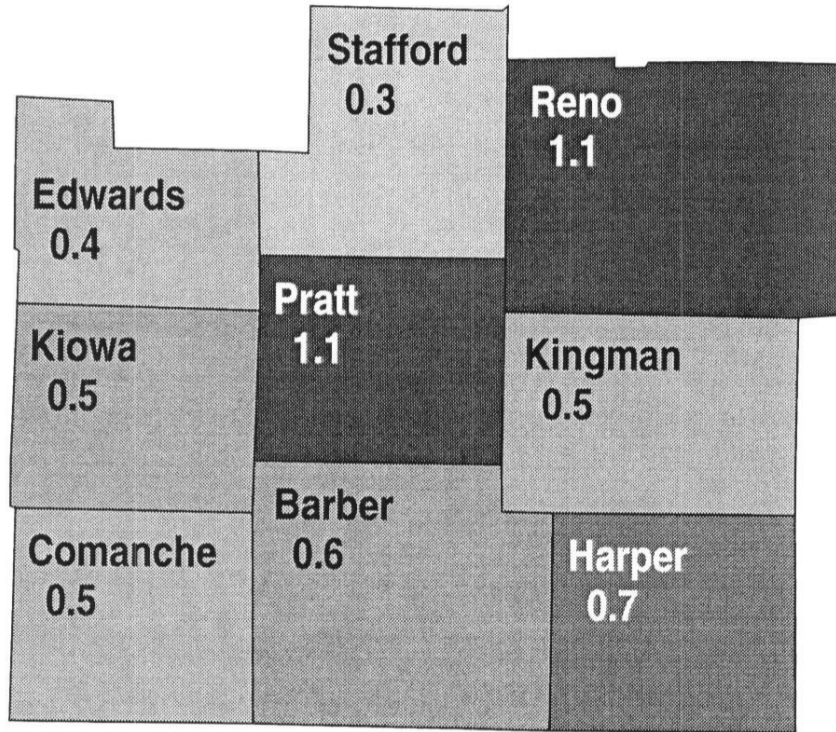
Retail Sales Growth Rates: 1985 - 1994
Pratt County and Kansas



Source: KCCED/IPPBR at the University of Kansas calculations.

Map 7

County Trade Pull Factors: 1995
Pratt County and Surrounding Counties



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

Source: David Darling and Chatura Ariyaratne, Cooperative Extension Service, Kansas State University, Department of Agricultural Economics, 1995.

Agriculture

The data on agriculture will help determine whether or not the overall importance of this sector in the county has been increasing or decreasing and how this compares with other counties and the state as a whole. The economic well-being of Pratt County in the past was dependent on the strength of this industry sector, and so it is important to look at the level of activity in agriculture and how the character of this industry is changing in the county. The agriculture section contains tables and figures on the total value of field crops and the total value of livestock and poultry.

Agriculture: Key Findings

- The value of field crops in Pratt County has steadily increased from 1989 through 1993, with a decline from 1993 to 1994. The state figures increased every year except for the year 1991 (Table 10).
- The average annual change in Pratt County's field crop value was 33.5 percent compared to 25.5 percent for Kansas (Table 10).
- While the total value of livestock and poultry in Pratt County has fluctuated from 1988 to 1994, the trend has generally been a positive one. In 1989, the value was \$37 million and in 1994 it was \$47 million (Table 11).
- The annual average value of livestock and poultry for Pratt County has increased by 4.4 percent compared to a 1.9 percent increase for Kansas (Table 11).

Table 10

Total Value of Field Crops*: 1989 - 1994
Pratt County, Selected Counties, and Kansas

	Value of Field Crops (\$ Millions)						Annual Average		
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1989 - 1991	1992 - 1994	% Change
Pratt	28	39	43	45	52	49	36	49	33.5 %
Edwards	34	43	41	39	53	50	40	48	20.3
Stafford	27	40	44	38	47	49	37	45	20.9
Reno	37	51	55	55	56	60	48	57	19.3
Kingman	17	24	28	33	33	35	23	33	43.6
Harper	30	27	22	31	35	32	26	33	23.8
Barber	13	17	11	16	19	18	14	18	29.6
Comanche	6	11	9	9	13	11	9	11	24.4
Kiowa	18	27	25	21	31	27	23	26	12.2
Barton	26	43	43	35	53	51	37	46	24.4
Ford	35	47	41	40	63	57	41	53	29.8
Reno	37	51	55	55	56	60	48	57	19.3
Pawnee	25	34	34	31	43	48	31	41	29.9
Kingman	17	24	28	33	33	35	23	33	43.6
Kansas	2,310	2,729	2,579	2,988	3,014	3,555	2,539	3,186	25.5
Crop Price Index+	124	103	99	97	101	113			

+ Since 1975, index numbers are on 1990-1992 = 100 base

* Does not include any government program payments, value of sugar beets, or cotton acreage value until 1991; then, only government payments are not included.

Source: Kansas Agricultural Statistics, Kansas Department of Statistics; Kansas Farm Facts; Kansas County Profile Report, KCCED, The University of Kansas, 1995; KCCED calculations.

Table 11

Total Value of Livestock and Poultry: 1989 - 1994
Pratt County, Selected Counties, and Kansas

	Value of Livestock and Poultry (\$ Millions)						Annual Average		
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1989 - 1991	1992 - 1994	% Change
Pratt	37	45	46	45	41	47	43	44	4.4 %
Edwards	21	22	22	25	24	27	22	25	18.0
Stafford	25	25	27	25	26	32	26	28	8.6
Reno	42	49	45	43	43	46	45	44	-2.4
Kingman	17	20	18	18	18	21	18	19	5.4
Harper	29	30	30	27	24	30	30	27	-8.9
Barber	32	31	32	30	31	34	32	32	0.3
Comanche	18	18	17	17	18	18	18	18	-1.8
Kiowa	10	12	13	14	13	13	12	13	11.4
Barton	46	45	45	44	45	52	45	47	3.7
Ford	91	97	88	87	91	96	92	92	-0.2
Reno	42	49	45	43	43	46	45	44	-2.4
Pawnee	35	37	37	42	33	37	36	37	3.2
Kingman	17	20	18	18	18	21	18	19	5.4
Kansas	2,652	2,929	2,857	2,759	2,874	2,966	2,812	2,866	1.9
Livestock & Products Price Index+	96	103	99	98	101	91			

+ Since 1975, index numbers are on 1990-1992 + 100 base

Source: Kansas Agricultural Statistics, Kansas Department of Statistics; Kansas Farm Facts; Kansas County Profile Report, KCCED, The University of Kansas, 1995; KCCED calculations.

Education

Education is another key to a strong community. Residents who have a strong educational background will be more employable and command higher salaries. Employers will benefit as well because they will most likely experience lower turnover and training costs. Individuals with lower education levels have a harder time finding jobs that can supply a living wage and may be more likely to use social services, such as food stamps.

Education: Key Findings

- In 1990 the City of Pratt and Pratt County had a greater percentage of their over-25 population with some college than did the state of Kansas (Table 12). Given that most new jobs created will require some post high school education, Pratt may be well positioned to face this challenge.
- While Pratt's adult population in 1990 could be considered well-educated, 18.1 percent of the City's and 17.6 percent of the County's over 25 population had less than a high school education (Table 12). This indicates a need for adult education and training and retraining programs.

Table 12

Educational Attainment of Persons over 25: 1990
As a Percentage of the Population of Persons over 25
City of Pratt, Pratt County, and Kansas

	Completed Less Than 9th Grade	9-12th Grade No Diploma	High School Graduate	Some College	College Degree*
Pratt, City of	8.1	10.0	30.8	25.7	25.4
Pratt County	7.6	10.0	31.1	25.7	25.6
Kansas	7.7	11.0	32.8	21.9	26.5

* Includes Associate, Bachelors, and Graduate or Professional Degrees.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990. Percent calculations by KCCED/IPPBR, The University of Kansas.

Conclusion

Several positive trends are seen in the data reviewed. Recent population estimates indicate that the population may be stabilizing after declines since the 1930's. While total employment has declined in the county since 1993, several sectors experienced good job growth, such as the government and government services and the agricultural services sectors. Services, government and governmental services, and retail trade sectors employ the most workers in the county, accounting for 58.5 percent of the county's total employment in 1994. The labor force participation rate is good for the region and the unemployment rate is below the state's average. Retail sales are up for the county and the county trade pull factor indicates that the county draws in shoppers from the surrounding counties. The value of field crops and livestock and poultry are up in 1994 and the county continues to lead other counties in the area in these agricultural values. The County and the City of Pratt have a higher percentage of their adult population with some college than Kansas' over 25 population.

Other data reviewed show some trends that may be of concern to the county. Population for the county peaked in 1930 and has been in steady decline. The average annual employment in 1994 is less than 1984. The labor force participation and unemployment rates for Pratt County suggest that the county may have difficulty with supplying workers when additional jobs are created. A comparison of place of work data with place of residence data tends to indicate that county residents may be commuting outside the county for work. The county's average wage per job and per capita personal income, in general, lag behind the State's figures. These data suggest that the county has been unable to adapt to a changing economic environment.

As stated in the introduction, data alone do not lead to a well-founded understanding of the community. The intuition of those within the community as to what the trends really mean must also be considered. From an outsider's point-of-view, the Pratt County area, as indicated by population and employment data, has not adapted as well as other parts of Kansas. While the county does have a well-educated work force, it also has many adults that need education and training to meet the skill needs of jobs for the future. Other challenges face the county, such as creating more job opportunities and thereby curbing out-migration of the population. The actions taken now to address these challenges will influence the type of community Pratt County will be in the future.