

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

Economic Trends: Atchison County

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December 1998

Report No. 43

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Foreword

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

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

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Economic Trends: Atchison 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 demographic and economic variables:

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

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

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 Atchison County’s population relative to the state’s population reflects the county’s overall level of competitiveness with respect to other regions within the state. A minimum population is necessary to sustain a basic level of public and

private services and facilities. Past and projected population change is indicative of community economic trends and can be compared to other counties and the statewide and national averages.

Migration is linked to job opportunities and demand as well as wage differentials between regions. Counties with low rates of job creation and low wages will face higher worker mobility due to a “push” (lack of opportunity) or a “pull” factor which is caused 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 18 to 45 age group 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

- Atchison County’s population peaked in 1900 at 28,606 and has since declined during all decades but one (1920-1930). The largest population decline, seventeen percent, occurred from 1910 to 1920. The decade of greatest population growth for the State was the 1900’s at 15 percent (Table 1).
- Atchison County’s population growth since 1910 lagged behind Kansas’ and the US’s. Kansas (Table 1 and Figure 1) and the U.S. experienced growth during the 1980’s while Atchison County’s population declined (Map 1). During 1990-1997, population estimates for Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Buchanan, MO, and Holt, MO counties declined while Jefferson, Leavenworth, and Platte, MO counties had growth estimates greater than Kansas and the U.S. (Table 2 and Map 2). From 1990 through 1997, Atchison County’s Population decreased 3.62 percent. (Map 2).
- During the 1980s, most of the counties in Kansas, particularly the rural counties, experienced a negative net migration. Atchison County experienced a negative 11 percent net migration from 1980 to 1990 (Map 3).

**Table 1 Population Totals, Growth Rates, Rank & Share
Actual 1890-1990 and Estimates 1991-1997**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Atchison 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	26,758		1,427,096		12	1.87
1900	28,606	6.91 %	1,470,495	3.04 %	10	1.95
1910	28,107	-1.74	1,690,949	14.99	12	1.66
1920	23,411	-16.71	1,769,257	4.63	19	1.32
1930	23,945	2.28	1,880,999	6.32	18	1.27
1940	22,222	-7.20	1,801,028	-4.25	20	1.23
1950	21,496	-3.27	1,905,299	5.79	22	1.13
1960	20,898	-2.78	2,178,611	14.34	25	0.96
1970	19,165	-8.29	2,249,071	3.23	27	0.85
1980	18,397	-4.01	2,364,236	5.12	29	0.78
1990	16,932	-7.96	2,477,588	4.79	30	0.68
1991*	16,820	-0.66	2,492,577	0.60	30	0.67
1992*	16,333	-2.90	2,515,760	0.93	31	0.65
1993*	16,409	0.47	2,534,668	0.75	31	0.65
1994*	16,258	-0.92	2,553,889	0.76	32	0.64
1995*	16,257	-0.01	2,569,619	0.62	33	0.63
1996*	16,271	0.09	2,579,149	0.37	33	0.63
1997*	16,319	0.30	2,594,840	0.61	33	0.63

* Estimate

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 - 1997
Atchison County, Selected Counties, Kansas, and United States**

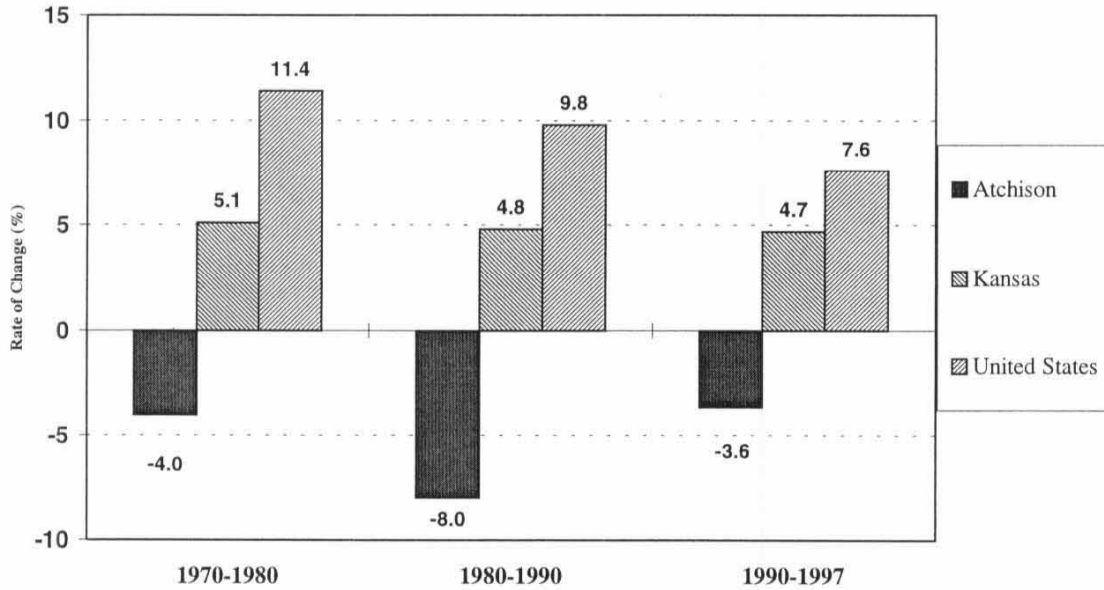
<u>Year</u>	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>	<u>1990-1997*</u>
Atchison	-4.0%	-8.0%	-3.62%
Brown	2.3%	-6.9%	-0.8%
Doniphan	1.8%	-12.2%	-5.8%
Jackson	12.6%	-1.0%	4.4%
Jefferson	27.3%	4.6%	12.7%
Leavenworth	2.8%	17.4%	9.0%
Andrew (MO)	17.4%	4.7%	4.7%
Buchanan (MO)	1.1%	-5.5%	-1.6%
Holt (MO)	3.4%	-12.3%	-6.7%
Platte (MO)	44.4%	24.9%	18.7%
Kansas	5.1%	4.8%	4.7%
United States	11.4%	9.8%	7.6%

* 1997 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." Population Estimates and Population Distribution Branches, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Calculations: IPPBR.

Figure 1

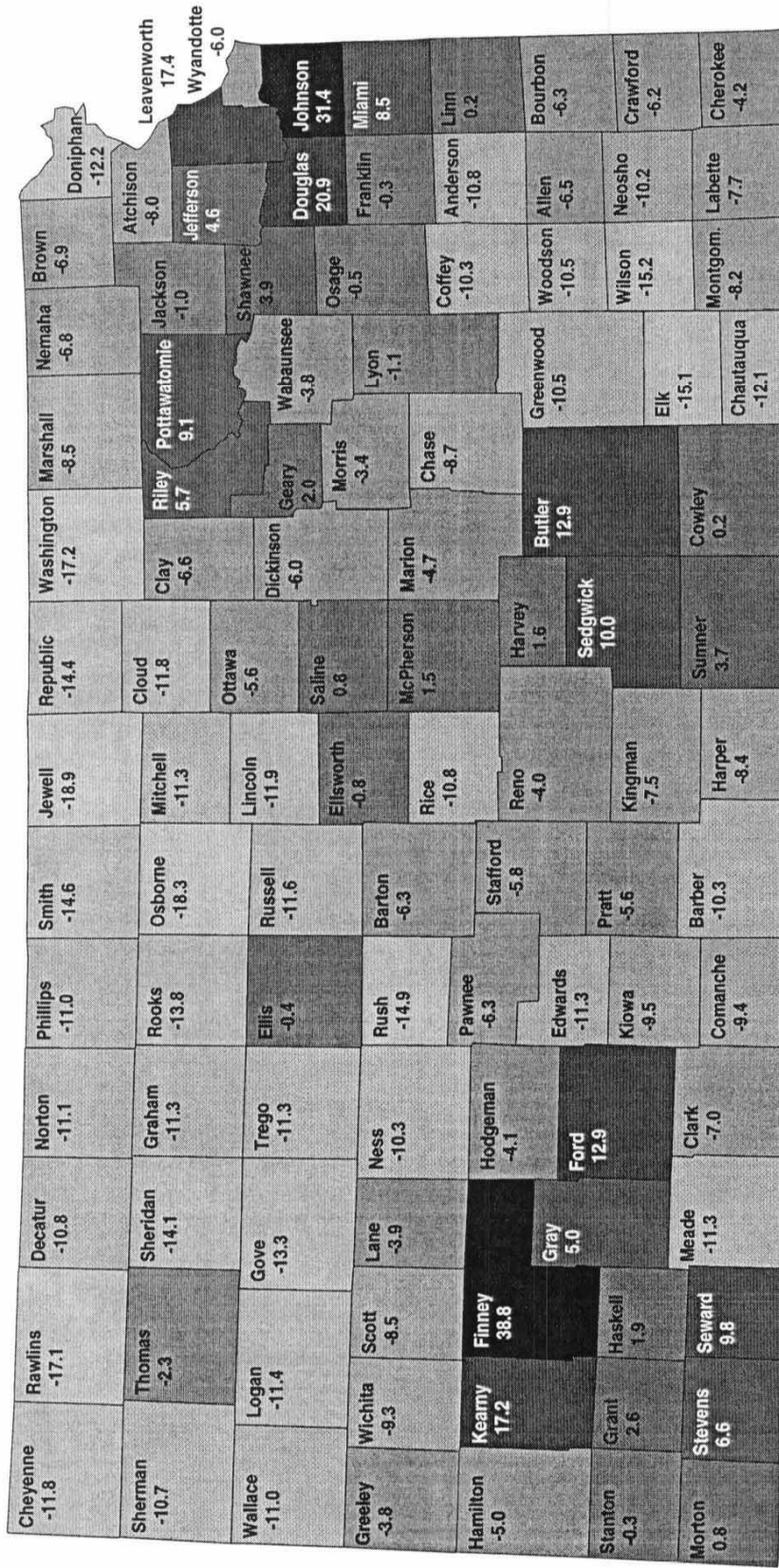
**Rates of Population Change
1970 – 1997
Atchison County, Kansas, and U.S.**



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

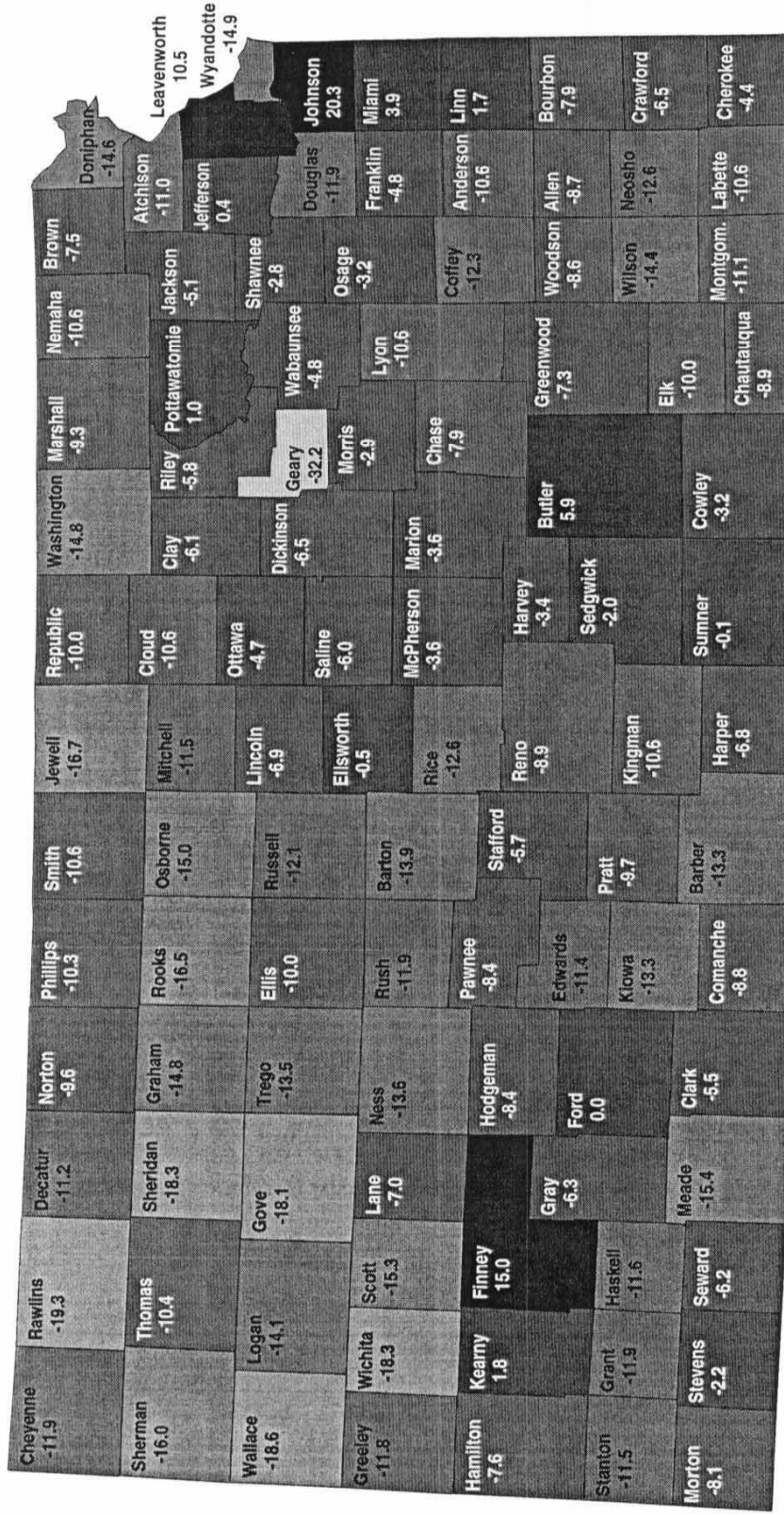
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Vol. 1"; "Census of Population, 1960: Number of Inhabitants, Final Report"; "1980 Census of Population, Vol. 1, Chapter A, Part 18," "1990 Census of Population," STF1-A. Population Estimates and Population Distribution Branches, U.S. Bureau of the Census. Calculations: IPPBR.

Map 1 Percent Population Change 1980 – 1990



Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, The University of Kansas, using data from U.S. Bureau of Census.

**Map 3 Percent Net Migration
1980 - 1990**



Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, The University of Kansas, using data from U.S. Bureau of Census.

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 a larger 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.

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 1991 to 1996, Atchison County experienced an increase in employment of 3.9 percent. For the same period, Kansas and the U.S. experienced an increase in employment of 9.1 percent and 9.7 percent, respectively (Table 3 and Figure 2).
- Atchison County's employment increase of 10.8 percent from 1986 to 1991 is slightly less than the average of selected counties (Table 3). Both Douglas and Johnson Counties experienced 25 percent growth. Atchison county outperformed the state and nation in 86-91 but under-performed the state and nation in average annual employment growth 1991-1996 (Figure 2).
- The total number of firms in Atchison County increased by 9.3 percent from 1985 to 1995, while the total number of firms in the state increased by 8.2 percent. The nominal increase was attributed to firms with fewer than 20 employees. The number of firms employing more than 20 but fewer than 100 people grew at 46.4 percent while the comparable state rate was 24.6 percent. There also was growth in the number of firms of at least 100 but fewer than 500 employees (Table 4).
- In 1995, 87.5 percent of firms in Atchison County and 87.1 percent of firms in Kansas are small firms employing fewer than 20 people (Table 5).
- Total employment for Atchison County increased by 15.1 percent in the years 1986 to 1996 compared to an increase of 19.0 percent for Kansas during the same period. The greatest number of jobs was created in the Services sector, which saw an increase of 424 people

employed from 1986 to 1996. Retail and Manufacturing experienced strong employment increases of 383 and 192, respectively (Table 6).

- For non-farm employment, the Wholesale sector saw a decrease of 84 jobs, while the Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate saw a decrease of 78 jobs (Table 6).
- Farm employment for Atchison County decreased by 2.8 percent (24 jobs) from 1986 to 1996, which was less than the state's 8.1 percent decrease (Table 6).
- The labor force participation rate is the percentage of population 16 and over that is in the labor force. The labor force participation rate in 1990 for Atchison County was 61.3 percent (Map 4). This participation rate was similar to Kansas' rate of 65.4 percent for Kansas and slightly above the U.S. rate of 64.4 percent (1990 U.S. Census).
- The unemployment rate for Atchison County in 1997 was 6.7 percent, which is above the state's rate of 4.4 percent for 1997¹ (Map 5).
- Based on an individual's place of residence data, Atchison County experienced a negative 1.8 percent job growth rate from 1990 to 1997 (Map 6). This means that fewer county residents were employed in 1997 than in 1990.
- All selected counties except Brown County had higher employment growth rates than Atchison from 1991 to 1996. For 1986 to 1991, Johnson, Douglas, Leavenworth, and Pottawatomie Counties had higher growth rates (Table 3 and Figure 2).

¹ Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, The University of Kansas, "Kansas Statistical Abstract, 1997," using data from Kansas Labor Force Estimates Annual Average 1997, Kansas Department of Human Resources, Labor Market Information Services.

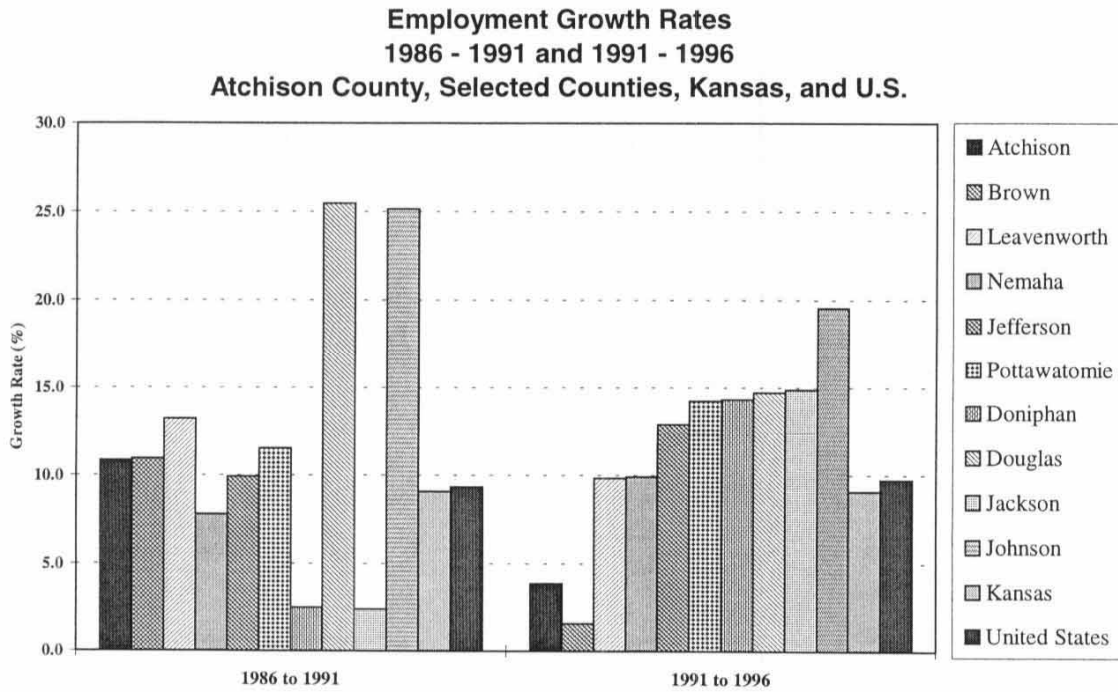
**Table 3 Employment Growth Rates
1986 – 1996
Atchison County, Selected Counties, Kansas, and United States**

	Average Annual Employment			% Employment Growth	
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>86 - '91</u>	<u>91 to '96</u>
Atchison	7,863	8,716	9,054	10.8 %	3.9 %
Brown	5,451	6,047	6,143	10.9	1.6
Leavenworth	25,814	29,222	32,098	13.2	9.8
Nemaha	5,874	6,332	6,960	7.8	9.9
Jefferson	5,186	5,701	6,436	9.9	12.9
Pottawatomie	8,090	9,022	10,304	11.5	14.2
Doniphan	3,689	3,781	4,322	2.5	14.3
Douglas	37,320	46,827	53,708	25.5	14.7
Jackson	4,914	5,033	5,782	2.4	14.9
Johnson	199,248	249,348	298,151	25.1	19.6
Kansas	1,377,296	1,502,336	1,638,597	9.1	9.1
United States	126,941,200	138,785,800	152,313,900	9.3	9.7

Note: Employment by place of work.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System: May 1998, Table CA25.

Figure 2



Note: Employment by place of work.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, May 1998, Table CA25.

**Table 4 Number of Firms, by Number of Employees
1985 and 1995
Atchison County and Kansas**

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Atchison</u>			<u>Kansas</u>		
	<u>1985</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1 -- 19	329	349	6.1 %	58,347	61,719	5.8 %
20 -- 99	28	41	46.4	6,234	7,767	24.6
100 -- 499	7	8	14.3	840	1,281	52.5
500+	1	1	n/a	89	127	42.7
Total	365	399	9.3%	65,510	70,894	8.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "County Business Patterns, 1995" Kansas Center for Community Economic Development Summary for Atchison County. Available from World Wide Web @ <http://www.ukans.edu/cwis/units/IPPBR/kcccd/profiles/pdf/Atchison.pdf>; Calculations, IPPBR.

**Table 5 Percentage Distribution of Firms, by Number of Employees
1985 and 1995
Atchison County and Kansas**

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Atchison</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>1985</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1995</u>
0 - 19	90.1 %	87.5 %	89.1 %	87.1 %
20 - 99	7.7	10.3	9.5	11.0
100 - 499	1.9	2.0	1.3	1.8
500+	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "County Business Patterns, 1995" Kansas Center for Community Economic Development Summary for Atchison County. Available from World Wide Web @ <http://www.ukans.edu/cwis/units/IPPBR/kcccd/profiles/pdf/Atchison.pdf>; Calculations, IPPBR.

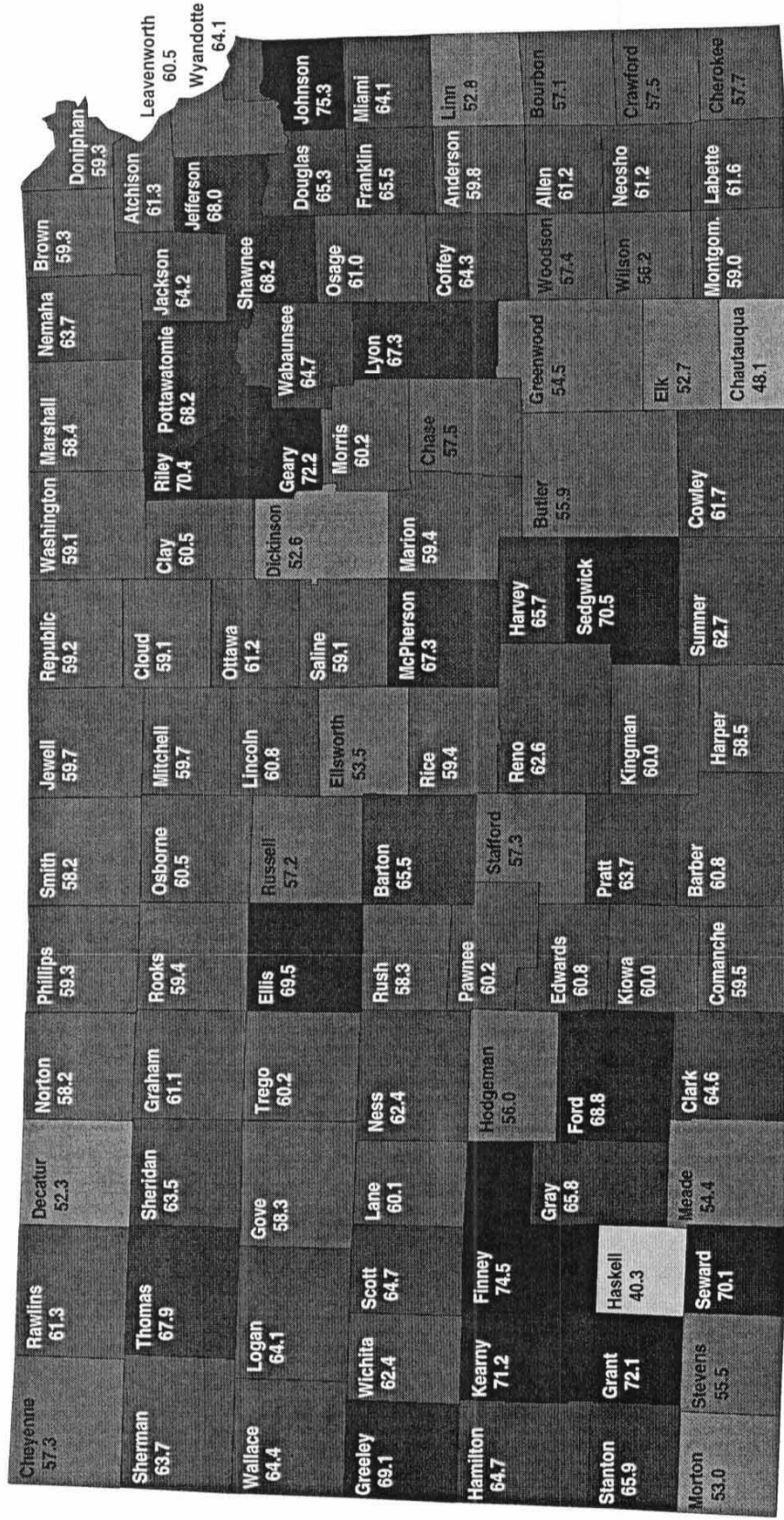
**Table 6 Employment Levels by Industry
1986 and 1996
Atchison County and Kansas**

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Atchison</u>			<u>Kansas</u>		
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Ag. Services	46	(D)	N/A %	10,633	19,003	78.7 %
Mining	38	36	-5.3	41,097	23,155	-43.7
Construction	307	(D)	N/A	68,306	84,694	24.0
Manufacturing	1,293	1,485	14.8	179,472	202,636	12.9
Transportation	265	240	-9.4	71,562	79,535	11.1
Wholesale Trade	584	500	-14.4	70,202	80,504	14.7
Retail Trade	1,096	1,479	34.9	212,911	280,810	31.9
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	375	297	-20.8	96,291	91,612	-4.9
Services	1,810	2,234	23.4	305,232	425,536	39.4
Gov't. and Gov't. Services	1,204	1,284	6.6	234,909	271,432	15.5
Subtotal -- Non-Farm	7,018	8,233	17.3	1,290,615	1,558,917	20.8
Farm Employment	845	821	-2.8	86,681	79,680	-8.1
Total Employment	7,863	9,054	15.1	1,377,296	1,638,597	19.0

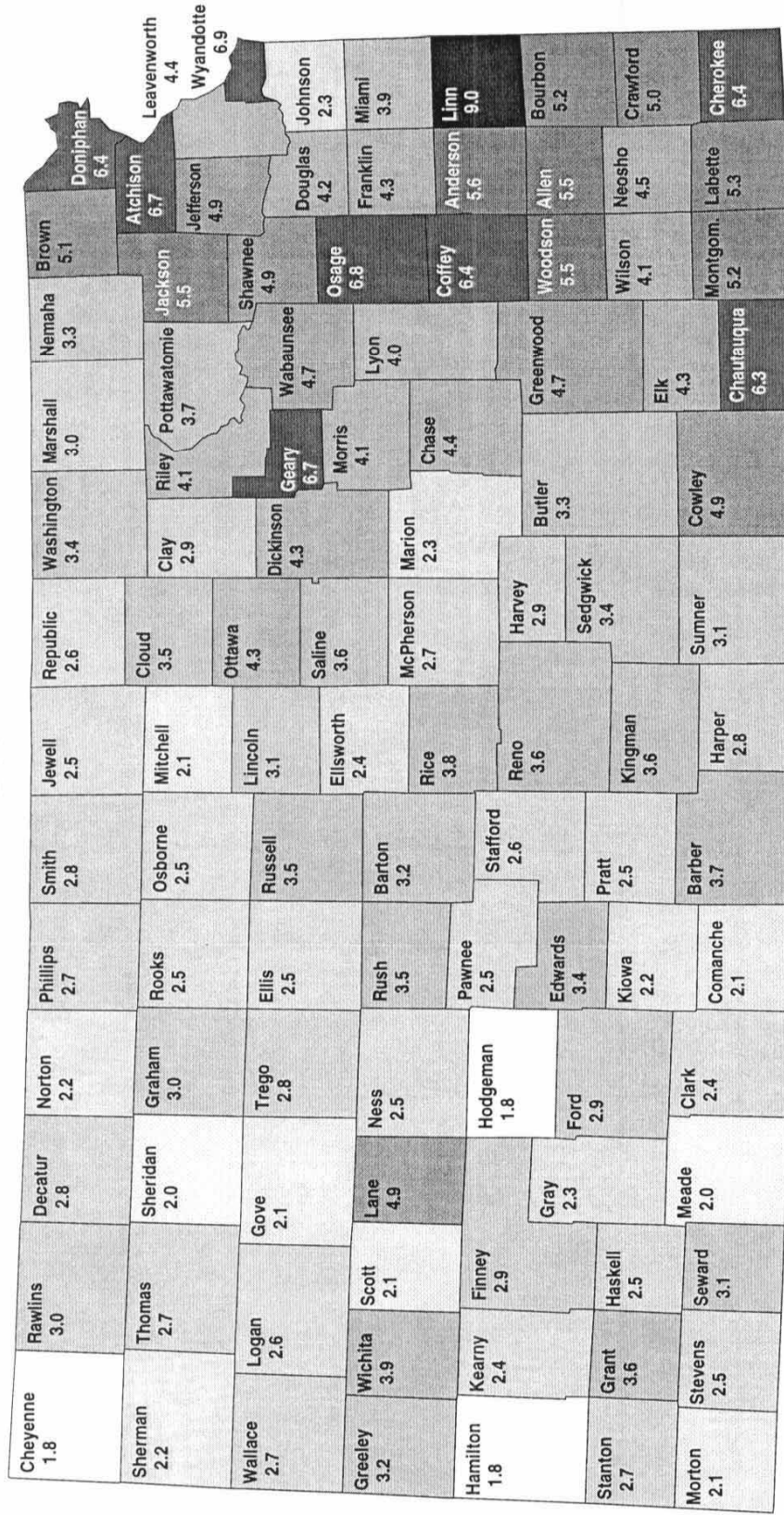
Note: Employment by place of work.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System: May 1998, Table CA25.

Map 4 Labor Force Participation
1990



**Map 5 County Unemployment Rates
1997**



Note: Employment data are based on an individual's place of residence. Kansas unemployment rate for 1997 is 3.8 percent
Source: Kansas Department of Human Resources, Labor Market Information Services. August 1998. <<http://laborstats.hr.state.ks.us/lfe/lfe.htm#lfea>>

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

- Average wage per job increased at an average of 4.3 percent annually from 1980 to 1996, however, this rate is lower than the state's 5.6 percent growth rate. In 1996, Atchison County's average annual wage was \$20,122 compared to \$24,093 for Kansas. Average wage as a percent of Kansas's average wage has declined from 93 percent in 1980 to 83 percent in 1996 (Table 7).
- In general, per capita personal income for Atchison County has lagged behind the statewide figures each year from 1980 to 1996 (Table 8 and Figure 3).
- Compared to other counties in the region and in Kansas, Atchison County's 1996 per capita personal income falls in the middle range (Map 7).

**Table 7 Average Wage per Job
1980 - 1996
Atchison County and Kansas
(Dollars)**

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>Avg Annual % Change</u>
Atchison	11,809	14,515	16,526	20,122	4.3
Kansas	12,697	16,906	19,868	24,093	5.6

Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, The University of Kansas, "Kansas Statistical Abstract, 1997".

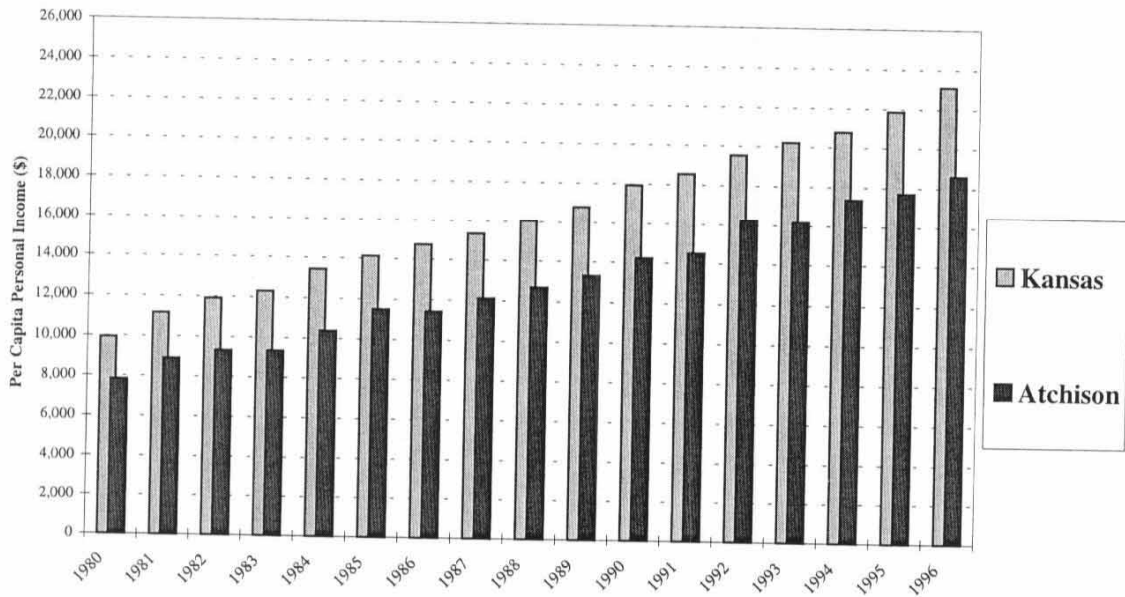
**Table 8 Per Capita Personal Income
1980 - 1996
Atchison County and Kansas**

	<u>Income (\$)</u>		<u>Growth Rates</u>	
	<u>Atchison</u>	<u>Kansas</u>	<u>Atchison</u>	<u>Kansas</u>
1980	7,852	9,950		
1981	8,914	11,176	13.5 %	12.3 %
1982	9,347	11,915	4.9	6.6
1983	9,358	12,296	0.1	3.2
1984	10,397	13,434	11.1	9.3
1985	11,503	14,151	10.6	5.3
1986	11,436	14,767	-0.6	4.4
1987	12,116	15,366	5.9	4.1
1988	12,707	16,062	4.9	4.5
1989	13,325	16,818	4.9	4.7
1990	14,250	17,968	6.9	6.8
1991	14,520	18,559	1.9	3.3
1992	16,263	19,541	12.0	5.3
1993	16,184	20,213	-0.5	3.4
1994	17,398	20,784	7.5	2.8
1995	17,734	21,886	1.9	5.3
1996	18,630	23,133	5.1	5.7

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, May 1998, Table CA05.1.

Figure 3

Per Capita Personal Income
1980 - 1996
Atchison County and Kansas



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, May 1998, Table CA05.1.

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.² CTPF is calculated by dividing the county's per capita sales tax collections by Kansas' per capita sales tax collections. 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 and 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, Atchison County experienced steady improvement in retail sales growth. Retail sales growth rates for Atchison and Kansas in the period 1987 to 1997 have been positive all years, except 1991 to 1992 and 1993 to 1994 for Atchison, and in Kansas in 1993-94 (Table 9).
- Retail sales grew 26 percent since 1987 compared to the state's 60 percent growth during the same period. Retail sales in Atchison County have grown at a rate slower than the state's rate, except for the periods from 1992 to 1994 (Table 9 and Figure 4).
- The County Trade Pull Factor for Atchison County for 1997 was 0.61, which would indicate that other counties are attracting retail customers from Atchison. The surrounding counties, similarly, all appear to be losing retail sales to "out-shopping" (Map 8).

² Chatura Ariyaratne and David Darling, Kansas State University Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.

**Table 9 Taxable Retail Sales and Growth Rates
1987 - 1997
Atchison County and Kansas
(\$ Millions)**

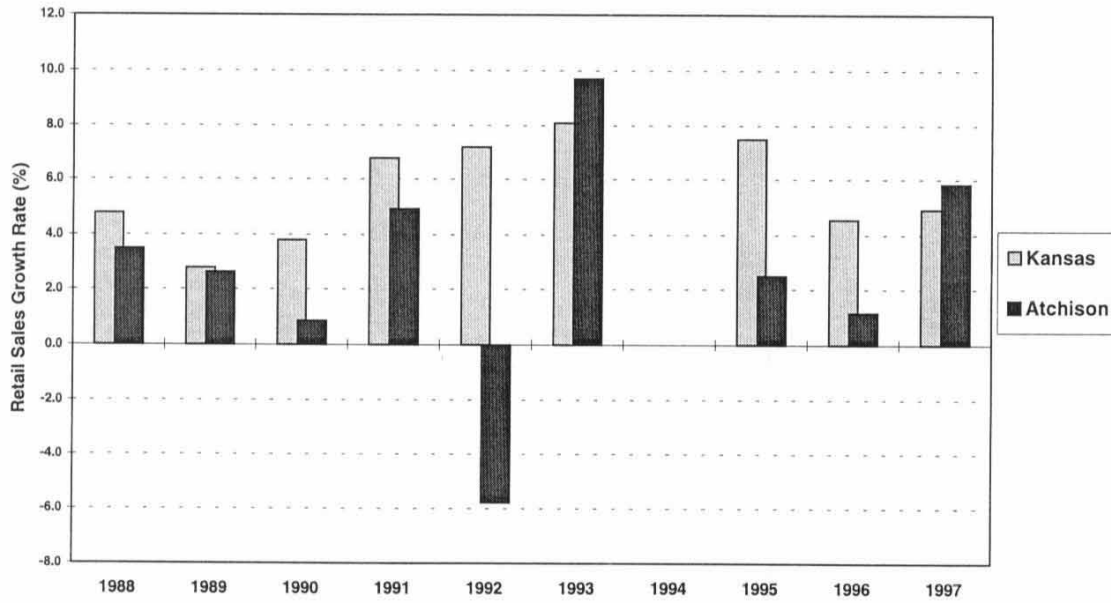
<u>Year</u>	<u>Atchison</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>Nominal Sales</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>	<u>Nominal Sales</u>	<u>Growth Rate</u>
1987	66.2		16,746.0	
1988	68.5	3.5 %	17,548.0	4.8
1989	70.3	2.6	18,034.4	2.8
1990	70.9	0.9	18,723.3	3.8
1991	74.4	4.9	19,988.0	6.8
1992	70.1	-5.8	21,421.3	7.2
1993	76.9	9.7	23,154.4	8.1
1994	76.0	n/a	22,603.5	n/a
1995	77.9	2.5	24,289.1	7.5
1996	78.8	1.2	25,393.9	4.5
1997	83.4	5.8	26,643.1	4.9

Source: Kansas Department of Revenue, State Sales Tax Collections by County Classifications. Calculations: 1987-1993 CEDBR, W. Frank Barton School of Business, Wichita State University; 1994-1997, IPPBR, University of Kansas.

N/A: 1994-1997 data are not comparable with previous data.

Figure 4

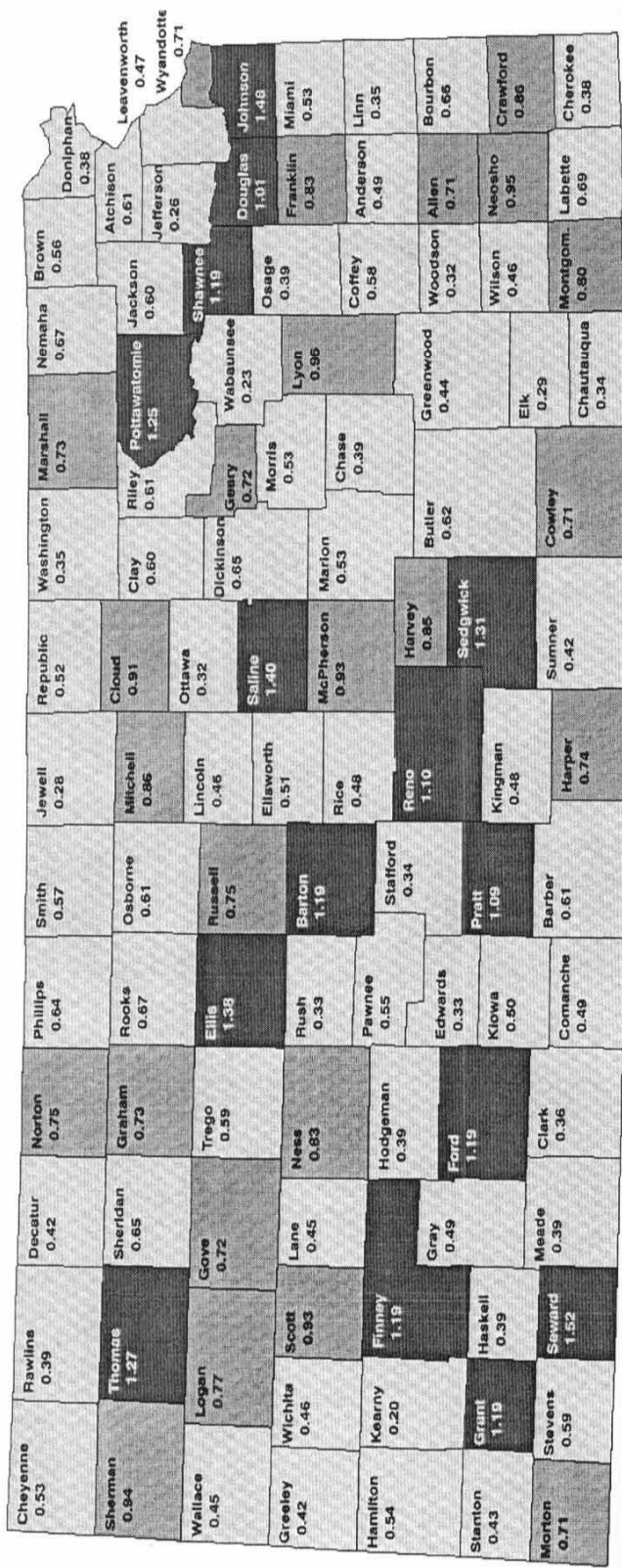
**Taxable Retail Sales Growth Rates
1988 - 1997
Atchison County and Kansas**



Source: Kansas Department of Revenue, State Sales Tax Collections by County Classifications. Calculations: 1987-1993 CEDBR, W. Frank Barton School of Business, Wichita State University; 1994-1997, IPPBR, University of Kansas.

Map 8 County Trade Pull Factors FY 1997

County Trade Pull Factors, FY 1997



105 County Average = 0.66
 Median Value = 0.60
 Maximum Value = 1.52 (Seward Co.)
 Minimum Value = 0.20 (Kearny Co.)

Source: David L. Darling and Chatura Ariyaratne, Kansas State University Extension, Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service..

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

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 Atchison County in the past was dependent on the strength of this industry sector. 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 total value of field crops in Atchison County was at a record \$37 million in 1996, a 42 percent rise from 1995 (Table 10).
- The annual average percent change in Atchison County's field crop value from 1991 to 1996 was 43.8 percent compared to 30.9 percent for Kansas (Table 10).
- The total value of livestock and poultry in Atchison County has declined from \$16 million in 1991 to \$12 million in 1996 (Table 11).
- The annual average of livestock and poultry for Atchison County has decreased 12.5 percent during 1991 to 1996 compared to a 1.3 percent increase for Kansas (Table 11).

Table 10 Total Value of Field Crops*
1991 - 1996
Atchison County, Selected Counties, and Kansas

	Value of Field Crops (\$ Millions)						Annual Average		
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	91 - '93	94 - '96	% Change
Atchison	17	28	18	27	26	37	21	30	43.8 %
Brown	36	49	36	55	47	76	40	59	47.8
Doniphan	33	41	31	41	39	51	35	44	25.0
Jackson	13	22	15	24	21	29	17	24	43.8
Jefferson	16	26	18	25	24	37	20	28	41.5
Leavenworth	13	18	13	16	17	21	15	18	24.8
Marshall	34	49	39	62	65	81	41	69	70.8
Nemaha	30	39	24	44	42	59	31	48	54.8
Pottawatomie	18	25	19	24	25	34	21	28	33.8
Riley	12	14	12	18	16	21	13	18	45.4
Wyandotte	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	5.4
Kansas	2,579	2,988	3,014	3,555	3,526	4,155	2,860	3,745	30.9
Crop Price Index+	99	108	104	113	130	160			

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

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

* Does not include any government program payments.

Source: Kansas Agricultural Statistics, Kansas Department of Agriculture; Kansas Farm Facts; Kansas Statistical Abstract, KCCED, The University of Kansas; Calculations, KCCED.

**Table 11 Total Value of Livestock and Poultry
1991 - 1996
Atchison County, Selected Counties, and Kansas**

	<u>Value of Livestock and Poultry (\$ Millions)</u>						<u>Annual Average</u>		
	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>91 - '93</u>	<u>94 - '96</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Atchison	16	16	16	15	14	12	16	14	-12.5 %
Brown	25	21	23	23	19	18	23	20	-13.3
Doniphan	13	11	11	10	9	7	12	9	-27.2
Jackson	17	16	17	15	15	16	17	15	-6.6
Jefferson	15	14	15	15	14	14	15	14	-2.2
Leavenworth	18	17	18	17	16	16	18	16	-7.5
Marshall	28	26	28	27	24	21	27	24	-11.7
Nemaha	48	43	45	46	45	48	45	46	2.6
Pottawatomie	28	27	32	30	26	22	29	26	-10.9
Riley	15	15	15	14	11	11	15	12	-21.4
Wyandotte	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	-4.3
Kansas	2,857	2,759	2,874	2,966	2,678	2,629	2,830	2,866	1.3
Livestock & Products Price Index+	99	98	101	91	86	85			

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

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Source: Kansas Agricultural Statistics, Kansas Department of Agriculture; Kansas Farm Facts; Kansas Statistical Abstract, KCCED, The University of Kansas; Calculations, KCCED.

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 Atchison County had a much lower percentage of its over-25 population with some college than did the state of Kansas (Table 12). Since most new jobs created will require some post high school education, Atchison may be well positioned to face this challenge.
- Over 22 percent of the County's over 25 population had less than a high school education compared with 18.8 percent for Kansas (Table 12). This indicates a need for adult education and training and retraining programs.
- Only 17.8 percent of Atchison County's over-25 population have at least an Associate, bachelor's, graduate, or professional degrees compared to 26.5 percent for Kansas (Table 12).
- Atchison has a greater percentage (45.6%) of its over-25 population with high school diplomas compared with 32.8 percent of Kansas.

**Table 12 Educational Attainment of Persons over 25
1990
As a Percentage of the Population of Persons over 25
Atchison County and Kansas**

	Completed Less Than 9th Grade	9-12th Grade No Diploma	High School Graduate	Some College	College Degree*
Atchison	10.6	11.9	45.6	14.1	17.8
Kansas	7.8	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

The data reviewed indicated several trends. Atchison County's population peaked in 1900 and has since been in steady decline. Population estimates for 1996 and 1997 indicate that the population may be stabilizing. Notwithstanding a decline in population, total employment increased in the county during the period from 1986 to 1996. Several sectors experienced good job growth, such as the services, retail, and manufacturing sectors. Services, manufacturing, retail, and government/governmental services sectors employ the most workers in the county, accounting for 71.6 percent of the county's total employment in 1996. The labor force participation rate is good for the region but the unemployment rate is above the state's average. Average wage per job increased at an average of 4.3 percent annually from 1980 to 1996, however, this rate is lower than the state's 5.6 percent growth rate. Since 1987, retail sales grew 26 percent compared to the state's 60 percent growth during the same period. The County Trade Pull Factor indicates that the county is losing trade to other counties. The average annual average value of field crops increased 43.8 percent during two three-year periods between 1991 to 1996; however, the corresponding average annual value of livestock and poultry declined 12.5 percent during that same period. Atchison County has a higher percentage of its adult population with some college than Kansas' over 25 population.

Other data reviewed show some trends that may be of concern to the county. The average annual employment increased an average of 1.5 percent each year from 1986 to 1996. The county's average wage per job and per capita personal income, in general, lag behind the State's figures. 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 Atchison County will be in the future.