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Economic Trends Report: Bourbon County

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Foreword

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

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Population	2
Table 1 Population Totals, Growth Rates, Rank & Share, Bourbon County and Kansas	4
Table 2 Population Growth Rates (percent): 1970 - 2002	5
Figure 1a Rates of Population Change, Bourbon and Surrounding Counties 1970 – 2002	6
Figure 1b Rates of Population Change, Bourbon County, Kansas and US 1970 – 2002	6
Table 3a Population by Age, Bourbon County and Kansas, 1990-2002.....	7
Table 3b Population by Age as Percent of Total, Bourbon County and Kansas, 1990-2002	7
Figure 2 Population by Age as Percent of Total Population, Bourbon County, 1990-2000	8
Table 4a Population by Hispanic Origin, Bourbon County and Kansas, 1980-2002	9
Table 4b Population by Hispanic Origin as Percent of Total, Bourbon County, Kansas, 1980-2002	9
Table 5a Net Migration: 1970 - 1999	10
Table 5b Net Migration: 2000-2002	11
Table 6 Population of Top-ranking Kansas Counties	12
Map 1 Percent Population Change 1980 – 1990.....	13
Map 2 Percent Population Change 1990 – 2000.....	14
Map 3 Percent Net Migration 1990 - 1999.....	15
Employment.....	16
Table 7 Employment Growth Rates 1992 - 2002, Bourbon and Surrounding Counties, Kansas.....	18
Figure 3 Employment Growth Rates 1992 - 2002, Bourbon and Surrounding Counties.....	18
Table 8a Number of Firms, by Number of Employees 1991 - 2001	19
Table 8b Percentage Distribution of Firms, by Number of Employees 1991 - 2001	19
Table 9a Employment Levels by Industry 1990 - 2000.....	20
Figure 4a Percent Change in Employment by Selected Industries 1990 - 2000	21
Table 9b Employment Percent Share by Industry 1990 - 2000	22
Figure 4b Employment Percent Share by Industry 2000	23
Map 4 Labor Force Participation: 2000.....	24
Map 5 County Unemployment Rates: 2002.....	25
Map 6 Place of Work by Workers Residing in Bourbon County, 2000.....	26
Map 7 Place of Residence by Workers Employed in Bourbon County, 2000.....	27
Earnings and Income	28
Table 10 Average Annual Wage per Job 1991 - 2001	29
Figure 5 Average Wage per Job: Bourbon and Surrounding Counties, 1991 - 2001	29
Table 11 Per Capita Personal Income, Bourbon County and Kansas, 1980 - 2001	30
Figure 6 Per Capita Personal Income, Bourbon County and Kansas, 1980 - 2001	31
Map 8 Per Capita Personal Income: 2001.....	32
Retail.....	33
Table 12 Taxable Retail Sales and Growth Rates 1989 - 2002	34
Figure 7 Taxable Retail Sales Growth Rates 1992 - 2002	35
Map 9 County Trade Pull Factors, 2002	36
Education.....	37
Table 13 Educational Attainment of Persons over 25: 2000	38
Table 14 High School Graduates and Drop-Outs, Bourbon County and Kansas, 1991-2001.....	39
Conclusion	40

Economic Trends Report: Bourbon County

Introduction

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

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

Throughout the report, Bourbon County's performance is compared with the performance of the state of Kansas and these selected comparative counties: Allen, Crawford, Linn, and Neosho. It is by no means a comprehensive analysis of economic trends facing the County but rather an overview of some key economic and demographic variables.

POPULATION

In every community population size and economic activity are closely related. The size of population is directly related to employment opportunities within the area, wage differentials between regions, and a community's overall economic and social conditions. Growing communities are more likely to adapt successfully to a changing economic environment than areas with constant or decreasing population. New residents in a community mean additional consumers, taxpayers, and suppliers of labor. Without population growth, communities face problems of a tightening labor market, lack of new customers for businesses, a shrinking tax base, and an overall decline in economic activity. Generally, areas of population growth are also areas of economic growth, whereas areas of population loss suffered previous economic decline and restructuring.

Population: Key Findings

- Bourbon County experienced steady population declines for nearly all of the last century, struggling in the latter decades to reverse the trend. In the 1970s population grew by 5 percent, the first decade increase since records were kept. These gains were all but lost during the 1980s, but in the last decade population grew slightly again. In 2002 the Census Bureau estimated there were 15,171 people living in Bourbon County, which was nearly the same amount that existed in 1970 (Table 1 and 2).
- Most of the surrounding counties, with the exception of Linn, experienced the same sort of uncharacteristic growth in the 1970s followed by sharp declines in the 1980s that marked Bourbon's path. During the decade of the nineties Allen and Neosho counties continued to lose population, while Crawford County grew, and Linn County grew explosively. Population in Bourbon County grew only 1.4 percent from 1990 to 2002 (Table 2 and Figure 1a).
- The state of Kansas as a whole has seen steady population increases, growing 9.6 percent from 1990 to 2002. For the last several decades the United States' population has consistently grown about twice as fast (Table 2 and Figure 1b).
- The largest age group in Bourbon County in 2000 consisted of people in the 25-44 year-old range, though as a share of total county population that age segment has actually decreased, from 26 percent of the total in 1990 to 24 percent in 2000. The 45-64 year old group grew the most from 1990 to 2000, from 19 percent of the total population to over 22 percent. Some age data estimates are available for the year 2002, but not in as much detail as the decennial census figures, which makes comparison difficult (Table 3a and 3b, Figure 2).
- Census race data in 2000 and beyond cannot be directly compared to data from previous years, due to a change in reporting which allowed people to select more

than one race. During the 2000 Census, 204 people in Bourbon County indicated they belonged to more than one race. Therefore, the 2000 Census data figures for individual races would probably be slightly higher if the old categorization had been used. Nevertheless, the new data is still useful for indicating trends (Tables 4a and 4b).

- The population of Bourbon County is not diverse in terms of race, even by Kansas standards. Nevertheless, even though the change has been slight, the direction for Bourbon County, as everywhere, is towards more diversity. The percentage of the total population that is white was 94.3 percent in 2002, a slight decrease from the 96.2 percent two decades previous. The fastest growing non-white group are Hispanics, which grew to 1.4 percent of the total county population in 2002 (Tables 4a and 4b)
- Net migration is calculated as the change in population less the difference between births and deaths. A positive net migration indicates more people have moved into the county than have moved out, after factoring-in the effect of births and deaths. From 1990 to 1999 total net migration in Bourbon County stood at a positive 3 percent, with 460 people moving into the county on net (460 is 3 percent of the 1990 population of Bourbon County). This was in spite of the fact that the birth-rate for the county decreased much faster than the death rate, to the point that more people died during those nine years in the county than were born. The state of Kansas had a positive net migration of 1.8 percent over the last decade, the first time in forty years the state's rate was positive (Table 5a and Map 3). Because of a fluke in data reporting, it isn't possible to show migration patterns from 1999 to the year 2000. However, more recent data from 2000 to 2002 is available, and it indicates net migration in Bourbon County to be slightly negative for those years (Table 5b).
- In 1990 the ten-year population growth rate in Bourbon County was ranked 51st in a state of 105 counties. In 2000 its decade population growth rate had risen to the 39th highest in the state (Maps 1 and 2).

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

Year	Bourbon		Kansas		Bourbon County Rank in State	Share (%)
	Population Total	Growth Rate	Population Total	Growth Rate		
1890	28,575		1,427,096		8	2.0
1900	24,712	-13.5	1,470,495	3.0	15	1.7
1910	24,007	-2.9	1,690,949	15.0	17	1.4
1920	23,198	-3.4	1,769,257	4.6	20	1.3
1930	22,386	-3.5	1,880,999	6.3	22	1.2
1940	20,944	-6.4	1,801,028	-4.3	24	1.2
1950	19,153	-8.6	1,905,299	5.8	28	1.0
1960	16,090	-16.0	2,178,611	14.3	31	0.7
1970	15,215	-5.4	2,249,071	3.2	31	0.7
1980	15,969	5.0	2,364,236	5.1	31	0.7
1990	14,966	-6.3	2,477,588	4.8	34	0.6
1991*	14,907	-0.4	2,498,722	0.9	34	0.6
1992*	14,905	0.0	2,532,394	1.3	34	0.6
1993*	15,013	0.7	2,556,547	1.0	34	0.6
1994*	15,016	0.0	2,580,513	0.9	34	0.6
1995*	15,157	0.9	2,601,007	0.8	34	0.6
1996*	15,380	1.5	2,614,554	0.5	34	0.6
1997*	15,529	1.0	2,635,292	0.8	34	0.6
1998*	15,488	-0.3	2,660,598	1.0	34	0.6
1999*	15,316	-1.1	2,678,338	0.7	34	0.6
2000	15,379	0.4	2,688,418	0.4	34	0.6
2001*	15,355	-0.2	2,702,125	0.5	34	0.6
2002*	15,171	-1.2	2,715,884	0.5	34	0.6

* Estimates

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 2
Population Growth Rates
Bourbon County, Surrounding Counties, Kansas, and U.S.
1970-2002

<u>Year</u>	<u>1970-1980</u>	<u>1980-1990</u>	<u>1990-2002</u>
Bourbon	5.0	-6.3	1.4
Allen	4.1	-6.5	-2.8
Crawford	0.2	-6.2	6.9
Linn	6.0	0.2	17.2
Neosho	0.8	-10.2	-2.3
Kansas	5.1	4.8	9.6
United States	11.4	9.8	15.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Figure 1a
Rates of Population Change
Bourbon and Surrounding Counties
1970-2002

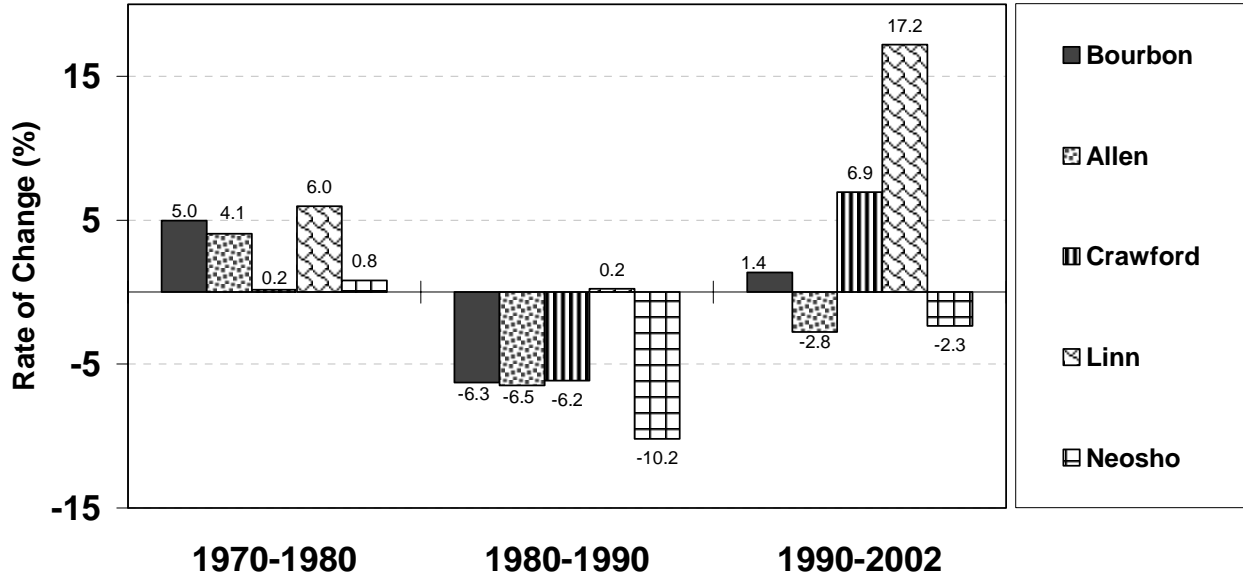
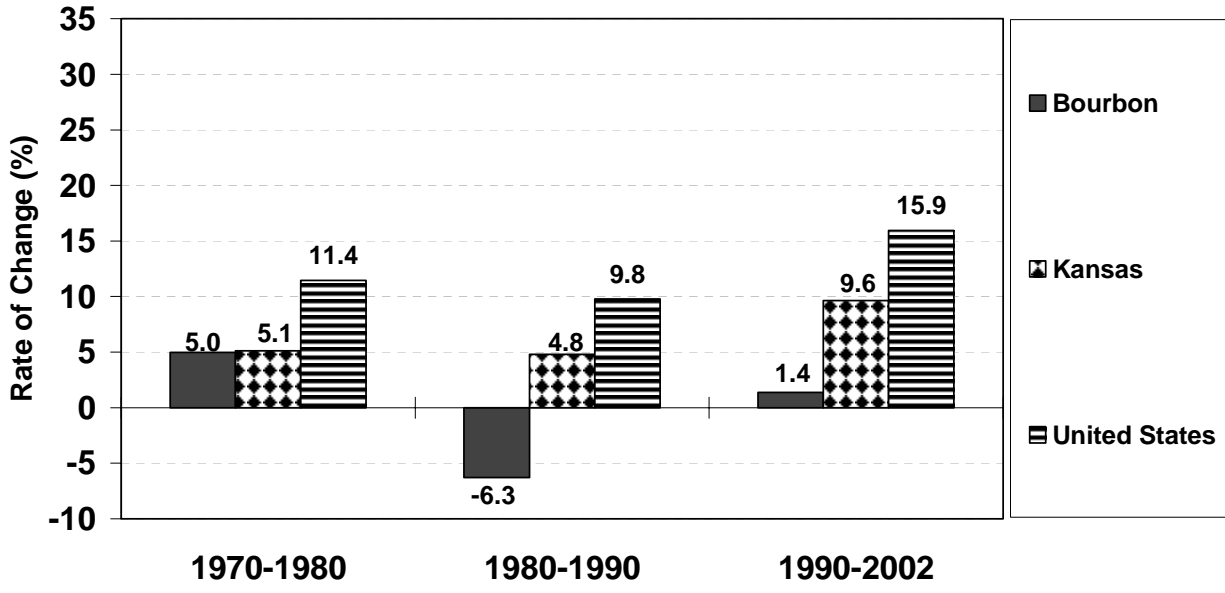


Figure 1b
Rates of Population Change
Bourbon County, Kansas, US
1970-2002



**Table 3a
Population by Selected Age Groups
Bourbon County and Kansas
1990-2002**

	Age:	<u>0-4</u>	<u>5-17</u>	<u>18-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65 and over</u>
Bourbon	1990	1,086	2,786	1,269	3,915	2,830	3,052
	2000	945	3,016	1,459	3,720	3,435	2,804
	2002 *	883	2,785	1,652	<u>15-44</u> 5,926		2,723
Kansas	1990	189,988	472,267	255,195	776,430	443,877	342,863
	2000	188,708	524,285	275,592	769,204	574,400	356,229
	2002 *	187,892	508,627	291,509	<u>15-44</u> 1,170,482		355,094

* Estimates

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

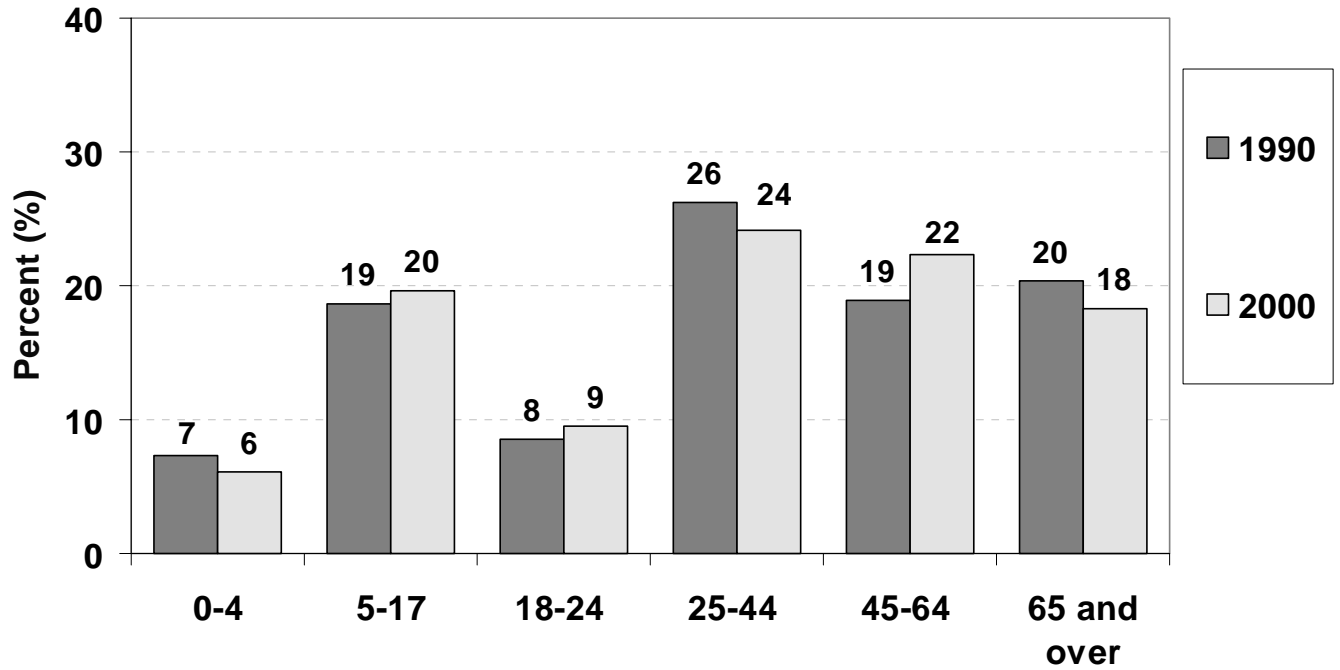
**Table 3b
Population by Selected Age Groups as Percent of Total
Bourbon County and Kansas
1990-2002**

	Age:	<u>0-4</u>	<u>5-17</u>	<u>18-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65 and over</u>
Bourbon	1990	7.3 %	18.6 %	8.5 %	26.2 %	18.9 %	20.4 %
	2000	6.1	19.6	9.5	24.2	22.3	18.2
	2002 *	5.8	18.4	10.9	<u>15-44</u> 39.1		17.9
Kansas	1990	7.7	19.1	10.3	31.3	17.9	13.8
	2000	7.0	19.5	10.3	28.6	21.4	13.3
	2002 *	6.9	18.7	10.7	<u>15-44</u> 43.1		13.1

*Estimates

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Figure 2
Population by Age Group as Percent of Total Population
Bourbon County
1990-2000



**Table 4a
Population by Hispanic Origin
Bourbon County and Kansas
1980-2002**

	Year	Total	White		Total Black	Total Hispanic	Others	2 or More Races
			Total	Hispanic				
Bourbon	1980	16,009	15,406	49	15,357	398	93	112
	1990	15,018	14,438	28	14,410	419	79	82
	2000 *	15,379	14,466	121	14,345	474	199	235
	2002 **	15,171	14,310	192	14,118	521	218	180
Kansas	1980	2,364,236	2,168,221	n/a	n/a	126,127	63,339	69,331
	1990	2,477,588	2,233,897	40,016	2,193,881	143,076	93,670	102,512
	2000 *	2,688,418	2,313,944	79,947	2,233,997	154,198	188,252	163,780
	2002 **	2,715,884	2,427,957	192,810	2,235,147	161,052	206,715	82,678

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

* 2000 and forward race data is not comparable to previous years due to changes in reporting. See text for more.

** Estimates

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

**Table 4b
Population by Hispanic Origin as Percent of Total
Bourbon County and Kansas
1980-2002**

	Year	White		Total Black	Total Hispanic	Others	2 or More Races
		Total	Hispanic				
Bourbon	1980	96.2%	0.3	95.9	2.5%	0.6%	0.7%
	1990	96.1	0.2	96.0	2.8	0.5	0.5
	2000 *	94.1	0.8	93.3	3.1	1.3	1.3
	2002 **	94.3	1.3	93.1	3.4	1.4	1.2
Kansas	1980	91.7%	n/a	n/a	5.3%	2.7%	2.9%
	1990	90.2	1.6	88.5	5.8	3.8	4.1
	2000 *	86.1	3.0	83.1	5.7	7.0	6.1
	2002 **	89.4	7.1	82.3	5.9	7.6	3.0

* 2000 and forward race data is not comparable to previous years due to changes in reporting. See text for more.

** Estimates

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

**Table 5a
Net Migration
1970-1999**

Bourbon County							
<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Population Change</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Births - Deaths</u>	<u>Net *** Migration</u>	<u>% Net Migration</u>
1970*	15,215	-875	n/a	n/a	-100	-775	-4.8
1980*	15,969	754	n/a	n/a	-262	1,016	6.7
1990*	14,966	-1,003	2,393	2,148	245	-1,248	-7.8
1999**	15,316	350	1,856	1,966	-110	460	3.1

Kansas							
<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Population Change</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Births - Deaths</u>	<u>Net *** Migration</u>	<u>% Net Migration</u>
1970*	2,249,071	70,460	409,189	219,067	190,122	-119,662	-5.5
1980*	2,364,236	115,165	355,861	218,713	137,148	-21,983	-1.0
1990*	2,477,588	113,352	397,215	220,466	176,749	-63,397	-2.7
1999**	2,654,052	176,464	348,226	215,686	132,540	43,924	1.8

n/a: not available
* Decade ending
** Population estimate
*** Net migration = Population change - (births-deaths)

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

**Table 5b
Net Migration
2000-2002**

<u>Bourbon County</u>							
<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Population Change from 2000</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Births - Deaths</u>	<u>Net * Migration</u>	<u>% Net Migration</u>
2000	15,379						
2002**	15,171	-208	375	463	-88	-120	-0.8
<u>Kansas</u>							
<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Population Change from 2000</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Births - Deaths</u>	<u>Net * Migration</u>	<u>% Net Migration</u>
2000	2,688,418						
2002**	2,715,884	27,466	86,942	56,170	30,772	-3,306	-0.1

* Net migration = Population change - (births-deaths)
** Population Estimate

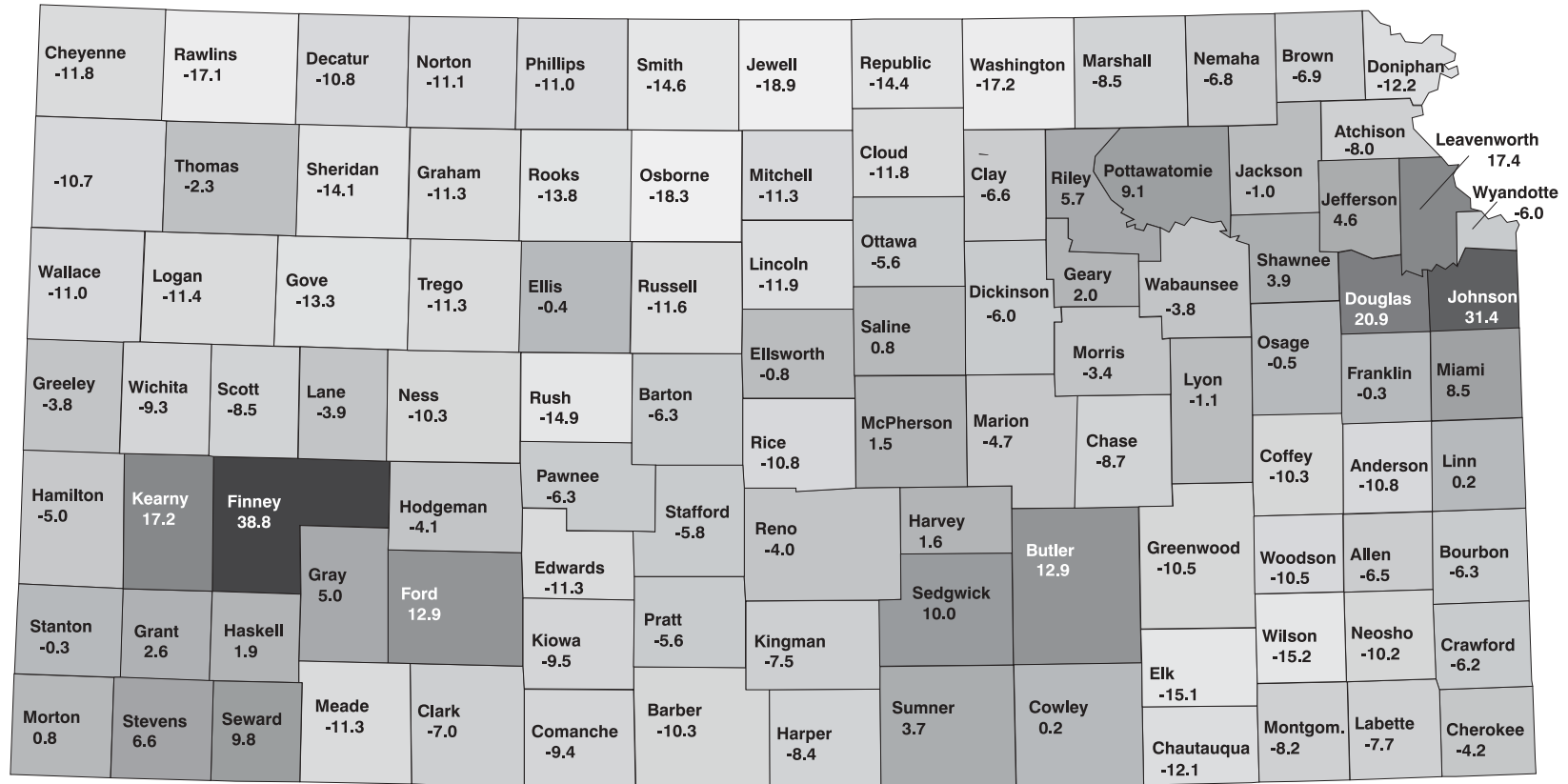
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 6
Population of Top Ranking Kansas Counties
(Thousands)

Rk	1940	Pop.	Rk	1980	Pop.	Rk	1990	Pop.	Rk	2002	Pop.
1	Wyandotte	145	1	Sedgwick	367	1	Sedgwick	404	1	Johnson	477
2	Sedgwick	143	2	Johnson	270	2	Johnson	355	2	Sedgwick	462
3	Shawnee	91	3	Wyandotte	172	3	Wyandotte	162	3	Shawnee	171
4	Reno	52	4	Shawnee	155	4	Shawnee	161	4	Wyandotte	158
5	Montgomery	49	5	Douglas	68	5	Douglas	82	5	Douglas	102
6	Crawford	45	6	Reno	65	6	Riley	67	6	Leavenworth	71
7	Leavenworth	41	7	Riley	64	7	Leavenworth	64	7	Reno	64
8	Cowley	38	8	Leavenworth	55	8	Reno	62	8	Riley	61
9	Johnson	33	9	Saline	49	9	Butler	51	9	Butler	61
10	Butler	32	10	Butler	45	10	Saline	49	10	Saline	54
11	Labette	30	11	Montgomery	42	11	Montgomery	39	11	Finney	40
12	Cherokee	30	12	Crawford	38	12	Cowley	37	12	Crawford	38
13	Saline	30	13	Cowley	37	13	Crawford	36	13	Cowley	36
14	Lyon	26	14	Lyon	35	14	Lyon	35	14	Lyon	36
15	Sumner	26	15	Barton	31	15	Finney	33	15	Montgomery	35
16	Douglas	25	16	Harvey	31	16	Harvey	31	16	Harvey	33
17	Barton	25	17	Geary	30	17	Geary	30	17	Ford	33
18	McPherson	24	18	McPherson	27	18	Barton	29	18	McPherson	29
19	Dickinson	23	19	Ellis	26	19	Ford	27	19	Miami	29
20	Atchison	22	20	Labette	26	20	McPherson	27	20	Barton	28
24	Bourbon	21	31	Bourbon	16	34	Bourbon	15	34	Bourbon	15

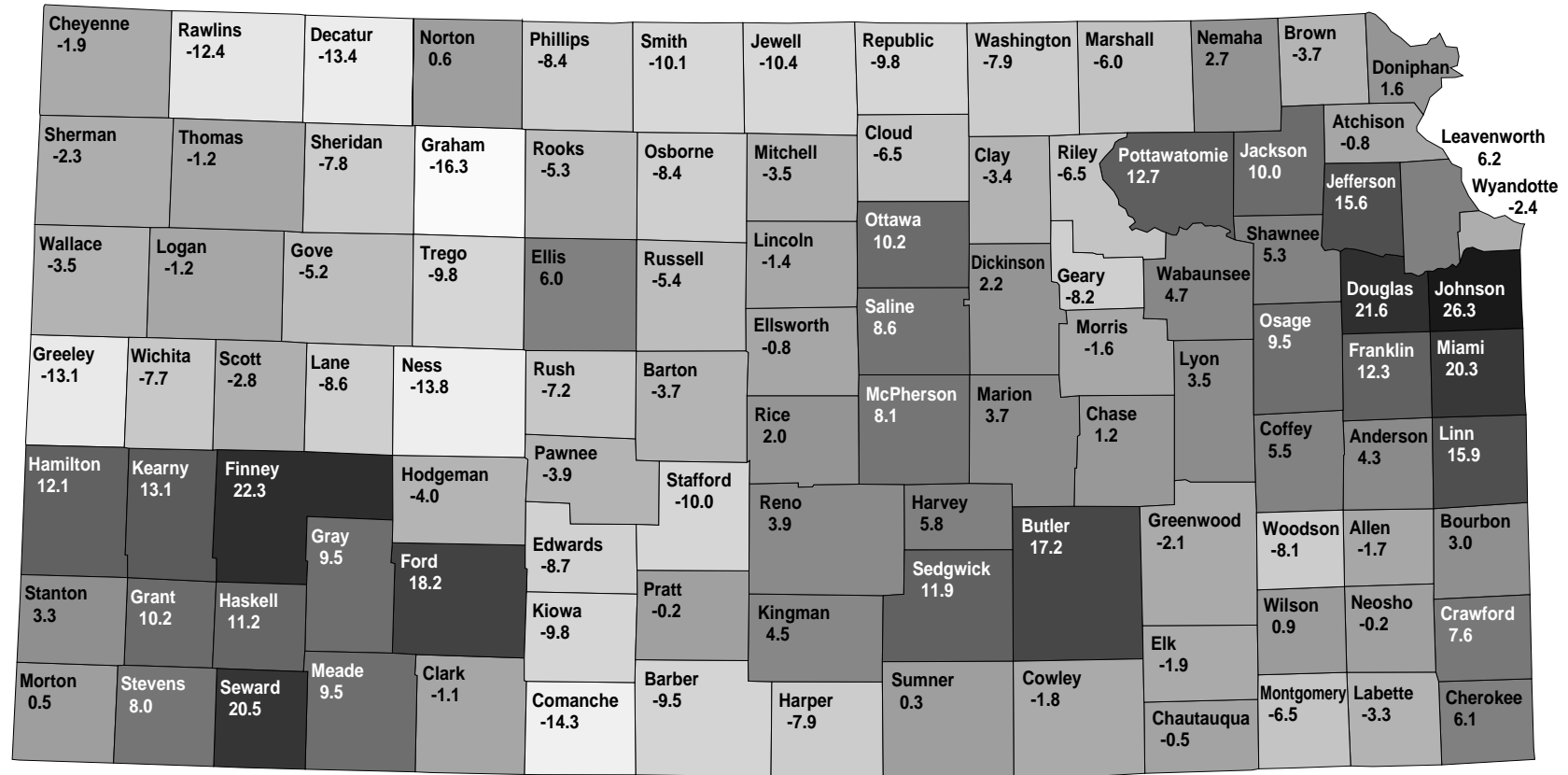
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Map 1 Percent Population Change: 1980 - 1990



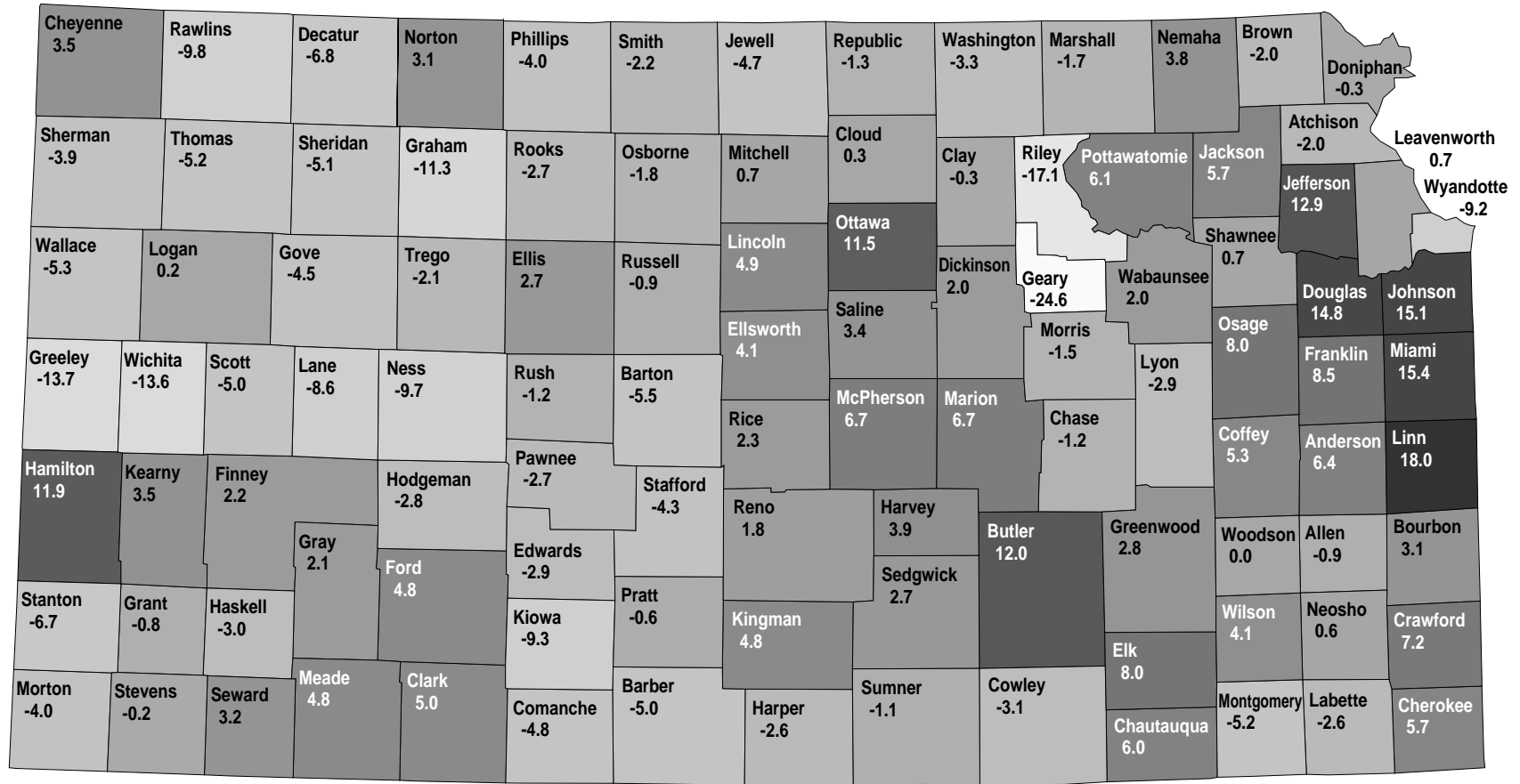
Source: Policy Research Institute, The University of Kansas: data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Map 2 Percent Population Change: 1990-2000



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

Map 3 Percent Net Migration: 1990 - 1999



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

EMPLOYMENT

The economic vitality of every community is reflected in the employment situation. The number of people who are either working or willing to work determines the size of the labor force. This number is influenced not only by the size of population but also by the perceptions of individuals that suitable job opportunities exist within the community. Diverse healthy economies tend to offer the widest variety of job opportunities and thereby attract a large number of job seekers, which increases the size of the labor force.

Employment: Key Findings

- Between 1992 and 2002 the number of employed people in Bourbon County increased from 6,446 to 7,731. This represents a 20 percent growth in employment, during the same period that population grew less than 2 percent. These employment figures are by place of residence; in other words, they represent the number of people who lived in Bourbon County and were employed, but the jobs they held weren't necessarily within the county borders (Table 7 and Figure 3).
- Compared to the surrounding counties, Bourbon's employment growth during the 1990s and especially during the period from 1997 to 2002, is impressive. None of the surrounding counties grew as fast; the second-best performing county in terms of population growth was Crawford with 11 percent from 1992 to 2002. Even Linn County, with a relatively more advantageous location closer to the Kansas City metropolitan area, experienced a nearly 6 percent decline in employment for the decade. Growth for the state as a whole came to 7 percent from 1992 to 2002 (Table 7 and Figure 3).
- The total number of firms located in Bourbon County decreased by nearly 4 percent from 1991 to 2001, a net loss of 17 firms. This compared to a 13 percent increase for the state of Kansas over the same time period. Most of the lost businesses in Bourbon were firms which employed between 20 and 100 workers (Table 8a).
- Total industry-level employment for Bourbon County rose 14.7 percent from 1990 to 2000, a net increase of 1,206 jobs in ten years. This compared rather favorably to the nearly 20 percent growth for the state of Kansas during the same period. Industry level employment is by place of work, rather than place of residence as shown in Table 7. Place of work figures represent the actual number of jobs in a county, or in other words, the number of people who work within the borders of Bourbon County (Table 9a).
- Industry sectors which experienced the most growth in the 1990s were Construction, Wholesale Trade, and if looking at the total number of jobs added rather than the percentage increase, Services. Construction employment grew nearly 128 percent from 1990 to 2000, or by 258 jobs. Wholesale Trade added 284 jobs, an increase of

129 percent. And Services, while only growing 20 percent, added 348 jobs for the decade. Retail Trade also experienced strong growth. Industries which didn't fare so well were the Transportation and Finance sectors, as well as Farming, which has been hard-hit statewide (Table 9a and Figure 4a).

- The largest industry group in Bourbon County in terms of employment in 2000 was the Services sector, which accounted for nearly a quarter of all jobs. Manufacturing and Retail tied for second with 17 percent of total jobs, and Government third with 15 percent. A strong Manufacturing sector is a valuable asset to any county, and few in the state can claim their Manufacturing sector accounts for so much of its total employment (Table 9b and Figure 4b).
- The labor force is defined as those who are either employed or who are unemployed but have actively looked for work within the last four weeks. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of population aged 16 and over that is in the labor force. In 2000 the labor force participation rate for Bourbon County was 59.1 percent, which ranked it 87th in a state of 105 counties, where a higher the ranking translates to a lower participation rate. The overall average participation rate for Kansas was 68.5 percent (Map 4).
- Place of residence data for Bourbon County showed the unemployment rate in 2002 to be 4.8 percent, an average figure for the area of the state in which Bourbon is located. This figure is from the Kansas Department of Human Resources, and as the name suggests, is based on the place of residence of individuals rather than their place of work. In other words, residents of Bourbon County who go unemployed do so because of conditions in their places of work, which includes a larger geographical area than just Bourbon (Map 5).
- The Census Bureau measures commuting patterns every decennial census. In 2000 they estimated that 1,058 people who lived in Bourbon County actually worked in a county other than Bourbon. These are termed out-commuters (Map 6). The majority of these, 240, traveled to Crawford County to the south. About 160 drove across the state border to work in Vernon County in Missouri, and slightly over 100 worked in Allen County to the west. Nearly 100 worked in Linn County to the north, and a sizable number also commuted to the Kansas City counties (Map 6).
- In addition to out-commuters there are people who don't live in Bourbon County but who drive in to work there during the day. These are called in-commuters, and in the case of Bourbon County, there were more of these in 2000 than people who commuted out. Crawford County alone sent nearly 400 workers into Bourbon every day, and 365 drove in from Vernon, Missouri. Linn County also had quite a few residents who drove commuted in to Bourbon. If one takes the number of people who commuted in to Bourbon County subtracted by the number of Bourbon residents who commuted out, one would have the county's net-commuter amount. This comes to a positive 276, which again, indicates that more people drive *in* to the county to work than leave it to work (Map 7).

**Table 7
Employment Growth Rates
Bourbon County, Surrounding Counties, and Kansas
Place of Residence Data
1992-2002**

	Average Annual Employment			% Employment Growth		
	1992	1997	2002	1992-1997	1997-2002	1992-2002
Bourbon	6,446	6,286	7,731	-2.5 %	23.0 %	19.9 %
Allen	6,323	6,556	6,654	3.7	1.5	5.2
Crawford	15,807	16,974	17,548	7.4	3.4	11.0
Linn	3,034	3,101	2,862	2.2	-7.7	-5.7
Neosho	8,334	8,604	8,055	3.2	-6.4	-3.3
Kansas	1,255,000	1,326,000	1,342,000	5.7	1.2	6.9

Source for Kansas: Kansas Department of Human Resources

**Figure 3
Employment Growth Rates
Bourbon and Surrounding Counties
1992-2002**

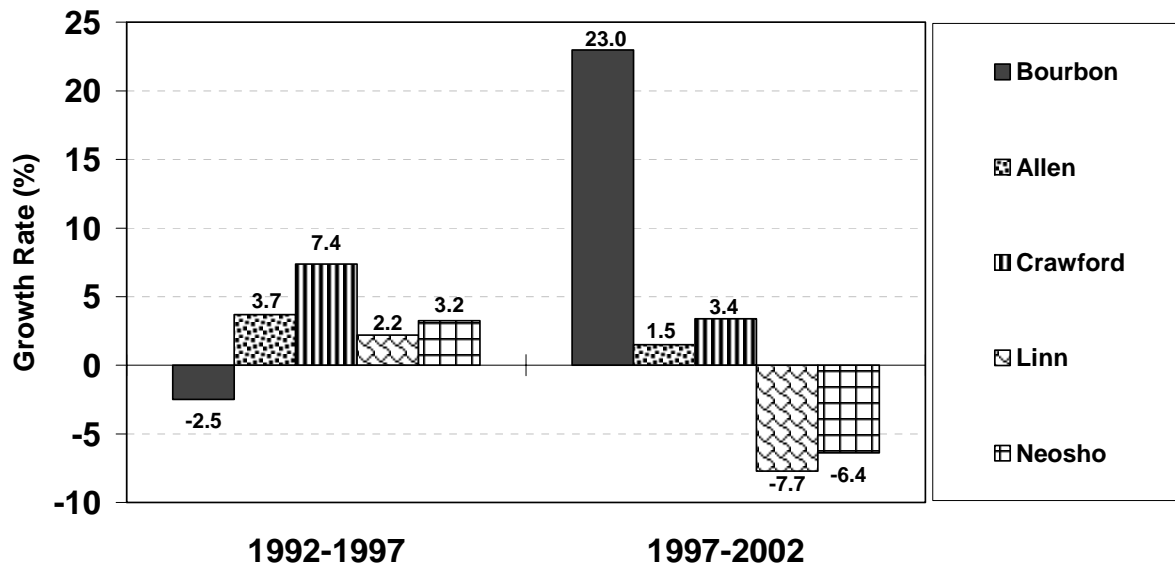


Table 8a
Number of Firms, by Number of Employees
Bourbon County and Kansas
1991-2001

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Bourbon</u>			<u>Kansas</u>		
	<u>1991</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>% Change</u>
1 -- 19	354	347	-2.0 %	57,706	64,176	11.2 %
20 -- 99	71	58	-18.3	7,011	8,692	24.0
100 -- 499	8	11	37.5	1,110	1,555	40.1
500+	0	0	-	114	142	24.6
Total	433	416	-3.9	65,941	74,565	13.1

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

Table 8b
Percentage Distribution of Firms, by Number of Employees
Bourbon County and Kansas
1991-2001

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Bourbon</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>1991</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2001</u>
0 - 19	81.8 %	83.4 %	87.5 %	86.1 %
20 - 99	16.4	13.9	10.6	11.7
100 - 499	1.8	2.6	1.7	2.1
500+	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2

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

Table 9a
Employment Levels by Industry
Bourbon County and Kansas
Place of Work Data
1990-2000

Industry	Bourbon				Kansas			
	1990	2000	Change	% Change	1990	2000	Change	% Change
Ag. Services	97	(S)	n/a	n/a %	15,193	23,018	7,825	51.5 %
Mining	67	(S)	n/a	n/a	29,366	19,181	-10,185	-34.7
Construction	254	578	324	127.6	63,355	93,971	30,616	48.3
Manufacturing	1,339	1,597	258	19.3	191,066	214,225	23,159	12.1
Transportation	296	190	-106	-35.8	75,041	98,190	23,149	30.8
Wholesale Trade	220	504	284	129.1	75,504	82,355	6,851	9.1
Retail Trade	1,325	1,606	281	21.2	239,064	296,557	57,493	24.0
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	744	510	-234	-31.5	95,689	115,145	19,456	20.3
Services	1,741	2,089	348	20.0	360,878	477,948	117,070	32.4
Gov't. and Gov't. Services	1,190	1,378	188	15.8	253,687	277,791	24,104	9.5
Subtotal -- Non-Farm	7,273	8,666	1,393	19.2	1,398,843	1,698,381	299,538	21.4
Farm Employment	943	828	-115	-12.2	84,717	77,803	-6,914	-8.2
Total Employment	8,216	9,422	1,206	14.7	1,483,560	1,776,184	292,624	19.7

(S) - Subgroup not available, but estimates for this item are included in the totals

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

Figure 4a
Percent Change in Employment by Industry
1990-2000

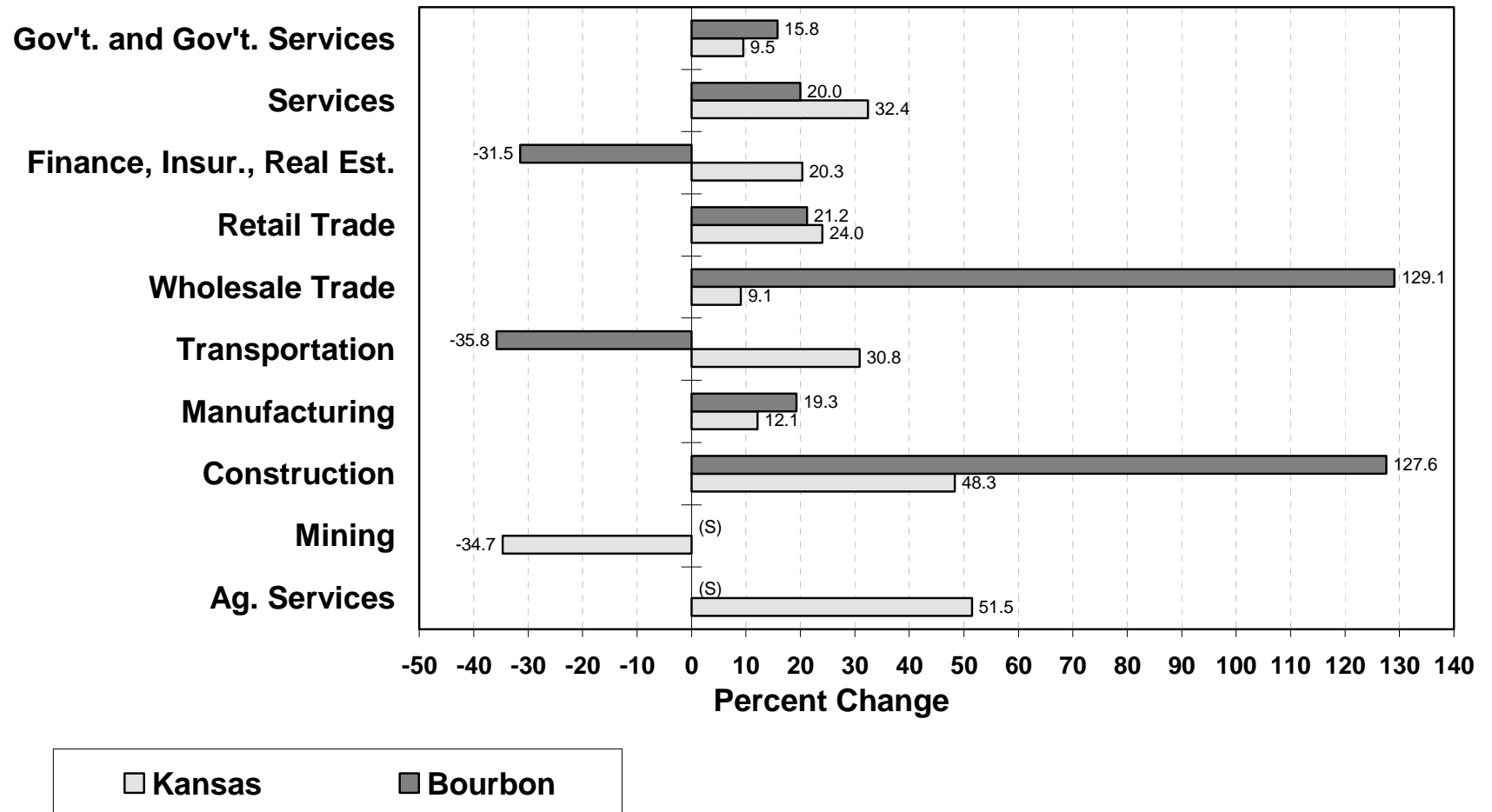
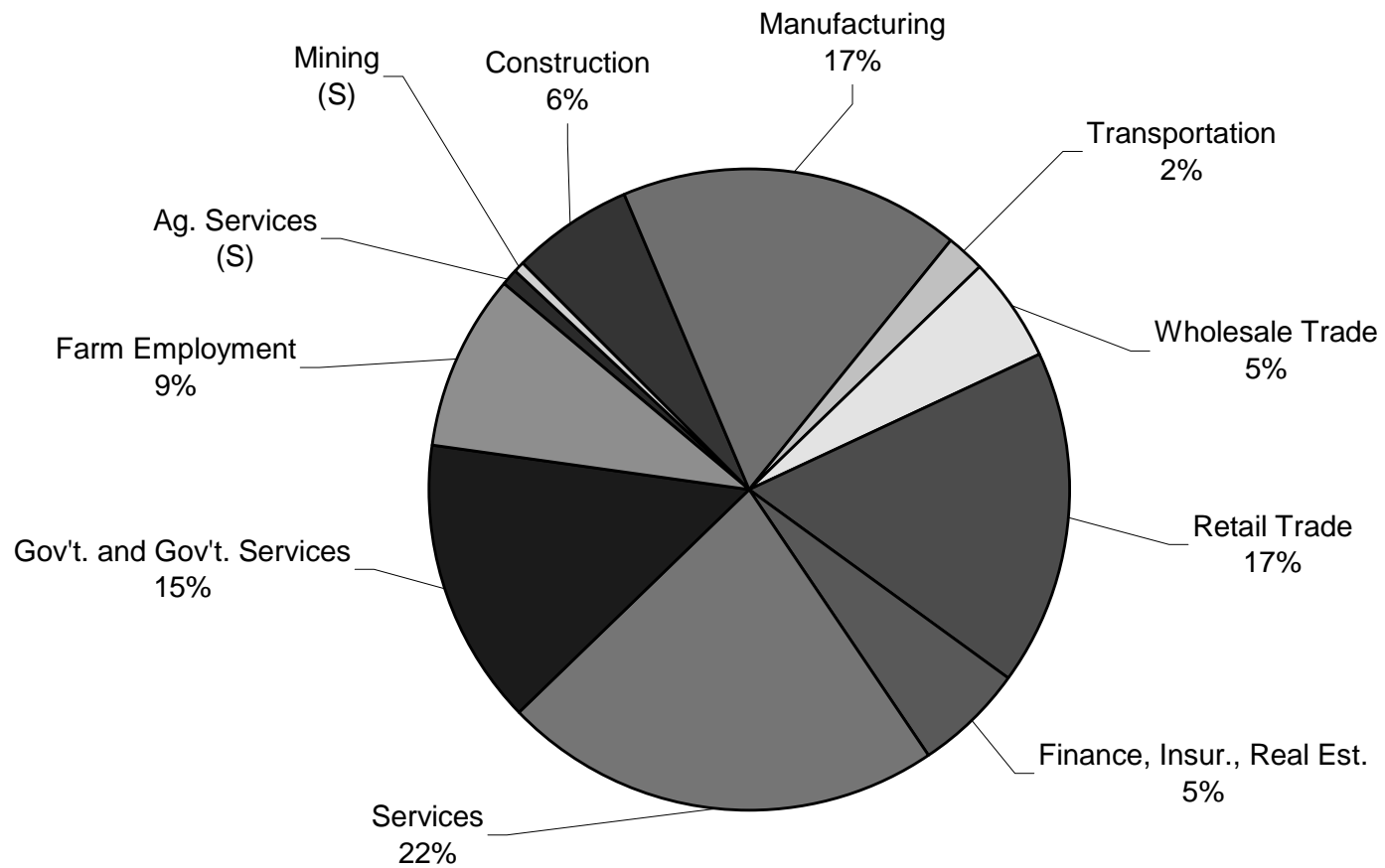


Table 9b
Employment Percent Share by Industry
Bourbon County and Kansas
Place of Work Data
1990-2000

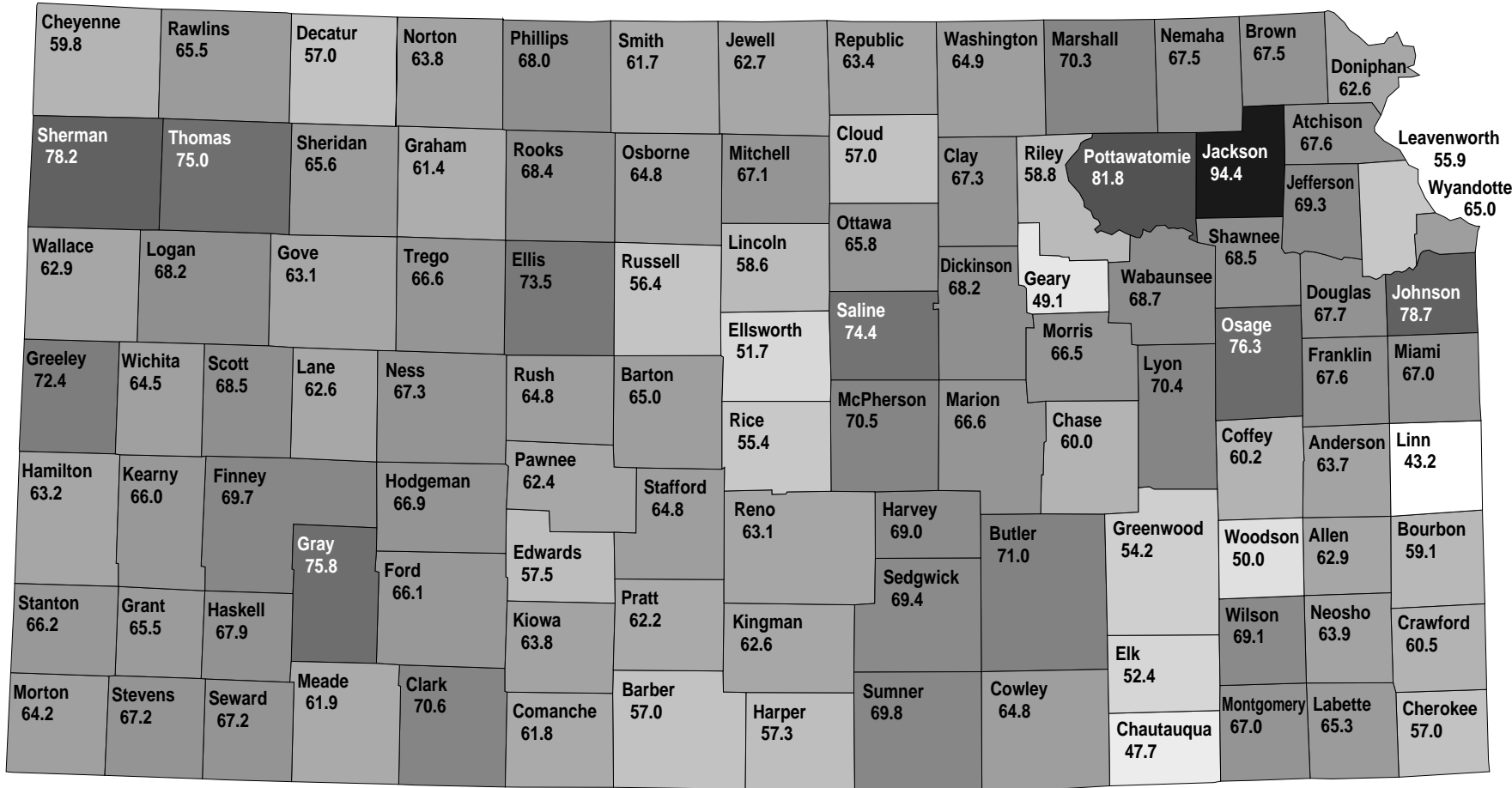
<u>Industry</u>	<u>Bourbon</u>			<u>Kansas</u>		
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>
Ag. Services	1.2	n/a	n/a %	1.0	1.3	0.3 %
Mining	0.8	n/a	n/a	2.0	1.1	-0.9
Construction	3.1	6.1	3.0	4.3	5.3	1.0
Manufacturing	16.3	16.9	0.7	12.9	12.1	-0.8
Transportation	3.6	2.0	-1.6	5.1	5.5	0.5
Wholesale Trade	2.7	5.3	2.7	5.1	4.6	-0.5
Retail Trade	16.1	17.0	0.9	16.1	16.7	0.6
Finance, Insur., Real Est.	9.1	5.4	-3.6	6.4	6.5	0.0
Services	21.2	22.2	1.0	24.3	26.9	2.6
Gov't. and Gov't. Services	14.5	14.6	0.1	17.1	15.6	-1.5
Subtotal -- Non-Farm	88.5	92.0	3.5	94.3	95.6	1.3
Farm Employment	11.5	8.8	-2.7	5.7	4.4	-1.3

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

Figure 4b
Employment Percent Share by Industry
Bourbon County
2000



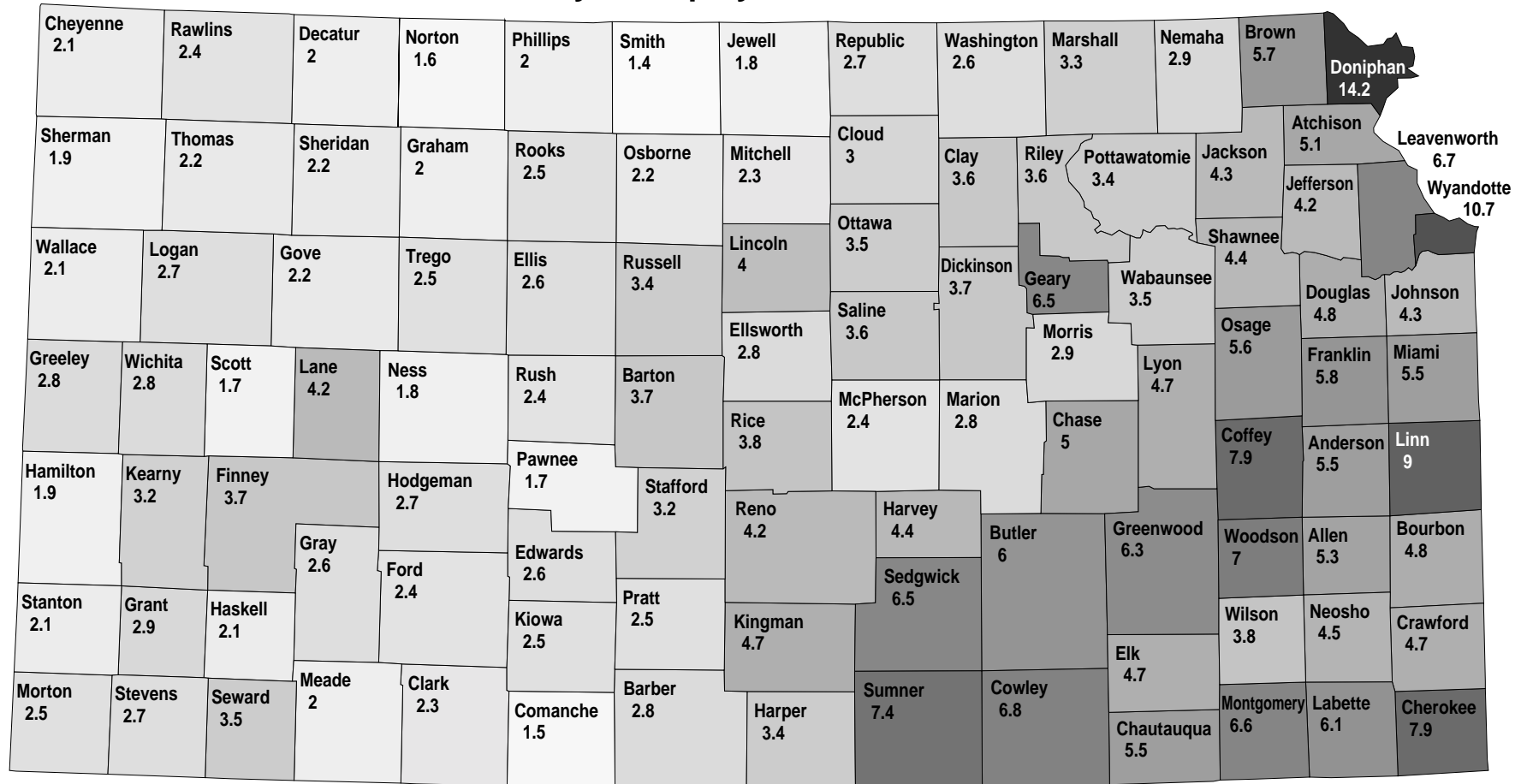
Map 4 Labor Force Participation: 2000



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

Kansas: 68.5%

Map 5 County Unemployment Rates: 2002

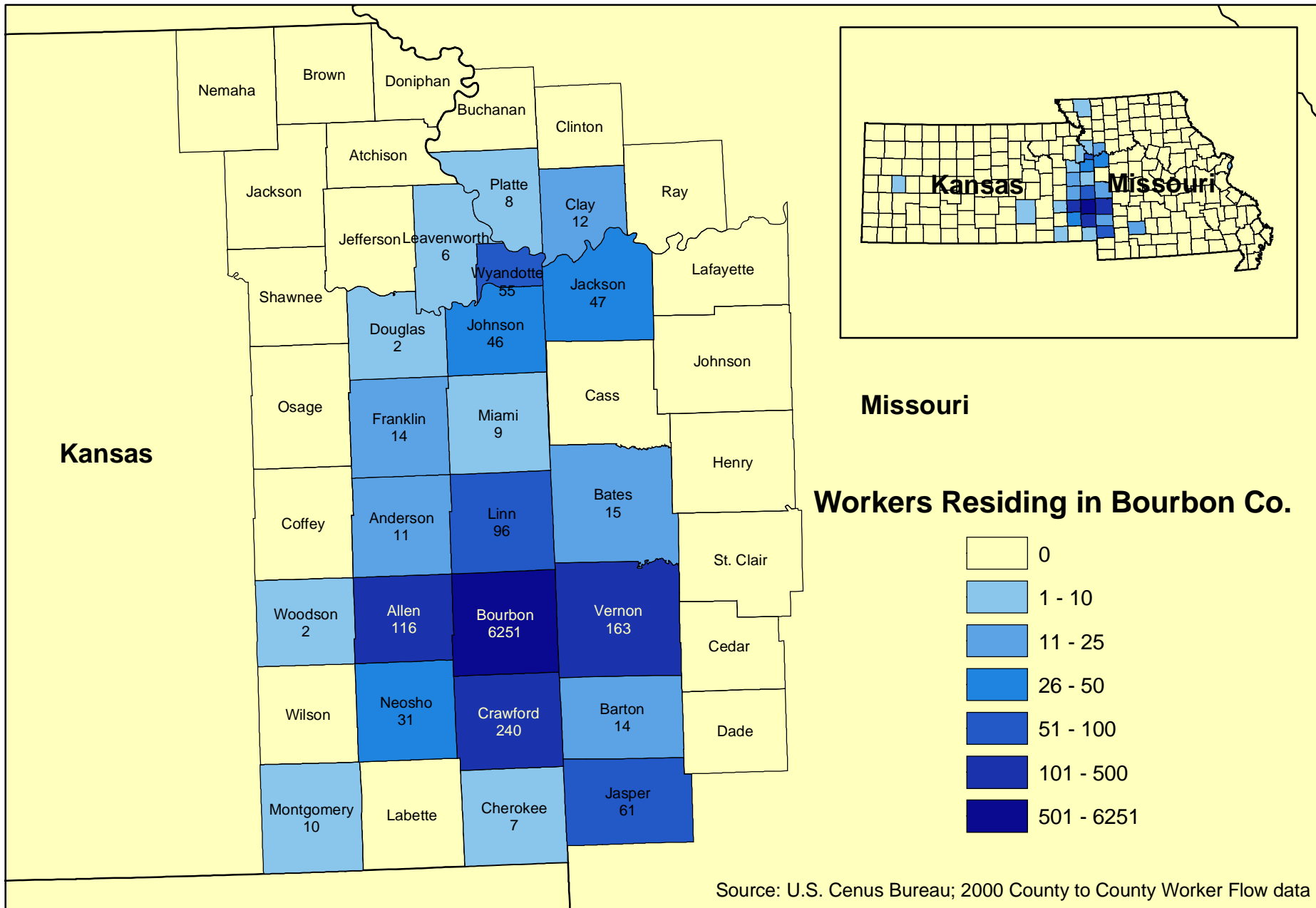


Kansas: 5.1%

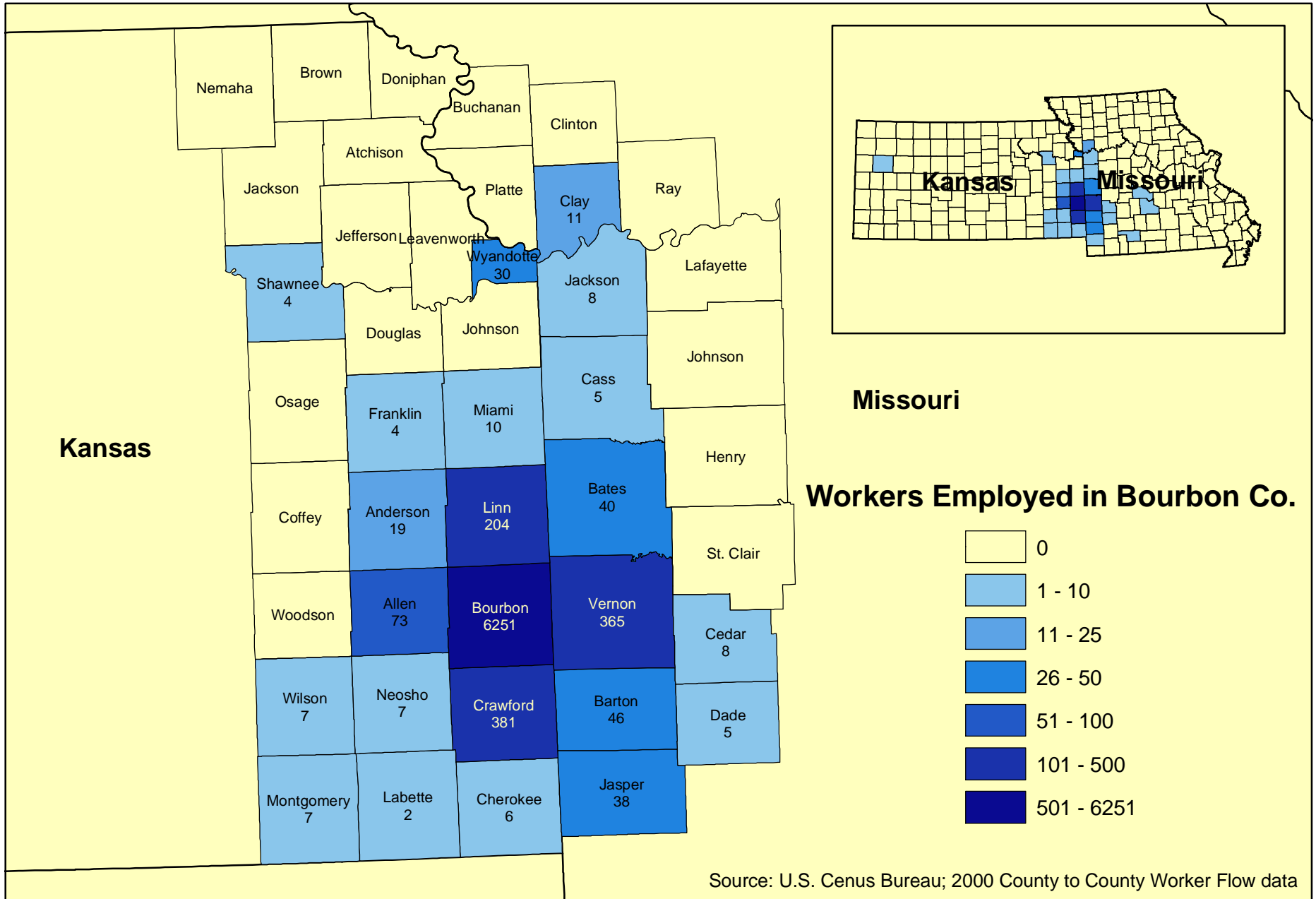
Note: Employment data are based on an individual's place of residence.

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

Map 6: Place of Work by Workers Residing in Bourbon County, Kansas



Map 7: Place of Residence by Workers Employed in Bourbon County, Kansas



Earnings and Income

The economic base of the community is determined by the income of the community's residents. Higher average wages may indicate a greater number of jobs in high growth, high performance businesses. Low wage growth may indicate a higher concentration of stable or declining industries.

This report looks at two major components of earnings and income: average wage per job and per capita personal income. Average wage per job reflects the productivity of local labor and the performance of local businesses. Per capita personal income indicates the relative wealth of the area compared to the state. As the productivity of business and industry increases, per capita personal income also rises.

Earnings and Income: Key Findings

- In 2001 the average wage per job in Bourbon County was \$21,321. That was \$8,206 less than the average wage for the state of Kansas and \$14,229 less than the national average (Table 10).
- Bourbon County's average wage per job was the lowest of all the surrounding counties, but with the exception of Linn, not by much. Average wages between Bourbon, Allen, Crawford and Neosho were all within \$1,000 of each other. Linn's average wage, on the other hand, stood at \$26,336 in 2001, more than \$5,000 above the wage in Bourbon. Bourbon County's average wage ranked 58th highest in a state of 105 counties (Table 10 and Figure 5).
- In 2001 the per capita personal income in Bourbon County was \$23,913, about \$4,500 less than the statewide average. Bourbon County's income growth rate has also historically been less than that of the state's, so that over time the gap between the two has increased (Table 11, Figure 6, and Map 8).
- Per capita personal income in Bourbon County ranked somewhat better in 2001 than the average wage per job, coming in 41st where the lower the ranking the higher the income. In fact, Bourbon's per capita income was several thousand dollars more than the average wage per job. The two numbers can often be different, since they represent different measures. The average wage per job is the average income that workers make from jobs in Bourbon County. The per capita income is what each resident of Bourbon County would receive if total income in the county were evenly divided. Since the latter figure is higher, it is quite likely that many of the people who live in Bourbon County but choose to work elsewhere make better wages at their places of work than they could obtain within the county.

Table 10
Average Annual Wage Per Job
Bourbon County, Surrounding Counties, Kansas, and U.S.
1991-2001

	Average Wage per Job (Nominal Dollars)			% Growth	
	1991	1996	2001	90-95	95-00
Bourbon	16,665	19,127	21,321	14.8	11.5
Allen	15,875	18,930	21,794	19.2	15.1
Crawford	16,297	17,940	22,336	10.1	24.5
Linn	19,737	21,351	26,336	8.2	23.3
Neosho	16,176	18,906	21,983	16.9	16.3
Kansas	20,493	24,071	29,527	17.5	22.7
United States	24,216	28,469	35,550	17.6	24.9

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

Figure 5
Average Wage per Job
Bourbon and Surrounding Counties
1991-2001

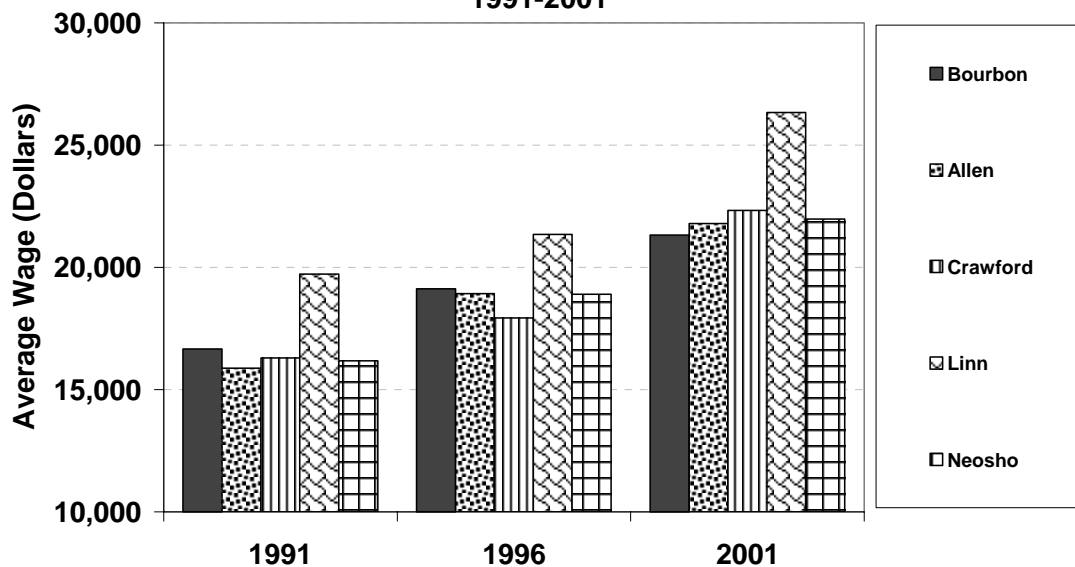
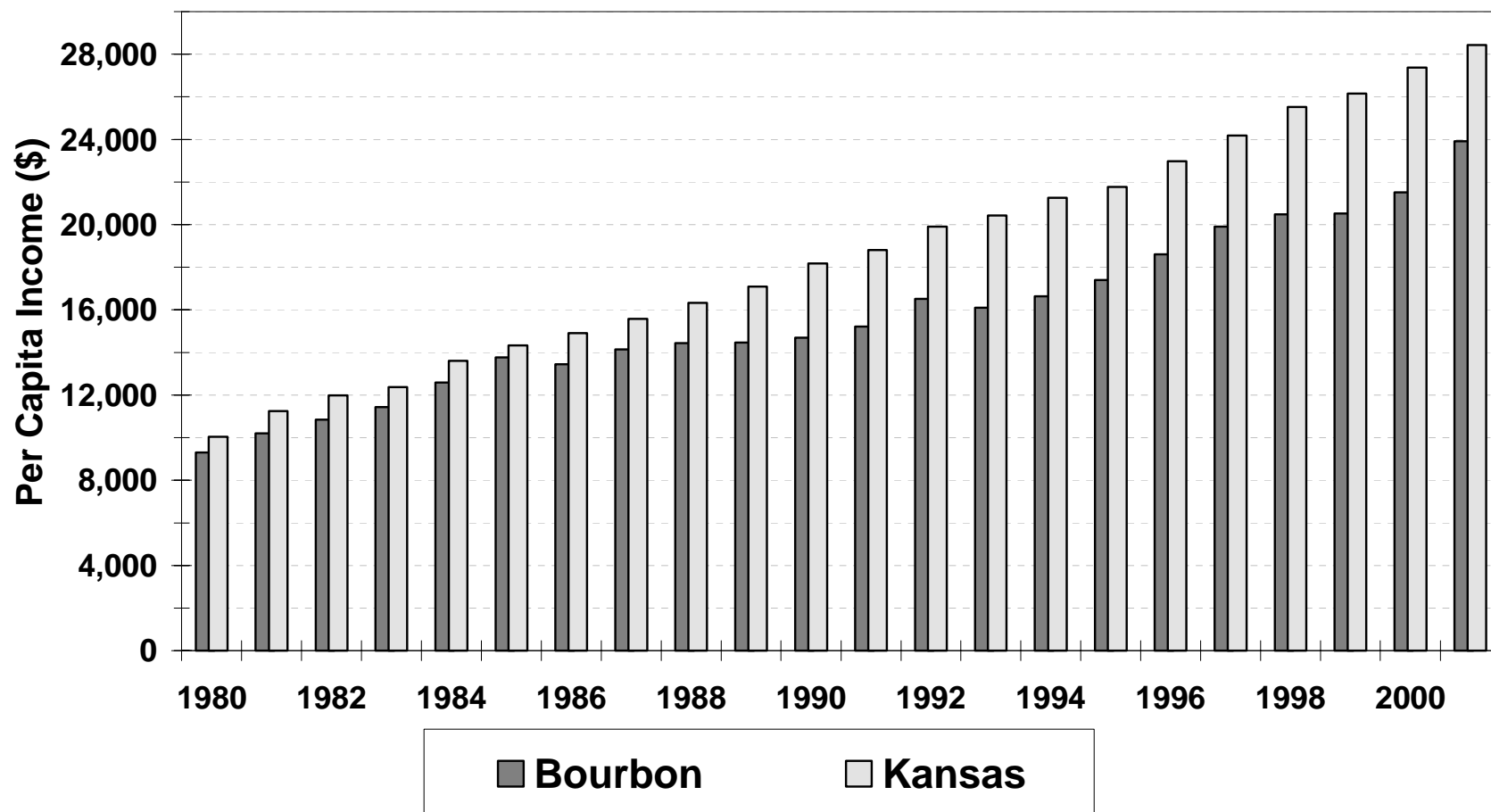


Table 11
Per Capita Personal Income
Bourbon County and Kansas
1980-2001

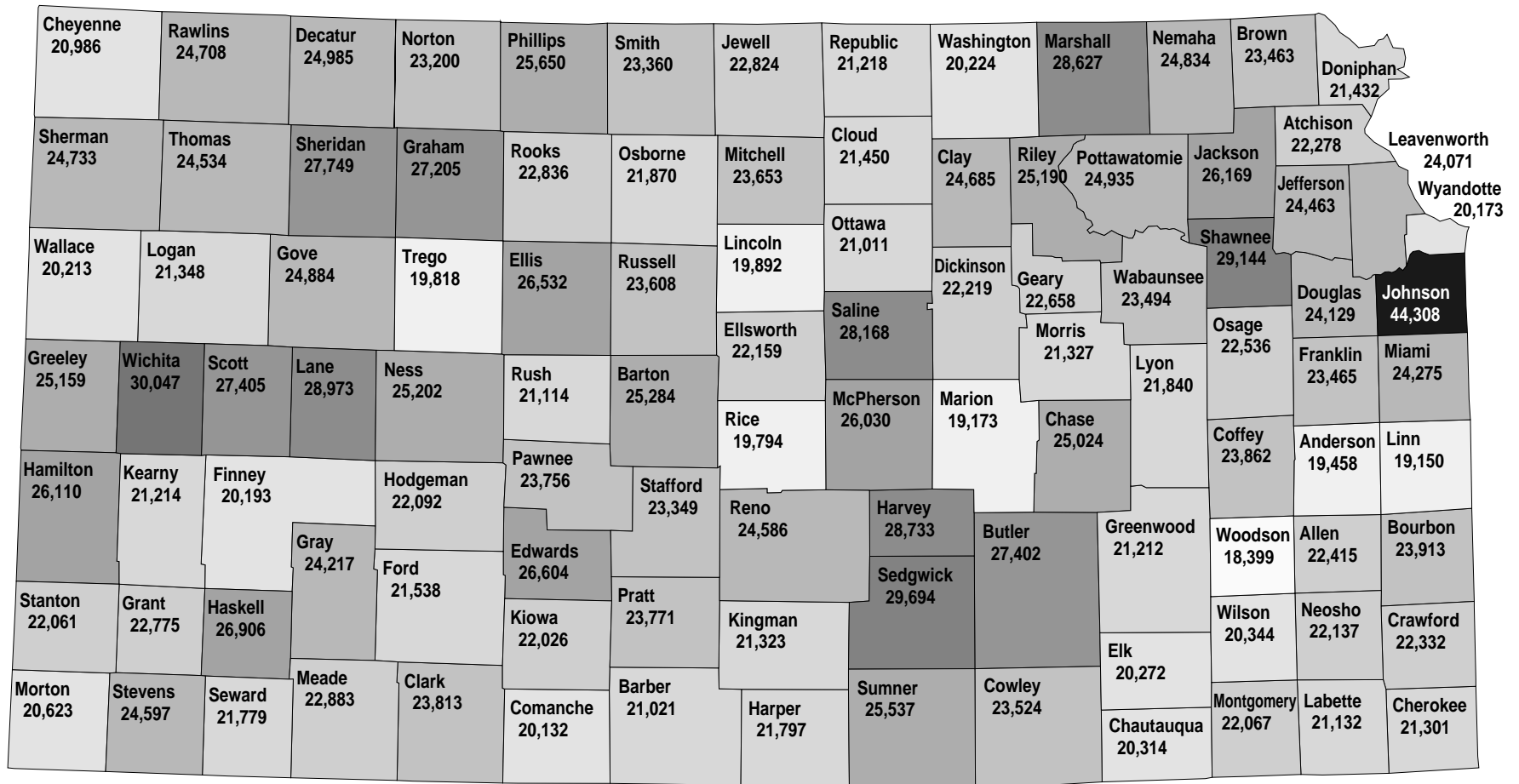
	Income (\$)		Growth Rates	
	Bourbon	Kansas	Bourbon	Kansas
1980	9,304	10,038		
1981	10,204	11,248	9.7 %	12.1 %
1982	10,845	11,989	6.3	6.6
1983	11,444	12,373	5.5	3.2
1984	12,582	13,602	0.0	9.9
1985	13,776	14,330	9.5	5.4
1986	13,448	14,904	-2.4	4.0
1987	14,138	15,583	5.1	4.6
1988	14,435	16,331	2.1	4.8
1989	14,460	17,093	0.2	4.7
1990	14,692	18,177	1.6	6.3
1991	15,204	18,806	3.5	3.5
1992	16,511	19,905	8.6	5.8
1993	16,096	20,438	-2.5	2.7
1994	16,633	21,258	3.3	4.0
1995	17,397	21,771	4.6	2.4
1996	18,616	22,977	7.0	5.5
1997	19,906	24,182	6.9	5.2
1998	20,483	25,519	2.9	5.5
1999	20,521	26,155	0.2	2.5
2000	21,511	27,374	4.8	4.7
2001	23,913	28,432	11.2	3.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System.

Figure 6
Per Capita Personal Income
Bourbon County and Kansas
1980-2001



Map 8 Per Capita Personal Income: 2001



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

RETAIL

Retail trade is an important part of a community's business environment as well as source of revenues for local governments. Retail trade is affected by a number of factors; for example, past decisions by investors, business managers, taxpayers, and policy makers contribute to a business climate which either promotes or inhibits the productivity of local businesses and therefore affects decisions about growth and expansion. Other contributing factors include the level of competition, the availability of suppliers and supporting industries, the cost of labor, and taxation and regulation within the community.

Retail: Key Findings

- Taxable retail sales figures for Bourbon County and the state prior to 1994 are not comparable to numbers in 1994 and beyond, due to a change in source and method of calculation.
- Taxable retail sales in Bourbon County had grown rather steadily in the first half of the last decade, but beginning in 1999 began to falter. The year 2000 saw a strong rally in sales which was all but negated during the next two years. Nevertheless, growth for the decade (1992 to 2002) came to a healthy 53 percent in Bourbon County, a much stronger showing than the state's 37 percent growth for the same time period (Table 12 and Figure 7).
- Bourbon County's trade pull factor in 2002 was 0.65. A trade pull factor of less than one means the county is estimated to have lost more retail activity to other counties than it was able to 'pull in'. None of the surrounding counties had pull factors greater than one; and in fact, no county in the southeast Kansas region was estimated to have an above-one pull factor. Of the comparative counties, Neosho's was the highest at 0.87. These numbers simply reflect how difficult it is for southeastern Kansas communities to compete with the retail shopping opportunities in the greater Kansas City metro area (Map 9).

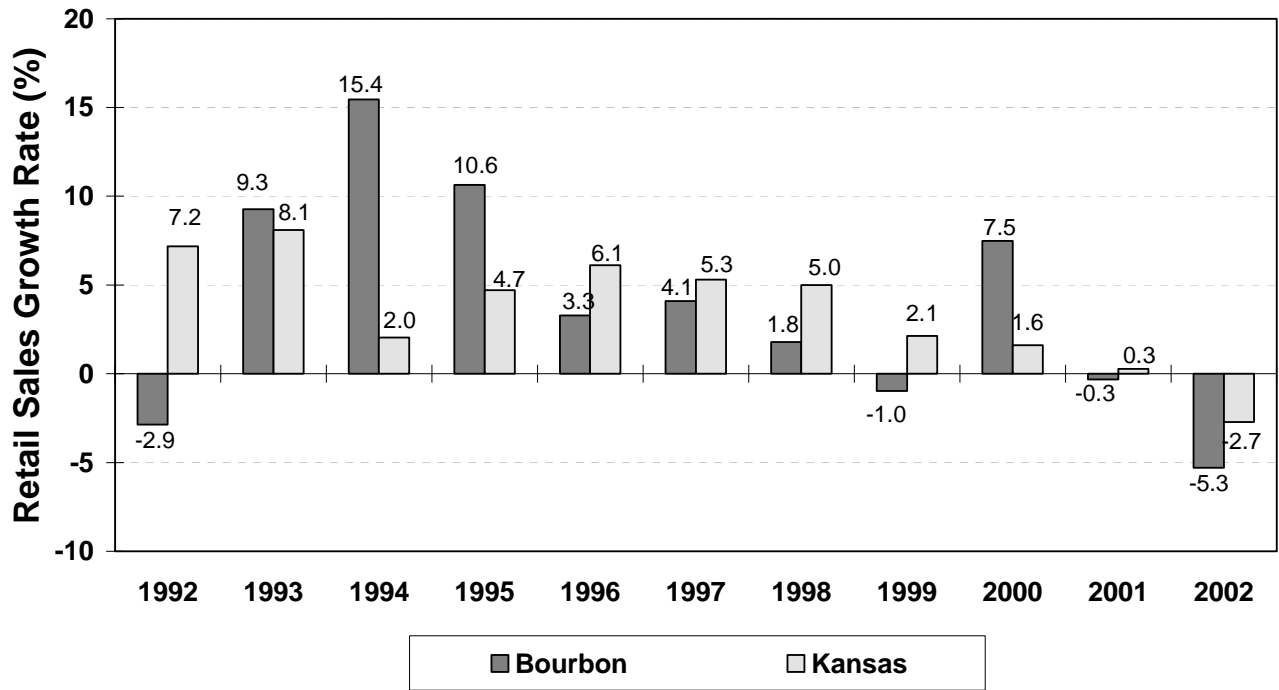
Table 12
Taxable Retail Sales and Growth Rates
Bourbon County and Kansas
1989-2002

<u>Year</u>	<u>Bourbon</u>		<u>Kansas</u>	
	<u>Nominal Sales (\$Millions)</u>	<u>Growth Rate (%)</u>	<u>Nominal Sales (\$Millions)</u>	<u>Growth Rate (%)</u>
1989	74.7		18,034.4	
1990	69.2	-7.4 %	18,723.3	3.8 %
1991	73.3	5.9	19,988.0	6.8
1992	71.2	-2.9	21,421.3	7.2
1993	77.8	9.3	23,154.4	8.1
1994	89.8	15.4	23,625.8	2.0
1995	99.4	10.6	24,735.9	4.7
1996	102.6	3.3	26,247.7	6.1
1997	106.8	4.1	27,640.5	5.3
1998	108.7	1.8	29,021.6	5.0
1999	107.7	-1.0	29,641.9	2.1
2000	115.8	7.5	30,119.0	1.6
2001	115.4	-0.3	30,202.2	0.3
2002	109.3	-5.3	29,380.8	-2.7

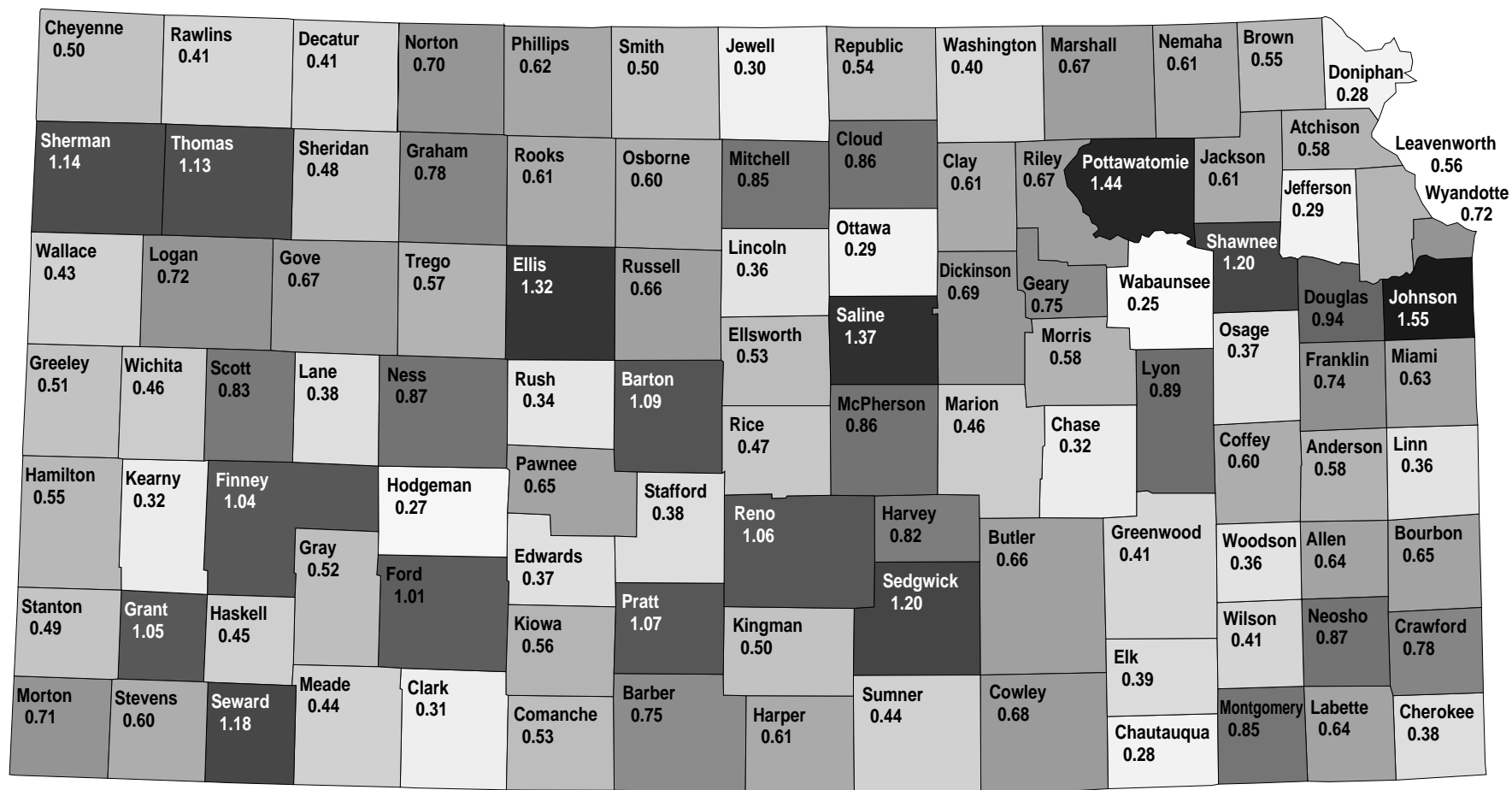
Note: Data from 1994 to 2002 are not comparable to 1989-1993 data.

Source: Kansas Department of Revenue, State Sales Tax Collections by County Classification. Calculations, 1987-1993, CEDBR, W. Frank Barton School of Business, Wichita State University; 1994-2002, PRI, University of Kansas.

Figure 7
Taxable Retail Sales Growth Rates
Bourbon County and Kansas
1992-2002



Map 9 County Trade Pull Factors: 2002



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

Source: Dr. David Darling and Mark Seitz, K-State Research and Extension, Department of Agricultural Economics.

EDUCATION

The educational level of residents is likely to influence the well-being of the whole community. Communities able to provide a higher skilled workforce are more likely to benefit from new developing industries. Residents who have a good educational background will be more employable and able to command higher salaries. Employers will benefit as well because they will most likely experience lower turnover and training costs. On the other hand, individuals with lower education levels have a harder time finding jobs that can supply a living wage and may be more likely to use social services.

Education: Key Findings

- Bourbon County has a relatively well educated citizenry, even compared to statewide averages. Although fewer Bourbon residents over the age of 25 have completed a Bachelor's degree (10 percent compared to 17 percent statewide), more of them have completed an Associate's degree (nearly 9 percent in Bourbon compared to 6 percent statewide), and the percentages for graduate level degree holders is nearly the same (Table 13).
- About 16 percent of the above-25 population in Bourbon County had failed to finish high-school in 2000; this was quite nearly the same as the statewide average of 14 percent (Table 13).
- Bourbon County graduated roughly 170 high school students on average each year from 1992 to 2002. The number of high school dropouts each of those years fluctuated from a low of 28 to a high of 70, with the average being 40 (Table 14).
- High school dropouts as a percent of graduates in Bourbon County averaged 23 percent a year from 1992 to 2002, compared to 20 percent for the state of Kansas (Table 14).

Table 13
Educational Attainment of Persons over 25
As a Percentage of the Population of Persons over 25
Bourbon County and Kansas
2000

	<u>Completed Less Than 9th Grade</u>	<u>9-12th Grade No Diploma</u>	<u>High School Diploma</u>	<u>Some College</u>	<u>Associate Degree</u>	<u>Bachelor's Degree</u>	<u>Graduate Degree</u>	<u>Pop. Over 25</u>
Bourbon	736	837	3,161	2,581	876	1,014	760	9,959
Kansas	88,124	149,675	507,612	417,722	99,096	290,271	148,707	1,699,833

As a Percent of Population of Persons over 25:

Bourbon	7.4%	8.4%	31.7%	25.9%	8.8%	10.2%	7.6%
Kansas	5.2%	8.8%	29.9%	24.6%	5.8%	17.1%	8.7%

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

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

Table 14
High School Graduates and Drop-Outs
Bourbon County and Kansas
1992-2002

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Bourbon											
Grads	185	158	164	157	155	194	167	196	205	186	186
Drops	42	68	70	28	39	31	45	32	42	34	34
Kansas											
Grads	26,019	26,481	27,769	26,997	27,931	29,331	30,015	30,592	30,883	31,083	31,537
Drops	5,753	6,505	6,680	6,432	6,541	6,156	5,807	4,833	4,676	4,590	3,587
<i>High school drop-outs as percent of graduates</i>											
Bourbon	22.7%	43.0%	42.7%	17.8%	25.2%	16.0%	26.9%	16.3%	20.5%	18.3%	18.3%
Kansas	22.1%	24.6%	24.1%	23.8%	23.4%	21.0%	19.3%	15.8%	15.1%	14.8%	11.4%

Grads: High school graduates, year beginning:

Drops: High school dropouts, year beginning:

Source: Kansas State Department of Education

CONCLUSION

Bourbon County's economic trends indicate both positive movement and also areas of potential economic development concern. On the positive side, Bourbon County's employment situation has been growing at very respectable rates. Both the number of jobs existing in the county, as well as the number of county residents who are employed (two different employment measures), have increased nearly 20 percent in the last decade. Not only are these strong indicators of economic vitality in their own right, but they also exceed the growth rates of most of the counties in the region. In fact, employment opportunities have grown so much in Bourbon County that on net it imports workers: in other words, more people drive in to Bourbon to work than Bourbon residents who drive out. On the other hand, the total number of firms in Bourbon County actually fell by nearly 4 percent in the last decade. Employment growth was still possible because the majority of lost businesses were small, and a handful of large employers were added.

Contrasted to the employment growth is Bourbon County's population, which expanded by only 1.4 percent from 1990 to 2002. As this followed a significant decline in population in the 1980s, the 2000 Bourbon population was hardly any higher than it had been thirty years ago. The most recent population estimates for the years 2001 and 2002 show population decreases again, though estimates should always be taken with a grain of salt.

To bolster population levels in the county, Bourbon officials may choose to focus their economic development efforts in two areas: small business creation and expansion, because workers in those types of firms are more frequently local than those who commute in to work at a large plant; and community development, whereby it is meant any initiative aimed at improving the quality of life in a place, thereby attracting more residents. In either case Bourbon County has a strong economic base overall from which future expansion possibilities should be looked on with optimism.