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STRATEGIC PLANNING DATA ANALYSIS

Stafford County

Kansas Center for Community Economic Development
Charles E. Krider, Co-Director

Institute for Public Policy and Business Research
The University of Kansas

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FORWARD

The following report has been prepared to assist the people of Stafford County in developing a community-based strategic plan. The purpose of this report is to provide data and analysis which will lead to a better understanding of local and broad scale issues which impact upon the local economy. This should help in identifying key issues which should be addressed in plans of action. Results of the report were first presented in summary form at a public meeting held in St. John in April of this year. Census and other data which has become available since that time have been added to this data and are presented in detail in the following chapters.

The Kansas Center for Community Economic Development (KCCED) is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. KCCED is a joint university center between the Institute for Public Policy and Business Research at the University of Kansas and the Kansas Center for Rural Initiatives at Kansas State University. The statements, findings, and conclusions of this report are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Government, the State of Kansas, the University of Kansas, nor any other individual or organization.

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

Special thanks are extended to the staff at the Kansas Center for Community Economic Development and the Institute for Public Policy and Business Research (IPPBR) who helped make this report possible. Mary Brohammer, Linda Bennett and Shakura Jackson provided valuable assistance with word processing and graphics. Guidance for the report was provided by Dr. Charles Krider, Co-Director, KCCED/KU.

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Executive Summary

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

Stafford is a county of about 5,400 people, situated in south-central Kansas. Its population is entirely rural and the county has no direct interstate access. Recent economic activity, while limited, has been centered around a strong agricultural base. During the 1980s, Stafford experienced many of the same declines in population and economic base that occurred throughout Kansas' non-metropolitan counties. However, there are several indications that the severe adjustments of the early to mid-1980s have slowed, suggesting that stability in the Stafford County economy could result.

The People

The county's level of population has consistently declined during this century, although net rates of out-migration slowed in the past decade. Population is expected to remain around current levels into the next decade. The people of Stafford County are considerably older than the Kansas and U.S. averages. The adult population is less well educated than those in many comparative counties, presenting a challenge for the sustainability of the community's future economic health and quality of life. In contrast to these challenges however, per capita incomes are high in Stafford County.

The Economy

Stafford County's economy is centered around the farm and government sectors, which together account for half of all jobs in Stafford. A total of 130 jobs were lost in Stafford during the 1980s, accounting for 16 percent of all employment in the county. Most of this adjustment occurred among farm workers, while the wholesale, retail and services sectors also experienced losses. Unemployment in Stafford remained very low throughout the 1980s. However, the withdrawal of nearly 900 from the Stafford County labor force masked a number of structural problems in the local economy. In addition to employment declines, the retail base eroded to half the sales levels in 1990 that had been realized in 1980. The number of establishments increased in the service, transportation and mining sectors, although firms tended to employ fewer people. Stafford County firms tended to be much smaller than the state average and wages were about two-thirds the state average. Positive aspects of the county's economic environment include growth in the county's assessment base since 1990 and the recent improved performance of the community's financial resources. Significantly, between 1986 and 1989, employment levels stabilized.

Community Resources

Data on public school expenditures and enrollments indicate strength in educational resources in Stafford County. Stafford County enjoys superior access to public library books. Medical resources has been an area of strength, with above average access to hospital beds and physicians. However, this area of relative advantage has been declining over the past decade. Infant mortality rates are high and have been increasing. Adult care homes is another area of strength for Stafford County, which enjoys above-average access to beds for its Over-65 population. Housing is readily available, and costs are low. Many of the housing vacancies are long-term in nature.

Challenges and Opportunities

As Stafford County residents prepare a strategic plan for the future of their communities, many challenges and opportunities present themselves. The global economic environment has become more challenging, with an increased emphasis on technology and training to keep the labor force flexible and competitive. The smaller, older and less educated labor force in Stafford County will need to adapt and expand in order to meet the future requirements of present and prospective employers. A major challenge for Stafford County will be in determining how best to enrich its job market, by transforming some of its current below average wage jobs into higher-skilled, higher-paying jobs for the future. Tying into state and federal technology programs or the Great Bend office of MAMTC could be one set of opportunities. Building upon the strong agricultural base in Stafford, through increased value-added or local processing strategies, could be another.

The older population of the county is a mixed blessing for Stafford. High proportions of total income come from very stable sources, such as pensions, old age security and interest on investments. In overall terms, per capita incomes in Stafford have been high, though this income is not evenly distributed (as seen by the high incidence of food stamp recipients). An older population means there are fewer new workers available to move into job openings as they arise. As the population continues to age, Stafford County will need to ensure that its current favorable levels of access to medical and adult care facilities are at least maintained or improved. In fact, these areas could become principal sources of job creation in the future, as the community adjusts to the changing needs of its population.

Amidst these and other challenges and opportunities facing their communities, Stafford County citizens must maintain a broad-based commitment to working in partnership with one another to plan the future of Stafford County. This commitment, combined with an ambitious and shared Vision for the future, will be the necessary ingredients to turn dreams into reality.

Introduction

The use of data in strategic planning is important for two reasons. First, data assists a community in "taking stock" and understanding its current situation across several different areas of economic and demographic performance. Data provides insight into the internal and external trends which affect the community, facilitating comparisons of local performance with that of other areas, such as the state or nation. Second, using data in preparing a community strategic plan can ensure the long-run success of the planning effort and its eventual outcomes by:

- *Testing Assumptions*--data can confirm or disprove popular impressions and preconceived ideas that a community might have about its current situation.

- *Building Consensus*--data can foster a common understanding regarding trends and concerns affecting the community, and can move the community toward solving common goals.

- *Establishing the Direction the Process Should Take*--data can serve as a compass in the strategic planning process and can help in determining the next step; for example, a community may decide to delay developing particular strategies until it has a better understanding of the reasons behind trends in the data.

- *Identifying Key Issues*--data analysis can be a very powerful tool for the community in identifying its relative strengths and weaknesses, leading to the development of key issues to be addressed through the strategic action plan.

Data does not by itself 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 serves 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 are suggested from the data. From this point, the community can then begin to address possible strategies and solutions.

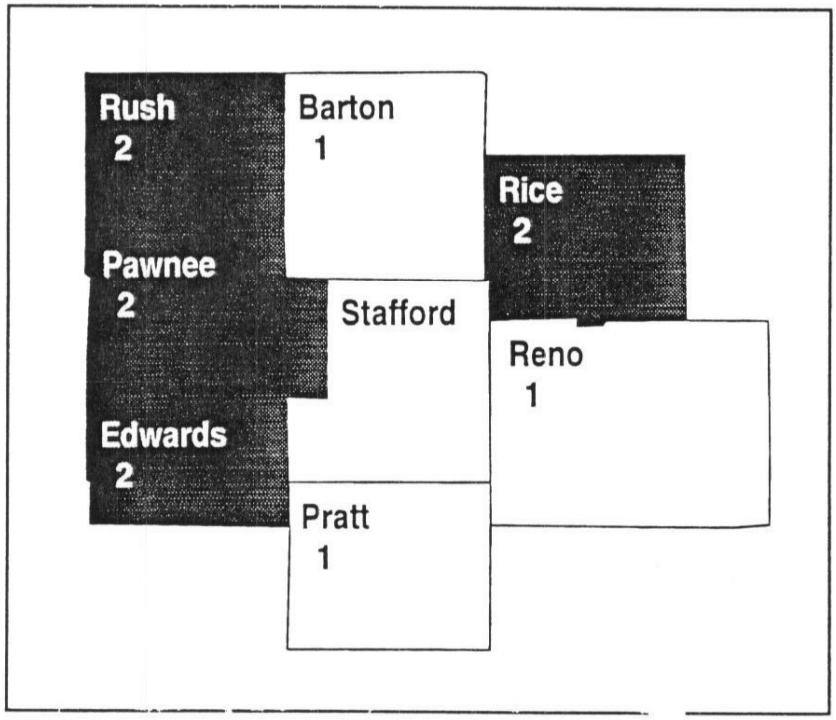
In the following sections, data is first presented and analyzed in overview fashion for regional and national trends. Following this, data is reviewed at a more local scale in chapters which closely parallel the seven foundations of public policy programs for economic development in Kansas. (The Seven Foundations are: Human Capital, Infrastructure Capital, Business Environment, Financial Capital, Innovation and Technology Capital, Commitment and Capacity Capital,and Quality of Life.) The organization of data along these themes has been done to help task force participants link issues and strategies to state and federal

strategies, and to help the local community in taking advantage of existing programs wherever possible.

Throughout the report, local-level materials will be presented relating Stafford County's economic performance through the past decade with the State of Kansas and the counties neighboring Stafford County. To facilitate comparisons, urban and rural comparative counties have been designated. The "urbanized" comparative counties include Reno, Barton, and Pratt; rural comparative counties include Rice, Edwards, Pawnee and Rush. Aggregate totals for each group of comparative counties as well as non-metro values for the state are included wherever this data is available. (Non-metro values include the 96 Kansas counties outside Census-defined Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas of Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka and Lawrence.)

The counties for which data is examined in this report are shown in Map 0.1.

Map 0.1
Stafford County Comparatives



Legend: 1 = Urbanized Comparative Counties 2 = Rural Comparative Counties
Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research.

Section I: Global, Regional & National Trends

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

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

- *Population growth rates* and demographic change, evidenced in the *age of the population* and the distribution of *urban and rural population* demonstrate Kansas' recent and expected growth relative to the nation, with implications for the labor force;

- *Educational attainment levels* is an indicator of how well prepared the Kansas workforce is, while the *age structure of the workforce* foreshadows changes in the stability, flexibility and future training needs of the labor force;

- *Employment projections by industry and occupation* indicates where job growth is expected to occur, while changes in the *average weekly earnings by industry* illustrate the industries which have been growing in productivity nationwide over the decade;

- *Job creation, by firm size* shows which types of firms have contributed most to job growth; Employment and per capita income *contrasts between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas* further explain the changing fabric of the Kansas economy;

- The changing *levels of exports, imports and foreign investment* show how interdependent the U.S. and worldwide economies have become; and,

- The levels of *state and local taxes per capita* indicate the relative tax burden in Kansas, with implications for the level of competitiveness of Kansas firms and the overall standard of living for Kansas residents.

GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TRENDS: KEY FINDINGS

- Since 1970, Kansas has grown at about one-half the national growth rate. Only moderate growth is projected for Kansas in the future.

- Since the turn of the century, rural population in Kansas has increased in only two of the nine decades.

- Although the median age of the population in Kansas equals the national average, Kansas has relatively more young (0-14) and more old (65+) residents than the nation as a whole.

- Educational attainment levels in Kansas are high in comparison with neighboring states.

- Employment projections call for the greatest growth in the occupations requiring high levels of education or highly specific skills (technicians, professions) with the top three health-related occupations combining for nearly 11 percent of all job creation to 2005.

- Ninety-one percent of all job creation in Kansas since 1980 has occurred in the metropolitan areas.

- Industries showing the greatest increases in average weekly wages since 1983 have been: Services; Mining; Finance, Insurance and Real Estate; and Wholesale Trade.

- Per capita incomes in Kansas are higher than those of most neighboring states; however, Kansas has lost ground in relative terms since the early 1980s.

- Firms with more than 50 employees (4.2% of Kansas firms) generated nearly 60 percent of net new jobs in Kansas from 1980 to 1989.

- During the 1980s, Kansas enjoyed particularly strong output performance from the Transportation and Public Utilities industry, while Finance, insurance and real estate sectors despite strong growth, did not match national output shares.

- By the year 2020, the services industry is expected to account for nearly 27 percent of Kansas jobs, followed by the Government sector with 16.7 percent. Manufacturing is expected to continue to decline in relative importance.

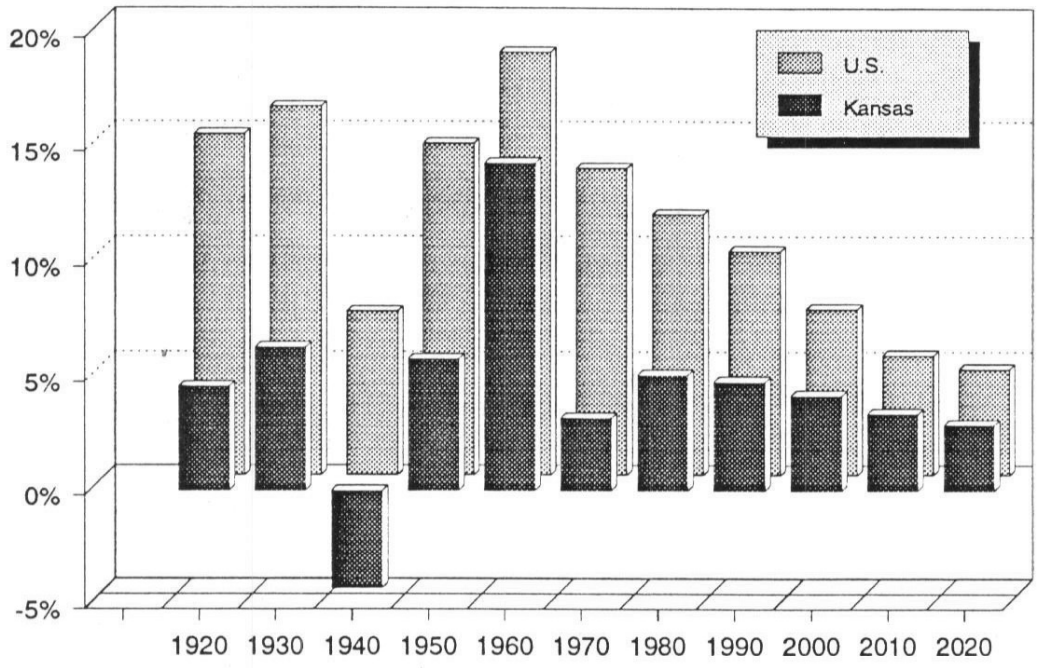
- Since 1961, exports as a share of US GDP have tripled, while imports have more than doubled, each accounting for more than 11 percent of GDP.

- Levels of state and local taxation per capita in Kansas are 10 percent lower than national averages, with high rates of local taxation (ranked 19th in the nation) and low rates of state taxation (ranked 33rd.)

GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TRENDS: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 1.1

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



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

- Population growth rates in Kansas have consistently lagged those of the U.S. for every decade since the 1920s. Over the last 80 years, population in Kansas has grown at about one-third the U.S rate; since 1970, population growth has been about one-half the U.S. rate.

- In 1920, Kansas represented a 1.67 percent share of the nation's population; in 1990, Kansas accounted for 1 percent of U.S. population.

- Only moderate population growth is projected for Kansas in the future. Over the next thirty years, Kansas is projected to grow at only two-thirds the growth rate for the U.S. as a whole.

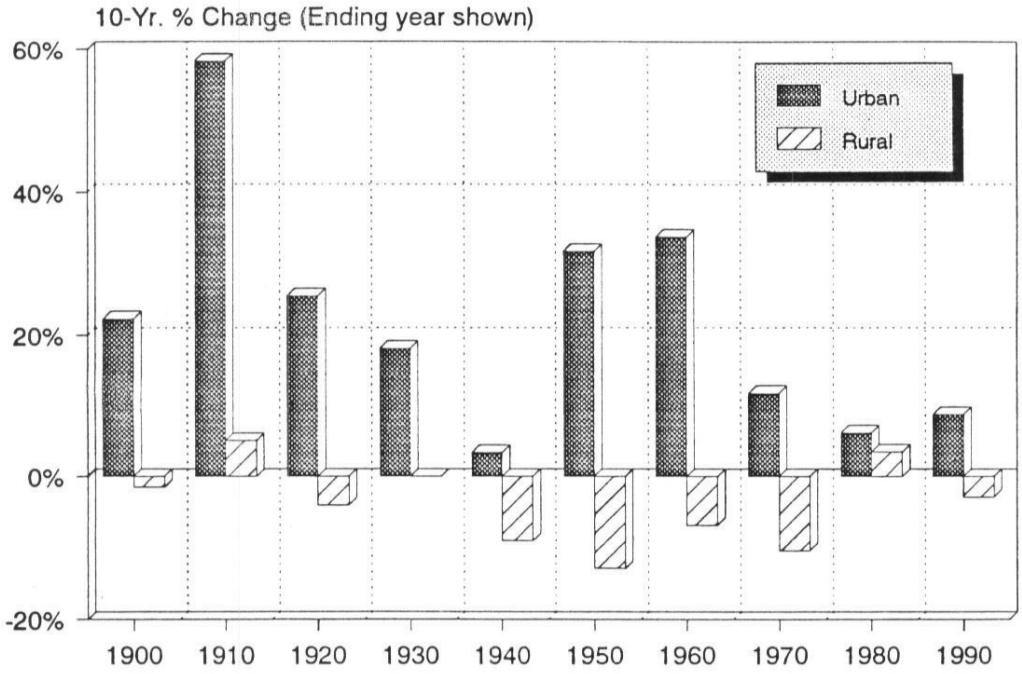
Table 1.1
10-Year Population Growth Rates
Kansas and U.S., 1920-2020

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

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

Figure 1.2

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



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

- Population growth in Kansas has been dominated by urban places. Since the turn of the century, rural population has increased in only two of the nine decades, during the 1930s and the 1980s.

- In recent decades, the urban to rural shift in population has become less pronounced. To some extent, this is due to the new roles for non-metropolitan counties as labor sources for urbanized counties. However, not all rural counties are able to assume this new role. Across the Midwestern states during the period 1982 to 1986, non-metropolitan counties which were adjacent to urban centers grew annually by 0.9 percent, while counties which were not adjacent to urbanized counties declined in population by 0.3 percent per year[1].

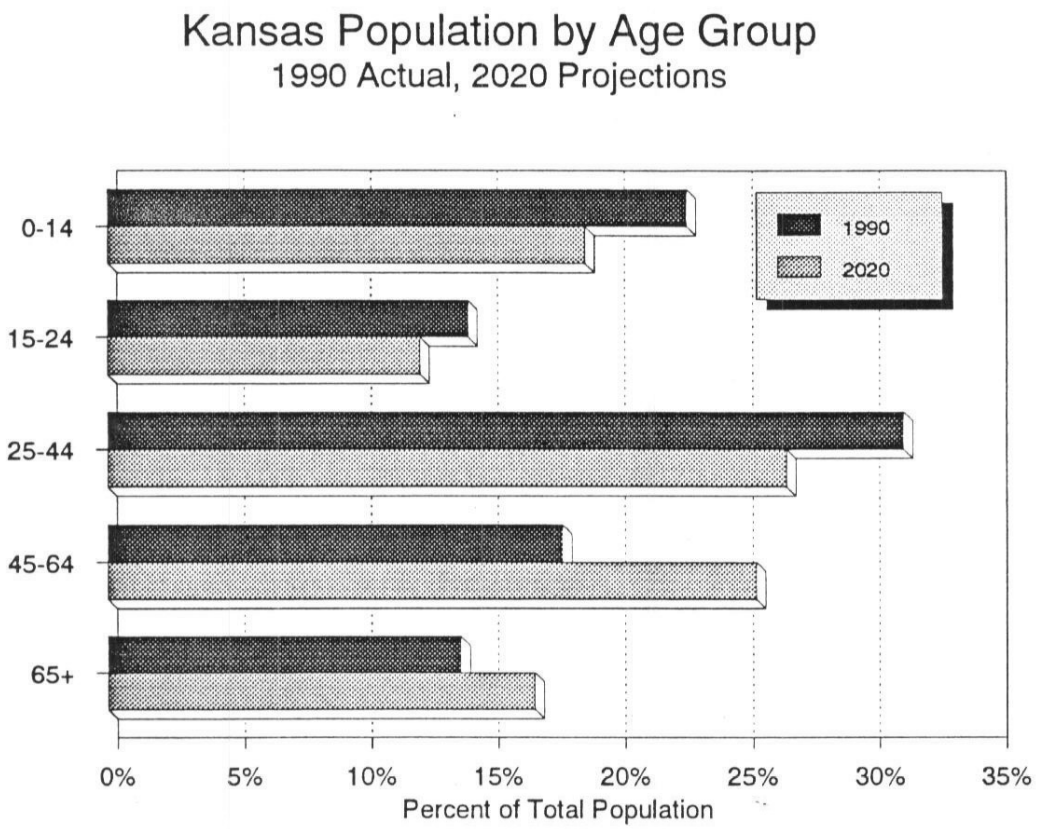
[1] National Governors' Association, *Economic Realities in Rural America: Recent Trends, Future Prospects,* (Washington: National Governors' Association, 1988.)

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

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

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

Figure 1.3



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

- The median age of the Kansas population is the same as the U.S. median age, 32.9 years. However, Kansas has a greater share of population than the U.S. in the newborn to 24 year old cohorts and in the 65 and over age groups. This concentration of population at the extremes means that Kansas has a smaller share of its population in prime working years, and has a higher proportion of its population in age groups generally considered as 'dependent' upon other age groups for support.

- By the year 2020, the differences in age structure between Kansas and the U.S. are expected to narrow, with the Kansas median age becoming slightly younger than the U.S. figure. The population of both Kansas and the U.S. will become more evenly distributed across age groups, with relatively less emphasis on the Age 5 to 44 age groups than is presently the case due to the aging of 'baby boomers' and their children.

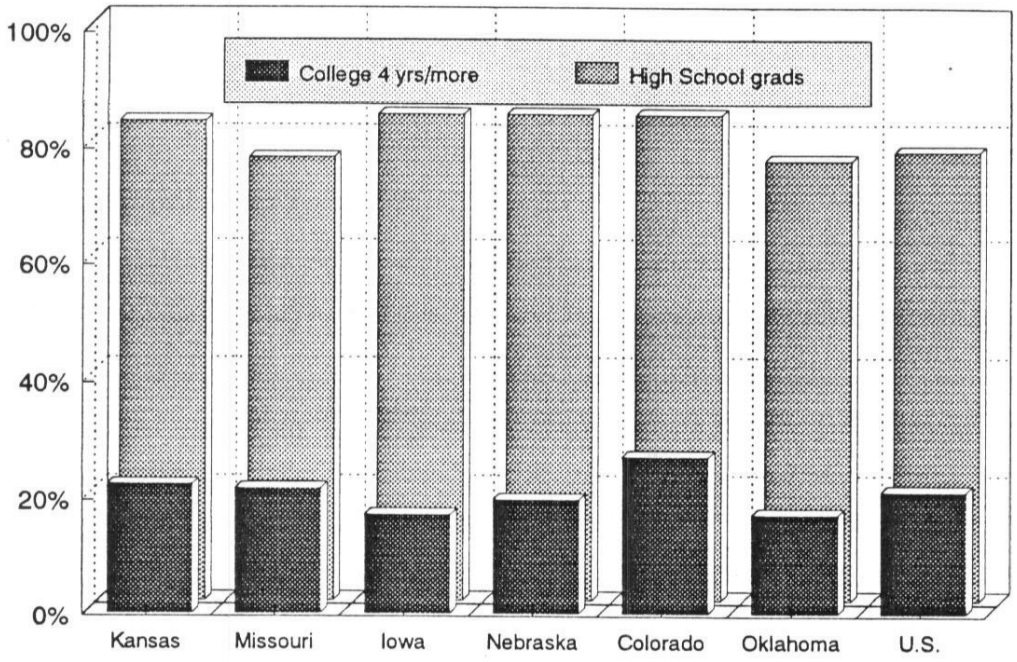
Table 1.3
Age of the Population
Kansas and U.S., 1990 and 2020

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

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

Figure 1.4

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



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

- While Iowa and Nebraska have slightly higher rates of high school completion, fewer of their high school graduates complete 4 years of college than do so in Kansas.

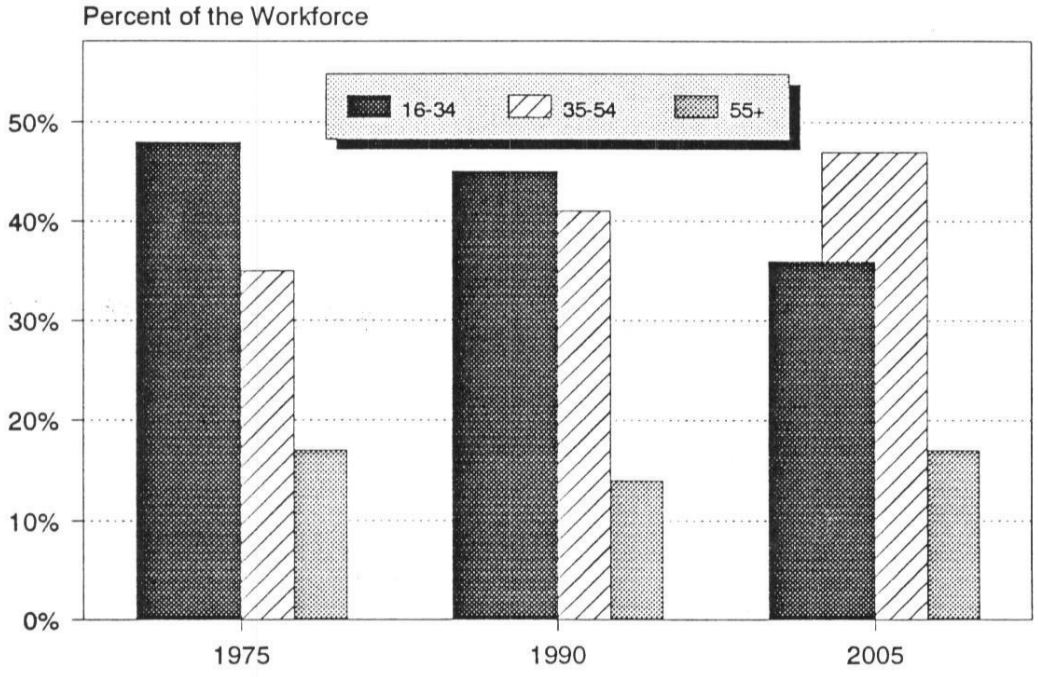
Table 1.4
Levels of Educational Attainment, Persons 25 or Older
Kansas, Neighboring States and U.S., 1989

	Percentage of Adults Age 25 or Older	
	Completed High School	4 or More Years College
Kansas	82.2%	22.3%
Missouri	75.9	21.6
Iowa	83.4	17.1
Nebraska	83.4	19.7
Colorado	83.3	27.0
Oklahoma	75.4	17.1
UNITED STATES	76.9	21.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Educational Attainment in the U.S.*, March 1988 and 1989, Table A, Table 13.

Figure 1.5

Age Structure of the Workforce
U.S., 1975, 1990 and 2005



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

- The proportion of the U.S. workforce age 35-54, 35 percent of all workers in 1975, is expected to rise to 47 percent by the year 2005. This older, more experienced and more stable portion of the workforce will also be less flexible, less adaptable to change and less likely to relocate in response to career opportunities than those age 16 through 34.

- The youngest portion of the labor force, those age 16 to 34, will decline from 48 percent in 1975 to 36 percent of all workers in 2005. This reduced supply of new entrants to the workforce will mean there will be greater pressures on retraining older workers as new technologies are introduced.

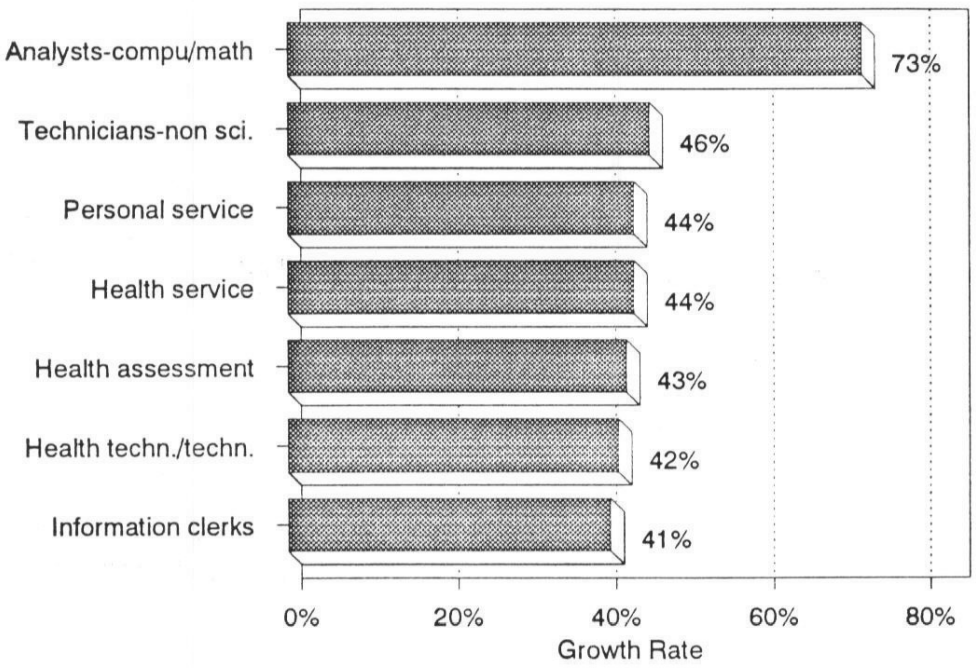
Table 1.5
Age Structure of the Workforce, 1975, 1990 & 2005

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

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

Figure 1.6

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



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

- Employment projections to the year 2005 call for the greatest growth areas in occupations requiring high levels of education or highly specific skills. The two fastest growing occupational groups are technicians (37%) and professional specialties (32%)

- The high-growth occupations are dominated by sub-groups focusing upon personal and medical and information services. Health service, assessment and treating, and health technicians and technologists occupations combined account for nearly 11 percent of all job creation to the year 2005.

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

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

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

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

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

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

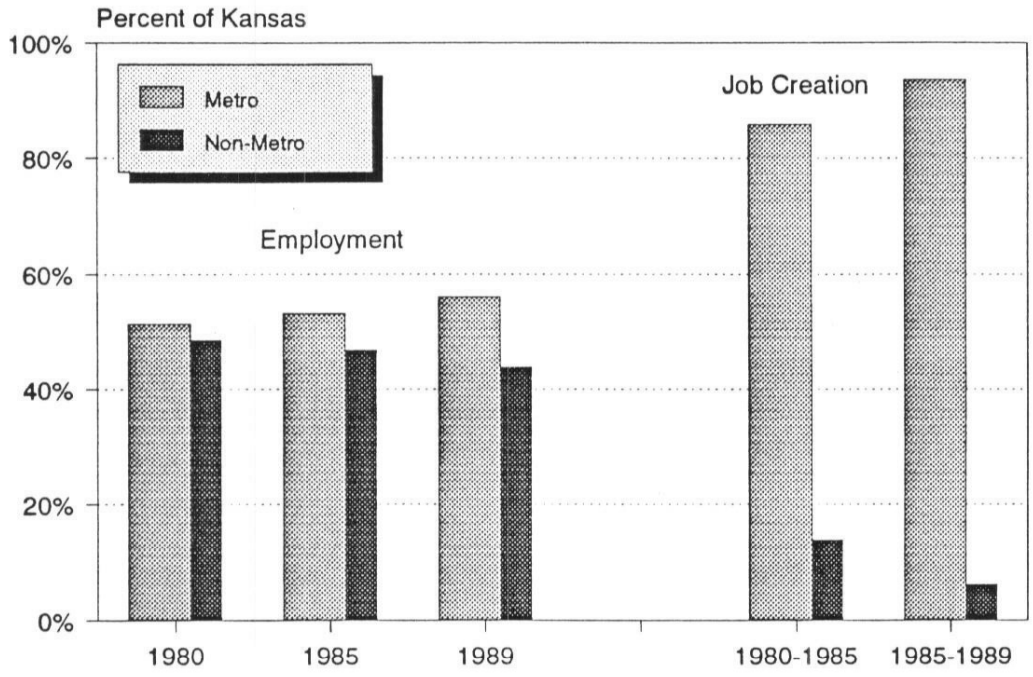
Table 1.8
Fastest Growing Occupational Subgroups, 1990-2005
Ranked by Growth Rate

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

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

Figure 1.7

Employment and Job Creation Shares
Kansas Metro and Non-Metro Areas,1980-89



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

- Employment in Kansas has become increasingly concentrated in urban areas. In 1980, metropolitan areas accounted for 51 percent of all employment; by 1989, this figure was 56 percent. Over the period 1980 to 1989, nearly 91 percent of all net new jobs were located in the metropolitan areas: 153,400 jobs were added in the nine metropolitan counties, while the remaining 96 counties shared only 15,800 net new jobs.

- The 1980-1989 job creation rate was 23.2 percent in metropolitan counties and only 2.5 percent in non-metropolitan counties.

Table 1.9
Employment in Kansas
Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Areas, 1980, 1985, 1989

	Number Employed			Net Job Creation	
	1980	1985	1989	1980-85	1985-89
			(in thousands)		
Metropolitan Areas	662.5	720.8	815.9	58.3	95.1
Non-Metropolitan Areas	624.3	633.7	640.1	9.4	6.4
State Totals	1,286.7	1,354.5	1,456.0	67.8	101.5

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

- The highest paying industries in the U.S. in 1991 were Mining, with average weekly wages of $631, Construction ($534) and Transportation and Public Utilities ($512).

- The greatest rates of increases in wages over the period 1987-1991 occurred in the Services industry (+20.6%), followed by Mining (+18.7%), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (+17.9%) and Wholesale Trade (+17.9%).

- The Retail and Construction industries lost ground relative to other industry groups with respect to wage increases throughout the decade. Services and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate performed better than the all-industry average in both the early and late parts of the decade.

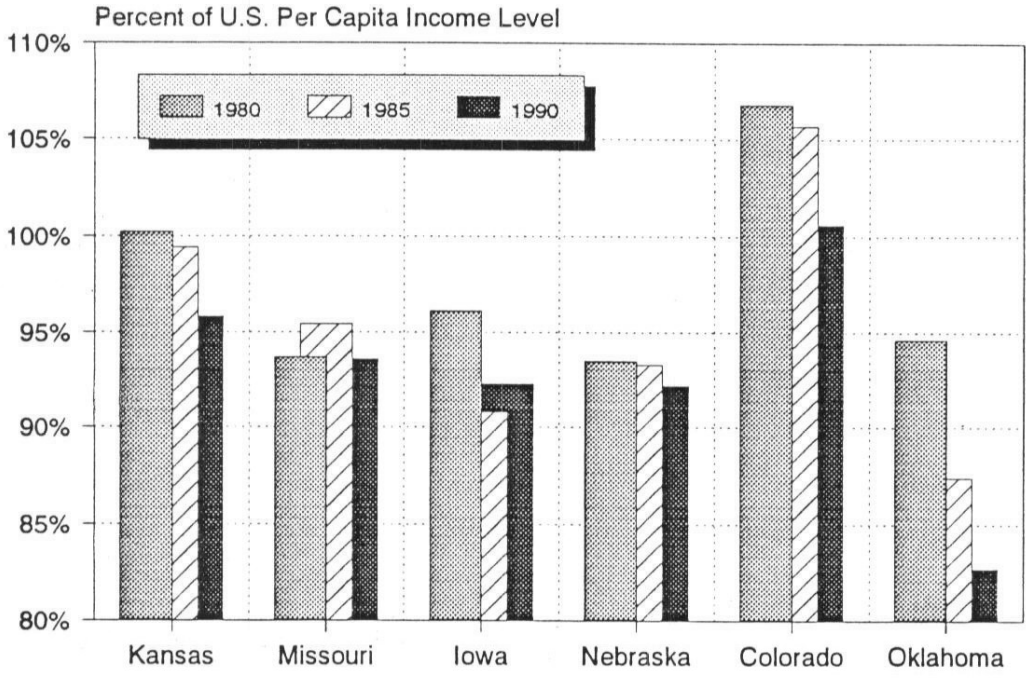
Table 1.10
Average Weekly Earnings by Industry
U.S., 1983, 1987 and 1991

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

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

Figure 1.8

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



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

- Kansas per capita incomes, at $17,896 in 1990, were higher than those of all of the surrounding states except Colorado. However, Kansas per capita incomes in 1990 were 4 percent lower than the U.S. average of $18,685.

- Kansas lost ground relative to the state and most of the surrounding states with respect to per capita personal incomes from 1980 to 1990. Only Oklahoma and Colorado declined more than Kansas did during the decade in relation to the state percent of U.S. per capita incomes.

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

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

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Regional Economic Information System, Table SA2.*
*Note: Plains Region includes the states of: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

- Per capita incomes in Kansas non-metropolitan areas ($14,862) were 18 percent lower than those of metropolitan areas ($17,937) in 1990. This represented only a marginal improvement for non-metropolitan areas since 1980.

Table 1.12
Per Capita Personal Income Levels
Kansas Metropolitan and Non-Metropolitan Counties, 1980-1989

	1980	1985	1989
Metropolitan	$11,011	$14,952	$17,937
Non-Metropolitan	8,867	12,591	14,862
State of Kansas	9,941	13,804	16,526

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

- The composition of income varies considerably between non-metropolitan counties and the state as a whole. Only 47 percent of personal income in non-metropolitan counties is attributable to employment, compared with a state-wide share of 59 percent.

- Property income, in the form of dividends, interest and rent is more important in non-metropolitan areas (21.0 vs. 18.2% in Kansas), as is Transfer payments (16.7% vs. 13.9%).

Table 1.13
Percentage of Personal Income, by Source, 1985-1989 Average
Non-metropolitan Counties and Kansas Totals

		Proprietorships			
	Wages & Labor	Farm	Non-Farm	Property	Transfers
Non-metropolitan	47.3%	7.1%	9.1%	21.0%	16.7%
Kansas Totals	58.6	3.3	8.0	18.2	13.9

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

- Kansas is a small business state. Of businesses with employees (i.e., excluding self-employed proprietors), over 88 percent of Kansas firms have 19 or fewer employees; fully 96 percent of Kansas firms employ fewer than 49 people.

- Net job creation in Kansas however, has been dominated by larger firms. Firms employing 50 or more (4.2% of Kansas firms) have accounted for nearly 60 percent of net new wage-earning jobs since 1980. This is a greater concentration of job creation than the U.S. average; these size firms accounted for 5 percent of U.S. firms and 54 percent of net new jobs in the U.S. over the same period.

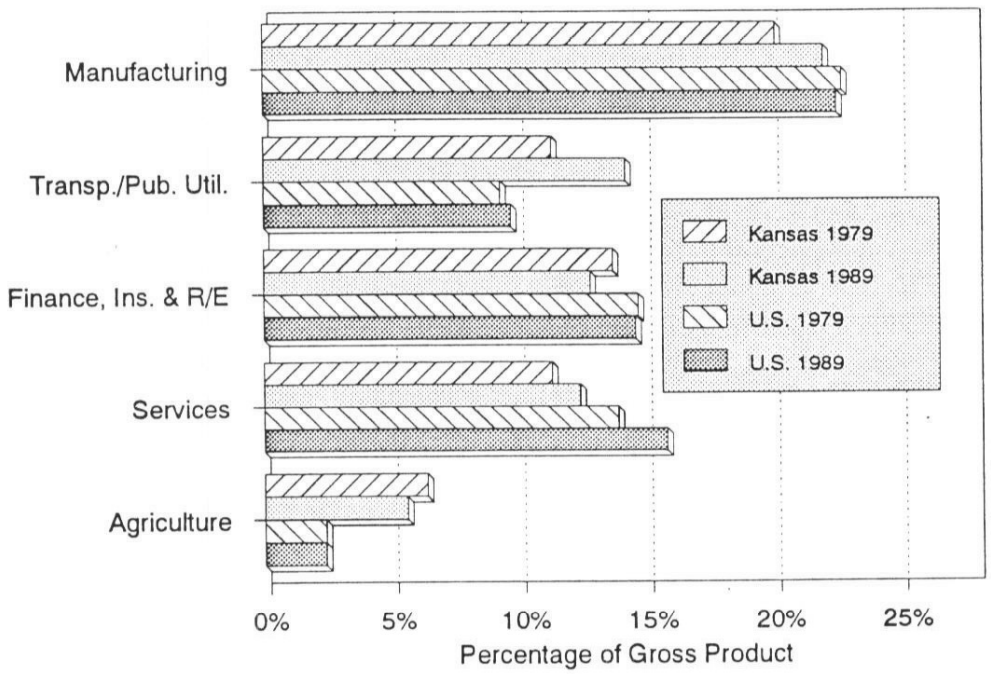
Table 1.14
Net Job Creation by Size of Firm
Firms with Employees, Kansas and U.S. 1980-1989

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

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

Figure 1.9

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



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

- Kansas' industrial performance relative to the U.S. during the 1980s has been mixed. Transportation and Public Utilities, a Kansas strength, grew rapidly during the 1980s, accounting for 14.2 percent of Kansas output in 1989, compared with the U.S. average of only 9.7 percent. Manufacturing, not one of Kansas' strong suits in 1979, grew to 22 percent of output by 1989, nearly equalling the U.S. average share (22.5%).

- Finance, insurance and real estate, relatively underdeveloped in Kansas in 1979 at 13.7 percent of output, declined further to 12.8 percent during the 1980s, while the industry maintained its share of output nationwide.

- Services grew in importance in Kansas to 12.4 percent of output, but continued to lag the U.S. average of 15.8 percent of output from this industry.

- Agriculture in Kansas accounted for 5.6 percent of output, more than double the nationwide share of output from this industry; agricultural output in 1989 in Kansas was down from 6.4 percent in 1979.

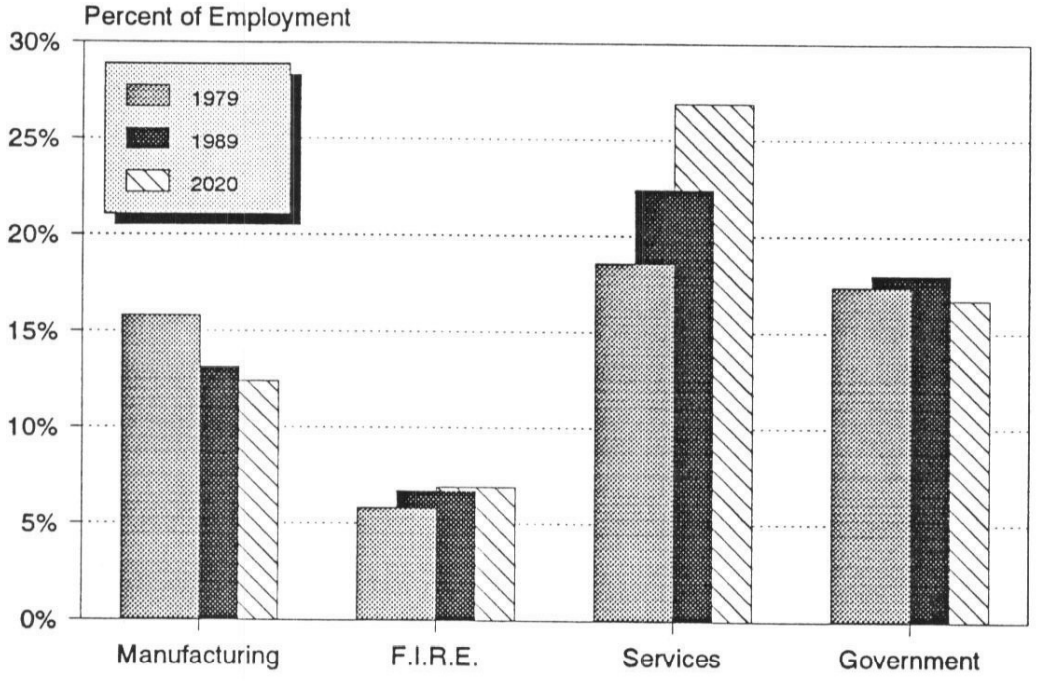
Table 1.15
Output Shares by Major Industry Category
Kansas, and U.S., 1979 and 1989

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

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

Figure 1.10

Employment Shares, Selected Industries
Kansas, 1979, 1989 and 2020



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

- The services industry is expected to continue to grow in importance in Kansas. By the year 2020, Services will account for nearly 27 percent of all jobs, compared with 22 percent in 1989 and 18.6 percent in 1979.

- Government employment, which increased in importance during the 1980s to 18 percent of Kansas employment, is expected to occupy a 16.7 percent share of all jobs in the year 2020.

- Manufacturing is projected to continue to decline in relative importance, from 1989's 13.1 percent share of employment to 12.4 percent in 2020.

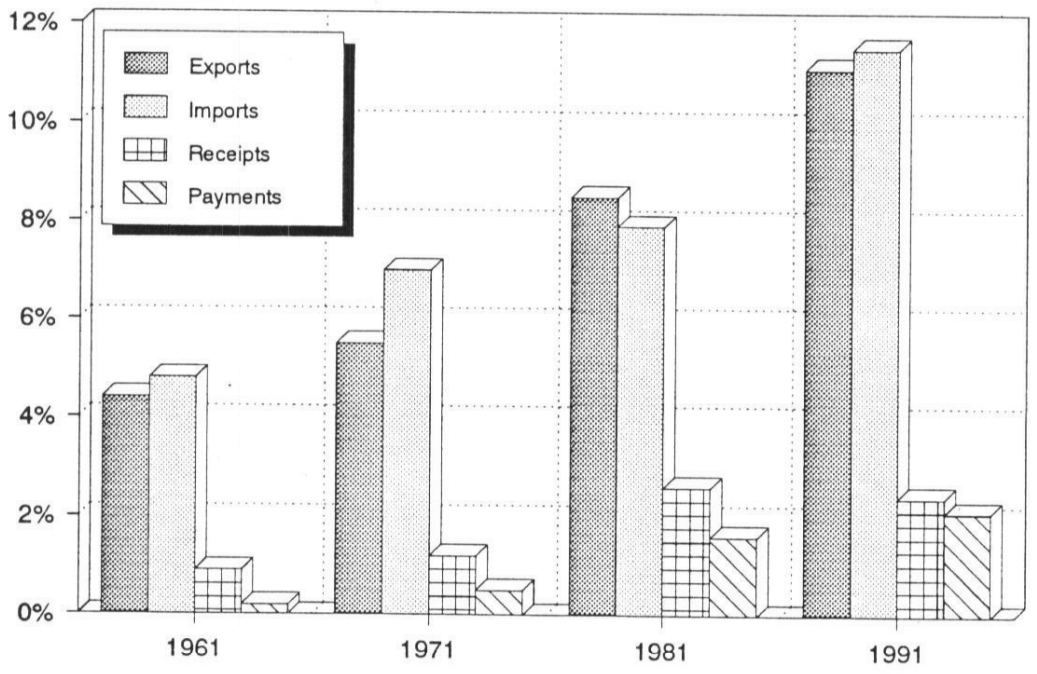
Table 1.16
Employment Shares by Major Industry Category
State of Kansas, 1979, 1989 and 2020

	Percentage Share of Total Employment		
	1979	1989	2020
Farm	7.9%	5.9%	4.6%
Non-Farm Private Sector	74.7	76.1	78.7
Construction	1.8	2.0	1.7
Manufacturing	15.8	13.1	12.4
Transportation/Public Utilities	5.7	5.2	4.9
Wholesale	5.3	5.0	4.9
Retail	15.7	15.8	15.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	5.8	6.7	6.9
Services	18.6	22.4	26.9
Government	17.4	18.0	16.7

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

Figure 1.11

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



Source: *Economic Report of the President*, February 1992, Tables B-1, B-2, B-100.
* Foreign investment data (only) shown as 1991 is 1990 data.

- The U.S. economy has become much more interdependent with the economies of other nations over the past thirty years. Since 1961, exports have increased from slightly over 4 percent of Gross Domestic Product to over 11 percent in 1991. Meanwhile, imports have increased from 4.8 percent to 11.5 percent of GDP.

- Direct investment abroad and domestic investment by foreign firms have also increased dramatically, further tying the U.S. economy with international economies. In 1990, payments on foreign investments in the U.S. accounted for ten times the share of GDP that they did in 1961, while receipts on U.S. assets invested aborad nearly tripled from 1961 levels.

Section II: Population

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

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

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

- *The level of Stafford County's population* relative to the state population reflect the county's overall level of competitiveness with respect to other regions within the state. A minimum population is necessary to sustain a basic level of public and private services and facilities.

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

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

- *The age composition of the population* is relevant with respect to the labor supply. A youthful population supplies the labor market with new workers whereas an older population will eventually create constraints on labor markets and increasing demands for social security, health care programs, and public services and assistance. The aging of the population is a statewide and national phenomenon due to better health care and a decline in birth rates. However, aging of the population is more severe in rural America due to out-migration of the younger generation.

- *The distribution of urban and rural population* is studied to understand how concentrated or dispersed the population is. A more concentrated population tends to have a higher demand for all categories of services, which affects the sectoral pattern of economic development.

- The *ethnic composition of the population* shows the diversity of backgrounds of the population and the need to consider a wide range of viewpoints in developing appropriate plans for the community;

POPULATION: KEY FINDINGS

- Stafford County's population peaked in 1910 at 12,500 people; since then Stafford County has lost population in seven of the last eight decades.

- In 1990, Stafford County's total population was 5,365 which is less than half the population of the early 1900s.

- Population decline is projected to continue until the year 2020, when population is expected to again reach 1990 levels.

- Compared to neighboring counties, Stafford County's population loss between 1950 and 1990 was one of the most severe in the region.

- Rural farm population had accounted for about half of Stafford County's population in 1980, with 2,768 persons; by 1990 only 552, 10 percent of the population, was classified as farm population.

- The cities of Stafford, St. John and Macksville, had the highest rate of population decline among all cities in the region except Kinsley in Edward County.

- Unlike most neighboring counties, Stafford County experienced relatively modest out-migration between 1980 and 1990. Out-migration in Stafford County exceeded in-migration by 327 people for that period.

- Stafford County's population has a high percentage of people age 65 and over (23.4%), compared with 13.8 percent for the state and 12.6 percent for the U.S. The aging of the population is a statewide and nationwide trend but is more pronounced in rural Kansas and rural America due to out-migration of the younger generation.

- The proportion of the working-age population is 51.0 percent in Stafford County compared to 59.5 percent for the state and 61.8 percent for the U.S.

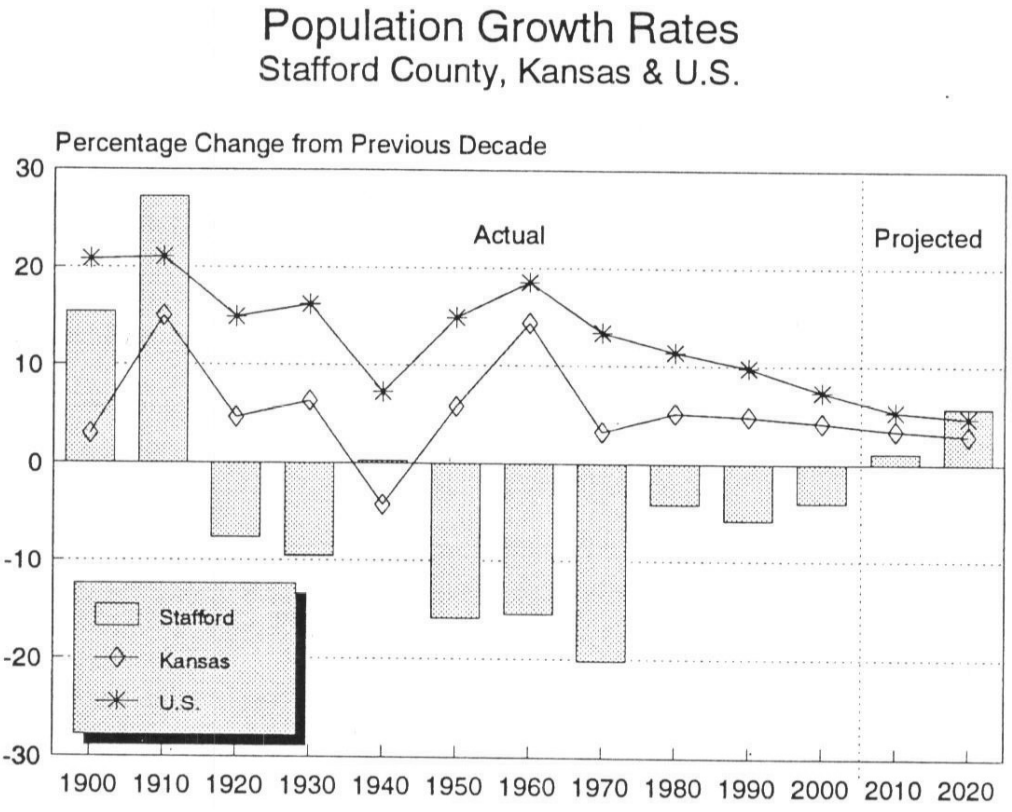
- The median age of the Stafford County population dropped from 41.9 years in 1980 to 39.0 years in 1990 while most neighboring counties experienced an increase in median age. However, Stafford County's median age is well above the statewide and national average of 32.9 years.

- While the state's rural population decreased from 61.2 percent in 1930 to 30.9 percent in 1990, Stafford County remained an all rural county. Rural population includes all persons living in places under 2,500 in population.

- Stafford County has a relatively small proportion of racial and ethnic minorities compared to the state and the U.S.

POPULATION: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 2.1



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

- Population in Stafford County reached its peak in 1910 with 12,510 people. In 1990, the population of 5,363 was less than half this level.

- While Stafford County lost population in seven of the last eight decades, the Kansas population grew slowly but steadily during the same period of time. However, Kansas' rates of population growth were only half of the U.S. average.

- Except for the early 1900s, Stafford County lost population throughout most of this century with the most severe losses occurring after the dustbowl years of the 1930s when rates of population decline reached 15-20 percent per decade. In the 1970s, rates of population decline dropped to 4.2 percent, but accelerated again between 1980 and 1990 with a decennial population decline of 5.8 percent.

- Population in Stafford County is expected to decline by 4 percent between 1990 and the year 2000.

- The projected rates of population change for Stafford County do not indicate a significant reversal of the longstanding trend of population loss and out-migration until the year 2020, when population is expected to return to 1990 levels.

Table 2.1
Population Totals, Ten-Year Growth Rates and Ranking
Stafford County, Kansas and U.S.
Actual 1890-1990, Projection to 2000

	Population Totals			Ten-Year Growth Rates (%)			
Year	Stafford County	Kansas	U.S. (millions)	Stafford County	Kansas	U.S.	County Rank
1890	8,520	1,428,108	62.9				64
1900	9,829	1,470,495	76.0	15.4	3.0	20.8	63
1910	12,510	1,690,949	92.0	27.3	15.0	21.1	56
1920	11,559	1,769,257	105.7	-7.6	4.6	14.9	60
1930	10,460	1,880,999	122.8	-9.5	6.3	16.2	64
1940	10,487	1,801,028	131.7	0.3	-4.3	7.2	57
1950	8,816	1,905,299	151.3	-15.9	5.8	14.9	62
1960	7,451	2,178,611	179.3	-15.5	14.3	18.5	65
1970	5,943	2,249,071	203.3	-20.2	3.2	13.4	72
1980	5,694	2,364,236	226.5	-4.2	5.1	11.4	72
1990	5,365	2,477,574	248.7	-5.8	4.8	9.8	70
2000*	5,075	2,600,636	268.0	-4.0	4.2	7.3	72
2010*	5,129	2,669,408	281.0	1.1	3.4	5.3	73
2020*	5,423	2,746,820	294.2	5.7	2.9	4.7	71

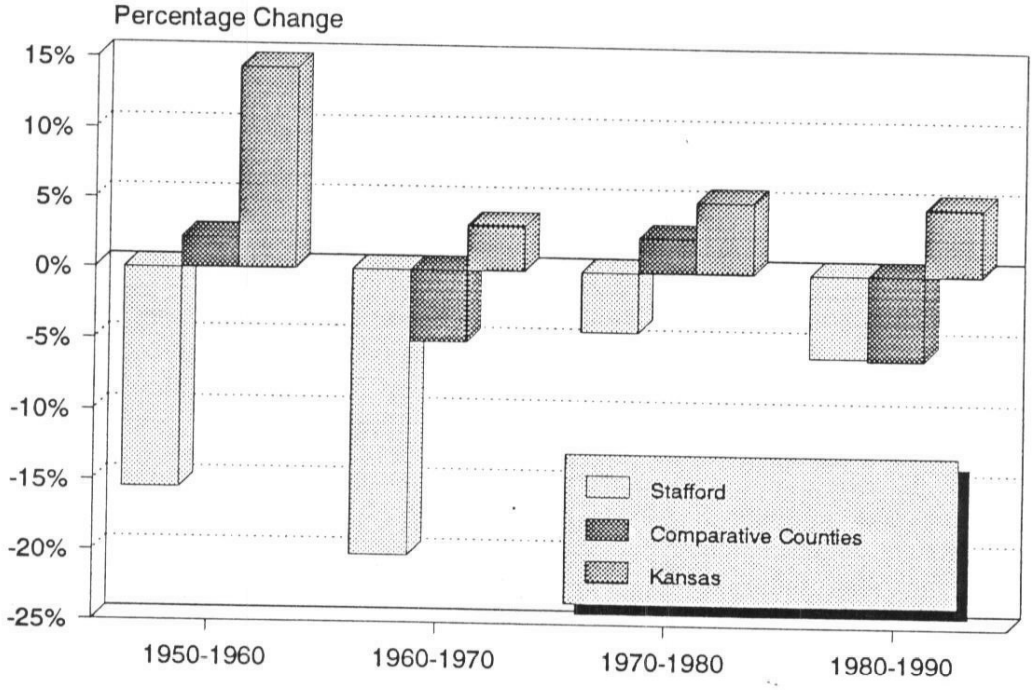
*Projection.

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

Note: These projections were published in 1989 prior to the 1990 Census and should be interpreted with extreme care since they reflect assumptions made regarding migration trends during the early to mid-1980s.

Figure 2.2

Rate of Population Change, 1950-1990
Stafford, Comparative Counties & Kansas



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

- The demographic trends observed for Stafford County are typical for Kansas non-metropolitan counties. However, Stafford County's population decline was less pronounced during the past two decades than that of its rural counterparts in the area.

- For the period of 1980 to 1990, Stafford County's rate of population decline (-5.8%) again accelerated but compared favorably with the group of counties selected as rural and urbanized comparatives (-10.3% and -4.8%, respectively).

- While Stafford County's rates of population decline were higher than in all neighboring counties between 1950 and 1970, the 5.8 percent rate of decline for 1980 to 1990 was similar to the average of 5.9 percent for the entire area.

Table 2.2
Population Totals, 1950-1990
Stafford, Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S.

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
Stafford	8,816	7,451	5,943	5,694	5,365
Reno	54,058	59,055	60,765	64,938	62,389
Barton	29,909	32,368	30,663	31,343	29,382
Pratt	12,156	12,122	10,056	10,275	9,702
Urbanized Comparatives	96,123	103,545	101,484	106,556	101,473
Rice	15,635	13,909	12,320	11,900	10,610
Edwards	5,936	5,118	4,581	4,271	3,787
Pawnee	11,041	10,254	8,484	8,065	7,555
Rush	7,231	6,160	5,117	4,516	3,842
Rural Comparatives	39,843	35,441	30,502	28,752	25,794
Area Total	135,966	138,986	131,986	135,308	127,267
		(Population in Millions)			
Kansas Non-Metro	1.20	1.19	1.14	1.18	1.14
Kansas	1.91	2.18	2.25	2.36	2.48
U.S.	151.3	179.3	203.3	226.5	248.7

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

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

	Area Population Change, 1950-1990			
	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990
Stafford	-15.5%	-20.2%	-4.2%	-5.8%
Reno	9.2	2.9	6.9	-3.9
Barton	8.2	-5.3	2.2	-6.3
Pratt	-0.3	-17.0	2.2	-5.6
Urbanized Comparatives	7.7	-2.0	5.0	-4.8
Rice	-11.0	-11.4	-3.4	-10.8
Edwards	-13.8	-10.5	-6.8	-11.3
Pawnee	-7.1	-17.3	-4.9	-6.3
Rush	-14.8	-16.9	-11.7	-14.9
Rural Comparatives	-11.0	-13.9	-5.7	-10.3
Area Total	2.2	-5.0	2.5	-5.9
Kansas Non-Metro	-1.0	-4.1	3.6	-3.0
Kansas	14.3	3.2	5.1	4.8
U.S.	18.5	13.4	11.4	9.8

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

- Between 1940 and 1990, Stafford County's population rank within the state dropped from 57th to 70th. Unlike Rush and Edwards Counties, Stafford is expected to maintain this relative position through to the year 2020.

Table 2.4
County Population and Ranking in the State
Stafford and Comparative Counties, 1940, 1990, and 2020

1940			1990			2020 (Projected)		
		(Population in Thousands)						
Rank		Pop.	Rank		Pop.	Rank		Pop.
4	Reno	52	8	Reno	62	8	Reno	64
17	Barton	25	18	Barton	29	16	Barton	34
35	Rice	17	41	Rice	11	38	Pratt	12
48	Pratt	12	44	Pratt	10	43	Rice	10
57	**Stafford**	**10**	54	Pawnee	8	56	Pawnee	7
60	Pawnee	10	**70**	**Stafford**	**5**	**71**	**Stafford**	**5**
71	Rush	8	83	Rush	4	88	Edwards	3
80	Edwards	6	84	Edwards	4	98	Rush	3

Source: University of Kansas, IPPBR, *Kansas Statistical Abstract, 1989-90*, "Population of Kansas Counties, 1890-1980; 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 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Characteristics: Kansas,* CPH-1-18; Helga Upmeier and Anthony Redwood, "Kansas Population Trends and Projections," *Kansas Business Review,* Summer 1989.

- Population decline in the cities of Stafford, St. John and Macksville was more pronounced between 1950 and 1990 than in any of the cities in neighboring counties except for Kinsley.

Table 2.5
Population Levels, Selected Cities
Stafford and Comparative Counties, 1950-1990

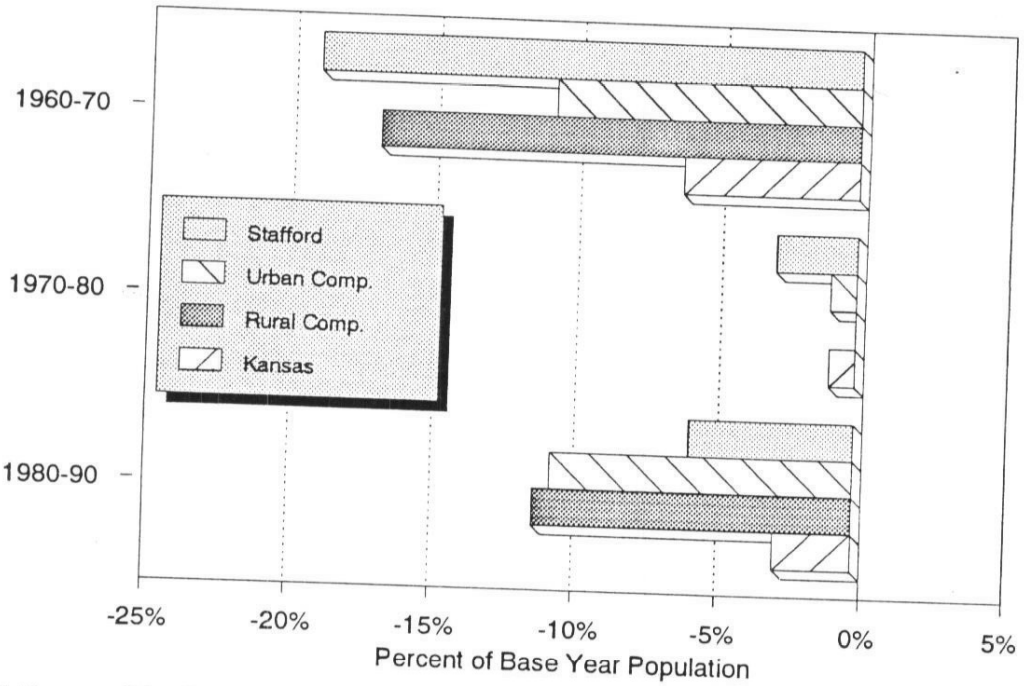
City	County	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	Growth 1950-1990
Stafford	Stafford	2,005	1,862	1,414	1,425	1,344	-33.0%
St. John*	Stafford	NA	1,753	1,477	1,501	992	-43.4
Macksville	Stafford	624	546	484	546	488	-21.8
Hutchinson	Reno	33,575	37,574	36,885	40,284	39,308	17.1
Great Bend	Barton	12,665	16,670	16,133	16,608	15,427	21.8
Pratt	Pratt	7,523	8,156	6,736	6,885	6,687	-11.1
Lyons	Rice	4,545	4,592	4,355	4,152	3,688	-18.9
Kinsley	Edwards	2,479	2,263	2,212	2,074	1,875	-24.4
Larned	Pawnee	4,447	5,001	4,567	4,811	4,490	1.0
La Crosse	Rush	1,769	1,767	1,583	1,618	1,427	-19.3

*St. John City population was reported separately from St. John Township after the 1950 census. Percent growth is calculated for 1960-1990.

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

Figure 2.3

Net Migration, 1960-1990
Stafford, Comparative Counties & Kansas



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

- Out-migration accelerated again for the period 1980 to 1990 after a decade of modest population loss and out-migration. Between 1980 and 1990, Stafford County lost 5.7 percent of its 1980 population while neighboring counties reported a considerably higher percentage of population loss due to out migration.

- During the period 1980-1990, 327 more people moved out of Stafford County than moved into it.

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

	Net Migration			Percent of Base Year Population		
	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990
Stafford	-1,400	-169	-327	-18.8%	-2.8%	-5.7%
Reno	-3,375	1,022	-5,804	-5.7	1.6	-8.9
Barton	-5,148	-1,654	-4,369	-15.9	-5.3	-13.9
Pratt	-2,501	-323	-998	-20.6	-3.2	-9.7
Urbanized Comp.	-11,024	-955	-11,171	-10.6	-0.9	-10.5
Rice	-1,994	-322	-1,497	-14.3	-2.6	-12.6
Edwards	-639	-99	-488	-12.5	-2.1	-11.4
Pawnee	-2,126	693	-681	-20.7	8.1	-8.4
Rush	-1,170	-363	-539	-19.0	-7.1	-11.9
Rural Comp.	-5,929	-91	-3,205	-16.7	-0.0	-11.1
Kansas	-132,966	-20,334	-62,854	-6.1	-0.9	-2.7

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

- While the proportion of the rural population in Kansas dropped from 61.2 percent to 30.9 percent between 1930 and 1990, Stafford County was entirely rural in 1990, with none of its population in centers over 2,500 population.

- The rural farm population in Stafford County declined dramatically to only 552 persons in 1990, from 2,768 in 1980.

- While the farm/non-farm population had accounted for equal shares in Stafford County in 1980, by 1990 only 10 percent of the population was classified as farm population.

Table 2.7
Urban and Rural Farm and Non-Farm Population Distribution
Stafford County and Kansas, 1930-1990

	Stafford		Kansas	
Year	Rural Non-farm	Rural Farm	Urban	Rural
1930	4,641	5,819	729,834	1,151,165
1940	5,005	5,482	753,941	1,047,087
1950	5,193	3,623	993,220	912,079
1960	3,615	3,836	1,328,741	849,870
1970	2,891	3,052	1,484,870	761,708
1980	2,926	2,768	1,575,899	787,780
1990	4,813	552	1,712,564	765,010

NOTE: 1930-1940 figures are based on the old urban definition while 1950-1990 are based on the current urban definition which now includes unincorporated urban areas.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *1960 Census of Population* (PC(1)-18A); *1970 Census of the Population, General Population Characteristics* (PC(1)-B18); *1980 Census of Population* (PC80-1-B18); *1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics: Kansas* (CPH-1-18).

Table 2.8
Urban and Rural Farm and Non-Farm Population
Stafford County and Kansas
Population Distribution and Growth Rates, 1930-1990

	Urban-Rural Population Distribution				Urban & Rural Growth Rates			
	Stafford		Kansas		Stafford		Kansas	
Year	Rural Non-farm	Rural Farm	Urban	Rural	Rural Non-farm	Rural Farm	Urban	Rural
1930	44.4%	55.6%	38.8%	61.2%				
1940	47.7	52.3	41.9	58.1	7.8%	-5.8%	3.3%	-9.0%
1950	58.9	41.1	52.1	47.9	3.8	-33.9	31.7	-12.9
1960	48.5	51.5	61.0	39.0	-30.4	5.9	33.8	-6.8
1970	48.6	51.4	66.0	34.0	-20.0	-20.4	11.8	-10.4
1980	51.4	48.6	66.7	33.3	1.2	-9.3	6.1	3.4
1990	89.7	10.3	69.1	30.9	64.5	-80.1	8.6	-2.9

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

- Stafford County's proportion of working age population (18-65 years) is under-represented relative to the state average. In 1990, only 51 percent of the population was in its prime working age, compared to 59.5 percent for Kansas.

- Population age 65 and over comprised 23.4 percent of the total in Stafford County versus 13.8 percent in Kansas in 1990. By the year 2020, this proportion is expected to be under 20 percent in Stafford and nearly 17 percent in Kansas.

Table 2.9
Population Shares by Age Group
Stafford County and Kansas, 1990-2020

Stafford County

	Actual Population		Projected Shares of Population		
Age Group	1990	Share	2000	2010	2020
0-4	391	7.3%	7.2%	8.3%	8.2%
5-14	795	14.8	15.3	14.6	15.9
15-24	496	9.2	14.3	14.3	13.8
25-34	693	12.9	10.1	12.2	13.1
35-44	687	12.8	12.1	10.0	12.1
45-54	500	9.3	13.0	11.9	9.3
55-64	542	10.1	9.5	11.7	10.4
65+	1,256	23.4	18.3	18.6	19.6
Total	5,360	100.0			

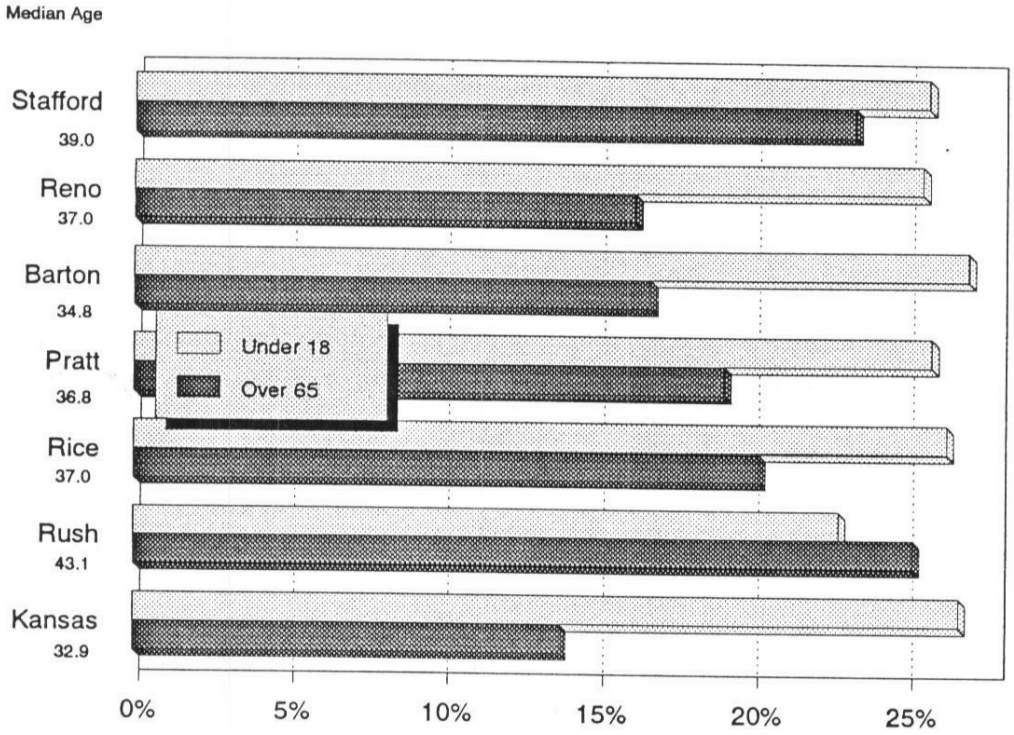
State of Kansas

	Actual Population		Projected Shares of Population		
Age Group	1990	Share	2000	2010	2020
0-4	188,390	7.6%	6.6%	6.6%	6.6%
5-14	375,454	15.2	14.6	12.8	12.7
15-24	352,263	14.2	14.5	14.0	12.3
25-34	413,173	16.7	12.8	13.8	13.4
35-44	361,326	14.6	16.5	12.1	13.2
45-54	235,388	9.5	13.7	15.5	11.5
55-64	209,009	8.4	8.5	1.3	16.8
65+	342,571	13.8	12.7	13.0	16.8
Total	2,477,574	100.0			

Sources: Actual Population - U.S. Bureau of the Census, *MARS Data for 1990 Population by Age for Kansas and Counties*; Projected population shares - from University of Kansas, Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, *Kansas Population Projections*, 1988.

Figure 2.4

Population under 18 and over 65
Stafford, Comparative Counties & Kansas



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

- Roughly half (49.1%) of Stafford county's population is in age categories traditionally classified as dependent (Under 18 and over 65) upon the prime working age population (18 through 65).

- Stafford County has the smallest proportion of its population (51%) in the prime working age category of any of the comparative counties. This is well below the Kansas average (59.5%) and the U.S. average (61.8%).

- The median age of the population in Stafford County is 39 years, considerably older than the Kansas and U.S. medians of 32.9 years. Only Rush and Edward Counties had a higher median age.

Table 2.10
Age Composition of the Population
Stafford, Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1990

	Percent of Population		
	Under 18	18-65	Over 65
Stafford	25.7%	51.0%	23.4%
Reno	25.5	58.3	16.2
Barton	27.0	56.3	16.7
Pratt	25.8	55.1	19.1
Rice	26.3	53.5	20.2
Edwards	25.0	51.6	23.4
Pawnee	25.9	55.0	19.1
Rush	22.8	52.0	25.2
Kansas	26.7	59.5	13.8
U.S.	25.6	61.8	12.6

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

Table 2.11
Median Age of the Population
Stafford, Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1980 and 1990

	Median Age	
	1980	1990
Stafford	41.9	39.0
Reno	30.6	37.0
Barton	30.8	34.8
Pratt	33.9	36.8
Rice	35.6	37.0
Edwards	37.8	39.4
Pawnee	35.1	37.4
Rush	42.0	43.1
Kansas	30.1	32.9
U.S.	30.0	32.9

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

Section III: Education

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

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

- *The highest level of completed education, ages 25 and over* demonstrates the average length of education for county residents. Lower levels may be indicative of lower skilled, less adaptable workers, while higher levels may mean a better opportunity to create, attract, and retain high growth, highly productive businesses.

- The *full time enrollment figures* provide an indication of the number of students in grades K-12. These are the people currently in the educational system that will be the workers of tomorrow.

- The *pupil-teacher ratios* compare the number of pupils and instructors in grades K-12. Low ratios suggest there may be opportunities for individual problem-solving and learning; increases in this ratio may indicate growing budgetary pressures on school districts.

- The *expenditure per pupil* reflects the financial expenditure being used to finance one year's education to a student in the public education system. Traditionally, higher expenditures per pupil have reflected the district's willingness to invest in the education of their children. However, lower expenditures per pupil may indicate an efficient school system that can deliver quality education at lower costs. High expenditures per pupil may be indicative of districts with low enrollments and fixed overhead costs.

- The *high school dropout rate* indicates the relative completion rate of high school students. High dropout rates may be the result of difficult economic or social situations. The result of high dropout rates is a workforce which is not properly prepared to participate in today's workplace without additional education.

EDUCATION: KEY FINDINGS

- Stafford County residents had the lowest levels of educational attainment of any of the comparatives in 1990.

- In Stafford County, 44.9 percent of the over-25 population have at least some college education, compared with the state average of 48.4 percent. While 18.7 percent of these Kansas residents did not finish high school, 21.3 percent of Stafford's over-25 population did not complete their high school education.

- Enrollments have been stable in Stafford County at about 1,000 students throughout the last six years.

- Weighted expenditures per pupil have increased in Stafford and all comparative counties for the period 1986 through 1991. Stafford County showed the largest increase in expenditures per student at 27.9 percent.

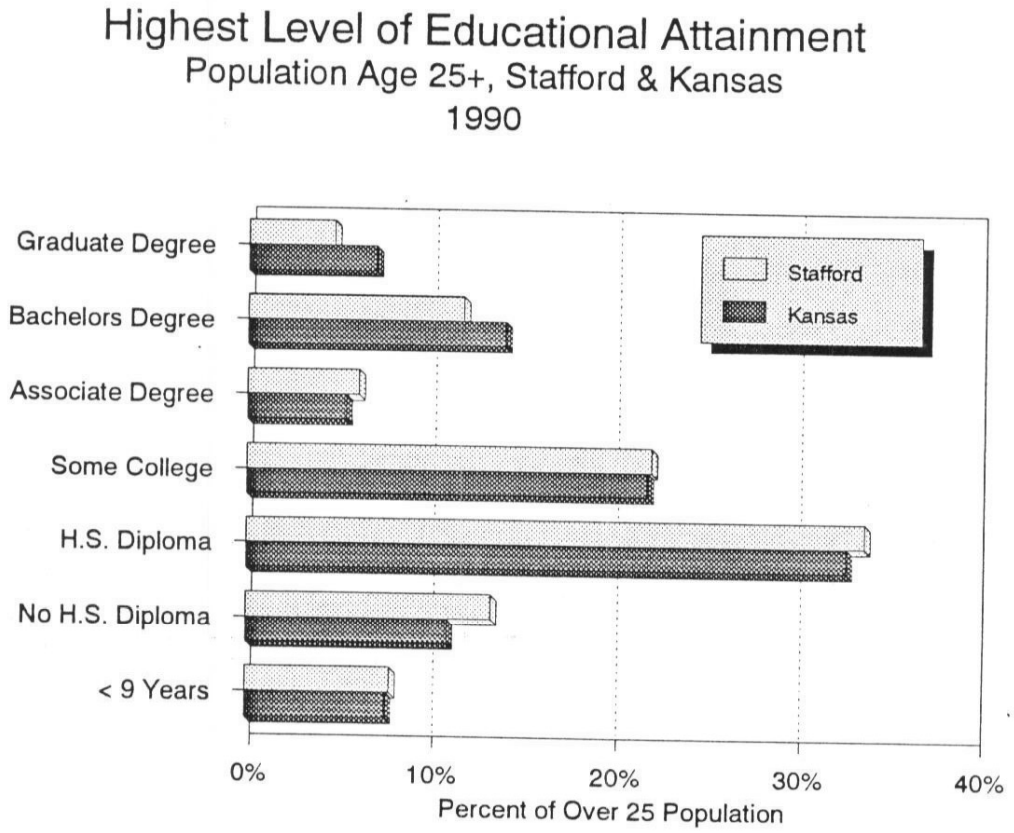
- Stafford County's dropout rates have been lower than the state's. Over the seven year period from 1984-85 to 1990-91, Stafford's dropout rate averaged 28 percent less than the state rate.

- Stafford's pupil-teacher ratio remained stable at 12.5 pupils per teacher for the 1989-90 and 1990-91 academic years.

- Stafford's pupil-teacher ratios are lower than the averages for the urban comparatives and the state as a whole.

EDUCATION: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 3.1



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

- Stafford County residents 25 years of age and older have fewer college degrees than the state average. Of these residents, 16.5 percent have a bachelors or graduate degree, compared with 21.1 for the state; 21.3 percent did not complete high school in Stafford, compared with 18.7 percent for Kansas as a whole.

- The educational attainment of Stafford County residents, 25 years of age and older, is less than most of the trade area counties. Only Rush County had a smaller proportion of its over-25 population with all levels of college education (begun or completed).

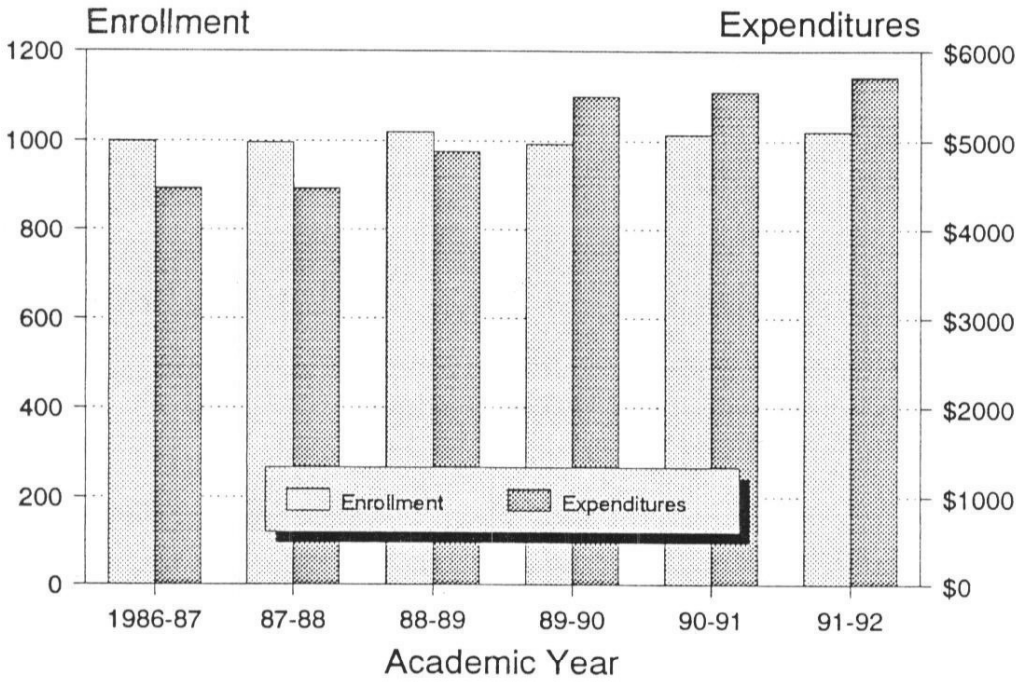
Table 3.1
Highest Level of Completed Education, 1990
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, Population 25 Years & Older

	College				High School		Elementary
	Graduate Degree	Bachelors Degree	Associate Degree	Some College	Diploma	No Diploma	Less Than 9 Years
Stafford	4.7%	11.8%	6.2%	22.2%	33.8%	13.4%	7.9%
Reno	4.5	10.5	7.3	23.4	31.8	14.4	8.2
Barton	3.9	9.7	6.9	25.1	32.4	11.8	10.2
Pratt	6.5	13.0	6.0	25.7	31.1	10.0	7.6
Rice	5.9	12.8	5.7	20.4	36.3	10.4	8.4
Edwards	3.1	10.0	4.9	21.4	36.8	10.0	13.7
Pawnee	5.2	11.5	6.3	25.5	33.5	9.8	8.2
Rush	3.9	7.6	5.0	20.6	35.5	9.0	18.4
Kansas	7.0	14.1	5.4	21.9	32.8	11.0	7.7

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

Figure 3.2

Enrollment and Expenditure Per Pupil
Stafford County, 1986-87 to 1991-92



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

- Enrollments have been stable in Stafford County at about 1,000 students throughout the last six years.

- Weighted expenditures per pupil have increased in Stafford and all comparative counties for the period 1986 through 1991. Stafford County showed the largest increase in expenditures per student at 27.9 percent.

Table 3.2
Full-Time Enrollment, Public Schools
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1986-1992

	1986-1987	1987-1988	1988-1989	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992
Stafford	998	995	1,019	993	1,014	1,020
Reno	10,534	10,418	10,374	10,408	10,500	10,487
Barton	4,792	4,795	4,773	4,850	4,875	5,009
Pratt	1,665	1,678	1,720	1,704	1,713	1,689
Urbanized Comp.*	8,039	7,970	7,940	7,926	7,990	8,018
Rice	1,863	1,850	1,834	1,881	1,940	1,943
Edwards	541	568	572	581	585	591
Pawnee	1,231	1,245	1,287	1,264	1,254	1,310
Rush	725	716	701	687	695	716
Rural Comp.*	1,334	1,321	1,324	1,361	1,373	1,387
Kansas	395,180	399,982	403,871	408,394	414,847	423,517

* Weighted averages for the comparative county groups computed by IPPBR.
Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, *Kansas Government Journal,* January 1986-1992.

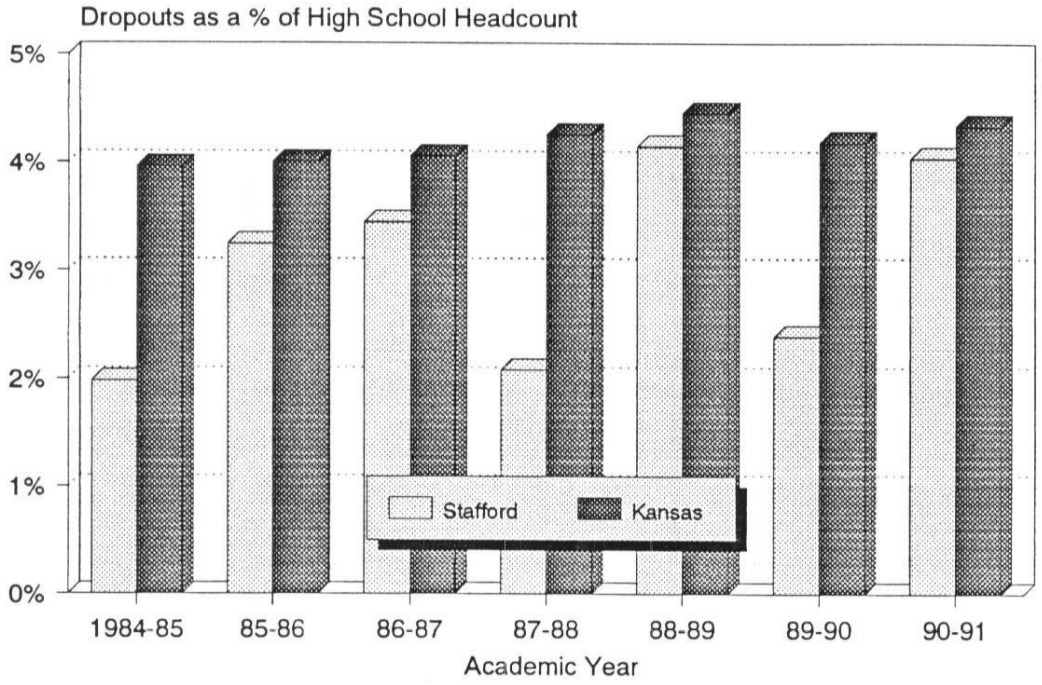
Table 3.3
Weighted Expenditure Per Pupil (Full-time equivalent)
Stafford and Comparative Counties, 1986-1992

	1986-1987	1987-1988	1988-1989	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992	% Change 1986-1992
Stafford	$4,464	$4,647	$4,876	$5,495	$5,543	$5,709	27.9%
Reno	3,073	3,225	3,363	3,572	3,668	3,844	25.1
Barton	3,251	3,288	3,462	3,619	3,740	3,725	14.6
Pratt	3,315	3,426	3,534	3,788	3,886	4,063	22.6
Urbanized Comp.	3,147	3,263	3,408	3,607	3,710	3,831	21.7
Rice	4,176	4,427	4,702	4,912	4,988	5,136	23.0
Edwards	4,637	4,579	4,974	5,252	5,397	5,426	17.0
Pawnee	4,086	4,132	4,201	4,505	4,670	4,570	11.8
Rush	4,640	4,834	5,101	5,511	5,593	5,601	20.7
Rural Comp.	4,285	4,432	4,662	4,941	5,051	5,084	18.6

Note: Data shown are weighted averages for all school districts in the county, calculated by IPPBR.
Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, *Kansas Government Journal,* January 1987-1992.

Figure 3.3

High School Dropout Rates
Stafford Co. and Kansas, 1984-1991



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

- While high school dropout rates for the state have shown an upward trend since the 1984-85 academic year, Stafford County's dropout rate has been erratic.

- Stafford County's dropout rates have been consistently lower than the state's. Over the seven year period from 1984-85 to 1990-91, Stafford's dropout rate averaged 28 percent less than the state rate.

Table 3.4
High School Dropout Rates
Stafford County and Kansas, 1984-85 to 1990-91

Academic Year	Headcount Grades 9-12	High School Dropouts	Drop Out Rate	Kansas Average Dropout Rate
1984-85	303	6	1.98%	3.96%
1985-86	309	10	3.24	4.01
1986-87	291	10	3.44	4.06
1987-88	289	6	2.08	4.26
1988-89	265	11	4.15	4.46
1989-90	251	6	2.39	4.19
1990-91	272	11	4.04	4.34
Seven-year weighted average			3.03	4.18

Note: Stafford County data shown are weighted average for USD 349 Stafford, USD 350 St. John-Hudson, USD 351 Macksville. The Kansas definition of a dropout is a pupil "who leaves a school for any reason, except death, before graduation or completion of a program of studies and without transferring to another school."
Source: Kansas State Board of Education, *Kansas USD's High School Dropouts 1984-85 Through 1988-89 and 1986-87 Through 1990-91*, January 1990, February 1992.

- Stafford's pupil-teacher ratio remained stable at 12.5 pupils per teacher for the 1989-90 and 1990-91 academic years.

- Stafford's pupil-teacher ratios are lower than the urban comparatives and state averages.

- The average pupil-teacher ratios of the rural comparison counties are marginally lower than Stafford's.

Table 3.5
Pupil-Teacher Ratio, Public Schools
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1989-90 and 1990-91

	1989-90	1990-91
Stafford	12.5	12.5
Reno	16.0	16.1
Barton	15.8	15.9
Pratt	15.3	15.4
Urban Comparatives	15.9	16.0
Rice	11.8	12.2
Edwards	11.2	10.9
Pawnee	14.0	13.7
Rush	10.6	11.0
Rural Comparatives	12.1	12.3
Kansas	15.9	16.1

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

Section IV: Employment, Earnings & Income

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

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

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

- the *size of the labor force* shows the number of people who are either working or willing to work. The size of the labor force is influenced not only by population but also by the perceptions of individuals that suitable job opportunities exist. Diverse, healthy economies tend to offer the widest variety of job opportunities and therefore attract a large number of 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 loss in jobs over a given period of time;

Income and earnings are also examined for Stafford County, the comparative counties, and Kansas using the following measures:

- *average earnings per job* is normally determined by the productivity of local labor and the performance of local businesses. Over time, wages will increase in real terms only if labor is considered to be productive and if businesses are performing well relative to their competitors.

- *per capita personal income* indicates the relative wealth of the area compared to the state. As the productivity of business and industry increase, personal per capita income also rises. Decreasing or stable rates may be the result of mature or declining industry;

- *sources of personal income* show what the population relies on for support. High proportions of wage and salary income indicate a productive local economy; reliance on outside sources of income, such as transfer payments, suggest a less productive local economy, but indicate stability in future streams of income. High ratios of proprietorship income illustrate a strong community entrepreneurial climate;

EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & INCOME: KEY FINDINGS

- The civilian labor force in Stafford County in 1991 was 2,276 people, 28 percent less than the 1984 peak of 3,154 people. On average, this rate of decline was twice that of the surrounding counties.

- Most of Stafford County's contraction in the size of the labor force occurred between 1982 and 1988 with 570 people leaving the work force. Since 1988 labor force levels have stabilized.

- Stafford County's unemployment rate during the 1980's averaged 3.6 percent. This level was 22 percent lower than that of Kansas Non-metropolitan counties, 30 percent lower than Kansas as a whole, and consistently lower than all of the comparatives except Pratt County. These low rates are at least partially due to the relatively large numbers which stopped looking for work in Stafford County during the 1980's.

- Throughout the early 1980's, employment in Stafford County remained stable at around 2,900 jobs, peaking in 1983 at 3,025 jobs but declining to 2,741 jobs in 1989.

- Over the period 1980-1989, 180 net jobs were lost in Stafford County. Most of these losses were sustained during the 1983-1986 period, when more than 9 percent of Stafford's jobs were lost. Since 1986, employment levels have remained stable in Stafford County.

- The average Stafford County job earned $13,400 in 1989, 15 percent lower than average for Kansas Non-metropolitan counties and 30 percent lower than the state averages.

- Stafford County ranked 72nd in the state in terms of 1989 average real income per job. This was well below the rankings of any of the comparative counties.

- During the last half of the decade (1985-89) the earning power of Stafford County workers declined by 1.3 percent per year in real terms. This rate of decline was greater than most of the rural comparatives, but slightly less than the declines of urban comparative counties.

- Total employment income in Stafford County increased by 22 percent from 1980-1989, barely more than half the rate for Kansas Non-metropolitan counties (42.1%).

- The level of per capita income in Stafford County in 1989 was $17,724. This was 15 percent higher than the level for Kansas Non-metropolitan counties ($15,749) and 7.2 percent higher than the state level of $16,526.

- Unlike the trends in any of its comparatives, levels of personal income in Stafford County have declined by 11 percent since 1986.

- Labor income accounted for 35.1 percent of personal in come in Stafford County in 1980 and 26.1 percent in 1989, just over half the share labor income accounted for in typical non-metropolitan Kansas communities.

- Farm proprietorship accounted for nearly one-quarter of Stafford's personal income during the 1980s. This was as important a source of income as labor force for Stafford County.

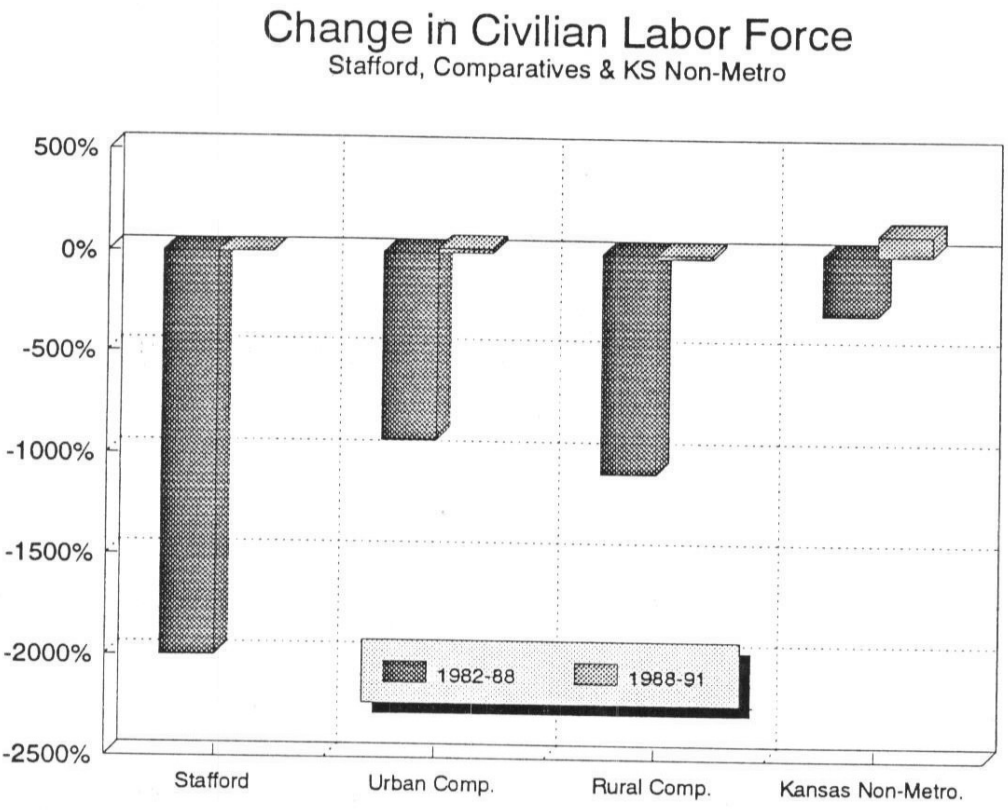
- Farm income accounted for three times the share of income that it did for the average Kansas non-metropolitan county.

- Old age, survivors and disability insurance pay accounts for nearly twice as large a share of total personal income in Stafford County than for the state as a whole.

- Combined, retirement and disability pay, old age security and disability insurance accounted for 22 percent of Stafford County personal income in 1989, compared with 17.8 percent for Kansas Non-metropolitan counties and 13.9 percent for the state as a whole. These sources accounted for similar shares of income in each of the rural comparative counties.

EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS & INCOME: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 4.1



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

- The civilian labor force in Stafford County declined steadily from a peak in 1984 of 3,154 people to the 1991 level of 2,276 people, a net loss of 20 percent of the work force.

- Between 1982 and 1988 the labor force decreased in size by 20 percent. After 1988, the civilian labor force in Stafford County stabilized.

- The rate of contraction of the labor force was greater in Stafford County than in any of the comparatives except Barton County from 1982-1988.

Table 4.1
Civilian Labor Force
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1982-1991

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Stafford	2,844	2,892	3,154	2,661	2,546	2,413	2,274	2,269	2,289	2,276
Reno	30,723	30,309	30,233	32,552	32,114	31,347	31,029	30,916	31,231	31,122
Barton	19,134	18,918	18,819	17,176	16,472	15,084	14,548	14,356	14,605	14,579
Pratt	6,124	6,022	6,112	5,885	5,404	5,144	5,179	5,152	4,943	4,784
Urban Comp.	55,981	55,249	55,164	55,613	53,990	51,575	50,756	50,424	50,779	50,485
Rice	5,715	5,612	5,539	5,329	5,124	4,933	4,908	4,822	4,821	4,768
Edwards	1,569	1,606	1,601	1,773	1,704	1,738	1,626	1,677	1,644	1,666
Pawnee	3,943	3,849	3,732	3,698	3,659	3,729	3,641	3,691	3,703	3,626
Rush	2,194	2,179	2,085	2,050	1,932	1,836	1,786	1,812	1,878	1,880
Rural Comp.	13,421	13,246	12,957	12,850	12,419	12,236	11,961	12,002	12,046	11,940
Kansas Non-Metro	580,045	579,256	578,410	580,305	568,577	569,307	562,771	563,635	569,912	568,155
Kansas (in thousands)	1,186	1,186	1,197	1,235	1,224	1,267	1,277	1,285	1,300	1,295

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

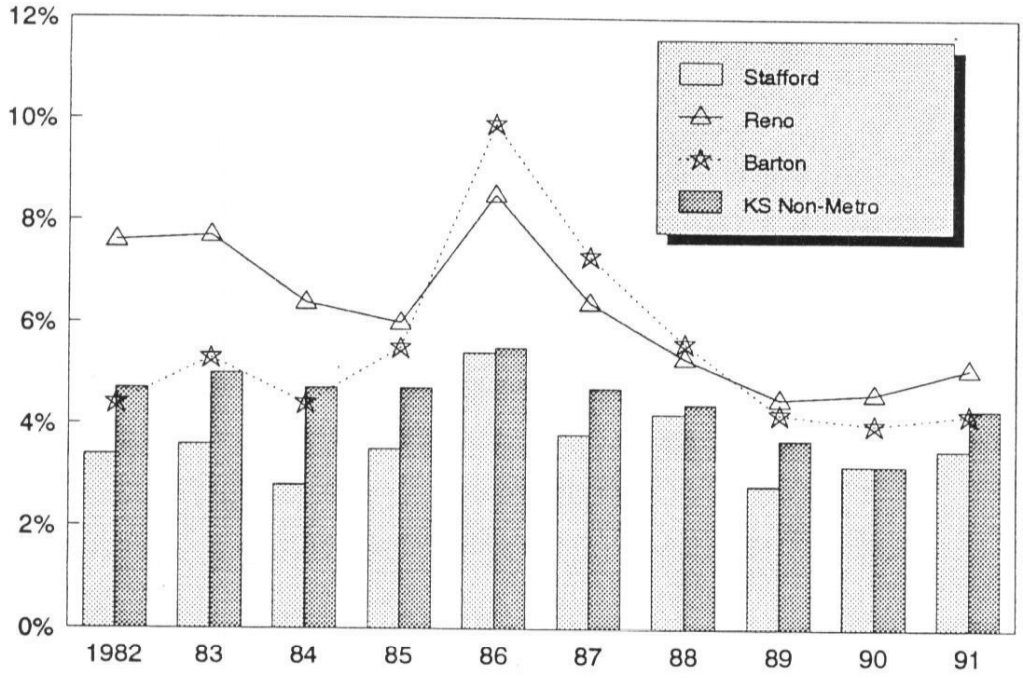
Table 4.2
Net Change in Civilian Labor Force
Stafford County, Comparatives and Kansas, 1982-1991

	Net Change in Labor Force		Percent Change in Labor Force	
	1982-1988	1988-1991	1987-1988	1988-1991
Stafford	-570	2	-20.0%	-0.0%
Reno	-306	93	-1.0	0.3
Barton	-4,586	31	-24.0	0.2
Pratt	-955	-395	-15.6	-7.6
Urban Comparatives	-5,225	91	-9.3	-0.2
Rice	-807	-140	-14.1	-2.9
Edwards	57	40	3.6	2.5
Pawnee	-302	15	-7.7	0.4
Rush	-408	94	-18.6	5.3
Rural Comparatives	-1,460	-21	-10.9	-0.2
Kansas Non-Metro	-17,274	5,384	-3.0	1.0
Kansas	91,000	18,000	7.7	1.4

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

Figure 4.2

Unemployment Rates 1982-1991
Stafford and Comparison Counties



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

- Unemployment rates in Stafford County have ranged from a low of 2.8 percent to 3.8 percent, except for the years 1986 (5.4%) and 1988 (4.2%). The ten-year average unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in Stafford, compared with 4.6 percent for Kansas Non-metropolitan counties as a whole.

- Sharp declines in the size of the labor force have contributed to lower unemployment rates, as some residents stopped looking for work or retired.

- Of the comparative counties, only Pratt County has had consistently lower rates of unemployment over the past ten years.

- Unemployment rates have been more stable in Stafford County than nearly all of the comparatives. However, some of this can be attributed to the decline of the Stafford County labor force. The large numbers who have withdrawn from looking for work have not been recorded as unemployed, which would affect unemployment figures positively.

Table 4.3
Unemployment Rate, 1982-1991 (Place of Residence)
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Stafford	3.4%	3.6%	2.8%	3.5%	5.4%	3.8%	4.2%	2.8%	3.1%	3.5%
Reno	7.6	7.7	6.4	6.0	8.5	6.4	5.3	4.5	4.6	5.1
Barton	4.4	5.3	4.4	5.5	9.9	7.3	5.6	4.2	4.0	4.2
Pratt	1.9	3.7	3.0	3.2	6.6	4.8	3.6	3.1	3.0	2.8
Rice	2.5	4.7	4.7	4.8	7.1	5.4	4.6	4.1	3.8	4.1
Edwards	3.8	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.6	2.6	2.2	3.2
Pawnee	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.9	3.3	2.9	2.5	3.1	2.5
Rush	3.6	4.0	4.5	4.8	6.6	4.3	4.8	2.9	3.2	3.3
Kansas Non-Metro	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.7	5.5	4.7	4.4	3.7	4.1	4.3
Kansas	6.2	6.1	5.3	5.0	5.5	4.9	4.8	4.0	4.4	4.4

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

Table 4.4
Average Annual Employment (Place of Work)
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980-1989

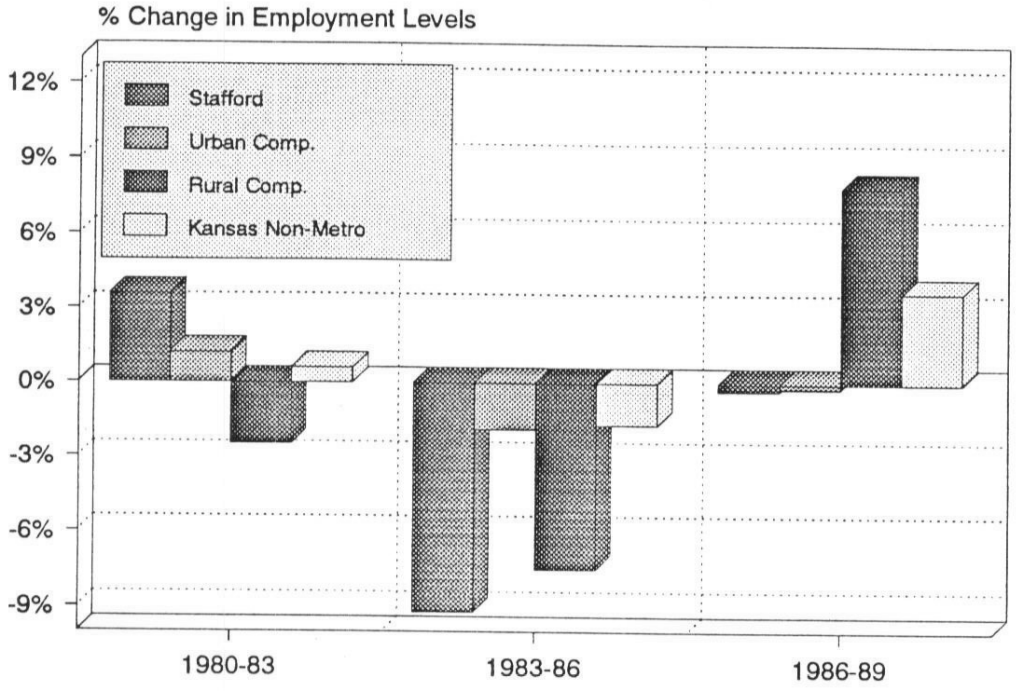
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Stafford	2,920	2,869	2,934	3,025	2,987	2,916	2,749	2,748	2,668	2,741
Reno	35,013	34,376	33,673	33,525	34,376	35,278	34,558	33,752	34,349	34,746
Barton	19,796	20,797	20,683	20,204	20,941	20,541	18,583	18,030	17,965	18,116
Pratt	5,745	5,946	6,226	6,119	6,314	6,379	5,728	5,610	5,817	5,860
Urban Comp.	60,554	61,119	60,582	59,848	61,631	62,198	58,869	57,392	58,131	58,722
Rice	6,126	5,994	5,995	5,992	6,074	5,927	5,580	5,455	5,507	5,388
Edwards	2,320	2,137	2,121	2,171	2,195	2,076	1,999	2,031	2,053	2,036
Pawnee	4,624	4,590	4,588	4,525	4,436	4,328	4,216	4,422	4,517	4,543
Rush	2,467	2,443	2,446	2,465	2,460	2,383	2,225	2,185	2,184	2,228
Rural Comp.	15,537	15,164	15,150	15,153	15,165	14,714	14,020	14,093	14,261	14,195
Kansas Non-Metro	624,269	626,198	622,383	627,842	638,940	633,684	617,443	622,122	633,576	640,084
Kansas (in thousands)	1,286.7	1,293.1	1,282.3	1,294.4	1,341.2	1,354.5	1,361.5	1,389.7	1,426.6	1,456.0

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA25, Peer county calculations by University of Kansas, IPPBR-KCCED.

Figure 4.3

Job Creation Rates, 1980-1989

Stafford, Comparatives & KS Non-Metro



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

- Throughout the early 1980's, employment in Stafford County remained stable at around 2,900 jobs. The net loss of about 170 jobs in 1986 had not been replaced by 1989.

- Employment levels in Stafford County peaked in 1983 at 3,025 jobs but declined to 2,741 jobs in 1989.

- Over the period 1980-1989, 179 net jobs were lost in Stafford County. Most of these losses were sustained during the 1983-1986 period, when more than 9 percent of Stafford's jobs were lost. Since 1986, employment levels have remained stable in Stafford County.

- Stafford County has mirrored job creation trends in the urban comparative counties. Recent job creation rates in the rural comparative counties, around 8 percent, have not been matched in Stafford, with no net new jobs created between 1986 and 1989.

- Throughout the 1980s, Stafford and virtually all of the comparative counties performed poorly in relation to the job creation rates of other non-metropolitan counties and Kansas as a whole.

Table 4.5
Net Change and Percentage Change in Employment
Stafford County, Comparatives and Kansas, 1980-1989

	Net Job Creation			Percent Change		
	1980-83	1983-86	1986-89	1980-83	1983-86	1986-89
Stafford	105	-277	8	3.6%	-9.2%	-0.3%
Reno	-1,488	1,033	188	-4.2	3.1	0.5
Barton	408	-1,621	-467	2.1	-8.0	-2.5
Pratt	374	-391	132	6.5	-6.4	2.3
Urban Comparatives	-706	-1,159	-147	1.2	-1.9	-0.2
Rice	-134	-412	-192	-2.2	-6.9	-3.4
Edwards	-149	-172	37	-6.4	-7.9	1.9
Pawnee	-99	-309	215	-2.1	-6.8	5.1
Rush	-2	-240	3	-0.1	-9.7	0.1
Rural Comparatives	-384	-1,133	175	-2.5	-7.5	7.9
Kansas Non-Metro	3,573	-10,399	22,641	0.6	-1.7	3.7
Kansas	7,700	67,100	94,500	0.6	5.2	6.9

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA25, Peer county calculations by University of Kansas, IPPBR-KCCED.

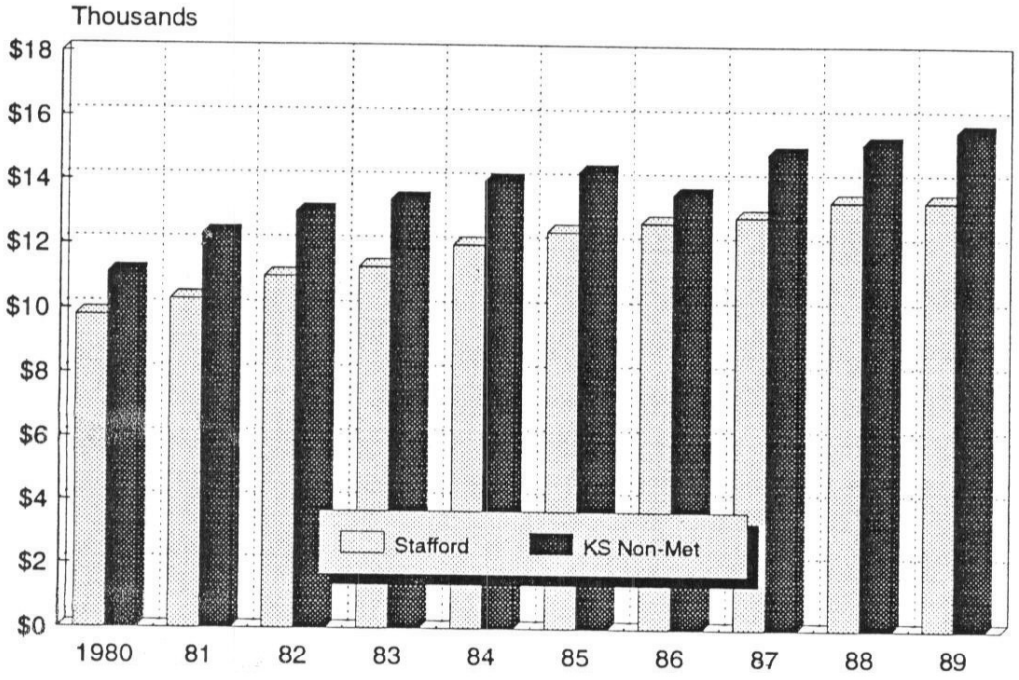
Table 4.6
Nine-Year Change and Percentage Change in Employment
Stafford County, Comparatives and Kansas, 1980-1989

	Change in Employment Levels 1980-1989	Percent Change 1980-1989
Stafford	-179	-6.1%
Reno	-267	-0.1
Barton	-1,680	-8.5
Pratt	-115	2.0
Urban Comparatives	-1,832	-3.0
Rice	-738	-12.0
Edwards	-284	-12.2
Pawnee	-81	-1.8
Rush	-239	-9.7
Rural Comparatives	-1,342	-8.6
Kansas Non-Metro	15,815	2.5
Kansas	169,300	13.2

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA25, Peer county calculations by University of Kansas, IPPBR-KCCED.

Figure 4.4

Average Earnings 1980-1989
Stafford and Kansas Non-Metro Counties



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

- The average Stafford County job earned $13,400 in 1989, 15 percent lower than average for Kansas Non-metropolitan counties and 30 percent lower than the state averages and 40 percent lower than the national average.

- Stafford County's average earnings per job was lower than all of its peer counties for every year from 1980 to 1986, with only modest relative gains in 1987 and 1988.

Table 4.7
Average Earnings Per Job by Place of Work (in $ Thousands)
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980-1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Stafford	$9.8	$10.3	$11.0	$11.3	$12.0	$12.4	$12.7	$12.9	$13.4	$13.4
Reno	12.6	13.7	14.5	15.1	15.5	15.9	16.2	16.5	17.5	17.5
Barton	12.6	14.5	15.2	15.5	16.0	16.4	15.9	15.7	16.1	16.4
Pratt	11.4	12.6	13.4	13.7	14.4	14.7	14.5	14.5	14.7	15.6
Rice	11.4	12.8	13.1	13.4	14.0	14.7	14.9	15.0	15.2	15.7
Edwards	9.9	10.8	11.1	11.5	11.7	12.4	12.7	12.7	13.0	13.8
Pawnee	9.8	10.7	11.4	12.2	13.3	14.3	15.0	14.0	14.6	15.1
Rush	10.0	10.9	11.3	11.4	12.0	12.4	12.7	12.7	12.9	14.5
Kansas Non-Metro	11.1	12.3	13.0	13.4	14.0	14.3	14.6	14.9	15.2	15.6
Kansas	12.7	14.0	14.8	15.5	16.2	16.8	17.5	17.9	18.5	19.0
U.S.	14.0	15.3	16.3	17.1	17.9	18.7	19.5	20.4	21.4	22.1

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

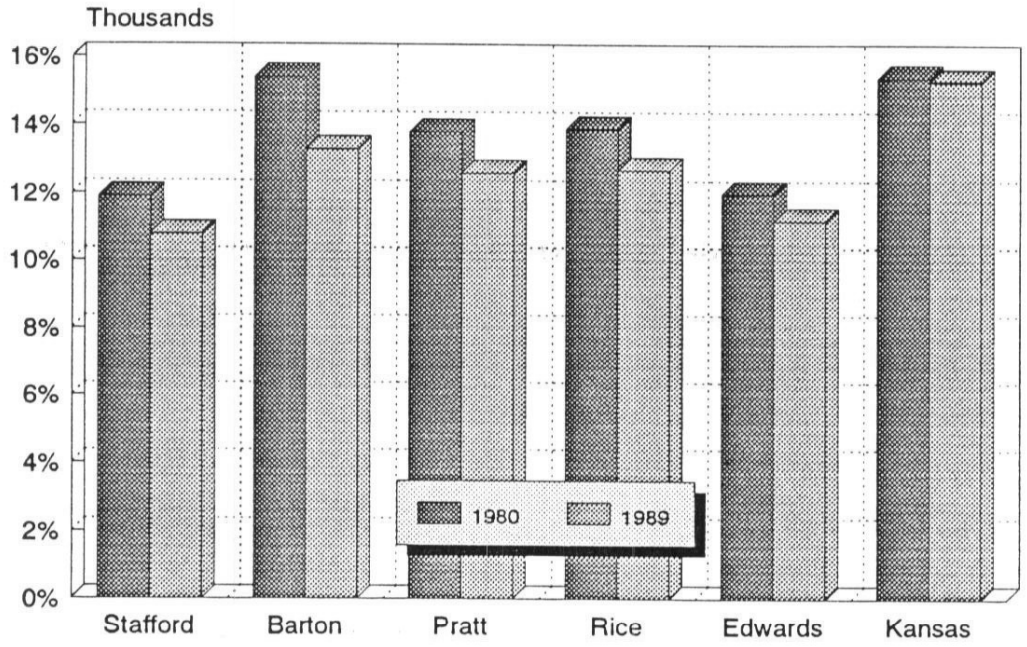
Table 4.8
Average Earnings Per Job by Place of Work, Percent Change
Stafford, Comparative Counties, Kansas and U.S., 1980-1989

	Net Change ($000)	Percent Change
Stafford	$3.6	36.7%
Reno	4.9	38.9
Barton	3.8	30.2
Pratt	4.2	36.8
Rice	4.3	37.7
Edwards	3.9	39.4
Pawnee	5.3	54.1
Rush	4.5	45.0
Kansas Non-Metro	4.5	40.5
Kansas	6.3	49.6
U.S.	8.1	57.9

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

Figure 4.5

Average Real Income Per Job
Wage & Salary Workers
in 1982-1984 Dollars



Source: Wichita State University, Center for Economic Development and Business Research, Business and Economic Report, June 1991.

- Stafford County ranked 72nd in the state in terms of 1989 real average income per job. This was well below the rankings of any of the comparative counties.

- Average real income per job fell 9.2 percent from 1980 to 1989. This trend was similar for Stafford's peer counties, the Kansas Non-metropolitan counties and the state.

- During the last half of the decade (1985-89), the earning power of Stafford County workers declined by 1.3 percent per year in real terms. This rate of decline was greater than most of the rural comparatives, but slightly less than the declines of urban comparative counties.

Table 4.9
Average Real Income Per Job* for Wage and Salary Workers
(in Thousands of 1982-1984 Dollars)
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980-1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	Rank**
Stafford	$11.9	$11.3	$11.4	$11.3	$11.6	$11.5	$11.6	$11.3	$11.3	$10.8	72
Reno	15.3	15.1	15.0	15.1	14.9	14.8	14.8	14.5	14.8	14.1	11
Barton	15.4	16.0	15.7	15.5	15.4	15.3	14.5	13.8	13.6	13.3	20
Pratt	13.8	13.9	13.9	13.8	13.9	13.7	13.2	12.8	12.4	12.6	35
Rice	13.9	14.0	13.6	13.5	13.5	13.6	13.6	13.2	12.9	12.7	32
Edwards	12.0	11.8	11.5	11.5	11.3	11.6	11.6	11.2	11.0	11.2	63
Pawnee	11.9	11.8	11.8	12.3	12.8	13.3	13.7	12.3	12.3	12.2	40
Rush	12.1	12.0	11.7	11.4	11.5	11.5	11.6	11.2	10.9	11.7	48
Kansas	15.4	15.3	15.3	15.5	15.6	15.7	15.9	15.8	15.6	15.3	NA

*Average Income Per Job = Wage and Salary Income/Wage and Salary Employment.
**Rank based on Average Real Income Per Job in 1989.
Source: Wichita State University, Center for Economic Development and Business Research, Business and Economic Report, June 1991.

Table 4.10
Average Real Income Per Job for Wage and Salary Workers,
Percent Annual Growth Rate
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980-1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	Avg*	Rank**
Stafford	-5.7%	-4.4%	1.0%	-1.1%	2.6%	-1.0%	1.1%	-2.5%	0.2%	-4.4%	-1.3%	73
Reno	-1.5	-1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.4	-1.0	0.2	-2.0	1.9	-4.5	-1.1	64
Barton	0.3	4.1	-1.6	-1.1	-0.7	-1.0	-5.0	-4.7	-1.2	-2.8	-2.9	99
Pratt	-0.1	0.3	-0.3	-0.5	0.9	-1.8	-3.6	-2.9	-3.2	1.5	-2.0	89
Rice	-1.7	1.2	-3.1	-0.8	0.2	0.9	-0.4	-2.9	-2.5	-1.7	-1.3	72
Edwards	-5.5	-1.4	-2.4	-0.3	-1.8	2.4	0.0	-3.2	-1.7	1.4	-0.2	17
Pawnee	-4.8	-1.2	0.0	4.2	4.4	3.8	2.9	-9.9	-0.2	-1.0	-0.9	53
Rush	-1.0	-1.3	-2.0	-2.3	0.8	-0.1	0.5	-3.7	-2.1	6.8	0.3	6
Kansas	-3.3	-0.3	0	1.3	0.6	0.2	1.7	-1.2	-0.9	-2.1	-0.5	

*Average Annual growth rate 1985-89.
**Rank based on average annual growth rate for Kansas counties 1985-89.
Source: Wichita State University, Center for Economic Development and Business Research, Business and Economic Report, June 1991.

- The level of wages, salaries and other labor income in Stafford County increased by nearly 22 percent over the decade. This growth rate was less than that of the comparative counties (about 25%) and barely more than half the Kansas Non-metropolitan rate (42%).

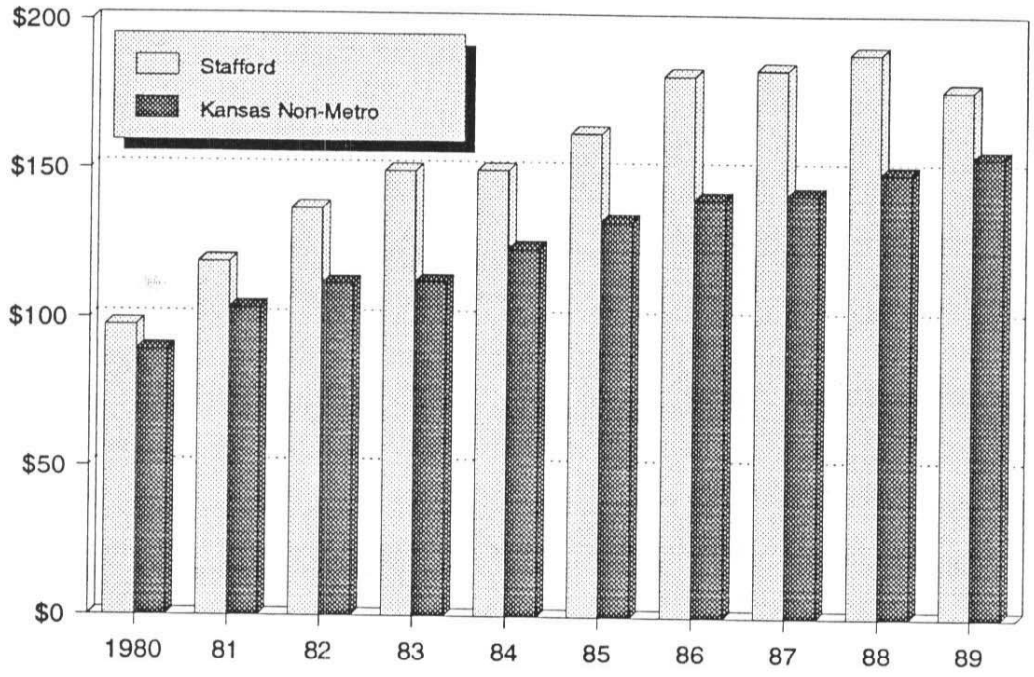
Table 4.11
Wages, Salaries and Other Labor Income (in $ Millions)
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980-1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	Percent Change 1980-89
Stafford	$19.6	$19.6	$21.9	$22.5	$24.1	$24.0	$22.9	$23.0	$22.7	$23.8	21.8%
Reno	405.3	430.3	438.2	448.8	469.6	491.2	493.5	489.1	527.6	534.5	31.9
Barton	220.8	266.4	275.4	268.0	286.2	283.5	248.8	236.7	241.6	248.1	12.4
Pratt	54.7	63.2	70.0	69.3	75.4	77.1	67.2	65.7	69.3	74.2	35.7
Urban Comp.	680.9	759.9	783.6	786.1	831.1	851.8	809.6	791.5	838.6	856.9	25.9
Rice	56.3	60.7	62.1	61.7	64.7	64.5	62.6	62.4	64.2	63.9	13.5
Edwards	17.3	16.8	17.2	17.9	18.5	18.4	18.0	18.6	19.4	20.3	17.6
Pawnee	36.2	39.1	41.4	43.1	45.3	46.9	47.6	48.1	51.2	53.3	47.4
Rush	16.0	17.1	17.7	17.3	18.1	17.9	16.9	16.6	16.9	19.6	22.5
Rural Comp.	125.7	133.7	138.4	140.0	146.6	147.7	145.1	145.7	151.7	157.1	25.0
Kansas Non-Metro (billions)	5.7	6.3	6.6	6.8	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.8	8.1	42.1
Kansas (billions)	14.7	16.1	16.8	17.5	19.0	19.8	20.8	21.8	23.1	24.2	64.6

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

Figure 4.6

Per Capita Personal Income Levels
Stafford and Kansas Non-Metro, 1980-1989



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

- Stafford County's per capita income levels have been consistently higher than those levels of Stafford's peer counties, the Kansas Non-metropolitan counties and the state.

- Stafford County's average per capita income level from 1985-1989 was 24.3 percent higher than the Kansas Non-metropolitan average and 18.6 percent higher than the state average.

- Per capita income levels rose by 81.7 percent in Stafford County during the 1980s. This was a larger increase than that of Kansas and the nation.

Table 4.12
Per Capita Personal Income Levels
Stafford, Comparative Counties, Kansas and the U.S., 1980-1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Stafford	$9,755	$11,897	$13,674	$14,925	$14,967	$16,240	$18,185	$18,399	$18,956	$17,724
Reno	9,446	10,593	11,306	11,694	12,251	12,973	13,156	13,261	14,240	14,829
Barton	10,466	12,500	12,874	12,704	13,568	14,001	13,568	14,356	15,164	16,038
Pratt	8,744	10,818	12,152	11,827	13,386	14,457	14,932	14,496	16,154	16,191
Rice	9,744	10,694	11,936	11,930	12,474	13,500	13,882	13,540	14,074	14,363
Edwards	7,865	12,189	12,562	12,502	15,048	16,509	17,661	18,694	20,243	17,831
Pawnee	8,450	10,840	12,035	11,408	13,159	13,877	15,704	16,043	16,581	17,007
Rush	10,244	11,330	12,826	12,145	13,428	13,672	14,539	14,814	14,712	16,135
Kansas Non-Metro	8,933	10,363	11,171	11,232	12,378	13,306	14,052	14,219	14,938	15,479
Kansas	9,941	11,188	11,809	12,133	13,017	13,804	14,470	14,966	15,699	16,526
U.S.	9,919	10,949	11,482	12,100	13,116	13,899	14,597	15,425	16,510	17,592

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

Table 4.13
Ten-Year Percent Change in Per Capita Income
Stafford County, Comparatives, Kansas and U.S., 1980-1989

	Percent Change 1980-1989
Stafford	81.7%
Reno	57.0
Barton	53.2
Pratt	85.2
Rice	47.4
Edwards	126.7
Pawnee	101.3
Rush	57.5
Kansas Non-Metro	73.3
Kansas	66.2
U.S.	77.4

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

- Stafford County's total nominal personal income levels grew 62.5 percent from 1980-1989, consistent with the growth rate of Non-metropolitan counties (63.3%) and the state average of 76.2 percent over the decade.

- Unlike the trends in any of its comparatives, levels of personal income in Stafford County have declined by 11 percent since 1986.

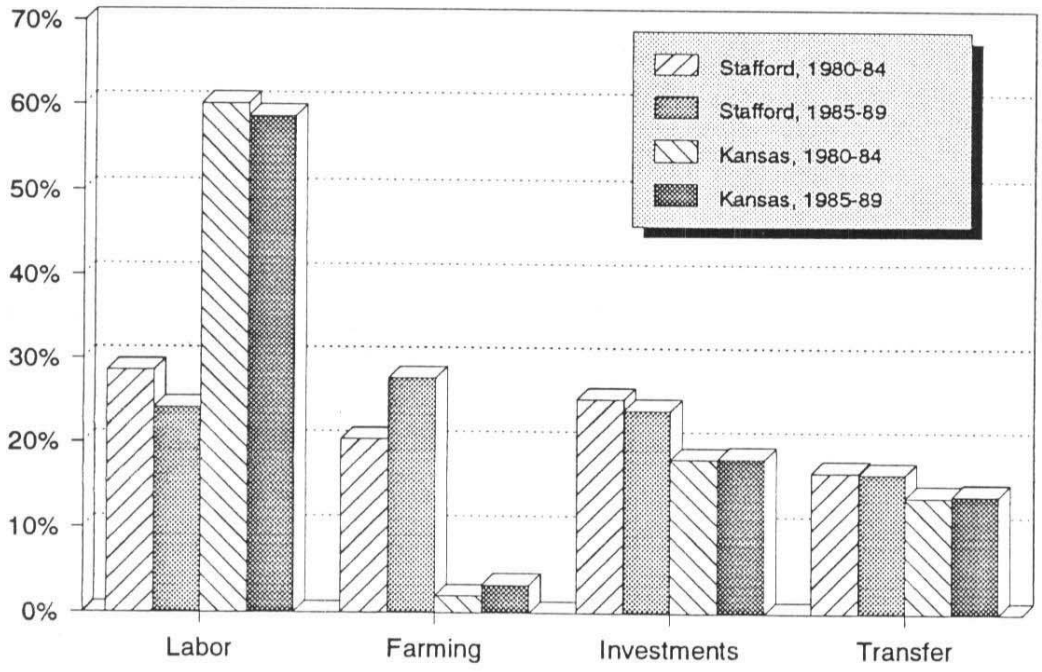
Table 4.14
Total Personal Income Levels (Place of Residence)
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980-1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
	(in Millions of Current Dollars)									
Stafford	$55.7	$68.5	$79.4	$85.8	$86.8	$93.2	$101.8	$98.5	$99.7	$90.5
Reno	614.2	689.1	734.0	761.1	795.3	844.9	861.5	863.5	921.1	956.8
Barton	329.8	401.4	423.7	420.5	449.6	462.5	439.1	446.4	460.1	472.9
Pratt	90.4	114.4	131.7	130.5	146.3	158.5	161.2	150.8	164.9	161.3
Urban Comp.	1,034.4	1,204.9	1,289.4	1,312.1	1,391.2	1,465.9	1,461.8	1,460.7	1,546.1	1,590.9
Rice	115.8	125.9	139.8	139.2	145.1	153.2	155.2	150.2	153.5	154.5
Edwards	33.5	50.9	52.1	52.1	62.1	67.0	69.9	73.2	78.8	68.4
Pawnee	68.4	88.7	99.0	94.3	107.1	110.2	121.4	121.6	124.6	125.4
Rush	46.2	50.9	57.2	54.1	59.3	58.9	60.5	58.8	55.8	58.7
Rural Comp.	263.8	316.3	348.1	339.7	373.7	389.3	407.0	403.8	412.6	407.0
	(in Billions of Current Dollars)									
Kansas Non-Metro	10.5	12.1	13.0	13.3	14.3	15.0	15.5	15.7	16.4	17.1
Kansas	23.6	26.7	28.5	29.5	31.8	33.8	35.6	37.1	39.2	41.5

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

Figure 4.6

Share of Personal Income, By Source
1980-84 to 1985-89 Averages



Source: University of Kansas, Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, Kansas Statistical Abstract 1989-90; Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

- Labor income accounted for 35.1 percent of personal income in Stafford County in 1980 and 26.1 percent in 1989, just over half the share labor income accounted for in typical non-metropolitan Kansas communities.

- Farm proprietorships accounted for nearly one-quarter of Stafford's personal income during the 1980s. This was as important a source of income as labor income for Stafford County.

- Farm income accounted for three times the share of income that it did for the average Kansas Non-metropolitan county.

Table 4.15
Components of Personal Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income
Stafford and Comparative Counties

	Wages, Salaries and Other Labor Income	Dividends, Proprietorship Farm	Dividends, Proprietorship Non-Farm	Interest, & Rent	Total Transfer Payments	Other Adjustments	Personal Income
Stafford County							
1980	35.1%	8.9%	12.7%	25.3%	17.9%	0.1%	100.0%
1981	28.7	16.0	9.5	27.1	17.2	1.5	100.0
1982	27.6	23.3	8.1	24.5	16.0	0.5	100.0
1983	26.2	25.4	7.4	25.0	15.8	0.2	100.0
1984	27.7	23.6	7.7	24.7	16.5	-0.2	100.0
1985	25.7	26.8	7.3	24.5	15.7	0.0	100.0
1986	22.5	33.2	7.3	22.2	15.0	-0.2	100.0
1987	23.3	31.4	7.9	21.8	15.8	-0.2	100.0
1988	22.8	29.6	8.3	22.8	16.4	0.1	100.0
1989	26.3	16.5	9.5	28.7	19.5	-0.5	100.0
Weighted Avg. 1980-89	26.1	24.5	8.4	24.5	16.5	0.0	100.0
Reno County							
1980-1984 Average	61.0	3.2	7.9	20.0	14.0	-6.1	100.0
1985-1989 Average	56.5	3.3	8.5	21.0	15.1	-4.4	100.0
Barton County							
1980-1984 Average	65.0	1.2	8.7	19.4	11.9	-6.2	100.0
1985-1989 Average	55.2	4.1	9.4	22.0	14.8	-5.5	100.0
Pratt County							
1980-1984 Average	54.2	4.3	9.4	22.0	15.4	-5.3	100.0
1985-1989 Average	44.4	12.8	9.4	21.6	16.4	-4.6	100.0
Rice County							
1980-1984 Average	45.9	4.7	7.9	23.2	18.6	-0.3	100.0
1985-1989 Average	41.4	8.1	7.4	24.9	18.7	-0.5	100.0
Edwards County							
1980-1984 Average	34.9	14.1	7.3	27.9	16.9	-1.1	100.0
1985-1989 Average	26.5	31.3	6.5	21.9	14.8	-1.0	100.0
Pawnee County							
1980-1984 Average	44.8	10.6	8.8	24.5	15.9	-4.6	100.0
1985-1989 Average	41.0	17.7	8.9	21.5	16.0	-5.1	100.0
Rush County							
1980-1984 Average	32.2	13.6	8.4	27.4	16.5	1.9	100.0
1985-1989 Average	30.0	8.7	9.6	26.7	23.1	1.9	100.0
Kansas Non-Metro							
1980-1984 Average	51.7	4.1	8.8	20.6	15.9	-1.1	100.0
1985-1989 Average	47.3	7.1	9.1	21.0	16.7	-1.2	100.0
Kansas							
1980-1984 Average	60.0	2.0	7.6	18.1	13.7	-1.4	100.0
1985-1989 Average	58.6	3.3	8.0	18.2	13.9	-2.0	100.0

Source: University of Kansas, Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, Kansas Statistical Abstract 1989-90; Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Table CA5.

Table 4.16
Share of Personal Income, Selected Sources
Stafford County and Kansas, 1980-1984 and 1985-1989

	Proprietorships				
	Labor	Farm	Non-Farm	Transfers	Investments
Stafford County					
1980-84	28.6%	20.4%	9.1%	16.6%	25.2%
1985-89	24.1	27.7	8.1	16.4	23.9
Kansas					
1980-84	60.1	2.0	7.6	13.7	18.1
1985-89	58.6	3.3	8.0	13.9	18.2

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

Table 4.17
Retirement and Disability Pay as a Percentage of Total Personal Income*
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980-1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Stafford	10.8%	10.4%	9.9%	9.8%	10.2%	9.7%	9.3%	9.8%	10.1%	11.8%
Reno	7.6	8.0	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.9	9.2	9.2	9.4
Barton	6.7	6.5	6.8	7.3	7.2	7.4	8.3	8.5	8.8	9.2
Pratt	10.0	9.2	8.8	9.4	8.7	8.3	8.5	9.3	9.1	10.0
Rice	9.3	10.0	9.9	10.6	10.6	10.4	10.6	11.2	11.5	12.1
Edwards	12.1	9.4	10.4	11.1	9.5	9.1	9.1	8.8	8.6	10.3
Pawnee	11.2	10.0	9.8	10.9	9.7	10.0	9.6	9.9	9.9	10.6
Rush	9.9	10.6	10.6	11.9	11.4	12.1	12.0	12.4	13.1	13.4
Kansas Non-Metro	9.1	9.2	9.4	9.8	9.4	9.4	9.5	9.7	9.8	10.0
Kansas	7.5	7.7	8.0	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.0

*Includes Old Age Security and Disability Insurance, Railroad Retirement and Disability Insurance Pay, Federal Civilian Employee Retirement Pay, Military Retirement Pay, State and Local Government Employee Retirement Pay, Workers Compensation and Other Government Disability Insurance and Retirement Pay.
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Tables CA5 and CA35.

- Old age, survivors and disability insurance pay accounts for nearly twice as large a share of total personal income in Stafford County than for the State as a whole.

- Combined, retirement and disability pay and old age security and disability insurance pay accounted for 22 percent of Stafford County's personal income in 1989, compared with 17.8 percent for Kansas Non-metropolitan counties and 13.9 percent for the state as a whole. These sources accounted for similar shares of income in each of the rural comparative counties.

Table 4.18
Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Pay as a Percentage of Total Personal Income*
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980-1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Stafford	9.4%	9.0%	8.7%	8.6%	9.0%	8.4%	8.0%	8.5%	8.8%	10.2%
Reno	6.2	6.6	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.7
Barton	5.6	5.5	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.3	7.0	7.3	7.5	7.8
Pratt	7.7	7.1	6.8	7.3	6.8	6.6	6.8	7.4	7.2	7.9
Rice	8.0	8.6	8.6	9.1	9.2	9.0	9.2	9.7	9.9	10.4
Edwards	10.6	8.4	9.2	9.8	8.5	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.5	9.0
Pawnee	9.2	8.3	8.3	9.1	8.1	8.2	7.8	8.0	8.0	8.5
Rush	8.5	9.2	9.2	10.3	10.0	10.6	10.5	10.9	11.2	11.4
Kansas Non-Metro	7.1	7.2	7.4	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.8
Kansas	5.5	5.7	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9

*These payments are popularly known as social security, and consist of the total cash benefits paid during the year, including monthly benefits paid to retired workers, dependents, and survivors and special payments to persons 72 years of age and over; lump sum payments to survivors; and disability payments to workers and their dependents.
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Tables CA5 and CA35.

Section V: Geographic Location and Infrastructure

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

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

- *land area and population density* show how extensive the public infrastructure needs of the community are. Densely populated communities can usually deliver public services such as water and sewer systems more cost effectively;

- *natural resources* and *percent of land in farms* indicate the natural assets and the economic opportunities provided by the land;

- *average annual precipitation* indicates how favorable the land in the area is for agriculture and indicates how much demand can be placed upon local water supplies through settlement or manufacturing and processing;

- *highway and rail transportation networks* show how well connected the community is with external sources of supplies and customers for local firms;

- *traffic counts* help estimate the demands being made upon the existing infrastructure, and provides an indication of changing patterns in economic activity, as communities become more interdependent; and

- *the accessibility of water and sewer systems* indicate the levels of service available within a community.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: KEY FINDINGS

- Stafford County is located in the central part of the state, traversed by US 50 and 281 and Kansas 19. This location is accessible to key major markets as it is less than 100 miles from Wichita, roughly 250 miles from both Kansas City and Oklahoma City and less than 500 miles from Denver.

- Stafford County is sparsely populated, at 6.5 persons per square mile; the Kansas average is 30.2 persons per square mile.

- Stafford County's highway network is comparable to those of comparative counties.

- Over 2,600 vehicles daily pass into and out of Stafford County at the Barton County border. This represents one-third of all traffic entering and exiting Stafford County.

- Heavy commercial traffic entering and leaving Stafford County increased by 76 percent from 1980 to 1990.

- The percentage of permanent residences connected to water and sewer services is relatively low.

- Stafford County is sparsely populated, at 6.5 persons per square mile. Only Rush and Edwards have lower population density. The Kansas average density is 30.2 persons per square mile.

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

	Land Area (Square Miles)	Population Per Square Mile
Stafford	788	6.5
Reno	1,259	49.4
Barton	895	32.8
Pratt	735	13.2
Rice	728	14.6
Edwards	620	6.1
Pawnee	755	10.0
Rush	718	5.3
Kansas	81,778	30.2

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

- The county experiences wide variations in temperature and precipitation. Temperatures in January range from an average low of 19 degrees to an average high of 41 degrees. July average low and high temperatures are, respectively, 68 and 94 degrees.

- Average annual precipitation in the county is 24.2 inches. This is less than that experienced by most eastern counties, more than that received by the state's far western counties but comparable to the statewide average, 26.6 inches.

Table 5.2
Thirty-Year (1951-80) Average Annual Precipitation, Kansas
(in inches)

Stafford	24.2
North West	19.9
West Central	19.6
South West	18.6
North Central	26.3
Central	27.7
South Central	26.3
North East	34.3
East Central	35.4
South East	36.5
Statewide	27.0

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

- Stafford County has a relatively low percentage of its land in farms (92%) relative to the neighboring counties.

- Oil, gas, and timber are the principal natural resources found in Stafford. Each of these are also available in the surrounding counties.

Table 5.3
Natural Resources and Percent of Land in Farms

	Percent of Land in Farms	Natural Resources
Stafford	92	OIL, GAS, TIM
Urban Comparatives		
Reno	91	SAL, SAN, OIL, GAS, TIM
Barton	99	SAN, GRA, CLA, OIL, GAS, TIM
Pratt	99	VOL, SAN, GRA, OIL, GAS, TIM
Rural Comparatives		
Rice	97	SAL, CRU, SAN, GRA, OIL, GAS
Edwards	99	SAN, GRA, OIL, GAS, TIM
Pawnee	99	OIL, GAS, TIM
Rush	96	OIL, GAS, TIM

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

- The county has 1445 miles of public highways, of which 70 are state highways. Its public highway network is somewhat less extensive than those found in Reno and Barton Counties but is comparable to those found in most other comparison counties.

- The county has rail access to markets; it is served by two carriers, Atchison-Topeka & Santa Fe and Missouri Pacific.

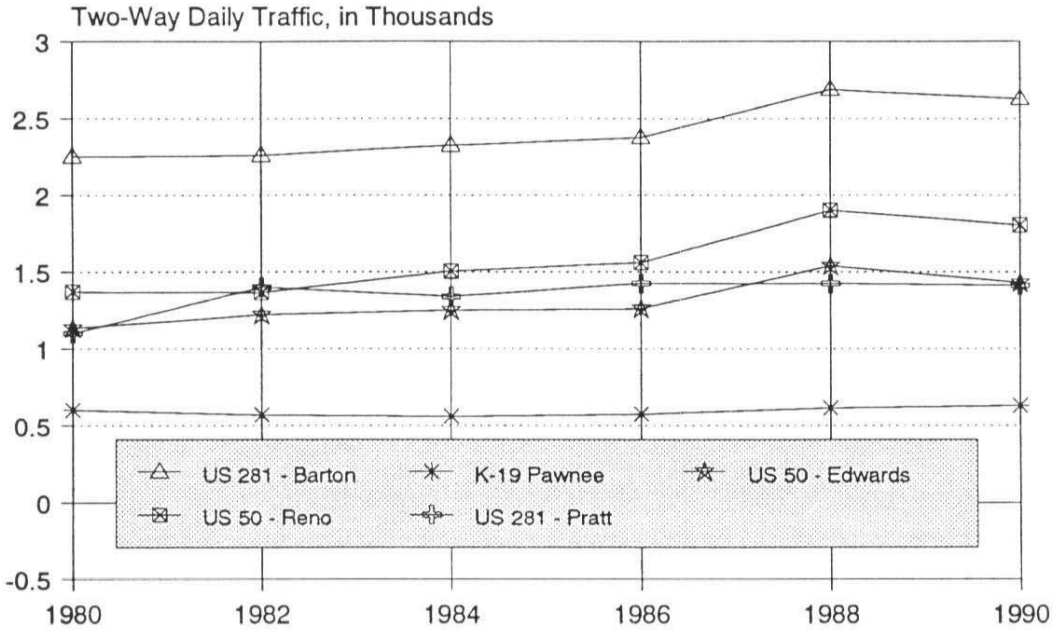
Table 5.4
Highway and Rail Freight Transportation

	Total Public Highway Miles	Interstate & State Miles	Rail Freight Carriers
Stafford	1,445	70	AT, MP
Urban Comparatives			
Reno	2,860	300	AT, BN, MP, SP
Barton	1,896	123	AT, MP
Pratt	1,336	87	AT, MP, SP
Rural Comparatives			
Rice	1,414	83	AT, BN, MP
Edwards	1,049	60	AT
Pawnee	1,421	99	AT
Rush	1,342	91	AT, MP

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

Figure 5.1

Average Daily Traffic Volume
Stafford Co. Points of Entry/Exit
1980-1990



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

- Between 1980 and 1990, average daily traffic volumes on the major highways entering Stafford increased modestly. Heavy commercial traffic increased by 76 percent over this period, with passenger vehicle traffic rising by 19 percent.

- Over 2,600 vehicles daily pass to and from Stafford County and Barton County on Highway 281. This represents one-third of all traffic entering and exiting Stafford County. The next most heavily travelled highway is US 250 to and from Reno County, at 1,805 vehicles daily.

- Traffic levels increased most in the southern parts of the county during the 1980s, with each of three points of entry or exit increasing in traffic volume by 25 percent or more.

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

Location/Traffic Type	1980	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	% Change 1980-90
US 281 - Barton	2,250	2,260	2,325	2,375	2,690	2,630	
16.9%							
K-19 - Pawnee	600	570	560	575	610	630	5.0
US 50 - Edwards	1,135	1,220	1,250	1,260	1,540	1,430	26.0
US 50 - Reno	1,370	1,365	1,505	1,560	1,900	1,805	31.8
US 281 - Pratt	1,120	1,400	1,300	1,425	1,425	1,410	25.9
Heavy Commercial	1,220	1,580	1,805	2,030	2,215	2,148	30.9
Light Commercial & Pass.	4,790	5,350	4,620	4,820	5,400	5,717	76.1
Total	6,010	6,930	6,425	6,850	7,615	7,865	19.4

Checkpoints: (1) US 281 near Barton border (2) K-19 near Pawnee border (3) US 50 near Edwards border (4) US 281 near Pratt border and (5) US 50 near Reno border.
Source: Kansas Department of Transportation, *Traffic Flow Maps*, 1980-1990.

- The percentage of permanent residences in Stafford connected to a public or private water system is lower than in any comparison county. Similarly, the percentage of permanent residences connected to a sewer system is comparatively low.

Table 5.6
Access to Water and Sewer Systems

	Percent of Permanent Residences Connected to Water	Percent of Permanent Residences Bill Connected to Sewer
Stafford	61%	64%
Urban Comparatives		
Reno	73	77
Barton	81	80
Pratt	77	77
Rural Comparatives		
Rice	77	72
Edwards	74	67
Pawnee	72	73
Rush	73	67

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

Section VI: Business Environment

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

This section reviews the following indicators:

- *distribution of firms, by number of employees and sector* to determine what changes are taking place at the firm level in the local economy;
- *average annual pay per employee by sector* as an indicator of changing patterns in business productivity, reflected by increases or decreases in relative wages;
- *distribution of employment by sector* to assess how local sectoral performance compares with larger scale trends, and *net job creation by industry*, to determine which industries are growing most quickly at the local level;
- *levels of taxable retail sales* and *annual growth rates of retail sales* as indicators of retail sector performance and trends and the overall strength of the local consumer market;
- the *number of farms, acres harvested, average farm size* and the *value of field crops and livestock and poultry* to reflect the levels of farm activity and the changing character of farming;
- changes in *assessed tangible valuation* indicates investment growth over time as well as the capacity and flexibility of modifying existing tax structures; and
- *levels of assessment, bonded indebtedness* and *tax levies* which reveal the capacity of the public sector to take on new public investments.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT: KEY FINDINGS

- Stafford firms are relatively small; seven of every ten have fewer than five employees and none have more than fifty.

- The average Stafford County firm employed 4.8 people in 1989, well below the statewide average of 13.2.

- Average annual pay per employee in Stafford was $13,200 in 1989, barely two-thirds the state average; this pattern is present across virtually every sector except for transportation and public utilities.

- Total employment in Stafford County decreased by 170 jobs from 1980 to 1989, a 6.1 percent decline.

- Key sectors of the Stafford economy including farm, services and retail, downsized in number of jobs between 1980 and 1989; the decline was very pronounced in the farm sector, which lost 130 jobs.

- In sharp contrast to the experience of comparison groups and the state as a whole, manufacturing employment in Stafford grew during the decade.

- The county's decline in service sector jobs is noteworthy as the number of service jobs in the comparison groups and the state as a whole grew during the decade.

- Stafford County has the smallest retail sector of any of the comparative counties except for Rush, with 227 employed in this sector in 1989.

- Taxable retail sales in Stafford County fell from $20.5 million in 1980 to $10.6 million in 1989; once adjusted for inflation, this amounted to a decline of 67.3 percent. Only Barton and Rush suffered declines as severe as Stafford.

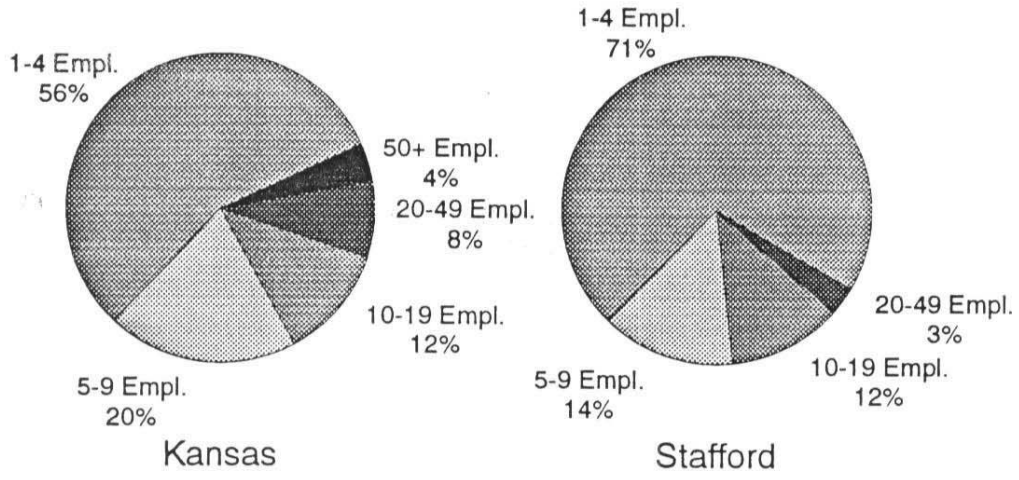
- Despite shifting from a heavy reliance on field crops to a more balanced mix between field crops and livestock and poultry, the current dollar value of Stafford's farm output at the end of the decade ($58 million) was virtually unchanged from that at its beginning.

- Assessment levels increased by 5.7 percent in Stafford County between 1990 and 1992. This was the highest rate of increase of any comparative county except for Rush.

Figure 6.1

Size of Firms, by Number of Employees

Stafford County and Kansas, 1989



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns*, 1980 and 1989.

- Stafford firms are relatively small; seven of every ten have fewer than five employees and none have more than fifty.
- The number of firms in Stafford grew modestly between 1980 and 1989, from 133 to 147; however, this 10.5 percent increase was little more than half the statewide growth rate (19.4%).
- The modest overall change in the number of firms in Stafford, masks major changes in the number of firms in various size groups. Firms with fewer than five employees increased 23.8 percent while the those with five to nine employees decreased 30.0 percent. The state as a whole enjoyed increases in the number of firms in every size category.
- Only in the manufacturing and service sectors does Stafford have firms with at least twenty employees.
- During the decade, average firm size (employees per firm) in Stafford fell from 5.4 to 4.8; while the statewide average also fell, from 13.9 to 13.2, the average Stafford firm remains about one-third the size of the state average.

Table 6.1
Distribution of Private Non-Farm Firms by Sector and Size (Number of Employees)
Stafford County, 1980 and 1989

Sector / Industry		Total	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+
All Private Sectors	1989	147	104	21	17	5	0
	1980	133	84	30	16	2	1
Agricultural Services	1989	4	4	0	0	0	0
	1980	3	3	0	0	0	0
Mining	1989	7	5	1	1	0	0
	1980	4	2	1	1	0	0
Construction	1989	9	7	2	0	0	0
	1980	8	5	2	0	1	0
Manufacturing	1989	5	2	0	0	3	0
	1980	8	2	3	3	0	0
Trans. & Pub. Utilities	1989	10	8	2	0	0	0
	1980	5	4	1	0	0	0
Wholesale Trade	1989	14	4	7	3	0	0
	1980	14	7	3	4	0	0
Nondurables	1989	10	2	5	3	0	0
	1980	9	4	2	3	0	0
Retail	1989	33	20	5	8	0	0
	1980	38	23	11	4	0	0
F.I.R.E.	1989	13	7	2	4	0	0
	1980	12	5	3	4	0	0
Banking	1989	6	0	2	4	0	0
	1980	6	0	2	4	0	0
Services	1989	48	43	2	1	2	0
	1980	37	30	5	1	1	0
Health	1989	9	6	1	0	2	0
	1980	10	5	3	0	1	1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns*, 1980 and 1989.

Table 6.2
Distribution of Private Sector, Non-Farm Firms
by Sector and Number of Employees
Kansas, 1980, 1989

Sector / Industry		Total	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+
All Private Sectors	1989	65,692	36,471	13,327	8,047	5,082	2,765
	1980	55,021	30,569	11,129	6,696	4,376	2,251
Agricultural Services	1989	889	620	181	66	16	6
	1980	547	413	98	26	9	1
Mining	1989	1,087	624	212	127	88	36
	1980	1,137	567	195	156	152	67
Construction	1989	5,446	3,344	1,099	594	286	123
	1980	5,149	3,271	934	494	308	142
Manufacturing	1989	3,186	945	570	510	530	631
	1980	2,919	747	497	498	523	624
Trans. & Pub. Utilities	1989	3,221	1,786	507	465	284	179
	1980	2,881	1,359	712	349	292	169
Wholesale Trade	1989	5,575	2,448	1,419	1,034	507	167
	1980	5,267	2,172	1,405	990	546	154
Durables	1989	3,179	1,384	843	588	284	80
	1980	2,848	1,149	752	574	294	79
Nondurables	1989	2,298	1,037	554	419	210	78
	1980	2,319	1,000	629	401	231	58
Retail	1989	16,602	7,619	4,116	2,536	1,715	615
	1980	15,204	7,538	3,556	2,291	1,397	422
Automotive	1989	2,760	1,323	867	358	156	56
	1980	2,765	1,608	664	290	160	43
Eat & Drink	1989	4,204	1,382	666	963	974	219
	1980	3,242	1,099	510	891	614	128
F.I.R.E.	1989	5,515	3,512	884	555	364	200
	1980	4,893	3,082	842	494	320	155
Banking	1989	841	105	227	250	176	83
	1980	649	52	195	194	143	65
Insurance	1989	1,595	1,298	184	74	19	20
	1980	1,119	899	144	49	20	7
Real Estate	1989	1,654	1,260	240	79	53	22
	1980	1,477	1,172	182	77	31	15
Services	1989	20,231	12,094	4,045	2,055	1,230	807
	1980	14,270	8,930	2,679	1,331	813	517
Lodging	1989	540	260	61	88	89	42
	1980	539	296	74	73	68	28
Personal	1989	2,007	1,293	440	203	49	22
	1980	1,779	1,257	353	114	36	19
Business	1989	2,233	1,198	461	257	184	133
	1980	1,429	796	263	199	108	63
Health	1989	3,914	1,937	976	339	304	358
	1980	3,237	1,921	637	197	230	252

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns*, 1980 and 1989.

Table 6.3
Percentage Distribution of Firms by Sector and Size
Stafford County: Kansas, 1980 and 1989

Sector / Industry		Percentage Distribution of Firms, by Number of Employees				
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50+
All Private Sector	1989	71:56	14:20	12:12	3:8	0:4
	1980	62:56	23:20	12:12	2:8	1:4
Agricultural Services	1989	100:70	0:20	0:7	0:2	0:1
	1980	100:75	0:18	0:5	0:2	0:0
Mining	1989	72:57	14:20	14:12	0:8	0:3
	1980	50:50	25:17	25:14	0:13	0:6
Construction	1989	78:61	22:20	0:11	0:5	0:2
	1980	62:68	25:18	0:10	13:6	0:3
Manufacturing	1989	40:29	0:18	0:16	60:17	0:20
	1980	26:27	37:17	37:17	0:18	0:21
Trans. & Pub. Utilities	1989	80:55	20:16	0:14	0:9	0:6
	1980	80:47	20:25	0:12	0:10	0:6
Wholesale Trade	1989	29:44	50:25	21:19	0:9	0:3
	1980	29:41	50:27	21:19	0:10	0:3
Retail	1989	61:46	15:25	24:15	0:10	0:4
	1980	61:50	30:23	9:15	0:9	0:3
F.I.R.E.	1989	54:64	15:16	31:10	0:7	0:4
	1980	42:63	25:17	33:10	0:7	0:3
Services	1989	90:60	4:20	2:10	4:6	0:4
	1980	80:63	14:19	3:9	3:6	0:4

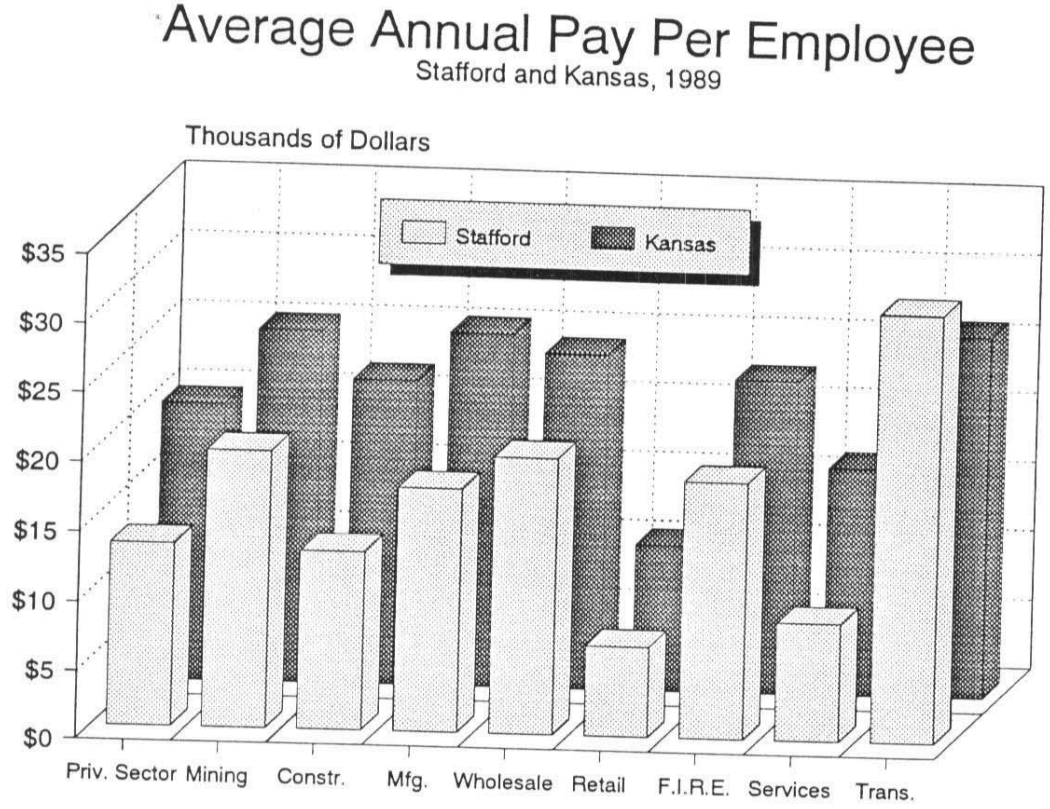
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns*, 1980 and 1989.

Table 6.4
Average Size of Private, Non-Farm Firms
Stafford County and Kansas, 1980, 1989

Sector / Industry		Employees Per Firm Stafford	Kansas
Private Sector	1989	4.8	13.2
	1980	5.4	13.9
Agricultural Services	1989	NA	5.4
	1980	NA	4.0
Mining	1989	3.9	10.0
	1980	7.0	15.3
Construction	1989	2.9	7.0
	1980	5.6	8.0
Manufacturing	1989	16.4	60.4
	1980	8.3	71.0
Trans. & Pub. Utilities	1989	2.8	17.7
	1980	4.0	17.9
Wholesale Trade	1989	6.2	11.3
	1980	6.2	11.4
Retail	1989	4.9	11.6
	1980	4.7	10.8
F.I.R.E.	1989	5.8	10.5
	1980	5.8	10.1
Services	1989	4.2	11.7
	1980	5.4	10.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns*, 1980 and 1989.

Figure 6.2



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns*, 1980 and 1989.

- In 1989, average annual pay per employee in Stafford was $13,200, barely two-thirds the statewide average.

- The gap between Stafford and the state, in terms of average annual pay per employee widened; in 1980, Stafford's average pay was 28 percent less than the state average, while in 1989, this figure was 31 percent lower than the Kansas average.

- Average annual pay per employee in Stafford lags the statewide average in every sector except transportation and public utilities. While employment is limited in this sector, average annual pay per employee is 18 percent higher than the state average.

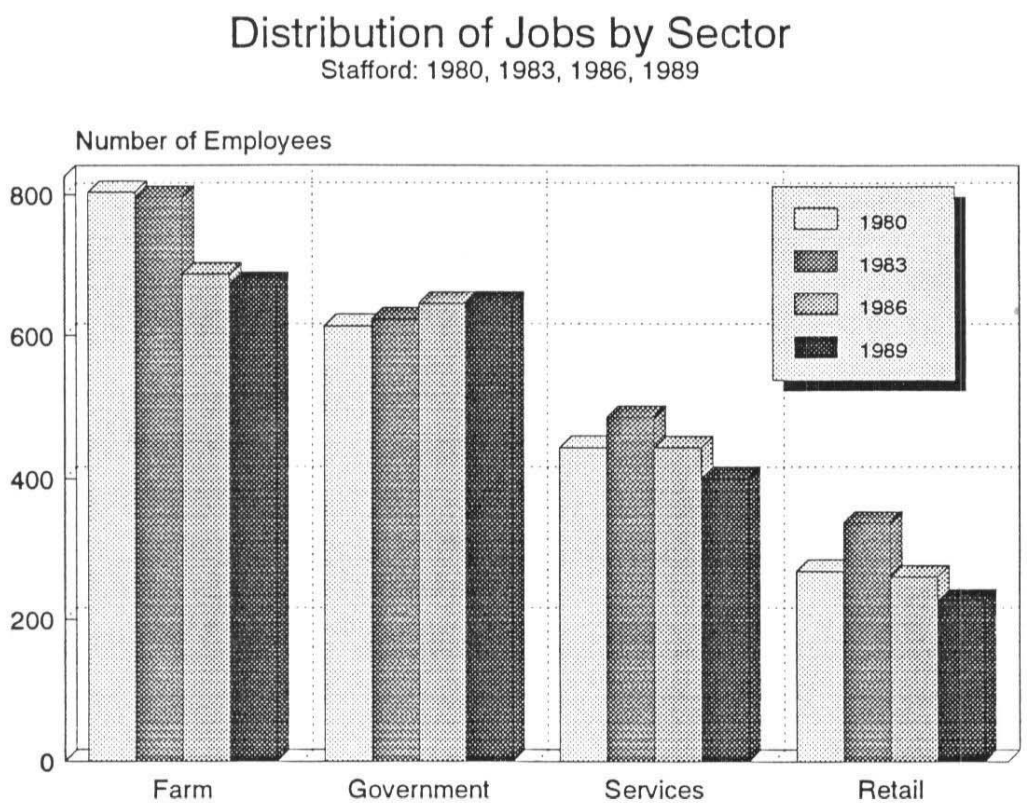
- Among the sectors in which Stafford's average pay per employee approached the statewide average are mining, wholesale and finance, insurance and real estate while the wage gap is considerable in the construction, retail and, especially, services.

Table 6.5
Average Annual Pay Per Employee by Sector
Private, Non-Farm Firms (in $ Thousands)
Stafford County and Kansas, 1980 and 1989

Sector / Industry	Year	Stafford	Kansas
Private Sector	1989	$13.2	$19.1
	1980	9.1	12.6
Agricultural Services	1989	NA	12.1
	1980	NA	9.7
Mining	1989	20.0	25.4
	1980	13.9	21.4
Construction	1989	12.9	21.9
	1980	8.5	14.2
Manufacturing	1989	17.6	25.5
	1980	12.1	15.4
Trans. & Pub. Utilities	1989	31.1	26.2
	1980	15.6	16.1
Wholesale Trade	1989	20.0	24.2
	1980	13.0	15.7
Retail	1989	6.6	10.5
	1980	4.7	7.4
F.I.R.E.	1989	18.6	22.6
	1980	7.1	13.3
Services	1989	8.6	16.4
	1980	5.4	9.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Business Patterns,* 1980 and 1989.

Figure 6.3



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

- Key sectors of the Stafford economy including farm, services and retail, experienced job losses between 1980 and 1989; the decline was very pronounced in the farm sector.

- Total employment in Stafford decreased by 179 jobs, a decline of 6.1 percent over the decade.

- Both Urban and Rural Comparison groups also experienced job losses. Among counties comprising the Comparison groups, only Pratt experienced a job increase.

- Both Non-Metro Kansas and the state as a whole experienced job growth during the decade. The rate of change for the state as whole (13.2%) was several times that of Non-Metro Kansas (2.5%).

Table 6.6
Distribution of Jobs by Sector
Stafford County, 1980-1989

Industry	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	Percent Change
Total	2,920	2,869	2,934	3,025	2,987	2,916	2,749	2,741	2,667	2,741	-6.1%
Farm	803	769	767	796	772	745	686	693	687	673	-16.2
Mining	192	191	182	182	196	196	145	177	169	199	3.6
Manufacturing	80	84	75	83	91	86	94	100	104	110	37.5
Wholesale	164	159	169	160	162	152	135	121	120	122	-25.6
Retail	269	301	336	338	313	281	261	246	239	227	-15.6
Service	443	430	438	486	460	455	443	416	398	401	-9.5
Government	613	620	632	623	634	642	645	657	616	646	5.4
Other	356	315	335	357	359	359	340	369	364	438	23.0

Note: Other category (for purposes of this table) includes agricultural services, construction, transportation and public utilities, and fire, insurance and real estate.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table CA25, *Full- and Part-Time Employees by Major Industry.*

Table 6.7
Net Job Creation by Industry
Stafford County and Kansas, 1980-1989

	Net Change in Number of Jobs			
	Stafford	Percent Change	Kansas (Thousands)	Percent Change
Farm	-130	-16.2%	-16	-15.8%
Mining	7	3.6	-1	-4.9
Manufacturing	30	37.5	-8	-4.2
Wholesale	-42	-25.6	4	5.5
Retail	-42	-15.6	34	17.0
Services	-42	-9.5	95	39.1
Government	33	5.4	34	14.9
Other	82	23.0	28	12.7
Total	-179	-6.1	169	13.2

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

- Stafford County fared better than the Rural Comparative Counties, which collectively lost 8.6 percent of their 1980 employment, compared with Stafford's loss of 6.1 percent.

- Of the neighboring counties, only Pratt County had more employment in 1989 than in 1980.

Table 6.8
Total Employment and Percent Change
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980, 1989

County	1980	1989	Net Change	Percent Change
Stafford	2,920	2,741	-179	-6.1%
Urban Comparatives	60,554	58,722	1,832	-3.0
Reno	35,013	34,746	267	-0.8
Barton	19,796	18,116	1,680	-8.5
Pratt	5,745	5,860	115	2.0
Rural Comparatives	15,537	14,195	-1,342	-8.6
Rice	6,126	5,388	-738	-12.0
Edwards	2,320	2,036	-284	-12.2
Pawnee	4,624	4,543	-81	-1.8
Rush	2,467	2,228	-239	-9.7
Non-Metro	624,269	640,084	5,815	2.5
Kansas	1,286,742	1,455,976	169,234	13.2

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

- Stafford lost 130 farm jobs during the decade. The rate of change (-16%) was similar to that of the Comparison groups, the individual counties that comprise them, Non-Metro Kansas and the state as a whole.

- Despite its decline in jobs, the farm sector remained a major part of the Stafford economy; nearly one-quarter of total employment was in this sector in 1989.

Table 6.9
Farm Employment, Percent of Total Employment,
Net Change and Percent Change
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980, 1989

County	1980	Percent of 1980 Total	1989	Percent of 1989 Total	Net Change	Percent Change
Stafford	803	27.5%	673	24.6%	-130	-16.2%
Urban Comparatives	4,524	7.5	3,736	6.4	-788	-17.4
Reno	2,216	6.3	1,899	5.5	-317	-14.3
Barton	1,484	7.5	1,171	6.5	-313	-21.1
Pratt	824	14.3	666	11.4	-158	-19.2
Rural Comparatives	3,310	21.3	2,786	19.6	-524	-15.8
Rice	953	15.6	782	14.5	-171	-17.9
Edwards	664	28.6	569	27.9	-95	-14.3
Pawnee	930	20.1	787	17.3	-143	-15.4
Rush	763	30.9	648	29.1	-115	-15.1
Non-Metro	90,441	14.5	75,768	11.8	-14,673	-16.2
Kansas	102,162	7.9	85,974	5.9	-16,188	-15.8

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

- Mining employment in Stafford rose slightly during the decade, from 192 to 199; in 1989, roughly one of every fourteen jobs were in mining, including oil and gas extraction.

- Mining employment in Stafford was relatively stable; by comparison, mining sector employment in Barton and Rice, counties far more dependent on mining than Stafford, suffered steep mining sector job losses during the decade.

Table 6.10
Mining Employment, Percent of Total Employment,
Net Change and Percent Change
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1980, 1989

County	1980	Percent of 1980 Total	1989	Percent of 1989 Total	Net Change	Percent Change
Stafford	192	6.6%	199	7.2%	7	3.6%
Urban Comparatives	3,785	6.3	2,688	4.6	-1,097	-28.9
Reno	534	1.5	513	1.5	-21	-3.9
Barton	2,940	14.9	1,926	10.6	-1,014	-34.5
Pratt	311	5.4	249	4.2	-62	-19.9
Rural Comparatives	835	5.4	599	4.2	-236	-28.3
Rice	730	11.9	545	10.1	-185	-25.3
Edwards	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pawnee	45	1.0	23	0.5	-22	-48.9
Rush	60	2.4	31	1.4	-29	-48.3
Non-Metro	20,101	3.2	17,778	2.8	-2,323	-11.6
Kansas	28,009	2.2	26,644	1.8	-1,365	-4.9

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

- In contrast to the experience of comparison groups and the state as a whole, manufacturing employment in Stafford grew during the decade.

- Despite job growth in manufacturing between 1980 and 1989, this sector accounts for a relatively small portion of total Stafford employment, 4.0 percent

- Every comparative area except Rush County suffered losses of manufacturing jobs during the decade. Nonetheless, manufacturing remained a more significant contributor to employment in nearly every comparative area than in Stafford.

Table 6.11
Manufacturing Employment, Percent of Total Employment,
Net Change and Percent Change
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1989

County	1980	Percent of 1980 Total	1989	Percent of 1989 Total	Net Change	Percent Change
Stafford	80	2.7%	110	4.0%	30	37.5%
Urban Comparatives	10,711	17.7	7,496	12.8	-3,215	-30.0
Reno	8,274	23.6	5,512	15.9	-2,762	-33.8
Barton	2,111	10.7	1,841	10.2	-270	-12.8
Pratt	326	5.7	143	2.4	-183	-56.1
Rural Comparatives	1,203	7.7	894	6.3	-309	-25.7
Rice	534	8.7	385	7.1	-149	-27.9
Edwards	296	12.8	178	8.7	-118	-39.9
Pawnee	166	3.6	105	2.3	-61	-36.7
Rush	207	8.4	226	10.1	19	0.9
Non-Metro	71,290	11.4	70,192	11.0	-1,098	-1.5
Kansas	195,121	15.2	186,928	12.8	-8,193	-4.2

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

- Wholesaling accounted for 4.5 percent of Stafford's employment in 1989. Proportions of employment were similar for the comparative counties.

- The wholesale sector became more concentrated in metropolitan areas over the decade. Every non-metropolitan comparative experienced job losses in wholesale over the decade, while the Kansas total employment in wholesaling increased by 5.5 percent.

Table 6.12
Wholesale Employment, Percent of Total Employment,
Net Change and Percent Change
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1989

County	1980	Percent of 1980 Total	1989	Percent of 1989 Total	Net Change	Percent Change
Stafford	164	5.6%	122	4.5%	-42	-25.6%
Urban Comparatives	3,697	6.1	2,902	4.9	-791	-21.4
Reno	1,768	5.0	1,501	4.3	-267	-15.1
Barton	1,543	7.8	1,078	6.0	-465	-30.1
Pratt	386	6.7	327	5.6	-59	-15.3
Rural Comparatives	571	3.7	474	3.3	-97	-17.0
Rice	203	3.3	143	2.7	-60	-29.6
Edwards	--	--	77	3.8	--	--
Pawnee	165	3.6	151	3.3	-14	-8.5
Rush	203	8.2	103	4.6	-100	-49.3
Non-Metro	28,954	4.6	25,911	4.0	-3,043	-10.5
Kansas	68,485	5.3	72,223	5.0	3,738	5.5

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

- During the decade, Stafford lost 15.6 percent of its retail jobs. The retail sector in Stafford accounted for roughly one in twelve jobs in 1989; in all but the Rural Comparatives, the retail sector accounted for about one-fifth to one-sixth of total employment.

- With employment of 227, Stafford County had the smallest retail sector of any comparative except for Rush.

- Reno County, and to a lesser extent Pratt County, have enjoyed strong retail growth while all other counties have declined in terms of retail employment.

Table 6.13
Retail Employment, Percent of Total Employment,
Net Change and Percent Change
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1989

County	1980	Percent of 1980 Total	1989	Percent of 1989 Total	Net Change	Percent Change
Stafford	269	9.2%	227	8.3%	-42	-15.6%
Urban Comparatives	10,786	17.8	11,203	19.1	417	3.9
Reno	6,351	18.1	7,104	20.4	753	11.9
Barton	3,397	17.2	3,033	16.7	-364	-10.7
Pratt	1,038	18.1	1,066	18.2	28	2.7
Rural Comparatives	1,951	12.6	1,662	11.7	-289	-14.8
Rice	806	13.2	703	13.0	-103	-12.8
Edwards	295	12.7	255	12.5	-40	-13.6
Pawnee	608	13.1	520	11.4	-88	-14.5
Rush	242	9.8	184	8.3	-58	-24.0
Non-Metro	92,492	14.8	95,801	15.0	3,309	3.6
Kansas	198,491	15.4	232,284	16.0	33,793	17.0

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

- The county's decline in service sector jobs is noteworthy as the number of such jobs in both Comparison groups, Non-Metro Kansas and the state as a whole grew during the decade.

- The service sector remains underdeveloped in Stafford County, accounting for 14.6 percent of employment, compared with a non-metro average of 20 percent of employment.

Table 6.14
Service Employment, Percent of Total Employment,
Net Change and Percent Change
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1989

County	1980	Percent of 1980 Total	1989	Percent of 1989 Total	Net Change	Percent Change
Stafford	443	15.2%	401	14.6%	-42	9.5%
Urban Comparatives	10,752	17.8	13,285	22.6	2,533	23.6
Reno	5,342	18.1	8,277	23.8	1,935	36.2
Barton	3,401	17.2	3,807	21.0	406	11.9
Pratt	1,009	17.6	1,201	20.5	192	19.0
Rural Comparatives	2,331	15.0	2,507	17.7	176	7.6
Rice	1,006	16.4	1,056	20.0	50	5.0
Edwards	341	14.7	330	16.2	-11	-3.2
Pawnee	758	16.4	838	18.4	80	10.6
Rush	226	9.2	283	12.7	57	25.2
Non-Metro	103,538	16.6	127,991	20.0	24,453	23.6
Kansas	243,640	18.9	338,864	23.3	95,224	39.1

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

- During the decade, government remained the second largest sector of the Stafford economy, after farm employment. Moreover, it was one of the few sectors to gain jobs.

- Government employment accounted in 1989 for a larger proportion of total employment in Stafford (23.6%) than in all Urban Comparison counties, all Rural Comparison counties except Pawnee, Non-Metro Kansas and the state as a whole.

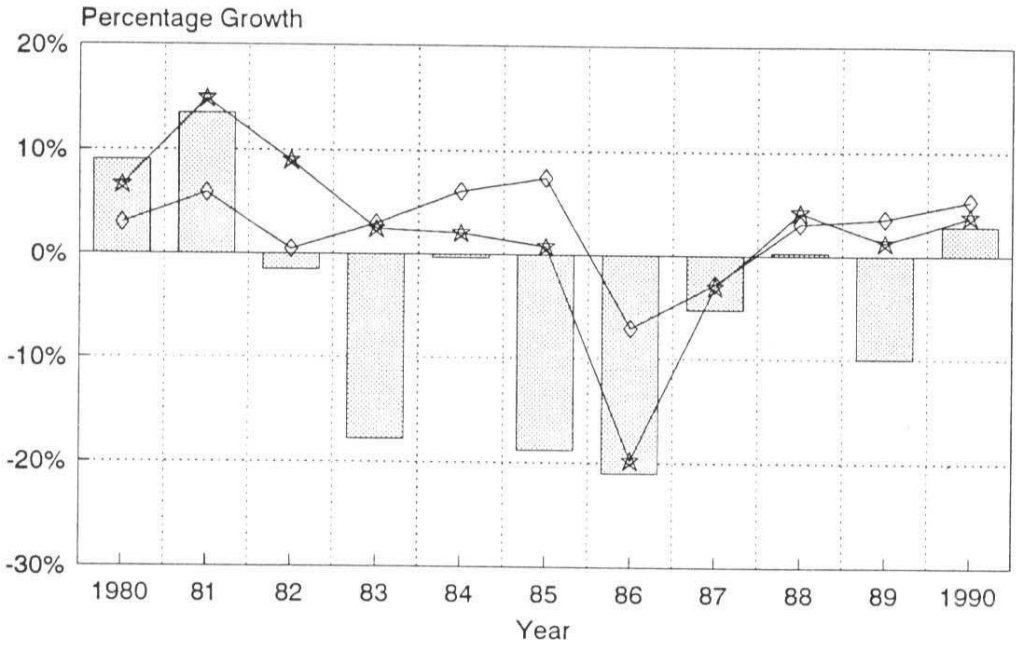
Table 6.15
Government Employment, Percent of Total Employment,
Net Change and Percent Change
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980, 1989

County	1980	Percent of 1980 Total	1989	Percent of 1989 Total	Net Change	Percent Change
Stafford	613	21.0%	646	23.6%	33	5.4%
Urban Comparatives	7,019	11.6	9,064	15.4	2,045	29.1
Reno	4,131	11.8	5,242	15.1	1,111	26.9
Barton	1,954	9.9	2,497	13.8	543	27.8
Pratt	934	16.3	1,325	22.6	391	41.9
Rural Comparatives	3,102	20.0	3,418	24.1	316	10.2
Rice	895	14.6	982	18.2	87	9.7
Edwards	301	13.0	330	16.2	29	9.6
Pawnee	1,485	32.1	1,684	37.1	199	13.4
Non-Metro	117,343	18.8	132,248	20.7	14,950	12.7
Kansas	227,929	17.7	261,909	18.0	33,980	14.9

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

Figure 6.5

Taxable Retail Sales-Growth Rates
Stafford and Kansas Comparatives
1980-1990



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

- Taxable retail sales in Stafford County fell from $20.5 million at the beginning of the decade to $10.6 million at its end (each expressed in current year dollars). In real terms (adjusted for inflation) this amounted to a 67.3 percent decline. Similar but less severe declines were experienced by the Urban comparative counties (-36.4%), Rural Comparatives (-52.9%) and Non-Metropolitan Kansas (-12.0%).

- Among Urban and Rural Comparison counties, only Barton and Rush suffered declines comparable to Stafford's; taxable retail sales (in current dollars) in these counties fell 28.1 and 45.0 percent, respectively.

Table 6.16
Taxable Retail Sales, Nominal Annual Growth Rates
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980-1990

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	Net 80-90
Stafford	9.0%	13.5%	-1.5%	-17.8%	-0.3%	-18.8%	-21.0%	-5.3%	0.3%	-10.0%	2.9%	-
49.3%												
Reno	3.0	5.9	0.5	3.0	6.1	7.4	-7.1	-2.8	3.1	3.6	5.3	26.9
Barton	27.5	24.9	-18.1	-11.4	7.2	-7.8	-25.0	-2.5	3.7	0.7	5.0	-28.1
Pratt	6.6	14.9	9.0	2.5	2.1	0.8	-19.8	-3.1	4.2	1.3	3.8	12.5
Rice	8.7	10.6	1.5	-2.2	-1.8	-5.0	-11.4	-1.1	-2.6	-0.1	3.6	-9.6
Edwards	9.7	4.1	-7.5	10.2	-8.2	-2.4	-10.4	-0.1	2.1	2.2	-11.0	-20.5
Pawnee	0.9	8.2	-5.6	1.4	-1.8	-8.7	-12.9	-0.4	4.0	-6.2	1.6	-20.1
Rush	10.6	-2.1	-9.0	4.4	-8.3	-8.9	-22.2	-3.5	-7.0	-3.9	5.4	-45.0
Kansas	3.1	8.5	3.1	7.7	5.6	3.1	-0.8	3.6	4.8	2.8	3.8	50.7

Source: Wichita State University, Center for Economic Development and Business Research.
Data in Net 80-90 column calculated as 1990 percentage growth from 1980 nominal retail sales levels

Table 6.17
Taxable Retail Sales Levels
Stafford, Comparative Counties and Kansas, 1980-1990

	$ Current Sales Levels			Real ($1982-84) Sales Levels		
	1980	1990	Percent	1980	1990	Percent
	($ Millions)		Change	($ Millions)		Change
Stafford	20.5	10.6	-49.3%	24.8	8.1	-67.4%
Urban Comparatives	751.0	755.9	0.6	910.3	578.5	-36.4
Rural Comparatives	107.5	85.9	-20.1	175.2	82.6	-52.9
Non-Metro	5,271.2	5,949.1	12.9	7,523.0	6,623.0	-12.0
Kansas	12,421.5	18,723.3	50.7	15,064.0	14,332.0	4.9

- The average farm size in Stafford County, at 862 acres, parallels those of the rural comparatives and Pratt. The average farm size in Stafford increased by 12 percent over the decade, similar to the increases experienced in most of the rural comparatives,

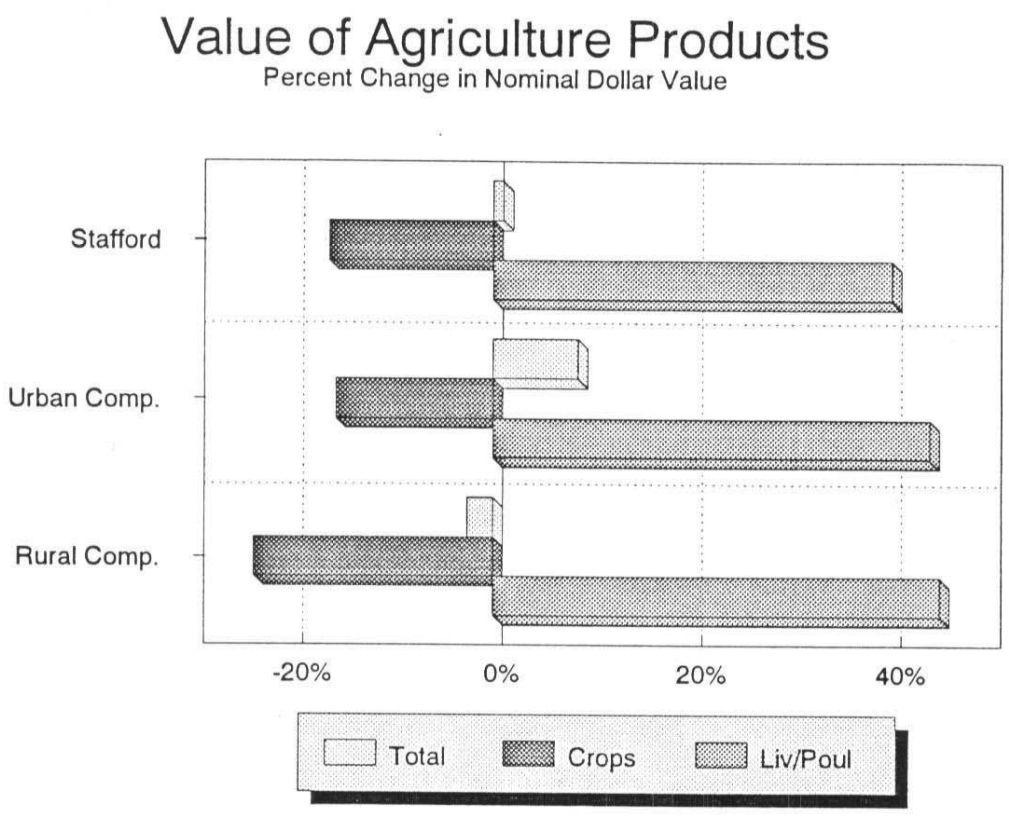
- In 1990, there were 540 farms in Stafford County, 55 fewer than in 1980.

Table 6.18
Average Farm Size
Stafford, Comparatives and Kansas, 1980 and 1990

	Total Land in Farms (thousands of acres)		Number of Farms		Average Farm Size (acres)	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990
Stafford	460	465	595	540	773	862
Urban Comparatives						
Reno	731	730	1,640	1,560	446	468
Barton	587	568	1,045	940	562	604
Pratt	453	466	570	520	795	896
Rural Comparatives						
Rice	474	450	710	610	668	738
Edwards	380	392	420	360	905	1,089
Pawnee	465	478	585	530	795	902
Rush	450	440	625	550	704	800
Kansas	43,300	47,900	75,000	69,000	644	694

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

Figure 6.6



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

- Despite shifting from its reliance on field crops to a more balanced mix between field crops and livestock and poultry, the current dollar value (unadjusted for inflation) of Stafford's farm output at the end of the decade ($58 million) was virtually unchanged from that at its beginning.

- The nominal dollar value of field crops in Stafford decreased 16.5 percent during the decade; by contrast, Urban Comparison counties experienced declines that ranged from 9.8 to 19.5 percent and three of the four Rural Comparison counties experienced declines of 35.2 to 37.9 percent.

- The nominal dollar value of livestock and poultry in Stafford increased 40.0 percent during the decade; by contrast, the Urban Comparison and Rural Comparison groups increased 43.8 and 44.8, respectively, although there was much inter-county variation among Rural Comparison counties.

Table 6.19
Number of Farms and Acres Harvested
Stafford and Comparative Counties
1980-1981 versus 1989-1990

	Number of Farms			Acres Harvested (000s)		
	1980-1981	1989-1990	Percent Change	1980-1981	1989-1990	Percent Change
Stafford	590	540	-8.5%	282	221	-21.6%
Urban Comparatives						
Reno	1,625	1,560	-4.0	447	411	-8.1
Barton	1,053	940	-10.7	330	267	-19.1
Pratt	578	520	-10.0	272	233	-14.3
Rural Comparatives						
Rice	708	610	-13.8	290	231	-20.3
Edwards	435	360	-17.2	223	190	-14.8
Pawnee	580	530	-8.6	280	208	-25.7
Rush	623	550	-11.7	193	147	-23.8
Kansas	75,500	69,000	-8.0	21,931	19,823	-9.7

Note: Values shown as two-year averages. There is considerable inter-year variability in acres harvested while number of farms changes little from year to year.
Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, *Kansas Statistical Abstract*, various issues.

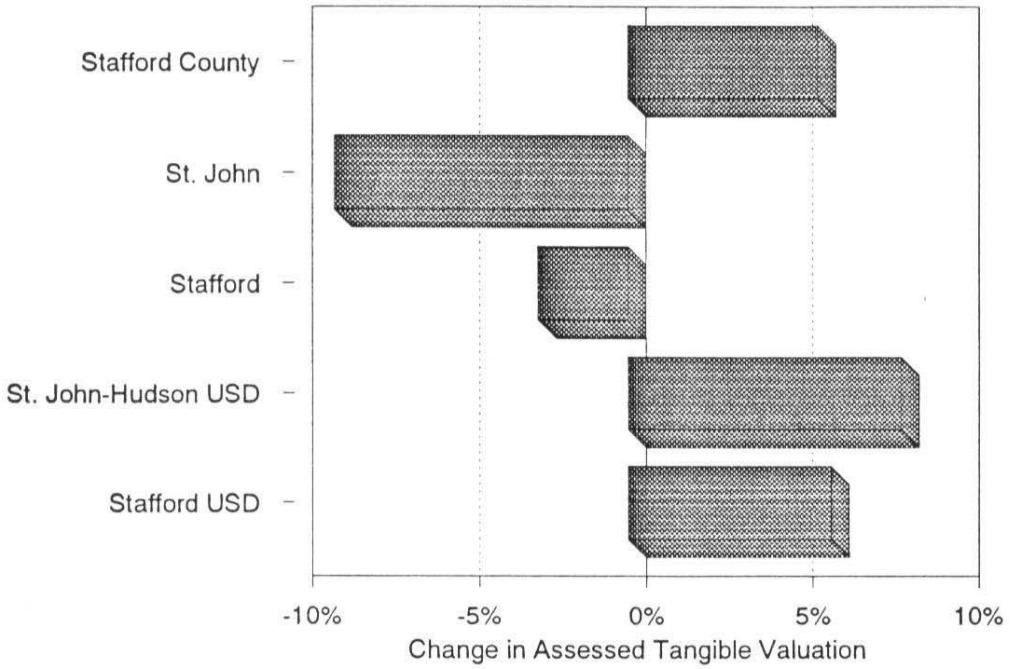
Table 6.20
Nominal Dollar Value of Field Crops, Livestock and Poultry
Stafford and Comparative Counties
1980-1981 versus 1989-1990

	Field Crops			Livestock & Poultry		
	1980-1981	1989-1990	Percent Change	1980-1981	1989-1990	Percent Change
	($ millions)			($ millions)		
Stafford	$ 40.1	$ 33.5	-16.5%	$18.0	$ 25.2	40.0%
Urban Comparatives	132.8	111.8	-15.8	91.8	132.0	43.8
Reno	54.8	44.1	-19.5	32.8	45.6	39.0
Barton	41.1	34.4	-16.3	32.9	45.5	38.3
Pratt	36.9	33.3	-9.8	26.1	40.9	56.7
Rural Comparatives	138.7	105.4	-24.0	62.7	90.8	44.8
Rice	40.9	26.5	-35.2	23.7	26.8	13.1
Edwards	35.0	38.9	11.1	13.3	21.4	60.9
Pawnee	40.9	26.4	-35.5	16.3	35.8	120.0
Rush	21.9	13.6	-37.9	9.4	6.8	-27.7

Note: Values shown as two-year averages due to the extent of year-to-year variation in production.
Source: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, *Kansas Statistical Abstract*, various issues.

Figure 6.7

Change in Assessment Base
Stafford Co., & Components, 1990-1992



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

- Assessment levels increased by 5.7 percent in Stafford County between 1990 and 1992. This was the highest rate of increase of any comparative county except for Rush.

- The St. John-Hudson and Stafford School Districts experienced growth of 8.2 percent and 6.1 percent respectively over the period 1990 to 1992. These were the highest rates of growth in assessment for the school districts of comparable size selected for comparison in the neighboring counties.

- The Cities of St. John and Stafford had the lowest levels of assessed valuation of any of the comparative cities in 1992, with $3.1 million and $2.6 million, respectively. Total assessment decreased in both cities and in nearly all of the comparison group of cities from 1990 to 1992.

Table 6.21
Assessed Tangible Valuation Levels, 1990 - 1992
Stafford County and Selected Comparative Counties, Cities and School Districts
(millions of nominal dollars)

	1990	1992	Percent Change
Counties:			
Stafford	$ 57.6	$ 60.9	5.7%
Reno	301.9	292.5	-3.1
Barton	161.9	150.9	-6.8
Pratt	73.9	70.8	-4.3
Rice	73.5	71.7	-2.4
Edwards	39.9	36.1	-9.6
Pawnee	51.5	49.4	-4.0
Rush	30.1	32.4	7.7
Cities:			
St. John	3.5	3.1	-8.8
Stafford	2.7	2.6	-2.7
Hutchinson	145.3	137.5	-5.3
Great Bend	63.5	54.1	-14.8
Ellinwood	5.5	4.6	-16.2
Hoisington	6.2	5.2	-16.3
Pratt	20.6	21.0	2.3
Lyons	9.0	8.5	-4.9
Kinsley	5.0	4.5	-9.8
School Districts:			
St. John - Hudson	24.1	26.1	8.2
Stafford	14.7	15.5	6.1
Macksville	30.6	28.7	-6.4
Claflin	14.5	15.0	3.9
Ellinwood	20.2	21.1	4.5
Skyline Schools	22.1	21.0	-4.9

Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, *Kansas Government Journal*, January issues, 1990-1992.
Note: Statewide reclassification and reappraisal completed by 1989.
School district data refer to 1989-1990 and 1991-1992 school years.

- Stafford County had a very low level of bonded indebtedness at the beginning of 1992, totalling $85,000.

- The St. John-Hudson School District and Stafford School District had no bonded debt at the beginning of the 1991-1992 school year.

- The Cities of St. John and Stafford had relatively high levels of bonded indebtedness, relative to their assessment levels in 1992. St. John's bonded debt represented 23.7 percent of the assessment base, while Stafford's debt was equal to 10.1 percent.

Table 6.22
Bonded Indebtedness as a Percentage of Assessed Tangible Valuation, 1992
Stafford County and Selected Comparative Counties, Cities and School Districts

	Total Bonded Indebtedness	Percentage of Assessed Tangible Valuation
Counties:		
Stafford	$ 85,000	0.1%
Reno	3,954,490	1.4
Barton	0	0.0
Pratt	3,525,000	5.0
Rice	1,750,000	2.4
Edwards	396,250	1.1
Pawnee	0	0.0
Rush	0	0.0
Cities:		
St. John	747,288	23.7
Stafford	260,000	10.1
Hutchinson	27,021,000	19.6
Great Bend	9,980,217	18.4
Ellinwood	255,000	5.5
Hoisington	1,525,744	29.4
Pratt	3,155,000	15.0
Lyons	15,000	0.2
Kinsley	124,349	2.8
School Districts		
St. John-Hudson	0	0.0
Stafford	0	0.0
Macksville	0	0.0
Claflin	0	0.0
Ellinwood	0	0.0
Skyline Schools	125,000	0.6

Source: League of Kansas Municipalities, *Kansas Government Journal*, January issues, 1990-1992.
Note: Statewide reclassification and reappraisal completed by 1989.
School district data refer to 1989-1990 and 1991-1992 school years.

- County mill levies were relatively low in Stafford County in 1992. Stafford was the only county within the comparison area which decreased its tax levies from 1990 to 1992.

- St. John's tax levy is relatively high at 67.278 mills, but it was one of a few cities to decrease its levy from 1990 to 1992.

- Tax levies in the Stafford School District were higher than the comparison school districts for the 1991-1992 school year.

Table 6.23
City, County and School District Tax Levies in Mills, 1990 and 1992
Stafford County and Selected Comparative Counties, Cities and School Districts

Counties	1990 Levy	1992 Levy	Percentage Change 1990-1992
Stafford	27.286	27.129	-0.6%
Reno	20.316	22.166	9.1
Barton	15.685	19.727	25.8
Pratt	29.620	30.830	4.1
Rice	35.105	39.679	13.0
Edwards	30.377	43.591	43.5
Pawnee	22.826	35.212	54.3
Rush	54.233	56.136	3.5
Cities:			
St. John	70.253	67.278	-4.2
Stafford	47.116	46.607	-1.1
Hutchinson	29.528	40.838	38.3
Great Bend	40.071	49.205	22.8
Ellinwood	21.546	22.813	5.9
Hoisington	38.494	40.864	6.2
Pratt	30.690	30.270	-1.4
Lyons	37.209	31.952	-14.1
Kinsley	48.262	66.915	38.6
School Districts:			
St. John - Hudson	52.79	56.80	7.6
Stafford	61.66	71.48	15.9
Macksville	40.56	44.03	8.6
Claflin	49.36	61.87	25.3
Ellinwood	47.22	51.67	9.4
Skyline Schools	47.83	57.76	20.8

Source: *Kansas Government Journal*, January, 1990 and January, 1992.
Data shown are for upcoming year, reported in January.
Note: Statewide reclassification and reappraisal completed by 1989.
School district data refer to 1989-1990 and 1991-1992 school years.

Section VII: Financial Capital

Businesses must have adequate access to capital in order to take advantage of special opportunities, such as developing new products, purchasing/refurbishing equipment, or undergoing expansion. Local financial institutions play a vital role in assisting business start-ups, expanding existing businesses, retaining businesses, or working with relocated firms.

It is critical for a community to have a sound financial base for business development. In particular, the safety and strength of local banks is especially important because they make the vast majority of business loans. Additionally, the willingness of banks to make local loans, instead of investing in opportunities outside of a community, is important as well.

Because new and/or small businesses may have limited sources of funds, due to their riskier nature, the development of other sources of investment capital has been encouraged by the State of Kansas through tax credits and other assistance. As a result, Venture Capital Pools, Seed Capital Pools, and Certified Development Companies have been created statewide to serve the needs of these businesses.

The types of data presented in this section includes:

- the *total number of banks*, *total assets*, and *average return on assets* for banks located in the county. The average return on assets is a measure of bank profitability, demonstrating the relative success of bank management in making profitable investments.

- *overall bank strength* (or a *Z score*) is a calculation based upon several components: a) *return on assets*; b) *core capital to assets* - a safety measure of the amount of cushion (core capital) available to absorb future losses; c) *total overhead expense to average earning assets* - a measure of operating efficiency; d) *nonperforming loans to gross loans* - a measure of the proportion of bad loans (nonperforming) to the bank's overall loans; and e) *loans to assets* - shows the bank's tendency to accept risks by making loans instead of investing in government securities or other "safer" investments.

- the location of *venture capital pools, seed capital pools,* and *certified development companies* represent opportunities for local business to tap into alternative sources of financing. The location of *venture/seed capital investments* shows where pools have committed their funds.

FINANCIAL CAPITAL: KEY FINDINGS

- Although Stafford County has more banks than four of the seven comparison counties, its banks are smaller (in terms of total assets) than those in five of the seven comparison counties.

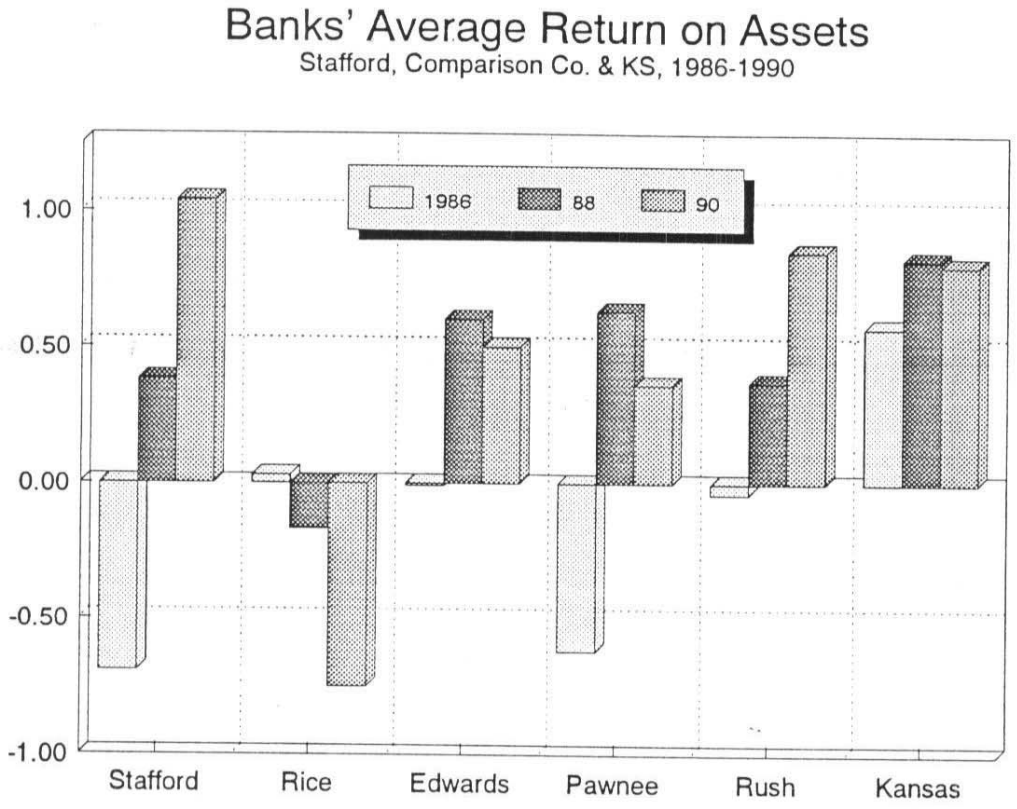
- The average Return on Assets (ROA) of Stafford County banks was greater than those in the comparison counties and Kansas as a whole during 1987, 1989, and 1990. Stafford banks appear to have rebounded from their poor cumulative earnings in 1986.

- Stafford County banks are not as strong as those in their geographic region or those in the state as a whole. This is due, in part, to Stafford County banks' relatively higher overhead expenses and the poorer quality of their loan portfolios. However, Stafford County banks are investing a significant portion of their investment portfolios in loans, which may have a positive effect on business and economic development.

- None of the state's sixteen Certified Venture/Seed Capital Companies have made any investments in businesses located in Stafford County.

FINANCIAL CAPITAL: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 7.1



- Stafford County had 5 banks in 1990. Only three of the comparison counties had more: Reno (10 banks), Barton (7), and Rice County (9). However, the total assets of Stafford County banks were less than those in five of the seven comparison counties.

- The average return on assets of Stafford county banks fluctuated over the 1986-1990 period, with the overall trend indicating better profitability during the last two years. During 1987, 1989, and 1990, the average ROA of Stafford County banks exceeded the statewide average and those of the comparison counties.

Table 7.1
Total Number of Banks, Total Assets, and Average Return on Assets:
Stafford, Comparison Counties, and Kansas Totals (1986-1990)

	Total Number of Banks	Bank Assets		Average R.O.A.				
		Total[1]	Per Capita	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Stafford	5	109,478	20,406	-.69	1.02	.38	1.14	1.04
Reno	10	687,774	11,024	-.22	-.14	.39	.66	.59
Barton	7	548,660	18,673	.52	-.13	.97	.89	.81
Pratt	2	190,597	19,645	.58	.81	.78	.85	.67
Rice	9	129,530	12,208	.03	.0	-.17	-.25	.75
Edwards	3	59,175	15,625	-.01	.2	.6	.39	.5
Pawnee	3	122,595	16,227	-.62	.55	.63	.41	.36
Rush	3	30,031	7,817	-.04	-.01	.37	1.01	.85
Kansas	555	29,600,000	11,947	.57	.60	.82	.95	.80

[1]Expressed in thousands.
Source: IPPBR calculations based on data from Sheshunoff & Company, *Banks of Kansas, 1990* (Austin, Texas, 1991).

Map 7.1
Kansas Regions

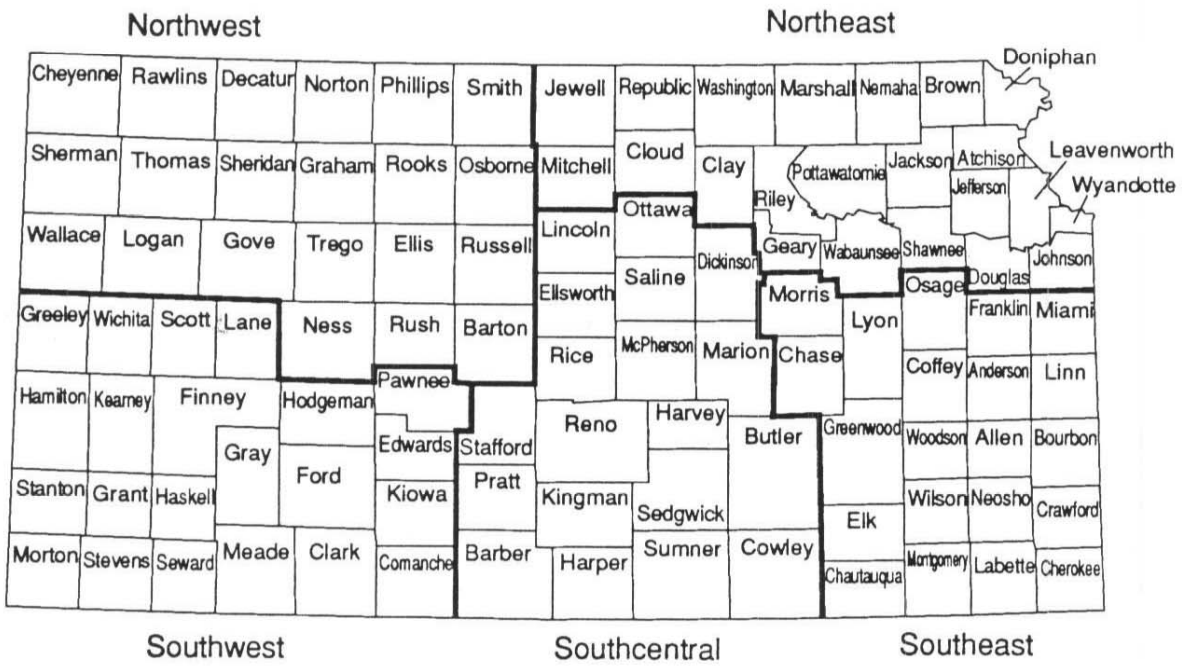
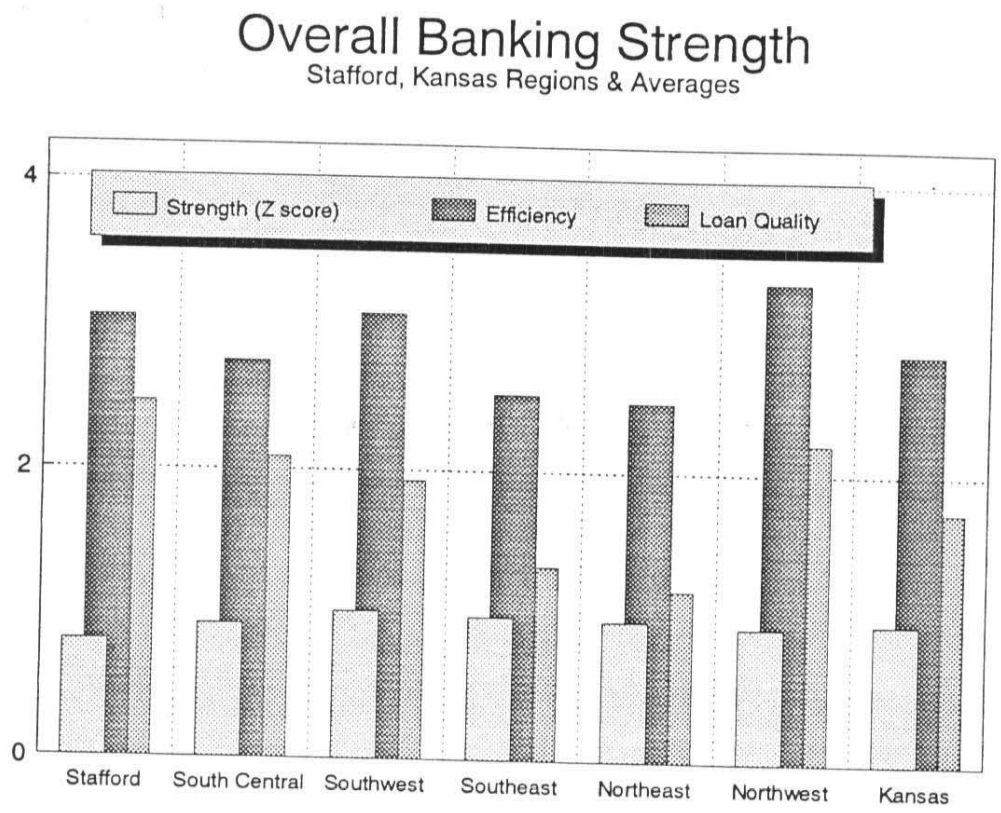


Figure 7.2



- Stafford County banks received a "Z score" (or overall strength rating) of .80 in 1990, which was lower than those in the five Kansas regions and the state as a whole.

- Return on Assets of Stafford County banks exceeded the averages of the regions and the state, and Stafford County banks had a relatively high proportion of core capital to assets.

- Stafford County banks were less efficient than those in three of the five regions. The total overhead expense to average earning assets of Stafford banks was equivalent to 3.05, exceeded only by the Southwest (3.08) and Northwest (3.32) regions.

- The quality of Stafford County banks' loans was lower than those in all five regions and the state as a whole. The proportion of nonperforming loans to gross loans in Stafford equalled 2.47; the next closest rates were those in the Northwest (2.22) and Southcentral (2.09) regions.

- Stafford County banks were much more likely to make loans than their peers in the comparison regions or the state as whole. Total loans to total assets in Stafford County (68.9) suggest that the banks may be playing an active role in the economic and business development of the area.

Figure 7.3

Average Loans to Assets, 1990

Stafford, Kansas Regions and Averages

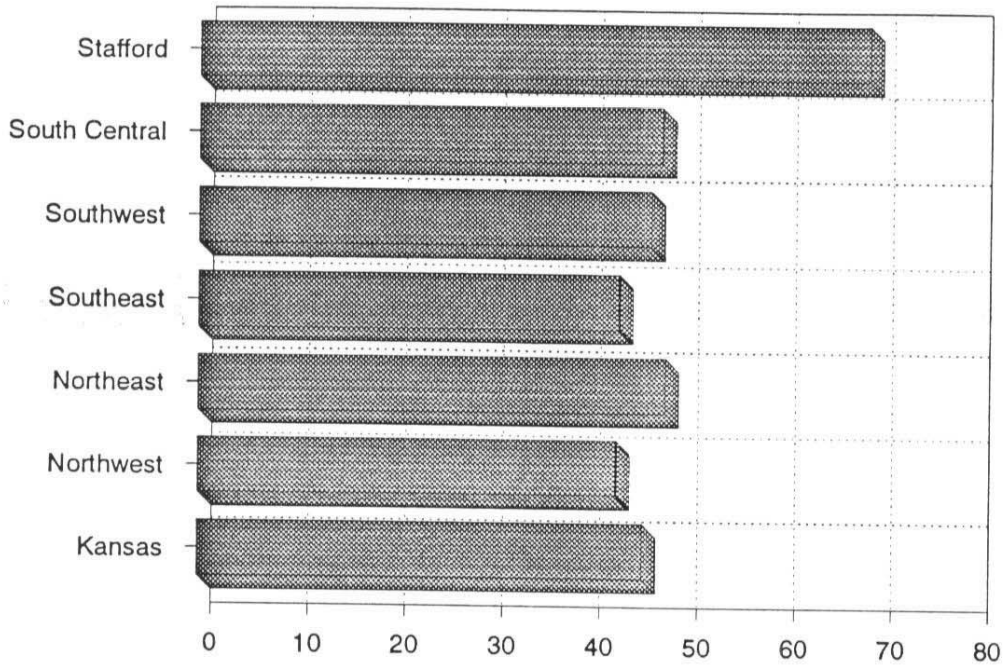


Table 7.2
Overall Banking Strength
Stafford County, Kansas Regions, and Kansas Averages, 1990

	Strength (Z score)[1]	Profitability (ROA)[2]	Safety (CCAP)[3]	Efficiency (OH)[4]	Loan Quality (NONP)[5]	Loan (LNS)[6]
Stafford	0.80	1.06	9.5	3.05	2.47	68.9
South Central	0.919	0.79	8.62	2.75	2.09	47.6
Southwest	1.014	1.05	10.60	3.08	1.93	46.5
Southeast	0.976	0.90	8.48	2.54	1.34	43.3
Northeast	0.961	0.89	8.72	2.49	1.18	48.0
Northwest	0.925	0.90	8.84	3.32	2.22	43.0
Kansas	0.959	0.91	9.05	2.84	1.75	45.7

[1]Score is a calculation of relative bank strength based on the following formula: 1.016261 + .053414(ROA) + .047769(CCAP) - .067381(OH) - .019039(NONP) - .00686(LNS).
[2]Profitablity based on average Return on Assets.
[3]Safety based on average Core Capital to Assets.
[4]Efficiency based on average Total Overhead Expense to Average Earning Assets.
[5]Loan Quality is based upon average Nonperforming Loans to Gross Loans.
[6]Loan Risk is based on average Loans to Assets.
Source: Sheshunoff & Company, *Banks of Kansas*, 1990 (Austin, Texas, 1991) and Kirk A. Zoellner, "Regional Banking Strength in Kansas," *Kansas Business Review* (Vol. 15, No. 1, Fall 1991), Lawrence, Kansas: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, The University of Kansas.

- Certified Kansas Venture/Seed Capital Companies are located in four Kansas counties: Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, and Shawnee. However, their investments through calendar year 1990 were located in fifteen of the state's 105 counties.

- There are presently fifteen Certified Development Companies in Kansas which serve fourteen regions. Stafford County is served by Great Plains Development Corporation, which has its main office in Ford County.

Map 7.2
Location of Venture/Seed Capital Investments

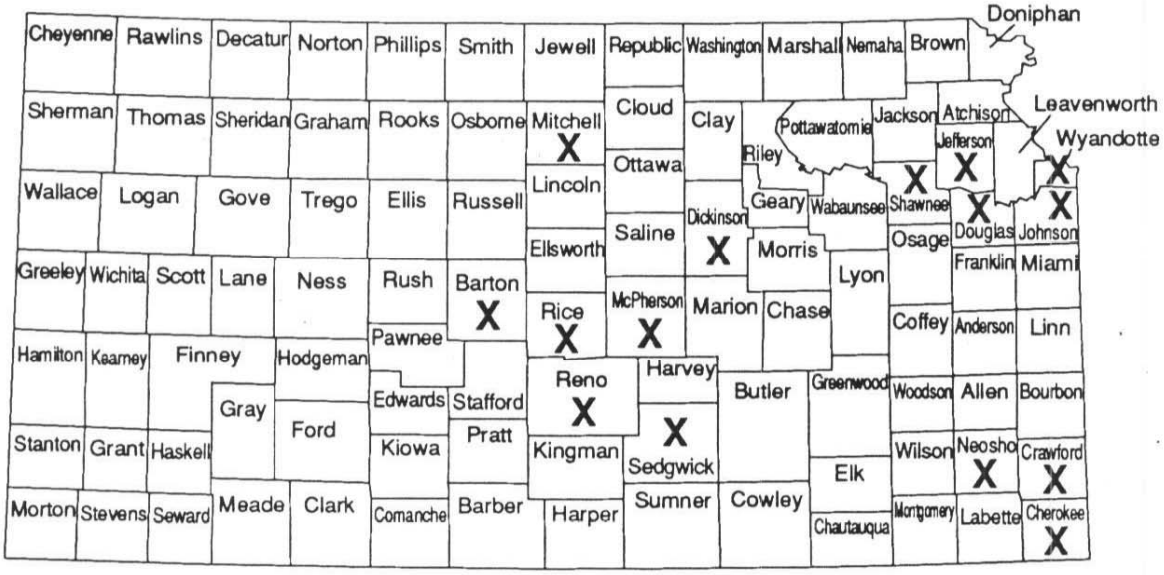


Table 7.3
Location of Venture Capital, Seed Capital, Certified Companies, and Venture/Seed Capital Investments

	Location of:			
	Venture Capital Co.[1]	Seed Capital Pools[2]	CDCs[3]	Venture/Seed Cap. Investments[4]
Barton				●
Cherokee				●
Crawford			●	●
Dickinson				●
Douglas	●		●	●
Ford			●	
Graham			●	
Jefferson				●
Johnson	●		●	●
Leavenworth			●	
Lyon			●	
McPherson			●	●
Mitchell			●	●
Neosho				●
Reno				●
Rice				●
Riley			●	
Sedgwick	●	●	●	●
Shawnee	●		●	●
Wyandotte			●	●

[1]Certified Kansas Venture Capital Companies.
[2]Certified Kansas Local Seed Capital Pools.
[3]Kansas Certified Development Companies.
[4]Includes those venture capital investments made through calendar year 1990.
Source: Steve Kelly, Division of Existing Industry Development, Kansas Department of Commerce, 1992.

Section VIII: Innovation & Technology

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

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

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

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

- *The number of Ph.D. scientists and engineers in the workforce* indicates the potential pool of innovators in the state. The larger this number the greater the opportunities for innovation. Even though not all scientists and engineers are innovators and vice-versa, the greater the technical capacity of the labor force, the greater the opportunities for innovative advances in technology.

- *The number of science and engineering graduate students* in a state gives an indication as to the level of science training in the state. Although this measure does not 'capture' how many of these students remain in the state after graduation, "the history of industrial innovation indicates that new businesses are spawned, more often than not, in the same place entrepreneurs received their degrees." (Corporation for Enterprise Development)

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

- *University research and development* provides a measure of the research and development spending at universities in a state (excluding private universities). Such research has often led to associated business development.

- There is also a correlation between *federal research and development* and private business development. However, in states where much of the federal research is classified, there is less likelihood of transfer to the private sector.

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY: KEY FINDINGS

- Kansas ranks last in the comparison group of surrounding states and 44th in the nation in terms of the number of Ph.D. scientists and engineers per 1,000 workers.

- Kansas ranks second in the group of surrounding states and tenth in the nation in the number of science and engineering graduate students per 1 million population.

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

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

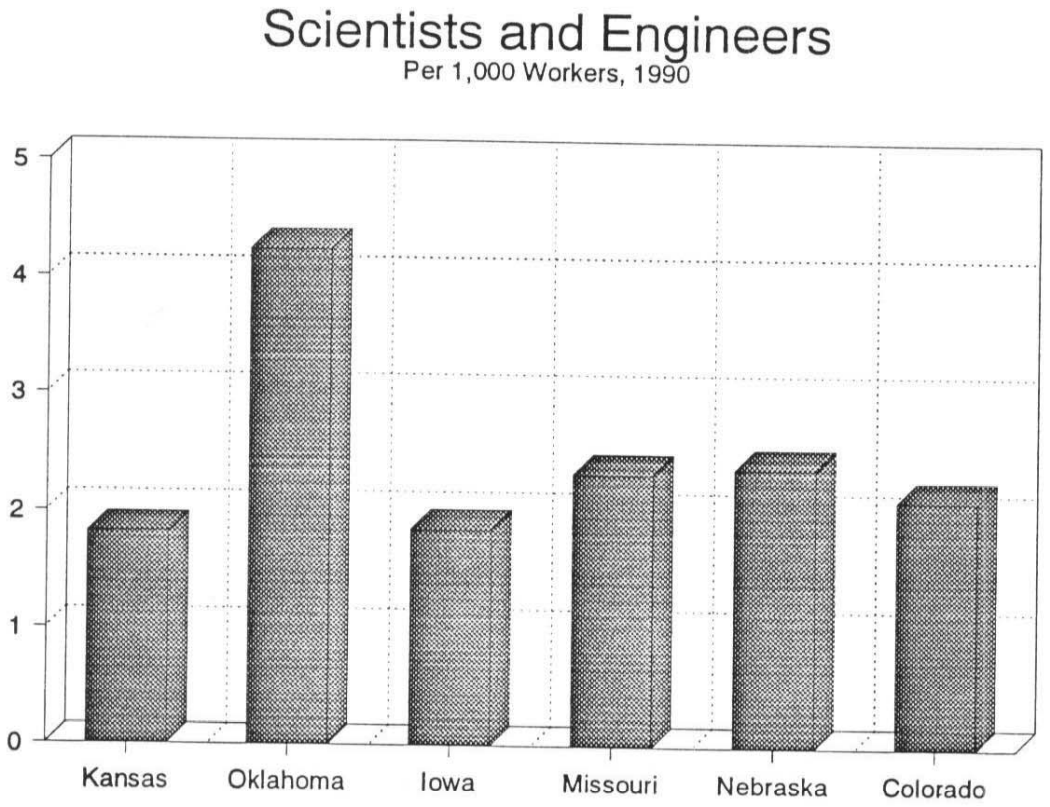
- Among the six comparison states, Kansas ranks 4th in federal research and development at $51.99 per capita, while it ranks 42nd in the nation.

- When the five measures listed above are combined into an index of technology resources, Kansas ranks last in the group of six comparison states and 41th in the nation.

- In an effort to develop its technology resources, Kansas has been a leader in state policy designed to develop technology and innovation.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY: DATA ANALYSIS

Figure 8.1



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

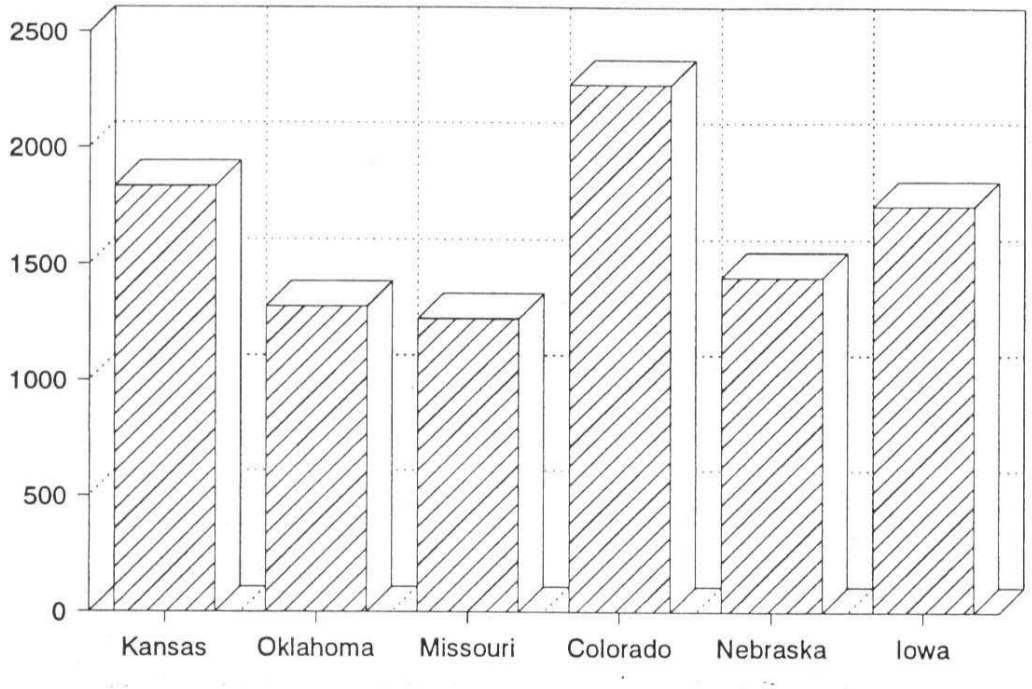
- While Kansas ranks last in the comparison group of surrounding states and 44th in the nation in the number of Ph.D. scientists and engineers per 1,000 workers, it ranks second in the group of surrounding states and tenth in the nation in the number of science and engineering graduate students per 1 million population.

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

Figure 8.2

Science and Engineering Students

Per 1 Million Population, 1990



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

Table 8.1
Science and Engineering Professionals and Students
Kansas and Surrounding States, 1989/1990

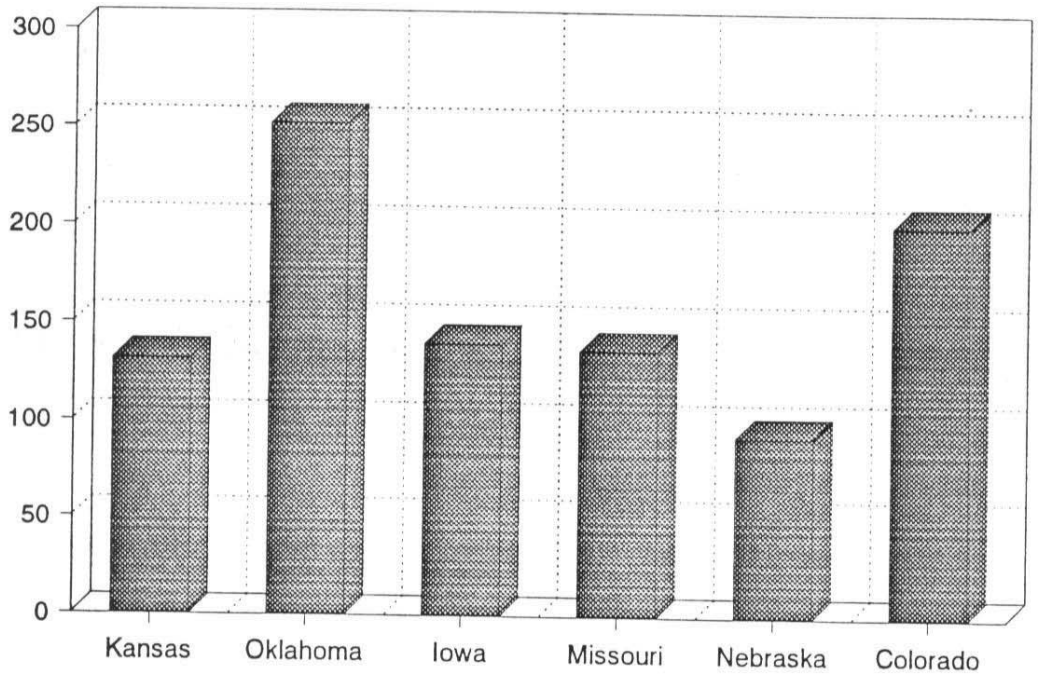
	Ph.D. Scientists & Engineers Per 1,000 Workers[1]	Rank	Science & Engineering Students Per 1 Million Population[2]	Rank
Kansas	1.82*	44	1,808*	10
Oklahoma	4.24*	6	2,300*	2
Iowa	1.85*	43	1,709*	14
Missouri	2.33*	31	1,233*	34
Nebraska	2.38*	29	1,399*	26
Colorado	2.11*	38	1,281*	30

[1]1989 data; [2]1990 data. *Numbers are rounded.
Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, *The 1992 Development Report Card for the States.*

Figure 8.3

Patents Issued Per 1 Million Population

Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990



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

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

Table 8.2
Patents Issued Per 1 Million Population[1]
Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

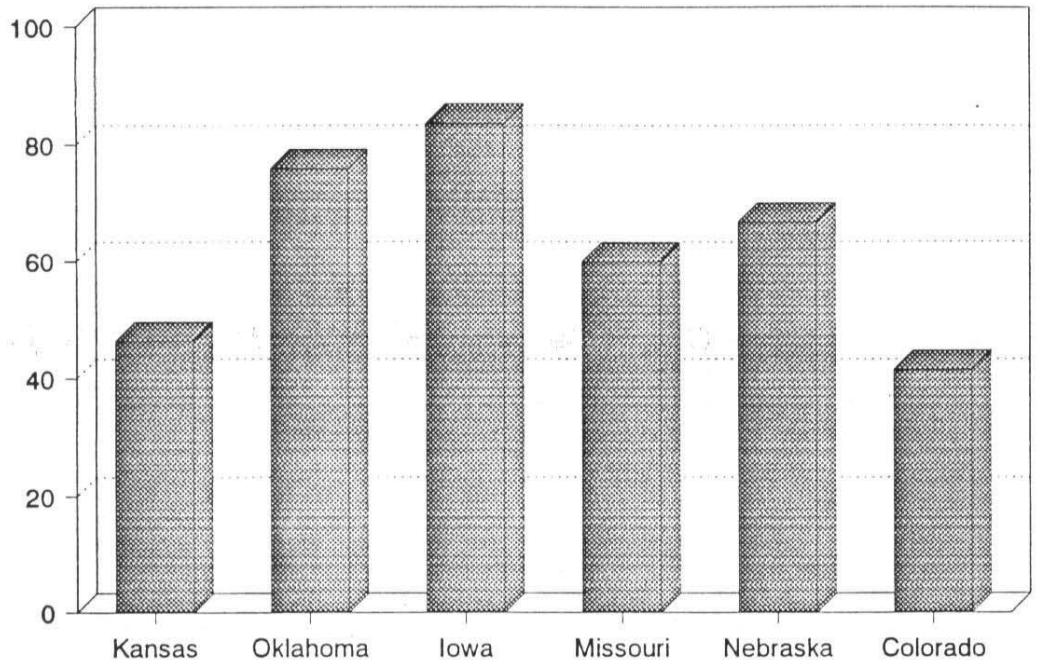
	Number*	Rank
Kansas	132	31
Oklahoma	252	11
Iowa	140	27
Missouri	137	28
Nebraska	93	38
Colorado	201	19

[1]1990 data; *Numbers are rounded.
Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, *The 1992 Development Report Card for the States.*

Figure 8.4

University Research and Development

Per Capita, 1990



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

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

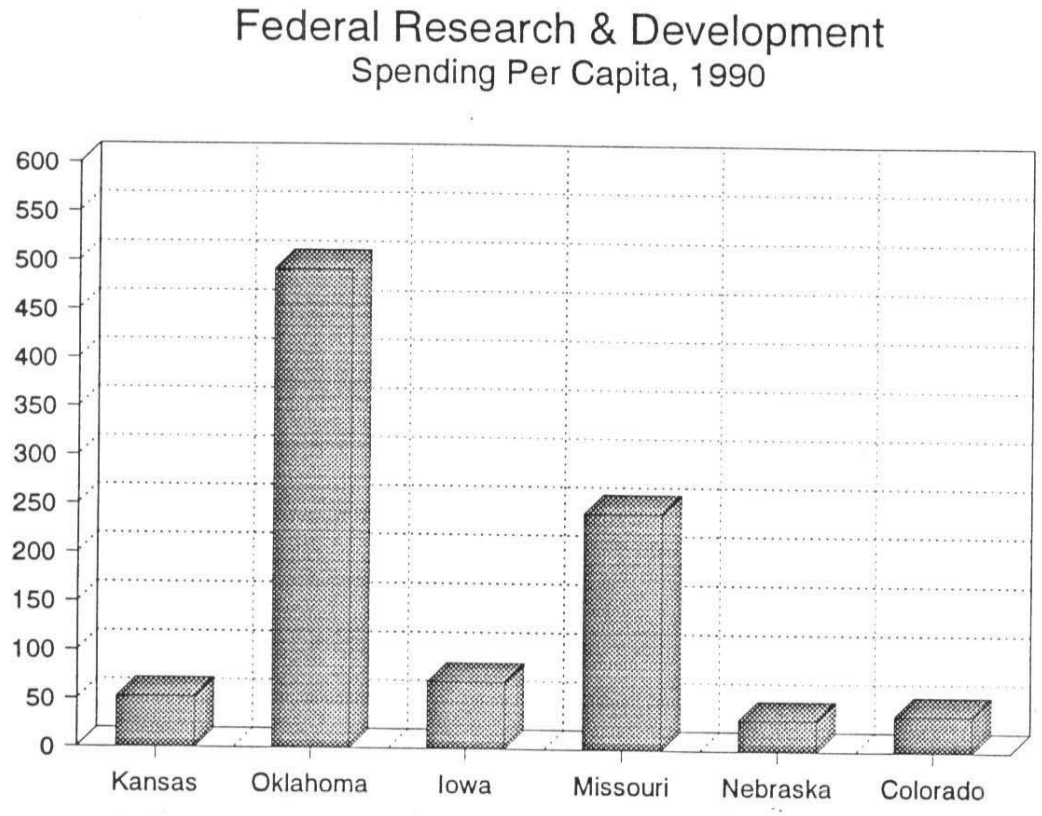
Table 8.3
University Research and Development Per Capita[1]
Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

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

[1]1990 data.

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

Figure 8.5



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

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

Table 8.4
Federal Research & Development Spending Per Capita[1]
Kansas and Surrounding States, 1990

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

[1]1990 data.

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

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

Table 8.5
Technology Resources Subindex of
Development Capacity Report Card

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

Notes: Rank ranges from 1 to 50 (for the number of states), with 1 being the best and 50 the worst. The rank and grade are based on the data from the five categories in the previous tables.
Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, *The 1992 Development Report Card For The States."*

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

Table 8.6
State Policy Report Card, 1991
Technology & Innovation Subindex

	Rank	Grade
Kansas	7	A
Colorado	18	B
Iowa	1	A
Missouri	7	A
Nebraska	37	D
Oklahoma	7	A

Notes: Rank ranges from 1 to 50 (for the number of states), with 1 being the best and 50 the worst. The rank and grade are based on the data from the five categories in the previous table.
Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development, *The 1991 Development Report Card For The States."*

DESCRIPTION OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY EFFORTS

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

Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC):

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

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

1) Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC)

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

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

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

2) Centers of Excellence

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

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

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

b) Center for Excellence in Computer Aided Systems Engineering (CECASE). Located at the University of Kansas, this Center conducts research into "methodologies for computer aided analysis and design of advanced engineering systems, and the development of (sic) prototype software products."

c) Center for Technology Transfer (CTT). Located at Pittsburg State University, this Center's technical expertise and research programs help companies design, test, and develop prototypes, products and processing methods.

In addition, CTT works with the Institute for Economic Development at Pittsburg State University in order to provide clients with expertise in management methods, capital creation, and technology transfer.

d) Higuchi Biosciences Center (HBC). This center, located at the University of Kansas, includes the Center for Biomedical Research, the Center for Bioanalytical Research, the Center for Drug Delivery Research, and the Center for Molecular Engineering and Immunology.

The research foci of these Centers include the "three activities that are essential to the preclinical phase of drug therapy development-analysis, delivery, and formulation."

e) National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR). This Center at Wichita State University. caters to the research and technology needs of the aviation industry.

3) Applied Research Matching Fund

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

4) Small Business Innovation Research Grants

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

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

5) Training Equipment Grants

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

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

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

7) Ad Astra Fund

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

OTHER PROGRAMS

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

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

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

Section IX: Quality of Life

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

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

In this section, the following measures are examined:

- *overall indices* take into account the number of volumes in public libraries, sites on the National Register of Historic Places, museums, local events, and state/federal recreation areas;

- *crime index offenses* indicate social stability and level of public safety;

- *hospital beds and physicians* determine access to doctors and public medical infrastructure; *infant deaths* may pinpoint pockets of poverty or barriers to adequate health care; *adult care homes' licensed beds* demonstrate the local capacity to care for the elderly;

- *day care* and *preschool facilities* represent child care options for working families;

- *persons receiving food stamps* indicates the distribution of income within a community;

- *number of housing units* and *vacancy rates* demonstrate the capacity of existing housing to accommodate population growth; *vacancy tenure* may indicate housing which could deteriorate or need substantial improvements over time; *median housing costs* represent value and affordability; and

- *contaminated water sites, underground storage tanks,* and *above-ground spills* highlight community environmental conditions.

QUALITY OF LIFE: KEY FINDINGS

- Stafford County generally meets the average of its peers in terms of numbers of museums, local events, and state/federal recreational areas, and has twice the number of public library volumes per capita of most of the comparative counties.

- Crime in Stafford County decreased by half over the 1980-1990 period. The Stafford 1990 Crime Index rate of 15.1 offenses per 1,000 population was the third lowest of the comparison counties. However, the rate of violent crime in Stafford County was higher than that of any of the rural comparative counties.

- Access to medical services in Stafford County declined significantly during the 1980s. The ratio of hospital beds to population decreased by 32 percent, hospital bed utilization rates declined by 49 percent, and the number of persons per physician increased by 53 percent. However, Stafford County fared better than the state average on the number of hospital beds per thousand population.

- Stafford County's infant mortality rate increased 27 percent over the decade. At a level 50 percent higher than the state average, this was substantially higher than every comparative except Reno County.

- The number of adult care homes licensed beds decreased from 1983 to 1989, but when expressed in terms of the number of adults who are 65 years old and older, it was still greater than those in six of the seven counties, and surpassed the state average as well.

- Access to day care centers ranked Stafford fifth out of the eight counties. However, preschools in Stafford rank first, with approximately 38 children (aged 3-4) per school in Stafford County, which is significantly less than the state average and those in other counties.

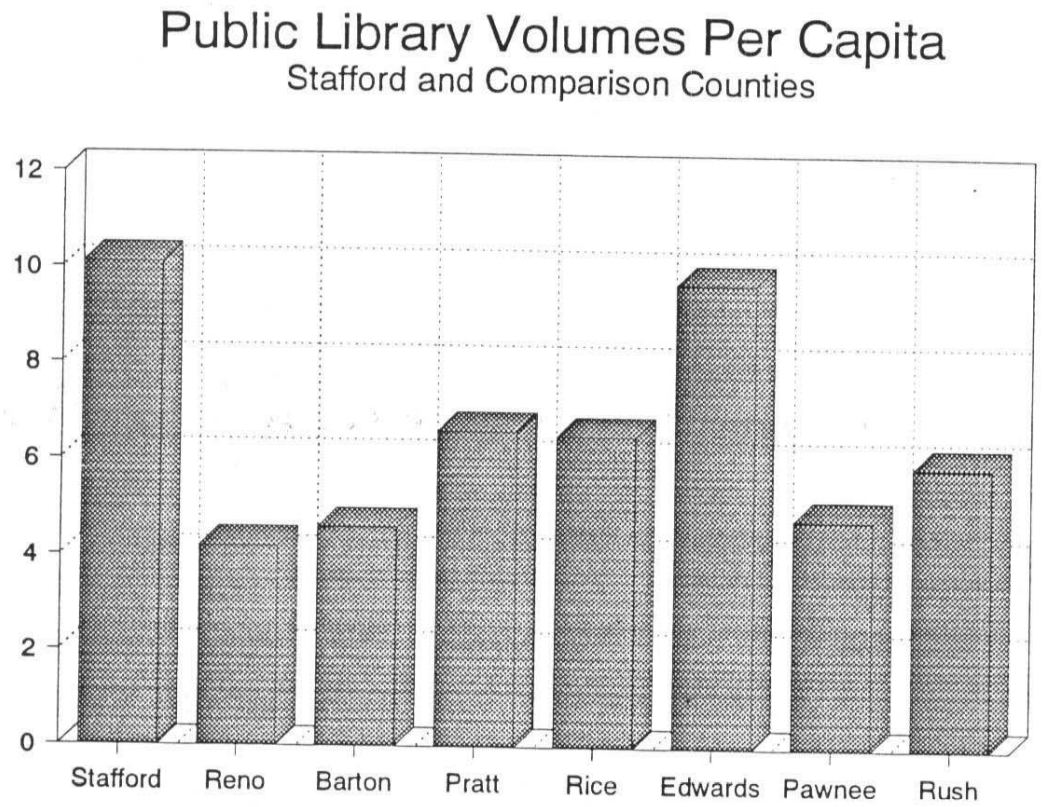
- The rate of persons receiving food stamps in Stafford County increased by 1990 to nearly four times the 1980 rate, and outstripped the food stamp rate in any of the comparative counties.

- Stafford County experienced a decline in the number of housing units and households over the 1980-1990 period. This was similar to trends in peer counties, but contradicted state-wide trends. Rental vacancy rates in Stafford eclipsed those in nearly all of the comparison counties.

- The number of housing units which have been vacant 6 or more months shows that the majority of vacancies in Stafford County are long-term. On the other hand, median housing costs in Stafford were the second lowest in the comparison area.

- The number of contaminated sites in Stafford County in 1989 was similar to those in Pratt, Rice, Pawnee, and Rush. Nevertheless, the number of above ground spills was far greater than those in five comparison counties, and on par with Reno.

Figure 9.1



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

- On Overall Indices, Stafford County generally meets the average of its peers. The total number of museums, number of local events, and number of state/federal recreation areas is comparable to those in similarly-sized counties. The number of public library volumes per capita in Stafford County exceeds all of the comparison counties; Stafford's figure of 10.1 volumes per capita is more than double those of Reno (4.2), Barton (4.6), and Pawnee (4.8).

- The number of sites on the National Register of Historic Places in Stafford County is slightly less than the average for the comparison counties. Only Edwards County has fewer sites than Stafford.

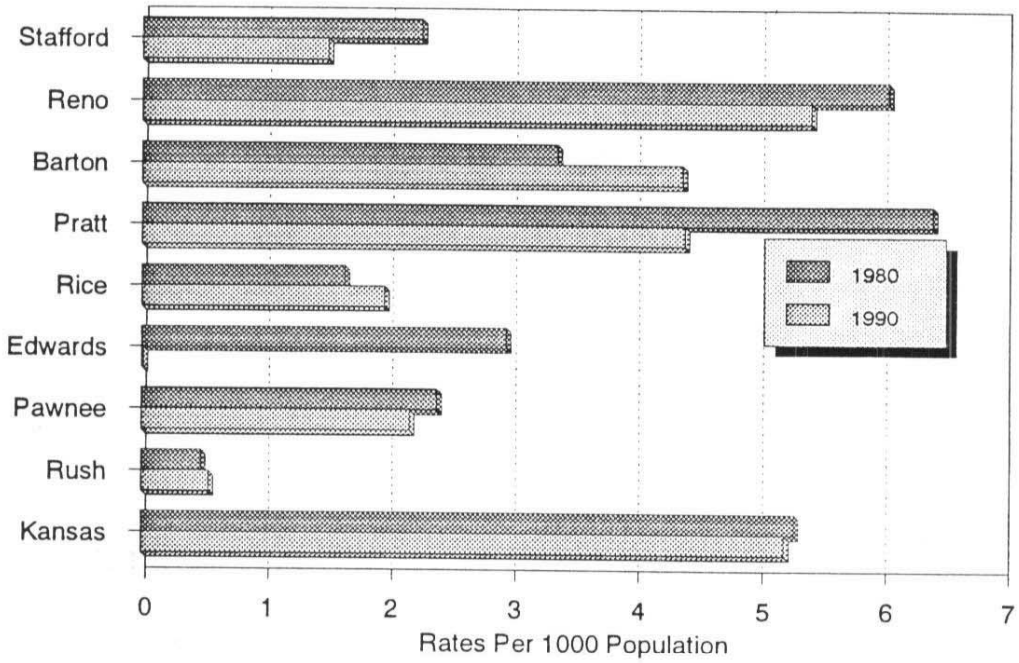
Table 9.1
Quality of Life: Overall Indices
Stafford and Comparative Counties

	Public Library Volumes Per Capita	Number of Sites on National Register of Historical Places	Number of Museums	Number of Events[1]	Number of State/Federal Recreational Areas
Stafford	10.1	1	2	2	1[2]
Reno	4.2	7	2	12	3[2]
Barton	4.6	3	2	4	2
Pratt	6.6	2	1	--	2
Rice	6.5	8	2	1	2[2]
Edwards	9.7	--	1	--	1
Pawnee	4.8[3]	3	2	7	2
Rush	5.9	3	2	1	--

[1]Includes festivals, antiques/flea markets, product expositions, holiday/religious events, arts and crafts shows, athletic events, etc.
[2]Includes wildlife refuges.
[3]Does not include all libraries in county.
Source: John Clements, *Flying the Colors: Kansas Facts*, Dallas, Texas: Central Research II, Inc., 1990.

Figure 9.2

Crime Indexes: Per 1000 Population
Comparison Counties & Kansas, 1980-1989



Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Kansas 1990*; State of Kansas, *Uniform Crime Report, Crime in Kansas, 1980.*

- Crime in Stafford County decreased by half over the 1980-1990 period. The Stafford 1990 Crime Index rate of 15.1 offenses per 1,000 population was the third lowest of the comparison counties.

- In 1980, Stafford's crime rate was more than half the state average, while in 1990 it was seventy-one percent less than the state figure.

- The rate of violent crime increased in Stafford County between 1980 and 1990. The rate of 1.7 offenses per 1,000 population was higher than any of the rural comparative counties.

Table 9.2
Crime Indexes: Rate per 1,000 Population
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

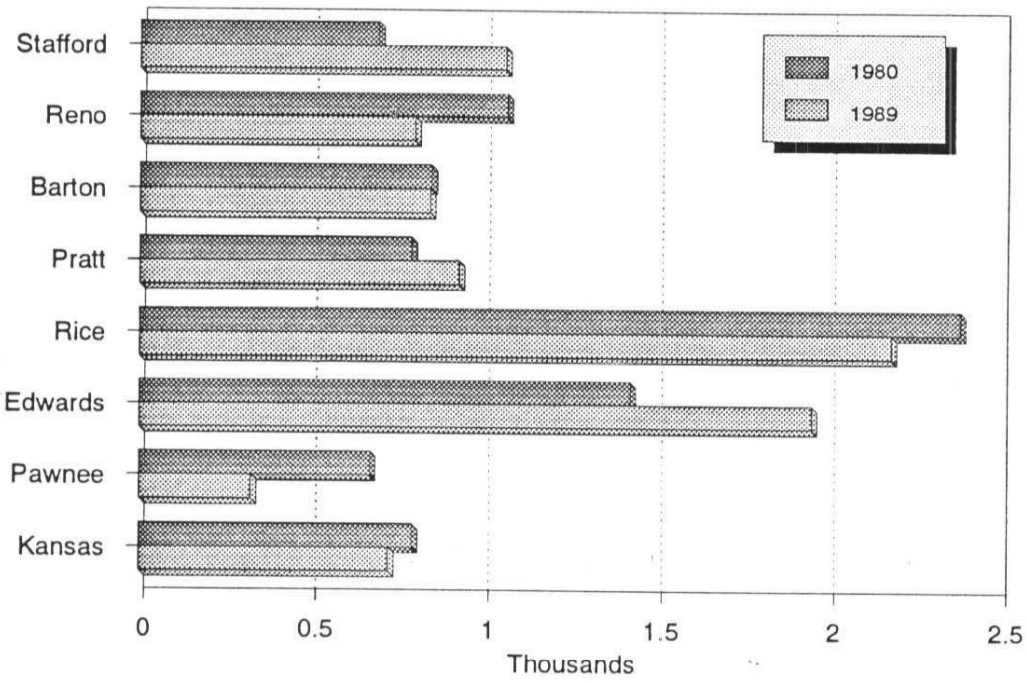
	Crime Index Offenses		Violent Crime		Property Crime	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990
Stafford	22.7	15.1	0.5	1.7	22.2	13.4
Reno	60.5	54.2	1.6	5.0	58.9	49.2
Barton	33.7	43.8	2.1	3.3	31.5	40.5
Pratt	64.1	44.0	4.4	3.3	59.7	40.7
Rice	16.5	19.7	0.2	0.6	16.3	19.1
Edwards	29.6	6.1	1.9	0.0	27.7	6.1
Pawnee	24.0	21.8	2.1	1.3	21.9	20.5
Rush	4.9	5.5	0.2	0.8	4.7	4.7
Kansas	52.9	52.1	3.8	4.5	49.0	47.6

Note: Crime Index Offenses are murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.
Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Kansas 1990*; State of Kansas, *Uniform Crime Report, Crime in Kansas, 1980.*

Figure 9.3

Persons Per Physician

Stafford County & Comparatives, 1989



Source: American Hospital Association, *American Hospital Association Guide to the Health Care Field, 1981 Edition; 1989 Edition.*

- In 1980, Stafford County had more hospital beds per 1,000 population than the comparison counties (except for Pawnee, which has the state hospital) and more than the state average. However, the number of beds in 1989 was significantly lower in Stafford, but still greater than those in the larger comparison counties and the state average.

- Admissions per bed for Stafford were cut in half over the 1980-1989 period. Admissions per bed increased slightly for the state as whole, remained the same in Reno, and dropped in the other counties.

- Persons per physician increased by fifty percent in Stafford over the 1980-1989 period, contrary to trend in the state and six of the comparison counties. Only Edwards County experienced a similar increase.

Table 9.3
Health Care Access: Hospital Beds and Physicians, 1980 and 1989
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Number of Hospital Beds Per 1,000 Population		Admissions Per Bed		Persons Per Physician	
	1980	1989[1]	1980	1989	1980	1989
Stafford	12.0	8.2	29.4	15.0	692	1,060
Reno	3.1	2.3	49.8	48.4	1,065	799
Barton	7.8	12.6	36.9	11.1	847	842
Pratt	8.2	7.1	41.0	17.8	790	927
Rice	3.7	4.1	30.0	14.0	2,380	2,180
Edwards	11.7	12.9	26.9	9.9	1,424	1,950
Pawnee	63.7[2]	62.9[2]	3.5	2.9	672	326
Rush[3]	11.1	13.0	--	--	4,516	1,900
Kansas	7.5	6.0	23.1	24.3	794	725

[1]Calculations based upon 1990 population figures.
[2]Includes state hospital.
[3]Incomplete data.
Source: American Hospital Association, *American Hospital Association Guide to the Health Care Field, 1981 Edition; 1989 Edition.*

- Stafford County's infant deaths represented 1.4 percent of the births from 1986 to 1990, a mortality rate which was 50 percent greater than the state average, and substantially higher than every comparative except Reno County.

- The infant mortality rate increased by 27 percent in Stafford County from the first half of the decade to the second half.

Table 9.4
Number of Deaths, Infants Less Than 1 Year of Age
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas, 1981-1985 and 1986-1990

	Total Number of Deaths		Percent of Births	
	1981-85	1986-90	1981-85	1986-90
Stafford	5	5	1.1%	1.4%
Reno	43	51	0.9	1.2
Barton	31	20	1.0	0.8
Pratt	8	4	0.9	0.6
Rice	9	5	1.0	0.7
Edwards	2	0	0.7	0.0
Pawnee	9	3	1.5	0.7
Rush	3	0	1.1	0.0
Kansas	2,025	1,690	1.0	0.9

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

- Licensed beds in Stafford County adult care homes (per the number of persons over age 65) exceeded that of the comparison counties and the state average in 1983.

- The total number of beds in Stafford County dropped from 178 to 128 over the 1983-1989 period.

Table 9.5
Adult Care Homes: Licensed Beds, 1983 and 1989
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Number of Licensed Beds		Number of Beds Per Population 65 and Older	
	1983	1989	1983[1]	1989[2]
Stafford	178	128	0.13	0.10
Reno	634	703	0.07	0.07
Barton	374	384	0.09	0.08
Pratt	155	142	0.08	0.08
Rice	198	200	0.09	0.09
Edwards	83	94	0.09	0.11
Pawnee	100	100	0.07	0.07
Rush	60	60	0.06	0.06
Kansas	25,584	28,161	0.08	0.08

[1]Calculations based upon 1980 population totals.
[2]Calculations based upon 1990 population totals.
Source: KCCED County Database, from Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Information Systems and Computing.

- The number of licensed day care centers, when expressed in terms of the total number of children age 0-5 per center, ranked fifth best out of the eight counties. Stafford's rate of 66 children per center was lower than the state average (71.7) and that of Barton (105.5), Rice (76.7), and Rush (91.3) Counties.

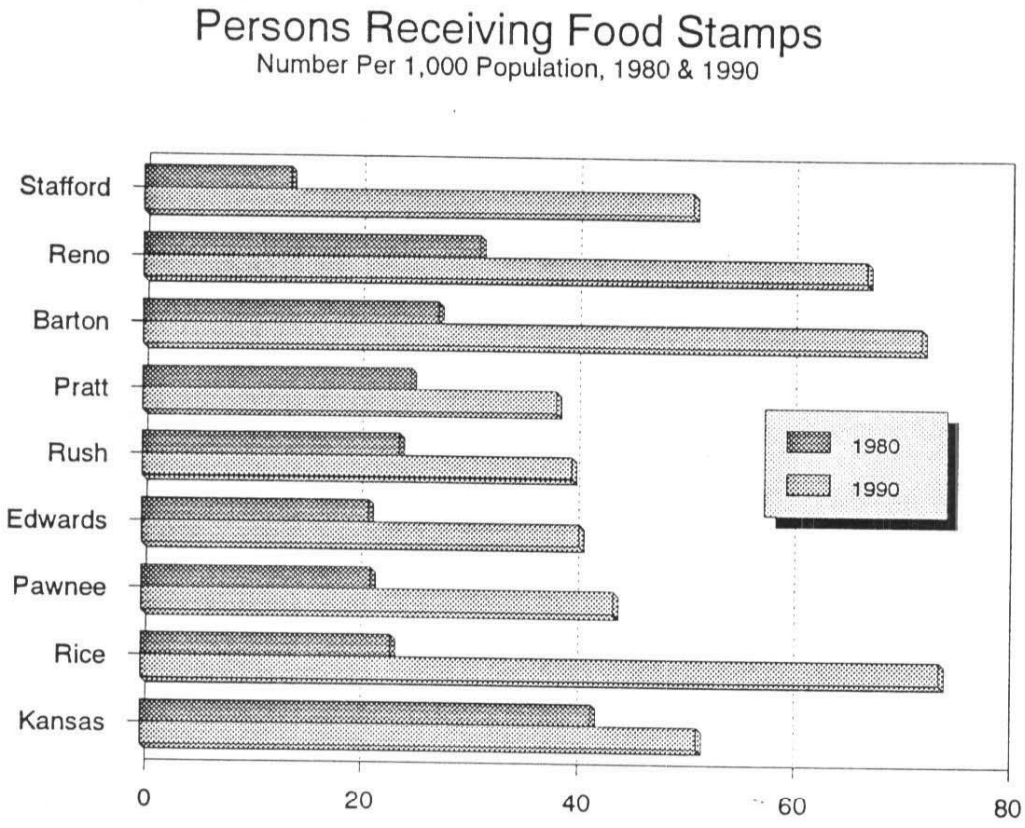
- The number of children age 3-4 per preschool was equivalent to 38 children per school in Stafford County, the lowest for all comparison counties and was much lower than the state average (191).

Table 9.6
Access to Day Care and Preschool, 1989
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Number of Licensed Day Care Centers		Number of Preschools	
	Total	Children Per Center[1]	Total	Children Per School[2]
Stafford	7	66.0	4	38.0
Reno	107	48.7	10	181.0
Barton	26	105.5	7	134.9
Pratt	17	44.9	4	67.5
Rice	12	76.7	4	82.5
Edwards	5	54.6	1	101.0
Pawnee	26	20.7	2	97.5
Rush	3	91.3	0	--
Kansas	3,177	71.7	404	191.0

[1]Calculations based upon number of persons aged 0-5 according to 1990 population totals.
[2]Calculations based upon number of persons aged 3-4 according to 1990 population totals.
Source: Robert H. Poresky, Department of Human Development and Family Studies (Kansas State University), Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Adult and Child Care Facilities. Data collected by KCCED/IPPBR, KCRI/KSU.

Figure 9.4



Source: USDA *Food Statistical Summary,* U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County City Databook, 1991.* Data shown are averages of monthly data for January and July of the years indicated.

- When compared to the seven counties and the state average, the increase in food stamp recipients in Stafford County outstripped the others over the 1980-1989 period. The 298 percent jump surpassed those in the other counties. Rice and Barton experienced similar increases of 264 and 209 percent increases, respectively.

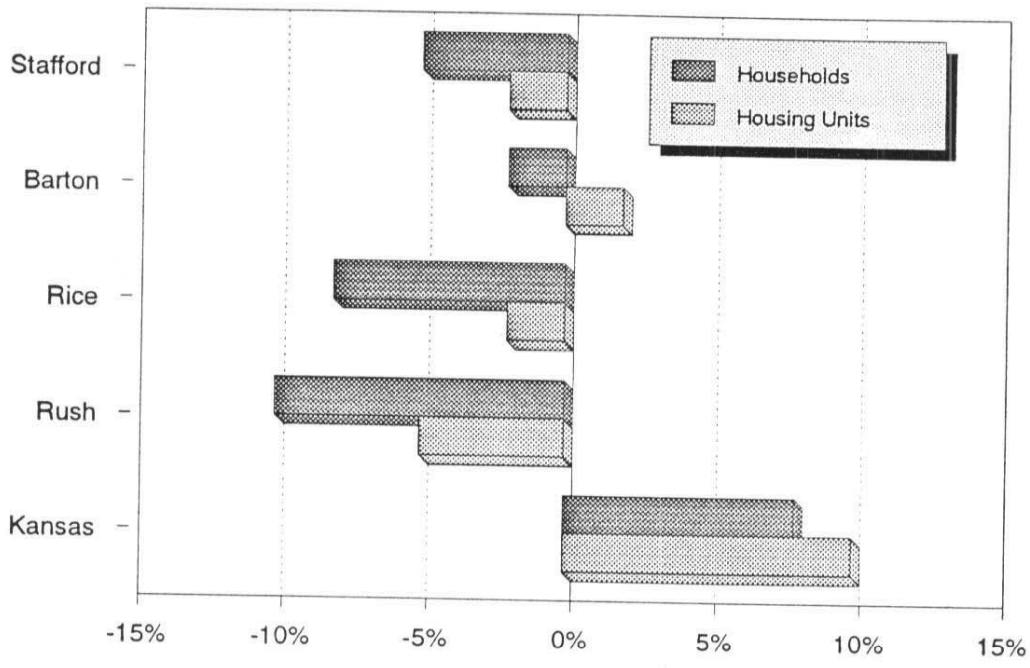
Table 9.7
Number of Persons Receiving Food Stamps, 1980 and 1990
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Persons Receiving		Per 1,000 Population		Percent Change
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980-1990
Stafford	73	273	12.8	50.9	297.7
Reno	1,821	4,180	28.0	67.0	139.3
Barton	735	2,117	23.4	72.1	208.1
Pratt	230	372	22.3	38.3	71.7
Rush	102	153	22.6	39.8	76.1
Edwards	85	154	19.8	40.5	104.5
Pawnee	151	330	18.7	43.7	133.7
Rice	242	784	20.3	73.9	264.0
Kansas	98,410	127,734	41.7	51.5	23.5

Source: USDA *Food Statistical Summary*, U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County City Databook, 1991.* Data shown are averages of monthly data for January and July of the years indicated.

Figure 9.5

Number of Households/Housing Units
Percent Change, 1980-1990



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

- The total number of households and housing units in Stafford County dropped over the 1980-1990 period, by 4.5 and 1.6 percent, respectively. While this was similar to trends in Rice, Edwards, Pawnee, and Rush, it contradicted the state average.

- Three counties had growth in housing units in conjunction with a decline in the number of households: Reno, Barton, and Pratt.

- Household and housing unit declines in Stafford were most similar in percentage terms to those in Pawnee, and not as substantial as those in Rice and Rush.

Table 9.8
Number of Housing Units, 1980 and 1990
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Total Households		Number of Housing Units		Housing Units per Household		Percent Change	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	1980	1990	House-holds	Housing Units
Stafford	2,307	2,203	2,709	2,666	1.17	1.21	-4.5	-1.6
Reno	24,448	24,239	26,574	26,607	1.09	1.10	-0.9	0.1
Barton	11,797	11,561	12,871	13,144	1.09	1.14	-2.0	2.1
Pratt	4,078	3,937	4,450	4,620	1.09	1.17	-3.5	3.8
Rice	4,525	4,165	4,974	4,868	1.10	1.17	-8.0	-2.1
Edwards	1,725	1,585	1,990	1,867	1.15	1.18	-8.1	-6.2
Pawnee	3,066	2,923	3,442	3,412	1.12	1.17	-4.7	-0.9
Rush	1,827	1,642	2,100	1,999	1.15	1.22	-10.1	-4.8
Kansas	872,239	944,726	950,151	1,044,112	1.09	1.11	8.3	9.9

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

- Rental vacancy rates in Stafford County (17.0%) topped those in all counties except Pratt (19.9). Vacancies in Stafford County owner-occupied housing units ranked third at 2.6 percent surpassed by those in Rice and Rush counties 4.0 and 5.3 percent, respectively.

- In terms of size, the number of Stafford County housing units (both owner and tenant occupied) ranked sixth, as did total vacancies.

Table 9.9
Housing Occupancy and Tenure, 1990
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Total Housing Units	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Vacant Total	Vacant Seasonal	Vacancy Rates Owned	Vacancy Rates Rental
Stafford	2,666	1,667	536	463	60	3.6%	17.0%
Reno	26,607	16,954	7,285	2,368	163	2.2	12.4
Barton	13,144	8,357	3,204	1,583	37	3.0	16.8
Pratt	4,620	2,908	1,029	683	25	2.3	19.9
Rice	4,868	3,130	1,035	703	13	4.0	16.5
Edwards	1,867	1,193	392	282	20	2.8	12.5
Pawnee	3,412	2,085	838	489	10	3.4	16.3
Rush	1,999	1,330	312	357	17	5.3	14.4
Kansas	1,044,112	641,762	302,964	99,386	7,336	2.3	11.1

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

- Data on the number of housing units which have been vacant 6 months or more indicates that the vast majority of vacancies in Stafford are long-term; only two other counties, Rush and Edwards, have a greater percentage of such vacancies.

- Over 78 percent of for sale units in Stafford County have been vacant 6 months or more. In contrast, approximately 55 percent of rentals have been empty for the same period.

Table 9.10
Housing Units Vacant 6 or More Months, 1990
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

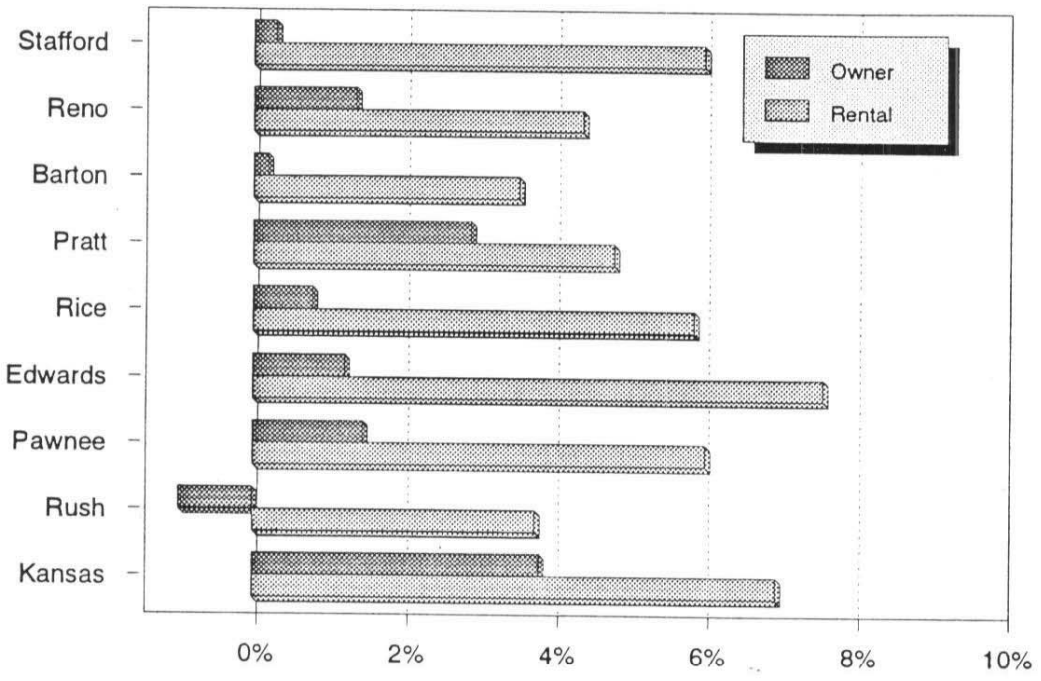
	Total Vacancies		Rentals Vacant		Units for Sale	
	Number	% Vacant	Number	% Vacant	Number	% Vacant
Stafford	344	74.3	50	54.9	47	78.3
Reno	1,287	54.3	302	33.4	224	59.3
Barton	1,047	66.1	256	47.7	175	68.9
Pratt	386	56.5	87	42.4	40	59.7
Rice	502	71.4	78	45.6	90	72.0
Edwards	209	74.1	26	53.1	22	64.7
Pawnee	315	64.4	62	45.3	44	62.9
Rush	293	82.1	31	68.9	61	85.9
Kansas	49,844	50.2	11,220	29.8	8,256	54.1

Note: Numbers shown in this table refer strictly to housing units which have been vacant 6 months or more. Percentages indicate the proportion of vacancies which have been vacant for 6 months or more.
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of the Population, Summary File Tape 1A, *Characteristics of the Population*.

Figure 9.6

Median Housing Costs

Percent Change - 1980-1990



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

- 1990 median housing costs for owner-occupied units in Stafford County ($24,000) was lower than those in six of the comparison counties, as well as the Kansas average. Rush County, with median a value of $19,200, was the lowest.

- Rental costs increased in Stafford County by 60 percent over the 1980-1990 period. This increase was less than those in Edwards and Pawnee, as well as the Kansas average.

Table 9.11
Median Housing Costs, 1980 and 1990
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

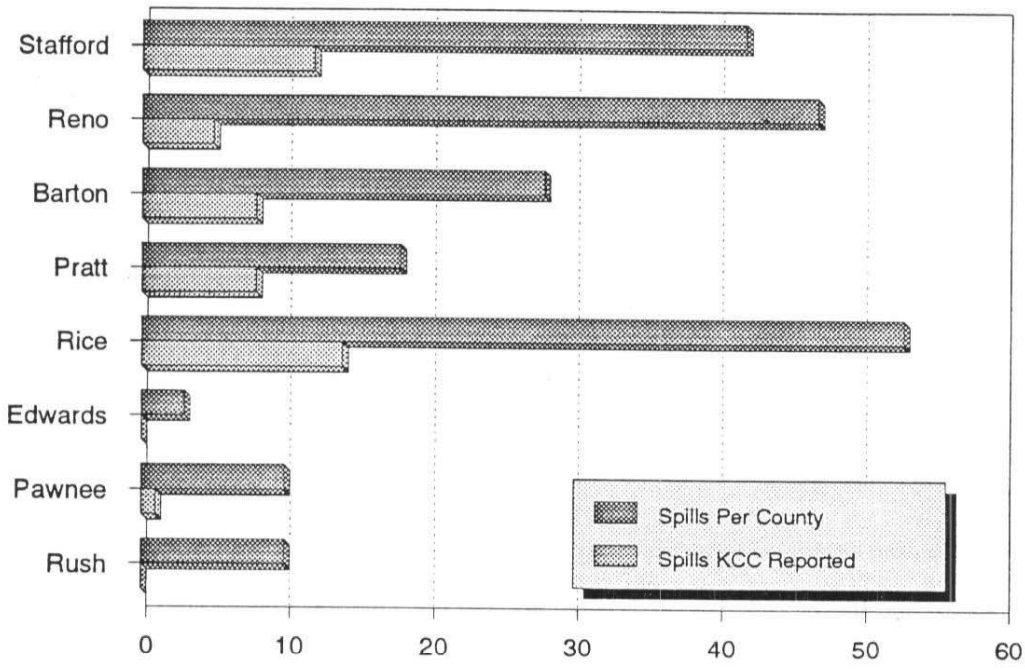
	Owner-Occupied Median Value		Renter-Occupied Median Rent		Percent Change	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	Owner Units	Rental Units
Stafford	23,300	24,000	100	160	3.0	60.0
Reno	35,300	40,100	162	233	13.6	43.8
Barton	37,000	37,700	156	211	1.9	35.3
Pratt	29,100	37,500	150	222	28.9	48.0
Rice	25,200	27,200	104	165	7.9	58.7
Edwards	22,200	24,900	91	160	12.2	75.8
Pawnee	30,800	35,300	123	197	14.6	60.2
Rush	21,300	19,200	104	143	-9.9	37.5
Kansas	37,800	52,200	168	285	38.1	69.6

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

Figure 9.7

Above Ground Spill Sites, 1989

Stafford and Comparison Counties



Source: *1989 Summary of Bureau of Environmental Remediation Sites in Kansas*, Topeka, Kansas: Kansas Department of Health and Environment, February 1990.

- The number of contaminated water sites in Stafford County was on par with its peers in 1989. Three counties had two reported sites (Stafford, Pratt, and Rush) and two counties had three (Rice and Pawnee). Most sites were contaminated by inorganic substances as a result of oil production.

- The number of above ground spills in Stafford County, both general and those associated with oil leases, were greater than those in five of the eight counties.

Table 9.12
Contaminated Water Sites, 1989
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Number of Sites[1]	Most Common Contaminants	Most Common Source	Number of Resolved Sites[2]
Stafford	2	Inorganic	Brine/Lagoon	--
Reno	12	Volatile Organic	Other	2
Barton	8	Inorganic	Brine	1
Pratt	2	Pest/Oil	Other/Pipeline	--
Rice	3	Inorganic	Dumping/Brine	2
Edwards	--	--	--	--
Pawnee	3	Inorganic	Brine	--
Rush	2	Inorganic	Brine	2
Kansas	386	Volatile Organic	Brine	47

[1]Sites being investigated, cleaned up, or monitored during year.
[2]Sites which have been: a) cleaned up and inspected; b) monitored for post-clean up; or c) no remedial action necessary.
Source: *1989 Summary of Bureau of Environmental Remediation Sites in Kansas*, Topeka, Kansas: Kansas Department of Health and Environment, February 1990.

Table 9.13
Underground Storage Tanks and Above Ground Spill Sites, 1989
Stafford, Comparative Counties, and Kansas

	Underground Tanks		Spills	
	Number Registered	Number Removed	Per County	KCC Reported[1]
Stafford	79	2	42	12
Reno	396	91	47	5
Barton	331	23	28	8
Pratt	145	5	18	8
Rice	112	7	53	14
Edwards	61	6	3	0
Pawnee	83	19	10	1
Rush	46	4	10	0
Kansas	19,000[2]	936	1,236	597

[1]Includes spills which occur on active oil leases.
[2]Approximate.
Source: *1989 Summary of Bureau of Environmental Remediation Sites in Kansas*, Topeka, Kansas: Kansas Department of Health and Environment, February 1990.

Section X: Summary of Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats

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

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

STRENGTHS

- Rate of population out-migration is slowing
- High levels of spending on education
- Low high school dropout rates
- Low pupil-teacher ratios
- Persistently low unemployment rates
- Stability in the number of jobs since 1986
- High per capita incomes
- Stability of income sources - transfers, government, pensions, social security
- Farm proprietorships an important source of income
- Continuing importance of farm sector (1 in 4 jobs)
- High rates of assessment growth since 1990
- High rate of bank investment in loans
- Well developed public library
- Low and decreasing crime rates
- Relatively good accessibility to hospital beds
- Better than average access to adult care home beds
- Housing costs are low in Stafford County

WEAKNESSES

- Population loss in 7 of last 8 decades, most severe in the region
- Declining population of prime working age
- Workforce has relatively low levels of education attainment
- High rates of withdrawal from the labor force
- Low average earnings per job
- Limited growth in employment income
- Remote interstate highway access
- Water/sewer infrastructure limited by sparse population density
- Number employed declining in service, retail and farm sectors
- No expansion in the value of farm output during the 1980s
- Banks are relatively small in terms of assets
- Bank strength low due to high overheads/quality of loan portfolios
- Limited access to venture and seed capital investments
- Serious decline in retail sector
- Decline in service sector positions
- High infant mortality rates

OPPORTUNITIES

- Increasing importance of non-employment sources of income may bring economic stability
- High proportions of small business providing opportunities for expansion
- Kansas has developed numerous state technology and small business programs
- Housing available to accommodate short term and immediate employment growth
- Relative strengths in farming, manufacturing
- Proximity of MAMTAC -technological applications
- Potential for stimulation of service sector business to service small businesses
- Potential for value-added processing of agricultural products

THREATS

- Continuing population loss, especially younger population
- Increasing proportions of population dependent upon a smaller share of working age population for income and support
- Increased demand for public services from growing senior and young populations
- Average wages have been declining in Stafford County
- Stafford is vulnerable to shifts in government employment
- Erosion of retail base to nearby counties - retail sales declined by 50% during the 1980s
- Lack of critical mass in service and retail sectors could limit business development
- Kansas has not performed well with respect to innovation and technology
- Increasing proportion of crimes in violent category
- Declining access to health care
- Large increases in the proportions of persons receiving food stamps (income distribution problem, since per capita incomes are high)
- Long term housing vacancies could lead to deterioration of housing stock quality
- Environmental quality at risk due to high rates of spills