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WHO'S PROSPERING IN PROSPEROUS TIMES
A Study of Economic Progress Across Kansas

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INTRODUCTION:

The US and the Kansas economy have been expanding since the second half of 1991. For this reason, the authors are asking the question: "Who is prospering in prosperous times"?

This report provides a county-by-county analysis of the economic progress of people living across Kansas.

Four different variables are used in the analysis. These are employment, income, retail trade, and population. In an ideal scenario, the people living in a county will be progressing because they have better jobs and higher incomes. Retail trade activity is expanding and so is the population. From our analysis, this is what is happening in 16 out of 105 counties. But before discussing our findings, the authors will first present the county-by-county situation for each variable in the analysis.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT CHANGE

Civilian employment has increased 15 percent from 1991 through 1999. Job growth occurred all across Kansas. For example, employment went up 65 percent in

Jackson County, 31 percent in Wilson County, 17 percent in Ottawa County, 20 percent in Sumner County, 22 percent in Sherman County, and 28 percent in Gray County. These numbers reflect employment by place of residence as reported by the *Labor Market Information Services in the Kansas Department of Human Resources*. Therefore, these examples show gains made by people living in all regions of Kansas. **See MAP 1.**

Using the 15 percent rate as the benchmark for comparison purposes, 29 counties experienced growth in the employed portion of their population at or greater than the rate of 15 percent. Fifty-three more grew at a slower rate and 23 either had no growth or negative growth.

The region with the best performance was the northeast. In the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, Johnson, Leavenworth, and Miami counties grew at a rate faster than 15 percent. Wyandotte County grew at the modest rate of 5 percent. Also, people in adjacent counties all around the core counties of Johnson and Wyandotte experienced expanded job markets. Job growth was strong in Atchison, Jefferson, Douglas, and Franklin counties at the rates of 15 percent, 16 percent,

24 percent, and 22 percent respectively.

Job growth was strong in the counties surrounding Topeka. Job growth was strong in Butler and Sumner counties near Wichita. Job growth was strong in two counties near Salina, Ottawa and McPherson. Ellis County grew at the rate of 19 percent. Sherman and Thomas counties grew at the rate of 22 and 15 percent respectively. Finally, both Gray and Hodgeman counties, near Dodge City, have done well.

Growth was spotty along highway 36. Decatur, Rawlins, and Republic counties lost employed population while Norton, Marshall, Brown, and Doniphan experienced above average gains.

A number of counties stretching from the Oklahoma border in south central Kansas all the way up to Republic County on the Nebraska border lost employed population. Finally, the Flint Hills counties of Chautauqua, Elk, Greenwood, and Woodson lost some employed population.

PERSONAL INCOME CHANGES

Total personal income went up 45 percent from 1991 to 1998, the most recent year available. Total personal income increased by \$20.3 billion. This excellent performance was shared across Kansas. For example, incomes in Brown County went up 51 percent. Elk, Republic, Harvey, Trego, and Meade counties went up 65 percent, 52 percent, 79 percent, 59 percent, and 81 percent respectively. Total personal income data comes from the *Governor's Economic and Demographic Reports*. See **MAP 2**.

Using the 45 percent rate of growth as the benchmark for comparison, 30 counties went up at this rate or at a faster rate. Another 72 went up at a slower rate and only three went down.

The region with the best performance was the northeast. In the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, total personal income in Johnson, Miami, and Leavenworth all grew at a fast rate. Wyandotte County grew at the slower rate of 19 percent. Also, income gains in the adjacent counties of Linn, Franklin, Douglas and Jefferson. All four out performing the state.

Total personal income growth went up sharply in other places. Following Interstate Highway 70 west, the residents in Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Geary, Saline, Russell, Ellis and Trego counties all did well. Also, those living in a cluster of counties around the cities of Salina and Wichita did well. Surprisingly, so did some living in the Flint Hills. But, the residents of Wichita County, along Highway 96 in western Kansas, did the best. Their total personal income is estimated to have increased by 90 percent.

Three counties lost ground. They are Decatur (-8%), Scott (-7%), and Gove (-1%). These are all in western Kansas and have an agriculturally based economy with a large cattle component.

RETAIL TRADE CHANGES

Employment went up by 15 percent and income went up by 45 percent. Therefore, one would expect the retail industry to also be robust in its growth. But it only grew by 3.4 percent from the fiscal year 1992 to the last one, 1999, as measured by the customer base served. A fiscal year for the Kansas State Government begins in July and ends in June.

Not only did the retail industry not grow fast; it grew in only a few select counties. Thus, this picture of growth in prosperity is different than the other two.

Using the 3.4 percent growth in the customer base as the benchmark for comparison, the business communities in 19 counties performed well. Another three posted gains, while five held even. The rest, 78 counties lost at least a small percentage of their customer base. Retail trade is measured in this study by estimating the change in the customer base of the community of businesses in each county. The data is produced by *K-State Research and Extension* and published annually.

The region that did best was in eastern Kansas south of Kansas City, KS and down to Anderson County. Coffey and Lyons County also did well during this period. And, so did Neosho and Crawford counties in the southeast corner of the state. In central Kansas, Saline, McPherson, Harvey, and Butler counties did well. In the northwest Sherman and Sheridan did well. Sherman County led the state with an accumulated growth of 31 percent. Finally, Hodgeman and Gray did well in the southwest corner. *See MAP 3.*

It is surprising to find that some of the traditional trade centers did not gain. Shawnee County with Topeka held steady. Finney and Ford with their respective trade centers of Garden City and Dodge City lost a little. While Harvey and Butler counties gained, Sedgwick County lost two percent of its customer base. Pottawatomie County has historically shown the strength of the retail community of Manhattan. Its numbers decreased 10 percent while Riley County's numbers went up 3 percent. Finally, Ellis County with Hays had zero growth.

COUNTY POPULATION CHANGES

The population of Kansas is estimated to have increased by 7.1 percent from 1990 to 1999. The Census Bureau will update these numbers after the census count going on this year. For now, the information in MAP 4 is the best available data for the state and for each county. For more information go to their website at www.census.gov.

Out of 105 counties only 17 counties gained population at the 7 percent or faster rate. They fall into three clusters, the southwestern one, the south central

one, and the northeastern one. This pattern of growth has persisted for the last 20 years.

Population growth can be found in all but one region of Kansas, the 18 counties of the northwest. There, only Ellis County experienced growth, and it was at the slow rate of 1.3 percent over this last decade. Decatur County is estimated to have lost 16.2 percent of its population. This is the most dramatic loss of any county in the Kansas. **See MAP 4.**

The southeast region lost population in the 1980s. But in the 1990s the experience has been better. The populations of Coffey, Anderson, Linn, Wilson, Elk, Greenwood, Crawford and Cherokee counties all went up at least a little. Bourbon held steady. Woodson, Allen, Neosho, Montgomery, Labette, and Chautauqua counties lost population again.

Economic distress can often be seen using population change as a lagged indicator. A loss of population results when the economy in a county has a poor choice of jobs and those available are relatively unattractive compared to places that are experiencing private sector business expansion such as Salina.

Population gains are realized in places that are adjacent to expanding job centers. Jefferson County is not a job center. However, its population grew by 14.1 percent. The residents of Jefferson County, who work, have a choice of job opportunities in Atchison, Leavenworth, Kansas City, KS or Kansas City, MO, Johnson County, Lawrence, Topeka, or Holton. This choice set is the best one in Kansas.

FINDINGS

The authors used a system that gives a *plus one* to a county that has positive growth in an indicator of performance, a *zero* to a county that has zero growth, and a *minus one* to a county that has negative growth in an indicator. Then within the group, each county is ranked. **See MAP 5 and TABLE 1.**

The top group has a score of four. Thus, all four indicators show positive growth. Sixteen counties are in this group. They are ranked in order from high to low. Jackson comes first. Next is Johnson, followed by Butler, Harvey, Douglas, Miami, Saline, Franklin, Hodgeman, Gray, Crawford, Linn, Reno, Anderson, Coffey, and McPherson counties.

In the next group, those with a score of three, there are only four counties. In rank order from high to low, they are Jefferson, Ellis, Shawnee, and Dickinson.

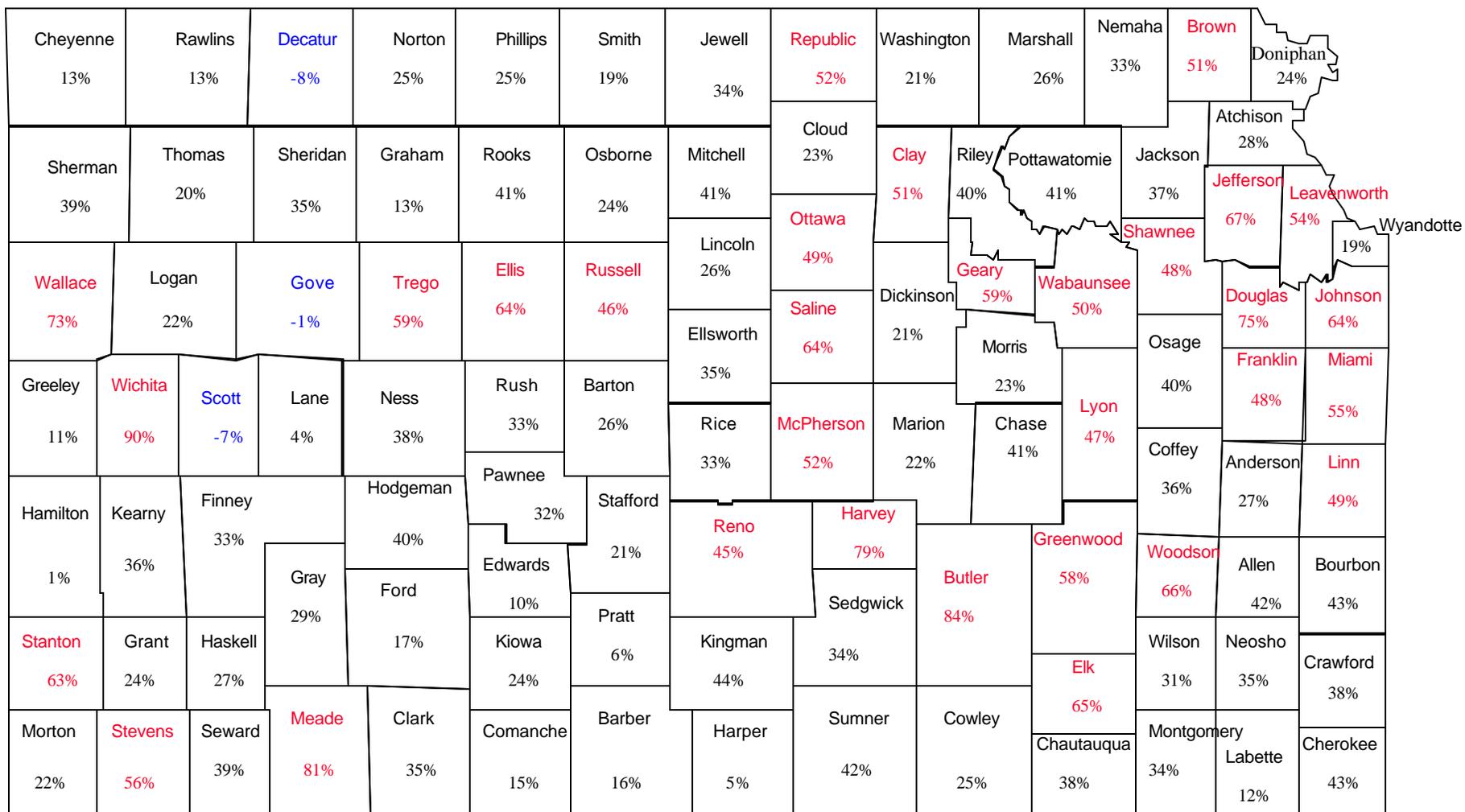
In the next group, those with a score of two, there are 22 counties. Leading this group are Sherman, Osage, Meade and Leavenworth counties. In the next group, those with a score of one, there are seven counties. Leading this group is Wabaunsee County. Next come Chase, Bourbon, and Morris counties.

The other counties have lower scores of zero, -1, -2, -3, and -4. Decatur County is the only county with the low score of -4. See MAP 5 and Table 1.

SUMMARY

Based on the strategic plan of your county, how do these numbers fit the goals set out by those who wrote your county's plan? Are the residents of your county enjoying this era of prosperity? Are they better employed? Do they earn more? Is the retail community serving more customers and profiting from that trade? Finally, is your county attracting in more new families who want to be a part of a healthy, vibrant community?

Map 2: Total Personal Income: The percent changes from 1991-1998



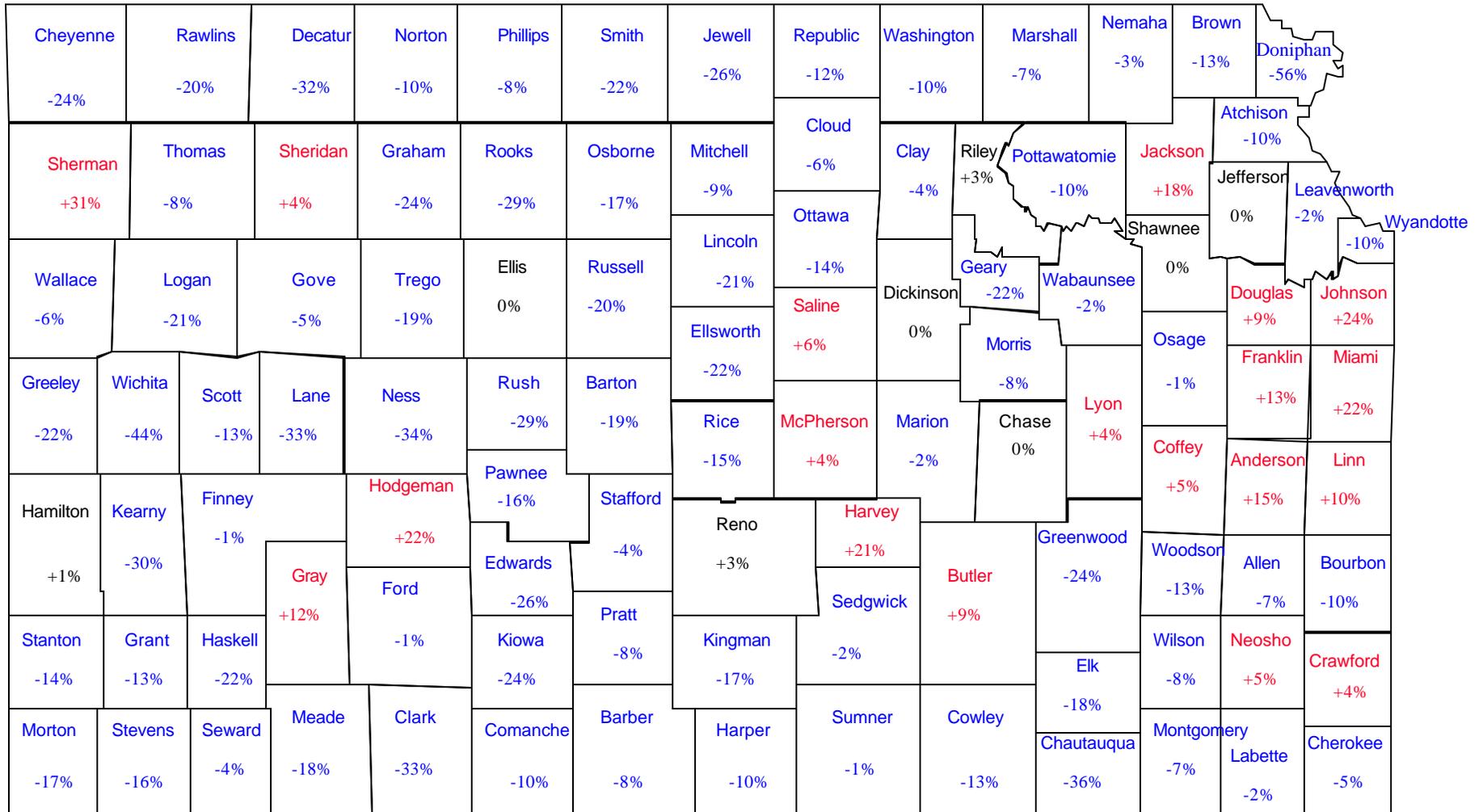
State Value = 45%

105 County Average = 36%

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Map 3: Trade Area Captures

Percent Change from FY 1992- FY 1999



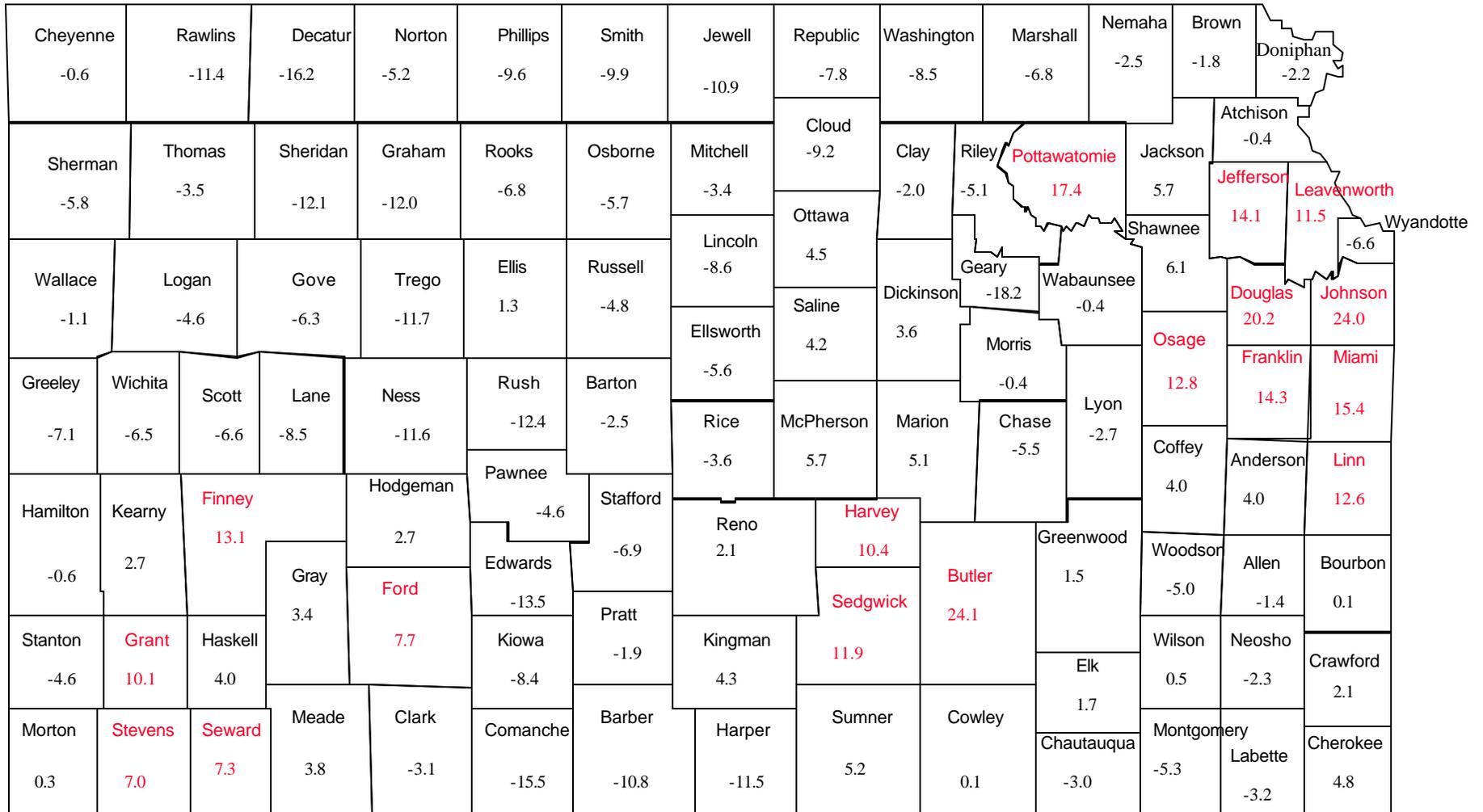
State Value = +3.4%

March 2000

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Map 4: COUNTY POPULATION CHANGE

1990-1999 Estimated Change

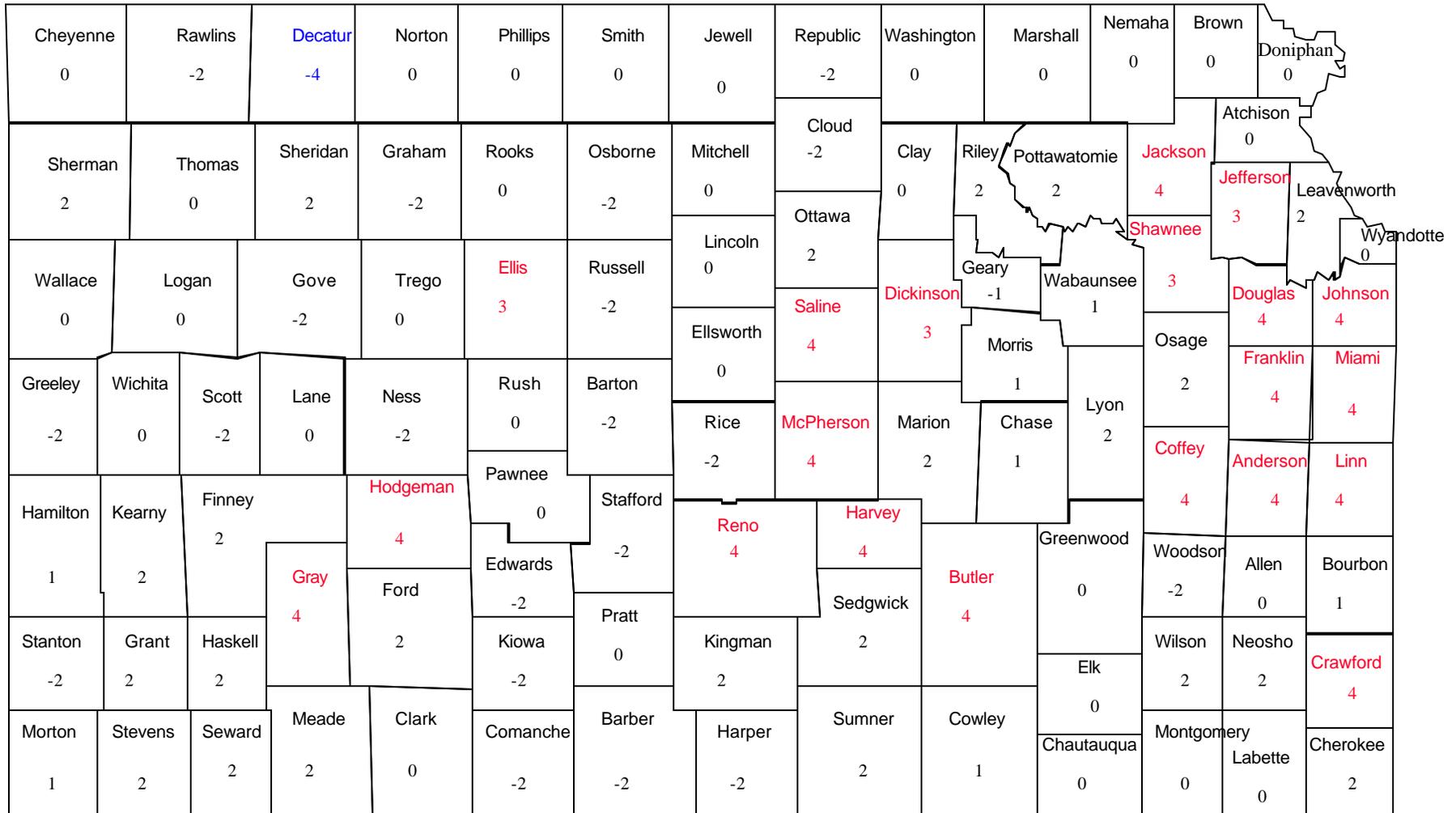


State Value = +7.1%

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Map 5: WHO'S PROSPERING IN PROSPEROUS TIMES: AN INDEX OF PROGRESS DURING THE 1990'S



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Index Ranges from a +4 (high) to a -4 (low)

Table1: Who's Prospering in Prosperous Times

County	Jobs Change Percent	Income Change Percent	TAC Change Percent	Pop Change Percent	Index OF Progress	Sum of Percent Change
Jackson	64.5	36.6	18.0	5.7	4.0	119.1
Johnson	29.6	63.9	24.0	24.0	4.0	117.5
Butler	22.7	83.6	9.0	24.1	4.0	115.3
Harvey	13.8	79.1	21.0	10.4	4.0	114.0
Douglas	24.4	74.8	9.0	20.2	4.0	108.2
Miami	23.5	55.0	22.0	15.4	4.0	100.5
Saline	13.3	64.0	6.0	4.2	4.0	83.3
Franklin	21.6	48.1	13.0	14.3	4.0	82.6
Hodgeman	19.8	40.3	22.0	2.7	4.0	82.1
Gray	28.0	29.4	12.0	3.4	4.0	69.4
Crawford	21.4	37.6	4.0	2.1	4.0	63.0
Linn	2.4	49.0	10.0	12.6	4.0	61.4
Reno	10.1	45.2	3.0	2.1	4.0	58.2
Anderson	6.5	26.8	15.0	4.0	4.0	48.3
Coffey	5.3	36.4	5.0	4.0	4.0	46.7
McPherson	7.1	22.5	4.0	5.7	4.0	33.6
Jefferson	16.5	67.3	0.0	14.1	3.0	83.7
Ellis	19.1	64.0	0.0	1.3	3.0	83.2
Shawnee	7.2	48.2	0.0	6.1	3.0	55.4
Dickinson	11.6	21.5	0.0	3.6	3.0	33.1
Sherman	22.1	38.6	31.0	-5.8	2.0	91.7
Osage	42.1	39.8	-1.0	12.8	2.0	80.9
Meade	8.2	80.7	-18.0	3.8	2.0	70.8
Leavenworth	18.5	53.6	-2.0	11.5	2.0	70.1
Pottawatomie	32.2	40.8	-10.0	17.4	2.0	63.0
Sumner	20.1	42.3	-1.0	5.2	2.0	61.4
Lyon	8.3	46.9	4.0	-2.7	2.0	59.2
Riley	14.0	39.7	3.0	-5.1	2.0	56.7
Stevens	14.4	56.3	-16.0	7.0	2.0	54.7
Wilson	30.9	30.6	-8.0	0.5	2.0	53.6
Ottawa	16.6	49.1	-14.0	4.5	2.0	51.8
Seward	14.2	39.1	-4.0	7.3	2.0	49.3
Cherokee	10.0	43.2	-5.0	4.8	2.0	48.2
Neosho	4.7	35.2	5.0	-2.3	2.0	44.9
Sedgwick	12.3	34.4	-2.0	11.9	2.0	44.7
Finney	12.0	33.4	-1.0	13.1	2.0	44.3
Marion	18.5	25.8	-2.0	5.1	2.0	42.2
Sheridan	2.5	35.1	4.0	-12.1	2.0	41.6
Kingman	9.2	43.9	-17.0	4.3	2.0	36.1
Ford	13.2	17.4	-1.0	7.7	2.0	29.5
Haskell	12.1	27.4	-22.0	4.0	2.0	17.5
Grant	5.2	23.9	-13.0	10.0	2.0	16.1
Kearny	8.0	36.2	-30.0	2.7	2.0	14.2
Wabaunsee	12.1	49.9	-2.0	-0.4	1.0	60.1
Chase	11.6	41.0	0.0	-5.5	1.0	52.6

County	Jobs Change Percent	Income Change Percent	TAC Change Percent	Pop Change Percent	Index OF Progress	Sum of Percent Change
Bourbon	9.3	43.4	-10.0	0.1	1.0	42.7
Morris	11.3	22.6	-8.0	-0.4	1.0	25.8
Cowley	2.2	25.4	-13.0	0.1	1.0	14.6
Morton	6.7	21.6	-17.0	0.3	1.0	11.3
Hamilton	4.8	1.3	1.0	-0.6	1.0	7.1
Wallace	9.2	73.1	-6.0	-1.1	0.0	76.3
Clay	16.8	51.5	-4.0	-2.0	0.0	64.2
Marshall	16.1	51.9	-7.0	-6.8	0.0	61.0
Brown	23.3	50.6	-13.0	-1.8	0.0	60.9
Wichita	4.5	90.0	-44.0	-6.5	0.0	50.5
Trego	10.0	58.9	-19.0	-11.7	0.0	49.9
Allen	13.9	42.5	-7.0	-1.4	0.0	49.4
Elk	-0.3	65.5	-18.0	1.7	0.0	47.2
Mitchell	10.9	40.7	-9.0	-3.4	0.0	42.6
Nemaha	7.6	33.0	-3.0	-2.5	0.0	37.5
Montgomery	9.6	34.3	-7.0	-5.3	0.0	37.0
Atchison	15.3	28.0	-10.0	-0.4	0.0	33.3
Norton	15.0	25.3	-10.0	-5.2	0.0	30.3
Greenwood	-5.8	58.5	-24.0	1.5	0.0	28.7
Thomas	15.4	20.2	-8.0	-2.5	0.0	27.6
Rooks	13.8	41.4	-29.0	-6.8	0.0	26.3
Phillips	7.1	25.2	-8.0	-9.6	0.0	24.2
Pawnee	3.5	32.0	-16.0	-4.6	0.0	19.5
Ellsworth	5.3	35.4	-22.0	-5.6	0.0	18.8
Labette	4.3	12.5	-2.0	-3.2	0.0	14.8
Wyandotte	4.9	19.2	-10.0	-6.6	0.0	14.2
Jewell	5.4	33.6	-26.0	-10.9	0.0	13.0
Washington	0.5	20.9	-10.0	-8.5	0.0	11.4
Lincoln	6.1	25.7	-21.0	-8.6	0.0	10.8
Rush	6.0	33.2	-29.0	-12.4	0.0	10.2
Clark	7.2	35.1	-33.0	-3.1	0.0	9.3
Logan	6.1	21.6	-21.0	-4.6	0.0	6.8
Smith	6.5	18.7	-22.0	-9.9	0.0	3.1
Chautauqua	0.4	38.4	-36.0	-3.0	0.0	2.8
Pratt	4.0	6.5	-8.0	-1.9	0.0	2.5
Doniphan	27.7	23.7	-56.0	-2.2	0.0	-4.6
Cheyenne	5.9	12.7	-24.0	-0.6	0.0	-5.4
Lane	1.9	3.8	-33.0	-8.5	0.0	-27.4
Geary	-0.2	58.5	-22.0	-18.2	-1.0	36.4
Stanton	-1.6	63.3	-14.0	-4.6	-2.0	47.8
Woodson	-12.4	66.2	-13.0	-5.0	-2.0	40.8
Republic	-1.3	51.6	-12.0	-7.8	-2.0	38.2
Russell	-2.6	46.3	-20.0	-4.8	-2.0	23.7
Stafford	-0.5	20.6	-4.0	-6.9	-2.0	16.1
Rice	-2.7	33.5	-15.0	-3.6	-2.0	15.7
Cloud	-3.9	22.6	-6.0	-9.2	-2.0	12.6
Barton	-0.1	26.0	-19.0	-2.5	-2.0	6.9
Comanche	-1.0	14.8	-10.0	-15.5	-2.0	3.8

County	Jobs Change Percent	Income Change Percent	TAC Change Percent	Pop Change Percent	Index OF Progress	Sum of Percent Change
Osborne	-7.1	24.3	-17.0	-5.7	-2.0	0.1
Gove	6.1	-1.1	-5.0	-6.3	-2.0	0.1
Kiowa	-1.1	24.1	-24.0	-8.4	-2.0	-1.0
Ness	-5.2	38.1	-34.0	-11.6	-2.0	-1.2
Barber	-10.9	16.1	-8.0	-10.8	-2.0	-2.7
Rawlins	-3.7	13.4	-20.0	-11.4	-2.0	-10.2
Harper	-5.7	5.4	-10.0	-11.5	-2.0	-10.4
Greeley	-7.1	11.0	-22.0	-7.1	-2.0	-18.1
Graham	-7.7	13.1	-24.0	-12.0	-2.0	-18.5
Scott	1.9	-7.4	-13.0	-6.6	-2.0	-18.6
Edwards	-3.7	9.9	-26.0	-13.5	-2.0	-19.7
Decatur	-10.5	-8.3	-32.0	-16.2	-4.0	-50.8