

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

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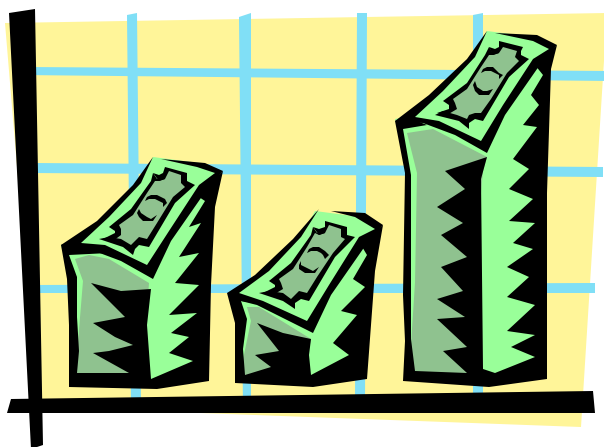
Our mission:
“Dedicated to a safe, sustainable, competitive food and fiber system and to strong, healthy communities, families and youth through integrated research, analysis and education.”

Information you can use:

The new **Strength Index (SI)** is now compiled and the outcome is insightful. K-State Research and Extension produces the report to measure the relative prosperity of people in all 105 counties. The Strength Index is made up of three indices, the Wealth Index, the Income Index and the Employment Index. These are summed to produce the Strength Index. See the accompanying map and table for detailed results for all 105 counties.

The Wealth Index is driven up by demand for luxury housing and vehicles and down by weak consumer buying power such as in western Kansas during years of drought. The Personal Income Index is the estimated 2002 per capita county per capita income divided by the State per capita income, \$28,838. The Employment Index is a ratio of employed

people in a county divided by the population of the county. Then, this number is divided by a similar State number. There are 51 people employed for every 100 people living in Kansas. The Employment Index included active duty military assigned to three military installations in Kansas.



The results are both interesting and surprising. Johnson County is ranked first. The interesting fact is that its value is much higher (4.53 versus 3.17) than the second highest ranked county, Ellis. Ellis County has never been ranked so high. Only seven of 105 counties have SI numbers of 3.00 or higher. The rest of the counties in the top are Miami (3.15), Douglas (3.13), Saline (3.07), Shawnee (3.04), and Jackson (3.00). Other top ranked counties are Sherman (2.99), Sedgwick (2.94), McPherson (2.93), Pottawatomie (2.89), Jefferson (2.82), Riley (2.79), Leavenworth (2.78), and Scott (2.76).

The bottom five counties in ascending order are Chautauqua (1.94), Elk (1.98), Woodson (1.98), Greenwood (2.02), and Kearny (2.06). The 105-county average is 2.48. The median value is 2.43 (Ottawa County). If a county had a score of 1.00 for all three indices, than that county would perfectly reflect the

state of Kansas values and have a Strength Index of 3.00.



The full report, the **2002-2003 Strength Index** by Upendram and Darling, is filed in the CD Study Report section of David Darling's web site: www.agecon.ksu.edu/ddarling

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Pearl Collection: *We humans are social species. We can only be human by being together.* Source: Dr. Margaret Wheatley in her speech at K-State on April 23, 2004. Communities of place and communities of interest are two situations where and when people get together.

Strength Index

2003

Cheyenne 2.35	Rawlins 2.34	Decatur 2.43	Norton 2.53	Phillips 2.89	Smith 2.36	Jewell 2.29	Republic 2.44	Washington 2.18	Marshall 2.71	Nemaha 2.56	Brown 2.40	Doniphan 2.07		
Sherman 2.99	Thomas 2.67	Sheridan 2.61	Graham 2.44	Rooks 2.42	Osborne 2.30	Mitchell 2.66	Cloud 2.25	Clay 2.59	Riley 2.79	Pottawatomie 2.89	Jackson 3.00	Atchison 2.41	Jefferson 2.82	Leavenworth 2.78
Wallace 2.30	Logan 2.49	Gove 2.37	Trego 2.52	Ellis 3.17	Russell 2.37	Lincoln 2.15	Ottawa 2.43	Dickinson 2.52	Geary 2.69	Wabaunsee 2.73	Shawnee 3.04	Douglas 3.13	Johnson 4.53	Wyandotte 2.31
Greeley 2.57	Wichita 2.34	Scott 2.76	Lane 2.57	Ness 2.61	Rush 2.36	Barton 2.50	Saline 3.07	Ellsworth 2.35	McPherson 2.93	Morris 2.53	Lyon 2.46	Osage 2.46	Franklin 2.70	Miami 3.15
Hamilton 2.31	Kearny 2.06	Finney 2.20	Hodgeman 2.15	Gray 2.67	Ford 2.30	Pawnee 2.48	Reno 2.67	Stafford 2.26	Harvey 2.76	Butler 2.75	Greenwood 2.02	Coffey 2.48	Anderson 2.31	Linn 2.08
Stanton 2.21	Grant 2.36	Haskell 2.34	Edwards 2.19	Kiowa 2.36	Pratt 2.56	Kingman 2.45	Sedgwick 2.94	Butler 2.75	Butler 2.75	Greenwood 2.02	Wilson 2.29	Neosho 2.38	Allen 2.24	Bourbon 2.33
Morton 2.36	Stevens 2.47	Seward 2.22	Meade 2.24	Clark 2.53	Comanche 2.23	Barber 2.25	Harper 2.26	Sumner 2.55	Cowley 2.46	Elk 1.98	Chautauqua 1.94	Montgomery 2.30	Labette 2.22	Crawford 2.40
														Cherokee 2.21

Index prepared by K-State Research and Extension, April 2004

Legend
 Top 20%: Red
 Bottom 20%: Blue

TABLE 2: RANKED STRENGTH INDEX

County Name	Rank Order	Strength Index 2002-2003	County Name	Rank Order	Strength Index 2002-2003
Johnson	1	4.533			
Ellis	2	3.169	Rooks	54	2.427
Miami	3	3.150	Atchison	55	2.415
Douglas	4	3.126	Brown	56	2.403
Saline	5	3.070	Crawford	57	2.403
Shawnee	6	3.040	Neosho	58	2.383
Jackson	7	3.001	Russell	59	2.376
Sherman	8	2.987	Gove	60	2.372
Sedgwick	9	2.944	Rush	61	2.368
McPherson	10	2.933	Kiowa	62	2.366
Pottawatomie	11	2.889	Grant	63	2.366
Jefferson	12	2.816	Smith	64	2.364
Riley	13	2.788	Morton	65	2.363
Leavenworth	14	2.780	Cheyenne	66	2.351
Scott	15	2.764	Ellsworth	67	2.350
Harvey	16	2.758	Rawlins	68	2.346
Butler	17	2.746	Haskell	69	2.344
Wabaunsee	18	2.726	Marion	70	2.340
Marshall	19	2.709	Wichita	71	2.338
Franklin	20	2.695	Bourbon	72	2.333
Geary	21	2.685	Hamilton	73	2.315
Gray	22	2.677	Wyandotte	74	2.310
Thomas	23	2.677	Anderson	75	2.308
Reno	24	2.665	Wallace	76	2.305
Mitchell	25	2.663	Montgomery	77	2.303
Sheridan	26	2.616	Osborne	78	2.302
Ness	27	2.610	Ford	79	2.298
Clay	28	2.589	Wilson	80	2.296
Lane	29	2.570	Jewell	81	2.289
Greeley	30	2.569	Harper	82	2.265
Nemaha	31	2.568	Stafford	83	2.248
Pratt	32	2.560	Barber	84	2.247
Sumner	33	2.555	Cloud	85	2.246
Norton	34	2.533	Meade	86	2.244
Morris	35	2.532	Allen	87	2.236
Clark	36	2.529	Comanche	88	2.226
Trego	37	2.524	Seward	89	2.220
Dickinson	38	2.519	Labette	90	2.218
Lyon	39	2.507	Stanton	91	2.214
Barton	40	2.498	Cherokee	92	2.210
Logan	41	2.497	Finney	93	2.195
Pawnee	42	2.481	Edwards	94	2.189
Coffey	43	2.478	Washington	95	2.179
Stevens	44	2.476	Hodgeman	96	2.154
Phillips	45	2.474	Lincoln	97	2.152
Chase	46	2.468	Linn	98	2.081
Osage	47	2.467	Doniphan	99	2.074
Cowley	48	2.466	Rice	100	2.062
Kingman	49	2.448	Kearny	101	2.058
Graham	50	2.447	Greenwood	102	2.018
Republic	51	2.444	Woodson	103	1.977
Decatur	52	2.435	Elk	104	1.975
Ottawa	53	2.432	Chautauqua	105	1.941

Source:K-State Research and Extension, CD Study Report#222, April 2004.

