

# **Kansas County Clusters by Urban Influence Codes**

**C.D. Study Report #233**

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## Introduction

The urban influence codes are used by the Economic Research Service (ERS) to classify counties into metropolitan, micropolitan and other classes of rural places. The coding system is based on size of the metropolitan area and proximity to a metropolitan area. Also the classification system is based on the proximity to micropolitan counties. The urban influence codes are subdivided into two metro and ten non-metro categories, resulting in a 12 county code system.

This report presents the urban influences codes below, a map of urban influences codes by county in Kansas on page 3, and a tabulation of the number of counties by urban influence codes in table two. There are seventeen metropolitan counties, and 16 micropolitan counties. This leaves 72 non-metropolitan counties with central cities fewer than 10,000 based on 2003 census.

**Table 1. Urban Influence Codes**

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<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Metropolitan counties:</b>	
1	In large metro area of 1+ million residents
2	In small metro area of less than 1 million residents
<b>Nonmetropolitan counties:</b>	
3	Micropolitan adjacent to large metro
4	Noncore adjacent to large metro with own town
5	Micropolitan adjacent to small metro
6	Noncore adjacent to small metro with own town
7	Noncore adjacent to small metro no own town
8	Micropolitan not adjacent to a metro area
9	Noncore adjacent to micro with own town
10	Noncore adjacent to micro with no own town
11	Noncore not adjacent to metro or micro with own town
12	Noncore not adjacent to metro or micro with no own town

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Source: ERS, USDA - [www.ers.usda.gov/Data/UrbanInfluenceCodes/2003](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/UrbanInfluenceCodes/2003)

### Urban Influence Codes

The counties in red in the map are all urban with influence codes 1 and 2.

The counties in blue are all micro counties.

The counties in green are non-metro adjacent to metro counties.

The counties in yellow are non-metro adjacent to micro counties.

The counties that are underlined are farm-dependent counties.

The counties that are not colored are non-metro, non-micro and non-adjacent counties

**Table 2. Metro and Non-Metro Counties based on Urban Influence Codes**

<b>Codes</b>	<b>Number of Counties</b>
<b>Metro Counties</b>	
1	6
2	11
<b>Non-Metro Counties</b>	
3	1
4	3
5	7
6	7
7	4
8	8
9	11
10	18
11	9
12	20
Total	105

### Farm-dependent Counties

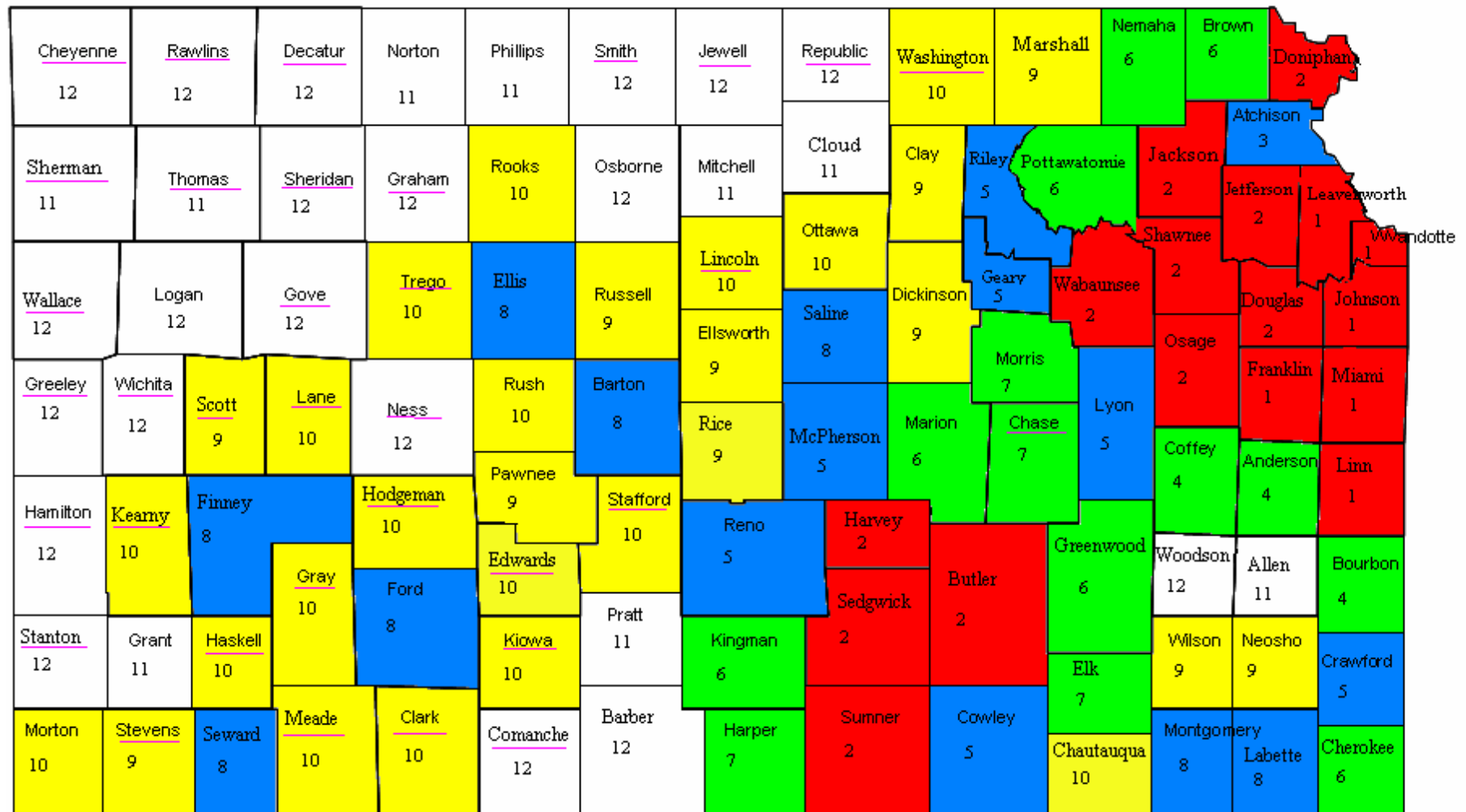
The number of farm-dependent counties in 1990 was 44, which dropped to 34 in 2004. The counties that were farm-dependent in 1990 but are not farm dependent in 2004 are Barber, Elk, Grant, Harper, Logan, Morton, Osborne, Pawnee, Pratt, Wabaunsee and Woodson. The counties that are farm-dependent in 2004 but were not farm dependent in 1994 are Rice and Washington.

# Kansas Urban Influence Codes and Metro Counties

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

Index prepared by K-State Research and Extension

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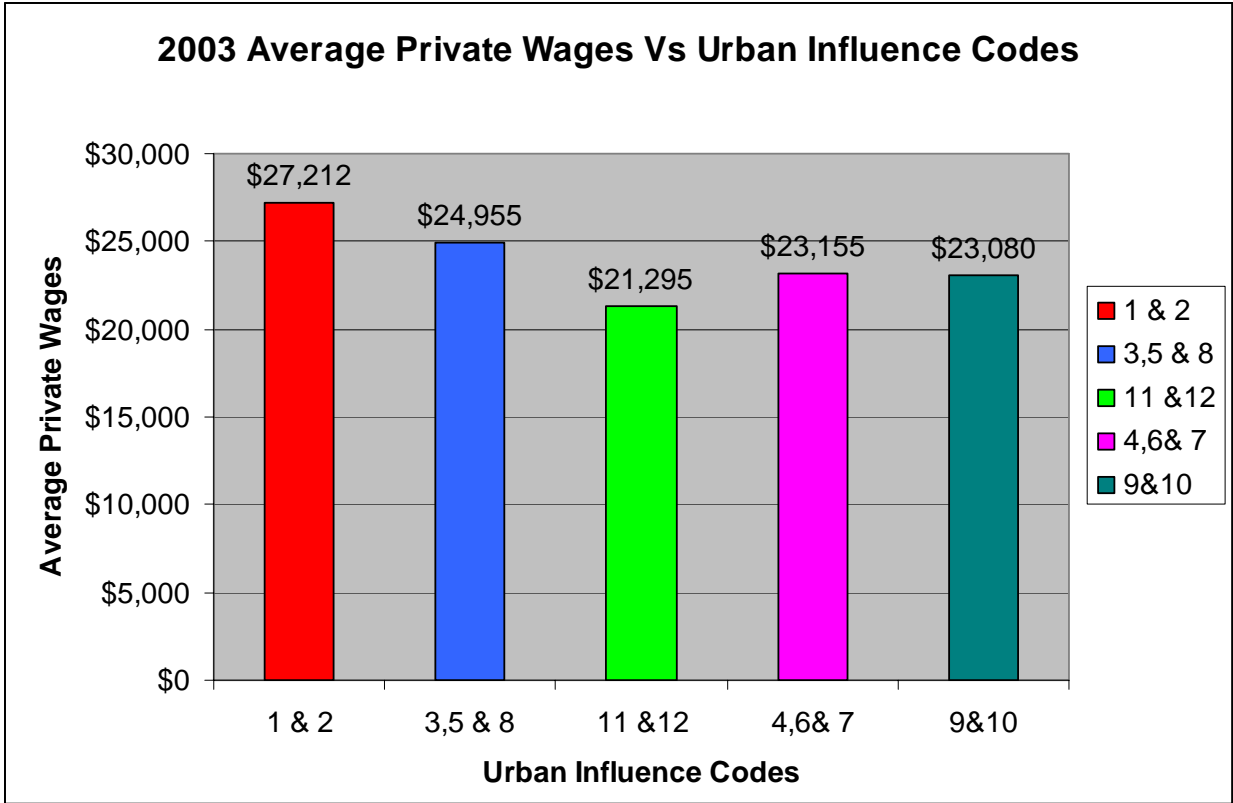


Counties in red are metro counties  
Counties in blue are micro counties  
Counties that are not colored are non-metro, non-micro and non-adjacent counties

Counties in green are non-metro and adjacent to metro counties

Counties in yellow are non-metro and adjacent to micro counties

Counties that are underlined are farm-dependent



Source of Data: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, **the 2003 Employment and Wages Annual Report.**

<http://laborstats.hr.state.ks.us/industry/aew2003/aew2003.htm>

This is an example of an application of the codes to a county data set. Every year, the Kansas Department of Labor publishes employment and wage information on covered employment broken out by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code. Covered employment is employment covered by unemployment insurance. Not all working Kansans are included in the data set. For example: self-employed people are not in the data set.

The graph presents wages paid by private sector employers in counties that are classified as metropolitan – codes 1 and 2, micropolitan – 3,5 and 8, non-metropolitan fringe counties adjacent to metropolitan counties – 4,6 and 7, and other non-metropolitan non-adjacent counties – 9,10,11 and 12. The results of this analysis show that wages are highest in metropolitan counties and lowest in counties that are non-metropolitan non-adjacent counties. Therefore, it matters where Kansans live and work.

Wages are lower in non-metropolitan areas but so is the cost of housing and other factors influencing the overall cost of living. However, job opportunities and career opportunities have, historically been best in metropolitan counties. Therefore, many high school graduates from rural Kansas migrate to urban places after going off to college or getting marketable skills elsewhere.