

County Profile

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County Profile

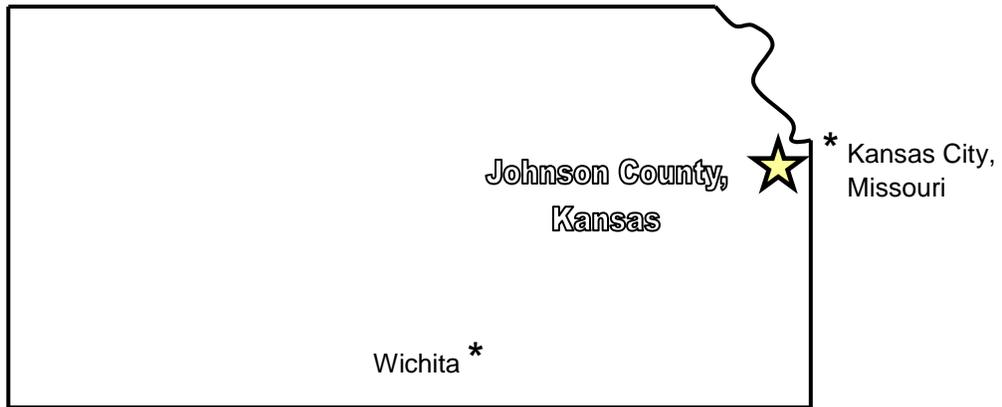
The County Profile section of the FY 2015 Budget provides basic demographic and trend information about Johnson County, as well as national comparable counties. The first section highlights basic population, employment, housing, ethnicity, crime, business industry data, and some general information to provide a snapshot of the County.

The second section includes nine additional measures, or “community indicators”, in an effort to align the FY 2015 Budget with the Board of County Commissioners’ (BOCC) strategic goals: 1) Improving the lives of vulnerable populations by addressing emerging poverty and crime and through job creation, 2) Evaluate the sewer financing structure to determine if the cost to provide services in certain locations exceeds the revenue generated by associated growth. Explore other service delivery models or financing strategies to balance return on investment. 3) Continue developing a high performing organization. 4) Finalize improvement strategies for the Johnson County Courthouse. 5) Provide and support planning for and construction that supports multi-modal transportation to provide alternatives for transporting people and 6) Continue Core 4 and initiate discussion and coordination with urban counties. The comparable counties included in this section should serve as a guide to the County and its departments and agencies as they research and analyze different best practices and benchmarks in the delivery of services to the community.

Section 1 – Johnson County Demographic and Statistical Profile

Area Map:

The map below depicts Johnson County’s location within the State of Kansas:





Johnson County lies directly across the state line from Kansas City, Missouri, serving as the metropolitan area's growth engine in possessing all of the ingredients necessary for economic growth and success. The County boasts nationally ranked schools, a low crime rate, high quality neighborhoods, low cost of living, and a variety of cultural and entertainment amenities.

The County's history has been intertwined with Kansas City's since its earliest days. Johnson County has transformed from a sparsely populated Shawnee Indian Reservation in the 1820's to a thriving, suburban metropolis of over 566,933 in 2013, surpassing the population of Kansas City, the urban "center city" the county's suburbs grew up around.¹ The impact of the railroad and Johnson County's close proximity to Kansas City cemented the importance of the land, and played a major role in the area's successful development in the twentieth century. Today, land is one of Johnson County's most valuable assets attributing to the successful residential and commercial development that has created one of the best places to live in the United States.

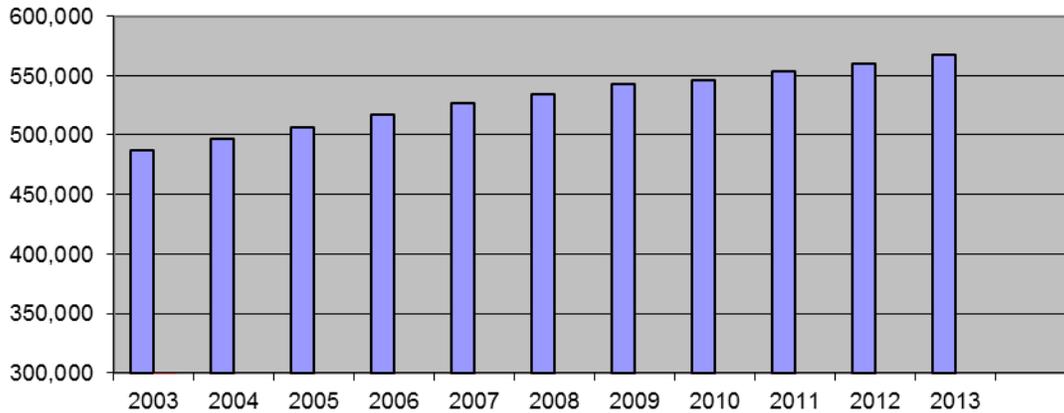
Johnson County is comprised of gently undulating terrain ranging in elevation from 742 feet above sea level near its northern border along the Kansas River to 1,130 feet in the south central part of the County. The County and its twenty incorporated cities and nine townships work together to ensure that the

¹ "Johnson County, Kansas: A Pictorial History, 1825-2005," Johnson County Museum.

necessary infrastructure improvements are in place to accommodate further growth. Currently, less than half of the 477 square miles of land in the County has been developed.

Chart A

Population of Johnson County 2003-2013 (Total Population 566,933)



Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013, Pop. Estimates

Chart A demonstrates that Johnson County has experienced sustained population growth over the past ten years. As of September 2013, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates the total County population to be 566,933.

Chart B

County Population by City 2013

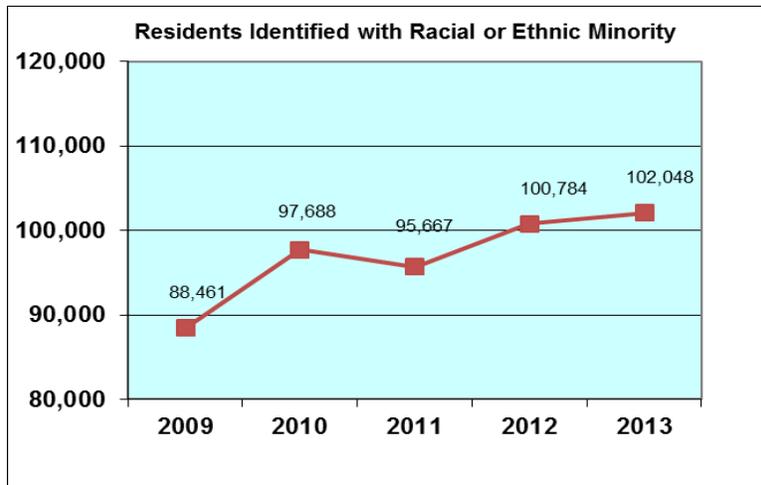
City	2013 Population	City	2013 Population
Overland Park	181,260	Roeland Park	6,845
Olathe	131,885	DeSoto	5,911
Shawnee	64,323	Fairway	3,963
Lenexa	50,344	Mission Hills	3,582
Leawood	32,991	Spring Hill	3111*
Prairie Village	21,892	Edgerton	1,700
Gardner	20,473	Westwood	1,528
Unincorporated Johnson County	12,231*	Lake Quivira	855*
		Westwood Hills	362
Merriam	11,281	Mission Woods	183
Mission	9,516	Bonner Springs	0*

* These Cities have boundaries outside of Johnson County. The number included above represents the Johnson County portion of the population only.

Source: County Economic Research Institute

Chart B illustrates that the unincorporated portion of Johnson County – the area for which the County provides municipal services – represents 2.9% of the County’s total population. The remaining Johnson County residents reside in one of the twenty incorporated cities.

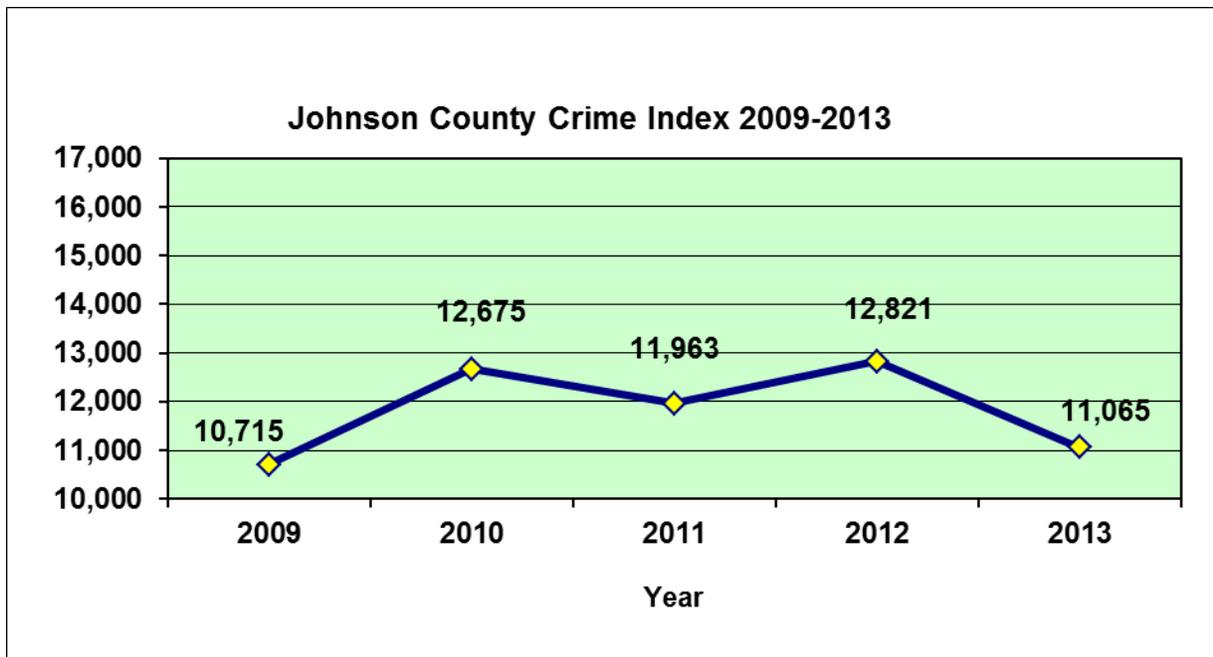
Chart C



Source: MARC Estimates for States, Counties: Population by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin

Chart C illustrates the diversity of Johnson County's population. According to the *MARC Estimates for States, Counties: Population by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin for 2013*, 18% (102,048) of Johnson County residents identify with a racial or ethnic minority, a slight increase of the total County population than in the previous year. The largest minority populations in the county are Hispanics/Latinos (7.3%) and African Americans (5.4%).²

Chart D

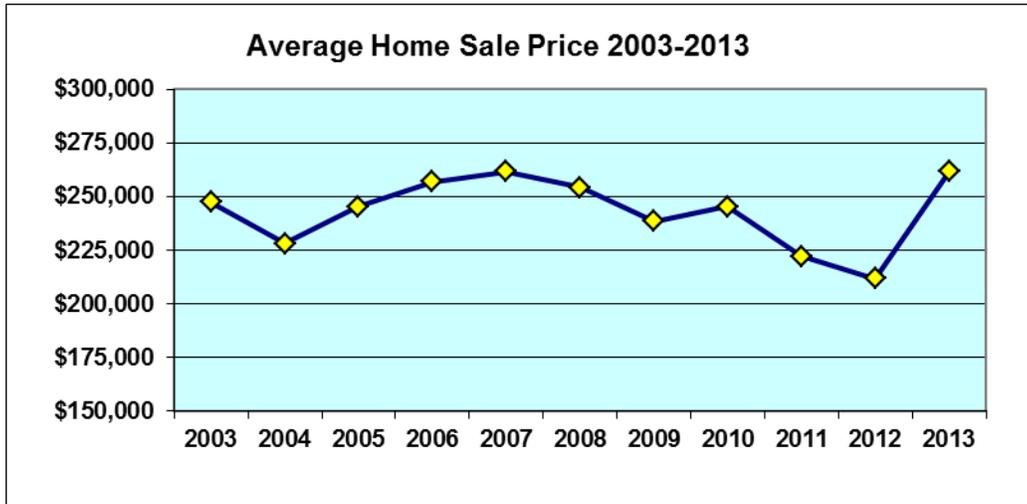


Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation

² MARC Estimates for States, Counties: Population by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin

Chart D reflects that Johnson County's crime index for 2013, or crimes reported to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, has shown a decrease over the past year. Despite sustained population growth, Johnson County's crime rate remains below state and federal averages at 19.5 per 1,000 citizens for 2013. Notable is that violent crimes, (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assaults) are down 23% from 2009 to 2013. The majority of crimes are property related.

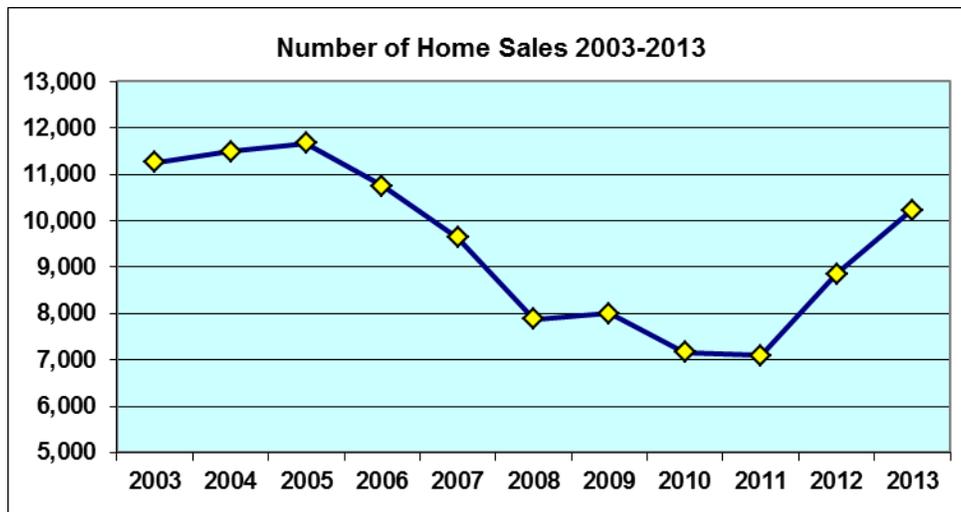
Chart E



Source: County Economic Research Institute

Chart E documents that Johnson County experienced a significant increase in average home sale prices in 2013. This increase is a change from the past three years which all saw decreasing home sale prices. Historically the housing market has responded to local trends as strong income growth and a desirable location have driven housing prices up in the County. This increase from \$211,800 in 2012 to \$261,700 in 2013 marks the on-going recovery of the housing market.

Chart F

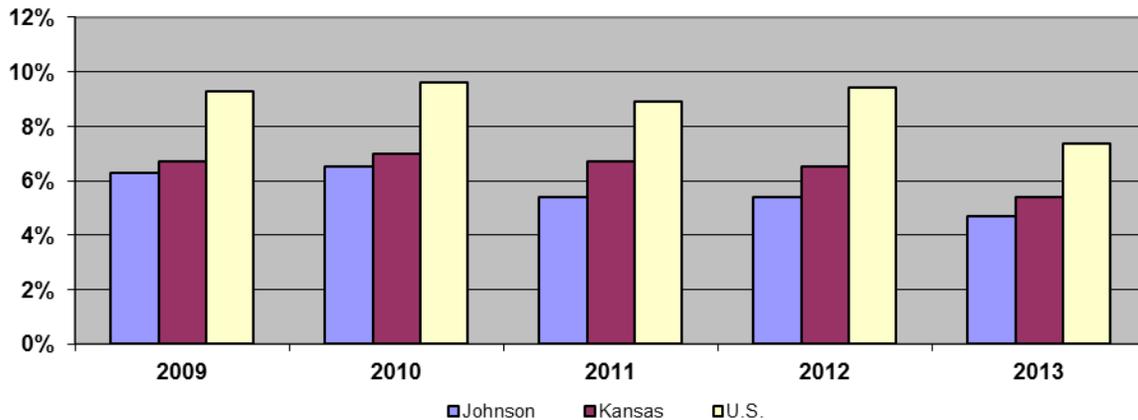


Source: Heartland MLS

Chart F documents increased sales of new and existing housing in Johnson County continuing since 2011. The 2013 total sales increased from 2012 as sales of new and existing housing throughout Johnson County were above 10,000 annually, which are at the highest levels since 2006.

Chart G

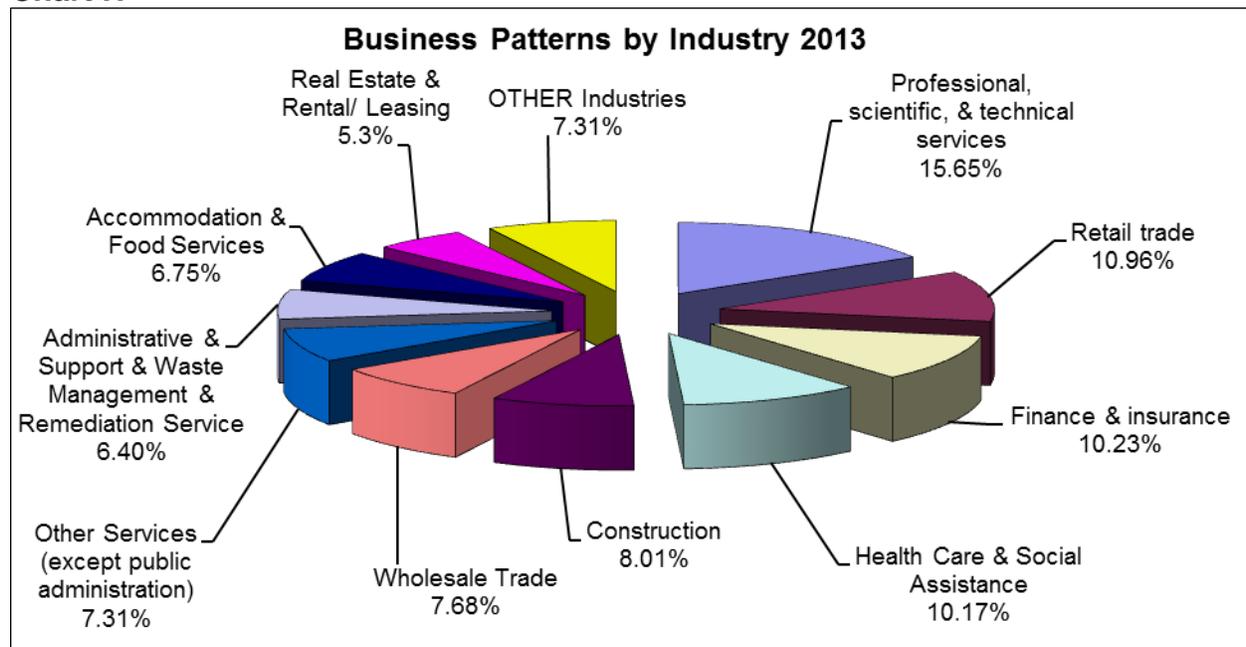
Annual Unemployment in Johnson County, Kansas, and U.S 2009-2013



Source: U.S. Department of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart G shows the trend over the past five years of the annual unemployment rate for Johnson County. The County's unemployment rate fell in 2013 from 5.4% to 4.7%. The County's unemployment rate continues to be lower than the national and state rates for five years running.³

Chart H



Source: U.S. Census Bureau³

Chart H reflects the business patterns of Johnson County shifting away from Retail Trade and Construction and depicts Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Health Care and Finance/Insurance continuing to show strength and capturing 15.65% of the total business market.

Chart I

³ U.S. Census Bureau "OTHER Industries" includes: Manufacturing; information; transportation & warehousing; art, entertainment, & recreation; educational services; management of companies & enterprises; mining; utilities; forestry, fishing, hunting & agricultural supports services; and industries not classified.

Chart I: Twelve Largest Johnson County Employers 2013		
Employers	Local Employment	Industry
Sprint	7,500	Wireless Telecommunications
Olathe Unified School District	4,461	Public School District
Shawnee Mission School District	3,716	Public School District
Johnson County Government	3,434	County Government
Blue Valley School District #229	3,331	Public School District
Shawnee Mission Medical Center	3,060	Hospital
Garmin International Inc.	3,000	Electronic Equipment Manufacturing
Johnson Co Community College	2,615	Junior College
Black & Veatch	2,087	Engineering Services
OptumRX	2,000	Drug Merchant Wholesaler
United Parcel Service	1,900	Parcel Delivery Service
Olathe Medical Services	1,712	Hospital

Source: CERl 2013 Directory of Major Johnson County Employers

Chart I: The greater Kansas City area consistently ranks among the top U.S. cities for supporting small businesses, according to Entrepreneur magazine. Most recently, Kansas City was named the No. 1 place to start and grow a business in the Midwest and ranked No. 11 nationally. Other ratings emphasizing diverse attributes ranging from logistics-friendliness to European investment also recognize the Kansas City area's strengths. In 2013, 24 major companies expanded, adding more than 50 and as many as 900 jobs each.⁴

Other Information of Interest:

Educational Institutions: Johnson County contains seven distinct school districts which serve over 93,000 students grade K-12.⁵ There are 157 schools, and a student to teacher ratio of 13.19.⁶ It is the home of Johnson County Community College, the Edwards Campus of the University of Kansas and the School for the Deaf.

Public Safety Institutions: Johnson County has 20 Law Enforcement agencies, including two that are maintained by the County (Sheriff's Department and Park Police) and three School District Police Departments.⁷ There are a total of 1306 sworn officers and 318 civilian employees in Law Enforcement in Johnson County.⁷ Johnson County Emergency Communications Center serves the 11 individual fire departments in the County, as well as Johnson County MedAct, the Countywide ambulance service, Miami County EMS, and Gardner Public Safety.⁸

Culture and Recreation: Johnson County has extensive facilities and opportunities for citizens and visitors that focus on cultural and recreational activities. There are 34 parks encompassing over 9,672 acres of park and recreation space which served over 7,329,784 visitors in 2013.⁹

4 Kansas City Area Development Council, Greater Kansas City Profile

5 Kansas Department of Education = K-12 School Reports: Johnson County

6 U.S. Department of Education – Institute of Education Sciences: National Center for Education Statistics

7 Kansas Bureau of Investigation – Law Enforcement Statistics

8 Johnson County Emergency Communications Center. Jcogov.org

9 Johnson County Park & Recreation District – 2013 Annual Report

Culture and Recreation Continued: Johnson County Library includes a Central Resource Library and 12 neighborhood libraries in Johnson County, Kansas. Each year, Johnson County Library has more visitors than the Kansas City Royals, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art combined. The Library system recorded over 2.75M user visits in 2013.¹⁰ Established in 1952 by volunteers, the award-winning Johnson County Library serves people of all ages and walks of life as well as becoming a favored location for civic and community life.

The Johnson County Museum offers three sites for residents and visitors to Johnson County to visit: The History Museum, the 1950s All-Electric House in Shawnee and the Lanesfield Historic Site in Edgerton, Kansas. The Museum department offers long-term and changing exhibits, children's history exhibitions, a speakers bureau, online resources, school, youth and Scout programming, lectures and walking tours, and special events. The historic collections include more than one million photographs, 18,000 3-D artifacts, and 300 cubic feet of archival material. The museum serves 40,000 visitors onsite and nearly 100,000 people through online resources.¹¹

Transportation: Johnson County offers air and bus transportation to the region. Two airports are maintained through the Johnson County Airport Commission, New Century Air Center and the Executive Airport. The Executive Airport varies between the second and third busiest general aviation airport in the state of Kansas, with approximately 50,000 annual operations, while the New Century Air Center has approximately 50,000 annual operations. Johnson County Transit provides public transportation services to much of Johnson County, downtown Kansas City, Mo., Kansas City, Kan., and other outlying areas. JCT's The JO, operates weekday commuter services with most routes running during peak morning and afternoon times. Special Edition provides paratransit services to Johnson County seniors and disabled residents. The JO provided 628,042 rides in 2013.

Utilities: Johnson County Wastewater (JCW) is responsible for the safe collection, transportation, and treatment of wastewater generated by residential, industrial, and commercial customers. JCW operates a total treatment capacity of 63.87 million gallons per day and provides sanitary sewer service to more than 500,000 people.¹² Other utility services are provided through various cities and private utilities.

Section II – Comparable Counties

Johnson County's rapid growth and changing demographics recently necessitated an update of the existing comparable counties research. A group of eight counties – Jefferson, Colorado; Dakota, Minnesota; St. Charles, Missouri; Chester, Pennsylvania; Collin, Texas; Denton, Texas; Dane, Wisconsin; and Waukesha, Wisconsin - are located throughout the country and have been deemed comparable to Johnson County in a number of categories, including, but not limited to:

- Total population;
- Constituent education level;
- Rate of employment;
- Household and personal income;
- Proximity to a large metropolitan statistical area.

While none of these counties mirror Johnson County in every category, when viewed as a whole, each provides its citizens with a lifestyle and overall environment similar to that of Johnson County.

The following charts provide statistical comparisons between Johnson County and comparable counties, including a number of social demographics and economic indicators.

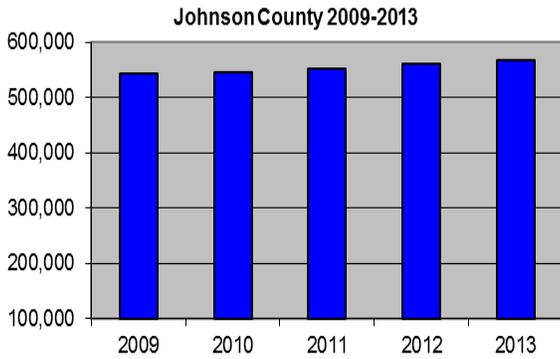
¹⁰ Johnson County Budget Book, 2014, Section P, Page 6

¹¹ Johnson County Museum, jocogov.org, Museum/home

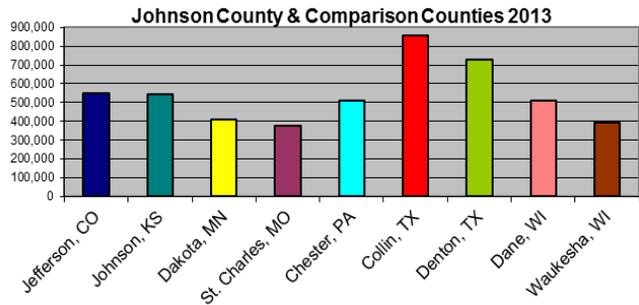
¹² Johnson County Wastewater, [jocogov](http://jocogov.org), About Us

Chart J & K – Population

Chart J shows the total estimated population for Johnson County from 2009 to 2013. **Chart K** shows the estimated 2013 population for Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties.

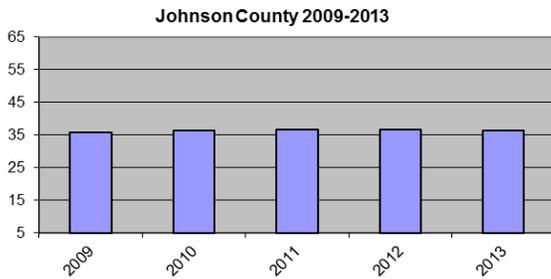


Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013 Pop. Estimates

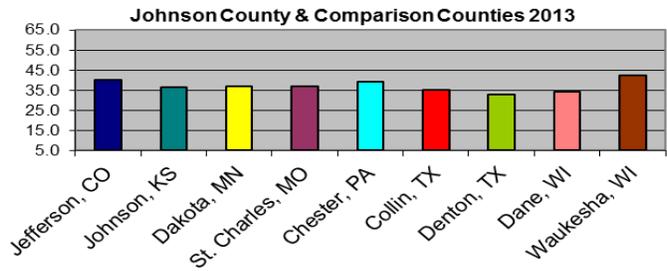


Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013 Pop. Estimates

Chart L & M – Median Age Chart L shows the median age of Johnson County from 2009-2013. **Chart M** shows the 2013 median age for Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties.



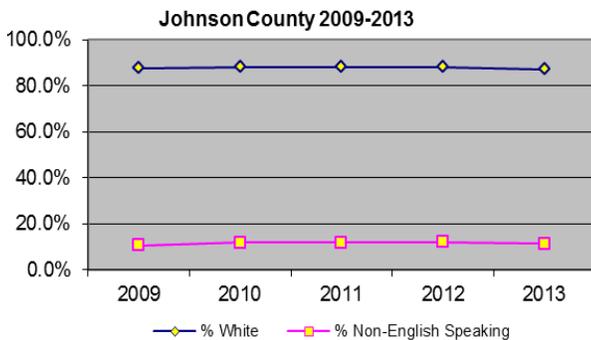
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013



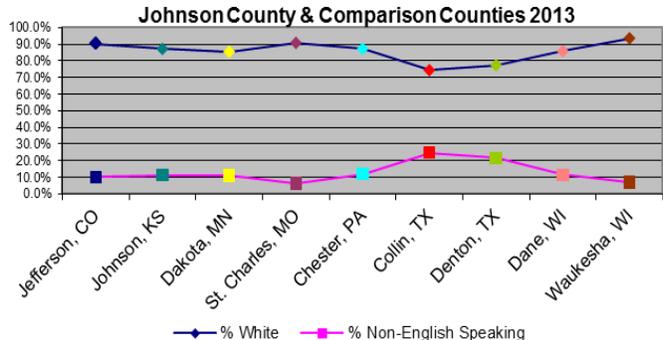
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013

Chart N & O – Race and Language

Chart N shows the percent of the population in Johnson County that does not speak English as their primary language and the percent of the population that is white from 2009 to 2013. **Chart O** shows the 2013 race and language numbers for Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties.



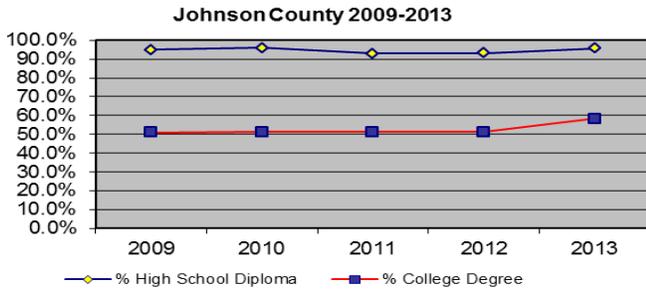
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013



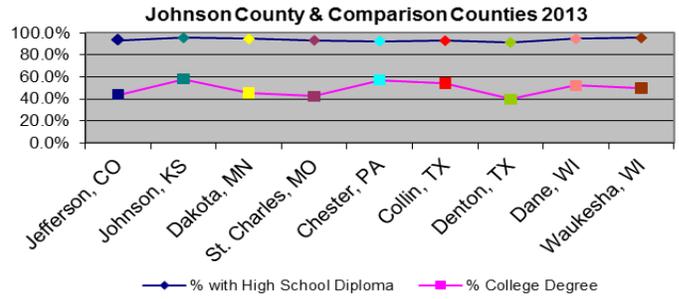
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013

Chart P & Q – Educational Achievement

Chart P shows the percent of the Johnson County population from 2009 to 2013 that completed a high school diploma and the percent that has a college degree. **Chart Q** shows the 2013 Johnson County educational achievement numbers in relation to the comparison counties.



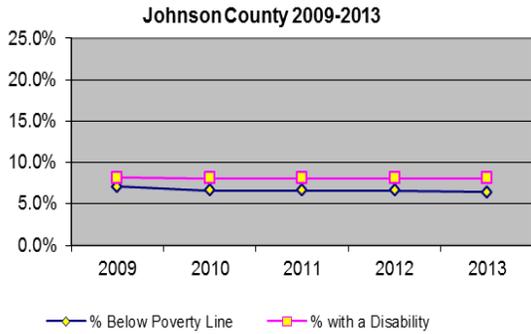
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013



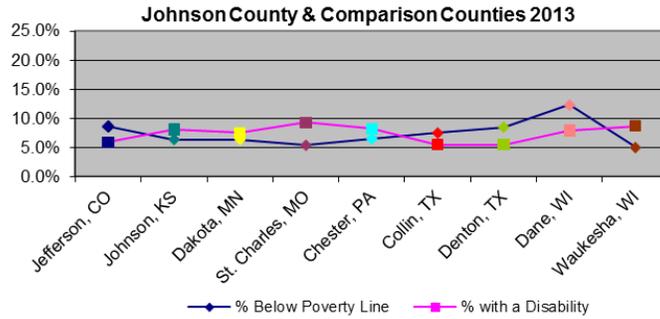
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013

Chart R & S – Poverty and Disabilities

Chart R shows the percent of the Johnson County population from 2009 to 2013 that is below the poverty line, and the percent that has a disability. **Chart S** shows the Johnson County 2013 poverty and disability percentages in relation to the comparison counties.



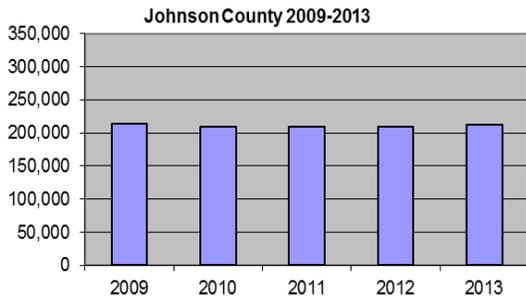
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013



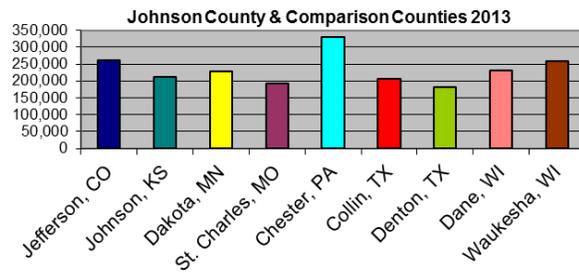
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013

Chart T & U – Median Home Value

Chart T shows the median home value for Johnson County from 2009 to 2013. **Chart U** shows the 2013 median home value of Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties.



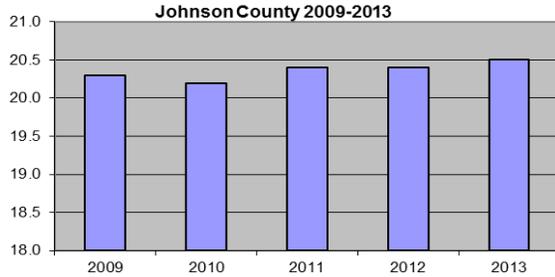
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013



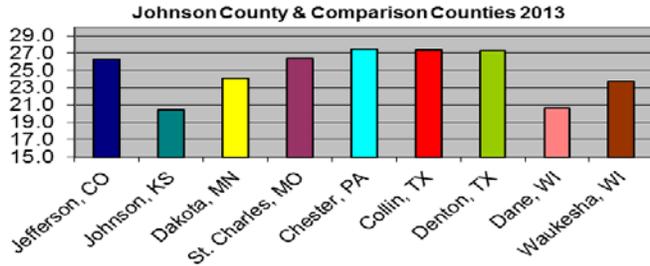
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013

Chart V & W – Average Work Commute Time

Chart V shows the average commute time for Johnson County citizens from 2009 to 2013. **Chart W** shows the 2013 Johnson County average commute time in relation to the comparison counties.



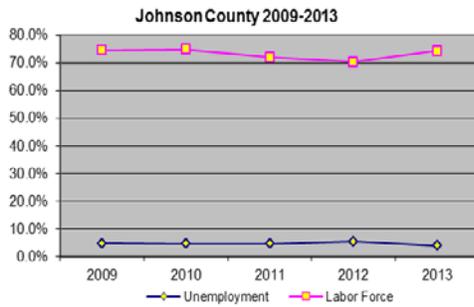
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013



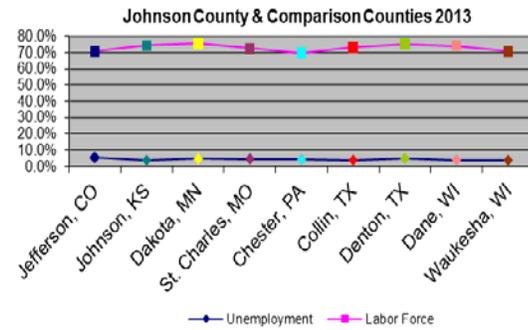
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013

Chart X & Y – Unemployment & Labor

Chart X shows the percentage of the Johnson County population that is in the labor force and the percentage of the labor force that is unemployed from 2009 to 2013. **Chart Y** shows the 2013 Johnson County labor force and unemployment percentages in relation to the comparison counties.



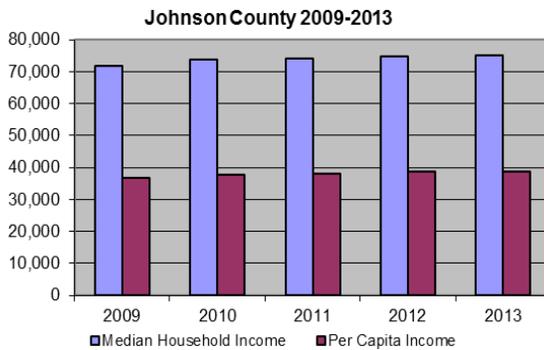
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013



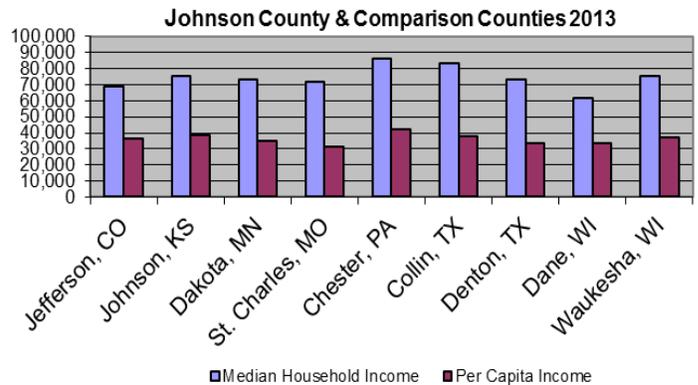
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013

Chart Z & AA - Median Household and Per Capita Income

Chart Z shows the median household and per capita income in Johnson County from 2009 to 2013. **Chart AA** shows the 2013 Johnson County income numbers in relation to the comparison counties.



Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013



Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2013

Summary

The preceding community indicators and statistical comparisons reflect some of the demographic, economic and social characteristics of Johnson County, and evaluate the County's progress in relation to the benchmark communities across the country against which Johnson County measures itself. The information included in this section is an important tool for Johnson County and its municipal partners for future planning.

This information facilitates identifying trends, measuring progress, and securing resources. As the community examines emerging needs, this data can assist in determining the nature and scope of County government services needed.

Organizational Structure

The organizational chart for Johnson County Government is presented on page B.15.

Elected Officials

Johnson County is governed by a seven-member Board of County Commissioners, which meets in regular business session once each week. The Chairman of the Board is elected on a county-wide basis and serves as a full-time County official. District commissioners are elected by residents in specific geographical areas, or districts of the County and serve as part-time County officials. The Chairman and the district commissioners serve four-year terms with no term limitations.

Currently, the Board of County Commissioners is comprised of the following individuals:

Commissioner	District	Initial Year as Commissioner	Term Expires
Ed Eilert, Chairman	At-Large	2007	2015
C. Edward Peterson	District 1	2003	2015
Jim Allen	District 2	2009	2017
Steven C. Klika	District 3	2013	2017
Jason Osterhaus	District 4	2011	2015
Michael Ashcraft	District 5	2011	2015
John Toplikar	District 6	2013	2017

In addition to the Board of County Commissioners, residents of Johnson County elect the following positions:

- District Attorney
- Sheriff

These positions are elected at large and serve four-year terms with no term limitations.

Appointed Officials

In 1984, Johnson County government was designated by the International City-County Management Association (ICMA) as a Council-Manager form of government. As a result, the Board appoints a professional County Manager to administer a variety of County functions. The County Manager is responsible for policy implementation, budget development and implementation, and the appointment and direction of certain department directors.

In addition to the County Manager, the Board also appoints members for four (4) governing boards:

- Airport Commission
- Developmental Supports
- Library
- Park & Recreation

The governing boards for these four (4) agencies are responsible for a number of items, including the appointment and direction of an Executive Director and the submission of an annual budget request to the Board of County Commissioners.

In 2013, The Board of County Commissioners dissolved the Mental Health Board and assumed responsibility for that area. A Mental Health Advisory Board was appointed following this action, in accordance with state statute.

Home Rule Charter

In January of 1996, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) appointed a Citizens' Visioning Committee (JCCVC) to develop a 20-year vision for Johnson County and to recommend a future role for County government. The JCCVC completed and submitted its report to the Board in July of 1997. One of the recommended actions in the JCCVC report was the following:

"Restructure the BOCC to enhance the opportunities for county leadership that will be necessary to achieve this vision for the future. Among the changes that must be considered are the at-large selection of at least one county commissioner; selection of the chairperson (possibly by direct election of the voters) who will serve a full term as chair; and the abandonment of the annual rotation of the chair among the members of the BOCC."

In response to the JCCVC recommendation, the Board appointed a Charter Commission in May of 1999 to develop a proposed Home Rule Charter for Johnson County. The Charter Commission, which was composed of 25 citizens, met more than 30 times over a 12-month period and held six (6) public hearings. In May of 2000, the Charter Commission submitted its report and a proposed Home Rule Charter to the Board.

In November of 2000, voters approved the Home Rule Charter. Overall, no major changes in the County's operations occurred until after the election in November of 2002, which added an additional district commissioner and a commission chairman elected on a countywide basis. The next major change occurred in January of 2005 when the elected positions of County Clerk and Register of Deeds were combined into one appointed office titled the Director of Records and Tax Administration. In addition, the position of County Treasurer became an appointed office in October of 2005.

The Home Rule Charter became effective on January 11, 2001 and includes the following timeline and action items:

1. The Board of County Commissioners appointed a County Manager by December 31, 2001 (this was completed in December of 2001, when the existing County Administrator was appointed County Manager).
2. The four (4) governing boards conformed to the general administrative policies of the County by December 31, 2001.
3. Redistricting for the six (6) commissioner districts was completed by April 1, 2002.
4. Reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners with six (6) district commissioners and the elected chairman occurred on January 16, 2003.

The Home Rule Charter contains seven (7) separate articles. In addition to the items discussed above, the Charter:

1. Establishes four-year terms for all commissioners, including the chairman, with no term limitations.
2. Makes each election non-partisan. Primary elections will be held if there are more than two (2) candidates for the position. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the primary election are placed on the ballot for the November election. If there are two or less candidates who file for a position, then no primary election will be held.
3. Requires the Board of County Commissioners to appoint a Charter Review Commission. The Review Commission meets at least once per year for five (5) years, and is composed of seven (7) members who served on the Charter Commission.

Under the Home Rule Charter, the Board of County Commissioners will continue to appoint members for four (4) governing boards.

