

# County Profile

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# County Profile

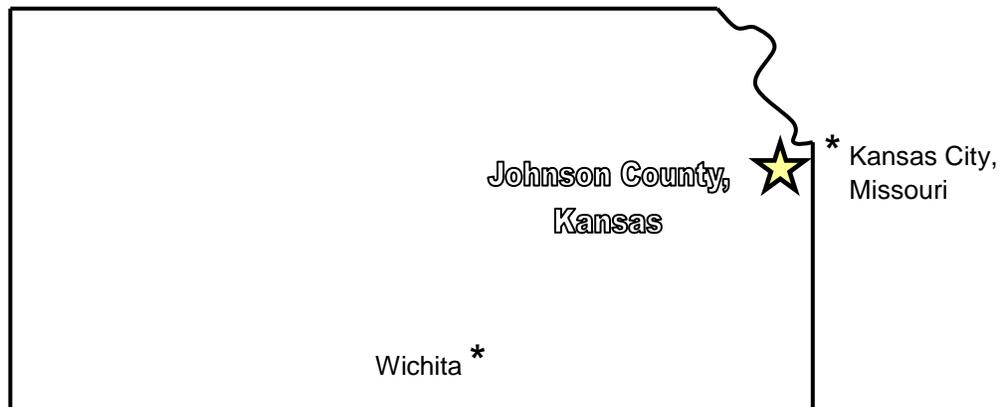
The County Profile section of the FY 2014 Budget provides basic demographic and trend information about Johnson County, as well as national comparable counties. The first section highlights basic population, employment, housing, ethnicity, crime, business industry data, and some general information to provide a snapshot of the County.

The second section includes nine additional measures, or “community indicators”, in an effort to align the FY 2014 Budget with three of the Board of County Commissioners’ (BOCC) strategic goals: 1) Responsible stewards of taxpayers’ money; 2) Provide the best possible mandatory and discretionary services; and 3) Build a “Community of Choice” – a place where people want to live and work. 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.

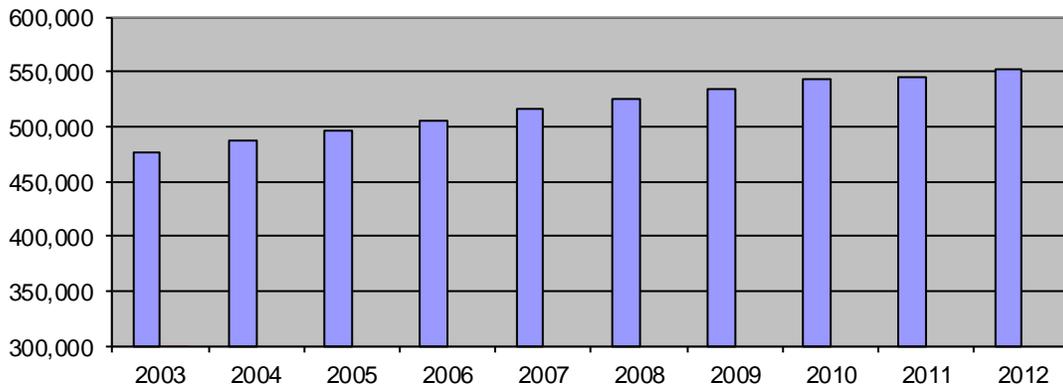
The County's history has been intertwined with Kansas City's since its earliest days. Johnson County has transformed from a sparsely populated Shawnee Indian Reservation in the 1820's to a thriving, suburban metropolis of over 559,913 in 2012 surpassing the population of Kansas City, the urban "center city" the county's suburbs grew up around.<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> "Johnson County, Kansas: A Pictorial History, 1825-2005," Johnson County Museum.

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 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 2003-2012 (Total Population 559,913)**



Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012, Pop. Estimates

**Chart A** demonstrates that Johnson County has experienced sustained population growth over the past ten years. As of September 2012, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates the total County population to be 559,913.

### Chart B

**County Population by City 2012**

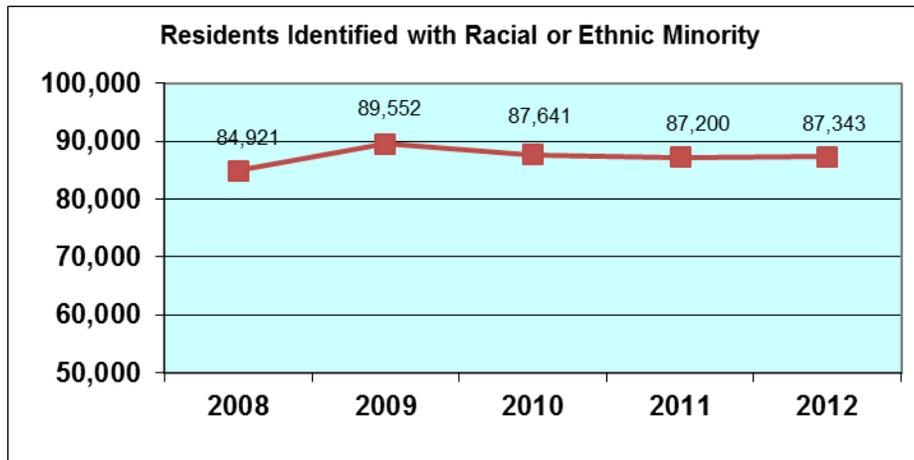
City	2012 Population	City	2012 Population
Overland Park	178,919	Roeland Park	6,816
Olathe	130,045	DeSoto	5,869
Shawnee	63,622	Fairway	3,882
Lenexa	49,398	Mission Hills	3,498
Leawood	32,539	Spring Hill	3,151*
Prairie Village	21,769	Edgerton	1,671
Gardner	20,318	Westwood	1,506
Unincorporated Johnson County	18,022	Lake Quivira	880*
		Westwood Hills	359
Merriam	11,174	Mission Woods	178
Mission	9,467	Bonner Springs	0*

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

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 3.2% of the County’s total population. The remaining Johnson County residents reside in one of the twenty incorporated cities.

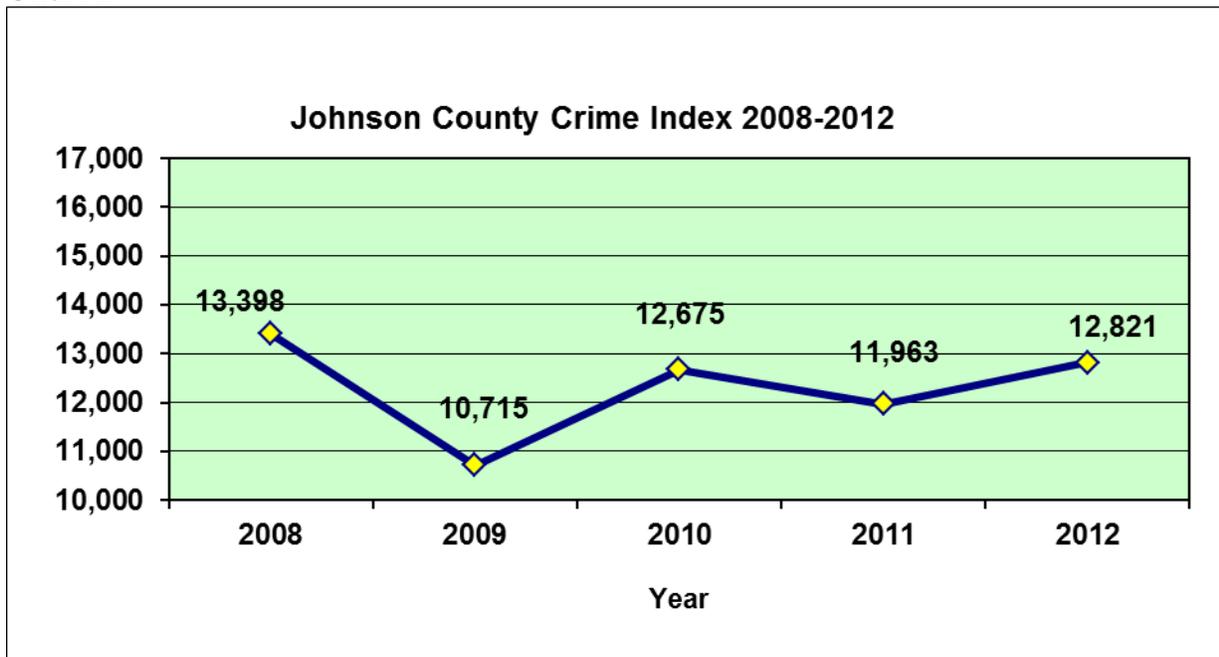
**Chart C**



Source: U.S. Census, 2011 American Community Survey

**Chart C** illustrates Johnson County's increasingly diverse population. According to the U.S. Census 2012 American Community Survey, over fifteen percent (87,343) of Johnson County residents identifies with a racial or ethnic minority, a slight increase of total County population than in the previous year but larger than 2008. The fastest-growing population segments during the past year were Hispanic (7.2%), African American (4.3%), and Asian (4.2%).<sup>2</sup>

**Chart D**



Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation

**Chart D** reflects that Johnson County's crime index for 2012, or crimes reported to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, has shown an increase over the past year. Despite sustained population growth, Johnson County's crime rate remains below state and federal averages at 22.1 per 1,000 citizens for 2012.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2010

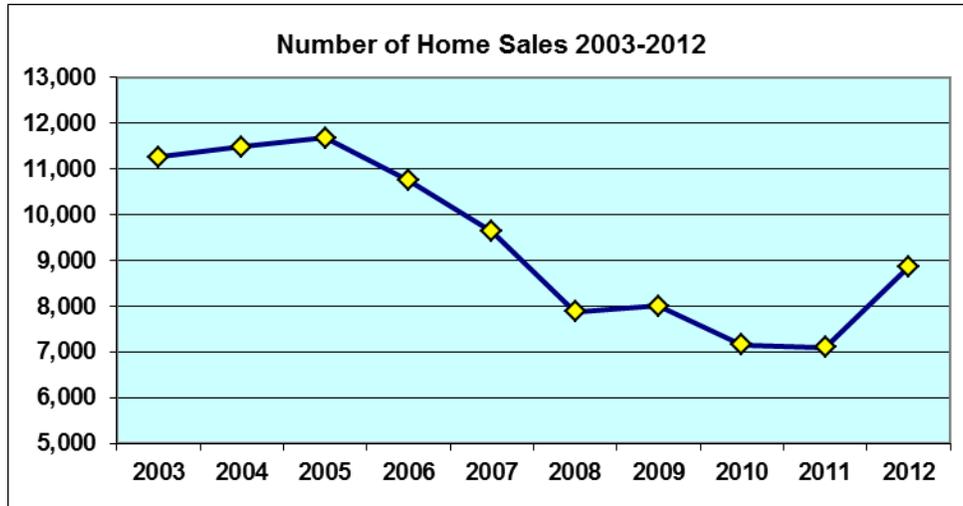
**Chart E**



Source: County Economic Research Institute

**Chart E** documents that Johnson County experienced a slight decrease in average home sale price in 2012. This decrease is a change from the past three years which all saw higher 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. Social service agencies serving the County cite such increases as having the potential to make housing difficult for low to moderate households to access.<sup>3</sup>

**Chart F**



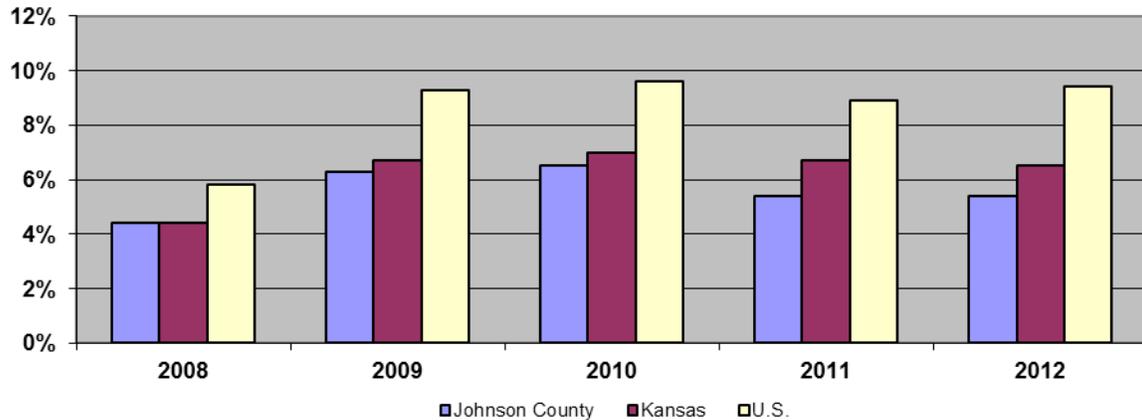
Source: Heartland MLS

**Chart F** documents increased sales of new and existing housing in Johnson County compared to 2011. The 2012 total sales increased from 2011 as sales of new and existing housing throughout Johnson County were above 8,000 annually, which are the highest levels since 2007.

<sup>3</sup> "Housing Market and Needs Analysis," Johnson County, Kansas, 2004

## Chart G

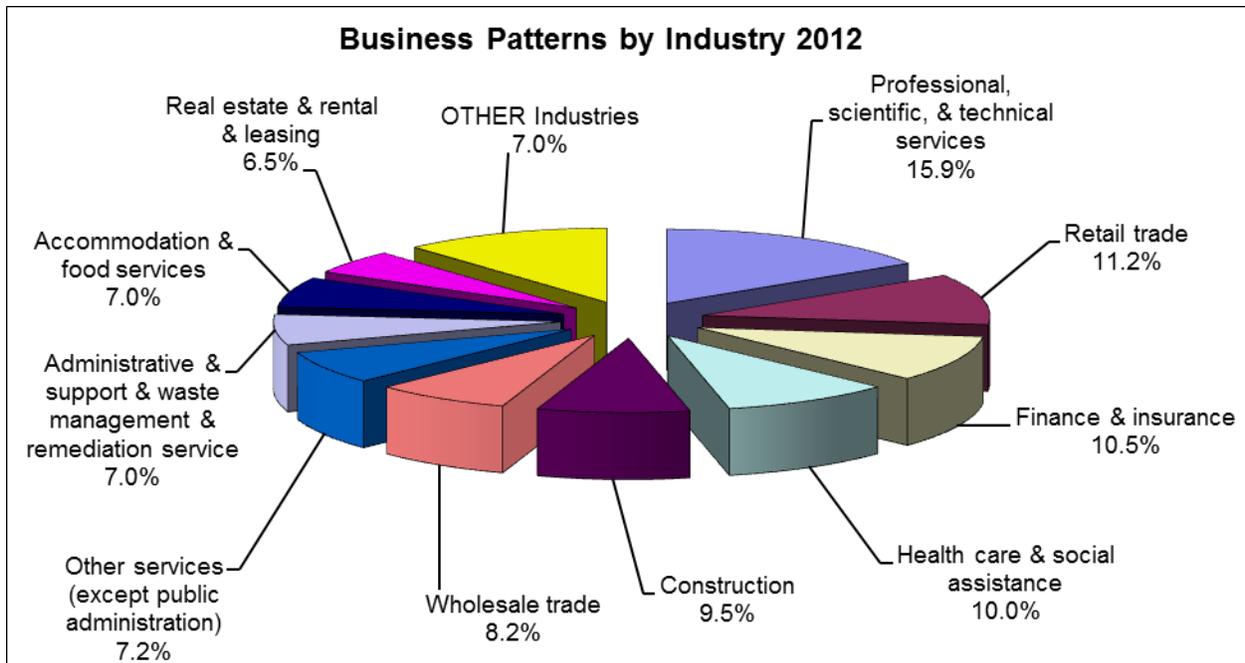
Annual Unemployment in Johnson County, Kansas, and U.S 2008-2012



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 was 5.4%, which is the same as the previous year. It is still a higher rate than the year 2008 which had a rate of 3%. The County's unemployment rate continues to be lower than the national and state rates. The number of jobs in Johnson County has risen consistently, but not at a fast enough pace to keep unemployment rates at the previously lower levels.<sup>4</sup>

## Chart H



Source: U.S. Census Bureau<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Trend Monitoring Report, 2010, Johnson County, Kansas Office of Financial Management

<sup>5</sup> "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 H** reflects the business patterns of Johnson County shifting away from Retail Trade and Finance and Insurance being the primary industries and moving towards Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services. In 2008, within the Kansas City 15-county metropolitan statistical area (MSA), 43% of all establishments in the professional, scientific, and technical services industry were located within Johnson County.<sup>6</sup>

**Chart I**

<b>Eleven Largest Johnson County Employers 2012</b>		
<b>Employers</b>	<b>Local Employment</b>	<b>Industry</b>
Sprint	8,023	Wireless Telecommunications
Olathe Unified School District	4,295	Public School District
Johnson County Government	3,900	County Government
Shawnee Mission School District	3,710	Public School District
Blue Valley School District #229	3,214	Public School District
Garmin International Inc.	3,012	Electronic Equipment Manufacturing
Shawnee Mission Medical Center	2,941	Hospital
Johnson County Community College	2,796	Junior College
Black & Veach	2,263	Engineering Services
Prescription Solutions	2,015	Drug Merchant Wholesaler
Quest Diagnostics	2,007	Testing Laboratories

*Source: CERI 2011 Directory of Major Johnson County Employers*

Numerous Fortune 1,000 companies have located operations in the greater Kansas City area, with several headquartered in Johnson County, including Sprint Nextel Corporation. For the past 8 years, Sprint Nextel has been ranked consistently as the County’s top employer, followed by school districts and County government as shown in **Chart I**.

**Other Information of Interest:**

**Educational Institutions:** Johnson County contains seven distinct school districts which serve over 91,992 students grade K-12.<sup>8</sup> There are 162 schools, and a student to teacher ratio of 15.43.<sup>9</sup> It is the home of Johnson County Community College, and the Edwards Campus of the University of Kansas.

**Public Safety Institutions:** Johnson County has 16 Law Enforcement agencies, including two that are maintained by the County (Sheriff’s Department, Park Police).<sup>10</sup> The 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.<sup>11</sup>

**Culture and Recreation:** Johnson County has extensive facilities and opportunities for citizens and visitors that focus on cultural and recreational activities. There are over 9,659 acres of parks and recreation space that served over 7,663,199 million visitors in 2012.<sup>12</sup> The 13 County Libraries served 2,514,456 million physical visitors and more than 1,969,368 on line visitors.<sup>13</sup> The three Johnson County

<sup>6</sup> “Greater Kansas City Profile: Business and Industry”, KC Area Development Council

<sup>8</sup> Kansas Department of Education – K-12 School Reports: Johnson County

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Education – Institute of Education Sciences: National Center for Education Statistics

<sup>10</sup> Kansas Bureau of Investigation – Law Enforcement Statistics

<sup>11</sup> Johnson County Emergency Communications Center

<sup>12</sup> Johnson County Park & Recreation District – 2012 Annual Report

<sup>13</sup> Johnson County Library

<sup>14</sup> Johnson County Museums

Museums facilities, which includes the historic Lanesfield School house and The 1950's All-Electric House, served 89,774 physical visitors in 2012.<sup>14</sup>

**Transportation:** Johnson County offers several services with regards to transportation. The first of these is the two airports maintained through the Johnson County Airport Commission. 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. The other service is through Johnson County Transit which provides bus services, which includes "The Jo" and "The Jo – Special Edition", which provides services to individuals who qualify by income, age, or disability. Johnson County Transit served over 670,206 passengers in 2012.

**Utilities:** Johnson County provides the sanitary sewers to most of the County through Johnson County Wastewater, with the exception of some parts of Olathe. 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:

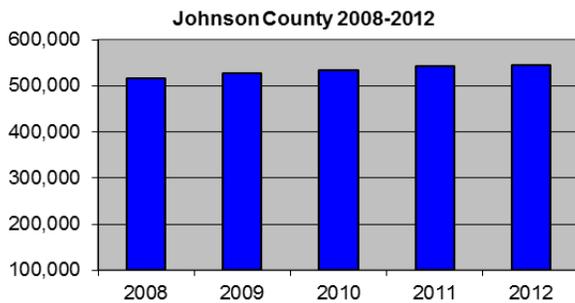
- Total population;
- Constituent education level;
- Rate of employment;
- Household and personal income;
- Proximity to a large metropolitan statistical area.

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.

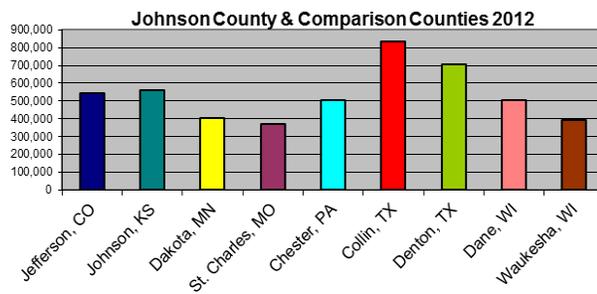
The following charts provide statistical comparisons between Johnson County and comparable counties, including a number of social demographics and economic indicators.

### Chart J & K – Population

**Chart J** shows the total estimated population for Johnson County from 2008 to 2012. **Chart K** shows the estimated 2012 population for Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties.

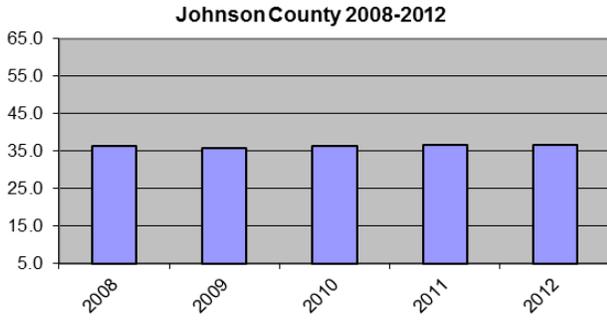


Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012 Pop. Estimates

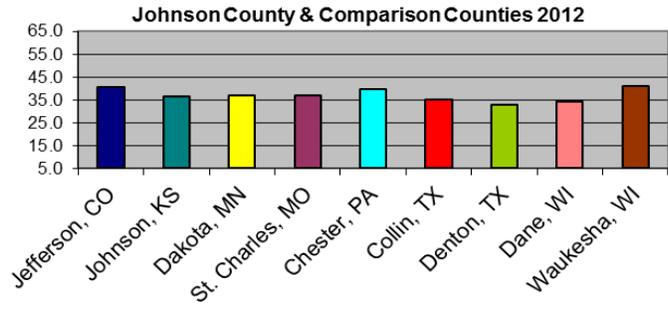


Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012 Pop. Estimates

**Chart L & M – Median Age Chart L** shows the median age of Johnson County from 2008-2012. **Chart M** shows the 2012 median age for Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties.



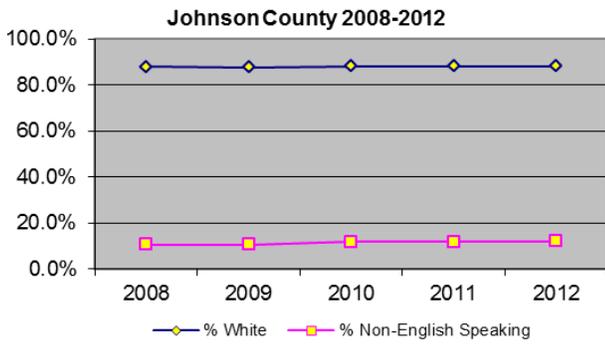
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012



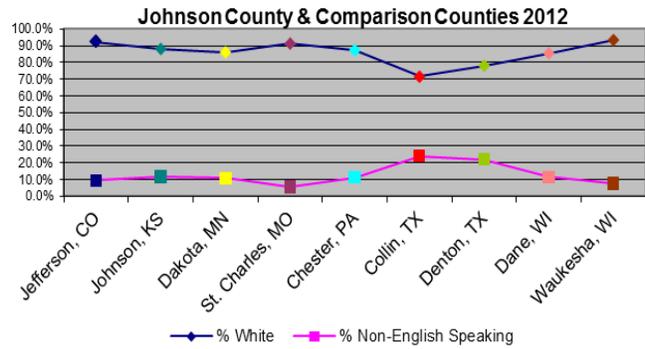
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012

**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 2008 to 2012. **Chart O** shows the 2012 race and language numbers for Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties.



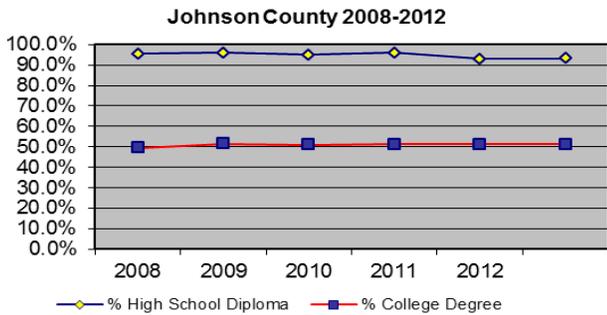
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012



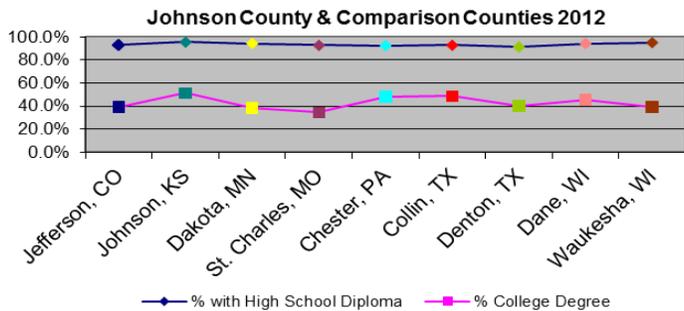
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012

**Chart P & Q – Educational Achievement**

**Chart P** shows the percent of the Johnson County population from 2008 to 2012 that completed a high school diploma and the percent that has a college degree. **Chart Q** shows the 2012 Johnson County educational achievement numbers in relation to the comparison counties.



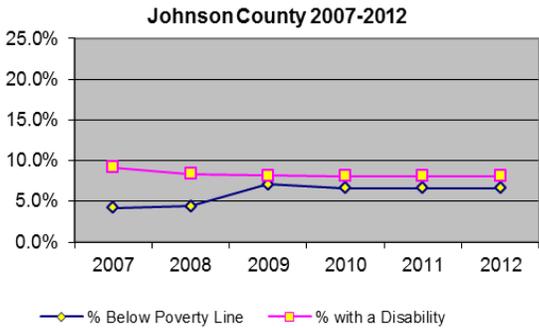
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012



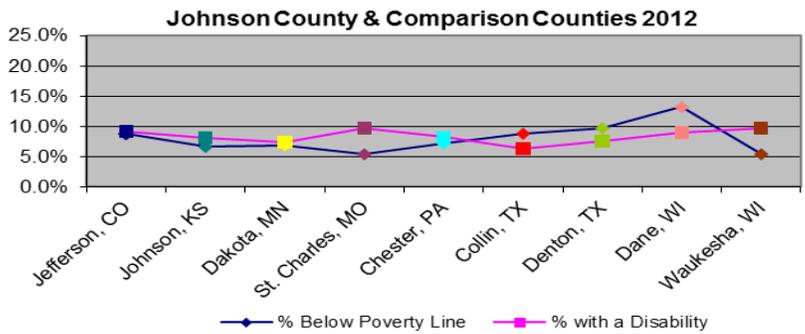
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012

### Chart R & S – Poverty and Disabilities

**Chart R** shows the percent of the Johnson County population from 2008 to 2012 that is below the poverty line, and the percent that has a disability. **Chart S** shows the Johnson County 2012 poverty and disability percentages in relation to the comparison counties.



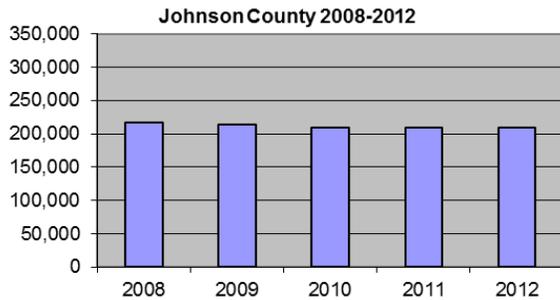
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012



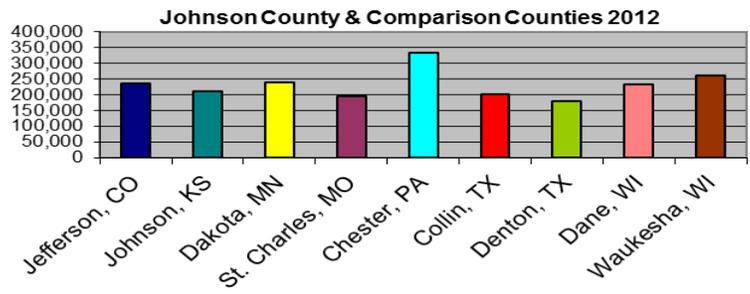
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012

### Chart T & U – Median Home Value

**Chart T** shows the median home value for Johnson County from 2008 to 2012. **Chart U** shows the 2012 median home value of Johnson County in relation to the comparison counties.



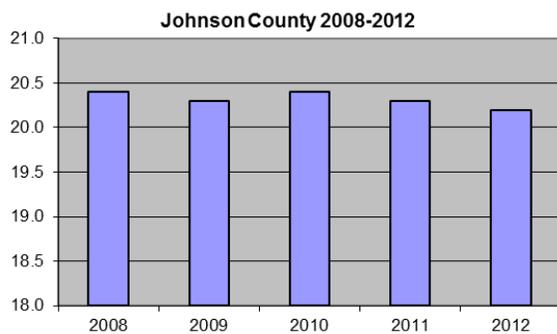
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012



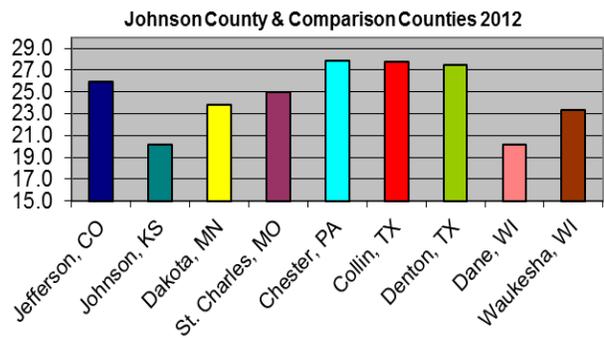
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012

### Chart V & W – Average Work Commute Time

**Chart V** shows the average commute time for Johnson County citizens from 2008 to 2012. **Chart W** shows the 2012 Johnson County average commute time in relation to the comparison counties.



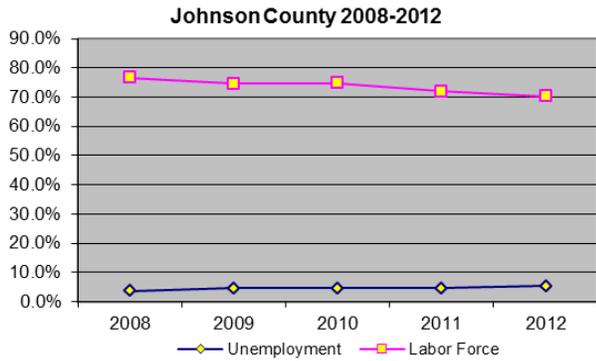
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012



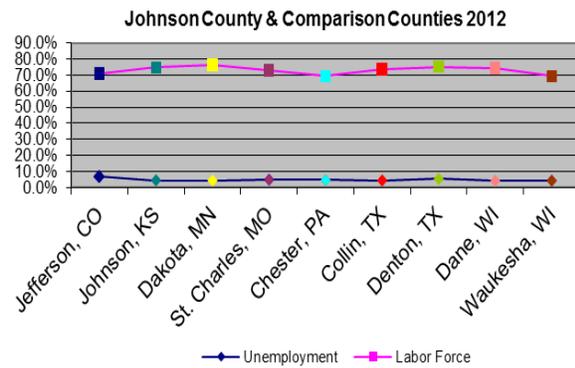
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012

### 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 2008 to 2012. **Chart Y** shows the 2012 Johnson County labor force and unemployment percentages in relation to the comparison counties.



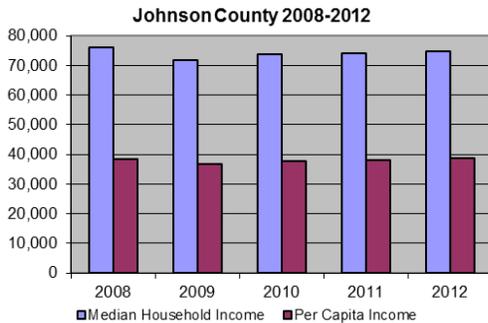
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012



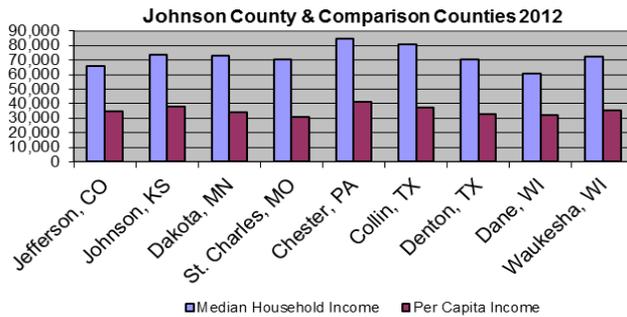
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012

### Chart Z & AA - Median Household and Per Capita Income

**Chart Z** shows the median household and per capita income in Johnson County from 2008 to 2012. **Chart AA** shows the 2012 Johnson County income numbers in relation to the comparison counties.



Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012



Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2012

### 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 a regular business session once each week. The Chairman of the Board is elected on a countywide 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:

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Initial Year as Commissioner</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
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 five (5) governing boards:

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

The governing boards for these five (5) 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.

## 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 five (5) 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 five (5) governing boards.

