



The Old Sedgwick County Courthouse

## COUNTY PROFILE

### History

Originally a camping ground of the Osage and Wichita Indian tribes, Sedgwick County, Kansas, is thought to be a place of discovery for such explorers as Francisco Coronado and Kit Carson. The earliest European settler to the region was M. DuTissenet, a Frenchman operating under the direction of the governor of Louisiana, in 1719. DuTissenet brought with him soldiers, traders and hunters who soon populated and transformed the region from prairie to a land of opportunity.

Sedgwick County was officially established nearly 150 years later on February 26, 1867, and bears the name of Civil War hero Major General John Sedgwick of the Union Army who was killed during the battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse in Virginia. After an initial failed attempt at establishing an official county government, the Governor of the State of Kansas appointed three Commissioners to aid in the effort. In April of 1870, the first county officials were elected and the county seat of Wichita was chosen.

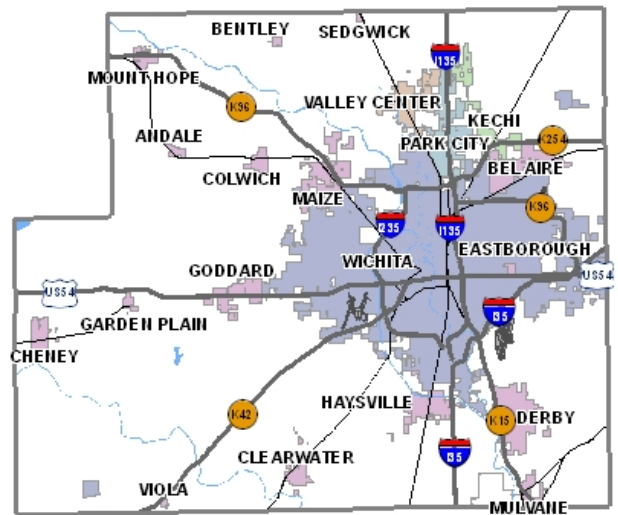
### Geography



Occupying 1,008 square miles of land in South Central Kansas, Sedgwick County falls within the borders of the Arkansas River

Lowlands. It is noted for its extreme flatness, as its highest point is only 1,540 feet above sea level. The County's lowest point, approximately 1,220 feet above sea level, occurs along the southern border where the

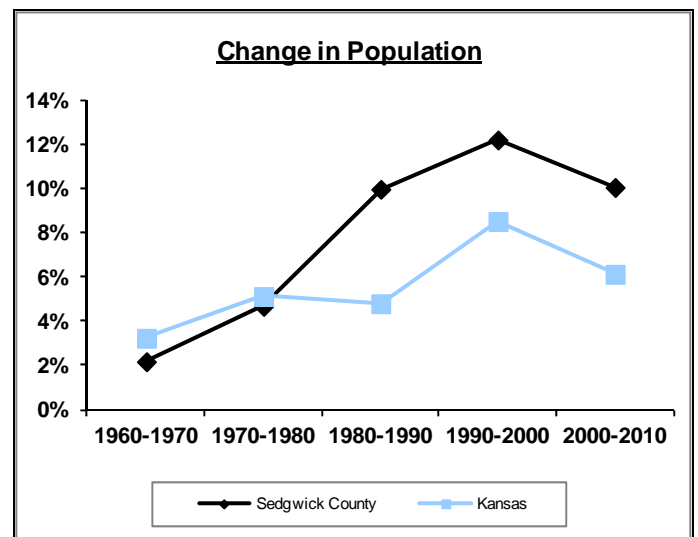
Arkansas River leaves the County.<sup>1</sup> Sedgwick County's largest city is Wichita, which is located along Interstate 35 with service areas to Interstate 135, U.S. 54 and various other highway projects.



Source: Sedgwick County GIS, 2008

### Population

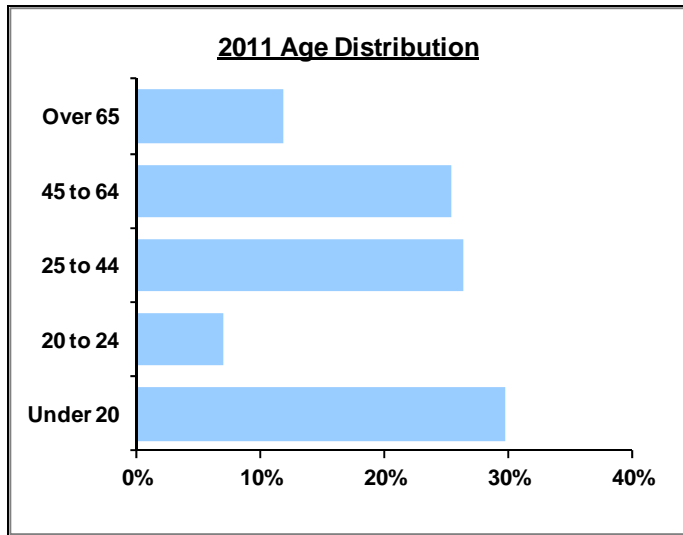
Sedgwick County is a growing region, currently home to an estimated 498,365 citizens. The County's population has increased 10 percent since 2000 and has increased significantly faster than the population of Kansas as a whole (6.1 percent since 2000). According to 2011 census estimates, Sedgwick County surpassed the half-million mark with an estimated 501,076 people.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

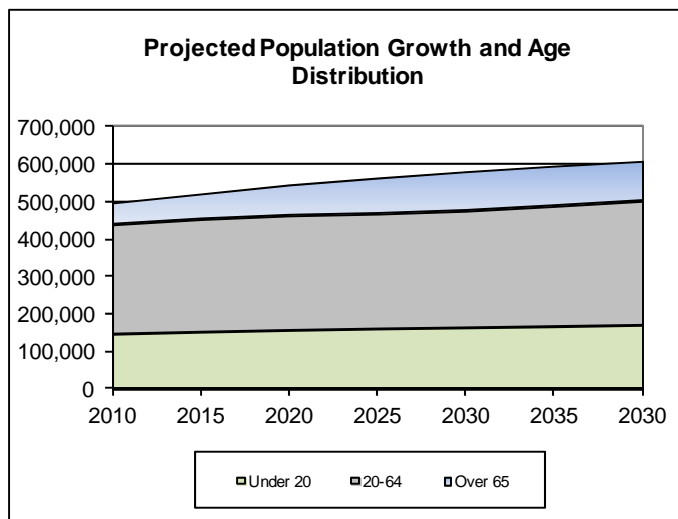
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kgs.ku.edu/General/Geology/Sedgwick/index.html>

The population of Sedgwick County is expected to grow one percent per year through the year 2040, expanding to approximately 606,752 citizens.



Source: American Community Survey, 2011

In addition to a strong growth trend, the *U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey*, reports Sedgwick County is a relatively young community, with 88 percent of its population younger than the age of 65. By 2030, however, the number of citizens aged 60 and older is expected to increase to 129,124, a 64 percent change from 2010 to 2030.

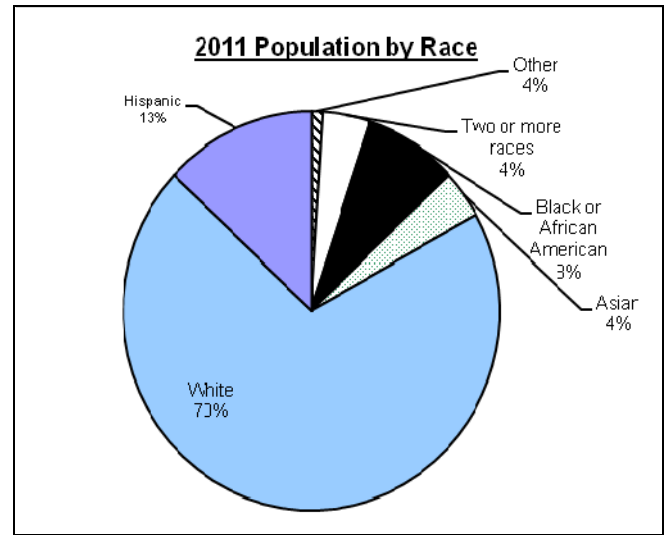


Source: CEDBR at Wichita State University, 2013

### Racial/Ethnic Composition

Although Sedgwick County is home to citizens of many diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, census data reveals that a large portion of the population (70 percent) is White/Caucasian, non-Hispanic. The most populous

minority groups within the Sedgwick County population are Hispanic (13 percent), Black or African American (eight percent) and Asian (four percent).<sup>2</sup>



Source: American Community Survey, 2011

Among its residents, Sedgwick County also has citizens who consider themselves to be of two or more races (four percent) or of another race than those listed (four percent).

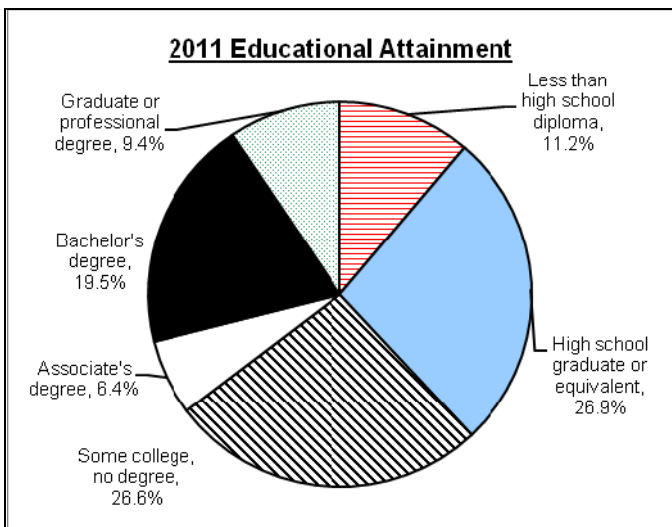
### Education

With 20 school districts in the public school system, more than 80 schools within the Catholic Diocese and several private educational institutions, education is a community priority in Sedgwick County. An educated citizenry generally benefits an entire community, because it typically includes a lower than otherwise unemployment rate and more individuals who get involved, vote and perform community service.

Among residents aged 25 and older, 26.9 percent have earned at least a high school diploma. In Sedgwick County, 26.6 percent of the population has some college, but no degree, while 6.4 percent has earned an associate's degree.

Approximately 19.5 percent of the population has at least a bachelor's degree. According to the *2011 American Community Survey*, Sedgwick County exceeds the national percentage by nearly 2.0 percent of those who have obtained a bachelor's degree. Sedgwick County also has 9.4 percent of residents who report having a graduate or professional degree.

<sup>2</sup> American Community Survey, 2011



Source: American Community Survey, 2011

north/south route for residents who are traveling and for businesses in the area that wish to import or export goods. For those wishing to travel or ship goods east or west from Sedgwick County, two primary options exist. Interstate 70 lies 90 miles north of Wichita, while Interstate 40 lies approximately 150 miles to the south. As a result, truck transportation companies are prevalent in Sedgwick County.

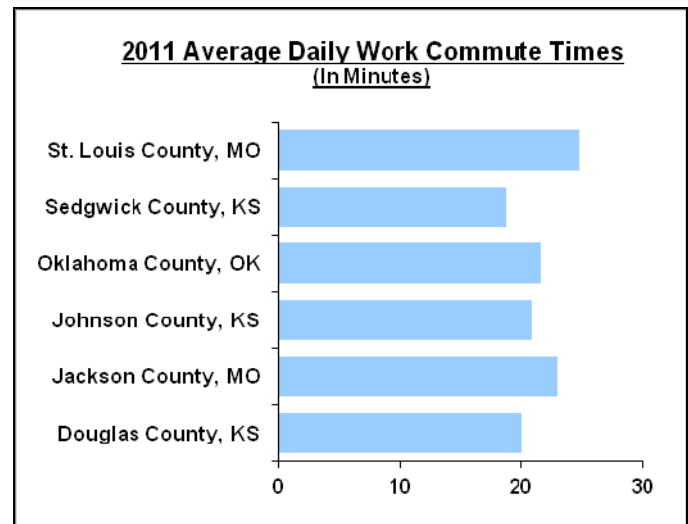
Air transportation is another viable option. Although under the jurisdiction of the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County is home to Wichita Mid-Continent Airport, the only commercial airport in south-central Kansas. The facility currently services four major cargo carriers and six major passenger airlines, including Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Delta Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and United Airlines. These airlines offer non-stop service to nine different destinations across the United States, including Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Dallas/Fort Worth, Chicago, Los Angeles, Denver, Atlanta, Phoenix and Houston.

Due in part to Sedgwick County's comprehensive network of highways and local roads, the average daily work commute time is less than in many similar counties. In 2011, the average commute time for a Sedgwick County resident was 18.7 minutes, which is less than comparable times in St. Louis County, Missouri (24.8 minutes) and Johnson County, Kansas (20.9 minutes).

In August 2010, the National Center for Aviation Training, a 230,000 square foot state-of-the-art training facility, opened. Facing a future shortage of skilled aviation workers, this world-class aviation training facility is a critical step to keep Kansas' aviation industry globally competitive. Sedgwick County's ability to train workers locally will enhance the community's ability to keep aerospace manufacturing jobs in Kansas.



In addition to the National Center for Aviation Training, there are more than 10 institutions of higher education located in Sedgwick County. Wichita State University, Friends University, Newman University, the Wichita Area Technical College, and the University of Kansas School Of Medicine—Wichita all have main campuses in the County, while seven other colleges and universities have chosen to locate branch campuses within the County.



Source: CEDBR at Wichita State University, 2013

**Transportation**

Sedgwick County has multiple transportation options available to residents, businesses and travelers. Interstate 35—the only Midwest interstate highway that connects Canada, the United States, and Mexico—runs directly through Sedgwick County, providing an optimum

**Public Safety**

Sedgwick County continues to place high priority on public safety, with more than one-third of all County expenditures being spent on public safety. As a full



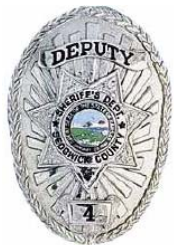
service government, Sedgwick County has jurisdiction over Sedgwick County Fire District 1, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and the Sheriff's Office.



In 2012, Sedgwick County Fire District 1 responded to 6,885 alarms. In total, the dedicated crews of the nine fire houses saved 99.49 percent of affected property, totaling \$1.8 billion in property saved.



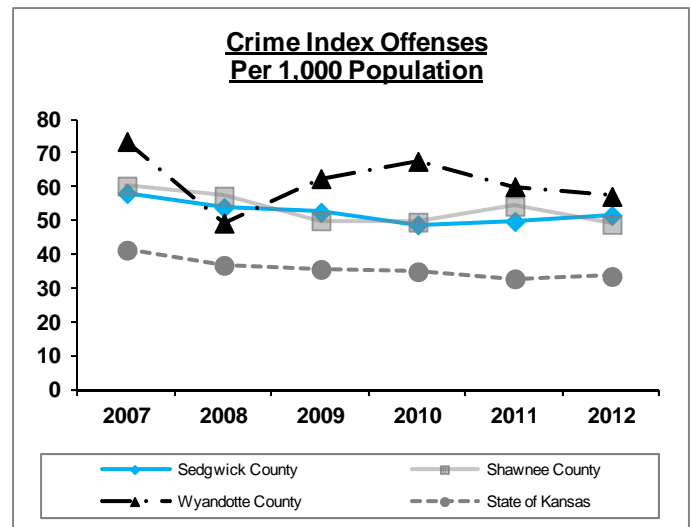
Sedgwick County EMS provides emergency response and scheduled transfers for the citizens of the County. Through the use of Advance Life Support ambulances, EMS service is provided 24-hours a day, 365-days a year. In 2012, EMS responded to 56,666 calls and transported 38,180 patients to hospitals and other destinations; EMS responded to 93.81 percent of urban calls in less than nine minutes.



Because Sedgwick County contains 20 cities, there are numerous law enforcement agencies in the area in addition to the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office patrols the unincorporated portions of Sedgwick County and operates a 1,068 bed adult detention facility, which is the largest jail in the State of Kansas. From 2011 to 2012, the total daily average inmate population decreased 4.0 percent, from 1,502 to 1,442.<sup>3</sup>

According to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Sedgwick County crime index offenses per 1,000 populations has decreased slightly during the past five reported years, with a slight increase from 2011 to 2012 (49.8 to 51.6). Comparatively, Sedgwick County had fewer crime index offenses per 1,000 populations when compared with Wyandotte County, Kansas, but was higher than the 2012 State of Kansas average (34.9).

<sup>3</sup> Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office



Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation Crime Statistics, 2007-2012

### Health Care

Home to approximately 3,100 licensed hospital beds, Sedgwick County continues to lead the region in healthcare options. Within the community, there are 17 individual hospitals, which each serves the needs of the community by providing acute, general and specialized care. Additionally, Sedgwick County has 50 nursing homes and assisted living facilities for those in need of special care.<sup>4</sup>

Sedgwick County also provides services to those in need of mental health care as well as addiction services substance use disorders through Comprehensive Community Care of Sedgwick County (COMCARE). The Department collaborates with other agencies in the community to provide services. Since 2002, the number of consumers in the COMCARE system has continued to increase and is projected to reach an unduplicated count of more than 14,000 in 2013.

### Arts, Culture & Entertainment

As an expanding metropolitan area, Wichita and Sedgwick County work to provide quality community entertainment and



recreation. After two years of planning and community input, Sedgwick County broke ground in December 2007 for the INTRUST Bank Arena, a 15,000 seat multi-purpose arena in the heart of downtown Wichita. The Arena was funded through a 30 month, one-cent, county-

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.wichitakansas.org/>



wide sales tax, which generated receipts of \$206.5 million. The Arena opened in January of 2010 and has successfully hosted numerous types of events, including family shows, sporting events, and concerts. One of the goals of building a world-class arena was to assist in the revitalization of downtown Wichita.

Not far from the new INTRUST Bank Arena, the City of Wichita continues its work to develop the downtown area known as Old Town. This urban entertainment district has more than 100 shops, nightclubs, movie theaters, art galleries, and businesses. With continued growth of entertainment activity in downtown Wichita, Old Town will continue to be a hot spot for eating lunch, shopping, and nightlife.



Sedgwick County is also a proud sponsor of the Sedgwick County Zoo, the number one outdoor family attraction in the State of Kansas. Founded in

1971, the Zoo is ranked among the best zoos in the world, receiving numerous national and international awards. Occupying 247 acres, the Zoo is home to such exhibits as the Downing Gorilla Forest, the Cargill Learning Center and the Cessna Penguin Exhibit. In 2009, the Zoo opened the Slawson Family Tiger Trek, a world-class Asian tiger exhibit. The Zoo continues to plan for new exhibits, one of which will be the world's first walk-through elephant exhibit.

Wichita is home to the Wichita Thunder, a minor league hockey team, the Wichita Wild, an indoor arena football team, the Wingnuts, a minor league baseball team and the Wichita Wings, and indoor soccer team. These teams provide hundreds of hours of entertainment each year for the citizens of Sedgwick County and from surrounding areas.

In addition to these centers of culture and entertainment, Wichita and Sedgwick County have 12 museums and numerous cultural events including the Metropolitan Ballet, Music Theatre of Wichita, Wichita Symphony Orchestra and the Wichita Grand Opera. Wichita also has a broad selection of restaurants, offering every type of cuisine and style of food imaginable.

**Events**

Each year Sedgwick County takes part in numerous community activities. Support ranges from event sponsorship to employee participation. Some examples of events that the County has participated in include:

- Wichita River Festival
- Wichita Flight Festival
- Wichita Open Golf Tournament
- Sedgwick County Fair
- City and town fairs and festivals
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowling Tournament
- Habitat for Humanity

**GOVERNMENT**

**Organizational Structure**

The County's organizational chart in its entirety can be found on the last page of this section.

**Elected Officials**

Sedgwick County is governed by a five-member Board of County Commissioners that meets in regular weekly sessions with the exception of the last Wednesday of every month. Commissioners are elected according to geographical area (districts) and serve four-year terms with those terms overlapping. The Commissioners are full-time County officials and perform all executive, legislative and policy-related functions. The Board also governs Sedgwick County Fire District 1, a separate special-purpose local government. The Chairman of the Board is elected by the Commissioners and serves a one-year term, January thru December. The Board of County Commissioners is currently comprised of the following individuals:

Commissioner	District	Term Expires
Dave Unruh	1st District	January 2015
Tim Norton	2nd District	January 2017
Karl Peterjohn	3rd District	January 2017
Richard Ranzau	4th District	January 2015
James Skelton, Chairman	5th District	January 2015

In addition to the Board of County Commissioners, citizens of Sedgwick County elect six other positions:

- County Clerk
- Register of Deeds
- County Treasurer
- Sheriff
- District Attorney
- 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judges

## Appointed Officials

Sedgwick County was recognized by the International City-County Management Association (ICMA) in 1981 as a Council-Manager form of government. Therefore, the Board appoints a professional County Manager to administer most County functions and to implement policy decisions. Tasks of the County Manager range from the management of special projects to the daily functions of the County's nearly 3,000 employees.

The Board of County Commissioners also appoints a:

- County Counselor
- County Appraiser
- Director of Public Works

The Kansas Secretary of State is responsible for appointing an Election Commissioner for Sedgwick County.

In addition to the County government, Sedgwick County contains 26 townships, 20 cities, 20 unified school districts, one fire district, seven cemetery districts, three drainage districts, eleven improvement districts, four watershed districts, one groundwater district and eleven recreation commissions.

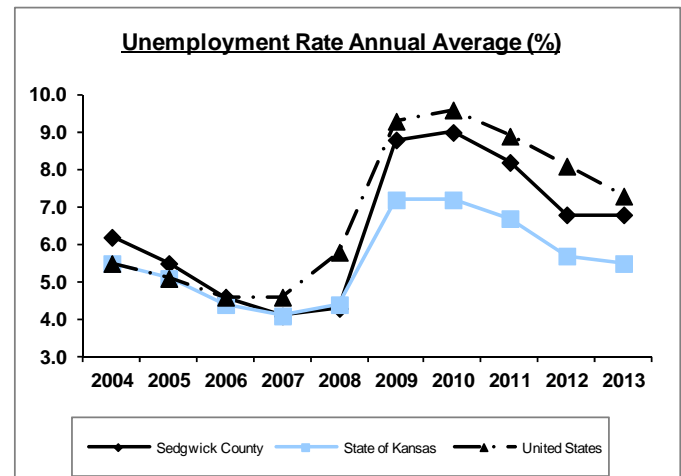
## County Services

Sedgwick County prides itself on being a full-service government for all of its citizens. Community residents are familiar with the concept that Sedgwick County provides services from A – Z: everything from Animal Control to the Sedgwick County Zoo. In addition to the aforementioned services provided by the elected and appointed officials, Sedgwick County provides services pertaining to community development, culture and recreation, finance, health, human services, information and operations, and public safety.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### Employment

The United States Department of Labor reported that the average 2012 Civilian Labor Force for the Wichita, Kansas, Metropolitan Statistical Area was 302,447 residents, a decrease of 1.6 percent from 2011. Of those who are eligible for employment, approximately 93.6 percent (283,080) were employed in 2012. Sedgwick County's unemployment rate as of April 2013 was 6.8 percent, lower than the U.S. unemployment rate of 7.3 percent.

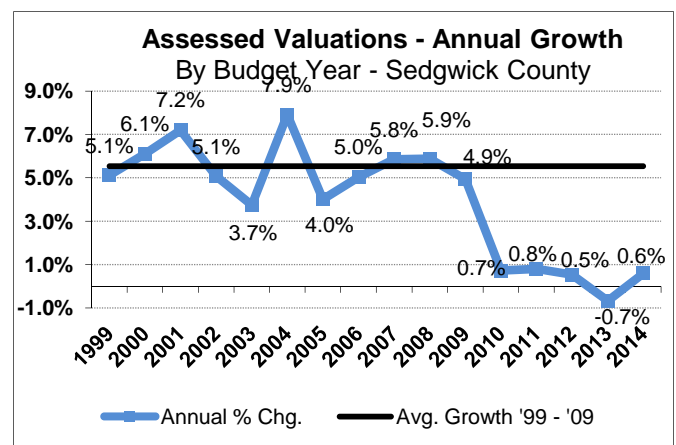


Source: U.S. Department of Labor

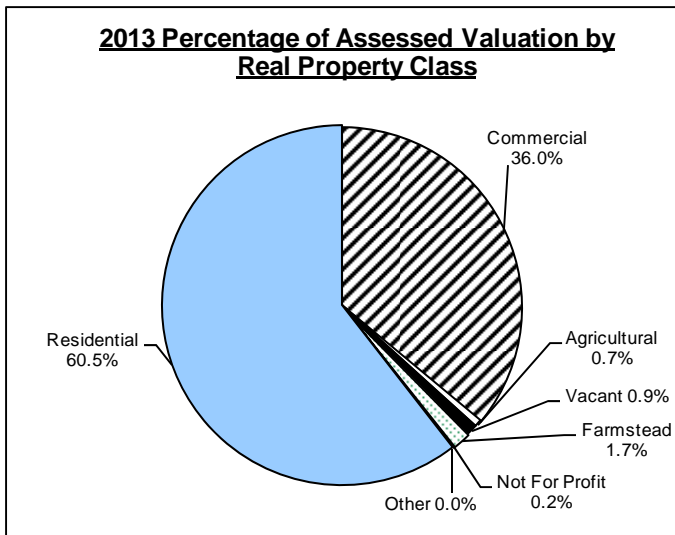
Sedgwick County's unemployment rate has varied since 2002, but was consistently around 4.0 percent in 2006, 2007 and 2008. In 2009, the rate increased to 8.8 percent, peaked at 9.0 percent in 2010 and has steadily declined since.

### Property Values/Tax Payers

Similar to other jurisdictions, Sedgwick County has continued to address declining property valuations by making operational changes. Prior to the national recession, assessed property valuations grew by an average of 5.5 percent annually between 1999 and 2009. Since that time, assessed valuations were below 1 percent for three years (2010 to 2012), and fell in value for the 2013 budget by 0.7 percent. The 2014 assessed valuation increased by 0.7 percent.



In Sedgwick County, residential property accounts for the largest percentage (60.5 percent) of the total assessed value of real property. The second largest is commercial property, comprising 36.0 percent of the County's total assessed value of real property. The large percentage of residential property shows that individuals and families recognize the County as a growing community where they can purchase a home and establish roots, while the large portion of commercial property shows that the County's business environment is also favorable.



Source: Sedgwick County Appraiser, 2013

Another economic indicator is the total assessed value of the largest five taxpayers compared to the total assessed valuation of the County. A concentrated property tax base can be detrimental to a community in times of economic downturn, especially if a jurisdiction's largest taxpayers are in the same industry. Sedgwick County's largest five taxpayers comprised 6.2 percent of the County's total assessed value in 2012.

2012 Top Five Taxpayers		
Name	Assessed Value	Percent of Total County Taxable Assessed Value
Kansas Gas & Electric	\$ 71,075,125	1.66%
The Boeing Company	54,171,411	1.27%
Spirit Aerosystems, Inc.	52,108,205	1.22%
Mid Western Aircraft Systems	49,249,786	1.15%
Hawker Beechcraft Corp	38,540,079	0.90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$265,144,606</b>	<b>6.20%</b>

Source: Sedgwick County Clerk, 2013

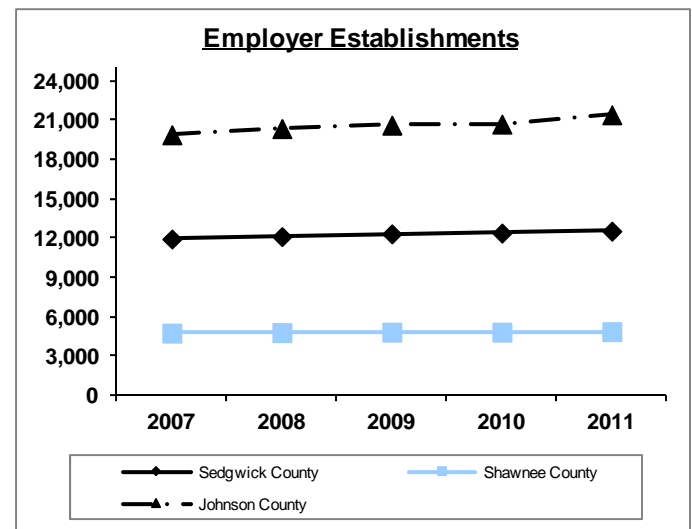
### Retail Trade

The Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has numerous retail centers, including New Market Square,

the Waterfront, and Bradley Fair, which encourage industry growth, but the economic decline has led to a decrease in the retail trade. In the Wichita MSA, the retail trade employment increased by approximately 1.0 percent from 2011 to 2012.<sup>5</sup>

### Industry

Sedgwick County is home to more than 12,500 business establishments. Between 2006 and 2011, employer establishments in Sedgwick County increased annually by 1.1 percent, which is higher than the average annual percentage change in Shawnee County (0.6 percent), but a percentage point lower than Johnson County, Kansas (2.1 percent). Also, the percentage change in the State of Kansas' employer establishments was 0.9 percent. There has been significant growth in the number of Sedgwick County business establishments, with the County experiencing a larger growth rate than the State, as a whole.<sup>6</sup>



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Among the largest employers in Sedgwick County are aircraft manufacturers, health care and education. According to a Milken Institute Study, Wichita has the highest concentration of aerospace manufacturing employment and skills in the nation.<sup>7</sup> Wichita, known as the "Air Capital of the World," is home to four large aircraft manufacturing plants, each of which heavily

<sup>5</sup> Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University 2009 Review and 2010 Forecast

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2006 and 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition

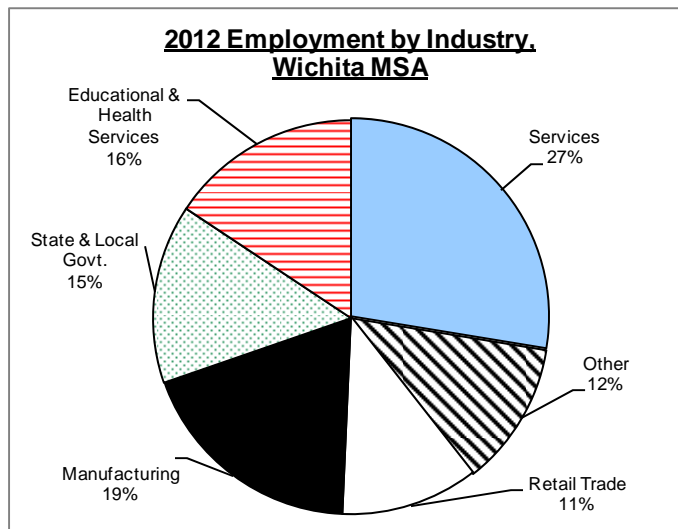


impacts the overall economy of Sedgwick County.

Greater Wichita's 10 Largest Employers		
Company	Product/Service	Local FT
Spirit AeroSystems	Aircraft Assemblies	10,800
Via Christi Health	Health Care	6,338
McConnell Air Force Base	Air Force Base	6,090
Unified School District 259 Wichita	Public School District	5,342
Cessna Aircraft	Aircraft	4,860
Beechcraft Corp.	Aircraft	4,500
State of Kansas	State Government	3,893
City of Wichita	Municipal Government	2,924
Bombardier Learjet	Aircraft	2,800
United States Government	Federal Government	2,737
<b>Total</b>		<b>50,284</b>

Source: Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition, 2013

In addition to the manufacturing industry, Sedgwick County is engaged in a variety of additional industry sectors, including retail, arts and entertainment, and food services. Comprising 27 percent of all employment opportunities, the service industry is the largest industry in the County.



Source: Kansas Department of Labor, not seasonally adjusted

### Educational & Health Services

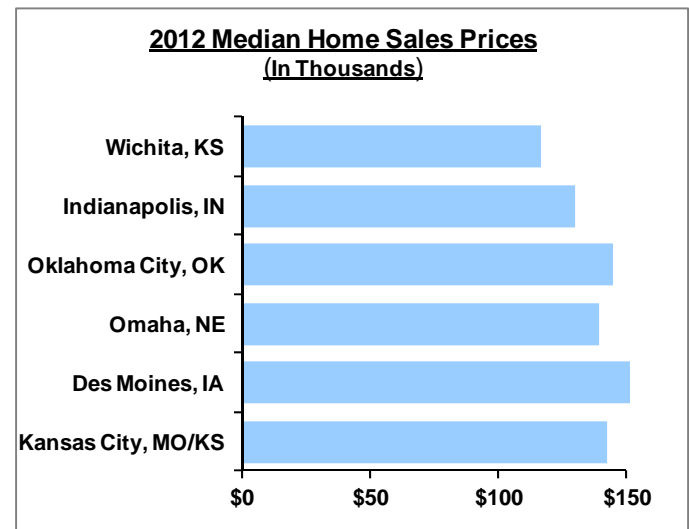
A rapidly growing industry across the entire nation, education and health services also continue to grow in Sedgwick County. In the Wichita MSA, 16 percent of positions are in education and health services. Wichita is currently home to several specialty hospitals which provide specific care as well as numerous doctors' offices and medical complexes. The Center for

Economic Development and Business Research noted many changes in the Educational and Health Care Services industry in its 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2012 *Wichita Industry and News Developments*, including:

- Larksfield Place recently opened its new \$14 million Assisted Living and Memory Support Center.
- Via Christi Villages will add a 72,000-square – foot skilled nursing facility to its Cornerstone Ridge Plaza senior-living campus.
- Wichita State University will lease the former Britt Brown Arena for 10 years as research space for the National Institute for Aviation Research. In the facility, researchers will test aircraft components.

### Cost of Living/Housing

The current overall cost of living in Wichita is below the national average of 100. Compared to Oklahoma City, OK (90.5), Omaha, NE (89.4), Dallas, TX (96.4) and Kansas City, MO-KS (100.2), the overall cost of living for area residents (90.9) is comparable to other area communities.<sup>8</sup>



Source: National Association of Realtors, 2013

As of 2012, the median home sales price in Wichita was \$116,900 for an existing home, approximately \$60,000 less than the national average.<sup>9</sup> New housing units are also very competitively priced at an average of

<sup>8</sup> Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition Website

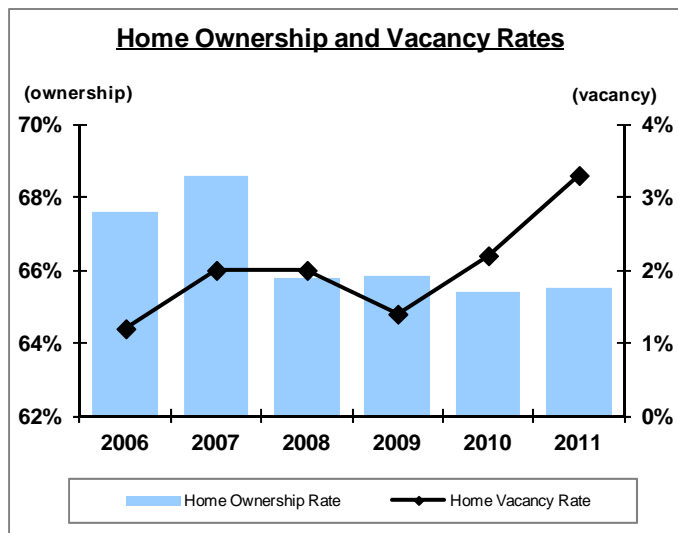
<sup>9</sup> National Association of Realtors, 2013





\$231,652, 20 percent below the corresponding national figure.<sup>10</sup>

The home-ownership rate in Sedgwick County for 2010 was 65.4 percent, with very slight growth in 2011 at 65.5 percent. Home vacancy rates have been mixed. In 2002, vacancy rates in Sedgwick County were low at 1.2 percent, but increased to 3.4 in 2005. In 2009, vacancy rates decreased back to 1.4 percent. In 2010 and 2011, the vacancy rates have sharply increased to 2.2 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively. These statistics show the number of households owning homes in Sedgwick County has declined, while vacancy rates continue to rise.

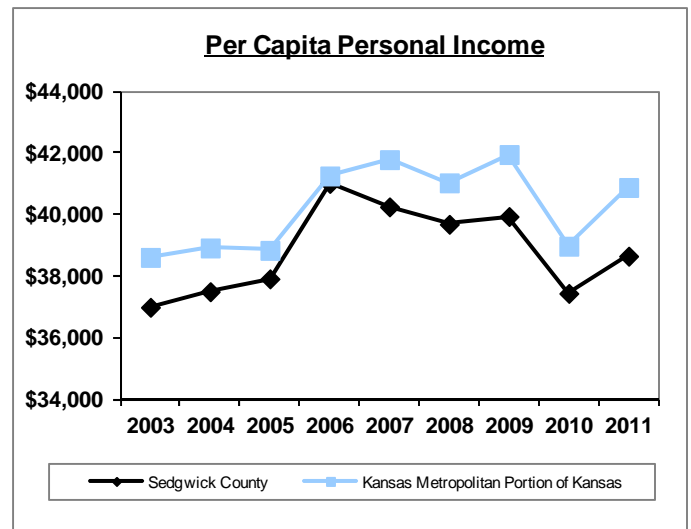


Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2011

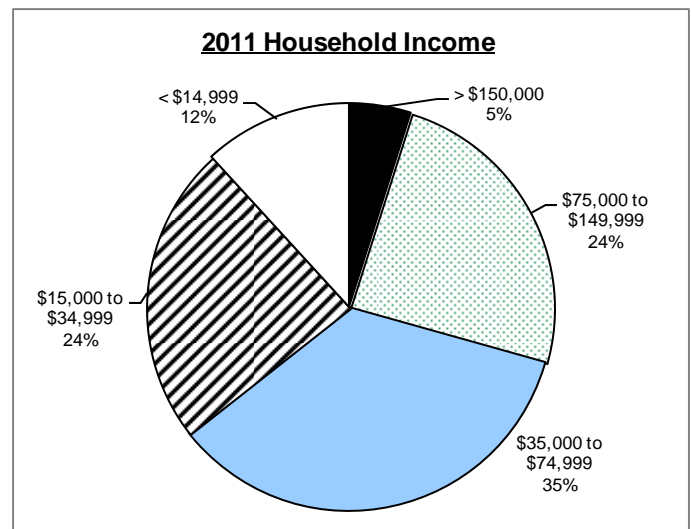
### Income

The 2011 median income was \$46,408 for households in Sedgwick County, down from \$47,848 in 2011. In 2010, the per capita personal income for Sedgwick County was \$37,444, slightly lower than the Kansas Metropolitan Portion of Kansas per capita personal income of \$38,987. In 2011, the per capita personal income for Sedgwick County decreased to \$24,259.

In 2011, 35 percent of households in Sedgwick County annually earned \$35,000-\$74,999, while 23.8 percent earned \$15,000-\$34,999. Approximately 12 percent of households earned less than \$14,999.



Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2013

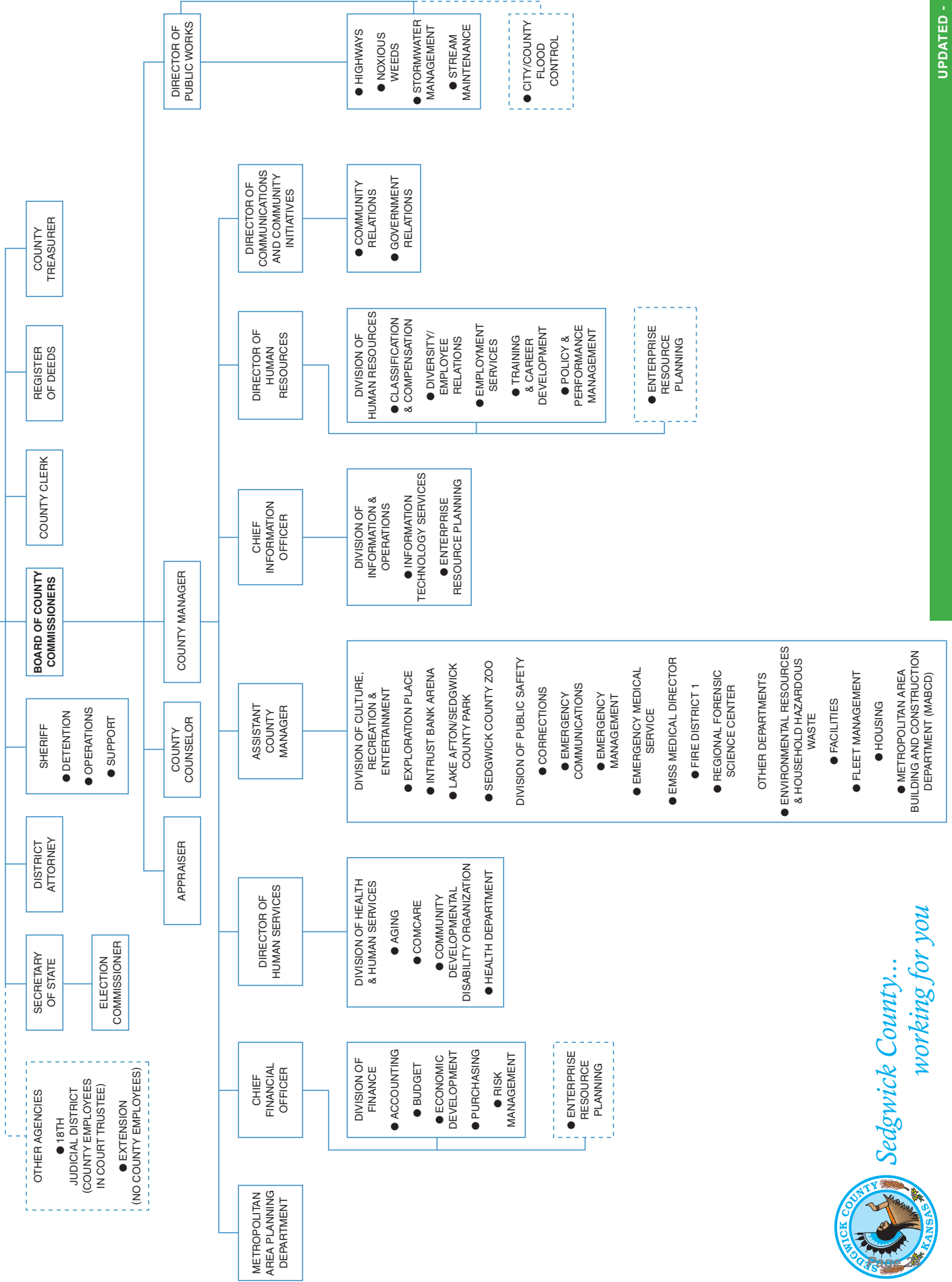


Source: American Community Survey, 2011

A final economic indicator for Sedgwick County is the percentage of families whose income had been below the poverty level throughout the past 12 months. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, between 2007 and 2010, Sedgwick County's percentage of impoverished families was 10.4 percent. In 2009, Sedgwick County's percentage of families in poverty status was lower than the United States by 0.2 percent and higher than the State of Kansas levels by 1.3 percent. In 2011, 10.6 percent of families in Sedgwick County lived below the poverty level. Families with children younger than 18 years of age experience higher poverty rates at 17.2 percent while families with children younger than 5 years of age experience poverty rates at 20.5 percent.

<sup>10</sup> Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition Website





*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*