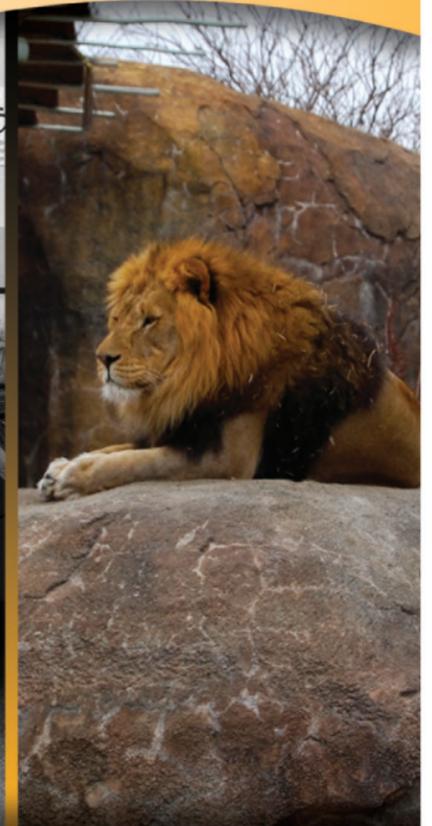




*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*



# County Profile



**2016 Adopted Budget**



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.

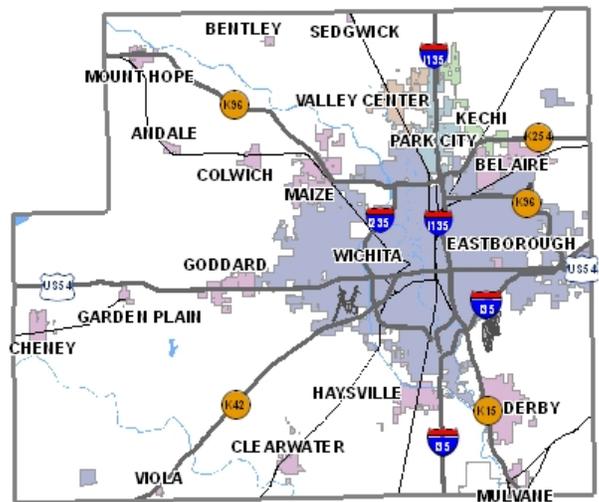
### Geography



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

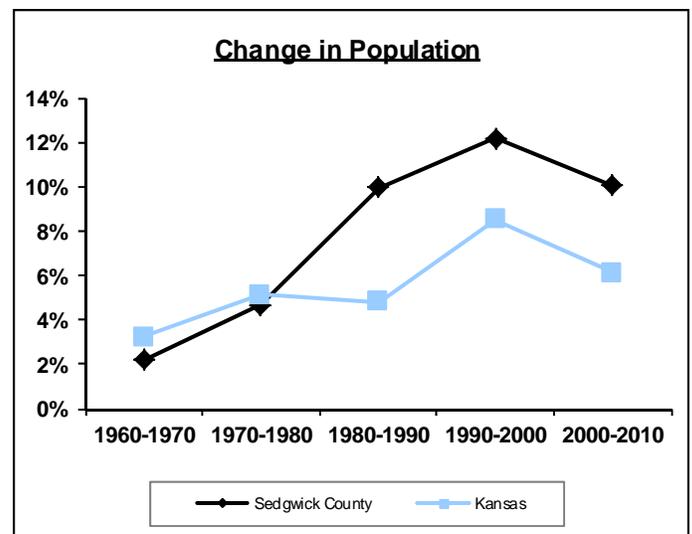
Arkansas River leaves the County.<sup>1</sup> Sedgwick County's largest city is Wichita, which is located along Interstate 35 with service areas to Interstate 135, U.S. 54 and various other highway projects.



Source: Sedgwick County GIS, 2008

### Population

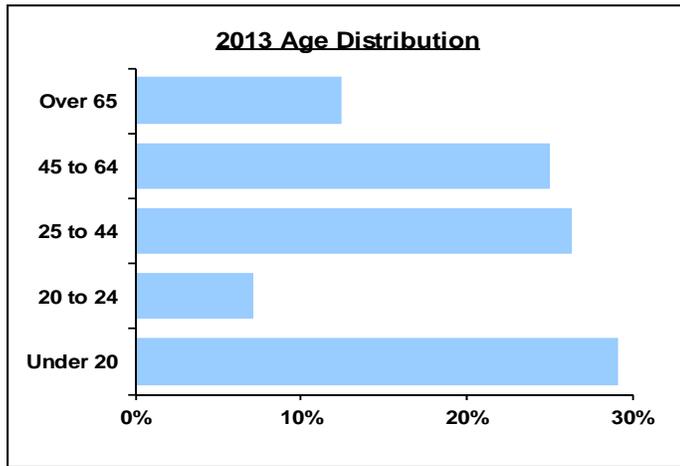
Sedgwick County is a growing region, currently home to an estimated 508,803 citizens. The County's population has increased 12.4 percent since 2000 and has increased significantly faster than the population of Kansas as a whole (8.0 percent since 2000). According to 2014 census estimates, Sedgwick County surpassed the half-million mark with an estimated 500,914 people in 2011.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

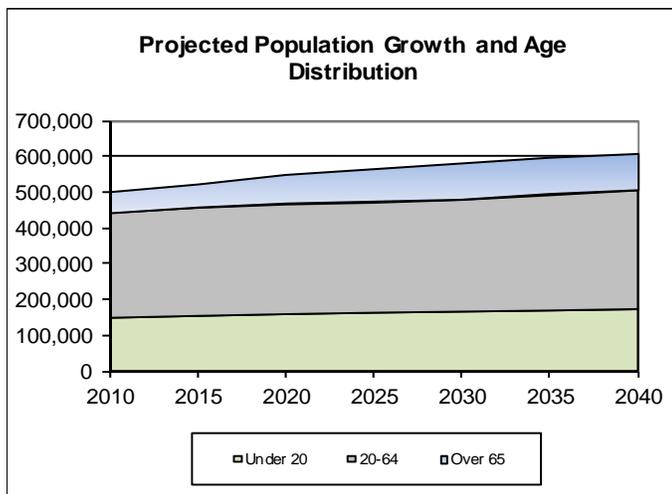
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kgs.ku.edu/General/Geology/Sedgwick/index.html>

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, 2013

In addition to a strong growth trend, the *U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey*, reports Sedgwick County is a relatively young community, with 87.6 percent of its population younger than the age of 65. By 2040, however, the number of citizens age 60 and older is expected to increase to 132,028, a 68 percent change from 2010 to 2040.

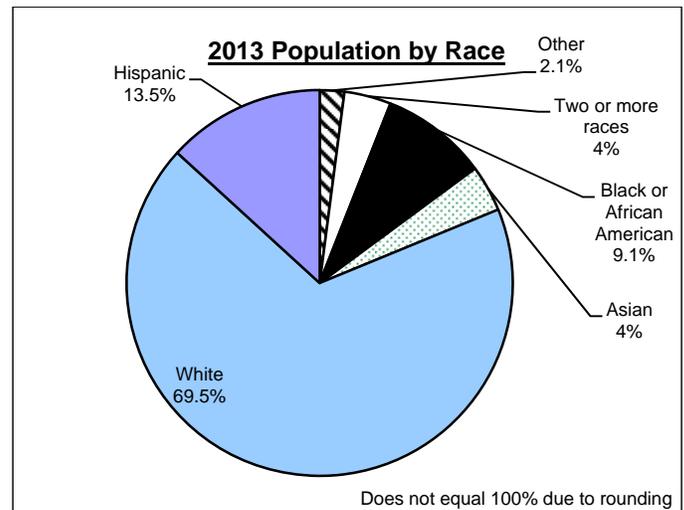


Source: CEDBR at Wichita State University, 2013

### 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 (69.5 percent) is White/Caucasian, non-Hispanic. The most populous minority groups within the Sedgwick County population are Hispanic of any race (13.5 percent),

Black or African American (9.1 percent), and Asian (four percent).<sup>2</sup>



Source: American Community Survey, 2013

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 (2.1 percent).

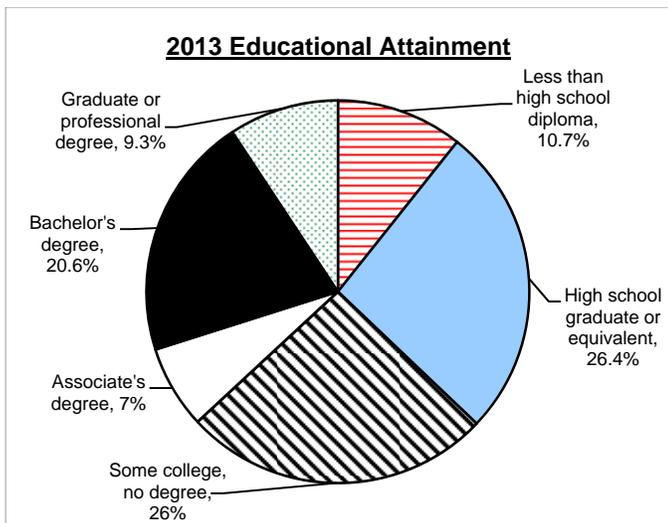
### Education

With 20 school districts in the public school system, more than 40 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.

As of 2013, among residents age 25 and older, 26.4 percent have earned at least a high school diploma. In Sedgwick County, another 26.0 percent of the population has some college but no degree, while 7.0 percent has earned an associate's degree.

Approximately 20.6 percent of residents age 25 and older have at least a bachelor's degree. According to the *2013 American Community Survey*, Sedgwick County exceeds the national average by 2.2 percent of those age 25 and older who have obtained a bachelor's degree. Sedgwick County also has 9.3 percent of residents age 25 and older who report having a graduate or professional degree.

<sup>2</sup> American Community Survey, 2013



Source: American Community Survey, 2013

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.

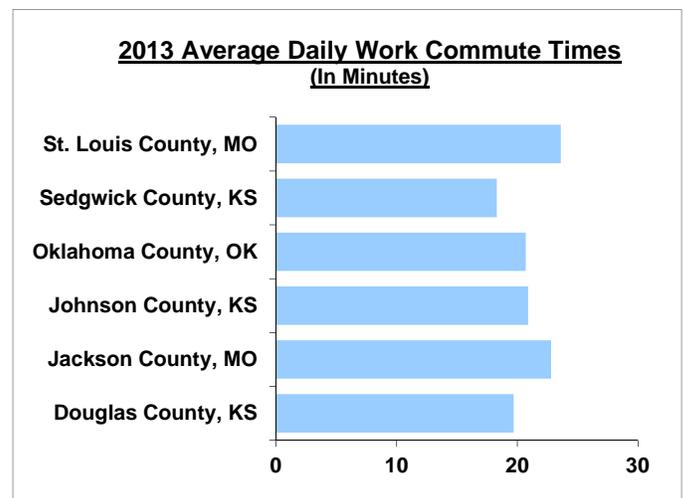
**Transportation**

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 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 Dwight D. Eisenhower Airport, the only commercial airport in south-central Kansas. The facility currently services four major cargo carriers and five 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 2013, the average commute time for a Sedgwick County resident was 18.3 minutes, which is less than comparable times in St. Louis County, Missouri (23.6 minutes) and Johnson County, Kansas (20.9 minutes).



Source: American Community Survey, 2013

**Public Safety**

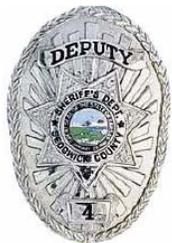
Sedgwick County continues to place high priority on public safety, with more than one-third of all County expenditures being spent on public safety. As a full service government, Sedgwick County has jurisdiction over Sedgwick County Fire District 1, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and the Sheriff’s Office.



In 2014, Sedgwick County Fire District 1 responded to 9,176 alarms. In total, the dedicated crews of the nine fire houses saved 90.76 percent of affected property, totaling \$33.6 million in property saved.



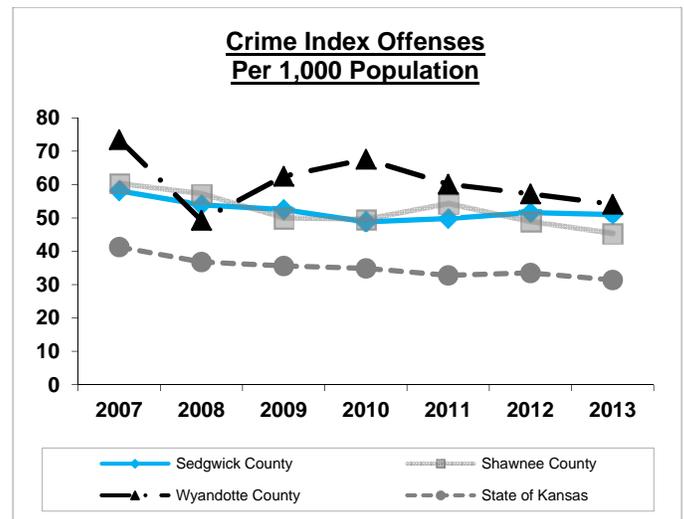
Sedgwick County EMS provides emergency response and scheduled transfers for the citizens of the County. Through the use of Advance Life Support ambulances, EMS service is provided 24-hours a day, 365-days a year. In 2014, EMS responded to 60,610 calls and transported 40,775 patients to hospitals and other destinations; EMS responded to 91.21 percent of urban calls in less than nine minutes.



Because Sedgwick County has 21 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 1,158 bed adult detention facility, which is one of the largest jails in the State of Kansas. From 2013 to 2014, the total daily average inmate population decreased 5.7 percent, from 1,440 to 1,358.<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 decrease from 2012 to 2013 (51.6 to 51.0). Comparatively, Sedgwick County had fewer crime index offenses per 1,000 populations when compared with Wyandotte County, Kansas, but was higher than the 2013 State of Kansas average (31.4).

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



Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation Crime Statistics, 2007-2013

**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, each serving 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 and 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 14,621 in 2015.

**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

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

downtown Wichita. The Arena was funded through a 30 month, one-cent, county-wide sales tax, which generated receipts of \$206.5 million. The Arena opened in January 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 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 has become a hot spot for dining, shopping, and nightlife as well as a place to live and stay.



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 Slawson Family Tiger Trek, the Downing Gorilla Forest, the Koch Orangutan & Chimpanzee Habitat, and the Cessna Penguin Cove. In 2015, the Zoo broke ground on the new five acre 'Elephants of the Zambezi River Valley' exhibit.

Wichita is home to the Wichita Thunder, a minor league hockey team; the Wichita Force, a professional indoor football team; the Wingnuts, a minor league baseball team; the Wichita B-52s, a professional indoor soccer team; and FC Wichita, a minor league outdoor 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 20 museums and numerous cultural events including Ballet Wichita, 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
- Air Capital Classic 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 2019
Tim Norton	2nd District	January 2017
Karl Peterjohn	3rd District	January 2017
Richard Ranzau, Chairman	4th District	January 2019
Jim Howell	5th District	January 2019

In addition to the Board of County Commissioners, citizens of Sedgwick County elect the following 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 the:

- 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 28 townships, 21 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.

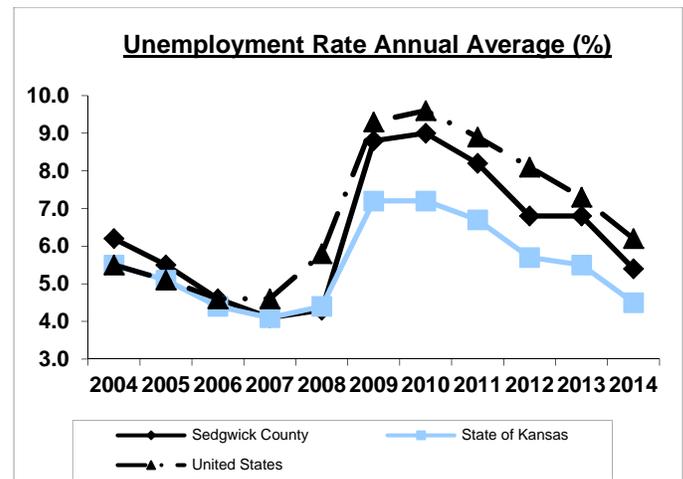
## County Services

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 2014 Labor Force for the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 311,768 residents, an increase of 0.5 percent from 2013. Of those who are eligible for employment, approximately 94.8 percent (295,455) were employed in 2014. Wichita MSA's unemployment rate as of April 2015 was 4.8 percent, lower than the U.S. unemployment rate of 5.1 percent.

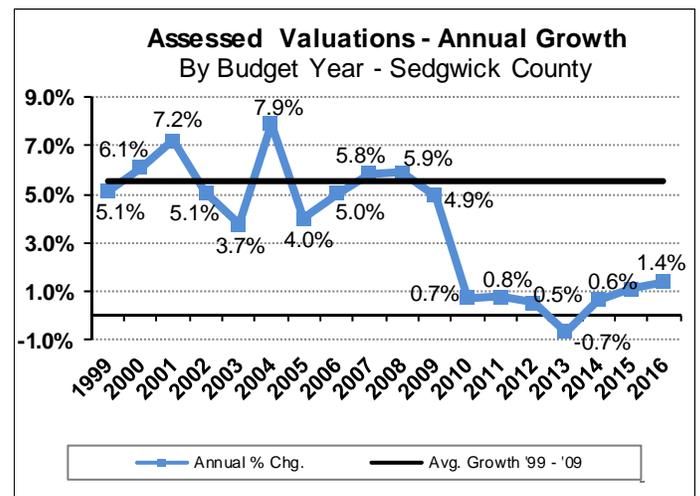


Source: U.S. Department of Labor

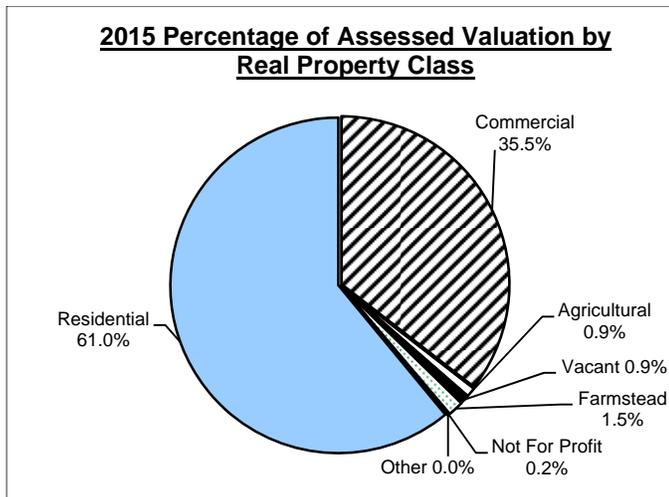
Sedgwick County's unemployment rate has varied since 2002, but was consistently around 4.0 percent in 2006, 2007 and 2008. In 2009, the rate increased to 8.8 percent, peaked at 9.0 percent in 2010 and has steadily declined since.

### Property Values/Tax Payers

Similar to other jurisdictions, Sedgwick County has continued to address modest growth in 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. In 2015, there was an increase to 1.1 percent, and assessed valuations increased by 1.4 percent in 2016.



In Sedgwick County, residential property accounts for the largest percentage (61 percent) of the total assessed value of real property. The second largest is commercial property, comprising 35.5 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, 2014

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 6.11 percent of the County’s total assessed value in 2014.

2014 Top Five Taxpayers		
Name	Assessed Value	Percent of Total County Taxable Assessed Value
Kansas Gas & Electric	\$78,852,060	1.81%
Spirit Aerosystems, Inc.	54,896,564	1.26%
The Boeing Company	45,774,150	1.05%
Mid Western Aircraft Systems	44,515,671	1.02%
Hawker Beechcraft Corp	42,101,960	0.97%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$266,140,405</b>	<b>6.11%</b>

Source: Sedgwick County Clerk, 2015

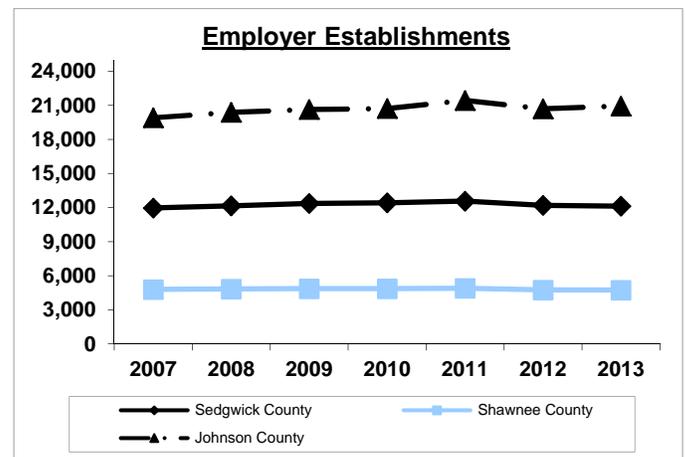
**Retail Trade**

The Wichita MSA has numerous retail centers, including New Market Square, the Waterfront, and Bradley Fair,

which had encouraged industry growth, but the economic decline led to a decrease in the retail trade. However, in the Wichita MSA, the retail trade employment increased by approximately 0.6 percent from 2013 to 2014.<sup>5</sup>

**Industry**

Sedgwick County is home to more than 12,100 business establishments. Between 2006 and 2011, employer establishments in Sedgwick County increased annually by 1.1 percent, which was higher than the average annual percentage change in Shawnee County (0.6 percent), but lower than Johnson County, Kansas (2.1 percent). Also, the percentage change in the State of Kansas’ employer establishments between 2006 and 2011 was 0.9 percent, with a decrease of 4.0 percent from 2011 to 2012.<sup>6</sup> The number of employer establishments decreased by 0.6 percent from 2012 to 2013.



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 three large aircraft manufacturing plants, each of which heavily impacts the overall economy of Sedgwick County.

<sup>5</sup> Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University, Wichita’s Economic Outlook, 2013 Review & 2014 Forecast

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

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

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2014 Wichita Industry and News Developments, including:

- At the end of 2013, Spirit AeroSystems was working to fill about 400 positions, and entered 2014 in a hiring mode, as well as seeking about 200 hourly workers moving forward.
- In 2014, B/E Aerospace, a commercial aviation engineering center located in northeast Wichita, expanded its service to make room for more engineers.
- Wichita will host the 2015 YMCA National Gymnastics Championship. The economic impact of the week-long event is projected to be \$2.7 million, according to Visit Wichita (formerly Go Wichita).

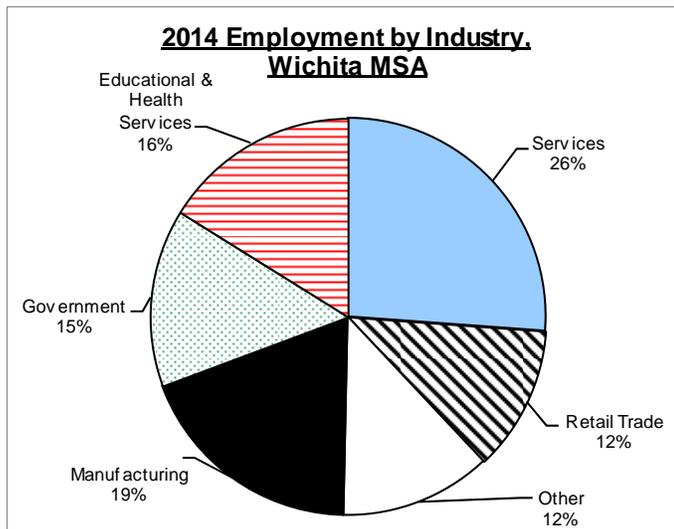
Greater Wichita's 10 Largest Employers		
Company	Product/Service	Local FT
Spirit AeroSystems	Aircraft Assemblies	10,900
Via Christi Health	Health Care	5,899
Unified School District 259 Wichita	Public School District	5,606
McConnell Air Force Base	Air Force Base	5,094
State of Kansas	State Government	3,992
Koch Industries Inc.	Diversified Multinational Group of Cos.	3,300
Bombardier Learjet	Aircraft Manufacturer	2,855
City of Wichita	Municipal Government	2,800
U.S. Government	Federal Government	2,620
Sedgwick County	County Government	2,618
<b>Total</b>		<b>45,684</b>

Source: Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition

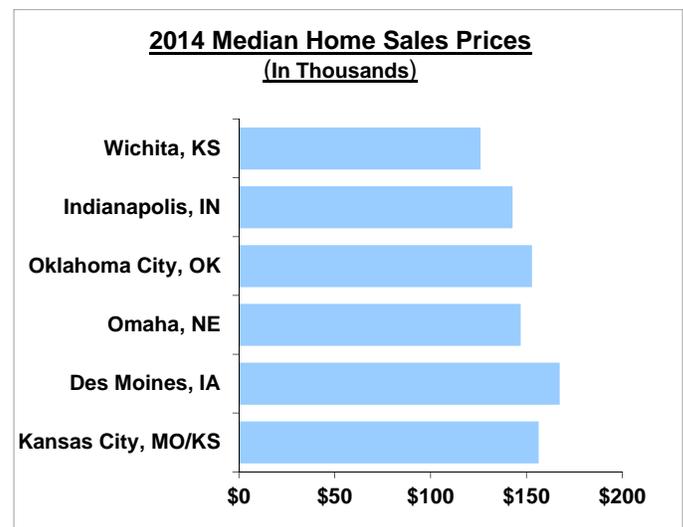
In addition to the manufacturing industry, Sedgwick County is engaged in a variety of additional industry sectors, including retail, arts and entertainment, and food services. Comprising 26 percent of all employment opportunities, the service industry is the largest industry in the County.

### Cost of Living/Housing

The current overall cost of living in Wichita is below the national average of 100. Compared to Oklahoma City, OK (92.3), Omaha, NE (90.3), Dallas, TX (96.9) and Kansas City, MO-KS (98.5), the overall cost of living for area residents (92.4) is comparable to other area communities.<sup>8</sup>



Source: Kansas Department of Labor, not seasonally adjusted



Source: National Association of Realtors, 2015

### 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, 26 percent of positions are in various services including such categories as professional and business services and leisure and hospitality services. The Center for Economic Development and Business Research noted many changes in the different services categories in its

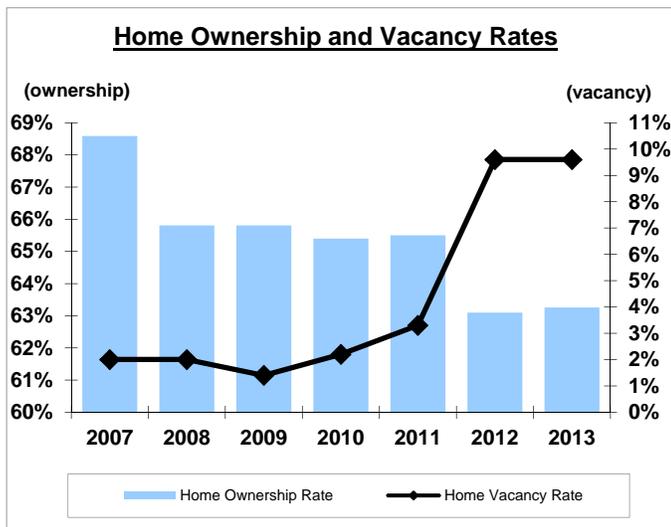
As of 2014, the median home sales price in Wichita was \$126,100 for an existing home, approximately \$83,000 less than the national average.<sup>9</sup> New housing units are also very competitively priced at an average of

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

<sup>9</sup> National Association of Realtors, 2014

\$220,833, 28 percent below the corresponding national figure.<sup>10</sup>

The home-ownership rate in Sedgwick County for 2013 was 63.3 percent, which was a slight increase over 2012 at 63.1 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 percent in 2005. In 2009, vacancy rates decreased back to 1.4 percent. In 2011 and 2012, the vacancy rates sharply increased to 3.3 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively, and the rate held at 9.6 percent for 2013. These statistics show the number of households owning homes in Sedgwick County has declined, while vacancy rates continue to rise.

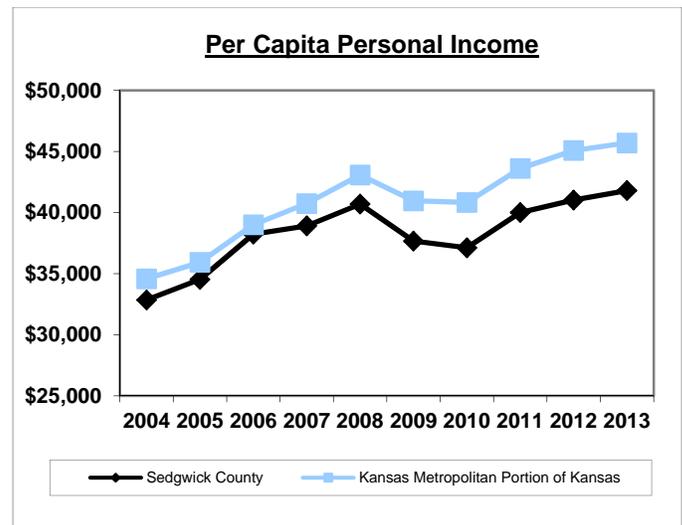


Source: American Community Survey, 2007-2013

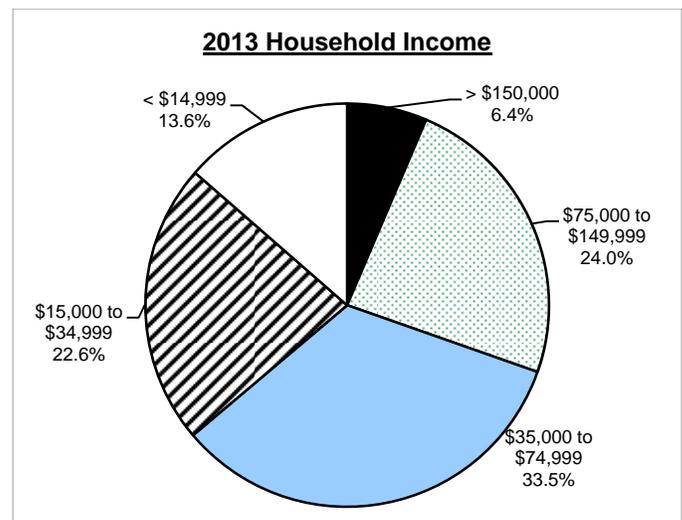
### Income

The 2013 median income was \$48,361 for households in Sedgwick County, up from \$47,311 in 2012. In 2012, the per capita personal income for Sedgwick County was \$41,024, lower than the Metropolitan Portion of Kansas per capita personal income of \$45,087. In 2013, the per capita personal income for Sedgwick County was \$41,801, compared to the Metropolitan Portion of Kansas per capita personal income of \$45,704.

In 2013, 33.5 percent of households in Sedgwick County annually earned \$35,000-\$74,999, while 22.6 percent earned \$15,000-\$34,999. Approximately 13.6 percent of households earned less than \$14,999.



Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2015



Source: American Community Survey, 2013

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 2013, 11.2 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 18.3 percent while families with children younger than 5 years of age experience poverty rates at 21.4 percent.

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

