



Economic Overview

Douglas County, Kansas



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Demographic Profile

The population in Douglas County, Kansas was 120,290 per American Community Survey data for 2015-2019.

The region has a civilian labor force of 71,171 with a participation rate of 71.0%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Douglas County, Kansas, 50.9% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 33.5% in the nation.

The median household income in Douglas County, Kansas is \$59,435 and the median house value is \$199,400.

Summary ¹						
	Percent			Value		
	Douglas County, Kansas	Kansas	USA	Douglas County, Kansas	Kansas	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	120,290	2,910,652	324,697,795
Male	49.6%	49.8%	49.2%	59,669	1,450,697	159,886,919
Female	50.4%	50.2%	50.8%	60,621	1,459,955	164,810,876
Median Age ²	—	—	—	29.8	36.7	38.1
Under 18 Years	18.5%	24.4%	22.6%	22,223	711,070	73,429,392
18 to 24 Years	23.6%	10.2%	9.4%	28,339	297,303	30,646,327
25 to 34 Years	14.8%	13.2%	13.9%	17,836	382,955	45,030,415
35 to 44 Years	11.6%	12.1%	12.6%	13,984	353,313	40,978,831
45 to 54 Years	9.7%	11.9%	13.0%	11,665	345,213	42,072,620
55 to 64 Years	10.0%	12.8%	12.9%	12,038	371,471	41,756,414
65 to 74 Years	7.1%	8.7%	9.1%	8,557	254,325	29,542,266
75 Years, and Over	4.7%	6.7%	6.5%	5,648	195,002	21,241,530
Race: White	82.4%	84.4%	72.5%	99,132	2,455,935	235,377,662
Race: Black or African American	4.4%	5.9%	12.7%	5,254	170,291	41,234,642
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	2.5%	0.8%	0.8%	3,008	24,010	2,750,143
Race: Asian	5.3%	2.9%	5.5%	6,347	85,794	17,924,209
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	24	2,382	599,868
Race: Some Other Race	1.1%	2.5%	4.9%	1,272	71,683	16,047,369
Race: Two or More Races	4.4%	3.5%	3.3%	5,253	100,557	10,763,902
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	6.3%	11.9%	18.0%	7,555	345,680	58,479,370
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	122,530	2,913,805	329,484,123
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	1.0%	0.2%	0.6%	1,133	5,554	2,015,698
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	268.2	35.6	92.9
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	71.0%	66.4%	63.2%	71,171	1,501,455	163,555,585
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	88.9%	84.5%	82.1%	38,574	904,463	104,634,905
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.2%	0.8%	0.4%	173	18,335	1,073,907
Veterans, Age 18-64	3.1%	5.1%	4.6%	2,583	89,116	9,143,042
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	83.8%	79.4%	76.6%	2,165	70,726	7,003,778
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$59,435	\$59,597	\$62,843
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$32,281	\$31,814	\$34,103
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	20.4	19.4	26.9
Commute via Public Transportation	2.1%	0.5%	5.0%	1,379	6,908	7,641,160
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	4.2%	8.7%	10.9%	2,321	127,007	18,550,150
High School Graduate	16.2%	23.6%	25.7%	8,993	342,822	43,627,868
Some College, No Degree	19.7%	23.0%	20.7%	10,952	334,350	35,174,790

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Douglas County, Kansas	Kansas	USA	Douglas County, Kansas	Kansas	USA
Associate's Degree	9.0%	9.7%	9.1%	4,979	140,695	15,526,064
Bachelor's Degree	28.1%	22.6%	21.2%	15,597	328,260	35,997,848
Postgraduate Degree	22.8%	12.4%	12.3%	12,681	179,818	20,961,560
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	50,345	1,273,297	137,428,986
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ²	—	—	—	\$199,400	\$151,900	\$217,500
Homeowner Vacancy	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%	423	13,767	1,257,737
Rental Vacancy	5.3%	7.8%	6.0%	1,300	32,888	2,793,023
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	48.7%	33.7%	36.0%	22,854	381,104	43,481,667
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.3%	5.4%	8.6%	2,474	60,844	10,395,713
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	18.0%	12.0%	13.4%	20,169	337,739	42,510,843
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	5.9%	7.5%	11.7%	2,781	85,146	14,171,567
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	0.8%	1.4%	1.4%	931	40,496	4,422,344
Disconnected Youth ³	2.2%	2.2%	2.5%	215	3,622	423,273
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	25.5%	29.2%	34.1%	5,463	198,418	23,790,005
Uninsured	7.1%	8.8%	8.8%	8,545	251,030	28,248,613
With a Disability, Age 18-64	9.2%	10.9%	10.3%	7,709	186,994	20,187,604
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	60.7%	50.1%	42.2%	4,683	93,618	8,509,463
Foreign Born	7.1%	7.1%	13.6%	8,558	207,845	44,011,870
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.9%	4.7%	8.4%	3,313	126,529	25,615,365

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2015-2019, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

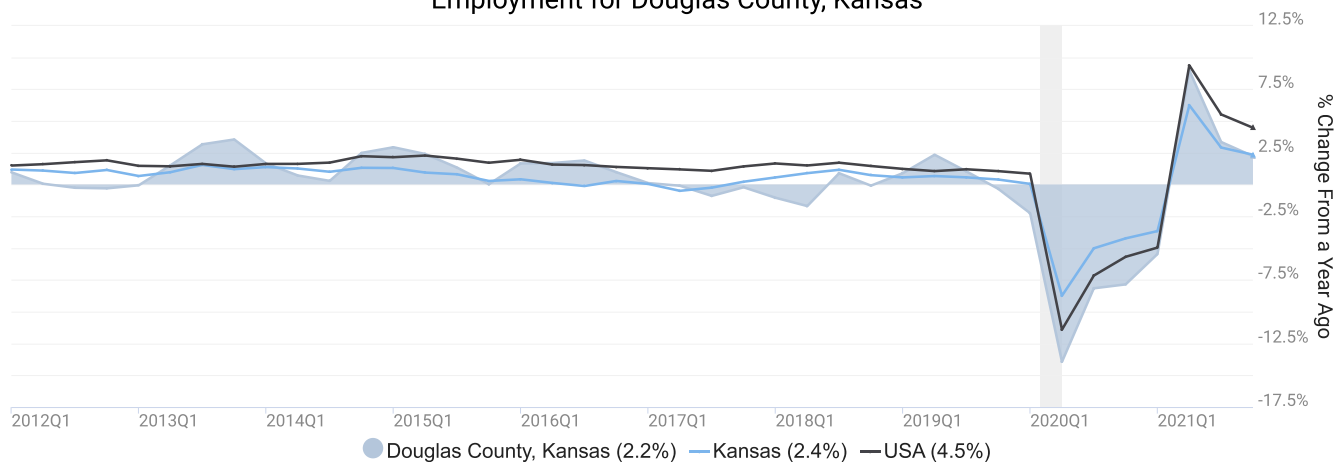
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2020, annual average growth rate since 2010.

Employment Trends

As of 2021Q4, total employment for Douglas County, Kansas was 49,430 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2021Q4, employment increased 2.2% in the region.

Employment for Douglas County, Kansas

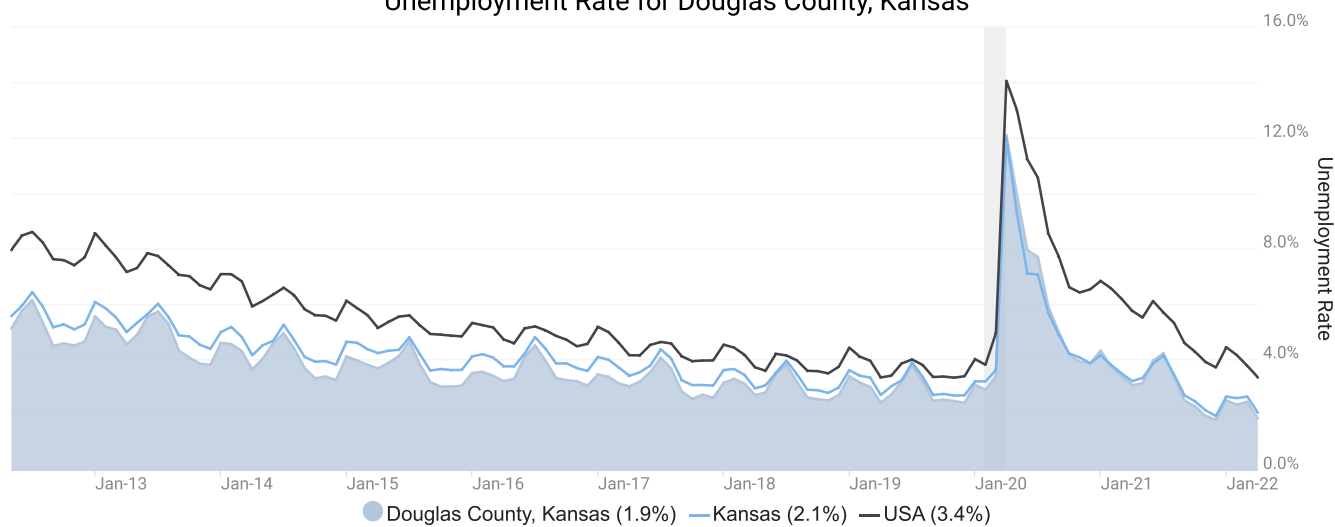


Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2021Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2021Q4.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for Douglas County, Kansas was 1.9% as of April 2022. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 3.4%. One year earlier, in April 2021, the unemployment rate in Douglas County, Kansas was 3.1%.

Unemployment Rate for Douglas County, Kansas

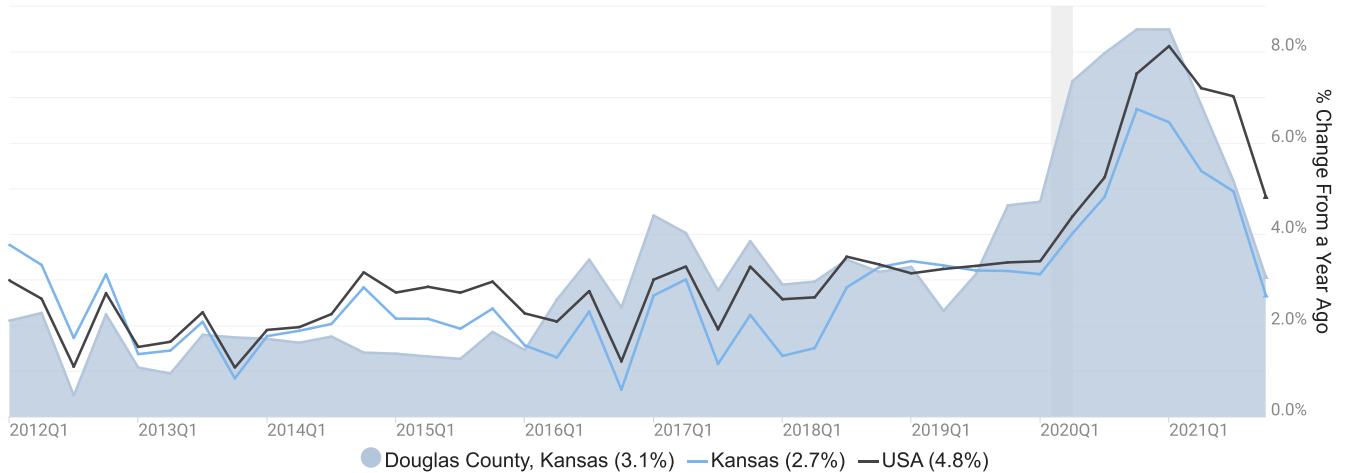


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through April 2022.

Wage Trends

The average worker in Douglas County, Kansas earned annual wages of \$42,229 as of 2021Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.1% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$65,055 in the nation as of 2021Q4.

Average Annual Wages for Douglas County, Kansas



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2021Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2021Q4.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 6.3% lower in Douglas County, Kansas than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Douglas County, Kansas	\$42,229	93.7	\$45,064
Kansas	\$52,087	88.6	\$58,792
USA	\$65,055	100.0	\$65,055

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

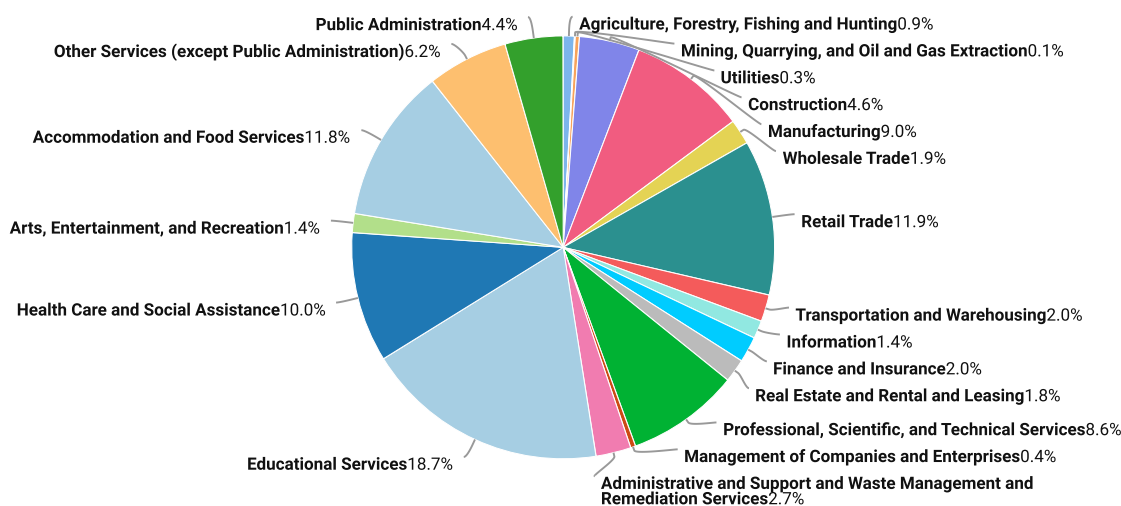
Data as of 2021Q4

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2021Q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Douglas County, Kansas is Educational Services, employing 9,222 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (5,863 workers) and Accommodation and Food Services (5,848). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Educational Services (LQ = 2.32), Accommodation and Food Services (1.48), and Other Services (except Public Administration) (1.44).

Total Workers for Douglas County, Kansas by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®, Data as of 2021Q4

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2021Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2021Q4.

Sectors in Douglas County, Kansas with the highest average wages per worker are Utilities (\$104,618), Wholesale Trade (\$80,810), and Finance and Insurance (\$70,797). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Manufacturing (+486 jobs), Wholesale Trade (+124), and Construction (+119).

Over the next 1 year, employment in Douglas County, Kansas is projected to expand by 192 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation with a +2.3% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Accommodation and Food Services (+105 jobs), Health Care and Social Assistance (+53), and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+43).

Douglas County, Kansas, 2021Q4¹

NAICS	Industry	Empl	Current	5-Year History		1-Year Forecast					
			Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
61	Educational Services	9,222	\$43,691	2.32	-580	-1.2%	894	388	481	26	0.3%
44	Retail Trade	5,863	\$28,984	1.14	-594	-1.9%	720	315	466	-61	-1.0%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	5,848	\$18,567	1.48	-927	-2.9%	1,094	419	570	105	1.8%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	4,918	\$43,137	0.68	-161	-0.6%	523	213	258	53	1.1%
31	Manufacturing	4,453	\$56,803	1.11	486	2.3%	412	157	300	-45	-1.0%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	4,273	\$52,785	1.20	-127	-0.6%	416	129	244	43	1.0%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	3,050	\$36,675	1.44	-398	-2.4%	380	139	201	39	1.3%
23	Construction	2,268	\$49,681	0.78	119	1.1%	216	69	148	-2	-0.1%
92	Public Administration	2,191	\$54,698	0.93	-144	-1.3%	205	79	126	0	0.0%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	1,330	\$35,791	0.42	-421	-5.4%	157	59	95	3	0.2%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	1,013	\$46,161	0.41	-316	-5.3%	117	43	68	5	0.5%
52	Finance and Insurance	977	\$70,797	0.48	11	0.2%	83	30	57	-5	-0.5%
42	Wholesale Trade	955	\$80,810	0.52	124	2.8%	97	35	66	-3	-0.3%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	880	\$43,236	1.02	35	0.8%	86	36	51	-1	-0.1%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	711	\$24,557	0.82	40	1.2%	115	41	58	17	2.3%
51	Information	674	\$53,538	0.68	-273	-6.6%	68	21	43	3	0.5%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	426	\$22,052	0.64	-49	-2.2%	49	21	31	-3	-0.6%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	189	\$70,794	0.25	88	13.4%	16	6	11	-1	-0.3%
22	Utilities	162	\$104,618	0.63	-25	-2.8%	12	5	10	-2	-1.5%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	26	\$31,802	0.16	-8	-5.3%	3	1	2	0	-0.3%
Total - All Industries		49,430	\$42,229	1.00	-3,118	-1.2%	5,584	2,123	3,270	192	0.4%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2021Q4

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2021Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2021Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Douglas County, Kansas is Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations, employing 5,794 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Office and Administrative Support Occupations (5,615 workers) and Educational Instruction and Library Occupations (4,972). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Educational Instruction and Library Occupations (LQ = 1.83), Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations (1.52), and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (1.50).

Occupation groups in Douglas County, Kansas with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$92,600), Legal Occupations (\$91,700), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$79,600). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.1% among Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations to 6.7% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Douglas County, Kansas is expected to be Personal Care and Service Occupations with a +1.9% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+99 jobs) and Personal Care and Service Occupations (+30). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (1,099 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (628).

Douglas County, Kansas, 2021Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	Current			5-Year History			Total Demand	1-Year Forecast			Ann % Growth
				LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %		Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	5,794	\$23,700	1.50	411	6.7%	465	-826	-2.6%	1,198	468	631	99	1.7%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	5,615	\$36,600	0.90	230	3.3%	326	-688	-2.3%	560	267	338	-45	-0.8%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	4,972	\$55,600	1.83	128	2.1%	314	-343	-1.3%	488	223	237	29	0.6%
41-0000	Sales and Related	4,764	\$40,800	1.01	272	4.7%	395	-427	-1.7%	593	253	375	-36	-0.7%
51-0000	Production	3,031	\$38,600	1.06	149	5.1%	89	123	0.8%	285	108	209	-33	-1.1%
11-0000	Management	2,966	\$92,600	0.96	71	1.8%	312	-70	-0.5%	252	80	159	13	0.5%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	2,963	\$33,200	0.69	222	5.5%	411	-228	-1.5%	389	145	235	9	0.3%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	2,740	\$59,200	0.92	77	2.1%	114	389	3.1%	258	75	166	18	0.7%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	1,874	\$46,400	0.82	101	5.3%	90	60	0.6%	183	56	126	1	0.1%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	1,813	\$79,600	0.63	35	1.1%	263	43	0.5%	110	47	54	9	0.5%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	1,734	\$48,100	0.92	44	2.4%	140	-88	-1.0%	167	55	110	2	0.1%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	1,675	\$71,100	0.99	31	1.4%	171	-593	-5.9%	137	36	85	16	1.0%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	1,586	\$29,900	0.73	76	3.7%	164	3	0.0%	237	102	109	26	1.6%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	1,581	\$24,600	1.28	112	6.3%	130	-68	-0.8%	268	105	133	30	1.9%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	1,563	\$30,700	0.96	85	5.0%	103	-251	-2.9%	211	88	117	7	0.4%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1,339	\$40,300	1.52	79	5.0%	76	-98	-1.4%	156	57	89	10	0.7%

Douglas County, Kansas, 2021Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	Current			5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
				LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
21- 0000	Community and Social Service	1,035	\$42,500	1.18	27	1.7%	145	-35	-0.7%	117	37	69	11	1.0%
33- 0000	Protective Service	880	\$46,800	0.85	31	2.8%	44	-89	-1.9%	106	45	58	4	0.5%
19- 0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	580	\$64,100	1.29	19	2.4%	63	76	2.8%	57	13	42	3	0.4%
17- 0000	Architecture and Engineering	554	\$71,500	0.66	16	1.8%	50	-9	-0.3%	41	14	27	1	0.1%
23- 0000	Legal	250	\$91,700	0.59	6	1.4%	6	-14	-1.1%	17	7	9	1	0.4%
45- 0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	122	\$31,200	0.37	7	6.3%	2	14	2.5%	18	5	14	0	-0.2%
Total - All Occupations		49,430	\$46,100	1.00	2,229	3.7%	3,875	-3,118	-1.2%	5,866	2,284	3,390	192	0.4%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2021Q4 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data are as of 2020 and represent the average for all Covered Employment

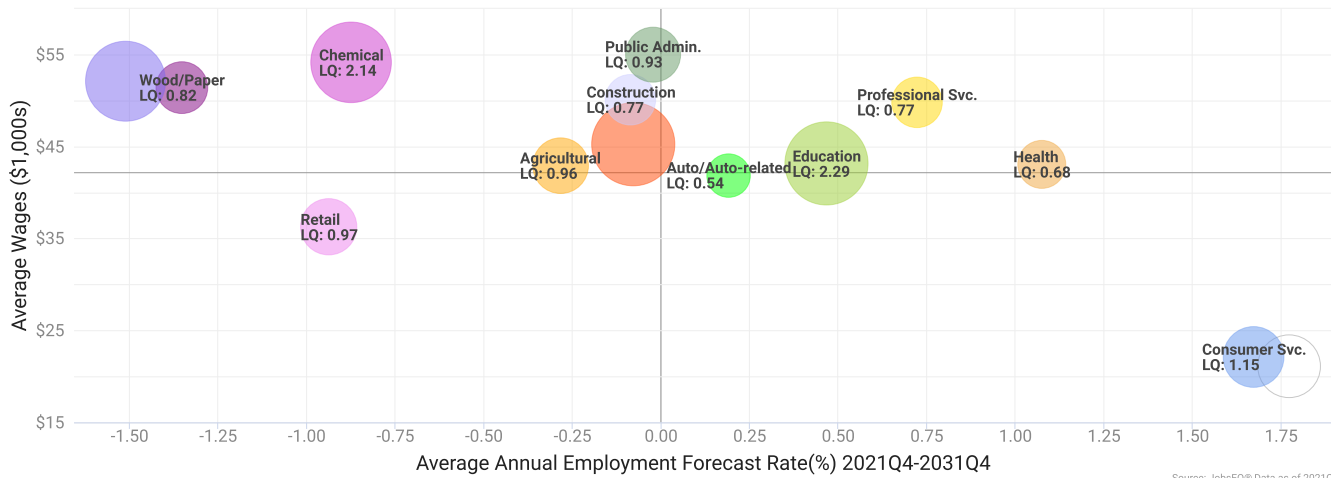
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region; data represents a sampling rather than the complete universe of postings. Ads lacking zip code information but designating a place (city, town, etc.) may be assigned to the zip code with greatest employment in that place for queries in this analytic. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list).

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2021Q3, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2021Q4. Wages by occupation are as of 2020 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Douglas County, Kansas with the highest relative concentration is Metal & Product Mfg. with a location quotient of 2.30. This cluster employs 826 workers in the region with an average wage of \$45,221. Employment in the Metal & Product Mfg. cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.1% per year over the next ten years.

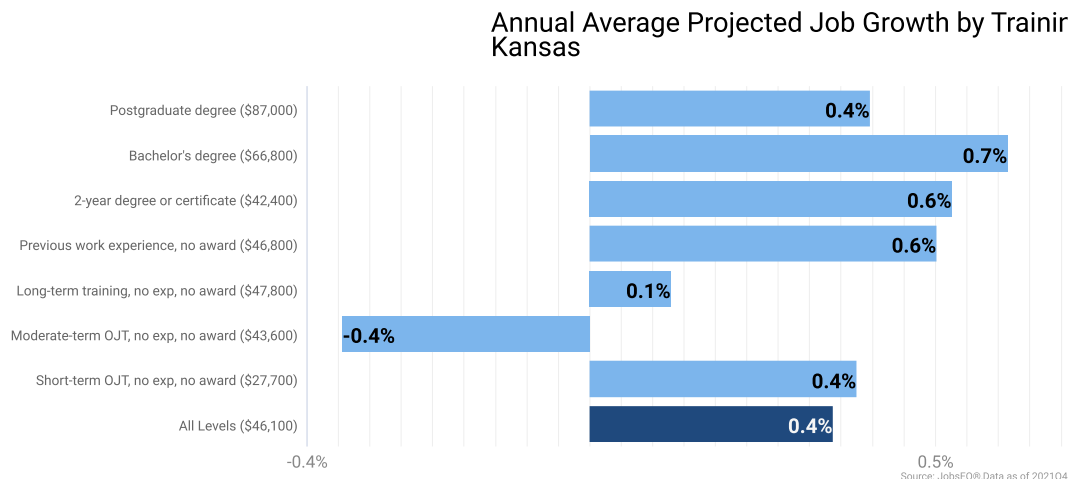
Industry Clusters for Douglas County, Kansas as of 2021Q4



Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2021Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2021Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

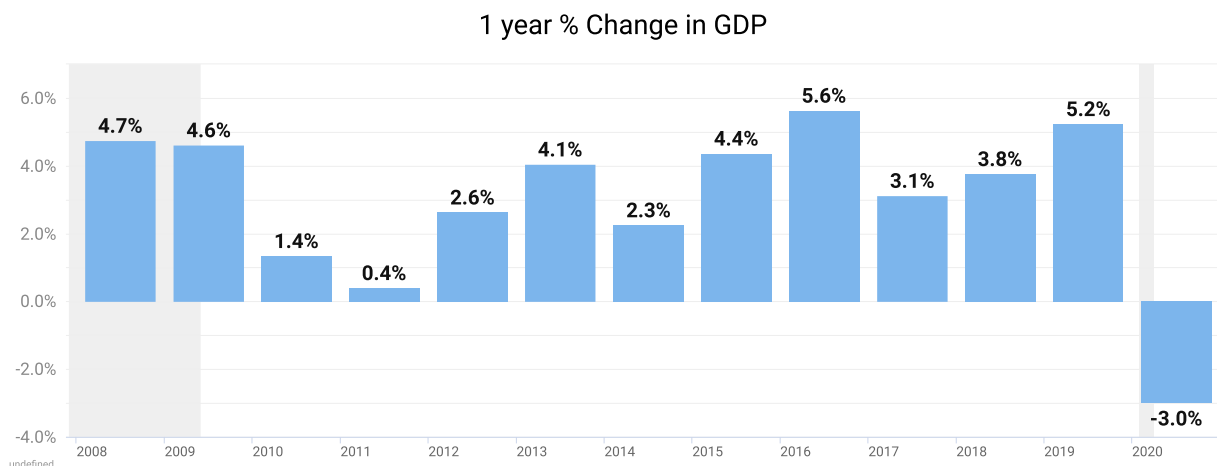
Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Douglas County, Kansas is projected to grow 0.4% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.4% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 0.7% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.6% per year.



Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2021Q4. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

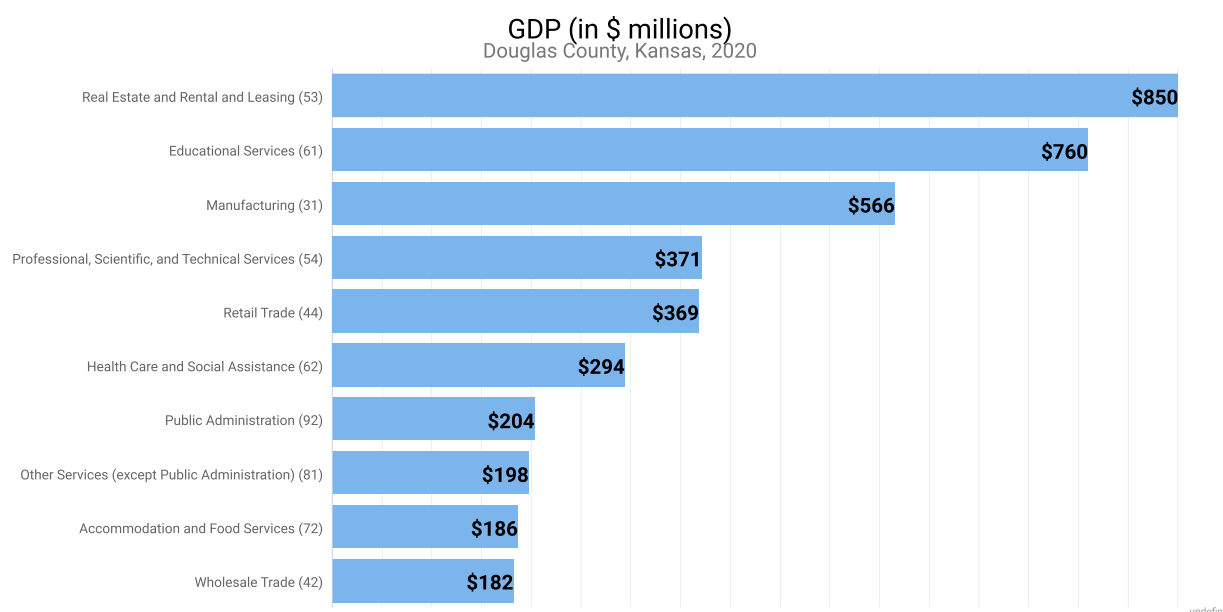
Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2020, nominal GDP in Douglas County, Kansas contracted 3.0%. This follows growth of 5.2% in 2019. As of 2020, total GDP in Douglas County, Kansas was \$4,792,694,000.



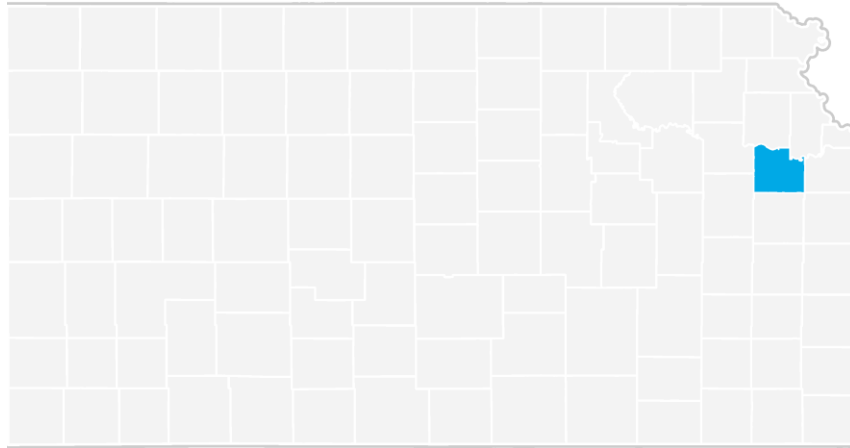
Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2020.

Of the sectors in Douglas County, Kansas, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2020, \$850,395,000. The next-largest contributions came from Educational Services (\$759,638,000); Manufacturing (\$565,709,000); and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (\$371,267,000).



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2020.

Douglas County, Kansas Regional Map



FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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