

County Profile

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County Profile

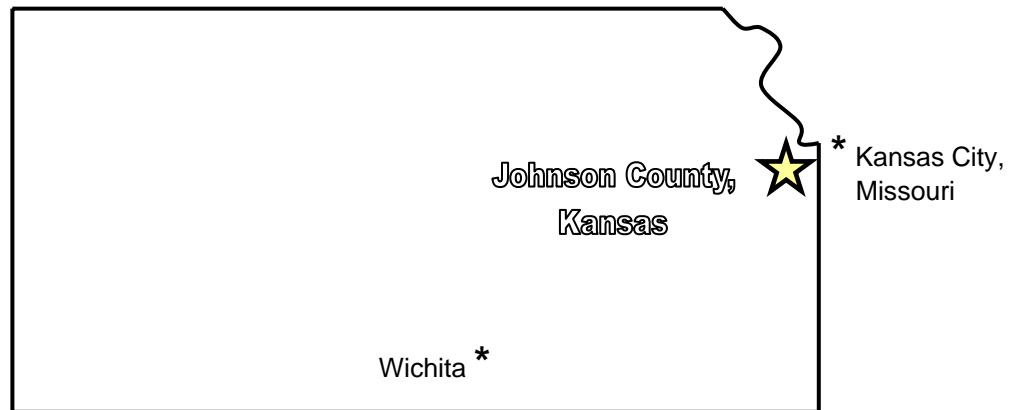
The County Profile section of the FY 2009 Budget provides basic demographic and trend information about Johnson County, as well as national comparable counties. The first section highlights basic population, employment, housing, ethnicity, crime, and business industry data to provide a snapshot of the County.

The second section includes eight additional measures, or “community indicators”, in an effort to align the FY 2009 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:





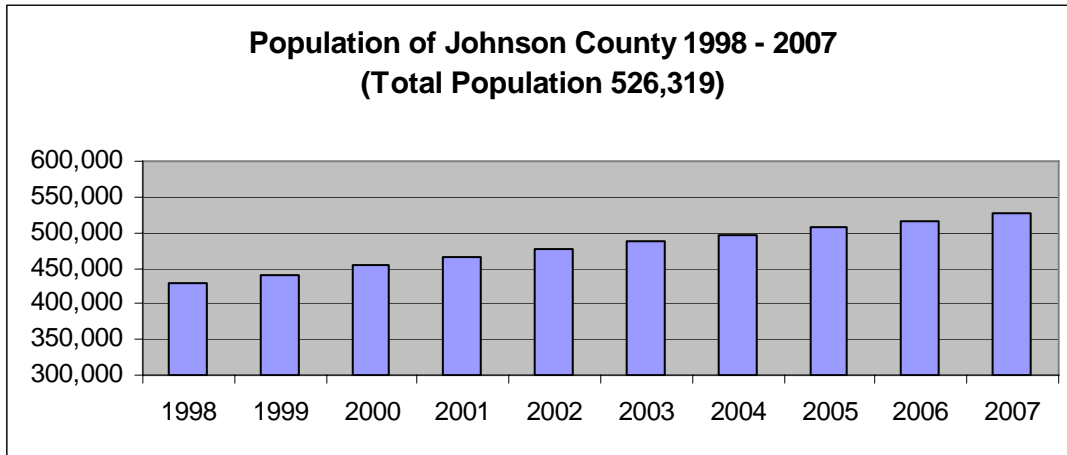
Johnson County lies directly across the state line from Kansas City, Missouri, serving as the metropolitan area's growth engine in possessing all of the ingredients necessary for economic growth and success. The County boasts nationally ranked schools, low crime rate, high quality neighborhoods, low 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 526,000 in 2007, surpassing the population of Kansas City, the urban "center city" the county's suburbs grew up around.¹ The impact of the railroad and Johnson County's close proximity to Kansas City cemented the importance of the land, and played a major role in the area's successful development in the twentieth century. Today, land is one of Johnson County's most valuable assets attributing to the successful residential and commercial development that has created one of the best places to live in the United States.

¹ "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 continue to 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



Source: County Economic Research Institute

Chart A demonstrates that Johnson County has experienced sustained population growth over the past ten years. As of September 2007, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates the total County population to be 526,319, a 2% increase from 2006.

Chart B

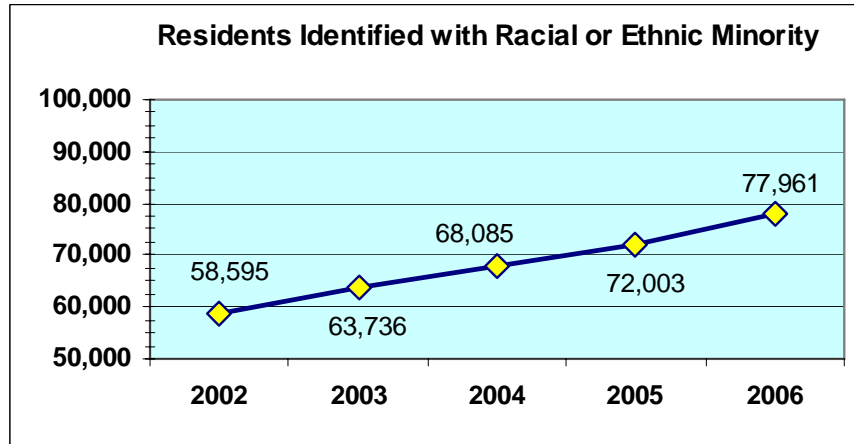
County Population by City 2007

City	2007 Population	City	2007 Population
Overland Park	169,403	DeSoto	5,369
Olathe	118,034	Spring Hill	5,065
Shawnee	59,958	Mission Hills	3,537
Lenexa	45,481	Edgerton	1,788
Leawood	31,012	Westwood	1,478
Prairie Village	21,422	Lake Quivira	935
Unincorporated Johnson County	17,909	Westwood Hills	363
Gardner	16,462	Fairway	254
Merriam	10,790	Mission Woods	159
Roeland Park	6,951	Bonner Springs	6

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 3.4% of the County’s total population. This is a small increase from 2006. The remaining Johnson County residents reside in one of the twenty incorporated cities.

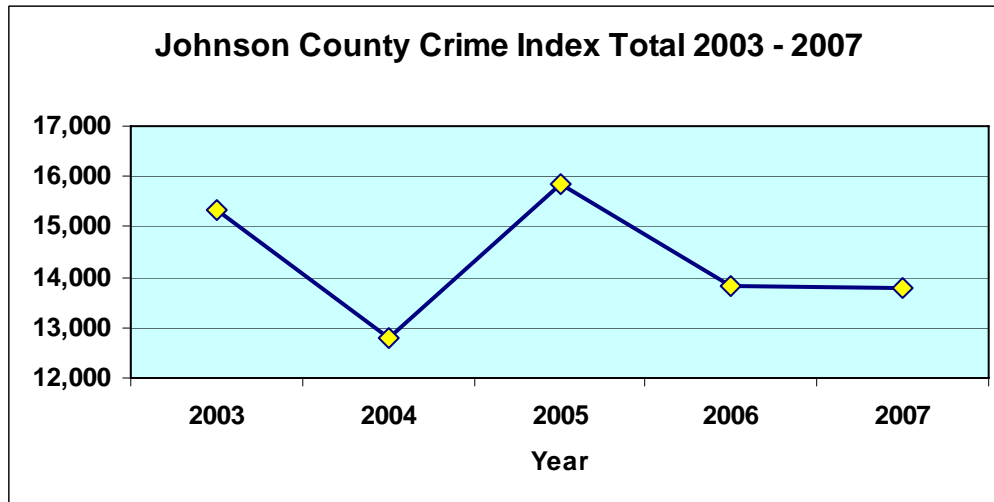
Chart C



Source: U.S. Census, 2006 American Community Survey

Chart C illustrates Johnson County’s increasingly diverse population. According to the U.S. Census 2006 American Community Survey, one of every six (77,961) Johnson County residents identifies with a racial or ethnic minority, a similar portion of total County population as in the previous two years. The fastest-growing population segments during the past year were Hispanic (6%), Black or African-American (5%), and persons identifying with ‘two or more races’ (2%). These population groups, in addition to Asian, have also experienced the fastest growth rates since 2000.²

Chart D



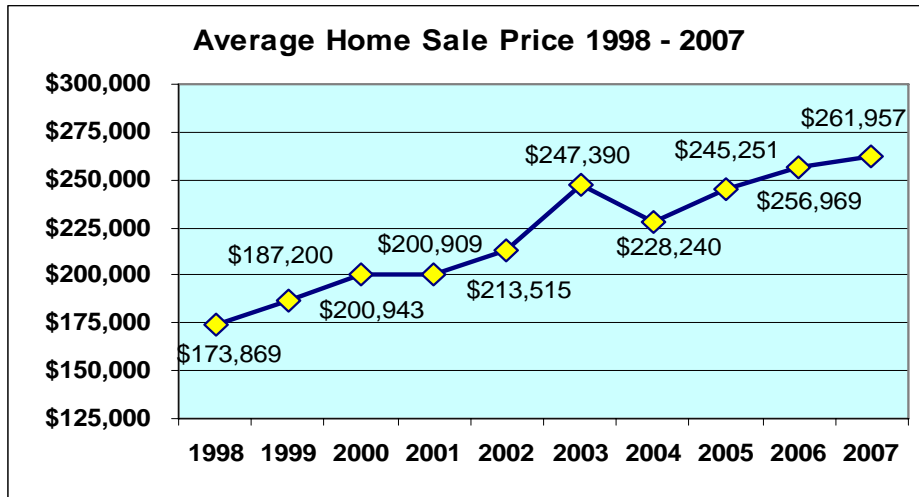
Source: Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Chart D reflects that Johnson County’s crime index, or crimes reported to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, is 10% lower in 2007 than four years earlier, however, 8% higher than 2004, which was the lowest for each of the last 5 years. Despite sustained population growth, Johnson County’s crime rate remains far below state and federal averages at 26.2 per 1,000 citizens for 2007.³

² U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2006

³ Kansas Bureau of Investigation

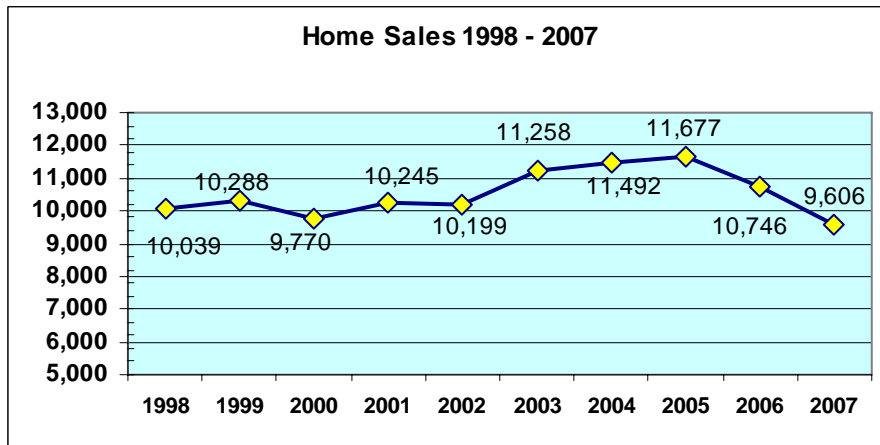
Chart E



Source: County Economic Research Institute

Chart E documents steady increases in home prices in Johnson County in recent years. Overall 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.⁴

Chart F



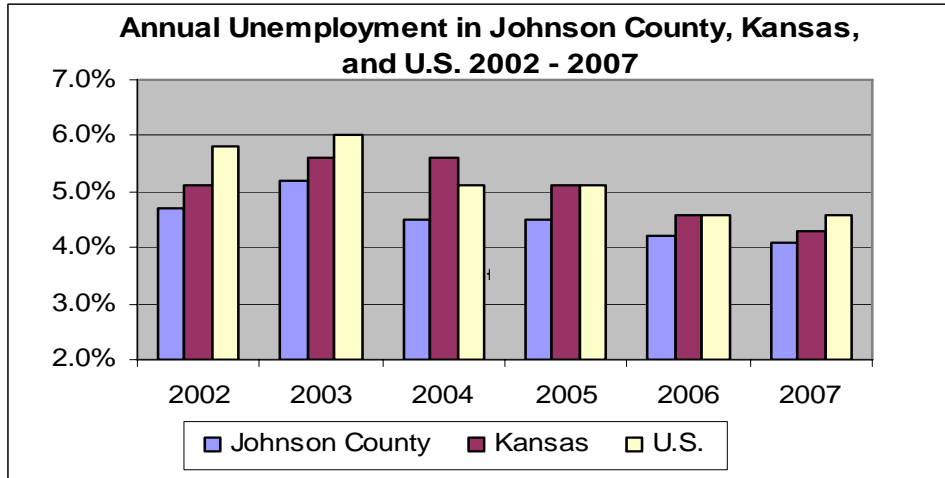
Source: Johnson County Board of Realtors

Chart F documents decreased sales of new and existing housing in Johnson County compared to recent years. The 2007 total sales represent an 11% decrease from 2006, as sales of new and existing housing throughout the greater Kansas City area were down compared to one year prior.⁵

⁴ "Housing Market and Needs Analysis," Johnson County, Kansas, 2004

⁵ Johnson County Board of Realtors

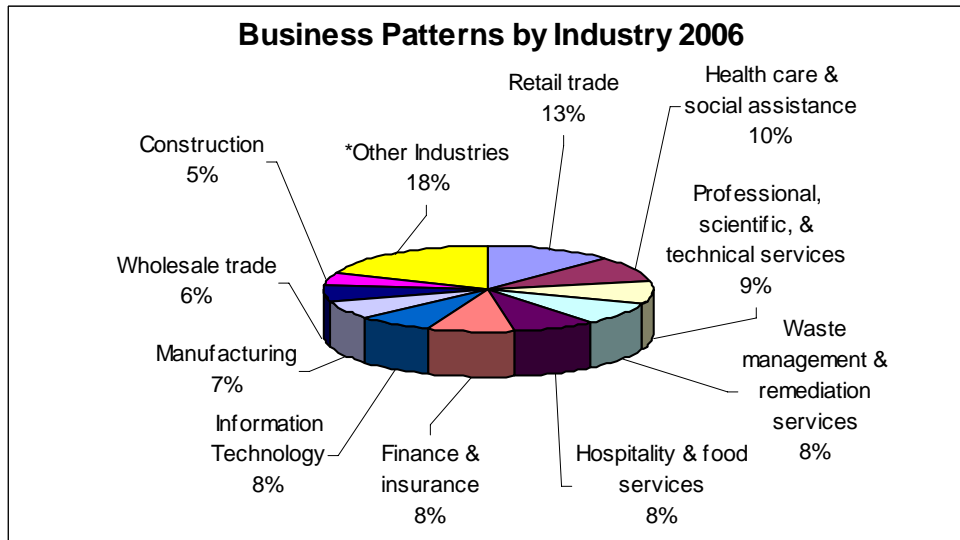
Chart G



Source: Kansas Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor

Chart G supports the healthy historic trend of employment opportunities in Johnson County. The County's unemployment rate was 4.1% for 2007, which is the lowest unemployment rate for the last 5 years, with 1999 showing the County's lowest rate of 1.9%. Since 2004, the County's unemployment rate has steadily decreased. The County's rate is normally lower than the national and state rates. The number of jobs available within Johnson County has risen consistently, showing an increase in Johnson County businesses hiring employees. This is primarily due to new retail areas and business relocations to the County.⁶

Chart H



Source: U.S. Census⁷

⁶ Trend Monitoring Report, 2006, Johnson County, Kansas Office of Financial Management

⁷ "Other Industries" includes: Industries not classified; other services (except public administration); arts, entertainment and recreation; educational services; management of companies and enterprises; real estate, rental and leasing; transportation and warehousing; utilities; mining; forestry, fishing and hunting, and agricultural support services.

Chart H reflects the dominance of the retail trade industry in Johnson County. Within the Kansas City 15-county metropolitan statistical area (MSA), 32% of 2006 retail sales occurred in Johnson County, second only to Jackson County Missouri, which had 34% of all retail sales.⁸

Chart I

Ten Largest Johnson County Employers 2007		
Employers	Local Employment	Industry
Sprint Corp.	12,200	Wireless Communications
Embarq	5,410	Telecommunications
Olathe Unified School Dist.	4,393	Public School District
Shawnee Mission School Dist.	4,063	Public School District
Johnson County Govt.	4,015	County Government
Blue Valley School Dist.	3,000	Public School District
Black & Veatch	2,560	Engineering & Architecture
Olathe Health System	2,319	Hospital
Farmers Insurance Group	2,200	Insurance Carrier
United Parcel Service	2,100	Parcel Delivery

Source: CERI 2007 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 and its local telephone communications spin off, Embarq. For the past 5 years, Sprint Nextel has been ranked consistently as the County’s top employer, followed by increasing job growth in local public school districts, relative to population growth, as shown in **Chart I**.

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 – Dane, Wisconsin; Gwinnett, Georgia; Arapahoe, Colorado; Jefferson, Colorado; Pasco, Florida; Kane, Illinois; Clackamas, Oregon; and Ocean, New Jersey - are located throughout the country and have been deemed comparable to Johnson County in a number of categories, including, but not limited to:

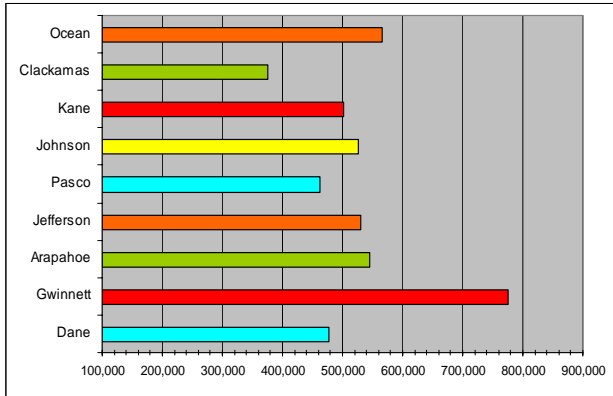
- Total population;
- Constituent education level;
- Rate of employment;
- Household and personal income;
- Proximity to a large metropolitan statistical area;

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.

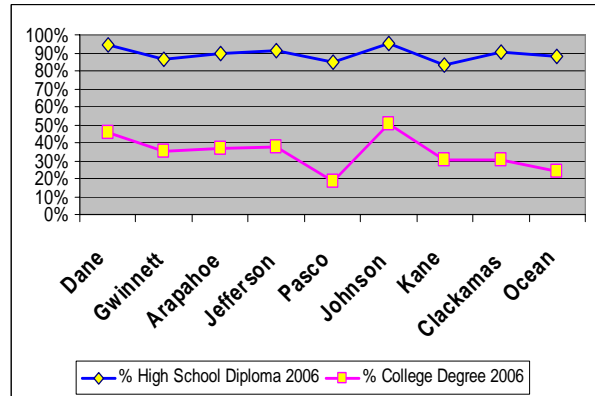
⁸ “Greater Kansas City Profile: Business and Industry”, KC Area Development Council

Chart J – Population (2007)



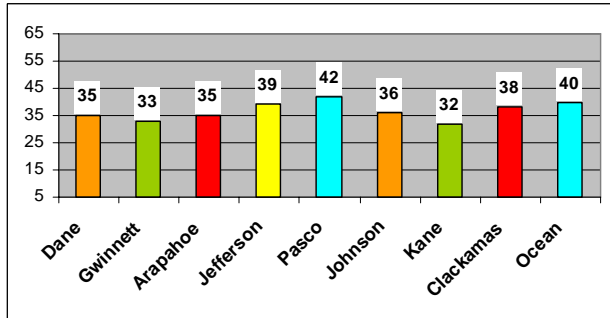
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2007

Chart M – Educational Achievement (2006)



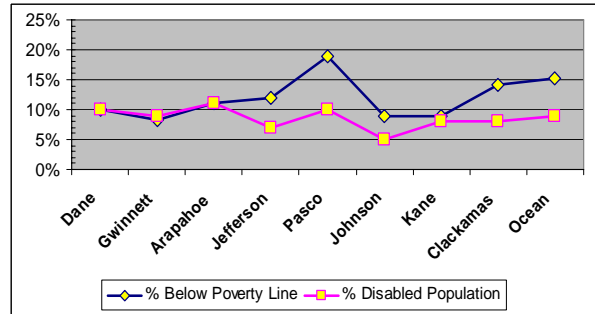
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2006

Chart K – Median Age (2006)



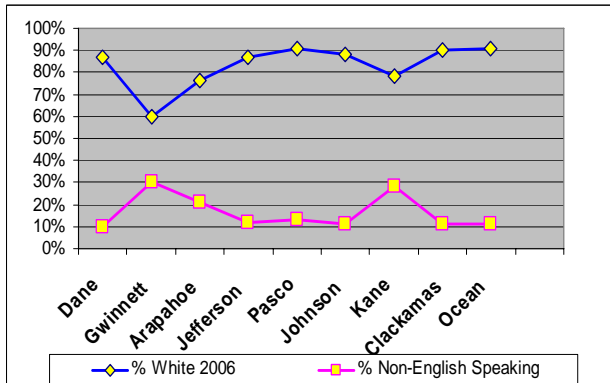
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2006

Chart N – Poverty and Disabilities (2006)



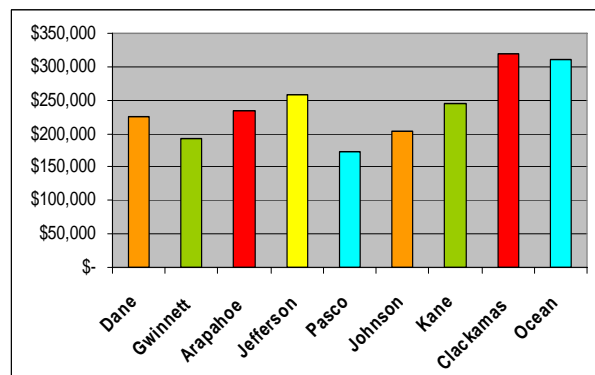
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2006

Chart L – Ethnicity and Race (2006)



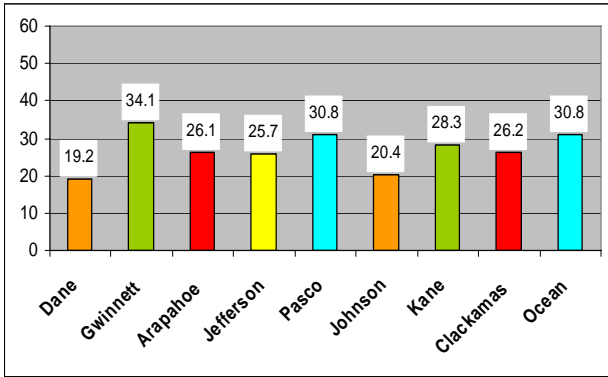
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2006

Chart O – Median Home Value (2006)



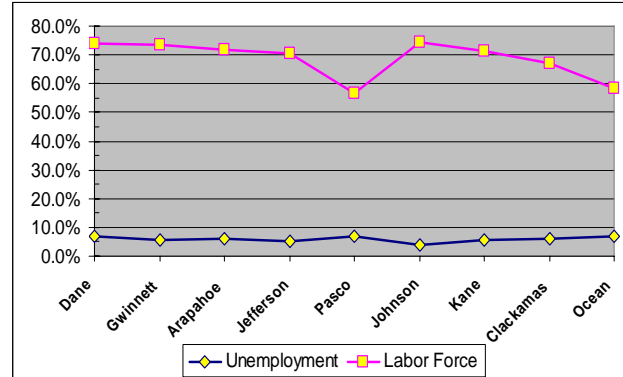
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2006

Chart P – Avg. Work Commute Time (2006)



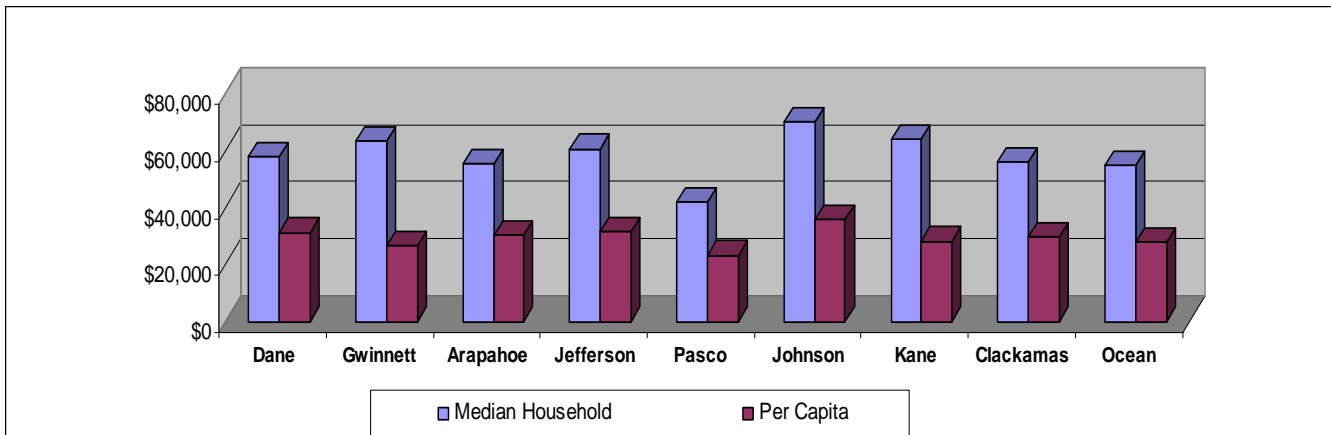
Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2006

Chart Q – Unemployment & Labor (2006)



Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2006

Chart R - Median Household and Per Capita Income (2006)



Source: U.S. Census, Fact Finder 2006

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 are important tools 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.13.

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:

Commissioner	District	Initial Year as Commissioner	Term Expires
Annabeth Surbaugh, Chairman	At-Large	1993	2011
C. Edward Peterson	District 1	2003	2011
John P. Segale	District 2	2005	2009
David A. Lindstrom	District 3	2003	2009
Ed Eilert	District 4	2007	2011
Douglas E. Wood	District 5	1998	2011
John M. Toplikar	District 6	2003	2009

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.

