

W. Frank Barton School of Business

Center for Economic Development and Business Research

Kansas Population Projections, 2014-2064

Elderly Population



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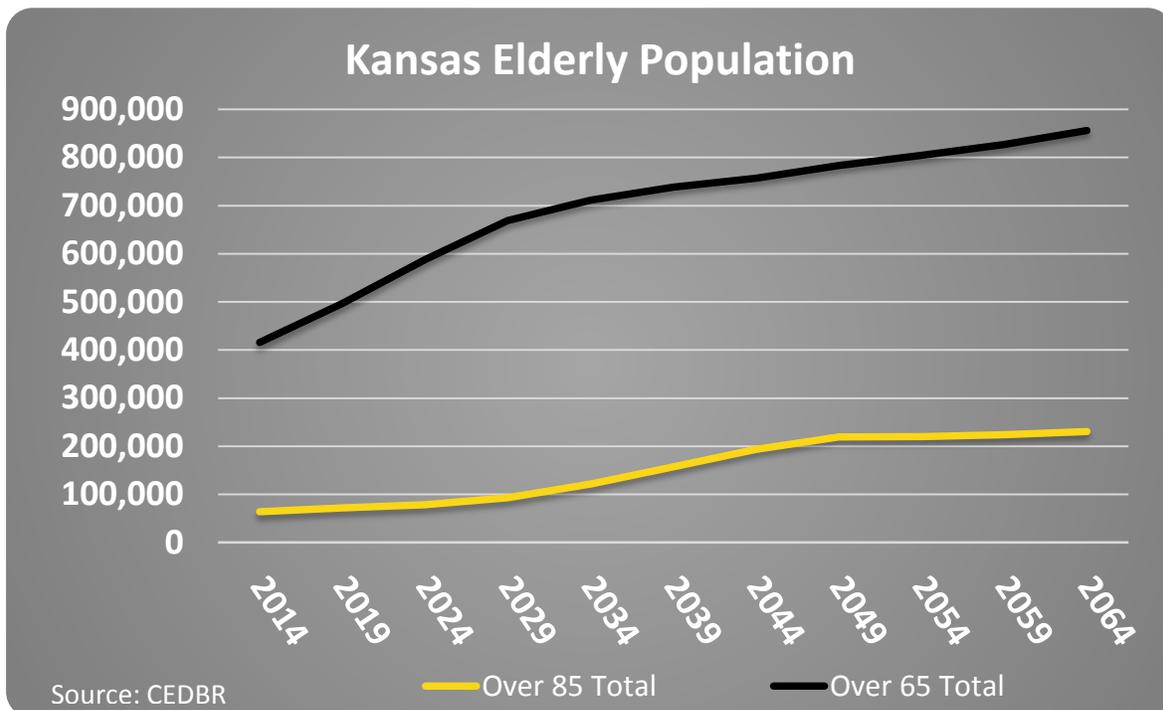
Kansas Population Projections, 2014-2064

Elderly Population | Released May 2016

The Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR), part of the W. Frank Barton School of Business at Wichita State University, recently released population projections by age cohort from 2014 to 2064 for every Kansas county¹. In these projections, the overall Kansas population is forecast to grow from 2,904,321 to 3,538,277, a 21.8 percent increase. Within the projections, the Kansas population older than 65 years old is projected to grow at a considerably faster rate than the population as a whole, expanding from 415,823 to 856,389, a 106 percent increase.

For the over 65 population, average annual growth for Kansas is projected to be 1.5 percent over the 50 years forecasted. Over the fifty year period, that population growth rate is forecast to vary substantially, from a peak growth rate of 3.6 in 2019 to a low of 0.5 percent annual growth in 2044. In the latter years of the forecast, the over 65 population tends to grow more slowly because the overall population of the state is projected to grow more slowly as well.

Growth is projected to be strong for every age bracket over 65, especially for those 85 years old and older. This is, in large part, caused by projections of declining mortality rates used in the forecast. In percentage terms, the over 85 population is projected to grow even faster than the over 65 population; the over 85 population is projected to expand from 63,848 in 2014 to 230,299 in 2064, a 260 percent increase.



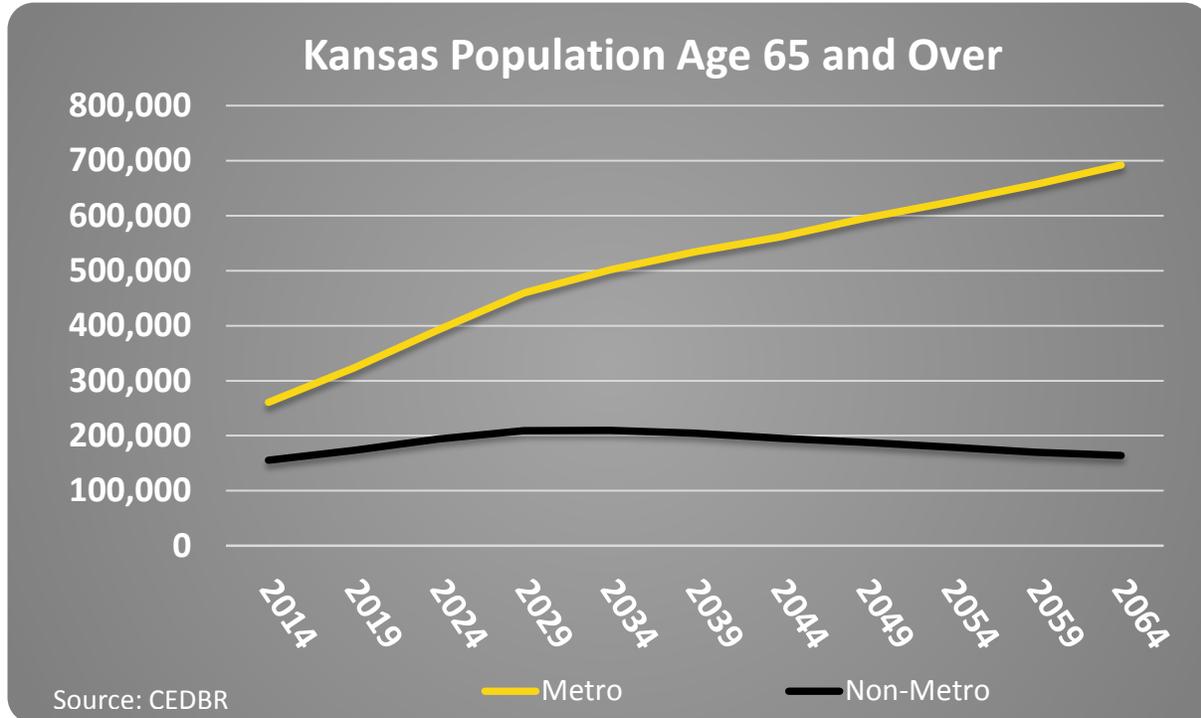
¹ The projections, as well as articles about metropolitan and regional growth, can be found at population.cedbr.org

Metropolitan Areas

Just as with the overall population, the growth in the over 65 population in Kansas is projected to be stronger in some regions than others. The most noticeable of these is the divide between the metropolitan and non-metropolitan regions of the state². The metropolitan areas in Kansas are projected to have their over 65 populations grow more rapidly than Kansas' non-metropolitan areas. The metropolitan areas are projected to have an average annual growth rate of 2 percent for their over 65 population, while the non-metropolitan areas are forecast to have an over 65 growth rate of 0.1 percent.

These differences in growth rates, projected over 50 years, cause the metropolitan and non-metropolitan populations older than 65 to diverge sharply. In 2014, the over 65 population in metropolitan areas was 1.68 times the size of the over 65 population of the non-metropolitan areas. By 2064, that gap is forecast to grow to 3.2 times, as the metropolitan area over 65 population approaches 700,000 people, while the non-metropolitan over 65 population remains under 200,000 people.

The Kansas City, Kansas, metropolitan area is projected to have the fastest growing population older than 65 of any metropolitan area in Kansas, growing at an average annual growth rate of 2.6 percent. The Wichita metropolitan area population older than 65 is forecast to grow at 1.4 percent, and Topeka's is forecast to grow at 1 percent. For all three of these metropolitan areas, the over 65 population is projected to grow faster than the overall population.

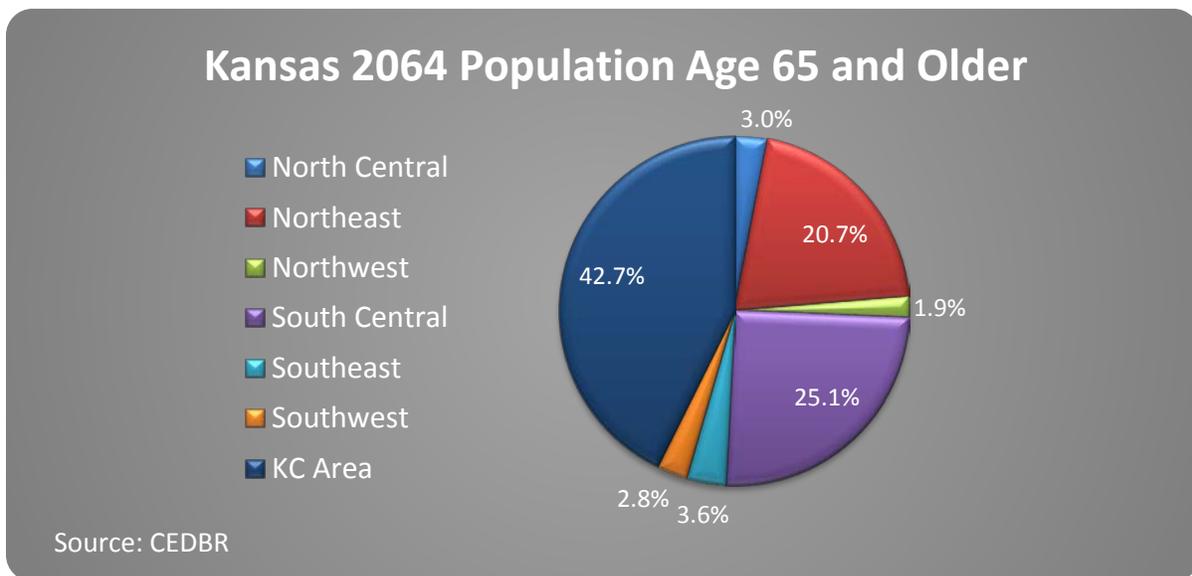


² A full list of the counties that make up the U.S. Census Bureau-defined metropolitan areas of the state can be found at http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.htm#K.

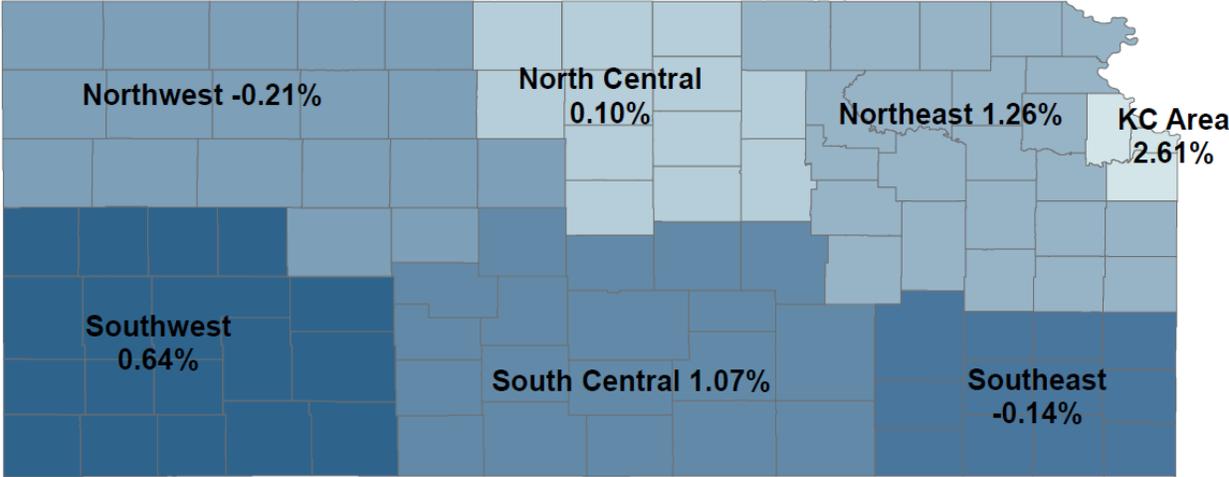
Regional Growth

Just as the metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas of Kansas are projected to have substantially different growth trajectories for their over 65 population, so too will the different regions of Kansas. The fastest growing of these regions for the over 65 population, outside the Kansas City area, will be the Northeast and South Central regions, with average annual growth rates of 1.3 and 1.1 percent, respectively. These two regions, along with the Kansas City area, also make up the vast majority of the over 65 population in the state. In 2064, these regions combined are forecast to contain 88.5 percent of the over 65 population in Kansas.

The North Central, Southeast, and Northwest regions of Kansas are all projected to have relatively stable over 65 populations with slight changes over the 50 year period, each with an average annual growth rate between -0.2 and 0.1 percent. These three regions are projected to be the slowest growing in Kansas for the over 65 population, and they are projected to collectively contain 8.5 percent of Kansas' over 65 population. The Southwest region's over 65 population is forecast to grow noticeably faster, with an average annual growth rate of 0.6 percent.



**Regional Annual Average Growth Rates of the Population
65-years and Older**



View more detailed data released in this forecast at www.population.cedbr.org or subscribe to CEDBR's e-Connection Newsletter at www.subscribe.cedbr.org. The Center for Economic Development and Business Research can customize forecasts upon request. Contact Jeremy Hill at 316-213-3673 for cost and availability.