

W. Frank Barton School of Business

Center for Economic Development and Business Research

Kansas Population Projections, 2014-2064

Working Age Population



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

1845 Fairmount St.
Wichita KS 67260-0121
316-978-3225
www.CEDBR.org
cedbr@wichita.edu

Kansas Population Projections, 2014-2064

Working Age Population | Released September 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. The working age population of the state, ages 18 to 64, is forecast to grow a more modest 10.3 percent, from 1,764,061 to 1,946,380. The over 65 population is projected to grow more rapidly in Kansas, while the under 18 population remains relatively constant over this period.

This growth in the working age population in Kansas is not projected to be evenly distributed. The metropolitan areas of the state are expected to grow considerably faster than the rest of the state over the next fifty years². The metropolitan areas' working age population is, on average, forecast to grow at a rate of 0.5 percent per year, adding an additional 338,255 working age people to the metropolitan portion of the state.

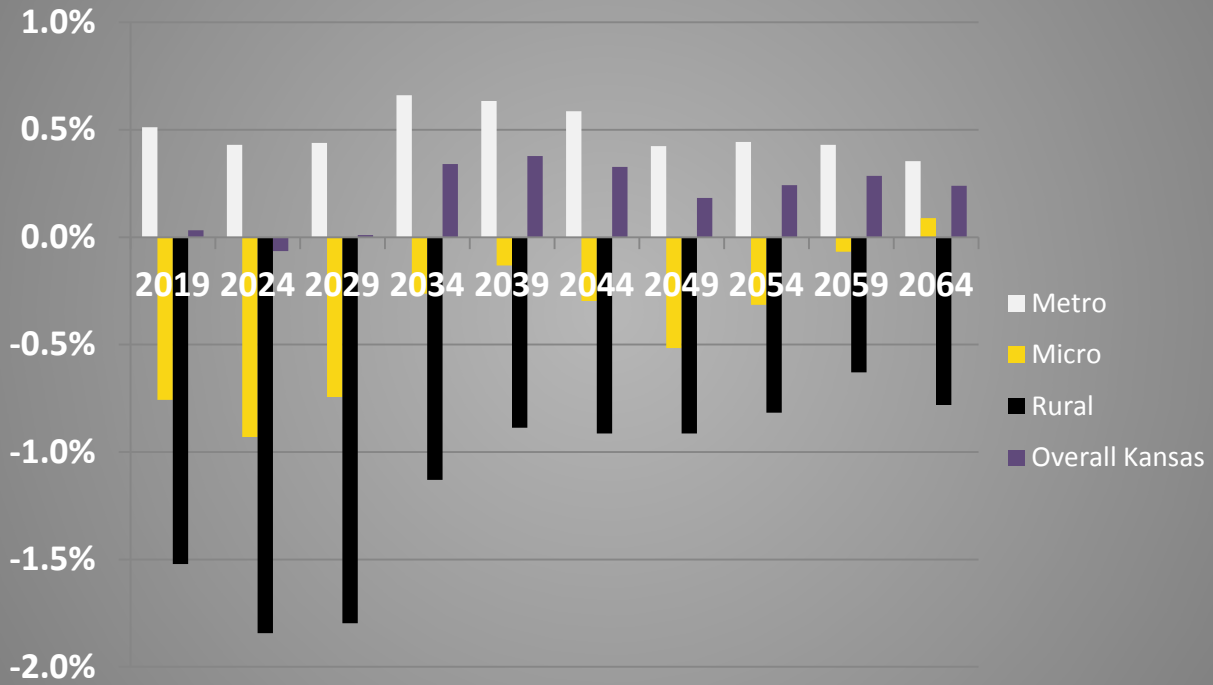
In contrast, the non-metropolitan areas' working age population is projected to decline an average of 0.5 percent per year. Of the non-metropolitan areas of the state, the micropolitan areas are expected to decline less rapidly than the rural regions. Micropolitan areas are classified as areas centered around a city or urban cluster with a population between 10,000 and 50,000 people, typically including the single county containing that city or urban cluster. Kansas has 16 micropolitan areas in the state, and these are forecast to, on average, decline in working age population by 0.4 percent per year. The rural regions which were part of neither a metropolitan area nor micropolitan area are projected to have a steeper decline, with the working age population shrinking by 0.7 percent per year on average.

Over the 50 years forecast, all three regions show some variation over time as well. Working age population growth is expected to be the slowest in Kansas during the next decade, due in large part to declines in the rural areas. The decline is projected to become less steep in the following decades in both the rural and micropolitan areas, while metropolitan area working age population growth remains consistently strong.

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

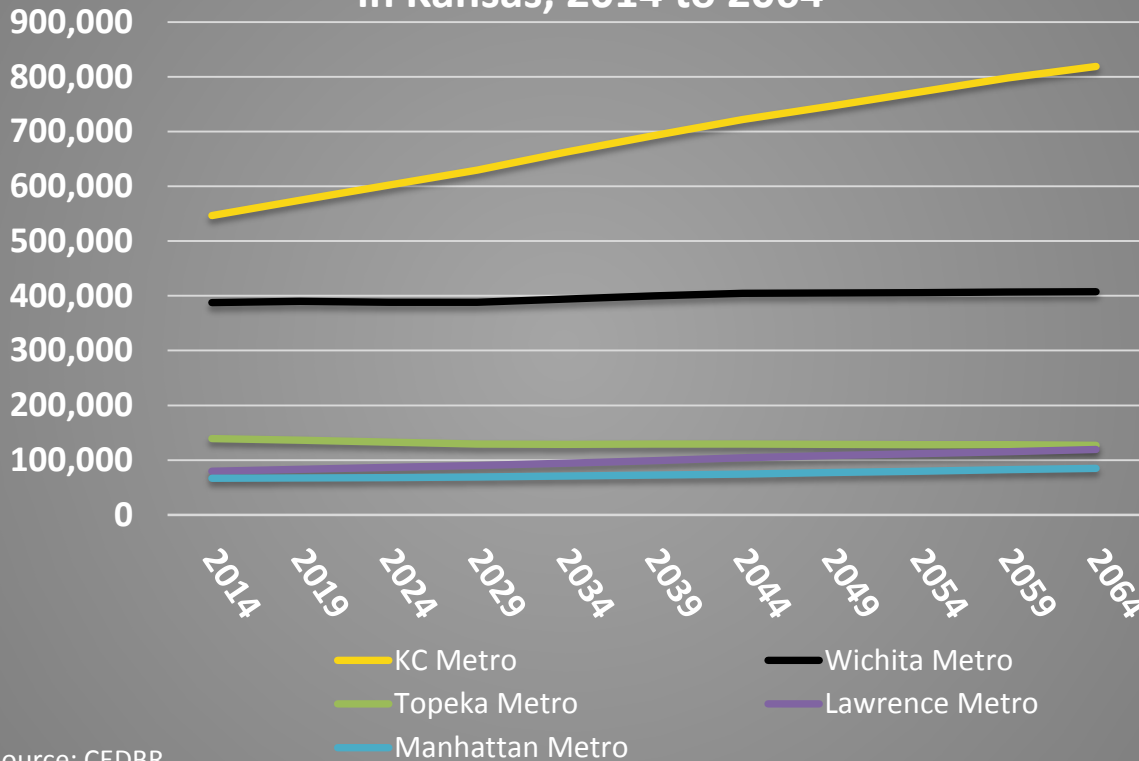
² A map of United States metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas is available at http://www.census.gov/population/metro/files/metro_micro_Feb2013.pdf.

Average Annual Growth Rate in Working Age Population in Kansas



SOURCE: CEDBR

Metropolitan Working Age Population Forecast in Kansas, 2014 to 2064

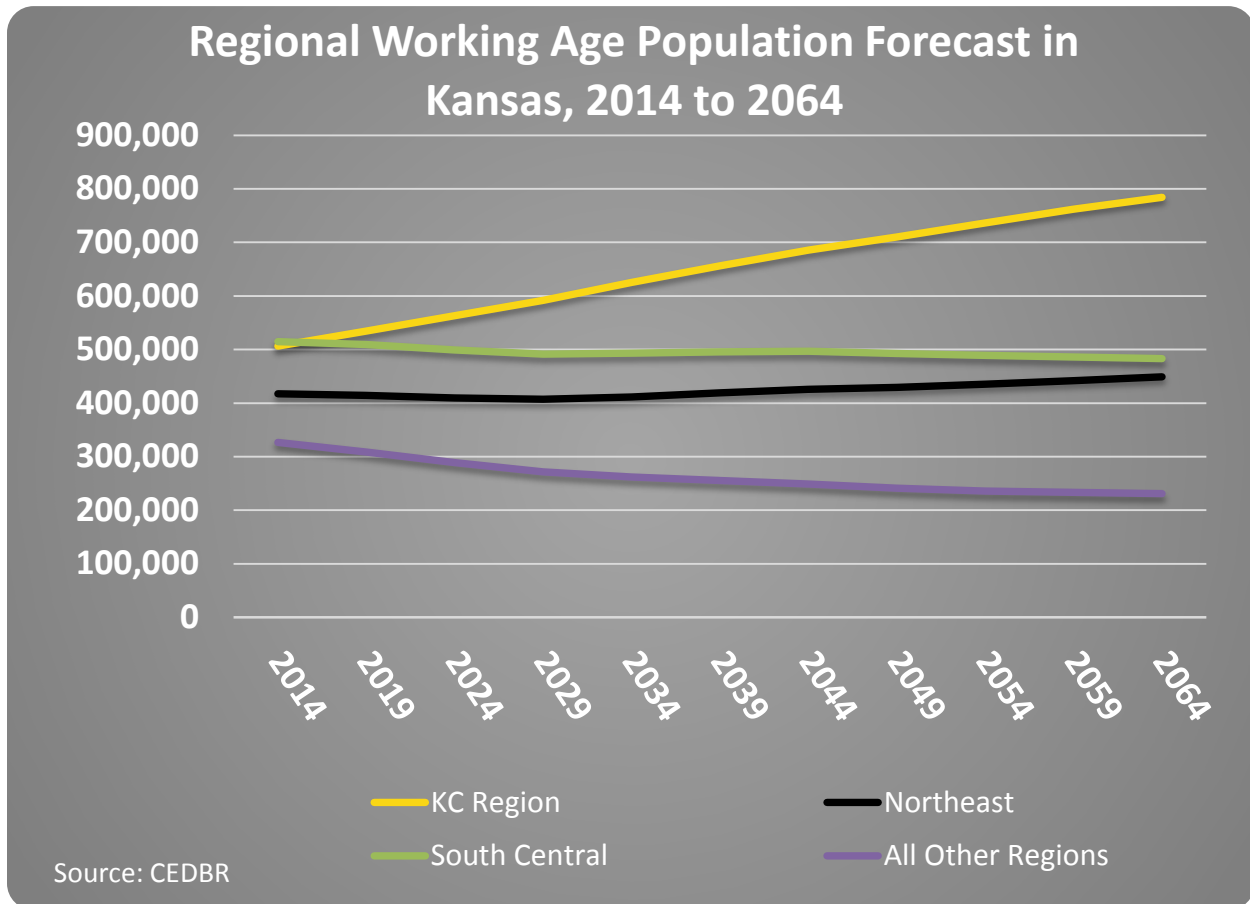


Of Kansas' five metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), the Kansas City, Kansas, MSA both has the largest working age population currently, and is projected to have the strongest growth in working age population³. The Kansas City, Kansas, MSA is forecast to increase its working age population from 546,343 to 818,908 over the fifty years forecasted, leading to an average annual growth rate of 0.8 percent. This makes up over 80 percent of the increase among all Kansas metropolitan areas over that period.

The other Kansas metropolitan area projected to have strong growth in its working age population is the Lawrence metropolitan. It is forecast to increase from 79,634 in 2014 to 119,307 in 2064, a 49.8 percent increase, similar in percentage terms to the increase of the Kansas City, Kansas MSA. The Manhattan and Wichita MSAs are also expected to experience increases in their working age populations, though on a smaller scale than Lawrence and Kansas City. The Wichita MSA is projected to increase from 387,873 to 407,787 working age adults, and the Manhattan MSA is projected to add 18,147 working age adults, to bring its working age population to 84,800. The Topeka MSA is only metropolitan area in

³ The Kansas City, Kansas, MSA includes only the portion of the Kansas City MSA located in Kansas and not the portion of the MSA located in Missouri. The Kansas City, Kansas, MSA includes Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami and Wyandotte counties.

Kansas projected to have a shrinking working age population, declining by 0.2 percent on average per year, losing 13,000 working age adults over the fifty years forecasted.



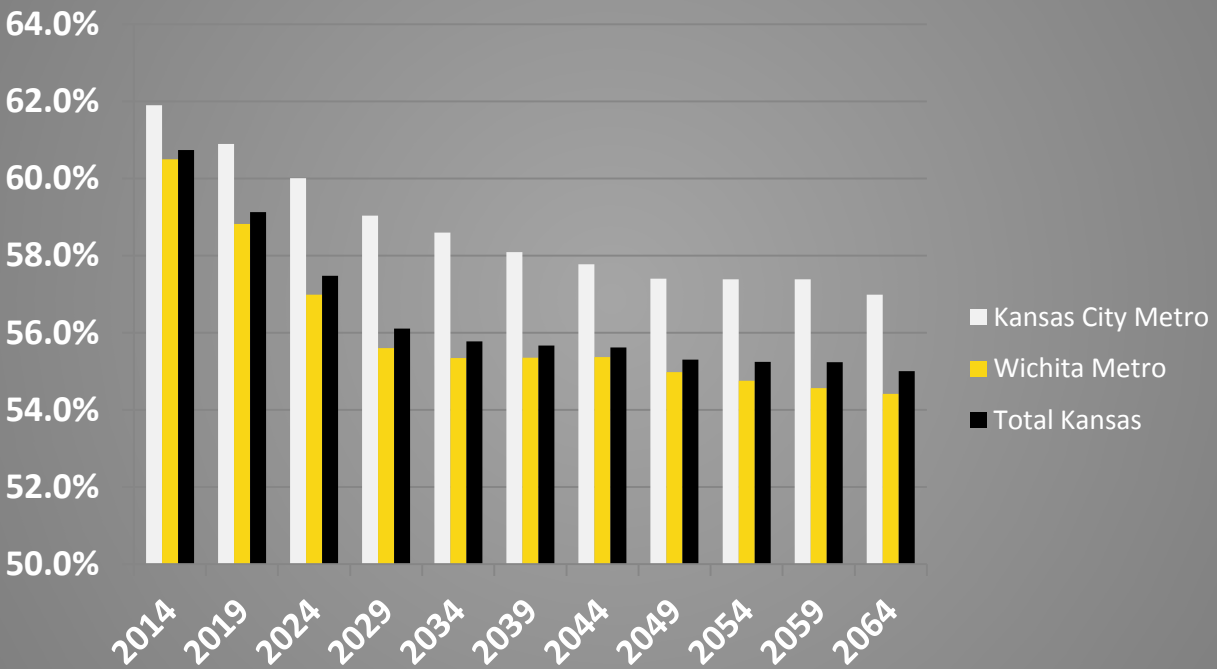
Excluding the Kansas City metropolitan area, most of the regions⁴ in the state are expected to experience a slow decline in their working age population. The one exception to this is the Northeast region, which includes both Lawrence and Topeka and the surrounding areas, which is anticipated to grow by 0.1 percent per year, on average.

Of the declining regions, the South Central region is expected to experience the smallest decline, in part due to the increasing working age population in the Wichita area, which is in the center of the South Central region. The surrounding rural areas are projected to be declining, so the entire region, on average, is projected to have its working age population decline by 0.1 percent per year, on average.

On average, the other four regions combined (Southeast, North Central, Northwest, Southwest) are projected to have an average decline in working age population of 0.7 percent per year. These regions have the highest fraction of rural population of the regions in Kansas, and the rural areas of the state are forecast to have the largest declines in working age population over the next fifty years.

⁴ A visual representation of the regions used for this graph can be found at http://www.kansastag.gov/AdvHTML_Upload/council_map.gif

Ratio of Working Age to Total Population, 2014 to 2064



SOURCE: CEDBR

Across Kansas, the elderly population is projected to increase more rapidly than the working age population over the next fifty years, leading to a decline in the percentage of the population that is working age in every region and metropolitan area in the state. In 2014, over 60 percent of the total Kansas population was between 18 and 64 years old, and that is expected to decline to below 55 percent by 2064, with a corresponding increase in the percentage of the population over 65 years old.

This trend is present in Kansas' major metropolitan areas as well. The Kansas City, Kansas, MSA is forecast to see a similar drop in the percentage of the population that is working age, going from almost 62 percent to under 57 percent by 2064. The Wichita MSA is also projected to have a drop of slightly over 5 percentage points.

Rural areas are even more strongly affected by the decline, with rural areas in Kansas projected to decline from 57 percent to 49 percent of the population being working age. The Northwest and Southwest regions of Kansas are forecast to experience declines of 7 percentage points and 10 percentage points, respectively.

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.