

Figures show rural counties have higher percent of poor people

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that fared the best was Neosho, with 14.5 percent of residents living above the poverty level.

Pittsburg State University history Professor Thomas Walther said south-east Kansas has historically had low-wage jobs, beginning with miners. The last strip mine closed in the 1960s, but

the area seems not to have recovered.

On top of that, Walther said, "The interstate system, which sort of creates the Kansas industrial triangle, doesn't come through here."

The urban Kansas county with a higher percentage of people living in poverty than the national average was Wyandotte, where 17.3 percent of the county's 157,880 residents lived below

the poverty level in 1998, 1 percentage point less than the year before.

Sedgwick County matched the state average, while 10.4 percent of residents in Shawnee County were below the poverty level in 1998.

Johnson County had the lowest percentage in the state by far with 3.9 percent of residents below the poverty level.

The counties with the largest percentage of people in poverty also had even larger percentages of children living in poverty.

Nationally, 19 percent of children lived in poverty in 1998, down from 23 percent in 1993 — two years after the official start of the country's record economic expansion.

In Kansas, 14.4 percent of children

lived in poverty in 1998, down from 16.7 percent in 1993. In Geary County, where 16.9 percent of the overall population lived in poverty in 1998, 28.5 percent of children lived in poverty, up significantly from 27.2 percent in 1993. In Chautauqua County, 27.8 percent of children lived in poverty in 1998, compared with 27.2 percent five years earlier.

The new poverty estimates come from an annual Census report that revises earlier estimates derived solely from survey data. The revised reports also take into account tax returns and Food Stamp income.

The revised results are used in welfare reform evaluations and in the distribution of education grants for poor children.

Counties ranked by poverty figures

By The Associated Press

Kansas counties ranked by overall poverty rate in 1998, figures from the U.S. Census Bureau. Table shows county, total number in poverty, percent of people in poverty, 2000 population, and population rank.

County	1998 pop.	pct	2000 pop.	rank
Chautauqua County	838	19.8	4,359	77
Elk County	642	19.1	3,261	89
Bourbon County	2,643	17.9	15,379	34
Wyandotte County	26,484	17.3	157,882	4
Cherokee County	3,870	17.2	22,605	26
Geary County	3,999	16.9	27,947	21

Crawford County	5,765	16.3	38,242	12
Greenwood County	1,293	16.3	7,673	53
Stafford County	749	15.2	4,789	72
Montgomery County	5,537	15.1	36,252	14
Woodson County	574	15	3,788	80
Brown County	1,619	14.9	10,724	40
Graham County	464	14.9	2,946	95
Chase County	422	14.8	3,030	93
Labette County	3,341	14.8	22,835	25
Wilson County	1,527	14.8	10,332	42
Allen County	2,096	14.7	14,385	35
Neosho County	2,392	14.5	16,997	31
Rawlins County	433	14.3	2,966	94
Wallace County	258	14.3	1,749	104
Doniphan County	1,104	14.2	8,249	49
Jewell County	545	14.2	3,791	79
Linn County	1,325	14.2	9,570	45
Rush County	477	14.2	3,551	82
Sherman County	914	14.1	6,760	58
Russell County	1,039	13.9	7,370	54

Atchison County	2,242	13.8	16,774	32
Anderson County	1,125	13.7	8,110	51
Rooks County	764	13.7	5,685	68
Cloud County	1,337	13.6	10,268	43
Decatur County	444	13.5	3,472	84
Edwards County	441	13.5	3,449	86
Phillips County	795	13.5	6,001	64
Lyon County	4,400	13.4	35,935	15
Smith County	605	13.4	4,536	74
Cheyenne County	432	13.3	3,165	90
Rice County	1,295	13.3	10,761	39
Comanche County	251	13.2	1,967	103
Harper County	833	13.2	6,536	59
Republic County	780	13.2	5,835	67
Seward County	2,664	13.2	22,510	27
Barber County	688	13	5,307	70
Hamilton County	307	13	2,670	97
Osborne County	591	13	4,452	76
Washington County	829	12.9	6,483	61
Wichita County	330	12.8	2,531	98

Cowley County	4,515	12.6	36,291	13
Norton County	636	12.4	5,953	65
Barton County	3,532	12.3	28,205	20
Ford County	3,614	12.3	32,458	17
Marshall County	1,336	12.3	10,965	38
Riley County	6,578	12.3	62,843	8
Lincoln County	402	12.1	3,578	81
Sheridan County	324	12.1	2,813	96
Kiowa County	391	12	3,278	88
Reno County	7,425	12	64,790	7
Gove County	362	11.9	3,068	91
Thomas County	901	11.5	8,180	57
Trego County	374	11.5	3,319	80
Clay County	1,025	11.4	8,822	47
Douglas County	10,495	11.4	99,962	5
Franklin County	2,864	11.4	24,784	24
Lane County	249	11.4	2,155	101
Morris County	704	11.4	6,104	63
Morton County	398	11.4	3,496	83
Pawnee County	758	11.3	7,233	55

Pratt County	1,069	11.3	9,647	44
Coffey County	984	11.2	8,865	46
Kearny County	463	11.1	4,531	75
Kingman County	959	11.1	8,673	48
Ellsworth County	611	11	6,525	60
Nemaha County	1,141	11	10,717	41
Jackson County	1,333	10.9	12,657	37
Finney County	4,052	10.8	40,523	11
Saline County	5,521	10.7	53,597	10
Grant County	844	10.6	7,909	52
Ellis County	2,693	10.5	27,507	22
Logan County	309	10.5	3,046	92
Marion County	1,364	10.5	13,361	36
Sedgwick County	47,643	10.5	452,869	1
Shawnee County	17,886	10.4	169,871	3
Haskell County	423	10.3	4,307	78
Osage County	1,774	10.3	16,712	33
Stanton County	231	10.2	2,406	99
Dickinson County	1,977	10.1	19,344	28
Stevens County	553	10.1	5,463	69

Mitchell County	677	10	6,932	56
Gray County	551	9.8	5,904	66
Ness County	354	9.8	3,454	85
Clark County	224	9.6	2,390	100
Hodgeman County	198	8.9	2,085	102
Leavenworth County	5,626	8.9	68,691	6
Harvey County	2,918	8.8	32,869	16
Ottawa County	517	8.8	6,163	62
Pottawatomie County	1,675	8.8	18,209	30
Scott County	432	8.7	5,120	71
Sumner County	2,372	8.7	25,946	23
Greeley County	141	8.5	1,534	105
Meade County	369	8.4	4,631	73
Jefferson County	1,492	8.2	18,426	29
Miami County	2,163	8	28,351	19
Butler County	4,848	7.8	59,482	9
Wabaunsee County	505	7.7	6,885	57
McPherson County	2,113	7.6	29,212	18
Johnson County	17,588	3.9	451,086	2



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