

W. Frank Barton School of Business

# Center for Economic Development and Business Research

## Kansas Population Projections, 2014-2064

Micropolitan Areas



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# Kansas Population Projections, 2014-2064

## Micropolitan Population | Released June 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 county<sup>1</sup>. 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 population of the micropolitan statistical areas of Kansas is projected to shrink from 552,939 to 522,154 over the same period, a 6.5 percent decline.

Micropolitan statistical areas are urban areas centered around a city or urban cluster with a population between 10,000 and 50,000 people, and typically include the county that the city is in and sometimes an additional county with economic linkages to the urban area. Kansas has 16 micropolitan areas throughout the state, in addition to the five larger metropolitan areas<sup>2</sup>. These micropolitan areas are located throughout the state, with more in the central and eastern portions than the western part of the state. In 2014, the most populated micropolitan area in Kansas was the Hutchinson micropolitan area, which includes all of Reno County, with a population of 63,794. The smallest of the micropolitan areas in 2014 was the Atchison micropolitan area, which is comprised solely by Atchison County, with a population of 16,513.

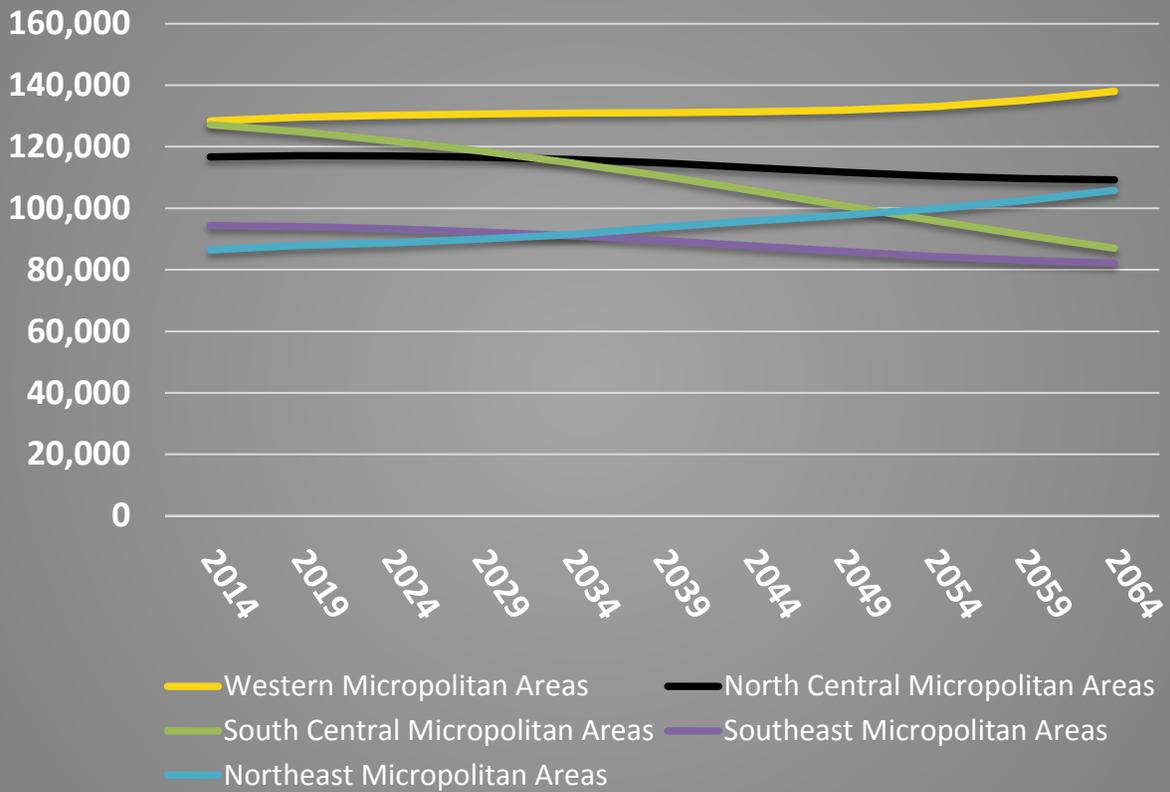
The micropolitan areas throughout Kansas are forecast to have a wide dispersion in their population growth projections for the next fifty years, ranging from a decline of 44.5 percent to an increase of 86.1 percent from their 2014 population. The two regions expected to see population growth in their micropolitan areas in Kansas are the Western and Northeastern portions of the state. The western micropolitan areas are, on average, projected to grow 7.5 percent through 2064, while the northeastern micropolitan areas are projected to grow 22.4 percent, on average. The most rapidly declining region for micropolitan areas is expected to be the South Central, which is forecast to have a population decline of 31.6 percent through 2064.

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<sup>1</sup> The projections, as well as articles about metropolitan, regional, and elderly population growth, can be found at [population.cedbr.org](http://population.cedbr.org).

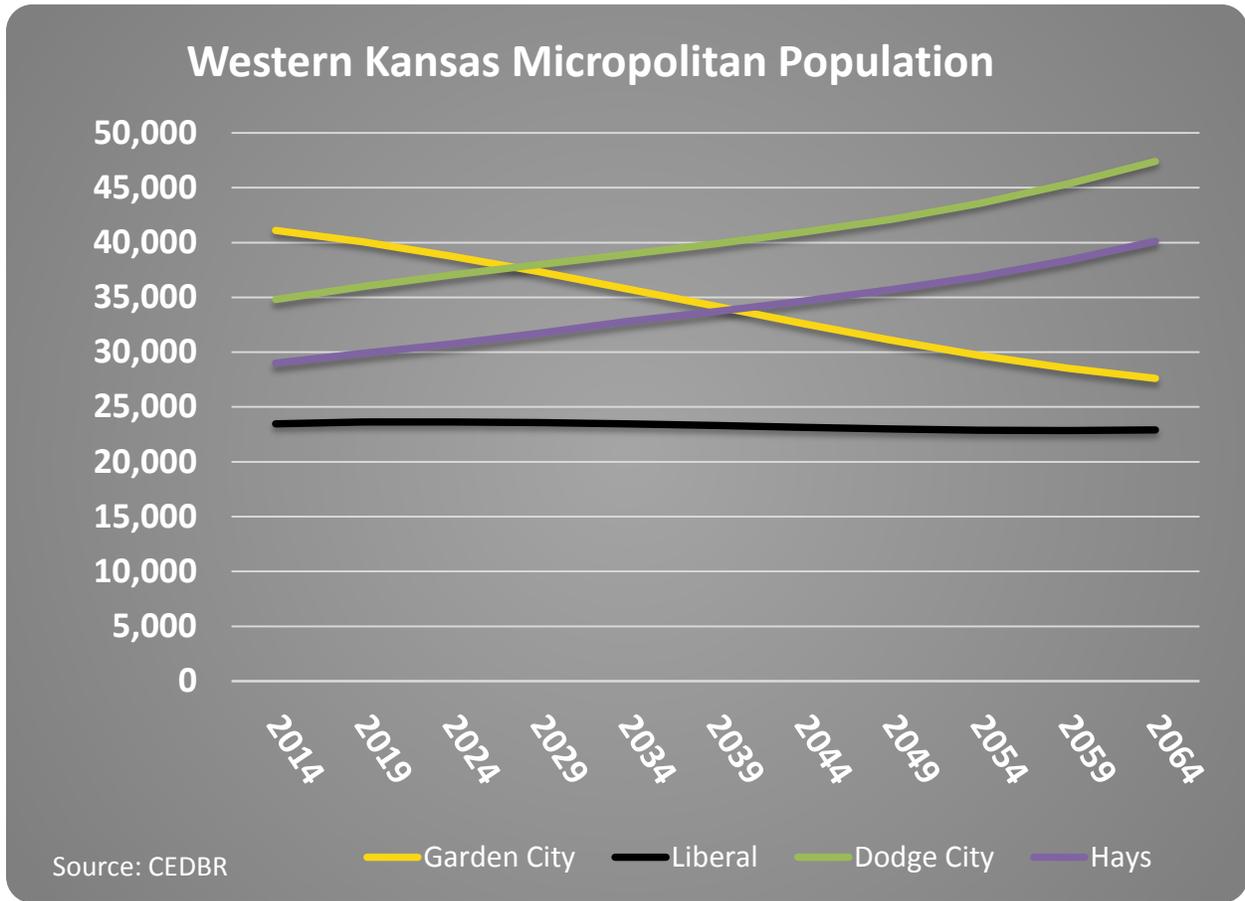
<sup>2</sup> A map of United States metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas is available at [http://www.census.gov/population/metro/files/metro\\_micro\\_Feb2013.pdf](http://www.census.gov/population/metro/files/metro_micro_Feb2013.pdf).

## Kansas Regional Micropolitan Area Population



Source: CEDBR

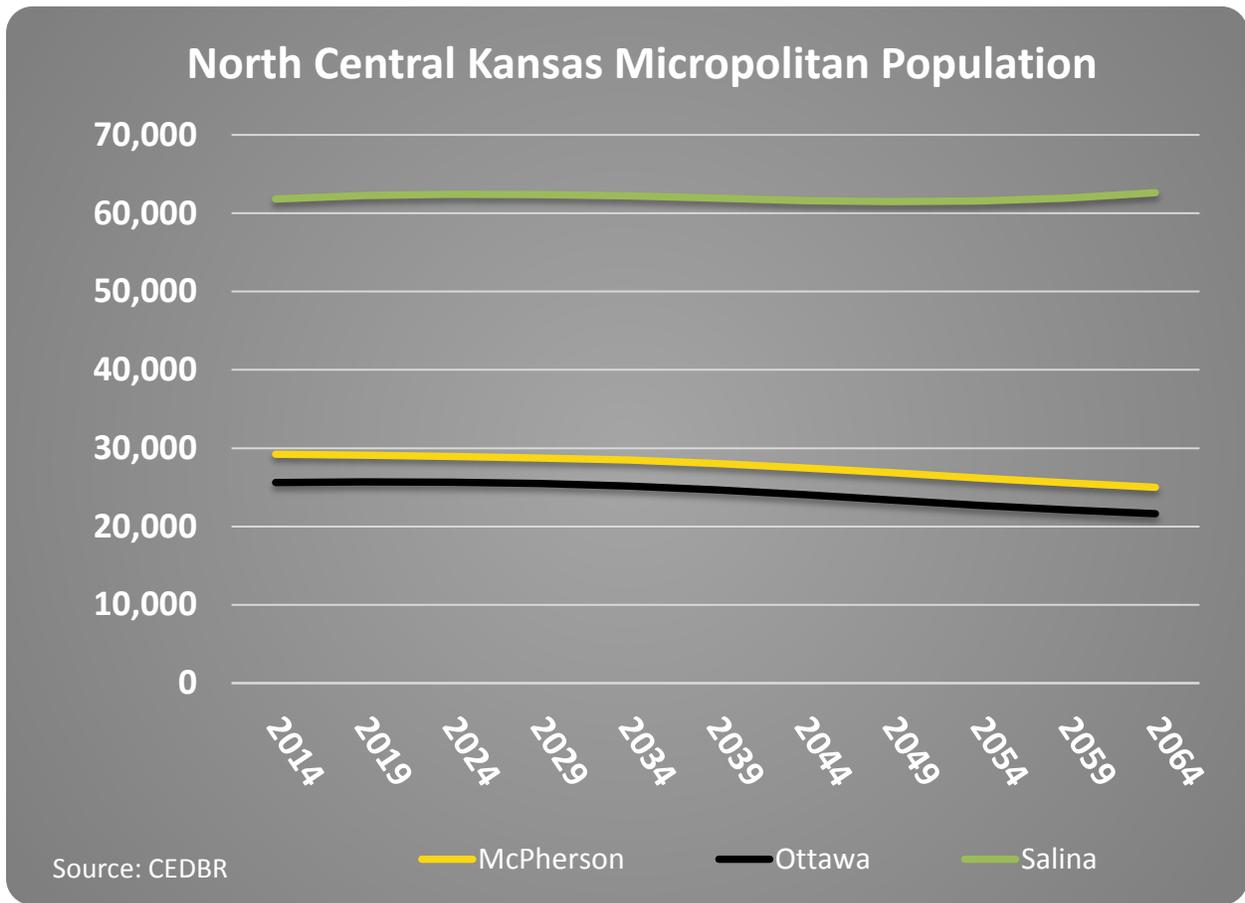
## Western Kansas Micropolitan Areas



Western Kansas has micropolitan areas centered on four towns: Garden City, Liberal, Dodge City, and Hays. Both the Dodge City and Hays micropolitan areas are projected to grow substantially, each expanding by approximately 35 percent in the forecast, which is projected to make the Dodge City micropolitan area the largest micropolitan area in western Kansas by 2029.

The Garden City micropolitan area is forecast to decline in population by 33 percent, the second largest drop of any micropolitan area in Kansas in the projections. Over the 50 years projected, this averages out to be an average annual decline of 0.8 percent per year. The Liberal micropolitan area population is forecast to be largely stable, experiencing a small increase over the first ten years of the projections before losing 3 percent of its population in the last forty years of the projections.

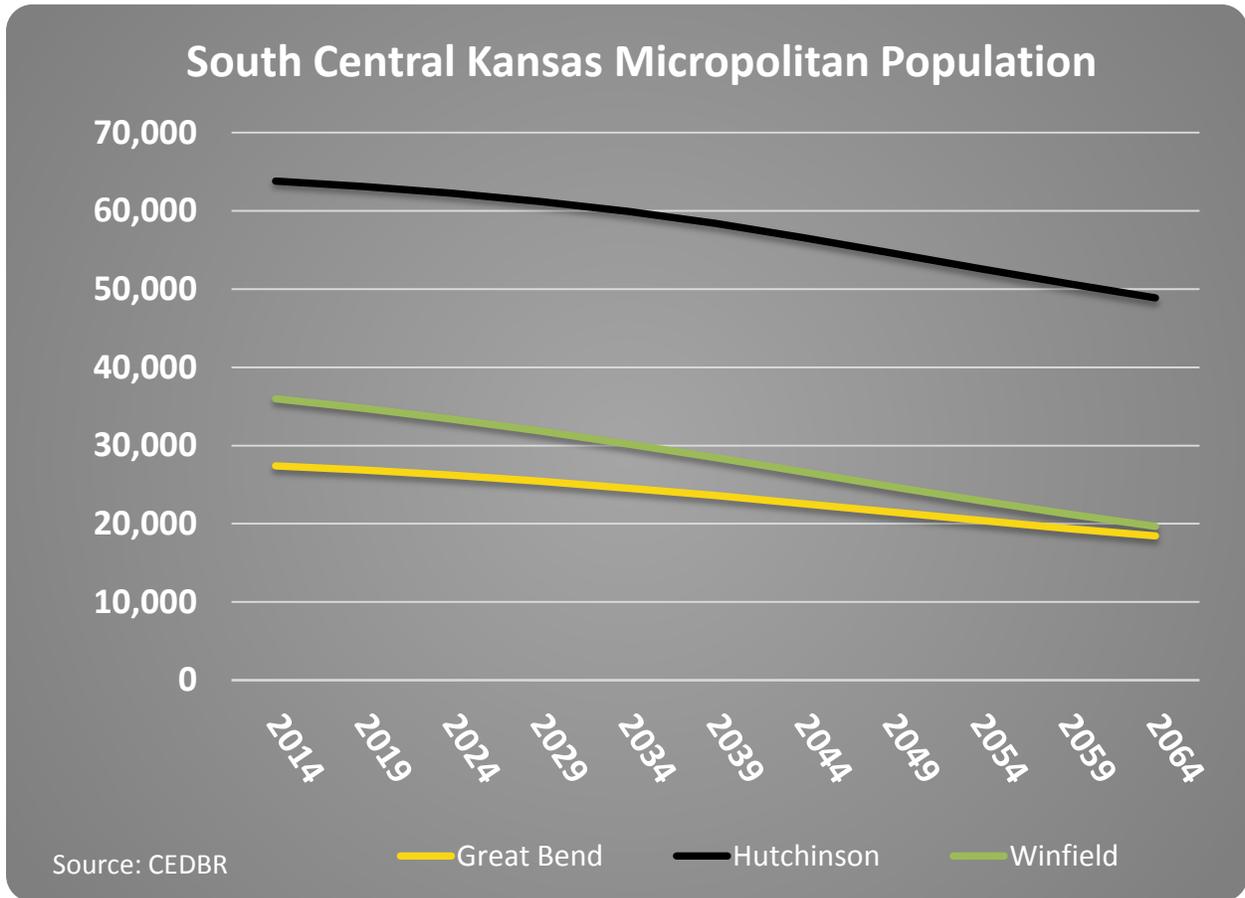
## North Central Micropolitan Areas



Overall, the population of North Central Kansas micropolitan areas is projected to decline by 6.5 percent, a loss of approximately 7,000 people. The one micropolitan area in the North Central region projected to grow is the Salina micropolitan area, which includes both Saline County and Ottawa County. It is forecast to experience periods of growth from 2014 to 2024 and from 2049 to 2064, with a decline in population between. Overall, the Salina micropolitan area is projected to grow 1.2 from 2014 to 2064.

The two smaller micropolitan areas in North Central Kansas, Ottawa and McPherson, are both projected to experience population declines starting in 2024, and both declining by approximately 15 percent of their 2014 population by 2064. Each is expected to shrink by about 4,000 people.

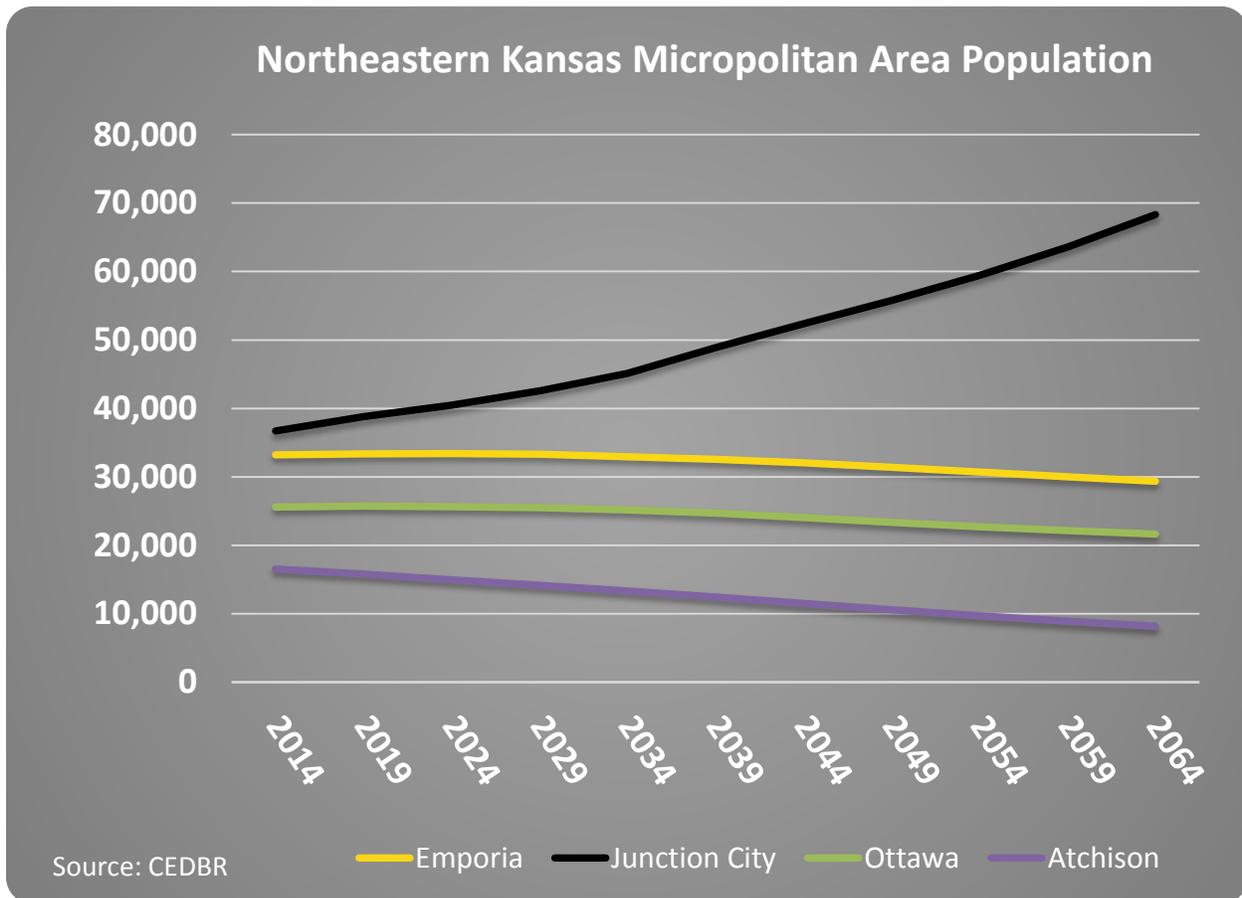
## South Central Micropolitan Areas



The South Central Kansas micropolitan areas are forecast to decline by 32.6 percent on average, from a total of 127,142 in 2014 decreasing to 86,968 by 2064. The decline is the largest for the micropolitan areas of any of the regions in Kansas over that period. The largest micropolitan area in South Central Kansas is forecast to be the Hutchinson micropolitan area, with a 2064 population projected to be 48,882.

The Great Bend and Winfield micropolitan areas are expected to experience similar declines in population through 2064. The Great Bend micropolitan area is projected to decline by 32.7 percent, reaching a population of 18,432 in 2064, while the Winfield micropolitan area is projected to decline by 45.3 percent.

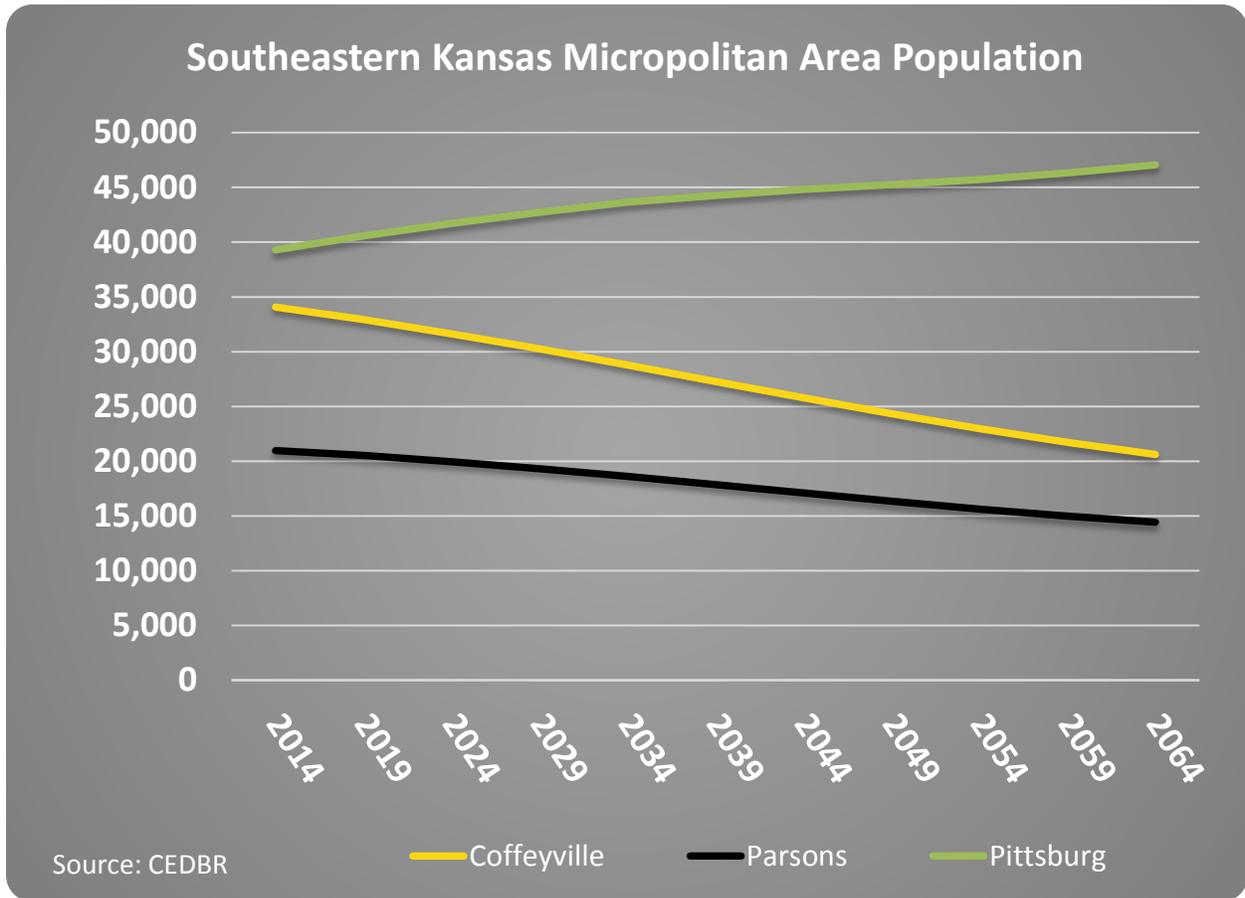
## Northeastern Micropolitan Areas



The Northeastern Kansas micropolitan areas are expected to increase in population by 22.5 percent by 2064, largely driven by a substantial increase in the population of the Junction City micropolitan area. The Junction City micropolitan area is projected to increase the most of any micropolitan area in Kansas, adding over 31,000 people for 86 percent growth through 2064.

The other three micropolitan areas in Northeastern Kansas are forecast to have population declines of varying degrees. The Emporia micropolitan area is projected to have the smallest decline, shrinking by 11.7 percent, and the Ottawa micropolitan area is expected to have a similar decline, shrinking by 15.6 percent. The Atchison micropolitan area is projected to have a larger decline, shrinking by 50.7 percent over the 50 year forecasted period, the largest decline of any micropolitan area in Kansas.

## Southeastern Kansas Micropolitan Areas



The three micropolitan areas in Southeastern Kansas are forecast to have different paths for population growth through 2064. Overall, Southeastern Kansas micropolitan areas are expected to shrink by 13 percent, but that overall number masks the variation in the individual micropolitan areas. The Pittsburg micropolitan area is forecast to be the only expanding micropolitan area in the southeast, growing by 19.7 percent and expanding by over 7,000 people.

The Coffeyville micropolitan area is forecast to experience a substantial population decline, decreasing by 39.5 percent by 2064. The Parsons micropolitan area is projected to undergo a smaller population decline, decreasing by only 31.1 percent.

View more detailed data released in this forecast at [www.population.cedbr.org](http://www.population.cedbr.org) or subscribe to CEDBR's e-Connection Newsletter at [www.subscribe.cedbr.org](http://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.