

W. Frank Barton School of Business

Center for Economic Development and Business Research

Kansas Population Projections, 2014-2064

Regional Growth



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Regional Growth | Released April 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. 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 different regions¹ throughout the state showed substantial variation in the projected trajectories of their population growth.

Overall, the state population is projected to have an average annual growth rate of 0.4 percent over the 50 years forecasted. This is projected to be slightly lower than Kansas' annual average population growth from 1960 to 2010, which was 0.5 percent. Over the forecasted period, Kansas' overall annual population growth rate is forecast to decline from 0.5 percent in 2019 to 0.3 percent in 2064.

The region with the highest average population growth rate in Kansas is the Kansas City, Kansas, area, which is projected to have an average population growth rate of 1.0 percent from 2014 to 2064. It is projected to have a 1.3 percent growth in population in 2019, with the growth rate slowly declining over the forecasted period to a low of 0.7 percent in 2064. For each time period forecasted, the Kansas City, Kansas, area is forecast to have the highest growth of any region in Kansas, outpacing the state average.

The Northeast Region is the one other Kansas region forecast to consistently have positive population growth from 2014 to 2064. The average annual population growth for the Northeast is projected to be 0.4 percent, with a peak of 0.5 percent in 2019 and a bottom of 0.3 percent in 2054. The Northeast region is forecast to have the most consistent population growth within the state, with few variations over the forecasted period.

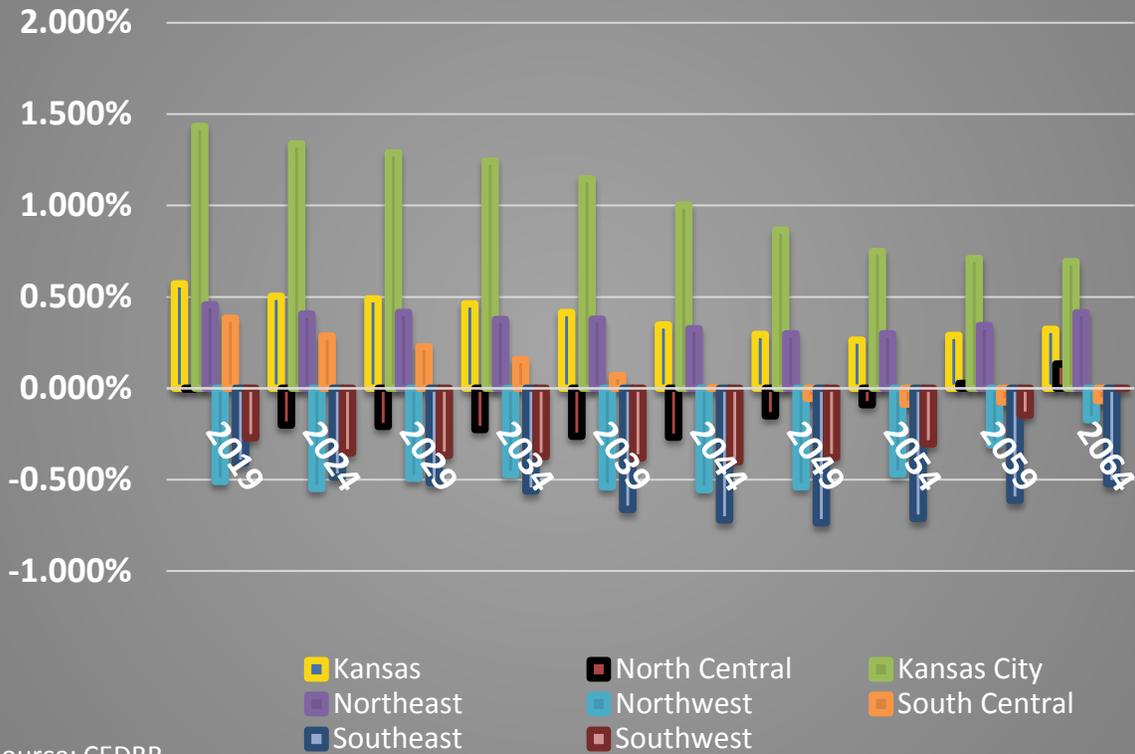
The South Central region is forecast to have positive average annual population growth of 0.1 percent from 2014 to 2064. The growth rate is projected to be at its highest in 2019, with 0.4 percent growth, and growth is projected to be smaller each subsequent year. In 2044, the population growth rate is projected to turn negative, and shrink an average of 0.03 percent each year.

The North Central, Northwest, and Southwest regions are all forecast to follow similar patterns of population growth, with declining population over the forecasted period and smaller declines in later years. The North Central region is forecast to have a 0.1 percent average annual decline in population, the Northwest region is forecast to have a 0.5 percent average annual decline in population, and the Southwest region is forecast to have a 0.3 percent average annual decline in population. The Southeast

¹ A visual representation of the regions used in this report can be found at http://www.kansastag.gov/AdvHTML_Upload/council_map.gif

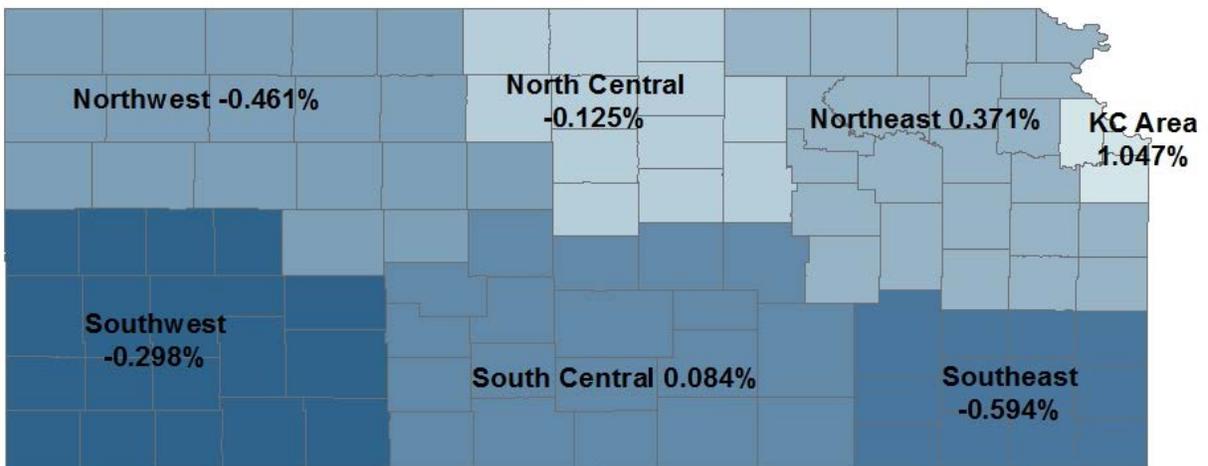
region is forecast to undergo the largest population decline of any Kansas region, losing an average of 0.6 percent of its population each year.

Annual Kansas Regional Population Growth, 2019-2064



Source: CEDBR

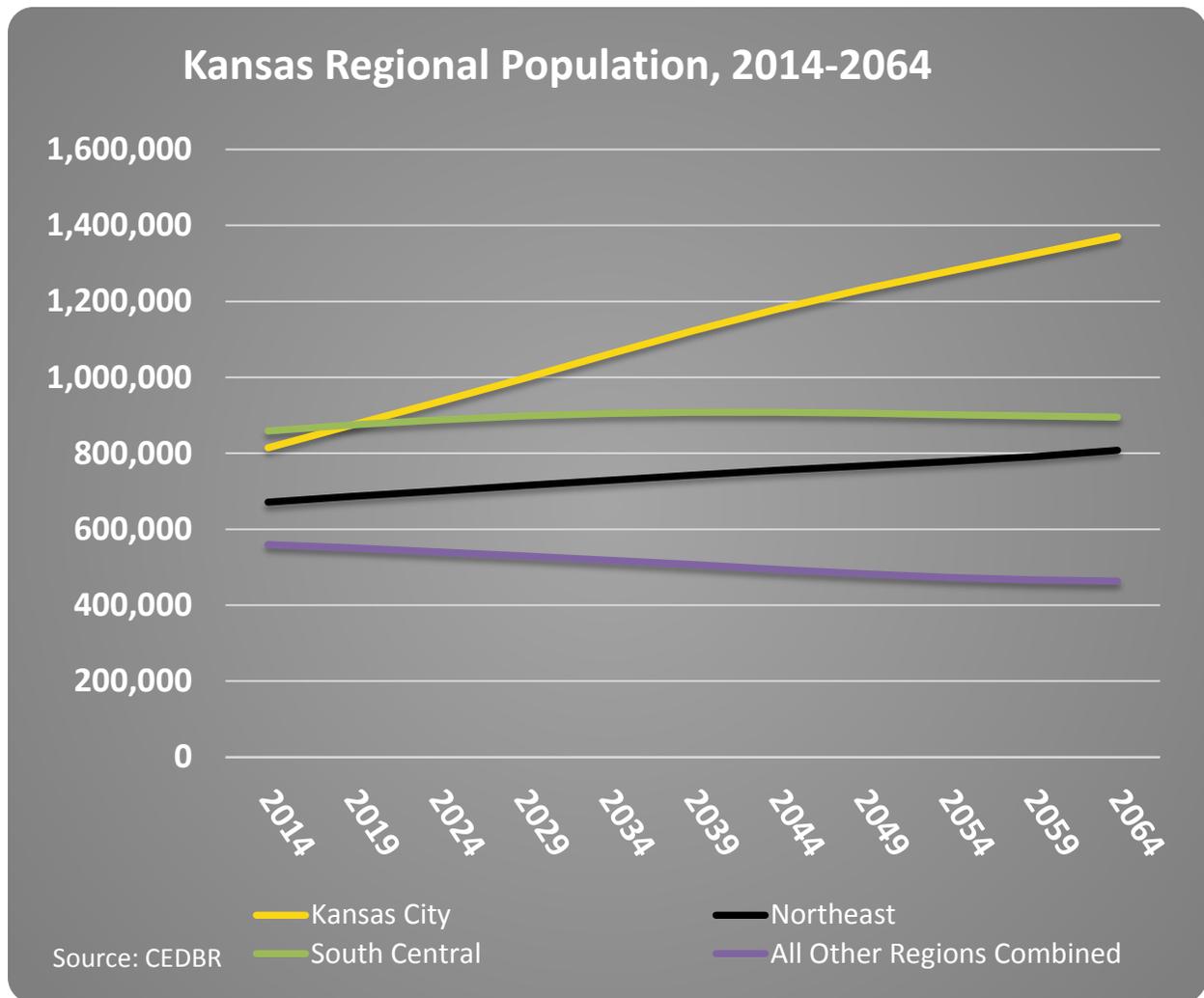
Regional Annual Average Growth Rates



High Population Regions

While the Kansas regions are relatively equal in geographic area, there are large disparities in population across the regions, and these are projected to grow more pronounced over the next 50 years. The three largest regions in the state, in terms of population, are the Kansas City, Kansas, region, the South Central region, and the Northeast region. Each of these three regions individually has a higher population than the other four regions of the state combined.

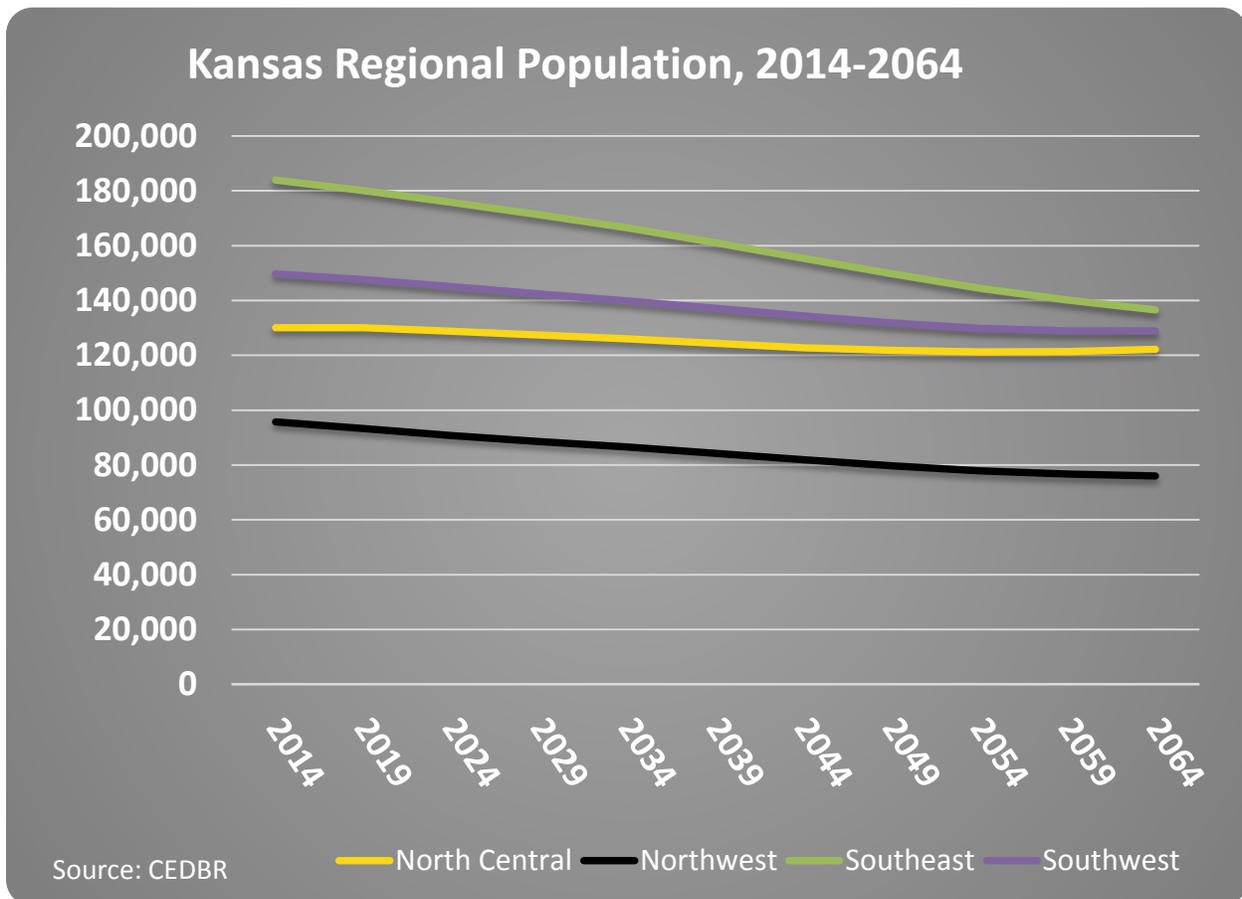
By 2064, the Kansas City, Kansas, region is projected to have the largest population of any region in the state, containing 38.7 percent of the total state population, up from 28.1 percent in 2014. The South Central and Northeast regions are both projected to have between 800,000 and 900,000 residents by 2064, with each comprising approximately 23 percent of the state population. For the South Central region, this is projected to be a substantial decrease in its share of the state population, from 29.6 percent in 2014. The Northeast region's share of the state population is forecast to remain roughly constant over the fifty years forecasted.



Low Population Regions

In 2014, the four regions of the state with the lowest population (the Southeast, North Central, Northwest, and Southwest) are home to 19.3 percent of the total state population. All four of the regions are forecast to have declining populations over the fifty year period forecasted. The Southeast region is projected to experience the largest decline in population, in both absolute and percentage terms, with a population decline of 47,364, or 25.8 percent. By 2064, the Southeast region is forecast to contain 3.9 percent of the state's population.

The North Central, Northwest, and Southwest regions are projected to all experience declines as well, losing approximately 6.1 percent, 13.9 percent, and 20.3 percent of their populations, respectively. With these declines, these four regions are projected to collectively comprise 13.1 percent of Kansas' total population in 2064.



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.