

Rankings & Trends

Ford County Deemed Least Stressed County in Nation

Below is an article written by John Green that was published in the Hutchinson News on March 26, 2010.

As much of the nation continues to struggle with worsening economic conditions, Dodge City and Ford County are facing their own unique challenges.

The primary one, said Joann Knight, executive director of the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corp., is finding sufficient housing to enable people to come into the community to fill dozens of available jobs. A close second, she said, is finding the people to fill the jobs.

Ford County, a largely agricultural community that is widely recognized for its "Wild West" heritage, meatpacking operations and the site of

agricultural community that the first state-run casino, also drew the distinction this week of being named the least economically stressed county in the nation.

(Charlie Riedel/Associated Press file photo) Patrons play craps at the Boot Hill Casino in Dodge City on its opening day. The casino has brought jobs to the region, and agriculture, meatpacking and construction have also contributed to the economic strength of Ford and Finney counties.

Coming in fifth in the nationwide assessment of counties with more than 25,000 population was neighboring Finney County.

The Economic Stress Index, developed by The Associated Press to analyze conditions around the nation, develops a score based on a county's unemployment, foreclosure and bankruptcy rates. A higher score indicates more stress.

Job Growth and Decline

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

May, 2008 - May, 2013

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Cheyer -2.8%	1 -	Rawlins 8.5%	Decatu -13.9%		Phillips 2.7%	Smith -3.1%	Jewell -17.1%	Republic -4.0%	Washingto	on Mars	hall Nema 3% 5.0%	0.49	Doninh	•	
Sherma 0.9%	,	homas -0.4%	Sherida 9.9%	Graham -8.1%	Rooks 0.5%	Osborne -2.6%	Mitchell -0.2%	Cloud -8.2% Ottawa	Clay -11.3%	4.9%	tawatomie 3.6%	126	-16.9% efferson -4.6%	1	enworth 0.3% Wyandotte 1.7%
Wallace 8.2%		gan .1%	Gove 5.2%	Trego 1.2%	Ellis 2.1%	Russell 3.5%	Lincoln -4.9%	-9.4% Saline	Dickinson	 Gearv	· de	Shawnee 1.2%	Douglas -2.2%	Johnson 0.4%	2.770
		a Scott	Lane	Ness	Rush	Barton	Ellsworth 2.1%	-3.3%		Morri -6.2%		Osage -19.4%	Franklin		
25.0%	-0.8%	11.7%	0.7%	-0.5%	1.0%	-1.3%	Rice 2.6%	McPherson 1.7%	Marion -10.7%	_ \ Cha•	se -12.1%	Coffey	Anderson		
amilton 1.6%	Kearny -7.0%	n 20/		Hodgeman 1.4%	5.6% Edwards	Stafford -1.4%	Reno -3.6%	-D.I	%		Greenwood	3.3% Woodsor	-10.1% Allen	-2.0% Bourbon	
	Grant			Ford 6.9%	-3.8% Kiowa	Pratt 4.8%	Kingma	Seday	vick -	Sutler 1.0%	-13.2% Elk		-3.9% Neosho		1
orton		Seward	Meade		19.9% Comanche	Barber	6.3% Harpe	Sumn	er C	owley	0.7%	Montgome	-21.4%	Cheroke	
	21.9%	-3.7%	-6.6%	-1.5%	-2.4%	-4.4%	9.9%	12.1	% <u> </u>	5.8%	Chautauqua -10.4%	-1.8%		-6.2%	

<u>Legend</u>

Loss of 6.0% or greater

Loss between 2.0% and 5.9%

Growth between 2.0% and 5.9%

Growth of more than 6.0%

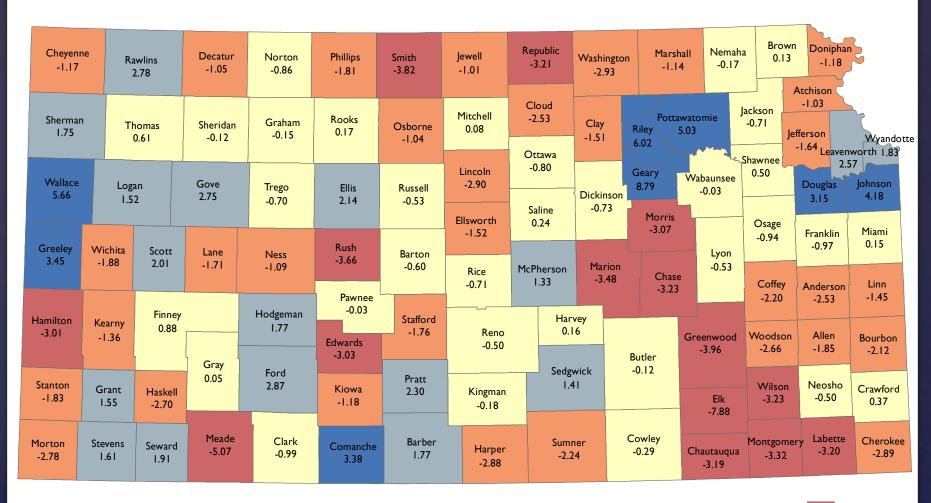
Loss of less than 2.0% and growth of less than 2.0%

Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services; in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Labor Force, Employment & Unemployment for Ford County in Multiple Time Periods

Time Period	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
May, 2008	17,468	16,923	545	3.1%
May, 2009	18,816	18,099	717	3.8%
May, 2010	18,936	18,184	752	4.0%
May, 2011	19,514	18,706	808	4.1%
May 2012	19,979	19,256	723	3.6%
May, 2013	19,878	19,081	797	4.0%
May, 2014	20,318	19,621	697	3.4%

Percent Population Change in Kansas, by County April 2010 - July 2013



Source: Institute for Policy & Social Research, The University of Kansas; data from U.S. Census Bureau.

-7.88 - -3.00 -2.99 - -1.00

-0.99 - 1.00

1.01 - 3.00

3.01 - 8.79

Micropolitan Rankings for Kansas Cities

Dodge City 21

Junction City 59

Salina 104

Hays 191

Hutchinson 199

McPherson 204

Liberal 229

Garden City 273

Great Bend 319

Coffeyville 329

Ottawa 402

Emporia 413

Parsons 474

Pittsburg 508

Atchison 523

Southwest Kansas Area Micropolitan Ranking Trend

,	Dodge	City
		J

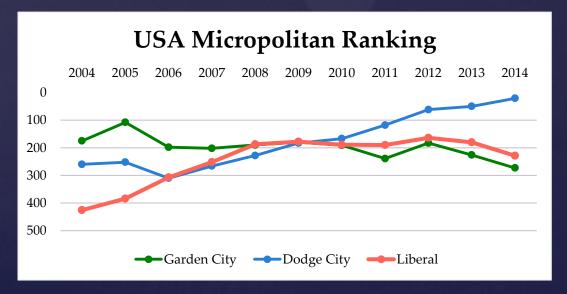
260 252 310 266 228 183 167 118 62 50	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	260	252	310	266	228	183	167	118	62	50	21

Garden City

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
175	108	198	202	190	180	191	239	183	226	273

Liberal

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
426	384	307	252	187	178	189	190	164	180	229



ECONOMIC STRENGTH of Dodge City

SPONSORED BY: THE DODGE CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE DODGE CITY/FORD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

UNITED WIRELESS ARENA AND CONFERENCE CENTER

CHAMBER MEMBERS \$15.00 NON MEMBERS \$20.00

Luncheon Speaker



WILLIAM FRUTH

PRESIDENT OF POLICOM CORPORATION

POUCOM Corporation is an independent economics research firm located in Palm City, Florida, which specializes in studying the dynamics of local economies,

Reservations are required and may be made by contacting the Chamber office at (620) 227-3119; fax (620) 227-2957 or email info@dodgechamber.com and online at dodgechamber.com/events

Questions

