W. Frank Barton School of Business

Center for Economic Development and Business Research

Kansas Population Projections, 2016-2066

Summary of Key Findings

WSU WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Center for Economic Development and Business Research, with funding from the Kansas Health Foundation[1], forecasted population growth for the regions in Kansas by race, ethnic group, age, and gender over the fifty year period from 2016 to 2066. These projections were forecast utilizing statewide and regional population, birth, mortality and migration data by race, ethnic group, age, and gender.

The total Kansas population is projected to grow by more than 700,000 people from 2016 to 2066, growing 25.1 percent in total, to 3.63 million residents by 2066. Population growth is expected to be concentrated in the urban areas of the state, and there is expected to be substantial variation in population growth along the lines of both age and race within the state.

Kansas Population, 1860-2066

Source: CEDBR
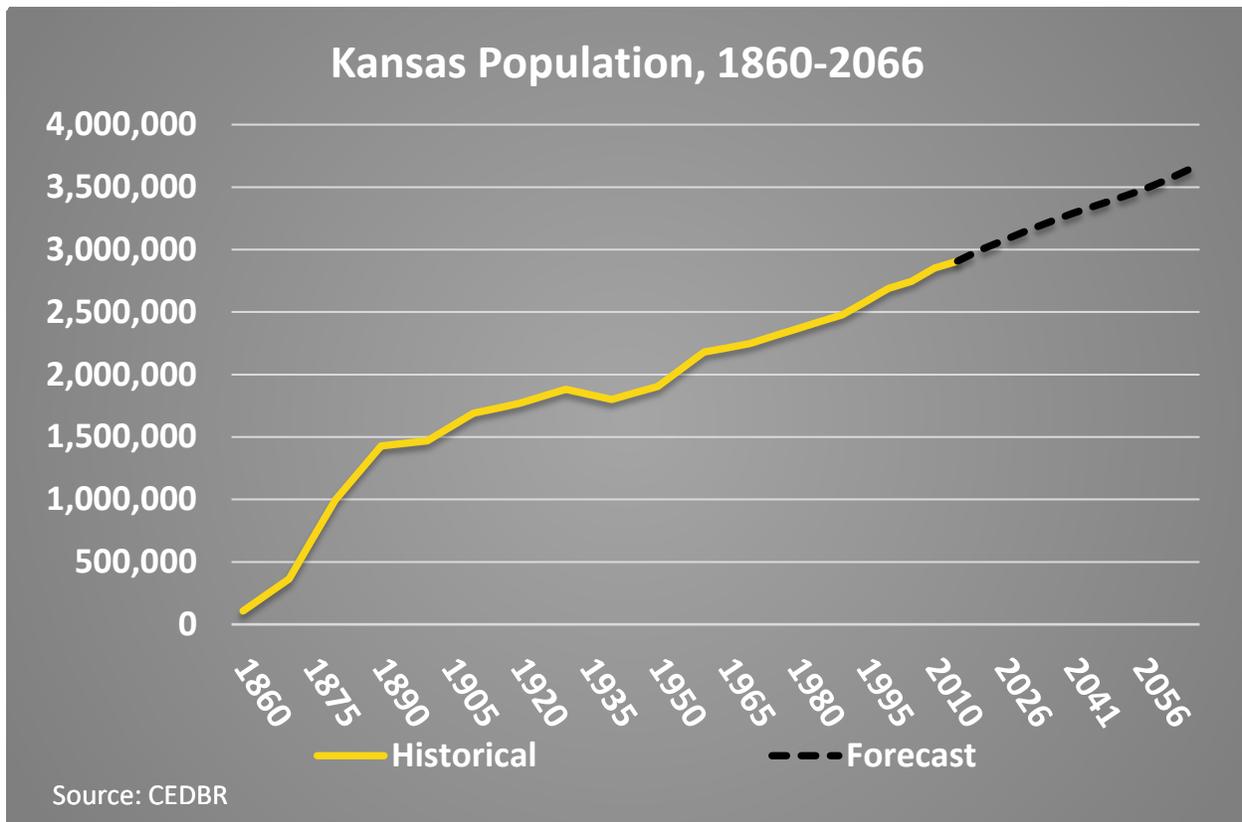
Kansas' average annual population growth is projected to be 0.40 percent from 2016 to 2066, which would be modestly slower than the state's growth rate from 1960 to 2010 when the state averaged 0.54 percent annual growth. The slowest 50 year period for Kansas population growth historically was the 1890 to 1940 period, when the population grew 26.1 percent from 1.43 million to 1.80 million. The single fastest growing decade for Kansas' population since 1990 was the 1950s, when the total population grew 8.5 percent over the decade. In the forecast, the fastest growing decade is projected to

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be the 2020s, with 5 percent growth for the decade. For the later decades in the forecast, growth is projected to slow to 4.2 percent per decade on average.

The racial composition of the Kansas population is projected to change substantially over the fifty years forecasted. In 2016, Kansas' population was estimated to be approximately 77.5 percent non-Hispanic white, 11.6 percent Hispanic, 6.6 percent non-Hispanic black, and 4.2 percent all other races[2]. By 2066, Kansas' population is projected to be approximately 48.6 percent white, 36 percent Hispanic, 7.5 percent black, and 8 percent all other races.

State of Kansas Population Forecast by Race & Ethnic Group

Source: CEDBR
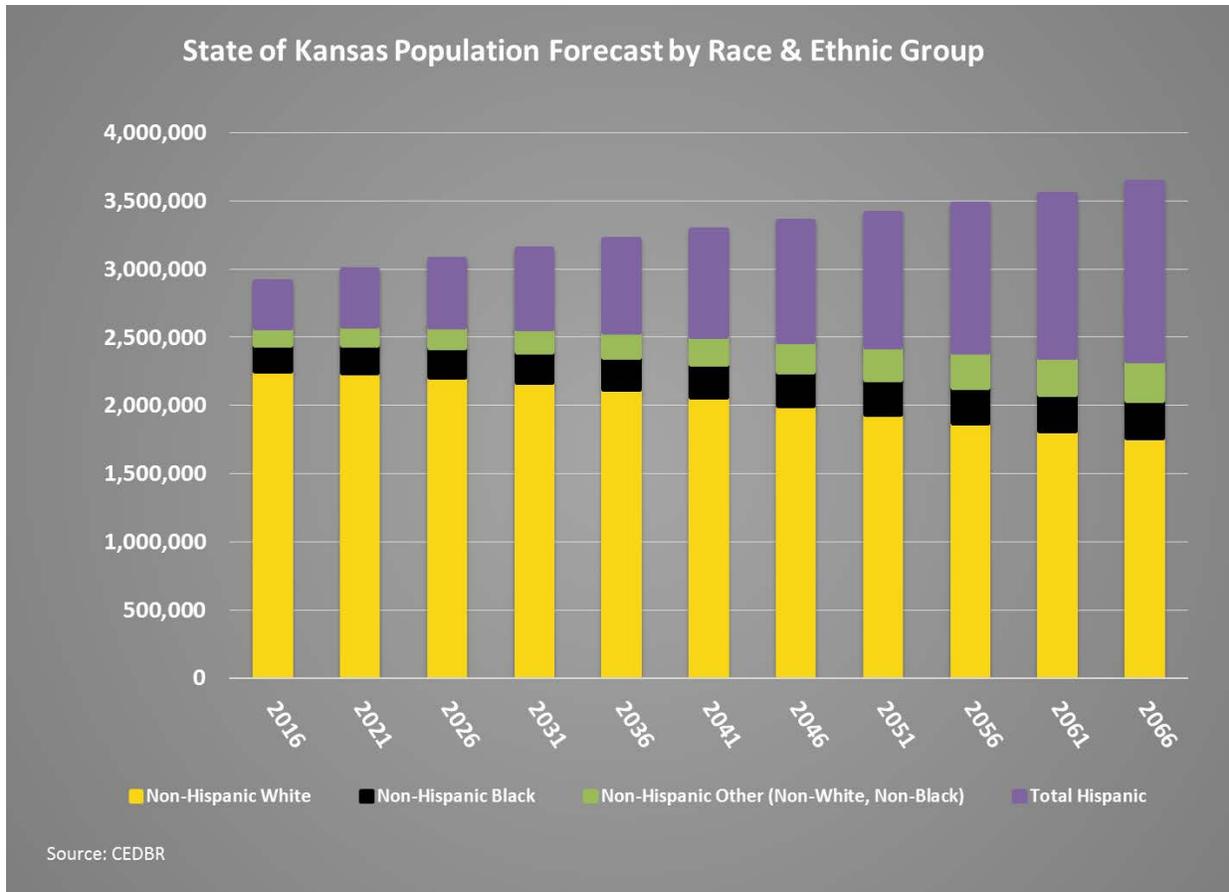
The Hispanic population is forecast to grow 2.7 percent annually from 2016 to 2066, the fastest of any ethnic group in Kansas. This growth rate is projected to increase the Hispanic population from 338,000 in 2016 to 1.31 million in 2066. The Hispanic population is forecast to increase in every region and metropolitan area in the state, with the largest increases in Kansas City and Wichita, each of which are forecasted to add more than 250,000 Hispanic residents by 2066.

The non-Hispanic white population is the only ethnic group in Kansas with a projected decline in their total population, dropping from 2.3 million in 2016 to 1.8 million in 2066. The only regions in the state with projected growth in their non-Hispanic white populations are the Lawrence and Manhattan

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[2] The other category includes all individuals who identified as non-white, non-Hispanic, and non-black, such as Asian-Americans, Native Americans, and those of Pacific Islander or Hawaiian descent.

metropolitan areas. The state's rural non-Hispanic white population is projected to decline by 49.7 percent by 2066, while the micropolitan non-Hispanic white population is forecast to decline by 43.5 percent. The non-Hispanic white population in the largest metropolitan areas in the state, the Wichita and Kansas City, KS, metropolitan areas, are forecast to fall more modestly, by 26.9 and 10.6 percent, respectively.

The non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic population of other races in Kansas are both projected to increase by 41.1 and 138.3 percent, respectively, by 2066. The non-Hispanic black population is forecast to grow from an estimated 192,000 in 2016 to a projected 272,000 in 2066. The Wichita and Kansas City, KS, metropolitan areas are projected to have the largest growth in their non-Hispanic black populations, adding 18,700 and 28,400, respectively. All other non-Hispanic, non-white, non-black races together are projected to increase by 168,000 to 289,600 and are forecast to to exceed the non-Hispanic black population in the state by 2061.
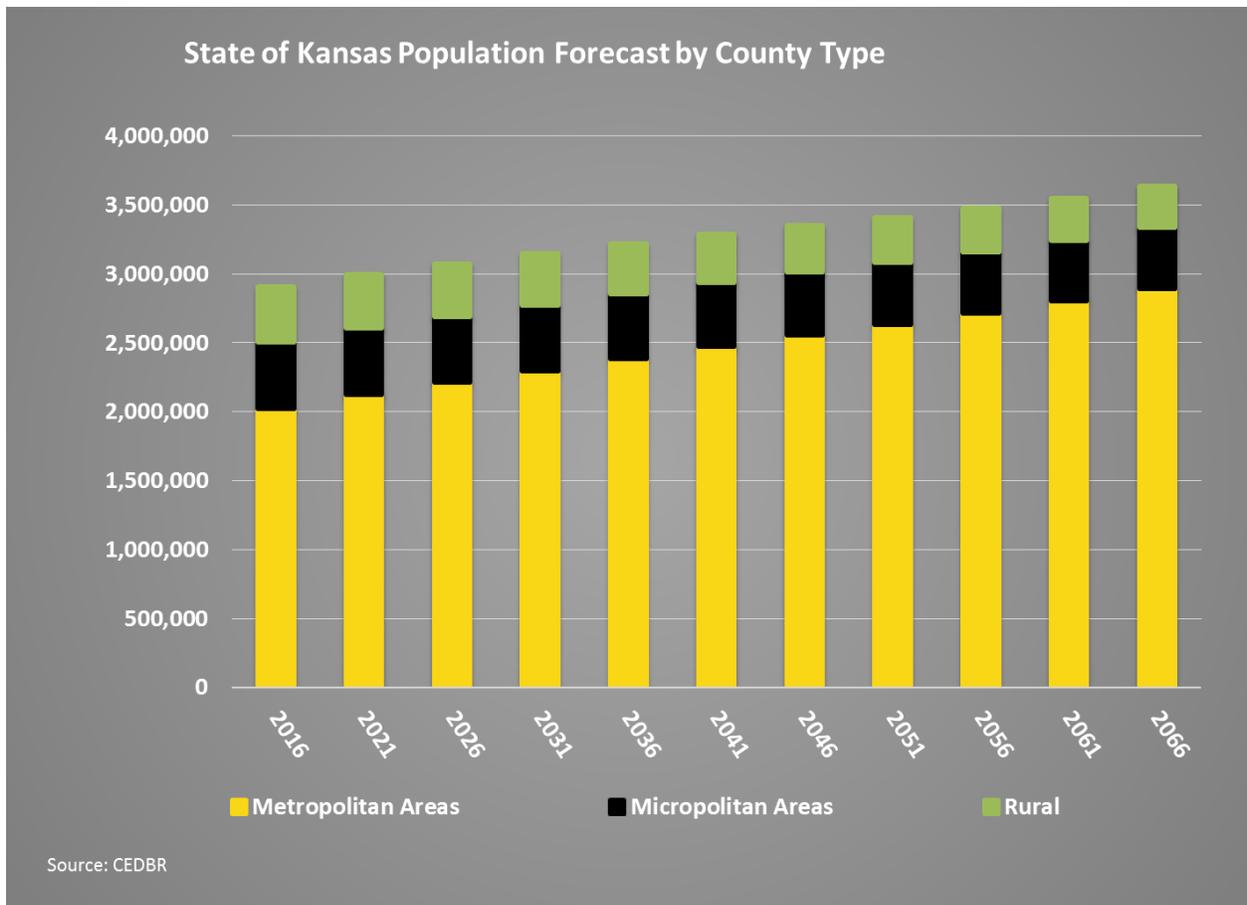
Kansas population is projected to become substantially more concentrated in the metropolitan areas in the state, while micropolitan and rural populations are forecast to decline overall[3]. The metropolitan population of the state is forecast to grow by 43 percent to almost 2.9 million, with the fastest growth in

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[3] A map of the U.S. Census Bureau metropolitan and micropolitan designations for Kansas can be found at https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/metroarea/stcbsa_pg/Feb2013/cbsa2013_KS.pdf.

the Kansas City, KS, Lawrence, and Manhattan metropolitan areas. The Kansas City, KS metropolitan area is projected to comprise 35.6 percent of the state's total population by 2066, and the Lawrence and Manhattan areas' populations are forecast to increase by 125.9 and 92.4 percent, respectively.

The rural areas of the state are projected to have the largest population declines, while the micropolitan area population declines are projected to be more modest. The rural population is forecast to decline from 389,129 in 2016 to 300,352 in 2066, a 24.6 percent decline.   The micropolitan areas' population decline is projected to be smaller, shrinking from 482,822 in 2016 to 438,045 in 2066, a 9.3 percent decline.

Due to the increases in the metropolitan areas' population and declines in rural and micropolitan areas' population, the share of the total Kansas population in metropolitan areas is expected to increase from 69.7 percent in 2016 to 79.7 percent in 2066. Rural areas' share of the total state population is forecast to decline from 13.7 to 8.2 percent over the same time period, while micropolitan areas' population share decline from 16.6 percent to 12.1 percent.

Methodology

The Kansas regional population projections for 2016 to 2066, prepared by Wichita State University's Center for Economic Development and Business Research, are based on the age-cohort survival model of population forecasting. Each five-year age-gender cohort was forecast by region, race and ethnic origin in five year increments, using estimated mortality and migration rates for each cohort. Estimated birth rates by age and race cohort were used to forecast the births for each five year period forecasted.

The U.S. Census Bureau Bridged-race Population Estimates were used as the base for the population forecast. These population estimates are calculated annually for each county in Kansas, by gender, five-year age cohort, race and Hispanic origin. The bridged-race estimates contain five single-race categories, and the mixed-race population in the unbridged population estimates is assigned to one of the five single-race categories in the bridged-race estimates. The bridged-race estimates were used to match the population, birth, and mortality data by race as closely as possible.

Birth rates and mortality rates were calculated from the Kansas Information for Communities database, which compiles birth and death statistics from birth and death certificates filed in the state.   Both birth and mortality data are categorized into three race categories and by Hispanic origin. The birth, morality, and population data were then aggregated into four race and ethnic origin categories, by age and sex: non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, non-Hispanic other, and total Hispanic. Birth and mortality rates were then forecasted forward using historical trends for each group.

Net migration patterns were estimated based on age, gender, and race specific migration rates estimated by the Applied Population Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin. Their migration estimates are based on migration between the 2000 and 2010 Census. The rates were then interacted with trends from subsequent U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates net migration estimates to create the net migration patterns used in the forecast.