

Riley County Community Needs Assessment

ECONOMICS AND PERSONAL FINANCE

16%

of respondents report not making enough to meet their expenses and cover bills each month



39%

REPORT NOT EARNING ENOUGH TO SAVE MONEY OR PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

↓ 17%

have experienced an unexpected drop income in the past 12 months

16%

SAY THEY CAN'T SUPPORT THEMSELVES OR THEIR FAMILIES

64%

indicated that their skills or education are being fully used in their current jobs; and that **there are a variety of jobs in the community**

52%

agreed or strongly agreed that there are opportunities for increasing their skills.

42% FEEL THE COMMUNITY LACKS A VARIETY OF JOBS



But

20% reported that there are enough well-paying jobs in the community.



22%

agreed or strongly agreed that property taxes are reasonable

28%

agreed or strongly agreed that sales taxes are reasonable.

The top needs are:



Jobs



Family
Emergency
Assistance



Job
Assistance



Small
Business
Development



Personal
Finance
Resources

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The 2014 Riley County Community Needs Assessment, conducted by Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research, included the compilation of selected secondary data, administration of a community survey (N=1,126), key informant interviews, and focus groups with persons who were underrepresented in the survey. The following key findings related to physical health were drawn from the methods noted above.

According to the 2015 Manhattan Housing Market forecast (Wichita State University’s Center for Real Estate), the economic picture for the community is relatively positive. In particular, employment rates for 2015 are projected to be 6.6% higher than in 2007, which was before the recent recession. But the median income for Riley County residents is lower than the state average while the cost housing is significantly higher. Other data supports this contrast in that some items illustrate a community that is economically robust, but includes a certain group of people who struggle.

Selected data from secondary sources

Economics/Personal Finance Data	Riley County	Kansas	Source
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2013	\$174,100.00	\$129,700.00	US Census Bureau American Community Survey
Median household income, 2013	\$43,778.00	\$50,972.00	US Census Bureau American Community Survey
Rate of unemployment, August 2014	4.3%	4.8%	US Bureau of Labor Statistics
Number of jobs per worker (20-70 years old), 2010	0.6*	0.8*	Flint Hills Regional Council
Percent of jobs with earnings over state average (\$50,000), 2010	30.0%*	42.0%*	Flint Hills Regional Council
Retail sales per capita, 2007	\$10,498	\$12,444.00	US Census Bureau State and County QuickFacts

Note: This data was only available in chart form without data labels (i.e., exact numbers). Therefore, the numbers presented are estimations based on the scale provided with each chart.

For the full report, go to: www.rileycountycommunityneedsassessment.org